

Strategic Priority GBI Zone: Kington Woodland Arc

Vision: Deliver GBI interventions which conserve and enhance the network of interconnected woodland tracts for habitat recreation and recreation, promoting increased accessibility by the local community.

Spatial coverage and connectivity

6.16 This zone follows the broad corridor of the River Arrow, encompassing the settlement of Kington and forming a wider connection to the western fringes of Leominster. The belt of orchards stretching from land to the south east of the A4112 towards the eastern fringes of Kington is also included within the boundary of the zone. To the north of the zone, large woodland tracts of woodland managed by the Forest Commission border the meandering course of the River Lugg.

Summary of analysis of assets

- The zone contains a large number of traditional orchards, which offer important habitat provision and provide a sense of time-depth within the landscape.
- Sections of the River Lugg Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (and the Lugg Meanders SSSI form the principal biodiversity assets of the zone. In addition, several small size (between 1 to 30ha) SSSI can be found within the zone; including Fishpool Valley, Moseley Common, Flintsham and Titley Pools, Rockhall Quarry.

- Currently, this SSSI is in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution and fragmented habitats.
- The River Arrow is a designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS), providing stretches of river (in-stream and bankside features), meadows and woodland.

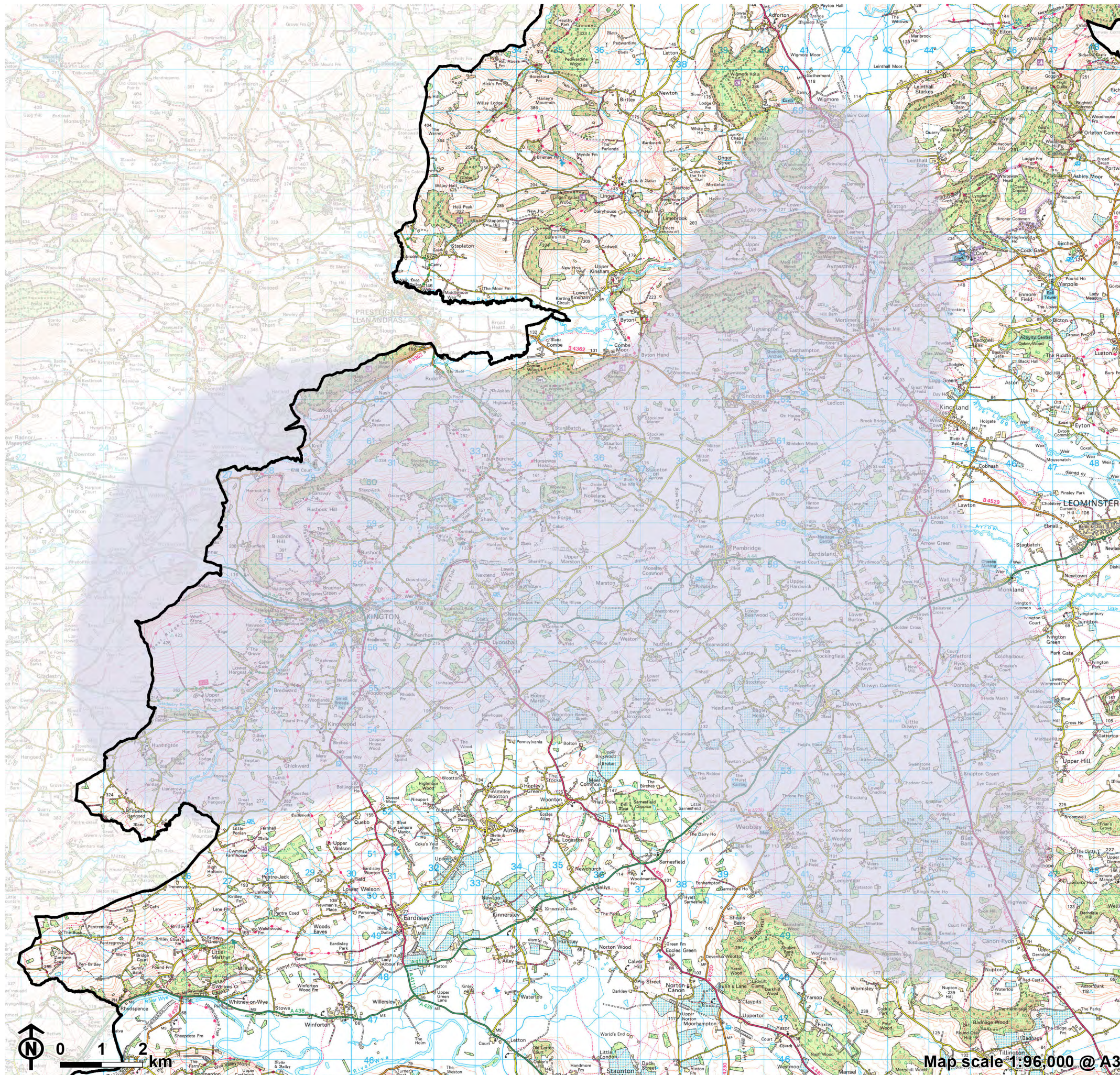
Summary of analysis of needs

- The River Lugg catchment is contained under the nutrient neutrality requirements. Currently, the River Lugg SSSI is in unfavourable condition due to nutrient inputs and habitat fragmentation.
- Large tracts of the central zone fall within an area of flood risk, associated with the low-lying land parallel to the River Arrow. Land situated within close proximity to the tributaries of the River Arrow, including Honeylake Brook and Stretford Brook, are also at risk of flooding.
- Localised areas of accessible greenspace deficiencies (achieving three or less of the buffers as defined by the Natural England GI Framework) are found within Kington and along the A480 at Lyonshall. These buffers provide an indication of the extent of areas that meet the Accessible Greenspace Standards. Where an area does not meet the standard, this indicates a deficiency in greenspace provision. Other settlements exhibiting deficiencies in accessible greenspace include Pembridge, Eardisland, Shobdon and Kingsland.
- Large sections of the zone, particularly to the south east around the A44 / A4112 corridors, exhibit a low density of Public Rights of Way (PRoW). This also incorporates land to the south of Dilwyn, characterised by a proliferation of orchard tracts. Localised pockets of the zone which demonstrate a low density of PRoW also includes Shobdon, Mortimer's Cross, Mowley Wood and land to the south of Staunton on Arrow.

Planned growth

6.17 Housing growth is projected within the settlement of Kington – 150 new properties are due for delivery between 2021 and 2041. Flood risk associated with the floodplain of the River Arrow forms an environmental constraint in this zone.

**Figure 6.11: Kington Woodland Arc
Strategic Priority GBI Zone**



▭ Herefordshire boundary
▭ Kington Woodland Arc

Source: LUC, Ordnance Survey

Table 6.7: Kington Woodland Arc - GBI Priority Projects

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Strategic scale							
KW1	Leominster to Kington Railway active travel route	Regional deficiencies in accessible natural greenspace	<p>Re-establish the former Leominster to Kington Railway as a nature corridor through tree planting and hedgerow restoration in the short-term to create a continuous link between the two settlements.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to secure the route as an active travel route in the long-term, creating an approximately ~20km cycle recreation link between the two market towns, whilst also enhancing linkages to other promoted routes and NCN.</p> <p>This intervention should aim to deliver informal access to nature for some of the area's most green space deficient communities. The railway route should link with other promoted routes within the area, including NCN route 825, Offa's Dyke Path National Trail, Mortimer Trail, Herefordshire Trail, Arrow Valley Trail, and Black and White Village Trail, as well as the area's traditional orchard heritage, many of which remain today, albeit in a fragmented state.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council ■ Sustrans; ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; and ■ Living Streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active Travel England ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Active and healthy places.
KW2	Encourage nature positive farming and land management practices	Improve ecological resilience through education	Develop positive land management practices by working with existing groups of land managers. Create a land manager network to help expand their area of operation, as well as sharing knowledge, opportunities for funding and helping to increase uptake of positive practices. For example, an existing group of land managers are working on a range of Environment Agency supported tree planting measures along the Arrow Valley. Deliver this in collaboration with the Herefordshire Local Nature Partnership.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; ■ Herefordshire Meadows; and ■ Landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme; ■ Grant funding for capital works and management (sustainable farming incentive); and ■ Defra's Landscape Recovery Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.
Local / settlement scale							
KW3	New accessible natural greenspace	Address deficiencies in accessible	Create community orchards as part of new accessible natural greenspace to restore and expand existing areas of traditional	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places

	and greening interventions	natural greenspace	<p>orchard within areas of deficiency in Kington, Lyonshall, Pembridge, Shobdon, Eardisland and Kingsland.</p> <p>Supplement this through “greening the grey” initiatives within these settlements to create connections between natural greenspaces and wider strategic edible and pollinator pathways through creating a diverse range of pollinator habitats which include improved management of road verges and creation of green walls, and insect hotels.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; ■ Verging on Wild; and ■ The Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; ■ Thriving and prosperous places.
KW4	Nature-based solutions to flooding along the River Arrow	Reduce flood risk along the River Arrow and its tributaries	<p>Conduct an optioneering appraisal for flood alleviation schemes along the River Arrow and its tributaries within communities at risk. Opportunities could include the creation of wetland and flood storage areas around the Kington Recreation Ground, as well as engaging with private landowners who adjoin the river upstream or through Kington. Other opportunities exist around Eardisland, Ivington, Pembridge and Weston.</p> <p>The creation of new wetlands and wet woodland should offer public access where possible, helping to address deficiencies in access to natural greenspace within the area. These nature-based solutions to flooding will also enhance the habitat value of the River Arrow corridor.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kington Town Council; ■ Leominster Town Council; ■ Parish Councils e.g. Pembridge; ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; ■ Environment Agency; and ■ Landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; ■ S106 / CIL / BNG / Nutrient Credits ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery); and ■ Defra's Landscape Recovery Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved water management; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.
KW5	Greening the Kington Conservation Area	Enhancing the Kington Conservation Area which is listed on the Heritage at Risk Register	<p>Use appropriate urban greening and tree planting to sensitively re-establish the Kington Conservation Area. The heritage asset is listed on the Heritage at Risk Register and considered to be in a very poor and deteriorating condition. Appropriate urban greening can be used as a placemaking tool in enhancing and celebrating the Conservation Area.</p> <p>Furthermore, additional tree planting in appropriate locations using native species of local provenance can help to reinforce landscape ties with the town centre.</p>	Via the planning system as part of the Kington Economic Investment Plan 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kington Town Council; ■ Local businesses; and ■ Local community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public sector grants; ■ S106 / CIL ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and ■ Investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; ■ Thriving and prosperous places; ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.

Strategic Priority GBI Zone: River Frome and Canal Heritage Corridor

Vision: Reinforce the distinctive local character of the River Frome, enhancing existing movement corridors as habitat networks and improving recreational links from the settlements of Hereford and Ledbury.

Spatial coverage and connectivity

6.18 Lying between Hereford and Ledbury, this zone is characterised by a distinctive landscape of woodlands, orchards and grassland sites of ecological and recreational importance. A network of road corridors, including the A4103, A417 and the A438 lie within the zone, all crossed by the course of the River Frome. Sections of the former route of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal also provide linear landscape features within the zone.

Summary of analysis of assets

- The zone contains several statutory protected sites, including small SSSIs between 3 to 8 ha (Mains Wood, Perton Roadside Section and Quarry, Little Hill and Birchend).
- The landscape is typified by a network of nature reserves, including: Broadmoor Common, Lea & Paget's Wood, Wessington Pasture, Ail Meadow and Nupend Wood.
- Albeit fragmented, the former route of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal provides sections of wooded corridors and wet ditches.

- The River Frome forms the principal hydrological asset within the zone and is identified as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). Other LWSs (over 50 ha) within the zone include Woodland on Shucknall, Woodland along Seager Hill, Backbury Hill, Ashperton Park, Hansett Wood, Foxhill and Fishpool Wood.

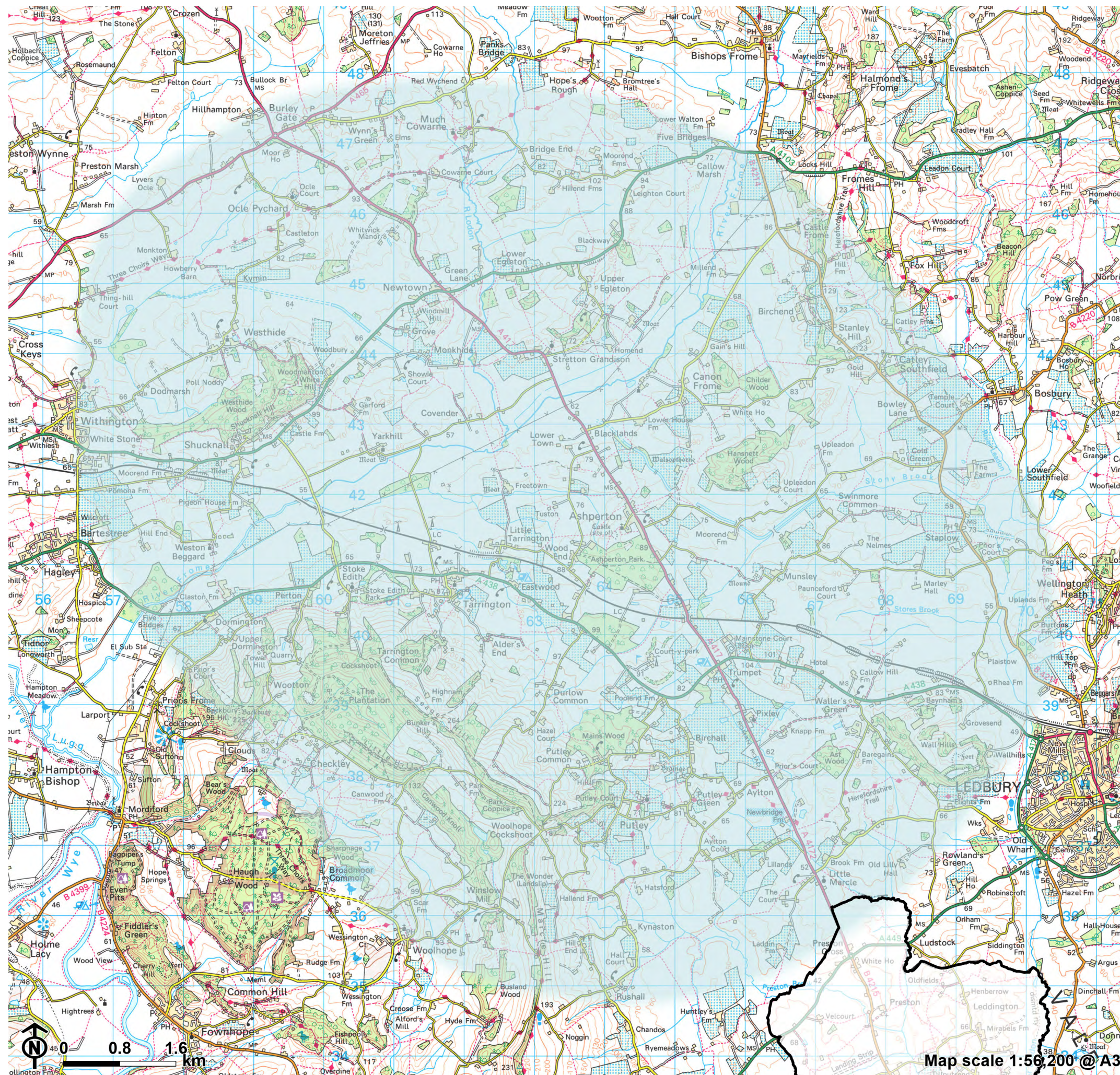
Summary of analysis of needs

- The River Frome catchment is failing to achieve good ecological status (due in part to rural land use and riparian habitat degradation). The corridor is currently working under a targeted programme to remove invasive species.
- Land within Withington, at the north western extent of the zone, is deficient in accessible greenspace, achieving three or less of the buffers as defined by the Natural England GI Framework. These buffers provide an indication of the extent of areas that meet the Accessible Greenspace Standards. Where an area does not meet the standard, this indicates a deficiency in greenspace provision.
- The zone partially falls within the Lugg catchment, which is subject to adherence to nutrient management to achieve 'nutrient neutrality'.
- The condition of several SSSIs (Little Hill and sections of Birchend and Perton Roadside) is described as 'unfavourable – recovering'.
- Running broadly north east to south west across the zone, the corridor of the River Frome is identified as a source of flood risk. Other areas of flood risk include disused sections of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal, Stony Brook and Ludstock Brook. In addition to land lying adjacent to the key watercourses and their tributaries, areas of surface water flood risk are located within close proximity to the Birmingham to Hereford Rail Line.
- Pockets of land within the zone exhibit a low density of Public Rights of Way (PRoW). Notable areas include land lying to the east of Westhide, Bunker's Hill, Birchall and Munsley.

Planned growth

6.19 Housing growth is projected within Ledbury between the 20-year period from 2021 to 2041. This growth equates to 1,700 new properties. The floodplains of the River Frome and River Leadon form environmental constraints to development. The requirement for adherence to nutrient management to achieve 'nutrient neutrality' also forms a key planning consideration in this zone.

Figure 6.12: River Frome and Canal Heritage Corridor Strategic Priority GBI Zone



- Herefordshire boundary
- River Frome and Canal Heritage Corridor

Source: LUC, Ordnance Survey

Table 6.8: River Frome and Canal Heritage Corridor - GBI Priority Projects

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Strategic scale							
RF1	Restoration of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal	Improve active travel routes and connectivity	An immediate aspiration should be to secure the entirety of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal route as a green corridor, utilising the former towpath as an active travel corridor. Gradual re-wetting, the process of restoring natural water flow and saturating peatland, could be delivered as and when funding becomes available.	Via the planning system and/ or via landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust; ■ Archaeologists; ■ Sustrans; and ■ Landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery); and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Nature rich beautiful places.
RF2	Create a nature corridor along the canal route	Habitat fragmentation and strategic wildlife corridor connectivity	Reconnect the route of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal between Monkhide and Blacklands through tree planting, hedgerow restoration and arable field margins to create a more connected nature corridor. Evidence of the canal between these two stretches of wet canal is largely lost in the landscape which is characterised by arable fields and some orchards. The link would also create a physical link between the River Frome, its tributary the River London, and the former canal, therefore joining two to three strategic nature corridors.	Via the planning system and/ or via landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Archaeologists; ■ Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust; and ■ Landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery); and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.
RF3	Restore the riparian zone of the River Frome	Degraded riparian habitat, fragmentation of the riparian zone and agricultural pollution.	Restore and connect riparian habitat along the River Frome, particularly where farming practices are taken right up to the edge of the watercourse. Creating a wider and more vegetated buffer between agricultural land and the River Frome will help to manage run-off. Particular focus should be on areas identified as being suitable as restorable habitat in the Natural England National Habitat Network, for example around Canon Frome.	Via the planning system and/ or via landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Natural England; ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Environment Agency; ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; and ■ Landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme; ■ Grant funding for capital works and management (sustainable farming incentive); and ■ Defra's Landscape Recovery Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.
RF4	Expand cycle networks	Improve active travel routes and connectivity	Explore opportunities for onward connection of the National Cycle Network, extending the current 44 and 46 routes to the north towards Bromyard and east towards Ledbury as these currently end abruptly in Hereford.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Sustrans; ■ Living Streets; and ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active Travel England; ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Local / settlement scale							
RF5	Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal at Ledbury	Wetland and riparian habitat creation to create a wildlife corridor and accessible natural greenspace .	Deliver a restored stretch of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal as part of the Bloor Homes site to the north of Ledbury (estimated to be around 550m). The canal should form a key placemaking asset for the scheme, as well as becoming a green space and recreation asset. Some riparian vegetation and habitats should be included along this stretch of the canal to ensure it also delivers as a new local site for nature. Opportunities should be explored to extend this restoration to capture the entire stretch of the canal as it passes Ledbury and to facilitate better access to nature at Ledbury's Riverside Park.	Via the planning system and/ or via landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Bloor Homes; ■ Archaeologists; ■ Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust; and ■ Landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; ■ Thriving and prosperous places; and ■ Nature rich beautiful places.
RF6	Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal between Monkhide and Withington Marsh	Wetland and riparian habitat creation to create a wildlife corridor and active travel route.	Explore opportunities to re-wet the entirety of the 4-5 mile stretch of the canal around Westhide, between Monkhide and Withington Marsh. This wooded stretch of former canal has sections both in and out of water, including seasonally wet ditches. Delivering a fully wet stretch of canal would deliver a nature-rich corridor. This should also include the restoration and enhanced interpretation of heritage assets associated with the canal, including listed bridges, locks and lock cottages.	Via the planning system and/ or via landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Archaeologists; ■ Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust; and ■ Landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery); and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Active and healthy places.
RF7	Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal at Hereford	Improve accessible recreational opportunities.	Work in partnership with the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust to deliver a new Community Basin within Aylestone Park, Hereford. The basin would provide opportunities for safe access to the water and help to remove pressure for water sports from the nearby River Lugg. The basin should utilise the existing slipway and make links with disability groups such as Sailing4Disabled.	Via the planning system and/ or alternative financial mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Archaeologists; ■ Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust; and ■ Sailing4Disabled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.

Strategic Priority GBI Zone: Ross-on-Wye and Gateway to the Wye Valley

Vision: Deliver a well-connected, accessible and attractive open space network across Ross-on-Wye, whilst conserving and enhancing the setting and distinctive sense of place of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Spatial coverage and connectivity

6.20 The landscape of this zone is characterised by the dramatic scenery of the River Wye corridor to the south of Ross-on-Wye, consisting of steep topography and wooded slopes. This topography is also interspersed with broader valley reaches and gently rolling hillsides. The historic market town of Ross-on-Wye forms the principal settlement within this zone, with the transport corridors of the M50 / A40 providing linear landscape features.

Summary of analysis of assets

- The topographical variation offered by the deeply incised Wye Valley and gorge results in prominent hilltops and the availability of expansive views.
- The River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Upper Wye Gorge SSSI) links the market town to a cluster of designated sites, including, the Wye Valley Woodland SAC, Coppett Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR), and the smaller SSSIs of Great Doward and Park Wood. These sites are predominantly characterised by extensive areas of ancient woodland.
- The Wye Valley Walk, a long distance footpath, traverses the corridor following the course of the river.

- Several Herefordshire B-Lines intersect with this zone, promoting a network of wildflower-rich habitat.
- The river forms a focus for recreational activity, offering an important conduit for the movement of people and wildlife. The corridor also offers opportunities for interactions with the water due to its public right of navigation.

Summary of analysis of needs

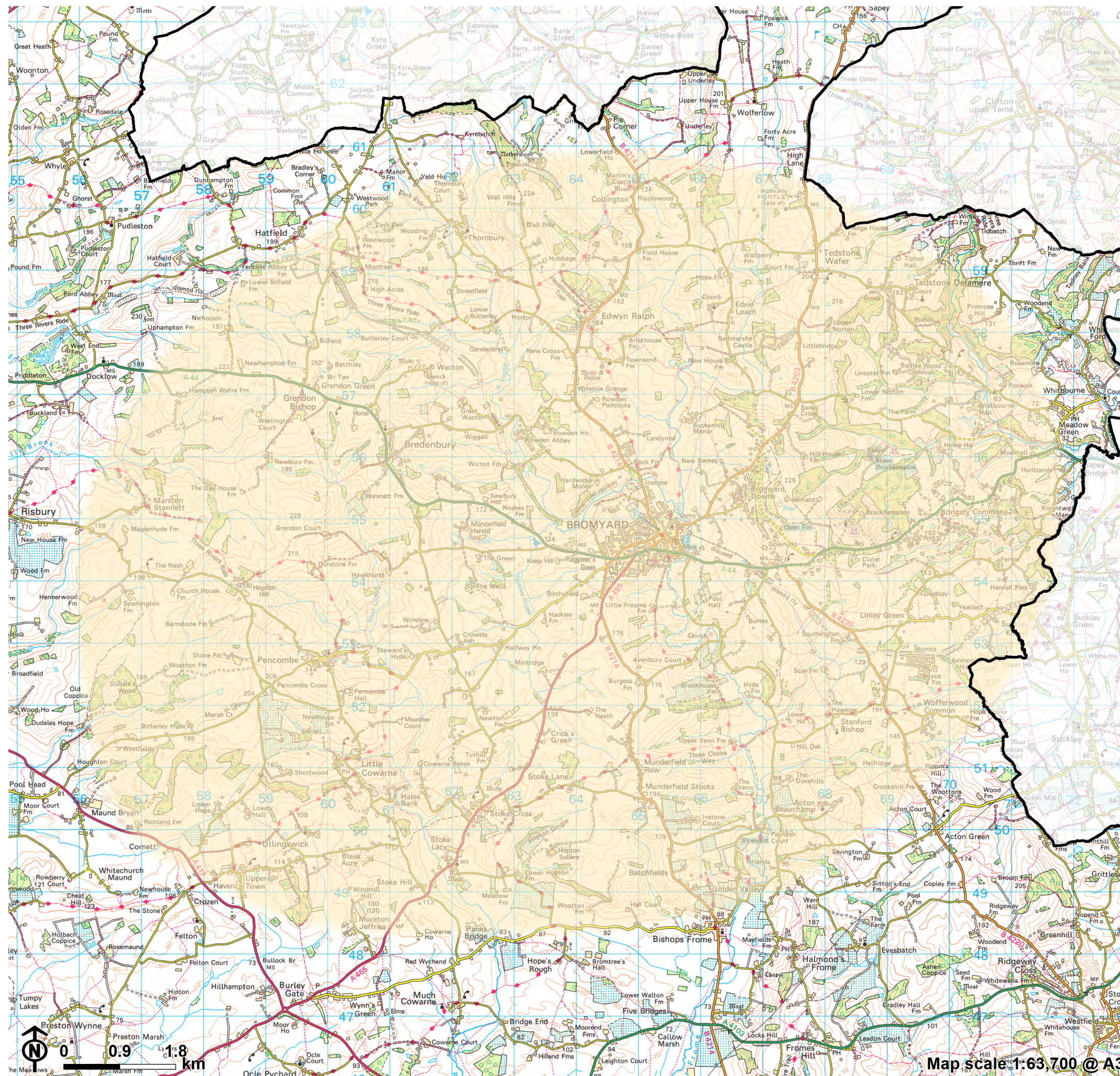
- The Management Plan for the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty [See reference 16] (AONB) identifies a number of impacts that are likely to form forces of change within the Wye Valley. These include factors such as climate adaptation, agriculture, tourism and recreation as well as future development pressures.
- Due to nutrient inputs (predominantly phosphates) to the watercourse, a Nutrient Management Plan has been developed to ensure that the River Wye SAC achieves favourable conditions.
- The condition of Linton Quarry SSSI is described as ‘unfavourable – declining’.
- Land within the urban centre of Ross-on-Wye, including Three Crosses, Ashfield, Archenfield and Tudorville; are deficient in accessible greenspace. These areas currently achieve three or less of the accessible green space buffers, as defined by the Natural England GI Framework. These buffers provide an indication of the extent of areas that meet the Accessible Greenspace Standards. Where an area does not meet the standard, this indicates a deficiency in greenspace provision. This trend is also evident within the settlements of Walford House, Coughton, Gorsley Common and Whitchurch.
- In general, this zone is characterised by a consistent coverage of Public Rights of Way (PRoW). However, gaps in the network can be found at Upton Bishop, land to the east of Hildersley and land bordering the A4137 to the north of Marstow Llanmartin.

- Land stretching the channel of the River Wye to land adjacent to the A40 in Ross-on-Wye is described as falling within an area of flood risk. Large meanders of the river channel at Goodrich also include large areas of land at risk of flooding.
- Road noise on sections of the A40, A449 and M50 exceed 60 decibels during day light hours and 55 decibels during the night.

Planned growth

6.21 Proposed strategic growth within Ross-on-Wye is focussed on the town's peripheries as well as some smaller scale growth within the settlement itself. Proposed growth equates to 2,000 new properties between 2021 and 2041. In terms of environmental constraints, these include the floodplain of the River Wye and the Wye Valley AONB designation.

Figure 6.13: Ross-on-Wye and Gateway to Wye Valley Strategic Priority GBI Zone



- Herefordshire boundary
- Ross-on-Wye and Gateway to Wye Valley

Source: LUC, Ordnance Survey

Table 6.9: Ross-on-Wye and Gateway to the Wye Valley - GBI Priority Projects

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Strategic scale							
RW1	Ross-on-Wye River Walk	Poor footpath connectivity through Ross-on-Wye and gaps in the provision of accessible greenspace within the settlement	<p>Expand the River Walk at Ross-on-Wye along Rudhall Brook to create an east-west active travel route between Rudhall and the town centre, with an extension south along the Old Railway corridor from Hildersley to Tudorville.</p> <p>Create an attractive pocket park / public open space between the Ross Reclamation Site and Kings Lower Acre Car Park with open wetland habitats which create a stepping stone between the River Wye, Rope Walk Meadow, Ross Swimming Pool, Five Ways Amenity Space, Tanyard Lane and St Mary’s Garden Village and the private fishing lakes south of Broadmeadow Caravan Park.</p> <p>Working in conjunction with civil engineers, de-culvert the section of Rudhall Brook which lies to the north-east of Kings Lower Acre Car Park to create a pocket park for both public access and wildlife provision. Provide an active travel route between this pocket park and the remaining section of Rudhall Brook extending along from Greytrees Road.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ National Highways; ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; and ■ Verging on Wild. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and ■ S106 / CIL / BNG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; ■ Thriving and prosperous places; and ■ Nature rich beautiful places.
RW2	Improve public access to Wye Valley AONB and Malvern Hills AONB	Poor access to public transport routes to nearby AONB	<p>Identify opportunities for delivery through collaboration between Wye Valley AONB, Malvern Hills AONB and Herefordshire Enhanced Partnership Scheme for Buses to engage with local communities to identify gaps in local transport links to the nearby AONBs. The aim of this intervention would be to encourage sensitive access to these designated landscapes, particularly for families, children and young people. Engagement should include communities from ‘hard to reach’ and under-represented groups.</p>	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Wye Valley AONB; ■ Malvern Hills AONB; and ■ Herefordshire Enhanced Partnership Scheme for Buses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active Travel England; ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.
RW3	Riparian tree planting	Significant flood risk within Ross-on-Wye and low canopy cover	<p>Increase canopy cover throughout Ross-on-Wye and the Wye Valley through tree planting and the expansion of woodland planting upstream of Ross-on-Wye along the Rudhall Brook to reduce flood risk in the town. There are significant overlapping areas of flood risk and floodplain woodland potential identified within the WWNP database.</p> <p>Given the broad floodplain meandering alignment of the River Wye, this could present significant opportunity for addressing flood risk through riparian woodland planting which would offer combined benefits in terms of climate change adaptation through increased local carbon sequestration.</p> <p>Conduct an optioneering appraisal to identify the best locations for floodplain woodland along the River Wye as it passes between the town and the A40 along the west of Ross-on-Wye, avoiding sensitive habitats such as floodplain grazing marsh.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Forestry England; ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; ■ Verging on Wild; ■ National Highways; and ■ Landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Improved water management; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
RW4	Create biodiverse SuDS	Address surface level flooding	Identify opportunities for naturalised surface level Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where highway improvement works are proposed as part of the creation of an active travel route around Ross-on-Wye.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; and ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved water management; ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.
Local / settlement scale							
RW5	Expanded and connect the PRow network within and surrounding Ross on Wye	Gaps in the PRow network surrounding the town	<p>Improve public access and connectivity between Hom Green and Archenfield to the south west of the town and provide an active travel route from Archenfield through the town centre to connect with the Herefordshire Trail and pocket park along Rudhall Brook.</p> <p>Improve public footpath connectivity where there are gaps along the eastern corridor of Ross-on-Wye around Upton Bishop and Hildersley and in the wider surrounding rural settlements in land bordering the A4137 to the north of Marstow.</p>	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and ■ Active Travel England; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.
RW6	New accessible natural greenspace and greening interventions	Address deficiencies in accessible natural greenspace	<p>Despite the town of Ross-on-Wye being in close proximity with GBI features including the River Wye, extensive ancient woodlands, and nearby AONBs supporting diverse habitat mosaics, there are significant areas of deficiency in access to natural greenspace along the eastern corridor of the town and in the surrounding area.</p> <p>In order to address these deficiencies, consideration should be given to the creation of new accessible natural greenspaces at Three Crosses, Ashfield, Archenfield and Tudorville within Ross-on-Wye and wider in rural settlements of Whitchurch, Coughton, Walford House and Gorsley.</p> <p>These interventions should be supplemented with enhancements through “greening the grey”. This includes the management of road verges to create an ambitious and diverse range of pollinator habitats which reinforce the nearby B-Line.</p> <p>Where there are any new PRow or active travel links, create corridors for wildlife through planting species-rich berry bearing shrubs and pollen and nectar rich flowers either within planters as part of retrospective improvements to existing hard standing or through creating wildflower rich grassy margins to create edible and pollinator pathways.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; and ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.
RW7	Greening the Ross-on-Wye Conservation Area	Enhancing the Ross-on-Wye Conservation	Use appropriate urban greening and tree planting to sensitively re-establish the Ross-on-Wye Conservation Area. The heritage asset is listed on the Heritage at Risk Register and considered to be in a very bad and deteriorating condition. Appropriate urban greening can be used as a	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ross-on-Wye Town Council; ■ Local businesses; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public sector grants; ■ S106 / CIL; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places;

		Area which is listed on the Heritage at Risk Register	<p>placemaking tool in enhancing and celebrating the Conservation Area. Furthermore, additional tree planting in appropriate locations using native species of local provenance can help to reinforce landscape ties with the town centre. A particular focus for tree planting should be in surface-level car parks, both within and on the periphery of the Conservation Area, to help reduce the dominance of cars and filter views towards large-scale modern units such as supermarkets. Opportunities to reclaim some space from the private vehicle along Broad Street through the use of tree planting, parklets and SuDS should be explored. This will help to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment whilst retaining the economic vitality of the town centre.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and ■ Investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Thriving and prosperous places; ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.

Strategic Priority GBI Zone: Bromyard Agricultural Plateau

Vision: Complement the distinctive agricultural and parkland character, whilst promoting the valued recreational use of the landscape and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network.

Spatial coverage and connectivity

6.22 Agricultural land use dominates the landscape of this zone, interspersed with woodland grassland and orchard sites. The incised valley of the River Frome meanders north eastwards towards the plateau landscape, consisting of a mosaic of grasslands and small woodlands which characterise this zone. The route of the A44 provides an east-west connection, with the route of the former Bromyard and Linton Light Railway also forming a linear landscape feature.

Summary of analysis of assets

- The zone is characterised by a varied, agricultural landscape of fields lined by hedgerows, scattered farms and tract of woodland. This undulating plateau landscape is also dissected by small wooded valleys forming wider tributaries of the River Frome.
- Brockhampton Park Registered Park and Garden and (National Trust) lies to the east of the zone.
- Open access land provides recreational value at Bromyard Downs and Bringsty Common, with a network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) providing connections between the two sites.

- There are no statutory biodiversity designations within the zone. However, a cluster of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) include Bringsty Common and Big Wood. Woodlands adjoining or associated with Sapey and Paradise Brooks Bromyard Downs are also located in this zone.

Summary of analysis of needs

- The urban extent of Bromyard is deficient in accessible greenspace, achieving three or less of the accessible green space buffers, as defined by the Natural England GI Framework. These buffers provide an indication of the extent of areas that meet the Accessible Greenspace Standards. Where an area does not meet the standard, this indicates a deficiency in greenspace provision.
- Significant tracts of land within this zone are characterised by a low density of Public Rights of Way (PRoW). This includes land to the south west of Bromyard, Bredenbury and land stretching south from Risbury to Maund Bryan. Gaps in the network of PRoW network are also evident as an east-west corridor from Docklow to Wacton.
- The zone falls within the Lugg catchment, which is subject to adherence to nutrient management to achieve 'nutrient neutrality'.
- Pluvial and fluvial flood risk forms a key issue within the zone, most notably around Bromyard and associated with the meandering corridor of the River Frome. Area of surface water flood risk follow the routes of the River Frome and its tributaries.
- Stretching from Bromyard to the eastern extent of the county at Sapey Bridge, road noise associated with the A44 corridor exceeds the guidelines of 55 decibels average for the night and 60 decibels average for the day.

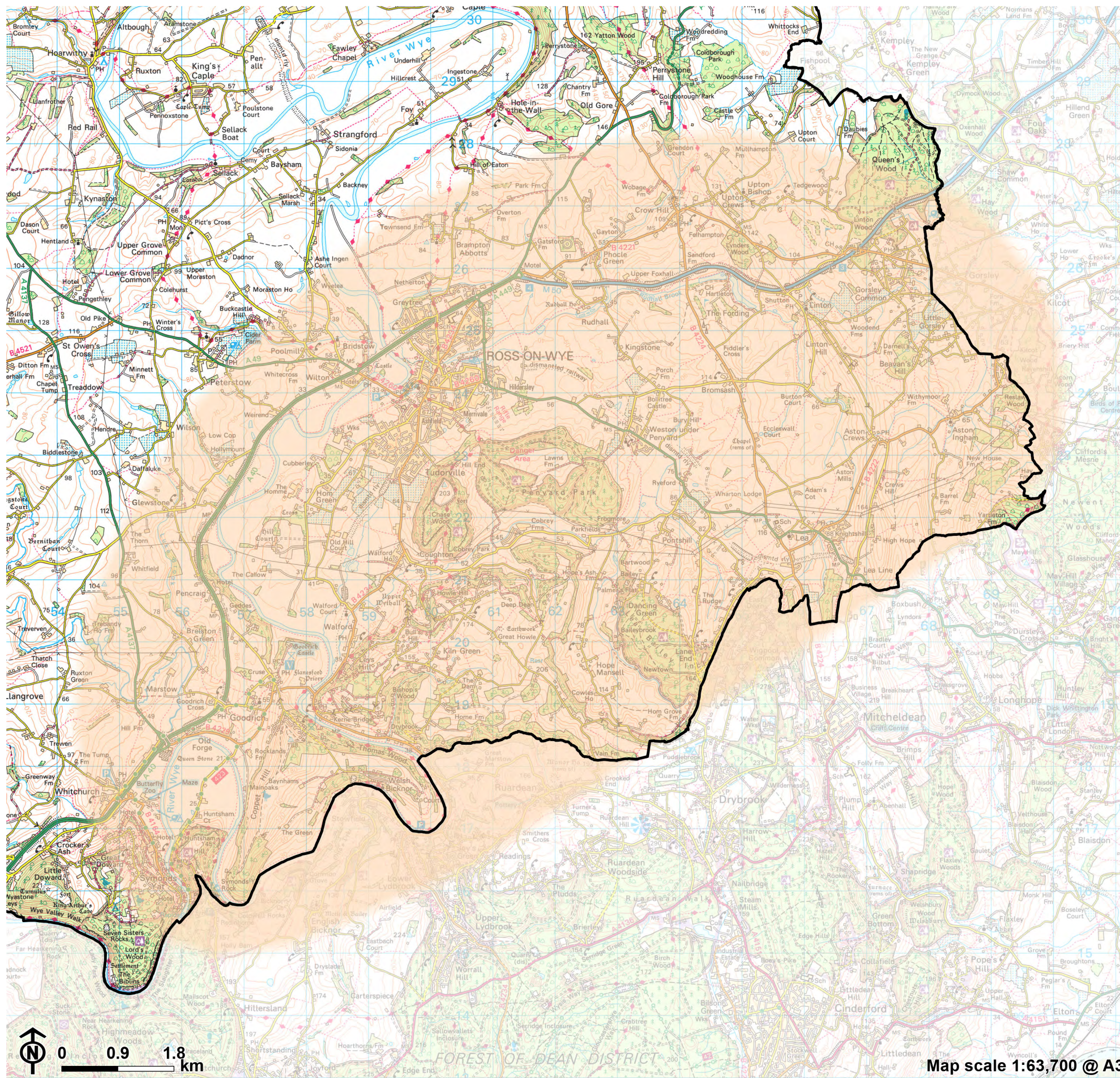
Planned growth

6.23 Housing growth is projected within the settlement of Bromyard – 750 new properties are due for delivery between 2021 and 2041. The requirement for

Chapter 6 Strategic Priority GBI Zones

adherence to nutrient management to achieve 'nutrient neutrality' also forms a key planning consideration in this zone.

Figure 6.14: Bromyard Agricultural Plateau Strategic Priority GBI Zone



- Herefordshire boundary
- Bromyard Agricultural Plateau

Source: LUC, Ordnance Survey

Table 6.10: Bromyard Agricultural Plateau - GBI Priority Projects

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Strategic scale							
BA1	Food Growing Hub	Sustainable food production and local community cohesion	<p>Develop a local food growing hub to deliver Herefordshire’s Food Charter as part of the Sustainable Food Places Network. Identify opportunities to create links supplying food from local producers to shops, schools, colleges and businesses. Identify opportunities for collaboration between landowners, local community groups (such as the Houghton Project in Bodenham and the HOPE centre in Bromyard) and organisations such as Three Counties Orchard Project to develop community growing opportunities through creation or restoration of orchards and allotments.</p> <p>Additional activities could include seed swapping events to promote the importance of pollination and companion planting. This could be done in partnership with Herefordshire Meadows who are serving as a local advisor and coordinator to ensure locally appropriate seed selections and the creation of a long-term availability of seeds of local provenance.</p>	Via the planning system and / or alternative financial mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Bromyard and Winslow Town Council; ■ Sustainable Food Places Network; ■ Houghton Project; and ■ Three Counties Orchard Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; ■ Grant funding for capital works and management (sustainable farming incentive); and ■ Charitable giving, community delivery and voluntary sector work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Thriving and prosperous places; and ■ Active and healthy places.
BA2	New accessible natural greenspace and greening interventions	Address deficiencies in accessible natural greenspace and flood risk	<p>Given the local significance of meadows within Herefordshire and the substantial area of land which is at risk of flooding along the River Frome in Bromyard and further south, the creation of accessible greenspace should identify opportunities for wet meadow creation or their restoration.</p> <p>Conduct an optioneering appraisal in collaboration with Herefordshire Meadows to identify suitable locations for wet meadow creation along the River Frome as it passes to the east of Bromyard.</p> <p>To supplement this, provide urban greening in Bromyard, which is deficient in access to natural green space. This can include greening streets with street trees, parklets, rain gardens and planters, as well as enhancing PRoWs and cycle links to surrounding green space assets.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Herefordshire Meadows; ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; and ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Improved water management; ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.
BA3	Create pollinator pathways connecting Bromyard with Bodenham and Whitbourne	Pollinator habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation as a result of intensive agriculture	Enhance pollination opportunities along the B-Line which connects Bromyard towards Bodenham and Whitbourne. This should include the creation of wildflower verges along roads and encouragement of farmers and landowners to create and positively manage arable field margins, as well as creating areas of wildflowers and restoring linear features such as hedgerows and seasonally wet ditches.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ National Highways; ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; ■ Verging on Wild; and ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery); ■ Grant funding for capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.

						works and management (sustainable farming incentive); and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery). 	
BA4	Riparian tree planting	Significant flood risk and low canopy cover in Bromyard and along the River Frome	<p>Increase canopy cover throughout Bromyard through the planting of street trees, tree avenues and the expansion of existing woodland tracts upstream of Bromyard along the River Frome. Significant overlapping areas of flood risk and floodplain woodland potential are identified within the WWNP database.</p> <p>Given the broad floodplain of the River Frome, this could present significant opportunity for addressing flood risk through riparian woodland planting which would offer combined benefits in terms of climate change adaptation and increased local carbon sequestration. Therefore, an optioneering appraisal can identify the best locations for floodplain woodland, which avoids sensitive habitats such as floodplain grazing marsh whilst optimising benefits in terms of reducing flood risk downstream.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herefordshire Council; Forestry England; Balfour Beatty Living Places; Verging on Wild; National Highways; and Landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Delivery Plan; S106 / CIL / BNG; and Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved water management; Nature rich beautiful places; and Thriving and prosperous places.
BA5	Disused railway nature corridor and active travel route	Enhance wildlife corridors across the agricultural landscape and reduce dependency on private transport and enhance the recreational offer	Explore opportunities to reinforce the disused railway line connecting Bromyard to Worcester and Bromyard to Leominster as a continuous wildlife corridor (subject to landowner agreement). Long-term aspirations should be to provide an active travel link along its entire length.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herefordshire Council; Worcester Bromyard Leominster Greenway CIC; Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; and Sustrans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S106 / CIL; BNG; Grant funding for capital works and management (sustainable farming incentive); Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery) and Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature rich beautiful places; Active and healthy places; and Thriving and prosperous places.

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Local / settlement scale							
BA6	Nature based solutions to address flooding	Reduce flooding within Hereford and Leominster	Ensure that new development within Bromyard maximises opportunities for the integration of nature-based solutions to manage surface water run-off particularly along the Old Road, New Road, Rowberry Street, Sherford Street, High Street, Pump Street and Frog Lane and limit potential flooding events, particularly through the use of SuDS.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Bromyard and Winslow Town Council; ■ Hereford City Council; ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; ■ Environment Agency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GBI-led scheme design; ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved water management; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.
BA7	Identify opportunities for the enhancement of species-rich grasslands/ meadows and pollinator habitats	Recognise the status of meadows as a local conservation priority	<p>Expand the pollinator and wildlife value of areas of good quality semi-improved grassland at Bringsty through well connected habitat networks with surrounding farmland, including through the restoration and creation of arable field margins.</p> <p>Create a nature-rich and resilient network of pollinator habitats through the identification of opportunities for expansion and connectivity of lowland meadows. Interventions should incorporate floodplain meadows and good quality semi-improved grasslands in partnership with Herefordshire Meadows.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Herefordshire Meadows; and ■ Land owners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management (sustainable farming incentive). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.
BA8	Increase active travel routes and connectivity with the wider network and greenspaces	Areas with a low density of Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	<p>Extend PRoWs and access into woodlands and parkland around the Brockhampton Estate from Bromyard.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to increase the density of the PRoW network on land to the south-west of Bromyard, to the west around Bredenbury and land stretching south from Risbury to Maund Bryan. Gaps are also evident in the east to west corridor from Docklow to Wacton.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Active and healthy places.
BA9	Urban tree planting in Bromyard	Increase canopy cover in Bromyard	Explore opportunities for urban tree planting across Bromyard. Particular focus should be had on the industrial areas within the north east of Bromyard, as well as within surface-level car parks. This will help to reduce the perceived dominance of the private car, as well as filter views towards industrial sheds and units. This will also help to deliver nature-based solutions to surface water flooding which is evident in this area.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bromyard and Winslow Town Council; ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; and ■ Local businesses and landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Grant funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Active and healthy places; ■ Thriving and prosperous places; ■ Improved water management; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.