

6. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRINCIPLES

- 6.1. A series of principles have been identified for green infrastructure in North Hertfordshire District. These are targeted at developers, to ensure that properly planned green infrastructure is considered from the very initial stages (e.g. Inception and Feasibility) in relation to new growth areas. Key themes are as follows:
- Landscape, biodiversity and amenity;
 - The peri-urban environment – linking landscape and townscape;
 - Permeability – accessibility, safety and security by design;
 - Sustainability – sustainable technology and construction;
 - Green space for all – health, recreation and community.
- 6.2. Key principles are summarised below. It should be noted that these principles apply to all future growth areas in North Hertfordshire. These principles are equally applicable to the enhancement and management of existing green infrastructure. **Separate detailed green infrastructure principles are set out in relation to the SNAP area, and the four North Hertfordshire towns, at the end of this chapter.**
- 6.3. The principles set out in this section draw upon and respond to the strategy objectives within the North Hertfordshire Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), where appropriate, and can contribute to the objectives of the landscape strategy, as well as the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). The principles in relation to biodiversity enhancement and protection also relate to Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats where appropriate, helping to deliver North Hertfordshire District Council's duties in relation to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act and Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9) – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.

The principles are organised on two levels: i) high level, generic principles, which apply to any GI proposal, and ii) site specific proposals in relation to the SNAP area and the four North Hertfordshire towns.

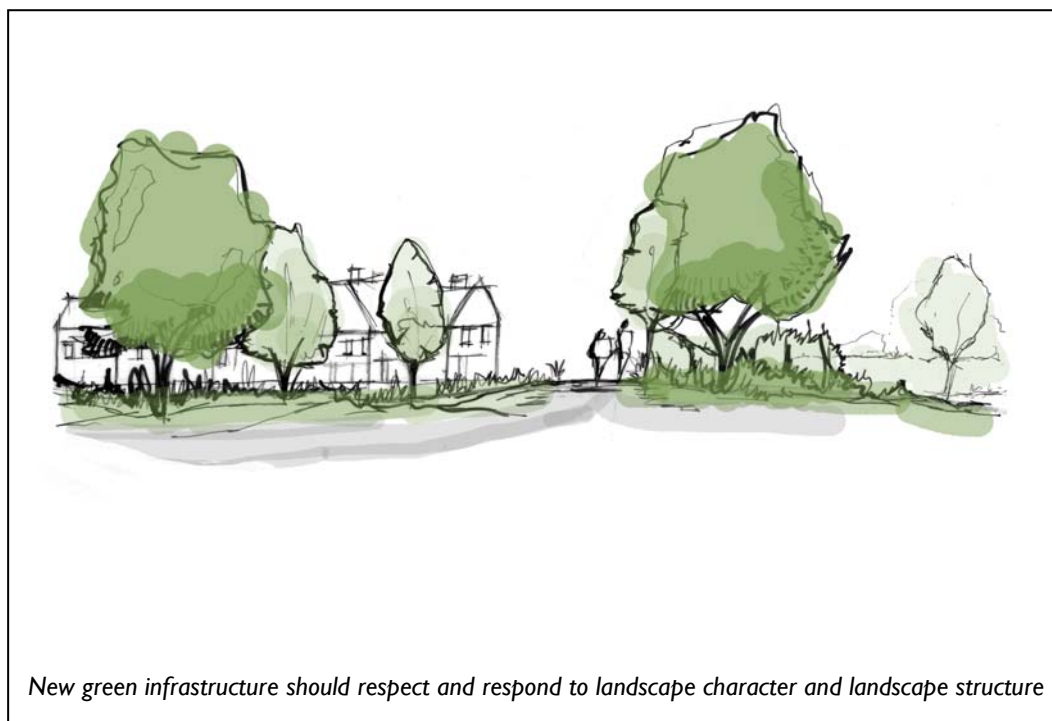
Landscape, biodiversity and amenity

- Respect and respond to the landscape character context as set out in the North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Landscape Character Assessment, and to the chalk landscape of the Chilterns AONB within the western part of the district. The landscape of North Hertfordshire includes a diverse mosaic of landscape types and habitats such as ancient and oak/hornbeam woodland, elevated and near flat farmed and arable plateaux defined by large scale field patterns, scarp slopes and settled valley slopes and minor river valleys;
- As part of the development process undertake more detailed local character, landscape sensitivity, land surveys, ecological and archaeological assessments to guide development location and design, and the protection of key landscape

features. Archaeological survey and recording of SAMs (e.g. Wall's Field, Baldock) can inform interpretation proposals. Interpretation should extend to inclusion of non built historic landscape features (e.g. traditional methods of landscape management) and ancient woodlands or important habitats;

- Conserve native woodlands including characteristic oak-hornbeam woodland and ancient woodlands, remnant heathland and areas of chalk grassland habitat. Seek opportunities to link these/re create these habitat types within new green space, to contribute to LCA landscape enhancement objectives and BAP targets through the provision of legible landscape and habitat connections. Opportunities should be sought wherever possible to buffer woodlands with new woodland planting of appropriate native, locally sourced species;
- Similarly seek to conserve and enhance grassland, meadow and wetland habitats, seeking opportunities to extend, buffer and link such habitats to reduce habitat fragmentation and to create enhanced wildlife corridors (appropriate management regimes to maintain this balance);
- River valleys including the Hiz, Oughton and Purwell (and associated riparian vegetation) should be conserved and enhanced for biodiversity and amenity and for sustainable flood storage and management, as should ponds such as farm and field ponds. Conserve the role of the minor river valleys at the head of the two catchments (Thames and Wash);
- Avoid placing further visitor pressures on sites of biodiversity interest such as SSSIs and LNRs. Provide carefully designed landscape buffer zones (as an integrated and managed part of the functional/accessible green space network) to protect these sites;
- Conserve all structural landscape features including trees, hedgerow and field trees and hedgerows, as far as possible, with particular emphasis on mature trees, and those which fulfil a habitat connectivity function. This will assist both in retaining the sense of place and delivering shading and cooling functions;
- Appropriate safeguards should be put in place to protect landscape and ecological features during enabling works, site preparation and implementation e.g. tree surveys and tree protection schemes and supporting arboricultural method statements in accordance with BS 5837:2005, and ecological surveys and associated mitigation/watching briefs;
- Safeguards should also be employed to protect wildlife sites (District Wildlife Site level and above) where these are in proximity to or within development sites, through creation of a 12 metre buffer zone to protect characteristic habitats for which they are designated;
- Within developments, all existing and new green infrastructure, landscape features and habitats should be managed in accordance with a landscape and nature conservation management plan, agreed with and delivered by the relevant partners. Such management plans should identify actions and tasks needed to achieve, together with a programme and identification of responsibilities;

- If nature conservation sites (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves or County/District Wildlife Sites) are lost to development, developers must provide compensation for such losses on a 'like for like' basis, through the creation of similar areas of new habitat or contribution towards such schemes (e.g. establishment of a 'habitat bank' through the Community Infrastructure Levy);
- Proposals for access enhancement (local or level 2 green links) should conserve and enhance farmland within the Key Biodiversity Areas and associated habitats for the ground nesting bird species which form the basis of their designation;
- Account must always be taken of protected species, e.g. developers must prove that these species are not present, when undertaking surveys and investigations as part of the design process;
- All green infrastructure proposals which occur on peri urban farmland should therefore compliment existing work delivered through Higher Level Stewardship schemes. Proposals for landscape and access enhancement embodied in these green infrastructure principles could be delivered through Higher Level Stewardship;
- Design green infrastructure components to respond to local landscape character e.g. use of native plant material for structure planting (including oak, hornbeam, ash, cherry, rowan and field maple) and for SuDS elements/marginal planting in the river valleys, to form attractive amenity foci for new green spaces which deliver biodiversity benefits;



- Components of the semi natural green space network, such as play provision, should be designed as 'mini landscapes' to reflect landscape character e.g. through use of appropriate and native planting and natural materials ('natural play' and maximising play value) – a bespoke landscape response, providing water

related play in relation to locations in river valleys and woodland type planting to reference to oak-hornbeam landscape character³¹.

The peri-urban environment – linking landscape and townscape

- Conserve and enhance the peri urban, rural agricultural landscape which forms the setting of and separates the towns in North Hertfordshire. Create well screened, vegetated landscape edges to development, avoiding light spill, and adopting good landscape management practices for the surrounding countryside to tie development into the rural landscape;
- Ensure that elements of the peri urban landscape such as woodlands and hedgerows thread through new urban extensions, creating physical and visual links to the surrounding countryside, and are appropriately buffered from the effects of development. Buffer zones should form an integral part of a new semi natural green space network (e.g. they should have a dedicated use) and be managed accordingly, to protect and enhance the special character of features such as green lanes;
- Similarly green links should connect new urban extensions with existing areas of settlement – greenways or ‘parkways’ to make reference to garden city character;
- Use native landscape planting (such as oak/hornbeam, rowan, cherry and field maple woodland, with areas of copse and coppice woodland planting and grassland edges for visual and habitat variety), with locally sourced plant material (ideally of local provenance), to create filtered and porous development edges and to act as a foil to development;
- Landscape buffers should be planted in advance of development occurring on site. These should be designed as part of a series of wildlife corridors, and create a series of different spatial experiences and microclimates (e.g. woodland with understorey, coppice with standards woodland, coppice and glades). Such buffers should also facilitate access to nature where this does not disturb habitats through provision of integrated pedestrian and cycle routes as a functional component of the green space network;
- Advance planting to landscape buffers should use predominantly feathered material for successful establishment, with some use of larger grade nursery stock trees to provide initial impact;
- Integration of green space swathes or ‘green wedges’ to development edges would further enhance the sense of porosity and the landscape interface. These could also tie with the existing/wider PROW network;

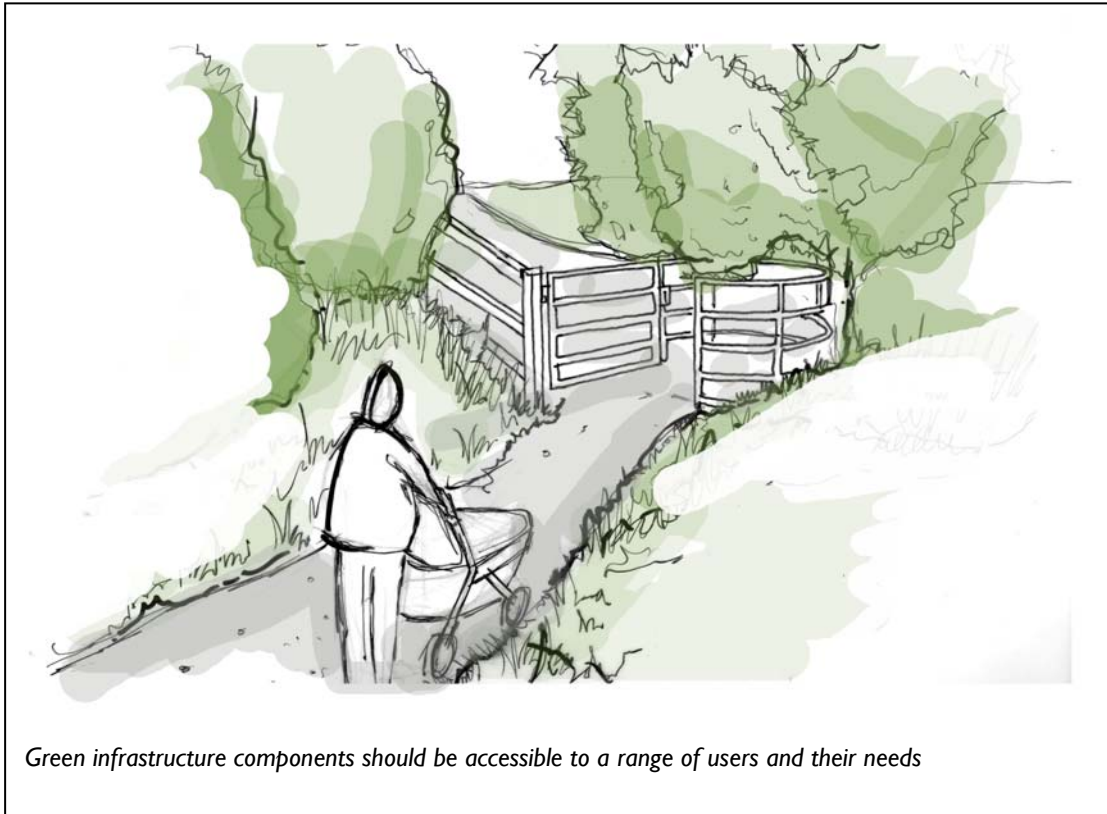
³¹ For more information on the natural play approach, see Play England (2008) **Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces**. Available at <http://www.playengland.org.uk>



- Retain existing tree and hedgerow lines within future development to provide benefits in terms of connectivity and shading/cooling. Appropriate buffer and root protection zones (12 metres, or the root protection area defined by a tree survey, whichever is the greater). Such landscape structure lines can not only reference landscape character (as corridors may include historic or veteran pollards) but can also provide a framework for functional/movement corridors;
- Consideration should be given to design devices in relation to built development, such as extensive type green roof systems to key settlement edges of in visually sensitive locations (for visual integration and biodiversity), allied to variable roof pitches, overhangs and storey heights to development edges to tie them into the landscape edge;
- The urban streetscape should incorporate street trees (larger grade nursery stock) using cultivated forms of native species selected for wildlife value/fruitle potential and to make visual links to wider landscape character. Such tree planting would also assist in reducing urban heat island effects.

Permeability – accessibility, safety and security by design

- Design all green infrastructure components to be accessible to all ages and social groups, and to accommodate a wide variety of users and their specific/individual requirements (e.g. users with mobility impairments), in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended, and relevant technical guidance such as CABE's **The Principles of Inclusive Design**;



Green infrastructure components should be accessible to a range of users and their needs

- When planning green space and green links, these should be designed to facilitate natural surveillance throughout, avoiding physical and visual barriers and hazards either real or perceived. In relation to landscape structure, the incorporation of permeability within design can and should also include traditional landscape management such as hedgerow coppicing and laying;
- Creation of areas of low visibility and dense boundary planting and screens should be avoided, and this should also be reflected in future management, with creation of low grassland margins to woodland edges;
- Avoid using disorientating level changes as a basis for segregating route hierarchies;
- Consider the use of trees of open habit and/or compact crowns within smaller areas of green space to contribute to perceived safety, and to assist in creating a legible spatial hierarchy;

- Houses (rather than rear garden boundaries) should front onto and interact with areas of green space – a modern interpretation of the first Garden City at Letchworth;



Design out hazards (real or perceived) in green space, allowing for appropriate permeability and natural surveillance

- An appropriate hierarchy of through routes and subsidiary links should be introduced within green spaces, but without compromising security through unnecessary permeability in relation to residential areas (designing out crime);
- Create legible greenway links punctuated by nodes/spaces (for 'refuge'/safety etc, and clear links into and out of routes), and linked wherever possible into existing paths and rights of way. The aim should be to create green links to existing areas of settlement, as well as a hierarchy of routes (short circular routes and longer distance routes).

Sustainability – sustainable technologies and construction

- Use SuDS to contribute to the objectives of the Strategic Floodrisk Assessment (SFRA), and to deliver and manage areas for flood storage and sustainable flood management e.g. at Purwell Meadows, Hitchin. Flood meadows can also fulfil an important role in relation to amenity and recreational provision;
- Appropriately designed SuDS, including balancing ponds and swales, could also contribute to biodiversity enhancement and reinforcement of wetland landscape character, and act as a focus for amenity green space/facilitate opportunities for recreation. SuDS can also form an integrated part of streetscape design;



- SuDS features should be designed in relation to the rolling topography and natural drainage routes/site hydrology. They should also relate to existing river systems e.g. the Rivers Oughton and Purwell at Hitchin;
- New dwellings within the growth areas should aim to achieve the highest sustainability and energy efficiency standards e.g. Code 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Green infrastructure components such as green walling and extensive green roof systems should be used to contribute to this where appropriate (e.g. where these could also be used to deliver a visual mitigation function);
- Sustainable approaches to heating and power should be investigated to the urban extension sites e.g. CHP (where this accords with the Hertfordshire Woodland Strategy and does not have unacceptable landscape, environmental and visual implications in terms of infrastructure or landscape change associated with short rotation coppice/cropping) and use of sustainably managed forestry to support this;
- Facilitate car free and sustainable, healthy modes of travel, providing a range of attractive green links and routes within growth areas, creating a hierarchy of attractive routes for pedestrians, cyclists and riders to use. Such routes should link key landscape features or cultural sites, to provide incentives for their use.
- New green space and green infrastructure components should maximise use of native, in particular locally grown plant material (preferably contract grown on or near site and of local provenance). Species should be climate change adapted – possible species include oak, hornbeam, ash, rowan, field maple and cherry, with more limited use of beech;



Facilitate sustainable transport links and car free users, creating a hierarchy of green routes

- Hard materials used in the construction of green infrastructure works should be responsibly sourced, from local or reclaimed sources wherever possible (e.g. local brick, reclaimed stone) or from sustainable sources (FSC certified timber);
- As part of this carbon efficient approach to construction, construction techniques and processes should use low embodied energy methods wherever possible.

Green space for all – health, recreation and community

- All new developments should make provision for a hierarchy of formal and informal green space within the Natural England ANGSt hierarchy (in terms of size threshold and distance criteria), e.g. district and neighbourhood level green space, and to respond to local standards defined in the green space audit;
- Green space should be planned as integral part of the development grain/geometry and design concept for the site (Garden City principle);
- Within new developments, allotments should be provided to meet local needs within new areas of green space, using the standards derived in the North Hertfordshire Green Space Standards Report. Allotments should form an integral part of the design of new multi functional green space/parks and provision should be made for appropriate management;

- New nature reserves should be provided in accordance with published guidance³², to allow, as a minimum, for 1 hectare per 1000 population;
- Subject to detailed needs assessments, sports provision should be provided in accordance with Fields in Trust's (Formerly National Playing Fields Association or NPFA) Six Acre Standard;
- Provision of children's play within development areas should meet the distance criteria set in the Six Acre Standard, but should reflect best practice guidance devised by Play England³³, using natural materials to create a bespoke landscape response and to focus the development of children's imaginations, creativity and social skills;



- Community involvement and engagement should be facilitated at every stage of the design process for new green infrastructure e.g. through community consultation and Enquiry by Design type exercises at the masterplan stage, and where possible/practical through involvement in implementation (e.g. site planting);
- Such community involvement should also extend to ongoing management (potential for creation of Friends' Groups, community trusts or similar voluntary organisations).

³² Town and Country Planning Association (2004) Op Cit.

³³ Play England (2008) Op Cit.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRINCIPLES IN RELATION TO THE SNAP AREA

- 6.4. As part of the landscape led approach to planning new green infrastructure, some more detailed principles have been developed in relation to the SNAP Area. **All** of the general design principles identified **above also apply**. The principles below draw on the strategy objectives within the North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Landscape Character Assessment, where appropriate. They also consider views and visual issues, the peri urban environment, semi natural green space and sustainability.
- 6.5. The design principles are preceded by a summary of existing character and the priorities presented in terms of green infrastructure.

Character – SNAP Area

- 6.6. Defining aspects of the character of the SNAP area include:
- A sparsely settled tributary valley at the Middle Beane Valley, defined by wooded crests (managed hornbeam coppice), with a distinctive ‘sculpted’ ridge and vale topography and wide views over the valley;
 - Wooded parklands, areas of mature parkland trees and ancient woodland around Knebworth, in the south western part of the SNAP area, interspersed with grazing pasture and areas of farmland under arable cultivation, together with remnants of acid grassland;
 - A chalk ‘dry valley’ and scarp slope at Langley, including a minor tributary watercourse, and distinctive long views over the valley. The undulating landform, overlain with a large scale arable field pattern (sparse woodland cover) is distinctive;
 - An enclosed chalk landscape of intimate spatial scale and character around Wymondley and Titmore Green, crossed by a network of narrow winding rural lanes including sunken lanes;
 - Rook’s Nest House (childhood home of EM Forster), with a landscape defined by wooded parklands (such as Chesfield) to the north. The landscape in this area is cut by a network of minor dry valleys, creating an undulating landform.

Development and green infrastructure

- 6.7. The SNAP area encompasses the area of search for the significant level of growth proposed for Stevenage within the East of England Plan. This includes 9600 homes to the urban fringe of Stevenage, plus supporting essential infrastructure, including green infrastructure.

GI priorities and opportunities within the SNAP area

Connectivity and movement

- 6.8. The enhancement of rights of way should consider opportunities for bridging the A1(M), delivered through future infrastructure upgrades (opportunities for bridging the A1(M), including potential for land bridges and associated landscape/habitat

‘microcosms’). A key consideration will be to enhance the connectivity of potential development and landscape spaces within the SNAP area to existing communities within Stevenage, and enhance the accessibility of the wider landscape.

- 6.9. Woodlands which fulfil an attenuation function (e.g. in relation to the AI(M) corridor) also provide an opportunity for human and habitat connectivity.

Landscape setting and rural character

- 6.10. The rural setting of the SNAP area is an important part of its character, in terms of topography, woodland cover and the landscape structure of hedgerows, hedgerow and field trees and wooded parklands. Existing landscape structure should be conserved and enhanced or reinforced through restoration of planting for connectivity, and also to create a positive landscape edge to development (dappled/porous – a foil to new development). This could form part of the mitigation design for any development within the SNAP area.
- 6.11. The landscape setting of registered parklands such as Knebworth and local parkland estates such as Chesfield should be conserved and enhanced, and have the potential to form foci for new areas of amenity and semi natural green space.
- 6.12. Consider local landscapes with cultural association such as Forster Country as potential sites for semi natural green space within the SNAP, and to respond to the (County and District level) green space deficiency identified in Chapter 3, together with opportunities for enhanced landscape linkages to other GI components.
- 6.13. Localised habitat creation through implementation of agri environment schemes e.g. acid heathland restoration and wildflower meadows, have the potential to enhance the sense of place and landscape character. Such habitats could also be reflected within new semi natural green space associated with the SNAP area.

Views and visual character

- 6.14. Long views over chalk landscapes (such as the Langley Valley) are an important aspect of the landscape setting to conserve, within new green infrastructure/green space proposals.

Biodiversity and climate change adaptation

- 6.15. In addition to providing a valuable foiling function, existing structural landscape features such as woodlands (including broadleaf and ancient woodlands within the SNAP area) should be conserved and reinforced to contributing to shading and cooling and reducing the urban heat island effect, as well as to assist in reversing habitat fragmentation. Similarly hedgerow reinstatement would provide increased resilience for habitats in the face of climate change, as part of an ‘ecological network’ for the SNAP area.
- 6.16. Climate change may have implications for the structural landscape palette, and this can be accommodated through a broader native planting palette in future landscape proposals and green spaces associated with development in the SNAP area.
- 6.17. In terms of hydrology and wetland habitats, and their resilience to climate change, tributary watercourses and wetland enhancement provide key opportunities to

diversify habitats and contribute to BAP targets and also to create a setting for attractive new waterside routes and 'blue links'.

- 6.18. Localised habitat creation through implementation of agri environment schemes e.g. acid heathland restoration and wildflower meadows, has the potential to enhance the sense of place and landscape character. Such habitats could also be reflected within new semi natural green space associated with the SNAP area.

Semi natural green space

- 6.19. A key green space opportunity is the use of the landscape setting of Knebworth and other, smaller, parkland estates, such as Chesfield, as the focus for new green space provision (new amenity and semi natural green space).
- 6.20. There is the opportunity to consider local landscapes with cultural association such as Forster Country as potential sites for semi natural green space within the SNAP, together with opportunities for enhanced landscape linkages to other GI components.

Taking the priorities forward: SNAP North (Wymondley-Great Ashby)

Connectivity and movement

- Create a porous, connected development edge through green space swathes and green wedges extending from a new strategic green space to the north of the SNAP and threading through potential future development to create a legible, linked series of green spaces (using Garden City type 'parkways'), and to tie in to the existing 'green lungs' within Stevenage. Such spaces should also use and be linked to the existing network of paths and rights of way;
- Ensure opportunities for sustainable travel and connections through planning for a hierarchy of safe, attractive and legible routes for pedestrians, cyclists and riders.

Landscape setting and rural character

- Conserve the intimate, small scale landscape character of the rolling chalk landscape around Wymondley, to the west of the A1(M) corridor, in particular the irregular field pattern which is well defined by mixed hedgerows, and the network of small, sunken lanes;



Conserve sunken lanes as part of the green infrastructure network

- Take opportunities to plant species rich hedgerows (hawthorn, field maple, dog wood, hazel, blackthorn) within green spaces, to reinforce connectivity across development areas. Similarly conserve and reinforce existing mixed native hedgerows and mature field trees to fulfil a foiling function in relation to development;
- Ensure foiling of settlement edges and provide screening in relation to potentially extended employment development adjacent to the A1(M). Use native species such as oak, hornbeam, cherry and field maple, with dogwood and hazel for understorey planting;
- Consideration should also be given to the use of green roofs in relation to the future employment development as it interacts with the landscape edge in visually sensitive locations, to provide an enhanced landscape setting and visual relationship with the wider landscape;
- Conserve the parkland setting of Chesfield Park within a new strategic or County scale green space, which should conserve and enhance the rolling rural landscape in this area, which is defined by mixed hedgerows and hedgerow trees;
- Use traditional silvicultural management in relation to ancient woodland blocks to the north of Great Ashby, e.g. pollarding and coppicing to enhance and

restore aspects of historic landscape character and the diversity of the groundflora and of the local landscape;

- Grassland within new areas of green space should include for the creation and management of species rich wildflower meadows and margins;
- Conserve the rural character through minimising the effects of lighting to development edges, ensuring that where lighting is necessary it is of an appropriate low level or full cut off design to reduce sky glow;
- The provision of infrastructure such as access and distributor roads should be designed sensitively in relation to topography and the presence of existing landscape structure (e.g. to retain this as far as possible), particularly around Chesfield which is being considered as a road location.

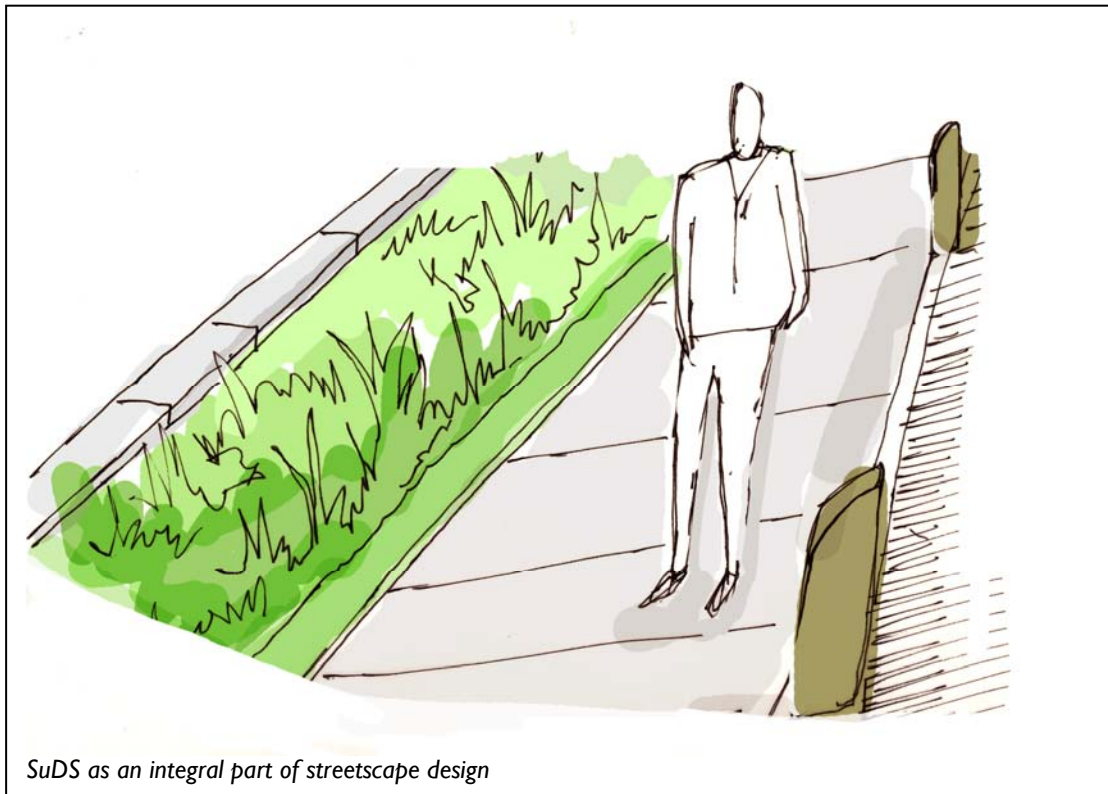
Views and visual character

- Conserve views to and from the edge of the village of Graveley to the north. Similarly conserve views to Rook's Nest Farm and the wooded settlement edge from within the northern part of the SNAP;
- Conserve the setting of and views to and from Chesfield Park;
- Consider options for 'undergrounding' pylons which cross the central part of this area, particularly in relation to the visual amenity of the strategic semi natural green space and residential areas.

Biodiversity and climate change adaptation

- Conserve and manage areas of remnant acid grassland, seeking opportunities to create new areas to link these habitats and reduce fragmentation;
- Conserve and enhance existing broadleaf semi natural woodlands, hedgerows and hedgerow trees as wildlife corridors, reinforcing these to provide greater connectivity and enhanced resilience in the face of climate change;
- When selecting native species for landscape buffers, preference should be given to climate change adapted varieties (less emphasis on beech);
- Development should investigate the potential of sustainable woodland management and silvicultural systems to enhance biodiversity of woodland groundflora and to contribute to production of sustainable woodfuel and other wood products;
- Green infrastructure should be used to contribute to sustainability objectives (and to enhance urban biodiversity) in the design of new houses e.g. through use of green walling and extensive type green roofs. Green roofs should be concentrated most densely to the northern landscape edge to break up the roofscape and to tie the development into the landscape in views from Graveley to the north;

- Plan for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as an integral part of the development, but also to deliver clear benefits in terms of streetscape, amenity and biodiversity, e.g. through use of swales integrated with the streetscene;



- SuDS should make use of natural drainage routes in relation to the rolling topography within the northern part of the SNAP.

Semi natural green space

- Provide a new strategic scale semi natural green space to address the identified deficiency in relation to county scale semi natural green space. This could also meet future need in relation to recreational and amenity green space as identified by the North Hertfordshire Green Space Standards Report. The green space should enhance the existing rolling rural landscape character of the farmland to the north of Rook's Nest Farm. Developer contributions should be sought towards the implementation and management of this space, with investigation of alternative forms of delivery and management, such as community trusts and 'Friends Groups';
- Green spaces should form a focus for development within the SNAP area, linked by urban greenways or 'parkways'. They should be an integral part of the development geometry and pattern (e.g. as in the core of Letchworth Garden City);
- In providing accessible natural green space, provision should be made for district scale park provision in addition to neighbourhood parks of at least 2 hectares in area, within 300 metres of residential development, to respond to the deficiency

analysis in Chapter 3, in addition to contributing to the requirements set by the North Hertfordshire Green Space Standards Report;

- Semi natural green spaces should, by their distribution contribute to the conservation of the key views and visual relationships identified above;
- Strategic semi natural green space and all local green spaces should use native planting (appropriate species include oak, hornbeam, field maple and cherry, crab apple, dogwood and guelder rose) to make reference to wider landscape character and for wildlife value;
- Within all areas of green space, a careful balance should be struck between passive and active recreation, facilitating opportunities for access to nature, children's play (natural play) and more formal/structured recreation;
- Semi natural green space should facilitate sustainable modes of living e.g. community supported agriculture and or allotments. Allotments should be planned, designed and managed as an integral part of semi natural green space/community parklands including the strategic scale green space;
- Subject to demand, allotments should be provided to be within easy walking distance of residential areas³⁴ (150-200 metres maximum distance as a guideline).

Taking the priorities forward: SNAP West (Titmore Green-Knebworth)

Connectivity and movement

- In relation to the A1(M), whilst securing adequate and appropriate bridging points to connect to the existing community, plant a native (oak-hornbeam) wooded landscape buffer (with field maple, cherry and hawthorn understorey) to fulfil an attenuation function and as a focus for attractive routes for a range of users to link the existing PROW network to the bridging of the A1(M);
- Create a porous development edge through green space swathes and green wedges extending from the Langley Valley and threading through potential future development to create a legible, linked series of green spaces;

³⁴ Barton, Grant and Guise (2003) **Shaping Neighbourhoods – a guide for sustainability and vitality**



Porous green wedges and development edges; use of valley landforms and floodplains for green space

- Ensure opportunities for sustainable travel and connections through planning for a hierarchy of safe, attractive and legible routes for pedestrians, cyclists and riders. The Langley Valley is a key opportunity in this context and would provide an attractive incentive to use such routes.

Landscape setting and rural character

- Conserve and enhance the ancient oak-hornbeam woodland to Knebworth Woods SSSI and create further copse /woodland vegetation (using native, climate change adapted species) as part of a managed green space buffer for this important site;
- Conserve the landscape setting of the registered historic park and gardens of Knebworth;
- Conserve the intimate small scale landscape structure of dense mixed native hedgerows and historic green lanes such as Kitching Green Lane, and to maintain ecological integrity;
- Conserve the narrow network of historic sunken lanes which cross the growth area, notably at Little Almshoe and Almshoebury;
- Conserve the distinctive chalk landscape of the minor, seasonally wet Langley Valley, and enhance the landscape and visual quality of this through

restoration/management of wet meadow and margins, as part of a focus for a new area of semi natural green space;

- Conserve and manage areas of chalk grassland associated with Langley Valley and the adjacent scarps;
- Appropriate wetland tree species for wetland green spaces include almond willow and osier, in addition to grey willow and goat willow;
- Conserve and reinforce the network of existing mixed native hedgerows and mature field trees to fulfil a foiling function in relation to development;
- Conserve the rural character through minimising the effects of lighting to development edges, ensuring that where lighting is necessary it is of an appropriate low level or full cut off design to reduce sky glow;
- The provision of infrastructure such as access and distributor roads should be designed sensitively in relation to topography at the crests of the Langley Valley and the presence of existing landscape structure at Little Almshoe/Almshoebury (e.g. to retain this as far as possible).

Views and visual character

- Key views from within SNAP west include along the minor Langley Valley, towards the wooded valley crests and Hitch Wood, and towards the Lilley Valley/St Pauls Walden. Development proposals should conserve these views out to the wider landscape.

Biodiversity and climate change adaptation

- Conserve remaining areas of acid and heathy grassland and associated woodland, seeking opportunities to extend this habitat for connectivity and to assist in reversing habitat fragmentation;
- Seek opportunities to extend and enhance wetland habitats (such as the Langley Valley), to make these more resilient in the face of climate change, and to enhance species diversity and habitat creation;
- Development should investigate the potential of sustainable woodland management or silvicultural systems to enhance biodiversity of woodland groundflora and to contribute to production of sustainable woodfuel and other wood products;
- Green infrastructure should be used to contribute to sustainability objectives (and urban biodiversity) in the design of new houses e.g. through use of green wall and extensive type green roofs to visually sensitive settlement edges. Green roofs should also be concentrated most densely to the landscape interface with the Langley Valley. This would help to break up the roofscape and to tie the development into the landscape;

- Plan for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as an integral part of the development, but also to deliver clear benefits in terms of streetscape, amenity and biodiversity, e.g. through use of swales integrated with the streetscene;
- SuDS should be planned in relation to the valley topography within SNAP west, making use of natural drainage routes;
- Development should investigate the potential for energy to be provided by sustainable means (CHP), subject to environmental safeguards such as EIA.

Semi natural green space

- In providing accessible natural green space, provision should be made for district scale park provision in addition to neighbourhood parks of at least 2 hectares in area, within 300 metres of residential development, as identified in the deficiency analysis at Chapter 3;
- Green spaces should form a focus for development, linked by greenways or 'parkways'. They should be an integral part of the development geometry and pattern (e.g. as in the core of Letchworth Garden City);
- The distribution of semi natural green space should be designed to conserve key views and visual relationships identified above;
- Semi natural green spaces should conserve any existing landscape structure on site. New planting should be of native species, of local provenance (appropriate species include oak, hornbeam, field maple and cherry, crab apple, dogwood and guelder rose) to make reference to wider landscape character and for wildlife value;
- Within semi natural green space a careful balance should be struck between passive and active recreation, facilitating opportunities for access to nature, children's play (natural play) and more formal or structured recreation;
- Semi natural green space should facilitate sustainable modes of living e.g. community supported agriculture and or allotments. Allotments should be planned, designed and managed as an integral part of semi natural green space/community parklands;
- Subject to demand, allotments should be provided to be within easy walking distance of residential areas (150-200 metres maximum distance as a guideline).

HITCHIN

Evolution

- 6.21. Hitchin grew along the banks of the River Hiz, with the trading of wheat, barley and wool driving the town's growth. Its location close to important trade routes such as the Icknield Way established the town as a major centre for trade and as a stopping point between London and the north. Hitchin has retained its medieval market town character despite its close proximity to the A1(M) and the larger neighbouring urban areas of Stevenage and Luton.

Character

- 6.22. The character of Hitchin is one of diversity and contrast. The town is shaped by river valleys with the Oughton and Purwell running through the north of the town and joining to form the River Hiz. The River Oughton and Purwell valleys feature cattle grazed water meadows, watercourses and associated woodland belts and include the local nature reserves of Oughtonhead Common and Purwell Mill. In contrast the Langley Valley west of Hitchin features a rolling chalk landscape and forms part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The arable farmland east of Hitchin serves as a 'green gap' between the urban areas of Hitchin and Letchworth.

Development and green infrastructure

- 6.23. Hitchin is set to accommodate residential and employment growth up to 2026 in response to targets set out in the East of England Plan. Potential development identified in the Issues and Options Paper³⁵ includes a series of small residential sites along Lucas Lane on the western settlement edge and a large expansion to the industrial estate in the north east corner of the town.

GI priorities and opportunities

- 6.24. The development and character of Hitchin have been shaped by the three rivers which run through it. The tranquil character of the **River Valleys** should be conserved and enhanced with the opportunities they present in terms of landscape character and for access to nature, ensuring a careful balance between access and biodiversity objectives.
- 6.25. The landscape surrounding Hitchin serves as a green gap between the town and smaller settlements such as Ickleford and prevents the amalgamation of the Letchworth and Hitchin urban areas. It is therefore important to have a well integrated **Settlement Edge** which does not intrude on the rural character of smaller villages but is well connected to them through **Sustainable Transport Links** and **Rural Lanes**. Sustainable transport links also need to consider the potential to enhance connections to existing green infrastructure assets within the urban area.

³⁵ North Hertfordshire District Council (2008) **Land Allocations Issues and Options Paper**

- 6.26. With regard to spatial priorities, Hitchin is relatively well provided for in terms of recreational and amenity green space, and semi natural green space, and provision should not fall below existing.
- 6.27. In light of the proximity of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to the western edge of Hitchin, any proposals for **Landscape Enhancement** must reflect the landscape setting and importance of this designated landscape, and management objectives for it.

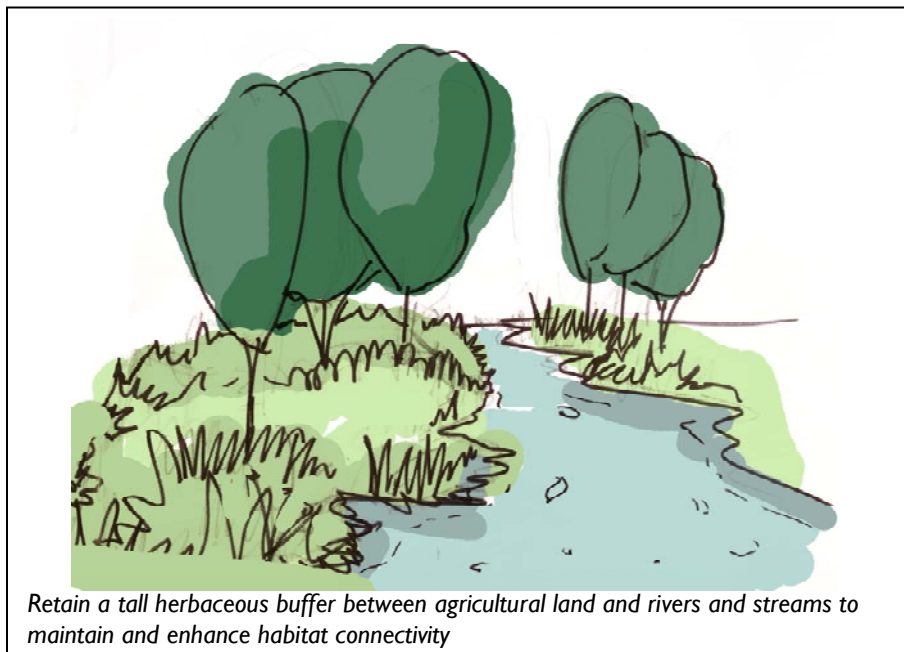
Taking the priorities forward

- 6.28. Green infrastructure opportunities for Hitchin are illustrated at **Figure 6.1**.

River Valleys

- Enhance and manage the flood plains along the course of the River Oughton to the north and River Hiz to the south (flood meadows and flood pasture). Maintain pastoral land and conserve existing ditches and water bodies which connect with the river (e.g. the mill ponds along the River Oughton which are of high ecological and cultural value);
- Extend the wetland character evident at Purwell Meadows to the whole of the Oughton and Hiz River valleys, through encouragement of traditionally managed, cattle grazed wetlands (outside of the urban area of Hitchin) to establish vegetation patterns with areas of longer growth, together with short vegetation and bare, trampled and poached ground (a habitat favoured by invertebrates and birds). Purwell Meadows forms part of a key biodiversity area and is an important bird habitat;
- Conserve and maintain the character of the Purwell Nature Reserve, seeking opportunities to extend the reserve and associated habitats where possible. Conserve and extend the coppiced hazel and mature oak trees along the footpath adjacent to the Nature Reserve;
- Seek opportunities along watercourses (Oughton and Hiz) to enhance landscape and biodiversity through the creation of flood storage and new habitats (similar to the Purwell and Oughtonhead Common Nature Reserves). Such design opportunities should also be guided by management plans such as that for Purwell Meadows, and be consistent with the aims within these;
- Protect the riverbanks of the Oughton and Hiz from damage caused by agriculture (removal of riverbank vegetation, physical modifications, enrichment and de-oxygenation of streams, etc), ensure associated river bank vegetation is conserved and enhanced where appropriate (primarily areas of willow scrub), and create a wetland riparian 'buffer' with adjacent farmland;
- To protect river bank habitats leave an uncut fringe of tall herbaceous vegetation as a buffer between agricultural land and the river to provide shelter for invertebrates. Any work liable to cause damage should only be carried out on

short stretches on one bank. Promote some trampling of river margins by grazing cattle to maintain shallow sloping profiles³⁶;



- Establish a 'greenway' route which follows the course of the River Purwell towards Ickleford and connects to a new pedestrian link along the Ippollitts Brook to the South and the Icknield Way to the north. Ensure the route makes use of and connects to existing urban cycleway routes. Seek opportunities where practical and subject to land ownerships, for strategic bridging points across the railway line to improve the legibility and connectivity of this route;
- Taken together, proposals for the Purwell Valley can form part of a new River Valley Park for the town, to facilitate access to nature, as well as to provide opportunities for informal recreation (natural play, informal sport provision) and community events, which could provide some of the functions of a town park, in addition to semi natural green space provision. Any hard surfaces should not be located within the floodplain;
- Proposals for a River Valley Park should use the access and interpretation opportunities provided by Oughtonhead Common Nature Reserve, as a template;
- Relate green spaces to cultural heritage assets such as the buildings and ponds associated with the grain mills and the Roman Villa site near Purwell Meadows Nature Reserve. Deliver opportunities for interpretation which include thematic organisation of paths and green space and connect with other SAM sites such as the Roman settlement site in Great Wymondley;
- Conserve views to and from the Oughton river valley. Similarly conserve views to the woodland belts along the course of the River Hiz which form a wooded

³⁶ <http://www.buglife.org.uk/conservation/adviceonmanagingbaphabitats>

skyline in views from Hitchin Hill and the settlement edge around Gosmore Road;

- The river valleys may present opportunities for enhanced links to existing green infrastructure assets within the urban area. For example, future development alongside the urban stretches of the River Hiz should facilitate opportunities to open up access to the river and to restore wetland character, as well as to enhance urban biodiversity³⁷;
- Such proposals could also form the basis for a new urban greenway link connecting Priory Park with the town centre, Bancroft Gardens and Purwell Meadows. Where links are not feasible, a co-ordinated signage strategy and use of street tree planting/urban greening should be used to maintain legibility and connectivity.

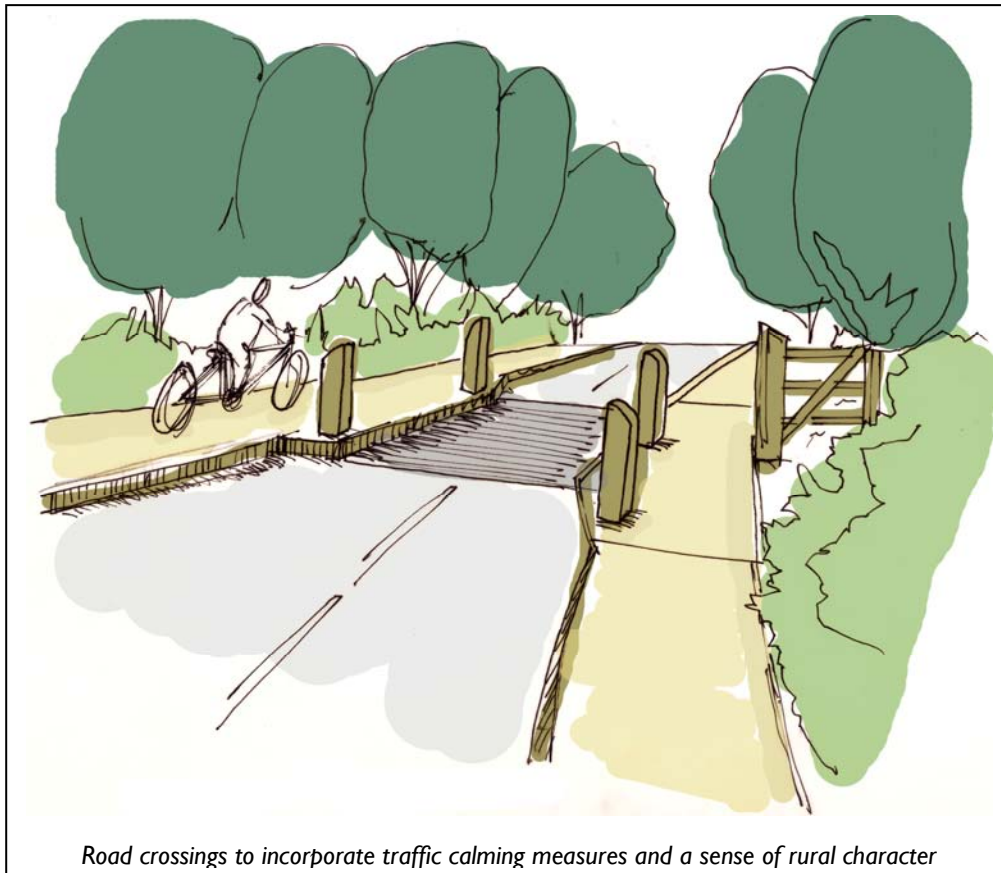
Settlement Edge

- Ensure foiling of settlement edges and provide screening in relation to the future development sites around the industrial estate along Wilbury Way and western settlement edge (dependent on Network Rail's proposed railway curve to the north of Hitchin). Screening should involve subtle landform changes reflecting the chalk landscape, planted with a variety of tree species at different heights and with gaps to achieve a more natural appearance, although it is recognised that the proposed railway 'curve' will significantly change landscape character to this edge. Consider the use of green roofs, to enhance landscape interface and setting of any new industrial units in this location;
- Conserve and enhance the existing landscape structure along Kingswood Avenue;
- Conserve and reinforce the mixed native hedgerows and field trees east of Lucas Lane to provide a foiling function to the proposed development sites along Lucas Lane (green lane) and Crow Furlong;
- Settlement edges should avoid further light pollution or light spill, to conserve dark night skies. Lighting should be of a modern full cut off design and should be avoided altogether in proximity to areas of ancient woodland or bat habitat. Low level, cut off lighting should be combined with appropriate native planting to foil settlement edges. The lighting design of the industrial estate along Wilbury Way (and the adjoining development site) is of particular importance in this context;

³⁷ NHDC (1995) **River Hiz Development Guidelines SPG**



- Conserve rural views from the settlement edge such as those looking north towards Holwell and Pirton from Westmill Lane and views over the chalk landscape to the east of Hitchin from the eastern settlement edge;
- Create a porous development edge with green space swathes and green wedges, as part of the amenity green space for future development. Retain and enhance Priory Park as a green gap connecting with Hitchin's historic core, enhancing links to the existing urban area via the Hiz Valley, as described above;
- Enhance the crossing of Park Way Road to better connect the parkland surrounding The Priory with Priory Park and the River Hiz leading towards Charlton. The crossing could function as a traffic calming scheme, integrating extended kerbing to slow traffic and a wooded gateway with associated fencing, contributing towards a 'green lane' character;



Sustainable Transport Links and Rural Lanes

- Where development is likely to occur (e.g. along Lucas Lane) ensure links to the PROW network are maintained and enhanced so that access and recreational opportunities are maximised (particularly links to Oughtonhead Common and the Icknield Way);
- Develop and promote sustainable transport routes from residential areas to local schools to reduce peak time traffic flows (e.g. from Ickleford to The Priory, Our Lady's, and Strathmore School's cluster);
- Establish a new dedicated pedestrian and cycle route alongside Stotfold Road to connect into Letchworth's Greenway. The route should also extend to Fairfield Park;
- Extend and improve the pathway which runs alongside the railway line running into Letchworth. The width of the path should be at least that recommended by Sustrans for shared pedestrian and cycle use (2m minimum – 3m preferable³⁸) and extend the path into Letchworth, connecting into The Greenway where possible. Such a path may necessitate a new bridging point in relation to the proposed railway 'curve';
- Rural lanes and associated hedgerows, such as those found along Lucas Lane, should be conserved, enhanced and reinforced, to provide a foiling function in relation to new development, and as green corridors within the urban area.

³⁸ <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/webfiles/guidelines/traffic-free%20paths.pdf>

Seek opportunities to enhance and extend the network of sunken lanes, hedge banks and verges and promote gradual coppicing, restocking and hedge laying within the management of existing hedgerows to prevent gaps forming;

- Seek to create enhanced strategic green infrastructure links as part of future developments within the urban area, connecting key green infrastructure assets (e.g. along the Hiz, a key potential green corridor, linking to Bancroft Gardens and Purwell Meadows).

Landscape Enhancement

- Conserve and enhance landscape features comparable to those of the Chilterns AONB, such as hanger woodland, chalk downland, grassland and dramatic, sculpted scarp slope landforms, together with the relative openness of this northern part of the Chilterns. Encourage management change through the uptake of higher level agri-environment schemes enabled by Natural England;
- Conserve and enhance woodland around elevated and visually significant chalk landscapes such as The Willows. Seek opportunities to extend this urban-fringe woodland with the Parkland at Priory Park to the east and the woodland around Gainsford House to the north.

North Hertfordshire Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 6.1: Hitchin Proposed Green Infrastructure Network

Key

North Hertfordshire District boundary

Proposed SNAP boundary

Existing

Barriers

Public rights of way

Key Views to conserve

Green space

Important green gap & landscape structure

Proposed

Proposed cycle path

Indicative landscape buffer

Level 2 green links

Level 2 blue links

Level 2 urban greenway enhancement

Proposed railway curve

Green lanes to conserve

Strategic GI (opportunity for interpretation)

Crossing enhancement

Strategic SUDS flood storage opportunity

Strategic bridge

Green gateway

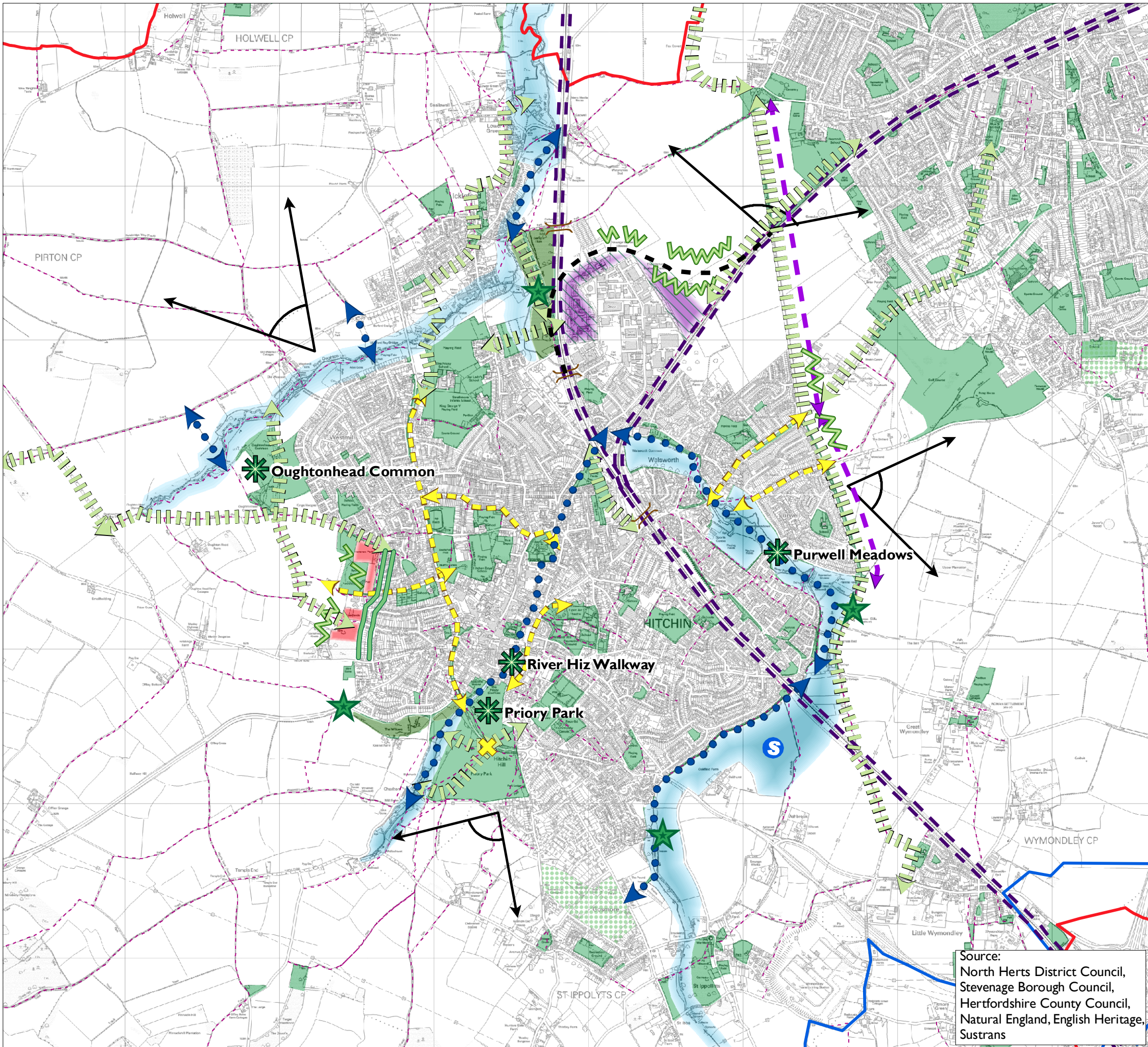
Proposed green roof zone

Development land allocation: residential

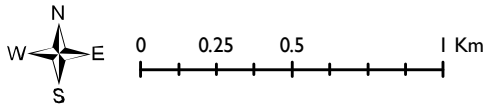
Development land allocation: industrial

Woodland management zone

Wetland enhancement potential



Source:
 North Herts District Council,
 Stevenage Borough Council,
 Hertfordshire County Council,
 Natural England, English Heritage,
 Sustrans



Date: 21/08/2009
 Revision:



BALDOCK

Evolution

- 6.29. The small market town of Baldock grew at the crossing point of the old Great North Road and the Icknield Way. The town, which has evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlements and links with the Knights Templar, was once a major staging post between London and the North. Today Baldock retains much of its vernacular architecture and detailing, and the 14th century steeple of St Mary's Church is visible throughout the town.

Character

- 6.30. Baldock is contained by a rolling chalk landscape which features large scale arable farmland and small rounded chalk knolls; long distance views across a rural landscape are a distinctive feature. To the south of the town lies a steeply sloping chalk scarp which is cut by a number of minor dry valleys. The woodlands along Weston Hills are a prominent feature of the scarp slope. The contrast between the relatively steep ridge of the Weston Hills and the flatter land extending northwards is a distinctive feature of the town's landscape setting.

Development and green infrastructure

- 6.31. Baldock is set to accommodate a significant level of residential and employment growth up to 2026 in response to targets set out in the East of England Plan. Potential development sites identified in the Issues and Options Paper³⁹ include major residential expansions to the northern and eastern settlement edge. A major employment site running parallel to the railway has also been identified.

GI priorities and opportunities

- 6.32. Baldock's compact size is integral to its market town character; any new development must be incorporated sensitively and the **Settlement Edge** well integrated.
- 6.33. **Green Space and Park Provision** is essential for the successful growth of the town. Green spaces will need to be included at the planning stages of development and carefully positioned and connected with the wider green infrastructure network. The North Hertfordshire Green Space Standards have identified a deficit recreational and amenity green space provision, and this should be a priority for new green infrastructure creation.
- 6.34. The town has grown through and been shaped by its **Historical Connections**. The sites and routes which provide evidence of this should be the focus for green infrastructure development and offer the opportunity for interpretation (e.g. Wall's Field; Icknield Way).
- 6.35. The setting of Baldock is distinctive and contributes positively to its character. It is important to retain features such as views to the chalk landscape which contribute to the **Rural Character** present around northern parts of the town, and enhance

³⁹ North Hertfordshire District Council (2008) Op Cit

features of the distinctive **Chalk Landscape** to the south such as the wooded scarp at Weston Hills.

Taking the priorities forward

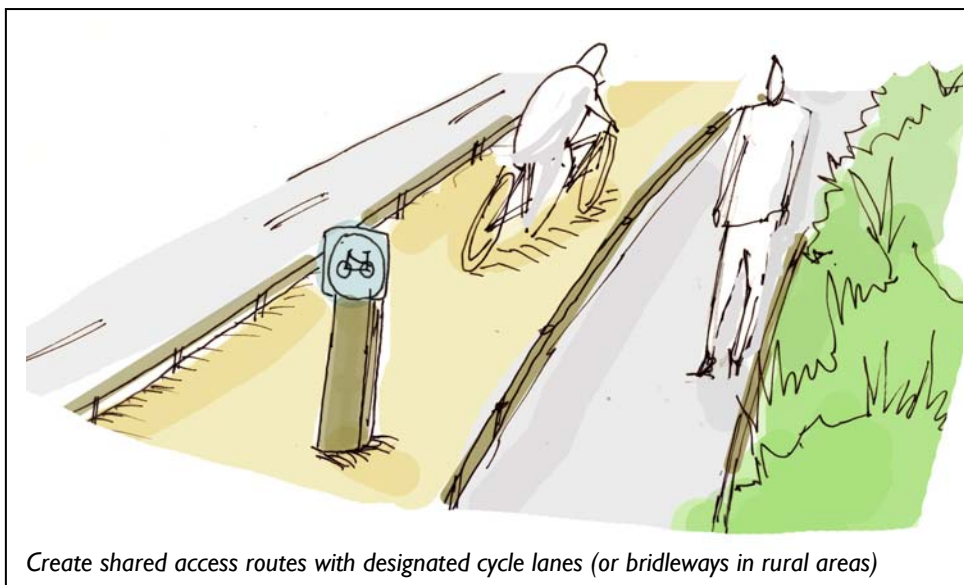
6.36. Green infrastructure opportunities for Baldock are illustrated at **Figure 6.2**.

Settlement Edge

- Ensure foiling of settlement edges and provide screening in relation to new development sites in particular those identified to the east around Cambrai Farm and Wallington Road, development here will need to be sensitive to the landform and consider both the prominence of this land in views from eastern parts of the town and the importance of this area as a green gap between Baldock and the A505;
- Where development is likely to occur (e.g. around Cambrai Farm) ensure links to the PROW network are maintained and enhanced to ensure that access and recreational opportunities are maximised (particularly links to The Hertfordshire Way);
- Ensure the boundaries of the development site around Bygrave Road are properly buffered (with tree and understorey planting) to mitigate the impacts of development on this 'green lane' leading out of Baldock. Bygrave Road should be retained as a linear habitat corridor, avoiding further lighting to this edge or mitigating through full cut off lighting design;
- Screening of the settlement edge should include subtle landform changes which reflect the chalk landscape. Planting should include a variety of native species planted in varied densities and locations to avoid block screening. This is particularly important around the employment development site, prominent in views from Ashwell Road, Bygrave;
- Establish a network of wooded greenways in advance of built development, to connect landscape, development and areas of community green space;
- Maintain the 'green gap' between the eastern settlement edge of Letchworth and western edge of Baldock. Plant and reinforce a wooded landscape buffer adjacent to the A1 (M), with a particular focus around Chilvers Bank;
- In relation to the A505, plant and reinforce a native (oak-hornbeam) wooded landscape buffer (with field maple, cherry and hawthorn understorey) to fulfil an attenuation function. Such a buffer should have multiple functions (e.g. urban greenway/cycle link).

Green Space and Park Provision

- Green spaces should form an integral part of any new development and should be connected within the wider green network and countryside through linked greenways;



- Enhance the green wedge at Wall's Field to act as a green lung for the town. This Scheduled Monument (SMR or SAM) site presents a key opportunity for a new neighbourhood community green space and as a 'common ground' for existing and new communities (particularly for development sites east of Baldock). There is also the opportunity to connect with the existing school through natural play provision, outdoor classroom facilities and new parkland;
- Recreational green spaces such as Wall's Field should be meaningful spaces which present reference to Baldock's rich cultural heritage and focus the imagination with reference to its historic importance as a Roman settlement and its connections with the Knights Templar;
- Conserve Ivel Springs as a key ecological site to support local biodiversity whilst developing a new shared use pathway along the course of the River Ivel with associated tree and understorey planting to reconnect riverine habitats, reverse habitat fragmentation, and reduce flood risk;
- Extend and enhance wetland habitats along the flood plains of the River Ivel to create a wetland corridor connecting to the Kingfisher Way and linking to Stotfold Mill Meadows and Letchworth's Greenway. Enhance the existing footpath link along the Ivel and under the railway line through signage and surfacing;
- The proposed development site on the edge of Bygrave Common is a possible location for a new strategic semi-natural green space (also potentially meeting the deficiency in relation to recreational and amenity green space provision)

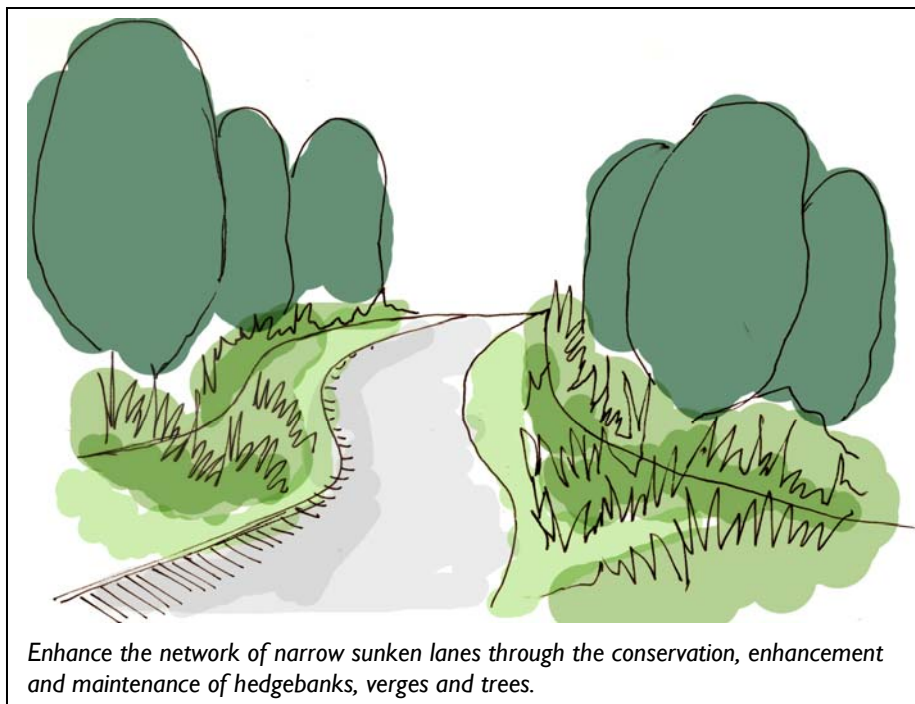
which could serve new development here and integrate new development with the landscape edge; seek developer contributions towards implementation and management.

Historical Connections

- Where appropriate and possible present reference to the Roman Roads, such as The Great North Road which shaped the evolution of the town. There is an opportunity to create a new axial route connecting Wall's Field with Clothall Common to the north and Weston Hills to the south using the alignment of the Roman Road, within future development;
- Conserve views to the spire of St Mary's Church and the historic town core, primarily from Weston Hills and long views to and from Wall's Field and Clothall Common.

Rural Character

- Conserve the network of narrow sunken lanes and tracks which lead out from northern parts of the town such as Bygrave Road, as green corridors within the green infrastructure network. Establish a coherent 'green lane' character for these roads to include the protection and enhancement of associated hedge banks, verges, double hedges, hedgerow trees and hedgerows where lost, through higher level stewardship. Allow the development of species rich 'grassy' banks and wildflower species through reduced mowing;

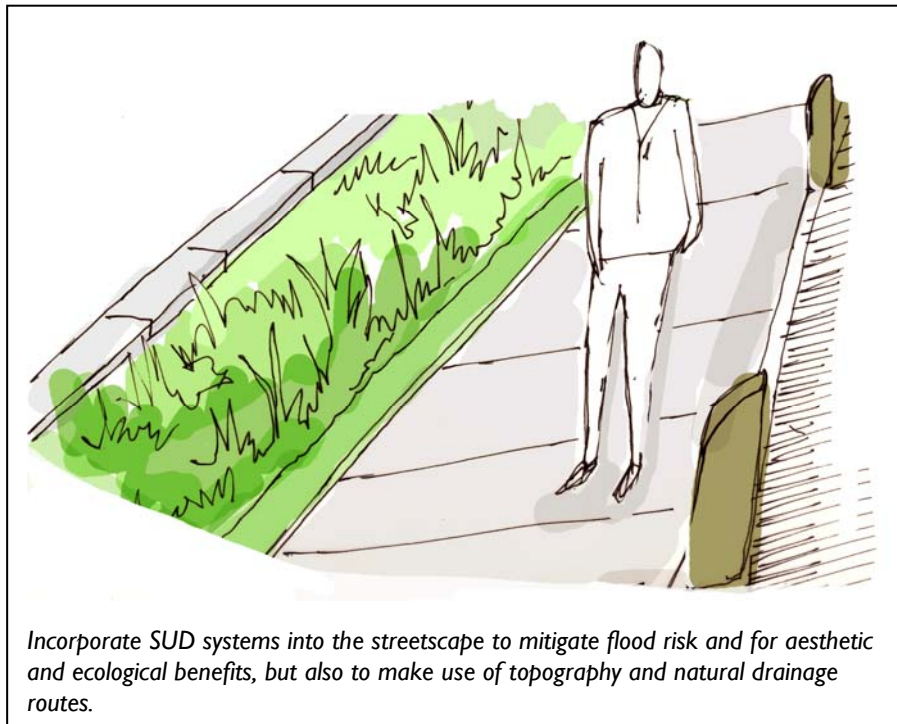


Enhance the network of narrow sunken lanes through the conservation, enhancement and maintenance of hedgebanks, verges and trees.

- Enhance the landscape and biodiversity value of surrounding farmland (Bygrave Common) through the uptake of higher level agri-environment schemes enabled by Natural England.

Chalk Landscape

- Conserve and enhance the chalk woodland around Weston Hills to the south of Baldock and plant further trees along the ridgeline adjacent to the A505 (using native, climate change adapted species). Develop also a new 'access for all' route from residential development sites around Cambrai Farm to connect with Weston Hills;
- Conserve long distance rural views across the large scale chalk farmland landscape north of the town;
- Conserve rural views to the sculpted chalk landscape from the eastern edge of Baldock, particularly views looking east from Clothall Road and Wall's Field towards Weston Hills;
- Sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) should be planned in relation to the rolling topography to the south and east, making use of natural drainage routes.



Incorporate SUD systems into the streetscape to mitigate flood risk and for aesthetic and ecological benefits, but also to make use of topography and natural drainage routes.

LETCHWORTH

Evolution

- 6.37. Letchworth was founded in 1903 by First Garden City Ltd as the world's first garden city. The original garden city plan was based upon principles now embedded in Green Infrastructure planning. The Letchworth Estate continues to be managed by the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation who invests surplus income back into the estate in keeping with the original philosophy. The Garden City Plan has been hugely influential on town planning and the new towns movement and remains a model for successful town planning.

Character

- 6.38. The setting of Letchworth is characterised by flat arable farmland to the north adjacent to the Ivel Valley with more undulating landform to the south. The proximity to Baldock and the presence of the A1(M) dominate the character east of Letchworth. The town contains two listed parks of cultural importance, Broadway Gardens and Howard Park.

Development and green infrastructure

- 6.39. Letchworth is set to accommodate minor residential growth up to 2026 in response to targets set out in the East of England Plan. Potential development sites identified in the Issues and Options Paper⁴⁰ include three residential sites adjoining the northern settlement edge.

GI priorities and opportunities

- 6.40. It is important to retain the rural context of Letchworth particularly when planning **New Development**. The **Settlement Edge** must be well integrated with rural views conserved, particularly along the northern urban edge.
- 6.41. In keeping with the original garden city philosophy, **Green Spaces and Parks** should feature regularly throughout the town and be well connected with residential areas and other green space.
- 6.42. The Letchworth Greenway is a key green infrastructure component within Letchworth, connecting town and countryside. This route should be strengthened with new **Green and Sustainable Transport Links** which connect into the surrounding landscape and into the town centre through urban greenways.
- 6.43. A key opportunity is to connect new and existing green infrastructure with that in Bedfordshire, notably the Ivel Valley and communities in Stotfold, Arlesey and Fairfield Park.
- 6.44. With regard to spatial priorities, the North Hertfordshire Green Space Standards have identified a shortfall in recreational and amenity green space and in natural and semi natural green space, and these should be targeted as priorities in relation to future development.

⁴⁰ North Hertfordshire District Council (2008) Op Cit

Taking the priorities forward

6.45. Green infrastructure opportunities for Letchworth are illustrated at **Figure 6.2**.

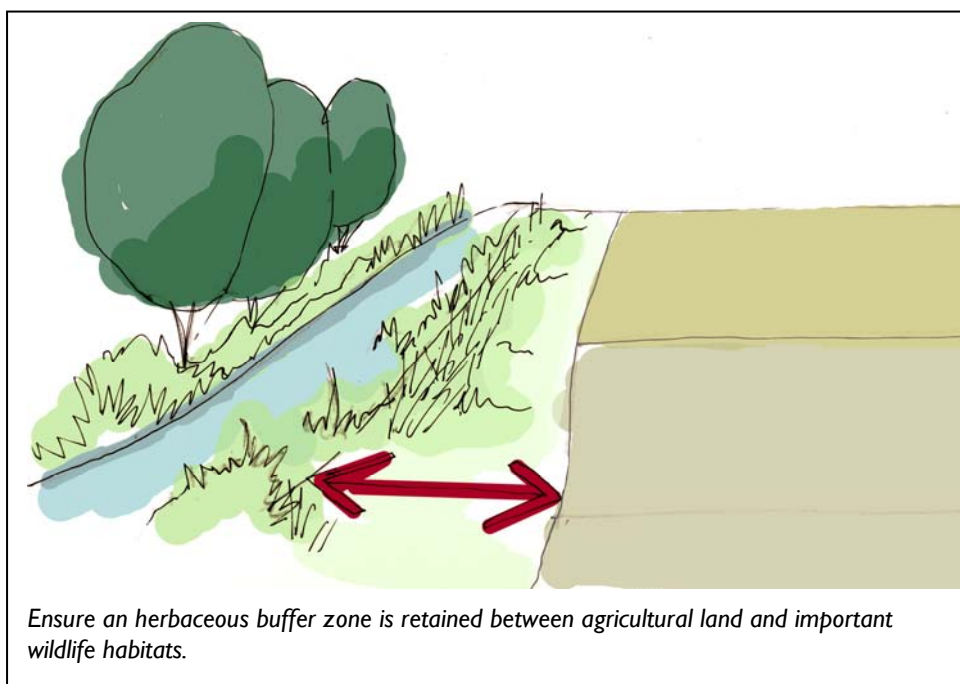
New Development and the Settlement Edge

- Ensure foiling of settlement edges and provide screening in relation to potential new development sites in particular those identified to the north of Letchworth around Gaunts Way, Croft Land and Talbot Way. Avoid formal, block screening and banded landforms which appear over-designed and unnatural;
- Create a porous development edge through green space swathes and green wedges for the three residential development sites around Gaunts Way, Croft Land and Talbot Way. These should thread through the new developments to create a legible, linked series of green spaces. Broadleaf woodland foiling will provide opportunities for new habitat as part of a mosaic of semi natural green space;
- Conserve the open rural character around the northern settlement edge, ensuring a green gap remains between Letchworth, Fairfield Park and outlying rural villages. Conserve the distinctive rural character of Willian by reinforcing tree planting and protecting the green gap between the village and Letchworth;
- Enhance and improve access to the allotments located off Talbot Way. The allotments could form an integral part of green infrastructure and with appropriate management, form part of the neighbourhood green spaces and semi natural green space network;
- Enhance the screening of the Avocet housing development which detracts from long distance views from the settlement edge along Gaunts Way;
- Conserve views to the 19th Century Grade II listed former hospital building at Fairfield Park, primarily from the settlement edge around Gaunts Way and Standalone Farm;
- Conserve views to the church tower at Norton from the south eastern settlement edge;
- In relation to the A1(M) plant a native (oak-hornbeam) wooded landscape buffer (with field maple, cherry and hawthorn under story) to fulfil an attenuation function in relation to the southern settlement edge.

Green Spaces and Parks

- Green spaces should form an integral part of the streetscape geometry, re-enforcing the Garden City identity through legible streetscape master-planning which includes 'parkways and greenways' to connect green space;
- Conserve and enhance key ecological sites such as Norton Common, Wilbury Hills, Keysheath Meadow (south of Hitchin Road), the Pix Brook, Ivel Valley and Hillbrow allotments to support local biodiversity. Seek opportunities to create and designate new local nature reserves, to enhance semi natural green space provision (set tariff for off site contributions through CIL);

- Maintain and conserve key wildlife habitats such as Norton Pond through positive management to promote and enhance their biodiversity. Ensure new development does not have an adverse affect on the quality or setting of such habitats;



- Conserve the grazing land around the northern settlement edge which acts as a buffer between valuable habitats such as Norton Pond and the intensively managed arable farmland north of the town;
- Conserve areas of fenland habitat around the Pix Brook and Norton Common, seeking opportunities to extend and buffer this habitat for connectivity and to assist in reversing habitat fragmentation;
- Recognise the importance of Standalone Farm as a key green space of recreational, educational and amenity value.

Green and Sustainable Transport Links

- Encourage further expansion of the Letchworth Greenway to include a link to Fairfield Park along existing paths and tracks leading out from the north of Letchworth. Expand the width of the path to the minimum suggested by Sustrans for shared use on the most popular routes (2m minimum – 3m preferable⁴¹);
- Where appropriate make connections from The Greenway to allotments which feature on the settlement edge such as those along Pryor Way;

⁴¹ <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/webfiles/guidelines/traffic-free%20paths.pdf>

- Develop a new pedestrian and cycle route in connection with the green verges found along Blackhorse Road to form a green route back into the town from the Letchworth Greenway;
- Where development is likely to occur, ensure links to the PROW network are maintained and enhanced to ensure utility and recreational opportunities are maximised (particularly links to The Greenway);
- Seek opportunities to develop a minor 'green gateway' to the town for foot and cycle access along the Pix Brook from Wilbury Road;
- Establish new pedestrian and cycle links in conjunction with any future proposals to provide access to the former mineral workings at Blue Lagoon, seeking opportunities to develop the site into a nature reserve or district park together with the smaller chalk pit of Green Lagoon;
- Conserve and enhance the 'green gateway' into Letchworth from Junction 9 of the A1(M) and extend and enhance the existing planting along the A505 to establish the route as a key green link into the town;
- Enhance the pathway alongside the A505/B656 to accommodate shared pedestrian and cycle use. Plant a porous buffer of trees and understorey planting to establish separation of the path from the road and encourage grassland restoration (reduced mowing), introduction of species rich wildflower margins and grassy swales to enhance the character and biodiversity. Encourage the extension of this route into the town centre;
- Conserve remaining pre Garden City tracks and historic routes within the town, as part of the green infrastructure network, such as Letchworth Lane and Spring Lane, seeking opportunities to present reference to their heritage (focussed on the separate, pre Garden City villages of Letchworth, Willian and Norton).

North Hertfordshire Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 6.2: Letchworth Garden City and Baldock Proposed Green Infrastructure Network

Key

North Hertfordshire District boundary

Existing

Barriers

Public rights of way

Key Views to conserve

Roman road routes (Historic)

Letchworth 'Greenway'

Green space

Important green gap & landscape structure

Proposed

Urban greenway

Proposed cycle path

Indicative landscape buffer

Level 2 green links

Level 2 blue links

Level 2 urban greenway enhancement

Strategic GI (opportunity for interpretation)

Strategic bridge

Green gateway

Proposed green roof zone

Proposed strategic green infrastructure

Development land allocation: residential

Development land allocation: industrial

Woodland management zone

Wetland enhancement potential

Date: 21/08/2009
Revision:

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ROYSTON

Evolution

- 6.46. Royston grew at the crossing site of two major Roman roads, the Icknield Way and Ermine Street (The Great North Road). The town has historical connections with the Knights Templar and with King James I of England who used the town as a hunting base. Today, Royston is a small market town, largely residential with some light industry which provides employment.

Character

- 6.47. The setting of Royston is one of diversity and contrast. To the north its landscape is characterised by large scale open arable farmland with rectilinear fields and lanes and long distance views across a gently rolling chalk landform. This is a contrast with the scarp slopes south of Royston characterised by an undulating chalk landform incised by dry valleys. Therfield Heath SSSI is located to the south west of Royston and is a valuable ecological site, containing some of the richest chalk grassland in England⁴².

Development and green infrastructure

- 6.48. Royston is set to accommodate residential and employment growth as part of North Hertfordshire's response to the East of England Plan; potential development sites have been identified in the council's Issues and Options Paper⁴³. These include residential development at the northern arc of the town within the A505 and an allocation for employment as an extension to the industrial estate along the north west edge. Smaller scale residential development is expected on land adjacent to Therfield Heath.

GI priorities and opportunities

- 6.49. Royston is located within a highly rural part of North Hertfordshire. The town's setting includes attractive chalk landscapes and habitats to the south and an open arable landscape to the north, extending into South Cambridgeshire District. The key priorities for GI therefore relate to the setting of the town, the peri-urban environment and conserving and enhancing the chalk landscape.
- 6.50. The open landscape to the north means that the **Settlement Edge** should be well integrated and views mitigated (particularly of any new development). Access to the surrounding landscape should be enhanced and areas of **Chalk Landscape** conserved and improved, particularly Therfield Heath.
- 6.51. The **Approach and Gateways** into Royston act as a transition from rural to urban. It will be important to enhance these routes and gateways to improve connections into the wider landscape framework.
- 6.52. It is important that GI within the town is well connected and includes opportunities for sustainable transport. Enhanced **Green Links** both local level (residential connections) and strategic level (relationship with Cambridgeshire sub-regional GI)

⁴² <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi>

⁴³ North Hertfordshire District Council (2008) Op Cit

should be considered as well as routes which provide the opportunity for interpretation such as the old Roman Roads.

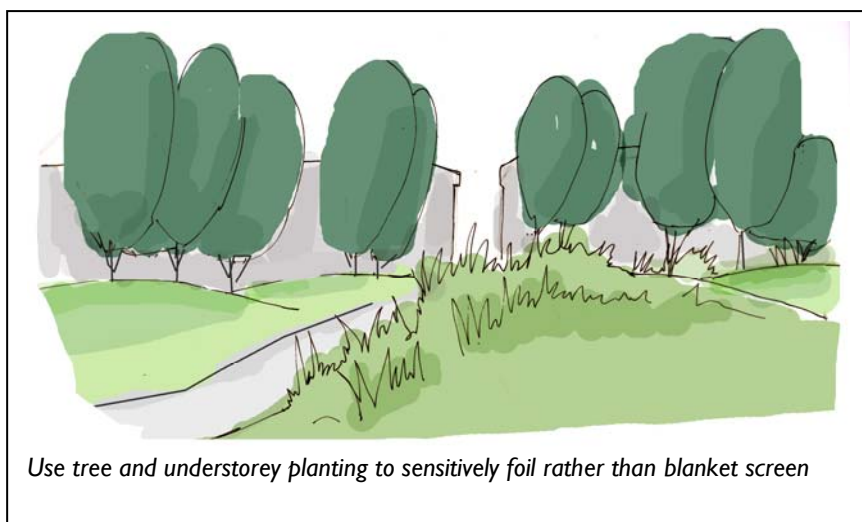
- 6.53. With regard to spatial priorities, the Green Space Standards have identified a shortfall in provision of recreational and amenity green space, and natural and semi natural green space, within Royston. These should be targeted as a priority in relation to future development.

Taking the priorities forward

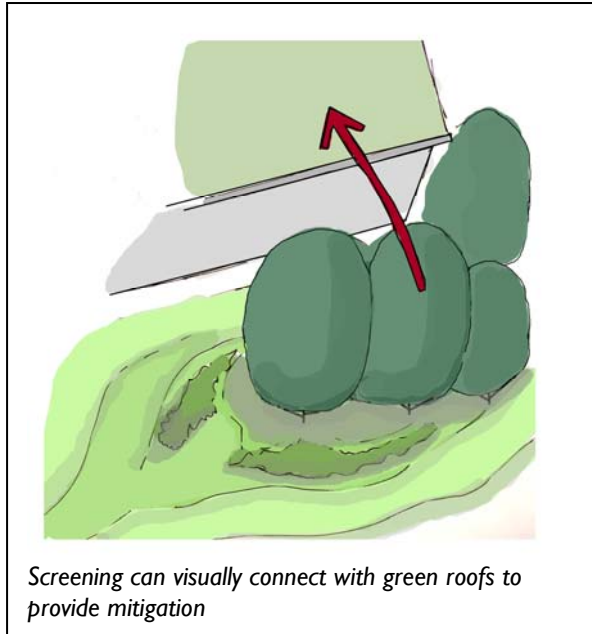
- 6.54. Green infrastructure opportunities for Royston are illustrated at **Figure 6.3**.

Settlement Edge

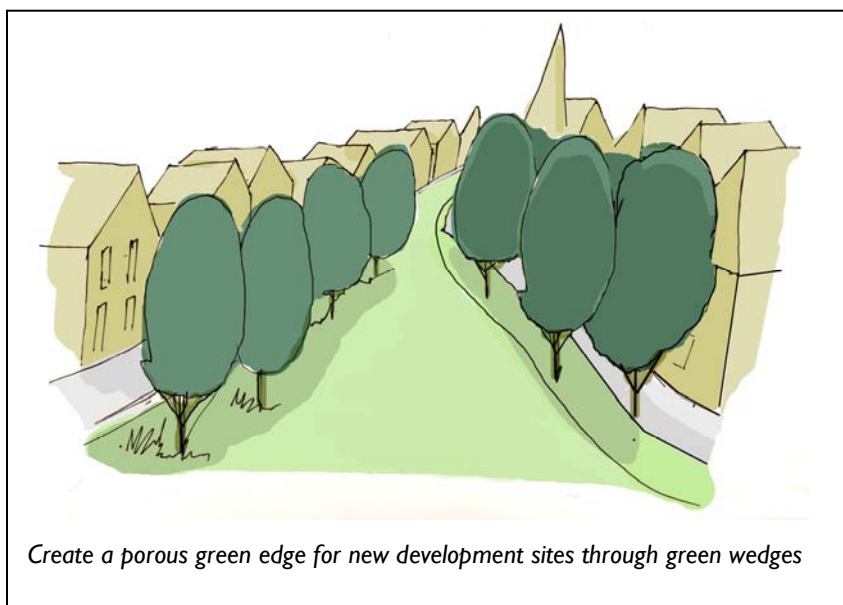
- Foiling of settlement edges to provide screening in relation to new development sites should involve subtle landform changes which reflect the chalk landscape and include a variety of native tree species (climate change adapted) to create a porous edge;



- Consider the use of extensive type green roofs to enhance the landscape interface and setting of the development edge in relation to the new industrial units adjacent to the A505;



- Enhance the development boundary of the industrial estate with mixed native hedgerow/tree planting facing the security fencing to create a softer green edge. Planting can provide a foiling function to the industrial buildings and lighting. Any industrial lighting should be of an appropriate low level or full cut off design to reduce sky glow and conserve rural character;
- Create a porous development edge through green space swathes and green wedges such as the Green Walk Plantation, as part of the natural and semi natural green space network, and in providing amenity green space in relation to new development, to assist in meeting identified deficiencies. Within areas of natural and semi natural and amenity green space, green wedges should protect areas of open land, ensuring green space is provided between existing and planned developments to conserve strategic landscape and wildlife links with the countryside and to prevent the coalescence of urban areas. Opportunities for recreation (natural play) and sustainable travel (cycle routes) should be encouraged within green wedges, as should opportunities for productive landscapes – allotments and community gardens;



- Ensure a buffer of at least 12m is kept between the new residential development site north of Royston and the Royston railway waste ground, identified as a key wildlife habitat. This will assist in allowing the site to function as a 'natural ecosystem' and contribute to the creation of green corridors.

Chalk Landscape

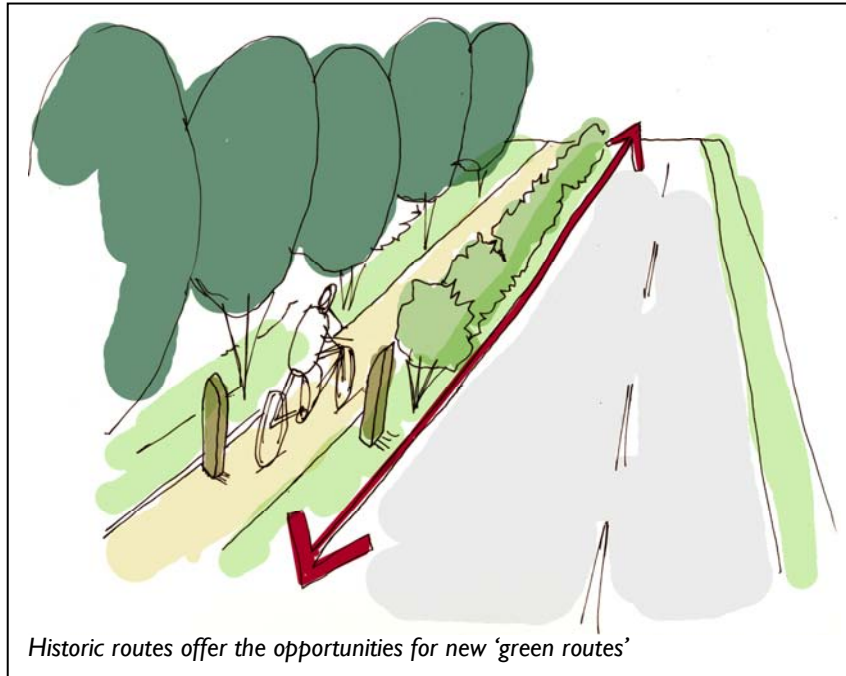
- Enhance the chalk landscape character through expansion of chalk grassland around Therfield Heath into open downland areas and degraded farmland. Seek opportunities for management change through the uptake of higher level agri-environment schemes;
- Buffer zones between intensive arable production to the south of Royston and areas of semi-natural habitat such as Therfield Heath should be encouraged. Buffer zones can be the focus for public access and ensure a balance between recreation and conservation is achieved;
- Views to the chalk landscape setting should be conserved and considered with new development. It is important to conserve views across the heathland and chalk landscape around Therfield Heath from Baldock Road and parts of the A505. Similarly views to sculpted and distinctive landforms around east Royston should also be protected.

Approach and Gateways

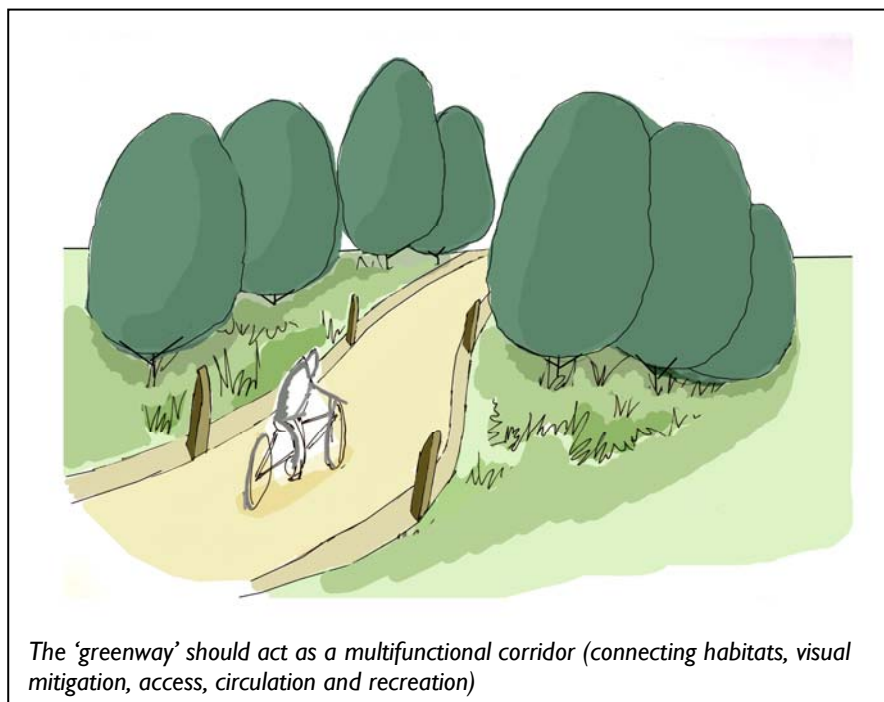
- Conserve and enhance 'green gateway' sites set around key access roads into the town. These include the B1039, London Road and the junction where Newmarket Road meets the A505, and the roundabout where the A505 meets Baldock Road (to the west of Royston);
- The character of the green gateways should be coherent throughout the town and be representative of the landscape within and surrounding the town, such as the Gardenesque style gateways located on the A505 into Letchworth.

Access and Green Links

- Make reference to the old Roman Road at Ermine Street. Recognise opportunities for interpretation to include a possible thematic organisation of a new foot and cycle path to follow this route, reconnecting Lower and Upper King Street to form a legible link along the line of the old Roman Road;

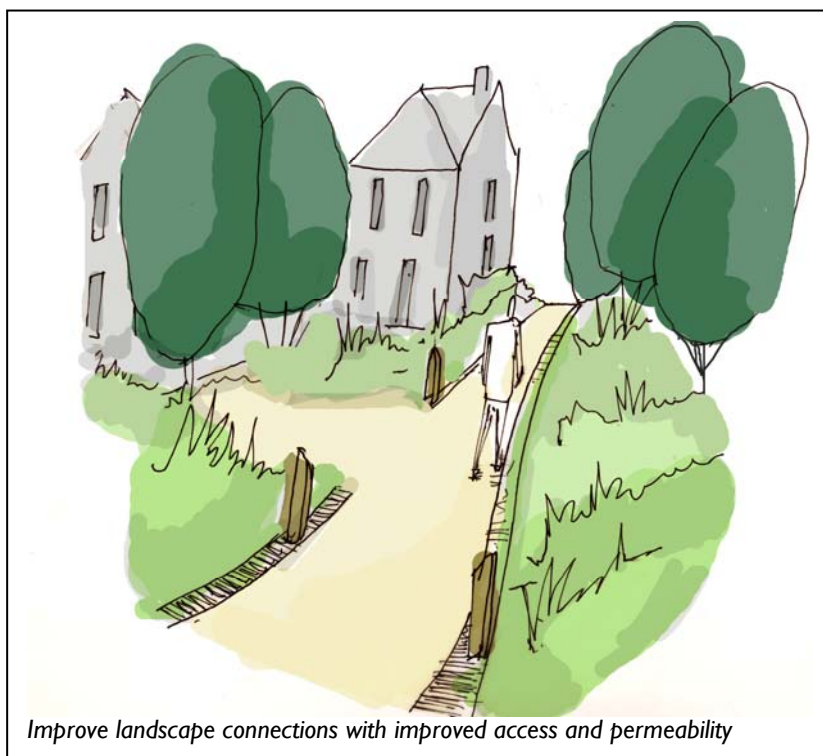


- Provide reference to the mediaeval approach into Royston along Grange Bottom and Barkway Road, used as an alternative to the steeper Ermine Street route. A new legible foot and cycle path following this route could also connect with the Green Walk and the Nature Reserve and Priory Gardens to the north;
- Establish a new 'greenway' as an integral part of a landscape buffer adjacent to the A505. This should connect potential development sites through green space swathes and green wedges and include a new foot/cycle path. A 'green route' should thread through new developments to create a legible, linked series of green spaces;
- The A505 corridor route could form part of a new 'greenway' for Royston similar to that at Letchworth. The route can be based on existing paths and follow field boundaries where appropriate. The majority of the route should be off-road and connect to existing GI such as The Drift Way and Therfield Heath, as well as future green spaces and links such as those adjacent to the A505 and Ermine Street. Establish a new bridging point over the railway to the west of Royston at Ivy Farm;



- Negotiate for public use of the bridging point over the A505 north west of Greenfield Road. This is an important link from the new development site and possible 'greenway' to the linear footpaths leading out of Royston. There is also the opportunity for connections to the adjacent Cambridgeshire sub-region GI network, particularly links to Melbourn riverside nature reserve identified as a key GI component⁴⁴;
- Enhance low level green links which can serve to better connect residential areas with the surrounding landscape, e.g. residential streets around Campion Way into The Drift Way and the wider landscape;
- Seek to enhance green links within the existing urban area, using signage and new street tree planting where appropriate to create a legible green link from the medieval market place via Barkway Road, to the Nature Reserve north of Barkway Road.

⁴⁴ Cambridgeshire Horizons, 2005, Green Infrastructure Strategy



Improve landscape connections with improved access and permeability

North Hertfordshire Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 6.3: Royston Proposed Green Infrastructure Network

Key

North Hertfordshire District boundary

Existing

Barriers

Public rights of way

Key Views to conserve

Roman road route (Historic)

Green lanes to conserve

Green space

Proposed

Urban greenway

Proposed cycle path

Indicative landscape buffer

Level 2 green links

Level 2 blue links

Level 2 urban greenway enhancement

Strategic GI (opportunity for interpretation)

Crossing enhancement

Strategic bridge

Green gateway

Landscape restoration and enhancement area

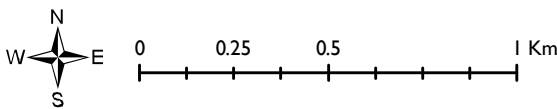
Heathland management

Development land allocation: residential

Development land allocation: industrial

Woodland management zone

Proposed green roof zone

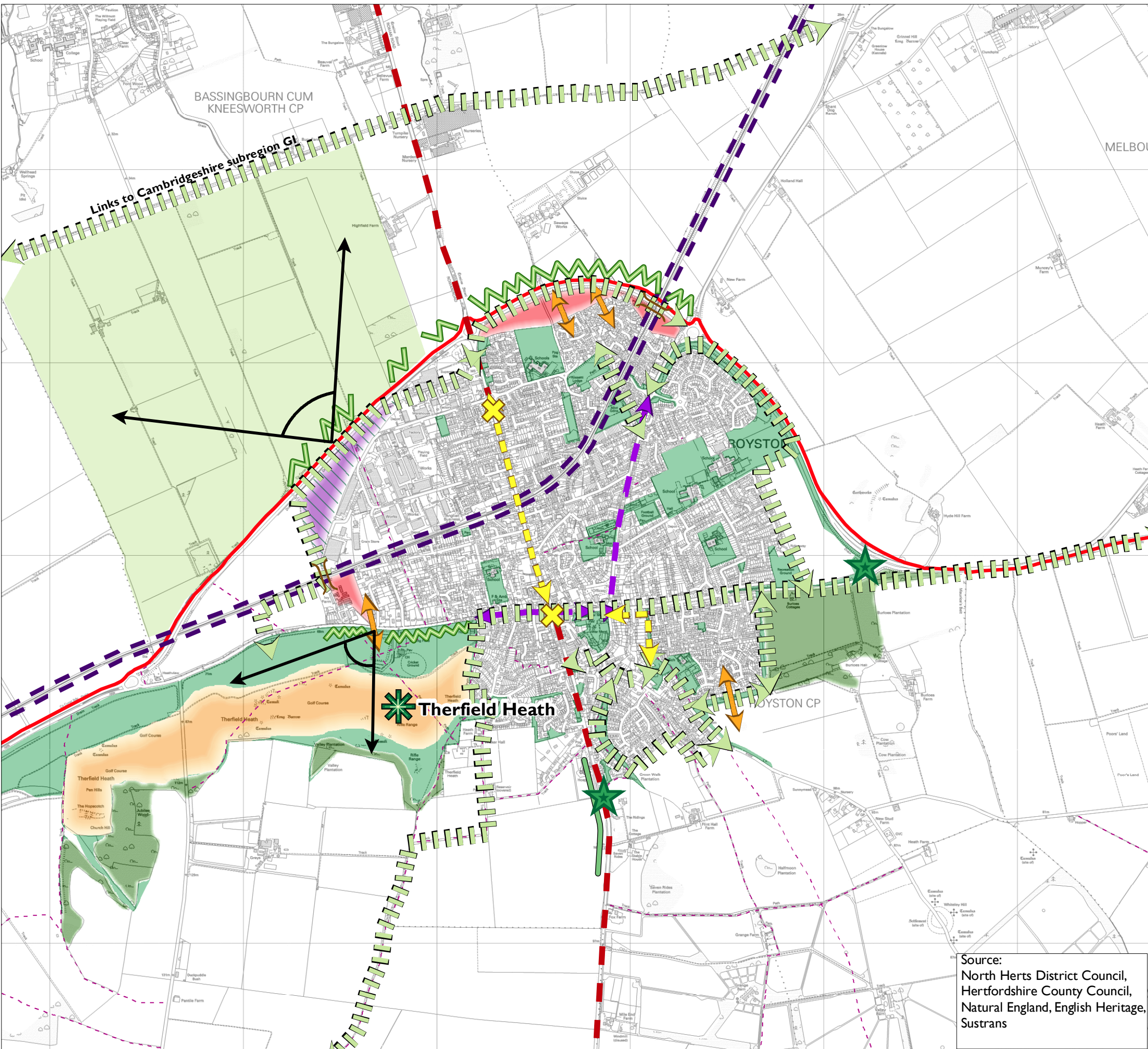


Date: 21/08/2009

Revision:



Source:
North Herts District Council,
Hertfordshire County Council,
Natural England, English Heritage,
Sustrans



TAKING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FORWARD IN DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

- 6.55. The green infrastructure proposals, component projects and principles devised in Chapters 4-6 of this plan form a basis for evaluating future development proposals against the proposed green infrastructure network, and to ensure that they contribute to the desired environmental outcomes and functions. A model process for ensuring that green infrastructure is embedded in development management, and that appropriate account is taken of green infrastructure recommendations, is set out in **Figure 6.4**.
- 6.56. **Figure 6.4** is designed to assist DC officers and planning applicants ensure that green infrastructure is embedded in the scheme design, as part of the development process. The diagram can be applicable to any scale of proposed development. The starting point is to identify the green infrastructure projects to which a development project relates, and whether the project can contribute to, or impacts on any proposed green infrastructure projects. Account should also be taken of appropriate generic and specific green infrastructure principles, as described in this plan, with the plan used as a starting point for site planning and design – a ‘greenprint’ or a green infrastructure led basis for masterplanning, to ensure that green infrastructure assets are considered and protected from the first.

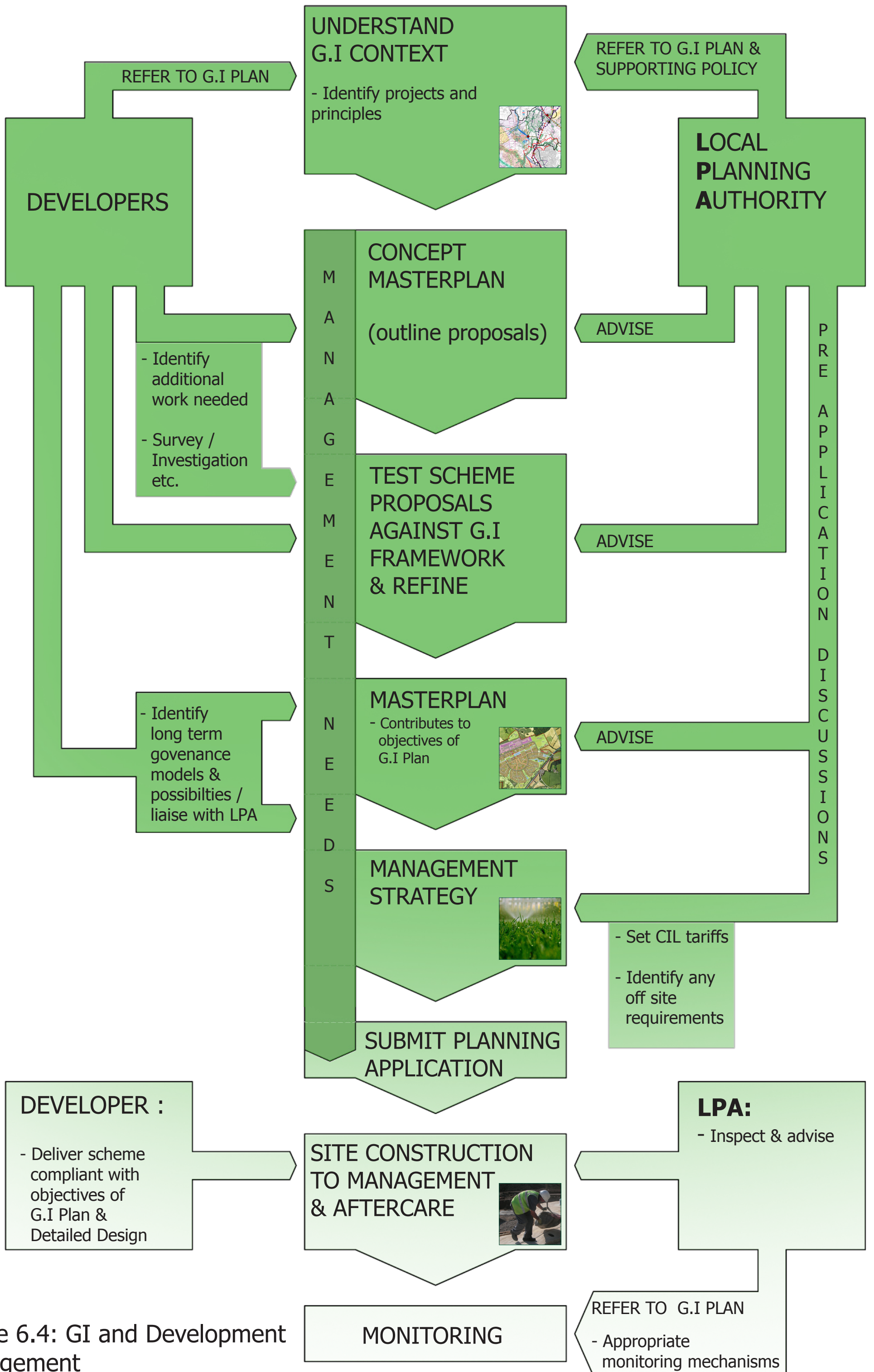


Figure 6.4: GI and Development Management

APPENDIX I:
Green Infrastructure Planning and Policy Context

GI CONTEXT – PLANS, POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

POLICY REVIEW METHOD

- I.1 A desk based review was undertaken of current national, regional and local planning policy to understand the study context. This included reviewing the following:
- East of England Plan;
 - The Appropriate Assessment of the East of England Plan;
 - Local Plans and LDFs;
 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessments.
- I.2 This review helped to ensure that the study fully addresses the range of challenges and opportunities posed by the significant levels of proposed growth, and identified the following type of information:
- The approach to green infrastructure as set out in current policy;
 - Any standards for green infrastructure provision e.g. per head of population, or objectives for delivery of other green infrastructure functions e.g. restoration of functional flood plain;
 - Existing green infrastructure projects and initiatives;
 - Development proposed within the emerging Local Development Framework, which will provide an understanding of pressures on green infrastructure and areas that may require additional green infrastructure;
 - Stakeholders involved in delivery of green infrastructure in the region.

PLAN AND POLICY CONTEXT

National

- I.3 Government policy is increasingly recognising the need to plan for and provide green infrastructure. For example, at a national level, the **Sustainable Communities Plan** in relation to the Growth Areas includes the following commitments:
- *“We will promote more and better publicly accessible green space in and around our communities, for example through the creation of new country parks and networks of green spaces within towns and cities.”*
 - *“We will encourage regional and local partners... to replicate the success of the 12 Community Forests around our major towns and cities.”*
 - *“We will enhance green belt land by encouraging local authorities to identify ways to raise its quality and utility, for example by improving its accessibility, biodiversity and amenity value.”*

- 1.4 Natural England similarly recognises in its Strategic Direction¹ document that the natural environment is under pressure from development across the country and that whilst new developments usually make some provision for green space; it is often of limited natural value. Green infrastructure contributes significant to the four strategic outcomes Natural England has identified in this document, namely:
- A healthy natural environment;
 - People are inspired to conserve and value the natural environment;
 - Sustainable use of the natural environment;
 - Decisions that collectively secure the future of the natural environment.
- 1.5 Natural England's recent Green Infrastructure Guidance² recognises the important contribution green infrastructure can make to these outcomes and also to the place-making agenda, whereby spatial planning decisions are embedded in and informed by an understanding of character.
- 1.6 **PPS 1: Creating Sustainable Communities** sets out the Government's objectives with regard to sustainable communities. Its objectives include protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities (the framework for the 'place-making' agenda to which GI can contribute).
- 1.7 **PPS 3: Housing** requires that district housing plans should have regard to any local greening or design plans such as green infrastructure strategies. The document also sets out some clear principles to guide the consideration of the local environment in the design of new housing schemes. These principles include ensuring that the dominant landscape or ecological features of the area are retained in new development, as is any significant biodiversity value. The policy statement also reinforces the requirements of PPG 17 in terms of ensuring that existing and new residents are given adequate access to open space. PPS 3 also requires that good practice in sustainable and environmentally friendly design is applied in all new development.
- 1.8 **PPS 12: Local Spatial Planning** states that the local planning authority '*core strategy should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution. This evidence should cover who will provide the infrastructure and when it will be provided. The core strategy should draw on and in parallel influence any strategies and investment plans of the local authority and other organisations.*'
- 1.9 **PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation** requires that local authorities assess the needs of local residents, workers and visitors for open space, sports and recreational facilities as well as a qualitative and quantitative audit of current provision, usage and accessibility in terms of location and cost. Opportunities for new provision and potential for increased usage of existing provision through better design, management and maintenance should then be

¹ Natural England (2008) **Strategy Direction Document 2008-2013**

² Natural England, LUC (2009) **Green Infrastructure Guidance NE176**

identified. The policy document also promotes the multi-functional nature of urban green space as an important environmental as well as a social resource:

“Green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity and by acting as 'green lungs' can assist in meeting objectives to improve air quality.”

- 1.10 **Homes for the future**, the 2007 Government Green Paper on housing describes green infrastructure as an essential part of Growth Points, a key mechanism for delivering environmental improvements and confirms that it is central to plans for achieving sustainable new communities. The paper defines the value of green infrastructure in improving the urban rural fringe, protecting and restoring the countryside, providing better access to nature, and integration of green spaces into the urban environment.
- 1.11 CLG, in partnership with the TCPA and Natural England have produced guidance underpinning the importance of GI in the proposed new Eco-Towns.³ Although Eco-Towns are distinctive in being newly planned settlements and being surrounded by open countryside, the general principles of this guidance have wider application, namely that *‘GI should be designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of providing the landscape, ecological services and quality of life benefits that are required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also protect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.’*

Regional/County

- 1.12 The **East of England Plan** (Policy H1) proposes significant housing growth in North Herts and the surrounding districts during 2001-2021. The minimum housing growth proposed over the plan period is shown in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Proposed housing growth 2001-2021

District	Minimum additional dwelling provision
Stevenage: within existing borough boundary	6,400
Stevenage: ‘sustainable urban extensions’ on land in North Hertfordshire	9,600
Elsewhere in North Hertfordshire	6,200
<i>Total</i>	22,200

- 1.13 In addition, significant housing growth is targeted for adjoining areas, notably 26,300 dwellings in the southern part of the Milton Keynes South-Midlands Strategy Area (including Luton); 11,000 in the rest of Mid Beds outside the Strategy Area; 10,000 in Welwyn Hatfield; 12,000 in East Herts; and 23,500 in South Cambridgeshire. Policy

³ CLG, TCPA & Natural England (2008) **The Essential Role of Green Infrastructure: Eco-Towns Green Infrastructure Worksheet**

SS3 identifies Key Centres for Development and Change where development will be concentrated. These include Stevenage in the study area and nearby Luton/ Dunstable/ Houghton Regis & Leighton Linlade plus Hatfield and Welwyn GC. Stevenage is also identified as a priority area for regeneration (Policy SS5).

- I.14 As well as the infrastructure that will be required to serve these new homes, the East of England Plan also calls for 68,000 new jobs to be created in Hertfordshire over the plan period (Policy E1) and for local authorities to allocate land to accommodate this (Policy E2). Stevenage is identified as a regionally strategic location in this regard (Policy E3) and is also designated as a major town centre to which major retail development should be prioritised (Policy E5).
- I.15 This level of development has significant implications in terms of landscape and environmental assets and also in achieving sustainable development with a clear sense of place.
- I.16 More detail about the proposed growth for Stevenage is provided in Policy SVI of the East of England Plan which confirms the town as a Key Centre for Development and Change. Key elements of the strategy to regenerate Stevenage other than the overall housing target already mentioned include:
- Urban extensions to the west and north of the town with at least 5,000 dwellings in the former, coupled with brownfield development within the town;
 - A green belt review which allows scope for growth until at least 2031;
 - Provision for strategic employment growth;
 - Better provision for local residents in terms of health, training and education, working aspirations and quality of life;
 - Improved strategic transport infrastructure leading to a significant increase in public transport usage, walking and cycling in the town and improved capacity in strategic corridors;
 - Substantial improvement to the town's built fabric and public realm, including the provision of multi-functional green space as an integral part of urban extensions;
 - Additional waste water treatment capacity.
- I.17 Policy SS7 on the Green Belt calls for maintenance of its broad extent in the region but with strategic reviews of boundaries to accommodate development in a variety of locations including Stevenage. The policy further states that the review at Stevenage should identify compensating extensions to green belt in North Hertfordshire.
- I.18 The East of England Plan policy on the Urban Fringe (policy SS8) requires Local Development Documents to:
- Ensure that new development in or near the fringe helps to enhance its character, appearance, recreational value and biodiversity (including protection of internationally designated sites);

- Provide networks of accessible GI linking urban areas with the countryside;
 - Set targets for the provision of GI for urban extensions.
- 1.19 Policy ENV 1 of the East of England Plan requires local authorities to identify, protect, enhance and manage GI. Benefits to be targeted include an improved and healthy environment, improved biodiversity value, flood attenuation, enhanced networks for walking, cycling and other non-motorised travel and contributing to carbon neutral development. Local Development Documents are required to:
- Define a multiple hierarchy of green infrastructure in terms of location, function, size and level of use, identifying areas where new GI is required;
 - Retain substantial networks of green space in urban, urban fringe and adjacent countryside areas to serve growing communities in Key Centres of Development and Change (e.g. Stevenage, Luton, Welwyn Garden City);
 - Have regard to the economic, social and environmental benefits of GI and protect sites of European or international importance for wildlife.
- 1.20 The **Habitats Regulations Assessment of the East of England Plan**⁴ concludes that the Plan alone will have no effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites. A potential for in-combination effects with neighbouring development plans was identified for Portholme SAC and for Ouse Washes SAC, SPA or Ramsar but it was recommended these potential effects be addressed through further development of the South East Plan and Milton Keynes South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy rather than further changes to the East of England Plan. Note that there are no Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites within or adjoining North Hertfordshire District or Stevenage.
- 1.21 The **Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England**⁵ lists the variety of social, economic and environmental benefits that trees and woodland can bring to the region. It also identifies England's 12 Community Forests as important areas of multi-benefit woodland creation in areas that had suffered considerable landscape degradation. Two of these are within close proximity of the district - Watling Chase (approximately 7 km to the south) and Marston Vale (approximately 9 km to the north east).
- 1.22 In connection with its objective to support the development of sustainable communities, the **East of England Regional Social Strategy**⁶ highlights the importance of the quality of people's physical environment. The strategy identifies new growth as a significant opportunity to create new habitats and improve the environment through innovative schemes, helping to improve our physical and mental well-being, supporting, through good planning and design of green space, the development of healthier, safer communities. The strategy supports the approach

⁴ RPS (2007) **Draft Revision to Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England: Secretary of State's Proposed Changes and Further Proposed Changes – Report of the Habitats Directive Assessment, October 2007**

⁵ EERA, Forestry Commission (November 2003) **Woodlands for Life: The Regional Woodlands Strategy for the East of England**

⁶ EERA (2007) **East of England Regional Social Strategy**, 2nd Edition

promoted through the Regional Environment and Regional Woodland Strategies, and Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space model.

- 1.23 The **East of England Regional Environment Strategy** (2003) highlights the importance of the environment to quality of life in the region and sets out an agenda for protecting and enhancing it. The document sets out 14 Strategic Aims⁷, of which the following are particularly relevant to a green space strategy:
- SA2: Reduce the Need to Travel and Achieve a Switch to More Sustainable Modes of Transport: 'Developments that generate a lot of people movements...and local green space, should where possible be located in places where it is easy to access them by walking, cycling or public transport.'
 - SA3: Deliver Sustainable Design: 'Development should...where possible deliver improvements overall, for example through habitat creation and improving access to the countryside, green space, and the historic environment.'
 - SA10: Maintain and Strengthen Landscape and Townscape Character: 'More opportunities for people to access, enjoy and celebrate their local environments should be pursued, particularly close to where people live.'
 - SA11 Enhance Biodiversity: 'Access to, and understanding of, local green space should be improved...', and 'Both small and large-scale initiatives should be encouraged that enhance biodiversity whilst providing employment, recreational opportunities and economic returns.'
- 1.24 The **East of England Integrated Regional Strategy**⁸ promotes the implementation of 'creative solutions' to ensure that a high quality of life is achieved in new developments, including the provision of green infrastructure. The sustainable use of natural resources, and specifically in relation to green infrastructure, the integration of trees and woodlands into new developments is identified as a 'Crucial Regional Issue'.
- 1.25 The **East of England Regional Health Strategy**⁹ identifies the need for a high quality natural environment as a core element of its vision for health in the East of England. The high level outcome identified in relation to this goal is to '*effect a step-change in the management of the Region's distinctive natural environmental assets*'. The strategy promotes the critical importance of green infrastructure in terms of both access to nature and recreation, and also the wider quality of life agenda and the significant contribution of the natural environment to mental health and well-being.
- 1.26 In the 2003 publication '**Living with Climate Change in the East of England**'¹⁰, EERA and the Sustainable Development Round Table (SDRT) define a number of sub-regional areas, each with their own key climate change considerations. North

⁷ EERA and EEEF (2003) **Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England**

⁸ EERA (October 2005) **Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England**

⁹ EERA (2005) **Healthy Futures: A regional health strategy for the East of England**

¹⁰ LUC, CAG and SQW on behalf of EERA and SDRT (2003) **Living with climate change in the East of England**

Hertfordshire and Stevenage are located within the East of England Southern Heartland area. The key climate change issues for this area include stress on agricultural systems (e.g. due to soil moisture availability and the effects of raised temperatures); changes to the landscape and biodiversity; fluvial flooding; and subsidence on clay soils. Climate change will also impact on many other aspects of life in the region and the ability of Green Infrastructure to address urban heat island effects, create carbon sinks and alleviate flood risk should be considered.

Local

- I.27 The **Core Strategy and Development Policies Preferred Options** papers for North Herts^{11,12} state that the majority of the district's housing development will be located within the boundaries of the towns of Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City and Royston, the large villages of Codicote and Knebworth and as potential extensions to Stevenage and Luton (Core Policy C). Core Policy F confirms the distribution of new housing to meet the East of England Plan targets and identifies the areas where this is likely to be on greenfield land. These greenfield developments are principally on land to the west of Hitchin; to the north of Letchworth; to the south-east of Baldock; to the north of Royston and in the urban extension to the north and west of Stevenage. All but Royston will require green belt reviews. Core Policy H: Transport states that development proposals must ensure any additional demand for travel favours journeys of less than 5 km, in part by provision of quality public spaces that facilitate journeys on foot and by bicycle.
- I.28 Land for employment development will be identified in Area Action Plans in the parts of the district affected by the potential growth of Stevenage and/or Luton. The remainder of the district will require 7-8 ha of additional employment land (Core Policy J). Additional retail floorspace development is likely to be directed to Hitchin, Letchworth Royston and Baldock.
- I.29 In terms of policies indirectly related to green spaces, the LDF requires the design, appearance and landscape schemes of development proposals to protect or improve the landscape character of North Hertfordshire (Policy 1) and encourages them to make a positive contribution to district biodiversity (Policy 2) and safeguard trees, woodland and hedgerows. Historic Parks and Gardens and Archaeology (Policy 3) and high quality agricultural land (Policy 12) are also safeguarded. The design and location of development proposals must support a high quality public realm and incorporate a clear network of routes within and to the site which integrate with and enhance existing links, particularly pedestrian, cycle and public transport (Policy 5). Proposals for Letchworth must follow specified Garden City Design Principles, including the use of landscaping and greenswards in housing areas (Policy 11). Developments must include SuDS (Policy 8).
- I.30 Policy 21 on Open Space states that the pattern of public and private open spaces will be retained, including by encouraging links within towns and to open countryside and by a presumption of refusal for development on open space. In all new

¹¹ NHDC (2007) **Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper: New Planning Policies for North Hertfordshire, September 2007**

¹² NHDC (2007) **Development Policies Preferred Options Paper: New Planning Policies for North Hertfordshire, September 2007**

residential developments public open space must be provided which is useable, accessible, in close proximity to public transport and appropriately equipped and designed. Pending the Council's adoption of the new Green Space Standards, the following standards for the provision of open space in new developments have been applied, with Planning Obligations used to collect developer contributions where on-site provision is not feasible or existing facilities exist nearby:

- Informal open space – 0.4 hectares per 1000 population (NPFA standard);
- Children's play space – up to 0.8 hectares per 1000 population (NPFA standard);
- Playing pitches – 1.2 hectares per 1000 population (local standard);
- Outdoor sport – 1.6 hectares per 1000 population (local standard).

I.31 Core Policy I: Healthier Communities safeguards sports, recreational and community facilities and directs required new facilities to locations accessible by sustainable transport modes.

I.32 **Stevenage Core Strategy**¹³ has only been examined insofar as it relates to the development or GI issues in the SNAP area or neighbouring North Hertfordshire District. The strategy reiterates the East of England Plan targets for housing growth to the north and west of the town.

I.33 The **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)**¹⁴ does not represent LDF policy but provides supporting evidence on the ability of North Hertfordshire and Stevenage to deliver the housing growth targets in the East of England Plan by identifying specific sites and broad locations where new housing could be located. Actual progress against the East of England plan housing targets as at 31 March 2008 is shown in **Table 2**. The table then goes on to show the potential for net additional dwellings identified by the site reviews undertaken as part of the SHLAA. Of the potential 3,767 net additional dwellings in Stevenage BC, 75% can be accommodated on previously developed sites. The SHLAA demonstrates that potential sites are available to more than meet the 2008-2021 residual housing requirement in total although a small deficit remains with respect to the target housing number for urban extensions.

I.34 It should be noted that the 75% PDL figure quoted for Stevenage refers to the town and land to the south-east only. It does not include the land in SNAP that lies within the Borough boundary. On the assumption that 100% of development in SNAP will be greenfield, the overall PDL figure for Stevenage Borough is only 38%.

¹³ Stevenage BC (2007) **LDF Core Strategy and Generic Development Control Policies Preferred Options, September 2007**

¹⁴ NHDC and SBC (2008) **North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Draft – August 2008**

Table 1.2: SHLAA Housing Figures

	Stevenage Borough	Urban extensions around Stevenage in North Herts	Elsewhere in North Herts	Total
East of England Plan target	6,400	9,600	6,200	22,200
Net completions 2001-08	1,364	1,432	2,837	5,633
Identified supply at 31st March 2008	1,216	206	1,472	2,894
Specific sites identified in Stevenage*	3,752	-	-	3,752
Specific sites identified to the north and west of Stevenage*	3,650	6,675	-	10,325
Specific sites identified elsewhere in North Herts*	-	-	2,876	2,876
Total	9,982	8,313	7,185	25,480
Surplus / deficit against East of England Plan target to 2021	+3,582	-1,287	+985	+3,280
Provisional target 2021-2026	1,900	2,900	1,550	6,350
Surplus / deficit	+1,682	-3,112	-565	-1,995

Table 1.3: Residual housing requirement 2008-2021 vs. East of England Plan targets

	Within Stevenage Borough	Urban extensions around Stevenage in North Herts	Elsewhere in North Herts	Total
East of England Plan target	6,400	9,600	6,200	22,200
Completed or with permission 2001-08	(2,580)	(1,638)	(4,309)	(8,527)
Residual requirement 2008-21	3,820	7,962	1,891	13,673
Sites identified within Stevenage by SHLAA	(3,767)	-	-	(3,767)
Sites identified within SNAP boundary by SHLAA	(3,650)	(7,750)	-	(11,400)
Sites identified elsewhere in North Herts by SHLAA	-	-	(2,876)	(2,876)
(Surplus)/ deficit vs. 2021 Plan target	(3,597)	212	(985)	(4,370)
Provisional East of England Plan target 2021-2026	1,900	2,900	1,550	6,350

(Surplus)/ deficit vs. 2026 Plan target	(1,697)	3,112	565	1,980
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Source: SHLAA¹⁵

- I.35 Provisional targets also exist for 6,350 further houses in the period 2021-2026. As **Table 1.3** shows, this produces a 1,980 deficit in total, with the largest shortfall of available sites relating to urban extensions around Stevenage in North Herts. The SHLAA determined that further potential broad locations for development plus windfalls could more than cover this deficit.
- I.36 The location and potential scale of development of the sites identified by the SHLAA is an important consideration for the GI Plan. Sites details are available from the SHLAA report.
- I.37 The **Area Action Plan (AAP) for the SNAP area**¹⁶ has among its key spatial objectives that development will:
- Have extensive landscaping and link effectively with the surrounding countryside;
 - Safeguard open areas of high quality environmental, landscape and wildlife value;
 - Create a network of green spaces within the urban extensions which link to existing GI beyond.
- I.38 The AAP also puts forward boundary options for the creation of the new country park in 'Forster Country' set out in the Stevenage Core Strategy. This would be within the SNAP boundary, to the west of Rook's Nest Farm.
- I.39 The fact that the SNAP area is mostly Green Belt is highlighted and options are put forward for the location of further development in the period 2021-2031.
- I.40 In relation to open space, the AAP presents options on the character of open space that could be required in the SNAP area, specifically whether it should differ from that already established in Stevenage.

Other policy considerations in relation to sustainable development

- I.41 **Homes for the Future**¹⁷, the Government Green Paper on housing describes green infrastructure as an essential part of growth, a key mechanism for delivering environmental improvements and central to achieving sustainable communities. The paper identifies the value of GI for improving the urban-rural fringe, protecting and restoring the countryside, providing access to nature, and integrating green space into the urban environment.
- I.42 The Local Government White Paper, **Strong and Prosperous Communities**¹⁸ directs local authorities to adopt national indicators as part of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), which will act as a measure for central government to

¹⁵ NHDC and SBC (2008) Op Cit.

¹⁶ SNAP (2007) **Stevenage and North Herts Action Plan Local Development Framework Key Issues and Options Consultation, November 2007**

¹⁷ CLG (2007) **Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable - Housing Green Paper**

¹⁸ CLG (2006) **Strong and Prosperous Communities - The Local Government White Paper**

manage performance outcomes delivered by local government. National indicators which are relevant to GI include:

- NI 8: Adult participation in sport and active recreation;
- NI 56: Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6;
- NI 186: Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area;
- NI 175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling;
- NI 188: Planning to Adapt to Climate Change;
- NI 197: Local management of biodiversity assets.

- I.43 In each authority, targets against the set of national indicators will be negotiated through new Local Area Agreements (LAAs). Hertfordshire has adopted and defined a set at a County wide level through Hertfordshire Forward¹⁹.

Current GI Initiatives and Projects in the district

- I.44 The table at **Appendix 3** identifies a number of green infrastructure projects and partners currently operating in the district and adjacent districts where relevant, in addition to a series of potential or 'aspirational' green infrastructure projects. Examples of successful recent green infrastructure projects are also cited in the table, such as the Letchworth Greenway and the Stevenage Outer Orbital Path (STOOP)²⁰.
- I.45 The Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation initiative is a good example of a local level initiative, which aims to promote a vibrant quality environment within the town. The Foundation is responsible for the upkeep of the Letchworth Greenway, a 27km walk which skirts the town, and is planning to publish four town trails, which will encourage residents to walk or cycle from the town centre out to the Greenway along safe, attractive routes.
- I.46 An aspiration which has been set out for future green infrastructure in the SNAP area is a potential Country Park to mark historic associations with EM Forster in the area known as 'Forster Country'.
- I.47 Key partners in delivering green space and access enhancements in the district include Hertfordshire County Council's Countryside Management Service (CMS) and Groundwork Hertfordshire. Groundwork Hertfordshire has been responsible for a number of greenway enhancement projects in the District and adjoining authorities including greenways on former branch railway lines/routes.
- I.48 A number of existing recent studies form part of the baseline for this study and these include the Open Space Audits for both North Hertfordshire District and Stevenage Borough, the North Hertfordshire Green Space Standards and the Allotments Strategy and Play Strategy for North Hertfordshire District.

¹⁹ <http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward>

²⁰ <http://www.nhrg.org.uk/>

Wider GI – adjoining studies/strategies

- I.49 North Hertfordshire District is adjoined by two other Green Infrastructure study areas and these are as follows:

Cambridgeshire Sub Region Green Infrastructure Strategy (Cambridgeshire Horizons)

- I.50 A strategic level study identifying existing green infrastructure corridors and enhancement potential. It identifies an enhancement corridor along the Icknield Way, which extends into North Hertfordshire District at Ashwell.

Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan

- I.51 This plan identifies strategic level green and blue infrastructure and identifies a number of important corridors which extend into North Hertfordshire District, notably river valleys such as the Hiz and the Ivel. In view of the significant growth of Luton in the period to 2021, which potentially includes sites in North Hertfordshire this is likely to place pressure on existing green infrastructure assets in the district.
- I.52 Account has therefore been taken of adjacent green infrastructure studies to ensure cross boundary consistency where possible, and to identify potential new and enhanced links to alleviate pressures on key sites, where relevant.

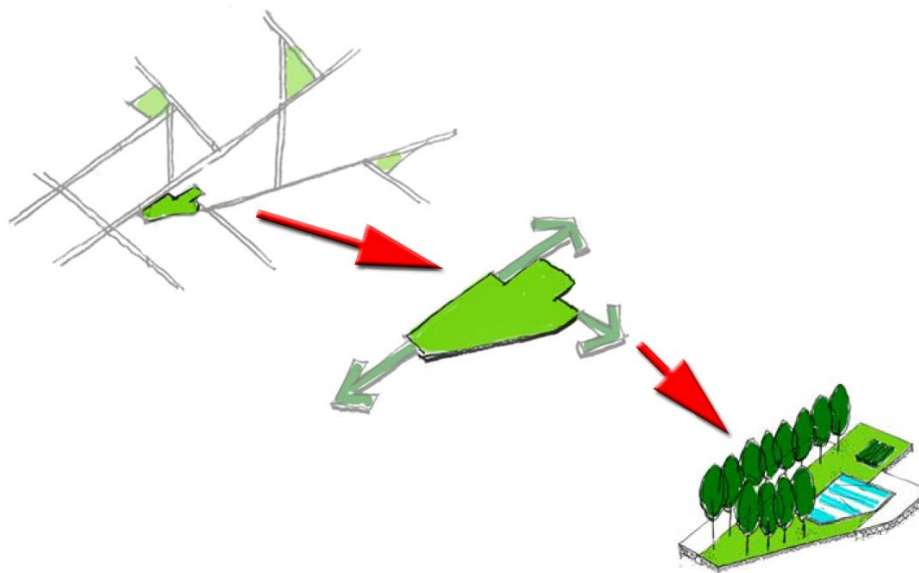
APPENDIX 2:

Study Methodology

STUDY METHODOLOGY

A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO GI

- 2.1 This study sets out a strategic approach to green infrastructure for North Hertfordshire District, given that proposals for the future growth of the North Hertfordshire towns and Stevenage are still at an early stage. The Green Infrastructure Plan considers opportunities for enhanced linkages at the district scale, with more detailed consideration given to green infrastructure in the SNAP area and the four towns. The study is to identify high level proposals for new and enhanced linkages and new areas of green space to meet ANGSt requirements to 2026, with general consideration given to green infrastructure in the period to 2031.
- 2.2 The Green Infrastructure Plan for North Hertfordshire District and the SNAP Area is supported by high level design principles for development to ensure that it provides appropriate and well used green infrastructure which responds to the sense of place. The sketch diagram below illustrates the 'top down' approach the GI Plan has employed to link green spaces and green infrastructure components. It also sets a framework for properly planned new green infrastructure within that network.



Establishing a 'strategic to local' green space and green link hierarchy

Establishing the existing GI context

Map based audit

- 2.3 Following the initial plan and policy review a map based audit was undertaken to establish the green infrastructure context for the district and for the SNAP area. Open space sites within the PPG17 Open Space Typology were mapped down to 2ha, with consideration given to 1ha sites in urban areas. Digital data for a number of other environmental themes was mapped in GIS, to form the basis for an

environmental characterisation and GI opportunity analysis. The following map layers were used in the audit exercise:

- National and Local Biodiversity Designations and Local Nature Conservation Designations;
- Registered common land;
- Open access land;
- Registered parks and gardens;
- Definitive Rights of Way, cycle routes and trails;
- Landscape Character Assessment Data;
- Heritage Designations (e.g. Scheduled Ancient Monuments);
- Socio economic datasets e.g. indices of deprivation;
- Floodrisk data e.g. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Thematic environmental characterisation and initial opportunities analysis

2.4 A desk based exercise was undertaken to identify the character of the environment within the district. This included the following key themes:

- Open Space and Access Links;
- Landscape Character;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Biodiversity;
- Functional ecosystems and hydrology;
- Socio economic characteristics.

2.5 In each case a summary description was given for the environmental baseline for the two tiers e.g. the wider district and the SNAP area, noting broad brush green infrastructure opportunities, and to build up a picture of green infrastructure potential.

Field Survey

2.6 A field survey exercise was undertaken, visiting sites under greatest pressure from growth e.g. the SNAP area and open spaces in the immediate vicinity, in addition to key sites and assets within the four towns within the district, and sections of important routes such as the Icknield Way, Sustrans Route 12 and the Hertfordshire Way.

2.7 The purpose of the field survey was to confirm patterns emerging in the characterisation, to identify key issues, sensitivities and opportunities in respect of

environmental character and new green infrastructure, as well as condition of existing green infrastructure components, linkage potential and management or use issues.

GI Deficiency Analysis

- 2.8 Building on the typology/function of open spaces identified within the green space audits, accessible green space provision was evaluated against Natural England's Access to Natural Green Space Standard (ANGSt) to identify deficiency and therefore inform likely future needs and opportunities. Account was also taken of local green space standards.
- 2.9 In mapping deficiencies this was considered primarily from human and access perspectives, although other issues, such as functional ecosystems (hydrology) and deprivation, were also considered. The deficiency analysis considered both the existing population and future populations and their needs in terms of green infrastructure, as well as both quantitative and qualitative aspects of provision.

A GI Hierarchy and Action Plan

- 2.10 Based on the characterisation, field survey and the deficiency analysis a Green Infrastructure Hierarchy was established to identify enhanced green and blue links and strategic opportunities for green space, for the wider district and for the SNAP Area and for the four towns. These also related to a series of environmental, cultural and community themes, as a basis for establishing more detailed green infrastructure principles as part of the final Green Infrastructure Plan. Stakeholder consultation workshops were held in October 2008 to validate the draft hierarchy, in addition to confirming and identifying further green infrastructure opportunities and initiatives to link to the proposals. The GI hierarchy is supported by a series of design principles aimed at developers, to ensure that green infrastructure and place-making are considered from the first. In addition to general green infrastructure principles applicable to any proposal, specific principles have been developed in relation to the SNAP area and for the four North Hertfordshire towns.

APPENDIX 3:
Existing GI initiatives in the District

	Location	Name	Who's involved	Highlights
Links /Greenway projects	North Herts	Icknield Way Enhancement Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedfordshire County Council • Groundwork 	Is thought to be the oldest road in Britain with prehistoric pathways and history of Roman usage. The corridor runs from Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire to Knettishall Heath in Norfolk.
	Welwyn Hatfield District (adjacent authority)	Ayot Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hertfordshire County Council • Hertfordshire Highways Rural Routes Program • Groundwork 	A section of the National Cycle Network Route 57, this greenway provides a versatile, traffic-free pathway between Welwyn and Wheathampstead.
	Letchworth	Letchworth Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation 	<p>The 21.8km²¹ route acts as a green wheel around the outside of Letchworth, using existing green spaces and parks as corridors to connect into the urban centre. The Route designed for walkers, cyclists and horse riders includes various attractions as well as information points on local flora and fauna.</p> <p>The main attractions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Radwell Meadows</i> – A large public park including a play area, picnic tables, and woodland planting. • <i>Standalone Farm</i> – The farm which is set within 425 hectares of farmland includes many species of farm animals all visible from a farmland walk. • <i>Willian Arboretum</i> – An area which contains over 30 different tree varieties in a specially planted collection. • <i>Norton Pond</i> – A flourishing wildlife habitat, Norton

²¹ www.greenway.org.uk/about.php

	Location	Name	Who's involved	Highlights
				<p>Pond also acts as a gateway to the greenway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wymondley Wood – Contains a newly planted area containing over 5,000 locally grown species²². The Wood also contains a nature conservation and study area.
Initiatives	Herts	Heritage Rail Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage Lottery Fund Groundwork 	Intended to raise the profile of the disused railway routes within the county through local exhibitions, a website and a series of exhibitions. The promoted routes are intended to become established footpaths and cycle ways. Existing routes include Ayot Greenway, Alban Way, Nicky Line, Ebury Way, Cole Green Way and Lee Valley walk.
	North Herts	The Countryside Management Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsored by North Hertfordshire District Council 	A volunteer group open to the public which runs practical tasks twice a week to improve important nature sites, promote conservation and enhance access to green space and the countryside.
Aspirations	Stevenage Borough and North Herts	Forster Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of the Forster Country 	Forster Country is an important landscape to the area and is the focus of a Local Heritage Initiative. The countryside here not only contains the former home of E. M. Forster at Rook's Nest House but also has strong associations with much of his work. Plans include new a new country park.
	Letchworth	Howard Park and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Hertfordshire District Council Heritage Lottery Fund LDA Design 	Aims to improve physical, cultural and community connections influencing and aiding the regeneration of Letchworth Town Centre.

²² www.greenway.org.uk/about.php

	Location	Name	Who's involved	Highlights
	Kelshall village	Kelshall Village Green Restoration Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Green Restoration Committee • Heritage Lottery Fund 	The only remaining common land in the village with plans for improved access as well as long term maintenance.

APPENDIX 4:

NHDC Open Spaces over 2ha (1ha for urban areas)

Ref No	Site Name
B/AM06	Clothall Common
B/P04e	Recreation Ground, Avenue Park
B/P04d	Recreation Ground, Avenue Park
B/C01	Cemetery, The Sycamores
B/E04	Knights Templar School, Park Street
B/P01	Bakers Close Recreation Ground, Clothall Road
B/A01	Great North Road
B/AM04	Clothall Common
B/E03	St Mary's JMI School, St Mary's Way
WV19	Blackhorse Farm Meadow
B/P04	Recreation Ground, Avenue Park
B/E06	Hartsfield JMI School, Clothall Road
B/E07	Knights Templar/Brandles Close Playing Fields
B/O02	Land off Clothall Road, Baldock
B/N04	Ives Green
WV17	Weston Hills
H/E11	Samuel Lucas JMI School, Gaping Lane
H/N03	Walsworth Common
WS22	Purwell Ninesprings
H/P02	Playing fields, Burford Way
H/GC05	Queenswood Dr/Kingswood Avenue
H/P11d	Bancroft Park, Nightingale Road
H/E13	Strathmore Infant School, Old Hale Way
H/A04	Gaping Lane
H/E15	William Ransom JMI School, Stuart Drive
H/P10c	St Johns Recreation Ground, St Johns Road
H/E04	St Andrew's JMI School, Benslow Lane
H/P08e	Recreation Ground, Purwell Lane
H/E17	Purwell JMI School, Fairfield Way
H/GC06	St Micheal's Road
H/P09	Recreation Ground, Cadwell Lane
H/P13b	Walsworth Common
H/E06	Whitehill JMI School, Whitehill Road
H/E16	Our Lady's RCJMI School, Old Hale Way
H/A02	Burford Way
H/P06b	King George V Playing fields, Old Hale Way
H/E12	Oughtonhead JMI School, Mattocke Road
H/N01	Oughtonhead Lane
H/E05	Wilshere Dacre JMI School, Fishponds Road
H/GC02	Park Way
H/P10	St Johns Recreation Ground, St Johns Road
H/P12c	Ransoms Recreation Ground, Grove Road/Nightingale Ro
H/P07	St Michaels Field, King George V Playing fields, Old
H/P08	Recreation Ground, Purwell Lane
H/P11	Bancroft Park, Nightingale Road
H/P18	Hitchin Football Ground
H/E07	Hitchin Girls' School, Highbury Road
H/E19	Highover JMI School, Cambridge Road
H/A01	Old Hale Way
H/P12	Ransoms Recreation Ground, Grove Road/Nightingale Ro
WV2	The Willows
H/P06g	King George V Playing fields, Old Hale Way
WS17	Cadwell Meadow
H/E02	Hitchin Girls' School Paying Fields r/o Chiltern Roa

H/AM03	Windmill Hill, Queens Street
H/AM05	Butts Close
H/P03	Recreation Ground, Swinburne Avenue
H/E01	North Herts College of Further Education, Cambridge
H/C02	Cemetery, St John's Road
H/E09	Hitchin Boys' School, Grammar School Walk
H/P05	Hitchin Cricket and Hockey Club, Lucas Lane
H/P06	King George V Playing fields, Old Hale Way
H/P13c	Walsworth Common
H/O02	Priory Park, Tilehouse Street, Hitchin
WS22/NR7	Purwell Meadow
WS17	Cadwell Meadows
H/P13	Walsworth Common
H/E14	Hitchin Priory School, Bedford Road
LN2/WS3	Purwell Meadows, Purwell Lane
WS2/NR6	Oughtonhead
H/O01	Priory Park, Old Park Road (South), Hitchin
L/A11	Prior Way
L/E09	Stonehill JMI School, Western Close
L/E02	Icknield Infants School, Archers Way
L/O04	Land rear of Highfild and Broadway, Letchworth
L/GC12	Letchworth Gate
L/P02	Howard Park Gardens, Norton Way South
L/N02	Jackmans Plantation
L/P16b	Recreation Ground, Baldock Road
L/P03b	Howard Park Gardens, Norton Way South
L/E20	St Thomas More RCJMI School, Highfield
L/E06	Woolgrove Special School, Pryor Way
L/AM03	Works Road
L/P03	Howard Park Gardens, Norton Way South
L/P15	Temple Gardens, Ickneild Way
L/A06	Wilbury Way
L/P14a	Wilbury Recreation Ground
L/GC07	Letchworth Gate
L/P13	Recreation Ground, Hillbrow
L/E18	Westbury JMI School Playing Field, High Avenue
L/AM13	Land off Radburn Way
L/E10	Highfield School, Highfield
L/P06	Broadway Gardens
WV15	Letchworth Golf Course
L/E13	Norton School, Norton Road
L/E03	Wilbury JMI School, Bedford Road
L/P01c	Grange Playing Fields
WS26	Road verge South of Wilbury Hills
L/E11	St Francis College, Broadway
L/GC01	Broadway
L/AM17	Milne Close/Penn Way/Rookes Close
L/AM20	Letchworth Gate
L/P09	Jackmans Central Play Area, Radburn Way
L/A03	Runnalow
L/A01	Norton Road/Green Lane
L/E15	Radburn Junior School, Radburn Way
L/E07	Pixmore Junior School, Rushby Mead
L/E04	Lordship Farm JMI School, Fouracres
L/E17	Lannock JMI School, Whiteway

L/P14	Wilbury Recreation Ground
L/GC13	Pix Brook
L/P07	Letchworth Tennis Club, Muddy Lane
L/P11	Letchworth Eagles Football Ground, Baldock Road
WS25	Wilbury Hills
L/P12	Hertfordshire FA Ground, Baldock Road
L/C01	Wilbury Hills, Icknield Way, Letchworth
L/P04a	Jackmans Playing Field, Radburn Way
L/P04	Jackmans Playing Field, Radburn Way
L/E19	Highfield School Playing Field, Briar Patch Lane
L/E05	Northfields School and Grange School
L/P16c	Recreation Ground, Baldock Road
L/E21	Norton School Playing Field, Croft Lane
L/P19	Pitch and Putt
L/P08	Whitethorn Lane
L/GC08	Letchworth Gate
L/E14	St Christophers School, Barrington Road
L/P01b	Grange Playing Fields
L/P16	Recreation Ground, Baldock Road
L/C02	Wilbury Hills Cemetery
L/P01	Grange Playing Fields
L/P10	Letchworth Rugby Club, Baldock Road
L/E12	Fearnhill School, Icknield Way
L/N01	Norton Common
L/N01	Norton Common
L/P20	Letchworth Golf Course
R/E04	Studlands Rise School, Studlands Rise
R/P07	Royston Football Club, Garden Walk
R/P09c	Newmarket Road Playing fields
R/AM02	Burns Road BMX Track amenity space
R/P03	Recreation Ground, Studlands Rise
R/P02	Serby Avenue recreation Ground
R/P09b	Newmarket Road Playing fields
R/A01	Coombes Hole
R/E01	St Mary's School, Melbourn Road
R/E05	Tannery Drift School, Tannery Drift
R/GC06	Green Walk Plantation, rear of Green Lane
R/P08c	Priory Memorial Gardens
R/E02	Icknield Walk School, Poplar Close
R/P09	Newmarket Road Playing fields
R/P08	Priory Memorial Gardens
R/GC05	Valley Rise
R/GC08	Adjacent A505
R/E03	Roman Way School and Roysia Middle School, Burns Roa
R/GC01	Cyrlow Crescent
R/E06	Greneway Middle School and Meridien Upper School, Ga
S/AM08	Cock's Lodge
WE/P01	Recreation Ground
TH/AM09	Hay Green
S/AM01	Sandon Road, Bayne End, Rushden Road
BK/P01	Recreation Ground, High Street/Cambridge Road
WV26	Sandon Moor
S/P01	Cricket Ground/Football Pitches
NR1	Ashwell Quarry Nature Reserve
RD/P01	Reed Green Cricket Pitch, Blacksmith Lane

RU/AM01	Land at Southern Green
WS33	Weston Church Meadow
S/AM07	Notley Green
WV27	Tichney Wood
NR11	Blagrove Common
WV21	Newfields Hill
WV25	Fiddlers Green Meadow,
WA/O01	Wallington Common, Wallington
S/AM04	Green End
BY/N01	Woodland off Ashwell Road
WS32	Rydals Wood
WV18	Radwell Mill, Radwell Lane
S/AM02	Sandon Road, Bayne End, Rushden Road
WV20	Round Wood
WS32	Colash Woods
WS39	Crossley Wood
WS36	Reed Wood
WV28	Hawking Wood
WS24	Coombe Bottom
NR12	Fordhams Wood, Therfield Heath
WS29	Bush Wood/Green Grove
WS35	Roe Wood
WS30	Hooks Green Meadow
WS28	Clothallbury Wood
R/P05a	Therfield Heath
R/P05	Therfield Heath
WS38	New Englands Wood
WS34	Friars Wood
WV22	Earls Wood
R/P10	Therfield Heath, Golf Course
BK/O01	Barkway
WS40	Scales Park
LN1	Therfield Heath
WS11	Markhams Hill Banks
BG/P01d	Recreation Ground, Chapel Road
G/P01	Playing Fields, Orchard Road
K/P01	Recreation Ground, Park Lane
GA/N01	Tilekiln Wood
LW/P01	Playing fields, Tower Close
HX/P01	Recreation Ground, Mill Lane
KB/P01e	Knebworth Recreation Ground, Oakfields Avenue
CO/AM02	Mangrove Road/Chalk Road and Luton Road
HO/P01	St John's Playing Field, Holwell Road
O/A01	Luton Road
GW/P01	Playing fields, Graveley Road
WV8	Rose Farm Meadows
O/P01	Recreation Ground, King Waldens Road
KB/P04	Cricket Ground
I/P01	Ickleford Recreation Ground
PI/P01	Recreation Gound, Walnut Tree Road
I/N01	Meadow, Arlesey Road
BG/P01	Recreation Ground, Chapel Road
C/P01	Recreation Ground, St Gile Close
KB/AM06	Norton Green
WS1	Telegraph Hill

WV14	Titmore Green Meadow
WV13	Meadow west of Norton Green
WV11	Field near Codicote Lodge
WS9	Folly Alder Wood
WV5	Cockrood Springs
WS18	Burleighcroft Wood
NR14	Telegraph Hill
KB/P01	Knebworth Recreation Ground, Oakfields Avenue
P/N01	Motte and Bailey Castle
GA/N04	Serpentine Close, Claypithills Spring
WS4	Wain Wood
NR4	Box Wood
GA/N02	Mendip Way
GA/GC01	Land under Pylons and Mendip Way
WV11	Codicote High Heath (Part)
WS4	Wain Wood
SI/N01	St Ippolyts Meadow
GA/N06b	Recreation Ground
WV4	Stabbocks Spring
WS20	Holl Lays Wood
WV1	Kimpton Mill/Valley Farm Meadows
WV7	Reynolds Wood
WS8	Lilley Park Wood
WS21	Knebworth Park
WS14	Ickleford Common
WS12	Tingley Wood
WS6	Walk Wood
WV6	West Wood
PR/E02	Princess Helena College, School Lane
WS10	Westbury Wood
WS23	Graffridge Wood
KB/P05	Knebworth Golf Course
GR/P03	Chesfield Downs, Golf Course
LI/O01	Lilley Hoo, Lilley
WS41	Ravensburgh Castle
WS5	Hitch Wood
KB/O02	Knebworth
STEVENAGE	Recreation Ground
STEVENAGE	St Nicholas Park

Primary Typology	Accessibility	Analysis Area	Area (ha)	Type
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Baldock	1.10	Urban
A. Town Parks and Gardens	Freely Accessible	Baldock	1.24	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Baldock	1.29	Urban
G. Cemeteries and Churchy	Freely Accessible	Baldock	1.34	Urban
J. School	No public access	Baldock	1.35	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Baldock	1.68	Urban
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Baldock	2.12	Urban
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Baldock	2.59	Urban
J. School	No public access	Baldock	2.77	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Baldock	2.81	Urban
Multi-functional Town Pa*	Freely Accessible	Baldock	3.36	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Baldock	3.77	Urban
J. School	No public access	Baldock	9.40	Urban
Other	Other	Baldock	10.51	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Baldock	14.39	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Baldock	17.22	Urban
J. School	No public access	Hitchin	1.02	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.02	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.02	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.16	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.17	Urban
A. Town Parks and Gardens	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.22	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Hitchin	1.23	Urban
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Hitchin	1.25	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Hitchin	1.30	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.33	Urban
J. School	No public access	Hitchin	1.34	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.47	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Hitchin	1.55	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.58	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.59	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.65	Urban
J. School	No public access	Hitchin	1.66	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Hitchin	1.68	Urban
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Hitchin	1.69	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.74	Urban
J. School	No public access	Hitchin	1.81	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	1.90	Urban
J. School	No public access	Hitchin	1.92	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	2.17	Urban
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	2.35	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	2.39	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	2.47	Urban
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	2.50	Urban
Multi-functional Town Pa*	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	2.58	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Hitchin	2.80	Urban
J. School	No public access	Hitchin	3.01	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Hitchin	3.23	Urban
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Hitchin	3.36	Urban
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	3.59	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Hitchin	3.78	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	3.92	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	4.09	Urban
J. School	No public access	Hitchin	4.17	Urban

C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	4.19	Urban
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	4.55	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	5.11	Urban
J. School	No public access	Hitchin	5.31	Urban
G. Cemeteries and Churchy	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	6.04	Urban
J. School	No public access	Hitchin	6.30	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Hitchin	6.42	Urban
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	7.10	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	7.58	Urban
Other	Other	Hitchin	8.52	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	9.34	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	9.56	Urban
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	9.75	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Hitchin	11.47	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	13.31	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Hitchin	26.17	Urban
Other	Other	Hitchin	27.85	Urban
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Letchworth	1.01	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	1.03	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	1.11	Urban
Other	Other	Letchworth	1.11	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.12	Urban
Multi-functional Town Pa*	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.16	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.18	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.21	Urban
A. Town Parks and Gardens	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.25	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	1.26	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	1.31	Urban
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.42	Urban
Multi-functional Town Pa*	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.43	Urban
H. Play & Youth Facilitie	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.51	Urban
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Letchworth	1.54	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.57	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.58	Urban
H. Play & Youth Facilitie	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.59	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Letchworth	1.62	Urban
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.64	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	1.65	Urban
A. Town Parks and Gardens	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.68	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Limited public access	Letchworth	1.70	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	1.70	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Letchworth	1.73	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.75	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Letchworth	1.80	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Letchworth	1.82	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.83	Urban
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.89	Urban
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.90	Urban
H. Play & Youth Facilitie	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	1.91	Urban
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Letchworth	2.05	Urban
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Letchworth	2.07	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	2.09	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	2.15	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	2.32	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	2.32	Urban

Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	2.37	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	2.43	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Letchworth	2.45	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Letchworth	2.51	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	2.57	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Letchworth	2.94	Urban
G. Cemeteries and Churchy	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	2.94	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	2.95	Urban
Multi-functional Town Pa*	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	3.02	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	3.03	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	3.11	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	3.14	Urban
J. School	No public access	Letchworth	3.72	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Letchworth	3.92	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Letchworth	4.03	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	4.16	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Letchworth	4.41	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	4.54	Urban
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	4.90	Urban
G. Cemeteries and Churchy	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	5.15	Urban
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	6.62	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Letchworth	6.68	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Letchworth	9.59	Urban
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	27.96	Urban
Multi-functional Natural*	Freely Accessible	Letchworth	28.85	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Letchworth	39.56	Urban
J. School	No public access	Royston	1.02	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Royston	1.03	Urban
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Royston	1.07	Urban
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Royston	1.07	Urban
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Royston	1.12	Urban
H. Play & Youth Facilitie	Freely Accessible	Royston	1.19	Urban
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Royston	1.20	Urban
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Royston	1.75	Urban
J. School	No public access	Royston	1.80	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Royston	1.82	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Royston	1.93	Urban
A. Town Parks and Gardens	Freely Accessible	Royston	1.97	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Royston	2.41	Urban
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Royston	2.45	Urban
Multi-functional Town Pa*	Freely Accessible	Royston	2.58	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Royston	3.40	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Royston	3.81	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Royston	4.60	Urban
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Royston	6.23	Urban
J. School	Limited public access	Royston	13.83	Urban
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Rural East	2.01	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural East	2.03	Rural
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Rural East	2.14	Rural
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Rural East	2.16	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural East	2.27	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	2.34	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural East	2.66	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural East	3.03	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural East	3.09	Rural

C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Rural East	3.18	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	3.20	Rural
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Rural East	3.43	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	3.71	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	3.86	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	3.91	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	3.95	Rural
Other	Other	Rural East	4.17	Rural
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Rural East	4.66	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural East	5.79	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	5.94	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	6.27	Rural
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Rural East	6.40	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	7.09	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	7.56	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	8.09	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	8.82	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	9.56	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	10.04	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	11.08	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	12.81	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	13.10	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	14.62	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	15.15	Rural
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Rural East	15.60	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural East	15.80	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	17.81	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	24.67	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	30.58	Rural
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Rural East	47.72	Rural
Other	Other	Rural East	71.28	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural East	77.03	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural East	93.17	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	2.14	Rural
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.14	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.16	Rural
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Rural West	2.16	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.18	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.22	Rural
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.24	Rural
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.25	Rural
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.28	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.31	Rural
F. Allotments	Limited public access	Rural West	2.38	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.53	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	2.87	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.93	Rural
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Freely Accessible	Rural West	2.96	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	3.01	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	3.28	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	3.30	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	3.48	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	3.50	Rural
C. Amenity Green Space	Freely Accessible	Rural West	3.52	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	4.39	Rural

D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	4.44	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	4.57	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	4.70	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	4.82	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	4.85	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	4.92	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	5.06	Rural
Multi-functional Recreat*	Freely Accessible	Rural West	5.23	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	5.39	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	5.64	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	6.55	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	7.00	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	8.80	Rural
E. Green Corridors	Freely Accessible	Rural West	9.13	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	9.32	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	11.42	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	11.77	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	12.62	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	12.64	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	15.80	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	17.28	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	17.50	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	20.22	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Limited public access	Rural West	20.70	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Freely Accessible	Rural West	21.31	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	25.72	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	26.11	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	30.73	Rural
J. School	No public access	Rural West	32.05	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	39.26	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	42.28	Rural
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Rural West	59.22	Rural
I. Outdoor sports facilitil	Limited public access	Rural West	65.93	Rural
Other	Other	Rural West	75.63	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	90.44	Rural
D. Natural & Semi-natural	Access Unknown	Rural West	103.27	Rural
Other	Other	Rural West	181.53	Rural
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Stevenage	5.73	Rural
B. Recreation Grounds	Freely Accessible	Stevenage	11.23	Rural

APPENDIX 5:
Stevenage Open Space Quantity Data

Accessible Open Space (ha) per 1000 population

NAME	Population	Amenity green space	Churchyards & cemeteries	Natural & Semi- natural green space	Parks and gardens	Total accessible green space per 1,000 population
Bandley Hill Ward	6,820	1.14	0.00	0.19	-	1.34
Bedwell Ward	6,544	2.74	-	0.90	8.27	11.92
Chells Ward	6,163	1.90	-	1.41	4.90	8.21
Longmeadow Ward	5,961	12.35	-	2.63	-	14.98
Manor Ward	6,396	0.53	-	1.13	-	1.66
Martins Wood Ward	6,283	1.66	-	0.16	-	1.82
Old Town Ward	6,185	1.49	-	1.45	-	2.94
Pin Green Ward	5,929	2.54	-	0.03	0.05	2.62
Roebuck Ward	6,044	2.00	2.14	0.82	-	4.96
Shephall Ward	6,326	1.05	-	0.86	3.79	5.70
St. Nicholas Ward	6,128	0.73	0.01	0.01	0.85	1.60
Symonds Green Ward	5,941	3.79	-	0.46	-	4.25
Woodfield Ward	4,995	7.51	-	0.00	0.97	8.49
Stevenage (ALL)	79,715	2.92	0.16	0.78	1.49	5.35

Accessible Open Space (ha) per Ward

NAME	Population	Amenity green space	Churchyards & cemeteries	Natural & Semi- natural green space	Parks and gardens	Total accessible green space
Bandley Hill Ward	6,820	7.80	0.01	1.30	-	9.12
Bedwell Ward	6,544	17.94	-	5.90	54.14	77.98
Chells Ward	6,163	11.74	-	8.71	30.18	50.63
Longmeadow Ward	5,961	73.59	-	15.70	-	89.29
Manor Ward	6,396	3.40	-	7.21	-	10.62
Martins Wood Ward	6,283	10.43	-	1.02	-	11.44
Old Town Ward	6,185	9.20	-	8.96	-	18.16
Pin Green Ward	5,929	15.05	-	0.18	0.30	15.53
Roebuck Ward	6,044	12.08	12.94	4.94	-	29.96
Shephall Ward	6,326	6.63	-	5.45	23.96	36.04
St. Nicholas Ward	6,128	4.46	0.04	0.06	5.24	9.80
Symonds Green Ward	5,941	22.53	-	2.71	-	25.23
Woodfield Ward	4,995	37.51	-	0.02	4.87	42.40
Stevenage (ALL)	79,715	232.38	13.00	62.13	118.69	426.19

APPENDIX 6:
Summary of Stakeholder Consultation Workshop Responses

EXERCISE 1: VALIDATING THE EVIDENCE BASE – NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE’S EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Theme	Stakeholder comments	LUC response
Open space and access links	<p><u>Comments on data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not possible to provide update on open spaces as so many are missing from map • The open spaces shown for North Herts are random and do not represent the strategic open space network • Local Nature Reserves and other sites e.g. Wildlife Trust sites • Golf course to north of Stevenage is private • Sandon, Green End, Clothall, Wallington, Weston • Stotfold Mill Meadows, Millenium Wood, The Green and Hitchin Road Recreation Ground must be linked to the green infrastructure plan • Hexton, Pirton, Great Offley • Hiz Valley, Ickleford, Oughtonhead, Purwell • Should identify all Public Rights of Way (See ROWIP available from County Council) • Need to define Roman Road • Letchworth Town Trails and Links to countryside should be shown • River Lea Corridor • Theedway (?) to the north of Luton running east-west • Wheathampstead Heaths • Norton Way towards Whitwell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add strategic open spaces which have been identified by stakeholders to map (including cross references to LNRs, as appropriate). Names of all spaces shown at Appendix 4. • Highlight need for mapped GIS data on open spaces to NHDC. • Investigate additional cycle routes on NHDC web. • We will include PROW data when we have received from NHDC. • We will refer to ROWIP objectives where appropriate, and look at broad densities, deficiencies and opportunities to incorporate within the GIP.

Theme	Stakeholder comments	LUC response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priory Park Hitchin should be noted (evening group) • Look at NHDC website for additional cycle routes (evening group) 	
	<p><u>Comments on opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify networks there is a need to look beyond public open space and consider non-accessible sites too, e.g. land adjacent to railways, allotments, cemeteries etc. • Potential for Arlesey Pits to be opened up to public • Open space is countryside • Prioritise and deliver the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), as it has been subject to public consultation • Enhance links from Stevenage to the north (via Forster Country) where access is currently poor • Potential for a cycle route linking Hitchin and Stevenage • Link to Dunstable Downs and wider Chalk Arc • Potential for extending walk along River Hiz in Hitchin • Opportunity for greater access to water as at Ashwell Springs (evening group) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be attempting to identify both public and private open space, but are reliant on the mapped information provided by local authorities and stakeholders. • We will consider the potential of Arlesey Pits further in discussion with NHDC. • All countryside forms part of the green infrastructure. We are trying to identify accessible open space, particularly that which is important at a strategic level (i.e. attracts people from across the district) and areas which need more open space provision in the future. • We will access the ROWIP and ensure its priorities are reflected where appropriate.
Landscape	<p><u>Comments on data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check Parkland, Old Knebworth • Functioning farmland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Lytton Cobbold has confirmed that Knebworth Old Park does not exist. • Report to bring to fore value of farmland

Theme	Stakeholder comments	LUC response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for townscape – assessment of all towns • Need to lock into towns • Where are the links within towns • Letchworth Town Trails – opp for other towns • Countryside Stewardship/HLS – where is access • Ridges around the district – relief map – visual landscapes around • Agri systems on chalk: v. imp for birds – farmland birds 	<p>landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GIP cannot cover detailed townscape issues within Stevenage (not part of the project) but can recommend the need for a more detailed townscape project as part of the Action Plan. • The plan recommends a series of ‘greenwheels’. • The emphasis on a landscape-led approach partly addresses this issue. • We acknowledge the importance of agricultural systems on chalk for farmland birds.
	<p>(Environmental Stewardship)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important ES schemes at Great Offley and Weston Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will review the agri-environment targeting statements for further information.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key opportunity to enhance: - transport corridors - countryside around towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See CIAT aims.
	<p>Views</p> <p>Royston to Baldock – high ground – views out A505 – views out to chalk landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show on GI Network map.

Theme	Stakeholder comments	LUC response
	Other N. Herts is at head of two catchments – Thames/Wash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Catchment Management Plans (where available) for any relevant detail. Nothing found in search.
	Key landscape areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ancient landscape W of Langley Valley - Langley Valley - Open farmland at Ashwell - N of county – openness is defining feature so - Therfield Heath - Beane Valley towards Hertford - Lilley Bottom and Lilly Hoo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to recognise these areas in the GIP.
Biodiversity	<u>Comments on data:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standalone Farm • Ashwell Springs • Style Plantation and Greenwalk Plantation, Royston • Stotfold Mill and Meadows • High Biodiversity Areas (HBRC) • Manor Wood: Wallaby • Black squirrels and Muntjac at Norton Common • Old mixed woodland at Grove Farm, Breach Green • Galley and Warden Hills, on eastern edge of Luton • District Wildlife Sites: Butts Close and Top Field, Hitchin • Land between Baldock Road and Radburn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will request information from the HBRC (e.g. High Biodiversity Areas)/look up on their website, as appropriate. • We will review sites mentioned and add them to our dataset where possible. We are reliant on data provided by NHDC, other local authorities and stakeholders, and would appreciate any additional information which can be provided. • Ancient Woodland Inventory is kept by Natural England who set the minimum size threshold. This is a justified/recognised threshold.

Theme	Stakeholder comments	LUC response
	<p>Way is critical to wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Wymondley Arboretum • Ancient woodland inventory only covers sites over 3ha 	
	<p><u>Comments on opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include information from regional biodiversity maps – opportunity mapping • Obtain Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust ‘Lifescape’ biodiversity opportunity mapping • Include a wider area of search and look at sites outside the boundary • Look at BAP species and identify whether any are particularly important, or any which could be addressed spatially through GI plan • Orchards are HAP target • Chalk streams system – biodiversity value • County opportunity mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will contact the Wildlife Trust and regional assembly to gather the opportunity mapping data mentioned. Wildlife Trust contacted. No more data available than that already gathered for the GIP. • We will map key biodiversity sites up to 1km from the district boundary. • We are reviewing the BAP as part of our desk based research. • Chalk streams do have high biodiversity value and will certainly be addressed by the plan. • We are not aware of any county opportunity mapping, but will contact the County Council to request.
Cultural heritage	<p><u>Comments on data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royston Cave War Memorial • Nuthampstead Airfield • Museums • Weston Park, Chesfield • AONB • Listed buildings and conservation areas • Undesignated and locally important historic features e.g. archaeological sites and potential archaeological sites 	<p>We will add sites to the map if mapped boundary information can be found.</p> <p>It may be useful to map listed buildings and Buildings at Risk (where data is available) as the setting of these can be enhanced by green infrastructure.</p> <p>We will add the boundary of the AONB.</p> <p>It would be useful to show archaeological sites on the map, if mapped information can be made available. SAMS added.</p>

Theme	Stakeholder comments	LUC response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Historic Environment Records can provide useful information • 3 Buildings at Risk • Hitchin British School • Priory Park, Hitchin • Knebworth Old Park? • Common Land • Hitchin Priory • Icknield Way, and other ancient routes • War memorial – Comber crash • Field Patterns and historic landscapes • Urban public parks • Baldock/Letchworth Gap orchard • Stotfold Mill and Meadows • Minsden Chapel 	
	<p><u>Comments on opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to link to Stevenage green infrastructure, and with Luton's green infrastructure • Forster Links • Make something of Iron Age hillforts and archaeology along Icknield Way 	<p>Ensuring links to Stevenage and Luton's green infrastructure networks will be an integral element of our green infrastructure proposals.</p> <p>There is some support for the Forster Country Park and creating appropriate links to this and to Forster in the wider countryside will be important. Potential to investigate Iron Age heritage as a theme for interpretation - also setting of Icknield Way.</p>

EXERCISE 2: WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Group	Vision	Strategic Map	SNAP Map	Implementation
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2030: Multi-functional countryside • Key special things: Contain urban sprawl Conserve/enhance/create: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link fragmented sites • PROW: enhance not only access but also environmental benefits/potential • Conserve and enhance what we've got before creating new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is North Herts an important location for any species, e.g. BAP species? Enhance countryside and green space for such species • Buffer zones should be looked at on a site by site basis, and should not be allowed to become dead space. • Include River Hiz walkway as a green link 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate blue links with green as they have the same function and importance • Question the need for a new country park to the north of Stevenage. It would be better to seek positive changes to land management of the existing farmland in that area • Consider how to engage local people through volunteering and education, and to highlight what we're trying to achieve. • Link to other agendas such as health, rather than just land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramblers Association are considering a circular route around Hitchin • Groundwork are looking at enhancing the Icknield Way and considering potential for a regional scale transport plan to allow links to wider countryside • FWAG to deliver 're-wilding' initiatives • Countryside Stewardship • English Woodland Grant Scheme • £/unit in Section 106 to fund green infrastructure

Group	Vision	Strategic Map	SNAP Map	Implementation
			based issues	
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of Life/Quality of Place • Placemaking • Health • Existing settlements and population as well as growth • (Human need) and wildlife need balance 'wildlife friendly' • Multifunctional – as possible health/biodiversity (appropriate conflict resolution) • 20 years 'future landscape' (socio-economic change, e.g. local food) • Sense of place, distinctiveness if settlements and places between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to make landscape enhancement zones = more meaningful /what does this mean in practice? • Rights of Way – where are the deficits – option for new routes • How will it be implemented • Green Wheel approach is not appropriate everywhere, for example in Hitchin the walk along river is more important • Nodes must be functional not just where routes cross – need to provide more detail on these • Routes/links GI to towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have same level of detail in the town, the GIP will not work – if doesn't look into Stevenage • Must link to Stevenage: GI in the town – we will recommend this as a follow on piece of work to the NHDC GIP • Relook at with new evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan – needs to be specific /pragmatic projects – detailed small projects, e.g. Groundwork can implement • But also include larger aspirational projects as likelihood of developer funding • NE – Regional Infrastructure Fund • Opp for big projects and aspirations, to which smaller projects can contribute • Developers contribute to e.g. Chalk woodland fund • Local food production built in (see Milton Keynes) • Need a forum /partnership and a person to co-ordinate • There is a consortium to help deliver but need N. Herts officer employed to oversee

Group	Vision	Strategic Map	SNAP Map	Implementation
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the principles of Ebenezer Howard and provide green spaces within urban realm for public use • Provide villages with accessible open spaces like those provided in towns • Developers should be involved in process, and clear requirements for provision of open space within development should be set out in policy • A holistic approach should be adopted and the landscape should be changed gradually • Flood plains are important, as is providing access to rivers • Links between green spaces should be maintained and enhanced • Access to nature • Green infrastructure should be planned at a town level, as well as a district level • The local knowledge possessed by parish councils is key • Public consultation should be conducted with local communities • Cross boundary links should be made, and planning for green spaces and links should be integrated • Strategic access routes should be joined up with the existing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are areas of farmland that are of high biodiversity value and this should be reflected in GI Plan • Links should be made to the Chilterns, and the Chilterns Conservation Board should be consulted (Steve Roderick is contact) • The proposed link between Stevenage out towards Knebworth should focus on improving access over the railway, not the road, where there is already sufficient access • Knebworth Park is not an appropriate gateway. Access to Knebworth Park is best preserved by allowing it to operate as a leisure venue and not compromising that ability • Woodland and farmland should be categorised separately on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain key views: More views should be recognised as important views to conserve (see map) • There are important areas of woodland to west of Stevenage which are not shown on the map • Ecological features must not be isolated by urban developmt, it is important to maintain ecological connectivity • Join up woodlands with each other and with wider countryside • Where buffer zones are introduced it will be important to ensure they are managed in some way to avoid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and connect woodland utilising funding from the English Woodland Grant Scheme • Maintain the wider countryside through encouraging use of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme • The Countryside Management Service can deliver woodland planting schemes and pond restoration • Forster Country Park is a priority, and should be promoted as a key destination • Green space and access routes must be well-designed with naturalistic boundaries and edges • Reflect natural landscape features which connect the Chilterns with the Brecks

Group	Vision	Strategic Map	SNAP Map	Implementation
	<p>network of footpaths and rights of way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barriers to access should be bridged Deficiencies should be recognised and addressed 	<p>the map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All farmland should be enhanced, using Environmental Stewardship Scheme, as most of North Hertfordshire is a target area for farmland enhancement 	<p>them becoming wastelands which may attract anti-social use.</p>	
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change Not just corridors – holistic approach Green lungs in towns Pressure in existing open space Wider vision – not just most important sites Enhancement – better managed sites Smarter use of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looped routes 30 minute interesting walks Better marking of paths Promotion of existing network of green space and access routes Issue of long term management Management on a business basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green walls/roofs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Flag/Pennant accredited spaces Nature reserves Promotion Agri-environment schemes with farmers Schools involvement Links with local communities Deliver the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Community Infrastructure Levy
Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Icknield Way require better all year access? Add other cycle routes – look at these on NHDC website Issue of ‘problem’ crossings for footpaths e.g. Calwell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for dedicated, safe cycle path along the B656 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider issue of management of future PROWs Community buy in is essential to ensure well used and safe spaces. Address also through design e.g. to allow

Group	Vision	Strategic Map	SNAP Map	Implementation
		<p>Crossing, north of Hitchin. Address this disjointedness where possible through strategic proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could further braches /extensions of Icknield Way be used to link key towns? • Stevenage presents significant opportunity for an urban greenway. • Need for more access to water e.g. as at Ashwell Springs – well used ‘blue infrastructure’ 		<p>for permeability and natural surveillance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure cycle routes are to a Sustrans specification (learn lessons from Letchworth Greenway)

APPENDIX 7:

Initial GI proposals presented at the Stakeholder Workshop

North Hertfordshire Green Infrastructure Plan

Strategic GI - Indicative Proposals

Key

EXISTING

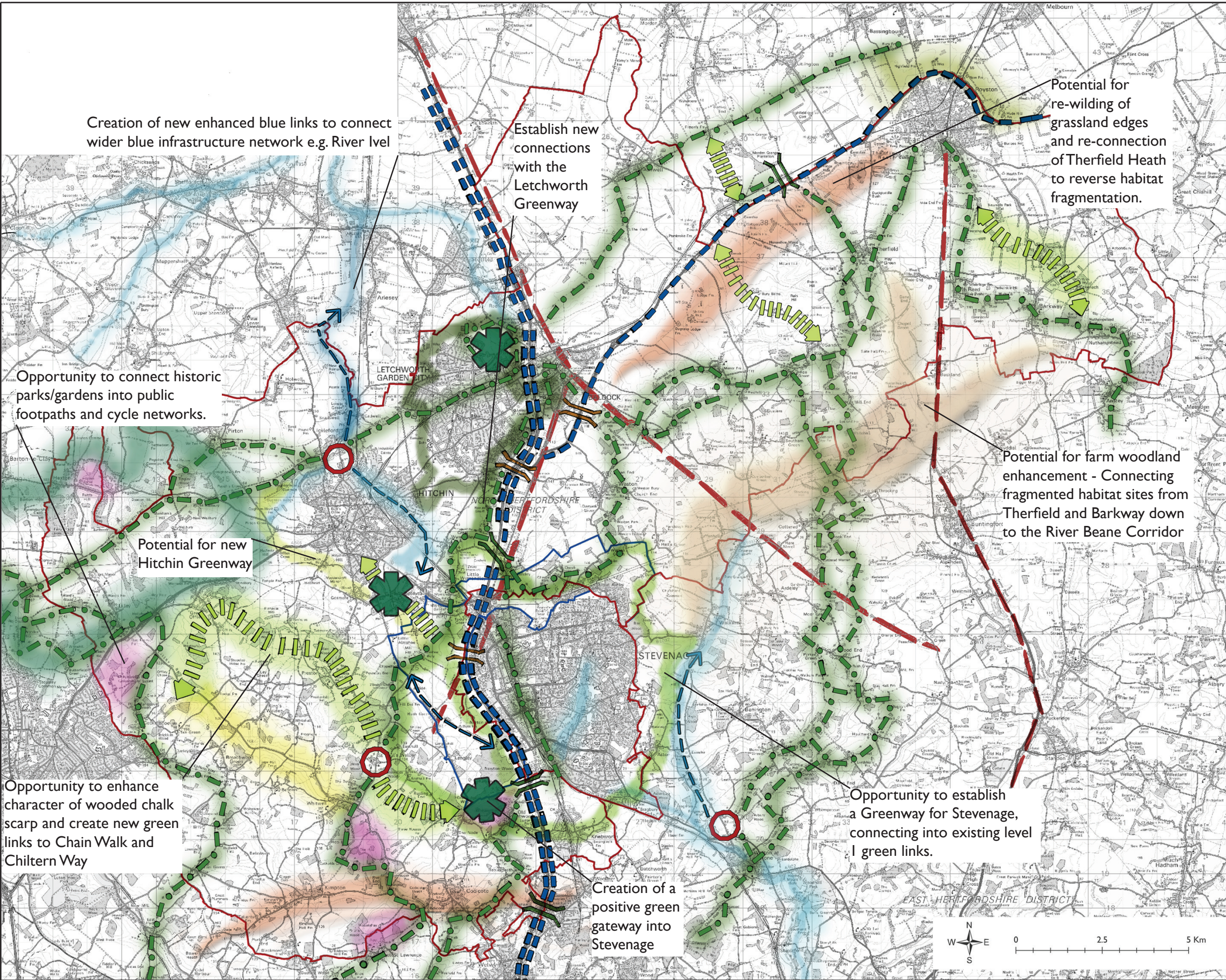
- District boundary
- SNAP boundary
- Barriers
- Level 1 Green Links
- Roman Roads
- River Corridor - Wetland enhancement potential
- Historic Parks/Gardens
- Letchworth Greenway Level 2 Green route
- Chilterns AONB

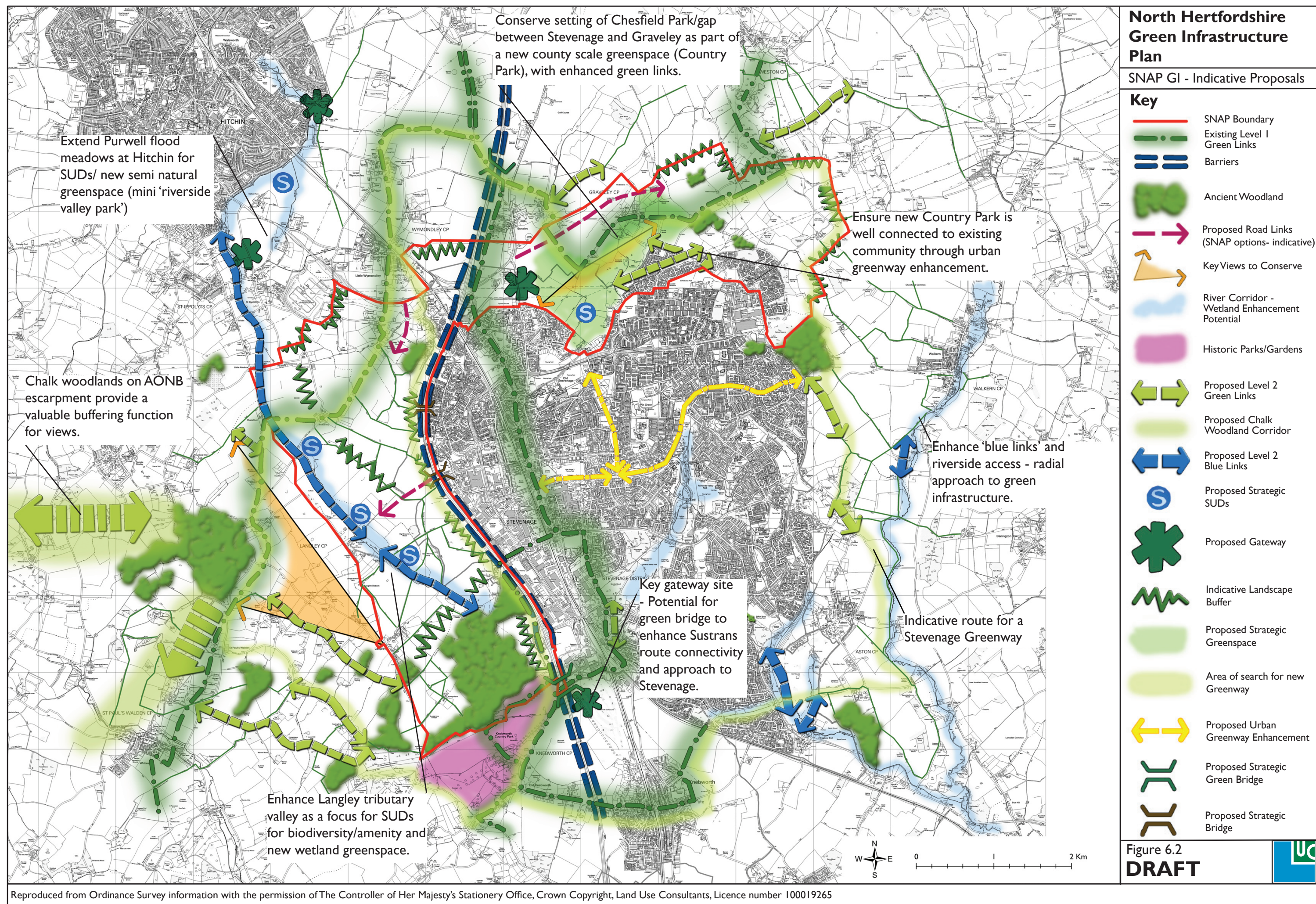
PROPOSED

- Hitchin Greenway
- Stevenage Greenway
- Royston Greenway
- Level 2 Blue Links
- Level 2 Green Links
- Strategic Green Bridge
- Strategic Bridge
- Woodland/Farmland Enhancement Zone
- Chalk Woodland Corridor
- Chalk Valley Corridor
- Grassland and Heathland Re-Wilding
- Gateways
- Key Node

Figure 6.1

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APPENDIX 8:
Glossary of Terms

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (sea level).
Ancient woodland	Woods that are believed to have been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD.
ANGSt	Accessible Natural Green Space Standards – a four level spatial typology used by Natural England.
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan. Countywide plans identifying priority habitats and targets for enhancement/habitat creation.
Blue infrastructure	This term is sometimes used to describe riverine and coastal environments with a green infrastructure network.
Blue links	These fulfil many of the same functions as green links but their proximity to floodplain and wetland may require different approaches to design and management.
Characteristic	A distinctive element of the landscape that contributes to landscape character for instance a particular hedgerow pattern or sense of tranquillity.
Climate change adaptation	The ability of a place to adapt to both extreme weather events and long term changes to climate patterns.
Coppice	A traditional form of woodland management where trees are cut regularly on a cycle to promote growth from their bases.
Ecological Network	Identification of key wildlife corridors and opportunities for connectivity/strategic links in implementing/delivering BAP targets, and to assist in reversing habitat fragmentation.
European Landscape Convention (ELC)	This seeks to protect landscapes in law, with consideration given to landscape from the earliest stages in the planning process. The UK became a signatory to the Convention in February 2006 (ratified in November 2006).
Extensive green roof	A green roof system based on a turf, moss or sedum substrate.

Term	Definition
Functional Floodplain	Floodplain that can fulfil a wide range of Green Infrastructure objectives, including passive/informal recreation, green space and parkland, in addition to flood storage and flood risk management.
Genius loci	The essential character of a location or the 'spirit of the place', a term defined by the 18 th Century English poet Alexander Pope.
GI	Commonly used acronym for Green Infrastructure.
Green Flag Award	The national standard or 'benchmark' for parks and green spaces within England and Wales.
Green links	Green corridors (primarily for movement and access but also considering other functions such as for habitat connectivity) – a key part of the green infrastructure network.
Green space strategies	These evaluate publicly accessible open space provision within these typologies at the local authority scale, noting issues in relation to condition, quality and access, often to inform a strategy and action plan that sets out future management and regeneration policies.
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation. Identification of landscape change and evolution through analysis of field boundary patterns.
Landscape character	The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape and how these are perceived. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.
Landscape character areas	Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical area of a particular landscape type.
Landscape character types	Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historic land use and settlement pattern.
Level 1 links	Strategic, long distance or sub regional links.
Level 2 links	Local level connections.
LNR	Local Nature Reserves.

Term	Definition
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	These set out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government and a local area (the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership).
Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)	Multi-agency, non-statutory partnerships, which match local authority boundaries. They bring together different components of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors, allowing different initiatives and services to support one another with the aim of more effective joint working.
Multifunctionality	The ability to provide multiple or 'cross cutting' functions.
Natura 2000 sites	Sites of pan European nature conservation importance, e.g. Special Protection Areas (SPA – birds) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC- habitats).
NNR	National Nature Reserves.
Peri urban	The transition between rural and urban landscapes, or the interface between landscape and townscape. Sometimes also referred to as the urban-rural fringe, and by Nan Fairbrother (in <i>New Lives, New Landscapes</i>) as the 'green urban' environment.
Place-making	Recognition of the specific qualities and local distinctiveness of a place, and ensuring that plans, policies and proposals respond accordingly.
RAMSAR Sites	Wetlands of international importance.
SAMs/SMRs	Scheduled (Ancient) Monuments or sites/features on the Sites and Monuments Record
SSSIs	Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Designated under the Wildlife and Conservation Act 1981, as amended, for their outstanding interest in respect of flora, fauna, geology and or limnology.
Strategic bridges	Key crossing points at barriers to access within the proposed green infrastructure network. This term has been used to distinguish bridges of conventional engineering and construction from 'land bridges' or green bridges for habitat connectivity.

Term	Definition
Sustainable Drainage Systems or SuDS	Formerly called Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. An approach to managing rainfall and run off in developments, with a view to replicating natural drainage. SuDS also aim to control pollution, re charge ground water, control flooding, and often provide landscape and environmental enhancement.
Vernacular architecture	Architecture which is indigenous to a specific place and adapted to both the environment and to the user's need. (The term 'vernacular' is derived from the Latin vernaculus, meaning 'native').