

Using NBS ranging from rain gardens to reed beds, new green infrastructure will work to connect people and places. Three City Action Labs each with a distinct focus will all work towards the same goal of making Thamesmead a vibrant, liveable, green and healthy place to live, visit and thrive.

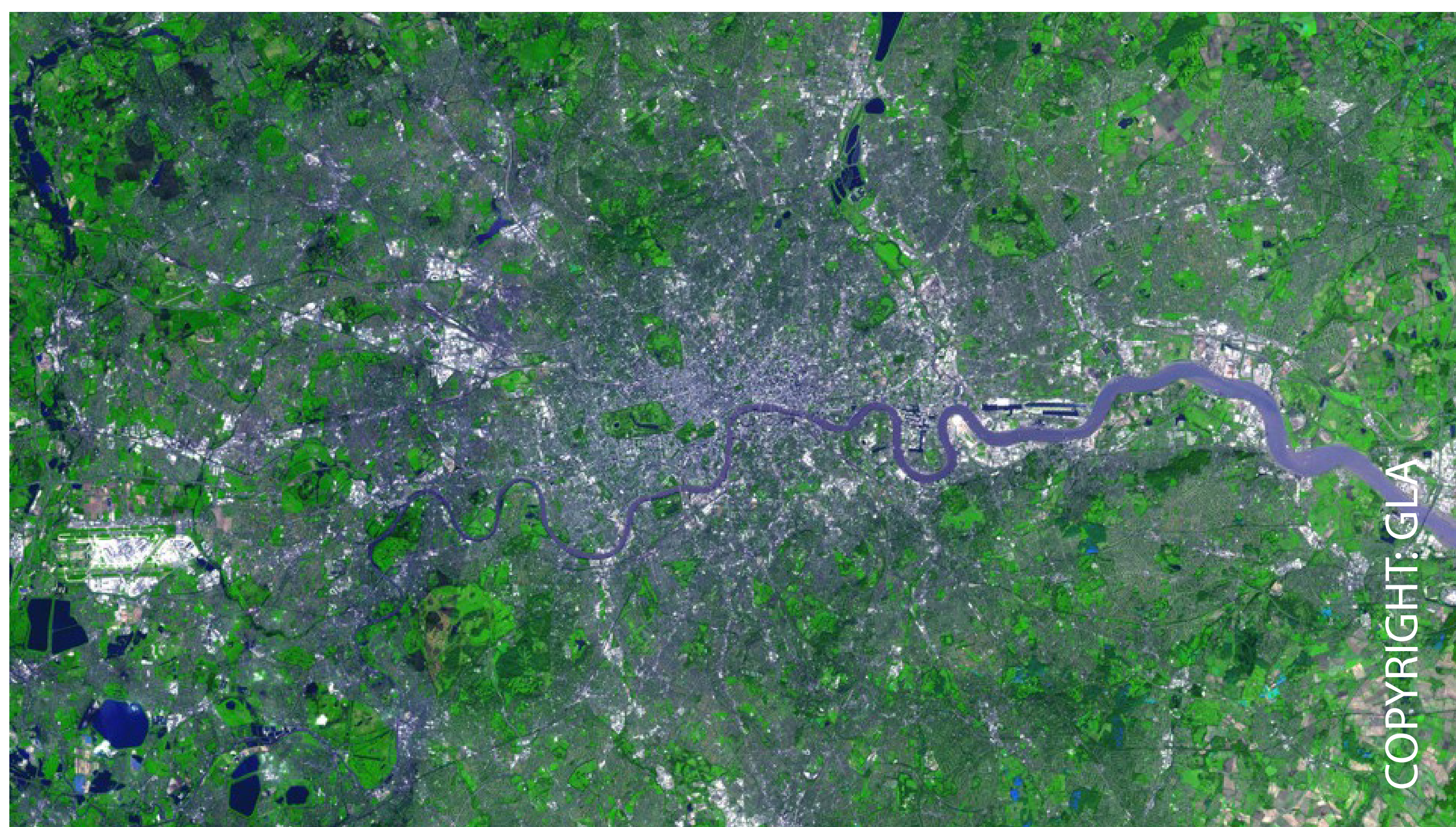
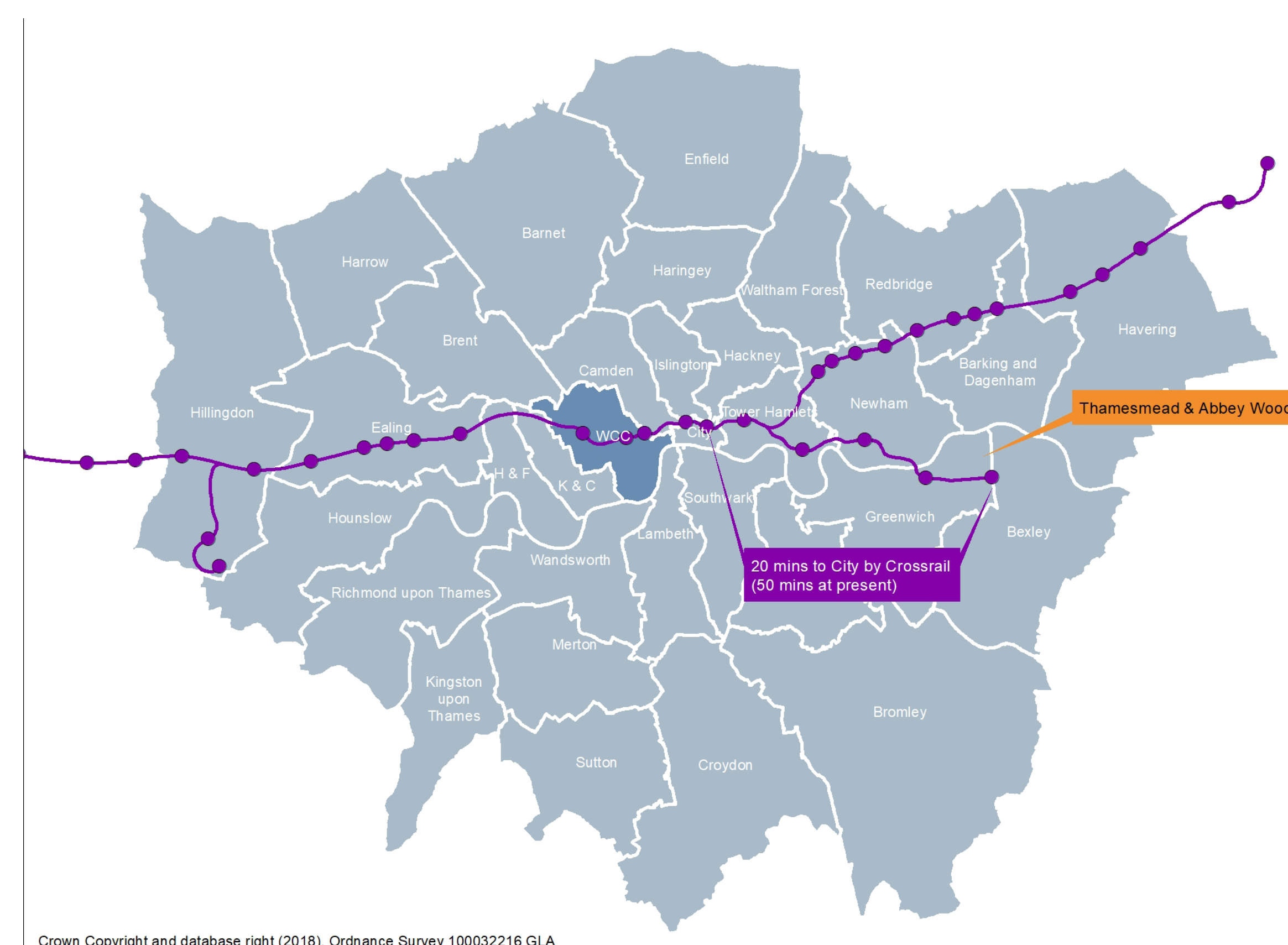
# CLEVER CITY LONDON

## HOW CLEVER CITIES FITS INTO LONDON'S CONTEXT

London is a very green city. Its parks, gardens and canopy of trees make it an attractive place to live, work and invest. They also form part of the history and character of the city. These green places and features already provide us with space to relax, help to clean our air and are habitats for wildlife. We believe that planning and managing them as an integrated green infrastructure will provide more benefits to Londoners as the city grows, its climate changes and we tackle the city's poor air quality.

Access to good quality green and blue spaces can also be an indicator of a city's inequalities. Economically deprived communities and neglected urban areas tend to be in areas where good quality green space is limited.

Degraded physical environments and limited access to good natural resources often result in low levels of social cohesion, elevated crime rates and high levels of perceived insecurity.



Populations facing such local challenges often lack opportunities to express their needs, contribute their knowledge or be involved in developing and implementing suitable solutions.

Urban regeneration has been highlighted as a necessary response to improve the fortune of these vulnerable areas and populations, environmental improvements have generally been considered as a consequence rather than a catalyst for regeneration.

In 2017, Thamesmead was designated an Opportunity Area for London. This means it is recognised as one of 38 areas that offer brownfield land with significant capacity for development, and existing or improved public transport access.

The area is soon going to benefit from access to the Elizabeth Line at Abbey Wood station. This will be a major catalyst for change in the area.

The Thamesmead estate is now managed by Peabody Trust, and is the subject of a billion pound estate regeneration project that is expected to see the current 45,000 population double and add an additional 20,000 homes.

Peabody's whole place philosophy, supported by the CLEVER Cities Programme, will take a place-based approach to regeneration, investment and management in order to:

- ◊ Create new homes fit for the future.
- ◊ Give new life to the estate as a whole through strategic interventions to improve connectivity and liveability.
- ◊ Build stronger neighbours and community cohesion.
- ◊ Reconnect people to the beautiful green places of unrivalled space and scale throughout Thamesmead.



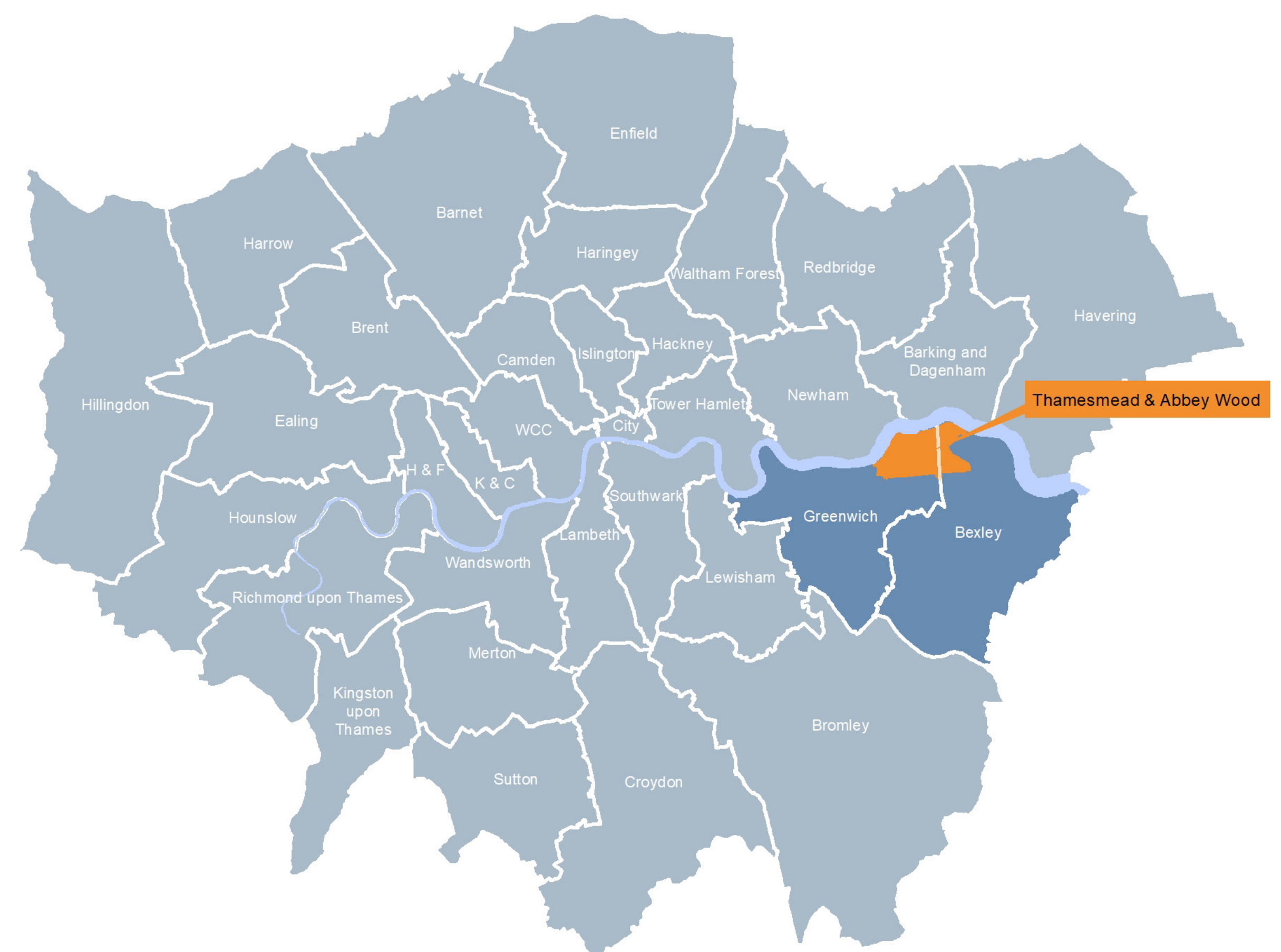


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CLEVER Cities is complementing the planned regeneration work by focusing on two neighbourhoods in Thamesmead, Parkview and Southmere, that will seek to address issues of connectivity, social interaction and poor health whilst enhancing the local environment.

The project will create NBS that local people can understand, interact with and contribute to its management. The NBS will be interactive both in the sense of being part of a resident's everyday experience and through use of embedded technology to monitor both the effectiveness of the NBS in promoting behaviour change and use of the NBS by residents.

The project will test new ways of using participative techniques and digital applications to crowd-source information, ideas and views, and new ways of accounting for and revealing the economic value of NBS interventions.



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## CAL 01: CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES (PARKVIEW, SOUTH THAMESMEAD)

CAL 02 - Activating Southmere Lake will reach out to the wider community of Thamesmead with the aim of re-establishing Southmere Lake as the focal point of urban activity, providing opportunity for recreation, leisure, and sport as well as acting as a cultural anchor point for Thamesmead as a whole.

## CAL 02: ACTIVATING SOUTHMERE LAKE (SOUTHMERE, SOUTH THAMESMEAD)

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## CAL 01: CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES (PARKVIEW, SOUTH THAMESMEAD)

Central to CAL 01 will be the adoption of the **Healthy Streets** approach. This is about improving streets and public realm, so they become places where people feel safe, have things to see and do. Such streets promote health as they are not too noisy, feel relaxed and people can choose to walk, cycle or use public transport. With rising obesity in children and adults and a looming health crisis, encouraging and enabling people to be more active in their daily life is paramount. CAL 01 Connecting People and Places will:

- Examine how nature-based solutions (NBS) can be used to make more attractive and liveable streets and public realm in Parkview.
- Build a more family-oriented and inviting place for all local residents through a community co-design process.
- Utilize interesting engagement activities in order to reach a diverse range of people.
- Creatively apply NBS in the design of routes, corridors, and social spaces to encourage meaningful interaction and increases the space for play and other relaxing activities, as well as solve technical issues like street drainage.
- Undertake significant qualitative research to better understand how people use public spaces, the issues they face, and the ideas they have to improve them and ultimately co-create solutions to common urban challenges.
- Improve and connect a network of pedestrian and nature-friendly spaces to help Thamesmead's residents relate better to the wider landscape and its unique identity.



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## CAL 02: ACTIVATING SOUTHMERE LAKE will:

- Install a reed bed and wetlands project to help solve current issues such as poor water quality.
- Look at innovative ways to manage and reuse excavated silt, saving millions of pounds in waste management costs.
- Work with stakeholders at the new Lakeside Centre, local residents, and the Thamesmead Sport club to co-create a plan for lakeside improvement and activation.
- Contribute with fun and varied engagement activities to bring a diverse range of people and various special interest groups together for the co-creation process.
- Involve many schools, social groups, and organisations in a process to strengthen environmental awareness and education.
- Undertake significant qualitative research to better understand how people use public spaces, the issues they face and the ideas they have to improve them.
- Monitor how the water quality improves and biodiversity is enhanced.



## CAL 03: GREENING UNUSUAL AND UNDERUSED SPACES (SOUTH THAMESMEAD)

CAL 3 Greening Unusual and Underused Spaces will work with specialists and residents to test new approaches to greening unusual spaces: walls, balconies, roofs, walkways, and the incidental spaces that are often underutilised. Taking both a top down and bottom up approach to the co-design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions, the project will:

- Document how “green spots” can add value to a housing block or neighbourhood and give a new sense of civic pride to the businesses and residents nearby, whilst addressing the wider challenges of climate change.
- Identify and train community members to work with new green technologies and multiply the number of people involved in NBS stewardship.
- Undertake research to better understand underused spaces and monitor how, through greening, the look and feel of these spaces changes.
- Test new technological approaches to growing in difficult urban areas and ensure, where possible, all new interventions are rainwater fed.

