

BIODIVERSITY & LANDSCAPE CHARACTER in NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

By

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Neighbourhood Plans

The planning system helps decide what gets built, where and when. It is essential for supporting economic growth, improving people's quality of life, and protecting the natural environment.

Natural England

Schedule 1 sets out the two different lists of consultation bodies, paragraph 1 provides the list of consultees for neighbourhood development plans, and paragraph 2 provides the list of consultees for neighbourhood development orders and community right to build orders.

Schedule 2 makes provision in relation to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project, likely to have a significant effect on a European site, must be subject to an appropriate assessment. To achieve this, paragraph 1 prescribes a basic condition that the making of a neighbourhood development plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site. Paragraphs 2 to 5 of the Schedule amend the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 so as to apply its provisions to neighbourhood development orders and neighbourhood development plans. In particular paragraph 4 inserts new regulation 78A which provides that a neighbourhood development order may not grant planning permission for development which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site.

Neighbourhood Plans

Schedule 3 makes provision in relation to the EIA Directive. The Directive requires that EIA development must be subject to a development consent process. To enable this, Schedule 3 prescribes a basic condition that applies where development which is the subject of a proposal for a neighbourhood development order is of a type caught by the EIA Directive, and applies the relevant provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011(a) (“the EIA Regulations”) with appropriate modifications (regulation 33 and paragraphs 1 to 4 and 6 of Schedule 3). Paragraphs 5 and 7 to 13 of Schedule 3 correct errors in the EIA Regulations.

An impact assessment has been prepared in relation to these Regulations. The assessment has been placed in the Library of each House of Parliament and can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government website (<http://www.communities.gov.uk>).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act

October 2006

BIODIVERSITY DUTY

WILDLIFE ETC.

Biodiversity

40 Duty to conserve biodiversity

- (1) Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
- (2) In complying with subsection (1), a Minister of the Crown, government department or the National Assembly for Wales must in particular have regard to the United Nations Environmental Programme Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992.
- (3) Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.
- (4) “Public authority” means any of the following—
 - (a) a Minister of the Crown;
 - (b) the National Assembly for Wales;
 - (c) a public body (including a government department, a local authority and a local planning authority);
 - (d) a person holding an office—
 - (i) under the Crown,
 - (ii) created or continued in existence by a public general Act, or
 - (iii) the remuneration in respect of which is paid out of money provided by Parliament;
 - (e) a statutory undertaker.
- (5) In this section—

“local authority” means—

 - (a) in relation to England, a county council, a district council, a **parish council**, a London borough council, the Common Council of the City of London or the Council of the Isles of Scilly;
 - (b) in relation to Wales, a county council, a county borough council or a community council;

“local planning authority” has the same meaning as in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (c. 8);

“Minister of the Crown” has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975 (c. 26);

“statutory undertaker” means a person who is or is deemed to be a statutory undertaker for the purposes of any provision of Part 11 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

PARISH PLANS

Stimulating and securing resources

- Successful funding bids;
- new income for the parish;
- improved facilities & community buildings;
- joint projects between neighbouring parishes & towns;

The most visible and concrete responses to the Parish Plan process can be seen in the burgeoning of new projects, often accompanied by successful funding applications. Parishes are reporting numerous successful bids for funds that they attribute to the evidence collected for the Parish Plan – both in identifying potential projects and in constructing applications for funds. One Rural Community Council estimates that Parish Plans have generated more than £200,000 in support for projects, covering two district council areas during a 4-5 month period.

Projects vary from small grants to renew footpaths or bus shelters, to the common theme of providing play areas and, in one case, a major enterprise to launch a community shop. In this example the parish included the parish plan as part of its business plan. Funders included local businesses, local authorities, national firms, charities and central government.

Finding solutions to these problems is often difficult as one size rarely fits all. But a Parish Plan can help. By taking a holistic view of a community and its surrounding environment it provides an opportunity to find local solutions to local problems. For example, it could:

- identify a redundant farm building that might be developed into workshops for a new local business;
- encourage a local farmer or producer to sell their produce in the local shop or to local pubs, hotels and restaurants;
- persuade a local landowner to donate a parcel of land for a children's playing field or local nature reserve;
- develop and market an area for tourism;
- provide support for the increasing numbers of people working from home, e.g. by building telecottages;
- support environmental conservation measures, such as protection of wildflower meadows.

The character of the countryside around a village is an integral part of its identity. It should be managed in a way that takes into account its aesthetic and economic importance to the village.

Parish Plans - Guidance for parish and town councils 2004, Countryside Agency



Warwickshire
Rural Community Council

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Parish Plans and Community Consultations

Community consultations are increasingly important to the running and growth of rural communities in Britain. They find out how a village or town feels about itself - its strengths, its weaknesses and how its residents want it to develop in the future. Everyone in the community has a say in the consultation's outcome, which will influence local planning decisions and the county-wide structure plan.

A major part of the Government's rural policy, there are several types of consultation exercise:

- o **Parish Plans** incorporate information from both the above and, along with extra consultations, provide a Blueprint for Action;
- o **Village Design Statements** review the buildings and natural environment of a settlement.

The WRCC can offer practical advice and support in setting up a consultation project in your community, getting funding and help from other communities who have worked on similar projects.

Find out more about the [benefits](#) of Parish Plans and a [step-by-step guide](#) to the Parish Planning process.

For further information contact:
Linda Ridgley, WRCC Field Officer
Tel: 02476 217345

Recent Posts

- o Charles's Housing Blog w/c 6 April 2009
- o Phil's Housing Blog w/c 6 April 2009
- o Phil's Housing Blog w/c 30 March 2009
- o Charles's Housing Blog w/c 30 March 2009
- o Charles's Housing Blog w/c 23 March 2009





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Parish Plans - what are the benefits

What are Parish Plans?

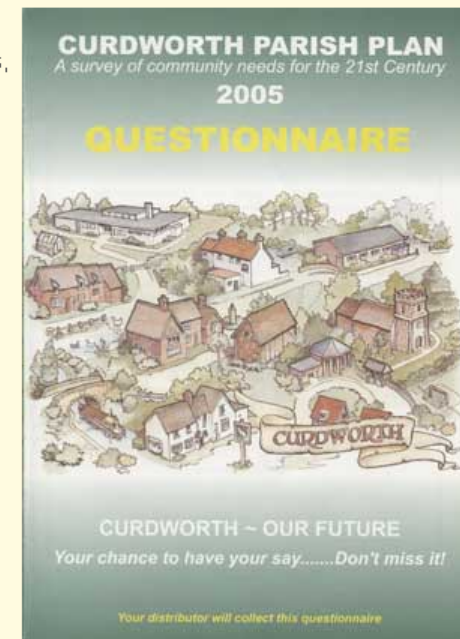
They are a way to uncover the needs of community members, their vision for the future of the parish and ideas on how to achieve this.

What are the benefits to a Parish Council?

- A Parish Plan gives the Council information which is statistically sound
- The Public has an opportunity to be involved and contribute views and opinions
- Local authorities and other agencies have information and the reassurance that the community has been thoroughly consulted and that there is a consensus for action
- Funding may be easier to access as a result of Parish Plan evidence of need

What are the benefits to the people?

- It gives them the chance to say what is needed and wanted and how this could be accomplished
- It allows them to show what elements of the natural and built environment matter to them and should be enhanced
- It gives them the chance to show what development is needed for local requirements and where they can safely take place





supporting rural communities throughout Warwickshire

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Community Led Planning

News

Benefits of CLP

Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood planning empowers communities to shape the development and growth of a local area through the production of a neighbourhood development plan, a neighbourhood development order or a Community Right to Build Order.

Neighbourhood planning can be taken forward by two types of body - town and parish councils or 'neighbourhood forums'. Neighbourhood forums are community groups that are designated to take forward neighbourhood planning in areas without parishes.

Neighbourhood forums and parish councils can use new neighbourhood planning powers to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood. These are described legally as 'neighbourhood development plans.'

Conditions are:

- they must have regard to national planning policy
- they must be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area (i.e. such as in a core strategy)
- they must be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.

Neighbourhood Planning

So that's that

You know what you are doing

Thanks for Listening and Good Luck

Oh Alright Here's a bit More!

Neighbourhood Planning

Conditions are:

- they must have regard to national planning policy
- they must be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area (i.e. such as in a core strategy)
- they must be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.

I have too many slides for NPPF, so ...

Suggestion: is to skip to condition 2 as the Local Plan must also have regard to the NPPF

Neighbourhood Planning

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Vision

To maintain and enhance the heritage and green environment of the District while building healthy, safe, informed and active communities who are able to enjoy local services and employment opportunities.

Strategic Objectives

- (1) Planning to meet the challenges of climate change;
- (2) Planning to protect the character of settlements and the countryside;
- (3) Planning to protect the District's heritage and distinctiveness;
- (4) Planning to promote and diversify the local economy;
- (5) Planning to provide for housing needs;
- (6) Planning to support the main commercial centres;
- (7) Planning to meet the need for improved infrastructure, community facilities and services; and
- (8) Planning to increase the use of sustainable transport.

Policy CS 1

Sustainable Development

All development must contribute to the development and maintenance of sustainable communities, leading to a continuous and sustained improvement to Stratford-on-Avon District's economic, social and environmental circumstances.

All new development proposals should contribute towards sustainable development and accord with the following principles:

- (a) Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the individual towns and villages and landscape within Stratford-on-Avon District, maintaining and strengthening the distinctiveness of special qualities, and protecting the integrity of the District's countryside.
- (b) Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.
- (c) Ensure the prudent use of natural resources and conserve and enhance the District's natural, built and historic assets.
- (d) Reduce and adapt to the effects of climate change, particularly through the location of new development, design and construction techniques, renewable technologies, landscape and historic environment management, biodiversity, flood risk management and the use of green infrastructure.
- (e) Protect, enhance and manage the biodiversity and geodiversity in the District.
- (f) Improve the efficiency of transport networks by promoting and increasing sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling, public transport, community transport schemes and reducing the need to travel.
- (g) Minimise and manage waste in a sustainable manner, particularly through re-use and recycling.
- (h) Provide affordable, sustainable, durable and adaptable homes for all.
- (i) Seek to improve the overall quality of life for the community through the safeguarding of community health, safety, wellbeing and amenities, and the provision of adequate infrastructure, services and facilities.
- (j) Ensure access to employment, adequate and affordable housing and a range of services and facilities for all sectors of the community in the rural and urban areas, and promote social inclusion and cohesion.
- (k) Promote a dynamic, diverse and knowledge based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities.

Policy CS 8

Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Development proposals should conserve and enhance the special qualities of that part of the Cotswolds AONB that lies within the District and be consistent with the policies set out in the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan. The same principles apply to proposals outside the AONB which could have an adverse impact on its character and setting.

In determining planning applications in the AONB, the District Council will work

Policy CS 10

Landscape

A. Landscape Character and Enhancement

Development should have regard to the local distinctiveness and historic character of the District's different landscapes.

Development should protect landscape character and avoid detrimental effects on patterns and features which make a significant contribution to the character, history and setting of a settlement or area.

Wherever possible, measures should be incorporated into development schemes to enhance the landscape character of the locality.

B. Visual Impacts

Proposals for development should include an assessment of the likely visual impacts of the development on the local landscape or townscape, and the site's immediate setting. Applications for major developments should be accompanied by a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

Where visual impacts are predicted, new landscaping should be incorporated to reduce the impacts and enhance the existing landscape.

C. Trees, Woodland and Hedges

Due to the quality of ancient semi-natural woodland and veteran trees in the former Forest of Arden, and their relative scarcity elsewhere in the District, the onus is on those making development proposals that affect these features to make clear how they are to be safeguarded.

Proposals that will have an impact on woodlands, hedges and trees should incorporate measures to recognise their contribution to landscape character, public amenity and biodiversity.

Where possible, proposals should enable the expansion of native woodland to help climate change adaptation by buffering and extending fragmented ancient woodlands, to promote recreation, public health and the local economy.

Policy CS 11

Natural Features

A. Biological

Development proposals should aim wherever possible to bring about a net gain in biodiversity by:

1. Safeguarding existing habitats

(a) Those subject to national and international designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, in accordance with relevant national policy and the Habitats Directive.

(b) Those that are irreplaceable in view of their unique characteristics arising from, for example, a particular combination of site specific circumstances and/or a prolonged evolution of the site's ecosystem, such as ancient woodland.

(c) Those subject to local designations, such as Local Wildlife Sites, except where there is good reason to permit development and where it is possible to secure the creation and long-term maintenance of equivalent habitat elsewhere.

(d) Those not yet subject to formal designation but which are known to make a positive contribution to biodiversity, taking account of their current or potential role in strategic networks of habitats across the District.

(e) Those which comprise or host habitats or species of principal conservation importance.

Particular attention should be paid to priority habitats, ecological networks and priority species recognised as being of importance in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

2. Creating new habitats

Making provision, where appropriate, for measures that will secure the creation and management of additional habitats, to strengthen networks of habitats, to foster landscape scale habitats in line with identified opportunities and priorities, to address the priorities of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and to support an increase in the local populations of species of principal importance.

B. Geological

Proposals which affect sites that contain features of geological interest need to safeguard these features on a similar basis to the approach to safeguarding biological habitats set out in part A above, and with reference to the Local Geodiversity Action Plan.

Proposals should also seek, wherever possible, to conserve and enhance features of geological interest for the future.

Policy CS 13

Green Infrastructure

The existing Green Infrastructure network in the District will be enhanced through the principles of protection, enhancement, restoration and creation. The network will help to:

- support the growth of a strong, competitive low carbon economy;
- create a more attractive District for visitors and support tourism;
- promote healthy and active communities;
- protect and support historic and archaeological settings, sense of place and the distinctive landscape and character of the District; and
- form a place for biodiversity to survive and thrive in the face of climate change.

Opportunities to improve Green infrastructure assets will be identified and secured through the assessment of development proposals and in the management of existing features. In considering individual schemes, the following two principles will be applied:

- (i) maximising the manner in which green infrastructure features interconnect
- (ii) achieving multi-functional, compatible uses of green infrastructure features.

A. Improving Access to Green Infrastructure

Policy CS 14

Earlswood Lakes Country Park

The creation of a Country Park based on Earlswood Lakes, Clowes Wood and New Fallings Coppice will be supported, in conjunction with the Canal and River Trust (currently British Waterways), Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council, Warwickshire County Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

Policy CS 15

Design and Distinctiveness

All forms of development are expected to be of high quality design and reflect the character and distinctiveness of the locality, taking into account the principles set out in the Stratford-on-Avon District Design Guide.

Proposals that would damage or destroy features which contribute to the distinctiveness of the local area will not be permitted unless significant public benefit would result from the scheme.

Wherever possible, the design approach shall ensure that development is:

- (a) Attractive - it is essential that, through high quality architectural design and

Green Infrastructure Strategy

Biodiversity – Part A

Vision

A Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull where wildlife thrives alongside humans within a resilient landscape; where land and buildings are managed positively for biodiversity, and where biodiversity enhancements are embedded into development, contributing to the extension and joining up of existing biodiversity assets.

Recommendation 1

The aim of the sub-regional GI Strategy is to safeguard all GI Biodiversity Assets.

Recommendation 2

The aim of the sub-regional GI Strategy is to fulfil two priorities for each of the woodland, grassland and wetland habitat categories:

Priority 1) - Connect together individual sub-regional GI Biodiversity assets within their core areas to form large functional clusters.

Priority 2) – Connect the Core Areas together [where Priority 1 has been achieved].

Recommendation 3

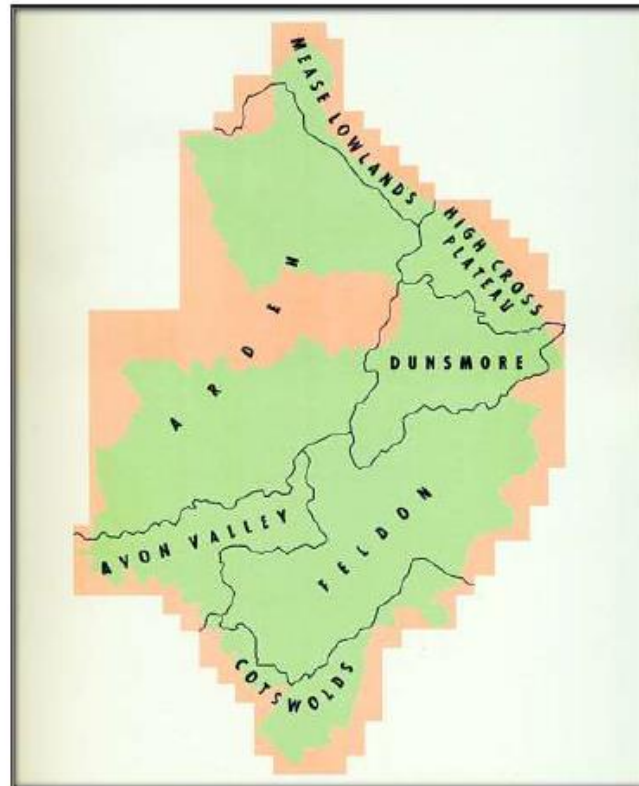
An additional aim is to create either new Core Areas large enough to function independently as an individual site or a functional cluster of larger and smaller sites where there is a distinct local need or deficiency in a habitat category.

Landscape – Part A

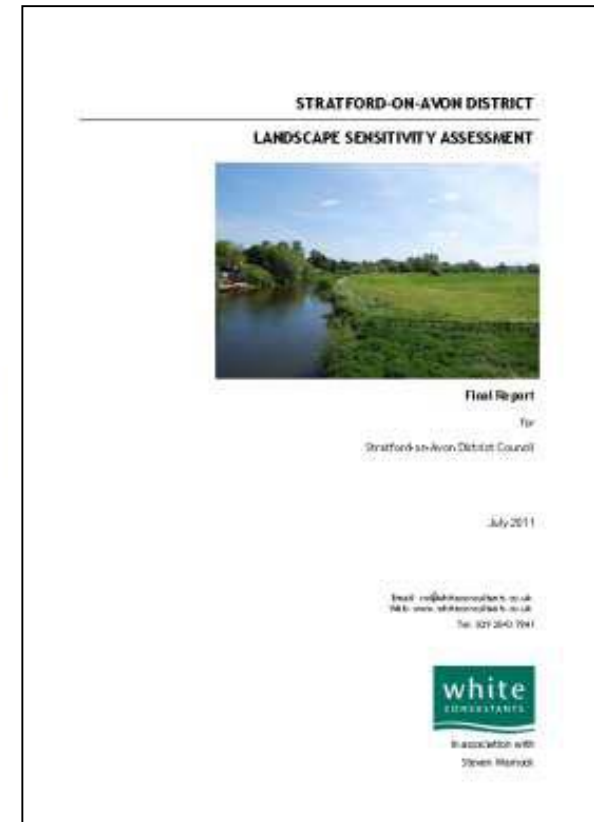
Vision

“The integration of development and modern land management into the landscape, especially in areas with strong landscape character, in order to ensure that the beauty and diversity of the sub-region is conserved for present and future generations to enjoy.”

Figure 5: Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines¹⁰



Too many
recommendations
to cut and paste



Neighbourhood Planning

Warks CC has

- Species Information

Warks CC and Warks WT has

- Sites
- Habitat Data

Warks CC has

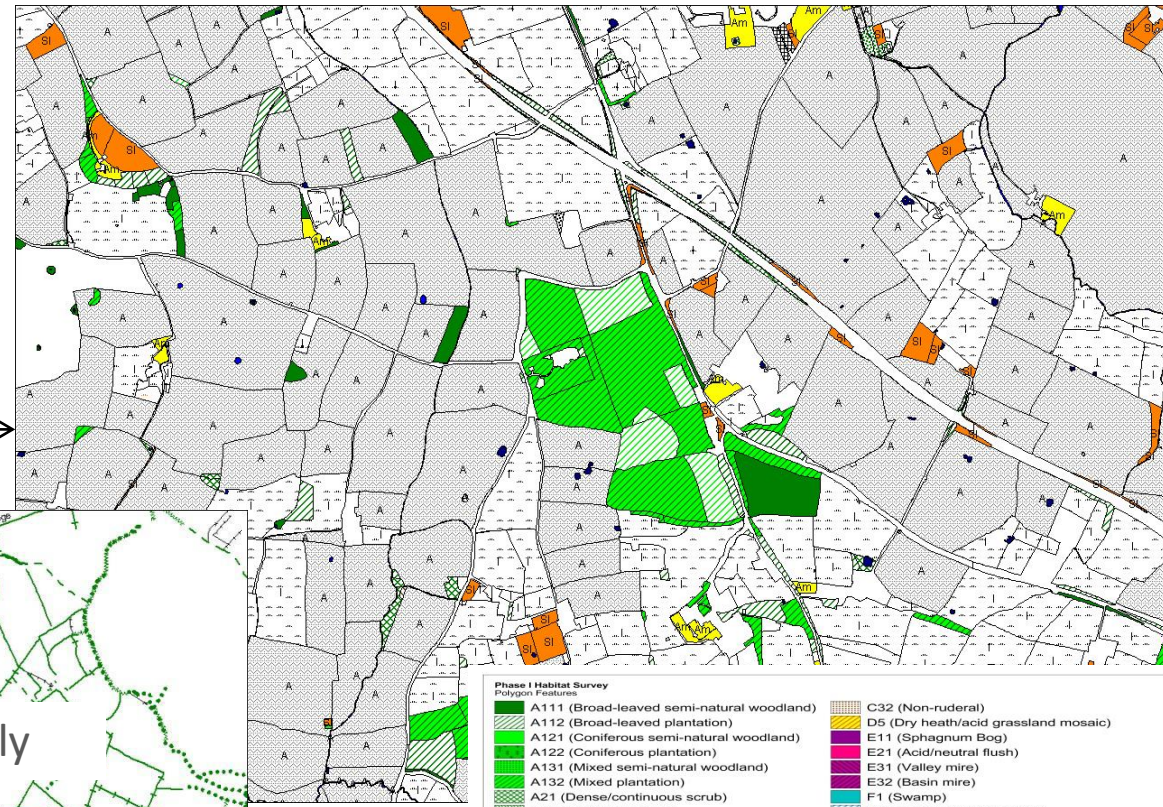
- Landscape Character Area mapping

All the things you need to prepare your plan...

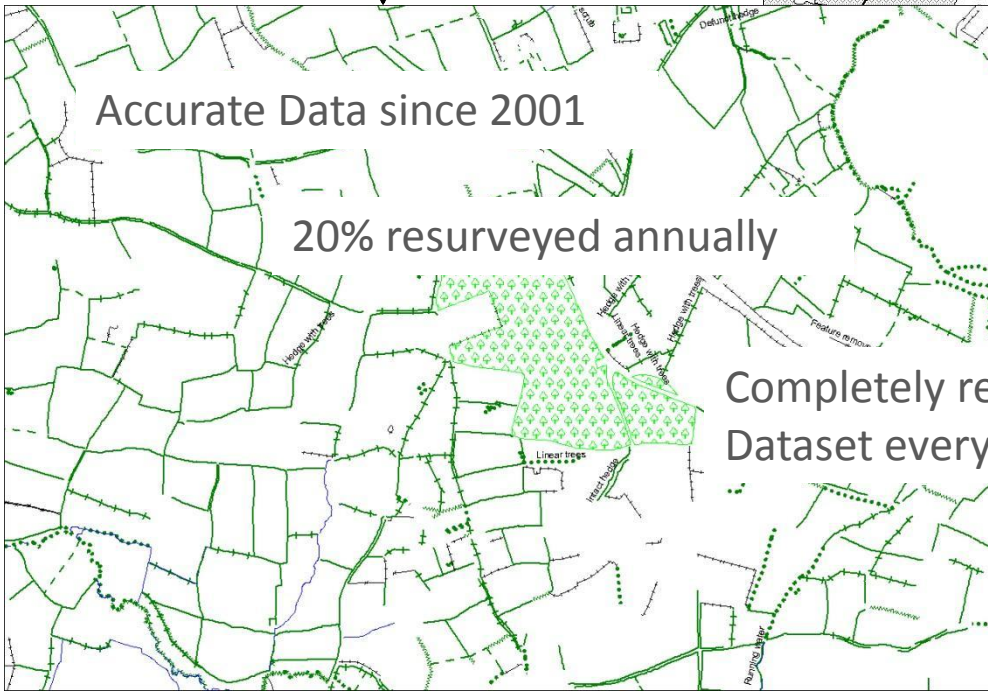
Evidence - Data



- **Habitat Biodiversity Audit**
- Phase 1 habitat survey of the sub region
- field-by-field
- boundary-by-boundary



Phase 1 - Linear



Accurate Data since 2001

20% resurveyed annually

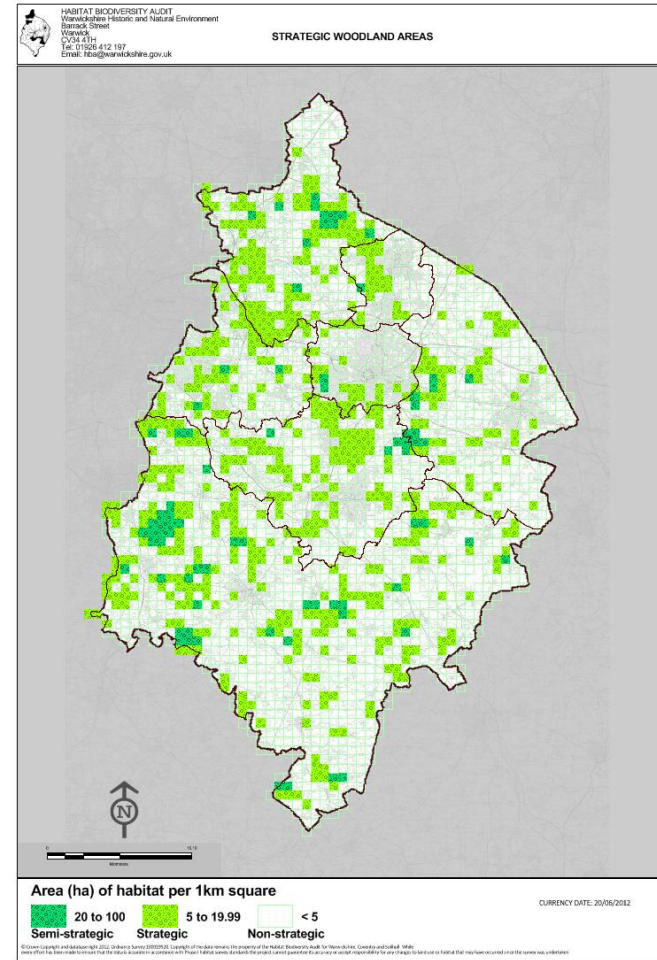
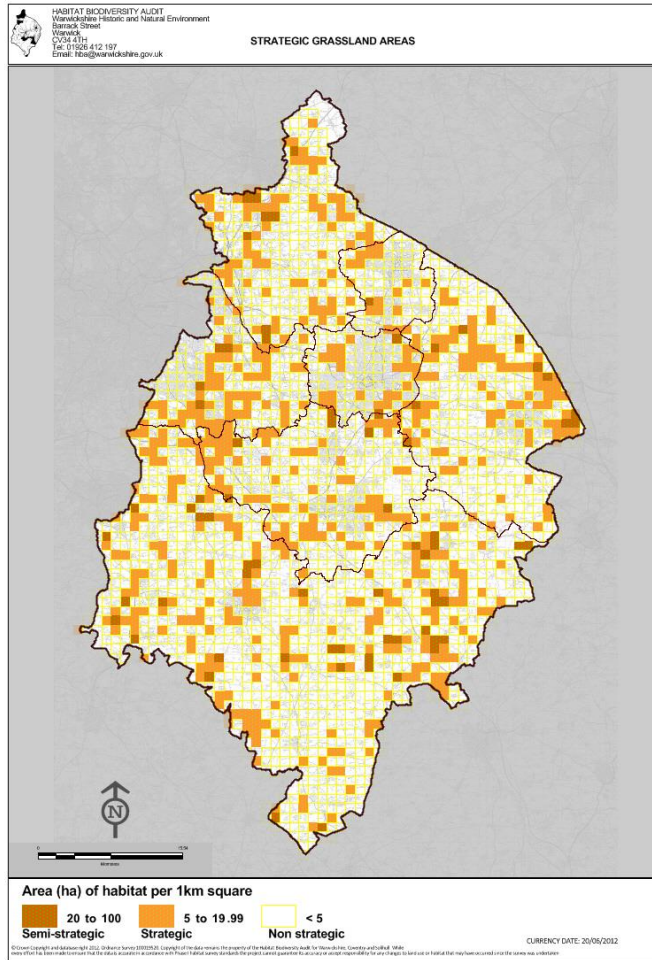
Completely refreshed Dataset every 5 years

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Polygon Features	
A111 (Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland)	C32 (Non-ruderal)
A112 (Broad-leaved plantation)	D5 (Dry heath/acid grassland mosaic)
A121 (Coniferous semi-natural woodland)	E11 (Sphagnum Bog)
A122 (Coniferous plantation)	E21 (Acid/neutral flush)
A131 (Mixed semi-natural woodland)	E31 (Valley mire)
A132 (Mixed plantation)	E32 (Basin mire)
A21 (Dense/continuous scrub)	F1 (Swamp)
A22 (Scattered scrub)	F22 (Inundation vegetation)
A31 (Broad-leaved parkland/scattered trees)	G1 (Standing water)
A32 (Coniferous parkland/scattered trees)	G2 (Running water)
A4 (Recently failed woodland)	I21 (Quarry)
A5 (Orchard)	I22 (Spill)
B11 (Unimproved acidic grassland)	I23 (Mine)
B12 (Semi-improved acidic grassland)	I24 (Refuse tip)
B21 (Unimproved neutral grassland)	J11 (Arable)
B22 (Semi-improved neutral grassland)	J112 (Allotments)
B31 (Unimproved calcareous grassland)	J113 (Set-aside)
B32 (Semi-improved calcareous grassland)	J12 (Amenity grassland)
B4 (Improved grassland)	J13 (Ephemeral/short perennial)
B5 (Marsh/marshy grassland)	J14 (Introduced shrub)
B6 (Poor semi-improved grassland)	J36 (Buildings)
C11 (Continuous bracken)	J4 (Bare ground)
C31 (Tall ruderal)	K (Unclassified)

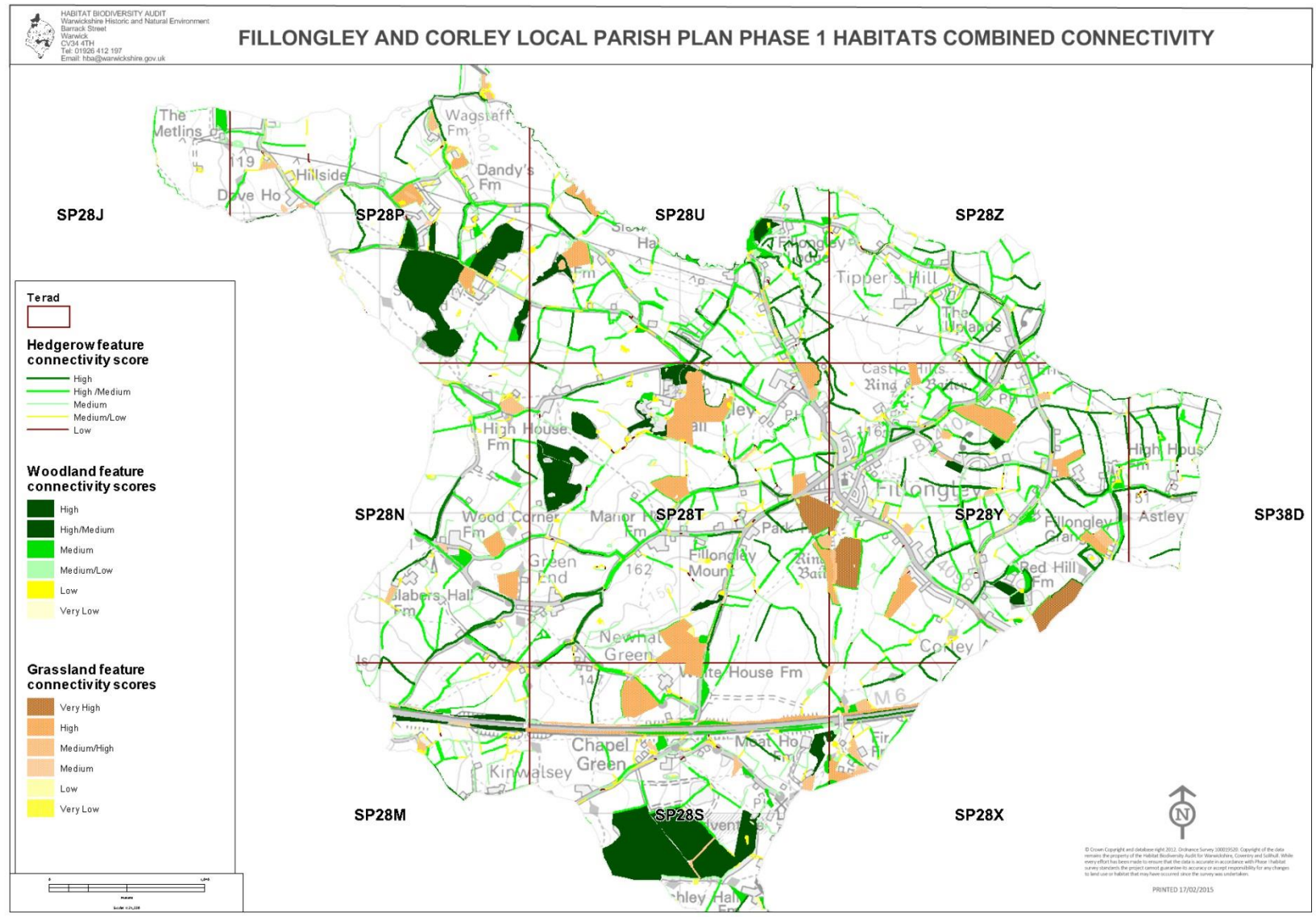
Linear Features	
Axxxxx A21 (Linear Scrub)	J23 (Hedge with Trees)
A3 (Linear Trees)	J231 (Native Species Rich Hedge with Trees)
G1 (Standing Water)	J24 (Fence)
G2 (Running Water)	J25 (Wall)
I1 (Inland Cliff)	J26 (Dry Ditch)
J21 (Intact Hedge)	J27 (Boundary Removed)
J211 (Native Species Rich Intact Hedge)	J28 (Earth Bank)
J22 (Defunct Hedge)	

Warwickshire strategic areas

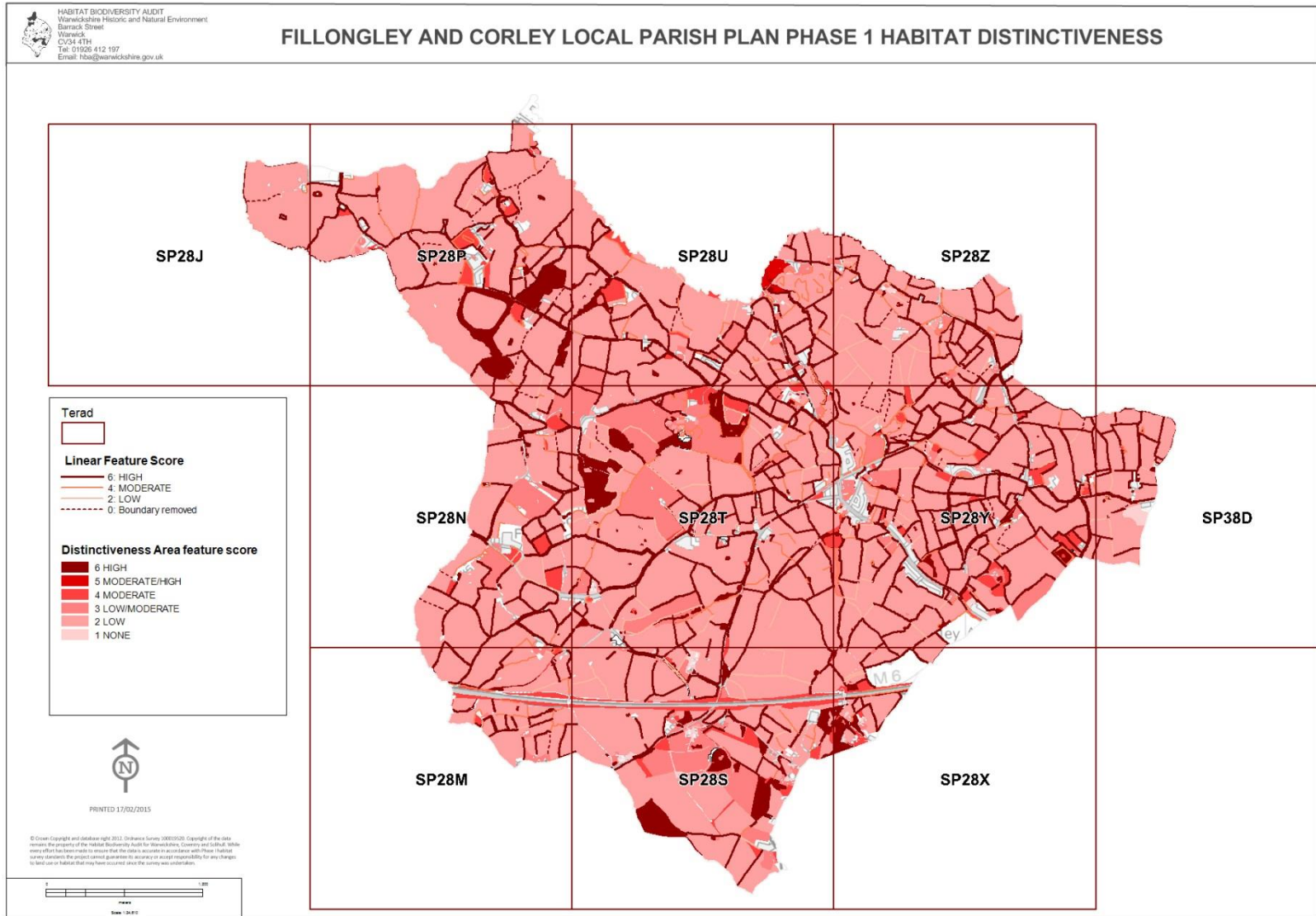
To target restoration and creation of new core areas



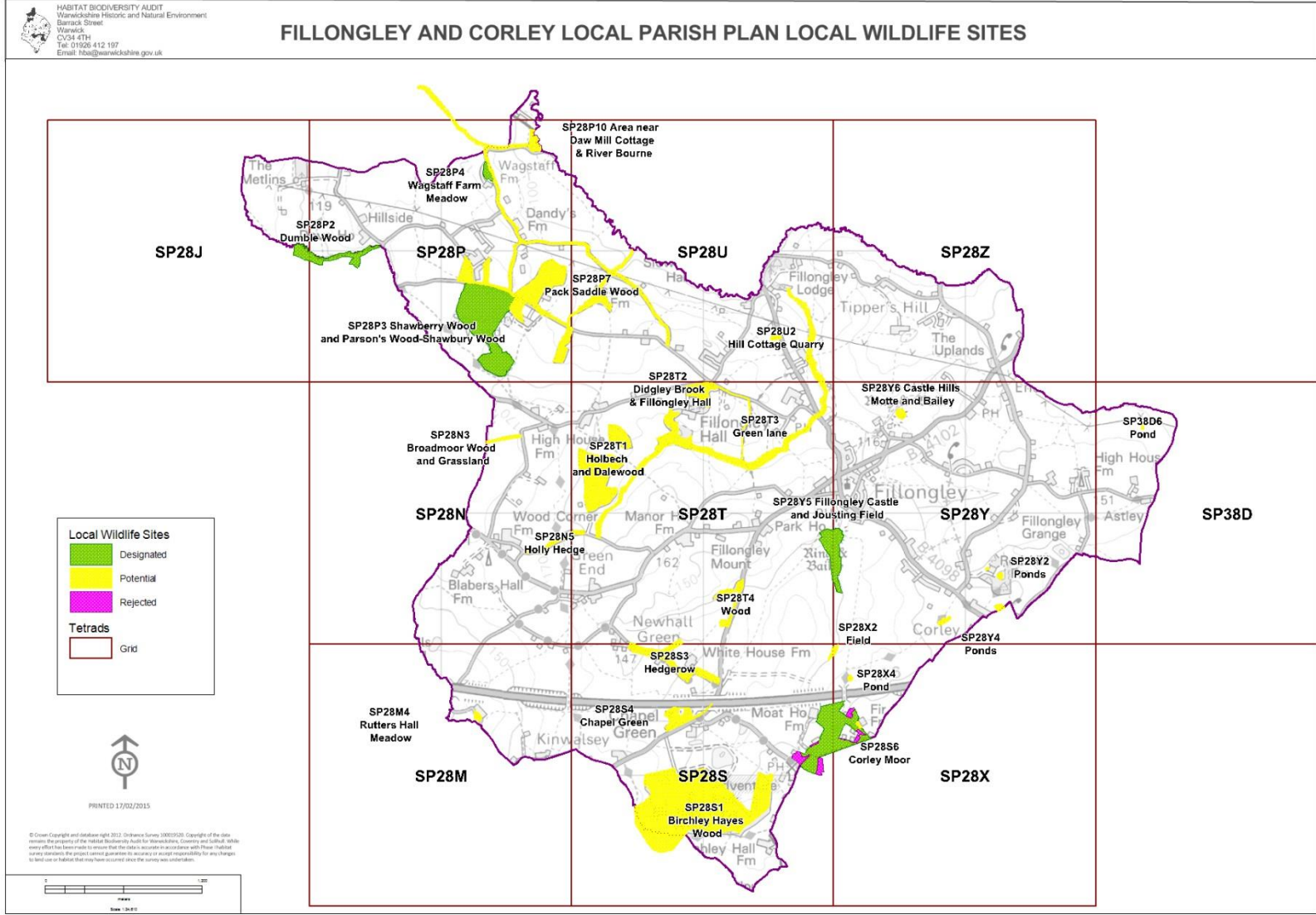
Connectivity Mapping



Distinctiveness Mapping




Local Sites (County Importance)



Species

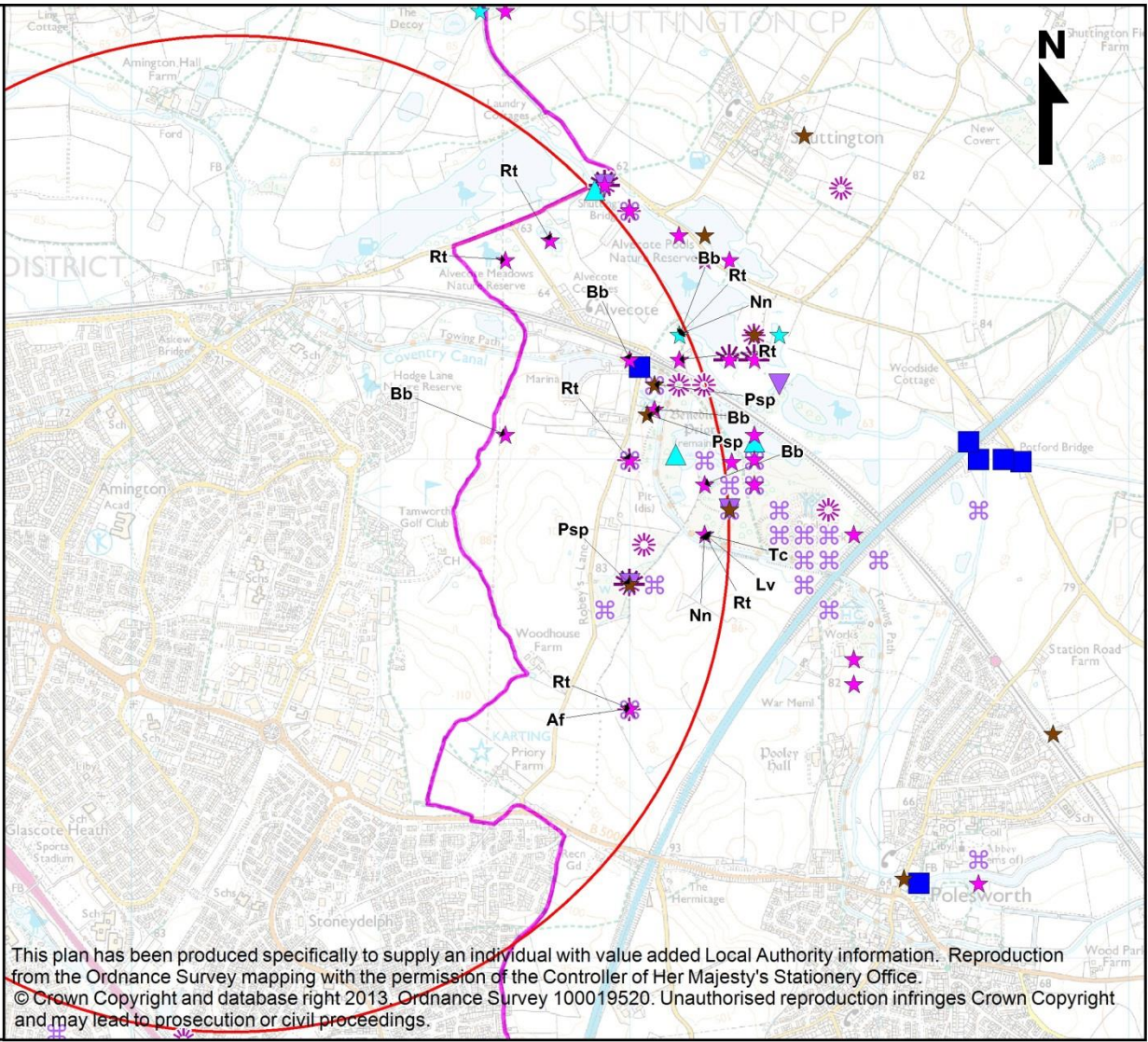
WARWICKSHIRE BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE



**Ecological Data Search:
Tamworth
SK 234 037
Species
2km search**

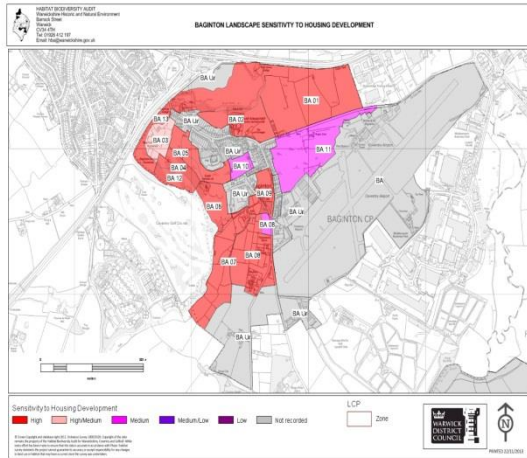
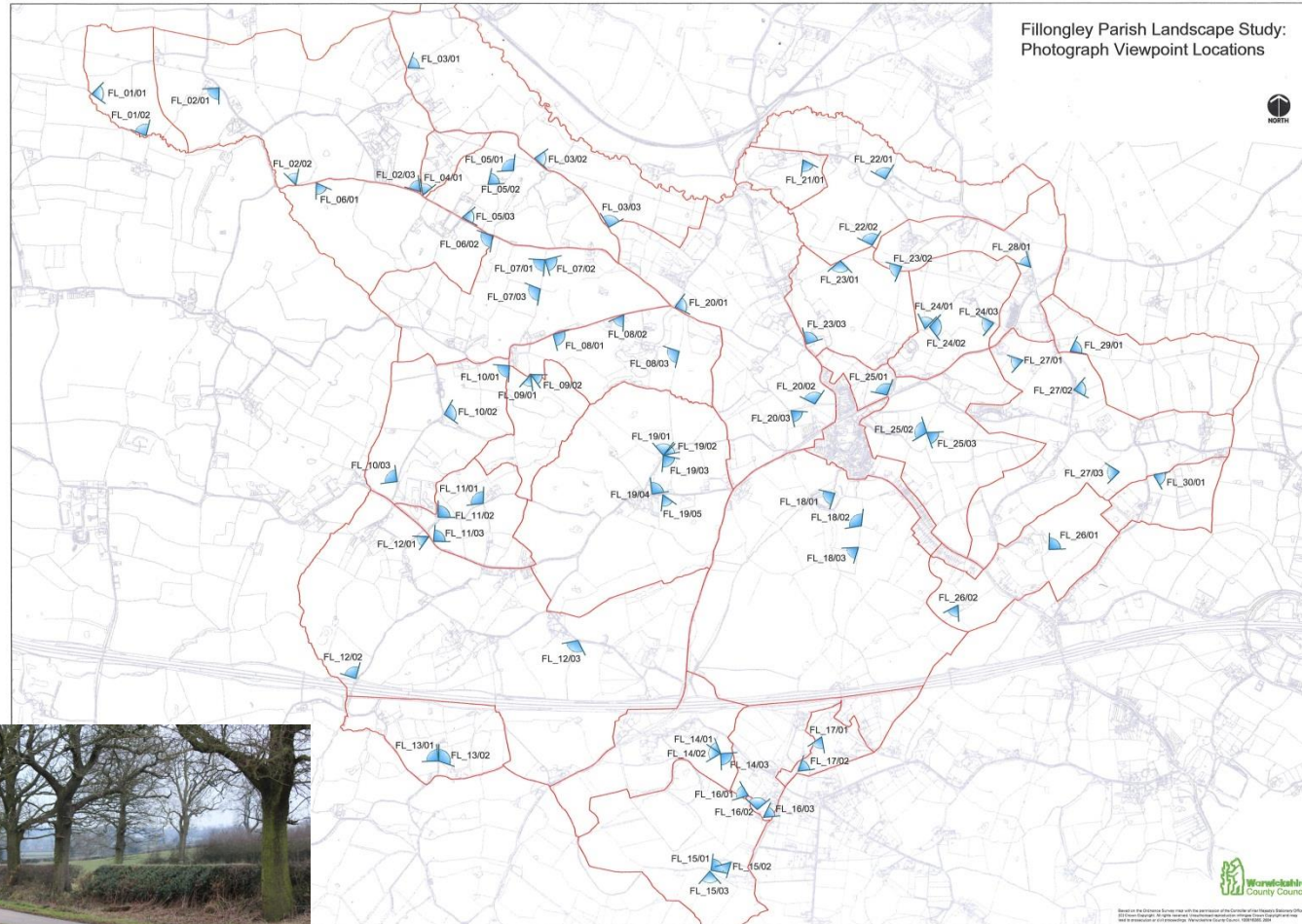
- ★ Bat
- ★ Barn Owl
- ★ Amphibian / Reptile
- ◆ White Clawed Crayfish
- ⊙ Badger Set
- ⊙ Badger Casualty
- ▲ Watervole
- Otter
- Dormouse
- ✿ Butterfly
- ▼ Brown Hare
- ✿ Rare Plant
- ✿ Hedgehog
- ★ Harvest Mouse
- 🌳 Black Poplar
- 🌳 Veteran Tree
- ▭ County Boundary

Warwickshire Biological Records Centre
Warwickshire Historic and Natural Environment
PO Box 43, Warwick
CV34 4SX
Tel: (01926) 418060



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Landscape Assessment



We want to make this information available to you.

We unfortunately cannot do this for free!

Request	Landscape	Historic Env.	Biodiversity
Data only	£100	£100	£200
Data + interpretation report	£200	£200	£300
Data + interpretation report + workshop	£500	£500	£500
Full Service (includes further meetings, recommendations and policies formation)	£1500 ^a	£1000	£1000

^a Landscape Assessments are necessary for the Full Service option including employing an external specialist

Notes:

All costs (unless stated) use existing data only

Ecological surveys can be quoted for separately – ensures up-to-date data (circa. +£2000)

All costs are based on full-cost recovery (aka not-for-profit)