

## 13. PART B: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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13.1. Section 10 sets out the recommended Green Arc boundary, which focuses on the eastern half of the original area of search (see Figure 11.1).

13.2. Section 11 outlines the recommended Vision for the Green Arc:

***Bringing the BIG OUTDOORS closer to people – through the creation and protection of an extensive, attractive and valued recreational landscape of well-connected and accessible countryside around London, for people and wildlife.***

13.3. The following range of strategic objectives are also recommended to give expression to the Vision:

- Promote positive uses for the Green Belt that realise the potential to improve the quality and accessibility of the land while maintaining its strategic objectives
- To improve the contribution of the countryside around London to the quality of life of Londoners, local residents, visitors and people beyond the outer boundary
- To conserve and enhance the biodiversity value
- To improve the linkages between existing and potential accessible open land for people and wildlife
- To create attractive destinations for daytrips and holidays, for visitors, tourists and the local population
- To support initiatives that contribute to sustainable development, including renewable energy, floodwater retention and water gathering areas
- To provide burial space 'green' or 'woodland' burials in natural environments

13.4. Section 12 recommends that the following implementation mechanisms be employed to deliver the Green Arc Vision and objectives:

- Land acquisitions and prescriptions for land management
- Private sector funding
- Creative use of the planning system
- Use of other statutory duties and responsibilities
- Influencing regional and local policy

- 13.5. It recommends that a Green Arc Partnership is established comprising those organisations already on the Steering Group:
- Lee Valley Regional Park
  - Corporation of London
  - Thames Chase
  - Woodland Trust
  - Countryside Agency
  - Forestry Commission
  - Greater London Authority
  - English Nature
  - Essex County Council
  - Hertfordshire County Council.
- 13.6. Members of the Partnership should have a number of tasks and responsibilities, including:
- Reviewing the composition of the Partnership and the wider network of organisations, agencies and associations that may be involved in implementation.
  - Ensuring that the role and objectives of the Partnership are understood and publicised within organisations represented on the Partnership.
  - Overseeing the development of the Project Plan (see below) to agree flagship projects and the priority of other projects.
  - Reviewing the Project Plan.
  - Defining sub-groups for each topic area to guide the formulation and implementation of detailed projects.
  - Monitoring progress at regular intervals and the strategy as a whole on a five yearly basis.
  - Managing the Project Director (see below).
- 13.7. Constant and effective links should be made with central, regional and local government as well as implementation bodies to help the sphere of influence of the Green Arc and help to bring about change. This wider network should include:
- Groundwork
  - Principal land owners.

- 13.8. A Champion Organisation should be identified with the remit of 'selling' the vision and objectives of the initiative. It is recommended that the Countryside Agency should take on this role, given the organisation's wide and inclusive remit.
- 13.9.** A suitably qualified and experienced Project Director should be appointed; ideally this person would be seconded from one of the Partnership organisations. The Project Director should be responsible for developing the Project Plan (see below), and overseeing project implementation in consultation with the Partnership and wider network. A further priority action in the first three years should be to integrate the Green Arc Vision into the Regional Spatial Strategy and other relevant regional policy documents. The Project Director should also be involved in the coordination of funding bids.
- 13.10.** In the longer term (in the next 3 years), it is recommended that that the Project Director should appoint a limited number of project officers to work in particular sub-areas of the Green Arc or as specialists on particular projects.
- 13.11. A Project Plan should be produced as a first priority, to provide the overall working strategy for the Partnership. The project plan would cover a suitable time period (e.g. three years) and be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 13.12. Development of the Project plan should commence with a consultation workshop with the Partnership and wider network to identify possible projects, to develop criteria against which projects should be appraised and to start to prioritise projects.
- 13.13. The Project Plan should include the following:
- Themes for action reflecting Strategic Objectives e.g. access, recreation and tourism, landscape, nature conservation, heritage and culture, etc.
  - Flagship projects, which will be essential for raising the profile of the Green Arc.
  - 'Easy-win' projects, which will ensure the Green Arc has a positive and visible impact in the short term.
  - A long list of potential projects, which could be structured geographically by 'Management Block' or by 'Priority Opportunity Areas' (see below).
- 13.14. The Project Plan could usefully be structured geographically, for example identifying projects within Priority Opportunity Areas to build up links between key areas within the Green Arc. The Steering Group has identified five Priority Opportunity Areas:
- Stansted, Harlow and the M11 Corridor
  - Broxbourne Woods to Lee Valley Regional Park
  - Lee Valley Regional Park to Epping Forest
  - Epping Forest north through Roydon
  - Epping Forest to Hainault Forest

- Hainault Forest to Thames Chase.
- 13.15. Over a 40-year programme period, total capital costs of land acquisition are estimated to be around **£136 million**. Total running cost of the estate including staff, maintenance, management and public consultation are likely to be in the order of **£145.8million** over the 40-year period. Total costs over the time period are therefore estimated to be around **£281.8 million**.
- 13.16. The Government has made a commitment through the Sustainable Communities Plan that new development should improve quality of life in all locations, which includes objectives for enhancing the environment and creating opportunities for public enjoyment of open space. There is a major opportunity within the Communities Plan for the Green Arc to attract sustained funding for environmentally-based initiatives. A range of other funding sources has also been identified.