



# Green Infrastructure Study

## APPENDICES

**January 2012**



Produced by Solihull Landscape Architecture and Ecology

**Appendix 1:**

**Relevant Green Infrastructure Policy**

## 1.1 National policy, Strategy and Legislation

### Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) (1995)

Natural England's policy on accessible natural green space states that everyone should live within 300m of 2 ha of accessible green space. Solihull Council produced its own Green Space Strategy in 2006 which included natural green space provision as an important feature.

### Agenda 21 (1992)

Agenda 21 was one of the outcomes of the "Earth Summit" held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Since then "sustainable development" has become a key objective in the policy and work of both national and local government in the UK. This lead to the UK committing to working towards national strategies for the protection of our local,

### A New Era for the Waterways (Defra, 2011)

The Government has published its response in September 2011 to the consultation 'A New Era for the Waterways' which took place March – June 2011. The Government has also launched a further short consultation to provide more information and seek views on the transfer of legal powers and obligations from British Waterways to the new charity.

### Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (Defra, 2011)

The 2011-2020 biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and provides a comprehensive picture of how we are implementing our international and EU commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea.

### Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan (1994)

Emerging from Rio was The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan) published in 1994. This produced lists of threatened and declining species and habitats (amended and updated in 2007) with targets and specific actions for protecting and enhancing their conservation status. The aim of the convention and the subsequent strategies was halting biodiversity loss by 2010.

### Climate Change: The UK Programme (2000)

The UK's Climate Change Programme was published in November 2000. It detailed how the UK plans to deliver its Kyoto target to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5%, and move towards its domestic goal to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. A review was launched in September 2004. The UK already has policies in place which are consistent with its responsibilities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to protect and enhance carbon sinks, such as forests. The Government is exploring ways of encouraging renewable energy generated from energy crops such as short rotation coppice and miscanthus, and from forest residues and wood fuel. Biomass from forests and woods can also be used as a substitute for fossil fuels. Energy generation from wood has no effect on the overall carbon dioxide balance, provided it comes from sustainably managed woods and forests.

### Climate Change Plan (Defra, 2010)

This Plan sets out how Defra will continue to deal with the challenges and opportunities of climate change. This includes adaptation – working in Whitehall, with partners in Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency, and through a range of policies and practical steps. It explains what Defra is doing to support the country's transition to a low-carbon economy, develop stronger scientific evidence, and develop better skills.

### The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 consolidate all the various amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 in respect of England and Wales. The 1994 Regulations transposed Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive) into national law and came into force on 30 October 1994. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. Under the Regulations, competent authorities i.e. any Minister, government department, public body, or person holding public office,

have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive. New provisions implement aspects of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the "Marine Act").

#### Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 amended the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, giving greater protection to SSSIs and included within Section 74, lists of habitats and species (taken from the UKBAP) as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

#### Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) regulations (2006)

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) regulations act to protect uncultivated land and semi-natural areas from being damaged by agricultural work, and to guard against possible negative environmental effects from the restructuring of rural land holdings.

##### *What types of work are covered by the regulations?*

The regulations cover two different types of project:

1. Projects on uncultivated land, or semi-natural areas that increase the productivity for agriculture.  
The types of work covered will include:
  - increasing levels of fertiliser or soil improvers
  - sowing seed
  - physically cultivating the soil (by ploughing, tine harrowing, rotovating etc)
  - draining land
  - clearing existing vegetation either physically or using herbicides.
2. Projects that physically restructure rural land holdings. This includes:
  - the addition or removal of field boundaries
  - re-contouring the land through addition, removal or redistribution of earth or other material.

#### Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations 1999

The Forestry Commission is responsible administering the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999.

These regulations affect four "forestry" projects. These are:

- Afforestation: Planting new woods and forests, includes direct seeding or natural regeneration, planting Christmas trees or short rotation coppice;
- Deforestation: Felling woodland to use the land for a different purpose;
- Forest roads: The formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways on land used (or to be used) for forestry purposes. This includes roads within a forest or leading to one; and
- Forestry quarries: Quarrying to obtain materials required for forest road works on land that is used or will be used for forestry purposes or on land held or occupied with that land.

#### The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999

EIA is a procedure that must be followed for certain types of development before they are granted development consent. The requirement for EIA comes from a European Directive (85/33/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC). The procedure requires the developer to compile an Environmental Statement (ES) describing the likely significant effects of the development on the environment and proposed mitigation measures. The ES must be circulated to statutory consultation bodies and made available to the public for comment. Its contents, together with any comments, must be taken into account by the competent authority (e.g. local planning authority) before it may grant consent.

#### Future Water (HMG, 2008)

Future Water is the Government's water strategy for England. It recognises healthy water resources are necessary for a high-quality natural environment. It states the government's vision for water policy and management is one where, by 2030 at the latest, we have improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology that it supports. It aims to achieve healthy rivers, lakes, estuaries, coasts and groundwaters that provide maximum resilience to climate change and sustain biodiversity.

#### Green Infrastructure: connected and multifunctional landscapes (Landscape Institute, 2009)

In recognition of the importance of GI, this Position Statement is designed to:

- explain the many benefits of GI and the policy objectives it can help achieve;
- demonstrate the critical role that landscape practitioners (landscape architects, managers and scientists) have to play in the development of GI;
- show how GI works.

The Landscape Institute calls for GI to be afforded the same priority as more conventional infrastructural components; a priority that the concept rightly deserves given its critical role in addressing a wide range of pressing environmental, social and economic challenges.

#### [Grey to Green: How we shift funding and skills to green our cities \(CABE, 2009\)](#)

Green infrastructure does not receive anything like the investment or management that goes into grey infrastructure. Grey to Green aims to fuel a debate about whether this is smart, given the dangers of climate change and the opportunities to improve public health. It also reveals the urgent need for more people, with the right skills, to manage the living landscape of our towns and cities. Grey to Green: how we shift funding and skills to green our cities provides fresh ideas and evidence, showing how we could design and manage places in radically different ways.

#### [Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact within the Planning System \(ODPM, 2005\)](#)

ODPM Circular 06/2005 (paragraph 91) makes specific reference to the conservation and enhancement of ancient semi-natural woodland and veteran trees: ‘veteran and other substantial trees and many types of woodland, especially ancient semi-natural woodland, can be of importance for biodiversity conservation. When considering whether particular trees or woodlands merit a TPO in the interests of amenity, local planning authorities should, where appropriate, include consideration of their nature conservation value.’ Furthermore, paragraph 90 states that ‘when granting planning permission for any development, local planning authorities are under a duty, where appropriate, to impose planning conditions to ensure adequate provision is made for the protection or planting of trees, and to make Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) as appear necessary in the circumstances.’

#### [Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty \(Defra, 2007\)](#)

This document provides guidance for Local Authorities and emphasises that all departments and functions of local authorities have a vital role to play in the conservation of biodiversity. In particular, the following aspects are highlighted as essential to integrate biodiversity into local authority services:

1. Fulfilling statutory obligations for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the forward planning and development control processes.
2. Incorporating the conservation of biodiversity and its benefits into relevant strategies of the local authority. These include Corporate Strategies, sustainable development strategies, procurement strategies, asset management plans, economic development plans and environmental management systems.
3. Having regard to biodiversity within partnership arrangements such as Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements.
4. Taking account of the links between biodiversity and other environmental programmes such as waste management, energy conservation and response to climate change.
5. Delivering the key principles for biodiversity set out in national planning guidance.
6. Participating in local biodiversity partnerships and helping to deliver objectives of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (and where appropriate UK Biodiversity Action Plans) within relevant local authority services.
7. Working in partnership with other organisations to promote beneficial land management for biodiversity.
8. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity on the local authority estate.
9. Identifying policy drivers and ensuring up-to-date biodiversity data is available to the local authority including support to Local Record Centres.
10. Identifying Local Sites of importance for biodiversity and managing systems, in partnership with others, to take these into account within the planning and land management processes.
11. Using the benefits of access to biodiversity in the delivery of services to the public such as social care, community development, health, and recreation.

12. Supporting appropriate access to nature and understanding of the natural world within schools, community engagement, education programmes and raising awareness of biodiversity to the public.

#### [Hedgerow Regulations \(1997\)](#)

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 gave statutory protection to most countryside hedgerows.

#### [Local Green Infrastructure \(Landscape Institute, 2011\)](#)

This publication aims to inspire people to make positive changes in their neighbourhoods by thinking about the potential offered by the natural environment and integrating this into the way places are planned, designed and managed. By finding ways to make local landscapes more productive and more useful, people can help achieve real benefits for themselves and their environment.

#### [Local Sites Guidance \(Defra, 2006\)](#)

Defra's Local Sites Guidance was produced in 2006 recognising the importance of Local Site Partnerships and the selection of robustly defendable locally important wildlife and geological sites.

#### [Making Space for Nature \(Lawton et al., 2010\)](#)

An independent review of England's wildlife sites, led by Professor Sir John Lawton, set up to look at our wildlife sites and whether they are capable of responding and adapting to the growing challenges of climate change and other demands on our land. Its key conclusions were that we need more, bigger, better and joined sites across England.

#### [Making Space for Water \(Defra, 2005\)](#)

Making Space for Water is a strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management which aims to contribute to sustainable development, combining the delivery of social and environmental benefits with the protection of economic assets. It aims to ensure an understanding of the future risks of river and coastal flooding is fully embedded into the spatial planning system, including planning for new settlements and other new developments and that consistent and holistic management of urban flood risk, with strategic planning, partnerships of responsible bodies and clear understanding of various flood risk responsibilities

#### [National Character Areas \(Natural England, 2005\)](#)

England has been divided into areas with similar landscape character, which are called National Character Areas (NCAs); previously known as Joint Character Areas (JCAs).

The Character of England Landscape, Wildlife and Cultural Features Map produced in 2005 by Natural England's with support from English Heritage, was an update to the 1996 map. This map subdivides England into 159 NCAs, it provides a picture of the differences in landscape character at the national scale.

A set of eight regional volumes were published describing the 159 NCAs. These character descriptions of each NCA highlight the influences which determine the character of the landscape, for example land cover and buildings and settlement; they can be downloaded from our website or ordered from our publications section. The NCAs are a widely recognised national spatial framework, used for a range of applications. NCAs form part of the data gathered for a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). LCAs provide more detailed descriptions at a local level within NCAs.

#### [National Planning Policy Framework \(draft, 2011\)](#)

The draft includes a new presumption in favour of sustainable development, which articulates the Government's priority of promoting economic growth and development. The Government recognises that long term economic growth relies on protecting and enhancing the environmental resources that underpin it, and paying due regard to social needs. The expectation is that development will be approved unless its adverse impacts would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits when assessed against the policies in the NPPF. Where the NPPF or local plan is silent, development should be approved. The draft omits some aspects of the various PPSs

which give cause for concern; local plans will need to have well-developed policies in order to ensure that important issues are not overlooked.

#### Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC Act) created Natural England. Under s.40 local authorities have a duty to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity in the exercise of all of their functions. Reference is made in s.41 to a list of habitats and species maintained by Defra which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity or priority species and habitats, these are the UK BAP habitats and species.

#### Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

From 1 January 2009, the areas covered by Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) were increased to approximately 70 per cent of England. This includes the 55 per cent originally designated in 2002. Guidance has been produced by Defra and the Environment Agency to help farmers in NVZs understand the requirements, and implement and comply with the new Action Programme measures.

#### No Charge? Valuing the Natural Environment (Natural England, 2009)

The debate about environmental policies still tends to be underpinned by a strong fear of the 'harm' that efforts to improve the natural environment can do to competitiveness and the economy. This Natural England publication dispels the notion of an inherent trade-off between nature on the one hand and future economic growth and prosperity on the other. In the current economic climate, restoring growth, financial stability and creating jobs are critical short-term goals; Natural England explain how this can be achieved in such a way as to prepare us for the future challenges that lie ahead.

#### Our Countryside: The Future (Defra, 2000)

Our Countryside: The Future - A Fair Deal for Rural England was produced in 2000 and sought to sustain and enhance the distinctive environment, economy and social fabric of the English countryside for the benefit of all. The report's principle themes were:

- Support vital village services
- Modernise rural services
- Provide affordable homes
- Deliver local transport solutions
  - Rejuvenate market towns and a thriving local economy
- Set a new direction for farming
- Preserve what makes rural England special
- Ensure everyone can enjoy an accessible countryside
- Give local power to country towns and villages
- Think rural.

It aimed to reduce development pressure through policies and by targeting development on brownfield sites; strengthen countryside management; develop a more holistic approach, taking account of all landscapes in national best practice guidance; and reverse the decline in farmland birds, restore threatened habitats, and increase funding to maintain biodiversity.

#### Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced statutory spatial planning through the production of Local Development Frameworks and, for the first time, incorporated sustainable development at the core of the planning process. This sustainability principle is backed up by Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1 'Sustainable Development and Planning.'

#### Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM, 2005)

Planning Policy Statement 1 sets out the Government's overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. Its states development plans should:

- ensure that sustainable development is pursued in an integrated manner; in line with the principles for sustainable development set out in the UK strategy.
- promote outcomes in which environmental, economic and social objectives are achieved together over time contribute to global sustainability by addressing the causes and potential impacts of climate change.

Planning policies should seek to protect and enhance the quality, character and amenity value of the countryside and urban areas as a whole. A high level of protection should be given to most valued townscapes and landscapes, wildlife habitats and natural resources.

[Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 \(ODPM, 2005\)](#)

This Planning Policy Statement (PPS) sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable

[Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth \(DCLG, 2009\)](#)

This sets out the Government's comprehensive policy framework for planning for sustainable economic development in urban and rural areas. One objective of the Statement is to raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas by promoting thriving, inclusive and locally distinctive rural communities whilst continuing to protect the open countryside for the benefit of all.

[Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment \(DCLG, 2010\)](#)

This document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment. The policies and principles set out in this statement also apply to the consideration of the historic environment in relation to the other heritage-related consent regimes for which planning authorities are responsible under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. This statement also covers heritage assets that are not designated but which are of heritage interest and are thus a material planning consideration. The historic environment within National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty is also the subject of general policies within PPS7.

[Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas \(ODPM, 2004\)](#)

The national planning policy framework provides considerable encouragement to Local Authorities involved in promoting initiatives such as the Forest of Arden. The Government's Objectives for rural areas are outlined in Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas and include raising 'the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through the promotion of good quality, sustainable development that respects and, where possible, enhances local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside.'

[Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation \(ODPM, 2005\)](#)

Planning Policy Statement 9 (ODPM 2005) on Biodiversity and Geological Conservation and the accompanying best practice guide lays out a set of principles that Local Authorities should follow to ensure that biodiversity and geological heritage are fully considered in the decision making process. The accompanying ODPM circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system gives guidance on how the legal provisions for site and species protection and local authority duties for nature conservation need to be taken into account.

[Planning Policy Statement 12: Creating strong safe and prosperous communities through Local Spatial Planning \(DCLG, 2008\)](#)

Spatial planning is a process of place shaping and delivery. Spatial planning provides a means of safeguarding the area's environmental assets, both for their intrinsic value and for their contribution to social and economic well being by:

- protection and enhancing designated sites, landscapes, habitats and protected species; and
- creating a positive framework for environmental enhancement more generally.

In terms of housing it orchestrates the necessary social, physical and green infrastructure to ensure sustainable communities are delivered.

[Planning Policy Guidance 17: Sport and Recreation \(ODPM, 2006\)](#)

This PPG describes the role of the planning system in assessing opportunities and needs for sport and recreation provision and safeguarding open space which has recreational value. The guidance observes that it is part of the function of the planning system to ensure that through the preparation of development plans adequate land and water resources are allocated for organised sport and informal recreation.

Local authorities must take into account the community's need for recreational space, having regard to current levels of provision and deficiencies and resisting pressures for development of open space which conflict with the wider public interest.

[Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk \(DCLG, 2010\)](#)

PPS 25 requires that new developments must demonstrate that they will not themselves flood and will not contribute to flood risk elsewhere.

[Securing Biodiversity \(Natural England, 2008\)](#)

Securing Biodiversity - A new framework for delivering priority habitats and species in England aims to halt, and then reverse biodiversity loss. It requires an integrated approach, with a renewed focus on delivery for whole ecosystems, and at a landscape scale. The framework retains and builds upon some of the strengths of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan process, including the target-based approach and strong partnerships. The framework is a renewed call to action and it emphasises the need for clearer accountabilities for delivery. It states that regional and local biodiversity partnerships are a critical component of the framework for delivery.

[Securing the Future- delivering UK sustainable development strategy \(HMG, 2005\)](#)

In 1994, the UK became the first country to publish a national sustainable development strategy: Sustainable Development, the UK Strategy, following the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. A revised strategy, A Better Quality of Life was published in 1999; whilst the current strategy, Securing the Future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy was published in 2005. The strategy has stronger international and societal dimensions building on the 1999 strategy. It develops five principles with a more explicit focus on environmental limits and agrees four priorities: sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection, and sustainable communities; in addition to a new indicator set, which is more outcome focused.

[Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England \(Defra, 2009\)](#)

The new Soil Strategy for England sets out a vision to improve the sustainable management of soil and tackle degradation within 20 years. It covers a range of sectors including agriculture, land management, planning and construction and provides a strategic framework for action that should facilitate Defra's work with delivery partners.

[Strong and Prosperous Communities \(DCLG, 2006\)](#)

A new Local Government Performance Framework for monitoring and regulating local government was set out in Chapter 6 of this White Paper. Key elements of the new framework include Local Strategic Partnerships, Local Area Agreements, National Indicators and Comprehensive Area Assessments. Solihull MBC has responded to this by the formation of the Solihull Strategic Partnership, the production of Solihull's Sustainable Community Strategy, adopting National Indicator 197 as part of a suite of Local Area Agreements and reporting on biodiversity as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment under Key Line of Enquiry (KLOE) 3.1: the Use of Resources (further details on these given in 2.1.3).

[The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature \(HMG, 2011\)](#)

The Natural Environment White Paper outlining the Government's vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years, which promises practical action to deliver that ambition.

[The UK Renewable Energy Strategy \(2009\)](#)

Renewable energy is the key to low-carbon energy future. The Government sees the need to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as diversify energy sources. The UK needs to increase the use of renewable electricity, heat and transport, and this Strategy explains how this will happen. The Strategy addresses CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, promotes the security of the UK's energy supply and the creation of up to half a million jobs in the renewable energy sector.

[UK National Ecosystem Assessment \(UNEP-WCMC, 2011\)](#)

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) is the first analysis of the UK's natural environment in terms of the benefits it provides to society and continuing economic prosperity. Part

of the Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) initiative, the UK NEA, which commenced in mid-2009, reported in June 2011.

#### [Urban green nation: Building the evidence base \(CABE, 2010\)](#)

Urban green nation: building the evidence base starts to fill the serious green information gap, by compiling and analysing data at a national level. The summary presents the main findings of the research and the full report contains more information about the data, sources and indicators used.

The report will be of interest to policymakers and decision makers in central and local government and anyone interested in understanding more about England's urban green spaces.

#### [Water for people and the environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales \(EA, 2009\)](#)

This strategy sets out how the Environment Agency believes water resources should be managed throughout England and Wales to 2050 and beyond to ensure that there will be enough water for people and the environment. With the growing pressures on water resources and the water environment, careful planning is essential to ensure there is sufficient water for society and the economy, as well as the environment. This document identifies the actions we believe are necessary, and in particular those that are needed to deal with the serious challenges of growth and climate change.

#### [Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC](#)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is designed to improve and integrate the way water bodies are managed throughout Europe. Member States must aim to reach good chemical and ecological status in inland and coastal waters by 2015. In the UK the Environment Agency must ensure that River Basin Management Plans are developed through consultation with stakeholders in each river basin district and that the measures in the plans are delivered. This requirement for integrated river basin planning and management will help deliver the necessary collaborative approach and achieve improved water quality. The WFD requires that all polluters of the water environment should pay, and that implementation of the directive is achieved in a fair and proportionate way across all sectors. The Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) is difficult to apply in practice, particularly in the case of agriculture where farmers' activities have both positive (producing necessary food) and negative (contributing to diffuse water pollution) effects.

#### [Waterways for Everyone \(2007\)](#)

This report aims to promote the waterways, encouraging a modern, integrated and sustainable approach to their use. This involves conserving the waterways, while at the same time maximising the opportunities they offer for leisure, recreation and cultural heritage, urban and rural regeneration, the natural environment, their contribution to Green Infrastructure, in mitigation / adaptation to climate change and for sustainable freight transport.

#### [Wildlife and Countryside Act \(1981\)](#)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 remains one of the most important pieces of wildlife legislation in Great Britain, and is divided into four parts.

- Part I is concerned with the protection of wildlife (prohibiting certain methods of killing or taking wild animals, amending the law relating to protection of certain mammals, restricting the introduction of certain animals and plants and amending the Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act 1976)
- Part II relates to the countryside and national parks and the designation of protected areas (amending the law relating to nature conservation, the countryside and National Parks)
- Part III covers public rights of way (amending the law relating to public rights of way)
- Part IV deals with miscellaneous provisions of the Act.

There have been various amendments to the text of the Act, most significantly through the [Countryside and Rights of Way \(CRoW\) Act 2000](#) (in England and Wales). It is also the means by which the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the 'Bern Convention') and the European Union Directives on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/FFC) are implemented in Great Britain.

#### [Working with the grain of nature: A biodiversity strategy for England \(Defra, 2002\)](#)

The Biodiversity Strategy for England aims to ensure that biodiversity considerations become embedded in all the main sectors of economic activity, public and private. It establishes the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems rather than against them. It takes account of climate change as one of the most important factors affecting biodiversity and influencing our policies. It also sets out a series of actions that will be taken by the Government and its partners to make biodiversity a fundamental consideration in agriculture, water, woodland, marine and coastal management and urban areas. Furthermore the Strategy looks at ways of engaging society as a whole in understanding the needs of biodiversity and what can be done by everyone to help conserve and enhance it.

## 1.2 Regional policy and strategy

### [Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change \(WMBP, 2008\)](#)

This advisory note explains why adaptation is an important issue for local authorities, and will become increasingly so, alongside the already urgent mitigation agenda. It provides a concise explanation of the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity. It sets out the drivers for action and includes a set of adaptation principles to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. It also highlights further resources to develop truly sustainable strategies to deal with biodiversity under the impacts of climate change.

### [Countryside Character – Volume 5: West Midlands, Character Area 97 Arden](#)

Solihull lies in the Arden character area, for which a character description is included in the Countryside Agency's 'Countryside Character – West Midlands Volume'. The region known as Arden is an area of former wood pasture and ancient farmlands lying on the eastern side of the Birmingham plateau. Traditionally regarded as the land between the river Tame and the river Avon in Warwickshire, Arden type landscapes also extend into north Worcestershire.

The key characteristics of the Arden countryside are:

- Well-wooded farmland 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.

### [Enhancing Biodiversity across the West Midlands \(WMBP, 2008\)](#)

The maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity is of fundamental importance because it is an integral part of sustainable development; an essential component of improving quality of life; critical to our future health and well being; important for economic development and regeneration; an expectation of government policy; and a statutory obligation. This regional guidance sets out to demonstrate, to local planning authorities, how Local Opportunity Mapping for biodiversity in the West Midlands will make a major contribution to achieving national and regional policy objectives and statutory requirements for enhancing biodiversity.

### [Green Infrastructure: A Prospectus for the West Midlands Region \(WMRA, 2007\)](#)

The Forestry Commission, on behalf of the Assembly's Regional Environment Partnership, commissioned the production of the West Midlands Green Infrastructure Prospectus and accompanying technical report. The prospectus is designed to inform regional, sub regional and local policy and practice, sets out the regional vision for green infrastructure and has the following five aims:

- To ensure politicians, policy developers and decision makers throughout the West Midlands are aware of the vital roles of Green Infrastructure.
- To advocate greater investment in, and improved management of, the Region's existing Green Infrastructure.
- To ensure Green Infrastructure is appreciated as an essential element of delivering sustainable communities, underpinning growth and regeneration.
- To promote a robust and systematic approach to Green Infrastructure assessment, planning and investment by local, sub regional and regional planning bodies.

- To 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.

#### [Growing our future: West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework Delivery Plan 2008-2011](#)

This delivery plan sets out detailed actions, targets and success indicators with regard to delivering Trees, Woods and Forestry to benefit those living in, working in and visiting the West Midlands.

#### [Landscapes for Living Project \(WMBP\)](#)

To support the West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Strategy second objective, the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership manages the Landscapes for Living Project (funded primarily by the West Midlands Wildlife Trusts). The project seeks to develop a 50-year vision, including a regional biodiversity map showing the areas containing where the region's most precious biodiversity resource is currently concentrated. Solihull lies in the Arden character area, for which a Character description is included in the Countryside Agency's 'Countryside Character – West Midlands Volume'. The predominant character of the Borough is Ancient Arden – an area of former wood pasture and heath, characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern, ancient woodlands and mature hedgerow oaks. It is these areas which will need to be expanded and linked to provide the kind of landscape scale approach which will benefit both people and wildlife.

#### [Putting the Historic Environment to Work: A Strategy for the West Midlands 2010-2015 \(English Heritage, 2010\)](#)

This strategy sets the overall direction for the historic environment sector in the region. It will be a tool, for planning, decision making, setting targets and actions, and will be implemented by many different partners, for the benefit of all throughout the region. The strategy will help guide the day to day activities of the organisations represented on the Historic Environment Forum.

#### [River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan \(EA, 2008\)](#)

The River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan provides a scientific approach to understand and describe how the catchment behaves and what the most sustainable flood risk management policies may be over the next 50 to 100 years. This understanding will be used to plan the most acceptable measures to manage flood risk for the long-term. Relevant policy units include 6 and 10.

Policy unit 6 covers Mid-Staffordshire and the Lower Tame. The overarching objective of Policy 6 is to keep water on the land for longer and to encourage areas which would naturally be wet, to become wet again. To achieve this at a meaningful scale, the EA states a wide range of measures and actions will be required over a significant length of time. The intention is to encourage land use change (i.e. changes in farming practice and increased areas of wetland), more sustainable river maintenance and management (i.e. river restoration) and development control, to create a landscape and river system that slows down the response to rainfall and does not allow widespread unmanaged and damaging flooding to occur.

Whilst policy unit 10 covers Birmingham and the Black Country, it is important to note that flood risk within Birmingham is complex and is the result of flooding from a wide range of sources, including the main river Tame, smaller tributaries which run through the city, surface water run-off, storm water drainage and sewer overflow. The CMFP suggests one key aspect of reducing flood risk within the city will be development control, and applying the 'making space for water' approach to urban growth and urban re-generation; working with professional partners to manage flood risk in a coordinated way, not just relying on flood defences.

#### [Securing biodiversity in the West Midlands: The West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2010 – 2015 \(WMBP, 2010\)](#)

The West Midlands Biodiversity Delivery Plan sets out the priorities for delivery within the region taking account of national priorities. It seeks to guide future delivery by all partners and to assist funding organisations on the regional priorities; focus on those habitats considered to be a priority for landscape scale enhancement; identify delivery issues and mechanisms and identify the landscapes scale projects particular those that require urgent action to meet the delivery gaps identified on an annual basis.

The WM Regional Biodiversity Delivery Plan outlines the regional biodiversity targets to 2015, which are a sub-set of the new revised targets to 2016 developed as part of the RSS review. The targets have been used to develop a list of regional priority habitats for landscape scale restoration. A 50 year 'Biodiversity Vision and Opportunity Map' describes the locations across the region that are considered the best opportunity to enhance biodiversity at a landscape scale over the next 50 years. These include 30 landscape areas, 7 Strategic River corridors, Urban Areas, 9 Growth Points. The delivery plan provides a robust framework for delivering biodiversity within the West Midlands region.

#### [Water for people and the environment: Water Resources Strategy, regional action plan Midlands region \(EA, 2009\)](#)

The EA published seven Regional action plans which show how the actions within the water resources strategy will be delivered at a regional level. Water resources in parts of the Midlands are already stressed and population growth and climate change will only stretch our resources further. By 2017 the population in the West Midlands will increase by about 5.7 per cent (306,000 people). We can no longer afford to take water for granted. This action plan shows how we intend to deal with these pressures in Midlands Region to ensure that there will be enough water for people and the environment.

#### [West Midlands Health and Well-Being Strategy \(WMRA, 2008\)](#)

The Strategy's aim is to reducing the health inequalities that exist in the West Midlands by 2020. There are eight main themes within the Strategy: 1.) Planning, Transport and Health, 2.) Housing and Health, 3.) Environment and Health, 4.) Economy, Skills and Health, 5.) Culture, Leisure and Health, 6.) Safer and Stronger Communities, 7.) Children, Young People and Families, and 8.) Later Life. These are key areas where most impact can be made on reducing the health inequalities. One of its important conclusions the Strategy is that decisions made by planning and housing bodies directly affect the health of the population.

Section 4: Environment and Health is particularly relevant to the Countryside Strategy and has the following points (amongst others):

- Promote the benefits of a diverse natural environment for physical and mental health and support the development of green infrastructure
- Increase the number of people using the countryside and green spaces, in particular to work to meet emerging standards for accessible local green space
- Tackle climate change and its impacts, by reducing emissions of global warming gases and promoting adaptation to climate change

#### [West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy: Connecting to Success \(Advantage WM, 2007\)](#)

Connecting to Success is described as the first low carbon RES, and includes sustainable communities and sustainable living amongst its strategic objectives. It recognises the need for the more efficient use of resources and changes to patterns of consumption and demand. It also recognises environmental technologies have potential for job and wealth creation, particularly in rural areas. Importantly, the WMES also acknowledges the links between poor environment and deprivation. Together with the latest version of the RSS, this will make up the new Regional Strategy as of April 2010.

#### [West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Strategy \(WMBP, 2005\)](#)

The West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Strategy published in 2005 outlines the following five key challenges for the region:

- Maintaining and improving the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems.
- Developing an area based approach to restoring wildlife.
- Monitoring the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems.
- Re-connecting and integrating action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity.
- Coping with the impacts of climate change.

#### [West Midlands Regional Climate Change Action Plan \(GOWM, 2007\)](#)

The West Midlands Regional Climate Change Action Plan sets out the actions that the regional organisations can take over the next three years to move towards a position where all regional policy addresses the causes and impacts of climate change as a central objective. The Action Plan contains 30 actions covering six regional climate change priorities:-

- Planning and environment
- Economy
- Implementation
- Leadership
- Communication
- Targets and monitoring

Delivery of the Action Plan is managed through the Climate Change Office, a body comprising representatives from five key regional partners - the Government Office for the West Midlands, Advantage West Midlands, the West Midlands Regional Assembly, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The delivery of the Action Plan is overseen by a Climate Change Panel comprising Chief Executives and Directors of the five key partner organisations, who report to the Regional Minister.

### **1.3 Local policy and strategy**

#### An Economic Development Strategy for Solihull 2008-2011

The Economic Development Strategy provides a framework for partners from all sectors – public, private, voluntary and community - to respond to the economic challenges facing Solihull. The Strategy will contribute to the delivery of the vision of the 'Sustainable Community Strategy'; in particular providing a framework for:

- ensuring the competitiveness of Solihull and its businesses in the global economy;
- widening economic opportunity to all of Solihull's residents; and
- ensuring sustainable forms of economic activity (production and consumption) which reduce carbon emissions.

#### Biodiversity and Geological Conservation Validation Checklist (adopted as SPG, 2008)

Solihull's Biodiversity and Geological Conservation Validation Checklist provides landowners and planners details of the types of applications that require ecological surveys before a decision can be made in addition to the time of year to undertake the survey. This tool will ensure that applications are not validated if information on biodiversity impacts are missing, ensure that landowners are aware of and adhere to relevant wildlife legislation, in addition to reducing planning administration costs.

#### Climate Change Strategy (2009)

To meet the challenge that climate change presents, Solihull council must reduce its carbon footprint and increase its adaptive capacity, in addition to communicating the risks, benefits and opportunities presented by climate change and the benefits of taking action and lead action. In terms of biodiversity impacts, the council needs to ensure good habitat connectivity exists throughout the borough and that areas do not become isolated or fragmented. This will ensure that our native flora and fauna can adapt to climate change by physically moving. Adjustments to the management of parks, roadside green spaces and gardens may need to be made to ensure the survival of plants sensitive to higher temperature and wetter winter conditions. In addition the council will need to monitor and control the introduction or spread of non-native flora and fauna that take advantage of the changed conditions.

#### Cycling Strategy

Cycling is an important means of sustainable transport and cycling is an excellent way of accessing and enjoying the countryside of Solihull. The purpose of the Solihull Cycling Strategy is to:

- Co-ordinate all policies and programmes of action which assist in promoting cycling as an attractive, safe and sustainable form of transport for all standards of cyclist;
- Identify the objectives, targets and mechanisms to be adopted by the Council in its attempt to further promote cycling;
- Deal with all aspects of catering for, and encouraging utility and leisure cycling;
- Address safety issues and those factors that discourage cycling; and
- Describe the potential for, and means by which, cycling can contribute to meeting overall Local Transport Objectives within the West Midlands.

#### Economic Development Strategy (2008 – 2011)

The Economic Development Strategy provides a framework for partners from all sectors – public, private, voluntary and community - to respond to the economic challenges facing Solihull. In particular, the Strategy provides a framework for:

- ensuring the competitiveness of Solihull and its businesses in the global economy;
- widening economic opportunity to all of Solihull's residents; and
- ensuring sustainable forms of economic activity (production and consumption) which reduce carbon emissions.

The Strategy has six headline priorities identified which are key to the sustainable economic development of Solihull and ensuring sustainable communities in Solihull:

1. To close the gap of inequality facing some of Solihull's residents – particularly residents of the 'North Solihull' wards of Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst and Fordbridge and Smith's Wood;
2. To ensure Solihull's continued competitiveness as an investment location – including by
3. safeguarding key assets including high quality employment sites and business premises, a
4. highly qualified workforce and quality of life assets;
5. To ensure the continued success of Solihull's strategic economic assets: Birmingham
6. International Airport, the NEC, Land Rover, Birmingham and Blythe Valley Business Parks and Solihull Town Centre;
7. To develop local enterprise and ensure the competitiveness of Solihull businesses in a global market place;
8. To ensure a skilled, qualified and entrepreneurial workforce; and
9. To promote environmentally sustainable forms of economic activity (production and consumption) which reduce carbon emissions.

#### Green Spaces Strategy (2006)

The Solihull Green Spaces Strategy aims to encompass both space for people and for wildlife, taking into account the landscape and local character of different parts of Solihull. It developed proposals to reflect the many functions of the 6 zones identified. This was supported by a green infrastructure plan and put forward some local standards in addition to action and implementation plans.

#### Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA)

The PPS9 Key Principles state that planning decisions should be based on up-to-date information on biodiversity and geological resources. The Council is a partner in the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) which has surveyed all the natural habitats in the area and continues to update the information on a rolling programme. The habitat data will be used as a sustainability indicator and will enable more accurate assessment of the consequences of proposed development.

#### Housing Strategy (2010 – 2011)

Solihull's Housing Strategy provides the overall framework for housing activity and investment by the Council and its partner organisations. It is concerned with housing in all tenures and links to more detailed strategies on specific segments of the market, such as council housing and supported housing, the details of which are dealt with in other documents.

The Strategy helps implement the objectives of Solihull's Community Strategy 2008-2018 One Borough: an equal chance for all' and contributes to the corporate Council Plan 2009-2012 and to regional and sub-regional strategies on housing and regeneration. It is informed also by national housing policy, particularly on sustainable communities.

#### Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2004 – 2029

Solihull Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy sets out a strategic framework for the management of municipal waste. As a unitary Authority, Solihull Council has a statutory duty for both the collection and disposal of household waste arisings together with associated waste management and recycling targets.

Solihull's Municipal Waste Management Strategy sets out the following:

- The Council's objectives and standards for service.
- Policies and plans on how to achieve objectives and standards.
- Framework for monitoring and evaluating progress.
- Communication plans with Government, key stakeholders, partners and the wider community.

### Nature Conservation Strategy: First Review (2010)

The Council has a Nature Conservation Strategy (2010); its vision is “A solihull that enjoys a high quality environment for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Where biodiversity and geodiversity play an active role in place-making and economic activity, creating robust, self-sustaining, biodiversity rich landscapes which provide a range of ecosystem services, resilient to climate change.” It sets out how the Council will achieve this,

### North Solihull Strategic Framework (adopted as SPG, 2005)

The Strategic Framework sets out a vision and regeneration objectives for North Solihull and a comprehensive plan for development and change with in the wards of Smith’s Wood, Kingshurst and Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood and contains a population of approximately 38,700 people. The Regeneration Area is based on the ‘East Birmingham and North Solihull Regeneration Zone as defined in planning guidance and the Regional Economic Strategy (2007).

### Place Making in North Solihull: Design Code (Regenerating North Solihull, 2007)

The design code is a document that provides guidance to developers and planners on the future development in North Solihull. The code adds to the information contained in the Strategic Framework adopted as SPG, 2005.

### Play Strategy (2006)

During consultations with children, young people and families as part of the Local Preventative Strategy, the lack of “somewhere safe to go and something to do” was a consistent theme. Societal changes have meant that many children have less access to play and recreational opportunities than ever before, yet evidence shows that quality play experiences are vital to a child’s development. Locally, need was expressed for access to the widest possible range of play opportunities in order to build confidence, raise self-esteem and develop new skills.

There are a number of benefits identified for Solihull in having a written Play Policy and Strategy, to:

- Ensure that quality play opportunities are viewed as a right for all children and young people and regarded as an essential part of healthy development.
- Raise the profile of play in Solihull.
- Acknowledge that all partners at a strategic level value play.
- Be a useful document to link current strategies and services in a common framework.
- Help map current provision, and the range of agencies involved, but also identify gaps.

### Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 – 2012

As part of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act local authorities (LAs) have a duty to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Plan sets out the Council’s plans for improving the network of public footpaths, bridleways and byways, in order to make the countryside more accessible for everyone. The Plan contains an action plan based on 7 themes: – signage, network maintenance, promotion and information availability, practical access, creating network links, road crossings and records.

### **Single Data List 160-00**

Solihull Council adopted National Local Government Performance Indicator 197 (NI 197): Improved Local Biodiversity. The indicator measures the proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented. It aims conservation at the local level. Therefore Local Authorities have a key role to play in conserving biodiversity. This is now known as Single Data List 160-00.

### Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Halcrow, 2008)

Solihull’s Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was produced in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS 25) to enable the Council to effectively manage flood risk through each stage of the spatial planning process.

### Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)

Solihull’s Sustainable Community Strategy (2008) “One Borough: an equal chance for all” has a theme entitled ‘A Place to Be’ with the priority ‘Living within our means – natural resources.’ This includes the following outcome ‘Ensure that all new development, and existing activities, where

appropriate, include measures to conserve and enhance natural resources (soil, air, water and light); manage flood risk, reduce congestion, protect, link and enhance biodiversity and reduce consumption and waste.'

Supporting people is key to this strategy, which aims to enhance our quality for life through actions to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the Borough.

#### [Unitary Development Plan \(2006\)](#)

Solihull's UDP was published in March 2006. There are nine major policy areas which are all relevant to the countryside and this strategy to varying degrees. The areas of policy are: Housing; Employment and prosperity; Transport; Environment; Countryside; Retailing and centres; Sport, Recreation, Leisure and the Arts; Waste Management; and Minerals.

#### [Urban Forestry Strategy \(2004\)](#)

Solihull's Urban Forestry Strategy (2004) concentrates on the protection of the Borough's treescape. In addition the Council owns and manages 26 native woodlands, a number of which are ancient semi-natural woodland (PPS 9 directs Local Planning Authorities to have policies to protect Ancient woodland and veteran trees).

#### [Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

The Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan outlines how landowners, land-managers and policy makers will protect the characteristic wildlife and landscapes of our sub-region. The plan contains 26 Species Action Plans for our threatened plants and animals. There are 24 Habitat Action Plans including traditional orchards, woodlands, and wood-pasture, old parkland and veteran trees.

#### [Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project \(English Heritage, 2009\)](#)

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is a GIS-based archaeological method for defining the historic and archaeological dimension of the present-day landscape. It can explain how and why the landscape looks as it does, identify landscape's 'time-depth' and facilitate sustainable management. The Historic Landscape Characterisation programme initiated by English Heritage and run in partnership with County Council Sites and Monuments Records provides a framework for broadening our understanding of the whole landscape and contributes to decisions affecting tomorrow's landscape.

#### [Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines – Arden \(1993\)](#)

Landscape Guidelines for Arden have been produced by Warwickshire County Council and the Countryside Agency and are adopted by the Council.

The 'Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines: Arden' provides a comprehensive landscape assessment, dividing Arden into seven distinct landscape types, and sets out a series of management strategies and landscape guidelines to guide new development and land management practices.

This document provides a detailed landscape character assessment for Solihull, showing on a map the different sub-areas, such as the 'Arden Parklands' area around Hampton-in-Arden, the 'Ancient Arden' landscapes around Meriden, and the 'Wooded Estatelands' around Dorridge. The document provides specific landscape policy guidance for each part of the Arden landscape, and these have in turn become incorporated into LDF policies and other strategies and plans of Solihull.

#### **[Warwickshire Local Geodiversity Action Plan \(draft\)](#)**

The Local Geodiversity Action Plans (LGAP) set out actions to conserve and enhance the geodiversity of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. They aim to:

- identify and audit the geodiversity resource
- conserve and manage Warwickshire's geodiversity
- protect Warwickshire's geodiversity through the planning system
- research Warwickshire's geodiversity
- increase awareness of Warwickshire's geodiversity with reference to professional bodies, conservation practitioners, landowners, the education sector, and the general public

Woodland Strategy (First Review 2010)

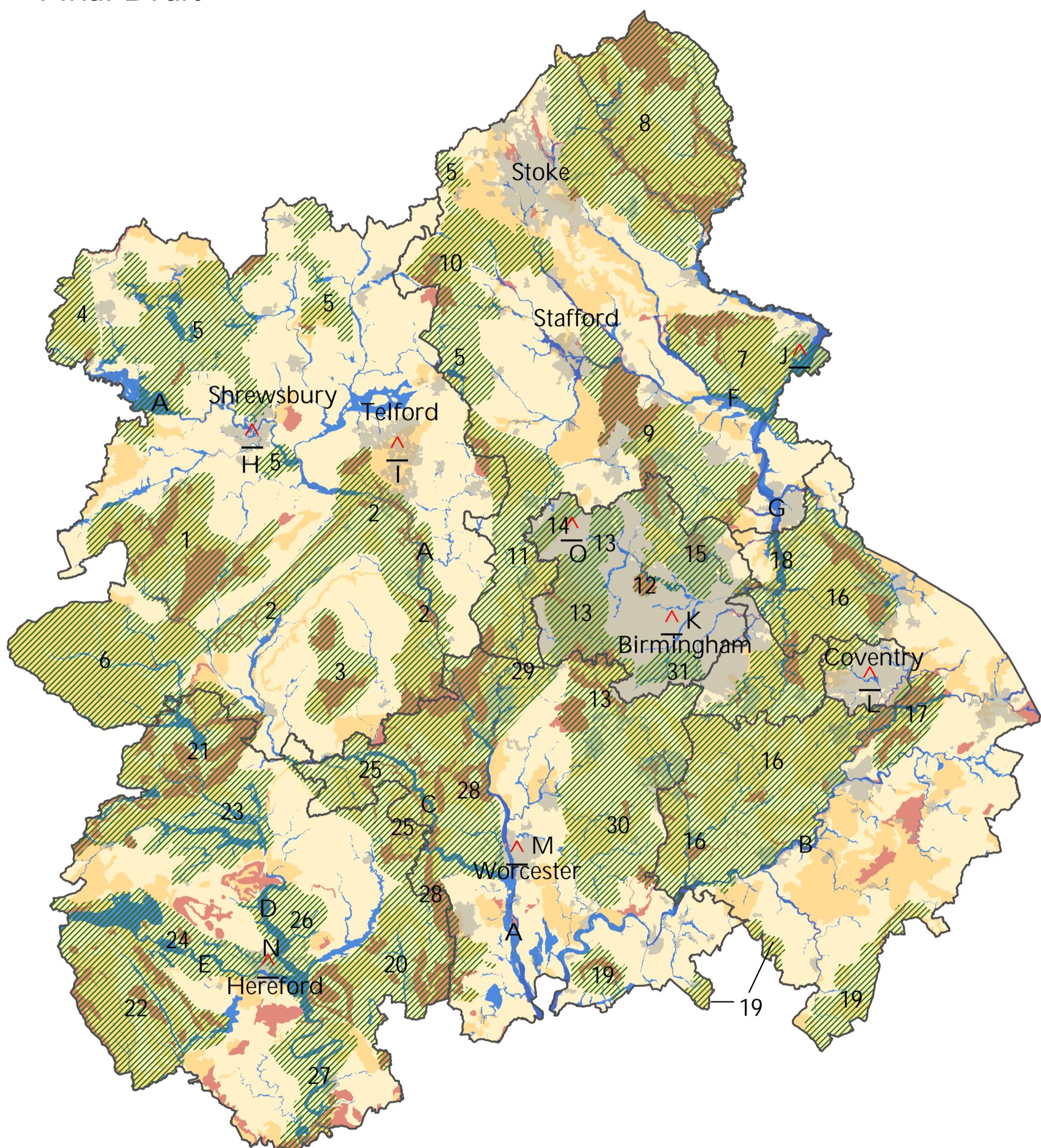
The Council has adopted a Woodland Strategy (First Review) which has the overall aim of protecting, managing and enhancing Solihull's woodlands for the benefit of Solihull residents, recreation, nature conservation and visual amenity.

**Appendix 2:**

**Natural England (2008) West Midlands 50 Year Biodiversity Vision & Opportunity Map**

# West Midlands 50 Year Biodiversity Vision & Opportunity

*Final Draft*



Scale 1:530,000

Map Produced by Sarah Hammonds  
Natural England  
GI Unit Wolverhampton  
24th November 2008

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Natural England 100046223 2008.

# West Midlands 50 Year Biodiversity Vision & Opportunity

## Legend:



Areas considered to have the best opportunity to enhance biodiversity at a landscape scale over the next 50 years.

Regional Biodiversity Opportunity Areas also include urban areas, growth points and Strategic River Corridors.

Shropshire:

1 Shropshire Hills North

2 Wyre - Wenlock Edge

3 Clee Hills

4 Oswestry Uplands

5 Meres & Mosses

6 Clun

Staffordshire:

7 Needwood

8 Moorlands

9 Cannock Chase & Sutton Park

10 Sandstone Woods & Heaths

11 South Staffordshire

Birmingham & Black Country:

12 Sandwell Valley

13 Black Country Core

14 Smestow Valley

15 Plantsbrook Catchment

31 South Birmingham

Warkwickshire:

16 Arden

17 Princethorpe Woodlands

18 Tame Valley

19 Cotswolds

Herefordshire:

20 Woolhope/Malvern Link

21 Mortimer Forest

22 Golden Valley/Black Mountains

23 Upper Lugg

24 Hay to Hereford

25 Teme Valley

26 Lower Lugg

27 Wye Valley

Worcestershire:

28 Malvern Hills to Wyre Forest

29 Worcestershire Sandlands

30 Forest of Feckenham

Strategic River Corridors - These include all the major named rivers, their tributaries & floodplains. These contain important wetland habitats, connect rural and urban landscapes and are important for supporting biodiversity and ecosystem services.

A Severn

B Avon

C Teme

D Lugg & Arrow

E Wye

F Trent

G Tame & Bythe

Major Urban Area - Cities and towns include valuable biodiversity habitats and features and play a vital role in providing greenspace for urban dwellers.

Growth Points

H Shrewsbury & Atcham

I Telford

J East Staffordshire

K Birmingham & Solihull

L Coventry

M Worcester

N Herefordshire

O Black Country/Sandwell

Basemap

Zone 1 - Large inter-connected landscapes, rich in biodiversity and providing life-supporting ecological networks.

Zone 2 - Extensive areas of habitat linking and buffering other areas and supporting multiple needs.

Zone 3 - Generally smaller, more isolated areas of habitat, often in highly modified landscapes, supporting mixed uses and providing ecosystem services.

The zones on the map give an indication of the distribution of habitat rich landscapes across the region.

N.B - Birmingham & Black Country have a separate biodiversity map

The zones on the map are derived from the Landscapes for Living Biodiversity Map 2007. A Prospectus and further information on the Landscapes for Living Project can be obtained from the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership web site at: [www.wmbp.org.uk](http://www.wmbp.org.uk)

LBAP (Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership Boundaries)



Map Produced by Sarah Hammonds  
Natural England  
GI Unit Wolverhampton  
24th November 2008

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Natural England 100046223 2008

**Appendix 3:**

**Natural England (2010) West Midlands Priority Landscape Scale Projects**

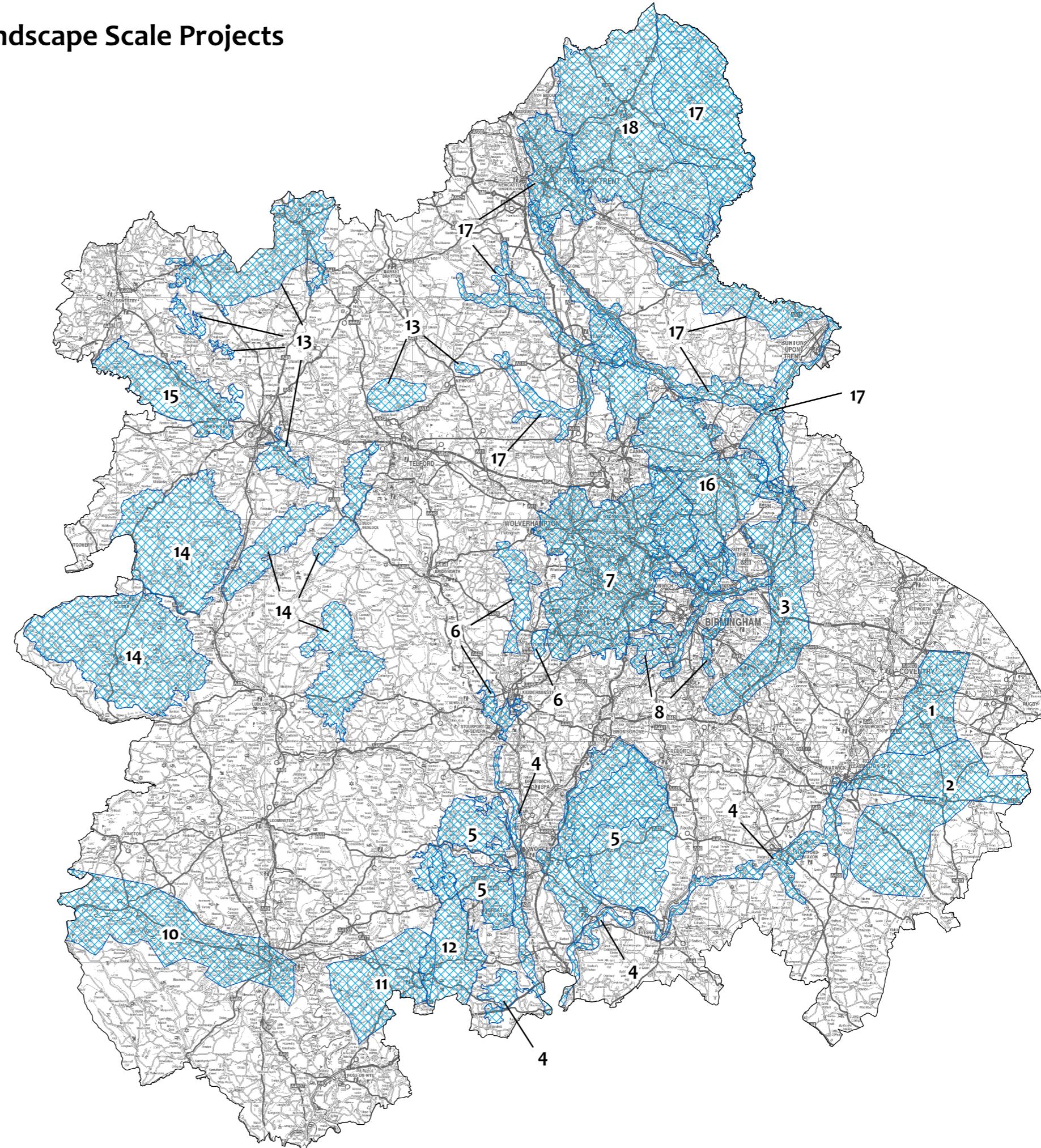
## Legend

Priority Landscape Scale Projects

### Priority Landscape Scale Projects:

- 01 - Princethorpe Woodlands
- 02 - Lias Grasslands
- 03 - Tame, Cole & Blythe Rivers
- 04 - Severn & Avon Vales & Longdon Marsh
- 05 - Pastoral Landscapes Within Malvern Chase, Bow Brook & Forest of Feckenham
- 06 - Wyre Forest/Kidderminster Heathlands & Acidic Grasslands
- 07 - Black Country Living Landscapes
- 08 - Birmingham Waterways
- 09 - Brownfields Sites - boundaries yet to be defined
- 10 - Hay to Hereford
- 11 - Woolhope Dome to Malvern Hills
- 12 - Orchard & Grassland Sites Within Malvern Hills AONB
- 13 - Meres & Mosses
- 14 - Shropshire Hills AONB
- 15 - Severn River Corridor
- 16 - Cannock Chase to Sutton Park BEA
- 17 - Staffordshire Washlands
- 18 - Staffordshire Moorlands BEA

## Priority Landscape Scale Projects



Scale 1:580,000

Map Produced by Sarah Hammonds  
Natural England  
GI Unit Telford  
23rd March 2010

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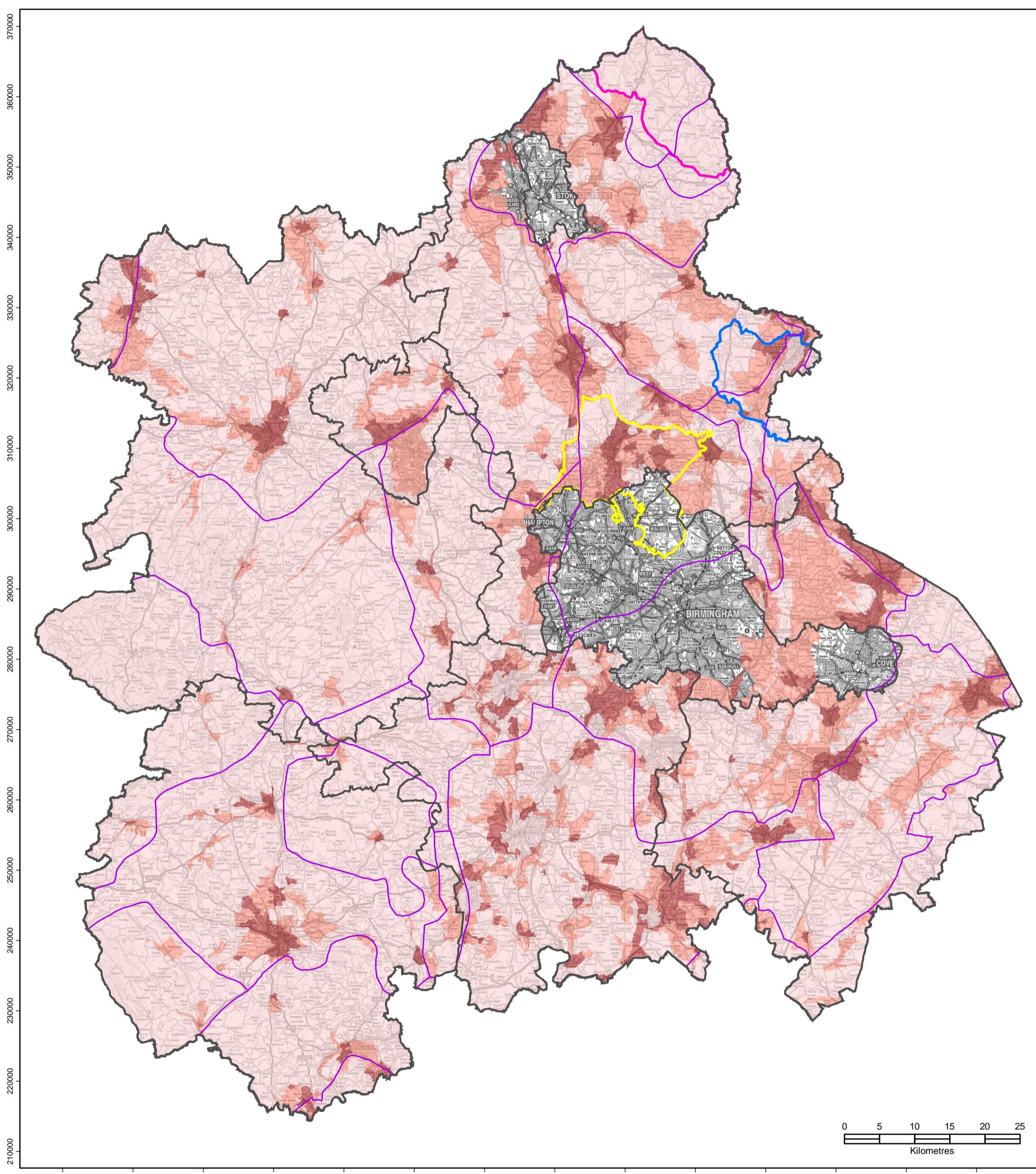
## **Appendix 4:**

### **Forestry Commission (2007) Woodland Opportunities Maps**

**Access to woodland  
Ancient woodland landscapes and restoration areas  
Biodiversity  
Cultural Heritage  
Landscape  
Priority**

**User Guide  
Decision rules**

# Woodland Opportunities Map: Access to woodland Classification based on Woodland Trust Space4People data

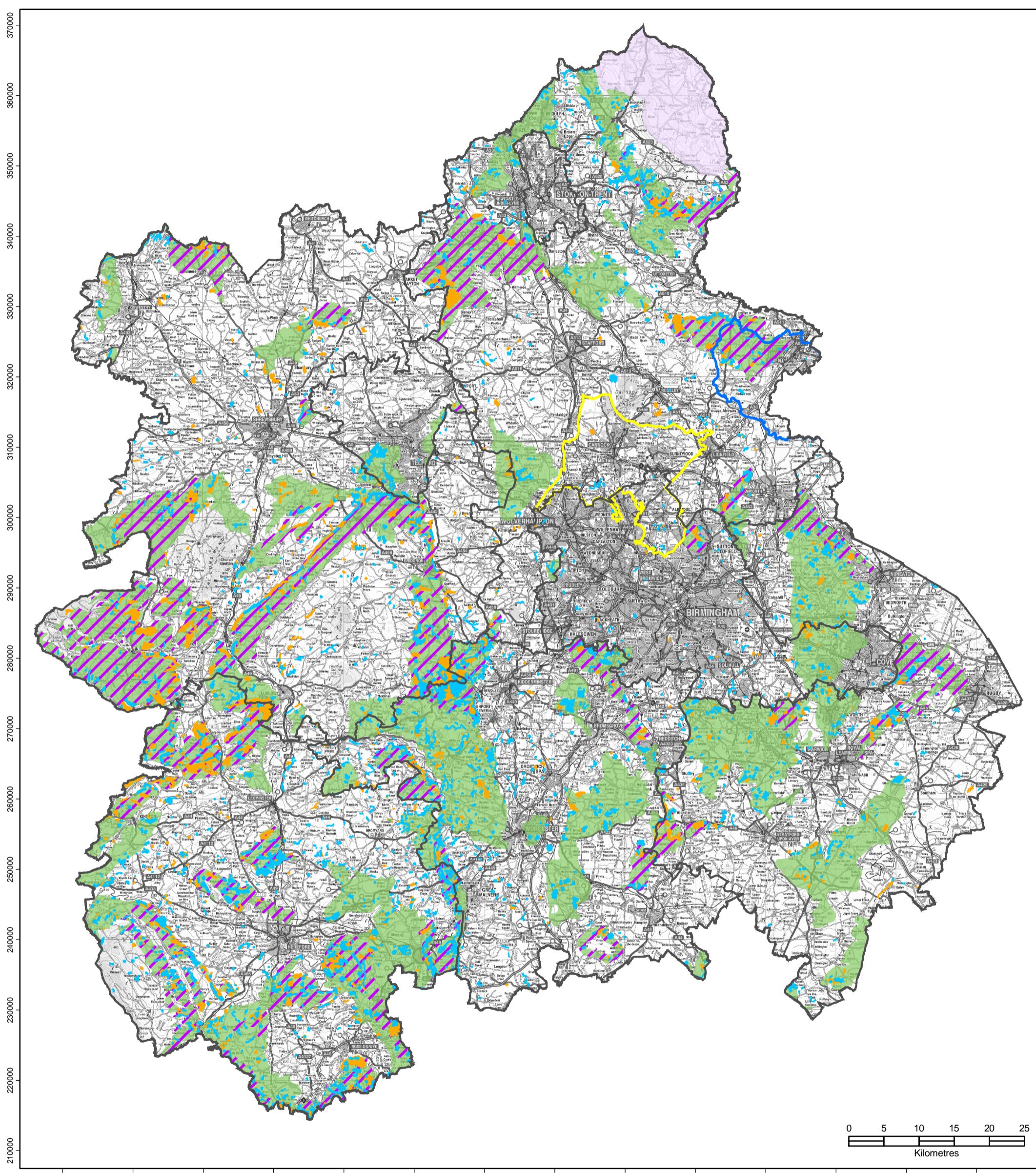


- Neutral
- Preferred
- Most preferred

- Joint Character Areas (Natural England) - broad landscape descriptions
- Peak Park (administered by East Midlands Conservancy)
- Access not calculated for areas of conurbation

- Access overall is a priority. Contact the National Forest Company - 01283 551211
- Forest of Mercia - Forest Plan area Contact 01543 370737

# Woodland Opportunities Map: Ancient woodland landscapes and restoration areas



Ancient semi-natural woodland

"Ancient woodland landscapes"  
(AW = 3% of land cover)

National Forest Strategy Area  
Contact 01283 551211

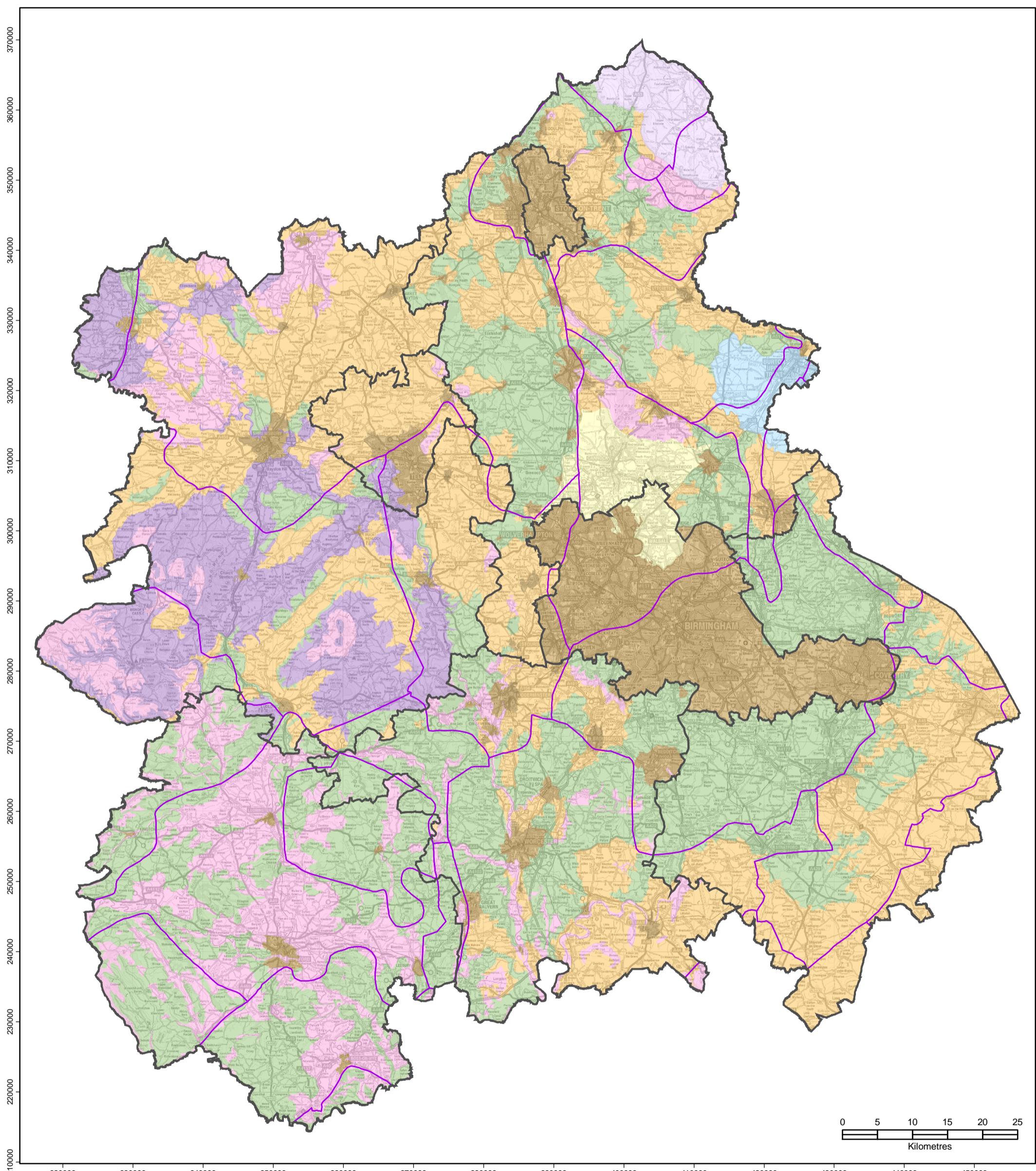
Plantation on ancient woodland sites

"Ancient woodland restoration areas"  
(PAWS = 3% of land cover)

Forest of Mercia - Forest Plan area  
Contact 01543 370737

Peak Park (administered by  
East Midlands Conservancy)

# Woodland Opportunities Map: Biodiversity Classification based on approach agreed with local stakeholders

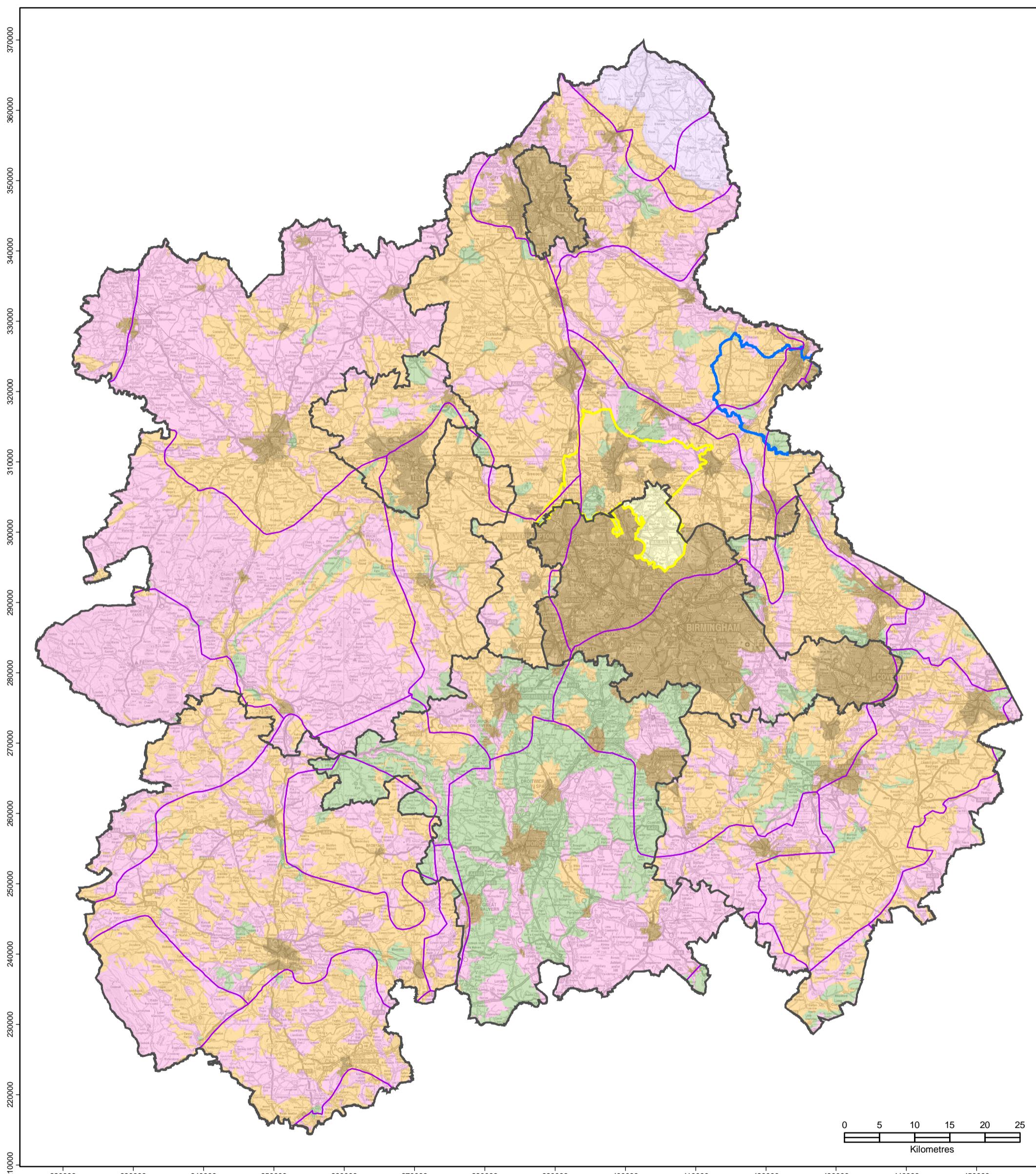


Sensitive  
Complex  
Neutral  
Preferred

Joint Character Areas (Natural England) -  
broad landscape descriptions  
Peak Park (administered by  
East Midlands Conservancy)  
Urban areas - use existing and new  
trees and woodlands to reinforce  
Green Infrastructure and improve  
the physical environment

Detailed constraints are held by the  
National Forest Company  
Contact 01283 551211  
Forest of Mercia - Forest Plan area  
Contact 01543 370737

# Woodland Opportunities Map: Cultural Heritage Classification based on approach agreed with local stakeholders



Sensitive

Neutral

Preferred

Joint Character Areas (Natural England) -  
broad landscape descriptions

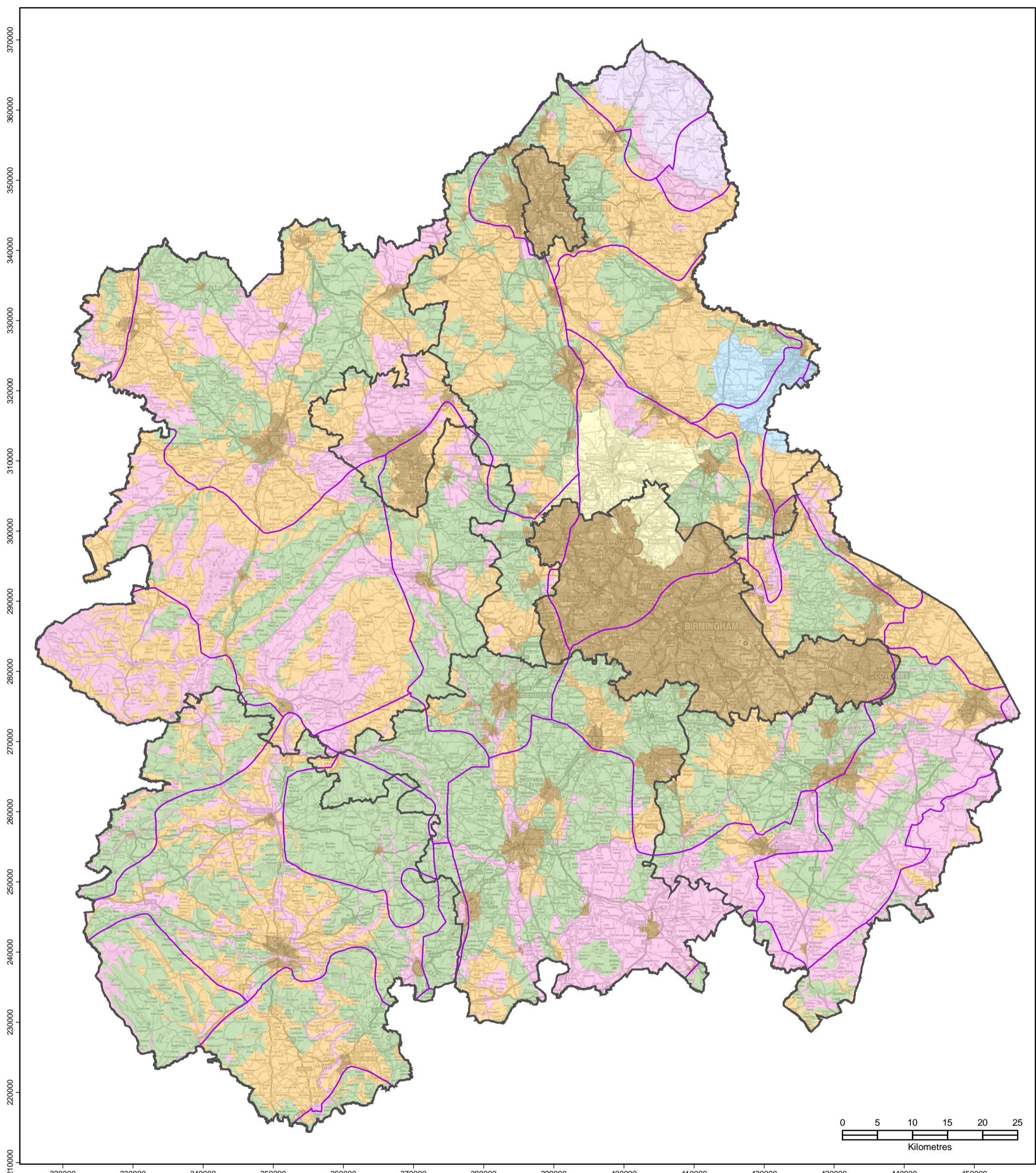
Peak Park (administered by  
East Midlands Conservancy)

Urban areas - use existing and new  
trees and woodlands to reinforce  
Green Infrastructure and improve  
the physical environment

National Forest Strategy Area  
Contact 01283 551211

Forest of Mercia - Forest Plan area  
Contact 01543 370737

# Woodland Opportunities Map: Landscape Classification based on information supplied and agreed by local authorities



Sensitive  
Neutral  
Preferred

Joint Character Areas (Natural England) -  
broad landscape descriptions  
Peak Park (administered by  
East Midlands Conservancy)

Urban areas - use existing and new  
trees and woodlands to reinforce  
Green Infrastructure and improve  
the physical environment

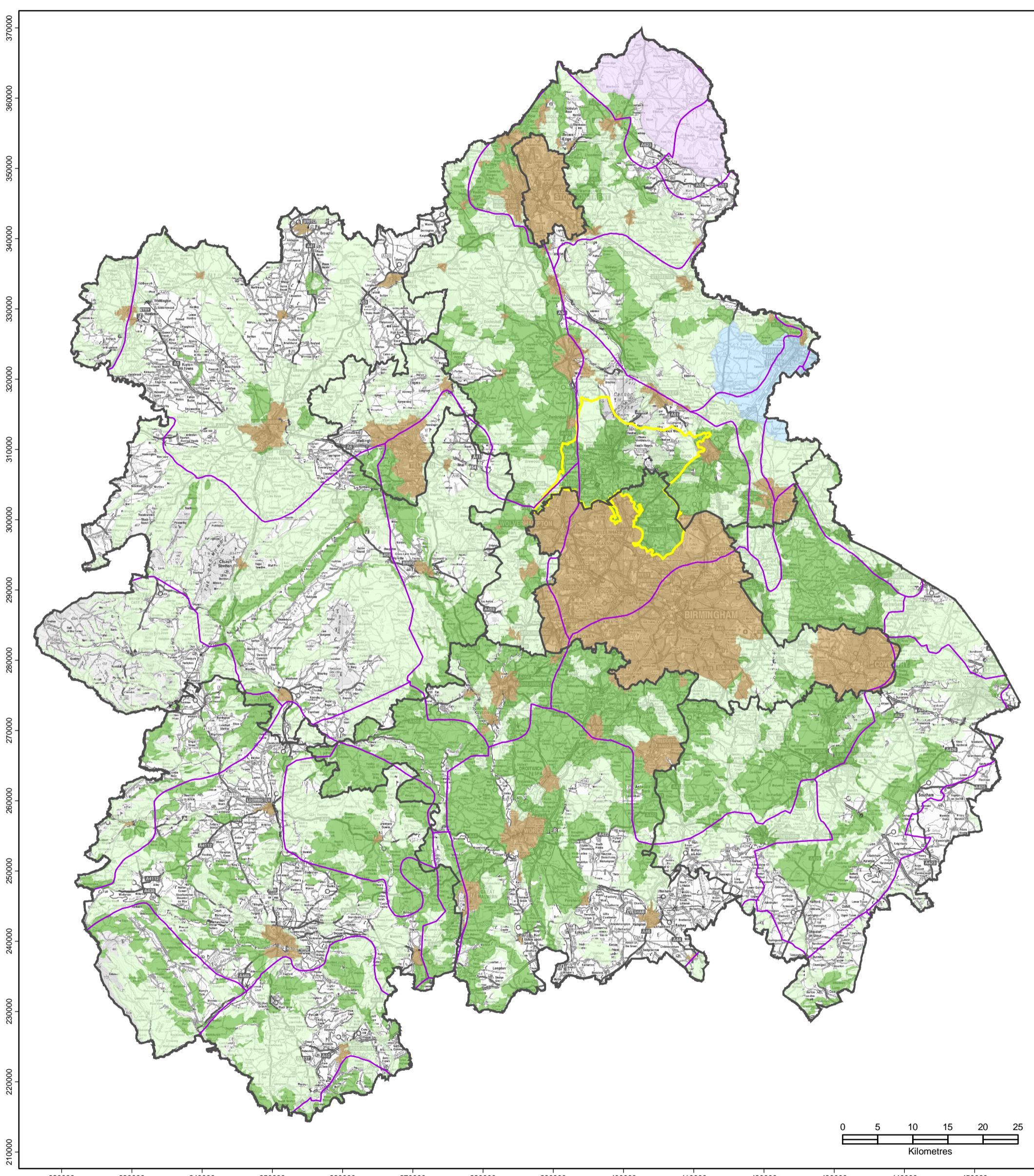


Detailed landscape sensitivity mapping/  
planting opportunities are held by the  
National Forest Company - 01283 551211



Forest of Mercia - Forest Plan area  
Contact 01543 370737

# Woodland Opportunities Map: Priority for woodland planting based on data from themes: landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage and access



Priority 1

Priority 2

Joint Character Areas (Natural England) -  
broad landscape descriptions

Peak Park (administered by  
East Midlands Conservancy)

Urban areas - use existing and new  
trees and woodlands to reinforce  
Green Infrastructure and improve  
the physical environment

Overall Priority Area. For priority 1 and 2,  
contact the National Forest Company -  
01283 551211

Forest of Mercia - Forest Plan area  
Contact 01543 370737

## Guidance notes for Woodland Opportunities Map (WOM) version 2

### Why was a map produced?

The Regional Forestry Framework (RFF) for the West Midlands was launched in October 2004 ([www.growingourfuture.org](http://www.growingourfuture.org)). A key output was the production of a Woodland Opportunities Map (WOM). Version 1 (March 06) is now succeeded by version 2 (March 07).

### What does the WOM aim to do?

The WOM builds on existing codes of practice such as the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS-  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/publications](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications)) or England Woodland Grant Scheme conditions (eWGS-  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6dcen](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6dcen)) etc and aims to:

- Assist landowners and managers in making decisions about how their proposals fit into the wider regional aspirations of the RFF
- Save time spent developing possibly inappropriate proposals and indicate where further information and advice may be needed
- Help focus activity on areas of maximum public benefit in creating and managing woodlands in the region
- Assist the FC and other funding bodies regionally in making decisions about proposals to create and manage woodlands (via future regional scoring)

### Will there be only one map?

Version 2 comprises 6 maps: 2 priority maps and 4 theme maps. The priority maps are:

- woodland creation (based on the theme maps, **supercedes** the composite map)
- ancient woodland (AW) landscapes and restoration areas (based on AW Inventory)

The four theme maps, updated from version 1 are:

- Landscape (based on that produced by the West Midlands Living Landscapes Group)
- Biodiversity (produced at county level with input from a variety of local stakeholders)
- Cultural Heritage (produced by Local Authority Archaeologists, linked to county Historic Landscape Characterisations)
- Access (based on data from the Woodland Trust/FC Space for People project - [www.woodland-trust.org.uk/woodsforpeople/finalreport/finalreport.htm](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/woodsforpeople/finalreport/finalreport.htm) & CROW Open Access land)

### What do the maps show?

The priority maps for creation and management indicate broad brush regional priorities and are likely to be linked to regional scoring for EWGS:

| Priority map      | Priority description                | Comments   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Woodland Creation | Priority 1 (dark green)             | Highest priority for creation  |
|                   | Priority 2 (light green)            | Priority for creation  |
|                   | Low priority (no colour)            | Low priority for creation  |
| Ancient Woodland  | AW Landscapes (green)               | Regional concentrations of ASNW & PAWS greater or equal to 3% woodland cover where maintenance/ expansion highest priority |
|                   | AW Restoration Areas (purple hatch) | Regional concentrations of PAWS greater or equal to 3% woodland cover where restoration highest priority                   |

The 4 theme maps indicate the broad opportunities for woodland creation, compared to broad sensitivities **at a landscape scale** (ie broad brush, not site specific and with no hard boundaries). Combined they form the basis of the creation priority map and are outlined in the following table:

| <b>Map</b>        | <b>Preferred</b>   | <b>Neutral</b>  | <b>Sensitive</b>  |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| Landscape         | Woodland creation will generally reinforce landscape character and is encouraged                               | Woodland creation could generally reinforce character, but there may be sensitivities | Woodland creation will <b>not</b> generally reinforce landscape character and could harm it |
| Biodiversity      | Woodland creation will generally benefit biodiversity and is encouraged  | Woodland creation could generally benefit biodiversity but there may be sensitivities | Woodland creation will generally <b>not</b> benefit biodiversity and could harm it          |
| Cultural heritage | Woodland creation is likely to have minimal impact on historic features/landscapes but sensitivities may exist | Woodland creation could be accommodated, but sensitivities exist                      | Woodland creation will generally <b>not</b> fit with cultural heritage and could harm it    |
|                   | <b>Most preferred</b>  | <b>Preferred</b>  | <b>Neutral</b>  |
| Access            | There is generally a lack of woodland access and CROW open access land. Woodland for access is encouraged      | There is limited woodland access and/or CROW open access land                         | There is already some woodland access and/or CROW open access land                          |

NOTE these descriptions are generic so being in any area does not avoid the need for assessment of the individual site characteristics. Decision rules for the maps are available. All maps based on landscape units derived from local Landscape Character Assessments.

### How should I use the maps?

The priority maps will guide you on how your proposal for creation or management fits with regional priorities. The theme maps will guide you on how your creation proposal fits in terms of the balance of opportunity and sensitivity in your area. It can help you scope what/how much further work you might need to do on your proposal. Sources of further advice are given below.

For example, if you are proposing to plant a large block of woodland in an area highlighted as **sensitive** on one or more theme maps then you will need to consider what steps to take to ensure that your proposal addresses the sensitivity identified. The table above may help with this scoping process.

### Where can I find further help?

- Regionally, the WOM is part of a move to a more spatial approach to land use planning, exemplified by the Regional Spatial Strategy and Character Area Framework project, eg:
  - Environmental Stewardship Targeting Statements ([www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/jca-ts/jca-map-wm.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/jca-ts/jca-map-wm.htm))
  - Biodiversity Enhancement Areas, Landscapes for Living project (further details at West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership website [www.wmbp.org/](http://www.wmbp.org/))
- Your local Woodland Officer (01905 362730) who can also help you with additional contacts:
  - Your local Natural England/County Ecologist/Local Records Centre contact
  - Your Local Authority Archaeologist [www.algao.org.uk/Association/Members.htm](http://www.algao.org.uk/Association/Members.htm)
  - Local woodland guidelines (Worcestershire CC, Shropshire Hills AONB)
- Other resources:
  - MAGIC ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)) – environmental designations and grant scheme areas
  - Nature on the Map ([www.natureonthemap.org.uk/](http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk/)) – Nature Reserves/priority BAP inventory types

## DECISION 'RULES' FOR THEME MAPS VERSION 2

| Authority     | Landscape   | Biodiversity  | Cultural Heritage  | Access  |
|---------------|---|---|--|---|
| Herefordshire | <p>If settlement pattern = nucleated and landcover type = arable or pastoral (i.e. not wooded)</p> <p>Or if settlement pattern = wildland (i.e. not settled) or if landcover type = open/unenclosed, then <b>sensitive</b></p> <p>Else if landcover type = ancient wooded or = secondary wooded or = trees and woodlands, then <b>preferred</b></p> <p>Else <b>neutral</b></p> <p>(Note –the fine detail of individual authorities' rules may differ)</p> | <p>Drawn from MOHL work:</p> <p><b>Preferred</b>-areas where semi-natural broadleaved woodland is a primary, secondary or tertiary characteristic in the landscape and the proposed treatment is A-D (maintain, restore, recreate/create, create)</p> <p><b>Sensitive</b>- areas where woodland is an uncharacteristic feature and the proposed treatment is E-F (review, none)</p> | <p><b>Preferred</b>: Areas where the creation of new woodland on a significant scale would be most advantageous, and would bring local benefits. As the available datasets for the historic environment do not allow this judgement to be made, the definition needs refining to include areas where there will be no discernible impact on the historic landscape character.</p> <p><b>Sensitive</b>: Areas where the creation of new woodland on any appreciable scale would not be appropriate because of their present value with respect to other factors.</p> <p><b>Neutral</b>: Remaining areas that do not fall within either of these categories. A further 2 categories of sensitivity were added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban: Where the urban development precludes the creation of new woodlands on a significant scale.</li> <li>Woodland: Where the presence of existing woodland precludes the creation of new woodlands on a significant scale.</li> </ul> | <p>Using WT Space4People 2ha new woodland data, (based on the Woodland Access Standard which aspires that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size) mapped against LDUs after excluding areas under CROW open access land that was 'mountain, moor and heath' (eg Cannock Chase) and within either the West Midlands or Stoke on Trent conurbations:</p> <p><b>Most preferred</b>-LDUs where S4P 2ha polygons covered more than 60% of the LDU area</p> <p><b>Preferred</b>-LDUS where S4P polygons covered more than 17% but less than 60% of the LDU area</p> <p><b>Neutral</b>-other non-urban areas</p> |

| Authority  | Landscape   | Biodiversity   | Cultural Heritage  | Access                |
|------------|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| Shropshire | <p>Based on the revised LDU framework for Shropshire,</p> <p>Sensitivity weightings were produced by comparing the character of woodland cover with the overall sensitivity of the landscape (as determined through field assessment of the nature of tree cover, type of landform, coherence of the cultural pattern and degree of continuity (eg time depth).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Sensitive</b> – unwooded areas with a high to moderate overall sensitivity OR areas with an intermediate wooded character and high overall sensitivity</li> <li>◆ <b>Neutral</b> – unwooded areas with moderate overall sensitivity OR areas with an intermediate wooded character and moderate overall sensitivity OR wooded areas with a high overall sensitivity.</li> <li><b>Preferred</b> - areas with an intermediate wooded character and low overall sensitivity OR wooded areas with a moderate to low overall sensitivity.</li> </ul> | <p>Constructed by comparing the frequency of indicators for good quality woodland against indicators of good quality open habitats (e.g. heathland, species-rich grasslands etc). Plant species indicative of open water habitats were excluded from the comparison as these habitats are unlikely to be an option for woodland planting. The resulting map shows four categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complex</b> – high numbers of indicators for <b>both</b> woodland and open habitats,</li> <li>• <b>Preferred</b> – high numbers of woodland indicators but low numbers of open habitat indicators,</li> <li>• <b>Sensitive</b> – high numbers of open habitat indicators, low numbers of woodland ones,</li> <li>• <b>Neutral</b> – low numbers of both woodland and open habitat indicator species.</li> </ul> | <p>Sensitivity weightings were assigned to each HLC type by making a judgement based upon the degree of 'time depth' they exhibit and their likely Sensitivity to woodland planting (see Table 1). The key assumptions that underlie these judgements are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most HLC types within 'unimproved land' category are likely to be sensitive, except where they are the product of recent change.</li> <li>• Ancient field patterns are likely to be sensitive to woodland planting; more recent ones less so. Exceptions are likely to exist, however, where a field pattern is a product of recent change.</li> <li>• Woodland types are likely to be preferred, particularly recent plantations. Some site specific sensitivities may exist, however, in relation to ancient woodlands, which often contain archaeological earthworks of varying dates.</li> <li>• Wetlands and floodplain fields in the 'Water and valley floor' HLC types are likely to be sensitive. Those involving open water are unlikely to attract applications for planting schemes and are therefore neutral.</li> <li>• 'Industrial' HLC types are likely to be either preferred or, in the case of those of greater historic interest, neutral.</li> <li>• Sensitivities may exist for Military HLC types because of their historic interest, although they originated in the 20th century. They have, therefore, been assigned to the neutral category.</li> <li>• Historic parks and gardens are likely to be sensitive, whilst more recent 'ornamental, parkland and recreational' types less so.</li> <li>• Because planting applications are unlikely to be forthcoming for sites occupied by residential or retail buildings the settlement HLC types are neutral.</li> <li>• Older orchards are likely to be sensitive, more recent ones less so</li> </ul> | As above-revised LDUs |

| <b>Authority</b>     | <b>Landscape</b>  | <b>Biodiversity</b>   | <b>Cultural Heritage</b>  | <b>Access</b> |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---------------|
| <b>Staffordshire</b> | Derived from landscape character assessment and professional judgement informed by a range of environmental information | Derived from landscape character assessment and professional judgement informed by a range of environmental information | <p><b>Preferred</b>= broadly unenclosed ground, Very large Post-War fields, woodland, extractive industry areas, Major road junction, Golf course</p> <p><b>Neutral</b>= water bodies/features Industrial complex, Historic settlement core, settlement, Service station, Train station /siding, Other commons, Planned clearance /assartment, Other large rectilinear fields, Large irregular fields, Former ordnance depot now used for other purposes, Barracks, Sports fields, Other parkland, Post-1880s orchards, Derelict industrial land, Abandoned ordnance depot, Other military</p> <p><b>Sensitive</b>= Moorland, Unenclosed open hill pasture Unimproved enclosed hill Pasture, Heathland, Drained wetlands, Moss/raised bog, Parks and gardens, Pre-1880s orchards, squatter enclosure, Paddocks/closes, assarts, Small irregular fields, Piecemeal enclosure, Re-organised piecemeal enclosure, Planned enclosure, Other small rectilinear fields, Miscellaneous floodplain fields</p> | As above      |

| <b>Authority</b>            | <b>Landscape</b>      | <b>Biodiversity</b>   | <b>Cultural Heritage</b>                      | <b>Access</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Solihull (part)</b>      |                       |                       | See below – part included within Warwickshire |               |
| <b>Telford &amp; Wrekin</b> | As above-revised LDUs | See above – as Shrops | See above – as Shrops                         | As above      |

| Authority    | Landscape | Biodiversity  | Cultural Heritage  | Access   |
|--------------|-----------|---|--|----------|
| Warwickshire | As above  | <p>Derived from mapping Flora of Warks tetrad data onto LDUs, based on <i>M.perennis</i> map primarily, with some reference to other species (these are less widespread):</p> <p>where for woodland, hedgerow/scrub, grassland, roadsides/ waste places <i>M.perennis</i> shows as present (rare or abundant) across &gt;50% of LDU, then <b>preferred</b></p> <p>where for any category, <i>M.perennis</i> (rare or abundant) shows as present across &lt;50% LDU (or is absent) then <b>neutral</b></p> <p>(Note no <b>sensitive</b> category on the basis of discussion with key Warks biodiversity stakeholders September 05)</p> | <p>Using several data sources an assessment was made about its historic environment potential according to the three levels (Preferred, Neutral or Sensitive).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preferred</b> is seen as where minimal heritage constraints would apply.</li> <li>• <b>Sensitive</b> is where there is high heritage sensitivity where significant constraints would apply upon planting, this could either be due to particular heritage sites or the character of the historic landscape itself.</li> <li>• <b>Neutral</b> is where often an assessment of the historic environment as either Preferred or Sensitive can not be made, predominantly due to vast size of polygon and/or diversity in historic environment in a particular area. This does not make the area not sensitive but more likely potentially sensitive in parts of the area.</li> </ul> | As above |

| <b>Authority</b> | <b>Landscape</b> | <b>Biodiversity</b>  | <b>Cultural Heritage</b>   | <b>Access</b> |
|------------------|------------------|--|--|---------------|
| Worcestershire   | As above         | <p><b>Preferred</b> are LDU's with the strongest links to a woodland landscape as indicated by their current woodland biodiversity (new woodland likely to give the greatest benefit for local woodland biodiversity conservation - usually areas most heavily wooded at the start of the Anglo-Saxon period)</p> <p><b>Neutral</b> are LDU's where the links to ancient woodland biodiversity have been severed and there are few likely conflicts with extant sites of wildlife interest (few good opportunities for "ancient" woodland restoration - usually areas largely cleared by the Romano-British period)</p> <p><b>Sensitive</b> are LDU's supporting a high proportion of land on which woodland planting would be detrimental to current biodiversity or which have a high potential for restoration to habitats other than woodland. [These may include LDU's that currently support a high ancient woodland cover.]<br/>           i) "wetland" LDU's, mainly those on the alluvial flood plains, ii) heath or potential heathland LDU's, iii) unenclosed commons. iv) the hill systems and scarp slopes with a high proportion of grassland interest v) LDU's within forest areas which support a high proportion of neutral grasslands of high ecological value, vi) LDU's with a high proportion of traditional orchards</p> | <p>Where existing historic features or historic landscapes that would be compromised by new planting then <b>sensitive</b></p> <p>Where formerly wooded landscapes or historic features or historic landscapes largely absent and where new planting would be seen as a positive enhancement are <b>preferred</b></p> <p>Where complex or wide-ranging variations in the criteria have been identified, then <b>complex</b> – treated as <b>sensitive</b> on the WOM</p> | As above      |

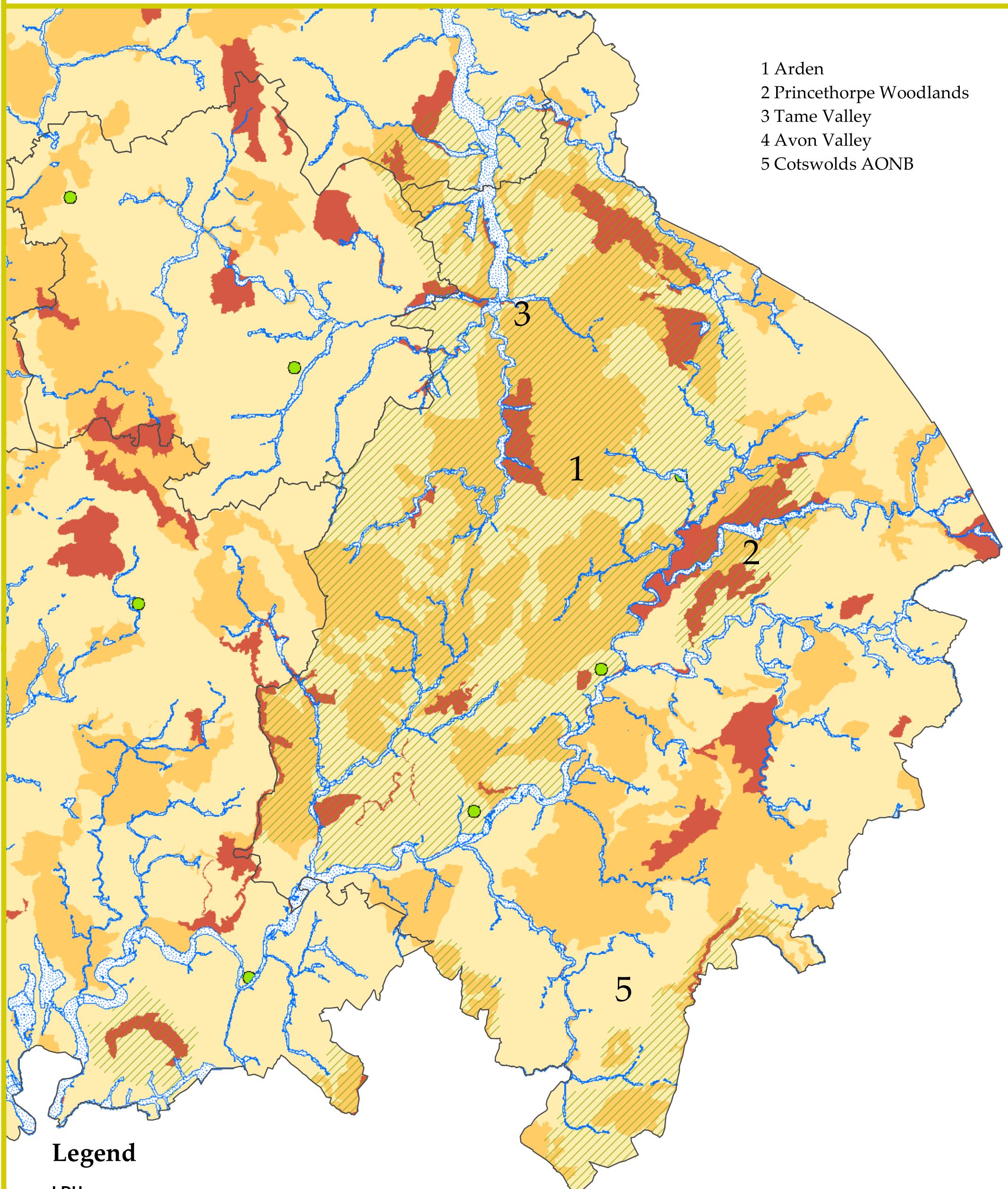
## DECISION 'RULES' FOR PRIORITY MAPS VERSION 2

| <b>Priority map</b> | <b>Priority description</b>         | <b>Decision Rule</b>   | <b>Comments</b>  |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Woodland Creation   | Priority 1 (dark green)             | Based on scoring system using the sensitivity classification for each polygon and theme and scored in relation to sensitivity as follows:<br>Preferred = +10<br>Sensitive = -10<br>Neutral = 0<br>Complex = 0<br>Access > 16.9% = +10<br>Urban, Forest of Mercia and National Forest were all left as 0. | High priority for creation (high preference)   |
|                     | Priority 2 (light green)            |  | Priority for creation (lower preference)   |
|                     | Low priority (no colour)            |  | Low priority for creation (lowest preference)  |
| Ancient Woodland    | AW Landscapes (green)               | LDUs with ASNW & PAWS greater or equal to 3% land cover  | Regional concentrations of ASNW & PAWS greater or equal to 3% land cover where maintenance/ expansion highest priority |
|                     | AW Restoration Areas (purple hatch) | LDUs with PAWS greater or equal to 3% land cover   | Regional concentrations of PAWS greater or equal to 3% land cover where restoration highest priority                   |

**Appendix 5:**

**Local (sub-regional) Biodiversity Opportunity Map**

# Map 3 - Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull



## Legend

### LDU

Zone 1

Zone 2

Zone 3

Floodplain

Major Towns

Scale 1:250,000

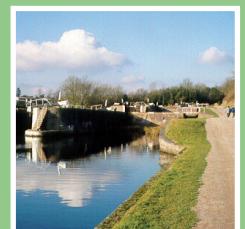
Map Produced by Sarah Hammonds  
Natural England  
GI Unit Wolverhampton  
8th May 2008

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## Solihull's Green Infrastructure Study



Produced by Solihull Landscape Architecture and Ecology