

## 6 Proposed open space standards

### Open space standards

- 6.1 This section recommends open space provision standards. These were defined through review of the existing provision of open space, alongside the comments received through the various forms of public consultation, as well as consideration of nationally recognised provision standards, and those adopted by neighbouring districts. There are three types of open space standard:
- **Accessibility:** The maximum distance residents should be required to travel to use an open space of a specific typology
  - **Quantity:** The provision (measured in m2 or hectares) of each open space typology which should be provided as a minimum per 1000 population
  - **Quality:** The quality of the open space provided in each typology, assessed using the Green Flag criteria.
  - **Value:** The value of the open space provided in each typology.
- 6.2 The main national standards relating to open space are the National Playing Field Association (NPFA) standards, and Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGSt) standards. These standards cover the accessibility and quantity elements of open space. Adjoining district East Hertfordshire has adopted the NPFA standards<sup>5</sup>, whilst Epping Forest District, which also adjoins Harlow, has not adopted any standards to date. Harlow's previous Open Space SPD also utilises the NPFA standards.
- 6.3 No quantity or accessibility standards have been proposed for Churchyards and Cemeteries. This reflects the fact that proximity is not considered to be a requirement of this open space type. Provision standards for Outdoor Sports Facilities were developed through the recent Harlow Playing Pitch Strategy.

### Developing the Quality and Value standards by hierarchy

- 6.4 Further analysis of the scoring was carried out to identify a benchmark standard for each typology and the level of the hierarchy, in order to assess the performance of open spaces in terms of Quality and Value. The following factors have informed the standards:
- Key characteristics expected of spaces within the different typologies and levels of the hierarchy.
  - High quality and/or high value sites within Harlow which provide a 'benchmark' against which to assess sites.
  - Ensuring standards are set at such a level to be aspirational, yet achievable based on existing quality and value.
- 6.5 The table below presents the standards by typology and hierarchy level, which have been applied to each of the sites as part of the audit and analysis work. Sites will exceed the standard where they score more points than the standard score, as calculated through the features on site, and their quality, as measured through the audit form. For example a site will score between 1 and 4 points depending on the quality of entrances, and a point for every play facility present.

---

<sup>5</sup> East Hertfordshire District Council website: [http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/e/e/Item6\\_1.pdf](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/e/e/Item6_1.pdf) (Accessed 1 June 2012)

**Table 6.1: Harlow quality and value scores by typology**

| Typology                                | Hierarchy                                     | Value standard | Quality standard | Combined Quality and Value standard |
|---|---|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Parks and gardens                    | District park/ garden                         | 62             | 99               | 161                                 |
|   | Local park/ garden                            | 21             | 30               | 51                                  |
| B. Natural and semi-natural green space | District Natural and semi-natural green space | 18             | 35               | 53                                  |
|   | Local natural and semi-natural green space    | 12             | 20               | 32                                  |
| C. Green corridor                       |   | 9              | 18               | 27                                  |
| D. Amenity Green Space                  |   | 10             | 22               | 32                                  |
| E. Allotments                           |   | 6              | 20               | 26                                  |
| F. Cemeteries and churchyards           |   | 9              | 31               | 40                                  |
| G. Civic space                          | District Civic Space                          | 45             | 50               | 95                                  |
|   | Local Civic Space                             | 9              | 31               | 40                                  |
| H. Provision for Children/ Young People |   | 25             | 27               | 52                                  |

- 6.6 For each typology and hierarchy the results from applying the standards are presented on a scale of --/-/+ /++ to show the extent to which each space exceeds or falls below or falls below the relevant standard. The results are discussed below.

## Parks and Gardens

- 6.7 The standards for future provision of parks and gardens are as shown in the table below.

**Table 6.2: Standards for future provision of future parks and gardens**

| Scale                 | Accessibility standard | Quantity Standard  | Quality/value standard |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| District (Over 15 ha) | 3.2km                  | 2.5ha per 1000 pop | 161                    |
| Local (Under 15 ha)   | 400m                   | 2 ha per 1000 pop  | 51                     |

### Consultation feedback

- 6.8 Over 90% of telephone respondents and 86 of online respondents were happy with the amount of open space in their area, and felt that investment should be targeted at improving Harlow's existing parks, not creating new ones.

## Accessibility

### *District parks and gardens*

- 6.9 The accessibility standard for district parks and gardens is 3.2km. This reflects the current provision of the Town Park, which is designed for use by all Harlow residents. The 3.2km distance threshold reflects the maximum distance of existing Harlow residents from the Town Park. The telephone consultation confirmed that 90% of respondents are happy with the current amount of open space within Harlow. Given the high level of satisfaction with existing provision and existing quantity of provision in the district it is considered that this figure is considered to be an appropriate standard for future provision. This figure also reflects the standard adopted elsewhere in Essex (e.g. Basildon: 2km, Chelmsford: 4km).

### *Local parks and gardens*

- 6.10 The accessibility standard for local parks and gardens is 400m. As indicated through the telephone survey, 87% of respondents are willing to travel for more than 10 minutes to reach a park or green space. We have made an assumption that the average person can walk at least 400m in 10 minutes. Based on this assumption, 400m is proposed as the minimum accessibility threshold, and all existing and future dwellings in Harlow should have access to a park or open space within 400m. This reflects that current local demand for open space provision, and is also in line with the GLA best practice standards, which suggests that all residents should have a park or open space within 400m of their home. The GLA Best Practice Guidance suggests 400m is a reasonable distance for a pedestrian catchment from a Local Park. Basildon and Thurrock Districts also adopted an accessibility standard of 400m for local parks and gardens.

## Quality and value

- 6.11 The combined Quality and Value standard for parks and gardens is 161. Town Park is the only District Park and Garden providing a good range of facilities and features. The Value standard for District Parks and Gardens has therefore been aligned with the score achieved by Town Park. However, the quality score achieved by Town Park was below what could be expected of an open space of this scale so a slightly higher Quality standard has been recommended.

## Quantity

### *District level*

- 6.12 The quantity standard for district parks and gardens is **2.5ha per 1000 population**. There is no nationally recommended standard for quantity of parks and gardens, but this standard enables the current level of provision to be maintained, whilst also enabling Harlow Council to target resources on enhancing existing open space, in line with consultation feedback.

**Table 6.3: District Parks and Gardens**

| District     | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|--------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Harlow total | 85214                                  | 1               | 37.48     | 2.57                   |

- 6.13 Currently, there is only one park of district level importance within Harlow. Whilst the park is located in the Netteswell and Mark Hall neighbourhood, its size means that is likely to draw people from a catchment of over 3km, and therefore is considered as a District-wide facility.

### *Local level*

- 6.14 The quantity standard for district parks and gardens is 2ha per 1000 population. There is no nationally recommended standard for quantity of parks and gardens, but this standard enables the current level of provision to be maintained (see table below), whilst also enabling Harlow Council to target resources on enhancing existing open space, in line with consultation feedback. When applied at a neighbourhood level, this indicates that *Church Langley* and *Old Harlow* have well below average quantity of open space, whilst *Netteswell and Mark Hall* has above average quantity. This variation in quantity should help to prioritise locations for any relocation of open space provision, or creation of new open spaces in the future.

**Table 6.4: Local Parks and Gardens**

| Neighbourhood                        | Population<br>(inc. approved<br>development) | Number<br>of sites | Total Area<br>(ha) | Ha per<br>1000<br>population |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Bush Fair and Harlow Common          | 14715  | 7                  | 20.72              | 1.41                         |
| Church Langley                       | 9430   | 2                  | 7.40               | 0.78                         |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook          | 14301  | 11                 | 18.58              | 1.30                         |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon       | 8465   | 7                  | 29.13              | 3.44                         |
| Netteswell and Mark Hall             | 14594  | 10                 | 57.24              | 3.92                         |
| Old Harlow                           | 9441   | 7                  | 11.04              | 1.17                         |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and<br>Staple Tye | 14268  | 11                 | 35.15              | 2.46                         |
| Harlow total                         | 85214  | 54                 | 179.25             | 2.10                         |

### Quality and value

- 6.15 The quality and value standard for local parks has been set as 51. 21 sites exceed the combined standard while 16 fall below. Of the remaining sites, 8 have achieved the value standard and 11 achieved the quality standard.

## Natural and semi-natural green space

- 6.16 The standards for future provision of natural and semi-natural green space are shown in the table below.

**Table 6.5: Standards for future provision of future natural and semi-natural green space**

| Scale                 | Accessibility<br>standard   | Quantity Standard           | Quality/value<br>standard |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| District (over 15 ha) | 3.2km   | 2 ha per 1000<br>population | 53                        |
| Local (under 15 ha)   | 400m (including<br>District green space as<br>equivalent provision) | 3 ha per 1000<br>population | 32                        |

### Consultation feedback

- 6.17 The online/postal consultation feedback indicates that many people visit Harlow's parks and green wedges as an opportunity to enjoy nature. 39% of respondents visit the green wedges specifically to observe wildlife, whilst 37% visit them for relaxation/contemplation. The workshop sessions also highlighted the following existing issues and priorities for managing natural space:
- Fragmentation of habitats
  - Disturbance to wildlife
  - Insufficient budget for managing natural/ semi-natural habitats

### Accessibility

#### *District natural green space*

- 6.18 The accessibility standard for district natural green space is 3.2km. The 3.2km distance threshold reflects the maximum distance of existing Harlow residents from the current provision of district scale sites. The telephone consultation confirmed that 90% of respondents are happy with the current amount of open space within Harlow, therefore the existing provision of district natural green space is considered to be an appropriate standard. This accessibility standard for District natural green spaces is higher than those of other Essex districts (e.g. Basildon: 2km, Thurrock:



2km) although the quantity of provision of local natural green space in those districts is also likely to be lower.

#### *Local natural green space*

- 6.19 The accessibility standard for local natural green space is 400m. As indicated through the telephone survey, 87% of respondents are willing to travel for more than 10 minutes to reach a park or green space. We have made an assumption that the average person can walk at least 400m in 10 minutes. Based on this assumption, 400m is proposed as the minimum accessibility threshold, and all existing and future dwellings in Harlow should have access to a natural or semi-natural green space within 400m. This reflects that current local demand for open space provision, and is also in line with the Natural England 'Accessible Natural Green Space Standards', which suggests that all residents should have an accessible natural green space within 400m of their home. Basildon and Uttlesford districts also adopted the same accessibility standard for local natural green space.

#### **Quality and value**

- 6.20 The Quality and Value standard for Natural and Semi-natural green space at district level is 53. Of the seven district natural green spaces audited, three meet or exceed the combined quality and value benchmarks and three fall below this threshold. Harlow Common achieves the Value benchmark but falls below the benchmark for Quality.

#### **Quantity**

##### *District provision*

- 6.21 A quantity standard of **2ha per 1000 population** is proposed for district natural and semi-natural green space. This broadly reflects the current provision of 2.35ha (as shown in the table below), and the consultation feedback which indicates that the quantity of this open space type is good, whilst there is a need to improve the quality of provision at some sites. The approach to lowering the standard for future provision reflects the existing provision in the district and that access to existing sites is generally good (at the district level).

**Table 6.6: Quantity of B1: Accessible Natural and Semi-natural Green Space (District)**

| Neighbourhood                     | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Bush Fair and Harlow Common       | 14715                                  | 2               | 51.64     | 3.51                   |
| Church Langley                    | 9430                                   | 1               | 27.48     | 2.91                   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | 14301                                  | 1               | 24.97     | 1.75                   |
| Netteswell and Mark Hall          | 14594                                  | 1               | 17.19     | 1.18                   |
| Old Harlow                        | 9441                                   | 1               | 22.83     | 2.42                   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | 14268                                  | 1               | 55.99     | 3.92                   |
| Harlow total                      | 85214                                  | 7               | 200.1     | 2.35                   |

##### *Local provision*

- 6.22 A quantity standard of **3ha per 1000 population** is proposed for local natural and semi-natural green space. All neighbourhoods have access to considerable local natural green space, ranging from 2.79ha per 1000 population in Great Parndon and Toddbrook, up to 5.32ha per 1000 population in Netteswell and Mark Hall. Consultation feedback indicated that the quantity of natural open space provision is good, whilst the quality and perceived maintenance and safety at some sites is inadequate. Natural England's national standards for provision of natural and semi-natural green space, indicate that communities should have access to 2ha of natural green space per 1000 population. Existing provision in Harlow is above Natural England's recommended standards and is considered to be good based on the local needs assessment. The reason for the high existing provision reflects the Green Wedges in the town.
- 6.23 The proposed standard takes local needs and the character of the Green Wedges into account. This standard is considered to be one that provides a balance between ensuring adequate provision is made and reflects the provision of Green Wedges in Harlow. This standard is also designed to allow Harlow Council to look at targeting resources to improving existing open space,

which is identified as a particular issue for Harlow (i.e. those areas of lower quality). Finally, whilst the proposed standard is lower than existing provision it is higher than some other Essex districts.

**Table 6.7: Quantity of B1 and B2: Accessible Natural and Semi-natural Green Space (Local)**

| Neighbourhood                     | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Bush Fair and Harlow Common       | 14715                                  | 7               | 61.59     | 4.19                   |
| Church Langley                    | 9430                                   | 3               | 31.96     | 3.39                   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | 14301                                  | 8               | 39.94     | 2.79                   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon    | 8465                                   | 8               | 24.76     | 2.92                   |
| Netteswell and Mark Hall          | 14594                                  | 17              | 77.7      | 5.32                   |
| Old Harlow                        | 9441                                   | 9               | 44.94     | 4.76                   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | 14268                                  | 5               | 68.31     | 4.79                   |
| Local-scale provision             |  | 57              | 349.2     | 4.10                   |

#### Quality and value

- 6.24 The combined Quality and Value standard for Local Natural and Semi-natural green space is set at 32. Of the 57 sites within this category, 12 achieve the combined benchmark and 24 fall below the benchmark. 11 sites achieve the Quality standard and the remaining 10 site achieve the Value standard.

### Green corridors

- 6.25 The standards for future provision of Green Corridors are shown in the table below.

**Table 6.8: Standards for future provision of future green corridors**

| Scale           | Accessibility standard | Quantity Standard | Quality/value standard |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Green corridors | n/a                    | n/a               | 27                     |

#### Consultation feedback

- 6.26 Consultation respondents feel they have generally good access to open space, and this indicates that access levels are acceptable. Workshop attendees suggested that the quality of some green corridors should be improved, as some corridors feel unsafe, or suffer from litter including broken glass. The green corridors and access links in south Harlow were highlighted as an area for improvement. 34% of online/postal respondents confirmed that they use the green wedges as a shortcut to their destination, indicating that these larger green areas are also acting as green corridors.

#### Accessibility

- 6.27 No accessibility standard has been identified for green corridors. This reflects the purpose of green corridors as access routes, rather than a destination to which residents should have good access. There is at least one green corridor running through each neighbourhood.

#### Quality and value

- 6.28 The combined benchmark for Green Corridors is set at 27. Of the 18 sites audited, eight of the Green Corridors meet or exceed the benchmark but five fall below this standard. One of the sites

achieves just the Value standard and four sites just achieve the Quality standard. An overall quality/value rating for the Green Corridors is shown in Figure 6.5.

### Quantity

- 6.29 There is no quantity standard for green corridors, as their function is not related to quantity but to the quality of the green corridor and the places that it connects. As such, no further analysis has been undertaken for this typology. However, the table below may be useful in providing a general indication of areas where there is very limited provision of green corridors at present. The existing provision is 0.35 ha per 1000 population. The table below summarises the provision of green corridors by Neighbourhood Area, and across Harlow as a whole.

**Table 6.9: Quantity of C: Accessible Green Corridors**

| Neighbourhood                     | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Bush Fair and Harlow Common       | 14715                                  | 1               | 0.69      | 0.05                   |
| Church Langley                    | 9430                                   | 1               | 5         | 0.53                   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | 14301                                  | 3               | 13.3      | 0.93                   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon    | 8465                                   | 4               | 3.72      | 0.44                   |
| Netteswell and Mark Hall          | 14594                                  | 5               | 4.33      | 0.30                   |
| Old Harlow                        | 9441                                   | 1               | 0.36      | 0.04                   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | 14268                                  | 2               | 2.6       | 0.18                   |
| Harlow total                      | 85214                                  | 17              | 30        | 0.35                   |

## Amenity Green Space

- 6.30 The standards for future provision of Amenity Green Space are shown in the table below.

**Table 6.10: Standards for future provision of future amenity green space**

| Scale               | Accessibility standard  | Quantity Standard   | Quality/value standard |
|---------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Amenity Green Space | 400m (parks and gardens considered to offer equivalent provision) | 2 ha per 1000 population (parks and gardens considered to offer equivalent provision) | 32                     |

### Consultation feedback

- 6.31 Over 90% of telephone respondents and 86 of online respondents were happy with the amount of open space in their area, and felt that investment should be targeted at improving Harlow's existing parks, not creating new ones.

### Accessibility

- 6.32 The accessibility standard for accessible natural green space is 400m. Amenity Green Space offers some of the functions offered by parks and gardens, although parks and gardens tend to offer additional functions and features as well. As such, the application of this standard should consider the provision of district and local parks and gardens as suitable equivalent Amenity Green Space provision.
- 6.33 As indicated through the telephone survey, 87% of respondents are willing to travel for more than 10 minutes to reach a park or green space, which is approximately 400m. Based on this assumption, 400m is proposed as the minimum accessibility threshold, and all existing and future dwellings in Harlow should have access to a park or open space within 400m. This reflects that

current local demand for open space provision, and is also in line with the GLA best practice standards, which suggests that all residents should have a park or open space within 400m of their home. The GLA Best Practice Guidance suggests 400m is a reasonable distance for a pedestrian catchment from a Local Park. Basildon and Uttlesford Districts have adopted a similar standard for Amenity Green Space.

### Quality and value

- 6.34 The combined quality and value benchmark for Amenity Green Space is 32. Out of the 25 Amenity Green Spaces audited, eight achieve the combined benchmark standard. Two sites exceed the Value standard and another 4 sites exceed the Quality Standard. 11 sites fall below both standards.

### Quantity

- 6.35 The quantity standard for Amenity Green Space is **2ha per 1000 population**. There is no nationally recommended standard for quantity of Amenity Green Space, but this standard enables the current level of provision to be maintained, whilst also enabling Harlow Council to target resources on enhancing existing open space, in line with consultation feedback. The audit identified 0.23ha of accessible green space per 1000 population. This figure is lower than expected and is largely based on the minimum threshold of spaces that were audited and the fact that a number of amenity spaces are not considered to be accessible. As the functions and facilities offered by Amenity Green Space are also offered by parks and gardens, it is proposed that when applying this standard, the existence of either a district or local park should be considered as equivalent or replacement provision for Amenity Green Space.

**Table 6.11: Quantity of D: Accessible Amenity Green Space**

| Neighbourhood                     | Population (inc. approved development ) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Bush Fair and Harlow Common       | 14715                                   | 3               | 4.03      | 0.27                   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | 14301                                   | 5               | 8.67      | 0.61                   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon    | 8465                                    | 2               | 1.12      | 0.13                   |
| Netteswell and Mark Hall          | 14594                                   | 9               | 1.08      | 0.07                   |
| Old Harlow                        | 9441                                    | 1               | 0.04      | 0.00                   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | 14268                                   | 5               | 4.85      | 0.34                   |
| Church Langley                    | 9430                                    | 0               | 0         | 0                      |
| Harlow total                      | 85214                                   | 25              | 19.79     | 0.23                   |

- 6.36 The following table shows the total provision of Amenity Green Spaces when including Accessible Amenity Green Space and Parks and Gardens. This gives a more nuanced picture of provision given the similarities of the provision and the potential for overlapping functions.

**Table 6.12: Quantity of D, including A1 and A2 Accessible Amenity Green Space and Accessible Parks and Gardens**

| Neighbourhood                  | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Bush Fair and Harlow Common    | 14715                                  | 10              | 24.75     | 1.68                   |
| Church Langley                 | 9430                                   | 2               | 7.4       | 0.78                   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook    | 14301                                  | 16              | 27.24     | 1.90                   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon | 8465                                   | 9               | 30.25     | 3.57                   |
| Netteswell and Mark Hall       | 14594                                  | 19              | 58.32     | 4.00                   |

| Neighbourhood                     | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Old Harlow                        | 9441                                   | 8               | 11.09     | 1.17                   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | 14268                                  | 16              | 40.01     | 2.80                   |
| Harlow total                      | 85214                                  | 80              | 199.06    | 2.34                   |

## Allotments

- 6.37 The standards for future provision of Allotments are shown in the table below.

**Table 6.13: Standards for future provision of future amenity green space**

| Scale      | Accessibility standard | Quantity Standard                         | Quality/value standard |
|------------|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Allotments | 800m (15 minute walk)  | 0.25 ha (or 20 plots) per 1000 population | 26                     |

### Consultation feedback

- 6.38 Consultation feedback indicates that there is adequate provision of Allotments, although some Allotments would benefit from better management and maintenance, to ensure they are welcoming.

### Accessibility

- 6.39 The proposed accessibility standard for Allotments in Harlow is 800m. There are no nationally recommended standards for access to Allotments, and consultation feedback indicates that they are less well-used than other typologies. However, proximity to Allotments is an important factor in ensuring they are well used and maintained, and that allotment tenants do not need to rely on a car to access the Allotments.
- 6.40 Review of open space provision standards adopted by other Essex districts indicates that Uttlesford has adopted a similar quantity standard of 0.25ha per 1000 population. Other Essex districts have adopted accessibility standards which allow more remote provision of Allotments (e.g. Basildon: 2km, Chelmsford: 2.4km) with the exception of Thurrock, which has a comparable standard to Harlow. However, it is felt that the proposed accessibility standard is achievable in Harlow, and that the proximity of Allotments reflects the design of the town, and also helps to meet aspirations to reduce car-dependency and meet low carbon targets for the District. Consultation revealed that over 60% of respondents travel to Harlow's open spaces by foot.

### Quality and value

- 6.41 The quality and value benchmark for Allotments is set at 26. Of the 34 sites audited, 12 sites achieve the combined Quality and Value threshold. Seven sites just exceed the Value standard and a further eight sites just exceed the Quality standard. The spatial distribution of the Value and Quality ratings is further summarised by Neighbourhood Area in **Figure 6.7**.

### Quantity

- 6.42 The proposed quantity standard for Allotments is **0.25ha per 1000 population**, or 20 plots per 1000 population, which reflects existing provision, as set out below in table 6.14. All neighbourhoods have access to an allotment, although provision varies from 0.12ha per 1000 population in Church Langley and Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye, to 0.52ha in Netteswell and Mark Hall. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners has suggested a national standard of 20 Allotments per 1,000 households. This equates to 0.125 ha per 1,000 population based on an average plot size of 250 square metres, however this is the total area of allotment plots only. The measurements in the table above are based on the total size of each allotment

site, including ancillary infrastructure, paths, communal areas etc. Consultation feedback confirmed that there is adequate provision of Allotments, although some Allotments would benefit from better management and maintenance, to ensure they are welcoming. However, the Harlow Council waiting lists indicate that there is considerable unmet demand for allotment plots, with 65 people on the Council waiting list in December 2011.

- 6.43 In neighbourhoods where there is demand for Allotments which cannot be met in the short term, Harlow Council could consider reducing the plot size of Allotments to 150sq m in line with the recommendations of the 2010 Harlow Green Space Strategy.

**Table 6.14: Quantity of E: Allotments (all categories of access)**

| Neighbourhood                     | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Bush Fair and Harlow Common       | 14,715                                 | 7               | 3.5       | 0.24                   |
| Church Langley                    | 9,430                                  | 1               | 1.1       | 0.12                   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | 14,301                                 | 5               | 4.28      | 0.30                   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon    | 8,465                                  | 6               | 2.5       | 0.30                   |
| Netteswell and Mark Hall          | 14,594                                 | 10              | 7.57      | 0.52                   |
| Old Harlow                        | 9,441                                  | 3               | 2.14      | 0.23                   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | 14,268                                 | 2               | 1.67      | 0.12                   |
| Harlow total                      | 85,214                                 | 25              | 19.79     | 0.23                   |

## Provision for children and young people

- 6.44 The standards for future provision of space for children and young people are shown in the table below.

**Table 6.15: Standards for future provision for children and young people**

| Scale            | Accessibility standard            | Quantity Standard  | Quality/value standard |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Children's space | 400m (LAP or LEAP)<br>800m (NEAP) | 1 LEAP per 2000 population<br>1 NEAP per 10,000 population | 52                     |

### Consultation feedback

- 6.45 Children's play space was identified as the typology where respondents felt additional provision is required. Feedback indicates:
- 40% of consultees state that they use children's play space, and only 58% of these felt that provision is satisfactory.
  - Workshop sessions highlighted the need for significant investment in play spaces.
  - More activities and play schemes should be made available.
  - Younger people enjoy visiting woodlands – this should be encouraged and woodlands should be well maintained.

## Accessibility

- 6.46 The proposed accessibility standard for local children's' and young people's spaces is 400m. This reflects the consultation feedback that 87% of respondents are willing to travel for more than 10 minutes to reach childrens' play space, which is approximately 400m. It is particularly important that families with small children have access to a park within easy walking distance. The 400m distance standard is very similar to that adopted by many other districts in Essex.

## Quality and value

- 6.47 The quality and value of site with the primary typology of provision for children and young people within Harlow ranges considerably. The benchmark is set at 52 with five of the seven sites achieving this standard. Carter's Mead, Rushes Mead and Joyners Field achieve the Value Standard but fall below the standard for Quality. The spatial distribution of provision for children and young people is shown in **Figure 6.11**.

## Quantity

- 6.48 Consultation results revealed that Harlow's residents see Children's play space, within sites of both primary and secondary typology, as a priority for investment and enhancement. Feedback from online consultation, workshops and focus groups all indicated that some of the existing provision is poor quality. In addition, as highlighted in the 2010 Green Space Strategy, Harlow has recently experienced a baby boom, and additional provision is likely to be required to serve the growing population. The table below indicates the quantity of sites where the primary typology is Provision of Space for Children and Young People, by neighbourhood, and for Harlow as a whole. Five neighbourhoods have access to some sort of space for children and young people, however Church Langley and Hare Street and Little Parndon have no provision.
- 6.49 In line with feedback from consultees, it is recommended that the quantity provision standard for Harlow is **1 LEAP per 2000 population**, and **1 NEAP per 10,000 population**. This reflects the level of provision (sites with primary and secondary typology) in those neighbourhoods with the best existing provision which is shown in the table below. Whilst the accessibility standards should be applied in determining areas of current deficiency in provision, these quantity standards can be more usefully applied to new developments.
- 6.50 Identification of priority areas for future investment should consider the population of under children under 12 years of age, in each neighbourhood in allocating provision. In 2011, Old Harlow and Church Langley both had the highest population of under 12's.

**Table 6.16: Provision for Children/Young People (as primary or secondary typology)**

| Neighbourhood                     | Population | Local Area for Play | Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) | Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) | Other* |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Bush Fair and Harlow Common       | 14,715     | 2                   | 7                                   | 2   | 1      |
| Church Langley                    | 9,430      |                     | 4                                   |   |        |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | 14,301     | 2                   | 9                                   | 1   |        |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon    | 8,465      |                     | 5                                   | 1   |        |
| Netteswell and Mark Hall          | 14,594     | 2                   | 9                                   | 3   |        |
| Old Harlow                        | 9,441      |                     | 8                                   |   |        |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | 14,268     | 2                   | 10                                  | 2   |        |
| Harlow total                      | 85,214     | 8                   | 52                                  | 9   | 1      |

\* One site was recorded as being closed with the play equipment removed



## Cemeteries and churchyards

- 6.51 There is no quantity standard for cemeteries and churchyards, as their recreational function is not related to quantity but to the quality of provision. The existing provision is shown in the table below.

**Table 6.17: Existing provision of cemeteries and churchyards**

| Existing quantity of cemeteries and churchyards in Harlow | Proposed quantity standard for cemeteries and churchyards in Harlow. | Quality/value standard |
|---|--|------------------------|
| 0.11 ha per 1000 population                               | n/a  | 40                     |

**Table 6.18: Quantity of F: Cemeteries and Churchyards**

| Neighbourhood                     | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Bush Fair and Harlow Common       | 14715                                  | 2               | 0.81      | 0.06                   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | 14301                                  | 1               | 0.44      | 0.03                   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon    | 8465                                   | 1               | 0.16      | 0.02                   |
| Netteswell and Mark Hall          | 14594                                  | 1               | 0.36      | 0.02                   |
| Old Harlow                        | 9441                                   | 1               | 0.76      | 0.08                   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | 14268                                  | 1               | 7.1       | 0.50                   |
| HARLOW TOTAL                      | 85214                                  | 7               | 9.63      | 0.11                   |

- 6.52 The table above indicates the provision of cemeteries and churchyards by neighbourhood, and for Harlow as a whole. All neighbourhoods with the exception of Church Langley include a churchyard or cemetery. Current provision across Harlow as a whole is 0.1ha per 1000 population. It is not appropriate to develop a quantity standard for churchyards and cemeteries, as their function is not related to quantity. As such, no further analysis has been undertaken for this typology.

### Quality and value

- 6.53 The quality and value of provision for cemeteries and churchyards within Harlow ranges considerably. The benchmark is set at 40 with five of the seven sites achieving this standard. The remain two sites achieve the standards for Value but fall below the Quality standard. The spatial distribution of provision for children and young people is shown in **Figure 6.11**.

## Civic space

- 6.54 There are no quantity standards for civic space as provision of civic space is provided for the whole town, however the accessibility and quality standards are shown in the table below.

**Table 6.19: Standards for future provision for children and young people**

| Scale                      | Accessibility standard | Quantity Standard | Quality/value standard |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Civic space district-scale | 3.2km                  | N/A               | 95                     |



| Scale                   | Accessibility standard | Quantity Standard | Quality/value standard |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Civic space local-scale | N/A                    | N/A               | 40                     |

### Consultation feedback

6.55 The following feedback was received on civic space:

- Vandalism and litter can make civic space feel unsafe, particularly for children, young people and older adults.
- Civic spaces are well used but people often feel unsafe in these spaces as lighting can be poor and there is a lack of CCTV.
- Groups of young people tend to hang around neighbourhood shopping centres.
- 47% of online/postal respondents felt that more civic space should be created within Great Parndon and Toddbrook neighbourhood, around the existing town centre and civic space.
- Clean, car-free spaces should be created.

### Accessibility

6.56 The proposed accessibility standard for civic space is 3.2km. This reflects the function of civic space as providing a central meeting place within the town centre. The 3.2km distance threshold is adopted as this reflects the whole town of Harlow, which the existing civic space serves.

### Quality and value

6.57 There are three civic spaces within Harlow; two at district-scale and one at local-scale. Harlow Town Centre provides the benchmark for the district-scale spaces and The Stow as standard for the local-scale. The distribution of the civic spaces is shown in **Figures 6.9 and 6.10**.

**Table 6.20: Quantity of G1: District Civic Space**

| Neighbourhood               | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook | 14301                                  | 2               | 2.24      | 0.16                   |

**Table 6.21: Quantity of G2: Local Civic Space**

| Neighbourhood            | Population (inc. approved development) | Number of sites | Area (ha) | Ha per 1000 population |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Netteswell and Mark Hall | 14594                                  | 1               | 0.55      | 0.04                   |

6.58 The tables above outline the existing provision of civic space, and its location within Harlow. Civic space provides a setting for civic buildings or community events of District-wide importance. It is not appropriate to develop a quantity standard for civic space, as its function is not related to quantity. As such, no further analysis has been undertaken for this typology.

## Outdoor Sports Provision

6.59 As already outlined this study does not consider the provision of outdoor sports in detail and as such does not recommend provision standards. For more information of outdoor sports provision please refer to the previous outdoor sports study (2009).

## Summary of provision standards

- 6.60 The table sets out the open space standards that were developed above. In addition to this the study has undertaken a benchmarking exercise with adjoining districts to put the Harlow standards into context.

**Table 6.22: Summary of open space standards**

| Open space typology                 | Accessibility standard                     | Quantity standard (per 1000 population)                    | Quality/Value Standard       |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| Parks and gardens                   | 3.2km (District park)<br>400m (Local park) | 2.5ha (District)<br>2ha (Local)                            | 161 (District)<br>51 (Local) |
| Natural green space                 | 2km (District)<br>400m (Local)             | 2ha (District)<br>3ha (Local)                              | 53 (District)<br>32 (Local)  |
| Green Corridor                      | -  | -  | 27                           |
| Amenity Green Space                 | 400m                                       | 2ha (inc. parks and gardens as alternative provision)      | 32                           |
| Allotments                          | 800m                                       | 0.25ha   | 26                           |
| Churchyards and cemeteries          | N/A  | N/A  | 40                           |
| Civic space                         | 3.2km                                      | N/A  | 95 (District)<br>40 (Local)  |
| Space for children and young people | 400m                                       | 1 LEAP per 2000 population<br>1 NEAP per 10,000 population | 52                           |
| Outdoor Sports Provision            | These can be found in a separate strategy  |  |                              |

## Benchmarking of quantity and accessibility standards

- 6.61 Benchmarking was undertaken as part of the analysis, to ensure that the proposed open space standards for Harlow are feasible, and promote a similar approach to that applied elsewhere. A summary of the provision standards in some Essex districts is provided below.

**Table 6.23: Summary of provision standards in selected Essex districts**




| Typology                          | Standard                                | Basildon    | Chelmsford | Thurrock                  | Uttlesford | Harlow   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|--|
| Parks and gardens                 | Access (max. distance from dwellings)   | 2km<br>400m | 4km        | 1km<br>400m               | N/A        | 3.2km (District)<br>400m (Local)                           |
|                                   | Quantity (hectares per 1000 population) |             | N/A        | 0.7 ha                    | N/A        | 2.5 ha (District)<br>2 ha (Local)                          |
| Natural green space               | Access                                  | 2km<br>400m | 1.6km      | 2km<br>300m               | 400m       | 3.2km (District)<br>400m (Local)                           |
|                                   | Quantity                                |             | N/A        | 2 ha                      | 7 ha       | 2 ha (District)<br>3 ha (Local)                            |
| Amenity Green Space               | Access                                  | 400m        | 800m       | 100m                      | 400m       | 400m   |
|                                   | Quantity                                |             | N/A        | 0.8ha                     | 1 ha       | 2 ha   |
| Allotments                        | Access                                  | 2km         | 2-4km      | 300m-1.2km                | 4km        | 800m   |
|                                   | Quantity                                |             | N/A        | 6.25 plots                | 0.25ha     | 0.25 ha  |
| Civic space                       | Access                                  | N/A         | N/A        | N/A                       | N/A        | 3.2km  |
|                                   | Quantity                                |             | N/A        | N/A                       | N/A        | N/A  |
| Children and young peoples' space | Access                                  | 400m        | 400-800m   | 200m – 800m               | 400m       | 400m   |
|                                   | Quantity                                |             | N/A        | 1.80m2 per childbed space | 0.2 ha     | 1 LEAP per 2000 population<br>1 NEAP per 10,000 population |

## Application of open space standards by Neighbourhood Area

- 6.62 This section of the report applies the standards that were established in the previous section to different parts of the town to illustrate where surpluses/deficiencies can be found. This has provided an indication of which neighbourhoods have adequate provision of open space, and where there is a need for enhancement. These conclusions are summarised by neighbourhood below. Figure 1.2 maps the Neighbourhood Areas, and figures 6.13 – 6.19 show the open space provision within each Neighbourhood Area.

### Quantity and access to open space by neighbourhood

- 6.63 The tables below provide a summary of current open space provision and deficiencies by Neighbourhood Area. Where provision standards are not considered relevant to an open space type, we have not included them in the summary tables. Where the accessibility standards are met within a specific Neighbourhood Area, then the quantity of provision is considered to also be adequate, as even if there is below average quantity in that neighbourhood, the residents have easy access to provision in adjoining neighbourhoods.
- 6.64 There is adequate provision of district-scale green space across Harlow. District-level provision is provided for use by all of Harlow's residents, therefore the quantity of provision in each neighbourhood is not relevant. As such, the quantity of green space in each neighbourhood is not assessed for district-scale provision. The key below provides an indication of the colour coding used to denote adequate provision, surplus or deficiency of each open space typology.

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | Surplus (i.e. areas where there is greater provision than relevant standard) |
|   | Adequate (i.e. areas where provision meets relevant standard)                |
|  | Deficiency (i.e. areas where provision is less than relevant standard)       |
| --  | Below Value/ Below Quality   |
| - +   | Below Value/ Above Quality   |
| + -   | Above Value/ Below Quality   |
| ++  | Above Value/ Above Quality   |

## Hare Street and Little Parndon

**Table 6.24: Open space provision in Hare Street and Little Parndon**

| Open space type                         | Access | Quantity | Value/ Quality |          |          |          |
|---|--------|----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
|   |        |          | --             | - +      | + -      | ++       |
| Parks and gardens (district)            |        | N/A      |                |          |          |          |
| Parks and gardens (local)               |        | +1.44ha  | 2              | 1        | 3        | 1        |
| Natural green space (district)          |        | N/A      |                |          |          |          |
| Natural green space (local)             |        |          | 8              |          | 3        |          |
| Green Corridor                          | N/A    | N/A      |                | 1        |          | 3        |
| Amenity Green Space                     |        | +1.7ha   | 1              |          | 1        |          |
| Allotments                              |        | +0.05ha  | 2              | 1        |          | 3        |
| Cemeteries and churchyards              | N/A    | N/A      |                |          |          | 1        |
| Civic space                             |        |          |                |          |          |          |
| Provision for children and young people |        |          |                |          |          |          |
| <b>Total</b>                            |        |          | <b>13</b>      | <b>3</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>8</b> |

### Quantity and access to open space

- 6.65 There is adequate or a surplus in the quantity of provision of all types of open space in Hare Street and Little Parndon when measured against the standards that have been developed. Access to most typologies is also adequate, with the exception of Local Natural Green Space and Provision for Children and Young People.
- 6.66 Given the surplus in the quantity of Amenity Green Space and Parks and Gardens in this neighbourhood, consideration should be given to changing the management of these spaces to promote more natural habitats, which would help to address this deficiency.

### Quality and value of open spaces

- 6.67 The quantity of open space in the area is countered by the quality and value of spaces with nearly 42% of the open spaces in Hare Street and Little Parndon falling below the standards for value and quality. Open spaces classified as Natural Green Spaces form the greatest number of sites falling below the thresholds for quality and value.

#### *A: Parks and Gardens*

##### *A1: District Parks and Gardens*

- 6.68 There are no District Parks and Gardens within Hare Street and Little Parndon but the area is within the catchment area for Town Park.

##### *A2: Local Parks and Gardens*

- 6.69 There are seven Local Parks and Gardens in the Hare Street and Little Parndon Neighbourhood Area. The following site exceeds the combined value and quality threshold:

- Northbrooks Recreation Ground

6.70 The following open spaces exceed the value threshold but fall below the threshold for quality:

- Foldcroft Recreation Ground
- Rectory Wood
- Rivermill Open Space

6.71 Ash Tree Field achieves the quality standard but falls below the standard for value. Collins Meadow Playing Field and Jean McAlpine Park fall below the value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.25: Local Parks and Gardens in Hare Street and Little Parndon**

| Site ID | Site Name                     | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 052     | Foldcroft Recreation Ground   | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 054     | Rectory Wood                  | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 060     | Collins Meadow Playing Field  | -     | -       | --                     |
| 063     | Rivermill Open Space          | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 128     | Jean McAlpine Park            | -     | -       | --                     |
| 132     | Northbrooks Recreation Ground | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 133     | Ash Tree Fields               | -     | +       | -+                     |

*B: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

*B1: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

6.72 There are no District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space within this Neighbourhood Area. However it does fall within the catchment area of sites within the surrounding areas.

*B2: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

6.73 11 open spaces were recorded within Hare Street and Little Parndon Neighbourhood Area as being within the Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space typology. None of these sites achieve the combined value and quality threshold. All sites fell below the quality threshold and just Stort Valley, Parndon Moat Marsh Nature Reserve and Canons Brook Open Space achieve the threshold for Value.

**Table 6.26: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Hare Street and Little Parndon**

| Site ID | Site Name                         | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 042     | Stort Valley                      | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 043     | Parndon Moat Marsh Nature Reserve | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 050     | Oakwood                           | -     | -       | --                     |
| 057     | Hodings Road Open Space           | -     | -       | --                     |
| 062     | Site of Parndon Hall              | -     | -       | --                     |
| 121     | Harold's Grove                    | -     | -       | --                     |
| 127     | Eastend Open Space                | -     | -       | --                     |
| 129     | Canons Brook Open Space           | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 134     | Ram Gorse                         | -     | -       | --                     |
| 137     | Ram Gorse                         | -     | -       | --                     |
| 139     | Herons Wood                       | -     | -       | --                     |

*C: Green Corridors*

6.74 Of the four Green Corridors audited within Hare Street and Little Parndon Neighbourhood Area, three were recorded as having scores above the value and quality threshold. Fifth Avenue/

Allende Avenue Green Corridor B achieves the quality benchmark but falls below the threshold for value.

**Table 6.27: Green Corridors in Hare Street and Little Parndon**

| Site ID | Site Name                                     | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 044     | Fifth Avenue/ Allende Avenue Green Corridor B | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 045     | Fifth Avenue/ Allende Avenue Green Corridor A | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 126     | Fourth Avenue Green Corridor                  | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 130     | Fourth Avenue Green Corridor B                | +     | +       | ++                     |

*D: Amenity Green Space*

- 6.75 Two Amenity Green Spaces within Hare Street and Little Parndon were audited in preparation of the open space strategy. Hamstel Road Amenity Green Space achieves the required value threshold. Helions Road Amenity Green Space falls below both the value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.28: Amenity Green Space in Hare Street and Little Parndon**

| Site ID | Site Name                        | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 055     | Hamstel Road Amenity Green Space | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 058     | Helions Road Amenity Green Space | -     | -       | --                     |

*E: Allotments*

- 6.76 Ten Allotments were audited with only Arkwrights Allotments achieving scores above the value and quality thresholds. Tanys Dell Allotments fall below both the value and quality thresholds. Five sites achieve the required value threshold but fall below quality threshold whereas the remaining three sites achieve the quality threshold but fall below the threshold for value.
- 6.77 The vast majority of the neighbourhood is within at least 800m of an Allotment with only the industrial estates at Temple Fields and areas adjacent to Harlow Town station falling outside of this catchment area.

**Table 6.29: Allotments in Hare Street and Little Parndon**

| Site ID | Site Name                    | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 051     | Canons Gate Allotments       | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 053     | Fold Croft Allotments        | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 059     | Canons Brook Allotments      | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 131     | Upper Stoneyfield Allotments | -     | -       | --                     |
| 138     | Ash Tree Field Allotment     | -     | -       | --                     |
| 140     | Rams Gorse Allotment         | +     | +       | ++                     |

*F: Cemeteries and churchyards*

- 6.78 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard is the only site within this typology recorded within Hare Street and Little Parndon. This exceeded the required value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.30: Cemeteries and churchyards in Hare Street and Little Parndon**

| Site ID | Site Name                     | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 136     | St Mary the Virgin Churchyard | +     | +       | ++                     |

*G: Civic Space*

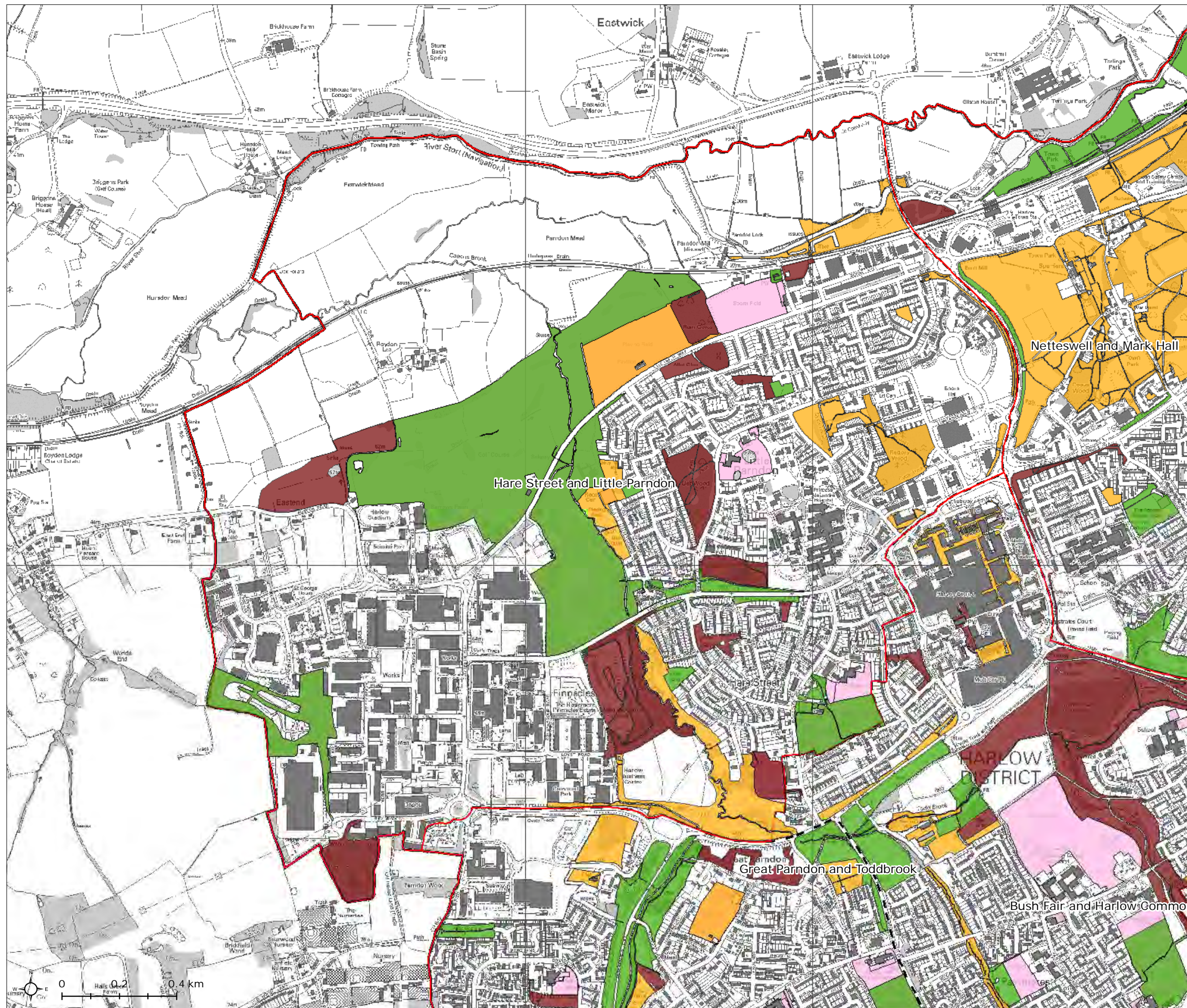
*G1: District Civic Space*

- 6.79 There were no District Civic Spaces recorded within the Hare Street and Little Parndon Neighbourhood Area. However, all of the Neighbourhood Area falls within the 3.2km catchment area for District Civic Space located in adjacent areas.

*H: Provision for Children and Young People*

- 6.80 There were no sites recorded within this Neighbourhood Area with a primary typology of Provision for Children and Young People.





## Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.13

Audited sites by Value/Quality ratings:  
Hare Street and Little Parndon

- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries

Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

- Above Value / Above Quality(++)
- Above Value / Below Quality(++) or Below Value / Above Quality(++)
- Below Value / Below Quality(--)

Additional sites

- Outdoor sports facilities (no rating)\*

\* Outdoor sports facilities were identified, but not audited as part of this study

To fit with best practice guidance on open spaces only those spaces that sat within an open space PPG17 typology were mapped. Other open spaces not audited include those that were beneath a certain threshold or were open spaces not assessed in this study.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:13,000

**LUC** for Harlow District Council





## Netteswell and Mark Hall

**Table 6.31: Open space provision in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Open space type                         | Accessibility | Quantity           | Value/Quality |          |           |           |
|---|---------------|--------------------|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|   |               |                    | --            | - +      | + -       | + +       |
| Parks and gardens (district)            |               | N/A                |               |          | 1         |           |
| Parks and gardens (local)               |               | +1.92ha            | 3             | 1        | 1         | 5         |
| Natural green space (district)          |               | N/A                |               |          |           | 1         |
| Natural green space (local)             |               | +2.32ha            | 4             | 6        | 4         | 4         |
| Green Corridor                          | N/A           | N/A                | 3             |          |           | 2         |
| Amenity Green Space                     |               | +2.00ha            | 6             |          | 1         | 2         |
| Allotments                              |               |                    | 1             | 2        | 5         | 2         |
| Civic space                             |               |                    |               |          |           | 1         |
| Provision for children and young people |               | +1 LEAP<br>+1 NEAP |               |          |           | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                            |               |                    | <b>17</b>     | <b>9</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>18</b> |

### Quantity and access to open space by neighbourhood

- 6.81 There is adequate or a surplus in the quantity of provision of all open space types in Netteswell and Mark Hall. Access to most types of open spaces is also adequate, with the exception of Local Natural Green Space and Children and Provision for Young People. Given the surplus quantity of Amenity Green Space and Parks and Gardens in this neighbourhood, consideration should be given to changing the management of these spaces to promote more natural habitats, which would address the deficiency in natural green space.

### Quality and value of open spaces

- 6.82 Despite the surplus in the quantity of open space in the area, 30% of sites fall below the required threshold for quality and value. Amenity Green Space has the greatest number of sites that fall below the required threshold for quality and value. However, 32% of sites meet or exceed the relevant threshold for quality and value. The quality and value of sites in this area is generally mixed but the area still has a considerable number of sites that do not meet the relevant standards.

#### *A: Parks and Gardens*

##### *A1: District Parks and Gardens*

- 6.83 The only district scale park in Harlow, Town Park, is located within this neighbourhood. The audit revealed that this space exceeds the value threshold but scores below the prescribed quality threshold standard due to the condition of onsite facilities and features. All sections of the neighbourhood are within the 3.2km catchment area of Town Park.

**Table 6.32: District Parks and Gardens in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 046     | Town Park | +     | -       | +-                     |

*A2: Local Parks and Gardens*

6.84 There are 10 Local Parks and Gardens in the Netteswell and Mark Hall Neighbourhood Area. The following four sites exceed the combined value and quality threshold:

- The Stow Recreation Ground
- Long Ley Sports Ground
- Mark Hall Park
- The Dashes Playing Fields
- Ladyshot Playing Field

6.85 Glebelands Open Space exceeds the value threshold but falls below the threshold for quality. Whereas Felmongers Open Space falls below the value threshold but scores above the quality threshold.

6.86 Harefield Open Space currently falls below the value and quality thresholds. The gardens at the Museum of Harlow also fall below both thresholds due the site being closed during the time of auditing.

6.87 The industrial areas at Temple Fields fall outside of the 400m catchment area for Local Parks and Gardens.

**Table 6.33: Local Parks and Gardens in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name                  | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|----------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 003     | The Stow Recreation Ground | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 015     | Long Ley Sports Ground     | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 022     | The Dashes Playing Fields  | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 035     | Harefield Open Space       | -     | -       | --                     |
| 124     | Mark Hall Park             | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 146     | Glebelands Open Space      | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 154     | Mandela Avenue Open Space  | -     | -       | --                     |
| 156     | Felmongers Open Space      | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 246     | Ladyshot Playing Field     | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 249     | Museum of Harlow           | -     | -       | --                     |

*B: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space**B1: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

6.88 The Stort Valley, along the northern boundary of this neighbourhood area, scores above the thresholds for quality and value. The neighbourhood is within the suggested 3.2km catchment area for District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space.

**Table 6.34: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name    | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|--------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 123     | Stort Valley | +     | +       | ++                     |

## B2: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

- 6.89 The following four open spaces within the Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space typology are above the combined value and quality thresholds:
- Green Park
  - Quarry Springs
  - Glebelands Woods
  - Site of Roman Temple
- 6.90 Four sites (Vicarage Wood, Long Ley Open Space, Edinburgh Way Field and Harlow Mill Bridge Open Space) have been scored above the value threshold but below quality threshold. However six sites are below the value threshold but above the quality threshold.
- 6.91 The following four sites are below the combined value and quality threshold:
- Vicarage Wood (Site ID 006)
  - Burntmill Lane Open Space
  - Station Approach Open Space
  - Temple Fields
- 6.92 With the exception of communities within the west of the neighbourhood, the majority of residents within Netteswell and Mark Hall are within the 400m catchment area of Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space.

**Table 6.35: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name                             | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 006     | Vicarage Wood                         | -     | -       | --                     |
| 011     | Vicarage Wood                         | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 026     | Green Park                            | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 028     | Long Ley Open Space                   | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 031     | Gravelpit Springs Open Space          | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 033     | Quarry Springs                        | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 041     | Burntmill Lane Open Space             | -     | -       | --                     |
| 048     | Edinburgh Way Field                   | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 049     | Glebelands Woods                      | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 101     | Mark Hall Wood                        | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 148     | Broomfield Open Space                 | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 150     | East Road Open Space                  | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 155     | Cook's Spinney                        | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 171     | Harlow Mill Bridge Open Space         | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 172     | Site of Roman Temple                  | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 173     | Station Approach Open Space           | -     | -       | --                     |
| 181     | Marshgate Spring Local Nature Reserve | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 182     | Temple Fields                         | -     | -       | --                     |

## C: Green Corridors

- 6.93 Of the five Green Corridors audited within Netteswell and Mark Hall Neighbourhood Area, two are recorded as meeting or above the value and quality threshold and three are recorded below both thresholds.
- 6.94 A large proportion of the neighbourhood is not within the catchment area of a green corridor.

**Table 6.36: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name                       | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 007     | Latton Street Verge             | -     | -       | --                     |
| 012     | Howard Way Green Corridor       | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 024     | Mandela Avenue Green Corridor C | -     | -       | --                     |
| 025     | Velizy Avenue Green Corridor    | -     | -       | --                     |
| 038     | Mendela Avenue Green Corridor B | +     | +       | ++                     |

*D: Amenity Green Space*

- 6.95 Nine Amenity Green Spaces within Netteswell and Mark Hall were audited in preparation of this open space strategy. Six of these sites are currently below the relevant value and quality thresholds and just two are above these thresholds. Long Ley Amenity Green Space scored above the value threshold but below the quality threshold.
- 6.96 Northern and eastern sections of the neighbourhood are deficient in Amenity Green Space but, with the exception of the industrial estates to the north, are covered by open spaces within the Parks and Gardens typology.

**Table 6.37: Amenity Green Space in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name                                   | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 001     | Old House Croft                             | -     | -       | --                     |
| 002     | The Mallories Amenity Space                 | -     | -       | --                     |
| 004     | Sewell Harris Close Amenity Space A         | -     | -       | --                     |
| 005     | Sewell Harris Close Amenity Space B         | -     | -       | --                     |
| 008     | Mardyke Amenity Space                       | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 014     | Long Ley Amenity Green Space B              | -     | -       | --                     |
| 032     | Momples Road and Penny Meads Amenity Spaces | -     | -       | --                     |
| 034     | Mark Hall South Amenity Green Space         | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 193     | Long Ley Amenity Green Space                | +     | -       | +-                     |

*E: Allotments*

- 6.97 Ten Allotments were audited with only Arkwrights Allotments achieving scores above the Value and Quality thresholds. Tanys Dell Allotments falls below both the value and quality thresholds. Five sites achieve the required value threshold but fall below the quality threshold, whereas, the remaining three sites achieve the quality threshold but fall below the threshold for value.
- 6.98 The vast majority of the neighbourhood is within at least 800m of an Allotment with only the industrial estates at Temple Fields and areas adjacent to Harlow Town station falling outside of this catchment area.

**Table 6.38: Allotments in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name                | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|--------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 010     | Vicarage Wood Allotments | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 016     | Arkwrights Allotments    | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 020     | Commonfields Allotments  | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 023     | The Dashes Allotments    | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 027     | Long Ley Allotments      | +     | -       | +-                     |

| Site ID | Site Name             | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 047     | Glebelands Allotments | -     | +       | ++                     |
| 144     | Stackfield Allotments | -     | +       | ++                     |
| 145     | Tanys Dell Allotments | -     | -       | --                     |
| 157     | Felmongers Allotment  | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 260     | Felmongers Allotments | +     | -       | +-                     |

*F: Cemeteries and churchyards*

- 6.99 The Churchyard at St Mary Latton Church is the only Churchyard recorded within Netteswell and Mark Hall Neighbourhood Area. This exceeds the required value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.39: Cemeteries and churchyards in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name             | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 147     | St Mary Latton Church | +     | +       | ++                     |

*G: Civic Space*

*G1: District Civic Space*

- 6.100 There are no District Civic Spaces recorded within the Netteswell and Mark Hall Neighbourhood Area. However, all of the neighbourhood is within the 3.2km catchment area for District Civic Spaces located in adjacent areas.

*G2: Local Civic Space*

- 6.101 The Stow is the only Local District Space recorded within the Netteswell and Mark Hall Neighbourhood Area. This achieved scores above the required value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.40: Local Civic Space in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 248     | The Stow  | +     | +       | ++                     |

*H: Provision for Children and Young People*

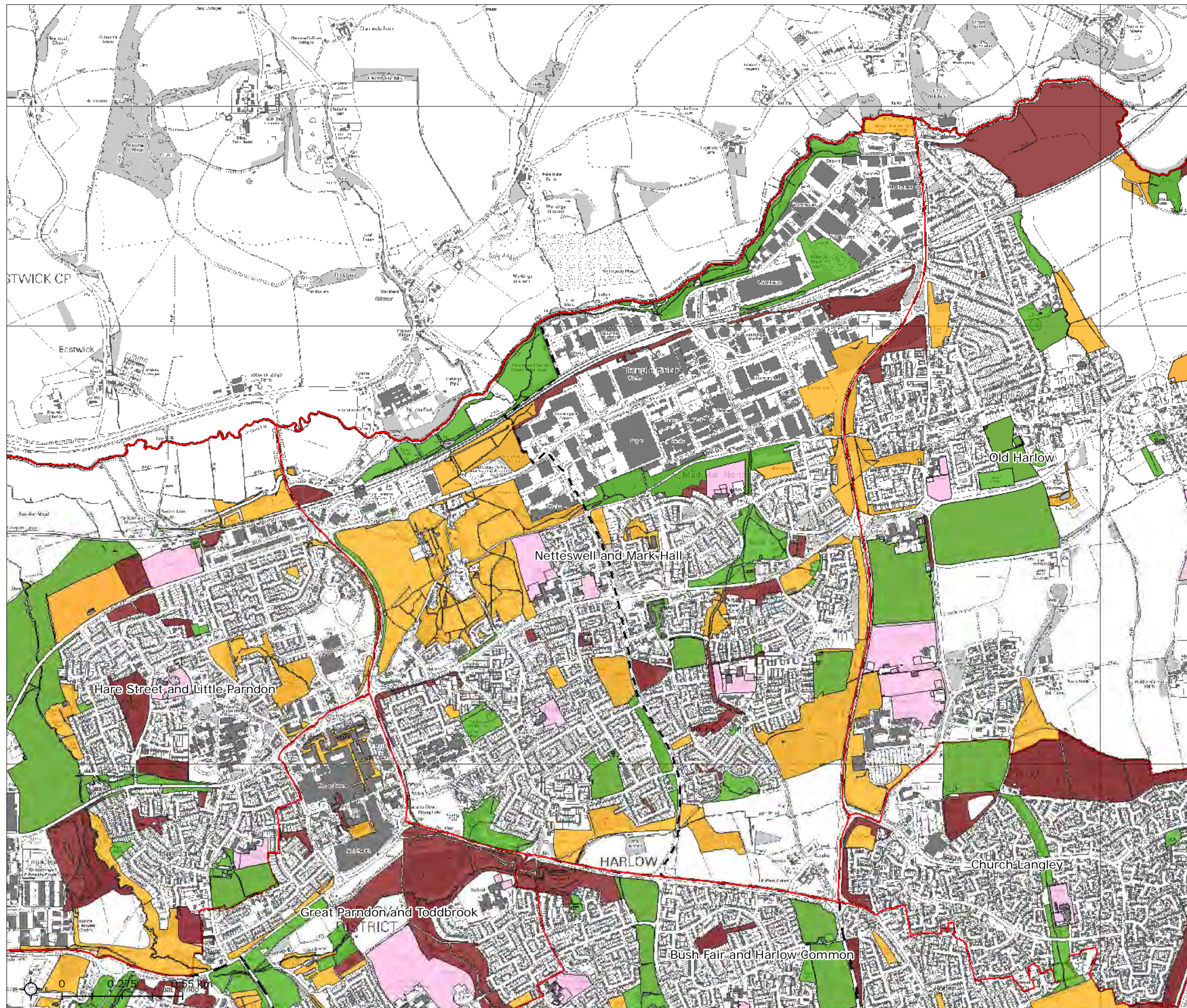
- 6.102 Felmongers Play Area was the only site audited within Netteswell and Mark Hall Neighbourhood Area where the Provision for Children and Young People was given as the primary typology. This site scores above the value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.41: Provision for Children and Young People in Netteswell and Mark Hall**

| Site ID | Site Name            | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|----------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 158     | Felmongers Play Area | +     | +       | ++                     |







## Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.14

Audited sites by Value/Quality ratings:  
Netteswell and Mark Hall

- Harlow Boundary
  - Neighbourhood Areas
  - Ward Boundaries
- Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold
- Above Value / Above Quality(++)
  - Above Value / Below Quality(+-) or Below Value / Above Quality(+-)
  - Below Value / Below Quality (--)
- Additional sites
- Outdoor sports facilities (no rating)\*

\* Outdoor sports facilities were identified, but not audited as part of this study

To fit with best practice guidance on open spaces only those spaces that sat within an open space PPG17 typology were mapped. Other open spaces not audited include those that were beneath a certain threshold or were open spaces not assessed in this study.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:17,000





## Old Harlow

**Table 6.42: Open space provision in Old Harlow**

| Open space type                         | Accessibility | Quantity | Value/Quality |          |          |          |
|---|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
|   |               |          | --            | - +      | + -      | ++       |
| Parks and gardens (district)            |               | N/A      |               |          |          |          |
| Parks and gardens (local)               |               |          | 1             | 2        | 1        | 3        |
| Natural green space (district)          |               | N/A      | 1             |          |          |          |
| Natural green space (local)             |               | +1.76ha  | 2             | 4        | 2        | 1        |
| Green Corridor                          | N/A           | N/A      | 2             |          |          |          |
| Amenity Green Space                     |               |          | 1             |          |          |          |
| Allotments                              |               |          |               |          |          | 3        |
| Cemeteries and churchyards              | N/A           | N/A      |               |          |          | 1        |
| Civic space                             |               |          |               |          |          |          |
| Provision for children and young people |               |          |               |          |          | 1        |
| <b>Total</b>                            |               |          | <b>7</b>      | <b>6</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>9</b> |

### Quantity and access to open space

- 6.103 There is adequate or a surplus in the quantity of provision of all open space types in Old Harlow. Access to most typologies is also adequate, with the exception of civic space, as parts of Old Harlow are more than 3.2km from the civic centre. However, it is not appropriate to create additional civic space to address this issue, given that the demand for this typology is generally low.

### Quality and value of open spaces

- 6.104 The quality and value of sites in this area is mixed. Whilst 36% of sites meet or exceed the relevant threshold standards for quality and value, 12% meet or exceed the value standards but fall below the relevant quality standards. However, 28% of sites fall below the quality and value standards which suggests that improving the quality and value of sites in this area should be considered.

#### A1: District Parks and Gardens

- 6.105 There are no District Parks and Gardens within Hare Street and Little Parndon Neighbourhood Area but it is within the catchment area for Town Park.

## A2: Local Parks and Gardens

- 6.106 There are seven Local Parks and Gardens in the Old Harlow Neighbourhood Area. Guilfords North Open Space, Gibberd Garden and Mill Lane Open Space achieve the thresholds for both value and quality. Jocelyns Open Space fails to achieve either of these thresholds standards.

**Table 6.43: Local Parks and Gardens in Old Harlow**

| Site ID | Site Name                     | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 106     | Great Augur Street Open Space | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 152     | Jocelyns Open Space           | -     | -       | --                     |
| 153     | Swallows Open Space           | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 164     | Gilden Way Recreation Ground  | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 170     | Guilfords North Open Space    | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 253     | Gibberd Garden                | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 261     | Mill Lane Open Space          | +     | +       | ++                     |

## B: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

### B1: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

- 6.107 Wyldwood Open Space is the only District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Old Harlow Neighbourhood Area and this falls below the combined value and quality threshold.

**Table 6.44: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Old Harlow**

| Site ID | Site Name           | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 169     | Wyldwood Open Space | -     | -       | --                     |

## B2: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

- 6.108 Nine open spaces are recorded as being in Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space typology. Of these only Harlowbury Open Space (site ID 159) achieves the combined value and quality threshold. Station Road Open Space and Marsh Lane fall below both standards.

**Table 6.45: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Old Harlow**

| Site ID | Site Name               | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 100     | London Road Open Space  | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 105     | Bridleway Open Space    | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 149     | Park Hill Open Space    | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 151     | Station Road Open Space | -     | -       | --                     |
| 159     | Harlowbury Open Space   | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 167     | Harlowbury Open Space A | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 175     | Marsh Lane Open Space B | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 251     | Gilden Way Open Space   | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 254     | Marsh Lane              | -     | -       | --                     |

## C: Green Corridors

- 6.109 Two Green Corridors were audited within Old Harlow Neighbourhood Area. Both of these sites recorded scores below the value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.46: Green Corridors in Old Harlow**

| Site ID | Site Name                  | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|----------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 250     | London Road Green Corridor | -     | -       | --                     |
| 252     | M11 Green Corridor         | -     | -       | --                     |

*D: Amenity Green Space*

- 6.110 Just one Amenity Green Space within Old Harlow Neighbourhood Area was audited in preparation of this open space strategy. This site scores below the relevant value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.47: Amenity Green Space**

| Site ID | Site Name                         | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 217     | Broadley Road Amenity Green Space | -     | -       | --                     |

*E: Allotments*

- 6.111 Three Allotment sites were audited within Old Harlow Neighbourhood Area, all of which achieve scores above the value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.48: Allotments in Old Harlow**

| Site ID | Site Name               | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 160     | Mill Lane Allotment     | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 162     | Chippingfield Allotment | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 259     | The Oxleys Allotments   | +     | +       | ++                     |

*F: Cemeteries and churchyards*

- 6.112 The Churchyard at St Mary Latton Church is the only Churchyard recorded within Old Harlow Neighbourhood Area. This exceeds the required value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.49: Cemeteries and churchyards in Old Harlow**

| Site ID | Site Name                       | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 165     | St Mary's Churchgate Churchyard | +     | +       | ++                     |

*G: Civic Space*

- 6.113 There are no Civic Spaces recorded within the Old Harlow Neighbourhood Area. However, all of the neighbourhood falls within the 3.2km catchment area for District Civic Space located in adjacent areas.

*H: Provision for Children and Young People*

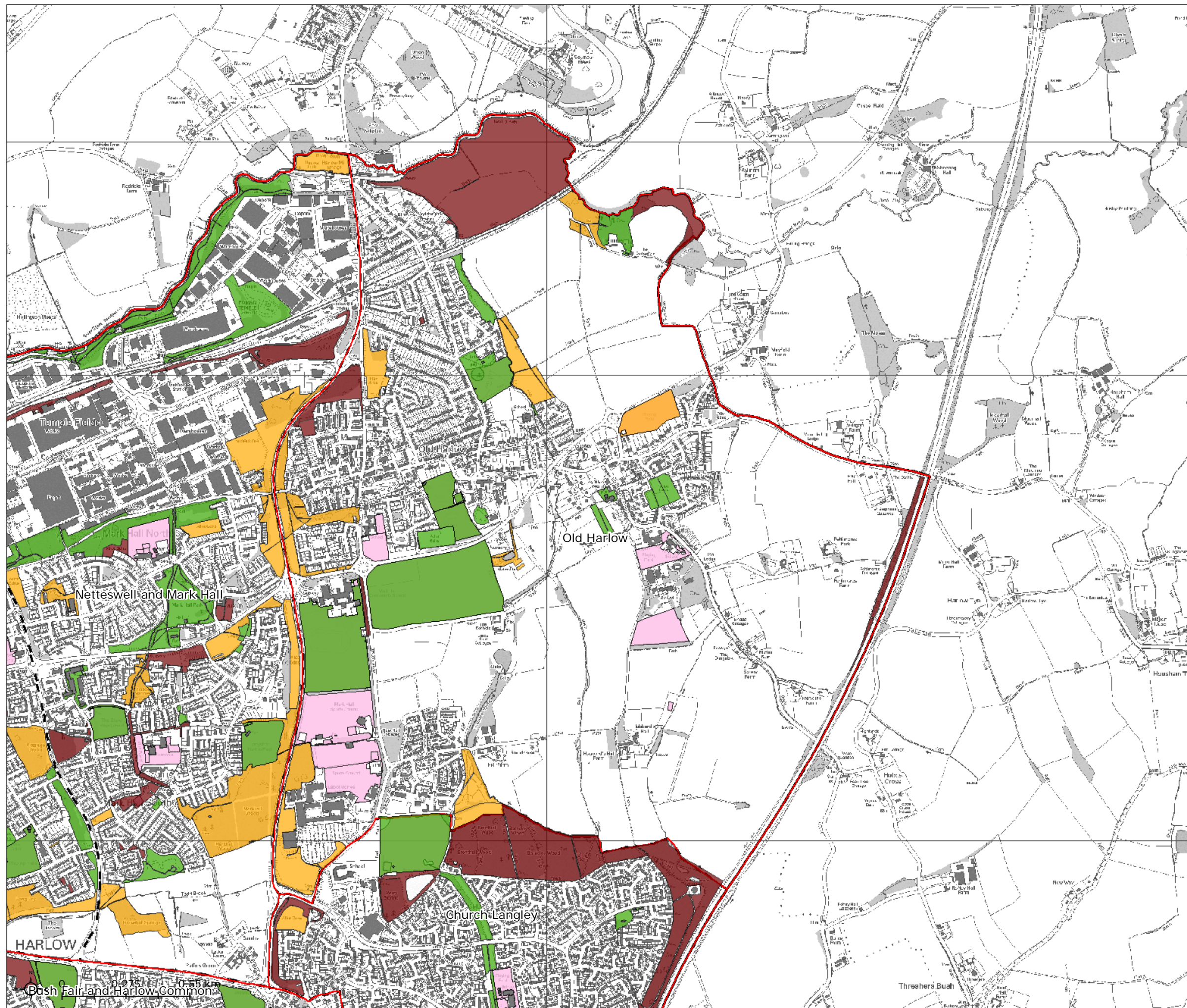
- 6.114 Norman Booth Play Area was the only site audited within the Old Harlow Neighbourhood Area where the Provision for Children and Young People was given as the primary typology. This site scores above the value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.50: Provision for Children and Young People in Old Harlow**

| Site ID | Site Name              | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 163     | Norman Booth Play Area | +     | +       | ++                     |







## Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.15

Audited sites by Value/Quality ratings:  
Old Harlow

- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries

Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

- Above Value / Above Quality(++)
- Above Value / Below Quality(+-) or Below Value / Above Quality(+-)
- Below Value / Below Quality (--)

Additional sites

- Outdoor sports facilities (no rating)\*

\* Outdoor sports facilities were identified, but not audited as part of this study

To fit with best practice guidance on open spaces only those spaces that sat within an open space PPG17 typology were mapped. Other open spaces not audited include those that were beneath a certain threshold or were open spaces not assessed in this study.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:16,000



for Harlow District Council





## Great Parndon and Toddbrook

**Table 6.51: Open space provision in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Open space type                         | Accessibility | Quantity | Value/Quality |          |          |           |
|---|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|
|   |               |          | --            | - +      | + -      | ++        |
| Parks and gardens (district)            |               | N/A      |               |          |          |           |
| Parks and gardens (local)               |               |          | 3             | 2        | 2        | 4         |
| Natural green space (district)          |               | N/A      | 1             |          |          |           |
| Natural green space (local)             |               |          | 4             |          |          | 4         |
| Green corridor                          | N/A           | N/A      |               | 1        | 1        | 1         |
| Amenity Green Space                     |               |          | 1             | 1        |          | 3         |
| Allotments                              |               | +0.05ha  | 2             | 1        | 1        | 1         |
| Cemeteries and churchyards              | N/A           | N/A      |               |          | 1        |           |
| Civic space                             |               |          | 1             |          | 1        |           |
| Provision for children and young people |               | +2 LEAP  |               | 1        |          |           |
| <b>Total</b>                            |               |          | <b>12</b>     | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>13</b> |

### Quantity and access to open space

- 6.115 There is adequate or a surplus in the quantity of provision of all open space types in Great Parndon and Toddbrook. Access to most typologies is also good, with the exception of local natural green space. Given the surplus quantity of Amenity Green Space and parks and gardens in this neighbourhood, consideration should be given to changing the management of these sites to promote more natural habitats. This would address the deficiency of natural green spaces in the area.

### Quality and value of open spaces

- 6.116 There is a fairly even split between those sites which are meeting the relevant quality and value threshold standards and those which fall below. 35% of sites meet the relevant standards whilst 32% fall below. The area does have a significant number of sites that fall below the required standard for quality and value. Therefore, consideration should be given to improving these sites.

#### A: Parks and Gardens

##### A1: District Parks and Gardens

- 6.117 There are no District Parks and Gardens within this Neighbourhood Area.

## A2: Local Parks and Gardens

6.118 There are 11 Local Parks and Gardens in the Great Parndon and Toddbrook Neighbourhood Area. The following four sites exceed the combined value and quality threshold:

- Great Parndon Recreation Ground
- Shawbridge Recreation Ground
- Bishops Field
- Barn Mead Playing Field

6.119 Southern Way/ Goldings Farm Recreation Ground, Greygoose Park and Seymours Open Space fall below both the value and quality thresholds. The Water Gardens and Katherines Way Playing Field achieve the quality threshold but falls below the threshold for value. Rectory Lane Recreation Ground and Willowfield Open Space achieve the value threshold but fall below the quality threshold.

**Table 6.52: Local Parks and Gardens in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Site ID | Site Name                                   | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 056     | The Water Gardens                           | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 065     | Southern Way/ Goldings Farm Recreation Area | -     | -       | --                     |
| 069     | Rectory Lane Recreation Ground              | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 076     | Great Parndon Recreation Ground             | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 080     | Shawbridge Recreation Ground                | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 082     | Katherines Way Playing Field                | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 084     | Greygoose Park                              | -     | -       | --                     |
| 187     | Willowfield Open Space                      | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 195     | Seymours Open Space                         | -     | -       | --                     |
| 237     | Bishops Field                               | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 256     | Barn Mead Playing Field                     | +     | +       | ++                     |

### B: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

#### B1: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

6.120 Netteswell Plantation and Pond is the only Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in the Neighbourhood Area and scores below the thresholds for quality and value.

**Table 6.53: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Site ID | Site Name                      | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 039     | Netteswell Plantation and Pond | -     | -       | --                     |

#### B2: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

6.121 The following four open spaces within the Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space typology are above the combined value and quality thresholds:

- Abercrombie Way Open Space
- Paycock Road/ Katherines Way Wedge
- Passmores Open Space
- Hawkenbury Meadow Nature Reserve

6.122 The following four sites were below the combined value and quality threshold:

- Parndon Brook Open Space
- Tye Green Open Space
- Great Parndon Open Space
- Tendring Land Open Space

**Table 6.54: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Site ID | Site Name                         | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 072     | Abercrombie Way Open Space        | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 085     | Paycock Road Katherines Way Wedge | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 116     | Parndon Brook Open Space          | -     | -       | --                     |
| 185     | Tye Green Open Space              | -     | -       | --                     |
| 189     | Passmores Open Space              | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 219     | Hawkenbury Meadow Nature Reserve  | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 236     | Great Parndon Open Space          | -     | -       | --                     |
| 242     | Tendring Land Open Space          | -     | -       | --                     |

*C: Green Corridors*

6.123 Three Green Corridors are located within the Great Parndon and Toddbrook Neighbourhood Area. The Katherine Way Green Corridor falls above the Value and quality thresholds whereas Passmores Green Corridor falls above the value threshold but below quality. The Third Avenue Green Corridor falls below the value threshold but above the quality threshold.

**Table 6.55: Green Corridors and Semi-Natural Green Space in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Site ID | Site Name                    | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 198     | Passmores Green Corridor     | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 234     | Katherine Way Green Corridor | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 244     | Third Avenue Green Corridor  | -     | +       | -+                     |

*D: Amenity Green Space*

6.124 Five Amenity Green Spaces within Great Parndon and Toddbrook Neighbourhood Area were audited in preparation of this open space strategy. Three of these sites are above the relevant value and quality thresholds and just on site is below these thresholds. Peldon Road Amenity Green Space scored above the quality threshold but below the value threshold.

**Table 6.56: Amenity Green Space in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Site ID | Site Name                           | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 061     | Haydens Road Amenity Green Space    | -     | -       | --                     |
| 070     | Abercrombie Way Amenity Green Space | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 075     | Passmores Amenity Green Space       | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 194     | Peldon Road Amenity Space           | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 197     | Third Avenue Amenity Space          | +     | +       | ++                     |

#### *E: Allotments*

- 6.125 Five Allotments were audited within Great Parndon and Toddbrook Neighbourhood Area. Silvesters Allotments achieves the value and quality thresholds. Willowfields Allotments and Rushes Mead Allotments fall below both the value and quality thresholds. Linford Allotments achieves the required quality threshold but falls below the value threshold, whereas Water Lane Allotments falls above the threshold for value but below the quality threshold.

**Table 6.57: Allotments in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Site ID | Site Name              | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 071     | Linford Allotments     | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 083     | Water Lane Allotments  | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 115     | Silvesters Allotments  | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 186     | Willowfield Allotments | -     | -       | --                     |
| 263     | Rushes Mead Allotments | -     | -       | --                     |

#### *F: Cemeteries and churchyards*

- 6.126 The Churchyard at St Mary's Church is the only Churchyard recorded within Great Parndon and Toddbrook. This falls below the required value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.58: Cemeteries and churchyards in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Site ID | Site Name        | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 119     | St Mary's Church | +     | -       | +-                     |

#### *G: Civic Space*

##### *G1: District Civic Space*

- 6.127 Harlow Town centre contains two District Civic Spaces. One of these spaces falls below both the value and quality thresholds whereas the other falls below the quality threshold but achieves the threshold for value.

**Table 6.59: Local Civic Space in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Site ID | Site Name            | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|----------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 183     | Harlow Town Centre   | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 184     | Harlow Town Centre B | -     | -       | --                     |

##### *G2: Local Civic Space*

- 6.128 There are no Local Civic Spaces recorded within the Great Parndon and Toddbrook Neighbourhood Area. However, the neighbourhood falls within the 3.2km catchment area of surrounding District Civic Spaces.

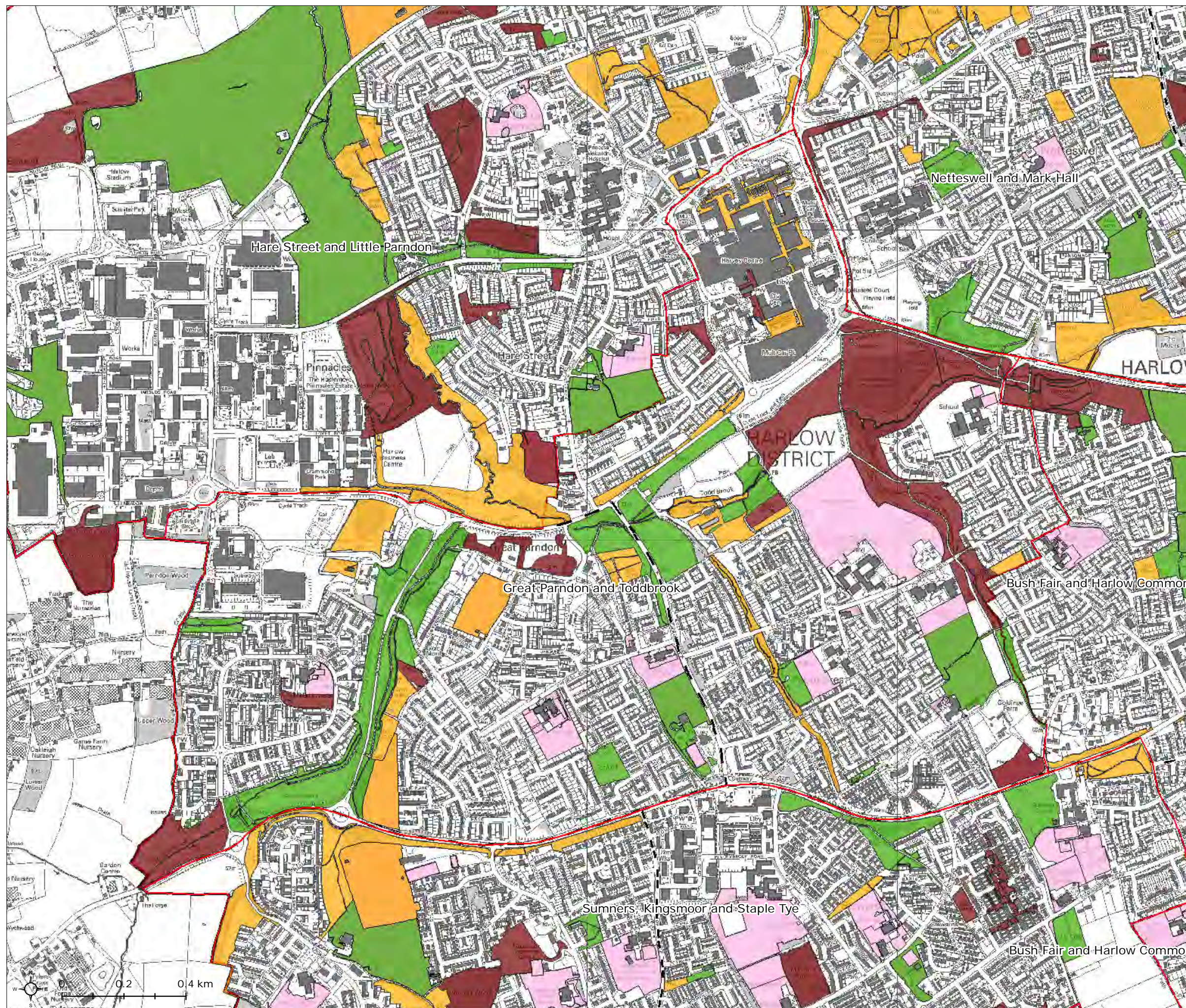
#### *H: Provision for Children and Young People*

- 6.129 Rushes Mead Play Area was the only site audited within Great Parndon and Toddbrook Neighbourhood Area where the Provision for Children and Young People was given as the primary typology. This site scores above the quality threshold but below the threshold for value.

**Table 6.60: Provision for Children and Young People in Great Parndon and Toddbrook**

| Site ID | Site Name             | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 243     | Rushes Mead Play Area | -     | +       | +-                     |





## Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.16

Audited sites by Value/Quality ratings:  
Great Parndon and Toddbrook

- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries

Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

- Above Value / Above Quality(++)
- Above Value / Below Quality(+-) or Below Value / Above Quality(+-)
- Below Value / Below Quality(--)

Additional sites

- Outdoor sports facilities (no rating)\*

\* Outdoor sports facilities were identified, but not audited as part of this study

To fit with best practice guidance on open spaces only those spaces that sat within an open space PPG17 typology were mapped. Other open spaces not audited include those that were beneath a certain threshold or were open spaces not assessed in this study.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:12,000

**LUC** for Harlow District Council





## Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye

**Table 6.61: Open space provision in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**

| Open space type                         | Accessibility | Quantity | Value/Quality |          |          |           |
|---|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|
|   |               |          | --            | - +      | + -      | ++        |
| Parks and gardens (district)            |               | N/A      |               |          |          |           |
| Parks and gardens (local)               |               | +0.46ha  | 4             | 4        |          | 3         |
| Natural green space (district)          |               | N/A      |               |          |          | 1         |
| Natural green space (local)             |               | +1.79ha  | 2             | 1        |          | 1         |
| Green corridors                         | N/A           | N/A      |               | 1        |          | 1         |
| Amenity Green Space                     |               | +0.80ha  | 1             | 2        |          | 2         |
| Allotments                              |               | -0.13ha  | 1             |          |          | 1         |
| Cemeteries and churchyards              | N/A           | N/A      |               |          |          | 1         |
| Civic space                             |               |          |               |          |          |           |
| Provision for children and young people |               | +3 LEAP  |               | 1        |          |           |
| <b>Total</b>                            |               |          | <b>8</b>      | <b>9</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>10</b> |

### Quantity and access to open space

- 6.130 There is surplus in the quantity of provision of most open space types in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye, when measured against the open space standards. The exception to this is Allotments where there is a deficiency in provision. Access to most typologies is also good, with the exception of Allotments and Local Natural or Semi-Natural Green Space. Given the surplus quantity of Amenity Green Space and Parks and Gardens in this area, consideration should be given to changing the management of these spaces to create additional Allotments or community growing space, and to provide more natural green spaces.

### Quality and value of open spaces

- 6.131 37% of open spaces exceed the relevant quality and value standards and 33% of open spaces meet or exceed the relevant value threshold standard but fall below the standards for quality. Improving the value of these additional sites should be considered to address this. 30% of sites fall below the standards for value and quality.

*A: Parks and Gardens*

*A1: District Parks and Gardens*

- 6.132 There are no District Parks and Gardens within this neighbourhood.

## A2: Local Parks and Gardens

- 6.133 There are 11 Local Parks and Gardens in the Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye Neighbourhood Area. Southern Way Playing Fields, Maunds Open Space and Wissants achieve the value and quality threshold whereas Paringdon Road Recreation Space, Parsloe Road Recreation Ground and Kingsmoor Recreation Centre all fall below the thresholds. Fennells Playing Fields, Rye Hill Road Recreation Ground, Business Gate Open Space, Parsloe Road Open Space and Sycamore Field all achieve the quality threshold but fall below in terms of value.

**Table 6.62: Local Parks and Gardens in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**

| Site ID | Site Name                       | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 111     | Fennells Playing Fields         | -     | +       | ++                     |
| 114     | Paringdon Road Recreation Space | -     | -       | --                     |
| 122     | Rye Hill Road Recreation Ground | -     | -       | --                     |
| 142     | Southern Way Playing Fields     | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 192     | Business Gate Open Space        | -     | +       | ++                     |
| 205     | Parsloe Road Recreation Ground  | -     | -       | --                     |
| 206     | Parsloe Road Open Space         | -     | +       | ++                     |
| 208     | Wissants                        | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 209     | Sycamore Field                  | -     | +       | ++                     |
| 210     | Kingsmoor Recreation Centre     | -     | -       | --                     |
| 214     | Maunds Open Space               | +     | +       | ++                     |

## B: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

### B1: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

- 6.134 Parndon Wood is the only Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in the neighbourhood and scores above the thresholds for quality and value. The entire neighbourhood is within the suggested 3.2km catchment area.

**Table 6.63: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**

| Site ID | Site Name    | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|--------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 108     | Parndon Wood | +     | +       | ++                     |

### B2: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

- 6.135 Four Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces were recorded within the Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye Neighbourhood Area. Kingsmoor green space achieves both the value and quality thresholds with Little Catting Open Space achieving the quality threshold but falling below the threshold for value. Bunnett Wood and Maunds Wood fall below both the value and quality threshold.

**Table 6.64: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**

| Site ID | Site Name                 | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 110     | Kingsmoor                 | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 117     | Little Cattins Open Space | -     | +       | ++                     |
| 204     | Bunnett Wood              | -     | -       | --                     |



| Site ID | Site Name   | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 213     | Maunds Wood | -     | -       | --                     |

*C: Green Corridors*

- 6.136 Two Green Corridors were audited within Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye Neighbourhood Area. Rye Hill Green Corridor achieves the thresholds for both value and quality, whereas Southern Way Green Corridor achieves the quality threshold but falls below in terms of value.

**Table 6.65: Green Corridors in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**

| Site ID | Site Name                   | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 233     | Rye Hill Green Corridor     | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 235     | Southern Way Green Corridor | -     | +       | -+                     |

*D: Amenity Green Space*

Five Amenity Green Spaces within Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye were audited in preparation of this open space strategy. Two of these sites (Southern Way Amenity Green Space and Joyners Field Amenity Green Space) achieve the value and quality threshold. The Briars falls below both the value and quality threshold, whereas Stewards School Wedge and Archers Amenity Green Space achieve the quality threshold but falls below the threshold for value.

**Table 6.66: Amenity Green Space in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**

| Site ID | Site Name                         | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 068     | Stewards School Wedge             | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 174     | Southern Way Amenity Green Space  | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 200     | The Briars                        | -     | -       | --                     |
| 221     | Archers Amenity Green Space       | -     | +       | -+                     |
| 225     | Joyners Field Amenity Green Space | +     | +       | ++                     |

*E: Allotments*

- 6.137 Two Allotments were audited with the neighbourhood area with Netteswell Common Allotments achieving scores above the value and quality thresholds and Honey Hill Allotment falling below the threshold standard.

**Table 6.67: Allotments in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**

| Site ID | Site Name                    | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 199     | Honey Hill Allotment         | -     | -       | --                     |
| 239     | Netteswell Common Allotments | +     | +       | ++                     |

*F: Cemeteries and churchyards*

- 6.138 Parndon Wood cemetery was the only open space recorded within typology in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye Neighbourhood Area. This exceeds the required value and quality thresholds.

**Table 6.68: Cemeteries and churchyards in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**

| Site ID | Site Name             | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 109     | Parndon Wood Cemetery | +     | +       | ++                     |

*G: Civic Space*

*G1: District Civic Space*

- 6.139 There are no District Civic Spaces recorded within the Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye Neighbourhood Area. However, the entire neighbourhood falls within the 3.2km catchment area for District Civic Space located in adjacent areas.

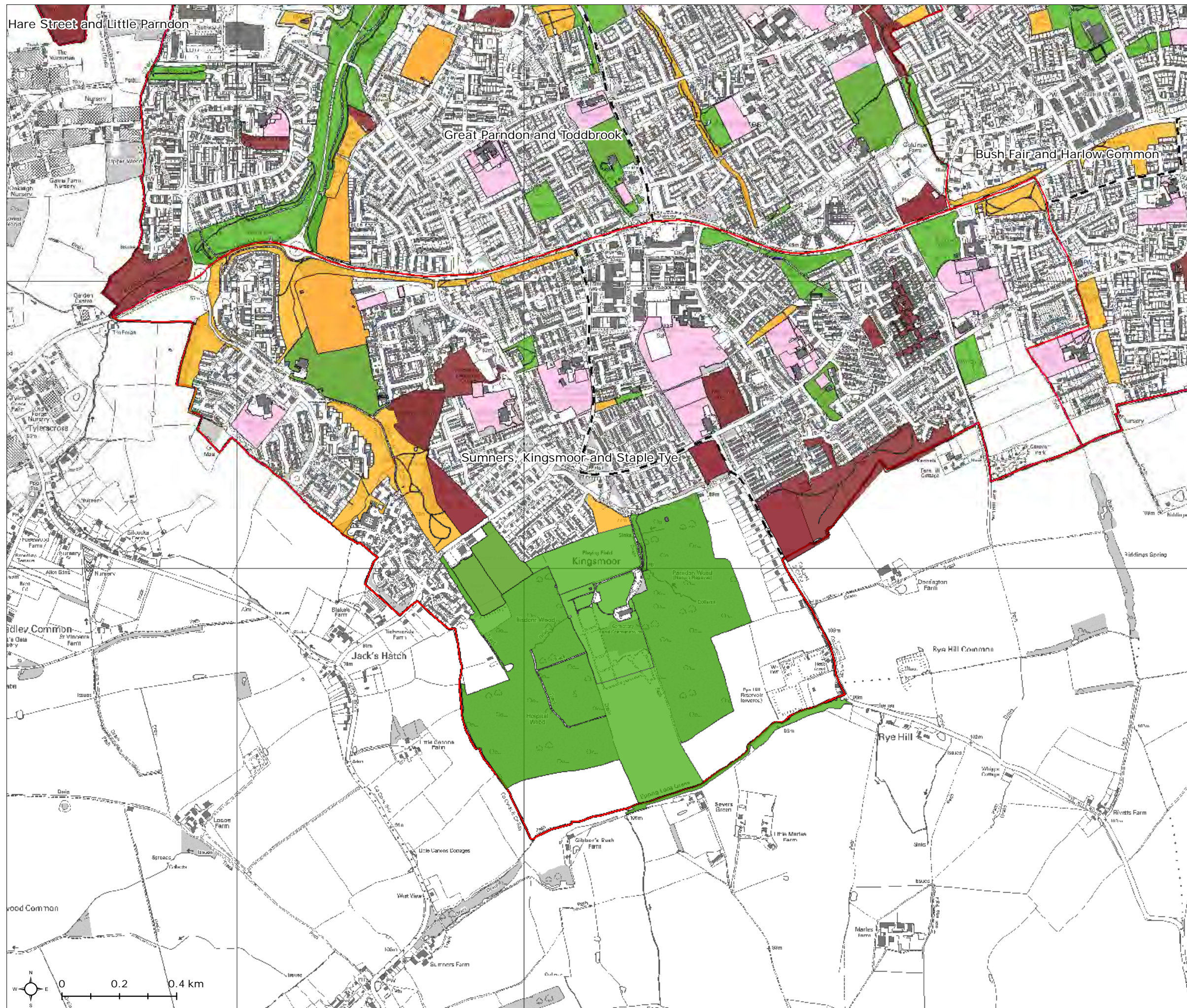
*H: Provision for Children and Young People*

- 6.140 Joyners Field Play Area was the only site audited within Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye where the Provision for Children and Young People was given as the primary typology. This site scores below the value threshold but below the quality threshold.

**Table 6.69: Provision for Children and Young People in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**

| Site ID | Site Name               | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 224     | Joyners Field Play Area | -     | +       | -+                     |





## Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.17

Audited sites by Value/Quality ratings:  
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye

- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries

Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

- Above Value / Above Quality(++)
- Above Value / Below Quality(+-) or Below Value / Above Quality(-+)
- Below Value / Below Quality(--)

Additional sites

- Outdoor sports facilities (no rating)\*

\* Outdoor sports facilities were identified, but not audited as part of this study

To fit with best practice guidance on open spaces only those spaces that sat within an open space PPG17 typology were mapped. Other open spaces not audited include those that were beneath a certain threshold or were open spaces not assessed in this study.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:13,000

**LUC**

for Harlow District Council





## Bush Fair and Harlow Common

**Table 6.70: Open space provision in Bush Fair and Harlow Common**

| Open space type                         | Accessibility | Quantity | Value/Quality |          |          |           |
|---|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|
|   |               |          | --            | - +      | + -      | ++        |
| Parks and gardens (district)            |               | N/A      |               |          |          |           |
| Parks and gardens (local)               |               |          | 3             | 1        | 1        | 3         |
| Natural green space (district)          |               | N/A      |               |          | 1        | 1         |
| Natural green space (local)             |               | +1.19ha  | 2             |          | 1        | 2         |
| Green corridors                         | N/A           | N/A      |               | 1        |          |           |
| Amenity Green Space                     |               |          | 1             | 1        |          | 1         |
| Allotments                              |               |          |               | 3        | 1        | 3         |
| Cemeteries and churchyards              | N/A           | N/A      |               |          | 1        | 1         |
| Civic space                             |               |          |               |          |          |           |
| Provision for children and young people |               |          | 1             |          |          | 2         |
| <b>Total</b>                            |               |          | <b>7</b>      | <b>6</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>13</b> |

### Quality and value of open spaces

- 6.141 There is generally adequate quantity of provision of all open space types in Bush Fair and Harlow Common. There is a surplus in the provision of Local natural green space. Access to most typologies is also good, with the exception of local natural green space and provision for children and young people. Given the surplus quantity of Amenity Green Space and parks and gardens in this neighbourhood, changes to promote more natural habitats would address the deficiency in natural green space.

### Quantity and access to open space

- 6.142 42% of open spaces in Bush Fair and Harlow Common meet or exceed the standards for quality and value; however, 23% of open spaces fall below the standards.

#### *A: Parks and Gardens*

##### *A1: District Parks and Gardens*

- 6.143 There are no District Parks and Gardens within this Neighbourhood Area.

##### *A2: Local Parks and Gardens*

- 6.144 There are eight Local Parks and Gardens in the Bush Fair Neighbourhood Area. The following three sites exceed the combined value and quality threshold:

- Bush Fair Recreation Ground
- Southern Way Open Space
- Nicholls Field Recreation Ground

6.145 Rundells Open Space exceeds the value threshold but falls below the threshold for quality. Church Road Recreation Ground falls below the value threshold but scores above the quality threshold.

6.146 Latton Bush Recreation Ground and Old Conifer Plantation fall below the required value and quality threshold. The Walled Garden at Harlow Study and Visitor Centre was not accessible at the time of audit so a score could not be given.

**Table 6.71: Local Parks and Gardens in Bush Fair and Harlow Common**

| Site ID | Site Name  | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|--|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 037     | Walled Garden at Harlow Study and Visitor Centre |       |         |                        |
| 040     | Bush Fair Recreation Ground                      | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 087     | Church Road Recreation Ground                    | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 091     | Southern Way Open Space                          | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 096     | Nicholls Field Recreation Ground                 | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 190     | Rundells Open Space                              | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 226     | Latton Bush Recreation Ground                    | -     | -       | --                     |
| 258     | Old Conifer Arboretum                            | -     | -       | --                     |

*B: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

*B1: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

6.147 There are two District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces within this neighbourhood. Latton Common scores above both the value and quality thresholds whereas Harlow Common falls below the quality threshold.

**Table 6.72: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Bush Fair and Harlow Common**

| Site ID | Site Name     | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 086     | Harlow Common | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 264     | Latton Common | +     | +       | ++                     |

*B2: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

6.148 Church Road Open Space and Rushes Mead Open Space are above the combined value and quality thresholds. Chapel Fields Open Space and Great Leylands Woods fall below the value and quality thresholds. Latton Bush Common Woodlands exceeds the value threshold but falls below the quality threshold.

**Table 6.73: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Bush Fair and Harlow Common**

| Site ID | Site Name                | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|--------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 088     | Church Road Open Space   | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 089     | Chapel Fields Open Space | -     | -       | --                     |
| 241     | Rushes Mead Open Space   | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 245     | Great Leylands Woods     | -     | -       | --                     |

| Site ID | Site Name                    | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 257     | Latton Bush Common Woodlands | +     | -       | +-                     |

*C: Green Corridors*

- 6.149 Southern Way Green Corridor is the only Green Corridor in the Bush Fair and Harlow Common Neighbourhood Area. The audit revealed that the corridor exceeds the required quality threshold but below the value threshold.

**Table 6.74: Green Corridors in Bush Fair and Harlow Common**

| Site ID | Site Name                   | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 240     | Southern Way Green Corridor | -     | +       | +-                     |

*D: Amenity Green Space*

- 6.150 Three Amenity Green Spaces within Bush Fair and Harlow Neighbourhood Area were audited in preparation of this open space strategy. Only Latton Bush Amenity Green Space exceeds both the quality and value thresholds. Little Pynchons Amenity Green Space scores above the quality threshold but below the value threshold. Latton Amenity Green Space falls below both the quality and value thresholds.

**Table 6.75: Amenity Green Space in Bush Fair and Harlow Common**

| Site ID | Site Name                           | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 067     | Little Pynchons Amenity Green Space | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 191     | Latton Amenity Green Space          | -     | -       | --                     |
| 227     | Latton Bush Amenity Green Space     | +     | +       | ++                     |

*E: Allotments*

- 6.151 Seven Allotments were audited with both of the Stilecroft Allotments as well as Nicholls Field Allotments achieving scores above the value and quality thresholds. Rundells Allotments, Fullers Mead Allotments and Dudley Terrace Allotments achieve the appropriate quality thresholds but fall below in terms of value. Whereas Brays Mead Allotments achieves the appropriate value threshold but falls below the quality threshold.

**Table 6.76: Allotments in Bush Fair and Harlow Common**

| Site ID | Site Name                 | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 066     | Rundells Allotments       | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 093     | Fullers Mead Allotments   | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 097     | Nicholls Field Allotments | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 098     | Dudley Terrace Allotments | -     | +       | +-                     |
| 141     | Brays Mead Allotment      | +     | -       | +-                     |
| 230     | Stilecroft Allotments     | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 232     | Stilecroft Allotments     | +     | +       | ++                     |

*F: Cemeteries and churchyards*

- 6.152 Two Churchyards were recorded during the site audits. St Andrew's Churchyard achieves the appropriate value and quality thresholds. St Mary Magdelene achieves the value threshold but falls below in terms of quality.

**Table 6.77: Cemeteries and churchyards in Bush Fair and Harlow Common**

| Site ID | Site Name   | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 036     | St Andrew's Churchyard/ Harlow Study and Visitor Centre | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 228     | St Mary Magdelene                                       | +     | -       | +-                     |

*G: Civic Space*

- 6.153 The audit did not record any Civic Spaces within the Bush Fair and Harlow Common Neighbourhood Area.

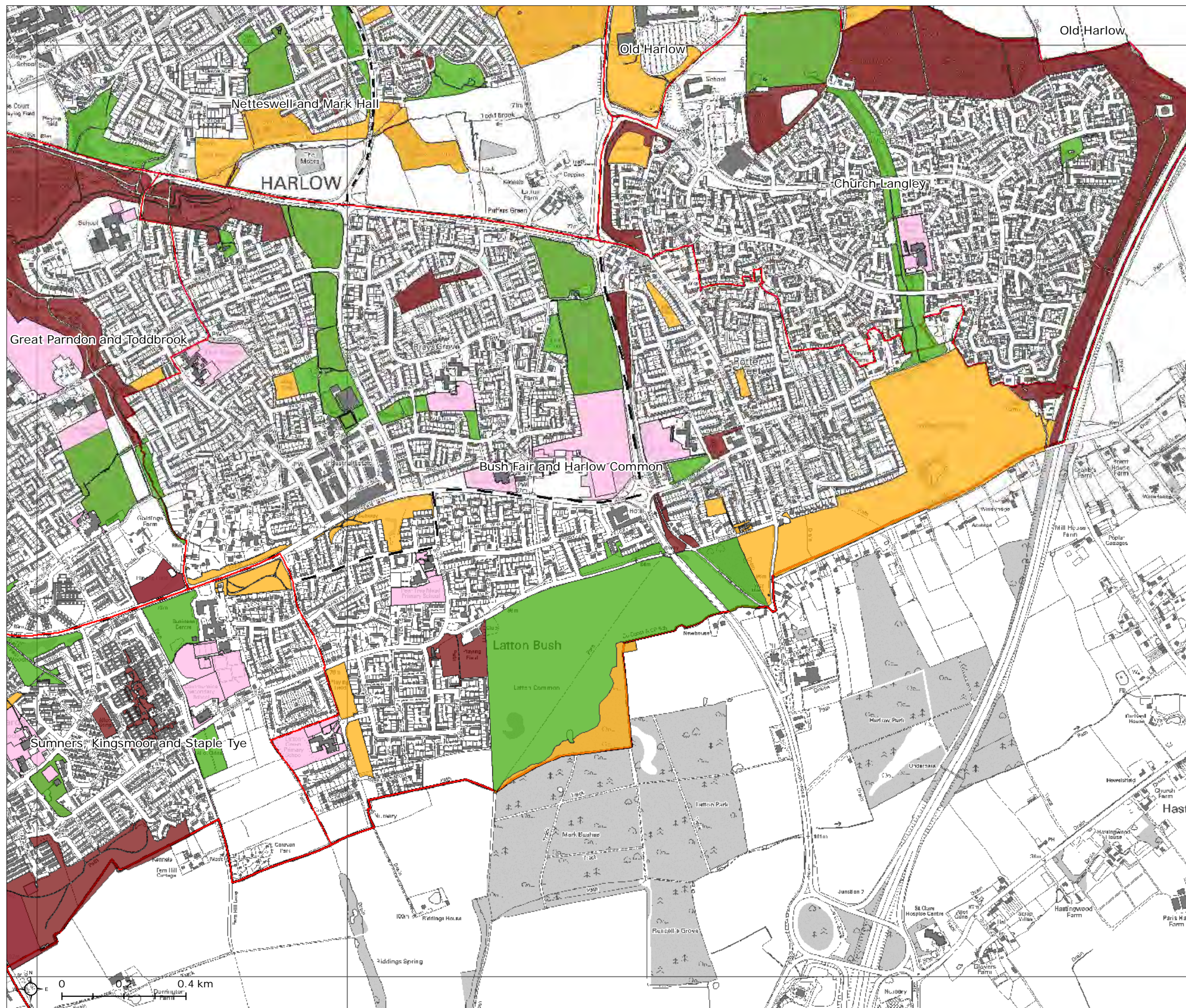
*H: Provision for Children and Young People*

- 6.154 Three sites were audited within Bush Fair and Harlow Common Neighbourhood Area where the Provision for Children and Young People was given as the primary typology. Both Tilbury Meads and Stilecroft Play Area achieve the required value and quality thresholds but Carters Mead Play Area falls below the thresholds for both value and quality.

**Table 6.78: Provision for Children and Young People in Bush Fair and Harlow Common**

| Site ID | Site Name              | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 092     | Carters Mead Play Area | -     | -       | --                     |
| 229     | Tilbury Meads          | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 231     | Stilecroft Play Area   | +     | +       | ++                     |





# Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.18

Audited sites by Value/Quality ratings:  
Bush Fair and Harlow Common

- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold
  - Above Value / Above Quality(++)
  - Above Value / Below Quality(++) or Below Value / Above Quality(++)
  - Below Value / Below Quality(--)
- Additional sites
  - Outdoor sports facilities (no rating)\*

\* Outdoor sports facilities were identified, but not audited as part of this study

To fit with best practice guidance on open spaces only those spaces that sat within an open space PPG17 typology were mapped. Other open spaces not audited include those that were beneath a certain threshold or were open spaces not assessed in this study.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:12,000

LUC

for Harlow District Council





## Church Langley

**Table 6.79: Open space provision in Church Langley**

| Open space type                         | Accessibility | Quantity             | Quality/Value |          |          |          |
|---|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
|   |               |                      | --            | --       | +-       | ++       |
| Parks and gardens (district)            |               | N/A                  |               |          |          |          |
| Parks and gardens (local)               |               | -1.22ha              |               |          |          | 2        |
| Natural green space (district)          |               | N/A                  | 1             |          |          |          |
| Natural green space (local)             |               |                      | 2             |          |          |          |
| Green Corridors                         |               |                      |               |          |          | 1        |
| Amenity Green Space                     |               | -0.39ha              |               |          |          |          |
| Allotments                              |               | -0.13ha              |               | 1        |          |          |
| Cemeteries and churchyards              |               |                      |               |          |          |          |
| Civic space                             |               |                      |               |          |          |          |
| Provision for children and young people |               | -0.5 LEAP<br>-1 NEAP |               |          |          |          |
| <b>Total</b>                            |               |                      | <b>3</b>      | <b>1</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>3</b> |

### Quality and value of open spaces

- 6.155 There is generally a deficiency in provision of all open spaces in Church Langley, when assessed against the standards, with the exception of Natural Green Space and Civic Space. However there is also inadequate access to Local Parks and Gardens, Amenity Green Space, Allotments and Civic Space. As there is no surplus of open space in this neighbourhood, creation of new green space and improved access to green spaces in adjacent neighbourhoods will be necessary to address these deficiencies.

### Quantity and access to open space

- 6.156 Three of the open spaces audited fall below the standards for quality and value and all are within the Natural Green Space typology.

#### A: Parks and Gardens

- 6.157 There are no District Parks and Gardens within this Neighbourhood Area.

#### A2: Local Parks and Gardens

- 6.158 There are two Local Parks and Gardens in the Church Langley Neighbourhood Area. Church Langley Playing Field and Old Hall Rise Open Space fall above the combined value and quality threshold.

**Table 6.80: Local Parks and Gardens in Church Langley**

| Site ID | Site Name                    | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 102     | Church Langley Playing Field | +     | +       | ++                     |
| 107     | Old Hall Rise Open Space     | +     | +       | ++                     |

*B: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

*B1: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

- 6.159 Challinor Open Space is the only District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces within this Neighbourhood Area. This site falls below both the quality and value thresholds.

**Table 6.81: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in in Church Langley**

| Site ID | Site Name            | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|----------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 095     | Challinor Open Space | -     | -       | --                     |

*B2: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space*

- 6.160 There are two Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces within Church Langley Neighbourhood Area. Both these sites fall below the prescribed threshold for quality and value.

**Table 6.82: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in in Church Langley**

| Site ID | Site Name                 | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|---------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 099     | Second Avenue Green Space | -     | -       | --                     |
| 103     | Petty Spring Open Space   | -     | -       | --                     |

*C: Green Corridors*

- 6.161 Church Langley Green Corridor is the only Green Corridor in Church Langley but it achieves scores above the value and quality thresholds for this typology.

**Table 6.83: Green Corridors in in Church Langley**

| Site ID | Site Name                     | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 094     | Church Langley Green Corridor | +     | +       | ++                     |

*D: Amenity Green Space*

- 6.162 The site audit did not record any Amenity Green Spaces within Church Langley.

*E: Allotments*

- 6.163 Izzards Allotment is the only allotment site within Church Langley. This achieves the required quality threshold but falls below the threshold for value.

**Table 6.84: Allotments in in Church Langley**

| Site ID | Site Name         | Value | Quality | Combined Value/Quality |
|---------|-------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| 216     | Izzards Allotment | -     | +       | ++                     |

*F: Cemeteries and churchyards*

- 6.164 The audit did not record any cemeteries or churchyards within Church Langley Neighbourhood Area.

*G: Civic Space*

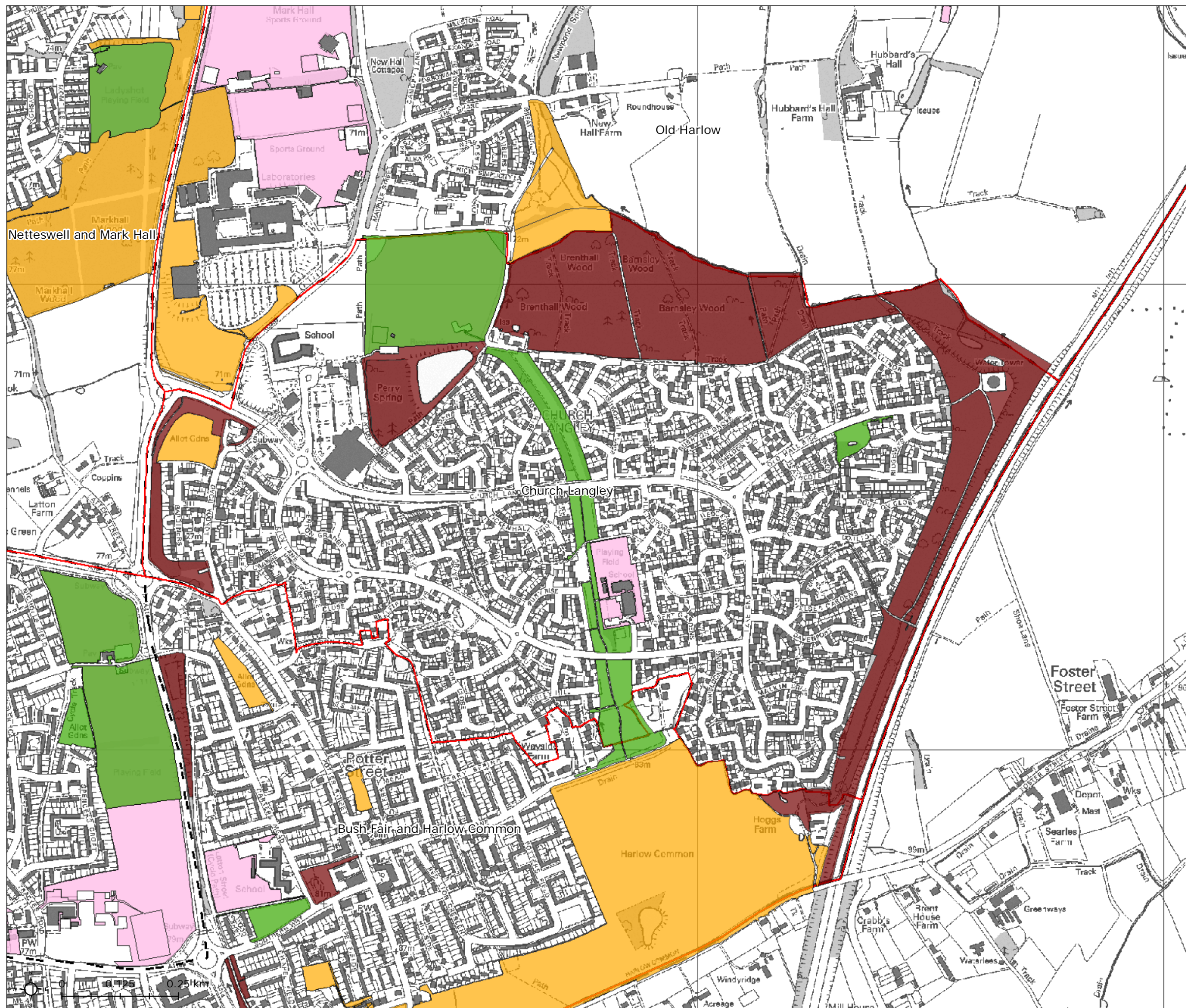
- 6.165 The audit did not record any Civic Spaces within Church Langley Neighbourhood Area.

*H: Provision for Children and Young People*

- 6.166 The audit did not record any sites within Church Langley Neighbourhood Area where Provision for Children and Young People was given the primary typology.







## Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.19

Audited sites by Value/Quality ratings:  
Church Langley

- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold**
- Above Value / Above Quality(++)
- Above Value / Below Quality(+-) or Below Value / Above Quality(+-)
- Below Value / Below Quality(--)
- Additional sites**
- Outdoor sports facilities (no rating)\*

\* Outdoor sports facilities were identified, but not audited as part of this study

To fit with best practice guidance on open spaces only those spaces that sat within an open space PPG17 typology were mapped. Other open spaces not audited include those that were beneath a certain threshold or were open spaces not assessed in this study.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:8,000



## Section 6: Summary of open space provision in Harlow

- **There is good provision of District-scale parks and gardens in Harlow.**
- **There is good provision of Local-scale parks and gardens in Harlow, with the exception of Church Langley.**
- **There is good provision of District-scale natural green space in Harlow.**
- **Several areas of Harlow are deficient in access to Local-scale natural green space.** This includes areas of all neighbourhoods, with the exception of Church Langley.
- **There is good provision of Amenity Green Space**, or an open space offering equivalent functions, in all neighbourhoods with the exception of Church Langley.
- **Areas of Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye, and Church Langley are deficient in access to Allotments.**
- **Harlow's existing district scale civic space is of poor quality.** Church Langley and parts of Old Harlow are also deficient in access to this space.
- **Neighbourhoods with the poorest quality provision across multiple typologies include:**
  - Great Parndon and Toddbrook
  - Netteswell and Mark Hall
  - Old Harlow
  - Church Langley
- **Church Langley is the only neighbourhood with the deficiencies in multiple open space typologies**, which cannot be addressed through management changes to existing open spaces. As a result, **creation of new open space should be considered for this neighbourhood.**
- Neighbourhoods with the **open space deficiencies in limited typologies**, which can be **addressed through changes in management** to existing open spaces include:
  - Hare Street and Little Parndon
  - Netteswell and Mark Hall
  - Great Parndon and Toddbrook
  - Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye
  - Bush Fair and Harlow Common
- Hare Street and Little Parndon, Netteswell and Mark Hall and Bush Fair and Harlow Common are all deficient in access to local play space (LEAPs). Where the neighbourhood meets the quantity standard, it may be appropriate to seek to re-locate provision, but in some cases installation of new place spaces may be required.



## 7 Harlow's green infrastructure

### Green infrastructure assessment

- 7.1 This section of the study looks at the wider green infrastructure network in and around the town. The purpose of this section is to discuss some of the other functions of the town's network of spaces, at the strategic level, that go beyond the open space assessment in previous sections. This section highlights a number of key conclusions for green infrastructure provision in Harlow. The intention is to provide the Council with a holistic assessment of open space and Green Infrastructure. This approach is particularly important for Harlow given the role and function of the Green Wedges and the way they have shaped the town's development.
- 7.2 This section sets out the definition of green infrastructure used in this plan and identifies relevant strategic green infrastructure projects in the 2005 Green Infrastructure Plan. It also introduces the GI functions which have been analysed to identify green infrastructure opportunities in this plan, setting out a series of pointers under each function for the proposed green infrastructure network at Section 8.

### Green infrastructure: Some definitions

- 7.3 The following definition was devised for the 2005 Green Infrastructure Plan:

Green infrastructure is the network of multi-functional green spaces and linkages in the countryside in and around towns. Green infrastructure can include areas such as parks, gardens, woods, nature reserves and water-bodies with or without public access; linkages include linear features such as off-road paths, highways, rivers, streams or hedgerows, which can provide dispersal corridors for wildlife and connect people to open spaces.

The concept of green infrastructure planning is based on a strategic approach to ensuring that environmental assets of natural and cultural value are integrated with land development, growth management and built infrastructure planning at the earliest stage. This enables land management to be more proactive, less reactive, and better integrated with efforts to manage growth and development at all spatial planning levels. Green infrastructure planning is therefore a key mechanism for delivering sustainable communities and quality of life benefits within growth areas.

- 7.4 The above elements and principles are still correct, particularly the concept of a strategic network to be planned, designed and delivered in advance of and in step with development. However, a simpler and more all-encompassing definition is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) March 2012<sup>6</sup>, and this is appropriate to consideration of the more 'urban' and local dimension of this new Harlow Green Infrastructure Plan (emphases added by LUC):

Green infrastructure: A network of **multi-functional** green space, **urban and rural**, which is capable of delivering a wide range of **environmental** and **quality of life benefits** for **local communities**.

- 7.5 Green infrastructure can therefore essentially be seen as a linked network, and as a strategic consideration of the environment and landscape in and around towns, in addition to fine grain/site specific open spaces. The relationship between green infrastructure and open space is summarised on **Figure 7.1**.

---

<sup>6</sup> Communities and Local Government, 2012, National Planning Policy Framework



Figure 7.1: Relationship between green infrastructure and open space



- 7.6 Health and quality of life benefits are particularly important to the Harlow context, as described in the GI functional analysis later in this section, as is the contribution of green infrastructure to sense of place, given that this was an integral part of Harlow's original design concept.

### Harlow: Existing green infrastructure network and relevant projects

#### 2005 Green Infrastructure Plan

- 7.7 This earlier Green Infrastructure Plan defined a series of project areas to create the context for a suite of spatial proposals. These zones considered the urban environments of the district as well as the surrounding countryside and within adjacent districts. The project areas relevant to this GI Plan are:
- Project area 1: Stort Riverpark
  - Project area 2: Harlow Town and Country Links Projects
- 7.8 Projects within these areas that are relevant to this Green Infrastructure Plan are set out below. There is considerable overlap within the areas in terms of spatial proposals and objectives. These projects have been used to 'proof' new GI proposals and projects introduced at **Section 8** of this plan.

#### Project area 1: Stort Riverpark

- 7.9 A number of strategic spatial priorities were set out including creation of a 'Stort Riverpark' which encompasses areas of semi natural open space and a strategic greenway project (access link) in the form of the Stort Valley Path (a shared access commuter route accommodating walkers and cyclists) plus riverway enhancements within the Stort Navigation. The Stort Valley was the subject of a specific feasibility study, which set out a concept plan for the area to create physical links with the Lee Valley Regional Park at the river confluence at Great Amwell, together with costs and phasing. Some aspects of the project and companion projects have since been delivered, principally in the form of access and signage improvements, creation of the Stort Valley Path, and areas of wetland habitat enhancement and creation in the valley.
- 7.10 Other priorities in this zone were the restoration and enhancement of the historically significant Harlow Town Park as a Major Strategic Destination and Gateway with targeted visitor facility enhancements. Aspects of this project are being pursued through Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) in 2012.
- 7.11 Targeted visitor enhancements were also proposed at Roydon Mill and Pishiobury Park, adjacent to the District and Stort Valley, within East Herts District.

#### Project area 2: Harlow Town and Country Links Projects

- 7.12 A considerable number of projects were prioritised for the urban area and these have been summarised by theme in the table below, which should be read with reference to section 5 (and Figures 6, 7 and 8) of the 2005 Green Infrastructure Plan.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Theme (2005 Plan):</b><br>Public open space projects | <b>Component projects:</b><br>Harlow Town Park Restoration and Enhancement (Major Strategic Destination and Gateway Site)<br>Targeted improvements to Gibberd Garden (Key Strategic Destination and Gateway)<br>Creation of New Strategic Destination and Gateway in the Copped Hall Area, providing a gateway to Epping Forest from the Harlow Area |
| Greenway Projects                                       | Greenway 9: East Harlow to Matching Green, including Sustrans Route Implementation<br>Greenway 13: West Harlow to Lee Valley<br>Greenway 14: South Harlow to Rye Hill<br>Greenway 15: North Harlow to River Stort  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | Greenway 16: North West Harlow to River Stort  |
| Habitat enhancement projects                                  | I1: Harlow urban area – Enhancement of Town Park (linked to other Town Park projects identified above)   |
| Enhanced habitat linkage projects                             | E4: West Harlow – Enhancement of verges and hedgerows<br>I2: Harlow urban area – Enhancement of riparian habitats and verges within the Green Wedges   |
| <b>Theme (2005 Plan):</b><br><br>New habitat linkage projects | <b>Component projects:</b><br><br>F2: Rye Hill – Creation of new hedgerows and scrub (linking to the wider landscape mosaic of woodland and wooded commons)<br>F3: East Harlow – Creation of new woodland and hedgerows (landscape connectivity)   |
| New urban edge landscapes of distinction                      | Harlow Rail Station/Town Park Environmental Design Improvements<br>West Harlow Environmental Design Improvements<br>East Harlow/New Hall Environmental Design Improvements (linked to phased delivery of the New Hall urban extension on the eastern edge)<br>South East Harlow/M11 Approach Environmental Design Improvements |
| Parkway corridor enhancement projects                         | Environmental Enhancement of the A414 Parkway (A10 near Ware to North Weald Bassett via Harlow/M11)<br>Environmental Enhancement of the A1184 Parkway (Harlow to Bishops Stortford)  |

### *2010 SHIP Green Infrastructure Plan (GreenArc) area*

7.13 Relevant strategic projects set out in this plan are:

#### Urban GI Heritage Conservation and Enhancement Project:

This project seeks to recognise and conserve the significant planned urban green infrastructure heritage asset of the GreenArc, to enhance functionality and improve quality of life in densely developed urban environments:

- Project celebrates and promotes the unique urban and designed GI heritage of the GreenArc (Garden Cities and New Towns), as well as providing enhanced functionality of urban green space, through appropriate management and new tree planting.
- Enhancement of urban biodiversity and recognition of the value of urban greening for climate change adaptation
- Promotion of sustainable living options, local food production/allotments, community gardens and orchards
- Securing positive green urban interfaces - enhancement of peri urban green space and through landscape mitigation of future urban extensions/settlement growth
- Addressing long standing and strategic 'green' (and green space quality) deficits through small scale interventions in higher density urban environments (street orchards, pocket green spaces), also enhancing experience, ecosystems and climate change adaptation



#### Woodland Arc Project

This project seeks to recognise the value of woodlands as a multi-functional, strategic GI asset, and to deliver aims and aspirations of related partners:





- Enhanced resilience to climate change and provision of linked landscape/habitat mosaics (copse, grassland, heathland and wet woodland/wetland), plus sustainable woodland management
- Linking and buffering strategic woodland sites, to provide alternative semi natural green space (e.g. Epping Forest, Hainault Forest and Hatfield Forest)
- Delivering 'Living Landscapes': Providing landscape links e.g. Broxbourne Woods and Epping Forest/Hatfield Forest, contributing to original GreenArc aims, as well as creating better woodland links to the urban fringes. Targeted woodland creation to deliver enhanced landscape experience/setting (links to South Herts Woodlands Living Landscape Area) and delivery of Community Forestry
- Using woodland creation to contribute to Higher Level Stewardship and English Woodland Grant Schemes (EWGS) uptake to protect, enhance and manage historic assets and to help deliver Forestry Commission aspirations (FC 'Quality of Place' project which seeks to encourage EWGS uptake), as well as re-restoration of mineral workings (Lee Valley). Also sustainable woodland management
- Provision of appropriately designed and sited access links in the Woodland Arc

### Green infrastructure functions in Harlow




- 7.14 Since the original Green Infrastructure Plan was developed for Harlow in 2005, there has been growing emphasis on understanding green infrastructure functions<sup>7</sup> to inform green infrastructure planning. Green infrastructure functions effectively form the building blocks of a green infrastructure network, and by layering information which represent these, it is possible to see patterns and areas of opportunity and of need. It is when these functions are examined in combination that well evidenced proposals for a multi-functional green infrastructure network can be developed.
- 7.15 Drawing on recent work undertaken for the Green Arc SHIP, and an understanding of the Harlow socio-environmental context, a series of GI functions were defined. These are set out below, together with a summary of the analysis objectives:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Access to recreation</b></p>                       | <p>Identification of locations within the town and 3km buffer where there is strategic deficiency in access to GI provision or key barriers to accessing provision, leading to proposals to address this as part of a multi-functional GI network (recognising that proposed access links should seek to embody as many other functions as possible, for example shading, landscape setting, nature conservation).</p>  |
| <p><b>Landscape setting, context and experience</b></p>  | <p>Identification of the main areas which are directly perceived by people on the approaches to Harlow, and how landscape assets contribute to settlement approaches/fringes. This considers main transport corridors and how they interact with GI assets, noting enhancement potential. Also identification of key areas of visual amenity and quality. The aim of the analysis has been to aid proposals development, and inform GI investment as part of urban regeneration which is responsive to place and context.</p> |

<sup>7</sup> Natural England, Green Infrastructure Guidance, 2009, NE176

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Environments for health</b></p>                                | <p>To identify areas in the settlement and 3km buffer where healthy walking/cycling routes are severed, and opportunities to enhance. Also mapping of key barriers (transport corridors) and areas of deprivation, as well as proximity to sites of recreational focus and school sites. Understanding of the quality of the environment (use of tranquillity mapping etc). Linked with access and other functions, this analysis provides the evidence for integrated proposals for a healthy GI network.</p> |
| <p><b>Sound ecosystems</b></p>                                       | <p>To identify strategically significant areas of the district and 3km buffer where functionality of key ecosystems is impaired, to inform proposals for GI investment to enhance functionality.</p>   |
| <p><b>Productive green environments/productive landscapes</b></p>  | <p>To identify areas and locations in the district and 3km envelope which are producing sustainable products (local food, fuel) with the potential to reduce carbon footprint. Identification of areas of productive landscapes to be protected and where there may be opportunities to enhance provision as part of the GI network.</p>   |
| <p><b>Conserving and understanding historic character</b></p>      | <p>To identify key GI assets offering historic character across the district and 3km envelope. Also areas where there are opportunities to conserve and enhance historic legacy in light of planned regeneration and potential growth.</p>   |



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Sustainability and responding to climate change</b></p>  | <p>Identification of areas where there is deficiency in tree cover, interpreting relevant standards such as the Woodland Trust and Town and Country Planning Association Tree Planting Standards where these can be mapped. Also identification of areas of environmental constraint and broad hydrological issues where there is a strategic need to 'make space for water' in light of flooding and potential future growth. Proposals generated for this functional analysis are informed by those devised for other functions (landscape, nature conservation), to respond to place.</p> |
| <p><b>Landscape quality and land remediation</b></p>           | <p>To identify detracting sites where place-led restoration could contribute to wider GI functionality and other related functions (link to landscape setting, context and experience function above). For the purposes of this GI Plan, detracting sites and elements are defined as exposed urban edges with a poor landscape interface, active mineral workings, waste sites, industrial sites and areas of fragmented or degraded landscape character.</p>   |
| <p><b>Biodiversity</b></p>                                   | <p>'Landscape scale' consideration of biodiversity assets in their wider context, including distribution, composition and fragmentation. The analysis has informed development of proposals for enhanced habitat connectivity for its own sake and for climate change adaptation, as an integrated part of the GI framework for Harlow.</p>  |





















### Green infrastructure need, demand and opportunity in Harlow, by function

- 7.16 This section summarises the findings from a GIS map analysis by function, together with maps showing data sources used. The analysis draws out issues relevant to the specific neighbourhoods which make up Harlow, where appropriate. For the neighbourhood level analyses, the focus has been on all GI functions except Access to Recreation and Environments for Health, as these are picked up at the neighbourhood level of detail in the Open Space Assessment. Findings for each function are tabulated by neighbourhood as relevant, below, noting any relationships between green infrastructure functionality and open space quality/value, where appropriate.

Figure 7.2

Access to Recreation

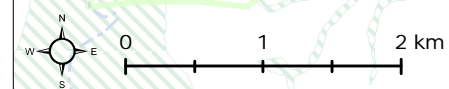
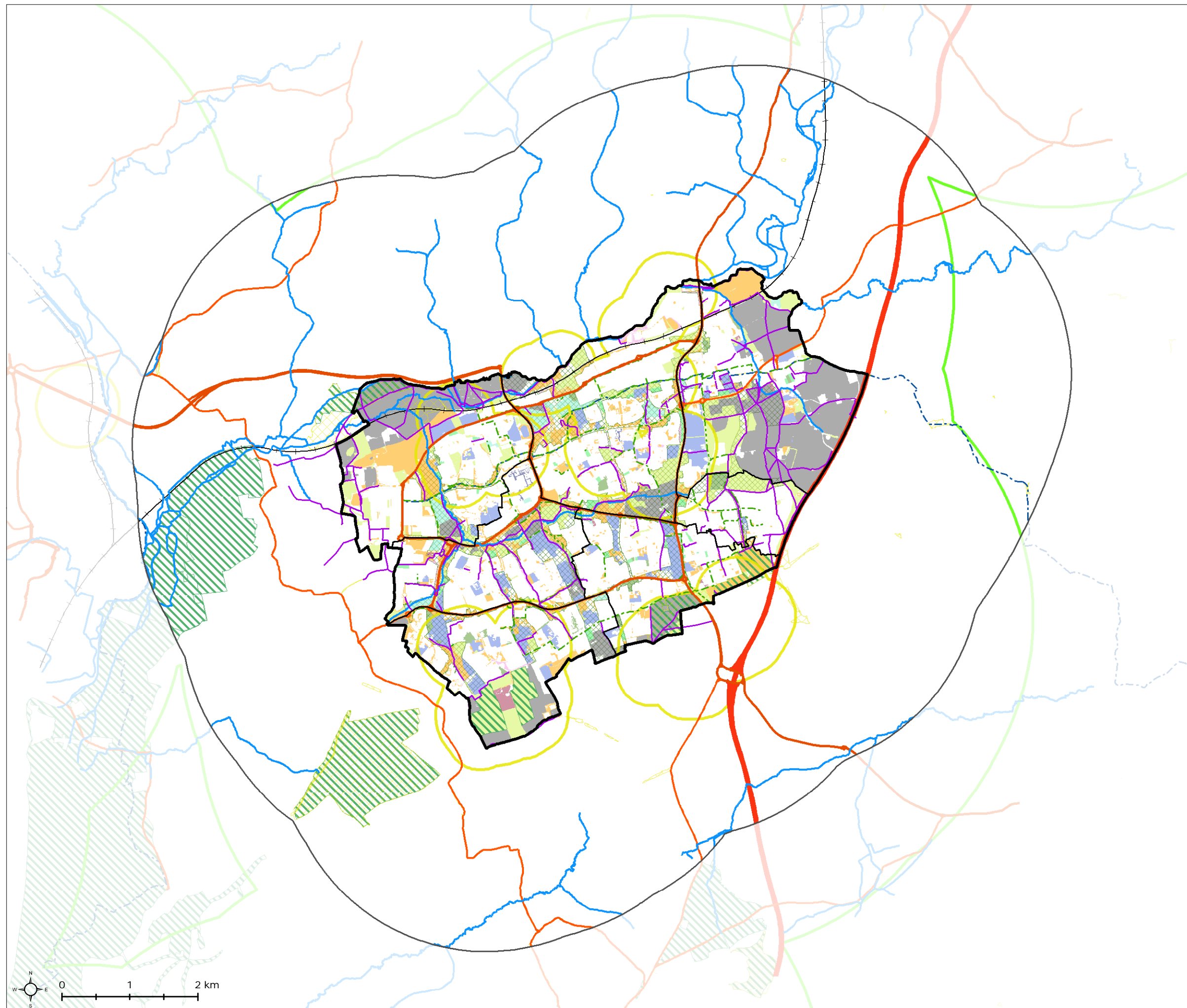
Key

-  Harlow district boundary
-  Harlow neighbourhood areas
-  3km buffer
-  PRow
-  Lakes
-  Main rivers
-  Motorway
-  A Road
-  B Road
-  Railway line
-  Cycle track
-  National route
-  NCN link
-  Regional route
-  Open Access Land
-  Within 500m of at least 2ha accessible woodland
-  Within 4km of at least 20ha accessible woodland
-  Strategic ANG
- Harlow open space data**
-  Unknown
-  Agriculture
-  Allotments/Community gardens /urban farms
-  Amenity green space
-  Cemeteries and churchyards
-  Civic spaces
-  Green corridors
-  Natural and semi-natural green space
-  Outdoor sports facilities
-  Parks and gardens
-  Provision for children /young people
-  Green wedges

Map Scale @ A3: 1:55,000



for Harlow District Council



- 7.17 This analysis makes reference to the strategic context for provision in terms of Natural England's Essex Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) assessment but also more specifically cross refers to the local green space standards derived as part of this study. It also makes reference to the Woodland Trust's standards for accessible woodland.
- 7.18 In terms of Accessible Natural Green Space (ANG) provision, Harlow lies entirely within the catchment for sub regional and county level provision, and there are few quantitative gaps at the neighbourhood (2ha) level. Similarly, the area meets the Woodland Trust's recommended quantitative standards for accessible woodland provision (20 ha sites), with the northern and southern parts of the town also meeting the 2ha accessible woodland standard (specific neighbourhoods where this standard is met are Hare Street and Little Parndon, Netteswell and Mark Hall, Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye and Bush Fair and Harlow Common. Primary gaps are associated with the central urban area and principal green wedge – Netteswell Plantation may present an opportunity in this regard.
- 7.19 With regard to local open space provision, analysis identifies the main issues to be in respect of green space quality, as described later in this section. This has also been reflected in the site survey undertaken in the development of the green infrastructure plan. However there are also greenspace quantitative deficiencies at Church Langley, for all typologies except local natural green space and civic space. Consultation has also identified a deficit in allotment provision at Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye and this is addressed in the green infrastructure proposals from **Figure 8.1**. For example, although pockets of woodland, the legacy of the earlier landscape pattern, have been retained within the settlement layout, in a number of instances they cannot easily be accessed (e.g. Netteswell Plantation). In some instances housing layouts 'turn their backs' on woodland sites and have a poor green space relationship (e.g. woodlands forming part of Parndon Hall's former grounds). As such, whilst they are likely to provide valuable biodiversity and run off catchment potential, their value in terms of experience/social green infrastructure could be enhanced. The work in developing the Open Space Audit has also suggested that quality of play provision could be improved, and this could link to woodland environments – natural play.
- 7.20 The town is characterised by an extensive network of verges and grassland swathes to the principal road corridors and approaches, although these are often of limited functionality, usually being fairly intensively managed as amenity green space.
- 7.21 Principal barriers or pinch points to accessing the green infrastructure network within Harlow are the A1025 (dual carriageway) which intersects a cluster of strategic spaces forming part of the principal east–west green wedge north of Passmores. This affects the Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye and Bush Fair and Harlow Common neighbourhoods. Also Katherines Way which bisects a major green wedge north-south, to the north of the Sumners neighbourhood. Southern Way similarly creates lateral severance, and effectively separates two neighbourhoods and large swathes of amenity green space. In many instances here, as elsewhere in the town, there is a generally negative relationship between the neighbourhoods and the green spaces which serve them (lack of permeability/frontage/surveillance, as at the distinctive radial housing estate in the southern part of Passmores at Tye Green). This pattern and series of issues is repeated along large sections of other principal roads such as the A414 (dual carriageway), London Road and Gilden Way. This also corresponds to local deficiency in neighbourhood scale ANG provision to the Church Langley neighbourhood. In the north of the town, Edinburgh Way, the associated industrial estate and the railway line create notable and physical perceptual barriers to accessing the wider strategic GI network such as the Stort Valley (this primarily affects the Hare Street and Little Parndon and Netteswell and Mark Hall neighbourhoods).
- 7.22 In terms of Paths and Rights of Way (PRoW) provision and the way this links with the local green infrastructure network, the following points are relevant to sustainable urban form: Many PRoWs follow road routes along the principal green wedges, although there are relatively few safe opportunities to cross – the intersection of paths on the large roundabout at the northern end of Katherines Way is a case in point. There is an apparent absence of paths to the northern green wedge north and east of the Harvey Centre and district centre. There is also sporadic path provision on the Fourth Avenue/First Avenue/Mandela Avenue green wedge and the principal Todds Brook green wedge (an issue which affects the Hare Street and Little Parndon and Netteswell and Mark Hall neighbourhoods in particular), plus often awkward or difficult crossings associated with principal roundabouts. The Todds Brook green wedge links schools, neighbourhood centre and hospital with immediate residential neighbourhoods. A number of



unattractive path crossings such as subways also characterise both wedges. Analysis and consultation has revealed relatively few lateral cycle links and few cycle links in South Harlow, and there are also issues in respect of safety and lighting of such routes.

- 7.23 An often poorly signed and promoted path and cycle route network serves areas of accessible woodland. Currently some urban woodland sites are under performing in relation to this function due to this (Netteswell Plantation), with accessibility not always readily perceived in other sites.
- 7.24 The wider PRoW network in the 3km fringe around Harlow is relatively comprehensive, although with gaps and disjointedness in areas of countryside to the east, which is exacerbated by the M11. Gaps in PRoW provision also occur to the south west, between the Harlow Woods SSSI Complex and Epping Forest.
- 7.25 Significant strategic ANG provision is evident to the west and south of the town e.g. Lee Valley Regional Park, Epping Forest and Nazeingwood Common (which is also Registered Common Land), in addition to sites such as Parndon Woods/Hospital Wood within the Harlow Woods SSSI complex, and the network of commons on the southern edge of Harlow. Access to these is generally well served by a network of promoted routes such as the Forest Way and the Lee Valley Path. However the A414 approach to the town creates severance between the eastern common land sites.



Above: Parndon Woods NNR, a strategically significant ANG site, forming part of a chain of assets on the southern edge of Harlow and connected by strategic access links

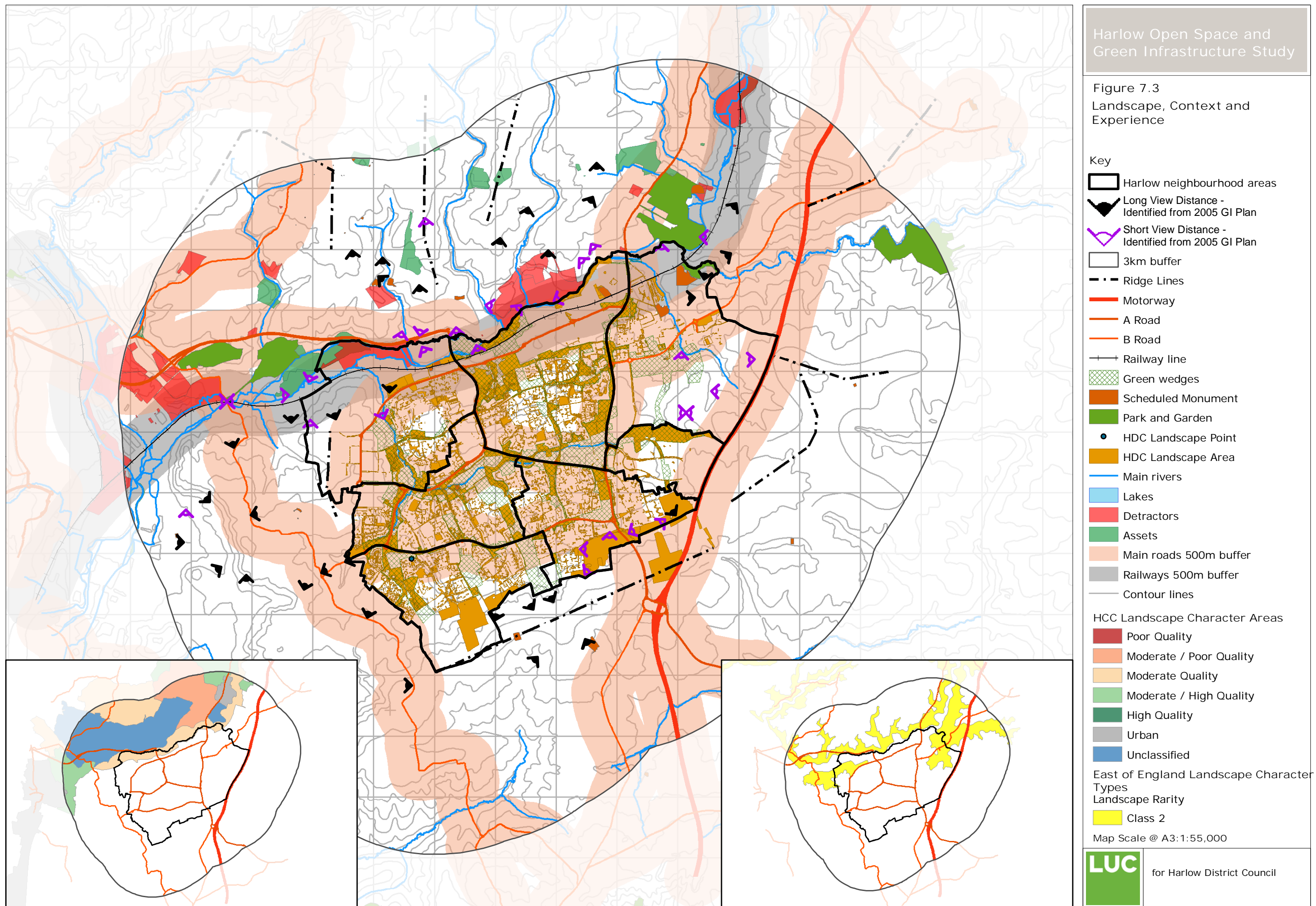


#### **Access to recreation: Key pointers for green infrastructure:**

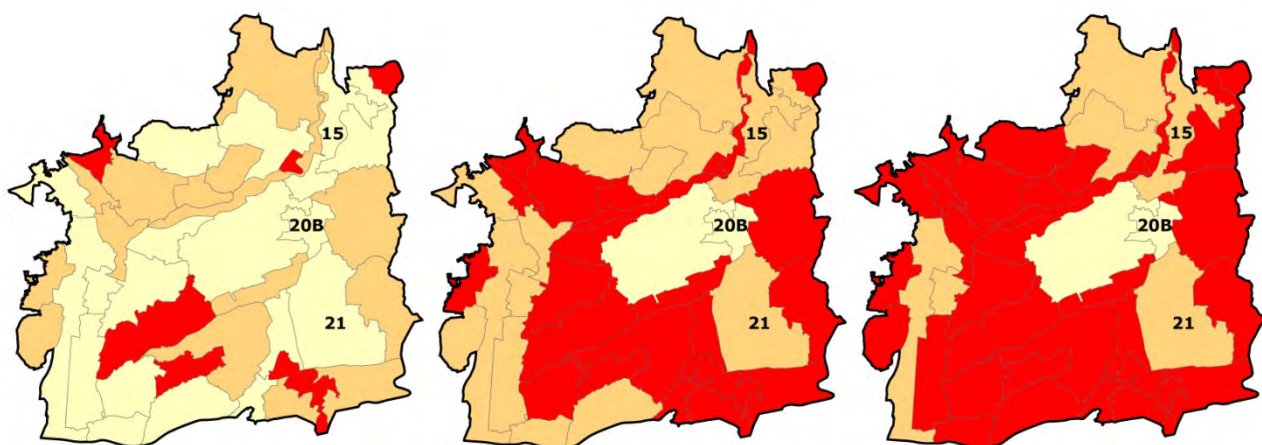
- Relaxation of management to principal green wedges to contribute to greater experience and more defined, recognisable and legible places.
- Map analysis has identified areas where poor links across and through green wedges are important e.g. to areas of community or social infrastructure provision, or at settlement approaches. Potential solutions are shown on **Figures 8.1 to 8.7**.
- Improved and more consistent signage to green spaces from the path and cycle network, plus improved lighting and permeability through appropriate landscape management. Enhance quality of facilities provision in parks and gardens, including play provision. Idea of creating experiences and maximising play value through natural play and potentially linked with other features for different age ranges e.g. green gyms, trim trails.
- Enhancement of woodland experience and accessible woodlands as a multi-functional woodland resource, reinforcing 'town of trees' identity, e.g. to identify areas where enhanced access and improved management and perception can contribute to achieving a linked and working multi-functional network.
- Enhanced access over the M11 to the wider green network, in the form of a green bridge linked to and dependent on any potential future development in this area. Such a proposal should seek to serve as many other green infrastructure functions as possible e.g. landscape and biodiversity connectivity.
- Potential for improved north - south access links to the south of Harlow to link woodland assets to Epping Forest, which could be delivered as part of wider landscape enhancement and restoration in this area.

# Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.3  
Landscape, Context and Experience



- 7.26 Within the wider 3km study area, Harlow enjoys a significant distribution of the Wooded Chalk Valley Regional Landscape Type as defined in the East of England landscape typology (this landscape type is considered regionally rare, having been assigned Rarity Class 2<sup>8</sup>). This landscape type is primarily associated with the Stort Valley and associated tributaries and as such represents a primary green infrastructure asset for the Hare Street and Little Parndon, Netteswell and Mark Hall and old Harlow neighbourhoods. Key issues are in relation to perception, experience and severance of this landscape type, e.g. that the valley landscape and associated hydrological features such as the river and Navigation act as both barrier and access link but with few links to and from the watercourses. Severance is also created by the railway, particularly to the immediate north-east and north-west of the urban area, resulting in limited permeability of the GI network in this area from the Hare Street and Little Parndon neighbourhood.
- 7.27 Much of this analysis relates to the wider landscape in the 3km buffer surrounding the urban area. The mapping developed for Harlow's Strategic Sensitivity Analysis by CBA shows a small number of landscape character areas (LCAs) to have lower sensitivity to various residential development typologies. This is in view of erosion of landscape and cultural patterns, among other factors. These LCAs therefore present opportunities for enhancement of green infrastructure connectivity - areas 15 Little Hallingbury Ridges and Slopes, 20B Jack's Hatch to Church Langley Ridge and 21 North Weald Ridges and Valleys. These areas are shown on the map overleaf.



Above: The three landscape character areas of consistently lower sensitivity to residential development of various scales. From left to right: small scale residential of 50-100 units, substantial mixed use schemes and very large scale urban extensions of stand-alone settlement. Pale yellow indicates areas of lowest landscape sensitivity and red, the highest (Source: Chris Blandford Associates: Strategic Sensitivity Analysis)

- 7.28 GIS data generated for the Hertfordshire Access to Town and Country V4C project developed for Hertfordshire County Council identifies the clusters of woodlands to the northern Stort Valley crests within the Harlow study area as landscape assets. Whilst the Stort Valley and associated flood meadows are a strategic green infrastructure asset and provide a key GI experience in the Harlow area, the V4C project identifies a number of detracting elements associated with industrial land uses in the valley. For example active mineral working south east of Gilston. Also sites associated with recreational provision, such as the golf course, north west of the urban area. Other detracting elements within the Stort Valley landscape and within the wider 3km study area include Rye Meads Water Treatment Works and the Power Station in the Lee Valley, near Hoddesdon. Further eastwards, the scrubby farmlands east of Sawbridgeworth in the Stort Valley are also identified as detracting features by the V4C project.

<sup>8</sup> For the Hertfordshire and GreenArc SHIP GI Plans, rarity was assigned to the East of England Regional Landscape Types by percentage distribution, with the three rarest classes being analysed by distribution for the GI Plans.

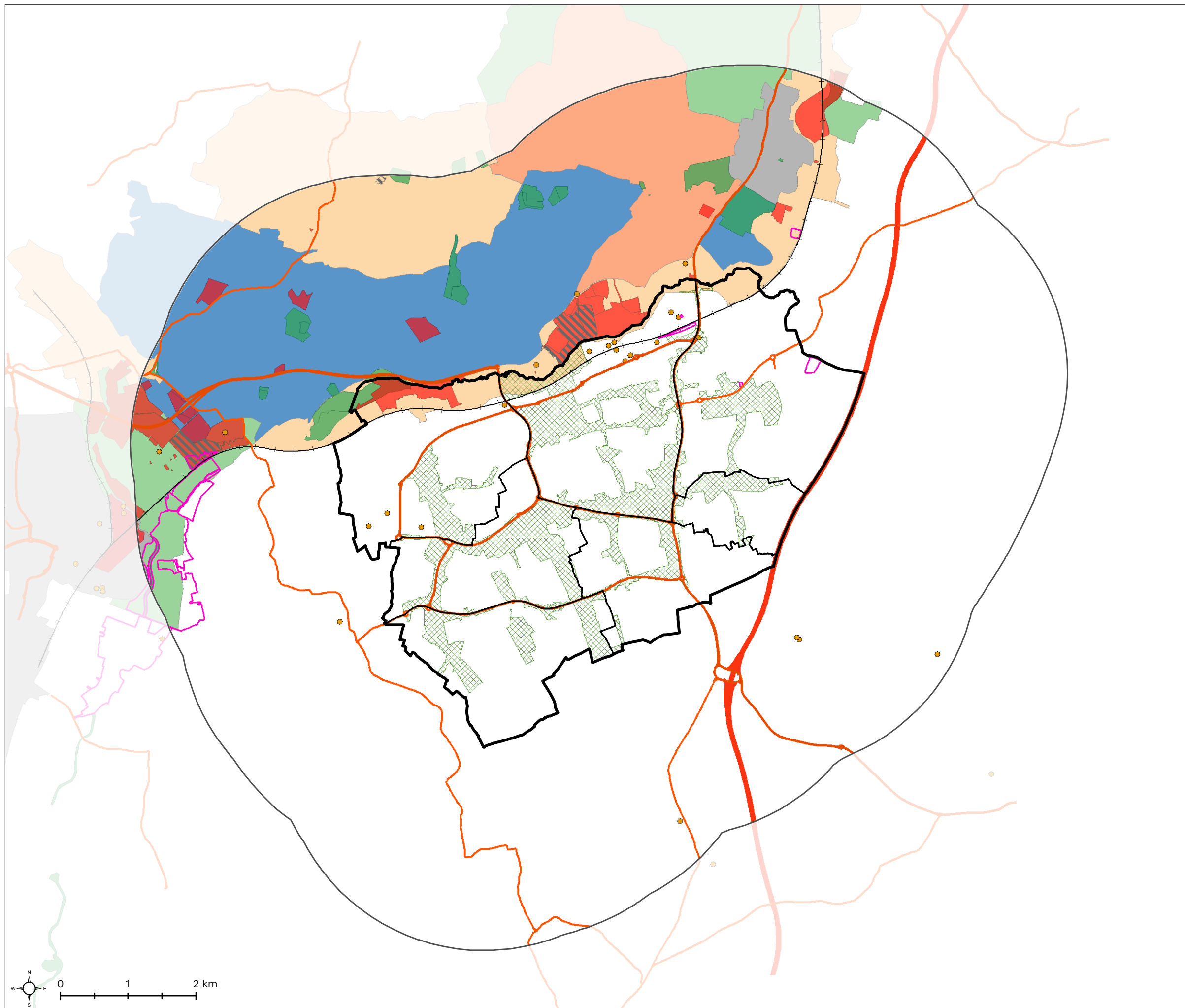


**Landscape setting, context and experience: Key pointers for green infrastructure at the District level:**

- On-going restoration of mineral sites in and north of the Stort Valley and creation of an expanded network of wetland habitats/alternative accessible green infrastructure, as part of minerals consents, would be complementary to the objectives of the Stort Valley project and also the Living Landscape (see 'Biodiversity' functional analysis) of which this forms part.
- The CBA Framework for Sustainable Future Landscapes in the Harlow area, and fieldwork, has identified a number of exposed settlement edges, which have potential for improvement in terms of landscape interface. Landscape edge enhancement opportunities as part of the GI network are shown on **Figures 8.1 to 8.7**. Enhancement of landscape connectivity in the lower sensitivity and more eroded landscape character areas identified above would help deliver improved landscape character and setting.
- The M11 provides a significant barrier and visual/aural intrusion. It is also an opportunity area for structural landscape mitigation which could contribute to woodland connectivity e.g. linking to the ancient woodland clusters south of the town and, more strategically, to historic forested sites such as Epping and Hatfield Forests (see **Figure 8.1**).
- Proposals to address more local severance and impairments of the urban green infrastructure experience resulting from highway layouts could include traffic calming and more relaxed landscape management of the associated amenity grassland green space swathes within the green wedges, creating an enhanced sense of place as well as improved connectivity through safer crossing points. These ideas are referenced on **Figures 8.1 to 8.7**.
- Woodland linkage in the rural and peri-urban landscapes around the town creates an opportunity for water run off catchment and flood risk management in the Stort Valley, but also to enhance Harlow's landscape setting and create a positive green framework for any future settlement expansion. This should not be blanket woodland coverage but rather should encompass creation of a range of linked, complementary landscape features - woodland, copse, hedgerows, heathlands and grasslands, linking the existing network of heaths and commons. Areas of focus for such landscape restoration are indicated on **Figures 8.1 to 8.7**.
- At a 'micro' level, opportunities for new multi-functional community green infrastructure could also be used to contribute to enhancing urban landscape character, for example natural play provision, community and street orchards (indicated on the neighbourhood GI Plans from **Figure 8.2**).







# Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.9

## Landscape Quality and Land Remediation

### Key

- Harlow district boundary
- Harlow neighbourhood areas
- 3km buffer
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Railway line
- Waste mineral sites
- Green wedges
- Waste licence sites
- Minerals
- Detractors
- Assets
- Hertfordshire Landscape Quality
  - Poor Quality
  - Moderate / Poor Quality
  - Moderate Quality
  - Moderate / High Quality
  - High Quality
  - Urban
  - Unclassified

Map Scale @ A3: 1:55,000



for Harlow District Council

- 7.29 This analysis primarily considered the peri urban environment (3km study area rather than the built up areas of the district, since the former is where the issues and opportunities lie in relation to this function). Analysis of GIS data has identified the following issues and opportunities.
- 7.30 Within the Hertfordshire part of the 3km study area, to the north of the Stort Valley is a landscape character area identified as being of moderate-poor condition and quality. This is the High Wych Slopes character area, on the south facing valley slopes overlooking Harlow and located to the west of the registered landscape at Pishiobury Park. This area comprises large scale field patterns and a fragmented landscape and historic pattern, with boundary loss due to agricultural intensification. As such it presents an opportunity for enhanced landscape connectivity as part of the green infrastructure network, and which could potentially be realised through landscape restoration and land management grant schemes.
- 7.31 The Hertfordshire LCA GIS data identifies the River Stort character area, which encompasses the valley floor and part of the area of the Stort Riverpark initiative, as being of moderate condition and quality. This area is the focus for continued landscape improvement as part of the delivery of strategic green infrastructure initiatives.
- 7.32 Reference to data produced for the V4C Towns and Countryside Project for Hertfordshire County Council identifies a number of detracting sites/elements within the Stort Valley part of the Harlow GI study area, and where landscape remediation could potentially contribute to achieving multi-functional green infrastructure. These sites are areas of degraded landscape management/scrubby pasture in the Stort Valley immediately east and south of Sawbridgeworth, plus scrub woodland on the western edge of the town. Also a part worked and part inundated minerals site in the Hertfordshire part of the Stort Valley, immediately north of the Harlow industrial estates, plus land in the valley near Roydon Mill which also appears to be the legacy of past mineral extraction. A number of these sites appear to be undergoing on-going restoration and natural reclamation and as such already form part of the GI network.
- 7.33 GIS data developed for the CBA Harlow Area Environment Study identifies a number of exposed and abrupt settlement edges to the town, which could be softened by improved landscape connectivity. These are referenced as appropriate on the proposed GI network at **Figures 8.1 onwards**.

**Landscape quality and land remediation: Key pointers for green infrastructure at the District level:**

- Delivery of landscape strategy and restoration objectives for wider landscape character areas such as those to the north of Harlow, to ensure enhanced landscape and habitat connectivity to contribute to the green infrastructure network.
- Tying such landscape enhancement into a robust and integrated landscape framework for Harlow's edges, providing foiling for settlement edges (existing and potential new). This should avoid blanket screening and instead seek to reflect the 'interlaced effect currently apparent due to juxtaposition of hedgerows, copses, woodland blocks, commons and agriculture.
- Seek to maintain visual connectivity and legibility e.g. between the Stort Valley floor, valley sides and adjacent plateaux in planning structural GI for remediation, to visibly retain the landscape context and relationships which formed part of the original Harlow master plan.
- Consideration of potential for enhanced community green space provision e.g. in the principal green wedge and the wedge south of the Water Gardens should link with a consideration and conservation of the best landscape assets within the wedges.

- 7.34 The above findings are drawn out in more detail for the neighbourhood level analysis set out in **table 7.1** overleaf.

**Table 7.1: Neighbourhood analysis: Landscape setting, context and experience (including land remediation and quality)**

| Neighbourhood           | Analysis  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Old Harlow              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stort and associated tributary to the east of the Old Town fall within a regionally rare landscape type (chalk valleys). They have enhancement potential to give expression to this landscape character as part of the GI network.</li> <li>• The V4C data identifies a number of detracting sites in the valley floor adjacent to the railway network offering potential for remediation and enhancement, particularly as one of these sites forms the setting to the registered Gibberd Garden.</li> <li>• Landscape setting enhancements in the Stort Valley could contribute to enhancement of open space quality issues in the Stort Valley, as per the open space assessment.</li> </ul>   |
| Netteswell/Mark Hall    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Much of the neighbourhood and elements of its landscape structure are the legacy of the former Mark Hall Parklands and estate (remnant designed landscape with Wellingtonias at Mark Hall Park – a space with high quality and value scores - plus adjacent Harlow Museum in former stable block).</li> <li>• Mark Hall Park is the landscape setting to the extant estate church.</li> <li>• Aspects of the wider GI network relate to old Mark Hall – ancient woodland at Mark Hall Wood contains the former carriage drive to the house, and links to the former estate farm buildings at Latton Farm. The relics of the Mark Hall estate therefore present opportunities for interpretation.</li> <li>• Many other opportunities are for landscape enhancement – improving the quality of many of the low key amenity green spaces e.g. in the green wedge extending north to Temple Fields Industrial Estate (woodland planting).</li> <li>• The Roman Temple remains, in the middle of the industrial estate, offers potential for enhancement, in spite of achieving high quality and value open space scores.</li> <li>• Stort Valley is within a regionally rare landscape type (chalk valley) – seek to conserve and enhance landscape/wetland features as an extension to the positive works already done in the Stort Valley.</li> </ul> |
| Church Langley          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brenthall Wood and the associated wooded shaw/greenway provides a valuable and attractive landscape setting to the housing estate at Church Langley. This is of far greater value than and in considerable contrast to the housing estate landscape within Church Langley and associated scattered areas of amenity green space/incidental open space. It should be noted that this open space is identified as being of low quality and value in the open space assessment, but this is not borne out by field survey – enhanced interpretation and promotion of this site could help address these issues.</li> </ul>  |
| Bush Fair/Harlow Common | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key points are the landscape setting provided by the network of commons to the south and associated views out towards Rye Hill and Epping Forest. This edge also has enhancement potential in terms of landscape connectivity and foiling 'raw' settlement edges. These common land spaces also all score highly in respect of quality and value</li> </ul>  |

















**Table 7.1: Neighbourhood analysis: Landscape setting, context and experience (including land remediation and quality)**

| Neighbourhood                     | Analysis  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
|                                   | scores, and form integral parts of the local GI network.  |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main issues and opportunities relate to the landscape setting provided by the commons and ancient woodlands (Harlow Woods SSSI complex) to the south of the town, and the need to enhance landscape connectivity/buffering in relation to such sites/to foil 'raw' settlement edges. These sites score highly with regard to quality and value, although other woodland sites in the urban part of the neighbourhood (Burnett's Wood/Maunds Wood) score lower. This is however not reflected by fieldwork findings as these resources are of some quality – enhanced promotion and interpretation/awareness raising of these local GI resources would assist in respect of perception of their quality and value.</li> </ul>   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few issues are identified by the analysis. Field survey has confirmed the importance of the Cobbins Brook green wedge as part of the landscape setting to multiple neighbourhoods (this is partly in view of the diverse range of landscape and land cover patterns and relative variety of GI functions that it encompasses). Given the richness of the landscape and environment in much of the green wedge, large parts of it form an integral part of the local GI network.</li> <li>Much of this wedge is identified in the open space assessment as being of high quality and value, although a large part in the east is of lower quality and value. As such enhancement of the riparian landscape in this area could help contribute to perceived improvement of open space quality and value.</li> <li>However, the paddocks south of the A1025 and opposite the housing at Northbrooks (to the west of town centre/Water Gardens site) do not contribute to this setting. Rather, they detract from it and are poorly provided for in terms of other GI functions in general.</li> </ul> |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large northern parts of the neighbourhood in the Stort Valley floor form part of a regionally rare landscape type – chalk valleys. They also form a focus for key views north across the valley to the rural plateau on which Gilston Park is sited, in East Herts District. These views include elevated views north and across the town from Jean McAlpine Park. Many parts of this valley have enhancement potential, particularly in relation to the Pinnacles and Temple Fields Industrial Estates which form an abrupt northern settlement edge in places.</li> <li>Some parts of the Stort Valley are open spaces identified as being of low quality and value in the open space assessment. Wetland landscape restoration here offers the potential to contribute to improved quality of such sites.</li> <li>The V4C data identifies a number of detracting sites in the Stort Valley floor north of the river, with potential for restoration to enhance landscape character and experience.</li> </ul>  |

Figure 7.4

Environments for Health

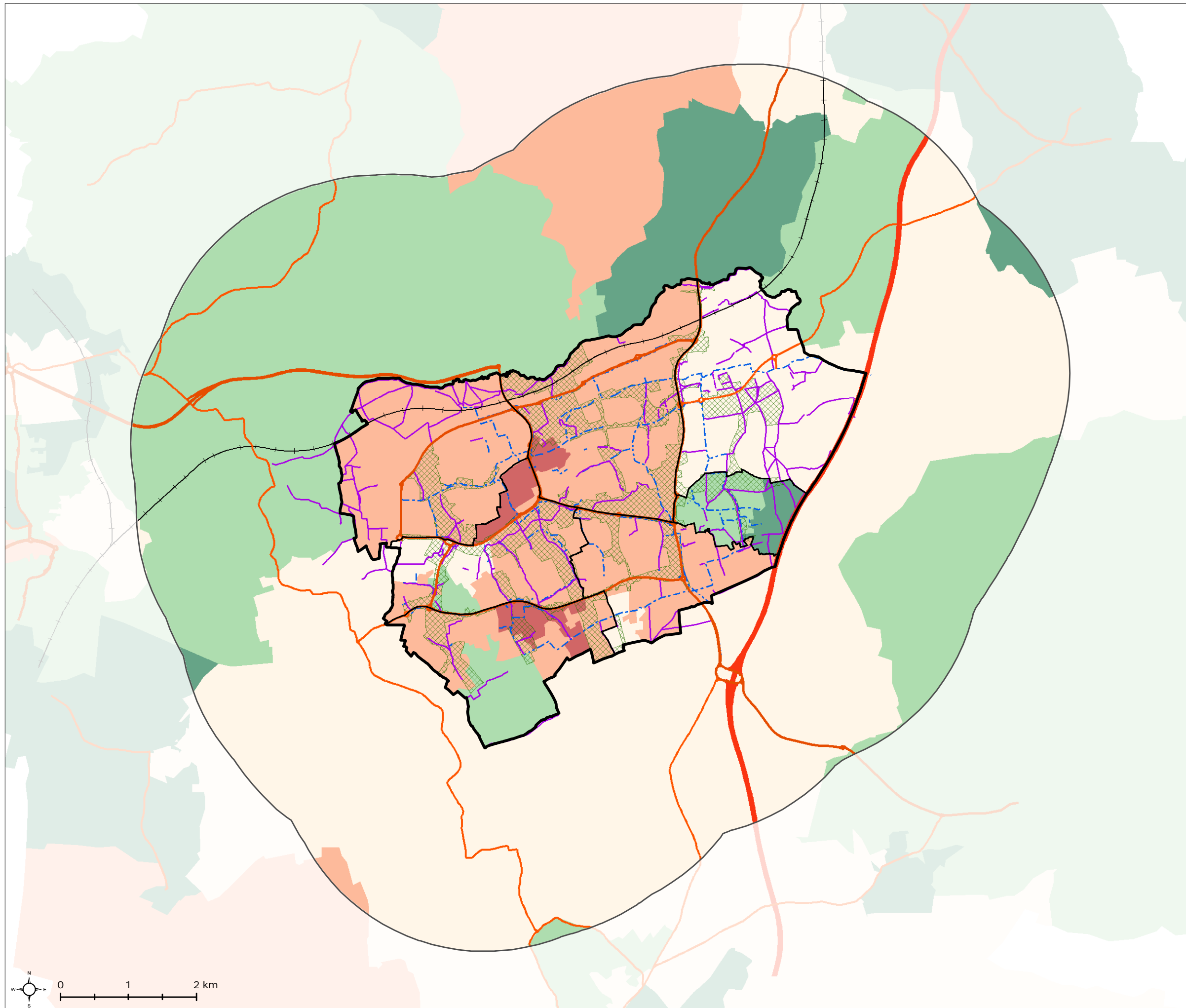
Legend

-  Harlow district boundary
-  Harlow neighbourhood areas
-  3km buffer
-  Motorway
-  A Road
-  B Road
-  Railway line
-  PRow
-  Cycle tracks
-  Green wedges
- Deprivation Percentile**
-  0 - 20%
-  20 - 40%
-  40 - 60%
-  60 - 80%
-  80 - 100% (Lowest)

Map Scale @ A3: 1:55,000



for Harlow District Council



- 7.35 With reference to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data, significant areas of health deprivation are evident in many areas of the town. Many areas are in the 20-40% most deprived percentile, notably Hare Steet and Little Parndon and Netteswell and Mark Hall neighbourhoods (Mark Hall north and Mark Hall south, and Brays Grove), and much of the Bush Fair and Harlow Common neighbourhood. The areas experiencing the most deprivation (0-20%) include the town centre and the adjoining areas of Northbrooks and Netteswell and residential areas in and around Staple Tye. These areas tend to be associated with harsh urban environments with little in the way of high quality open space and or residential layouts. They are also associated with severance created by key transport barriers, such as the A1019, A1169 and A1025 that reduce accessibility to available sites. In terms of the paths and rights of way network and any correlation between access and areas of deprivation, the following patterns were noted in the analysis. Most of the suburbs within the above neighbourhoods appear to have a reasonable density of paths and rights of way although this is mainly orientated north - south, with few lateral links, other than in the Church Langley and Old Harlow neighbourhoods in the east of the town, which are less health deprived. This degree of limitation is partly the legacy of the original design decision to use the north-south lane network predating the New Town for paths and cycleways. As such, the original path and cycle network was characterised by relatively few lateral connectors.
- 7.36 Little Parndon appears particularly poorly provided for in terms of path links, with the exception of the route along the green wedge to the immediate west of the built up area and a single lateral link in the south eastern part of Little Parndon.
- 7.37 Where PRowS cross neighbourhoods, suburbs and main roads, perceived severance is an issue in relation to transport barriers, indicating a need for crossing enhancement and potential traffic calming, to emphasise the use and legibility of the green network.
- 7.38 Most school sites within Harlow appear to be within reasonably close proximity of a 'green commuting route' such as a PRow although the same issues with regard to severance and perceived usability (main road corridors) as above are also noted here.
- 7.39 Within the wider 3km peri urban study area, there are few issues with regard to health deprivation, although the area to the west of Sawbridgeworth experiences moderate issues with regard to health deprivation. *See also access to recreation analysis for issues in respect of access links severance in the wider 3km area.*
- 7.40 Significant strategic ANG provision is evident to the west and south of the town e.g. Lee Valley Regional Park, Epping Forest and Nazeingwood Common (which is also Registered Common Land), in addition to accessible woodland sites such as Parndon Woods/Hospital Wood and the network of commons on the southern edge of Harlow. As such, there is little spatial deficiency in health terms, with issues relating mainly to access barriers and usability of access links.
- 7.41 The following high intensity traffic routes (5000 cars per day or greater) indicate potential issues in respect of air quality within the study area: A1184, A414, A1169, A1019, A1025. Of these, the A1169, A1019 and A1025 are integral to parts of the green wedge network in Harlow, indicating priority areas for enhancement both of green infrastructure experience and potentially also air quality. In the wider 3km study area, the M11 and A414 are the principal high use intensity roads.



Above: Severed access links, Town Park

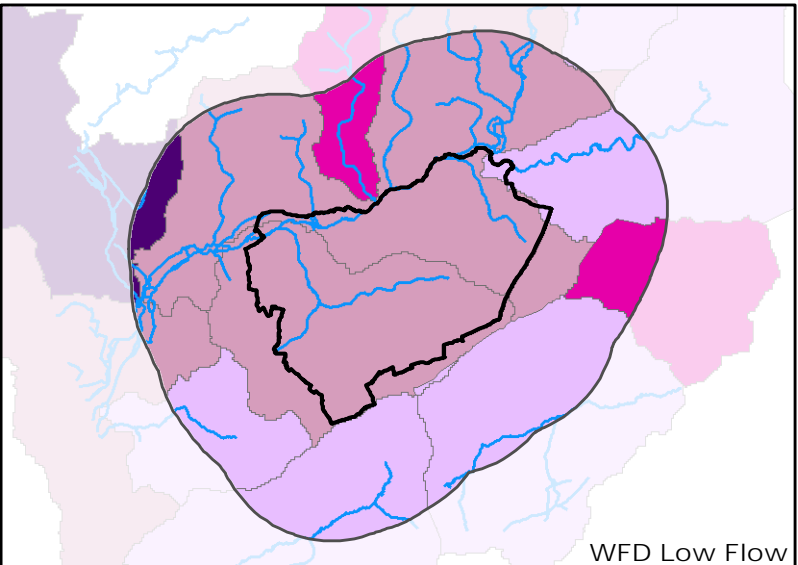
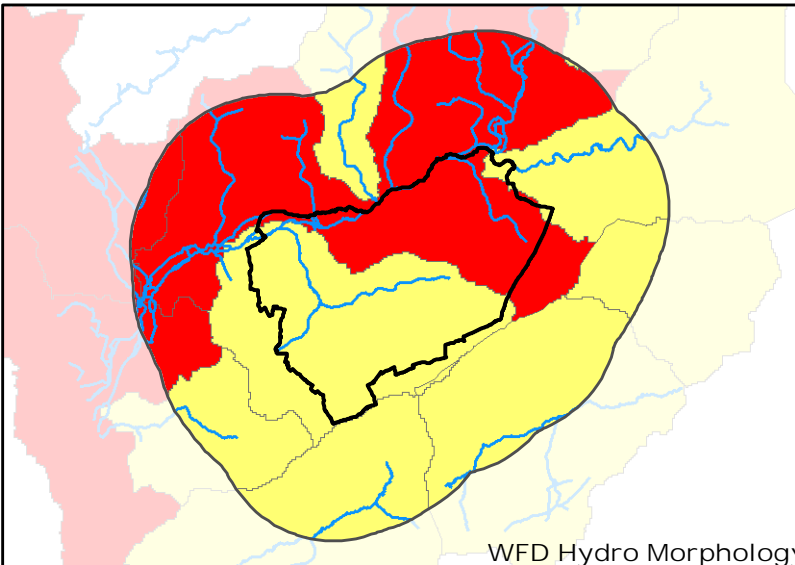
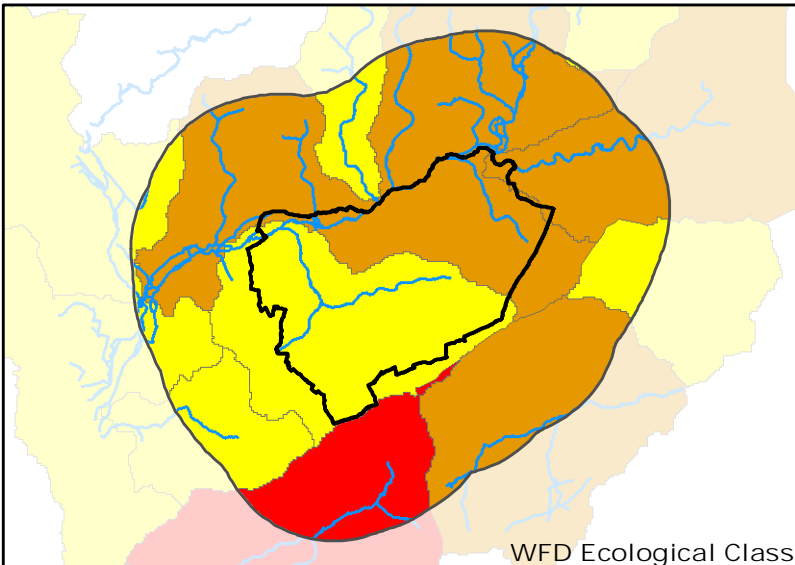
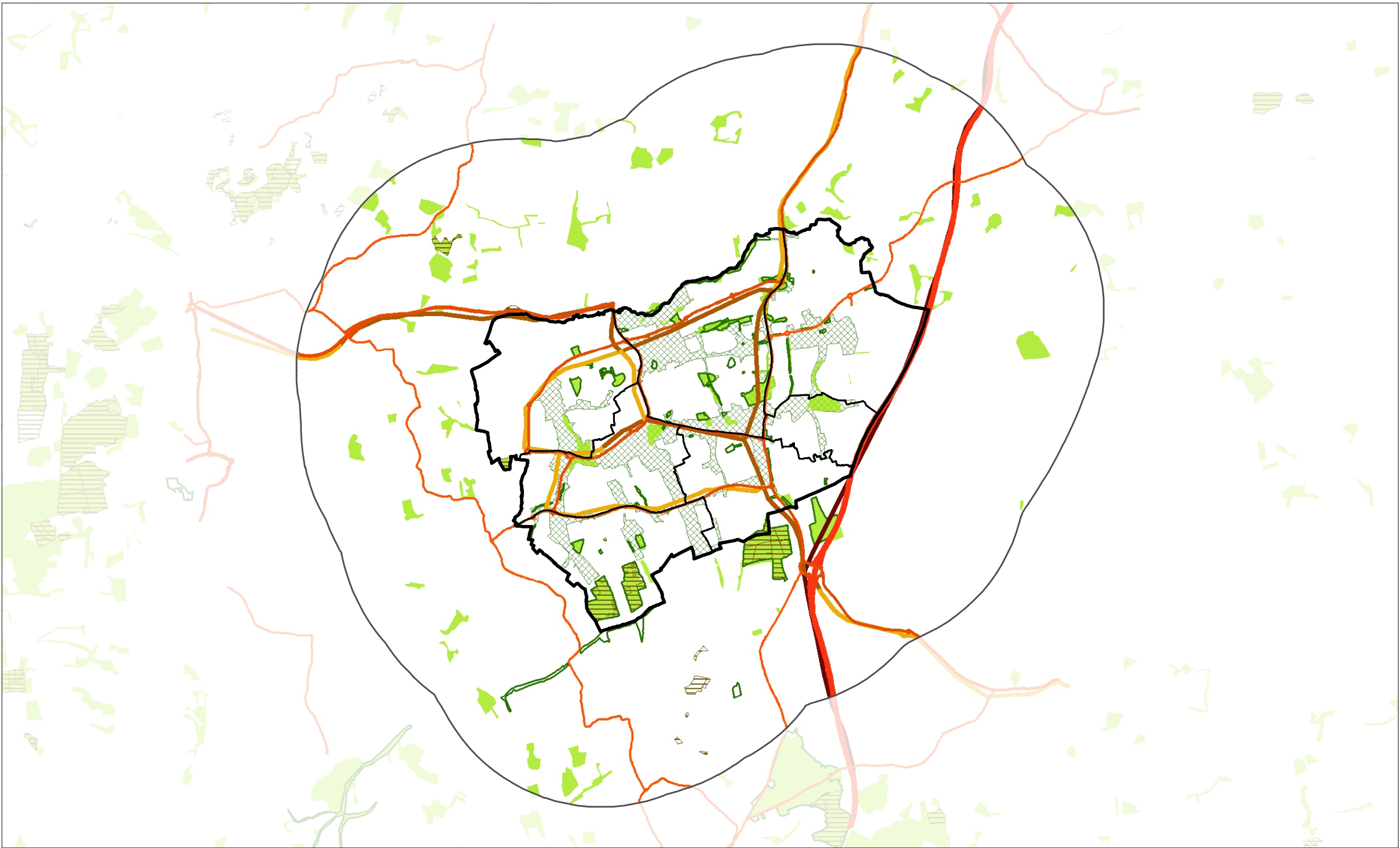
#### **Environments for health: Key pointers for green infrastructure:**

- Key opportunities relate to relatively micro level measures to improve perceived accessibility and usability of the network. For example reducing perceived traffic dominance through road crossing enhancements and associated traffic calming for strategic (multi neighbourhood) access links.
- Improved signposting and legibility (and also perceived safety, surveillance and permeability of routes and spaces) would also encourage greater use.
- Also other means of promoting routes and destinations using interactive/web technology such as a Smartphone explorer project for sites of activity, or through a co-ordinated package of branding and interpretation for green space sites which includes smartphone scannable Quick Response Codes linked to interactive web content – ‘Legible Harlow’, a non-spatial project tagged or linked to the spatial outputs/networks proposed in this GI Plan.
- Links should be made with access proposals made in the adjoining East Herts GI Plan, creating connections across the Stort Valley to the north-south links proposed west of Sawbridgeworth, to help address issues of deprivation in this area (see Figures 8.1 onwards).
- Woodland connectivity to principal roads and associated green wedges to enhance perception and experience of the urban area.
- Promoting routes as connectors to sites of local focus, interest and activity e.g. to Town Park and minor remnant parkland elements which form components of the green space network e.g. at Little Parndon. This could be achieved using the smartphone/web linked technology described above.



Figure 7.5  
Sound Ecosystems

- Key
- Harlow district boundary
  - Harlow neighbourhood areas
  - 3km buffer
  - Motorway
  - A Road
  - B Road
- Daily Traffic flows selection
- Less than 5,000
  - 5,000 – 10,000
  - 10,000 – 25,000
  - 25,000 – 75,000
  - Over 75,000
- Accesible Woodland
  - EWGS Grants
  - National Woodland Inventory
  - Green wedges
- Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- Main rivers
- Eco Class
- Good
  - Moderate
  - Poor
  - Bad
- Hydro morphology
- Heavily Modified
  - Not Designated A/HMWB
- Low Flow
- At Risk
  - Probably At Risk
  - Probably Not At Risk
  - Not At Risk



- 7.42 A number of tributaries of the Stort cut through principal green wedges within the town. The majority of the District is identified by the Environment Agency's Water Framework Directive (WFD) data as being 'probably not at risk' of low flows due to abstraction pressures, with the land immediately south of the town being identified as 'not at risk'. However, the north-south tributary valley at Gilston Park, immediately north of the town and the Stort Valley is identified as being probably at risk of low flows. Land around Matching Green south east of Harlow is similarly identified as being 'probably at risk' of low flows. The confluence of the Stort and Lee, west of Roydon and which encompasses Rye Meads, is identified as being vulnerable to low flows ('at risk').
- 7.43 Much of the Stort Valley within the study area is identified as being of poor ecological quality, whilst the Gilston Park tributary and Canons Brook/Todd Brook in the principal green wedge are identified as being of moderate ecological quality. The Stort also has a heavily modified hydro morphology, due to part canalisation and historic construction of the Lee and Stort Navigation.
- 7.44 Invasive species concentrations and clusters occur at various points in the Stort Valley, notably stands of Indian and Himalayan Balsam in the River Stort and associated tributaries at Roydon, and also at various points along the Navigation between Eastwick and Harlow Town Station, in addition to a stand of Japanese Knotweed on the Navigation near Mead Lodge.
- 7.45 The following high intensity traffic routes (5000 cars per day or greater) indicate potential issues in respect of air quality: A1184, A414, A1169, A1019, A1025. Of these, the A1169, A1019 and A1025 are integral to parts of the green wedge network in Harlow (affecting the Hare Street and Little Parndon, Netteswell and Mark Hall, Great Parndon and Toddbrook and Bush Fair and Harlow Common neighbourhoods), indicating priority areas for enhancement both of green infrastructure experience and potentially also air quality, to contribute to improved ecosystem functionality. In the wider study area, the M11 and A414 are the principal high use intensity roads. Woodland buffering to the M11 to deliver GI functionality identified in other analyses could assist with attenuation and air quality amelioration here.

#### **Sound ecosystems: Key pointers for green infrastructure at the District level:**

- Creation of enhanced space for water and associated habitat opportunities in the principal green wedge associated with Canons Brook/Todd Brook, and also in the area around the Stort and Lee confluence at Roydon. This could also help address hydrological and ecological quality issues.
- Further naturalisation and restoration plus positive management of the Stort Valley landscape (addressing any invasive species issues), but also seeking to link this with its context – the network of tributaries within the green wedges – expressing these more as part of the green space network. This enhanced landscape expression could also extend to other minor tributaries such as at Gilston, creating landscape and green infrastructure links with East Herts District (as set out in the East Herts District Green Infrastructure Plan).
- The principal green wedges intersected by the road network, as described above, provide potential opportunities for new woodland and tree planting to deliver aspects of the Gibberd vision of 'urban forestry' or a 'town of trees', and to provide linkage of existing woodland sites.
- In the wider study area, the M11 corridor in particular presents opportunities for structural landscape attenuation to help ameliorate air quality, but also to enhance landscape experience (aural effects) and to create greater landscape connectivity (links to the forest and ancient woodland network south and east of the town).

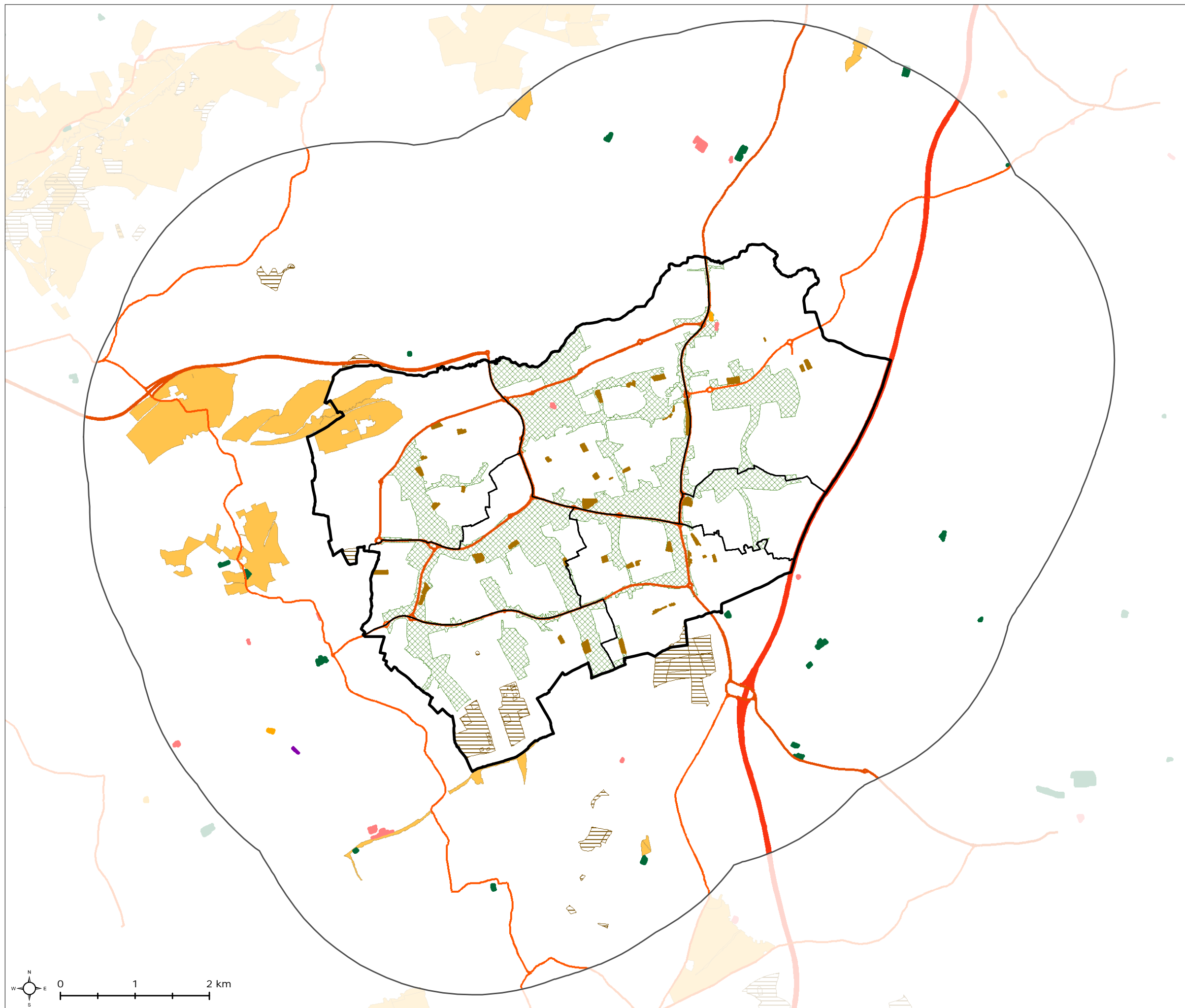
- 7.46 The above findings are drawn out in more detail for the neighbourhood level analysis set out in **table 7.2** overleaf.



**Table 7.2: Neighbourhood analysis: Sound ecosystems**

| Neighbourhood                     | Analysis  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Old Harlow                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Stort tributary and section of the Stort Valley in this neighbourhood is of poor ecological quality and modified riverine morphology, indicating potential for enhancement through naturalisation and creation of greater habitat connectivity as part of the GI network.</li> </ul>   |
| Netteswell/Mark Hall              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor ecological quality and modified river morphology is associated with both the Stort and its catchment tributaries such as the Cobbins Brook.</li> <li>Scope for wetland enhancement to improve ecological quality and connectivity, as shown on the proposals from Figure 8.1.</li> <li>A number of main roads (two spurs of the A414) run through the neighbourhood (green wedge east of Mark Hall Park, Temple Fields Industrial Estate). The former presents opportunities for tree planting to assist with air quality improvement (plus green space quality improvement as per the open space assessment).</li> </ul> |
| Church Langley                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The northern part of the neighbourhood falls within the Stort catchment, which is identified as being of poor ecological quality and modified riverine morphology, however this seems to relate more to the strategic scale at which the Water Framework Directive (WFD) data has been drawn rather than an issue which can be addressed through green infrastructure proposals for this neighbourhood.</li> </ul>   |
| Bush Fair/Harlow Common           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The analysis indicates no issues or opportunities in respect of this GI function.</li> </ul>   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The analysis indicates no issues or opportunities in respect of this GI function.</li> </ul>   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few issues are revealed by this analysis, with just a small area of land in the north of the neighbourhood (associated with the Cobbins Brook Tributary of the Stort) of poor ecological status and modified riverine morphology. This suggests potential for localised GI/wetland habitat and ecosystem enhancement.</li> </ul>   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parts of the area associated with the Stort Valley floor and floodplain fall within zones identified by the WFD as being of poor ecological quality and modified hydro morphology. As such they represent areas of GI enhancement potential, which could also tie into landscape improvements in relation to appreciation and understanding of regionally rare landscape types described above.</li> </ul>   |





# Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.6

## Productive Green Environments

### Key

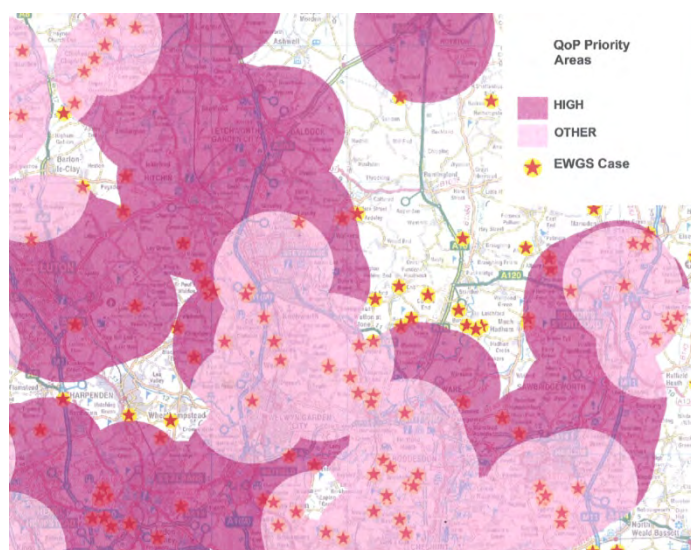
- Harlow district boundary
- Harlow neighbourhood areas
- 3km buffer
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- EWGS Grants
- Allotments & community gardens
- Traditional Orchards**
- Active management
- Part-managed
- Unmanaged
- Management unknown
- Green wedges
- Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship

Map Scale @ A3:1:50,000



for Harlow District Council

- 7.47 Analysis of map data indicates a high presence of orchard sites along the Stort Valley and along the Hertfordshire-Essex boundary. They form a clear part of the floodplain meadow landscape pattern and there is an opportunity to extend and enhance such provision in both landscape character and productive terms. This pattern extends further north into Hertfordshire along the Stort e.g. clusters in the valley at Sawbridgeworth and isolated orchard sites such as in the remnant parkland at Gilston and at Eastwick Village. There is also a scattering of traditionally managed orchard sites around Hastingwood, within North Weald Basset, to the south east of Harlow, with more fragmented distribution to the south of the town and towards Roydon/Nazeing.
- 7.48 In terms of allotment provision within the study area, this is mainly concentrated in the urban area. Analysis indicates deficiency in the following neighbourhood: Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye.
- 7.49 To consider productive landscapes in more strategic terms, agriculture is an important part of the functionality of the larger green wedges. Further growth in Harlow may place pressure on the viability of this land, potentially providing a focus for a community supported agriculture project/community farm, or, for smaller areas of relict farmland, alternative forms of production such as sustainably managed woodland for woodfuel. A strategic reconsideration of agriculture in the green wedges could also be used to better zoned areas for gypsy horse grazing which currently takes place in dispersed locations across the green wedge network – creation of a dedicated area for grazing, to positively reflect other functions such as landscape setting and context.
- 7.50 Land managed through Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) and Organic (Entry) Level Stewardship (OELS): Within the study area, no land is subject to HLS agreements. OELS take up is represented by a swathe of farmland on the eastern most part of the 3km study area, between Envilles Farm to the north and Bobbingworth Village to the south, also extending westwards as far as Bowlers Green and High Laver.
- 7.51 A number of woodland sites to Harlow's fringe are managed through existing Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) agreements, such as Parndon Wood and adjacent ancient woodland sites which together make up the Harlow Woods SSSI. Also at Latton and smaller woodland clusters to the south, Hunsdonbury and near Eastwick to the north of the Stort Valley. The town and large tracts of its peri-urban landscape to the south east, south and west lie in a priority area for enhanced WGS take up for woodland creation, as identified by the Forestry Commission 'Quality of Place' project. This would provide a key opportunity for sustainably managed woodland for permaculture uses, and which could also be realised in appropriate parts of the green wedge network, as shown on **Figures 8.1 onwards**. Priority areas for woodland creation under the Quality of Place project are shown below.



Above: Quality of Place. Priority and other areas for woodland creation around Harlow, showing also existing EWGS schemes (September 2010). Source; Forestry Commission.

**Productive green environments: Key pointers for green infrastructure at the District level:**

- Main opportunities appear to be represented by the green wedges and associated rationalisation of uses and activities e.g. to enhance multiplicity of functions and productivity, such as in relation to expanded woodland creation in areas of 'under-performing' green space. Also an improved diversity of woodland types, covering sustainably managed woodland for wood fuel and orchards/street orchards, as foci for local food production.
- Expanded woodland linkage to provide settlement foiling/improved landscape edges and settings for future development, especially re-connecting woodland sites to the southern/south eastern fringe of the town, could also assist with enhanced uptake of EWGS schemes, particularly for sustainable woodland or silvicultural management.
- Potential community supported agriculture/urban farm project as a focus for the principal green wedge at Latton Farm, and which would also positively respond to future development pressures in landscape and historic terms.

7.52 The above findings are drawn out in more detail for the neighbourhood level analysis set out in **table 7.3** overleaf.

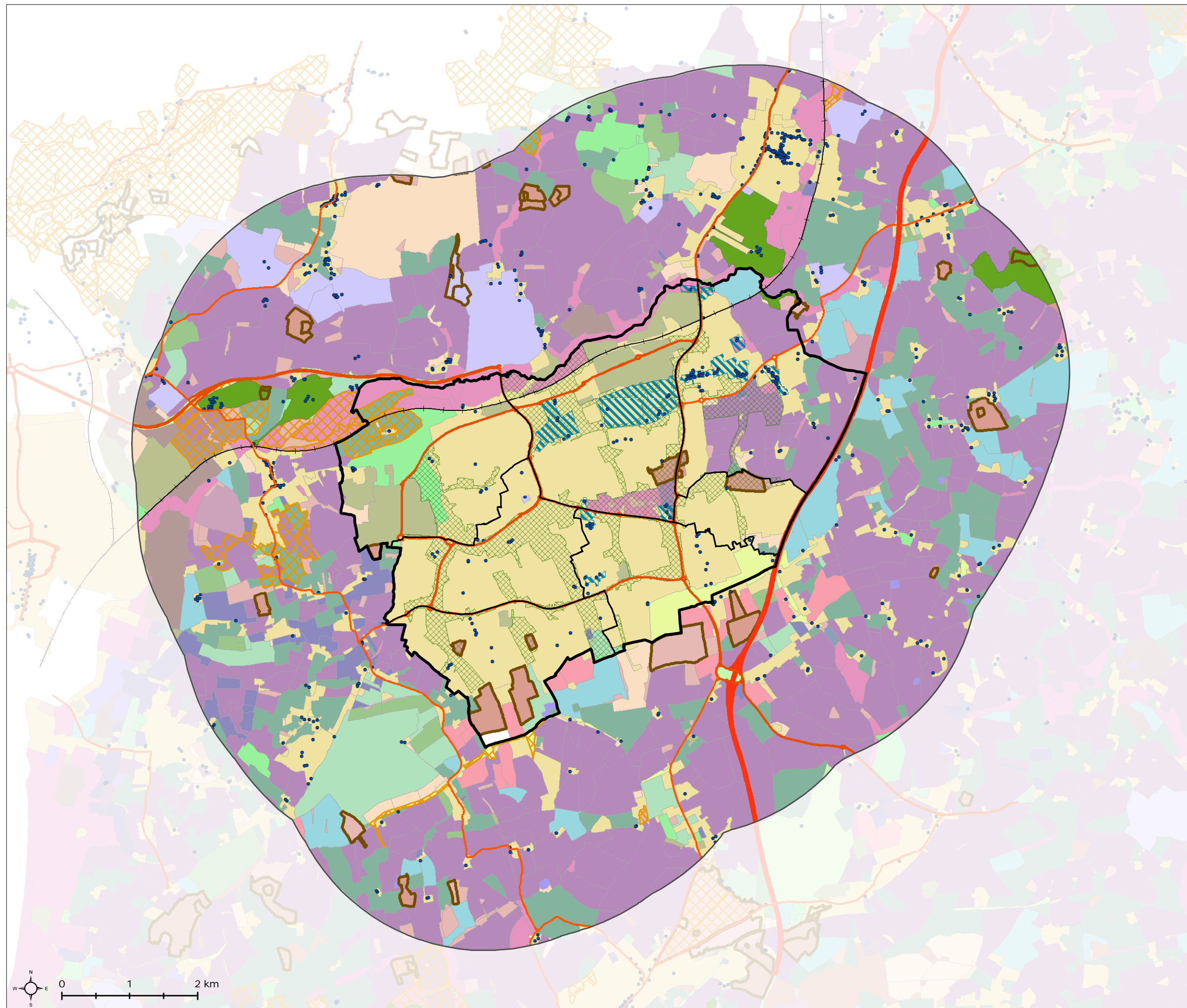
**Table 7.3: Neighbourhood analysis: Productive green environments**

| Neighbourhood                     | Analysis  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Old Harlow                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scattered provision of allotment sites south of the Old Town. Opportunity to extend community garden and orchard provision (traditionally managed) allied to the floodplain/wetland green space immediately east of the town.</li> <li>Little woodland cover, and the few sites present are not managed through English Woodland Grant Schemes (EWGS), indicating potential opportunity for uptake and enhanced silvicultural systems/woodland managed for biofuel.</li> </ul>   |
| Netteswell/Mark Hall              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relatively low levels of functionality of productive landscapes, with a scattering of allotment sites at Mark Hall North, plus Netteswell East and along the A414 in the southern part of the neighbourhood.</li> <li>Green spaces such as the amenity green spaces in Mark Hall North present an opportunity for enhanced productive landscape in the form of community gardens/street orchards (Figure 8.1 onwards).</li> <li>Woodlands shown as part of the green space enhancement on Figure 8.1 onwards have potential for productivity e.g. management for woodfuel through biomass/short rotation coppice, also helping to improve green space quality in this area.</li> </ul> |
| Church Langley                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The analysis indicates very few current assets in Church Langley, other than the allotment site in the western most part of the neighbourhood. Given the degree of relatively low functionality amenity green space in Church Langley, this provides a potential opportunity for additional community garden provision.</li> </ul>   |
| Bush Fair/Harlow Common           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The only productive landscape resources in this neighbourhood are a scattering of small allotment sites in an east-west band across the centre of the neighbourhood, plus a small number of such sites to the settlement edge, near Latton Common.</li> <li>Improving the diversity of amenity green spaces in the component parts of the neighbourhood could also extend to provision of additional community gardens/street orchards, plus scope for greater afforestation of the green wedges/wide verges (for biofuel/sustainably managed woodland). This would help improve open spaces with low quality and value scores in the northern part of this neighbourhood.</li> </ul>  |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The primary/largest ancient woodland resources are already positively managed through take up of English Woodland Grant Schemes (EWGS) and therefore there is little scope for further take up.</li> <li>The only other productive landscape resources in the neighbourhood are a small scattering of allotments in the eastern most part of the neighbourhood. As such, given the limited functionality of other areas of amenity green space in large parts of the neighbourhood, there may be an opportunity for greater levels of local/community food production – community gardens/street orchards – elsewhere/in such amenity green spaces.</li> </ul>                         |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key assets are a small scattering of allotment sites, primarily associated with the principal green wedge. There is therefore scope for enhanced functionality in relation to productive landscapes, in the form of extending EWGS take up and sustainable woodland management/silviculture for sites</li> </ul>   |



**Table 7.3: Neighbourhood analysis: Productive green environments**

| Neighbourhood                  | Analysis  |
|--------------------------------|---|
|                                | <p>such as Netteswell Plantation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A number of allotment sites in the principal Cobbin's Brook Green Wedge are in areas of low quality and low value, offering scope for enhancement of such sites.</li></ul>  |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key opportunities are represented by large parts of the Stort Valley floor being under Higher Level Stewardship or HLS (potential for greater levels of uptake of this scheme), plus a scattering of small allotment sites at the edges of the green wedge. Given the limited functionality of other areas of amenity green space in large parts of the neighbourhood, there may be an opportunity for greater levels of local/community food production – community gardens/street orchards, elsewhere/in such spaces.</li><li>• Re-introduction of traditionally managed orchard in the Stort Valley in areas where they respond to historic landscape character, may also be an opportunity to enhance productivity of the local landscape. Also to increase levels of sustainably managed/biofuel woodland planting as screening/foiling to large industrial estates such as Pinnacles.</li><li>• A number of allotment sites in the neighbourhood are spaces of low quality and low value, offering scope for enhancement of such sites.</li></ul> |



# Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.7

## Conserving and Understanding Historic Character

### Key

- Harlow district boundary
- Harlow neighbourhood areas
- 3km buffer
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Railway line
- Listed buildings
- Ancient woodland
- Park and Gardens
- Enviromental Stewardship Agreements**
- Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
- HDC Conservation Areas
- Green wedges
- Historic Landscape Character**
- 19th century enclosures
- TBC
- Ancient woodlands
- Commons and heaths
- Enclosures from historic parkland
- Fields created during the 20th C
- Fields modified from a mix of earlier landscape types
- Horticulture
- Industrial areas
- Landscape parklands
- Leisure areas
- Modified co-axial enclosures
- Modified other early enclosures
- Other early enclosures
- Riverine meadow
- Settlements
- Transport and communications
- Tree plantations
- Water bodies

Map Scale @ A3:1:55,000



for Harlow District Council

- 7.53 No historic landscape types identified as rare in the Hertfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data fall within the Hertfordshire part of the 3km study area. The Essex HLC has not assigned rarity to any of its historic landscape types.
- 7.54 Within the 3km peri-urban envelope around the town, there is however a distribution of historic landscape types which is significant in terms of green infrastructure opportunity. These include swathes of riverine meadow in the Stort Valley floodplain, considerable areas of (modified) early enclosures south, east and west of the town, interspersed with fields modified from earlier landscape patterns and areas of modified early co axial enclosure field boundaries. Also blocks of ancient woodland such as Parndon Woods and smaller blocks within the settlement envelope, forming the legacy of the pre New Town landscape pattern and often associated with former minor parkland estates such as Parndon Hall and Kingsmoor House. Parklands on the plateaux overlooking the Stort Valley e.g. Gilston (un registered, relict parkland), Pishiobury (Registered Park and Garden), Briggens, Stansteadbury (in the Stort Valley) and Rowneybury, are also significant, as are commons and heathlands (Harlow Common) and a network of former commons, which along with associated ancient woodlands form integral parts of the green chain around Harlow. Also within the study area and east of the M11 is the registered parkland of Down Hall. A number of the neighbourhoods make reference to former landed estates which once occupied their footprint, such as Mark Hall.
- 7.55 Stansteadbury Park is managed through Entry Level Stewardship, as is a large amount of surrounding farmland here and fringing the adjoining Briggens Park. The northern tip of ancient woodland within Epping Forest, in the outer part of the 3km study area to the south, is also positively managed through stewardship.
- 7.56 A significant number of archaeological sites help define the urban-rural fringe of Harlow, including monastic remains (site of Latton Priory, on the southern edge of the town) and a number of moated medieval settlement/farmstead sites in the arc of countryside to the south, east and west, in addition to a former medieval village site at Eastwick, immediately west of Gilston Park. The legacy of historic settlement is also reflected in the 'etymology' of parts of the New Town e.g. Tye Green indicates an historic settlement. It is also apparent through the historic settlement pattern which was subsumed within the New Town layout, including the core of the Old Town (Conservation Area), in the Old Harlow neighbourhood.
- 7.57 There is a notable urban historic green infrastructure legacy associated with New Town Planning in the study area. Frederick Gibberd's own garden (Registered Park and Garden, Grade 2) on the eastern edge of the town was used by the designer as a microcosm of his intention for Harlow and to test many design ideas. It forms one of the key historic green infrastructure legacy sites in the district.
- 7.58 A number of aspects of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century urban GI legacy of Harlow are recognised through Conservation Area designation e.g. part of Sylvia Crowe's Town Park within Netteswell and Mark Hall neighbourhood, or through policy designation (the green wedges) although a considerably greater number of assets are largely un-protected e.g. Crowe's landforms/landshaping in the Stort Valley near the industrial estates, aspects of detailed design of urban green space within the Green Wedges (which often form the setting for an extensive collection of commissioned public art on the Harlow Sculpture Trail) and within housing courts. These often display a simple, but typical New Town vernacular with a limited hard and soft materials palette, and extensive use of Silver Birch. Many important assets are un-interpreted, and, in some cases, poorly linked e.g. Town Park's connections with the town centre.
- 7.59 Formal designed landscapes and urban green space are a notable aspect of Harlow's historic legacy and sense of place, although again this is often un-protected, particularly in and around the town centre. The Gibberd Water Gardens (Hare Street and Little Parndon neighbourhood) are a notable example, having been re sited to accommodate urban regeneration, with consequent loss of setting and de listing (formerly a Registered Park and Garden).
- 7.60 A number of residential areas and layouts are protected through Conservation Area designation, e.g. Mark Hall North (one of the earliest Harlow residential areas, within the Netteswell and Mark Hall neighbourhood), and the distinctive radial housing layout within part of Tye Green/Passmores (within the Great Parndon and Toddbrook neighbourhood).





The historic urban design and GI legacy:

Above: There is potential to enhance the setting of the restored, re located Water Gardens by considering the design and management of the green wedge with which they are visually connected to the south

Right: The wide, often relatively unobstructed streets of the New Town offer scope for urban greening and water sensitive urban design whilst still maintaining the simple, pared down 1940s and 1950s vernacular



### Conserving and understanding historic character: Key pointers for green infrastructure at the District level:

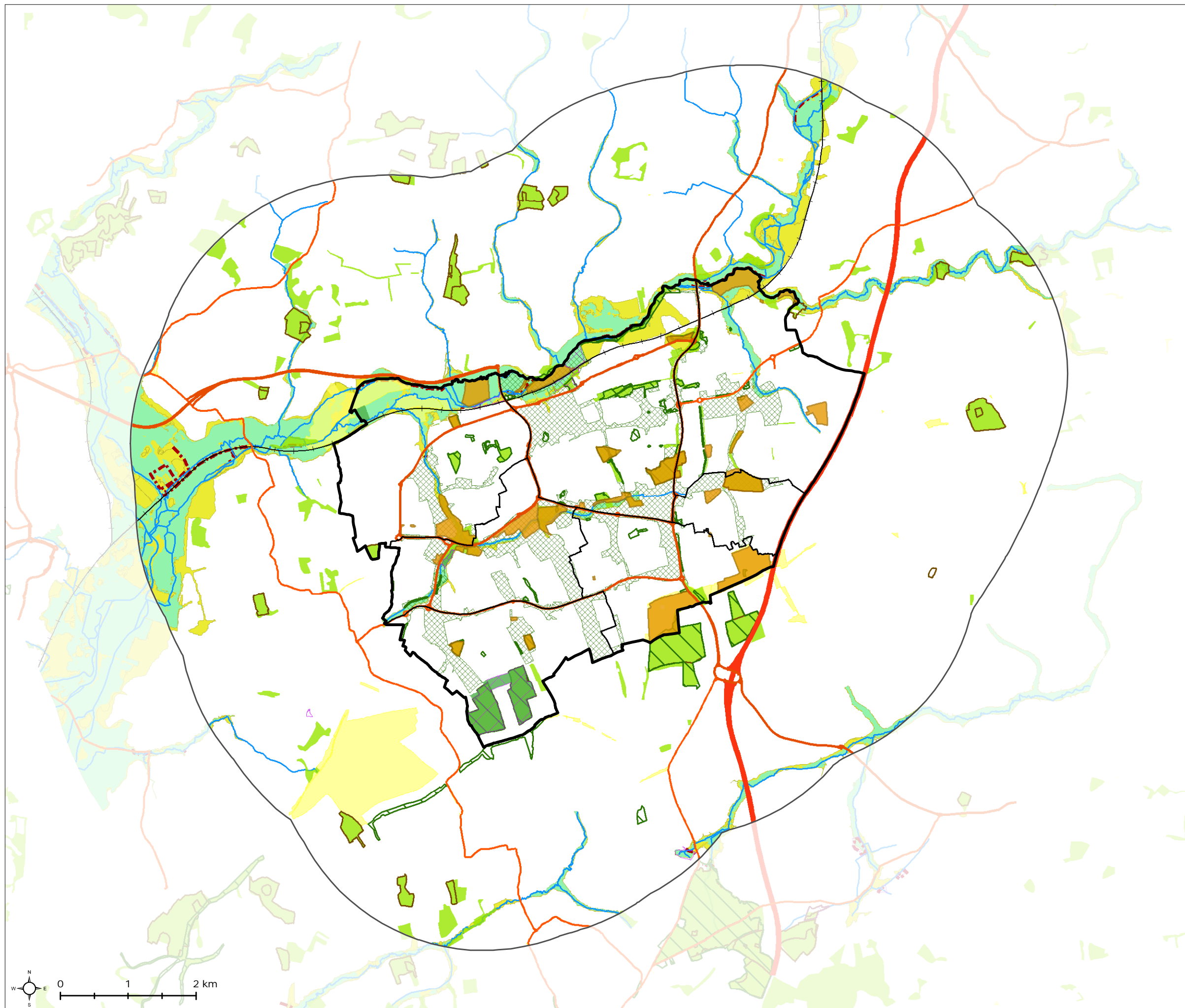
- Recognition and protection of remaining non designated 1940s/50s urban GI heritage as an intrinsic aspect of Harlow's sense of place.
- Considering Gibberd Garden and the Harlow Sculpture Trail in a more strategic context e.g. links to Perry Green and Henry Moore Sculpture Garden and therefore physical/access connections to East Herts GI network via the Stort Valley.
- Re interpreting and accentuating Modernist designed landscape features such as land shaping in the green wedges through lower intensity landscape management and using areas of 'trapped countryside' and landscape structure as the template to guide the form of future change.
- Greater interpretation of the relict landscape features which preceded Harlow as local foci for walking/cycling routes. Also of landscape features of Harlow's hinterland such as historically valuable if relatively under played resources such as Gilston Park (working with East Herts District Council) or views/visual relationships with Rye Hill and Epping Forest.
- Holistic consideration and interpretation of aspects of the landscape fabric which pre dated the New Town such as the arboretum near Mark Hall's site and the original settlement pattern of former rural villages and churches.
- Enhanced landscape connectivity, particularly to the southern and eastern fringes of the town, and which responds to the historic landscape fabric, e.g. the mosaic of ancient woodland, remnant commons and heaths.
- Enhancement of positive management of heritage assets through environmental stewardship schemes.
- A 'parklands trail' opportunity, linking key historic nodes and elements and interpreting points of interest, this could include an improved urban green space access link between Town Park and the Town Centre.



7.61 The above findings are drawn out in more detail for the neighbourhood level analysis set out in **table 7.4** overleaf.

| Table 7.4: Neighbourhood analysis: Conserving and understanding historic character |   |
|--|---|
| Neighbourhood  | Analysis  |
| Old Harlow   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key assets include the registered landscape at the Gibberd Garden in the Stort Valley, plus important historic landscape types (early Enclosure field systems) associated with the tributary brook immediately east of Old Harlow.</li> <li>A rich urban heritage resource is formed by the Conservation Areas of Old Harlow. This offers the opportunity for improved links to the wider GI context (Stort Valley, woodland network associated with New Hall to the south) through improved way marking from the Conservation Area.</li> </ul>  |
| Netteswell/Mark Hall   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Roman Temple on the banks of the Stort is a significant historic resource for this neighbourhood, presenting an opportunity for promotion via the Stort Valley Path and for enhancement of interpretation and setting as part of the GI network, plus improved green space value.</li> <li>Mark Hall neighbourhood, laid out from 1946, was the first Harlow neighbourhood, (also now a Conservation Area). Its layout is an intrinsic part of New Town urban design, but presents potential for sensitive green space enhancement in relation to the other GI functions as described above.</li> <li>The neighbourhood contains the relic designed landscape of the former Mark Hall estate, and presents opportunities for interpretation as a focus for local greenway routes.</li> <li>Town Park is the key historic green space in this area. Highly valued, it presents opportunities for enhancement as the open space assessment indicates it to be of low quality. Primary efforts should be in improving approaches/removing unsuitable structure planting not related to the original design/improved view management – connections to the Stort Valley.</li> <li>Significant historic landscape character types are ancient (modified) co-axial enclosures in the Stort Valley and Cobbins Brook Tributary - significant examples of early field boundaries. Ancient woodland at Mark Hall Wood; remnant riverside commons and heaths in the Temple Fields Industrial Estate – potential areas for green space quality/value enhancement.</li> </ul> |
| Church Langley   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The few historical resources in this neighbourhood are the ancient woodland at Brenthall Wood, plus small areas of early Enclosure field systems north of Harlow Common and Hoggs Farm. Brenthall Wood offers potential for interpretation of the historic, landscape character and ecological resource it offers, through low key promotion of routes into it from the Church Langley housing estate.</li> </ul>  |
| Bush Fair/Harlow Common  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key heritage resources/important historic landscape types in this neighbourhood are the commons and heaths at Latton Common/Harlow Common. These are legible as historic landscape features although would benefit from enhancement through re-introduction of appropriate traditional management such as grazing.</li> <li>Two of the neighbourhood centres in the western part of the neighbourhood are also designated Conservation Areas, with such urban layouts a key part of the historic GI focussed urban design legacy of many parts of Harlow.</li> </ul>   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principal historic landscape resources/important historic landscape types in this neighbourhood are ancient woodlands at Parndon Wood/Hospital Wood (Harlow Woods SSSI complex), plus areas of modified co-axial and other early Enclosure field systems associated with these sites. Also areas of relic ancient woodland within the urban footprint, such as Burnett Wood and Maunds Wood. All offer the opportunity for conservation and interpretation as part of the local GI</li> </ul>  |

| Table 7.4: Neighbourhood analysis: Conserving and understanding historic character |  |
|--|--|
| Neighbourhood  | Analysis   |
|  | network (this would contribute to enhanced perception of green space value in relation to Burnett Wood/Maunds Wood, as described above).   |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No rare or important historic landscape types exist in this neighbourhood. The principal heritage resource is the Gibberd Water Gardens (re-sited, formerly a registered landscape until their re-location). A key opportunity is in relation to interpretation of this site and enhancing connective links to other important sites/foci of the original New Town Centre/elements of the modernist Sculpture Trail within the town.</li> </ul>   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key aspects of historic landscape character in this neighbourhood are important historic landscape types which cover large parts of the Stort Valley floor, together with areas of early Enclosure field boundaries immediately south west of the railway line. These present opportunities for conservation and enhancement as integral parts of the local GI network.</li> <li>Some parts of the early Enclosure field systems are open spaces identified as being of low quality and value in the open space assessment. Wetland landscape restoration here offers the potential to contribute to improved quality of such sites.</li> </ul> |



# Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.8

## Sustainability and Responding to Climate Change

### Key

- Harlow district boundary
- 3km buffer
- Harlow neighbourhood areas
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Railway line
- LNR
- SSSI
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Accessible Woodland
- Ancient woodland
- Lakes
- National Woodland Inventory
- Main rivers
- Open Access Land
- Green wedges
- Environment Agency Flood Map
- Natural Defences
- Flood zone 3
- Flood zone 2

Map Scale @ A3:1:55,000



for Harlow District Council



- 7.62 Visual analysis of aerial photograph imagery indicates relatively comprehensive levels of tree cover across all the neighbourhoods in public and private realm, although there are relatively few town centre street trees, and there is scope for further tree cover here, in addition to the recent tree planting that has been undertaken in the Market Square and West Gate Square. Main issues are likely to relate to the uniform age of the mature tree stock across the town and ensuring that tree cover is maintained for the long term by appropriate management and phased replacement when required (potential tree strategy).
- 7.63 As indicated in the access to recreation analysis above, accessibility of areas of woodland which forms part of the town green space network (urban green lungs/shading and cooling) is variable and has the potential to be improved in a number of instances such as at Netteswell Plantation.
- 7.64 Whilst there is a comprehensive level of woodland cover, there is potential for more e.g. to reinforce landscape structure in the often monumental green wedges, as part of an approach to enhancing productive landscape provision (community forestry, street orchards) of if the green wedges were to be rationalised (e.g. consideration of alternative 'landscape types' on smaller fragmented farmlands at the 'edge of their viability' - woodland as heat sink and fuel source.
- 7.65 Invasive species including 'notifiable' air borne species such as Japanese Knotweed are potentially an issue in parts of the Stort Valley and this may be exacerbated by future climate change/temperature fluctuation, necessitating proactive management of the problem at source.
- 7.66 All of the Stort Valley and associated land extending south to and partly beyond the railway line (and including the northern industrial estate) lies within the EA floodplain (EA flood zone 3). The floodplain extends to the Canons Brook and Todd Brook which form the physical foci for the principal and western green wedges. The north-south tributary immediately east of the town boundary also falls within the flood zone. Positive landscape management would be beneficial in relation to these tributaries, both making space for water and giving enhanced expression to riparian landscape character.



Above and right: Urban woodlands are a valuable green lung in many neighbourhoods. Whilst this one at Parndon shows good accessibility, in other sites this is more variable



### **Sustainability and responding to climate change: Key pointers for green infrastructure at the District level:**

- A Tree Strategy identifying areas of phased addition and replacement or areas where the landscape character of the green wedges could be enhanced through new tree planting e.g. settlement gateways and approaches, to provide other, multiple functions such as enhanced sense of place and landscape and biodiversity connectivity.
- Review of the functionality of parts of the green wedges e.g. small parcels of grazing farmland and where these could become an alternative form of agriculture which could enhance climate change adaptation (shading/cooling/microclimate) such as community forestry/orchards. Initial suggestions of broad areas for tree and woodland planting are made on **Figure 8.1**.
- Landscape restoration and positive management of the riparian environment of the Stort Valley to combat any incidences of invasive species.
- 'Making space for water' and enhancing the wetland environment of the Stort Valley to enable a more flexible approach to flood risk management, to help balance out areas where the flood plain has become constricted by earlier developments.
- Enhanced expression of the tributary network in green spaces existing and proposed, as part of the 'making space for water' approach. The western green wedge associated with the Canons Brook/Todd Brook may also present an opportunity here for enhanced multi-functional wet woodland creation to help intercept flood risk upstream. This could also contribute to other functions such as landscape setting, context and experience and also access to recreation, for example new parklands and woodland based natural play in the principal green wedge.
- Enhanced woodland linkage and tree planting to the Stort Valley crests, as proposed in other functional analyses, has the potential to contribute to surface water catchment and assist with flood risk management more strategically.
- Consideration of further town centre street tree planting which fits the New Town palette as part of an holistic, 'closed loop' approach to the public realm (Water Sensitive Urban Design, including planted filter strips and swales as part of the streetscape network).

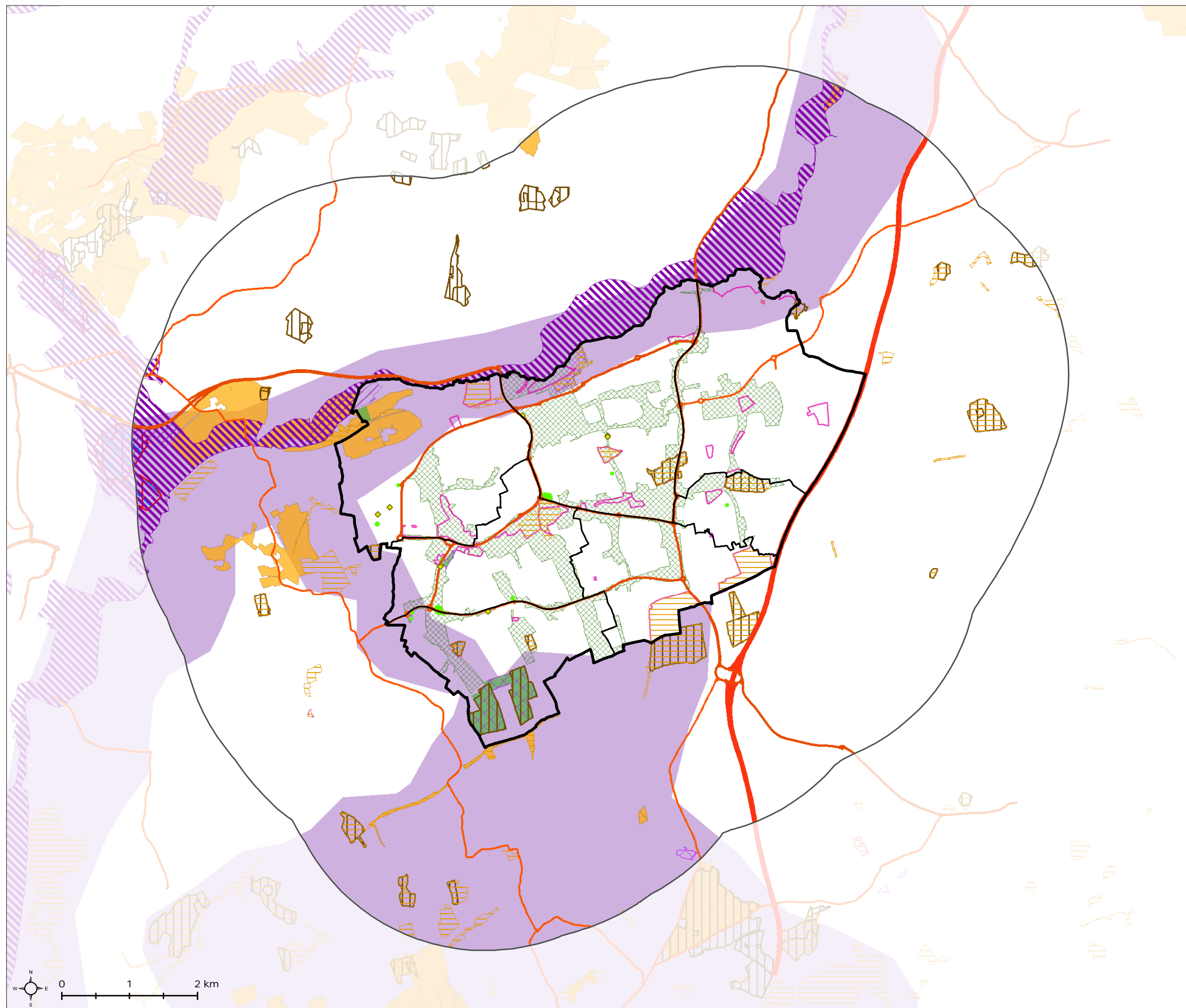
7.67 The above findings are drawn out in more detail for the neighbourhood level analysis set out in **table 7.5** overleaf.

**Table 7.5: Neighbourhood analysis: Sustainability and responding to climate change (including flood attenuation and water management)**

| Neighbourhood                     | Analysis  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Old Harlow                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EA floodzone 2 abuts the eastern edge of Harlow Old Town, and potentially provides a focus for enhanced green space, adding greater functionality/expression to the brook tributary. This could be usefully considered with other functions e.g. historic landscape character, e.g. conserving and enhancing related historic landscape types in the floodplain (see historic character analysis).</li> </ul>  |
| Netteswell/Mark Hall              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large areas of existing development in the EA Flood Zone (Temple Fields Industrial Estate) – a need to make increased space for water/enhanced flood management provision, as shown in the areas on Figure 8.1 onwards.</li> <li>Many amenity green spaces present an opportunity for greater levels of tree planting for enhanced shading and cooling. Such planting should be drawn both from a palette appropriate to New Town planting design, of light, open habit to help promote surveillance and permeability. They should also be from climate change adapted species/cultivars resistant to climate and air borne pathogens/diseases.</li> </ul>   |
| Church Langley                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The analysis indicates no issues in respect of this function. However in the western part of the neighbourhood are springs which feed the Cobbins Brook, near to the woodland network associated with Brenthall Wood – scope for greater tree planting in this area to help with evapotranspiration and downstream flood management in other neighbourhoods.</li> </ul>  |
| Bush Fair/Harlow Common           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The analysis indicates few issues (and therefore potential opportunities) connected with this function. However, heathland habitats such as Latton Common/Harlow Common could potentially be vulnerable to droughts resulting from climate change, suggesting a need for compensatory habitat provision.</li> <li>Many of the neighbourhood amenity green spaces in Bush Fair/Harlow Common would benefit from more diverse management and design features to improve their functionality. This could also include appropriate tree planting drawn from New Town/ornamental species palette, to help create additional shading and cooling.</li> </ul>   |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The analysis indicates few issues (and therefore potential opportunities) connected with this function. However, woodland and heathland habitats such as the Harlow Woods SSSI complex and surrounding commons could potentially be affected by droughts resulting from climate change, suggesting a need for compensatory habitat provision/to diversify habitats.</li> <li>Many of the neighbourhood amenity green spaces in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye would benefit from more diverse management and design features to improve their functionality. This could also include appropriate tree planting drawn from New Town/ornamental species palette, to help create additional shading and cooling with use of climate change adapted species and cultivars.</li> </ul> |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key issues are the presence of the EA flood zone in relation to the Cobbins Brook, although this mostly lies in expansive areas of 'soft' green space and therefore the need to 'make space for water' is less of an issue than for other locations in Harlow.</li> <li>Many of the housing estate amenity green spaces offer potential for</li> </ul>   |

| Table 7.5: Neighbourhood analysis: Sustainability and responding to climate change (including flood attenuation and water management) |   |
|---|---|
| Neighbourhood   | Analysis  |
|   | greater levels of tree planting (improved shading and cooling), as part of a consideration of improved wider functionality of these spaces (diversifying features and attendant landscape management to facilitate multiple functionality).   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key issues are the presence of the EA flood zone in the Stort Valley floor and Canon's Brook Tributary. Generally 'space for water' is maintained in this neighbourhood although compromised in the north where parts of Temple Fields Industrial Estate have been built into the flood plain. This suggests a need for greater compensatory wetland provision and green space in other parts of the valley/upstream.</li> </ul> |





# Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.10

## Biodiversity

### Key

- Harlow district boundary
- Harlow neighbourhood areas
- 3km buffer
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Key Biodiversity Areas
- Ancient woodland
- Nature Designations**
- SPA
- Ramsar
- Local Nature Reserve
- Wildlife Sites**
- Wildlife Reserves
- Essex Local Wildlife Sites
- HDC Wildlife Sites
- Bee Orchids
- SSSI
- Areas of Bee Orchids
- Environmental Stewardship Agreements**
- Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
- Green wedges
- Living landscapes

Map Scale @ A3: 1:55,000



for Harlow District Council

- 7.68 The urban area is fringed by two Living Landscapes defined by the Hertfordshire and Middlesex and Essex Wildlife Trusts, the Stort Valley and Epping Forest, which are linked by the Harlow Woods SSSI ancient woodland complex to the south western edge of the town and by a chain of Local Wildlife Sites to the west. Living Landscapes are those with a high presence of sustainable, functioning and healthy ecosystems and a rich distribution of natural and cultural features. The Living Landscapes extend to the urban fringe of a number of the Harlow neighbourhoods, namely Hare Street and Little Parndon, Netteswell and Mark Hall, Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye and a small section of Old Harlow. The Living Landscapes in the Harlow area are physically linked to others in close proximity, such as the Lee Valley and South Hertfordshire Woodlands Living Landscapes, which are also designated as Hertfordshire Key Biodiversity Areas. The Living Landscapes often form an 'umbrella' for a mosaic of habitats and designated nature conservation sites, covering the full spectrum of protection from national and European (Epping Forest SSSI, Harlow Woods SSSI/LNR, and, within the Stort and Lee Valleys, Hunsdon Meads/Rye Meads/Amwell Quarry SSSIs, plus a chain of marshland SSSI sites in the Upper Stort near Sawbridgeworth) to local (Local Wildlife Sites or LoWS). Such sites, whilst extensive in area, are often relatively fragmented in distribution.
- 7.69 In strategic terms, Harlow and environs have a rich biodiversity resource. Main issues appear to relate to local level connectivity between these strategic areas and sites, specifically in the urban parts of the District and in the majority of the neighbourhoods. There is however a notable swathe of locally designated riparian habitats and associated woodlands in much of the principal (Todds Brook) green wedge, which serves the Great Parndon and Toddbrook and Netteswell and Mark Hall neighbourhoods. Church Langley is also relatively well served, due to the presence of the ancient woodland at Brenthall Wood/Barnsley Wood. The situation is similar in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye neighbourhood, due to the presence of minor woodland sites which once formed part of the network of minor parklands here. Many of the commons fringing the town to the south are also recognised as being of local nature conservation interest through LoWS designation. However, the local biodiversity network is otherwise somewhat fragmented with severances created by the primary road layout. Large parts of the green wedges, particularly associated with the transport corridors, are also intensively managed as amenity green space and mown grass, which currently limits opportunities for connectivity. However there are pockets of local habitat interest within these swathes e.g. localised concentrations of bee orchid in scattered sites within the green wedge network in Netteswell and Mark Hall, Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye, Great Parndon and Toddbrook and Hare Street and Little Parndon (the latter within areas of settlement fringe landscape).
- 7.70 In terms of access to nature, a number of the locally designated sites are largely inaccessible, due both to physical barriers such as road layouts and current landscape management, e.g. the wildlife site associated with the brook immediately east of the Pinnacles Industrial Estate in the western part of town, or Netteswell Plantation, located in the principal green wedge south of the Water Gardens site. Access to other local sites such as ancient woodlands north of Church Langley (Brenthall Wood/Barnsley Wood) and the network of smaller woodland sites (such as the relics of Parndon Hall parkland) is more comprehensive.
- 7.71 Of the total nature conservation asset, 35% of the designated resource (SSSI and LNR) is positively managed through Woodland Grant Schemes, whilst none is protected through stewardship.



Left: Common land and relict heathland sites such as the chain of sites south of the town and adjacent to the Harlow Woods SSSI complex have the potential for conservation and enhancement to create landscape connectivity between the principal areas of ancient woodland and the wood-pasture of Epping Forest.

#### **Biodiversity: Key pointers for green infrastructure at the District level:**

- Use of positive landscape management and restoration of landscape connectivity as per landscape character assessment strategies to link nature conservation sites in the peri urban fringe. This would also help buffer and protect sites of international protection, e.g. enhancement of heathland and wood-pasture mosaics to link Harlow Woods SSSI and Epping Forest SSSI.
- Relaxed intensity of landscape management in green wedges for nature conservation focus, creation of long grass, meadow and heathland swathes to link local sites of interest and reinforce the urban biodiversity network. Particular areas of focus may be to link assets in the principal (Todds Brook) green wedge as well as the north-south wedge between Passmores and Tye Green, south of the Water Gardens site. Strategic proposals for enhanced landscape management to deliver such objectives are shown on **Figures 8.1** onwards.
- **Figures 8.1** onwards also shows areas of search for appropriate locations for new semi natural woodland which could deliver aspects of the urban biodiversity network, as well as other functions (such as production and landscape setting – reinforcing aspects of the Gibberd Vision).

7.72 The above findings are drawn out in more detail for the neighbourhood level analysis set out in **table 7.6** overleaf.

| Table 7.6: Neighbourhood analysis: Biodiversity |  |
|---|--|
| Neighbourhood                                   | Analysis   |
| Old Harlow                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the exception of the Stort Valley Living Landscape and associated tributaries which cover the northern extents of the neighbourhood, there is a paucity of recognised/designated nature conservation sites.</li> <li>• The only other key biodiversity asset in this neighbourhood is the ancient woodland at Mark Hall Wood, a small part of which falls within the neighbourhood.</li> <li>• A key opportunity therefore is to create new habitats through diversifying landscape management, and through creation of new landscape features, e.g. improvements to the wetland brook corridor to create a more recognisable and linked riparian character. This could contribute to the improvement of open space quality in the Stort Valley, as per the open space assessment.</li> </ul>  |
| Netteswell/Mark Hall                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stort Valley is identified as a Living Landscape by the Wildlife Trusts.</li> <li>• Beyond this there is a relative paucity of designated habitat resources, save for woodland local wildlife sites at Vicarage Wood and the ancient woodland at Mark Hall Wood. Parts of the Cobbins Brook Valley floor are a district wildlife site (with potential for green space quality enhancement), whilst the part of this valley in the westernmost part of the neighbourhood is also a bee orchid habitat.</li> <li>• A key opportunity is therefore to increase habitat connectivity as part of the local GI network.</li> <li>• In addition to the areas of woodland planting described for other analyses above, this could be realised through relaxation of landscape management in less active areas of open space – parts of Mark Hall Park and large amenity green space areas at Mark Hall, for example. Also opportunities for enhanced wetland habitats associated with the hydrological network and open spaces in the wider Stort Valley e.g. Town Park. Such measures could help contribute to improving biodiversity connectivity as per Living Landscape objectives.</li> <li>• Improved management of woodland sites such as Vicarage Wood to enhance species and groundflora diversity would also contribute to improvement of the quality and value of this green space, as per the open space assessment.</li> </ul> |
| Church Langley                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very few existing biodiversity resources characterise the area, save for Brenthall Woods (ancient woodland and District Wildlife Site). There is therefore an opportunity to enhance biodiversity connectivity through altered management regimes in the local green space network in the Church Langley housing estate.</li> <li>• The woodland greenway extending north south between Brenthall Woods and Harlow Common District Wildlife Site just beyond the neighbourhood's southern boundary, fulfils a valuable ecological connectivity role. This is partly recognised in the quality and value scoring for this site.</li> </ul>   |
| Bush Fair/Harlow Common                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key biodiversity resources are the common land District Wildlife Sites at Latton Common/Harlow Common. As such, habitat distribution is a little fragmented elsewhere in this neighbourhood, creating a case for diversifying and relaxing management of amenity green space/green wedges/incidental open spaces, in biodiversity terms also.</li> </ul>  |



| Table 7.6: Neighbourhood analysis: Biodiversity |   |
|---|---|
| Neighbourhood                                   | Analysis  |
| Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key elements are the Epping Forest Living Landscape area which washes over much of the southern and western parts of the neighbourhood including Harlow Woods SSSI and the smaller blocks of ancient woodland in the urban parts of the neighbourhood. A key opportunity is therefore enhanced woodland connectivity to link such assets and promote greater levels of biodiversity in the neighbourhood. This could extend to creation and management of features such as copses, hedgerows and heathland restoration/re-wilding to link habitats. If applied to sites such as Burnett Wood/Maunds Wood, this could help address perceived quality/value issues in relation to such sites.</li> </ul> |
| Great Parndon and Toddbrook                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A small part in the west of the neighbourhood is washed over by the Epping Forest Living Landscape area (opportunities for improved woodland connectivity in the local green space network). Close by to the east is a bee orchid site (potential interpretive focus). Netteswell Plantation and the Cobbins Brook tributary valley floor are District Wildlife Sites, as is much of the green wedge network north of Great Parndon. As such, a well-connected biodiversity network exists across much of the green wedge network in this neighbourhood – scope to extend through sensitive landscape management.</li> </ul>   |
| Hare Street and Little Parndon                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key elements of the local biodiversity network are the Stort Valley Living Landscape area which washes over much of the north and west of the neighbourhood, plus the SSSI site at Roydon and District Wildlife Sites/Local Nature Reserves near Parndon Lock.</li> <li>As such there is potential to use landscape restoration and enhancements (new wetlands/scrapes/wet woodlands) in parts of the Stort Valley floor to contribute to greater habitat connectivity, to link up such sites and help contribute to delivery of Living Landscapes objectives – ‘stepping stones to nature’.</li> </ul>  |

## Integration of green infrastructure and open space analyses

7.73 For this analysis, we have considered all GI functions except access to recreation and environments to health, since these are already addressed in the open space assessment. The GI functions have been assigned the following weightings:

- Low functionality: Less than 30% of the wedge is covered by the function
- Medium functionality: 31-59% of the green wedge is covered by the function
- High functionality: 60% or more of the green wedge is covered by the function

7.74 These scores have been applied to all the green wedges in the District. The results are shown in relation to the individual GI functions analysed, in **table 7.7**. The green wedges have been defined based on boundaries provided in the earlier study by David Lock Associates and are numbered (cross refer to **Figures 7.11-7.14** for locations of the wedges).

| Table 7.7: GI functional analysis scores by green wedge | Green wedge   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
|   | 1   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Function  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Landscape setting, context and experience               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Sound Ecosystems  | Insufficient data for quantitative analysis. Parts of this analysis (levels of tree cover) are also covered in Sustainability and Responding to Climate Change analysis summarised below. |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Productive green environments/productive landscapes     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Conserving and understanding historic character         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Sustainability and responding to climate change         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Biodiversity  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

High

Medium

Low



7.75 The GI functions in **table 7.7** above have also been aggregated together to understand the overall GI functional performance of the green wedges in Harlow (**Figures 7.11-7.14**). Overall green wedge functionality has been assigned as follows:

- Low functionality: Less than 30% of the wedge is covered by 3 GI functions or less
- Medium functionality: 31-59% of the green wedge is covered by 3 or more GI functions
- High functionality: 60% or more of the green wedge is covered by 3 or more GI functions

7.76 The analysis has shown that the functionality of Harlow's Green Infrastructure network varies across the town, although, in terms of the aggregated functions, none scores with 'high' functionality. Within the data, the scores for the historic character function are, as one would expect, high for a number of the green wedges. In Old Harlow, the presence of regionally rarer landscape types such as chalk valleys (landscape setting and experience), is also significant. A number of areas offer medium GI functionality – the areas which perform well in this respect are

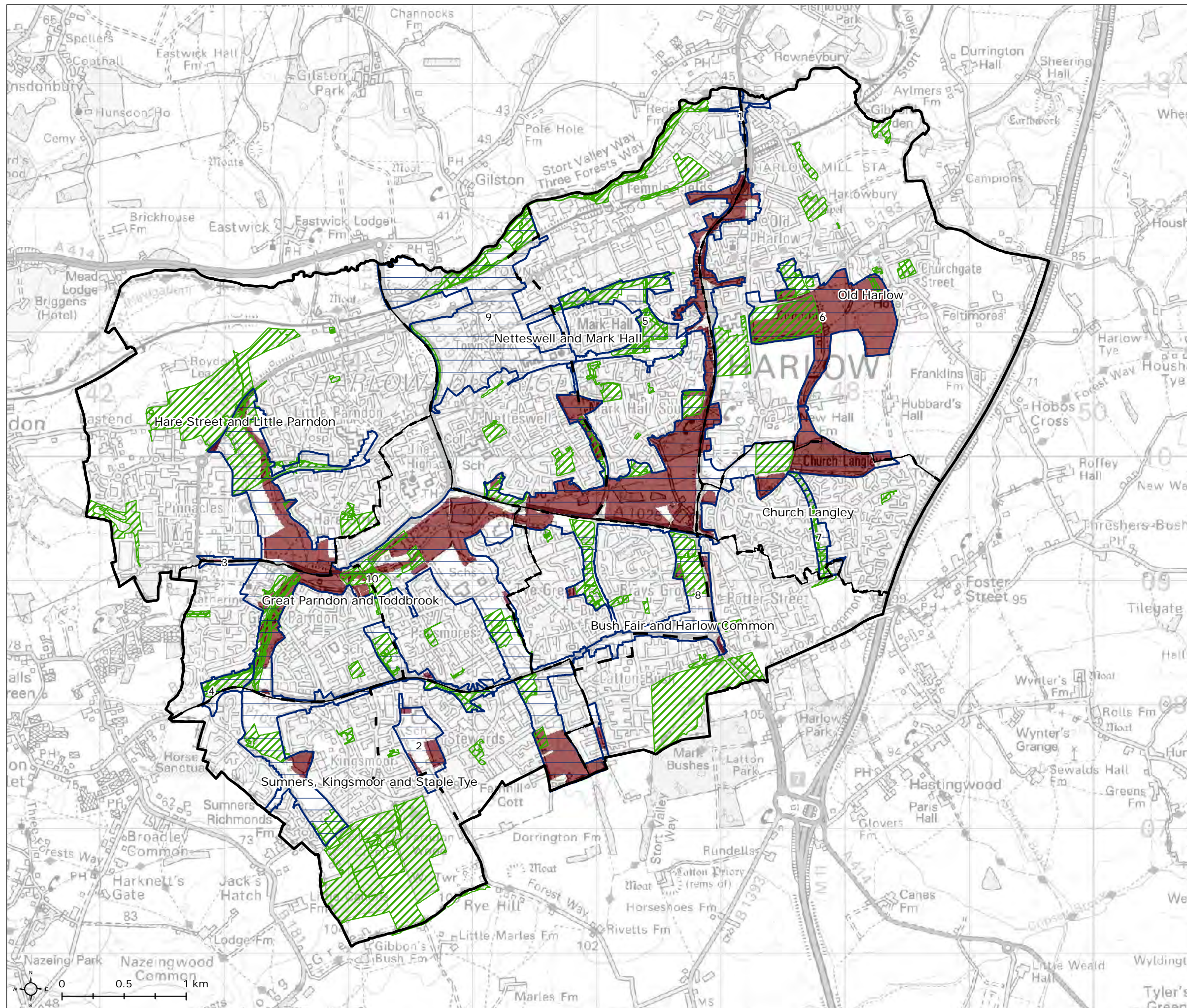
Town Park and Mark Hall Park plus associated green wedge. Of the areas with lowest GI functionality, this is mainly due to fragmentation and urban layout/proximity to infrastructure corridors, e.g. in parts of the central east-west green wedge, and the north-south green wedge. This also correlates with these wedges being generally narrower and having limited variation in the type. This is important in terms of identifying opportunities for future spatial planning.

7.77 The aggregated green wedge GI functional analysis has also been overlaid with high and low open space quality scores from the open space assessment, to identify areas of correlation between relatively strong and weak GI functionality, and open space quality (refer to **Figures 7.11 to 7.14**). This will help Harlow District plan positively for GI and growth in the district, by identifying open space and GI assets which should be conserved as integral parts of the Harlow green space network, and conversely those performing poorly on several fronts, where their function could be reviewed as part of the wider spatial planning of Harlow.

7.78 Key findings from the analysis are as follows:

- Concentrations of higher overall GI functionality and green space quality and value are found at the northern part of Town Park, in the Stort Valley, Mark Hall Park and associated green wedge which forms an arc to the west of Mark Hall Park.
- Concentrations of lowest overall GI functionality and green space quality and value are found in parts of the central east-west green wedge (Netteswell Plantation, plus associated watercourse, and Brenthall Wood). These form integral parts of the GI network, and provide opportunities for enhancement, particularly in terms of links to neighbourhoods (Brenthall to Church Langley for example). However the paddocks immediately west of Netteswell Plantation score poorly in terms of the GI functional analysis and offer opportunity for reconsideration of their function.





## Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.11

Low Functionality Green Wedges and Above Quality/Value Open Spaces

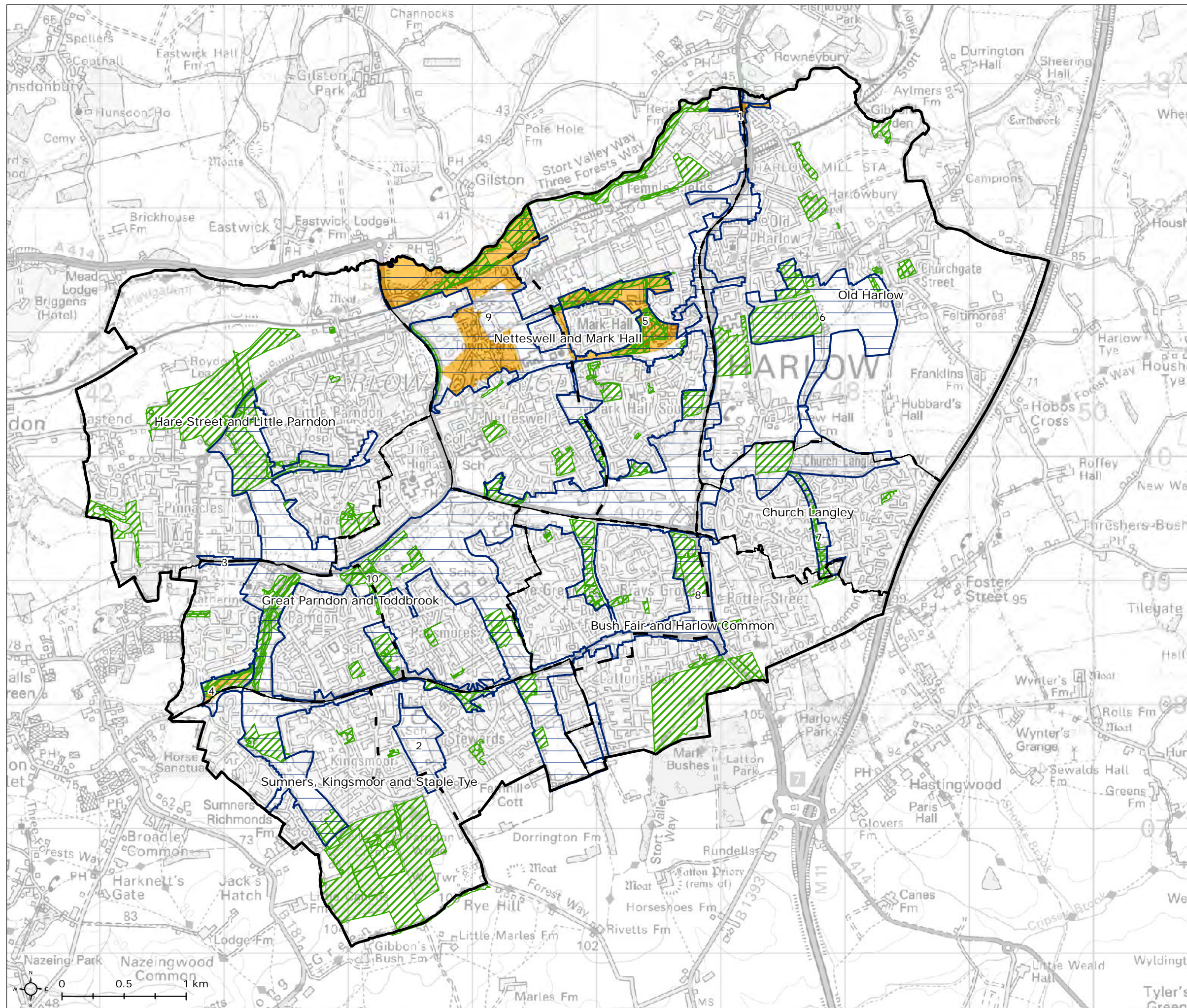
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Harlow Boundary
- Green Wedges
- Low Functionality Green Wedges

Harlow open spaces

Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

- Above Value / Above Quality(++)





## Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.12

### Medium Functionality Green Wedges and Above Quality/Value Open Spaces

- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Harlow Boundary
- Green Wedges
- Medium Functionality Green Wedges

Harlow open spaces

Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

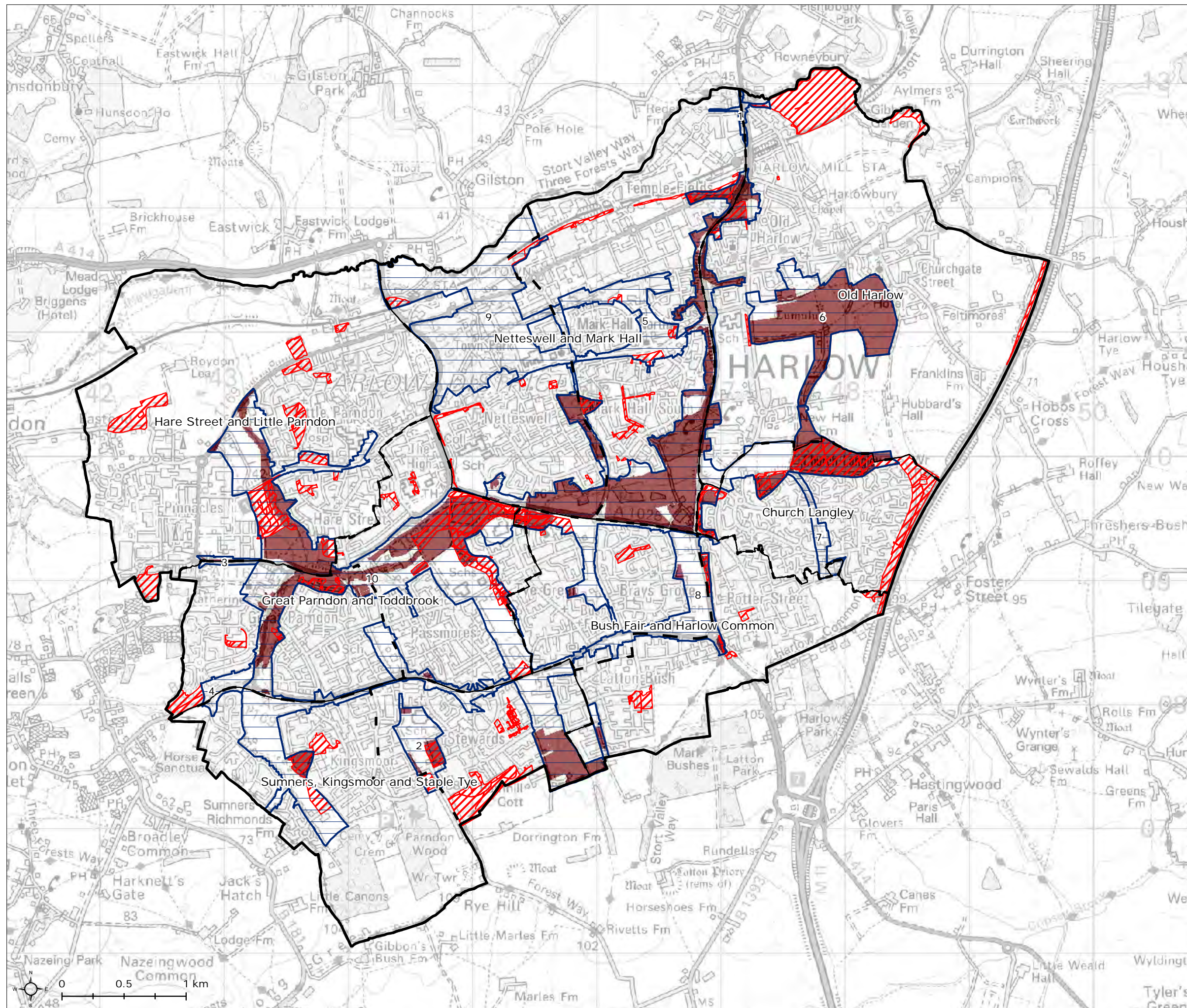
- Above Value / Above Quality(++)

Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000



for Harlow District Council





## Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.13

### Low Functionality Green Wedges and Below Quality/Value Open Spaces

- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Harlow Boundary
- Green Wedges
- Low Functionality Green Wedges

Harlow open spaces

Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

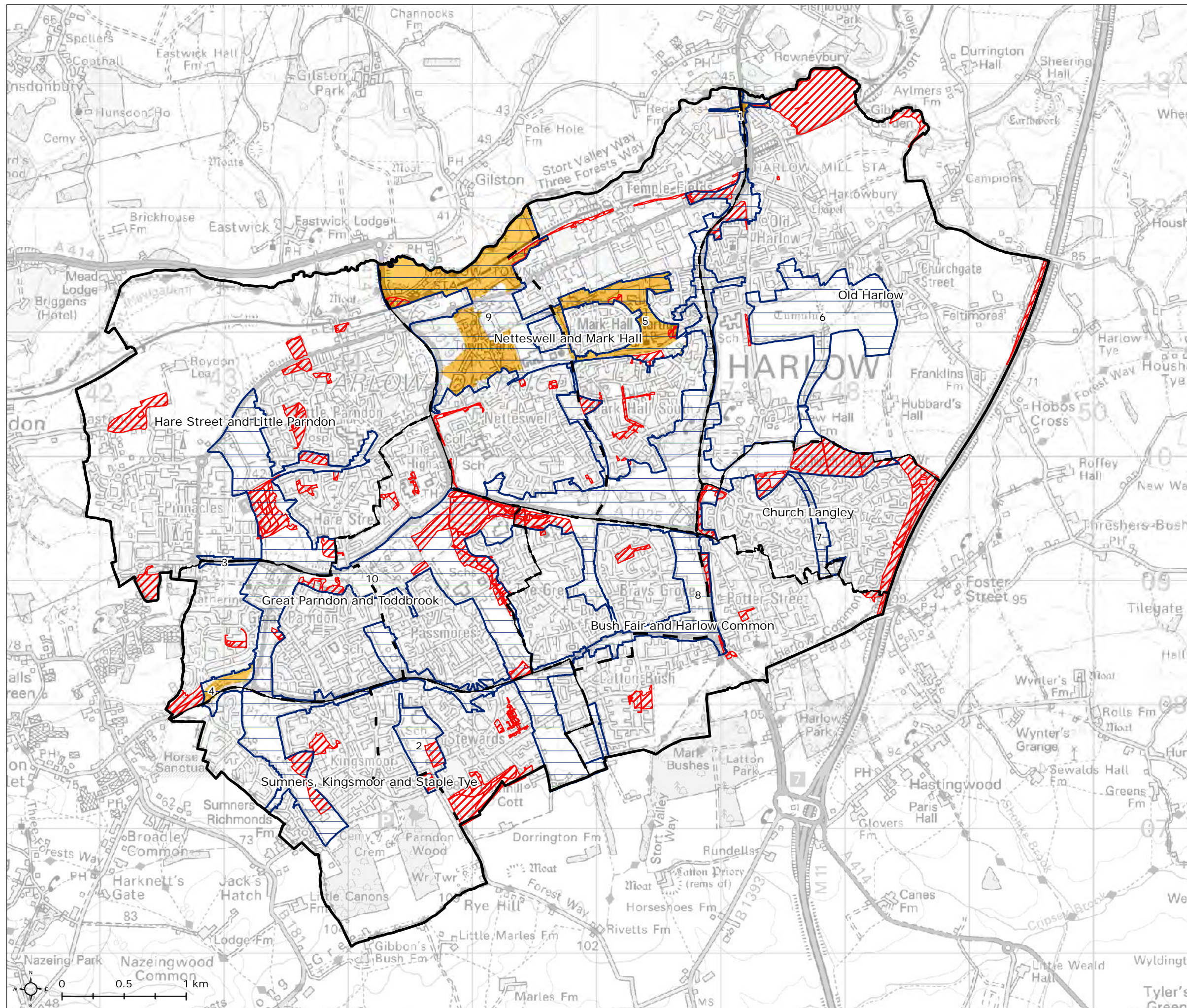
- Below Value / Below Quality(--)

Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000



for Harlow District Council





# Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 7.14

## Medium Functionality Green Wedges and Below Quality/Value Open Spaces

- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Harlow Boundary
- Green Wedges
- Medium Functionality Green Wedges

Harlow open spaces

Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

- Below Value / Below Quality(--)

Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

LUC

for Harlow District Council



## 8 Proposed Green Infrastructure Plan

### Green Infrastructure Network

- 8.1 This section introduces the proposed green infrastructure network for the urban areas within Harlow District. This takes account of and fits within the strategic framework set out in the 2005 GI Plan and responds to the opportunities identified in the functional analyses in **Section 7**. It should be noted that the GI opportunities outlined in this plan and shown on **Figures 8.1 to 8.7** are not mutually exclusive from development and other change scenarios in Harlow during the Local Plan period. In many cases, these may help contribute to achieving the GI objectives set out in the GI proposals maps.
- 8.2 This section discusses the findings of the GI analysis in the previous section, in particular the identification of principal G.I networks and secondary GI networks and provides some opportunities for enhancing these areas. This section focusses on the principal networks, setting out strategic GI proposals plus finer grain proposals for the neighbourhoods within the district.
- 8.3 A vision for green infrastructure in Harlow District is set out below, articulating main opportunities and framing the proposals set out in the Green Infrastructure Network at **Figures 8.1 to 8.7**. This is followed by an introduction to the rationale for the proposed network and its alignment with the work in the 2005 Plan. A set of new GI projects is identified at the end of this section (Projects P1-3), developed in outline, together with supporting initial recommendations for implementation. These projects and other GI proposals made in this plan should be read in conjunction with the GI Design Guide developed as part of the 2005 GI Plan, particularly in terms of future detailed design, implementation and management.

### Green Infrastructure Vision for Harlow District

- 8.4 The vision for green infrastructure in Harlow is:
1. *To conserve and enhance*
    - The functionality of the western green wedge between Great/Little Parndon and The Pinnacles Industrial Estate, through:
      - enhanced landscape management to maximise visual and physical permeability and legibility, balanced with nature conservation objectives, and use of more relaxed landscape management for areas of amenity green space to increase urban green infrastructure functionality
      - improved signage to link with the local and incidental green space network at Little Parndon
      - an enhanced and more permeable interface between green wedges and areas of settlement
    - The diversity of functions and the usability of the principal east-west green wedge containing the Todds Brook tributary by:
      - giving greater expression to the riverine environment to 'make space for water' through enhanced, more naturalistic landscape management to link the non-designated landscape and the network of nature reserves in the green wedge
      - promoting physical, non-car access as part of a better integrated cycle network linking key GI foci within the town
      - identifying appropriate areas for creation of new hubs or green space foci, through enhanced accessibility of existing woodlands (such as Netteswell Plantation and associated brook) and wetland elements, balanced with other priorities such as nature conservation, creating a focus for natural play and experience of nature, as



part of a potential multi-functional community parkland between Netteswell and the Latton Farm site

- Facilitating opportunities for local food production as part of the new community parkland, whether community orchards and gardens or as part of the longer term future of the Latton Farm site (scope for community supported agriculture/urban farm initiative) – maintaining historically appropriate functional relationships, and continuity with land uses that pre dated the New Town
- Improvement of the landscape experience and quality of the green wedge which is currently characterised by transport corridors, through new larger grade tree planting, areas of woodland creation and orchards to improve settlement/green space interface and use/activity
- The historically important mid-20<sup>th</sup> century designed landscape legacy of the New Town, through:
  - Restoration of Town Park, not only to conserve and enhance its historical integrity for current and future generations, but also to improve its coherence as a spatial experience, through improved accesses, approaches, vegetation and view management to enhance the legibility of the space in its wider green infrastructure context e.g. open up views to the Stort Valley and associated strategic semi natural green space resources and access links
  - Creation of a more legible access link (greenway/green spine) between the town centre and Town Park, through signage, new street tree planting and elements of Water Sensitive Urban design which could be used to reinforce linear routes and sense of place, such as swales/planted filter strips
  - Recognition and interpretation of non-protected aspects of the urban landscape heritage, such as Crowe's landforms in the Stort Valley, or through appropriate landscape management and or site specific sculpture to extend the existing trail (and create strategic links to parallel Modernist art and institutions further up the valley in East Herts, as part of the strategic, cross boundary GI network)
  - Enhancement of the setting of the (re sited) Gibberd Water Gardens through consideration of the future landscape of the southern green wedge – maintaining and enhancing the visual relationship with Rye Hill and creating more of a sense of transition between the designed modernist foreground, semi natural space and wider countryside to the south
  - A holistic consideration of the green wedges using designed character and sense of place as a starting point for integration of new community provision such as natural play, or trim trails/themed routes to provide links between sites and areas of focus, encouraging the permeability and use of the green wedges as community resources
  - A co-ordinated approach to directional and interpretative signage as part of the 'Legible Harlow' proposal outlined later in this section
  - Retention of the green footprint surrounding development and retention of areas of 'internal'/incidental open space, particularly where neighbourhoods are otherwise poorly linked to the green space network.
- The rural landscape setting of Harlow, through identifying opportunities for enhanced landscape connectivity and settlement edge foiling (areas of search/broad zones for this are shown on **Figure 8.1**).

## *2. To improve and create*

- Greater green infrastructure legibility, to encourage use of green spaces as destinations rather than only as circulation systems, through:
  - An improved greenway or 'green spine' between the town centre and Town Park, to enhance perception of Town Park as the principal green space for the town centre and immediate/outlying neighbourhoods

- Integrated way-marking and mapping of walking and cycling routes from principal and important local community green space foci, as part of future public realm proposals – ‘Legible Harlow’.
  - A linked proposal for centralised cycle hire from key points within each neighbourhood
  - Enhanced landscape management to create visual permeability and remove threats or barriers to use, whether real or perceived
- Enhanced opportunities for sustainable living and for more positive community interaction with the green space network, through:
  - Community agriculture/food production and volunteering initiatives as described above
  - Natural play and community parkland initiative, as described above, with appropriate support and resources through Friends of groups, and specifically through creation of additional play and young persons’ open space provision, as revealed through consultation.
- Greenspace proposals to address the deficit in play provision and enhanced links to address spatial deficits at Church Langley
- Community garden, orchard and allotment provision to help address the deficit at Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye
- Enhancement of the urban green space environment and civic spaces through appropriate urban greening, addressing issues in respect of civic space quality raised through consultation
- Enhancing the quality and ‘offer’ of Harlow Common as a ‘destination’ semi natural green space through natural play provision
- Enhanced urban and green space relationships to specific settlement edges and within parts of specific green wedges, as shown on **Figure 8.1**.
- Opportunities to enhance landscape character and quality of peri urban sites such as the network of commons on the southern edge of the town, through investigating the potential for alternative dedicated sites for horse grazing
- Greater landscape and habitat connectivity in the green wedges, particularly the western, principal and southern wedges, primarily through sustainable, resourced and relaxed landscape management, creating more semi natural green space/green corridor type spaces in place of amenity green space where appropriate (see **Figure 8.1**). This should include appropriate links to similar amenity green space enhancement in the residential estates e.g. Passmores.
- Removal of barriers to safety, access and visual permeability, in the green wedge and green space network, balanced with other functional and planning objectives including nature conservation

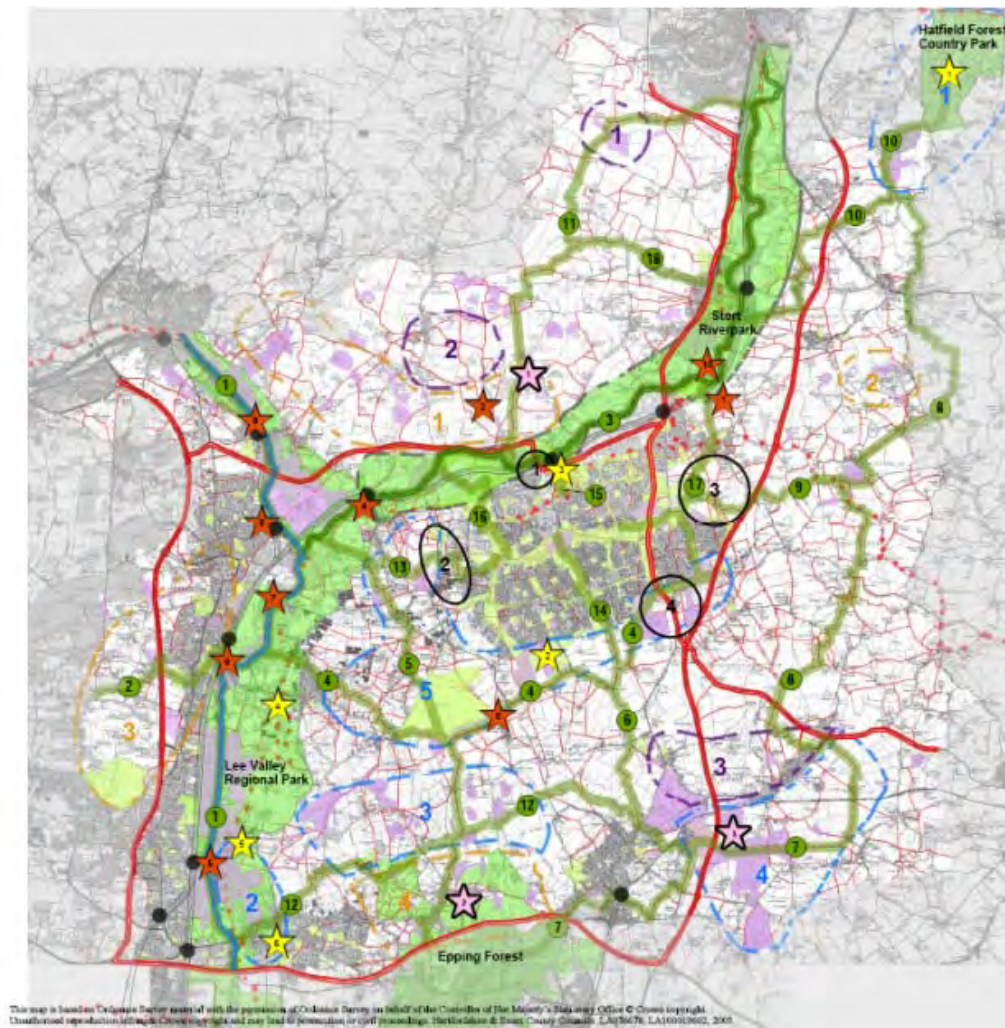
### *3. To recognise and value*

- The benefits of reduced intensity landscape management as part of a ‘landscape scale’ approach and promoting this to the wider community primarily through education and awareness raising, to engender positive community perceptions
- The significance of even small scale urban greening and green infrastructure measures e.g. community gardens, street orchards and wilding of verges in providing quality of life benefits and in achieving ‘parts of a whole’ in relation to the multi-functional green infrastructure network
- The positive use of green infrastructure as outdoor classroom, for lifelong learning, skills development and facilitating volunteering in and ownership of the GI network
- Green infrastructure for both people and wildlife – an integrated, well zoned approach, where these interests co-exist rather than conflict, whilst enabling the community to get greater value in all senses from the GI network

## Delivering the Vision: Proposed Green Infrastructure Network

### *Rationale and key messages*

- 8.5 The proposed green infrastructure network for Harlow has been developed in response to the key findings from the GI functional need and supply analysis at **Section 7**, to spatially articulate the principles in the vision above and to add value to and build upon relevant strategic projects identified in the 2005 Green Infrastructure Plan. The proposed network has also been proofed against relevant adjacent GI plans and initiatives, and has been informed by findings from community consultation and focus groups in developing the parallel open space standards. The proposed network fits within the strategic/sub regional GI hierarchy developed in the 2005 GI Plan, which is reproduced below.



Above: The GI network in the 2005 Harlow District Green Infrastructure Plan (Chris Blandford Associates)

- 8.6 The proposed green infrastructure network is shown on **Figures 8.1 to 8.7**, cross referenced to the three strategic spatial and non-spatial projects or interventions this plan identifies to deliver aspects of the GI Vision. The interventions are introduced below and set out in more detail in the remainder of this section.

### *Proposed GI interventions*

- 8.7 These are as follows:

- Project P1. Multi-functional green space: / Todds Brook and Parndon Green Wedges
- Project P2. Urban semi natural green space: Improved urban greening and green access links between Town Centre and Town Park
- Project P3. Legible Harlow (primarily a non-spatial project as described later in this section but cross referenced on **Figure 8.1** where appropriate)



- 8.8 The projects are described in terms of rationale, complementary initiatives and broad opportunities and constraints associated with achievement, on the specific project sheets at the end of this section. These are strategic proposals and caveats are therefore also set out at the end of this section.
- 8.9 Future implementation of spatial GI projects should reflect and take account of the guidelines for design and management of green infrastructure, which were developed as part of the suite of documents which form part of the 2005 Green Infrastructure Plan<sup>9</sup>.

---

<sup>9</sup> Chris Blandford Associates 2005 **The Harlow Green Spaces Project: A Green Infrastructure Plan for the Harlow Area – Volume 2: Guidelines**



# Project P1: New multi functional greenspace

## Project description/snapshot

- Relaxed intensity landscape management to principal green wedges
- Create more semi natural green space and improved biodiversity
- Sustainably managed woodlands – improve townscape interface
- Greater expression of wetland landscape character
- Creation of new community parkland south of Water Gardens site
- Natural play provision
- Enhanced opportunities for community food production – orchards and community gardens to address deficit at Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye
- Potential for community supported agriculture to consider landscape future of Latton Farm as new greenspace 'hub'
- Interpretation of pre New Town landscape features such as ancient woodlands and Latton Farm
- Creating more legibility to the green wedge network, specifically the east-west green wedge around Todd's Brook, as well as improved pedestrian and cycle links to South Harlow via the green wedge network (see Figures 6.1 and 6.2)
- Enhanced access links to green space network at Church Langley



## Functions met



Access



Experience



Health



Ecosystems



Productive



Historic



Sustainability



Flood mgmt



Land remed



Biodiversity

## Complementary projects the proposals can help deliver:

Project contributes to strategic New Town and Urban GI Heritage Project identified in the Green Arc SHIP GI Plan; Also complements delivery of the following strategic proposals identified in the 2005 Harlow GI Plan: Greenways linear habitats and shared use commuter routes) at West Harlow to Lee Valley (Greenway 13); North West Harlow to River Stort (Greenway 16); South Harlow to Rye Hill (Greenway 14). Project also contributes to habitat creation project I2 within the 2005 GI Plan, the aim of which is to enhance riparian habitats and verges within the green wedges.

Enhanced habitat connectivity and landscape management also potentially contributes to Wildlife Trust Living Landscape aspirations to secure connectivity between the two Living Landscape Areas - the Stort



Valley and Epping Forest. Riparian landscape enhancement has the potential to contribute to ecological restoration objectives of the Environment Agency's Water Framework Directive project.

Landscape enhancement and creation of new landscape features potentially contributes to Gibberd's original Town of Trees Vision. Landscape enhancement to green wedge south of Water Gardens has potential to improve historic landscape setting.

## Potential issues associated with delivery/what needs to happen

Initial/high level issues and potential actions are:

- Land ownership issues in relation to access to sites such as Netteswell Plantation and future use of sites such as Latton Farm and in relation to promotion of uptake of relevant grant aid for landscape improvements such as stewardship and English Woodland Grant Schemes for woodland creation and management;
- Managing community and user group perceptions in relation to potential landscape management changes, through education and awareness raising as to potential benefits. Associated liaison with council's greenspace management team regarding potential changes and in relation to possibility of creating new features such as orchards and natural play;
- Need for mobilisation of community groups for community supported agriculture schemes and local food production (landowners/farmers/allotment association);
- Need for liaison with Environment Agency in relation to any proposed management changes in the tributary floodplain and buffers;
- Site specific projects within this suite of spatial interventions will require development of feasibility studies and further consultation, land, ecology and archaeology surveys to scope any issues or constraints on site;
- Need for early liaison with housing developers to seek contributions where proposal area covers potential sites and for identification of requirements more strategically within the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule.

## Potential delivery partners

Landowners and Natural England and Forestry Commission through grant aid schemes, Harlow District Council, Essex Wildlife Trust, Developers and their consultants.

## Potential monitoring mechanisms

Through conditions attached to grant agreements and through user/visitor surveys, and (for development led elements) through planning conditions and site inspections associated with discharge of conditions.

# Project P2: Urban semi natural greenspace

## Project description/snapshot

- Enhanced access links across town/between town centre and key green space foci such as Town Park (enhanced approaches to such sites) – improving the legibility of the town centre, plus improved signage
- Urban greening – improving the functionality of principal pedestrianised streets and linking town centre and town park – new larger grade tree planting, planted filter strips to assist with SuDS
- Creating improved visual legibility between Town Park and the Stort Valley through vegetation and view management
- Reinforces and enhances the original green vision for the town as expressed in Gibberd's masterplan for the town



## Functions met



Access



Experience



Health



Ecosystems



Productive



Historic



Sustainability



Flood mgmt



Land remed



Biodiversity

## Complementary projects the proposals can help deliver:

Project contributes to strategic New Town and Urban GI Heritage Project identified in the Green Arc SHIP GI Plan; Also complements delivery of the following strategic proposals identified in the 2005 Harlow GI Plan: Habitat enhancement project I1: Harlow Urban Area – Enhancement of Town Park (and associated phased delivery through Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the site's restoration) and the following greenway proposals identified in the 2005 Plan: Greenway 15 – North Harlow to River Stort and thereby securing enhanced linkages into Greenway 3: Roydon via Harlow Town Park to Bishops Stortford (Stort Valley).

## Potential issues associated with delivery/what needs to happen

Initial/high level issues and potential actions are:

- Need for site and land surveys in urban areas to pick up all underground services, to determine potential planting locations, and for feasibility study considering building

foundations/shrinkage/shadowing and amenity issues, as well as to determine appropriate palettes (potential need for local character appraisals, Tree Strategy and consultation) – the right tree for the right place, avoiding potential issues of liability in respect of sight lines or shedding of branches;

- Need for appropriate grades of tree and tree protection to be vandal and traffic resistant and to have appropriately permeable/open crowns to maintain safe environments– these issues can be dealt with by specification but also through community involvement in planting and management – ‘self-policing’ of GI assets, which could also help address issues in respect of management resourcing – potential creation of volunteer ‘street gardening’ groups for the Harlow neighbourhoods on American lines (e.g. Friends of the Urban Forest, San Francisco<sup>10</sup>) – such an initiative has the potential to enhance community involvement and education;
- Need to ensure links with later stages e.g. stage 2 of the Harlow Town Park Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) proposals so that both groups of proposals are considered in context;
- Need to liaise early with Essex Highways where tree planting may abut their land, to determine acceptability of tree planting proposals in such areas. Also need for liaison with Highways on provision of signage;
- Need for drainage and hydrological surveys to determine optimum locations for planted filter strips and swales. These should also be designed as a complement to existing public realm/shared spaces and to promote urban biodiversity connectivity.

## Potential delivery partners

Harlow District Council and Essex Highways, potentially also through formation of community/volunteer groups (street gardening/volunteer tree planting and maintenance) similar to the US organisation Friends of the Urban Forest.

## Potential monitoring mechanisms

Through consultation/audit trail established as part of any future Tree Strategy for the town or as part of future Friends Group to implement and manage tree planting.

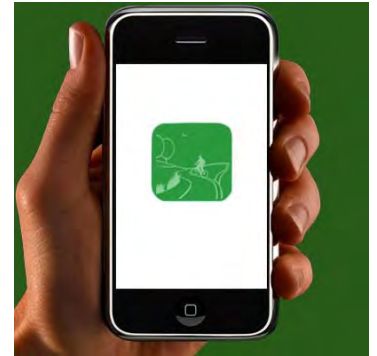
---

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.fuf.net/about/index.html>

# Project P3: Legible Harlow

## Project description/snapshot

- Co-ordinated signage and branding for green space assets and destinations, including cycle route/street signage and contextual info points (cf. 'Legible London' project delivered by Transport for London)
- Integrated approach to site interpretation and any future leafleting – Linked to web content/web based mapping of GI assets and links, whether through use of Quick Response (QR) codes or through development of a Smartphone app
- Potential for corporate sponsorship to deliver aspects of the above, and a possible linked project in the form of sponsored pay as you go cycle hire scheme linking in with key destinations and co-ordinated signage



## Functions met



Access



Experience



Health



Ecosystems



Productive



Historic



Sustainability



Flood mgmt



Land remed



Biodiversity

## Complementary projects the proposals can help deliver:

This suite of projects has the potential to contribute in strategic terms to the objectives of the county's Local Transport Plan, through promotion of routes for people to use to access destinations via 'green' travel. It also links to a similar strategic project (Greening the Green Arc) identified in the GreenArc SHIP Green Infrastructure Plan. It would also potentially enable the potential recognition of the full functional value of green infrastructure (interpretation/education/skills development/volunteering opportunities – 'soft skills'), as expressed in Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance<sup>11</sup>.

The project would give expression to/promote use of spatial aspects of the GI network shown in Figures 6.1 and 6.2 of this Plan and the earlier strategic 2005 GI Plan for Harlow.

<sup>11</sup> Natural England NE176, 2009: Green Infrastructure Guidance:  
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033?category=49002>  
Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study



## Potential issues associated with delivery/what needs to happen

Initial/high level issues and potential actions are:

- Need for market research to determine viability and market for potential interactive mapping/app project;
- Need for feasibility studies for potential signage, way-marking and sponsored cycle hire scheme, which should include consultation with key sectors of Harlow's business/employment/economic community to determine potential involvement and support as part of corporate and social responsibilities;
- Need for signage strategy;
- Need to determine brand and content, subject to available budget and potential availability of sponsorship. Consideration of potential for cycle hire project is likely to be a long term aim involving multiple business partners and sectors, due to capital and revenue cost implications
- Need for communication strategy to launch the project/those aspects which are taken forward, to promote effectively and embed their use.

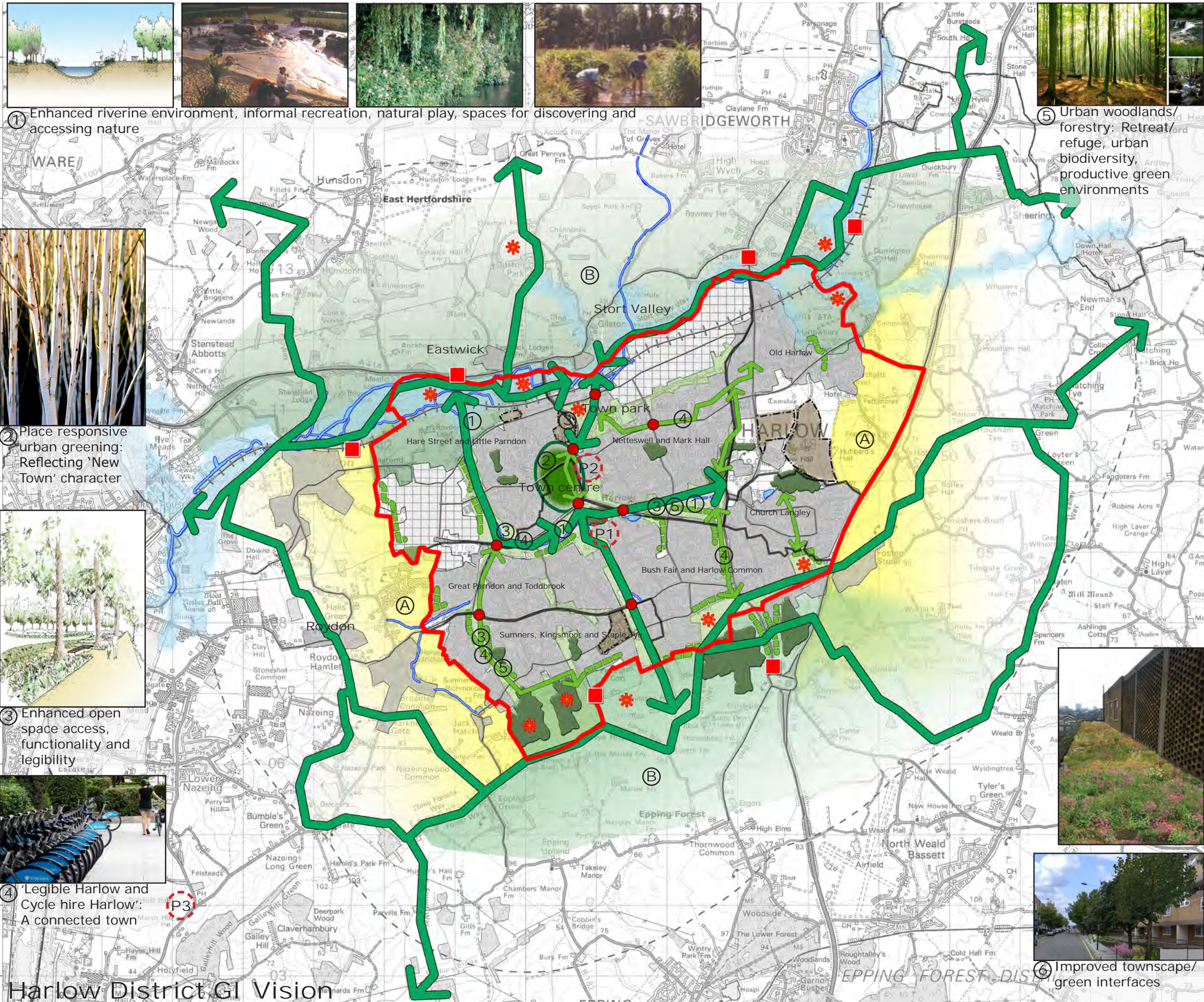
## Potential delivery partners

Harlow District Council, Essex County Council, Network Rail (for signage to/from stations), local business community. Potential need also for liaison with Hertfordshire County Council and GreenArc Partnership for links to related GreenArc SHIP GI project. Also liaison with key site owners and managers to co-ordinate future interpretation material.

## Potential monitoring mechanisms

These would be principally through the audit trail established through feasibility studies and consultation and through market research to develop the projects.





## KEY

- Harlow District Boundary
- Neighbourhoods and neighbourhood boundaries
- Existing industry
- Scope for improved strategic access connectivity
- Scope for improved local access connectivity
- Enhanced wetland/riparian landscapes
- Areas of strong & enhanced landscape connectivity
- Historic landscapes - Conservation & connectivity of landscape fabric
- Large sites with residential planning permission
- Important 'Quality of Life' assets - woodland green spaces
- Strategic/significant GI assets / resources
- Proposed urban greening opportunity zone
- Proposed landscape / townscape interface enhancement
- Proposed enhanced access / crossing points - a legible green wedge network
- Harlow Gateways
- Specific spatial GI projects
- Themes for proposed GI interventions

**LUC** 43 Chalton Street  
LONDON NW1 1JD  
T. 020 7383 5784  
F. 020 7383 4798  
[www.landuse.co.uk](http://www.landuse.co.uk)

Project:  
Harlow GI Delivery Plan

Client:  
Harlow County Council

Title:  
GI Vision: Harlow

Figure Number: 8.1



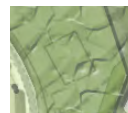
## KEY



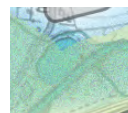
Existing green links  
- Scope for enhanced promotion/signage to raise awareness of network



Existing rivers/brooks/riparian



Existing woodlands -  
Scope for sustainable woodland management/  
silviculture  
(for enhanced safety/usability in areas of  
incidental urban greenspace)



Wetland enhancement



Greenspaces offering enhancement  
potential/improved 'edge' treatment  
(Lower greenspace functionality & value  
for spaces)



Interpretive focus



Gateway enhancement



Proposed view management to improve  
greenspace legibility



Proposed local promoted green access links



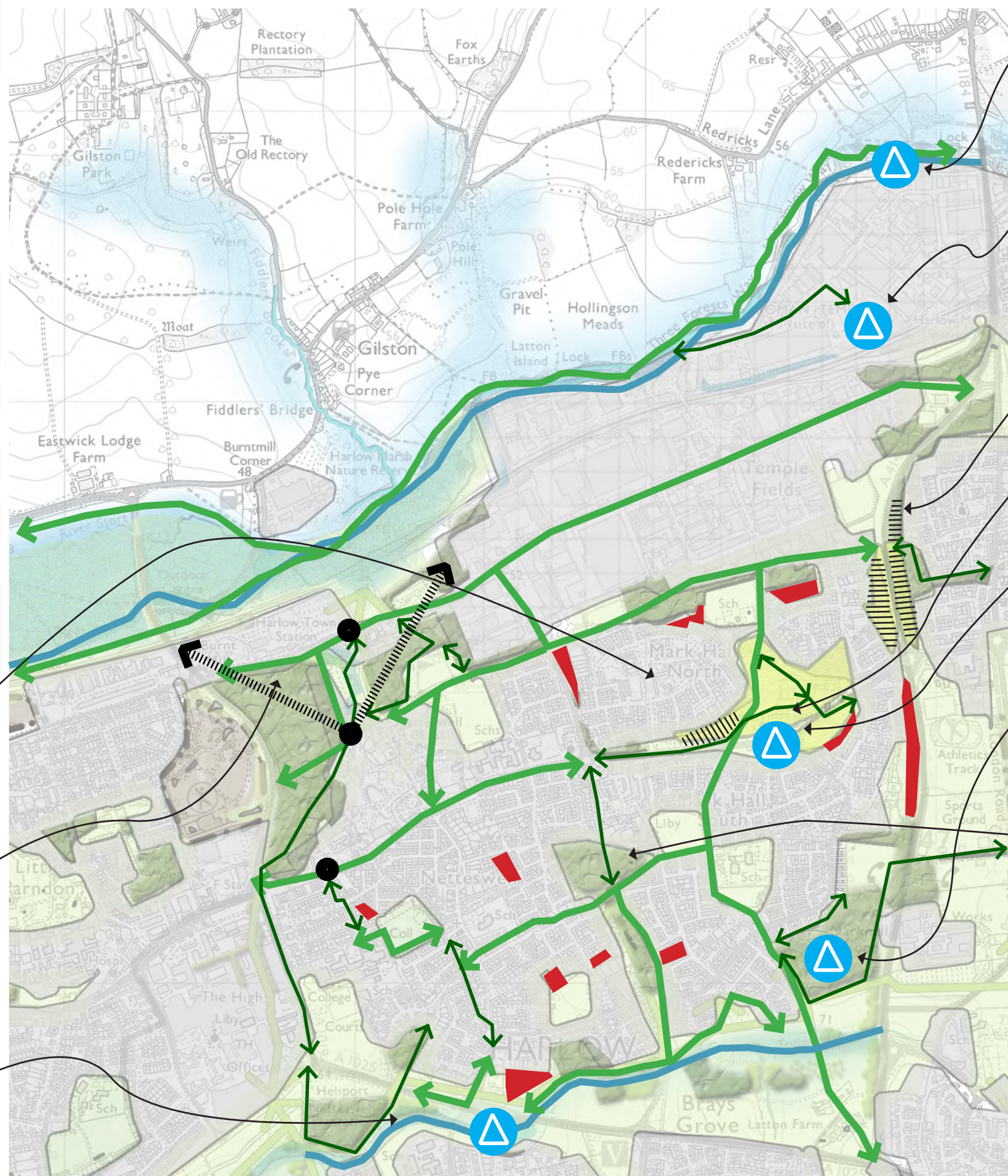
Existing allotments

Multifunctional Community Greenspaces  
- Less intensive management to provide  
biodiversity  
- Natural Play to make the space work harder  
- Local food production space/community  
gardens

Wetland habitat creation  
Scope for wetland habitat creation  
in lower slopes of Town Park -  
"Space for Water"

Improved View Management/Signage  
Better links to Stort Valley from Town Park

Scope to produce chalk wetland  
habitats which enhance  
productive value  
- Watercress beds  
- Improve greenspace quality/edge



Harlow Mill  
Interpretive focus

**Nationally significant Roman Temple site**  
Improve interpretation and enhance  
landscape setting & improve access

Improved woodland connectivity  
Enhances greenspace quality/setting

Site of Mark Hall  
Focus for interpretation and for better  
physical /visual links to Harlow Museum  
and Walled Garden

Mark Hall Church  
Interpretive focus as part of a local  
"Parkland Trail", recognising the historic  
landscape/settlement pattern which  
preceded Harlow

Mark Hall Wood - Ancient Woodland  
Interpret landscape features and former  
entrance to Mark Hall as part of new  
promoted local route to enhance  
connectivity, raise awareness and  
highlight the value of the woodland

Improved woodland management to  
improve quality



43 Chalton Street  
LONDON NW1 1JD  
T. 020 7383 5784  
F. 020 7383 4798  
www.landuse.co.uk

Project:  
Harlow GI Delivery Plan

Client:  
Harlow District Council

Title:  
GI Vision - Detail Plan for Netteswell  
and Mark Hall Neighbourhood

Figure Number: 8.2



KEY



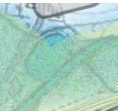
Existing green links -  
Scope for enhanced promotion/signage to  
raise awareness of network



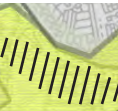
Existing rivers/brooks/riparian



Existing woodlands -  
Scope for sustainable woodland management/  
silviculture  
(for enhanced safety/usability in areas of  
incidental urban greenspace)



Wetland enhancement



Greenspaces offering enhancement  
potential/improved 'edge' treatment  
(Lower greenspace functionality & value  
for spaces)



Interpretive focus



Gateway enhancement



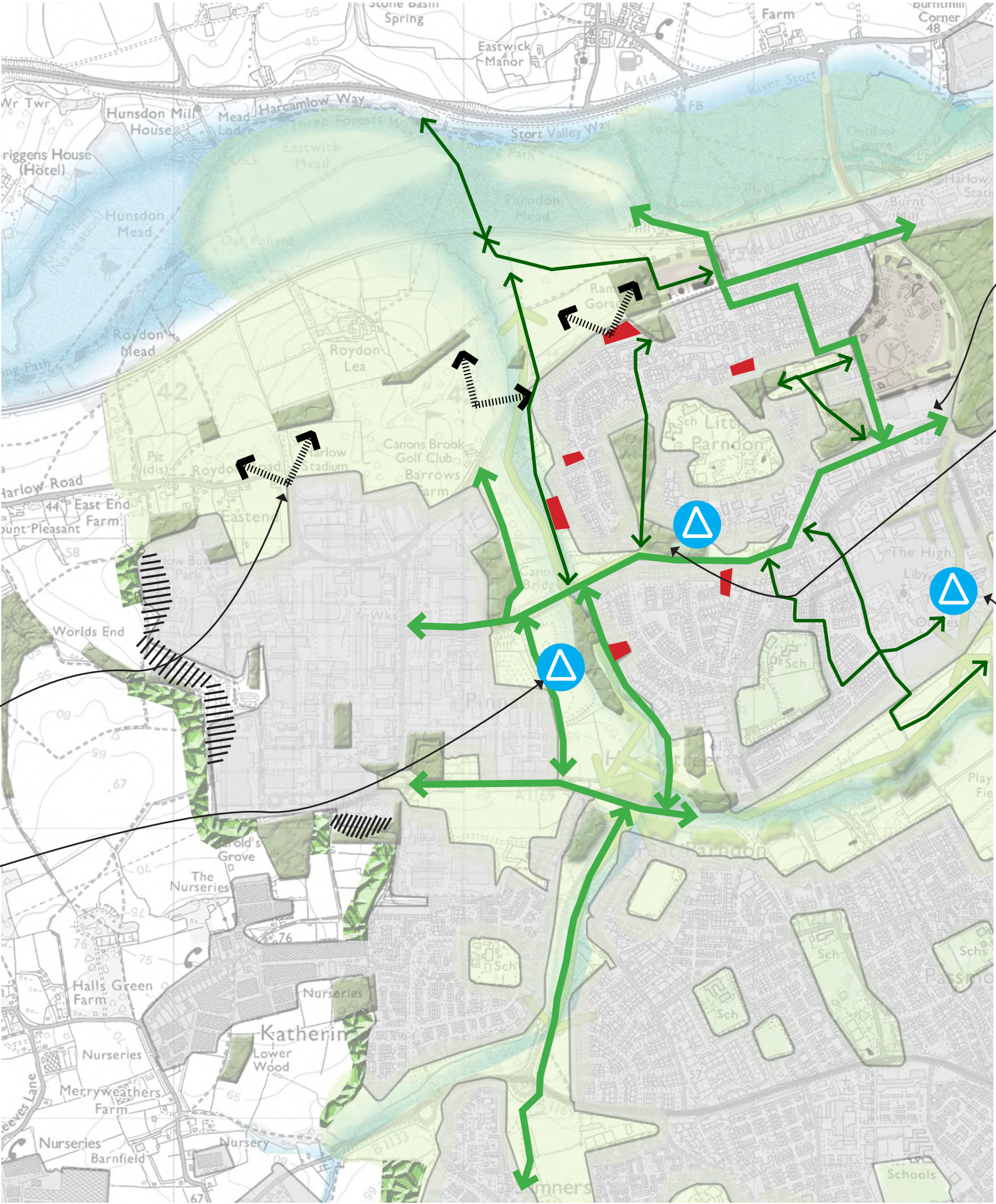
Proposed view management to improve  
greenspace legibility



Proposed local promoted green access links



Existing allotments



Improved promoted links into town park from  
the town centre

Broadleaf woodland and pond site -  
Relic of the design landscape of Parndon Hall

**The Gibberd Water Gardens**  
Scope to link in better to their historic  
context through a town centre 'Heritage Trail'



43 Chalton Street  
LONDON NW1 1JD  
T. 020 7383 5784  
F. 020 7383 4798  
www.landuse.co.uk

Project:  
Harlow GI Delivery Plan

Client:  
Harlow District Council

Title:  
GI Vision - Detail Plan for Hare  
Street and Little Parndon

Figure Number: 8.3



## KEY



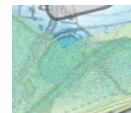
Existing green links  
- Scope for enhanced promotion/signage to raise awareness of network



Existing rivers/brooks/riparian



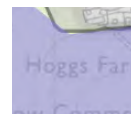
Existing woodlands -  
Scope for sustainable woodland management/  
sylviculture  
(for enhanced safety/usability in areas of  
incidental urban greenspace)



Wetland enhancement



Greenspaces offering enhancement potential/improved 'edge' treatment (Lower greenspace functionality & value for spaces)



Common land / Heathland enhancement and management



Interpretive focus



## Gateway enhancement



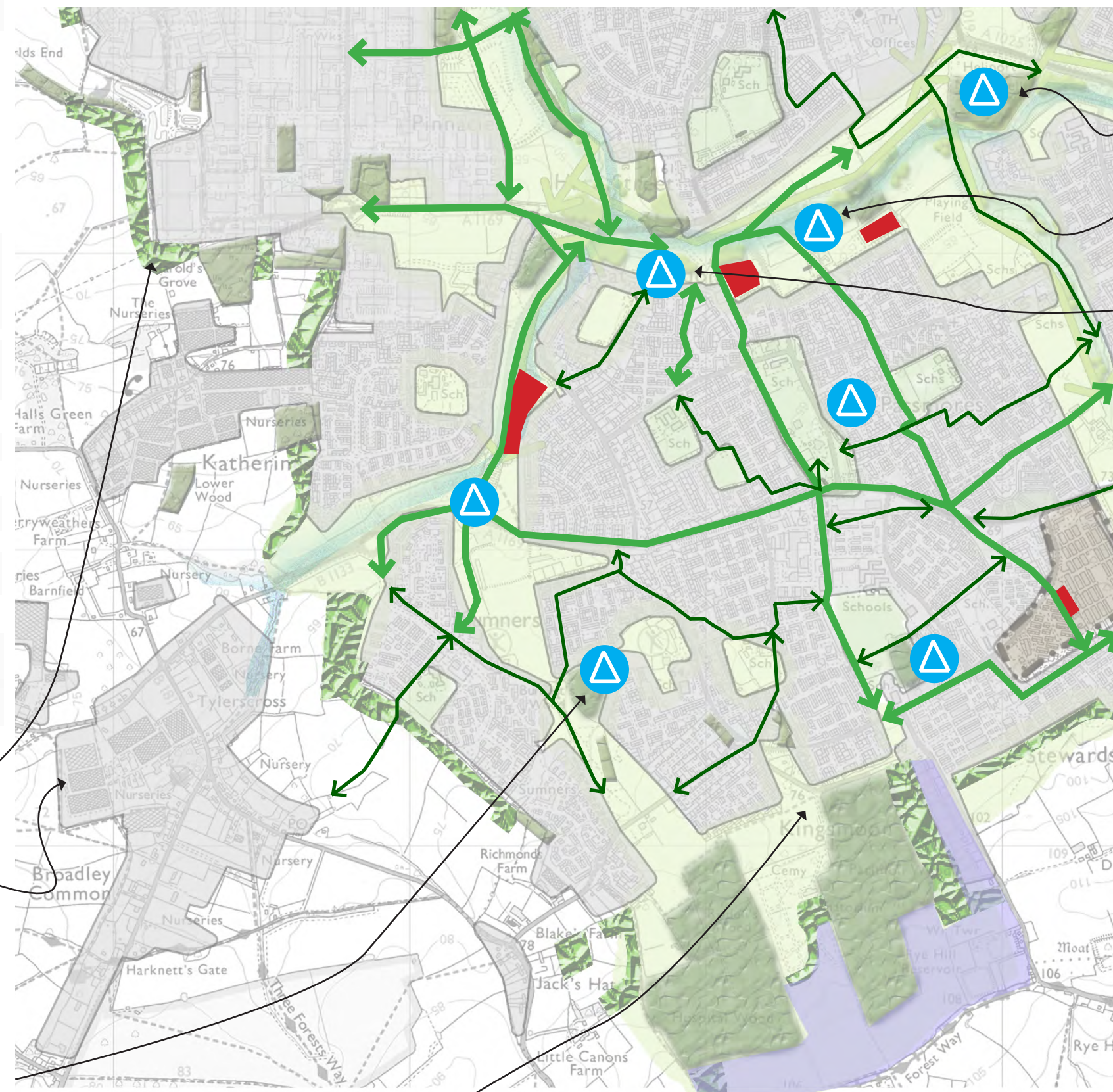
## Proposed view management to improve greenspace legibility



Proposed local promoted green access links



## Existing allotments



Netteswell Plantation  
/ Scope for traditional sylviculture  
management

Museum

- District Wildlife Site associated with Cobbins Brook

Scope for enhanced woodland connectivity  
to improve town's landscape setting

## Interpretation of local biodiversity - Bee orchid habitats

**Remnants of the designed landscape of**  
Kingsmoor House, ancient woodland at  
Burnett Wood

Harlow Woods SSSI -  
Hospital wood/Parndon Wood



43 Chalton Street  
LONDON NW1 1JD  
T. 020 7383 5784  
F. 020 7383 4798  
[www.landuse.co.uk](http://www.landuse.co.uk)

Project:  
Harlow GI Delivery Plan

Client:  
Harlow District Council

Title:  
GI Vision - Detail Plan for Great  
Parndon and Toddbrook

Figure Number: 8.4

## Harlow District GI Vision: Great Parndon and Toddbrook



KEY



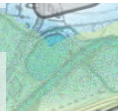
Existing green links  
- Scope for enhanced promotion/signage to raise awareness of network



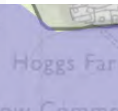
Existing rivers/brooks/riparian



Existing woodlands -  
Scope for sustainable woodland management/  
silviculture  
(for enhanced safety/usability in areas of  
incidental urban greenspace)



Wetland enhancement



Common land / Heathland enhancement and  
management



Greenspaces offering enhancement  
potential/improved 'edge' treatment  
(Lower greenspace functionality & value  
for spaces)



Interpretive focus



Gateway enhancement



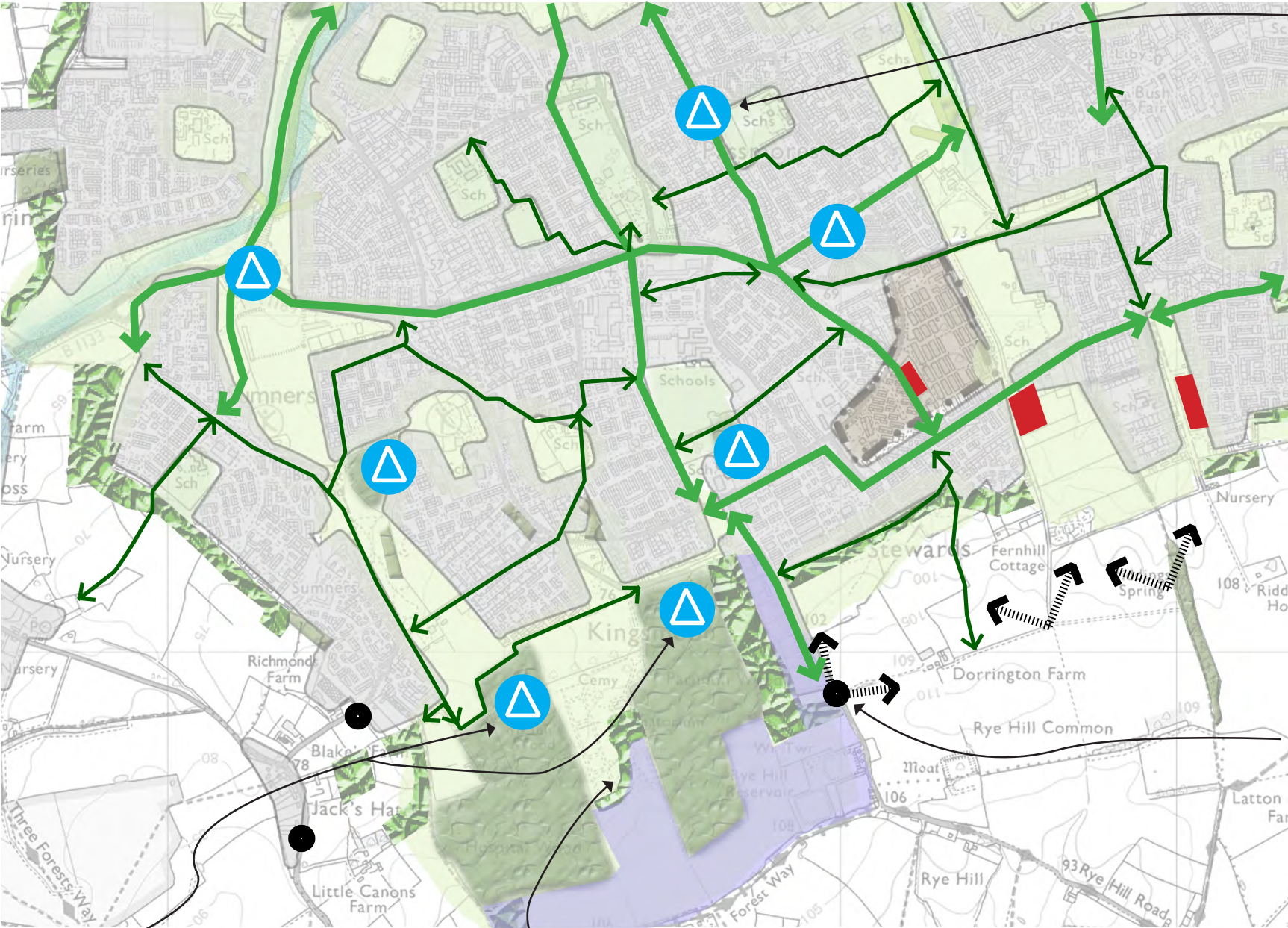
Proposed view management to improve  
greenspace legibility



Proposed local promoted green access links



Existing allotments



Interpret wetland  
environment  
(A minor tributary  
stream, as part of local  
GI network)

Views across the  
historic commons and  
green wedge network

Harlow Woods SSSI Complex  
Interpretive foci for traditional woodland management,  
historic landscape character and biodiversity

Focus for enhanced woodland/  
copse/hedgerow connectivity and  
heathland mosaic to link to  
Epping Forest Living Landscape



43 Chalton Street  
LONDON NW1 1JD  
T. 020 7383 5784  
F. 020 7383 4798  
www.landuse.co.uk

Project:  
Harlow GI Delivery Plan

Client:  
Harlow District Council


Title:  
GI Vision - Detail Plan for Sumners,  
Kingsmoor and Staple Tye


Figure Number: 8.5


Harlow District GI Vision: Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye

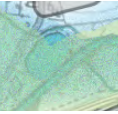


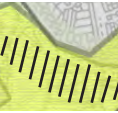
KEY


- 


Existing green links  
- Scope for enhanced promotion/signage to raise awareness of network
- 


Existing rivers/brooks/riparian
- 


Existing woodlands -  
Scope for sustainable woodland management/  
silviculture  
(for enhanced safety/usability in areas of  
incidental urban greenspace)
- 


Wetland enhancement
- 


Greenspaces offering enhancement  
potential/improved 'edge' treatment  
(Lower greenspace functionality & value  
for spaces)
- 

Common land / Heathland enhancement and  
management
- 

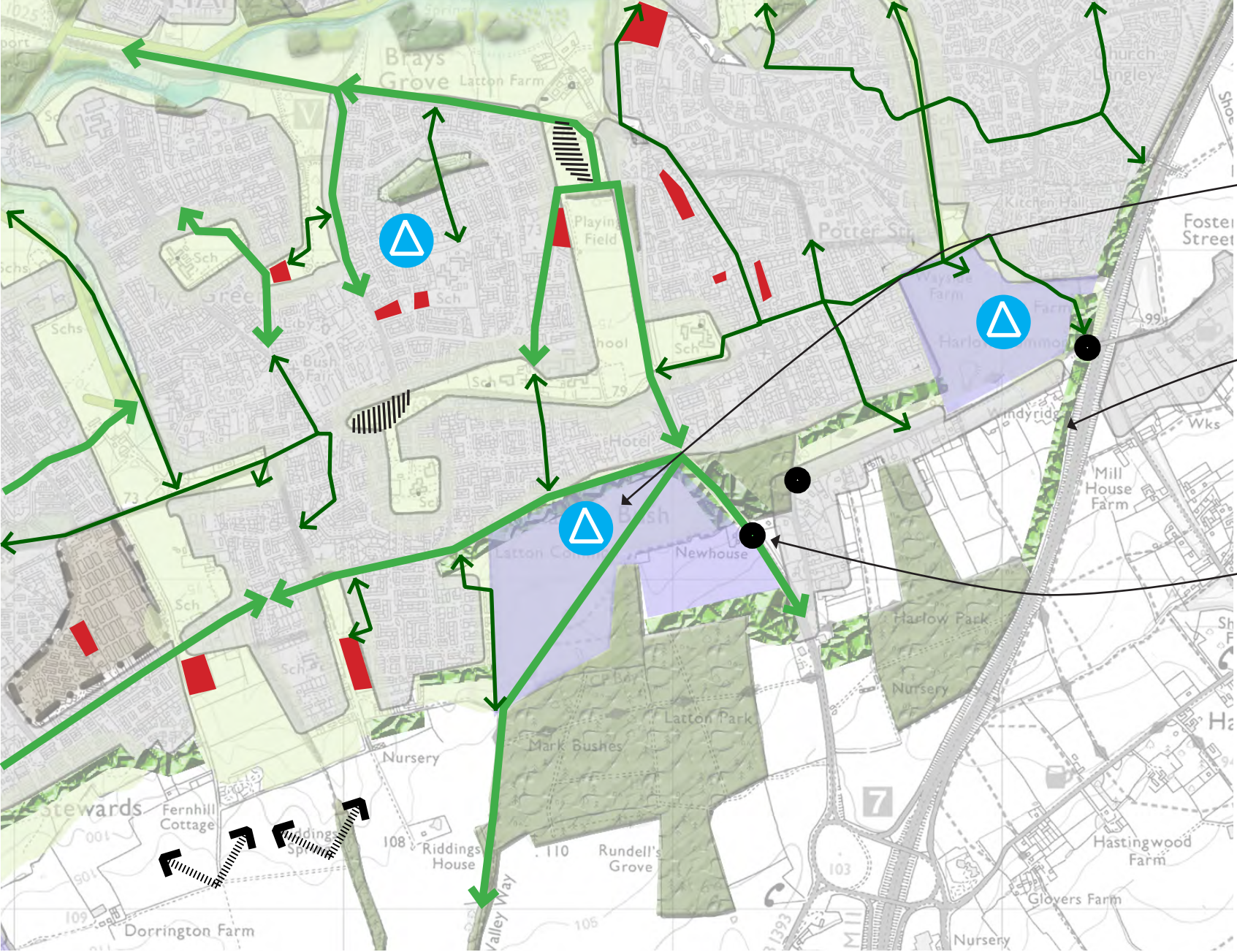
Interpretive focus
- 

Gateway enhancement
- 

Proposed view management to improve  
greenspace legibility
- 

Proposed local promoted green access links
- 

Existing allotments



Common Lands  
Focus for grazing and traditional  
management to enhance character

Woodland buffering  
Enhanced woodland connectivity/  
buffering to the M11 corridor to  
contribute to improved landscape  
setting

Use enhanced woodland  
connectivity to create positive  
southern approaches / gateways  
into town



43 Chalton Street  
LONDON NW1 1JD  
T. 020 7383 5784  
F. 020 7383 4798  
[www.landuse.co.uk](http://www.landuse.co.uk)

Project:  
Harlow GI Delivery Plan

Client:  
Harlow District Council

Title:  
GI Vision - Detail Plan for Bush Fair  
and Harlow Common

Figure Number: 8.6



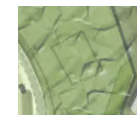
# KEY



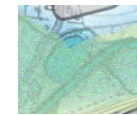
Existing green links  
- Scope for enhanced promotion/signage to raise awareness of network



Existing rivers/brooks/riparian



Existing woodlands -  
Scope for sustainable woodland management/  
silviculture  
(for enhanced safety/usability in areas of  
incidental urban greenspace)



Wetland enhancement



Common land / Heathland enhancement and  
management



Greenspaces offering enhancement  
potential/improved 'edge' treatment  
(Lower greenspace functionality & value  
for spaces)



Interpretive focus



Gateway enhancement



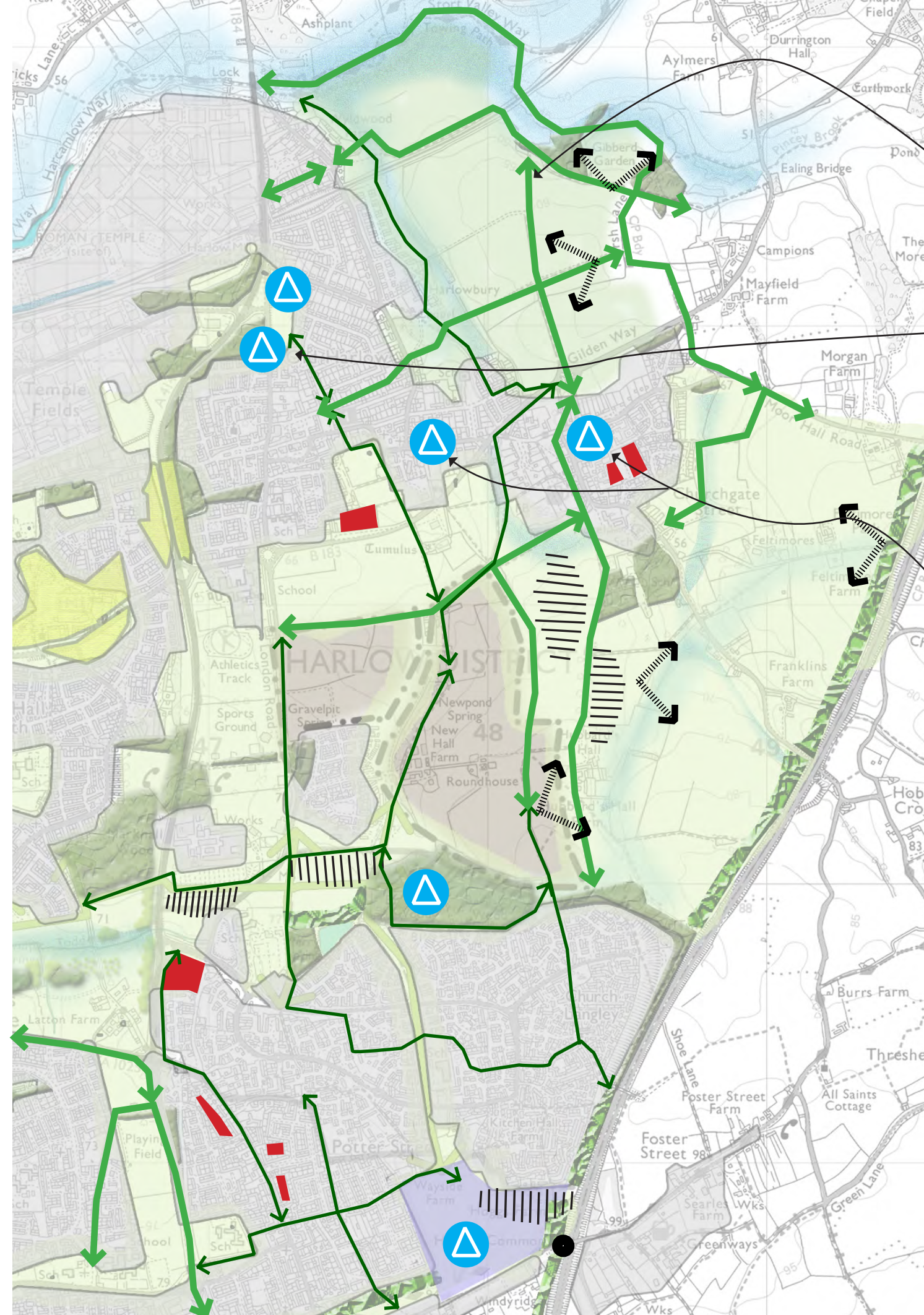
Proposed view management to improve  
greenspace legibility



Proposed local promoted green access links



Existing allotments



Enhanced access links to the Stort  
and local GI assets such as  
Gibberd's Garden

**Traditionally managed orchard sites**  
Foci for interpretation / extension as part  
of the green infrastructure network

**Old High Street / Town Core**  
Focus for interpretation of the historic  
environment



43 Chalton Street  
LONDON NW1 1JD  
T. 020 7383 5784  
F. 020 7383 4798  
www.landuse.co.uk

Project:  
Harlow GI Delivery Plan

Client:  
Harlow District Council

Title:  
GI Vision - Detail Plan for Church  
Langley

Figure Number: 8.7





## 9 Recommendations for Harlow's Local Plan

### Suggested policy approach to open space and GI in Harlow

- 9.1 The section discusses the implications of the study for Harlow's Local Plan. The study has provided a sound evidence base to inform the Local Plan, and policy recommendations are outlined in relation to the following:
- Open spaces provision
  - Spatial GI proposals
  - Planning policy recommendations
  - Application of the Open Space Standards
  - Approach to funding and the Community Infrastructure Levy
- 9.2 Local Plan policies should be updated to reflect the specific standards that have been identified for each open space typology, the deficiencies identified, and the opportunities proposed to enhance Harlow's GI network.

### Open space provision

- 9.3 This study has undertaken a detailed and comprehensive assessment of open space provision and local need analysis and has recommended the following open space standards for the town. These should be adopted in the future local plan. These are represented in the table below:

**Table 9.1: Summary of open space standards**

| Open space typology        | Accessibility standard                     | Quantity standard (per 1000 population)               | Quality and value Standard   |
|----------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| Parks and gardens          | 3.2km (District park)<br>400m (Local park) | 2.5ha (District)<br>2ha (Local)                       | 161 (District)<br>51 (Local) |
| Natural green space        | 2km (District)<br>400m (Local)             | 2ha (District)<br>3ha (Local)                         | 53 (District)<br>32 (Local)  |
| Green Corridor             | -  | -   | 27                           |
| Amenity green space        | 400m                                       | 2ha (inc. parks and gardens as alternative provision) | 32                           |
| Allotments                 | 800m                                       | 0.25ha  | 26                           |
| Churchyards and cemeteries | N/A  | N/A   | 40                           |
| Civic space                | 3.2km                                      | N/A   | 95 (District)<br>40 (Local)  |

| Open space typology                 | Accessibility standard | Quantity standard (per 1000 population)                    | Quality and value Standard |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Space for children and young people | 400m                   | 1 LEAP per 2000 population<br>1 NEAP per 10,000 population | 52                         |

- 9.4 These standards have also been benchmarked against adjoining districts and national standards, where appropriate, and are considered to provide for adequate open space to be provided in the future while recognising the character of the town and the original Gibberd principles. Whilst this study recommends that the above standards are adopted for future planning purposes it is important that some flexibility is allowed with respect of provision standards to take into account individual circumstances. As such the Council may well consider it appropriate in certain circumstances to enhance an existing facility rather than require new provision of a lesser facility. These situations will be limited and will be down to the Council's discretion on a case by case basis.
- 9.5 Harlow is blessed in having plentiful supply of open space. However, many of the issues relating to Harlow's open spaces tend to be around the quality of existing open spaces and how they related to the local community in terms of getting access to them, overlooking/surveillance of spaces. Therefore, the overarching approach to open space planning in the future will be on improving the quality of existing sites (bringing their quality up to current standards) as well as meeting the quantitative needs of the future population.

### Open spaces to enhance

- 9.6 The priority sites for enhancement in Harlow include the following:
- Town Park – aim for Green Flag status for this important space.
  - Local parks and gardens in Hare Street and Little Parndon.
  - Natural green spaces at Harlow Common and along the River Stort tributary through Great Parndon and Toddbrook, Hare Street and Little Parndon, Bush Fair and Church Langley.
  - All amenity green space which is high quality and high value should be protected and enhanced.
  - Some allotment sites in Netteswell and Mark Hall, and Bush Fair and Harlow Common, which have been identified as highly valued by local residents, but of currently poor quality.
  - Those spaces for children and young people which scored high on value, but low quality, should be prioritised for investment. This includes the larger sites in Church Langley, Old Harlow, and Netteswell and Mark Hall.

### Open space typologies where there is a surplus

- 9.7 Some of Harlow's neighbourhoods are better catered for than others, and this applies particularly to the provision of good quality natural green space, allotments and space for children and young people. Harlow Council should seek to redress this imbalance and ensure good provision of all typologies in all neighbourhoods. Section 6 highlights which neighbourhoods are deficient in each open space typology, and which open spaces are not well used or valued by the local residents. This should help to inform planning for future provision. Some key observations include:
- Several small amenity green spaces have been identified as low value to local communities. The future use and function of these spaces should be reviewed.
  - Some allotment sites in Hare Street and Little Parndon, Great Parndon and Toddbrook, and Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye have been identified as of low quality and low value.
  - There are several poor quality/poor value spaces for children and young people in Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye. The demand for better quality children's space in this



neighbourhood should be reviewed, and where appropriate alternative uses of some of these spaces should be considered.

### Which open spaces should be designated as 'Local Green Spaces'

- 9.8 The NPPF 'Local Green Space' criteria were incorporated into the open space audit, and applied to all audited sites. Application of the criteria revealed that Latton Common could fit with the requirements of the Local Green Spaces designation. Those parks and gardens with good quality and value scores should also be considered for designation as Local Green Spaces, such as Mark Hall Park and Green Park. Other key sites in Harlow, such as Town Park, may have potential to be designated as such, however this site is currently below the quality standard, and investment to enhance this site should be considered. The Council should consider further the need for additional protection of these spaces if desired. However, given the existing protection afforded through current Local Plan policy it may not be necessary to provide this additional designation.

### Other recommendations

- 9.9 This study has looked at many open spaces in the District as well as other Green Infrastructure components. However, there will inevitably be sites that were not audited in detail because of their size. These sites are generally found in the neighbourhood areas and do provide for a range of uses including amenity spaces, places for biodiversity and as play opportunities. The overall protection of these smaller spaces is important as they contribute to the overall provision in Harlow but also to the wider Green Infrastructure network by providing a network of sites at the lower level. The Council should consider on a case by case assessment of the significance of smaller scale sites to meet open space needs (amongst other criteria) before considering the release of these sites for development.

## Green Infrastructure network and proposals

- 9.10 This study has identified a range of different GI proposals which, if delivered, will address the existing deficiencies in quality and quantity of open space in Harlow. The main focus of the green infrastructure proposals has been to take forward the best aspects of the original Gibberd Vision, developing and reinforcing this to be fit for the next phase of Harlow's existence. As part of this account has been taken of climate change, and also the findings from the parallel open space assessment.
- 9.11 The G.I network is set out in **Figure 8.1-8.7**. This network generally follows the existing Green Wedges that penetrate the town and that the general network set out in this figure should be protected. However, as has been demonstrated in the analysis some parts are performing better than other areas. There may be opportunities for small parts of the network, that are not performing well, to be enhanced or considered for other uses where other spatial planning priorities are identified. This should be explored further by the Council through the Local Plan.

## Spatial GI proposals

- 9.12 Key green infrastructure recommendations to take into consideration in future spatial planning in Harlow are:

### Reinforcing the landscape setting and sense of place

- 9.13 Much of the town already benefits from a strong landscape setting, although there are local areas of fragmentation in the landscape fabric, such as the north western settlement edge west of Pinnacles Industrial Estate and parts of the southern settlement edge such as Stewards (east of Harlow Woods SSSI complex) and at Latton Common, plus the A414 'gateway' in this area. Broad proposals for enhanced landscape connectivity to address these issues are shown on the proposed Green Infrastructure network at **Figure 8.1**.

## Urban greening

- 9.14 Within the urban areas and with the exception of the green wedges and local green spaces ('internal open space – Harlow Local Plan'), there is relatively little micro level green infrastructure such as street trees. This particularly applies to the central urban areas and to incidental/neighbourhood green spaces in all neighbourhoods – scope to enhance shading/cooling to improved local green space functionality in these areas. This presents an opportunity to enhance urban biodiversity and to reinforce the distinctive mid-20<sup>th</sup> century New Town character. Strategic proposals for this are expressed in the form of the green spine shown on **Figure 8.1**.

## More legible green space networks

- 9.15 Urban greening proposals link to a designed response to providing greater legibility within the green space network. Analysis in this GI Plan has indicated that green space legibility **and connectivity is a key issue. Proposals to address this are shown on Figures 8.1 to 8.7.** The GI Plan also makes a series of non-spatial proposals and recommendations to enhance legibility, principally in the form of interactive web and/or smartphone app based green infrastructure navigational mapping and integrated site interpretation and branding, and to help promote use of the network. These proposals are described in project **proposal P3**.

## Improved landscape and habitat connectivity in the green wedge network

- 9.16 Analysis has shown that, whilst the urban areas are surrounded by a rich biodiversity resource in the form of designated habitats and Living Landscapes at Stort Valley and Epping Forest, biodiversity is more fragmented elsewhere in the district. However, there are a number of local assets such as woodland Local Wildlife Sites and riparian meadows in the green wedge network. These have formed the focus for proposals for enhanced connectivity of such habitats, shown on **Figure 8.2-8.7** and summarised within GI project **proposal P1**.

## A wider range of functions for the green wedges

- 9.17 The GI analysis has indicated that the green wedge network has the potential to fulfil a greater range of green infrastructure functions to perform more effectively. Specific areas of focus are the intersection of the principal east west (Todd's Brook) green wedge with the Canons Brook green wedge, the intersection of the Todd's Brook green wedge and the Water Gardens/north south wedge and the vista to Rye Hill, and the eastern part of this principal green wedge at Latton Farm. As shown on **Figures 8.2-8.7**, these opportunities also address identified deficiencies and needs in terms of local food production and accessible natural green space, as well as enhanced natural play provision and space for informal access to nature. These principles also apply to amenity green spaces in the neighbourhoods (**Figures 8.2-8.7**).

## 'Space for water' and greater expression of riparian landscape character

- 9.18 The analysis undertaken as part of this GI Plan has highlighted a need to enhance the ecological quality of the river environment in the main green wedges, such as Canons Brook/Todd's Brook. This has formed the focus for habitat creation and wetland enhancement proposals, as shown on **Figure 8.2-8.7**. These proposals contribute to a multi-functional green infrastructure network, which contributes to and enhances the sense of place embodied in the Gibberd Vision.

## Planning policy recommendations

- 9.19 As part of updating the Council's approach to open space planning in Harlow the policies in existing Local Plan were reviewed and the following recommendations made in light of the analysis in this report.

| 2006 Local Plan Policy  | Recommendations from this study  |
|---|--|
| L2 – Open Space and playgrounds: For new residential developments of more than 10 dwellings, open spaces and play areas must be provided, with the option of the Council adopting the spaces. Off-site contributions to | This policy should be revised to refer directly to the standards set out in this study. New residential developments should be required to contribute to the provision of new open space and play provision, in line with the standards. |

| 2006 Local Plan Policy  | Recommendations from this study   |
|---|---|
| the provision of open spaces and play areas may be considered in exceptional circumstances.   | However, in many cases it may be more appropriate for the developer to contribute to open space provision via the Community Infrastructure Levy (see below).  |
| L10 – Latton Farm: Provides that if Latton Farm is no longer viable then the only acceptable use is playing fields  | Latton Farm offers an opportunity to create a community food production resource, such as an orchard, garden or urban farm to enhance the GI network. However, other open space uses should be considered for the farm to provide additional recreational and leisure benefits.   |
| L11 – Water based recreation: Proposals to provide improved access to the River Stort and its environs for recreation will be required to have regard to the conservation of existing wildlife habitats.  | This policy is still relevant. Proposals for the enhancement of the River Stort for wildlife and recreation purposes are outlined in this study.  |
| L12 – Allotments: The value of allotments as a public amenity is recognised and their long-term protection is sought. In the case of over-provision, allotment land would be retained with the creation of wildlife habitats. Sites which are unsuitable for allotment cultivation will primarily be released for other open space uses. New allotments will be provided as part of major new residential developments.   | This policy should be revised to reflect the deficiency analysis undertaken through this study.   |
| L13 – Rights of Way: The existing network of definitive public rights of way within Harlow will be safeguarded. New footpaths, bridleways and cycleways will be required as part of new developments, to link with existing routes and provide access to areas of countryside and woodland. New or modified public rights of way will meet high standards of design, accessibility and personal safety.   | This policy is still relevant, and reference should be made to the Proposed GI Plan to prioritise routes for enhancement and locations for the creation of new routes and links.  |
| NE1 – Green Wedges: Green wedges will be protected from inappropriate development. Permission will only be granted for small scale development proposals and the replacement of existing buildings. The green wedges are identified as providing a landscape feature which is fundamental to the character of the town; protecting and enhancing the qualities of the natural landscape; retaining the open character of existing uses and safeguarding the land from inappropriate development; preserving sites of ecological value and maximising biodiversity potential; separating | This policy should be updated to reflect the findings of this study. The green wedges are an important element of the town character. Whilst their integrity should be retained, this study has highlighted a surplus of open space, and there is potential for some well-designed development which respects the town character. The Council should undertake a local Green Wedge review in light of the findings of this study to determine the extent of which some open space provision could be reviewed, whilst ensuring the retention of the principle of the Green Wedges and to provide a robust and |



| 2006 Local Plan Policy  | Recommendations from this study   |
|---|---|
| neighbourhoods, housing areas and industrial areas; preserving the setting and character of historic sites and areas; and contributing towards the amenities of residents.  | defensible long term boundary for protection.   |
| NE7 – Internal Open Spaces: Proposals for development on internal open spaces (not Green Wedge and not Green Belt) will only be permitted for leisure and recreation uses and community uses, providing such developments do not compromise landscape principles. | This policy should be updated to reflect the findings of this study. Decisions on the protection of existing ‘internal open spaces’ should be based on the findings of this study, specifically the quality and value audit. Where there is surplus provision of open space typologies, those with low quality and value scores should be considered for reallocation to a typology with low provision in the first instance, and if this is not required then well-designed development could be considered. |

## Future policy recommendations

9.20 In terms of future planning policies the Council should consider the following for inclusion in the Local Plan:

1. The open space standards set out in the table 8.1 above.
2. Protect the general integrity of the G.I. network.
3. The Council should consider developing a holistic approach to open space and Green Infrastructure through the development of an Environmental Assets Policy, together with more specific policies for particular topics where appropriate.

### 9.21 Application of the Open Space Standards for new development

9.22 The application of the open space standards to planned new development in Harlow should be appropriate to the scale of development proposed. Large residential developments should be required to incorporate new open space which reflects the accessibility, quantity and quality standards outlined in this report. These spaces should be multi-functional wherever possible.

9.23 Other new residential development should be required to contribute funds towards the creation/enhancement of open space on a per dwelling basis through the Community Infrastructure Levy (see below).

9.24 The number of additional residents associated with each new dwelling can be based on the assumptions set out in the 2007 Open Space SPD, as follows:

- 1 bedroom: 1.5 additional residents
- 2 bedrooms: 2.5 additional residents
- 3 bedrooms: 3.5 additional residents
- 4 bedrooms or more: 4.5 additional residents

## Approach to funding and the Community Infrastructure Levy

9.25 The Open Space SDP currently provides the mechanism for securing contributions to open space provision in Harlow. However, the approach set out in the SPD will need to be updated to reflect the changes to S106 contributions and the recommendations in this report.

- 9.26 External funding streams include those administered by the EU, national government bodies or independent organisations. They tend to be available for capital projects only, and there is little external funding available for maintaining GI and open space. Local authorities are eligible to apply for some funding streams, although some funding is restricted to charities and charitable trusts. Harlow Council should consider partnering with charitable organisations to secure funding, or establishing a charitable trust to open up more funding options. These include the Forestry Commission's annual grant payments, the Woodland Premium Scheme and the Woodland Management Scheme.
- 9.27 If established, a green space trust could also have a 'trading subsidiary' element. This enables commercial activities to be undertaken by the trust, to help secure funding. This could be beneficial at sites such as Town Park, where public consultation revealed an aspiration for more activities, events and concerts to take place.

#### **Developer contributions to be secured through Community Infrastructure Levy**

- 9.28 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced through the Planning Act (2008) as a capital cost payable by developers towards the cost of local and sub-regional infrastructure to support development. Open space and recreational facilities are included in the types of infrastructure that are eligible for CIL funding. CIL should 'support and incentivise new development' and therefore local authorities should test the viability of the development when setting future CIL.
- 9.29 At this stage it is not possible to establish detailed costings for the open space component of CIL given the uncertainty of the scale of future development and the requirement for other infrastructure to support future development. The Council will need to develop a tariff for developers to contribute to GI and open space. This could contribute to both delivery of opportunities, and also to maintenance. The broad approach would involve the following tasks:
- Identify future GI and open space needs (in terms of enhancement and creation) based on the application of the standards set out in this report to the preferred option for development;
  - Broadly cost the necessary GI and open space investment needed;
  - Identify funding likely to be available for GI and open space;
  - Identify the potential funding gap (difference between the funding required and the funding available); review the potential effect of required CIL on the economic viability of new development in the District;
  - Quantify the approximate GI and open space tariff per household, based on the total funding gap divided by the planned number of new dwellings.

