STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

BETWEEN

ENFIELD COUNCIL

AND

NATURAL ENGLAND

In respect of Enfield Council's Edmonton Leeside Area Action Plan (2017) (ELAAP)

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared to identify areas of agreement and disagreement between Enfield Council and Natural England on matters relating to the Council's Submission Edmonton Leeside Area Action Plan (2017).

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Notes on agreed amendments:

1. **Bold underlined text indicates an addition to the ELAAP text**
2. Strikethrough text indicates a deletion to the ELAAP text
Areas of Agreement:

Paragraph 5.10.1  

Both parties agree that sites of ecological importance should be recognised in the description of the area at paragraph 5.10.1 and will include additional wording:

To the east of Meridian Water is the Lee Valley Regional Park (LVRP), and areas of designated green belt, which together with the River Lee Navigation and a network of watercourses and reservoirs, Banbury Reservoir, which creates a green and blue corridor within the urban area. There are areas of international, European and national ecological importance in proximity to Edmonton Leaside, including the William Girling Reservoir which is part of the Chingford Reservoirs SSSI and the Lee Valley Special Protection Area Ramsar site at Walthamstow Reservoirs. The LVRP comprises a network of open spaces, but the character of the Lee Valley around Meridian Water is defined by its industrial, ecological and agricultural heritage. This location is located at one of the narrow points of the LVRP. But elsewhere throughout its 26 mile length, the Park is home to numerous leisure and recreational facilities. The character of the Lee Valley in this location is defined by its industrial, ecological and agricultural heritage.

Paragraph 5.10.2  

Both parties recognise that development must not negatively impact on areas of ecological importance and will include additional wording at paragraph 5.10.2:

At Meridian Water there are currently very limited areas of open space with poor public access to open recreational spaces and waterways. Development at Meridian Water must deliver a network of open spaces that can provide visual and leisure amenity, as indicated in Figure 5.3. The regeneration must also provide an opportunity to maximise access to the LVRP, and other existing areas of ecologically undesignated open space and waterways in the wider area. Negative impacts on the nearby designated sites of ecological importance must be avoided. As such development will avoid new access points to the designated sites. To avoid recreational disturbance of the sites of ecological importance contributions to the management of the site will be required, as well as the provision of new open space. Meridian Water must deliver a green network of open spaces that can provide visual and leisure amenity, as indicated in Figure 5.3.
Both parties recognise the sites of ecological importance must be protected and will include additional wording at paragraph 5.10.5:

The scale of development at Meridian Water requires that space must be used as efficiently as possible, while ensuring a sufficient quantum of open space and leisure facilities are provided to deliver a sustainable community. Meridian Water is constrained in terms of accommodating open and green spaces within the development boundary, due to limited availability of land. Whilst high quality open space and play space provision that is suitable for intensive usage must made within Meridian Water, there must also be a great emphasis on improving access to existing nearby ecologically undesignated green open spaces and waterways, while also protecting and enhancing biodiversity and sites of ecological importance.

Both parties recognise that proposals affecting the Lee Valley Regional Park area must involve the relevant stakeholders and will include additional wording at paragraph 5.10.6:

The potential of further areas of the Lee Valley Regional Park to the north, east and south of Meridian Water to contribute to the area’s open space requirement is recognised in the 2013 Masterplan. This would require new landscaping and the opening up of previously inaccessible areas, for example the areas of open green belt land which lie east of Harbet Road, to the north and south of the North Circular Road. There is also potential to open up access to Banbury Reservoir. The Council will work with relevant stakeholders, including the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, and Thames Water, the Environment Agency and Natural England when developing any landscaping and access proposals in these areas.
Both parties recognise that development must not negatively impact on areas of ecological importance, particularly through recreational disturbance, and will include additional wording for Policy EL9 through adding a new item as the 4th bullet point:

- **How they will avoid negative impacts such as recreational disturbance on sites of ecological importance, including the Chingford Reservoirs SSSI and Lee Valley Special Protection Area/ Ramsar site at Walthamstow Reservoirs:**

| Policy EL28       | 03, A |

Both parties recognise that development must not negatively impact on areas of ecological importance, particularly through recreational disturbance, and will include additional wording for Policy EL28 inserted at the end of the 4th paragraph:

*Proposals will be supported that improve the access across and between existing and new green spaces, developing a network of ‘green chains’ comprising footpath networks and cycle paths. Green chains can be used to improve east-west connectivity between the Lee Valley Regional Park and the rest of Edmonton Leeside and beyond, Proposals must not generate negative impacts, such as recreational disturbance, on sites of ecological importance, including the Chingford Reservoirs SSSI and Lee Valley Special Protection Area/ Ramsar site at Walthamstow Reservoirs.*

Both parties also agree the following text changes to the final paragraph of Policy EL28:

*New development may be expected to make appropriate financial contributions to protecting and improving green and open spaces and biodiversity, in line with the Section 106 SPD.*
Signed on behalf of Enfield Council

Signed

Neeru Kareer BA (Hons) MSc MRTPi
Head of Strategic Planning and Design (interim)
Place

Date: 01.05.2018

Signed on behalf of Natural England

Signed

Kirsty Macpherson
Lead Advisor, Natural England

Date: 11/8/2018