Broxtowe Borough Council

Broxtowe Borough Council

Green Infrastructure Strategy

2015 – 2030

Summary Document

GROUNDWORK GREATER NOTTINGHAM

Deputy Chief Executive's Department

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the Councils Green Infrastructure Strategy 2015 -2030. It also gives information on how the strategy was developed and how the strategy will be used.

It is intended to provide a concise overview but for full detail, reference should be made to the main document. The strategy defines Green Infrastructure as :-

"a network of living multi-functional natural and semi natural features, green spaces, rivers, canals and lakes that link and connect villages, towns and cities. It provides a holistic and sustainable approach to viewing the natural environment and landscape and provides multiple benefits for people, wildlife and local communities."

Background

The need for a strategy was identified in the Broxtowe Council's Corporate Plan 2012-2016.

After research and internal discussion the basic form of a strategy, which would address the issues relevant for the Borough of Broxtowe, began to take shape. The main emphasis for this first strategy was to look at access routes, amenity and wildlife sites and to establish the corridors which connected these assets. Connectivity is central to the concept of Green Infrastructure and so this approach was taken in order to protect these connections and to identify gaps and opportunities to improve the network.

It became clear at an early stage that the most significant practical outcomes of the strategy would be to inform planning decisions, identify opportunities to improve the network and to provide information on how the Broxtowe network contributed to the county and national picture.

The strategy was produced by Groundwork Greater Nottingham working in partnership with officers from the Borough Council. This had the added benefit of an independent third party looking at the issues.

Benefits of Green Infrastructure

There are many direct and indirect benefits associated with a healthy green infrastructure network and some benefits overlap into different areas:-

1. Economic Benefits

    - Inward investment, property and land values - good quality green features can increase land values and make areas attractive to businesses and home buyers.
    - Visitor spending – the offer of high quality green infrastructure to visitors can increase spending on food sales, local transport and accommodation.
    - Environmental cost saving – green infrastructure can provide features which address issues such as flooding, pollution, biodiversity loss and mitigation of temperature extremes.
    - Health economic benefits – good quality green space encourages exercise with associated physical and mental benefits. Use of green space encourages local spending and has a beneficial effect on health costs.
    - Market sales – examples include food production and forestry products which can generate local income.
    - Employment generation and labour productivity – green infrastructure can create work both in the creation of new features and in the maintenance of features. Generally employees who work close to green spaces are less likely to suffer stress and ill health.

2. Environmental Benefits

    - Improving air quality and noise pollution - tree planting can improve air quality and reduce particulates.
    - Urban heat island effect – vegetation can help reduce temperature peaks in built up areas.
    - Land regeneration – land can often be brought into use by creation of green infrastructure. An example would be the use of a brownfield site for wildlife or amenity land.
    - Hydrological effects and flooding – green infrastructure can often provide opportunities to help control peak flows by use of wetlands, wet grasslands and other features to hold back water in very wet conditions.
    - Ecological benefits/biodiversity and habitats – wildlife needs connection networks to be sustainable and green infrastructure provides a range of varied sites which are links in the chains which form these network connections.
    - Erosion control – use of green areas and vegetation can control soil erosion, one example being the stabilisation of river banks with tree planting.

3. Social Benefits

    - Health and well-being – quality green space provides opportunities for exercise, leisure activities and sustainable transport. All these activities contribute to physical and mental wellbeing with associated health cost benefits.
    - Recreation and amenity value – green infrastructure often provides a focal point for local sports activity and play providing opportunities for social connections and to learn about local culture and heritage.
    - Community development – green sites can provide a sense of place, local identity and pride to encourage community involvement and social interaction.
    - Education resource – green infrastructure provides opportunities for wider education for example how local wildlife networks fit in with the bigger picture.
    - Local food – allotments, gardens, orchards and agricultural land play an important role in increasing access to healthy local food.

Methodology

The initial study looked at defining the current assets such as amenity land, wildlife sites, access and sustainable transport routes, water based connections and flooding (Blue Infrastructure), tourism, heritage and honeypot sites and potential growth and development sites.

The study also looked at potential needs and opportunities for each of the asset types. The development of the strategy also prompted a separate Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping study organised by the Nottinghamshire County Council's Biodiversity Officer. This resulted in the collection of wildlife site information and suggestions for improvements which were incorporated into the document.

By producing this information in layers and overlaying onto a base map, two primary corridors were identified and seventeen secondary corridors.

The main document has a section for each of these corridors which identify the location, existing assets and opportunities for change and enhancement. The width of corridors is not defined and will vary depending upon the location. The document emphasises the need for proper environmental assessment of all potential sites as the corridor approach in isolation will not pick up all important wildlife sites.

Consultation

This base document went out for public consultation from May to July 2015 and this resulted in 41 responses containing nearly 200 specific comments. These comments were examined and discussed with partners and where possible and appropriate changes were made to the document. The most significant of these changes included additional corridors and again, following discussion internally and externally, six new corridors were added.
An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken and is included as Appendix 1 in the main document.

The Final Strategy

The final strategy identifies the following corridors:-

PRIMARY CORRIDORS

1.1 Trent Valley Corridor
1.2 Erewash Valley Corridor

SECONDARY CORRIDORS

2.1 Brinsley Brook Corridor
2.2 Nether Green, Beauvale Brook and Colliers Wood Corridor
2.3 Giltbrook Corridor
2.4 Watnall Coppice to Kimberley Cutting Corridor
2.5 Kimberley Central Corridor
2.6 A610 Swingate Corridor
2.7 Nuthall Cutting and Kimberley Railway Corridor
2.8 Kimberley Cutting Corridor
2.9 Nottingham Canal Corridor
2.10 Bramcote Corridor and Boundary Brook Corridor
2.11 Erewash to Wollaton Corridor
2.12 Stapleford to Chilwell Urban Corridor
2.13 Langley Mill to Kimberley Corridor
2.14 Toton Sidings Corridor
2.15 Sellers Wood and New Farm Wood Corridor
2.16 Central Cossall to Strelley Corridor
2.17 Underwood to Beauvale Priory Corridor
2.18 Stoney Lane to Aldercar
2.19 Hall Lane to Brinsley Hill
2.20 Smithurst Road and Daisy Farm, Giltbrook
2.21 Trowell to Kimberley
2.22 A52 corridor south east of Stapleford
2.23 Toton Sidings to Chilwell

Map 28 attached from the main document shows the location of these corridors. The strategy identifies the location in more detail. Each corridor has a sheet which lists existing assets, opportunities for change and opportunities for enhancement. Please see the main document for the detail of each corridor. An example of the information available is included in Appendix 1.

How the information will be used

The strategy will enable the council's planning team to adapt the alert system so that planning enquiries will identify any corridors near to an application site. This will then raise awareness of a range of issues and opportunities associated with that corridor. One major advantage of having the strategy is that the existence of major corridors will be clear at the planning enquiry stage so that appropriate mitigation can be built in to any application at an early stage.

The strategy will also be used to identify potential projects when funding opportunities arise and it will help in supporting funding bids. The strategy also identifies how the borough links in with county and national initiatives so giving a broader context to the Boroughs network.

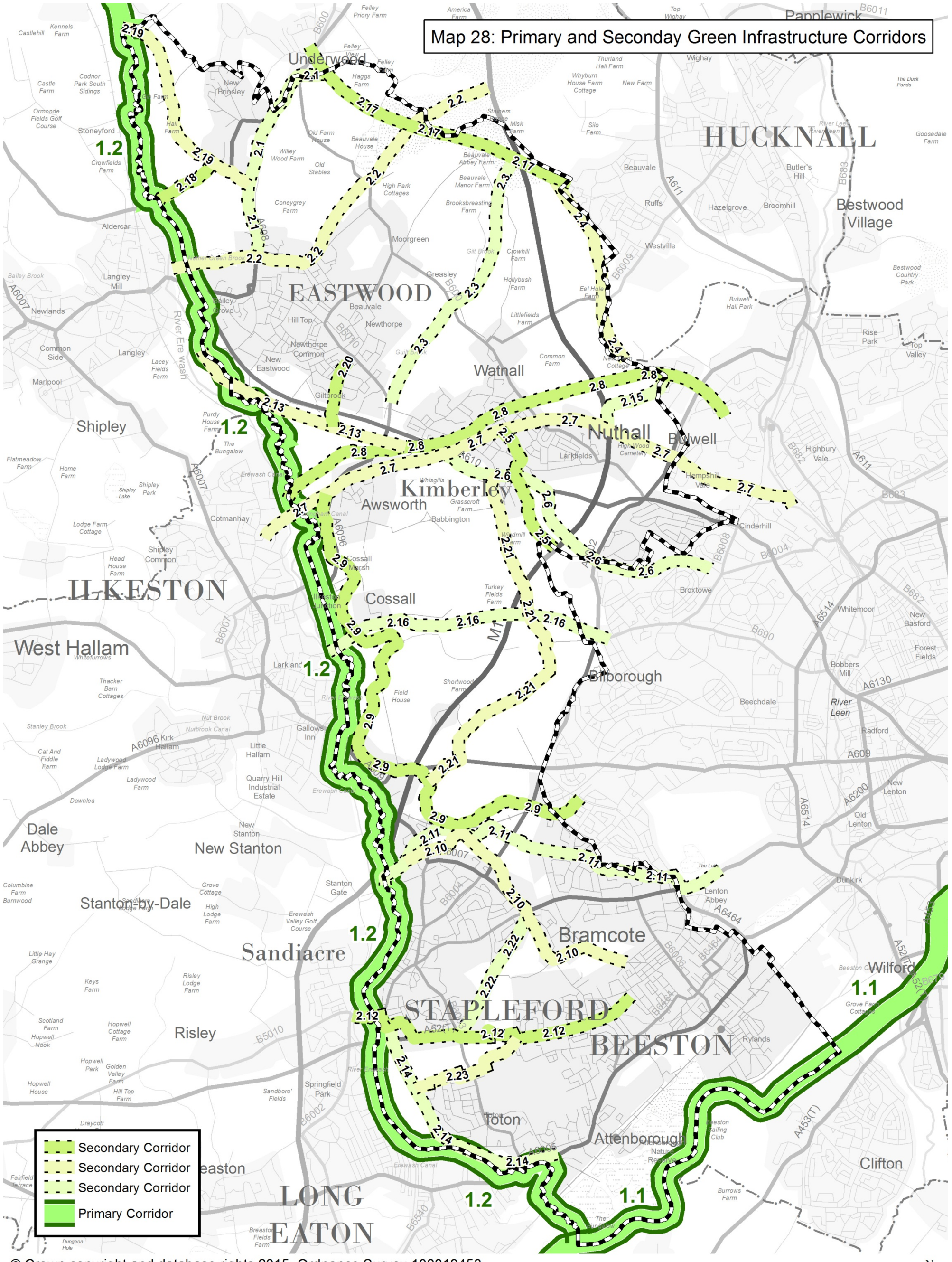
The strategy will not replace the need for proper environmental appraisal but it will play a significant part in enhancing the environmental and economic assets of the borough, so enhancing quality of life.

The Future

It is accepted that this document, whilst providing a significant assessment of the Green Infrastructure in the borough, will need to be updated as part of an evolving process. Over time it is hoped that the strategy will bring together a range of aspirations so effectively replacing documents such as the Green Spaces Strategy and the Nature Conservation Strategy.

A brief exploratory study by Groundwork Greater Nottingham indicated that Green Infrastructure may contribute around 15 million pounds to the local economy. More work is needed to refine this information and enable areas to be identified which may have growth potential.

Map 28: Primary and Seconday Green Infrastructure Corridors



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Appendix 1

CORRIDOR 2.3: Giltbrook

Giltbrook corridor follows the line of the Giltbrook south to north from the A610 at Giltbrook towards the M1 and Broxtowe Borough Boundary with Ashfield District Council.

Existing assets to protect

Amenity

Watnall Green Open Space, Watnall

Wildlife and Biodiversity
Biodiversity Mapping:

Neutral grassland (unimproved)
Calcareous grassland (semi-natural)
Parkland and scattered trees
Broadleaved woodland (semi natural)
Local Wildlife Sites:
Watnall Coppice
Crowhill Farm Grasslands
Crowhill Farm House Pasture
Sledder Wood
Sledder Wood Meadows
Church Road Meadow, Bogend
Watnall Wood Pasture
Gilt brook fields
Newthorpe derelict grassland
Watnall wood
Local Geological Sites:
Watnall Wood
Church Lane Quarry
Local Nature Reserves:
None
SSSIs:
Sledder Wood Meadows
Ancient Woodland:
The Coppice
TPOs:
None

Access and sustainable transport

Multiple public rights of way to the south of Eastwood linking Eastwood with Kimberley.
Links to the Robin Hood Way.
Access routes are sparse in the north near to Greasley.

Blue Infrastructure

Giltbrook

Heritage Features

Close to the remains of Greasley Castle.
A number of listed buildings located in the vicinity.

Reference Code 2.3	Opportunities for Change
DE32	**Potential Development sites** *Giltbrook Industrial Park Giltway Giltbrook*

	Site comprises of new employment units and is currently well used. **Amenity** Lack in provision of amenity, parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities and natural greenspace. **BOM** Wetland opportunity M13
DH3	*Wade printers (and adjacent land) Baker Road, Newthorpe* Could be suitable if green belt policy changes 200 potential dwellings **Amenity** Lack in provision of amenity, parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities and natural greenspace.
DH188	*Land at Watnall* Non deliverable **Amenity** Lack in provision of amenity, parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities and some current provision and access to natural greenspace. **BOM** Grassland opportunity G12
DH206	*East of Baker Road/North of Nottingham Road Giltbrook* Site at risk of flooding 283 potential dwellings **Amenity** Lack in provision of amenity, parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities and natural greenspace. **BOM** Wetland opportunity M13
DH229	*North of Gilt Hill Kimberley* Non deliverable **Amenity** Lack in provision of amenity, parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities and some current provision and access to natural greenspace through AM30 Watnall Wood. **BOM** Wetland opportunity M13 Grassland opportunity G12, G13
	Opportunities for enhancement
Am30	**Amenity** **Watnall Wood (high priority)** Designated wildflower meadow with associated fencing and footpath works Development site DH229 located on and near site. **Gaps in provision of amenity greenspace** Gap in provision to the south east of Eastwood close to Giltbrook.
W1 **W12** **W13** **W13** **G12** **G13**	**Wildlife and Biodiversity** Watnall Coppice, Wilbey Spinney, Moor Green/Beauvale Estate. Enhance and connect these larger blocks of woodland. Improve connectivity in woodlands around Greasley. Watnall Wood. Enhance this piece of ancient woodland - not in EWGS yet. Brooks with the potential for wetland enhancement Large block of grassland (Calcareous) Aim to enhance as significant block New habitat to improve area
	Access and Sustainable Transport

Ac9	The formal bridleway network is poor particularly in the far north of the Borough and there is a need to upgrade footpaths to bridleway or secure permissive routes for cycling wherever this can be achieved. Examples include Brinsley footpath 15 which connects Hall Lane with Brinsley 34 and the bridleway connection (Brinsley 34) between Stoneyford and Brinsley Gin. 9
B22	**Blue Infrastructure** Potential for improvements to be made along the Giltbrook.
	Heritage Features Bennerley Viaduct opportunity to restore Grade 2* listed structure owned by SUSTRANS and bring in to use for access and wildlife.

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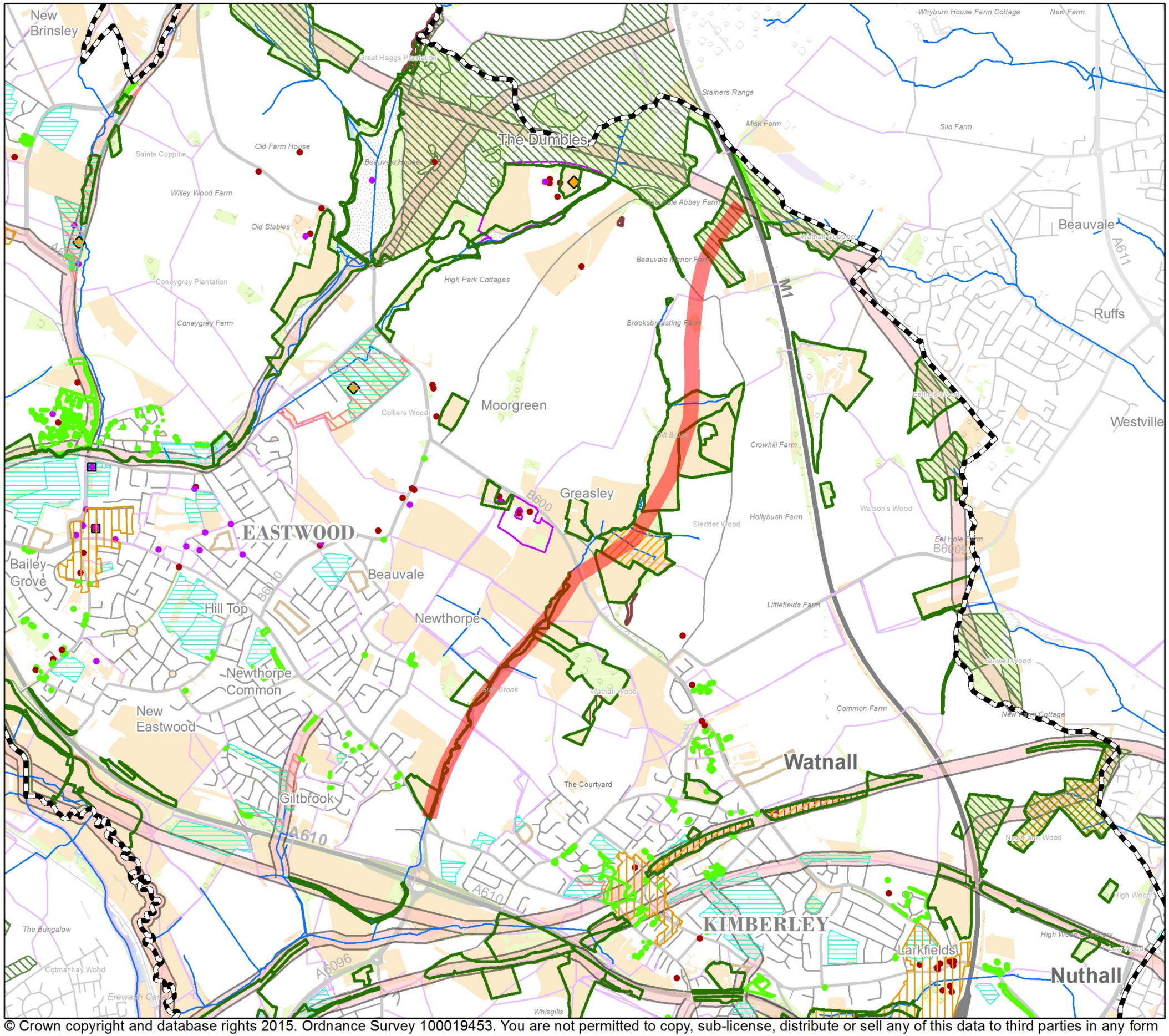
2.3 Giltbrook Existing Assets



Legend

- D.H. Lawrence Points of Interest
- Listed Buildings
- General Tourist Attractions
- Museums
- Single Tree Preservation Order
- Existing Watercourses
- Access Routes
- Green Infrastructure Corridor Map Focus*
- Other Green Infrastructure Corridor*
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Group Tree Preservation Orders
- Conservation Areas
- Existing Open Space
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Nature Reserves
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Regionally Important Geological Sites
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Existing Allotments
- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Existing Grassland
- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Existing Heathland
- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Existing Wetland
- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Existing Woodland

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*The real-world width of corridors vary as appropriate. The line shown is for illustrative purposes only to show the existence of the corridor.

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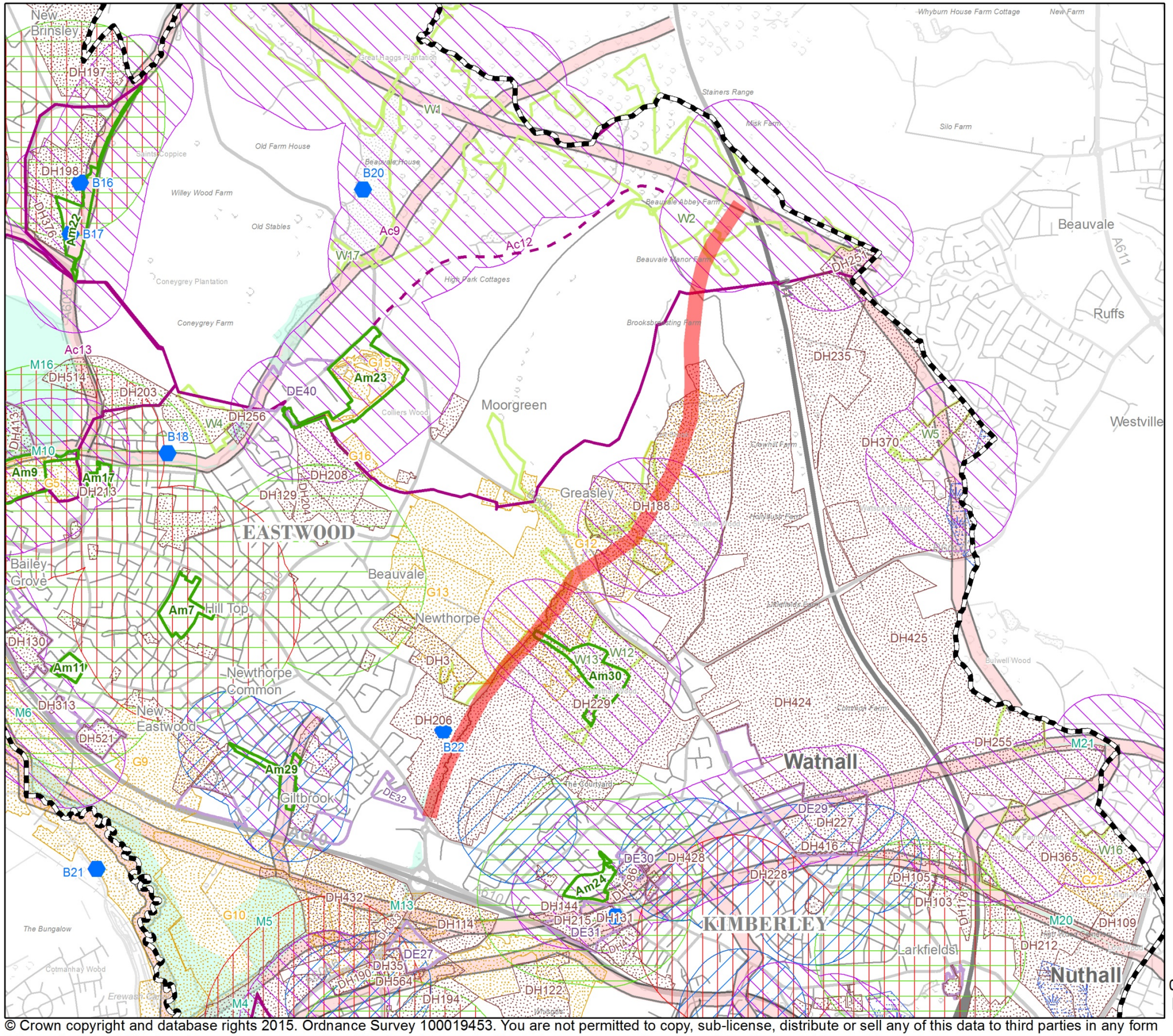
2.3 Giltbrook Opportunities



Legend

- Green Infrastructure Corridor Map Focus*
- Other Green Infrastructure Corridor*
- Blue Infrastructure Opportunities *[Label: B#]*
- Potential Access Links *[Label: Ac#]*
- Opportunity for Enhancement of Amenity Greenspace *[Label: Am#]*
- Amenity Greenspace Buffer (300m)
- Natural Greenspace Buffer (300m)
- Parks and Gardens Buffer (500m)
- Outdoor Sports Facilities Buffer (500m)
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Sites *[Label: DH#]*
- Economic Land Availability Assessments *[Label: DE#]*
- Blue Infrastructure Opportunities *[Label: B#]*
- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Potential Grassland *[Label: G#]*
- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Potential Woodland *[Label: W#]*
- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Potential Wetland *[Label: M#]*
- General Areas for Access Improvements *[Label: Ac#]*

0 0.25 0.5 1
Miles

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