

Green Infrastructure Study

May 2009



CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

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FOREWORD

This Green Infrastructure study has been prepared to inform policies within Chesterfield Borough Council's Local Development Framework. More specifically, it will provide background information and evidence for the Core Strategy Development Plan Document.

The study draws upon existing policy, government guidance and other background information for evaluating green infrastructure at a borough level.

Study Aims

- Define green infrastructure and provide background information on its benefits and principles.
- To research relevant green infrastructure policies at the national, regional and local level.
- To provide a framework for mapping and identifying key green infrastructure protection and enhancement within Chesterfield Borough.
- To identify areas of opportunities where the borough's green infrastructure network might be enhanced or extended.
- To provide an evidence base for Chesterfield Borough Council's Local Development Framework.

Study Approach

The study will address the strategic elements of green infrastructure for the purposes of the council's emerging Local Development Framework. The study is essential in four parts:

- **Part 1** introduces the concept of green infrastructure and identifies what its benefits are.
- **Part 2** identifies existing green infrastructure assets within the borough and discusses their status and importance.
- **Part 3** looks at how the borough's green infrastructure network might be extended and improved via areas of opportunity and change¹.
- **Part 4** puts forward draft green infrastructure policies to inform the borough's Local Development Framework.

¹ Whilst Part 3 of the study assesses current projects and plans and identifies how they might extend the existing green infrastructure network, the study does not function as a green infrastructure strategy. This would require a more detailed assessment with management and financial implications. The study is primarily a desk-based exercise concerned with reviewing existing policies, strategies and relevant guidance (see Appendix 3 for sources).

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information about this study please contact:	
<p>Scott Nicholas, Senior Planner Forward Planning Chesterfield Borough Council Town Hall Rose Hill Chesterfield Derbyshire S40 1LP Tel: 01246 345796 Fax: 01246 345743 Email: scott.nicholas@chesterfield.gov.uk</p>	<p>Richard Bryant, Principal Planner Forward Planning Chesterfield Borough Council Town Hall Rose Hill Chesterfield Derbyshire S40 1LP Tel: 01246 345790 Fax: 01246 345743 Email: richard.bryant@chesterfield.gov.uk</p>

Executive Summary

- Green Infrastructure is defined as a multi-functional network of green spaces such as green corridors, the open countryside, parks and greenways. It encompasses natural green spaces (such as wildlife sites or woodland) and man-made managed green spaces (such as parks and greenways), as well as their many connections (footpaths, cycleways, green corridors and waterways).
- The requirement for green infrastructure studies or plans stems partly from the Draft Review of the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2006), which recommends that local planning authorities produce green infrastructure studies or plans based on assessments of existing environmental and recreational assets and identify where new assets might be required to accompany new development. This in turn stems from a broader central government agenda, which seeks to ensure that Core Strategies are supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for an area (Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning).
- This Green Infrastructure Study will therefore form part of the evidence base for the council's Local Development Framework. The study has been prepared in-house by the Forward Planning section and informed by consultation with key stakeholders². It brings together relevant information from various sources, including the Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and the borough's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2002) (Appendix 3 gives a full list of sources).
- The study proposes that green infrastructure provides significant economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly in a borough such as Chesterfield, which is in a process of economic restructuring away from a legacy of heavy industry. The study identifies those areas of change where green infrastructure may play an important role in providing environmental or recreational improvements.
- The study also identifies a number of components which make up the borough's green infrastructure network (such as Landscape Character, Parks and Open Spaces, External Linkages, etc) and identifies their role in the network. The borough has a good supply of these components, particularly in respect of parks & open spaces, river/canal corridors, open countryside and Local Wildlife Sites.
- The study identifies these components as key green infrastructure assets and views them as important elements of the borough's green infrastructure network which should be protected. The study also recognises that improvements to the network will be dependent on effective partnership working, particularly with those bodies and organisations which are involved in enhancing or developing green infrastructure within the borough (see Appendix 6).
- In conclusion, the study puts forward green infrastructure policies that might be included within the borough's Core Strategy Development Plan Document. The aim of these policies is to ensure that the green infrastructure network is considered at the outset of any development proposals and that the borough's biodiversity, landscape, natural systems and green infrastructure linkages are protected or enhanced.

² Representatives from Derbyshire County Council (including the Three Valleys Project), Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership, the Chesterfield Canal Partnership, North East Derbyshire District Council and Bolsover District Council.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

What is Green Infrastructure?

1.1 Green infrastructure refers to a wide variety of ‘green assets’ such as parks, woodlands, wildlife sites, allotments, greenways and river/canal corridors. Important to an understanding of green infrastructure is its interconnected nature. As well as its individual components, it includes linkages for both people and wildlife, including cycle routes, public rights of way and biodiversity networks. Green infrastructure within Chesterfield Borough will include:

- Existing parks and open spaces (both formal and informal)
- Rural-urban fringe (i.e. greenbelt and open countryside)
- Trees, woodland and hedgerows
- River and canal corridors
- Greenways / multi-user trails / Rights of way
- Wildlife sites³
- Allotments & gardens (including private gardens).

Table 1. The Draft East Midlands Regional Plan definition of green infrastructure

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional greenspace, which sits within, and contributes to, the type of high quality natural and built environment required to deliver ‘sustainable communities’. Delivering, protecting and enhancing this network requires the creation of new assets to link with river corridors, woodlands, nature reserves and urban greenspace and other existing assets. If properly planned and managed, Green Infrastructure should also contribute to wider Environmental Infrastructure through local climate and air quality amelioration, floodplain management, and coastal sea defences.
(paragraph 3.3.8, Draft East Midlands Regional Plan).

1.2 The idea of green infrastructure is rooted in the concept of sustainable development. It should contribute to a high quality, multi-functional natural and built environment. Importantly, it provides a planning framework both to guide future development and growth, and to inform decisions about nature and wildlife conservation.

Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Environmental Benefits

1.3 Provision or enhancement of green infrastructure can enrich the natural environment by promoting habitat conservation and biodiversity. For instance, river or canal corridors can serve as habitats and ecological conduits for wildlife. The fragmentation

³ This includes designated Local Wildlife Sites as well as other areas good for wildlife such as areas of undeveloped land (including some Brownfield sites).

of habitats and natural areas caused by development, land use changes and intensification of agriculture has meant that the preferred environments of wildlife have become disrupted, causing many species and habitats to decline. River and canal environments can also mitigate effects of flooding or climate change by providing sustainable drainage, wetlands and natural flood defences. This is particularly important for those areas of flood risk that are close to urban areas and centres of population.

1.4 Protection of natural assets also means protecting local landscapes which are important in terms of attractiveness, conservation and local heritage. This can help foster a sense of place and local distinctiveness. Examples of specific environmental benefits would include:

- Facilitating better air quality and contributing to sustainable drainage systems for improved flood prevention and management.
- Creating opportunities for promoting wildlife-friendly landscaping and creating and enhancing important linkages between built-up areas and the wider biodiversity network.
- The protection of existing natural and cultural resources for local communities and visitors/tourists.
- The provision of 'strategic open space gaps' between existing settlements.

Poolsbrook Country Park



Local Green Infrastructure Asset: Poolsbrook Country Park

Poolsbrook Country Park was once the site of the former Ireland Colliery but has been transformed from dereliction into a Country Park and amenities area.

The park was developed by Derbyshire County Council and Chesterfield Borough Council and its 180 acres boast 34 hectares of woodland, 17 hectares of grassland and 9 hectares of water.

The site is a multi-functional green infrastructure asset sited in the wildlife corridor of the River Doe Lea. The park contains a number of recreational and community facilities including a lake, visitor centre, meeting rooms and trails for cycling, horse riding & walking (which link to the Trans Pennine Trail). The park has become important for wildlife and has been designed to encourage wildlife diversity.

Social Benefits

1.5 The provision of green infrastructure provides opportunities for physical and environmental renewal and regeneration, particularly in those areas that have suffered

from economic and environmental decline. Areas with attractive and accessible green spaces tend to be those areas where people like to live.

1.6 Green infrastructure also provides opportunities for recreation and exercise, offering places to relax and undertake healthy activity. Areas such as accessible woodlands, river walks or parks provide a sense of place and connections to nature. Greenways can provide alternative travel corridors, giving people the option to cycle or walk⁴. Examples of specific social benefits include:

- Recreation, healthy living and leisure opportunities through cycle routes, public rights of way, play areas, outdoor sports pitches, allotments and greenways.
- Promoting neighbourhood regeneration by providing a framework for improving the quality of the local environment.
- Bringing people closer to nature and wildlife by way of environmental education, recreation and conservation.

Tapton Lock Visitor Centre



Local Green Infrastructure Asset: Chesterfield Canal

Restoration of the Chesterfield Canal began in the 1990s and there is now a 5-mile navigable section within the borough from Tapton Lock to Staveley. The aim of the Chesterfield Canal Partnership is to restore the whole length of the canal and promote its social, environmental and economic regeneration. The towpath of the canal is used for cycling and walking and provides opportunities for people to travel between Chesterfield town centre, Staveley and the surrounding communities. This section of the canal also follows the route of the River

Rother and creates an important wildlife corridor. There is a Visitor Centre at Tapton Lock which attracts tourists and promotes the area.

The canal and its environs are an important green infrastructure asset and will also play an important role in the regeneration of Staveley Works via the Staveley Area Action Plan, a development plan document which is being prepared to guide the redevelopment of the Staveley Works area.


Economic Benefits

1.7 The willingness of businesses and companies to invest in areas often depends on the attractiveness and quality of a place. Good quality environments can influence investor decisions and help retain skilled and educated workers. Green infrastructure

⁴ It should be noted that whilst the social benefits of Green Infrastructure are accepted, accessible Green Infrastructure can attract anti-social behaviour and this may negate social benefits. Therefore it is important to consider effective and ongoing management of Green Infrastructure areas.

can be viewed as an economic asset, which is able to deliver benefits for the business and investor community.

- 1.8 Furthermore, an attractive natural environment, which is well managed and resourced, can support and promote tourism and conservation. Branding an area with a green image and providing resources for tourism, promotes and sustains local economies because visitors will choose to spend disposable income on facilities and services - such as shops, cafes, hotels and attractions - within the borough.

<p>Chesterfield Waterside</p> 	<p>Local Green Infrastructure Asset: Waterside (A61 Corridor)</p> <p>Chesterfield Waterside (a public private partnership made up of landowners, Chesterfield Borough Council and developers) is a major, mixed-use regeneration scheme proposed for a 16ha canal-side site next to the A61. Large parts of the site are derelict and empty. The site is subject of redevelopment proposals and a masterplan is being prepared which will guide its re-development.</p> <p>There will be approximately 770 new dwellings, some employment and a new canal basin. The masterplan will rejuvenate the canal and riverside settings and provide green infrastructure with an improved public realm, including open space and cycling & pedestrian routes.</p>
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2.0 EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS



The Trans Pennine Trail at Staveley.

- 2.1 Whilst thought of as an urban area, Chesterfield Borough is also characterised by a rich and varied collection of green infrastructure assets. In many instances these assets are firmly established and are a key element of the borough's identity. The purpose and value of these key assets are not in question and would offer considerable benefits and recreational opportunities wherever they were located. These assets include the borough's parks and open spaces, river and canal corridors, Local Wildlife Sites, areas of landscape & open countryside, multi-user trails, woodland and biodiversity.
- 2.2 Some of these assets are multi-functional, meaning they offer various types of recreation and value such as healthy exercise, tranquillity, cycling, wildlife, landscape and historic interest. The Cuckoo Way, the former Chesterfield Canal towpath which runs between Chesterfield town centre and Staveley, is a good example: not only does it offer a sustainable way of travelling between Staveley and Chesterfield it also functions as a wildlife corridor and area for recreation. Green infrastructure assets such as these are extremely valuable to an essentially urban community, such as Chesterfield Borough, where access to recreation and the natural environment, especially in the more built up areas, is often constrained.
- 2.3 There will be variations across the borough in terms of access and quality of green infrastructure for local residents. In some wards, the borough's industrial legacy has caused degradation of the landscape and it may be difficult to access quality green spaces. Other areas, while less affected by qualitative issues, may lack easy access

to parks and open areas because they are located in the more built up or isolated areas of the borough⁵

- 2.4 Given these variations in opportunities, it will be important therefore to provide a network of routes by which residents can access high quality green spaces and open areas. Well managed and well designed trails and routes, which can be utilised by a variety of users (the elderly, walkers, cyclists, the disabled, horse riders, etc) and which connect to the borough's open spaces and parks, should be one of the key objectives when thinking about green infrastructure planning.
- 2.5 Clearly, developing these types of routes, or enhancing existing ones, will always be hampered by a number of constraints, such as land availability, topography and so on (not to mention council resources and finance). But fortunately, there already exists an extensive network, providing opportunities for enhancement and extension. Existing routes include: the Trans Pennine Trail (providing countryside and recreational access in the east of the borough); the Cuckoo Way (part of the Trans Pennine Trail which acts as a wildlife corridor and sustainable transport route for the communities of the Staveley area and town centre); and the strategic cycling and walking routes which connect residents to the borough's main parks and recreational areas such as Holmebrook Valley Park, Somersall Park, Poolsbrook Country Park and Queens Park.
- 2.6 Table 1 provides an overview of the borough's key green infrastructure assets. These are also mapped in Appendix 7 (Map 2).

Table 2. Chesterfield Borough: key green infrastructure assets	
River & Canal Corridors	The borough's main river corridors are the Rother (and its tributaries), the Hipper , the Whitting and the Doe Lea . Some stretches of these river valleys act as significant wildlife and recreation corridors and have become established parts of the green infrastructure network (especially where the Rother runs adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal). Other rivers, streams and brooks in the borough also function as important watercourses and offer multi-functional benefits, such as Pools Brook (which, when conjoined with the Doe Lea, functions as a significant river environment) and Holme Brook (which act as an important Greenway).
Borough & Community Parks⁶	These are large areas of public open space which offer significant recreational opportunities for both local residents and visitors and serve large areas of the borough's population (as well accommodating outside visits): Holmebrook Valley Park (59.85 ha) and Pools Brook Country Park (73.92 ha). Although smaller in size, Queen's Park (12.74 ha including the Annex) also functions as a borough facility and can be considered as a primary green infrastructure asset. Importantly, these borough

⁵ The *Parks and Open Spaces Strategy*, adopted by the council in 2002, shows the distribution and quality of the borough's parks and open spaces. Whilst there have been some changes to the precise details of these facilities since 2002, it is not the purpose of this survey to reassess them.

⁶ The *Parks and Open Spaces Strategy* (2002) include a hierarchy of the borough's parks and open spaces. The hierarchy is included in Appendix 6.

<p>parks contain brook /river corridors and lakes, providing habitats for wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>The Borough also has a number of open spaces defined as Community Parks that provide a variety of natural features and are large enough to accommodate a wide range of activities, such as outdoor sports, children’s play and other recreational pursuits. These parks serve, or have the potential to serve, their local areas.</p>
<p>Greenways and Strategic Walking & Cycling Routes</p> <p>A key element of green infrastructure is access and movement. The borough has a number of greenways and strategic walking & cycling routes with provide opportunities for recreation as well as providing linkages between the network. The most important and established of these routes are the Trans Pennine Trail and the Cuckoo Way (which runs adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal). There are also the Hipper Valley and Holmebrook Valley walking and cycling routes, which although not fully developed, already function as significant elements of the network.</p>
<p>Local Wildlife Sites (including Local Nature Reserves)</p> <p>There are total of 29 Local Wildlife Sites (formerly known as Sites of Important Nature Conservation) within the borough (this includes 2 Local Nature Reserves: Norbriggs Flash and Brearley Park). These sites are important to the borough’s natural environment and provide good examples of habitat types.</p>
<p>The Wider Open Countryside and Landscape</p> <p>Approximately half of the borough’s land mass is open countryside and contains a variety of landscape types ranging from Estate Farmlands to Riverside Meadows⁷. Significant areas of the borough are also designated as green belt. Some parts of the open countryside contain pockets of woodland and numerous hedgerows. There are also a number of Historic Parks and Gardens. As a result of the borough’s industrial legacy, there are landscape detractors such as landfill sites and areas subject to past industrial use. Over time, these areas will require enhancement and restoration programmes.</p>
<p>Amenity Open Space (including private gardens)</p> <p>This would include the smaller parks and play areas within the borough as well as amenity spaces within residential areas. It might also include areas of private open space, which although not publicly accessible may have positive impacts in terms of amenity, biodiversity, etc.</p>
<p>Sports Pitches</p> <p>Most sports pitches will be integrated within existing parks and therefore offer a number of recreational opportunities within existing green infrastructure assets.</p>
<p>Allotments, Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland)</p> <p>Within, or on the edge of the urban framework, there are a number of allotment sites. As well providing food-growing opportunities, allotments are often important areas for biodiversity and wildlife. There will also be areas of small woodland and mature hedgerows, which again are important in preserving amenity and biodiversity.</p>
<p>Cemeteries and Churchyards</p> <p>Cemeteries and churchyards contribute to the sense of openness in the borough and</p>

⁷ *Landscape Character of Derbyshire* (Derbyshire County Council).

can serve as through-routes and quiet places for sitting and walking.
Smaller Water Environments
There are a number of smaller water environments, such as streams, brooks or ponds, which, although not major green infrastructure assets, may provide valuable wildlife habitats. Some of these secondary assets will be a part of existing parkland or in accessible areas of open countryside. Others, such as ponds or minor streams, may be more isolated and inaccessible (often unnamed).
Minor Public Rights of Way
Pathways and routes can provide important connections between the green infrastructure assets, such as parks and greenways. They provide opportunities to access open countryside. The borough has a fairly good network of public rights of way.

2.7 The sections which follow provide a more detailed overview of the borough's green infrastructure assets under the following headings:

- ***Landscape Character***
- ***Parks and Open Spaces***
- ***Access, Routes and Rights of Way***
- ***The Historic Environment***
- ***The Natural Environment and Biodiversity***
- ***Flood Risk Management***
- ***External Linkages***

Landscape Character

2.8 There is considerable variety in the character of the borough's landscape ranging from estate and coalfield village farmlands to riverside meadows and wooded hills & valleys⁸. While much of the borough has been urbanised, this urbanisation only covers about half of its total area. Much of the rest of the borough is made up of natural and semi-natural landscapes underpinned by generally low and undramatic but variable hills and broad valleys. However, there has been constant change and development since the industrial revolution, resulting in a complex intermingling of rural and urban areas, the whole creating a mosaic of disparate land uses.

2.9 Some parts of the borough suffer from urban fringe problems, particularly on the edges of large settlements and industrial areas, which in some places creates a landscape of neglect. There are, however, stretches of relatively unspoilt agricultural land, which give rise to extensive farmed landscapes, for example north of Barrow Hill, heading towards the Moss Valley, or west from Dunston.

2.10 Semi-natural habitats, including woodland and river valley habitats, are fragmented and scattered but they assume a greater significance, surrounded as they are by urbanisation. In some cases, ribbon development has increased the urban influence,

⁸ *Landscape Character of Derbyshire* (Derbyshire County Council).

such as at Brimington Common or Woodthorpe. At the same time, extensive land renewal projects have created new landscapes particularly along the river valleys, for example Poolsbrook Country Park.

- 2.11 Most importantly, the landscape of the borough is shaped by a series of river valleys, including those of the Rother, Hipper and Doe Lea and the Holme, Barlow and Pools brooks. Together the river corridors have been the focal points for the major industrialisation of the borough, which has shaped the history of its development.

Table 3. Chesterfield Borough: landscape characteristics⁹

- Evidence of industrial activity including mine buildings, former spoil tips and iron and steel plants.
- Complex mix of built-up areas, industrial land, dereliction and farmed open country.
- Many areas affected by urban fringe pressures creating fragmented and downgraded landscapes.
- Substantial areas of intact agricultural land in both arable and pastoral use.
- Small, fragmented remnants of pre-industrial landscape and semi-natural vegetation, including many areas of woodland, river valley habitats, subsidence flashes and other relict habitats.
- Widespread influence of transport routes, including canal, road and rail, with ribbon developments emphasizing the urban influence in the landscape.
- Rolling landforms with hills, escarpments and broad valleys.
- Local variation in landscape character reflecting variations in underlying geology.
- Strong cultural identity arising from history of coal mining and other heavy industry.

Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

- 2.12 Trees, woodland and hedgerows provide important wildlife habitats and can contribute significantly to visual amenity and economic regeneration. The latter is particularly important in areas such as Chesterfield, where former colliery or industrial areas have left a legacy of dereliction and unsightly land. Trees and hedgerows often form a key element in restoration plans of former industrial areas or ex-landfill sites and can play an important role in enhancing the green infrastructure network.
- 2.13 There are a number of woodland areas within the borough, the most important of which are designated Local Wildlife Sites (mainly ancient woodland, which offers a rich habitat for wildlife). Other areas of woodland will be an element of parkland, or river and canal corridors and have a recreational role. As well as these designated and

⁹ Based on *The Character of England Map*, which was prepared by the former Countryside Commission and English Nature in 1996. Chesterfield Borough resides within Joint Character Area 38: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire & Yorkshire Coalfield.

recreational areas, the importance of trees and hedgerows is recognised by the planning system via Tree Preservation Orders or the Hedgerow Regulations.

- 2.14 Chesterfield Borough Council owns and manages around 96 hectares of woodland throughout the borough. Much of this woodland is located in open countryside and is an integral part of the landscape, particularly where the woodland is mature, such as Cobnar Wood (15.5. ha)¹⁰ or West Wood and Phipps Open Holes (25 ha). Clearly, these large areas of woodland are important assets providing a myriad of different benefits for both wildlife and people. In some cases management plans are in place which aim to maximise the benefits of the woodland for both people and wildlife.
- 2.15 Other areas of woodland owned by the council are relatively small (often less than 1 hectare) and scattered throughout the borough. But these areas of woodland and trees are important for their amenity value and can offer potential for small scale nature conservation and biodiversity.
- 2.16 In total, the areas of distinct woodland parcels within the borough, including both publicly and privately owned, has been estimated to be around 300 hectares¹¹. Privately owned woodland areas in the borough includes Rough Piece Wood, Ashgate Plantation, Threenook Plantation, Coppice Wood, Grasscroft Wood, and some smaller parcels near Barrow Hill, Inkersall and Tapton.

Landscape Study Areas

- 2.17 One way of providing a more detailed overview of landscape in the borough is to break down the areas of open countryside between the urban framework as 'landscape study areas'. While these study areas do not constitute a proper landscape assessment (e.g. analysis of landform, topography and views), they do provide a way of identifying those open areas in the borough where landscape and green infrastructure issues in the open countryside will be most apparent. These landscape study areas are mapped in Appendix 7 (Map 6) and some of their landscape characteristics shown in Appendix 2¹².
- 2.18 From a town planning perspective, these landscape areas are also mainly in agricultural or woodland use, and form 'strategic gaps' between the borough's settlements and, in the case of the land in the north of the borough, form part of the North East Derbyshire green belt. The areas therefore function as green infrastructure assets in themselves.

¹⁰ Cobnar Wood traverses the borough boundary, with large areas falling within North East Derbyshire, which is also owned by Chesterfield Borough Council.

¹¹ This estimation was provided by the council's Landscape Services in 2007.

¹² The identified areas also do not follow a logical landscape typology (such as that provided by Derbyshire County Council's *Landscape Character of Derbyshire*). It is a desk-based 'snapshot' analysis created for practical planning purposes and based mainly on information in the Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006).

Parks and Open Spaces

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2002)

- 2.19 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy provides the context, vision and strategic direction for the management and improvement of the borough's parks and open spaces. The strategy considered the quality, size, distribution and demand for green spaces across the Borough, covering 400 ha of public open space, mainly focusing on council owned and managed sites. The general conclusion of the strategy is that the provision of public open space in the borough is good, but it is unevenly distributed. There is also a lack of quality and identity to some areas of open space and the study recommends that the borough clearly defines the role of parks and open spaces and identifies overlapping roles any site may have, such as greenway, biodiversity or pitch provision.
- 2.20 In respect of the distribution of parks and open space in the borough, the study identifies the following characteristics:
- Some strong linkage and wedges of green space coming into the built areas along the Holmebrook, Hipper and Rother valleys and the Chesterfield Canal together with a developing system of greenways.
 - Countryside to the outside of and between the built areas.
 - Otherwise generally isolated provision of public open spaces, school grounds, cemeteries etc. and gaps in greenway provision.
 - Limited levels of landscaping provision in respect of highways, housing areas and industrial and commercial areas.
 - Nearly one third of the land of recreational value (133.77 ha) being accounted for by two sites: Holmebrook Valley Park and Pools Brook Country Park to the west and east respectively.
 - Further medium and smaller parks and open spaces but not well distributed, provision being weakest to the immediate west and north of Chesterfield Town Centre, in Dunston Ward and in the east of the Borough.
 - Much of the provision being at the edge of, or outside of, the built areas.
 - General absence of immediate local open space.
- 2.21 The strategy defined a hierarchy of parks and open spaces based on their size, quality, role, function and accessibility¹³. The assessment was based on established standards, such as those adopted by the Fields in Trust (formerly the Playing Fields Association) and the former English Nature. The strategy also undertook public consultation regarding usage, access and perceptions of the green spaces, as well as outlining site-specific management actions to be taken.
- 2.22 In 2008 the council adopted an Open Space and Play Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which was prepared to supplement the parks and open space policies of the adopted Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (policies which were based on the recommendations in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy).

¹³ See Appendix 7.

The purpose of the SPD is to carry forward the council's strategic objectives for parks and open spaces and provide advice to developers on the Council's approach to open space and play provision in new development.

Access, Routes and Public Rights of Way

- 2.23 Connectivity is a key element of green infrastructure, providing access to greenspace and the countryside by sustainable means. A well-planned and integrated public rights of way network also increases opportunities for health, well-being and recreation through activities such as walking and cycling. The borough has an established public rights of way network, both within the urban framework and on the urban-rural fringe. Some routes are minor and localised, mainly serving the functional or recreational needs of nearby residents. Other routes are more strategic and provide access, not only for pedestrians, but also for other users such as horse riders and cyclists.
- 2.24 A strict definition of access, movement and Public Rights of Way would include the following types of paths and access opportunities¹⁴:
- Public Rights of Way: Footpaths, Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic.
 - Off-road cycle tracks.
 - Greenways: multi user, easy access off-road trails and routes.
 - Permissive paths, including those provided through woodlands, parks, estates or along canal towpaths.
 - Open access land.

Greenways

- 2.25 Often termed multi-user trails, these off-road strategic routes are crucial green infrastructure assets. As well as providing for access and recreation, they also act as green corridors for wildlife and promote biodiversity. The East Derbyshire Greenways Strategy¹⁵ (currently being reviewed) proposes a greenway network that includes a northern section encompassing Chesterfield Borough. The network is made up of primary, secondary and tertiary routes, which when linked together will provide circular routes into and out of the borough. The aim of this greenway network is to provide both functional and recreational routes that link urban areas with the rural environment for a variety of users such as cyclists, walkers and horse riders.
- 2.26 Some of this network is already established, while other sections are still proposals. However, whether existing or proposed, this greenways network provides the main strategic framework for further route development and expansion within Chesterfield Borough. Any proposals for new rights of way or other types of route should take account of this basic network so that opportunities for new linkages can be realised.

¹⁴ Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire 2007-2012 (Derbyshire County Council)

¹⁵ Prepared for Derbyshire County Council by Land Use Consultants, Transport for Leisure and Les Lumsdon (1998)

Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006): Greenways and Strategic Walking and Cycling Routes

- 2.27 Along the valleys of the rivers Rother, Hipper and Holme brook, the council has identified strategic walking and cycling routes. Some of these routes are based on the routes identified in the East Derbyshire Greenways Strategy, such as the Cuckoo Way and the Trans Pennine Trail, but other, more minor routes have been identified such as links to the Cuckoo Way from Brimington and New Whittington. These types of routes function as important linkages from settlements, providing access to key leisure, wildlife and movement corridors.

Other Public Rights of Way

- 2.28 The public rights of way network is much wider than the strategic and greenway network, consisting of minor footpath routes within the urban framework, used primarily as functional routes for residents who are accessing services and facilities on foot. However, some routes will, in terms of access to green infrastructure, have a more important function, in that they will allow residents to access parks, open spaces and the open countryside. It is these routes that will have a more prominent role in terms of potential expansion of the green infrastructure network.
- 2.29 It is the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council to maintain and manage the majority of the public rights of way network. The county produces a Rights of Way Improvement Plan that looks at the extent to which local rights of way can be improved or extended. Clearly, it will be necessary to look at opportunities for integrating any Rights of Way improvements into the borough's green infrastructure network.

The Historic & Cultural Environment

- 2.30 The historic environment can play a role in green infrastructure, particularly in respect of opportunities for education, recreation and the impact historic buildings have on the surrounding landscape. In terms of attracting visitors and tourists or promoting strategic routes, the historic environment can be part of the recreational experience.
- 2.31 Much of the borough's cultural and historic heritage results from its industrial and commercial past and is therefore to be found mainly in the urban environment. However, there are some historic assets that are a part of the green infrastructure network. The Chesterfield Canal for instance, dates from 1777 and is a key element of the borough's industrial past. Other areas in the borough where the historic and environmental assets align are in some of the borough's parks, such as Queens Park, Eastwood Park, Ringwood Park and Tapton Park (which includes Tapton Castle Hill scheduled ancient monument). South of Chatsworth Road, an area of major change (see below), acts as a routeway to Walton Dam and Somersall Park via the Hipper Valley Trail. There are a number of buildings of historic significance, including a Grade II* listed building, which are to be retained and included as part of the area's regeneration.

Percent for Art

- 2.32 Via the 'Percent for Art' scheme, the Borough Council has been successful in promoting public art as good planning practice, bringing cultural, environmental and economic benefits to new development. The Replacement Chesterfield Borough Plan invites developers of schemes costing over £1m to include a work of art to the value of 1% of the total cost of the project (the artist being chosen by the developer and the council). Through this scheme, over 50 works of public art have been secured in the borough, all of which have all been funded by private development.
- 2.33 The artworks tend to be spread throughout the borough and some are close to, or within areas of green infrastructure such as parks or greenways. This in turn presents opportunities to link recreation with culture and increase the potential of areas to attract tourists. For example: Holmebrook Valley Park contains a number of art works which enhance the visitor experience and Tapton Park contains an 'Earth and Wild Flower Labyrinth' which is a part of the park's landscape.
- 2.34 The council actively promotes this type of 'art trail' and it is likely that, subject to consultation, the Percent for Art policy will remain within the borough's Local Development Framework, thereby offering the potential to provide new art works within areas of existing or new green infrastructure.

The Natural Environment and Biodiversity

- 2.35 It is essential that the importance of the natural environment to the green infrastructure network is fully recognised. The protection and promotion of habitats, species and biodiversity should be one of the key aims of developing a robust and comprehensive network. There are different types of designation for the natural environment, covering statutory and locally designated sites, as well as regionally and nationally protected areas. For the purposes of this study, the most relevant are:
- Statutory and Non-Statutorily Protected Sites
 - Strategic River Corridors
 - Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats & Species

The headings which follow will cover each of these in turn.

Statutory and Non-Statutorily Protected Sites

- 2.36 There are no internationally designated sites, such as Special Areas of Conservation or Special Protection Areas, within the borough (or within the adjacent authorities of Bolsover District and North East Derbyshire District¹⁶), and there are no known proposals for designation within Chesterfield Borough or neighboring authorities. The

¹⁶ This excludes the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area and South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation, which although within the administrative boundary of North East Derbyshire District Council, come under the planning controls of the Peak District National Park.

same goes for National Nature Reserves, Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites or Sites of Special Scientific Interest.¹⁷

- 2.37 There are however, 29 Local Wildlife Sites (including 2 Local Nature Reserves) within the borough (listed in Appendix 5). These designated sites are good examples of their habitat types and represent the most important wildlife habitats in the borough.

Table 4: Statutory and non-statutory designated sites in Chesterfield Borough			
Type of Protection	Designated Sites	Amount	Designation
Internationally designated (inc. proposed sites)	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)* Special Protection Areas (SPA)*	None. None.	UK Government/European Commission
Nationally designated sites	National Nature Reserves (NNR)*	None.	Natural England in partnership with local authorities and landowners.
	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)*	None.	
Regional, County and Local designated sites	Local Nature Reserves*	2 LNRs within the borough.	County, borough, district or parish councils in consultation with Natural England.
	Local Wildlife Sites (formerly known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation)**	29 Local Wildlife Sites within the borough (including 2 LNRs)	The Wildlife Sites Panel (including representatives from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Biological Records).
	Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphologic Sites (RIGS)**	None	The RIGS Group.
* Statutorily Protected Sites. ** Non-statutory sites			

Strategic River Corridors

- 2.38 River and canal corridors offer rich environments for the promotion and protection of biodiversity and wildlife. The Pools Brook/Doe Lea Corridor for instance, includes in its environs 5 Local Wildlife Sites and 1 Local Nature Reserve. These types of water and

¹⁷ Based on conversations with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, 2009.

canal environments also provide habitats for priority species, as identified in the Chesterfield Greenprint, the local biodiversity action plan for the borough.

- 2.39 River and canal corridors also offer opportunities for recreation and tranquility. A good example is the Cuckoo Way which follows the routes of the Chesterfield Canal: this is both a valuable wildlife corridor and recreation route for walkers and cyclists.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats & Species

- 2.40 The UK has an international legal obligation to conserve biodiversity. Consequently, Local Authorities and statutory bodies have a duty to promote and enhance biodiversity through Biodiversity Action Plans. Chesterfield Borough comes under the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan, which identifies the aims and targets for specific types of species and habitats in Derbyshire outside of the Peak District. There is also the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act which introduces a duty for all public authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity.
- 2.41 More specific to Chesterfield Borough is the Greenprint for Chesterfield, which provides a local framework for the conservation of biodiversity and sets out which habitats and species are particularly important at a local level. The Greenprint for Chesterfield strives to incorporate biodiversity into the everyday practices of the council and aims to create a network of wildlife habitats throughout the borough. This is also a fundamental principle of green infrastructure and any opportunities for the provision or enhancement of green infrastructure in the borough should take account of the Greenprint's aims, objectives and aspirations. Appendix 4 shows the borough's priority species and habitats and Appendix 8 (Map 3) shows surveyed sites and species.

Flood Risk Management¹⁸

- 2.42 The Environment Agency is responsible for flood protection and advises local authorities about the areas which are at serious risk of flooding. The Environment Agency has defined all or parts of the rivers Rother, Drone, Doe Lea, Hipper and Whitting, together with a short length of the Riddings Brook as main rivers.
- 2.43 Further work has recently been carried by consultants in the form of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Chesterfield Borough, Bolsover District and North East Derbyshire (to be adopted by the council in due course). This work provides a detailed assessment of areas at risk from flooding and provides a robust evidence base for the preparation of Local Development Frameworks (LDF).
- 2.44 In respect of flood management, green infrastructure can play an important role by increasing the amount of porous or natural surfaces that are able to accommodate rain or fluvial flows during heavy rainfall. Parks or wetlands for instance, in addition to being areas of recreation or wildlife preservation, can also provide flood protection by limiting the amount of rain or fluvial water flowing down stream, which might otherwise cause

¹⁸ A description of the borough's rivers and watercourses is included in the Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009).

flooding. Therefore, an important objective when formulating proposals for development on or around flood zones will be to look at the ways green infrastructure can play a roll in alleviating flood risk. This will be particularly apparent in relation to the borough's main regeneration areas, such as Staveley Works, Chatsworth Rd and Waterside (A61 Corridor), all of which are adjacent to main rivers.

External Linkages

- 2.45 Green infrastructure networks do not respect administrative boundaries, particularly regarding routes such as greenways or species migration and behavior. It is therefore important to recognise the types of linkages that cross boundaries and provide opportunities for extending the green infrastructure network into areas of neighboring authorities. There already exist a number of established routes:

Table 5. Green infrastructure linkages into neighboring authorities <i>These are shown in Appendix 8 (Map 4):</i>	
Routes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trans Pennine Trail (south & north)* • Hipper Valley Trail (south-west)* • Proposed Greenway adjacent to Roughpice Wood (north-west)* • The Cuckoo Way/Chesterfield Canal (east)* • Markham Vale Regeneration (south-east)* • Proposed Greenway adjacent to Ingleton Road (south)* • Holmebrook Valley Route (west)* 	
Habitat/Biodiversity Network	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doe Lea Corridor (north)* • Rother Corridor (north)* • Spital Brook Corridor (south east)* • Pools Brook Corridor (south)** • Hundall Heap Local Wildlife Site (north)* • Brierley and Roughpiece Woods Local Wildlife Site (north west)* • Kings Wood disused Railway Local Wildlife Site (north-west)* • Ashgate Plantation Local Wildlife Site* 	
* North East Derbyshire	
** Bolsover	

- 2.46 In some cases these routes play an important role in providing access to attractive open countryside, especially to the north and west of the borough, where people can access areas of green belt and the Peak District. The latter in particular is an important visitor attraction so any connections or extensions will promote recreation and tourism. Also, to the south of the borough, the Trans Pennine Trial connects to other greenways outside of Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire, going as far as Alfreton in the borough of Amber Valley (if following existing and proposed routes identified in the Derbyshire Greenways Strategy).

2.47 Other linkages relate more to particular types of habitat which may act as corridors or networks for wildlife, such as the River Rother corridor flowing north into North East Derbyshire. Without comprehensive ecological surveying it is difficult to assess how these networks and connections can be fully realised. However, any opportunities to expand the network should be taken and the council will liaise effectively with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and other bodies and organisations involved in the promotion or management of the natural environment when identifying potential links.

3.0 EXTENDING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: AREAS OF CHANGE AND OPPORTUNITY



Site for the new canal basin near Chesterfield Town Centre.

3.1 Following the desktop audit of existing green infrastructure in Part 2 and from an analysis of the council's current spatial objectives, as well as other council led initiatives and planning policy at national, regional and local level, it is possible to identify the following green infrastructure drivers for change within the borough:

- **Housing Growth**
- **Quality and Quantity of Parks and Open Spaces**
- **Biodiversity and the Natural Environment**
 - *Designated Sites and priority BAP habitats.*
 - *River & Canal Corridors*
 - *Landscape Improvements*
- **Regeneration & Areas of Major Change**
- **Connectivity and External Linkages**

3.2 The following part of this study will look at each of these issues in turn, and identify some of the key priorities for green infrastructure enhancement within the borough over the Local Development Framework period.¹⁹ It should be noted that key to successful of green infrastructure development will be the involvement of various bodies and

¹⁹ This study does not present itself as a formal strategy for green infrastructure development in the borough. This would require a more in-depth analysis of deliverability in terms of capital/revenue finance, land ownership constraints, funding opportunities and long-term management requirements. This is outside the remit of this study and would need to be addressed in further work.

organisations with a clear remit to protect, enhance and promote green infrastructure assets. The council will be required to work closely with statutory environmental bodies, developers, the voluntary sector, landowners and local communities to ensure the delivery, protection and enhancement of green infrastructure across the borough. An overview of the main key organizations and stakeholders involved is included in Appendix 6.

Housing Growth

- 3.3 It is notable that in some areas of the East Midlands, planned housing growth will be accompanied by significant levels of investment in new green infrastructure. The East Midlands 3 Cities & 3 Counties Development Programme²⁰ (aka 6Cs) for instance, has been allocated a significant amount of funding to provide green infrastructure within proposals, as well as a dedicated Green Infrastructure Officer to oversee, support and monitor work within the 6Cs sub-region. The aim is to ensure there is a framework for incorporating the objectives of green infrastructure in the design of new developments at the outset.
- 3.4 This highlights that development proposals, if planned properly, can present opportunities for extending, enhancing or developing the borough's green infrastructure network. This would be achieved through masterplanning, where careful attention to existing site context and opportunities for green infrastructure is a part of the development process.
- 3.5 Whilst Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire fall outside of this programme, the northern sub-region has, as a result of housing growth policies in the East Midlands Draft Regional Plan, been allocated a significant level of housing over the plan period. This may mean that, in the long-term, major sites for housing will be required, and whilst the borough is unlikely to see the levels of land-take such as is required for growth areas, there may be a level of development which provides opportunities to enhance or expand the GI network through development programmes.
- 3.6 Some of this housing growth will be located within existing areas of regeneration or major change such as Staveley Works, South of Chatsworth Road and the A61 Corridor/Waterside (see below), but there may also be a requirement to find other sites to meet long-term Regional Plan requirements.
- 3.7 Following government guidance, the council is currently preparing a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, the aim of which is to identify land for housing and assess the deliverability and developability of sites²¹. The assessment will identify sites to meet Draft Regional Plan requirements and form part of the evidence base for work on the Local Development Framework.

²⁰ This includes the cities of Leicester, Derby and Nottingham and their surrounding counties.

²¹ It should be noted that the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment is not an allocation document, but a process for identifying potential sites.

- 3.8 Sites will be assessed according to various criteria, such as sustainability, accessibility and deliverability. After consultation, some will be selected and put forward in the Site Specific Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document. The assessment will also involve looking at the opportunities a proposed site presents to extend or enhance the green infrastructure network. This will particularly be the case if larger, more strategic sites are identified, some of which may be located on the edge of existing settlements. Such strategic sites will normally be brought forward by masterplanning and all but the most minor sites should have full regard to green infrastructure principles.
- 3.9 It will be necessary to ensure that any development proposals fit into the landscape as much as possible and that the scale, siting, design, materials and landscape treatment are such that the visual effect of proposals is minimised and buildings are in keeping with their surroundings and reflect local character. In particular, Derbyshire County Council's Landscape Character Assessment should provide a baseline from which information relating to landscape character is formalised.

Table 6. Green infrastructure principles for major new housing proposals:

Development proposals should be:

- Part of a strategically planned and interconnected network.
- Accessible to residents and promote sustainable means of transport, such as walking and cycling.
- Designed to reflect and enhance the area's local character, including landscape, habitat and biodiversity.
- Multi-functional by providing various benefits, such as recreation, biodiversity, leisure, walking and cycling.
- Delivered and managed in a co-ordinated way amongst various local authority departments and other key partners involved in green infrastructure.
- Designed and implemented with long term management procedures in place.

Quality and Quantity of Parks and Open Spaces

- 3.10 As highlighted in Part 2 of the study, the future development and management requirements of the borough's parks and open spaces is outlined in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2002). This strategy identifies a number of key needs regarding the provision of parks and open spaces in the borough:

Table 7. Key needs identified by the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy include:

- Existing Borough Parks to be protected but no further Borough Parks to be sought. Where possible all homes to be within 400 metres of a Community Park in the region of 6-6.5 hectares in size.
- All Community Parks to have a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP). Where possible, all homes in the borough to be within 300 metres of accessible natural

space.

- Where possible, deprived areas of the borough and dense built-up areas to have a minimum of 0.8 hectares per thousand population of land fulfilling the requirements of the National Playing Fields Association standard for children's play.
- Where possible and where appropriate, all homes within the borough to be within 240 metres straight-line distance of a minimum 3,600 square metres open space containing a Locally Equipped Area for Play.
- Generally, Local Area for Play (LAP) provision is not considered appropriate in most circumstances and appropriate alternative provision to be sought. Provision of an even distribution of outdoor youth facilities to be primarily, but not exclusively, located in community parks where there is sufficient space and where a local need is determined.
- Specialist youth facility provision to meet a wider need be provided at key locations e.g. skateparks.
- Recognise the need to develop a greater linkage between individual sites, primarily through the development of Greenways, to form an integrated and accessible greenspace system.

3.11 Since the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was adopted by the council, the council's Leisure Services have, subject to resources and finance, been carrying out – in partnership with 'Friends Groups'²² - the strategy's recommendations. There are a number of masterplans and management plans in place for the more strategically important and popular parks which aim to make the best use of the parks over the long-term. Importantly, this also enables the council to attract external funding for development and maintenance of sites from such organisations as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Open Space & Play Provision Supplementary Planning Document

3.12 One way in which the council may be able to obtain finance for the enhancement or upgrading of existing parks and open space is through the planning system and Section 106 Agreements (planning obligations). The council adopted the Open Space and Play Provision Supplementary Planning Document in September 2008, the aim of which is to provide guidance on open space requirements when developers submit development proposals, particularly for major housing proposals. The Supplementary Planning Document has been devised to ensure that those parks and open spaces close to the proposed development can benefit from enhancement or upgrading.

3.13 Therefore during the Local Development Framework period, there may be opportunities to enhance or extend the green infrastructure network through section 106 monies or other external funding opportunities. In particular, opportunities to extend the borough's greenways and strategic routes will be closely examined to ascertain whether it is feasible to provide new connections or enhance specific stretches of routes. A revised version of the Open Space and Play Provision Supplementary Planning Document will be prepared when the Core Strategy Development Plan Document is in place.

²² Chesterfield Borough has a number of community 'Friends Groups' who take an active interest in the management of some areas of the borough's parks and open spaces.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

Designated Sites & priority BAP habitats

- 3.14 The borough's protected sites include 29 Local Wildlife Sites (including 2 Local Nature Reserves: Norbriggs Flash and Brearley Park). Also, Bluebank Pools, a Local Wildlife Site adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal, has the potential to become a Local Nature Reserve and work is currently underway on a management plan for the site as a part of the declaration process. The council has also locally designated four areas as Historic Parks and Gardens, as well as identifying its main river and canal corridors as River and Canal Environments.
- 3.15 These are established and protected areas, and the main issue will be their continued management and enhancement. Management plans are in place for the Local Nature Reserves (a requirement as part of designation) but many of the Local Wildlife Sites will lack this status, and consequently there may be an issue over some sites becoming degraded, particularly regarding potential for biodiversity. Under a Service Level Agreement with the borough council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is the key partner organisation in respect of habitat/species surveying. It will be important for the council to liaise effectively with the DWT when considering the status and condition of the existing network.
- 3.16 There is also the requirement to consider how existing Local Wildlife Sites make up wildlife networks or corridors. The Chesterfield Greenprint sets out the council's aspirations for the borough to be to be a place where green wildlife corridors are able to connect areas of habitat and species, a key principle of green infrastructure. Despite nature conservation strategies and designations some species and habitats may continue to decline. Perversely, this may not helped by a 'site based' approach to nature conservation, which could have a negative effect on those habitats outside of the designated protected areas. If an area does not fall within designation, a site may be afforded less protection.
- 3.17 The aim should be to take a strategic approach to the enhancement of existing, or new sites, which looks at the green infrastructure network as a whole and aims to promote the concept of wildlife networks and corridors. This will involve close liaison with all the council's key partners (identified in Appendix 6).

River & Canal Corridors

- 3.18 The borough has a number of canal and river corridors that are already the focus for regeneration and recreation initiatives. These key green infrastructure assets are important to the status of the network and to securing major social, economic and environmental benefits for the borough. It will be for the Local Development Framework to ensure that they continue to be a key focus for the borough's regeneration and their importance highlighted in Development Plan Documents.

Chesterfield to Staveley River/Canal Corridor

- 3.19 The Chesterfield Canal (parts of which include the River Rother corridor) with its green space and varied habitats (and corridors for migration) is an important wildlife corridor and provides opportunities for recreation such as walking, cycling, angling and boating.
- 3.20 As part of the restoration of the canal, a number of development projects are planned. The restoration and extension of Hollingwood Lock House will provide a waterway hub close to the Station Road area and a new canal basin is planned at Staveley. These projects will build on the business, tourism and recreational opportunities already created. There is also an element of social inclusion in the management of the canal with proposals to form a Community Interest Company, the aim of which is to generate income to support the canal and secure its long-term future.
- 3.21 Importantly, the Chesterfield Canal Partnership continues to play a significant role in the evolution of the Waterside project, an area of major change running parallel to the A61 and close to Chesterfield town centre. The protection of the canal/River Rother corridor is a key element of the Waterside masterplan and will therefore compliment the works being undertaken to restore the canal by the Canal Partnership.

The Poolsbrook/Doe Lea Corridor

- 3.22 Considerable work has already been carried out along this important water corridor (a part of the River Rother catchment) to improve its recreational and biodiversity function, including the restoration of former colliery land to create Poolsbrook Country Park, and the designation of Norbriggs Flash as a Local Nature Reserve. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites along the corridor providing a considerable network of sites for biodiversity and wildlife. The area is also home to some of the priority species in the Chesterfield Greenprint.
- 3.23 Existing recreational opportunities are limited along the corridor, focused mainly at Poolsbrook Country Park; consequently it should be viewed as less a multifunctional resource and more a strategic biodiversity corridor. However, there may be the opportunity to examine potential links with the Chesterfield Canal when the Staveley to Renishaw link is completed. This could significantly extend the network to the east of the borough, both in terms of access/recreation and increasing biodiversity. The regeneration of Markham Vale to the east of Duckmanton and south of Woodthorpe also offers opportunities to provide linkages to the Trans Pennine Trail.
- 3.24 A masterplan exists for Poolsbrook Country Park and there is an active Friends Group seeking Local Nature Reserve status for an area of the park. A Wildlife Strategy has also been prepared for the area by Derbyshire County Council which provides data on wildlife to those agencies who may wish to promote or produce management plans for the area.

Hipper Valley/Holme Brook

- 3.25 The River Hipper enters the borough from the west dividing Brookside and Brampton in the north and Walton and Boythorpe to the south. This stretch of the river is open and, along with Walton Dam, provides recreational waterside setting for Somersall Park. The Hipper heads east towards the town centre meeting the Rother, then much of the river is obscured by former industrial and urban development. The main tributary of the Hipper is Holme Brook - outside of the open spaces of Loundsley Green and Holmebrook Valley Park, this brook is mainly obscured by urban development.
- 3.26 Holmebrook Valley Park, Somersall Park and their associated tributaries are key green infrastructure assets. Both parks act as green wedges for adjacent communities and function as important recreational and riparian wildlife areas for the western part of the borough (the latter including linkages to Walton Dam). Both areas are well served by paths, and are the location for strategic cycling and walking routes. Holmebrook Valley Park also provides external linkages to Linacre Reservoir (an important green infrastructure asset within North East Derbyshire), which in turn provides access to the Peak District.
- 3.27 As these two parks are already established, the issue will be their continuing management as recommended in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (a role very much with the council's Leisure Services). In the context of strategic spatial planning, the aim should be to consolidate their status and improve or extend linkages into and out of the parks and environs, thus establishing further their status as multifunctional recreational hubs, and in the case of Holmebrook Valley Park, the park's tourism potential and access to biodiversity.

Landscape Improvements

- 3.28 Open countryside makes up approximately half of the borough's land. The borough therefore has a diversity of landscapes, and although none of these are nationally designated (this excludes green belt and the designated sites highlighted above), there is considerable variety ranging from estate and coalfield village farmlands to riverside meadows and wooded hills & valleys²³. Part 2 provided a brief overview of the character of the borough's landscape. Appendix 2 also provides an overview of the landscape in terms of 'study areas', this should be referred to for more information.
- 3.29 Some areas within the borough have seen landscape quality diminished to such an extent that amenity value has become seriously degraded. This is mainly a result of the borough's coal mining and industrial legacy leaving a number of areas in need of restoration or regeneration. Some of these areas have been restored and returned to amenity use, such as Poolsbrook Country Park and the Chesterfield Canal. Other areas are benefiting from major regeneration such as Markham Vale. However, there still exist areas of former open countryside that require restoration. In particular, open countryside around the settlements of Duckmanton and Poolsbrook, and that part of

²³ As described in the *Landscape Character of Derbyshire* (Derbyshire County Council).

the Chesterfield Canal/River Rother corridor that is adjacent to the Staveley Works area, contain significant pockets of dereliction.

- 3.30 Erin Void landfill (north of Duckmanton) is a major landscape detractor, but when filled will be subject to a restoration plan. The plan presents opportunities to extend the green infrastructure network by including habitats that may be conducive to promoting biodiversity, particularly those types of habitats highlighted in the Chesterfield Greenprint. There may also be opportunities to include trails or greenways, which could provide links to existing routes.
- 3.31 The landfill site at Hall Lane, east of Barrow Hill, may also present similar opportunities. This area should also benefit from the Staveley Area Action Plan, which as highlighted below, aims to regenerate the whole Staveley Works area. A key element of the Action Plan will be the requirement to consider this area as an important wildlife and recreation corridor. A restoration plan for the landfill site will be required to recognise this, and ensure any restoration proposals reflect the aims and proposals of the Action Plan.
- 3.32 Previous open cast mining at Arkwright (located close to the borough boundary, south of Inkersall) has also provided opportunities for landscape improvement. A restoration plan is currently being implemented which will see enhancements, including hedgerow and tree planting and new bridleways and paths. The restoration will provide new linkages to the Trans Pennine Trail and generally improve the green infrastructure network in this area.
- 3.33 In order to promote tourism in the borough the council has granted planning permission for a major new leisure development, the Ecodome, on the western side of Sheffield Road at Sheepbridge, within the green belt. The proposal includes a number of recreational uses such as outdoor leisure and visitor accommodation. The site is adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site and a section of the River Drone. There is also a proposed greenway extension that runs close to the proposal. The Ecodome proposal should seek to integrate into existing green infrastructure assets and promote landscape enhancements.

Regeneration and Areas of Major Change

- 3.34 The Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (adopted 2006) identified three major sites, two of them former industrial areas, which are to be the subject of major change and redevelopment. One area (Town Centre Northern Gateway) adjoins the town centre and offers little potential to improve green infrastructure. The local plan points to a fourth additional area at Staveley Works which has since come forward as another area of major change and is the subject of an Area Action Plan. These areas present major opportunities for regeneration in the borough, with potential for a mix of uses, including housing and employment. Within these areas, it is critical that development occurs in a planned and co-coordinated way. Consequently, the council has required masterplans or planning briefs to be drawn up to guide development proposals.

3.35 These three regeneration areas are located in river and canal corridors; therefore any development proposals, where feasible, should aim to protect or enhance biodiversity and habitat connection, as well as increasing the options to improve upon recreational and leisure opportunities. The requirement for proper flood management measures in areas of risk will also be a major issue.

3.36 These three areas of major change are:

- **Staveley Works**
- **Waterside (A61 Corridor)**
- **Land South of Chatsworth Road**

The section which follows provides an overview of each area and identifies some of the green infrastructure benefits that each regeneration project may bring.

Staveley Works

3.37 The Staveley Works area covers approximately 150 hectares and consists of a corridor of industrial and former industrial land in the north of the borough, running alongside the course of the River Rother, and between the Chesterfield Canal to the south and Doncaster rail line to the north. The entire works area is the subject of a Staveley Area Action Plan Development Document, which is currently being prepared to inform the future development options for the site, and which is a part of the council's Local Development Framework.

3.38 The area covered by the Action Plan contains key green infrastructure assets as a result of the Chesterfield Canal/River Rother, which as highlighted above, provides a number of wildlife and recreational benefits. Importantly, the former towpath of the canal forms part of the Trans Pennine Trail so acts as a multi-user route popular with cyclists and walkers. The public rights of way network on the urban-rural fringe also allows access onto the canal towpath for people living in Staveley, Barrow Hill, New Whittington, Middlecroft and Brimington.

3.39 There are opportunities to further extend the green infrastructure network via the Staveley Area Action Plan, particularly in respect to landscape improvements. Major public funding has enabled a Feasibility Study to be prepared for the site, the outcome of which will be a masterplan. This will consider the existing green infrastructure network and recognise that development options should have full regard to green infrastructure principles, particularly in respect of the biodiversity and amenity value of the canal/river environs, and how new uses (whether employment, residential, amenity, flood management, etc) can be integrated within existing green infrastructure).

3.40 Survey work has already been undertaken for the site in the form of a Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey, which establishes the scope of nature and conservation interest within the survey area and a Landscape Character and Green Infrastructure Framework assessment has been prepared by Derbyshire County Council, which provides a general overview of some of the key green infrastructure issues affecting the site.

Waterside (A61 Corridor)

- 3.41 Chesterfield Waterside is a major, mixed-use regeneration scheme proposed for a 16ha canal-side site next to the A61. Under the Planning Brief which has been adopted by the council, the Waterside site is expected to deliver a mix of housing and employment, as well as new canal basin and protection and enhancement of the River Rother and Chesterfield Canal. This is a large scale regeneration project, the vision of which is to redevelop the area as a high quality sustainable urban village set within the context of high quality waterside environment.
- 3.42 Like the Staveley Area Action Plan, which also focuses on the regenerative capacity of the river and canal environs, the Waterside masterplan will be required to acknowledge green infrastructure from the outset. Protection will be given to existing habitats and species along the water corridor and public realm improvements will ensure that existing paths and routes, including the Trans Pennine Trail and Cuckoo Way, are the focus for any new route development.

South of Chatsworth Road

- 3.43 South of Chatsworth Road there is an important regeneration area lying just to the west of Chesterfield town centre. Consequently, the site is adjacent to large areas of population and is currently under some existing commercial and industrial uses. Much of site includes abandoned former industrial buildings and large parts of the site are derelict. However, this industrial legacy has left a number of buildings that are of architectural and historic interest, including two listed buildings.
- 3.44 A major green infrastructure asset within the site is the River Hipper. While parts of the river are culverted or obscured by urban development, there are stretches that are open. There are therefore opportunities for riverside development, which could include aspect of green infrastructure. The Hipper Valley Strategic Walking and Cycling Route runs through the site and provides a link from the town centre towards Walton Dam and Somersall Park.
- 3.45 The site therefore offers opportunities to provide linkages to valuable green infrastructure assets for heavily populated areas to the west of the town centre. There could also be significant enhancements to the ecology and biodiversity of the Hipper corridor.²⁴

Connectivity & External Linkages

- 3.46 As highlighted in Part 2, the network of strategic routes is a significant element of the borough's green infrastructure network. Routes such as the Trans Pennine Trail and Cuckoo Way are important sustainable transport routes linking residents to key green infrastructure assets. The council has also identified a number of walking and cycling routes, which although partly on road, do in some places function as multi-user trails, such as those stretches that enter Somersall and Holmebrook Valley parks.

²⁴ While there exists some ecological data relating to the site, more work would need to be undertaken to ascertain the ecological value of the site.

- 3.47 In terms of extending the strategic network, there are clearly limitations and constraints in a built-up area like Chesterfield. Existing rights of way within the urban framework should be viewed more as linkages to the more strategic routes such as the Trans Pennine Trail or Cuckoo Way. Opportunities for route extension are therefore likely to come from outside the urban framework on the urban-rural fringe, in particular via programmes and strategies from key partner organisations such as the Chesterfield Canal Partnership and Three Valleys Project.
- 3.48 These latter two organisations are key to the development and promotion of the green infrastructure network, attracting significant amounts of funding and resources for the network's enhancement and promotion. Just as important is the role each organisation plays in formulating strategies that cross into neighboring authorities, thereby developing and promoting external linkages to neighbouring authority green infrastructure networks and assets.
- 3.49 Close attention needs to be paid to the green infrastructure plans and proposals of the neighboring authorities of North East Derbyshire and Bolsover. Links from Holmebrook Valley Park and Somersall Park in the west of the borough provide important routes into the open countryside of North East Derbyshire. There are also other opportunities presented by the restoration of the former Arkwright opencast site, the plans for which include significant green infrastructure enhancement, including links to the Trans Pennine Trail.
- 3.50 There may also be opportunities to extend the cross boundary green infrastructure network from Bolsover, as Bolsover District has identified a partially disused rail bed between Clowne Linear Park and Poolsbrook Country Park, which has the potential to link these two sites in the form of a multi-user trail. However, it may be the case that this route should be protected for potential future passenger rail use. This will have to be addressed through each planning authority's development plan documents.

4.0 THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK; MOVING TOWARDS A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING POLICY



The Chesterfield Canal near Staveley

- 4.1 Robust green infrastructure planning policy will protect existing green infrastructure assets as well as enable development that can deliver high standards of green infrastructure both at a wider strategic level and on site (i.e. through masterplanning or development briefs for specific development proposals). This will require commitments in the Core Strategy and other Local Development Framework documents and associated policies.
- 4.2 It will also require a recognition of the opportunities that are provided via the strategies and programmes of other key partner organizations, whose role it is to enhance and develop aspects of green infrastructure within the borough, such as Derbyshire County Council, the Chesterfield Canal Partnership, the Three Valleys Project, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, The Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership and the council's Leisure Services.
- 4.3 There will also be a number of key documents that provide a context for green infrastructure development such as the Chesterfield Greenprint, East Derbyshire Greenways Strategy, The Landscape Character of Derbyshire, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- 4.4 Following reviews of these documents and other policies and programmes at national, regional and local level, the Core Strategy's green infrastructure policies should operate within the following overarching objectives:

- Aim to protect and improve existing green infrastructure assets (especially the key assets identified in this study).
- Stress the importance of viewing green infrastructure as a coherent and functional network rather than as a collection of isolated or individual parts, particularly in respect of biodiversity corridors or sustainable travel networks.
- Encourage, where possible, to improve connectivity between the various green infrastructure assets, especially those assets which provide the most multi-functionality, such as the Chesterfield/River Corridor and the borough's parks and open spaces.
- Ensure that in areas of growth, especially the borough's major regeneration areas such as Waterside and Staveley Works, that development strengthens the green infrastructure network and adopts a protectionist approach towards existing green infrastructure assets.

4.5 On a broader level management of green infrastructure assets should also seek to²⁵:

- Provide leisure opportunities and an attractive environment for local residents of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Promote health and well being by offering opportunities for exercise and recreation.
- Provide an environment that can act as a catalyst for economic development, particularly in deprived areas.
- Enhance local distinctiveness & promote tourism²⁶.
- Promote biodiversity, protect wildlife and meet the objectives and targets of both the Chesterfield Greenprint and Lowland Derbyshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Enhance and extend multi-user trails, walks, cycle routes and bridleways.
- Offer mitigation for the effects of climate change and flood risk.
- Provide opportunities for community management or cultural or educational activity.
- Assist the management of flood risk.
- Enhance the local economy

Table 8. Core Strategy: Draft Green Infrastructure Policy
1.Strategic Policy
<p>Chesterfield Borough's green infrastructure network will be recognised at all levels of the planning and development process with the aim of protecting and enhancing the network. The following objectives should inform the decision making process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved connectivity to increase the opportunities for car free transport and access to green infrastructure assets. • Enhancement and increased functionality of the borough's parks and open spaces. • Conserving or enhancing the local distinctiveness and character of the local landscape.

²⁵ Encouragement of public access in certain instances can potentially have a negative impact on wildlife. There will often be a need to carefully balance the differing objectives for Green Infrastructure to ensure that habitats and species are not damaged.

²⁶ The council operates a successful Percent for Art Policy, which

- Recognition of the important of borough's biodiversity corridors and networks, particularly in relation the key valley corridors of the Hipper, Rother, and Pools Brook/Doe Lea.
- An understanding of the borough's flood risk areas and the role of green infrastructure in flood risk management.

2. Embedding green infrastructure within development proposals

Stage 1: Policy Framework

Have regard to Chesterfield Borough Council's Core Strategy and other policy or strategy documents relating to the borough's green infrastructure. Consult the local authority and assess how the development might impact on areas of opportunity and/or deficiency in green infrastructure.

Stage 2: Survey and Audit

Locate green infrastructure assets (on and off site) that may be affected by the proposal and identify the potential for new green infrastructure (this will include an assessment of Brownfield sites and former industrial areas, as previously developed land may be rich in biodiversity or other natural assets).

Step 3: Site Design

Protect green infrastructure assets on site and address deficiencies both within adjacent areas and those caused by the new development. If asset loss is inevitable, include green infrastructure to ensure "no net loss" of the functions provided by the lost assets. The new assets should be consistent with local and strategic priorities. Where possible, ensure that there are linkages to the green access network and that long-term management arrangements for green infrastructure are in place.

APPENDICES

App No.	Appendix
1	Glossary
2	Landscape Study Areas
3	Policy and Research Background
4	Chesterfield Greenprint: Priority Habitats
5	Local Wildlife Sites (including Local Nature Reserves)
6	Key Partners and Organisations
7	Parks and Open Spaces
8	Woodland Estate Inventory
9	<p>Maps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chesterfield in Context 2. Key Green Infrastructure Assets 3. Biodiversity 4. External Linkages 5. Green Infrastructure Enhancements 6. Landscape Study Areas 7. Landscape Character of Chesterfield

Appendix 1: Glossary

Area Action Plan

A *Development Plan Document* that may be used by the local planning authority to provide a planning framework for areas of change.

Biodiversity

The whole variety of life encompassing all genetics, species and ecosystem variations, including plants and animals.

BAP

See *Biodiversity Action Plan*.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

A strategy prepared for a local area aimed at conserving and enhancing biological diversity.

Conservation Area

Areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Core Strategy

The Core Strategy is a *Development Plan Document* and is a part of the borough's *Local Development Framework*. The Core Strategy sets out the vision and strategic spatial objectives for the spatial development of the borough, including the amount of and broad locations for future housing and employment use.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Wildlife Trusts are a partnership of national local wildlife trusts. Between them, they manage around 2,200 nature reserves covering some 80,000 hectares. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is the wildlife trust for Derbyshire.

Development Plan Documents (DPDs)

Development Plan Documents outline the key development goals of the *Local Development Framework*. Development Plan Documents include the *Core Strategy*, *Site-Specific Allocations and Policies*, and where needed, *Area Action Plans*. There will also be an adopted proposals map which illustrates the spatial extent of policies that must be prepared and maintained to accompany all DPDs. Once adopted, development control decisions must be made in accordance with them unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Daft East Midlands Regional Plan

The plan that will replace the East Midlands *Regional Spatial Strategy*. It is expected to be approved in spring 2009.

Evidence Base

A range of information to inform the preparation of the *Local Development Framework*. A large number of documents form part of the evidence base including this Green Infrastructure Study.

Flood plain

Generally low-lying areas adjacent to a watercourse, tidal lengths of a river or the sea, where water flows in times of flood, or would flow but for the presence of flood defenses.

Green Belt (not to be confused with the term 'greenfield')

A designation for land around certain cities and large built-up areas, which aims to keep this land permanently open or largely undeveloped. The purposes of the green belt are to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas prevent neighbouring towns from merging; safeguard the countryside from encroachment; preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and assist urban *regeneration* by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Green corridor / wildlife corridor

These linear areas of land are normally formed by a variety of habitats which allow safe passage for wildlife. They usually link more extensive areas of habitat.

Greenway

A greenway is a corridor of open space that can run through urban, suburban, and rural areas

and incorporates diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features. Some greenways run alongside rivers, canals or disused railways. Greenways often provide for recreational opportunities, while others are established almost exclusively for environmental protection.

Green Wedges

Green wedges comprise the open areas around and between parts of settlements, which maintain the distinction between the countryside and built up areas, prevent the coalescence (merging) of adjacent places and can also provide recreational opportunities.

Hedgerow Regulations

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 aim to protect “important” hedgerows in the countryside by controlling their removal through a system of notification.

Listed Building

A building of special architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded I, II* or II with grade I being the highest. Listing includes the interior as well as the exterior of the building, and any buildings or permanent structures (e.g. wells) within its curtilage. English Heritage is responsible for designating buildings for listing in England.

Local Development Document (LDD)

A document contained in a *Local Development Framework*.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

The Local Development Framework or 'LDF' is the term used to describe the set of documents which will eventually include all of the planning authority's local development documents, including the *Core Strategy*. As these new documents are adopted by the council, they will eventually replace the Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006)

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Local Nature Reserves are sites with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They can range from coastal headlands, ancient woodlands and flower-rich meadows to former inner city railways, long abandoned landfill sites and industrial areas now re-colonised by wildlife. There are 2 LNRs in Chesterfield (see Appendix 5).

Local Plan

An old-style development plan prepared by district and other local planning authorities. Some of these plans will continue to operate for a time after the commencement of the new development plan system, by virtue of specific transitional provisions.

Local Wildlife Site

Local Wildlife Sites are adopted by local authorities for planning purposes. They were formerly known as Sites of Important Nature Conservation (SINCs). There are 29 *Local Wildlife Sites* (including 2 *Local Nature Reserves*) in Chesterfield Borough (see Appendix 5).

Master Plan

A type of planning brief outlining the preferred usage of land and the overall approach to the layout of a development on a site or group of sites. To provide detailed guidance for subsequent planning applications.

Mixed use

Provision of a mix of complementary uses, such as residential, community and leisure uses, on a site or within a particular area.

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

National Nature Reserves were established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain, and as places for scientific research. They are either owned or controlled by Natural England or held by approved bodies such as *Wildlife Trusts*. There are no NNRs in Chesterfield Borough.

National Park

The statutory purposes of national parks are to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to promote opportunities for public understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities.

Nature Conservation

The protection, management and promotion of wildlife habitat for the benefit of wild species, as

well as the communities that use and enjoy them.

Planning Gain

The benefits or safeguards, often for community benefit, secured by way of a planning obligation as part of a planning approval and usually provided at the developer's expense. For example, affordable housing, community facilities or measures mitigating adverse environmental impacts.

Planning Obligations and Agreements

Legal agreements between a planning authority and a developer, or undertakings offered unilaterally by a developer, that ensure that certain extra works related to a development are undertaken. For example, the provision of highways. Sometimes called "Section 106" agreements.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)

Issued by central government setting out its national land use policies for England on different areas of planning. These are gradually being replaced by Planning Policy Statements.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS)

Issued by central government to replace the existing Planning Policy Guidance notes in order to provide greater clarity and to remove from national policy advice on practical implementation, which is better expressed as guidance rather than policy

Previously Developed Land (PDL) or 'Brownfield' land

Previously developed land is that which is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings), and associated fixed-surface infrastructure.

Protected Species

Plants and animal species afforded protection under certain Acts of Parliament and Regulations.

Public Open Space

Urban space, designated by a council, where public access may or may not be formally established, but which fulfils or can fulfill a recreational or non-recreational role (for example, amenity, ecological, educational, social or cultural usages).

Regeneration

The economic, social and environmental renewal and improvement of rural and urban areas.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS), designated by locally developed criteria. There are no RIGS in Chesterfield Borough.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

A strategy for how a region should develop over 15 to 20 years time and possibly longer. The Regional Spatial Strategy identifies the scale and distribution of new housing in the region, indicates areas for regeneration, expansion or sub-regional planning and specifies priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals and waste treatment and disposal. The Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (which includes Chesterfield) is prepared on behalf of the East Midlands Regional Assembly.

Scheduled Ancient Monument

'Scheduling' is shorthand for the process through which nationally important sites and monuments are given legal protection by being placed on a list, or 'schedule'. English Heritage takes the lead in identifying sites in England which should be placed on the schedule by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. A schedule has been kept since 1882.

Section 106 Agreement

A legal agreement under section 106 of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act. Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between a planning authority and a developer, or undertakings offered unilaterally by a developer, that ensure that certain necessary extra works related to a development are undertaken.

Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC)

See Local Wildlife Site.

Site-Specific Allocations and Polices

Site Specific and Allocations Polices is a *Development Plan Document* which will identify sites for particular types of development within the borough, e.g. housing, employment leisure and retail.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive the Annex II species, 43 are native to, and normally resident in, the UK. There are no SACs in Chesterfield Borough.

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC), also known as the Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species. There are no SPAs in Chesterfield Borough.

Staveley Area Action Plan

The Staveley Area Action Plan will guide the redevelopment of the Staveley Works area. This area includes 150 hectare of industrial land transected by the River Rother. It is also adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

An assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

A *Local Development Document* that may cover a range of issues, thematic or site specific, and which provides further detail of policies and proposals in a 'parent' *Development Plan Document*. Under the new planning system, this class of document is intended to take the place of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).

Sustainable Development

A widely used definition drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The government has set out four aims for sustainable development in its strategy A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK. The four aims, to be achieved simultaneously, are social progress which recognises the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; prudent use of natural resources; and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Sustainable travel / sustainable transport

Often meaning walking, cycling and public use of transport (and in some circumstances "car sharing"), which is considered to be less damaging to the environment and likely to contribute less to traffic congestion and pollution than one-person car journeys.

Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

A TPO is an order made by a local authority which in general makes it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, willfully damage or willfully destroy a tree without the planning authority's permission. All types of trees can be covered by a TPO, including hedgerow trees (but not hedges, bushes or shrubs). An order can cover anything from a single tree to woodlands.

Urban-Rural Fringe

The urban fringe is the transitional area at the point where urban areas meet the countryside. It can provide a valuable resource for the provision of sport and recreation, particularly in situations where there is an absence of land within urban areas to make such provision.

Appendix 2: Landscape Study Areas

The following table includes information relating to the eleven landscape study areas that have been created for the benefit of this study. This is not intended as a proper landscape analysis, simply a 'snapshot' portrait of the various areas of open countryside in the borough (mainly based on information contained in the Replacement Borough Local Plan (2006)). The following information might provide a basis for further more detailed assessments. A map of these areas is provided in Appendix 8 (Map 6).

Landscape Study Area 1. Land North of Barrow Hill & North West of Mastin Moor
<p>Landscape Character <i>DCC Landscape Character Types: Estate Farmland and Riverside Meadow.</i> Primarily open farmland and associated country lanes, south of the Moss Valley in North East Derbyshire. Hopewell Wood provides woodland cover. Industrial activity around the Barrow Hill/Staveley Works Area.</p>
<p>Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc) East of this area is the riverside meadow environments of the river Doe Lea and Rother. Norbriggs Flash is a key GI asset (recently designated a Local Nature Reserve). Flood Zone 2 & 3A to the west of Barrow Hill (Rother tributary). Significant areas of functional flood plain contiguous with the Rother and Doe Lea to the west.</p>
<p>Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations This area is wholly designated as Green Belt. There are four Local Nature/Wildlife Sites: Hopewell Wood, Breck Farm Water Meadows, Norbriggs Flash and Staveley Sewage Works.</p>
<p>Biodiversity See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).</p>
<p>Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way The rights of way network does allow access into the open countryside, particularly from the Mastin Moor & Norbriggs Flash Area. The Trans Pennine Trail transects this area, heading north from the Chesterfield Canal at Staveley. The Chesterfield Canal/Cuckoo Way route terminates at Staveley but once restoration work on the canal has progressed, will extend up towards Kilmarsh in North East Derbyshire and beyond.</p>
<p>Historic Heritage This area is adjacent to Barrow Hill, a part of which is designated a Conservation Area due to the industrial heritage of the townscape. The original line of the Chesterfield canal also runs through this area (this stretch of the canal is not yet restored but is included in the long-term restoration plans).</p>
<p>Urban-Rural Fringe Issues Barrow Hill, allotments and employment land to the south; employment land and small settlement to the south.</p>
<p>Previously Developed Land Industrial activity around the Barrow Hill/Staveley Works Area.</p>

**Landscape Study Area 2. River Rother/Canal Corridor
(inc Wheeldon Mill Plantation & Staveley Works Site)**

Landscape Character

DCC Landscape Character Types: Riverside Meadow, Coalfield Village Farmland and Estate Farmland.

The central part of this study area is made up of Staveley Works, a former industrial area (some employment still remains) parts of which function as landscape detractors. Despite the site's industrial identity, there are several elements that are key characteristics of *Riverside Meadows* due to the River Rother and Chesterfield Canal transecting the site from west to east. The valley area is prominent in the landscape and there are fine views into the valley, particularly from the south at Chesterfield Rd. South of the Staveley Works is open farmland with little tree or woodland cover.

Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc)

Transected by the River Rother & Chesterfield Canal, key GI assets offering major recreation, biodiversity and amenity value. Trough Brook enters from the south. Wetland area flood plains (including man-made lagoon in the Staveley Works site).

Significant areas of Flood Zone 3A contiguous with the route of the Rother. Some areas of functional flood plain to the east and west. Flood Zone 3A contiguous with Trough Brook to the south.

Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations

The Staveley Works site put forward as an area appropriate for an Areas Action Plan. Blue Bank Wood Local Wildlife Site is adjacent to the eastern part of the canal (the stretch of the canal from Staveley to Tapton is also now designated a Local Wildlife Site).

Biodiversity

See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8) and Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey (carried out by Ecus consultants, 2008).

Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way

The former towpath of the Chesterfield Canal now acts as an important multi-user trail popular with cyclists and walkers. The canal joins the Trans Pennine trail to the east. Other more minor Public Rights of Way lead towards the canal from the urban-rural fringe and provide links across the area between settlements.

Historic Heritage

Considerable industrial heritage exists as a result of the engineering legacy of the site (e.g. the Clock Tower on Station Road). The canal itself dates from 1777 and there is some related infrastructure of historical interest (e.g. Hollingwood Lock). The *Staveley Area Action Plan Landscape Character and Green Infrastructure Framework* (Derbyshire County Council, 2007) recommends a building appraisal and archaeological desk-based assessment of the Staveley Works area.

Urban-Rural Fringe Issues

Many areas affected by urban fringe pressures creating fragmented and downgraded landscapes. Existing settlements such as Brimington and Staveley are not integrated with the area as a result of previous heavy engineering and manufacturing use of the site. Problems of anti-social/unauthorised use in some areas due to isolation.

Previously Developed Land

The Staveley works site is mainly a former industrial area (some remains) leaving a mosaic of previously developed land and made-land (e.g. former land-fill). The area also includes former open cast land with restoration planting.

**Landscape Study Area 3. Land Between Inkersall and Duckmanton
(inc. Poolsbrook Country Park)**

Landscape Character

DCC Landscape Character Types: Estate Farmland and Riverside Meadow.

A large part of this area is made up of Poolsbrook Country Park, a former colliery site. The park is a large-scale man made landscaped area of grassland and water. The adjoining Erin Void landfill is a major landscape detractor to the north of Duckmanton. Markham Vale provides new industrial uses to the east and is also adjacent to areas of rising woodland.

Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc)

Pools Brook, a tributary of the Doe Lea, transects this area from the south heading north towards Poolsbrook Country Park. The latter is a large-scale man-made landscaped area of tress, shrubs, grassland and water located at the southern section of a key watercourse/wildlife corridor in the eastern part of the borough (a corridor which includes 4 Local Wildlife Sites) running east of Duckmanton to the northern boundary of the borough towards Renishaw. Flood Zone 3A contiguous with Pools Brook. Areas of functional flood plain around Markham Vale.

Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations

Contains one Local Wildlife Site, Ireland Wildlife Area. Markham Vale allocated for development.

Biodiversity

See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).

Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way

The Trans Pennine Trail heads north along the eastern boundary of this areas acting as a buffer for the communities of Inkersall and Staveley. Major new employment development at Markham Vale includes a number of routes that provide connections into and out of this area.

Historic Heritage

No important architectural or historic assets identified within this study area.

Urban-Rural Fringe Issues

The M1 acts as a major landscape detractor and barrier to the open countryside in Bolsover. Areas around Poolsbrook and Duckmanton affected by fragmented and downgraded landscapes, particularly in respect to Erin Void Landfill and the road network.

Previously Developed Land

Poolsbrook Country Park was once the site of the former Ireland Colliery. North of Duckmanton is Erin Void Landfill. The Markham Vale regeneration makes use of brownfield land, including the former Markham Colliery.

Landscape Study Area 4. Tapton Park (and surrounding area, including Crow Lane)

<p>Landscape Character <i>DCC Landscape Character Type: Estate Farmlands</i> Large parts of this area are recreational in nature due to Tapton golf course, Tapton Park and Tapton Grove. On the northern urban fringe lies Brimington Cemetery and Crematorium. Within these areas are open fields and farmland with some tree and woodland cover. To the south, adjacent to the hospital and Crow Lane, there are attractive views towards the town centre as a result of the rising topography.</p>
<p>Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc) Tinker Sink Brook flows west, joining the Chesterfield Canal to the north. There is no associated flood zone, except where the brook meets the canal further up stream. Consequently there are no wetland areas in the brook environs. Tinker Brook also feeds into Tapton Fish Pond, a Local Wildlife Site that is part of the Tapton Grove Historic Park and Garden.</p>
<p>Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations 2 Historic Parks and Gardens, Tapton Grove and Tapton Park, provide designated GI assets. Tapton Golf course is also a popular recreational asset. There are 2 Local Wildlife sites: Piccadilly Cottages Scrub and Tapton Fish Pond. 2 proposed greenway and strategic cycling and cycling routes: Hady Trail and Piccadilly Road to Royal Hospital.</p>
<p>Biodiversity See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).</p>
<p>Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way Two proposed greenways and strategic walking and cycling routes criss-cross the study area: Hady Trail and Piccadilly Road to Royal Hospital. Other access created by public rights of way.</p>
<p>Historic Heritage Two Historic Parks and Gardens lie within the study area: Tapton Park and Tapton Grove.</p>
<p>Urban-Rural Fringe Issues Manor Road and the associated ribbon development from Brimington to Brimington Common forms a barrier to the open land to the west of Inkersall. The Royal Hospital and car parking encroaches from the south, impacting on this 'green lung' between the built-up areas to the east and west of the borough.</p>
<p>Previously Developed Land No known areas of previously developed land.</p>
<p>Landscape Study Area 5. Land North of Old Whittington</p>
<p>Landscape Character <i>DCC Landscaper Character Types: Estate Farmlands and Coalfield Village Farmlands</i> Mainly open farmland set within the North East Derbyshire Greenbelt. Significant areas of woodland to the north.</p>
<p>Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc) Small, unnamed watercourse south east of Whittington Grange and pond east of the Brushes. No flood zone areas.</p>

<p>Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations Three Local Wildlife Sites: Grasscroft Wood, Hundall Heap and Whittington Hospital Grounds</p>
<p>Biodiversity See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).</p>
<p>Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way Public Rights of Way path network from Old Whittington and New Whittington into the open countryside.</p>
<p>Historic Heritage Old Whittington Conservation Area to the south.</p>
<p>Urban-Rural Fringe Issues Open countryside to the north. Potential urban fringe pressures around Old Whittington, New Whittington and the industrial areas to the west but unlikely to be of the same scale as that in other more industrialized areas.</p>
<p>Previously Developed Land No known areas of previously developed land.</p>
<p>Landscape Study Area 6. Land East and West of Woodthorpe</p>
<p>Landscape Character <i>DCC Landscape Character Types: Estate Farmlands and Coalfield Village Farmlands</i> Mainly open farmland. Doe Lea Flash and Netherthorpe Flash Local Wildlife Sites provide wetland and river environments to the east of Woodthorpe. The M1 acts as a landscape detractor and barrier to the east. Former Coal stocking areas to the south, which are part of the Markham Vale regeneration.</p>
<p>Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc) Doe Lea Flash and Netherthorpe Flash Local Wildlife Sites to the west. Unnamed watercourse to the east and south. Small areas of Flood Zone 3A to the south. Functional flood plain contiguous with the Doe Lea to the east.</p>
<p>Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations Doe Lea Flash and Netherthorpe Flash Local Wildlife Sites. Areas of the Markham Vale development are south of Woodthorpe.</p>
<p>Biodiversity See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).</p>
<p>Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way Rights of way network extends into the Doe Lea Flash and Netherthorpe Flash Local Wildlife Sites. Access is also provided into the open countryside from Woodthorpe and Mastin Moor. The Markham Vale Design Framework document proposes enhancement to the rights of way network</p>
<p>Historic Heritage Netherthorpe School includes listed buildings.</p>
<p>Urban-Rural Fringe Issues Mainly open countryside to the east and west. Potential urban fringe pressures around Mastin Moor, Woodthorpe and Netherthorpe and Markham Vale although unlikely to be of the same scale as that in</p>

<p>other more industrialized and deprived areas. The M1 acts as a landscape detractor and denies access towards Bolsover.</p>
<p>Previously Developed Land Markham Vale to the south.</p>
<p>Landscape Study Area 7. Land to the North/North West of Dunston</p>
<p>Landscape Character <i>Landscape Character Type: Coalfield Village Farmlands</i> Mainly open farmland, large areas of green belt and woodland to the north and south. Dunston Hall Deerpark Historic Park and Garden adjacent to Dunston Rd and Holmebrook Valley Park to the south.</p>
<p>Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc) Holme Brook and water environments within Holmebrook Valley Park to the south. Ochre Dyke and watercourse running east towards Dunston. Small area of flood zone 3A adjacent to Engine Hollow to the east on the borough boundary.</p>
<p>Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations Dunston Hall Deerpark Historic Park & Garden, Holmebrook Valley Park and three Local Wildlife Sites: Kings Wood, Newbold Spoil Heaps and Holme Brook.</p>
<p>Biodiversity See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).</p>
<p>Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way Holmebrook Valley Park includes a strategic greenway strategic walking and cycling route providing access into the Peak District. Rights of way access into open countryside from Dunston.</p>
<p>Historic Heritage Dunston Hall Deerpark Historic Park and Garden.</p>
<p>Urban-Rural Fringe Issues Open countryside to the west, Sheepbridge industrial area to the north. Any urban fringe pressures would be a result of employment areas to the north and Dunston to the south.</p>
<p>Previously Developed Land No known areas of previously developed land.</p>
<p>Landscape Study Area 8. Land South & West of Inkersall</p>
<p>Landscape Character <i>DCC Landscape Character Type: Coalfield Village Farmlands</i> Mainly open farm land with woodland to the east a significant part of the landscape. Ringwood Hall, Ringwood Park & Lake to the north.</p>
<p>Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc) Trough Brook runs northwards into Ringwood Lake, a popular GI asset surrounded by play areas and paths. Small area of Flood Zone 2 surrounding Ringwood Lake.</p>

<p>Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations Ringwood Park & Lake is a Community Park. Ringwood Hall Grounds is a Historic Park and Garden. Includes three Local Wildlife Sites: Brimington Field, Ringwood Lake and West Parkers Wood. Greenway, strategic walking & cycling routes proposed linking Brimington to Inkersall.</p>
<p>Biodiversity See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).</p>
<p>Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way Greenway, strategic walking & cycling routes proposed linking Brimington to Inkersall. Public rights of way access form Brimington Common and Ringwood Road.</p>
<p>Historic Heritage Ringwood Hall Grounds a Historic Park and Garden.</p>
<p>Urban-Rural Fringe Issues Urban fringe pressures from Brimington and Tapton, less so in the south.</p>
<p>Previously Developed Land No known areas of previously developed land.</p>
<p>Landscape Study Area 9. Brierly/Roughpiece Wood</p>
<p>Landscape Character <i>DCC Landscape Character Type: Wooded Hills and Valleys</i> Roughpace Wood and Brierley Golf course make up this landscape area, all of which is designated green belt.</p>
<p>Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc) The River Drone flows north parallel to Sheffield Road. Functional flood plain contiguous with the River Drone to the west.</p>
<p>Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations Includes one Local Wildlife Site: Roughpeice Wood. The River Drone area is identified as a river environment.</p>
<p>Biodiversity See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).</p>
<p>Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way Significant rights of way access into this area, particularly in respect to accessing Roughpiece Wood.</p>
<p>Historic Heritage None identified.</p>
<p>Urban-Rural Fringe Issues Open countryside to the west. A61 a significant barrier to the south. Industrial area to the east. Pressures likely to come from employment and highway uses.</p>

<p>Previously Developed Land No known areas of previously developed land.</p>
<p align="center">Landscape Study Area 10. Ashgate Plantation & Surrounding Area</p>
<p>Landscape Character <i>DCC Landscape Character Type: Wooded Farmlands</i> Primarily woodland, some open fields.</p>
<p>Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc) Small unnamed watercourse. No flood zone areas.</p>
<p>Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations Two Local Wildlife Sites: Three Nook Plantation and Ashgate Plantation. Greenway, strategic walking & cycling route proposal towards the local school.</p>
<p>Biodiversity See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).</p>
<p>Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way Limited right of way access. Greenway, strategic walking & cycling route proposal to local school extending to Holmebrook Valley.</p>
<p>Historic Heritage None identified.</p>
<p>Urban-Rural Fringe Issues Hemmed in by road network to the east, south and west. School and residential areas to the north. Urban fringe pressures likely to stem from the latter.</p>
<p>Previously Developed Land No known areas of previously developed land.</p>
<p align="center">Landscape Study Area 11. Land West of Somersall Lane (inc. Hipper Valley Park)</p>
<p>Landscape Character <i>DCC Landscape Character Type: Wooded Farmlands</i> Essentially a green wedge of recreational parkland called Somersall Park between Brookside and Walton and made up of the River Hipper Corridor and greenbelt open countryside to the west.</p>
<p>Blue Infrastructure (rivers, open water, wetland, etc) The River Hipper is a main river corridor flowing east into the built up area of the town center. Walton Dam in the east is part of the recreational park environs. Areas of flood zone 3A contiguous with the River Hipper. Some functional flood plain to the west.</p>

<p>Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) and other designations Somersall Park is classified a Community Park. Area contains the Hipper Valley Greenway and Strategic Walking and Cycling route and Somersall Lane Conservation Area. Land to the south of Oakfield Avenue is also designated a Local Wildlife Site.</p>
<p>Biodiversity See Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mapping (Map 3 in Appendix 8).</p>
<p>Access, Routes & Public Rights of Way The Hipper Valley Greenway and Strategic Walking and Cycling route is a key strategic route linking Somersall Park and the open countryside to the town centre.</p>
<p>Historic Heritage Walton Dam is important to the town's industrial heritage. Somersall Lane Conservation Area, as well as including the residential areas of Somersall Lane, also has Somersall Farm and Weir within its boundary (which are within the park).</p>
<p>Urban-Rural Fringe Issues Dense areas of population to the north, south and east. Open countryside to the west. Well-managed environment due to park status.</p>
<p>Previously Developed Land No known areas of previously developed land.</p>

Appendix 3: Policy and Research Background

National Planning Policy Statements:

- PPS 1 – *Delivering Sustainable Development (and Supplement)* (2005)
- PPS 3 – *Housing* (2006)
- PPS7 – *Sustainable Development in Rural Areas* (2004)
- PPS9 – *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation* (2005)
- PPG15 – *Planning and the Historic Environment* (1994)
- PPG17 – *Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation* (2002)

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)

- *Green space strategies: a good practice guide* (2004)
- *Start with the park: creating sustainable urban green spaces in areas of housing growth and renewal* (2005)
- *It's our space: a guide for community groups working to improve public space* (2007)
- *What makes an eco-town?* (2008)

Natural England

- *Green Infrastructure and the Urban Fringe: Learning lessons from the Countryside In and Around Towns programme*
- *What is Green Infrastructure?*

Regional Planning Policy

- East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2005)
- Draft Review of the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2006)
 - *Policy 27: Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure*
 - *Policy 28: Priorities for Enhancing the Region's Biodiversity*

Regional Studies and Documents

- *East Midlands Green Infrastructure – Phase 1 Scoping Study – Final Report* Published (EMDA, September 2006): www.emra.gov.uk/what-we-do/regional-communities-policy/sustainable-development/environment/publications
- *Green Infrastructure in the East Midlands – A Public Benefit Mapping Project* (EMDA, July 2006): www.emra.gov.uk/what-we-do/regional-communities-policy/sustainable-development/environment/publications
- *The Regional Forestry Framework for the East Midlands* (2005) www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7bbfng
- *Creating Successful Green Infrastructure Plans: Best Practice from the East Midlands and the River Nene Regional Park* (2007) www.rnrp.org/

Local Planning Policy and Evidence Base

Chesterfield Borough Council:

- *Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006)*
- *Parks & Open Spaces Strategy (2002)*
- *Open Space & Play Provision Supplementary Planning Document (2008)*
- *Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Play Strategy, 2007 – 2012 (2008)*
- *Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009)*
- *Rother Greenways Strategy (prepared by Groundwork Creswell, 2002)*
- *A Greenprint for Chesterfield (prepared by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, 2003)*
- *Chesterfield Greenprint Baseline Study (prepared by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, 2004)*
- *River Rother Wildlife Strategy (1994)*
- *Pools Brook and Doe Lea Wildlife Strategy (1994)*
- *Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey for the Staveley Area Action Plan (prepared by consultants, 2008)*
- *Land South of Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield: Masterplan Document (prepared by consultant 2006)*
- *Chesterfield Waterside Development Brief (prepared by consultants, 2006)*
- *A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire (work ongoing, likely to be published and adopted by the council in Spring 2009)*

Derbyshire County Council

- *Derbyshire County Council Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2006)*
- *The Landscape Character of Derbyshire (2003)*
- *Staveley Area Action Plan: Landscape Character and Green Infrastructure Guidance (2008)*
- *East Derbyshire Greenways Strategy (1998) (prepared for DCC by Land Use Consultants Transport for Leisure & Les Lumsdon)*

Other Documents

- *Creating Sustainable Communities: Greening the Gateway (DCLG, 2004)*
- *Creating Sustainable Communities: Greening the Gateway – Implementation Plan (DCLG, 2005):*
- *Green Infrastructure Planning Guide (www.greeninfrastructure.eu)*
- *Creating a Setting for Investment: Economic Landscapes (CSI, 2008)*
- *Lowland Derbyshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2008)*
- *A Strategy for the restoration & development of the Chesterfield Canal (Chesterfield Canal Partnership)*

Appendix 4: Chesterfield Greenprint: Priority Habitats

A Biodiversity Greenprint for Chesterfield: Priority habitats, flagship species and their relationship²⁷

The ticks indicate which priority habitat each priority species occurs in.

Habitats /Species	Wildflower-rich grassland	Rivers & streams	Standing Waters – lakes, ponds and canals	Broad – leaved woodland	Hedge-rows	Wet grassland	Urban and post industrial habitats	Swamptall-herb fen and reedbed	Gardens and allotments
White-clawed crayfish		✓	✓						
Bats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water vole		✓	✓			✓	✓		
Skylark	✓					✓	✓		
Grass snake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bluebell				✓	✓				

Wildflower-rich Grassland

If grassland has not been treated with fertiliser or herbicide, or seeded with amenity grasses it may be rich in wild grasses and flowers (unimproved and semi-improved grassland). Areas of unimproved grassland have declined in the Borough in recent years due to pressures from other land uses including, intensive agriculture and extensive industrial use. Patches of wildflower-rich grassland are scattered throughout the Borough, mostly in non-agricultural settings such as reclaimed open-cast sites, railway lines, roadside verges, canal banks, allotments, parks, cemeteries and derelict land.

Rivers and Streams

There are few lowland rivers and streams in England that could be described as natural. Most have been modified for flood defence, navigation or development, resulting in the loss of their natural banks, meanders and shallows. However, they are still one of our most important habitats for wildlife, especially when they adjoin wetland habitats such as wet meadows, reedbeds or woodland. Rivers and their wetlands are important for many species including water voles and white-clawed crayfish, both priority species in Chesterfield. Rivers and streams also act as corridors for the movement of wildlife linking it to other areas of countryside.

The wildlife of rivers and streams faces a number of threats including culverting, canalisation, building on riverbanks, pollution and invasion from non-native species. Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam are extremely invasive and can take over whole river systems and obliterate all other bankside vegetation. Introduced American signal crayfish and mink are also a major problem for the native white-clawed crayfish and the water vole, as described in later sections.

²⁷ Taken from the *Greenprint for Chesterfield* (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust).

Standing waters – Ponds, Lakes and Canals

Standing waters, which include ponds, lakes and canals, support a very wide variety of species, many of which are entirely dependent on them for all or part of their life cycles. They can support a wide range of plant and animal communities including aquatic and marginal vegetation, wet grassland, trees and shrubs on their edges. These support species including frogs, newts, dragonflies, water beetles and plants such as common water starwort, yellow water lily and spiked water milfoil. Those ponds and lakes that have developed naturally are of the highest value for wildlife. However, sympathetically designed man-made ponds and lakes can be very valuable, particularly in urban areas.

Broad-leaved Woodland

All broad-leaved woodland is valuable for wildlife, but some types are particularly important. Ancient woodland is that which has existed since at least 1600. It is probably our most important wildlife habitat, harbouring a unique and diverse range of plants and animals, some of which are found only in woodland of this age. Secondary semi-natural woodland is that which has regenerated naturally (i.e. has not been planted) since 1600, and is old enough to have developed a diverse flora and fauna. These are the most important types of woodland for wildlife, but planted woodlands can also be valuable habitats, particularly if they are made up of species that naturally occur in the local area. There are approximately 300 hectares of woodland in Chesterfield. Less than 15% of this area is considered Ancient woodland and a further 15% are plantations on Ancient woodland sites. Most of these plantations are broadleaved woodland (60-70% Forestry Commission figures).

Woodland plants are diverse and include bluebell, early purple orchid, common gromwell, columbine, dog violet and cowslip. These in turn support many invertebrates, including speckled wood and white letter hairstreak butterflies. Birds such as woodpeckers, song thrush, bullfinch and nuthatch, and mammals such as stoat, badger, fox and shrew all live in woodland. Dead wood is vital for many invertebrates, fungi, ferns and lichens, but is often removed in the name of tidiness and for safety reasons.

Hedgerows

Hedgerows are not only important habitats in their own right, but they also play a vital role as wildlife corridors. Mammals such as stoats, weasels, shrews, voles and bats all use hedgerows both as a home and a highway. An ancient hedgerow can also provide an indication of historical field patterns and parish boundaries. Large ancient hedgerows made up of native trees and shrubs are the most beneficial to wildlife, although all hedgerows have some value. Ancient hedgerows are often remnants of ancient woodland from over one thousand years ago when modern field patterns were being established. Plant diversity is dependent on origin, past management and continued presence in the landscape, generally the older the hedge the better the diversity. However, more recent hedges can be species-rich depending on their origin, and may therefore be important for wildlife.

Hedgerow trees such as ash, oak and elm grow alongside shrubs such as dogwood, hazel, holly, goat willow and hawthorn. Black bryony, white bryony and dog rose contribute to a year-round display of colour with blossom in the summer and berries in the winter. Hedgerows provide a valuable habitat for many insects such as the brimstone butterfly whose larvae feed on alder buckthorn, and meadow brown, wall, gatekeeper, small skipper and holly blue butterflies to name but a few. Hedgerows are very important for nesting birds and support species such as linnet, tree sparrow, song thrush, bullfinch, yellowhammer, garden warbler, blackcap and whitethroat, all of which are declining.

Wet Grassland

Wet grassland typically occupies sites where the water table is high or those that are subject to periodic flooding, often with ditches that retain the water level. It is home to a diverse range of plants, many of which are unique to this habitat, and provides suitable conditions for many invertebrates and birds. Wet grasslands are important for breeding birds such as lapwing and snipe, which hunt for insects in the soft soil to feed their young. Due to modern farming methods and land drainage, wet grasslands are a nationally scarce habitat,

and a high priority for conservation.

Urban and Post-industrial Habitats

Wildlife is not just restricted to the countryside. Urban habitats provide a wide variety of semi-natural and artificial habitats, green corridors and green spaces, often inter-linked, supporting a variety of species. Many are remnants of countryside incorporated into the town as it grew. However there are other habitats unique to towns and cities, or to areas which have been developed in the past, and these are important refuges for species which are adapted to living in relatively inhospitable conditions. These habitats fall into two main categories:

a. Post-industrial areas such as demolished factory sites, derelict buildings, spoil heaps and disused railways that have been naturally colonised by wild plants and animals. These sites, referred to as 'Brownfield Sites', can often support an array of wildlife and can be biologically richer than an agricultural landscape.

b. Formal green spaces include parks, churchyards, playing fields, school and factory grounds, golf courses and private gardens etc. These often contain examples of other habitats listed in this document such as wildflower grassland or woodland and ponds. However more formal areas, depending on their design, management and planted species, can also support a variety of wildlife, especially birds and invertebrates. These habitats may be thought of as worthless but can often support many rare species. This diversity is often a result of a lack of management and the differences in topography and drainage across a site. A derelict factory site for example may have old buildings, wet areas, and areas colonised by grasses and wildflowers. It may also have soil contaminated with heavy metals, which supports rare metal-tolerant plants. This variety is essential for species like great-crested newts, bats and ground nesting bees that need different habitats for feeding, breeding and winter shelter.

Swamp, tall-herb fen and Reedbeds

Swamp, tall-herb fen and reedbeds include a wide range of vegetation types associated with water, occurring at the margins of reservoirs, ponds, rivers and streams or associated with waterlogged/flushed ground. They are characterised by large bulky plant species including sedges, bulrushes and reeds. They are widespread but scattered and fragmented across the UK. In the past they would have been more common than they are today

Swamps are wet for at least part of the year and are often dominated by sedges, reeds or grasses. Tall-herb fens are permanently waterlogged and generally groundwater fed. These habitats can support a diverse range of species. Reedbeds are species poor fens mainly dominated by one plant such as common reed.

Gardens and Allotments

Garden ponds, hedges, trees and compost heaps all support a diversity of species. Some of these features occur at greater densities than in the wider countryside and could represent a significant biodiversity benefit within urban areas. However the benefits to wildlife are obviously dependent on a number of factors. Research by the London Ecology Unit suggests that bird numbers and diversity decrease as residential density (i.e. reduction in garden size) increases. It is also suggested that garden biodiversity is increased dramatically where a number of larger gardens adjoin each other, where features such as mature trees have been maintained within gardens or where ponds have been created. The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust song thrush survey has shown that 59% of all sightings are in gardens and allotments, indicating that this is an important habitat for common birds. Garden ponds can offer important habitat for amphibians such as the smooth newt and common toads, whilst garden plants such as buddleia can provide a nectar source for common butterflies such as the peacock. Compost heaps, particularly on allotments where there are fewer disturbances, provide essential resting and breeding sites for grass snakes, a priority species in Chesterfield.

Gardens and allotments can form an intricate network of green corridors across an urban area. This network will facilitate the movement of species between areas of high biodiversity value. Gardens that adjoin these areas are particularly important because they may themselves provide an important wildlife resource. Garden ponds are a particularly important wildlife resource in urban areas and should not be underestimated for their importance to amphibians and other wildlife.

Appendix 5: Local Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves

Local Wildlife Sites (including 2 Local Nature Reserves)	
Site Name	Site No.
Ashgate Plantation	CH053
Birdholme Nature Reserve	CH002
Blue Bank Pools and Wood	CH026
Brearley Park Meadows (Local Nature Reserve)	CH061
Breck Farm Water Meadows	CH041
Brierley and Roughpiece Woods	CH046
Brimington Field	CH006
Brockwell Reservoir	CH045
Chesterfield Meadow	CH064
Doe Lea Flash	CH012
Grasscroft Wood	CH004
Holme Brook (Holmebrook Valley Park)	CH062
Hopewell Wood	CH014
Hundall Heap	CH049
Ireland Wildlife Area	CH010
Kings Wood disused railway	CH043
Newbold Spoil Heaps	CH058
Oakfield Avenue Meadow	CH062
Piccadilly Cottages Scrub	CH037
Pinnock (Norbriggs) Flash (Local Nature Reserve)	CH051
Poolsbrook Flash	CH011
Ringwood Lake	CH008
Spital Scrub	CH030
Staveley Sewage Works	CH040
Tapton Fish Pond	CH031
Three Nook Plantation	CH054
Troughbrook Wood	CH009
West Wood and Parkers Wood	CH007
Whittington Hospital Grounds	CH005

Appendix 6: Key Partners and Organisations

Chesterfield Borough Green Infrastructure: Key Partners & Organisations <i>NB: This is not a comprehensive list, there will be other partners, services and organisations that occasionally play a role in GI matters. This list provides an overview of the most relevant.</i>		
Chesterfield Borough Council		
Organisation	Role & Responsibilities	Specific projects within Chesterfield Borough
Planning Services	Formulating borough wide land use policy within the council's Local Development Framework. Controlling development through the planning application process.	Local Development Framework (LDF) – the LDF will provide the strategic planning context for development in the borough, including requirement for Green Infrastructure as part of major development proposals.
Leisure Services	Formulating and implementing strategies for the management and enhancement of the borough's parks, open spaces and allotments.	
Housing	Managing the borough's housing portfolio	
Estates	Managing the borough's land portfolio	
Derbyshire County Council		
Organisation	Role & Responsibilities	Specific projects within Chesterfield Borough
Environmental Services – Conservation and Design Division	Landscape Services	<i>Landscape Character and Green Infrastructure Guidance for the Staveley Area Action</i> - prepared to inform the preparation of the Staveley Area Action Plan. <i>Landscape Character of Derbyshire (2003)</i> – provides an assessment of the diversity and character of Derbyshire's landscape.
Environmental Services – Planning and Environment	Greenways Strategy	<i>East Derbyshire Greenways Strategy</i> - provides the context for the development of multi-user routes throughout Eastern Derbyshire.

Division - Countryside Service	Public Rights of Way	<i>Rights of Way Improvement Plan</i> – covering rights of way issues throughout the county.
	Three Valleys Project	Promoting sustainable tourism by way of access to the countryside and wildlife within the Moss, Drone and Rother Valleys. Management of Rights of Way, Greenways, Trans Pennine Trail, Chesterfield Canal, Woodlands within the Borough.

Key Partner Organisations

Organisation	Role & Responsibilities	Specific projects within Chesterfield Borough
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	Derbyshire's leading nature conservation charity.	Surveying and management advice for Local Wildlife Sites. Surveying hedgerows in Chesterfield Borough
Chesterfield Canal Trust	Campaigning for, promoting and restoring the Chesterfield Canal.	Management of activities relating to the canal.
Chesterfield Canal Partnership ²⁸	Restoration, sustainable development and management of the Chesterfield Canal.	<p>Chesterfield Waterside (CCP originated the scheme and continues to play a significant role its evolution).</p> <p>Hollingwood Lock House (conversion and extension of disused lock house into a waterway & community hub).</p> <p>Staveley Town Basin (development of new canal basin and associated facilities including business start up units at Hall Lane, Staveley).</p> <p>Canal Restoration at Staveley (working with DCC Highways to construct new bridges on Hall lane, the Northern Loop and Eckington Road and new canal channel).</p> <p>Engineering Design Studies on Doe Lea Aqueduct (Mastin Moor).</p> <p>Establishing New Social Enterprise (Community Interest Company to generate income to support the canal and secure its long term future).</p>

²⁸ Includes Derbyshire County Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Natural England Chesterfield Borough Council, C, North East Derbyshire District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Bolsover District Council, Environment Agency, British Waterways, Inland Waterways Authority, Chesterfield Canal Trust and local wildlife trusts.

		<p>Also: Working to prepare planning applications, studies in support of planning and grant applications and building community engagement in the project.</p> <p>The Chesterfield Canal with its water, green space and varied habitats (and corridors for migration) provides opportunities for walking, cycling, angling, canoeing, rowing and boating. It is a core element in the areas green infrastructure.</p>
Trans Pennine Trail	Promotion and development of the national multi-user route.	Chesterfield Canal towpath, Staveley Arkwright walking and cycling route and bridleway route.
Groundwork Creswell	To work with partners to improve the quality of the local environment.	Thistle Park – enhancement scheme Brearley Park phase 2.

Voluntary Organisations

Organisation	Role & Responsibilities	Specific projects within Chesterfield Borough
Chesterfield Cycle Campaign	Campaigning for better cycling routes and facilities within Chesterfield Borough.	General promotion of suitable routes for cycling throughout the borough.
Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire Countryside Access Network	Forum for the discussion of Rights of Way issues in North East Derbyshire and implementation of improvements to the Rights of Way network.	
Sorby Natural History Society	Recording wildlife	General recording of wildlife in Chesterfield for inclusion in published atlases
Friends of Groups	Input into the management and development of parks and open spaces.	Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park working with CBC Leisure Services to look for funding and manage the nature reserve

Other Key Organisations (inc. landowners and developers)

Organisation	Role & Responsibilities	Specific projects within Chesterfield Borough
The Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership	The Partnership aims, through the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan, to conserve and enhance local wildlife.	The Partnership promotes and works with a range of organizations in establishing and promoting various biodiversity projects throughout lowland Derbyshire.
Chatsworth	The management of land holdings	Staveley Area Action Plan – key

Settlement Trust (private landowner)	in and around Derbyshire.	landowner working in partnership with Chesterfield Borough Council in formulating development proposals for the former Staveley Works Site (150 ha). Inclusion of Green Infrastructure is likely to be a part of any development proposals.
Robinsons Ltd (private landowner)	The management of land holdings within Chesterfield Town Centre.	Land South of Chatsworth Road Masterplan – this masterplan provides the context for the redevelopment a major former industrial area south of Chatsworth Road. As a strategic walking and cycling route runs through the site.
Chesterfield Waterside Ltd (public private partnership)	The management and development of land holdings within Chesterfield Town Centre.	Chesterfield Waterside - a major, mixed-use regeneration scheme proposed for a 16ha canal-side site next to the A61. Development will be integrated within the canal and riverside setting and provide enhancements to the Green Infrastructure network.
Birchall Estates (private developer)	The management and development of land within Chesterfield.	Ecodome Proposal – planning permission has been granted for the first phase of this major tourism and leisure proposal on the Birch Hall Golf Club/Roughpiece Wood site adjacent to the A1. The proposal may provide opportunities to extend the Green Infrastructure network.

National and regional organisations involved with the promotion or management of Green Infrastructure

Organisation	Role & Responsibilities
Natural England	The conservation, enhancement and management of England's natural environment.
English Heritage	To protect and promote England's built and natural heritage.
Environment Agency	The leading public body in England for the protection and improvement of the environment in, particularly in respect of air, land and water.
Forestry Commission	Responsible for the protection and expansion of forests and woodlands.
Sustrans	The UK's leading sustainable transport charity.

East Midlands Regional Planning Board	Regional planning policy, including policies for regional and sub regional Green Infrastructure.
Alliance SSP	Economic, social and environmental regeneration in North Derbyshire & North Nottinghamshire (due to be disbanded in April 2009).

Appendix 7: Parks & Open Spaces

The following is taken from the Open Space and Play Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which the council adopted in September 2008. It identifies a hierarchy of parks and open spaces. The full SPD is available to view or download at:

www.chesterfield.gov.uk/default.aspx?CATID=557&CID=4939

NB: All the facilities referred to are mapped in the SPD.

Protection of Existing Open Space and Associated Facilities

The policies of the Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) seek to protect a hierarchy of parks and other open space. A Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2002) has been adopted by the council to provide the context, vision and strategic direction for the management and improvement of parks and open spaces and the development of new open space. The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy identified the following hierarchy of parks and open spaces which the council will seek to protect:

- Borough Parks
- Community Parks
- Play Areas
- Allotments

Borough Parks

These are large areas of public open space that in addition to offering recreational opportunities for local residents, also cater for weekend and occasional visits by car and public transport and serve an area of the borough within a travelling distance of around 3.2 kilometres. *Holmebrook Valley Park* (59.85 ha) and *Pools Brook Country Park* (73.92 ha) function as Borough Parks in terms of size and character. Also, although smaller in size, *Queen's Park* (12.74 ha including the Annex) functions as a borough facility and therefore can be considered as a Borough Park.

The council wishes to protect and enhance these Borough Parks, but will not be seeking to create any further Borough Parks.

Community Parks

The Borough also has a number of open spaces that provide a variety of natural features and are large enough to accommodate a wide range of activities, such as outdoor sports, children's play and other recreational pursuits. The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy identified these sites as Community Parks that serve, or have the potential to serve, their local areas according to open space standards. Table 1 lists these Community Parks.

Table 1: Sites serving local areas as Community Parks as identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2002)

Site	Ward	Size (ha)
Brearley Park & Wetlands	Barrow Hill & New Whittington	16.22
Eastwood Park	Hasland	5.61
Hady Playing Field	St Leonards	5.26
Highfield Park	St Helens	9.66
Holmebrook Valley Park	Linacre	59.85
Loundsley Green and Floodwater Area	Loundsley Green	7.90
Pools Brook Country Park	Middlecroft & Poolsbrook	73.92
Queen's Park and Annexe	St Leonards	12.74
Rother Recreation Ground and Washlands Area	Hasland	9.13
Somersall Park	Walton	15.02
Stand Road Park	Moor	7.03
Tapton Park	Brimington South	15.75
Wasps Nest	West	4.64
Whitecotes Playing Field	Rother	7.10

In addition to the Community Parks mentioned above, there are also a number of smaller open spaces in the borough, that in the absence of larger or more appropriate sites in their immediate areas, the Parks and Opens Spaces Strategy suggests ought to be considered as acting as Community Parks. Table 2 lists these sites.

Table 2: Sites acting as Community Parks, as identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2002)

Site	Ward	Size (ha)
Badger Recreation Ground	Brockwell	1.86
Eastwood Recreation Ground	Brimington North	1.81
Inkersall Green Playing Field	Holingwood & Inkersall	4.18
King George V Playing Field	Middlecroft & Poolsbrook	2.01
Langer Lane Recreation Ground	Rother	2.64
Manor Road Recreation Ground	Brimington South	1.58
Ringwood Park	Hollingwood & Inkersall	9.82
Station Road Recreation Ground	Barrow Hill & New Whittington	3.59
Wickens Place Open Space (Mastin Moor Doorstop Green)	Lowgates & Woodthorpe	1.33

It is council policy to ensure that the parks and open spaces identified in Tables 1& 2 are protected and, when opportunities arise, are enhanced.

Play Areas

In addition to Borough and Community Parks there are other smaller areas of public open space, often within housing areas, which provide children's play facilities. These include Local Areas for Play (LAP), which cater for the needs of young children (up to six years

old) and Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP), which are aimed at children from 4 - 8 years old.

The council will seek to protect these facilities as they often provide valuable play space for residents of larger housing areas within an urban environment. For residential development proposals of between 50 – 100 dwellings the council will require the provision of a LEAP and a commuted sum for its maintenance. Section 5 of this SPD provides more information.

Allotments

Across the borough there are 45 ha of allotments (33 ha council owned and 12 ha privately owned) which in plot terms equates to a provision of twice the national average. But there is an uneven distribution of allotment sites throughout the borough, with some communities having a limited provision and others having an excess. Also, according to the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2002), only 2 of these sites are categorised as good and 13 of reasonable quality, while 20 are categorised as poor.

However, it is recognised that allotments provide valuable leisure and recreational opportunities and contribute to the promotion of healthier and more sustainable lifestyles. National planning policy guidance also stresses the importance of all forms of open space in urban areas. Therefore, where a demand for allotments continues to exist, the council's policy is to ensure that the allotment facility is maintained. The council will only permit the loss of allotments (for which there is still a demand) if they are replaced by a site of at least the same quality and accessibility.

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy indicates that in some areas of the borough there may be an over provision of allotments. This, allied with neglect and lack of investment leads the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy to conclude that consideration could be given to alternative types of open space land use. Priority will be given to:

- Local play space for children (such as LAPS or LEAPS)
- Community parks
- Greenways
- Wildlife areas
- Sports pitches
- Woodland

Table 3 below identifies those allotments that may in the long term, if shown to be surplus to requirements, be suitable for these other types of open space.

Table 3. Allotment sites with potential for alternative open space land use

Allotment	Ward	Size (ha)	Potential Alternative Land Use
Goldwell 1 / Goldwell 2 / Westfield	Brockwell	1.19 / 0.73	Community Park
Horns Bridge	St Leonards	1.51	Greenway / Wildlife
Inkersall	Hollingwood & Inkersall	1.66	Children's Play
Middlecroft / Staveley Town	Middlecroft & Poolsbrook	0.91 / 0.97	Children's Play
Stonegravels / Highfields*	St Helens	4.17	Community Park
Campbell Drive*	Barrow Hill & New Whittington	2.0	Children's Play
New Whittington	Barrow Hill & New Whittington	2.60	Children's Play
Barrow Hill	Barrow Hill & New Whittington	1.0	Open Space / Woodlands / Reserve Land for Pitches
Mastin Moor	Lowgates & Woodthorpe	1.35	Woodland / Wildlife
Durley Chine*	Hasland	0.66	Children's Play
Grove Rd,	Moor	3.71	Children's Play
Old Whittington	Old Whittington	2.19	Children's Play
Coronation Road*/ King Street*	Brimington North	1.01 / 2.81	Children's Play
Swaddale Avenue*	S Helens	0.79	Recreation/Children's Play/Wildlife

*Private allotment or smallholding site

Consideration will not be given to development on allotments, other than those uses listed in table 3, unless there is strong evidence to show that the site cannot usefully contribute to the open space needs or deficiencies of the local community.

New Allotment Provision

In areas where there is little or no current provision of allotments, and where demand is known to exist, there may be opportunities to develop new sites on the edge of a built up areas within the open countryside. The areas of deficiency identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy include:

- Linacre Ward
- Loundsley Green Ward
- Dunston Ward
- Walton Ward
- South of Rother Ward
- South of Hasland Ward
- Hollingwood and Inkersall Ward.

Any new allotment provision in the countryside would have to be in accordance with policy EVR 2 (Development in the Open Countryside) of the Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan which aims to protect local character and the attractiveness of the countryside.

Sports Pitches and Playing Fields

There should be a selection of pitches and sports facilities throughout the borough which cater for sports such as football, cricket, rugby and tennis. Consequently, planning permission will not be granted for development which would involve the loss of land previously or currently used for sports or recreation purposes (including playing fields associated with educational establishments and private companies) unless:

- Alternative replacement facilities of equivalent or better quantity, quality and community benefit can be provided prior to the commencement of development; or
- The proposals are so minor in scale that they do not adversely affect the use of the playing field; or
- The facility is surplus to requirements, in which case provision for other forms of open space or sport and recreation that are in deficit will be sought on part of the site.

The council will consult Sport England on any planning applications that would result in the loss of playing fields and sports facilities. Such applications would be opposed by Sport England unless it meant that there was no overall detriment to the quantity and quality of provision in the borough.

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy identifies a qualitative and quantitative deficiency in outdoor sports space, particularly in respect to Junior Football. However, the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy indicates that existing public open space areas can accommodate the need for new outdoor sports facilities in the borough (taking into account school and private sector provision).

Informal Areas of Open Space

In addition to the formal types of open space, the Parks and Open Space Strategy identifies other more informal areas of natural and open space containing amenity or wildlife value that the council will seek to protect from development, such as open countryside, wildlife sites, churchyards, river/canal corridors and greenways. These areas are outside the scope of this Supplementary Planning Document but are protected by the various environmental polices (EVR 1 to EVR 14) of the Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006).

Appendix 8: Woodland Estate Inventory (woodland owned by Chesterfield Borough Council)

MATURE WOODLAND SITES							
Site Name	Departmental Ownership	Site Area (Ha)	Grid Ref X	Grid Ref Y	Year(s) Planted	No. of trees planted	Type
Skull and Crossbones Copse	Landscape Services	0.2	438,980.18	372,288.67			OSNW
Walton Plantation	Landscape Services	2.3	436,376.29	369,907.06			Plantation/OSNW
Walton Flood Water Area	Landscape Services	0.3	435,988.48	370,279.48			OSNW
Green Cheese Pond (Somersall)	Landscape Services	0.8	435,431.77	370,108.09			Parkland copse
West Wood and Phipps Open Holes	Landscape Services	25	441.58	372.59			ASNW/PAWS/OSNW
Hady Plantation	Landscape Services	1.7	440,140.70	370,251.85			Plantation/OSNW
Linacre Road Copse	Housing	0.3	435,221.20	372,174.68			OSNW
Woodside Close Copse	Housing	0.3	435,739.31	371,704.96			OSNW/Plantation
Sycamore Avenue (Boythorpe)	Housing	0.6	437,274.35	370,596.33			OSNW
Oxclose Plantation	Estates	1.1	435,429.84	371,407.57			Plantation/OSNW
Dunston Road Verge Area	Estates	0.5	436,787	374,589			OSNW
Cobnar Wood	Estates	15.5	435,556.50	375,240.30			ASNW/PAWS
Roecar Wood and Ponds	Estates	3	435,728	375,561			ASNW/OSNW
Carr Wood	Estates	3	435,720.99	375,503.70			OSNW
Broombank Road Wood	Estates	4.2	436,532.13	375,140.23			OSNW
Thornfield Depot, Sheffield Road, Stonegravels	Estates	0.2	438,401.50	372,045.99			Plantation
Troughbrook Wood	Estates	1.9	441,790.58	373,960.35			ASNW
Elm Street Copse	Estates	0.6	441,206.72	373,768.65			OSNW
Wheeldon Mill Plantation	Estates	1.6	439,505.91	373,510.08			Plantation/OSNW
Plover Wood	Estates	1	440,597.68	371,658.03			OSNW
Ballarat Wood	Estates	0.37	440,066	375,819			Plantation/OSNW
Smeckley Wood Close Woodland	Estates	1.8	436,631	375,069			OSNW
Total		66.07					
ANSW/PAWS Total		36.4					

DEVELOPING SITES							
Site Name	Departmental Ownership	Site Area (Ha)	Grid Ref X	Grid Ref Y	Year(s) Planted	No. of trees planted	Type
Chatsworth Court, Middle Croft	Housing	1.32	443,052	373,807	1997/98 restock	900	Plantation
Pullman Close, Lowgates	Housing	0.68	443.829	375.155	1996/97	1830	Plantation
Campbell Drive, Barrow Hill	Housing	0.56	441.663	375.663	1995/96	1600	Plantation
Loundsley Green	Housing	0.26	436,125	372,329	1999/00		Plantation
Poolsbrook Hotel Plantation	Estates	6.25	444,452	373,338			Plantation
Poolsbrook Disused Railway Plantation	Estates	1.4	444,132	373,420			Plantation
River Drone, Brushes	Estates	0.94	437,444	375,766	1996/97	450	Plantation
Cemetery Lane	Landscape Services	0.83	443,191	373,750			Plantation
Bevan Drive Phase1 Inkersall	Landscape Services	0.65	441,769	373,063	1992/93	2090	Plantation
Bevan Drive Phase2 Inkersall	Landscape Services	0.75	441,769	373,063	1993/94	400	Plantation
Hady playing fields, Hady	Landscape Services	0.82	439.614	370.573	1994/95	3400	Plantation
Damon Drive, Brimington	Landscape Services	0.56	440,495	378,824	1994/95	2200	Plantation
Rother Recreation Ground	Landscape Services	4.3	438,630	369,645	1996/97	1700	Plantation
Skull and Crossbones Corner, Tapton	Landscape Services	0.69	438.986	372.2883	1994/95		Plantation
Westwood Lane, Brimington	Landscape Services	0.66	441,225	371,864	1997/98	600	Plantation
Spital Lane, Spital	Landscape Services	0.88	440,138	370,198	1997/98	450	Plantation
Hady Lane, Hady	Landscape Services	1.21	439.614	370.573	1997/98	760	Plantation
Crow Lane, Tapton	Landscape Services	0.7	440,138	370,198	1998/99	1200	Plantation
Rother Recreation Ground 2	Landscape Services	2.2	438,630	369,645	1998/99	20480	Plantation
Highfield Park	Landscape Services	0.8	437,852	372,680	2000/01		Plantation
Gorsey Knowe	Landscape Services	0.42	437.338	368.949	2000/01	450	Plantation
Tapton Park	Landscape Services	0.25	438.987	372.177	2001/02	460	Plantation
Poolsbrook Nature Reserve Plantation	Landscape Services	6.8	443.57	372.92			
Poolsbrook Country Park	Landscape Services	0.35	443194	373,684	2001/02		Plantation
Total		34.28			Grand Total (Woodlands)		96.79

9. Maps

1	Chesterfield in Context
2	Key Green Infrastructure Assets
3	Biodiversity – Species
4	Biodiversity – Habitats
5	External Linkages
6	Green Infrastructure Enhancements
7	Landscape Study Areas
8	Landscape Character of Derbyshire