



Teign Green Network

Heart of Teignbridge
Coast and Rural Areas

Consultation Draft
January 2014



The Strategy is intended to update the earlier Heart of Teignbridge Strategy of 2011 and to extend the Strategy to include the Heart of Teignbridge, Coast and Rural Areas.

The document has been produced in partnership with Natural England. The District Council also acknowledges the support of the following organisations who were represented on the steering group:-

Devon County Council

Environment Agency

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The views expressed by a wide range of agencies, groups and individuals through Community engagement (Jan 2014) and a Consultation Exercise on this Draft Strategy will help to shape the Interim Final Report. The intention is to present the Interim Final Report to Teignbridge District Council Executive for approval in due course.

The document can be viewed on the Teignbridge District Council website:
www.teignbridge.gov.uk/gi

If you need this information in a different format phone
01626 361101 or email info@teignbridge.gov.uk

We Want You to be Involved!

You are invited to comment on the content of this draft strategy. Your views are important to us and will be considered in preparing the final strategy document.

Comments must be received by 4.30pm on 7th March 2014.

Comments may be made online at:
www.teignbridge.gov.uk/gi

Alternatively, you may respond by email or letter. Please ensure that your comments are related to the following questions:

Question 1: What do you think of the document?

Question 2: Are there any projects that you, your group or organisation would like to be involved with?

Question 3: Are there any project opportunities we've missed?

Comments cannot be treated as confidential. They will be published on our website excluding private telephone numbers and email addresses. Inappropriate comments including those which are racist, sexist, xenophobic, defamatory, prejudiced or otherwise likely to cause offence to the subject of the comments, or any other reader, will be removed before publication.

We look forward to receiving your views.

Responses by letter should be addressed to:

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What is Green Infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure and associated functions

A Network of Wetland Habitats

- Flood management & storage.
- Regulating water quality.
- Strong & distinctive landscape features.
- Wildlife associated with rivers, lakes, marsh, estuary, wet grassland & woodland.
- Historic clay & gravel pit features, bridges & wharfs, archaeological features.
- Recreational trails, interpretation, outdoor education & play.
- Countryside management jobs and volunteering.
- Small-scale hydro, solar & wind energy.
- Conservation grazing & countryside stewardship.

B Canal & Railway Green Routes

- Historic and natural distinctive landscape features linking town & country.
- Wildlife corridors connecting species populations and nearby habitats.
- Canal provides water storage and quality regulation.
- Historic industrial structures and buildings.
- Recreational trails and commuter routes.
- Interpretation and outdoor education & play.
- Countryside management jobs & volunteering.

C Allotments, Orchards & Village Greens

- Historic and natural distinctive landscape features.
- Wildlife associated with trees, hedgerows, grassland, ponds
- Historic buildings, structures & archaeological features.
- Interpretation, outdoor education & play.
- Local food production & markets.
- Horticultural jobs & volunteering.
- Small scale rural craft products, heat pump & solar energy.
- Venue for fairs, exhibitions, performance, music.

D Green Buildings

- Green walls & roofs support urban wildlife, food growing, recreation, local climate regulation & pollution filtration.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems & reduce surface water flooding.
- Cycle parking.
- Reclaimed & local sustainable building materials.
- Small-scale ground-source heat pumps, solar & wind.

E Network of Heathland, Woodland and Grassland Habitats

- Wildlife associated with heathland, mixed & broadleaved woodland & semi-natural grassland.
- Strong & distinctive landscape features.
- Water storage and quality regulation.
- Historic parks, buildings and archaeological features.
- Recreational trails, outdoor pursuits, interpretation, education & play.
- Countryside management & recreation jobs and volunteering.
- Small-scale wood fuel and rural craft products, solar and wind energy.
- Conservation grazing & countryside stewardship.

F Multi-Use Trails

- Recreational trails and commuter routes.
- Verges, hedgerows and tree-lined routes provide wildlife corridors connecting species populations and nearby habitats.
- Historic features such as hedgebanks, archaeological features.
- Interpretation, outdoor pursuits, education & play.
- Countryside management jobs & volunteering.
- Countryside stewardship.

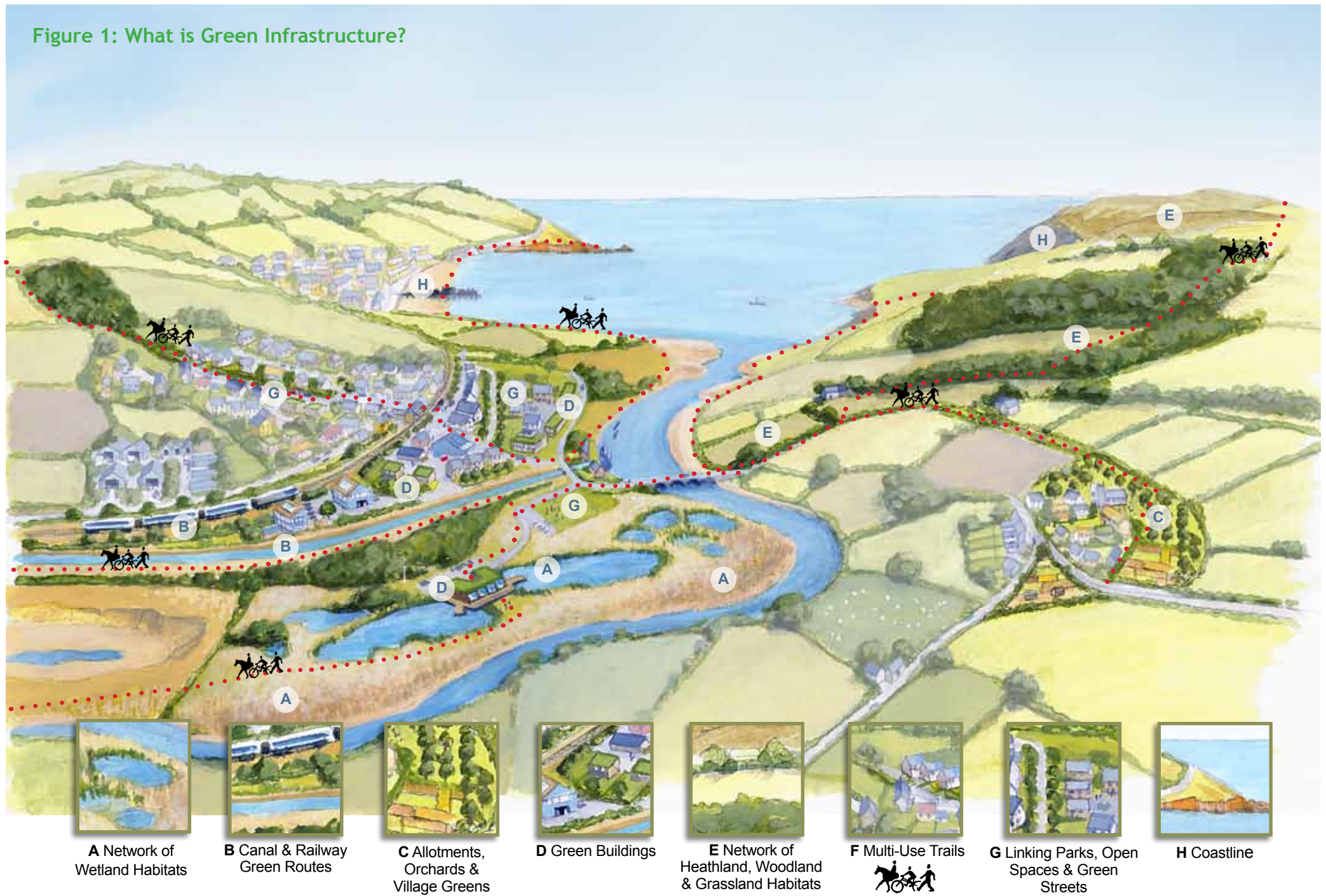
G Linking Parks, Open Spaces & Green Streets

- Landscape of parks, gardens and mature trees.
- Associated urban wildlife.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS e.g. ponds, swales) reduce surface water flooding.
- Sports, recreation, interpretation, outdoor education & play.
- Historic parks, buildings & structures.
- Community gardens, allotments, local food markets & plant nurseries.
- Horticultural jobs and volunteering.
- Footpath & cycle routes linking home/work/school/leisure.
- Venue for fairs, exhibitions, performance, music
- Shade, shelter & filtering of pollution.
- Small scale heat pumps & solar wind energy.

H Coastline

- Strong and distinctive landscape features.
- Wildlife associated with cliffs, beaches, grassland/scrub, foreshore, sea.
- Coastal protection & flood management.
- Distinctive & important geological features.
- Historic piers, jetties, buildings, structures, archaeological features.
- Recreational trails, interpretation, outdoor pursuits, education & play.
- Countryside management & recreation jobs & volunteering.
- Small-scale heat pump, solar & wind energy.
- Conservation grazing & countryside stewardship.
- Venue for fairs, exhibitions, performance, music.

Figure 1: What is Green Infrastructure?



Connecting Communities - Enhancing Places - Enriching Life

Section 1: Introduction

What is Green Infrastructure?

- 1.1 This report adopts the National Planning Policy Framework definition of Green Infrastructure as:
- “A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.”*
(NPPF 2012)
- 1.2 Use of the term ‘Green Infrastructure’ has now become common-place to describe planned strategic networks of open spaces within and between towns, villages and the countryside. Green Infrastructure networks include public open spaces such as parks, playing fields, cemeteries and village greens. They can also include green spaces such as golf courses, allotments, gardens, nature reserves, beaches and public rights of way, which may have varying degrees of public access.
- 1.3 Green Infrastructure also includes water and wetland features such as rivers, canals, lakes and estuaries, occasionally referred to as ‘blue’ infrastructure, as well as constructed features, such as green roofs and green walls.
- 1.4 What is common to all successful and high quality Green Infrastructure is that the spaces are connected and **multi-functional**, delivering multiple environmental, social and economic benefits for the local community.
- 1.5 Often these functions or benefits are complementary, but there may be occasions where spaces or networks have a primary function, such as biodiversity within nature reserves or amenity within local parks. Where this is the case, other functions can and should support the primary function,

without conflicting with it. An informed and integrated approach to land use planning, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, will identify opportunities and constraints and deliver high quality Green Infrastructure.

- 1.6 Green Infrastructure supports natural and ecological processes and is essential to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities.

Figure 1. What is Green Infrastructure? Illustrates how Green Infrastructure networks can be integrated with the wider landscape, connect rural and urban areas and provide multiple benefits.



Why is it Important?

- 1.7 High quality Green Infrastructure networks are essential to provide quality of life for local communities. The connected spaces can help to improve the air that we breathe, the food we eat, our physical health and mental well-being. They can also protect our settlements from flooding and climatic extremes as well as providing sustainable energy sources and ensuring the diversity of plants and animals, on which we all depend, is maintained.
- 1.8 Provision of Green Infrastructure is integral to achieving sustainable development. Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly defined sustainable development as:
- ‘meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’*
- 1.9 The Coalition Government produced the Natural Environment White Paper (June 11), which drew on the findings of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA). The NEA showed the social and economic benefits provided by our environment, but highlighted a 30% decline in the ‘services’ provided by our ecosystems and reductions in the quality and quantity of urban green spaces. The White Paper calls for better protection and enhancement of the environment
- 1.10 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012), supports Green Infrastructure, highlighting that Local Planning Authorities should:
- “set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and Green Infrastructure” (NPPF, paragraph 114)*

The NPPF identifies three dimensions to sustainable development: **economic, social and environmental**, and the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles under these themes to achieve a high quality of life and places. Through local action we can grasp the opportunity of making a difference to our own communities, making them more resilient to future change, and play our part in addressing global issues.

- 1.11 Green Infrastructure supports the **economy** through providing attractive and successful places that offer a high quality of life, encouraging business to move to and invest in the local area, creating jobs in land management and boosting the tourism industry. The provision of safe and pleasant green places for communities provides a focus for greater **social** interaction and gives rise to stronger, healthier and more vibrant communities. The protection and enhancement of the natural **environment** improves the functioning of natural processes, including flooding, erosion and pollution control. The creation of new and linked habitats enriches the area’s landscape and biodiversity ensuring that they are sustained for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.
- 1.12 The roles and benefits of Green Infrastructure are identified in **Table T1**. Teignbridge District Council have produced a Green Infrastructure Statement Proforma, designed to help developers explain how development proposals contribute to achieving the Teign Green Network local vision and themes. Where appropriate a Green Infrastructure Context Plan, Masterplan and Statement are required to be submitted before a major planning application in Teignbridge can be validated. Once validated, applications can be assessed through the planning process.

Table T1: The roles and benefits of Green Infrastructure

Theme	Role and Benefit
Climate Change	Mitigation and Adaptation <i>Increased resilience to the effects of climate change and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.</i>
Quality Environment	Landscape <i>Strengthen character and quality</i>
	Biodiversity <i>Increased abundance and diversity</i>
	Townscape <i>Improved attractiveness and sense of place</i>
	Flood Risk & Water Resource <i>Improved flood management, water quality and storage, coastal protection</i>
	Heat Islands <i>Moderation of urban microclimates</i>
	Local Sustainable Materials <i>Reduced impacts from extraction and transportation</i>
	Local Renewable Energy <i>Increased small-scale renewable energy production</i>
Well-Being	Local Food <i>Increased production of local foodstuffs</i>
	Health & Recreation <i>Improved mental and physical health and air quality</i>
	Communities <i>Creation of strong, supportive, vibrant and inclusive communities with 'civic pride'</i>

Theme	Role and Benefit
	Culture <i>Improved connections with the past and creation of assets for the future</i>
	Learning <i>Enhanced opportunities for education, new skills and experiences</i>
	Sustainable Transport <i>Improved provision for walkers, cyclists and public transport users, including better connectivity and integration</i>
Economic Prosperity	Thriving Economy <i>Improved environmental quality, attracting and retaining business, supporting a thriving retail and tourist industry, providing environmental jobs and local products</i>

- 1.13 High quality, well managed Green Infrastructure is critical to ensuring the benefits are delivered for the future. Loss and deterioration of these assets will lead to continuing fragmentation and decline of habitats and species and a poorer quality of life for future generations. The importance of Green Infrastructure to our well-being and that of future generations cannot be over-stated. The case for action is compelling. It is vital that we act and place Green Infrastructure at the centre of the planning process to secure high quality, successful and sustainable places for the benefit of all.

What is the Purpose of this Strategy?

- 1.14 To promote a comprehensive, cohesive approach to Green Infrastructure throughout the District, to establish and safeguard a network of high quality green spaces that deliver environmental benefits and improve quality of life in Teignbridge and to ensure that Green Infrastructure concepts are embedded in decision making.
- 1.15 A key reason for producing this strategy is to influence planning proposals and decisions in order to maximise opportunities for Green Infrastructure. This strategy therefore focuses on projects that can be delivered through the planning system, whilst taking in to account other delivery mechanisms and funding.
- 1.16 A strategic approach is needed to help coordinate the actions of the numerous agencies, organisations and individuals involved in the provision and management of green spaces and to ensure that the planning system delivers Green Infrastructure in a planned, joined-up manner. Without a strategy, a series of ad-hoc decisions risks producing a fragmented pattern of spaces, significantly reducing their value. Lack of high-level planning is likely to result in wasted effort and opportunities lost.
- 1.17 The Localism Act (2011) enables local communities to take forward local planning strategies and decisions through neighbourhood plans. Green Infrastructure projects can be included in these plans and provide a focus for community action. The Act also introduced the duty to cooperate. This requires local authorities and other public sector bodies to work together on planning issues. Working with partners and neighbours helps to produce a consistent and coordinated strategy across administrative boundaries.
- 1.18 The relationship between this Green Infrastructure strategy to International, National and Local directives and plans is shown

in [Diagram D1](#). The relationship to other Teignbridge and Devon-wide strategies is shown in [Diagram D2](#), and discussed further in the section: ‘What’s Happening Elsewhere?’

Diagram D1: Relationships to Key International/National/Local Directives & Plans

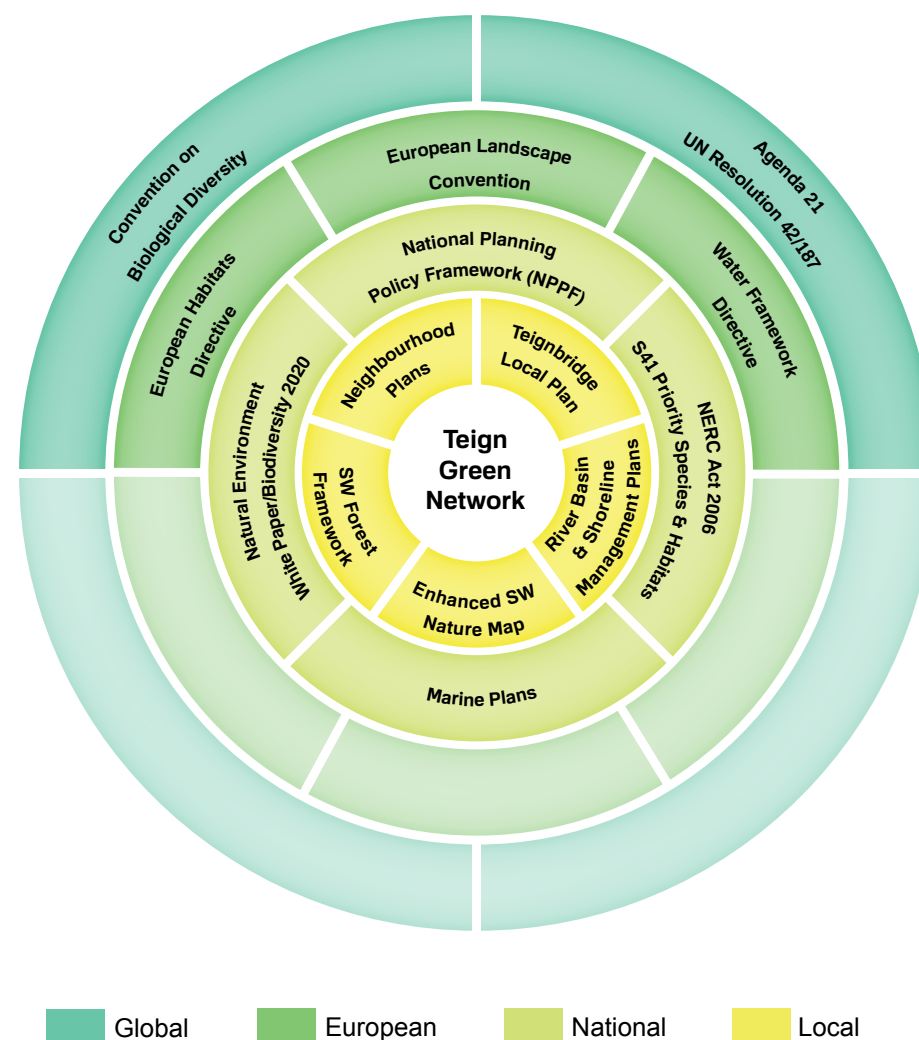


Diagram D2: Relationship to Teignbridge and Devon strategies



What is the Status of this Strategy?

- 1.19 The Heart of Teignbridge strategy, Exeter Area Green Infrastructure Strategy and Green Infrastructure concepts formed part of the evidence base for the preparation of the Submission Local Plan 2013. Policy WE11 is concerned with Green Infrastructure provision throughout the district. Policy

HT3 relates specifically to the Heart of Teignbridge and Policies SWE1 & 3 relate specifically to the South West of Exeter.

- 1.20 The Submission Local Plan policies promote the provision of Green Infrastructure in line with the Teign Green Network and Exeter Area Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 1.21 As well as a core planning function, the strategy is intended to help inform Neighbourhood Plans, provide a basis for partnership working to deliver the 'Big Ideas' and support bids for funding delivery.

What area does this Strategy Cover?

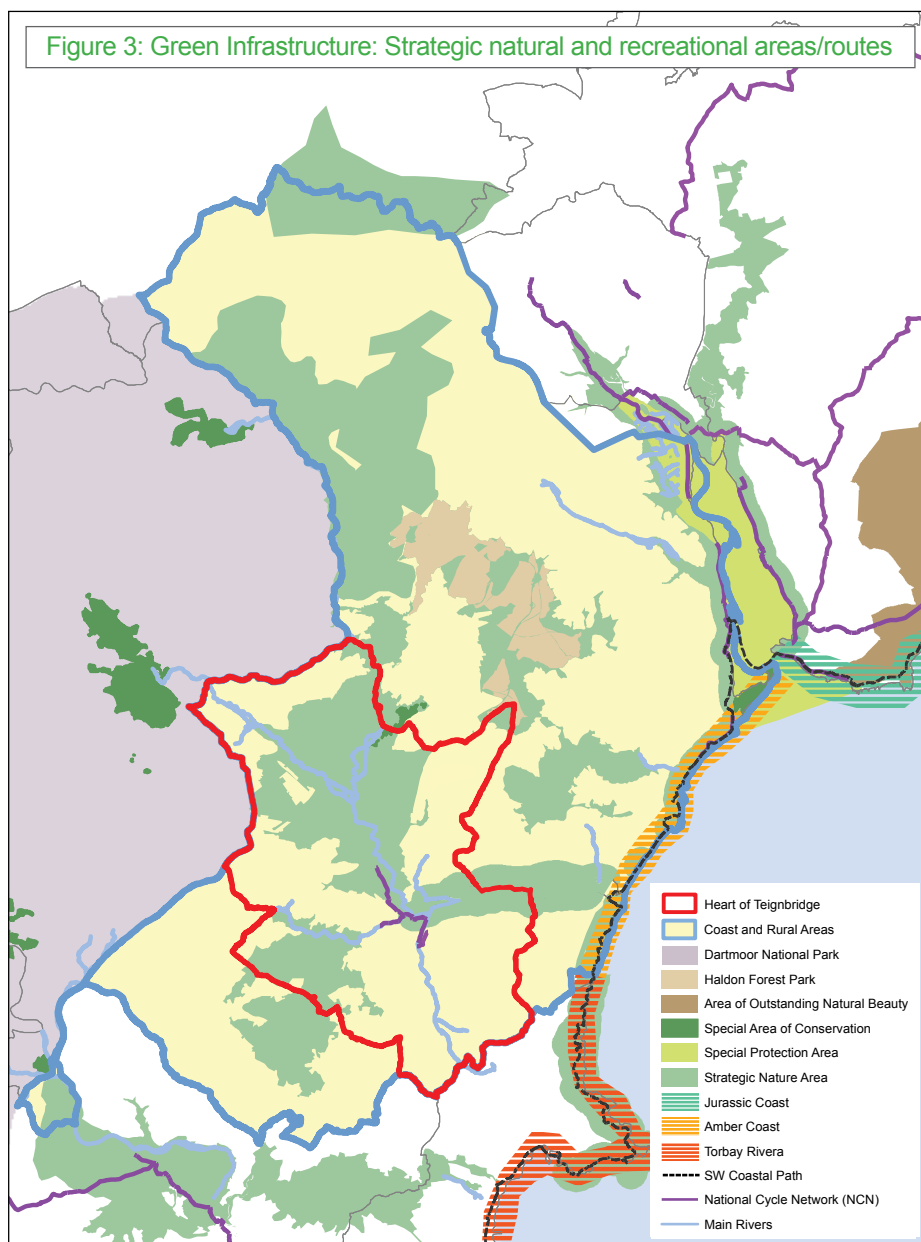
- 1.22 The Teign Green Network Strategy covers the 'Heart', coast and rural areas of Teignbridge. It excludes Dartmoor National Park and the South West of Exeter. The Heart of Teignbridge includes the closely associated settlements of Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton and Kingskerswell, which together make up the largest urban area in Teignbridge. This area is a focus for development growth in the Local Plan. For the purposes of this Green Infrastructure strategy the area also includes Bovey Tracey, Heathfield and the main ball clay mineral workings of the Bovey Basin. The area includes large areas of functional flood plain including the rivers Teign, Bovey and Lemon.
- 1.23 The Coast and Rural Areas cover the remainder of the district apart from the Exeter Growth Point Area. This area includes the coastal towns of Teignmouth and Dawlish, along with coastal villages, rural market towns, villages and hamlets. It includes the red sandstone coastline, Teign and Exe estuaries, Haldon Ridge and Teign Valley and other rural areas in the district. It includes the middle reaches of the River Teign and other important rivers and flood plains.
- 1.24 The Exeter Growth Point Area covers a small area of Teignbridge at the South West of Exeter. This forms part of the Exeter Area and East Devon Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009), which includes Exeter City and part of East Devon District. This area is not covered by the Teign Green Network Strategy.



What is Happening Elsewhere?

- 1.25 A Green Infrastructure strategy is currently being prepared by Devon County Council. The purpose of this emerging strategy is to guide the planning and delivery of Devon's Green Infrastructure over the period to 2031. It sets out and promotes guiding principles, recognises Devon's Green Infrastructure assets and sets priorities for action in Devon.
- 1.26 A delivery programme is currently under preparation for the Exeter Area and East Devon Growth Point Green Infrastructure Strategy, supported by the Growth Point Board and with a project officer appointed in 2013.
- 1.27 Green Infrastructure strategies have been produced for Torbay and Mid Devon. A strategy is being prepared for South Hams and is due to be finalised in 2015.
- 1.28 Whilst Dartmoor National Park Authority has not produced a Green Infrastructure strategy, Teignbridge is working with the National Park on 'Moor2Sea', a project linking the moorland to the coast via the Wray, Bovey and Teign valleys from Moretonhampstead to Bovey Tracey and Newton Abbot.
- 1.29 **Figure 2** illustrates the plan area. It also shows the strategic corridor links relating to the Strategic Green Infrastructure corridors of the Green Way Network (**Plan 5**). Where these corridors cross the District boundary, they connect to Green Infrastructure in the adjoining authority.
- 1.30 Cross-boundary working and co-operation are essential to ensure that Green Infrastructure opportunities take in to account important strategic natural and recreational areas. Areas should be well connected by Green Infrastructure corridors that include linking habitats and footpath and cycleway routes. **Figure 3** shows the major areas of important habitats and recreation and long distance routes around Teignbridge.

Figure 3: Green Infrastructure: Strategic natural and recreational areas/routes



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What are the Next Steps & Opportunities for Involvement?

- 1.31 Following a community engagement and consultation exercise early in 2014, the intention is to present this strategy to Teignbridge District Council executive for approval.
- 1.32 The strategy is intended to inform masterplanning for the strategic site allocations in the Local Plan. Some work has already been carried out through the Heart of Teignbridge Strategy to inform the allocations at Houghton Barton (NA1), Whitehill (NA2) and Wolborough (NA3) on the edge of Newton Abbot. Green Infrastructure concepts have also informed the town centre regeneration proposals. The South West of Exeter masterplan has been informed by the Exeter Growth Point Area Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 1.33 Major projects identified under the 'Big Ideas' have been progressed, in partnership with other agencies and groups. Continuing delivery and identification of funding sources to facilitate future delivery is ongoing.
- 1.34 There are opportunities for local interest groups to take forward projects for delivery e.g. through Neighbourhood Plans, Parish and Town Councils and other interest groups. Communities may be able to access different funding streams for projects of local importance.
- 1.35 The Teignbridge Design Guide is being developed alongside this strategy and incorporates Green Infrastructure concepts within the guidance. Planning Advice Notes give detailed guidance on specific elements such as hedgerows and protected species. A Green Infrastructure toolkit could be developed to assist communities and individuals in developing Green Infrastructure projects.

Section 2: Local Vision and Objectives

What is the Local Vision?

- 2.1 The vision for the Green Infrastructure strategy is to:-
'connect communities, enhance places and enrich life'
- 2.2 The local vision has been influenced by existing and emerging national and local strategies, plans and studies, in particular the Teignbridge Sustainable Community Strategy. The vision has been shaped by stakeholders as part of the Heart of Teignbridge consultation and complements the objectives of a range of organisations, agencies and local communities.

What are the Key Themes and Objectives?

- 2.3 Four distinct, but related, themes are considered to underpin the delivery of this strategy. Objectives under each theme set priorities for the delivery of projects listed in the 'Big Ideas' section. These themes and objectives are illustrated in [Diagram D3](#).
- 2.4 Climate Change is an overarching theme that is considered to be one of the greatest threats to the other three themes. Green Infrastructure provides a range of climate change services that can make significant contributions towards adapting to climate change and a limited yet important contribution towards mitigating climate change. Improved resilience to climate change through mitigation and adaptation is therefore an important objective running through all Green Infrastructure projects.
- 2.5 As a general principle, the greater the number of objectives achieved the greater the value of the project or corridor within the network. However, some projects or corridors may have a specific value in delivering one key theme or objective, for example, the establishment of a key habitat linkage connecting two isolated wildlife sites. In other words, some corridors may be less multi-functional than others, but still be a significant and valued part of the Green Infrastructure network.



Diagram D3: Themes and objectives

Section 3: The Local Scene - ‘An Area of Contrasts’

What are the Study Area’s ‘Green’ Characteristics?

- 3.1 The Study Area has a scattered settlement pattern, ranging from large towns to small hamlets and farmsteads. The main urban areas are concentrated in the Heart of Teignbridge, around Newton Abbot and in the coastal towns of Teignmouth and Dawlish. The majority of the District is rural in character, with a rich and diverse landscape. The Haldon Ridge forms a central spine, running north-south and providing a dramatic backdrop to the Exe and Teign Estuaries and the Bovey Basin. The south eastern edge of the Study Area is fringed by a striking coastline of red sandstone cliffs, whilst to the north upland hills rise from the edge of Exeter. Much of the area comprises undulating farmland, with the Teign Valley forming the north west boundary and the rising mass of Dartmoor dominating to the west. To the south, the Lemon Valley gives way to wooded ridges and hilltops rising above the rolling plateau and slopes around Denbury and Kingskerswell.
- 3.2 Natural Green Infrastructure corridors exist within the landscape, in the form of river corridors, valleys, ridgelines and the coastline. Many already have multi-use functions providing habitats for the movement of wildlife, and land for the storage of flood water and coastal processes, as well as providing a focus for recreational routes and community identity. Man-made corridors also exist in the form of roads, railways and canals with associated woodland, scrub and grassland, sometimes combined with public rights of way.
- 3.3 The character of open spaces varies enormously from formal parks, playing fields and cemeteries, to allotments, gardens and village greens, nature reserves, beaches and green lanes. Many spaces are managed for a limited number of functions and users. There are, however, a number of individual sites which are managed to deliver multiple benefits for example, Stover Country Park near Newton Abbot.
- 3.4 The area is vulnerable to both fluvial and tidal flooding and coastal erosion. It includes the Exe and Teign estuaries, red sandstone (Amber) coastline and several major rivers and flood plains. The area has a relatively high-level dependency on imported foodstuffs and energy. Increased local food production, wood fuel production from managed woodlands and small, community based renewable energy projects in Green Infrastructure corridors can help create sustainable communities and improve resilience to climate change. Green spaces, green roofs and walls reduce the heat island effect of increased temperatures in urban areas and the use of reclaimed materials and locally grown plants in the design of spaces can reduce the need to import materials by road. Sustainable transport routes through green spaces provide attractive commuter and recreational routes linking towns, villages and rural areas, reducing car use.
- 3.5 The Appendices provide detailed appraisals of topics that inform the Green Infrastructure strategy. GIS mapping has provided a series of overlays that provide an overview of Green Infrastructure considerations and provides the evidence base for the development of the ‘Big Ideas’ and individual projects. A summary of the evidence which has informed the strategy is set out in this section under the four key themes; Climate Change, Quality Environment, Well-Being and Economic Prosperity. A general summary of each theme is provided, followed by key strengths and weaknesses associated with each topic.



Quality Environment

Enhance the area's biodiversity value, strengthen the quality and character of landscapes and townscapes

- 3.6 The area exhibits a great wealth of natural green assets as measured by the diversity and value of wildlife, quality and character of the landscape. It also has a rich built and cultural heritage. Some of these assets have over time become fragmented and isolated, their value as a consequence diminished. Others are 'at risk' through neglect and decay.

Landscape

Strengths

- great diversity of landscape character and distinctiveness
- many high quality landscapes with strong character features
- presence of important historic landscapes
- ancient hedgerows and green lanes bind landscape mosaic
- landscape frequently extends into towns through river corridors and ridge lines, providing attractive settings

Weaknesses

- some landscapes influenced by active mineral extraction and waste management/landfill sites
- urbanising effect of road improvements and urban or industrial developments in rural landscape
- some historic landscapes and features have become isolated and are 'at risk' through inappropriate management and/or development pressures
- fragmentation by sporadic developments and loss/break up of natural corridors or natural/cultural features

Biodiversity

Strengths

- abundance of valued wildlife sites and species
- established network of natural and man-made wildlife corridors
- scattering of landscape-scale woodland, heathland, grassland and wetland habitat reservoirs
- the proportion of key wildlife sites being appropriately managed is increasing
- new species from the continent colonising naturally as a result of climate change
- some species at the northern edge of their range colonising new areas due to climate change

Weaknesses

- wildlife value of 'island' sites diminishing through isolation
- movement corridors for wildlife 'at risk' through development and other pressures
- quality of some habitat reservoirs eroded by habitat loss, and/or inappropriate management
- biodiversity opportunities of built environment infrequently realised
- habitats and species may be lost as climate becomes inappropriate for them
- lack of continuous habitat corridors will maroon less mobile species in an increasingly inappropriate climate



Townscape

Strengths

- some high quality areas where buildings integrate well with river corridors and green spaces
- well-managed parks providing multiple benefits
- hills and ridges frequently form setting and define towns, giving local distinctiveness e.g. Newton Abbot's tree'd hilltops
- woodland and tree belts help define towns in places and form a soft edge between town and country
- open breaks of countryside divide settlements preventing coalescence and loss of identity

Weaknesses

- green spaces within built-up areas tend to be fragmented
- some harsh interfaces between town and country
- street tree planting is reducing over time, of variable quality and with few successful new schemes being created
- some street scenes are of poor quality, disjointed and lacking spatial definition
- open breaks are of limited width and open character is being eroded by development



Flood Risk and Water Resource

Strengths

- significant areas of our towns are located outside of flood risk areas
- water quality in most of our watercourses is good
- Shoreline and Catchment/ Flood Risk Management Plans aim to reduce and manage flood risk and coastal erosion
- sustainable solutions to flood risk and coastal erosion can provide significant landscape, biodiversity and recreational benefits

Weaknesses

- protection of many key areas and structures is dependent on the integrity of ageing flood defences
- some properties and structures are at risk from tidal and fluvial flooding and coastal erosion
- development growth combined with increased storm intensity and frequency and risk of sea level rise/tidal lock will increase pressure on existing resources, heightening the need for improved future defences and increased space for flood storage



Heat Islands and Local Materials

Strengths

- existing green spaces, river corridors and street tree planting reduces the heat island effect of urban areas
- small scale of towns and proximity of surrounding landscape limits heat island effect
- use of reclaimed and local building materials and local plant nurseries reduces need to import new materials long distances and more opportunities exist.

Weaknesses

- declining quantity of street trees reduces ability to combat heat island effect, caused by reflection from buildings and hard surfaces and fails to address the increased need for shade and surface water absorption in towns
- development growth and predicted increasing summer temperatures likely to exacerbate the heat island effect
- very few examples of green roofs and walls
- limited use of reclaimed and local building materials, few local nurseries growing plants of local provenance



Local Renewable Energy Production

Strengths

- some examples of wood fuel production from managed woodlands and small scale renewable energy projects exist (hydro, wind, ground source heat pumps, solar), although few are community based, opportunities are many

Weaknesses

- opportunities for small scale community based renewable energy projects are not being realised, wood fuel production from managed woodlands is limited

Well-Being

Build stronger, safer communities and improve the health and well-being of individuals

- 3.7 The area is a great place to live, work and visit. The quality, abundance and level of accessibility to green spaces contributes significantly to quality of life and sense of well-being. There is a strong sense of community identity and local 'pride in place'. While, overall, the area's performance is good in delivering a high quality environment and strong communities there are pockets of deprivation where well-being improvements could be achieved.

Local Food

Strengths

- community gardens and garden share initiatives are increasing as are local produce markets and outlets
- Newton Abbot is the traditional centre of the local food economy
- some community supported agriculture schemes & extensive agricultural practices

Weaknesses

- food miles remain high
- allotment provision below recommended standards in some areas with long waiting lists



Health and recreation

Strengths

- health of people in Teignbridge is good with life expectancy higher than the average for England with generally good access to open spaces
- air quality is good, benefiting from clean coastal air and the filtering effects of trees
- good standard of strategic accessible natural green space provision
- average standard of accessible small woodlands near to where people live
- some areas of high quality sports and play provision in main towns
- outdoor recreation facilities at Haldon Forest, Stover and Decoy Country Parks and on the estuaries and coast
- Active Devon & Active Villages support sports development and groups in the area
- Green Infrastructure supports the 5 ways to wellbeing promoted by NHS Choices: connect, learn, take note, give, be active

Weaknesses

- physical activity amongst children is lower than the national average
- some areas fail to meet the Green Space Strategy standards for parks and children's play close to home
- ageing and growing population puts pressure on existing green spaces, driving a need for more accessible green spaces, sports facilities and recreational routes
- ease of access to formal sports and recreation more limited in rural communities
- activities for teenagers and natural play are limited and/or not realised
- presence of poor air quality hotspots mainly associated with congested traffic corridors
- health inequalities, with some areas experiencing disadvantage leading to poor health

Communities

Strengths

- crime rates in the area are considerably lower than the national average and it is generally a safe place to live
- some successfully established horticulture and wildlife based offender rehabilitation schemes
- well designed, overlooked open space reduces the fear of crime, increases perception of safe neighbourhoods and provides a focus for the community
- communities afford high priority to addressing environmental, health and crime matters and access to services and green space
- strong sense of community identity, numerous town and parish plans produced and strong engagement in neighbourhood planning, local plan and community activities

Weaknesses

- poor design of open spaces with lack of overlooking has created some spaces that increase the risk and fear of crime
- fear of crime is high, affecting perception and use of spaces
- some urban areas have higher crime levels, with rural agricultural theft a concern in places
- engagement across all sectors of the community difficult to achieve
- need for high quality community open spaces increasing with population growth



Culture & Learning

Strengths

- strong cultural traditions and a rich legacy of historic landscape, buildings, monuments and parks
- opportunities for restoration and enhancement of heritage assets as green spaces or features within green corridors
- green spaces a focus for arts and crafts, sculpture, performance, events and music
- interpretation and guided walks/trails linked to green spaces improve understanding of heritage, landscape and wildlife and provide education for all ages
- outdoor education for schools and colleges linked to key green spaces
- volunteering in green spaces provides opportunities for learning and training in horticulture and countryside management skills

Weaknesses

- some heritage assets are under threat through demolition and neglect
- limited outdoor venues for performance events and music
- footpath/cycle access between educational centres and green spaces often poor.
- links between 'learning providers' and on-site interpretation could be improved
- school and college grounds often provide limited or poor quality green space or outdoor education opportunities



Sustainable Transport

Strengths

- established network of public rights of way and green lanes connect people to places
- newly established cycle route from Kingsteignton to Newton Abbot and along the Exe estuary, other planned cycle routes being progressed
- some good cycle/footpath connections with rail and bus stations
- south west coast path national trail provides an attractive leisure walking route and connects coastal towns
- the Templer Way, Exe Valley Way, Dartmoor Way and John Musgrave Trail provide local leisure walking routes

Weaknesses

- public rights of way network is fragmented, limiting use for commuting to school/work
- lack of safe, attractive off-road cycle/footpath routes discourages cycling/walking for commuters and encourages car use
- frequently poor inadequate cycle parking at rail/bus stations
- limited number of promoted leisure cycle routes and no promoted horse riding trails
- poor off road connections between towns and villages and main recreational areas on the coast, Haldon and Dartmoor



Economic Prosperity

Strengthen and diversify the local economy

- 3.8 The area's high quality natural environment is a major economic asset. It underpins the tourist economy and is a major factor in attracting and retaining employers. Investment in environmental/conservation-led regeneration has a proven track record of success nationally, though with limited examples in the District. A complementary approach to delivery of future development which protect and create new high-quality open space networks can help secure sustainable economic growth.

Thriving Economy

Strengths

- high quality natural environment a key factor in attracting and retaining business and skilled workers
- attractive parks and tree lined streets provide an enhanced retail and town centre experience
- the attractive coastline, market towns and rural areas are a focus for a thriving tourist industry
- high quality country parks open spaces and play areas attract and maintain the tourist footfall

Weaknesses

- green spaces around employment estates are often very limited and of poor quality
- quality, functionality and connectivity of some town centre spaces and seafronts are in need of improvement
- limited access to town centres and employment estates from housing areas and bus/rail stations by green footpath and cycleways
- some coastal caravan parks and tourist facilities detract from the attractive landscape

- some green spaces provide a venue for local food markets
- green spaces provide job opportunities in horticulture, recreation and environmental management
- green spaces provide small amounts of timber products and wood fuel, agricultural and horticultural products
- farm diversification and stewardship schemes provide enhanced green spaces and permissive recreational routes
- restored or naturally regenerated mineral sites provide nature reserves and recreational areas that boost tourism & leisure
- long distance walking and cycling trails are key tourist attractions

- green footpath/cycleway access to key leisure areas limited and in need of improvement
- growth in leisure and tourism development can adversely affect sensitive habitats
- conflicts occur in places between competing public access, economic and environmental interests, resulting in disturbance and damage to wildlife.
- some tourist assets are not well connected to the sustainable movement network
- economic potential of natural and built environment not fully realised e.g. through ecotourism



Section 4: The ‘Big Ideas’

How have they Evolved?

- 4.1 A stepped-process has been employed for the generation of project ideas. The ideas have been developed from the vision and key theme objectives, the assessment of the local scene and appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses that exist in the area. The contributions from key stakeholders at the engagement event held in March 2010 and outputs from subsequent working group meetings have also informed the process.

What are the Big Ideas?

- 4.2 The ‘Big Ideas’ are the strategic, overarching initiatives. A series of discreet projects are listed under each ‘Big Idea’. Each project contributes to the practical realization of the idea. In combination, the projects will create high quality Green Infrastructure and have a transformational impact on the area and quality of life, consistent with the stated vision.
- 4.3 The projects schedule accompanying each ‘Big Idea’ provides a brief description, identifies key delivery partners, priority and cost.
- 4.4 Project priorities will be flexible to respond to opportunities as they arise, but are categorized as:
- High (H) to be commenced in 2014-2019;
 - Medium (M) to be commenced in 2019-2024; and
 - Low (L) to be commenced in 2024-2029.

Costings are high-level estimates of total project costs based on ranges of:

- High (H) in excess of £500,000;
- Medium (M) £50,000 - £500,000; and
- Low (L) less than £50,000.

Is this a Start or an End Point?

- 4.5 The ‘Big Ideas’ and associated projects are the start of an implementation process. They provide a framework for action and identify a number of potential delivery partners, highlighting the cross-cutting nature of GI. They are deliberately ‘high level’ to allow an opportunity for all interested parties, including local communities, to help refine and shape the projects to best accommodate their desires and aspirations. For the vision to be achieved and projects to be delivered, a range of partners will need to take ownership of and lead projects (see Section 5 ‘Making it Happen’).

What about Areas Outside the Green Infrastructure Network?

- 4.6 Projects included under ‘Big Ideas’ focus actions and resources on land located within the ‘Green Way Network’ as defined on [Plan 5](#). Concentrated action can best deliver, in reasonable timeframes, the benefits associated with a coherent network of connected, multi-use green corridors.
- 4.7 Green Infrastructure principles, however, should apply to all land and development management practices in the area in order to secure a more sustainable future and better quality of life for all. Where opportunities arise to secure new GI assets outside of the GI Network, but that are broadly in line with the strategy, then they should be taken.

Green Way Network

‘Creating a coherent and resilient Green Infrastructure Network’

4.8 The Green Way Network is a series of green and blue corridors as illustrated in Plan 5. The network has been informed by a range of data summarised in the Appendices. In particular these corridors have been located so as to secure, link and enhance:

- Wildlife areas, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Greater Horseshoe Bat flyways;
- Publicly accessible green spaces, including significant urban and country parks;
- Key rivers, floodplains and water bodies, including the Teign, Dawlish Water and the Estuaries;
- Topographic features, including significant hilltops, ridges and coastline; and
- Active transport connections between communities, including the South West Coast Path and National Cycle Network routes

4.9 ‘Strategic’ corridors radiate from Newton Abbot. These corridors act as the ‘main thoroughfares’ of the system. Notionally of one kilometre width, the corridors will secure resilience in the network. They connect key assets and link major settlements. They have potential for a strengthened role through delivery of significant new or enhanced Green Infrastructure assets.

4.10 The ‘local’ corridors, notionally of 0.5 kilometre width, are the network’s ‘side roads’. These routes are of lesser importance than the strategic corridors in contributing to Green Infrastructure objectives. However they do currently perform, or have the potential to perform, a locally important role in facilitating the movement of people and species in the area and also contain Green Infrastructure assets of local and in some instances, strategic significance.

Plan 5 - Green Way Network



Legend

- Teignbridge District Boundary
- Dartmoor National Park Boundary
- Core Study Area
- Teignbridge Local Plan Area

Green Infrastructure Corridors

- Strategic
- Extended
- Local
- Hub



Not to scale

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- 4.11 A series of **hubs** are strategically located around the network. A central hub is positioned at Newton Abbot Town Centre (see also 'The Link') and local hubs at locations elsewhere in Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton, Kingskerswell, Bovey Tracey and Stover. The central hub acts as the focus point for the 'Heart of Teignbridge' network where corridors converge. Headline events and community activities will be concentrated and investment made in facilities and promotion/interpretation at the central hub. The hub could also act as the focus for food and drink outlets specialising in local produce.
- 4.12 The Green Way Network may be supported by a series of hubs, located at strategic points in the network to act as focal points for relevant activities and/or information. These will make use of existing facilities such as information boards and be complementary and coordinated to promote the widest benefits. Hubs will respond to local needs, but could include interpretation panels, space for green activities, sustainable transport interchange and locally sourced food/drink facilities. Suggested hub locations are included in Plan 5.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priority	Cost
GW1	Green Ways Network	Adoption of the 'Green Way Network' Plan as the basis of delivering a high quality Green Infrastructure network in the area.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies.	H	L
GW2	Localism	Engage with local communities, interest groups and land owners to refine the plans, develop projects and establish the function, extent and components of individual network Corridors and Hubs (see Section 5 'Making it Happen').	Owners. Mineral Operators.	H	L
GW3	Plans and Strategies	Secure the establishment, protection and enhancement of the Green Way Network and wider GI objectives and projects through statutory and other means e.g. DCC's Minerals and TDC's Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, strategies etc (see Section 5 'Making it Happen').	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Developers. Property Owners. Mineral Operators. Private Enterprise.	H	L

Green Development

'The development relationship'

- 4.13 As a Growth Point and an area of importance for mineral extraction, the Study Area is likely to experience significant change in the future. The Teignbridge Local Plan 2013-2033 sets out the details of this change and a range of policies, including those for GI, to achieve the Council's overarching objectives of economic prosperity, quality environment and wellbeing.
- 4.14 All development should contribute to achieving the GI objectives and, where possible, the projects set out in this document. The most sustainable growth options may involve development within the GI corridors but should not affect the overall integrity of the Green Way Network. Expected contributions would be proportionate to the scale and scope of the proposals, with greater weight afforded to impacts on the Green Way Network and key GI assets.
- 4.15 To contribute to this report's GI objectives and projects, developers first need to understand the GI and policy context of their site. Applicants should identify the existing and proposed GI assets and their functions, both onsite and in the surrounding area, including the Green Way Network. Teignbridge District Council is providing a web based tool to support this. Alternatively, this can be informed by using the maps and supporting text in the Appendices of this report. Larger developments should consider assets across a wider area than smaller ones because of the greater potential for impacts and benefits.
- 4.16 Where assets and their functions cannot be retained or created onsite then adjacent and offsite locations should be considered that account for the full range of impacted functions. Priority should be given for delivery of new, or enhancement of existing, assets within the Teign Green Network, with particular

weighting for the strategic GI corridors. Assets that are delivered outside of the corridors and hubs should still be connected with them wherever possible. Assets may range in scale from new movement corridors, public open spaces and nature parks to public art pieces and bird boxes. All major new Green Infrastructure assets, such as country parks, shall be incorporated within or be connected and well-related to the Green Way Network.

- 4.17 Major Applications (10 or more houses or 0.5ha of employment land) where the application has a significant impact on GI corridors are required to submit a formal GI Context Plan, GI Masterplan and GI Statement as part of their application for it to be validated. These plans help developers and Planning Officers identify opportunities and constraints to delivering GI as part of applications. See the Planning Application Validation Guides on the Teignbridge District Council website for further information.
- 4.18 Greater Horseshoe Bat priority habitats ('sustenance zones' and 'flyways') associated with the SHSAC are safeguarded separately through European legislation. See Natural England's South Hams SAC - Greater Horseshoe Bat Consultation Zone Planning Guidance.
- 4.19 New hubs may be created in strategic urban extensions where they complement existing hub provision and add value to the network. A new hub may also be created in the central corridor in the Bovey Basin area, associated with major habitat creation, historic and cultural interpretation initiatives.
- 4.20 In corridors which pass through existing built-up areas, initiatives may be taken to improve the Green Infrastructure role of existing buildings and spaces. This could include enhanced street planting, green roofs and bird and bat boxes.
- 4.21 Proposals for the future extraction of minerals and the review of any existing mineral consents shall ensure that the overall integrity of the strategic network is maintained and that any key

Green Infrastructure assets are safeguarded. Where the benefit of mineral extraction outweighs Green Infrastructure considerations adequate mitigation and/or compensation shall be provided to ensure the maintenance of a viable network.

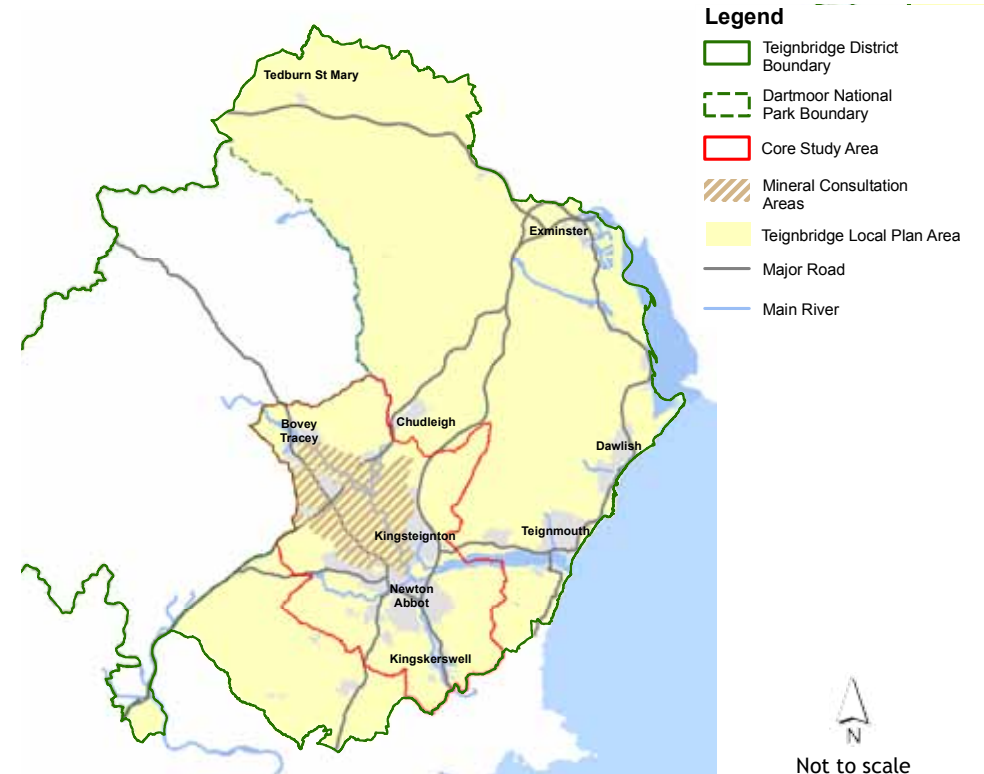
- 4.22 The creation of new habitats, high quality landscapes, provision for public access and amenity space shall be outcomes that will be afforded high priority in appraising schemes for the restoration of mineral extraction areas (see also the ‘Green Way Network’ project GW3 and ‘Back to Nature’).

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
GD1	Greening the Growth	Produce design guides for key Green Infrastructure opportunities and constraints to guide the incorporation of features and measures within new and existing developments.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector.	H	L
GD2	New applications	Secure the protection and enhancement of the Green Way Network and wider GI objectives and projects through the Development Management process (see Section 5 ‘Making it Happen’)	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Developers. Property Owners.	H	L

Back To Nature

‘Restoring our natural assets’

Plan 6 - Bovey Basin Area Action Plan



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- 4.23 The Bovey Basin has internationally important deposits of ball clay and has a long history of mining. These activities have resulted in significant and damaging change to the landscape including the loss of a number of the area's natural assets and the fragmentation of many that remain. The rivers Teign and

Bovey provide valuable linear features through the mineral extraction and spoil areas, although their value has been diminished in places by the restricted width of the natural corridor.

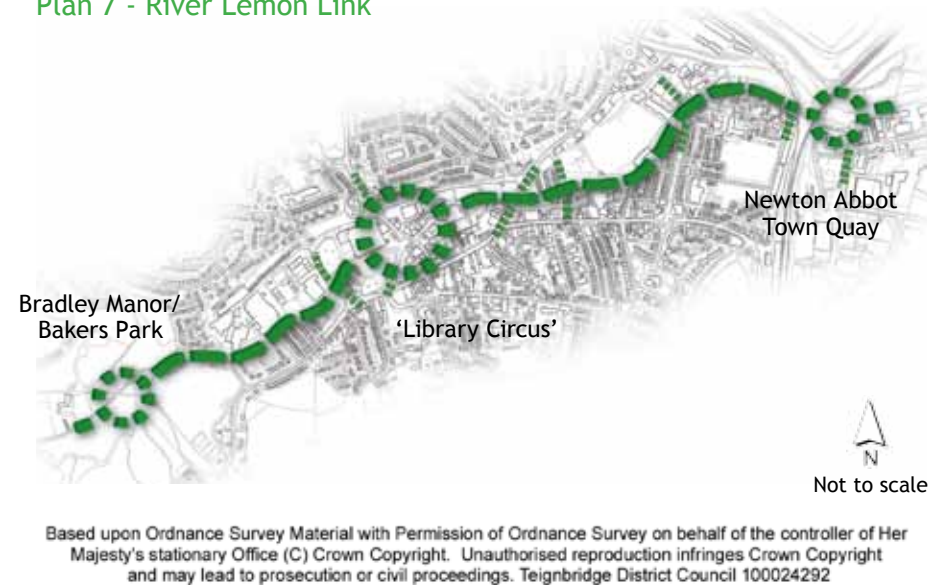
- 4.24 Mineral operators have already engaged with local communities and interest groups to secure Green Infrastructure benefits on land under which reserves are held or which has been restored following extraction activities. Significant opportunities exist, however, to secure landscape scale restoration which could create an asset of sub-regional importance for biodiversity, recreation and tourism. A GI strategy for the area would set out the aspirations for the area with the development of Devon County Council's Minerals Local Plan, their periodic Reviews of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMPs) and new minerals applications being the key mechanisms for securing those aspirations (see also the 'Green Way Network' project GW3 and 'Wild about Teignbridge').

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
BN1	Bovey Basin GI Strategy	Develop a strategy to secure appropriate management of existing of Green Infrastructure assets and landscape scale restoration of lost or damaged habitats.	Local Council's. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Mineral Operators.	H	L

Urban River Links

'Placing river corridors at the heart of settlements'

Plan 7 - River Lemon Link



- 4.25 Rivers flow through a number of settlements in Teignbridge bringing a range of opportunities and challenges, from flood management to reducing the urban heat island effects (see also 'Blue Assets'). The potential benefits to urban environments have often been undervalued leading to rivers being hidden behind walls and buried under buildings or roads. However opportunities exist to provide exciting and dynamic riverside environments that provide distinctive features to help re-energise town centres. Schemes can enhance visual and physical access and habitat provision whilst maintaining or enhancing flood storage and protection. Enhancements could incorporate hubs and help catalyse wider regeneration by providing a quality urban environment that is attractive to both communities and businesses.

Opportunities include:

- The River Lemon, as set out in the Newton Abbot Regeneration Study
(<http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=12404>);
- Dawlish Water in Dawlish, including Tuck's Plot as set out in the Amberline Coast Regeneration Plan
(<http://www.teignbridgegov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=33326&p=0>);
- River Bovey in Bovey Tracey;
- Aller Brook in Kingskerswell; and
- Kate Brook in Chudleigh.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
L1	Open Rivers	Where possible, provide improved visual and physical access to urban watercourses and create new habitats. Ensuring safety is also likely to be an important consideration.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies.	M	H

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
L2	Townscape Improvements	Improve adjacent urban and green spaces. Improvements could include new soft and hard landscaping, enhanced building facades and green walls and roofs. They could incorporate play, art, market and performance spaces.	Local Councils. Communities. Property/ Land Owners.	H	H
L3	Provision of Multi-use Trails	Provide multi-use trails as part of the wider sustainable movement network (see also 'Connecting Communities').	Local Councils. Communities. Property Owners. Developers.	H	M
L4	New Build	Encourage new build to front on and contribute public and/or green space to the corridor.	Local Councils. Communities. Property Owners. Developers.	L	H

Greening the Streets

‘Creating better streetscapes for all’

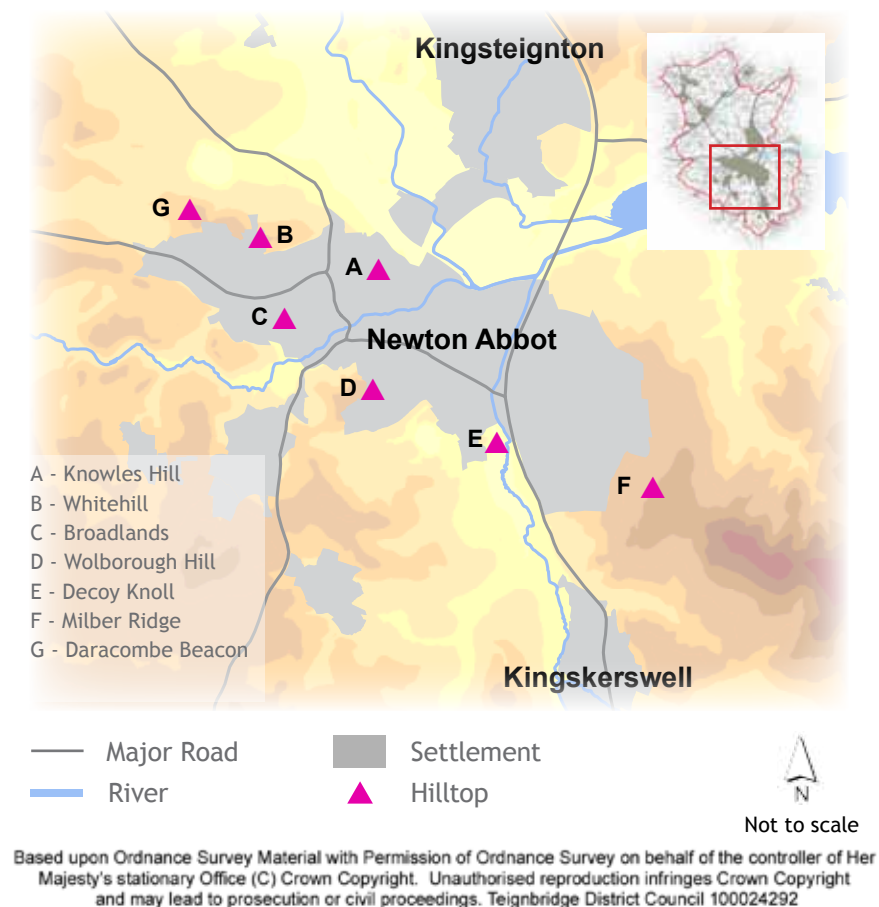
- 4.26 Streets currently form the main arteries for movement between places. The visual quality of the area’s streetscape is variable, particularly on main routes through settlements. In many areas there is little local distinctiveness or uniformity in the appearance of street furniture or planting.
- 4.27 Opportunities exist to undertake a renaissance of the urban street scene to reflect the area’s cultural heritage, to reinforce sense of place. Visual gateways at entrances to settlements can create a sense of arrival. Actions can also be taken to enhance the visual qualities of streets and through planting, to create ‘secondary’ movement corridors for wildlife and filters to improve air quality and reduce the impact of climatic extremes.
- 4.28 The land adjoining the area’s main transportation routes, both road and rail, perform important roles as part of the Green Infrastructure network facilitating movement of plants and animals. This can be further enhanced by the provision of additional planting and application of more sympathetic habitat management practices.
- 4.29 Provide spaces, including garden areas fronting the streets can also contribute to improving the visual qualities of the street scene whether by supplementary planting or improved standards of maintenance. The retention of green spaces is generally desirable and is the re-instatement of green spaces that have been hard surfaced or to which ‘visual access’ has been constrained by structures such as fences and walls.
- 4.30 A recommended planting list is provided within the Appendices of this document to ensure continuity of planting to achieve a range of benefits. (See also ‘Tree Time’ and ‘Growing Communities’).

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
GS1	Green Arteries	Encourage the planting of avenues of trees on the existing main arterial routes in major settlements and the undertaking of ‘landmark’ planting schemes combined with public art projects at major junctions on prominent gateway sites. Priority will be afforded to gateways to settlements and more heavily trafficked streets, especially in Air Quality zones.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Private Enterprise.	H	M
GS2	New Growth	Encourage the planting of trees, wildflower verges and species-rich or ‘fruitful’ hedges along new roads and through road widening schemes.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Developers.	H	L
GS3	Retain and manage	Where existing trees form avenues ensure the retention and appropriate management of these features.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector.	H	L
GS4	Replace	Establish a mechanism for securing appropriate replacement street tree planting in compensation for street trees lost to development.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Developers.	H	L

Important Hills and Ridges

'Conserving and celebrating the landscape setting of our towns'

Plan 8 - Newton Abbot Area Hilltops



- 4.32 The conservation and enhancement of important hills and ridges helps to strengthen the character and distinctiveness of towns and smaller settlements. Opportunities to enhance these features and promote them, including better management and public access, can provide a focus for community action.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
SH1	Conserve Ridges and Hilltops	Maintain and where applicable secure hilltop and ridgeline locations as landscape features for the public to access and enjoy. Manage for their landscape, biodiversity and archaeological interest, including locally distinctive tree planting where appropriate.	Local Councils. Communities. Property Owners. Developers.	H	L
SH2	Open Views	The siting and design of new development should conserve and enhance important hills and ridges. Views to and from ridge and hilltop vantage points should be protected and enhanced. Viewpoint interpretation such as interpretation panels, seating or artwork should be included where appropriate.	Local Councils. Communities. Property Owners. Developers.	H	L

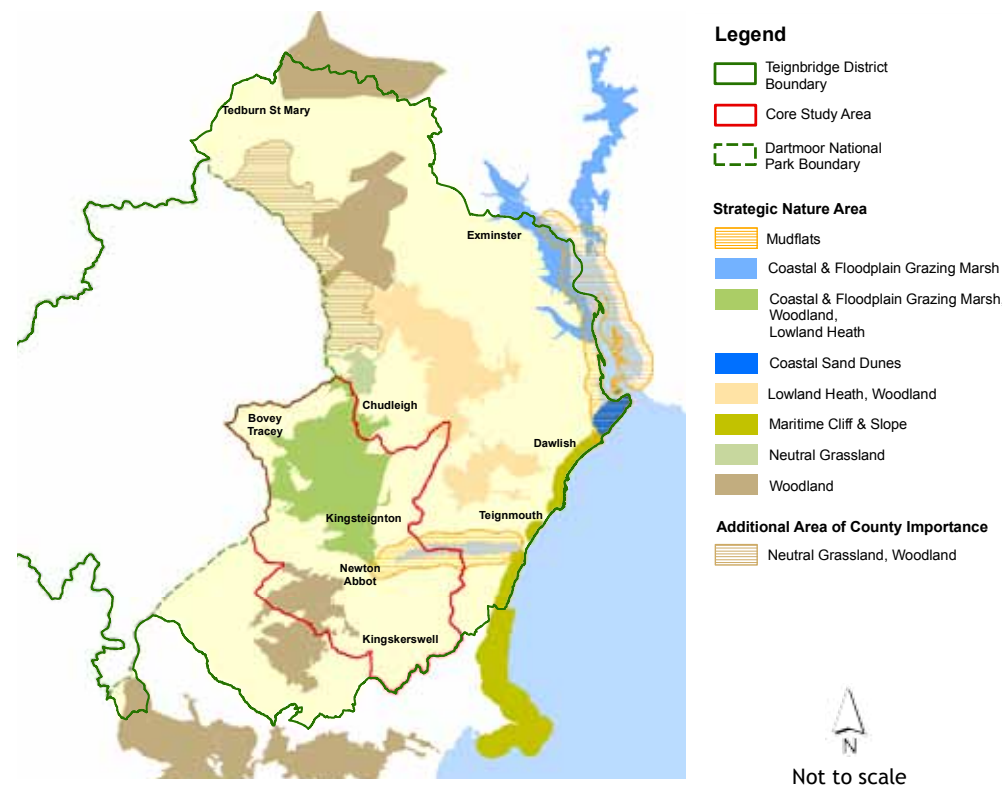
- 4.31 Hills and ridgelines frequently form a backdrop or setting to towns and smaller settlements within the area, including Teignmouth, Dawlish and Newton Abbot (as illustrated in Plan 8). These areas of high ground are often accessible to the public and afford extensive and spectacular views over the settlements, estuaries, sea and moor.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
SH3	Community Focus	Strengthen the association between the hilltops and local communities by promoting use of publicly accessible sites as meeting and gathering places, particularly for local and national celebratory events.	Local Councils. Communities.	M	L
SH4	Newton Abbot Seven Hills Circular Trail	Establish a trail linking the seven hilltops of Newton Abbot that celebrates the town's spectacular landscape setting and rich cultural heritage.	Local Councils. Communities.	L	L
SH5	Landscape Celebration	Encourage local communities to identify distinctive landscape features that help define their settlements and develop plans to sustain, promote and, where appropriate, improve access to the features.	Local Councils. Communities.	M	L

Wild About Teignbridge

'Showcasing our natural heritage'

Plan 9 - Strategic Nature Areas



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- 4.33 Teignbridge has an abundance of existing wildlife assets, some recognised as being of international importance. In addition, public and private green and blue spaces in existing settlements provide important refuges and stepping stones for wildlife. Enormous potential exists within and adjoining the Green Infrastructure network to enhance existing green spaces for wildlife.

- 4.34 Opportunities also exist, on a landscape scale, to create spectacular new areas of semi-natural habitats where species can thrive and contribute towards the national target of halting the decline in biodiversity by 2020. A key focus should be on delivering priority habitats in related Strategic Nature Areas and seeking to benefit protected and priority species. Particular emphasis will be placed on the following species due to a mix of factors including their levels of statutory protection, restricted distribution, risk from development and potential role as an ‘umbrella’ species:

Greater Horseshoe Bat; due to the highest levels of statutory protection and landscape-scale implications of the South Hams Special Area of Conservation for which they are a special interest feature. They are also a European protected species.

Grey Long Eared Bat; due to high levels of statutory protection afforded as European protected species. This species is very rare in Britain, restricted to the southern coast - Teignbridge supports one of the very few known British populations.

Great Crested Newt, Dormouse, Sand Lizard and all other bat species; due to high levels of statutory protection afforded as European protected species.

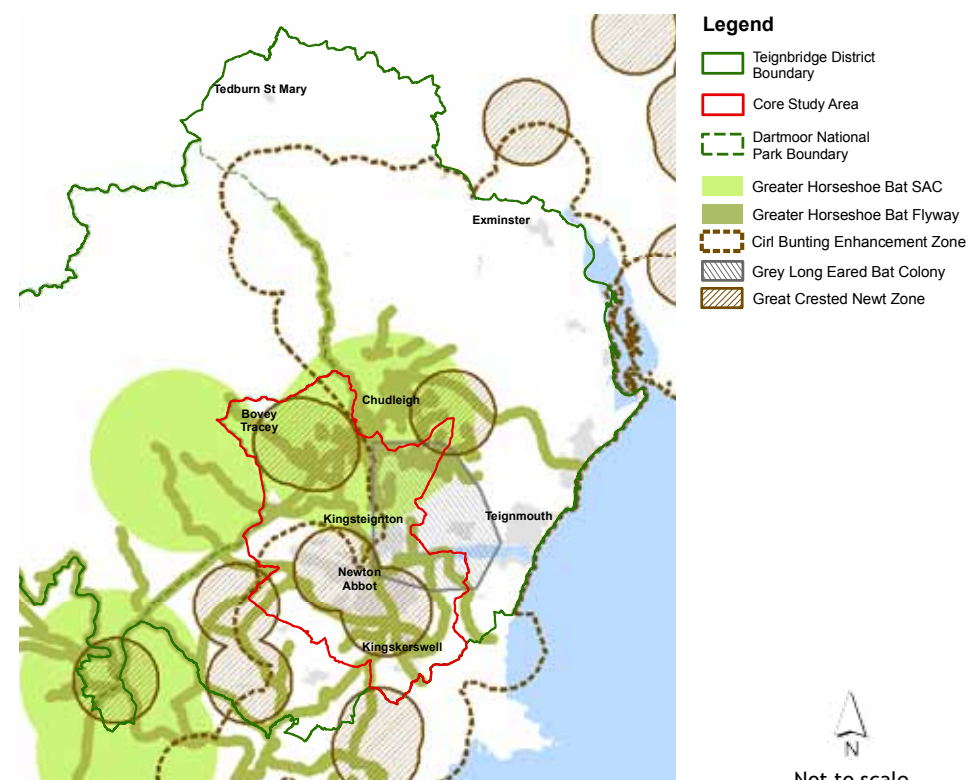
Cirl Bunting; due to its distribution being restricted almost exclusively to coastal areas of South Devon and a long-standing partnership project with the RSPB for its protection and population expansion. It is protected under British legislation as a ‘Schedule 1 species’.

Further information on protected and priority species is available from www.naturalengland.org.uk.

- 4.35 Enhancements should be designed to be resilient to climate change and contribute to the Lawton Review principles of “better, bigger, more joined up” wildlife sites (such as SSSI and CWS).

- 4.36 Enhanced and created habitats can directly mitigate for the loss or degradation of biodiversity as a result of new development. This could be through a formal biodiversity offsetting system such as the emerging South Devon biodiversity offsetting pilot (www.naturaldevon.org.uk). Alternatively this could be through bespoke measures in relation to European protected sites, such as the Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) in Dawlish (see also ‘Blue Assets’).

Plan 10 - Species



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- 4.37 New developments should also support wildlife through urban design features such as bird and bat boxes, green walls and roofs, and SUDS. The Town and Country Planning Association guidance to accompany the National Planning Policy Framework, recommends a minimum of 40% of the total development land should constitute Green Infrastructure. We recommend that, where possible, 50% of this (i.e. 20% of the total development area) should be in the form of Priority Habitats.
- 4.38 Such habitat-creation potential exists that the impact could be place-changing. The area could provide a national exemplar of how to restore, create and manage new habitats as part of a coherent and resilient ecological network. Teignbridge's location in relation to the wider sub-regional network is well positioned to become a recognized centre for the enjoyment and study of wildlife.
- 4.39 Actions of a more local scale, by individuals and groups, to complement larger-scale initiatives will help maximize the value and resilience of the biodiversity network.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
WT1	Major Species and Habitats	Develop protection and enhancement plans for key habitats and species (Plan 9 & 10).	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers. Mineral Operators.	H	L
WT2	Heart of Teignbridge habitat	Complete habitat opportunity maps for heathland, woodland,	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies.	H	L

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
	opportunity maps	grassland and wetland in the Heart of Teignbridge to provide higher resolution data in support of habitat protection and enhancements.	Third Sector. Developers. Minerals Operators.		
WT3	Wild Development	Develop the area as a showcase for the enjoyment and study of wildlife through increased promotion, establishment of a new 'centre of excellence' for interpretation of the area's wildlife.	Local Councils & Communities Agencies Third Sector Property Owners	H	L
WT4	Urban and Rural Wildlife Enrichment	Enhance the wildlife value of existing agricultural and developed land, including domestic gardens and employment sites.	Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers. Mineral Operators.	H	M
WT5	Wildlife Centre	Develop the area as a showcase for the enjoyment and study of wildlife. Provide increased promotion, interpretation and access to sites of wildlife importance where compatible with their conservation priorities. Encourage delivery partners to explore the potential for a 'centre of excellence' for interpretation of the area's wildlife as part of a new or extended environmental facility (see also HH3).		M	H

Connecting Communities

'Linking people to places'

Plan 11 - Strategic Sustainable Movement Network (indicative)



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- 4.40 Teignbridge has over 482 km of public rights of way, including bridleways and cycleways. These provide opportunities for active commuting, leisure & tourism. However this sustainable movement network is often fragmented, of variable quality and disconnected to other modes of transport. Most car users do

not perceive use of public transport, cycling or walking as viable options for trips, other than those over the shortest of distance.

- 4.41 Opportunities exist to develop a more coherent, interconnected network of routes and nodes for sustainable modes of transport. This network would link people with places, including schools, workplaces, community facilities and shops. It would provide a real and attractive alternative to the use of cars.
- 4.42 In addition there is significant economic, health and environmental potential from developing signature off-road leisure trails. Teignbridge spans the moor and coast with a long history of people and materials moving between the two areas. A Moor2Sea trail could ultimately connect Moretonhampstead to Teignmouth and link with the South West Coast Path, providing a high quality tourism offer that showcases the areas fantastic heritage.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
CC1	Get Mobile	Provide an, attractive, convenient and safe multi-use trail network forming a 'spine' for the Green Infrastructure network as identified on Plan 11.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers. Mineral Operators.	H	H

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
CC2	Moor2Sea	Establish a signature M2S leisure trail that showcases the area's natural, geological and cultural heritage. Incorporate interpretation, view points, planting, play and art installations.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers. Mineral Operators.	H	M
CC3	Local Countryside/ Neighbourhood Connectors	Provide a wider network of safe and convenient sustainable movement routes. Incorporate public right of ways, permissive paths and quiet lanes to link people to places and key Green Infrastructure assets.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers. Mineral Operators.	H	H

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
CC4	Access for All	Ensure that route design makes provision for the needs of all levels of mobility.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers. Mineral Operators.	H	L
CC5	Electric Power	Provide facilities for charging of electric cars, bikes and scooters in new and existing development and at key destinations.	Local Councils. Communities. Property Owners. Developers.	M	L
CC6	Modal Shift	Encourage other measures to promote a modal shift to sustainable transport. For example, cycle parking, events, maps, training, hire schemes etc.	Local Councils & Communities. Third Sector. Property Owners. Private Enterprise.	M	M

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
CC7	Hub Interchange	Encourage the establishment of cycling, pedestrian and public transport nodes at the green infrastructure hubs.	Local Councils & Communities. Private Enterprise.	H	L

Green Heart

'Improving the health and well-being of our local communities'

- 4.43 Health of people in Teignbridge is good with a higher than average life expectancy and a large amount of green space. However there are a number of communities with poor levels of access to spaces for leisure and recreational pursuits and some areas of disadvantage leading to poorer health. There is a direct correlation between access to green space and the health and well-being of communities. There is often a direct correlation between poor access to green space and poorer health and well-being of communities.
- 4.44 Provision of new accessible green spaces should be prioritised to address these access and health and wellbeing inequalities. Ideally this investment should also be focused within the Green Way Network corridors to achieve the greatest range of benefits. Facilities should respond to local needs, including the changing context between urban and rural settings and the health priorities as set out in the Teignbridge Locality Public Health Plan (<http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=39130&p=0>). Facilities should provide opportunities for communities to follow the five ways to well-being of Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give (<http://www.neweconomics.org/projects/entry/five-ways-to-well-being>).
- 4.45 Enhancements to public access will seek to avoid significant conflict with other GI functions such as biodiversity conservation.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
GH1	Access Green Space	Prioritise provision of accessible and connected green spaces to local communities that have poor provision of open space and/or poor access to active recreation facilities.	Local Councils. Communities. Developers.	H	H
GH2	Outdoor Gyms	Provide dedicated fitness areas and equipment for outdoor gyms in existing and new green spaces, create activity trails of variable lengths for walkers, joggers and cyclists accessible to homes and workplaces.	Local Councils. Communities. Developers. Private Enterprise.	M	M
GH3	Out and About	Encourage 'active lives for all' by promoting organised volunteer days, walks, forest schools and other outdoor activities that incorporate a range of wider benefits such as community engagement, learning and practical training.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Private Enterprise.	H	L

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
GH4	Quiet Reflection	Encourage provision and promotion of new and existing areas of public open space as 'tranquil areas' for quiet enjoyment.	Local Councils. Communities. Developers. Mineral Companies.	M	M

Growing Communities

'Increasing local producers and promoting local produce'

- 4.46 An increase in the desire to 'grow your own' food and source locally produced and high-quality foodstuffs has resulted in a boom in allotment gardening and local food sales. As a consequence, waiting lists for allotments in a number of localities have grown. Local initiatives are required to provide increased opportunity for people to produce their own food, whether as part of a community scheme or as individual allotments.
- 4.47 In particular, new developments must contribute to new allotment provision. New allotments should be clustered for ease of management and can be delivered on or off the new development site. Contributions should be sufficient to meet the needs of new development and contribute to addressing existing demand i.e. 20 new standard plots per 1,000 households (NSALG).
- 4.48 To enable local commercial growers to respond to increased demand for local food, the best and most versatile agricultural land needs to be safeguarded and opportunities increased for the marketing and sale of locally sourced produce.
- 4.49 Apple orchards hold a strong cultural significance in Devon although many traditional orchards have been lost over the years. A recent revival in apple production, processing and consumption presents opportunities for restoring and re-planting lost orchards in traditional apple growing areas.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
GC1	Civic Allotments	Increase civic and community allotment and orchard provision by the restoration or expansion of existing sites or the creation of new ones. Provide raised allotment beds in suitable locations to allow disabled access and use. Potential sites to include educational establishments and new developments.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Developers. Property Owners.	H	M
GC2	Community Gardens Scheme	Promote garden share schemes where neglected or underused gardens are made available to local communities for food production.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Property Owners.	H	L
GC3	Local Food Markets	Support the establishment of local food markets for the sale and exchange of local produce.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Entrepreneurs. Property Owners.	H	L

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
GC4	Productive Spaces	Landscape schemes for new developments that involve the planting of 12 or more trees, secure a minimum of 25% nut or fruit tree planting (see also TT2).	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Developers.	H	L
GC5	Best Agricultural Land/ Soil Protection	Protect best and most versatile agricultural land and ensure that the general soil resource is not degraded by inappropriate management practices or pollution.	Local Councils. Communities. Property Owners. Developers.	H	L

Power to the People

'Increasing local power generation'

- 4.50 The area is relatively well-positioned to generate power from renewable energy sources. Historically, a network of leats supplied power to local industry. More recently energy from waste, small scale wind, solar, wood and biomass schemes have made a modest, yet important, contribution to supply of energy in the area.
- 4.51 Opportunity exists to promote increased production of energy from renewables in the area. Sites in public or charitable ownership could be used as exemplars for alternative energy production.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
PP1	Plug In	Develop local renewable energy initiatives in conjunction with developers of Strategic Urban Extensions.	Local Councils. Communities. Property Owners. Developers.	H	H
PP2	Biomass benefits	Encourage appropriate management of existing and planting of new woodland to provide biomass. Seek community involvement where possible.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Property Owners.	H	M

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
PP3	Biomass Link	Encourage the establishment of a biomass network linking producers and users to maximize efficient and effective energy supply process.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Property Owners.	M	L

Harnessing Heritage

'Restoring and celebrating the area's rich legacy of historic and cultural assets'

- 4.52 The countryside is a living record of change through the millennia, whether as a consequence of natural processes or human influences. It contains a great wealth of heritage assets including extensive designed landscapes, a canal and granite tramway, numerous conservation areas, ancient monuments and listed buildings. Many assets are well-managed and in good condition. However, a number are 'at risk' through neglect or have been lost with only maps or photographic records remaining. Traditional industries including agriculture, mining and fishing have evolved over time and form part of the area's rich cultural heritage.
- 4.53 Capturing and linking heritage assets in multi-functional corridors can aid their survival by profile-raising, with increased potential for grants and other income generating opportunities. The educational and tourism value can also be maximized with heritage forming part of a wider 'offer' to attract visitors.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
HH1	Restoration	Encourage the restoration and conservation of valued natural or built heritage assets 'at risk' or which have been lost, priorities to include:- <i>Stover Canal Newton Abbot & Bovey Tracey Leats</i>	Local Councils & Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers. Mineral Operators.	H	H

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
		<i>Stover Historic Park & Garden Hedgerows & Orchards Newton Abbot Tree Avenues Industrial & extractive Industries heritage buildings and structures.</i>			
HH2	Living History	Promote interpretation of heritage and cultural assets as an educational and tourism resource. Innovative interpretation techniques to be developed including the use of mobile phone and web-based technology.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners. Private Enterprise.	M	M
HH3	Living History Centre	Encourage delivery partners to explore potential for a new 'centre of excellence' for interpretation of the area's cultural history and heritage assets as part of a new or extended environmental centre located centrally within the area (see also WT3).	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners. Private Enterprise. Developers. Mineral Operators.	L	H

Natural Play

'Go Wild in Teignbridge'

- 4.54 Opportunities for creative play particularly in high-density living environments, where open space is at a premium, are often severely limited. The provision of formal play spaces within 'controlled environments' has a role in meeting the play demands of children and teenagers. However, provision for less structured and imaginative play - the building of dens, setting of ramps and slides, fixing of rope swings - can help release energies from youngsters that otherwise may turn into what is perceived as anti-social behavior. 'Wild play' can also help with learning and development.
- 4.55 'Wild play' spaces can appear unsightly and need to be located carefully to avoid bad-neighbour type issues. The corridor network, however, does provide opportunities to create safe links from residential areas to sites that can accommodate 'wild play' space requirements without risk of conflict with adjoining uses.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
NP1	Wild Play	Creation of 'wild play' spaces in proximity to existing residential areas and new urban extensions.	Local Councils & Communities. Third Sector. Developers. Property Owners.	M	M

Blue Assets

'Best use and management of water resources'

- 4.56 Teignbridge has a wealth of blue assets, from lakes and rivers to coastal waters and estuaries. They perform a range of important functions and their ongoing use and management presents a number of challenges and opportunities.
- 4.57 Recent losses of water bodies in Teignbridge has reduced available aquatic and wetland habitats, including grazing marsh, saltmarsh, wet woodland, reedbed, fens etc and their associated species. It has also reduced available water space for recreational activities. Water quality is generally good, although it is affected by surface water run-off.
- 4.58 Blue assets are natural connectors for wildlife and human movement, often forming the 'backbone' or other defining feature of Green Infrastructure corridors. However the adjacent land and the rest of the river basin catchment area also provide important services such as flood mitigation and water purification. Safe, sustainable cycle tracks or footpaths may not always be compatible with these additional services and should be located sensitively in relation to blue assets.
- 4.59 Other upstream land-use practices, such as agriculture, also have a bearing on the provision of downstream services, such as water quality, that is important for both communities and wildlife. For example, salmon are a listed feature of the Dartmoor Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and protecting their migration route from the estuary to their spawning areas on Dartmoor is critical to sustain populations. Better water environments should therefore be planned and delivered at the catchment scale, for example through River Basin Management Plans and the Water Framework Directive.
- 4.60 Water-based recreational activities such as fishing and kitesurfing

are important for the health and wealth of residents and visitors. However these uses can conflict with other functions, such as providing habitat for migrant waders which is recognised as being of international importance. Development that could lead to greater recreational pressure on European protected sites must be mitigated, for example through the creation of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) in Dawlish (Plan 9). A second SANGS to the southwest of Exeter is dealt with through the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point GI strategy.

- 4.61 New development should also seek to incorporate water bodies, such as lakes, watercourses and swales, as features into new development to create local distinctiveness as well as providing biodiversity and potential recreational assets. Frequently, such features are incorporated as part of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) to provide flood risk management benefits.
- 4.62 Climate change is resulting in rising water levels and increased storm events. This is eroding existing intertidal habitats which are often prevented from extending into new areas by existing coastal development, a process known as 'coastal squeeze'. Coupled with the rising cost of maintaining coastal flood defences and a national policy of 'managed retreat', opportunities exist for new intertidal habitat creation.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
BA1	Water Ways	Encourage the establishment of new water assets to create habitats and provide for recreational pursuits, ranging in scale from large water bodies to small ponds and watercourses and where practicable retain existing	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners.	H	H

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
		assets and provision for recreational access (see also WT2).	Mineral Operators. Private Enterprise.		
BA2	Water Quality	Secure maintenance of high water quality standards in all blue assets through upstream interventions, in line with the Water Framework Directive.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners. Mineral Operators.	H	M
BA3	Flood Management	Encourage the provision of increased flood capacity in river corridors and the securing of compatible, multi-use benefits in floodplain/ management areas.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners. Mineral	M	M
BA4	Celebrate and Recreate	Promote Teignbridge's blue assets as important tourism and recreational resources and establish management mechanisms to ensure their use does not	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners.	H	L

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
		conflict with other important functions and designations e.g. Exe Estuary Management Partnership.	Mineral Operators. Private Enterprise.		
BA5	SANGS	Establish SANGS to mitigate recreational impact of development on the European sites of the Exe Estuary SPA and Dawlish Warren SAC.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers.	H	H
BA6	Blue Growth	Incorporate existing and new water bodies into new development to provide a range of benefits.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers.	H	L
BA7	Coastal Creation	Establish new habitats to respond to 'coastal squeeze' and 'managed retreat' whilst achieving a range of additional compatible benefits such as access, education etc.	Local Councils. Communities. Agencies. Third Sector. Property Owners. Developers.	H	M

Tree Time

‘Increasing tree cover to enhance the abundance and quality of life’

- 4.63 Trees provide multiple benefits. They can provide food and shelter for wildlife, enhance landscapes and soften the impact of developments. They can reduce flood risk, moderate temperature extremes, clean the air we breathe and provide psychological benefits, improving our well-being. Woodlands have the potential to provide places for recreation and the study and enjoyment of nature.
- 4.64 Tree cover in the area could be beneficially increased. Small copses and woodlands could be planted in corridors to act as linkages between larger blocks of woodlands that have become fragmented over the ages (see ‘Wild About Teignbridge’). Extensive tree planting could also be incorporated in the corridors on the edges of settlements to reduce the visual impact of the settlement on the surrounding countryside and ‘feather’ the countryside into town.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
TT1	Woodland Edge	Encourage the planting of native trees at the edges of settlements and in GI corridors that extend into built-up areas.	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector. Agencies. Property Owners. Developers.	H	L
TT2	Teignbridge Trees	Encourage local communities and groups to propagate local varieties of	Local Councils. Communities. Third Sector.	H	L

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
		fruit trees and grow native woodland trees from seed originating from the local area. Establish community tree nurseries and encourage use of stock in advance structure planting on proposed development sites, employment sites, community orchards and in woodland creation schemes (see also GC4).	Agencies. Property Owners. Mineral Operators.		

Promoting Green Infrastructure

‘Promoting the highest standards of Green Infrastructure provision and management’

- 4.65 Traditionally, many have seen it to be the role of local Councils, specialist agencies and third sector interest groups to deliver and manage Green Infrastructure. However, for Green Infrastructure to achieve its maximum potential members from all sections of the Teignbridge community need to be actively involved in its provision and management, including developers, land managers, community groups and individual businesses and householders.
- 4.66 The highest standards of Green Infrastructure provision and management will be promoted through this strategy. High quality projects will be recognised and promoted through the Teignbridge District Council website, partner websites, presentations and forums, using case studies of the best examples. Opportunities for entry into appropriate awards schemes will be considered.
- 4.67 High-profile promotion of the ‘green qualities’ of the area boosts tourism and can draw in business investment helping to attract and retain high quality jobs. Creating attractive, accessible places also encourages residents and visitors to shop, eat and drink locally helping to sustain our town centres and village facilities. The Network ‘g’ symbol has been adopted as the logo for the strategy and projects under the ‘Big Ideas’.

Code	Project	Description	Delivery Partners	Priorities	Cost
GR1	Case Studies	High quality projects recognised and promoted through the Teignbridge District Council website, partner websites and through presentation material at exhibitions or forums.	Local Councils & Communities Third Sector Developers Property Owners Mineral Operators	H	L

Section 5: Making it Happen

How do words become actions?

- 5.1 Section 4 outlines a delivery plan with key projects, delivery partners, strategic priorities and costs. This provides a framework for implementation of the strategy. Implementation requires a governance structure, the necessary resources and project management, along with the active engagement of stakeholders.

What form of Governance is to be created?

- 5.2 The proposed management structure is as follows:

Champion
Steering/Delivery Group
Project Officer
Local Interest Groups

Champion

Providing public and political leadership to promote the strategy, this role may be suited to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning who currently has responsibility for Green Infrastructure, or similar councillor appointment from the District's Executive.

Steering/Delivery Group

The existing steering group comprises officers from Teignbridge District Council, Natural England, Devon County Council, Environment Agency and RSPB. A delivery group comprising officers drawn from key delivery agencies would be set up on adoption of the strategy, to meet on a six monthly or 'as needs' basis to develop and review projects, funding and implementation. The delivery group would continue to report to the design and heritage and planning managers in Teignbridge District Council. Individual partners within the group will continue to take the lead on particular aspects of Green Infrastructure e.g. Environment Agency on flood risk.

Project Officer

A Green Infrastructure Co-ordinator was appointed in 2011 under the South Devon Green Infrastructure Partnership to enable and facilitate the delivery of the strategy. Since 2013 a Green Infrastructure Officer has been employed directly by Teignbridge District Council to continue this role, albeit on a temporary basis. The continuation of this post is dependent on funding and could potentially be secured through a permanent district council post or by partnership joint-working arrangements. The project officer would report to the steering/delivery group. The project officer can be contacted through the website www.teignbridge.gov.uk or tel: 01626 215747.

Local Interest Groups

Local interest groups such as community groups, parish and town councils and others have the opportunity to take forward particular projects of relevance to their area and interest. Examples of local interest group involvement to date include Newton Abbot and Dawlish Cycle Groups in progressing plans for new cycleways. Local interest groups would report progress to the Project Officer.

Forum/Stakeholder events

Organised as appropriate to provide opportunities for information exchange and networking between groups and agencies/district council.

How will Projects be delivered?

- 5.3 Most projects require resources to be made available to secure successful delivery. These resources may involve use of land, labour and/or equipment. Provision of such resources is normally dependent on the availability of funding. Where projects involve third party land holdings the agreement of landowners will also be required. Relevant legal permissions may also be necessary.

5.4 Project delivery mechanisms include:-

Planning

Planning has a fundamental role in supporting strategy delivery. Green Infrastructure policies within the Local Plan require a strategic approach to the creation, protection, enhancement and management of Green Infrastructure networks as outlined by the NPPF. In addition to the Local Plan policies, master planning for local areas, Neighbourhood Plans and local strategies will help deliver Green Infrastructure projects. Development Management will require development to be delivered in line with the relevant policies, plans and strategies.

Teignbridge Local Plan

The submitted Submission Teignbridge Local Plan 2013 was informed by the Heart of Teignbridge strategy, Exeter Area Green Infrastructure Strategy and Green Infrastructure concepts. Policy WE11 of the Proposed Submission Plan is concerned with Green Infrastructure provision throughout the district:

WE 11 Green Infrastructure

To achieve the maintenance and expansion of a comprehensive Green Infrastructure network, promoting good accessibility to Green Infrastructure for all, the following will be promoted through determination of planning applications, infrastructure investments and by partnership working:

- a) providing new or protecting, and extending existing Green Infrastructure assets;
- b) enhancing the functionality, quality, connectivity and accessibility of Green Infrastructure assets;
- c) establishing and safeguarding a network of accessible, multi-functional green corridors for movement of people and species and the provision of eco-system services, as identified in the Teign Green Network Strategy, Exeter area Green Infrastructure strategy and future Green Infrastructure strategies;
- d) residential development will provide at least 10 square metres per dwelling of childrens' and young persons play space plus any specific requirements set out in a site allocation policy;
- e) provision of about 100 square metres per dwelling of other forms of Green Infrastructure, including playing pitches, allotments, parks, biodiversity enhancement and natural greenspace;
- f) public open space should be designed as part of the overall Green Infrastructure and layout of the site, taking advantage of the potential for multiple benefits including enhanced play, wildlife, sustainable urban drainage, tree planting and landscape provision. The form and function of Green Infrastructure will reflect a site's characteristics, nature, location and existing or future deficits; and
- g) appropriate suitable alternative natural green spaces required by habitat regulations to relieve recreational pressure on European sites



Policy HT3 relates specifically to the provision of Green Infrastructure in the Heart of Teignbridge and policies SW1 and SW3 relate specifically to the South West of Exeter. (see Appendices for detailed policies)

An Infrastructure Delivery Plan sets out the costed infrastructure requirements for the Local Plan area, including some of those related to Green Infrastructure provision. The IDP is a 'living document' and will be updated to include additional specific Green Infrastructure projects or programmes as they arise through the life of the Local Plan.

Master Planning & Neighbourhood Plans and Strategies

The strategy is intended to inform detailed masterplanning for the strategic site allocations in the Local Plan. Some work has already been carried out through the Heart of Teignbridge Strategy to inform the allocations at Houghton Barton (NA1), Whitehill (NA2) and Wolborough (NA3) on the edge of Newton Abbot. The Strategy should inform Neighbourhood Plans and local town and parish plans and strategies and can help local communities access funding for projects of local importance. It can also be used to inform other strategies brought forward by partner agencies e.g. the Bovey Basin Strategy.

Development Management

In determination of future planning applications, the District and County Council (Minerals & Waste Planning) will have regard to this Strategy. Teignbridge District Council has produced a Green Infrastructure Statement Proforma, designed to support a Green Infrastructure Statement, explaining how development proposals contribute to achieving the Teign Green Network local vision and themes. Where appropriate a Green Infrastructure Context Plan, Masterplan and Statement are required to be submitted before a major planning application in Teignbridge can be validated. Once validated, applications can be assessed through the planning process. Officers will

ensure that applicants are made aware of policies and proposals of relevance to their interests at an early stage of the application process. Development proposals will be expected to respond positively to the requirements of the Strategy and relevant existing development plan policy. Off-site contributions may also be sought in support of Green Infrastructure provision where relevant. This may be in the form of land, financial payment or some other contribution. Delivery and management will normally be secured through condition and/or a Section 106 Agreement. Developers will also be encouraged to offset ecological impacts through the South Devon Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot Guidance.

Future plans and applications will be tested, where necessary, against criteria set out in the Habitats Regulations Directive. An assessment may determine that a plan or project, alone or in combination, may have a significant effect on a designated European Site of importance for nature conservation. Where a scheme of mitigation and/or compensation is deemed appropriate, works or funding towards Green Infrastructure delivery will be required.

Funding Support

The Community Infrastructure Levy, a tariff-based planning charge imposed on new development, is being introduced to help to fund local infrastructure, as set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed to support development in the area. Transport schemes, flood defences, parks, green spaces and leisure facilities as well as schools and hospitals are all eligible for funding through the levy. Current legislative proposals seek to ensure neighbourhoods share the advantages of development by receiving a proportion of the funds councils raise from developers.

Public Sector Funding

Direct public-sector funding opportunities are likely to be limited due to current financial constraints. Natural England currently continue to fund the development of Green Infrastructure strategies and delivery programmes. Partnership funding of project officers to take forward delivery of Green Infrastructure projects has provided a means of amalgamating scarce resources in recent years and is likely to continue. Key to successful funding bids will be the demonstration of multiple benefits that can be derived from Green Infrastructure delivery and its relevance to a range of Government agencies interests such as health, education, social services, the police and transport. Funding or action strategies produced by others, for example, the Devon Local Transport Plan will be expected to include Green Infrastructure-related projects within their delivery plans (see also Plans and Strategies).

Grant Funding

A main funding stream for Green Infrastructure will be the award of project-specific grants. Grants will be available through a variety of schemes including:-

European Funding

LIFE+ is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects. Since 1992, LIFE has contributed approximately 2 billion euros to the protection of the environment. Present priorities for funding include projects that support 'nature and biodiversity', 'environment policy and governance' and 'information and communication'.

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) A discretionary agri-environmental grant awarded by Natural England which aims to deliver significant environmental and public access benefits in high priority areas.

Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF)

Lottery derived funding which targets grants to projects that sustain and transform our heritage from museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions.

Aggregate Levy (Sustainable Development Fund) remains a funding source for small scale community based projects

England Woodland Grant Scheme is administered by the Forestry Commission and provides funding for woodland planting and management.



Other Plans and Strategies

A raft of plans and strategies are produced by agencies and organisations that may contribute towards Green Infrastructure delivery. This includes documents such as Catchment Flood Management Plans (to be replaced by Flood Risk Management Plans) and Shoreline Management Plans produced by the Environment Agency, along with the River Basin Management Plans for the South West, produced to satisfy the Water Framework Directive. Further information on related plans and strategies is provided in the appendices.

Non-Governmental Support and other initiatives

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

Historically, the charitable and voluntary sector has provided significant resource - time, skills and grant funding - in support of the delivery and on-going management of Green Infrastructure-type projects in the area. Moving forward, the need for involvement of established charities and trusts, as well as new community and theme based organisations will be vital to the success of the strategy.

Biodiversity Offsetting & other new initiatives

Biodiversity Offsetting Guidance has been produced for the South Devon Pilot Area (2013). This initiative along with carbon offsetting and habitat banking schemes could prove an effective delivery mechanism for Green Infrastructure in the future. The desire of many private companies to demonstrate 'green credentials' could also be exploited to aid delivery of projects as could the increasing desire of farmers and landowners to adopt environmentally-friendly land-management practices.

How will the Strategy be marketed?

- 5.5 Effective marketing is key to the successful execution of the strategy. The key message that 'high quality Green Infrastructure is an essential pre-requisite for the creation

of successful, sustainable communities' and that a 'Green Infrastructure delivers high economic, environmental and social returns on investment' needs to be conveyed to various audiences including decision-makers, developers, landowners and the wider community.

- 5.6 Communication will be through websites, leaflets and presentations. Opportunities to promote the strategy through local media will also be sought.

Will the Strategy be reviewed?

- 5.7 A monitoring regime will be established to measure performance annually against targets set out in the delivery plan. Updates on delivery will be shown on the Teignbridge District Council website. The evidence base on which the strategy is founded will be reviewed and refreshed as part of the annual monitoring exercise. A full strategy review will be undertaken every 5 years or, if warranted, at a shorter interval in order to respond to changed circumstances.



Glossary

Accessible Natural Green Space Standard (ANGSt)	Natural England standard recommends everyone should have access to an area of green space bigger than 3 hectares within 5 minutes walk or 300m from their home.
Ancient Monument	An ancient building or site which is considered to be of national importance and included on the Schedule of Ancient Monuments of National Importance.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Area designated by the Countryside Agency under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 as being of national importance for their natural beauty, including flora, fauna, geology and landscape, which should be conserved and enhanced.
Conservation Area	An area of special architectural or historic interest, where it is desirable to preserve or enhance the character or appearance. They are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
Country Park	Site that provides a wide range of opportunities for recreation, health and education and improve the quality of life for local communities. Designated by Natural England for meeting priorities set out in the 1968 Countryside Act.
Developer Contribution	Contribution made by a developer towards infrastructure, facilities, and services either by paying money for works to be carried out or by directly providing facilities or works either on or off-site, required to remedy the impact of development.

Green Infrastructure (GI)	GI is a strategic network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life in sustainable communities. It delivers a broad range of functions and provides vital socio-economic and cultural benefits which underpin individual and community health and well being.
Growth Point	Growth Points are a means by which local authorities can pursue large scale, sustainable growth, in partnership with central government and other local partners.
Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)	A discretionary agri-environmental grant awarded by Natural England which aims to deliver significant environmental and public access benefits in high priority areas.
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Landscape Character	A combination of topography, natural and manmade patterns which together contribute to the appearance of the landscape.
Local Development Framework (LDF)	The LDF consists of a 'portfolio' of documents which collectively, will provide and deliver the spatial planning strategy for a defined area. The LDF is the basis for making key decisions about the direction of growth and development.
Listed Building	A building of special architectural or historic interest, listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation) Act 1990.

Local Transport Plan (LTP)	A plan produced by the Local Highway Authority designed to coordinate and improve local transport provision, covering all forms of transport.
Material Consideration	A matter which should be taken into account in deciding on a planning application or on an appeal against a planning decision.
Natural Play Space	See 'wild play space'.
Section 106 Agreement	A binding agreement between a council and a developer associated with a grant of planning permission and regarding matters linked to the proposed development.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Area which has been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, providing increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats
Renewable Energy	Energy generated from resources that are unlimited, rapidly replenished or naturally renewable such as wind, water, sun, wave and refuse.
Sustainable Development	Development which meets the needs of the present generation without harming the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Social, environmental and economic needs just be fully integrated if sustainability is to be achieved.
Local Development Schemes (LDS)	The means by which a local planning authority sets out the timetable for producing the local development documents.

Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)	An updated series (replacing Planning Policy Guidance documents) of Central Government guidance notes which set out the Government's policy on various planning issues such as housing, transport, employment and shopping.
Wild Play Space	Site that offers children the opportunity to play in many different types of wild and semi-wild places. These spaces are all important in offering children and young people access to nature and promoting their engagement with the physical world around them.

Further information:

A wealth of information on green infrastructure and biodiversity is available from a wide range of institutions and organisations. Some of the key websites offering such information include the following:

- Association of Local Government Ecologists <http://www.alge.org.uk>
- Barn Owl Trust <http://www.barnowltrust.org.uk>
- Bat Conservation Trust <http://www.bats.org.uk>
- Biodiversity Planning Toolkit <http://biodiversityplanningtoolkit.com>
- Biodiversity Offsetting - Devon Pilot <http://www.devonenvironment.org.uk/priorities-and-projects/>
- British Trust for Ornithology 'Garden BirdWatch' surveys <http://www.bto.org/gbw>
- Buglife <http://www.buglife.org.uk>
- Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) <http://www.cpre.org.uk>
- CIRIA <http://www.ciria.org>
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) <http://www.defra.gov.uk>
- Devon Wildlife Planning Guidance <http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/linksfurtherinformation.htm>
- Environment Agency <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>
- Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens <http://www.farmgarden.org.uk>
- Fields in Trust <http://www.fieldsintrust.org>
- Forestry Commission <http://www.forestry.gov.uk>
- Green Infrastructure North West <http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk>
- Green Infrastructure Partnership <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/green-infrastructure>
- Institution of Lighting Professionals <http://www.theilp.org.uk>
- Living Roofs <http://livingroofs.org>
- London's Swifts <http://www.londons-swifts.org.uk>
- Play England <http://www.playengland.org.uk>
- Ramblers <http://www.ramblers.org.uk>
- Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) <http://www.rhs.org.uk>

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) <http://www.rspb.org.uk>
- South Hams SAC - Greater horseshoe bat consultation zone planning guidance <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/142010?category=31008>
- Sustain <http://www.sustainweb.org>
- Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) <http://www.tcpa.org.uk>
- Trees and Design Action Group <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/tdag>
- UK Green Building Council Biodiversity Task Group <http://www.ukgbc.org/content/biodiversity-task-group>
- Wild About Gardens (RHS and TWT) <http://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk>
- Big Wildlife Garden (RHS and TWT) <http://www.bigwildlifegarden.org.uk>
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust <http://www.wwt.org.uk>
- Wildlife Gardening Forum <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/advice/wildlifegardening/forum.aspx>
- The Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) <http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org>
- Woodland Trust <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

