

UPPER CRANE SUB-AREA 4

Upper Crane character

The two branches of Yeading Brook flow through a suburban landscape within the Upper Crane character area, characterised by 'Metroland' and backs of terraced houses. Significant green infrastructure assets include Headstone Manor Park, Minet Country Park, Yeading Brook Meadows, Ickenham Marshes and Gutteridge Woods. The Yeading Brook and Grand Union Canal provide important pockets of biodiversity and recreation amenity to nearby urban areas of west London. The watercourses are largely 'hidden' from view and sometimes difficult to access, with water flow and quality in some places relatively poor.



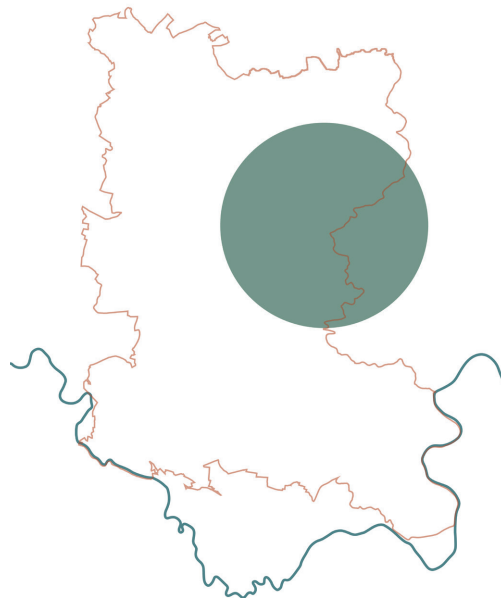
© Marathon
Yeading Brook Meadows



Eastern arm of Yeading Brook (aka the Roxbourne) flowing through Newton Park



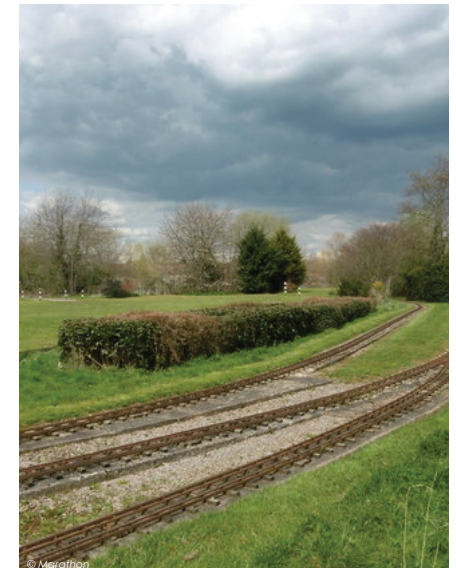
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Metroland poster



Yeading Brook at Ickenham Marsh



© Marathon
Headstone Manor



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Roxbourne Park Model Railway

DETAILED STRATEGIES

Upper Crane area strategy overview

The strategy for the Upper Crane area is to improve connectivity including pedestrian and cycle access between local communities and gateways, such as stations, to the river corridor and open spaces. Also to enhance the condition and quality of the watercourses to function well for climate change resilience, wildlife and quality of life.

Some relatively large areas of open space in proximity to large areas of population (and some significant areas of deprivation) present an opportunity to enhance quality of open space and access to it, to provide benefits for physical and mental health. This includes areas such as Yeading Brook Meadows with the potential to develop it as a recreation hub with opportunities for swimming and facilities for picnics, seating etc. Minet Country Park presents a key opportunity for improving existing open space and diversifying, with potential for events spaces and a community hub as an opportunity to engage Southall and Hayes residents, taking opportunities to integrate with proposed developments to provide quality open spaces.

Improved connectivity between riverside green spaces is needed, both with signage/ tree planting/ road crossings. These, where integrated with strategic 'gateways' such as at Ruislip Gardens station, signposted walking loops and open space 'nodes' such as Headstone Manor Park, Yeading Brook Meadows, Ickenham Marshes or Roxbourne Park, will promote the Crane corridor as a destination. The aspiration should be to achieve continuous pedestrian and cycle routes, where possible off-road, taking opportunities to link existing gaps in provision and with existing trails such as the London Loop and

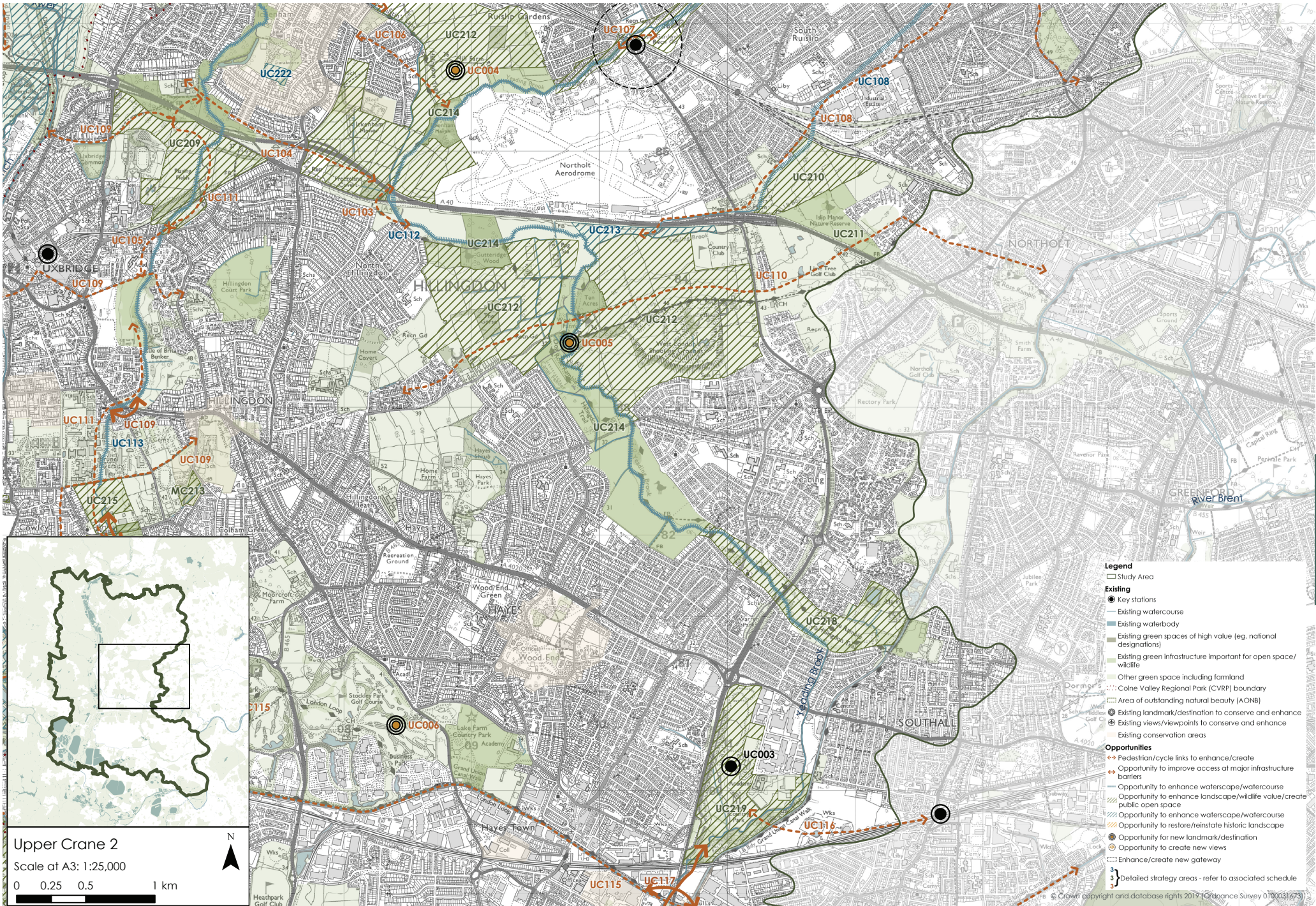
Hillingdon Trail.

There are opportunities to enhance the quality and condition of watercourses through naturalisation and floodplain reinstatement, extending meadow areas and creating/ restoring wetlands. Opportunities for upstream woodland planting and incidental street tree planting can yield important benefits for natural flood alleviation, providing resilience to climate change.

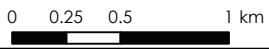


DETAILED STRATEGIES





Upper Crane 2
Scale at A3: 1:25,000



- Legend**
- Study Area
 - Existing**
 - Key stations
 - Existing watercourse
 - Existing waterbody
 - Existing green spaces of high value (eg. national designations)
 - Existing green infrastructure important for open space/wildlife
 - Other green space including farmland
 - Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) boundary
 - Area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB)
 - Existing landmark/destination to conserve and enhance
 - ⊙ Existing views/viewpoints to conserve and enhance
 - Existing conservation areas
 - Opportunities**
 - ↔ Pedestrian/cycle links to enhance/create
 - ↔ Opportunity to improve access at major infrastructure barriers
 - Opportunity to enhance waterscape/watercourse
 - Opportunity to enhance landscape/wildlife value/create public open space
 - Opportunity to enhance waterscape/watercourse
 - Opportunity to restore/reinstate historic landscape
 - Opportunity for new landmark/destination
 - ⊙ Opportunity to create new views
 - Enhance/create new gateway
 - Detailed strategy areas - refer to associated schedule

DETAILED STRATEGIES

Upper Crane schedule of opportunities

■ Water / wetland focused opportunities
 ■ Open space / green infrastructure focused opportunities
 ■ Access / connectivity focused opportunities

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
UC001	Harrow viewpoint	Improve Harrow viewpoint: interpretation board, visitor facilities and vegetation management to improve view. Improve connection to London Loop via signage.	1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage	The Viewpoint forms part of the Old Redding Complex (which includes Harrow Weald Common and Grimsdyke Open Space) which in turn links with Bentley Priory.
UC002	Station gateways	New Crane Valley branded interpretation and signage at key transport nodes. Includes improved road crossings and signage to nearby green off-road paths and destinations e.g. Ruislip Gardens link to new Yeading Brook destination.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	
UC004	Yeading Brook new destination	New waterbodies created used for water recreation e.g. natural swimming lakes and pond dipping and or flood storage. Visitor facilities and café promoted. Access promoted for Ruislip Garden as destination. Exact location requires scoping assessment to ensure integrity of site supporting ground-nesting birds (e.g. Skylark) is not undermined.	6. Boost health and wellbeing	
UC005	Yeading Brook Meadows Visitor facilities	New visitor facilities at Yeading Brook Meadows e.g. information point, café, signage and interpretation. Possible location at existing car park, Golden Bridge	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity 4. Provide for communities	
UC006	Viewpoint along London Loop	Potential highpoint for a landmark artwork which is visible from Grand Union Canal and London Loop.	1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage	
UC101	Pinner and Hatcher natural flood management	Significant potential for pockets of natural flood management. Remove large areas of hard bed/banks and regrade banks to restore natural profile where possible. In large green spaces provide planform restoration, floodplain connectivity and wetland creation. Manage riparian zone minimum 8m of top of bank to enhance wildlife corridor from Harrow Weald Common to Rowlands Avenue. Area includes scheduled monuments (on the Sites and Monuments Record or SMR) of Pinner deer park and Pinner park farm to be promoted through interpretation boards. Pinner Deer Park is a rare survival in Metropolitan London.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change	Environment Agency project currently undergoing options. Note historical interest and biodiversity at Pinner Park Farm
UC102	Extend Celandine Way to Harrow viewpoint	New green link along River Pinn providing legible links from Pinner Station, connecting to Headstone Manor and Harrow viewpoint. Includes joining up existing footpaths, filling gaps and continuous signage.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	Provides link to open countryside from urban areas and potential commuting route. Adds to the value of the existing Celandine Way

DETAILED STRATEGIES

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
UC103	Improved connections between riverside paths	Improve connections between riverside green spaces, which may include: new path, signage, cycle provision, tree planting, lighting underpasses, improved road crossings, new bridge over infrastructure e.g. Roxbourne Park to village way. Currently link missing along river between Streamside open space and Yeading Brook walk, if feasible create new riverside path including cycling and pedestrian/cycle crossing at roads. Provide public route through Streamside allotment gardens or other alternative along river if viable.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	Ensure no negative impact on biodiversity, removal of invasive species might provide enhancements for biodiversity.
UC104	River Pinn to Yeading Brook connections	Improve paths and signage of existing routes and create new sections of path, providing direct connections between River Pinn and Yeading Brook, and to key transport nodes (Hillingdon train station and Ickenham tube). Creates strategic circular routes for recreation and commuting.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	Consult with Streamside allotment tenants.
UC105	Naturalise River Pinn	<p>Reprofile river for biodiversity and natural flood management, including creating backwaters, reprofiling steep banks and restore/ create new ditches, create wetlands and reinstate floodplain connectivity where appropriate. Improve channel bed to aid fish passage if de-culverting not possible. Planform restoration and lateral/floodplain connectivity where possible.</p> <p>Detailed potential projects include: Preserve and improve canal feeder including historic aqueduct/ bridge. Creation of wet meadow area and scrapes connected with the ditch. The ditch doesn't drain into the river. Wetland areas and scrapes would store water in wet season. Make further improvement to vegetated relief channel by creating backwater and wetland areas for reptiles, dragonflies and invertebrates. Square Orchard - open up culvert restore ordinary watercourse and implement natural channel and wetland area/scrape and other NFM techniques. LBH land. Make further improvement to vegetated relief channel by creating backwater and wetland areas for reptiles, dragonflies and invertebrates. River Restoration Projects at Hillingdon House Farm River Restoration Projects at Softcroft Lane</p>	<p>2. Protect and enhance the natural environment</p> <p>5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change</p>	<p>Environment Agency currently undergoing options for projects in this area.</p> <p>Further information on River Pinn projects available from Colne Valley CIC - River Pinn Projects 2- West Ruislip River Pinn Projects 10- Ickenham West Ruislip project</p>
UC106	Continuous cycleways	Fill in gaps between cycle paths/ cycle lanes/ cycle signage between key destinations along River Crane to encourage use for commuting e.g. Roxbourne Park to North Harrow Station. Connect nodes beyond the river e.g. improve cycleway between Rayners Lane Station and Northolt Park.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
UC107	Ruislip Gardens to Bridgewater Road open space (Spider Park)	Feasibility study to create off-road pedestrian and cycle connection punching through existing railway arches. If not possible create cycle lane along A4180 and new crossing point at northern end of bridge to provide similar link.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	Encourage river corridor as commuter path to Ruislip Gardens tube, and improves continuity of path along Crane river corridor.
UC108 UC210	Yeading Brook East Arm	Long term aspiration to de-culvert the river which flows in culvert alongside Victoria Road to deal with localised flooding issues. Additional opportunities to improve river habitats and reduce water pollution. Create link along river from Yeading Brook West confluence to Newton Park (UC108 orange dotted line). Significant space to improve people access, de-culvert river and flood alleviation opportunity land north of A40 (UC210), including linking to Islip Manor Nature Reserve. Incentivise SuDS and tree planting within the local area to deal with runoff and pollution issues.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change	Part of an Environment Agency project: Funding has been applied for from the RFCC - project no. THC501E/000A/059A is in the process of being approved for a study to look at alleviation of flood risk.
UC109	Links to River Pinn	Create and improve off road pedestrian and cycle links to connect communities into the River Pinn and River Colne corridor, which also links to station nodes. E.g. Promote 'Nursery Lane' through signage and improved road crossings at gateways, promote path from Uxbridge centre to River Pinn through signage using St Andrews Park redevelopment, promote off-road connection between Fray's River and Swakeleys Park, utilising existing Uxbridge common and A40 pedestrian bridge, with a potential new road crossing on B483 to improve safety.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	Encourage use for active travel to local schools, recreation destinations, stations and work places.
UC110	Sharvel Lane connection	Promote historic lane as off-road pedestrian and cycle link between Hillingdon and Ealing: surface upgrade, signage, cycle facilities.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	
UC111	River Pinn path	Explore potential to create new publicly accessible riverside path for both pedestrians and cyclists through private land from Phillpots open space to Dowding Park/ St Andrews Park redevelopment, and St Andrews Road - Honeycroft Hill. This would fill the last two major sections of riverside pathway, improving the 'Celandine Route' experience and off-road green link provision. Connects to important destinations including Battle of Britain Bunker Museum and Brunel University Campus.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	
UC112	Yeading Brook corridor	Recreation and river bank enhancements, identifying strategic locations for flood mitigation via seasonal waterbodies and wet woodland creation. De-culvert and naturalise river banks where possible, offering wildlife and people access. Improved riverside paths, wildlife interpretation, seating, signage and additional path connections to adjacent communities/trails e.g. Hillingdon Trail. Vegetation management to reduce overshadowing in places and provide water visibility/access.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 4. Provide for communities 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change	Wetland habitat creation priority area. Improves connection between key wildlife sites e.g. riverbank enhancements between Ickenham Marches, Gutteridge and Ten Acre Wood. Encourage local ownership through improved connections.

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
UC113	Brunel University and Hillingdon golf course	Natural flood management and biodiversity enhancement along river corridor. Manage/establish riparian zone within 8m of top of bank to enhance wildlife corridor. Reinstate floodplain and removal of hard bank reinforcement opportunities.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change	
UC114	River Pinn to Grand Union Canal link	Promote connection from Grand Union Canal to Philpots open space through improved path entrance, signage and road crossing. Manage/establish riparian zone and planform restoration along River Pinn.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change	
UC115	Grand Union Canal	Towpath enhancements, including where appropriate: towpath widening (2.5m width is ideal) for both pedestrian and cycle access, vegetation clearing, improved industrial boundaries, signage, interpretation boards for landmarks/historic uses along route. Identify possible additional green space opportunities along route to improve wildlife corridor. Add new or improve canal connections from local communities (DDA where possible) E.g. Redirect London Loop from Stockley Park Golf Club to Grand Union Canal via new path and existing Weston Walk; connections to Grand Union Canal to former Nestle factory development site.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	Precedent: Weston Walk. Improves link between Crane and Colne corridors, including to River Brent corridor further east. Opportunity to enhance as wildlife corridor through series of waterside green spaces. Aim for a maximum of 2m wide towpath with 0.5m front verge. This is due to space considerations and maintaining the character of the canal. Also aspire to improvements to access points along the canal as part of towpath upgrades.
UC116	Connections to new development	Connect new development to Crane/ Grand Union corridor, improving east to west connections with multiple new river crossings, including cycle paths towards key transport nodes/ destinations. E.g. New bridges connecting south gasworks site/ Southall station to Minet Country Park and Grand Union Canal.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	
UC117	Improve connection between Cranford, Minet Country Park and Grand Union Canal	Improve connection for people and wildlife across A312 and Great Western Railway. Increase number of off-road footpaths, utilising adjacent greenspace, and improved signage. Long term aspiration is a new pedestrian only bridge from River Crane - Grand Union Canal, and new path following River to the north providing that a direct off-road connection to the Minet Country Park is feasible.	3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	
UC118	Haydon Hall Park	Connect historic lake (now dry and used informally for BMX) and create a backwater. Connect the ditch from Joel Street to the lake/backwater.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	
UC201	Woodland planting	Discuss opportunities for woodland creation with landowners to connect existing woodland fragments and offer flood mitigation. Grims Ditch earthwork runs through this area – may be potential for improved management and interpretation.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change	Located within Watling Chase Community Forest Area.

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
UC202	Headstone Manor	High value park and heritage site. Works already underway to enhance stream system through the park. Further works envisaged subject to funding. Major upstream hub for the Crane corridor with links to the Pinn and Colne. Support Headstone Manor museum and community heritage activities based there.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 	
UC203	Streamside open space and Yeading Brook walk	Improve recreation access through signage, including for cycling, and improved road crossings at Streamside open space and Yeading Brook walk. Improved habitats and water visibility, includes vegetation management to reduce overshadowing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity 	
UC204	River Pinn corridor enhancements	Improve quality of routes and promote use for active travel: path resurfacing and widening, cycling infrastructure, signage, interpretation and safe crossings between green spaces. Manage/restore riparian zone and allow for natural flood mitigation as appropriate. Link to Pynchester and Brakespeare medieval moats (scheduled monuments).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change 	Link to Environment Agency River Pinn project.
UC205	Allotments strategy	Review usage of allotments. If areas are vacant potential to reallocate these to local schools or community groups, or convert to community orchards for access to all.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Provide for communities 6. Boost health and wellbeing 	Encourage use of vacant allotments. This is variable by area - Harrow are mostly taken with waiting lists
UC206	Yeading Brook river edge	Pockets of river restoration and re-naturalisation where feasible, including removal of impediments to fish migration, daylighting, removal of redundant weirs to aid fish passage and flow etc. River bank interventions to create backwaters/ seasonally flooded areas. Improve water access and offer interpretation in appropriate locations providing engagement with wildlife and water e.g. enable pond dipping. Diversify vegetation e.g. wetland meadow along the river bank.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change 6. Boost health and wellbeing 	Flood alleviation, biodiversity enhancement, engage people with water and wildlife.
UC207	Newton Farm Ecology Park	Enhance and increase utilisation of environmental education resource at this site. Potential to make the watercourse more accessible to view.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 	
UC208	Newton Park	Maintain and further enhance existing wetlands and stream.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 	
UC209	Land between A40 and Uxbridge train line	Encourage land management to maximise biodiversity within trapped farmland, particularly along watercourse. Negotiate with landowner to reinstate floodplain connectivity and create wetlands in suitable areas along the river corridor. Liaise with Environment Agency on opportunities for flood mitigation and grants.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change 	
UC211	Islip Manor Nature Reserve	Maintain important habitats, provide new formalised sensitive recreation access, signage and interpretation, new gateways from surrounding neighbourhoods. Enhance sense of place and investigate potential for a link to Yeading Brook.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change 6. Boost health and wellbeing 	

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
UC212	Land around Yeading Brook	Create overarching strategy and maintenance programme to enhance biodiversity and recreational value, including: bring vacant land into more sustainable productive use, encourage diversification and increased biodiversity value of farmland. Identify unused land for community uses along settlement edges e.g. orchards and suitable areas for major woodland creation and new seasonal water bodies. Ecology focus along watercourses and field boundaries.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	Significant area of and for natural flood mitigation. Improves connection between key wildlife sites e.g. riverbank enhancements between Ickenham Marshes, Gutteridge and Ten Acre Wood.
UC213	Yeading Brook confluence	Proposed wetlands to improve water quality at confluence of Yeading Brook West and East. Aspiration as a wet woodland to extend the Ten Acre Wood nature reserve.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change	Particular water quality issue noted along Yeading Brook East Arm. Local authority owned land.
UC214	Yeading Brook corridor: Nature reserves	Chain of important nature sites along the Yeading Brook - riverbank enhancements: Ickenham Marshes (enhance sinuosity and regrade banks), Gutteridge Wood (tree removal, flow deflectors and bush berms) Ten Acre Wood (river restoration of overwide and impounded river stretch), Yeading Brook Meadows (improve water access and vegetation management to reduce river shading).	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	
UC215	Derelict land along Pinn River	Bring derelict land into active sustainable use. Utilise for habitat creation, flood management and natural flood management and recreational access.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change	
UC216	Farmland adjacent to Philpots Open Space	St Laurence Cowley Church conservation area. Encourage diversification of farming and provide recreational access, including east to west links across the River Pinn to Philpots open space.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	
UC217	Philpots Open Space river restoration	Reinstate floodplain connectivity. Explore potential to extend open space to include common land to the north of Peild Heath Road, providing gateway greenspace for proposed riverside green link (project UC111).	5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change	
UC218	Brookside open space	Aim to become a recreational asset for the local community, offering healthy activities and encouraging community ownership through engagement with local residents and schools. Proposals to complement Brookside open space sports facilities proposals. Environmental enhancement including diversification of vegetation and increased management along the Yeading Brook. Create continuous cycleway and improve gateways. Enhance visual connections to Spikes Bridge and Grand Union Canal.	4. Provide for communities 6. Boost health and wellbeing	Improve health, build community cohesion.

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
UC219 UC003	Minet Country Park	Enhance existing country park with the aim of becoming a key community hub and enhanced destination for Southall and Hayes residents (UC003). Opportunity to enhance as a local nature site. Offer additional activity centre facilities with diversified offer to promote healthy living and promote social cohesion. Improve entrances for a more welcoming park, including improved visual and physical connection to Yeading Brook and Grand Union Canal. Vegetation management to provide defined zones of diversified habitat. Potential to extend ownership including section along Grand Union Canal and provide river/canal crossings. Improve local access routes to the park.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity 4. Provide for communities 6. Boost health and wellbeing 	Southall and Hayes suffer from significant deprivation which this interventions aims to address through improved access to green space, health and wellbeing through activity centre and improved grounds.
UC220	Ruislip Golf Course	Enhancements to Ruislip Golf Course area - including: Create better public access and infrastructure. Golf course pond – historical great crested newt habitat. Maintain, enhance, extend and remove over-shading trees. River restoration 500m either side of proposed HS2 railway crossing. Improve access to Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI) official sampling point below bridge. Marginal planting of native plants. Evaluate wetland area for a series of unmanaged drains and hidden ponds on Ruislip Golf Course. Creation of rough grassland areas and tree replacement program on impacted Ruislip Golf Course site. River Restoration projects in Ickenham.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 	Further information available from Colne Valley CIC: River Pinn Projects 10- Ickenham
UC221	Swakeleys - Cophall Road	Opportunity to restore historic landscape - improve signage and interpretation of historic features at Pynchester Moat. Repair severe bank erosion along Celandine route footpath, revetment of river bank. Upgrade footpath access to protect path from erosion.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 	Further information available from Colne Valley CIC: River Pinn Projects 6- Swakeleys, Cophal Road
UC222	Swakeleys Park	Improve waterscape at Swakeleys Park: Weir removal to improve fish passage. Installation of river dipping platform.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 	Further information available from Colne Valley CIC: River Pinn Projects 7- Swakeleys Park
UC223	West Ruislip and Ickenham & Canons Brook	Creation of wet meadow area and scrapes. Maintenance Program for unmanaged Canons Brook from Ruislip Lido to River Pinn confluence. Improve flood risk using NFM techniques, control invasive species (H.Balsam), maintain channel from blockages.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 	Further information available from Colne Valley CIC: River Pinn Projects 2- West Ruislip West Ruislip project 2 proposals Canons Brook

COLNE AND CRANE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

We would like to thank all who contributed to the consultation on the strategy

The full report, detailed list of opportunities and accompanying map can be seen at
www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/whatwedo

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