



Working towards a Core Strategy for Wiltshire

Topic paper 11: Green infrastructure

Wiltshire Core Strategy
Consultation January 2012

This paper is one of 16 topic papers, listed below, which form part of the evidence base in support of the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. These topic papers have been produced in order to present a coordinated view of some of the main evidence that has been considered in drafting the emerging Core Strategy. It is hoped that this will make it easier to understand how we have reached our conclusions. The papers are all available from the council website:

Topic Paper 1: Climate Change

Topic Paper 2: Housing

Topic Paper 3: Settlement Strategy

Topic Paper 4: Rural Signposting Tool

Topic Paper 5: Natural Environment

Topic Paper 6: Retail

Topic Paper 7: Economy

Topic Paper 8: Infrastructure and Planning Obligations

Topic Paper 9: Built and Historic Environment

Topic Paper 10: Transport

Topic Paper 11: Green Infrastructure

Topic Paper 12: Site Selection Process

Topic Paper 13: Military Issues

Topic Paper 14: Building Resilient Communities

Topic Paper 15: Housing Requirement Technical Paper

Topic Paper 16: Gypsy and Travellers

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1. Executive summary

The Wiltshire Core Strategy will set a strategic policy framework to influence the shape of development in Wiltshire up to 2026. This topic paper summarises evidence to support the development of policies which will be included in the core strategy relating to green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure (GI) is a strategic network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to health and quality of life in sustainable communities. It delivers a broad range of functions and provides vital socio-economic and cultural benefits which underpin individual and community health and wellbeing.

GI policies are required in order to achieve the relevant core strategy objective 'To protect and enhance the environment'. A wide range of source material has been reviewed in the preparation of this topic paper, including research and legislation. The current policy framework has been analysed and community concerns and aspirations have been identified as part of this process.

The information gathered as a result of this investigation has identified a wide range of potential threats and opportunities to the development of a comprehensive Wiltshire GI network and these have informed the formulation of GI policy options for the core strategy.

GI is a highly cross cutting topic and many policy areas within the core strategy will relate to it. Other topic papers, for example relating to climate change, water management, and natural environment, also refer to issues relating to green infrastructure. Cross cutting issues are summarised in Appendix 2.

Policy options to address GI issues, support the delivery of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (currently in preparation) and maximise opportunities for enhancement of Wiltshire's GI network through the planning process, have been explored. The most sustainable solution identified involves the inclusion of a 'green infrastructure' policy that supports projects and initiatives that contribute to the delivery of a green infrastructure network in accordance with the objectives of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, and ensures that proposals for development support the delivery of the emerging GI Strategy as well as conforming to open space standards.

Policy options have also been considered relating to the protection and reinstatement of the historic alignment of the Wilts & Berks and Thames and Severn canals, to the protection of the proposed route of the Melksham link canal, and to sports, leisure and recreation based development in the Cotswold Water Park. These policy options were developed in direct response to concerns raised during the June 2011 consultation to inform the core strategy. The most appropriate policy approaches are considered to be the inclusion of policies safeguarding the historic alignment of the canals, protecting the proposed Melksham link route, and supporting sports, leisure and recreation based development in the Cotswold Water Park, subject to fulfilment of certain criteria.

Core Strategy policies will also be supported by more detailed saved local plan policies that relate to the Wiltshire GI network. Details of those saved local plan policies which will be replaced by the new core strategy policies are provided in the Submission Draft Core Strategy.

2. Introduction

The purpose of this topic paper is to summarise evidence to support the development of policies which will be included in the Core Strategy relating to green infrastructure. GI policies are required in order to achieve the relevant draft core strategy objective 'To protect and enhance the environment'. A wide range of source material has been reviewed in the preparation of this topic paper, including research and legislation. The current policy framework has been analysed and community concerns and aspirations have been identified as part of this process.

Throughout this document the term Wiltshire refers to the area covered by Wiltshire as the Local Planning Authority. This excludes the area of Wiltshire covered by the New Forest National Park Authority, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 What is green infrastructure?

Green infrastructure (GI) can mean different things to different people and there are a number of definitions available. For the purposes of the Wiltshire Core Strategy, the definition of GI employed is that from Planning Policy Statement (PPS): Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment: Consultation 2010:

'Green infrastructure is a strategic network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life in sustainable communities. It delivers a broad range of functions and provides vital socio-economic and cultural benefits which underpin individual and community health and wellbeing. These functions include: conserving and enhancing the natural environment; providing wildlife corridors; reducing noise and air pollution; and helping communities adapt to changing climate through water and carbon management. In urban areas, functions include providing routes (e.g. footpaths and cycleways) which link areas of open space within settlements; providing sustainable drainage, flood storage and urban cooling; and providing a wide range of opportunities for engagement and active citizenship, relaxation and quiet contemplation, sport, recreation and children's play.'

In the wider countryside, GI is often viewed on a larger, landscape scale, encompassing extensive areas of habitat and ecological designations, major landscape features such as river corridors and the green corridors that, when considered alongside one another, form the basis of a strategic GI network. Strategic GI at the landscape scale provides the wider framework and context required to plan for GI at a more local level; allowing for an integrated multi-functional network of green space operating at varying spatial scales, across towns and villages, through the urban/rural fringe and into the wider countryside.

Figure 1 encapsulates the varying assets that can form a GI network across three distinct scales (local, neighbourhood and village scales; town, city and district scales; and city-region, regional and national scales).

Figure 1: Typical GI assets and associated scales (source: Landscape Institute, 2009).

Local, neighbourhood and village scale Town, city and district scale City-region, regional and national scale	Town, city and district scale	City-region, regional and national scale
Street trees, verges and hedges	Business settings	Regional parks
Green roofs and walls	City/district parks	Rivers and floodplains
Pocket parks	Urban canals	Shoreline
Private gardens	Urban commons	Strategic and long distance trails
Urban plazas	Forest parks	Forests, woodlands and community forests
Town and village greens and commons	Country parks	Reservoirs
Local rights of way	Continuous waterfront	Road and railway networks
Pedestrian and cycle routes	Municipal plazas	Designated greenbelt and Strategic Gaps
Cemeteries, burial grounds and churchyards	Lakes	Agricultural land
Institutional open spaces	Major recreational spaces	National Parks
Ponds and streams	Rivers and floodplains	National, regional or local landscape designations (e.g. AONBs, NSAs and AGLVs) Canals
Small woodlands	Brownfield land	Common lands
Play areas	Community woodlands	Open countryside
Local nature reserves	(Former) mineral extraction sites	
School grounds	Agricultural land	
Sports pitches	Landfill	
Swales, ditches		
Allotments		
Vacant and derelict land		

The development of integrated multi-functional GI is particularly relevant to areas undergoing housing and economic growth and to the regeneration of urban areas. The role of GI within these areas is primarily concerned with the development of a sympathetic relationship between the protection and enhancement of existing environmental assets, the creation of new spaces and assets and the future development of places. It is about developing an approach which places the environment at the centre of the planning process and creates strategic and linked multi-functional networks of green spaces that mutually benefit communities and wildlife. This approach underpins the place shaping agenda and the long term sustainability of urban areas, enabling them to become more resilient to the future effects of climate change.

Natural England recognises the important strategic role of GI and that the design and management of GI should “respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban area to its wider rural hinterland.”(Natural England 2009).

Natural England suggests, in its GI guidance (2009), that the “landscape context, hinterland and setting, as well as strategic links of sub-regional scale and beyond” should be considered in relation to GI.

The definition used for GI in this topic paper and in the emerging Wiltshire GI Strategy considers it in its wider context.

In developing the spatial context for a GI network, the emerging Wiltshire GI strategy covers the full extent of Wiltshire¹. It is, however, implicit within the definition of GI that there is a need to look beyond Wiltshire’s boundaries to assess GI provision for Wiltshire communities and the impact of adjacent settlements on GI within Wiltshire. The Wiltshire GI Strategy will, therefore, integrate with current and emerging GI strategies in adjacent authority areas.

¹ This excludes the area of Wiltshire covered by the jurisdiction of the New Forest National Park Authority.

The key themes of GI development are 'multi-functionality' and 'connectivity'.

- Multi-functionality is the ability of each green space to provide a range of mutually beneficial and different functions or services, for instance enhancing biodiversity, providing flood retention, providing recreational and educational opportunities and contributing to 'sense of place' in the public realm.
- Connectivity is the term used to describe the way green spaces and green corridors link together to form integrated multi-functional networks for both people and wildlife.

2.2 The benefits of green infrastructure

A well planned GI network comprises of spaces and linear elements that provide a range of natural and social functions. These can be broadly identified as including the following aspects.

Health and wellbeing

- A strong GI network supports healthy lifestyles through the provision of green spaces for exercise, sport, play, recreation and quiet contemplation and by providing green routes to promote safe opportunities for walking and cycling. It can also help to enhance quality of life by bringing the natural world into neighbourhoods with benefits for individual and community health and well being, helping to develop liveability and sense of place.

Economic growth and development

- Supports sustainable economic development by enhancing the design of new communities and helping to provide a sense of place.

Climate change

- Provides climate change mitigation and adaption by reducing the heat island effect in urban areas, helping to alleviate flood surge events through providing natural drainage techniques, and providing additional habitat for key species.

Flood alleviation and water management

- Supports the efficient management of water, helping to reduce the likelihood of flooding through the appropriate management of permeable ground and the provision of flood storage areas and other drainage techniques.

Quality of place

- Contributes to high quality and accessible landscapes benefiting people and wildlife, strengthening the links between urban areas and their surrounding countryside and creating attractive and accessible places for people to enjoy direct and regular contact with the natural environment.

Education

- Provides inspirational places for education and training, and a way of linking people with, and encouraging a new appreciation of, an area's historic and cultural features within the landscape.

Healthy natural environment

- Supports functioning ecosystems and robust natural systems (natural capital) helping to deliver a wealth of ecosystem services² by improving water, air and soil quality, and the maintenance of biodiversity.
- Plays an essential role in maintaining and enhancing the health of the natural environment by increasing ecological connectivity, overcoming habitat fragmentation, increasing the ability of the natural environment to adapt to climate change and reducing pressure on sensitive habitats.

2.3 A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire

The Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy will provide a long-term vision and strategic framework for the delivery of a planned, high quality, multi-functional network of green infrastructure across Wiltshire. It will provide the supporting evidence of the type and distribution of GI required to enable urban growth as planned through the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. It will identify needs and opportunities for protecting, enhancing and extending a GI network across Wiltshire and will be integrated with the GI Strategies of neighbouring authorities to form cross boundary partnerships and identify mechanisms for delivery of strategic and landscape level projects.

The Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy is currently in preparation, and further information about the work undertaken so far is provided in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Briefing Paper, published alongside this topic paper.

¹ Ecosystem services are the wide range of valuable benefits that a healthy natural environment provides for people, either directly or indirectly. The benefits range from the essentials for life, including clean air and water, food and fuel, to 'cultural' ecosystem services that improve our quality of life and wellbeing, such as recreation and beautiful landscapes. They also include natural processes, such as climate and flood regulation that we often take for granted.

2.4 Collaborative working

This GI Topic Paper and associated GI policy options were originally prepared by Wiltshire Council.

A draft topic paper was published alongside the June 2011 consultation to inform the core strategy. Further development of the GI policies was informed by feedback received during this consultation.

Two key issues which emerged during the June 2011 consultation were the need for additional policies relating to canals and the Cotswold Water Park. Draft policy text relating to canals was developed in collaboration with the council's canal officer and the county ecologist. The scope and aims of a Cotswold Water Park core policy were discussed with members of the Cotswold Water Park officer group, including officers from Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and the Cotswold Water Park Trust. Draft policy text relating to the Cotswold Water Park was also circulated to transport, tourism, heritage, landscape and development management officers, as well as the Cotswold Water Park officers group.

The June 2011 draft GI Topic Paper included a set of draft Wiltshire-wide open space standards. These draft standards were circulated to key stakeholders in August 2011, alongside the draft vision and objectives for the Wiltshire GI Strategy. The standards have since been further developed by Wiltshire Council officers, taking into account feedback received during both consultations.

3. Policy and regulatory framework

3.1 Introduction

This section summarises the national, regional and local policies, regulations and targets that act as drivers for green infrastructure and should help inform policy development for inclusion in the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

The following section has been separated into three sub-sections, which cover:

- National policies
- Regional policies
- Local policies and targets.

3.2 National policies

National policies and guidance relevant to the development of general green infrastructure policies for the Wiltshire Core Strategy

PPS 12: Local Spatial Planning (2008)³

PPS 12: Local Spatial Planning requires local planning authorities to assess green infrastructure requirements. It notes in para. 4.8 that: ‘...core strategies should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution. This evidence should cover who will provide the infrastructure and when it will be provided. The core strategy should draw on and in parallel influence any strategies and investment plans of the local authority and other organisations.’

PPS12 also notes that: ‘Good infrastructure planning considers the infrastructure required to support development, costs, sources of funding, timescales for delivery and gaps in funding... The infrastructure planning process should identify, as far as possible:

- Infrastructure needs and costs;
- Phasing of development;
- Funding sources; and
- Responsibilities for delivery.’

PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)⁴

PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development requires that development should ensure an appropriate mix of uses, including the incorporation of good quality green space.

Planning and Climate Change (supplement to PPS 1) (2007)⁵

Planning and Climate Change (supplement to PPS 1) recognises the role of GI in mitigating and adapting for climate change. In deciding what areas and sites are suitable for development, the supplement to PPS 1 requires local authorities to recognise the contribution of green infrastructure to urban cooling, sustainable drainage systems, and conserving and enhancing biodiversity (para.24). It also states that local authorities should expect new developments to ‘provide public and private open space as appropriate...’

³ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicystatements/pps12/>

⁴ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement1>

⁵ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppsclimatechange>

recognising the opportunities for flood storage, wildlife and people provided by multifunctional greenspaces' (para.42).

PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)⁶

PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation recognises the value of open spaces, sport and recreation to support urban renaissance and rural renewal, alongside promoting social inclusion, community cohesion and health and well being, all framed in the overarching values of positively influencing sustainable development. It requires local authorities to undertake audits of the existing provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities in their area, and to identify the existing and future needs for improved or new facilities.

PPG 17 also establishes Government's belief that open space standards should be set locally, and should include:

- a quantitative measure of how much new provision may be needed
- a qualitative component, against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities
- accessibility, including distance and cost.

PPS 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)⁷

PPS 9 highlights the importance of networks of natural habitats, stating in paragraph 12 that "Networks of natural habitats provide a valuable resource. They can link sites of biodiversity importance and provide routes or stepping stones for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species in the wider environment. Local authorities should aim to maintain networks by avoiding or repairing the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats through policies in plans. Such networks should be protected from development, and, where possible, strengthened by or integrated within it. This may be done as part of a wider strategy for the protection and extension of open space and access routes such as canals and rivers, including those within urban areas".

Consultation paper on a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS): Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment (2010)⁸

Communities and Local Government (CLG) published a draft PPS on Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment in 2010. The new PPS was intended to replace PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation; PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation; PPS 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas, in so far as it relates to landscape protection, soil and agricultural land quality and forestry; and PPG 20: Coastal Planning, in so far as it relates to coastal areas, heritage coast and the undeveloped coast. However, it is not now anticipated that the draft PPS will be adopted, following the publication of the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in July 2011.

One of the objectives of the draft PPS was to deliver, for the first time, planning policy on green infrastructure. As key considerations for green infrastructure are the functions or ecosystem services it provides, it was intended that within the new PPS, green infrastructure would be considered at a broader scale than is necessarily the case for individual areas of open space.

⁶ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicystatements/ppg17/>

⁷ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps9>

⁸ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicystatements/ppsnaturalenvironment/>

Policy NE4 (Local planning approach for green infrastructure) of the draft PPS states:

‘Local development frameworks should set out a strategic approach for the creation, protection and management of networks of green infrastructure. In doing so, local planning authorities should build on work undertaken at the regional and sub-regional level. Policies should:

(i) provide for green infrastructure, particularly in locations where it will assist in reducing the impacts of climate change by providing flood water storage areas, sustainable drainage systems, urban cooling and local access to shady outdoor space

(ii) avoid development being located in areas which result in the fragmentation or isolation of natural habitats

(iii) identify opportunities to enhance green infrastructure and the natural habitats within it, by retaining, enhancing or creating green corridors linking rural and urban fringe areas and urban green spaces; and

(iii) identify opportunities to enhance the functions urban green spaces can perform.’

Draft National Planning Policy Framework⁹ (2011)

The draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published for consultation in July 2011. The government has indicated that the NPPF is intended to replace a number of existing national planning policy documents, including PPS12, PPS1, PPS: Planning and Climate Change and PPG17. Whilst the draft NPPF has little weight in its present form (as a draft document) it nonetheless provides an indication of the likely direction of travel for future national planning policy. In addition, it is anticipated that the final NPPF will be published in early 2012, and hence the final NPPF could be adopted policy at the point at which the Wiltshire Core Strategy is subject to examination in public.

Within a section on ‘sustainable communities’ the draft NPPF sets out an objective for the planning system to “ensure access to open spaces and recreational facilities that promote the health and well-being of the community” (paragraph 124).

Paragraphs 128 to 132 deal specifically with delivery of open space, sports and recreational facilities. Proposed requirements include the following:

- Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area.
- The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities.
- Planning policies should protect and enhance rights of way and access.
- Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless certain criteria are met (surplus to requirements or needs for and benefits of development clearly outweigh the loss).

Paragraphs 130-132 introduce the concept of a ‘Local Green Space’ designation. Land identified as Local Green Space in local or neighbourhood plans will only be suitable for new development in very special circumstances. It is noted that the Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas of open space, and paragraph 131 sets out the circumstances under which the designation could be used.

⁹ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/draftframework>

Paragraph 154 highlights the importance of green infrastructure planning in ensuring that climate change risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures. Paragraph 167 indicates that “local planning authorities should ... set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure”.

‘Homes for the Future’ (2007)¹⁰

‘Homes for the future’, the Government’s 2007 Green Paper on housing describes green infrastructure as an essential part of growth points, a key mechanism for delivering environmental improvements and confirms that it is central to plans for achieving sustainable new communities. The paper defines the value of green infrastructure in improving the urban rural fringe, protecting and restoring the countryside, providing better access to nature, and integration of green spaces into the urban environment.

National policies and guidance relevant to the development of canal policies for the Wiltshire Core Strategy

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)¹¹

Canals are included within the definition of ‘open space’ as set out in Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG 17). Paragraph 20 of PPG 17 sets out general principles for the location of new open spaces.

Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (first published 2001, updated 2011)¹²

Annex B (Planning for Transport) of PPG 13 includes a section on inland waterways, and states that “Local authorities should work with all those concerned in the inland waterways industry - British Waterways and other navigation authorities, private operators and the voluntary sector concerned with restoring currently disused waterways - to develop the potential of inland waterways. In drawing up development plans and determining planning applications, they should seek to re-use disused wharves and basins, to retain boatyards and other services used in connection with water-based recreation, and to protect and enhance the waterway environment, where these are viable options” (paragraph B13).

Paragraph B14 goes on to state that “In general, proposals for waterside development should seek to enhance the use, enjoyment and setting of the adjacent waterway. Development proposals, local plan policies, or new and improved infrastructure, such as road proposals, should not adversely affect inland waterways. Where this may happen, local authorities should consult British Waterways or other navigation authorities, the Environment Agency in its regulatory capacity, the Inland Waterways Association and local waterway organisations. In liaison with these bodies, local authorities should identify and where appropriate protect disused waterways (by allocating the land in development plans and ensuring sites and routes are not severed by new development or transport infrastructure) where there is a reasonable degree of certainty of a restoration project proceeding, in whole or in part, within the development plan period”.

PPG 13 also includes references to the use of canal towpaths for both walking and cycling (paragraphs 76 and 78).

¹⁰ www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/439986.pdf

¹¹ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicystatements/ppg17/>

¹² <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg13>

Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2011)¹³

The draft NPPF includes canals within its definition of open space, but does not include criteria for the identification of locations for new open spaces (as currently provided in PPG 17). Paragraph 2 of the draft NPPF states that “The Government expects the planning system to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs, while protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment”. The draft NPPF goes on to include protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment as a key element of sustainable development. The protection and restoration of the canal network can assist in protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, thus contributing towards the delivery of sustainable development as defined in the draft NPPF.

Waterways for Tomorrow (Defra, 2000)¹⁴

Waterways for Tomorrow sets out proposals for the future of inland waterways. A consultation document entitled ‘Waterways for Everyone’ was published in 2009, with the intention that this would inform a new policy document for inland waterways to replace ‘Waterways for Tomorrow’. However, the Waterways for Everyone project was discontinued following the change of government in 2010.

Relevant content of the Waterways for Tomorrow document can be summarised as follows:

- The government wants to promote inland waterways, and to maximise the opportunities the waterways offer for leisure and recreation; as a catalyst for urban and rural regeneration; for education; and for freight transport.
- The Government wants to encourage people to make use of the inland waterways for leisure and recreation, tourism and sport.
- Because the historic buildings and structures on the waterways are irreplaceable, high standards of protection and conservation must be applied to prevent the character of the system from being eroded. It is particularly important that new waterside development, as well as improvement or restoration of the waterway itself, respects the historic fabric, and conserves and, if possible, enhances the waterway scene creating a worthwhile legacy.
- The waterways must be managed in a way that conserves and, if possible, enhances their environmental value.
- The Government wants to increase the economic and social benefits offered by the waterways by encouraging their improvement, development and restoration, wherever possible in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- Planning authorities should support viable schemes for enhancing the waterway environment and water-based recreation.

Policies for mooring along the banks of BW waterways in England and Wales (British Waterways, April 2011)¹⁵

This document sets out British Waterway’s policies relating to moorings. It notes that British Waterways is a consultee in the statutory planning process. British Waterways assess their response to planning applications in the context of their moorings and other relevant policies.

Policy 10 states that British Waterways “seek more appropriate recognition of residential moorings in national and local government policy and guidance, particularly within the planning and housing sectors, and encourage more informed consideration by local

¹³ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/draftframework>

¹⁴ <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/countryside/waterways/waterways-for-tomorrow.pdf>

¹⁵

authorities. The differences between residential moorings and built development should be recognised and treated appropriately”.

Advisory Document: Residential use of inland waterways (Association of inland navigation authorities, February 2011)

This advisory document is intended as a “tool to help inform local authorities, navigation authorities, mooring providers and residential boaters on relevant matters relating to residential use of our waterways”.

The document notes that “Residential use of waterways is a form of housing and residential boaters are a group identified by Government as ‘hard to reach household’” and that “There is currently a strong demand for residential use of waterways and scarce supply of suitable moorings. This demand for residential use presents a challenge for navigation authorities, local authorities and residential boaters. The situation has implications for policy and decision-making as well as waterway management”.

The document provides a definition of a residential mooring: “This is a long-term/mooring base for a vessel or floating structure with planning permission and navigation authority consent for use as a person’s sole or main residence. The vessel may leave the mooring from time to time to go cruising, undergo repair etc. for any period of time” (p.9).

The document also provides an overview of the circumstances in which planning permission is likely to be required for residential uses of the inland waterways. Examples of situations in which planning permission is likely to be required include residential use of a vessel which is moored at a designated mooring base; purpose-built residential mooring basins; and dedicated moorings for residential use within marinas or boatyards.

Guidance for development of new residential mooring sites (England and Wales) (British Waterways, May 2011)¹⁶

This document sets out a series of site specific matters which may need to be considered when determining a planning application for a new residential mooring site:

- Location: It is noted that “there are significant differences between moored boats used for residential purposes and built dwelling houses. Moored boats constitute an inherent part of the waterway scene and are far less intrusive than built housing development”.
- Access
- Water resources for navigational purposes
- Flood risk
- Refuge and recycling
- Utilities infrastructure
- Amenity: This includes visual impact, landscaping, gardens, sheds/storage, noise, lighting, and neighbours/overlooking/privacy. It is noted that “Moored boats are an inherent feature of the waterway. Any mooring scheme (residential, leisure or visitor) should bring life and colour to an area and positively contribute to the character and setting of the waterway”.
- Nature conservation
- Heritage
- Site layout
- Safety, security and environmental health considerations
- Boat suitability

¹⁶ <http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/resimoorguidance>

- Planning obligations
- Consultation and communications
- Site maintenance and safety
- Use of land at the mooring site.

Policy Advice Note: Inland Waterways Unlocking the Potential and Securing the Future of Inland Waterways through the Planning System (TCPA, with support of British Waterways, July 2009)¹⁷

This Policy Advice Note highlights the multi-functional nature of inland waterways, which can serve in a variety of roles including as:

- an agent of or catalyst for regeneration;
- a contributor to water supply and transfer, drainage and flood management;
- a tourism, cultural, sport, leisure and recreation resource;
- a heritage landscape, open space and ecological resource;
- sustainable modes of transport; and
- routes for telecommunication.

The document argues that:

- It is crucial that the nature of inland waterways as multifunctional spaces and arteries is fully recognised and supported within planning policy.
- The benefits of green infrastructure such as waterways should *not* be viewed in purely environmental terms. There is a real risk that this could lead to the development of restrictive planning policies which would affect the sustainability of the waterway network and waterways' ability to deliver economic and social benefits, as well as environmental benefits.
- It is important that planning policies acknowledge that it is not always possible to find suitable sites adjacent to the waterways for some waterway-dependent uses, in or around existing settlements – for example:
 - provision of facilities to support waterway-related visitor attractions, such as flights of locks; and
 - essential facilities to support boating-related tourism and leisure activity, such as marinas, boatyards and boat-hire companies, and moorings, which are informed by reasonable cruising distances.

National policies and guidance relevant to the development of policy relating to the Cotswold Water Park for the Wiltshire Core Strategy

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)¹⁸

This document provides guidance in relation to development in rural areas, and includes a section on tourism and leisure. The PPS states that “LDDs should ... support, through planning policies, sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit rural businesses, communities and visitors and which utilise and enrich, but do not harm, the character of the countryside, its towns, villages, buildings and other features” (paragraph 34).

Paragraph 37 states that “The Government expects most tourist accommodation requiring new buildings to be located in, or adjacent to, existing towns and villages”. Paragraph 39 provides guidance on static holiday and touring caravan parks and holiday chalet developments, and paragraph 40 states that “Local planning authorities should support the

¹⁷ <http://www.tcpa.org.uk/data/files/waterways.pdf>

¹⁸ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps7>

provision of other forms of self-catering holiday accommodation in rural areas where this would accord with sustainable development objectives. The re-use and conversion of existing non-residential buildings for this purpose may have added benefits, e.g. as a farm diversification scheme”.

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (2002)¹⁹

Paragraph 20 of PPG 17 sets out general principles to be considered in identifying where to locate new areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities. Local authorities should:

- “i. promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport, and ensure that facilities are accessible for people with disabilities;
- ii. locate more intensive recreational uses in sites where they can contribute to town centre vitality and viability;
- iii. avoid any significant loss of amenity to residents, neighbouring uses or biodiversity;
- iv. improve the quality of the public realm through good design;
- v. look to provide areas of open space in commercial and industrial areas;
- vi. add to and enhance the range and quality of existing facilities;
- vii. carefully consider security and personal safety, especially for children;
- viii. meet the regeneration needs of areas, using brownfield in preference to greenfield sites;
- ix. consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses;
- x. assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion; and
- xi. consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists”.

Paragraph 21 indicates that mixed sport, recreation and leisure facilities which include significant elements of entertainment, retail or leisure uses and will function for many hours of the day should only be permitted “where they are to be located in highly accessible locations in or adjacent to town centres, or in district or neighbourhood centres. Planning permission should not be granted for a location outside such a town centre if the resulting development would undermine the centre”.

Paragraph 26 relates specifically to rural areas, and states that “In rural areas those sports and recreational facilities which are likely to attract significant numbers of participants or spectators should be located in, or on the edge of, country towns. Smaller scale facilities will be acceptable where they are located in, or adjacent to villages to meet the needs of the local community. Developments will require special justification if they are to be located in open countryside, although proposals for farm diversification involving sports and recreational activities should be given favourable consideration. All development in rural areas should be designed and sited with great care and sensitivity to its rural location”.

¹⁹ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance17>

Paragraph 31 is also particularly relevant to the Cotswold Water Park, stating that “Some activities (e.g. climbing, potholing) rely on particular natural features. Where these features exist, local authorities should recognise their actual and potential recreational value, possibly to more than the local population. Planning permission should be granted but only where the impact of sports and recreational activities on natural features can be minimised. Facilities should be planned carefully to ensure that conflicts between sport and recreational activities and other interests do not arise. In considering planning applications for development near water, local authorities should ensure that access for sport and recreation purposes is not restricted and should, where possible, be enhanced. The visual amenity, heritage and nature conservation value of water resources should also be protected”.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2011)²⁰

Paragraph 81 of the draft NPPF states that “Planning policies should support sustainable economic growth in rural areas by taking a positive approach to new development. Planning strategies should maintain a prosperous rural economy including policies to ... support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit rural businesses, communities and visitors and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres”.

3.3 Regional policies

Draft Revised Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West (2008)²¹

The Draft Revised South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) set out a strategic policy framework for the south west region and proposed an ambitious target for new homes for Wiltshire. The RSS provided a strong policy lead for GI, including a comprehensive GI policy, and required Local Planning Authorities to have an integrated GI plan and delivery programme.

The Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies (which had already replaced Regional Spatial Strategies) on 6th July 2010. As a result new housing figures will be derived as part of the preparation of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the regional GI policy no longer has validity.

South West Nature Map²²

Nature Map was developed as a strategic planning tool for the South West. It was developed to help guide conservation practitioners to the areas where the best opportunities exist for restoring and expanding biodiversity; but also as a tool to help guide decision makers, planners and others when considering biodiversity as part of a suite of measures.

Nature conservation is not limited by boundaries and therefore Nature Map principles still apply in helping to guide strategic decisions that influence biodiversity. This is true both in planning and for other uses as Nature Map identifies at a strategic scale the best areas for biodiversity interest and conservation.

Nature Map has been ratified by local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships, by many organisations and by Biodiversity South West. It was a key evidence layer in the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy. Nature Map is still a key part of the evidence

²⁰ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/draftframework>

²¹ http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=836

²² <http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/nmap.html>

base and as such should still form a material consideration in planning decisions. It is also at the heart of the development of a 5 year delivery plan for biodiversity in the South West, so continues to help shape thinking around delivery of biodiversity, embedding this within a 50 year vision for biodiversity rich places supporting healthy local communities (Natural England 2010).

3.4 Local policies and targets

The Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan and local/district plans prepared by the former district councils

Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 (2006)²³

The Structure Plan provides a strategic policy framework for Wiltshire, including the administrative area of Swindon Borough Council, up to 2016. This document continues to form part of the Development Plan for Wiltshire and should be used alongside the existing local plans. The Structure Plan was to be replaced by the RSS for the South West, but it is now envisaged that the Structure Plan will be abolished at the same time as the RSS. The Wiltshire Core Strategy will therefore need to replace any Structure Plan policies which are still considered necessary for sustainable development in Wiltshire. A summary of Structure Plan policies which are relevant to green infrastructure is shown in Table 1 (page 26). Further cross cutting matters are listed in appendix 2.

Local/district plans prepared by the former district councils

The district/local plans for the four former district council areas of Kennet, Salisbury, North Wiltshire and West Wiltshire contain a number of 'saved policies' which are relevant to green infrastructure. The district/local plans form part of the current Development Plan for Wiltshire, in conjunction with the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016, and provide a local policy framework to guide development. The 'saved' district/local plan policies will remain in place until replaced by policies in new Development Plan Documents (DPDs), including the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

The district/local plans contain a number of policies relevant to GI. However, only those policy areas directly relevant to this topic paper are discussed here. Table 2 provides an overview of the policies contained within each of the district/local plans (and the West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD) under various themes which are relevant to this topic paper. Appendix 3 provides a summary of the content of each policy.

District/local plan policies relating to housing allocations (which may include requirements for GI provision) have not been considered here. Some policies which relate to GI are discussed in separate topic papers, such as those relating to landscape and biodiversity. A summary of cross cutting matters is provided by appendix 2.

West Wiltshire District Council Leisure and Recreation DPD (2009)²⁴

This DPD provides the spatial planning framework concerning the provision of leisure and recreation open space in the former West Wiltshire district area. Specific policies are included relating to open space and greenspace provision and these are included in the overview provided in table 2, and are summarised in appendix 3.

²³ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/structureplan2016.htm>

²⁴ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/westwiltshirelocalplan.htm>

South Wiltshire Core Strategy Submission Document (2009)²⁵

The South Wiltshire Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2009. The document was prepared in accordance with advice from the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) to address a shortfall in housing supply in South Wiltshire. It is intended that this document will be replaced by the Wiltshire Core Strategy during 2012.

As the South Wiltshire Core Strategy will be replaced by the Wiltshire Core Strategy, any policies relating to green infrastructure will be set out in the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

The South Wiltshire Core Strategy was subject to an examination in public between March and April 2010, and was subsequently subject to a review. Hearing sessions were re-opened in August 2011, and the inspector's report was issued in October 2011. The Inspector's report concludes that the South Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the area over the next 15 years. The Inspector set out a number of limited changes he considered necessary to meet legal and statutory requirements. Most of the changes recommended in his report are based on proposals put forward by the Council in response to points raised and suggestions discussed during the public examination, in particular the revisions to the Core Strategy following the Council's review of housing and employment requirements.

Core Policy 23 of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy relates specifically to green infrastructure. The text of this policy, incorporating changes agreed through the examination process, is set out below.

Core policy 23 – Green infrastructure and habitat networks

Proposals for development shall make provision for the retention and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure. Where development is permitted the Local Planning Authority will require developers to:

- Contribute towards the implementation of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Plan.
- Provide for any suitable alternative natural greenspace provision, access or quality improvements, improved linkages between greenspaces, site habitat management measures, and visitor access management measures to ensure there is no negative impact on the New Forest and Salisbury Plain N2K sites.
- Put measures in place to ensure appropriate future management of Green Infrastructure.
- Retain and enhance existing on site Green Infrastructure and create new or replacement Green Infrastructure equal to or above the current value of the existing if damage or loss is unavoidable.
- Maintain the integrity of the existing Green Infrastructure network and prevent habitat fragmentation
- Identify opportunities to enhance and improve linkages between the natural and historic landscapes of south Wiltshire.

A development that would adversely affect the integrity and value of the existing Green Infrastructure network, or prejudice the implementation of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Plan will not be permitted.

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<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/southwiltshirecorestrategy/southwiltshirecorestrategysubmissiondraft.htm>

Summary of key points from the review of Structure Plan and district/local plan policies

There are a number of Structure Plan policies which relate to green infrastructure, such as the policies on green space at settlements; forestry and woodlands; and recreation, sport and leisure. Policy C3 (Nature Conservation) states that “wildlife corridors should be protected and, where possible, enhanced”, and the supporting text to this policy acknowledges the importance of wildlife corridors “for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wildlife”. However, the Structure Plan does not include specific reference to the GI concept, and lacks a single overarching policy on GI. This is a policy gap which should be addressed in the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Table 2 shows that there are a number of policies relating to GI in each of the local/district plans and in the West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD (LRDPD) even if they do not make specific reference to GI. These include policies on open space provision in new developments, woodland and trees, footpaths, allotments, rivers, canals and cemeteries. Although there is policy reference to GI assets there is a need for a specific single Wiltshire-wide GI policy, as indicated above.

The Structure Plan, the district/local plans, and the West Wiltshire LRDPD also identify specific issues relating to GI and opportunities for protecting or enhancing GI. The plans include policies relating to the following:

Strategic level components	Local level components
The Cotswold Water Park	Riverside walks in Marlborough and Pewsey
The Kennet and Avon canal	Local woodlands
The Wilts & Berks canal	The Salisbury Plain Training Area
The North Wiltshire canal	Specific areas for environmental improvement in Trowbridge, Melksham, Warminster and Westbury
The Thames & Severn canal	Sailing lakes in the West Wiltshire area
The Great Western Community Forest	New cemeteries
The Thames Path National Trail	Allocation of specific sites for provision of grass sports pitches
Opportunities for enhancements/ improvements at four country parks in west Wiltshire (Biss Meadows, Trowbridge; Paxcroft Brook, Hilperton; Southwick; and Barton Farm, Bradford on Avon).	

A need for specific core strategy policies relating to Wiltshire’s canal network and the Cotswold Water Park was highlighted through the June 2011 consultation to inform the Core Strategy. Structure and local/district plan policies relating to the canal network and the Cotswold Water Park are therefore covered in more detail below.

Table 1: Policies relating to GI as set out within the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 (policies considered to be most relevant are shaded)

Policy	Summary
DP1 Priorities for Sustainable Development	This policy lists priorities for sustainable development, including “improving the amenity of settlements” and “minimising the loss of countryside and protecting and enhancing the plan area’s environmental assets”.
DP2 Infrastructure	States that “development should not proceed unless the infrastructure, services and amenities made necessary by the development can be provided at the appropriate time”.
T5 Cycling and Walking	States that “measures should be provided to encourage cycling and walking, and improve safety of these modes”.
C3 Nature Conservation	States that “wildlife corridors should be protected and, where possible, enhanced”.
C5 The Water Environment	States that “surface waters, floodplains and groundwater resources, should be protected by the control of development”. It is also stated that proposals to protect, restore or enhance elements of the water environment will be supported.
C10 Green Space at Settlements	States that important areas of green space within and adjoining settlements should be protected. Also states that corridors which provide access to the countryside should be protected.
C11 Forestry and Woodlands	States that “the planting of new woodlands and the effective management of existing woodland areas will be encouraged”. This is to be given a high priority in “the Great Western Community Forest, Braydon Forest and areas which are easily accessible from other urban centres in the county”.
HE3 Parks and Gardens	States that “registered parks and gardens and their settings should be protected from inappropriate development”.
RLT1 Recreation, Sport and Leisure	This policy states that “provision should be made for a wide range of facilities for sport, recreation, leisure and the arts” to meet needs.
RLT2 Informal Countryside Recreation	States that “the provision of opportunities for informal countryside recreation will be achieved by positive measures”. These measures include signposting, car park and picnic site provision, and increasing opportunities for conservation and recreation based on water and disused railway lines.
RLT3 The Kennet and Avon Canal	States that “provision should be made for recreation and tourism development associated with the Kennet and Avon Canal”.
RLT4 Other Canals	States that “the historic alignments of the Wilts & Berks Canal, the North Wiltshire and Thames & Severn Canals will be safeguarded with a view to their long-term re-establishment as navigable waterways”.
RLT5 The Cotswold Water Park – Sport, Recreation and Tourism	States that “provision should be made for water based sport, recreation and tourism in the Cotswold Water Park ... having regard to the impact on local communities and the environment and the need to maintain the nature conservation importance of the Water Park”.
RLT6 The River Thames	States that “proposals for recreation and other development along the River Thames should maintain the existing character of the river environment”.

Table 2: Overview of GI relevant local plan/DPD 'saved' policies (most relevant are shaded)

Policy theme	Kennet	North Wiltshire	Salisbury	West Wiltshire
Development control policy		C3 Development Control Core Policy	G2 General Criteria for Development	
General countryside policies				C1 Countryside protection
Design policies	PD1 Development and Design			C31a Design; H24 New Housing Design
Open space provision in new developments	HC34 Recreation provision on large housing sites HC35 Recreation provision on small housing sites	CF3 Provision of Open Space	R2 and R3 Open Space Provision	LRDPD: LP4 Providing recreation facilities in new developments
Riverside development/walks	AT24 Riverside walks in Marlborough and Pewsey		R16 Developments with River Frontages and Public Access	
Nature conservation	NR4 Nature conservation outside designated sites		C13 Enhancement of retained wildlife habitat sites in developments; C15 Nature conservation in connection with major new developments	C6a Landscape Features
Historic Parks and Gardens		HE3 Historic Parks and Gardens	CN18 Historic Parks and Gardens	
Woodland/Trees		NE12 Woodland; NE13 The Great Western Community Forest; NE14 Trees, site features and the control of new development	CN17 Trees; C9 Loss of Woodland; C8 Landscape Conservation	C40 Tree Planting
Footpaths/Public Rights of Way		TM4 The Thames Path National Trail	R17 and R18 Public Rights of Way; TR13 Improvements/extensions to	T12 Footpaths and Bridleways; LRDPD: CR1 Footpaths and Rights of Way

Policy theme	Kennet	North Wiltshire	Salisbury	West Wiltshire
			footpaths, cycleways and bridleways	
Existing open space and existing outdoor sport and recreation facilities	TR17 Existing Outdoor Sport & Recreation Facilities		D5 Salisbury Townscape; R6 Urban Parks; R5 Protection of existing outdoor facilities	LRDPD: LP1 Protection and enhancement of existing open space/sport and recreation provision; LP2 Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport and recreation provision; LP3 Review of low value sites; CR2 Country Parks; GM1 Maintenance of existing open space
Provision of new leisure facilities and open space		CF2 Leisure Facilities and Open Space; C2 Community Infrastructure Core Policy	HA9 Outdoor recreation facilities (in the New Forest); HA10 New Forest golf courses; R1A and R1C Sports and Leisure facilities; R8 – R13 New sports and recreation provision; R15 Golf Courses	R7 Trowbridge Cricket Ground; R10 Poulton Field Bradford on Avon; LRDPD: LP5 New sport and recreation facilities; OS1 New artificial turf pitch provision; OS2 New grass pitch provision
Allotments	TR20 Protection of allotments		R20 Allotments	R12 Allotments
Rivers			C17-C18 Rivers and River Valleys	C9 Rivers; LRDPD: WR1 River based recreation
Canals	TR2 Facilities for boat users on the Kennet and Avon canal; TR4 Permanent off-channel boating facilities at Martinslade / Upper Foxhangers	TM2 Wilts and Berks /Thames and Severn		LRDPD: WR2 Kennet and Avon; WR3 Wilts and Berks
Sailing lakes				R13 Sailing Lakes
Environmental Enhancement			CN19 Environmental Enhancement	C32 Landscaping; C39 Environmental Enhancements

Policy theme	Kennet	North Wiltshire	Salisbury	West Wiltshire
Cemeteries			PS9 Cemeteries	CF10 Cemeteries
Management of sites		NE10 Managing Nature Conservation Features		LRDPD: GM2 Management and maintenance of new or enhanced open space; GM3 Future management partnerships
Educational facilities			R7 Dual use of educational facilities	LRDPD: SC1 Dual-use of school facilities
Greenspace Network				LRDPD: CR3 Greenspace Network
Provision for young people				LRDPD: YP1 Children's play areas; YP2 Provision for teenagers
Cotswold Water Park		NE8 Nature Conservation Areas in the Cotswold Water Park		

Structure plan and local/district plan policies relating to Wiltshire's canal network

Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 (adopted 2006)²⁶

The Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan includes two policies relating specifically to canals. Policy RLT3 (The Kennet and Avon Canal) states that "provision should be made for recreation and tourism developments associated with the Kennet and Avon Canal, having regard to navigational interests and their environmental impact". Policy RLT4 (Other Canals) states that "the historic alignments of the Wilts & Berks Canal, the North Wiltshire and Thames & Severn Canals will be safeguarded with a view to their long-term re-establishment as navigable waterways".

Local/district plans

Relevant 'saved' policies from the local/district plans covering north, west and east Wiltshire are summarised below, along with policies from the West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD. There are no relevant policies in the Salisbury District Local Plan or the South Wiltshire Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document.

North Wiltshire Local Plan²⁷

Policy TM2 (Wilts & Berks/Thames and Severn) states the following:

"Restoration of the Wilts and Berks, including the North Wilts Branch, and Thames and Severn Canals along the routes as defined on the proposals map, will be supported in principle by protecting the alignment by:

- i) Not permitting development likely to destroy the canal alignment or its associated structures;
- ii) Seeking an alternative alignment where development that cannot be provided elsewhere threatens the canal or its associated structures;
- iii) Ensuring that where the canal is affected by development, the alignment is protected or an alternative alignment is provided and the canal is restored as part of that development process".

West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD²⁸

Policy WR2 (Kennet and Avon) states the following:

"Proposals for recreational and tourist development on the Kennet and Avon Canal will be permitted, provided that they do not detract from the navigation of the canal, its ecological value or its local environment. The development should be integrated into the existing footpath, cycleway and public transport network and highway access and parking issues should be satisfactorily resolved".

²⁶ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/structureplan2016.htm>

²⁷ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/northwiltshirelocalplan.htm>

²⁸ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/westwiltshirelocalplan.htm>

Policy WR3 (Wilts and Berks Canal) states the following:

“The restoration and reconstruction of the Wilts and Berks Canal as a navigable waterway is supported in principle. Proposals will be permitted that are designed to develop the canal’s recreational and nature conservation potential, in particular the use of the old line of the canal for walking, cycling and interpretation. The historic alignment of the canal from the point where it enters the District at its northern boundary to the point where it meets the northern boundary of the present built up area of Melksham will be protected from inappropriate development with a view to its re-establishment as part of a navigable waterway and development which is likely to destroy the original alignment of the canal or its associated works along this section will be resisted. South of Melksham it will be necessary to identify a new route to link with the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The Canal Partnership will search for a new line for the canal at Melksham to join the old line at or before the border with North Wiltshire District. Proposals for a new line must demonstrate there will be no overall adverse effect on cultural heritage and the natural environment”.

The supporting text to policy WR3 states that “the district council will identify a broad area of search for a new line in the forthcoming Core Strategy, provided that an agreed route is technically feasible and that there is a reasonable prospect of it being delivered within the relevant Plan period. Additional facilities for sewage disposal and waste collection need to be considered when the line is selected and all proposals must demonstrate that there will be no overall adverse effect on the natural environment”.

Appendix F of the West Wiltshire District Plan First Alteration: Canals in West Wiltshire Policy Statement (Revised 2004)

A policy statement on canals is included in Appendix F of the West Wiltshire District Plan First Alteration. The policy statement is intended as supplementary guidance to the policies and proposals in the West Wiltshire District Plan: it does not have any special status in deciding applications but may be taken into account as a material consideration.

The policy statement indicates broad support for the continued restoration of the Kennet and Avon canal, and use of the towpath for walking and cycling. Paragraph KA8 sets out details of the approach to be taken to residential moorings:

“Should a need be identified for residential moorings within West Wiltshire, the District Council will in the first instance expect berths to be accommodated in existing marinas; however, should a new site be required it should be well related to the existing built environment, able to be satisfactorily serviced, protect and conserve important nature conservation interests and have satisfactory access and parking provision”.

The policy statement also notes that the district council supports in principle the restoration of the Wilts and Berks Canal, will seek to assist the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust in the search for a new canal route at Melksham, and will seek to safeguard the remaining alignment of the old Wilts and Berks Canal from Semington to Melksham.

Kennet Local Plan 2011²⁹

Policy TR2 (Facilities for boat users on the Kennet & Avon Canal) states the following:

²⁹ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/kennetlocalplan.htm>

“With the exception of the proposals at Caen Hill Flight and Martinslade/Upper Foxhangers, proposals for facilities for boat users will be restricted to the redevelopment, improvement or modest extension of existing canalside infrastructure at Devizes Wharf, Devizes Marina, Horton Bridge, Honeystreet Wharf, Pewsey Wharf, Burbage Wharf and Great Bedwyn Wharf”.

Policy TR4 (Permanent off-channel Boating facilities at Martinslade/Upper Foxhangers) states the following:

“Proposals for permanent off-channel boating facilities and parking, toilet and related facilities for other canal visitors will be permitted on the stretch of canal between Martinslade and Upper Foxhangers Bridge”.

The Kennet Local Plan 2011 also included policies TR1 (Protection of Kennet & Avon Canal), TR3 (Improvements to Caen Hill flight facilities) and TR5 (Wilts & Berks Canal), but these policies were not saved beyond September 2007. Policies TR1 and TR3 were not saved because the issues were already covered by landscape and countryside policies. The justification given for not saving policy TR5 was that it was ‘not a policy’. The wording of these policies was as follows:

Policy TR1 (Development affecting the Kennet & Avon Canal) – not saved:

“Development which would adversely affect the amenity value, historic fabric, environmental quality or landscape setting of the Kennet and Avon Canal will not be permitted”.

Policy TR3 (Improvements to Caen Hill flight facilities) – not saved:

“Proposals to improve facilities for water-borne users and land-based visitors to Caen Hill Flight will be permitted, provided that they will not have a detrimental impact on ecology, landscape character or the historic fabric of the Flight”.

Policy TR5 (Wilts & Berks Canal) – not saved:

“The Council recognises the work being undertaken towards the restoration and reconstruction of the Wilts & Berks Canal. In principle, planning permission will be granted for a new canal cutting between Bowerhill and Seend Cleeve to enable the Wilts & Berks Canal to connect with the Kennet & Avon Canal, subject to the need to satisfy other policies of the Plan in relation to archaeology, ecology and landscape character”.

Challenges and opportunities relating to the current policy framework

There is concern that local planning policies relating to canal restoration do not sufficiently recognise the potential environmental impacts of canal restoration work, including possible impacts on ecology, landscape, and water resources. Canal restoration can have both positive and negative impacts, and both need to be considered when determining planning applications, with an overall balance of net impact, both locally and as a result of the restoration project as a whole, being taken into consideration. There is also a concern that canal restoration projects are currently coming forward in a piecemeal fashion, meaning that the possible environmental impacts of the project as a whole are not being given sufficient consideration. The inclusion of a new policy on canal restoration in the Wiltshire Core Strategy would offer the opportunity to address these concerns, whilst also consolidating the existing local/district plan policies to provide a single, consistent approach across Wiltshire.

The current structure and local/district plans also include policies relating to the Kennet and Avon canal. These policies vary in the level of detail provided, with the policies in the Kennet Local Plan identifying specific locations, whilst those in the Structure Plan and the West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD take a much broader approach. The level of detail provided in the Kennet Local Plan policies is not considered appropriate for the core strategy, and it is therefore considered that the existing local/district plan policies relating to the Kennet and Avon canal should continue to be saved in the first instance, with the potential to revisit these policies through a later planning document if required.

Structure plan and local/district plan policies relating to the Cotswold Water Park

Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016³⁰

The Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan includes specific policies on the CWP (C6 and RLT5), and while these policies focus on protecting the communities and nature conservation interests, this plan also recognises that:

“In addition to improving facilities such as country parks, picnic sites, viewpoints and car parks, the Joint Committee has an important role to play in acting as a catalyst to stimulate private sector development initiatives’ and requires that local plan documents ‘will provide a balanced framework for the development of the Water Park as a centre for sport, recreation and tourism and as an outstanding wetland habitat of national and potentially international biodiversity importance, whilst protecting the interests of those who live and work within the Park.”

The Structure Plan also includes policies RLT8, RLT9 and RLT10 which relate to tourism. Policy RLT9 states that “Provision for hotel, conference and other serviced accommodation should be concentrated within towns and villages. Elsewhere developments should be limited to conversion of existing buildings or be related in scale, character and style to appropriate existing buildings”. Policy RLT10 states that “Proposals for the development of additional camping and touring caravan or chalet / static holiday homes should have regard to their impact on the countryside” and sets out that such development should not take place in the New Forest Heritage Area and the World Heritage Site, and that such development within the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be consistent with the purpose of the designation.

North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011³¹

The North Wiltshire Local Plan policy on the CWP (policy NE8) is very much a policy of constraining development for the protection of biodiversity, stating that:

“Development on and around those lakes identified on the proposals map as being of international or national importance for nature conservation in the Cotswolds Water Park will be subject to policies NE5 and NE6. Development on other areas within the Water Park will only be permitted where:

i) The value of the site for nature conservation, and its local contribution to biodiversity, would not be seriously harmed, or could be mitigated by planning conditions, obligations or the creation of new, equivalent wildlife features; or where

³⁰ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/structureplan2016.htm>

³¹ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/northwiltshirelocalplan.htm>

ii) Other material planning considerations are sufficient to override the importance of protecting the local nature conservation value of the site”.

Tourism accommodation was previously carefully controlled by the general tourism policy TM1 (no longer saved), which has successfully prevented the creation of unwanted new holiday homes away from existing settlements:

“Proposals for new tourist accommodation will be expected to be located in, or adjacent to, existing towns and villages. Proposals for tourist development within the countryside that improves or extends the range of tourist facilities, including tourist accommodation will be permitted, provided that:

- i) It would result in the conversion of a suitable rural building; or
- ii) Forms part of a farm diversification scheme; or
- iii) Is an extension to existing facilities, of a scale appropriate to its location.

Proposals for touring sites for caravans and/or tents will only be permitted where there is a proven need for this type of development”.

Policy TM1 was not saved beyond June 2009 because it was considered that policies RLT8, RLT9 and RLT10 of the Structure Plan provide sufficient policy coverage.

Comparison with policies of Cotswold District Council³²

Cotswold District's current local plan has a less restrictive approach to the re-use of former mineral working sites and aims to achieve some gain for the natural environment through development. Policy UT.1 states the following:

“Within the Cotswold Water Park, shown on the Proposals Map and relevant Insets, proposals for nature conservation, water-based sport, recreation, tourism, and other development which accords with the policies of this Plan, will be permitted if the following criteria are satisfied:

- (a) the maintenance or enhancement of the nature conservation importance of the Water Park, particularly in relation to the lakes and associated habitats listed in the Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan, which may involve measures to enhance the long term conservation value of a site that is the subject of an application for planning permission or other land and/or water within the Water Park;
- (b) where appropriate, habitat enhancement and the creation of new habitats, which may involve measures to enhance the long term conservation value of a site that is the subject of an application for planning permission or other land and/or water within the Water Park;
- (c) the retention and, where appropriate, the enhancement of existing landscape features that contribute to the character and/or appearance of the site subject to an application;
- (d) the design and siting of new buildings being sympathetic to the character of the area and avoiding harm to the landscape;
- (e) the development having a direct relationship to the use of the Water Park for nature

³² http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=4714

conservation, water-based sport, tourism and recreation;

(f) the prevention of the over-dominance of one particular activity, or type of provision, or the significant reduction in the choice of sites available for uses and activities that are not adequately provided for within the Cotswold Water Park; and

(g) the provision of appropriate contributions towards the maintenance of the nature conservation importance of the Water Park, habitat enhancement and the creation of new habitats, and the overall management of the Water Park”.

Cotswold District Council (CDC) is currently developing its LDF, which will replace the existing local plan. A new policy (CP18) for the CWP has been proposed as part of its Core Strategy document, which is at the Issues and Options Stage:

“In the Cotswold Water Park (CWP), support will be given to proposals (including those for sports, leisure and tourism facilities) that enhance public enjoyment and help transform the area to an informal recreation and leisure resource for Cotswold residents and visitors. These proposals should meet the following criteria:

- Increase public access
- Require lake-based locations
- Enhance the biodiversity of the CWP (with particular reference to the relevant Strategic Nature Areas and Biodiversity Action Plan)
- Enhance the landscape of the CWP (with particular reference to the relevant landscape character assessment)
- Retain the sense of tranquillity and character of individual settlements and the open countryside
- Support the economic regeneration of the existing settlements within the CWP
- Engender a “sense of place” for the CWP”.

That CDC Core Strategy document also sets out the need for a joint Area Action Plan covering the entire CWP area.

Challenges and opportunities relating to the current policy framework

To date, the majority of development proposals within the Cotswold Water Park have been accommodated within the Cotswold District Council (CDC) administrative area rather than the area administered by Wiltshire Council (formerly North Wiltshire District Council). Development has comprised predominately second homes, holiday homes and serviced accommodation. The differences between the planning policy frameworks applied in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire provide part of the reason for the disparity in the distribution of development between the administrative areas.

This lack of consensus in the policy framework is seen as a potential obstacle to the future development of the CWP, and there is an aspiration for shared principles and policies to suitably control development. The Wiltshire Core Strategy offers an opportunity to set out a revised policy approach to the Cotswold Water Park within the Wiltshire Council administrative area.

Other local policies and guidance relevant to green infrastructure

People, Places and Promises: Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026³³

A new Wiltshire Community plan was adopted in October 2010. The Community Plan identifies challenges faced by Wiltshire including “health inequalities and ill health in disadvantaged areas and too many deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer”. Three priorities have been agreed:

- Creating an economy that is fit for the future
- Reducing disadvantages and inequalities
- Tackling the causes and effects of climate change.

The plan also presents 17 objectives, including the following objectives relating to green infrastructure:

- Encourage and support people to take more responsibility for their current and future health through healthier eating, participating more in physical activity, using alcohol sensibly, and giving up smoking.
- Provide a safer and more integrated transport system that achieves a major shift to sustainable transport, including walking, cycling, and the use of bus and rail networks especially in the larger settlements of Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury, and along the main commuting corridors.
- Prepare for the impacts of unavoidable climate change, by increasing the resilience of communities, businesses and wildlife to events such as extreme heat waves, droughts and frequent flooding, through designing and implementing appropriate adaptive responses.
- Increase Wiltshire’s food security, by, for example, improving the business and environmental sustainability of food production, focusing more on agricultural production for local markets, and encouraging people to become more involved in growing their own food.

Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026 (March 2011)³⁴

Wiltshire’s third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) was adopted in March 2011 and includes the following references to green infrastructure:

“In addition, the emerging Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy will aim to deliver a framework of priorities and actions aimed at strengthening and improving appropriate access to Wiltshire’s network of green and natural assets. Key aspects of this will include maintaining and improving the rights of way network and enhancing walking and cycle routes particularly to tourist destinations and Wiltshire’s countryside” (paragraph 6.100).

“The Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy will also have a role in delivering local environment, street scene, recreation, and public realm improvements through high quality and green urban design” (paragraph 6.120).

³³ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/communityplan.htm>

³⁴

http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=Wiltshire+Local+Transport+Plan+2011+%E2%80%93+2026+&source=web&cd=3&ved=0CCsQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fcms.wiltshire.gov.uk%2FmgConvert2PDF.aspx%3FID%3D14492&ei=iuXgTp6cloWu8gPYraXtBA&usg=AFQjCNEiNK2L_5R2E-_dBNFIIF-U5mqsiA

River Biss Public Realm Design Guide SPD (West Wiltshire District Council, 2008)³⁵

The River Biss Public Realm Design Guide was published in 2008 and subsequently adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) by the former West Wiltshire District Council. The guide sets out a deliverable vision for the River Biss corridor. The vision aims to assist in capitalising on the hidden and underused waterfront, improving the potential for investment and enhancing the overall image of Trowbridge. The purpose of the guide is to provide a holistic design guide for the creation of a River Biss Waterfront, improving the potential for investment and enhancing the overall image of the town.

Open space provision in new housing development: a guide SPG (West Wiltshire District Council, 2004)³⁶

This guidance explains the requirements of the open space policy in the West Wiltshire District Plan and was written as a guide for developers on how to provide for open space in new residential developments. The SPG is primarily concerned with the application of policy R4 (open space provision in new housing developments) of the district plan, which has since been replaced by policy LP4 of the Leisure and Recreation DPD. The SPG does also provide brief guidance on landscaping, in relation to saved policy C32 of the district plan.

Community benefits from planning SPG (Kennet District Council, 2005)³⁷

This SPG provides supplementary information on how the council is seeking to deliver several policies in the Kennet Local Plan 2011 in relation to social and community infrastructure. Section 3 of the document covers sport and recreation, and sets out information for developers of housing sites on the implementation of standards for the provision of recreational land in policies HC34 and HC35 of the Kennet Local Plan 2011. Section 6 of the document provides guidance on the provision of amenity open space in relation to clause 10 of policy PD1 of the Kennet Local Plan, which states that development proposals should adequately address "The impact on residential amenity, including that caused by reason of noise and disturbance".

A playing pitch strategy for North Wiltshire (North Wiltshire District Council, 2001)³⁸

This document was published as supplementary guidance to the North Wiltshire Local Plan Review 1995. The report includes an overview of playing pitch resource and pitch sport activity in north Wiltshire; an application of the National Playing Field Association's 'Six Acre Standard'; and a summary of key issues, recommendations and priorities for the future in relation to playing pitches.

The strategy includes recommendations for additional provision in the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade, Chippenham, Corsham and Calne community areas.

Draft open space SPD (North Wiltshire District Council, 2007)³⁹

This document has not been formally adopted as an SPD. The draft document seeks to provide further clarity on the open space policies C2, CF2 and CF3 of the North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011.

³⁵ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/westwiltshirelocalplan.htm>

³⁶ http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/west_wiltshire_open_space_provision_in_new_housing_developments_spg.pdf

³⁷ http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/east_wiltshire_community_benefits_from_planning_spg_2005.pdf

³⁸ http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/a_playing_pitch_strategy_for_north_wiltshire_2001.pdf

³⁹ http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/northwiltsdraft_open_space_spd.pdf

Achieving sustainable development SPG (Salisbury District Council, 2005)⁴⁰

This guidance document provides a 'sustainability checklist' for minor development proposals (major applications are expected to cover sustainability issues in their own design statements).

The checklist includes the following questions which are relevant to green infrastructure:

- Have any existing natural features (trees, hedges, ponds etc) been preserved to add quality and character to the development?
- Has the development site (including any existing buildings) been assessed for its wildlife habitats and protected species, and how does the design help to minimise any disturbance to the natural environment e.g. trees and shrubs?
- How will site drainage be managed - has the risk of flooding been considered and how will surface water be drained?

⁴⁰ http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/south_wiltshire_sustainable_development_spg.pdf

4. Evidence

4.1 Introduction

GI as a concept is fundamentally a network of networks. It can be seen as a key delivery of multi-functionality where land can perform a range of different and mutually re-enforcing functions (Landscape Institute, 2009) affording a far greater range of social, environmental and economic benefits than might otherwise be delivered independently. Furthermore, the connectivity between different assets which GI affords can help to maximize the benefits that they generate (Swanwick et al, 2001; Goode, 2006; Kitson, 2006).

A range of commonalities can be identified as being important GI contributions including: Improved aesthetics, heightened enjoyment of space, working in partnership with and between local communities, striking the right balance of conflicts and impacts, providing physical linkages and achieving high levels of functionality. Furthermore, GI assets should have meaning to local communities, be inclusive and offer opportunity to access, have a positive internal and external image, be viable (functionally and financially) and should have a vision – multi-functionality goes beyond coexistence to consider integration, interaction and inclusion (Landscape Institute, 2009).

A GI network comprises spaces and linear elements that help to provide a range of natural and social functions. This section summarises key evidence to support policy development for the Wiltshire Core Strategy relating to green infrastructure. The section is split into nine main areas, which cover:

- Social, health and well being benefits of GI
- Economic benefits of GI
- Benefits of GI for the natural environment
- Analysis of completed ex-district leisure and recreation needs assessments and open space studies
- Open space standards
- Green infrastructure asset mapping
- Strategic GI projects
- Wiltshire's canal network
- The Cotswold Water Park.

4.2 Social, health and well being benefits of GI

Access to good quality GI has been proven to improve both physical and mental health and well being, contributing to lower levels of obesity, reduced cognitive decline, reduction in health complaints, and increase in life expectancy.

Evidence shows that those individuals with a good range of greenspace close to home, particularly children, are less likely to suffer from obesity and related health issues. Providing easily accessible green areas and routes can increase levels of walking, cycling and other physical activity within a community (PPG17; Talbot, 2006; Sustainable Cities, 2009) and can help meet the drive towards sustainable active communities. Without regular exercise, there is a decline of function in virtually every system of the body, which will eventually require support from the NHS and social care (Bird, 2004) and would incur cost to society.

GI is also considered to have the potential to contribute to preventing and treating mental health in some cases. Access to nature and more areas for recreation promotes lower blood pressure, reduces stress and attention fatigue and improves mental well being (Swanwick et al, 2001; Verheij et al, 2008). Furthermore, enjoyment of natural and semi-natural areas can

help people to relax and socially interact (Pretty et al, 2003; Maller et al, 2005), allowing positive benefits to be gained from involvement with, and use of, urban green areas (Douglas, 2005; Robathan, 2009).

Staying active can reduce a person's biological age and enhance their quality-adjusted life expectancy. Elderly people who are inactive are more likely to suffer falls or other injuries. The life span of older people, in particular, increases when they live near parks and tree-lined streets (Bird, 2004²).

Green spaces are associated with better health regardless of socio-economic status, for every 10% increase in local green space there can be a measurable reduction in health complaints within the community (De Vries et al, 2001).

The NHS recognises the health benefits of environmental quality and access to recreational assets. A 2004 study estimated the economic savings to the NHS of providing access to urban parks and footpaths within South East Dorset at £1,485,000 (South East Dorset, 2005). In addition, evidence from Natural England / Department of Health 'Walking for Health' schemes suggests that for every £1 invested in the scheme, £7 worth of health benefit is delivered. The annual cost of heart problems due to physical inactivity is valued at around £215 million to the NHS and an overall £455 million to the UK economy as a result of lost earnings (Bird 2004).

The inclusion of GI within areas that are undergoing regeneration and renewal can have a dramatic impact on the community of the area in question. Neighbourhood regeneration is a major target of government policy and has the potential for much improvement in the public realm (Williams and Green, 2001, Urban Parks Forum, 2001). Sustainable Community Strategies have aimed to narrow the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country.

There appears to be a relationship between levels of deprivation in an area and the condition of the public realm (CABE, 2005). Areas of socio-economic deprivation often contain the most neglected and under-used areas of public space. The most vulnerable communities, therefore, currently gain the least benefit from the many opportunities that GI has to offer. Investment targeted in these areas would help to redress this imbalance, build environments that local communities can feel proud of and develop a sense of shared ownership through community involvement.

GI can also have positive benefits for crime and anti-social behaviour. Studies have shown that the presence of vegetation can halve the incidence of violent and property crimes in otherwise identical public housing, and that crime is lower in inner city areas with more areas of natural vegetation (Kuo and Sullivan, 2001) and natural surveillance.

4.3 Economic benefits of GI

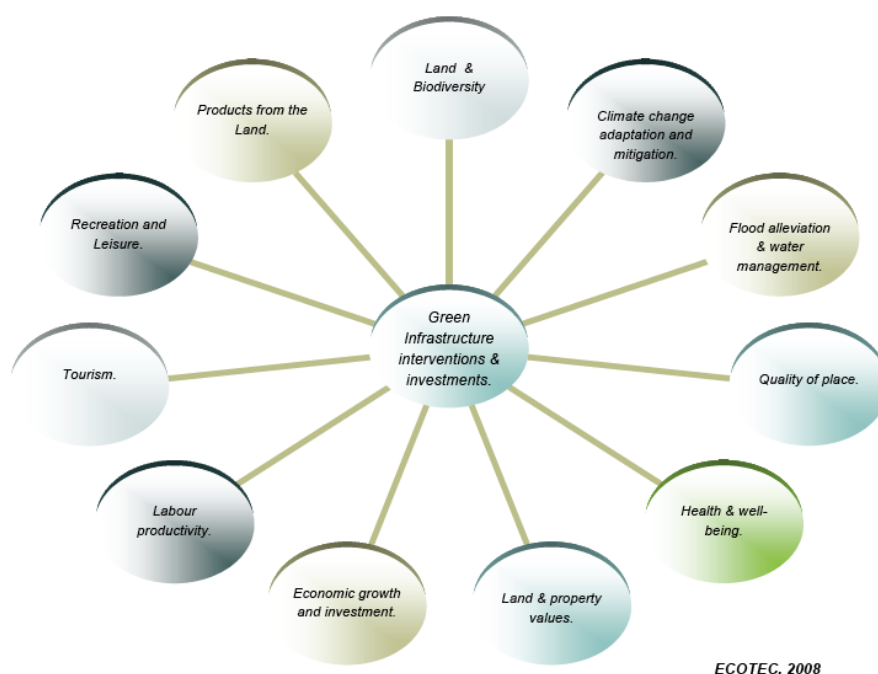
GI is the strategic approach that brings together conserving and enhancing the natural environment and its underpinning ecosystem services, whilst providing greater socio-economic benefits through improvements and investment into climate control, pollution attenuation, water purification, flood control, nutrient cycling and soil formation, without which human social and economic activity would not be possible (Defra, 2007).

The environment provides a range of goods and services that are essential to a fully functioning economy (Hothersall, 2006; Landscape Institute, 2009). It can help to enhance the performance and competitiveness of sectors through improved environmental management systems providing reduced cost to business (Defra, 2007; Natural England, 2009, Landscape Institute, 2009).

The emergence of the concept of sustainable communities places quality of place and quality of life as key drivers of urban regeneration and economic renewal. Furthermore, the investment potential of GI can help in the creation of more sustainable communities by linking the value that people place upon green space, in terms of opportunity for recreation, improved image of place, attractiveness to visitors and increased community cohesion and civic pride, with the additional value placed upon land and property that well designed and planned high quality GI can bring (Goode, 2006; NENW, 2008).

A report undertaken by Natural Economy Northwest (2008)⁴¹, into the development of GI and the associated benefits and added value that investment in GI can bring to the economy, pinpointed eleven areas in which investment in GI could have a positive impact on the economy. These are illustrated in figure 2.

Figure 2: Areas of economic gains through GI investment (source: Natural Economy Northwest 2008)



These 11 areas of concern all have wide ranging and mutually reinforcing economic gains that can be brought about through the introduction and management of GI and the continued investment in the development of a multifunctional GI network.

Using information provided by the Natural Economy Northwest report (2008), table 3 summarises the gains that could be achieved through the use of GI in the 11 areas of concern as illustrated above.

⁴¹ <http://www.naturaleconomynorthwest.co.uk/resources+reports.php>

Table 3: Summary of economic gains provided by GI

Economic gain areas	Summary of gains provided by GI
Climate change adaptation and mitigation	<p>Projections are for considerable urban heating over the next 50 years, resulting in temperature differentials between town and country of up to 12%. Green space and trees offer a way to cope with hot weather (through shading and evaporative cooling) and adding 10% green cover is projected to keep maximum surface temperatures in high density residential areas and town centres at or below the 1961-1990 levels up until the 2080s.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure investment provides natural air conditioning for urban areas (adaptation), reducing the need for power consumption for heating and cooling, alongside its contribution towards greenhouse gas absorption (mitigation) and longer term benefits in terms of managing the impact of climate change.</p> <p>Finally, the use of Green Infrastructure can be used as a mechanism for managing flooding as changes in rainfall patterns emerge through sustainable drainage schemes (SUDS) investment in urban areas and upland areas where water storage can be enhanced through active management of the peat resource.</p>
Flood alleviation and water management	<p>Green Infrastructure investment can result in increased canopy cover, increased green space and 'soft surfacing' and SUDS, acting to reduce and control run off, improve absorption rates and provide storage capacity; resulting in less frequent and less dramatic flood events for urban areas, thereby reducing costs to business and residents.</p> <p>The benefit of investment extends beyond that which is immediately measurable economically, for example the cost to homeowners, businesses and authorities in dealing with the remedial costs of flooding.</p>
Quality of place	<p>Green Infrastructure investment creates an improved sense of quality of place, providing opportunities for recreation, empowerment through community ownership, and visual amenity, improving the attractiveness of a neighbourhood with effects upon property prices, land values, business and property investment, employment opportunities, social capital and social equity.</p> <p>Investment can be targeted both at physical renewal of the landscape as well as at the social capital of a community, addressing cohesion, crime and anti social behaviour.</p>
Health and well-being	Increasing physical activity levels will help prevent or manage over twenty conditions and diseases, including

Economic gain areas	Summary of gains provided by GI
	<p>coronary heart disease, diabetes, some cancers and obesity. It can also improve mental health and help older people maintain independent lives.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure investment in the form of high quality, accessible green space provides multiple health and consequent economic benefits, through reduced stress levels, increased opportunities for informal and formal physical activity and recreation, all contributing to the reduction of limiting long term illness, and cost to the health services, reducing days lost to industry through illness and improving productivity. Furthermore, investment in urban areas can lead to cleaner air and impacts upon asthma, for example.</p>
Land and property values	<p>Increases in land and property values can be regarded as a useful proxy measure of the relative prosperity of a place or neighbourhood, either in terms of the income levels of those living there, or in terms of the rental levels affordable by businesses wanting to locate there.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure investment can provide environmental improvements in key locations within urban and semi-urban locations, having significant benefits for housing and land values. Proximity to high quality and accessible green space directly impacts upon house prices. Greener cities can increase visitors and spend in city centre retail and leisure, improving rental values and increasing employment opportunities.</p>
Economic growth and investment	<p>Green Infrastructure investment can act to encourage and attract high value industry, entrepreneurs and workers to a locality and region through the maintenance and creation of high quality, landscape sensitive, environmentally friendly living and working environments. The perception of a location is a key consideration when attracting business investment and this can provide multiple benefits to urban areas in terms of improvements in quality of life and an improved green environment can increase opportunities for adding GVA to local economies.</p>
Labour productivity	<p>Green working environments have been shown to reduce stress amongst workforces and to stimulate higher productivity. In addition, higher quality work environments attract and retain higher calibre staff.</p> <p>Business and commercial areas can be designed or 'retro-fitted' to incorporate strong Green Infrastructure – for example, green spaces for employees to take exercise, enjoy fresh air and a pleasant environment outside of the workplace.</p>

Economic gain areas	Summary of gains provided by GI
	<p>Additionally, the health and well-being benefits of access to Green Infrastructure are well evidenced, with benefits to employees in terms of personal health and benefits to employers in terms of reduced absenteeism and consequent costs.</p>
Tourism	<p>The development of a high quality and multi functional Green Infrastructure network can compliment and benefit existing popular nature based tourist destinations. A highly valued and high quality environment can increase investment in an area, enhancing existing tourism features and creating new attractions for visitors. This in turn can improve local and regional economies and help to improve awareness of a location on a more international stage.</p>
Recreation and leisure	<p>Green Infrastructure investment provides for the generation of new recreation and leisure opportunities and also stimulating economic activity within agriculture, forestry, and public services. This ranges from investing in a high quality and extensive Public Rights of Way network, linking people with green spaces, through to the renovation of land for new green space and woodland. Where new investment can be combined with stimulating community ownership, involvement and management, additional outcomes may be realised in the form of enhanced community cohesion and an improved sense of place.</p> <p>Within urban areas, there is the potential to maintain and create green spaces within city centres and neighbourhoods which reconnect urban communities with the land, as well as providing opportunity for healthy outdoor leisure. Green corridors reaching into town centres from the surrounding countryside provide infrastructure for non motorised transport and access to healthier environments.</p>
Land and biodiversity	<p>Further opportunities for economic activity are presented by Green Infrastructure investment in the form of land management and conservation projects, particularly where these are combined with a visitor/education focus, alongside traditional country sports and new opportunities relating to eco tourism.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure investment creates and maintains direct and indirect employment in forestry, land management and conservation. There is potential to create green spaces within built up areas reconnecting urban communities with the land and improve opportunities for local food marketing, alongside the maintenance of allotments and urban farms and private gardens.</p>

Economic gain areas	Summary of gains provided by GI
Products from the land	Green Infrastructure investment can provide new opportunities for agricultural diversification for food and non food crops, as well as providing the resource to generate renewable sources of energy. Rural areas and the agricultural industry undergoing structural change are provided with diversification opportunities to supply local markets for biofuels and biomass, which in turn has mitigation effects for climate change through cleaner energy generation and reduced fossil fuel use. Diversification of agricultural production can also be encouraged to meet local market demand – for example in relation to specialist ethnic products – and added value regionally distinctive food and drink.

The planning and delivery of GI can also play a vital role in the maintenance of ecosystem services. These are the services that nature provides to humans free of charge and which could only be replicated through mechanical measures and the spending of money. There is no single way of categorising ecosystem services, but they can be described in simple terms as providing (Defra 2007):

- natural resources for basic survival, such as clean air and water;
- a contribution to good physical and mental health, for example, through access to green spaces, both urban and rural, and genetic resources for medicines;
- natural processes, such as climate regulation and crop pollination;
- support for a strong and healthy economy, through raw materials for industry and agriculture or through tourism and recreation; and
- social, cultural and educational benefits, and wellbeing and inspiration from interaction with nature.

Some of these ecosystem services are well known, including food, fibre and fuel provision and the cultural services that provide benefit to people through recreation and appreciation of nature. Other services provided by ecosystems are not so well known. These include the regulation of the climate, purification of air and water, flood protection, soil formation and nutrient cycling.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)⁴² identifies four broad categories of ecosystem services:

- Provisioning services
- Regulating services
- Cultural services
- Supporting services.

Work undertaken by the MA categorises these services. A summary of ecosystem services provided is detailed in table 4.

Table 4: Summary of ecosystem services provided by MA categories

Category	Examples of ecosystem services provided
Provisioning services products obtained from ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food e.g. crops, fruit, fish. • Fibre and fuel e.g. timber, wool. • Biochemicals, natural medicines and pharmaceuticals • Genetic resources: genes and genetic information used for animal/plant breeding and biotechnology. • Ornamental resources e.g. shells, flowers.
Regulating services benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air-quality maintenance: ecosystems contribute chemicals to and extract chemicals from the atmosphere. • Climate regulation e.g. land cover can affect local temperature and precipitation; globally ecosystems affect greenhouse gas sequestration and emissions. • Water regulation: ecosystems affect e.g. the timing and magnitude of runoff, flooding etc. • Erosion control: vegetative cover plays an important role in soil retention/prevention of land/asset erosion.

⁴² <http://www.maweb.org/en/index.aspx>

Category	Examples of ecosystem services provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water purification/detoxification: ecosystems can be a source of water impurities but can also help to filter out/decompose organic waste. • Natural hazard protection e.g. storms, floods, landslides. • Bioremediation of waste i.e. removal of pollutants through storage, dilution, transformation and burial.
<p>Cultural services. nonmaterial benefits that people obtain through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, recreation etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual and religious value: many religions attach spiritual and religious values to ecosystems. • Inspiration for art, folklore, architecture etc. • Social relations: ecosystems affect the types of social relations that are established e.g. fishing societies. • Aesthetic values: many people find beauty in various aspects of ecosystems. • Cultural heritage values: many societies place high value on the maintenance of important landscapes or species. • Recreation and ecotourism.
<p>Supporting services, necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services (indirect impacts on people).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil formation and retention. • Nutrient cycling. • Primary production. • Water cycling. • Production of atmospheric oxygen. • Provision of habitat.

Ecosystem services contribute to economic welfare in two ways, through contributions to the generation of income and wellbeing and through the prevention of damages that inflict costs on society (National Ecosystem Assessment, 2010). Both types of benefits should be accounted for in policy appraisal. With a broader focus on valuing ecosystem services, policy options that enhance the natural environment are also more likely to be considered, demonstrating that investing in natural capital can make economic sense (Defra 2007).

4.4 Benefits of GI for the natural environment

GI can help to secure a high quality environmental future by ensuring the efficient use of land through a multifunctional approach to land use planning and supporting functioning ecosystems and robust natural systems for the management of basic resources such as water, clean air, soil, and the maintenance of biodiversity (Natural England, 2009).

The development and delivery of GI provides opportunities to create new areas of semi-natural habitat which can be particularly important in an urban context where habitats are often fragmented, degraded and neglected, but also in the wider countryside at a landscape scale.

Where GI is planned strategically it can help to reduce habitat fragmentation by either reconnecting existing habitat patches through creation of new habitat features or by enhancing existing wildlife corridors such as river corridors, and can be particularly important where these connect with the wider ecological network at a landscape scale. These new and improved ecological connections allow wildlife to move through the landscape and utilise all of the available habitat patches, also increasing genetic exchange between populations. This ecological connectivity is vital to support resilient wildlife populations for the future, and

is particularly important in light of both the ongoing impacts of habitat fragmentation and new challenges faced by our wildlife as a result of climate change (Lawton et al, 2010).

Habitats in urban and suburban areas are often neglected and suffer from a lack of management or damage from unauthorised access for example motor bikes, fly-tipping, fires etc. Incorporating these spaces into a carefully planned and actively managed GI network creates opportunities to restore and enhance damaged habitats and secure them for future generations to enjoy. Where development will result in unavoidable damage or loss of wildlife habitats, GI can also provide valuable opportunities to deliver the necessary mitigation and compensation required to ensure no net loss of biodiversity.

It is however also worth noting that some wildlife is sensitive to human disturbance, and increased recreational pressures can impact negatively upon such species. It is therefore important to identify and recognise the presence of sensitive wildlife populations within the emerging Wiltshire GI strategy, ensuring that these areas are planned and managed carefully to retain their ecological value.

GI networks can be particularly effective at enhancing biodiversity where these are planned collaboratively with biodiversity partnerships, projects and strategies such as local Biodiversity Action Plans, helping to capitalise on synergies and shared objectives. When planned strategically, GI can help to enhance local biodiversity and improve the natural environmental of Wiltshire's new and established communities.



Image courtesy of www.sitephocus.com

4.5 Analysis of completed ex-district leisure and recreation needs assessments and open space studies

Open space studies or leisure and recreation needs assessments were undertaken by the former North Wiltshire, Salisbury, and West Wiltshire District Councils, and the findings of these studies are summarised in turn below. A review of sport and recreation was undertaken by the former Kennet District Council and this is also summarised below.

North Wiltshire Open Space Study (adopted 2004)⁴³

The North Wiltshire Open Space Study was adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) in 2004. The study provided a quantitative and qualitative audit of existing provision in the district, and offered recommendations for future provision and management.

A five step process was followed, in line with the approach recommended in the Companion Guide to PPG 17:

- Step 1: identifying local needs
- Step 2: auditing local provision
- Step 3: setting provision standards
- Step 4: applying provision standards
- Step 5: drafting policies.

The key findings of the study can be summarised as follows:

- There is a shortage of allotment plots.
- Suggestion that settlements with a population over 5,000 should have a District Park.
- Report proposes that Community Parks should serve settlements with populations over 2,000.
- Report proposes that settlements with a population of 200 should have a Local Park.
- Areas of the district where the deficiency of Public Open Space is most acute included: Cricklade, Lydiard Millicent, Lyneham, Corsham and Rudloe, Colerne, Malmesbury.
- Demand-led provision is likely to be the best approach for allotment sites and they should provide adequate disabled access, information about how to obtain a plot, water supply and obvious entrances.

The report recommends provision standards for allotments, play areas, District Parks, Community Parks and Local Parks. It is suggested that allotments could be provided, when there is a demand for them, when a development would require the provision of Public Open Space but existing facilities are adequate to meet the new demand.

The study does not seek to address sports provision, as this is already covered by the Playing Pitch Strategy for North Wiltshire (see section 3), but does include playing pitches if they are publicly accessible, and utilised in a less structured way.

South Wiltshire Open Space Audit (2007)⁴⁴

The South Wiltshire Open Space Audit followed a similar five step process to that used in North Wiltshire, as set out in the Companion Guide to PPG 17.

The report identifies amenity greenspace sites which score highly for quality and accessibility and should be protected; sites which score poorly and may need to be

⁴³ http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/northwiltsoopen_space_study.pdf

⁴⁴

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/planningpolicyevidencebase/southwiltshirecorestrategievidencebase.htm#SalisburyOpenSpaceStudy>

improved; sites which have low scores for quality but high scores for accessibility where improvements should encourage usage and deter any misuse; and sites with a low score for accessibility but a high score for quality where improvements should ensure accessibility and encourage usage.

Headline key findings of the audit include the following:

- Applying the recommended quantity standard for children and young people indicates that there is a shortfall in provision for children in all community areas, though this is largest in the Salisbury City and Stonehenge areas. There is also a shortfall in provision for young people in all areas, largest in the Salisbury City and Stonehenge areas.
- As many of the outdoor sports facilities are school sites, access can be difficult. Many school sites do not allow community access at all, despite being the only outdoor sports facility in some towns or villages. It should be a priority for the Council to try and open up formal access to such sites where no other facilities exist and to protect such facilities from development.

The report includes recommendations for quality, accessibility, and quantity standards for different types of open space.

West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment (updated May 2007)

The West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment informed the preparation of the Leisure and Recreation DPD. The assessment follows a similar process to that used in north and south Wiltshire.

The main conclusions and recommendations of the report can be summarised as follows:

- Overriding policy priority should be to enhance existing provision where it is of value to local communities or serves a wider purpose.
- In the five towns there are opportunities to rationalise existing open space provision by changing the nature of some spaces in order to meet local needs better, or to dispose of some spaces in order to concentrate the available revenue.
- Clear need for more pitch provision in Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury.
- The council should seek more actively to promote nature conservation in the district's urban greenspaces.
- Desirable to enhance one of the larger spaces in Melksham as a local park.
- The council should initiate a review of urban forestry.
- The council and town councils should keep the need for allotments under review.
- The council should adopt a new approach to play which emphasises play value rather than compliance with NPFA standards.
- The council should work with parish and town councils to provide more and better facilities for teenagers.
- The council should commission a review of the network of rights of way and cycle paths.
- The council should seek to develop a network of cycle links along the canals and between the main towns and larger villages.
- The council should prepare a new masterplan for Southwick Country Park, and should significantly enhance Biss Meadows.
- The council needs to review the way in which it manages many of its greenspaces with the aim of enhancing quality. At present maintenance resources are spread too thinly over too much land.

The report includes recommendations for quantity and quality standards, and distance thresholds.

Contributing to Sport & Recreation: A Review of Standards of Provision in Kennet (June 2004)

This report provides guidance on the future development of sports and recreation opportunities in Kennet District. It identifies where there are deficiencies in provision, both in quantity and quality, and associated issues and opportunities. It goes on to recommend guidance on future levels of provision for different types of facility. It provides clarification on the existing standards of provision adopted in the Kennet Local Plan and also provides guidance on other facilities not covered explicitly by the plan.

Key findings of the report can be summarised as follows:

- The district is blessed with a large stock of community and village halls, but quality varies considerably and some people may have difficulty getting to such facilities. There may be scope for more joint provision and shared use to reduce costs and provide for higher and more varied use.
- The provision of play areas rarely satisfies the adopted Local Plan standards, and there are issues with quality of provision in many areas. Lack of play facilities specifically for older children is an issue. It is important to involve all interested parties in the planning, design and siting of play facilities.
- The district is comparatively well served with modern and attractive sports halls and swimming pools. However, some parts of the district are not within easy reach of the main settlements where such facilities are situated, emphasising the importance of providing local facilities to meet the needs of communities who do not have easy access to the main leisure centres.
- There are probably enough playing pitches to meet the present and future needs of organized sport. The quality of pitches and ancillary accommodation varies across the district.
- New public tennis courts should wherever possible be provided in units of three or four to facilitate development of clubs and/or provide greater flexibility of use.
- The district is very well served by athletics tracks.
- The need for an indoor bowls facility should be further investigated.
- Local allotments already play an important recreation role for many people. However, their role could be enhanced through recognising their wider potential social, environmental, health and community benefits.
- There is a need for a local standard to guide the provision of allotments in the district from the standpoint of both quality and quantity.

The report also identifies a number of potential projects that would help to improve and protect the current Rights of Way network. Provision standards are suggested for village halls and community buildings, children's play facilities, outdoor youth facilities, playing pitches and associated ancillary facilities, and allotments.

Green infrastructure deficiencies and need for a new Wiltshire-wide open space study

The existing open space studies indicate specific areas of under-provision of green infrastructure in Wiltshire, with particular concerns around the provision of allotments, sports pitches, and play areas in certain areas of the county. There is an acknowledged need for an updated open space study to cover the whole of Wiltshire. New open space standards will be developed through an updated open space study, which will also identify areas of deficiency against the new standards.

4.6 Open space standards

There are currently four sets of open space standards which are in operation in Wiltshire covering the four former Wiltshire District Council areas. These standards are used to determine the amount of open space (such as children's equipped play areas, general recreation areas of natural green space, outdoor sports pitches and allotments) to be provided alongside new development.

Standards and policies from the four former district councils relating to the quantity of open space have been compared to identify any gaps or overlaps in policy across Wiltshire. These standards are detailed in table 5 below. It has been necessary to group some standards that were separate in the former district council work, and to separate out some that were combined, in order to compare the standards by open space typologies. The full district council standards (including quality and accessibility) are provided in Appendix 4.

Standards that have already been developed and adopted by other local authorities have also been reviewed to identify any emerging best practice for open space standards. These are detailed in Appendix 4, alongside national aspirational standards which have been reviewed to further add to best practice examples.

Table 5: Open space standards applied in the former district areas

Open space type	Kennet District Council	West Wiltshire District Council	North Wiltshire District Council	Salisbury District Council
Children's equipped play	<p>Policy HC34 - (20 or more dwellings) Equipped Play Space - 0.31 Ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>Policy HC35 – (5-19 dwellings) Children's recreation – 0.72 Ha per 1000 population.</p>	<p>Policy YP1 – Children's Play Areas.</p> <p>Standard Equipped Play - 0.5m² per person.</p> <p>Policy YP2 – Provision for Teenagers.</p> <p>Standard Teenage Facilities – 0.25m² per person.</p>	<p>Policy CF3 Play Areas – 3m² per person.</p>	<p>Policy R2 Recreational open space (comprising facilities for communal outdoor sport and children's play) - 2.43 Ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>Standard Children – 0.1 Ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>Standard Young People – 0.2 Ha per 1000 population.</p>
General recreation area of natural green space	<p>Policy HC34 - (20 or more dwellings) Casual Play Space – 0.41 Ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>Policy HC35 – (5-19 dwellings) Children's recreation – 0.72 Ha per 1000 population.</p>	<p>Policy LP4 – Recreation Facilities.</p> <p>Standard Multi-functional greenspaces – 12m² per person.</p> <p>Policy CR2 – Country Parks.</p> <p>Standard Urban Parks – 1.3m² per person.</p> <p>Policy CR3 – Greenspace Network.</p>	<p>Policy CF3 Local Parks – 15m² per person.</p>	<p>Policy R2 Recreational open space (comprising facilities for communal outdoor sport and children's play) - 2.43 Ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>Policy R3 (accommodation for the elderly) 0.8 Ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>Standard Amenity Greenspace – 1.05 Ha per 1000 population.</p>

Table 5: Open space standards applied in the former district areas (continued)

Open space type	Kennet District Council	West Wiltshire District Council	North Wiltshire District Council	Salisbury District Council
Outdoor sports	Policy HC34 - (20 or more dwellings) 1.71 Ha per 1000 population.	<p>Policy OS1 – New artificial turf pitch provision.</p> <p>Policy OS2 – New grass pitch provision.</p> <p>Standard Sports Pitches and Courts – 10m² per person.</p> <p>Standard Bowling Green's – 0.2m² per person.</p>		<p>Policy R2 Recreational open space (comprising facilities for communal outdoor sport and children's play) - 2.43 Ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>Standard Outdoor Sports Facilities Urban – 4.9 Ha per 1000 population. Rural – 2.4 Ha per 1000 population.</p>
Allotments		Standard 1.5m ² per person		Standard Urban – 0.55 Ha per 1000 population. Rural – 0.38 Ha per 1000 population.

As table 5 shows there is a lack of consistency for most areas of the open space standards across Wiltshire. This lack of consistency highlights the need for a single set of standards to cover Wiltshire Council's administrative area. A consolidated set of interim standards has therefore been drafted for Wiltshire as a whole, and is presented in table 6.

These interim standards for open space have been drawn up prior to the completion of an open space study in Wiltshire. The interim standards aim to provide consistency across Wiltshire Council's administrative area by replacing the four different sets of standards that were in operation in the former district council areas. The intention is that the interim standards will be adopted through a future planning policy document, with the current open space standards for the former district areas being used until this time. The interim standards will be reviewed as the open space study is progressed.

The provision of allotments, play areas, outdoor sports facilities, outdoor sports pitches and facilities for teenagers have been identified as priorities to be supported by the interim open space standards⁴⁵.

The interim standards for children's equipped play have been based on the work of the former district councils; this was one of the few areas where there was consistency in the level of provision across Wiltshire. The interim standards have clarified the definition and national standards for quality and accessibility have been used for further consistency.

The interim standards for general recreation areas of natural green space have been developed from the work of the former district councils with reference to both other local authorities' and national standards. Children's natural play areas have been included in this typology in order to keep them separate from multi use games areas (MUGAs) and kick about areas, thus reducing confusion over provision. Public Rights of Way and canals have been included in the definition as they form a key part of the network of natural green space and improvements to existing routes or additional routes may also enable other existing areas of natural green space to become more accessible. It is expected that improvements to Public Rights of Way and canals will be agreed on site by site basis so they are not specifically mentioned in table 6.

The interim standards for outdoor sports have also been developed from the work of the former district councils with reference to both other local authorities and national standards. There was a lack of clarity in some of the standards for outdoor sports provision from the former district councils with some including the provision within general amenity land provision and others with indoor facilities.

Allotments are particularly lacking standards for provision with only West Wiltshire and Salisbury recommending provision. The North Wiltshire Open Space Study noted that allotment provision was varied both in terms of quantity and quality and suggested that allotment holding should be promoted by the Council as a leisure activity. Additionally allotment provision was identified by the work on the Wiltshire Core Strategy as a priority to be supported by the open space standards. As there are no national standards in place for allotment provision, standards from other local authorities have been considered alongside the work by the former district councils to provide best practice; the relevant standards are detailed in appendix 4.

⁴⁵ Working towards a Core Strategy for Wiltshire. Draft topic paper 13: Green infrastructure. Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation June 2011. P61

Explanations of terms used within the 'accessibility' section of the draft standards are provided below:

Local Area for Play (LAP)

LAPs are small landscaped areas of open space specifically designated for young children under 6 years old and their parents or carers for play activities and socialisation close to where they live. A LAP should be a safe, attractive and stimulating environment which will give young children the opportunity to play and interact with their peers away from their own back garden, thus encouraging the development of a range of social and educational skills.

The site should ideally be within 5 minutes safe walking time of the homes it is designed to serve. The sites should be located close enough to neighbouring dwellings to allow a degree of implied supervision and any planting or fencing surrounding them should be kept low enough to provide adequate views in and out of the area.

Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)

A LEAP is an unsupervised play area mainly for children of early school age between four and twelve years old but with consideration for other ages. Unlike a LAP a LEAP is equipped with formal play equipment and it should provide a focal point for children when they are responsible enough to move away from the immediate control of parents. The area should have a range of play equipment which will stimulate physical, creative, intellectual, social and solitary play and wherever possible there should be provision for children with special needs.

LEAP's should ideally be located within 10 minutes safe walking time of the homes they are designed to serve. If possible they should be sited to allow informal supervision, for example by being overlooked by nearby houses or from well used pedestrian routes.

Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)

A NEAP will serve a substantial residential development and as such should cater for a wide range of children including those with special needs. Play equipment should be aimed primarily at those aged between 4 and 14 and should aim to stimulate physical, creative, intellectual, social and solitary play. Teenage provision should be in the form of kickabout/basketball areas, opportunities for wheeled play (skateboarding, roller-skating, etc.) and meeting areas.

A NEAP should be sited within 15 minutes safe walking time of the homes it is designed to serve and as a neighbourhood area covering a whole estate should normally be located in a central position.

Table 6 – Draft interim Wiltshire open space standards

Open space type	Definition	Quantity	Accessibility (threshold/catchment distances)	Quality
Children's equipped play	Provision for children and teenagers including non equipped LAP	0.3 ha per 1000 people Minimum size 200 m ²	Fields in Trust guidelines: (Formerly six acre standard) LAP: 100 m LEAP: 400 m NEAP: 1000 m In rural settlements i.e. villages, hamlets and not of 'town' or 'city' status this is consolidated: any play area type within 4-600 m.	Fields in Trust Play Value Assessment
General recreation area of natural green space	Land of significant recreation function including: country parks, nature/ecology areas including those associated with water bodies, city parks, Public Open Space (POS), amenity land, Public Rights of Way, canals.	1.0 ha per 1000 people; including 0.5 ha per 1000 people for children's natural play (minimum size of 2000 m ²)	Areas of less than 1 ha: 300 m Areas of at least 2 ha: 2 km Areas of greater than 20 ha: 5 km	Locally derived standard based on Natural England, NPFA and other neighbouring and comparable authorities.
Outdoor sports	With natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned – including Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas, including skateboard	1.6 ha per 1000 people; including 1.2 ha per 1000 people for sports pitches and 0.4 ha per 1000 people for other outdoor sports areas.	Fields in Trust guidelines: (Formerly six acre standard) Playing pitches: within 1.2 km of all dwellings in major residential areas Other outdoor sports: Athletics: one synthetic track with floodlighting per 250,000 people living within 30 mins drive time (45 mins in rural areas) or proposed location Tennis: community tennis courts within 20 mins travel time (walking in urban areas, by car in rural areas)	Sport England, local standards

Open space type	Definition	Quantity	Accessibility (threshold/catchment distances)	Quality
	parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas.			
Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban) farms	0.3 ha per 1000 people – (minimum size 4 allotments)	600 m	Local Standard and fully serviced.

4.7 Green infrastructure asset mapping

The planning of green infrastructure should be based on a thorough understanding of existing GI assets. The assessment of current GI assets and the mapping of opportunities to enhance the Wiltshire GI network will be based on:

- Collation of existing available data
- Interrogation of aerial photographs
- Local knowledge gained through stakeholder consultation
- Comparison with published standards.

GI assets in Wiltshire are currently being mapped. Further GI priorities, assets and opportunities will be identified and mapped as part of GI workshops, which will inform the preparation of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy.

4.8 Specific green infrastructure projects

Cricklade Country Way Project

The Cricklade Country Way (CCW) project is seeking to create a recreational corridor linking urban Swindon and the Saxon town of Cricklade, the Cotswold Water Park and the River Thames. The key project elements include:

- Five miles of restored North Wilts canal, canal basins, moorings and marina
- Five miles of restored steam railway
- A new country park at Mouldon Hill on the edge of Swindon
- 17 miles of new and improved cycle-way and towpath/walkways
- A public art trail
- A new visitor centre at Cricklade
- New community woodlands and wider wildlife habitat and access improvements
- Associated outreach work including educational and skills training.

The CCW would also provide opportunities:

- for local residents and visitors to experience and benefit from access to over 500 ha of high quality green-spaces;
- to create an enriched landscape, with new and improved areas for wildlife, more capable of withstanding increased population pressure and with the capacity to be more responsive to climate change; and
- to get local communities involved, taking increased ownership and benefit from an enriched GI network, and through such involvement sustaining those benefits into the future.

The project would deliver significant elements of green infrastructure in Wiltshire and enhance Wiltshire's GI network and is considered, therefore, a strategic GI resource in Wiltshire. The proposed project area of the CCW is displayed in figure 3.

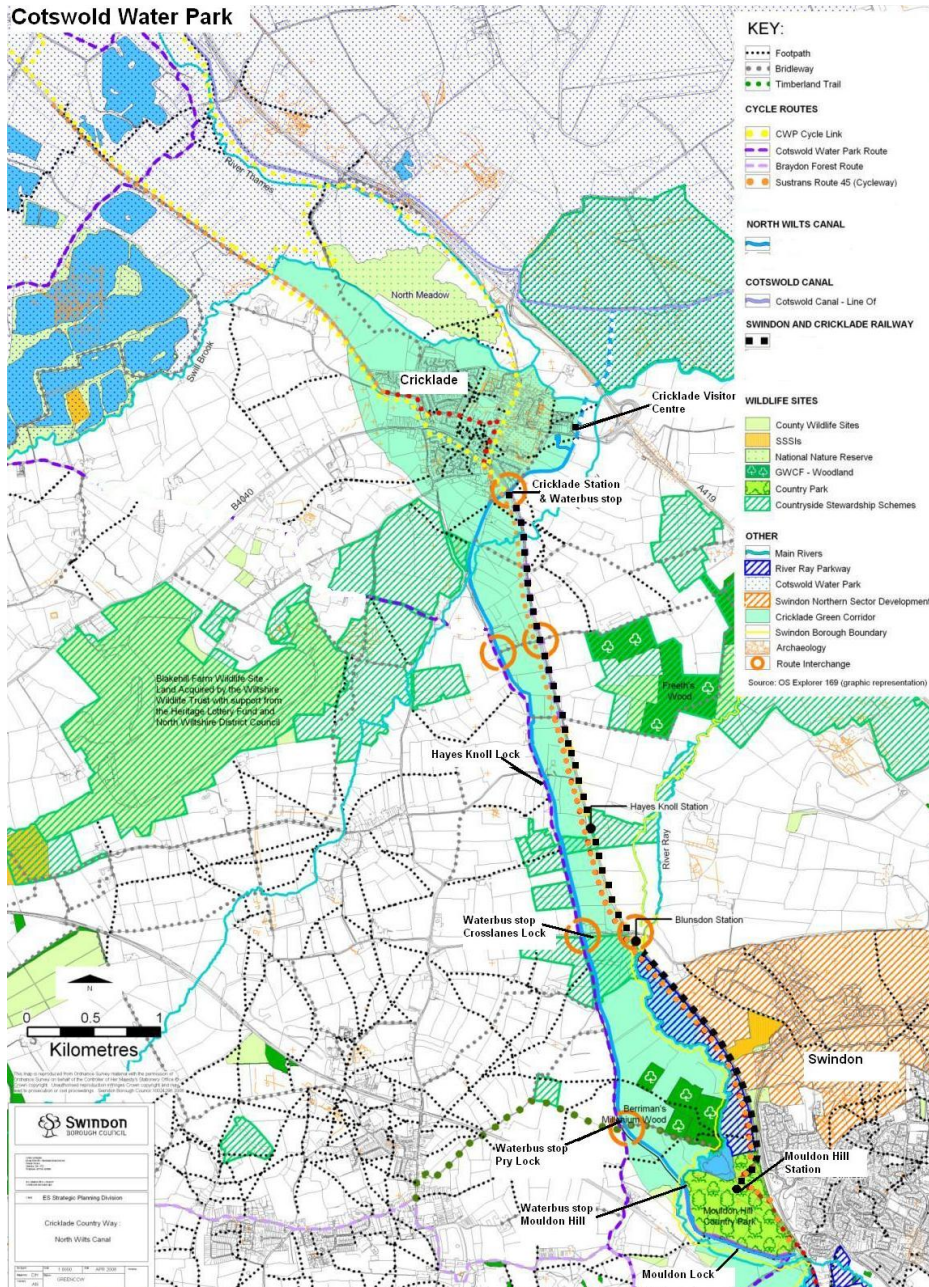
The CCW partnership includes the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust, Sustrans, Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council, the Swindon and Cricklade Steam Railway, Cricklade Town Council and the Great Western Community Forest. There is a wider stakeholder involvement from organisations including the Cotswold Water Park, Cotswold Canals Trust, and other local and national groups.

In September 2006 the partnership was awarded a development grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Living Landmarks scheme. The grant was used to develop detailed plans for the

CCW. As part of this a 'Green Infrastructure Plan for the Cricklade Country Way' was published in March 2007, which includes a detailed delivery plan and is discussed in section 6 of this topic paper.

The southern part of the CCW including the new Mouldon Hill Country Park is being developed by Swindon Borough Council. The remainder of the project could be delivered by drawing down external funding. This, however, is dependent on the completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the obtaining of planning permission from Wiltshire Council for the remainder of the project area.

Figure 3: Cricklade Country Way project area (Source: Cricklade Country Way Business Plan 2011)



The Wiltshire rights of way network

Wiltshire's network of public rights of way is over 6,100km (3,790 miles) long and together with 27,000 hectares (66,700 acres) of access land provides access to a wide range of landscapes and communities. Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Section is responsible for ensuring that the rights of way network is properly mapped, and that paths are maintained in a safe and suitable condition. The management of Wiltshire's rights of way network is prioritised through the delivery of Wiltshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP), discussed in section 6 of this topic paper.

There are many active groups using Wiltshire's paths and tracks, these include:

- Ramblers groups
- Cyclists clubs
- Horse riding societies
- Carriage drivers
- Users of motorised vehicles.

Wiltshire's extensive rights of way network is an essential and core element to Wiltshire's GI network and is considered a strategic GI resource in Wiltshire.

National trails and long distance routes

Many long distance routes cross Wiltshire. Some, such as the Thames Path, are of national importance. Some, like the Ridgeway, are of historic value, while others, such as the newly created Mid Wilts Way, have regional significance.

All are publicised and maintained as recreational routes, though only the Ridgeway and the Thames Path are officially designated National Trails, attracting external funding and management assistance from Natural England. These long distance routes have been developed by a variety of organisations societies and individuals.

There are more than 20 long distance routes that lie partially or wholly within Wiltshire and are an essential component of Wiltshire's rights of way network. Below are the primary routes:

- The Monarch's Way
- King Alfred's Trail
- The White Horse Trail
- The Macmillan Way
- The Imber Range Perimeter Path
- The Kennet and Avon Canal Towpath
- The Fosse Way
- Mid Wilts Way
- The Wansdyke Path
- Aldbourne Circular Route
- The Thames Path National Trail.
- Sustrans Routes
- The Cricklade Way
- The Avon Valley Path
- Clarendon Way
- Celtic Way
- Sarum Way
- Wessex Ridgeway National Trail
- Three Downs Link
- Stour Valley Way
- The Ridgeway

Access Land

Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 provides for a right of access 'right to roam' responsibly on foot to areas of open country, for example mountain, moor, heath and down, and to registered common land in England and Wales, subject to certain restrictions. In Wiltshire there are 260 square kilometres of this type of Access Land, most with public rights of way linking them to the highway or to local communities.

Wiltshire Council is the statutory access authority for the Access Land in Wiltshire except for two sites within the New Forest National Park: Whiteparish Common and Langford Common, for which the National Park Authority is the statutory access authority.

Approximately three quarters of all Wiltshire's Access Land lies within the Salisbury Plain Training Area. This means that access is restricted for military and safety reasons. Despite having operational reasons for restricting access, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has allowed members of the public to use rights of way and Access Land in some areas. The ministry continue to work with the council, local communities and user groups to review these arrangements.

Great Western Community Forest

The Great Western Community Forest is one of England's 12 Community Forests where local people and organisations are working together to create a better environment. The Forest covers an area of 168 square miles, stretching from Wootton Bassett to Faringdon and the North Wessex Downs to the Thames.

The project is a partnership between a range of local and regional organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors, including Wiltshire Council, which work together to deliver a comprehensive package of urban, economic and social regeneration.

The Great Western Community Forest project is creating and maintaining a high quality environment for local people by diversifying land-use, revitalising derelict landscapes, enhancing biodiversity and providing new opportunities for leisure, recreation, cultural activity, education, healthy living and social and economic development. In so doing the Community Forest is creating a wealth of GI resources with huge potential for GI enhancement and is considered as a strategic GI resource in Wiltshire.

Sub-regional / green corridors

There are a number of sub-regional / green corridors in Wiltshire, for instance the River Kennet running between Avebury and Marlborough (sub-regional corridor also mentioned in the Swindon GI Strategy). Such GI corridors in Wiltshire will be identified and mapped as part of the preparation of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and are considered as strategic GI resources in Wiltshire.

Country parks

There are currently a number of existing country parks and open spaces within Wiltshire, including:

- Barton Farm Country Park, Bradford on Avon
- Biss Meadows, Trowbridge
- Southwick Country Park, Trowbridge
- Paxcroft Brook, Trowbridge
- Bratton Camp open space, near Westbury
- Westbury White Horse and viewing area
- Copheap Wood, Warminster
- Figsbury Ring, near Firsdown
- Woodhenge picnic site, Durrington
- Oakfrith Wood local nature reserve, Urchfont
- Urchfont picnic site

- Smallgrain picnic site, near Calne
- Wilton Windmill
- Part of the Cotswold Country Park (previously Keynes Country Park), near Somerford Keynes
- Part of Barbury Castle Country Park, near Broad Hinton.

These country parks form an important element of the strategic green infrastructure network. There are also opportunities to provide new country parks as part of strategic allocations at Chippenham and at Hampton Park in Salisbury, and to extend the existing Biss Meadows country park at Trowbridge.

Bourne Valley Linear Park Project

The Vision of the Bourne Valley Linear Park Project (bvlp) is to establish a linear park of approximately 15 km from the north of Collingbourne Kingston, within the North Wessex Downs AONB, via Collingbourne Ducis and Tidworth, to the south of Shipton Bellinger, thus linking all the settlements in the upper Bourne area to provide a linear gateway to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The project is set out in the Bourne Valley Linear Park Scoping Study (April 2006), as outlined in section 6 of this topic paper.

The Project will provide access for local people and tourists to:

- the River Bourne;
- the surrounding green spaces of the North Wessex Downs AONB; and
- local wildlife and nature habitats, such as the Mere at Collingbourne Ducis.

It will also provide safe walking and cycling through a sustainable transport link along the river valley.

The project is supported by Tidworth Community Area Partnership (TCAP). Both the Community Area Plan and the Tidworth Community Area Strategic Action include the bvlp scheme and both have been approved by TCAP. The Environment Agency's River Avon Catchment Plan, together with flood risk management plans and also the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan link with the project.

The bvlp is a good example of a local GI project, the delivery of which could be supported through the implementation of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Cotswold Water Park and the canal network

The Cotswold Water Park and Wiltshire's canal network are both considered to be strategic GI resources in Wiltshire. Specific policy challenges and opportunities relating to these areas have been identified in section 3 of this topic paper, and evidence relating to the canal network and the CWP is therefore presented in more detail below.

4.9 Wiltshire's canal network

Canals are a very important part of Wiltshire's GI network and provide a multiplicity of benefits, for instance recreational opportunities such as boating and walking, green corridors for wildlife and playing a role in conveying flood water. The canal network in Wiltshire includes part of the fully restored Kennet and Avon Canal, and parts of the partially restored Cotswold Canals and Wilts and Berks Canal. The North Wilts Branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal will also be restored as part of the Cricklade Country Way project. When canal restoration is complete, an impressive 'Wessex Ring' will be formed, comprising the three canal systems, linking to other parts of the UK canal network.

The restoration of the Wiltshire canal network provides considerable opportunities to enhance GI and will be one of the key components of the Wiltshire GI network.

The canal network in Wiltshire comprises the following existing canals and restoration proposals:

- The Kennet and Avon Canal which broadly bisects the county on an east to west axis;
- The Wilts and Berks Canal which broadly runs on a south west to north east axis, and includes the North Wilts Branch which runs between Swindon and Cricklade; and
- The Thames and Severn (Cotswold) Canal which skirts the north west boundary of the county.

The Kennet and Avon Canal

The Kennet and Avon Canal was reopened in 1991 with further major works funded between 1996 and 2001 by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The canal passes through Wiltshire on a broadly east to west axis, passing through or close to Bradford on Avon, Hilperton, Semington, Seend, Devizes, Horton, Pewsey, Wootton Rivers and Great Bedwyn. The Caen Hill Flight near Devizes is perhaps the best known landmark on the canal. The canal is a significant landscape feature and a major recreational and tourism resource which makes an important contribution to local identity, cultural heritage and the environment. The Kennet and Avon Canal Association was formed in 1951 and became the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust in 1962. The trust aims to 'protect, enhance and promote' the canal.

British Waterways, the navigation Authority for the Kennet & Avon Canal, is being moved from a state owned industry to a Charitable Trust and from April 2012 will operate the current assets as the Canal and River Trust.

The Wilts and Berks Canal and the North Wilts Branch

The main line of the Wilts and Berks canal runs from Abingdon on the River Thames to Semington on the Kennet & Avon Canal, via Swindon, Wootton Bassett and Melksham. The North Wilts Branch runs from Swindon to Cricklade, and there are also branches to Chippenham, Calne, Longcot (near Shrivenham) and Wantage. The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (WBCT) [formerly the Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group] has campaigned for protection and restoration of the canal through Wiltshire and Oxfordshire for over 30 years. In 2001 the Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership was formed to link the work of the Trust volunteers to the strategic requirements to put in place a plan to restore the waterway, and is comprised of a wide range of local authorities, statutory organisations, volunteer groups, and commercial organisations. The Partnership endorsed a restoration strategy for the canal in June 2009, which is covered in section 6 of this topic paper.

Much of the original line of the canal through Melksham has since been built on, and the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust has identified a preferred route for a new canal link between the Kennet and Avon Canal and the River Avon, to pass to the west of Melksham and east of Berryfield, and between the River Avon and the historic alignment of the canal to the north east of Melksham.

New routes are also proposed for the Chippenham Branch, to connect to the River Avon, and to the east of Cricklade, to connect to the Thames and Severn Canal at Eisey.

The Thames and Severn (Cotswold) Canal

The Cotswold Canals comprise the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames and Severn Canal. The Stroudwater Navigation runs from the River Severn to Stroud, whilst the Thames and Severn runs from Stroud to Lechlade, passing the Wiltshire settlements of Latton and Marston Meysey (both located close to the northern boundary of the county). In 1972 a society was formed to protect and restore the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames & Severn Canal, and this is now known as the Cotswold Canals Trust. In 2001, the newly formed Cotswold Canals Partnership made a commitment to restore the Cotswold Canals. The section of the canal which passes through Wiltshire is within phase 2 of the restoration proposals, with phases 1a and 1b focusing on the Stroudwater Navigation.

A new route is proposed for the Thames and Severn Canal at Latton, to connect to the culvert built under the A419.

4.10 The Cotswold Water Park

The Cotswold Water Park is an area of more than 140 lakes set in 40 square miles of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, including parts of the Malmesbury and Wootton Bassett & Cricklade community areas. The lakes have been created from decades of sand and gravel extraction. Set to continue for many years, this activity will result in the creation of further lakes in the future. This unique landscape has evolved in response to a complex interplay of physical and human influences, and will continue to change throughout the plan period. The extensive network of lakes, rights of way, recreational activities and nature study areas in the CWP already provides a significant GI asset for the communities of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and visitors from further afield, and could achieve even greater potential. However this will need to be delivered in a sustainable manner which addresses the CWPs unique combination of land use pressures, environmental and heritage sensitivities, and community aspirations for the area, which will require a very specific policy response.

The work of the local authorities and other key organisations in the Water Park is co-ordinated by the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee, which supports the work of the Cotswold Water Park Trust. The CWP Trust has recently undertaken an extensive study of the area including numerous technical studies (Scott Wilson, 2008) and extensive public consultation (Scott Wilson, 2008) to produce a long-term vision and masterplan for the future development of the area (Scott Wilson, 2008). These documents provide the basis for the evidence for each of the issues presented below which are considered relevant to planning, particularly Green Infrastructure.

Mineral extraction and restoration

Mineral extraction has created 147 manmade lakes; it is the single largest driver of change in the CWP and this influence is likely to continue well into the future as the CWP continues to hold significant sand and gravel resources and is recognised as a key resource area for both of the Minerals Planning Authorities (MPAs). Mineral extraction activities can potentially cause environmental impacts during the operation phase including traffic, dust, noise and altered hydrology, however the legacy of restoration can also secure beneficial effects; for example the Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy (2009) adopts a positive and holistic approach to minerals planning which aims to identify opportunities for beneficial effects of mineral working including landscape-scale delivery of biodiversity gains through restoration.

Hydrology

Minerals extraction can have a significant effect on hydrological regimes and can have a direct effect on flood risk if extraction and restoration are not suitably designed, and indeed this is known to be an issue in the CWP where many residents experienced severe flooding in summer 2007. New development in the CWP will need to be planned carefully with this potentially changing flood risk in mind in order to avoid locating development in areas at risk. At the same time increasing flood risk is also an issue in relation to any further hard structure developed around the lakes, particularly in the floodplain; development will therefore also need to be carefully planned to ensure that it does not contribute to flooding problems in this area.

Landscape character

The manmade lakes which have been created in the CWP have had a severe and localised impact upon landscape character and a landscape character assessment has identified these as enclaves that disrupt the form of the traditional landscape character (predominately River Basin Clay Vale) (LDA Design, 2009). In addition to mineral extraction, this study also recognises several other potential pressures on landscape derived from increased demand for leisure and recreational pursuits, and new dwellings / developments which could affect village morphology and character.

Settlements

The main settlements of Cricklade, Lechlade, Fairford, South Cerney and Ashton Keynes all have significant heritage value and help to provide a sense of place for the CWP, therefore the protection of this historic character is of high importance as recognised by the designation of Conservation Areas in these towns. Tourism / second home development could potentially impact upon the area's sense of place and perceptions of the area as a place to live and work, and its historic character.

Communities

It is understood that community awareness of the CWP is relatively low among its population of approximately 22,000 residents. The local communities perceive a number of negative associations with further development of the CWP including a lack of access to the countryside and the lakes, traffic issues due to visitors, and developments which modernise / suburbanise the traditional character of the area. There is therefore a need for future development to visibly benefit local communities through increased access to sports and recreation facilities, and improved aesthetic qualities of their natural environment and setting, creating opportunities for residents to participate in activities which are unique to the CWP.

Transportation and access

Several of the roads through the CWP have been upgraded to accommodate the high levels of HGV traffic in the area; however there is resistance to further such infrastructure which will leave a legacy which is out of character for the area following cessation of minerals activity. Sustrans Route 45 and the Thames Path provide cycle / footpaths to access the CWP from north-south and east-west directions, while there are also a number of paths within the park itself; however there are a number of problems with multiple users in some stretches and single use in others and conflicts with high levels of HVG use in some stretches, and there is a recognised need for more off-road routes. Public transport is limited, although there is potential to create new access through restoration and use of the canals and the Swindon / Cricklade railway. GI has been recognised as a potential option to improve sustainable transport options and access to and within the CWP.

Utilities

Development can put additional pressures on the capacity for utilities including energy supply, water supply and waste disposal; even where visitors form the basis of proposals, the collective impact must be considered. Therefore development likely to increase the capacity for visitors, employees and residents will need to address its implications on utilities. Sustainable construction which utilises solar panels, rainwater harvesting and good insulation can help to reduce these impacts and is encouraged by the CWP Trust.

Biodiversity

The CWP holds a very high proportion of internationally, nationally and locally important sites for biodiversity, which include meadows, open water and reedbeds, which support importance populations of bats, birds, amphibians and invertebrates. The protection and enhancement of biodiversity is seen as a major objective for the CWP Trust, however this is not seen as mutually exclusive from the delivery of sustainable development; indeed the CWP Trust recognises developments can incorporate mechanisms to address biodiversity targets and achieve mutual benefits.

Leisure and recreation

Cotswold Country Park (CCP, previously known as Keynes Country Park) is the main leisure and recreation facility and there is acknowledgement that further leisure and recreation facilities could be developed and an aspiration to create a further country park in the east of CWP in order to increase the capacity for visitors in a sustainable distribution across the park by reducing pressures on CCP and the surrounding road network. While further leisure and recreation development is widely supported, it is generally considered that this should comprise a series of facilities which should seek to draw together different assets to form a destination rather than one large 'flagship' development.

Sailing, angling and water skiing are the main sports uses of the lake at present, and an audit has revealed that there is capacity to increase such use with a primary requisite for public access. This could be achieved through expansion of existing facilities and development of new facilities for water sports such as canoeing, rowing and windsurfing, and land-based sports such as golf.

Tourism

CWP already attracts large numbers of day visitors from the surrounding areas, however it is understood that there is significant potential to attract more overnight visits. Several potential assets to attract such visitors have been identified, including Cricklade Country Way, Thames & Severn Canal restoration, a RSPB reserve and a water sports centre. Potential tourism markets include wildlife tourism, water sports, events based tourism, business tourism and the education market.

The expansion of tourist accommodation has been the largest influence on the direction of development in recent years including chalets, caravans, second homes and a hotel, however there is a recognised need for a more considered approach to future accommodation proposals which need to be clearly justified based on visitor demand, environmental measures, and impact on the local community. Secondary homes in particular have been raised as a major concern for the area and there is a clear need to establish the threshold for this type of development which could be difficult as this will require distinction between second home owners and self catering units.

Heritage and archaeology

In addition to the historic settlements of the CWP, there are also several other important heritage assets in this area including monuments, henges, hill forts, roman villas, canals and a railway, while mineral extraction has also unearthed a range of artefacts including a 50,000 year old mammoth skull. Development will need to be sensitive to these heritage features, while also representing an opportunity to improve access and interpretation.

5. Identifying priorities at a community level

5.1 Introduction

This section summarises evidence of community aspirations for their areas including a review of community plans, parish plans, consultation to inform the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Wiltshire County Council 2008 – 2012, and other Wiltshire plans at the community or parish scale. The section also reviews consultations undertaken to inform the Wiltshire Core Strategy, including consultations undertaken by the former district councils before the transition to a unitary authority. Community priorities and consultation responses relating to the canal network and the Cotswold Water Park are summarised separately at the end of this section, as there are specific policy challenges and opportunities relating to the CWP and canals.

5.2 Community plans, parish/town plans and the rights of way network community level priorities

Community plans

All community aspirations as detailed through Wiltshire's Community Plans listed in Appendix 1, were reviewed and summarised. A list of the strategic and/or commonly occurring aspirations is detailed in Table 7 below.

Town/parish plans

All community aspirations as detailed through Wiltshire's Town and Parish Plans listed in Appendix 1, were reviewed and summarised. A list of commonly occurring aspirations is detailed in Table 8 below.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Wiltshire County Council 2008 – 2012 Consultation

A consultation exercise was undertaken to inform the development of an action plan within The Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008-2012. Comments were collected from town and parish councils through the consultation. These comments have been summarised by Community Area and are detailed in Table 9 below.

Table 7: Summary of key community aspirations as detailed through Wiltshire's Community Plans

Green infrastructure concerns	Key aspiration requirements	Community area
Fragmentation of wildlife and habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse the decline in wildlife and the fragmentation of wildlife areas and habitat by reconnecting these areas. 	Wiltshire wide Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire 2007-2016.
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop more green public open spaces Improve the quality and maintenance of existing and new open spaces. 	Numerous
Sport, recreation, play areas and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the level of play facility provision. Increase the number of play areas, skateboard facilities, tennis courts, football, rugby and cricket pitches. Improve the quality and maintenance of new and existing facilities. 	Numerous
Rights of way network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce new walking routes and rights of way to improve public access to the countryside. Maintain the quality of existing routes and improve where necessary. Improve the signage and mapping of rights of way 	Numerous
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve urban and rural environments through additional tree planting and planting of orchards. Improve biodiversity through the designation of more conservation areas, undertaking long term wildlife projects and improving river environments through the 'Living River Project'. 	Numerous
Cycle facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of cycle routes between the town and countryside. Improve and maintain the quality of cycle routes. 	Numerous
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve allotment provision and maintain the quality of new and existing allotment sites. 	Numerous

Green infrastructure concerns	Key aspiration requirements	Community area
Cricklade Country Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the development of the Cricklade Country Way. 	Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area
Improve the urban realm – Chippenham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the public realm through planting more trees and shrubs, creating more parks and open spaces, improvement of the riverside environment linking to town centre. • Create a new country park for Chippenham. • Increase provision of allotments. 	Chippenham Community Area
Improve the urban realm – Trowbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify land for new sports facilities. • Improve the quality of play areas. • Maintain and enhance wildlife habitats, stream and river quality. • Improve the quality of the River Biss corridor and environment. 	Trowbridge Community Area
Improve the urban realm – Salisbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of good quality, accessible parks, open spaces and play areas. • Provide new play area space through the Play Area Management Plan. • Develop new, and maintain existing, allotments in line with Allotment Management Plan. • Improve the quality of existing parks and open spaces. 	Salisbury City Council Plan/Salisbury City Community Area

Table 8: Summary of key community aspirations as detailed through Wiltshire's town and parish plans

Green Infrastructure concerns	Key aspiration requirements	Town/parish
Sport, recreation, play areas and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the level of play facility provision and purchase new recreation land. • Increase the number of play areas, skateboard facilities, tennis courts, football, rugby and cricket pitches. • Improve the quality (equipment and size) and maintenance of new and existing facilities. 	Numerous
Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance areas of open space and views. 	Numerous
Rights of way and bridleway network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce new walking routes and rights of way to improve public access to the countryside and keep existing routes open. • Maintain the quality of existing routes and improve where necessary. • Improve the signage and mapping of rights of way. 	Numerous
Cycle facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of cycle routes between the town and countryside. • Improve and maintain the quality of cycle routes. • Design-in cycle routes into new developments. 	Numerous
Christian Malford and Sutton Benger 'Causeway'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore the causeway between Christian Malford and Sutton Benger. 	Calne Without Parish
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve environments through additional tree planting and planting of orchards. • Protect and expand wildlife habitats and protect the landscape. • Improve biodiversity through the designation of more conservation areas, undertaking long term wildlife projects and improving river environments/corridors through the 'Living River Project'. 	Numerous
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing allotment space and keep allotments open. • Provide more land for additional allotment sites. 	Numerous
Bourne River Community Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance access to both the Downs and the river. Acquire riverside land for public amenity use, including the Bourne River Community Farm. 	Laverstock and Ford Parish

Table 9: Summary of comments received from town and parish councils through consultation to inform The Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008-2012 (summarised by community area)

Community area	Town and parish council comments
Malmesbury	The majority of parish and town councils agreed that the rights of way network was of high importance. Rivers, streams and canals were the areas that were considered the most appealing. Wildlife was also considered to be an important attraction. The main barriers to access were a lack of signage/information and poor condition of stiles and gates.
Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	The rights of way network was considered to be of medium to high importance. Farmland and rivers, streams and canals were there areas that were considered to be most appealing. Wildlife and historic buildings / monuments were also considered to be important attractions. The main barriers to access were the poor condition of stiles and gates and boggy / flooded / rutted paths.
Chippenham	The majority of parish and town councils agreed that the rights of way network was of high importance. Rivers, streams and canals and forest/woodland areas were considered to be most appealing. There was no consensus on what were the most important attractions with wildlife, car parking, historic buildings / monuments and nothing specific all receiving a number of responses. The main barrier to access was the poor condition of stiles and gates.
Calne	The rights of way network was considered to be of medium to high importance. There was no consensus on what areas were most appealing. Wildlife and nothing specific were considered to be the most important attractions. There were very few responses on barriers to access so no conclusions can be drawn.
Corsham	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. Farmland was considered to be the most appealing area. Pubs / cafes were considered to be important attractions. No responses were received on barriers to access.
Marlborough	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. All areas were considered to be appealing (downland routes, open downland, forests / woodland, rivers, stream and canals and farmland). Wildlife and nothing specific were considered to be the most important attractions. The main barriers to access were a lack of signage/information, poor condition of stiles and gates and ploughing or other obstructions.
Pewsey	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. Downland routes, open downland and rivers streams and canals were considered to be the most appealing. Nothing specific was considered to be the most important attraction. The main barriers to access were boggy / flooded / rutted paths and ploughing or other obstructions.
Devizes	The majority of parish councils agreed that the rights of way network was of high importance. Rivers, streams and canals were the areas that were considered the most appealing. Wildlife and nothing specific were considered to be the most important attractions. There were very few responses on barriers to access so no conclusions can be drawn

Community area	Town and parish council comments
Tidworth	The rights of way network was considered to be of medium to high importance. Downland routes and forests / woodlands were considered to be the most appealing areas. Nothing specific was considered to be the most important attraction. There were very few responses on barriers to access so no conclusions can be drawn.
Bradford on Avon	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. Forests / woodland areas were considered to be the most appealing. Wildlife and nothing specific were considered to be the most important attractions. There were very few responses on barriers to access so no conclusions can be drawn.
Melksham	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. Farmland and forests / woodland areas were considered to be the most appealing. Wildlife and nothing specific were considered to be the most important attractions. There were very few responses on barriers to access so no conclusions can be drawn.
Trowbridge	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. All areas were considered to be appealing (downland routes, open downland, forests / woodland, rivers, stream and canals and farmland). Car parking and wildlife were considered to be the most important attractions. There were very few responses on barriers to access so no conclusions can be drawn.
Westbury	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. All areas were considered to be appealing (downland routes, open downland, forests / woodland, rivers, stream and canals and farmland). Nothing specific was considered to be the most important attraction. There were very few responses on barriers to access so no conclusions can be drawn.
Warminster	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. Downland routes and farmland were considered to be most appealing. Nothing specific was considered to be the most important attraction. The main barriers to access were a lack of signage/information and boggy / flooded / rutted paths.
Amesbury	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. Downland routes, rivers, streams and canals and forests / woodlands were considered to be the most appealing areas. Wildlife and nothing specific were considered to be the most important attractions. The main barriers to access were a lack of signage/information and poor condition of stiles and gates.
South West Wiltshire	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. All areas were considered to be appealing (downland routes, open downland, forests / woodland, rivers, stream and canals and farmland). Wildlife and nothing specific were considered to be the most important attractions. The main barriers to access were a lack of signage/information, boggy / flooded / rutted paths and poor condition of stiles and gates.
Salisbury	No response was received from Salisbury.
Southern Wiltshire	The rights of way network was considered to be of high importance. Downland routes were considered to be most appealing. There were very few responses on barriers to access so no conclusions can be drawn.

6. Consultations undertaken to inform the Wiltshire Core Strategy

Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document (June 2011)

The Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document was subject to consultation between June and August 2011. The consultation document included two draft policies relating to green infrastructure. Core policy 35 (CP35: green infrastructure) was drafted to support green infrastructure projects and initiatives, and identified key strategic components of the green infrastructure network. Core policy 36 (CP36: green infrastructure development management policy) set out requirements for development in relation to green infrastructure, including the need to retain and enhance existing on site green infrastructure, the need to provide open space in accordance with the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Standards (open space standards), and the need to put measures in place to ensure appropriate long term management of green infrastructure. This draft policy also indicated that proposals for major development should be accompanied by an audit of existing green infrastructure within and around the site.

Comments received in relation to green infrastructure are summarised in table 10 below. All responses have been taken into account as the green infrastructure policies have been further developed for the submission draft core strategy.

Table 10: June 2011 core strategy consultation: summary of responses received in relation to green infrastructure

Theme	Issues raised
Green infrastructure policies (CP35 and CP36)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No mention of the country parks as part of the network 2. Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Standards need to be incorporated in the Core Strategy for consultation 3. CP35 should establish a conceptual basis for GI rather than a list of assets 4. Wording should be amended slightly to ensure that suitable links to the GI network are provided and maintained to ensure maximum accessibility and usage, not just the network itself.
Canals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More robust policy statement to protect the alignment of Wilts & Berks Canal 2. The Melksham Link should be protected 3. Restoration and enhancement of the canal network should be supported by Core Strategy to enable funding from CIL 4. Policy to ensure that the long-term development of the K&A canal is does not damage the environment and is sensitive to the West Wilts Green Belt and the Cotswold AONB e.g. Policy HG14A adopted by B&NES.
Cotswold Water Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to recognise cross boundary issues in CWP 2. Need to protect biodiversity in the CWP 3. Need to recognise CWP masterplan and BAP

Wiltshire 2026 Planning for Wiltshire's future (October 2009)

The Wiltshire 2026 consultation was undertaken between October and December 2009 to inform the content of the Wiltshire Core Strategy. The Wiltshire 2026 document did not include specific policies relating to green infrastructure, but did mention green infrastructure within one of the strategic objectives, and made reference to aspects of green infrastructure in specific community areas.

The responses to the Wiltshire 2026 consultation are summarised in the Consultation methodology and output report (CoMOR), which was published in August 2010. A number of comments were received in relation to the proposed strategic objectives in the Wiltshire 2026 document which are relevant to green infrastructure. These comments are summarised in table 11.

A number of comments were also received relating to green infrastructure issues, opportunities and projects in specific community areas. These are summarised in table 12.

In addition to the comments listed above, comments were also received relating to specific green infrastructure issues, opportunities and projects which do not fall within a single community area. These included the following comments:

- Need to recognise the Cotswold Water Park Strategy and Review Implementation Plan as a relevant document in producing the core strategy.
- Need to protect wildlife habitat along the River Avon and Kennet and Avon Canal.
- Request for maps of all open spaces and sports pitches in each community area.
- Request for information about the proposed route of the Wilts and Berks Canal.
- Consider how woods owned by the Woodland Trust in the Wiltshire area can contribute towards a green infrastructure strategy, for example as linkages in green corridors.

Table 11: Wiltshire 2026 consultation: comments on strategic objectives which are relevant to green infrastructure

Strategic objective	Comments received relating to green infrastructure
SO2: to provide for long term economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key outcome should link the conservation of the natural and built environment to sustainable economic activity. The contribution of the Kennet and Avon Canal should be considered. • Green infrastructure should be used to attract new investment.
SO4: to secure appropriate infrastructure and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the comments suggested that certain types of infrastructure should be given prominence under this objective, even if they were included under other objectives, such as transport, green infrastructure and affordable housing. • Rights of Way and cycle pathways, climate change adaptation, flooding mitigation measures, and waterways, such as the Kennet and Avon Canal, were also put forward for inclusion under this objective.
SO5: to enhance the vitality and viability of town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of respondents stressed the value that the heritage in Wiltshire’s towns, including canals and waterways, has in contributing towards attractiveness and providing a focus for regeneration.
SO6: to encourage safe accessible places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific mention should be made of the role that the natural environment plays in creating safe, accessible places and access to natural green spaces should be a priority. • The need to consider encouraging healthy places is important and this should also be included in the objective.
SO7: to promote sustainable forms of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage alternative modes of transport, including walking and cycling, to link housing with towns and places of work and to provide links between neighbouring settlements.
SO8: to protect and enhance the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be more recognition of the positive role that development can play and this should be recognised in the allocation of development. • The new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) could fund green infrastructure. • A number of respondents felt that the wording of SO8 implied that new green infrastructure was sought only within developments, and pointed out that nature conservation had to be considered in a more holistic fashion. • The phrase ‘green infrastructure’ was disliked and not clearly understood. • Opportunities for green corridors should be maximised.
SO10: to minimise the risk of flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The county’s canals network should be mentioned as they are an important part of flood risk and control.

Table 12: Wiltshire 2026 consultation: comments relating to green infrastructure in specific community areas

Community area	Comments received relating to green infrastructure
Chippenham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for river corridor enhancement • Concern about impact of development on Birds Marsh Wood.
Trowbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment is needed in the River Biss corridor and this presents an opportunity for regeneration in the town centre. • A strategic approach is required to ensure the most is gained from the development along the Biss corridor in terms of wildlife, visual amenity and green infrastructure. • The Biss supports a fragile population of water voles and is also used by otters. • The development of the River Biss corridor should include good access, recreation opportunities, tree planting/protection of hedgerows. • The Environment Agency supports the use of the riverside and would like to see enhancements for wildlife and amenities as long as they do not compromise flood storage. The concept of a country park along the River Biss is supported. • Formal playing pitches for cricket, football and rugby are urgently needed. • Developer contributions are urgently needed for green infrastructure provision. • A permanent ground for Trowbridge Town Football Club is needed. • New cycle routes linking to new development are needed. • An adequate cycling network is needed in Trowbridge, providing safe access to schools, the town centre and the railway station.
Wootton Bassett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of responses were received highlighting the amenity value and environmental assets of Brynard's Hill. • Public rights of way identified as a constraint to development to the west of Swindon. • Development must protect the Cricklade Country Way as a green belt corridor - development could undermine the rural setting of the railway and its recreational value. The proposed development at the west of Swindon will have serious consequences for the Cricklade country way green corridor project. • Desire to establish a safe and accessible cycle network between Wootton Bassett, Cricklade and Swindon.
Bradford on Avon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion that a green infrastructure map should be produced for Bradford on Avon. • Desire to protect environmental corridor in Bradford on Avon, and concerns over loss of green space. • Need to provide public open space in Bradford on Avon. • Need to strengthen rural-urban links in Bradford on Avon.
Corsham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure sustainable links between Corsham, new development and nearby villages.
Devizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism opportunities at Caen Hill Locks.

Community area	Comments received relating to green infrastructure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kennet and Avon Canal provides opportunities for walking and cycling in Devizes. The canal presents opportunities to form a green corridor, and offers an opportunity for well-planned green infrastructure. • Concern about steady and persistent erosion of public open space by housing in Devizes. Desire to safeguard public open space. • Concern about impact of development at Bureau West on Lay Woods in Devizes. • Concern about impact of development at south east Devizes on Drew's Pond Wood. • Desire to allow sufficient provision for new green spaces within and around Devizes.
Malmesbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable transport routes are needed into the town centre in Malmesbury. These should make use of river corridors. • Need to consider infrastructure requirements in Malmesbury town thoroughly and to ensure that these were provided for. This includes requirements for drainage, cycle routes and green infrastructure.
Marlborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlborough's location within an AONB and within easy reach of Avebury has the potential to benefit the town economically if sufficient accommodation is available and walking and cycling links are improved.
Warminster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are insufficient recreational and sport facilities. • A high quality walking and cycling network will be required within any new development in the town. Measures should include safe links to the town centre and excellent provision of cycle parking and interventions to reduce car use. • There is a need to improve walking and cycling routes to the town centre and schools and to nearby Westbury. Safe routes for cyclist are needed between local towns. • Although the suggestion that the existing County Wildlife Site (CWS) can be protected through provision of additional green space, habitat creation and areas of flood protection is noted, similar comments should also have been made for other CWSs and SSSIs across Wiltshire. A county wide policy to this effect would be expected.
Melksham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the Wilts and Berks canal restoration in Melksham, subject to a suitable route being agreed. It was suggested that the restoration of the canal could offer opportunities for safe walking and cycling provision, providing links with other settlements. • The EA suggested that river corridor enhancement should be added to the list of issues and opportunities in Melksham. • A number of people raised the additional issues of walking, cycling, and bridleway provision in Melksham, with particular problems identified in accessing the new school and the new Asda store. • Melksham Without Parish Council was concerned that all current formal and informal open spaces should be retained and that residential gardens and small green spaces should be protected from development. • It was suggested that the river and Clackers Brook should be recognised as green corridors for Melksham. • Need for more formal pitches, leisure facilities and play areas in Melksham. • Need for development to provide a high quality walking and cycling network.

Community area	Comments received relating to green infrastructure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council wish to see more recreational land provided to the north of the town. • There were widespread concerns about the loss of the green land between Melksham and Bowerhill. There were also concerns that the preferred option was located on much used green space. • Wilts and Berks Canal Partnership suggested a number of sites adjacent to the proposed canal route as alternative development sites. • The Kennet and Avon Canal Trust noted that any development in Melksham viewed from the canal should be carefully designed to ensure it is compatible with the open aspect.
Westbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire to improve walking and cycling links both within Westbury and to nearby villages and towns, such as Trowbridge and Warminster.

6.1 Review of local district planning documents (further detail and consultation responses are available in Appendix 5)

Kennet District Council – Spatial Options for Future Development Consultation (May – June 2008)

The Kennet Core Strategy ‘spatial options for future development’ consultation was undertaken between May and June 2008. The consultation pamphlet does not make specific reference to green infrastructure, or to green corridors or a network of open spaces. However, the pamphlet does set out opportunities, threats, and planning policy issues for each of the community areas in Kennet, some of which are relevant to green infrastructure. Relevant content in each area is summarised in table 13. Responses to the consultation relating to green infrastructure are summarised in appendix 5.

Table 13: GI content relating to each community area in Kennet

Community area	Content relating to green infrastructure
Devizes	Threat: undervaluing of biodiversity Planning policy issue: how to protect the local environment including areas which are not subject to protection
Marlborough	No relevant content
Pewsey	Planning policy issue: how to protect biodiversity from the impact of development
Tidworth	Opportunity: promote the area through its rich environmental characteristics.

North Wiltshire District Council – Second Issues and Options Consultation (May – July 2007)

North Wiltshire District Council consulted on a ‘Second Core Strategy Issues and Options’ document between May and July 2007.

The consultation paper does not make specific reference to the concept of ‘green infrastructure’, or the need to protect and enhance the network of green spaces in the district. There is one reference to the need to protect and enhance ‘strategic green corridors’ in the context of the Great Western Community Forest Plan, but not across the wider district area. The paper notes that “North Wiltshire contains several natural assets that are capable of supporting exceptional leisure facilities including the Cotswold Water Park, the largest inland Water Park in the UK and the Kennet and Avon Canal”. The paper also suggests that the Cotswold Water Park and the Great Western Community Forest could be identified as ‘special policy areas’.

The ‘tourism’ section of the paper identifies the following issues and opportunities:

- The need for tourism development of the Cotswold Water Park and not just residential development.
- The lack of a consistent strategic position on the Cotswold Water Park is seen as a significant issue.
- A call for the completion of the Cricklade Country Way.

A number of place-specific issues and opportunities are identified in the consultation paper, and these are summarised in table 14 below.

Table 14: North Wiltshire place specific GI issues and opportunities

Settlement/area	Issues/opportunities
Chippenham	Vision includes that “The town will benefit from its protected open spaces, indoor and outdoor sports facilities and the utilisation of the river and riverside”.
Calne	Vision includes that “The town will be a place that has a range of services that are well used, offering entertainment and recreational facilities”.
Corsham	No comments
Malmesbury	Vision includes that “The town will support small businesses, provide a range of accommodation, sustain a range of community facilities, but also protect the area’s natural and historical assets”.
Wootton Bassett	Vision includes that “The town should have the right level of facilities for the size of the town, with a hub for sports provision at Ballards Ash”.
Cotswold Water Park	<p>“The Cotswold Water Park area is recognised as a nationally and regionally important nature conservation area. The overall scale and importance of the area should be maintained”.</p> <p>“Future development proposals in the Water Park should be considered in the context of the Cotswold Water Park Strategy, a measured approach is needed between mineral working, recreation/tourism, development and nature conservation”.</p>

The consultation paper suggests a series of generic development control policies, and those which are relevant to green infrastructure are summarised in table 15 below.

Table 15: Suggested generic development control policies (relevant to GI) (North Wiltshire)

Generic development control policy	Relevant content
DC1: Community infrastructure core policy	Sets out community infrastructure requirements to be met by major development proposals (where a need is demonstrated) including: new or improved public open spaces; leisure, sport and recreation provision; and environmental protection and enhancement.
DC6: Woodland	Supports the creation, conservation, enhancement and positive management of woodlands. Specifically refers to Bird's Marsh Wood (Chippenham), Vincient's Wood (Chippenham), Pockeredge Drive Wood (Corsham), and woodland within Braydon Forest.
DC7: The Great Western Community Forest	"Development shall only be permitted where it does not prejudice the implementation of the Great Western Community Forest Plan".
DC8: Trees, site features and the control of new development	Seeks to protect trees and other site features.
DC11: Development in conservation areas, historic parks and gardens	Applications for development in Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens "will only be permitted where the proposal will preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area".
DC32: Leisure facilities and open space	Sets out criteria for proposals for the redevelopment, replacement or improvement of existing leisure facilities or open spaces.
DC33: Provision of open space	Sets out requirement for provision of open space alongside new housing development. Refers to North Wiltshire Open Spaces Study.
DC35: Wilts and Berks / Thames and Severn Canals	"Restoration of the Wilts and Berks, including the North Wilts Branch, and Thames and Severn Canals along the routes as defined on the proposals map, will be supported in principle by protecting the alignment". The policy also sets out ways in which the alignment will be protected.
DC37: Thames Path National Trail	"In connection with the establishment and enhancement of the proposed Thames long distance path, development will not be permitted where proposals are likely to result in a significant adverse effect on the amenities and open landscape along the river and footpath route".

South Wiltshire Core Strategy

'Our Place in the Future' Consultation (July – October 2007)

The 'Our Place in the Future' consultation was held by Salisbury District Council in 2007, and asked for views on prioritising the issues affecting the community, and shaping future development, and options for the future of Salisbury (the Salisbury Vision).

A series of topic papers were created to support the South Wiltshire Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD consultation exercise. Of specific interest to GI were the following Topic Papers:

- TP 1 - Climate Change
- TP5 - Biodiversity
- TP6 - Flooding
- TP10 - Tourism and leisure
- TP13 - Conservation

Our Place in the Future Consultation Paper

The consultation paper draft vision and objectives do not contain a specific reference to green infrastructure or public open space.

Specific issues identified which are relevant to this topic paper include:

- The need to provide access to parks and gardens, especially in urban areas.
- The need to improve the quality and accessibility of natural /semi-natural green space.
- The need to provide more informal space for recreation and leisure near housing.
- A shortage of play facilities for young people.
- The need to improve the quality of and access to outdoor sports facilities.
- The lack of allotments in the more rural settlements.

The consultation questionnaire presents two suggestions for protecting existing leisure, recreation and sporting facilities and promoting new ones (Option 30):

- Developers should contribute towards the provision of local sport, leisure and open space facilities, particularly where they are contributing to the demand for such facilities.
- Community access to public and private facilities – such as school and commercial facilities – should be encouraged and facilitated.

The consultation paper presents a number of objectives, including that Salisbury should be a sustainable and eco-friendly city, and that wildlife, important water features and open spaces should be enhanced. A 'public realm strategy' is outlined, which aims to improve the quality of existing open spaces, and provide new urban squares and parks.

South Wiltshire Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation (February-April 2008)

The idea of the 'community chest' is developed through the document. This looks to provide for the facilities and infrastructure needed or provide a fund that can be used to treat issues of real need identified. It looks to develop policies based on a tariff system which will represent a fair and equitable means of ensuring that developers make a reasonable contribution to the added pressure that their development may place on local services and infrastructure.

The following challenges were identified from the previous round of consultation:

- Growth must be matched by an increased traveller choice, such as enhanced bus services and cycle network, and other demand management tools.

- Protection of South Wiltshire's high quality environment.

The importance of a range of sport and leisure facilities, the need to protect and enhance natural features and the environment and development of a community chest all feature as part of the preferred option 3 spatial vision. Further Preferred Option policies are available in Appendix 5.

South Wiltshire Core Strategy 'Our Place in the Future' Revised Preferred Options Consultation (February-April 2008)

This further consultation document was produced as part of the process of producing a new set of planning policies for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy and follows on from the previous Preferred Options consultation which took place in spring 2008. While this document does not directly address Green Infrastructure, several of the challenges identified are relevant.

Relevant challenges identified within the consultation document include:

- How can we meet the challenge of climate change?
- How can we make the most of our beautiful natural environment while protecting its value?
- How do we face challenges such as flood risk, waste, and reducing pollution?
- How do we face the challenge of providing transport choices?
- What can we do to support safe and healthy communities that provide opportunities for all?

South Wiltshire Core Strategy Submission Draft Consultation (July – September 2009)

This was the first published draft of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy, and was produced following previous rounds of consultation. Consultation responses were intended to inform the Inspector's examination rather than guide significant changes or amendments to the document.

This document identifies challenges and issues relevant to green Infrastructure including:

- Pressures on landscape;
- Issues related to biodiversity;
- Treating flood risk;
- Sport, Leisure and Recreation; and
- The challenge of climate change.

The overarching spatial objective for the Core Strategy is also pertinent to Green Infrastructure 'By 2026 south Wiltshire will be thriving and vibrant, where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life and good health in a safe, clean neighbourhood, appreciate a superb environment which makes the most of the natural landscapes and historic buildings and compliments them with exciting new buildings.'

Relevant Strategic Objectives include:

- To help people feel safer in their communities and to provide a good access to a range of services and leisure opportunities.
- To deliver new buildings which conserve and complement vernacular traditions and maintain and where possible enhance the built and natural environment.

Two Core Policies are particularly relevant to Green Infrastructure:

- CP15 New Forest National Park – Protect the character and environment of the National Park; encourage its enjoyment; and protect the wellbeing of its communities.
- Core Policy 23 - Green infrastructure and Habitat networks - Contribute towards the implementation of the Wiltshire GI Strategy; provide suitable alternative natural greenspace to deter increased public use of Natura 2000 sites; ensure appropriate future management of Green Infrastructure; retain / enhance / replace Green Infrastructure; maintain the integrity of existing Green Infrastructure.

The document also identifies a new country park at Hampton Park as a strategically important Green Infrastructure project.

West Wiltshire District Council – Issues and Options Paper Consultation: December 2007 – February 2008

West Wiltshire District Council consulted on an Issues and Options Paper between December 2007 and February 2008.

The paper does include a specific reference to green infrastructure within the section of the paper dealing with biodiversity (further details below). However, this reference to green infrastructure does not mention the wider aspects of the concept.

The consultation paper suggests the following ‘spatial objectives’ which are relevant to green infrastructure:

- To improve safe access to local recreation, sporting, cultural and other community facilities and to promote healthy lifestyles.
- To protect and enhance our countryside, landscapes and environmental assets.

The paper presents visions for each of the main settlements: relevant content of these visions is presented in table 16.

Table 16: West Wiltshire place specific GI issues and opportunities

Settlement	Vision content relating to green infrastructure
Trowbridge	The transformed town centre will include a wide range of shops, leisure and cultural facilities.
Bradford on Avon	No relevant content.
Melksham	There will be “accessible and improved leisure and recreation provision” and “canal related developments”. “The town centre will benefit from new investment and will promote its riverside location”.
Warminster	There will be “greater integration of the civil and military communities which will enable cross usage of sports/education/social facilities”. “Warminster will have close links with the surrounding network of highly attractive villages and countryside, which will support rural economic development and tourism”.
Westbury	No relevant content.

The paper includes a section on leisure and recreation needs, which states the following:

- A recent Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment has established that Bradford on Avon and Melksham are deficient in sport and recreation provision.
- In rural areas, the main issues are about access to existing facilities.

The consultation paper states that the district council will seek contributions from new development towards various forms of infrastructure, where necessary.

The paper also includes a specific section about biodiversity, which states the following:

- Green infrastructure is the network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces, and the linkages between them. These linkages include river corridors, flood plains, migration routes and landscape features that act as wildlife corridors.

Key tourist attractions within West Wiltshire with GI potential are listed as follows:

- The Centre Parks resort
- The Kennet & Avon Canal
- Brokerswood Woodland Park
- A number of National Trust and English Heritage sites.

Three options are presented relating to the restoration of the Wilts & Berks Canal:

- Option 1: Seek to safeguard the preferred route option, which uses the river Avon to pass through Melksham before rejoining the historic line of the Canal to the north.
- Option 2: Explore the viability and deliverability of alternative route options.
- Option 3: Withdraw support for the restoration of the canal but continue to promote the line of the historic canal line for interpretive and recreation purposes.

6.2 Identifying priorities at a community level in relation to canals

The Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document (June 2011)

As mentioned above, the Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document was published for consultation in June 2011. A number of responses were received relating to the need for both a core policy to protect the existing and historic canal network, and policy protection for the proposed new canal link at Melksham.

Comments relating to the wider canal network can be summarised as follows:

- A number of responses were received relating to the need for a core strategy policy to protect the historic route of the Wilts & Berks Canal. This included comments from Canoe England and the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, as well as comments from members of the public.
- Concern was expressed about the need for support and protection for the existing Kennet and Avon Canal (in responses from Canoe England, the Inland Waterways Association, and the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust).
- A concern was also raised relating to the need for the core strategy to include a policy to ensure the long term development of the Kennet and Avon Canal is carried out so that the environment of the canal is not damaged.
- The Inland Waterways Association expressed concern that planning and infrastructure policies should not inhibit or prevent the eventual restoration of the Cotswold Canal.
- There was a suggestion that the council should adopt a policy regarding residential boats, similar to Policy HG14A adopted by B&NES, and another suggestion that the question of residential moorings should either be addressed in the Core Strategy or a subsequent development plan document.
- The Kennet and Avon Boating Community suggested that local planning policy on residential boat moorings must be changed to reflect the fact that the impact of these is far less than the impact of bricks and mortar dwellings, and that living on boats

without a mooring must be viewed as a form of affordable housing and supported as such.

Comments relating to the Melksham Link project can be summarised as follows:

- A number of respondents requested protection of the proposed new 'Melksham Link' canal route between the Kennet and Avon Canal and the River Avon, passing to the west of Melksham and east of Berryfield. This included comments from Canoe England, the Inland Waterways Association and the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust.
- The Environment Agency emphasised that there is a large amount of work to be undertaken to establish the environmental risks/barriers to the restoration of the Wilts & Berks Canal. The EA requested that environmental constraints relating to the canal link should be highlighted in the Core Strategy, including issues such as water abstraction, water quality, biodiversity and flood risk issues.
- Responses were received on behalf of four landowners who own land across which it is proposed to construct the new line of the Wilts and Berks Canal. These responses noted that there is general agreement in principle between all landowners through whose land the canal route is to run between Semington and Melksham to support both the canal and the necessary enabling development to facilitate its construction. The responses suggested that the council should emphasise the link between the canal and regeneration of the town centre, and also that, if the council is supportive of the reconstruction of the canal, then it should recognise that this will only be achieved through the provision of enabling development.

Earlier consultations and community level plans

Relevant content of community plans and parish/town plans, and responses to various previous consultations (the Wiltshire 2026 consultation, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation, and core strategy consultations undertaken by the former district councils) have been summarised above.

Comments from these previous consultation exercises which relate specifically to canals can be summarised as follows:

- Rivers, streams and canals were highlighted as appealing aspects of the rights of way network in a number of community areas, in response to the consultation to inform the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- There were suggestions in response to the Wiltshire 2026 consultation that canals should be mentioned under the strategic objectives relating to the economy, infrastructure, town centres, and flood risk.
- The Kennet and Avon Canal provides opportunities for walking and cycling in Devizes. The canal presents opportunities to form a green corridor, and offers an opportunity for well-planned green infrastructure.
- Support for the Wilts and Berks canal restoration in Melksham, subject to a suitable route being agreed. It was suggested that the restoration of the canal could offer opportunities for safe walking and cycling provision, providing links with other settlements.
- The Wilts and Berks Canal Partnership suggested a number of sites adjacent to the proposed canal route as alternative development sites.
- The Kennet and Avon Canal Trust noted that any development in Melksham viewed from the canal should be carefully designed to ensure it is compatible with the open aspect.
- The need to protect wildlife habitat along the River Avon and Kennet and Avon Canal was highlighted.

- Request for information about the proposed route of the Wilts & Berks Canal.

6.3 Identifying priorities at a community level in relation to the Cotswold Water Park

Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document (June 2011)

Responses to the June 2011 core strategy consultation in relation to the CWP highlighted a failure to recognise the importance of the CWP Vision and Implementation Plan (VIP) for the area and the role which the Core Strategy has to play in the delivery of this vision. A strong desire to give the CWP VIP some weight within the development framework and rationalise the planning policies across both local authority areas was also expressed by officers at a meeting with the CWP officers group.

The consultation document did not include any specific policies on CWP, however the following points were raised in relation to the CWP area:

- The importance of wildlife within the area.
- The importance of canal restoration schemes for the area.
- The need to recognise CWP as an important feature of the Malmesbury and Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Areas.
- Flooding is a concern for residents.
- Traffic problems around the Cricklade area.
- Tourism and leisure industries are seen as potential employment opportunities.

Consultation on Cotswold Water Park Vision and Implementation Plan

An extensive consultation was carried out on this plan in 2008, involving an online consultation, face-to-face consultation with key stakeholder groups, and workshop sessions with local community and business representatives. The main issues emerging during this consultation relating to planning and development include tourism, communities, sustainability, heritage, natural environment, sustainability, built heritage and planning.

Tourism, Leisure and Recreation

- Concerns were raised about tourism development, particularly second / holiday homes.
- Concerns about some sports, leisure and recreation development were raised, however this related to the scale and nature of potential developments, particularly where this might affect the tranquil setting of a settlement.
- Further concerns were also raised about the potential traffic issues related to leisure based attractions.
- The prospect of leisure and recreation routes and publicly accessible facilities was welcomed.

Communities

- Residents welcomed the prospect of deriving benefits from development for communities.
- Accessibility to the lakes and countryside was raised as a concern.
- Respondents suggested the use of settlement protection zoning.

Natural Environment

- The biodiversity aspirations were widely accepted by residents.
- Nature reserve type attractions were met with less resistance than other attraction types.

Sustainability

- Climate change and its potential implications for the CWP was raised as an issue, particularly flooding.
- A potential role for the CWP to reduce downstream flooding was identified (climate change adaptation).
- Sustainable design and use of technologies was identified as a requirement for the CWP.

Built Heritage

- Support was given for built heritage aspirations.

Planning

- Support was given for the recommendations for an Area Action Plan, helping to provide consistency across the CWP.
- It was seen as important to integrate the CWPVIP into the local LDFs.

Consultation on Cotswold District Council Core Strategy (Second Issues and Options Paper)

This document was published in December 2010 and subject to a full public consultation during 2011 and includes a new policy on the CWP. The consultation event generated many responses on the CWP which have been summarised below. Although this consultation was aimed primarily at communities in the CDC area, the issues raised in relation to the CWP are also likely to be relevant to the Wiltshire area.

Tourist accommodation

The greatest number of responses and greatest concerns were raised in relation to the number of holiday / second homes built recently in the CWP area. Residents are strongly opposed to the development of further holiday / second homes as these are seen as driving up house prices, using up developable land for local people, poorly planned, and out of character. Contrary to this a local developer suggested that holiday homes are needed to support the growth of tourism in the CWP and reduce pressures on nearby towns and villages.

While the impact of holiday homes is likely to have been greater in the CDC area due to the different in policy frameworks, this strong public response highlights clear local opposition to this type of development in the CWP.

Accessibility

This issue received the second greatest response, with local residents generally supporting proposals for greater public accessibility to areas of the CWP, and raising concerns about certain types of leisure development and gated communities. There is a recognised need to balance the needs of tourists and residents in this respect.

Sustainable transport

Concerns over increased traffic as a result of further development and the need to mitigate this through sustainable transport models were raised by several respondents. Support was given to proposals to provide greater and improved options for sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and horse riding. In particular restoration of canals was highlighted as offering potentially important opportunities for sustainable transport.

Natural environment

The biodiversity and landscape of the CWP was seen as an important resource and valuable for attracting visitors to the area. Support was given to objectives for biodiversity and landscape.

7. Other relevant strategies and plans

7.1 Relevant green infrastructure strategies or similar

A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Swindon (2009)

Swindon's Green Infrastructure Strategy presents a vision for the development of a strategic green infrastructure network across the Borough of Swindon and reaching into neighbouring areas. The Strategy identifies three GI corridors at the strategic scale:

- The Upper Thames
- The Ridgway
- The River Ray/Sustrans Cycle Route 45.

The Strategy also proposes six sub-regional corridors, including:

- Swindon to Highworth
- The Braydon Forest
- The River Cole Corridor
- The Wilts & Berks Canal to Wootton Bassett
- Wroughton to Barbury Castle.

The strategy notes that "ambitious plans are in place for the restoration of the historic canal network, linking the Wilts & Berks Canal, with the Thames and Severn canal via Swindon. Feasibility studies are currently being undertaken for routing the canal through the centre of Swindon".

The strategy also refers to the Swindon Central Area Action Plan, which "includes policies and proposals on green roofs, enhancing GI through Central Swindon and re-instatement of the canal through Swindon".

A Green Infrastructure Plan for the Cricklade Country Way (2007)

The Cricklade Country Way (CCW) Project is seeking to create a recreational corridor linking urban Swindon and the Saxon town of Cricklade, the Cotswold Water Park and the River Thames. The key project elements include 5 miles of restored North Wilts canal, canal basins, moorings and marina.

The Green Infrastructure Plan for the Cricklade Country Way (CCW) was published in 2007 as part of a Big Lottery Fund's Living Landmarks scheme development grant awarded to the CCW partnership in September 2006. The GI Plan sets out a detailed project plan for the CCW highlighting the significant GI benefits and opportunities that delivery of the plan would provide.

The plan notes that "The construction of the canal, associated towpath, and cycle route along the CCW will create a 'spine' into which the existing footpath network can connect: unlocking the potential to develop a network of promoted circular walking routes linked to key 'gateway' points along the CCW corridor, to nearby settlements and to significant areas of open space" (p.11).

The plan also states that "Land acquisition and mitigation measures being considered in the development of the canal should also consider wider opportunities for habitat creation, in particular where any such work would be easily accessible for users of the CCW corridor. The semi-natural habitats typically associated with the line of canals/railway/cycle routes will form important connective features on completion of these routes as part of the CCW initiative. In addition, potential mitigation measures associated with the development of the

canal, e.g. creation of wetland areas, would help to improve the viability of the core corridor as a connecting feature for wildlife” (p.25). One of the objectives identified under the theme of ‘reconnecting the landscape’ is to “create and improve semi-natural habitats including neutral grassland, wetland and associated features, hedgerows with a focus on key areas” including the planned route of the canal (p.30).

Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Wiltshire County Council (2008 – 2012)

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) was prepared by Wiltshire County Council in 2008 and continues to be an operational document for Wiltshire Council. The publication is a requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) Act 2000 and sets out the policies and practices of Wiltshire Council’s rights of way section.

The Improvement Plan analyses the existing network of public rights of way and Access Land which was set up under the CRoW Act. It also deals with other forms of statutory and non-statutory countryside access in Wiltshire. The plan adopts a hierarchical approach to the management of the public rights of way network in Wiltshire by which limited resources are targeted at the following types of routes:

- National Trails and regional routes
- Routes deemed to be important within their local area strategic path network or which have high frequency of use
- Other paths.

The plan lists the Kennet and Avon Canal Towpath as one of the primary long distance routes that lie partially or wholly within Wiltshire.

The results from a wide-ranging consultation process influence how access to the countryside is managed and improved. The aim is to meet the current and future needs of users and landowners/managers.

During 2011/12, the council will once again work with relevant partners and stakeholders to develop the next RoWIP. Given anticipated funding constraints, the focus of the RoWIP will be to manage the existing rights of way network on a prioritised hierarchical basis according to known and expected levels of use and demand.

Bourne Valley Linear Park, scoping study, viability analysis and community engagement report (April 2006)

This report provides the vision, context, ‘hypothetical route’, ecological networks, linking projects and forward plan for the Bourne Valley Linear Park (bvlp) project, which is described in more detail in the evidence section above. The Action Plan includes a number of actions relating to green infrastructure, rights of way improvement and environmental enhancement, particularly Action L1. Development of a Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan for the near urban fringe. *‘Development of a GI Plan for the near urban fringe area that takes full account of existing important habitats and species as well as habitat creation and linkage and the cultural heritage of the area.’*

An Urban Fringe Action Plan for Southern Swindon

This Action Plan is a non-statutory plan for the southern urban fringe of Swindon, an area of strategic significance, providing the southern gateway to Swindon from the M4 and the bridge between Swindon and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to the south. The Action Plan was set out as a requirement in the AONB management plan. The Great Western Community Forest team are also currently working

on the preparation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the urban fringes of Swindon beginning with the urban fringe area of southern Swindon.

7.2 Draft vision statements (Trowbridge, Chippenham, Salisbury)

The Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury Vision Statements, currently in preparation, will be a distillation of community and local government aspirations for the three principal urban areas and their environs in Wiltshire. For the visions to be truly sustainable and for the visions to maximise benefits to communities, it is essential that GI is a key component.

7.3 Biodiversity plans

Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2008)

The Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies local priorities for conservation most relevant to Wiltshire and sets out actions and targets for their conservation. It is prepared and delivered by a partnership of organisations including Wiltshire Council, Natural England, Environment Agency, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre, Cotswold Water Park Trust, and many others. The Wiltshire BAP works within the framework of the South West Biodiversity Delivery Plan and Integrates with the Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan. Together these biodiversity action plans identify the priorities for the maintenance and enhancement of Wiltshire's biodiversity and establish the biodiversity priorities which Wiltshire's GI network should also deliver.

7.4 Site based plans

Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan (2009 – 2014)

This plan is the statutory management plan for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The plan sets out a 25 year vision for the AONB and presents a suite of objectives and policies, which are delivered through an annually reviewed rolling programme of actions. The plan contains a number of objectives, policies and actions relating to countryside recreation, leisure, public access and environmental enhancement. 68% of the AONB falls within Wiltshire and 44% of Wiltshire is covered by AONB designation.

North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (2009 – 2014)

This plan is the statutory management plan for the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The plan sets out a vision for the AONB and presents a suite of objectives and policies, which are delivered through an annually reviewed rolling programme of actions. The plan contains a number of objectives, policies and actions relating to countryside recreation, leisure, public access and environmental enhancement, which includes the following specific GI action: 'Ensure that 'green infrastructure' (new or enhanced biodiversity assets) is incorporated within the area of all medium or large-scale developments, both within or near the AONB.' 39% of the AONB falls within Wiltshire and 44% of Wiltshire is covered by AONB designation.

Cotswolds AONB Management Plan (2008 – 2013)

This plan is the statutory management plan for the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The plan was prepared for the Cotswolds Conservation board following a review of the earlier 2004 management plan prepared for the then 17 constituent local authorities, and has been adopted by the Board. The plan is intended to provide direction for a period of around 20 years, although the focus is on policies and actions for the period 2008-2013.

The plan contains a number of objectives, policies and actions relating to countryside recreation, leisure, public access and environmental enhancement, including: 'Encourage the improvement of priority habitat and species conservation by extending and improving ecological connections between habitats at an appropriate mindscape scale.' 7% of the AONB falls within Wiltshire and 44% of Wiltshire is covered by AONB designation.

New Forest National Park Management Plan (2010 – 2015)

All National Parks must produce a plan for their area. The New Forest National Park Management Plan sets out a vision for how the National Park should look and function in 20 years time. The Management Plan sets out a suite of strategic and aspirational targets to deliver the vision.

The National Park provides a significant GI resource and a proportion of the Park is situated within south east Wiltshire. The Plan includes the following action relevant to GI: *EN1. Agree and implement a recreation management strategy for the National Park.*

Avebury World Heritage Site Management Plan (2005)

This management plan was written for the Avebury part of the 'Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites' World Heritage Site (WHS). The plan was prepared on behalf of the Avebury WHS Steering Committee following review of the management plan published in 1998 and has been adopted by Wiltshire Council.

The plan aims to protect the outstanding universal value (OUV) of the Avebury WHS. At the same time it aims to achieve a broad vision of the quality, significance, condition and management needs of the site and its intrinsic and enduring value.

The plan presents a set of management objectives based on a strategic view over thirty years and medium-term objectives for five to ten years. The implementation section of the plan concentrates on identifying objectives / projects, which can be instigated and / or achieved in the short term (5 years) and includes objectives relating to the enhancement of public access and sustainable tourism.

Much of the Avebury part of the WHS is green infrastructure, with significant elements that are publicly accessible, providing a range of leisure, recreational and educational benefits, particularly historic and cultural heritage .

Stonehenge World Heritage Site Management Plan (2009)

This management plan was written for the Stonehenge part of the 'Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites' World Heritage Site (WHS). The plan was prepared on behalf of the Stonehenge WHS Committee following review of the management plan published in 2000 and has been adopted by Wiltshire Council.

The plan sets the overarching strategy for achieving the correct balance between conservation, access, the interests of the local community and the sustainable use of the site, whether for recreation and tourism, or for agriculture. The plan aims to protect the site for its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), provide access worthy of the site for visitors, and allow its continued use for sustainable agriculture.

The plan presents a set of management objectives based on a strategic view over thirty years and medium-term objectives for five to ten years. The implementation section of the plan concentrates on identifying objectives / projects, which can be instigated and / or achieved in the short term (5 years) and includes objectives relating to the enhancement of public access and sustainable tourism.

Much of the Stonehenge part of the WHS is green infrastructure, with significant elements that are publicly accessible, providing a range of leisure, recreational and educational benefits, particularly historic and cultural heritage.

Cotswold Water Park Strategic Review and Implementation Plan (2008)

This strategic master plan provides a 20 year vision to help guide the future development of the area known as the Cotswold Water Park (CWP). The aims of the master plan are around the area becoming a distinctive countryside and a premier site for nature conservation; offering a range of sports, leisure and recreation facilities; and presenting a quality visitor destination.

Green Infrastructure is recognised as a key driver for sustainable development and environmental enhancement in the strategy. Relevant master plan objectives include:

‘Establish actual links between the countryside and settlements of the CWP using strong landscape features...securing the provision of open public spaces close to settlements; and the development of an integrated leisure infrastructure network.’

‘Develop a comprehensive and integrated network of leisure and recreation routes, designed to deliver a quality experience for all types of users, including walkers and hikers, dog walkers, cyclists, horse riders, runners and general sightseers; the network is to connect all parts of the CWP area and is to be fully integrated in respect of management and transport with all other components of the CWP to meet sustainability objectives.’

The master plan includes specific references to the Thames and Severn and North Wilts Canals. The vision for the CWP in 2028 includes the statement that “the restored Thames and Severn Canal and North Wilts Canal are now hubs of different types of leisure activity, with a number of marinas providing ideal focal points with each consisting of moorings, pubs/restaurants, and retail as well as providing an attractive setting for small-scale office/business units”. The vision also includes an aspiration for a water-taxi system along the canal and for important nature reserves along the corridor of the Thames and Severn Canal.

The master plan notes that “issues concerning the sustainability of maintaining the water levels within the Thames and Severn Canal are still to be fully resolved” (p.36). Despite the potential issues with hydrology, it is noted that “the towpath of the canal still represents an important resource for land-based leisure and recreation pursuits, in particular providing a potential axis route for walking and cycling across the CWP area” (p.50). The plan also lists ‘conceptual developments and projects’ including “Small-scale marinas at the main junctions between the Thames & Severn Canal and River Thames, and the Thames & Severn Canal and North Wilts Canal”.

The CWP has delivered significant green infrastructure enhancements in North Wiltshire and Gloucestershire and has huge potential to deliver further enhancements, particularly through the appropriate restoration and after-use of current and future minerals workings.

The Wiltshire Core Strategy provides a vital opportunity to increase the importance of the Cotswold Water Park Vision and Implementation Plan, helping to secure its implementation and delivery. The plan is the product of a major study and consultation exercise carried out in 2008, clearly identifying the major issues and opportunities facing this area and setting out a strategy to secure the long-term sustainable growth and prosperity of the area while protecting and enhancing its unique communities, heritage and environment. The plan identified planning policy as an 'enabling driver', as the achievement of the core priorities will be dependent upon it. The plan recognises the lack of a consistent planning framework across the CWP area as an ongoing problem and a potential constraint to delivery of the master plan. The Wiltshire Core Strategy therefore represents an important opportunity to address these issues and contribute to delivery of the CWP Vision and Implementation Plan.

A Restoration Strategy for the Completion and Future Development of the Wilts & Berks Canal (Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership, 2009)

This strategy includes a vision to have completely restored a navigable waterway by 2025. The strategy sets out priorities for the project, and identifies linking to the national waterways network as the top priority. The following sections of the canal are listed in order of priority:

1. Kennet and Avon (Semington) to Melksham
2. The Navigable River Thames to Swindon
3. Melksham to Swindon
4. Abingdon to Swindon

British Waterways Conservation Management Plan for the Kennet & Avon Canal (prepared on behalf of the Kennet & Avon Canal Partnership) (October 2000)

The aim of this plan is to ensure a sustainable future for the Kennet & Avon Canal as a result of the grant made by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Conservation Plan is a non-statutory, advisory document which seeks to guide the conservation and management of the canal environment. It aims to conserve the canal's heritage, nature conservation value, and environs, whilst balancing this in as sustainable way as possible against the needs of its users.

Public Transport and Visitor Management Strategy for the Kennet & Avon Canal (1999)

The Public Transport and Visitor Management Strategy is a non-statutory document which supplements the Conservation Management Plan and provides the rationale and framework for the provision of facilities for and management of visitors to the waterway. The Strategy was prepared in parallel with the Conservation Management Plan, as a condition of the HLF grant.

The aims of the strategy are to:

- Provide for the widest possible range of visitors and activities consistent with sustaining the environment, communities and economy of the waterway corridor.
- Enhance the visitor's experience and enjoyment of the corridor and its immediate environs.
- Maintain and increase the benefits to the local economy from visitor use of the waterway.
- Improve and protect the quality of life for local residents and other waterway users.

- Protect the natural and built environment of the waterway corridor.
- Encourage visitors to access the waterway by environmentally friendly means and in particular to encourage the use of public transport.

The strategy indicates that new developments and/or increased activity should, where possible, be focussed on the urban sections of the canal. It also notes that policies should encourage as much non private car use as possible. The strategy identifies three broad character zones: urban zones, intermediate zones, and rural zones, and proposes policy approaches for each zone.

7.5 Emerging documents

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD

The preparation of a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD is being led by a steering group comprising officers from various Wiltshire Council departments. Issues relating to boaters were discussed at a steering group meeting in September 2011, and the notes of that meeting list the following actions relating to boaters:

- 'Itinerant Boaters' should be recognised as part of the travelling community in Wiltshire. A study group led by Wiltshire's Canal Officer should be established to report on their distribution, numbers and needs, their impact on the landscape and contribution to the local economy and to recommend how, as an organisation, Wiltshire Council should respond to this group of travellers. This project should be considered for inclusion in Wiltshire Council's Gypsy and Traveller Strategy and not part of the Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocation DPD.
- Reference to the British Waterways management plan for the Kennet and Avon Canal should be included in the Wiltshire Core Strategy in sections relating to green infrastructure, landscape or tourism as appropriate.
- The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD should clarify the status of 'boaters' and recognise the issues raised by this group of travellers but should not include specific policies.

Wiltshire Leisure Services Strategy – Indoor Facilities and Action Plan

The Wiltshire Leisure Services Strategy – Indoor Facilities is currently in preparation. It is intended that this will form one of five strategic documents aimed at contributing to increasing overall participation in sport and physical activity. These five documents are intended to comprise the Indoor Facilities Strategy, a Formal Recreation and Pitch Strategy, a Play Facilities Strategy, and a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, all sitting underneath a Leisure Services Strategy.

Whilst the emerging Indoor Facilities Strategy is not directly relevant to green infrastructure, it does set out a vision for leisure in Wiltshire:

“Wiltshire will be a county that actively encourages, provides and enables opportunities for all residents to participate in a healthy lifestyle, and through sport and physical activity become more active”.

The emerging strategy also notes that there are excellent opportunities for effective links between leisure facilities and formal recreation and pitches.

8. Challenges and opportunities

It is clear from the evidence provided within this topic paper that there is a need for the protection and enhancement of the GI network in Wiltshire in order to maximise multifunctional benefits for Wiltshire’s communities, economy, wildlife and natural environment. In the absence of any previous specific strategic GI policy, there is a real opportunity to develop a clear and favourable strategic GI steer at the highest plan making level in Wiltshire in order to deliver the many tangible benefits that GI can provide.

The information set out in this topic paper has provided evidence that both a strategic and local approach to the development of a comprehensive GI network throughout Wiltshire is both sought after by local communities and necessary for the many benefits GI can provide.

The challenges and opportunities that Wiltshire must meet through the creation of a more comprehensive, integrated and multifunctional GI network can be broadly categorised into two tiers, these being Wiltshire wide/strategic issues and opportunities, and local/community area issues and opportunities.

Although this section of the topic paper splits the challenges and opportunities into two distinct tiers, the evidence collected in this paper indicates that GI assets from both strategic and local tiers should be considered alongside one another when developing a broader GI network. Local GI assets will have a vital part to play in complimenting the role and function of strategic GI assets and will form the majority of the broader GI network across Wiltshire. Equally, strategic GI assets will contribute to the quality and quantity of local GI provision and will also operate on a larger cross-boundary scale in some circumstances.

8.1 Wiltshire wide/ strategic GI projects and initiatives - the challenges and opportunities

Strategic GI projects and initiatives	Challenges and opportunities
Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	<p>The strategy will be a vital component in the delivery of both strategic and locally focused GI development. It will provide the framework to direct GI network improvements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing clear and ambitious objectives to enhance Wiltshire’s GI network and realise the benefits of GI over a 20 year vision; • providing a robust evidence base that will provide the justification for the delivery of a multifunctional and integrated GI network across Wiltshire; • providing a comprehensively mapped audit of Wiltshire’s current strategic GI assets; and • developing a clear steer on achievable and deliverable strategic GI opportunities that can provide multifunctional benefits for society, the economy and the environment. <p>The development and delivery of the Wiltshire GI Strategy offers a significant opportunity to direct improvements to the most appropriate places and to help develop strategic GI ambitions. There is an opportunity to provide a direct policy link to the emerging GI Strategy in the Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p>
Cricklade Country	The Cricklade Country Way (CCW) Project offers a great opportunity

Strategic GI projects and initiatives	Challenges and opportunities
Way Project	<p>to develop a vital multifunctional GI asset that links Swindon, Cricklade, the Cotswold Water park and the River Thames through varying elements and development projects.</p> <p>The southern section of the CCW is being developed by Swindon Borough Council. However, the rest of the project faces challenges from a lack of funding, and development pressures. There is a significant opportunity to boost the importance of this project through making reference to it in the core strategy text and through directing local developer contributions into delivering elements of the project.</p>
Cotswold Water Park	<p>Significant opportunities exist to deliver the aspirations of the Cotswold Water Park master plan and to work in partnership with the Cotswold Water Park Trust to develop the area's importance as a vital strategic GI component. The CWP is a unique area with specific issues and development pressures, which are worthy of a specific policy response. Extensive studies of the area and consultation with local communities over the last few years have helped to identify these issues and opportunities as explained above in sections 4 and 5 and summarised below.</p> <p>Tourism The CWP is emerging as a tourist destination and this could unlock opportunities for economic growth in the local area, and generate demand for associated development. In the CDC area of the park there has been extensive development of second / holiday homes and there is clearly strong local opposition to this form of development which will need to be differentiated from conventional forms of housing. Wiltshire has successfully avoided much of this unwanted form of development through the previous local plan policy TM1 (which is no longer saved). There is however a need to broaden the mix of visitor accommodation available and this should be determined by a clear strategic and market rationale.</p> <p>Sports, leisure and recreation The CWP already offers a range of water-based activities and there is scope to increase this range and capacity of such activities. Cotswold Country Park (formerly Keynes Country Park) is close to its capacity and there is a desire to provide a broader range of alternative facilities across the park, avoiding a single large attraction. Local communities are concerned about losing access to areas of the CWP due to private developments, and there is a need to balance the needs of residents and visitors. There are many opportunities to increase the public accessibility and quality of facilities across the park, and such proposals are widely supported.</p> <p>Natural environment The CWP is already an important area for biodiversity, and there are strong aspirations to enhance this in the future, which are strongly supported by local communities and stakeholders. The area has a unique and dynamic landscape context which development will need</p>

Strategic GI projects and initiatives	Challenges and opportunities
	<p>to favourably contribute towards during this period of ongoing change.</p> <p>Sustainability and climate change There is a need and desire to have highly sustainable development in the CWP in order to reduce stresses on utilities and resources locally. Traffic is a particular concern and there is a need for development to minimise its impacts upon the road network through sustainable transport solutions. CWP is potentially at risk from flooding issues due to complex hydrology and the effects of climate change, while it also offers potential adaptation opportunities for the wider catchment downstream.</p> <p>Heritage CWP is rich in heritage assets, particularly including its historic settlements which help to engender a sense of place. Development will need to be sensitive to these features and local character, however some developments may also provide opportunities to improve accessibility and interpretation of these features.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to include a specific policy on the CWP in the core strategy, helping to address some of the issues summarised above.</p>
<p>Wiltshire's canal network (Kennet and Avon Canal, Cotswold Canals, Wilts and Berks Canal including North Wilts Branch)</p>	<p>The canal network in Wiltshire currently acts as a vital GI component as a green corridor running through both town and countryside serving as a highly valuable recreation and wildlife habitat asset. It also has a great deal of potential to expand through continued sensitive restoration of the historic routes of the Wilts & Berks and Thames & Severn canals and enhancement of existing stretches of the canal network. The North Wilts Branch of the Wilts & Berks Canal will be restored as part of the Cricklade Country Way (CCW) project and will maintain synergies between the CCW, the Cotswold Water Park and the canal network. Wiltshire's canal network has a great deal of potential and opportunity exists to enhance the benefit that this asset can bring to the local economy, to Wiltshire's communities and to Wiltshire's wildlife.</p> <p>The restoration of the canal network is currently covered by saved policies in the structure and district/local plans, and the core strategy provides an opportunity to consolidate these policies within a single, consistent policy on canal restoration to be applied across Wiltshire. This will also offer an opportunity to ensure that the environmental impacts of canal restoration proposals are properly considered.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity for the supporting text of the core strategy to highlight existing saved policies relating to the Kennet and Avon canal, and the need for impacts on landscape and economy to be considered when determining applications for residential moorings.</p>
<p>The Wiltshire rights of way network</p>	<p>The extensive rights of way network across Wiltshire is highly valued by local communities. However, a number of challenges have been</p>

Strategic GI projects and initiatives	Challenges and opportunities
(walking routes, cycling routes, bridleways)	<p>raised by local communities including a lack of management and maintenance of routes and also difficulties in keeping routes open and useable. Opportunities also exist to enhance the rights of way network through engaging with landowners and strengthening links between town and countryside and between important GI assets. There is an opportunity to recognise the rights of way network as a key element of the Wiltshire GI network in the core strategy, helping to re-enforce its importance as a key GI asset that can link Wiltshire's GI network together enabling integration between GI assets.</p> <p>The Wiltshire rights of way network also includes a number of national trails and long distance routes, which are particularly important when considering GI at the strategic level, linking numerous GI assets across Wiltshire.</p>
Great Western Community Forest	<p>The Great Western Community Forest project is considered to be of strategic importance for Wiltshire's GI network. The forest is a major contributor in creating and maintaining a high quality environment for local people by diversifying land-use, revitalising derelict landscapes, enhancing biodiversity and providing new opportunities for leisure, recreation, cultural activity, education, healthy living and social and economic development. A great deal of opportunity exists to expand the coverage of the forest and further enhance the benefits that the forest can bring in line with the aspirations and objectives of the Great Western Community Forest as detailed through the Swindon Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>Delivery and enhancement of the Great Western Community Forest also represents a great opportunity for cross boundary partnership working with Swindon Borough Council and the Great Western Community Forest which can be considered of strategic importance.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to recognise the strategic importance of the Great Western Community Forest in the supporting text of the core strategy.</p>
Sub-regional green corridors	<p>Sub-regional green corridors are of strategic importance to Wiltshire as they operate across the county and are vital to the function of a truly integrated and connected GI network and also as vital wildlife corridors. These corridors can often operate on more landscape or sub-regional scales and the management and enhancement of these assets may require cross boundary co-operation and partnership. As these corridors operate on a larger spatial scale they face major challenges of fragmentation and erosion of quality. These corridors should be protected and enhanced where possible and opportunities exist to create high quality sub-regional green corridors that are highly valued at both the strategic and local scale. The fully restored Kennet and Avon Canal and river corridors are examples of such green corridors.</p>

Strategic GI projects and initiatives	Challenges and opportunities
	<p>There is an opportunity to highlight the strategic importance of these sub-regional green corridors in the supporting text of the core strategy.</p>
<p>New and existing country parks</p>	<p>There is an opportunity to highlight the importance of the maintenance and enhancement of Wiltshire’s existing country parks, and the provision of new or extended country parks at Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury, by identifying these as key priorities for the enhancement of the strategic green infrastructure network within the supporting text of the Core Strategy. The June 2011 consultation document (to inform the preparation of the Core Strategy) did not list country parks as a key element of the GI network, and this lack of reference to country parks was raised as a concern during the consultation.</p>

Although there is a significant area of Access Land in Wiltshire, it is not considered a strategic GI asset in relation to the formulation of GI policy as it is subdivided into relatively inaccessible areas of land widely distributed around the county, which are often of significant ecological value and sensitivity and have significant constraints such as the presence of grazing animals.

8.2 Wiltshire wide/ local GI projects, initiatives and requirements- the challenges and opportunities

Local GI projects, priorities, initiatives and requirements	Challenges and opportunities
<p>Wilts & Berks Canal: Melksham Link project</p>	<p>There is a plan to develop a new canal link to the south west and north east of Melksham, linking the Kennet and Avon canal with the river Avon and to the historic alignment of the Wilts & Berks canal, as the original route of the canal in Melksham has been lost to development since it was abandoned in 1914. Responses to the June 2011 Core Strategy Consultation indicated that this project is seen as a priority for Melksham, with clear benefits in terms of green infrastructure provision and tourism. The Environment Agency has expressed concerns about the impacts of the proposals on water resources, water quality, biodiversity and flood risk.</p> <p>The proposed route of the Melksham Link was not identified in the June 2011 Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document due to questions over whether the proposals were ‘strategic’ in nature, and the deliverability of the project. However, this issue has been reconsidered due to the level of concern expressed in the consultation responses at the lack of policy protection for the route.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to include policy protection of the Melksham Link route in the core strategy. Any policy protection of the route will need to take account of the concerns raised by the Environment Agency.</p>

<p>Bourne Valley Linear Park Project</p>	<p>The Bourne Valley Linear Park Project is a local scale project and will provide access to the River Bourne, surrounding green spaces of the North Wessex Downs AONB, wildlife and nature habitats and provide walking and cycling routes. The linear park project is a fantastic example of local, multifunctional GI and the Wiltshire GI Strategy will support the delivery and implementation of this project.</p>
<p>Wiltshire open space standards</p> <p>Delivering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s equipped play • General recreation areas of natural green space • Outdoor sports areas • Allotment provision 	<p>Through evidence gathered within this topic paper from consultation responses and community aspirations it is clear that adequate allotment provision is lacking and suitable play facility provision is not adequate with a lack of play areas, outdoor sports facilities, outdoor sports pitches and facilities for teenagers. There is a call to increase the numbers of new allotments, play facilities and sports pitches and the amount of green space provided through new development.</p> <p>Key to addressing these challenges is the creation of a fit for purpose set of consistent open space and accessibility standards for Wiltshire. A draft set of interim standards is provided within this topic paper. These interim standards will be further developed through consultation and will be included within a future planning policy document. Developers and the council will then be expected to adhere to these standards when making future planning decisions.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to make direct reference to the emerging Wiltshire-wide open space standards in the core strategy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking routes and rights of way • Cycle routes 	<p>The extensive rights of way network across Wiltshire is highly valued by local communities. However, a number of challenges have been raised by local communities including a lack of management and maintenance of routes and also difficulties in keeping routes open and useable. Opportunities also exist to enhance the rights of way network through engaging with landowners and strengthening links between town and countryside and between important GI assets. The rights of way network has been highlighted as being of strategic importance for Wiltshire due to its capacity to link Wiltshire’s GI network together enabling integration between GI assets. However the rights of way network is also a highly important local scale GI asset allowing access to the countryside and areas of local importance.</p> <p>Another highly valued local GI asset that can also operate at the county wide scale is that of cycle routes. There are significant opportunities to enhance existing cycling routes and open up new routes throughout Wiltshire were appropriate. These routes play important linking roles between GI assets and act as linear GI assets themselves.</p> <p>The importance of cycling routes and rights of way as linear GI assets and linkages that connect urban and rural landscapes and offer recreational benefits is fundamental to the success of the Wiltshire GI Strategy draft vision and objectives.</p>

<p>Biodiversity: habitat fragmentation and connectivity</p>	<p>A number of community aspirations wished to see biodiversity improved with more natural habitats created for wildlife and substantially more tree planting. Aspirations also strongly wished to see a halt and reversal of habitat fragmentation to aid connectivity of habitats. These challenges are of key concern within the Wiltshire GI Strategy draft vision and objectives and are essential requirements in the creation of a truly linked GI network across Wiltshire.</p>
<p>Public realm</p>	<p>Through evidence gathered within this topic paper and from consultation responses and community aspirations, it is apparent that GI can provide substantial public realm improvements and that communities wish to see their local public realm improved. Improvements to the quality of the public realm and the environment are a key concern for the Wiltshire GI Strategy.</p>
<p>Riverside environments</p>	<p>Significant opportunities exist to improve the quality of river corridors running through some of Wiltshire's towns which are currently underutilised. Substantial benefits could be realised for Wiltshire's economy, communities, and environment through enhancing river environments. River environments also act as important strategic GI corridors and allow routes for the movement of wildlife. A number of the Wiltshire GI Strategy draft objectives can be achieved through enhancing riverside environments and corridors and realising their potential as important linear GI assets.</p>

9. Policy options

9.1 Introduction

This section sets out a series of policy options, for possible inclusion within the Wiltshire Core Strategy, which seek to address those matters, challenges and opportunities relating to Green Infrastructure, identified within this paper, and summarised in Section 8.

The key challenges and opportunities for the core strategy can be summarised as follows:

- The need for a core strategy policy dealing specifically with green infrastructure, supporting green infrastructure projects and initiatives, and providing a link to the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and the emerging Wiltshire-wide open space standards.
- The need for a specific policy to support the restoration of the Wilts & Berks and Thames and Severn Canals.
- The need for a specific policy to protect the proposed route for the Melksham Link canal.
- The need for a core strategy policy dealing specifically with the Cotswold Water Park.

Alternative policy approaches (options) for each of these areas are presented in Tables 17-20 overleaf. These policy options will all be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The results of the SA will be taken into account alongside the other considerations listed in the tables when determining the appropriate approach to follow in the core strategy.

9.2 Green infrastructure policy options

Table 17: Policy options – green infrastructure policy

Option	SA outcome	Conformity with national and regional policy and/or regulations	Deliverability	Community aspirations met	Other	Conclusion
A. Include Core Policy 23 of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy within the Wiltshire Core Strategy without substantial additions or amendment. This would mean that there would be no reference to the Wiltshire open space standards, and no requirement for a GI audit for major developments. Would not include specific policy support for green infrastructure policies and initiatives that may come forward.	No adverse effects are envisaged with either option. A number of significant benefits are associated with Option B.	Yes, conformity with PPG17, as there would be saved policies relating to amenity open space.	<p>No link to the emerging Wiltshire-wide open space standards. Difficult for development management to ensure that development delivers green infrastructure that complies with the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and standards without a requirement for an audit for major development.</p> <p>No specific policy support for green infrastructure policies and initiatives which will be identified through the Wiltshire GI strategy. Therefore</p>	No – lack of coordination between separate open space policies covering former district areas may jeopardise protection and enhancement of GI. Would not provide a policy link for the development of a new set of standards.		Not recommended

Option	SA outcome	Conformity with national and regional policy and/or regulations	Deliverability	Community aspirations met	Other	Conclusion
			lack of support for GI beyond amenity open space.			
<p>B. Amend the text of Core Policy 23 of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy, and include the amended policy in the Wiltshire Core Strategy. The most significant amendments would be the inclusion of reference to the Wiltshire open space standards, requirement to undertake a GI audit for major development, and a statement that green infrastructure projects and initiatives would be supported (and contributions required where appropriate).</p> <p>Wording in SWCS Core Policy 23 relating to N2K sites to be removed as it will be addressed in the Natural Environment Policy Options.</p>	<p>No adverse effects are envisaged with either option. A number of significant benefits are associated with Option B.</p>	<p>Yes - Conformity with PPG17.</p>	<p>Delivered through development management following advice from the Landscape and Design Section.</p> <p>Provides policy support (and requirement for appropriate contributions) for GI projects and initiatives that will be identified through the GI strategy, and will hence assist in the delivery of those projects.</p>	<p>Yes - improved protection of existing green infrastructure assets and improved quality of green infrastructure assets created / enhanced for new communities.</p>		<p>Suggested preferred option.</p>

Table 18: Policy options – canal restoration policy

Option	SA outcome	Conformity with national and regional policy and/or regulations	Deliverability	Community aspirations met	Other	Conclusion
A. Continue to save existing policies relating to canal restoration. Add reference to these saved policies in supporting text to Core Policy 35 (Green Infrastructure).	No significant effects (either positive or negative).	Yes. Current policies seek to protect the historic alignment of the Wilts & Berks and Thames & Severn canals, and hence are in line with PPG 13.	Policies are deliverable through the usual development management process.	Yes. Existing policies already protect the historic line of the Wilts & Berks and Thames & Severn canals.	Would not address concerns with current policies in that they do not recognise the potential environmental impacts of canal restoration work, and that the potential impacts of restoration projects as a whole are not considered.	Not preferred as this option would not address the identified shortfall within current policy.
B. Include a new policy on canal restoration in the Core Strategy to replace the existing local plan policies. Policy to cover protection of the historic alignments of the Wilts & Berks and Thames & Severn canals. Protection and enhancement of the	No significant effects (either positive or negative). However, option B will likely have many more benefits than option A as it offers a comprehensive	Yes. Proposed new policy would seek to protect the historic alignment of the Wilts & Berks and Thames & Severn canals, and hence would be in	Policy would be deliverable through the usual development management process. There are active restoration projects for both the Wilts & Berks and the Thames & Severn canals, and there is therefore considered to be a	Yes. Proposed new policy would still support the principle of restoration of the Wilts & Berks and Thames & Severn canals. Supporting text would clarify	A new policy offers an opportunity to ensure that the environmental impacts of canal restoration proposals are properly considered.	Suggested preferred option.

Option	SA outcome	Conformity with national and regional policy and/or regulations	Deliverability	Community aspirations met	Other	Conclusion
Kennet and Avon canal and potential impacts of residential moorings to be covered in supporting text.	vehicle to promote canal restoration whilst recognising the ecological, landscape and water related concerns that are association with canal restoration.	line with PPG 13.	reasonable degree of certainty that the restoration projects will proceed (at least in part) during the plan period (as required by PPG 13).	that other policies seek to protect and enhance the Kennet & Avon canal, and would also cover residential moorings.		

Table 19: Policy options – Melksham Link project

Option	SA outcome	Conformity with national and regional policy and/or regulations	Deliverability	Community aspirations met	Other	Conclusion
<p>A. Proposed route for the Melksham Link to be protected by core strategy policy, with caveat that environmental concerns would need to be satisfactorily addressed.</p>	<p>No significant effects (either positive or negative). Option A gives a greater range of benefits than option B. The inclusion of a policy in the core strategy will give greater weight to the Melksham link project, ensuring adequate environmental protection and providing a link between the project and the key issue of town centre regeneration.</p>	<p>PPG 13 indicates that there should be a reasonable degree of certainty of a restoration project proceeding within the plan period if a route is to be safeguarded. It is currently unclear as to when the Melksham Link project could come forward, as the landowners have indicated that this would be dependent on enabling development, and appropriate sites for development in Melksham are not identified in the core strategy. However, it is anticipated that sites for development in Melksham will come forward within the plan period. In the meantime it is considered appropriate to safeguard the canal route, to ensure the option of restoration remains open, if potential issues around funding are resolved.</p>	<p>Landowners have indicated that deliverability of the link project as a restored canal would be dependent on the provision of 'enabling development' along the canal route. The Core Strategy does not identify specific sites for future development around Melksham. However, this policy option would safeguard the proposed canal route, thus enabling delivery of the project in the future.</p>	<p>Yes. A number of respondents to the June 2011 core strategy consultation requested protection of the proposed new Melksham Link canal route.</p>		<p>Suggested preferred option.</p>

Option	SA outcome	Conformity with national and regional policy and/or regulations	Deliverability	Community aspirations met	Other	Conclusion
<p>B. Do not include specific policy to protect route of canal link project. Retain references to the project in the supporting text, as set out in the Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document (June 2011).</p>	<p>No significant effects (either positive or negative).</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>No.</p>		<p>Not preferred as this option would not meet community aspirations to protect the proposed route.</p>

Table 20: Policy options – Cotswold Water Park

Option	SA outcome	Conformity with national and regional policy and/or regulations	Deliverability	Community aspirations met	Other	Conclusion
A. Do nothing Continue to determine leisure and recreation applications in CWP under existing saved policies	See below.	Yes	Through development control, as currently.	No. There is a community desire for greater consideration of heritage, transport, amenity, economic and social issues in the CWP.	Fails to implement the CWP masterplan. Drives development across the boundary into CDC.	Not preferred. Fails to implement the CWP masterplan or address specific issues in the CWP.
B. Leisure and recreation only A leisure and recreation focussed policy with development contributing towards addressing the specific issues of the Cotswold Water Park including heritage, traffic, sustainability, landscape, communities, biodiversity, accessibility and economic opportunities. Tourism	Whilst Option A offers a more restrictive approach and stronger environmental protection to the CWP, Option B offers a more sustainable approach that will result in a greater range of benefits across all sustainability	Yes	Delivered through development management.	Yes. Addresses issues raised during previous consultations for development plans and the CWP masterplanning process.	Fulfils a key objective of the CWP masterplan. Contributes towards implementation of other objectives through development	Preferred option. Maximises the positive aspects of recreational and leisure development. Safeguarding against unwanted / inappropriate tourist accommodation to be addressed through a separate core strategy policy.

Option	SA outcome	Conformity with national and regional policy and/or regulations	Deliverability	Community aspirations met	Other	Conclusion
policy within the Cotswold Water Park will be determined according to the tourism specific Core Strategy policy 'Tourist development'.	objectives. Option B offers significant economic and health benefits for the local area.					

10. Abbreviations

AGLV	Area of Great Landscape Value
ANGST	Accessible Open Space Standards
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BDA	Biodiversity Deliver Area
CCW	Cricklade Country Way
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
DPD	Development Plan Document
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GI	Green Infrastructure
IBDA	Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Areas
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment
LDF	Local Development Framework
LAW	Local Agreement for Wiltshire
LDF	Local Development Framework
LTP	Local Transport Plan
NSA	National Scenic Areas (Scotland only)
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
WHS	World Heritage Site

11. Glossary of terms

Definitions of the key terms used in this topic paper are provided below:

Accessible Open Space Standards (ANGSt): Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live.

These standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home;
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home;
- one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): AONBs are areas of high scenic quality designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, with the primary purpose of designation being to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

Biodiversity: Means the 'biological diversity' and includes the whole variety of life on earth in all its forms, or any part of it and its interaction.

Climate Change: The process by which human activities, most specifically the burning of fossil fuels, is believed to be altering Earth's climate, leading to unpredictable and extreme weather conditions.

Climate change adaptation: Actions taken to adjust natural or human systems in response to existing or expected climatic effects, which either moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

Climate change mitigation: Actions taken to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): A proposed levy, which can be charged by Local Authorities, on most types of new development in their area. CIL charges will be based on simple formulae which relate to the size and character of the development.

Conservation Board: An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) management organisation as provided for in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 that represents the full cross-section of interests in the AONB. It is particularly appropriate for extensive AONBs with a multiplicity of local authority and interest groups such as in the Cotswolds AONB.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): EIA is a structured and systematic process for predicting and evaluating the likely impact on the environment of specific projects or courses of action.

Green infrastructure (GI): This term is defined in the Introduction section of this document.

Greenway: Defined by Natural England as a network of largely off-highway routes connecting people to facilities and Open Spaces in and around towns, cities and the countryside. They are for shared use by people of all abilities on foot, bike or horseback, for commuting, play or leisure. Greenways are important linking components within a GI network.

Landscape Character Assessment: A technique used to develop a consistent and comprehensive understanding of what gives the landscapes their special character. It uses a structured approach to describe and assess the character of landscapes, including features that are locally distinctive and those that contribute to the special sense of place of a locality. Landscape Character Assessments can be at broad national scales as well as more detailed at county, AONB, or district scale.

Local Development Framework (LDF): The LDF consists of a Core Strategy and range of Development Plan Documents that provide policy statements and guidance for development management.

National Indicators (e.g. NI 197): A single set of indicators for measuring performance against national priorities. It has been announced that national indicators will be replaced with a single comprehensive list of all data reporting requirements for local government.

Planning Policy Statement/Guidance (PPS/PPG): The Government's national guidance for land use planning.

Section 106 Agreement (S106): A legal agreement under section 106 of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act. Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between a planning authority and a developer, or undertakings offered unilaterally by a developer, that ensure that certain extra works related to a development are undertaken.

Supplementary Planning Document: A Local Development Document that may cover a range of issues, thematic or site specific, and provides further detail of policies and proposals in a 'parent' Development Plan Document.

Sustainable development: A widely used definition was drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS): A sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques. They are designed to improve the rate and manner of absorption of water by hard and soft surfaces, in order to reduce the total amount, flow and rate of surface water that runs directly to rivers through storm water systems.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA): Sustainability appraisal is a systematic and iterative process that appraises the social, environmental and economic effects of plans strategies and policies, from the outset of the preparation process, so that decisions can be made that accord with the objectives of sustainable development.

World Heritage Site (WHS): Recognised by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation) as places of outstanding universal value for their architecture, town planning, landscape, archaeological remains and their role as a setting for social history.

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Figure 1: Typical GI assets and their associated scales - Landscape Institute (2009). 'Green Infrastructure: connected and multifunctional landscapes.' Position Statement.

Figure 2: Areas of economic gains through GI investment - Natural Economy Northwest (NENW) (2008). 'The economic benefits of Green Infrastructure: The public and business case for investing in Green Infrastructure and a review of the underpinning evidence.'

Figure 3: Cricklade Country Way Project Area (Cricklade Country Way Business Plan 2011) – Available from <http://www.crickladedcountryway.org.uk/> (Accessed June 2011)

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of community and parish plans reviewed

Community plans

Amesbury – Stonehenge Community Area Plan 2004-2009

<http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/amesbury-community-plan-2008.pdf>

Bradford on Avon community Plan 2005 and beyond

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/boa_community_plan_2005_and_beyond.pdf

Calne Community Area

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/calne_community_area_plan_update-3.pdf

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/calne_community_area_plan.pdf

Chippenham Community Area – Chippenham and Villages Community Area Plan

http://www.chap-partnership.co.uk/ch_ap/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/chap_community_plan.pdf

Corsham Area Community Plan

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/cacp_plan_update_08-09_final.pdf

Devizes Community Area Plan 2003-2015

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/devizes_area_community_plan_pdf.pdf

Malmesbury Community Area Plan 2005-2015

<http://www.northwilts-communityweb.com/site/Malmesbury%2Dand%2DVillages%2DCommunity%2DArea%2DPartnership/>

Marlborough Community Area Plan – 2004-2014

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/marlboroughcommunityplan.pdf>

Melksham Community Strategy 2004-2014

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/melksham-community-strategy.pdf>

Mere Community Area Plan 2004-2009

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/http_www.salisbury.gov.uk_mere.pdf

Pewsey Community Area Plan – updated 2010/11

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/pewsey-community-area-plan-endorsed-2010-sept.pdf>

Salisbury City Community Area Plan 2004-2009

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/salisbury-community-area-plan.pdf>

Draft Southern Wiltshire Community Plan

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/draft_community_plan_final.pdf

Southern Area Community Plan 2004-2009

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/southern_community_plan-4.pdf

Tidworth Community Area Plan 2003-2013

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/tidworth_community_plan_final_web_version_pdf.pdf

Tisbury Community Area Plan 2004-2009

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/http_www.salisbury.gov.uk_nadder_valley.pdf

Trowbridge Community Area Plan

<http://www.trowbridge.gov.uk/trowfuture.asp?id=166>

Warminster Community Area Plan 2005-2015

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/warminster_and_villages_community_plan_2005_2015.pdf

Westbury Community Area Plan

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/westbury_area_community_plan_2005_-_2010-2.pdf

Wilton Community Area Plan 2004-2009

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/http_www2.wiltshire.gov.uk_wilton-community-plan.pdf

Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Area Plan 2005-2015

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wootton-bassett-cricklade-community-plan.pdf>

Town and parish plans

Alderbury and Whaddon Parish Plan

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/Alderbury%20and%20Whadden.pdf>

Allington and Boscombe

<http://www.southwilts.com/site/allington-parish/The-Parish-Plan.htm>

Amesbury Community Strategy Plan 2006-2016

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/area-board-amesbury-community-strategic-plan-2006-2016.pdf>

Ashton Keynes Parish Plan 2005

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/AK%20Plan%20HPH%20version%204%20FINAL%20with%20front%20cover.pdf>

Baydon Parish Plan 2009

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/Baydon.pdf>

Bemerton Ward - A Ward Plan for Bemerton 2007-2010

Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Plan 2009

<http://www.biddestonevillage.co.uk/uploads/images/ABSOLUTELYFINALPLAN1stJune09%20AW.pdf>

Calne Without Parish Plan (2009)

<http://www.calnewwithout.org/wp-content/uploads/cwpp-plan.pdf>

Christian Malford Parish Plan - 2005

http://www.christianmalford.org.uk/Core/ChristianMalfordParishCouncil/Pages/Village_Plan_1.aspx

Dauntsey Parish Plan 2007-2012

http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/Dauntsey_Parish_Plan.pdf

Dinton

<http://www.southwilts.com/site/Dinton-Parish-Council/The-Parish-Plan.htm>

Donhead St Mary Parish Plan - 2008

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/Donhead%20St%20Mary%20Parish%20Plan%202008.pdf>

Durrington

http://towncouncil.durringtonwilts.co.uk/pdfs/DURRINGTON_PARISH_PLAN_V3.pdf

East Knoyle

http://www.eastknoyle.org.uk/24653_Parish_Plan_WEB_final.pdf

Figheldean

<http://www.figheldean.org/parishplan/Parish%20Plan.pdf>

Great Cheverell Parish Plan - 2006

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/Great%20Cheverell%20Parish%20Plan%20pp%201-26.pdf>

Hilmarton Parish Plan 2005

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/hilmarton%20PP.pdf>

Kingston St Michael Parish Plan 2007

<http://www.kingtonstmichael.com/Uploads/Site126/Files/KSMParishPlan2007.pdf>

Landford Parish Plan 2008-2013

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/Landford%20PP.pdf>

Laverstock and Ford Parish Plan (2009)

http://www.laverstock-ford.co.uk/files/parish_plan_.pdf

Lydiard Millicent -2005

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/Lydiard%20Millicent.pdf>

Maiden Bradley Parish Plan 2005

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/Maiden%20Bradley%20Parish%20Plan%20final%20v1.pdf>

Market Lavington Parish Plan - 2006

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/forms/Parish-plans/Market%20Lavington%20PP.pdf>

Mere Parish Plan 2005

http://www.merewilts.org/Mere_parish_plan/Mere_Parish_Plan_2005.pdf

Newton Toney Parish Plan

<http://www.newton-tonney.org.uk/pdfs/NTPP.pdf>

Pitton and Farley

<http://www.pittonandfarley.co.uk/uploads/Pitton%20and%20Farley%20Final%20Plan.pdf>

Rowde's Future Plan (2009)

http://www.rowdevillage.co.uk/pdf/rowdes%20future%20plan%201_9.pdf

Salisbury City Council Plan -2010-2011

http://www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk/images/stories/City_Plan_2010-2011.pdf

Tisbury

No online link but electronic copy is available.

Trowbridge Town Council Strategy 2008

http://www.trowbridge.gov.uk/minutes/AGENDA/Strategy%202008-2011_revisedOct09.doc

Urchfont Parish Plan: Summary

<http://www.kennet-communityweb.com/site/Urchfont-Parish-Council/PPSummary.pdf>

Wilton Vision

<http://www.wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk/Core/Wilton-TC/UserFiles/Files/FinishedTownPlan8thJune2010.pdf>

Winterbourne

<http://www.southwilts.com/site/Winterbourne-Parish-Council/WinterbourneParishPlan%2009.pdf>

Appendix 2: Cross cutting issues

The following matters are relevant to the green infrastructure topic paper, but are considered in detail by other work streams. These matters have not therefore been covered in detail here.

Cross-cutting matter	Relevant topic paper
Climate change	Climate Change
Protection and enhancement of landscape	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Protection and enhancement of biodiversity	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
The Western Wiltshire Green Belt	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Designated sites	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
BAP habitats	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Protection of nature conservation and landscape features of Salisbury Plain	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Protection of flood plains	Water management/flooding
Wildlife within the Cotswold Water Park	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
AONBs	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Special Landscape Areas	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Protection of the Stonehenge / Avebury World Heritage Site	Built and historic environment
Historic Parks and Gardens	Built and historic environment
Historic monuments and sites	Built and historic environment
Landscape setting of historic towns	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Tourism	Economy
Management of Nature Conservation Features	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Features of geological and geomorphological importance	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Local Nature Reserves/County Wildlife Sites	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Protection of best and most versatile agricultural land	Natural Environment/Biodiversity
Indoor sports and recreation facilities	Wiltshire Sports Facilities Strategy
Water/Flood risk management	Water management/flooding

Appendix 3: Summary of content of ‘saved’ local planning policies relating to green infrastructure

Summary of content of ‘saved’ policies relating to green infrastructure set out within the local/district plans covering north, south, east and west Wiltshire and the West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD

Policy	Summary
Kennet Local Plan 2011	
PD1 Development and Design	This policy sets out design considerations which should be adequately addressed by development proposals, including “relationship to townscape and landscape context and related ecology”; “how the development contributes to the creation of a well used, attractive and safe public realm”; and “landscape proposals”.
HC34 Recreation provision on large housing sites	This policy sets open space standards for new residential developments of 20 or more dwellings: “open space will be required to be provided on the basis of 2.43 ha/1000 people, comprising: a. equipped play space - 0.31ha/1000 people b. casual play space - 0.41ha/1000 people c. formal sports/pitches - 1.71 ha/1000 people”
HC35 Recreation provision on small housing sites	This policy sets open space standards for new residential developments of between 5 and 19 dwellings. Schemes will “be expected to provide land for children's recreation on the basis of 0.72 ha/1000 people”.
AT24 Riverside walks in Marlborough and Pewsey	This policy sets out the council’s proposals for a riverside walk in Marlborough and Pewsey.
NR4 Nature conservation outside designated sites	This policy sets out criteria for development which would “adversely affect a feature which has local ecological importance as a wildlife habitat, or acts as a linear route or network of habitats”.
TR17 Existing Outdoor Sport & Recreation Facilities	This policy states that development of existing outdoor sport and recreational space for other uses ... will only be permitted where: development of a small part of the facility provides improvements to the remaining facilities; a suitable alternative site is provided; or the proposal is for an alternative recreational or community use of benefit to local residents.
TR20 Protection of allotments	This policy states that “development that would result in the loss of allotments or land last used as allotments, as identified on the Inset Maps, will not be permitted unless replacement allotments are provided”.
North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011	
C2 Community	This policy provides a list of community infrastructure requirements which will need to be considered for major

Policy	Summary
Infrastructure Core Policy	development proposals. The list includes “new or improved public open spaces”, “leisure, sport and recreation provision”; and “environmental protection and enhancement”.
C3 Development Control Core Policy	This policy sets out criteria which should be met by new development, including “respect for the quality of the natural and built environment, including the historic environment, archaeology and ecology of the locality and where necessary include measures for the preservation or enhancement of such features”.
NE8 Nature Conservation Areas in the Cotswold Water Park	Policy states that “Development on and around those lakes identified on the proposals map as being of international or national importance for nature conservation in the Cotswolds Water Park will be subject to policies NE5 and NE6. Development on other areas within the Water Park will only be permitted where: i) The value of the site for nature conservation, and its local contribution to biodiversity, would not be seriously harmed, or could be mitigated by planning conditions, obligations or the creation of new, equivalent wildlife features; or where ii) Other material planning considerations are sufficient to override the importance of protecting the local nature conservation of the site”.
NE10 Managing Nature Conservation Features	This policy states that “Development which may adversely affect, directly or indirectly, landscape features which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora will only be permitted if it can be shown that the reasons for the development outweigh the need to retain the features and that mitigating measures can be provided for, which would reinstate the nature conservation value of the features. Appropriate management of these features will be encouraged through the use of conditions or planning obligations and by entering into management agreements with landowners and developers where appropriate”.
NE12 Woodland	This policy states that “The creation, conservation, enhancement and positive management of woodlands across the district will be supported. In particular, areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland should be protected. The retention of the visual amenity and nature conservation value will be sought in particular at the following: i) Bird's Marsh Wood, Chippenham ii) Vincient's Wood, Chippenham iii) Pockeredge Drive Wood, Corsham iv) Woodland within Braydon Forest”.
NE13 The Great Western Community Forest	This policy states that “Development shall only be permitted where it does not prejudice the implementation of the Great Western Community Forest Plan”.
NE14 Trees, site features and the control of new development	Policy states that “Permission will not be granted for proposals that would result, or be likely to result, in the loss of trees, hedges, lakes/ponds or other important landscape or ecological features that could be successfully and appropriately incorporated into the design of a development. Planning conditions will be imposed and Tree Preservation Orders made, for safeguarding single and small groups

Policy	Summary
	of trees in the interests of public amenity”.
HE3 Historic Parks and Gardens	Policy states that “New development and advertisements within or adjacent to Historic Parks and Gardens which do not respect their character, appearance or setting, will not be permitted”.
CF2 Leisure Facilities and Open Space	This policy states that proposals for leisure facilities and open space within or adjoining the framework boundaries will be permitted. The policy also sets criteria to be met for redevelopment, replacement or improvement of existing leisure facilities or open spaces.
CF3 Provision of Open Space	This policy states that “Proposals for new housing development will be required to make provision for open space on site, to provide 15m ² for Local Parks and 3m ² for play areas per person”. Financial payments will be accepted in appropriate circumstances. The policy also states that “Development will be required to make contributions to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity and/or quality of open space and the future maintenance of open space provided to meet needs arising from the new development as set out in North Wiltshire s Open Spaces Study”.
TM2 Wilts and Berks/Thames and Severn Canals	This policy states that the restoration of these canals will be supported in principal along the routes identified on the proposals map. The policy also sets out how the canal alignment will be protected.
TM4 The Thames Path National Trail	This policy states that “development will not be permitted where proposals are likely to result in a significant adverse effect on the amenities and open landscape along the river and footpath route”.
Salisbury District Local Plan 2011	
G2 General criteria for development	This policy sets out criteria against which new development will be considered, including “respect for existing beneficial landscape, ecological, archaeological or architectural features and ... measures for the enhancement of such features and the landscaping of the site where appropriate”; and “avoidance of the loss of important open areas, a gap in a frontage or natural or built features (such as trees, hedges or other habitats, wall, fences and banks), which it is desirable to retain”.
D5 Salisbury Townscape	This policy states that “proposals to alter or change any part of the open urban space network within the Salisbury Central Area will be granted only where they are likely to enhance further the provision or use of such space. The loss of open spaces within the Central Area will not be permitted”.
CN17 Trees	This policy states that “Where permission is granted for the felling of a tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order, or of a tree located in a Conservation Area, the Local Planning Authority will seek, where appropriate, the planting of at least one replacement tree, of a species and size appropriate to the locality”.
CN18 Historic Parks and Gardens	This policy states that “The retention of and, if appropriate, the restoration of historic parks and gardens will be encouraged. Development which would adversely affect these parks and gardens will not be permitted”.
CN19 Environmental	This policy states that “The Local Planning Authority will encourage schemes of environmental improvement as

Policy	Summary
Enhancement	part of development schemes and, for its own part, will establish a rolling programme of environmental enhancement measures to be implemented in the District as financial and technical resources permit”.
C8 Landscape Conservation	This policy states that “In order to maintain the quality and variety of the countryside new development which would result in the loss of trees, hedges or other features that contribute to the character of the landscape will only be permitted where provision is made for replacement planting and the creation of new landscape features”.
C9 Loss of woodland	This policy states that the council will “seek to prevent the loss of woodland of landscape, historical or nature conservation value and to encourage the planting of indigenous tree species appropriate to the area”. The policy also states that “Tree planting proposals which are detrimental to the landscape or nature conservation value of downland or river valley meadows will not be supported”.
C13 Enhancement of retained wildlife habitat sites in developments	This policy states that “Proposals for development which are acceptable under other policies in this Local Plan should retain and enhance as far as possible any existing value of the site as a wildlife habitat. Sympathetic siting of development, suitable planting and seeding, and appropriate site management will be required”.
C15 Nature Conservation in connection with major new developments	This policy states that “The enhancement of nature conservation interests and promotion of habitat creation will be sought in connection with major new development proposals, by means of environmental enhancement schemes and by direct action on District Council-owned land”.
C17 and C18 Rivers and River Valleys	Policy C17 states that “The conservation and enhancement of the rivers and other watercourses, river corridors and associated wetlands will be promoted within the District”. Policy C18 states that “Planning permission will not be given for development which would adversely affect the water quality, amenity, visual quality or public enjoyment of a river or floodplain or its value as a wildlife habitat”. Policy C18 also covers the culverting of water courses and bank protection works.
HA9 Outdoor recreation facilities (in the New Forest)	This policy states that “Outdoor recreation facilities will not be permitted within the New Forest if they are likely to increase the number of visitors to the New Forest or place additional pressure from visitors on the Forest. The only exceptions will be where the facility is to serve local needs or where it is essential for the management of the New Forest”.
HA10 Golf courses in the New Forest	This policy states that “Golf courses will not be permitted within the New Forest”.
R1A Sports and Leisure facilities	This policy states that “New indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities and the expansion of existing facilities will be permitted within or on the edge of settlements” providing that certain criteria are met.
R1C New outdoor recreation facilities in the countryside	This policy sets out considerations for proposals for new outdoor recreation facilities in the countryside.
R2 and R3 Open Space	Policy R2 states that “New residential development will be required to make provision for recreational open space

Policy	Summary
Provision	(comprising facilities for communal outdoor sport and children's play) in accordance with a standard of 2.43 hectares per 1000 population. Additional amenity open space (including landscaped areas, public gardens and roadside verges) will be sought as appropriate". It is stated that the council "may consider reducing this requirement where developments comprise accommodation for those with special needs". Policy R3 sets out a reduced open space requirement for development providing accommodation for the elderly (0.8 hectares per 1000 population), and states that proposals for nursing homes should provide on-site amenity space. Policy R3 also states that "In both cases, on-site amenity space should be of a sufficient size and appropriately landscaped to provide informal sitting out areas, and should be located to maximise the south and south western aspects of the site and the outlook from it. In both cases a planning obligation will be sought with regard to the future occupancy of the dwellings".
R5 Protection of existing outdoor facilities	This policy states that development "which would lead to the loss of public or private sports fields, other recreational open space, or school playing fields, will not be permitted" unless certain criteria are fulfilled.
R6 Urban Parks	This policy states that "Development unrelated to the recreational use of urban parks will not be permitted".
R7 Dual use of educational facilities	This policy states that "The District Council will encourage the dual use of education facilities for recreation purposes wherever possible".
R8 – R13 New Sports and Recreation Provision	These policies allocate specific sites for new recreational facilities, allotments and public open space.
R15 Golf Courses	This policy states that "Golf course developments, and golf driving ranges, will not be permitted within the Salisbury River Avon System, Special Area of Conservation or a Site of Special Scientific Interest". The policy also sets out criteria to be met by proposals for golf course development in other areas of the district, including in designated areas such as the AONB. The policy states that "The land and buildings associated with golf course proposals will be expected to return to agricultural use in the event of the cessation of their use for golf".
R16 Developments with River Frontages and Public Access	This policy states that "In connection with all development proposals involving sites abutting a river in settlements, the desirability of seeking the dedication and laying out of a strip of land adjoining the river of not less than six metres width for the purposes of public access will be examined".
R17 and R18 Public Rights of Way	Policy R17 states that "The Local Planning Authority will encourage the improvement and increased use of the public rights of way network. Proposals to close or divert existing rights of way will not be permitted unless an alternative route is available which is as attractive and is not significantly longer than the original route. Wherever possible, local extensions and improvements to rights of way will be sought as part of development proposals". Policy R18 states that "The Local Planning Authority will, where it is considered appropriate, seek the expansion of public access to the countryside through the creation of new paths and publicly accessible areas and extensions to existing facilities".

Policy	Summary
R20 Allotments	This policy states that “The development of allotment sites will not be permitted unless alternative facilities are provided in an appropriate location, or the allotments are no longer required in the locality”.
TR13 Improvements/extensions to footpaths, cycleways and bridleways	This policy states that “Proposals to improve and extend the footpath, cycleway and bridleway network will be permitted” provided that certain criteria are met.
PS9 Cemeteries	Policy PS9 allocates a specific site in Salisbury for a new cemetery.
West Wiltshire District Plan First Alteration (adopted 2004)	
C1 Countryside Protection	This policy states that “the water environment, the rural landscape and wildlife, will be protected, conserved and enhanced through the control of development and positive planning measures”.
C6a Landscape Features	<p>This policy states that “Development which would have an adverse effect on the integrity and continuity of the District’s characteristic landscape features, listed below, and their associated wildlife (wild flora and fauna), will only be permitted if the planning benefits of the proposal outweigh the harm to the local nature conservation interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponds • Hedges • Stone walls • Water courses • Chalk grasslands • Historic parklands • Semi-natural and ancient woodlands <p>Appropriate management of these features will be encouraged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generally, in accordance with the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan • specifically, by the use of conditions on planning permissions and by the use of planning agreements and management agreements with landowners and developers”.
C9 Rivers	This policy states that “Development proposals should ensure that they do not adversely affect the water quality, quantity, amenity, visual quality or value as a wildlife habitat of a river or watercourse and associated wetlands. Permission will not be granted for works affecting a river or watercourse where there would be significant harm to landscape, visual amenity, nature conservation interests, public enjoyment or a risk of flooding”. This policy also sets criteria for bank protection works.
C31a Design	This policy includes design requirements for new development on prominent or sensitive sites, including that proposals should “Integrate landscaping into the design as appropriate”.
C32 Landscaping	This policy states that “Proposals for development should make provision for landscaping, including the protection

Policy	Summary
	of existing trees, hedges and other natural features of the site, for new planting and for appropriate earth mounding and hard features including surface treatment and boundary enclosures. Where appropriate, consideration of wildlife interest should form part of the proposals for landscaping”.
C39 Environmental Enhancements	This policy identifies areas where environmental improvements are proposed.
C40 Tree Planting	This policy seeks to protect trees of visual amenity value, and indicates that a replacement tree will usually be sought when a tree is felled. The policy identifies areas where tree planting schemes are proposed. The policy also states that “Where public open space and water features are provided in new developments that are not used for formal recreation use, the biodiversity value of the area will be maximised through the planting of native species characteristic of the local area”.
R7 Trowbridge Cricket Ground	This policy allocates the Trowbridge Cricket Ground area “specifically for cricket and associated recreational use unless an appropriate alternative provision is to be made in the locality”. The policy notes that “Part of the area adjacent to the main pitch, annotated on the Proposals Map, is in the ownership of the Health Authority. No development will be permitted on this particular area unless it is specifically required to be used for improved community health care facilities”. The supporting text indicates that the purpose of the policy is to ensure that the land remains in use in association with the cricket pitch, unless the Health Authority require the land to provide enhanced health care facilities.
R10 Poulton Field Bradford on Avon	This policy states that “More effective use of Poulton Field, Bradford on Avon will be sought for recreational purposes. Development proposals for recreational use will be permitted and the improvement of on-site facilities and the dual use of adjacent school fields for wider community use will be encouraged”.
R12 Allotments	This policy states that “Development proposals which involve the loss of existing allotment sites will not be permitted unless appropriate alternative provision is made elsewhere, or it can be demonstrated that there is no longer demand for such a use locally”.
R13 Sailing Lakes	This policy states that “The recreational use of existing sailing lakes will be safeguarded and development proposals will be permitted which enhance such use, subject to environmental and highway considerations. Proposals for further new sailing lakes and associated facilities will be permitted elsewhere in the District having regard to location, environmental and highway considerations, in consultation with the Environment Agency”.
H24 New Housing Design	This policy sets out requirements for new housing developments, including that proposals should include “Landscaping and open space which form an integral part of development, with opportunities taken to retain existing trees and shrubs, and for new planting using native species characteristic of the local area”.
T12 Footpaths and Bridleways	This policy states that “The existing footpath system and bridleway network within the District will be retained and where possible improved and extended particularly where opportunities arise through new development proposals

Policy	Summary
	to improve the links between settlements and access to the countryside".
CF10 Cemeteries	This policy states that "A need has been identified for new cemeteries in Bradford on Avon and Melksham and proposals to meet this need will be permitted subject to highway, amenity and environmental considerations".
West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD (adopted 2009)	
LP1 Protection and enhancement of existing open space or sport and recreation provision	This policy states that "High value and/or high quality open space and recreation provision will be protected from development for other land uses. Wherever possible, these facilities should be enhanced to meet identified local needs".
LP2 Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport and recreation provision	This policy states that "Proposals that result in the loss of open spaces or sport and recreation facilities will be permitted only if this would not cause significant harm to nature conservation interests, to the landscape or settlement character" and at least one of four policy tests is met. The policy refers to an "up-to-date assessment of local open spaces and recreation facilities" which will form the evidence base for the policy tests.
LP3 Review of low value sites	This policy indicates that the council is committed to reviewing "those spaces classed in the latest leisure and recreation needs assessment as being of low value".
LP4 Providing recreation facilities in new developments	This policy states that "Where new development (especially housing) creates a need for access to open space or sport and recreation provision, an assessment will be made as to whether a contribution to open space or sport and recreation provision is required". The policy refers to quantity standards and distance thresholds set out in the supporting text.
LP5 New sport and recreation facilities	This policy states that "Proposals for new sport and recreation facilities within the District will be supported" providing certain criteria are met. The policy indicates that proposals for new open space provision and for new sport pitch provision will be particularly welcomed in certain settlements.
OS1 New artificial turf pitch provision	This policy states that "The District Council will support, and facilitate where it can, the development of artificial turf provision on school sites, specifically third generation artificial turf pitches, designed to support multi-team and multi-age community clubs, on secondary school sites".
OS2 New grass pitch provision	This policy allocates specific sites for provision of grass sports pitches in Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury, and sets criteria which proposals should meet.
CR1 Footpaths and Rights of Way	This policy states that "The public rights of way network will be protected from development for other land uses and extensions and improvements will be sought, where appropriate, as part of development proposals". The policy also indicates that the public rights of way network will be reviewed, and plans implemented to improve and extend the network. Specific criteria are set out for developing and maintaining the network in AONBs.
CR2 Country Parks	This policy identifies the locations of four country parks, and states that these country parks will "be protected from development for uses other than recreational and enhanced for recreation and wildlife where possible". Specific

Policy	Summary
	opportunities/improvements are identified for each country park.
CR3 Greenspace network	This policy states that "The development of a greenspace network will be sought in and around the urban areas within the District. Development proposals will be permitted which extend and enhance existing riverside walks, recreational areas and fragmented habitats, and in addition, secure and maintain public access to the banks of rivers, canals and other habitats, where they will have no adverse impacts on wildlife. The establishment of Local Nature Reserves as part of the network will be addressed".
GM1 Maintenance of existing open space	This policy states that "The District Council will implement a flexible and varied maintenance regime rather than a uniform approach across all spaces". The policy sets out factors which will be taken into consideration when making maintenance arrangements.
GM2 Management and maintenance of new or enhanced open space	This policy states that "Developers will be required to make arrangements for the long term management and maintenance of all new or enhanced provision resulting from development including management for wildlife". The policy sets out two ways in which this can be achieved.
GM3 Future management partnerships	This policy states that "The District Council will work with "friends" groups and other partner organisations to identify the best approach to the future management and maintenance of public open space. New arrangements will be subject to local consultation".
YP1 Children's play areas	This policy refers to the District Council's Play Strategy and sets out an 'Action Plan' through which the council will implement the strategy.
YP2 Provision for teenagers	This policy states that "The District Council will consult with local teenagers and youth groups to provide a network of facilities that meet needs and comply with adopted quantity and accessibility standards and with appropriate quality standards".
WR1 River based recreation	This policy states that "Proposals to develop river areas for better public access and for all types of water sports, including fishing, bathing, rowing and canoeing, will be encouraged provided that they do not adversely affect the water quality or quantity, amenity, visual quality or value as a wildlife habitat of a river or watercourse and associated wetlands. The County Council, working with partner organisations, will investigate opportunities to increase public access to river areas".
WR2 Kennet and Avon Canal	This policy states that "Proposals for recreational and tourist development on the Kennet and Avon Canal will be permitted" providing certain criteria are met.
WR3 Wilts and Berks Canal	This policy supports in principle the restoration and reconstruction of the Wilts and Berks Canal as a navigable waterway. The policy also protects part of the historic line of the canal from inappropriate development and notes that "South of Melksham it will be necessary to identify a new route to link with the Kennet and Avon Canal". The policy also states that "The Canal Partnership will search for a new line for the canal at Melksham to join the old line at or before the border with North Wiltshire District. Proposals for a new line must demonstrate there will be no

Policy	Summary
	overall adverse effect on cultural heritage and the natural environment”.
SC1 Dual-use of school facilities	This policy states that “Proposals for the dual use of school playing fields and indoor sports facilities will be encouraged to help meet the needs of local communities”.

Appendix 4: Review of open space standards

Table 4.1 Former district council open space standards and policies

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
North Wiltshire District Council		
Parks & gardens	<u>Quality</u> Measured using own scoring system	<u>Standard</u> Poor – 0-24% Fair – 25-49% Good – 50-74% Excellent – 75-100%
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Accessibility</u> Recommended by the NPFA	<u>Standard</u> District Park – 3.2km (2.2 metres pedestrian) Community Park – 1 km (700 metres pedestrian) Local Park – 400 metres (280 metres pedestrian)
Natural & Semi Natural Green Space	<u>Quality</u> Measured using own scoring system	<u>Standard</u> Poor – 0-24% Fair – 25-49% Good – 50-74% Excellent – 75-100%
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u>
Amenity Green Space	<u>Quality</u> Measured using own scoring system	<u>Standard</u> Poor – 0-24% Fair – 25-49% Good – 50-74% Excellent – 75-100%
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u>
Provision for Children & Young People	<u>Quality</u> Measured using own scoring system	<u>Standard</u> Poor – 0-24% Fair – 25-49% Good – 50-74% Excellent – 75-100%
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Accessibility</u> Recommended by the NPFA	<u>Standard</u> LAP – 60 metres LEAP – 240 metres NEAP – 600 metres
Green Corridors	<u>Quality</u> Measured using own scoring system	<u>Standard</u> Poor – 0-24% Fair – 25-49% Good – 50-74%

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
	<u>Quantity</u>	Excellent – 75-100%
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u>
Allotments	<u>Quality</u> Measured using own scoring system	<u>Standard</u> Poor – 0-24% Fair – 25-49% Good – 50-74% Excellent – 75-100%
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u>
Outdoor Sports Facilities	<u>Quality</u> Measured using own scoring system	<u>Standard</u> Poor – 0-24% Fair – 25-49% Good – 50-74% Excellent – 75-100%
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u>
Cemeteries & Churchyards	<u>Quality</u> Measured using own scoring system	<u>Standard</u> Poor – 0-24% Fair – 25-49% Good – 50-74% Excellent – 75-100%
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u>
Provision of Open Space		<u>Policy:</u> CF3 PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE Proposals for new housing development will be required to make provision for open space on site, to provide 15m ² for Local Parks and 3m ² for play areas per person. The Council will accept in the appropriate circumstances, financial payments from developers for provision of open space according to the following order of preference: i) Provision of open space elsewhere which is appropriately located in relation to the development; ii) Contributions towards the upgrading of existing nearby open spaces. Development will be required to make contributions to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity and/or quality of open space and the future maintenance of open space provided to meet needs arising from the new development as set out in North Wiltshire's Open Spaces Study.

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
Kennet District Council		
Recreation Provision		<u>Policy:</u> HC34 Recreation provision on large housing sites (20 or more dwellings) Open space will be required to be provided on the basis of 2.43 ha/1000 people, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipped play space - 0.31ha/1000 people • casual play space - 0.41ha/1000 people • formal sports/pitches - 1.71 ha/1000 people
Recreation Provision		<u>Policy:</u> HC35 Recreation provision on small housing sites (5 -19 dwellings) Schemes will be expected to provide land for children's recreation on the basis of 0.72 ha/1000 people
Salisbury District Council		
Parks & Gardens	<u>Quality</u> <u>Quantity</u> <u>Accessibility</u> Based on the results of a public consultation	<u>Standard</u> <u>Standard</u> <u>Standard</u> 15 minute walk time (1.2 km)
Natural & Semi Natural Green Space	<u>Quality</u> In setting local standards for natural and semi-natural green space there is a need to take into account any national or local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison, site assessments and consultation on local needs. <u>Quantity</u> <u>Accessibility</u> In house standard based on the results of a public consultation	<u>Standard</u> A publicly-accessible, clean and litter-free site with clear pathways for dog walking and natural features that encourage wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Sites should provide bins for litter and dog fouling, and maintenance should continue to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the site. <u>Standard</u> No set standard <u>Standard</u> 15 minute walk time (1.2 km)
Amenity	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Standard</u>

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
Green Space	<p>The quality standard has been developed through the consultation undertaken with the public, feedback through the site assessment process before being refined with Council officers.</p> <p><u>Quantity</u> Based on the results of a public consultation.</p> <p><u>Accessibility</u> Based on the results of a public consultation.</p>	<p>“A clean, litter-free and well-maintained greenspace site with well-kept grass and varied vegetation, and large enough to accommodate informal play. Where appropriate, sites should also have suitable ancillary facilities such as litter bins.”</p> <p><u>Standard</u> 1.05 ha per 1000 population</p> <p><u>Standard</u> 10 minute walk time (800m).</p>
Provision for Children & Young People	<p><u>Quality</u> This quality standard is based on the NPFA quality standard, public consultation and their highest rated aspirations.</p> <p><u>Quantity</u> Developed using the current provision and the results of a public consultation.</p> <p><u>Accessibility</u> The standard has been set in line with recommendations from a large range of other local authorities.</p>	<p><u>Standard</u> ‘The site should be easily accessible with a variety of play equipment to suit children and young people of relevant age groups and appropriate provision of seating and litter bins for the size of the site’</p> <p><u>Standard</u> Children – 0.1ha per 1000 population Young people – 0.2ha per 1000 Population (District-wide)</p> <p><u>Standard</u> 10 minute walk time for Children’s facilities and 15 minutes walk time for teenage facilities.</p>
Green Corridors	<p><u>Quality</u> Developed as a result of public</p>	<p><u>Standard</u> ‘Well-maintained routes with clear, level paths, which are provided by the protection and reinforcement of existing</p>

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
	<p>consultation.</p> <p><u>Quantity</u></p> <p><u>Accessibility</u></p>	<p>vegetation. The green corridor should provide links to and between open spaces, urban areas and community facilities. Where appropriate, sites should provide ancillary accommodation such as seating and toilets’.</p> <p><u>Standard</u> No local quantity standard</p> <p><u>Standard</u> No standard set</p>
Allotments	<p><u>Quality</u> In setting local standards for allotments there is a need to take into account any National or local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison, site assessments and consultation on local needs.</p> <p><u>Quantity</u> Based on the current provision level in Mere and District analysis area and it is an aspiration for the other urban areas to match this provision level.</p> <p>Based on the current provision level in the Four Rivers analysis area.</p> <p><u>Accessibility</u> In-house standard in line with other local authorities’ recommendations.</p>	<p><u>Standard</u> ‘A clean, fertile, well-kept and secure site that encourages sustainable communities, biodiversity and healthy living. The site should have appropriate ancillary facilities to meet local needs, and be easily accessible’.</p> <p><u>Standard</u> <u>Urban</u> – 0.55 ha per 1000 population (based on the current provision level of Mere and District analysis area)</p> <p><u>Rural</u> – 0.38 ha per 1000 population (based on the current provision level in the Four Rivers analysis area)</p> <p><u>Standard</u> 15 minute walk</p>
Outdoor Sports Facilities	<p><u>Quality</u> NPFA influence including other</p>	<p><u>Standard</u> ‘Sites should provide good quality surfaces and ancillary facilities,</p>

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
	<p>local authority standards.</p> <p><u>Quantity</u> The local quantity standard has been set at the highest current provision level of the urban and rural areas.</p> <p><u>Accessibility</u> Developed using the CPA and the results from a public consultation.</p>	<p>where appropriate, including changing accommodation, toilets, car parking and facilities for a range of age groups. The maintenance and management of sites should continue to ensure safety and effective usage.'</p> <p><u>Standard</u> Urban – 4.9ha per 1,000 population Rural – 2.4ha per 1,000 population</p> <p><u>Standard</u> Salisbury City: 20 minute walktime Rest of district: 20 minute drivetime</p>
Open Space Provision		<p><u>Policy</u> R2 New residential development will be required to make provision for recreational open space (comprising facilities for communal outdoor sport and children’s play) in accordance with a standard of 2.43 hectares per 1000 population. Additional amenity open space (including landscaped areas, public gardens and roadside verges) will be sought as appropriate. The Local Planning Authority may consider reducing this requirement where developments comprise accommodation for those with special needs.</p>
Open Space Provision		<p><u>Policy</u> R3 The recreational open space requirement for new development providing accommodation for the elderly will be reduced to 0.8 hectares per 1000 population. Additional amenity open space within the site will be sought as appropriate. Development proposals for nursing homes will be required to provide on-site amenity space. In both cases, on-site amenity space should be of a sufficient size and appropriately landscaped to provide informal sitting out areas, and should be located to maximise the south and south western aspects of the site and the outlook from it. In both cases a planning obligation will be sought with regard to the future occupancy of the dwellings.</p>

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
West Wiltshire District Council		
Urban Parks & Gardens	<u>Quality</u> We have derived recommended quality standards from examples of best practice, such as the Green Flag Award criteria for parks or published advice, coupled with our experience and the results of the audit.	<u>Standard</u> Measured on an individual basis under the following 6 standard headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General characteristics • Accessibility • Planting and biodiversity • Facilities and features • Management and maintenance • Minimum size requirements
	<u>Quantity</u> By combining the existing level of provision with local views as to its adequacy, we have been able to develop a range of quantity standards for each of the different forms of provision included within this analysis.	<u>Standard</u> 1.3 sq m person
	<u>Accessibility</u> Developed using government guidance, recommendations in various national publications and in-house research (NPFA, RPG10, ANGST etc)	<u>Standard</u> Walking- 10 minutes Cycling – 10 minutes
Multi Functional Green Space	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u> 12 sq m/person
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u> Walking – 10 minutes Cycling – 10 minutes
Equipped Play Areas	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Standard</u>

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
for Children	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u> 0.5 sq m per person
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u> Walking – 5 minutes Cycling – 5 minutes
Bowling Greens	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u> 0.2 sq m/person
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u> Walking – 15 minutes Cycling – 15 minutes
Allotments	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u> 1.5 sq m/person
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u> Walking – 10 minutes Cycling – 10 minutes
Sport Pitches & Courts	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u> 10 sq m per person
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u> Walking – 15 minutes Cycling – 15 minutes
Teenage Facilities	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Standard</u> 0.25 sq m per person
	<u>Accessibility</u>	<u>Standard</u> Walking – 10 minutes Cycling – 10 minutes
Provision of Recreation Facilities		<u>Policy</u> Policy LP4: Providing recreation facilities in new developments Where new development (especially housing) creates a need for access to open space or sport and recreation provision, an assessment will be made as to whether a contribution to open space or sport and recreation provision is required. Depending on the size of the proposed development, its location and likely impact in terms of increasing the demand pressures on open space and sport and recreation provision, developers may be required to: 1. Make on-site provision; or 2. Fund off-site provision; or

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
		<p>3. Fund the enhancement of off-site provision; or 4. Provide a mix of the above.</p> <p>A condition will be imposed to achieve the first of these outcomes and a planning obligation will be required to achieve the second or third. The fourth outcome will require a condition and a planning obligation.</p> <p>Any necessary provision will be calculated taking into account the quantity standards and distance thresholds set out in this document.</p> <p>Any necessary provision will be delivered in phase with development.</p>
Children's play areas		<p><u>Policy</u> Policy YP1 Children's play areas</p> <p>The District Council, working jointly with partner organisations, has prepared a Play Strategy (September 2007).</p> <p>The Strategy aims to deliver an Active Play Environment in each of the five towns in the District in the period 2008-2010. Under five headings, the Strategy seeks to address the Council's key objectives for children's play. The Council will implement the Strategy through the following Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the project portfolio in order to improve play opportunities in the short term • Promote physical play • Provide challenging fixed play opportunities • Provide play which contributes towards the creation of safer communities • Provide fun play opportunities • Create quality environments for play • Involve children and young people in the development of play • Promote equality and inclusion • Raise the profile of play • Develop planning policy that allows for innovative play • Provide play opportunities which develop essential life skills.
Provision for teenagers		<p><u>Policy</u> Policy YP2 Provision for teenagers</p> <p>The District Council will consult with local teenagers and youth groups to provide a network of facilities that meet needs and comply with adopted quantity and accessibility standards and with appropriate quality standards.</p>
New artificial turf pitch provision		<p><u>Policy</u> Policy OS1</p> <p>New artificial turf pitch provision</p> <p>The District Council will support, and facilitate where it can, the development of artificial turf provision on school sites, specifically third generation artificial turf pitches, designed to support multi-team and multi-age</p>

Typology	Evidence	Standard / policy adopted
New grass pitch provision		<p>community clubs, on secondary school sites.</p> <p><u>Policy</u> Policy OS2 New grass pitch provision Proposals for the development of grass sports pitches and ancillary facilities will be permitted at the following locations to address the shortage of pitch provision at Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury: (A) Land at Woolmore Farm, Melksham; (B) Land adjacent to Woodmarsh, North Bradley (Trowbridge); (C) Land at Leigh Park, Westbury; (D) Vivash Park, Westbury; provided that development protects and where possible enhances wildlife habitats, historic and landscape features, delivers a sustainable drainage solution and creates a safe and convenient connection to existing pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks and the highway without creating transport problems. Acceptable mitigation measures will be implemented where appropriate.</p>
Country Parks		<p><u>Policy</u> Policy CR2 Country Parks Country parks will be protected from development for uses other than recreational and enhanced for recreation and wildlife where possible at the following locations: A Biss Meadows, Trowbridge B Paxcroft Brook, Hilperton C Southwick D Barton Farm, Bradford on Avon At Biss Meadows and Paxcroft Brook, enhancements and extensions will be sought through negotiations on the development of adjacent allocated housing sites. At Southwick, the District Council will maintain the current uses on site and make improvements to signage and maintenance regimes to meet local visitor needs and to enhance biodiversity. At Barton Farm, there are opportunities to develop better public access to the River Avon for bathing, rowing, canoeing and angling as well as improve visitor interpretation and habitat enhancement</p>
<u>Greenspace Network</u>		<p><u>Policy</u> Policy CR3 Greenspace Network The development of a greenspace network will be sought in and around the urban areas within the District. Development proposals will be permitted which extend and enhance existing riverside walks, recreational areas and fragmented habitats, and in addition, secure and maintain public access to the banks of rivers, canals and other habitats, where they will have no adverse impacts on wildlife. The establishment of Local Nature Reserves as part of the network will be addressed.</p>

Table 4.2 Other local authority standards

Local Authority	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
<u>Swindon</u>	Children and Teenager's Play Areas	0.3	Fields in Trust (FiT) 2008	Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) 250 metres (approx. 5 minutes walking time) Swindon Local Landscaped Area for Play (LLAP) 250 metres (approx. 5 minutes walking time) Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) 500 metres (approx. 10 minutes walking time)	Swindon Borough Council Open Space Audit and Assessment Review (July 2011)
	Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.6 (1.2 of which is playing pitches)	Local standards based on Sport England guidance	600 metres junior pitches (approx. 15 minutes walking time) Adult Sports Facilities (approx. 20 minutes drive time)	
	General Recreational Areas	1 of which 0.5 should be suitable for children's informal play	Local standard	Local Open Spaces 2km Major Open Spaces 5km	
	Allotments	0.3	Local standard	600 metres	
<u>Bath & North East Somerset</u>	Formal (parks, gardens, recreation grounds and open	1.50	The proposed quality standard for all green space types is 60%, based		Bath & North East Somerset Green Space Strategy (March 2007)

Local Authority	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
	spaces) Natural (woodland, natural and semi natural areas) Allotments	1.50 0.30 (minimum site size of 1,500 sq. m / 10 plots)	on the assessment methodology used in this strategy. Accessible to all and free of the fear of harm or crime Site managed in such a way to not cause unreasonable nuisance to neighbours Providing space for members of the community to benefit from the activities associated with gardening and consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables With conditions and facilities that promote good gardening practice.	600m (0.33mile / 7.5mins) walking distance of home (450m straight line from access points)	
<u>Wansbeck</u>	Playing Pitches Children's Play	0.8 Standard in development			Wansbeck Playing pitch Strategy (2002)
<u>West Devon</u>	Parks & gardens	0.43	Wherever possible, public parks within the District should meet the Green Flag 'good' quality standard. Those parks and gardens identified as	All residents within Tavistock or Okehampton and Local Centres with populations over 2,000 should have access to a public park or garden within 800m from home.	West Devon Open Space Study (2007)

Local Authority	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
	Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.1	<p>below average quality and below average value should be prioritised for improvement, followed by those of high value, low quality.</p> <p>Outdoor pitch sports facilities within the District should be of adequate quality and provide the range of facilities to meet the needs of sports clubs. A Detailed Pitch Assessment should be undertaken to identify improvements required to ensure pitches meet standards related to playing purposes. In the meantime those outdoor pitch sites identified in the Green Flag assessment as below average quality and value should be prioritised for improvement, followed by those of high value, low quality.</p>	<p>Residents of Local Centres with populations less than 2,000 (i.e. Lifton and Princetown) should have access to a Recreation Ground which provides a secondary function as a park within 800m from home.</p> <p>All residents within classified settlements should have access to a playing pitch site within 1.2km of home.</p> <p>Deficiencies within those parts of the District where population densities exceed 4 persons per ha should be prioritised for improvement.</p>	

Local Authority	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
	Children's Play Provision	0.4	<p>Children's play provision within the District should be of adequate quality and provide the range of facilities associated with the size of the facility.</p> <p>Those children's play facilities identified as below average quality and value should be prioritised for improvement, followed by those of high value, low quality.</p>	<p>All residents within classified settlements should have access to a children's play space within 800m of home.</p> <p>Deficiencies within those parts of the District where population densities exceed 4 persons per ha should be prioritised for improvement.</p>	
<u>South Gloucestershire</u>	Parks and Gardens	0.14	To aim to achieve an overall site standard of 75%	No standard is recommended	South Gloucestershire Council Open Space Audit, 2010
	Natural/Semi-Natural Green Space	1.5	To aim to achieve an overall site standard of 50%	15 minutes (720 metres) walk time	
	Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.6	To aim to achieve an overall site standard of 75%	<p>Playing Pitches - 20 minutes (1000 metres) walk time.</p> <p>Synthetic Pitches, Athletics Tracks and Golf Courses - 22 minutes drive time.</p>	
	Amenity Green Space and Green Corridors	1.4	To aim to achieve an overall site standard of	12.5 minutes (600 metres) walk time	

Local Authority	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
	Provision for Children and Young People	0.25	75% To aim to achieve an overall site standard of 75%	Children's play space (such as LEAPs and NEAPs) = 10 minutes (480 metres) walk time. Provision for young people (Including, but not limited to: Small ball courts, shelters, skate parks and BMX tracks) = 15 minutes (720 metres) walk time.	
	Allotments	0.2	To aim to achieve an overall site standard of 60%	15 minutes (720 metre) walk time	
<u>Christchurch Borough and East Dorset</u>	Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens (with reference to Country Parks)	0.5	At least 2 hectares in size	450m straight line or about 10 minutes walking time.	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for Christchurch Borough and East Dorset District (May 2007)
	Accessible Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	1	At least 2 hectares in size	Larger sites – 600m Straight line or 15 minutes walking time. Smaller sites – 450m straight line or 10 minutes walking time.	
	Amenity/informal Green Space	0.5	The nature of the space should be determined to reflect local circumstances	450m straight line or 10 minutes walking time.	

Local Authority	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
	Children and Young Peoples Equipped Space	0.25	<p>although provision might be expected to include grassed areas, tree and shrub planting, paths, litter bins and benches.</p> <p>For young preschool children: Small low key games area preferably with play features & 3 items of 'small scale' items of play equipment. Seating for accompanying adults.</p> <p>For other children up to teenage years: About 5 items of play equipment and a small flat ball games area with kick walls and 'low level' hoops and 'very low key wheel play facility (undulating riding surface with features)'. Seating for accompanying adults.</p> <p>For young people: About 5 types of play equipment, Ball Play and Wheeled Play opportunities, and covered seating for teenagers to use as a meeting place.</p>	<p>Child - 450m straight line or 10 minutes walking time.</p> <p>Teenager – 600m straight line or 15 minutes walking time.</p>	

Local Authority	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
	Allotments	0.2	<p>Provision for those with disabilities: At least some of the larger play areas should contain equipment designed to meet the specific needs of children with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-drained soil which is capable of cultivation to a reasonable standard. • A sunny, open aspect preferably on a southern facing slope • Limited overhang from trees and buildings either bounding or within the site • Adequate lockable storage facilities, and a good water supply within the easy walking distance of individual plots • Provision for composting facilities 	600m straight line or 15 minutes walking time.	

Local Authority	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
	<p>Active Outdoor Sports Space</p> <p>Cemeteries and Churchyards</p>	<p>1.25</p> <p>No recommended standard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure boundary fencing • Good access within the site both for pedestrians and vehicles • Good vehicular access into the site and adequate parking and manoeuvring space • Disabled access • Toilets. • Notice boards 	<p>No more than 600m or a 10-15 minute walking time.</p> <p>No recommended standard</p>	

Table 4.3 National aspirational standards

Organisation	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
Natural England	Accessible Natural Greenspace	<p>ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population. 		<p>ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home; at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home; one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home. 	'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance March 2010
Fields in Trust	<p>Playing pitches</p> <p>All outdoor sport</p>	<p>Urban: 1.15</p> <p>Rural: 1.72</p> <p>Overall: 1.20</p> <p>Urban: 1.60</p> <p>Rural: 1.76</p>	Fields in Trust recommends the use of Technical Performance Quality Standards such as those published in 'Design and Maintenance of Outdoor Sports Facilities' for both pitches and other outdoor facilities, namely cricket, bowls and croquet.	<p>Playing pitches should be available within 1.2 kilometres of all dwellings in major residential areas.</p> <p>Athletics – one synthetic track with floodlighting per 250,000 people living within 30 minutes drive time (45 minutes in rural areas) of the</p>	Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play

Organisation	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
	All playing space	<p>Overall: 1.60</p> <p>Designated Equipped Playing Space: 0.25</p> <p>Informal Playing Space 0.55</p> <p>Children's Playing Space 0.80</p>	<p>Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards using the Children's Play Council's Quality Assessment Tool. This would not set an absolute measure, but a reasonable aspiration and benchmarks against which to measure the quality of any existing children's play space.</p>	<p>proposed location</p> <p>Tennis – community tennis courts within 20 minutes travel time (walking in urban areas, by car in rural areas)</p> <p>Bowls – One green within 20 minutes travel time (walking in urban areas, by car in rural areas).</p> <p>Local areas for play or 'door-step' spaces – for play and informal recreation (LAPs) 100m walking distance (60m straight line distance)</p> <p>Local equipped, or local landscaped, areas for play – for play and informal recreation (LEAPs) 400m walking distance (240 straight line distance)</p> <p>Neighbourhood equipped areas for play – for play and informal recreation, and provision for children and young people (NEAPs) 1000m walking distance (600m straight line distance)</p>	

Organisation	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
Woodland Trust	Woodland			<p>The Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standard aspires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size • that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people's homes. 	Woodland Access Standard (WAS)
Civic Trust	Green Flag award for parks and green spaces	<p>The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. Quality criteria for the award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy, Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Sustainability • Conservation and Heritage • Community 			<p>Raising the Standard The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual Updated 2009</p>

Organisation	Typology	Quantity Standard (ha per 1000 population)	Quality Standard	Accessibility	Document
		Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing • Management 			

Appendix 5 – Review of local district planning documents and consultation responses

Kennet District Council – Spatial Options for future development consultation May – June 2008

Consultation responses

A report on the 'Consultation responses and the Council's decisions on considering them' was published in September 2008. The following comments relate to green infrastructure:

Vision

- Natural England requested that terms relating to recreation should be broadened.
- Suggestions to make the vision more locally distinctive included making reference to the specific opportunities surrounding the Kennet & Avon Canal.

Community area overviews

- Natural England suggested that the overviews should recognise the natural environment as a driver for tourism and health and how to enhance the natural environment.
- More facilities are needed for young people including the provision of sporting facilities and their adequate maintenance to ensure they do not fall into disrepair.

Comments at stakeholder workshops/public events

- Concern in Marlborough that building too much on gardens and open spaces may be a consequence of growth.
- Desire to protect open spaces within Marlborough, including allotments.
- Desire for more green space/trees in housing areas in Tidworth and Ludgershall.
- Desire to improve infrastructure in Tidworth and Ludgershall, including play areas.
- Desire to protect green spaces in Devizes.

North Wiltshire District Council – Second Issues and Options Consultation: May – July 2007

Consultation responses

The 'Consultation comments – questionnaire results & council's responses' report sets out the outcomes of the second issues and options consultation. Responses and comments relating to green infrastructure can be summarised as follows:

- Concern that no reference had been made to protecting floodplains and watercourses from developmental impacts.
- Concern that the vision lacks reference to green infrastructure and climate change.
- Additional strategic objective suggested for the Cotswold Water Park.
- Chippenham Vision should refer to the town's green spaces and its river setting.
- Corsham Vision should include high quality public spaces and new cemetery.
- Reference to a sports hub at Ballards Ash, Wootton Bassett was welcomed.
- Concern that the consultation paper did not include a vision for the Cotswold Water Park.
- Suggested topics for a natural environment core policy included: Green infrastructure, Cotswold Water Park, Wilts and Berks Canal restoration proposals, Climate change.
- Suggestions for additional leisure issues to be considered by the Core Strategy included: Natural environment, Allotments, Cotswold Water Park.
- River valleys and green corridors of Malmesbury should be protected from development.
- Suggestion that North Wiltshire has a unique set of tourism issues which require a strategic approach such as the Cotswold Water Park.
- A number of representations noted the importance of Green Infrastructure contributions (from developers).

- Need for a core policy on 'special policy areas', this is useful to put all designations together in one place. Some thought that there was no need to repeat National or Regional policy.
- Suggestion that a specific policy on the Cotswold Water Park should be included.

A number of discussion forums were also held throughout the consultation period, and relevant comments are summarised below:

- It was felt that open spaces were geared towards young children and that developer agreements could be more specific at maintaining existing equipment and providing spaces for young adults. The Play Space Strategy should feed into the Core Strategy.
- A place based approach should ensure that communities have access to good transport, green infrastructure, affordable housing and services.
- Desire to utilise the Chippenham riverside location
- The Core Strategy should promote an action plan for the Cotswold Water Park.
- Bird's Marsh Wood should be considered as something that we should protect whilst recognising that it is a resource that we could utilise.

South Wiltshire Core Strategy 'Our Place in the Future' Consultation: July – October 2007

Consultation responses

Broad support was received for the following areas:

- Developers should contribute towards public and community transport, walking and cycling improvements.
- Developers should contribute towards the provision of local sport, leisure and open space facilities, particularly where they are contributing to the demand for such facilities.
- The natural environment is important to quality of life.
- The natural environment should be protected and enhanced wherever possible.
- We should implement additional controls, over and above existing designations, that would further protect the natural environment.
- We should identify, promote and protect locally important landscape and nature sites.
- We should improve access to the countryside for everyone through improved footpaths and cycle tracks.
- The natural environment should not be considered of lesser importance than new development.
- We should ensure that nature conservation measures are incorporated into all new development to ensure that developers address the ecological impact of new building.
- We should encourage tourism and leisure development in the rural area.
- New development should encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport.
- The creation of a green 'necklace' of trees around the City centre and the ring road.

South Wiltshire Core Strategy 'Our Place in the Future' Preferred Options February – April 2008

List of preferred policy approaches listed in the document.

Preferred Option 21 proposes a strategic approach to the protection and enhancement of sports and leisure facilities and safeguarding of existing valuable sports fields from development. This approach also requires developers to contribute towards local sport provision and open space. Community access to public and private greenspace will be encouraged.

Preferred Option 22 proposes protection and enhancement of the natural environment where possible, create additional designations, improve access to the countryside through footpaths and cycleways and nature conservation measures to be incorporated into all new development.

Preferred Option 25 proposes the introduction of a tariff system based 'community chest' to pool developer contributions to deliver amongst other infrastructure, recreation provision, public open space and sports provision, allotments, pedestrian, and cycleways and nature conservation.

Preferred Option 33 – discusses the preferred options for the natural environment in the Salisbury and Wilton Area including the greening of Salisbury, placing importance on land and habitats, conservation and enhancement of historic parks and gardens.

Preferred Option 37 – Community chest priorities in Salisbury and Wilton include to contribute to the greening of the city, leisure facilities and open space provision.

Preferred Option 43 – Stonehenge Community Area looks to identify land for sport, leisure and recreation use.

Preferred Option 44 – Stonehenge Community Area looks to secure the long term future and enhancement of internationally designated sites, promote important nature sites, focus on habitat.

Preferred Option 48 – Community chest priorities in Stonehenge Community Area include to invest in improved pedestrian, cycle and transport links and leisure facilities.

Preferred Option 55 – Western Community Area looks to safeguard the natural environment which promotes and protects locally important landscape and nature features.

Preferred Option 59 – Community chest priorities in Western Area include to invest in the promotion of tourism, improved access to the countryside and leisure facilities.

Preferred Option 66 – Southern Community Area looks to enhance the natural environment (New Forest, SACs and SSSIs), conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, balance conservation with enhancing countryside industries.

Preferred Option 70 – Community chest priorities in Southern Area include investing in leisure facilities.

Preferred Option 77 – Nadder Community Area looks to safeguard the natural environment, conserve and enhance AONB and protect locally important landscape and nature sites.

Preferred Option 81 – Community chest priorities in the Nadder Valley Area include to invest in the promotion of tourism, delivery of Cranbourne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan, improved cycling and pedestrian facilities and leisure facilities.

West Wiltshire District Council – Issues and Options Paper Consultation: December 2007 – February 2008

Consultation responses

A report analysing the responses to the Issues and Options consultation paper was presented in September 2008. The following points related to green infrastructure:

- Support for safeguarding the preferred route of the Wilts & Berks Canal.
- Lack of sport and recreation facilities in BoA.
- Provide leisure and recreational facilities in BoA, assisted by new development in BoA.
- Need additional recreational greenspace, especially formal pitches and allotments.
- Plan for leisure and recreation facilities in conjunction with large scale new development.
- Services should reflect official drive to improve lifestyles and health behaviour.
- General official policies on enhancing physical education.
- More informal recreational space for children and dog walkers.
- Informal recreation, e.g. walking, cycling and running routes.
- Canal routes for Melksham; provide better links to Kennet & Avon Canal.
- Suggestions for infrastructure contributions, including facilities for young people, the Wilts & Berks Canal restoration, cemetery expansion space, conserving and enhancing natural beauty in the AONB, and preservation of the countryside.

Comments on how biodiversity could be incorporated into new developments included:

- Protect green areas and natural hedgerows and ensure least disruption to wildlife and habitat already present, plant more mature deciduous trees and shrubs;
- Biodiversity should be the top consideration in development;
- Garden type areas around all structures; these should incorporate local nature features;
- Footpaths/ cycleways to allow wildlife safe passage, more use of open blocks for drives and paths instead of solid concrete to allow natural drainage of rain water;
- Keep floodplains and wildlife corridors free from development;
- Protect and enhance existing biodiversity in development area; prevent habitat fragmentation, use South West Nature Map to highlight important areas, identify ways of restoring habitats and creating corridors (especially in urban areas);
- Wiltshire Biodiversity Partnership has 2 steps for biodiversity protection in the planning process; 1. Site specific negotiations to ensure no net loss of habitats and species; 2. Use CIL to offset the loss of the non-designated biodiversity areas/ species and fund improvements to biodiversity;
- Green links preserve biodiversity along with statutory protection for key sites;
- Produce plan of the District that highlights all areas of high biodiversity value to create opportunities and to understand impacts of site allocations;
- Consider impacts of climate change on biodiversity and wildlife;
- Protect the Hilperton Gap and Wellhead Valley;
- Emphasise green infrastructure linkages include canals and river corridors; and
- Consolidate existing development by greater focus on protecting existing natural habitats; promote local conservation initiatives in neighbourhoods.

Comments on objectives that should be looked at in order to achieve a high standard of design included the following:

- Greater priority to linking individual developments, i.e. to make walking and cycling easier between different parts of town and between town centre and edge of centre;
- Reference to green infrastructure, e.g. networks of multi-functional greenspace provide range of environmental and quality of life benefits, designed into new development from the start and supported by CIL.