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GREEN NETWORK GUIDANCE

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FOREWORD

Green Network Guidance has been produced by Wrekin Council to provide a context for the activities of planners, designers, land managers, and for environmental improvement schemes so that the quality and potential of the Telford Green Network is maximised for the benefit of the town and its residents.

Green Network Guidance is intended to be an initial 'point of reference' for all views relating to the Green Network, with directions on where to obtain more specific information.

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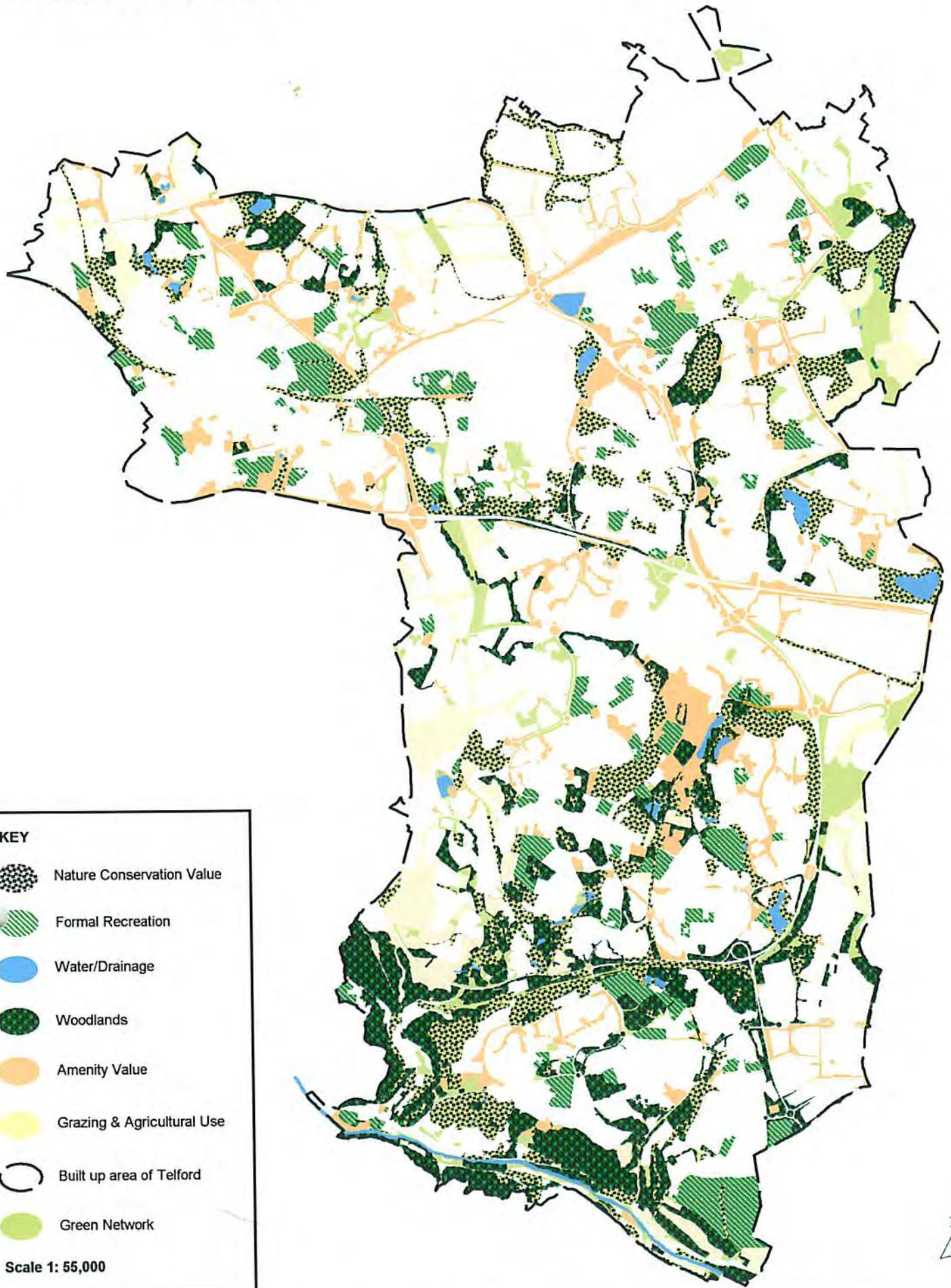
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INTRODUCTION

Green Network - All Functions



KEY

-  Nature Conservation Value
-  Formal Recreation
-  Water/Drainage
-  Woodlands
-  Amenity Value
-  Grazing & Agricultural Use
-  Built up area of Telford
-  Green Network

Scale 1: 55,000



TELFORD: The Green Network

PLAN 1

INTRODUCTION

THE GREEN NETWORK

Telford is characterised by extensive areas of open land with prominent landscape features. Many of these are either naturally regenerated pit mounds or have been reclaimed from past industrial dereliction. Collectively they provide important areas within the town for nature conservation and informal recreation.

The town's unique landscape has been achieved by integrating existing features with new mass planting and large areas of informal, formal open land and park land. Within this landscape structure, the old and the new communities of the town have expanded and developed, with the landscape separating individual communities helping to retain their sense of identity. This complete integration of the built and natural environment, with its extensive woodland, has given rise to Telford's image as the "Forest city", an image used to promote Telford as an attractive place in which to live, work and invest.

The Telford Local Plan, in 1993, through the "Green Network" gave protection to 2,300 ha of open land within Telford which satisfied the following aims concerning the future growth of the town:-

- i) to maintain Telford's image, as an attractive place in which to live and work. Survey information shows that this is an important aim if Telford is to continue to attract investment in the future;
- ii) to retain and enhance the individual identity and sense of local community of parts of the town, by separating built up areas with green wedges;
- iii) to provide easily accessible "green lungs" to meet the growing aspirations of the public for a better quality of life within the town, as these spaces relieve the sense of congestion and pressure that are felt in densely built up areas and introduce the visual variety that people seek;
- iv) to provide an appropriate supply of open land to meet the diverse recreational needs of an expanding population, combining the more formal recreation and parkland areas with the wilder landscaped areas valuable for informal recreation;
- v) to protect and enhance Telford's ecological heritage of unusual and diverse natural habitats, a legacy of its early place in the industrial revolution;
- vi) to provide open space linkages through which footpath, cycleway and ecological linkages can be provided joining different parts of the town.

The Green Network is an inter-linked system of open land and landscape which has a collective value for ecology and nature conservation, formal and informal recreation, access, linkage and visual or landscape quality. Each individual piece of open land in the Green Network is not only important for its individual qualities, but has equal importance as part of the town wide system of interlinked green land that comprises the network. The inspector who reported into the Telford Local Plan said that the Green Network was *“one of the largest scale, visually beneficial and informal recreation assets of any town in the country”* and that it *“also includes significantly, the key to sustain the attractiveness of Telford itself, for residents, visitors and investors, as part of Telford’s own investment in its future”*.

The Telford Local Plan was primarily concerned with the establishment and protection of the Green Network as seen “pale green” on the Plan (Plan 1). However it did recognise that more guidance would be required dealing with issues on design, management and enhancement to provide a more detailed framework for planning decisions and implementation.

GREEN NETWORK GUIDANCE

The Council has now produced “Green Network Guidance” papers in order to set out the overall objectives of the Green Network and provide guidelines on how they can be achieved both as a whole and for individual functions of the Green Network.

The overall aim of the Green Network Guidance is to:-

SUSTAIN	-	ensure there is no erosion of function/use or loss of quality
ENHANCE		ensure that the potential for increasing quality is realised

The “Green Network Guidance” is in three parts:

Part A - Green Network Strategy

Outlining:

- The Principles of the Green Network
- A summary of overall aims
- The Green Network Assessment

The accompanying plans illustrate the existing functions of the Green Network (eg woodland, recreation) and identifies Key Green Network Links and areas with potential for enhancement.

Part B Green Network Guidelines

A series of guidelines for the functions of the Green Network providing practical information to help achieve the overall aims under the following headings:-

- Nature Conservation
- Woodland
- Water drainage
- Circulation and access
- Recreation
- Community involvement
- Green Network Character and quality
- Planning control

This section analyses the current position of the Green Network, identifies the issues, problems and inter-relationships between these functions and provides guidelines for implementation. It goes on to demonstrate how Green Network issues relate to planning.

Part C Appendix - Supplementary Information

This is a series of Appendices and provides supplementary information on the Green Network and its relationships to the Council's Local Agenda 21.

The Guidelines have been developed in consultation with the Council's Leisure and Community Services Department, English Nature, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, The Countryside Commission and the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust.

IMPORTANT

"Green Network Guidance" should be consulted when any decisions or improvements are proposed either in or adjacent to the Green Network, thus providing a context for design, planning and management and for environmental improvement schemes so that the quality and potential of the Green Network is maximised.

PART A GREEN NETWORK STRATEGY

GREEN NETWORK PRINCIPLES

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GREEN NETWORK

The Telford Local Plan protected open land through the designation of 'The Green Network' and the policies (Appendix A) provided measures to ensure that the six aims of the Green Network were met. The aims of the **Green Network Guidance** is to:-

- **Sustain** - ensure there is no evasion of function/use or loss of quality
- **Enhance** - ensure that the potential for increasing quality is realised

The key principles for the individual functions of the Green Network are summarised below:-

NATURE CONSERVATION

Biological diversity must be conserved and enhanced throughout the Green Network.

WOODLANDS

The establishment and maintenance of woodland according to sustainable forestry principles and practices recognising the multiple values and functions of the woodland resource.

WATER/DRAINAGE

The integration and sustainable development of the multi-functional role of waterways within the Green Network.

CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

To maintain an infrastructure of openland and links which allows for the establishment of a network of functional and leisure links at all scales, and to promote access for all users and encourages public enjoyment of the environment, linking local communities with the Urban and Rural Countryside.

RECREATION

To establish an infrastructure of natural or "green" land which promotes recreation by providing facilities and an appropriate setting.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The Green Network should not be viewed in isolation but as an integral part of the local landscape.

GREEN NETWORK CHARACTER AND QUALITY

To maintain and enhance diverse character and appropriate quality of open land throughout the Green Network.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

To consult and involve local communities in the decisions and actions relating to the Green Network.

The key Green Network principle is therefore "to provide a network of interlinked open space and to sustain and enhance all the component functions and uses for the benefit of local people".

FIGURE 1

THE GREEN NETWORK GUIDANCE

- Protection of high quality/value areas.
- Improvement/enhancement of poorer quality areas.

ACTION REQUIRED - a co-ordinated strategy					
	DESIGN	← overlap →	MANAGEMENT	PLANNING	OTHER
Overall Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify DESIGN aims of GN - Establish pro-active not reactive approach - Overall strategic masterplan 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure appropriate management to protect / maintain high quality areas as well as improving poorer quality sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidances and checklists for planners and developers 	
Nature Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature Conservation Strategic Masterplan. - Implement SWT board guidelines to improve wildlife sites through creation of new habitats, new links, new buffer zones, etc 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masterplan Plans for all key wildlife sites (Critical Natural Assets). - Implement SWT general management guidelines for other areas (Constant Natural Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look for Development Control opportunities for improvements. - Set up pro-active planning initiatives. 	
Landscape Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscape Quality Strategic Masterplan. - Prioritise special Project Areas and begin to implement assessments and design work. - Co-ordinated design for landscape elements – signage, seating etc. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overlap with Design to achieve aims of strategy e.g. selective clearance of trees for vistas etc. - Involvement with Community Groups to work on 'Project Areas'. 		
Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland Strategic Masterplan. - Identification of desired National Vegetation Classifications. - Community Forest. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Wrekin Woodland Management Plans recommendations for specific sites and broad guidelines for main woodland types. - Implement Severn Gorge Trust management plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review TPO system. 	
Circulation System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and attempt to resolve conflicts. - Masterplan? - Identify targets for new routes. - Identify county-wide long distance routes and create links to. - Identify local circular routes. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve nature conservation value of highway landscapes through management techniques/regimes to improve diversity. - Improve environmental quality and signing of existing paths. - Leaflet production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look for improvement opportunities. - Pro-active planning initiatives. - e.g. Parish Paths - Review of South Telford Definitive Map 	
Recreation Provision			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site specific information on needs/potential required. - Improve nature conservation value of recreation sites. - Implement Play and Pitch Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flexibility needs to be built into requirements of land for recreation. - Recreation/sports development reactive to changing trends. 	
Culture/ Education/ Public Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy for on site interpretation. - Leaflets - Environmental Art Strategy. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement with Community Groups 		
Extending Green Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify need for further links into other elements of Telford's landscape and outside Telford. 				
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research new/current information on open space design. - Design information strategy. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market research. 		Catalogue all information Computerise plan info



IMPLEMENTATION			
Grants	Partnerships	Community Involvement	Planning

FIGURE 2

RELATIONSHIPS

The following table is a simplified matrix highlighting the need to produce a strategy which **CO-ORDINATES** the different topic areas/functions of the Green Network.

	CHARACTER & QUALITY	NATURE CONSERVATION	WOODLANDS	WATER	CIRCULATION & ACCESS	RECREATION	COMMUNITY	EDUCATION & CULTURE	PLANNING CONTROL	ECONOMIC ISSUES	INFORMATION
CHARACTER & QUALITY			△	△	△	□	□	□	□	□	□
NATURE CONSERVATION	△		△	△	■	■	□	□	□	○	△
WOODLANDS	△	△		□	◆	□	○	□	◆	◆	◆
WATER	△	△	□		□	△	○	◆	◆	○	◆
CIRCULATION & ACCESS	△	■	◆	□		△	□	□	□	△	◆
RECREATION	□	■	□	△	△		□	□	□	◆	◆
PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY	□	□	○	○	□	□		△	◆	○	△
EDUCATION & CULTURE	□	□	□	◆	□	□	△		○	○	△
PLANNING CONTROL	□	□	◆	◆	□	□	◆	○		△	□
ECONOMIC ISSUES	□	○	◆	○	△	◆	○	○	○		○
INFORMATION	□	△	◆	◆	◆	◆	△	△	□		

- BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP
- △ ESSENTIAL RELATIONSHIP
- NO RELATIONSHIP
- DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIP
- ◆ A RELATIONSHIP

GREEN NETWORK ASSESSMENT

GREEN NETWORK ASSESSMENT

During the assessment of open land in Telford extensive information on the functions and the uses of open land was collected. This data has now been collated into a series of plans as follows:-

- Key Green Network Areas and Links
- Green Network Functions
- Green Network Potential

These plans provide an important first point of reference and should be consulted when any projects are being undertaken either in or adjacent to the Green Network as they show:-

- Functions/use
- Character of site
- How it relates to adjacent areas
- The role it plays in the "network"
- If the site can contribute to any shortfalls
- Has potential for improvement.

However, consulting these documents does not substitute for site survey and appraisal as recommended in Wrekin Council's "Landscape Design Guide".

KEY GREEN NETWORK AREAS AND LINKS

The principle concept of the Green Network is that it is a network of interlinked open land. Each link is important to the overall integrity of the Network, to lose one link would mean that there would be a loss to the overall value of the Network.

Green network links are important to the understanding of how open land is used, and potential for improvements. Parts of Telford have a more extensive interlinked landscape structure, while others have isolated areas of open land.

Green Network links perform several functions at the same time, including:-

- Providing ecological links and wildlife corridors
- Providing access and recreational links e.g. footpath, cycleway, and bridleways
- The separation, distinction between and enhancement of communities.

The Key Green Network Areas and Links Plan (Plan 2) show component parts of the network which serve different functions as follows:

1. **Strategic Links** major strategic open land links within the Green Network, "Urban Countryside", running north to south and east to west and linking with the surrounding countryside.
2. **Transport Corridors** areas of open land that people see as they move through the town from major highway, motorway and railways. They are important to the perception and image of Telford.
3. **Internal Links** these are smaller scale but equally important internal links, often footpaths and smaller links connecting local people/communities with open land. It should be noted that the links shown are not exhaustive.

Each of these links can be multi-functional and also of wildlife and access value, as well as connecting different parts of the network.

I. KEY STRATEGIC GREEN NETWORK LINKS

The following are brief descriptions of strategic links illustrated on Plan 2.

1. **North-South Telford link:**

The protection and enhancement of this major landscape corridor offers the potential for a Green Network link along the western side of Telford, from the Ironbridge Gorge in the south to the countryside to the north of the Town. The link contains several "Prime Sites for Nature Conservation" e.g. Oilhouse Coppice, Lightmoor and Dale Coppice.

This strategic Green Network link offers potential for landscape and ecological enhancement and development of the most comprehensive footpath/cycleway/bridleway links to the Town.

2. **Wellington/Beanhill landscape links:**

This offers the potential for the development of a landscape/ecological/ access link from Wellington to Dothill and the wider area of the Beanhill Valley, alone. A link can be extended north along the Silkin Way, following the disused railway line.

3. **West-East Access link:**

This link follows the disused railway line – from its junction with the existing British Rail line to the countryside to the north east of Telford (in part along the landscape corridor of the A518). The Green Network linkage offers the potential for the development as a major west – east footpath/cycleway/ bridleway link and landscape enhancement of the areas through which the route passes.

4. **Priorslee links:**

This link runs from Priorslee Flash along watercourse to Priorslee Balancing Lake and includes surrounding amenity areas. There are also links towards the Town Centre, Granville Country Park and the east of the Town.

5. **Randlay Brook/Nedge Hill link:**

This link between the Town Park and Nedge Hill to the south east of Telford has as its basis the Randlay Brook, which is designated a "Prime Site for Nature Conservation". There is potential for enhancement of landscape, wildlife and access.

6. **Southern Silkin Way:**

This portion of the Green Network is the landscape corridor carrying the southern portion of the Silkin Way from Coalport to the Town Park.

7. **Aqueduct Landscape Links:**

The Aqueduct landscape links include Southall Road Wood "Prime Site for Nature Conservation", between Lightmoor and the Town Park.



KEY AREAS

- A: Lightmoor
- B: Horsehay Common
- C: Dothill And Bean Valley
- D: Apley Park
- E: Wrockwardine Wood
- F: N.E. Telford / Granville Country Park
- G: Priorslee Flash
- H: Priorslee Balancing Lake
- I: The Town Park
- J: Madeley Court

-  Strategic Links
-  Transport Corridors
-  Internal Links

**GREEN NETWORK
KEY AREAS & KEY LINKS**

**GREEN NETWORK
KEY AREAS & KEY LINKS**

FIGURE 1

As well as considering links within the Green Network it is essential to recognise links with surrounding areas e.g. housing, industrial areas, and the surrounding countryside.

II. TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

Transport links including the M54, Eastern primary, major roads, lanes and railway corridors. The visual image of a new town is important. These can also contribute to wildlife corridors.

III. LOCAL LINKS

These tend to be footpaths and tracks, allowing local people access to the Green Network and countryside.

IV. GREEN NETWORK AREAS

Major large areas of open land that act to link a number of sites.

A. Lightmoor and surrounding areas:

The landscape around Lightmoor is a critical component of the Green Network. The existing high wildlife and landscape value of the area with its "Prime Site for Nature Conservation" is complemented by the importance of a number of linkages running from and through the area:

- south towards Coalbrookdale;
- west towards the Lydebrook Dingle Site of Special Scientific interest;
- North towards the Town Park and, as part of the A442 road corridor, towards the east and north of the town.

B. Horsehay Common:

Horsehay Common the former "Symon" opencast site, subsequently reclaimed to form a golf course, together with access linkages to the surrounding areas of countryside to the west of Telford, will form one of the major "gateways" or linkages to the countryside around Telford, as well as its future use for recreation.

C. Dothill and the Beanhill Valley:

Dothill, with its "Prime Site for Nature Conservation", and the Beanhill Valley, have the potential to become one of the major areas of recreational open space in north west of Telford. There are links into Wellington, Apley Park, and out beyond the Town's boundaries to the west and north via the disused railway line carrying the Silkin Way.

D. Apley Park:

Apley Park with the ruined Apley Castle is a local community facility with great potential for wider public use and landscape/habitat restoration.

E. Wrockwardine Wood:

Wrockwardine Wood ("Prime Site for Nature Conservation") provides both a view and focal point in the landscape for miles around, containing woodland, grassland and heathland. Links into the area have potential for improvement.

F. N.E. Telford/Granville Country Park:

Granville Country Park, Muxton Marsh (Site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve) and Donnington Wood and north east Telford "Prime Site for Nature Conservation" provides a major open land resource on the fringe of Telford, which is currently becoming a major recreational centre with associated golf and equestrian facilities.

The area acts as a buffer between the built elements of the Town and the surrounding countryside – the protection and enhancement of Green Network links via this area to the wider countryside towards Lilleshall is therefore particularly important.

G. Priorslee Flash; and H. Priorslee Balancing Lake:

Priorslee Flash and Priorslee Balancing Lake and their surrounding amenity areas are linked together; there is scope for improvement.

I The Town Park

The Town Park is a major regional recreational area and wildlife resource with specific areas within the park having "Prime Site for Nature Conservation" and Local Nature Reserve status. The Town Park is centrally located and is probably the most widely known Open Space in the area. The protection and enhancement of Green Network links to the east and south of the town are of particular importance.

J. Madeley Court

The area around Madeley Court consists of playing fields, mixed woodland and open water habitats designated a "Prime Site for Nature Conservation", providing a major area of Public Open Space.

IMPORTANT: When looking at a Green Network site, it is important that not only are the existing and potential functions/uses of the site considered, but also the role the site performs within the wider network through Links and Corridors.

Green Network:- All Functions

GREEN NETWORK FUNCTIONS

To provide a greater understanding of the variety and complexity of the Green Network a "Green Network Functions Plan" (Plan 3+4) has been produced.

The plan shows the existing functions/uses of individual land areas in the Green Network. The primary function/use is illustrated, however, it should be noted that most areas have multiple overlapping uses e.g. woodland also has wildlife, amenity and informal recreation value, wildlife sites often perform an informal recreation function as do sites primarily used for formal recreation.

The Green Network Functions Plan (Plan 3+4) shows each of the main functions of the Green Network which are as follows:-

- **Woodland** Significant sized woodland areas.
- **Water** Major water bodies e.g. lakes, pools and reservoirs.
- **Sites used for formal recreation** Sites where formal outdoor provision is laid out/visible including public and private e.g. football pitch, golf course etc.
- **Sites of amenity value** These are important landscape areas, which give structure to the town; create a sense of place and local distinctiveness. Visually important to quality of area e.g. road verges. They have minimal value for recreation but can contribute to wildlife value. Allotments, church yards and cemeteries also come under this category.
- **Sites with grazing or agricultural use** Remnant areas of agricultural or reclaimed land that is still either farmed, or rough grass with little inherent value. But has potential in forming a critical link/function or overall improvement.
- **Key Ecological Sites** These include SSSI's identified by English Nature, Prime Sites for Nature Conservation identified by Shropshire Wildlife Trust; and Grade A + B sites from Penny Anderson, Ecological Consultants report. These are all wildlife sites of County or District Value, awarded Special Protection in Local Plan. (Note – some of these categories overlap, the larger boundary area has been shown on this plan, where as in Local Plan SSSI and Prime site boundaries have been used).

- **Penny Anderson C & D Sites** Sites of lower intrinsic value, but still support habitats and species of interest in Telford, and may often be of a high social and educational value, or they provide reservoirs of more common species.
- **Sites of Nature Conservation Value** Areas and links which are adjacent to or link areas of ecological value. Their intrinsic value may not be that high for wildlife but are important because of either their potential value can be increased or acts as a buffer or a link. They may also exhibit another function. No designations.
- **Informal Recreation** This is not individually shown on the plan, but can occur with other functions.

IMPORTANT

The plan should be used as initial point of reference to identify the primary functions/uses of a site e.g. woodland, amenity, key wildlife area, the functions and uses of adjacent areas. This provides pointers to existing value of site, compatibility of uses/management, issues for special considerations, and management indicators.

GREEN NETWORK POTENTIAL

The designation and protection of the Green Network was the initial stage in recognising the importance of the Green Fabric of Telford. The next stage was to look forward to ways of sustaining and enhancing the qualities of open land through careful planning, design and management.

In order to provide a co-ordinated approach Wrekin Council has produced a Green Network Potential Plan (Plan 4) in association with other organisations. The Plan is not meant to be exhaustive but is intended to show the scope and variety for future improvements. It illustrates the potential for enhancement of wildlife, formal and informal recreation and landscape quality throughout Telford. Information has been extracted from the assessments undertaken in the process of identifying the Green Network, taking into account:

- The objectives of the Green Network Functions/Uses
- The potential for improvement
- The needs of the Local Community
- The Requirements of facilities in Telford.

The plan highlights areas where improvements would enhance the existing quality to meet overall Green Network objectives. The plan does not specify locations for new facilities e.g. new football pitches, parks, however, it does provide an initial guide to where they may be best located complementing existing uses and values.

Enhancement of sites through planning, design and management can fall into three categories:-

- The management/maintenance of existing functions/uses to maintain the status quo, and ensure no loss in quality. (This is considered to be regular management and is not shown on plan).
- The realisation of inherent potential of open land functions to meet Green Network objectives. (This will involve more than regular maintenance, will require positive action to upgrade quality of existing areas) e.g. creating new footpaths promotes informal recreation, upgrading football pitches allows increased use, introducing new management can increase wildlife.
- The creation of facilities/uses to meet the needs of Local people and Telford e.g. Local Parks, Football stadium, Motorbike track.

The examination of the Green Network Potentials Plan raises the following issues:-

- Numerous areas have been identified which show the need and potential for the improvement of several functions. In these situations care should be given to

ensure that they are compatible as shown in table 2 should produce an integrated design.

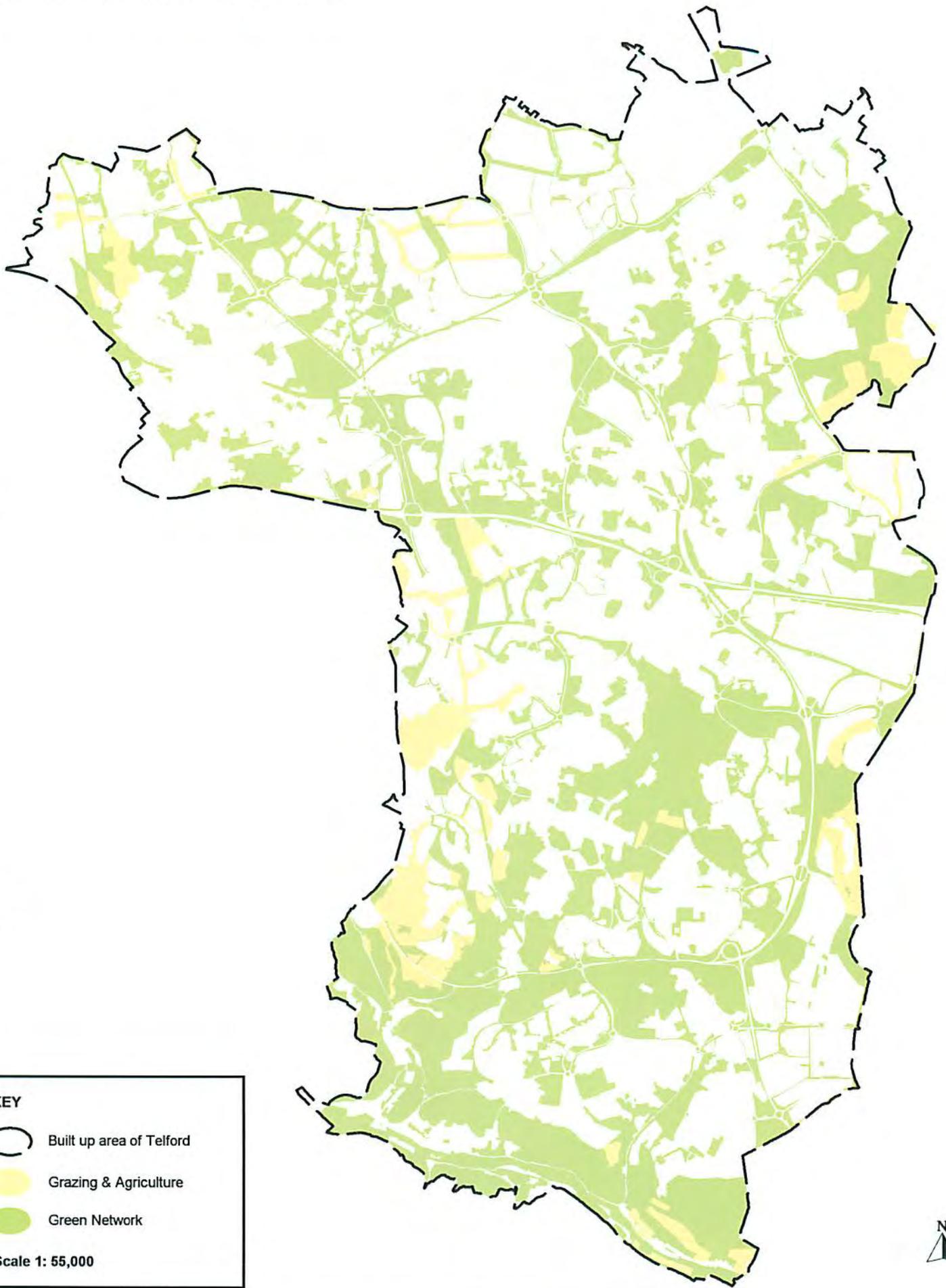
- 'Green Deserts' have been identified, particularly towards the edge of Telford, where there are an absence of functions and uses. These sites tend to have been reclaimed and play an import role in the Green Network for 'Links' and their future potential. Often these areas are associated with land zoned for extensive housing, and therefore have scope for recreational, landscape amenity and wildlife in the future to become 'Green Oasis'.
- Wildlife and Nature Conservation appears to show the greatest scope for improvement. This may be due to a bias toward wildlife during assessment of Green Space; or the more immediate improvement which can be brought about by changing management regimes.
- Amenity improvements are primarily adjacent to roads.
- Greatest need for formal recreation in North.
- Often improvement of one function can upgrade an other.
- Increasing quality of existing resource may reduce need for additional facility.

These are just a few initial observations, there are many more which are not shown. The plan should be used in association with the functions and links plan as a guide for planning benefits, design and management.

Remember the plan is not meant to be comprehensive, but an indication of a type and scale of improvements.

Green Network:- Grazing & Agricultural Use

Green Network - Grazing & Agriculture



KEY

-  Built up area of Telford
-  Grazing & Agriculture
-  Green Network

Scale 1: 55,000



PART B GREEN NETWORK GUIDELINES

GREEN NETWORK GUIDELINES - INTRODUCTION

To achieve Green Network objectives it is important to have a full understanding of Green Network functions - wildlife, woodland, water, access, recreation and Green Network quality when planning, designing or managing open land. To assist this Green Network Guidelines have been produced in association with other organisations.

In the following section each of the above functions is addressed as follows:-

- **Key Principle** States the underlying principle of the function which aim to achieve
- **Main Issues** Identifies the current position and problems which need to be addressed
- **Main Objectives** States measures which need to be undertaken to redress the current position in order to meet they key principles.
- **Design and Management Guidelines** Guidance on how principles can be achieved through appropriate implementation.
- **Overlaps and Interrelationships** Highlights any potential problems and compatibility with other functions, which should be considered in design, planning and implementation.
- **Future Action** Identifies the future work required to provide further guidance on a specific function.
- **Further Information** Provides references to more detailed strategies and assessment Appendix D, and refers to sources of Grant Aid Appendix E.

The information shown in The Green Network Guidelines is a summary of detailed assessment and strategies which should be referred too, e.g. woodland strategy.

The Guidelines go on to demonstrate how the Green Network can be used as part of the planning control process to negotiate planning benefit, involve Local Communities in environmental issues; play a role in education and contribute to the economy of Telford.

Together the Green Network Assessment and Guidelines provide an outline on:-

- the principles of the Green Network
- support policies in Local Plan
- current open land function
- guidelines for design, implementation and management
- role in Green Network
- links with Community Programmes
- further work on Green Network Issues.

NATURE CONSERVATION

NATURE CONSERVATION

The UK Government's Strategies for Sustainable Development and Biodiversity in response to international commitments made at the Earth Summit of '92, have brought nature conservation to the fore in planning and development issues.

KEY PRINCIPLE

Biological diversity must be conserved and enhanced throughout the Green Network. Mundane habitats and species are just as important as rare ones if 'gene pools' are to be maintained for the future. Linkages are vital to avoid isolation and erosion of habitats and must therefore be protected.

MAIN ISSUES

- Nature Conservation concerns were one of the driving forces which lead to the formal creation of the Green Network. The 'Losing Ground' report published by Shropshire Wildlife Trust in 1986 highlighted the alarming rate of the loss of wildlife habitat.
- Since the statutory designation of the Green Network, actual area of habitats lost has stabilised to approximately 1% per year. However, the main concern now is **loss of quality**. Shropshire Wildlife Trust feel that sites of ecological importance are now more threatened through lack of, or inappropriate management, than through development.
- Ecological concerns are not a separate issue for specialist groups or interested individuals. Understanding that **we are all part of the ecological cycle** and that nature conservation is everyone's responsibility (planner, architect, developer, teacher, parent, landowner, whatever) is essential.
- Threatened species and habitats are **not more important** than others, they are simply in need of **more urgent action**. These are targeted for improvement in the 'Biodiversity Challenge' for the District. Realising potential for ecological improvements within the Green Network can go a long way to meeting these targets.
- Almost all sites within the Green network are capable of ecological diversification and habitat improvement to some degree (without devaluing other functions).
- Need to monitor and address pressures put up on habitat by humans, recreation, pollution and development to minimise loss.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that, through planning, design and management decisions, the downward trend of loss of nature conservation value is halted and reversed.
- To protect and strengthen all Ecological Links.
- To ensure that nature conservation issues are carefully considered on **all** Green Network land even when the particular site is not a Key Ecological Site or where Wildlife value is not the primary function.
- To achieve a substantial part of the improvements targeted for the District in the Biodiversity Challenge within the Green Network.
- To establish targets for local public accessibility to wildlife sites.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following broad principles and guidelines produced by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust will enable beneficial effects for ecological values to be achieved very quickly:-

- (i) **Ensure that all Key Ecological Sites have management plans.** These should be implemented, monitored and regularly reviewed so that they continue to function as Core Sites (if changes are taking place, eg climatic changes over which there is little control, we need to be aware).
- (ii) **Key Ecological Sites should be linked together** by the Green Network. Where corridors are weak or absent they should be a priority for enhancement, ie wildlife sites should not be isolated otherwise values diminish very rapidly.
- (iii) **Ensure all Key Ecological Sites are protected by buffer zones** to absorb recreational and development pressures, eg avoid residential development right up to a Prime Site.
- (iv) **Increase the size of existing wildlife sites where possible** as a larger site will support a greater diversity of species and habitats and generally be able to absorb more pressure, ie increase rather than decrease size.
- (v) **Similar habitat types should be linked together.** A link of the same habitat is desirable but a matrix of different types may sometimes be necessary.
- (vi) **The lower grade sites offer the greatest potential for habitat enhancement** through changes in management practice or the creation of new habitats (see management guidelines following, which would have

significant effect very quickly).

- (vii) **'Project Bank' of improvements could be compiled** by having management plans for individual sections of the Green Network. This could provide the focus for involvement of local community groups.

DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

a) Essential

Equates with English Nature's Critical Natural Assets - **those habitats which cannot be recreated**. This includes:

- All Prime Sites
- All Key Ecological Sites
- Penny Anderson Grade A & B Sites
- Some Grade C & D sites where these are pitmounds.

All sites in this category **must** have management plans prepared, implemented and monitored in order to maintain their value to wildlife. Key habitats in Telford are shown in Figure 3.

b) Potential

Equates with English Nature's Constant Natural Assets. Essentially, this is the remainder of the network outside those included in the Essential category alone. All these sites have the potential for improved wildlife value through the following management:

Habitat	Action
Grassland	<p>Review and monitor grazing licences (is the grazing pressure suppressing the growth of wild flowers?)</p> <p>Review and adjust mowing regimes (alter to 1-2 times per year and always remove cuttings).</p> <p>Reduce or eliminate herbicide applications (use a strimmer to control weed growth).</p> <p>Where appropriate cease mowing some areas altogether and allow to develop into scrub and woodland habitats.</p> <p>Investigate diversifying species through introducing cut hay containing seeds from other species-rich grassland areas.</p>
Wetland	<p>A priority is to monitor pollution and ensure good water quality.</p>

	<p>Plant up reed beds to help absorb pollution in storm water channels and at inflow points in balancing lakes.</p> <p>Review and monitor fishing licences.</p> <p>Look for opportunities to create new wetland areas, eg marshes and ponds, especially in natural hollows.</p>
Woodland	<p>Look at ways of linking together blocks of woodland with new woodland and/or hedgerow planting.</p> <p>Remove alien species and re-stock with native species.</p> <p>Diversify areas of plantation woodland (introduce shrub layer, dead wood, glades, rides).</p>
Hedgerows	<p>Improve for wildlife (eg bird boxes, bat boxes).</p> <p>Fill in gaps.</p> <p>Manage appropriately (for example, re-introduce hedge laying where traditional and appropriate).</p> <p>Create new ones.</p> <p>Introduce standard trees where appropriate.</p>
Sports Pitches	<p>Review mowing regime (is it possible to leave rough corners - 'conservation headlands' as in farmland).</p> <p>Create links around the margins of the site with belts of planting or with new hedgerows.</p>
School Grounds	<p>Encourage the creation of wildlife gardens (located to give maximum benefit to the Green network) scope to include peripheral planting of green desert playing fields, creation of community woodlands with schools including community orchard/tree nurseries.</p>
Golf Courses	<p>Review mowing regime as for sports pitches above.</p> <p>Encourage a diversity of habitats in the non-playing areas, especially habitats such as rough grassland and scrub and appropriate management. Design water features to be of value for wildlife, eg shallow margins.</p>
Railway Corridors	<p>Remove rubbish, potential to use disused railway corridor to form footpath linkages.</p> <p>Remove alien species and re-plant with native species.</p> <p>Strengthen weak links with appropriate planting.</p>
Canal Corridors	<p>Potential to enhance and develop communications/wildlife/recreational corridors and linkages.</p>
Traffic Islands/ Roundabouts	<p>Explore possibility of replacing formal planting with native trees and shrubs where appropriate.</p>

Road Corridors

Re-plant formal beds with plants which are beneficial to insects.

Experiment with flower rich grassland or heathland in the centres.

Reduce close mown areas to road verges to visibility splays only to diversify ground layer and increase invertebrate populations.

Industrial Campus

Explore opportunities for habitat creation and/or changes in current management practices (eg mowing of grassland areas, species used in landscape planting, etc.)

Need sensitive management techniques to enhance and create appropriate habitats.

OVERLAPS AND INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

Wildlife value is a very important function of the Network, but for sites outside the 'Essential' category (see 7.6), other objectives may have priority within the overall strategy for the future development of the Green Network. It is, therefore, necessary for any ecological improvements to be formulated within the Network objectives and emphasises the close liaison between disciplines, departments, etc, that is required.

FUTURE ACTION

A Nature Conservation Masterplan Drawing is required which will summarise in plan form, the strategic ecological objectives for the Network. This should be considered in association with other functions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Green Network Masterplan Drawing 2 - Potential, identifies some sites which offer possibilities for ecological improvement.

Appendix D, at the rear of this document, provides a comprehensive catalogue of further sources of information, including a list of detailed reports on Key Ecological Sites produced by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The Biodiversity Challenge report produced by the Trust is also an important and useful document.

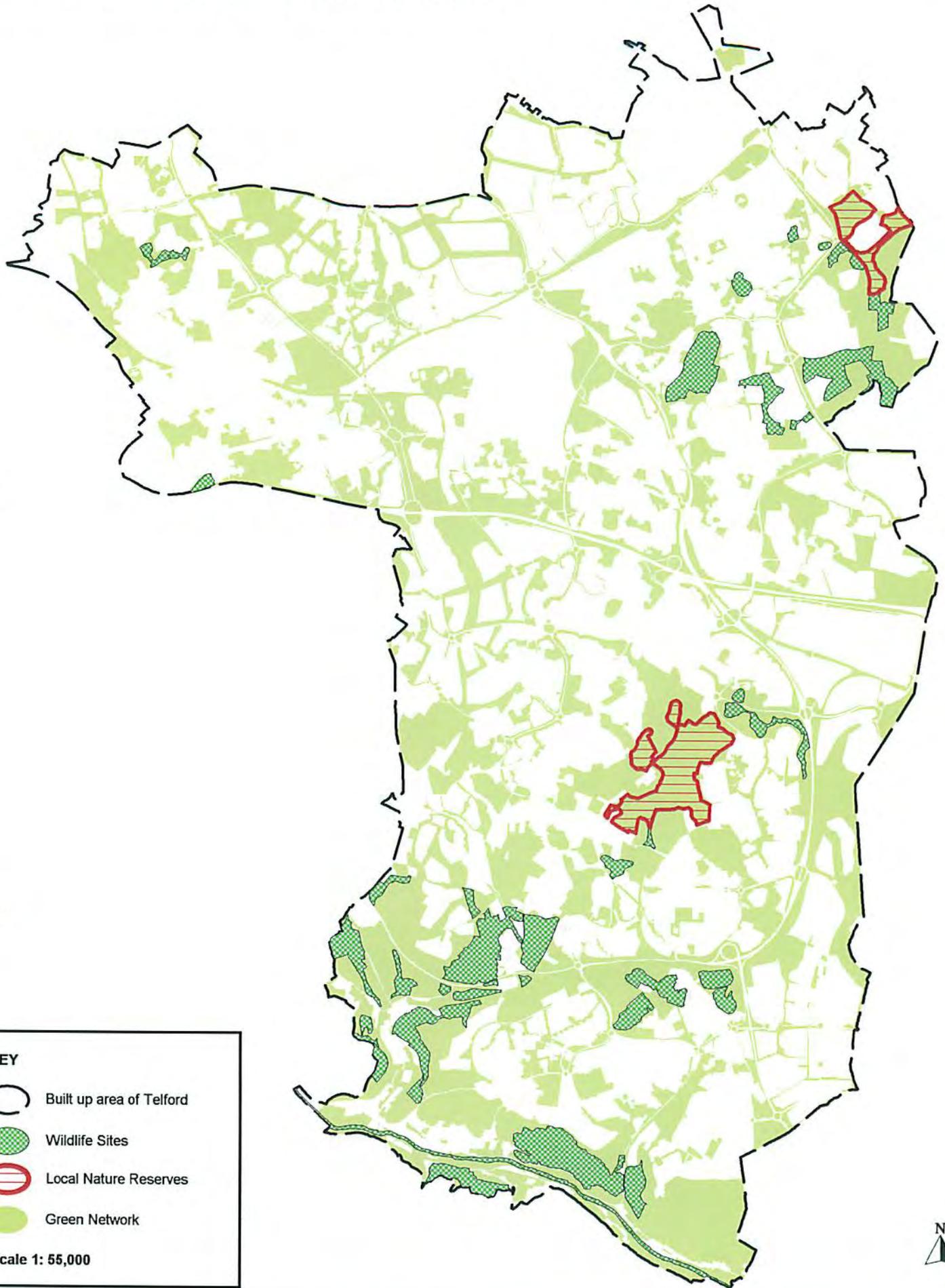
FIGURE 3

HABITATS IN TELFORD

<p>Broadleaved Woodland</p>	<p>These range from biologically-rich areas of ancient woodland such as those in Ironbridge Gorge to more recent naturally generated woodland such as those found on pitmounds in Telford. The older the woodland, the more likely it is to support a wide range of plants and animals, for example Bluebells and Dormice.</p>
<p>Scrubland</p>	<p>Scrub is woodland in its early stages, developing on areas of grassland or where grazing or cutting has ceased, often on former industrial sites or abandoned agricultural land. It can be found throughout the Telford area as a complex mixture of young trees and tall vegetation with open grass areas or bare ground. Scrub offers a wide variety of opportunities for nesting, feeding and sheltering many different forms of wildlife.</p>
<p>Acidic Grassland</p>	<p>Acidic grassland can be found where sandstone or acidic rocks are close to the surface, for example the rocks of the Wrekin and Ercall Hills. In Telford this habitat has developed on the acidic coal spoil brought to the surface during past mining activity. Where the grassland is natural, it supports a characteristic plant community of wavy hair and bent grasses, sheep's sorrel and heath bedstraw.</p>
<p>Natural Grassland</p>	<p>Neutral grassland is found on areas where the soil is neither acid nor alkaline. Where it remains unimproved, it can support a wide and colourful range of plants including yellow bird's-foot-trefoil - the food plant of the Dingy Skipper Butterfly, large ox-eye daisies, buttercups and clovers. Typical examples are Fletcher's Meadow and Hinkshay Meadow in Telford Town Park.</p>
<p>Limestone Grassland</p>	<p>This habitat develops on areas underlain by limestone, for example some parts of the Ironbridge Gorge and Limekiln Woods near Wellington. In Telford limestone grassland has also developed on alkaline clay wastes of past mining areas. Where this grassland is unimproved it supports a diverse range of species, including the Spotted Orchid.</p>
<p>Heathland</p>	<p>Areas of heathland develop on sandy or other acidic substrates, especially where the soil is thin or very poor. Typical heathlands are dominated by heather and bilberry, with shrubs of brook and gorse. Very little of this type of habitat is present within the District, mostly it is confined to some of the acidic coal spoil mounds in Telford.</p>

<p>Swamp, Fen and Marshland</p>	<p>Swamp, fen and marsh are different habitat types which occur together and represent a transition from dry to wet conditions, usually through to open water. It includes wet grassland which may only be waterlogged for part of the year such as areas around river valleys. These areas are important for birds such as Lapwing. Muxton Marsh is an important swamp, fen and marsh habitat in the District, but smaller areas of this type of habitat are also found close to many pools and streams.</p>
<p>Still Open Water</p>	<p>There are many areas of open water within the District, ranging from the large storm-water balancing pools such as Priorslee Lake and Holmer Lake to fragments of canal and small farm ponds. Open water areas are important breeding sites for amphibians such as rare Great Crested Newts or more commonly Frogs and Toads.</p>
<p>Running Water</p>	<p>The largest River through the District is the River Severn which flows through the Ironbridge Gorge. Clean waters support enough food for Kingfishers and others, whilst shallow muddy margins of riverside vegetation provide ideal conditions for insects such as clubtailed dragonfly.</p>

Green Network - Wildlife Sites & Local Nature Reserves



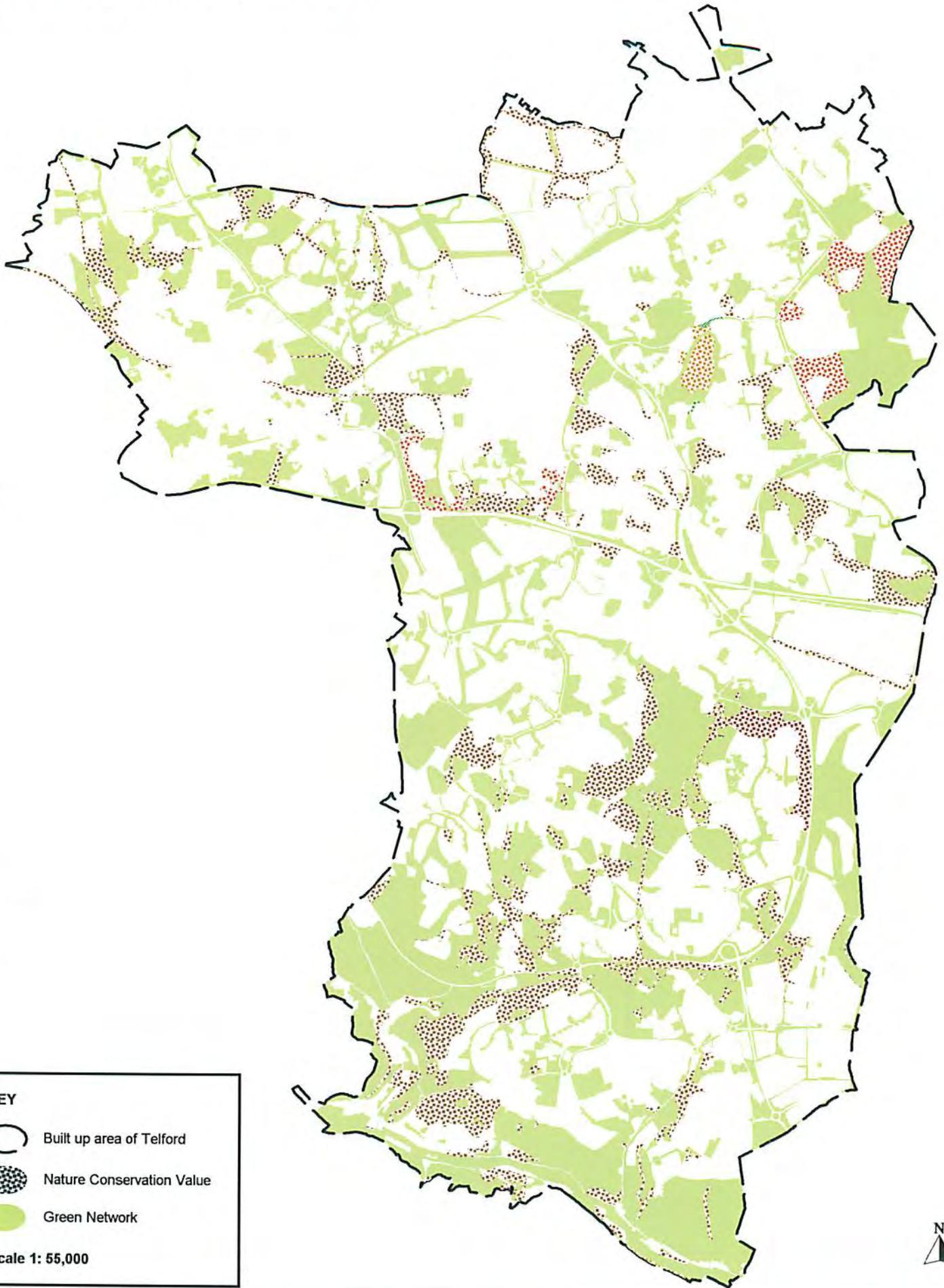
KEY

-  Built up area of Telford
-  Wildlife Sites
-  Local Nature Reserves
-  Green Network

Scale 1: 55,000

Green Network:- Prime Sites

Green Network - Nature Conservation Value



KEY

-  Built up area of Telford
-  Nature Conservation Value
-  Green Network

Scale 1: 55,000

Green Network:- Nature Conservation Value

EXISTING INFORMATION

NATURE CONSERVATION

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM			TYPE		
			DISK	HARD	DATA	ASSESSMENT	STRATEGY	COMMENTS
Ecological Consultants : Sites of Nature Conservation	1989	1:10,000		✓	✓			
Green Network Wildlife Network	1991	1:14,000		✓	✓			
Ecological Consultants : Sites of Ecological Potential	1991	1:10,000		✓		✓		
Ecological Consultants: Access and Education Elements	1991	1:10,000		✓		✓		
Key Green Network Links	1992	1:14,000		✓			✓	
Green Network Masterplan 1 Existing Uses	1993	1:10,000		✓	✓			
Green Network Masterplan 2 Potential	1995	1:10,000		✓		✓		

EXISTING INFORMATION

NATURE CONSERVATION

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			DISK	HARD	DATA	ASSESSMENT	STRATEGY	COMMENTS
Landscape Management and Development Statement	1991			✓		✓		
Aquatic Area Statement	1992			✓		✓		
Woodland Management Strategy	1993						✓	
An appraisal of Heathland Sites in Telford by Shropshire Wildlife Trust	1993			✓		✓		
An appraisal of Wooded Pitmound Sites in Telford	1994			✓		✓		
Countryside Information and Interpretation Strategy	1991 rev 1994			✓			(✓)	
Woodland Management Plan	1994			✓		✓		
Individual Management Plans	1991 - 1995			✓		✓		

WOODLANDS

WOODLANDS

In Telford woodlands are a major landscape structural element, within which open spaces and ecological habitats could be maintained, enhanced or created; to maximise the richness of the whole ecological system and the range of landscape, recreation and habitat types. Broad areas of woodland edge habitats are particularly useful for wildlife.

This structure of trees also bestows other environmental benefits on Telford, including counteracting the effects of exhaust emissions, filtering noise and dust, providing shelter from wind and sun and calming psychological effects. Woodlands also have the capacity to absorb and contain leisure activities.

KEY PRINCIPLE

Green Network woodlands should be designed and managed sustainably with the basic principle that the many benefits of forests and woods are **interdependent**. They should therefore be **managed as a multiple-value resource** for present and future generations. Management plans should co-ordinate the economic, environmental, cultural, educational and social objectives for the woodlands.

MAIN ISSUES

- Detailed management guidelines have been produced for the silvicultural and ecological objectives for Green Network woodlands by the *design* objectives and overall strategy for the woodlands need to be established.
- The District will continue to change in 'character' as the emerging landscape continues to evolve with maturity and undoubtedly trees already planted, and those to be planted, will play a significant role in this emerging character.
- The Forest City concept needs to be interpreted in detail and the Community Forest initiative needs to be incorporated.
- Woodland needs managing in order to maintain and enhance wildlife, landscape and amenity values.
- There is an inequality of woodland area comparing the northern half of the Green Network with the southern. This reflects the differing historic land uses and geography and it is questionable whether this traditional imbalance should be completely redressed or whether the broad character differences should be respected.
- Development and management of Green Network woodlands needs to provide overall unity whilst respecting and distinguishing localities and differing Landscape Character. There is potential for improving Landscape Quality and reinforcing local identity, for example by using clearance and thinning operations to open up local views or frame landmarks.

- Investigation is needed into whether the woodlands can be managed more profitably without compromising the environmental or social objectives.
- There is considerable potential to improve the ecological value of Green Network Woodlands through appropriate management, for example clearance and thinning operations to create habitat diversity at the small scale.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

Strategic objectives include:-

- Reinforcing the overall strategic aims of protection and enhancement of the Green Network.
- Developing the 'Forest City'/'Forest Edge' concept to respect the broad historic character differences (see Fig. 5) and to become the 'heart' of the Community Forest.
- Developing the woodlands in a way which reinforces the Landscape Quality for the particular location and reflects local distinctiveness and Landscape Character.
- Develop Community Woodlands, where the community are actively encouraged to participate in the management of their local environment.
- Develop guidelines on distribution of future woodlands as well as management.

The following objectives are stated in Wrekin's Woodland Management Strategy:

- to recognise the capacity of each woodland to provide particular benefits to the local population;
- to conserve existing woodland;
- to conserve and enhance ecological and heritage features of the woodlands;
- to maintain existing recreation opportunities and to provide new and more robust recreation opportunities for an increasing and more active population;
- to provide working examples of woodland, grassland and countryside management and to increase awareness amongst nearby communities of woodland management operations
- to maintain and, where necessary, work towards an open non-threatening and accessible woodland experience;
- to regenerate mature woodland and plant new woodland using species of tree and shrub most appropriate to local soils, ecology, visual and historical characteristics,

paying particular attention to the form and structure of woodland edges, both internally (paths and rides) and externally.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

- New plantations need to be designed to reflect local soils and vegetation.
- Woodlands and trees should be planted not only to suit environmental conditions but also create 'A Sense of Place and Local Distinctiveness'.
- Where appropriate, green Network woodlands should be extended using the Low Cost/High Performance Option (see information sheet at end of section).
- Remember groups of trees and woods are important to local people.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The following are summary silvicultural/ecological guidelines for the various woodland types found in the Green Network from Wrekin's Management Strategy:

(i) Recent Plantations

Most ex-TDC plantations require thinning with an emphasis on removal of poplar, grey alder, Norway maple, willows and common alder, along with other aggressive nurse species in order to favour the development of a more naturalistic mix of species. Particular situations arise where retention of poplar and Norway maple is desirable and these will be noted specifically.

Ex-TDC plantations are often on footpath and road edges. In the most visually prominent locations and adjacent to the main footpaths it is desirable that edge management takes place. This may take the form of coppicing, thinning and pruning and introduction of meadow grassland regimes adjacent to paths, in order to diversify the edge both visually and structurally. On occasions it is desirable to introduce new understorey species in order to provide the structural diversity that these woodlands generally lack.

Continued control of Norway maple, poplar and grey alder will be needed. The pruning of selected stems of ash, oak, cherry and other species of potentially high timber value should be carried out.

(ii) Semi-Natural Oak/Birch Woodland on Pitmounds

For some pitmounds a minimal-intervention strategy is appropriate except to clear sightlines along paths, dangerous trees, etc. However, in order to diversify the overall resource of semi-natural oak/birch woodland on pitmounds, it is recommended that thinning takes place in certain situations, in line with the following aims:

- (i) to remove encroaching scrub, birch and hawthorn on areas of heath, particularly where heather and bilberry are well established;
- (ii) to accelerate the progression towards an oak-dominated canopy in situations where oak is already present in numbers.

Introduction of a thinning regime on certain pitmounds will require techniques which may not have previously been used in Wrekin woodland management. These might include the use of horses for extraction or perhaps a novel approach of fibreglass chutes to carry timber down the slopes. The technical difficulties of felling on steep slopes will require the use of skilled labour or contractors.

(iii) **Mature Broadleaf and Coniferous Woodland**

Where constraints of visual impact and windthrow sensitivity allow, it is appropriate to thin these woodlands and, amongst the broadleaf canopies, to introduce small glades for regeneration or re-planting.

Non-intervention may be a valid policy where considerations of windthrow and visual impact sensitivity are most important. In cases where an estate character is evident, it is appropriate to maintain a high canopy with little understorey, particularly adjacent to paths.

(iv) **Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland**

The general aim of management is to protect the semi-natural status by removal of invasive species. Rejuvenation of coppice amongst an overstorey of standards is the appropriate silvicultural tool where coppice is present.

(v) **Recent Semi-Natural Woodland**

The overall aim is to encourage succession towards mature woodland through thinning. However, a proportion of open space and scrub should be retained by felling/coppicing in order to preserve ecological and visual diversity.

OVERLAPS AND INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

Although one of the main management general objectives is to achieve a broad-leaved woodland composed mainly of local indigenous species, there will be occasions when non-indigenous species or more formal, ornamental tree planting is appropriate. For example, close to the designated landscapes of the Town Centre or historic parklands.

Woodland management operations must also take into account detailed nature conservation and recreation objectives for specific areas and sites.

There may sometimes be conflicts between woodlands and security issues. However, with care, a number of objectives may be reconciled simultaneously. For example, edge management to paths and roads will achieve structural and visual diversity whilst improving psychological safety and traffic sight lines.

FUTURE ACTION

More detailed design guidelines are required for the visual appearance and spatial quality which is desired for particular areas, as distinct from the silvicultural and ecological objectives set out in Wrekin's Woodland Management Strategy, which will be translated into action on the ground.

Consideration needs to be given to varying visual and spatial characteristics desired for specific locations within Telford and will highlight, for example, '**Gateways**' (where contrasting planting such as groups of pines could be retained or planted for identification); **Visual focal points and landmarks** (where thinning and clearance could be used to frame or open up views); **Adverse views or objects** (where maximum screening needs to be retained).

Detailed design of individual woodlands will be addressed during the development of medium - long term management plans. (Wrekin's woodland management strategy is at present only short term management prescriptions, but relates to a contextual analysis undertaken for each woodland, and the character has been analysed in terms of overall character.)

The creation and evaluation of Community Woodlands will help identify individual woodlands potential in design terms and individual long term management plans, which may include structural Master Plan Designs.

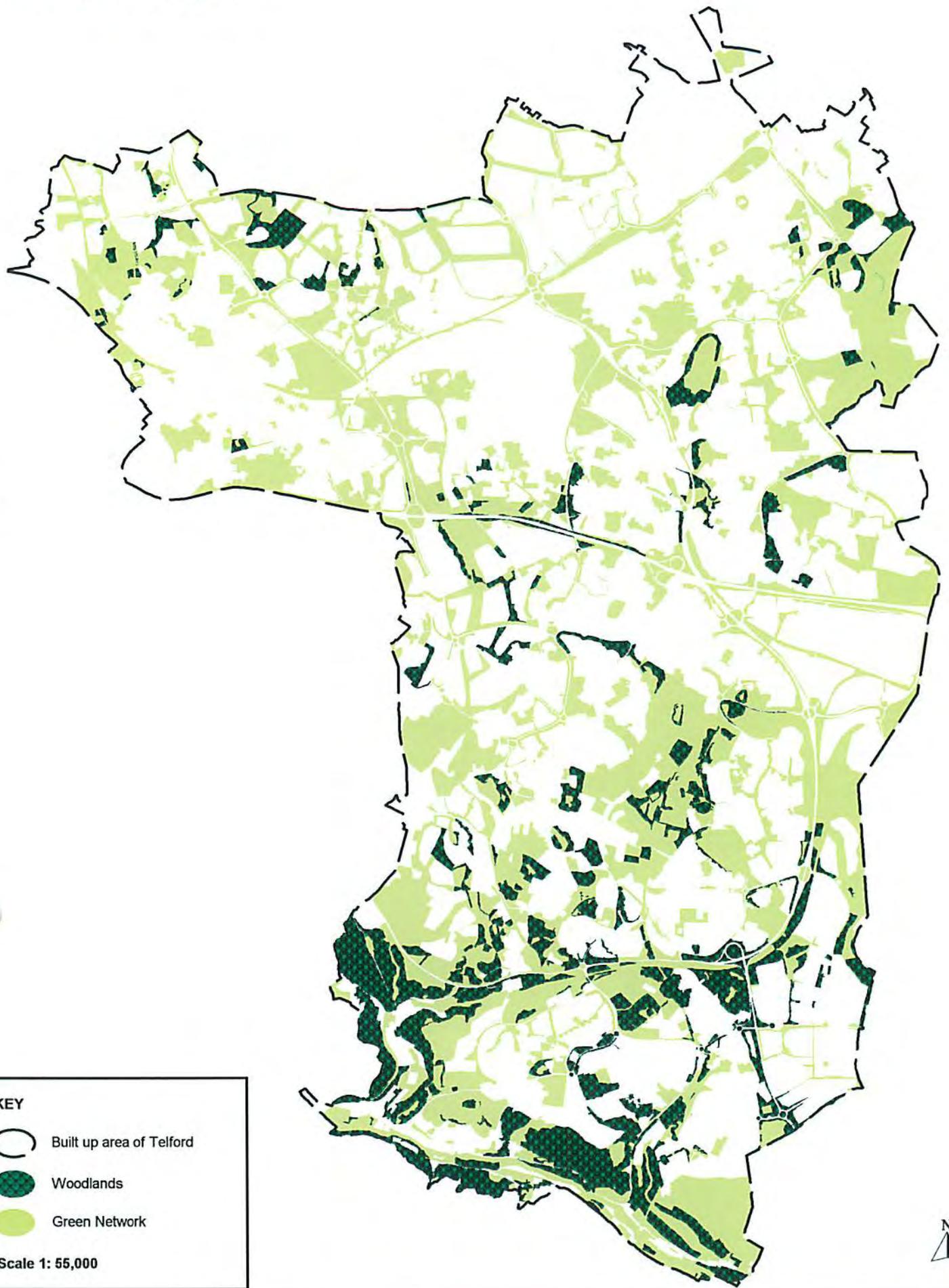
The Community Woodland Management Programme will commence with Apley and Madeley Woods, which will also increase the value to local people.

FURTHER INFORMATION

See Wrekin's Woodland Management Strategy held in leisure and Community Services Department.

See English Nature's Position Statement on sustainable forestry and woodland management Appendix F at rear of this manual.

Green Network - Woodlands



KEY

-  Built up area of Telford
-  Woodlands
-  Green Network

Scale 1: 55,000

Green Network - Woodlands

EXISTING INFORMATION

WOODLANDS

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			DISK	HARD	DATA	ASSESSMENT	STRATEGY	COMMENTS
(See Nature Conservation)								

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			DISK	HARD	DATA	ASSESSMENT	STRATEGY	COMMENTS
Woodland Management Strategy	1993		✓	✓	✓	✓	(✓)	
An Appraisal of Wooded Pitmound Sites in Telford)	1994			✓		✓		
Woodland Management Plans	1994			✓			(✓)	

WATER/DRAINAGE

WATER/DRAINAGE

The Green Network resource includes a significant number of aquatic areas. Many of these water features have a primary engineering function forming part of the public sewerage system or having other drainage functions. They also fulfil to varying degrees other functions of recreation, landscape quality and ecological value.

KEY PRINCIPLE

The water system should not be viewed in isolation but as one (albeit significant) component of the overall inter-linked landscape resource of the Green Network.

MAIN ISSUES

- Ownership and responsibility for the water resource is somewhat complex. Flowing aquatic features, eg River Severn, comprise the responsibility of the National Rivers Authority. Canals generally are managed by British Waterways except where they have been disused for some time. Standing and storage water bodies are variously the responsibility of Severn Trent Water Authority, Wrekin Council, Commission for the New Towns and British Waterways. Wrekin Council generally owns the land immediately surrounding the water's edge. Within the Green Network, Wrekin Council and the Shropshire Woodland Trust are the principal riparian owners.
- The water quality of approximately 50% of the aquatic resource is unacceptable. The causes of poor quality or polluted water include surface water run-off from roads, raw sewage, discharge from septic tanks, heavy metal content from mains water, consented and non-consented effluents.
- There is no formal system for monitoring water quality by Wrekin Council and the NRA operation on a reactive basis, responding only to complaints. There is a clear need for more active monitoring of water quality in the Green Network.
- At present only pools which fall within the requirements of the Reservoirs Act are subject to a formal inspection. There is a need to inspect all pools not just those with a statutory requirement.
- Unsympathetic water resource management has been identified by the Wildlife Trusts as one of the main threats to Wildlife in its 20/20 Vision document.
- As part of the Landscape Strategy for the District, the Biodiversity Challenge is seeking an increase in Wetland habitats of 250 hectares by 2010. Much of this can be achieved within the Green Network.
- The development and management of the water resource in the Green Network can be carried out in a more sustainable manner. There is scope for the creation of more

balancing ponds and flood meadows in flood alleviation schemes. 'Grey Water' can be used more effectively.

- Archaeological issues need more consideration but this can be expensive. Features of archaeological and historic interest are often not anyone's responsibility and this can make maintenance difficult.
- There is a shortfall on aquatic areas for recreation.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- The formulation of a strategy for the development and management of the water resource within the overall strategy for the Green Network and the Landscape Strategy for the District. The strategy needs to also take into account the individual strategic Masterplans for Nature Conservation and Recreation, etc., i.e. the strategy be formulated holistically and not in isolation.
- Improve co-ordination between all interested officers and organisations (i.e. between Development Control planners, drainage engineers, landscape architects, landscape managers, Wildlife Trust etc.) to ensure all factors considered in an inter-related manner.
- To manage and develop the water resource in as sustainable a manner as possible and in a way which will forward the general and specific aims of the strategy for the future development of the Green Network and the Landscape Strategy for the District.
- To consciously assist the attainment of Biodiversity Challenge targets for wetland species and habitats.
- Realise the potential for recreational value of water/aquatic areas as a specialist facility provision.

GUIDELINES

- Avoid lowering water tables and removing or reducing water bodies.
- Maintain water flow and circulation.
- Seek opportunities to create new water bodies whenever possible.
- Restore existing water bodies in a sympathetic manner.
- Retain existing vegetation whenever possible.
- Seek opportunities for additional (appropriate) planting.
- Monitor pollution and improve water quality whenever possible.

- Use of reed beds in storm water channels and at inflow points in balancing lakes can help to absorb pollution.
- Seek to develop further opportunities for watersports through discussion with Severn Trent Water and British Water Ways.
- Seek to ensure provision of specialist watersports facility through:-
 - planning obligations
 - partnership with Commercial Sector.
- Review and monitor fishing licences to ensure correct balance between wildlife and angling.
- With careful consideration, improvements can be made to several functions simultaneously, e.g. improvements to water quality can also enable enhancements to visual quality and ecological values as well.

OVERLAPS AND INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

There can sometimes be conflicts between engineering function, nature conservation, visual quality and water sports. Priorities for individual areas must be evaluated within the strategic framework of the Green Network Masterplans as well as taking into account local requirements. Close liaison between the various disciplines will also help to ensure that possible conflicts are addressed.

Statutory requirements can sometimes be inflexible and may conflict with Green Network aims.

FUTURE ACTION

- Set up formal system for monitoring water quality.
- Research and investigate techniques for managing water more sustainably.
- Set up formal system for improving co-ordination between disciplines.

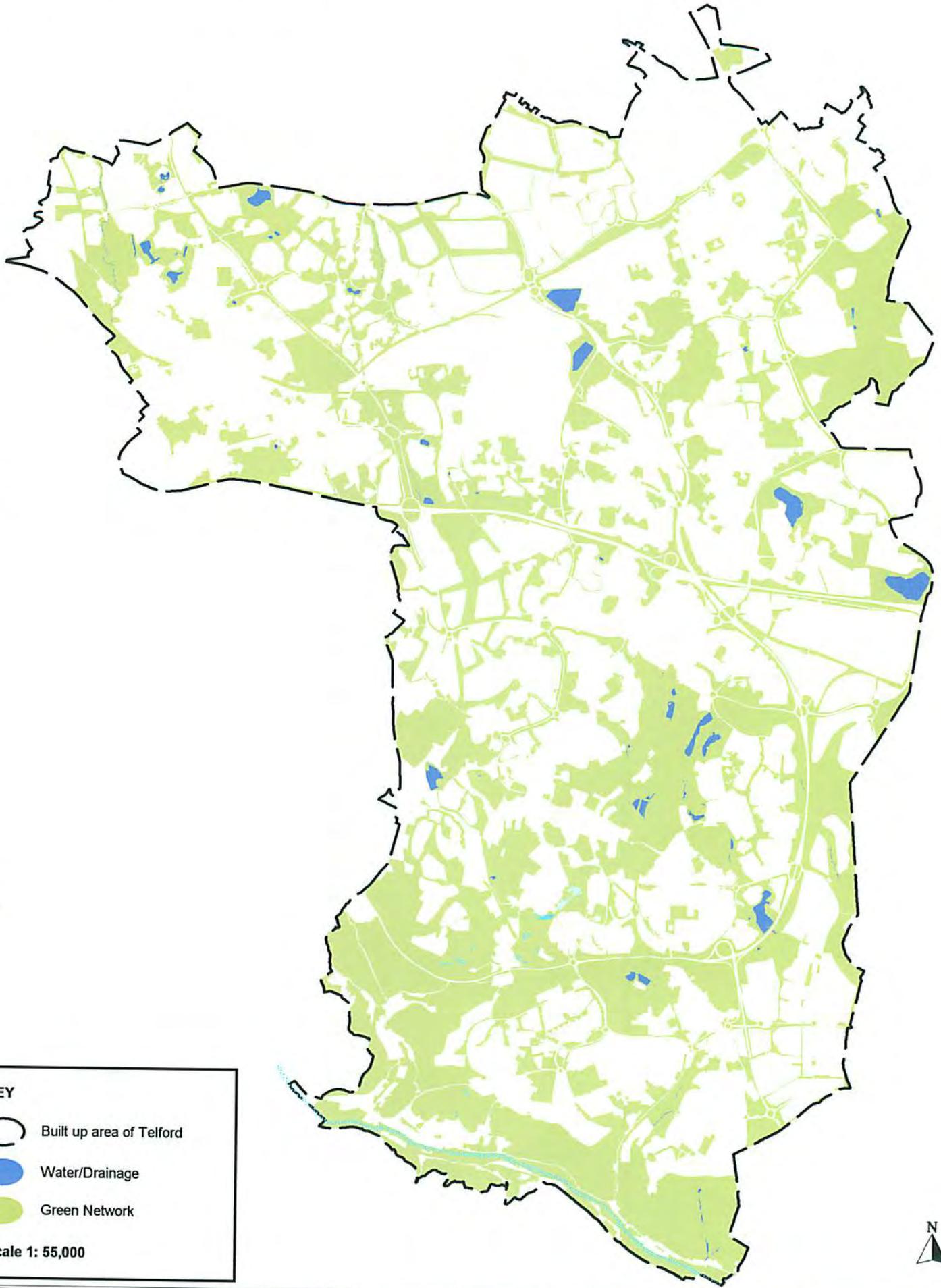
FURTHER INFORMATION

See Leisure and Community Services Committee Report for Proposed Aquatic Management Strategy, September 1991. See also Shropshire Wildlife Trust's draft 'Biodiversity Challenge' for targeted improvements to wetland habitats and species.

Jeremy Purglove's Taming the Flood is essential reading. See also RESPB publication 'Wet Grasslands - What Future?' and Built Environment vol. 21 No. 1 'River Reclamation with GIS', all the documents held in Landscape Section, Planning and Environmental Services.

the Drainage Engineering Services Section hold several NRA publications, including River
guide Surveys, Abandoned Mines and the Water Environment and Contaminate Land and
the Water Environment.

Green Network - Water/Drainage



KEY

-  Built up area of Telford
-  Water/Drainage
-  Green Network

Scale 1: 55,000

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Produced by R.Overy - Planning Technician, Plans & Policy

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Date: 05/04/06

EXISTING INFORMATION

WATER/DRAINAGE

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			Disk	Hard	Data	Assessment	Strategy	Comments
(See Nature Conservation)								
Aquatic Area Statement	1992			✓		✓		

CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

A ACCESS

"Access for All" is a fundamental belief of achieving reasonable Access for the whole Community (women, young, old, able and disabled) to the Green Network and the wider countryside.

PRINCIPLE

It is the right of all people to have reasonable access to the Green Network and wider Countryside.

MAIN ISSUES

- Promote the role that the Green Network offers for access and circulation.
- Ensure Green Network open space is easily accessible to local people.
- Promote links and access from the Green Network to the rural area and the proposed Community Forest.
- The definition and protection of existing 'Rights of Way' and the identification of other routes identified to create links.
- Need to raise awareness of 'Rights of Way' create new links and maintain/manage existing ones.
- Need to balance the aims of promoting access with the need to safeguard and protect sensitive and vulnerable areas.
- Need to raise awareness of access to Green Network.
- Address the relationship to Private land - negotiate permissive access where possible.
- Need to ensure freedom to move around Green Network and equal opportunities and provision for both people with disabilities and able bodies for range of groups.

OBJECTIVES

- Wherever possible, create, modify and up-grade routes to meet changing demands.

- Ensure that the quality of access routes are maintained and enhanced in a way which is appropriate to their role and location.
- Maximise the potential that the Green Network offers for access to open space.
- Create ease of access for local people to facilities.
- Identify the level of access which should be available in specific areas, full, partial, controlled, or no access at all. Use information to realise potential opportunities.

DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE

- Design footpaths, cycleways, bridleways in an appropriate manner to its location and use e.g. formal, informal, large, small scale.
- Use appropriate materials to location and use e.g. surfacing, signs, seats, etc.
- Manage route, access and surrounding environment in an appropriate manner to use and location.

OVERLAPS AND INTERRELATIONSHIPS

Circulation routes can provide important interconnecting routes for links between wildlife habitats of the town. Care needs to be given to ensure access is managed and designed to ensure that sensitive wildlife/archaeological sites of the Green Network are protected.

consideration needs to be given to the type of route in relation to the landscape character and quality of the area.

Footpaths, cycleways and bridleways are also a major part of recreational activities, and should be considered in association with.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Green Network provides existing opportunities and potential for enhancing access and circulation.

Principle Areas for further information include:-

1. A circulation system for the town which provides the choice of 'Functional' and 'Leisure' routes and enables a range of modes of travel e.g. bridleways, cycleways, footpaths and cars.
2. Information which describes the desired quality of each category of link (see figure 1 and 2).
3. A plan which specifically organises points of linkage, nodes and access e.g. to

rural areas.

4. A plan which correlates pedestrian movement patterns with the Green Network.
5. A plan which combines existing cycle and pedestrian provision with the Green Network.
6. A plan that shows existing Rights of Way, cycleway, bridleways, footpath hierarchy and highlights potential links for future implementation.

B CIRCULATION

Circulation is the movement patterns of people and the routes they use through out Telford, including the Green Network. Routes can vary in scale from the M54 down to the smallest meandering footpath and can be used by foot, horse, cycle or car.

Circulation routes can be roughly divided into two categories:-

- (i) **Functional** - which are necessary links between areas of activity e.g. home - work, work - shops, home - school etc.
Often associated with the main transport system of town roads and footpaths.
- (ii) **Leisure** - where the journey itself becomes the main attraction and corresponds with the Urban Countryside Green Network

Nearly all leisure routes are in the Green Network, as are the greater proportion of functional. These routes are not mutually exclusive and the same route can perform both functions. The Green Network Key Links plan illustrates the diversity of routes throughout Telford.

PRINCIPLE

To maintain an infrastructure of open land and links which allows for the establishment of a network of functional and leisure links at all scales, and to promote access for all users (car, bike, horses and foot; all ages and mobility) and encourages public enjoyment of the environment, linking local communities with the urban and rural Countryside.

MAIN ISSUES

- The settlement pattern of Telford is dispersed and needs to be linked by a successful circulation system in the Green Network.
- Circulation separated vehicles and pedestrians.
- Circulation system at present does not always connect and link community to Countryside and facilities.
- The existing system of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways are fragmented and relates to the old settlement pattern prior to the creation of the New Town.

- Need to link Community to work, school, shops facilities and open space.
- Current Public Rights of Way need reviewing and updating and a comprehensive network established to overcome deficiencies.
- Strategic access/circulation links need to be identified to prevent loss of opportunity.
- Cycling, bridleways and footpaths should be sustainable.
- Improve environmental quality of routes.
- Consideration needs to be given to the type, the use of different routes and their appropriateness.
- Some routes are unsafe and people vulnerable to crime.
- Need to establish a range of circulation routes.
- Need to consider interrelationship of access routes allowing the movement of people, but also providing a linkage system of wildlife and ecology.
- Circulation system has very few cycleway and Bridleways and those which there are, are very disjointed.
- Many incomplete footpath routes, both functional and leisure.
- Problem that routes do not go to desired designations.
- Existing rights of way no longer meet the needs of the growing town.
- Industrial areas on edge of town form 'Barriers' to the countryside.
- Not many links from Green Network to Countryside.
- Potential conflict with other Green Network functions such as wildlife.
- Need to ensure that other aspects of Green Network wildlife, woodlands, water and recreational facilities contribute to the quality and purpose of a 'Leisure Journey', e.g. good views, habitats with different interest.

OBJECTIVES

Improve environmental quality of routes.

Increase the softy of routes, this will relate to their use. For example, a purely functional route will require a higher standard of softy that a route used for leisure purposes.

- Enhance the sustainability of the circulation system.
- Identify missing links in footpath system and protect to create a comprehensive network.
- Promote, protect and complement different key Green Network links.
- Develop all essential practical functional and leisure links.
- Develop a circulation system which meets the needs of the New Town and local communities.
- Create a circulation system which links areas, functions and facilities.
- Review Public rights of way.
- Identify and designate strategic routes to benefit New Town structure.
- Create access to and within.
- Promote routes for different levels of mobility.
- Create a network of cycleways and bridleways.
- Consider creating "Permissive Footpaths" where these would be beneficial.
- Look at access and circulation in Green Network other than PROW.
- Manage location of footpaths so as not to conflict with sensitive wildlife areas or where over use may have detrimental effects.
- Where possible, create network and links which have a dual purpose, eg. access and wildlife.
- Consider potential of site/network in association with people's needs.
- Develop access and circulation in relation to Key Green Network links:

Strategic Links:-

There are major tracts of Urban Countryside which run through Telford and connect with the surrounding countryside. There is great potential for an extensive network of both formal and informal routes throughout the Green Network.

- **Transport Corridors:** These are primarily functional routes, motorway, roads and rail corridor - all important to the New Town.
- **Internal Routes:** these are small routes but extremely important as they connect local communities with major areas of Green network open space.

Ensure character of route is appropriate to location and use of surfacing safety.

Create links through "industrial barriers"

Establish good visual quality from the roads in the town by maximising the interaction between circulation routes and green network. This is particularly important in relation to the 'forestry city' concept.

Integrate circulation and access in a manner that meets peoples needs and is compatible with the environment.

Improve safety and security both for users and adjacent landowners, giving safety features the prominence they require depending on the type of route.

Use of the Green Network in promoting alternative (sustainable) forms of movement i.e. through improving the quality of routeways for cycling and walking.

Promote use of footpaths for educational purposes.

DESIGN MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Create new footpaths, bridleway and cycleways where these are missing links.
- Create links between housing, Green Network and Countryside which are both 'Functional' and 'Leisure Routes'.
- Create and manage links of an appropriate character to the location and proposed use.
- Design and maintain footpaths to an appropriate safety standard.
- Create more diversity/interest into some of the duller, almost lifeless mono-green stretches of 'Links/Corridors' through management techniques and prescriptions.
- Create 'nodes' of interest along 'routes/corridors' to help define Local

Distinctiveness.

- Management of the vegetation along these links/corridors. there needs to be an overall analysis of vegetation along Links/Corridors, in terms of special quality and human perceptions and values placed upon 'routes and links'. Ecological issues have been fairly well documented.
- Promote Public art along links/corridors to determine 'nodes of interest'. the programme of 'Land Marking' traffic islands is a fine examples to enliven and enhance the quality of links and corridors.
- Develop "Milestone Project" along main footpaths (strategic).
- 'Way Marking' and 'Sign posting' (information/communication) needs co-ordinated approach so as to ensure both qualities of information, aesthetics and appropriateness.
- Identify and develop strategic and local links both to Green Network but also to wider Countryside.
- Provide routes for less mobile people.
- Support sustains project.
- Consider how people use circulation system at different times of day and their requirements.
- Encourage people to use 'Open Space Network' as major cycle/pedestrian route - need to undertake appraisal and action of lighting, safety, signs, quality of surfaces.

EXISTING INFORMATION

CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			Disk	Hard	Data	Assessment	Strategy	Comments
Countryside Access: Telford Urban Area	1994	1:10,000				✓		
Telford Footpath Concept	1990	1:10,000		✓		✓		
Key Green Network links	1992	1:14,000		✓			✓	

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			Disk	Hard	Data	Assessment	Strategy	Comments
Roadside Verge Report, Shropshire Wildlife Services	1991			✓		✓		
Access to Telford's Countryside	1994	1:10,000		✓	✓	✓		

SPORT AND RECREATION

Outdoor sport and recreation encompasses a range of activities, both formal and informal, offering the opportunity to maintain and improve health and it also fosters a range of social and personal benefits. Sport and recreation positively contribute to the overall quality of life and the Green Network has a major role to play in this.

There are two forms of sport and recreation:-

- **Informal recreation** - Less vigorous recreational activities including angling, walking or simply sitting and relaxing in a park, open space, or in the countryside and children's play.
- **Formal recreation** - Competitive sports including football, hockey, rugby, cricket, tennis, athletics, motorsport and watersports, (this is not an exhaustive list and generally the provision is formally laid out on the ground).

However, it should be remembered that open land providing for these activities are not mutually exclusive.

PRINCIPLE

To maintain and enhance facilities and open space to ensure adequate opportunities for all residents to participate in outdoor sport and recreation whether formal or informal.

MAIN ISSUES

- Most sports and recreation facilities are located in the green network.
- The size of population and the level of involvement in outdoors sport and recreation will be significant factors in determining the provision of outdoor sport and recreation in future years.
- An appraisal of land for sports pitch requirements, taking into account changes in the population, age structure and probably pitch availability to 2006 showed either shortfalls or surpluses in pitch supply for various areas of Telford over the study period.
- Potential conflict with the level of informal recreation activity and the carrying capacity of sensitive sites.
- There are some deficiencies in open space areas of sufficient size and character to provide adequate local opportunities for informal outdoor activities for residents in the North of Telford.
- To the north of Telford there is a deficiency of suitable open space and a lack of linkage between existing open spaces.

- Need to maintain open land to provide for existing use and future requirements.
- Promote a sustainable approach to recreation by encouraging and providing facilities for people to recreate within the district, therefore, important to maintain a good quality open-space and facilities.
- The potential of the rural area to provide for informal outdoor activities is limited by a deficiency of open access areas and the poor condition of the rights of way network.
- Need to establish good access between open space and to the surrounding countryside.
- Need to maintain flexibility to accommodate changes in recreational trends.
- Understand that existing open space can accommodate new Leisure activities, which do not require specific site allocation as long as they are not in conflict with other functions.
- to reconcile the competing and potentially conflicting demands between the need for recreation and other uses (functions) of the Green network, e.g. wildlife.
- both formal and informal outdoor sport and recreational activities may have detrimental impacts upon the landscape and or wide environment.
- A combination of strategic assessment and site - specific management planning is felt to be the way in which detrimental impacts of recreational activities will be resolved.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure opportunities for current and future recreational needs are met and to maintain openland/space for recreational opportunities.
- To determine that full recreational potential is realised in the Green Network.
- Provide recreational needs for all members of community.
- Establish recreational areas which are interlinked via the Green Network.
- Establish a co-ordinated sport recreation and Leisure strategy.
- Ensure there is potential to meet increase demand for recreation and sports provision with the increase of population.
- The shortfall or surplus in pitch supply for parts of Telford will need to be addressed by 2006 as follows (where possible identify locations or improvements):

SOUTH TELFORD - low population growth and demand will be met from existing supply.

CENTRAL TELFORD - demand for 8 extra pitches by 2006.

NORTH WEST TELFORD - demand for 5 pitches extra by 2006.

NORTH EAST TELFORD - demand for 7 extra pitches by 2006.

- To develop further opportunities for watersports through discussion with Severn Trent and British Waterways.
- Encourage dual use of facilities e.g. schools and public.
- Maintain and upgrade existing facilities.
- Identify of facility/provision regional or local level.
- Where possible ensure provision of specialist recreation facilities through:
 - planning obligations and/or
 - partnerships with Commercial Sector

FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED

1. A single drawing showing the distribution of the different forms of recreation provision.

N.B. The existing information is fragmented.
2. A single drawing which shows a recreation strategy where clear locations for improvement, replacement or even removal are indicated - not a drawing which simply indicates where existing provision is in need of repair or upgrading (Relate to Green Networks 'Potential Plans').
3. A single drawing which highlights those areas with compatible or incompatible functions.
4. A single drawing which identifies a system of recreation/leisure routes, relating to Green Network Links.

PLAY AREAS

Although the majority of play areas are located within development sites, there are ones within the Green Network either adjacent to development or within larger areas of open space, such as, the Town Park.

PRINCIPLE

To seek to establish such a degree of coverage of 'catchments' of play provision as would ensure that within each 'cellular' area of the Wrekin District these would generally be a LEAP or NEAP within the recommended distance, taking into account barriers to access.

MAIN ISSUES

Play provision varied throughout District with some areas well served and others poorly provided with play opportunities. Location of play areas can be subjected to vandalism and noise from congregation of youths.

Small poorly equipped areas underused

Need to improve access to some

Some play areas don't relate to surroundings.

OBJECTIVES

Follow recommendations in Wrekin's Play Area Rationalisation Review 1998, which identifies throughout Telford, existing sites to be retained, sites to be upgraded, new sites to be provided whether LEAP (locally equipped area for play) or NEAP (Neighbourhood equipped area for play), which are as follows:-

	LEAP	NEAP
Location	5-min walk from home	15 min walk from home
Target users	4-8 years, accompanied	8-14 years, unaccompanied
Content	Min. 5 types of equipment seating	Min. 8 types of equipment - kick about, wheeled play opportunities, seating
Activity Zone	400m ²	1000m ²
Buffer Zone	20m between activity & housing	30m between activity & housing

- Need to ensure that play areas are identifiable and accessible for both local and wider community.
- That there is good access between communities, facilities and other areas e.g. routes on Green Network.

- Where possible the site should be overlooked for extra security and a degree of informal 'Policing', although care should be taken not to compromise the peace of adjoining residents.
- Locate LEAP's and NEAP's adjacent to one another.
- One large well equipped play area more desirable than small scattered ones.
- Provide good access.
- Link play area to surrounding areas

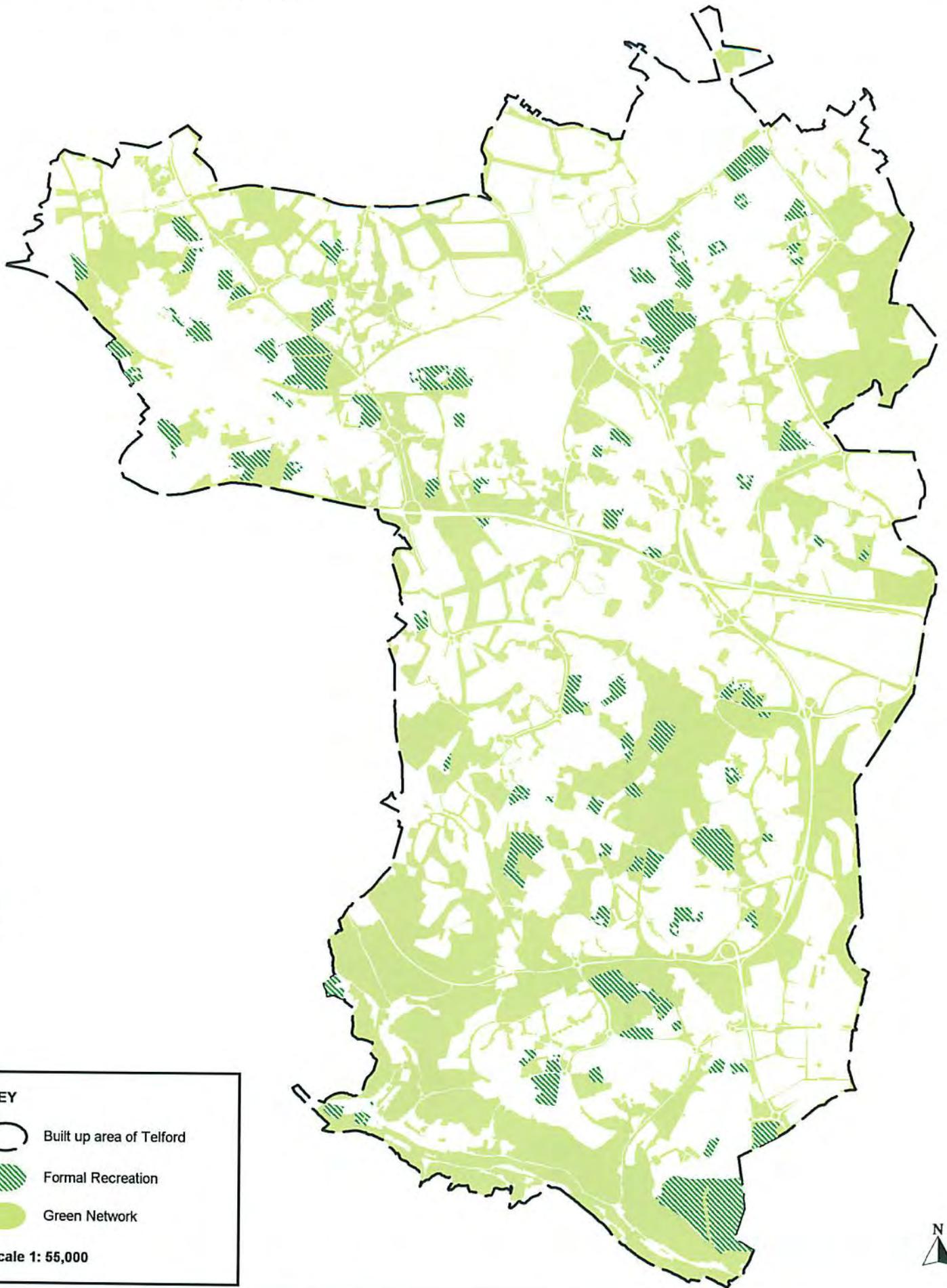
DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Relate play area to surrounding character e.g., wooden structures near woodland.
- Use good design and landscape buffers to assist in mitigating potential effects of play
- Gated and fenced play provision is highly beneficial to the general security, keeps dogs out and children in.
- Landscaping should be integral to the design.
- Play area should site within and respond to its contextual surroundings.

ADD TO OBJECTIVES

- Play areas preferred in locations which offer consolidation of facilities.
- Locations are preferred which are either in the vicinity of existing destination, such as, shops, local centres, clinics etc., or en route to them - upgrading new ones better than completely new provision.
- Provision of play and football facilities should be in accordance with the targets recommended by the National Playing Fields Association and the Wrekin Local Plan.

Green Network - Formal Recreation



KEY

-  Built up area of Telford
-  Formal Recreation
-  Green Network

Scale 1: 55,000



EXISTING INFORMATION

RECREATION

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			Disk	Hard	Data	Assessment	Strategy	Comments
Green Network Masterplan 1 Existing Uses	1993	1:10,000		✓	✓			
Green Network Masterplan 2	1995	1:10,000		✓		✓		

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			Disk	Hard	Data	Assessment	Strategy	Comments
Landscape Management and Development Statement	1991			✓				
Community Involvement Strategy	1992			✓			(✓)	Demographic
Outdoor Recreation Strategy	1994			✓	✓	✓	(✓)	Demographic
Playing Pith Strategy	1994			✓				
Play Area Strategy	1994			✓			(✓)	
Wrekin Play Area Rationalisation 1996 Review	1996			✓		✓		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

As part of the "Local Agenda 21" Wrekin Council is in the process of developing, in association with other organisations, a "Landscape and Wildlife Strategy for the District". the landscape of Wrekin is extremely rich and varied, reflecting its unique combination of geology, landform, land use and culture.

In the south, the steep banks of the Severn Gorge are well wooded and have been greatly influenced by past industry. there is a central area of former coalfields which have been extensively mined and open cast, leaving distinctive regenerated pitmounds. In the north, the Shropshire Plain, a flat, open intensively farmed agricultural area with heathland and wetland features. To the west are the Wrekin Hills, a volcanic outcrop which forms a distinctive local landmark and to the east runs a ridge of sandstone, well wooded in places. All these areas have a distinctive quality and industrial identity.

The character of the landscape continues beyond the administrative District boundary. It is therefore important to consider local landscape types in the context of larger and more general regional character areas.

Wrekin has two regional Character Areas:-

- Shropshire Plain
- Shropshire Sandstone Farmland

In the District these are sub-divided into 18 local landscape types; 6 of these fall within the boundary of Telford as shown on Plan 5.

Each landscape type has been assessed in terms of its overall character and features as well as opportunities and pressures for change that exist in the area.

This work is the beginning of the strategy which will be developed in the coming years.

KEY PRINCIPLE

The Green Network should not be viewed in isolation but as an integral part of the local landscape character.

MAIN ISSUES

- The Green Network should be considered as a component part of the local landscape character.
- The Green Network represents a collective interlinked network of open space which meets the overall aims and does not represent all landscape areas.

- Important to recognise the different aspects of Landscape types, as this will influence planning/design and management.
- Understand that landscape character types do not stop at Telford's boundary.
- To manage, design and maintain open land appropriate to character of area.
- Be aware of character, features and vulnerability to change.

OBJECTIVES

- To consider Green Network in the context of the landscape type which it forms a part as well as its functions and potential.
- To design and manage open space in an appropriate way to meet overall objectives of land such as wildlife and recreation and to compliment the overall landscape type of the area.
- To maintain and enhance the character of landscape types.
- To maintain and enhance local distinctiveness.

DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Design and manage Green Network to maintain and enhance the landscape types of Telford, the characteristics of which are briefly outlined below:-

1. North East Telford Coalfield

A mix of old and new landscape characterised by a distinctive land form resulting from past mining activity, regenerated pitmounds, industrial relics and canals. Woods and medium scale agriculture now dominated by recreational uses.

2. Telford Coalfield

Telford lies on a carboniferous coalfield, extensively mined over the past century. Its present character is a patchwork of small relic landscapes, pitmounds, railways and canals, contrasted against housing, industry and new landscape structure planting giving it a well wooded appearance.

3. North Telford Plain

Telford lies on the edge of The Shropshire Plain overlain by glacial drift. An urban landscape with old parkland and mature trees. New town development and new landscape structure superimposed.

4. Wrockwardine Slopes

Predominately medium to large scale arable farmland, fairly flat and open, few hedges or hedgerow trees. In parts, smaller strong field patterns, particularly near urban fringe with some mature trees along boundaries.

5. Western Telford Coalfield

Varied and undulating land form from the foot of the Wrekin Hills to the Severn Gorge. An intimate pastoral farmland, small to medium irregular field pattern, which appears well wooded due to established hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small copses, particularly on steep slopes.

6. Severn Gorge

The River Severn flows through a deep, steep sided gorge with well wooded slopes which extend up the tributary. Distinctive character of ancient and regenerated deciduous woodland interspersed by buildings and industrial development, including the power station. Extensive views along the river from the top of The Gorge.

OVERLAPS AND INTERRELATIONSHIPS

Landscape character types should be considered in association with all Green Network Issues.

FUTURE ACTION

- As part of the Landscape and Wildlife Strategy further work will be undertaken on landscape character types which will involve:-
 1. Determining public opinion on how they view their landscape
 2. Identifying current pressures and management needs
 3. Identifying characteristic features
 4. Evaluating the vulnerability of the present day landscape to change
 5. Providing guidelines on future management.

GREEN NETWORK CHARACTER AND QUALITY

GREEN NETWORK CHARACTER AND QUALITY

This chapter is about the physical elements of the built and natural environment and the spaces created by them which give a location a particular sense of place. It is also about the extent to which an area succeeds in providing the right quality of environment for a particular use or activity i.e. its appropriateness.

KEY PRINCIPLE

The Green Network is comprised of diverse character and quality. It is important that the network is maintained and developed in a way that enhances the quality in an appropriate way relating to its use. The character of a particular landscape succeeds i.e. it has a good quality, when it is in harmony with the practical function of an area.

MAIN ISSUES

OBJECTIVES

- Establish a design and management strategy, relating to its role in the overall landscape strategy for Telford, i.e., its unifying character and overall structural role.
- Establish and identify its role in creating local distinctiveness.
- Establish and identify the character and quality of its landscape in providing for different activities and uses.
- Establish an understanding and strategy to progress THE FOREST CITY concept.
- Establish a co-ordinated design strategy for the provision and installation of all artefacts; furniture, boundary treatments, art works, surface treatments, signing etc.
- An understanding of the unique qualities of "natural" areas and their effects upon the built environment.
- Sustaining a quality physical environment. This involves preserving and enhancing the sensory quality of the natural environment as well as promoting the use of sustainable materials.
- Sustain the quality of the physical environment

RELATIONSHIPS

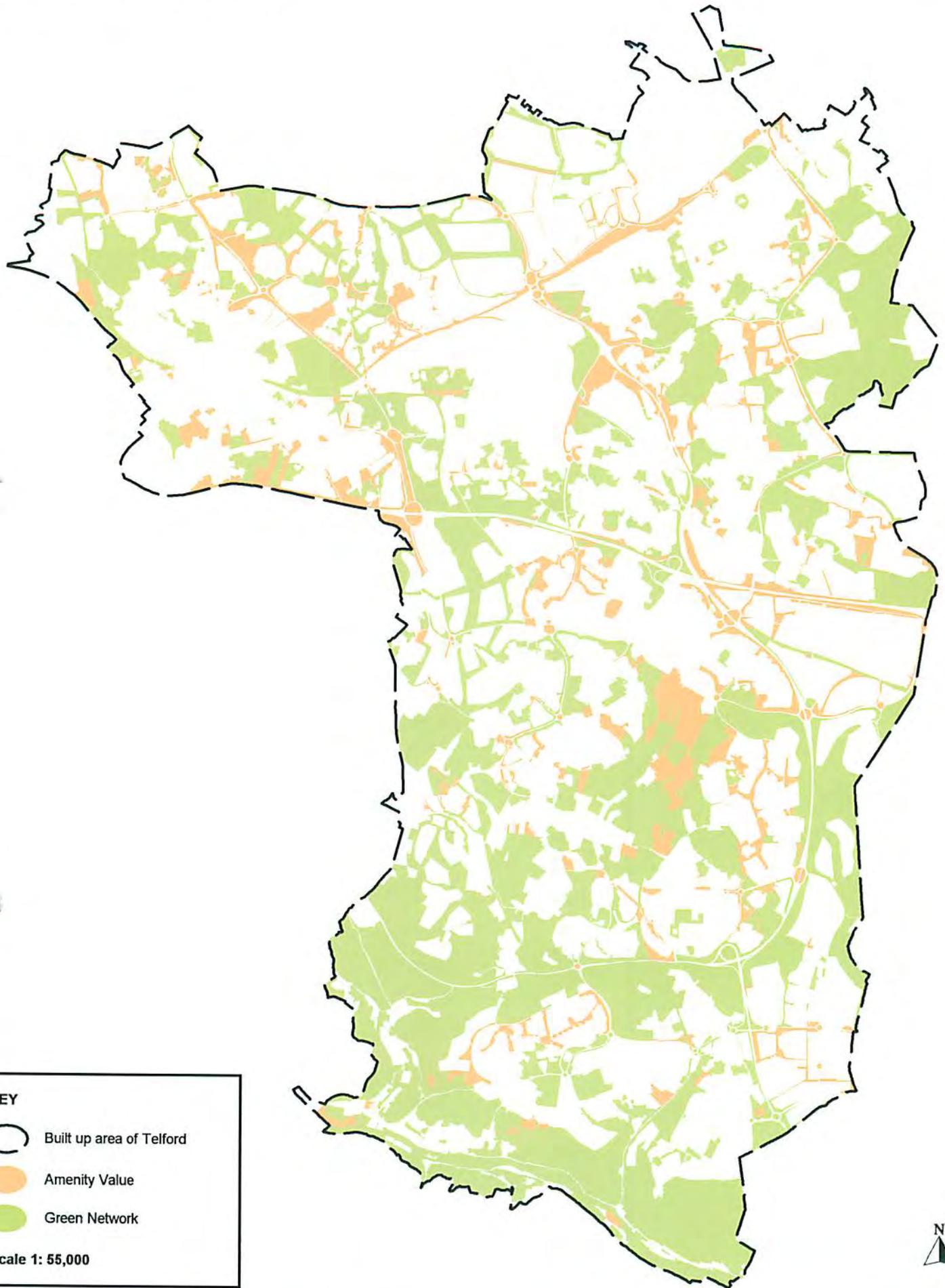
Landscape character and quality related to every other function of the Green Network. It is both the environment within which the other functions exist and is itself a function of the Green Network; the AESTHETIC FUNCTION.

Every function should be designed to include the principles established by this chapter.

FUTURE ACTION

- Produce a landscape/urban design strategy and plan for Telford in which the Green Network is an important.
- Produce a landscape character plan identifying the different character areas of Telford (as distinct from the natural character areas established as part of the Countryside Commission's Strategy).
- Produce detail design guidance i.e. illustrating the range of appropriate external details to be used in the Green Network.

Green Network - Amenity Value



KEY

-  Built up area of Telford
-  Amenity Value
-  Green Network

Scale 1: 55,000



DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			Disk	Hard	Data	Assessment	Strategy	Comments
Green Network Masterplan 1 existing uses	1993	1:10,000		✓	✓			
Green Network Masterplan 2	1995	1:10,000		✓		✓		

DRAWINGS	DATE	SCALE	FORM		TYPE			
			Disk	Hard	Data	Assessment	Strategy	Comments
Green Network Site Record Sheets	1995			✓		✓		
Green Network Review File	1994			✓		✓		

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A Community Involvement vision for Telford envisages:

- a community with the highest quality sustainable environment
- a healthy community enjoying a high quality of life
- a community without fear, poverty and disadvantage
- where individuals can learn, achieve and develop throughout their life
- true community involvement in determining the future of the District
- a prosperous district focused on growth and at the fore front of economic change
- where old and new cultures of the Wrekin are fused to create true community identity
- Telford as a modern town with and international reputation

The Green Network is vital to many of the above statements as it is only through proper management (stewardship) of the resource and enlightened involvement of the community that a high quality sustainable environment and healthy population can be achieved.

Community involvement is the relationship that develops when communities actively participate in projects through the community development process.

The Strategy for Community Involvement in Landscape Management and Development (1992) aimed to integrate the needs of the urban landscape and open space system with the needs of the local communities. It is suggested proposals to initiate community involvement projects, create a process of development of community awareness and increase their confidence to take positive environmental action.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The local community have the right to be fully consulted and involved in action and decisions about the landscape of their 'doorstep countryside'. It is the Wrekin Council's role to ensure that they are prepared, informed and able to gather the reins of citizenship and manage their environment in a suitably sustainable manner.

MAIN ISSUES

- Ownership - The greater part of the Green Network is owned by Wrekin Council who manage and develop it on behalf of local people. It is important that the Council nurtures the 'cultural identity' of the town to include a feeling of responsibility ('ownership') for the natural environment manifested as participation in the landscape management and development process.
- Funding - Involving the community may open the door to further funding opportunities for environmental, recreational and artistic schemes. There is a great opportunity for developing community partnerships.

- Engaging the true community - A community may be one of 'interest' or 'location', it is important that when initiating a project or responding to a request that dialogue is with a representative community.
- Partnership - There are already many groups active in nature conservation and local community action. It is important that networks are utilised and projects shared to engage maximum community support.
- It is also important to enthuse other community individuals who may not have had the opportunity or may not have had the confidence to participate in these activities.
- Vandalism - Through respect for the local communities views and involvement of the whole community in projects it is less likely that the product will be vandalised as it is not an 'imposed' solution but a 'consensus' one and owned by the Local Community.
- Quality - Projects carried out by the community should be adequately resourced, expertly advised and constructed to an appropriate quality standard. Wrekin Council works in partnership with others to facilitate the optimum support for community environment initiatives. It is also important that the ongoing maintenance and management is of an overall quality and once again, is undertaken in partnership with the community.
- Sustainability - Maintenance of projects in the long term can be ensured by the production of on-site specific management plans and by the commitment of the Council and its partners working together towards the same aims objectives.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Constant 'evolution' of the strategy for Community Involvement in Landscape Management and Development based on working practice and monitoring of its results.
- Development of the Community Involvement Process to ensure that the mechanisms allow maximum support from Wrekin for local community and pro-active consultation (linked in with the strategies and priorities of the authority and the various departments).
- Awareness - it is vital that the Green Network is familiar to the local community and the issues which effect it are clearly understood and recognised Community Participation and environmental/awareness/education campaigns such as National Tree Week and Environment Week are effective towards raising awareness of open space issues in the wider Community means e.g. Publicity, market research, participation projects, displays, guided walks and events.
- Need to design and manage existing and future landscape to ensure Local Communities are not 'alienated'.
- To ensure Local People are part of the Landscape and Green Network, which in turn are important to quality of life in District.

GUIDELINES

Following is a summary of Wrekin's approach:-

Aims to:

- Actively encourage the involvement of the Community in the management and development of the landscape.
- Stimulate and nurture independent initiatives.
- Support, enable and facilitate interested groups.

By means of:

- Advice on the establishment and management of projects.
- Advice on Landscape Management and Development and Wildlife Conservation and enhancement.
- Advice on grant aid and sponsorship.
- Provision of training for participants
- Direct provision of financial support.
- Undertaking certain landscape management and development works that form part of a project.
- Involvement of partners in policy development, integrating activities, and making use of specialist skills.
- Monitor and evaluate activity.
- Priority for Community Involvement on landscape sites where:
 - There is identified local commitment, enthusiasm and involvement in the development of ideas, and schemes reflect the wishes of the local community.
 - Proposals do not compromise the overall landscape wildlife and recreational needs of the District.
 - Proposals are detailed.
 - There is a range of social groups and interests.
 - There is the involvement of priority groups.

- There are clear benefits to the landscape and wildlife.
- Proposals are ecologically sound.
- Schemes will be adequately resourced.
- There are long term means of managing sites.

DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

Wherever possible it is the aim to involve Local Communities in projects to enhance the Green Network. Priority community, involvement sites for 'Doorstep Countryside' have been identified by overlaying maps of Green Network Potential with maps identifying the social need priority areas. Many Communities of social need are identified by low income, housing high density and low car ownership. If opportunities can be realised to enhance their local environment either for recreation, education at cultural or ecological benefits/important and local communities are involved in realising those changes (Local Agenda 21 process) the quality of life within that area will also be greatly enhanced.

It is important to involve local communities in all aspects of enhancing their local environment from initial concept design through to implementation and subsequent management. This helps communities identify with and value their local environment and the Green Network in General.

OVERLAPS AND INTER-RELATIONS

Greater percentage of Green Network is in public ownership, and provides local Countryside accessible to all. Look at other Green Network functions to see how the Community can get involved.

FUTURE ACTION

- An awareness programme needs to be introduced/continued to be developed encouraging understanding and appreciation of value of open space.
- Identification of sites for Community Involvement.
- Relate needs of Local People to those of local open space.
- Develop long term awareness and participation strategy for people's interaction with nature.

PLANNING CONTROL

PLANNING CONTROL

KEY PRINCIPLE

Ensure that wherever possible, the development control process furthers the two main strategic objectives of protection and improvement **throughout** the Green Network. This needs to be addressed as early as possible in the planning application process.

MAIN ISSUES

- Green Network land is now designated and protected in the Local Plan but the understanding of its detailed functioning needs to be improved.
- The understanding of the inter-related nature of the Network and the importance of the Key Links needs to be improved.
- There is a wealth of drawn and written information on the Green Network promotion of the existence of this information and how to use it if needed.
- Interfaces with the Green network need much more careful consideration.
- Poor quality areas are often given less consideration than higher value areas but these proven areas need to be protected from further erosion and wherever possible be enhanced (these are the areas with the greatest potential).

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To improve understanding of the key principles of the functioning of the Green Network
- To increase the use of existing information on the Green Network by planners, developers, landowners and architects, etc.

GUIDELINES

- Check available information to identify the current function and value of Green Network land affected by a proposal.
- Ensure that proposed development does not **reduce** existing value or adversely affect current function.
- Ensure that Green Network Key Links and Key Areas, which have added strategic functions and particularly **protected** and wherever possible **strengthened**.
- Seek opportunities for improving and enhancing Green Network land **wherever possible** (liaise with Architecture and Landscape Design Services and Landscape and Countryside Services to ascertain what improvements are appropriate).

- Check information on Green Network 'Potential' to highlight opportunities for enhancement that have already been identified.
- Mechanisms for securing Green Network enhancements e.g. Planning Conditions and Section 106 Legal Agreements.

FURTHER INFORMATION

See Wrekin Local Plan Policies - Appendix A

See Appendices for comprehensive list of further information.

See Development Control Checklist Fig. 5 and Landscape Design Guide Resource File on Green Network at rear of this section.

See Section 5.0 Overall Strategy and Fig. 1, which summarises the Green Network strategy.

See English Nature document 'Nature conservation and Development Plans: A Review of Good Practice.'

**FIGURE 6
GREEN NETWORK
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL CHECKLIST**

Issues	Questions	Sources of Information	Where Kept
Existing Uses/Functions	What is the current value of Green Network area(s) in or near to site being looked at?	See Masterplan Drawing 1. See overlays and Data Sheets in Landscape Section	}Landscape }Section }P&ESs
Key Green Network Links	Is the site part of, near to or does it contain Key Links - (Strategic Links, Transport Corridors, Internal Links) or Key Areas?	See Masterplan Drawing 1 inset. See Green Network Masterplan. Background information Document for details.	} }Landscape }Section }P&ES }
Ecological Value	Is it a Key Ecological Site (or near to one)? What is it's existing grading? What Potential to improve grading or improve linkage? Is it a buffer site?	See Masterplan Drawing 1. See Penny Anderson Report and Drawings. If necessary consult field notes and sketches for further detailed information. See also Landscape Section sheets for other wildlife sites, ancient woodlands, etc.	} } }Landscape }Section }P&ES }
Potential	Could existing values and linkage be improved? - Amenity - Informal Recreation - Landscape Quality - Ecological - Formal Recreation - Visual appearance Is the site a 'Green Desert' with potential for creation? Is the site a special 'Project Area'?	See Masterplan Drawing 2. See Potential Overlay. See Landscape Data Sheets. See Penny Anderson Report. See Countryside Access Plan. See GN Partnership Sites Study See SWT General Principles See L&CS Supporting Notes for potential improvements. Consult SWT if necessary for specific guidelines on particular sites. Check archaeological records See Specialist Reports e.g. Wrekin's Woodland Management SWT Pitmound Sites and Heathland Sites. Outdoor Recreation Strategy.	} } }Landscape }P&ES } } }L&CS } }SWT } }DC Section } }L&CS } } }
Site Outside Green Network	Consider opportunities to create internal links to and from the Green Network e.g. from industrial and residential areas with no Green Network allocation Relate to Landscape Character, etc.	SEE SWT Overlays SEE SWT Guidelines See Countryside Access Plan	}Landscape }Section }P&ES
Site Outside Telford	Consider linkage to: AONB, Long distance footpaths, cycle ways, canals etc. (existing or proposed). Is site in or close to Area of Search for Community Forest?	See Countryside Access Plan See Countryside Fringe Studies See Village Studies and District Wide Plan reports.	}Landscape }Section }P&ES

ECONOMIC ISSUES

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Most of the abandoned 19th Century spoil heaps and quarries were slowly vegetated through natural regeneration. Between 1969 and 1992 TDC spent millions of pounds reclaiming the most impoverished sites and enhancing the existing landscape structure through extensive tree planting. The 'green' image created helped to attract inward international investment into Telford. Continued growth of Telford will be promoted to achieve the physical completion of the New Town and to consolidate its distinctive character as a 'Forest City'.

MAIN ISSUES

- Lack of funding to develop the Green Network once TDC was dismantled.
- Most derelict land has already been reclaimed by TDC. However, of the remainder, 58% is located within the Green Network. Reclamation of these sites will be a high priority in the Council's Reclamation Strategy. Derelict Land Bids will form an important part of the strategy for future development of the Green Network and must, therefore, secure greater support for environmental schemes.
- The Green Network provides the framework for prioritising future environmental enhancement schemes as part of a reclamation programme, avoiding an ad-hoc approach and allows additional emphasis to be given in the programme for minimal intervention of sites for nature conservation and soft end uses.
- Recent surveys into Wrekin's Trends, Employment and Futures have identified a limited range of cultural and Leisure facilities as an underlying weakness. The Green Network is, however, viewed as a development opportunity, contributing to the 'clean and green' New town image and contributing to a high quality environment which can help to attract inward investment.
- There is considerable potential for promotion and development of the Green Network, not just for the local community but also as a regional and national tourism resource.
- A naturalistic/ecological approach to management is used generally within the Green Network. In some cases this may be neither economical or appropriate. Some parts of the Green Network have a Landscape Quality requiring a different maintenance regime e.g. a more manicured, ornamental landscape is appropriate close to the Town Centre. These varying management requirements have cost implications. Woodland Management particularly on the early stages of a woods development, can be time consuming and expensive. It is important to recognise and accept these costs as an essential part of maintaining the Green Network.
- The National Lottery provides a new potential source of funding to develop the Green Network.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To raise the profile of the Green Network as a Leisure tourism resource through promotion of events e.g. cycling trials, walking trails, etc, and publicity information.
- To develop the Green Network through the Land Reclamation strategy with English partnerships and European funding.
- To investigate all sources of potential funding to develop the Green network such as the National Lottery.
- To secure finance or practical initiatives to develop the Green Network through grant aid and Planning Benefit.
- To investigate the feasibility of the sale of Green Network goods e.g. mugs, T-shirts, etc. in the manner of the National Trust. Also, the sale of goods produced from the Green Network such as thinnings for tree stakes, charcoal for sketching, wildflower seeds, etc.
- Investigate the feasibility of external funding through commercial sponsorship e.g. through companies eager to demonstrate their environmental sensitivity.
- To investigate the possibility of selling small areas of Council-owned Green Network land (that does not perform a strategic role and is of low value in achieving the Green Network overall objectives) for development. Funds raised in this manner must then be invested in enhancing other parts of the Network. this would form part of the continuing review of Green network boundaries.
- It is important to remember that an area of land, although inherently of little value for wildlife, landscape or amenity, may be valuable either as a physical or psychological buffer zone to the Green Network.

PART C SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

APPENDIX A - PLANNING POLICIES

WREKIN LOCAL PLAN POLICIES

SPECIFIC GREEN NETWORK POLICIES

OL3 GREEN NETWORK

"The Council will protect the Green Network and, in particular, key sites and links throughout Telford in order to achieve the six aims of the Green Network". "See Section "

OL4 DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREEN NETWORK

"In order to protect the Green Network resource of Telford, the Council may permit development in the Green Network provided that the proposed development demonstrates that:-

- a) there are exceptional circumstances,
- b) it contributes or is complementary to the aims of the Green Network,
- c) environmental and community benefits are an integral part of the proposal"

OL5 EXTENSIONS AND REDEVELOPMENT IN THE GREEN NETWORK

"Extensions to, or the redevelopment of, existing uses within the Green Network will be permitted providing that:-

- a) any extension does not significantly affect the function of the Green Network in that locality,
- b) redevelopment proposals are not of a scale which would be incompatible with the long term aims of the Green Network in that locality,
- c) other environmental benefits are secured, for example landscaping,
- d) sites of ecological, geological or archaeological value are not adversely affected".

OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES

OL1 ALL OPEN LAND

"The Council will protect the visual quality of the landscape and the diversity and integrity of wildlife habitats within the District. Encouragement will be given to the protection, enhancement and effective management of open land".

OL2 DESIGNATED AREAS

"The Council will not permit development which is likely to adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the following sites of national importance:-

- a) The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- b) Sites of Special Scientific Interest

unless the development is of an overriding national or international interest and there are no alternative sites.

Development which is likely to adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the following sites of regional or local importance will not be permitted unless the applicant can demonstrate that the benefits of the proposal significantly outweigh the importance of the area:-

- c) Areas of special landscape character
- d) Local Nature Reserves
- e) Wildlife sites
- f) Ancient woodland sites as listed in the Shropshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland

The loss of any habitat must be fully compensated for by the creation or enhancement of habitats of equal or greater value in the local area".

OL6 OPEN LAND

"Throughout the District the Council will protect from development locally important incidental open land within or adjacent to built-up areas, where that land contributes to the character and amenity of the area, has value as a recreational space or importance as a natural habitat".

OL8 AGRICULTURAL LAND

"The Council will not permit development that involves the loss or loss of quality, of the "best and most versatile" agricultural land of grades 1, 2 and 3a" unless the need for the development outweighs the classification and there is no agriculturally damaging alternative site. Where some loss of agricultural land is unavoidable, development will be directed to land of the lowest possible classification".

OL9 SPECIES PROTECTION

"The Council will not permit development which is likely to adversely affect, directly or indirectly, animal and plant species or their habitats which are protected by British Law or European Legislation.

If there are exceptional circumstances and development is permitted the Council

will consider attaching appropriate planning conditions or entering into appropriate planning obligations under which the developer would take suitable steps to secure the protection of protected species”.

OL10 WATER BODIES

“The Council will expect development to preserve existing water features, such as ponds, streams and canals which are affected by development proposals, and will expect such features to be sensitively incorporated into the Landscape design of the development. Where this is not appropriate, compensatory measures should be taken through the creation of new or the enhancement of existing water features”.

OL11 COMMUNITY FOREST

“The Council will promote the establishment of a Community Forest on suitable land surrounding Telford, providing schemes fulfil the following criteria:-

- a) the planting, maintenance and management of appropriate nature species,
- b) the creation of sites for nature conservation, environmental education, public access and appropriate recreation purposes;
- c) does not lead to the loss of land with ecological or landscape value,
- d) sites of archaeological value or historic importance are not adversely affected”.

OL12 WOODLAND AND TREES

“The Council will seek to retain and enhance the contribution that trees and woodland, especially areas of ancient woodland, make to the landscape character of the District. This will be promoted by:-

- a) making Tree Preservation Orders, where appropriate, to protect trees and woodland areas of significant amenity value;
- b) resisting development proposals that would result in the loss of trees which make a valuable contribution to the character of the landscape, a settlement or its setting, or have a significant ecological value;
- c) supporting initiatives for woodland management, tree planting and creation of new hedgerows, where appropriate through Legal Agreements”.

OL13 OPEN LAND AND LANDSCAPE - CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NEW DEVELOPMENT

"In considering development proposals, the Council will seek the following in relation to landscaping and the provision of open land:-

- a) an appropriate landscape setting in accordance with the location, nature and scale of the development;
- b) protection and appropriate enhancement works to areas of Green Network which are clearly related to the development site and in physical or visual terms,
- c) footpath, bridleway and cycleway links lost as a result of the development or considered necessary as a result of the development;
- d) on development sites within the defined Community forest area of search, tree planting and other reasonable and appropriate measures towards the establishment of the Community Forest, where they are clearly and directly related to the proposed development;
- e) protection and appropriate enhancement of important ecological or archaeological sites and wildlife habitats that are adversely affected by the development;
- f) protection of all legally protected species affected by the development;
- g) where a recreation or sports facility, or other feature is lost through development, a suitable replacement facility or feature of equal or enhanced quality and accessibility is provided".

OL14 MAINTENANCE OF OPEN SPACE

"The Council will seek a legal agreement to ensure that provision is made for the long term maintenance of open space or landscaping that is provided for the benefit of the development".

LEISURE, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

LR3 OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE

"The Council will seek, through both its own programmes and through negotiation with private developers, to achieve the National Playing Fields Association minimum target of 2.43 ha per 1000 population of outdoor recreational space.

The Council will refuse applications for any new development if it would result in the loss of existing recreational open space which is not replaced in a suitable

alternative location to an equal or improved specification".

ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

T8 RAIL CORRIDORS

"The Council will not permit development on existing rail corridors within the District".

T9 THE FOOTPATH, CYCLEWAY AND BRIDLEWAY NETWORK

"Throughout the District, the Council will require that new footpaths and cycleways are constructed to a high standard. Within Telford, the Council will safeguard the line of the Primary and Secondary footpath and cycleway network shown on Plan . New Developments will be required to respect the network and provide new links into it as appropriate.

Throughout the District, in determining planning applications the Council will protect existing bridleways, and in appropriate circumstances seek to provide new ones".

T11 LONG DISTANCE LEISURE ROUTES

It is recognised that in implementing long distance routes there may be a conflict with other vehicular routes and the Council will seek to resolve potential conflict where these arise.

T19 ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

"In relation to proposals for shopping, employment, leisure and recreation and community developments within the District, the Council will ensure that new facilities are designed to be accessible to people with disabilities.

- a) encourage the development and maintenance of a network of footpaths within the Urban areas, out to and within the countryside, that wherever practicable, are accessible to people with disabilities. this will particularly be the case where there is no footpath available adjacent to the highway.
- b) ensure that any new development including residential accommodation, created with the intention of encouraging tourism will, wherever practicable, provide suitable access for people with disabilities".

Reference should be made to the Draft Wrekin Local Plan 1996.
Policies may be subject to change as a result of the Local Plan Inquiry.

SHROPSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN POLICIES

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

General Principles

2/1 All proposals must ensure that a high standard of development will be achieved and must have regard to the following matters where appropriate:

- The scale and design of development in relation to its location and setting.
- Appropriate landscaping.
- the protection and/or creation of wildlife habitats and geological features.
- Nuisance, danger or damage to neighbouring areas.
- the ability of the surrounding road network to accommodate additional traffic generated.
- The Conservation of energy and mineral resources.
- The availability of services and infrastructure.
- Car parking provision
- Provision of open space.
- Pollution and Hazards
- The stability of the land.
- Flood protection and the retention of flood plain capacity.
- Water resources and patterns of drainage.
- The retention of the best and most versatile agricultural land.
- The conservation of existing trees and other natural features.
- Conservation of the landscape character of the area.
- Conservation of the historic environment, including sites with archaeological remains.
- the capacity of the site to accommodate the proposed development adequately.
- Public rights of way.
- The availability of public transport.
- Crime prevention measures.

Open Space

2/3 Proposals which would be likely to result in the loss of open space, whether public or private, within a town or village, will be decided upon on the basis of the importance to the community of the open space in relation to:

- Its contribution to the character and amenity of the area.
- Its value as recreational space.
- Its importance as a natural habitat.
- Its importance as part of a larger open space network.

2/4 Where appropriate the layout and design of new development should contain adequate open space to achieve the following aims:

- A design appropriate to the character of the area and respecting the amenity of neighbouring properties.
- Adequate space for children's play and families, sport and recreation.
- The conservation of natural habitats and geological features and the incorporation of landscape features, tree and shrub planing, using native species of local occurrence wherever possible.

2/5 Where public open space is deficient, local plans should designate appropriate areas for the provision of new or enhanced space.

Landscape

2/13 The landscape character and nature conservation value of the countryside will be protected and enhanced by the careful siting and design of development and by encouraging the conservation, replacement, creation and sympathetic management of semi-natural habitats and natural features in the countryside. Special regard will be paid to the conservation of the following areas of special landscape character:

North West Uplands

North Shropshire Meres

Long Mountain

Nesscliffe and The Cliffe

North Shropshire Sandstone Hills

The Valley of the River Severn, including Haughmond Hill, Attingham Park and Wroxeter

Strine Levels North of Telford

Valley of the River Worfe

Wyre Forest

Action Burnell, Ruckley and Langley

Historic Parklands

2/14 Subject to the detailed planning considerations being acceptable, favourable consideration will be given to proposals which will seek to promote the conservation of the special character of particular historic parkland landscapes.

Wetlands

2/15 Developments which would adversely affect the character or ecological importance of merges, pool, mosses, bogs, marshes, fens, peatlands or rivers, canals and other watercourses will not normally be permitted. the nature conservation value, scientific and visual character of Wetlands and areas affected by River Management and Land Drainage Schemes will be safeguarded.

- 2/16** Developments associated with or adjacent to the River Severn will be carefully controlled so that the existing character, nature conservation interest and landscape setting of the river is maintained.

Nature Conservation

- 2/17** The County Council will promote the conservation of the natural environment throughout the county. It will use its powers and resources to protect and enhance: SSSI's, local nature reserves; sites of prime importance for nature conservation; other sites and features of nature conservation importance.

- 2/18** Full account should be taken of the likely effect of development on the natural environment and wildlife, especially the requirements of statutory protected species.

Developments which would be detrimental to remoras sites, national nature reserves, sites of special scientific interest, local nature reserves or special protection areas under the EEC birds directive will not normally be permitted. Developments which would be detrimental to other notified sites of prime importance for nature conservation or sites managed by voluntary nature conservation bodies, will be strongly resisted.

- 2/19** In exceptional circumstances where development which would be detrimental to a site of nature conservation importance is to be approved appropriate measures will be required to conserve as far as possible the biological or geological interest of the site and to provide for the replacement of damaged habitats or features.

Agricultural land

- 2/20** Because of the importance of agriculture to the economy and landscape of the County:

1. Developments which will result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land, i.e. Grades 1, 2 and 3A, will be strongly resisted unless there is no other site suitable for the particular purpose.
2. The County Council will support and work with other agencies, owners, and occupiers to foster the management and development of agricultural land in a manner which will conserve its landscape, nature conservation and historic interest.
3. The County Council will also support and work with other agencies to assist the diversification of farm businesses in ways appropriate to the rural environment.

Trees and Woodland

2/21 The planting and management of trees and woodlands will be encouraged where it secures the multi-purpose objectives of nature conservation, landscape enhancement, protection of amenity, public access and timber production. Particular attention will be given to:

- The sensitive management of ancient woodlands;
- The enhancement of degraded landscapes;
- The establishment of major new tree planting in the south east of the county in the area shown on the key diagram;
- The establishment of woodlands on the edges of towns and villages;
- The establishment of a community forest around Telford;
- An increase in the planting of native broad-leaved species.

In addition the conversion from broad-leaved to coniferous woodlands will be resisted.

PLANNING HISTORY

PLANNING HISTORY OF THE GREEN NETWORK

- Late 1960's - 1970's** - Telford Development Corporation set out the new physical structure for the town, emphasising the necessary for integration of built development with the external environment.
- 1973** - TDC implemented a Landscape Structure Plan (updated in 1976 and the 1980's).
- Mid-1980's** - Wrekin Council began to consider its future role in the development of the town once TDC ceased in 1991.
- 1986** - Environmental Charter produced to "seek to safeguard the environment of the Wrekin District".
- 1989** - Telford Local Plan Way Forward document prepared identifying the need to establish a 'green network' of open land that required protection from inappropriate development. This comprises inter-linked open space for formal and informal recreation, wildlife, amenity and visual quality.
- 1989-1990** - The Penny Anderson Ecological Report, with the help of data gathered by Shropshire Wildlife Trust Telford Nature Conservation Project, Shropshire Badger Group, Ornithological Society and others, determined the ecologically important sites in the town.

Desk top studies collected work from other departments within Wrekin Council and TDC for additional aspects such as landscape quality, recreation and access. This information was then integrated with the Penny Anderson Report findings to identify the Green Network in map form.
- 1990** - Draft Telford Local Plan.
- 1991** - Amended Draft Local Plan.
- 1992** - Public Local Inquiry at which a number of Green Network policies were contested. Basic principles upheld with only minor changes to the plan.

The Inspector stated that the Green Network was "one of the largest scale, visually beneficial and informal recreation assets of any town in the country".

1993

- 2300 hectares of Green Network land formally designated in the Adopted Telford Local Plan. Policy CL5 stated 'the Council will prepare a Green Network Implementation Strategy during the Plan period' (1991-2001). This evolved in the Green Network Masterplan and its aim was to provide detailed guidance on the design, management and enhancement of the Green Network. It is intended that the Masterplan will become Supplementary Planning Guidance.

1993-1995

- First Masterplan Drawings produced:-

Drawing 1 - Existing Uses, summarises survey data to highlight primary functions of all land in the Network.

Drawing 2 - Potential produced to identify sites which have latent possibilities for improvement and enhancement.

1995 onwards

- Following the Rio Earth Summit and the Government's commitment to Local Agenda 21's Wrekin Council, in conjunction with the other interested agencies, are now evolving a comprehensive Landscape Strategy for the District. the work on the development of the Green Network will play a key role in its formulation for the urban landscape of Telford.

APPENDIX C - LANDSCAPE HISTORY

THE HISTORY OF THE GREEN LANDSCAPE

The history of the green landscape of Telford forms an integral and significant part of the overall development of the town, of which part has now been identified as Green Network.

ORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Telford was originally planned as a city scale complex based upon the six original small towns of: Dawley, Madeley, Wellington, Oakengates, Hadley and Donnington, with Dawley as its centre.

Telford was different from other new towns because it was based upon a scattered settlement pattern as well as being superimposed upon a distinct existing landscape with difficult topographical, industrial and agricultural conditions.

Four strong themes emerged from the original development proposals which affected the Green Landscape of Telford, in the 1969 Telford Development Corporation Structure Plan, which are summarised below.

- Image**
- Transportation**
- Open Space Structure**
- Conservation**

IMAGE

The original image of Telford was considered to be lacking in visual definition although relatively rich in land marks.

The future "Image" of the town was to be achieved by:-

- Creating a coherent image and structure.
- Transport routes becoming major 'paths', opening new vistas of Wrekin and Ercall ridge.
- Creating a central area as main social and physical focus.
- Tree planting belts to primary roads, differentiated in scale and type to distinguish locality, together with ground - modelling for aural and visual screening.
- Foot or cycle routes to combine new and existing routes and several long distance routes within the open space structure. Pedestrian movement through the built environment at local community level.

- Orientation, aided by diversifying the physical character of the town within easily recognisable pattern and form. Where natural boundaries do not exist, opportunities to be taken to reshape and create firmly defined edges by new amenity open space and planting.
- Retention of the best existing features as familiar landmarks to bring character, sense of time sequence and visual counterpoint.

Six main objectives were identified:-

- **Freedom of choice** - implying variety.
- **Mobility** - implying freedom to move in a convenient way free from undue congestion or restraint.
- **Coherent Image and Structure** - to unify existing and new into clearly recognisable form and order.
- **Improved Living Standards** - including external spaces.
- **Flexibility for Growth**
- **Maximum Use of Existing Resources**

□ TRANSPORTATION

- A relationship to increased car ownership and use - which manifested itself in a large and "efficient" road network and residential design layout.

The principles applied were:-

- Flexibility
- Two Categories of Journeys
 - short journeys by foot or cycle, orientated towards interiors
 - greater distance journeys by motor directed to periphery
- Clear hierarchy of routes for motor transport.
- Minimisation of travel time.
- Planning for high level of car ownership and use

□ OPEN SPACE STRUCTURE

The original development proposals also had to accommodate the increase in

recreational and social activities, many of which benefit from or require a "natural" landscape based upon "open space". In particular they saw the decline in the popularity of organised competitive field sports and the rise in the more "informal" enjoyment of the natural landscape e.g. the regional "attractiveness" of The Wrekin and the Severn Gorge.

In order for the open space structure to allow for the fullest use of facilities and to be planned as effectively as possible to serve the varying needs of different sectors of the community, a tiered system of provision was recommended.

Sub Regional

- Severn Gorge and Wrekin/Ercall
- areas of high amenity value including woodland with limited access

City Scale

- major parkland areas - Town Park, Wrockwardine Wood, Apley Castle Park
- Golf courses
- Central sports facilities
- sites of special geological or ecological trails
- cemeteries

District Scale

- recreation centres
- Children's parks
- parts of playing field and amenity open space provision

Local Scale

- greenways and small amenity open spaces
- toddlers play spaces
- children's play areas
- local adult recreation space e.g. tennis courts

The urban framework would be represented by residential and industrial areas with major zones of open space. These would be linked by greenways penetrating residential blocks.

The Town Park was to form the core and to be linked with Joint Use Schemes for Stirchley, Madeley and Dawley. Open Space would stretch from the Central Band in the North to Madeley in the south and link to Severn Gorge via Blists Hill and Lightmoor Valley.

A large communal part to serve Wellington and Admaston linking Orleton Park and Apley Castle Park. Southern east, the core of the network was related to the joint use



TELFORD 1991 (As envisaged 1969)

FIGURE 2.

scheme founded on Trench and Wrockwardine Wood schools extending into the Wrockwardine Wood - Nabb area. Development after 1991 was to include a possible link eastwards to the Donnington Wood Area.

The need for water sports provision of at least 20 hectares was identified. The most desirable location was considered to be in association with development of the Severn Valley as a linear park.

□ CONSERVATION

Telford possessed a unique historical landscape in addition to having areas of ecological value. The original development proposals included recommendations on surveys, preservation and the need to reconcile the desire to enhance the historical heritage with the aims of nature conservation.

Other aims included:-

- The identification of 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and a further 10 areas of moderate scientific interest and educational value.
- Nature Conservancy Council suggested a designated "rural park" including Ercall, Limekiln Woods, Wrekin Golf Course, Wrekin Knighton Dingles and Flood Plain, Tick Wood and Benthall Edge, wooded sides of Severn Gorge from Wombridge to Apley. The whole area would include farming, forestry, public recreation, education and conservation of natural features amongst its functions.
- Local Nature Reserves recommended for Ercall/Limekiln Woods with Maddocks Hill and Benthall Edge.
- Special Field Study Centre.

THE 1973 LANDSCAPE STRUCTURE PLAN

A Landscape Structure Plan was prepared in 1973 which demonstrated the importance of a soft landscape structure to the development of the New Town which was to form part of the Green Network later on. The plan also introduced the 'Forest City' concept.

A "Forest City" was to be achieved by:-

1. Providing an appropriate edge to Telford, emphasising the difference between town and country.
2. Creating "green corridors" in association with new roads and introducing avenue planting on approaches to the town.
3. Providing a network of open space linking the heart of the town with the surrounding countryside.

4. Creating a cohesive and cellular landscape structure.

THE 1989 TELFORD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REVIEW

This report suggested that although the 1973 Landscape Structure Plan had to some extent influenced the pattern of landscape and town development, the structure had emerged mainly as a direct result of the individual policies which related to conservation, open space and recreation, building development and communication.

As a result of changing government targets, the prevailing economic climate at the time, the growing awareness of environmental and ecological matters and the need to consider the long-term management of the landscape and open space structure, revised objectives were produced.

At that time the main criticism was that the emerging structure was "too open and lacked continuity". It was felt that misconceptions that public open space had to be "open" and the use of inappropriate gardenesque design techniques were the main causes. It was consequently concluded that if the Forest City was to be realised, forestry principles should be widely applied to achieve the desired density of tree cover. It was considered that forestry and agricultural principles had a greater relevance to the establishment and management of the landscape structure than had previously been appreciated.

Together with the large scale Landscape Masterplan, the report established a fresh look at the open space and landscape structure of Telford. The future policies and priorities were summarised as:-

- (i) The Landscape Structure of Telford consisted on public amenity, active, passive and incidental open space, private open space, woodland and agricultural land; in fact all land other than that taken up by or programmed for building development.
- (ii) Need for an updated Landscape Masterplan to determine future programme.
- (iii) 85% existing woodland is in south Telford. If wooded character to be achieved over whole town, need for a forestation programme with commercial possibilities considered.
- (iv) Importance of conserving ecologically valuable habitat types stressed and to consider ecology as it applied to development.
- (v) Need to raise standard of soft landscape design associated with new highways. To be achieved by massed tree plantings.
- (vi) Town footpath networks with positive links to surrounding countryside seen as a fundamental part of the landscape and open space structure.
- (vii) Need to safeguard and enhance the existing agricultural landscape and to consider agricultural opportunities in other areas.

- (viii) Valuable lessons to be learnt from heath and common land. Areas of similar low cost/maintenance to be identified (with limitation of site conditions).
- (ix) Conservation of Telford's natural and man-made history and interpretative landscape development to be emphasised.
- (x) Public maintenance commitment to be reduced by encouraging tenants/owners to maintain the immediate surroundings to factories and commercial buildings. Need to consider low-maintenance solutions for the landscape/open space development.
- (xi) Masterplan for the development and management of the Landscape and Open Space Structure needed.

In the same year that Telford Development corporation produced its review (1989), Wrekin Council produced the "Telford Local Plan Way Forward Document" which expressed the same needs. **THE GREEN NETWORK** was a major strategy to emerge from this document.

WAY FORWARD

The Green Network Guidance is one of Wrekin Council's current approaches to reviewing and raising the profile of open space issues. What needs to be done in the near future is an assessment of the original TDC Landscape objectives to see if they have been achieved, are they still appropriate and what is required in the future.

APPENDIX D - GREEN NETWORK INFORMATION

GREEN NETWORK INFORMATION

DRAWINGS

Description	Date	Scale	Type	Comments
Ecological Consultants: Sites of Nature Conservation Value	1989	1:10,000	Survey	
Telford Footpath Concept	1990	1:10,000		
GN Wildlife Network	1991	1:14,000		
Ecological Consultants: Sites of Ecological Potential	1991	1:10,000	Assessment	
Ecological Consultants: Access and Education Elements	1991	1:10,000		
GN Implementation Areas	1992	1:10,000		
Key Green Network Links	1992	1:14,000		
GN Project Areas: Priorities	1992	1:10,000		
GN Improvement Areas	1992	1:14,000		
G N Masterplan 1: Existing Uses	1993	1:10,000	Survey	Shows primary existing function/usage. Also Key Links
Countryside Access: Telford Urban Area	1994	1:10,000	Survey	Shows existing access routes and possible destinations
GN Masterplan 2	1995	1:10,000	Assessment	Flags up areas with potential for improvements to recreational, ecological and landscape quality values.

All the above plans kept in Landscape Section, Planning & Environmental Services, Wrekin Council

STRATEGIES, MANAGEMENT PLANS, BRIEFS, ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

Description	Date	Comments	Where Kept
Landscape Management and Development Statement	1991	Statement of principles to guide management of the different landscape types	Landscape Management Section, Leisure & Community Services, Wrekin Council
Aquatic Area Statement	1992	Analysis of WDC owned pools for suitability for various activities, e.g. wildlife, angling, boating.	-ditto-
Community Involvement Strategy	1992	Strategy and Action Plan to develop involvement of local people in landscape management. To be revised in 1995	-ditto-
Woodland Management Strategy	1993	Strategy and principles to guide woodland management in the District.	-ditto-
An Appraisal of Heathland Sites in Telford by Shropshire Wildlife Trust	1993	Assessment of current extent of this habitat with the GN	-ditto-
An Appraisal of Wooded Pitmound Sites in Telford	1994	Study of 25 sites in GN by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Supplements the Woodland Management Strategy	-ditto-
Countryside Information and Interpretation Strategy	1991 revised 1994	Strategy and Action Plan for provision of information and interpretation.	-ditto-
Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Draft)	1994	Strategy and policy to guide approach to provision of outdoor recreation facilities.	-ditto-

STRATEGIES, MANAGEMENT PLANS, BRIEFS, ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS (Cont./d...)

Description	Date	Comments	Where Kept
Playing Pitch Strategy	1994	Analysis of need and demand for sports pitches 1995 - 2006	Landscape Management Section, Leisure & Community Services, Wrekin Council
Play Area Strategy (Part One)	in progress	Strategy and policy as provision of children's play areas.	-ditto-
Management Plans for: Cockshutt Hoo Farm Granville Central Hall Newport Canal Norbroom Park Dale End Park Madeley Park Castle Pools Paddock Mount (Ketley) Randlay Valley Paddock Mound (Dawley) Nedge Hill Southside Gardens Jockey Bank Gardens Apley Dothill Holmer Lake Dale End Park Rough Park Mannerley Wood	1991 1994 1992 1993	Site specific management plans for Wrekin owned land. Covers land management and also interpretation provision and community involvement.	Landscape Management Section, Leisure and Community Services, Wrekin Council
Play Area Review	in progress	Review of all play area provision to determine shortfalls, existing play value, to determine rationalisation programme.	Landscape Management Section, Leisure and Community Services, Wrekin Council
Market Research Studies		Various	
Parks Regeneration Strategy	to start 1996	'Philisophy' statement Town Park, Victoria Bowering	

OTHER GREEN NETWORK INFORMATION

Description	Date	Comments	Where Kept
Green Network Grants		Box of leaflets/info	L'scape Section, P&ES
Green Network Advice		Box of leaflets/info	-ditto-
GN Masterplan 1, existing Uses - Supporting Notes		Brief explanatory text for drawing	-ditto
GN Masterplan 2, Potential - Supporting Notes		Brief explanatory text for drawing	-ditto-
Penny Anderson Ecological Green Network Data Base		Summary Sheets for Ecological Values of all GN Sites	-ditto-
Penny Anderson Site Record Sheets		Includes site sketches	-ditto-
GN Wrekin Council Site Record Sheets		Assessment of individual GN sites including landscape and recreational value and potential for enhancement showing how potential for improvement can be realised	-ditto-
Green Network General Information		Box of background papers etc.	-ditto-
Background Information Green Network landscape Masterplan (Draft)	1992	Summary report containing background information and recommendations for future work.	-ditto-
Green Network Review File 1994	1994	Review of individual GN Boundaries - includes appraisal, photographs and recommendation	-ditto-
Informal Countryside Recreation for Disabled People	1994	Countryside Commission Advisory	-ditto-
Access to Telford's Countryside	1994	Access Strategy Study to accompany 1:10,000 Survey drawings by Landscape Section, P&ES	-ditto-

GENERAL AGENDA 21/LANDSCAPE STRATEGY INFORMATION

Document	Date	Comments	Where kept
This Common Inheritance	1990	Summary of the Government first White Paper on the Environment.	Plans & Projects, P&ES
Earth Summit '92	1992	Findings of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio.	Plans & Projects, P&ES
Sustainable Development; The UK Strategy Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan Climate Change: The UK Action Plan Sustainable Forestry: The UK Action Plan	1994	UK Government's response to Rio's commitments.	-ditto-
Rescue Mission Planet Earth	1994	A children's pictorial edition of Agenda 21	-ditto-
The Climate Resolution: A Guide to Local Authority Action to Take The Head of the Planet Also Planning For The Planet.	1994	Two of a number of Friends Of The Earth documents as Sustainability	-ditto-
Sustainability in Practice	1994	Loose leaf manual by English Nature - a good practice, practical guide for planners	-ditto-
Biodiversity Challenge (Second Edition). An Agenda for Conservation in the UK	1995	Produced by group of voluntary conservation organisations.	
Biodiversity Challenge the Shropshire Response	1995	Agenda for action on biodiversity for Shropshire for next 25 years by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Identifies threats and target habitats and species for improvement.	One copy in Plans and Projects, P&ES One copy in Landscape Section, P&ES.
Biodiversity Challenge for the Wrekin District	1995	Target habitats and species for Wrekin District by Shropshire wildlife Trust	One copy in Plans and Projects; P&ES. One copy in Landscape Section, P&ES.

**GENERAL AGENDA 21/LANDSCAPE STRATEGY INFORMATION
(Con./d.....)**

Document	Date	Comments	Where Kept
Green Relief Booklets	1991/2	Outlines the benefits of plants and landscape planning to the Community, e.g. clean air, pollution control, noise abatement.	Landscape Section, P&ES.
Taming the Flood: A History and Natural History of Rivers and Wetlands	1998	Essential reading for Drainage Engineers. Includes section on Good Practice.	-ditto-
Wet Grasslands - What Future?	1994	RSPB Publication which catalogues the destruction of wetlands and highlights opportunities for positive action.	-ditto-
Built Environment: Planning with Landscape, Vol. 21, No.1	1995	Applied examples of good practice in Landscape Design offsetting the effects of built development.	-ditto-
Urban Wildlife News	1994	News letter/magazine produced by English Nature. Topical articles on environmental issues.	-ditto-
Nature Conservation and Development Plans: A Review of Good Practice	1994		-ditto-
Community Chest and Resource Packs and Leaflets	1995	Box of best books on environment and grant pack, etc., for loan to schools, clubs, etc. Resource packs and leaflets also available.	Countryside Project Officer, Stirchley Grange
Durban Metropolitan Open Space System	1994	Example of low cost, integrated open space system	Landscape Section, P&ES
River Corridor Surveys	1992	NRA Conservation Technical Handbook	Drainage Engineering Section, P&ES
Abandoned Mines and the Water Environment	1994	NRA	
Contaminated Land and The Water Environment	1994	NRA	

PLANNING GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Document	Date	Comments	Where Kept
PPG17 Sport and Recreation	1991		Plans & Projects, P&ES
PPG7 The Countryside and the Rural Economy	1992	May be useful	Plans & Projects, P&ES
PPG21 Tourism	1992	May be useful	Plans & Projects, P&ES
PPG21 Development Plans and Regional Planning Guidance	1992	May be useful	Plans & Projects, P&ES
Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	1992		Plans & Projects, P&ES
Shropshire Structure Plan 1989 - 2006	1993	Structure Plan policies (see also Appendix A)	Plans & Projects, P&ES
PPG9 Nature Conservation	1994	Very relevant	Plans & Projects, P&ES

APPENDIX E - GRANT AID

POSSIBLE GRANT AID SOURCES

All the agencies give grants. In many cases, matching funding from non-governmental sources is expected.

As grant funding tends to change from time to time, it is generally advisable to contact the local offices for detailed current information.

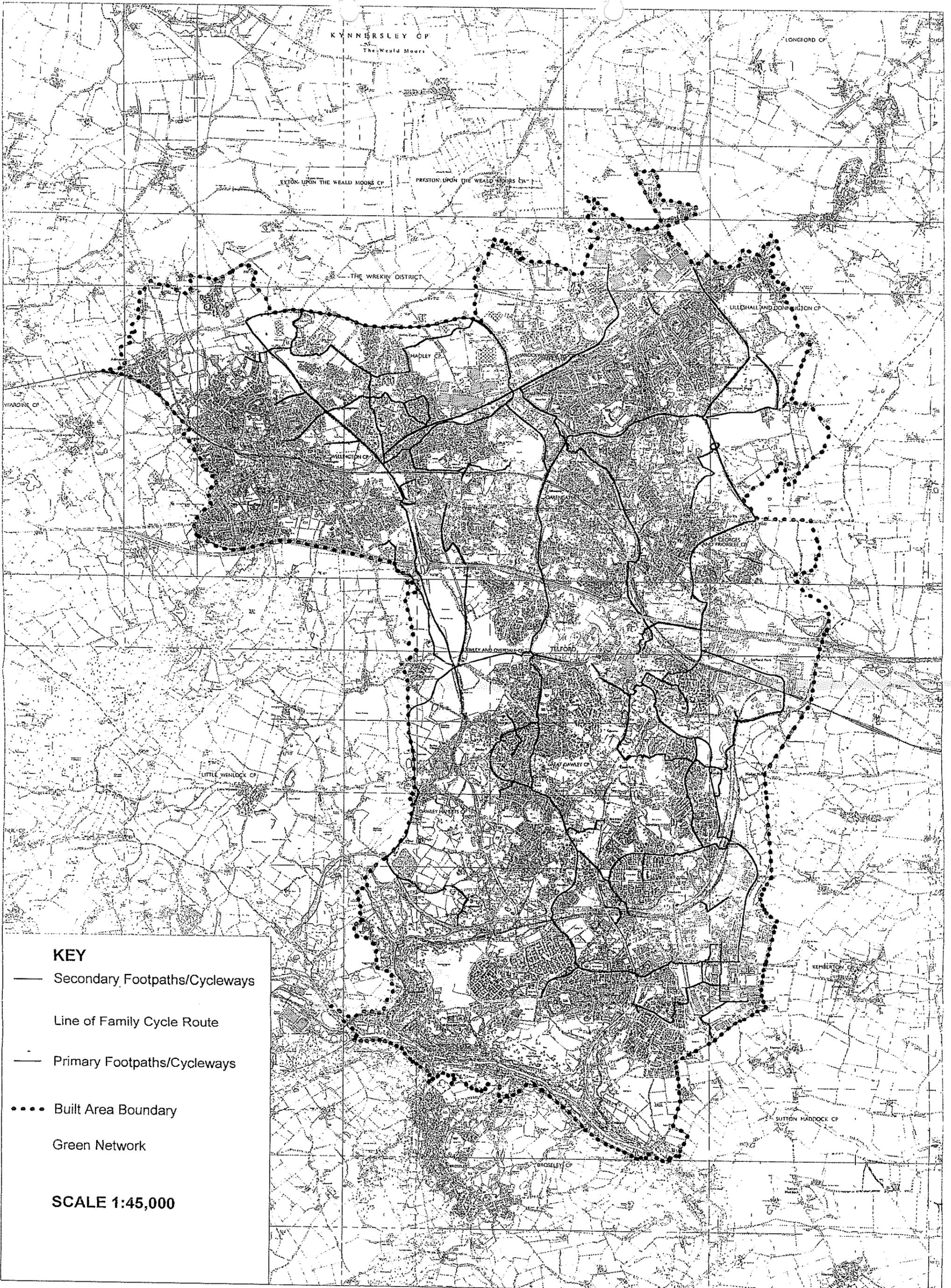
APPENDIX F - ENGLISH NATURE'S POSITION STATEMENTS

APPENDIX G - GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY

- **Biodiversity:** The variety of life on earth
- **Sustainable Development:** Development which meets our needs without damaging the variety of life on earth now or in the future.

(Without sustainable development, we will lose biodiversity).
- **Landscape:** External space, i.e. everything that is outside buildings. Telford's landscape comprises many landscape types - commercial, industrial, residential, etc.
- **Landscape Quality:** The aesthetic function of landscape over and above its utilitarian function.
- **Landscape Type:** A tract of land where particular combinations of landform and landcover elements imparts a sense of unity to the landscape.
- **Landscape Character:** A distinct pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular landscape.
- **Landscape Unit:** A small tract of relatively uniform land forming a discrete geographic unit.
- **Quality:** Standard or grade.
- **Active Recreation:** Recreation involving hard exercise, typically sporting activities. It requires the provision of specific facilities.
- **Passive Recreation:** Every other open air activity, from walking a dog to sleeping under a tree. It requires the provision of a setting rather than specific facilities.



KYNNERSLEY CP
The Weald Moors

LONGFORD CP

LYTON UPON THE WEALD MOORS CP

PRESTON UPON THE WEALD MOORS CP

THE WREKIN DISTRICT

ULLESHALL AND DONNINGTON CP

HADLEY CP

WELLINGTON CP

WIMLEY AND QUENBY CP

TELFORD

PAWLEY CP

LITTLE WENLOCK CP

PAWLEY HILLS CP

KEMBERTON CP

SUTTON MADDOCK CP

BRIDGECROFT CP

OROSELEY CP

KEY

— Secondary Footpaths/Cycleways

— Line of Family Cycle Route

— Primary Footpaths/Cycleways

•••• Built Area Boundary

Green Network

SCALE 1:45,000