# Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Study

Prepared for Natural England by Land Use Consultants

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# LUC SERVICES

Environmental Planning Landscape Design Landscape Management Masterplanning Landscape Planning Ecology Environmental Assessment Rural Futures Digital Design Urban Regeneration Urban Design

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Land Use Consultants (LUC) was commissioned by Natural England to undertake the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure (GI) Study. The overall purpose of the study was to gather and analyse existing information to provide a shared evidence base which will support a consistent approach to GI planning across the sub-region. The output will inform the preparation of the local authorities' planning policies and the production of Infrastructure Delivery Plans.
- 1.2 The study involved the following:
  - Define what a sub-regional GI asset is;
  - Identify these sub-regional GI assets;
  - Analysis of the deficiencies in sub-regional GI assets;
  - Prioritise provision of sub-regional assets;
  - Identify costs of delivering the priority GI assets;
  - Produce guidance on delivery and funding of the priority GI assets.
- 1.3 The study was undertaken with close cooperation of the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Planning Officers Group (the POG) which consisted of:
  - David Lowe, Warwickshire County Council (lead),
  - Robert Haigh, Coventry City Council,
  - Daniel Robinson, Warwick District Council,
  - Rajvir Bahey, Rugby Borough Council,
  - Paul Harris, Stratford District Council,
  - Mike Dittman, North Warwickshire Borough Council,
  - Darren Henry, Nuneaton and Bedworth District Council.
  - Stuart Ikeringill, Warwickshire County Council,
  - Martin Fry Warwickshire, County Council,
  - Maurice Barlow, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council,
- 1.4 A workshop was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March with the POG to discuss and agree many aspects of the project and there was regular contact between the project team and the POG to identify sub-regional assets to be included in the study.

# 2 Defining and Identifying Sub-Regional Assets

# DEFINING SUB-REGIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

2.1 A key aspect of this study was defining and agreeing amongst the POG what would be considered to be a GI asset of sub-regional importance. The POG agreed that GI assets would be considered if they fell within the sub-region itself or within a 10km buffer outside of the sub-region. The Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12): Local Spatial Planning definition of green infrastructure was also used as a basis for identifying assets as follows:

'Green Infrastructure is a network of multi functional greenspace, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities'<sup>1.</sup>

- 2.2 Green Infrastructure considers both public and private assets in both a spatial dimension (for example areas or links/corridors) and also a conceptual/thematic level (for example sustainable living, as individual elements within sites such as trees and their contribution to shading and cooling, and as part of wildlife corridors). The multi-functional character of GI means that it also considers cultural as well as landscape and ecological assets/habitats, along with concepts such as sustainable water and resource management and use of river corridors and floodplains for amenity greenspace, and biodiversity, in addition to positive benefits to human health and mental well-being.
- 2.3 The importance of GI assets to people at different geographical scales was central to this study. A set of criteria was established in conjunction with the POG group to systematically define and identify those GI assets in the study area that could be considered to be of sub-regional importance i.e. assets that have importance to people beyond their own local authority boundaries.
- 2.4 The first criterion was based on Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) Model<sup>2</sup>. ANGSt uses distance thresholds, and defines the maximum distance that any resident should have to travel from their home to reach accessible natural or semi-natural greenspace, it is divided in to four tiers as follows:

| Sub-regional provision       | Sites or habitats over 500ha    | Within 10 km |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| County scale<br>provision    | Sites or habitats over<br>100ha | Within 5 km  |
| District scale provision     | Sites or habitats over<br>20ha  | Within 2 km  |
| Neighbourhood<br>scale sites | Sites or habitats over 2ha      | Within 300 m |

Table 2.1: Green infrastructure distance thresholds

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps12lsp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> English Nature (2003) English Nature Report 526 'Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A Review and Toolkit for Implementation'.

- 2.5 Given that the sub-region has very few large assets, all sites over 100ha (the county scale and sub-regional assets under ANGSt) were considered to be sub-regional assets for the purposes of this study. In addition significant linear assets including all the canals, main rivers and large water bodies and the long distance walking and cycling routes of national, regional and county level importance were included. Clusters of sites that are within 500m of each other that collectively are over 100ha have also been included as sub-regional assets.
- 2.6 The final criterion for identifying sub-regional assets proved to be the most difficult to define. After discussions with the POG it was felt that there were a number of **sites** that, whilst they were **under 100ha in size**, may still be considered a sub-regional asset. POG representatives for each authority identified any additional assets that are below 100ha in size that they felt warranted being included as sub-regional assets. The time and budgetary constraints of this study meant that the assets that were put forward were not approved by the whole POG and this is likely to be an area for further discussion beyond the end of this study. The ultimate test of what a sub-regional asset is may come down to whether other authorities in the sub-region value it enough as a resource to be willing to pay for it.

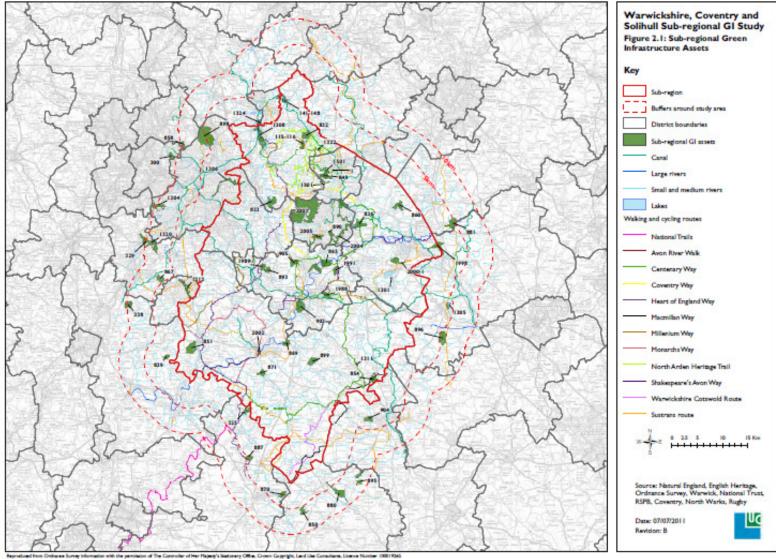
| Summary of the criteria for identifying Sub - Regional Green |  |
|--|--|
| Infrastructure Assets  |  |

- Sites over 100ha (County and Sub-Regional level sites as defined by ANGSt);
- 2) Canals, main rivers (not tributaries), large water bodies;
- Long distance walking and cycling routes of national, regional or county level importance.
- Clusters of sites that are within 500m of each other that collectively are over 100ha.
- 5) Sites that are under 100ha that may still be considered a sub-regional asset as nominated by each authorities POG representative.

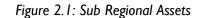
# **IDENTIFYING SUB-REGIONAL ASSETS**

2.7 In order to identify the GI assets in the study area that fall within the first four criteria the data sets listed under paragraph 2.8 were used and then the outputs reviewed by the POG to help ensure that no significant assets had been missed. The POG representative for each authority within the sub-region then identified and provided data for any assets that would fall under criterion number five.

- 2.8 The datasets that were used in identifying sub-regional assets are listed below:
  - Access Land (under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act)
  - Registered Common Land
  - Section 15 land (S.15 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 pre-existing public rights of access that on CROW land apply instead of CROW rights)
  - Section 16 land (land voluntarily dedicated for public access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act)
  - SAC
  - SSSI
  - National Nature Reserves
  - Local Nature Reserves
  - Country Parks
  - Parks and Gardens
  - National Trust
  - RSPB Reserves
  - Warwickshire Open Spaces
  - Bancroft Gardens / Recreation Ground
  - Coventry Greenbelt
  - Nuneaton & Bedworth Woodland Grant Scheme
  - Rugby Core Strategy proposed urban extensions
- 2.9 Figure 2.1 and Table 2.2 below identify all those assets that were regarded as sub-regional assets for the purpose of this study.



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| LUC ID  |   |           |                       |
|---------|---|-----------|-----------------------|
| Number  | Name  | area (ha) | Broad Accessibility   |
| 2003    | COVENTRY NORTH WEST GREEN BELT                          | 1,869.0   | Unknown               |
| 2004    | SOUTHERN GREEN BELT                                     | 705.8     | Unknown               |
| 865     | STONELEIGH ABBEY  | 390.4     | Limited Access        |
| 851     | RAGLEY HALL   | 346.8     | Limited Access        |
| 903     | WARWICK CASTLE  | 319.9     | Limited Access        |
| 833     | PACKINGTON HALL   | 318.7     | No Access             |
| 836     | COOMBE ABBEY  | 316.2     | Publically Accessible |
| 1308    | KINGSBURY WATER PARK                                    | 259.6     | Publically Accessible |
| 832     | MEREVALE HALL   | 193.8     | No Access             |
| 899     | COMPTON VERNEY  | 191.8     | Limited Access        |
| 2005    | COVENTRY SOUTH WEST GREEN BELT (incl War Memorial Park) | 186.3     | Unknown               |
| 860     | NEWNHAM PADDOX  | 176.2     | Limited Access        |
| 1501    | ARBURY ESTATE   | 175.6     | Limited Access        |
| 849     | ARBURY HALL   | 172.9     | Limited Access        |
| 2000-1  | RUGBY PROPOSED URBAN EXTENSION GREEN SPACE              | 168.2     | Unknown               |
| 1324    | MIDDLETON LAKES (CURRENT BOUNDARY FROM 28/02/2007)      | 158.9     | No Access             |
| 854     | FARNBOROUGH HALL  | 142.7     | Limited Access        |
| 141-148 | ALVECOTE POOLS  | 129.3     | Publically Accessible |
| 905     | KENILWORTH CASTLE                                       | 120.3     | Limited Access        |
| 1988    | NEWBOLD COMYN PARK                                      | 120.1     | Publically Accessible |
| 893     | WROXALL ABBEY   | 119.1     | No Access             |
| 1991    | WAVERLEY WOOD   | 117.4     | Limited Access        |
| 869     | CHARLECOTE PARK   | 110.3     | Limited Access        |
| 871     | ALSCOT PARK   | 108.8     | No Access             |
| 115-116 | BENTLEY PARK WOOD                                       | 105.4     | Limited Access        |
| 1989    | HAY WOOD  | 104.3     | Publically Accessible |

# Table 2.2: Listing of Sub-Regional Assets

| 1322    | HARTSHILL HAYES                                  | 54.8  | Publically Accessible |
|---------|--|-------|-----------------------|
| 1311    | BURTON DASSETT HILLS                             | 39.8  | Publically Accessible |
| 2002    | BANCROFT GARDENS / RECREATION GROUND             | 22.8  | Publically Accessible |
| 1301    | DRAYCOTE WATER                                   | 8.8   | Publically Accessible |
| 890     | LONDON ROAD CEMETERY, COVENTRY                   | 7.7   | Publically Accessible |
| 1       | ENSOR'S POOL                                     | 3.6   | Publically Accessible |
| 1998    | RUGBY PROPOSED URBAN EXTENSION GREEN SPACE       | 281.7 | Unknown               |
| 898     | SUTTON PARK                                      | 912.5 | Publically Accessible |
| 881     | STANFORD HALL                                    | 238.0 | Limited Access        |
| 1313    | ARROW  | 223.0 | Publically Accessible |
| 1306    | KINGFISHER (including Babbs Mill and Yorks Wood) | 246.0 | Publically Accessible |
| 904     | WROXTON ABBEY                                    | 130.7 | No Access             |
| 141-148 | ALVECOTE POOLS                                   | 129.3 | Publically Accessible |
| 325     | HIDCOTE MANOR GARDEN                             | 125.6 | Limited Access        |
| 870     | DAYLESFORD HOUSE                                 | 119.9 | No Access             |
| 887     | BATSFORD PARK                                    | 114.6 | Limited Access        |
| 839     | ROUS LENCH COURT                                 | 110.2 | No Access             |
| 1305    | DAVENTRY   | 67.5  | Publically Accessible |
| 896     | FAWSLEY HALL                                     | 364.6 | No Access             |
| 880     | HEYTHROP PARK                                    | 315.2 | No Access             |
| 1320    | LICKEY HILLS                                     | 213.6 | Publically Accessible |
| 1304    | WOODGATE VALLEY                                  | 192.4 | Publically Accessible |
| 329     | CHADWICH MANOR ESTATE                            | 173.9 | Unknown               |
| 338     | HANBURY HALL                                     | 157.2 | Limited Access        |
| 895     | GREAT TEW  | 155.2 | No Access             |
| 867     | HEWELL GRANGE                                    | 137.2 | Publically Accessible |
| 850     | SARSDEN HOUSE                                    | 117.7 | No Access             |
| 858     | GREAT BARR HALL                                  | 109.5 | No Access             |
| 300     | FORGE MILL LAKE                                  | 104.9 | Publically Accessible |

# Linear Assets

| Name                             | Asset          |  |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Avon River Walk                  | Promoted Route |  |
| Centenary Way                    | Promoted Route |  |
| Coventry Way                     | Promoted Route |  |
| Heart of England Way             | Promoted Route |  |
| Macmillan Way                    | Promoted Route |  |
| Millenium Way                    | Promoted Route |  |
| Monarchs Way                     | Promoted Route |  |
| North Arden Heritage Trail       | Promoted Route |  |
| North Arden Heritage Trail Loops | Promoted Route |  |
| Shakespeare's Avon Way           | Promoted Route |  |
| Warwickshire Cotswold Route      | Promoted Route |  |
| COTSWOLD WAY                     | National Trail |  |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal          | Canal          |  |
| Birmingham & Fazeley Canal       | Canal          |  |
| Coventry Canal                   | Canal          |  |
| Digbeth Branch Canal             | Canal          |  |
| Grand Union Canal                | Canal          |  |
| Oxford Canal                     | Canal          |  |
| Rushall Canal                    | Canal          |  |
| Stratford-upon-Avon Canal        | Canal          |  |
| Tame Valley Canal                | Canal          |  |
| Worcester & Birmingham Canal     | Canal          |  |

# 3 Analysis of GI supply and functional need

- 3.1 Having identified the GI assets that are of sub-regional importance (see chapter 2) a rapid assessment was undertaken to highlight the areas of the sub-region that had a deficiency in Sub-Regional assets. Deficiencies were identified as either in:
  - **Provision** (for example as a result of spatial distribution);
  - Access (through restricted access to sites sites were identified as being either fully accessible to the public, partially accessible (restricted opening times or payment was required), or not accessible); or
  - Function
- 3.2 Based on the Millennium Ecosystem Service categories, we identified five potential functions performed by GI. This enabled the sub-regional GI assets available in different parts of the sub-region to be compared against potential functions to help establish where functional deficiencies might exist.

|   | ks to Categories of Ecosystem 3   | Eco          | osyster<br>Categ<br>(Mille | m Serv<br>gories<br>nnium<br>sment) |            |
|---|---|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Functions performed by GI                                     | Examples of relevant GIS<br>datasets  | Provisioning | Regulating                 | Cultural                            | Supporting |
| Habitat provision and access to nature                        | Nature conservation<br>designations, biodiversity<br>records, local biodiversity data,<br>Biodiversity Action Plans                                     | ✓            |                            |                                     | ~          |
| Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation | Vulnerability mapping, flood<br>risk mapping, UKCIP data  |              | ~                          |                                     |            |
| Productive landscapes   | Natural England HLS target<br>areas, allotments, orchards,<br>Agricultural Land Classification  | ~            |                            |                                     |            |
| Landscape setting and context including historic environment  | Landscape character<br>assessments, historic landscape<br>character, cultural heritage<br>designations, tranquillity and<br>intrusion maps              |              |                            | ~                                   |            |
| Access, recreation and movement                               | Infrastructure, green space<br>(PPG17 assessments), ANGSt<br>analysis, local green space<br>provision standards, Public<br>Rights of Way, Cycle Network |              |                            | ~                                   |            |

Table 3.1: GI Functions and Links to Categories of Ecosystem Services

# ANALYSIS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

3.3 A rapid analysis of deficiencies in sub-regional assets by each Local Authority area is given below.

# NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH Level of Provision and Accessibility

- 3.4 There are seven GI sites identified as sub-regional assets located in North Warwickshire District. Two of these sites are Registered Parks and Gardens. One is located in the far south (Packington Hall) and one in the north east (Merevale Hall). Both of these Registered Park and Garden sites are currently not accessible to the public. A further two sub-regional assets in the District are Country Parks both of which are publicly accessible, Hartshill Hayes (located in the east of the District) and Kingsbury Water Park (located in the west of the District). There are also two sub-regional assets which are SSSIs located in the District, Bentley Park Wood (located in the east of the District) which has limited public access and Alvecote Pools (located in the north east of the district) which is publicly accessible. There is also a sub-regionally important RSPB Reserve (Middleton Lakes) located in the north west of the District. Middleton Lakes currently has no access, but is due to open to the public later in 2011.
- 3.5 There is a further sub-regional asset located just outside the district boundary; to the west (Sutton Park (which is located outside the sub-region but within 5km)). Sutton Park is a Registered Park and Garden and is publicly accessible.
- 3.6 Most of the larger settlements in this district are considered to be within a reasonable distance of a sub-regional GI site. However, with only one site located in the southern part of the District (Packington Hall) (which is currently not accessible to the public) the south of the District in particular could be considered as having a deficiency in accessible sites.

# **Provision of GI Functions**

## Habitat Provision

3.7 There are two sub-regional SSSI sites located in North Warwickshire District (Bentley Park Wood and Alvecote Pools). Middleton Lakes RSPB Reserve is an important site for birds. There are also a large number of rivers and sections of both the Coventry and Birmingham Fazeley canal networks in the district, which have the potential for habitat provision.

## Sustainable Resource Management

3.8 There are areas of Flood Zone 2/3 located within a number of the subregional sites identified including Packington Hall, Middleton lakes, Kingsbury Water Park and Alvecote Pools. These sites may have the potential for performing a flood attenuation function in the District.

#### **Productive Landscapes**

3.9 None of the identified sites is located on Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land; a small area of the Packington Hall, Mervale Hall and Bentely Park Wood sites are located on Grade 3/4 agricultural land. It is therefore considered there is limited potential for these areas to be used for community food growing schemes.

#### Landscape Setting/ Historic Setting

3.10 There are three Registered Parks and Gardens in or near North Warwickshire District including Sutton Park (located outside the sub region, but within 5km) which is considered to be a very important in terms of landscape and historic setting for residents of Birmingham.

#### **Access Recreation and Movement**

3.11 There are a number of promoted walks in the district including the 'Heart of England Way' the 'North Arden Heritage Trail' and the 'Centenary Way'. The North Warwickshire Cycleway is located in the District which is a circular route passing close to settlements, both Registered Parks and Gardens and Bentley Park Wood SSSI. There is also a National/Regional Sustrans cycle route in the north of the district, near Tamworth and a few short National Trails. The banks and towpaths of the river and canal networks in the District may provide walking and cycling opportunities. There are also a few scattered areas of open access land mainly in the east of the district including Baddesley Common.

# NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH

# Level of Provision and Accessibility

- 3.12 There are two sub-regional GI sites located within Nuneaton and Bedworth District; the Arbury Estate and Arbury Hall. Arbury Hall is a Registered Park and Garden. The Hall and the Estate both have limited access to the public (Arbury Hall is only open Sunday and Monday on each of the summer bank holidays and features a pay per entry policy).
- 3.13 Although the Arbury Estate and Arbury Hall are located in close proximity to the settlement of Nuneaton, due to their limited accessibility it is considered that Nuneaton and Bedworth has a deficiency in accessible sub-regional GI sites.

# **Provision of GI Functions**

## Habitat Provision

3.14 There are no sub-regional SSSI, LNRs or SACs located in or near Nuneaton and Bedworth District. The District could therefore be considered to have a deficiency in sites for habitat provision. However, there are a large number of rivers and sections of both the Coventry and Ashby-de-la Zouch canal networks in the district which have the potential for habitat provision.

#### Sustainable Resource Management

3.15 The majority of the Arbury Estate and Arbury Hall are not located in a flood risk area.

#### **Productive Landscapes**

3.16 The Arbury Estate and Arbury Hall are mostly located on Grade 3 agricultural land. It is therefore considered there is limited potential for either site to be used for community food growing schemes.

#### Landscape Setting/ Historic Setting

3.17 Arbury Hall is a Registered Park and Garden.

#### **Access Recreation and Movement**

- 3.18 The Arbury Estate and Arbury Hall have limited public accessibility (Arbury Hall is only open to the public on summer bank holidays) and there in no publicly accessible open land in the District.
- 3.19 There are three promoted walks located in the District; the 'Centenary Way' 'Coventry Way' and part of the 'North Arden Heritage Trail' loop. There are two branches of National Sustrans routes running north-south through Nuneaton and a few scattered, short local cycle routes in the town. Part of a Regional Sustrans route is also located in the north west of the district. The banks and towpaths of the river and canal networks in the District may provide walking and cycling opportunities.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

## Level of Provision and Accessibility

3.20 There is one sub-regional GI site located in Solihull District (Kingfisher Country Park) which is located in the north west of the District (although much of the site is located just outside the District boundary). The Park is accessible to the public. With only one sub-regionally important GI site, it is considered that there is a deficiency in sub-regional GI sites in this District.

## **Provision of GI Functions**

#### Habitat Provision

3.21 There are no sub-regional SSSI, LNRs or SACs located in or near Solihull District. The District could therefore be considered to have a deficiency in sites for habitat provision. However, there are a large number of rivers and sections of both the Grand Union and Stratford-Upon-Avon canal networks in the District which have the potential for habitat provision.

#### Sustainable Resource Management

3.22 There are areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 located in Kingfisher Country Park. The site may have the potential for performing a flood attenuation function in the District.

#### **Productive Landscapes**

3.23 Kingfisher Country Park is located in an area classed as 'urban' (the majority of the park is located close to central Birmingham) and is considered to have limited potential for community food growing schemes.

#### Landscape Setting/ Historic Setting

3.24 There are no sub-regional assets that are historical sites located in the District.

#### **Access Recreation and Movement**

3.25 Kingfisher Country Park is accessible to the public. There are two promoted walking routes in the District; 'Coventry Way' and 'Heart of England Way.' There is a short section of a Sustrans National trail and one very small area of open access land located in the north west of the District (on the outskirts of Birmingham). The banks and towpaths of the river and canal networks in the District may provide walking and cycling opportunities.

# **COVENTRY CITY**

## Level of Provision and Accessibility

3.26 There are three sub-regional GI assets located in Coventry. All three sites are areas of Green Belt land (known as 'North West' Green belt, 'South' Green Belt and 'South West' Green Belt (including War Memorial Park)). Accessibility to these areas is good as they are public open spaces with an extensive footpath network.

## **Provision of GI Functions**

## Habitat Provision

3.27 There are no sub-regional assets that are SSSI, LNRs or SACs located in or near Coventry District. The District could therefore be considered to have a deficiency in sites for habitat provision. However, there are a number of rivers and sections of both the Coventry and Oxford canal networks in the District which provide significant habitat corridors.

#### Sustainable Resource Management

3.28 There are areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 in all three of the areas of Green Belt in the District that have been identified as sub-regional assets. These areas of Green Belt may have the potential for performing a flood attenuation function in the District.

#### **Productive Landscapes**

3.29 The majority of the 'North West' Green Belt site and small sections of both the 'South' and 'South West' Green Belt sites are located on Grade 2/3 agricultural land. It is considered that there may be potential for developing community food growing schemes in these areas.

#### Landscape Setting/ Historic Setting

3.30 The north-west Green Belt area of the city also includes Ancient Arden Landscape. London Road Cemetery is also a Grade I Listed Park and Garden.

#### Access Recreation and Movement

3.31 Much of the Green Belt land is publically accessible through the public footpath network or is currently a public park or Green Wedge with unrestricted public access. There are a number of sections of Sustrans National cycle routes concentrated in and around the urban area of Coventry and the Coventry Way and Centenary Way promoted routes are close by. There are approximately four areas of open access land in the south of the area. The banks and towpaths of the river and canal networks in the District provide walking and cycling opportunities.

# **RUGBY BOROUGH**

## Level of Provision and Accessibility

- 3.32 There are three sub-regional GI sites located in Rugby District. Two of these sites are Registered Park and Gardens (Newham Paddox and Combe Abbey) and one is a Country Park (Draycote Water). Newham Paddox is located in the north east of the district and currently has limited access to the public (the site is closed in the winter and has a pay per entry system in operation for the rest of the year). Combe Abbey is in the north west of the District and Draycote Water Country Park is in the south, both are publicly accessible. In addition, there are also two sites allocated as 'green space' in Rugby's Core Strategy which have the potential to come into existence in the future. Both these sites have the potential to be over 150ha in size.
- 3.33 There are also two sites located to the east of Rugby District (outside the sub region but within 5km); Stanford Hall a Registered Park and Garden and Daventry Country Park. Stanford Hall has Limited Access (pay-per-entry) and Daventry Country Park is publicly accessible.
- 3.34 The main settlement in this District, Rugby, is located within reasonable distance of all of the GI sites (and potential future GI sites) identified above.

# **Provision of GI Functions**

## Habitat Provision

3.35 There are no sub-regionally important SSSI, LNRs or SACs located in or near Rugby District. The District is therefore considered to have a deficiency in sites for habitat provision. However, there are a number of rivers including the River Avon and sections of the Oxford canal, the Grand Union canal and the Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal networks in the District which have the potential for habitat provision.

#### Sustainable Resource Management

3.36 Both Newham Paddox and Combe Abbey and the two potential future GI sites (allocated in Rugby's Core Strategy) contain areas within Flood Zone

2/3. The two existing sites and the potential future sites have the potential for performing a flood attenuation function in the District.

#### **Productive Landscapes**

3.37 One of the potential future GI sites (located close to Dunchurch to the south west of Rugby) contains some Grade 2 agricultural land as does Combe Abbey. These areas (and in particular the potential future GI site) may have the potential for developing community food growing schemes.

#### Landscape Setting/ Historic Setting

3.38 There are three Registered Parks and Gardens in or near Rugby District including Newham Paddox, Combe Abbey and Stanford Hall.

#### **Access Recreation and Movement**

3.39 Combe Abbey and Draycote Water Country Park are accessible to the public and are considered to be located within a reasonable travelling distance from Rugby. There are a number of promoted walking routes in the District including 'Shakespeare's Avon Way,' 'Coventry Way' and 'Centenary Way.' There is a National Sustrans cycle route located in the south of the District (running north east- south west to Warwick). There is also a small section of a local cycle route located in the south of Rugby. There is no open access land in Rugby District. The banks and towpaths of the river and canal networks in the District may provide walking and cycling opportunities.

## WARWICK DISTRICT

## Level of Provision and Accessibility

- 3.40 With eight sub-regionally important GI sites Warwick District has one of the largest numbers of sub-regional GI assets in the study area. The sites include four Registered Parks and Gardens; Wroxall Abbey, Kenilworth Castle, Warwick Castle and Stoneleigh Abbey and two open space sites; Waverley Wood and Hay Wood. Warwickshire golf course and Newbold Comyn Park are also located in the District.
- 3.41 The sites are all within a reasonable distance of the larger settlements in the District which includes Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa and Kenilworth. In terms of accessibility, Newbold Comyn Park and Hay Wood are fully accessible to the public, Kenilworth Castle, Warwick Castle, Stoneleigh Abbey, Waverley Wood and the Warwickshire golf course have limited access and Wroxall Abbey is not accessible to the public.

## **Provision of GI Functions**

## Habitat Provision

3.42 There are no sub-regionally important SSSI, LNRs or SACs located in or near Warwick District. The District is therefore considered to have a deficiency in sites for habitat provision. However, there are a number of rivers, including the River Avon and sections of both the Grand Union and Stratford-Upon-Avon canal networks in the District which have the potential for habitat provision.

#### Sustainable Resource Management

3.43 Warwick Caste, Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth Castle and Newbold Common Park are all partly located in Flood Zone 3. These GI sites have the potential for performing a flood attenuation function in the District.

#### **Productive Landscapes**

3.44 The majority of the sub-regional GI sites in Warwick District are located on Grade 2/3 agricultural land. There may be some potential for developing community food growing schemes in these areas.

#### Landscape Setting/ Historic Setting

3.45 There are four Registered Parks and Gardens in Warwick District including Wroxall Abbey, Kenilworth Castle, Warwick Castle and Stoneleigh Abbey. Warwick Castle in particular is a well known historic tourist attraction in the area.

#### **Access Recreation and Movement**

3.46 Only two of the sites (Newbold Comyn Park and Hay Wood) are publicly accessible. There are a number of promoted walking routes in the District including 'Shakespeare's Avon Way,' 'Heart of England Way,' the 'Centenary Way' and the 'Millennium Way.' There are three National Sustrans Cycle Routes in the district, all three start/finish in the town of Warwick where one runs north to Kenworth (passing close to the Warwickshire golf course and Kenilworth Castle), one runs south west to Stratford Upon Avon (passing close to Warwick Castle) and one runs east through Royal Lemington Spa (passing close to Newbold Comyn Park). There is also a short section of a Local Sustrans cycle route located close to Newbold Comyn Park. There are a few scattered open access sites in the District; the largest is located in the west of the District near Wroxall Abbey. The banks and towpaths of the river and canal networks in the District may provide walking and cycling opportunities.

## STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT

## Level of Provision and Accessibility

- 3.47 Stratford-on-Avon is geographically the largest District in the study area. There are seven sub-regionally important GI sites located in Stratford-on-Avon including five Registered Park and Gardens; Farnborough Hall, Compton Verney, Charlecote Park, Alscot Park and Ragley Hall; Burton Dassett Country Park; and lastly Bancroft Gardens / Recreation Ground, a relatively small open space site in Stratford-Upon-Avon which is considered to be of sub-regional importance in the District due to the high numbers of visitors it attracts.
- 3.48 Burton Dassett Hills Country Park and Bancroft Gardens / Recreation Ground are both publicly accessible. Farnborough Hall, Compton Verney, Charlecote Park and Ragley Hall all currently have limited access to the public (all these sites currently have a pay-per entry system and/or are closed for part of the year). Alscot Park is currently not accessible to the public. In

terms of the distribution of sites, it is considered that the majority of the sites are reasonably close and accessible to each of the larger rural settlements in the District.

3.49 In addition to the sites located within the District, there are also six additional Sub-regionally important GI sites located just outside the subregion, but within 5km of the District including; Fawsley Hall, Wroxton Abbey, Heythrop Park, Daylesford House, Batsford Park and Rous Lench Court (all these sites are designated Registered Park and Gardens). Batsford Park has limited public access. However, Fawsley Hall, Wroxton Abbey, Heythrop Park, Daylesford House and Rous Lench Court are currently not accessible to the public.

## **Provision of GI Functions**

## Habitat Provision

3.50 There are no sub-regionally important SSSI, LNRs or SACs located in or near Stratford-on-Avon District. The District is therefore considered to have a deficiency in sites for habitat provision. However, there are a number of rivers, including the River Avon and sections of the Stratford-on-Avon canal, the Oxford canal and the Grand Union canal networks in the District which have the potential for habitat provision.

#### Sustainable Resource Management

3.51 Alscot Park, Charlecote Park, Compton Verney, and Bancroft Gardens / Recreation Ground are all partially located in areas of Flood Zone 2/3. Alscot Park, Charlecote Park and Compton Verney may have the potential for performing a flood attenuation function in the District and may be important for reducing the risk of flooding in nearby Stratford-Upon-Avon.

#### **Productive Landscapes**

3.52 The majority of the GI sites identified are located on Grade 3 or 4 agricultural land. Alscot Park contains some Grade 2 agricultural land where there may be some potential for developing community food growing schemes.

#### Landscape Setting/ Historic Setting

3.53 In total there are six Registered Park and Gardens located within Stratfordon-Avon. Two of these sites (Farnborough Hall and Charlecote Park) are also National Trust properties.

#### **Access Recreation and Movement**

- 3.54 None of the Registered Parks and Gardens in this District is fully accessible to the public. However, Burton Dassett Hills Country Park and Bancroft Gardens / Recreation Ground are fully accessible.
- 3.55 There are a number of promoted walking routes in the District including the 'Centenary Way,' the 'Warwickshire Cotswold Way,' the 'Monarchs Way' and the 'Heart of England Way.' There are five sections of National Sustrans cycle routes located in the District; all travelling to/from Stratford Upon

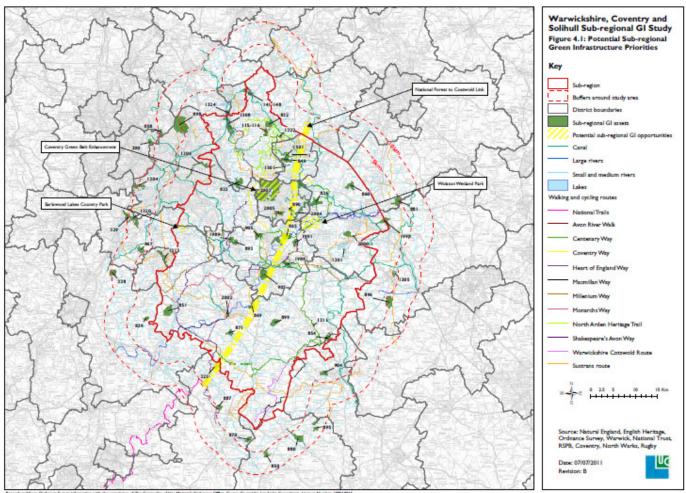
Avon. One of the routes (travelling east from Stratford Upon Avon) passes close to Charlecote Park. There are a few small open access sites scattered around the District; the largest of these sites is located close to Alcester. The banks and towpaths of the river and canal networks in the District may provide walking and cycling opportunities.

# 4 Prioritisation of Need

- 4.1 From this analysis four broad priorities for the sub-region in terms of GI assets were identified. The main functions that the assets could perform have been identified along with the spatial deficits that they could help to address. Whilst geographical locations have been broadly identified, this is for illustrative purposes only and to assist costing different types of assets. Further work will need to be undertaken by the POG to fully explore the need for further GI assets in relation to other developments in GI that are taking place within the sub-region and also to look at spatial locations and feasibility for new assets in more detail. These priorities do however provide a starting point for further discussions and for understanding the cost and funding implications of addressing current and potential future deficiencies in sub-regional GI resources (see chapters 5 and 6).
- 4.2 The four potential sub-regional GI priorities identified are:
  - National Forest to Cotswolds link creation of a new north south walking and cycling route that links the main cities and towns in the subregion with two significant areas of countryside, whilst also providing a useful commuter link between the settlements. Whilst the canal, river and long distance walking and cycling route network provide many corridors for people and wildlife across much of the sub-region there are fewer north-south links. New and improved walking and cycling links between many of the main settlements that run in a north - south direction through the sub-region (Nuneaton, Bedworth, Coventry, Leamington Spa, Warwick and Stratford Upon Avon) would provide sustainable access routes for the local population as well as longer distance links for those in the rest of the sub-region and beyond. The creation of the National Forest on the northern edge of the sub-region provides a significant new GI resource for many in the northern part of the sub-region and providing a link to this area will significantly improve sustainable access to the National Forest. Similarly continuing the link to the south to the Cotswolds AONB will improve access to large areas of high quality landscape.
  - Earlswood Lakes Country Park creation of a new recreation focussed Countryside Park to the south of Solihull, which also seeks to reduce woodland fragmentation and enhance the existing lakes and visitor attraction in the area. Solihull (along with Coventry) has the most significant deficit in terms of sub-regional GI resources and Earlswood Lakes are accessible by train from Solihull and various settlements in Stratford-on-Avon District.
  - Wolston Wetland Park creation of a new wetland park that focuses on flood alleviation and the creation of high quality biodiversity habits whilst providing new opportunities for public access. The area identified is in flood zone 3 and upstream of Leamington Spa and Warwick both of which have significant flooding issues. The proposed area also lies within the Princethorpe Biodiversity Opportunity Area and has quite a bit of fragmented woodland, so there are significant opportunities to improve

the biodiversity function of the area. The proposed Wetland Park's proximity to the large areas of population in Coventry and Learnington Spa will also help to address deficiencies in access to nature.

• **Coventry Green Belt Enhancement** – undertaking a series of projects to enhance Coventry's Green Belt by improving access and recreation opportunities whilst improving access to nature opportunities and reconnecting people with food production. Coventry has a significant deficit in access to sub-regional resources and the greenbelt provides a significant area of protected countryside that is ideally placed to help address this deficit.



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Figure 4.1: Potential sub-regional GI priorities

# 5 Costing of Provision of GI Priorities

5.1 The priorities outlined in Chapter 4 provide a starting point for understanding the cost and funding implications of addressing current and potential future deficiencies in sub-regional GI resources. Outline costs have been prepared for the creation of each priority; they provide an indication of the likely budget costs only for different types of GI assets as they are based on high level assumptions without the benefit of site analysis. Therefore it should be recognised that all projects will require feasibility studies and design development to define the scope of works and accurately assess capital costs. The costs for each of the four potential priorities identified in Chapter 4 are given below.

# NATIONAL FOREST TO COTSWOLDS LINK

5.2 *Outline description:* creation of a new north - south walking and cycling link that links the main cities and towns in the sub-region with two significant areas of countryside, whilst also providing a useful commuter link between the settlements.

Total length = approximately 65km.

| Outline description of work   | Rate              | Quantity  | Cost     |
|---|-------------------|---|----------|
| Creation of 2m wide shared use<br>path: to include excavation and<br>150mm + 50mm base of 40mm<br>scalping, type I stone or binding<br>gravel; wearing course of 25mm<br>thick limestone dust; timber<br>edge                 | <i>£</i> 75 per m | Assume along<br>15% of total<br>length therefore<br>– 10km  | £750,000 |
| Creation of 2.4m wide shared<br>use path: to include excavation<br>and I 50mm + 50mm base of<br>40mm scalping, type I stone or<br>binding gravel; wearing course<br>of 2 coats of tar spray and 6mm<br>chippings; timber edge | £100 per m        | Assume along<br>10% of total<br>length therefore<br>– 6.5km | £650,000 |
| Barriers to road crossings etc  | £5,000            | Say 20 no. either<br>side of road –<br>total 40             | £200,000 |
| Traffic calming e.g. hump, road<br>markings and road narrowing  | £3,000            | At say 10<br>locations                                      | £30,000  |
| Pedestrian refuge island<br>crossings   | £5,000            | At say 10<br>locations                                      | £50,000  |
| Directional signage   | £800              | Say average of I<br>no. sign per 2<br>km therefore –        | £28,000  |

|                                      |                 | say 35 no                            |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Interpretation signage               | £3,000          | Say 15 no.                           | £45,000           |
| Traffic signage                      | £700            | Say 50 no.<br>powder coated<br>signs | £35,000           |
| Gateway<br>signage/markers/furniture | £5,000          | Say 15 locations                     | £75,000           |
| Seating - bench                      | £900            | Say I seat per<br>km – 65 no.        | £58,500           |
| Tree planting                        | £300            | Say 100 no.<br>standards             | £30,000           |
| Other landscape work                 | Provisional sum |                                      | £200,000          |
| Sub-total                            |                 |                                      | £2,151,500        |
| Add preliminaries @ 10%              |                 |                                      | £215,150          |
| Sub-total                            |                 |                                      | £2,366,650        |
| Add contingencies @12%               |                 |                                      | £283,998          |
| Sub-total                            |                 |                                      | £2,650,648        |
| Add professional fees @15%           |                 |                                      | £397,597.20       |
| Total                                |                 |                                      | £3,048,245.20     |
| TOTAL BUDGET                         |                 |                                      | £3 - £3.5 million |

# EARLSWOOD LAKES COUNTRY PARK

5.3 *Outline description*: creation of a new recreation focussed Countryside Park to the south of Solihull, which also seeks to reduce woodland fragmentation and enhance the existing lakes and visitor attraction in the area.

Total area: 323ha

| Outline description of work  | Rate            | Quantity | Cost     |  |
|--|-----------------|----------|----------|--|
| New visitor building: timber<br>construction, green roof,<br>photovoltaic panels etc. Building<br>to accommodate small office,<br>café, education area and toilets<br>(reed bed sewage treatment<br>plant).<br>A full review of the existing<br>visitor offer at Earlswood Lakes<br>Craft Centre would be<br>required. | Provisional sum |          | £600,000 |  |
| Creation of destination natural<br>play area including aerial (tree<br>top) walkway  | Provisional sum |          | £250,000 |  |
| Creation of new trim trail – 15<br>timber items  | £1000           | 15       | £15,000  |  |
| New car park – allow for 100<br>spaces, gravel surfacing,<br>associated landscape works  | 35 per m2       | 3000m2   | £105,000 |  |
| Interpretation signage   | £3,000          | 10       | £30,000  |  |
| Creation of 2m wide shared use<br>path: to include excavation and<br>150mm + 50mm base of 40mm<br>scalping, type I stone or binding<br>gravel; wearing course of 25mm<br>thick limestone dust  | £75 per m       | 2km      | £150,000 |  |
| Creation of 2.4m wide shared<br>use path: to include excavation<br>and I 50mm + 50mm base of<br>40mm scalping, type I stone or<br>binding gravel; wearing course<br>of 2 coats of tar spray and 6mm<br>chippings   | £100 per m      | 3km      | £300,000 |  |
| Directional signage  | £800            | Say 10   | £8,000   |  |

| Gateway<br>signage/markers/furniture    | £5,000          | Say 5 locations              | £25,000           |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
|   |                 |                              |                   |
| Seating - bench                         | £900            | Say 20 no.                   | £18,000           |
| Tree planting                           | £300            | Say 50 no.<br>standards      | £15,000           |
| General landscape work                  | Provisional sum |                              | £100,000          |
| Woodland creation                       | £6 per m2       | Say additional 6<br>hectares | £360,000          |
| Further lake, pond and wetland creation | £15 per m2      | Say additional 4<br>hectares | £600,000          |
| Timber boardwalks                       | £100 per m2     | Say 400m2                    | £40,000           |
| Installation of bird hides              | £5000           | 2                            | £10,000           |
| Sub-total                               |                 |                              | £2,626,000        |
| Add preliminaries @ 10%                 |                 |                              | £262,600          |
| Sub-total                               |                 |                              | £2,888,600        |
| Add contingencies @12%                  |                 |                              | £346,632          |
| Sub-total                               |                 |                              | £3,235,232        |
| Add professional fees @15%              |                 |                              | £485,284.8        |
| Total                                   |                 |                              | £3,720,516.8      |
| TOTAL BUDGET                            |                 | <u> </u>                     | £3.5 - £4 million |

# WOLSTON WETLAND PARK

5.4 *Outline description*: creation of a new wetland park that focuses on flood alleviation and the creation of high quality biodiversity habits whilst providing new opportunities for public access.

Total area: 1208ha

| Outline description of work  | Rate            | Quantity                 | Cost       |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|
| New car parks – allow for 5 car<br>parks of 40 spaces, gravel<br>surfacing, associated landscape<br>works  | £35 per m2      | 5000m2                   | £175,000   |
| New open fronted education shelter with interpretation   | Provisional sum |                          | £150,000   |
| Interpretation signage   | £3000           | 20                       | £60,000    |
| Creation of 2m wide shared use<br>path: to include excavation and<br>150mm + 50mm base of 40mm<br>scalping, type I stone or binding<br>gravel; wearing course of 25mm<br>thick limestone dust; timber<br>edge.                 | £75 per m       | 6km                      | £450,000   |
| Creation of 2.4m wide shared<br>use path: to include excavation<br>and I 50mm + 50mm base of<br>40mm scalping, type I stone or<br>binding gravel; wearing course<br>of 2 coats of tar spray and 6mm<br>chippings; timber edge. | £100 per m      | Say 2km                  | £200,000   |
| Directional signage  | £800            | 35 no.                   | £28,000    |
| Bridges  | Provisional sum |                          | £100,000   |
| Gateway<br>signage/markers/furniture   | £5,000          | Say 5 locations          | £25,000    |
| Seating  | £900            | 50 no.                   | £45,000    |
| Tree planting  | £300            | Say 100 no.<br>standards | £30,000    |
| Other landscape work   | Provisional sum |                          | £200,000   |
| Woodland creation  | £6 per m2       | Say additional<br>15ha   | £900,000   |
| Further lake, pond and wetland   | £15 per m2      | Say additional           | £1,500,000 |

| creation                                    |                 | IOha                    |                   |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Timber boardwalks/pond<br>dipping platforms | £100 per m2     | Say 5 x 50m2 -<br>250m2 | £25,000           |
| Other habitat enhancements                  | Provisional sum |                         | £100,000          |
| Installation of bird hides                  | £5,000          | 5                       | £25,000           |
| Sub-total                                   |                 |                         | £4,013,000        |
| Add preliminaries @ 10%                     |                 |                         | £401,300          |
| Sub-total                                   |                 |                         | £4,414,300        |
| Add contingencies @12%                      |                 |                         | £529,716          |
| Sub-total                                   |                 |                         | £4,944,016        |
| Add professional fees @15%                  |                 |                         | £741,602.4        |
| Total                                       |                 |                         | £5,685,618.4      |
| TOTAL BUDGET                                |                 |                         | £5.5 - £6 million |

# **COVENTRY GREEN BELT ENHANCEMENT**

5.5 *Outline description*: undertaking a series of projects to enhance Coventry's Green Belt by improving access and recreation opportunities whilst improving access to nature opportunities and reconnecting people with food production.

Total area: 1869ha

| Outline description of work  | Rate   | Quantity                           | Cost       |
|--|--|------------------------------------|------------|
| New building with a range of<br>potential uses including<br>education, interpretation,<br>farmers market and other<br>commercial uses. | Provisional sum  |                                    | £300,000   |
| Community gardens/allotments   | Provisional sum – allow £15,000 for<br>each allotment (5 allotments) |                                    | £75,000    |
| Community orchards   | Provisional sum – allow £50,000 for<br>each allotment (5 orchards)   |                                    | £250,000   |
| Interpretation signage   | £3,000   | 10                                 | £30,000    |
| Directional signage  | £800   | 20                                 | £16,000    |
| Seating - bench  | £900   | 25                                 | £22,500    |
| Hedgerow creation  | £20 per m  | 10km                               | £200,000   |
| Hedgerow restoration   | £10 per m  | 10km                               | £100,000   |
| Woodland creation  | £6 per m2  | I 5ha                              | £900,000   |
| Pond and wetland creation  | £15 per m2   | 2ha of small<br>ponds              | £300,000   |
| Works to enable permissive access e.g. gates   | £1,200   | Assume 20 no.<br>kissing gates and | £24,000    |
| Sub-total  |  |                                    | £2,217,500 |
| Add preliminaries @ 10%  |  |                                    | £221,750   |
| Sub-total  |  |                                    | £2,439,250 |
| Add contingencies @12%   |  |                                    | £292,710   |
| Sub-total  |  |                                    | £2,731,960 |
| Add professional fees @15%   |  |                                    | £409,794   |

| Total        |  | £3,141,754        |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| TOTAL BUDGET |  | £3 - £3.5 million |

# Notes and qualifications

- 5.6 The costs provide an indication of the likely budget costs only as they are based on high level assumptions without the benefit of site analysis.
- 5.7 All projects will require feasibility studies and design development to define the scope of works and accurately assess capital costs.
- 5.8 No allowance has been made for future inflation or VAT.

# 6 Funding Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure

- 6.1 A key challenge for local authorities in the sub-region will be to secure funding for the delivery of green infrastructure particularly in the face of cuts in central government expenditure. Potential sources of funding currently available to local authorities include:
  - Funding from an authority's revenue budget
  - Multi agency public sector funding e.g. delivery of cross cutting targets may be eligible for funding from a range of government departments and agencies
  - EU funding such as EU Life+
  - The Regional Growth Fund
  - Developer contributions, though Section 106 Agreements
  - · Private sector funding through property and financial endowments
  - Environmental stewardship schemes
  - Private sector sponsorship
  - Community land, development & conservation trusts

# **ROLE OF LEVIES APPLIED THOUGH SECTION 106**

- 6.2 Mid Bedfordshire District Council has applied a specific 'green infrastructure levy', as part of a Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning document. It applies to all new development proposals received since April 2008. The levy was based on an approach developed by the Marston Vale Community Forest.
- 6.3 In 2007, Natural England, with the Local Authorities, Government Office (SW) and the RSPB, agreed an Interim Planning Framework (IPF) to provide a mechanism for mitigation of the impacts, using the Section 106 process (see case study below).
- 6.4 Cambridgeshire Horizons has also considered the principle of a levy for green infrastructure, amongst other forms of infrastructure, as part of its Integrated Development Programme (IDP). The IDP forms the evidence base on sub-regional infrastructure needs.
- 6.5 Whilst interesting and innovative, the introduction of the Community Infrastructure levy (CIL) in the Planning Act 2008 effectively replaces other forms of local levy on development. It also means that, in future, local authorities will not be able to pool developer contributions secured through Section 106 Agreements; such agreements will focus on local mitigation of adverse planning impacts

# ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

6.6 As part of the Planning Act 2008, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will be a capital cost payable by developers towards the cost of local and subregional infrastructure to support development. The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 came into force from 6th April 2010. CIL is predicated on the notion that the value of land can rise substantially following the grant of planning permission for development

- 6.7 The scope of infrastructure eligible to receive contributed funds from CIL is set out in Section 216(2) of the Planning Act, including "open space...and recreational facilities". Though green infrastructure is not identified, CLG's guidance<sup>3</sup> indicates the Government's intention to allow local flexibility in determining what infrastructure is needed to deliver the local development plan.
- 6.8 CLG's guidance confirms that charging authorities may pass money to bodies outside their area to deliver infrastructure which will benefit the development of their area. It refers to the Environment Agency for flood defence or, in two tier areas, the county council, for education infrastructure; however, this could equally apply to green infrastructure. It also indicates that charging authorities will also be able to collaborate and pool their revenue from their respective levies to support the delivery of 'sub-regional infrastructure', where they are satisfied that this would support the development of their own area.
- 6.9 The process of setting CIL is to be aligned with the local infrastructure planning process as set out in Planning Policy 'Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning'. Local planning authorities should identify gaps in funding to arrive at a proposed amount to be raised from CIL in preparing a charging schedule within an up to date local development framework.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Community Infrastructure Levy: an overview, CLG, 2010

# CASE STUDY 1 - MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF HOUSING ON THE DORSET HEATHLANDS

South East Dorset supports a large area of lowland heathland, much of which is protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directive for species such as Nightjar and Sand Lizard.

The Habitats Regulations stipulate the need for avoidance or mitigation of adverse impacts on these sites, including the projected 26,000 new homes in SE Dorset. In 2006, English Nature (now part of Natural England) informed local planning authorities in the area of the heathlands that the environmental impacts of additional developments within 400m of heathland sites could not be mitigated, and that, in the absence of any mitigation, they would object to any developments in the zone from 400m up to 5km away.

In 2007, Natural England, with the Local Authorities, Government Office (SW) and the RSPB, agreed an Interim Planning Framework (IPF) to provide a mechanism for mitigation of the impacts, using the Section 106 process. Projects were identified aimed at managing the impacts of development of the heathlands and providing suitable alternative natural greenspaces (SANGs) for residents to use instead of the heathlands.

Through a Section 106 agreement a levy is raised from every new residential unit within 5km of the heathland. The amount was based on a predicted number of dwellings to be built in the 3-year period of the IPF. So far £3 million has been raised and is being spent by the Urban Heaths Partnership to improve local greenspaces and to purchase SANGs.

The Section 106 mechanism has worked well as a way of raising the money needed to pay for projects, especially as it can then be banked then used as and when projects are developed. However, a question remains as to whether similar Section 106 agreements or CIL funds could be directed towards environmental benefits in cases where land is not subject to international wildlife designations.

### NEXT STEPS TOWARDS FUNDING SUB-REGIONAL GI

6.10 This study has provided a starting point for the POG to identify not only what additional GI resources the sub-region needs to provide, but also how any additional sub-regional GI resources might be funded. However, time and budgetary constraints mean that there are several steps that the POG will need to pursue to take the findings of this study forward. The first of these will be to decide if they wish to use CIL funding and if so if this is best done on a joint sub-regional basis. Further advice will be needed from CLG to clarify exactly how the practicalities of CIL are best managed on a subregional basis. Other steps likely to be needed are given below.

#### Gain support for the evidence base

- 6.11 This study provides the basis of a shared evidence base on sub-regional GI assets within the study area, the deficiencies that are present and proposes some priorities for future provision of sub-regional GI assets and the costs that might be associated with delivering such assets along with a discussion on ways for the sub-region to secure funding for GI. The study therefore provides a selection of indicator infrastructure projects that are likely to be funded by the levy, which is required when setting the CIL.
- 6.12 Whatever approach is ultimately taken (either authorities pursuing the CIL individually or on a joint sub-regional basis) there will be a need to garner full support for the sub-regional green infrastructure indicator projects. Without further work to gain support for this evidence base, there is a risk that local authorities would not wish voluntarily to contribute to a sub-regional CIL 'pot', as this could mean failing to meet their own infrastructure requirements. Therefore the POG needs to sign off the listing of sub-regional assets included in this study, and in light of the findings of existing GI work undertaken by individual authorities and any planned GI projects contained in any planning documents, confirm that they are happy with the proposed indicator infrastructure projects within this study.

#### Infrastructure Planning

6.13 This study provides a basis for a sub-regional approach to evidence gathering, the identification of sub-regional green infrastructure needs and preliminary costs. However, if the constituent authorities decide to pursue a sub-regional CIL to pay for the green infrastructure, this will most likely require a sub-regional approach to plan making. Subject to checking with CLG, this could involve preparation of a joint DPD or SPD related to sub-regional infrastructure requirements. This kind of formal joint planning document may be particularly necessary to formalise the arrangements for authorities to pass monies to bodies outside of their area in order to deliver infrastructure.

#### Funding Study

6.14 As mentioned previously there are numerous potential sources of funding currently available and these will need to be identified and agreement reached in a coordinated way amongst the authorities about which sources of funding will be sought for which infrastructure. The total infrastructure funding gap that the levy is intended to support will then need to be identified.

#### Evidence of Economic Viability

6.15 The potential effects of the CIL upon the economic viability of development across the sub-region will also need to be understood.

#### Preparation of charging schedules

6.16 Advice will need to be sought from CLG as to whether a joint charging schedule (broken down into different charging zones) or individual charging

schedules for each local authority will need to prepared. Whatever approach is taken this will need to be carried out in a coordinated manner that related to the individual authorities LDF or to the joint SPD if one is prepared. These planning documents will provide evidence to support the CIL.

J:\CURRENT PROJECTS\5000s\5075 West Midlands GI SPD\5075\_Final\_Report\_13072011.doc

Appendix I

Full list of Sub-Regional Assets

| Asset                 | LUC SubID | Name                    | Broad Location       | area (ha) | Accessibility  | Broad Accessibility      |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| Coventry<br>Greenbelt | 2003      | NW Green Belt           | Within study<br>area | 1,869.0   | Unknown  | Unknown                  |
| Coventry<br>Greenbelt | 2004      | S Green Belt            | Within study<br>area | 705.8     | Unknown  | Unknown                  |
| ParkAndGarden         | 865       | STONELEIGH<br>ABBEY     | Within study<br>area | 390.4     | Limited Access (pay<br>per entry) £3 for<br>Grounds only.  | Limited Access           |
| ParkAndGarden         | 851       | RAGLEY HALL             | Within study<br>area | 346.8     | Limted Access (pay<br>per entry)Adult -<br>£6.50<br>Child (5-16) - £6.50<br>Senior Citizens -<br>£6.50<br>Family (2a + 3c) -<br>£25.00<br>Parking - Free | Limited Access           |
| ParkAndGarden         | 903       | WARWICK CASTLE          | Within study<br>area | 319.9     | Limted Access (pay<br>per entry)   | Limited Access           |
| ParkAndGarden         | 833       | PACKINGTON HALL         | Within study<br>area | 318.7     | No Access. Parkland<br>not open to the<br>Public   | No Access                |
| ParkAndGarden         | 836       | Coombe Abbey            | Within study<br>area | 316.2     | Publically<br>Accessible. (pay and<br>display car park)  | Publically<br>Accessible |
| Country Parks         | 1308      | KINGSBURY WATER<br>PARK | Within study<br>area | 259.6     | Publically<br>Accessible   | Publically<br>Accessible |
| ParkAndGarden         | 832       | MEREVALE HALL           | Within study<br>area | 193.8     | No Access.   | No Access                |

|                         |         |   | Within study         |       | Limted Access<br>(closed in Winter<br>season and pay per<br>entry from £4 per<br>Adult to visit  |                |
|-------------------------|---------|---|----------------------|-------|--|----------------|
| ParkAndGarden           | 899     | COMPTON VERNEY  | area                 | 191.8 | Grounds.   | Limited Access |
| Coventry<br>Greenbelt   | 2005    | SW Green Belt (incl<br>War Memorial Park)                   | Within study<br>area | 186.3 |  | Unknown        |
| ParkAndGarden           | 860     | NEWNHAM PADDOX  | Within study<br>area | 176.2 | Limted Access<br>(closed in Winter<br>season and pay per<br>entry from £4 per<br>Adult).   | Limited Access |
| N&B WGS                 | 1501    | Arbury Estate   | Within study<br>area | 175.6 |  | Limited Access |
| ParkAndGarden           | 849     | ARBURY HALL   | Within study<br>area | 172.9 | Limited Access (only<br>open Sunday and<br>Monday on each of<br>the summer bank<br>holidays and pay per<br>entry) Gardens Only<br>Adults - £5.50 | Limited Access |
| Rugby Urban<br>proposed | 2000-1  |   | Within study<br>area | 168.2 | Unknown  | Unknown        |
| RSPB reserve            | 1324    | MIDDLETON LAKES<br>(CURRENT<br>BOUNDARY FROM<br>28/02/2007) | Within study<br>area | 158.9 | No Access (currently<br>undergoing works -<br>due to open for<br>general visiting from<br>mid 2011)  | No Access      |
| ParkAndGarden           | 854     | FARNBOROUGH<br>HALL   | Within study<br>area | 142.7 | See above.   | Limited Access |
| SSSI                    | 141-148 | Alvecote Pools  | Within study         | 129.3 | Publically   | Publically     |

|                  |         |                    | area         |       | Accessible                         | Accessible     |
|------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------|-------|------------------------------------|----------------|
|                  |         | KENILWORTH         | Within study |       | Limted Access (pay                 |                |
| ParkAndGarden    | 905     | CASTLE             | area         | 120.3 | per entry).                        | Limited Access |
|                  |         |                    | Within study |       |                                    | Publically     |
| Warks OS         | 1988    | Newbold Comyn Park | area         | 120.1 |                                    | Accessible     |
|                  |         |                    | Within study |       |                                    |                |
| ParkAndGarden    | 893     | WROXALL ABBEY      | area         | 119.1 | No Access.                         | No Access      |
|                  |         |                    | Within study |       |                                    |                |
| Warks OS         | 1991    | Waverley Wood      | area         | 117.4 |                                    | Limited Access |
|                  |         | CHARLECOTE         | Within study |       | Limited Access (pay                |                |
| ParkAndGarden    | 869     | PARK               | area         | 110.3 | per entry).                        | Limited Access |
|                  |         |                    | Within study |       |                                    |                |
| ParkAndGarden    | 871     | ALSCOT PARK        | area         | 108.8 | No Access.                         | No Access      |
|                  |         |                    |              |       | Limted Access (TBC                 |                |
|                  |         |                    |              |       | <ul> <li>some privately</li> </ul> |                |
|                  |         |                    | Within study |       | owned - see                        |                |
| SSSI             | 115-116 | Bentley Park Wood  | area         | 105.4 | comment)                           | Limited Access |
|                  |         |                    | Within study |       | Publically                         | Publically     |
| Warks OS         | 1989    | Hay Wood           | area         | 104.3 | Accessible                         | Accessible     |
|                  |         |                    |              |       | Publically Accessible              |                |
|                  |         |                    | Within study |       | (parking £1.50 per                 | Publically     |
| Country Parks    | 1322    | HARTSHILL HAYES    | area         | 54.8  | car)                               | Accessible     |
|                  |         |                    |              |       | Publically Accessible              |                |
|                  |         |                    | Within study |       | (parking pay and                   | Publically     |
| Country Parks    | 1311    | BURTON DASSETT     | area         | 39.8  | display)                           | Accessible     |
| Bancroft Gardens |         |                    |              |       |                                    |                |
| / Recreation     |         | Bancroft Gardens / | Within study |       | Publically                         | Publically     |
| Ground           | 2002    | Recreation Ground  | area         | 22.8  | Accessible                         | Accessible     |
|                  |         |                    |              |       | Publically Accessible              |                |
|                  |         |                    | Within study |       | 364 days (parking                  | Publically     |
| Country Parks    | 1301    | DRAYCOTE WATER     | area         | 8.8   | £2.50 per car)                     | Accessible     |
| -                |         | LONDON ROAD        |              | 1     | Publicly accessible                |                |
|                  |         | CEMETERY,          | Within study |       | but may also have                  | Publically     |
| ParkAndGarden    | 890     | COVENTRY           | area         | 7.7   | limited Access?                    | Accessible     |
|                  | 000     |                    | uica         | 1.1   | minieu Access:                     | 7006331016     |

| SAC                     | 1       | Ensor's Pool   | Within study<br>area        | 3.6   |   | Publically<br>Accessible |
|-------------------------|---------|--|-----------------------------|-------|---|--------------------------|
| Rugby Urban<br>proposed | 1998    |  | Within study<br>area        | 281.7 | Unknown   | Unknown                  |
| ParkAndGarden           | 898     | SUTTON PARK  | Within 5km of study area    | 912.5 | Publicly Accessible.  | Publically<br>Accessible |
| ParkAndGarden           | 881     | STANFORD HALL  | Within 5km of study area    | 238.0 | Limited Access (pay<br>per entry)   | Limited Access           |
| Country Parks           | 1313    | ARROW  | Within 5km of study area    | 223.0 | Publically<br>Accessible  | Publically<br>Accessible |
| Country Parks           | 1306    | KINGFISHER<br>(including Babbs Mill<br>and Yorks Wood) | Within 5km of study area    | 246.0 | Publically<br>Accessible  | Publically<br>Accessible |
| ParkAndGarden           | 904     | WROXTON ABBEY  | Within 5km of study area    | 130.7 | No Access   | No Access                |
| SSSI                    | 141-148 | Alvecote Pools   | Within 5km of study area    | 129.3 | Publically<br>Accessible  | Publically<br>Accessible |
| NT                      | 325     | HIDCOTE MANOR<br>GARDEN                                | Within 5km of<br>study area | 125.6 | Limited Access (pay per entry).   | Limited Access           |
| ParkAndGarden           | 870     | DAYLESFORD<br>HOUSE                                    | Within 5km of study area    | 119.9 | No Access   | No Access                |
| ParkAndGarden           | 887     | BATSFORD PARK  | Within 5km of study area    | 114.6 | Limited Access (pay per entry)  | Limited Access           |
| ParkAndGarden           | 839     | ROUS LENCH<br>COURT                                    | Within 5km of study area    | 110.2 | No Access   | No Access                |
| Country Parks           | 1305    | DAVENTRY   | Within 5km of study area    | 67.5  | Publically Accessible<br>(£2.00 parking<br>charge is payable<br>between 8am and<br>8pm) | Publically<br>Accessible |
| ParkAndGarden           | 896     | FAWSLEY HALL   | Within 10km of study area   | 364.6 | No Access   | No Access                |

| ParkAndGarden | 880  | <br>  HEYTHROP PARK      | Within 10km of study area    | 315.2 | No Access  | No Access                |
|---------------|------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--|--------------------------|
|               |      |                          | Within 10km of               |       | Publically Accessible  | Publically               |
| Country Parks | 1320 | LICKEY HILLS             | study area                   | 213.6 | (free car parking)   | Accessible               |
| Country Parks | 1304 | WOODGATE<br>VALLEY       | Within 10km of<br>study area | 192.4 | Publically<br>Accessible   | Publically<br>Accessible |
| NT            | 329  | CHADWICH MANOR<br>ESTATE | Within 10km of study area    | 173.9 | Unknown  | Unknown                  |
| NT            | 338  | HANBURY HALL             | Within 10km of study area    | 157.2 | Limited Access (pay<br>per entry)  | Limited Access           |
| ParkAndGarden | 895  | GREAT TEW                | Within 10km of study area    | 155.2 | No Access  | No Access                |
| ParkAndGarden | 867  | HEWELL GRANGE            | Within 10km of study area    | 137.2 | Publicly Accessible.<br>However, the<br>Grange is a prison<br>and is not open to<br>the public. However,<br>the lake is managed<br>by the<br>Worcestershire<br>Wildlife Trust and is<br>accessible to the<br>public. | Publically<br>Accessible |
| ParkAndGarden | 850  | SARSDEN HOUSE            | Within 10km of study area    | 117.7 | No Access  | No Access                |
| ParkAndGarden | 858  | GREAT BARR HALL          | Within 10km of study area    | 109.5 | No Access  | No Access                |
| LNR           | 300  | Forge Mill Lake          | Within 10km of study area    | 104.9 | Publically<br>Accessible   | Publically<br>Accessible |

#### Linear Assets

| Name                             | Asset          |  |  |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| Avon River Walk                  | Promoted Route |  |  |
| Centenary Way                    | Promoted Route |  |  |
| Coventry Way                     | Promoted Route |  |  |
| Heart of England Way             | Promoted Route |  |  |
| Macmillan Way                    | Promoted Route |  |  |
| Millenium Way                    | Promoted Route |  |  |
| Monarchs Way                     | Promoted Route |  |  |
| North Arden Heritage Trail       | Promoted Route |  |  |
| North Arden Heritage Trail Loops | Promoted Route |  |  |
| Shakespeare's Avon Way           | Promoted Route |  |  |
| Warwickshire Cotswold Route      | Promoted Route |  |  |
| COTSWOLD WAY                     | National Trail |  |  |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal          | Canal          |  |  |
| Birmingham & Fazeley Canal       | Canal          |  |  |
| Coventry Canal                   | Canal          |  |  |
| Digbeth Branch Canal             | Canal          |  |  |
| Grand Union Canal                | Canal          |  |  |
| Oxford Canal                     | Canal          |  |  |
| Rushall Canal                    | Canal          |  |  |
| Stratford-upon-Avon Canal        | Canal          |  |  |
| Tame Valley Canal                | Canal          |  |  |
| Worcester & Birmingham Canal     | Canal          |  |  |

## Appendix 2

Further Work for the Planning Officers Group

## Further Work for the Planning Officers Group.

Chapter 6 of this report outlines some next steps for the POG to take forward GI planning in the sub-region. However, before moving on to the next stage, additional work is required by the POG to ensure consistency and gain consensus on the GI assets that are to be considered sub-regional in nature. In order to achieve this consistency and help reach consensus the following steps are suggested:

- Obtain GIS **footpath data** for County and Sub-Regional routes from all Local Authorities, presently some routes are missing e.g. the Arden Way and Midland Link. Each Local Authority to check for consistency.
- The POG needs to discuss how different designations are to be dealt with and under what circumstances they should be considered as an asset. For example, important landscape designations such as the Ancient Arden **landscape and** also **planning designations** such as Green Belts. Thought needs to be given to what distinguishes a designation and an asset. There is currently inconsistency in the dataset with some of the Coventry Green Belt identified as a subregional asset due to the importance its GI function is perceived to have for the sub-region, whilst other areas of Green Belt and other landscape designations have not been included.