



GREEN ARC
Bringing the outdoors closer to everyone

Making
connections

Bringing the outdoors closer to everyone

The GreenArc vision: Bringing the outdoors closer to everyone – by creating, linking and managing extensive and valued landscapes for people and wildlife around London.

A unique partnership

The GreenArc partnership:

- cuts across traditional boundaries
- integrates the local, regional and national contexts
- has considerable green infrastructure experience
- delivers a wide range of relevant greenspace expertise

The partners share the vision and have a common agenda to enhance greenspace for people and wildlife. As a result, since this partnership was created in 2004, GreenArc has stimulated important dialogues about Green Belt issues and sites within it, has helped to inform the review of local and regional policy, as well as:

- **creating** – 90 ha of new public greenspace
- **linking** – with almost 15 km of paths and cycleways, and
- **managing** – improvements to a further 200 ha through facilitating biodiversity and access actions

A changing role

As circumstances have changed, so the GreenArc's role has responded too. With spiralling land prices, especially around growth corridors, GreenArc's role has evolved from being that of a greenspace deliverer to one of providing the vision and skilled facilitation, plus the knowledge and contacts to make greenspace projects happen.

GreenArc oversees the vital recreational hinterland for London, Essex and Hertfordshire, and is engaged by the area's Growth Agenda and the implications this has for increasing pressures on existing greenspace infrastructure and the need for new greenspace throughout its area - not just the M11 growth corridor.

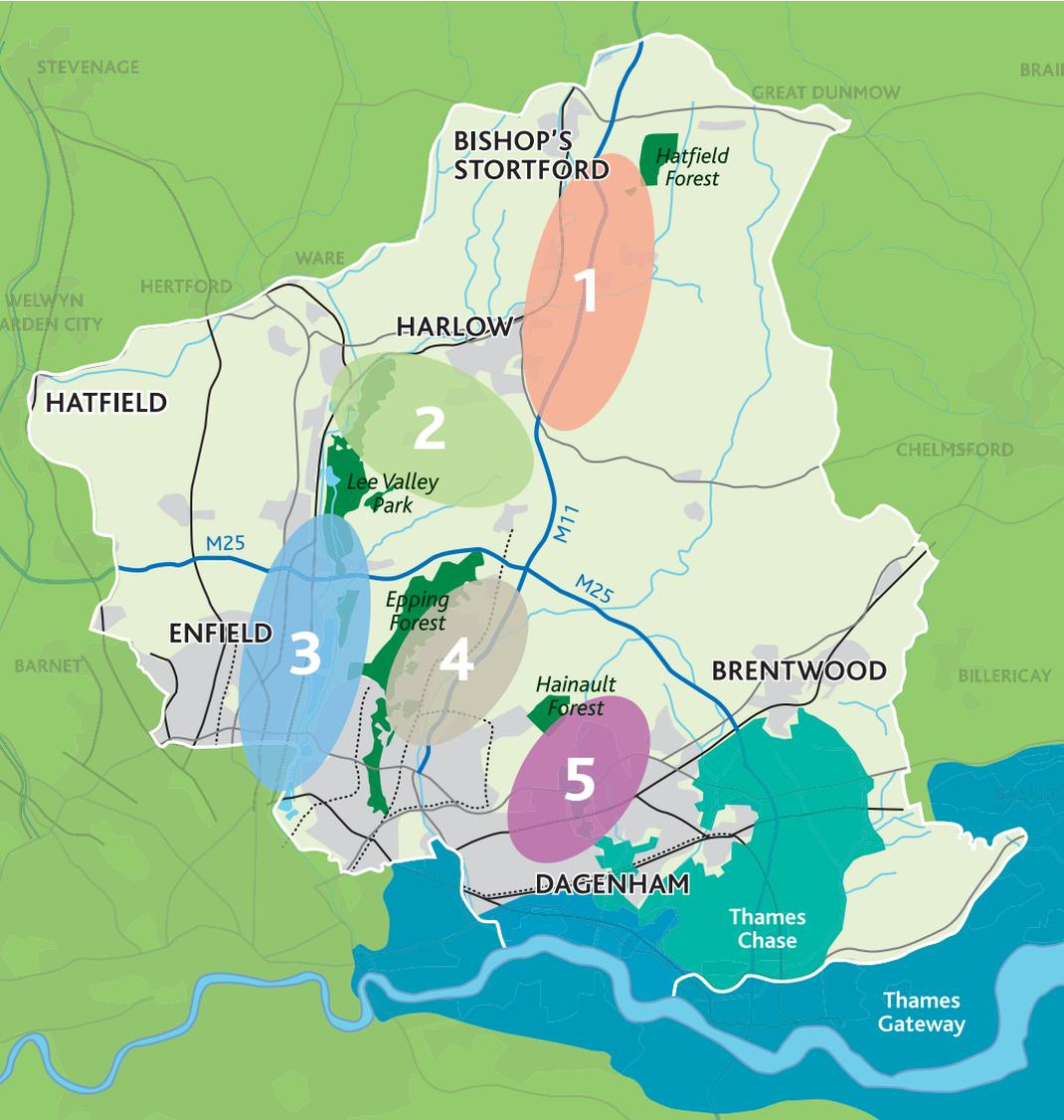
GreenArc and East of England Growth Regions



This brochure has been produced to promote the GreenArc and to encourage partners, old and new, to work with us in delivering a better countryside. 'Making Connections' reviews the North East GreenArc Partnership* and its activity during 2007/8 (*GreenArc in action*). Then explores what we would like to achieve (*GreenArc vision*) and finally shows how GreenArc's expertise and network of connections can contribute to future green infrastructure (GI) projects across its area (*GreenArc into the future*).

* Active Green Arc partnerships are operating in three quadrants around London – in the South West and North West, as well as here in the North East. The development of the Green Arc approach has been key in establishing a common agenda across the London, East and South East regions.





Key objectives

GreenArc's commitment is to:

- conserve the Green Belt and enhance its public use, landscape and wildlife
- increase and expand the open space and green corridors available for public enjoyment across the area
- protect and improve biodiversity and wildlife

The GreenArc Partnership

The GreenArc seeks to unlock the potential benefits of the London Green Belt through partnership working. This partnership comprises the following Government and non-Government stakeholders:

- Essex County Council ■ City of London ■ Natural England
- Greater London Authority ■ Forestry Commission
- Department of Communities & Local Government
- Lee Valley Regional Park Authority ■ Thames Chase ■ Wildlife Trusts
- Woodland Trust ■ National Trust ■ Land Restoration Trust
- BTCV ■ Groundwork ■ Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
- East of England Development Agency ■ Government Office-East
- Deer Initiative ■ RSPB ■ Hertfordshire County Council
- London Parks and Green Spaces

GreenArc's greenspace creation and linking activity

To date there have been five zones of action:

1. The Stansted, Harlow and M11 corridor
2. Epping Forest north through Roydon (Harlow Green Infrastructure Plan area)
3. The Lee Valley Regional Park to Epping Forest, north and south of Waltham Abbey
4. Epping Forest to Hainault Forest
5. Hainault Forest to Thames Chase – Dagenham corridor and Havering Ridge

For more details about individual projects please visit www.greenarc.org

With GreenArc's connections the partnership is steadily making the countryside closer for everyone.

Creating greenspace

The creation and improvement of green infrastructure is vital to underpin the planned growth area programmes. GreenArc is seeking to add to the area's greenspace fabric to benefit both people and wildlife.



Added green infrastructure

Theydon Bois is a good example. The original purchase in 2006/7 of Theydon Bois Woodland provided a valuable link between the ancient forests of Epping and Hainault. In the course of 2007/8 this link was enhanced as GreenArc was instrumental, along with the Woodland Trust's partnership with the Land Restoration Trust, in securing a 25-year lease on another 11.7 ha of woodland adjacent to the site.

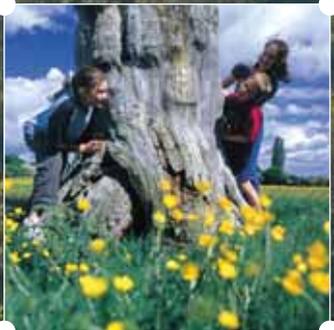
GreenArc is continuing to facilitate several positive management steps, such as the provision of a further 1.2 km of surfaced track, the establishment of a 5 ha wildflower meadow, maintenance of paths and site entrance improvements.

Community engagement

GreenArc also recognises that greenspace creation should have a strong engagement with the local community. To that end, during 2007/8, GreenArc helped at Theydon Bois with arrangements for a programme of community involvement, including the planting of 35,000 native trees by community groups such as the London Chinese Buddhists, schools and nearby Brownie packs.

In partnership with the Woodland Trust, Commissions East, Essex County Council and Epping Forest District Council, GreenArc has appointed a renowned artist to provide an attractive landmark on the site during autumn 2008.

The social dividend generated by all of this activity is considerable.



Landscape improvements through landowner involvement

GreenArc is not just about land ownership. For both public and privately owned land, GreenArc has forged close links with landowners and their agents. These contribute to an equally valuable yet more indirect programme of landscape

and wildlife improvement by private landowners as it fosters more considerate land management – examples include encouragement of best practice horse management and effective deer control.

Deerwise

Increasing numbers of deer are damaging the region's woodland and the Deer Initiative has been set up to oversee their effective and humane management.

The Initiative has thus been highly active across the GreenArc area visiting numerous organisations and sites, including Epping Forest (City of London), Epping Forest District Council, Essex County Council, Harlow District Council, Basildon District Council, Essex Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission and Thurrock District Council.

Contact has also been made with farmers and private landowners to develop deer management plans for their woodland areas. Thermal imaging surveys of deer populations have been conducted in the Brentwood and Epping Forest areas and high seats for control measures have been installed.

Also, in partnership with GreenArc, the Deer Initiative is working on a venison marketing feasibility project with the National Trust at Hatfield Forest – a project demonstrating environmental improvements can deliver economic benefit.



Horsewise

Over 2007/8, working through the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), a series of well-attended workshops was held throughout the GreenArc area. Topics dealt with included biodiversity, access and welfare, as well as landscape; attendees included farmers, livery owners and individual horse owners.

In addition there were livery yard and riding school visits. These involved the FWAG team working with owners/managers to recognise and promote good practice, as well as surveying the premises and issuing tailored management reports.

There were also visits to horse-grazed local wildlife sites. These visits provided opportunities to recommend solutions to any management issues encountered.

Linking greenspaces

Watercourses are natural corridors of connectivity across our countryside, yet in many places their significance has dwindled since their eighteenth century economic heyday. Now, with GreenArc's help, they are returning to the fore as recreational routes and wildlife highways.



Enhancing access

Increasingly GreenArc is focussing its attention on these linear environmental 'highways' as they deliver excellent levels of public access, whilst often being great biodiversity habitats in their own right. Such linear routes can also provide opportunities to build further access or wildlife areas alongside.

During 2007/8 GreenArc has contributed to several such linear projects:

At Sewardstone Marshes GreenArc wholly funded a project to add vital North London walking and cycling connections via the London Loop across Lee Valley Regional Park Authority land. On site a circular access route was added, plus signage, furniture and the instigation of various land management measures to improve the site's habitat for wildlife.

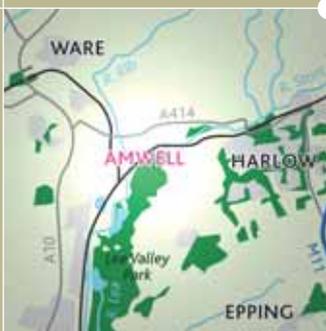
GreenArc continued to contribute at Rye Meads and Stanstead Innings, this time alongside Natural England, to fund the provision of an attractive boardwalk, enlargement of an existing bird hide and installation of gates to curtail fly tipping.

Over the course of 2007/8 at Amwell, the nationally important wetland nature reserve, GreenArc has worked with the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to secure additional external funding from a variety of donors to support significant access infrastructure improvements, including the installation of new viewpoints.

GreenArc maintained its support of Lee Navigation towpath improvements with its partner British Waterways. During 2007/8 this amounted to funding the restoration of 4 km of towpath that has contributed significantly to London-Hertfordshire-Essex access links.

GreenArc's access projects have not been confined to waterways, as recent work with the National Trust at Hatfield Forest demonstrates. In due course the work here will lead to a range of extremely significant access improvements to the site; measures include improved traffic circulation and, with the complete removal of cars from the Forest, better pedestrian safety.

With these projects GreenArc is helping secure valuable social benefit by enabling greater countryside and greenspace access that can also foster biodiversity improvement.





Protecting and conserving biodiversity

GreenArc is keen to deliver greenspace and land management that, wherever possible, contributes to the area's Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs).

During 2007/8, GreenArc has helped a variety of partners undertake a range of measures that contribute both directly and indirectly to biodiversity.

GreenArc has helped with the facilitation of the following projects:

Epping Forest District Council

- ancient tree recording survey of rural areas and workshops with schools

Harlow District Council

- grey squirrel control, a sustainable timber project, veteran tree mapping and interpretation provision

Essex Wildlife Trust

- Roding and Essex grasslands study outlining conservation management measures for this valuable but threatened habitat



Improving waterways

It is vital to secure 'joined-up' greenspace to allow people and wildlife to move more freely around the countryside. Riversides and canal towpaths are natural greenspace arteries that can be used to knit the GreenArc countryside together.



GreenArc has already helped with the delivery of over 30 kilometres of such links across its area.

Opening these greenspace corridors up has a significant multiplier effect on the public's access and appreciation of our countryside.

Greenspace projects are good for wildlife too, helping to make the countryside more adaptable to external pressures such as climate change.

River corridor projects may also present opportunities for water management enhancements with much wider benefits.

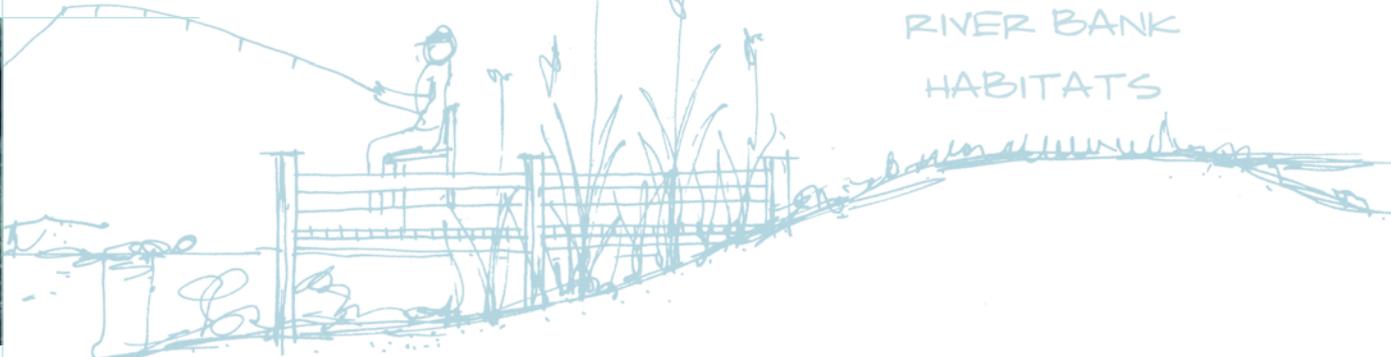
Improvements to greenspace corridors and waterways not only deliver social and environmental benefits with a more 'joined-up' and accessible landscape, but can provide economic value too.



FLOATING AND SUBMERGED PLANTS

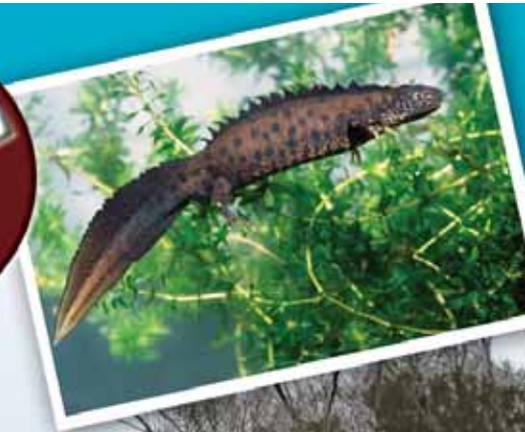
MARGINAL PLANTS

RIVER BANK HABITATS





Waterways improved

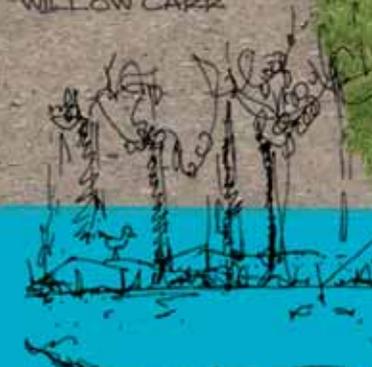


ALDER AND
WILLOW CARR

PERMANENT
CHANNEL

RIVER BANK
HABITATS

WETLAND
HABITATS



2014/15
CLEAR WATER
HABITATS

EMERGENT
PLANTS

REED BEDS FOR
FLOOD ALLEVIATION

WATER COURSE HABITATS

Enhancing farmland

The importance of the urban fringe to deliver substantial countryside access opportunities for residents cannot be overstated.

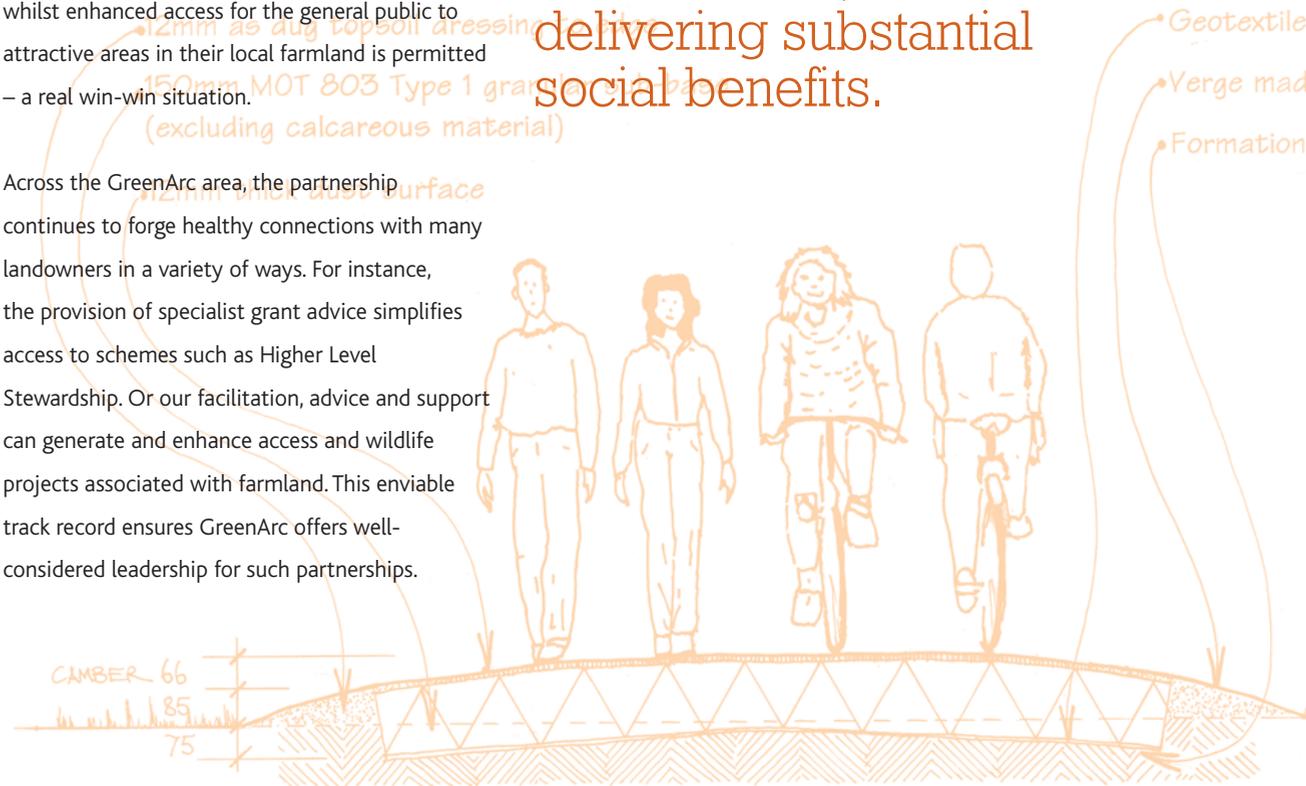


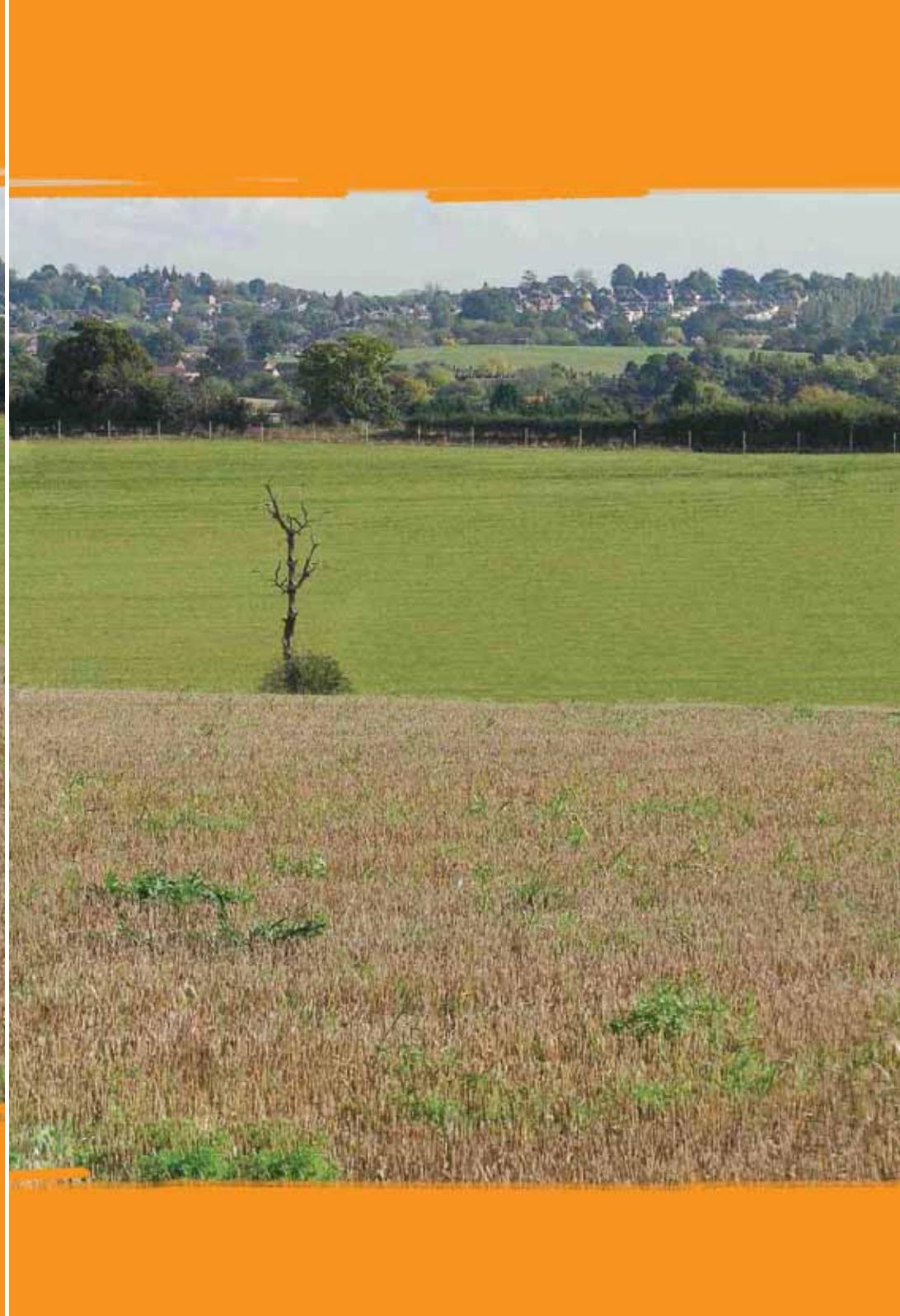
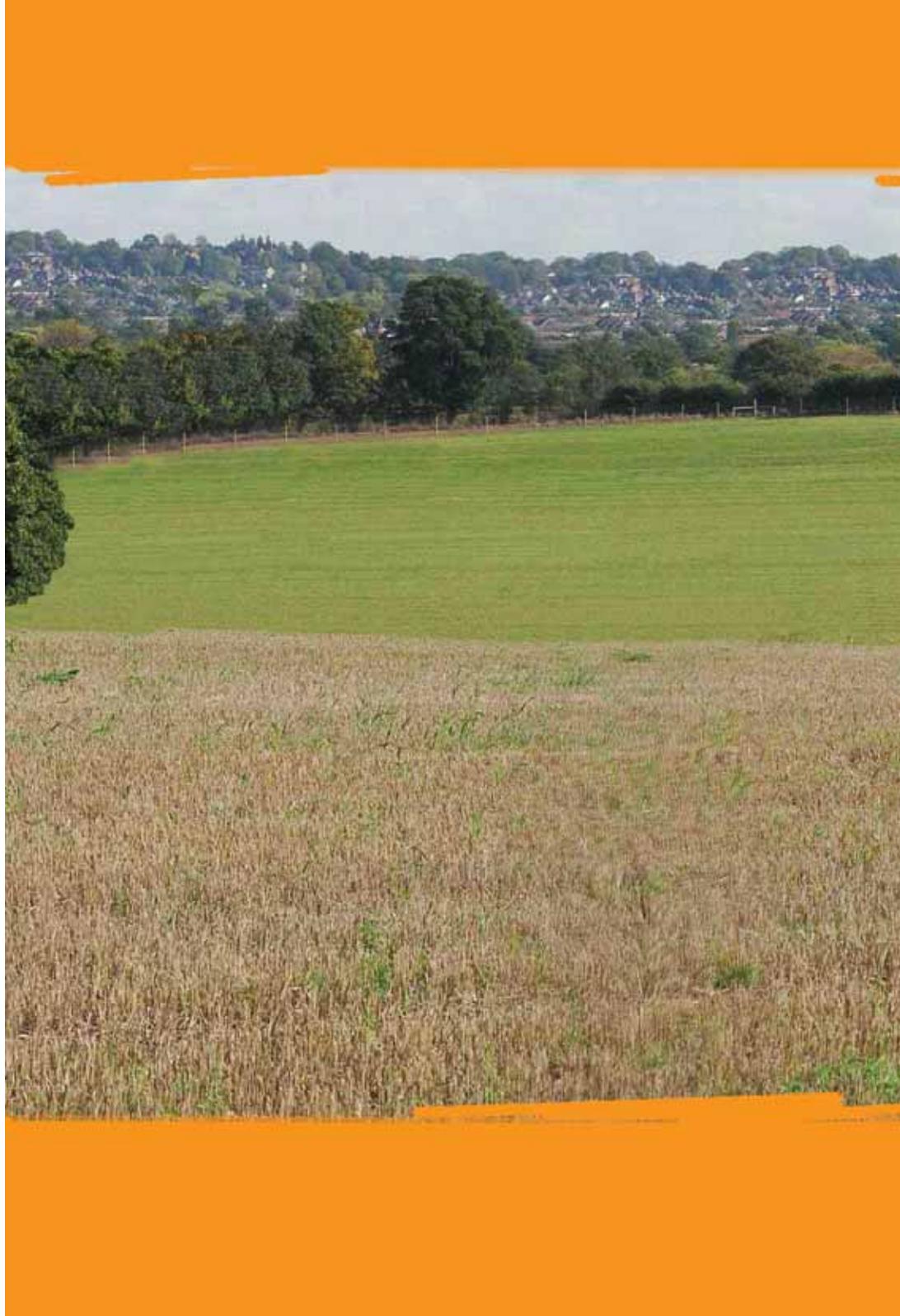
Low intervention projects close to residential areas, when undertaken as a partnership between farming interests and public bodies, realise dividends for both sides. Carefully structured and controlled entry can safeguard agricultural output, whilst enhanced access for the general public to attractive areas in their local farmland is permitted – a real win-win situation.

Enhanced farmland access can safeguard agriculture's economic contributions, whilst delivering substantial social benefits.



Across the GreenArc area, the partnership continues to forge healthy connections with many landowners in a variety of ways. For instance, the provision of specialist grant advice simplifies access to schemes such as Higher Level Stewardship. Or our facilitation, advice and support can generate and enhance access and wildlife projects associated with farmland. This enviable track record ensures GreenArc offers well-considered leadership for such partnerships.





Farmland enhanced



Form as dug topsoil dressing to edge
20mm M20/600 Type 1 granular sub-base
(excluding calcareous material)
12mm thick dust surface

• Geotextile membrane 100gsm
• Verge made up with the dug topsoil
• Formation shaped and compacted as per



Non Arvensis.



Adding woodland

Projects that seek to create new woodlands are another GreenArc interest. Such projects tend to be on a grander scale, often involve a change in land-use and invariably provide important contributions towards a less fragmented countryside.

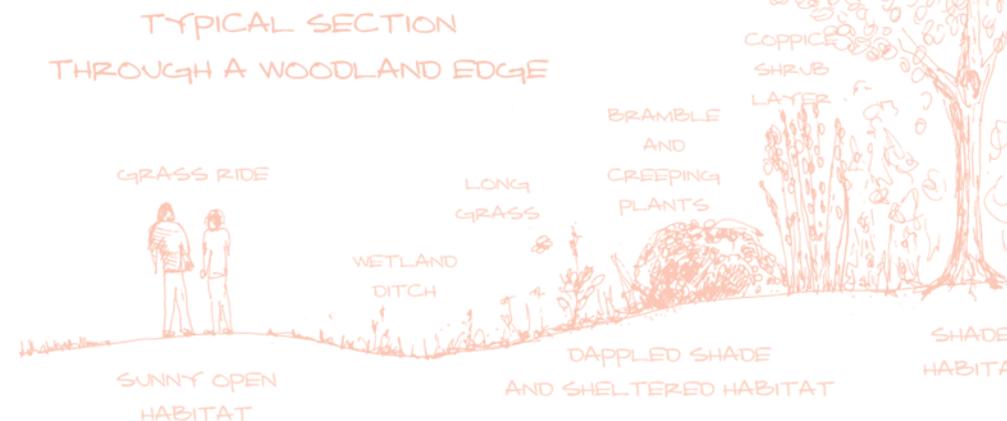
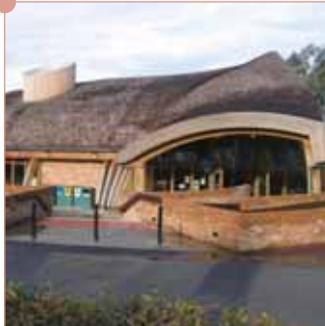
Whether it is the establishment of stands of native oak, wet woodland, or coppiced coverts, all have the potential to contribute to enhanced wildlife and deliver towards local Biodiversity Action Plans.

Provision of large areas of accessible natural greenspace allows people to immerse themselves in this 'new' countryside. Woodlands' capacity to absorb visitors in relatively large numbers without creating an impression of being crowded is especially useful. As a result woodland's potential for health and psychological benefit is enormous.

As a part of such woodland projects, the adoption of ancient coppicing techniques can deliver modern renewable energy, to generate carbon-efficient heat and a valuable revenue stream. Thus the securing of an economic dividend from woodfuel is a real possibility. Over 2007/8 GreenArc's partnering with Anglia Woodfuels is already paying off. Across the GreenArc area there have been:

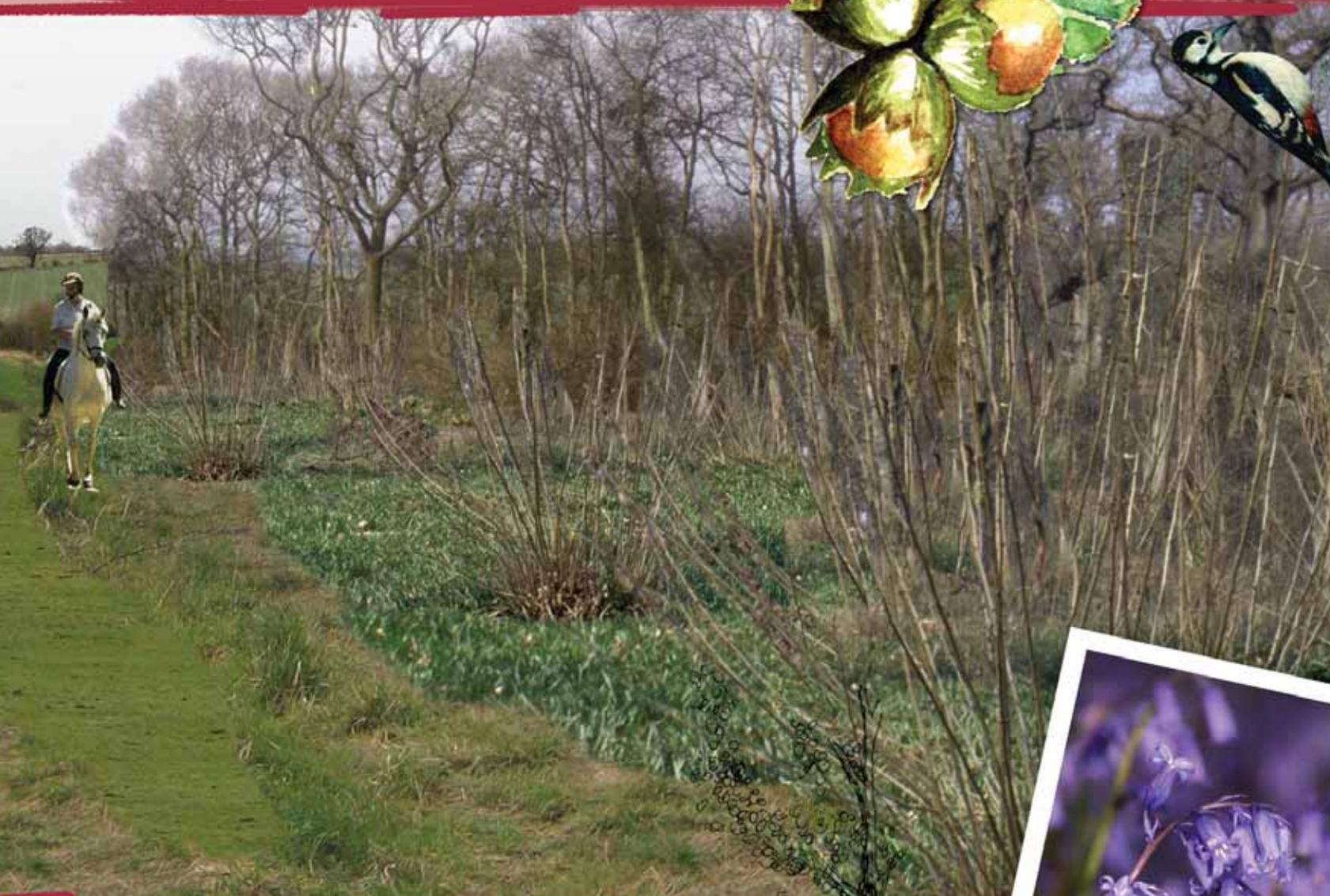
- many successful woodfuel events, directed at landowners
- a 60kW woodfuel boiler installed – fuelled by locally produced wood

Large-scale projects have the capacity to deliver economically, socially and environmentally, and the rewards for people and wildlife are substantial.





Woodland added



Welcome to
Carrington Woods

Carrington Woods



Making connections

GreenArc – delivering on greenspace policy and projects

Wherever you are considering greenspace, GreenArc can advise on policy or facilitate projects.

Whether you are preparing your LDF, considering how to apply Section 106 mitigation, or thinking about a specific greenspace project – talking to GreenArc could be beneficial.

As 'Making Connections' demonstrates, the GreenArc partnership has a vision for an enhanced landscape that is rich in wildlife, accessible to people and less fragmented. So, if you have a greenspace idea that matches at least one of these aims:

- creating or improving greenspace
- adding to biodiversity
- increasing public access
- linking sites

... then you share our vision.

We can help you with both 'visioning' and delivery, to make a difference on the ground. We will:

- understand your needs
- if necessary visit the site
- advise on policy
- identify the best partners to work with

Whenever you need to turn ideas into action, GreenArc can help you deliver.

GreenArc can then help make a project happen.

Our support can be delivered through:

- advice and expertise – your proposals within the context of existing green infrastructure plans; good practice in access provision; how to achieve the most for biodiversity; possible sources of funding
- making connections – putting you in touch with other partners working close by, or on similar schemes, or with previous experience of similar projects
- direct input – help with feasibility, design, costings, delivery



GreenArc can access a range of green infrastructure skills:

- Ecologist
- Chartered surveyor
- Landscape architect
- Forester
- Biodiversity specialist
- Recreation specialist



Key

- Fitch Way
- Lea Valley Towpath
- ▲— London Loop
- Stort Valley Walk
- The Forest Way
- Tube
- Railway
- - - GreenArc Boundary
- Accessible Greenspaces
- Urban Areas

Future projects

Where are we interested in encouraging projects?

While we have a remit for the entire Green Belt to the north and east of London, we have to prioritise our interests. In terms of the greatest opportunity for achieving change, GreenArc recognises the connective value of waterways. Thus, as the map indicates, GreenArc's focus is likely to be on river valleys, particularly those adjacent to areas of greenspace 'deprivation'. But frankly, wherever there is a viable greenspace project, we are interested.

Full support

For every greenspace project that matches our vision, GreenArc will support it with advice, skills and assistance all the way through to completion.

So talk to GreenArc today

GREENARC

Bringing the outdoors closer to everyone

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Making connections



www.naturalengland.org.uk



www.woodland-trust.org.uk



Herts &
Middlesex

www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/herts



www.cityoflondon.gov.uk



www.nationaltrust.org.uk

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

www.london.gov.uk



www.green-space.org.uk/london



www.groundwork.org.uk



www2.btcv.org.uk



www.leevalleypark.org.uk



www.harlow.gov.uk



www.thameschase.org.uk



www.forestry.gov.uk/england



www.fwag.org.uk



www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk



www.defra.gov.uk



www.communities.gov.uk/corporate



www.essexcc.gov.uk



www.britishwaterways.co.uk



www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk



www.essexcc.gov.uk



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