

A topographic map of Wiltshire, showing the county's diverse landscape. The map features a network of blue rivers and streams, with green areas representing lower-lying land and valleys, and brown and yellow areas representing higher, more rugged terrain. The county's boundary is visible, and major towns and cities are marked with small grey squares.

# **A Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire**

**Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan 2022-2030**

*Supporting the resilience of Wiltshire's communities,  
businesses and wildlife in a changing world*

**Evidence Base**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 CBA was commissioned by Wiltshire Council to develop a Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire.
- 1.1.2 The Strategy aims to promote a strategic and integrated approach to the protection, management and enhancement of Wiltshire's green and blue infrastructure.
- 1.1.3 This document sets out the Evidence Base for the Strategy.

### 1.2 What is Green & Blue Infrastructure?

- 1.2.1 Green infrastructure is defined by the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) as '*A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity*'.
- 1.2.2 As outlined in **Box 1.1**, green infrastructure embraces a range of public and private natural assets, including blue infrastructure assets. These assets are collectively referred to as Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI).

#### Box 1.1 – What can GBI include and why is it important?

Planning Practice Guidance on the Natural Environment advises:

**Green infrastructure** can embrace a range of spaces and assets that provide environmental and wider benefits. It can, for example, include parks, playing fields, other areas of open space, woodland, allotments, private gardens, sustainable drainage features, green roofs and walls, street trees and '**blue infrastructure**' such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies. (Paragraph 004)

*Green infrastructure is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits, at a range of scales. For communities, these benefits can include enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, food and energy production, urban cooling, and the management of flood risk. These benefits are also known as ecosystem services.* (Paragraph 005)

- 1.2.3 Natural resources - air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soil - provide our most basic needs, including food, energy and security, and keep us healthy. Where natural resources are under pressure from unsustainable uses and activities, this presents a risk to long-term social, economic and environmental well-being.

- 1.2.4 Well-designed and sustainably managed GBI assets have the potential to provide a range of ecosystem services (as highlighted in **Box 1.2**), which in turn provide multiple benefits for people, places and nature.

#### **Box 1.2 - Ecosystem Services**

- **Supporting services** (such as soil formation, nutrients cycling or plant growth) are essential for supporting all other services.
- **Regulating services:** ecosystem services that regulate the environment – such as pollination, pest/disease control, carbon storage, water purification and flood attenuation.
- **Provisioning services:** ecosystem services that provide goods – such as drinking water, food, fuel, energy and construction materials.
- **Cultural services:** ecosystem services that provide aesthetic, spiritual, religious, recreational or scientific enrichment – such as access to green spaces and historic places for recreation and tourism.

- 1.2.5 Whilst individual GBI assets can serve one or more functions, connectivity between different GBI assets helps to maximise the ecosystem services and well-being benefits that they can generate. Well-connected GBI assets create GBI networks that are adaptive and resilient to urbanisation and climate change.

- 1.2.6 Physical connections make the most impact. Linear landscape features such as river corridors and hedgerows provide ecological corridors for the dispersal of wildlife. Connecting green spaces and places via a network of sustainable walking and cycling routes along green corridors encourages healthy living and opportunities for people to experience nature in a more sustainable and healthy manner.
- 1.2.7 Where connected together by rights of way, cycleways and green and blue corridors, GBI assets around individual buildings, streets, neighbourhoods and in the wider countryside combine to create multi-functional GBI networks interspersed within and between urban and rural places.



## 1.3 Benefits of Green & Blue infrastructure

- 1.3.1 As highlighted below, GBI can provide a range of climate change, biodiversity, health and well-being and economic benefits for society.

### Climate Change Benefits

- 1.3.2 Investment in GBI can help increase resilience to climate change by supporting efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of a wetter and warmer climate through nature-based solutions (see **Box 1.3**).

#### Box 1.3 – Examples of climate change benefits

GBI can mitigate effects of climate change by:

- Reducing carbon emissions
- Providing urban cooling and shading
- Improving water quality and quantity

GBI can provide climate adaptation cost-savings by:

- Minimising costs resulting from flooding
- Reducing costs of droughts to the local economy
- Reducing energy costs through urban cooling

## Biodiversity Benefits

- 1.3.3 Investment in GBI can play an important role in helping to reduce biodiversity loss and support nature recovery (see **Box 1.4**).

#### Box 1.4 – Examples of biodiversity benefits

GBI can help development deliver biodiversity gains by:

- Protecting designated sites and irreplaceable habitats from inappropriate development
- Safeguarding, enhancing, restoring and creating wildlife habitat within development sites
- Creation, restoration, connection and management of habitats to provide biodiversity net gain sites

GBI can contribute to nature recovery by:

- Provision of ecological networks offering nature-rich habitats, corridors and stepping stones
- Provision of landscape-scale habitat creation, restoration connectivity to increase resilience to climate change

GBI can help boost urban habitats for wildlife through:

- Provision of green roof spaces providing habitat for invertebrates, birds and plant species
- Provision of vegetated road verges supporting plants and insects
- Use of sustainable drainage systems that improve water quality and improve diversity of species downstream
- Protection and enhancement of linear green features to improve connectivity between urban habitats

## Health & Well-Being Benefits

- 1.3.4 There is a strong link between investment in the provision of good quality, accessible green space and health and well-being. Investment in GBI offers opportunities to increase access to nature, physical activity and climate change resilience, which can help reduce levels of ill-health and increase well-being (see **Box 1.5**).

### Box 1.5 – Examples of health and well-being benefits

GBI can support improved health and wellbeing through:

- Provision of accessible and quality green spaces
- Encouraging outdoor physical activity and play
- Supply of healthy, locally grown food
- Provision of communal spaces for people
- Ensuring a healthy environment

GBI can also help reduce health and social care costs through:

- Contributing to prevention of health problems
- Reducing money spent on treating illness

- 1.3.5 Numerous recent studies have shown significant health and well-being benefits for people involved in both creating and managing GBI assets, and from access to good quality greenspace (see the [review of health and well-being evidence for green infrastructure](#) published by Natural England in 2020).

## Economic Benefits

- 1.3.6 The benefits that high quality GBI can bring to the national and local economy are increasingly recognised by policy makers (see **Box 1.6**).

### Box 1.6 – Examples of economic benefits

GBI can help boost property prices and quality of life through:

- Provision of green spaces in proximity to homes
- Provision of gardens, orchards and allotments
- Contribution to the visual attractiveness of a place
- Providing for community wellbeing

GBI can contribute to economic growth through:

- Natural heritage and attractive landscapes
- Creating green and attractive business premises
- Providing a healthy environment
- Supporting employee health/reducing sickness levels
- Underpinning the visitor and agricultural/rural economy

GBI can reduce business risks from climate change by:

- Use of natural flood alleviation solutions
- Mitigation of CO2 emissions through carbon storage

## 1.4 The Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy

- 1.4.1 Developed in collaboration with local nature, health and enterprise partnerships and neighbouring authorities, the GBI Strategy sets out a bold vision and strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing Wiltshire's GBI network (see **Box 1.3** and **Box 1.4**).

### Box 1.3 – The Vision for Wiltshire's Green & Blue Infrastructure

*Wiltshire's multi-functional network of high quality, biodiverse and accessible green and blue infrastructure is widely valued by our communities, businesses and visitors.*

*Managed sustainably through strong leadership and partnerships, the green and blue infrastructure network provides a range of well-being benefits for people, places and nature across Wiltshire.*

*As a result of working with natural processes to support delivery of multi-functional ecosystem services, Wiltshire is better able to adapt to a changing climate and ~~support the resilience of our regional~~ biodiversity loss has been reversed.*

*Networks of green and blue spaces and corridors in the countryside and our towns support access to nature and healthy lifestyles, and provide high quality landscapes and beautiful places for people to live, work and visit.*

### Box 1.4 – Wiltshire's Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy

Key messages:

- *Our rich and varied environment underpins Wiltshire's natural capital; it makes Wiltshire an attractive place to live, work and visit, enhances our quality of life and well-being, and underpins the economy.*
- *Wiltshire's natural environment is undergoing substantial changes driven by factors including climate change, biodiversity loss, population growth and development.*
- *Wiltshire's multi-functional network of connected and high-quality green and blue infrastructure assets supports a range of ecosystem services, providing multiple economic, social and environmental benefits for people, places and nature.*
- *The Strategy sets out a long-term vision, strategic goals and principles for delivering green and blue infrastructure across Wiltshire by a range of partners and stakeholders, working together at a variety of scales.*
- *Highlighting "what" is needed and "how" this will be achieved, it provides a high-level framework for developing delivery strategies and detailed implementation plans that reflect community needs and national priorities.*
- *Together with the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Wiltshire, the Strategy has a significant role to play in delivering nature-based solutions to support the Council's Climate Strategy and new Local Plan.*

## 1.5 The Evidence Base

- 1.5.1 A summary of the relevant national statutory requirements, policy drivers and guidance for GBI delivery is set out in **Section 1.5** and **Appendix 1**.
- 1.5.2 A high-level assessment of the GBI assets that combine to create Wiltshire's GBI Network, and overview of the ecosystem services and benefits that they provide, is set out in **Section 2.0**.
- 1.5.3 Existing strategic priorities for improving Wiltshire's GBI Network are identified in **Section 3.0**. A high level assessment of existing strategic GBI opportunities for partnership working to improve GBI across Wiltshire in line with the identified priorities can be found in **Section 4.0**. Sources of evidence that informed the assessment are listed in **Appendix 2**.
- 1.5.4 The wide range of stakeholders who were engaged in shaping the approach to developing the GBI Strategy and its format are highlighted in **Appendix 3**. A record of the stakeholder engagement is provided in **Appendix 4**.
- 1.5.5 Supporting information is provided about GBI funding sources in **Appendix 5**, strategic GBI projects in **Appendix 6** and delivery partnerships in **Appendix 7**. Details of the CBA and Wiltshire Council teams who developed the GBI Strategy can be found in **Appendix 8**.
- 1.5.6 The GIS mapping data used in this Evidence Base (see **Appendix 9**) is available from the Council on request.

## 1.6 Policy Context

- 1.6.1 The relevant legislation, national policy and guidance that provides the context for GBI delivery in Wiltshire is highlighted in **Appendix 1**, and summarised below.

### UN Sustainable Development Goals

- 1.6.2 In 2015, United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The goals recognise the need for an integrated approach to sustainable development – for example, ending poverty and deprivation must link with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and spur economic growth while tackling climate change and working to reverse biodiversity loss.
- 1.6.3 Provision of GBI can help contribute to many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals listed in **Box 1.5**, alongside the Council's wider corporate objectives.

### Box 1.5 – UN Sustainable Development Goals

- 1: No Poverty
- 2: Zero Hunger
- 3: Good Health and Well-being
- 4: Quality Education
- 5: Gender Equality
- 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 10: Reduced Inequality
- 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13: Climate Action
- 14: Life Below Water
- 15: Life on Land
- 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal



## The 25-Year Environment Plan

- 1.6.4 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018) sets out the Government's goals for improving the environment (see **Box 1.6**).

### Box 1.6 – 25-Year Environment Plan Goals

1. Clean air
2. Clean and plentiful water
3. Thriving plants and wildlife
4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment
7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change
8. Minimising waste
9. Managing exposure to chemicals
10. Enhancing biosecurity

- 1.6.5 The 25-Year Environment Plan sets out six key policy areas around which action will be focussed. The first three of these are particularly relevant to GBI:

1. Using and managing land sustainably
2. Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscape
3. Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing

- 1.6.6 With regards to using and managing land sustainably, key policies of the Plan include:

- Embedding an 'environmental net gain' principle for development, including housing and infrastructure
- Improving how we manage and incentivise land management
- Improving soil health and restoring and protecting our peatlands
- Focusing on woodland to maximise its many benefits
- Reducing risks from flooding and coastal erosion

- 1.6.7 With regards to recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscape, key policies of the Plan include:

- Protecting and recovering nature
- Conserving and enhancing natural beauty
- Respecting nature in how we use water

- 1.6.8 With regards to connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing, key policies of the Plan include:

- Helping people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces
- Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school
- Greening our towns and cities

## Environment Act 2021

- 1.6.9 In support of the 25-Year Environment Plan, the Environment Act 2021 sets out statutory requirements for improving the natural environment and people's enjoyment of it. Provisions for mandating development to achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain have been introduced by the Environment Act (see **Box 1.7**).

### Box 1.7 – Biodiversity Net Gain

In principle, biodiversity net gain seeks to safeguard existing habitats and to ensure that any loss or damage is compensated by restoring or creating new features that provide greater value to wildlife and people. It provides a way for Local Planning Authorities to ensure that biodiversity is not lost during new development.

The Environment Act 2021 introduced a mandatory requirement for most types of development to deliver a minimum 10% net gain of "biodiversity units" measured using habitats as a proxy for species by means of a Biodiversity Net Gain Metric developed by Defra/Natural England to calculate biodiversity units (such as the habitat's distinctiveness, its condition and how well connected it is).

In line with the mitigation hierarchy, priority must be given to enhancing biodiversity on site. Where this is not possible, developers are required to deliver or contribute to the funding of off-site biodiversity enhancements elsewhere in the local plan area to offset loss of biodiversity.

- 1.6.10 The Environment Act also includes provision for local authorities in England to prepare 'Local Nature Recovery Strategies' to drive more coordinated, practical and focussed action to help nature. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy will:
- Agree priorities for nature recovery
  - Map the most valuable existing areas for nature
  - Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.
- 1.6.11 The production of Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be evidence-based, locally led and collaborative, to create a network of shared plans that public, private and voluntary sectors can all help to deliver. This in turn will help achieve wider environmental objectives (such as carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change or managing flood risk) and contribute to green economic recovery objectives.
- 1.6.12 It is anticipated that in many cases there will be one Local Nature Recovery Strategy per county (or equivalent), and that a public body will be appointed as the "responsible authority" to lead production of each Strategy in a collaborative process with other local partner organisations.

## Agriculture Act 2020

- 1.6.13 In support of the 25-Year Environment Plan, the Agriculture Act 2020 establishes a new agricultural system based on the principle of paying public money to farmers, foresters and other land managers for environmental services that provide societal benefits – such as better environmental protection, improved public access to the countryside or higher animal welfare standards. The Act includes powers for the Government to give financial assistance for:
- Supporting public access to and enjoyment of the countryside, farmland and woodland, and enhancing understanding about the environmental benefits that such land can provide
  - Managing land or water in a way that maintains, restores or enhances cultural or natural heritage
  - Managing land, water or livestock in such a way as to mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change
  - Managing land or water in such a way to prevent, reduce or protect from hazards to, or caused by, the environment such as flooding
  - Measures which protect or improve the health of plants, including wild plants, agricultural and horticultural crops, trees and bushes by reducing risks from harmful pests and disease
  - Protecting or improving the quality and health of soil

## Other Legislation

- 1.6.14 Other legislation of relevance to the delivery of the 25-Year Environment Plan and GBI includes:
- **Flood and Water Management Act 2010** – this created the role of Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), which is the local government authority responsible for local flood risk management.
  - **Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019** – commits the UK government to ensuring that the UK carbon account for the year 2050 is net zero.

### **The England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024**

- 1.6.15 The England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024 (May 2021) sets out the Government's long-term plan and vision for trees, woodlands and forests in 2050.
- 1.6.16 With regards to expanding and connecting trees and woodlands, the Action Plan advocates the benefits of putting more trees in towns and cities. It recognises that well-sited tree planting, with appropriate management can make places where people live and work more climate resilient, healthy and attractive.
- 1.6.17 The Plan encourages developers to work with local authorities to plan, plant and manage these trees, and agree how they will be funded – including through developer contributions such as Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 1.6.18 It highlights the role local tree officers in helping ensure trees and woodlands are planted and managed effectively, and to create, implement and monitor local tree and woodland strategies.
- 1.6.19 Specific actions include:
- Extending the Urban Tree Challenge Fund to support the planting and establishment of trees in urban and peri-urban areas
  - Proposing new guidance through the National Model Design Code on how trees can be included in the built environment, including design parameters for the placement of street trees
  - Proposing changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, to make clear the expectation that trees, such as community orchards, should be incorporated in new developments and that streets should be tree lined

### **National Pollinator Strategy 2014-2024**

- 1.6.20 The aims of the National Pollinator Strategy for England include:
- Supporting pollinators on farmland
  - Supporting pollinators across towns, cities and the countryside
  - Enhancing the response to pest and disease risks
  - Raising awareness of what pollinators need to survive and thrive
  - Improving evidence on status of pollinators and services provided
- 1.6.21 The Strategy seeks to achieve the following outcomes for pollinators:
- More, bigger, better, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats (including nesting places and shelter) supporting our pollinators across the country.
  - Healthy bees and other pollinators which are more resilient to climate change and severe weather events.
  - No further extinctions of known threatened pollinator species.
  - Enhanced awareness across a wide range of businesses, other organisations and the public of the essential needs of pollinators.
  - Evidence of actions taken to support pollinators.

## National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.6.22 The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (Revised July 2021) sets out the requirement for strategic green infrastructure to be delivered through the planning system in England. The NPPF defines Green Infrastructure as: *a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.*
- 1.6.23 With regards to plan-making, para 20 requires strategic policies to make sufficient provision for the conservation and enhancement of green infrastructure.
- 1.6.24 With regards to promoting healthy and safe communities, para 92 requires planning policies and decisions to address identified local health and well-being needs through provision of accessible green infrastructure.
- 1.6.25 With regards to open space and recreation, para 98 states that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.
- 1.6.26 With regards to promoting sustainable transport, para 106d requires that planning policies should provide for attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks, drawing on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans.
- 1.6.27 With regards to making effective use of land, para 120 requires that planning policies and decisions should encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land through taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains through development (e.g. enabling new habitat creation or improving public access to the countryside); and also recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many (GI) functions (e.g. wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production).
- 1.6.28 With regards to achieving well-designed places, para 131 recognises the important contribution that trees make to the character and quality of urban environments, and also to helping mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions are required to ensure that new streets are tree-lined where appropriate; that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards); that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees; that existing trees are retained wherever possible; and that the right trees are planted in the right places.



1.6.29 With regards to meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change, para 154 requires planning policies and decisions to manage risks through suitable adaptation measures, including green infrastructure. Para 161 requires plans to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding by using opportunities provided through improvements in green infrastructure (making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques) as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management. Para 169 states that major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems that provide multifunctional benefits where possible.

1.6.30 With regards to conserving and enhancing the natural environment, para 174 requires planning policies and decisions to protect and enhance valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils; recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services (including agricultural land, trees and woodland); and to minimise impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity (including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures).

1.6.31 Para 175 also requires local plans to take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure, and to plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

1.6.32 Para 179 requires local plans to:

- Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation.
- Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and to identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

1.6.33 Para 180 includes as a key principle in delivering planning applications that opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

1.6.34 Para 185 requires planning policies and decisions to ensure that new development takes into account the likely effects of noise and air pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment. Para 186 requires opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts to be identified, such as through green infrastructure provision and enhancement.

## Natural Environment Planning Practice Guidance

- 1.6.35 The Government's Planning Practice Guidance (updated July 2019) on the Natural Environment includes advice on the role of green infrastructure in planning.
- 1.6.36 With regards to what green infrastructure can include, the PPG advises that: *Green infrastructure can embrace a range of spaces and assets that provide environmental and wider benefits. It can, for example, include parks, playing fields, other areas of open space, woodland, allotments, private gardens, sustainable drainage features, green roofs and walls, street trees and 'blue infrastructure' such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies.*
- 1.6.37 With regards to why green infrastructure is important, the PPG advises that: *Green infrastructure is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits, at a range of scales. For communities, these benefits can include enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, food and energy production, urban cooling, and the management of flood risk. These benefits are also known as ecosystem services.*
- 1.6.38 The PPG advises that green infrastructure can help to achieve the following planning goals:
- **Building a strong, competitive economy** - *Green infrastructure can drive economic growth and regeneration, helping to create high quality environments which are attractive to businesses and investors.*

- **Achieving well-designed places** - *The built environment can be enhanced by features such as green roofs, street trees, proximity to woodland, public gardens and recreational and open spaces. More broadly, green infrastructure exists within a wider landscape context and can reinforce and enhance local landscape character, contributing to a sense of place and natural beauty.*
- **Promoting healthy and safe communities** - *Green infrastructure can improve the wellbeing of a neighbourhood with opportunities for recreation, exercise, social interaction, experiencing and caring for nature, community food-growing and gardening, all of which can bring mental and physical health benefits...Green infrastructure can help to reduce health inequalities in areas of socio-economic deprivation and meet the needs of families and an ageing population. It can also help to reduce air pollution and noise.*
- **Mitigating climate change, flooding and coastal change** - *Green infrastructure can contribute to carbon storage, cooling and shading, opportunities for species migration to more suitable habitats and the protection of water quality and other natural resources. It can also be an integral part of multifunctional sustainable drainage and natural flood risk management.*

- **Conserving and enhancing the natural environment** - High-quality networks of multifunctional green infrastructure contribute a range of benefits, including ecological connectivity, facilitating biodiversity net gain and nature recovery networks and opportunities for communities to undertake conservation work.

1.6.39 With regards to how local plans can take a strategic approach to green infrastructure, the PGG advises:

*Strategic policies can identify the location of existing and proposed green infrastructure networks and set out appropriate policies for their protection and enhancement.*

*To inform these, and support their implementation, green infrastructure frameworks or strategies prepared at a district-wide scale (or wider) can be a useful tool.*

*These need to be evidence-based and include assessments of the quality of current green infrastructure and any gaps in provision.*

*Existing national and local strategies – for example on tree and woodland provision – can inform the approach to green infrastructure; and standards such as the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard can be applied when assessing provision.*

*The green infrastructure strategy can inform other plan policies, infrastructure delivery requirements and Community Infrastructure Levy schedules.*

*In view of their potential scope and use, authorities need to collaborate with neighbouring authorities and stakeholders such as Local Nature Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Local Enterprise Partnerships when developing green infrastructure strategies.*

1.6.40 With regards to how green infrastructure can be considered in planning decisions, the PGG advises:

*Green infrastructure opportunities and requirements need to be considered at the earliest stages of development proposals, as an integral part of development and infrastructure provision, and taking into account existing natural assets and the most suitable locations and types of new provision.*

*Depending on individual circumstances, planning conditions, obligations, or the Community Infrastructure Levy may all be potential mechanisms for securing and funding green infrastructure.*

*Green infrastructure will require sustainable management and maintenance if it is to provide benefits and services in the long term.*

*Arrangements for funding need to be identified as early as possible, and factored into the design and implementation, balancing the costs with the benefits.*

*Local community engagement can assist with management and tailoring provision to local needs.*

## Other Relevant Planning Practice Guidance

### 1.6.41 **Plan-making PPG** (July 2020):

- Planning policies and decisions need to be based on up-to date information about the natural environment and other characteristics of the area that can include Green Infrastructure Plans, and environmental net gain and Nature Recovery Networks developed with Local Nature Partnerships and other public bodies.
- Strategic policy-making authorities can work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the current and projected health status and needs of the local population, including the quality and quantity of, and accessibility to, healthcare and the effect any planned growth may have on this.
- Authorities will also need to assess the quality and quantity of, and accessibility to, green infrastructure, education, sports, recreation and places of worship including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being outcomes.

1.6.42 **Climate Change PPG** (March 2019): planning policies and decisions should pay particular attention to integrating adaptation and mitigation approaches through the provision of multi-functional green infrastructure, which can reduce urban heat islands, manage flooding and help species adapt to climate change – as well as contributing to a pleasant environment which encourages walking and cycling. The PPG also advises that consideration is given to identifying no or low cost responses to climate risks that also deliver other benefits, such as green infrastructure that improves adaptation, biodiversity and amenity.

1.6.43 **Flood Risk and Coastal Change PPG** (March 2014): planning policies and decisions should seek opportunities to reduce the overall level of flood risk in the area and beyond through the layout and form of development, including green infrastructure and the appropriate application of sustainable drainage systems.

1.6.44 **Healthy and Safe Communities PPG** (November 2019): design and use of the built and natural environments, including green infrastructure, are major determinants of health and wellbeing. Planning and health need to be considered together in terms of creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles.

1.6.45 **Open Space PPG** (March 2014): open space of public value can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development.

- 1.6.46 **Green Belt PPG** (July 2019): where it is necessary to release Green Belt land for development, strategic policies should set out compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of the remaining Green Belt land. These can include new or enhanced green infrastructure such as woodland planting; landscape and visual enhancements; improvements to biodiversity, habitat connectivity and natural capital; new or enhanced walking and cycle routes; and improved access to new, enhanced or existing recreational and playing field provision.
- 1.6.47 **Air Quality PPG** (November 2019): plans may need to consider opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts through green infrastructure provision and enhancement (e.g. using green infrastructure, in particular trees, to create a barrier or maintain separation between sources of pollution and receptors).
- 1.6.48 **Noise PPG** (July 2019): consideration may be given to how existing areas of tranquillity could be further enhanced through specific improvements in soundscape, landscape design (e.g. through the provision of green infrastructure) and/or access.
- 1.6.49 **Contamination PPG** (July 2019): establishing or retaining areas of green infrastructure may serve to limit harmful disturbance of the ground by development in areas where there are concerns about land contamination.

## National Design Guide 2019

- 1.6.50 In accordance with the National Design Guide (2019), local planning authorities are expected to take into account how proposals support the role of nature and public spaces in creating well-designed places that:
- Integrate existing and incorporate new natural features into a multifunctional network that supports quality of place, biodiversity and water management, and addresses climate change mitigation and resilience.
  - Prioritise nature so that diverse ecosystems can flourish to ensure a healthy natural environment that supports and enhances biodiversity.
  - Provide attractive open spaces in locations that are easy to access, with activities for all to enjoy, such as play, food production, recreation and sport, so as to encourage physical activity and promote health, well-being and social inclusion.
  - Include well-located public spaces that support a wide variety of activities and encourage social interaction, to promote health, well-being, social and civic inclusion.
  - Have a hierarchy of spaces...from large and strategic to small and local spaces, including parks, squares, greens, pocket parks.
  - Have trees and other planting within public spaces for people to enjoy, whilst also providing shading, and air quality and climate change mitigation.



## National Green Infrastructure Standards Framework

- 1.6.51 In line with the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, Natural England is developing a [National Green Infrastructure Standards Framework](#).
- 1.6.52 The Green Infrastructure Framework provides principles and standards to help local planning authorities and developers meet requirements in the National Planning Policy Framework to consider GI in local plans and in new development.
- 1.6.53 It aims to support better planning for good quality GI, and help to target the creation or improvement of GI, particularly where existing provision is poorest (especially in areas experiencing multiple deprivation and health inequalities).
- 1.6.54 Prior to the launch of the full Green Infrastructure Framework in autumn 2022, as of January 2022 the following elements are available:
- **15 GI Principles** – that underpin the Framework and set out the Why, What and How to do good GI (see **Box 1.8**).
  - **GI Mapping Database & Analyses (Beta Version V1.1)** – provides consistent baseline data at multiple scales to supplement local GI data and support local authorities in assessing GI provision against GI Standards and in targeting investment where it is most needed.

### Box 1.8 – The 15 GI Principles

#### The 5 benefits ('why' GI is needed) principles:

- Nature-rich beautiful places
- Active and healthy places
- Thriving and prosperous places
- Improved water management
- Resilient and climate positive places

#### The 5 descriptive ('what' good GI looks like) principles:

- Multifunctional
- Varied
- Connected
- Accessible
- Responds to local character

#### The 5 process ('how' to do good GI) principles:

- Partnership and vision
- Evidence
- Plan strategically
- Design
- Managed, valued and evaluated

[Click here for full details](#)

1.6.55 The following remaining elements of the Green Infrastructure Framework are under development and will be published in 2022:

- Core GI Standards
- GI Design Guide
- GI Case Studies
- Process Journeys Guidance

1.6.56 The Core GI Standards are expected to include:

- Quantity Standards
- Accessibility Standards
- Quality Standards
- Functions Standards
- Process Standards

1.6.57 The Quantity Standards are expected to be based on the Urban Greening Factor models developed by the Greater London Authority and Southampton City Council.

1.6.58 The Accessibility Standards are expected to be based on an updated Accessible Natural Green Space Standard (ANGSt) that includes two additional assessment criteria for provision of 'Doorstep Green Space' and 'Neighbourhood Natural Green Space'.

1.6.59 The Quality Standards will be supported by the GI Design Guide.

## Summary

1.6.60 Based on this review of the international and national policy context, three overarching, long-term strategic goals for GBI have been identified:

1. Mitigation, adaptation and resilience to climate change
2. Halting the loss of and improving biodiversity
3. Contributing to health and well-being

1.6.61 Working towards these goals would also contribute to supporting economic prosperity and place-making.

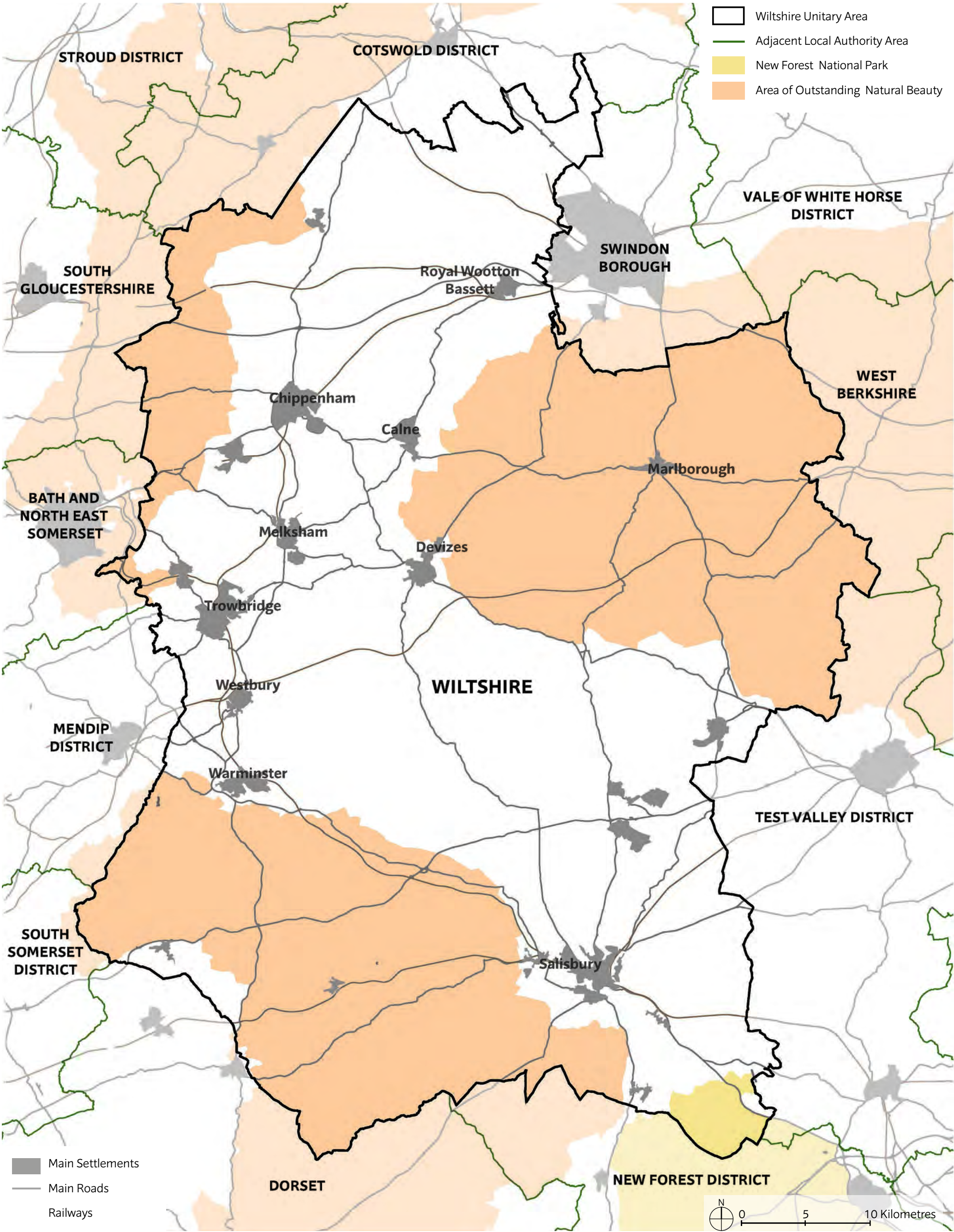
## 2.0 WILTSHIRE'S STRATEGIC GBI ASSETS

### 2.1 Wiltshire's Landscape Context

- 2.1.1 Located in the south-west of England, Wiltshire covers approximately 3,255km<sup>2</sup> (325,500ha) and has a population of around 498,000. The population is largely rural with nearly half living in towns or villages of fewer than 5,000 people. A quarter of Wiltshire's inhabitants live in settlements of fewer than 1,000 people. The geographical context for the GBI Strategy is shown on **Map 1.1**.
- 2.1.2 Although Wiltshire is dominated by the vast sweeps of the chalk downland, its landscape is highly varied with intimate river valleys contrasting with the open chalklands, woodlands and broad clay vales.
- 2.1.3 The **chalk downlands** of the North Wessex Downs, Salisbury Plain, Cranborne Chase and the West Wiltshire Downs, form undulating open scenery characterised by large fields and isolated tree clumps.
- 2.1.4 In contrast, the **river valleys** appear well wooded due to the enclosure of smaller fields by hedgerows and the presence of riverside trees and copses.
- 2.1.5 Extensive deposits of clay-with-flints on top of the chalk support major **woodlands** such as Savernake Forest and the Great Ridge, Grovely and Tollard Royal woods.

- 2.1.6 **Escarpments** form the most dramatic features of the Wiltshire landscape and are the locations of a number of chalk carvings such as the white horses and regimental badges.
- 2.1.7 **Earthworks and ancient trackways** give the chalklands a distinct archaeological feel, particularly in the Stonehenge and Avebury areas.
- 2.1.8 **Settlements** are concentrated in the river valleys or below the 'spring line' beneath the escarpments. The traditional building materials of brick, stone, flint and thatch add to the picturesque qualities of these villages.
- 2.1.9 The oolitic **limestone** of the Cotswolds forms a gently undulating plateau with deeply incised, heavily wooded valleys. Much of the plateau is under arable cultivation with large fields separated by dry stone walls. The use of 'traditional' local stone has ensured that villages blend well with the landscape.





■ Main Settlements  
— Main Roads  
— Railways

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- 2.1.10 The **clay vales** are areas of gently undulating topography and varied landscape with permanent pasture on the flood plain and arable cultivation on the better drained soils. Throughout the vales there are numerous villages and many of the major towns of Wiltshire.
- 2.1.11 The Thames and Bristol Avon Vales are separated by low wooded hills, remnants of the ancient Braydon Forest, which occur on the outcrop of corallian limestone stretching from near Westbury to Highworth. In places this forms an important escarpment, especially around Lyneham. The Thames Vale is broad and relatively flat with more extensive floodplains and meadows than those in the Vale of Pewsey or Bristol Avon Vale. In the Upper Thames Valley, the extraction of gravel deposits has created numerous lakes, which form the core of the Cotswolds Water Park.
- 2.1.12 On the edge of the chalk downlands, in the south-west of the study area, is a series of wooded ridges and valleys on the **greensand** where there are many large estates, such as Fonthill in the Vale of Wardour, Longleat and Stourhead.
- 2.1.13 In the south-east of Wiltshire, on the sands and gravels, the heavily wooded landscape is more typical of the **New Forest** extending into Hampshire.



## 2.2 Defining Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network

2.2.1 Three main elements form the backbone of Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network as illustrated on **Map 2.1**:

- Strategic GBI Sites
- Strategic GBI Corridors
- Sub-Regional Strategic GBI

2.2.2 The Network includes a range of habitats such as woodland, chalk grassland and grazing marsh, which support a variety of wildlife species. It also incorporates accessible open space, nationally valued landscapes, watercourses and rights of way. The components of the Strategic GBI Network are presented on a series of maps (see **Section 2.3**).

2.2.3 These GBI assets combine at a landscape-scale to create an integrated network of green and blue spaces, corridors and linkages, connecting people, places and nature across Wiltshire and in neighbouring areas.

2.2.4 Comprising a mosaic of land uses, natural features and habitats, the multi-functional Strategic GBI Network has the potential to deliver a wide range of economic, environmental and social well-being benefits.

2.2.5 Established strategic partnerships provide a mechanism for bringing together all sectors to focus on valuing and delivering benefits from Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network.

## Strategic GBI Sites

2.2.6 The Strategic GBI Sites comprise the following natural assets:

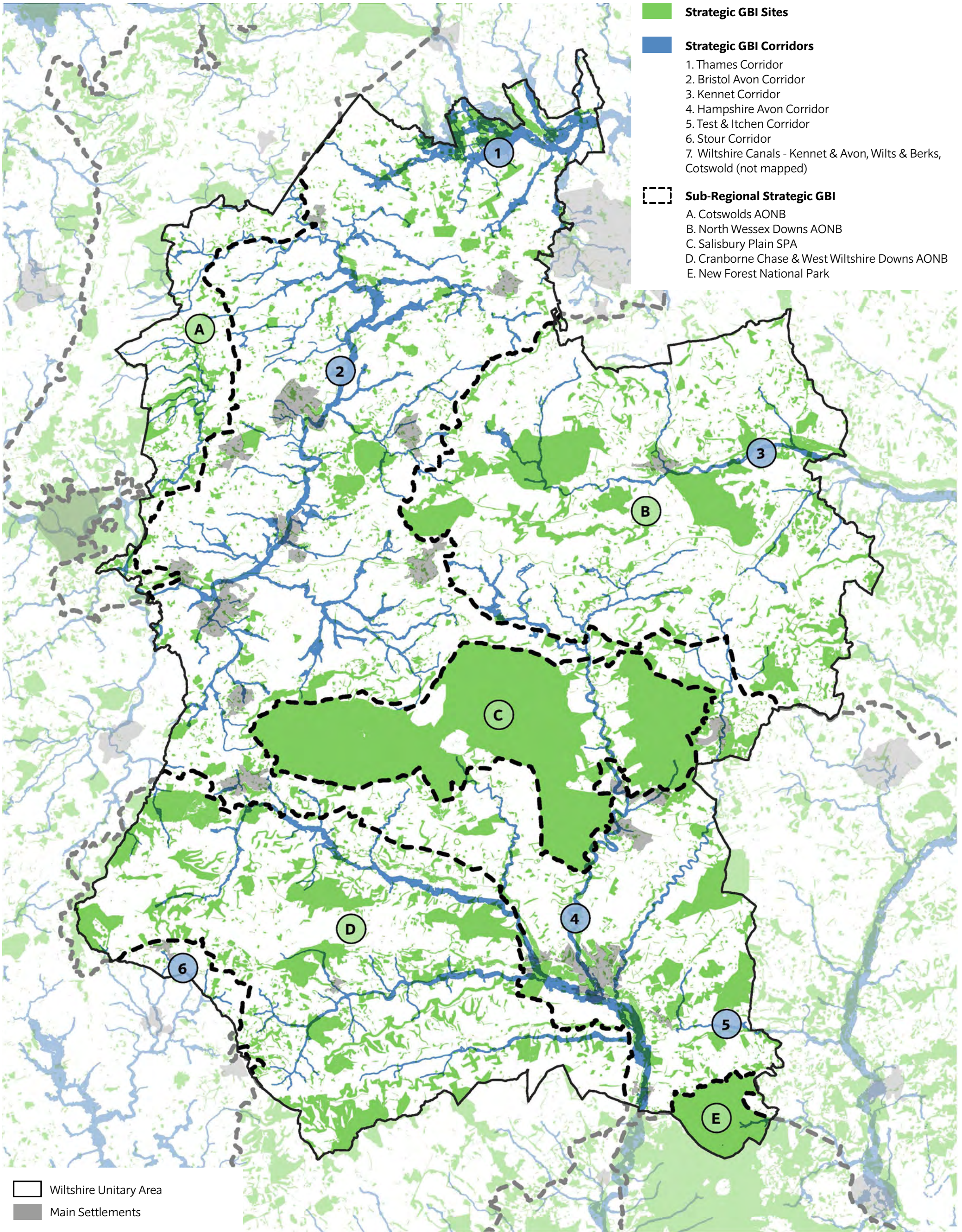
- Biodiversity Sites
- Priority Habitats
- Woodland
- Historic Environment Designations

## Strategic GBI Corridors

2.2.7 Focussed on river systems and navigable waterways, the following Strategic GBI Corridors connect with many of Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Sites and main settlements:

1. Thames Corridor
2. Bristol Avon Corridor
3. Kennet Corridor
4. Hampshire Avon Corridor
5. Test & Itchen Corridor
6. Stour Corridor
7. Wiltshire Canals - Kennet & Avon, Wilts & Berks, Cotswold (not mapped)





Wiltshire Unitary Area  
Main Settlements

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### **Sub-Regional Strategic GBI**

- 2.2.8 The Sub-Regional Strategic GBI comprises the following nationally and internationally protected areas:
- A. Cotswolds AONB
  - B. North Wessex Downs AONB
  - C. Salisbury Plain SPA
  - D. Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB
  - E. New Forest National Park
- 2.2.9 The overarching, cross-cutting nature of GBI encompasses the access and well-being agenda as well as other relevant aspects of the three AONBs, the Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC and the New Forest National Park. These include biodiversity, landscape character, economic growth and flood risk management.
- 2.2.10 Being predominantly undeveloped countryside areas of high environmental value, these precious landscapes provide extensive and well-connected networks of Strategic GBI Sites and Corridors at the sub-regional level that offer multiple benefits for nature, people and businesses. In this context, these protected areas are a significant element of the nation's and Wiltshire's high level GBI network.
- 2.2.11 Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network provides a focus for prioritising strategic action and investment in GBI by partners working across Wiltshire and beyond.

## 2.3 Components of the Strategic GBI Network

- 2.3.1 An overview of the components or assets of Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network, and the ecosystem services and benefits that they provide, is set out below.
- 2.3.2 Information on the sources of GIS data used to map Wiltshire's GBI assets are listed in **Appendix 9**.
- 2.3.3 The components of the Strategic GBI Network are presented on a series of maps (see **Box 2.1**).

### Box 2.1 - Components of the Strategic GBI Network

- **Map 2.2** - National Character Areas
- **Map 2.3** - Landscape Character Types & Areas
- **Map 2.4** - Nationally Valued Landscapes
- **Map 2.5** - Historic Environment Designations
- **Map 2.6** - Biodiversity Sites
- **Map 2.7** - Priority Habitats
- **Map 2.8** - Landscape Biodiversity Areas
- **Map 2.9** - Woodland
- **Map 2.10** - Agricultural Land
- **Map 2.11** - River Basin Districts & Catchments
- **Map 2.12** - Watercourses & Waterbodies
- **Map 2.13** - Strategic GBI Sites: Accessibility
- **Map 2.14** - Strategic GBI Sites: Connectivity

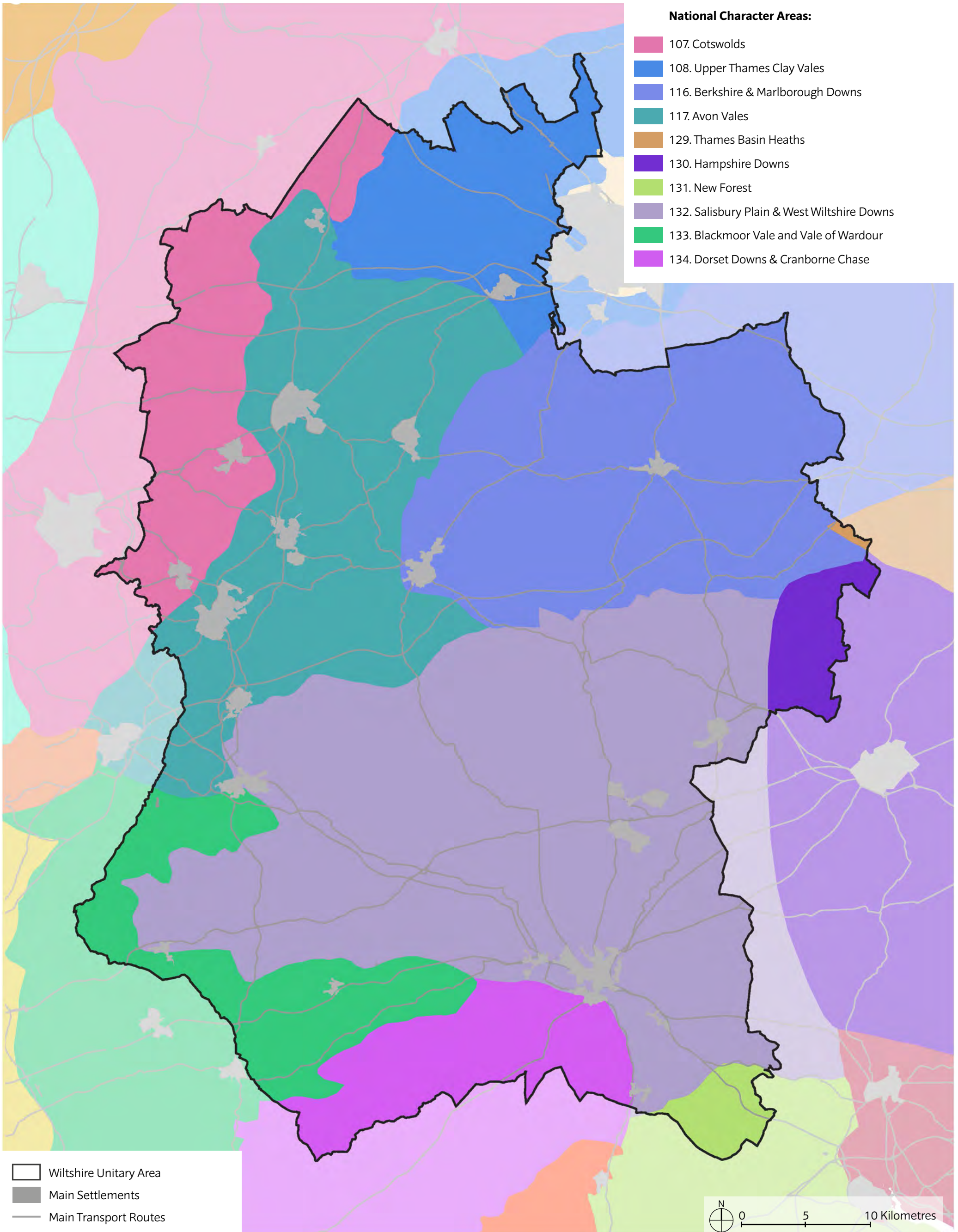
The Network also includes the following urban GBI assets in and around Wiltshire's main settlements (these will be mapped in Settlement GBI Frameworks):

- Parks & Recreation Grounds
- Outdoor Sport
- Natural Greenspaces
- Accessible Natural Greenspaces
- Amenity Greenspaces
- Allotments
- Churchyards & Cemeteries
- Education & School Grounds
- Rivers and Waterbodies

## National Character Areas

2.3.4 National Character Areas defined by Natural England provide a framework for understanding the natural and cultural features that shape Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network. As shown on **Map 2.2**, the relevant National Character Areas to Wiltshire are:

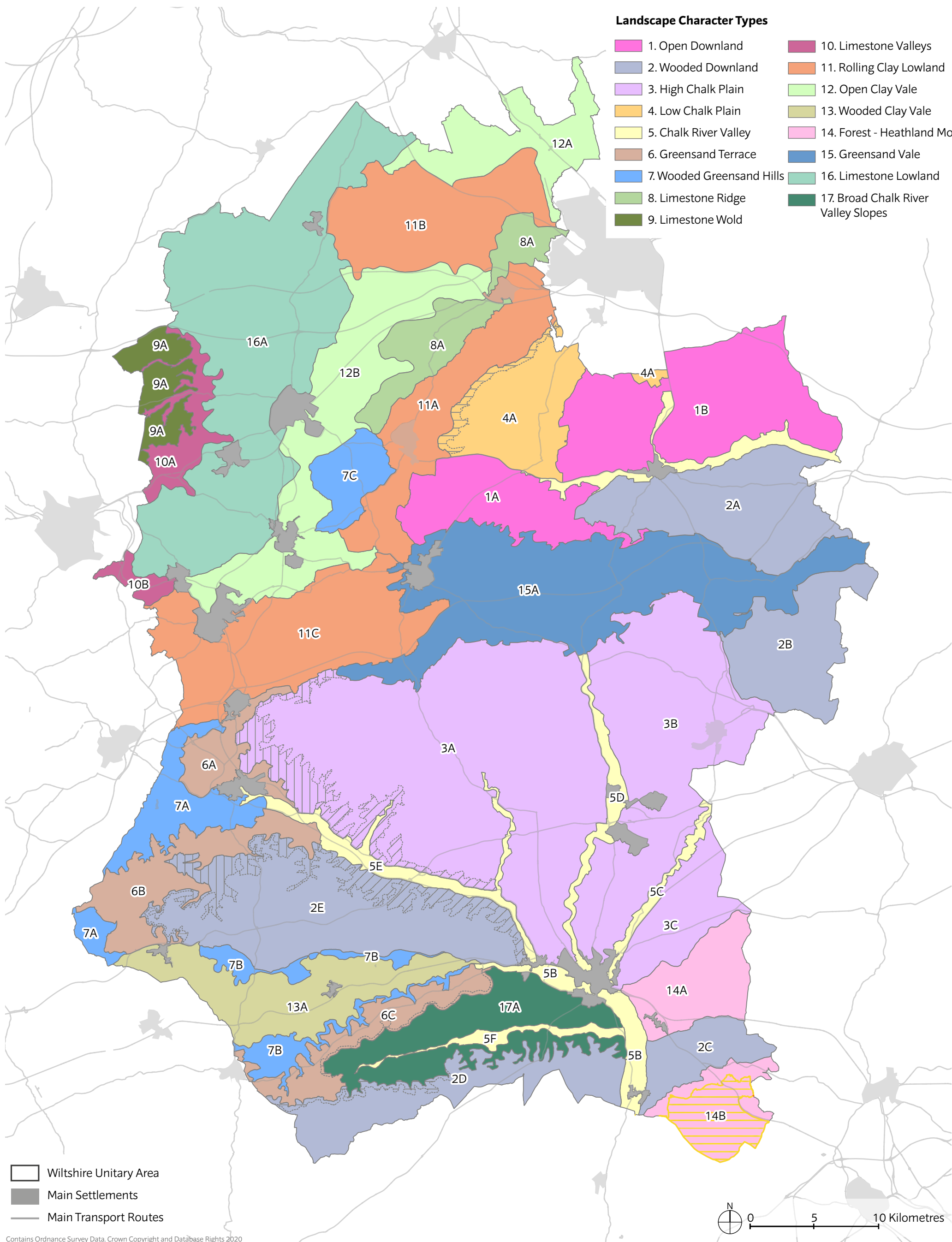
- Upper Thames Clay Vales (108)
- Cotswolds (107)
- Avon Vales (117)
- Berkshire & Marlborough Downs (116)
- Thames Basin Heaths (129)
- Hampshire Downs (130)
- New Forest (131)
- Salisbury Plain & West Wiltshire Downs (132)
- Blackmoor Vale & the Vale of Wardour (133)
- Dorset Downs & Cranborne Chase (134)



## **Landscape Character & Heritage**

- 2.3.5 As recognised in current national planning policy and guidance, GBI exists within a wider context and can help in achieving well-designed places by reinforcing and enhancing local landscape and townscape character, sense of place and natural beauty.
- 2.3.6 The character of Wiltshire's landscapes is described in the National Character Area profiles, and the 2019 Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment, which identifies a range of landscape character types and areas. The landscape types reflect the dominant influences on landscape character combining geology, landform and land cover. Wiltshire's Landscape Character Types & Areas are shown on **Map 2.3**.

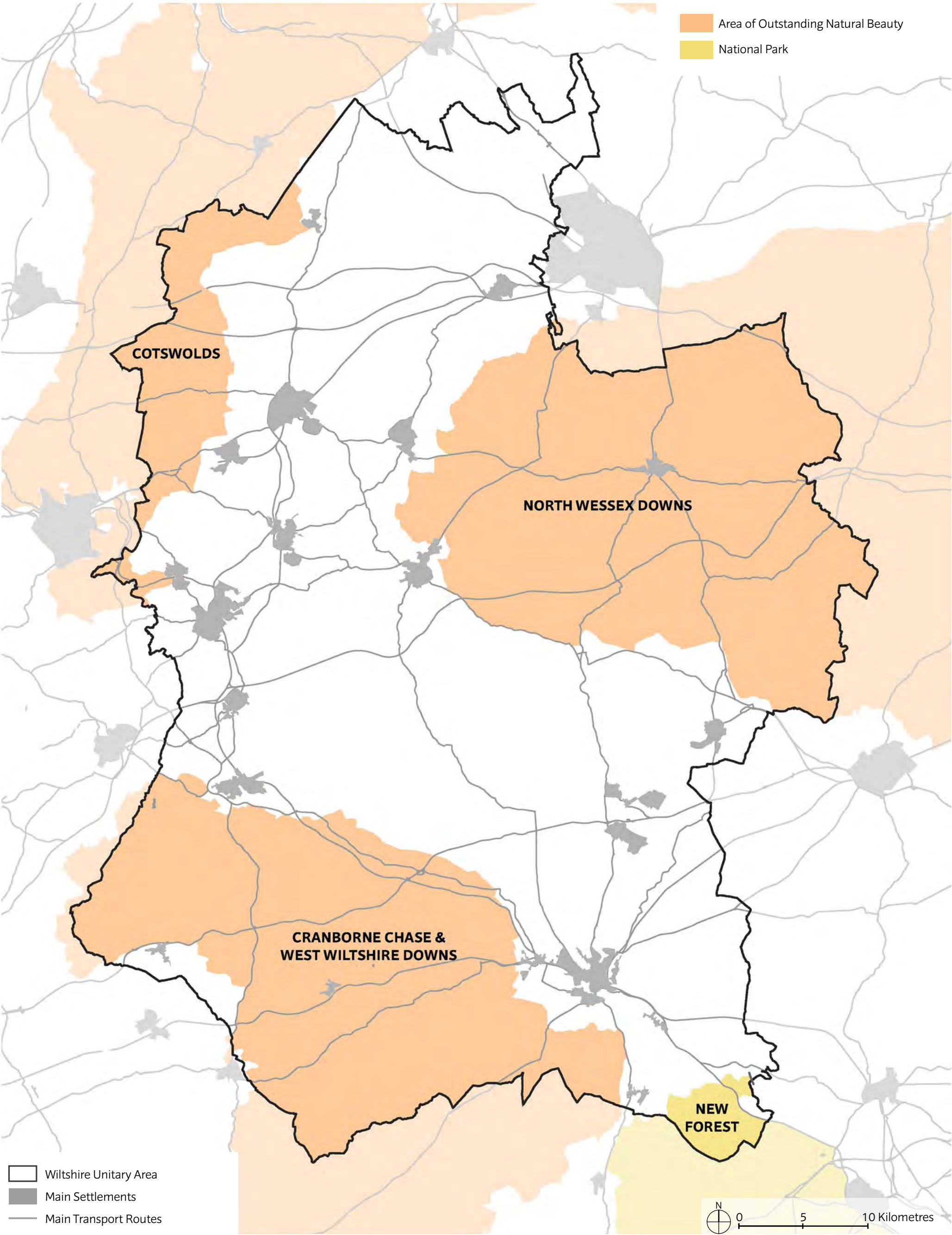




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- 2.3.7 As shown on **Map 2.4**, the national value and importance of substantial areas of the Wiltshire landscape are recognised and protected by statutory designation as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) that extend into Wiltshire. The AONBs cover 44% of the Wiltshire Unitary Area. This comprises 21.2% within the North Wessex Downs AONB, 18.6% within the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB and 4.2% within the Cotswolds AONB. In addition, 0.9% (30.2km<sup>2</sup>) of the far south-east of the Wiltshire Unitary Area falls within the New Forest National Park.



2.3.8 As shown on **Map 2.5**, Wiltshire has numerous designated heritage assets of international and national significance:

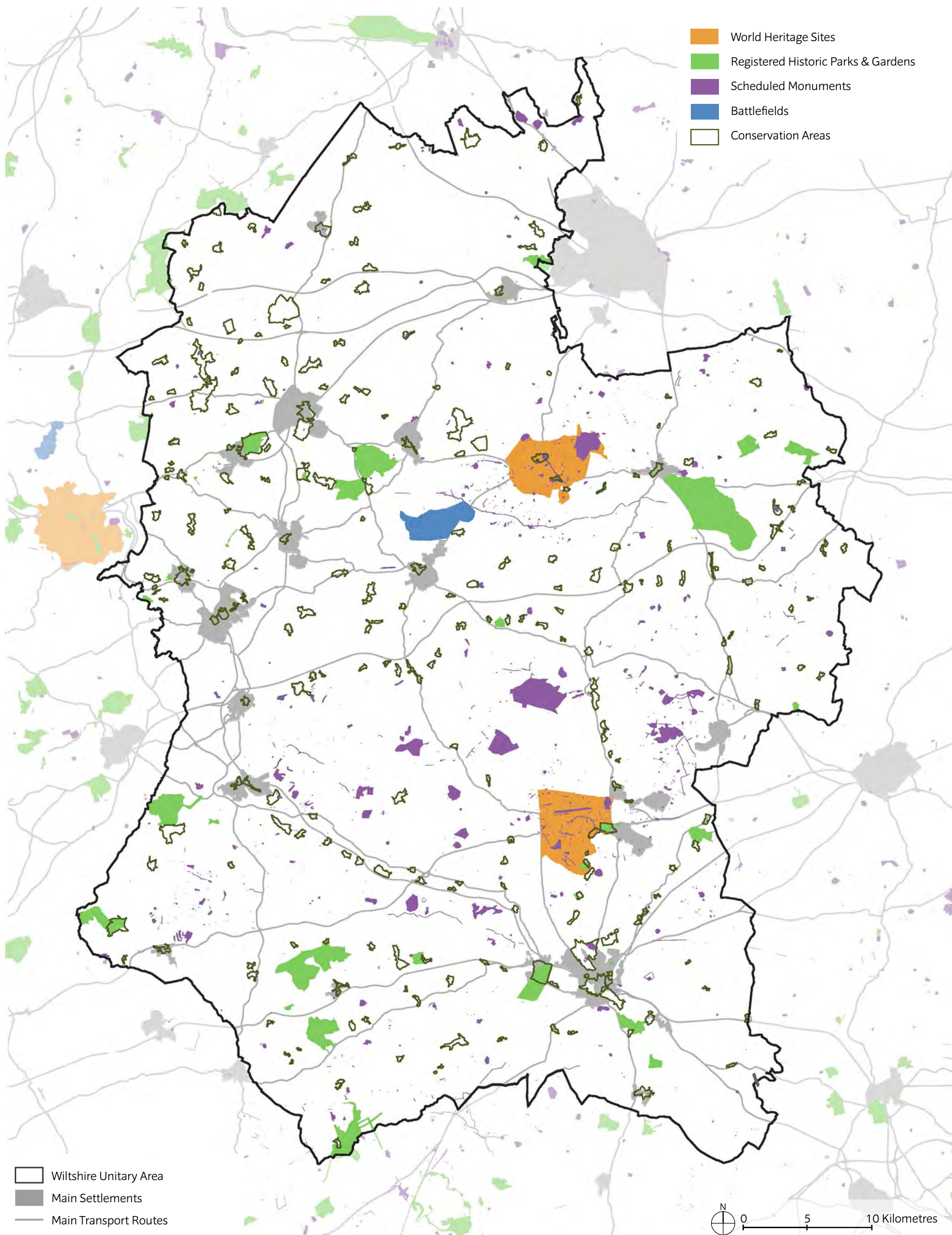
- Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site
- c.1,300 Scheduled Monuments (e.g. Ogbury Camp)
- c.240 Conservation Areas (e.g. Amesbury)
- c.12,000 Listed Buildings (e.g. Salisbury Cathedral)
- 42 Registered Historic Parks & Gardens (e.g. Longleat)

2.3.9 High quality and well-maintained GBI assets can help reinforce and enhance the local built, natural and historic character of the area's landscapes. GBI assets that engage local communities can enhance the local sense of place and foster community spirit. They can be a catalyst for community ownership, stimulating job opportunities by attracting investment and tourism.

2.3.10 Heritage in Wiltshire is of particular importance in providing cultural ecosystem services and economic benefits, with the Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site being of particular value in attracting a worldwide audience, and associated investment. Historic settlements, such as Salisbury with its famous cathedral, also contribute to this heritage offer.

2.3.11 Quality landscapes and green space can have a major positive impact on land and property markets, creating settings for investment and acting as a catalyst for wider regeneration. High-quality, connected environments attract skilled and mobile workers that, in turn, encourage business investment.





Wiltshire Unitary Area  
 Main Settlements  
 Main Transport Routes

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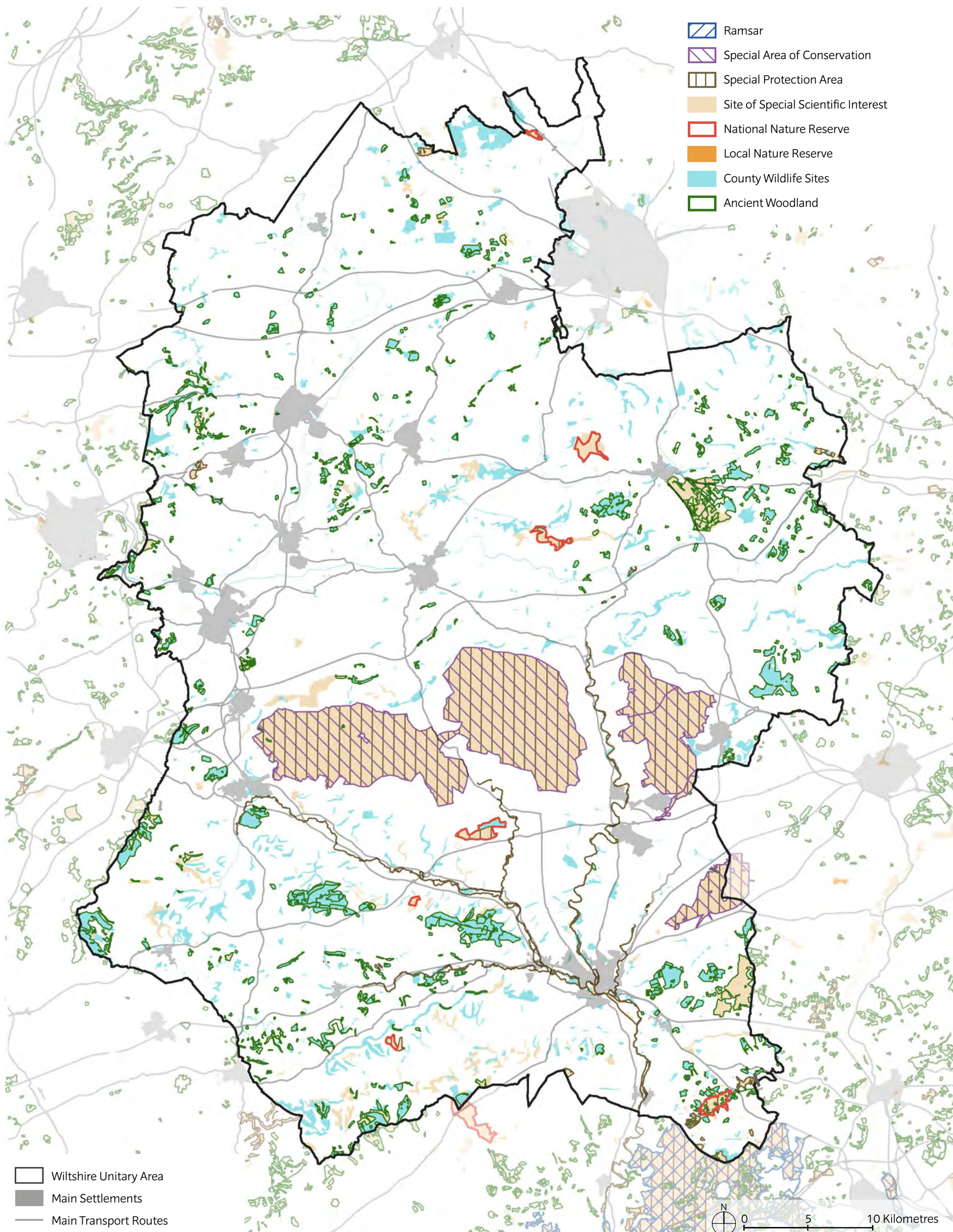


## Biodiversity

2.3.12 Wiltshire's GBI assets encompass a range of habitats such as woodland, chalk grassland and grazing marsh, which support a variety of wildlife species. Many of the natural and semi-natural greenspaces are designated for their biodiversity value as shown in **Map 2.6**. This currently includes the following **biodiversity sites** of European and national biodiversity value:

- 11 European Natura 2000 Sites (Special Areas of Conservation/Special Protection Areas/Ramsar Sites):
  - Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC
  - Porton Down SPA
  - Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC
  - Chilmark Quarries SAC
  - Great Yews SAC
  - Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain SAC
  - New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar
  - North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC
  - Pewsey Downs SAC
  - Prescombe Down SAC
  - River Avon SAC
- 129 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (such as Savernake Forest)
- 8 National Nature Reserves (such as Parsonage Down, Pewsey Downs and Langley Wood).
- 13 Local Nature Reserves (such as Avon Valley and Drews Pond Wood).
- c.1,540 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) covering c.22,000ha of semi-natural habitats
- 58 Local Geological Sites (LGSs)





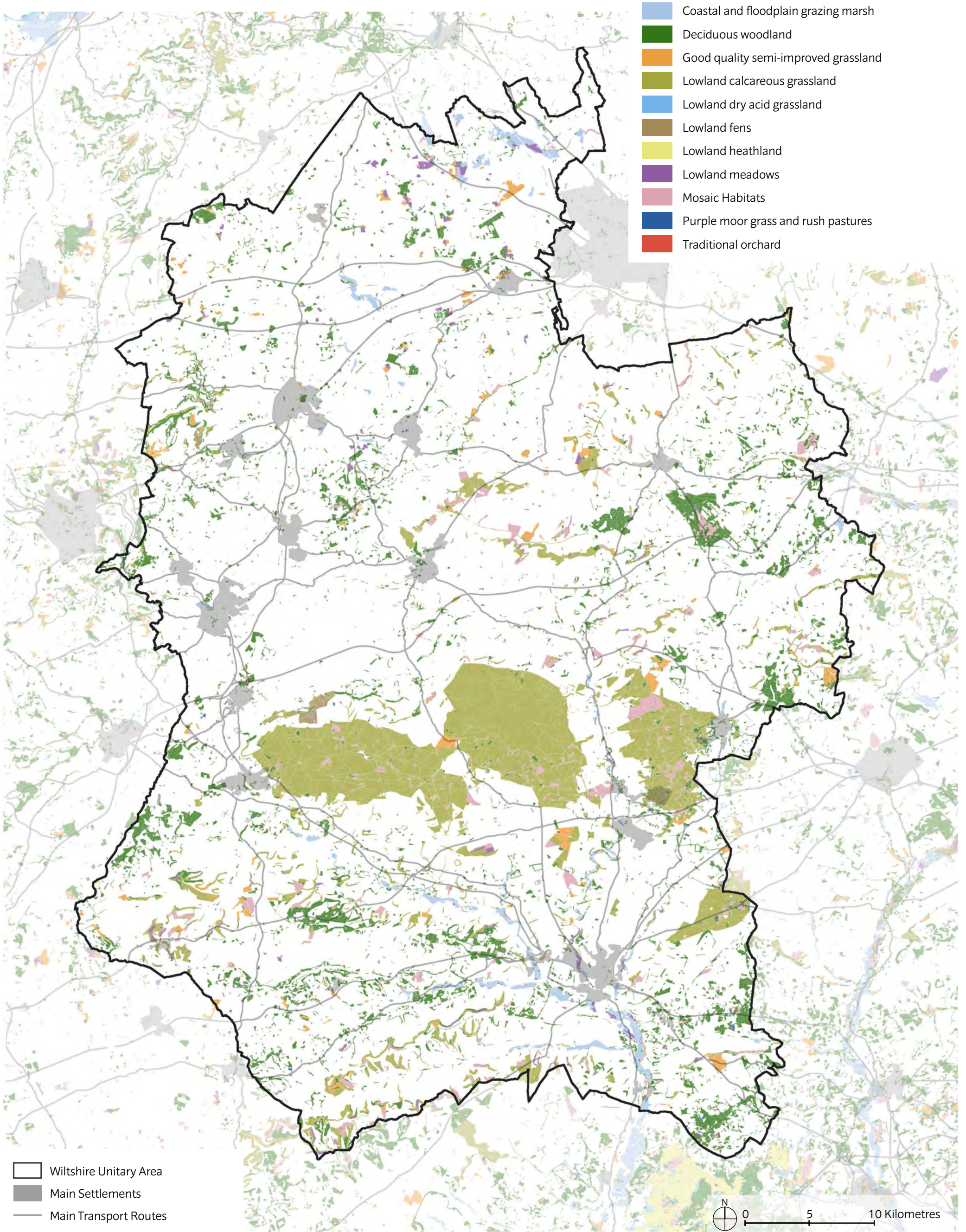
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2.3.13 **Priority Habitats** of Principal Importance for Conservation (within and outside of the designated sites) that contribute to the resilience of ecosystems within Wiltshire's GBI Network are summarised on **Map 2.7**. These include:

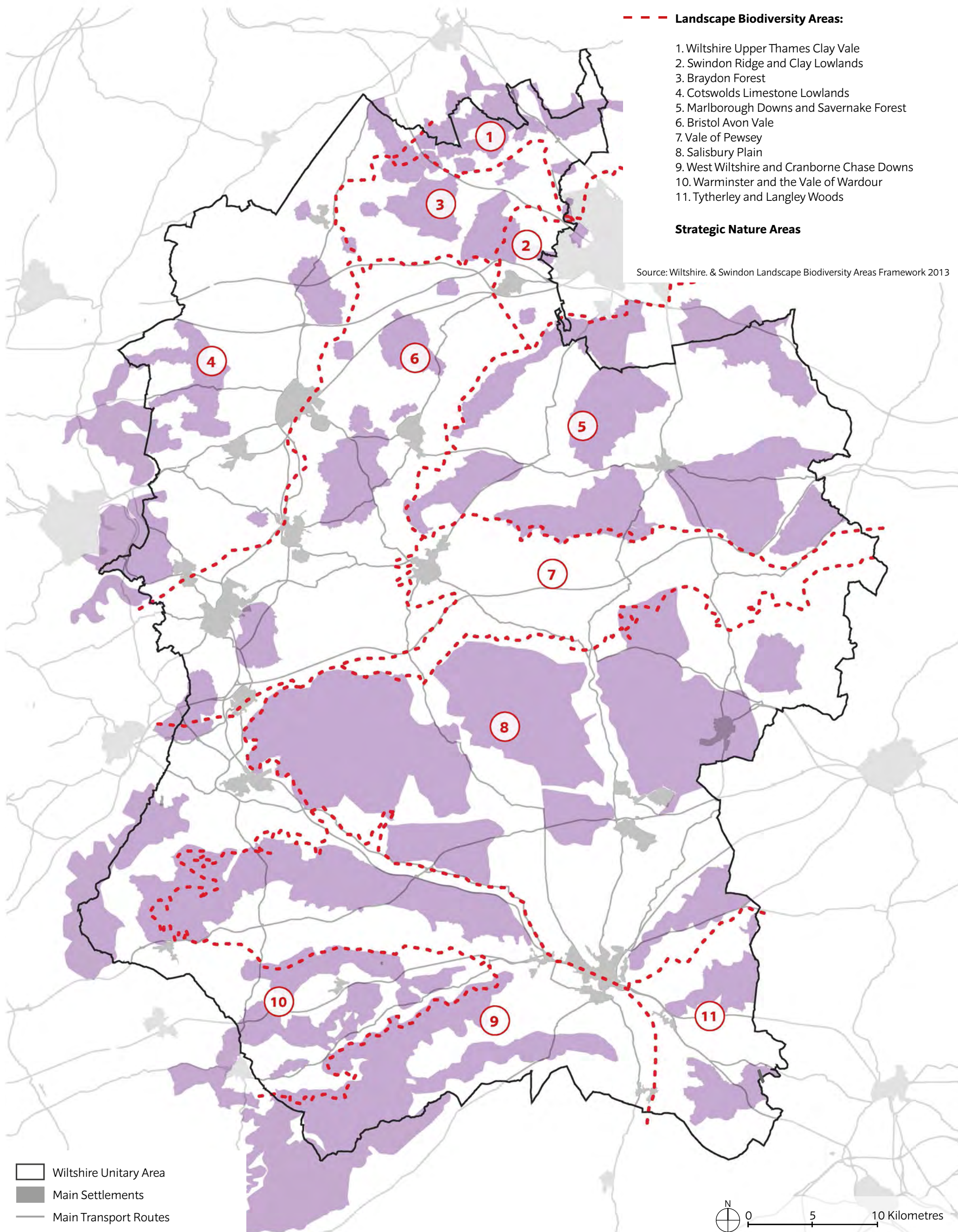
- Lowland meadows
- Rivers
- Mesotrophic lakes
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Lowland fens
- Wet woodland
- Purple moor-grass and rush pastures
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Lowland beech and yew woodland
- Eutrophic standing waters
- Lowland wood-pasture and parkland
- Reedbeds
- Ponds
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Heathland
- Traditional orchards
- Arable field margins





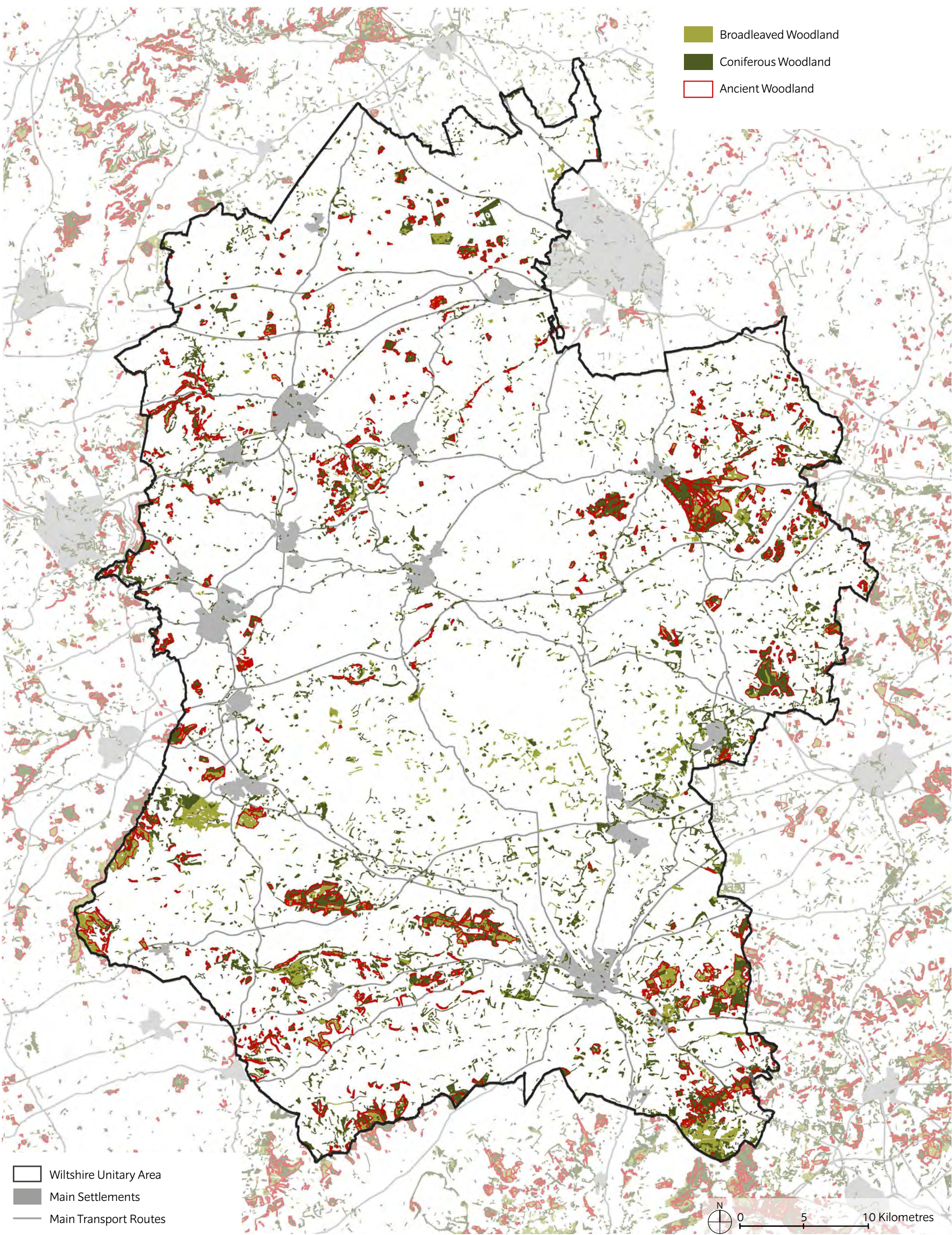


- 2.3.14 The Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework identifies Strategic Nature Areas that are priorities and targets for restoring, maintaining and enhancing the connectivity of priority habitats at the landscape-scale to help in the recovery of priority species. The Landscape Biodiversity Areas in Wiltshire are shown on **Map 2.8**.
- 2.3.15 **Grasslands** are of particular importance in Wiltshire, including examples of unimproved calcareous, neutral and acid grasslands. Unimproved calcareous grassland is a key habitat and as a whole the resource is of international importance. The majority of the calcareous grassland is associated with chalk downland of south, central and east Wiltshire. This includes a number of extensive sites, including the largest expanse of chalk downland remaining in north-west Europe on Salisbury Plain which totals 19,689ha, of which around 13,000ha are open downland. Small areas of limestone grassland occur in north-west Wiltshire on the Cotswold Hills.
- 2.3.16 Unimproved calcareous grassland comprises species-rich plant communities, including characteristic and widespread plant species such as sheep's fescue, oat grasses, and wild thyme. However, these grasslands also support many nationally rare and scarce plant species, such as early gentian, tuberous thistle, dwarf sedge, and bastard toadflax. In addition to their botanical significance, these grasslands also support diverse assemblages of butterflies, including internationally important populations of the marsh fritillary, and the rare silver spotted skipper, as well as many other notable invertebrates.
- 2.3.17 These grasslands typically support a scrub component, which are often rich in woody shrub species such as spindle, privet, buckthorn, dogwood, and whitebeam. Where management maintains an appropriate balance between scrub and open grassland, these areas provide valuable habitat mosaics. Wiltshire also supports scrub communities with inherent nature conservation interest, in particular stands of juniper scrub (a UK BAP priority habitat) for example at Porton Down SAC.
- 2.3.18 Unimproved neutral grassland occurs as mostly small fragmented sites scattered widely throughout the area. Wiltshire is particularly notable for supporting a nationally significant area of the uncommon MG4 meadow foxtail–greater burnet community (a grassland associated with seasonally flooded hay meadows), which includes two relatively large sites in the Upper Thames Valley in north Wiltshire, namely North Meadow NNR and Clattinger Farm SSSI.
- 2.3.19 Small areas of acid grassland also occur within Wiltshire most notably within the south-east towards the New Forest, which add further diversity to the area's grassland resource.
- 2.3.20 Meadow and grassland habitats can provide climate regulation through sequestration and storage of carbon and other greenhouse gases; help with purification of pollutants and storage of water; and closely interact with wetland systems such as in the case of floodplain grazing marshes, traditionally managed for storing seasonal floodwaters.



- 2.3.21 Wiltshire supports a significant number of **woodlands** (see **Map 2.9**) with a total of around 8% woodland cover. Some of these are ancient woodlands covering over 130 square kilometres. Ancient woodlands are widely scattered throughout the Wiltshire and are of high nature conservation value due to the diverse animal and plant communities which they support. These ancient woodlands range from Savernake Forest, a large and ecologically diverse woodland with a long and complex history of management, through to small remnant fragments which are interspersed within the downland and river valley landscapes.
- 2.3.22 Woodland is distributed widely throughout Wiltshire; open chalk downland, for example around Salisbury Plain and the Marlborough Downs, support generally limited woodland, while areas around Longleat Hills/Maiden Bradley and Clarendon/Bentley for example have large and extensive tracts of woodland cover.
- 2.3.23 The most widely distributed woodland comprises oak (*Quercus robur*), ash and field maple. This is typical of slightly calcareous brown earths, and often supports a rich assemblage of woody scrub and woodland ground flora plant species. Good examples include the Longleat Wood SSSI and Out Woods SSSI.
- 2.3.24 More locally distributed are beech and yew woodlands, both of which are found in association with chalk and limestone areas within Wiltshire. Small wet woodlands occur in wetter areas generally dominated by alder (for example at Spye Park SSSI), or willow *Salix* spp. (for example at Loosehanger Copse and Meadows SSSI).







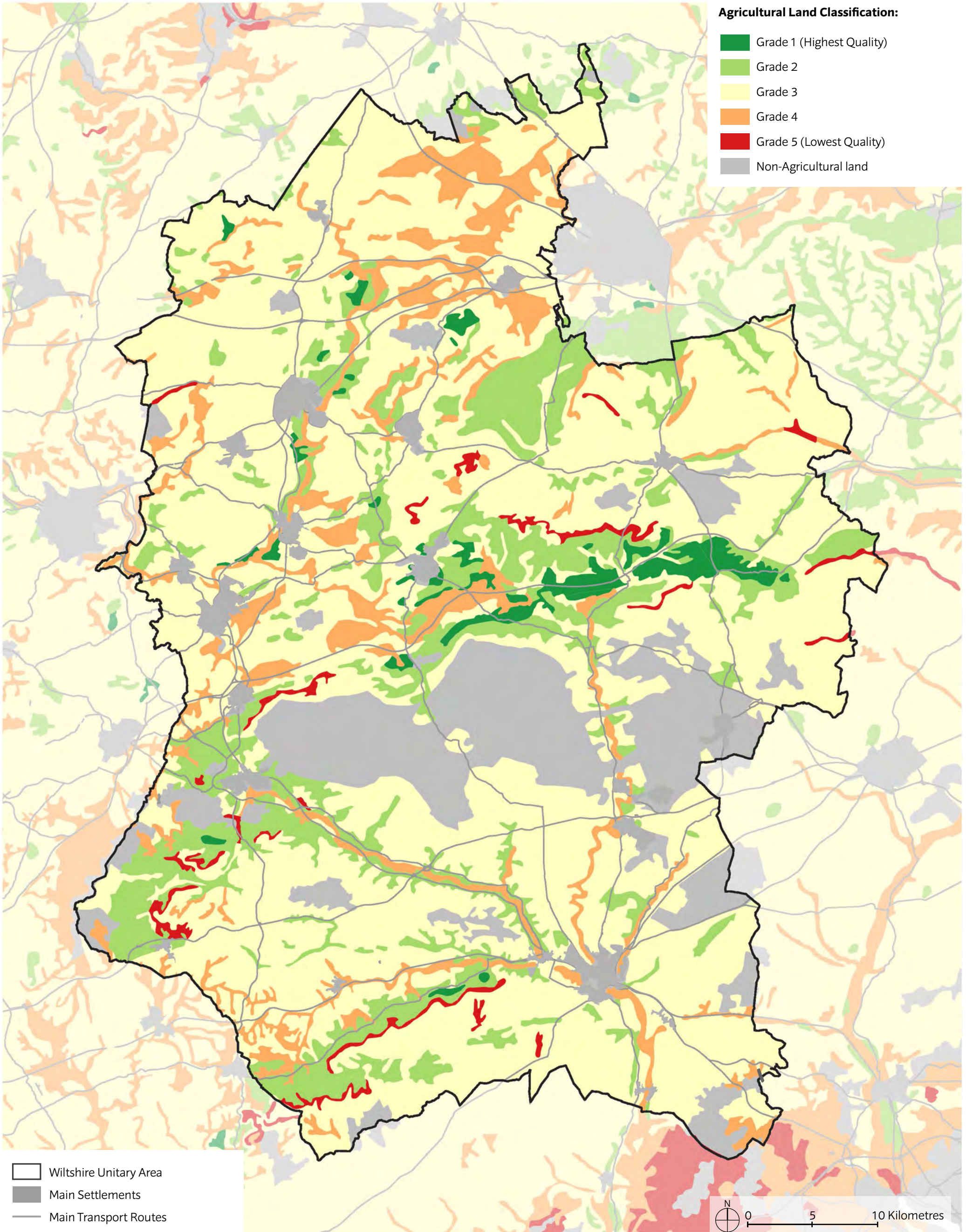
- 2.3.25 The distribution of plantation woodland habitats within Wiltshire is shown in **Map 2.9**, comprising coniferous and mixed forests which are largely in private ownership.
- 2.3.26 Woodlands contribute to the functioning of social and economic systems and well-being in many ways. They help to regulate climate stress at a local level, provide carbon sequestration, and contribute to flood and low river flow risk management; safeguard soils, improve air quality and reduce noise pollution; and can help regulate pests and diseases.
- 2.3.27 Woodlands also play a major role in pollination, soil formation, nutrient cycling, water cycling and oxygen production, all of which are crucial in supporting health and wellbeing. The effectiveness of these supporting and regulating services is dependent on the nature, extent and condition, and resilience, of woodland ecosystems. Additionally, woodlands can be managed to provide fuel (biomass) and timber for building materials.
- 2.3.28 It is increasingly acknowledged one of the most important regulating services that woodlands provide is their capacity to sequester carbon. Predicted changes in climatic conditions have wide-ranging implications for woodlands in Wiltshire and across England in terms of how they are managed; the suitability and distribution of different tree species and the benefits derived from them; and in relation to England's carbon footprint and the role woodlands play in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 2.3.29 In addition, some woodlands provide cultural services in the form of public access for recreation, such as Forestry England properties at Savernake Forest and Webb's Wood, or The Nymph Hay, and Tanner's Wood owned by the Woodland Trust. Woodland can also provide timber for construction materials and biofuels.

- 2.3.30 As illustrated in **Map 2.10<sup>1</sup>**, **enclosed farmland** in Wiltshire is predominantly on grade 3 agricultural land. There are smaller areas of both grade 2 and 4, and pockets of the highest quality land in the Vale of Pewsey. Small areas of low-quality (grade 5) land are found on some of the scarp slopes. Agricultural land in Wiltshire supports a mixture of arable and livestock farming, with approximately half of agricultural land by area being utilised for arable crops/fruits and vegetables, and half grasslands, including rough grazing.
- 2.3.31 Enclosed farmland is managed primarily for food production. Wiltshire's agricultural sector produces meat and dairy products, and arable crops (including wheat, barley, oilseed rape and maize). Enclosed farmland can also provide biomass fuel.
- 2.3.32 Enclosed farmland provides habitats for plants, animals and other organisms. How farmland is used can have a significant bearing on global resource use in terms of the import and export of foods, the use of energy and water, and emissions of greenhouse gases. The positive management of enclosed farmland can help safeguard against soil loss, reduce water pollution and siltation, and address localised flooding.
- 2.3.33 Enclosed farmland also supports functioning of social and economic systems in a number of ways, being a focal point for relationships between rural and urban communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Note - Non-Agricultural Land shown on Map 2.10 includes urban areas and military land uses.





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## Urban Green Spaces

2.3.34 Towns and villages form important parts of ecosystems. They are characterised by their history, structure and function (including both natural and built components) and by the cycling and conversion of energy and materials within them. They have their own spatial organisation and distinctive patterns of change which influence species' behaviour, population dynamics and the formation of communities.

2.3.35 The following Urban Green Spaces in Wiltshire have been mapped and assessed in the 2020 Wiltshire Open Space Study (see **Box 2.2**):

- Parks & Recreation Grounds (including play spaces and publicly accessible outdoor sport)
- Outdoor Sport (Private)
- Natural Greenspaces
- Accessible Natural Greenspaces
- Amenity Greenspaces
- Allotments
- Churchyards & Cemeteries
- Education & School Grounds
- Rivers and Waterbodies

### Box 2.2 – 2020 Wiltshire Open Space Study

The Study provides an assessment of needs and deficiencies in the provision of public open spaces in Wiltshire to inform and support implementation of the Local Plan. The study:

- Evaluates the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, sports and recreational facilities for all Community Areas, identifying any specific needs or deficiencies.
- Identifies mechanisms to meet future needs including recommendations for appropriate standards of provision by new development.
- Provides a robust and comprehensive evidence base to underpin the development and implementation of detailed planning policies, and facilitate the management future management of open space and recreational assets;
- Provides information to justify the collection of developer contributions towards open space.
- Provides information to help to inform the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy.

2.3.36 **Parks and Recreation Grounds (including play spaces and accessible outdoor sport)** comprise play areas, sports facilities etc used for general informal and formal recreation. It includes publicly accessible sports pitches and pitch-based provision (including football and rugby). Examples of public parks within Wiltshire include John Coles Park in Chippenham, Victoria Park in Salisbury and the Marlborough Recreation Ground.



- 2.3.37 **Outdoor Sport (Private)** includes outdoor sports provision that is not accessible to the general public, such as private sports pitches and golf clubs. Examples within Wiltshire include Warminster Golf Course; Tedworth Park Polo Club, Tidworth; and Devizes Sports Club.
- 2.3.38 **Natural Greenspaces** and **Accessible Natural Greenspaces** include green (and blue) spaces which have been naturally colonised by plants and animals, including designed and managed sites of natural character. Accessible natural greenspaces are accessible on foot. Examples include Somerford Common to the north west of Royal Wootton Bassett, and open spaces adjacent to the river in the east of Chippenham.
- 2.3.39 **Amenity Greenspaces** includes informal local recreation spaces and communal green space typically in and around residential areas. Amenity greenspaces are also include village greens. Amenity greenspaces can have an overlapping function with public parks and gardens, providing informal opportunities for children's play where there are no other facilities.
- 2.3.40 **Allotments** are urban green spaces set aside for the purposes of domestic gardening and small-scale horticulture, typically for fruit and vegetable production. There are allotments in more than 60 of Wiltshire's settlements with some towns having multiple allotment sites. Wiltshire Council manages four allotments with the remainder managed by town and parish councils, allotment or housing associations and some in private ownership.

- 2.3.41 **Churchyards and Cemeteries** are urban green spaces associated with parish churches or cemeteries. Wiltshire's main cemeteries are Bradford on Avon cemetery, Hilperton cemetery, Holt cemetery, Melksham cemetery, Trowbridge Cemetery, Warminster cemetery - Pine Lawns, and Westbury cemetery. Churchyards include, for example, St. John the Baptist, Devizes; Holy Trinity, Calne; and Salisbury Cathedral Close.
- 2.3.42 **Education & School Grounds)** includes open space associated with schools including playing fields and pitches, as well as open spaces around school buildings.
- 2.3.43 **Rivers and Waterbodies** provide blue corridors linking urban green spaces, with and without public access.
- 2.3.44 **Private gardens** can also provide habitats for wildlife and are also important elements of the urban green space network.
- 2.3.45 Urban green spaces can support communities by providing opportunities for interaction and engagement. This helps to build social cohesion along with improved mental wellbeing and increased physical activity, both of which are of particular benefit in more deprived areas.

- 2.3.46 As the most commonly visited places for informal recreation in urban areas, local parks and recreation grounds, and amenity greenspaces are recognised for the role they play in providing cultural services. Churchyards and cemeteries offer tranquil spaces that afford opportunities for quiet reflection and spiritual enrichment, helping to contribute to people's mental health and wellbeing. They play an important community role, providing a venue for religious ceremonies.
- 2.3.47 Parks and recreation grounds can provide economic and quality of life benefits by improving neighbourhoods, enhancing house prices and creating a sense of place. Amenity greenspaces contribute to a settlement's character, structure and sense of place.
- 2.3.48 As well as providing a place for people to be active, urban green spaces produce oxygen and cycle nutrients, help regulate climate, store carbon and have a role in water management by reducing flood-risk. In addition, urban green spaces can help absorb air-borne pollutants.
- 2.3.49 Allotments provide opportunities for local food production. Allotment gardening can provide an affordable source of fruit and vegetables, particularly for residents without access to a suitable private garden. It is a rewarding pastime that improves the quality of many people's lives. Some of the benefits provided by allotment gardening are highlighted in **Box 2.3**.

### Box 2.3 – Key Benefits of Allotment Gardening

- A source of affordable good quality food that is an essential part of a healthy diet.
- A physical recreational activity providing health benefits.
- Being a part of an allotment community and the sharing of knowledge with differing age groups and abilities.

- 2.3.50 Pollinators (including bees, wasps, butterflies, hoverflies and moths) provide essential regulating services for our natural environment. Many of the urban green spaces in Wiltshire support pollinators where appropriately managed.
- 2.3.51 Urban green spaces are critical in helping to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and air pollution. For example, they can provide opportunities for air and water purification, carbon sequestration, noise alleviation and surface water regulation. Urban green spaces provide wildlife habitats and contribute to wildlife corridors through built-up environments.
- 2.3.52 Wiltshire's urban areas also contain a range of **street trees**, groups of trees in urban green spaces and **urban woodlands**, some of which are protected by Tree Preservation Orders made by the Council in the interests of amenity for the local environment and enjoyment by the public. In many cases, these overlap with other types of urban green space.

- 2.3.53 It is now widely accepted that urban trees and woodlands have a vital role to play in promoting sustainable communities. In recent years, a growing body of research has demonstrated that trees bring a wide range of benefits to society as a whole. As one of the most important single components of urban GI, trees can contribute to improved health and wellbeing, increased recreational opportunities, and an enriched environment that ultimately boosts a place's image and prosperity.
- 2.3.54 Trees on the edge of woodland and alongside roads have a significant potential for 'pollutant scrubbing' and helping to remove airborne pollutants from vehicle emissions for example, thereby helping in regulating air quality. Planting trees with a high propensity to remove pollutants from the air is preferential for incorporating into new and existing urban landscapes and streetscapes.

## Water

- 2.3.55 Water has shaped Wiltshire's landscapes and is vital for wildlife, farming, public water supply and recreation. An overview of Wiltshire's BI assets and the ecosystem services and benefits that they provide is set out below.

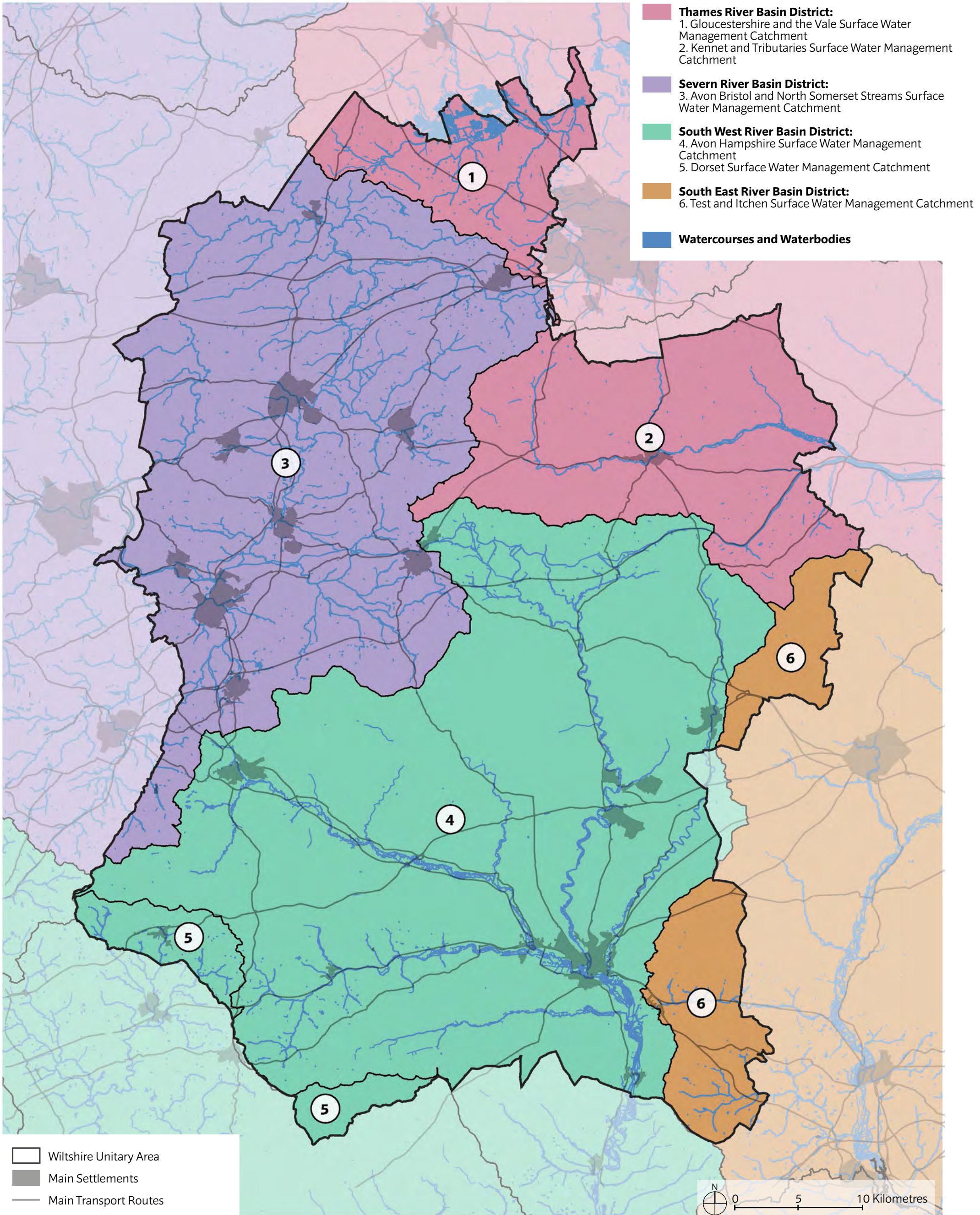
## River Catchments

- 2.3.56 As shown on **Map 2.11**, Wiltshire includes part of four River Basin Districts:

- **Thames River Basin District** in the north of Wiltshire extending into Gloucestershire.
- **Severn River Basin District** in the west of Wiltshire extending into Bath and North East Somerset.
- **South West River Basin District** in the centre and south of Wiltshire extending into Hampshire.
- **South East River Basin District** in the south east of Wiltshire extending into Dorset.

- 2.3.57 The River Basin Districts include one or more main catchments, which are further divided into over 130 sub-catchments within Wiltshire reflecting more localised topography and hydrology.



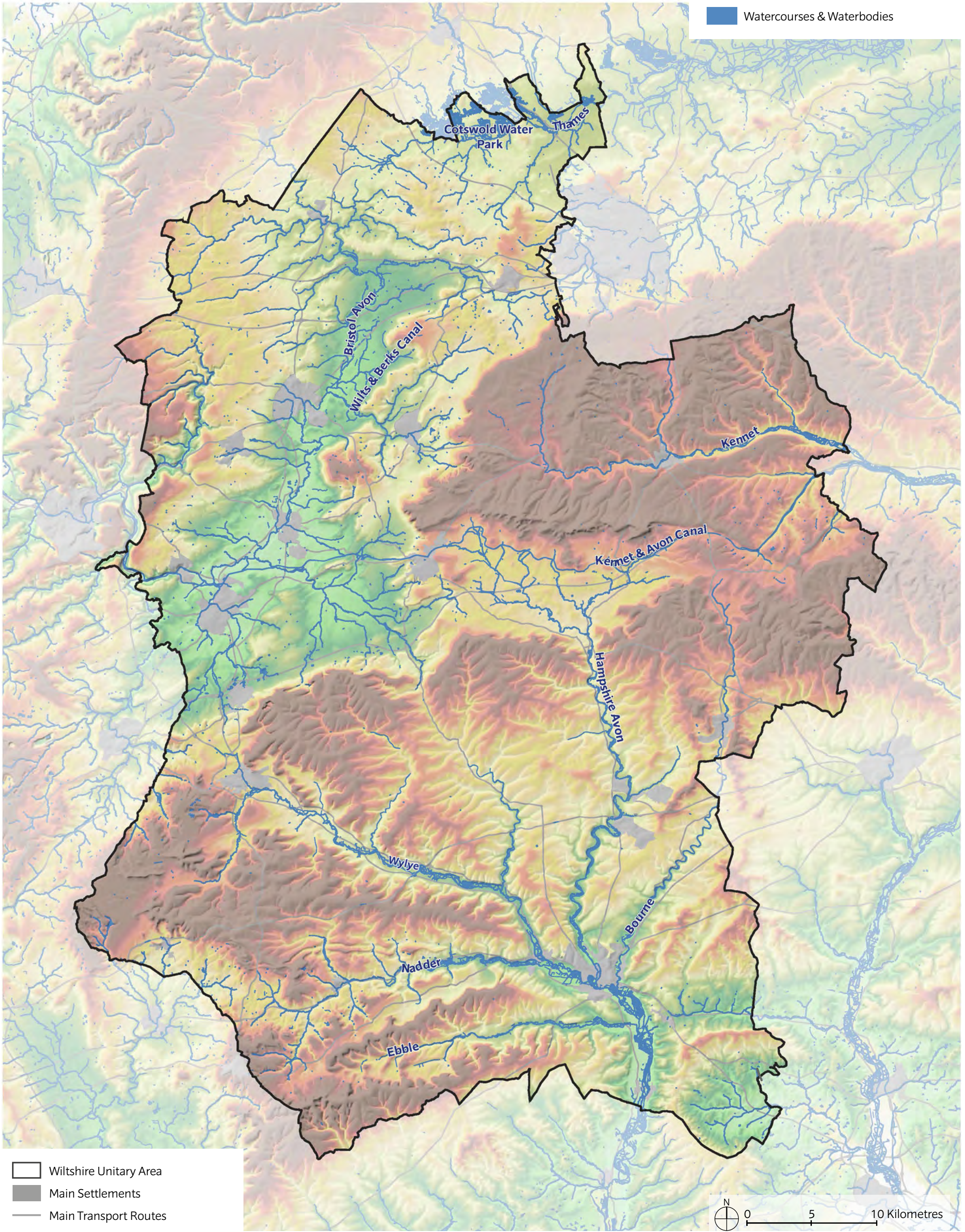


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- 2.3.58 As shown on **Map 2.12**, the major river systems in Wiltshire are the **Thames**, the **Kennet**, the **Bristol Avon** and the **Hampshire Avon**, representing important examples of chalk streams and winterbournes, lowland clay rivers and limestone rivers. The pattern of drainage can be divided into the north-west of Wiltshire where the Thames and the River Kennet flow from west to east, and the west and south of Wiltshire where the Bristol Avon and Hampshire Avon flow north to south
- 2.3.59 The deeply incised river valleys of the Kennet, Ebbel, Nadder, Bourne, Wylde and Salisbury Avon are key features of the chalk uplands. With their clear waters, these watercourses are highly prized for their distinctive ecological habitats and their valleys form the main routes for communication and settlement, contrasting with the sparsely populated chalk summits. The downland is also dissected by a number of dry valleys, some of which support distinctive ephemeral winter streams or 'bournes'. These were formed during the Ice Age, when permafrost impeded sub-surface drainage and valleys, or coombes, were cut through the chalk. Today, however, much of the high open downland is waterless due to the porous nature of the bedrock.
- 2.3.60 Springs are also a feature of the chalk landscapes, particularly the valleys and scarps, issuing at the point where the porous chalk overlies the impermeable clays. These give rise to the distinctive scalloped coombe landform and spring line villages clustered along the foot of the scarp slopes.
- 2.3.61 The wide low lying clay vales of the Bristol Avon and the Thames contrast with the narrow chalk valleys with their wide areas of alluvium and river terrace gravels forming a level landscape of fields drained by systems of ditches and threaded with tributary streams.
- 2.3.62 As illustrated on **Map 2.12**, there are only limited large open bodies of water in Wiltshire. The most notable area of open water habitat is the Cotswold Water Park, which includes a series of around 130 lakes in gravel pits formed by mineral extraction in the Upper Thames floodplain on the Wiltshire-Gloucestershire border. Langford Lakes, to the north west of Salisbury in the Wylde Valley, is also a significant feature, along with a number of waterbodies within the Hampshire Avon floodplain. There are also a range of small natural ponds and artificial lakes, often within historic parks and gardens.
- 2.3.63 As shown on **Map 2.12**, Wiltshire's BI assets include a network of canals of industrial heritage significance. The Kennet and Avon Canal threads through the centre of Wiltshire from east to west. Other significant canals are the Wilts and Berks Canal and the Cotswold Canal.







- 2.3.64 Water is essential for life and livelihoods. It allows the natural environment to flourish, and businesses, agriculture and the economy to grow and prosper. Rivers, lakes, wetlands and water under the ground provide many different ecosystem services and benefits to society; from supplying drinking water and supporting fisheries to providing an essential resource for business and agriculture, transport routes and a source of recreation that promotes wellbeing. BI assets are important in supporting society's ability to adapt to climate change.
- 2.3.65 In addition to provision of drinking water, BI assets provide cultural services including water-based leisure activities (such as at the Cotswolds Water Park and on navigable rivers and canals) and opportunities for appreciation of water in the landscape, especially where public access is provided adjacent to water (such as the White Horse Trail along the Kennet and Avon Canal for example).
- 2.3.66 Freshwater systems help to control runoff from land into rivers, floodplain inundation, groundwater recharge and water quality. Ecosystems have a capacity to absorb water from rainfall, feeding aquifers, rivers and streams and preventing flooding. Chalky and sandy soils drain water rapidly, while clay and other soils retain water on the surface for longer.
- 2.3.67 Additionally, freshwater systems help remove and dilute pollutants, store waters to help maintain flows and capture carbon. The quality of water in Wiltshire's rivers affects wildlife, river flows and the supply of water for human consumption and farming. Water quality is primarily affected by pollution from farming, sewage works, households and businesses.
- 2.3.68 Land use and management also affects the capacity of catchments to absorb water. For example, water quickly runs off fields that are ploughed down slopes compared to fields that are ploughed across slopes; trees, hedgerows and other vegetation also help to retain water for longer. Land that is built on or covered in impermeable surfaces such as tarmac prevents water from being absorbed and increases risk of flooding. Natural floodplains are vital for retaining water in periods of heavy rainfall as they prevent flooding further downstream and store water against drought. Retaining water on the land gives it time to seep down to the aquifers. This means it can be used for public water supply and farming rather than being lost.

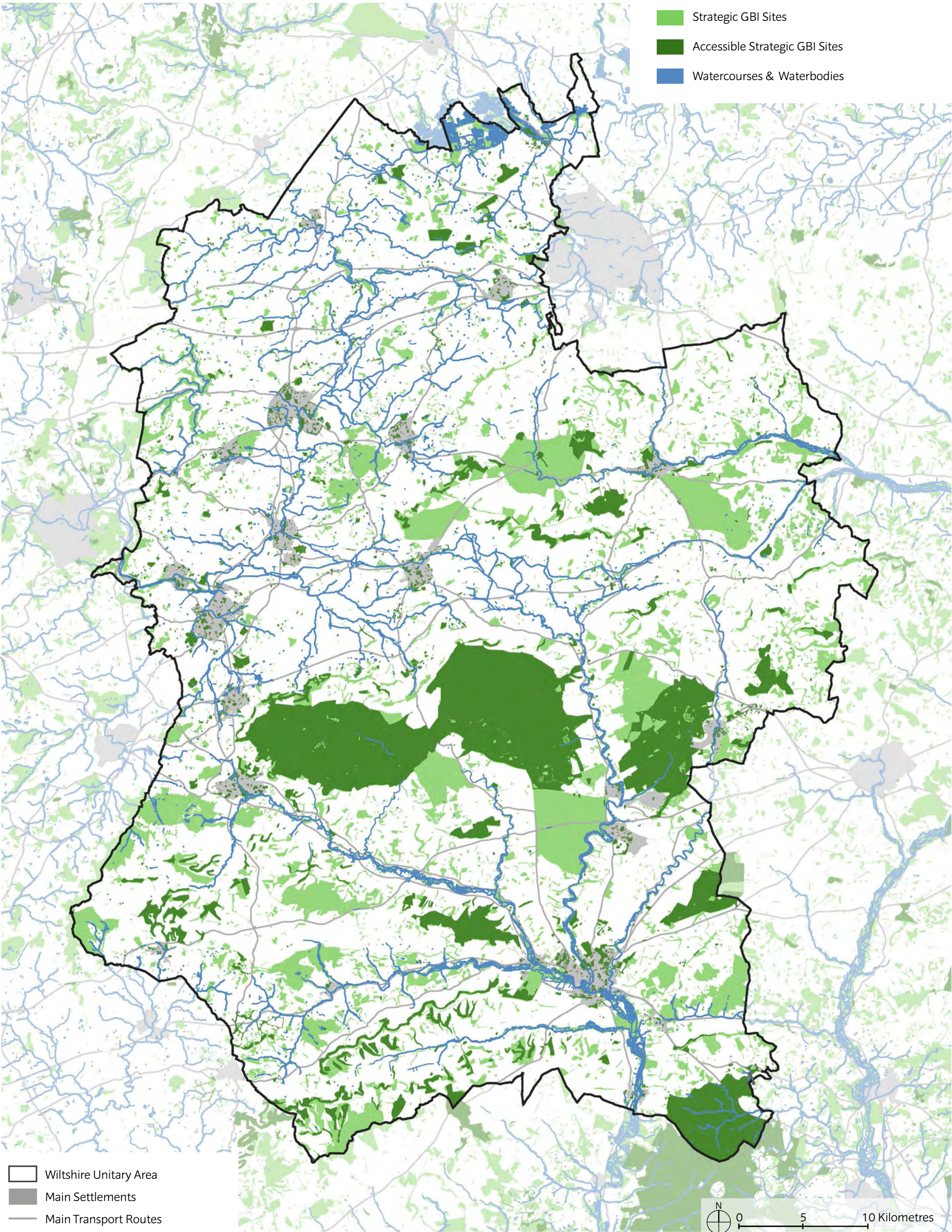


## Accessibility of Strategic GBI Sites for People

- 2.3.69 There is an established network of public rights of way, promoted routes and open access land that provides opportunities for people to access and enjoy Wiltshire. These include its outstanding archaeological monuments (such as Stonehenge, Avebury and Old Sarum); the tranquil open landscapes of the downs and its iconic White Horse cuttings and ancient routes (such as The Ridgeway); the contrasting intimate, rural river valleys; and tourist attractions.
- 2.3.70 The current accessibility of Wiltshire's GBI network provided by Open Access Land, Registered Common Land, Crown Estate Land, Country Parks, Accessible Biodiversity Sites and Accessible Open Space is indicated on **Map 2.13**.
- 2.3.71 The authority contains some significant areas of Open Access Land, with Access Land across much of Salisbury Plain (although access to the general public is limited here due to the military use of the area). The scarp slopes (downland) area also Access Land. There is a significant area of Registered Common Land at Grovely Wood, west of Salisbury, and other small commons scattered, often close to settlement, elsewhere in the authority area. There are also a number of pockets of land dedicated by the land-owner for access, particularly woodland.

- 2.3.72 Country parks and open spaces outside of urban areas in Wiltshire include:
- Barbury Castle
  - Barton Farm Country Park (Wiltshire Council)
  - Biss Meadows Open Space
  - Bratton Camp Open Space
  - Copheap Wood (Wiltshire Council)
  - Figsbury Ring (National Trust)
  - Oakfrith Wood Local Nature Reserve (Wiltshire Council)
  - Southwick Country Park (Wiltshire Council)
  - Smallgrain Picnic Site (Wiltshire Council)
  - Westbury White Horse Viewing Area
  - Wilton Windmill (Wiltshire Council)
  - Woodhenge Picnic Area (Wiltshire Council)
- 2.3.73 Within urban areas, accessible greenspace includes public parks and gardens, recreation grounds, churchyards, allotments and play spaces.







2.3.74 As shown on **Map 2.14**, the connectivity of the GBI network for people is provided by Wiltshire's well-established network of public rights of way. These include a range of paths or tracks, which provide opportunities for people to access, experience and enjoy the countryside on foot, by cycle or on horseback (see **Box 2.7**).

#### **Box 2.7 – Countryside Access Network Opportunities**

- **Footpaths** - a highway over which the public has a right of way on foot only.
- **Bridleways** - a highway over which the public has a right of way on foot, horseback and on a pedal cycle including mountain-bikes.
- **Restricted Byways** - a highway over which the public is entitled to travel on foot, horseback and with non-mechanically propelled vehicles such as pedal cycles and horse drawn vehicles.
- **Byways Open To all Traffic** - a highway over which the public is entitled to travel on foot, horseback or pedal cycle and by wheeled vehicle of all kinds, including horse-drawn and motorised vehicles; these are routes used by the public mainly for walking or for riding with occasional use by motorised vehicles.
- **Permissive paths** - not a public right of way but the landowner has given permission for its use by the public
- **Green lanes** - usually unsurfaced tracks or paths, bounded by hedges or walls, and often of some antiquity.

2.3.75 Wiltshire's rights of way network of mostly public footpaths and bridleways, together with cycle routes, provide access links between Wiltshire's settlements and countryside.

2.3.76 Wiltshire has a number of recreational routes that promote access to the countryside. These promoted routes include long distance national trails (The Thames Path and the Ridgeway), as well as regional/local recreational routes (such as the White Horse Trail, Wessex Ridgeway, Monarch's Way and Avon Valley Path).

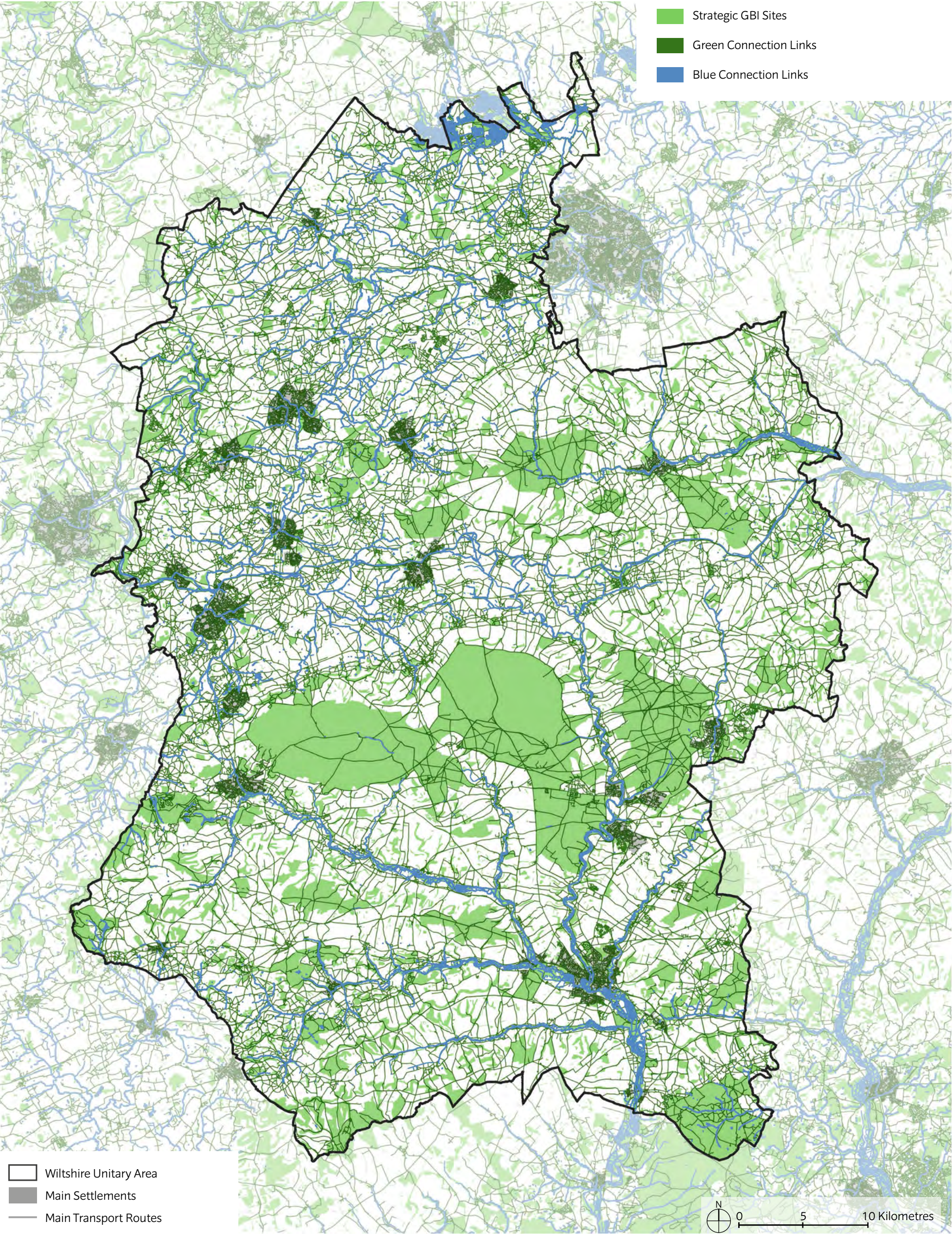
2.3.77 Wiltshire also has an extensive network of cycling routes used for commuting, accessing community facilities (schools, leisure centres, etc) or for recreation. These include a number of Sustrans National Cycle Network routes.

2.3.78 Recreational visits to the countryside also contribute to the local economy. A well-used and publicised public rights of way network can also contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of local communities and visitors.

2.3.79 There is an increasing body of evidence to demonstrate that regular contact with nature and use of outdoor places for exercise can benefit physical and mental health and wellbeing.

2.3.80 Ease of access to the countryside can encourage exercise outdoors, helping to prevent and treat health problems including obesity, cardiovascular disease, chronic stress, depression and anxiety. Access to natural greenspace can help families and communities spend time together, strengthening social networks.







## Connectivity of Strategic GBI Sites for Wildlife

- 2.3.81 The ecological connectivity of Wiltshire's GBI network for wildlife is predominantly provided by linear landscape features that are natural and semi-natural terrestrial and aquatic habitats (such as road/railway line verges, hedgerows/tree belts and rivers, streams and canals). These green and blue corridors may often follow public rights of way and public transport routes, many of which connect with wider access networks in neighbouring authorities.
- 2.3.82 Wiltshire's green and blue corridors function as 'stepping stones' for the dispersal of wildlife between otherwise fragmented and isolated habitats within both the agricultural landscape and urban area providing supporting services for a range of wildlife habitats, as well as supporting pollinators where managed appropriately. Local green and blue corridors can incorporate walking and cycling routes linking settlements with the surrounding countryside.

## Demography

- 2.3.83 Understanding the size and structure of Wiltshire's population is fundamental for prioritising and delivering GBI to address health and well-being needs. The demography headlines for Wiltshire are:
- 488,400 people live in the Wiltshire local authority area<sup>2</sup>
  - Wiltshire's population is projected to increase to 524,200 by 2030<sup>3</sup>
  - Between 2016 and 2030 it is estimated there will be a 41% increase in over 65s from 101,600 to 143,400<sup>4</sup>
  - 20,775 people live in an area considered to be deprived<sup>5</sup> (see **Map 2.15** - indices of multiple deprivation)
  - Males in Wiltshire can expect to live till 80.8 years of age and females 84.0 years of age<sup>6</sup>
- 2.3.84 For further details see [www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk](http://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk).

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<sup>2</sup> ONS mid-year estimates 2016

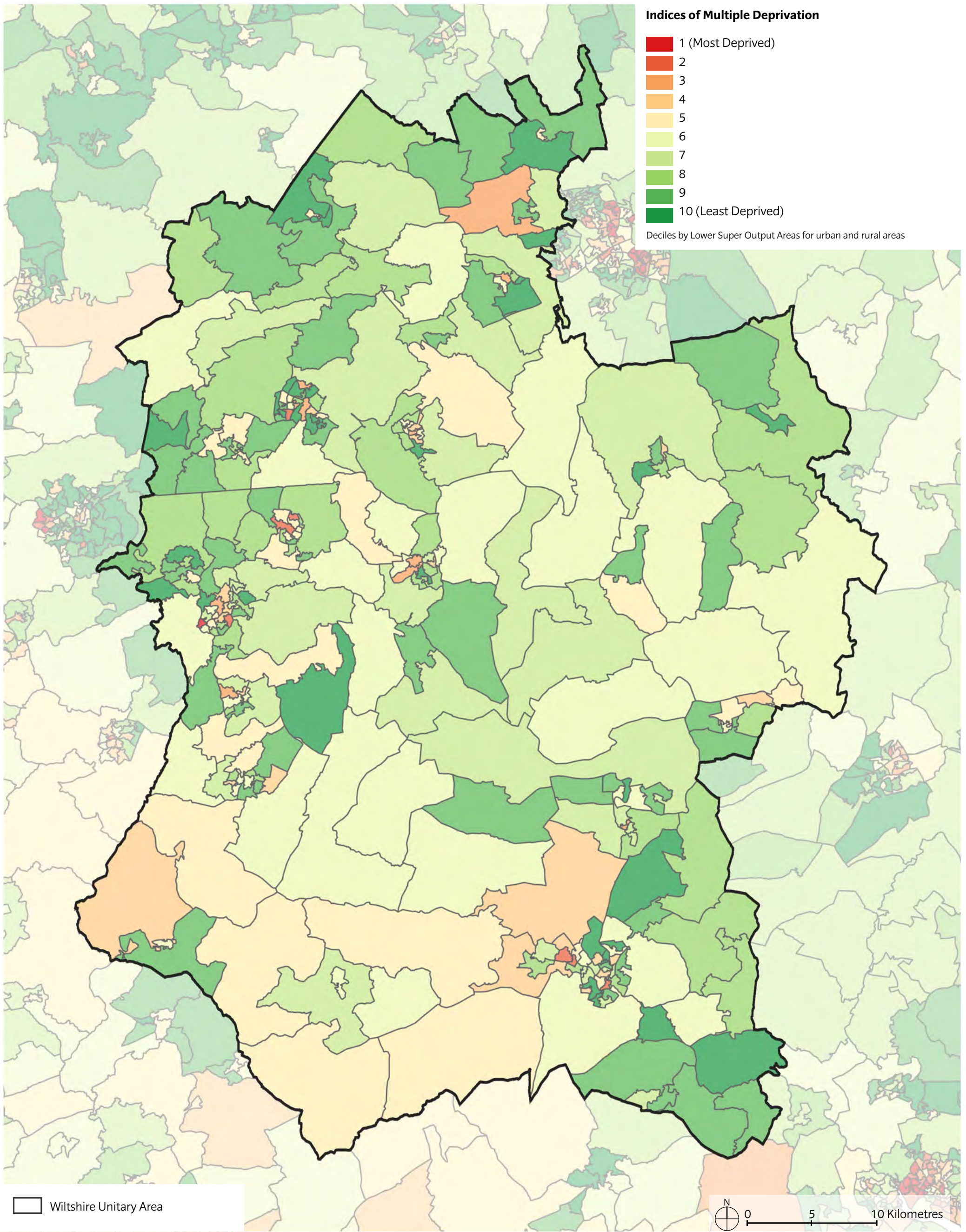
<sup>3</sup> ONS sub-national projections 2016

<sup>4</sup> ONS sub-national projections 2016

<sup>5</sup> Indices of multiple deprivation 2015

<sup>6</sup> ONS life expectancy 2013 to 2015







## 3.0 STRATEGIC GBI NETWORK PRIORITIES

### 3.1 General

- 3.1.1 This section sets out a review of the existing priorities for improving the management of Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network, with regards to the Strategic GBI Corridors and Sub-Regional Strategic GBI assets shown on **Map 2.1**, as identified by established strategic partnerships.

## (1) THAMES STRATEGIC GBI CORRIDOR

The Upper Thames Catchment in north Wiltshire extends into Gloucestershire. Within Wiltshire, the Upper Thames Catchment includes the upper reaches of the River Thames and its tributary rivers and streams (River Ray, River Key and Cerney Wick, Lydiard, Haydon Wick and Swill Brooks) and the Cotswolds Water Park lakes.

Priorities for improving management of the Thames Strategic GBI Corridor identified by the Upper Thames Catchment Partnership are:

- **Restoring high quality and connected habitats** - delivery of the WFD relies on our waterbodies being in 'Good Ecological Condition' and improvements to river habitats are central to this.
- **Improving land management and supporting sustainable agriculture** - the Upper Thames partnership works with a large number of farmers and other land-owners to help them develop strategies to reduce soil erosion, improve the water holding capacity of soil and prevent nutrient and pesticide loss.
- **Reducing foul water run-off** - there are many sources of foul water run-off including inadequate road drainage, sewerage surcharging and run off through livestock farmyards.

- **Improving water and flood risk management** - to a large extent, this combines all the above priorities but it can also be a key priority in terms of seeking change as many local communities are only too aware of the consequences of flooding to their homes and businesses.

Actions for delivering these priorities are set out in the **Upper Thames Catchment Partnership Action Plan.**



## (2) BRISTOL AVON STRATEGIC GBI CORRIDOR

The Bristol Avon Catchment in north-west Wiltshire extends into Bath & North East Somerset. Within Wiltshire, the Upper Thames Catchment includes the upper reaches of the Bristol Avon and its tributary rivers and streams (Biss, By, Semington and Brinkworth Brooks and River Marden), and includes a section of the Kennet and Avon Canal.

***The Bristol Avon Partnership's vision is that by 2027 the Bristol Avon Catchment is in good health, has Good Ecological Status and is recognised as a valuable asset to society and the local economy.***

Priorities for improving management of the Bristol Avon Strategic GBI Corridor are reflected in the Partnership's goals to:

- ***Improve public understanding*** about the value and services provided to society and the local economy by the river catchment and its wildlife.
- ***Improve water and flood risk management*** to reduce and slow run-off from rural and urban land, to increase water capture and to increase aquifer recharge.
- ***Improve land management and sustainable agriculture*** to reduce soil erosion and nutrient and pesticide loss, and to provide better links between habitats for wildlife.

- ***Improve waste water management*** to reduce nutrients in watercourses from public and private waste water
- ***Improve river management*** to increase connectivity between habitats and reduce barriers to fish migration
- ***Improve recreation management*** to increase access and recreational use of water and the wider environment, delivering wide ranging physical and mental health benefits.
- ***Improve investment opportunities*** for partnership led projects that deliver multiple benefits within the catchment.

Actions for delivering these priorities are set out in the **Bristol Avon Catchment Plan.**

### (3) KENNET STRATEGIC GBI CORRIDOR

The Kennet Catchment in north-east Wiltshire extends into Berkshire. Within Wiltshire, the Kennet Catchment includes the upper reaches of the River Kennet and the River Og tributary, and includes a section of the Kennet and Avon Canal.

***The Kennet Catchment Partnership's aim is to have healthy rivers, streams and canals throughout the Kennet Catchment and bring the whole of the catchment to good condition by 2027.***

Priorities for improving management of the Kennet Strategic GBI Corridor identified by the Kennet Catchment Partnership are:

- ***Water quality – nutrients, sedimentation and algal growth:*** healthy rivers require clean water. A reduction in pollution reaching the rivers and canals in the Kennet catchment will improve the whole ecology.
- ***Water in the landscape – Natural Flood Management and Sustainable Drainage Systems:*** there are multiple benefits from managing water well in the wider landscape. Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) have a big role to play.

- ***Modifications and degradation of habitats:*** recent modifications (particularly dredging and channel widening for land drainage or agricultural purposes) have had detrimental impacts on river ecology and navigation.
- ***Over-abstraction:*** within the Kennet catchment there are over-abstraction issues which leave the river without enough water to support a healthy ecosystem.
- ***Groundwater:*** is important not only to keep rivers and streams flowing, but also as a source of drinking water. Where too much groundwater is abstracted to put into public water supply, the rivers on the surface suffer.
- ***Invasive species:*** none of the key non-native alien species on the Kennet is easy to eradicate – but a good programme for control will target species preventing 'good ecological status' or causing deterioration.

Actions for delivering these priorities are set out in the **Kennet Catchment Management Plan.**



#### (4) HAMPSHIRE AVON STRATEGIC GBI CORRIDOR

The Hampshire Avon Catchment in central and south Wiltshire extends into Hampshire. Within Wiltshire, the Hampshire Avon Catchment includes the upper reaches of the Hampshire (aka Salisbury) Avon and the River Bourne, Till, Wylye, Nadder and Ebbles tributaries.

***The Hampshire Avon Catchment Partnership's vision is to achieve healthy water bodies within the Hampshire Avon catchment which are valued and nurtured by residents, businesses and the wider community and which exhibit: naturally functioning flows; high water quality; sustainable and abundant wildlife; fully functioning ecosystems linking rivers with their valleys; and resilience to climate change and future pressures.***

Priorities for improving management of the Hampshire Avon Strategic GBI Corridor are reflected in the Partnership's aims:

- *Committing to **working together** to achieve better outcomes for the water environment of the Hampshire Avon catchment.*
- *Ensuring that the **ecosystem services** provided by our rivers are recognised and valued in decisions about land and water management.*

- *Developing a **shared understanding of issues** facing the catchment, and a shared ambition to take action to resolve them.*
- *Developing our own measures of success framed around **enhancement of the natural environment** of the Hampshire Avon catchment.*

Actions for delivering these priorities are set out in the **Hampshire Avon Catchment Action Plan**.

## (5) TEST & ITCHEN STRATEGIC GBI CORRIDOR

A small part of the Test & Itchen Catchment in east Wiltshire extends into Hampshire. Within Wiltshire, the Test & Itchen Catchment includes the upper reaches of the River Dun and River Blackwater that flow into the River Test in Hampshire.

***The Test & Itchen Catchment Partnership's vision is for a healthy water environment which is valued and nurtured by residents, businesses and the wider community.***

Priorities for improving management of the Test & Itchen Strategic GBI Corridor are reflected in the following key catchment issues identified by the Partnership:

- **Water quality** (including nutrients/algae, sediment, microbes/ parasites, pesticide)
- **Water quantity** (including abstraction and low flows, flooding)
- **Structure and function**
- **Barriers to fish**
- **Riparian management**
- **Water temperature**
- **Invasive non-native species**

Actions for delivering these priorities are set out in the **Test & Itchen Catchment Action Plan**.

## (6) STOUR STRATEGIC GBI CORRIDOR

A small part of the Stour Catchment in south-west Wiltshire extends into Dorset. Within Wiltshire, the Stour Catchment includes the headwaters of the upper River near Stourhead.

***The Stour Catchment Initiative (SCI) aims to ensure that the Stour meets the needs of society for water, food, industry and recreation whilst supporting the wildlife that depends on it. The water environment will: support more diverse habitats and a wider population and species of wildlife; have near natural flows; have excellent water quality; continue to provide and improve the river for people to use and enjoy; be managed sensitively by all whose activities affect it; and meet the needs of businesses and water suppliers.***

Priorities for improving management of the Stour Strategic GBI Corridor identified by the SCI are:

- **Habitats** – habitats degradation, invasive non-native species and barriers to fish.
- **People** – engage people through education and engagement and improving access to rivers.
- **Water quality** – diffuse and point source pollution, including nutrient, sediment and chemical.
- **Water quantity** – high and low flows and their impacts.

Actions for delivering these priorities are set out in the **Stour Catchment Management Plan** and the **Stour Catchment Action Plan**.



## (7) WILTSHIRE CANALS STRATEGIC GBI CORRIDORS

The navigable waterways of the Kennet & Avon Canal, the Wilts & Berks Canal and the Cotswold Canals provide strategic GBI corridors connecting Wiltshire with the wider regional/national canal network.

Constructed between 1794 and 1810, the **Kennet and Avon Canal** provided a direct and safe waterway between Bristol and London. The canal declined from the mid-19th century, but has now been gradually restored by the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust with the help of a £25m Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The canal re-opened in 1990.

The **Wilts and Berks Canal** runs from Abingdon in Oxfordshire to Melksham in Wiltshire. The Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal Trust is gradually restoring the historic canal as a blue and green corridor through the region, providing economic, lifestyle and biodiversity benefits as the canal winds its way through communities and landscape. The Trust is working with Sustrans to develop the canal towpath as a cycleway.

Bisecting the Cotswolds AONB, the **Cotswold Canals** comprise the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames & Severn Canal. The canals are undergoing a phased restoration by the Cotswold Canals Trust. Phase 2 will include the eastern section of the canal from the Cotswold Water Park to the River Thames, which includes the junction with the North Wilts Canal (part of the Wilts and Berks Canal). The canal towpath forms part of the Thames & Severn Way.

## (A) COTSWOLDS AONB SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIC GBI

The nationally important landscape of the Cotswolds AONB, a small part of which extends into north-west Wiltshire, is a key Sub-Regional Strategic GBI asset.

***The Cotswolds Conservation Board's vision for the AONB is by 2043, the Cotswolds AONB will be a distinctive, unique, accessible living landscape treasured for its diversity which is recognised by all for its wide open views, dry stone walls, intimate valleys, flower rich grasslands, ancient woodlands, dark skies, tranquillity, archaeology, historic and cultural heritage and distinctive Cotswold stone architecture; and a thriving collaborative, pioneering, proactive place, sustained by the passions of residents, visitors and businesses alike, where communities and businesses value its special qualities.***

The Board has identified four key priorities for delivering the above vision:

- *Promote the Cotswolds AONB as the **Walking and Exploring Capital of England**.*
- *Secure the local design and delivery of a Cotswolds AONB package of **agri-environment payments for public goods and services** and rural development support.*

- *Ensure that **communities and businesses** within and around the Cotswolds AONB identify and celebrate being part of a nationally recognised landscape.*
- *Promote the case for the Cotswolds being designated as **England's next National Park**.*

Information on outcomes, policies and key actions for delivery of the above vision and goals are set out in the **Cotswolds AONB Management Plan**.

## (B) NORTH WESSEX DOWNS AONB SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIC GBI

The nationally important landscape of the North Wessex Downs AONB, a substantial part of which extends into east Wiltshire, is a key Sub-Regional Strategic GBI asset.

***The North Wessex Downs Partnership's vision for the AONB is of vast, dramatic, undeveloped and distinct chalk downlands with nationally significant areas of semi-natural chalk grassland, contrasting with well-wooded plateaux, arable lands and intimate and secluded valleys, all rich in wildlife and cultural heritage; a high quality landscape of national and international significance which persists in increasingly urbanised surroundings; where people live, work and relax; where visitors are welcomed and contribute to a vibrant rural economy; and access to which supports the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors alike.***

The Partnership has identified 13 goals as key priorities for delivering the above vision. Relevant examples include long-term goals for the North Wessex Downs AONB to be a place:

- With high quality **habitats** reflecting the distinctive character of the North Wessex Downs and stable and recovering populations of key species; **landscapes** that are protected, expanded, linked and under beneficial management **resilient to the pressures of climate change**.
- Where the **integrated management of land** conserves high quality soils and water resources whilst retaining the distinctive seasonal winterbourne flows and the nationally and internationally significant chalk streams of the AONB.
- That is recognised as a vital community resource, with potential **benefits to physical and mental wellbeing** of both local residents and visitors arising from access to nature and the countryside, to a tranquil environment, and to the opportunities presented for social interaction and volunteering.

Information on strategic objectives, policies and key actions for delivery of the above vision and goals are set out in the **North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan**.



## (C) SALISBURY PLAIN SPA SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIC GBI

Salisbury Plain is a key Sub-Regional Strategic GBI asset within central Wiltshire, encompassing an extensive area of international, European and national importance for nature and cultural heritage conservation.

***Natural England's guidance for Salisbury Plain<sup>7</sup> is to protect, manage and enhance the landscape of large areas of calcareous chalk grassland, and develop network connectivity, supporting internationally important and designated semi-natural habitats and species assemblages – from birds to bumblebees – and thus support biodiversity.***

Covering around 11% of Wiltshire, the Salisbury Plain Training Area is recognised for its European (Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation) and national (Site of Special Scientific Interest) nature conservation importance. The grasslands are the largest continuous area of chalk grassland in north-west Europe and constitute c.40% of the remaining areas of this habitat in Britain. The Training Area also supports protected habitats and species including 10% of the UK population of breeding Stone Curlew.

A key aim of the Salisbury Plain Integrated Rural Management Plan is to conserve, and where appropriate, enhance biodiversity as part of estate ownership on the Salisbury Plain Defence Training Estate, in accordance with legislation and MOD policy, whilst ensuring the provision of defence capabilities.

Natural England's advice on conservation objectives for the qualifying features of the Salisbury Plain European Natura 2000 Sites is set out in the **European Site Conservation Objectives for Salisbury Plain Special Protection Area**<sup>8</sup> and the **European Site Conservation Objectives for Salisbury Plain Special Area of Conservation**<sup>9</sup>.

The Stonehenge part of the UNESCO Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site lies to the south of the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

***The Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site is universally important for its unique and dense concentration of outstanding prehistoric monuments and sites which together form a landscape without parallel. We will work together to care for and safeguard this special area and provide a tranquil, rural and ecologically diverse setting for it and its archaeology.***

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<sup>7</sup> National Character Area 132: Statement of Environmental Opportunity SEO1

<sup>8</sup> SPA Qualifying Features: Hen Harrier; Eurasian Hobby; Common Quail; And Stone Curlew.

<sup>9</sup> SAC Qualifying Features: Juniper on Heaths or calcareous Grasslands; Dry Grasslands and Scrublands on Chalk or Limestone, including important Orchid sites; and Marsh Fritillary Butterfly.

***This will allow present and future generations to explore and enjoy the monuments and their landscape setting more fully. We will also ensure that the special qualities of the World Heritage Site are presented, interpreted and enhanced where appropriate, so that visitors, the local community and the whole world can better understand and value the extraordinary achievements of the prehistoric people who left us this rich legacy. We will realise the cultural, scientific and educational potential of the World Heritage Site as well as its social and economic benefits for the community.***

Information on aims, policies and actions for delivery of the above vision are set out in the **Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site Management Plan 2015**. The ongoing and overarching priority of the Management Plan is to encourage the sustainable management of the WHS, balancing its needs with those of the farming community, nature conservation, access, landowners and the local community.

## (D) CRANBORNE CHASE & WEST WILTSHIRE DOWNS AONB SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIC GBI

The nationally important landscape of the Cranborne Chase AONB, a substantial part of which extends into south-west Wiltshire, is a key Sub-Regional Strategic GBI asset.

*In 2030, the Cranborne Chase AONB will be an inspirational example of sustainable management in action. A nationally appreciated place where: its distinctive local landscapes, historic heritage, and wildlife are conserved and enhanced by those who work and manage the land, nurturing a valued and treasured countryside for future generations; its healthy soils, clean air and water are appreciated, prized and respected by all; its characteristic vibrant villages, profoundly rural character, and local sense of pride are tangible to all who live and visit here, or just pass through; the breadth and depth of historic land use offers up its stories in the landscape today; its cultural heritage is conserved, understood, enhanced, valued and enjoyed; the aesthetic qualities of the landscape and environment, along with the sense of wonder and enjoyment, are appreciated by all; and the quality of life remains high and the aspirations of those who live and work here are supported.*

The Partnership has identified five priorities for delivering the above vision:

- The **profile** of Cranborne Chase AONB will be significantly raised through signage, community events and activities; and significantly enhanced communications.
- The **dark night skies** of this AONB will be conserved and enhanced with the benefits valued and appreciated by communities and visitors alike.
- Extensive collaboration with farmers, foresters, landowners, relevant agencies and local communities will champion integrated, enhanced management of the AONB's landscapes **delivering measurable enhancements** to the AONB's natural and historic environment, showcasing partnership working within a designated landscape.
- Led by field based staff, there will be multiple opportunities for volunteers of all ages and abilities to help conserve and enhance the landscapes of the AONB whilst **improving health and wellbeing**.
- The suite of projects within the **Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme** bid will measurably enhance the natural, historic and cultural environments of this AONB.

Information on strategic objectives, policies and key actions for delivery of the above vision and priorities are set out in the **Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan**.



## (E) NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIC GBI

The nationally important landscape of the New Forest National Park, a small part of which extends into south-east Wiltshire, is a key Sub-Regional Strategic GBI asset.

***The vision for the National Park in 20 years' time is of an area which has a unique and immediately recognisable sense of place, where: tranquillity and a feeling of naturalness pervade large parts of the Park; the mosaic of distinctive landscapes and habitats are all of the highest quality and a great variety of wildlife is able to flourish; there is a strong sense and understanding of the heritage and living culture of the Forest; all visitors can gain inspiration, health and wellbeing and enjoy the extensive areas of land with open access; the far-reaching consequences of climate change are taken into account in all policies and future plans; people live and work sustainably and contribute to the care of the Forest; local, regional and national organisations recognise the value of the National Park and there is a shared understanding of its role within the wider area; and everyone contributes in appropriate ways to keeping the National Park a special place for present and future generations.***

The National Park Authority has identified the following strategic themes that are priorities for delivering the vision:

- **Protect:** *Enhancing the Forest's landscapes and habitats; encouraging sustainable land management; conserving local distinctiveness; planning for climate change; and safeguarding tranquillity.*
- **Enjoy:** *understanding what makes the Forest special; and enjoying these special qualities*
- **Prosper:** *supporting local communities; fostering economic wellbeing; and improving traffic and transport.*

Information on strategic objectives supporting the above vision and priorities are set out in the **New Forest National Park Management Plan 2010-2015**. Information on actions for delivery of the vision and priorities are set out in the **New Forest National Park Partnership Plan 2015-2020**.

## 4.0 STRATEGIC GBI AREAS PRIORITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

### 4.1 General

- 4.1.1 As Wiltshire is a large area with a diverse range of GBI assets, Strategic GBI Areas have been defined to provide an integrated spatial framework for identifying strategic priorities and opportunities to strengthen Wiltshire's GBI Network at the landscape-scale (see **Box 4.1** and **Map 2.16**).

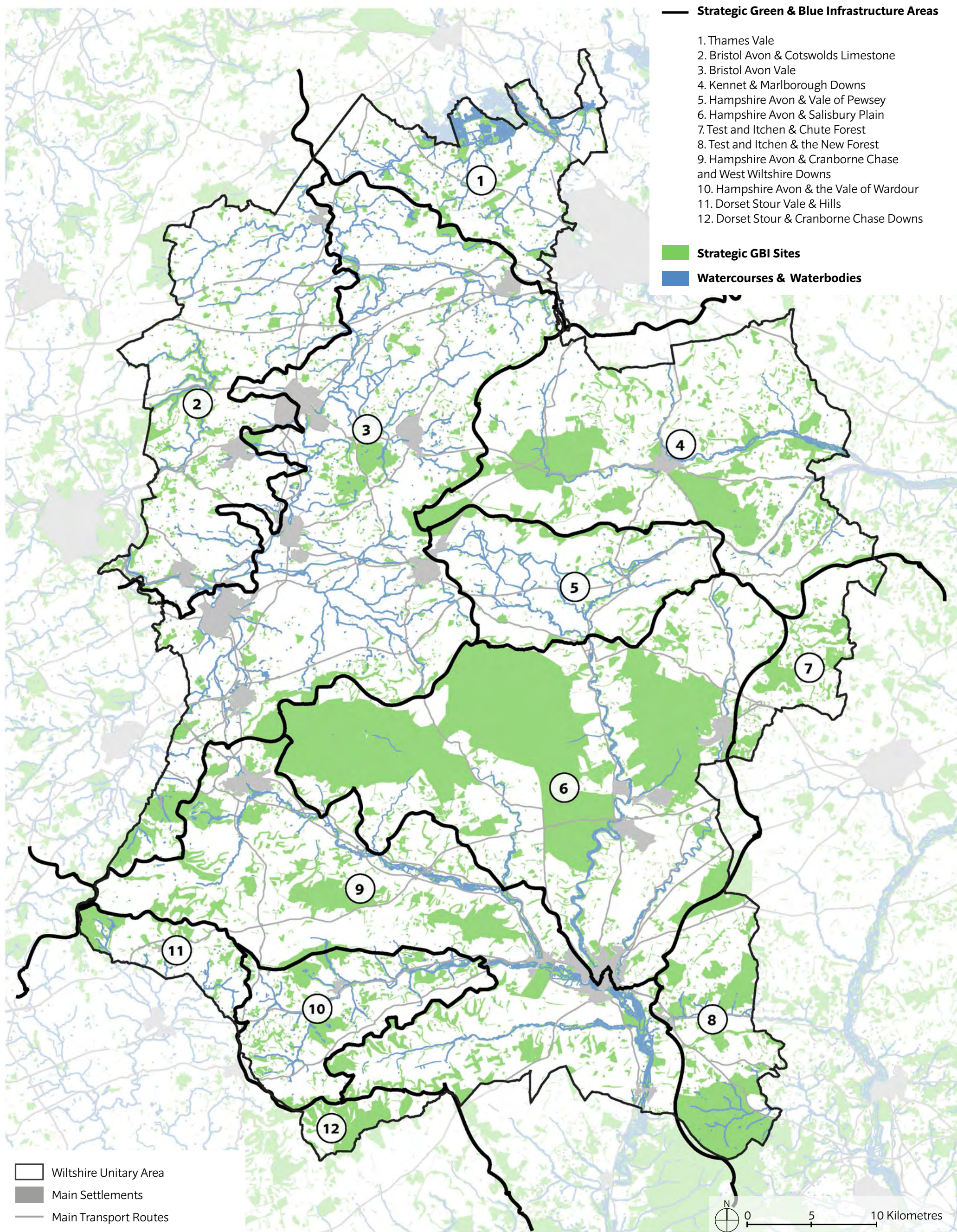
#### **Box 4.1 – Strategic GBI Areas in Wiltshire**

1. Thames Vale
2. Bristol Avon & Cotswolds Limestone
3. Bristol Avon Vale
4. Kennet & Marlborough Downs
5. Hampshire Avon & Vale of Pewsey
6. Hampshire Avon & Salisbury Plain
7. Test and Itchen & Chute Forest
8. Test and Itchen & the New Forest
9. Hampshire Avon & Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs
10. Hampshire Avon & the Vale of Wardour
11. Dorset Stour Vale & Hills
12. Dorset Stour & Cranborne Chase Downs

- 4.1.2 The Strategic GBI Areas largely reflect River Catchments (including sub-catchments where appropriate) defined by the Environment Agency, taking into account Landscape Biodiversity Areas as defined by the Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Partnership and Landscape Character Types/Areas defined by Wiltshire Council.

- 4.1.3 With the exception of Area 10, the boundaries of the Strategic GBI Areas follow catchment/sub-catchment boundaries as defined by the Environment Agency.







4.1.5 Set within the context of the overarching priorities for improving the management of Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network as identified by established strategic partnerships (see **Section 3.0**), this section draws together the strategic priorities and opportunities for improving the management of GBI assets within the 12 Strategic GBI Areas based on a review of the following information:

- **National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities** – within the Strategic GBI Area as identified in Natural England's National Character Area profiles<sup>10</sup>. The statements provide guidance on environmental opportunities to support the planning of conservation initiatives at a landscape scale, inform the delivery of Nature Improvement Areas and encourage broader partnership working through Local Nature Partnerships.
- **Catchment Management Priorities** – within the Strategic GBI Area as identified in the relevant catchment management plans.
- **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities** – within the Strategic GBI Area as identified in the Strategic Nature Areas defined by the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework.

- **Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities** – within the Strategic GBI Area as identified by the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy's landscape management objectives for Wiltshire's Landscape Character Types.

4.1.6 This review provides a starting point for developing further analysis of priorities and opportunities for delivery of multi-functional GBI by partners working together in specific parts of Wiltshire as appropriate.

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<sup>10</sup> Note – for completeness and context, NCA SEOs are included in full even if the NCA only forms a small part of the Strategic GBI Area.

## **(1) THAMES VALE STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Thames Vale Strategic GBI Area, in the north of Wiltshire, is a predominantly low-lying area encompassing the River Thames and its floodplain.

It is a largely rural landscape, with lines of willow and other wetland trees close to watercourses, particularly in the north.

The agricultural use of the area combines arable and wet pasture, with open water ditches as well as hedgerows defining boundaries.

A major feature of the area is the extent of standing open water, with a significant number of lakes around Ashton Keynes in the north, resulting from gravel extraction. These pits have subsequently been flooded and some have been designated for leisure use (known as the Cotswold Water Park).

On higher ground to the south, there are scattered woodlands and more densely vegetated field boundaries.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 108. Upper Thames Clay Vales (part)
- 107. Cotswolds (part)

### **River Catchments:**

- Thames River Basin District (part)
- Upper Thames Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 1. Wiltshire Upper Thames Clay Vale
- 2. Swindon Ridge and Clay Lowlands (part)
- 3. Braydon Forest (part)
- 4. Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 8. Limestone Ridge (part)
- 11. Rolling Clay Lowland (part)
- 12. Open Clay Vale (part)
- 16. Limestone Lowland (part)

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The majority of the Thames Vale Strategic GBI Area falls within the Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Area (108), and a small part falls within the Cotswolds National Character Area (107).

### Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Area (108)

- *SEO1: Along the Thames and its tributaries, promote sustainable farming and best practice mineral working in order to conserve and restore seminatural habitats, historic features, geodiversity, soil quality and soil carbon stores and also to regulate water flow in this area and downstream. Ensure conservation of...North Meadow and Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation. Engage the public in river heritage and maintain traditional land management practices where appropriate.*
- *SEO2: Manage farmland across the Upper Thames Clay Vales to produce food sustainably and maintain sense of place. Taking a catchment approach, improve filtration of pollutants and regulation of water flow by realising a farmland habitat mosaic that incorporates strategic areas of wet grassland, reedbed, wet woodland and ponds as well as ditches and hedgerows.*

- *SEO3: Ensure that heritage assets, especially characteristic features such as ridge and furrow, abandoned medieval villages, Roman roads, canals and historic parkland...are maintained in good condition. Integrate conservation of these features with sustainable food production and provide public access to key examples. Seek opportunities to restore the wider historic setting of a feature, particularly in relation to the historic Royal Hunting Forests of ... Braydon...*
- *SEO4: Realise sustainable development that contributes positively to sense of place and built heritage. Ensure adequate greenspace in association with all development and most importantly in growing settlements... Create and manage greenspace to provide benefits for biodiversity, floodwater management, filtration of pollutants, tranquillity and recreation, and secure strategic access routes between town and country.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Thames Vale Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Area Profile (108).



### Cotswolds National Character Area (107)

- *SEO1: Protect and enhance the highly distinctive farmed landscape, retaining the balance between productive arable, pastoral and wooded elements and the open, expansive views particularly from the scarp, high wold and dip slope.*
- *SEO2: Safeguard and conserve the historic environment, cultural heritage and geodiversity that illustrate the history, evolution, foundations, land use and settlement of the Cotswolds landscape, and allow access to and interpretation of the relationship between natural processes and human influences.*
- *SEO3: Protect, maintain and expand the distinctive character of the Cotswolds and the network of semi-natural and arable habitats, including limestone grassland, beech woods and wetlands along streams and rivers, to enhance water quality, strengthen ecological and landscape connectivity, support rare species and allow for adaptation to changes in climate.*
- *SEO4: Safeguard and manage soil and water resources, allowing naturally functioning hydrological processes to maintain water quality and supply; reduce flooding; and manage land to reduce soil erosion and water pollution and to retain and capture carbon.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Thames Vale Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Cotswolds National Character Area Profile (107).

### **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Thames Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

## **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities**

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets within the Thames Vale Strategic GBI Area are:

### **1. Wiltshire Upper Thames Clay Vale LBA**

- Neutral Grassland: Lowland meadows
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh: Mesotrophic Lakes
- Rivers: Rivers and streams
- Woodland: Ancient and semi-natural mixed deciduous woodland

### **2. Swindon Ridge and Clay Lowlands LBA**

- Rivers
- Neutral Grassland: Unimproved neutral meadows
- Woodland
- Hedgerows
- Built Environment

### **3. Braydon Forest LBA**

- Woodland: Ancient Woodland and woodland mosaic, Bats, Lepidoptera, Hedgerows
- Neutral Grassland: Unimproved neutral meadows, Lepidoptera

### **4. Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands LBA**

- Woodland: Ancient Woodland, Bats
- Limestone Grassland: Limestone grassland and butterflies, Arable plants, Farmland birds
- Neutral Grassland: Unimproved neutral meadows
- Rivers

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).

## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Thames Vale Strategic Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **Limestone Ridge Landscape Character Type (8)** is to conserve the elements that contribute to its character or are important in their own right, such as the network of hedgerows and the village centres while enhancing those areas, such as the urban fringes, that are becoming degraded.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Rolling Clay Lowland Landscape Character Type (11)** is to conserve the peaceful rural landscape with its hedgerow network, rich riparian vegetation, remnant meadows, ancient woodlands and pattern of small villages and scattered farmsteads and to strengthen its character through measures to minimise the urbanising influence of large towns, new settlement and transport routes and to improve the woodlands and farmlands by encouraging management to retain or enhance their biodiversity and historic character.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Open Clay Vales Landscape Character Type (12)** is to conserve the elements that contribute to the rural, tranquil landscape; the rivers, streams and open water, the meadows and riverside tree lines, the brick and stone villages and farmsteads and to improve elements in decline such as the hedgerows and hedgerow trees,*

*and the visual influence of the large settlement edges and major transport corridors.*

- *The overall management strategy for the **Limestone Lowland Landscape Character Type (16)** is to conserve those elements intrinsic to the type's character or important in their own right, such as the distinctive stone villages, the areas of ecological importance and the historic parkland and to strengthen locally degraded elements such as the flailed hedgerows and overgrown stone walls.*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).



## **Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects**

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Upper Thames Catchment Action Plan 2019
- Wiltshire Invasive Plants Project (WIPP)

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- Swindon Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010-2026
- Cotswold Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Play Space Strategy
- Cotswold Canals Trust Restoration Project
- Great Western Community Forest
- Floodplain Meadows Partnership
- Rebuilding Biodiversity in North Wiltshire
- Agri-environment woodland schemes
- Cotswolds Nature Improvement Areas

## **(2) BRISTOL AVON & COTSWOLDS LIMESTONE STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Bristol Avon & Cotswolds Limestone Strategic GBI Area, in the north west of Wiltshire, is a rolling limestone region which has been largely farmed, but also retains areas of unimproved limestone grassland and woodland.

The area is dissected by two steep and narrow tributary valleys, flowing into the By Brook and forming part of the Bristol Avon catchment.

Hedgerows of varying quality, with few hedgerow trees, enclose fields giving way to stone walls closer to settlements.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 107. Cotswolds (part)
- 117. Avon Vales (part)

### **River Catchments:**

- Severn River Basin District (part)
- Bristol Avon Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 4. Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 9. Limestone Wold
- 10. Limestone Valleys
- 16. Limestone Lowland (part)

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The majority of the Bristol Avon & Cotswolds Limestone Strategic GBI Area falls within the Cotswolds National Character Area (107), and a small part falls within the Avon Vales National Character Area (117).

### Cotswolds National Character Area (107)

- *SEO1: Protect and enhance the highly distinctive farmed landscape, retaining the balance between productive arable, pastoral and wooded elements and the open, expansive views particularly from the scarp, high wold and dip slope.*
- *SEO2: Safeguard and conserve the historic environment, cultural heritage and geodiversity that illustrate the history, evolution, foundations, land use and settlement of the Cotswolds landscape, and allow access to and interpretation of the relationship between natural processes and human influences.*
- *SEO3: Protect, maintain and expand the distinctive character of the Cotswolds and the network of semi-natural and arable habitats, including limestone grassland, beech woods and wetlands along streams and rivers, to enhance water quality, strengthen ecological and landscape connectivity, support rare species and allow for adaptation to changes in climate.*

- *SEO4: Safeguard and manage soil and water resources, allowing naturally functioning hydrological processes to maintain water quality and supply; reduce flooding; and manage land to reduce soil erosion and water pollution and to retain and capture carbon.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Bristol Avon & Cotswolds Limestone Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Cotswolds National Character Area Profile (107).



### Avon Vales National Character Area (117)

- *SEO1: Protect, manage and enhance the semi-natural habitats, including the pastoral waterside landscape of permanent pasture and wet grassland, calcareous and neutral grasslands, and (as site appropriate) ponds, and investigate and pursue opportunities to create such habitats, to increase resilience to climate change, reduce soil erosion and provide benefits to the water environment and biodiversity in general.*
- *SEO2: Protect and manage the area's woodlands and parklands for their rich ecological, historical and archaeological resource, to foster a sense of place and to provide benefits to wildlife, and work to establish appropriate access, thus enhancing cultural, health and recreational benefits for local residents.*
- *SEO3: Plan for the creation of new landscapes associated with the expansion of towns such as Chippenham, Melksham and Trowbridge, while incorporating the existing landscape features into green infrastructure planning. This will serve the interests of local landscape character, access and recreation, biomass provision, biodiversity and water flow regulation.*

- *SEO4: Protect and manage the varied rural landscape of small urban areas amid gently rolling arable and pasture, and thick hedges interspersed with small woods, securing wide-ranging views, reinforcing landscape character, preventing soil erosion, promoting sense of place and tranquillity, and providing recreational benefits.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Bristol Avon & Cotswolds Limestone Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Avon Vales National Character Area Profile (117).

### **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Bristol Avon Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

### **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities**

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Bristol Avon & Cotswolds Limestone Strategic GBI Area are:

#### **4. Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands LBA**

- Woodland: Ancient Woodland, Bats
- Limestone Grassland: Limestone grassland and butterflies, Arable plants, Farmland birds
- Neutral Grassland: Unimproved neutral meadows
- Rivers

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).

## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Bristol Avon & Cotswolds Limestone Strategic Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **Limestone Wold Landscape Character Type (9)** is to conserve the rural character and the important surviving landscape features such as the remaining ancient woodland and herb rich grassland. It will also be necessary to restore those features that are declining or incongruous to the landscape, such as the breakdown of traditional field patterns and large-scale development around the airfield.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Limestone Valleys Landscape Character Type (10)** is to conserve the rural character of the valleys and retain the important landscape elements and patterns. This includes the tracts of ancient woodland, the surviving calcareous grassland, vernacular and industrial features (mills, weavers terraces etc) the character and setting of the stone villages and the network of winding rural roads and sunken lanes.*

- *The overall management strategy for the **Limestone Lowland Landscape Character Type (16)** is to conserve those elements intrinsic to the type's character or important in their own right, such as the distinctive stone villages, the areas of ecological importance and the historic parkland and to strengthen locally degraded elements such as the flailed hedgerows and overgrown stone walls.*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).



## **Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects**

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Project:

- Bristol Avon Catchment Management Plan 2016
- Wilts and Berks Canal Trust Restoration Project
- Cotswold Canals Trust Restoration Project
- Wiltshire Invasive Plants Project (WIPP)

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- Valuing People, Place and Nature – a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset
- West of England Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework
- A Strategic Framework for Green Infrastructure in Gloucestershire
- Cotswold Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Play Space Strategy

### **(3) BRISTOL AVON VALE STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Bristol Avon Vale Strategic GBI Area, in the north west of Wiltshire, is a rolling limestone region which has been largely farmed, but also retains areas of unimproved limestone grassland and woodland.

The area is dissected by two steep and narrow tributary valleys, flowing into the By Brook and forming part of the Bristol Avon catchment.

Hedgerows of varying quality, with few hedgerow trees, enclose fields giving way to stone walls closer to settlements.

#### **National Character Areas:**

- 108. Upper Thames Clay Vales (part)
- 117. Avon Vales (part)

#### **River Catchments:**

- Severn River Basin District (part)
- Bristol Avon Catchment (part)

#### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 3. Braydon Forest (part)
- 6. Bristol Avon Vale
- 7. Vale of Pewsey (part)

#### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 7. Wooded Greensand Hills (part)
- 8. Limestone Ridge (part)
- 11. Rolling Clay Lowland (part)
- 12. Open Clay Vale (part)

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The majority of the Bristol Avon Vale Strategic GBI Area falls within the Avon Vales National Character Area Profile (117), and a small part falls within the Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Area (108).

### Avon Vales National Character Area (117)

- *SEO1: Protect, manage and enhance the semi-natural habitats, including the pastoral waterside landscape of permanent pasture and wet grassland, calcareous and neutral grasslands, and (as site appropriate) ponds, and investigate and pursue opportunities to create such habitats, to increase resilience to climate change, reduce soil erosion and provide benefits to the water environment and biodiversity in general.*
- *SEO2: Protect and manage the area's woodlands and parklands for their rich ecological, historical and archaeological resource, to foster a sense of place and to provide benefits to wildlife, and work to establish appropriate access, thus enhancing cultural, health and recreational benefits for local residents.*

- *SEO3: Plan for the creation of new landscapes associated with the expansion of towns such as Chippenham, Melksham and Trowbridge, while incorporating the existing landscape features into green infrastructure planning. This will serve the interests of local landscape character, access and recreation, biomass provision, biodiversity and water flow regulation.*
- *SEO4: Protect and manage the varied rural landscape of small urban areas amid gently rolling arable and pasture, and thick hedges interspersed with small woods, securing wide-ranging views, reinforcing landscape character, preventing soil erosion, promoting sense of place and tranquillity, and providing recreational benefits.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Bristol Avon Vale Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Avon Vales National Character Area Profile (117).



#### Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Area (108)

- *SEO1: Along the Thames and its tributaries, promote sustainable farming and best practice mineral working in order to conserve and restore seminatural habitats, historic features, geodiversity, soil quality and soil carbon stores and also to regulate water flow in this area and downstream. Ensure conservation of...North Meadow and Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation. Engage the public in river heritage and maintain traditional land management practices where appropriate.*
- *SEO2: Manage farmland across the Upper Thames Clay Vales to produce food sustainably and maintain sense of place. Taking a catchment approach, improve filtration of pollutants and regulation of water flow by realising a farmland habitat mosaic that incorporates strategic areas of wet grassland, reedbed, wet woodland and ponds as well as ditches and hedgerows.*
- *SEO3: Ensure that heritage assets, especially characteristic features such as ridge and furrow, abandoned medieval villages, Roman roads, canals and historic parkland...are maintained in good condition. Integrate conservation of these features with sustainable food production and provide public access to key examples. Seek opportunities to restore the wider historic setting of a feature, particularly in relation to the historic Royal Hunting Forests of ...Braydon...*

- *SEO4: Realise sustainable development that contributes positively to sense of place and built heritage. Ensure adequate greenspace in association with all development and most importantly in growing settlements... Create and manage greenspace to provide benefits for biodiversity, floodwater management, filtration of pollutants, tranquillity and recreation, and secure strategic access routes between town and country.*

4.1.7 The relevant ecosystem services provided in the Bristol Avon Vale Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Area (108)

## Catchment Management Priorities

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Bristol Avon Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

## Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Bristol Avon Vale Strategic GBI Area are:

### 3. Braydon Forest LBA

- Woodland: Ancient Woodland and woodland mosaic, Bats, Lepidoptera, Hedgerows
- Neutral Grassland: Unimproved neutral meadows, Lepidoptera

### 6. Bristol Avon Vale LBA

- Neutral Grassland: Neutral meadows, Arable plants
- Woodland: Ancient Woodland, Hedgerows, Bats
- Rivers
- Standing Water

### 7. Vale of Pewsey LBA

- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland, Farmland Birds, Arable Plants
- Hedgerows
- Rivers and associated habitats
- Standing Water (canals)

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).

## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Bristol Avon Vale Strategic Area are:

- The overall management strategy **Wooded Greensand Hills Landscape Character Type (7)** is to conserve the woodland, parkland and the mosaic of pastures and meadows that characterise the landscape along with the small-scale villages, ancient sunken lanes and the largely intact pattern of small irregular fields bounded by ditched and banked hedgerows. Some aspects of the landscape require enhancement, in particular where hedgerows have been lost or flailed and hedgerow trees lost.
- The overall management strategy for the **Limestone Ridge Landscape Character Type (8)** is to conserve the elements that contribute to its character or are important in their own right, such as the network of hedgerows and the village centres while enhancing those areas, such as the urban fringes, that are becoming degraded.

- The overall management strategy for the **Rolling Clay Lowland Landscape Character Type (11)** is to conserve the peaceful rural landscape with its hedgerow network, rich riparian vegetation, remnant meadows, ancient woodlands and pattern of small villages and scattered farmsteads and to strengthen its character through measures to minimise the urbanising influence of large towns, new settlement and transport routes and to improve the woodlands and farmlands by encouraging management to retain or enhance their biodiversity and historic character.
- The overall management strategy for the **Open Clay Vales Landscape Character Type (12)** is to conserve the elements that contribute to the rural, tranquil landscape; the rivers, streams and open water, the meadows and riverside tree lines, the brick and stone villages and farmsteads and to improve elements in decline such as the hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and the visual influence of the large settlement edges and major transport corridors.

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).



## **Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects**

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Bristol Avon Catchment Management Plan 2016
- Wilts and Berks Canal Trust Restoration Project
- Wiltshire Invasive Plants Project (WIPP)

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- Valuing People, Place and Nature – a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset
- West of England Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework

#### **(4) KENNET & MARLBOROUGH DOWNS STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Kennet and Marlborough Downs Strategic GBI Area, in the west of Wiltshire, is a landscape of undulating chalk downlands of rolling farmland with remnants of calcareous grassland, scattered woods, and dissected by dry valleys and coombes.

The soils here are generally nutrient poor and have been intensively farmed to create an open landscape of arable fields with few hedgerows and only small scattered clumps of trees, primarily beech.

Running through the centre of the area is the River Kennet, a tributary of the River Thames.

##### **National Character Areas:**

- 116. Berkshire and Marlborough Downs (part)

##### **River Catchments:**

- Thames River Basin District (part)
- Kennet and Tributaries Catchment (part)

##### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 5. Marlborough Downs and Savernake Forest (part)

##### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 1. Open Downland (part)
- 2. Wooded Downland (part)
- 4. Low Chalk Plain (part)
- 5. Chalk River Valley (part)
- 15. Greensand Vale (part)

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The Kennet and Marlborough Downs Strategic GBI Area falls within the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs National Character Area (116).

### Berkshire and Marlborough Downs (116)

- *SEO1: On a catchment basis, seek to conserve, enhance and restore the flora, fauna and heritage features of the Kennet and Avon Canal and the chalk streams, springs and associated wetlands, such as those in the Kennet catchment.... Enhance public access to key features to reinforce sense of place and secure water quality and water availability as appropriate.*
- *SEO2: Across the huge arable fields of the high Downs, conserve and enhance linear features, field edges and in-field features, such as fallow plots and farm reservoirs, and manage these as an interrelated network of features. Manage this network to benefit wildlife (including arable plants and farmland birds), to conserve soils, to store water, to protect heritage features, to improve public enjoyment, and to regulate pests and diseases. Maximise these benefits through targeted arable reversion of strips and areas to grassland, securing the additional benefit of expanding the species-rich chalk grassland network where possible.*

- *SEO3: Across the open expanses of the Downs, identify and manage natural and man-made landmarks and associated viewpoints valued by local communities and visitors in order to maintain sense of place and history and also so that they act as focal areas for engaging people in the conservation and sustainable enjoyment of the wider area. As well as high-profile landmarks such as Avebury, consider exposed scarp landforms, downland pasture, beech clumps, ancient monuments, historic buildings and sarsen stones.*
- *SEO4: With the historic area of Savernake hunting forest being a key focus, manage the Downs' wooded features to maintain sense of place, to conserve and enhance woodland archaeology and biodiversity, and to maximise sustainable timber and wood fuel production. Ensure that new plantings or restockings across the Downs reflect historic distribution patterns so that they strengthen sense of history and sense of place and also seek to support networks of small woods.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Kennet and Marlborough Downs Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs National Character Area Profile (116).



## **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Kennet Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in

### **Section 3.0.**

## **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities**

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Kennet and Marlborough Downs Strategic GBI Area are:

### **5. Marlborough Downs and Savernake Forest LBA**

- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland, Chalk Downland butterflies, Farmland Birds
- Woodland: Ancient woodland, Wood pasture and parkland, Bats & Dormice
- Rivers: Chalk Rivers

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).

## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Kennet and Marlborough Downs Strategic Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **Open Downland Landscape Character Type (1)** is to conserve the inherent remoteness, isolation and simplicity of the downland landscape and its important ecological, historic and geological features.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Wooded Downland Landscape Character Type (2)** is to conserve the highly rural, peaceful character of the type with its highly distinctive and varied topography with landcover of woodland and arable mix, grassland scarps and valleys with small sheltered villages and sparse scattered farmsteads. Elements requiring restoration are field boundaries and hedgerow trees.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Low Chalk Plain Landscape Character Type (4)** is to conserve the inherent qualities of the type, such as the open visually exposed character of the plain and contrasting intimate wooded scarp, along with the important landscape features including, the historic monuments and areas of ecological values. Restoration of lost and/or declining features, such as the field boundaries is also important within key areas.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Chalk River Valley Landscape Character Type (5)** is to conserve the tranquil, intimate and rural character of the landscape. This will include maintenance of key features including permanent pasture, wet grassland and riparian woodlands and historic features associated with the mills and water meadows, historic parklands and vernacular villages. There are opportunities for restoration of waterside pastures, replanting and management of hedgerows and limited native tree planting/regeneration.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Greensand Vale Landscape Character Type (15)** is to conserve and improve the rural, agricultural character of the vale, maintaining the pattern of discrete small villages set within a quiet rural landscape. This includes the pattern of hedgerows, streams, and remnant waterside pastures, wet meadows and woodlands and historic features such as parkland and the traditional structures associated with the Kennet and Avon canal corridor. There are opportunities for creation of new riparian woodlands, hedgerow planting and restoration of waterside pasture. The clear skylines and backdrop of the surrounding slope should be maintained*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).

## **Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects**

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Upper Thames Catchment Action Plan 2019
- Kennet and Avon Canal Trust Restoration Project
- Wiltshire Invasive Plants Project (WIPP)
- Catchment Sensitive Farming

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- Swindon Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010-2026
- Great Western Community Forest
- Marlborough Downs Environmental Enhancement Project



## **(5) HAMPSHIRE AVON & VALE OF PEWSEY STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Hampshire Avon & Vale of Pewsey Strategic GBI Area, in the east of Wiltshire, is an undulating, low lying greensand valley that separates the high chalk plateau of the Salisbury Plain to the south and the Marlborough Downs to the north.

Relatively steep, rounded chalk scarps form the northern and southern boundaries as the land rises onto the chalk plateaus either side which are characterised by their elevation, large agricultural fields and comparatively low tree and hedgerow cover.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 116. Berkshire and Marlborough Downs (part)

### **River Catchments:**

- South West River Basin District (part)
- Hampshire Avon Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 7. Vale of Pewsey

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 15. Greensand Vale (part)

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The Hampshire Avon & Vale of Pewsey Strategic GBI Area falls within the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs National Character Area (116).

### Berkshire and Marlborough Downs (116)

- *SEO1: On a catchment basis, seek to conserve, enhance and restore the flora, fauna and heritage features of the Kennet and Avon Canal and the chalk streams, springs and associated wetlands, such as those in the Kennet catchment and in the Vale of Pewsey. Enhance public access to key features to reinforce sense of place and secure water quality and water availability as appropriate.*
- *SEO2: Across the huge arable fields of the high Downs, conserve and enhance linear features, field edges and in-field features, such as fallow plots and farm reservoirs, and manage these as an interrelated network of features. Manage this network to benefit wildlife (including arable plants and farmland birds), to conserve soils, to store water, to protect heritage features, to improve public enjoyment, and to regulate pests and diseases. Maximise these benefits through targeted arable reversion of strips and areas to grassland, securing the additional benefit of expanding the species-rich chalk grassland network where possible.*

- *SEO3: Across the open expanses of the Downs, identify and manage natural and man-made landmarks and associated viewpoints valued by local communities and visitors in order to maintain sense of place and history and also so that they act as focal areas for engaging people in the conservation and sustainable enjoyment of the wider area. As well as high-profile landmarks..., consider exposed scarp landforms, downland pasture, beech clumps, ancient monuments, historic buildings and sarsen stones.*
- *SEO4: With the historic area of Savernake hunting forest being a key focus, manage the Downs' wooded features to maintain sense of place, to conserve and enhance woodland archaeology and biodiversity, and to maximise sustainable timber and wood fuel production. Ensure that new plantings or restockings across the Downs reflect historic distribution patterns so that they strengthen sense of history and sense of place and also seek to support networks of small woods.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Hampshire Avon & Vale of Pewsey Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs National Character Area Profile (116).

### **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Hampshire Avon Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

### **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities**

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Hampshire Avon & Vale of Pewsey Strategic GBI Area are:

#### **7. Vale of Pewsey LBA**

- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland, Farmland Birds, Arable Plants
- Hedgerows
- Rivers and associated habitats
- Standing Water (canals)

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).



## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Hampshire Avon & Vale of Pewsey Strategic Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **Greensand Vale Landscape Character Type (15)** is to conserve and improve the rural, agricultural character of the vale, maintaining the pattern of discrete small villages set within a quiet rural landscape. This includes the pattern of hedgerows, streams, and remnant waterside pastures, wet meadows and woodlands and historic features such as parkland and the traditional structures associated with the Kennet and Avon canal corridor. There are opportunities for creation of new riparian woodlands, hedgerow planting and restoration of waterside pasture. The clear skylines and backdrop of the surrounding slope should be maintained.*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).

## Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Hampshire Avon Catchment Management Plan 2014
- Kennet and Avon Canal Trust Restoration Project
- Wiltshire Invasive Plants Project (WIPP)
- Catchment Sensitive Farming

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- North Wessex Downs Farmland Bird Project
- The 'Stepping Stones' Chalk Grasslands Project

## **(6) HAMPSHIRE AVON & SALISBURY PLAIN STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Hampshire Avon & Salisbury Plain Strategic GBI Area, in the east of Wiltshire, includes the largest area of unimproved chalk downland in northwest Europe.

It is internationally important for both its chalk grassland and chalk rivers, as well as for the many notable animal and plant species associated with both of these habitats.

Salisbury Plain has been owned and managed by the Ministry of Defence since the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and since then has been the site for the UK's largest military training area.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 132. Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs

### **River Catchments:**

- South West River Basin District (part)
- Hampshire Avon Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 8. Salisbury Plain

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 3. High Chalk Plain (part)
- 5. Chalk River Valley (part)

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The Hampshire Avon & Salisbury Plain Strategic GBI Area falls within the Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs National Character Area (132).

### Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs (132)

- *SEO 1: Protect, manage and enhance the landscape of large areas of calcareous chalk grassland, and develop network connectivity, supporting internationally important and designated semi-natural habitats and species assemblages – from birds to bumblebees – and thus support biodiversity.*
- *SEO 2: Protect, manage and enhance the (Hampshire) River Avon system, working in partnership notably with the regional farming community to improve the habitat for flora and fauna and improving biodiversity, developing the scope for climate regulation and for regulation of water flow and water quality.*
- *SEO 3: Protect, conserve and sustainably manage the NCA's rich historic and archaeological resource, notably the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and its surrounding landscape, and its natural and cultural heritage, for its value in sense of place and history and tranquillity, for open air recreation, and for the benefits it brings to the local and regional economy.*

- *SEO 4: Protect and enhance the NCA's agriculture interest, working with the local farming community to prepare for the impact of and adapt to both evolving funding mechanisms and climate change, to secure future food provision, while working in harmony with the nationally recognised and distinctive character of the landscape, its natural beauty and scenic quality and, so far as possible, extending the scope for access to nature and other recreation, for public benefit, understanding and enjoyment.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Hampshire Avon & Salisbury Plain Strategic Area are summarised in the Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs National Character Area Profile (132).

### **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Hampshire Avon Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

### **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities**

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Hampshire Avon & Salisbury Plain Strategic GBI Area are:

#### **8. Salisbury Plain LBA**

- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland, Chalk downland butterflies, Farmland birds and arable plants
- Rivers: Chalk rivers
- Woodland

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the **Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013)**.



## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Hampshire Avon & Salisbury Plain Strategic GBI Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **High Chalk Plain Landscape Character Type (3)** is to conserve the open and isolated character of the plain along with the vast areas of calcareous grass land and sites of historic interest.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Chalk River Valley Landscape Character Type (5)** is to conserve the tranquil, intimate and rural character of the landscape. This will include maintenance of key features including permanent pasture, wet grassland and riparian woodlands and historic features associated with the mills and water meadows, historic parklands and vernacular villages. There are opportunities for restoration of waterside pastures, replanting and management of hedgerows and limited native tree planting/regeneration.*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).

## Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Hampshire Avon Catchment Management Plan 2014
- Wiltshire Invasive Plants Project (WIPP)
- Catchment Sensitive Farming

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- The 'Stepping Stones' chalk grasslands project
- RSPB's 'Wiltshire Chalk Country' Futurescapes project
- Butterfly Conservation's 'Duke of Burgundy project'
- Wessex Stone Curlew project
- North Wessex Downs and South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Projects

## **(7) TEST AND ITCHEN & CHUTE FOREST STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Test and Itchen & Chute Forest Strategic GBI Area, on the eastern edge of Wiltshire, is an area of chalk upland which supports extensive areas of woodland and a dense network of hedgerows and trees.

The rolling, wooded downland is dissected by a number of dry valleys and bournes creating a much more intimate landscape than the wide, open spaces of the other chalk downlands of the area.

The remnants of the Royal Chute Forest dominate the southern section of the area, where the landscape exhibits a typical assarted character.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 130. Hampshire Downs (part)

### **River Catchments:**

- South East River Basin District (part)
- Test and Itchen Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 8. Salisbury Plain (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 2. Wooded Downland

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The Test and Itchen & Chute Forest Strategic GBI Area falls within the Hampshire Downs National Character Area (130).

### Hampshire Downs (130)

- *SEO 1: In the catchments of the rivers Test and Itchen, work with partners, landowners, land and river managers, user groups, businesses and local communities to implement sustainable management regimes that conserve, enhance and restore the priority habitats and species of the watercourses and associated wetlands.*
- *SEO 2: Ensure that the remnant areas of biodiversity-rich chalk grassland are retained and managed to ensure good condition, and seek opportunities to restore areas in poor condition and extend the area of this habitat. Protect and manage the associated historic features of these sites.*
- *SEO 3: Work with landowners and the farming community to encourage sustainable food and fodder production that also retains or enhances landscape character, provides habitats for wildlife, and minimises the impacts on ecosystems such as water and soil and on the historic features in the landscape.*

- *SEO 4: Encourage woodland management regimes that: ensure good condition of priority habitats and species; maximise the potential ecosystem benefits of woodland such as carbon sequestration, water quality and regulation, timber provision, recreation and biomass potential; and enhance the landscape visually.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Test and Itchen & Chute Forest Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Hampshire Downs National Character Area Profile (130).

### **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Test and Itchen Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.



## Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Test and Itchen & Chute Forest Strategic GBI Area are:

### 8. Salisbury Plain LBA

- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland, Chalk downland butterflies, Farmland birds and arable plants
- Rivers: Chalk rivers
- Woodland

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).

## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Test and Itchen & Chute Forest Strategic Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **Wooded Downland Landscape Character Type (2)** is to conserve the highly rural, peaceful character of the type with its highly distinctive and varied topography with landcover of woodland and arable mix, grassland scarps and valleys with small sheltered villages and sparse scattered farmsteads. Elements requiring restoration are field boundaries and hedgerow trees.*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).

## **Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects**

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Test & Itchen Catchment Action Plan
- River Test and Itchen River Restoration Plan
- Catchment Sensitive Farming/ Agri-environment schemes

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- The 'Stepping Stones' chalk grasslands project

## **(8) TEST AND ITCHEN & THE NEW FOREST STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Test and Itchen and the New Forest Strategic GBI Area, on the south eastern edge of Wiltshire is characterised by a highly wooded landscape in the north and south and separated in the middle by an area of chalk on which areas of calcareous grassland occur.

Woodlands comprise a mix of habitats including high canopies of oak and other deciduous species alongside areas of neutral grassland.

Containing many areas of ancient woodland, the area is well known for its diversity and abundance of butterfly species.

Further south the area is characterised by abundant acid woodland and conifer plantations, together with heathland and bog habitats.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 131. New Forest (part)
- 132. Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs (part)

### **River Catchments:**

- South East River Basin District (part)
- Test and Itchen Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 11. Tytherley and Langley Woods

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 14. Forest-Heathland Mosaic (part)
- 2. Wooded Downland (part)

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The majority of the Test and Itchen & the New Forest Strategic GBI Area falls within the Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs National Character Area (132), and a small part falls within the New Forest National Character Area (131).

### Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs (132)

- *SEO 1: Protect, manage and enhance the landscape of large areas of calcareous chalk grassland, and develop network connectivity, supporting internationally important and designated semi-natural habitats and species assemblages – from birds to bumblebees – and thus support biodiversity.*
- *SEO 2: Protect, manage and enhance the (Hampshire) River Avon system, working in partnership notably with the regional farming community to improve the habitat for flora and fauna and improving biodiversity, developing the scope for climate regulation and for regulation of water flow and water quality.*
- *SEO 3: Protect, conserve and sustainably manage the NCA's rich historic and archaeological resource, notably the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and its surrounding landscape, and its natural and cultural heritage, for its value in sense of place and history and tranquillity, for open air recreation, and for the benefits it brings to the local and regional economy.*

- *SEO 4: Protect and enhance the NCA's agriculture interest, working with the local farming community to prepare for the impact of and adapt to both evolving funding mechanisms and climate change, to secure future food provision, while working in harmony with the nationally recognised and distinctive character of the landscape, its natural beauty and scenic quality and, so far as possible, extending the scope for access to nature and other recreation, for public benefit, understanding and enjoyment.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Test and Itchen & the New Forest Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs National Character Area Profile (132).



### New Forest (131)

- *SEO 1: Ensure that the internationally designated landscapes, habitats and species of the ancient woodland, wood pasture, inclosures, heaths and mires, forming the open access core of the National Park are maintained and enhanced, enabling them to support and benefit from the continuation of traditional commoners' grazing. This will help to retain the cultural and historic features of this landscape, and maintain multiple ecosystem service benefits, particularly biodiversity, water regulation, carbon sequestration, sense of place and tranquillity, and recreation.*
- *SEO 2: Conserve and improve local distinctiveness in the traditional commoners' smallholdings, enclosed pastures, farmsteads, hamlets and settlements on the Forest fringe. These have strong functional and habitat links with the heaths, woodlands and wood pastures, and reflect the historic social, cultural and pastoral economic traditions of the landscape. Retention of these links is essential to maintain habitats, support continued commoning and retain a key element of the visitor experience.*
- *SEO 3: Promote the extent of open access, the high-quality semi-natural environment and the strong sense of human history as a special landscape for recreation and tourism, and for the enhancement of health and wellbeing. Use opportunities to raise visitor awareness of these qualities, their sensitivities and management requirements, and the economic and social benefits of the visitor economy.*

- *SEO 5: Support and develop the 'catchment project' across the internationally recognised aquatic environments of the New Forest, Hampshire Avon and Blackwater drainage systems. The aim will be to achieve co-ordinated and multiple benefits for habitats and species, recreational use, water and carbon retention and water quality, climate change resilience, flood regulation and flood alleviation while reducing soil erosion and agricultural run-off.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Test and Itchen & the New Forest Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the New Forest National Character Area Profile (131).

### **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Test and Itchen Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

### **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities**

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Test and Itchen and the New Forest Strategic GBI Area are:

#### **11. Tytherley and Langley Woods LBA**

- Woodland: Ancient Woodland, Mosaic of heath, bog and wet habitats, Woodland butterflies, Bats
- Rivers and streams
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).

## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Test and Itchen and the New Forest Strategic Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **Forest-Heathland Mosaic Landscape Character Type (14)** is to conserve the peaceful rural and enclosed nature of the area and its rich diversity of woodland, wood pasture, parkland, heathland and pastoral and arable farmland along with the settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads, roadside cottages, villages and dwellings alongside commons linked by rural roads.*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).

## Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Test & Itchen Catchment Action Plan
- River Test and Itchen River Restoration Plan
- Catchment Sensitive Farming/ Agri-environment schemes

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- The Deer Initiative (with Butterfly Conservation)

## **(9) HAMPSHIRE AVON & CRANBORNE CHASE AND WEST WILTSHIRE DOWNS STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Hampshire Avon & Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Strategic GBI Area, in the south of Wiltshire, is characterised by open chalk downland with some significant areas of woodlands.

Much of the woodlands are of ancient woodland types, particularly on the clay with flint deposits of the plateaus of the West Wiltshire Downs.

The downlands are used extensively for agriculture and have large arable fields, with areas of unimproved chalk grassland mainly confined to the steep scarps and ridges which have avoided intensive agricultural practices.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 132. Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs
- 133. Blackmoor Vale and Vale of Wardour
- 134. Dorset Downs & Cranborne Chase

### **River Catchments:**

- South West River Basin District (part)
- Hampshire Avon Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 9. West Wiltshire and Cranborne Chase Downs
- 10. Warminster and the Vale of Wardour (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 2. Wooded Downland (part)
- 3. High Chalk Plain (part)
- 5. Chalk River Valley (part)
- 6. Greensand Terrace (part)
- 7. Wooded Greensand Hills (part)
- 17. Broad Chalk River Valley Slopes



## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The majority of the Hampshire Avon & Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Strategic GBI Area falls within the Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs National Character Area (132) and the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase National Character Area (134), and a small part falls within the Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour National Character Area (133).

### Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs (132)

- *SEO 1: Protect, manage and enhance the landscape of large areas of calcareous chalk grassland, and develop network connectivity, supporting internationally important and designated semi-natural habitats and species assemblages – from birds to bumblebees – and thus support biodiversity.*
- *SEO 2: Protect, manage and enhance the (Hampshire) River Avon system, working in partnership notably with the regional farming community to improve the habitat for flora and fauna and improving biodiversity, developing the scope for climate regulation and for regulation of water flow and water quality.*

- *SEO 3: Protect, conserve and sustainably manage the NCA's rich historic and archaeological resource, notably the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and its surrounding landscape, and its natural and cultural heritage, for its value in sense of place and history and tranquillity, for open air recreation, and for the benefits it brings to the local and regional economy.*
- *SEO 4: Protect and enhance the NCA's agriculture interest, working with the local farming community to prepare for the impact of and adapt to both evolving funding mechanisms and climate change, to secure future food provision, while working in harmony with the nationally recognised and distinctive character of the landscape, its natural beauty and scenic quality and, so far as possible, extending the scope for access to nature and other recreation, for public benefit, understanding and enjoyment.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Hampshire Avon & Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs National Character Area Profile (132).

#### Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (134)

- *SEO1: Plan for and manage changes in the agricultural landscape by encouraging and supporting business choices that balance food production with protecting soils and water, enhancing ecosystems (particularly those associated with semi-natural grasslands) and restoring ecosystem services.*
- *SEO2: Manage and enhance the historic character of the NCA, including the rich assemblage of settlement and field patterns, heritage features (including prehistoric assets), and the patterns of woodland, vegetation and geodiversity that give the NCA its sense of place.*
- *SEO3: Manage and enhance the recreational and educational potential of the NCA in a way that clearly shows the links between people and the landscape, and between geodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide. Aim to heighten people's enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of the NCA, as well as their ability to take positive, informed action to enjoy and conserve their surroundings.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Hampshire Avon & Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase National Character Area Profile (134).

#### Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour (133)

- *SEO 1: Protect, manage and enhance the diverse but coherent pastoral landscape character of the clay vales, limestone ridge and Greensand hills, their semi-natural grasslands and woodland and their characteristic wildlife, and manage the simple patterns of land use maintained by the long history of agriculture.*
- *SEO 2: Work with local people to raise their understanding of the way in which the area's strong landscape character, sense of place and distinctive wildlife are rooted in the continuity of agricultural land use, strong historic landscape character and legibility of historic features.*
- *SEO 3: Work with the local farming and land management community to maintain the distinctive landscape and natural beauty of the area, enhancing ecosystems and ecosystem services.*
- *SEO 4: Protect, manage and enhance the Vale of Wardour's highly distinctive relationship between geology, landform and land use. Protect, manage and interpret the suite of national and Local Geological Sites.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Hampshire Avon & Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour National Character Area Profile (133).

## Catchment Management Priorities

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Hampshire Avon Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

## Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Hampshire Avon & Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Strategic GBI Area are:

### 9. West Wiltshire and Cranborne Chase Downs

- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland, Downland birds and butterflies
- Rivers: Chalk rivers
- Woodland: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, Bats

### 10. Warminster and the Vale of Wardour

- Woodland: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, Bats
- Woodland and neutral grassland: Neutral grassland
- Neutral Grassland: Unimproved neutral grassland
- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland and butterflies
- Rivers: Chalk Rivers

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).

## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Hampshire Avon & Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Strategic Area are:

- The overall management strategy for the **Wooded Downland Landscape Character Type (2)** is to conserve the highly rural, peaceful character of the type with its highly distinctive and varied topography with landcover of woodland and arable mix, grassland scarps and valleys with small sheltered villages and sparse scattered farmsteads. Elements requiring restoration are field boundaries and hedgerow trees.
- The overall management strategy for the **High Chalk Plain Landscape Character Type (3)** is to conserve the open and isolated character of the plain along with the vast areas of calcareous grass land and sites of historic interest.
- The overall management strategy for the **Chalk River Valley Landscape Character Type (5)** is to conserve the tranquil, intimate and rural character of the landscape. This will include maintenance of key features including permanent pasture, wet grassland and riparian woodlands and historic features associated with the mills and water meadows, historic parklands and vernacular villages. There are opportunities for restoration of waterside pastures, replanting and management of hedgerows and limited native tree planting/regeneration.

- The overall management strategy for the **Greensand Terrace Landscape Character Type (6)** is to conserve the open farmed character of the terrace with its distinct pattern of settlement and the contrast with the adjacent escarpment. Restoration of lost and/or declining features such as field boundaries and woodland will increase the quality and visual integrity of the landscape as well as its ecological value.
- The overall management strategy for the **Wooded Greensand Hills Landscape Character Type (7)** is to conserve the woodland, parkland and the mosaic of pastures and meadows that characterise the landscape along with the small-scale villages, ancient sunken lanes and the largely intact pattern of small irregular fields bounded by ditched and banked hedgerows. Some aspects of the landscape require enhancement, in particular where hedgerows have been lost or flailed and hedgerow trees lost.
- The overall management strategy for the **Broad Chalk River Valley Slopes Landscape Character Type (17)** is to conserve the remaining patches of semi-natural grassland and site and setting of archaeological monuments.

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).



## **Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects**

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Hampshire Avon Catchment Management Plan 2014
- Catchment Sensitive Farming/Agri-environment schemes
- Wessex Chalk Streams Project

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- The 'Stepping Stones' chalk grasslands project
- 'New Life for Chalk Downland' Project
- Wessex Stone Curlew project
- South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Project
- Cranborne Chase Ancient Woodland Project
- Wiltshire Batscapes project

## **(10) HAMPSHIRE AVON & THE VALE OF WARDOUR STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Hampshire Avon & the Vale of Wardour Strategic GBI Area, in the south of Wiltshire, incorporates the Vale of Wardour, an area of clay vale and wooded hills that contrasts greatly with the adjoining areas of open chalk downland to the north and east.

The River Nadder, flows through the Vale north-eastwards from Donhead St Mary towards Salisbury. Its clean waters are home to native brown trout, whilst lowland meadows and areas of purple moor grass and rush pasture can be found closely associated along their course.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 133. Blackmoor Vale and Vale of Wardour

### **River Catchments:**

- South West River Basin District (part)
- Hampshire Avon Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 10. Warminster and the Vale of Wardour (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 6. Greensand Terrace (part)
- 7. Wooded Greensand Hills (part)
- 13. Wooded Clay Vale

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The Hampshire Avon & the Vale of Wardour Strategic GBI Area falls within the Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour National Character Area (133).

### Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour (133)

- *SEO 1: Protect, manage and enhance the diverse but coherent pastoral landscape character of the clay vales, limestone ridge and Greensand hills, their semi-natural grasslands and woodland and their characteristic wildlife, and manage the simple patterns of land use maintained by the long history of agriculture.*
- *SEO 2: Work with local people to raise their understanding of the way in which the area's strong landscape character, sense of place and distinctive wildlife are rooted in the continuity of agricultural land use, strong historic landscape character and legibility of historic features.*
- *SEO 3: Work with the local farming and land management community to maintain the distinctive landscape and natural beauty of the area, enhancing ecosystems and ecosystem services.*
- *SEO 4: Protect, manage and enhance the Vale of Wardour's highly distinctive relationship between geology, landform and land use. Protect, manage and interpret the suite of national and Local Geological Sites.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Hampshire Avon & the Vale of Wardour Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour National Character Area Profile (133).

### **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Hampshire Avon Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

### **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities**

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Hampshire Avon & the Vale of Wardour Strategic GBI Area are:

#### **10. Warminster and the Vale of Wardour**

- Woodland: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, Bats
- Woodland and neutral grassland: Neutral grassland
- Neutral Grassland: Unimproved neutral grassland
- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland and butterflies
- Rivers: Chalk Rivers

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).



## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Hampshire Avon & the Vale of Wardour Strategic Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **Greensand Terrace Landscape Character Type (6)** is to conserve the open farmed character of the terrace with its distinct pattern of settlement and the contrast with the adjacent escarpment. Restoration of lost and/or declining features such as field boundaries and woodland will increase the quality and visual integrity of the landscape as well as its ecological value.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Wooded Greensand Hills Landscape Character Type (7)** is to conserve the woodland, parkland and the mosaic of pastures and meadows that characterise the landscape along with the small-scale villages, ancient sunken lanes and the largely intact pattern of small irregular fields bounded by ditched and banked hedgerows. Some aspects of the landscape require enhancement, in particular where hedgerows have been lost or flailed and hedgerow trees lost.*

- *The overall management strategy for the **Wooded Clay Vale Landscape Character Type (13)** is to conserve the pastoral, wooded character of the vale, its diversity of habitats, scattered trees, consistent settlement pattern and traditional building materials while restoring elements of the landscape that are in decline. Key features to restore are the hedgerows, hedgerow trees and characteristic rural signage.*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).

## **Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects**

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Hampshire Avon Catchment Management Plan 2014
- Catchment Sensitive Farming/Agri-environment schemes
- Wessex Chalk Streams Project

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- The 'Stepping Stones' chalk grasslands project
- Cranborne Chase Ancient Woodland Project
- Wiltshire Batscapes project

## **(11) DORSET STOUR VALE & HILLS STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Dorset Stour Vale and Hills Strategic GBI Area, on the south western edge of Wiltshire, is an area of rolling clay defined by mix of pastures and arable crops.

Small to medium sized woodlands are common features.

Field pattern includes small to medium scale irregular fields, predominantly bounded by hedgerows, with significant numbers of hedgerow trees in places.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 132. Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs
- 133. Blackmoor Vale and Vale of Wardour

### **River Catchments:**

- South West River Basin District (part)
- Dorset Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 10. Warminster and the Vale of Wardour (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 2. Wooded Downland
- 6. Greensand Terrace (part)
- 13. Wooded Clay Vale

## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The Dorset Stour Vale and Hills Strategic GBI Area predominantly falls within the Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour National Character Area (133).

### Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour (133)

- *SEO 1: Protect, manage and enhance the diverse but coherent pastoral landscape character of the clay vales, limestone ridge and Greensand hills, their semi-natural grasslands and woodland and their characteristic wildlife, and manage the simple patterns of land use maintained by the long history of agriculture.*
- *SEO 2: Work with local people to raise their understanding of the way in which the area's strong landscape character, sense of place and distinctive wildlife are rooted in the continuity of agricultural land use, strong historic landscape character and legibility of historic features.*
- *SEO 3: Work with the local farming and land management community to maintain the distinctive landscape and natural beauty of the area, enhancing ecosystems and ecosystem services.*

- *SEO 4: Protect, manage and enhance the Vale of Wardour's highly distinctive relationship between geology, landform and land use. Protect, manage and interpret the suite of national and Local Geological Sites.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Dorset Stour Vale and Hills Strategic GBI Area are summarised in the Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour National Character Area Profile (133).



### **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Stour Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

### **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities**

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Dorset Stour Vale and Hills Strategic GBI Area are:

#### **10. Warminster and the Vale of Wardour**

- Woodland: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, Bats
- Woodland and neutral grassland: Neutral grassland
- Neutral Grassland: Unimproved neutral grassland
- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland and butterflies
- Rivers: Chalk Rivers

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).

## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Dorset Stour Vale and Hills Strategic Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **Wooded Downland Landscape Character Type (2)** is to conserve the highly rural, peaceful character of the type with its highly distinctive and varied topography with landcover of woodland and arable mix, grassland scarps and valleys with small sheltered villages and sparse scattered farmsteads. Elements requiring restoration are field boundaries and hedgerow trees.*
- *The overall management strategy for the **Greensand Terrace Landscape Character Type (6)** is to conserve the open farmed character of the terrace with its distinct pattern of settlement and the contrast with the adjacent escarpment. Restoration of lost and/or declining features such as field boundaries and woodland will increase the quality and visual integrity of the landscape as well as its ecological value.*

- *The overall management strategy for the **Wooded Clay Vale Landscape Character Type (13)** is to conserve the pastoral, wooded character of the vale, its diversity of habitats, scattered trees, consistent settlement pattern and traditional building materials while restoring elements of the landscape that are in decline. Key features to restore are the hedgerows, hedgerow trees and characteristic rural signage.*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).

## **Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects**

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Stour Catchment Plan 2015
- Catchment Sensitive Farming/Agri-environment schemes
- Wessex Chalk Streams Project

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- The 'Stepping Stones' chalk grasslands project
- Cranborne Chase Ancient Woodland Project
- Wiltshire Batscapes project

## **(12) DORSET STOUR & CRANBORNE CHASE DOWNS STRATEGIC GBI AREA**

The Dorset Stour and Cranborne Chase Downs Strategic GBI Area, in the north of Wiltshire, is a diverse landscape, comprising a mixture of dramatic chalk valleys, ridges and plateaux, diverse woodland, copses, shelterbelts and parkland trees.

Beech hedgerows provide dramatic seasonal colour change.

### **National Character Areas:**

- 134. Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase

### **River Catchments:**

- South West River Basin District (part)
- Dorset Catchment (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Biodiversity Areas:**

- 9. West Wiltshire and Cranborne Chase Downs (part)

### **Wiltshire Landscape Character Types:**

- 2. Wooded Downland



## National Character Area Statements of Environmental Opportunities

The Dorset Stour & Cranborne Chase Downs Strategic GBI Area predominantly falls within the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase National Character Area (134).

### Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (134)

- *SEO1: Plan for and manage changes in the agricultural landscape by encouraging and supporting business choices that balance food production with protecting soils and water, enhancing ecosystems (particularly those associated with semi-natural grasslands) and restoring ecosystem services.*
- *SEO2: Manage and enhance the historic character of the NCA, including the rich assemblage of settlement and field patterns, heritage features (including prehistoric assets), and the patterns of woodland, vegetation and geodiversity that give the NCA its sense of place.*
- *SEO3: Manage and enhance the recreational and educational potential of the NCA in a way that clearly shows the links between people and the landscape, and between geodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide. Aim to heighten people's enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of the NCA, as well as their ability to take positive, informed action to enjoy and conserve their surroundings.*

The predominant ecosystem services provided in the Dorset Stour and Cranborne Chase Downs Strategic GBI Area, are summarised in the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase National Character Area Profile (134).

### **Catchment Management Priorities**

Relevant priorities for improving management of GBI assets in the Stour Strategic GBI Corridor are highlighted in **Section 3.0**.

### **Landscape-Scale Biodiversity Priorities & Opportunities**

Priority habitats within the relevant Landscape Biodiversity Areas (LBA) that are key GBI assets, within the Dorset Stour and Cranborne Chase Downs Strategic GBI Area are:

#### **9. West Wiltshire and Cranborne Chase Downs**

- Chalk Downland: Lowland calcareous grassland, Downland birds and butterflies
- Rivers: Chalk rivers
- Woodland: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, Bats

Priorities and target areas (Strategic Nature Areas) for conservation of the above priority habitats are set out in the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework (2013).

## Landscape Character Priorities & Opportunities

Landscape management priorities for improving GBI assets in the relevant Wiltshire Landscape Character Types within the Dorset Stour and Cranborne Chase Downs Strategic Area are:

- *The overall management strategy for the **Wooded Downland Landscape Character Type (2)** is to conserve the highly rural, peaceful character of the type with its highly distinctive and varied topography with landcover of woodland and arable mix, grassland scarps and valleys with small sheltered villages and sparse scattered farmsteads. Elements requiring restoration are field boundaries and hedgerow trees.*

Information on broad objectives for improving management of GBI assets within the above Landscape Character Types are set out in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (Volume 2, Draft, 2019).

## Existing Strategic GBI Delivery Initiatives & Projects

### Catchment Management Initiatives and Projects:

- Stour Catchment Plan 2015
- Catchment Sensitive Farming/Agri-environment schemes
- Wessex Chalk Streams Project

### Biodiversity Initiatives and Projects:

- The 'Stepping Stones' chalk grasslands project
- Cranborne Chase Ancient Woodland Project
- Wiltshire Batscapes project

## 4.2 Wiltshire B-Lines Network Opportunities for Pollinators

- 4.2.1 Buglife has identified a network of c.3km wide “B-Lines” corridors highlighting opportunities to connect existing and potential wildflower-rich grassland habitats, designated wildlife sites, nature reserves and priority habitats across Wiltshire and beyond for pollinators.
- 4.2.2 Wiltshire B-Lines is part of Buglife’s vision to create a network of wildflower-rich habitats across the UK to support the recovery of endangered pollinator insects such as bees and butterflies (see **Box 4.2**). Pollination is an important regulating ecosystem service that provides a range of benefits to wildlife, people and agriculture.

### Box 4.2 – Buglife’s B-Lines Vision

Developed in response to the National Pollinator Strategy for England with funding from Defra, B-Lines are an imaginative and beautiful solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators.

The B-Lines are a series of ‘insect pathways’ running through our countryside and towns, along which we are restoring and creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones.

They link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network, like a railway, that will weave across the British landscape. This will provide large areas of brand new habitat benefiting bees and butterflies – but also a host of other wildlife.

4.2.3 Buglife’s objectives for delivering the B-Lines vision are to:

- Restore and create high quality wildflower-rich habitats, helping conserve populations of a wide range of native insect pollinators and other wildlife, thereby contributing towards biodiversity targets.
- Link small fragments of habitat, helping wildlife respond to climate change by assisting species movement and dispersal.
- Create large expanses of attractive flower-rich habitats for the amenity benefit of local communities, bringing people closer to nature.
- Benefit the farming sector by increasing the number of insect pollinators to aid pollination of crops.
- Engage farmers, land owners, conservation partners, businesses, local authorities and the general public in helping create the B-Lines network.

Further information can be found on the [Buglife B-Lines Initiative Webpages](#).



## 4.3 Local GBI Needs & Opportunities

- 4.3.1 Key needs and opportunities for improving Local GBI Networks are highlighted in the Settlement GBI Frameworks for the Principal Settlements and Market Towns identified for growth in the new Local Plan over the period to 2036 (see **Box 4.3** and **Map 2.17**).

### **Box 4.3 – List of Potential Settlement GBI Frameworks**

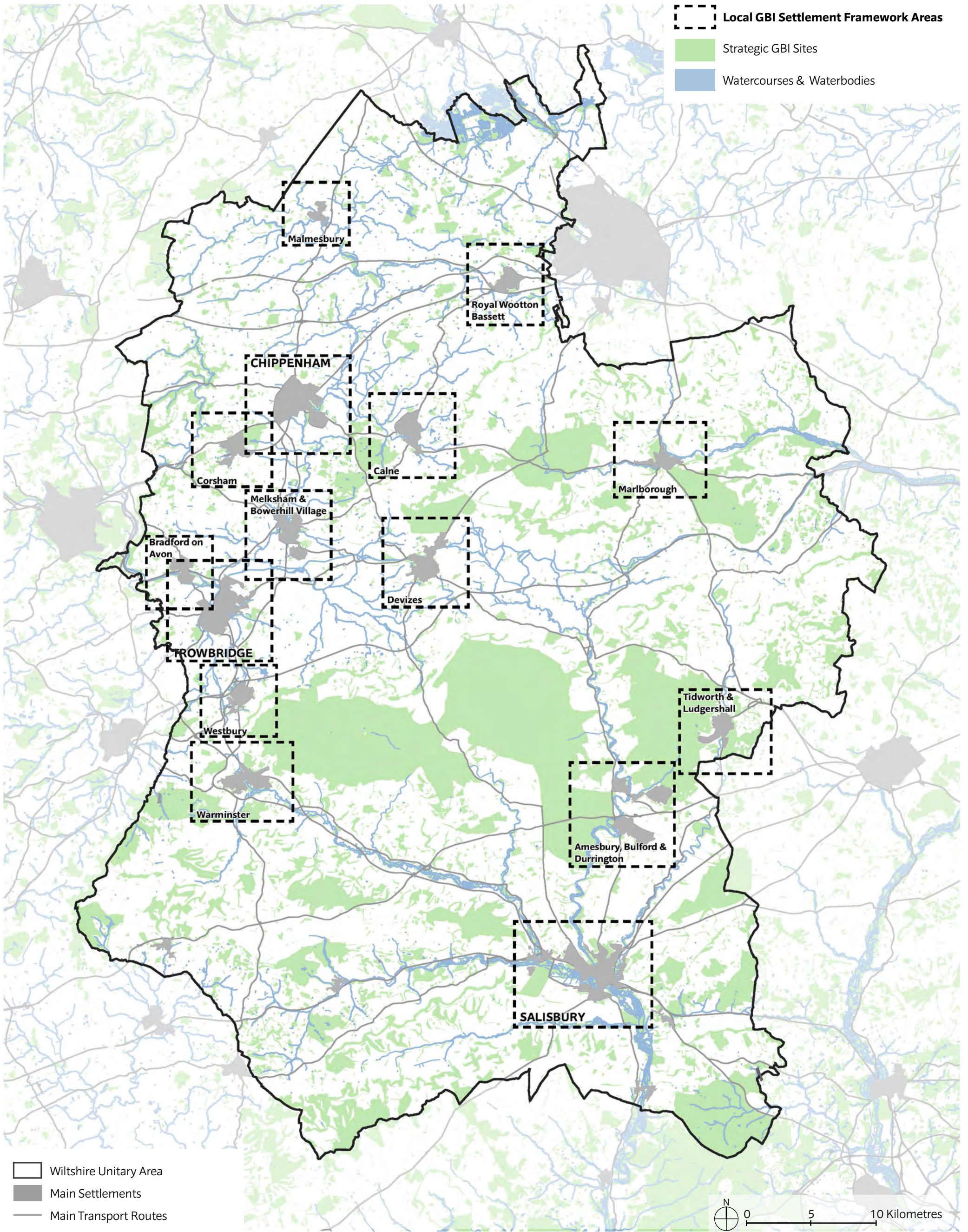
Principal Settlements:

- Chippenham
- Salisbury
- Trowbridge

Market Towns:

- Amesbury, Bulford & Durrington
- Bradford on Avon
- Calne
- Corsham
- Devizes
- Malmesbury
- Marlborough
- Melksham & Bowerhill Village
- Royal Wootton Bassett
- Tidworth & Ludgershall
- Warminster
- Westbury







## APPENDICES

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **STATUTORY & POLICY FRAMEWORK**

#### **International Conventions**

UN Sustainable Development Goals

European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, 2000)

Convention on Biological Diversity (United Nations Environment Programme, 1992)

#### **National Legislation, Policy & Guidance**

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2018)

Environment Act 2021

Agriculture Act 2020

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019

The England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024

National Pollinator Strategy 2014-2024 (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2014)

National Planning Policy Framework – Chapter 15 on the Natural Environment (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Revised July 2021)

Planning Practice Guidance on the Natural Environment (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Updated July 2019)

Planning Practice Guidance on Plan-making (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, July 2020)

Planning Practice Guidance on Climate Change (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, March 2019)

Planning Practice Guidance on Flood Risk and Coastal Change (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, March 2014)

Planning Practice Guidance on Healthy and Safe Communities (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, November 2019)

Planning Practice Guidance on Open Space (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, March 2014)

Planning Practice Guidance on Green Belt (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, July 2019)

Planning Practice Guidance on Air Quality (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, November 2019)

Planning Practice Guidance on Noise (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, July 2019)



Planning Practice Guidance on Contamination (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, July 2019)

National Design Guide: Planning Practice Guidance for Beautiful, Enduring & Successful Places (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2019)

National Green Infrastructure Standards Framework – Phase 1 (Natural England, 2021)

A Rapid Scoping Review of Health and Well-being Evidence for the Green Infrastructure Standards Framework (Natural England, 2020)

Making Space for Nature: Review of England's Wildlife Sites & Ecological Network (Lawton et al. for Defra, 2010)

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife & ecosystem services (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2011)

Green Infrastructure Guidance (Natural England, 2009)

Green Infrastructure: An integrated approach to land use - Position Statement (Landscape Institute, 2013)

Green Infrastructure Briefing Note (RTPI, 2013)

Good Practice Guidance for Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity (TCPA/WT, 2012)

## Local Planning Policy & Guidance

The Wiltshire Development Plan for the period to 2026 comprises:

- Wiltshire Core Strategy (Wiltshire Council, Adopted January 2015)
- Chippenham Site Allocations Plan (Wiltshire Council, Adopted May 2017)
- Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (Wiltshire Council, Adopted February 2020)
- Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals & Waste DPDs (Wiltshire Council & Swindon Council, Adopted 2009-2013)
- Neighbourhood Plans<sup>11</sup>:
  - Ashton Keynes
  - Bradford on Avon
  - Bremhill
  - Broad Chalke
  - Burbage
  - Calne Town & Calne Without
  - Chirton and Conock
  - Christian Malford
  - Compton Bassett
  - Corsham
  - Cricklade
  - Crudwell
  - Devizes
  - Downton

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<sup>11</sup>Made plans as of 14 January 2022

- Freshford and Limpley Stoke
  - Great Somerford (incorporating Startley)
  - Hilperton
  - Hindon
  - Holt
  - Hullavington
  - Idmiston
  - Langley Burrell
  - Lydiard Millicent
  - Lyneham and Bradenstoke
  - Malmesbury
  - Market Lavington
  - Melksham
  - North Bradley
  - Oaksey
  - Pewsey
  - Potterne
  - Purton
  - Royal Wootton Bassett
  - Seagry
  - Seend
  - Sherston
  - Tisbury and West Tisbury
  - Tockenham
  - Urchfont, Wedhampton and Lydeway
  - Warminster
  - West Lavington
  - The Winterbournes
  - Wooton Rivers
- Wiltshire Core Strategy - Infrastructure Delivery Plan 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Wiltshire Council, December 2016)
  - Wiltshire Core Strategy - Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (Wiltshire Council, Approved May 2015)
  - Wiltshire Core Strategy - Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (Wiltshire Council, Adopted October 2016)
  - Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy SPD – Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC (Wiltshire Council, Adopted February 2020)

## APPENDIX 2 EVIDENCE BASE

### Green Infrastructure Strategy & Policy Evidence

South East Green Infrastructure Framework (Land Use Consultants on behalf of a partnership of regional organisations, 2009)

Wiltshire Core Strategy – Core Policy 52 Green Infrastructure (Wiltshire Council, Adopted January 2015)

Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Topic Paper 11: Green Infrastructure (Wiltshire Council, January 2012)

Wiltshire & Swindon State of the Environment 2013 Report (Wiltshire & Swindon LNP, 2013)

Green Infrastructure Plan for the Cricklade Country Way (Wiltshire Council/Swindon Borough Council, 2011)

Green Infrastructure Strategies in Adjacent Authorities:

- A Green Infrastructure Strategy for **Swindon** 2010-2026 – Revised Consultation Document (Swindon Borough Council, February 2011)
- A Green Infrastructure Strategy for **Test Valley** 2014- 2019 (Test Valley Borough Council, 2014)
- **South Hampshire** Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017-2034 (PUSH, Updated 2018)
- Investing in Green Places – **South East Dorset** Green Infrastructure Strategy (Councils in SE Dorset, July 2011)
- **West of England** Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework (Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bristol & North Somerset Councils, May 2011)
- Valuing People, Place and Nature – a Green Infrastructure Strategy for **Bath & North East Somerset** (Bath & North East Somerset Council, 2013)
- A Strategic Framework for Green Infrastructure in **Gloucestershire** (Gloucestershire County Council/Gloucestershire LNP, 2015)
- **Cotswold** Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Play Space Strategy (Cotswold District Council, 2017)

## Biodiversity Evidence

Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP Steering Group, 2010)

Landscape Biodiversity Areas: A landscape-scale framework for conservation in Wiltshire & Swindon (Wiltshire & Swindon BAP Steering Group, July 2013)

Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records  
(Species/Habitats/Designated Sites Data) [wsbrc.org.uk](https://wsbrc.org.uk)

Wiltshire BAP Priority Habitats of Principal Importance for Conservation

## Economic Evidence

Swindon & Wiltshire Local Industrial Strategy (Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, 2019)

Measuring Natural Capital for the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Industrial Strategy (University of Bath & Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, May 2020)

VisitWiltshire Business Plan

## Health & Well-being, Open Spaces & Recreation Evidence

Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2022 (Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Board, 2019)

Wiltshire Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2014-2021 (Wiltshire Council & Wiltshire CCG, 2014)

Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2017-18, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Board, 2018)

Wiltshire Open Space Study 2015-2026 (Wiltshire Council, 2015)

Wiltshire Open Space Study Update – Green Space Survey (Ethos for Wiltshire Council, Spring 2020)

Wiltshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2015-2025: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2 (Wiltshire Council, 2015)

Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 – Cycling Strategy (Wiltshire Council, 2014)

Air Quality Strategy & Action Plan for Wiltshire 2019-2024 (Wiltshire Council, 2019)

The Ridge Way/Thames Path National Trails Plans

Country Parks/Open Spaces Management Plans

## Landscape Evidence

National Character Areas Profiles:

- Upper Thames Clay Vales (108)
- Cotswolds (107)
- Avon Vales (117)
- Berkshire and Marlborough Downs (116)
- Hampshire Downs (130)
- New Forest (131)
- Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs (132)
- Blackmoor Vale and the Vale of Wardour (133)
- Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (134)

Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (CBA on behalf of Wiltshire Council, January 2021)

Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 (Cotswold Conservation Board, Adopted September 2018)

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment (LDA for Cotswolds AONB Unit, 2003)

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy & Guidelines (Cotswolds AONB Unit, 2016)

North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 (North Wessex Downs Council of Partners, Adopted 2019)

North Wessex Downs AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (LUC for North Wessex Downs AONB Unit, 2002)

Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-2024 (Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Council of Partners, Adopted 2014)

Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (LUC for CC & WWD AONB Unit, 2003)

Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Character Assessment (CBA for Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Unit, 2017)

New Forest National Park Management Plan 2010-2015 (New Forest National Park Authority, 2010)

Salisbury Plain Army Training Estate Landscape Character Assessment (Entec for Defence Estates, 2002)

Cotswold Water Park Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (LDA for Wiltshire Council, 2009)

Chippenham Landscape Setting Study (TEP for Wiltshire Council, 2014)

Salisbury District Settlements Landscape Setting Assessments (CBA for Salisbury District Council, 2008)



## Blue Infrastructure Evidence

Adaptation & Resilience Framework for the Bristol Avon Catchment (West of England Nature Partnership & Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership)

Waterspace Study (Bath & North East Somerset, Wessex Water, Environment Agency, Canal & River Trust)

Working with Natural Processes to Reduce Flood Risk (Defra, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government)

Wiltshire Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (JBA for Wiltshire Council, May 2019)

Wiltshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Wiltshire Council, April 2015)

Surface Water Management Plans for Chippenham, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Warminster, Bradford on Avon and Britford (Wiltshire Council)

Hampshire Avon Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency)

Hampshire Avon Catchment Management Plan (Hampshire Avon Catchment Partnership)

Bristol Avon Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency)

Bristol Avon Catchment Management Plan (Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership)

Upper Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency)

Thames River Basin District Management Plan (Environment Agency)

Upper Thames Catchment Management Plan (Upper Thames Catchment Partnership)

Kennet Catchment Management Plan (Kennet Catchment Partnership)

Test & Itchen Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency)

Test & Itchen Catchment Action Plan (Test & Itchen Catchment Partnership)

Dorset Stour Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency)

Stour Catchment Management Plan (Stour Catchment Initiative)

Kennet and Avon Canal Conservation Plan 2000

Economic & Social Impact of Restoration of the Kennet and Avon Canal (British Waterways, 2010)

Cotswold Canal Partnership Plans for the Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal

Cotswolds Water Park Masterplan Vision and Implementation Plan (Scott Wilson on behalf of Cotswold District Council, 2008)

## Heritage Evidence

Wiltshire & Swindon Historic Environment Record  
[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/museums-history-heritage-archaeology-historic-environment-record](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/museums-history-heritage-archaeology-historic-environment-record)

Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Management Plan (WHS Coordination Unit, 2015)

Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site Woodland Strategy (CBA for National Trust/Natural England/Historic England/Wiltshire Council, 2013)

National Trust Estate Management Plans

The Wiltshire & Swindon Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council and Historic England, 2016)

Conservation Area Management Plans & Appraisals.<sup>12</sup>:

- Amesbury
- Broad Chalke
- Chippenham
- Dinton
- Downton
- Durrington
- Wylde
- Tisbury
- Steeple Langford

- Hindon
- Malmesbury
- Old Manor
- Milford Hill
- Britford
- Salisbury

## Other Wiltshire Council Strategies & Plans

Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2017-2027 (Wiltshire Council, 2017)

Wiltshire Draft Climate Strategy 2022-2027 (Wiltshire Council, August 2021)

Wiltshire Council Carbon Management Plan (Wiltshire Council, August 2013)

People, places and promises: The Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026 (Wiltshire Assembly, April 2011)

Wiltshire Community Environmental Toolkit (Wiltshire Council, March 2021)

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<sup>12</sup> as of 14 January 2022

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN SHAPING THE STRATEGY**

#### **Wiltshire Council**

- Assets Management Team
- Countryside Access Team
- Development Management Team
- Ecology Team
- Economic Development/Regeneration Team
- Landscape Team
- Leisure Team
- Minerals & Waste Development Team
- Open Space Team
- Public Health Team
- Spatial Planning Team
- Strategic Projects Team
- Transport Team
- Urban Design Team

#### **Biodiversity**

- Natural England
- Butterfly Conservation
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
- Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre
- Woodland Trust
- Forestry Commission
- RSPB
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- The Environment Bank
- Buglife
- Wiltshire Biodiversity Forum
- Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area
- Salisbury and Wilton Swift Group

#### **Landscape**

- Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership
- North Wessex Downs AONB Partnership
- Cotswolds AONB Partnership
- Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

#### **Heritage**

- Historic England
- National Trust
- English Heritage
- Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Partnership

## **Health & Well-being, Open Spaces and Countryside Recreation**

- Wiltshire & Swindon Countryside Access Forum
- Sustrans
- Salisbury Greenspace Partnership
- NHS Wiltshire
- Wiltshire Primary Care Trust
- British Horse Society
- Byways and Bridleways Trust
- Wiltshire Bridleway Association
- Ramblers
- Friends of the Ridgeway
- Green Lanes Association
- National Trails
- Open Spaces Society
- Trail Riders Fellowship
- Walking for Health
- Green Square Group
- West Wiltshire Ramblers Group

## **Military**

- 43 Wessex Brigade
- Aspire Defence
- Landmarc Solutions
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation Safeguarding Team (Salisbury Plain Training Area)

## **Services**

- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

## **Water**

- Environment Agency
- Cotswolds Water Park Trust
- Action for River Kennet
- Wessex Chalk Stream & Rivers Trust
- Thames Water
- Wessex Water
- Southern Water
- Canal & River Trust
- Cotswolds Canals Trust
- Kennet and Avon Canal Trust
- Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal Trust
- Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership
- Hampshire Avon Catchment Partnership
- Upper Thames Catchment Partnership
- Kennet Catchment Partnership
- Test & Itchen Catchment Partnership
- Stour Catchment Initiative
- Cholderton & District Water Company Limited
- Sembcorp Bournemouth Water

## **Transport**

- Campaign for Better Transport
- Highways England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

## **Energy**

- RWE Npower
- Wales & West Utilities
- Scottish and Southern Energy

### **Rural Economy & Business**

- National Farmers Union
- Country Land and Business Association
- Wiltshire NFU
- Center Parcs
- Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Visit Wiltshire
- Vistry Group

### **Neighbouring Authorities**

- Swindon BC
- Oxfordshire CC/Vale of White Horse DC
- West Berkshire Council
- Hampshire CC/Test Valley BC/New Forest DC/New Forest NPA
- Dorset Council
- Somerset CC/South Somerset DC/Mendip DC
- Bath & North East Somerset Council
- Gloucestershire CC/South Gloucestershire Council/Cotswold DC

### **Community**

- Avon Needs Trees
- Community First Wiltshire
- Chippenham, Devizes & North Wiltshire Green Party
- Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon
- Future Chippenham
- Positive Nature
- Salisbury Civic Society
- Sustainable Sherston
- Sustainable Warminster
- Wiltshire Assembly of Youth
- Wiltshire Neighbourhood Planning Groups
- Wiltshire Climate Alliance
- Wiltshire Community Area Boards (Parish/Town Councils):
  - Amesbury
  - Bradford on Avon
  - Calne
  - Chippenham
  - Corsham
  - Devizes
  - Malmesbury
  - Marlborough
  - Melksham
  - Pewsey
  - Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade
  - Salisbury
  - Southern Wiltshire
  - South West Wiltshire
  - Tidworth
  - Trowbridge
  - Warminster
  - Westbury



## **APPENDIX 4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

### **Summary**

The strategy has been shaped through engagement with a wide range of internal stakeholders, external partners and the general public. This included:

- An initial workshop in February 2020 attended by 50 representatives of 29 organisations
- An online webinar in May 2021 attended by 49 representatives of many of the same organisations
- Public consultation on the draft Wiltshire Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy in September/October 2021

## **Stakeholder Workshop**

### **Towards a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire**

**26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**County Hall, Trowbridge**

#### **Attendees**

Wiltshire Councillors:

- Cllr Clewer
- Cllr Gibson
- Cllr Murry
- Cllr Sturgis

Wiltshire Council:

- Assets Management
- Cultural & Operational
- Development Management
- Drainage
- Ecology
- Economic Development
- Energy & Climate
- Heritage & Conservation
- Landscape & Design
- Major Projects
- Public Health
- Rights of Way & Countryside Access
- Spatial Planning
- Sustainable Transport
- Urban Design

Neighbouring Local Authorities:

- Bath & North East Somerset Council
- Cotswolds District Council
- Dorset Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Swindon Borough Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- West Berkshire Council

Wildlife & Landscape Organisations:

- Black Sheep Countryside Management
- CPRE
- Forestry Commission
- Marlborough Downs Nature Partnership
- National Trust
- Natural England
- North Wessex Downs AONB
- RSPB
- Salisbury Greenspace Initiative
- Wiltshire Bat & Mammal Group
- Wiltshire Biological Records Centre
- Wiltshire Chalk Country
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
- Woodland Trust

Blue Infrastructure Organisations:

- Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership
- Cotswolds Water Park Trust
- Cotswold Canal Trust
- Environment Agency
- Wessex Chalk Steam & Rivers Trust
- Wessex Water

Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership

## Setting the Scene Presentation

CBA outlined the proposed approach to the Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy.

Download a copy of the presentation [here](#)

## Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

### Need for the Strategy

The need for a GI Strategy was widely supported in principle, particularly with regard to the role played by GI in helping address the challenges of climate change

### Developing the Strategy

Other **sources of evidence** that may be relevant to the mapping of GI assets and/or in identifying needs, opportunities and priorities for GI provision include:

- Bug Life's B-Lines Strategy
- Cotswold District GI Strategy (in prep)
- Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Strategy (in prep)
- Defra 25-year Environment Plan
- Environment Agency Draft National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy
- Hampshire Avon Catchment Management Plan
- Hampshire Avon Catchment Partnership Online Hub
- Local GI network enhancement opportunities survey
- National Trust Estate Management Plans
- Natural capital assessment mapping
- Nature recovery networks (in prep)

- Neighbourhood Plans
- River Basin Management Plans
- Salisbury Greenspace Partnership GI Mapping
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments
- Swindon Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Wessex Water Business Plan
- Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy
- Wiltshire Transport Plan

An **integrated approach** to working with natural process at a landscape-scale to provide natural solutions for helping communities/wildlife adapt and become more resilient to a changing climate was broadly welcomed in principle.

With regards to the proposed approach to defining **Strategic GI Corridors and Areas**:

- Generally strong support in principle for a catchment-based approach to defining Strategic GI Areas
- Need to consider how emerging nature recovery networks could refine Landscape Biodiversity Areas with regards to defining Strategic GI Corridors/Areas

Need to consider role of Community Areas in providing a spatial framework for the planning and delivery of GI at a local level in areas outside of the **Growth Area Local GI Frameworks**.

### Developing a Vision

There was broad in principle support for climate change, biodiversity and health & well-being as big themes for developing the GI vision. Other suggested **big themes** include:

- Water
- Transport
- Economy

The need for the vision to **be bold** in embracing the challenges of adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change on Wiltshire's landscape character, biodiversity and communities was highlighted (e.g. increased tree planting, renewable energy generation infrastructure, etc).

## Delivering the Vision

Need to clarify **fit with other strategies/plans**.

Need to identify the intended **outcomes** of the GI Strategy, and then ensure that the strategic delivery priorities, objectives and actions provide a clear steer in the right direction.

Provision of indicators for **monitoring** delivery of the GI Strategy against the intended outcomes will be necessary.

Arrangements for **reviewing** the GI Strategy in light of new evidence/changing priorities will be necessary.

With regards to the proposed **delivery mechanisms**:

- Planning & development - Growth Area Local GI Frameworks need to support the preparation and implementation of Neighbourhood Plans and local place-making
- Planning & development - green spaces/other GI assets provided through new development will require appropriate long-term management/maintenance, possibly by an approved GI management company, with adequate funding secured from developer contributions (inc the Community Infrastructure Levy)

- Communities - Wiltshire's Community Area Boards may provide an appropriate mechanism for co-ordinating delivery of local GI improvements
- Partnership working – while not currently active, the Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Partnership could provide a mechanism for co-ordinating delivery of strategic GI improvements
- Land management – landowners/managers and farmers will have key role to play in working in partnership to deliver nature enhancement in priority areas to be defined by the emerging nature recovery strategy
- Land management – also need to consider water management as a mechanism for delivery of blue infrastructure (plus a potential "Wiltshire Blue Infrastructure Working Group" to co-ordinate action)

In addition to the proposed **strategic delivery priorities**:

- Include supporting water management as a strategic priority
- Include soil management as an objective under environmental land management
- Align environmental land management priorities with Defra's 25-year Environment Plan targets/post-Brexit agricultural policy

## Structure of the Strategy

The proposed **structure** of the GI Strategy (Strategic GI Framework and Local GI Frameworks) was generally supported in principle.

The suggestion to provide access to a **live GIS mapping database** for informing decision-making was welcomed in principle. However, it was noted that creating and maintaining a live GIS mapping database is likely to be a significant challenge in terms of cost.

## Indicative Timeline

The timeline for preparation of the Wiltshire GI Strategy was considered by some neighbouring local authorities' to be **challenging** based on experience of preparing similar work in-house.

Inclusion of public consultation on the draft GI Strategy to enable its possible adoption by Wiltshire Council as a **Supplementary Planning Document** was welcomed.

## GI Opportunities/Priorities

Suggested opportunities and priorities for strengthening Wiltshire's Strategic GI Network include:

- Thames & Severn Canal restoration (blue corridor)
- Wilts & Berks Canal restoration (blue corridor)
- Cotswold Canal restoration (blue corridor)
- Kennet & Avon Canal Wellbeing By Water Project (blue corridor)
- Ridgeway National Trail enhancements (green corridor)
- RSPB Wilts Chalk Country Priority Landscape (green corridors)
- Highway verges wildflower planting for pollinators (green corridors)
- Urban tree planting (urban green corridors)
- Landscape-scale re-wilding
- Potential for enhancement of Wiltshire Council's countryside sites
- Hampshire Avon Catchment
- Great Western Community Forest
- Salisbury River Park Project (Salisbury Central Area Framework)
- Local advisory fora to provide local expertise/advice to developers
- Natural flood management solutions
- De-culverting and re-naturalising watercourses
- Great West Way tourist route between London and Bristol
- Selwood Forest

- Strategic active travel routes connecting homes, schools and employment areas
- Marlborough Downs Environmental Enhancement Project

## Online Webinar

A joint online webinar was held on 25 May 2021 to provide updates on the draft Wiltshire GBI Strategy and the Wiltshire Climate Strategy, and to identify short-term priorities for turning the emerging GBI Strategy's aspirational goals into positive actions.

The webinar was attended by representatives of many of the same stakeholders as the February 2020 workshop. Through a series of breakout of sessions, the webinar participants provided feedback around the following questions that helped shape the Consultation Draft of the GBI Strategy:

- Are these the right priorities for action?
- How could your organisation feed into the delivery of the strategy's goals?
- How do your organisation's objectives align with this?

## Public Consultation

A joint public consultation on the draft Wiltshire Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy and the Wiltshire Climate Strategy ran for 6 weeks from 1st September to the 17th October 2021. This included consultation events at local libraries and an online survey.

A total of 213 responses were received from both private individuals and stakeholder organisations, the majority of which have been overwhelmingly positive and supportive of the green infrastructure approach.



## **APPENDIX 5**

### **GBI FUNDING SOURCES**

A list of potential sources of funding for GBI projects and initiatives at both a local community scale and a regional/landscape-scale in Wiltshire is set out below. The list is not exhaustive.

#### **Community Area Board Grants**

Community Area Board Grants of up to £5,000 are available for community groups and volunteers in Wiltshire to apply for.

The grants are distributed through the network of Wiltshire Community Area Boards and are linked to local community priorities.

Small community projects can apply for up to £500 without the necessity to provide any match funding. For projects over £500, up to 50% of the required funds can be applied for through Community Area Boards.

Funding is available to help provide facilities and equipment and to support projects that are important to the local community. These awards can help communities get schemes and projects started.

More information about these grants can be found on Wiltshire Council's website at:

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/areaboardscommunitygrantscheme.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/areaboardscommunitygrantscheme.htm)

#### **Town/Parish Council Community Grants**

Some town and parish councils in Wiltshire provide small grants to community groups to support community based projects.

At the discretion of the council, grants are awarded to community organisations which demonstrate a clear need for financial support and contribute towards the vision and aims for parish/town.

Projects and activities must have a specific benefit to residents of the parish/town.

Many of these grants are awarded annually as part of a wider community bidding and application process, as is the case in Salisbury City.

More information about these grants can be found on the relevant town/parish council website (NB. not all councils provide community grants).

## **Community Infrastructure Levy**

Wiltshire Council has adopted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule.

CIL is a charge that local authorities in England can place on new development in their area. The money generated through the levy will contribute to the funding of infrastructure to support growth. Government, through legislation, has restricted the ability of local authorities to pool funding for off-site infrastructure and expects them to develop a CIL.

The Government believe that this tariff based approach provides the best framework to fund new infrastructure in a fair and transparent manner. CIL will provide 'up front' certainty about how much money developers will be expected to contribute.

More information about CIL can be found at:

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/communityinfrastructurelevy.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/communityinfrastructurelevy.htm)

## **Section 106 Agreement Developer Contributions**

Section 106 Agreements are used to secure developer-funded initiatives which are closely related to a planning proposal, for example, the creation of a children's play area in the vicinity of a new housing development.

Due to the localised nature of a section 106 Agreement there is an assurance that developer contributions will be spent in the locality of the development site and therefore will directly benefit the local community.

## **New Homes Bonus Grant**

The New Homes Bonus is a grant paid by central government to local councils for increasing the number of homes within the authority and their use.

The allocation of the monies distributed to local authorities is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use.

Local authorities can decide how to spend the New Homes Bonus, however there is an expectation from central government that communities will be consulted on how to spend the money, especially in communities where development has taken place and the local housing stock has increased.

More information about these grants can be found on the Government website [www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-homes-bonus](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-homes-bonus)

### **Landfill Tax Benefit Scheme Grants**

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme can generate finance for environmental, conservation and public amenity initiatives managed by registered environmental bodies, although these often preclude local authorities.

Only projects located within 10 miles of an active landfill site are eligible and it must be recognised that with the emphasis moving away from landfill, this source of funding is likely to diminish over time.

Discussions with waste operators will identify existing and potential funding opportunities. The delivery of biodiversity conservation for UK species/habitats is one of the criteria identified for funding through this mechanism.

More information about these grants can be found at [www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund](http://www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund)

### **AONB Sustainable Development Fund Grants**

Each of the three AONBs in Wiltshire operates an annual sustainable development fund.

The AONB Sustainable Development Fund is a regional grants scheme, available to individuals, groups or businesses that have ideas or projects that will improve the AONB area both now and in the future. The fund aims to encourage and support community-based projects that look to provide a clear benefit to the communities in and surrounding the AONB, with particular focus on the environment, community and/or local economy.

More information about these grants can be found on the individual AONB websites.

### **Forestry Commission Grants**

The Forestry Commission currently provides a range of grants designed to cater for a range of landownership scales, between small and large scale industry to community groups. Grant programmes include:

- Sustainable wood fuel creation
- Woodland Improvement
- Woodland Management
- Woodland Creation
- Woodland Regeneration

More information about these grants can be found on the Forestry Commission website [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

### **Natural England Grants**

Natural England offer funding grants in a number of different areas to support the objectives of the organisation. Grant programmes can support a range of GBI programmes such as landscape or river catchment conservation, project support, access to green space projects, heritage management, community awareness and education, biodiversity protection.

Environmental Stewardship is currently an agri-environment scheme that provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England to deliver effective environmental management. The graded scheme levels provide a range of land management support from simple and straight forward countryside stewardship to complex stewardship tailored to local circumstances.

More information about these grants is available on the Natural England website [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

## **Heritage Lottery Fund Grants**

These grants are site/topic related which usually involves the restoration of existing features. They can be applied for and administered by local government, quasi-public organisations and charitable trusts. The Heritage Grants Programme can provide grants of £100,000 or more for any type of project related to the national, regional, or local heritage in the UK.

More information about these grants can be found on the Heritage Lottery Fund website [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

## **Big Lottery Fund Grants**

The Big Lottery Fund provides grants of various sizes for community environmental projects, including Awards for All.

More information about these grants can be found on the Big Lottery Fund website [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/)

**APPENDIX 6**  
**Strategic Projects Profiles**



## Strategic BI Corridor Projects

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Wiltshire Canal Network Restoration &amp; Enhancement</b></p> <p>Thames Strategic BI Corridor (1)</p> <p>Bristol Avon Strategic BI Corridor (2)</p>	<p>This project involves the continued restoration and enhancement of the historic Wilts and Berks Canal, which is a significant heritage asset for the local community, linking the Kennet and Avon Canal near Trowbridge to the River Thames in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. It also includes the restoration of the Cotswold Canals (including the Thames &amp; Severn canal in Wiltshire), which will link create a new canal link from Cricklade to both the River Thames and Severn. Completion of both canal restorations will create an 'Wessex ring' of navigable waterways in the south of England, much of which will be in Wiltshire.</p> <p>The restoration and maintenance of the canal network in Wiltshire will provide a variety of GBI benefits and will service several Wiltshire communities. The canals provide sustainable transport routes for walkers, runners, cyclists, horse riders and water users, linking several Wiltshire market towns together as well as the city of Swindon. The canals encourage tourism, improving local economies and boosting employment in the area. The canals provide a variety of habitats for Wiltshire's wildlife as well as making a significant contribution to Wiltshire's existing green corridors and GBI network. The canals also assist in the ability for the region to control flood waters and store excessive runoff after extreme rainfall events. Core Policy 53 of the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy supports the restoration and maintenance of Wiltshire's canal network and safeguards the proposed route for Wilts and Berks Canal.</p> <p><b>Ecosystems Services:</b> This project delivers cultural services by providing opportunities for active travel and regeneration of the historic environment and Wiltshire's industrial heritage. It provides regulating services through improved flood and surface run off management.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wiltshire Swindon &amp; Oxfordshire Canal Partnership</li> <li>• Canal &amp; River Trust</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilts and Berks Canal Trust</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> <li>• Swindon Borough Council</li> <li>• Sustrans</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phased completion 2025-2030</li> <li>• Maintenance of existing canal network ongoing</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>River Biss Regeneration</b></p> <p>Bristol Avon Strategic BI Corridor (2)</p>	<p>The River Biss is an underused asset in Trowbridge which, if properly incorporated into the design of new developments, could significantly increase the impact and value of the river.</p> <p>The river's regeneration is fundamental to the overall vision for Trowbridge as set out in the Transforming Trowbridge Masterplan. As a general principle, the river will be integrated into the fabric of adjacent developments and associated public spaces. Moreover, the river corridor regeneration will function as a sustainable transport route, linking sites within the town centre as well as providing links to greenspace and new residential sites outside of the town.</p> <p>The River Biss Public Realm Design Guide (SPD) identifies an overall design concept for the public realm along the River Biss and outlines design objectives for the enhancement of the river corridor.</p> <p><b>Ecosystems Services:</b> This project provides cultural services through the provision of an active green corridor through the town as well as through place shaping and access to nature. It supports regulating services through the protection and improvement of the river corridor, assisting flood alleviation and providing GBI that supports carbon capture and urban cooling.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transforming Trowbridge</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Wessex Water</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion by 2025</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>River Avon Green Corridor &amp; Rowden Country Park</b></p> <p>Bristol Avon Strategic BI Corridor (2)</p>	<p>Rowden Hill is a conservation area of open green space situated to the southwest of Chippenham. The area straddles the River Avon as it runs south out of the town and as such represents a natural migration corridor for wildlife.</p> <p>The surrounding area has been identified as a strategic site for housing development and employment land. The connecting green spaces which adjoin the River Avon to the town centre have been recognised as having strategic importance in the Chippenham Vision Masterplan.</p> <p>This project aims to safeguard the nature and tranquillity of the river corridor and improve opportunities for tranquil and passive recreation on the site. The project will also improve connectivity between the site and central Chippenham through sensitively enhanced pedestrian trails and cycle routes, encouraging sustainable transport.</p> <p>The area will be enhanced for local wildlife to flourish and will connect to the redevelopment of Chippenham's urban river corridor. This will create an unbroken green corridor throughout Chippenham between Monkton Park and Rowden Conservation Area.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project provides cultural services through the creation of outdoor amenity space and opportunities for active travel as well as restoration and improved interpretation of the historic environment. It provides regulating services through extensive GBI for carbon capture and urban cooling as well as flood alleviation and run off management. The improved environment will support improved supporting services such as soil formation and the water cycle.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chippenham Town Council</li> <li>• Developers</li> <li>• Wiltshire Wildlife Trust</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion by 2026</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Bristol Avon Catchment Plan</b></p> <p>Bristol Avon Strategic BI Corridor (2)</p>	<p>The Bristol Avon Catchment Plan is a partnership approach to improving the water quality across the Bristol Avon catchment area. The plan facilitates catchment wide collaboration with engagement from a wide variety of public and private organisations and community representative groups. The Plan coordinates working towards an improved catchment area through the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To achieve a good ecological status for water quality/quantity in the River Avon</li> <li>• To work with the framework of existing river basin management planning</li> <li>• To deliver multiple benefits of the catchment area, including recreation benefits, wildlife benefits, ecological benefits and economic benefits</li> <li>• To take an ecosystem services approach when considering the Bristol Avon Catchment environment</li> </ul> <p>The partnership approach, led by the Bristol Avon Catchment Steering Group, enables a number of projects to be coordinated across the catchment area at any given time by a number of diverse stakeholders. These range from water monitoring and data collection, education projects, environmental management schemes and place-specific environmental improvement projects.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project supports cultural services through the increased opportunities for recreation, active travel, education and improved environmental interpretation. The project improves regulating services through improvements to the environmental condition of the river itself and of the surrounding landscape; improving water quality and habitat management. The improved environment will support improved supporting services such as soil formation and the water cycle.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council/Other Local Authorities</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• Wiltshire/Somerset Wildlife Trusts</li> <li>• Landowners</li> <li>• Community groups</li> <li>• Wessex Water/Other Water Utilities Companies</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>The Cricklade Country Way</b></p> <p>Thames Strategic BI Corridor (1)</p>	<p>The Cricklade Country Way Project aims to create a recreational corridor linking urban Swindon, the Saxon town of Cricklade, the Cotswold Water Park and the River Thames. As set out in the Cricklade Country Way Green Infrastructure Plan, the project will deliver the following GBI elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 miles of restored North Wilts canal, canal basins, moorings and marina</li> <li>• 5 miles of restored steam railway</li> <li>• New country park at Mouldon Hill on the edge of Swindon</li> <li>• 17 miles of new and improved cycleway and towpath/walkways</li> <li>• New public art trail</li> <li>• New community woodlands and wider wildlife</li> <li>• Habitat and access improvements</li> <li>• Outreach and educational skills training</li> </ul> <p>This project provides a vital green corridor for the residents of Swindon and nearby Wiltshire market towns. This region of Wiltshire is expected to experience significant growth and development over the coming decades with large housing developments in Swindon and Wiltshire putting added pressure on existing GBI resources in the area. This green corridor provides safe habitats for wildlife, access and recreational space for local residents as well as linking local urban areas with key tourism locations such as the Cotswold Water Park.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project provides cultural services through the creation of outdoor amenity space and opportunities for active travel as well as restoration and improved interpretation of the historic environment. It provides regulating services through extensive GBI for carbon capture and urban cooling as well as flood alleviation and run off management.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Western Community Forest</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> <li>• Swindon Borough Council</li> <li>• Cotswold Water Park</li> <li>• Swindon &amp; Cricklade Steam Railway</li> <li>• Sustrans</li> <li>• Wilts and Berks Canal Trust</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>



GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>The Cotswold Water Park</b></p> <p>Thames Strategic BI Corridor (1)</p>	<p>The continued delivery of GBI in the Cotswold Water Park is guided by the Cotswold Water Park Strategic Review and Implementation Plan (Masterplan).</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cotswold Water Park</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> <li>• Swindon Borough Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Source to Sea: Defending the Hampshire Avon</b></p> <p>Hampshire Avon Strategic BI Corridor (4)</p>	<p>Source to Sea is a partnership of the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Dorset Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>With volunteers, landowners and angling clubs, the partnership work along the river removing invasive non-native plants from the entire 350km length of the Hampshire Avon.</p> <p>Target plants include the Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, water fern and creeping water primrose.</p> <p>The project also monitors the river for new invasive species which can cause a threat to existing habitats and the ecology of the river.</p> <p>The project covers the whole of the River Avon catchment from its headwaters in the Vale of Pewsey, down through Salisbury into Hampshire, to the sea at Christchurch.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project improves cultural services of the Hampshire Avon through improved appreciation and interpretation of the river catchment and associated environment. The removal of invasive species supports both regulating services and supporting services through the improved function and future sustainability of the river system.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wiltshire Wildlife Trust</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hampshire &amp; Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust</li> <li>Dorset Wildlife Trust</li> <li>Environment Agency</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>

## Strategic GI Corridor Projects

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Operation Ubique - Salisbury Plain</b></p> <p>Salisbury Plain Strategic GI Corridor (C)</p>	<p>Operation Ubique is a long term partnership project between Wiltshire Council Rights of Way team and the Ministry of Defence land management team responsible for access and land management on Salisbury Plain.</p> <p>The project aims to improve public access throughout the Salisbury Plain Training Area estate. This is being achieved by extensive improvements to signposting across the plain and provision of more detail about access and restrictions for the various users of the plain environment.</p> <p>The project balances many often conflicting aspirations for the use of Salisbury Plain. These include improving access for recreational users across some areas of the plain; restricting access in other more sensitive areas to protect and support local wildlife, their unique habitats and the plains historic sites; and securing the areas which are used for military exercise and live gunnery fire.</p> <p>The project also supports local military communities which surround Salisbury Plain by improving access to GBI and connecting communities through sustainable transport links.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project improves cultural services in and around the Salisbury Plain region through improved access to nature and protection of wildlife and special habitats. The project supports regulating services through provision of GBI that assists in air regulation, flood alleviation and pollination opportunities. The improved environment will support improved supporting services such as soil formation and the water cycle.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOD/Landmarc/DIO</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b> Ongoing</p>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Stonehenge World Heritage Site Chalk Grassland Restoration</b></p> <p>Salisbury Plain Strategic GI Corridor (C)</p>	<p>Since 2002 DEFRA has funded environmental stewardship schemes in the World Heritage Site area. The schemes support local landowners to manage the landscapes surrounding the World Heritage Site with more sensitive and sustainable practices. The schemes place a greater emphasis on wildlife habitat protection and the wider impacts of land management on place making and historical environment interpretation. The restoration of agricultural land to chalk grasslands in the region of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site provides the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeological protection: The many archaeological sites within the WHS have been identified as being under threat from farming, burrowing animals and scrub encroachment. The return of these lands to chalk grassland protects the existing archaeological assets.</li> <li>• Habitat creation: Salisbury Plain and the area surrounding the Stonehenge WHS are amongst the last remaining chalk grassland sites in northern Europe and are a significant asset for a number of local birdlife such as the stone curlew</li> <li>• Improved environmental interpretation: The restoration to chalk grassland of the surrounding landscape improves the interpretation of the site, removing signs of industrial farming and other contemporary visual insensitivities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecosystems Services:</b> This project improves cultural services through improved interpretation and appreciation of the historic environment. The programme supports and enhances regulating services throughout the site through the creation of sustainable habitats and extensive GBI. The improved environment will support improved supporting services such as soil formation and the water cycle.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Trust</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Heritage</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> <li>• Wiltshire Wildlife Trust</li> <li>• Defra</li> <li>• RSPB</li> <li>• Landowners</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>RSPB Futurescapes: Wiltshire Chalk Country</b></p> <p>Salisbury Plain Strategic GI Corridor (C)</p>	<p>Futurescapes is a programme led by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in collaboration with local partner organisations. The programme considers species and the environment at a landscape-scale to best enable wildlife to thrive now and in the future.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Chalk Country project's vision is to re-create the largest network of chalk grassland sites in north-west Europe, connecting Salisbury Plain, Porton Down and the Stonehenge World Heritage Site – redressing historic losses and re-linking remnant fragments.</p> <p>Various projects bring together farmers and landowners working within Natural England's agri-environment schemes as well as local conservation groups and organisations. Central to the programme is the chalk grassland creation work being undertaken at the RSPBs Winterbourne Downs nature reserve north of Salisbury, and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's New Life for Chalk Grassland project.</p> <p>Species rich chalk grassland can support over 40 different species of herbs and grasses per square metre, and provides safe habitats for skylarks, barn owls, stone-curlews and the recently reintroduced great bustard.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project improves cultural services of the Wiltshire Chalk Country through improved interpretation of the historic environment and the creation of safe habitats for Wiltshire's rare and endangered wildlife species. The project improves regulating services through the creation of natural grassland habitats providing flood alleviation, carbon capture and storage and wildlife habitats. The improved environment will support improved supporting services such as soil formation and the water cycle.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSPB</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Wiltshire Wildlife Trust</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> <li>• Landowners</li> <li>• MOD</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> <li>• Local conservation groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>



GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>The Marlborough Downs Space for Nature Project</b></p> <p>North Wessex Downs Strategic GI Corridor (B)</p> <p><a href="http://www.spacefornature.net">www.spacefornature.net</a></p>	<p>The Marlborough Downs Space for Nature Project's vision is to improve the condition and connectivity of the ecological network of the Marlborough Downs and to connect people to the downland landscape. Some of the strategic aims of the Space for Nature Project include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve an increase (or at least no further decline) in the extent of priority habitat on our farms</li> <li>• Create better structural connectivity between wildlife sites which in the longer term will be reflected by increased functional connectivity</li> <li>• Support larger, more widely dispersed populations of species</li> <li>• Maintain or improve water quality in the River Kennet catchment area</li> <li>• Disseminate our experience of best practice as a 'Centre of Excellence' for wildlife management</li> <li>• Engender greater understanding and appreciation of the special nature of the Marlborough Downs and our downland heritage</li> <li>• Facilitate improved partnership working, particularly to meet local recreation, education and rural business aspirations</li> <li>• Offer high quality access to the countryside and countryside activities leading to better physical and mental health</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project improves cultural services of the Marlborough Downs through business and community engagement programmes. In addition to creation of habitats for rare and endangered wildlife species, the project improves regulating services through creation of natural grassland providing flood alleviation, carbon capture and storage. The improved environment supports improved supporting services such as soil formation and the water cycle.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Partnership (supported by Black Sheep Countryside Management)</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> <li>• Game &amp; Wildlife Conservation Trust</li> <li>• North Wessex Downs AONB</li> <li>• Farm Businesses</li> <li>• Friends of Marlborough Downs</li> <li>• Space for Nature Volunteers</li> <li>• Friends of the Railway Path</li> <li>• Swindon Borough Council</li> <li>• Bright Seeds</li> <li>• Operation Pollinator (Syngenta)</li> <li>• Bumblebee Conservation Trust</li> <li>• SW Farmland Bird Initiative</li> <li>• Campaign for the Farmed Environment</li> <li>• Butterfly Conservation Society</li> <li>• Kennet Valley CDG</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>The Great Western Community Forest Plan</b></p> <p>North Wessex Downs Strategic GI Corridor (B)</p>	<p>The Great Western Community Forest (GWCF) is one of England's Community Forests where local people and organisations are working together to create a better environment. It covers an area of 168 square miles stretching from Wootton Bassett to Farringdon and the North Wessex Downs to the Thames.</p> <p>The project is a partnership between a wide range of local and regional organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors which work together to deliver a comprehensive package of urban, economic and social regeneration. A dedicated Community Forest Team based at Swindon Borough Council ensures that the Forest will continue to develop in the years ahead in line with the GWCF Plan. GWCF is creating high-quality environments 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. GWCF plays a crucial role in contributing to sustainable development in Swindon city centre, the urban fringes and in the varied and beautiful surrounding Wiltshire countryside. The Community Forest works closely with local people and enjoys strong community support. The project activities provide local communities with opportunities to make decisions regarding improvements in their neighbourhood and to take ownership of their environment.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project increases the benefits of cultural services throughout the Great Western Community Forest area through improved contact with nature, environmental understanding and interpretation and opportunities for active travel. Regulating services are improved through the creation and protection of biodiversity and wildlife habitats as well as environmental protection schemes. The improved environment will support improved supporting services such as soil formation and the water cycle.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Great Western Community Forest</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swindon Borough Council</li> <li>Wiltshire Council</li> <li>Forestry Commission</li> <li>North Wessex Downs AONB</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Green Setting of Bath World Heritage Site</b></p> <p>Cotswolds Strategic GI Corridor (A)</p>	<p>The contribution that the undeveloped landscape surrounding and within Bath as made to the development and character of the city is one of the key influences leading to the inscription of the complete city as a World Heritage Site (WHS). This landscape helps to make the city the beautiful and cherished place it is and historically is responsible for shaping the city we now enjoy and strive to protect. It is also the reason the City enjoys rich thriving wildlife.</p> <p>The fields, woodland and meadows surrounding the city provide an important habitat for a diverse range of wildlife. They provide foraging areas and flight corridors for many species of bat, including those of international conservation importance. The surrounding countryside is also popular for recreation activities, such as cycling, walking and horse riding.</p> <p>Much of the setting is within Wiltshire Council's administrative boundary and the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and as such the project will deliver key aspects of the AONB Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project supports the delivery of cultural services through the protection and improvement of and improved access to the historic environment, facilitating improved environmental interpretation. The protection and improvement of the environment will support improved regulating services in the Bath region through flood alleviation, runoff capture, carbon storage and urban cooling. Environmental management of the area will improve supporting services such as soil formation and the water cycle.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bath WHS Steering Group</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> <li>• Cotswolds AONB</li> <li>• National Trust</li> <li>• Avon Wildlife Trust</li> <li>• Wiltshire Wildlife Trust</li> <li>• Forest of Avon Trust</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion by 2026</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Beyond the Forest: New Forest Visitor Displacement Project</b></p> <p>New Forest Strategic GI Corridor (E)</p>	<p>This project represents an aspiration between Wiltshire Council and partner organisations to continue to protect the sensitive environment of the new Forest National Park. It collectively aims to provide alternative areas for recreation and the enjoyment of nature away from some of the National Park's more sensitive sites. This includes an aspiration to discourage dog walking within the park area during the nesting season of a variety of ground nesting birds. The project also aims to provide long distance cycle links between Salisbury and the New Forest National Park in order to encourage sustainable transport within the park and reduce the number of vehicles entering the park territory.</p> <p>The necessity for such mitigation and displacement processes is exacerbated by increased development in the south of Wiltshire as well as in Southampton, South East Dorset and Christchurch. Increased populations surrounding the park ultimately increase the pressures that the park faces with respect to visitor numbers using the area for recreation and dog walking.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project increases the benefits of cultural services through improved contact with nature, environmental understanding and interpretation and opportunities for recreation and active travel. Regulating services are improved through the protection of biodiversity and wildlife habitats.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Forest National Park</li> <li>• New Forest District Council</li> <li>• Hampshire County Council</li> <li>• Dorset Council</li> <li>• Southampton City Council</li> <li>• Natural England</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b> Completion by 2026</p>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Swindon to Salisbury Cycleway</b></p> <p>North Wessex Downs Strategic GI Corridor (B)</p> <p>Salisbury Plain Strategic GI Corridor (C)</p>	<p>This project aims to provide a cycle route through Wiltshire linking Swindon to Salisbury as part of a larger national route from Chester to the south coast.</p> <p>The project will complete National Cycle Route 45 through Wiltshire and create new cycle links to connect Avebury to Stonehenge as well as Barbury Castle and Old Sarum.</p> <p>Using quiet roads, rights of way and cycle paths, the route will attract sustainable tourism into Wiltshire via the railway stations at Swindon Pewsey and Salisbury.</p> <p>It will also increase sustainable transport options for military communities in rural areas such as Bulford and Larkhill.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project provides cultural services through the improvement of access to nature and the outdoors and the creation of opportunities for active travel.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustrans</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Heritage</li> <li>• National Trust</li> <li>• Landowners</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion by 2026</li> </ul>



GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Stonehenge to Avebury World Heritage Site Trail</b></p> <p>North Wessex Downs Strategic GI Corridor (B)</p> <p>Salisbury Plain Strategic GI Corridor (C)</p>	<p>This project supports the creation of a long distance trail walking route between Avebury and Stonehenge. Creation of such a route would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the GBI network of Wiltshire</li> <li>• Provide sustainable transport options for visitors to both parts of the World Heritage Site</li> <li>• Provide visitors with a better experience and appreciation of the surrounding historic environment</li> <li>• Disperse the economic benefits of tourist visits to the world heritage site to local towns and villages enabling local towns to benefit from an improved local economy</li> <li>• Disperse visitor numbers out in to the wider environment, reducing concentrations in the main sites and reducing the negative impacts of oversubscription</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project provides cultural services through the improvement of access to nature and the outdoors and the creation of opportunities for active travel.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Heritage</li> <li>• National Trust</li> <li>• Town/Parish Councils</li> <li>• Landowners</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Coate Water to Marlborough Railway Path</b></p> <p>North Wessex Downs Strategic GI Corridor (B)</p>	<p>The project is based around habitat management along the Coate Water to Marlborough railway path. Actions include hedgerow improvements (gap filling and hedgerow laying), grassland improvements, habitat/species surveying and situating wildlife boxes along route.</p> <p>The Path runs from the Coate Water Country Park to Marlborough, mostly along the line of the former Swindon, Marlborough &amp; Andover Railway. The railway closed in 1967, and the cycle path was created in 1988 since when it has been maintained by Sustrans. The path passes through some of Wiltshire's most diverse and spectacular natural and historical environments which represent the clay and chalk geologies that epitomize Wiltshire as well as the rich Bronze Age history for which the area is internationally known.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project provides cultural services through the improvement of amenity value for the pathway. The project also provides us with regulating services through the provision of improved GBI assisting carbon capture and flood alleviation.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustrans</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends of the Railway Path</li> <li>• North Wessex Downs AONB</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>

GBI Project Name	GBI Project Profile	Delivery
<p><b>Wiltshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>All Strategic GI/BI Corridors</p>	<p>The Wiltshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan sets out objectives, priorities and actions for improving the Rights of Way Network across Wiltshire to maintain access to the countryside and improve the connectivity and condition of routes.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem Services:</b> This project provides cultural services through the improvement of access to nature and the outdoors and the creation of opportunities for active travel.</p>	<p><b>Lead Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Countryside Access Forum</li> <li>• Town/Parish Councils</li> <li>• Landowners</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Timescale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 7

### DELIVERY PARTNERSHIPS

#### **Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership**

The SWLEP is the Local Enterprise Partnership for Swindon and Wiltshire, established by Central Government in July 2011 as a private sector led partnership between local businesses, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Council, the military and the education sector. Working with its partners, the SWLEP sets the economic priorities for Swindon and Wiltshire and facilitates projects that help accelerate economic growth and job creation in the area. By 2026, SWLEP wants Swindon and Wiltshire to be renowned for innovation, entrepreneurialism and great quality of life.

[swlep.co.uk](http://swlep.co.uk)

#### **Wiltshire Health & Well-Being Board**

Wiltshire's Health and Wellbeing Board is a partnership that brings together the leaders of the health and social care system. The Board is co-chaired by Wiltshire Council and the NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The Board is required to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to encourage and enable integrated working between health and social care. The role of Wiltshire's Health and Wellbeing Board is to lead on work to improve the health and happiness of Wiltshire, specifically focusing on reducing health inequalities. It also considers the impact of health on the wider local authority and partnership agendas including housing, education, employment, crime, vulnerability and safeguarding.

[Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Board](#)

#### **Wiltshire & Swindon Countryside Access Forum**

Local Access Forums (or the Countryside Access Forum in Wiltshire and Swindon's case) are independent advisory bodies established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Administered by Wiltshire Council, the Countryside Access Forum provides advice to Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council and other relevant bodies about the improvement of public access to land in Wiltshire and Swindon for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.

[Wiltshire & Swindon Countryside Access Forum](#)

#### **Community First Wiltshire**

Community First is a registered charity based in Devizes. As a member of [ACRE](#), we support rural communities across Wiltshire and Swindon through advisory services for [Village Halls](#) and [Local Councils](#). We envisage, create and manage projects to support people and places including [community transport](#) schemes, [community led housing](#), [community organising](#) and [volunteering services](#). Community First manages a wide-range of programmes to support vibrant communities and brighter futures for the people who live and work in Wiltshire and Swindon. All of our programmes and services aim to meet our objectives: connecting communities, tackling disadvantage, encouraging enterprise and inspiring ideas through innovation.

[communityfirst.org.uk](http://communityfirst.org.uk)

### **Wiltshire Assembly of Youth**

The Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY) is a forum for young people aged 11-18 years to talk about issues affecting them and their peers. It is funded and organised by Wiltshire Council and is a way for the Council to hear directly from its younger residents. WAY is led by three young people who are elected to the UK Youth Parliament each year. They are the Wiltshire representatives and have a role in leading WAY and making sure that Wiltshire's young people have a local and national voice. WAY consults on pieces of work that the Council and its partners are carrying out, for example on new services and policies. WAY meets with elected members (Councillors) and with staff members to discuss how a new service might affect children and young people and to give feedback on services that already exist.

Wiltshire Children & Young People

### **AONB Partnerships**

Wiltshire includes significant areas of three different Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – the Cotswolds AONB, the North Wessex Downs AONB and the Cranbourne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB. AONBs are subject to special planning controls and environmental/countryside management which support the conservation of the natural landscape, assist in the quiet enjoyment of the countryside and support those who work and live within the AONBs. Each AONB publishes a strategic four year management plan in collaboration with relevant local authorities, and works closely with partner organisations to enhance and protect these special areas.

Cotswolds AONB

North Wessex Downs

Cranborne Chase AONB

### **New Forest National Park Partnership**

A small portion of the New Forest National Park extends into the south west of Wiltshire. The New Forest National Park consists of a diverse range of ancient and ornamental woodland, open heather-covered heaths, rivers and valley mires, coastal mudflats, saltmarshes and quaint historic villages. The National Park is a popular tourist destination and balancing the impacts of recreation with the necessity to protect and conserve the environment is a difficult task requiring a shared response through partnership working.

New Forest National Park

### **Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Partnership**

The Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Partnership was formed in 2014 to bring the management of the serial Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site closer together. The role of the Partnership Panel is to coordinate actions affecting both parts of the WHS and to oversee the work of the Coordination Unit. It is led by an independent chair. The Partnership represents both parts of the WHS and is made up of the three key partners (English Heritage, the National Trust and Wiltshire Council), the chairs of the two local steering committees and a representative from the Avebury and Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group.

Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Partnership



### **Catchment Partnerships**

- Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership
- Hampshire Avon Catchment Partnership
- Upper Thames Catchment Partnership
- Kennet Catchment Partnership
- Test & Itchen Catchment Partnership
- Stour Catchment Initiative Partnership

### **Canal Partnerships**

**Wiltshire, Swindon & Oxfordshire Canal Partnership** - Wiltshire Council is the lead local authority working with neighbouring authorities and other partners, particularly the volunteers of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, to restore the Wilts & Berks Canal in Wiltshire.

**Cotswold Canals Partnership** - Wiltshire Council actively works with the Cotswold Canals Partnership to help enable the restoration of the Thames & Severn Canal in Wiltshire.

### **Natural England**

Natural England is the government's advisor on the natural environment. They provide practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth for the benefit of everyone, ensuring sustainable stewardship of the land and sea so that people and nature can thrive. Natural England works alongside farmers and land managers, business and industry, planners and developers, national and local government, interest groups and local communities to help them improve their local environment. The aim of Natural England is to ensure that the spatial planning system conserves and enhances the natural environment and delivers high quality, environmentally sustainable development that maximises GBI benefits.

### **Environment Agency**

The Environment Agency was established to protect and improve the environment and to contribute to sustainable development, creating better places for people and for wildlife. The organisation is responsible for flood management, water quality, waste regulation, conservation and ecology and the regulation of major industry. As such the Environment Agency is a key partner to local authorities and to projects which transcend local authority boundaries.

### **Forestry Commission**

The Forestry Commission in England is recognised and respected as an international leader in sustainable forestry. The public forest estate that is managed by the Forestry Commission benefits society through access to forest environments for the enjoyment of nature, wildlife and recreational experiences.

**Wiltshire Wildlife Trust**

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are a regional charity that champion, support and improve Wiltshire's natural habitats, conserve the countryside and its wildlife and help develop thinking that enables everyone to understand how to make a valuable contribution towards creating a sustainable future. The organisation works across all sectors in partnership with local and central government, business owners, landowners, community groups and volunteers. Their project work includes improving and protecting wildlife sites and habitats across Wiltshire, supporting the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre in data collection and analysis and the creation of the annual Wiltshire and Swindon State of the Environment Report.

## **APPENDIX 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **Contributor Acknowledgements**

#### **Wiltshire Council Economic Development & Planning (Client Steering Group)**

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#### **CBA (Consultant Team)**

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## APPENDIX 9

### SOURCES OF GIS DATA

Map	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
All	Wiltshire Local Authority Boundary	Wiltshire Council	Wiltshire Council	Wiltshire Council
All	Basemapping – Vector: Roads, Rail and Buildings	Ordnance Survey Vector Map District	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
All	Basemapping – Vector: Watercourses	Ordnance Survey Open Rivers	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
1.1 Location & Context	Adjacent Local Authority Boundary	Ordnance Survey Boundary-Line	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
	National Parks	National Parks	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
2.1 Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network	Strategic GBI Sites	Includes: All data from Map 2.5 (except Conservation Areas), all data from maps 2.6, 2.7, and 2.9.	n/a	n/a
		Wiltshire Open Space Data	Wiltshire Council	Wiltshire Council
		Country Parks	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.	Natural England
		Access Land	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.	Natural England

Map	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
	Strategic GBI Corridors	Ordnance Survey Open Rivers	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
		Flood Zone 3	© Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2018. All rights reserved. Some features of this map are based on digital spatial data from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, © NERC (CEH). © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 100024198	Environment Agency
	Sub-Regional Strategic GBI	National Parks	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
		Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	Landscape Biodiversity Areas	Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas (indicative)	n/a	n/a
2.2 National Character Areas	National Character Areas	National Character Areas	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
2.3 Landscape Character Types & Areas	Wiltshire Landscape Character Types & Areas	Wiltshire Landscape Character Types & Areas	n/a	Wiltshire Council
2.4 Nationally Valued Landscapes	National Parks	National Parks	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England



Map	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
2.5 Historic Environment Designations	World Heritage Sites	World Heritage Sites	© Historic England 2020. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 31/01/2020. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from <a href="http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk">http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk</a> .	Historic England
	Registered Historic Parks & Gardens	Registered Historic Parks & Gardens	© Historic England 2020. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 31/01/2020. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from <a href="http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk">http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk</a> .	Historic England
	Scheduled Monuments	Scheduled Monuments	© Historic England 2020. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 31/01/2020. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from <a href="http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk">http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk</a> .	Historic England
	Battlefields	Battlefields	© Historic England 2020. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on	Historic England

Map	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
			31/01/2020. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from <a href="http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk">http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk</a> .	
	Conservation Areas	Conservation Areas	© Historic England 2020. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 31/01/2020. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from <a href="http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk">http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk</a> .	Wiltshire Council
2.6 Biodiversity Sites	Ramsar	Ramsar	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	Special Area of Conservation	Special Area of Conservation	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	Special Protection Area	Special Protection Area	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	Site of Special Scientific Interest	Site of Special Scientific Interest	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	National Nature Reserve	National Nature Reserve	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	Local Nature Reserve	Local Nature Reserve	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	County Wildlife Sites	County Wildlife Sites	Wiltshire Council	Wiltshire Council

Map	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
	Ancient Woodland	Ancient Woodland	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
2.7 Priority Habitats	Priority Habitat Inventory	Priority Habitat Inventory	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
2.8 Landscape Biodiversity Areas	Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas	Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas (indicative)	n/a	n/a
	Strategic Nature Areas	Strategic Nature Areas	Biodiversity South West	Biodiversity South West
2.9 Woodland	Woodland	National Forest Inventory: Broadleaved (categories deciduous and mixed deciduous); Coniferous (categories coniferous and mixed coniferous)	© Crown copyright and database right 2019 Ordnance Survey 100021242	Forestry Commission
2.10 Agricultural Land	Agricultural Land Classification	Agricultural Land Classification	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.	Natural England
2.11 River Basin Districts & Catchments	River Basin districts	WFD River Basin Districts Cycle 2	© Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2015.	Environment Agency
	Surface Water Management Catchments	WFD Surface Water Management Catchments Cycle 2	© Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2014. All rights reserved.	Environment Agency
	Watercourses and Waterbodies	Ordnance Survey Open Rivers	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
		Ordnance Survey Vector Map District – Water Area	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey

Map	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
2.12 Watercourses & Waterbodies	Watercourses and Waterbodies (OS data)	Ordnance Survey Open Rivers	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
		Ordnance Survey Vector Map District – Water Area	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
	Topography (OS Terrain 50)	Ordnance Survey Terrain 50	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
2.13 Strategic GBI Network – Accessibility	Strategic Green Infrastructure (as per Green Infrastructure Sites Map 2.1)	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Strategic Blue Infrastructure	Ordnance Survey Open Rivers	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
	Strategic Green Infrastructure Accessibility	Wiltshire Open Space Data – Parks & Recreation Grounds (inc. play spaces/public outdoor sport spaces); Accessible Natural Greenspaces, Amenity Greenspaces; Allotments; Churchyards & Cemeteries	Wiltshire Council	Wiltshire Council
		Country Parks	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.	Natural England
		Access Land	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.	Natural England
2.14 Strategic GBI Network – Connectivity	Strategic Green Infrastructure (as per Green Infrastructure Sites Map 2.1)	n/a	n/a	n/a

Map	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
	Strategic Blue Infrastructure Connectivity	Ordnance Survey Open Rivers	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
	Strategic Green Infrastructure Connectivity	Roads and Rail - Ordnance Survey Vector Map District	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
		Public Rights of Way	Wiltshire Council	Wiltshire Council
2.15 Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019	Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
2.16 Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Opportunity Areas	Strategic Green & Blue Infrastructure Areas	Strategic Green & Blue Infrastructure Areas	n/a	CBA
	Green Infrastructure Assets (as per Green Infrastructure Sites Map 2.1)	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Blue Infrastructure Assets (as per Watercourses and Waterbodies Map 2.12)	n/a	n/a	n/a
2.17 Wiltshire's Local GBI Settlement Frameworks	Local GBI Framework Areas	Local GBI Framework Areas	n/a	CBA

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quality and better connected multi-functional  
green and blue infrastructure in Wiltshire...*