

Mark Minkley

Bath & North East Somerset Council

The Journey

Delivering nature-based solutions:

National – Environment bill & Agricultural bill

Regional – Nature Recovery Network

District – Green Infrastructure Delivery Framework

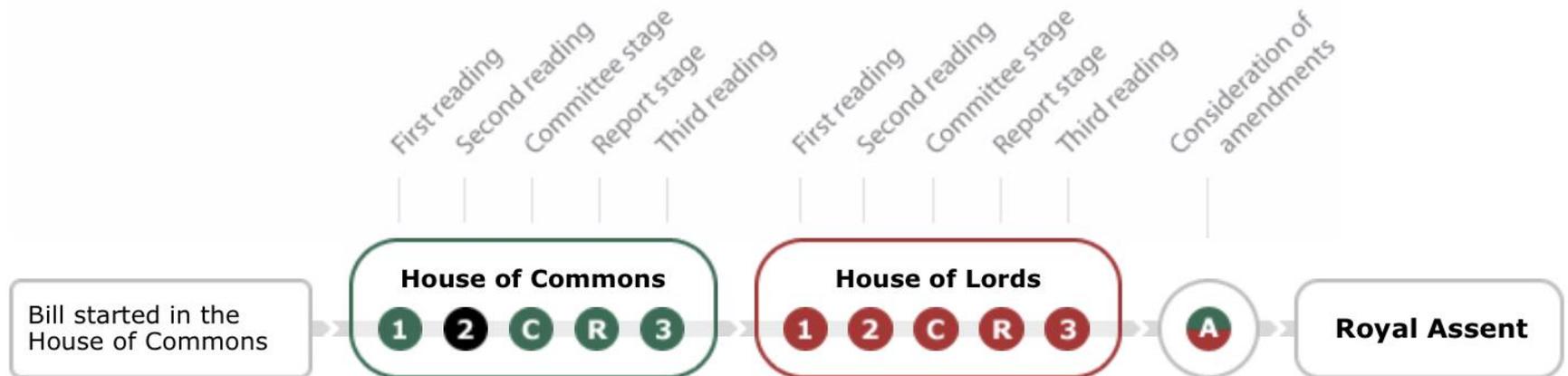
Local – Bath River Line and Bathscape

Neighbourhood – Bath River Line East and Bathampton Meadows

Environment Bill 2019 - 20

Type of Bill: Government Bill
Sponsor: Secretary Theresa Villiers
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Progress of the Bill



Last event

1 1st reading: House of Commons (no debate) | 30.01.2020

Next event

2 2nd reading: House of Commons | 26.02.2020

Environment Bill

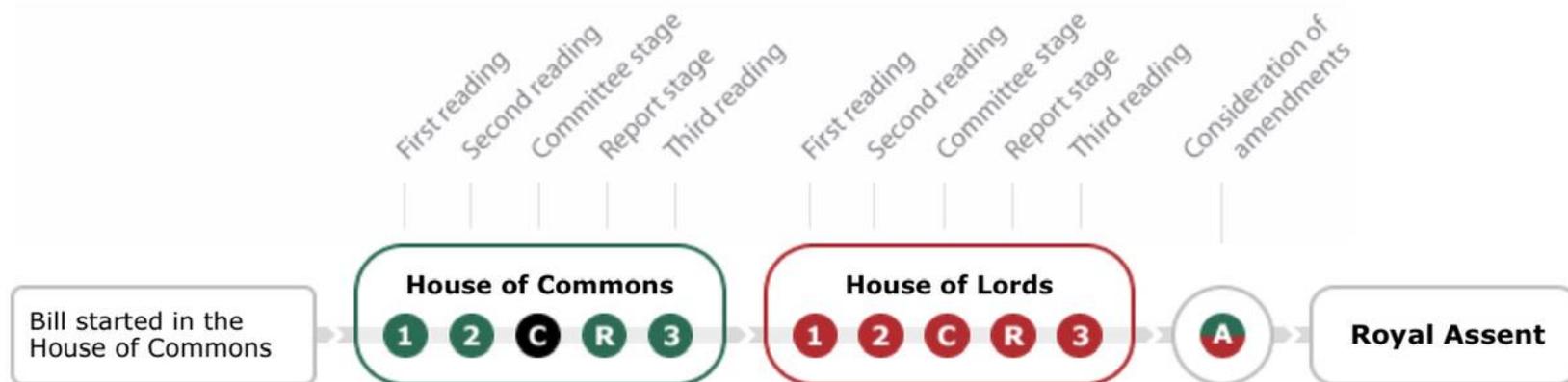
restore and enhance nature – through ‘biodiversity net gain’ we will ensure that the new houses we build are delivered in a way which protects and enhances nature, helping to deliver thriving natural spaces for local communities. We will lay the foundation for the Nature Recovery Network to deliver long lasting action for nature by establishing Local Nature Recovery Strategies, strengthening the duty on public authorities to enhance biodiversity and giving communities a greater say in the management of street trees. We are also legislating for conservation covenants to improve long term conservation management.

Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before... **Biodiversity net gain** still relies on the application of the mitigation hierarchy to avoid, mitigate or compensate for biodiversity losses. It is additional to these approaches, not instead of them.

Agriculture Bill 2019 - 20

Type of Bill: Government Bill
Sponsor: Secretary Theresa Villiers
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Progress of the Bill



Last events

- C** Committee Debates: compilation pdf of sitting so far; House of Commons 13 February, 2020 | 13.02.2020
- C** Committee Debate: 3rd sitting: House of Commons 13 February, 2020 (1) (2) | 13.02.2020
- C** Committee Debate: 4th sitting: House of Commons 13 February, 2020 (1) (2) | 13.02.2020

Next event

- C** Committee stage: House of Commons | 25.02.2020

Agriculture Bill

Growing 'natural capital' (farmers rewarded with public money for 'public goods' – such as **better air and water quality, improved access to the countryside or measured to reduce flooding**)

Transform British farming, enabling a balance between food production and the environment which will **safeguard our countryside** and farming communities for the future

Rewarding farmers for the work they do safeguard our environment and helping us meet crucial goals on **climate change and protecting nature and biodiversity**

WENP

Ecological networks:

- grassland
- woodland
- wetland

Towards a Nature Recovery Network for the West of England

A Methodology



West of England Nature Partnership
Joining up the dots for nature

West of England Ecological Networks

Grassland

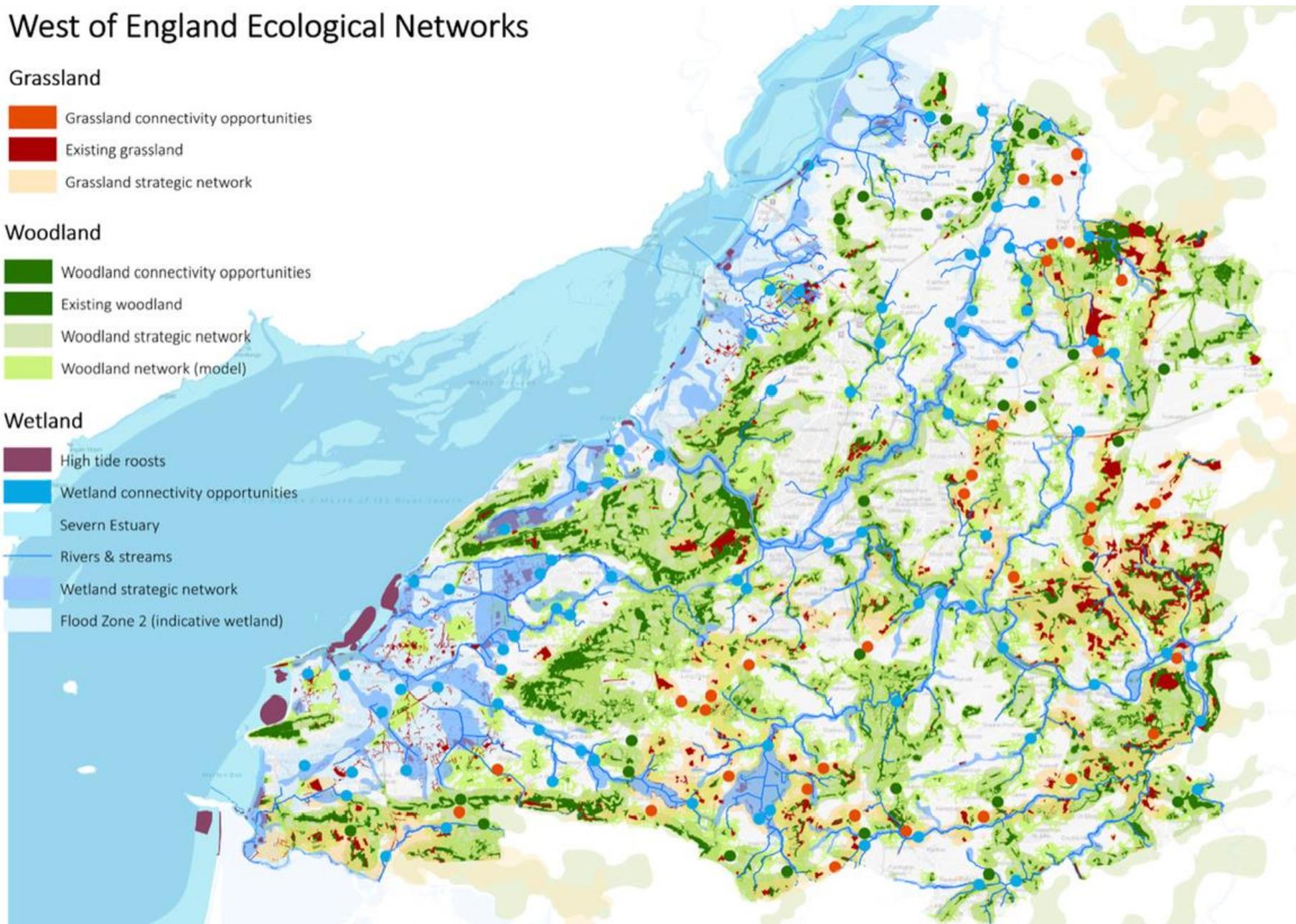
- Grassland connectivity opportunities
- Existing grassland
- Grassland strategic network

Woodland

- Woodland connectivity opportunities
- Existing woodland
- Woodland strategic network
- Woodland network (model)

Wetland

- High tide roosts
- Wetland connectivity opportunities
- Severn Estuary
- Rivers & streams
- Wetland strategic network
- Flood Zone 2 (indicative wetland)



NRN Recommended Ambitions

To realise nature's recovery, we recommend the following ambitions, which will require the support and commitment from a wide range of stakeholders to deliver:

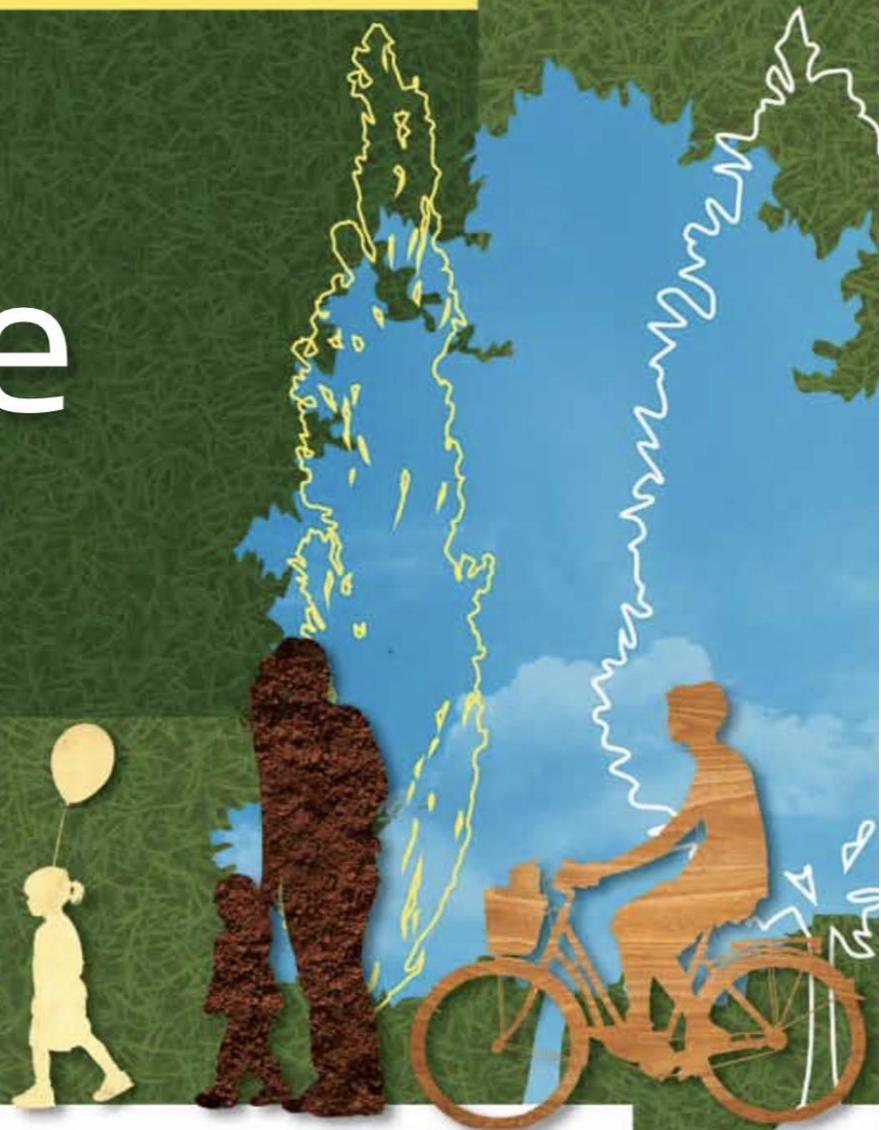
- 🌿 Create 5,108 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network by 2043:** This adapts Government's ambition as laid out in the 25 Year Environment Plan to *'create or restore 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, focusing on priority habitats as part of a wider set of land management changes providing extensive benefits'*. Our share of this (by proportion of land) is 5,108 hectares¹.
- 🌿 Double our woodland by 2060:** This aligns with the Government's ambition as laid out in the 25 Year Environment Plan to increase woodland in England to 12% coverage by 2060 (woodland currently covers 6% of the West of England). We recommend this is interpreted as: double tree canopy cover in urban areas; double woodland cover (as measured by hectareage) in rural areas; and double the number of hedgerow trees. These targets should take into account the loss of ash (~20% of our tree stock TBC) due to ash dieback, as well as other diseases.
- 🌿 Close the connectivity gaps with 580 hectares of new native woodland and 660 hectares of new species-rich grassland by 2050:** This is the amount of new habitat creation needed to fill in the key connectivity gaps identified on pages 13 and 17.
- 🌿 All water catchments to be in good ecological status and all SSSIs in favourable condition by 2027** (Water Framework Directive).
- 🌿 Double the amount of land managed for environmental gain from 2018 levels by 2050:** This includes good, long term stewardship of existing natural assets.
- 🌿 All new developments achieve well connected and appropriate biodiversity net gains that contribute across these ambitions**
- 🌿 Double the abundance of wildlife from 2018 levels by 2050**
- 🌿 Develop a strong and living evidence base to hold the above ambitions to account and help us make the smartest decisions for nature's recovery**

Valuing people, place and nature

a green infrastructure strategy
for Bath & North East Somerset

March 2013

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



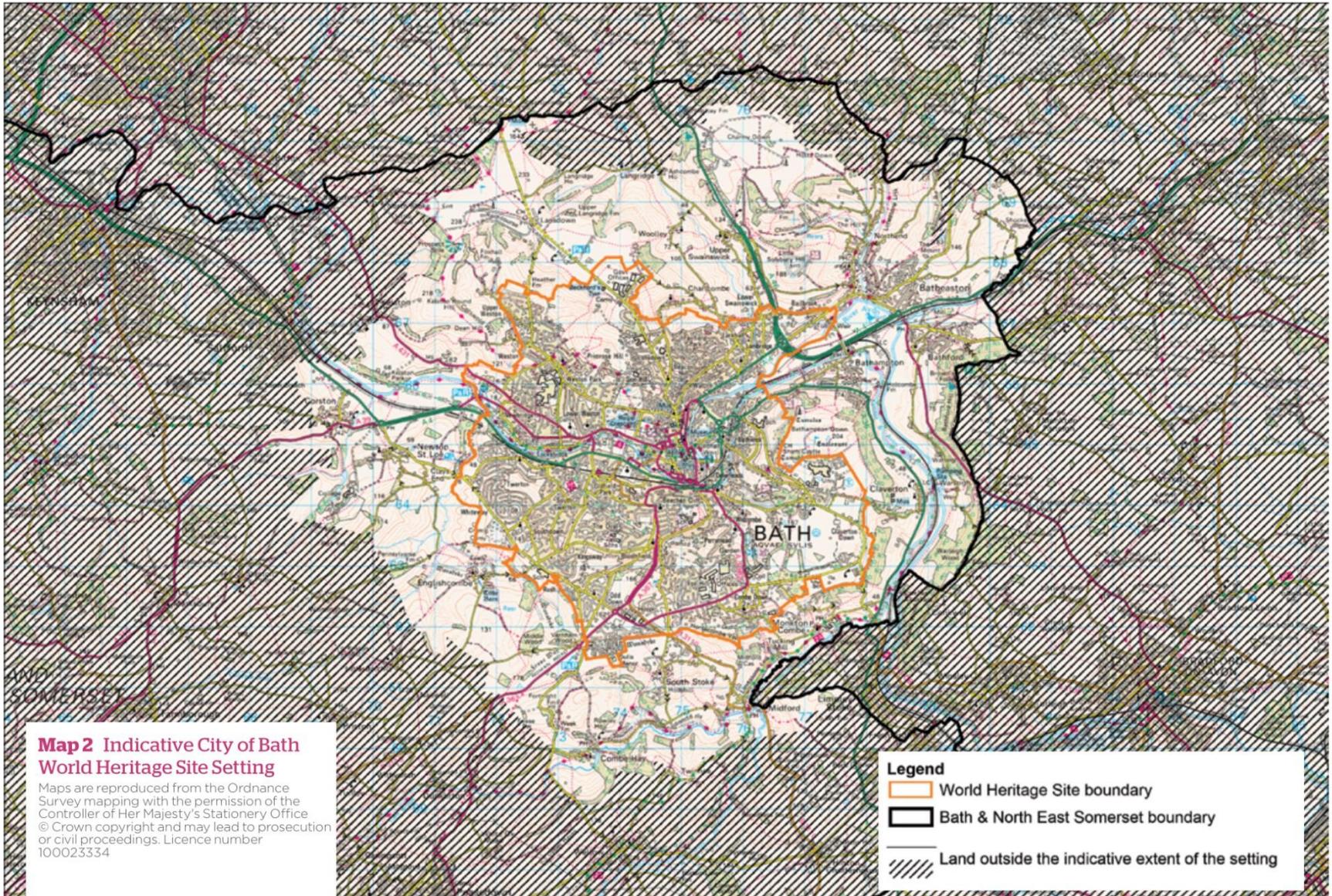
City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting

Supplementary
Planning Document

August 2013



WHS Setting study

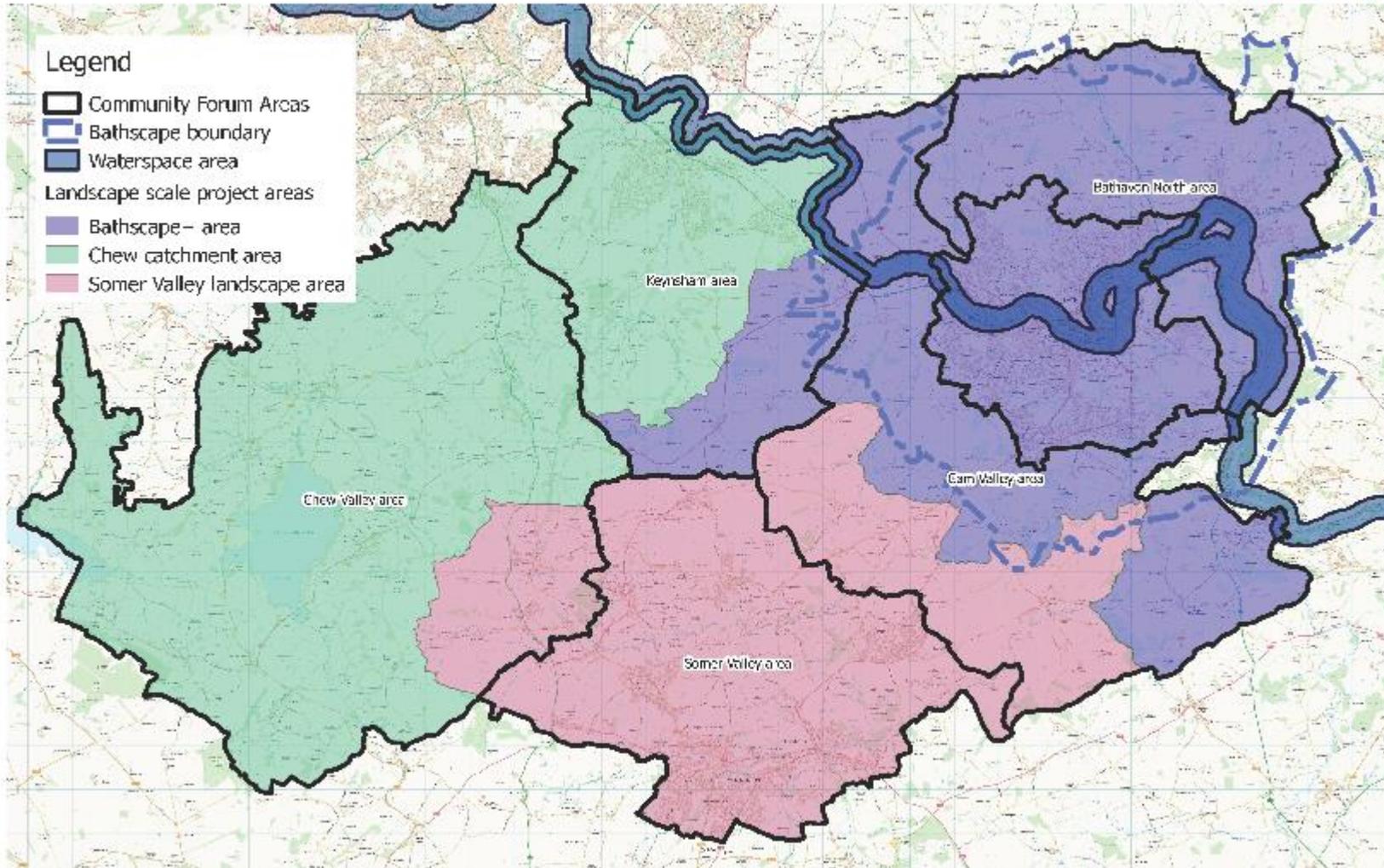


GI project areas

Landscape scale programme areas



Bath & North East
Somerset Council





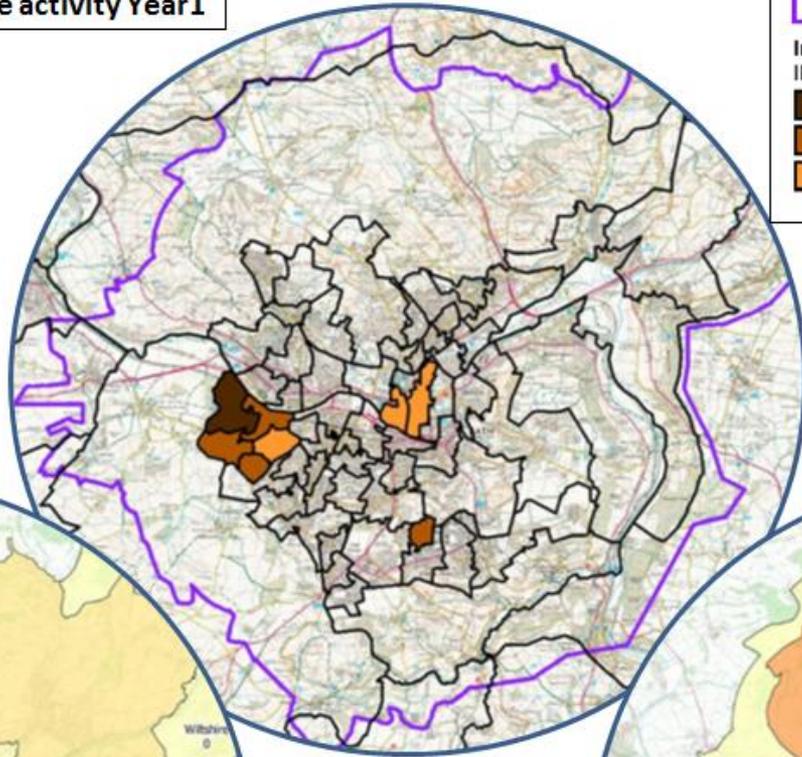
Bathscape

- Conserving and restoring
- Exploring the countryside
- Learning and skills

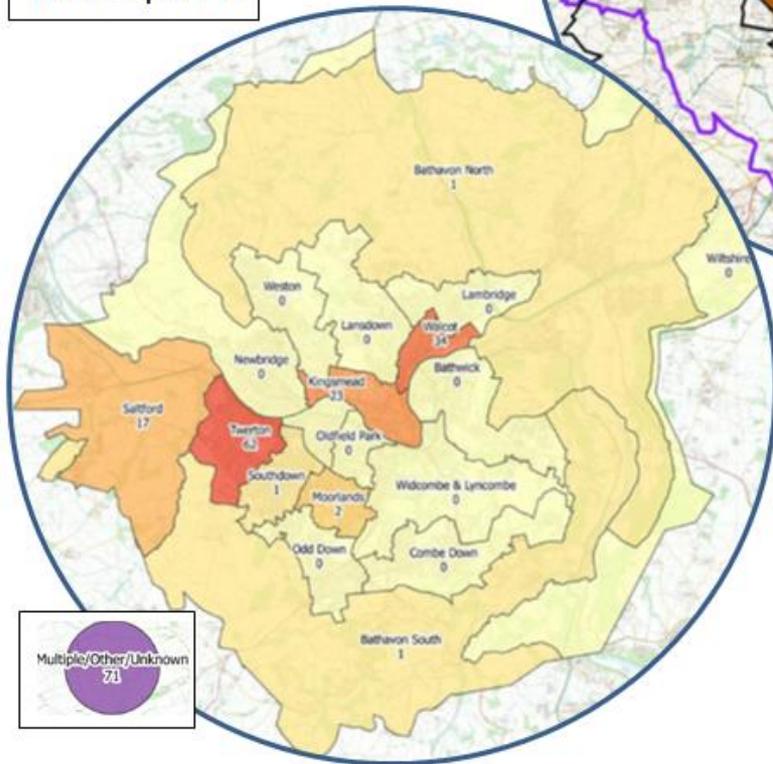


Areas of highest need and Bathscape activity Year1

Bathscape Boundary
Indices of Multiple Deprivation
IMD Docile Score
 1 (10 Percent Most Deprived)
 2 (20 Percent Most Deprived)
 3 (30 Percent Most Deprived)

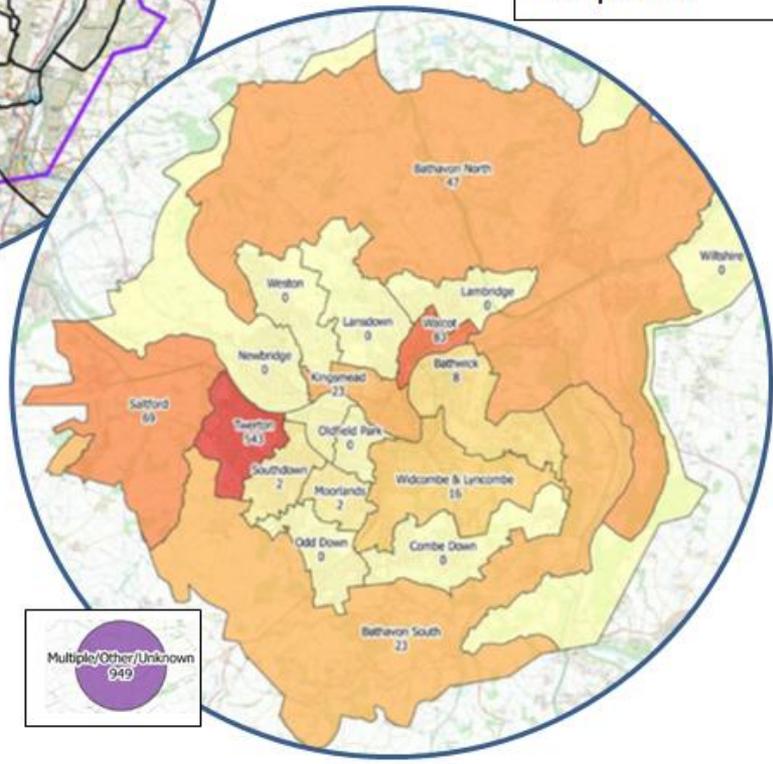


Number of activity volunteers per ward



Multiple/Other/Unknown
71

Number of volunteer hours per ward



Multiple/Other/Unknown
949

Landscape City

- Bath a historic 'Landscape City'
- Book launched at the UN World Urban Forum
- Bathscape and Waterspace featured



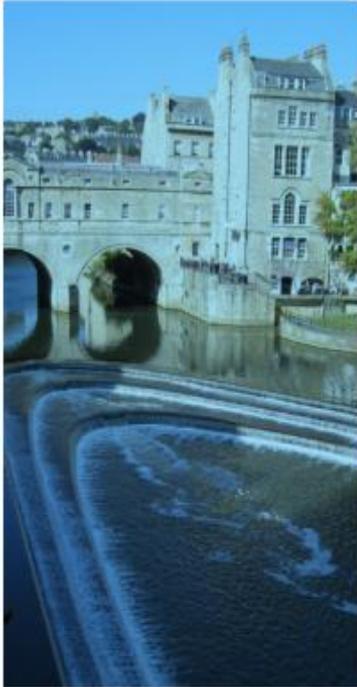
Landscape Cities

Synopsis

In the context of the climate emergency and biodiversity extinctions, future cities need to be defined less by their buildings and more by their human life support systems and especially their living landscapes and nature. Such 'Landscape Cities' would help reconnect our culture, economy and wellbeing with global biodiversity and the health of the planet.

Imagine such a world where cities are defined not by their architecture but by their landscape and ecology. Where species rich habitats form a connected and colourful web across the city and where every resident, worker and visitor felt immersed within a living and productive environment as soon as they step outdoors. These would be 'Landscape Cities' bringing huge benefits to human health and happiness, and to ecological diversity and resilience.

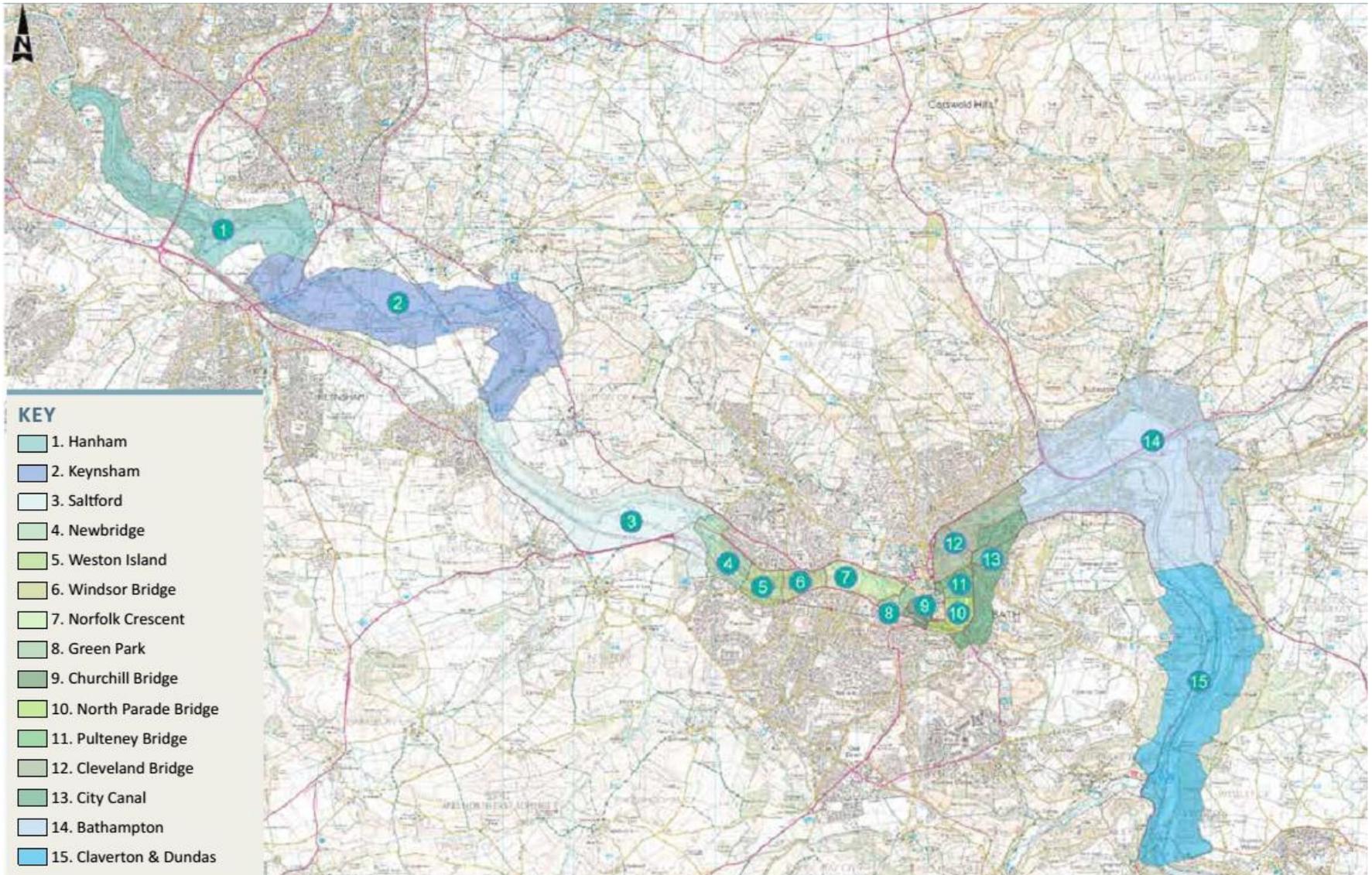
Waterspace



Bath & North East Somerset Council



Character Areas: Whole Study Area



3. BATHEASTON/BATHAMPTON RIVERSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS (3/4)



DUNDAS

CLAVERTON

BATHAMPTON

BATH

SALTFORD

KEYNSHAM

HANHAM

PROJECT CONCEPT

The grassland area beside Mill Lane has potential to be reinvigorated as a wildlife/wetland habitat, connecting with the surrounding grassland environments and providing hedgerow improvements.



Bathampton weir, downstream from the site



Site of potential ecological enhancement



Potential to improve setting of the listed Mill Lane Toll Bridge and combine with carefully designed ecological measures



The grassland is managed by a self financing volunteer group supported by a Site Management Plan. Areas of tall herbs are retained for their ecological value and other areas mown to provide recreational spaces.



ECOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES

A. This permanently damp area is bisected by a stream which flows throughout the year. It would support a series of ponds, scrapes and log piles that would be of great benefit to invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and native plants that require a damp environment.

B. The suggested creation of a reed bed within the wetland park area of the site should include native species including common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

C. Adjacent to the cyclepath, there is an opportunity to provide public access points to the ponds and scrapes where educational information boards would highlight the wildlife using the space.

D. Removal and control of Himalayan Balsam and other aggressive plants to ensure a wide mix of beneficial species and provide open views to Bathampton Toll Bridge.

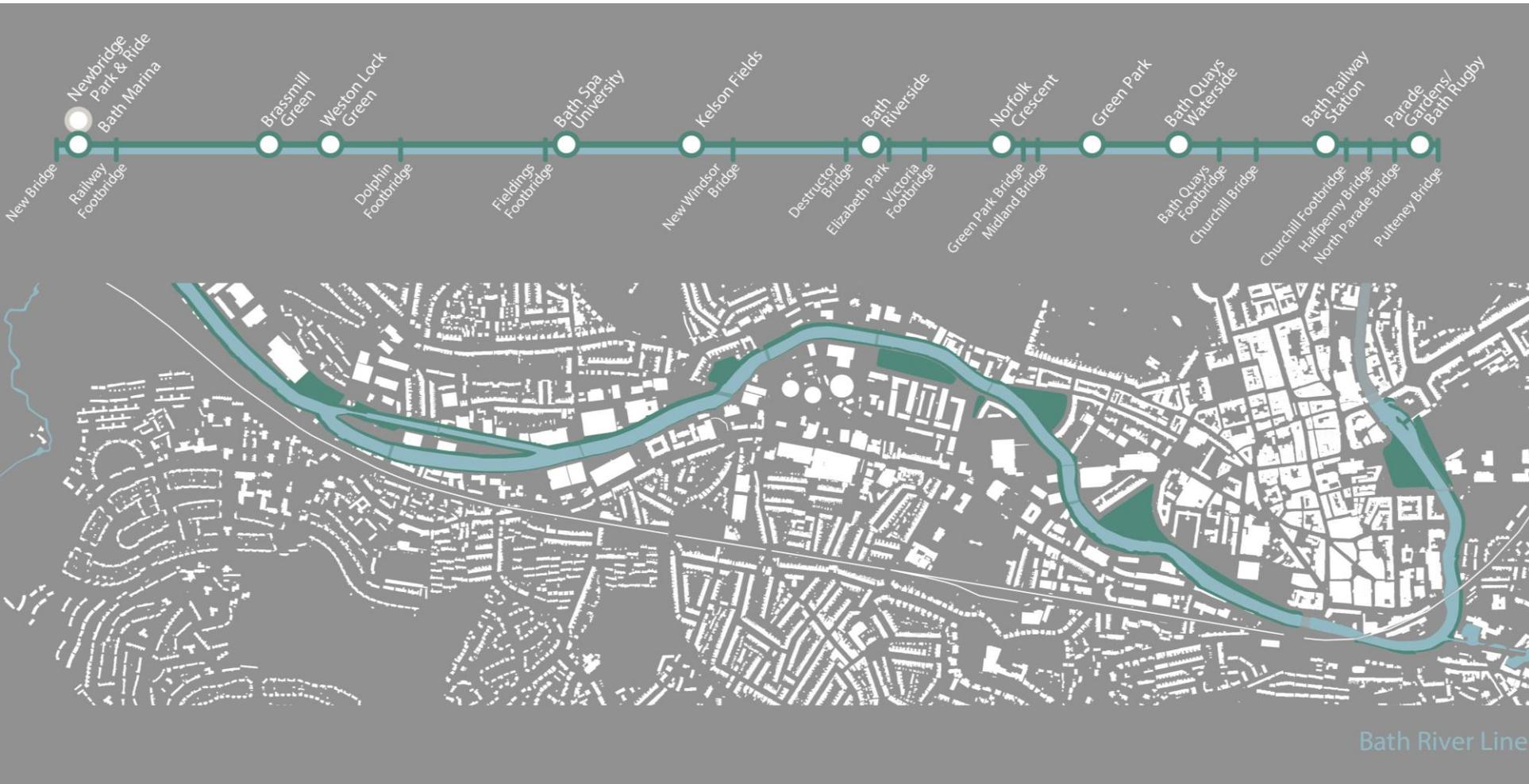
E. Incorporation of Kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), which is the main food plant for a rare butterflies found locally, into grassland mix.



OUTLINE PROPOSALS



Bath Riverline - West



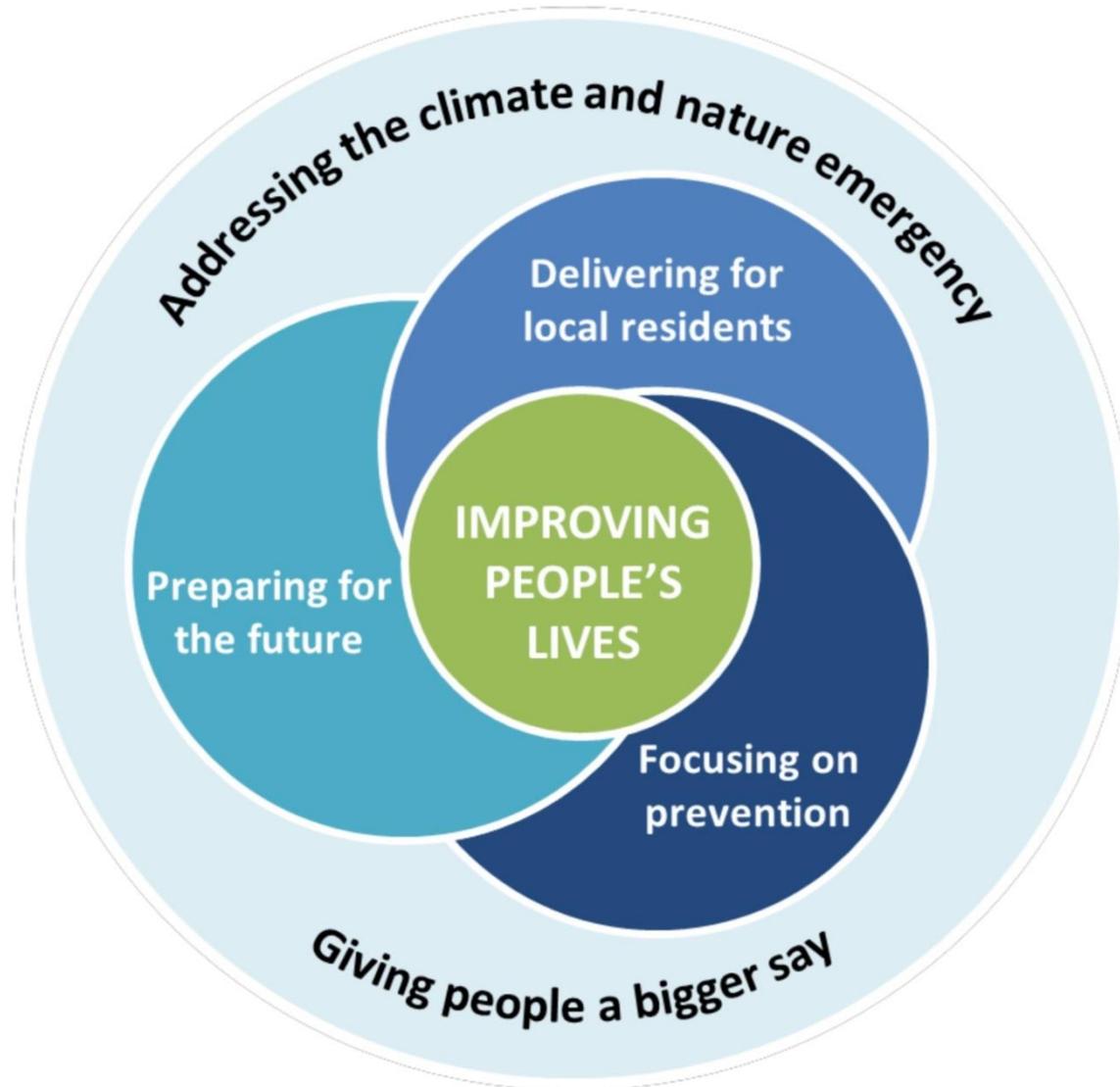
Bathampton Meadows



Community Asset Transfer process

- Instruction to proceed with CAT
- Expression of Interest submitted by National Trust
- Business case in development
- Decisions needs to balance value v community benefit
- Confirmation needed of community support
- Decision on CAT Spring/Summer 2020

Delivering our corporate strategy



Next Steps...

- **Waterspace Manager** starts 9th March
- Schedule land owner, stakeholder and community workshops to develop FBC for Bath River Line – Summer 2020
- Submit FBC to WECA for Bath River Line