

# Lower Thames Crossing

## 6.7 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications:  
Prescribed Forms and Procedure)  
Regulations 2009

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- k. Woodland planting around the proposed A127 pedestrian bridge west of Junction 29 to be managed to include larger stock trees to replace those lost within the Tree Preservation Order area grouping.

### Typologies present

7.8.6 The planting and habitat typologies present within this area are:

- a. LE1.3 Species-rich grassland
- b. LE2.1 Woodland
- c. LE2.1 Woodland – including non-native species
- d. LE2.2 Woodland edge
- e. LE2.5 Shrubs with intermittent trees
- f. LE4.4 Native hedgerow with trees
- g. LE6.2 Banks and ditches
- h. LE6.4 Wet grassland

7.8.7 The outline management prescriptions and programmes for the typologies listed above are detailed in section 8 of this document.

## 7.9 Thames Chase and replacement open space land

Plate 7.9 Thames Chase and replacement open space land



## Description of management area

- 7.9.1 This management area is located to the south of the existing Thames Chase site, between the proposed Lower Thames Crossing to M25 slip road and the existing Upminster and Grays branch rail line.
- 7.9.2 In addition to the replacement open space land provided to the south of Thames Chase, this management area also includes the land reinstated within Thames Chase itself, adjacent to the proposed slip road.
- 7.9.3 The existing landscape to the south of Thames Chase comprises arable, agricultural land and has a vegetated boundary to the railway line.
- 7.9.4 Within the existing Thames Chase site, the landscape is a mixture of maturing woodland planting, open grassland, and formal and informal footpaths as part of the Thames Chase Community Forest.
- 7.9.5 The management area is approximately 18.5ha in size.
- 7.9.6 This management area is shown in the Environmental Masterplan (Application Document 6.2, Figure 2.4), Section 13, Sheets 3-5.

## Management requirements

- 7.9.7 The management requirements of this area are as follows:
- a. To the south of Thames Chase, the management area is to be designed as replacement land for open space to be acquired within the existing Thames Chase Community Forest.
  - b. The landscape shall be a mosaic of woodland, woodland edge and open grassland, designed in the same character as the existing Thames Chase site.
  - c. The replacement open space would be landscaped to complement the existing site and use, linking together and functioning as one.
  - d. To act as replacement habitat and a receptor site for translocated species including amphibians, particularly GCN. Hibernacula and refuges for translocated species would also be provided around the site, based on good practice guidance designs (English Nature, 2001).
  - e. Woodland planting on the embankment within the existing Thames Chase area to be managed to provide visual screening of the proposed slip road which is located to the top of the embankment.
  - f. Species selection, form and pattern of planting within the Thames Chase area to be reflective of the existing character.

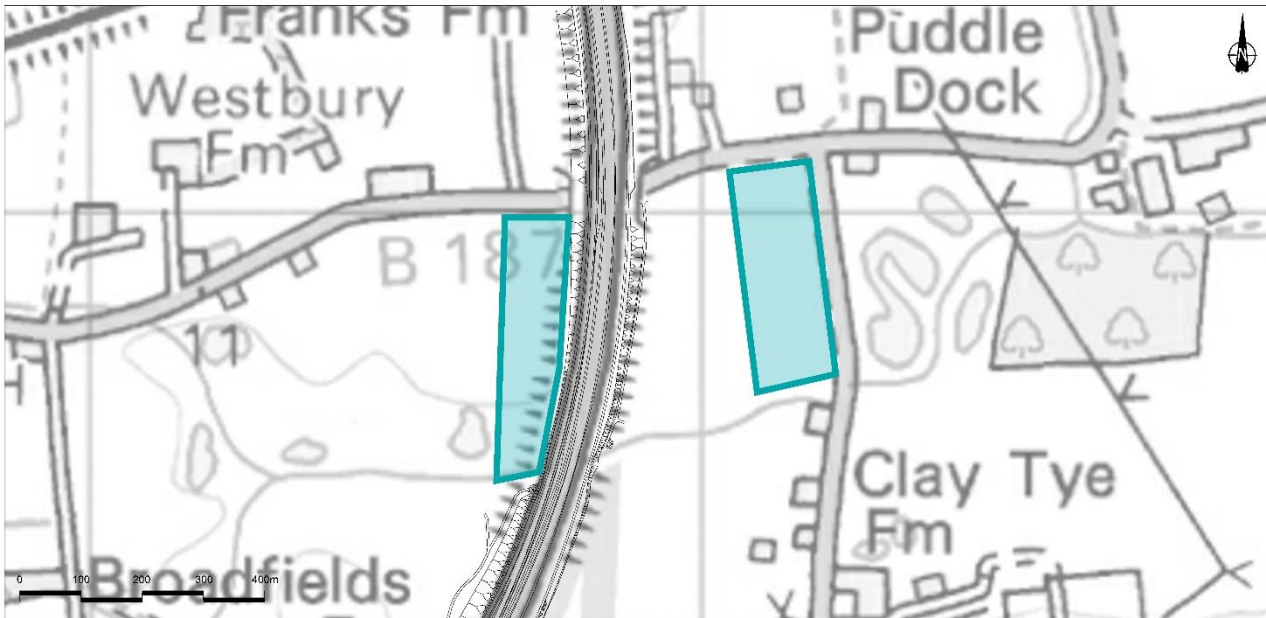
## Typologies present

- 7.9.8 The planting and habitat typologies present within this area are:
- a. LE8.3 Woodland mitigation

7.9.9 The outline management prescriptions and programmes for the typologies listed above are detailed in section 8 of this document.

## 7.10 South of St Mary's Lane open mosaic habitat

**Plate 7.10 South of St Mary's Lane open mosaic habitat**



### Description of management area

- 7.10.1 This management area comprises two land parcels south of St Mary's Lane, to the east and west of the existing M25.
- 7.10.2 The western land parcel comprises an existing solar farm and associated infrastructure. The solar farm is to be extinguished as part of the mitigation proposals. The western boundary comprises woodland block planting that forms part of the adjacent Cranham Golf Course. The eastern boundary contains existing scrub planting on the embankment to the M25.
- 7.10.3 The northern boundary is formed by St Mary's Lane and overgrown hedgerow planting. The southern boundary is formed by woodland and riparian habitats along the existing watercourse. Thames Chase Community Forest lies to the south of this parcel.
- 7.10.4 The eastern land parcel is existing agricultural fields with dense hedgerow planting forming the field boundaries.
- 7.10.5 The management area is approximately 8.5ha in size.
- 7.10.6 This management area is shown in the Environmental Masterplan (Application Document 6.2, Figure 2.4), Section 14, Sheet 1.

### Management requirements

- 7.10.7 The management requirements of this area are:
- to create and establish an open mosaic habitat to the south of St Mary's Lane. This area is designed primarily as habitat to support GCN. Following

discussion with Natural England, the ratio of habitat types in this area should be 70% grassland, 10% woodland, 10% bare ground and 10% scrub.

- b. to establish a strip of species-rich grassland along the western boundary in the former solar farm parcel, connecting St Mary's Lane and Thames Chase Community Forest.
- c. to manage the area of land within the former solar farm designated as replacement open space suitable for public access.

### Typologies present

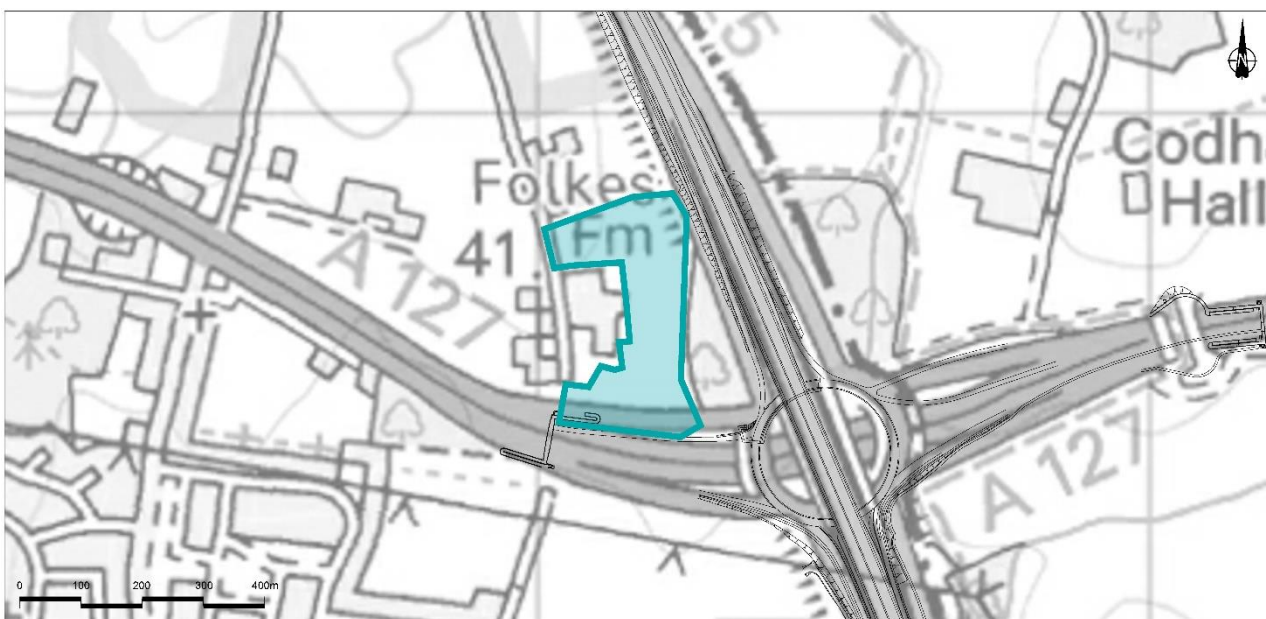
7.10.8 The planting and habitat typologies present within this area are:

- a. LE8.1 Open mosaic habitat
- b. LE8.5 Ecological ponds

7.10.9 The outline management prescriptions and programmes for the typologies listed above are detailed in section 8 of this document.

## 7.11 M25 Junction 29 (ancient woodland compensation)

**Plate 7.11 M25 Junction 29 (ancient woodland compensation)**



### Description of management area

- 7.11.1 This management area is located to the north-west of Junction 29 of the M25. The management area comprises three land parcels located between Folkes Lane and the M25.
- 7.11.2 The existing landscape is rough grassland with mature hedgerows on the western boundary along Folkes Lane. Woodland block planting is located between the management area and the M25 Junction 29.

- 7.11.3 The management area is approximately 5.5ha in size.
- 7.11.4 This management area is shown in the Environmental Masterplan (Application Document 6.2, Figure 2.4), Section 14, Sheets 4-5.

### Management requirements

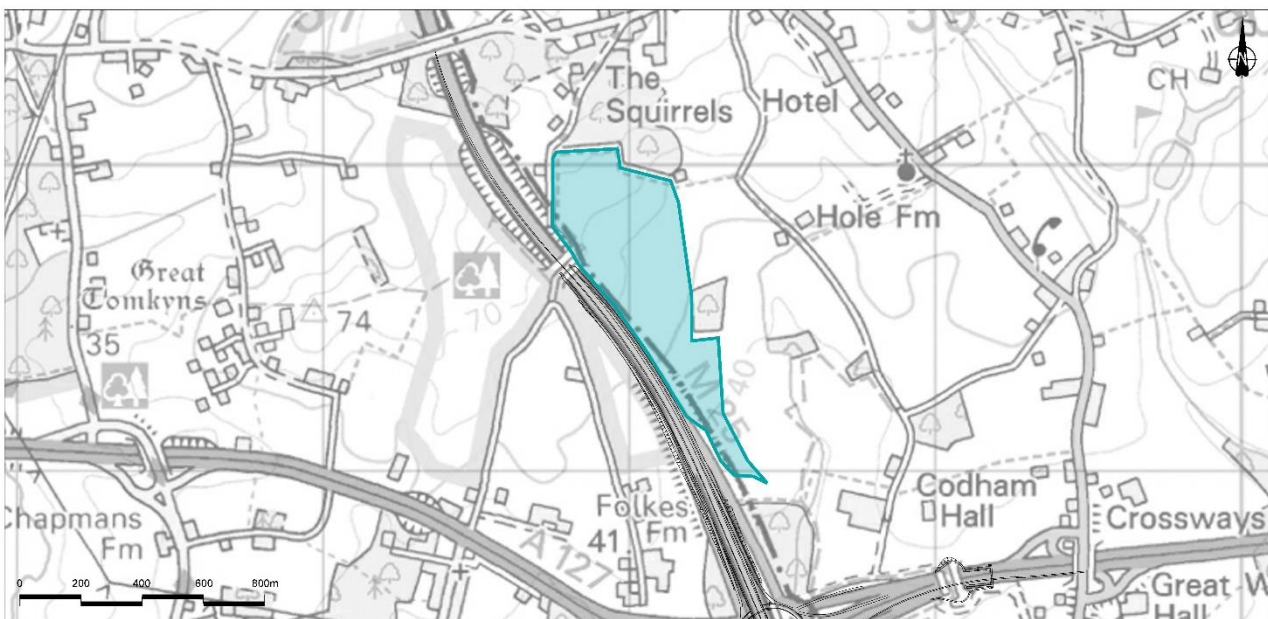
- 7.11.5 The management requirements of this area are:
  - a. to provide woodland planting to offset the loss of ancient woodland and vegetation removal from the surrounding area. The NVC communities recorded nearby were W8 and W10. Given the ongoing prevalence of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), woodland communities with ash present will change as ash trees are lost. Ash trees are not proposed to be planted as part of the Project’s planting palette so the woodland created in this area would be designed to align with the adjacent W10 community.
  - b. to create a habitat which ties into the retained areas of ancient woodland and provides a variable light environment to benefit ground flora species.

### Typologies present

- 7.11.6 The planting and habitat typologies present within this area are:
  - a. LE8.2 Ancient woodland compensation
- 7.11.7 The outline management prescriptions and programmes for the typologies listed above are detailed in section 8 of this document.

## 7.12 Hole Farm West

Plate 7.12 Hole Farm West



### Description of management area

- 7.12.1 This management area is located to the north-east of the M25.