FABER MAUNSELL | AECOM

Coventry Green Infrastructure Study
Draft Report

Coventry City Council
November 2008

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

Project overview

Background

1.1 Coventry has been identified by Central Government as a New Growth Point in their 2006 announcements of the New Growth Point Programme. This initiative should bring significant benefits to the city in terms of strategic growth and associated infrastructure investment from Central Government.

1.2 The allocation of New Growth Point funding is conditional upon the establishment of an appropriate evidence base for considering the overall effects of strategic growth on the City and the selection of suitable growth locations. This evidence base comprises an understanding of the likely interaction of growth with (but not exclusively to) transport, flood risk, water cycle and green infrastructure.

1.3 This Study forms the component outputs for the Green Infrastructure evidence base providing evidence to help inform the selection of potential locations for growth of the city. It identifies and addresses existing and anticipated future Green Infrastructure deficits and provides a vision and opportunities to achieve a significant net gain in green infrastructure value across the city. This will be achieved through the creation, enhancement and sustainable management of new and existing resources.

1.4 This Study will also inform the preparation of the Local Development Framework for Coventry and in particular, spatial planning aspects as defined within the emerging Core Strategy.

Strategic Growth and Regeneration

1.5 The strategic growth aspirations of Coventry as a New Growth Point are expressed within the emerging Core Strategy for the City. The Core Strategy is a key element of the LDF and is an important mechanism for delivering the Council's 'vision' for Coventry by setting out long-term objectives for the City, as well as providing policies for steering and shaping development.

1.6 The Council's outline vision for Coventry is "a growing, accessible city where people choose to live, work and be educated and where businesses chose to invest". The Core Strategy will provide the overall strategy for the development of Coventry to achieve this vision.

1.7 The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Preferred Options sets out a requirement for Coventry to provide at least 33,500 additional dwellings during the period 2006-2026. Within these ambitions remain a clear expression of improvements to existing Green Infrastructure, preservation and enhancement of natural environment, green spaces, canals and rivers.

What is Green Infrastructure?

At its simplest, it can be defined as 'a strategic network of green spaces and the links between them'. The function and values of Green Infrastructure are, however, complex and a more detailed definition, as described by Coventry City Council in the Study Brief is reproduced at Appendix 1.

1.8 The term "Green Infrastructure" is relatively new, having been developed in the USA and been initially adopted in the UK during the planning stage of the Thames Gateway Growth Area. However, it is very similar to the concept of 'Green Networks' which have been used by local authorities in this country, particularly for New Towns, for decades. It therefore represents a continuation and development of this thinking, in particular bringing multi-functionality to the fore.

1.9 The fundamental principles of Green Infrastructure are multi-functionality and connectivity. The multi-functionality of Green Infrastructure is important to ensure the maximisation of public

benefit, while the connectivity aspect ensures that the network functions on a large scale and that its overall public benefit is greater than the sum of its parts.

1.10 'Green Infrastructure' encompasses all open space elements at all scales within rural, urban and transition landscapes. Examples include:

- Woodland
- Watercourses
- Playing fields
- Nature reserves
- Cemeteries
- Footpaths
- Hedgerows
- Amenity landscaping

1.11 Green infrastructure is recognised for its contribution to the "liveability" of areas; improving their attractiveness to residents, employees, visitors and investors and promoting physical and mental well-being, through its use and enjoyment.

1.12 A more comprehensive definition of green infrastructure within the West Midlands is provided by "Green Infrastructure: A Prospectus for the West Midlands Region".[1]

Study Aim

1.13 The overall aim of the Study is to draw up a bold and imaginative strategy for the provision of high quality Green Infrastructure in Coventry over the next 25-30 years.

1.14 The objectives of the Study are:

- To bring together existing data on green infrastructure sites and map out green infrastructure provision
- To identify current deficiencies in existing green infrastructure and to identify present and future needs over the next 25 years with future opportunities for provision and maintenance
- To identify opportunities for green infrastructure within and adjacent to future development sites, embracing work undertaken to date on the Local Development Framework
- To identify opportunities for green infrastructure connectivity to the wider sub-region
- To develop the analysis into a bold and imaginative strategy that builds on current and future initiatives and identifies key sites, including those relating to biodiversity, landscape and Public Rights of Way
- To encourage wider environmental benefits, such as flood protection, water quality and ameliorating impacts caused by climate change and consider the management of surface water, water quality and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
- To propose an implementation strategy and framework for the long-term management and maintenance of new and existing Green Infrastructure

[1] West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2007

Report Structure

1.15 The structure of this Study report is shown in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1: Report Structure and Content

Report Chapter	Related Information
Chapter 1 Introduction Project background and an overview of green infrastructure	Appendix 1 Figure 1.1
Chapter 2 Coventry Study Area Summary of the study area	None
Chapter 3 Approach to Green Infrastructure Study Outline methodology for the study	Figure 3.1
Chapter 4 Strategic Context Review Description of the national, regional and local green infrastructure policy context of the study	Appendix 2
Chapter 5 Review of Existing Green Infrastructure Thematic baseline of existing green infrastructure, using existing information	Appendices 3-5 Figures 5.1-5.13
Chapter 6 Baseline Interpretation and Analysis Summary of physical green infrastructure and an analysis of baseline data to identify a green infrastructure network for the city	Appendix 6 Figures 6.1 & 6.2
Chapter 7 Existing Green Infrastructure Initiatives Summary of existing initiatives related to green infrastructure	None
Chapter 8 Needs Assessment Assessment of physical green infrastructure needs, in terms of accessible natural green space and city-wide connectivity	Figures 8.1-8.3
Chapter 9 Opportunities Assessment Opportunities to achieve net gain in green infrastructure across the city	Figure 9.1
Chapter 10 A Green Infrastructure Vision for Coventry An overall vision for green infrastructure, based upon the results of the study	Figure 10.1
Chapter 11 Green Infrastructure Standards for Sustainable Development A set of standards to ensure effective green infrastructure delivery	None
Chapter 12 Implementation Plan Guidance on the practical implications of delivering green infrastructure	None

2 Coventry Study Area

Chapter Overview.

2.1 This chapter provides a broad summary of the environmental context of the city of Coventry and wider study area, as defined by the Coventry Way long distance footpath (see Figure 1.1).

Environmental Context of Coventry City

2.2 The city of Coventry, established in the early 13th Century by Leofric, the Earl of Mercia and his better-remembered wife, Lady Godiva, sits on a transition point in the landscape between the well-wooded, oak-dominated and predominantly pastoral Arden landscape to the west and the more open, arable and ash-dominated Dunsmore and High Cross landscape to the east. This is clearly evidenced in the nature of the urban fringe on either side of the city, from the small, hedged fields with numerous patches of ancient woodland around Keresley to the open, larger-scale agricultural landscape between Ansty and Brinklow.

2.3 The presence of the Arden landscape on the western side of the city and its association with the Forest of Arden has led to the presence of a number of remnant ancient woods on this side of the city, including Tile Hill Wood, Limbrick Wood and Park Wood. Expansion of the City has led to many of these becoming isolated. However, the blocks are of a reasonable size and the introduction of public access following the purchase of the woods by the City in the 1920's has delivered multiple benefits

2.4 The dominant “green” feature to the east of the City is the historic Coombe Abbey and associated grounds, originally the home of Cistercian monks established in the early 12th Century. During the dissolution of the monasteries in the mid 16th Century, the Abbey was taken by Henry VIII, leading to approximately 400 years of private ownership. Notable events during this period include its use as the home and school of Princess Elizabeth, subsequently Elizabeth I, the enclosure of the Abbey Park by Baron Craven under licence from Charles I in 1634, the landscaping of the grounds by Lancelot “Capability” Brown in 1771. In 1964 the Abbey and 150 acres of grounds were purchased by Coventry City Council and this led to the creation of Coombe Abbey Country Park. Today this is a very popular recreational resource for the City comprising gardens, parkland, woodland and Coombe Pool, an ornithological Site of Special Scientific Interest.

2.5 The city is ringed by a number of other historic private parks, including Arbury Park to the north and Packington to the west, although these are most prominent to the south where an estatelands landscape survives. The most notable parks to the south are those associated with Stoneleigh Abbey and Kenilworth Castle, both of which retain ancient trees and historic features. Several large areas of ancient woodland associated with these estatelands are present to the south and east of the city, including Ryton Wood, Birchley Wood, Brandon Wood, Waverley Wood and Wappenbury Wood.

2.6 Two rivers run through Coventry, namely the Sowe and Sherbourne, although neither are of a sufficient size to have influenced the development of the city to any great degree. The River Sherbourne runs closest to the city centre, passing from west to east through the city before draining into the River Sowe near Baginton. It is currently culverted where it runs through the central part of the city enclosed by the ring road and occupies a narrow corridor through the remainder of the city. The River Sowe is the slightly larger of the two and occupies a more defined and heavily meandering channel through the more recent post-industrial eastern suburbs of the city, where it has had a significant influence on the layout of these areas. It flows southwards from the convergence of a number of small tributaries near to Wood End towards Stoneleigh, where it drains into the River Avon.

2.7 A number of smaller brooks also run through and in the vicinity of the City, including the Pickford Brook, Finham Brook and Smite Brook and these have had a minor local influence on the layout of the city.

2.8 The City is served by two waterways, namely the Oxford Canal and Coventry Canal. The Oxford Canal is a 77-mile waterway which runs north from Oxford through Banbury before bearing westwards at Rugby to join the Coventry Canal to the north of the City at Hawkesbury. It is regarded as one of England's most peaceful waterways with very attractive, unspoilt scenery and comes into contact with the Coventry Way for a short distance, although the Centenary Way follows a greater proportion of its length.

2.9 The Coventry Canal is a 38-mile link between the centre of Coventry and the Trent and Mersey Canal to the north, running through Nuneaton and Tamworth and terminating near to Lichfield. Historically, this was a very busy waterway, serving the Midlands coalfields. Despite difficulties in its construction, it remained a profitable commercial enterprise until the waterways were nationalised in the mid 20th Century. Nowadays, the route has a more rural character, as the spoil heaps from the coal industry have vegetated and much work has been done in recent years to improve the route through the City for recreation, including towpath surface improvements, interpretation signs and art installations. These improvements have included the basin to the north of Junction 1 of the ring road, where shops, bars and attractive public realm have turned it into a popular destination.

3 Approach to Green Infrastructure Study

Chapter Overview

3.1 This chapter will outline the approach that has been taken to the study, including its methodology, geographical scope and outputs, to achieve the study aim and objectives defined in Chapter 1.

Geographical Scope of the Study

3.2 To undertake a study on the Coventry administrative area alone would be misleading, as this is generally urbanised and it is widely recognised that Coventry residents access green infrastructure facilities in adjacent Districts and Boroughs for leisure and recreation. Such visitor attractions include Coombe Abbey Country Park and Brandon Marsh (both of which are managed by Coventry City Council) in adjacent Rugby District to the east of the city and Kenilworth Castle and several golf courses in Warwick District to the south.

3.3 It was therefore agreed at the inception stage of this study that rather than using the Coventry City administrative boundary as the study boundary, the Coventry Way public footpath would be used instead. This orbital and continuous route runs between 1 and 4 kilometres from the current built edge of the city and in itself, is a green infrastructure asset with high potential. An informal 1km buffer outside of this route would be included to capture any features directly adjacent to it. These Study boundaries are shown on Figure 1.1.

3.4 Within the built-up parts of the Study Area, all areas of urban greenspace have been assessed, whilst within the rural parts, all publicly accessible sites and those of recognised biodiversity or historic value will be considered.

Methodology

3.5 The outline methodology for the study is shown graphically on Figure 3.1 at the end of this section.

3.6 The methodology may be divided into four distinct stages, which are described in turn below. More detailed methodology information for specific assessments can be found in the relevant chapters.

Inception

3.7 This initial stage involves defining the parameters of the study. It comprised an inception meeting with Coventry City Council to agree the detailed study methodology and programme followed by an environmental stakeholders' workshop where the methodology was presented to the following organisations:

- Coventry City Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Solihull Borough Council
- Natural England
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- Coventry Groundwork Trust

3.8 Following this presentation an open discussion was held to draw on the stakeholders' collective local knowledge and to further focus the study in terms of baseline data collection.

Baseline Review and Analysis (Chapters 4-7)

3.9 The review of existing green infrastructure information involved three separate steps.

3.10 The first step was to undertake a review of the national, regional and local strategic context of green infrastructure, identifying particular items of policy or published guidance either in support of or conflicting with the underlying principles of green infrastructure. This information was principally collected via an internet search and direct contact with stakeholders.

3.11 The second step was to collect and review existing information relating to the physical green infrastructure of the city. Given the amount of data available, this was undertaken using the following six strategic themes to provide structure and clarity:

- Landscape character
- Biodiversity and geodiversity
- Historic environment
- Natural processes and environmental systems
- Recreation and tourism
- Access and movement

3.12 Collection of this information included an internet search and direct contact with local authority officers, statutory agencies and environmental stakeholders. Once reviewed, it was summarised (see Chapter 5 below) and a series of thematic plans were prepared showing the geographical context of the information.

3.13 The collected data regarding physical green infrastructure assets was then subjected to an objective assessment to determine which assets qualified as sufficiently valuable to be included as components of the existing green infrastructure network for the city. Assets were first divided into nodes (for discrete features, e.g. parks) and corridors (for linear features, e.g. watercourses) and were then assessed against scoring criteria to determine whether they qualified as these significant features and to what level they qualified, i.e. whether they were major or minor features. For both types of features their multi-functionality and accessibility were assessed, with additional assessments of inherent value for nodes and connectivity for corridors. For further details of this process, see Chapter 6.

3.14 The final list of major and minor nodes and corridors was then compiled into Figure 6.2, which shows the existing green infrastructure network for Coventry.

3.15 The third step in this stage was to research and review current initiatives in Coventry that relate to green infrastructure. A comprehensive list of initiatives was obtained from stakeholders during the first stakeholder engagement, therefore these were researched and their core objectives and potential interaction with green infrastructure are summarised in Chapter 7.

Strategic Assessment (Chapters 8-9)

3.16 Following the collection and analysis of the baseline information, a strategic assessment was undertaken to provide the required evidence base to inform the strategic growth of the city and forward planning of green infrastructure. This comprised two steps, as follows:

- Needs assessment
- Opportunities assessment

3.17 The needs assessment was undertaken to identify existing deficits within the borough's green infrastructure, both in terms of the connectivity of the overall network and accessible natural greenspace. Deficits in the connectivity of the existing green infrastructure network have been assessed through a visual assessment of Figure 6.2, identifying features such as isolated nodes or areas with a marked deficit of green infrastructure features. The provision of accessible natural greenspace was calculated by comparing the accessible natural greenspace within the city with natural greenspace provision standards adopted within the Coventry Development Plan to identify any existing deficits. The results of these assessments are summarised in Chapter 8 and shown on Figures 8.1-8.3.

3.18 The opportunities assessment is the subjective identification of a suite of projects to achieve further green infrastructure in Coventry over and above the resolution of existing deficits, based upon the authors' experience of similar successful projects elsewhere in the UK. The results of this assessment are described in Chapter 9 and shown on Figure 9.1.

Vision and Delivery (Chapters 10-11)

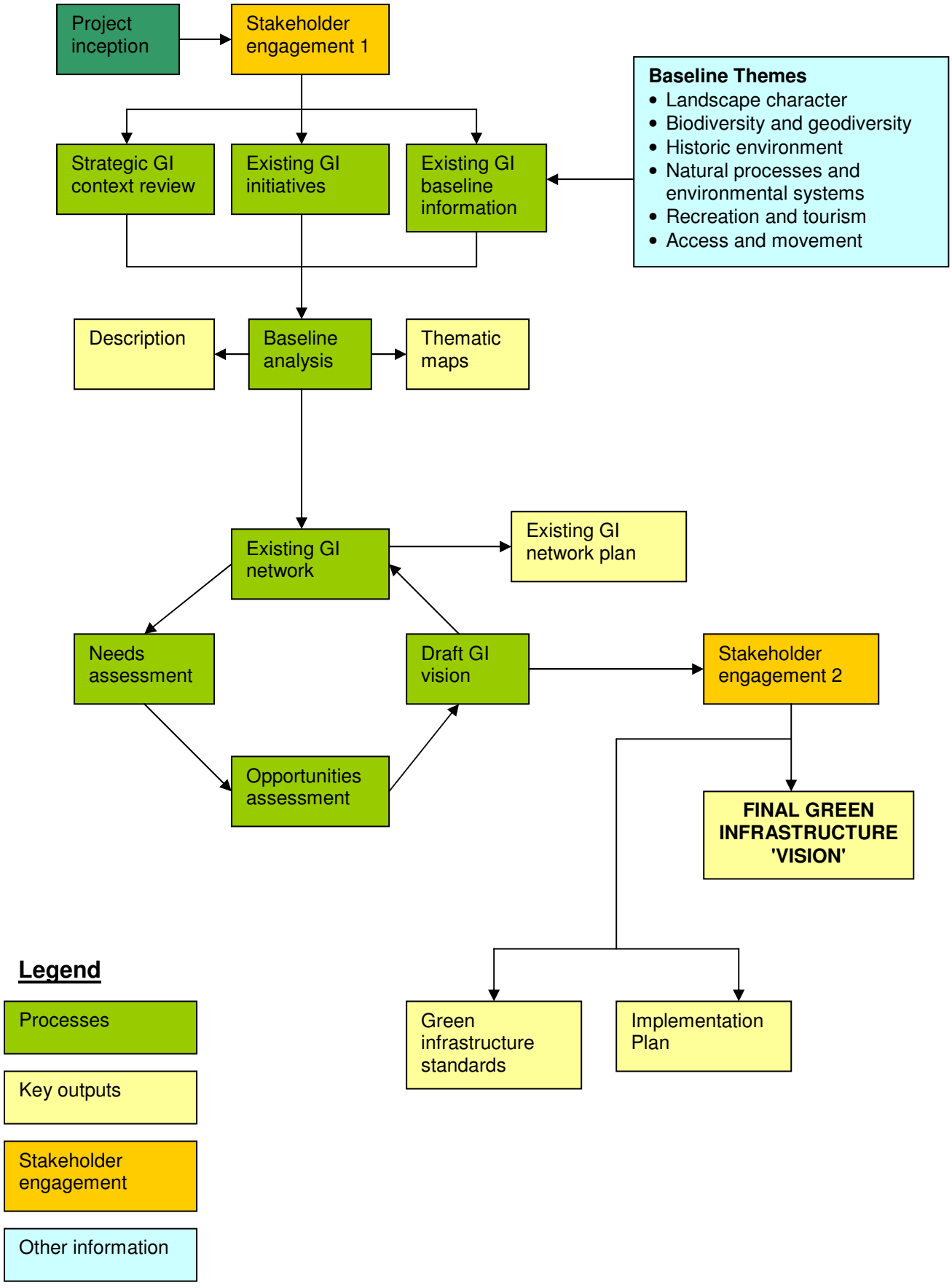
3.19 The final stage of the Study involved the preparation of an overarching vision for the city and exploring the means of delivering this vision.

3.20 The overall 'Vision' is based upon the regional aspirations for green infrastructure, incorporating the results of this study and the opinions of the local environmental stakeholders. It is presented in Chapter 10 and demonstrated graphically on Figure 10.1. An initial draft vision was prepared and this was then presented to stakeholders at a second stakeholder engagement, to finally test it before its inclusion in this report.

3.21 This stage also included the formulation of a set of specific standards, aimed at developers, to assist them in understanding, taking account of and delivering new green infrastructure. These comprise four general standards and one relating to each of the six strategic themes used in Chapter 5. Each standard is accompanied with a justification and explanation of how to apply it in a local context.

3.22 The third part of this stage is the Implementation Plan, considering the practical implications of achieving green infrastructure protection, creation and management. It covers the need to establish effective delivery and funding mechanisms at the outset and recommends potentially suitable approaches for Coventry. This section also includes a number of case studies of examples of the creation and maintenance of high quality green infrastructure in the Midlands, ranging from a city-wide parks framework to individual sites. For each case study, information is given on both the delivery and funding mechanisms used to achieve a successful result, and the financial costs associated with this delivery.

Figure 3.1: Study Methodology



Study outputs

3.23 The output from this study is presented at three levels of detail, this document representing the highest level of detail.

3.24 The other forms of output will be a brief technical synopsis and a colour brochure, as outlined in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Study Outputs

Output	Type	Focus
Non-technical summary	4 page colour summary	Promotion of GI to wider audience
Technical summary	Prospectus / vision statement	Specific interested groups
Report document	Detail technical report	Council and stakeholders

4 Strategic Context Review

Chapter Overview

4.1 This chapter establishes the policy context within which the strategic planning of green infrastructure can occur within Coventry.

4.2 It covers planning and other related policy at national, regional and local scale, outlining policy support for green infrastructure and policy requirements and aspirations which green infrastructure has the potential to deliver against, or which shapes the planning and delivery of green infrastructure.

4.3 This chapter is a relatively brief overview of the policy context of the Study, however a more comprehensive summary of the policy covered and its implications for green infrastructure may be found at Appendix 1.

National Policy

4.4 The national green infrastructure policy context of this study is set out in full at Appendix 2.

4.5 Green infrastructure is a relatively new concept in the UK and as such it is not yet widely referenced directly in policy, although its principles and concepts are covered in a range of documents. The following national policy and policy guidance documents are relevant to green infrastructure:

- Working with the Grain of Nature: The England Biodiversity Strategy
- Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities
- Habitats Regulations – the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations
- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
- Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing
- Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities: The Future. Delivering an Urban Renaissance
- Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener
- Rural White Paper: A Fair Dear for Rural England
- Manifesto for Better Public Spaces
- Does Money Grow on Trees?
- Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan
- A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests

4.6 No conflicts were identified between the above documents and the principles of green infrastructure and all recognise the value of open space for a variety of functions.

4.7 Of particular note are "Biodiversity by Design", which connects biodiversity richness with sustainable development and provides masterplanning guidance on the creation of green infrastructure, and "Does Money Grow on Trees?", which uses a number of existing case studies to demonstrate the uplift in economic value that effective green infrastructure can bring to built development.

Regional Policy

4.8 The regional green infrastructure policy context of this study is set out in full at Appendix 2.

4.9 The following regional policy documents are relevant to the consideration of green infrastructure:

- West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS11)
- West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy: Draft Phase 2 Revision
- Restoring the Region's Wildlife: Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands
- Delivering Advantage: The West Midlands Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2010
- A Sustainable Future for the West Midlands: Regional Sustainable Development Framework
- West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy
- Cultural Life in the West Midlands: The Regional Cultural Strategy 2001-2006
- Growing our Future: The West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework
- West Midlands Regional Concordat
- West Midlands Regional Green Infrastructure Prospectus

4.10 All of the above documents were found to support the principles of green infrastructure and no conflicts were identified.

4.11 "Restoring the Region's Wildlife" is of particular relevance to green infrastructure as it identifies a significant decline in the region's biodiversity over the last few decades and sets out a number of challenges to reverse this trend. It also outlines potential linkages between biodiversity and other land uses and functions such as agriculture, tourism and health.

4.12 The West Midlands Regional Green Infrastructure Prospectus is key to the development of green infrastructure in the region. It sets out a long term vision for regional green infrastructure, proposes how green infrastructure could fit into the existing spatial planning system and sets out a number of current best practice case studies.

Local Policy

4.13 The local green infrastructure policy context of Coventry is set out at Appendix 2.

4.14 The following policy documents are relevant to the consideration of green infrastructure within Coventry:

- The City of Coventry Unitary Development Plan 1996 – 2011
- Core Strategy: Second Issues and Options Document
- Draft Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document
- Progress through Prevention: The Community Plan 2005 – 2010
- Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Biodiversity Action Plan
- A Review of Important Nature Conservation and Geological Sites in Coventry
- "Something to Do": Coventry Play Strategy
- Draft Coventry Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Coventry Cycle Map and Guide
- A Draft Climate Change Strategy for Coventry
- A Strategy for Coventry's Parks
- Design Guidelines for Development in Coventry's Ancient Arden
- A Green Space Strategy for Coventry (1994)
- Draft Coventry Green Space Strategy (including PPG17 Audit) 2008
- West Midlands Local Transport Plan
- Coventry Sport and Playing Field Strategy
- Coventry Development Plan, Annual Monitoring Report 2006
- Local Agenda 21 Annual Action Plans
- Coventry Urban Fringe Landscape Assessment and Guidance
- Coventry Walking Strategy (Parts I, II & III)
- Coventry Cycling Strategy (Parts I, II & III)
- Air Quality Action Plan
- Regenerating Coventry's Canal: Opportunities for Improving Coventry's 7 miles of Canal and Surrounding Land
- Draft Trees and Development Guidelines for Coventry (Supplementary Planning Document)
- Coventry Environmental Quality Survey
- Coventry Green Belt Review

- Environmental Inequality Study: Integrating Environment into Economic and Community Regeneration

4.15 It is positive to note that not only do none of the above suite of policies conflict with the principles of green infrastructure, but many actively promote aspects of green infrastructure, including sustainable movement network, biodiversity habitats, natural processes, accessible open space and the use of well-managed green space to achieve social and economic uplift.

5 Review of Existing Green Infrastructure

Chapter Overview

5.1 An overview of all the existing information that has been collated as part of this Study.

5.2 Includes:

- Review Approach
- Landscape and Townscape Character
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Historic Environment
- Natural Processes and Environmental Systems
- Recreation and Tourism
- Access and Movement
- Problems Encountered and Limitations
- Recommendations for Further Study

Review Approach

5.3 An understanding of the existing green infrastructure characteristics of the City is essential. This was obtained by collecting baseline information relating to the existing green infrastructure features within the city and wider study area (see Figure 1.1). Table 5.1 below summarises the strategic themes (see Chapter 3) by which this data has been collected and the associated thematic figures on which it is presented, in addition to the descriptions in the sections below.

Table 5.1:Strategic Themes and Mapped Outputs

Green Infrastructure Study Theme	Baseline Mapped Outputs
▪ Landscape and townscape character	▪ Figure 5.1: Regional Character Areas ▪ Figure 5.2: Local Landscape Types ▪ Figure 5.3: Joint Character Areas ▪ Figure 5.4: Land Description Units
▪ Biodiversity and geodiversity	▪ Figure 5.5: Natural Areas ▪ Figure 5.6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity Designations ▪ Figure 5.7: Habitat Biodiversity Audit ▪ Figure 5.8: Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats and Habitat Networks ▪ Figure 5.9: Woodland
▪ Historic environment	▪ Figure 5.10: Historic Environment
▪ Natural processes and environmental systems	▪ Figure 5.11: Natural Processes and Environmental Systems
▪ Recreation and tourism	▪ Figure 5.12: Recreation and Tourism
▪ Access and movement	▪ Figure 5.13: Access and Movement

5.4 At the end of each section, the problems encountered and limitations relating to the baseline data are summarised and at the end of this chapter is a section recommending further work going forward to collect additional information to address these limitations.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Introduction

5.5 "Landscape" is defined within the Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines[2] as the way in which visual, historical, ecological and physical factors relate to one another to create the distinctive patterns and regional variations for which the English landscape is famous.

5.6 The consideration of landscape character is of high importance to the strategic assessment and planning of green infrastructure, as it gives an indication of which elements of existing green infrastructure are in keeping with their local landscape character and which are incongruous, for example geometric coniferous woodland within a relatively unwooded lowland landscape with an organic field pattern.

5.7 An understanding of landscape character is essential for the planning of green infrastructure, as it not only ensures that any new green infrastructure created will be in keeping with its surroundings but also the creation of new green infrastructure presents strong opportunities for the realisation of local landscape objectives, for example, the restoration of local parkland landscapes.

Key Data Sources

- Warwickshire County Council
- Natural England

Warwickshire Landscapes Project

Introduction

5.8 The Warwickshire Landscapes Project, set up in 1987 and completed in 1993, was a pioneering project designed to develop a new methodology for the assessment and conservation of the county's landscape character. The project was a success and resulted in the methodology being adopted by the Countryside Commission and used widely in lowland England.

5.9 The underlying principle of the Project methodology was to systematically analyse the major influences that have shaped the character of the landscape to derive areas of common character. These influences include physical information relating to geology, soils and topography, as well as the human influences that have shaped the landscapes over centuries, if not millennia, of history.

5.10 The result of the Project was the publication of three "Landscapes Guidelines" booklets covering the following Regional Character Areas[3] (RCAs):

- Arden
- Dunsmore – High Cross Plateau – Mease Lowlands
- Avon Valley – Feldon – Cotswolds

5.11 The majority of the study area lies within the Arden RCA, although the eastern part of Coventry lies mostly within Dunsmore RCA and the north-eastern extremity of the study area falls within the High Cross Plateau RCA (see Figure 5.1).

5.12 The RCAs defined within the Project broadly align with the Natural England Joint Character Areas (JCAs) described below, although Dunsmore falls within the "Dunsmore and Feldon" JCA and the High Cross Plateau lies within the "Leicestershire Vales" JCA. The boundary between Arden and Dunsmore also occurs at a finer scale within the Project and it is assumed that this is due to a greater detail of study and as such, is more accurate.

5.13 The following sections will explore the three RCAs that fall within the study area, describing them and outlining the management strategy and guidelines prescribed within the Project.

---

[2] Warwickshire County Council, 1993

[3] Defined within the Project as "Distinct landscape regions, often very extensive, where common physical, historical, ecological and cultural associations impart a sense of unity to the landscape."

Arden

General Description

5.14 Arden RCA is an area of former wood pasture and ancient farmland traditionally located between the Rivers Tame and Avon in Warwickshire. It is one of the most wooded parts of the Midlands and is home to the historic "Forest of Arden" made popular by Shakespeare.

5.15 Arden has been subject to human influence for many centuries, which has resulted in the gradual clearance of its native oak woodland. The Domesday Survey recorded 50 square miles of woodland and wood pasture in Arden, although much of this has subsequently been enclosed for arable and pastoral farming. Much of this enclosure had occurred by the 16th Century, resulting in a small-scale, irregular farmed landscape of hedged "closes" which is strongly evident within the study area between Allesley and Fillongley.

5.16 Several manorial deer parks were established within Arden between the 12th and 14th Centuries and while many are now lost, the countryside surrounding Coventry contains good surviving examples at Packington and Stoneleigh. The enclosure of parkland continued beyond the 15th Century and the best surviving examples near to Coventry are at Arbury and Berkswell.

5.17 The earliest map of Arden, produced in 1822, showed that only small remnants of woodland remained at this time and it is recorded that the overall woodland area has changed very little since this time.

5.18 With regard to ecology, the dominant vegetation type is dense broadleaved woodland dominated by oak on sandy soils and lime on clays and loams. These species are well reflected in Coventry, especially as lime appears to be a popular selection for urban tree planting.

5.19 While no large habitat areas have survived the expansion of development and farming in Arden, significant ecological interest lies within its ancient woodland and other ancient vegetation types, notably heathland, hedgerows and unimproved grassland.

5.20 The overall visual character of Arden is that of a well-wooded landscape characterised by mature hedgerow oak trees, ancient woodland and historic parks. This has created an intimate landscape with a strong sense of place.

5.21 Areas of former common or heath also impart a strong sense of unity, including the presence of widespread "heathy" vegetation such as bracken on roadsides. These areas may also be identified by their small-scale field patterns and geometric road layouts.

Landscape Changes and Current Trends

5.22 The following changes and trends to the Arden landscape as a whole are recorded within the Arden Landscape Guidelines, although it should be noted that this publication is now 15 years old and therefore some of these may no longer be current and additional trends may be occurring that have not been identified.

5.23 This is particularly applicable to the impacts of agricultural intensification, where the de-coupling of agricultural subsidies from production and introduction of activity-based area payments and cross-compliance[4] measures are resulting in less production-focused farming practices.

[4] The term 'cross-compliance' refers to the requirement for farmers to comply with a set of Statutory Management Requirements and keep their land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition in order to qualify for farming subsidies. The Statutory Management Requirements relate to the areas of public, animal and plant health, environment and animal welfare, while the standards of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition relate to the issues of soil erosion, soil organic matter, soil structure and ensuring a minimum level of maintenance, avoiding the deterioration of habitats.

5.24 This also applies to forestry practices, where recent policy promotes the protection and restoration of ancient woodland and the significant decline of the softwood timber market and grant incentives for broadleaved tree planting has discouraged the planting of conifers.

- Agricultural intensification
  - Conversion of permanent pasture (principally dairy) to arable use
  - Change of practice from hay to silage leading to grassland improvement
  - Removal of hedgerows and hedge trees resulting in landscape fragmentation
  - Land drainage and conversion leading to loss of wetland habitats

- Trees and woodland
  - 16% of ancient woodland lost between 1950 and 1993
  - 42% of ancient woodland sites replanted between 1950 and 1993
  - Demise of oak as a final crop tree
  - Neglect of woods, individual trees and hedgerows, including excessive hedge trimming

- Pressures for new development
  - Erosion of ancient settlement pattern and rural character
  - Ribbon development on Coventry's urban fringe
  - Suburban character between Coventry and Birmingham
  - Mineral extraction for coal in the north of the RCA and aggregate in the centre

- Highway improvements
  - Cutting through existing landscape patterns
  - Includes M6, M45, M40, M42 and A45
  - Field rationalisation along road corridors
  - Effect of traffic movement and noise on tranquillity
  - Reduction of landscape character through removal of characteristic features, e.g. hedgerows, ancient hedgebanks and fords

General Development Guidelines

5.25 The Arden Landscape Guidelines include the following list of general development guidelines for the entire RCA. Those guidelines that are relevant to the delivery of green infrastructure through the strategic growth of Coventry have been identified with an asterisk.

- Conserve all sites of archaeological and historical importance*
- Conserve the character of rural settlements by retaining existing features and local patterns in all development schemes*
- Soften hard built edges through increased tree planting within and around new development*
- New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend in with the surrounding farmed landscape
- Landscape assessment should be a major consideration at the inception of all road schemes*
- Conserve rural character by limiting standardised treatments during highway improvement schemes*
- Protect and conserve the irregular pattern and characteristic features of roads and lanes*
- Highway landscaping should be strongly linked to the surrounding landscape pattern*
- Restoration proposals for mineral workings should be based upon an assessment of landscape character*

Arden RCA Strategy and Guidelines

5.26 The overall management strategy for the Arden RCA is the conservation of its historic, well-wooded character, identified as "Shakespeare's Arden" and distinct from the "planned" character of much of Warwickshire's countryside. Woodland, in particular ancient woodland, is

key to the preservation of this character with the Arden RCA displaying more than twice the overall Warwickshire woodland cover.

5.27 The overall management guidelines for the Arden RCA are shown in Table 5.2 below. To aid interpretation, each guideline has been subjectively colour coded to indicate its level of harmony with the delivery of the Coventry New Growth Point and in particular its associated green infrastructure, as follows:

- Red: Guideline is likely to conflict with the delivery of strategic growth objectives
- Yellow: Guideline is unlikely to interact with the delivery of strategic growth objectives
- Green: Guideline is complementary to the delivery of strategic growth objectives

Table 5.2: Interaction of Arden Management Guidelines with New Growth Point

Ref	Guideline	NGP Interaction
1	Maintain the historic dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets and scattered farmsteads	
2	Conserve the built character of Arden by ensuring that new development reflects the vernacular style	
3	Conserve the high heritage and ecological value of individual ancient oaks	
4	Conserve all ancient woodland sites and restock with locally occurring native species (principally oak but also small leaved lime)	
5	Restocking of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites should favour native broadleaved species preferably through natural regeneration	
6	Promote long rotation coppice as a management tool for neglected small woods	
7	The design of all new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern	
8	New woodland planting should be broadleaved in character and favour oak as the major tree species	
9	Avoid the removal of hedgerows, especially along footpaths, bridleways, parish boundaries and woodland edges	
10	Promote the management of hedgerows and landscape features	
11	Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on all remnant heathy areas	
12	Diversify roadside character through the creation and management of heathy vegetation on highway verges	
13	The design of recreational facilities, such as golf courses, should seek to reflect the character of existing landscape features	

5.28 As the table above shows, many of these aspirations can be realised through the delivery of well-planned growth under the New Growth Point. The only guideline that is in conflict with the strategic growth of Coventry is Guideline 1, on account of the national policy requirement under PPS3 (see Chapter 4) for a minimum development density of 30 dwellings per hectare to ensure the efficient use of land. This is, however, a marginal issue to green infrastructure in comparison to the other guidelines.

Local Landscape Types

5.29 Local Landscape Types[5], also referred to as Landscape Character Types, form a finer level of landscape character assessment units.

5.30 Arden RCA contains the following Local Landscape Types, of which those marked with an asterisk occur within the Coventry study area (see Figure 5.2):

- Ancient Arden*
- Arden Pastures
- Industrial Arden*
- Arden Parklands*
- Wooded Estatelands
- Arden River Valleys
- River Valley Wetlands

5.31 The three Local Landscape Types that occur within the study area are described individually in the following sections.

Ancient Arden Character Description

5.32 The overall character of Ancient Arden is that of a small-scale farmed landscape with a varied, undulating topography, characterised by an irregular pattern of fields and narrow, winding lanes.

5.33 Characteristic features are:

- Varied, undulating topography comprising low, rounded hills, steep scarps and small, incised valleys emphasised by woods and wooded scarps
- Small-scale, intricate landscape with a strong sense of enclosure
- Network of winding lanes and trackways often confined by, and defined in the landscape by, tall hedge banks
- Well-wooded character comprising irregularly-shaped woods, hedge trees (particularly hedgerow and roadside oaks), small parks and strongly wooded streamlines
- Field ponds associated with permanent pasture
- Many place names ending in Green or End
- Majority of woods are less than 5 hectares in area, although Close Wood and Birchley Hays Wood to the north-west of Coventry are larger
- Majority of woodland is oak-dominated, although larger sites have been replanted with conifers and other broadleaved species

[5] Defined within the Project as "Types of countryside which have a unity of character due to particular combinations of landform and landcover and a consistent pattern of characteristic features."

Ancient Arden Management Strategy and Guidelines

5.34 The management strategy for the Ancient Arden Local Landscape Type is to conserve and restore its ancient irregular landscape pattern, which is the only ancient landscape in Warwickshire. This is defined by the area's irregular fields and narrow, winding lanes, as well as its pastoral character, which acts as a unifying factor within this landscape.

5.35 The management guidelines for Ancient Arden are shown in Table 5.3 below. To aid interpretation, each guideline has been subjectively colour coded to indicate its level of harmony with the delivery of the Coventry New Growth Point and in particular its associated green infrastructure, as follows:

- Red: The delivery of strategic growth objectives is likely to conflict with this guideline
- Yellow: The delivery of strategic growth objectives is unlikely to interact with this guideline
- Green: The delivery of strategic growth objectives is complementary to this guideline

Table 5.3: Interaction of Ancient Arden Management Guidelines with New Growth Point

Ref	Guideline	NGP Interaction
1	Conserve and restore the irregular pattern of ancient hedgerows	
2	New hedge planting should reflect the irregular field pattern and include only mixed native species	
3	Conserve pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable land back to permanent pasture	
4	Retain and manage field ponds in areas of permanent pasture	
5	Encourage the natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks	
6	Enhance tree cover through small scale woodland planting	
7	Conserve rural character by restricting changes in the use of rural land	

5.36 Table 5.3 shows that significant development within Ancient Arden is likely to conflict heavily with the landscape guidelines for this Local Landscape Type, especially Guideline 7 which is resistant to land use change. These conflicts principally arise from the tendency of development to break down landscape patterns and the potential loss of characteristic permanent pasture and its associated features to development. However, on the southern margins around Eastern Green, the predominantly arable landscape has become degraded, with a declining strength of character as reflected in the Coventry Urban Fringe Study, 2007. Some development of this land may offer opportunities for landscape enhancement to strengthen the primary hedgerow pattern, enhance tree cover along primary hedgelines and identify opportunities for new woodland and hedge planting to strengthen a sense of cohesion.

5.37 If development is permitted in this landscape then it has the potential to meet Guidelines 5 and 6 through the retention of existing hedgerows in development schemes and the creation of small woods as part of landscaping schemes.

Industrial Arden Character Description

5.38 The overall character of Industrial Arden is that of a rather variable, often run-down urban fringe landscape characterised by mining settlements, spoil heaps and pockets of farmland.

5.39 The characteristic features of Industrial Arden are as follows:

- A variable, fragmented urban fringe landscape, often with steeply undulating topography
- Pockets of farmland, often surrounded on two or more sides by urban development
- A generally poorly defined pattern of small hedged fields with poor, gappy hedges, especially where arable
- Some permanent pasture with ancient hazel and holly hedgerows on urban fringes
- Small, closely spaced mining settlements, often on hill tops
- Rows of terraced houses along roadsides
- Disused spoil heaps with semi-natural grassland and scrub
- Golf courses, playing fields and other non-agricultural land breaking up urban fringes
- Characteristic vegetation is heathy with birch, gorse and bracken, often present in remnant unenclosed commons with unfenced roads

Industrial Arden Management Strategy and Guidelines

5.40 The management strategy for Industrial Arden is to conserve the diversity and local distinctiveness of the landscape, in particular the distinctive coal mining settlements and their surroundings. The Landscape Guidelines note, however, that this landscape is occasionally degraded and that landscape enhancement is often a priority.

5.41 The management guidelines for Industrial Arden are shown in Table 5.4 below. To aid interpretation, each guideline has been subjectively colour coded to indicate its level of harmony with the delivery of the Coventry New Growth Point and in particular its associated green infrastructure, as follows:

- Red: The delivery of strategic growth objectives is likely to conflict with this guideline
- Yellow: The delivery of strategic growth objectives is unlikely to interact with this guideline
- Green: The delivery of strategic growth objectives is complementary to this guideline

Table 5.4: Interaction of Industrial Arden Management Guidelines with New Growth Point

Ref	Guideline	NGP Interaction
1	Conserve the distinctive local vernacular character of the mining villages	
2	Conserve and strengthen the pattern of small and medium size hedged fields	
3	Retain and manage old, naturally re-vegetated spoil heaps as landscape features	
4	Identify opportunities for enhancing landscape character through more creative design of public open space	
5	Encourage the natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks	
6	Enhance tree cover through small-scale tree planting	

5.42 Table 5.4 shows that strategic growth presents several complementary opportunities within this landscape, principally through the retention of vernacular features within green infrastructure networks and development design. Strategic growth would conflict with Guideline 2 because it is likely that these fields would be required for urban fringe development, potentially leading to a loss of landscape pattern, although those fields that were retained could be improved as part of development landscaping schemes.

Arden Parklands Character Description

5.43 The overall character of the Arden Parklands Local Landscape Type is that of an enclosed, gently rolling landscape defined by woodland edges, parkland and belts of trees.

5.44 The characteristic features of Arden Parklands are as follows:

- Planned estate landscape closely associated with former wood pasture and historic deer parks
- Middle distance views over almost flat topography enclosed by woodland edge
- Medium to large scale landscape defined by woodland edges, belts of trees and wooded streamlines
- Belts of mature trees associated with estatelands
- Many ancient woods, often large with irregular outlines, e.g. Crackley Wood near Kenilworth
- Ancient woodland complemented by geometric mature plantations of mixed exotic species
- Large country houses set in mature parkland
- Remnant medieval deer parks with ancient pollard oaks, e.g. Packington and Stoneleigh
- Some parks converted to golf courses
- Thick roadside hedges, often with bracken

Arden Parklands Management Strategy and Guidelines

5.45 The overall management strategy for Arden Parklands is to retain and enhance the effect of wooded enclosure that is provided by its ancient woodland and mature tree belts. These wooded spaces define the character and scale of the landscape and the strategy is to create a more unified landscape by enhancing its wooded character.

5.46 The management guidelines for Arden Parklands are shown in Table 5.5 below. To aid interpretation, each guideline has been subjectively colour coded to indicate its level of harmony with the delivery of the Coventry New Growth Point and in particular its associated green infrastructure, as follows:

- Red: The delivery of strategic growth objectives is likely to conflict with this guideline
- Yellow: The delivery of strategic growth objectives is unlikely to interact with this guideline
- Green: The delivery of strategic growth objectives is complementary to this guideline

Table 5.5: Interaction of Arden Parklands Management Guidelines with New Growth Point

Ref	Guideline	NGP Interaction
1	Felling coupes should be designed to retain the effect of wooded enclosure	
2	Species selection along woodland edges should favour native trees and shrubs	
3	Enhance tree cover through the planting of new woods and belts of trees	
4	Existing parkland should be retained and enhanced where opportunities arise, consideration should be given to restoring areas of former park	
5	Conserve and strengthen primary hedgelines and manage these more positively as landscape features	
6	Identify opportunities to re-establish heathland on suitable sites	

5.47 Table 5.5 shows that strategic growth has the potential to comply with the majority of these guidelines through the establishment of significant areas of well-placed and well-designed native woodland as landscaping to reinforce this landscape's sense of wooded enclosure. Development contributions may also be invested in the re-establishment of heathland on nearby or adjacent sites. The only potential conflict identified is Guideline 4 and this is because with the increasing pressure on land for development, parkland restoration may be constrained although equally large areas of informal open space within significant developments could be designed to reflect the character of historic parkland.

Dunsmore and High Cross Plateau

5.48 The Dunsmore and High Cross Plateau RCAs are located to the east of Coventry. The Warwickshire Landscapes Project has combined these two areas in one landscape guidance publication, along with the Mease Lowlands RCA which does not relate to the study area. This publication provides separate descriptions for these RCAs but a common management strategy and set of guidelines. Local Landscape Types are addressed individually, in the same manner as for Arden.

5.49 This section will therefore separately describe the Dunsmore and High Cross Plateau RCAs.

Dunsmore General Description

5.50 The Dunsmore RCA occupies the wedge-shaped area of low ridges and valleys lying between Leamington Spa, Coventry and Rugby. It is a planned landscape of large fields and small villages and an area of transition, reflecting the heathy character of Arden to the west and the dissected rolling topography of the High Cross Plateau to the north.

5.51 In terms of its physical influences, Dunsmore is heavily influenced by its underlying geology and topography, comprising gravel-capped ridges separated by valleys with underlying clay. Of particular relevance to this study is the ridge separating the Avon and Sowe valleys between Bretford and Baginton.

5.52 The historical development of Dunsmore has been strongly influenced by its physical character, with evidence of prehistoric clearance and settlement on the ridges and the Avon and Leam valleys, although it is recorded that the higher parts of the ridges had reverted to rough grazing land and waste by the late Anglo-Saxon times.

5.53 During the early medieval period the more productive arable land was densely settled and managed on a two or three field crop rotation system with grazing undertaken on fallow fields, although depopulation followed from the 13th Century onwards influenced by the Cistercian monks of Coombe Abbey and the increasing profitability of stock rearing. Much of the heathland within the area remained open until parliamentary enclosure in the 18th and 19th Centuries created the current geometric field pattern with large fields, straight roads and lines of mature hedgerow trees.

5.54 Coventry has always been the dominant settlement in this area and has been very prosperous in the past, as the former capital of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia and the fifth wealthiest English city in the medieval period. This success was later followed up with its industrial expansion as a manufacturing centre.

5.55 With regard to its ecological value, the intensive farming activities that have taken place in Dunsmore have greatly reduced its semi-natural habitats, although ancient woodland and riparian habitats remain of value.

5.56 A high concentration of ancient woodland, the highest in Warwickshire, remains on the glacial plateaux around Bubbenhall and Binley. Oak and birch (silver and downy) are the most common species with locally abundant ash-dominated woodland types on more base-rich soils and alder in wetter areas. Large stools of small leaved lime and wild service are rare and notable.

5.57 Woodland flora is generally simple, although it is noted that bluebells are abundant with wood anemone, primrose and red campion also common. The acidic nature of much of the woodland

soil results in the abundant growth of bracken in cleared areas and the wet woodland areas in the valleys contain typical floral associations with sedges and rushes.

5.58 The woods of Dunsmore are known for the large variety of insects they support, including the rare white admiral, purple hairstreak and silver washed fritillary butterflies.

5.59 The river valleys of Dunsmore are of value on account of their flood meadows, rough pasture, scrub and pollarded willows. Stands of Norfolk reed and reed canary grass are also of interest, along with yellow waterlilies and arrowhead and bird species associated with the watercourses include moorhen and kingfisher.

5.60 The flood meadows associated with the rivers are of particular value, although few have survived to the present day with most having been subject to agricultural improvement. A notable surviving example is at Brandon, where a nature reserve has been established. Where the quality of flood water is high and the nutrient content of silt low, these meadows support very rich floral communities, including vetches, sweet-grass, marsh marigold, ragged robin, meadow cranesbill, birdsfoot trefoil and yellow flag, as well as occasional meadow rue.

5.61 Visually, Dunsmore is characterised by a range of historic and ecological associations, which are strongly influenced by its underlying geology. This includes a strong association with former common and heath on glacial soils and a well-wooded appearance characterised by mature hedgerow oaks, ancient woodland and historic parkland.

High Cross Plateau General Description

5.62 The High Cross Plateau is an area of wide rolling ridges and valleys occupying the high ground between Rugby and Hinckley and extending northwards into Leicestershire. It forms the south-western section of the Leicestershire Wolds and is named after the stone monument which marks the crossing point of the Watling Street and Fosse Way Roman Roads.

5.63 The High Cross Plateau lies between the drainage basins of the Upper Avon tributaries and the River Soar. Its underlying geology comprises a thick layer of glacial drift over Mercia Mudstones and Lower Lias Clays. This layer of drift material includes clays, gravels and sands with varying amounts of local rocks, flints and chalk.

5.64 A number of small watercourses dissect the plateau, for example the stream running through Withybrook. These form deep, but poorly defined valleys separated by broad rounded ridges. While these ridge summits are often capped by lighter, free-draining soils, the majority of the soils across this RCA are heavy with impeded drainage, derived from the underlying boulder clay.

5.65 With regard to the human influences upon this RCA, activity from the late prehistoric period onwards (including that associated with the two major Roman roads) resulted in the majority of its woodland being cleared by the time of the Norman Conquest. Agriculture was moderately well developed in this area at this point and by the medieval times the land was subject to rotational farming comprising three or four large fields, centred around settlements.

5.66 Much of the High Cross Plateau was enclosed during Tudor times creating large fields for stock rearing which were subsequently divided into smaller units in the 18th Century. The process of enclosure was accompanied by the desertion or shrinkage of settlements and this is evidenced in the deserted villages of Hopsford and Upper Smite within the study area.

5.67 On account of its long history of agriculture, the majority of the ecological interest lies within its farmland, in particular areas of neutral grassland and associated features such as hedgerows and field ponds. Streamlines are also important, providing wildlife connectivity.

5.68 The farming practices of the 20th Century have resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of unimproved neutral grassland on the High Cross Plateau, although some areas remain including at Withybrook. Typical species within this grassland includes crested dogstail, meadow barley, fescue, timothy and foxtail. Where these areas have been managed for hay the sward also commonly includes field woodrush, greater burnet, knapweed, ox-eye daisy, yellow rattle and ribwort plantain.

5.69 As well as providing wildlife connectivity across the Plateau, the streamlines are also associated with a range of valuable wetland habitats including marginal marsh vegetation,

unimproved meadow and alder and willow carr. These habitats support attractive flowering plants such as water stitchwort, marsh marigold and yellow flag, as well as invertebrate and fish populations.

5.70 Woodland on the High Cross Plateau is generally restricted to small recent shelterbelts and spinnies and while these may be of some ecological value, this is relatively minor compared to the ancient woodland of the adjacent Arden RCA.

5.71 The visual character of the High Cross Plateau has been strongly influenced by both its physical nature and historical development. The early enclosure of this area has led to a large-scale landscape with large fields and a nucleated settlement pattern resulting in a general feel of emptiness and rural character.

Landscape Changes and Current Trends

5.72 The following changes and trends to the combined Dunsmore, High Cross and Mease Lowlands landscapes are recorded within the joint Landscape Guidelines publication for these RCAs, although it should be noted that this publication is now 15 years old and therefore some of these may no longer be current and additional trends may be occurring that have not been identified.

5.73 As with Arden, this particularly applies to recent changes in agricultural and forestry policy and practice and Chapter 2 should be consulted for further details.

- Agricultural intensification
  - Conversion of permanent pasture (principally dairy) to arable use
  - Change of practice from hay to silage leading to grassland improvement
  - Removal of hedgerows and hedge trees resulting in landscape fragmentation

- Pressures for new development
  - Poor location and design of new development having “suburbanising” effect on settlement character
  - Concentration of new development near transport corridors
  - Highway construction and improvement leading to field rationalisation and loss of hedgerows and hedge trees

General Development Guidelines

5.74 The Dunsmore, High Cross and Mease Lowlands Landscape Guidelines include the following list of general development guidelines for the three RCAs.

- Conserve all sites of historical and archaeological importance
- Conserve the rural character of villages by retaining existing features and local patterns in all development schemes
- Protect and enhance the internal open space and irregular outline of village settlements
- Conserve the historic nucleated settlement pattern by avoiding new development in open countryside
- New agricultural buildings should be sites, designed and landscaped to blend in with the surrounding farmed landscape
- Landscape assessment should be a major consideration at the inception of all road schemes
- Conserve rural character by limiting standardised treatments during highway improvement schemes
- Protect the character and special features of country roads
- Highway landscaping should be strongly linked to the surrounding landscape pattern
- Restoration proposals for mineral workings should be based upon an assessment of landscape character

Dunsmore Local Landscape Types

5.75 Local Landscape Types (see above), also referred to as Landscape Character Types, form a finer level of landscape character assessment units.

5.76 Dunsmore RCA contains the following three Local Landscape Types, all of which occur within the Coventry study area (see Figure 5.2):

- Plateau Farmlands
- Plateau Fringe
- Dunsmore Parklands

5.77 The three Local Landscape Types which occur within the study area are described individually in the following sections.

Plateau Farmlands Character Description

5.78 The overall character of the Plateau Farmlands Local Landscape Type is that of a simple, often heavily wooded, farmed landscape, typically confined to low plateau summits, and characterised by sandy soils and remnant heathy vegetation.

5.79 The characteristic features of the Plateau Farmlands are as follows:

- A gently rolling topography of low glacial plateaux
- An “empty” landscape of former waste with few roads and little settlement
- A regular geometric field pattern defined by closely cropped hawthorn hedges
- Many mature hedgerow oaks
- Large blocks of ancient woodland
- A historic land use pattern reflected in the local abundance of “Heath” names
- Remnant heathy vegetation in woodland and roadside verges
- Many sand and gravel pits

Plateau Farmlands Management Strategy and Guidelines

5.80 The management strategy for the Plateau Farmlands Local Landscape Type is to maintain and enhance the distinctive historic character of the landscape, which is principally defined by its undeveloped empty character and geometric field pattern defined by lines of mature hedgerow trees.

Plateau Fringe Character Description

5.81 The overall character of the Plateau Fringe Local Landscape Type is that of a rather variable, often large scale farmed landscape with a varied undulating topography and characterised by a nucleated settlement pattern of small, often shrunken villages.

5.82 The characteristic features of the Plateau Fringe are as follows:

- An undulating topography of low rounded hills and narrow meandering valleys
- Large arable fields, often with a poorly defined field pattern
- Pockets of permanent pasture and smaller hedged fields, usually associated with more steeply sloping ground
- A nucleated settlement pattern typically comprising loose clusters of dwellings
- Isolated, brick built farmsteads

Plateau Fringe Management Strategy and Guidelines

5.83 The management strategy for the Plateau Fringe Local Landscape Type is to enhance the overall structure and key features within the farmed landscape. Key features include the large hedged fields and woods which provide structure and unity to the landscape.

Dunsmore Parklands Character Description

5.84 The overall character of the Dunsmore Parklands Local Landscape Type is that of an enclosed, gently rolling estate landscape with a strongly wooded character defined by woodland edges, parkland and belts of trees.

5.85 The characteristic features of Dunsmore Parklands are as follows:

- Middle distance views enclosed by woodland edges
- Belts of mature trees associated with estatelands
- Large blocks of woodland and smaller coverts
- Sequence of linked wooded spaces
- Mature parkland with large country houses
- Mature hedgerow and roadside oaks
- Poorly defined field pattern of large fields

Dunsmore Parklands Management Strategy and Guidelines

5.86 The management strategy for the Dunsmore Parklands Local Landscape Type is to maintain and enhance the enclosed wooded character of the landscape.

High Cross RCA Management Strategy and Guidelines

5.87 The Dunsmore, High Cross and Mease Lowlands Landscapes Guidelines presents a common overall management strategy and set of guidelines for the High Cross and Mease Lowlands RCAs. As discussed above, none of the Mease Lowlands landscapes occur within the study area, therefore these guidelines have only been applied to High Cross for the purpose of this study.

5.88 The overall management strategy for the High Cross RCA is to conserve and enhance the remote rural character of the region. This character is reflected in the wide views over rolling farmland within this RCA and the strong impression of remoteness and space that is gained.

High Cross Local Landscape Types

5.89 Local Landscape Types (see above), also referred to as Landscape Character Types, form a finer level of landscape character assessment units.

5.90 High Cross RCA contains the following two Local Landscape Types, both of which occur within the Coventry study area (see Figure 5.2):

- Open Plateau
- Village Farmlands

5.91 The two Local Landscape Types which occur within the study area are described individually in the following sections.

Open Plateau Character Description

5.92 The overall character of the Open Plateau Local Landscape Type is that of a large scale open rolling landscape characterised by wide views and a strong impression of “emptiness” and space.

5.93 The characteristic features of the Open Plateau are as follows:

- A rolling plateau dissected by broad valleys
- A medium to large scale, often poorly defined field pattern
- A sparsely populated landscape of hamlets and isolated manor farmsteads
- Deserted medieval village sites surrounded by extensive areas of “empty” countryside
- Pockets of permanent pasture often with ridge and furrow

- Prominent belts of woodland

Open Plateau Management Strategy and Guidelines

5.94 The management strategy for the Open Plateau Local Landscape Type is to strengthen the structure and unity of the landscape through large scale woodland planting.

Village Farmlands Character Description

5.95 The overall character of the village farmlands is that of a small scale mainly pastoral hedged landscape closely associated with village settlements around the plateau fringe.

5.96 The characteristic features of the Village Farmlands are:

- A varied undulating topography typically associated with small valleys
- A mainly geometric pattern of small fields enclosed with thorn hedges
- Permanent pasture often with ridge and furrow
- A nucleated settlement pattern of small rural villages
- Narrow winding lanes
- Scattered hedgerow and roadside ash trees
- Field ponds often fringed by trees and scrub

Village Farmlands Management Strategy and Guidelines

5.97 The management strategy for the Village Farmlands Local Landscape Type is to conserve the diversity and local distinctiveness of the landscape. This diversity is reflected within the undulating topography, pastoral character, small-scale field pattern, hedgerow trees and village settlements.

Natural England Joint Character Areas

5.98 In 1996 the former Countryside Commission (now part of Natural England) published The Character of England map. This map divides England into 159 Joint Character Areas (JCAs), based on a combination of landscape and biodiversity character, and is accompanied by 8 regional documents describing the JCAs in each region. As a sub-regional scale assessment it provides a useful broad landscape context for Coventry and the study area, but should not be used to define the specific character of the study area.

Arden

5.99 As shown on Figures 5.1 and 5.3, the boundary of the Arden JCA broadly follows that of the Arden RCA presented within the Warwickshire Landscapes Project. The principal difference is that the Arden JCA boundary follows a more “approximate” alignment than that of the RCA, which is of a finer detail because of its basis on individual Land Description Units (see above).

5.100 The character description of the Arden JCA is very similar to that of the RCA, with its key characteristics being listed as follows:

- Well-wooded farmed landscape with rolling landform
- Ancient landscape pattern of small fields, winding lanes and dispersed, isolated hamlets
- Contrasting patterns of well-hedged, irregular fields and small woodlands interspersed with larger semi-regular fields on former deer parks and estates, and a geometric pattern on former commons
- Numerous areas of former wood pasture with large, old oak trees, often associated with heathland remnants
- Narrow, meandering river valleys with long river meadows
- North-eastern industrial area based around former Warwickshire coalfield, with distinctive colliery settlements
- North-western area dominated by urban development and associated urban edge landscapes

Dunsmore

5.101 The Dunsmore RCA falls within the Dunsmore and Feldon JCA, in which it is described as a "sub-character area". As with Arden, its boundary occurs at a "broader" scale than that of the RCA and the boundary between Dunsmore and Feldon is not distinguished.

5.102 The character description of the sub-character area is broadly similar to that of the Dunsmore RCA, with its key characteristics being listed as follows:

- Farmland with large geometric fields divided by straight hedges with many hedgerow trees
- Generally well-wooded appearance but also extensive open arable farmland
- Heathland character still evident in woodland clearings and roadsides
- Plateau landscape of open, flat, rather empty character, with long views
- Plateau fringes more enclosed, with rolling landform and woodland more dominant
- Large ancient woods of high nature conservation value in the west
- Strong urban influence in some areas

High Cross Plateau

5.103 The High Cross Plateau RCA falls within the Northamptonshire Vales/Leicestershire Vales JCA, although it occupies a very small proportion of the western extremity of this very wide ranging and variable JCA and therefore the empty, rural landscape of the High Cross Plateau is not fully represented within the description of this JCA.

5.104 For reference, the key characteristics of the Northamptonshire Vales/Leicestershire Vales JCA are as follows:

- Gentle clay ridges and valleys with little woodland and strong patterns of Tudor and parliamentary enclosure
- Distinct river valleys of Soar, Welland and Nene with flat floodplains and gravel terraces
- Large towns of Leicester (sic) and Northampton dominate the landscape
- Frequent small towns and large villages, often characterised by red brick buildings
- Prominent parks and country houses
- Frequently imposing, spired churches
- Attractive stone buildings in older village centres and eastern towns and villages
- Great diversity of landscape and settlement pattern with many sub units, e.g. Nene Valley and Welland Valley

Landscape Description Units

5.105 A project led by Warwickshire County Council is currently ongoing[6] to further divide the Local Landscape Types shown on Figure 5.2 into more local-level units to improve the understanding of Warwickshire's landscape at a local level and improve the potential for development to respond to local landscape character.

5.106 The output of this project to date consists of a set of mapped areas, referred to as Landscape Description Units (LDUs), which are local areas of common landscape character. These are shown on Figure 5.4 and represent the results of a desktop study which have not yet been verified on the ground.

5.107 The eventual aspiration for this project is the production of a publicly available digital map, which shows the boundaries of these LDUs and is backed up by character description to enable this information to inform processes such as the design of new developments. Further progression of this project is, however, constrained by the availability of funding.

[6] Details obtained from telephone conversation with Warwickshire County Council in March 2008

Coventry Urban Fringe Landscape Assessment and Guidance

5.108 This document[7] represents the results of a project to determine the success with which the landscape management strategy within the Warwickshire Landscapes Project for the Ancient Arden Local Landscape Type (see above) has managed to maintain the character of this landscape.

5.109 The project focused upon one Landscape Description Unit (LDU) to the east of Coventry, which is shown as No. 68 on Figure 5.4, as well as a small area of LDU 39, which occurs within the Industrial Arden Local Landscape Type. It then sub-divided these LDUs into a number of smaller Land Cover Parcels (LCPs) based on differences in land cover and historic pattern. For each LCP the report provides a description of its character, evaluates its condition and identifies management priorities.

5.110 With regard to the overall character of the LCPs, the report concludes that this remains intact and that only minimal development has taken place here since 1993. It does note, however, that many pastoral areas recorded in 1993 have subsequently been converted to arable farming.

5.111 The main changes to the overall condition of this landscape are the loss of older permanent pasture and the decline in the appropriate management of field boundaries with hedgerows becoming gappy and thin at the base. It is also recorded that horse grazing on the urban edge and within LDU 39 is having a detrimental effect upon grassland composition, as well as introducing incongruous elements such as horse jumps and stables.

5.112 Other detrimental changes to the condition of this landscape included a decline in the age structure of hedgerow trees with many now mature and the local but significant adverse visual impact of new warehousing at Keresley.

5.113 To maintain and improve the current condition of this landscape, the report suggests management priorities going forward to be the effective management of hedgerows and the effective management of permanent pasture for its ecological function. The report also advocates the strategic planting of new broadleaved woodland to enhance existing patterns of cover and the restoration of existing ancient woodland, which it acknowledges as a scant resource within its study area.

[7] Coventry Urban Fringe: Landscape Assessment & Guidance (Warnock & Griffiths, 2007)

BIODIVERSITY

Introduction

5.114 The term "Biodiversity" refers to the variety of life in all forms, levels and combinations including ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity. The support and protection of biodiversity is a crucial function of green infrastructure. Almost all forms of green infrastructure have the potential to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity from providing specific habitat types for rare specialist species to increasing the permeability of the landscape for species movement, for example between feeding and breeding areas.

5.115 It is also important to conserve geodiversity and in particular those sites where exposed strata can be viewed, such as redundant quarry faces and railway cuttings. Green infrastructure has the potential to assist this process through the retention of and protection of important geological sites through their incorporation into well-managed open space frameworks.

Key Data Sources

- Natural England
- Warwickshire County Council
- Coventry City Council
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Natural Areas

5.116 In conjunction with the landscape assessment of the Joint Character Areas above, the former English Nature (now part of Natural England) established a set of Natural Areas (NAs) that are keyed to the JCA boundaries and which relate to the biodiversity of these areas. These again provide a broad sub-regional context to the biodiversity character of the study area.

5.117 Coventry and its immediate environs fall within three Natural Areas namely; the Midlands Plateau, the Trent Valley & Rises and the Midland Clay Pastures.

The Midlands Plateau NA

5.118 The City of Coventry lies within the Midlands Plateau NA. The document describing this NA notes that the area comprises three landscape divisions of which Coventry is situated within the *Arden Character Area*. This south-eastern area of the plateau is described as a landscape of broadleaved woodland, hedgerow trees, small fields, winding sunken rivers and post-industrial areas. In terms of hydrology, the River Avon is described as a meandering, classic lowland river with pools, shoals, riffles and shallows. The River Sowe is also recognised as an important tributary.

5.119 The major habitat types of the area are described as heathland, woodland and associated grasslands. It is also noted that all habitats can also be found within urban areas depending on underlying geology and lowland/upland transitions. The man made waterways of the area, i.e. the extensive canal system, are noted as ecological intermediates between sluggish rivers and ponds which act to connect urban centres via rural landscapes.

5.120 Urban areas within the NA, including Coventry, are described as supporting significant habitats (usually remnants of semi-natural habitats) as well as transport corridors (roads, railways and canals) which provide a large natural resource and means for species to travel in urban areas and also other habitats such as established parks and suburban gardens.

5.121 Reference is also made to the post-industrial and derelict sites which, although man-made, do provide a diverse range of habitat types, spoil heaps, claypits, stone quarries, and sand and gravel workings which have been re-colonised by wildlife. Many of these sites are considered important due to the changes in industrial processes which now make it not feasibly possible to recreate most of them.

5.122 The document goes on to detail the expansion of towns and villages which has occurred to such an extent that approximately 40% of the plateau is urbanised and it considers an increase in recent decades of large, open arable fields with crop monocultures to be a significant factor in the decline of species and habitats in the area.

5.123 The document also includes a review of the main issues facing biodiversity in the area and sets out the overarching objectives to protect and perpetuate features with the NA, which include:

- Prevent further loss and degradation of small semi-natural habitats within the NA and enhance and expand the most important and characteristic types such as rivers and streams, wetlands, woodlands, heathland, neutral and acidic grasslands
- Enhance the nature conservation value of the wider countryside and urban areas to restore degraded areas whilst retaining the essential character of the NA
- Maintain and expand the populations of internationally and nationally important species, together with key species which are characteristic of the NA
- Maintain the geological and geomorphologic features of the NA for future research and enjoyment

The Midland Clay Pastures/The Trent Valley & Rises

5.124 The immediate north and eastern environs of Coventry lie within the remaining two NAs and as such only a small proportion of the study area is included in these NAs (see Figure 5.5).

5.125 In brief summary the Midland Clay Pastures NA (occupying the eastern part of the study area) is described as being dominated by arable land and agriculturally improved pastures which include important features such as hedgerows and mature trees, ponds and small watercourses and rough grassland margins which support and wide number of species. Other important habitats include broadleaved woodland (base-rich), acid grassland/heathland, neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, rivers, open water and wetlands. Important species of the area include those which demonstrate recent rapid declines such as skylark and grey partridge.

5.126 In brief summary the Trent Valley & Rises NA situated to the north of the study area comprises a geology that produces a fertile soil ideal for agriculture. Although a large part of the area is intensively farmed a number of important habitats are present. These include neutral grassland, wet meadows, parkland, wet woodland, gravel pits, reservoirs and rivers. These habitats support a range of species.

Table 5.6: Designations summary

Designation	Importance	Frequency
Special Areas for Conservation	International	0
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	National	8
Regionally Important Geological Sites	Regional	13
Local Nature Reserves	Local	4
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation	Local	51

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

5.127 The study area contains eight sites (see Figure 5.6) which have been designated as nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest:

Tilehill Wood

5.128 A woodland of approximately 30ha jointly managed as a nature reserve and bird sanctuary. The site is one of the largest areas of semi-natural woodland remaining in the county. Small acidic pools and mires have also developed within the woodland due to impeded drainage adding additional habitat and species interest.

Coombe Pool

5.129 Coombe pool is situated within the grounds of Coombe Abbey to the east of Coventry and was created in the 18th Century as part of the extensive landscape scheme associated with the abbey. The site includes the pool (of 36ha) and associated reedbeds and woodland totalling an area of approximately 50ha.

5.130 The pool is one of the most important ornithological sites in Warwickshire for its grey herons and other breeding birds and wintering wildfowl. An island within the pool supports the largest heronry in the county.

Brandon Marsh

5.131 Brandon marsh is a diverse complex of flooded gravel pits, fen and scrub adjacent to the River Avon to the east of Coventry. The site spans approximately 90 hectares and includes areas of

extensive open water, ditches and reedbeds developed from areas of colliery subsidence and sand and gravel workings. The marsh is recognised to be of regional importance for several species of breeding and overwintering birds.

Herald Way Marsh

5.132 Situated to the south-east of Coventry's administrative boundary on glacial sands and gravels overlaid by coal spoil the site, which is occupied and managed by Coventry City Council, supports a range of wetland communities which are scarce in the county including open water through to swamp and fen and also grassland, scrub and woodland mosaics. The marsh has been selected for its assemblage of invertebrates, a number of which are nationally rare.

5.133 Species recorded on site include insects normally associated with coastal areas that are well outside of their previously known range. A number of solider flies, some nationally scare, are also present.

Ryton & Brandon Marsh Gravel Pit

5.134 A 2.1 ha site designated for geological interest that includes three sections of important exposures showing Avon Terrace 4 gravels and overlying Baginton Gravel. The exposures of this site are described as being of major stratigraphic importance and have considerable potential for future research.

Webster's Clay Pit

5.135 A geological site comprising a small (0.3ha) sequence of sandstone and mudstones belonging to the Enville Formation which was laid down toward the end of the Carboniferous Period (ca 300 million years ago). This geology is no longer visible as it was buried by earth modelling as part of the reclamation of this former quarry site.

Ryton Wood

5.136 A large woodland block (94 ha) selected as an example of a lowland hazel-pedunculate oak woodland. The woodland also contains coppiced relics of small-leaved lime and supports a range of ornithological interest including presence of Nightingales and tree pipits.

Wolston Gravel Pits

5.137 A geological site that is of prime importance as a standard reference locality for Pleistocene studies.

Local Nature Reserves

5.138 Twenty local nature reserves (LNRs) have been identified in the study area (see Figure 5.6), of which fifteen are located within the Coventry City administrative boundary.

5.139 Those within Coventry City are as follows:

- *Wyken Slough LNR*: A 1.2ha marsh which attracts a number of wintering birds including snipe and reed bunting.
- *Tile Hill Wood LNR:* A 70ha mixed woodland which also designated as a SSSI (see above)
- *Limbrick Wood LNR:* A mixed woodland of some 9ha.
- *Pig Wood LNR:* At 14ha Pig Wood is a relatively small site bit does support mixed woodland and also other habitats such as a pond and ditch.
- *Plants Hill Wood LNR:* A mixed woodland of approx 9ha supporting oak and beech. Site also contains a shallow pool.
- *Park Wood LNR:* A large woodland covering an area of 19ha with ancient woodland remnants and also coniferous plantations. Also coppiced sweet chestnut present in the woodland.
- *Ten Shilling Wood LNR:* A small mixed woodland site of 5ha situated close to Park wood.
- *Hearsall Common Woodland LNR:* A large site of mixed woodland and open grassland with paths and benches
- *Canley Ford Community Woodland LNR:* A 3.4ha woodland site
- *Tocil Wood & Meadow LNR:* A 5.8ha site situated within the Warwick University Campus. The site comprises of an ancient woodland block and a small wild flower meadow.

- *Wainbody Wood & Stivichall Common LNR:* A mixed woodland with good spring flowers (including bluebell) providing surfaced paths and a bridleway.
- *Stonebridge Meadows LNR:* A 7.7ha reserve which includes unimproved pasture and alder woodland. Site also supports acidic grassland interest with a good range of flowering plants.
- *Willenhall Wood LNR:* A 9ha woodland site.
- *Herald Way Marsh LNR:* A site supporting a range of wetland communities which are scarce in the county, also designated as a SSSI (see above).
- *Stoke Floods LNR:* A 7.7ha reserve that supports a large lake with reedbeds and scrub, situated adjacent to the River Stowe. The lake supports many wetland plant species and also a varied bird assemblage. The reserve is cited as one of the most important wetland sites in Coventry.

5.140 The following are the remaining LNRs, which are located within the wider study area:

- *Knowle Hill*: A woodland/scrub site important for butterflies and acid vegetation
- *Kenilworth Commmon*: A diverse woodland and scrub site with relict heathland
- *Crackley Wood*: Woodland site with bluebells and invertebrate interest
- *Bedworth Sloughs LNR*: Small site supporting a pond and associated wetland habitats
- *Millisons Wood LNR:* An 11ha site of semi-natural woodland.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

5.141 The designation of Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is applied to the most important non-statutory nature conservation sites in the West Midlands. Sites designated as SINCs need to be of demonstrable nature conservation interest.

5.142 The study area contains 51 SINCs and a further 100 'potential' SINCs (pSINC). Figure 5.6 shows the location of these sites and they are listed in full at Appendix 3.

Coventry Nature Conservation Sites

5.143 The current Coventry Development Plan has introduced an additional local designation for sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest, referred to as Coventry Nature Conservation Sites. These sites are based upon the existing SINCs, although several SINCs in which ordinary planning controls would provide a suitable level of protection or where the benefits of allocation for development outweigh their nature conservation value have been omitted from this designation.

5.144 For the purpose of this study, however, the SINC designation has been used for local sites of value to maintain the objectivity of the assessment and because the current Development Plan will be superseded by the emerging Core Strategy for the city.

Regionally Important Geological Sites

5.145 The study area contains 13 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) (see Figure 5.6) of which many provide a range of exposures and rock types with educational value. Further site detail is listed below.

- *Newdigate Colliery Mineral Railway Cutting*: A cutting which reveals part of the Upper Carboniferous Whitacre Member.
- *Corley Cutting and Rock*: Provides a type of exposure of the Corley Conglomerate of the Upper Carboniferous Enville Formation. Site of educational value from A level to Degree standard.
- *Wickes Store' Coventry Road*: Part of an old quarry which was once one of the largest exposures of the Corley Conglomerate with considerable educational value.
- *Gibbet Hill Quarry*: A site of good exposure of the Gibbet Hill Conglomerate of the Kenilworth Sandstone Formation. The site has educational value for GCSE level upwards.
- *King's Hill Farm, Finham*: The site presents a large glacial erratic in-situ of monozonite. The site is a former SSSI and still provides a useful educational aid.
- *Mutslow Hill*: The best exposure of the Permian Enville Group in Warwickshire.
- *Quarryfield House Quarry*: A massive exposure of a sandstone buff belonging to the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone Group. The site is of educational value given the quality of structures exposed.
- *Baginton Garden Centre*: Old in-filled quarry noted for Sherwood Sandstone Group.
- *Claybrookes Marsh Spoil Heap:* Spoil material from a former Colliery which yields plant fossils of Upper Carboniferous
- *Canley Brook:* Section of brook containing a variety of exposures of sandstone and mudstones.
- *Meriden Hill Cutting*: Exposures showing coarse red sandstone of Upper Carboniferous Meriden Formation
- *Cherry Orchard Brickpit, Kenilworth*: A rare section of the Ashow Formation of the Permian Warwickshire Group.
- *Chapel Green, Fillongley*: Two sections of quarried face of sandstone and gritstone.

Habitat Biodiversity Audit

5.146 A Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) has been undertaken for the study area. The study has mapped local habitats and features with the information collated to date used to inform strategic decision making and enable ongoing habitat monitoring.

5.147 The results of this process are reproduced in full at Appendix 4 and represented graphically on Figure 5.7.

5.148 The most commonly represented habitat in the study area is what is described as "Unclassified", accounting for 8,293ha or 33% of the total area. This classification refers specifically to those areas which do not possess a Phase 1 habitat classification and in the context of Coventry this implies the built-up urban area and that covered by highways infrastructure. Given the level of detail at which the audit was undertaken, this serves to demonstrate the heavily built-up nature of the study area and especially that of the land within the Coventry administrative boundary, in which the "Unclassified" area rises to over 60% of the total land area.

5.149 Of the more natural habitats that fall within the scope of the Phase 1 habitat assessment, the most prevalent is arable farmland, which covers 6,518ha or 26% of the study area. Those other habitat types which occupy more than 1% of the study area are as follows:

- Improved grassland – 21%
- Amenity grassland – 7%
- Semi-improved neutral grassland – 4%
- Broadleaved semi-natural woodland – 3%
- Broadleaved plantation – 1%

5.150 This data shows that the setting of the city is predominantly agricultural, although within the city are significant areas of formal grassland. Woodland is a relatively minor component of the city, although it is encouraging to note that semi-natural woodland is the most prevalent type.

Landscapes for Living Project

5.151 The "Landscapes for Living" project is an initiative led by the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership (WMBP) in response to a requirement in the West Midlands Biodiversity Strategy for an area-based approach to restoring wildlife in the region. Its aim is to develop a 50-year biodiversity vision and opportunity map for the region, to help the transition of habitat and species conservation from the traditional site-scale approach to a more effective landscape-scale working.

5.152 In August 2007 WMBP published 'Landscapes for Living: Technical Report', the results of a study undertaken by consultants to develop the vision and opportunity map and to undertake a process of public consultation to ensure local support for the results. Future work envisaged within the project includes further study to develop sub-regional opportunity maps and to formulate delivery strategies.

5.153 The report divides the West Midlands into three zones based on the biodiversity value of individual Land Description Units (see above), with Zone 1 of highest biodiversity value containing the greatest proportion of priority habitats and ecological networks, Zone 2 of moderate biodiversity value containing significant qualities of priority habitats and Zone 3 of low biodiversity value, possessing reduced and dispersed habitats with high levels of isolation within a matrix of other land uses. Strategic river corridors and their floodplains were considered separately, as connecting networks between rural and urban landscapes.

5.154 The biodiversity opportunity map places the majority of the study area within Zone 3 with small areas of the immediate environs within Zone 2. The city of Coventry is also mapped as a "major urban area". The proposed vision for Zone 2 areas is to restore extensive multi-functional areas of habitat, linking and buffering the areas of greatest value, while the proposed vision for Zone 3 areas is for the ecological improvement and "greening" of highly modified landscapes, protecting remaining features of value and the identification of areas suitable for multi-functional habitat creation.

5.155 In terms of urban areas (Cities and Town) the proposed vision is to capitalise on the urban renaissance agenda to enhance, create, sustain and celebrate ecologically rich urban landscapes. The vision also includes linkages with urban and neighbouring landscapes to provide space for biodiversity, opportunities to benefit communities and to provide capacity for the effects of Climate Change. With regard to the strategic river corridors the report promotes the enhancement, re-connection and restoration of habitats to aid the delivery of green infrastructure.

5.156 Emerging draft maps and area descriptions (January 2008) for the scheme identify the study area in the Arden Valley Opportunities Area. This area has been identified as a regional opportunity area which is described as a mosaic of four regional priory habitats. Component habitats include; woodland, lowland meadows, arable/boundary communities and rivers. The area also forms a buffer between the two growth points of Birmingham and Coventry which are described as converging under development pressures. This buffer area is part of the existing north-south corridor for climate change adaptive mitigation. This climate change corridor aims to facilitate species connectivity and permeability within the landscape.

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan

5.157 The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) contains individual plans for the following habitats and species:

Habitats (see Figure 5.8)

- Acid Grassland (Lowland)
- Calcareous Grassland (Lowland)
- Field Margins
- Heathland (Lowland)
- Hedgerows
- Neutral Grassland (Lowland)
- Scrub and Carr
- Traditional Orchards
- Woodlands
- Wood-Pasture, Old Parkland and Veteran Trees
- Allotments
- Built Environment
- Canal
- Churchyards and Cemeteries
- Disused Industrial & Railway Land
- Ponds, Lakes and Reservoirs
- Fen and Swamp
- Gardens
- Parks and Public Open Spaces
- Quarries and Gravel Pits
- Reedbeds
- Rivers and Streams
- Roadside Verges
- School Grounds

Species: Mammals

- Bats
- Common Dormouse
- Otter
- Water Vole

Species: Amphibians and Reptiles

- Great Crested Newts
- Adder

Species: Insects

- Argent and Sable Moth
- Blood-Nosed Beetle
- Chalk Carpet Moth
- Cuckoo Bee
- Dingy Skipper
- Dotted Bee-Fly
- Leaf Rolling Weevil
- Rare Bumblebees
- Red Wood Ant
- Small Blue Butterfly
- Wood White Butterfly

Species: Other Invertebrates

- White-Clawed Crayfish

Species: Birds

- Barn owl
- Bittern
- Farmland Birds
- Lapwings
- Snipe
- Song Thrush

Species: Plants

- Black poplar
- Scarce Arable Plants

5.158 Figure 5.8 also shows a number of habitat networks which have been identified within and in the vicinity of the city. As it shows, deciduous woodland networks are by far the most common and mostly occur to the south of the city, while a small mire/fen/bog network is present to the south-east of the city, at Brandon Marsh.

Woodland

5.159 Coventry administrative area contains a relatively small proportion of woodland by area (3.6%), although a number of medium to large woods are present within the wider study area, particularly to the south-east of the city as indicated on Figure 5.9.

Ancient Woodland

5.160 Much of the woodland within the study area is ancient, both semi-natural and replanted and this particularly applies to the large number of fragmented ancient woods to the west of the city. Ancient woodland is one of the UK's most valuable habitats and is irreplaceable therefore these woods are likely to be supporting significant biodiversity interest including ancient woodland dependent flora, mosses, lichens, insects and nesting birds. This is reinforced by the fact that Tilehill Wood, the largest area of ancient woodland to the west of the city, has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (see above).

5.161 To the east of Coventry, ancient woods tend to be larger and less frequent, including the significant areas of New Close and Birchley Woods, Brandon Wood, Ryton and Shrubs Woods and Waverley Wood.

5.162 Many of the ancient woods surrounding Coventry are owned and managed for balanced biodiversity and public access objectives by Coventry City Council, including Pig Wood, Tilehill Wood, Park Wood, Wainbody Wood and Willenhall Wood. It is also notable that Piles Coppice, and Elkin Wood are owned and managed by the Woodland Trust, the UK's largest woodland conservation charity.

Non-Ancient Woodland

5.163 The study area also contains a number of sites in which woodland has been established in the last 400 years, in particular at Stoneleigh, Arbury and Coombe. While these woods are unlikely to be of equal biodiversity significance to the ancient woods, they are nonetheless valuable habitat areas, many of which contain mature woodland habitats that will be developing an "ancient" character in terms of their flora and fauna, soil character and deadwood habitats.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

The historic environment is closely connected to green infrastructure through its influence on landscape character. It provides significant areas of multi-functional open space such as parkland, gardens and battlefields, whilst the provision of green infrastructure in the context of new development can protect below ground archaeology and the settings of historic features from the pressures of development.

Coventry has had a rich and varied history, from its position as the capital of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia and home of the legendary Lady Godiva, through periods of growth and decline to its industrial boom and its intensive bombardment and subsequent reconstruction during World War II. It is also surrounded by a number of historic parks that have high potential to contribute to its green infrastructure value.

Key Data Sources

- English Heritage
- Warwickshire County Council#
- MAGIC[8]

Designated Features

5.164 The study area contains the following historic designations, as indicated in Table 5.7 below and located geographically on Figure 5.10.

Table 5.7: Historical Designations Summary

Designation	Importance	Frequency
Scheduled Monuments	National	38
Registered Parks and Gardens	National	7
Listed Buildings[9]	National	20 Grade I 22 Grade II* 216 Grade II
Locally Listed Buildings	Local	291
Conservation Areas	Local	17
Historic Environment Record Entries	Local	275

Scheduled Monuments

5.165 As Figure 5.10 shows, the distribution of Scheduled Monuments within the study area is relatively even, appearing in an approximately concentric pattern around the city's core but in no particular historical order.

5.166 The Scheduled Monuments are listed in full at Appendix 5, although of particular note are the remains of Coventry city walls and the abundance of castles surrounding the city.

5.167 The remains of Coventry's city walls, which were originally two miles in length, can be found in 10 locations around the City Centre. These once impressive walls were constructed with the profits of a booming medieval wool trade and subsequently pulled down under the orders of Charles II after the town was used to hold Royalist prisoners during the Civil War, hence the enduring phrase "sent to Coventry".

[8] Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside; a partnership project between six government agencies to provide a web-based interactive map to bring together information on key environmental schemes and designations in one place.

[9] This data only covers the Coventry City administrative area and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough. Data was not provided for Rugby and Warwick Districts and Solihull.

5.168 Coventry is ringed by six castles, which is indicative of the area's importance in medieval times. The best known of these and a popular tourist destination is Kenilworth Castle, managed by English Heritage and the largest castle ruin in England. In addition to this, castles were historically located at Brinklow, Caluden, Brandon, Baginton and Allesley.

5.169 Other Scheduled Monuments of interest include the site of the Roman settlement at Glasshouse Wood and the deserted medieval villages of Hopsford, Upper Smite and King's Hall.

Registered Parks and Gardens

5.170 The study area contains 7 English Heritage Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, as follows:

- Combe Abbey
- Ryton House
- London Road Cemetery
- Lady Herbert's Garden
- Stoney Road Allotments
- Bedworth Cemetery
- Stoneleigh Abbey

5.171 These comprise relatively small areas of land within the urban boundaries of Coventry and Bedworth and large areas of historic parkland surrounding Coventry, as shown on Figure 5.10. Other large areas of historic registered parkland within the vicinity of the study area include the parks associated with Kenilworth Castle, Packington Hall and Arbury Hall to the south, west and north of the study area respectively.

5.172 Combe Abbey Park is of particular relevance to this study because it is the location of Coombe Abbey Country Park, a significant area of accessible greenspace and popular recreational resource for Coventry.

Listed Buildings

5.173 The study area contains 20 Grade I Listed Buildings, of which 9 of these are churches. They are mostly clustered around Coventry City Centre as shown on Figure 5.10.

5.174 Of particular note are the new and ruined buildings of the cathedral of St Michael, which was reconstructed after it was destroyed during the blitz of 14th November 1940, and St Mary's Guildhall which is one of the best surviving examples of a medieval guildhall in England and which reflects Coventry's former wealth.

5.175 The Priory Ruins are an excellent example of how green infrastructure can benefit the historic environment. For hundreds of years these ruins were buried under more recent levels of occupation before they were excavated under a Millennium project. After being recorded, the remains were re-buried to protect them and a park was established on top, the design of which reflects the below ground archaeology enabling the public to walk around and interact with this important monument while ensuring its protection.

5.176 While it has not been included in the data provided to the authors, it is also known that Coombe Abbey is a Grade I Listed Building located in Rugby District but owned and managed by Coventry City Council.

5.177 In addition to the national system of Grade I, II* and II Listed Buildings, Coventry City Council also maintains a list of "Locally Listed" buildings, which are considered to be of local architectural or historic interest and worthy of conservation. These buildings are protected from adverse development impacts under Policy BE 14 of the Coventry Development Plan 2001 (see Chapter 2).

Conservation Areas

5.178 The study area contains 17 conservation areas that are mostly clustered around the City Centre, as shown on Figure 5.10.

5.179 The largest and most notable of these, however, is the Kenilworth Road Conservation Area. This covers the approach to Coventry from the south-west along the A429 Kenilworth Road, which has been described as the finest approach to any city in Britain.

5.180 It is characterised by the straight line of Kenilworth and surrounding wide (approximately 30m) strips of woodland on either side of the road. Large detached houses with extensive gardens are located behind this tree belt and add to the route's attractiveness.

5.181 As well as its visual appeal and recreational value combined with the adjacent Memorial Park, the Kenilworth Road also possesses historical value as an old cloth trade route linking the Cotswolds to Coventry that was notoriously populated by highwaymen in the 18th Century.

5.182 Other Conservation Areas of relevance to this study include the following:

- Greyfriars Green Conservation Area, which includes an attractive, well-used and well managed area of formal urban greenspace comprising mature trees, amenity grass and formal flower beds
- London Road Conservation Area, which mainly comprises the London Road Cemetery (an English Heritage Registered Park and Garden) and playing fields associated with All Saints and Blue Coat Schools to the east. The cemetery was designed by Joseph Paxton in 1845 and it has functioned as an attractive and popular walking destination since its inception. A memorial to Joseph Paxton was erected within the cemetery following his death in 1865. The mature tree collection associated with the cemetery is regarded as being of national importance. The Conservation Area also includes the Charterhouse, a 14th Century Carthusian monastery and Grade I Listed Building that is currently used as an arts centre.
- Stoke Green Conservation Area, which comprises the four distinct areas of Stoke Park, an attractive 19th Century suburban development, Stoke Green, an area of amenity open space containing several mature trees, Binley Road with its wide verges and regular mature roadside trees and Gosford Green, which is an area of formal open space laid out for bowls and tennis with trees on its periphery.

Archaeological Sites

5.183 The Coventry Historic Environment Record includes a number of locally-designated archaeological sites, the distribution of which is shown on Figure 5.10. It should be noted, however, that the entries on this record are generally directly linked to the occurrence of surveys and therefore it is likely that a significant body of remains lies undiscovered below the surface of the modern city and rural hinterland.

5.184 A large number of entries are present within the City Centre area and many entries have also been made to the north west of the city in agricultural land which retains evidence of historic ridge and furrow farming practices identified from aerial survey or field walking. Many of Coventry's woods are also included on the register on account of the remains that their low intensity management regimes can preserve, including Tile Hill Wood, Park Wood and Willenhall Wood.

Natural England Joint Character Areas

5.185 The landscape character work undertaken by the former Countryside Commission (now part of Natural England) which resulted in the division of England into a number of Joint Character Areas (JCAs) (see above and Figure 5.3) included an assessment of historical and cultural influences.

5.186 The following paragraphs are a summary of the historical information provided in the descriptions of the JCAs into which the study area falls, providing a summary of its historical context.

5.187 The Northamptonshire Vales/Leicestershire Vales JCA has not been covered here, because it is marginal to the study area and its historical development is not reflective of that of the High Cross Plateau, which is the only part of the study area that falls within this JCA.

Arden

5.188 Originally, the Arden JCA was extensively wooded until around the end of the Anglo-Saxon period, when it began to be cleared and enclosed into "closes" for arable and stock farming to form the small-scale irregular field system which has survived in some areas to the present day. In tandem with this process was the creation of many manorial deer parks which occurred mainly between the 12th and 14th Centuries but continued into the 15th Century.

5.189 Wood pasture was the main land use on much of Arden's commons and many of these areas remained as scattered trees and shrubs over grazed grassland or heathland until relatively recently. The last large areas of common land in Arden were enclosed in the late 19th Century.

5.190 Another human activity which has had a profound effect upon the landscape of Arden is the exploitation of the coal reserves of north-east Arden between Tamworth and Nuneaton, which took place in the 19th and 20th Centuries. In addition to the direct elements of mining brought into the landscape such as spoil heaps, this activity brought a number of other elements including the canal infrastructure to support the coal industry and a number of coal-powered industries such as smelting and electricity generation. This activity has led to the area in which it took place being referred to as "Industrial Arden".

5.191 Finally, the expansion of the major urban centres of Coventry and Birmingham during the 19th and 20th Centuries have had a significant effect upon the character of Arden and it is likely that the current period of growth will add another layer of history to this landscape.

Dunsmore and Feldon

5.192 It is thought that this area was cleared and settled in prehistoric times on account of the fertile and light soils on the plateau summits and in the main river valleys and it is notable that the higher parts of the gravel ridges had already been exhausted by farming and were reverting to rough pasture by Anglo-Saxon times.

5.193 By medieval times this productive land was densely settled and being farmed on a two- or three-field crop rotation system with livestock grazed on fallow fields and the less fertile heathland areas. Hay was also produced on floodplain meadows to support this grazing.

5.194 The settlement in this area was reversed from the 13th Century onwards, partially due to the influence of the local monasteries but principally due to the Black Death and a steady reduction in agricultural returns. A result of this process is the three deserted villages within the study area, which have been designated Scheduled Monuments.

5.195 An additional result of the depopulation process was the amalgamation of land into large private estates, followed by its enclosure and conversion from arable to pasture.

5.196 The process of enclosure was completed during the 18th and 19th Centuries with the remaining heathland being enclosed in the typical late enclosure pattern of large rectilinear fields with long, straight thorn hedges and frequent hedgerow trees.

5.197 The expansion of Coventry from the Industrial Revolution onwards has also had a significant effect on this JCA, with many villages being engulfed within the expanding urban boundary. It is also observed that busy roads and large industrial buildings have been constructed on urban fringes in recent years and that they are incongruous and intrusive features within this landscape.

NATURAL PROCESSES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

Introduction

5.198 Environmental systems and the natural processes that drive them are the critical functions that must be taken account of to ensure the 'liveability' of new developments and their wider landscapes. Green infrastructure has the potential to assist new strategic development in harmonising with these processes and in doing so, using them to the benefit of both the built and natural environment.

Key Data Sources

- Department for Communities and Local Government
- HM Government
- Coventry City Council
- CIRIA
- Aerial photography
- Natural England

Climate Change

5.199 Climate change is believed to be the greatest long-term challenge facing the world today. In the UK, the anticipated effects of climate change include more extreme weather events, increased flooding and permanent changes to the natural environment[10].

5.200 It is widely accepted that the emission of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide, from human activity is the principal contributor to climate change. In response to this the government has committed to a strategy to combat climate change through a range of measures from global to local scale to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions[11].

5.201 Green infrastructure has the potential to contribute to this strategy both directly through the sequestering of atmospheric carbon dioxide by growing trees and other vegetation and also indirectly through a number of means, including the following:

- Provision of attractive sustainable movement options such as walking and cycling that offer viable alternatives to the use of the private car for local movement.
- Provision of biomass as a substitute fuel for energy generation, replacing fossil fuels.
- Provision of biomass as a substitute fuel for domestic and industrial heat generation, replacing fossil fuels.

5.202 Coventry City Council has published a Climate Change Strategy for Coventry. This document considers both the causes and the effects of climate change and proposes actions to address these. The focus is on impacts and activities for the wider community in Coventry and also the council's own responsibilities and actions. The strategy identifies the following six broad themes to facilitate city-wide action for tackling climate change:

- Putting People First (peoples' vulnerability to climate change)
- Where We Live (planning, land use and housing)
- Making a Difference (education and training)
- Fit for the Future (health and well-being)
- Gearing Up (transport)
- Towards a Sustainable City (holistic sustainability agenda)

Air Quality

5.203 Coventry City Council has produced an Air Quality Action Plan for the city that outlines the risks of air pollution with regard to health problems and identifies the pollutant of most concern in Coventry to be nitrogen dioxide, arising from traffic congestion. The major cause of air pollution is identified to be road transport, with the young, elderly and vulnerable (e.g. those suffering from heart, lung disease etc) being most at risk from the effects of poor air quality. Three areas in the city have been identified to have poor air quality, as follows:

[10] Consultation on Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change (DCLG, 2006).
[11] Climate Change: The UK Programme 2006 (HM Government, 2006)

- The city centre in the region of Cross Cheaping, the Burges, Hales Street, Trinity Street and Ironmonger Row
- The Ball Hill area of the A4600 Walsgrave Road between Brighton Street and Shakespeare Street
- An area surrounding the junction of Allesley Old Road B4106, Four Pounds Avenue and Queensland Avenue

5.204 The cause of the poor air quality in these areas is identified as road traffic congestion. The actions outlined in the plan are therefore focused on transport issues including reducing vehicle emissions, improving public transport, improving efficiency of highways networks, and alternative transport modes (e.g. encouraging cycling and walking for shorter journeys).

Urban Trees

5.205 Recent studies[12] have indicated that planting trees in urban areas could reduce particulate pollution with figures suggesting a reduction by as much as a quarter. The study has shown that some trees are particularly good at capturing the small particles that originate from human activities such as exhaust fumes and smoke. These small particles (and particularly those less than 10µm, the so called PM10) pose a long-term threat to human health. Trees also remove carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants such as ozone.

5.206 The survey calculated how further tree planting in urban areas would affect particulate levels and found that the greatest reductions could be achieved through increasing tree cover in the West Midlands.

5.207 Coventry is a moderately well treed city with many established avenues of mature specimen trees (e.g. Kenilworth Road and Binley Road). Further planting could greatly reduce particulate levels in the city if combined with the key actions outlined in the Air Quality Action Plan detailed above.

5.208 Increasing tree cover would mean planting on existing greenspace and potentially introducing new trees to built-up areas, as well as maintaining the existing tree stock on the road corridors, for example replacing failing trees or trees historically removed. As well as tree cover increase, prudent species selection is required. Tree species with the greatest overall leaf surface area are the best particle scavengers. Such trees include larch, pine, spruce and ash. Other species include field maple, lime, cherry, London plane and sycamore.

5.209 As well as the above benefit, urban trees can improve the general environment through:

- Improving human health and wellbeing
- Providing shade and humidity
- Enhancing aesthetic qualities
- Increasing biodiversity
- Creating a sense of community
- Increasing property prices

5.210 Trees can have disadvantages with key issues including; excessive leaf, fruit and pollen fall, damage to property through subsidence, and maintenance burdens. Another potential issue is the production of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted by some tree species, which combine with other pollutants and contribute to ozone formation. Particulates collected by trees can also accumulate in soils and cause contamination issues. These issues can, however, be mitigated through careful selection of species when planting new trees and installation of physical solutions such as root barriers to prevent adverse effects upon adjacent buildings.

5.211 In general, the ideal urban tree is one that has a large leaf surface area and does not emit high levels of VOCs. As detailed above those trees include larch, pine, spruce, ash, maple, plane and silver birch, which remove the most pollutants without contributing to new pollutant formation (i.e. ozone). Generally it is considered that the overall effects on air quality of large scale planting of any tree species would be positive.

[12] Trees and Sustainable Urban Air Quality (CEH & Lancaster University, 2003)

5.212 A concluding remark on urban trees taken from the above study is that through tree planting on all available sites in the West Midlands (effectively doubling the number of trees in the region) the concentration of small particles could be reduced by 25%. This could lead to a reduction of 140 deaths caused by such particles per year in the West Midlands.

5.213 A recent annual report of the Coventry Development Plan (2007) indicated that approximately 202 street trees were planted across the City. Work is also currently taking place on the preparation of a Trees and Development Guidelines document, which is intended to provide a comprehensive guide to the planning system as it relates to trees in Coventry. The Guide will provide information to developers, landowners, agents, architects, planning consultants, landscape architects, arboriculturists and contractors on the standards that the City Council will expect from new development proposals, and will help to ensure that trees are afforded due consideration in the planning process. A Trees and Woodland Strategy for the City, including hedgerows, is also being prepared.

Flood Risk

5.214 The floodplain of the River Stowe which flows through the south-eastern corner of the study area is relatively modest (see Figure 5.11). The floodplain has resulted in a corridor of green space along the river that creates a linear greenspace feature through the eastern side of Coventry.

Drainage

5.215 The Study Area includes extensive built-up areas which all require drainage to remove surface water. Traditional methods include systems of underground pipes, attenuation and discharge into watercourses. Such systems have recently been criticised as unsustainable given the risk of storm water flooding and conveyance of polluted waters directly to watercourses.

5.216 Increasingly utilised solutions include the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) that use a variety of natural processes to lessen the flood risk associated with developments. Such solutions include permeable surfaces and infiltration basins/trenches that recharge groundwater whilst filtering out pollutants. Other features also include attenuation solutions such as open swales and ponds that have capacity to store storm water.

5.217 Such systems have the potential to contribute to site-level green infrastructure through providing networks of green features that provide beneficial functions including water management, biodiversity opportunities and recreational facilities. Urban areas can benefit from features such as swales, which can support wet grasslands and even reed-beds, facilitating species and habitat movement in otherwise built-up areas.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Introduction

5.218 Green infrastructure resources provide a wide range of recreation and tourism functions, from neighbourhood scale sports pitches and play areas to features serving wider catchments such as primary municipal parks, country parks, golf courses, racecourses and forest parks.

5.219 Green infrastructure offers opportunities for healthy living, which can contribute to Government targets for the reduction of obesity and ill health and it is recognised that recreation in green spaces contributes to mental well-being (CABE Space, 2005[13]). Recreation and tourism also has the potential to generate revenue income to maintain green infrastructure resources through, for example, entry fees, cycle hire, events or café profits.

Key Data Sources

- Warwickshire County Council
- Coventry City Council

Tourism

5.220 As a predominantly urban environment, the Coventry administrative area contains relatively few "green" features of tourist interest, the only notable examples being the Priory Ruins and London Road Cemetery described within the Historic Environment section above.

5.221 The surrounding study area is of more interest to tourists, however, and contains the following "green" tourist features:

- *Coombe Country Park*: Large 500 acre (200 hectare) to the east of Coventry comprising formal gardens, parkland, woodland, lakeside walks, visitor centre, café, play area, coarse fishing and a bird watching hide overlooking one of the largest heronries in Warwickshire.
- *Brandon Marsh Nature Centre*: Nature park to the south-east of Coventry comprising a large area of pools created by gravel extraction with reedbeds, willow carr, grassland and woodland. Visitor facilities include visitor centre, 5 bird hides and a nature trail with disabled access.
- *The Lunt Fort*: Reconstruction of 2nd Century Roman fort, including museum of Roman military life, replica eastern gate and cavalry training ring and occasional re-enactments of military manoeuvres.
- *Ryton Pools Country Park*: Relatively new and increasingly popular Country Park established in 1996 comprising information and education centres, model railway, coffee shop, meadow for picnicking and games, fishing lake, bird hide, play areas and ranger-led activities.
- *Kenilworth Castle*: Largest ruined castle in England, managed by English Heritage. Facilities include an audio tour, accessible tower, interactive model, Tudor garden and waymarked walks.

Recreation

Country Parks

5.222 The study area contains two Country Parks; Coombe Country Park to the east of the city and Ryton Pools Country Park to the south. Both are described in the tourism section above.

Local Nature Reserves

As identified above and Figure 5.6, the study area contains the following Local Nature Reserves:

- Bedworth Sloughs
- Wyken Slough
- Millisons Wood
- Tile Hill Wood
- Limbrick Wood
- Pig Wood
- Plants Hill Wood

[13] Does Money Grow on Trees? (CABE Space, 2005)

- Park Wood
- Ten Shilling Wood
- Hearsall Common Woodland
- Canley Ford Community Woodland
- Tocil Wood & Meadow
- Wainbody Wood & Stivichall Common, Kenilworth Road Spinney
- Crackley Wood
- Kenilworth Common
- Knowle Hill
- Stonebridge Meadows
- Willenhall Wood
- Herald Way Marsh
- Stoke Floods

5.223 Local Nature Reserves are generally of high recreational value because they combine public access with biodiversity, providing valuable opportunities for people to come into contact with their natural environment in a manner that is both physically and intellectually accessible.

Accessible Woodland

5.224 Woodland has a naturally high recreational value, not only because of its inherent attractiveness and seasonal variability but also because its naturally dense structure allows it to absorb a greater number of people per area than most other forms of green space and within an urban environment can provide an instant sensation of separation from the built-up areas.

5.225 This sense of isolation and separation can also be perceived as a threat and can form an emotional barrier to woodland access, therefore it is always important in the design of recreational woodland to balance the requirement to create an environment that appears "wooded" with the maintenance of a feeling of personal safety. In most cases, this can be achieved by designing paths with wide margins and avoiding heavy understorey to prevent a potential sensation of claustrophobia.

5.226 Coventry City Council owns a number of woods within the study area and manages them with public recreation and enjoyment as one of the prime objectives. Facilities within these woods include surfaced paths to permit year-round enjoyment, metal tap rails to encourage blind and partially sighted visitors, organised woodland events to encourage residents to discover their local woodland and leaflets providing visitor information. These woods are as follows:

- Limbrick Wood
- Park Wood
- Pig Wood
- Plants Hill Wood
- Ten Shilling Wood
- Tile Hill Wood
- Wainbody Wood
- Willenhall Wood

5.227 The City Council also provides opportunities for residents to become directly involved in the practical management of these woods through the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which enables people to pursue healthy lifestyles, gain new skills, meet new people and contribute to the quality of their local environment.

5.228 The Woodland Trust, the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, owns three woodland sites within the study area, namely Elkin Wood to the west of the city, Piles Coppice to the east and Gibbet Hill Wood, a newly-planted woodland site in the southern part of the city near to the University of Warwick campus. The Woodland Trust has a policy of open public access within its woods and provides a variety of facilities that include waymarked paths, car parks, site interpretation boards and organised walks.

5.229 Accessible woodland is also available at Coombe and Ryton Pools Country Parks, as well as Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve.

Registered Common Land

The study area contains 6 areas of Registered Common Land, which occur to the north-west and south-west of the city as shown on Figure 5.12. These are as follows:

- Chapel Green
- Land collectively called The Common
- Burton Green Common Land
- Kenilworth Common
- Tainters Hill Pleasure Ground
- Land of 2 acres at Knowe Hill

5.230 It is also notable that a significant area of dedicated Open Access Land is present to the south of the study area, within the southern part of Waverley Wood.

Urban Parks

5.231 Coventry's premier park is the War Memorial Park, located to the south of the city (see Figure 5.12). This significant area of open space comprises a variety of open amenity grass areas, mature tree-lined avenues, formal flower beds and public facilities. The facilities on offer in the park include football and cricket pitches, play areas, a pitch & putt golf course, tennis courts, bowling greens, a children's water play feature, a cafeteria (summer time only), a skate park, a war memorial, tree-lined avenue walks and an orienteering course. During the summer the park is also home to the city's Godiva Festival, which sports live music, stalls and family entertainment, as well as a classic car event, fun run, Caribbean festival and kite festival.

5.232 Coventry City Council is currently undertaking a multi-million pound programme of improvement for Memorial Park, supported by Heritage Lottery Fund grants, with the aim of establishing its status as the premier park within the City and wider Sub-Region. This project has already secured a Stage 1 Parks for People grant of £2.8 million and is currently in the process of bidding for a further Stage 2 grant, which will include the preparation of strategies to achieve an objective balance within the park and to strongly integrate the park with the regeneration of the City.

5.233 In addition to the War Memorial Park, Coventry contains 31 other parks that range from nature areas along the corridor of the River Sowe to formal parks with play areas and the historic Allesley Park with its volunteer-run Georgian kitchen garden.

5.234 The quantity, quality and accessibility of the City's parks are covered in much greater detail within the city's emerging Green Space Strategy.

5.235 In addition to the City's formal parks there are numerous areas of informal open space (see Appendix 6) throughout the city that are available for informal recreation and are of particular value to children, who are able to use a much smaller area than adults for recreation and play.

Canals

5.236 Canals are very pleasant locations for both active and quiet recreation and the Coventry Canal, which winds through the northern part of the city from the city centre, provides opportunities for boating, walking and angling. Coventry City Council has developed the basin where the canal terminates into an attractive destination, with retail units, a café/bar and regular public events. A sculpture trail has also been added to this waterway for additional cultural interest and the Coventry Canal connects with several other green spaces as well as the Oxford Canal to enable people to venture further.

Leisure Centres

5.237 The following sports and leisure centres within Coventry contain areas of greenspace such as pitches that contribute to the city's green infrastructure:

- RICOH Arena
- Foxford Leisure Centre
- Sydney Stringer Community Technology College
- Ernesford Grange Leisure Centre
- Centre AT7
- The Alan Higgs Centre

Golf Courses

5.238 There are a number of golf courses within the study area, mainly to the south of Coventry, as shown on Figure 5.12. These are as follows:

- Brandon Wood Golf Course
- Ansty Golf Centre

- Kenilworth Golf Club
- Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club
- Windmill Village Golf Course
- Nailcote Hall
- Hearsall Golf Course
- Hawkesbury Golf Centre
- GPT Golf Course
- Coventry Golf Course

5.239 While golf courses are generally not open to the public for informal recreation, they are always a source of social activity and healthy living and often support a reasonable level of biodiversity interest through their woods, individual trees, lakes and rough grassland areas, although there is often scope for further habitat enhancement.

Allotments

5.240 Coventry contains 37 allotments, which are distributed as shown on Figure 5.12. These are generally of green infrastructure value on account of their contribution to healthy living, social interaction, sustainability and the biodiversity value often associated with their mature hedges and trees.

ACCESS AND MOVEMENT

Introduction

5.241 Green infrastructure networks provide a strong opportunity to provide connectivity for people as well as wildlife, in line with their core principle of multi-functionality. In doing this they contribute strongly to national and regional objectives for a modal shift in transport, from the current use of the private vehicle to more sustainable options such as walking and cycling for all or part of local journeys, which not only reduces traffic congestion and associated highways infrastructure demand, pollution and stress but also encourages healthy living.

5.242 Existing green access routes such as footpaths, cycleways, bridleways, byways and canal towpaths have the potential to form key parts of local green infrastructure networks. The verges and hedgerows often associated with these routes allow the movement of wildlife as well as people and their attractive, green nature makes them attractive for informal recreation.

5.243 See Figure 5.13 for the alignments of all routes discussed below for which data is available.

Footpaths and Bridleways

5.244 Public footpaths and bridleways provide valuable linkages into the countryside surrounding the city allowing people to access their natural environment and move around these areas in a sustainable manner. While the total lengths of Public Rights of Way in the Study Area is not currently available, Warwickshire County Council are in the process of digitising this information using Geographical Information Systems to enable more detailed analysis to be undertaken in the future, and to improve its availability to the public.

5.245 The proportion of bridleways within the Study Area is relatively low, with the majority of these routes located to the east of the city. This means that access to the countryside is currently limited for both horse and cycle users.

5.246 Several promoted long distance public footpath and bridleway routes also run through the Study Area and these are described individually below.

5.247 In addition to the rural provision, Coventry City contains a significant length of urban footpaths and the towpaths of the Coventry and Oxford Canals provide pedestrian and limited cycle access. In particular the Coventry Canal, which terminates in the City Centre, provides a valuable means of access to the north of the city.

Cycleways

5.248 National Cycle Route 52 runs in a north-south direction through Coventry, entering at Hawkesbury, passing through the City Centre and currently terminating at the University of Warwick campus, although proposals are in place to extend it southwards to Kenilworth and eastwards towards Birmingham.

5.249 A National Cycle Route 53 is also proposed which passes through the city in an east-west direction, entering at Tile Hill, passing through the City Centre and leaving at Walsgrave on Sowe.

5.250 Coventry city and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough are also served by local cycleway networks as shown on Figure 5.13. It is assumed that the other surrounding boroughs also possess local cycleway networks, although no data has been provided.

Coventry Way

5.251 The Coventry Way is a 40-mile orbital route around Coventry that mostly comprises public footpaths but also public bridleways, villages, roads and the towns of Bedworth and Kenilworth.

5.252 First established in 1995 by Cyril Bean, a retired engineer and keen walker, the route is now well publicised by “A Coventry Way Association”, including the publication of a book detailing 21 local circular walks which are linked to the main Coventry Way, all within 6.5 miles of the city and accessible by public transport. It also appears on the most recently published Ordnance Survey Landranger and Explorer maps.

5.253 The route represents a valuable recreational resource for the city, allowing people to appreciate their local countryside, which is interpreted through the guide book. It is well linked to the city via a large number of public footpath “spokes” in addition to the public transport routes.

5.254 The Coventry Way's accessible distance and natural character has led to it being used as the boundary of the area of this study, as outlined in Chapter 3.

Centenary Way

5.255 The Centenary Way is a 100 mile long distance way that runs approximately north-south through Warwickshire. It enters the study area to the west of Bulkington and passes to the east of Coventry before leaving the study area at Kenilworth. Publications are available from Warwickshire County Council regarding local circular walks along the route.

5.256 To the south of Coventry the Centenary Way shares its alignment with the Coventry Way for several miles.

Heart of England Way

5.257 The Heart of England Way is a 100 mile long distance way that connects the Staffordshire Way, Cotswold Way and Oxfordshire Way, as well as forming a section of the E2 route across Europe.

5.258 It passes briefly through the western part of the study area and shares its alignment with the Coventry Way for much of this distance.

Sowe Valley Footpath

5.259 The Sowe Valley Footpath is a locally designated riverside path that runs for 8½ miles between Hawkesbury Junction Conservation Area and Stonebridge Meadows Local Nature Reserve. It runs through the Sowe Valley riverside park, a significant linear greenspace within the city and it connects with the Oxford Canal at its northern end. Interpretation panels have been provided by the City Council along the route to help people to engage with their local natural environment.

Coventry and Oxford Canals

5.260 The Coventry and Oxford canals provide valuable corridors of accessible greenspace through the study area, which also serves a recreation function through pleasure boating.

5.261 The Coventry Canal is of particular value as it winds through the northern part of the city to its termination at a basin in the City Centre. This provides a significant green corridor through this part of the city and allows sustainable access between the residential areas to the north and City Centre. An art trail has also been established along the southernmost 5½ miles of the towpath containing 39 works of art to enhance the cultural experience of this area.

5.262 The canal also performs an important biodiversity function, as the trees and grassland along its corridor provide both habitat and linkage for a variety of species such as bats and birds.

6 Baseline Interpretation and Analysis

Chapter Overview

6.1 This chapter will analyse the information collected in the previous chapter in order to establish the existing green infrastructure network for the city and wider study area.

6.2 It will undertake a subjective assessment of the identified green infrastructure assets within East Staffordshire, at individual town and wider Borough scales, to identify which assets qualify as multi-functional green infrastructure features for inclusion in the network. Each asset has been assigned a score based upon a number of criteria specific to nodes and corridors and this score has been used to assess whether the features qualify as major or minor nodes and corridors.

Physical Green Infrastructure Summary

The entire physical green infrastructure provision within the city has been summarised on Figure 6.1 through the overlaying of the Geographical Information Systems information presented in the previous chapter.

Green Infrastructure Analysis

6.3 Green infrastructure networks comprise two components: nodes and corridors. Nodes are features (or clusters of features) of value that may be important habitat complexes, characteristic landscape features, public parks or often a combination of these and other uses. Corridors are the linkages that connect the nodes into coherent, city-wide networks that deliver significantly greater value than the nodes in isolation. They are the means for wildlife to move between nodes providing different habitat functions and for people to move between population centres and the wider countryside and to sustainably access different parts of towns and cities without the use of the private car. Prominent examples of corridors include waterways and bridleways, both of which can combine the sustainable movement of people and information recreation with the movement of wildlife and associated inherent habitat value.

6.4 The following types of open space asset have been considered within Coventry and the wider study area as candidate green infrastructure features:

- Parks and open spaces
- Ancient semi-natural woods
- Ancient replanted woods
- Recent (post AD1600) woods
- Sports grounds[14]
- Allotments
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Regionally Important Geological Sites
- Local Nature Reserves
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Scheduled Monuments
- Watercourses and waterways
- Promoted public access routes
- National Cycle Network
- Coventry cycleway network
- Railway corridors
- Registered Common Land
- Tourist features
- Parkland, including Registered Parks and Gardens
- Golf courses

[14] While it is recognised that Coventry also contains a large number of individual playing pitches and other sports facilities (tennis courts, bowling greens, etc), these are often incorporated into larger resources and where they occur in isolation, do not qualify in terms of multi-functionality for consideration as green infrastructure features

6.5 For every asset, its multi-functionality and accessibility have been assessed. For candidate nodes, the additional criterion of inherent value has been assessed, whereas for candidate corridors the level of connectivity they deliver (in terms of the movement of people and wildlife and the connection of nodes) has been assessed.

6.6 The assessment has been undertaken by allocating each asset a relative score of 1 (lowest) to 3 (highest) for each criterion and then these scores have been totalled to give a relative measure of each asset's green infrastructure value.

6.7 The results of this assessment are shown in the table at Appendix 6. It is important to recognise that while many features have not scored highly enough to be considered significant green infrastructure resources in the scope of this study, they will nonetheless be delivering a level of green infrastructure value at site level and many have the potential to be developed into more significant resources through investment and management.

6.8 The minor nodes and corridors often represent features which have high potential to deliver greater value through further investment and provision. In many cases, this could be through increases in their accessibility to all users, facilities provision or habitat value, all of which could be provided by funds raised from adjacent development. Where minor features fall within development areas, their status could also be increased through expansion and buffering as part of the wider development open space framework.

6.9 In summary, the identified major and minor nodes and corridors within the study area are as follows:

Major Nodes

- Coombe Pool & Country Park
- Memorial Park
- Tilehill Wood
- Pig Wood
- Limbrick Wood
- Park Wood
- Crackley Wood
- Tocil Wood
- Wainbody Wood
- Ryton & Shanks Woods
- Willenhall Wood
- Piles Coppice
- Ten Shilling Wood
- Brandon Wood
- Brandon Marsh
- London Road Cemetery
- Stivichall Common
- Kenilworth Road Spinney
- Caludon Castle Moated Site & Park
- Ryton Pools Country Park
- Kenilworth Castle

Major Corridors

- Coventry Canal
- Oxford Canal
- River Sowe

Minor Nodes

- Holbrooks Park
- Longford Park
- Prior Deram Park
- Allesley Hall Park
- Angel Park
- Brinklow Road
- Gerard Avenue
- Pinley Gardens
- Whitley Common Open Space
- Stoke Green
- Woodland Park
- Eastern Green Recreation Ground
- Edgwick Park
- Gosford Green
- Gosford Park
- Lake View Park
- Moat House Park
- Moseley Avenue Park
- Nauls Mill Park
- Peggys Park
- Primrose Hill Park
- Quinton Park
- Red House Park
- Sovereign Park
- Spencer Park
- St Margarets Park
- Swanswell Park
- Cash's Park
- Top Green Park
- Barras Heath
- Brookside Avenue
- Buckingham Rise
- Cubbington Road
- De Montfort Way
- Foxford Open Space
- Hearsall Common
- Jardine Crescent
- Keresley Common
- Longford Nature Park
- Radford Common
- Simon Stone
- Spencer Recreation Ground
- Stoke Aldermoor
- Wyken Croft Nature Park
- Wyken Slough Nature Park
- Howe Pool Wood
- Wilkinson's Wood
- Many Lands Wood
- Bob's Wood
- Bunson's Wood
- Pikehorne Wood
- Hall Yard Wood
- Lords Wood
- Muzzard's Wood
- Birchley Hays Wood (E)
- Birchley Hays Wood (W)
- Meriden Shafts (W)
- Millison's Wood
- Spring Wood
- Crow Wood
- Rough Close
- Black Waste Wood
- Long Meadow Wood
- Broadwells Wood
- Motslowhill Spinney
- Ticknell Spinney
- Bubbenhall Wood
- Whitley Grove
- Black Spinney
- The Pools
- Binley Little Wood
- Binley Common Farm Wood
- Brandon Little Wood
- New Close/Birchley Woods
- Little Wood
- Hill Park Wood
- Mobbs Wood
- Plants Hill Wood
- Elkin Wood
- Kenilworth Common
- Coundon Hall Park Sports Ground
- Floyds Fields Sports Ground
- Jardine Crescent Sports Ground
- Sowe Common Sports Ground
- Ashington Grove Sports Ground
- Herald Way Marsh
- Bedworth Sloughs
- Hearsall Common Woodland
- Canley Ford Community Woodland
- Tocil Wood & Meadow
- Crackley Wood
- Kenilworth Common
- Knowle Hill
- Stonebridge Meadows
- Stoke Floods
- Baginton Fields
- Burnsall Road
- Hall Yard Wood
- Hawkesbury Spinney
- Houldsworth Crescent and Homefire Plant
- Longford Nature Park
- Pickford Brook Meadows
- Pikehorne Wood, Keresley Mere and The Alders
- Potters Green Mineral Line
- Purcell Road Meadow
- Rough Close and Adjoining Meadows
- Sharman's Tip
- Tocil Wood and Brookstray
- Wolston Priory and Moated Site
- Site of Charterhouse
- Moated Site at Bishop Ullathorne School
- Mound S of Combe Abbey
- Moated Site at Exhall Hall
- Brandon Castle

- Motte and Bailey Castle, 30m E of St John the Baptist's Church
- Allesley Castle
- Ernesford Grange Moated Site, Binley
- Baginton Castle Associated Settlement Remains, Ponds and Mill Sites
- Vignoles Bridge
- Priory ruins
- Moated Site at Marlbrook Hall Farm
- Roman Fort at The Lunt
- Chapel Green
- Land Collectively Called The Common
- Burton Green Common Land
- Kenilworth Common
- Tainters Hill Pleasure Ground
- Land of 2 Acres at Knowe Hill
- Ryton House
- London Road Cemetery
- Lady Herbert's Garden
- Stoney Road Allotments
- Bedworth Cemetery
- Stoneleigh Abbey

Minor Corridors

- Dorchester Way
- Lower Stoke Railway
- Sowe Valley: Dorchester Way
- Sowe Valley: Stoke Aldermoor to London Road
- Sowe Valley: Wyken Croft to Ansty Road
- River Avon
- River Sowe
- Smite Brook
- Coventry Way
- Centenary Way
- Sowe Valley Footpath
- Existing National Cycle Route 52
- Proposed National Cycle Route 52 Extension
- Proposed National Cycle Route 53 Extension
- Coventry Local Cycleway Network

6.10 The geographical locations of the above nodes and corridors are shown on Figure 6.2. This is the existing green infrastructure network for Coventry, showing its existing value in terms of features of value and connections.

7 Existing GI Initiatives

Chapter Overview

7.1 Within Coventry and the wider study area, a range of environmental groups are currently running a wide variety of projects and initiatives aimed at protecting and enhancing the environmental quality of the area and securing associated social and economic gains.

7.2 These initiatives are a critical consideration in the assessment and future planning of green infrastructure in Coventry and therefore it is essential that they are fully incorporated into this study. They are key sources of information regarding the existing and aspirational character of the city's environment and can function as established delivery mechanisms for the creation, enhancement and ongoing management of green infrastructure.

7.3 This chapter reviews these initiatives, identifying their lead and support partners and their scope in relation to this study, summarising their objectives and outlining their current and future contribution to Coventry's green infrastructure.

Existing Initiatives

7.4 The existing initiatives that have the potential to interact with green infrastructure in and around Coventry are detailed in the following paragraphs. These comprise:

- Stepping Out
- Streets for All
- Coundon Wood
- Webster's Community Park
- Hawkesbury Village Green
- Bike It
- Green Travel Plans
- Safer Routes to Schools
- Coventry's Countryside Project
- Forest Schools
- Active Woods
- Let's Walk
- Coventry Walking the Way to Health
- Doorstep Greens
- Princethorpe, Ryton and Wappenbury Woodland Projects
- The Interaction Project
- Cycling England Bid
- Coventry Tree Planting Project

Stepping Out

Lead Organisations
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- Natural England

Support Organisations
- Coventry Primary Care Trust (NHS)
- The Princess Royal Trust for Carers
- Asian Mental Health Access Projects

Brief Description

7.5 The aim of this project is to get carers who are responsible for looking after individuals with mental illness to meet and explore the countryside in, and around Coventry. Currently the initiative supports weekly and fortnightly visits to local parks and nature reserves. The project is run by WWT with funding provided by Natural England as part of its National Diversity Review.

Objective

- Give individuals who are responsible for individuals who suffer from mental illness the opportunity to explore and enjoy green spaces in and around Coventry

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.6 The links between green infrastructure and the improvement of mental well-being are widely recognised, yet there is often relatively little financial support available. This project presents an excellent opportunity to improve the accessibility of local natural spaces and widen their appreciation. Further opportunities may exist to use the project as a basis to source capital or revenue funding for site improvement, or to involve the participants in some elements of site management, e.g. litter picking.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Recreation and tourism

Streets for All

Lead Organisations

- English Heritage
- Historic Environment Local Management

Brief Description

7.7 A nationwide initiative which aims to improve the historic and environmental quality of streets across the UK. The project began in 2004 with the support of English Heritage, and is being expanded through the use of regional workshops targeted at local highway and transport professionals. The project is funded by the HELM training programme.

Objectives

- Provide expert advice and guidance to those responsible for managing the public spaces in a way that reinforces local character and identity
- Development of streets which are free of clutter, safe and reinforce local character

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.8 This project is likely to be having a positive effect on green infrastructure within the urban environment through the incorporation of “green” elements such as street trees as part of good open space design. The improved understanding of Coventry’s green infrastructure arising from this project is likely to be able to inform this process.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Landscape character
- Historic environment
- Natural processes and environmental systems

Coundon Wood

Lead Organisations

- Friends of Coundon Wood
- Coventry City Council

Support Organisation

- Coventry Countryside Project (Coventry City Council)

Brief Description

7.9 This community wood, spanning 5 hectares, was created in 2005 by a partnership between the City Council, Forestry Commission and the organisers of the Children's International Games. During February 2005 children taking part in the Games, which were held in Coventry, planted 2,000 native trees. Since 2005 a 'Friend's of Coundon Wood' group has been created with the long term aim of improving the walking route between the park and Coundon Wedge. The City Council described Coundon Wood as "...a native community woodland...created in partnership with the Forestry Commission and the local community, for the enjoyment of current and future generations".

Objectives

- Offset the pollution caused by participants travelling to the Children's International Games in 2005
- Improve the quality of the link between Coundon Hall Park and Coundon Wedge
- Encourage local people to take an interest in local public open space
- Improve the habitat diversity of Coundon Hall Park

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.10 This new wood represents a valuable piece of green infrastructure on the edge of the city, having been established by the public and subject to ongoing management influence by the "friends" group.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Natural processes and environmental systems
- Recreation and tourism

Webster's Community Park

Lead Organisation

- Coventry City Council

Brief Description

This is an initiative to develop a new 5.3ha urban park in the Foleshill area of Coventry. A reclamation scheme to landfill a former clay pit was carried out several years ago, including substantial ground-modelling, installation of a footpath network and the creation of a pond. In 2003 structural planting of 11,000 native trees and shrubs was established around the site. Land drainage on lower areas has been improved to permit year-round use of the footpath network, and maintenance guidelines have been produced.

Objective

- Establish a high quality park in one of Coventry's 'Priority' neighbourhoods.

Implications for Green Infrastructure

The creation of this public park on a former landfill site within Coventry will have a positive effect on the overall green infrastructure value of the city and in particular on the surrounding neighbourhoods by providing an attractive space where people can escape the built-up city and engage with the natural environment. The site also has potential education value on account of an adjacent school. It is noted that outline planning permission has been granted for a large mixed-use development which will retain the majority of this park and therefore the park will provide valuable green infrastructure for this development. The potential also exists for funding to be generated through the development to support the ongoing management of the park.

7.11 The park is already of nature conservation value and as it continues to mature, it will become increasingly beneficial to the biodiversity of the city, providing a natural "island" within the built

environment. It will be important to ensure that the park is connected to the wider green infrastructure network to prevent habitat isolation.

Relevant Strategic Themes
- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Natural processes and environmental systems
- Recreation and tourism

Hawkesbury Village Green

Lead Organisations
- Hawkesbury Village Green Ltd
- Coventry City Council

Brief Description

7.12 A project which was funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant and officially opened in June 2006. Secured on an 80 year lease by Hawkesbury Village Green Residents Group from the City Council, it covers an area of approximately 2ha. 1,250 trees and shrubs were planted along with a large number of native marshland plants and wildflowers.

Objectives
- Transform a derelict piece of land into an area of multi-functional green space which all the members of the local community can enjoy
- Develop a company run by local people which would be responsible for the day-to-day management of the public space

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.13 The diversification of this community space will have improved its green infrastructure value through the creation of additional biodiversity and visual interest. The community-led nature of this project makes it particularly valuable as the occupation of the site by the community is likely to result in greater use, respect and community policing of the site.

Relevant Strategic Themes
- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Recreation and tourism

Bike It

Lead Organisations
- Sustrans
- Coventry City Council

Support Organisations
- Local schools

Brief Description

7.14 A project working directly with schools to promote the creation of school travel plans. The initiative also works with local people to improve the quality of cycle routes and their facilities. The project is run by a full time 'Bike it Officer' (George Matthew) who visits 12 schools each year across Coventry to teach children how to ride safely and develop cycle plans with members of staff. The success of the project is being monitored by Sustrans.

Objectives
- Explain the benefits of cycling
- Contribute to classroom work
- Work with local authority to tackle obstacles which get in the way of more children cycling safely:
  - by ensuring that there are safer routes to school

- by arranging cycle training to the new Bikeability standard
- by arranging for secure cycle storage to be installed at the schools

- Giving practical advice to school management teams
- Organise fun and interesting cycling events
- Provide free cycle maintenance (Dr Bike)
- Arrange after school activities to develop cycle skills and organise bike rides

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.15 This project has the potential to have a positive effect upon the green infrastructure network of the city through the creation of additional local-level connections if the newly-created routes are accompanied by appropriate landscaping, e.g. occasional trees, managed grassland edges and low shrub vegetation.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Access and movement

Green Travel Plans

Lead Organisation

- Coventry City Council

Support Organisations

- Notable examples include E.On and Coventry Airport

Brief Description

7.16 Council-run initiative which is supported by Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance published in 2006. The project is open to any company operating in the city with guidance available from the Travel Plans Co-ordinator (Tel. Joanne Rainbow, 02476 831342). As the production of work and residential Travel Plans is often included as a planning condition the number of Green Travel Plans is likely to rise sharply. A selection of services are offered free by the City Council to companies who join the scheme these include:

- Postcode Mapping
- Analysis of survey data
- Discounts on annual public transport passes
- Small grant scheme for capital projects such as on site cycle storage

Objectives

- Provide incentives for users of developments to reduce the need to travel alone by car to a site

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.17 While this project is not likely to directly impact upon Coventry's green infrastructure, there may be an indirect benefit arising from the increased demand upon Coventry's existing cycle infrastructure, resulting in the creation of new cycleways which have the potential to create additional connections within the city's green infrastructure network.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Access and movement

Safer Routes to Schools

Lead Organisation

- Coventry City Council

Support Organisations

- Centro's TravelWise team
- PSA Peugeot Citroën Charitable Trust
- West Midlands Police – Safer Travel Team

Brief Description

7.18 A City Council-run initiative which is designed to meet the 7 objectives listed in the Council's draft School Travel Strategy (*Walking the talk, Aug 07*). Currently 58% of the Schools in Coventry possess a Travel Plan; by 2010 all Schools in Coventry should have an approved Travel Plan. When Travel Plans are approved schools receive one-off capital grants from the Department for Children, Schools and Families of between £5,000 and £10,000 to improve sustainable travel facilities. All the school Travel Plans will be monitored and revised every three years by the Sustainable Transport Team.

Objectives

- Encourage all schools and colleges to develop Travel Plans
- Support schools and colleges with the implementation, monitoring and review of their Travel Plans
- Increase levels of walking, cycling and public transport use on journeys to and from school and promote healthy lifestyles
- Improve facilities at and routes to schools to encourage sustainable modes of travel and improve safety
- Raise childrens' awareness of sustainable travel, road safety and healthy lifestyles
- Improve information on sustainable travel to school
- Strengthen links to other relevant policies, plans and programmes

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.19 While this project is not likely to directly impact upon Coventry's green infrastructure, there may be an indirect benefit arising from the increased demand upon Coventry's existing pedestrian and cycle infrastructure, resulting in the creation of new pedestrian and cycle routes which have the potential to create additional connections within the city's green infrastructure network.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Access and movement

Coventry's Countryside Project

Lead Organisations

- Coventry City Council
- Natural England

Support Organisations

- Ramblers Association
- Allesley Parish Council
- Keresley Parish Council
- Community Groups

Brief Description

7.20 Coventry's Countryside Project began in 1980 as a joint scheme between Coventry City Council and the Countryside Commission. The Project is part of the City Council's planning department and works closely with members of the local community to provide ecological management advice, and co-ordinate practical conservation tasks.

7.21 Notable works include:

- Enhancement of the Coundon Wedge in partnership with the Allesley & Coundon Wedge Conservation Society and local residents. Works include access improvements, tree, hedge and woodland planting, clearance of ponds and removal of 'eyesores' – *'A Guide to Walks in Coundon Wedge*'
- Improvement of the footpath network within the rural parishes of Allesley and Keresley in partnership with the Rambler's Association, Parish Councils and adjoining authorities – *'A Guide to Walks in Keresley Parish*'

- Community landscaping, tree and hedge planting, advising on farm conservation and environmental education.
- Conservation and enhancement of Green Wedges, together with access improvements, in partnership with local community groups e.g. Friends of Canley Ford.

Objectives

- Help conserve and enhance the character and quality of the Green Belt Landscape (which includes the Historic Arden Landscape)
- Help and protect wildlife
- Work to achieve an accessible countryside in and around the city
- Reduce conflicts between various land uses, particularly agriculture and recreation
- Help involve local people and schools in caring for their local natural environment
- Provide unemployed people with practical work experience and training in countryside management

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.22 This Project is likely to have significantly benefitted the green infrastructure of Coventry since its inception, through the improvement of the landscape character and biodiversity of the City's rural hinterland and the improvement of its accessibility.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Natural processes and environmental systems
- Recreation and tourism
- Access and movement

Forest Schools

Lead Organisation

- Forestry Commission

Support Organisations

- The Forest School England network (currently being developed)
- Institute of Outdoor Learning (IOL)

Brief Description

7.23 This initiative is still in its infancy, as the deadline for the submission of proposals for the first year of the project was the 31st of December 2007. £180,000 of funding has been allocated for the West Midlands to fund the creation of Forest Schools. The money is to be spent over the next three years and will be awarded on a competitive basis by the Forestry Commission.

7.24 Forest Schools originated in Scandanavia in the 1950s and caught the imagination of teachers, foresters, parents and children when they were introduced to Britain in the 1990s. Through the scheme money is made available to carry out practical improvements to woodlands and develop a network of local 'Forest leaders' who are able to run projects which teach children and young people about the value of woodlands and help them acquire new skills.

7.25 Research has shown that Forest Schools can be particularly beneficial to children who are disruptive in a normal classroom environment.

Objectives

- Increase the understanding and appreciation, particularly among young people, of the environmental, social, and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests
- Illustrate the link between trees and everyday wood products
- Provide opportunities for young people to acquire new practical skills and improve their mental and physical health

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.26 This project is likely to benefit Coventry's green infrastructure in two ways. Firstly the woodland habitats in which the Forest Schools are based will benefit from the management activities that are undertaken through the Schools' programme and secondly research has shown that the introduction of young people to woodland environments at a young age and the positive experiences that arise are more likely to result in the children visiting woodland in their adulthood than children who do not benefit from this contact. This is likely to result in greater protection of and investment in Coventry's woodland as a result of this visitor demand.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Biodiversity
- Recreation and tourism

Active Woods

Lead Organisation

- Forestry Commission

Support Organisations

- British Heart Foundation
- England's Community Forests
- The Tree Council
- NHS Alliance
- Woodland Trust

Brief Description

7.27 The Active Woods is a national initiative led by the Forestry Commission to promote the range of health and fitness opportunities offered by Britain's woodlands. Events are being organised across England such as activity days, den-building competitions and dog walks, reflecting the campaign's three themes of naturally active, naturally stimulating and naturally relaxing.

Objectives

- Increase awareness of the benefits woodland can bring to an individual's mental and physical well-being
- Encourage people to use woodland as a place to exercise and spend recreation time in

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.28 This project is likely to have a positive effect on the green infrastructure of Coventry through the creation of increased demand for woodland recreation and creation of stronger local links between outdoor recreation and healthy living, which in turn has the potential to attract both capital and revenue funding to support the improvement and ongoing management of the city's woodland. Suitable venues would include the City Council's woodland as well as the Woodland Trust-owned Piles Coppice, Elkin Wood and Tocil Wood and the Forestry Commission-owned Waverley Wood.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Biodiversity
- Recreation and tourism

Let's Walk

Lead Organisation

- Coventry City Council

Brief Description

7.29 A local initiative that is organised by an Officer (Jagjit Lider) at the City Council. The project aims to encourage people to join weekly led walks and also take up more independent walking as part of a daily lifestyle. Currently the project supports 15 led walks each week and is aiming to develop walks within another three areas of Coventry. This project is funded by the Neighbourhood renewal fund and is a sister initiative to the 'Walking for Health' project run by the local NHS Trust.

Objective

- To improve the health of the people of Coventry

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.30 The routes covered under this project are targeted on Coventry's green spaces to provide a pleasant walking experience and therefore create increased demand upon the city's green infrastructure, especially if the participants are inspired to take up independent walking. This increased demand may encourage further investment in the city's green infrastructure, in the form of additional path creation or improved maintenance of spaces.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Recreation and tourism

Coventry Walking the Way to Health

Lead Organisations

- Coventry University Hospitals

Support Organisations

- Primary Care Trust
- Countryside Agency (now part of Natural England)
- Coventry Council Single Regeneration Budget
- Coventry Sports Trust
- Healthy Foleshill Initiative
- Foleshill Multi-cultural Open Forum
- Walking for Health Initiative (WHI)

Brief Description

7.31 This initiative is organised and managed on a day to day basis by the Walsgrave Cardiac Rehabilitation Team. The areas of Foleshill and Longford have been identified by the local NHS Trust as supporting large numbers of people who are at 'high risk' of suffering Coronary Heart Disease. Individuals from these areas who are diagnosed with heart problems are referred to this scheme. Individuals are encouraged to complete 'laps' of approximately 0.5mi within Coventry's parks by qualified fitness advisers and walk leaders.

Objectives

- Reduce the number of deaths in Foleshill and Longford from Heart Disease or stroke
- Provide an opportunity accessible to all to exercise and reduce the risk of health problems caused by a lack of cardio-vascular exercise in the future

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.32 This project is an excellent example of the use of green infrastructure in preventative medicine. While its direct impacts upon the city's green infrastructure will be relatively minor, it has the potential to catalyse similar projects outside of the city which may result in a wider regional increase in the use of public open space and strengthened links between green infrastructure and the health agenda.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Recreation and tourism

Doorstep Greens

Lead Organisation

- Countryside Commission (now part of Natural England)

Support Organisations

- Weavers Green Residents' Group
- Hawkesbury Residents' Group
- Coventry City Council

Brief Description

7.33 A national initiative, which has been applied in Coventry. The Doorstep Greens initiative was originally run by the Countryside Agency with funding from the New Opportunities Fund. This initiative was designed to allow communities to create their own new green spaces, or transform existing open spaces to meet their needs. Two 'Doorstep Greens' were created in Coventry, one at Hawkesbury and another at Weaver's Green, Hillfields. Both projects were managed by the local resident groups, have opened and are owned by the local people. No new applications are being considered under this initiative.

Objectives

- Create an area of public open space which serves the needs of everyone
- Encourage local communities to work together and build a sense of local 'ownership' of local green spaces

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.34 The two areas of improved open space resulting from this project will be making a greater contribution to the Coventry green infrastructure network through their increased multi-functionality and accessibility.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Recreation and tourism

Princethorpe, Ryton and Wappenbury Woodland Projects

Lead Organisation

- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Support Organisations

- Local landowners

Brief Description

7.35 A project to secure the improvement of three woods approximately 1km south of the 'Coventry Way' footpath. The project was funded by a £33,525 grant from Waste Recycling Ltd, under the Land Fill Tax credit system. Improvements included creating new circular walks and wheelchair friendly paths. The project has, and intends to carry on working with local landowners to encourage development of linkages between wooded areas through the targeted planting of new hedgerows and woodland.

Objectives

- Improve the accessibility of woodlands open to the public
- Develop a framework for woodland creation and management on a landscape scale
- Improve the quality of woodland habitats to help the conservation status of local BAP species (e.g. dormouse, wood white butterfly)

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.36 The linkage and improvement of these woods for both wildlife and people will create a significant green infrastructure node to the south of the city, which will contribute strongly to the local network.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Natural processes and environmental systems
- Recreation and tourism

The Interaction Project

Lead Organisations

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Environmental Development Programme
- Coventry City Council

Support Organisations

- Swanswell Initiative Team
- Hillfields Gardening Group
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- BTCV
- Asian Community Mental Health team
- Primrose Hill Steering Group

Brief Description

7.37 A community led initiative which began 2002 and finishes in March 2008. The aim of the project is to use the environment as a focus for community involvement and capacity building in the Hillfields Area (a priority neighbourhood). This project has led to the creation of a pocket park on East Street, street scene improvements and development of community allotments.

Objectives

- Encourage social inclusion and a sense of community spirit across the Hillfields area
- Enhance the local environment for the benefit of the local community

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.38 The creation of additional urban green infrastructure and improvement of existing spaces will have strengthened the green infrastructure network in this part of the city, providing greater opportunities for people to engage with the natural environment and for communities to come together in their strategic and practical management.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Natural processes and environmental systems
- Recreation and tourism

Cycling England Bid

Lead Organisation

- Coventry City Council

Support Organisations

- British Waterways
- Coventry Primary Care Trust
- SUSTRANS

Brief Description

7.39 Coventry City Council has recently submitted a bid to Cycling England to become a “cycling town”, i.e. an urban area where cycling is a key focus and where funding is made available to improve cycling infrastructure. If successful the City Council will secure approximately £6million towards three specific projects. The first of these is the provision of cycle access along the Sowe Valley, which is currently only served by a permissive footpath. This would involve the installation of a 2-3m wide surfaced trail along the length of the river through the city and the installation of a safe crossing over Ansty Road, while maintaining the rural character of the route. The second project involves the construction of a cycleway between the Wood End residential area and new RICOH Arena, via the Sowe Valley and Coventry Canal. The third project involves the improvement of the towpath of the southern end of the Coventry Canal as it approaches the city centre to enable cycle access through the installation of appropriate surfacing.

Objectives

- Improve cycling accessibility through the city by improving infrastructure
- Encourage cycling as a contribution to healthy living

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.40 The installation of new cycling routes and improvement of existing routes will improve the connectivity of the city, creating additional green infrastructure corridors for the sustainable movement of people. Landscaping installed along with new routes will also have the potential to improve the habitat value of the city and to provide movement corridors for urban wildlife.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Biodiversity
- Recreation and tourism
- Access and movement

Coventry Tree Planting Project

Lead Organisation

- Coventry City Council

Brief Description

7.41 As part of its wider strategy to combat climate change, Coventry City Council is planning to promote the planting of 10,000 trees each year in the city for the following 30 years, to provide one additional tree for each of the city's current population of 300,000 people. The Council plans to work in partnership with all other landowners across the city, including householders, to encourage the planting of additional trees and it endeavours to keep a record of all trees planted by all parties to compare it against this ongoing target.

Objectives

- Promote the planting of 10,000 trees each year in Coventry City

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.42 The establishment of such a number of trees within the city would be of significant value to its green infrastructure. . Trees bring a wide range of benefits to the spaces in which they are planted, including visual attractiveness and diversity, biodiversity habitat, wildlife movement corridors, rainfall interception, urban cooling and insulation, air filtration and play opportunities.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Natural processes and environmental systems
- Recreation and tourism

"Friends of" Groups

Lead Organisation

- Coventry City Council

Brief Description

7.43 This initiative currently includes the following groups:

- Friends of Memorial Park
- Allesley and Coundon Wedge Conservation Society
- Friends of Coundon Wood
- Friends of Canley Ford
- Friends of Caludon Park
- Friends of Longford Park
- Friends of London Road Cemetery
- Coventry Canal Society
- Friends of Wyken Slough

7.44 It is the City Council's aspiration that these and other future "Friends of" groups become involved in the management of their respective parks and open spaces at a number of levels, including fundraising, management planning, practical works and community liaison.

7.45 It is also the City Council's aspiration to establish a "Friends Forum", which would provide an opportunity for these groups to come together to share experiences and expertise and to provide a medium by which they could externally represent themselves.

Objectives

- Support the successful establishment and continued survival of these groups

Implications for Green Infrastructure

7.46 The involvement of the City's residents in the management of its green infrastructure nodes will be of considerable benefit to both the people and the green spaces. The participants will benefit from a sense of ownership of their local green space and will have the chance to socialise and meet people with similar interests. They will also experience the physical health benefits of undertaking practical maintenance work and the psychological benefits of being in an attractive green space, especially one over which they have an element of control. The green spaces will benefit from this initiative through the verification of their management objectives with the local population and also from the provision of free labour, which can significantly reduce their revenue funding requirement. This free labour provision can help to "unlock" works which would not normally be undertaken due to cost and labour constraints, e.g. woodland coppicing or path clearance.

Relevant Strategic Themes

- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Recreation and Tourism

8 Needs Assessment

Chaper Overview

8.1 This chapter assesses the physical green infrastructure needs within Coventry. Its principal focus is on the needs of the existing green infrastructure network to enable it to function as a city-wide resource, although it also includes an outline assessment of the provision of accessible natural greenspace.

Methodology

8.2 One of the main objectives of this study is to inform the creation of a network of multi-functional green space within Coventry and connecting it to the wider sub-region. A visual subjective assessment was therefore undertaken of the existing green infrastructure network plan for the city (Figure 6.2) to identify the main areas of deficit in the network and locations for potential connections to address this.

8.3 In addition to this, an outline assessment of the specific green infrastructure needs of communities has been undertaken using the natural green space provision criteria included in Policy GE1 of the Coventry Development Plan, which have been derived from Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt). These criteria are as follows:

- A natural Green Space within 400 metres of every home;
- At least one 20 ha site within 2 kilometres of every home;
- 1 ha of nature reserve (or land of similar nature conservation value) per 1,000 population within 1200 metres of home; and
- One 100 ha site within 10 kilometres of home;

8.4 This assessment has been undertaken using Geographical Information Systems analysis and for the purposes of the assessment, natural greenspace was defined as:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Nature Reserves
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Woodland

Assessment Limitations

8.5 The limitation of the visual needs assessment green infrastructure network is that it is a subjective assessment and is therefore dependent on the skills and experience of the assessor, although environmental stakeholders have also been consulted to ensure the assessment's validity.

8.6 The limitation of the methodology of Coventry City Council's Greenspace Standard is that it calculates accessibility distances around areas of greenspace in a straight line and does not take account of potential barriers to access such as major roads and railway lines. Other recognised barriers to access can be psychological, often related to personal safety or cultural conflicts and therefore more detailed site-level analysis will be required as development sites come forwards.

Green Infrastructure Network Assessment

8.7 The subjective visual assessment of Coventry's existing green infrastructure network has revealed an outline pattern similar to that of a wheel, with the Coventry Way forming the "rim" at a distance of between 1 and 4 kilometres from the built edge of the city, the city centre forming a central axis and a number of radial corridors forming "spokes" with occasional cross links. This connects well with Coventry's heritage as the national capital of bicycle and motor car manufacture.

The visual assessment of the existing network plan revealed a number of locations deficient in corridors, in particular in the north-western part of the City. Several broken connections were also identified, where corridors provide connectivity along their route but do not connect to green infrastructure features at one or both ends, for example the Lower Stoke dismantled railway path and parts of the local cycleway network.

To address these shortfalls, the following additional connections are recommended, which are shown geographically on Figure 8.1 and described in the following paragraphs:

- River Sherbourne East
- River Sherbourne West
- Pickford Brook
- Kenilworth Road
- Walsgrave bridleway link
- Keresley link

8.8 It is notable that many of these routes follow existing watercourses. This is because these provide existing green corridors through the city, which are likely to possess biodiversity value, are performing the natural process of urban drainage and with the addition of public access could become valuable linkages within the green infrastructure network.

River Sherbourne East

8.9 This recommended connection links the city centre to the River Sowe at the edge of the urban area. It emerges from its culverted route under the city centre near to the university and ring road on Gosford Street and flows southwards before flowing into the River Sowe to the north of Baginton. It is an attractive and treed route for much of its length and passes through the site of the Charterhouse (a Scheduled Monument) minor node. It also connects with the Lower Stoke Railway minor corridor, resolving a "dead end".

8.10 It is therefore recommended that a shared use surfaced path be installed along the route of the river in this location, to provide additional connectivity between the city centre and urban fringe. Opportunities also exist for habitat improvement works along the more natural parts of its route and the installation of features to improve people's enjoyment and encourage use, such as benches, interpretation panels and sculpture.

8.11 With regard to its priority and deliverability, this corridor is regarded as being of high priority because it will provide a high-value link between the city centre and River Sowe corridor and also runs in the vicinity of a proposed brownfield development site. The deliverability of the corridor is also regarded as being high because it follows an existing corridor of open space through the urban area and will require relatively little resource input to deliver public access and habitat improvement.

River Sherbourne West

8.12 This recommended connection forms an additional linkage to the north west of the city, where off-road connections are currently sparse, although pedestrians and cyclists are using the quiet rural lanes of Allesley. While the river rises to the north of Wall Hill Road off Pikers Lane, it is recommended that this new linkage starts at Corley Moor, where it would connect with the Coventry Way orbital route and Regional Cycle Route 11. It would follow a combination of public footpaths and attractive minor roads reflective of the Ancient Arden landscape (Hollyfast Lane, Wall Hill Road, Bridle Brook Lane and Washbrook Lane) before joining the route of the river proper. It would then follow the route of the river through a series of City Council owned informal open space areas (including Lake View Park) before terminating at Meadow Street adjacent to the ring road.

8.13 It is recommended that where the route passes along existing public footpaths, the routes should be upgraded to bridleways to enable use by cyclists. Provision should be made for the potential diversion of upgraded bridleways onto field margins to minimise disruption to landowners. Where the route runs along minor roads it is recommended that options be explored with landowners to create an adjacent shared-use surfaced trail utilising field margins or toll rides for horse riders.

8.14 With regard to the priority and deliverability of this corridor, it is regarded as being of moderate priority, providing a link between the urban area and Coventry Way in a part of the study area where green infrastructure is relatively sparse. Its deliverability is regarded as being moderate

because it will require the upgrading of public footpaths to bridleways, in which the co-operation of landowners will need to be secured, and it may also require the addition of cycleway infrastructure to minor roads while respecting their rural, Ancient Arden character.

Pickford Brook

8.15 This recommended connection strengthens the "River Sherbourne West" linkage described above by providing additional connections with the Coventry Way orbital route along the Pickford Brook, a tributary of the River Sherbourne. The Pickford Brook comprises two spurs which run to the north and south of Pickford Green and converge at Windmill Hill Golf Course. The northern spur of this route would connect to the Coventry Way to the south of Birchley Hays Wood and follow the alignment of the watercourse through open agricultural land to Windmill Hill. The southern spur would connect with the Coventry Way near to Meriden House and would mostly follow existing public footpaths along the watercourse to Windmill Hill. From Windmill Hill the route would pass eastwards through Allesley Park before connecting with the River Sherbourne West connection to the north of Holyhead Road.

8.16 It is therefore recommended that new shared use paths of a similar specification to the River Sherbourne West route above be installed on both routes, with the public footpaths on the southern spur being upgraded to bridleways and new bridleways being designated on the northern spur and to address the gap in the southern spur. This route crossed both the A45 and A4114 and therefore consideration would need to be given to the establishment of safe means of crossing these roads.

8.17 With regard to the priority and deliverability of this corridor, its priority is regarded as being moderate as it will build upon the existing rural-urban interface. Its delivery is regarded as being moderate on the southern spur, where the corridor would follow existing (upgraded) public footpaths and low on the northern spur, which would require the designation of additional Public Rights of Way, which may be contested by landowners.

Kenilworth Road

8.18 The spinneys adjacent to Kenilworth Road are one of Coventry's most notable and attractive features, enhanced by the straight alignment of the road and providing a grand link between the two towns. Both their biodiversity and historic value are confirmed by their designation as a Local Nature Reserve and Conservation Area and they have been recognised in Chapter 6 as a major green infrastructure corridor.

8.19 Currently, Kenilworth Spinneys extend to the boundary between Coventry administrative area and Warwick District and therefore there exists a gap of approximately 1km length between the termination of this corridor and the Coventry Way minor green infrastructure corridor. To address this gap it is recommended that a double row of trees be planted, in partnership with landowners, either side of the A429 with public access made available, to complete this connection and provide a sustainable movement route between Coventry and Kenilworth. The public access would ideally take the form of a shared use footway/cycleway running between the two rows of trees.

8.20 With regard to the priority and deliverability of this corridor, its priority is regarded as high because it will complete a major green infrastructure corridor between Memorial Park and Kenilworth. Its deliverability is also regarded as high because the extension of this attractive and popular feature is likely to attract local support and relatively little land on the margins of fields will be required to deliver it.

Keresley Link

8.21 The visual analysis of the existing network plan revealed that there are no existing corridors between the existing River Sowe major corridor and the recommended River Sherbourne West corridor described above.

8.22 It is suggested that a new radial multi-functional corridor be established linking the ring road to the Coventry Way in this location, although there is no immediately apparent open space route within the city for this corridor to follow. Within the built-up parts of the city the recommended route therefore follows the existing B4098 Radford Road and Keresley Road, which is a broad highway with occasional stretches of tree planting and which are not currently included in the existing cycleway networks. Opportunities to improve the green infrastructure value of this route include the creation of a dedicated cycle lane along its length to complement the pedestrian provision and the introduction of further green elements such as street trees and

shrub beds to provide a valuable corridor for wildlife movement and to deliver the sustainability benefits of urban green elements described in Chapter 5.

8.23 Within the rural land to the north-west of the city it is recommended that the corridor follows existing public footpaths and minor roads between the urban fringe and the connection with the Coventry Way at Corley Ash. Improvements to this stretch of the corridor would include the upgrade of the public footpaths to bridleways with potential surfacing to permit cycle access and the installation of appropriate signage and markings on the roads to ensure safety for users.

8.24 With regard to the priority and deliverability of this corridor, the priority is regarded as being high because the route passes through an area proposed for greenfield development in the Core Strategy Options paper and provides an additional linkage between the city and Coventry Way in an area where existing green infrastructure is relatively sparse. If this area is developed then its deliverability will be high because developer contributions and planning conditions could be used to secure some if not all of this route.

Access to Natural Greenspace

8.25 The results of the outline assessment of Coventry's existing natural green spaces against the standards presented within Policy GE1 of the Coventry Development Plan are shown on Figures 8.2 and 8.3.

8.26 The quantitative results for the different standards are as follows:

A natural Green Space within 400 metres of home

8.27 Of an approximate urban area of 7,270ha within Coventry, 6,435ha complies with this standard, representing nearly 90%. This is a positive result and shows that relatively little work is required to meet the standard. The main areas of deficit under this standard within the Coventry administrative area are the city centre, Walsgrave on Sowe, Lime Tree Park, Canley, Allesley, Coundon and Upper Stoke, although in most cases a single well-located area of natural open space will address the deficiency in these locations.

At least one 20 ha site within 2 kilometres of home

8.28 Under this standard, only 350ha or 5% of the urban area was found to be in deficit. This is a very positive result indicating a strong provision of large accessible natural spaces within the city. The only area found to be in deficit within the urban area was a single strip of land to the north east of the city centre, in the Hillfields and Swanswell areas.

1 ha of nature reserve (or land of similar nature conservation value) per 1,000 population within 1200 metres of home

8.29 The assessment against this standard revealed a much greater deficit than the previous assessments, with 3,252ha or around 45% of the urban area falling outside this standard. Figure 8.3 shows that this area of deficit is predominantly located in the central and northern parts of the city with the ancient woodland providing nature reserves in the west and the River Sowe providing sites to the east. This deficit shows that there is a need for the creation of new nature reserves in the central and northern parts of the city, which could be achieved through the diversification of an existing park in partnership with the local community.

8.30 This assessment was only undertaken in outline because a more detailed assessment of the quantitative provision of open space within Coventry against the demands of the population will be presented within the emerging Green Space Strategy for the city, which is complementary to this study. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the broad areas of natural greenspace need and to compare this to the existing green infrastructure network for the city. It is likely that the Green Space Study will also identify additional, smaller areas of natural greenspace within the context of more formal parks.

8.31 With regard to the ongoing validity of this standard following the replacement of the Development Plan with the emerging Core Strategy, the current approach is still the one used and promoted by Natural England. It is noted that it differs slightly from the Natural England approach in that the maximum distance to an area of accessible natural greenspace within the Natural England standard is 300m whereas in the Coventry standard it is 400m, however it is suggested that it is neither practically nor economically sensible to reduce the current distance in the city, where land is a limited resource and several other types of open space are available.

8.32 An additional difference between the standards is that the Natural England standard requires accessible natural green spaces to be a minimum size of 2ha. In the context of Coventry city

where land is limited, this is not felt to be appropriate, therefore it is recommended that the City Council's current approach of not defining a minimum size be continued. An additional consideration is that children are capable of using and enjoying much smaller areas of natural greenspace than adults and this is generally considered to be the stage of life when access to natural space is most critical to their development.

9 Opportunities Assessment

Chapter Overview

9.1 The planning of green infrastructure should not be limited to satisfying existing deficits and meeting the minimum demand standards anticipated of future populations. It should be visionary, seeking opportunities to achieve significant net gains in the provision of multi-functional green resources and the connectivity of these resources to form coherent, functional networks.

9.2 This chapter will build upon the recommendations of the previous chapter, using the information presented in Chapters 5 and 6 along with successful case studies elsewhere in the UK. It will suggest a suite of projects that, subject to adequate resourcing, would improve Coventry's overall green infrastructure value and deliver significant benefits to its quality and 'liveability'.

9.3 Those projects that have a geographical context are broadly illustrated on Figure 9.1.

Opportunities Presented by Development

9.4 The Core Strategy Options paper issued by Coventry City Council identifies the potential for both brownfield development within the existing urban area and elements of greenfield development on the urban fringe.

9.5 The brownfield regeneration activities within the city are likely to pose significant opportunities for the creation of new green infrastructure to complement the city's existing provision. It will be vital for sufficient new urban greenspace to be created in line with the standards included in the emerging Green Space Strategy and the spatial planning of this space should be informed by this study to enable it to strengthen the city's green infrastructure network and draw its benefits into the developments.

9.6 Brownfield sites with particular potential for overall green infrastructure gain include the following:

- The Swanswell Initiative, which has the potential to interact very positively with the Coventry Canal major green infrastructure corridor.
- The Wood End, Henley Green and Manor Farm New Deal for Communities initiative, which presents the opportunity for an additional multi-functional corridor to be created between the existing Oxford Canal and River Sowe corridors. This could take the form of a new linear park running through the development, which will have the additional benefits of improving the "liveability" of the development and increasing economic property value.

9.7 The Options paper also identified two potential greenfield areas for additional growth to the north-west of the city, at Upper Eastern Green and Keresley.

9.8 Development of the site at Upper Eastern Green would provide strong opportunities for the strengthening of the recommended Pickford Brook green infrastructure corridor described in Chapter 8 above. The opportunity exists to create a linear park along the Brook, delineating the northern edge of the development and providing an attractive recreational resource. The Brook also has the potential to form the core of a Sustainable Urban Drainage system for the development and open drainage swales associated with this system would assist in bringing the benefits of the corridor into the development.

9.9 Development of the site at Keresley would provide strong opportunities for the establishment of the recommended Keresley Spoke green infrastructure corridor described in Chapter 8 above. The opportunity exists to incorporate the existing woodland (including two Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) and watercourses in this location into a site-level green infrastructure network that connects with the wider city network and provides the start of an accessible green link from this part of the city to the Coventry Way as well as maintaining attractive views over the city from this location.

9.10 The incorporation of the woodland into the site-level network would enable it to be made accessible to the public and for investment to be secured towards its ongoing sustainable management. The opportunity also exists for additional woodland establishment as part of the development's green infrastructure to buffer this existing woodland against future pressures such as the effects of climate change. As with the previous site, the presence of an existing watercourse also provides the opportunity for the use of a Sustainable Urban Drainage system which would also serve a biodiversity function within the site.

Bunson's Wood Major Green Infrastructure Node

9.11 The potential greenfield development site at Keresley shown within the Core Strategy Options paper presents an opportunity for the creation of a major green infrastructure node to the north-west of the city, as Figure 6.2 shows the existing green infrastructure network to be generally deficient in this area.

9.12 The most appropriate resource to form this potential node is Bunson's Wood, a 10 hectare area of ancient semi natural woodland in the vicinity of this development location. The wood is currently in private ownership and access is not permitted, although it is subject to frequent trespass and anti-social behaviour. It is an attractive mature wood with high potential to deliver a range of objectives, principally biodiversity and recreation, possibly through designation as a Local Nature Reserve.

9.13 Should the greenfield site be developed, it would be recommended that the wood is either purchased, possibly by the Woodland Trust, or leased from the landowner and managed as a part of the development's green infrastructure with funds for its procurement and ongoing management sourced from the development. Public access routes should be installed along with places to pause and enjoy the wood and interpretation panels should be installed to improve residents' understanding and appreciation of the ancient woodland.

9.14 Management of the wood could be undertaken in partnership with the local community, through a "Friends of" group. This would encourage a local sense of stewardship as well as healthy living and a reduced requirement for revenue funding to cover basic operations such as litter picking, path clearance and coppicing.

Canley Brook Green Infrastructure Corridor

9.15 For the purpose of this Study, this is the name given to the small watercourse which rises in an area of open space to the east of Wolfe Road, runs eastwards to Canley Ford Community Meadow then meanders southwards to its confluence with the Finham Brook to the north of Kenilworth Golf Course.

9.16 An opportunity exists to create an additional access route along an existing corridor of green space which would provide a traffic-free connection between National Cycle Route 52, the Coventry Way and Kenilworth. The route would also provide additional linkage between the major nodes of Memorial Park, Tocil and Gibbet Woods and Crackley Wood.

9.17 The route would connect with National Cycle Route 52 at Canley Ford Community Meadow and then follow the line of the brook southwards to Tocil and Gibbet Woods where it connects with the University of Warwick campus. A potential constraint of this stretch is the crossing of the A45 and the existing crossing 200m to the west should be used. The route would then proceed southwards following the line of the brook before following the line of an existing public footpath from Cryfield Grange to Crackley.

9.18 It is recommended that the creation of this connection includes the installation of a shared use footway/cycleway and that the route be designated a public bridleway. Opportunities also exist for habitat creation and improvement along the route, as its biodiversity interest has been demonstrated by the local designation of Tocil Wood and Brookstray as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. Other opportunities include projects such as healthy living initiatives in partnership with the adjacent university.

9.19 The opportunity exists for this route to be planned and possibly delivered in conjunction with the new "Kenilworth to Berkswell Greenway and Warwick University" linkage, which has successfully attracted Connect2 funding and which will be created within the next 5 years. It is likely that these two routes would meet in the vicinity of Cryfield Grange.

Coventry Way Plus

9.20 As identified above, the Coventry Way is a continuous 40-mile circular public footpath, which encircles the city at between two and four kilometres from the urban edge.

9.21 While currently identified as a minor green infrastructure corridor, this route has very high potential for further development into a high quality, multi-functional resource for the city. As a public footpath, its accessibility is currently limited by Highways Act legislation, which precludes any form of access other than pedestrian.

9.22 The opportunity therefore exists to significantly upgrade this route to provide a valuable and multi-functional green infrastructure corridor for the benefit of the whole of Coventry. Improvements could comprise the following:

- Upgrading the legal status of the route to a public bridleway to provide access for equestrians and cyclists. This would also address a general lack of bridleways observed within the study area.
- Surfacing of at least key sections of the route to allow for year-round, all-ability access.
- Promotion of the route, including signage along key access "spokes" from the city and along the route and publishing of the route and associated walks via leaflets and the council website.
- Creation of additional green infrastructure nodes, such as accessible woodland and meadows along the route, particularly to the north-west of the city where major nodes are not present.
- Creation and management of habitats along the route including rough grassland edges, hedgerows, spinneys and wetland habitats.
- Installation of interpretation panels showing the location on the whole route and helping users to engage with their local landscape, heritage and biodiversity.
- Installation of art in key locations.
- Addition of a "Coventry Way stop" to relevant bus routes.
- Further promotion, development and profile building of the "Coventry Way Challenge", an annual walking/running event to complete the Coventry Way.

9.23 The realisation of this opportunity is likely to involve the significant co-operation of landowners, who should be engaged at the earliest part of the process to agree appropriate mechanisms for the release of land to widen the current route and ensure its year-round availability for access. Early engagement with landowners will also enable them to realise the potential benefits of the delivery of this project, such as involvement in the ongoing maintenance of the route and farm business diversification opportunities such as farm shops and open farms.

Opportunities Presented by City Centre Regeneration

9.24 The plans for the wider regeneration of Coventry include broad plans to redevelop parts of the existing city centre, although the exact nature of this development is yet to be confirmed.

9.25 Irrespective of the final use, however, the redevelopment of the City Centre presents the opportunity to achieve significant greening of the urban environment and to extend the existing green infrastructure network into the city centre, which the Options paper recognises could be improved by the incorporation of additional green elements.

9.26 Some suggestions as to how this could be achieved to improve the overall green infrastructure value of the city centre are listed below.

Green Roofs

Construction of new buildings within the City Centre presents an opportunity for the benefits of green roof technology to be realised, such as:-

- Energy savings, providing cooling in the summer and insulation in the winter
- Improvement of urban air quality
- Additional habitat for birds and invertebrates
- Interception of rainfall and reduction of peak storm water flows

9.27 These benefits connect with the green infrastructure themes of biodiversity and natural processes and environmental systems and therefore have the potential to deliver a net gain in the City Centre's green infrastructure. They could also form valuable wildlife "bridges" across where corridors such as the River Sherbourne are broken.

Tree Planting

9.28 As identified in Chapter 7, Coventry City Council is embarking upon an initiative to support the establishment of 10,000 trees in the city each year for the next 30 years, to provide one additional tree for each of the city's current population.

9.29 The regeneration of the city centre provides a strong opportunity to support this project while realising the multiple benefits that trees in urban environments can bring as described in Chapter 5, including shading, improvements in air quality and carbon sequestration. The incorporation of trees into the overall vision for the city centre is also likely to deliver economic benefits, as businesses will be more willing to move to an attractive, green city centre environment and this increased demand is likely to result in an increase in city centre property value. Finally, the incorporation of tree avenues in the city centre can form valuable wildlife corridors through the built up environment connecting corridors and spaces which currently end at the ring road as well as providing new distinctive features to positively characterise a revitalised city centre.

River Sherbourne

9.30 The River Sherbourne is recommended for public access improvements in Chapter 8 above to broaden the benefits that this corridor currently delivers and to develop it into an effective component of the city's green infrastructure network.

9.31 This river is culverted where it passes through the city centre and therefore it does not currently deliver any benefit in this location. The regeneration of the City Centre presents an opportunity to re-open sections of this river, as attractive features which surrounding buildings can relate to in their design. This could possibly lead to the creation of a relatively narrow, linear waterside park through the city centre flanked by cafés and restaurants which would provide a key activity zone and a focus for those living and working in the city in both the daytime and evening. The green nature of this zone could be enhanced by the planting of specimen trees along the river, to emphasise its naturalness without using a large area of land, which is limited in the city centre.

9.32 It is recognised that a significant level of funding and co-ordination would be required to realise this opportunity and therefore it would need to be tied in with the regeneration of adjacent areas of the City Centre, possibly drawing down pooled Section 106 or Community Infrastructure contributions along with private sector investment to achieve its delivery.

Coventry Green Infrastructure Group

9.33 During this period of expansion and growth for the City, it will be critically important to establish a regular, positive dialogue with developers to ensure the correct and adequate protection, creation and ongoing management of green infrastructure.

9.34 It is recommended that this dialogue be undertaken via a group of green infrastructure stakeholders, funded through the Growth Point and tasked with ensuring that green infrastructure is properly addressed. This would provide a single point of contact and source of advice for developers and would ensure that conflicting messages were not being received from different organisations.

9.35 Membership of the Group should be open to all related organisations but it should be made clear that regular input is required and membership should be reviewed on a regular basis. Administration should be kept to a minimum, with the Group meeting on a regular (say quarterly) basis with the provision for extraordinary meetings should they be required.

9.36 An additional option would be to expand this group to cover the whole Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull sub-region to enable a greater clarity of thinking and planning over this whole area.

9.37 It will also be important for this group to maintain a consistent dialogue and strong links with other similar organisations in the area such as the Local Biodiversity Action Plan group and Habitat Biodiversity Audit group, although it is likely that members will be common across these groups and there is the potential for them to be combined.

9.38 The following organisations are suggested as initial candidate members:

- Coventry City Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Forestry Commission
- Groundwork Trust
- Woodland Trust
- RSPB
- Ramblers Association

10 A Green Infrastructure Vision for Coventry

Chapter Overview

This chapter draws together the results of this study into a long-term vision for the city's green infrastructure and in particular its interaction with the strategic growth of the City under the New Growth Point.

Long Term Vision for Green Infrastructure

10.1 The overall long-term vision for green infrastructure in Coventry is the provision of a city-wide network of high quality, well-managed and well-connected, multi-functional green space, delivering a wide range of benefits to those living in, working in and visiting the city and improving the attractiveness of the city as a whole.

10.2 Particular elements of this vision are as follows:

- As the development objectives of the New Growth Point are delivered, green infrastructure considered equal to all other forms of infrastructure and considered an essential element of the servicing of sites prior to construction. Green infrastructure viewed as a critical element of the scoping stage of planning applications and all outline and detailed planning applications to demonstrate consideration of the development's potential impact upon the existing green infrastructure network. This will require a significant change in developers' thinking and Coventry City Council will take a strong lead, supported by environmental stakeholders, in supporting this change and raising awareness of its requirement.
- Design of new developments to respect their relation to the city's green infrastructure network and opportunities sought wherever possible to improve the network, including the installation of features such as urban trees and green roofs New open space created within developments to be of a high and lasting design quality and its efficiency maximised through the designing in of multiple functions, including visual amenity, biodiversity, sustainable drainage, natural shading, informal recreation, adventure play, art appreciation and organised sports. The layout of this open space to support the existing green infrastructure network.
- All new and existing green infrastructure adequately resourced both in terms of funding and staffing to enable it to deliver its full range of potential benefits to the City. This will include capital funding for the installation of new features and replacement of those that are worn out or vandalised, as well as revenue funding for the ongoing maintenance. Park wardens to be provided to ensure that the City's parks are welcoming and safe places and that anti-social behaviour is both reported and discouraged.
- The City's woods respected as fundamental elements of its green infrastructure network, key recreation resources and one of the nation's most valuable wildlife habitats. Sufficient funding, staffing and expertise provided to ensure that it is properly protected and actively managed. Management to provide a reasonable balance between ecological, recreation, landscape and economic objectives and realise the opportunities presented by education, health and community involvement.
- The links between green infrastructure and other sectors maintained and expanded, in particular links to the healthy living agenda and preventative medicine through the range of existing initiatives within the city. Links with education strengthened with opportunities for children and young people to use the City's green infrastructure as a learning resource to aid their development and achieve a greater understanding of their local environment. Children and young people encouraged to use green infrastructure to counter any perceived barriers to access to natural green space that are often carried through to their adult life.

10.3 Above all, the green infrastructure network will be useable and useful for both people and wildlife. It will be attractive and coherent as a sustainable access network and will be central to future life in the City. It will be a key contributor to Coventry's aim to be a sustainable city and its action against climate change and will help the City project a positive and attractive image forwards into the 21st Century.

Physical Green Infrastructure Vision

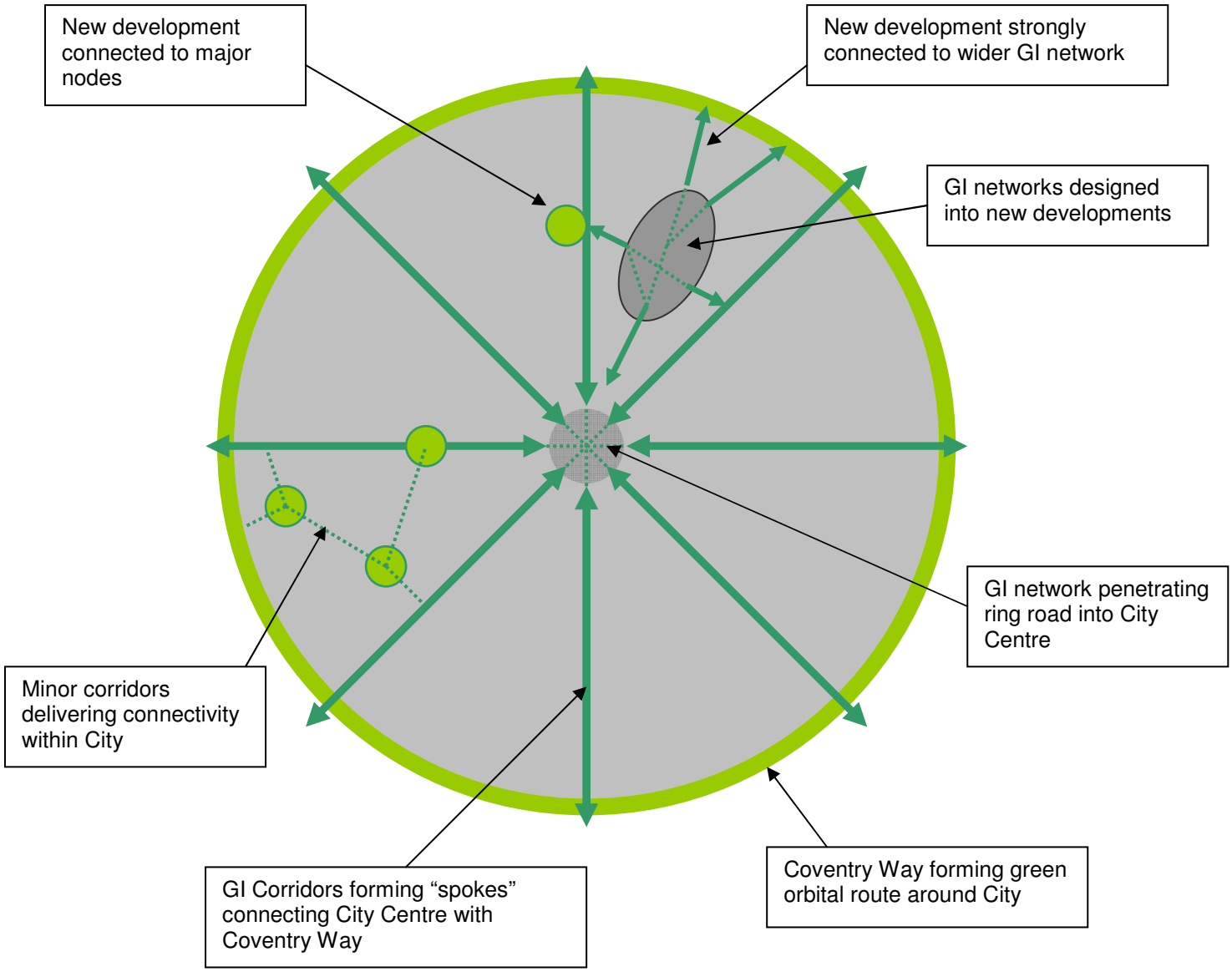
10.4 As outlined in Chapter 8, Coventry's existing green infrastructure network has the appearance of a wheel, which connects well to the City's heritage.

10.5 It is recommended that this concept be developed, to provide a vision which is easy to interpret and accessible to all. The City Centre's position at the "hub" of the wheel will place it at the centre of this vision, as the key connection which binds the components together. The Coventry Way, forming the "rim", will help to draw people out of the City into the surrounding countryside and will act as a focus for investment and new green infrastructure creation, for example accessible woodland and nature reserves. These two elements will be connected by a series of "spokes", including the rivers and canal, which will act as key sustainable movement routes and destinations in their own right.

10.6 New development, whether brownfield or greenfield, will be integrated into this structure, connecting with its components via well-designed and managed internal green infrastructure networks and improving the overall value of the network.

10.7 This vision is illustrated diagrammatically in Figure 10.1 overleaf.

Figure 10.1: Coventry Green Wheel



11 Green Infrastructure Standards for Sustainable Development

Chapter Overview

11.1 This chapter is prepared in response to the requirement of Coventry City Council for a set of standards to guide developers in the provision of a high quality environment associated with new development.

11.2 It presents ten standards, four of which are general to green infrastructure as a whole and six of which relate to the strategic themes used in this document. Each theme is accompanied by justification and additional information, which connects it to the context of Coventry.

General Standards

A. Green infrastructure should be considered in the same manner as any other form of infrastructure servicing new development, such as highways or utilities, and should be an essential component of a fully serviced development plot.

Frequently, green space is regarded as a use for those areas of land that cannot be developed due to their size or quality. This has resulted in the creation of small, fragmented areas of both formal and informal open space which are not "networked" in terms of green infrastructure and which therefore do not deliver their full potential in terms of improving the attractiveness, liveability and economic value of developments.

If the green infrastructure is designed into developments from the outset taking into consideration the City's existing green infrastructure network then it can be established early in the development process and allowed to mature as construction progresses. The use of younger stock grown for several years before occupation also provides a much more robust green space resource with developed rooting systems, as opposed to "instant landscaping" treatments which can require heavy maintenance to ensure successful establishment. This can also lead to considerable cost savings. An additional benefit is the protection of soils within established open space areas during construction, as soils that have been compacted as a result of vehicle movement and materials storage during the construction phase are generally unsuitable for the establishment of vegetation without considerable amelioration.

B. New green spaces should be designed to deliver a broad range of functions to ensure maximum efficiency in land given over to this use.

It is recognised that land is a scant resource within Coventry's administrative area and therefore it will be essential to maximise the efficiency of potentially developable land given over to green space, to enable the benefits it delivers to justify the development income forgone in its creation. Green space should be designed with a variety of elements and varied mowing regimes including close mown areas for informal recreation, rough grassland, wildflower and scrub areas (for biodiversity and visual interest), play areas (including simple, natural elements to inspire creative play) and trees for habitat and visual value and adventure play. The use of Sustainable Urban Drainage features such as swales and ponds can also provide multi-functional green elements.

C. New green infrastructure elements associated with development should connect into site-level networks which should in turn connect with the City-wide network.

As a result of the expansion of Coventry over the last 100 years, many existing green infrastructure features have been isolated from wider networks by built development and new green spaces have been created in isolation with no external connection. The most prominent example of this is the blocks of ancient woodland to the west of the city such as Park Wood and Limbrick Wood, which have been disconnected from local biodiversity networks preventing the movement of wildlife and plants.

All new play areas, recreation grounds and other local greenspace areas should therefore be planned into new residential developments as connected networks, with green corridors linking parks to deliver connectivity for people and wildlife. If the green corridors incorporate retained mature hedgerows with hedgerow trees then these routes will be particularly valuable as movement routes for wildlife such as birds and bats.

D. Developers should agree robust delivery and funding mechanisms with Coventry City Council prior to commencement of development to secure the high quality creation and ongoing management of green infrastructure.

The emerging Coventry Green Space Strategy identifies that increasing financial pressures on the City Council have resulted in green space maintenance budgets remaining static for a number of years despite rising costs and that this, along with a lack of capital funding, has resulted in a general reduction in the quality of the city's open spaces. This is in contrast to the evidence listed above, which recognises the positive economic effect which quality green infrastructure can have on property value.

It is vital to the process of green infrastructure planning to establish robust delivery and funding mechanisms at the earliest possible stage once costs are understood, in particular to secure the ongoing generation of revenue funding. This matter is covered in greater detail in Chapter 12 below.

Thematic Standards

E. New green infrastructure associated with development on the urban fringe should be in keeping with the existing landscape character of development sites, in terms of its design, habitat type and species selection.

Coventry's urban fringe is highly variable in terms of its landscape character, as shown on Figure 5.2. It is therefore critical that new green infrastructure associated with urban fringe development is designed in accordance with the appropriate Landscape Character Type because features typical of the landscape to the east of the city of the Dunsmore Landscape Character Type would be incongruous in the Arden landscape to the west. The Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines and emerging Landscape Description Unit descriptions are the key information sources to inform this process.

F. All development should identify key biodiversity habitats, features of geological interest and all other environmental assets at masterplanning stage and where possible enhance these features through positive management, buffering, extension and linkage.

Coventry contains a variety of valuable remnant habitats from ancient woodland to unimproved grassland, scrub and swamp. It is important that the correct features are retained during the masterplanning stage of developments and the advice of ecologists and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust should be sought. The Habitat Biodiversity Audit information held by Warwickshire County Council will be a key data source to inform this process.

Development also provides unique opportunities for the creation of new habitat areas, often to extend and improve the value of existing features, and it is also important in this instance to ascertain which habitats are the most appropriate to create. Again, the Habitat Biodiversity Audit, combined with site survey, will inform the selection of the most appropriate habitat type.

G. The design of all developments should respect and respond positively to the historic environment and use green space to protect and incorporate historic features and their settings. New developments should be connected to their historical context through interpretation. All new-build development sites should be subject to prior archaeological investigation and recording in line with local policy to identify any features of interest which may require protection and also to improve our overall understanding of the historic environment.

Coventry contains a rich array of Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and locally designated archaeological sites which reflect its rich and variable history. In the case of brownfield development it will be of particular importance to take the advantage of the removal of the present layer of development to investigate and record what lies beneath

to improve the general understanding of the city's history. The city's historic environment also presents the opportunity for it to inform the design and character of new development to provide additional character, interest and attractiveness to investors.

H. All developments should include, wherever possible, green infrastructure elements which deliver multiple sustainable benefits to the urban environment through their natural processes including Sustainable Urban Drainage systems, urban trees and green roofs.

As a predominantly built-up area, Coventry has high potential to benefit from these green infrastructure features which not only improve the urban environment but also deliver sustainability benefits, such as reduced power consumption and urban heat island effects.

The number of small watercourses that pass through the city and in particular those that pass through the areas identified within the Coventry Development Plan as potential greenfield development areas have high potential to form the cores of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems with the maximum rainfall possible returned to groundwater at source but the remainder conveyed through open swales and detention ponds to these watercourses. The features associated with these systems have high potential to deliver additional benefits as wildlife habitats or attractive walking routes.

All developments within the city have the potential for the installation of urban trees and green roofs and walls. These can deliver significant cost savings to buildings through trees providing shading in the summer and wind shelter in the winter and green roofs and walls providing insulation all year round. These features, which are easy to install in brownfield developments, would also be contributory to tackling the city's air quality issues in several locations and absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide, helping the city's action against climate change. These features also provide biodiversity benefits, while trees and green walls improve the visual attractiveness and diversity of the urban environment.

I. All developments should provide adequate recreational green space for new populations or employees in line with standards within the Coventry Development Plan and Green Space Strategy.

The provision of adequate recreational open space is critical to the sustainability of new developments and the wider city, as access to open space confers multiple benefits as outlined in this Study while a lack of access to open space is recognised as being potentially harmful, particularly to the development of children and young people.

Recreational space should take several forms to offer maximum interest, including sports pitches, parks, gardens, woodland, nature reserves, allotments and play areas and it should be noted that many of these types have the potential to deliver additional multi-functional benefits.

J. Linear green infrastructure should be used within developments to encourage a modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport and should connect to existing footpath and cycleway networks.

Coventry contains an existing local cycleway network as well as National Cycle Network routes and it is important for new development to continue this network into new residential and employment areas to ensure that people are able to use sustainable travel options. Where possible, these routes should be away from roads, should be shared footways and cycleways and should be associated with green corridors which also allow the movement of wildlife and development of attractive habitats to enhance the visual experience for footpath and cycleway users.

12 Implementation Plan

Chapter Overview

12.1 Equally important to the proper planning of green infrastructure is its effective delivery, both in terms of its creation and ongoing management. This requires the formation of effective delivery mechanisms and the sourcing of both capital and revenue funding at the outset, to prevent resources going into decline in the future.

12.2 There are two principal aspects to the delivery of green infrastructure: the mechanism by which delivery occurs and the sourcing of sufficient capital and revenue funding to enable this delivery to occur. This section will consider each of these in turn and then present a number of case studies of successful green infrastructure creation and management in the Midlands, to enable comparisons to be drawn and provide key contacts when planning future projects and initiatives for Coventry.

Practical Implications of Green Infrastructure Delivery

12.3 Green infrastructure is delivered by a wide variety of individual bodies, including the following:

- Developers
- Local Authorities
- Government Agencies
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Community Interest Companies
- Private sector companies
- Private landowners
- Local community groups

12.4 These organisations frequently enter into delivery partnerships, bringing their respective skills and resources together to form effective bodies for the creation and management of green infrastructure. A current local example is the bid which has been submitted to Cycling England to provide cycle access to the River Sowe corridor and other parts of the city including a stretch of the Coventry Canal (see Chapter 7). This bid has involved the co-operation of Coventry City Council as the lead organisation and majority landowner, British Waterways as the landowner of the Coventry Canal and SUSTRANS as a key stakeholder and potential funding source, as well as Coventry Primary Care Trust as a supporter and potential promoter of the project through the links between cycling and the healthy living agenda.

12.5 Other successful delivery partnerships at the wider regional level include River Nene Regional Park in the East Midlands and the Black Country Consortium in the West Midlands, both of which are leading the delivery of a wide range of green infrastructure related projects.

12.6 In forming delivery partnerships it is important to establish at the outset what the roles of each partner will be, in the initial delivery and ongoing management of green infrastructure resources. These roles might include:

- Group leadership/chairing
- Sourcing, holding and releasing funding
- Land purchase, ownership and/or occupation
- External liaison and promotion
- Specification, budgeting and licensing
- Contract management and supervision
- Practical creation and management
- Monitoring and reporting

12.7 It is critically important to ensure that regular and effective communication is maintained between group members and that procedures are put into place to ensure that agreed actions

are completed in a timely manner. It is also important to ensure that the necessary skills exist within any partnership to ensure full understanding of and engagement with the development agenda and the design considerations of green infrastructure.

12.8 Within Coventry, the following are the principal organisations that have the potential to form part of the overall green infrastructure delivery mechanism.

12.9 **Coventry City Council** is likely to be the principal body co-ordinating and regulating the delivery of green infrastructure through the medium of the New Growth Point. As the largest owner and occupier of open space in the city it is also central to the ongoing management of the green infrastructure network. Where delivery partnerships are formed, it is recommended that the Council be involved in at least an advisory role, to ensure that green infrastructure is delivered in a planned and strategic manner to ensure the realisation of the vision for the city. The Council should also use its development control powers to ensure that green infrastructure is properly considered during the scoping, masterplanning and application phases of both brownfield and greenfield development and that sufficiently robust planning conditions and funding agreements are put in place and enforced.

12.10 To ensure that green infrastructure is properly addressed at Local Authority level, it is recommended that the Council engages a dedicated Green Infrastructure Officer. This individual would occupy a similar grade to a Planning Officer and would be tasked with ensuring the delivery of the green infrastructure vision for the city through the co-ordination of developers, landowners, delivery vehicles, stakeholder organisations and sections within the city and county authorities. The opportunity also exists to expand the remit of this Officer across the wider Coventry-Solihull-Warwickshire sub-region to ensure greater efficiency and co-ordination.

12.11 **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust** has an interest in Coventry's green infrastructure through its involvement as a management partner in a number of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserves. It is also based at Brandon Marsh, one of the foremost biodiversity sites within the Study Area. The Trust has the potential to form a valuable part of green infrastructure delivery partnerships wherever the maintenance and/or improvement of biodiversity is a significant objective. It can bring a range of benefits including its habitat expertise, the investment of endowments, strategic and practical habitat management (including the use of volunteers), land ownership and adoption, educational work and community involvement.

12.12 **The Woodland Trust** has an existing interest in the ancient woodland in the study area and is the UK's foremost woodland conservation charity with an excellent public image. It currently owns the established ancient woods of Elkin Wood and Piles Coppice and the new Gibbet Hill Wood community woodland. One of its core aims is the promotion of public understanding and enjoyment of woodland and all of its woods are open to the public with facilities such as interpretation panels, waymarked walks and car parks.

12.13 The Trust has the potential to form a valuable member of any green infrastructure delivery partnership where the creation of new native woodland or the management of existing ancient woodland is involved. This is likely to apply to the proposed greenfield development sites to the north-west of the city where there are several ancient woods, such an Bunsen's Wood. As part of a delivery partnership the Trust could bring a range of benefits including woodland creation and management expertise, community liaison, the ability to hold and ring fence funding and its very popular public image, as well as the potential support of its large corporate partners including Tesco, Boots, British Telecom and BP.

12.14 **SUSTRANS** has the potential to become a member of green infrastructure delivery partnerships. The benefits it could bring to partnerships, in addition to funding, include expertise in the planning, design and construction of cycle infrastructure and the promotion of routes through its national website.

12.15 **Developers** have the potential to be key players in the delivery of green infrastructure and it is important that sufficient outreach be undertaken by green infrastructure stakeholders to ensure early, positive engagement. With a national trend of decreasing revenue budgets for the management of green infrastructure, developers are likely to be a vital source of funding for the creation and maintenance of green infrastructure.

12.16 It is therefore recommended that significant resources be devoted to engagement with developers at the masterplanning stage of new developments, both brownfield and greenfield, to ensure that opportunities are fully realised to enhance the city's green infrastructure network and the benefits it delivers and that comprehensive plans are established at the outset for the ongoing funding and management of green infrastructure within development sites.

12.17 As discussed in Chapter 9, it is also recommended that a **Green Infrastructure Group** be established within the city or wider sub-region, comprising a wide range of stakeholders. This Group would act as a single point of contact for all of the above organisations to obtain green infrastructure information and could also act as a forum where members share experience and co-ordinate the overall delivery of the green infrastructure vision, in partnership with the Green Infrastructure Officer outlined above.

Practical Implications of Green Infrastructure Funding

12.18 The procurement of adequate capital and revenue funding is vital to the successful creation, protection, improvement and maintenance of green infrastructure, being required for all stages of these processes.

12.19 **Capital funding** is required for green infrastructure creation and for projects involving the significant improvement of existing green infrastructure, for example the renovation of a poorly performing urban park. The level of capital funding required to deliver a project is generally agreed at the outset, as well as the period over which the funding will be released. The predictability and finite nature of this funding often makes it a preferred option for funding bodies.

12.20 Main capital funding sources relevant to Coventry include:

- New Growth Point Funding
- Section 106 Agreements
- Community Infrastructure Levy[15]
- Forestry Commission English Woodland Grant Scheme
- Heritage and Big Lottery Funds
- Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
- SUSTRANS

12.21 With regard to the New Growth Point funding, it is recommended that 10% of the central government funding for the delivery of the New Growth Point be consistently set aside to secure the establishment of green infrastructure along with the built components. The main applications of this funding should be to secure the employment of a Green Infrastructure Officer as outlined above and to address those parts of the green infrastructure network which fall outside of development boundaries (where developer contributions can be readily applied) to ensure improvement of the entire network and in particular to ensure connectivity between the new development areas, town centres and wider countryside.

12.22 **Revenue funding** to secure the ongoing management of green infrastructure is generally more difficult to obtain and is therefore covered in greater detail in this section. The difficulty of obtaining this funding is principally due to the long-term nature of the revenue funding requirement and while green infrastructure management was historically funded by local authorities, it is not a statutory requirement and as such investment has been greatly reduced over the last 20-30 years with budgets remaining static despite rising costs. It is recognised in the emerging Coventry Green Space Standard, as well as various publications by CABE Space[16] that this has resulted in a significant drop in the quality of urban parks and open spaces and that this can only be remedied by proper investment in long-term management, supporting other services such as community liaison.

12.23 In 2006 CABE Space published "Paying for Parks: Eight models for funding urban green spaces", the result of research into effective methods to reverse the decline of parks and green spaces. This publication identified the following as existing best practice models in place around the world used to secure revenue funding for green infrastructure management:

- Traditional local authority funding

[15] Currently being developed by government
[16] Including "Decent Parks? Decent Behaviour?" and "Paying for Parks"

- Multi-agency public sector funding
- Taxation initiatives
- Planning and development opportunities
- Bonds and commercial finance
- Income-generating opportunities
- Endowments
- Voluntary sector involvement

12.24 In the context of Coventry, the **traditional local authority funding** model is not considered suitable because the management and maintenance of parks and open spaces is not a statutory requirement, therefore local authorities across the UK are reluctant to commit additional resources to it in the face of competing services for which the requirement is statutory. This funding model can also restrict long-term management planning for green infrastructure because of the annual fluctuation in the level of central funding and tax income provided to local authorities for revenue expenditure.

12.25 The **taxation initiatives** model was rejected because it is not suitable for the UK context. This is because the model is reliant upon local authorities having the freedom to impose additional local taxes for green infrastructure management, which is limited in the UK.

12.26 The **bonds and commercial finance** model was also rejected due to its unsuitability to the UK context because it is based upon voters allowing their local authority to receive loan funding from bonds and this is not permitted in the UK.

12.27 The following short list of models was therefore considered to be suitable, either individually or in combination, for sourcing green infrastructure revenue funding in Coventry:

- Multi-agency public sector funding
- Planning and development opportunities
- Income-generating opportunities
- Endowments
- Voluntary sector involvement

12.28 The **multi-agency public sector funding** model is based upon the provision of ongoing management funds (or other resources) by a range of bodies whose objectives may be met by the provision of high quality green infrastructure. This may include the local police authority, which may provide resources to the management of urban green spaces to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour associated with these areas and in turn the demand on police resources. There are also opportunities for those needing rehabilitation, such as young offenders, to become directly involved in the management and improvement of local green spaces, engendering a sense of ownership of and responsibility for their local environment.

12.29 Another organisation which may support the ongoing management of green infrastructure is Coventry Primary Care Trust. The availability of informal recreation opportunities in a well-managed natural environment encourages healthy living, which in turn reduces the incidence of diseases related to poor lifestyles, such as heart disease and diabetes. In some parts of the West Midlands, for example the Black Country, the use of local parks in the vicinity of health centres for walking is being directly prescribed by doctors for patients with heart disorders arising from poor lifestyle. Another relevant example is the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers “Green Gyms” initiative, which aims to improve peoples’ health through work to improve their local environment. It is notable that several initiatives are already active within Coventry encouraging walking for health (see Chapter 7) and that these initiatives focus their activities within green space.

12.30 As a New Growth Point, Coventry has a high potential to obtain revenue funding from **planning and development opportunities**. The most common form by which this occurs in the UK is through planning obligations agreed between developers and local authorities, under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and commonly referred to as “Section 106 Agreements”. Under these Agreements, a sum is negotiated with developers to fund a variety of measures, including the provision of the means for local authorities to fund the ongoing management of open spaces within new developments for an agreed period of time through an initial lump sum payment to the authority, which is then invested by the local authority to provide an annuity to fund ongoing management following adoption of the open spaces. The scope of

the Agreements is limited, however, in that it can only apply to the development site to which the Agreement relates.

12.31 Roof taxes are another method of obtaining revenue funds which fall under this model. These are designed to replace the traditional Section 106 Agreement as a funding method with a much broader scope, being able to fund off-site community facilities. Roof taxes involve a standard levy of 5-10% of the cost of an average house (approximately £20,000) being paid by the developer for each home constructed, rather than negotiating Section 106 sums on a site-by-site basis. Developers would pay a proportion of the money prior to the receipt of planning permission, with the balance being paid upon completion of the development. In a similar manner to Section 106 Agreements, a proportion of this sum would then be invested by the local authority, to provide an annuity for ongoing green infrastructure management.

12.32 Service charges also fall within this funding model. These are more frequently applied to commercial and industrial developments than residential and differ from the previous two methods in that the open spaces within the new developments are owned and maintained by a private management company rather than being adopted by the local authority. Revenue funding for the maintenance of these green resources is collected by the private management company via a service charge which is levied on the businesses occupying these developments and which is also used for such functions as building maintenance, security and road infrastructure maintenance.

12.33 The realisation of **income-generating opportunities** is a very desirable method of sourcing revenue funding, as it enables at least a proportion of funding to be internally generated rather than relying upon external sources. The majority of opportunities are related to the collection of profits from services provided within parks and open spaces such as car parking, rental income from businesses such as kiosks, cafés and restaurants, boating lakes, go-cart tracks and sports facilities. Other potential sources of income include the hiring out of attractive features such as pavilions for weddings and other events and also corporate sponsorship, with local businesses paying either a lump sum (to be invested by the local authority) or an annual sum to sponsor an area or feature of a park in exchange for local promotion. In suitable locations income may also be sourced from the generation of renewable electricity within parks, through wind turbines and, where space allows, the growing of biomass fuels.

12.34 **Endowments** can be a very effective means of using up-front payments to provide ongoing revenue income where green infrastructure resources are adopted by non-public bodies such as charitable trusts. Under this model a lump sum or property portfolio is transferred to the adopting body at the point of adoption.

12.35 In the case of lump sums, this is then secured in a ring-fenced investment fund with annual interest providing the required revenue funding and the original capital remaining untouched. This fund may also be increased from time to time through fundraising and donations or through additional lump sum payments if further land is adopted. For this method it is critically important to correctly calculate the initial investment, otherwise this can lead to a shortfall in the long term.

12.36 In the case of property portfolios, these are retained by the adopting body with annual rental income providing the required level of revenue funding.

12.37 Within Coventry there are a number of potential organisations who could perform this role, including Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust.

12.38 **Voluntary sector involvement** has the potential to bring a number of benefits to the ongoing management of green infrastructure. With regard to the generation of revenue income, friends groups and not-for-profit community organisations can be very effective fundraisers, attracting donations from local businesses and the general public to supplement other forms of revenue funding. Another important consideration is the labour input that the voluntary sector can bring to the ongoing management of green infrastructure, which can save considerable financial outlay on contract labour. Groups such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Groundwork Trusts and Community Service Volunteers, as well as local “Friends of” groups, can undertake a wide variety of maintenance tasks, while delivering additional social benefits of healthy activity and lifelong learning.

Examples of Green Infrastructure Success

12.39 It is useful to draw on the experience of other organisations that have successfully created and managed new green infrastructure or renewed existing resources in the past, to provide an indication of good delivery mechanisms and partnerships and realistic resource requirements and sources, including finance.

12.40 The following are examples of successful projects delivered in the Midlands, from which comparisons may be drawn and lessons learnt to inform the future planning of green infrastructure in Coventry.

Milton Keynes Parks Trust

Background

12.41 Milton Keynes is located approximately 45 miles north west of London in the County of Buckinghamshire.

12.42 Following steady population growth in the UK throughout the 1950s, in 1967 the Government designated the area (approximately 8800 ha) in which Milton Keynes currently resides as a growth area for the South East. Following sustained economic growth throughout the 1970s to late 1990s the city (still to receive a Royal Charter[17]) now supports a population of approximately 230,000[18].

12.43 In 2003, Milton Keynes and several other areas including Bedfordshire, Aylesbury Vale and Northamptonshire were included within the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth Area in the Sub-Regional Strategy finalised in March 2005[19]. As a consequence, Milton Keynes is expected to support the construction of 21,000 new homes and an increase in population of 110,000 by 2011[20]. To accommodate this growth several expansion areas have been proposed. Milton Keynes is set to expand to the north, east, south and west with Stantonbury Park located towards the north-eastern edge of Milton Keynes supporting the construction of 500 homes and a new country park[21] and the Brooklands site recently consented to the east including 2,500 homes.

Implementation

12.44 The masterplans proposed for the four expansion areas within Milton Keynes are broadly in line with those proposed by Llewellyn-Davies which shaped the landscape of the town throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Labelled as the 'city of trees'[22] the design of Milton Keynes followed the ideals of the 'garden city' movement with the incorporation of green corridors and open spaces figuring heavily in the towns design. Currently Milton Keynes contains more than 1,800 hectares of parkland and woodland, 160 hectares of lakes and approximately 22 million trees[23].

12.45 Capital funding for these areas largely arose from Section 106 agreements between the developers and Milton Keynes Development Corporation (MKDC). MKDC was established in 1969 by the government and given authority to make planning decisions and oversee the development of Milton Keynes. The Corporation was finally dissolved in 1992 with planning control transferred initially to the Commission of New Towns and subsequently English Partnerships.

12.46 English Partnerships, as the current planning authority, take an active lead in co-ordinating the future provision of green space in the expansion areas across Milton Keynes. A 'joint team' has been established which comprises members of the local council, Milton Keynes Parks Trust (MKPT) and other interested stakeholders who assist with reviewing plans and providing feedback to developers. Recent Section 106 agreements between English Partnerships and developers linked to expansion of the town to the east and west have secured more than

[17] MKCDC Website, 2008 *Milton Keynes Discovery Centre – Frequently asked questions* http://www.mkcdc.org.uk/page.cfm?pageid=questions
[18] MKC Website, 2008
[19] MKC Website, 2008
[20] ODPM, 2005 – '*Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy*', Government Offices for the South East, East Midlands and East of England, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, TSO (The Stationery Office)
[21] MKC Website, 2007 *Stantonbury Park Farm*, http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkgrowth/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=34229 and http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mkgrowth/home.asp
[22] MKC Website, 2008
[23] MKC Website, 2008

£44,000,000[24] to cover capital costs and fees to pay for the long term management of the assets created.

Management

12.47 The creation of Elfield Nature Park provides an example of how English Partnerships is working with other bodies to bring about the delivery and long term management of green space across Milton Keynes. This small area of land (4.68 ha) located near the centre of Milton Keynes was used a motor-cross trail bike site for twenty years prior to its establishment as a nature park in the late 1990s. The design of the park was completed by landscape architects (Quartet Design) informed by discussions with Bernwood Environmental Conservation Services and Milton Keynes Parks Trust. Capital funding and an accompanying endowment of £285,000 to cover the long term management of the site was paid for by English Partnerships after negotiations with the Parks Trust. The land is now leased by the Parks Trust from English Partnerships under a 999 year agreement.

12.48 Under the lease agreement Milton Keynes Parks Trust are responsible for co-ordinating the strategic and operational management of the nature park. Milton Keynes Parks Trust was established as an independent body by MKDC in 1992 with the specific aim of 'owning and managing in perpetuity the strategic open space around Milton Keynes'[25].

12.49 In 1992, the Trust was endowed with an extensive property portfolio and other assets (including shares) worth approximately £18,000,000. Since 1992 these assets have been carefully managed to produce a yearly income of nearly £3,000,000[26] (2003-2004), 80% of which is derived from rental properties.

12.50 The income from the endowments belonging to the Trust is essential as the cost of parks and parkways maintenance exceeds £2,400,000 per year (2003-2004). The destruction of large areas of grassland and damage to trees caused by vandalism continues to drain significant levels of the Trust's income as does the fly tipping of rubbish onto many of the sites managed by MKPT. Other notable outgoings include the continued management and maintenance of the Trust's property and financial portfolio (approximately £500,000 per annum) and administration costs of more than £250,000 per year.

12.51 Strategic management of all the parks under the Park Trust's control, including Elfield, is determined by a Board of Trustees. The board consisting of up to 20 members includes individuals from a range of different organisations and elected bodies. Individuals with operational backgrounds relevant to the Trust work are present (e.g. Royal Agricultural Society and Royal Forestry Society) as are people from the local area (e.g. members of the local Parish Council). The management board meet every 3 months, with various sub-committees responsible for supporting the main board meeting on a quarterly basis.

12.52 The operational delivery of the Management Board's decisions on a daily basis is the responsibility of the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive regularly meets with the landscape teams to discuss specific park issues. As the Trust does not directly employ any operational staff the landscape officers work in partnership with their managers to develop park specific maintenance schedules which are then developed into contracts which are tendered to private contracting firms. For smaller sites including Elfield, which do not require specialist management skills, the Trust has a strong network of volunteers who are often able to assist with basic maintenance tasks.

12.53 As the Trust is responsible for managing nearly 20% of the land cover in Milton Keynes it has encountered a range of problems which has hampered its normal management practices. Many of the parks that MKPT is responsible for lie within the floodplains of the rivers and drains which cross Milton Keynes. Recent wet summers have resulted in paths and access routes in these affected areas becoming damaged and requiring extensive repairs. Similarly, several of the parks that MKPT are responsible for include balancing ponds (part of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems). These ponds are frequently located close to populated areas, and as a consequence the Trust has had to invest time and money on limiting the threat these features pose to public health and safety.

[24] Personal Communication - English Partnerships, Carol Kearns, May 2008
[25] MKPT 2004 – *Parks Trust Model* - http://www.theparkstrust.com/parks%2Dtrust/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=33178
[26] MKPT Website, 2008 *Paying for the Parks*, http://www.theparkstrust.com/parks-trust/documents/19.pdf

12.54 MKPT often comes into conflict with local homeowners, as many of the parks are surrounded by houses. Normal cutting regimes employed by the Trust to manage hedges and grassland can conflict with some homeowners' wishes. For example many of the large hedges which bound private homes are perceived as a visible screen which deters criminal behaviour and improves security. When the operatives commissioned by the Trust arrive and cut these features back as part of a normal maintenance program conflicts can occur which require management time to resolve.

Advice

12.55 Discussions with Rob Riekie (Landscape Manger) at Milton Keynes Parks Trust highlighted several points about managing and designing green infrastructure:

- As the Milton Keynes Park Trust is an independent body, it is often subject to criticism from members of the public for not being sufficiently accountable. Rob Riekie suggested that the role local people play as members of the Management Board should be emphasised in publications produced by the Trust and a record kept of complaints/suggestions made by people for future reference.
- The performance of the endowment over the last 16 years should not be under-estimated. The rise in property value has enabled the Trust to offset rising costs associated with litter collection, liability insurance and the increased frequency of damaging storms and floods.
- The Trust has found the use of private contractors rather than salaried operatives to be a success.
- During the planning of green spaces, provision should be made to account for misuse as well as normal use. Initially many of the parks the Trust was responsible for suffered from fly tipping by local residents. To overcome this, the Parks Trust now leaves a 1m margin between the edge of formal planting and a residential boundary. This practice has drastically reduced the amount of rubbish to collect.

Stanwick Lakes

Background

12.56 The 260 hectare site, situated off the A45 south-west of Kettering in Northamptonshire, was, prior to 2004, an active quarry belonging to the aggregates firm Hanson PLC. Following sale of the site to East Northamptonshire District Council (ENDC) in the same year Rockingham Forest Trust (RFT) on behalf of the Council took over the re-development of the disused quarry.

12.57 Rockingham Forest Trust[27] is a local environmental and rural development charity which works to improve all of Rockingham Forest through community involvement and enterprise. The Trust works closely with River Nene Regional Park[28] (RNRP) to develop projects which enhance the existing green infrastructure of the Nene Valley (part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth Area[29]) through the acquisition and use of central government, government agency, private sector and planning gain funds.

12.58 The initial design of the lakes was completed by a team within Rockingham Forest Trust. The design process was informed by a programme of formal and informal (e.g. visits to playgroups) meetings with interest groups including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Ramblers Association (RA). Following the consultation period and identification of features which would be of interest to both stakeholders and key users a local landscape architect[30] was commissioned by Rockingham Forest Trust to develop a design.

[27] http://www.rockingham-forest-trust.org.uk
[28] http://www.regionalparks.org
[29] ODPM, 2005 – '*Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy*', Government Offices for the South East, East Midlands and East of England, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, TSO (The Stationery Office)
[30] Werner de Bock, http://www.landplan-associates.co.uk

Implementation

12.59 The implementation of the design, including the construction of 11 kilometres of footpaths and installation of play equipment across the different parts of the site was co-ordinated by Rockingham Forest Trust with support from ENDC. Capital funding for the project came from a variety of sources with the balance supplied by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) via RNRP. The first phase of the project cost in excess of £4,000,000 in capital funding to complete. RFT in partnership with RNRP were responsible for securing half of this sum, with notable funding sources including Active England (Big Lottery Fund and Sport England), SITA Trust, Hanson Environment Fund, Cory Environmental Trust and Masterfoods. East Northamptonshire District Council provided the other half of the initial capital required for the project through matched funding.

12.60 As the site had previously been an active quarry the construction phase of the project was subject to relatively few constraints. The largest constraint encountered during development of the project was linked with the SSSI and Special Protection Area (SPA) candidate (part of the EC Bird Directive 79/409/EEC) status of the site. Due to the high water quality and lack of disturbance following closure of several quarry pits, the site had become occupied by several notable bird species. To reduce the impacts associated with construction of play areas and cycle paths on these sensitive species the design was altered to include zones of lower disturbance. The main 'hub' of the site (e.g. buildings/popular play areas) was situated in non-designated areas (i.e. non SSSI) and away from known bird nesting sites.

12.61 The site has proved to be a very popular attraction with a visitor satisfaction survey completed in Easter 2006 (approximately 6 months after opening) returning a result of 100% satisfaction. As well as attracting over 160,000 visitors in its first year the site has secured additional funding (£2,200,000) to build a carbon-neutral visitors' centre showcasing renewable energy systems and providing educational opportunities for both children and adults.

Management

12.62 Ownership of the land on which the lake complex resides belongs to East Northamptonshire District Council with a 125-year lease agreement between itself and Rockingham Forest Trust. The long term management of the site continues to be in the hands of the Trust.

12.63 The strategic management of the site is controlled by a management board composed of both RFT staff (Marketing Director, Site Manager) and high-ranking members of East Northamptonshire Council (e.g. Chairman). The management team is supported by a group of interested stakeholders including the RSPB and local Wildlife Trust. The management team and stakeholder group meet twice annually to discuss the ongoing performance of the site and provide the management board with fresh ideas and advice as required.

12.64 Decisions made by the management board are passed on through discussion between the Trust's managerial staff and the onsite team. Currently the on-site team at Stanwick Lakes consists of two permanent staff and a small group of paid casual rangers.

12.65 As with the strategic and operational management of the site, the responsibility of securing and holding funds which relate to the project resides with Rockingham Forest Trust. Although efforts were made from an early stage to minimise staff costs, salaries have proven to be the single largest outgoing associated with the site. This cost has been limited by the employment of only two permanent staff and the short term appointment of casual rangers during periods of high visitor numbers. Other costs which have risen in recent years include public liability insurance, damage to footpaths and play equipment as a result of flooding events and repairs due to vandalism (a parking ticket machine had to be replaced at a cost of more than £2000).

12.66 To offset rising costs and ensure the attraction is self-sustaining, the Trust has introduced a range of charges linked to usage of the site. Besides the car parking charge (£2 per car per day), a regular user membership scheme (£25 per household per annum) and horse riding permit (£15 per annum) have been introduced. Additional income is also generated from the food and drinks franchise which operates on the site. As with the development of the site the SSSI status of parts of Stanwick Lakes has limited the options available to RFT in terms of its future development.

Advice

12.67 Discussion with Alyson Allfree (Marketing Director) of Rockingham Forest Trust drew out a number of useful pieces of advice for those planning new green spaces.

- RFT emphasised that decision making is the key to many of the green space projects which they have completed. A small management board (less than 15 members) containing key decision-makers can be advantageous in keeping to project timetables and budgets.
- Even though capital investment in the project has been high, the consistent low supply of revenue continues to be a constraint. Currently Rockingham Forest Trust is unable to exploit visitor 'secondary spend' with most users choosing to buy food and gifts elsewhere. It is hoped that the completion of the visitors centre in 2009 will allow more of this 'secondary spend' to be captured by the Trust.
- The design of green space should be guided from an early stage by a detailed appraisal of the existing resources available in the local area. In the case of Stanwick Lakes following consultation with potential users, RFT made a decision to channel the majority of the investments into services aimed at young families likely to arrive by car. Although the space was designed with a multi-use purpose in mind, the RFT chose to spend a large proportion of the capital funds (in excess of £300,000) on sophisticated play equipment (adventure areas and rope bridges) not otherwise available in the local area. This strategy has resulted in attracting families with young children who in turn are likely to spend more time and money enjoying the site.
- Managers responsible for green spaces should consider the role external consultancies can play in assisting with improvements. An external consultancy (Saturn Projects Ltd) has been engaged by RFT to oversee the development of the new visitors centre. Although additional professional fees have to be budgeted for, the use of an external consultancy to manage the project on a daily basis has helped to keep the project on track, and on budget.

Gibbet Hill Wood

Background

12.68 Occupying an area of 10.31 hectares and planted in 1999, Gibbet Hill Wood lies immediately to the south of Tocil Wood Local Nature Reserve on the south-western fringe of Coventry. The site is occupied by the Woodland Trust[31] and was created as part of its nationwide 'Woods on Your Doorstep' Millennium project.

12.69 According to the Woodland Trust's management plan for Gibbet Hill[32] the woodland was designed to improve the accessibility of Tocil Wood, and buffer the ancient woodland against development in the local area. Gibbet Hill was also planted to provide a tree-lined link between the recreational areas located to the south and north east.

Implementation

12.70 Designed by the former Coventry Woodland Trust Officer (Jane Thomas) the design of Gibbet Hill was informed by discussions with local people during a series of site meetings. Following completion of the design, the Woodland Trust became responsible for drafting the initial 5-year planting and maintenance contract. More than 20,000 native broadleaved trees were planted as part of the project, with the Woodland Officer responsible for co-ordinating volunteers and monitoring the contractors commissioned to complete the works.

12.71 The Millennium Commission (National Lottery) and Severn Trent Water provided the majority of the funds for the project with extra income derived directly from the Forestry Commission in the form of a planting grant under the Woodland Grant Scheme.

12.72 Constraints and barriers which hampered delivery of the wood related to existing services which crossed the site. To avoid constraints imposed by public footpaths and archaeological remains distributed across the site, the Woodland Officer made plans during design process to either incorporate or avoid these features.

12.73 To avoid large-scale ground disturbance to soils and archaeological remains known as 'flint cottages' during planting, footpaths were designed to run over the top of features in order to

[31] http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
[32] Woodland Trust, 2005 '*Gibbet Hill Wood Management Plan 5144*' http://www.wt-woods.org.uk/pdf/mgmtplan-5144.pdf

preserve them. An additional notable constraint included grazing pressure exerted by rabbits on areas of new woodland planting.

12.74 Following the creation of the wood by local people, students and Girl Guides, the wood has gone from strength to strength. The woodland is now well established and used by both local people and students belonging to the University of Warwick.

Management

12.75 The land on which the woodland resides belongs to Coventry City Council and has been leased to the Woodland Trust since 1998 as part of a 125-year agreement. As well as creating the design and overseeing the planting of the site, the Woodland Trust is responsible for the long-term management of the site.

12.76 The current woodland officer (Jeremy Evans) is responsible for drafting a five-year management plan outlining the short and long term objectives for the wood. The plan reflects the basic goal of the Woodland Trust (conserve ancient woodland) and contains a detailed schedule highlighting the intended management regime for each woodland compartment and sub-compartment of the site.

12.77 Daily management of operational activities affecting the wood (e.g. pruning, mowing and strimming) is also the responsibility of the Woodland Officer, and although not directly responsible for carrying out works, they are responsible for engaging estates maintenance contractors and monitoring site condition.

12.78 Funds relating to Gibbet Hill are held by the Woodland Trust, as is the responsibility of securing revenue to fund ongoing maintenance. As with many of the UK's woodlands, the single largest cost associated with Gibbet Hill are staff salaries. Funds to support the wood are derived from the Woodland Trust's core funding, which is itself sourced through membership fees from its 150,000 public members.

12.79 Gibbet Hill is subject to few long term management constraints, other than the location of the site close to a busy road and the lack of accessible footpath routes into the wood. The proximity of nearby housing has also required alterations in the initial design. Areas of open ground and the planting of smaller shrubs close to residential houses have been necessary to reduce conflict between the Trust and local residents.

Advice

12.80 The Woodland Officer (Jane Thomas) had no direct advice in relation to Gibbet Hill and suggested that the authors review some of the documentation on the Woodland Trust's website. The points presented below are a brief review of the Woodland Trust document, '*Space for People*' published in 2004[33].

- When designing a green asset such as a woodland, a principal consideration in the likely use and users of the site. For example although some people enjoy the enclosure, dense tree planting creating a darkened environment might be perceived as an unsafe space (e.g. to lone female visitors).
- Improvement to the accessibility of existing woodland areas and green space in general can be as important as the creation of new assets. For example incentives to encourage local landowners to open up existing assets may represent a cheaper option and provide an instant resource which people can access.
- The Woodland Officer confirmed that there is a large shortfall in accessible woodland in and around Coventry with over 75% of the local population requiring new woodland planting (over 2 ha) within 500 m of their homes according to an independent standard for woodland access prepared by the Trust.
- The Officer suggested that the Woodland Trust's own access standard should be considered by planners to help target the provision of woodland to those who would most benefit (e.g. to ensure that 80% of the population have access to a 20 ha wood within 4 km of their home).

[33] Woodland Trust, 2004 '*Space for People, Targeting action for Woodland Access*', pg 35.

http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/publications/publicationsmore/spaceforpeople.pdf

FABER MAUNSELL | AECOM

Appendices

Appendix 1: Detailed Description of Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure is the network of green spaces and natural elements that intersperse and connect our cities, towns and villages. It is the open spaces, waterways, gardens, woodlands, green corridors, wildlife habitats, street trees, natural heritage, and open countryside. Green infrastructure provides multiple benefits for the economy, the environment and people.

Green infrastructure may also be seen as part of the life-support system of an area; providing functions and environmental services to a community, such as employment, recreation, physical health and mental well-being, social inclusion, contact with nature, drainage and flood management, climate change adaptation and pollution control. It may be considered the essence of local character and sense of place, the very heart of a community, or dear to the hearts of many thousands some distance away.

It spans administrative and political boundaries; it is publicly and privately owned, and it may be semi-natural or man-made in its origins. It may be green, brown or blue – think of canals or derelict land, woodlands in winter or ploughed fields. It may be wrapped around by houses, schools, factories or commercial properties.

In urban situations it complements and balances the built environment; in rural settings it provides a framework for sustainable economies and biodiversity; in-between it links town and country and interconnects wider environmental processes.

From: Green Infrastructure Prospectus for the West Midlands (West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2007)

Appendix 2: Green Infrastructure Policy and Guidance

National	
Title: The Biodiversity Strategy for England 'Working with the Grain of Nature' (2002)	
Source: http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/biostrat/index.htm	
Description: The Strategy seeks to ensure biodiversity considerations become embedded in all main sectors of public policy and sets out a programme for the next five years to make the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems rather than against them.	
Key Objectives: • To care for our natural heritage • Make the countryside attractive and enjoyable for all and preserve biological diversity	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study will need to ensure that development does not have a detrimental impact on biodiversity at a regional and local level.
Tilte: Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities (Sep 2004)	
Source: http://www.tcpa.org.uk/downloads/TCPA_biodiversity_guide_lowres.pdf	
Description: Produced by TCPA to support Sustainable Communities Plan, in particular, objective of environmental enhancement to help balance proposed scale of housing growth. Supporting "richness of biodiversity" is seen as a route to building more sustainable neighbourhoods. Guidance on context relates to existing green infrastructure, landscape character, local distinctiveness and protected habitats and species. Should consider ecological potential of all areas including Brownfield sites. Landscape character assessments / area profiles recommended as aids to defining landscape character and local distinctiveness. Local authorities and developers have particular responsibility to mitigate impacts of development on designated sites, priority habitats and species and also avoid damage to ecosystems. Section on master planning provides guidance on creating new green infrastructure (the types and sizes of spaces and habitats required to provide a network), regional parks, green grids and community forests (creating and managing large-scale areas of ecological interest), parks and natural green spaces (adapting existing parks, creating new parks and managing existing nature reserves), greenway linkages (maintaining, extending and creating wildlife corridors, such as woodlands and wetlands), and street trees (incorporating existing trees and new trees into designs and layouts). Also includes guidance on detailed design, such as creating communal "doorstep" spaces for wildlife, making provision for biodiversity in "green" buildings and private spaces such as gardens, roof gardens and green roofs, and guidance on short, medium and long-term management and stewardship.	
Key Objectives: • Identifies three "core principles" that provide the basis of a "biodiversity by design" approach, as follows: • Ecological Function – understanding the ecological systems supported by the habitats present, communities of flora and fauna and the environment and conditions they rely on for support, and size / spatial relationships of habitats to each other; • Realising the Benefits – recognising "services" vegetation provides (e.g. trees acting as carbon sink/ filtering pollution / providing air conditioning), how natural green space contributes to quality of life (e.g. health and wellbeing, social cohesion), and economic value of green space (e.g. increase in property values). • Connecting with Nature – culture change in attitudes towards nature, through positive experience, use of green space as educational resource, and community involvement, e.g. allotments, community gardens, city farms.	Implications for GI Study: • This guidance is relevant to any area where major developments take place e.g. new urban extensions. • The GI Study will need to take account of predicted growth (e.g. population, housing, changing demographics) and how these issues may impact upon the affects of surface run off and ground water. • When preparing the GI Study, this guidance may also be of use e.g. on the benefits of designing for biodiversity.
Title: Habitats Regulations – The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations (1994)	
Source: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/Uksi_19942716_en_1.htm	
Description: Regulations 37, 48 – Planning policies should encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Before giving permission for any plan or project that is likely to have a significant effect upon a European Site, authorities must also make an "appropriate assessment" of the implications. Consultation Paper on amendments to the Habitats Regulations, May 2006, proposes new Regulations 85A, 85B and 85C – Requirement for "appropriate assessment" to apply to local development documents.	
Key Objectives: See above Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive), on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of wild Fauna and Flora and The EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC 1979.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study must be aware of, and take into account, any existing SACs (Special Area of Conservation) or other European protected sites (e.g. RAMSAR, SSSI) in the region. Currently the West Midlands supports 15 SACs.
Title: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG): Planning Policy Statement 1: *Delivering Sustainable Development*, (Jan 2005)	

Source: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147393

Description: This is a policy statement which outlines the key principles which should guide local and regional planning policy as regards sustainable development. These principles range from the use of a spatial planning approach to ensure integrated development to the inclusion of local people in the planning process.

Key Objectives:	Implications for GI Study:
• Development across the UK should be sustainable and integrated. • Regional and local planning authorities should promote developments which leads to environmental, economic and social objectives being met. • A spatial planning approach which integrates multiple themes (e.g. energy efficiency, social inclusion) should be used as a basis for sustainable development. • A long term approach to planning should be adopted, whereby new developments should aim to improve the 'character and quality' of an area and plan for affects of climate change. • Future developments must be based around access policies which meet the needs of everyone. • Local individuals must be included in the decision making process and have input into the planning process. • Develop a planning framework which will promote national, regional, sub-regional and local economies.	The GI Study should be aware of the requirement to promote sustainable development. This will require projects which: • Promote social cohesion (e.g. reduce inequalities). • Protect the environment (i.e. avoid the destruction of designated sites e.g. SSSI, County Wildlife Sites) • Use the minimum of natural resources (i.e. building houses at a high density on previously developed land, rather than at low density in the Green Belt) • Support local economies. It should be noted that achieving one of the goals listed above is likely to have a positive impact on the others. • The GI Study must be aware of what the short and long term impacts of the development are likely to be on the environment. • The GI Study must look to enhance the 'character and quality' of pre-existing areas. • The development of sustainable transport infrastructure should be a key aim of the GI Study to ensure that individuals are not dependent on cars to access key public services. • The GI Study should offer the opportunity for local people to contribute to the planning process.

Title: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG): Planning Policy Statement 3: *Housing* (Nov 2006)

Source http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement3

Description: Policy statement which outlines the key principles which should guide local and regional planning policy as regards housing. Recognises the fundamental value of good design to the development of high quality new housing and creation of sustainable communities. The document also highlights the Government's changes in response to the '*Barker Review of Housing Supply'* . These changes centre on local authorities identifying 'broad locations and specific sites' suitable for housing development up to 15 years in advance. This document replaces Planning Policy Guidance 3:Housing (2000).

Key Objectives:	Implications for GI Study:

• Achieve a wide choice of affordable homes which meet the needs of the local community.
• Increase home ownership and ensure there is sufficient housing available to meet the needs of those who cannot afford 'market housing'.
• Lower the cost of housing by increasing the supply of new housing.
• Create sustainable, inclusive communities
	• The GI Study must ensure that 'high quality housing' is created as part of the development;
	  ○ This might include making provision for safe, clean and accessible community space (e.g. playing fields)
	  ○ Restoration of lost areas of biodiversity.
	  ○ Integration of new developments with existing public transport networks.
	• The GI Study might consider the current capacity of green and open space and identify areas which might be developed to meet future demand.

Title: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG): Planning Policy Statement 9: *Biodiversity and geological conservation*, (Aug 2005)

Source: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147408

Description: Advises that planning policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features into the design of development. This replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 9 on nature conservation (PPG9) published in October 1994.

Key Objectives:	Implications for GI Study:
▪ To promote sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development, so that policies and decisions about the development and use of land integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations.	• Biodiversity needs to be taken into consideration as part of the GI Study.

▪ To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology by sustaining, and where possible improving, the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites; the natural physical processes on which they depend; and the populations of naturally occurring species which they support. ▪ To contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by: – enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among developments so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people, recognising that healthy functional ecosystems can contribute to a better quality of life and to people's sense of well-being; and – ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment.	
Title: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG): Planning Policy Statement 7: *Sustainable Development in Rural Areas* (Aug 2004)	
Source: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147402	
Description: Policy statement which outlining the key principles which should guide local and regional planning policy as regards rural areas. The rural areas covered by this document range from country towns to the development of urban fringes. This statement replaces Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 7, The Countryside – Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development (Feb 1997).	
Key Objectives: • Raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas. • Promote more sustainable patterns of development. • Promote the development of the English region by their economic performance. • Promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study must improve the quality of rural environments across the region. • The GI Study should be aware of designated and protected sites across the region and ensure that these sites are protected. • The GI Study should guide development within existing towns and villages, and avoid the destruction of 'Greenfield' sites. • The GI Study should take steps to ensure that urban areas are linked with the wider countryside. • The GI Study must consider the role of farming in the creation of a diverse and valued environment.
Title: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG): Planning Policy Guidance 13: *Transport*, (Apr 2001)	
Source: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/155634	
Description: Document aimed at local and regional planning authorities giving guidance on what should be the main priorities as regards transport in the future.	
Key Objectives: • Promote more sustainable transport choices for both individuals and freight. • Promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by sustainable means (public transport, walking and cycling) • Reduce the need to travel – especially by car.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study must include provision for sustainable transport links between new developments and existing services. • The GI Study should create high quality open spaces and facilities which reduce the need for individuals to travel to other areas, especially by car.
Title: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG): Planning Policy Guidance 15: *Planning and the historic environment*, (Sep 1994)	
Source: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/142838	
Description: Guidance aimed at local and regional planning authorities relating to the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas and other elements of the historic environment. The guidance notes the 'stewardship' role local authorities have to play in maintaining the historic landscape. The document goes onto identify the link between the historic environment and biodiversity.	
Key Objectives: • All aspects of the historic environment should be protected wherever possible. • The value of individual historic sites should be evaluated. • A balance must be struck between the need for growth and the conservation of historic assets. • The community as a whole should be included in discussions concerning the historic landscape.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study must consider what historic assets (*areas of special architectural or historic interest)* occur across the region and look to improve their accessibility. • The GI Study should consider how historic assets can be enhanced to promote tourism and contribute to the local economy. • The GI Study must take into account what local people consider to be key historical assets. • It should be remembered that historic assets add quality and help to define a landscapes 'distinctiveness'.

Title: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG): Planning Policy Guidance 16: *Archaeology and planning*, (Nov 1990)	
Source: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/156777	
Description: Guidance aimed at local and regional planning authorities, property owners, developers, archaeologists, amenity societies and the general public. The document states the policies which relate to archaeological remains and how these should be recorded and preserved. The guidance note makes the link between green infrastructure and archaeology, making reference to the ability of open spaces to protect important remains that occur within development sites.	
Key Objectives: • Archaeological remains should be protected wherever possible. • A balance must be struck between the need for growth and the conservation of archaeological remains.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study must be aware of any archaeological remains across the region and have an understanding of their cultural 'value'. • The GI Study should try to improve the accessibility of archaeological remains wherever possible.
Title: Planning Policy Guidance 17: *Planning for open space, sport and recreation* (Jul 2002)	
Source: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/ppg17	
Description: Guidance aimed at local and regional planning authorities to guide decision regarding the allocation of areas of open space which can be used for sport and recreation. The document replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (1990).	
Key Objectives: • Support an urban renaissance. • Support urban renewal. • Promote social inclusion and community cohesion. • Promote healthy living. • Promote more sustainable development.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study must make provision for local networks of well managed open space which can create urban environments which are 'attractive, clean and safe'. • The GI Study should consider the role of open spaces in the rural landscape. • The GI Study must be aware of a requirement to develop 'focal points' across the landscape which can help to bring communities together. • The GI Study should develop open spaces which provide opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy sporting activities together.
Title: Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions: Urban White Paper: *Our towns and cities: the future. Delivering an Urban renaissance* (Nov 2000)	
Source: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/citiesandregions/pdf/130979	
Description: Visionary document which outlines how the Government plan to help urban communities reach their full potential. The objectives listed in this document are being addressed by a variety of implementation papers including; *Urban White Paper Implementation Plan: Delivering an Urban Renaissance (March 2001)* and the DTLR's *Development of Guidance and Criteria (March 2001).*	
Key Objectives: • Ensure that urban developments are shaped by local people. • Create urban spaces which are attractive and clean. • Ensure that new developments are of good quality and are sustainable. • Develop towns and cities which are inclusive, and help local people reach their full potential. • Guarantee good quality services which are available to all.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study must take into account the requirement to: • Give local people a voice in the planning process. • Create high quality urban environments with open spaces which encourage social cohesion and integration.
Title: ODPM: *Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener* (Mar 2002)	
Source: http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200203/cmselect/cmodpm/673/673.pdf	
Description: Report summarising the present condition, challenges and aims for the future regarding public open space. The document is far reaching and includes written evidence from different towns and cities around the UK including Nottingham, Arnold and Leicester.	
Key Objectives: • Raise the status of public space to that of other services at the local authority level. • Improve the condition of public open spaces by developing a set of quality targets for local authorities to meet. • Give greater powers to local authorities to fine the 'polluter'. • Ensure that Government departments work together to create a 'higher quality' environment. • When designing public spaces emphasis should shift from accommodating cars to	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should be aware that parks and green space are considered in the Government's opinion to be of 'equal status' to other services. • The GI Study must be aware that public spaces should be designed 'to first and foremost meet the needs of pedestrians'. • The GI Study should liaise with local authorities to find out what features and attributes make a public open space high quality. New areas suggested by the GI Study should exceed meet the

<table>
<tr><td>promoting walking and cycling.
• Increase Government expenditure on the management and maintenance of public spaces.</td><td>criteria listed by the City Council's Public Open Space Index. (pg 17)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Title: Urban Rural Paper: A Fair Deal for Rural England (Nov 2000)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Source: http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/pdfs/ruralwp/intro.pdf</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Description:
Visionary document which outlines how the Government plan to help rural communities and allow those living in urban areas to access the countryside. The wide ranging objectives listed in this document are being met by an implementation plan which can be viewed at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralwp/implementation/default.htm</td></tr>
<tr><td>Key Objectives:
• Make rural economies more sustainable, competitive and dynamic.
• Promote social cohesion and inclusion in rural communities.
• Improve access to services.
• Conserve and enhance rural landscapes by helping to re-establish habitats and species which have been lost.
• Increase opportunities for people to enjoy the wider countryside.
• Improve communication between inter-Governmental bodies responsible for delivering improvements across rural areas.</td><td>Implications for GI Study:
• The GI Study should take a leading role in identifying and protecting valuable historical and ecological assets. Where possible these assets should be linked to add value to a landscape and develop a heightened sense of character and distinctiveness across rural areas.
• Projects suggested by the GI Study should include local people and improve social cohesion.
• The GI Study should aim to improve links between urban fringes and the wider countryside. Options might include:
○ Enhancing pre-existing 'Country parks' through the addition of sporting facilities.
○ Guide farmers in their selection of options as part of the Countryside Stewardship scheme to provide new wildlife corridors, and spaces for the public to enjoy around the edges of towns.
○ Creation of 'Community forests' around the edges of urban areas to provide locations for recreation and exercise.
○ The design of 'green corridors' which would provide a safe and sustainable way for people living within urban areas to access the countryside.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Title: CABE Space: Manifesto for Better Public Spaces (Mar 2004)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Source: http://www.cabe.org.uk/AssetLibrary/2319.pdf</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Description:
The document represents a declaration of CABE's aims in relation to public space. The role of public open space as a social 'glue' binding the community together is emphasized as is the need for public space to be valued more highly by local authorities.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Key Objectives:
• Ensure that the creation and maintenance of high quality public open space is a local and national priority.
• Give local people a voice in deciding how public spaces are to be developed and maintained.
• Make sure that planners know how to create good quality open space.
• Ensure that local authorities understand the pivotal role public parks and open space play as a force for community cohesion.
• Give a platform to discuss the issue of risk in public space and encourage the creation of more diverse and interesting open spaces.
• Promote the beneficial role public open spaces can perform in improving individuals' fitness and general well being.
• To establish open spaces which are accessible to all.
• Work with planners to create public open spaces that support and enhance levels of local biodiversity.
• Assist with the development of public spaces which are safe and clean.
• Encourage all sections of the community to work together to improve their environment.</td><td>Implications for the GI Study:
• The GI Study must understand the high value of public space and relate this to the planners. A 'good quality' public space can reduce crime, promote social cohesion and raise 'quality of life'.
• The GI Study should be ambitious when considering the design of public space.
• The GI Study should have an awareness of how 'good open space' is created and the positive role CABE can play in reaching this objective.
• The GI Study should consider how public spaces can be linked and enhanced to provide opportunities for local people to exercise and find enjoyment.
• The GI Study should take steps to develop projects which give public spaces a sense of local 'ownership'.</td></tr>
</table>

Title: CABE Space: *Does Money Grow on Trees?* (Mar 2005)	
Source: http://www.cabe.org.uk/AssetLibrary/2022.pdf	
Description: An interesting piece of research which uses ten case studies to examine the effect of green spaces on surrounding property prices. The document supports the concept of a multi-functional network and confirms the positive role good quality green spaces can play in increasing local property prices.	
Key Objectives: • Evaluate the impact of green spaces (good and bad) on the value of housing properties close by.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should look to maximise the 'area of influence' of green spaces. This can be achieved by moving away from enclosed parks surrounded by houses to the installation of 'networks' of green space which spread out across the entire cityscape. • The GI Study should suggest public spaces which can be financially self-sustaining in the long-term. • Innovation in terms of the design of green space should be taken into account by the GI Study as it can attract publicity and investment. • One technical point is that parks which have houses looking onto them tend to suffer less crime and anti-social behaviour than those where houses 'back' onto them. • The report provides an economic motive for developers to invest in green spaces, and GI in general. • The creation of a green space in other parts of the UK has led to a rise in surrounding property values which, in turn has offset the cost of green space construction.
HMSO: UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)	
Source: http://www.ukbap.org.uk/	
Description: The UK BAP describes the UK biological resources and commits a detailed plan for the protection of these resources. The UK BAP has 391 Species Action Plans, 45 Habitat Action Plans and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans with targeted actions.	
Key Objectives: • To protect and improve the rural, urban, marine and global environment and lead on the integration of these with other policies across Government and internationally.	Implications for the GI Desk study: • The GI Desk study will need to ensure that development does not have a detrimental impact on biodiversity at a regional and local level.
Title: A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests	
Source: Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs:; http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/rddteam/pdf/0706forestry-strategy.pdf	
Description: The strategy shows how long-term sustainable management of trees, woods and forests can help people and wildlife adapt to a changing climate and how people can make the most of their local woodlands. It also highlights the way in which woodlands protect and enhance natural resources, improve urban environments, and promote better markets for sustainable woodland products and services.	
Key Objectives: • Provide in England a resource if trees, woods and forests in places where they can contribute most in terms of environmental, economic and social benefits now and for future generations. • Ensure that existing and newly planted trees, woods and forests are resilient to the impacts of climate change and also contribute to the way in which biodiversity and natural resources adjust to a changing climate. • Protect and enhance the environmental resources of water, soil, air biodiversity and landscapes. • Increase the contribution that trees woods and forests make to the quality of life for those living in, working in or visiting England. • Improve the competitiveness of woodland business and promote the development of new or improved markets for sustainable woodland products and ecosystem services where this	Implications for GI Study: • When considering GI projects which relate to the creation or restoration of woodland local people should be involved in their design and long term management (Obj. 25, pg 13). • The GI Study has a responsibility to develop an attractive network of sustainable routes through which local people can access wooded assets more easily. • Sustainable transport routes and public open spaced proposed as part of the GI Study should incorporate the planting of trees whenever possible, as tree planting can improve the 'liveability' of neighbourhoods. • When proposing projects which could help to alleviate the effects of climate change, the GI Study should consider the role trees and woodlands can play along with other systems including SUDS. • Routes and the woodlands included within the GI network should be accessible to all. • The GI Study should be aware that grants from the 'Community Assets Fund' may be available to support the creation of woodlands which would be managed by community led voluntary

will deliver identifiable public benefits, nationally or locally, including the reduction of carbon emissions.	organisations and local authorities.
Regional	
Title: Delivering Advantage *The West Midlands Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2010*	
Source: Advantage West Midlands, West Midlands Regional Assembly; http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/wmes/articles/Images/west-midlands-economic-strategy_tcm15-7206.pdf	
Description: Guidance on the implementation of sustainable economic development across the West Midlands region between 2004 and 2010.	
Key Objectives: • Develop a diverse and dynamic business base across the West Midlands based around the creation of 10 'business clusters'. • Promote learning and skills across the region and in particular the six 'regeneration zones'. • By 2010 have the foundations for economic growth in place through improvements in transport infrastructure focused on pre-defined 'high technology corridors'. • By 2010 reduce levels of economic underperformance and social depravation. • Raise the status of the West Midlands in the international arena.	Implications for GI Study: • GI has the capacity to meet criteria listed in at least three of the five pillars which represent the foundation of the economic strategy outlined by the document. ○ Developing an environmental economy – creation of self-sustaining trusts with their own revenue streams which can support the local economy. ○ Developing the visitor economy – linking rural and urban recreational spaces and developing environmental assets. ○ Delivering good quality sites and buildings – Providing a framework through which monies can be effectively channelled to ensure that the environmental improvements will match any economic growth. ○ Sustainable use of natural resources – developing sustainable transport links, better cycle access routes for example. ○ Developing sustainable communities – creating public spaces with a sense of local ownership and reduced levels of crime.
Title: A Sustainable Future for the West Midlands *Regional Sustainable Development Framework* Version 2 (Jul 2006)	
Source: Sustainability West Midlands; http://www.wmra.gov.uk/download.asp?id=1191	
Description: Guidance document for developers and policy makers to ensure that the UK sustainable development strategy is delivered at the regional level.	
Key Objectives: • Sustainable consumption and production. • Reduce the Region's contribution to climate change and make provision for it's potential effects. • Protect natural resources and enhance the environment where ever possible. • Develop sustainable communities with emphasis on improving the Region's 'liveability'.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should be aware that there is a requirement to improve cycle ways and footpaths in order to meet sustainable consumption targets, reduce the Region's carbon foot print and encourage healthier life styles. • The GI Study should make provision for the integration of sustainable draining systems (SUDS) would have the potential to reduce the increased flooding threat posed by global warming and restore valuable wetland habitats which have been lost in recent years. • The GI Study should aim to develop local environments which are cleaner, safer and more pleasant than those currently available.
Title: Restoring the Region's Wildlife (2005)	
Source: West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership; http://www.wmbp.org/assets/userfiles/000424.pdf	
Description: Document which highlights the main challenges facing wildlife in the West Midlands Region. The framework goes on to discuss how the twenty members of the partnership will protect and enhance wildlife and habitats between 2005 and 2009. The later half of the document focuses on how different sectors can help meet biodiversity targets. Sectors mentioned include, Agriculture, Water and Wetlands, Forestry and Woodlands, Towns, Cities and Development, Business, Tourism, Recreation and Access, Health and Transport. Practical examples of how each one of these sectors can help wildlife are incorporated in the text.	
Key Objectives: • Maintain and improve the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems across the Region. • Developing an area based approach to restoring wildlife in the Region. • Develop a system for monitoring the condition of the Region's wildlife.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study has a responsibility to use environmental and character assessments on a regional scale to identify isolated biodiversity assets and develop plans on how to link them. • The GI Study should make provision for monitoring schemes which are self-sustaining and engage with the local community. For example the training of 'local wildlife wardens' to monitor wildlife sites.

• Linking improvements in biodiversity with environmental and social enhancement across the Region. • Planning for, and dealing with the impact of climate change.	(e.g. Bellcote Meadow Millennium Green, Shefford) • The GI Study should implement natural methods to cope with the effects of climate change. The creation of wet meadows for example would have the duel benefit of reducing flood risk and help the region meet it's BAP priority habitat targets.
Title: West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy (Jun 2005)	
Source: West Midlands Regional Housing Board; http://www.wmra.gov.uk/download.asp?id=289	
Description: Guidance document building on the first Regional Housing Strategy published in 2003. Topics covered range from developing balanced communities to increase levels of social and affordable housing.	
Key Objectives: • Create diverse, inclusive communities. • Assist with the implementation of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) with a focus on Urban and Rural renaissance. • Guide housing development to ensure that the economic development of the region is enhanced. • Ensure that the two ODPM pathfinders across East Staffordshire are successful. • Ensure that the Government's Decent Home standards are met across the region. • Secure social and affordable housing for all. • Ensure that new developments are sustainable.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study has a duty to improve the quality and access to green spaces in order to develop diverse and inclusive communities. • The GI Study must consider how new housing will be linked through the development of sustainable transport links to existing environmental and historical assets. • The GI Study must take into account the need to embed new recreational and cultural facilities in a transport network which is "available to all". • The GI Study should consider how new and existing housing developments work with and contribute to natural processes (e.g. SUDS, wet meadows).
Title: Cultural Life in the West Midlands and aims *The Regional Cultural Strategy* 2001-2006	
Source: West Midlands LIFE Regional Cultural Consortium; http://www.gos.gov.uk/497745/docs/182820/603415/RegionalCulturalStrategy2001-06	
Description: Strategy outlining the cultural vision for the West Midlands between 2001 and 2006.	
Key Objectives: • Increase the number of cultural opportunities across all parts of the region. • Increase the level of social inclusion and improve quality of life. • Raise the status of the West Midlands nationally, and internationally. • Attract more investment, increase visitor numbers and continue to grow creative industries. • Improve physical and mental health across the region. • Create an environment which is more attractive and supported by the local community.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study has a responsibility to recognise the historical wealth of the region (32,000 listed buildings, 4 AONBs) and provide a sustainable transport network through which people can access this 'wealth'. • The GI Study should understand that any environmental works must provide an 'environmental backdrop' through which future investment can be secured. • The GI Study must be aware that projects should be planned which include local people in works which could have a direct positive impact on their physical and mental health. • The GI Study must not sacrifice biodiversity in favour of securing increased tourism and development.
Title: The West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework *Growing Our Future* (Oct 2004)	
Source: Forestry Commission, West Midlands Conservancy; http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/WestMidlandsRFF.pdf/$FILE/WestMidlandsRFF.pdf	
Description: Guidance for managers of trees, woodlands and forests onto sustainable development of the resource across the West Midlands.	
Key Objectives: • Give an indication of how woodland may evolve across the region in line with the Regional Spatial Strategy. • Describe how woodland and forestry would integrate with the urban and rural planning process. • Inform local people about the value of woodland and forestry. • Increase the activity of the woodland and forestry sector. • Link woodland and rural areas with a focus on urban fringes. • Ensure that there is a good understanding of woodland and forestry when other regional planning policies are being considered.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study must ensure that sustainable management and creation of woodland is considered a core component. • GI Study needs to ensure that woodlands and forestry are considered at every planning stage. • GI Study should be aware that there is an expectation that woodlands should be used as a natural tool to alleviate any future effects of climate change. • The GI Study must consider how woodlands can be integrated into the urban landscape, particularly around the edges of urban development. • The GI Study should recognise that woodlands are part of the landscape and have the capacity to provide recreational spaces where individuals can learn, exercise and have fun together.

• Promote good practice in relation to minimising the sector's ecological footprint. • Illustrate how woodland and forestry across the region can make a significant contribution to tourism, health, culture and renewable energy.	• The GI Study should consider how wood fuel can reduce the ecological footprint, and provide income to support on the on-going management of newly created woodland. • GI Study should look to enhance local peoples' understanding of the value of woodland,
Title: West Midlands Regional Concordat, Third Edition (Jul 2006)	
Source: West Midlands Regional Assembly; http://www.gos.gov.uk/497745/docs/169700/WMRegionalConcordat0706	
Description: A written agreement signed by the regional partners outlining their roles in implementing sustainable development and reducing inequalities across the West Midlands.	
Key Objectives: • Maintain and enhance biodiversity. • Developing a society which is inclusive, and offers opportunity for all. • Creation of a sustainable economy where resources are efficiently utilised. • Promoting governance which is supported by the population. • Using empirical scientific evidence to base decisions upon.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI study should identify areas which support good levels of biodiversity, plan for their protection and develop a framework through which these areas can be linked and enhanced. • Projects which arise from the GI study must be sustainable and generate revenue for the local economy. • The GI Study must take into account the need to be inclusive and provide opportunities for both formal consultees e.g. Wildlife Trusts and smaller interested parties to feed into the decision making process. • The environmental and character assessments which the GI Study are based on must be update to ensure that scientific evidence is used to support the decisions made.
Title: Regional Planning Guidance for the West Midlands *RPG11* (Jun 2005)	
Source: Government Office for the West Midlands, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	
Description: Guidance for local authorities on the preparation of development and local transport plans across the West Midlands. The strategy is also designed to feed into other regional strategies.	
Key Objectives: • Enhance existing major urban areas to make them more attractive as places to live and work. • Regeneration of the rural areas across the Region. • Create a polycentric regional framework where different areas have distinct 'roles'. • Conserve the Green Belt but allow adjustment of boundaries necessary to support urban regeneration. • Guide development in the cities and towns across the Region. • Support the diversification and modernisation of the Region's economy, but not at the expense of increased levels of social inclusion. • Ensure that the quality of the environment is conserved and enhanced across all parts of the Region. • Significantly improve the Region's transport infrastructure to meet the needs of individuals and the business community. • Promote the development of a network of strategic centres across the Region. • Promote Birmingham as a world city.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI study should be aware of the expectation that urban areas will be improved under the plan and peoples' negative 'perceptions' of public open space in urban environments changed. • The GI Study must address the needs of rural areas with emphasis on areas considered to suffer from 'high levels of deprivation and low population densities' (Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire). • GI plan should look to conserve the Green Belt across the region. • The GI plan has a responsibility to setup projects which feed into the local economy. • The GI study should identify areas of high environmental quality and make efforts to conserve them. • The GI study must be aware of, and take into account, the need to support the development of strategic centres across the Region. • The GI study should place special emphasis on Birmingham and provide a scheme which makes it stand out within the UK, and across the world.
Title: West Midlands Regional Assembly: *Regional Green Infrastructure Prospectus* (2006)	
Source: http://www.growingourfuture.org/wmwff/taskgroups/gip/prospectus.pdf	
Description: The document was commissioned by the Forestry Commission on behalf of the Assembly's Regional Environment Partnership and is aimed at those responsible for regional, sub-regional and local planning policy. The Prospectus goes on to recommend the value of green infrastructure supported up by a series of case studies including the National Forest and Black Country Urban Park. The document also details how to incorporate GI into regional spatial plans and key challenges for the future including raising awareness, policy and investment programmes, and ensuring that sufficient funding is provided not only for the creation of green infrastructure but also for it's long-term management.	
Key Objectives: • Ensure that individuals connected with planning understand the vital role green infrastructure has to play in shaping the future landscape.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should ensure that Green Infrastructure is considered by planners at the local, regional and sub-regional level.

• Encourage greater investment in, and improved management of, existing green infrastructure. • To ensure green infrastructure is appreciated as an essential element of delivering sustainable communities, underpinning growth and regeneration. • Promote a robust and systematic approach to green infrastructure assessment, planning and investment by local, sub-regional and regional planning authorities. • Ensure green infrastructure is proactively planned from the earliest stages of strategic plan preparation through to concept and design stages of all future developments in the Region.	• The GI Study must emphasize the positive economic and social benefits GI can provide.
Title: Green Infrastructure for the West Midlands Region: Technical Mapping Paper (Jan 2007)	
Source: TEP on behalf of West Midlands Regional Assembly	
Description: Commission by the Forestry Commission on behalf of the Regional Environmental partnership of the WMRA, this sister document to the West Midlands GI prospectus (listed above) covers the approach required to assess current GI provision and plan for it's enhancement. The document includes three case studies from the West Midlands (Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall, North and East of Birmingham). This paper was compiled between April and October 2006. Chapter one discusses the requirement for GI to be mapped and the different methodologies currently available, Chapter two examines existing guidelines relating to GI mapping. Chapter three sets out the paper's preferred GI assessment methodology with Chapter 4 outlining recommendations for the future development of GI planning and assessment in the region. This document does not consider the mapping of existing green assets, mapping for these features can be found in the Companion Guide to PPG17 (ODPM, 2002).	
Key Objectives • Provide a methodology for the assessment and planning of both current and new investment in GI within the West Midlands, with a particular focus on assessment of accessible greenspace provision within existing communities and areas of future growth.	Implications for GI Study • The GI Study should consider the relative merits and weaknesses of the different mapping tools available to assist with GI planning (e.g ANGSt, PBRS). ANGst for example examines the distance between individuals and a resource; this does not take into account local features or man-made barriers which might limit the accessibility of the resource. (pg 42) • The GI study must take steps to consider the larger, more strategic GI resources which occur outside the City's boundary. • Projects proposed by the GI Study should be shaped by local people. • The GI Study should consider the function and location of current and potential GI assets. • The GI Study must ensure that any data used to guide decision making is comprehensive, consistent, 'fine gained' and of the best possible quality. (pg 24, 26) • The GI Study should consider the provenance of the data used to form the basis of the Study. It is possible for two different statistical indices to be drawn from the same data source, leading to 'double counting effects'. • Trend data (e.g. population growth areas, location of proposed public transport facilities) should be included in the GI Study. (pg 24) • The GI Study should make the objectives of the project clear; is the objective to create or protect wildlife corridors or is it to have in-direct benefits i.e. improve public health, attract new businesses to the area? (pg 24) • The GI Study should look to combine datasets to produce models which give the most accurate, and useful portrayal of how future GI investment can meet the needs of local people. • The GI Study should recognise that open spaces and the sustainable routes which link them should be multi-functional. • The paper identifies that the '….protection and management of green spaces which are capable of fulfilling the widest range of functions' should be considered the primary role of GI. (top line, pg 29). • The GI Study must take into account policy, strategic priorities and local circumstances to ensure that public open space is multi-functional and widely beneficial to both people and the environment. (pg 42)

Local	
Title: The Coventry Development Plan (CDP) 2001: The City of Coventry Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011 (Adopted Dec 2001)	
Source: Coventry City Council, http://www.cwn.org.uk/cdp/adopted-plan/index.html	
Description: This document provides the framework through which planning applications will be assessed and the overall development of Coventry controlled. The Plan is designed to provide a statutory context for the land use aspects of future regeneration projects to be examined and possible conflicts between economic, social and environmental issues resolved.	
Key Objectives: • Economic regeneration: To strengthen, diversify and consolidate the economic base of the City to maximise the benefits for its people and, above all, to create and sustain jobs. • Social equality: To improve the access for all of the City's people and communities to high quality services and facilities within the City. • Environmental Quality: To achieve and maintain a high quality environment through out the City to sustain it as an attractive place in which to live, work, play and invest in and visit.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should be aware that the CDP places special emphasis on the regeneration of the City Centre over the coming years. The Plan recognises that this regeneration is largely dependent on access to the City Centre being improved and the physical environment made more 'attractive'. • The GI Study has an obligation to consider how it can assist with the re-development of the six Strategic Regeneration Sites identified by the Plan (OS2.11-2.14): ○ Foleshill Gasworks – GI has a role to play in linking the proposed development of a major sporting arena with the surrounding area, and the creation of high quality public open space in the associated leisure development. ○ Keresley – A major employment development is planned for this location. GI has the capacity to develop sustainable transport links to this development and commission projects which integrate the proposal with the surrounding landscape. ○ Phoenix Initiative – GI has the potential to shape the development of the public open spaces at this site and ensure that the proposed retail and hotel extension are in keeping with the 'character' of the surrounding landscape. ○ Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital – There is a requirement to develop a 'Green Travel Plan' which ensures that the hospital is accessible by sustainable means– The GI Study has a key role to play in formulating this plan. ○ New business park at Whitley – Intended as a 'flagship' development, part of the site is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – The GI Study should consider how it might be conserved and incorporated into the development. ○ Creation of an 'urban village' in Radford – A medium density site comprising 600 dwellings has been proposed for this site. The GI Study should consider how the existing sustainable transport infrastructure and network of public spaces might be linked to this development. • The GI Study should make provision for enhancing the public open space within the 'Centres' of the six Priority areas (OS 2.18) identified in the 1993 Plan. These include: ○ Foleshill ○ Hillfields ○ Spon End/Radford ○ Stoke Aldermoor/Willenhall ○ Tile Hill/Canley ○ Wood End/BellGreen • The GI Study should analyse and look to enhance the current sustainable transport inline with the Plans objective of creating a more sustainable city. (OS 4) • The GI Study should be aware that the Plan 'promotes the provision of facilities' which encourage individuals to travel by sustainable means. (OS 2.24) • The GI Study should include projects which lead to the creation of community woodlands, nature reserves and community woodlands across Coventry as the Plan is keen to 'promote' the creation of these 'green' assets. (OS 2.25)

	• The GI Study should be aware that this Plan led to the creation of Coventry Nature Conservation Sites. • The GI Study should include projects which have the capacity to '…lift human spirit and which meet the needs of the whole community's needs and aspirations' (OS 2.27). • The GI Study has an obligation to consider how urban and rural Green spaces can be enhanced to become safer and more attractive. • Projects proposed by the GI Study should be accessible to all, including those with disabilities. (OS 5) • The GI Study should consider how public art can be added to public open spaces and sustainable transport links. (OS 5) • The GI Study should analyse what makes different parts of Coventry special and look to enhance these features. (OS 2.28) • The Plan stresses the value of mixed land use as a means of adding 'vitality' to an area. The GI Study has an important role to play in providing guidance on how green space and the associated leisure facilities this provides can be integrated into a mixed development. (OS 2.30) • The CDP considers the cost of any facilities required due to development will be met by the developer. (OS 10) • The GI Study should consider how it can integrate sustainable features (e.g. SUDS, sustainable transport routes) into new developments. (EM 3.5) • The GI Study should consider how trees, or other natural screening features can reduce levels of light pollution across the City. (EM 3.22) • The GI Study should be aware that the CDP supports projects which 'improve environmental conditions' (i.e. create landscape features, reduce traffic flow). (H 4.24) • The GI Study must ensure that new developments 'enhance the quality and character' of the local environment. (H12, H4.62) • The GI study should plan for the development of 13 new 'local centres' proposed by the Plan which are designed to provide access to 'day-to-day' access to shops. The success of these areas will be dependent upon a comprehensive system of sustainable routes which are safe and attractive. (S5) • The GI Study should be aware of the targets set by the Coventry Integrated Transport Study (CITS) which relate to increasing the usage and availability of cycle and footpaths across the City. (AM 7.11) • The GI Study should place the needs of the pedestrian above those of the car driver. Currently safe crossing points are rare. (AM 7.38) • The GI Study should ensure that sustainable routes created in rural areas are well signposted, way marked, usable by all and publicised in local guides. (AM 7.43) • The GI Study should avoid shared foot and cycle paths wherever possible. (AM 7.49) • The GI Study must look to enhance the links between the City and the wider countryside as the Plan makes direct reference to the need to enhance the City's environmental corridors and gateways (BE 1). • The Plan lists the Foleshill Road/Longford Road/Bedworth Road corridors as priorities for enhancement. The GI Study should consider these access routes and develop projects which can enhancement the 'quality' and 'character' of these corridors. (AM 8.45) • The GI Study should consider how it can promote the unique character of the 'canal corridor' and exploit it to produce a network of sustainable routes which can link different residential areas of the

	city. (BE 5)
	• The Study should be aware of the 21 City Gateways proposed by the Plan. Occurring mostly at major road junctions these features are considered key to the regeneration of the City as a whole. The GI Study should consider how sustainable networks might link these features. (BE 7)
	• The GI Study has a duty to consider how the City's 13 Conservation Areas (areas containing features of architectural or historical interests) can be linked with the rest of the City and the wider countryside. (BE 8)
	• The GI Study should be aware of the 'Coventry Green Space Standards'. These standards outline the minimum requirements for outdoor space in relation to new developments. (GE 1)
	• The GI Study should examine the location and current accessibility of the 49 CNCS (Coventry Nature Conservation Sites) spread across Coventry. (GE 9.69)
	• The GI Study should provide examples of how GI can transform urban centres through the creation of high quality public spaces which reduce crime and promote social cohesion, inline with City Council's 'CVOne' vision. (CC 11.25, CC 6)
	• The GI Study should consider how it can shape the 14 proposed major environmental schemes proposed by the CDP, and introduce projects that emphasize the individual character of different areas of the City Centre (CC 7, CC 11).
	• The GI Study should be aware of the 'Coventry by Design Forum' which meets on a quarterly basis to discuss design issues concerning the urban environment. This maybe a useful platform for feedback relating to GI proposals. (CC 11.52)
	• **The GI Study should consider projects which would lead to the development of green space in the areas listed below as the CDP lists them as areas priorities for green space development:**
	  ○ Parkside Area of Coventry. (CC 27)
	  ○ Cathedral Area (CC 33)
	  ○ Phoenix 1 (CC 35) – area which links Priory Row to the Museum of Natural British Road Transport.
	  ○ Pool Meadow (CC 39)

Title: Core Strategy: Second Issues and Options Document (Jul 07)	
Source: http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/content/chief-executives-directorate/corporate-policy/communications-team/news-releases-2007/theres-still-time-to-have-your-say-on-the-future-of-our-city.en	
Description: This document is a key element of the Local Development Framework and was drawn up following a meeting between the Coventry City Council and Coventry Partnership in January 2006. The document was then subject to a round of consultation and is due to be submitted to the Government in 2008. This Strategy fits in with the Regional Spatial Strategy with the projected addition of between 19-44,000 homes in the period between 2001-2026. The Strategy is not specific about individuals areas to be developed and instead shows possible 'growth corridors'. The Strategy once approved will be the overall strategy and objectives for the future development of Coventry.	

Key Objectives:
• Develop a city which is:
  ○ Proud of its image and heritage
  ○ At the heart of its sub-region
  ○ Well-connected and growing
  ○ Expanding, has diverse city centre and consists of safe and vibrant communities
	Implications for GI:
	• The GI Study should promote the re-development of 'brownfield', rather than 'Green Belt' land. (3.7, 6.3)
	• The GI Study should be aware that the Core Strategy expects the public and other transport networks around Coventry to be 'significantly upgraded' if development is allowed to proceed. (3.7)
	• The GI Study should be aware that both the Core Strategy and Coventry Development Plan consider a north-south regeneration corridor through the centre of Coventry to be a focus for future growth. (4.1)
	• The GI Study may have an important role to play in assisting the Core Strategy in identifying Green Belt land which is of less importance and maybe suitable for development. Currently development requirements are being satisfied through the 'reclamation' of 'brownfield' sites. As the availability of

	'brownfield' land is rapidly diminishing surrounding areas suitable for development but considered to be of low ecological and historical value need to be identified in order for the aims of the Core Strategy to be met. (6.6) • The Core Strategy considers improving the city centre environment a priority. The GI Study should consider innovative public open spaces which attract national attention and provide better links between the City's major tourist attractions – Cathedral and Transport Museum (7.19, 7.22, 7.35, 7.36) • The GI Study should be aware of two City initiatives relating to improvements in local public transport infrastructure; PrimeLines (Bus travel) and Sprint (Rapid bus travel) and how GI projects could fit into these initiatives. (7.24) • The GI Study should be aware that the Core Strategy has through it's growth point work made a commitment to creating high quality public green space. (7.38, 7.39) • The GI Study has an obligation to ensure that open space is not neglected during the construction of high density residential and commercial developments. (7.43)
Title: Draft Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document (Aug 2007)	
Source: Coventry City Council; http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/content/city-development-directorate/planning-%26-transportation/planning-and-transportation/sustainability-assessments.en	
Description: Short document aimed at both developers and the local population which gives insight in how the City Council plan to ensure that new developments are sustainable, and measures developers can to improve the sustainability of their developments. This document is a material consideration when judging whether to permit potential developments or not. The first three chapters of the document list the objectives, and give an indication of where the SPD sits within national and local planning policy. The Council's own Sustainability Assessment makes up the fourth section, and the final chapter is composed of specific case studies, e.g. Electric Wharf and Coventry University.	
Key Objective: • Increase the overall sustainability of developments, by drawing out the key issues and considerations for a development within the wider context of development.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study has a key role to play in helping the Council meet it's Sustainability targets relating to Transport (Sec. 4, Table 5). Pedestrians and cyclists, rather than car drivers should be the main consideration when planning the proposed GI network. • The GI Study should secure details of company travel plans and the current 'Park and Stride scheme' (5.8, pg 45) and consider how these initiatives can be integrated into the GI network. • The GI Study should develop projects which are financially and ecologically sustainable. The use of local resources and services should be encouraged (Sec. 4, Table 3), as should projects which help to produce a net decrease in carbon dioxide generation (e.g. cycle ways, car sharing schemes). • The GI Study should assess the sustainability of it's own projects against the Council's own Sustainability Assessment. (3.9, 4.2) • The GI Study should consider how it might help to meet the Council's target of reducing NO_2 along key highways. (Sec. 4, Table 4) • The GI Study should promote the role of green corridors as potential buffers against light and noise pollution across the City. • The GI Study should make provision for the integration of sustainable draining systems (SUDS). (Sec 4, Table 7)
Title: Community Plan 2005-2010 *Progress through Prevention* (2006)	
Source: Coventry Partnership; http://www.coventrypartnership.com/upload/documents/webpage/document752.pdf	
Description: This is the third Community Plan produced for Coventry. The plan represents the agreed vision for Coventry shared by the Coventry Partnership and local people of Coventry. This document incorporates the Local Area Agreement agreed between the Partnership and the Government. The core of the document sets out the eight Strategic "themes" that will guide policy development, service development, and targeting of resources by the Partnership till 2010.	
Key Objectives:	Implications for GI Study:

• Equality and communities
  ○ To develop a shared vision and sense of belonging and involvement for all of Coventry's communities.
  ○ Ensure that the diversity of Coventry people's backgrounds and circumstances is better appreciated and positively valued.
  ○ To promote equality of opportunity for all.
  ○ Develop a strong and positive relationships between different people from different backgrounds.
• Neighbourhoods
  ○ Improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
  ○ Ensure service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery of services.
  ○ Close the gap between the quality of life experienced in the city's most and least deprived neighbourhoods.
  ○ Increase the capacity of local communities so that people are empowered to participate in local decision making.
• Health and well-being
  ○ By 2010, people in Coventry will be enjoying healthier lives.
• Housing
  ○ By 2010, the quality of housing in Coventry will have improved.
  ○ Housing in Coventry will be more suited to people's needs and aspirations with a better mix of the type and tenure of housing in neighbourhoods.
  ○ These improvements will be more rapid in our priority neighbourhoods and communities.
• Transport
  ○ By 2010, the quality of local public transport will have improved, particularly in the 'priority' communities identified in the plan.
• Community safety
  ○ By 2010 the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour across Coventry will be reduced.
• Environment
  ○ By 2010 local people will value public parks and open spaces more highly.
  ○ By 2010 Coventry will be more sustainable.
• Culture
  ○ By 2010 more people will be participating in cultural and sporting opportunities.
• Jobs and Economy
  ○ By 2010 the number of households deemed to be in 'priority' neighbourhoods will be reduced.
  ○ By 2010 the range of business and job opportunities across the city will be increased.
• Children and Young People
  ○ By 2010 the quality of life of children and young people will have improved.
• Older people
  ○ By 2010 the quality of life for older people will be improved.
  ○ By 2010 facilities catering for older people will be of high quality.
	• The GI Study must consider projects which promote social cohesion within the 'priority' neighbourhoods identified by the Community Plan.
	• Projects proposed by the GI Study should be as diverse and as multi-faceted as possible. For example while energetic activities such as walking and cycling may be attractive to certain sections of the community, others may prefer different pursuits including fishing and gardening.
	• The GI Study should be aware of the extent and location of neighbourhoods which the Council considers to be 'disadvantaged'. The GI Study should make the improvement of ecological and historical assets within these areas a priority.
	• The GI Study should be aware of the concept of 'quality' in relation to the environment. Spaces considered to be of high quality are those which are safe, sustainable, inclusive, innovative and well connected with surrounding areas. The GI Study should look to develop a comprehensive GI network which helps to reduce the gap between the quality of life experienced in the city's most and least deprived neighbourhoods.
	• The GI Study should plan projects which will provide opportunities for local people to improve their physical and mental health.
	• The GI Study should make provision for the integration of sustainable draining systems (SUDS) which have the capacity to help the Council meet it's water conservation targets.
	• The GI Study has a duty to assess the current transport infrastructure, and develop plans which can provide sustainable routes which complement and, where possible reduce the requirement for people to use their cars to access local services.
	• The GI Study should propose projects which offer opportunities for members of the whole community to interact with each other and acquire new skills.

○ By 2010 opportunities for older people to learn and work will have increased. • Individuals with disabilities ○ By 2010 the quality of life for those individuals with disabilities will have improved. • Mental health ○ Improve the mental health of adults within Coventry. • Individuals with learning difficulties ○ Ensure all people with learning difficulties are more independent and have more opportunities to live fuller lives.	
Title: Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (2006)	
Source: UK BAP Website - http://www.ukbap.org.uk/lbap.aspx?id=497	
Description: This is the first BAP to cover the areas of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. Produced as part of the Habitat Biodiversity Audit, this document It outlines member of the BAP partnership will be doing to protect and enhance habitats for healthier populations of plants and animal life across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. No other BAPs overlap with this one except a Geology Action Plan which is currently being drafted (Jan 2008). The BAP includes details of the 24 habitats which are in serious decline across the three parishes, these range from wet woodlands to areas of reedbed and species rich meadow. Within the BAP 17 animal species of animal are listed, as are 5 species of invertebrate and a variety of arable plant species.	
Key Objectives: • Maintain the existing important areas of habitat identified in the BAP. • Restore degraded areas of habitat identified in the BAP by promoting appropriate management. • Increase the amount of habitat identified in the BAP. • Provide a sustainable environment for both the plant and animal communities which occur across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Desk study will need to ensure that development does not have a detrimental impact on biodiversity across the Coventry. • The GI Study should be aware that Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has provided support to ecological community projects in the past. Projects ranging from tree planting (Stratford Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon) to the construction of ponds at local schools have received the Trust's support. The GI Study should liaise closely with WWT when planning the creation or enhancement of public open spaces.
Title: A Review of Important Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Geological Sites (RIGS) in Coventry (2000 and 2007 Update)	
Source: Coventry City Council	
Description: The core document (2000) gives insight into biological and social criteria used to designate SINCs and RIGSs. David Lowe of Warwickshire County Council confirmed (04/01/08) that the criteria used to designate SINCs and RIGSs had not changed since the publication of this document. The document discusses where these protected sites 'sit' in terms of local planning policy and provides detailed breakdowns of all the CNCSs proposed by the review. Most of the potential CNCSs were identified during a survey completed in 1996. Following this initial survey a more detailed appraisal of the potential grassland SINCs was completed by the ecology firm Eco Tech in 1998. Currently (2008) there are approximately 46 SINCs and 3 LNRs in existence within or close to the City's boundary.	
Key Objectives: • Provide a scientific and social basis for the identification of sites as SINCs and RIGSs. • Provide a reference for landowners and others with responsibility for managing the sites. • Inform the preparation and consideration of development proposals. • Be a public resource and a record for those interested in studying wildlife and the environment.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study has a duty to use information from the Habitat Biodiversity Audit to identify all the SINCs and RIGSs currently in existence and look to improve their accessibility. • The GI Study should be aware that it has the capacity to develop new CNCSs which have previously failed to meet the criteria necessary for designation. Criteria 8.3.1, pg 11 – states that '…informal paths and entry points' are a requirement for areas to be designated as a SINC or RIG. The improvement of local footpaths or other access routes proposed by the GI strategy may lead to areas not currently designated on the grounds of poor access being upgraded to a CNCS status.
Title: 'Something to do' – Coventry Play Strategy, *A Strategy to Improve Play Opportunities for Children and Young People in Coventry* (Mar 2007)	
Source: Coventry City Council	
Description: The Play Strategy was developed by a partnership of Council services and members of the voluntary sector. The Strategy was shaped by consultation with local people including children, and a stakeholder event involving policy makers and practitioners. Currently there are 68 dedicated Council run play spaces for children and young people in Coventry; these are split evenly between young children and those in their teens. The Strategy recently received £790,000 in funding from the National Lottery which is to be spent over the course of the next three years.	
Key Objectives: • Ensure that more children and young people have access to informal, natural and environmental play areas. • Ensure that children have the opportunity to access parks and open spaces.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should be aware that only 5 of the Council run 'play areas' are currently considered to have 'good access' (pg 28). The GI Study has a duty to identify 'play areas' with poor access and improve sustainable transport links to these sites.

• Ensure that more children and young people are actively involved in the design, development and delivery of play opportunities. • Ensure better co-ordination and management of the delivery of play opportunities. • Ensure that fewer children and young people experience barriers to play opportunities. • Ensure that children can access a wider range of better quality play opportunities. • Help children to lead healthier lifestyles. • Provide more opportunities for children and young people to experience 'safe risks'	• The GI Study should be aware that the Strategy has identified that the west of the city lacks 'play service' facilities. The areas of Spon End, Hillfields and Bell Green are considered by local people to offer 'play areas' of particularly poor quality and access. (pg 29) • The GI Study should propose Green Spaces which will offer the opportunity for young people to exercise and improve their health. • The GI Study should be aware of the kind of obstacles which can inhibit 'play'. Factors identified by the Strategy include litter, inaccessibility, poor quality play equipment and the strange activity of other individuals. Many of these obstacles are indicative of a wider breakdown in the sense of community across an area. The GI Study should propose projects which include local people, and where possible promote social cohesion through public works which develop a sense of 'local ownership' over public open spaces. • The GI Study must take into account the needs of young people with disabilities when planning public Green Space. • The Strategy states that '….children as young as three can be found playing in the street' (pg 29). The GI Study has a duty to ensure that safe and accessible public spaces are available to reduce the number of children who are forced to play in potentially dangerous places. • Woodlands can provide excellent opportunities for young people and children to experience 'safe risks'. The GI Study should consider how areas of woodlands, particularly around the urban fringe of Coventry can be enhanced to provide more opportunities for young people to take 'safe risks'. (pg 19)
Title: Draft Coventry Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2017 (Nov 2007)	
Source: Coventry City Council; http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2006/rightsofway/default.htm	
Description: This draft plan is a product of national, regional and local Rights of Way policy, guidance from Natural England, consultation with stakeholders (e.g. Local Access Forum) and local residents. The document was open for public review for 12 weeks and is designed to complement the Local Transport Plan. The majority of the document is tabulated and contains a detailed breakdown of how each of the 5 strategic themes are to be met over the next 10 years.	
Key Objectives: • Improve the bridleway and byway network • Improve access for all, especially for disabled people • Improve access to the countryside from urban areas • Provide a selection of long distance paths and circular routes • Improve information about the rights of way network • Improve the path network by reducing its fragmentation • Resource the implementation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should make 'Accessibility for All' a pillar of any sustainable network of routes and public Green Space proposed. • The GI Study should be aware of the local initiative 'Stepping out'. This is a programme designed to offer informal carers the chance to enjoy the wider countryside. (pg 6) • The GI Study should make the creation of sustainable, safe access routes to defined 'centres' (areas containing shops, transport interchanges etc) a 'priority'. • The majority of people surveyed across Coventry stated that they would use public paths more if they were 'in a better condition'. Clearly the GI Study has a duty to ensure that any paths created as a result of the Study are of high quality and are maintained in the future. • The GI Study should make provision for the monitoring of the GI network once it is complete. • 60% of the people questioned during the production of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan noted that there was lack of information regarding local footpath and cycleway routes. The GI Study should ensure that local people are informed of new routes and assets created as a result of GI related works. (pg 7) • The GI Study should include sustainable routes which are circular. (pg 7) • The GI Study can play a central role in meeting Ref. 3.2 of the Accessibility Action Plan. (pg 9) • Ref. 3.3 of the Plan identifies a route running between Wood End to Prologis Park as a possible 'Greenway'. (pg 9) • Public Open spaces proposed by the GI Study should include cycle routes. (Ref. 3.5, Accessibility, pg

	10) • Sustainable routes should include provision for horse riding. • The GI Study should be aware that there are grants available to improve the accessibility of rural areas. (Ref 3.12, Path Infrastructure pg 12) • The GI projects should use local resources, and recycled materials wherever possible. (Ref. 3.16, Path Maintenance, pg 12) • Sustainable routes suggested by the GI Study should offer choice to encourage as many users as possible. (Ref. 3.21, Targeting hard to reach communities, pg 13) • Pedestrians and cyclists, rather than car drivers should be the main consideration when considering how individuals will use the proposed GI network. • The GI Study should consider the improvement of National Cycle Network Route 52 (Canal) and Route 53 (south) as a priority. (Ref. 4.4, Sustainable Transport Routes, pg 18) • Sustainable routes proposed by the GI Study should be supported by facilities which allow users to explore the local area e.g. inclusion of secure cycle parking (Ref. 4.9, Sustainable Transport Routes, pg 18) • When planning footpath improvements the GI Study should consult the 'Coventry Walking Forum'. (Ref. 6.6, Promotion and Publicity, pg 29)
Title: Coventry Cycle Map and Guide (Contact Nigel Mills, Policy and Sustainable Transport Team Leader, Coventry CC 02476 832169) (Apr 07)	
Source: Coventry City Council: Interactive version - http://cyclemaps.coventry.gov.uk/	
Description: Map with accompanying notes published in April 2007. The map includes details of all cycle paths present across Coventry with an indication of roads within the city which are more suited to cycle travel. Routes of note include those along the Canal (National Cycle Route 52) and those running south out of the City towards Kenilworth (National Cycle Route 53). The paper version of the cycle map is to be updated every three years, where as the interactive version is due to be updated on an annual basis. The County Council have a designated cycle officer who teaches local children about road safety through the 'bike-it initiative. Once the cycle bylaw which currently prevents people cycling in the City's parks is repealed (early 2008) new cycle paths are due to be opened in the War Memorial Park and Allesley Park. Cycle routes recently upgraded include Pickford Way and those running through Longford Park. The reverse of the map gives a useful list of local tourist attractions including the Ricoh Football Stadium and Coombe Abbey Country Park.	
Key Objectives: • Promote the health benefits of cycling. • Inform local people and visitors to Coventry of safe cycle routes - reduce the number of traffic accidents involving cyclists.	Implications for the GI Study: • The GI Strategy has a duty to identify all the existing cycle paths and lanes in operation across Coventry and look to build on this existing infrastructure through consultation with the City Council's Sustainable Transport Team. • The GI Study should ensure that new routes created as part of the Plan are well publicised.
Title: A Draft Climate Change Strategy for Coventry, *Report to Cabinet* (Sep 07)	
Source: Coventry City Council http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=16380182	
Description: This document represents the policy response to the Council becoming a signatory of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in October 2006. Coventry City Council in combination with the Coventry Partnership helped to draft this Strategy. The main aim of the Strategy is to reduce the City's production of CO_2 by 67% by 2050. An interim target of a 35-40% cut in CO_2 is proposed for 2025.	
Key Objectives: The objectives of the Strategy are addressed under 6 Strategic Themes • Putting people first: our community ▪ PE1 – Investigate the potential for providing renewable energy systems. ▪ PE2 – Develop initiatives that support household and individual action to tackle climate change. ▪ PE3 – Work with communities in their neighbourhoods to support more sustainable patterns of work, travel and lifestyle. • Where we live: The Built Environment and Land Use ▪ HK1 – Promote energy efficiency, and micro generation.	Implications for the GI Study: • As severe storm events are predicted to be more frequent in future years due to climate change, the GI Study should consider how natural systems (e.g. SUDS) can be integrated into public spaces and around new developments to provide a buffer against these events. • The GI Study should develop sustainable transport links between residential and retail centres which encourage local residents to travel on foot or by bike, rather than in a car. • The GI Study should be aware of and link up with initiatives which teach children about sustainable living. The 'Education for Sustainable Living Initiative' currently offers 1500 primary school children each year the opportunity to learn about sustainability 'hands-on'. (pg 20) • GI Study should look at the proposed location of the two new proposed `Park and Ride' schemes

▪ HK2 – Consider opportunities for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS). ▪ HK3 – All potential development should be assessed for flood risk. • Making a difference: Skills for the Future ▪ EK1 – Ensure that new schools are built to the highest standards (beyond BREEAM 'Very good'). ▪ EK2 – Ensure that existing schools are being as sustainable as possible. • Fit for the future: Health and Well-being ▪ WE1 – Carry out a feasibility study looking at green roofs. ▪ WE2 – Provide a mechanism to inform local people about potential periods of poor air quality. ▪ WE3 – Promote walking and cycling. • Gearing Up: Transport ▪ TE1 – Explore the feasibility of developing two new Park and Ride sites. ▪ TE2 – City Council's cars are to become carbon neutral. ▪ TE3 – Explore the options for the establishment of a fleet of bicycles which pedestrians are able to rent. • Towards a Sustainable City ▪ SE1 – Identify potentially contaminated sites. ▪ SE2 – Consider the potential effects of storm surges on water courses across the City. ▪ SE3 – Assess the potential for using ground source heat pump systems. ▪ SE4 – Ensure that emergency planning and business strategies consider the impact of climate change on all sectors.	(M69/A46, A45) and consider how it can provide sustainable links to and from these transport centres. • The County Council's cycling initiative (TE3) may provide the means for pedestrians to hire bikes and access ecological and cultural assets which would otherwise be out of reach.
Title: A Strategy for Coventry's Parks (Oct 1996)	
Source: http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/environment/land-and-premises/parks-and-recreation/coventry-parks-services/	
Description: Short document produced by the City Council by Elected Members and officers belonging to the parks department. The document details how a network of quality open spaces will be created across Coventry. The document outlines the principles underpinning the provision of parks in the City, states the aims of the Strategy and how these aims will be incorporated into future planning documents. The document concludes with a range of performance measures which will help to assess the Strategy's progress over the next few years. Appendix 1 lists all the open spaces available across Coventry in 1996.	
Key Objectives: • Seek to provide all residents of Coventry with access to a public park or Green Space for relaxation, recreation or play within a reasonable distance from their home. • Develop and promote parks and open spaces in Coventry for the benefit of all residents, and to provide a varied and enjoyable programme of events and activities for people of all backgrounds and abilities. • Develop and manage Coombe Country Park as a recreational facility for the people of Coventry - especially those groups who have not always benefited from outdoor recreational opportunities or who might benefit especially from the Coombe experience. • Work with local communities and develop parks as a focal point for neighbourhood renewal. • Contribute to a sustainable green environment.	Implications for the GI Study: • The GI Study should identify all the public Green Space currently available and identify gaps in the current infrastructure. • The GI Study should be aware of the local popularity of the Memorial Park (49% of all parks users questioned in 1993 visited the park regularly). The park lies close to the centre of the City and could prove to be an important 'node' in a proposed GI plan. • The Parks Strategy identifies Caludon, Foleshill, Allesley, Longford and Prior Deram as suburbs capable of supporting the development of 'area' parks. The GI Study should examine whether the creation of 'parks' within these areas would improve the overall Green Space provision. • The GI Study should be aware that the Strategy identifies the south-east of the city has having a 'gap' in provision in terms of open space. (pg 5) • A possible revenue stream for the improvement of football pitches which may be of use to the GI Study is the 'Football Trust'. (pg 6) • The GI Study should propose open spaces which are multi-functional. The addition of football pitches, basketball courts, skate ramps etc. to open areas can make open spaces more attractive to sections of the local community who would not normally use the resource. (pg 6) • The GI Study should be aware that the Strategy states that the city as a whole '…lacks accessible

	opportunities for outdoor watersports'. The GI Study could consider how this problem might be resolved either through improved access to sites outside the city boundaries, or the re-development of existing open spaces. • The GI Study should look to increase the number of wooded areas currently available, with particular effort focused on creating woodland in areas to the north of the city. (pg 6, last paragraph) • The GI Study should look to recognise the value of the current stock of 'ornamental areas' (Lady Herbert's Gardens, Bird Street Gardens, Top Green and Greyfriars Green). The GI Study might explore how larger parks might have areas set aside for 'ornamental' use. • The Parks Strategy would like to see local people taking responsibility for maintaining and developing their local open spaces. (pg 7) • The Strategy lists Coombe Country Park as a priority for future development. The GI Study must ensure that this open space is included within the planned network of open space. Coombe Park could be enhanced through the restoration of Capability Brown's landscape, increasing educational opportunities, or simply publicising the facilities the park provides more widely. • The GI Study should be aware that there is sufficient revenue within the Strategy to support the creation of one new playground in the Coventry each year. (pg 8) • The GI Study has an obligation to consider how urban and rural Green Spaces can be enhanced to become safer and more attractive. • The GI Study must communicate with local people and other interested parties when developing proposals relating to public parks, and other open spaces. • The GI Study should be aware that the Parks Strategy in 1996 identified 7 possible sources of funding. These ranged from the Single Regeneration Budget, to funding by local developers. The GI Study has a duty to find out what the current sources of funding are in relation to parks across Coventry.
Title: Design Guidelines for Development in Coventry's Ancient Arden – *An Historic Landscape Area* (May 1995)	
Source: City Development Directorate	
Description: Document which outlines the local design "guidelines" for developers, land managers and local residents in relation to the Arden area of Coventry. These guidelines formed Supplementary Planning Guidance to the statutory City of Coventry Unitary Development Plan which was adopted in March 1993. The "guidelines" are meant to conserve the distinctive "built character" of the Arden area which was described by the Countryside Commission as "…..*the only remaining relatively unspoilt area of ancient countryside left in Warwickshire*" (pg 7). The Arden area occurs mostly within the Green Belt of Coventry and extends from Alcester in the south to Atherstone in the north. The guidelines identified seven distinct types of landscape within the Arden region these include; • Ancient Arden • Arden Pastures • Industrial Arden • Arden Parklands • Wooded Estatelands • Arden River Valleys • River Valley Wetlands. The first part of the document discusses the age of the Arden region and the features which make it distinctive (undulating landscape, sunken lanes, stone built houses etc). The second part of the document states the design guidelines which will inform decision makers. Detailed diagrams and notes emphasize the need for new houses to be designed in a compact, traditional style.	
Key Objectives: • Recognise the "distinctive built" character of the Arden region of Coventry and make special provision for it's protection and enhancement within the context of local planning policy.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study has a duty to recognise the historical wealth of the Arden region and develop a sustainable transport system which allows all of Coventry's residents to enjoy it. • The GI Study should be aware of the strict protocols surrounding the re-development of roads and paths across the Arden region. 'Urban features' including concrete kerbs, sodium lighting and the

	introduction of standardised road signs are not allowed under the guidelines. (pg 36) • The GI Study should wherever possible include the planting of 'heathland species' e.g. gorse (*Ulex* sp.) along new transport routes proposed within the Arden region. • The GI Study should ensure that new paths or routes which it proposes within the Arden region are not subject to intensive management regimes (e.g. monthly mowing). • If woodlands or trees are to be planted along green corridors in the Arden region the GI should select native species which are listed in Appendix 1, pg 38 of the Guidelines. • New built facilities planned by the GI Study should be constructed from stone, use local materials and be as sustainable as possible.
Title: A Green Space Strategy for Coventry, An Integrated Approach to the Planning and Management of the City's Open Spaces (Sep 1994)	
Source: City of Coventry Council, Planning Policy and Implementation Division	
Description: This document details the principles by which the Coventry's Green Space will be protected, enhanced and managed in future. Approved in March 1994 following a period of public consultation, the Green Space Strategy was drafted by members of the City Council and the Green Space Specialist Working Group (GSWP). Members of the GSWP included local scientists (Chairman Prof. Roger Whittenbury), enthusiasts (Rambler Association, BTCV) and business people (Jaguar Cars). The document is split into three chapters. The first chapter gives details of the audit of the City's Green Space. The second discuses the current initiatives (as of 1994) and resources available and the final section gives recommendations and management guidelines for the future. Appendix 3 contains six figures which detail the extent and location of different recreational facilities and Green Space across the City. Inside the back cover of the document is a map showing the Green Space Network as of September 1994.	
Key Objectives: • Undertake an analysis of the form and nature of Green Space in and around the City. • Raise awareness of Green Space in order to secure a shared commitment to action. • Complement and amplify the Green Space policies and proposals in the Unitary Development Plan. • Contribute to the City's Environmental Strategy. • Ensure that Departments of City Council and local voluntary groups and the local community are all working together. • Maximise resources by co-ordinating programmes of action and provide a focus to attract additional funds from external sources.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should be aware of the results of the Strategy's 1993 Green Space audit. 44% of the land in Coventry was considered to be open space (1/3rd of this open space occurred in the parishes of Allesley and Keresley). The GI Study should consider whether the current level of Green Space is inline with the levels predicted by the 1994 Strategy. • The GI Study has a duty to recognise the historical wealth of the Arden region. • The Strategy lists Coombe Country Park as a priority for future enhancement. • The GI Study should be aware of the 'Green Wedges, and Green Corridors' which exist in and around Coventry; *Wedges include:* ▪ Cannon Park ▪ Tile Hill ▪ Sowe Valley The GI Study should recognise these features and where possible develop projects which lead to their wider integration into Coventry's sustainable transport network. • The GI Study should ensure that the ecological assets of Tile Hill Wood and Herald Way Marsh (biological SSSIs) and Webster's Clay Pit (geological SSSI) are protected, and their access improved. • The GI Study has a duty to identify all the SINCs and RIGSs currently in existence and look to improve access to these assets. • The GI Study should consider what Green Space initiatives are currently operating across Coventry. • The GI Study has a duty to liaise with other bodies within Coventry who have an interest in Green Space. Some of the national bodies interested in Green Space include: ▪ Environment Agency ▪ DEFRA ▪ Natural England ▪ Forestry Commission ▪ Sports England • The GI Study should look to develop partnerships between private and voluntary sectors when

	planning projects. • The GI Study should develop a framework which includes a yearly or bi-annual review to ensure that aims of the Study are being met. • The GI Study has an important role to play in maintaining a system of allotments across the City. • The GI Study should look to conserve, manage and plant new trees wherever possible. • The GI Study should establish a strategic network of Green Spaces which has the capacity to link the surrounding countryside with areas of public space within the City. • Projects proposed by the GI Study should have low start up costs, and wherever possible be self-funding. • The GI Study has a duty to develop a framework which will allow private developments to make a meaningful contribution to the development of a comprehensive GI network. • The management of projects suggested by the GI Study should conform with the best practice guidelines printed on pgs 90-98 of the Strategy handbook.
Title: West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP2) 2006	
Source: CEPOG: www.westmidlandsltp.gov.uk	
Description: This document was submitted by West Midlands Local Authorities' Chief Engineers & Planning Officers Group (CEPOG) on behalf of the City and Borough Councils which occur across the West Midlands. This document is a follow up to the Provisional LTP which was submitted to Government and subjected to a round of public review in July 2005. This LTP is designed to provide the framework for the programme of transport initiatives which the seven local authorities covered by the plan will pursue between 2006-2011. Policies proposed by the plan include increasing the opportunities for individuals to travel on foot and a bike and the creation of Red Routes along major highways. The Plan lists targets for reducing road traffic, improving public transport and the development of travel plans. Pages 105-158 provide case studies of how the targets set by the LTP will be met in future.	
Key Objectives: • Ensure that the transport system underpins the economic revitalisation of the West Midlands Metropolitan Area. • Ensure that transport contributes towards social inclusion by increasing accessibility for everyone. • Move towards a more sustainable pattern of development and growth. • Improve safety and health for all. • Integrate all forms of transport with each other, with other land areas, and other policies and priorities.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should be aware that the LTP does not stress that pedestrians and cyclists should be the primary consideration when considering transport networks. 8.1.5 (pg 90) states that '….we have not set out a hierarchy of transport users'. • The GI Study must take into account the full range of planning policy (Regional Spatial Strategy, Regional Housing Strategy etc) when developing proposals. (8.1.9, pg 90). • The GI Study should be aware of the results from the research funded by the Transport Innovation Fund. The research is currently examining what the most effective methods of dealing with road congestion currently available are. The results of this research may have implications for the design of supporting sustainable transport networks suggested by the GI Study. (8.1.10, pg 91) • The GI Study should make the creation of a sustainable, safe network of routes linking public open spaces and commercial centres across Coventry a priority. (8.1.12, pg 91) • The GI Study has a key role to play in helping the plan to continue to reduce congestion, and improve air quality. (8.1.13, pg 91) • The GI Study should be aware that the LTP's 'emphasis' in terms of where money and resources should be focused is not currently determined (8.2.3, pg 91). The GI Study should gather case studies which indicate the positive impact a sustainable network of Green Space and connecting routes can have on air quality, social cohesion and the relief of congestion. • The GI Study should be aware that the Plan initiated a programme of awareness raising and promotion of sustainable travel modes in 2006. This has a target of achieving a 5% modal shift from car to non-car journeys by 2011 (8.2.7, pg 92). • The GI Study should be aware of the 'Bus showcase route' (developed by Coventry City Council in partnership with Travel West Midlands and Centro) which is being planned along the A45. (8.2.8, pg 92)

	• The sustainable transport infrastructure suggested by the GI Study should be accessible to all, including those with disabilities. (8.2.9, pg 92)
	• GI Study should look at the proposed location of the two new proposed 'Park and Ride' schemes (M69/A46, A45) and consider how it can provide sustainable links to and from these transport centres. (8.2.16, pg 93)
	• The projects proposed by the GI Study should be of 'high quality' (i.e. safe and attractive). (8.2.25, pg 94)
	• The GI Study should be aware that the Transport Plan is keen to expand the light rail system across the West Midlands. (8.2.32, pg 95)
	• The two major sustainability initiatives proposed by the LTP are 'TravelWise' and 'Safer Routes to School'. (8.3.11, pg 100)
	• The GI Study should be aware that the Plan is considering introducing Road Pricing to reduce congestion; this may increase the demand for sustainable transport routes in the future. (8.3.17, pg 101)
	• The GI Study should ensure that there are no 'barriers' which might reduce the likelihood of an individual using a GI asset. Barriers noted in the LTP include cost, areas being un-safe and a lack of information. Identified by the Plan as being most sensitive to these 'barriers' are those with mental or physical disabilities or a senior citizen. (8.4.7, pg 102)
	• The GI Study should locate pollution hotspots and where possible consider GI projects which would help to improve the air quality at these sites. (8.5.4, pg 102)
	• The GI Study should be aware of the three Air Quality Management Areas which have been identified in Coventry.
	  • AQMA 1 An area in the city centre incorporating Trinity Street, Cross Cheaping, The Burgess and Hales Street (81% above the target annual mean for NO_2)
	  • AQMA 2 The Ball Hill area of the A4600 Walsgrave Road
	  • AQMA 3 An area surrounding the junction of Queensland Avenue and Four Pounds Avenue with the B4106 Allesley Old Road.
	• The GI Study should consider projects which can help to reduce congestion in these three AQMAs.
	• The GI Study has a key role to play in ensuring that the LTP2 Target of a 1% increase in the cycling index between 2003/4 and 2010/11 is reached (pg 192). It is imperative that the GI Study links up with TravelWise and other initiatives to make sure that more people travel by bike in the future.
	• The GI Study should review all of the Travelplans currently in operation and ensure that more sustainable transport routes are made available to employees of large firms. (pg 209, Target from the RSS).
	• The GI Study should be aware of the West Midlands Cycle Strategy. (Accessibility Strategy Statement, viii)
	• The GI Study should be aware of the West Midlands Walking Strategy. (Accessibility Strategy Statement, viii)

Title: Coventry Sport and Playing Facility Strategy (Sep 2006)	
Source: Coventry City Council; http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=16302027	
Description: This document was drafted by the Physical Activity and Sports department of Coventry City Council. The Strategy is designed to provide a clear strategic context for future facility developments and support the implementation of PPG17. This document was subject to a consultation exercise in Spring 2006, comments were added and the Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet in July 2006. The early chapters outline the national and local policies which have provided the framework for the Strategy. The greater part of the document gives detailed insight into the current levels of provision and how future demands will be met. Pages 22-34 provide maps showing the current location of sporting and recreational facilities and their corresponding 'spheres' of influence.	

Key Objectives: • To provide facilities where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can get started, stay and succeed in sport with access to the right facilities, equipment, coaching and encouragement. • To ensure that facilities are available to meet the particular needs of groups in the city who may experience barriers to becoming involved in sport and fitness activities.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should be aware that the Strategy has identified a short fall in a number of key recreational facilities. Currently there is a lack of badminton courts, 'water space', public health and fitness facilities and synthetic football pitches. • The Strategy identifies the areas of Sherbourne, Whoberely and Cheylesmore as priorities for the development of new health and fitness opportunities. (pg 7) • The GI Study should understand the high value of public space and relate this to the planners. A 'good quality' public space can reduce crime, promote social cohesion and raise 'quality of life'. • The GI Study should consider how Public Private Partnerships (PPP, pg 45) could provide funding for GI projects. • The GI Study should indicate to planners that the provision of built facilities (swimming pools, health centres etc) is only one of many steps which can be employed to improve the health of local people. (3.14, pg 14) • The GI Study should be aware of the 10 sporting 'Hubs of Excellence' which the Strategy proposes to establish across Coventry. Sports ranging from basketball to football have been identified as being of high priority and deserving of a specialist facility. The GI Study has a duty to consider the location of these planned facilities and try to ensure that the foorpath and cycle links proposed by the Study connect with these 'hubs'. (8.4, pg 37)
Title: Coventry Development Plan, Annual Monitoring Report 2006 (Feb 2007)	
Source: Development Plans Team, http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset?asset_id=16328350	
Description: This document was produced to meet the requirement set for CPDs to be reviewed on a regular basis by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The document details all of the policies included in the CPD with indicators of how progress towards those targets is being achieved.	

Key Objectives:
• Monitor the progress of policies set out in the development plan
• Monitor the achievement of progress of the Local Development Scheme in preparing new development plan documents.
	Implications for GI Study:
	• The GI Study should note the recent improvement in bus infrastructure which has taken place across Coventry. Improvements have led to the creation of 84 new/improved bus stops (1.14, pg 12). The GI Study's baseline should include these new assets in it's analysis of the current transport infrastructure.
	• The GI Study should be aware of the habitat enhancement works which have been completed on:
	  ○ Coundon Wood
	  ○ Websters Park
	  ○ Hawkesbury Village Green
	• The GI Study should be aware of the regeneration project launched in 2005 which relates to Far Gosford Street launched in 2005. Monies for this project were derived from the Heritage Lottery Townscape Heritage Initiative (HLTHI). Improvements include improving the street scene and filling gaps with new developments (BE 4, 10.5, pg 98). The GI Study should consider whether any projects it proposes relating to Green Corridors might be eligible for HLTHI funding.
	• The GI Study should be aware that the regeneration of the 'canal corridor' is mostly complete (BE5, 10.7 pg 98). The GI Study should evaluate whether the accessibility of this asset could be improved.
	• The 'Gateway' schemes proposed along major routes into the City have progressed. Sites chosen as 'Gateways' include Foleshill Road, Stoney Stanton Road, Far Gosford Street and Walsgrave corridor. (BE 7, 10.9, pg 98)
	• The GI Study should note that no new buildings of historical wealth were added to the Statutory List between 2005 and 2006. (BE 8, 10.13, pg 99)
	• The GI Study should be aware that under Section 106 £349,500 has been made available towards

	the creation and management of open space across the City. • The GI Study should consider the location and extent of allotments and ensure that these areas are protected and enhanced as part of proposed GI projects. (GE5, 11.7, pg 107) • The GI Study could have a key role to play in 'adding' value to existing Green Spaces which have been reduced in size due to development. (GE 8, 11.10 pg 107) • The GI Study should be aware of the following initiatives and potential projects: o Coundon Community Wood. A local group called the Friends of Coundon Wood have restored a wildlflower meadow and planted over 2000 trees. o Webster's Community Park in Foleshill. 11,000 trees and shrubs have been planted by local people. o Hawkesbury Village Green Residents Group. Worked to create a 2 ha site supporting 1250 trees and 100s of native plants and wildflowers. o The GI Study should examine the brownfield site between Humber Road and Aldermoor Lane as it has secured £250,000 grant from a Section 106 agreement to be developed into open space. o Creation of Caludon Castle Riverside Park. o Restoration of hedgerows and meadows in association with the Alan Higgs Sports Development. o On going development of Canley Local Nature Reserve on land adjoining new Charter School. o Coundon Wedge Countryside Conservation Area and nature trail is being enhanced. o The local intuitive 'Woods on your Doorstep' has planted 5ha of land in Cannon Park Green Wedge. o The Woodland Trust has led the restoration of Elkin Wood. • The GI Study should be aware that the Council is in favour of planting large numbers of trees in parks and wooded LNRS. In 2005 and 2006 170 large trees, and 2000 mixed broadleaves were planted by the Council. (pg 110) • Sustainable transport routes planned as part of the GI network should follow the guidelines listed by the City Council's Countryside Project. • The GI Study should develop a sustainable transport infrastructure which allows individuals to access leisure and indoor sports facilities on foot. (SCL 12.8)
Title: Local Agenda 21 Annual Action Plan 2004-2005 (2005)	
Source: http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=14580009	
Description: View 21 is a document based on the response of local communities in 1995 and 2000 to a questionnaire which looked to explore their views and visions for the future. Based on these questionnaires, thirteen aims were adopted by View 21, which if met should increase the quality of life for everyone living in the City.	
Key Objectives: • Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone. • Effective protection of the environment. • Prudent use of natural resources. • Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study will need to ensure that development does not have a detrimental impact on biodiversity across Coventry. • The GI Study should consider the environmental sustainability of projects, showing a preference for those which do not consume electricity, water or other natural resources. • The GI Study should take steps to include projects which can include local people and improve social cohesion. • The projects arising from the GI Study should use local resources (i.e. timber from local forests for fencing or seating) and have the smallest possible environmental impact. • The GI Study should support the development of company and public Green Travel Plans.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Title: Coventry Urban Fringe (CUF) Landscape Assessment and Guidance (Jan 2007)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Source: Coventry City Council</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Description: The document builds on the Warwickshire Landscape Project (WLP) completed by the Countryside Commission in 1992. The WLP led to the County of Warwickshire being sub-divided into several different Landscape Description Units (LDU). Each LDU was considered to have it's own distinct 'character'. The Urban Fringe Assessment then subdivided each of the Coventry LDUs based on differences in land cover and historic 'pattern' to create a mosaic of different Land Cover Parcels (LCPs) which could help guide planning and habitat management on a landscape scale. The condition of all the LCPs was re-assessed between December 2006 and January 2007. The first half of the document discusses how features of historical and landscape value were identified and their condition assessed. The second half of the document is composed mostly of Appendix A which gives a detailed breakdown of the 25 LCPs currently in existence across Coventry.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Key Objectives:
Describe the character of each Land Cover Parcel (LCP).
Evaluate the condition of each LCP.
Identify management priorities for each LCP.</td><td>Implications for GI Study:
The GI Study has a duty to recognise the social, ecological and historical value of the LCPs currently in existence. Efforts should be made to improve the access and condition of these features whenever possible.
GI projects in the Arden region should look to reinstate areas of species rich permanent pasture and lengths of hedgerow along field boundaries.
The GI Study should ensure that the distinction between 'town and country' is maintained.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Title: Walking Strategy (Parts I, II, III) (Apr 2004)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Source: Babtie on behalf of Coventry City Council; http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/transport-and-streets/sustainable-transport/sustainable-transport-policy/</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Description: 3 part daughter document to the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (2003). This document sets out a detailed Walking Strategy for Coventry and forms part of the Coventry Development Plan. The first part of the document outlines the overall Walking Strategy and Action Plan. The second details the Action and Monitoring Plan, with the final part giving detailed guidance about the suitable location of facilities which would improve conditions for pedestrians.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Key Objectives:
To make walking in Coventry easier, safer and more enjoyable.
To create a culture and environment in which more people choose to walk more often for both purposeful and recreational trips.
To encourage more trips to be made locally and support more people in choosing to walk as an alternative to car use for appropriate journeys.
To improve independent accessibility by foot or wheelchair for disabled people.</td><td>Implications for GI Study:
The GI Strategy has a duty to identify all the existing footpaths currently in place and look to build on this infrastructure through consultation with the City Council's Sustainable Transport Team.
The GI Study should emphasize to planners the social, health and economic benefits an improved system of sustainable footpaths would bring to Coventry.
The GI Study should be aware that approximately 10% of people who live and work in Coventry walk to work. (Fig. 5, pg 11). Of those who walk into the City Centre to shop, 60% lived in a CV1 postcode (less than 0.5km from the City Centre).
The GI Study should ensure that routes between cultural assets, residential areas and the city centre are:
As direct as possible.
Attractive and well maintained.
Accessible to all (routes should include hand rails and avoid the use of street furniture likely to cause an obstruction, 3.3.4, pg 18; Obj. 3.3, pg 28)
Away from vehicular traffic. (Greenways and quiet lanes should be created, Part III, 3.5.3, pg 24).
Safe (e.g. well lit).
As these were the key concerns of local people surveyed in 2003 as part of the consultation carried out during the preparation of the Walking Strategy. (3.3, pg 16)
The GI Study should ensure that the number of entryways and subways are minimised when developing sustainable routes, as local people felt 'unsafe' in these locations. (3.3.2, pg 17)
New sustainable transport links proposed by the GI Study should be developed in collaboration with the City Council's Vulnerable Road User Audit (VRUA). (3.3.5, pg 18)
The GI Study should be aware that pedestrians are more likely to be killed or seriously injured by a road accident in Coventry than in any other City found across the West Midlands. (Fig. 13, pg 20)</td></tr>
</table>

	• The GI Study has a duty to help create an urban landscape which 'encourages walking'. (4.4.1, pg 23) • As well as the sustainable routes proposed by the GI Study, public open spaces included in the GI Plan should provide opportunities for recreational walking. (4.4.1, pg 23) • The GI Study should be aware that the Walking Strategy is keen for local Green Space and public rights of way to be enhanced. (Obj. 1.3, 2.2-2.4, pgs 24-26) • The GI Study should be aware of the Strategies Objective 2.7, '……create more opportunities for walking in culturally, historically and environmentally interesting areas of the City' (pg 27). The GI Study is well placed to take the lead in meeting this objective through the development of 'quiet lanes' and the formation of partnerships between the City Council and neighbouring authorities. • The GI Study should be aware that any footpaths designated as 'Quality Pedestrian Routes' may receive extra council funding. (4.6.2, pg 27) • The GI Study should only provide paths shared between cyclists and pedestrians where other options are not practicable. (Obj. 3.3, pg 31) • The GI Study should ensure that new routes and existing footpaths are well publicised. (Obj 5.1 and 5.2, pg 33) • The GI Study should support the development of company and public Green Travel Plans. (Obj. 5.3, pg 34) • The GI Study should follow the five principles listed in Part III of the Strategy, when planning sustainable transport routes. (pg 2) • The GI Study has an obligation to consider the '*Hierarchy of Measures*' outlined in Part III of the Strategy when considering what improvements to make to footpaths. (pg 4)
Title: Cycling Strategy (Parts I, II, III) (Apr 2004)	
Source: Babtie on behalf of Coventry City Council; http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/transport-and-streets/sustainable-transport/sustainable-transport-policy/	
Description: 3 part daughter document to the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (2003). This document sets out a detailed Cycling Strategy for Coventry and forms part of the Coventry Development Plan. The first part of the document outlines the overall Cycling Strategy and Action Plan, the second details the Action and Monitoring Plan, with the final part giving detailed guidance about the suitable location of facilities which would improve conditions for pedestrians.	
Key Objectives: • Increase the actual and perceived safety of cycling • Increase the accessibility, convenience, comfort and attractiveness of cycling • Promote and encourage cycling • Improve trip end facilities	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Strategy has a duty to identify all the existing cycle paths and lanes in place across Coventry and look to build on this existing infrastructure through consultation with the City Council's Sustainable Transport Team**.** • The GI Study should be aware that approximately 2% of people who live and work in Coventry cycle to work. (Fig. 4, pg 10). This figure represents a 10% fall in the number of individuals cycling to work over the last decade (1991-2001). • The GI Study should ensure that cycle routes between cultural assets, residential areas and the city centre are: o Direct as possible and continuous. (3.3.3, pg 19) o Provide a time advantage compared with driving. (3.3.3, pg 19) o Safe (away from traffic, develop Green Ways and Quiet Lanes). (Obj. 1.4, pg 24). o Attractive and well maintained. o Supported by high quality facilities (e.g. secure cycle parking). o Well publicised. (3.3.3, pg 19, Obj. 3.2, pg 30) o Conform with design standards for width, gradient, and surface quality. (3.3.3, pg 19) As these were the key concerns of local people surveyed in 2003 as part of the consultation carried for the preparation of the Cycling Strategy. (3.2, pg 16)

	• The GI Study has a duty to help create an urban landscape which 'encourages' cycling, by providing high quality routes and services which change the current perception of cycling from being 'uncool'. (3.3.5, pg 20) • The GI Study should be aware of local cycling initiatives. The 'bike-it' initiative is currently being rolled out to schools across Coventry by a member of the Council's Sustainable Transport Team. The GI Study should look at existing cycle routes to schools and suggest improvements which would improve safety and promote cycling in individuals aged 7-16yrs. (Obj. 3.1, pg 30) • The GI Study should try to include local people in the enhancement of cycle paths to give routes a sense of 'local ownership'. This has shown to be effective in maintaining an attractive route and decreasing local levels of anti-social behaviour. (Obj. 1.5, pg 25) • The GI Study should ensure that a maintenance schedule is developed for the sustainable transport network proposed by the Plan. (Obj. 1.6, pg 25) • When linking new GI assets the Study should look to put the needs of the 'cyclist' first. (4.5.1, pg 26) • The GI Study should be aware of the Strategy's objective 2.1. The council should '.....start to develop a comprehensive network of accessible, convenient, safe, comfortable and attractive routes which link a variety of origins to a number of key destinations' (pg 26). The GI Study is well placed to take the lead in meeting this objective through the development of 'quiet lanes' and the formation of partnerships between the City Council and neighbouring authorities. • The GI Study should be aware that the Council plans to have a comprehensive cycle network is aimed to be in place by approximately 2025. (4.5.2, pg 26). • The GI Study should take a leading role in ensuring that facilities to aid cycling are included as part of new developments. (Obj. 2.2, pg 27) • Cycle paths and lanes included in the GI Plan should be well signposted. (Obj. 2.6, pg 29) • The GI Study should try to develop 'community cycling projects' and support the development of company and public Green Travel Plans. (Obj. 3.3, 3.4, pg 30-31) • The GI Study should explore how 106 Agreements can be used to fund projects. • The 'Cycling in Coventry Network' may be a useful forum through which the views of local people could be sought. (2.2.17, pg 9, Part II) • The GI Study should be aware that funding for improved cycling facilities may be available from the City Council. (2.2.21, pg 11, Part II) • The GI Study should consider the development of a better sustainable transport networks in the areas of Coventry Arena, Swanswell and New Deal as a priority. (2.3.2, pg 13. Part II) • The GI Study should follow the five principles listed in Part III of the Strategy, when planning sustainable transport routes. (pg 3) • The GI Study has an obligation to consider the '*Hierarchy of Measures*' outlined in Part III of the Strategy when considering what improvements to make to footpaths. (pg 12) • Nigel Mills confirmed via email (10/01/08) that the Action Plan required updating as works relating to the improvements of 'areas' around the City had not be completed. In recent times routes have been improved based on requests from cycle users and as part of major transport schemes.
Title: Air Quality Action Plan (Public Report 13) (Sep 2007)	
Source: Coventry City Council, http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=16384159	
Description: This document is the policy response of Coventry City Council to Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The document identifies and outlines action plans for each of the three Air Quality Management Areas across Coventry. Under current measures these areas are 'extremely likely' (pg 4) to exceed annual nitrogen dioxide targets. The draft of this document was subject to review by Defra (Dec. 2005), people living within the AQMAs and the Cabinet Member for City Services who approved the Action Plan in February 2007. The early chapters of the Action Plan relate the national and regional	

policy which relate to Air Quality, and give an indication of the types of pollution monitored, and the effects it has on individuals exposed to it. The middle chapters discuss the 3 AQMAs in detail and outline suitable Actions Plans for these sites.

Key Objectives:	Implications for GI Study:
Improve the air quality of: • Areas close to the City Centre including Cross Cheaping, the Burges, Hales Street, Trinity Street and Ironmonger Row. • The Ball Hill area of the A4600 Walsgraved Road between Brighton Street and Shakespeare Street. • An area surrounding the junction of Allesley Old Road B4106, Four Pounds Avenue and Queensland Avenue.	• In all of the AQMAs listed by the Strategy the primary cause of elevated NO_2 is road traffic and congestion. The GI Study should develop projects which can assist with the reduction of car usage in three AQMAs. • The GI Study has an important role to play in emphasizing that meeting climate change targets often leads to an improvement in air quality. • The GI Study should be aware of the 'Prime Lines' bus initiative. The GI Study should take these transport 'nodes' into account when developing an overall GI Strategy. (5.1, pg 56) • The GI Strategy should be aware of the new bus routes proposed as part of the 'Sprint' initiative. (5.6, pg 59) • Improvement of the cycle and footpath network is considered by the Strategy to be a 'high' priority. (7.1, 7.2, pg 64) • The GI Study should be aware of the 'Safer routes to work initiative'. (7.5, pg 66)

Title: Regenerating Coventry's Canal Opportunities for Improving Coventry's 7 miles of Canal and Surrounding Land (May 1993)

Source: Coventry City Council

Description: This document outlines design and development guidance, environmental enhancement possibilities, and a plan of action for the regeneration of Coventry's canal. The document is split into six sections with sections 1 and 2 stating the aims of the Study and summarising the condition of the canal as of 1993. Sections 3 and 4 present design and development guidelines and provide a series of illustrations as how the corridor could be developed. The final sections (5 and 6) detail British Waterways plans for the corridor, with the final section focusing on how local people can be involved in the works.

Key Objectives:	Implications for GI Study:
• Maximise the canal corridor's economic development, environmental and recreational potential.	• As of April 2007, 10 out of the 14 sites identified in 1993 by the regeneration plan are either under development or fully developed. (City Council Update, 05/04/2007) • The GI Strategy has a duty to recognise the ecological and cultural value of the canal and look to enhance both it's quality and accessibility whenever possible. • Any projects which involve enhancement of the corridor should aim to maintain the 'unique' character of the canal and include features which are keeping with the landscape. Projects relating to the canal should be inline with the guidelines listed in Section 3.

Title: Landscapes for Living (Aug 2007 Special Update)

Source: West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership; www.wmbp.org/landscapesforliving

Description: This project represents an ambitious initiative designed to develop a 50 year biodiversity vision and opportunity map for the West Midlands region and to promote a landscape scale approach to habitat restoration. The consultancy firm Terra Consult were commissioned to develop the biodiversity vision and associated "opportunity map" in 2006. The resulting document 'Landscapes for Living: Technical Report´ describes the approach used to develop the vision and map with particular emphasis on the consultation used to inform and support the process. The findings of this initiative are being integrated into the new Regional Spatial Strategy.

Key Objectives:	Implications for GI Study:
• Set out a 50 year vision for biodiversity for the West Midlands focusing on the development of a landscape scale approach to restoring and enhancing biodiversity. • Produce an agreed regional biodiversity opportunities map, to form the basis of a submission to the Phase 3 revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy. • Identify the linkages and overlaps with the key area policy initiatives of other sectors which are likely to have an impact on the delivery of regional landscape scale biodiversity. • Engage in consultation with a range of audiences to ensure that the vision and map are widely supported and bought into.	• The GI Study should be aware that according to the 'opportunity map' which forms part of the initiative, the City of Coventry should undergo ecological enhancement. The Initiative states that this can be achieved through '….better linkages with urban and neighbouring landscapes to provide space for biodiversity and opportunities to benefit communities'. Options might include: ○ Enhancement of existing 'Country parks' around the urban fringe. ○ Development of 'Greenways' which provide accessible, attractive linkages between urban centres and the wider countryside. ○ Creation of 'Community Forests' around the edges of urban areas which help to blur the distinction between urban and rural landscapes.

• Provide a framework and toolkit for sub-regional/local opportunity mapping and large-scale delivery projects.	• The GI Study should not focus solely on the linkage and improvement of assets within the City's boundaries, but also take into account the wider countryside. Athough ecological assets are relatively limited close to the City Centre, the 'opportunity map' does suggest that habitat restoration of areas surrounding Coventry (in the areas classified as 'Policy Zones 2 and 3') could produce a landscape of 'high quality'.
Title: Draft Trees & Development Guidelines for Coventry (SPD)	
Source: City Development Directorate	
Description: Supplementary Planning Document which provides a comprehensive guide to the planning system in relation to trees in Coventry. The guidelines also detail how trees will be preserved during new developments.	
Key Objectives: • Promote the benefits of trees. • Encourage the sustainable management of the City's trees. • Enhance the levels and quality of tree cover.	Implications for GI Study: • Tree planting proposed by the GI Study should comply with the guidelines stated in this SPD. • The GI Study has a duty to identify and propose local community schemes which can enhance areas of open space and existing Green Space corridors through additional tree planting. • The GI Study should be aware of and support the following tree planting initiatives: o Coundon Community Wood. Restoration of wildflower meadows and extensive tree planting by a local group (Friends of Coundon Wood). o Webster's Community Park in Foleshill. 11,000 trees and shrubs have been planted by local people. o Hawkesbury Village Green Residents Group. Worked to create a 2 ha site supporting 1250 trees and 100s of native plants and wildflowers. o Restoration of hedgerows and meadows in association with the Alan Higgs Sports Development. o The local initiative 'Woods on your Doorstep' has planted 5ha of land in Cannon Park Green Wedge. o Restoration of Elkin Wood.
Title: Coventry Environmental Quality Survey (EQS) (1989)	
Source: First Interpreters (Planning and development consultants) (Apr 1989)	
Description: This document was drafted to satisfy one of the requirements listed in Coventry's Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The Survey gives a general spatial assessment of Coventry, with an emphasis on identifying areas of 'low environmental quality'. 3 maps detailing areas of Green Space, environmental quality and survey sites visited across Coventry represent the main output of the survey. The EQS made a judgement on the 'environmental quality' of an area by comparing the scene on the ground with an 'idyllic' core image (tree lined roads with free stranding houses and the presences of rural views).	
Key Objectives:	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study has a duty to develop Green Spaces which are diverse and offer opportunities to people of all ages. • The GI Study should be aware that the Quality Survey identified that public housing in the south-east quadrant was frequently 'isolated' from areas of Green Space. • The GI Study should also be aware that the Survey considered that the environmental quality of the north-east quadrant to be the poorest across the City. The EQS also noted that these areas could be '…significantly improved by strategies for environmental improvement'. The GI Study should re-assess the quality of the north-east quadrant identified by this survey and look to develop projects which could promote social cohesion and improve the environmental quality of the area. • The GI Study has a duty to consider how areas of floodplain could be improved. The EQS noted that these areas were mostly dominated by short grass swards which had little visual impact. The GI Study should propose projects which enhance the visual diversity of the City's floodplains, and if possible increase their functionality.

	• Woodland planting schemes proposed by the GI Study should focus on the areas of Broadgate and Greyfriars Green (highlighted under section 804, pg 43 of the EQS). • The EQS suggests that the GI Study should develop projects which increase the amount of 'water space' available across the City. (806, pg 45) • The GI Study should support the development of the 21 'City Gateways' and develop sustainable routes and assets which add value to these 'Gateways'. • The GI Study has a duty to include local companies in projects aimed at improving areas of open space close to their premises. • The GI Study must communicate with both local people and other interested parties when developing proposals.
Title: Regional Spatial Strategy, Phase 2 revision. *Preferred Option* (Jan 2008)	
Source: Jim Newton, Principal Planner. Coventry City Council	
Description: This large document was endorsed by the Regional Planning Partnership in October. 2007 and submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2007. As of January 2008 the document is currently under formal consultation until the end of March 2008 and then an 'Examination-in-Public' in September 2008. Chapters 2 and 3, 6-10 have been amended following consultation between members of the local partnership.	
Key Objectives: • Adopting positive measures to address the relative decline in the Regional economy in both urban and rural areas. • Reversing the movement of people and jobs away from the Major Urban Areas (MUAs) and ensuring that there is a greater equality of opportunity for all. • Tackling road and rail congestion. • Achieving a more balanced and sustainable pattern of development across the Region, including the rural areas.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should be aware of the amendment to Policy SR1. Under Clause ciii of the revised Strategy there is an increased emphasis on the requirement for new developments to be protected against the predicted effects of climate change. The GI Study should help to guide development away from known flood risk zones and instead consider how these sites can be managed to provide natural control areas. • Policy SR3 had been amended to include a new clause. Clause 'B' states a requirement for all new developments to meet either the 'good', or 'very good' CABE Building for Life Standards. Of relevance to the GI Study are criteria 9, 12, 16 and 20. The GI Study should ensure that new housing development is well connected to areas of public open space (criteria 9, 16 and 20). • The GI Study could help new developments meet criteria 12 of the revised RSS by creating 'flag ship' public spaces which can act as templates for future developments. • Since the original RSS was published a Habitat Regulation Assessment has been compiled for the West Midlands. Implications for the GI Study include a responsibility to identify European Protected Habitat sites within Coventry and ensure that these sites are protected from the impacts of local air pollution and increased levels of tourism. (Policy SR2 Clause E, pg 10 and paragraph 2.13, pg 5) • The GI Study should develop projects which are carbon neutral. (2.26, pg 11)
Title: Coventry Green Belt Review (Dec. 2007)	
Source: DLS – Planning for Coventry City Council	
Description: This document was drafted to complement the Local Development Framework Core Strategy for Coventry and looks to review all the Green Belt areas in the city. The early chapters of the document outline the national, regional and local policy documents which relate to Green Belt land. The review identifies two 'types' of Green Belt land in and around the city. The first is traditional Green Belt, associated with the parishes of Allesley and Keresley, the second is the 'urban wedges' or 'strategic linear open areas'. Sections 3 and 4 outline the criteria which will be used to quantify the relative value of different parcels of Green Belt land and a detailed breakdown of the results of this analysis. Section D 4.19, discusses existing areas of green space which may actually represent areas of green space which have not already been designated.	

Key objectives: ▪ Assess which, if any, Green Belt land within Coventry's boundaries can make a significant contribution to meeting long term development land supply needs, with particular emphasis on the two areas identified in the Coventry LDF Core Strategy Options Report.	Implications for GI Study: • The GI Study should be aware that the there is likely to be a shortfall in the amount of land available to meet future housing demands. The GI Study should determine where there is likely to be a demand for green space in the future. • The GI Study should be aware that 9 areas have been recommended for removal from the Green Belt (5.7.1). Four of these are within, or close to the Keresley Village. • The GI Study should be aware of the 4 further areas which require further consideration before their removal from the Green Belt is recommended. (5.8.1) • The GI Study should be aware that new areas are being recommended for integration into the city's Green Belt. These areas may benefit from projects proposed by the plan which may lead to their enhancement or wider integration with the existing transport infrastructure.(5.9.1) • The Green Belt review suggests that monies derived from the development of Green Belt land should be used to mitigate against its loss. Re-development of Green Belt land may provide a revenue stream for projects proposed by the GI Study.
Title: Environmental Inequality Study *Integrating Environment into Economic and Community Regeneration*	
Source: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/midlands/567120/767063/1238872/?lang=_e	
Description: Split into five sections this wide ranging document analyses and presents evidence to support the integral role the environment plays in maintaining and developing a good quality of life. Commissioned by a variety of regional (e.g. Coventry and Nuneaton Regeneration Zone, Coventry Partnership) and national bodies (EA). Split into 5 sections the documents, sections 1 and 2 present an introduction and considers the importance, national, regional and local policy attach to the integration of the environment into economic and community regeneration projects. Section 3 examines the links using maps between environment and deprivation. Section 4 gives examples of how the environment can be more widely integrated into regeneration programmes. The document concludes by providing recommendations for making future progress in integrating environment into regeneration projects and local Community Plans.	
Key Objectives: ▪ Highlight the importance of integrating environmental improvements into economic and community regeneration. ▪ Examine evidence of environmental inequalities in the study area and the linkages between the state of the environment and socio-economic conditions. ▪ Provide examples of how environment can be successfully integrated into economic and community regeneration in Coventry. ▪ Provide recommendations for how actions to address environmental deprivation can be integrated into Community Plans and regeneration programmes in Coventry.	Implications for the GI Study: • The GI Study should understand that the development of a network of high quality open spaces can promote a 'cycle of success' within the local community. (ODPM and Prime Minister's Strategy Unit Jan 2005) • The GI Study should be aware of the pivotal role it can play in breaking the link between poor environmental quality and social deprivation. High quality open spaces and improved sustainable transport networks can dramatically improve the 'liveability' of areas and increase the prospect of outside investment. • The GI Study should be aware that the Government's Environmental Exclusion Review (ODPM, 2004) noted that ''….local environmental projects provide a catalyst for residents to begin to become involved in their community". The GI Study should ensure that projects which include local people and lead to the development of community partnerships should become an integral part of the GI Study. • The GI Study should attempt to increase green space provision in the deprived wards of Foleshill, St Michaels, Lower Stoke, Binley and Willenhall. • The GI Study should consider green space enhancement around commercial as well as residential areas. Of the 212 companies interviewed as part of a recent survey (2002-2004) less than half considered the quality of their local environment to be 'good'. (Table 3.6, pg 34) • The GI Study should be aware that consultees considered the development of 'green corridors' to work and school a priority. • The GI Study should be aware of the long running regeneration project in the Foleshill and Longford areas of Coventry. Recognised as an area of poor economic, and social performance a large environmental package has led to the creation of a new 5.5ha park (Old Webster's Tip) and the improvement of Longford Nature Park. Subsequent evaluation has proved the value of large scale

	environmental improvement works, '….the package produced real outputs benefiting the local areas a as a whole'.

Appendix 3: Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Hawkes End Wood

Rookery Farm Ponds

Herald Way Marsh (Claybrookes Marsh)

Tile Hill Wood

Websters Clay Pit

Baginton Fields

Belcher's Wood

Binley Little Wood

Bunsons Wood

Burnsall Road

Coundon Wedge Grasslands

Duggins Lane Pond

Elkin Wood

Finham Park Ponds

Foleshll Gasworks and Three Spires Sidings

Hall Yard Wood

Harvest Hill Daffodil Meadow

Hawkesbury Spinney

Hearsall Common Woodland

Hearsall Golf Course Ponds

Herald Way Marsh (Claybrookes Marsh)

Houldsworth Crescent and Homefire Plant

Wainbody Wood South

Kenilworth Road Spinney

Wainbody Wood North

Kenilworth Road Spinney

Ley Farm Ponds

Limbrick Wood

Longford Nature Park

Long Lady Wood

Lower Stoke Railway and London Road Allotments

Mill Farm Meadow

Park Wood

Pickford Brook Meadows

Pickford Farm Ponds

Pig Wood

Pikehorne Wood, Keresley Mere and The Alders

Pinkett's Wood

Plants Hill Wood

Potters Green Mineral Line

Purcell Road Meadow

Rough Close and adjoining meadows

Sharman's Tip

Siskin Drive Bird Sancturay

Sowe Valley: Dorchester Way

Sowe Valley: Stoke Aldermoor to London Road

Sowe Valley: Wyken Croft to Ansty Road

Stivichall Common and Canley Ford

Stoke Floods

Ten Shilling Wood

Tocil Wood and Brookstray

Wall Hill Wood

Westwood Way Pond

Stonebridge Meadows

Whitley Grove

Lower Sowe and Sherbourne Valleys

Willenhall Wood and Meadow

Woodway Grange Moat

Wyken Slough

Coventry, Ring Road

Gibbet Hill Middle Quarry (Gibbet Hil Farm Quarry)

Appendix 4: Summary of Habitat Biodiversity Audit Data

Habitat Type	Coventry Area	Buffer Area	Total Area	Percentage
Allotments	101.05	43.16	144.21	0.57
Amenity grassland	1144.24	610.84	1755.08	6.89
Arable	671.46	5846.43	6517.89	25.59
Bare ground	44.03	67.08	111.11	0.44
Broad-leaved parkland/scattered trees	1.37	4.06	5.43	0.02
Broad-leaved plantation	125.91	175.20	301.11	1.18
Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland	214.68	565.46	780.14	3.06
Buildings	2.34	0.28	2.62	0.01
Coniferous plantation	4.00	159.77	163.77	0.64
Continuous bracken	0.88	5.99	6.87	0.03
Dense/continuous scrub	86.31	86.89	173.19	0.68
Ephemeral/short perennial	10.20	32.22	42.42	0.17
Improved grassland	878.73	4411.33	5290.06	20.77
Introduced shrub	1.40	1.04	2.43	0.01
Inundation vegetation	0.51	0.41	0.92	0.00
Marsh/marshy grassland	10.74	27.53	38.27	0.15
Mixed plantation	5.33	58.65	63.97	0.25
Mixed semi-natural woodland	7.79	6.13	13.91	0.05
Non-ruderal	0.26	0.12	0.38	0.00
Orchard (commercial)	0.59	0.18	0.77	0.00
Poor semi-improved grassland	15.87	62.55	78.43	0.31
Quarry	6.51	30.54	37.04	0.15
Recently Felled Woodland	0.00	10.84	10.84	0.04
Refuse tip	0.11	9.08	9.19	0.04
Running water	18.48	53.31	71.80	0.28
Scattered scrub	0.16	1.15	1.32	0.01
Semi-improved acidic grassland	0.79	5.00	5.80	0.02
Semi-improved neutral grassland	337.92	733.59	1071.51	4.21
Set-aside	28.14	118.94	147.08	0.58
Standing water	26.77	110.39	137.15	0.54
Swamp	4.87	17.00	21.87	0.09
Tall ruderal	71.62	72.45	144.07	0.57
Unclassified	5927.79	2365.33	8293.12	32.56
Unimproved neutral grassland	11.93	15.21	27.14	0.11
Total Area			**25470.90**	

NB: All areas expressed in hectares

Appendix 5: Scheduled Monuments

Monument Ref	NAME
WM20	Coventry city walls
21558	Wolston Priory and moated site
WM10	Site of Charterhouse
21616	Moated site 190m south of Caludon Castle
21619	Moated site at Bishop Ullathorne School
WA26	Mound south of Combe Abbey
21615	Caludon Castle: a moated site and part of an associated water management system
WM21	Cook Street gate
30050	Moated site at Exhall Hall
21550	Brandon Castle
21547	Motte and bailey castle, 30m east of St John the Baptist's Church
WA154	Pit alignments north of Bubbenhall village
WM18	Allesley Castle
21552	Corley Camp univallate hillfort
21617	Ernesford Grange moated site, Binley
WA169	Deserted medieval village at King's Hill
21540	Baginton Castle, associated settlement remains, ponds and mill sites
WM36	Vignoles Bridge
WA163	Barrow cemetery 1/4 mile (400m) north-east of Bretford
WM11	Priory ruins
30010	Moated site at Marlbrook Hall Farm
30027	Churchyard cross in St Lawrence's churchyard
30066	Cistercian grange of Upper Smite, 200m south-east of Mobbs Wood Farm
33149	Prehistoric pit alignments and associated features 160m north of The Barbellows
30062	Bowl Barrow on Lammas Hill
WA129	Stoneleigh Bridge
WA11	Stare Bridge
30057	Roman fort at The Lunt

Appendix 6: Baseline Data Analysis

Ranking Score	Inherent value (Nodes only)	Multi-functionality	Connectivity (Corridors only)	Accessibility
3 (high)	International or nationally important	GI asset relates to > 4 GI study themes	Connects to at least 1 major or 3 minor nodes	All-ability access with public facilities
2 (medium)	At best, regionally important	GI asset relates to 2 - 4 GI study themes	Provides connectivity for wildlife and people	Unlimited public access
1 (low)	At best, locally important	GI asset relates to <2 GI study themes	Provides connectivity for wildlife or people	Limited or no public access

Total Score	Green Infrastructure Status
3-5	Asset does not qualify as green infrastructure feature
6-7	Asset qualifies as minor green infrastructure feature
8-9	Asset qualifies as major green infrastructure feature

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Parks and Open Spaces											
Caludon Castle Park	N	3	2		3	8	✓				
Holbrooks Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Longford Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Prior Deram Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Allesley Hall Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Coombe Abbey Country Park	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Alex Grierson Close	N	1	1		3	5					✓
Anderton Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Angel Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Banner Lane	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Belgrave Square	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Binley Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Black Prince Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Brackley Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Bridport Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Brinklow Road	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Burnsall Grove	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Chace Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Charter Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Charter House	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Chideock Hill	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Clifford Bridge Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Crampers Field	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Cumbria Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Deedmore Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Dorchester Way Brookstray	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Droyleston Park Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Dutton Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Eagle Street	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Fisher Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Gerard Avenue	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Hawthorn Lane	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Hen Lane	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Henley Road – North	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Hermes Crescent	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Holloway Field	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Howes Lane	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Jubilee Crescent	N	1	2		2	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Keswick Walk	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Lancia Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Morris Avenue	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Overslade Crescent	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Park Wood Lane	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Pinley Gardens	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Purcell Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Sherbourne Fields	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Shortley Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Stivichall Common	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Stivichall Grange	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Stoke Front	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Tavistock Walk	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Whitley Common Open Space	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Willenhall Brookstray	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Wood End Brookstray	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Woodway Walk	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Yarningale Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Abbotsbury Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Alfriston Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Alpine Rise	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Anson Way	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Appledore Drive	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Barnstaple Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Basford Brook	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Bassett Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Bexfield Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Blandford Drive	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Brierley Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Broadwells Crescent	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Buckfast Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Burlington Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Caithness Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Castle Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Cheriton Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Conifer Paddock	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Crossway Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Cumbria Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Deanstone Croft	N	1	2		2	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Deerdale Way	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Denshaw Croft	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Dewsbury Avenue	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Dorchester Way	C		3	2	2	6				✓	
Dunchurch Highway	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Dunster Place	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Dunsville Drive	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Dyson Street	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Earlsdon Avenue South	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Eburne Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Exminster Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Fairmile Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Finnemore Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Fontmell Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Foreland Way	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Glenmore Drive	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Grayswood Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Grizebeck Drive	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Haddon End	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Haselbeck Road	C		2	1	2	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Heath Crescent	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Heritage Court	C		1	1	2	4					✓
Hexworthy Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Holmcroft	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Ilmington Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Jacklin Drive	N	1	2		2	5					✓
James Green Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Joseph Creighton Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Kenilworth Court	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Knoll Croft	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Langbank Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Leacrest Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Letchlade Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Livingstone Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Lonscale Drive	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Lumsden Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Lymore Croft	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Malborough Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Manor Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Mantilla Drive	N	1	1		2	4					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Meadow Street	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Momus Boulevard	C		2	1	2	5					✓
Nod Rise	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Oakford Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Oakworth Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Pangbourne Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Paxmead Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Pembury Avenue	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Perth Rise	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Peveril Drive	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Pilling Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Playdell Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Pomeroy Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Porlock Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Potters Green Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Potton Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Poultney Road Spinney	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Princethorpe Way	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Ringway St Nicholas	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Roundhouse Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Rushmore Drive	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Ryton Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Selworthy Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Seneschal Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Sewall Highway Crescent	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Shelfield Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Silvan Drive	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Spon End Brookstray	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Spon End	N	1	2		2	5					✓
St Margaret's Chapel	N	1	2		2	5					✓
St Martin's Road Verge	C		2	1	2	5					✓
Standard Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Stoke Green	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Stoneywood Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Sturminster Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Sulivan Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Sutherland Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Tarrent Walk	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Terry Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
The Greensward	N	1	2		2	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Tynward Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Unicorn Lane	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Upper Hill Street	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Wavendon Close	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Wendover Rise	N	1	1		2	4					✓
West Coombe	C		2	1	2	5					✓
Whitworth Avenue	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Willenhall Lane	N	1	1		2	4					✓
William Groubb Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Wimbourne Drive	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Windmill Hill	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Wolverton Road	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Woodland Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Woodridge Avenue	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Woodway Lane	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Sowe Common Verges	C		1	1	2	4					✓
Yarningdale Crescent	N	1	1		2	4					✓
Canley Ford Community Meadow	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Aintree Close	N	1	2		2	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Eastern Green Recreation Ground	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Edgwick Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Gosford Green	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Gosford Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Lake View Park	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Moat House Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Moseley Avenue Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Nauls Mill Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Peggys Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Primrose Hill Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Quinton Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Radford Recreation Ground	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Red House Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Sovereign Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Spencer Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
St Margarets Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Swanswell Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Cash's Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Bird Street Garden	N	1	2		2	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Top Green Park	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Barras Heath	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Blackwatch Recreation Ground	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Brookside Avenue	N	1	3		2	6		✓			
Buckingham Rise	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Cherrybrook Way	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Cubbington Road	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
De Montfort Way	N	1	3		2	6		✓			
Foxford Open Space	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Gainsford Rise	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Hearsall Common	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Henley Road – South	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Houldsworth Crescent	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Humber Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Jardine Crescent	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Keresley Common	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Leaf Lane	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Longford Nature Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Mount Nod	N	1	2		2	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Nod Rise	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Parkhill Drive	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Radford Common	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Simon Stone	N	1	3		3	7		✓			
Spencer Recreation Ground	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
St Christophers	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Stivichall	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Stoke Aldermoor	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Stonebury Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Sutton Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Tutbury Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Unicorn Avenue	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Wyken Croft Brookstray	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Wyken Croft Nature Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Wyken Slough Nature Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Alderminster Road	N	1	2		2	5					✓
Memorial Park	N	3	3		3	9	✓				

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Ancient Semi-Natural Woods											
Howe Pool Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Wilkinson's Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Many Lands Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Bob's Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Bunson's Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Pikehorne Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Hall Yard Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Lords Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Muzzard's Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Birchley Hays Wood (E)	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Birchley Hays Wood (W)	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Meriden Shafts (W)	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Millison's Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Spring Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Crow Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Rough Close	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Tilehill Wood	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Pig Wood	N	3	3		3	9	✓				

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Limbrick Wood	N	3	3		2	8	✓				
Park Wood (W)	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Park Wood (E)	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Black Waste Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Long Meadow Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Broadwells Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Crackley Wood	N	3	3		2	8	✓				
Tocil Wood	N	3	3		2	8	✓				
Wainbody Wood	N	3	3		2	8	✓				
Motslowhill Spinney	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Ticknell Spinney	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Bubbenhall Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Ryton & Shanks Woods	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Whitley Grove	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Willenhall Wood	N	3	3		2	8	✓				
Black Spinney	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
The Pools	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Piles Coppice	N	3	3		2	8	✓				
Binley Little Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Binley Common Farm Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Brandon Little Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
New Close/Birchley Woods	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Little Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Hill Park Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Mobbs Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Ancient Replanted Woods											
Marl Pit Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Great Lynes Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Long Lady Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Meigh's Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Meriden Shafts (E)	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Pinkett's Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Plants Hill Wood	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Park Wood (C)	N	2	3		3	8	✓				
Ten Shilling Wood	N	2	3		3	8	✓				
Whitefield Coppice	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Rough Knowles Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Birchley Hays Wood (Plan 2)	N	2	2		1	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Elkin Wood	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Waverley Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Brandon Wood	N	2	3		3	8	✓				
Recent (post 1600) Woods											
Arbury Estate Woods	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Church Farm	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Coundon Hall Park Woodland	N	1	1		1	3					✓
Birchley Hays Wood (Plan 1)	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Belcher's Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Kenilworth Common	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Stoneleigh Park Woods	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Hollyhurst Farm	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Coombe Country Park Woods	N	1	3		2	6		✓			
Ryton Pools Country Park Woods	N	1	3		2	6		✓			
Chantry Heath Wood	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Sports Grounds											

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Binley Recreation Sports Ground	N	1	1		3	5					✓
Coundon Hall Park Sports Ground	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Floyds Fields Sports Ground	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Jardine Crescent Sports Ground	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Sowe Common Sports Ground	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Stoke Heath Sports Ground	N	1	1		3	5					✓
Ashington Grove Sports Ground	N	1	2		3	6		✓			
Allotments											
Allesley Old Road	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Ansty Road	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Ashington Grove	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Bagington Mill Leisure Gardens	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Beresford Avenue	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Bridgeman Road	N	1	1		1	3					✓
Brownshill Green Road	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Cannon Close	N	1	2		1	4					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Charter House	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Donnington Road	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Eden Street	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Evenlode Crescent	N	1	1		1	3					✓
Glentworth Avenue	N	1	1		1	3					✓
Grange Road Leisure Gardens	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Guphill Avenue	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Hearsall Common	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Henley Mill	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Holbrooks	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Holyhead Road	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Limbrick Avenue	N	1	2		1	4					✓
London Road	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Radford Road	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Radford Recreation	N	1	1		1	3					✓
Red House (Awson Street)	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Seagrave Road	N	1	1		1	3					✓
Sherbourne Valley	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Siddley Avenue	N	1	1		1	3					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Spring Estate	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Stoke Heath	N	1	1		1	3					✓
Stoke House	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Stoney Road	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Tanners Lane	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Wallace Road	N	1	1		1	3					✓
Westwood Heath Leisure Gardens	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Willenhall	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Windmill Road	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Woodway Lane/ Narberth Way	N	1	2		1	4					✓
Sites of Special Scientific Interest											
Tilehill Wood	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Coombe Pool	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Brandon Marsh	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Herald Way Marsh	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Ryton & Brandon Marsh Gravel Pit	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Webster's Clay Pit	N	3	1		1	4					✓
Ryton Wood	N	3	2		3	8	✓				

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Wolston Gravel Pits	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Regionally Important Geological Sites											
Newdigate Colliery Mineral Railway Cutting	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Corley Cutting and Rock	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Wickes Store, Coventry Ring Road	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Gibbet Hill Quarry	N	2	1		1	4					✓
King's Hill Farm, Finham	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Mutslow Hill	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Quarryfield House Quarry	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Baginton Garden Centre	N	2	1		2	5					✓
Claybrookes Marsh Spoil Heap	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Canley Brook	N	2	1		2	5					✓
Meriden Hill Cutting	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Cherry Orchard Brickpit, Kenilworth	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Chapel Green, Fillongley	N	2	1		2	5					✓
Local Nature Reserves											
Bedworth Sloughs	N	2	2		2	6		✓			

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Wyken Slough	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Millisons Wood	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Tile Hill Wood	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Limbrick Wood	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Pig Wood	N	2	3		3	8	✓				
Plants Hill Wood	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Park Wood	N	2	3		3	8	✓				
Ten Shilling Wood	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Hearsall Common Woodland	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Canley Ford Community Woodland	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Tocil Wood & Meadow	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Wainbody Wood & Stivichall Common	N	2	3		3	8	✓				
Kenilworth Road Spinney	C	2	3		3	8			✓		
Crackley Wood	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Kenilworth Common	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Knowle Hill	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Stonebridge Meadows	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Willenhall Wood	N	2	3		3	8	✓				

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Herald Way Marsh	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Stoke Floods	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation											
Baginton Fields	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Belcher's Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Binley Little Wood	N	3	2		2	6		✓			
Bunsons Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Burnsall Road	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Coundon Wedge Grasslands	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Duggins Lane Pond	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Elkin Wood	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Finham Park Ponds	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Foleshill Gasworks and Three Spires Sidings	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Hall Yard Wood	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Harvest Hill Daffodil Meadow	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Hawkes End Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Hawkesbury Spinney	N	2	2		2	6		✓			

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Hearsall Golf Course Ponds	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Houldsworth Crescent and Homefire Plant	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Ley Farm Ponds	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Limbrick Wood	N	3	3		2	8	✓				
Longford Nature Park	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Long Lady Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Lower Stoke Railway and London Road Allotments	C		3	2	2	7				✓	
Mill Farm Meadow	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Pickford Brook Meadows	N	2	2		3	7		✓			
Pickford Farm Ponds	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Pikehorne Wood, Keresley Mere and The Alders	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Pinkett's Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Potters Green Mineral Line	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Purcell Road Meadow	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Rookery Farm Ponds	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Rough Close and Adjoining Meadows	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Sharman's Tip	N	2	3		2	7		✓			

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Siskin Drive Bird Sanctuary	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Sowe Valley: Dorchester Way	C		2	2	2	6				✓	
Sowe Valley: Stoke Aldermoor to London Road	C		3	2	2	6				✓	
Sowe Valley: Wyken Croft to Ansty Road	C		3	2	2	6				✓	
Tocil Wood and Brookstray	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Wall Hill Wood	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Westwood Way Pond	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Whitley Grove	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Lower Sowe and Sherbourne Valleys	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Woodway Grange Moat	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Wyken Slough	N	2	2		2	6		✓			
Coventry Ring Road	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Gibbet Hill Middle Quarry (Gibbet Hil Farm Quarry)	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Scheduled Monuments											
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Wolston Priory and Moated Site	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Site of Charterhouse	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Moated Site 190m South of Caludon Castle	N	3	3		2	8	✓				
Moated Site at Bishop Ullathorne School	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Mound S of Combe Abbey	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Caludon Castle: A Moated Site and Part of an Associated Water Management System	N	3	3		2	8	✓				
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Cook Street Gate	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Moated Site at Exhall Hall	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Brandon Castle	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Motte and Bailey Castle, 30m E of St John the Baptist's Church	N	3	2		1	6		✓			

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Pit alignments N of Bubbenhall village	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Allesley Castle	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Corley Camp Univallate Hillfort	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Ernesford Grange Moated Site, Binley	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Deserted medieval village at King's Hill	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Baginton Castle Associated Settlement Remains, Ponds and Mill Sites	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Vignoles Bridge	N	3	1		2	6		✓			
Barrow cemetery 1/4 mile (400m) NE of Bretford	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Priory ruins	N	3	1		2	6		✓			
Moated Site at Marlbrook Hall Farm	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Churchyard Cross in St Lawrence's Churchyard	N	3	1		1	5					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Cistercian Grange of Upper Smite, 200m South East of Mobbs Wood Farm	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Prehistoric Pit Alignments and Associated Features 160m North of the Barbellows	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Bowl Barrow on Lammas Hill	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Stoneleigh Bridge	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Stare Bridge	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Coventry city walls	N	3	1		1	5					✓
Roman Fort at The Lunt	N	3	1		3	7		✓			
Watercourses & Waterways											
River Avon	C		2	3	1	6				✓	
River Sowe	C		3	3	2	8			✓		
River Sherbourne	C		2	2	1	5					✓
Pickford Brook	C		2	1	1	4					✓
Breach Brook	C		2	1	1	4					✓
Smite Brook	C		2	3	1	6				✓	

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Finham Brook	C		2	2	1	5					✓
Coventry Canal	C		3	2	3	8			✓		
Oxford Canal	C		3	2	3	8			✓		
Promoted Public Access Routes											
Coventry Way	C		2	3	2	7				✓	
Centenary Way	C		2	3	2	7				✓	
Heart of England Way	C		2	1	2	5					✓
Sowe Valley Footpath	C		3	2	2	7				✓	
National Cycle Network											
Existing National Route 52	C		2	3	2	7				✓	
Proposed National Route 52 Extension	C		2	1	2	6				✓	
Existing National Route 53	C		2	1	2	5					✓
Proposed National Route 53 Extension	C		2	3	2	7				✓	
Local Cycleway Network											
Coventry Cycle Network	C		2	3	2	7				✓	
Railway Corridors											

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Main East-West Line	C		1	1	1	3					✓
Northern Link	C		1	1	1	3					✓
Southern Link	C		1	1	1	3					✓
Registered Common Land											
Chapel Green	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Land Collectively Called The Common	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Burton Green Common Land	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Kenilworth Common	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Tainters Hill Pleasure Ground	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Land of 2 Acres at Knowe Hill	N	2	3		2	7		✓			
Tourist Features											
Coombe Country Park	N	9	3		3	9	✓				
Brandon Marsh Nature Centre	N	2	3		3	8	✓				
The Lunt Fort	N	3	1		3	7		✓			
Ryton Pools Country Park	N	2	3		3	8	✓				
Kenilworth Castle	N	3	2		3	8	✓				

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
Parkland, Including Registered Parks and Gardens											
Coombe Abbey	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Ryton House	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
London Road Cemetery	N	3	2		3	8	✓				
Lady Herbert's Garden	N	3	2		2	7		✓			
Stoney Road Allotments	N	3	3		1	7		✓			
Bedworth Cemetery	N	3	2		2	7		✓			
Stoneleigh Abbey	N	3	2		1	6		✓			
War Memorial Park	N	3	3		3	9	✓				
Golf Courses											
Brandon Wood Golf Course	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Ansty Golf Centre	N	2	1		1	4					✓
Kenilworth Golf Club	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Windmill Village Golf Course	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Nailcote Hall	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Hearsall Golf Course	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Hawkesbury Golf Centre	N	2	1		1	4					✓

Existing GI Asset	Node or Corridor	Inherent value	Multi-functionality	Connectivity	Accessibility	Score	Major GI Node	Minor GI Node	Major GI Corridor	Minor GI Corridor	Not a GI Feature
GPT Golf Course	N	2	2		1	5					✓
Coventry Golf Course	N	2	2		1	5					✓

Appendix 7: Glossary

Accessibility
A general term used to describe the degree to which a product, e.g. public park or a local service (e.g. GP surgery, bus stop) can be accessed by potential users.
Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)
A method administered by Defra (see below) for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use witihn the planning system. ALC classifies land into five grades. The best and most versatile land is Grade 1-3.
Ancient Woodland
Ancient, semi-natural woods which have had a continuous cover of native trees and plants since at least 1600 AD. Having not been cleared and/or extensively replanted since then, Natural England and other organisations regard Ancient Woodland sites as being important for nature conservation.
Biodiversity
Shorthand for 'biological diversity' or 'the diversity of wildlife'; a measure of the range and variability of species, individuals, genetic character, ecosystems and habitats at any scale from local to global levels, and the structural and functional interrelationships between and within these different levels.
Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
A plan containing agreed actions and targets for a habitat or species, which forms part of the UK's commitment to biodiversity. For further information consult the BAP website: http://www.ukbap.org.uk/
Biomass Fuels (Biofuels)
A wide variety of naturally sourced combustible materials, which can be used to generate heat and electricity. Examples of biofuels include short rotation coppice, *Miscanthus* grass and the residue from woodland management operations and sawmills.
Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
One of the principal greenhouse gases.
Catchment
A surface water catchment is the total area that drains into a river. A groundwater catchment is the total area that contributes to the groundwater part of the river flow.
CIRIA
Member-based research and information organisation, which aims to improve the productivity of the UK construction industry. Members of the CIRIA include representatives from all parts of the construction supply chain. See http://www.ciria.org for further information.
Climate
The 'average weather' described in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. The classic period over which climate is calculated is 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
Climate change
Statistically significant variation in either the mean state of the climate, or in its variability, persisting for an extended period (typically decades or longer). Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or due to changes to the composition of the atmosphere brought about by human activity such as rainforest clearance and the combustion of fossil fuels.
Connectivity
This is a measure of the ease of travel between two points. In relation to green infrastructure, connectivity relates to the ease of movement of both people and wildlife between different ecological, historical and cultural assets (nodes) distributed across the landscape.
Conservation Areas
An area, as defined in the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, designated as being of special architectural or historical interest and therefore protected from any alterations which would destroy its character.

Corridors
Linkages that connect green infrastructure nodes (see below) into coherent, landscape scale frameworks that deliver significantly greater value than the nodes in isolation. Corridors represent the means for wildlife to move between nodes providing different habitat functions and for people to move between population centres and nodes. Examples include watercourses and bridleways.
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
The Government Department responsible for enabling everyone to live within their environmental means, through tackling climate change and its causes and securing a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)
The Government Department responsible for planning, local government, housing and regional development.
Developer
A person or body of persons, company, firm and such other private or Government undertaking, that develops, builds, designs , organises, promotes, finances, operates, maintains or manages the re-development of an existing area of vacant or under-used land.
Endowment
An endowment refers to any assets, funds, or property that is donated to an individual, organisation, or Group to be used as a source of income.
English Heritage
English Heritage and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, a national body funded by the Government, whose main role is to promote and give information and advice on built heritage and building conservation matters.
Environment Agency (EA)
The Environment Agency came into being on 1 April 1996 following the 1995 Environment Act, joining together the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution and Waste Regulation authorities. The Environment Agency has a statutory duty to protect and enhance the air, land and water aspects of the environment in England and Wales. It is responsible for water abstraction and water quality in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, and coastal waters up to three miles from the shoreline and water stored naturally underground. It has powers to determine if water quality is up to standard and if not, to determine how to improve it. The Environment Agency also controls the amount of water that can be taken from rivers and boreholes.
Floodplain
Any area of land over which water flows or is stored during a flood event or would flow but for the presence of flood defences.
Flood Risk
The level of flood risk is the product of the frequency or likelihood of flood events and their consequences (such as loss, damage, harm, distress and disruption).
Forestry Commission (FC)
The Forestry Commission (established in 1919) is a non-ministerial Government Department responsible for forestry in Great Britain. Its mission is to protect and expand Britain's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment.
Fossil Fuel
An energy source formed in the earth's crust from organic material. The common fossil fuels are oil, coal, and natural gas.
Geodiversity
The variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms, soils and natural processes, such as weathering, erosion and sedimentation, that underlie and determine the character of our natural landscape and environment.
Geographical Information System (GIS)
A GIS is a computer-based system for capturing, storing, checking, integrating, manipulating, analysing and displaying data that are spatially referenced.
Grassland Inventory
Inventory produced by Natural England with the aim of making lowland grassland data available for conservation management schemes across the UK. This level of information allows an assessment to be made of the conservation value of a grassland site within a local and regional context.

Green Infrastructure (GI)
Networks of multi-functional green space through urban areas, the urban fringe and the countryside which provide landscape-scale benefits for all forms of life and in particular increase the “liveability” of urban areas.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)
Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and man-made, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth’s surface, the atmosphere and clouds. The primary greenhouse gases are water vapour (H_2O), carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), methane (CH_4), and ozone (O_3).
Greenspace
Greenspace is any vegetated land or water within or adjoining an urban area. It includes natural green spaces (woodland, flower meadows), derelict, vacant and contaminated land, green corridors (paths, disused railway lines, rivers and canals) and other functional green spaces including e.g. cemeteries and allotments.
Groundwater
Water occurring below ground in natural formations (typically rocks, gravels and sands).
Habitat
The natural environment in which an organism or population of organisms lives. Habitat may refer to all of the organisms and their physical environment in a particular place.
Habitats Directive
European Community Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna. Implemented in the UK through the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (1994) and known as the ‘Habitats Directive’. It establishes a system of protection for certain fauna, flora and habitats deemed to be of European conservation importance.
Historic Environment
The 'historic environment' encompasses all those material remains that our ancestors have created in the landscapes of town and countryside. It covers the whole spectrum of human activity from the largest - towns, cathedrals or motorways, to the very smallest - signposts, standing stones or flint tools.
Historic Environment Records (HER)
Historic Environment Records (HERs) are the local authority-based records of non-statutory historic and archaeological features used for planning, but they also operate a public service and play a role in education. These records were previously known as Sites and Monuments Records or SMRs: the name has changed to reflect the wider scope of the data they now contain.
HM Government
An abbreviation for Her Majesty’s Government, which represents part of the legislative body of the United Kingdom. The Government includes the Cabinet, Civil Service and the various Government Departments responsible for implementing government policy and advising ministers.
Joint Character Areas (JCA)
Generated by Natural England based upon a process of landscape character assessment, Joint Character Areas provide a context to local planning, action and development. There are 159 Areas that are unique in terms of a combination of physiographic, land use, historical and cultural attributes.
Land Description Unit (LDU)
The largest homogenous units sharing a similar pattern of physical, biological and historical components. They can be used as mapping units across disciplinary boundaries encompassing ecology, archaeology and landscape and as such they are the basic units on which assessment, evaluation and decision making is based.
Land Use
A broad means of describing an area of land based upon its cover and management, for example agriculture, mineral extraction, built development or forestry.
Landscape Character
Landscape character is defined as an expression of pattern within the landscape itself, resulting from particular combinations of natural, historical and aesthetic factors that make one place different from another.

Local Landscape Type (LLT)
This is a generic term for the representation of a particular combination of landscape elements and land uses that create a particular character. One example would be “riparian alluvial lowland farmlands”, representing all examples of farmed landscapes associated with lowland river floodplains.
Landscape Quality
This is not the same as scenic beauty. Landscape quality is a function of certain characteristics that are capable of definition and appraisal. There are two major contributors to the quality of a landscape: its strength of character and the condition of the elements of which it is composed.
Landscape Sensitivity
The ability of a landscape to sustain development and other forces which trigger landscape change.
Listed Buildings
English Heritage is responsible for identifying and protecting historic buildings by recommending the most important of them for ‘listing’. There are three grades of listed buildings depending on their relative importance: • Grade I Buildings are those of exceptional interest • Grade II* Buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest • Grade II Buildings are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them.
Local Authority
An administrative unit of local government
Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)
A process rather than a plan which seeks to ensure that nationally and locally important species and habitats are conserved and enhanced in a given area through focused local action.
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Local Nature Reserves are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) by local authorities (which must have some legal control over the site) in consultation with Natural England. These sites are designated for their locally important wildlife or geological features and are generally intended for educational and amenity uses in addition to conservation.
Locally Important Geological Sites
Non-statutory sites which represent locally important places for geology, geomorphology and soils. These sites are considered worthy of protection for their education, research, historical or aesthetic importance.
Multi-functionality
Multi-functionality refers to the integration and interaction of different functions or activities on the same piece of land. This is key to the efficient and sustainable use of land, especially in small and crowded urban environments where pressures on land are high.
National Cycle Network (NCN)
A scheme promoted by the charity SUSTRANS which led to the development of 10,000 miles of linked cycle routes by August 2005. The NCN is partly funded by the Millennium Commission, with approximately 80% of funding coming from other sources including the National Lottery.
National Playing Fields Association Six Acre Standard
The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) was founded to help ensure that everyone would have the opportunity to access and participate in outdoor recreational facilities. The NFPA Six Acre Standard is a target for the guidance of local authorities and others who wish to check the existing provision of green space and ensure that new developments will meet the future recreational requirements of those living in them.
Natural Areas
These are sub-divisions of England, based upon common characteristic associations of wildlife and natural features. There are 120 Natural Areas in England and each has a unique identity resulting from the interaction of wildlife, landforms, geology, land use and human impact.

Natural England
Launched on 11 October 2006, joining together English Nature; the landscape, access and recreation elements of the Countryside Agency; and the environmental land management functions of the Rural Development Service. It works for people, places and nature, to enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas. It also promotes access, recreation and public well-being, and aims to contribute to the way natural resources are managed, so that they can be enjoyed now and in the future.
New Growth Points
A Central Government initiative administered by DCLG (see above), which is designed to provide support to local authorities who wish to pursue large scale and sustainable growth, including new housing, through a partnership with Government. 29 authorities have been designated as New Growth Points across the East, South East, South West, East Midlands and West Midlands regions. If all of the proposed growth is realised New Growth Points would contribute around 100,000 additional dwellings by 2016, an increase of around 32 percent on previous regional plans for housing supply in these areas.
Nodes
Features, or clusters of features of green infrastructure value that may include biodiversity reservoirs, characteristic landscape features, public parks or often a combination of these and other uses.
Ordnance survey (OS)
An executive agency of the UK Government. It is the national mapping agency for Great Britain.
Phase 1 Habitat Survey
Relatively fast technique for mapping the semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitat over large areas of the countryside. Categorisation of habitats is based principally on vegetation with reference to topographic and substrate features.
Public Rights of Way
Minor public highways that exist for the benefit of the community at large, in much the same way as the public road network does. In England there are approximately 188,700 kilometres of Public Rights of Way, including footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all forms of traffic (BOATs) and restricted rights of way (permissible only to mechanically propelled vehicles).
Regional Character Areas (RCA)
Units of land, the boundaries of which enclose landscapes of a broadly similar type. A landscape character type is not a land unit: it is a concept, based on characteristics that can be used to idenity and classify a particular kind of landscape.
Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)
Non-statutory sites that are important places for geology, geomorphology and soils. These sites are considered worthy of protection for their education, research, historical or aesthetic importance.
Registered Common Land
A piece of land owned and registered under the 1965 Common Land Act by one person, but over which other people can exercise certain traditional rights, such as allowing their livestock to graze upon it. There are around 0.5million hectares of registered common land in England and Wales.
Registered Parks and Gardens
Parks and Gardens created before 1939, which still retain their special interest and which have been listed and graded in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, as maintained by English Heritage.
Renewable energy
Energy captured using renewable sources. These include solar, wind, wave and biomass fuel power.
Scheduled Monuments (SM)
Scheduled Monuments are nationally important archaeological sites and monuments that are given legal protection by being placed on a list, or 'schedule'. English Heritage is responsible for identifying sites in England. Further details can be found at English Heritage's website: http://www.english-heritage.org.uk.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
The finest sites for wildlife and natural features in England. Sites are identified by Natural England using the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). All sites of European importance are also designated as SSSIs. For further information refer to Natural England's website: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/special/sssi/
Sites of Local Conservation Importance (SINCs)
Non-statutory sites which represent locally important places for ecology. These sites are considered worthy of protection for their education, research, historical or aesthetic importance.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Prepared by the Local Planning Authority to supplement matters covered in the Development Plan. It is not subject to the same lengthy statutory adoption process as the Development Plan. Instead, the Authority can approve the document by formal resolution, but it must be subjected to full public consultation if it is to be accorded any weight in decisions on development proposals.
Surface water
Run-off from rainwater that falls onto people's properties (such as roofs, paths and driveways).
Surface water drainage
The removal of rainwater from exterior areas of a property (such as roofs and driveways) to a surface water sewer or combined sewer.
Sustainable Development
A dynamic process, which enables all people to realise their potential and improve their quality of life in ways which simultaneously protect and enhance the earth's life support systems
Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
Management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques by managing run-off rates, protecting or enhancing water quality, respecting the environmental setting and needs of the local community, providing wildlife habitat and encouraging natural groundwater recharge. They achieve this by dealing with run-off as near to source as possible, managing potential pollution at its source and protecting water resources from point pollution and diffuse sources.
Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines
A manual for management and change in the rural and urban landscape of Warwickshire. The Guidelines relate to a variety of landscapes and land uses including farming and highways to help planners ensure that the landscape of Warwickshire is enhanced in future.
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust is a charitable, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) responsible for raising awareness about the natural environment in Warwickshire, amongst other organisations and individuals. The Trust also supplies management advice to interested parties and manages a selection of valued sites across the county.
West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership (WMBP)
Partnership consisting of 20 member organisations, whose joint aim is to help local people across the West Midlands to meet the challenge of caring for the Region's wildlife by protecting important species and habitats, replacing past losses and making new provisions for wildlife. The Partnership also supports survey work, gives advice to land-owners and managers, and work with policy and decision-makers.
Wetland
An area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions, for example, lakes, swamps, marshes.
Wood pasture
Wood-pastures are derived from medieval forests and embankments, wooded commons, parks and pastures with trees in them. Some have subsequently had a designed landscape superimposed in the 16th to 19th centuries. A range of native species usually predominates amongst the old trees but there may be non-native species that have been planted or regenerated naturally.

Woodland
The parts of woods and forests where the ecological conditions are, or will be, strongly influenced by the tree canopy. In terms of land cover statistics, woodland is currently defined as land with trees where the mature trees would cover more than 20% by area.

Job No: 60041164
Reference: GI Report
Date created: August 2008

Telephone: 01733 391456
Fax: 01733 391139
Website: http://www.fabermaunsell.com

1 The Forum
Minerva Business Park
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
PE2 6FT

FABER MAUNSELL | AECOM