

Broxtowe Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy

Broxtowe Borough Council

Draft report

Prepared by LUC

July 2025



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Broxtowe Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy

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Executive summary

Purpose of the Strategy

LUC was commissioned by Broxtowe Borough Council to develop a refreshed Blue and Green Infrastructure (BGI) Strategy for the Borough. This updated document incorporates a comprehensive approach to Broxtowe's blue infrastructure, providing an integrated evidence base for the Borough.

The overarching aim of the BGI Strategy is to guide the planning of a network of multifunctional blue and green networks within the Borough, helping to deliver a range of environmental, economic and societal benefits. The document underpins wider objectives of the Council, bringing together policies and strategic goals influencing decision making and direction. A partnership approach was adopted, involving both internal and external stakeholders, to help deliver improvements to the quality of the BGI resource in Broxtowe.

The concept of blue and green infrastructure

The Strategy has been updated to reflect changes since publication of the previous green infrastructure (GI) evidence for the Borough in 2015. This BGI Strategy now adopts the term BGI to further emphasise the blue assets within the Borough; including the river and canal networks which cross the landscape of the Borough.

A 'themed' approach was used to explore the existing BGI assets within the Borough, consider key needs and explore deficiencies within the existing network. Four themes were identified, informed by the five Benefit Principles within the 'GI Principles Wheel' developed by Natural England as part of the Green Infrastructure (GI) Framework. The importance of water management forms a cross-cutting focus across the four themes.

The Strategy provides an overview of the current BGI network across the Borough through analysis of existing mapping, available datasets and baseline material. Existing BGI assets and patterns of provision are explored, with key issues and needs identified. This baseline review was completed with the aim of informing the development of spatially-specific BGI zones to target investment.

The spatial approach to blue and green infrastructure in Broxtowe

Using the understanding of the distribution of BGI assets combined with areas of local needs, six BGI zones were developed to help direct the future delivery and investment in BGI across the Borough.

The six BGI zones are listed below:

- A610 Urban Corridor;
- Babbington Rolling Farmlands;
- Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe;
- Eastern Farmed Wooded Fringe;
- Erewash Valley; and
- River Trent Corridor.

The BGI zones are spatially specific to the Borough and identify areas where similar and unified BGI interventions offer the opportunity to enhance the BGI network at the strategic scale. The BGI zones helped to guide the identification of BGI opportunities and the creation of the action plans.

Development of the five-year action plan

Each of the six BGI zones provide a streamlined approach to the identification and delivery of BGI interventions. Their aim is provide a framework for action to help policymakers, developers, community groups and residents to deliver appropriate, multifunctional and resilient BGI across Broxtowe.

The BGI Strategy includes a five-year action plan, structured by BGI zone, to promote the future delivery of BGI across the Borough. A number of actions are identified within each BGI zone, including three 'priority actions', demonstrating a variety of project types and costs. The intention is for these actions to be taken forward by various partners through various delivery mechanisms or when funding becomes available. Whilst some actions are spatially specific, the principles of other key actions offer the opportunity to be replicated across the Borough.

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 LUC was commissioned by Broxtowe Borough Council to develop a refresh and update of the Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy for the Borough. This revised document (herein referred to as the 'BGI Strategy') aims to ensure a more balanced method to infrastructure planning, incorporating a comprehensive approach to the Borough's blue infrastructure. The integrated document updates and replaces the information included within the previous GI Strategy. Consideration of both blue and green infrastructure (BGI) within this updated Strategy provides an integrated evidence base for the Borough.

1.2 The overarching aim of the BGI Strategy is to guide the planning of a network of multifunctional green and blue networks within the Borough, helping to deliver a range of environmental, economic and societal benefits. The document underpins wider objectives of the Council, bringing together policies and strategic goals influencing decision making and direction. A partnership approach was adopted, involving both internal and external stakeholders, to help deliver improvements to the quality of the BGI resource in Broxtowe.

Structure of this report

1.3 The BGI Strategy is structured as follows:

- Introduction
 - Outlines the structure of the document. The concept of BGI is introduced, reflecting on the evolution of approach since publication of the previous GI Strategy in 2015.
- BGI in Broxtowe today
 - Provides an overview of the existing BGI context within the Borough, including an updated understanding of local needs. This chapter explores the existing BGI assets, highlighting patterns of BGI provision and deficiency.
- Spatial approach to BGI zoning and overview of opportunities
 - BGI zones are identified based on the findings of the baseline analysis and local needs assessment.
- Delivery mechanisms

- Identifies delivery mechanisms to help shape the future planning, design, management and delivery of BGI across the Borough.
- Action plans
 - Structured action plans outlining specific actions and potential delivery partners / mechanisms within each BGI zone.

1.4 The BGI Strategy is also supported by the appendices listed below:

- Appendix A: Policy review; and
- Appendix B: Developer checklist.

What is Blue Green Infrastructure?

1.5 Since the publication of the 2015 GI Strategy, the definition of GI has evolved to incorporate wider environmental and societal assets and benefits. The concept has also become increasingly prevalent in national policy and the wider planning context, including with developers and transport authorities.

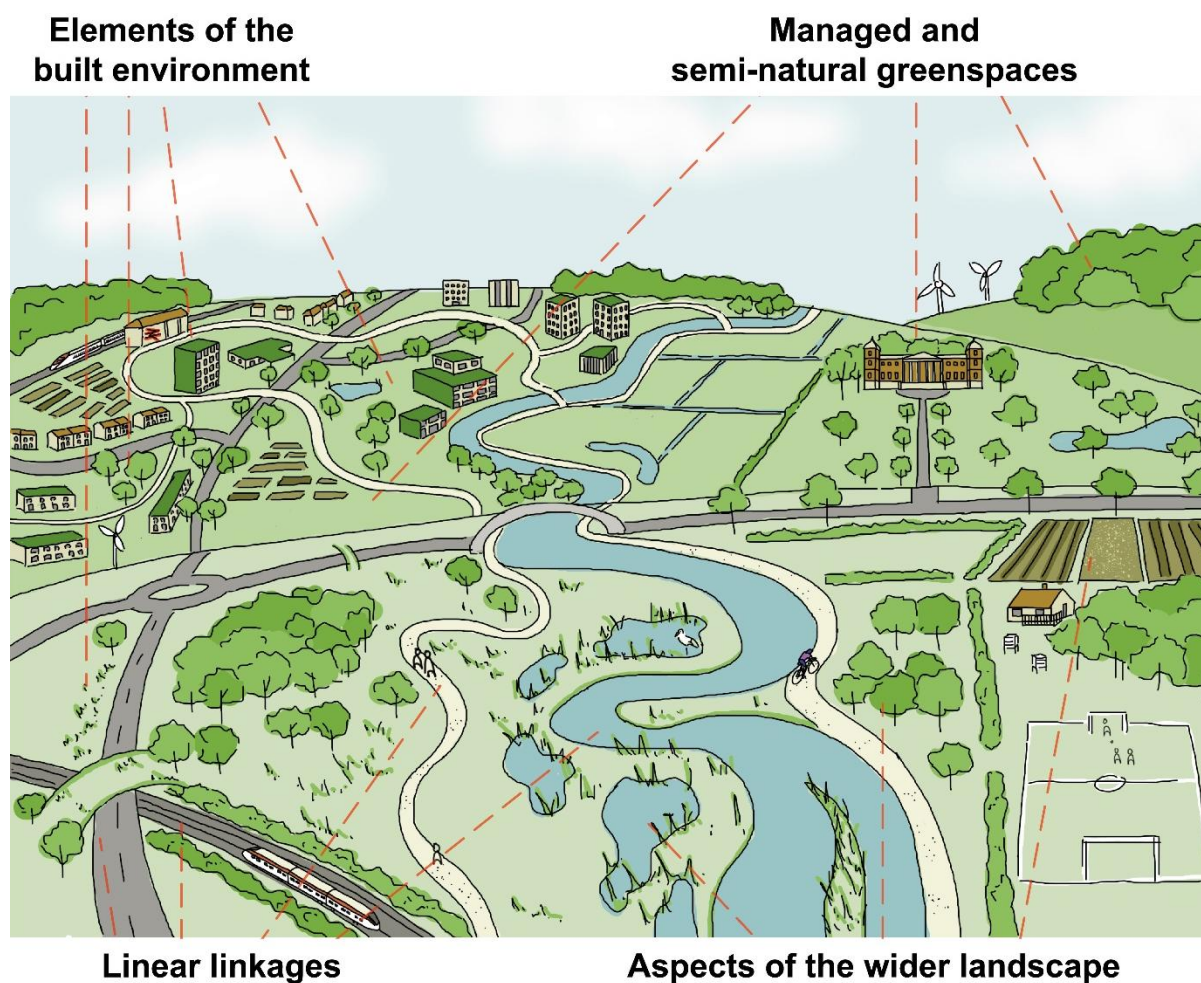
1.6 In addition, GI has been promoted through the 2018 publication of the 25 Year Environment Plan [\[See reference 1\]](#). The Landscape Institute, the chartered body for the landscape profession, has also urged that it has ‘never been more necessary to invest in GI...the role of GI in addressing the challenges of the 21st century cannot be underestimated’ [\[See reference 2\]](#).

1.7 The term GI is also now widely adopted and is used to describe the network of natural and semi-natural features as well as ‘blue’ assets such as rivers, ponds and lakes. GI is not limited to traditional greenspaces such as parks and can involve various interventions to thread nature into streetscapes or to increase connectivity between assets at various landscape scales. This BGI Strategy adopts the term BGI to further emphasise the blue assets within Broxtowe; including the river and canal networks which cross the Borough.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [\[See reference 3\]](#) 2024 defines GI as: ‘A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.’

1.8 The BGI assets considered for the purpose of this BGI Strategy are listed below and displayed visually in **Figure 1.1**.

- Managed and semi-natural greenspaces:
 - Public parks and gardens;
 - Formal and informal open space, including civic spaces, churchyards, amenity greenspace, play space and allotments; and
 - Nature conservation sites.
- Linear linkages:
 - River corridors;
 - Canal networks;
 - Public Rights of Way (PRoW), promoted routes and cycle infrastructure; and
 - Disused railway lines.
- Elements of the built environment:
 - Road verges and street trees;
 - Private gardens; and
 - Urban greening features, including green walls, green roofs and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
- Aspects of the wider landscape:
 - Farmland;
 - Wetlands; and
 - Forestry and woodland.

Figure 1.1: Components of BGI

Benefits of BGI

1.9 BGI is defined by its multifunctionality, with a single asset having the ability to provide a number of benefits to people, wildlife and wider environmental functions. It is this variety of societal, environmental and economic benefits that play an important role in the delivery of sustainable growth.

Planning Practice Guidance **[See reference 4]** states that: 'GI is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits, at a range of scales. For communities, these benefits can include enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, food and energy production, urban cooling, and the management of flood risk. These benefits are also known as ecosystem services.'

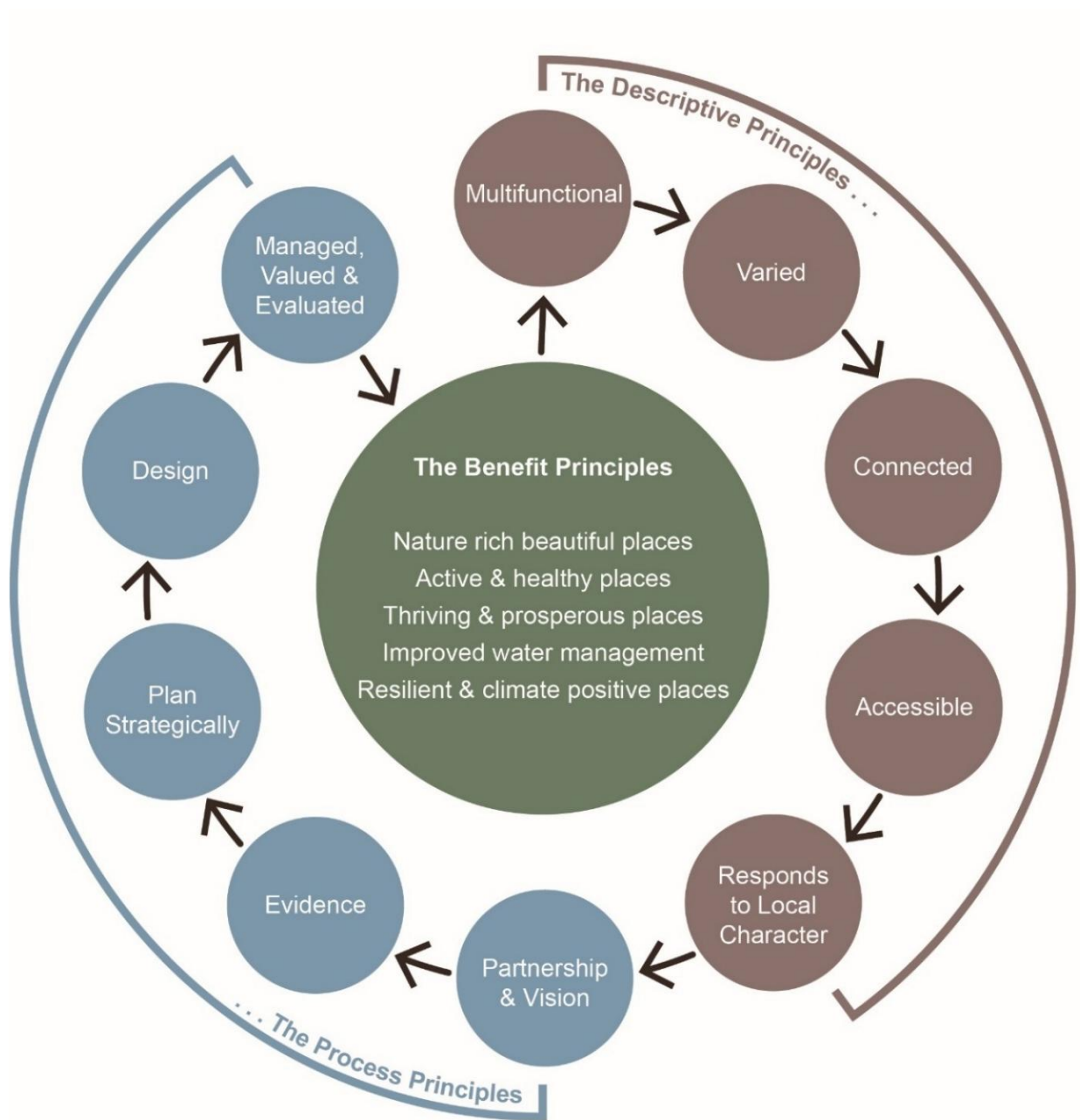
1.10 BGI provides a number of functions, of varying weight and importance. This is particularly relevant where differing purposes conflict with each other. For example, the delivery of biodiversity enhancements (favourable status of statutorily designated sites or species) at select locations should be balanced with the need for active transport or recreation.

1.11 Owing to its multifunctionality, the benefits of high-quality BGI are numerous and far reaching. The 'GI Principles Wheel' developed by Natural England (see **Figure 1.2**) outlines 15 principles to promote the successful delivery of GI. These 15 principles are comprised of the following:

- Five 'Benefits of GI';
- Five 'Descriptive Principles'; and
- Five 'Process Principles'.

1.12 The five 'Benefit Principles' summarise the role GI can play in the creation of high quality attractive places, providing a setting for healthy, active day-to-day living.

Figure 1.2: 'GI Principles Wheel', as developed by Natural England



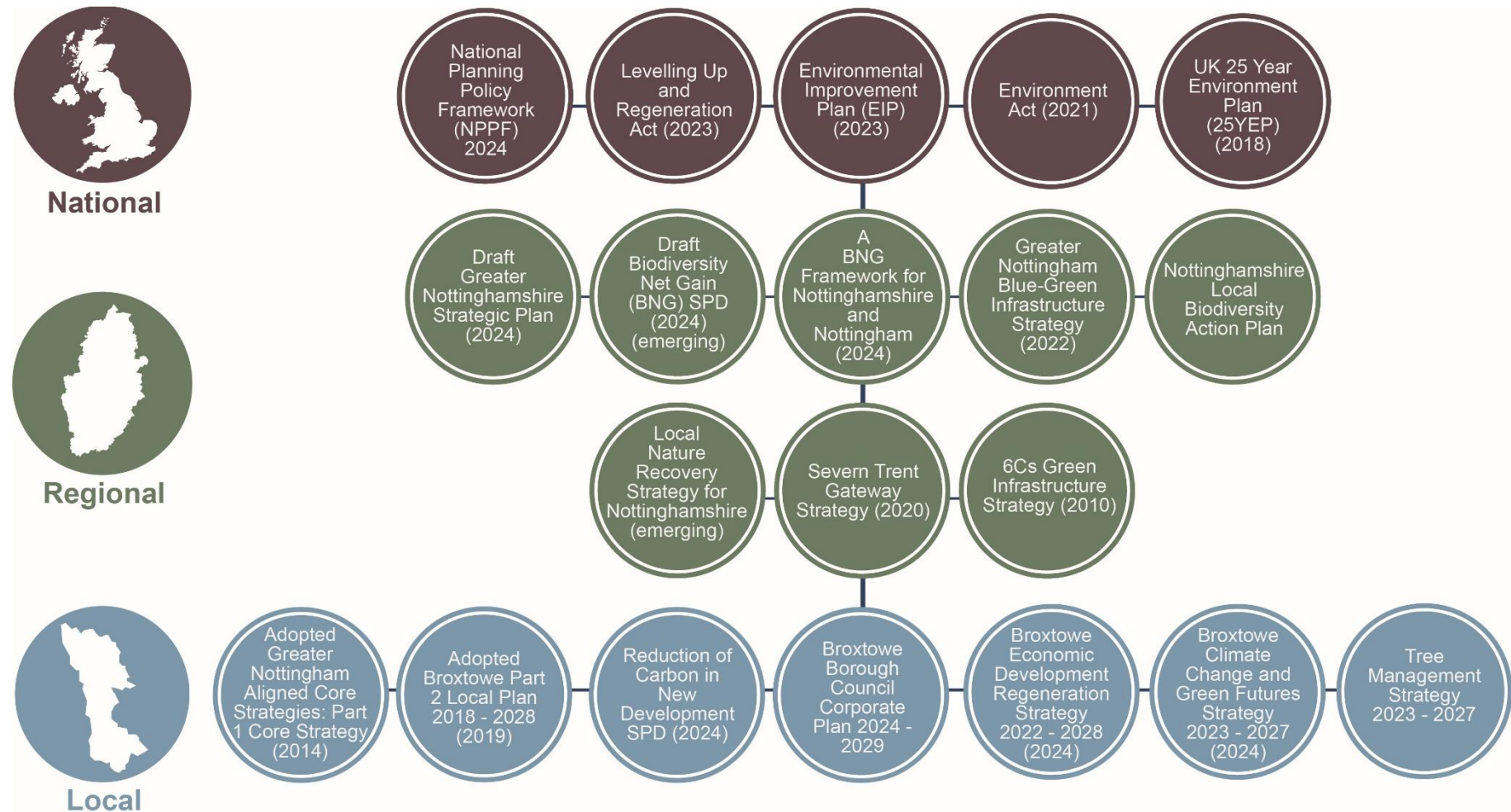
Why does Broxtowe need a revised BGI Strategy?

1.13 Since publication of the 2015 GI Strategy the policy landscape for BGI at a national, regional and local level has undergone significant change. This BGI Strategy aligns with this new policy context (see **Appendix A**). A summary of the policy context is outlined below and displayed visually in **Figure 1.3**.

- Nationally, the 25 Year Environment Plan set the direction for the Environment Act [\[See reference 5\]](#), including long-term targets for environmental improvement; including:
 - A requirement for the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) across England which identify spatial opportunities for nature restoration at regional scales. The Nottinghamshire LNRS is due for publication in Autumn 2025. The opportunities identified within this BGI Strategy have sought to align with the opportunities of the LNRS.
 - The implementation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for all new development. This forms an important delivery mechanism for BGI. In addition, the Act includes a duty on local authorities to review policies regarding nature conservation every five years.
- To support the push for GI up the planning agenda, the Natural England GI Framework [\[See reference 6\]](#) was launched in February 2023, a commitment made within the 25 Year Environment Plan. The tool provides a new mechanism to support both local authorities and developers to deliver well planned, designed and maintained GI.
- Regionally, a Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy for Greater Nottingham was published in January 2022 and identifies key strategic BGI and ecological networks within Greater Nottingham.
- Locally, the Council has produced a Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy which identifies 10 themes to address the climate emergency in Broxtowe. The opportunity exists for BGI to align with these themes and provide joined up approaches to BGI delivery.

1.14 This BGI Strategy considers these policy changes alongside an up to date assessment of the BGI network. The document provides an updated guide for developers and planners when preparing and assessing development proposals to ensure that the provision of BGI is optimised both on and off-site. Other key BGI actions are identified for delivery as part of a wider partnership approach within the Borough.

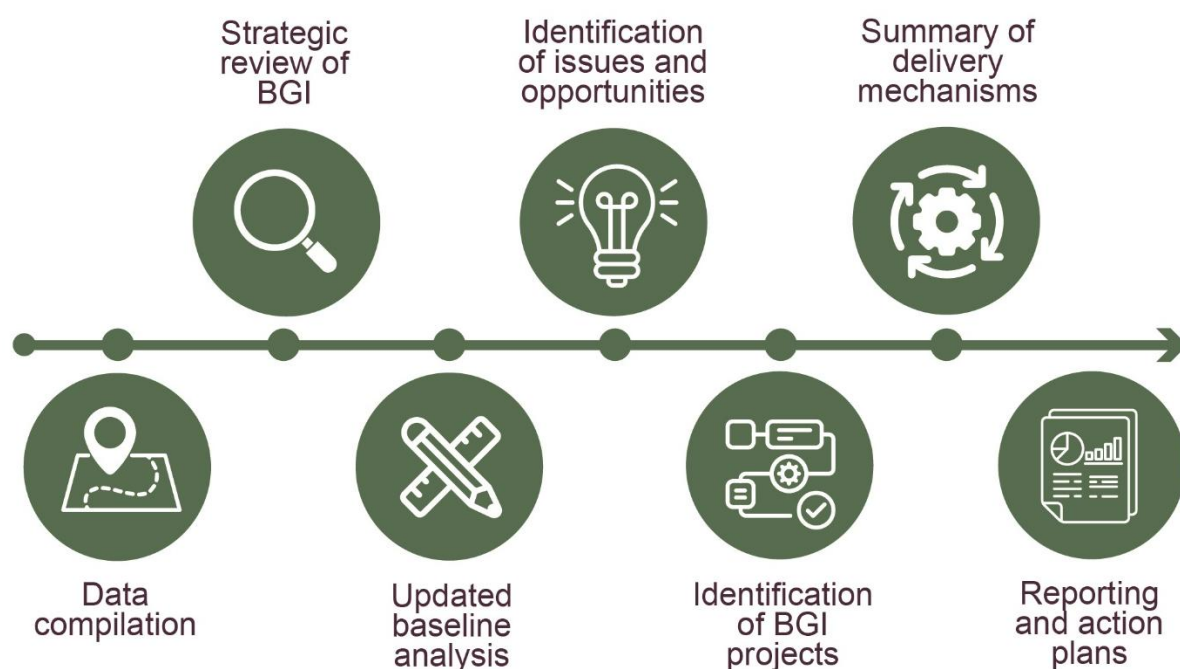
Figure 1.3: Summary of policy context



How has the BGI Strategy been produced?

1.15 This BGI Strategy was produced following a bespoke methodology comprised of a series of tasks, as outlined below and illustrated in **Figure 1.4**.

Figure 1.4: Overview of methodology



Task 1: Data compilation

- Data was collated to ensure the baseline understanding of BGI in the Borough was up to date. National data contained within the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework was supplemented with locally held data sources to provide a holistic evidence base.

Task 2: Strategic review of BGI

- The policy context was reviewed to ensure alignment with the current national and local policy agenda, including climate resilience / nature recovery commitments to help streamline funding efforts.
- The strategic context was updated to reflect Broxtowe's overarching priorities and goals.
- Feedback from the Council regarding lessons learnt from implementing the 2015 GI Strategy was collected and reviewed.

Task 3: Updated baseline analysis

- The current functionality of the BGI network was reviewed to reflect changes since 2015. Gaps in the network were identified with a view to informing future BGI opportunities. Existing assets and patterns of provision were explored, with key benefits and needs set in out as part of a 'thematic' approach.
- The baseline sections relating to blue infrastructure were also expanded. This task included targeted engagement with Council teams and technical stakeholders to ensure long-term buy-in and mitigation of project risks.

Task 4: Identification of issues and opportunities

- Working with the Council, the list of BGI opportunities was updated to reflect delivery to-date.
- Based on the findings of the baseline analysis and key issues, additional opportunities were defined to enhance local and strategic BGI networks.

Task 5: Identification of BGI actions

- The findings from the above tasks was used to inform the identification of actions for the protection and enhancement of the BGI network. These actions provide a clear 'shopping list' of improvements to repair, reconnect and restore BGI over the five-year period of the BGI Strategy.

Task 6: Summary of delivery mechanisms

- Delivery mechanisms to shape the future planning, design and management of BGI were identified.

Task 7: Reporting and development of the supporting action plans

- The BGI Strategy was developed to provide a clear and concise set of action plans, forming a 'toolbox' for BGI delivery.

How to use this document

1.16 The BGI Strategy provides a 'how-to' guide to help ensure that BGI is successfully delivered in the Borough. The BGI Strategy has been undertaken in close cooperation with partners, with inputs gathered via virtual stakeholder workshops in March 2025. These sessions were used to inform the preparation of the updated BGI Strategy.

1.17 Feedback from stakeholder consultation indicated that the delivery of GI initiatives identified in the 2015 GI Strategy had been impacted by the lack of clarity on how to interpret the document in a planning context, by both planners and developers. Consequently, a series of user guides have been developed as part of this BGI Strategy to demonstrate how the document should be used by various audiences (see **Figures 1.5 a-c**). **Figure 1.6** outlines the role of the BGI Strategy in the planning process.

Figure 1.5a: User guide – Broxtowe Borough Council



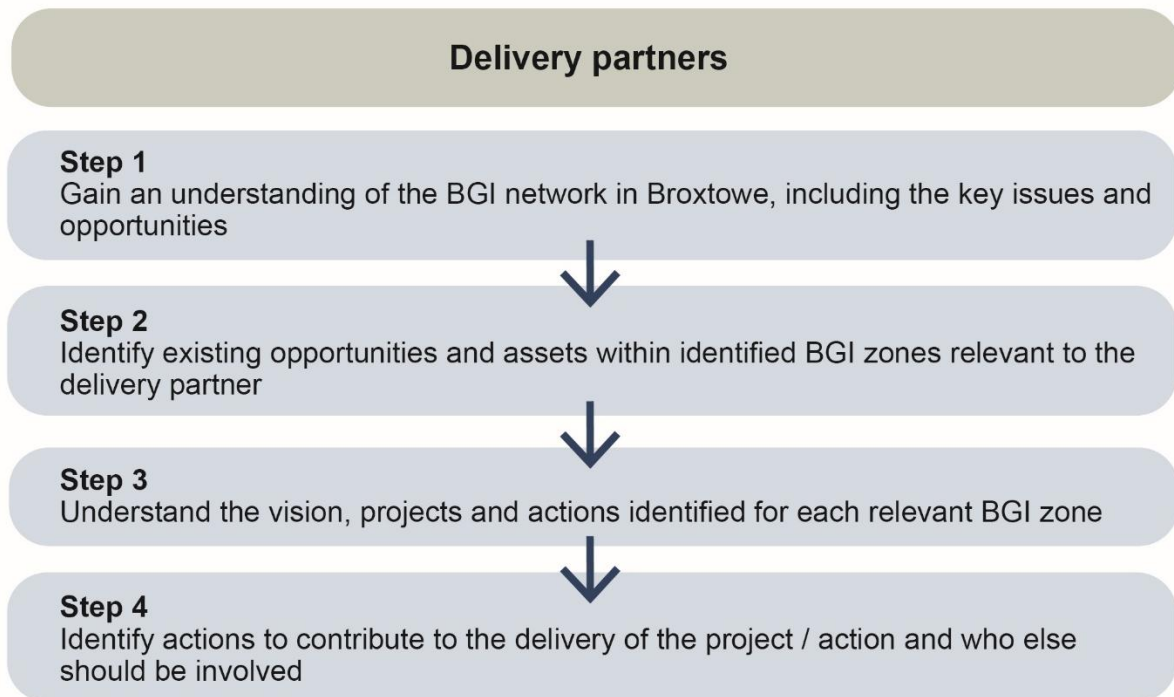
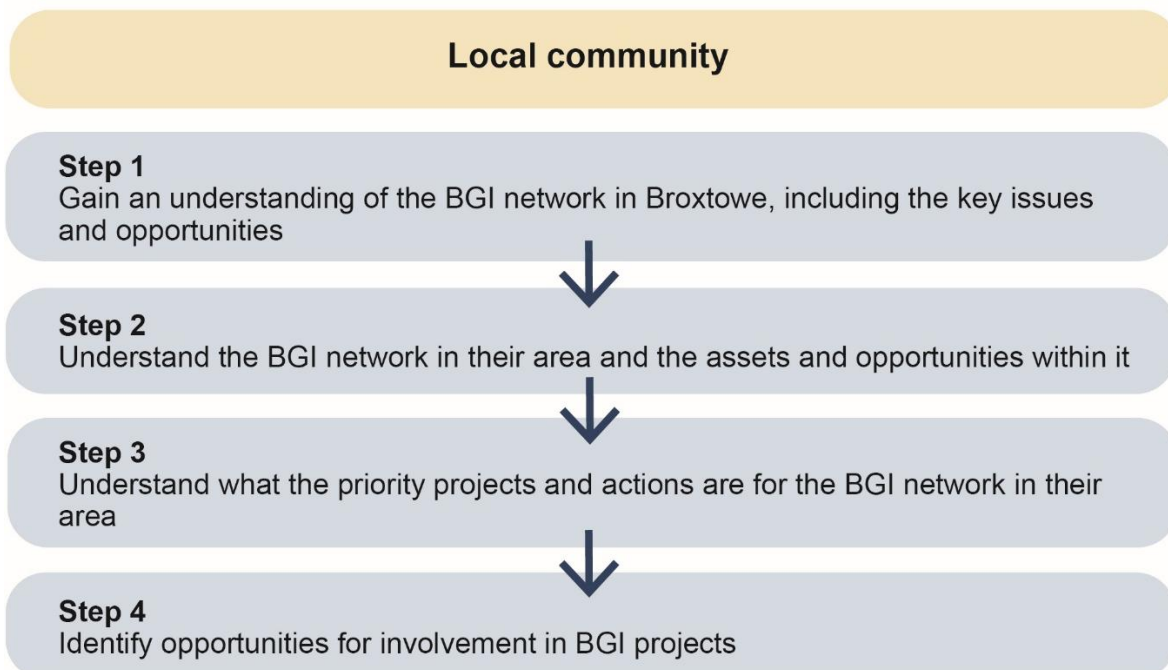
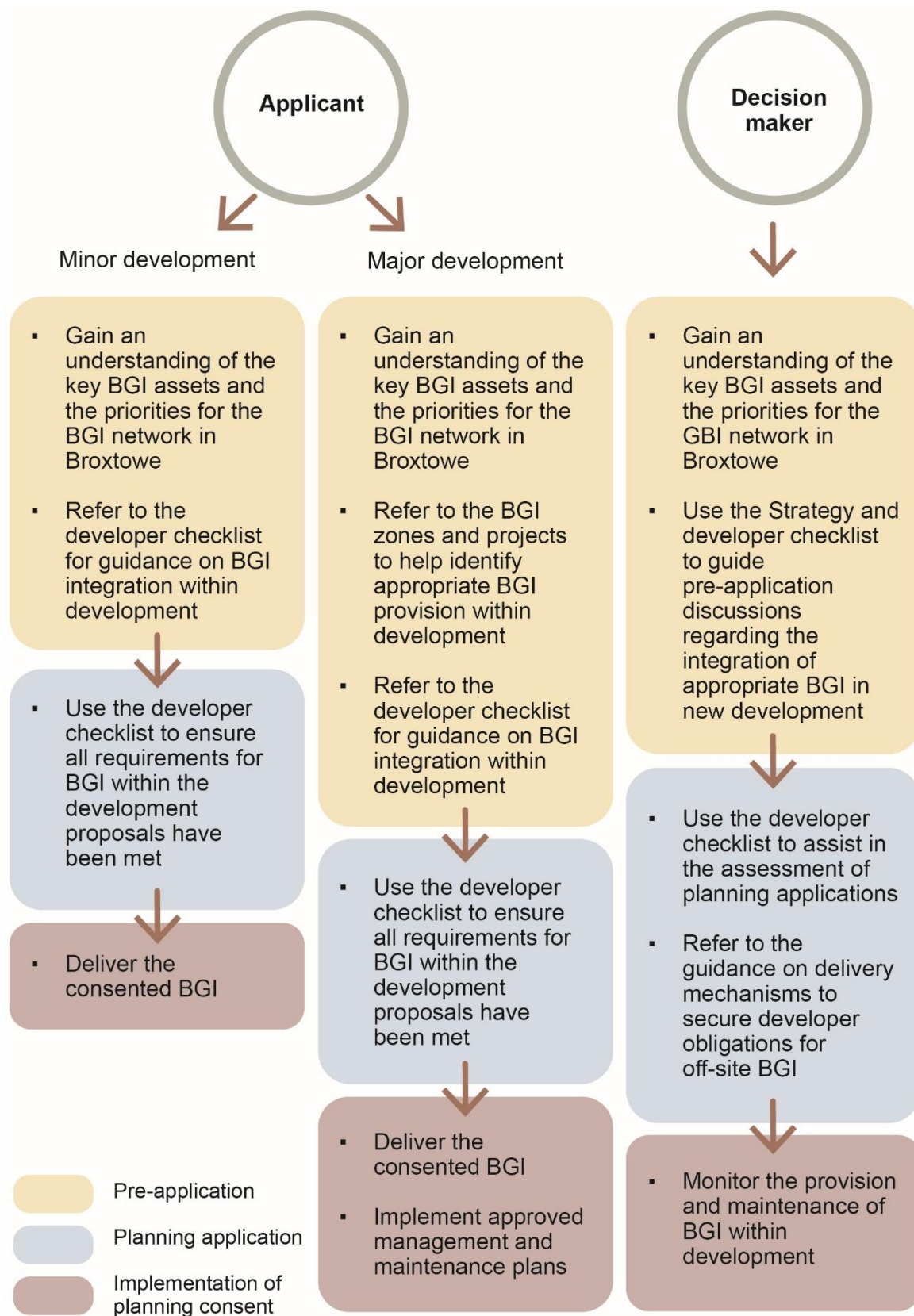
Figure 1.5b: User guide – Delivery partners**Figure 1.5c: User guide – Local community**

Figure 1.6: Role of the BGI Strategy in the planning process

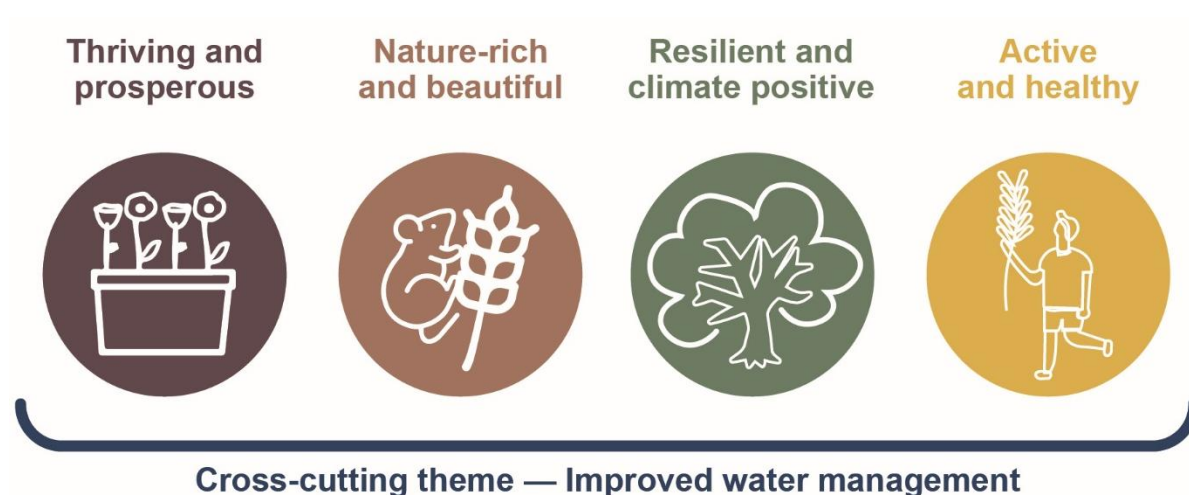


Chapter 2

BGI in Broxtowe Today

2.1 A ‘themed’ approach was adopted to explore the existing BGI assets within the Borough, consider key needs and explore deficiencies within the existing network. This approach also provides synergy with the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy. Four themes have been identified, informed by the five Benefit Principles within the ‘GI Principles Wheel’, as developed by Natural England (see **Chapter 1**). The importance of water management forms a cross-cutting focus across the four themes (see **Figure 2.1**).

Figure 2.1: BGI themes



Nature-rich and beautiful Broxtowe

2.2 This theme explores how BGI supports wildlife and nature recovery. It is related primarily to large-scale semi-natural habitats, natural heritage designations and connectivity for key species.

Active and healthy Broxtowe

2.3 This theme identifies BGI which is publicly accessible, including PRow, active travel routes, open space and all open access land. Key demographic and health data for the Borough is also examined.

Thriving and prosperous Broxtowe

2.4 This theme explores BGI which enhances the distinctive local character of the Borough, supporting thriving and prosperous communities. It examines the potential of BGI as a tool for the sensitive and sustainable incorporation of development into the Borough's existing landscape fabric.

Resilient and climate-positive Broxtowe

2.5 This theme outlines the key assets which deliver life-supporting environmental processes, including flood management, carbon storage in vegetation and air / water quality improvement. The interaction of physical influences within the landscape, including the blue infrastructure network, geology and tree cover are also considered.

Nature-rich Broxtowe

The need for nature-rich and beautiful BGI

- There are six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), representing nationally significant areas of biodiversity or geology. These cover approximately 258 hectares (3% of the Borough) which is significantly below the national average. However, a network of locally designated Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) help to promote connectivity within this network (see **Figure 2.2a**). Five of the six SSSIs include at least one feature that is reported to be in an unfavourable condition.



Attenborough Nature Reserve – gravel pit habitats

- Natural England's national biodiversity climate change vulnerability model **[See reference 7]** indicates that 502 hectares of habitat within Broxtowe is at the highest risk of damage due to climate change. These high risk locations are distributed across the Borough, albeit located predominantly within flood zones or adjacent to existing settlement (including Brinsley, Eastwood, Kimberley, Beeston and Attenborough) (see **Figure 2.2b**).

- Habitats in Broxtowe include irreplaceable habitats which are considered functionally impossible to replace due to their complexity and time required for their establishment. This includes ancient semi-natural woodland (found predominantly in the north and east of the Borough), veteran trees, and lowland fen (found in fragmented pockets along the Erewash and Trent Valleys).
- The majority of watercourses in Broxtowe do not meet 'good' ecological status according to the WFD classification (see **Figure 2.2b**). This includes the Trent and Erewash (which are both classified as 'moderate'). In the north, the Nether Green Brook (which includes the tributary of Beauvale Brook) is classified as 'poor'.
- The River Trent has been impacted by thousands of years of human activity. Physical modification of the river includes dams and weirs which are a barrier to fish movement. A healthy and flourishing fish population can be a foundation of resilient aquatic ecosystems and benefit multiple other species **[See reference 8]**.



River Trent

- The River Erewash is amongst one of the last remaining habitats of the globally endangered, white-clawed crayfish in Nottinghamshire **[See**

reference 9]. Ponds and wetland features are required to benefit these local populations; however these must be carefully planned to prevent movement of invasive American signal crayfish into the watercourse **[See reference 10]**.

How BGI supports a nature-rich and beautiful Broxtowe

- There are 15 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) which cover 118 hectares (1% of the Borough) and a further seven sites owned or managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. This exceeds the relevant headline standard in the Natural England Infrastructure Framework which recommends at least 1 hectare of LNR per 1,000 of the population.
- The below average cover of SSSIs is supplemented by a high provision of LWSs which covers 982 hectares – or approximately 12% of the Borough. These incorporate a range of grassland, woodland and wetland habitats (see **Figure 2.2a**).
- The Borough includes areas of neutral, acid and calcareous grassland, as well as grassland species associated with coal measures geology. The Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping identifies approximately 640 hectares of grassland across the Borough, though only 102 hectares are considered priority habitats. There are substantial concentrations of grassland habitat located between Strelley, Cossall and Trowell, south of the A610 and around the upper reaches of the Gilt Brook **[See reference 11]**.
- Acid grassland and heathland (approximately 80 hectares) is limited to several small isolated pockets within the Borough, predominantly in the south around Bramcote Ridge **[See reference 12]**.
- Woodland cover is limited within the Borough, covering 561 hectares or 7%, which is less than the average 13% woodland cover across the UK. In general, areas of woodland are small (under two hectares in size) although there are 12 broadleaved woodlands which are over five hectares in size. Much of the woodland in Broxtowe is found on the eastern side of the Borough with the largest contiguous woodland located at High Park Wood in Greasley. The Council manages 94 hectares of mixed woodland across the Borough and aims to identify and create one new woodland as part of its targeted action plan in 2025 **[See reference 40]**.
- The network of hedgerows and field margins in the Borough act as valuable wildlife corridors across the farmed landscape, enhancing habitat connectivity between areas of woodland, scrub and improved grassland. However, there is limited spatial data for these features.

Figure 2.2 a-b: Nature-rich BGI need

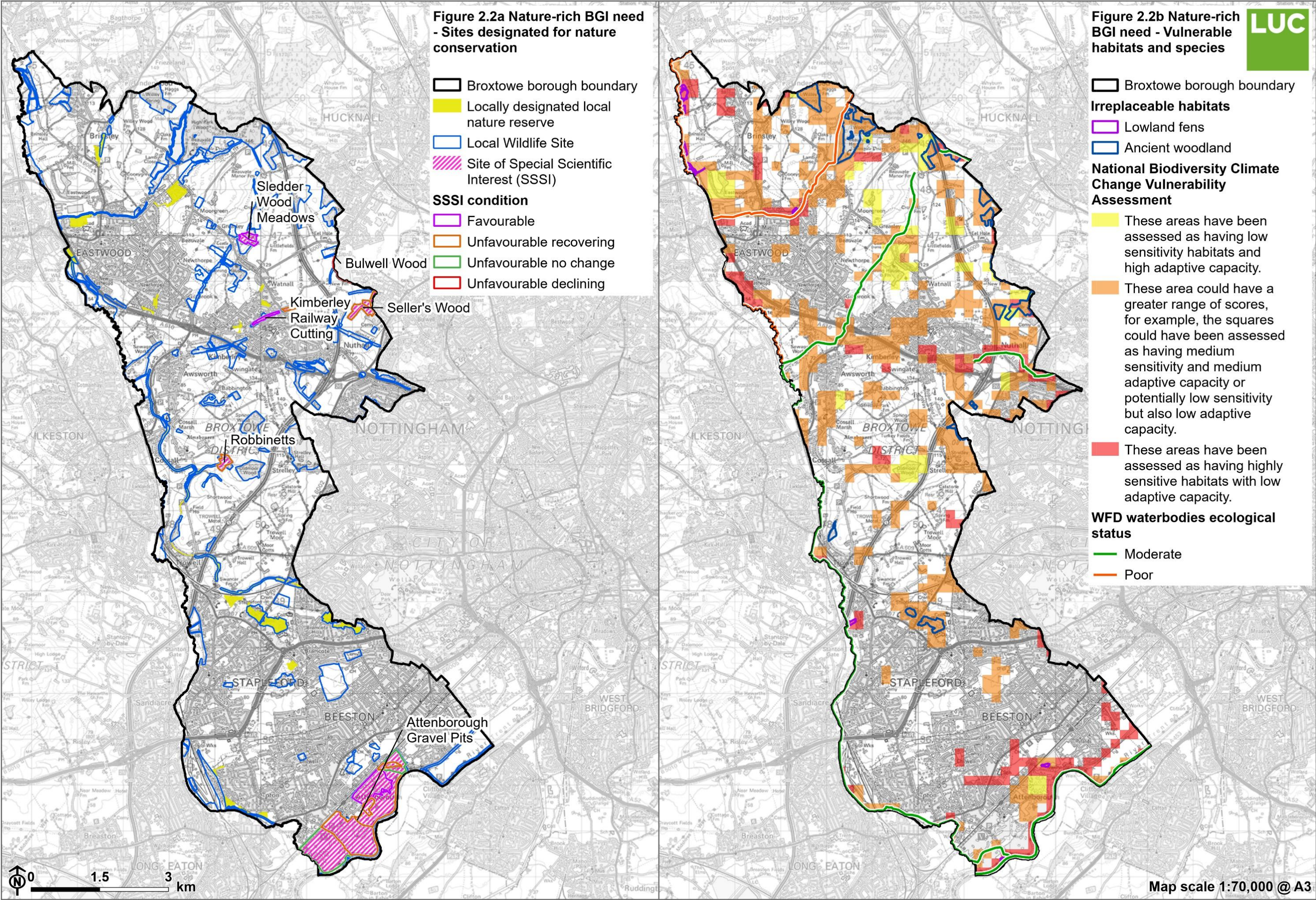
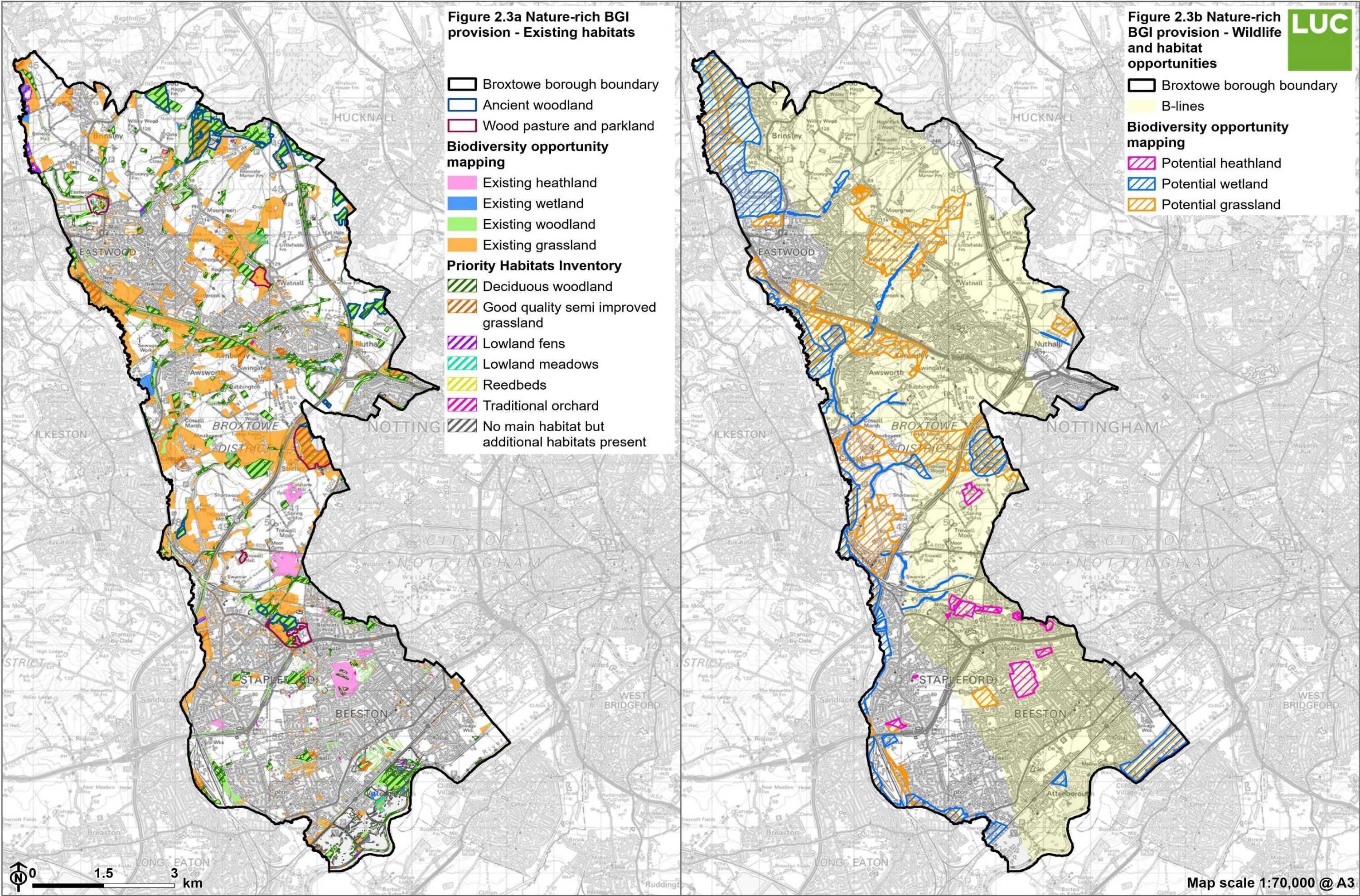


Figure 2.3 a-b: Nature-rich provision





Colliers Wood

- Wood pasture and parkland (important habitat nationally and often associated with older estates and designed parklands) covers approximately 102 hectares of land in the Borough.
- Wetland habitats are primarily located in the Erewash and Trent Valleys. Wetland habitats include reedbeds (0.35 hectares), floodplain grazing marsh (0.22 hectares) and lowland fen and marsh (13.06 hectares). In the Trent Valley, wetland habitats are located predominantly in Attenborough Nature Reserve SSSI. In addition, the Nottingham Canal is a significant feature of ecological value, with sections of the route designated locally for its value to wildlife.
- A number of urban habitats within the Borough also provide habitats for wildlife. These include private gardens, churchyards, allotments, verges, school grounds and railway sidings. A number of areas are post-industrial or brownfield sites and support a rich variety of invertebrates. Urban areas can also support adaptable mammals such as foxes and hedgehogs.
- The varied habitats within Broxtowe support a number of priority species [See reference 13], most notably aquatic and riparian species such as

water vole, otter and Atlantic salmon, as well as barn owl, harvest mouse and bats.

- The Biodiversity Opportunity mapping identifies potential areas for habitat creation which would help promote connected grassland and wetland habitats, notably north to south through the Erewash Valley, and east to west along the A610 and between Strelley and Cossall (see **Figure 2.3b**).
- A B-Line, indicating opportunities for habitats to improve connectivity [See **reference 14**] for pollinators, is aligned north to south within the Borough (see **Figure 2.3b**).



Erewash Valley Trail at Nottingham Canal (between Trowell and Cossall)

Active and healthy Broxtowe

The need for active and healthy BGI

- The median age of the population in Broxtowe is 43 years, higher than the average for the East Midlands (41 years) and England (40 years). Between 2011 and 2021 the population aged between 65 and 74 increased by 19% [See reference 15]. 18.3% of residents in the Borough identify as being disabled [See reference 16].
- The Indices for Multiple Deprivation identify pockets of deprivation within the Health and Disability domain, including within parts of Chilwell West and Eastwood Hilltop and Eastwood St Mary's, which are in the 20% most deprived areas nationally [See reference 17].
- The sensitivity layer in the *ClimateJust* mapping [See reference 18] identifies populations most susceptible to climate change based on their health and ages. Areas of Beeston, a pocket of north-west Stapleford and land bordering the A610 in Eastwood are described as exhibiting an acute sensitivity to climate change within the Borough (see **Figure 2.4a**).
- The Woodland Trust Tree Equity Score estimates existing tree canopy coverage within the Borough at 64m² / person. The Borough is allocated a composite score of 85 (out of 100), demonstrating a moderate / good overall assessment of tree equity. The lowest scores in Broxtowe are located in the south at Beeston Rylands and at Chilwell.
- The Borough has one of the highest rates of hospital admissions for mental health conditions for under 18 year-olds in the East Midlands [See reference 19]. Children aged 3-11 report slightly lower levels of happiness, life satisfaction and life worthwhileness compared to children in the rest of Nottinghamshire and across England [See reference 20].
- 44% of children and young people in the Borough are physically active, which is lower than the regional and national averages of 45.7% and 47.8% respectively [See reference 21].
- Air pollution levels in Broxtowe, namely nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), were below the national objective of 40µg/m³ at all monitoring sites in 2021, including within the remaining Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Trowell. The primary sources of air pollution in the Borough are vehicle emissions, especially from the M1 motorway and A52 road. An estimated 90 deaths in 2020 were attributable to exposure to NO₂ and particulate matter in Broxtowe. The Borough faces challenges in addressing pollution

from major roads it does not control and the Council continues to collaborate with partners to reduce emissions and monitor air quality hotspots [\[See reference 22\]](#). The highest levels of PM_{2.5} particulate matter are recorded in the south of the Borough, located at the eastern extent of Beeston and at land associated with Toton Sidings (see **Figure 2.4b**). Other areas exposed to relatively higher concentrations of PM_{2.5} are generally associated with areas of settlement (including Stapleford, Eastwood, Kimberley and Beeston) as well as pockets of the M1 corridor.

- Noise pollution greater than 55dB from roads is evident across much of central Broxtowe, associated with the M1 and minor road networks within areas of settlement. Areas exposed to high noise levels due to rail lie to the west and south of the Borough, associated with the routes of the Nottingham to Leeds and Nottingham to Matlock rail lines (see **Figure 2.4b**). Exposure to ongoing noise above 50dB has been shown to have an impact on health [\[See reference 23\]](#).

How BGI supports an active and healthy Broxtowe

- Accessible greenspace in Broxtowe includes parks and gardens, informal amenity space, playing pitches and natural greenspaces. The Borough includes a total provision of 572 hectares, equating to 5.16 hectares per 1,000 of the population. Natural England recommends that local authorities have at least three hectares of publicly accessible greenspace per 1,000 of the population. Accessible greenspace offers spaces for physical activity, an enhanced connection with nature and opportunities for social connection which can improve wellbeing.



Hemlock Stone Open Space

- The 15 LNRs in the Borough are managed to encourage visitors to connect with nature. A number of the sites involve friends-of groups and host regular volunteer workdays as part of a programme of active management.
- Gaps in provision to accessible greenspace are more prevalent in the east of the Borough, including populated parts of Beeston. Other areas of greenspace deficiency include areas of Watnall, Nuthall and Strelley (see **Figure 2.5a**). Access to a number of greenspaces close to home is highest around Trowell, Bramcote and north Stapleford, Awsworth and north Eastwood.
- There are over 210 km of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Borough, with particularly dense networks located at Brinsley, Eastwood and Kimberley. A high density of PRoW are also evident crossing the landscape immediately south the A610 corridor, stretching southwards to Cossall. These routes promote physical activity including walking, running and cycling. Many of these follow field boundaries, railway lines and water courses, and allow people to access the wider rural landscape.



PRoW accommodated on a disused railway at Kimberley

- Areas of the Borough with a relatively low density of PRoW are associated with land bordering the M1 corridor. Areas of settlement at Beeston and Stapleford, as well as a pocket of land at Eastwood Hall, are also typified by access to relatively few PRoW routes.
- The PRoW network includes over 83 km of longer distance walking routes; including Broxtowe Country Trail, Robin Hood Way, Nottingham Canal towpath, Erewash Valley Trail, Trent Valley Way and the Monks Way (see **Figure 2.5b**).



Towpath at Nottingham Canal (disused)

- In the south, the National Cycle Route (NCR) 6 passes through Beeston and Chilwell. Cycling is also suitable on some of the recreational routes; including Big Track, Broxtowe Country Trail and Erewash Valley Trail.
- The Council is developing a Green Social Prescribing model to enable residents to engage in nature-based interventions and activities to improve their wellbeing [\[See reference 24\]](#).
- There are emerging investment programmes led by the Council for parks and open spaces, including accessible facilities and programmes of activities aimed at young people. The new Public Toilet Strategy will also aim to help promote greater use of outdoor spaces from a wide range of users, including older people and young children [\[See reference 25\]](#).

Figure 2.4 a-b: Active and healthy BGI need

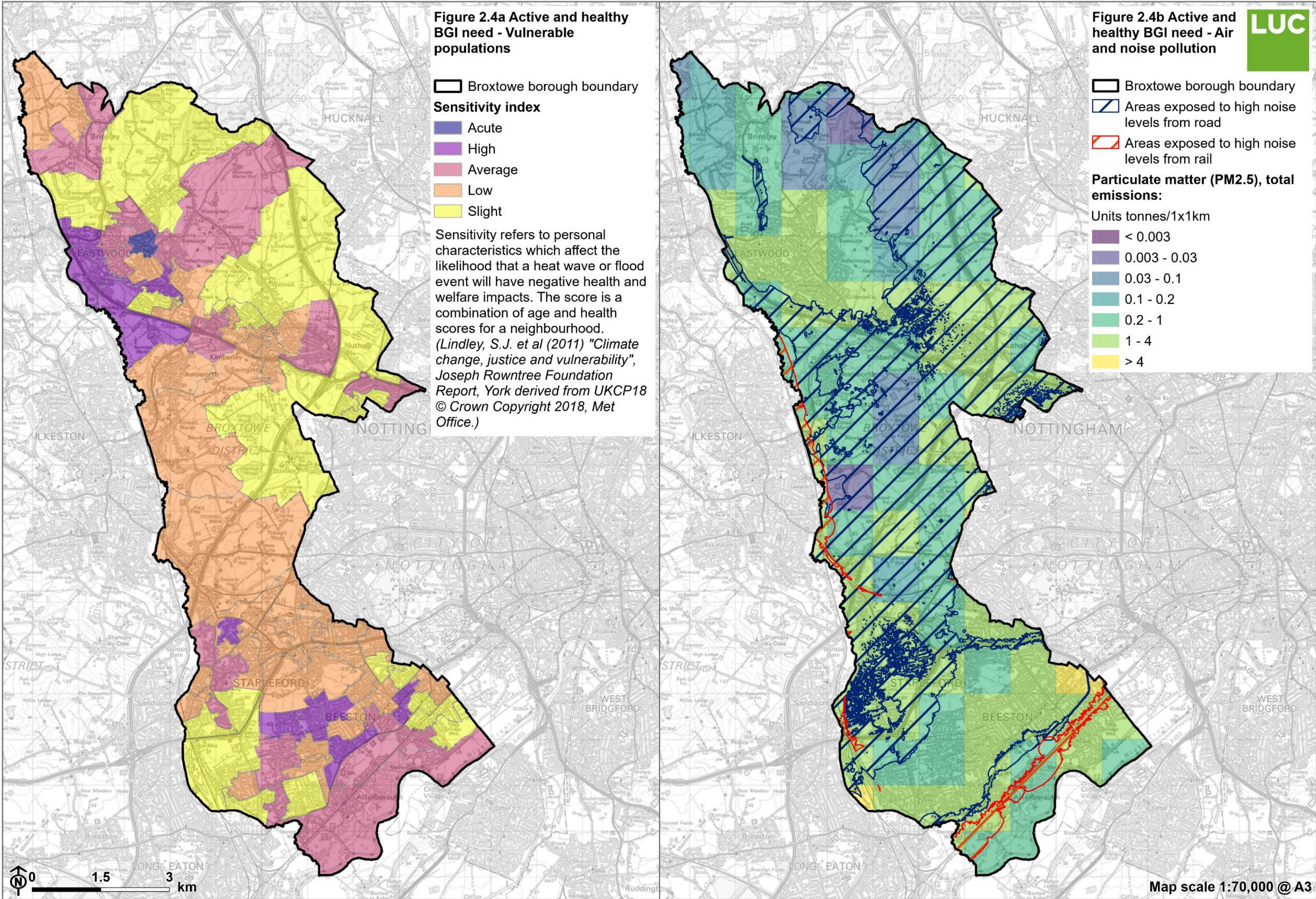
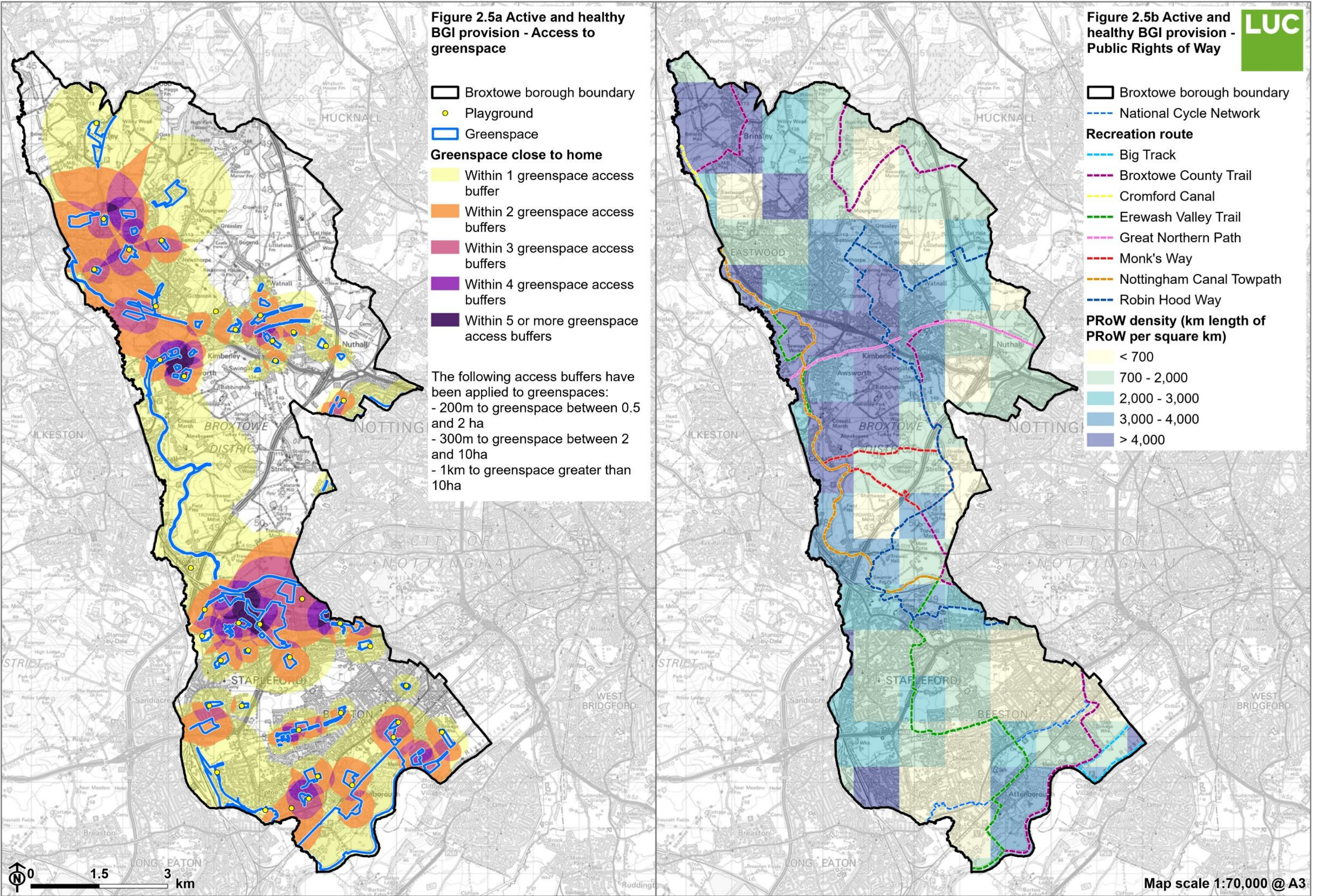


Figure 2.5: Active and healthy BGI provision

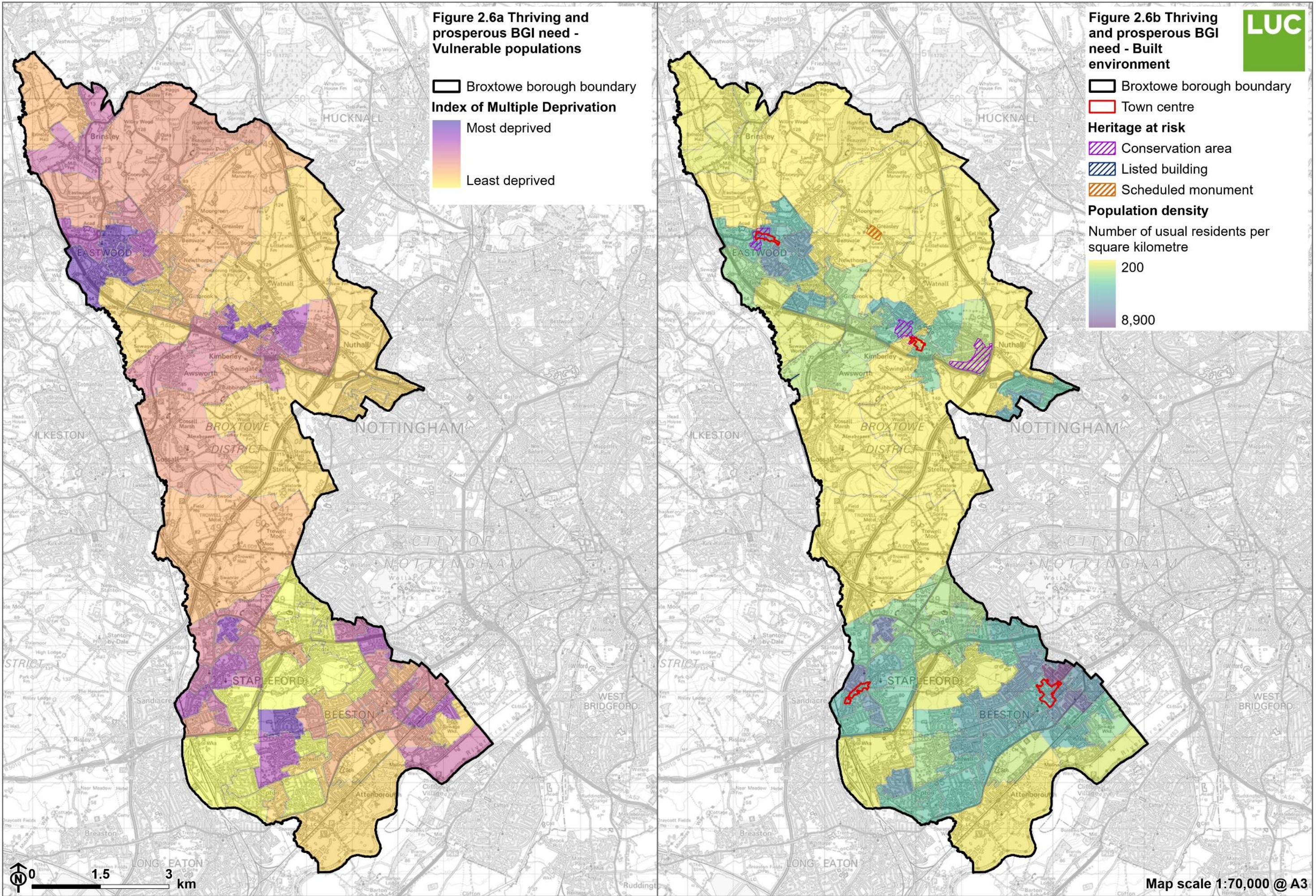


Thriving and prosperous Broxtowe

The need for thriving and prosperous BGI

- Whilst overall deprivation in the Borough is lower than the national average (ranked 223 out of 317) [\[See reference 26\]](#), there are localised pockets of deprivation, including areas of Eastwood and Chilwell which rank within the 20% most deprived in England (see **Figure 2.6a**).
- The settlements of Kimberley, Eastwood, Beeston and Stapleford act as social and retail destinations, albeit face increasing challenges of declining footfall, reduced spending and rising energy costs [\[See reference 27\]](#). Eastwood is highlighted as an area of particular under investment [\[See reference 28\]](#).
- The East Midlands region as a whole was found to have the lowest design quality for new housing across England [\[See reference 29\]](#).
- Three of Broxtowe's conservation areas are included on the Heritage at Risk register (see **Figure 2.6b**), with Eastwood, Kimberley, and Nuthall Conservation Areas all considered to be in 'very bad' condition [\[See reference 30\]](#).
- Tourism and the visitor economy bring significant economic benefits to Nottinghamshire, with 36 million visitors delivering £1.9 billion to the county's local economy in 2019 and supporting 23,000 jobs. In Broxtowe, much of this visitor offering is focussed on the Borough's industrial heritage and natural environment [\[See reference 31\]](#).
- Eastwood is the birthplace of DH Lawrence, and the DH Lawrence Heritage Centre and Birthplace Museum are popular destination points for visitors and tourists.

Figure 2.6 a-b: Thriving and prosperous BGI need



How BGI supports a thriving and prosperous Broxtowe

- Broxtowe incorporates four of Natural England's National Character Areas (NCAs) [See reference 32]. NCA 38: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfields is heavily influenced by historic industry and includes areas of agricultural land, as well as woodland and semi-natural vegetation. In the north, NCA 30: Southern Magnesian Limestone is characterised by open, rolling arable farmland, plantation woodlands and historic parkland. NCA 49: Sherwood covers a small area around Beeston and Bramcote and is characterised by large estate parklands, heathlands and arable land. NCA 69: Trent Valley Washlands lies adjacent and encompasses the low-lying linear river floodplain and wetland habitats at Attenborough Nature Reserve.



Bramcote Hills Park

- The Greater Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment identifies ten distinct landscape character areas (see **Figure 2.7a**) which cover the landscapes of the Borough, excluding the areas identified as 'urban'. The document describes the variations in the physical landscape in the Borough, including those areas to the north which are characterised by

restored spoil mounding and other smaller rural areas as well as land influenced by urban development to the south.

- Historic features, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas reflect the rich heritage of the Borough (see **Figure 2.7a**). This includes the 14th century Beauvale Carthusian Priory and 18th century Strelley Estate.
- The Old Nottingham Canal, including Beeston Marina and its canalside heritage centre, provide a hub for visitors to explore the local waterways **[See reference 33]**.



Beeston Marina

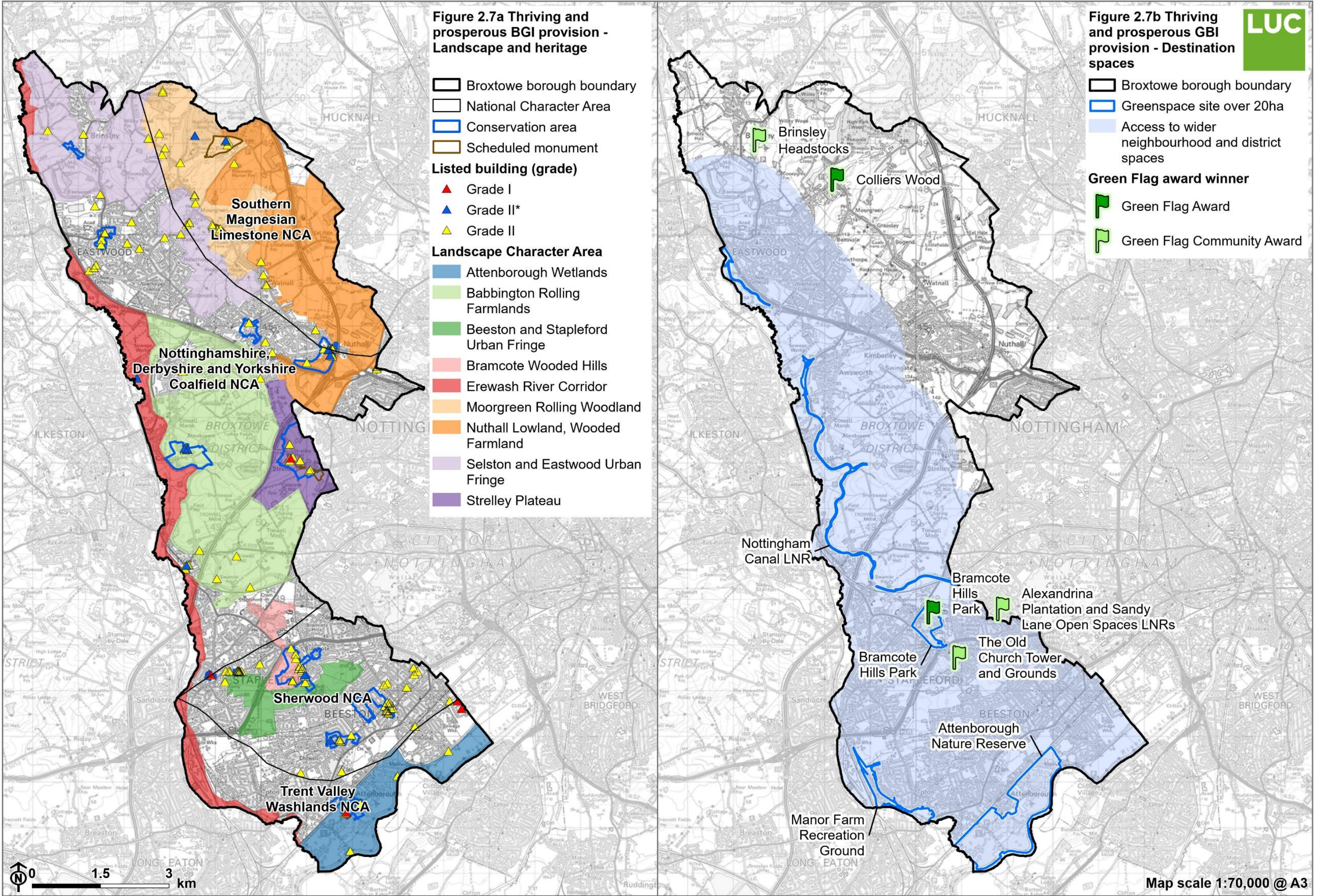
- The Erewash Valley, taking in the Erewash Valley Trail, Attenborough Nature Reserve, Grade II* Bennerley Viaduct and other landscape, heritage and wildlife points of interest, is a destination in its own right **[See reference 34]**.
- Other key visitor destinations in Broxtowe include Bramcote Hills Park and the Hemlock Stone, St. Mary's Church, Beauvale Priory, the Breach House and various other historic sites and buildings, parks and open spaces, nature reserves and cycling and walking routes.

- Five parks across the Borough have achieved the Green Flag Award (or Green Flag Community Award) which acknowledges the importance of these spaces in providing welcoming environments with activities for all ages and abilities (see **Figure 2.7b**). These, as well as larger open space provide a wider catchment for access to greenspace.
- Approximately £16.5 million of Levelling Up funding and £21.1 million funding from the Government's Town Fund have been secured for regeneration projects in Kimberley and Stapleford, respectively. This includes funding for improvements to public realm and street greening [See reference 35 and See reference 36].



Bennerley Viaduct

Figure 2.7 a-b: Thriving and prosperous BGI provision



Resilient and climate-positive Broxtowe

The need for resilient and climate-positive BGI

- Transport currently contributes to 29.8% of emissions in Broxtowe (slightly above the UK average of 28%) **[See reference Error! Bookmark not defined.]**. Approximately 46.9% of workers in Broxtowe travel to work by car and 6.5% travel to work by foot, compared to the UK averages of 45.1% and 7.6% respectively **[See reference 37]**.
- 38.3% of total emissions in Broxtowe result from domestic energy consumption, mostly due to heating **[See reference Error! Bookmark not defined.]**. Green roofs and vertical greening can help insulate properties, reducing the heating and cooling systems required to maintain a comfortable temperature.
- Extreme heat is likely to increase in a changing climate. This is more likely to impact the urban areas of the Borough, including between Beeston, and Stapleford in the south and Eastwood and Kimberley further north (see **Figure 2.8a**) **[See reference 38]**.
- Flood risk in Broxtowe is particularly acute along the River Trent and River Erewash (including areas in Flood Zone 3 which cover 12% of the Borough), with additional fluvial flood risk evident along Gilt Brook and Beauvale Brook (including areas in Flood Zone 2).
- Surface-water flood risk is primarily concentrated along small brooks, as well as some urban settings. Areas at risk of 1 in 30 year flooding include parts of Kimberley, Eastwood, the western edge of Nottingham near Cinderhill, Beeston, Stapleford, Toton and Trowell. Surface water and fluvial flood risk is shown in **Figure 2.8b**. Land at risk of 1 in 100 year flood covers 4% of the Borough.
- Met Office projections suggest that between 2040 to 2059 summer precipitation in the East Midlands is likely to be up to 20% lower than at between 1981 and 2000, leading to risks of drought and wildfires **[See reference 39]**.

How BGI supports a resilient and climate-positive Broxtowe

- The average tree canopy cover across Broxtowe is 26%, which is above the 16% average across towns and cities in England. This canopy cover

provides shading to reduce heat risk and contributes to reduced flood risk by intercepting rainfall, as well as sequestering carbon.



Trent Valley Way parallel to the River Trent

- The distribution of tree canopy in the Borough partially follows the network of linear routes through the landscape; including rivers, canals, road corridors and operational / dis-used rail lines. Significant tracts of woodland are also evident at High Park Wood, Bulwell Wood, Seller's Wood, Spring Wood, Oldmoor Wood and Bramcote Hills (shown in **Figure 2.9a**). Plans to increase tree canopy cover are set out in the Tree Strategy [\[See reference 40\]](#).
- Although Broxtowe is not underlain by peat-rich soils, its wetlands are an important natural asset for carbon storage and ecosystem resilience. These are primarily located along the southern and western boundaries of the Borough, most notably at Attenborough Nature Reserve.
- Over 80% of the Borough is characterised by semi-natural surfaces, which can help slow the flow of water and increase infiltration. However, the urban areas of Eastwood, Kimberley, Stapleford and Bramcote are typified by approximately 40% man-made surfaces. Areas characterised by over

90% man-made surfaces include Giltbrook Retail Park, Toton Sidings, commercial land use at Chetwynd Road and Beeston Business Park.

- Undeveloped flood plains are present along sections of the River Erewash and River Trent and offer natural flood management, with potential for riparian and wet woodland tree enhancements (see **Figure 2.9b**). Flood risk alleviation is also a key component of the Trent Gateway project **[See reference 41]**.
- The National Cycle Network route 6 provides a cycle link in the south of Broxtowe, with links into Nottingham and west towards Derby. Approximately 2.6% people in the Borough travel to work by bicycle, compared to a national average of 2.1%) **[See reference 42]**.

Figure 2.8 a-b: Resilient and climate-positive BGI need

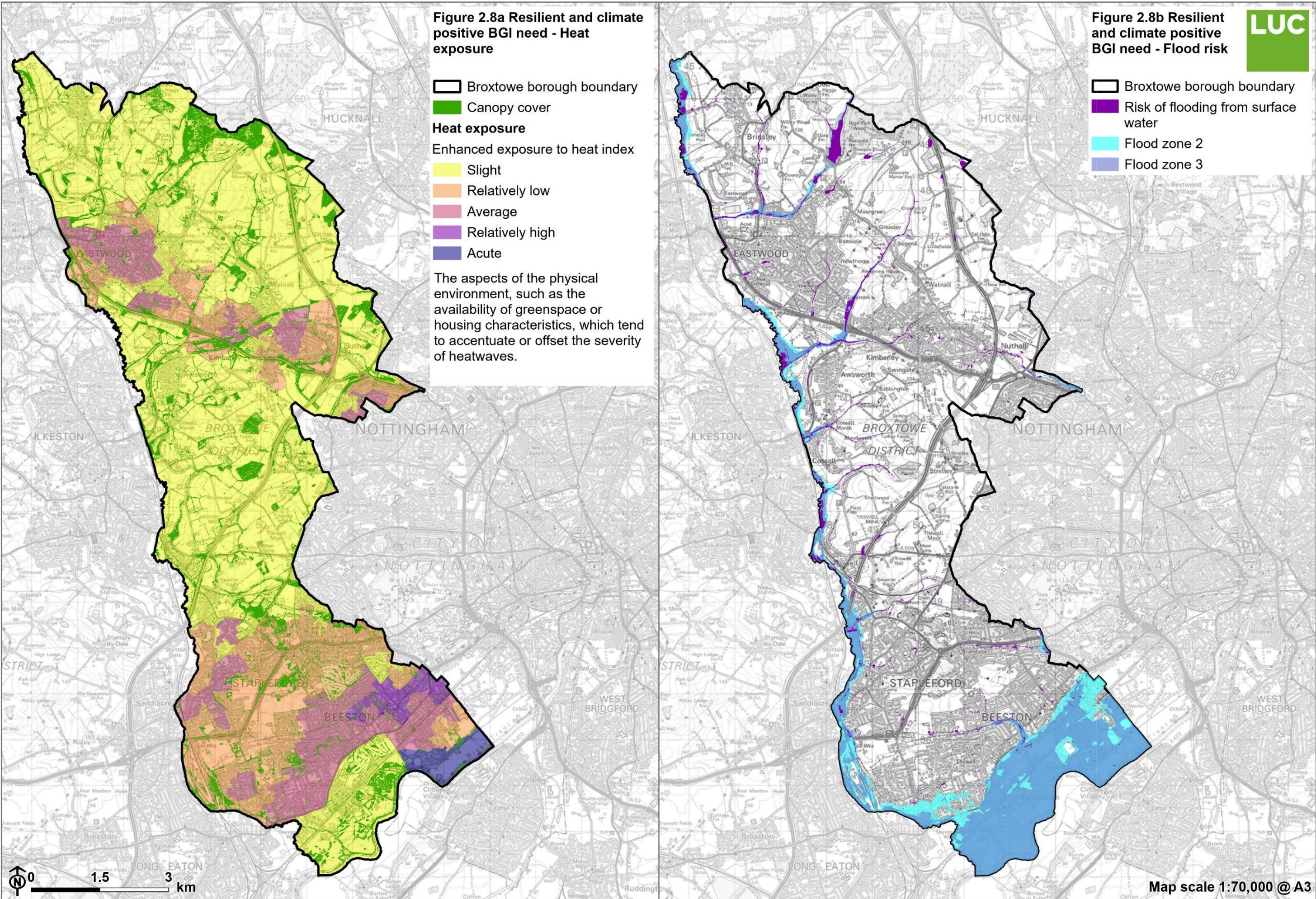
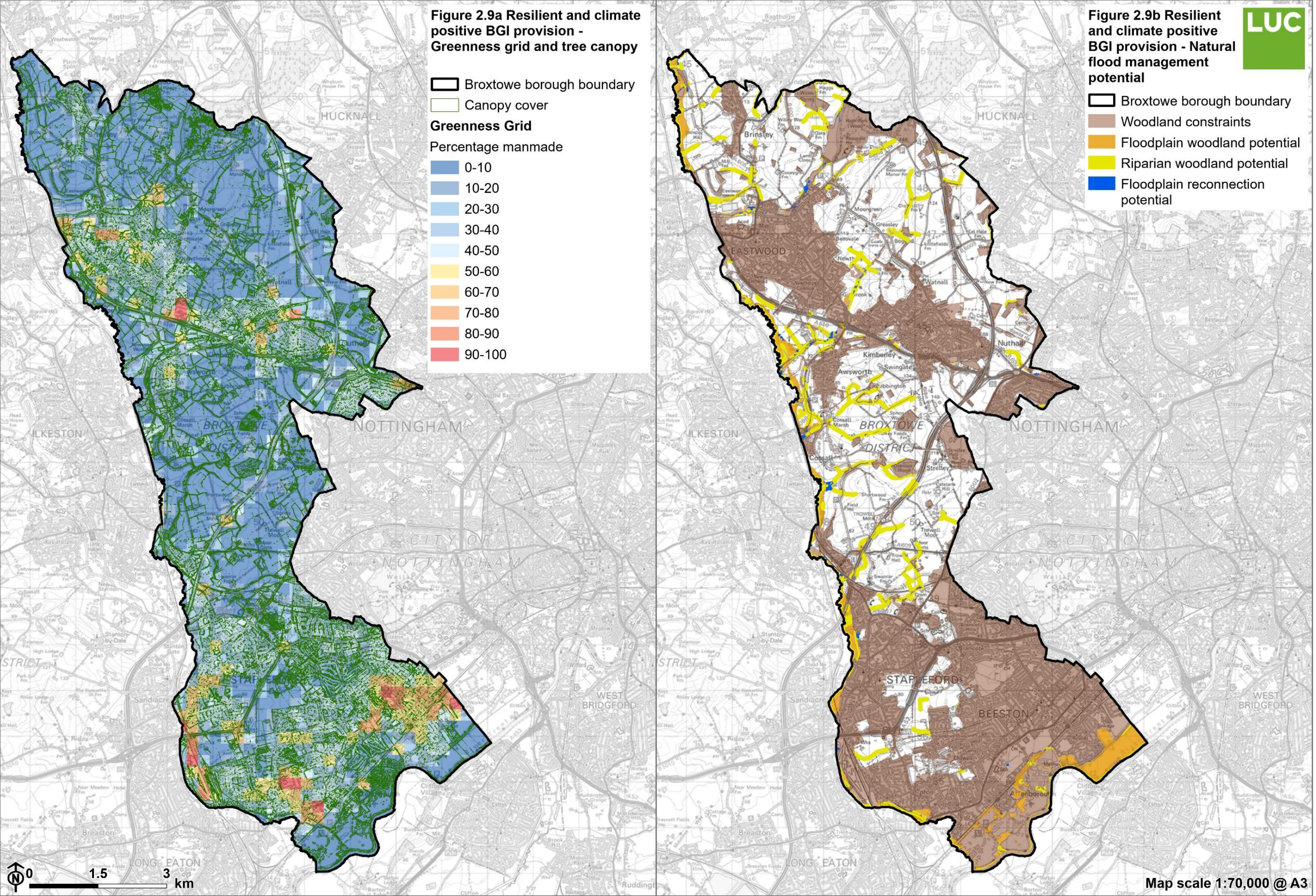






Figure 2.9 a-b: Resilient and climate-positive BGI provision







Summary of emerging BGI issues and opportunities





2.6 Following a comprehensive review of the baseline, a number of emerging BGI issues and opportunities have been identified. The purpose of this exercise was to start a spatial analysis of the Borough's BGI, as well as tie the four themes back together to ensure BGI opportunities identified moving forward are holistic and multi-functional.

Table 2.1: Summary of emerging BGI issues and opportunities

Emerging BGI issues and opportunities				
Create, enhance and improve the connectivity of habitats identified within the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping, particularly grasslands and wetlands. Reconnection of the River Erewash with its floodplain forms a key opportunity.				
Use undeveloped floodplains as part of natural flood management that includes wetland restoration, rewilding, and afforestation. Explore the strategic planting of trees as per the Environment Agency's Working with Natural Processes mapping to aid natural flood management.				

Emerging BGI issues and opportunities				
Utilise <i>ClimateJust</i> and the Woodland Trust's Tree Equity Score mapping to help identify future urban tree planting locations in the Borough. Proposals should aim to mitigate urban heat island effects and as well as benefit communities more socially vulnerable to extreme heat events and in greatest need of people-focused investment in trees.				
Complement tree planting initiatives identified in the Broxtowe Tree Strategy.				
Seek to improve localised air pollution levels via the appropriate specification and siting of vegetation.				
Create, enhance and enlarge woodlands around Beauvale, Bramcote Ridge, Gilt Brook and land to the north of Nuthall. Diversify species selection to promote future climate resilience.				
Integrate BGI into new and existing developments, as promoted by the Reduction of Carbon in New Development Supplementary Planning Document.				
Ensure new major development in the Borough prepares a BGI plan setting out how the scheme delivers on-site BGI provision and contributes towards Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) targets and priorities.				

Emerging BGI issues and opportunities				
Provide nature-rich open space close to new major developments to alleviate recreational pressure on designated ecological sites.				
Ensure development within proximity to B-Lines includes proposals to enhance biodiversity.				
Improve the setting of the existing and proposed active travel network to encourage sustainable transport, providing dedicated green corridors which also enhance landscape connectivity.				
Enhance the quality, connectivity, and visitor offering associated with the Borough's BGI networks to promote further visitor interest, tourism activity, and associated economic investment in the Borough.				
Reinforce local landscape character and contribute to local identity and sense of place through the creation and enhancement of BGI, particularly in areas of urban settlement and local high streets. Embrace the landscape, cultural, and mining heritage of the Borough via appropriate BGI interventions.				
Protect urban and urban fringe BGI assets, ensuring the expansion and connection of urban habitats wherever possible.				

Emerging BGI issues and opportunities				
Enhance landscape management regimes to increase the biodiversity of urban habitats and provision for pollinators. The introduction of relaxed mowing regimes should be communicated to the public via a dedicated communication / education strategy to promote community 'buy-in'.				
Use BGI as an asset for 'social prescribing' within the Borough to deliver mental health benefits through access to greenspace. Social prescribing refers to a holistic approach to healthcare that brings together the social and medical models of health and wellness. The approach provides a formal pathway for health providers to address the diverse determinants of health, using the familiar and trusted process of writing a prescription.				
Buffer and improve the connectivity of designated nature conservation sites as part of the wider ecological network. Identify and protect new sites, informed by the strategic identification of gaps.				
Create and improve the management of hedgerows and shelter belts, arable margins, and ditches within agricultural land, encouraging the establishment of habitat banks by landowners as part of local BNG delivery.				

Chapter 3

The spatial approach to BGI in Broxtowe

Using the understanding of the distribution of BGI assets combined with areas of local needs, six BGI zones have been developed to help direct the future delivery and investment in BGI across the Borough.

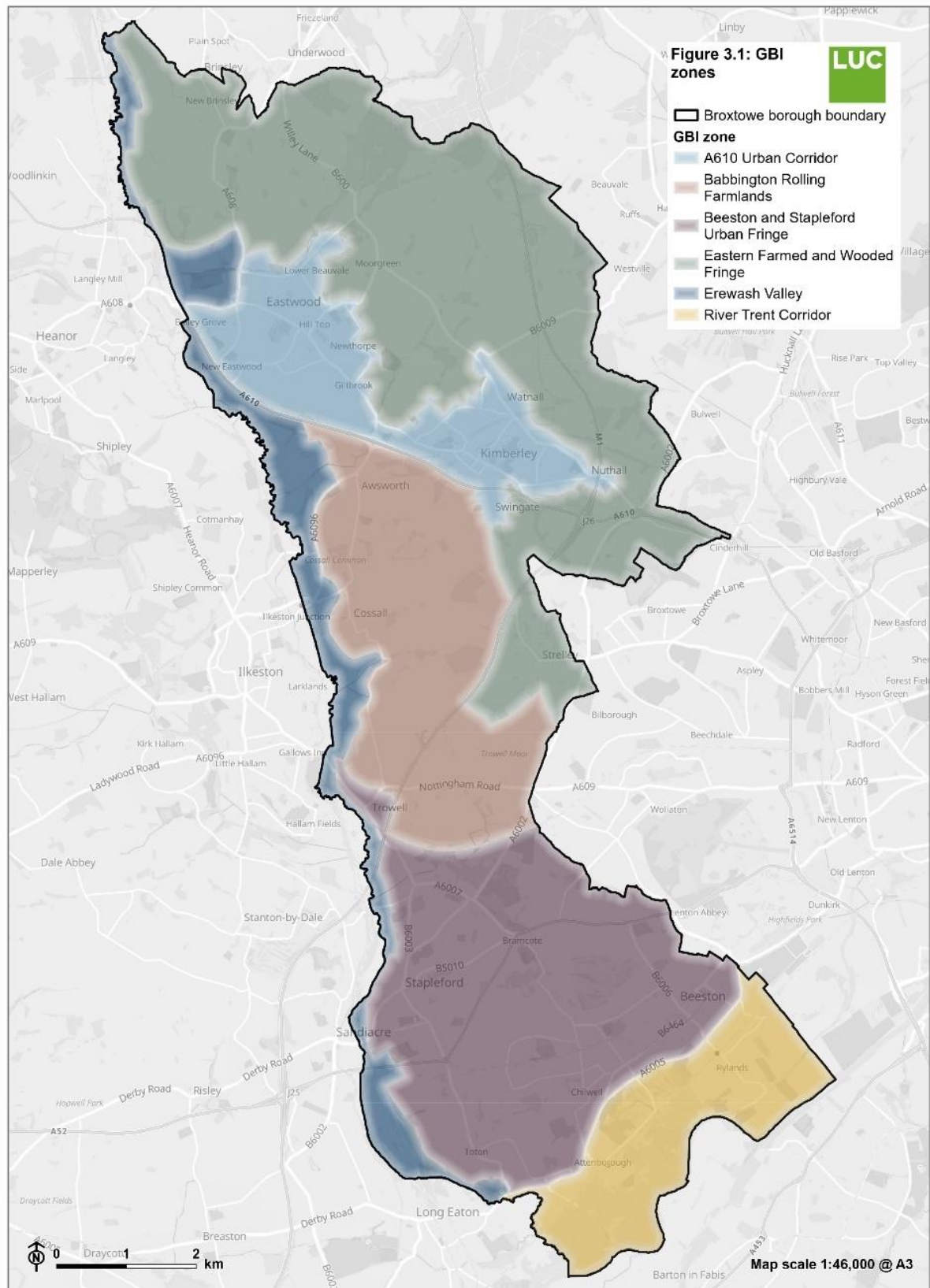
3.1 The boundaries of the BGI zones were created and rationalised, informed by the location of physical landscape features such as roads, woodland tracts and field boundaries. The BGI zones are spatially specific to the Borough and identify areas where similar and unified BGI interventions offer the opportunity to enhance the BGI network at the strategic scale. The BGI zones helped to guide the identification of BGI opportunities and the creation of the action plans.

3.2 The six zones are illustrated in **Figure 3.1**, and each detailed in the subsequent two-page proformas. Emerging BGI opportunities for each zone have been included. These have been informed by the baseline review, professional judgement and consultation process.

3.3 The BGI zones are listed below:

- A610 Urban Corridor;
- Babbington Rolling Farmlands;
- Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe;
- Eastern Farmed Wooded Fringe;
- Erewash Valley; and
- River Trent Corridor.

Figure 3.1: Distribution of BGI zones



A610 Urban Corridor BGI Zone

The A610 Urban Corridor BGI Zone is located in the north of the Borough and comprises the urban area in and around the settlements of Eastwood and Kimberley, centred on the route of the A610. The carriageway of the M1 forms the eastern extent of the BGI zone.

Summary of existing BGI assets

3.4 The A610 Urban Corridor BGI Zone comprises predominantly urban land uses. There are a significant number of heritage assets, including three conservation areas. Remnants of the industrial legacy of Eastwood and Kimberley are evident in the built environment and landscape features, including the routes of disused railway lines. Kimberley Railway Cutting is designated as a SSSI and part of this is managed as a nature reserve by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. The site features a variety of habitats including scrub, mature woodland, tall herb vegetation, and calcareous grassland. Tracts of woodland across the BGI zone are generally small and fragmented.

3.5 The BGI zone includes a number of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); including Smithurst Meadows to the south east of Eastwood as well as Hall Om Wong and Watnall Green in western and northern Kimberley, respectively. There are also ten playgrounds, nine playing pitches and twenty informal open spaces spread across the BGI zone, which afford public access (see **Figure 3.2**).

Summary of local needs

3.6 All three conservation areas within the BGI zone are identified on the Heritage at Risk register. Factors resulting in their inclusion involve increased car parking as well as modernisation of shopfronts and road signage. Sensitive BGI and public realm design could help address some of these risks. In addition, Eastwood town centre has been highlighted as at risk from under investment. The centre and western part of Eastwood are some of the most deprived areas within the Borough. The Tree Equity Score for land within eastern Kimberley is lower than the average for the Borough, indicating a higher socio-spatial vulnerability to flooding and extreme heat.

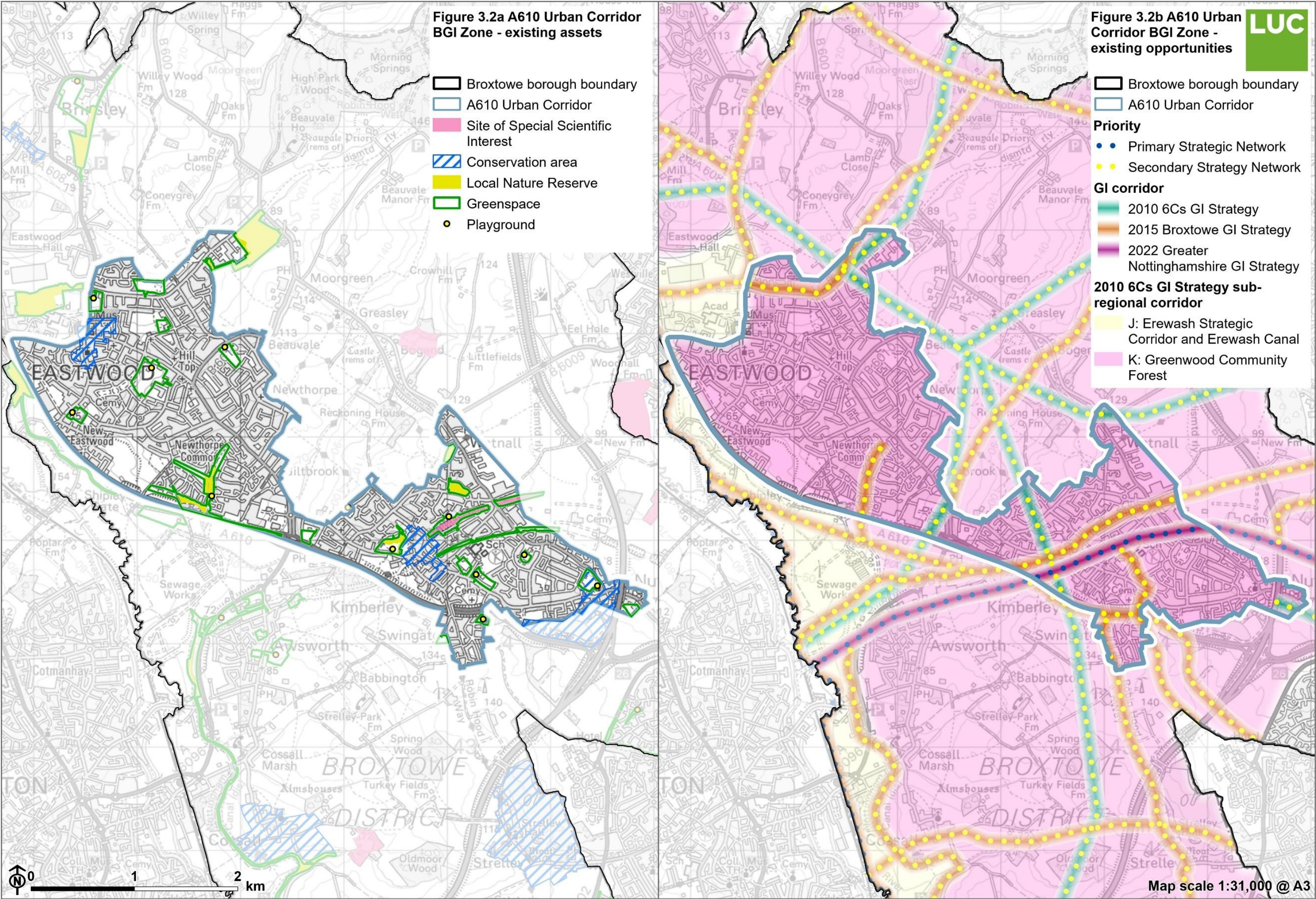
Vision for BGI within the zone

Increase the provision of greenspace and urban greening interventions as a placemaking tool to enhance the setting of settlements within the BGI zone. Create green corridors which promote active travel and provide connectivity for wildlife.

Emerging opportunities to achieve this vision

- Enhance the provision of sensitively designed urban greening interventions, including increased floristic diversity and abundance, within urban land use.
- Increase tree canopy coverage in strategic locations to sequester carbon, provide cooling in urban areas as well as enhance woodland connectivity.
- Provide wetlands in areas susceptible to flooding to interrupt the flow of water between developments and the area's brooks that feed the River Erewash. Such locations include Giltbrook, Nether Green Brook and Kimberley disused railway line.
- Defined as a primary strategic network within the Greater Nottingham BGI Study, enhance and promote the disused railway at Kimberley as a key active travel and green corridor providing links across north Nottinghamshire. This project is now underway, funded as part of the Kimberley Means Business Levelling Up Funded project which also includes investment in town centre regeneration and new sports facilities. However, a balance between nature recovery and extent of public access should be explored at the Kimberley Railway Cutting SSSI to identify separate areas for potentially conflicting recreational activities and opportunities to incorporate greening along the route should be maximised.

Figure 3.2 a-b: A610 Urban Corridor BGI Zone



Babbington Rolling Farmlands BGI Zone

The Babbington Rolling Farmlands BGI Zone is located centrally within the Borough and comprises the rural farmland stretching from the northern extent of Stapleford towards the A610 corridor in the north. The linear route of the M1 motorway crosses the BGI zone and the settlements of Awsworth and Cossall lie at the zone's north western boundary.

Summary of existing BGI assets

3.7 Non-irrigated arable land and pasture form the principal land uses in the BGI zone. This includes grassland habitats, such as lowland meadows and semi-improved grassland. Robbinetts SSSI incorporates acidic and neutral grassland units, both of which are in an unfavourable recovering condition. Heathland and acidic grassland characterise Trowell Moor in the south. A pattern of fragmented woodland tracts predominates, including ancient woodland at Grange Wood and open access woodland at Oldmoor Wood.

3.8 Industrial heritage influences the character of the zone and provides valuable habitats and visitor interest, including Nottingham Canal (notably Robbinetts Arm) LNR and species rich verges within the disused Kimberley rail corridor (see **Figure 3.3**). Cossall Conservation Area is recognised for its views over the surrounding farmland and Erewash Valley. The largest settlement is Awsworth, which has a good provision of accessible greenspace. Elsewhere, the primary access to nature within Babbington and Cossall Marsh is via the PRoW network which crosses the landscape of the zone.

Summary of local needs

3.9 The key BGI needs identified in this zone relate to environmental health. This includes road noise associated with the M1 and above average levels of air pollution (for CO₂, NO_x, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} around Cossall Road and the disused Nottingham Canal). Small watercourses primarily drain west to the Erewash Valley, and may contribute to the poor water quality in the River Erewash due to the prevalence of intensive farming. Further south, there is a higher risk of exposure to extreme heat relative to other areas in the Borough.

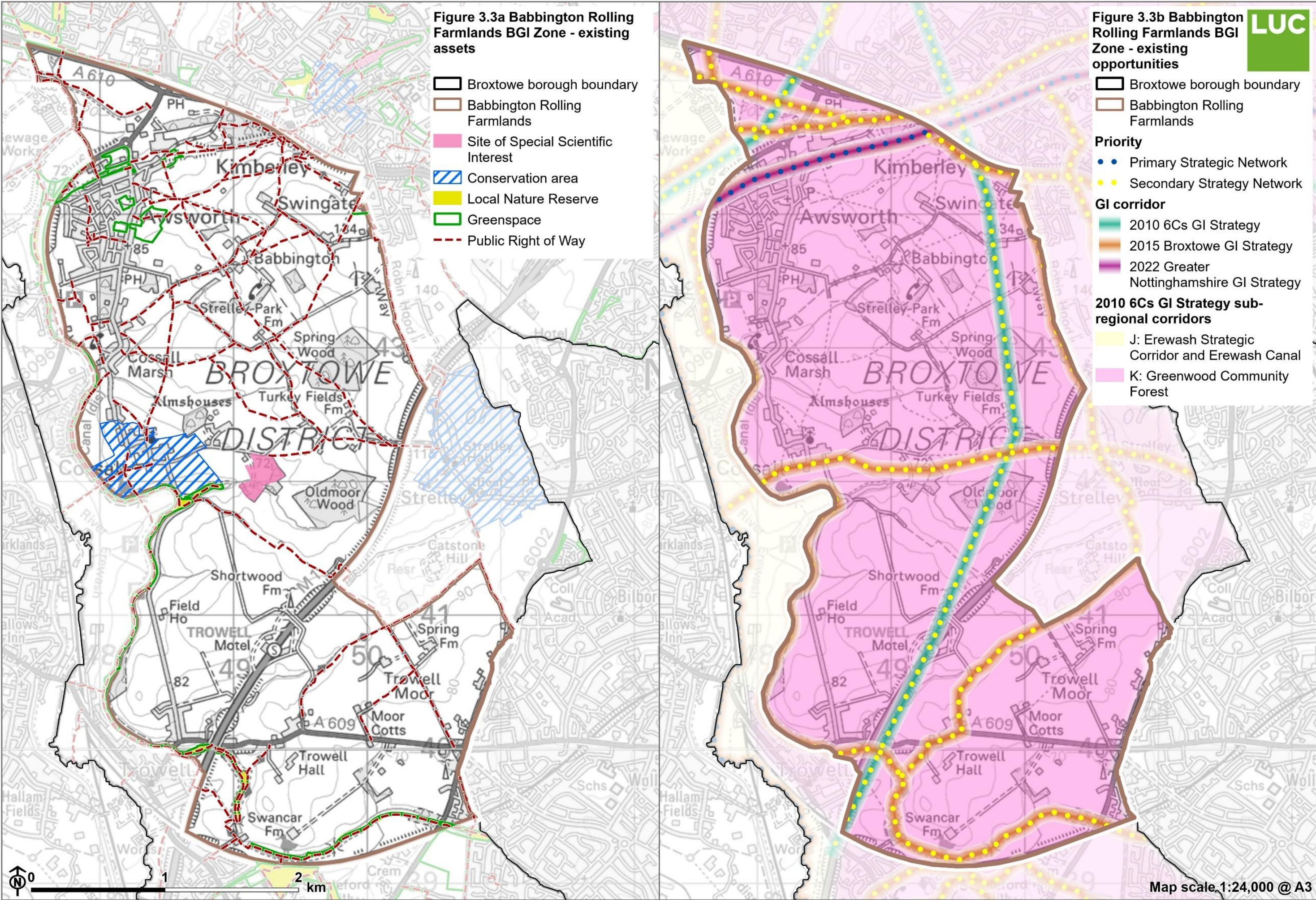
Vision for BGI within the zone

BGI priorities in this zone are to improve connectivity of fragmented habitats, promote enhancements to landscape condition and complement industrial heritage to support resilient ecosystems.

Emerging opportunities to achieve this vision

- Promote habitat enhancements for pollinators within Buglife's B-network corridors and seek opportunities for connecting such habitats to wider national habitats.
- Restore the network of tree belts and hedgerows to improve woodland connectivity and strengthen landscape character.
- Increase tree and vegetation cover alongside the M1 to reduce noise intrusion, whilst helping to sequester CO₂ and other pollutants.
- Support landowners to deliver-natural flood management across the BGI zone as well as efforts to improve water quality .
- Maintain and enhance access to recreational routes and PRow across the rural landscape, including promoting access for all.
- Celebrate the industrial heritage features and encourage the enhanced interpretation of these features within the wider landscape.

Figure 3.3 a-b: Babbington Rolling Farmlands BGI Zone



Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe BGI Zone

Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe BGI Zone is located in the south of the Borough. It comprises the urban areas of Beeston, Chilwell, Toton, Bramcote, Stapleford and Trowell, as well as the intervening greenspace and rural land use between the settlements.

Summary of existing BGI assets

3.10 The primarily urban land use of the BGI zone is interspersed with areas of agricultural land and greenspace assets. In the north, a mixture of woodland and parkland at Bramcote Hills, and large open spaces (including sites which have achieved Green Flag Award criteria) provide ecological and recreational interest. Further south, sections of the A52 road corridor are bordered by rural land use and crossed by a network of PRow. Beeston Fields Golf Club lies to the east. Urban areas within the BGI zone are characterised by a network of open spaces, playing pitches, playgrounds and sports grounds.

3.11 Tree canopy cover is most notable in Bramcote, Beeston (east and west of the town centre) and Toton. The presence of six conservation areas reflect the heritage of the settlements within the BGI zone, with the distribution of mature trees also contributing to their distinctive character (**Figure 3.4**)

Summary of local needs

3.12 Some of the most deprived communities in Broxtowe are located within this BGI zone, including the north western extent of Chilwell and land to the north of Stapleford. This section of Chilwell, coupled with areas of central Beeston are also identified as the most deprived in the Borough according to the health deprivation and disability domain. All three areas have been identified as having a higher socio-spatial vulnerability to flooding, and Beeston also has a high socio-spatial vulnerability to extreme heat. In addition, large areas of the BGI zone lie outside the access catchments for accessible greenspace close to home.

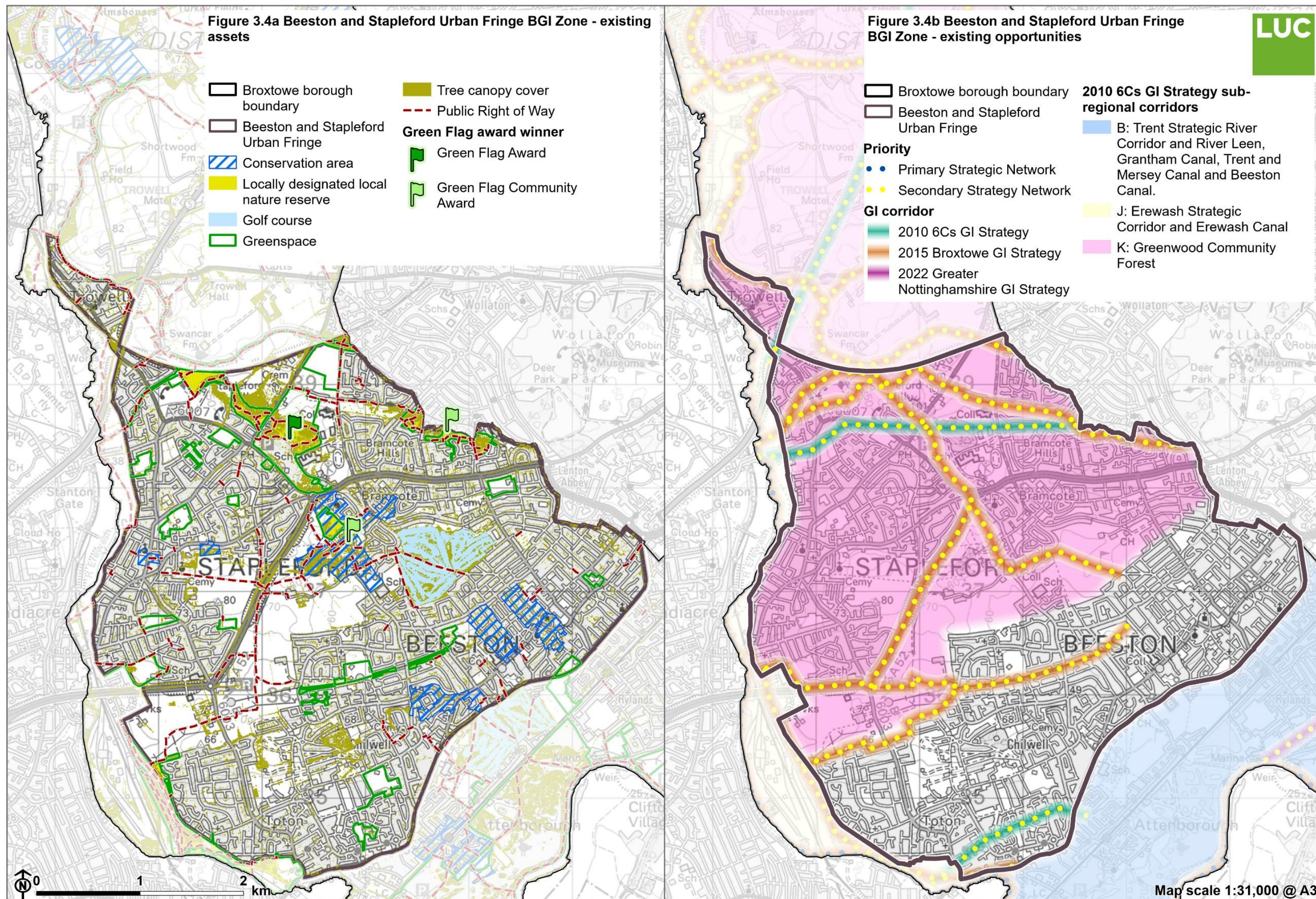
Vision for BGI within the zone

Create more equitable access to greenspace throughout the BGI zone, improving connectivity between urban and rural areas for people and wildlife.

Emerging opportunities to achieve this vision

- Explore opportunities for creating pocket and doorstep parks within Beeston to improve access to greenspace close to home and act as strategic stepping stones to provide habitat connectivity across urban areas.
- Enhance and promote the PRoW network between Beeston / Chilwell and Stapleford to increase active travel options between the settlements.
- Enhance grassland, scrub and hedgerows through increased flower diversity and abundance to support pollinators in line with Buglife's B-Lines.
- Prioritise tree planting in areas of relative health deprivation and where populations are more vulnerable to extreme heat and flooding.
- Explore the opportunity to adopt relaxed mowing regimes for management of public open space to reduce nutrients and increase floristic diversity.
- Seek to retrofit green roofs / walls, street trees and sustainable drainage features within areas with low greenness grid scores.

Figure 3.4 a-b: Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe BGI Zone



Eastern Farmed and Wooded Fringe BGI Zone

Eastern Farmed and Wooded Fringe BGI zone comprises land at the north and north east of the Borough, characterised by elevated and rolling farmland crossed by the corridor of the M1.

Summary of existing BGI assets

3.13 The principal land use of the BGI zone is arable land, interspersed with natural habitats, including deciduous woodland, wood pasture and parkland, and species rich grassland (most common close to ponds and streams). Extensive natural and semi-natural habitats are present in the north around Beauvale Priory; including High Park Wood and Moorgreen Reservoir. Significant tracts of ancient woodland adjoin the Borough boundary; including at Willey Spring, High Park Wood, Watnall Coppice, Eelhole Wood and Starth Wood (see **Figure 3.5**). Awarded Green Flag Community Award in recognition of their role as community recreational spaces, both Colliers Wood and Brinsley Headstocks LNRs lie within this BGI zone.

3.14 The distribution of heritage features highlight the long history of settlement in the area. The BGI zone incorporates the conservation areas at Strelley and Brinsley, as well as the south eastern extent of Nuthall Conservation Area (see **Figure 3.5**).

Summary of local needs

3.15 Local needs vary across the BGI zone. Land to the east is characterised by high levels of noise pollution associated with the route of the M1. Further north, the BGI zone is typified by lower Tree Equity Scores and higher socio-spatial heat vulnerability. The corridor of the Nether Green Brook is associated with poor ecological condition due to barriers to fish movement, and fluvial and surface water flood risk. Many of the natural habitats within this BGI zone are identified as medium and high vulnerability to climate change. In addition, most of the land within this BGI zones lies outside the access catchments for destination-scale open spaces.

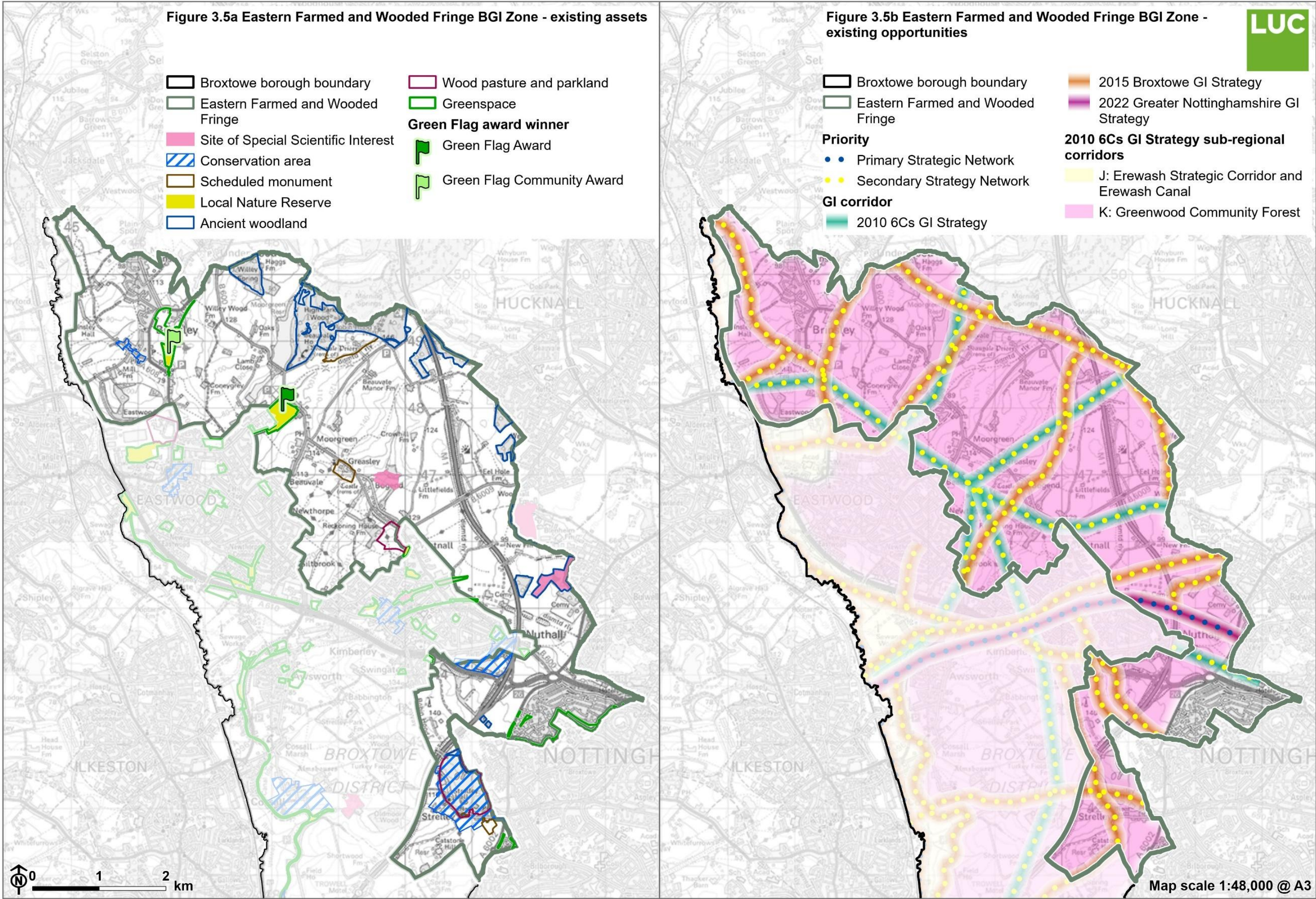
Vision for BGI within the zone

BGI priorities in this zone are to enhance and connect woodland, wood pasture and riparian habitats, and promote the setting of heritage assets for visitors and local communities.

Emerging opportunities to achieve this vision

- Expand, buffer and connect fragmented deciduous woodland along the eastern edge of the Borough, including between Seller's Wood and Bulwell Wood SSSIs to strengthen the resilience of irreplaceable ancient woodland habitat.
- Create, enhance and restore grasslands in the areas surrounding the Gilt Brook and around Brinsley to reconnect existing grasslands and buffer watercourses.
- Introduce riparian planting and consider the re-naturalisation of Nether Green Brook from Moorgreen Reservoir to Colliers Wood to improve water quality and increase flood storage.
- Encourage environmental-friendly farming initiatives, including improved livestock management within the Nether Green Brook catchment and restoration of hedgerows to connect woodlands.
- Explore opportunities for creating corridors within disused railway lines, promoting sustainable transport options between areas of settlements or key landscape features.
- Explore the opportunity to create a new wider neighbourhood park to improve access to destination open space within the north of the Borough, with the potential to incorporate heritage features and landscapes e.g. around Greasley.
- Promote species rich verges and field margins to enhance habitat for pollinators, linking to wider initiatives within Buglife's identified B-Lines.

Figure 3.5 a-b: Eastern Farmed and Wooded Fringe BGI Zone



Erewash Valley BGI Zone

Running broadly north – south following the western boundary of the Borough, this BGI zone is characterised by the corridor of the River Erewash and adjoining floodplain. The river forms a distinctive landscape features and delineates the boundary with Erewash Borough. A number of infrastructure corridors cross the BGI zone; including the M1, A610, A6007 and the A52. Toton Sidings, a former rail depot, lies on the valley floor to the west of Toton.

Summary of existing BGI assets

3.16 This BGI zone contains several locally protected sites, including LNRs at Toton Fields and Nottingham Canal. The floodplain of the River Erewash is also typified by a network of local wildlife sites (LWS) associated primarily with wet grassland, meadow habitat and wetland sites. The Nottingham Canal LWS forms an additional linear landscape feature in the BGI zone. In general, land use is characterised predominantly by a combination of pastoral and arable farmland. Tracts of woodland included within the National Forest Inventory are evident along the River Erewash, although these are somewhat fragmented.

3.17 The Working with Natural Processes (WWNP) Floodplain woodland potential dataset, which estimates locations where tree planting may be possible on smaller floodplains close to flow pathways (effective for both attenuating flooding and connecting woodland corridors), indicates the potential for reforestation at multiple locations adjacent the River Erewash. Accessible waterside (see **Figure 3.6**) is available along much of the watercourse in this BGI zone, as well as along the route of the Nottingham Canal.

Summary of local needs

3.18 Large sections of the BGI zone, particularly to the north and west, are included within Flood Zones 3a and 3b (as defined by the Environment Agency). LSOAs covering the area to the west of Brinsley, land bordering the A610 at Eastwood and at Stapleford form high priority areas for tree investment (Tree Equity Scores of 70-79). Land at the western extent of Eastwood lies within the 20% most deprived areas in England based on overall IMD scores.

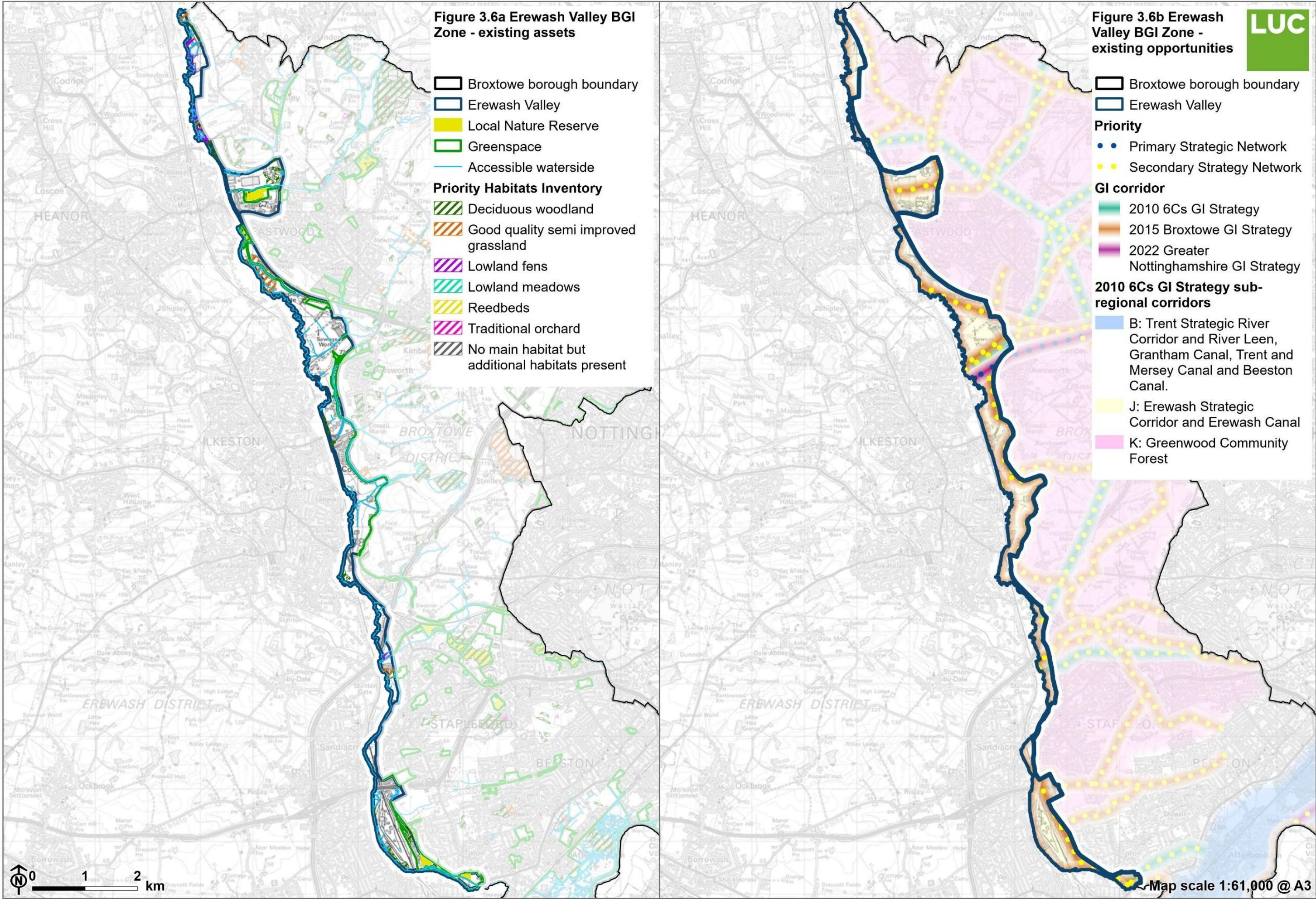
Vision for BGI within the zone

Conserve and improve the biodiversity value of the low-lying Erewash Valley by addressing habitat fragmentation. Enhance ecological and physical connections with the wider floodplain.

Emerging opportunities to achieve this vision

- Create, enhance, enlarge and connect wetland habitats; including floodplain grazing marsh, lowland meadow, reedbed, wet woodland, ponds, swamp and fen, especially where they provide opportunity for reconnection of the floodplain to the river.
- Enhance buffering of waterbodies with grassland, scrub or trees to reduce bankside erosion and intercept pollutants before entering the waterbody.
- Plant trees in strategically advantageous locations to support flood risk reduction as well as carbon sequestration. Black poplar is an ideal species as it offers food and shelter to many other species as well as being an iconic feature of our river valleys.
- Deliver biodiversity enhancements along the Erewash Valley Trail at key sites to improve, and raise awareness of, the ecological importance of the Erewash and its floodplain.

Figure 3.6 a-b: Erewash Valley BGI Zone - existing assets



River Trent Corridor BGI Zone

This BGI zone incorporates the meandering corridor of the River Erewash, delineating the south western extent of the BGI zone. Attenborough Nature Reserve, a complex of flooded former gravel pits, adjoins the River Trent and is bound to the west by the route of the Nottingham to Matlock rail line. Located to the south east of the carriageway of the A6005, the BGI zone includes the urban fabric of Attenborough and Beeston Rylands.

Summary of existing BGI assets

3.19 The BGI zone includes a number of key blue infrastructure assets, including the River Trent, River Erewash and a section of the Beeston Canal. Located at the confluence of the River Erewash and River Trent, Attenborough Nature Reserve is designated as a SSSI due to its national importance as a site for lowland eutrophic open waters and mosaic of emergent vegetation, wet woodland and unimproved grassland (see **Figure 3.7**). In addition to Attenborough Gravel Pits LWS, the BGI zone also includes a network of LWS at Chilwell Meadow, Chilwell Meadow Golf Club and Beeston Canal.

3.20 Tree coverage identified within the National Forest Inventory borders sections of the River Trent, with further tracts also evident within Chilwell Manor Golf Club, Attenborough Nature Reserve and a small area adjacent Beeston Canal. Based on the Tree Equity Score, a large section of the BGI zone covering Attenborough Nature Reserve exhibits equitable access to trees (achieving a score of 100 out of 100). The Working with Natural Processes (WWNP) Floodplain woodland potential dataset indicates the potential for reforestation within pockets within Attenborough Nature Reserve.

3.21 The route of the Trent Way borders the river corridor, providing a key recreational resource, supplemented by a network of PRoW which radiate from Attenborough Nature Reserve and the settlement edge of Beeston Rylands. The BGI zone also incorporates a short section of the on-road route of National Cycle Network route 6 within Attenborough. The BGI zone also incorporates conservation areas at Attenborough Village and at Attenborough Barratt Lane.

Summary of local needs

3.22 With the exception of the settlement footprints at Attenborough and Beeston Rylands, large sections of land to the east of the Nottingham to Matlock rail line lie within Flood Zones 3a and 3b.

3.23 The northern and southern fringes of Beeston Rylands form the highest priorities for future tree planting, with Tree Equity Scores ranging between 59-66 out of 100. Existing tree canopy coverage at these locations ranges from 9-10%. Intervening urban land use at Beeston Rylands is characterised by moderate priority Tree Equity Scores (80-89 out of 100). The LSOA stretching from the A6005 to land lying to the west of the sewage treatment works at Thane Road ranks within the 40% most deprived areas in England based on overall IMD scores.

Vision for BGI within the zone

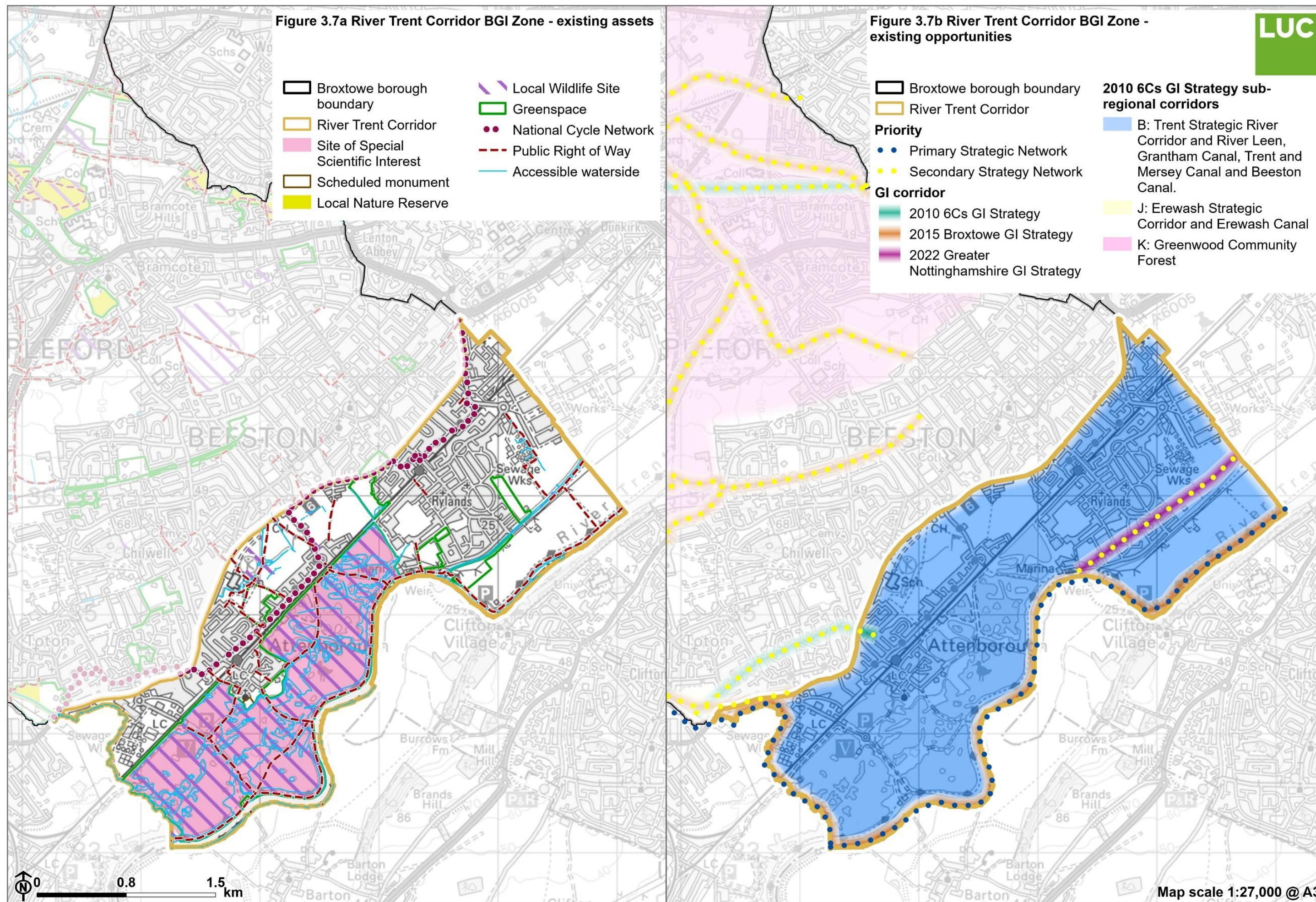
Reinforce the distinctive local character of the River Trent, enhancing the biodiversity value of the network of habitats, whilst also offering an important conduit for the movement of people and wildlife.

Emerging opportunities to achieve this vision

- Restore “naturalness” to the River Trent and its associated habitats so this important blue corridor can support targeted threatened species and provide access to nature for local communities. Re-connecting the floodplain and river will increase biodiversity and reduce flood risk downstream.
- Incorporate tree planting and wetland creation to provide multiple benefits including natural flood management, climate mitigation and adaptation, access to nature and for biodiversity.
- Create additional areas of wet woodland, especially in the Attenborough Nature Reserve, and tree planting (including black poplar) along water courses for carbon sequestration, natural flood management and to offer diversity of habitat in the valley mosaic and for those species reliant on trees, woodland and woodland edge habitats.
- Create new interconnected floating reedbeds and improved management of existing reedbeds to benefit breeding bitterns within and around the Attenborough Nature Reserve.

- Create buffer strips alongside waterbodies within Attenborough Nature Reserve to reduce bank erosion and limit the pathway for pollutants to enter the water and affect water quality.
- Enhance the network of nature-based solutions, including wetlands and riparian vegetation, to improve resilience and adaptation to flooding. Natural flood management interventions to supplement the existing engineered flood protection associated with the Environment Agency's Nottingham Left Bank Flood Alleviation Scheme should also be explored.
- Enhance the corridor of the River Trent as a recreational resource, including improvements to local PRow which provide linkages to the Trent Valley Way long distance footpath.
- Introduce a programme of future tree planting within Beeston Rylands to address inequitable access to trees, as identified by the Tree Equity Score.

Figure 3.7 a-b: River Trent Corridor BGI Zone - existing assets



Chapter 4

Delivery mechanisms

Planning mechanisms

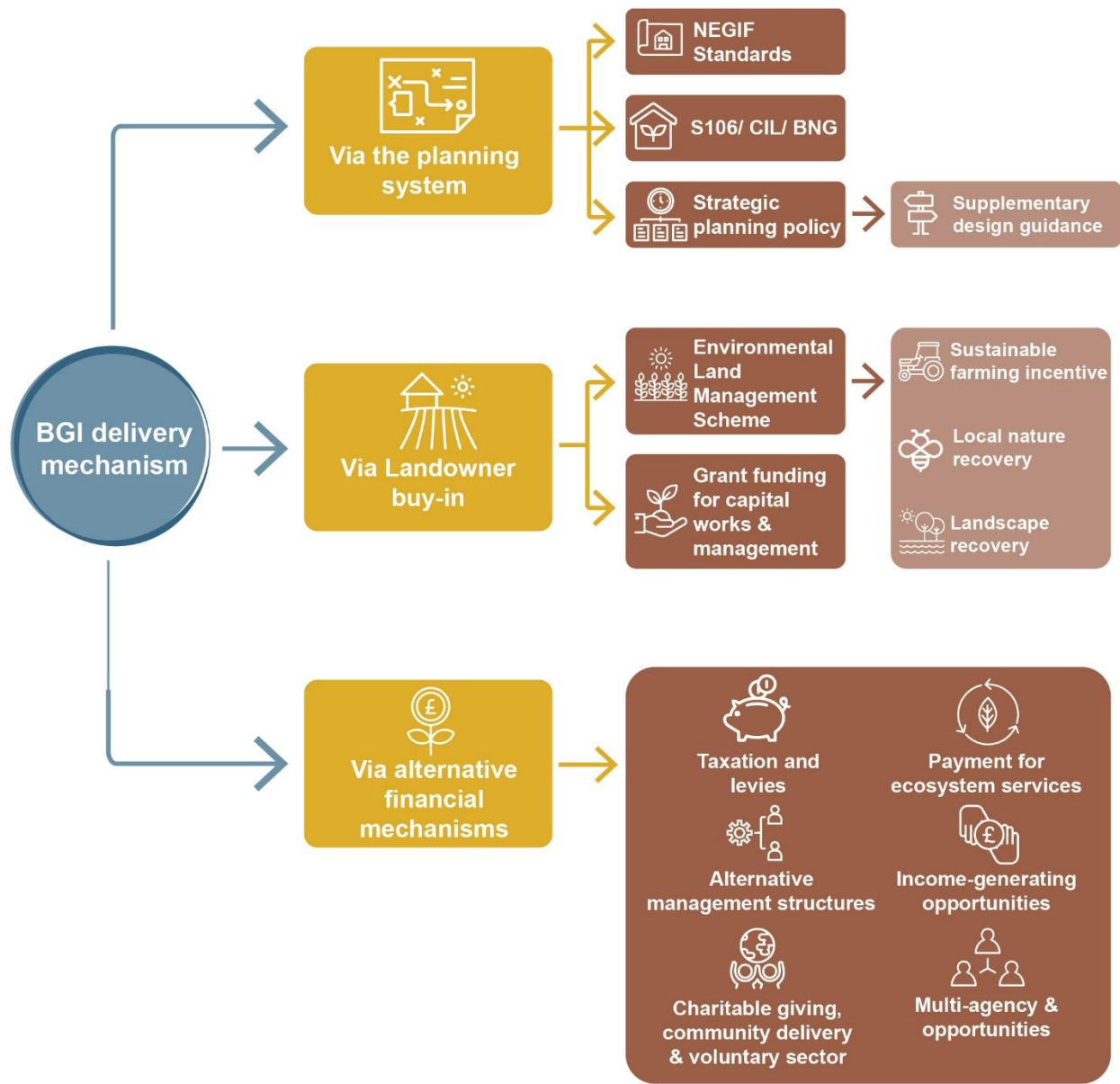
4.1 Planning policy plays a critical role in the delivery of BGI, including by setting clear expectations within Local Plan Policy along with other planning tools. This chapter outlines the various planning mechanisms and tools that can be used to help deliver BGI in Broxtowe. **Figure 4.1** illustrates the range of potential BGI delivery mechanisms within the Borough.

Strategic planning policy

4.2 The adoption of a robust strategic BGI policy within the Council's Local Plan offers the opportunity to positively influence BGI delivery and ongoing maintenance. The current status of local and regional planning policy is provided within **Appendix A**. When work on a future Local Plan for Broxtowe progresses, it is recommended that it incorporates a robust, specific BGI policy. When developing a BGI Local Plan policy, there are several self-assessment tools which can be used, such as the Green Infrastructure Planning Policy Assessment Tool, which contains 26 assessment criteria covering the core functions of BGI **[See reference 43]**.

4.3 Beyond this strategic policy, it is important to ensure that BGI is fully embedded within the Local Plan rather than dealt with by a strategic policy alone. It should therefore be complemented by the 'mainstreaming' of BGI through the integration of explicit references to BGI into other policies. This will allow BGI to move outside any environmental policy 'silo' and interact with other agendas including health, economic and social policy areas.

Figure 4.1 Potential BGI delivery mechanisms



Site-specific policies

4.4 Where provided, site allocation policies within the Local Plan should incorporate more detailed guidance on specific BGI to be provided on these sites. These should draw on baseline data in the BGI Strategy; including BGI assets found on or near the site, local needs, as well identified actions for the specific BGI zone. Where development briefs for proposed site allocations are developed, these should incorporate expectations for BGI provision, its type, location and ongoing maintenance requirements.

Application of the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (NEGIF) Standards

4.5 The NEGIF [\[See reference 6\]](#) was published in February 2023. It includes five Headline Green Infrastructure Standards for local planning authorities to consider in relation to major development (with specific standards based on local evidence), alongside area wide standards. These standards vary in their applicability and complexity and require individual consideration for use in Broxtowe. A high-level overview of each major development standard is provided below and should be read in conjunction with the NEGIF:

- **S1: Green Infrastructure Strategy Standard** aims to ensure that BGI is strategically planned for the context of the local area to ensure it will achieve maximum benefits. It is recommended that the Council should incorporate the requirement for the provision of a BGI Plan as part of applications for any major development proposal (this could be a standalone document or incorporated into a Design and Access Statement (DAS)). It should set out how BGI will be managed, maintained and monitored for at least 30 years.
- **S2: Accessible Greenspace Standard** aims to ensure everyone has access to good quality BGI, setting quantitative standards for the amount, size and location of greenspace. The major development standard requires that proposals ensure access to a specified quantity, size, capacity and quality of greenspace within certain distances of the site using Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards or other locally adopted open space standards. The NEGIF recommends the use of the Green Flag Award criteria [\[See reference 44\]](#) as a quality standard [\[See reference 45\]](#).
- **S3: Urban Nature Recovery Standard** seeks to increase the proportion of BGI designed and managed for nature recovery. The major development standard requires developers to demonstrate contributions to nature recovery through the GI Plan (or DAS), including the creation / enhancement of Local Nature Reserves or Local Wildlife Sites.
- **S4: Urban Greening Factor Standard (UGF)** is a tool to increase the amount and quality of green land cover within urban environments. The major development standard recommends target UGF scores for commercial (0.3), residential (0.4) and residential greenfield (0.5) proposals, although these can be altered based on local assessment.
- **S5: Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard** aims to increase urban tree canopy cover by an agreed percentage, based on a locally defined

baseline and consideration of local needs, opportunities and constraints. The major development standard sets local targets for tree canopy cover within development sites. It requires new and existing trees to be incorporated into new developments and that all new streets are tree lined (as per NPPF requirements).

4.6 It is recommended the Council undertake further testing of Headline Standards 2 – 5 to determine their suitability for adoption and to identify appropriate local standards in Broxtowe planning policy. The NEGIF Process Guide for Local Planning Authorities is available here: [\[See reference 46\]](#).

Other planning delivery mechanisms

4.7 Developer contributions for infrastructure can be a source of funding to support BGI. The Council's Infrastructure Funding Statement [\[See reference 47\]](#) provides an overview of all current developer contributions mechanisms and figures within the Borough. Key mechanisms include:

- **Section 106 (S106) agreements** [\[See reference 48\]](#) allow a planning authority to enter a negotiated agreement (or “planning obligation”) to mitigate the impact of a specific development to make it acceptable in planning terms. Where a development fails to meet local criteria, such as any adopted NEGIF major development standard, S106 agreements could be used to secure financial support for local BGI projects. It will be essential to have clear and transparent BGI policy requirements so that the tests for S106 agreements can be met (that they are necessary, relevant to planning, directly, fairly and reasonably related to the proposed development).
- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** [\[See reference 49\]](#) is a locally based development tax. CIL is not currently used in Broxtowe, but the Council intend to introduce it. Should it be used, the Council should consider identifying some of the appropriate opportunities outlined in this BGI Strategy within their Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to facilitate the use of these funds for BGI.

4.8 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): BNG was introduced nationally in February 2024 and requires all major development to deliver an uplift of at least 10% in biodiversity, to be delivered on-site unless it can be evidence that this is not possible, in which case off-site contributions may be accepted. On-site BNG provision should enhance the BGI on a development site while off-site BNG

contributions will be an important source of funding for strategic BGI opportunities [\[See reference 50\]](#).

4.9 Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS): The emerging LNRS [\[See reference 51\]](#) for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham is due to be published in autumn 2025 [\[See reference 52\]](#). It will play a major role in identifying and mapping the best locations to create, enhance and restore nature and provide wider environmental benefits across the region. Any BGI proposals should consider both this BGI strategy and the LNRS when published.

4.10 Supplementary design guidance: The Council could consider supporting new BGI planning policies by developing a supplementary planning document (SPD) establishing the required content of BGI plan and what BGI will be expected to be delivered through development. It could also be used to provide further guidance on how developers should seek to meet BGI and BNG requirements jointly.

4.11 Building with Nature (BwN): BwN is an additional evidence-based standard that defines high-quality BGI based on a set of 12 criteria [\[See reference 53\]](#). It seeks to raise the bar for industry by demonstrating what 'good' BGI looks like at each stage of the development process. The standard could be adopted by the Council as a benchmark for assessing and accrediting the quality of BGI delivery as part of development.

Effective monitoring and evaluation

4.12 It is important that the implementation of BGI policy and any adopted standards, along with other planning tools are monitored and evaluated to ensure their effectiveness in protecting, maintaining and enhancing Broxtowe's BGI network over time. Evaluation can be carried out at two levels; development level (to assess whether the design, delivery and maintenance of BGI was carried out accordingly) and at policy level (to assess the cumulative benefits across the Borough).

4.13 The monitoring and evaluation process should be carried out at an appropriate frequency and dovetailed into other review processes (such as for BNG), where possible, to avoid duplication of effort and provide more joined-up results. Any learning should be directly addressed and lead to adaptations to policy and standards and their management.

4.14 It is recommended that the Council establishes a **BGI Delivery Partnership**, responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the BGI network

across the Borough. This would become a network where progress on BGI delivery is shared, where existing and new partnerships are co-ordinated and collaboration across Broxtowe is promoted. It would also encourage collaboration at both the county and Borough scale with statutory agencies, charities and community groups.

Partnership working

4.15 The planning system, and local authority resources, cannot be relied upon alone to deliver the requirements and aspirations of this BGI Strategy. Much of the new and improved BGI will be taken forward, funded and maintained by a range of partners external to the Council working in multi-partner arrangements through a range of delivery mechanisms.

4.16 Grant funding: Several public bodies and third sector organisations provide grant funding for natural capital, local and cultural heritage and community benefit investment opportunities. Grants vary significantly by value and criteria and often they are only available to public or third-sector organisations. Grant funding opportunities are usually competitively allocated and often several grant funds can be stacked to fund larger scale projects.

4.17 Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS): Several of the opportunities for Broxtowe's BGI network are located within rural areas of the Borough. The new ELMS replaces the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Progress on ELMS lies fully outside of the planning system and under the governance of DEFRA. However, uptake of ELMS funding for environmental measures by farmers / landowners will be central to achieving the vision for the BGI network; particularly addressing issues of habitat fragmentation and water quality within agricultural areas.

4.18 Payment for ecosystem services (PES): PES involve financial payments to land managers to voluntarily maintain or improve ecosystems, above and beyond what is required by regulations. Buyers of these services may be public bodies or private companies that benefit from these ecosystem services (for example, businesses that need to offset carbon emissions). Currently, payment for ecosystem services in the UK generally focus on regulating services, with a particular focus on carbon sequestration and storage. The voluntary carbon market includes two accredited schemes: the Woodland Carbon Code (WCC) and the Peatland Carbon Code (PCC).

- At regional scale, several water quality markets have been established. Water companies paying farmers within specific catchments to change

land management practices to reduce diffuse water pollution, leading to reduced water treatment costs. Various voluntary “carbon+” markets are also emerging. These offer carbon offsetting bundled with wider benefits, such as biodiversity (for example, Wilder Carbon from the Wildlife Trusts [See reference 54]).

- BNG can also be considered as an example of a payment for ecosystem services, in situations where developers cannot deliver onsite BNG and are required to purchase BNG credits for off-site mitigation. The Council could consider creating ‘habitat banks’ on its own land as part of BGI interventions. These BNG units could then be sold to developers, providing a further funding mechanism for ecological enhancements.
- If large scale tree planting proposals were proposed, then the possibility of selling WCC credits or similar could also be explored. However, the Council may wish to ‘bank’ any carbon savings for its own carbon accounting.

4.19 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): The Council may also wish to explore other opportunities with local businesses. Some organisations may be willing to sponsor improvements to existing greenspaces as part of their CSR strategy, rather than paying for a specific ecosystem service benefit.

Chapter 5

Five-year action plan

5.1 Each of the six BGI zones provide a streamlined approach to the identification and delivery of BGI interventions. Their aim is provide a framework for action to help policymakers, developers, community groups and residents to deliver appropriate, multifunctional and resilient BGI across the Borough.

5.2 This five-year action plan is structured by BGI zone, with the aim of promoting the future delivery of BGI across the Borough. A number of actions are identified within each BGI zone, including three 'priority actions', demonstrating a variety of project types and costs. The intention is for these actions to be taken forward by various partners through various delivery mechanisms or when funding becomes available. Whilst some actions are spatially specific, the principles of other key actions offer the opportunity to be replicated across the Borough.

5.3 The rationale for identification of the BGI actions is outlined below:

- Multifunctionality and range of benefits: Actions that provide multiple benefits that align with the 15 principles to promote the successful delivery of GI, as defined by Natural England (see **Chapter 1**).
- Meeting identified need: The degree to which the action meets an identified gap in the existing BGI network within the Borough.
- Deliverability: Projects that are deemed to be 'more deliverable', for example, those in receipt of existing stakeholder support, relating to a clear funding stream, or alignment with other existing initiatives.
- Professional judgement: The finalised list was compiled using professional judgement to ensure the above criteria provide a representative list of actions.

5.4 To help contribute towards the forward-planning of all the identified actions, outline cost bands have been devised based on professional judgement. The categories are outlined below in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1: Indicative cost categories for BGI actions

Cost category	Value (£)
Low	<£250k
Medium	£250k - £1 million
High	>£1 million

5.5 The action plan is organised by BGI zone (see **Tables 5.2 a-f**), with the location of actions illustrated on **Figures 5.1 – 5.6**.

A610 Urban Corridor BGI Zone

Table 5.2 a: Action plan - A610 Urban Corridor BGI Zone

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
1.1	Priority action: Maximise opportunities to integrate green features into the proposed new active travel route along the dismantled Kimberley railway line ('the Great Northern Path') which is currently being delivered through Levelling Up Grant Funding to establish a biodiversity-rich green corridor.	<p>Explore wider connections which could be provided from this route, linking to Bulwell (via Nuthall Cutting), Awsworth and east of the River Erewash (via Bennerley Viaduct).</p> <p>Identify additional opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and habitat connectivity along the funded route, including through the potential integration of wildflower verges, hedgerows and trees.</p> <p>Undertake an active travel audit and feasibility study of potential new connections to the route, linking to surrounding settlements and enhancing the wider active travel network. This should include the integration of multi-user path surfacing, removal of existing access barriers, implementation of safe road crossings and establishment of priority access points. Key links to surrounding areas and the wider active travel network should also be identified.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council (PRoW officer)</p> <p>Sustrans</p>	<p>Grant funding (Levelling up fund) for initial greening</p> <p>Delivery mechanisms for connecting routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 106 contributions/CIL ■ Grant funding (Active Travel England) 	<p>Low (enhancement of greening along funded route)</p> <p>Low (active travel audit and feasibility study)</p> <p>High (long term delivery of new connections)</p>
1.2	Priority action: Protection and promotion of geological heritage at Kimberley Cutting SSSI through increased signage and interpretation	Expanding on Action 1.1, ensure that the designated geological features at Kimberley cutting are protected and preserved, including the strategic routing of the path to avoid negative impacts from construction and public access. Woodland / vegetation management should be undertaken to maintain the integrity of the geological feature.	<p>Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Kimberley Town Council</p> <p>Kimberley community groups</p>	Grant funding (e.g. National Lottery Heritage Fund)	Low

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
		Incorporate additional signage and interpretation around the Kimberley Cutting SSSI to celebrate the important geological feature and add an additional point of interest along the Great Northern Path.			
1.3	Priority action: Integration of urban greening interventions in Eastwood town centre.	<p>Undertake public engagement and collaborate with community groups to identify suitable priority areas for integration of urban greening within Eastwood town centre.</p> <p>Utilise urban greening initiatives to shape an attractive and thriving town centre, encouraging dwell time in the High Street and increasing biodiversity in an urban context. A variety of multi-functional BGI assets could include street trees, pollinator-friendly planters, rain gardens, green lampposts, bird boxes, insect hotels, green walls and green roofs retrofitted to commercial buildings and bus shelters.</p> <p>A long-term management / maintenance plan should be prepared alongside landscape proposals to promote successful establishment of BGI interventions.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Eastwood Town Council</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Buglife</p> <p>Groundwork UK</p> <p>Trees for Cities</p> <p>Eastwood community groups</p>	<p>Section 106 contributions</p> <p>Grant funding</p> <p>Local authority environmental funding</p> <p>CSR contributions</p>	Low - Medium
1.4	Provide natural flood management features in areas susceptible to river and surface water flooding to interrupt the flow into the area's brooks that feed the River Erewash.	<p>Identify and liaise with landowners to identify opportunities for the integration of natural flood management interventions focussed on SuDS features such as rain gardens, swales and tree planting. Locations may include Gilt Brook, Nether Green Brook, Nether Green Brook, Plumpton Way and Kimberley disused railway line.</p> <p>The creation of wetland habitat should also be considered along Beauvale Brook to reduce river and surface water flood risk in</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Severn Trent Water</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Landowners</p>	<p>Payments for ecosystem services (including off-site BNG)</p> <p>Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs)</p>	Medium

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
		this area and contribute to biodiversity enhancement and connectivity.			
1.5	Explore opportunities for tree planting within existing greenspaces in Eastwood and Kimberley.	<p>Identify and deliver opportunities for new broadleaved tree planting within existing greenspaces to provide multiple benefits such as urban cooling, air quality enhancements, and increased amenity value.</p> <p>Target locations should include Coronation Park, Basil Russell Playing Fields, Hall Om Wong, and the informal greenspace area north of the A610 and west of Halls Lane where tree planting would also contribute to the woodland habitat network.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Eastwood Town Council</p> <p>Kimberley Town Council</p> <p>Eastwood and Kimberley community groups</p>	<p>Payments for ecosystem services (including off-site BNG and Woodland Carbon Code)</p> <p>Grant funding (e.g. England woodland creation offer)</p> <p>S106 Agreements</p> <p>CSR contributions</p>	Low
1.6	Mansfield Road Recreation Ground improvements	<p>Refurbish boundary railings, enhance amenity provision and enhance sustainable and nature-friendly management within the open space at Mansfield Road Recreation Ground.</p> <p>This could include implementing relaxed mowing regimes on the open space and around the play provision, promoting wildflower grass margins and introducing species-rich hedgerows along the boundary.</p> <p>Further improvements could include the integration of new natural play features to enhance the current play offer in the park.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Eastwood Town Council</p> <p>Eastwood community groups</p>	<p>S106 Agreements</p> <p>Grant funding</p> <p>CSR contributions</p>	Low - Medium

Figure 5.1: A610 Urban Corridor BGI Zone

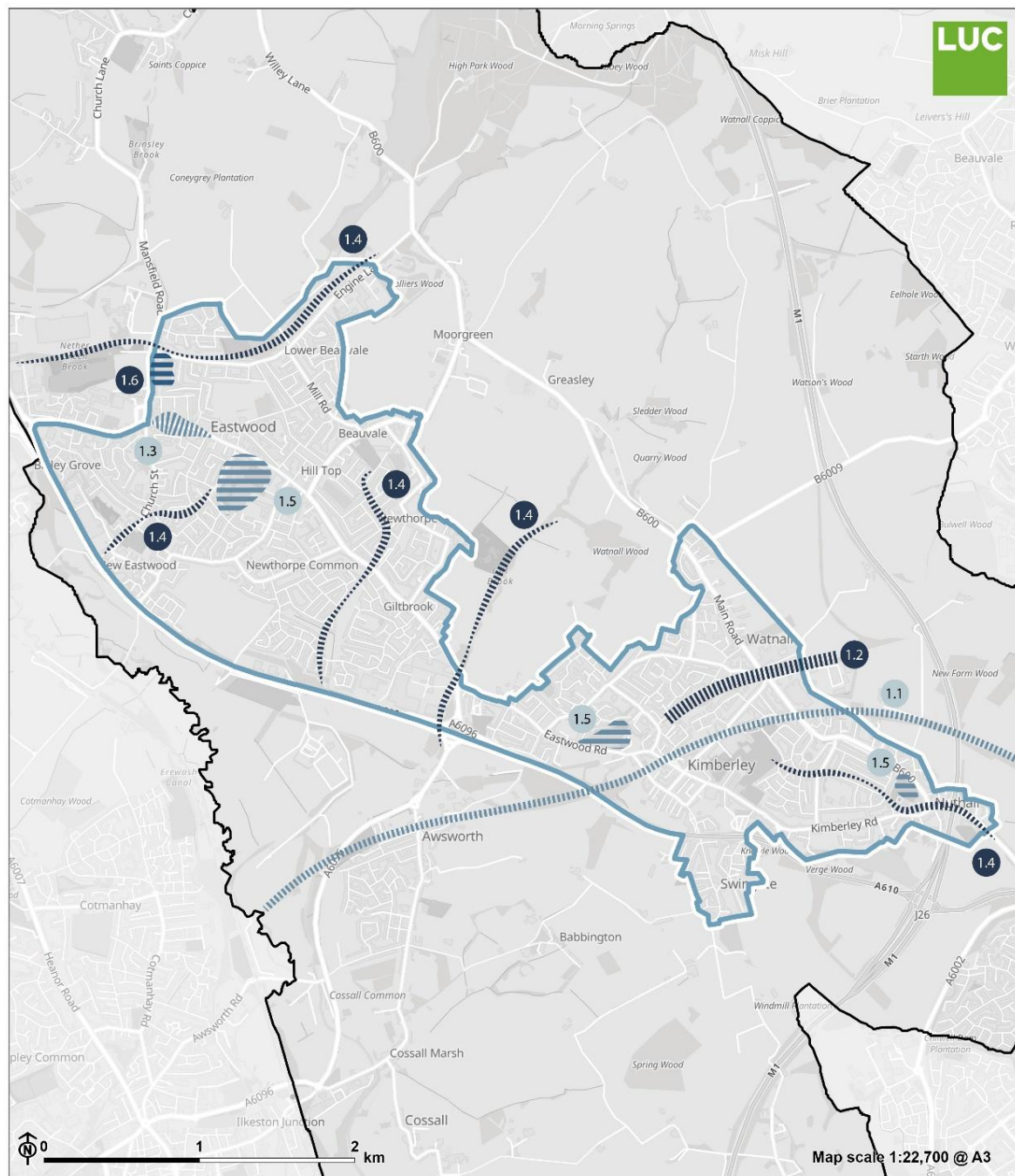


Figure 5.1: A610 Urban Corridor

- Broxtowe borough boundary
- BGI zone**
- A610 Urban Corridor



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Babbington Rolling Farmlands BGI Zone

Table 5.2 b: Action plan – Babbington Rolling Farmlands BGI Zone

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
2.1	Priority action: Grassland connections Connect grassland habitats through enhanced species rich field-margins and verges between Strelley and Cossall.	Liaise with landowners to prioritise management approaches which increase species-rich field margins within grassland between Strelley and Cossall to provide corridors and buffer habitat around existing grassland sites, including Robbinetts SSSI. Relaxed mowing regimes within verges along roads, including within Cossall, Robinettes Lane, and other country lanes should be considered to further strengthen these corridors. This should be done in conjunction with the LNRS.	Neighbouring landowners Natural England National Highways Buglife	DEFRA Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs) / Countryside Stewardship Grant funding Off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	Medium
2.2	Priority action: Trowell to Nottingham Greenway Deliver a green active travel corridor from Trowell to Nottingham along the Nottingham Canal	Promote the use of the canal towpath as an active travel route between Nottingham and Trowell / North Stapleford through increased wayfinding. Explore opportunities for surface enhancements as required, whilst being mindful of the importance of the site as an LNR. Monitor and remove invasive species including Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed along the Nottingham Canal.	Broxtowe Borough Council Nottingham City Council The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Sustrans	Grant funding (e.g. Active Travel Fund) Empowering community groups associated with the LNR.	High
2.3	Priority action: Robbinetts Nature Park Create an accessible wildlife watching site at Robbinetts Arm of the Nottingham Canal to provide a small-scale destination space the Nottingham Canal LNR.	Identify landowner and explore opportunities to introduce interpretation signage to promote connectivity to wildlife within the Nottingham Canal LNR. In the longer term, explore the feasibility of rewetting the land between the Nottingham Canal and brook to the north and creating a	Broxtowe Borough Council Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust The Conservation Volunteers Natural England	Offsite BNG Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions Crowd funding	High

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
		boardwalk to provide access along the current PRow.			
2.4	Awsorth recreation grounds Introduce habitat enhancements around the border of the cricket pitch and other amenities within Awsorth.	Seek to enhance sustainable and nature-friendly management within the open space around Awsorth Bowls Club and Awsorth Cricket Club to enhance the biodiversity and recreational value of the site. This could include through relaxed mowing regimes on the open space edge and around the play provision, promoting wildflower grass margins and introducing species-rich hedgerows along the boundary.	Awsorth Parish Council Awsorth Cricket Club Wilder Nottinghamshire Network	Offsite BNG Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions Empowering community groups Crowd funding Grant funding (e.g. Tree Council's Branching Out Fund)	Low
2.5	Monk's Way Trail Promote interpretation and biodiversity features along Monk's Way, to encourage the use of this route which runs from Strelley, to Cossall and onto Ilkeston in the administrative boundary of Erewash Borough Council.	Update online information and leaflets relating to the recreational Monks Way. Enhance interpretation and signage along the route, promoting the natural heritage including Nottingham Canal LNR and woodlands. Explore opportunities for collaborating with health providers and wellbeing groups to promote the use of this route for regular 'wellbeing walks' due to its relatively central position in the Borough, circular route and access from public car parks. Work with landowners to promote condition and management of the PRow which form part of this loop, including ensuring wayfinding is clear and paths are suitable for a range of walking abilities. Management of the footpaths, including wildflower or hedgerows boundaries could also be considered.	Broxtowe Borough Council Erewash Borough Council Cossall Parish Council NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Historic England	Grant funding (e.g. National Heritage Fund; People's Health Trust) Payments for access	Medium

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
2.6	Enhance woodland habitat connectivity adjacent the M1	Set out a planting plan to increase tree cover and the width of the woodland corridor along the M1, with the aim to reduce noise levels across central Broxtowe and sequester pollutants and carbon. A landscape architect should be commissioned to advise on species selection.	National Highways Woodland Trust	Grant funding e.g. Woodland Trust Payments for ecosystem services (carbon markets)	High

Figure 5.2 Babbington Rolling Farmlands BGI Zone

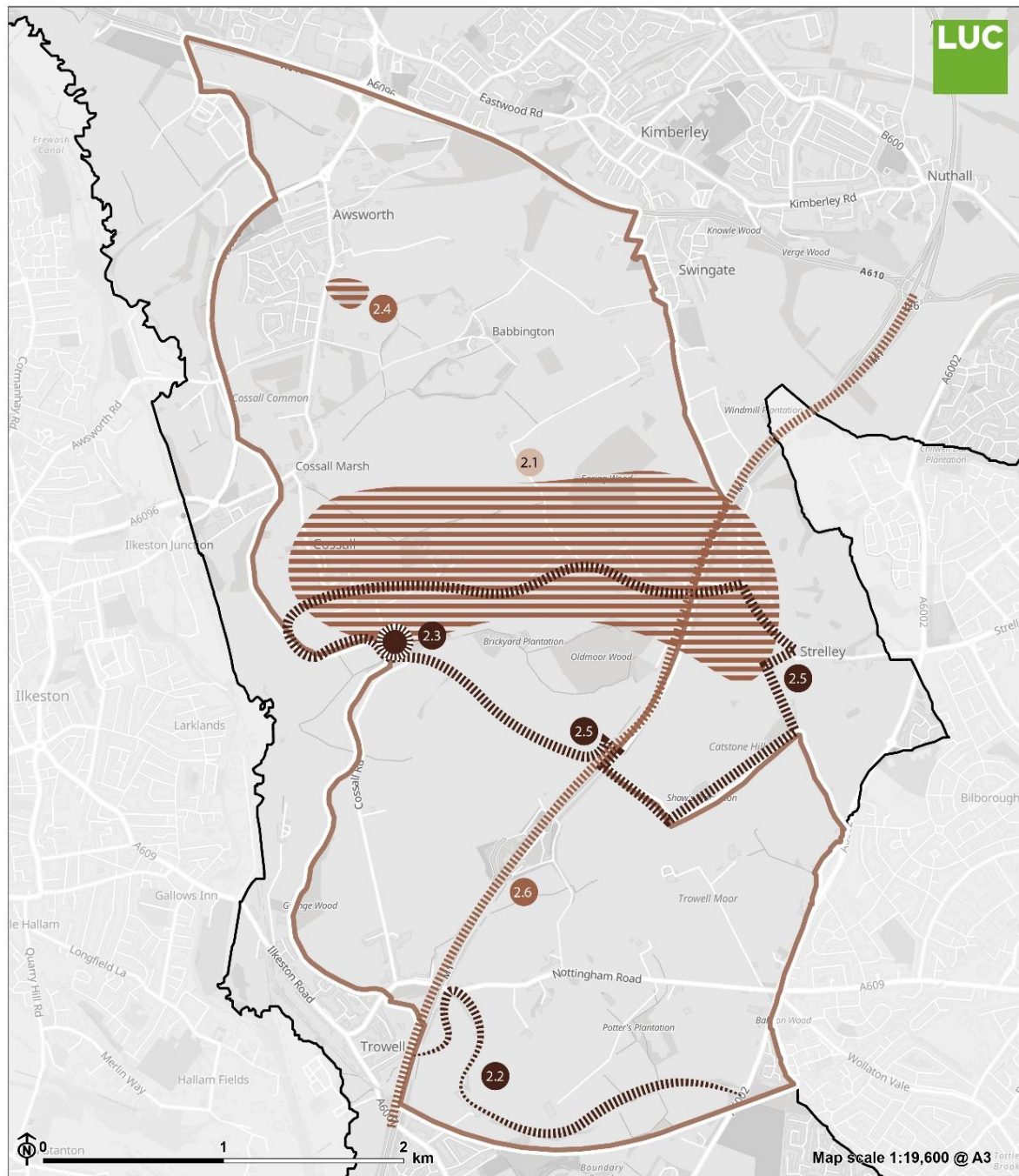


Figure 5.2: Babbington Rolling Farmlands

- Broxtowe borough boundary
- BGI zone**
- Babbington Rolling Farmlands



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Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe BGI Zone

Table 5.2 c: Action plan – Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe BGI Zone

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
3.1	<p>Priority action: Stapleford Hill to Bramcote Ridge green corridor</p> <p>Enhance habitat connectivity between Stapleford Hill, Bramcote Hill and Alexandrina Plantation / Sandy Lane Open Space LNR.</p>	<p>Audit the open space and undeveloped land along Bramcote Ridge, Bramcote Hills and Stapleford Hill to identify locations for potential grassland and heathland enhancements. This includes within open spaces and the grounds of Bramcote College Sixth Form and Bramcote Crematorium.</p> <p>Review existing management within these open spaces, and explore opportunities for relaxed mowing regimes, enhanced interpretation of the importance of these spaces, and improved connectivity between sites. Introduce a programme of works to remove invasive species.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Bramcote College Sixth Form</p> <p>Friends of Bramcote Ridge</p>	<p>DEFRA Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs) / Countryside Stewardship</p> <p>Grant funding</p> <p>Off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)</p>	Medium
3.2	<p>Priority action: Beeston pocket parks</p> <p>Create small-scale community-led pocket parks across Beeston and Chilwell, where there is currently a deficiency in access to greenspaces.</p>	<p>Work with greenspace officers and community groups in Beeston and Chilwell to identify potential locations for pocket parks. This may include on small derelict sites, amenity greenspace or verges within residential streets.</p> <p>Within more densely built up areas, the siting of pocket parks may require their creation alongside traffic calming measures (offering space for street trees, benches and planters to be introduced).</p> <p>Work with communities to establish groups who can take ownership of these spaces and their management. This may include small orchards, herb planters, bee hotels or other small-scale interventions.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Local community groups</p> <p>Incredible Edible</p>	<p>S106 / CIL</p> <p>Grant funding</p>	High

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
3.3	<p>Priority action: Hedgerow connectivity</p> <p>Enhance hedgerow connectivity in rural areas between Beeston, Stapleford and Bramcote to reduce the effects of habitat fragmentation and increase ecological resilience at the urban fringe.</p>	<p>Liaise with landowners and carry out site audits to identify priority areas to deliver strategic hedgerow planting to improve habitat connectivity between urban areas. The action should target locations where vegetation is minimal and / or loss is evident.</p> <p>Alongside this, work with landowners to encourage the establishment of biodiverse field margins, enhanced grassland and scrub along field margins and the creation of important habitat for pollinators.</p>	<p>Landowners</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Woodland Trust</p> <p>Local community groups</p> <p>Buglife</p> <p>Plantlife</p>	<p>DEFRA Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs) / Countryside Stewardship</p> <p>Payments for ecosystem services</p> <p>Grant funding (e.g. Woodland Trust MOREhedges funding scheme)</p>	Low
3.4	<p>Chilwell to Stapleford connections</p> <p>Deliver PRoW improvements to connect Chilwell, Toton, Stapleford and Bramcote and promote active travel between the settlements.</p>	<p>Audit the existing Public Right of Way network between Toton, Chilwell, Stapleford and Bramcote to understand the existing condition and accessibility of footpaths.</p> <p>Liaise with landowners to scope the potential for surface upgrades and promotion of routes to create a formalised, off-road greenway between Stapleford and Toton.</p> <p>Final delivery of the action may include wayfinding signage, habitat enhancements along the route, lighting and seating.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council</p> <p>Sustrans</p> <p>Paths for All</p>	<p>S106 / CIL (potentially associated with Toton Sidings Strategic growth location, and Chetwynd barracks allocation)</p>	<p>Low (initial feasibility)</p> <p>High (delivery)</p>
3.5	<p>Boundary Brook flood resilience</p> <p>Natural flood management and sustainable drainage interventions to reduce flood risk along Boundary Brook and in north-east Chilwell / Trowell.</p>	<p>Undertake a feasibility study along Boundary Brook to identify potential locations for wetland creation.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for riparian enhancement along the river corridor, helping to slow the flow of water to the watercourse.</p> <p>Within the wider urban area around Trowell Park Drive, explore opportunities for retrofitting Sustainable drainage features and attenuation ponds to reduce surface water flooding.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Trent Rivers Trust</p>	<p>S106 / CIL</p> <p>Grant funding</p> <p>Public funding</p>	Medium

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
3.6	Beeston Town Centre Greening Opportunity to invest in greening initiatives within the	Explore opportunities to retrofit BGI interventions; including green roofs or walls, street trees and green verges within Beeston Town Centre. The priority should be areas of large scale hard development, including within Beeston square and the supermarket car parks close to the town centre.	Broxtowe Borough Council Local Businesses	Local businesses S106 / CIL Grant funding	High

Figure 5.3: Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe BGI Zone

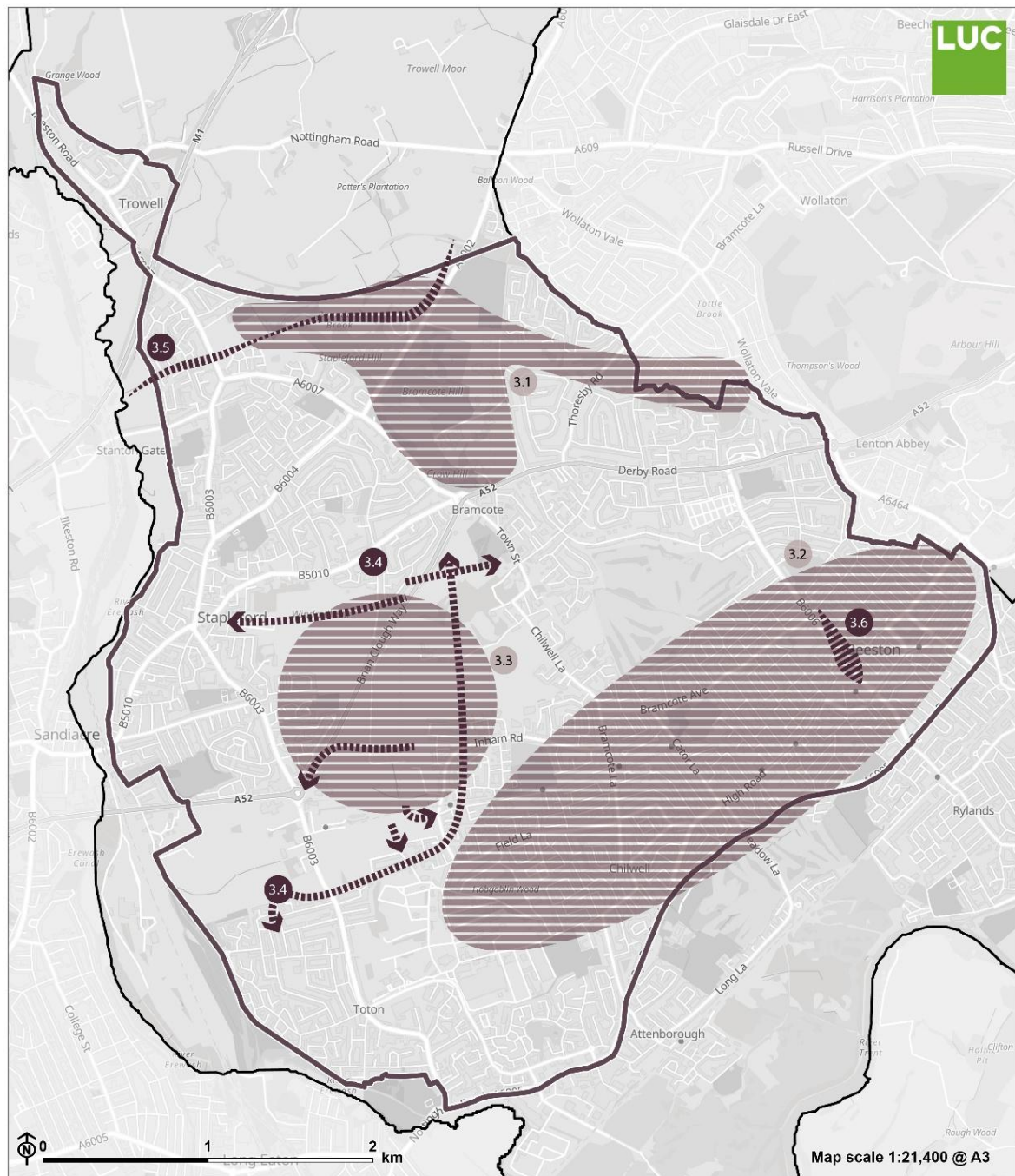


Figure 5.3: Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe

- Broxtowe borough boundary
- BGI zone**
- Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe



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Eastern Farmed and Wooded Fringe BGI Zone

Table 5.2 d: Action plan – Eastern Farmed and Wooded Fringe BGI Zone

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
4.1	Priority action: Greasley Country Park	Undertake a feasibility study to identify potential locations for a 20 hectare or larger accessible country park to provide an alternative destination open space to serve the northern part of Broxtowe. The feasibility study should assess sites based on the potential ecological, historic and visual interest. In addition, the feasibility study will need to identify potential constraints including designated sites, utilities, and landownership. Suitable locations will be easily accessible from a range of locations and include a variety of habitats, functions and facilities. Initiate public consultation to seek buy-in from the local community.	Broxtowe Borough Council Greasley Parish Council Local land owners	Public sector funding S106 contributions Grant funding (e.g. National Heritage Fund) Offsite BNG (delivery)	Low (initial feasibility) High (long-term delivery)
4.2	Priority action: Nether Green / Beauvale Brook enhancement	Identify locations for fish passages to improve the ecological integrity of the brook. Undertake feasibility studies to plan a programme of works aimed at introducing fish passages and re-naturalising stretches of the brook (e.g. reintroducing pools and riffles), as well as wetland areas that can store water.	Broxtowe Borough Council Trent Rivers Trust Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Greasley Estate	Grant funding Payments for ecosystem services (Natural Flood Management credits – if initiative sufficiently developed during timescales of the action plan)	High
4.3	Priority action: Willey Spring to Seller's Wood woodland arc	Promote hedgerow and tree planting between Willey Spring, High Park Wood, Watnall Coppice, Eelhole Wood, Starth Wood, Bulwell Wood, New Farm Wood and Seller's Wood to create a large scale forested arc in the north east of the Borough. This should include promoting edge habitat and creating functional corridors to deliver habitat movements.	Broxtowe Borough Council Greenwood Community Forest Woodland Trust	DEFRA Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs) / Countryside Stewardship Offsite BNG Payments for ecosystem services (carbon markets)	High

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
				Grant funding (e.g. Woodland Trust)	
4.4	Eastwood to Beauvale Green corridor	<p>Introduce habitat enhancements along the route of the disused corridor from Eastwood Hall towards Beauvale Priory. This includes establishing wetland habitat where the route overlaps with watercourses (e.g. north of Colliers Wood), woodland habitats, scrub and biodiverse habitats.</p> <p>In the longer term, plan for strategic access locations to allow visitors to engage with nature along the corridor.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust</p>	<p>Offsite BNG</p> <p>Payments for ecosystems services (carbon markets)</p> <p>Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)</p>	High
4.5	Brinsley grassland enhancements	Liaise with landowners to promote the alternative management of parcels of amenity grassland around Brinsley. Proposals should complement the existing SuDS provision at Brinsley Headstocks. This includes promotion of biodiversity-rich field margins, particularly along water courses, including Gilt Brook.	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Local Businesses</p>	<p>Local businesses</p> <p>S106 / CIL</p> <p>Grant funding</p>	High

Figure 5.4: Eastern Farmed and Wooded Fringe BGI Zone

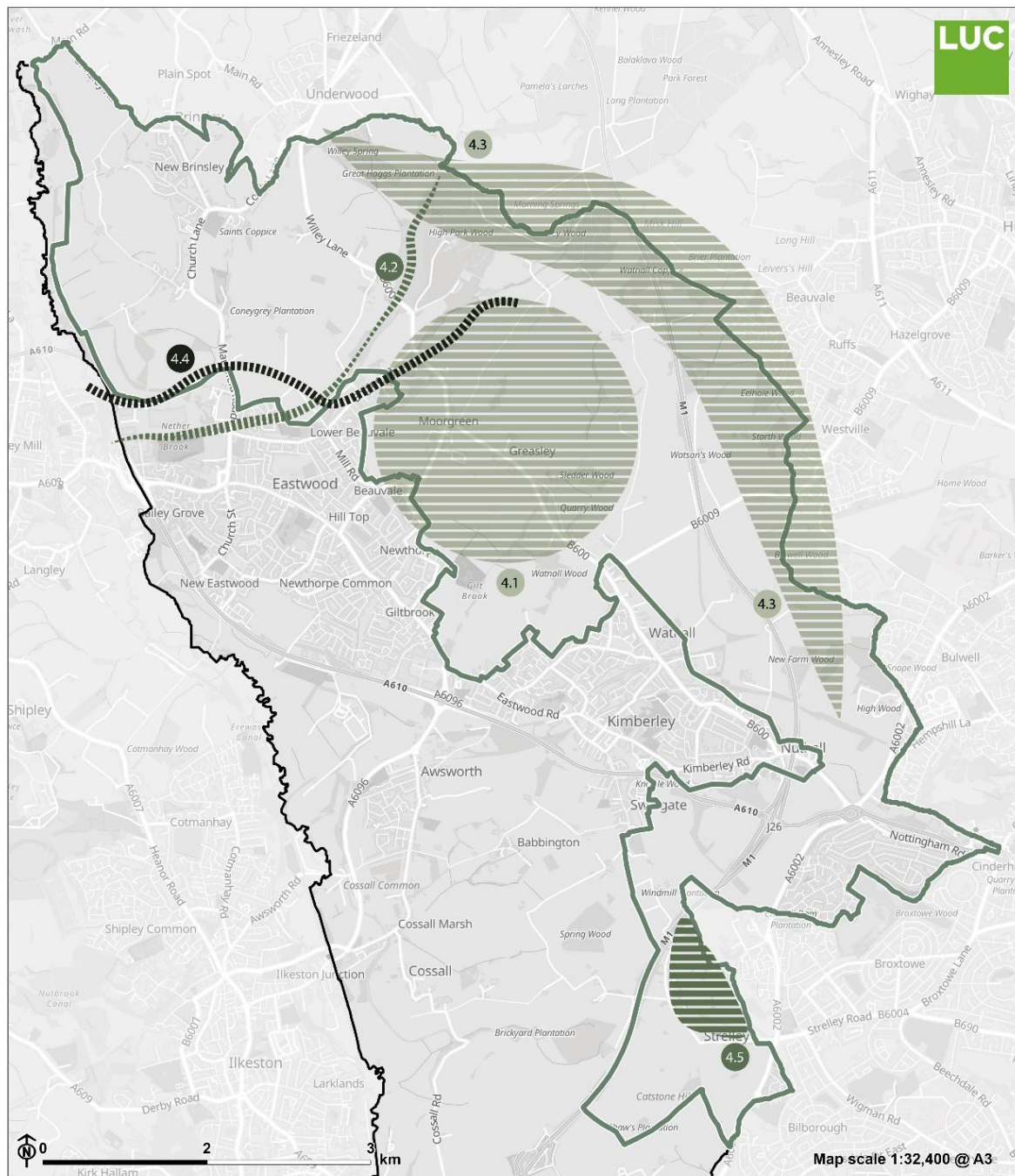


Figure 5.4: Eastern Farmed and Wooded Fringe

- Broxtowe borough boundary
- BGI zone**
- Eastern Farmed and Wooded Fringe



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Erewash Valley BGI Zone

Table 5.2 e: Action plan – Erewash Valley BGI Zone

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
5.1	Priority action: Create a wetland habitat and floodplain grazing marsh stretching from Attenborough Nature Reserve to the River Erewash	<p>Develop an Ecological Masterplan and Management Plan to explore the potential to create, enhance, enlarge and connect wetland habitats. This includes floodplain grazing marsh, lowland meadow, reedbed, wet woodland, ponds, swamp and fen, especially where they provide opportunity for reconnection of the floodplain to the river. This intervention should seek to improve wetlands and aquatic marginal vegetation to help deliver strategic objectives of nature recovery and promote nature-based solutions for achieving climate resilience.</p> <p>Undertake comprehensive engagement with landowners, stakeholders, the local community and potential delivery partners to generate support for the project and the opportunities identified.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Severn Trent Water</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Trent Rivers Trust</p> <p>Landowners</p>	<p>Payments for ecosystem services (including off-site BNG)</p> <p>Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs)</p> <p>S106 / CIL</p> <p>Grant funding</p>	Medium
5.2	Priority action: Enhance the mosaic of tree planting and wetland habitat throughout the River Erewash corridor to promote habitat connectivity and address flood risk.	<p>Integrate catchment-scale nature-based solutions to improve resilience and adaptation to flooding. Hydrological and ecological assessments should be undertaken to identify priority areas for riparian restoration and wetland creation. Deliver pilot projects to generate momentum around the delivery of the action, achieving quick-win benefits, whilst also testing potential funding mechanisms. Undertake public engagement to ensure community 'buy-in' for the project. Consult with Nottinghamshire Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts to explore potential alignment with wetland creation projects at Erewash Meadows / Aldercar Flash Nature Reserves.</p>	<p>Broxtowe Borough Council</p> <p>Severn Trent Water</p> <p>Nottinghamshire / Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts</p> <p>Trent Rivers Trust</p> <p>Landowners</p>	<p>Payments for ecosystem services (including off-site BNG)</p> <p>Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs)</p>	Low - Medium

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
5.3	Priority action: Enhance the species diversity of the existing grassland sward within the floodplain	Work with landowners to explore opportunities to enhance the existing grassland sward. Detailed ecological assessments should be used to identify priority areas for grassland restoration. Prepare a long-term management plan to promote successful establishment of the grassland sward.	Broxtowe Borough Council Trent Rivers Trust Landowners	S106 / CIL Grant funding Public funding	Medium
5.4	Implement a programme of invasive species removal as an approach to control the establishment and spread of Himalayan balsam.	Introduce a targeted programme to remove invasive species. Existing wetlands within this corridor should also be restored through the control of invasive species and reintroduction of semi-natural vegetation to enhance their ecological function. Detailed ecological surveys should be conducted to assess current habitat conditions and identify priority zones for invasive species removal.	Broxtowe Borough Council Landowners	S106 contributions Grant funding Local authority environmental funding CSR contributions	Low
5.5	Introduce a programme of future tree planting within the area to the west of Brinsley, land bordering the A610 at Eastwood and at Stapleford to address inequitable access to trees, as identified by the Tree Equity Score.	Undertake feasibility and ecological surveys of the area to determine areas best suited to tree planting, including appropriate species selection. Initiate engagement with residents and community groups to identify proposed locations for tree planting.	Broxtowe Borough Council Landowners Residents and community groups	S106 / CIL Grant funding Public funding	Medium
5.6	Deliver biodiversity enhancements along the Erewash Valley Trail at key sites to improve, and raise awareness of, the ecological importance of the Erewash and its floodplain.	Commence feasibility testing to ensure that biodiversity enhancements are informed by appropriate ecological assessment and sensitive design, ensuring alignment with LNRS objectives. Consideration should also be given to guiding and controlling access spatially to protect sensitive habitats and species. Commence engagement with key stakeholders to refine the public access framework and balance nature recovery with recreational access.	Broxtowe Borough Council Trent Rivers Trust Landowners PRoW Officer at Nottinghamshire County Council	S106 / CIL Grant funding Public funding	Medium - High

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
5.7	Improve active travel linkages to the proposed new cycle path following the eastern side of Bennerley Viaduct	Following completion of the cycle ramp and associated visitor centre at Bennerley Viaduct as part of Kimberley’s Levelling Up Project, undertake a review of wider active travel connections to the site. Proposals should ensure active travel links are optimised where possible and heritage assets are protected and celebrated.	Broxtowe Borough Council Kimberley Town Council Friends of the Bennerley Viaduct	S106 / CIL Grant funding Public funding	Medium - High

Figure 5.5: Erewash Valley BGI Zone

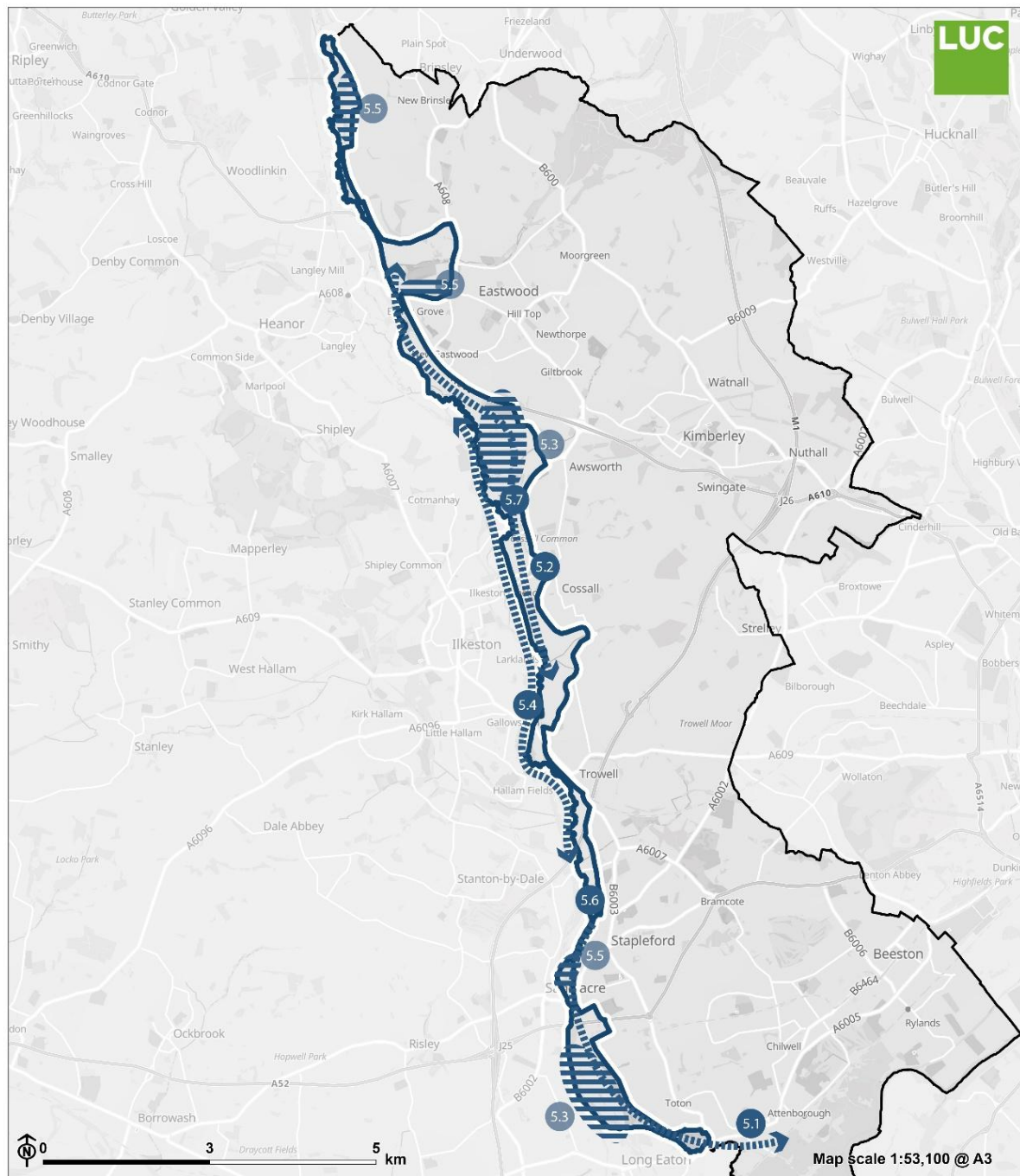


Figure 5.5: Erewash Valley

- Broxtowe borough boundary
- BGI zone**
- Erewash Valley

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River Trent Corridor BGI Zone

Table 5.2 f: Action plan – River Trent Corridor BGI Zone

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
6.1	Priority action: Enhance the network of wet woodland at Attenborough Nature Reserve and at land bordering the River Trent.	Deliver tree planting initiatives and review existing landscape management approaches with the aim of establishing additional areas of wet woodland (including black poplar). The proposals should seek to retain the condition of wet woodland habitat within a favourable condition, as identified within the citation details for Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI. Undertake a study to review the proposed siting of areas of tree planting, with the aim of maximising carbon sequestration, natural flood management and diversity of habitat.	Broxtowe Borough Council; Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust; Canal and River Trust; Environment Agency; Natural England (to be consulted as part of works to Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI).	Payments for ecosystem services (including off-site BNG); Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs); S106 / CIL; Grant funding; Public funding	Low - Medium
6.2	Priority action: Establish reed beds on outfalls at Toton Sewage Works	Commission a feasibility study and design proposals to examine the potential for establishing reed beds to address water quality issues and the 'unfavourable' condition of areas of standing open water at Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI. Potential partnership working with Severn Trent Water to be explored.	Broxtowe Borough Council; Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust; Severn Trent Water; Environment Agency; Natural England (to be consulted as part of works to Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI).	S106 / CIL; Grant funding; Public funding	Low
6.3	Priority action: Enhance the network of nature-based solutions, including wetlands and riparian vegetation, to improve resilience and adaptation to flooding.	Detailed ecological assessments should identify priority areas for nature-based solutions. Explore the opportunity to tie in with the Thriving in the Wilder Trent initiative, managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. Natural flood management interventions to supplement the existing engineered flood protection associated with the Environment Agency's Nottingham Left Bank Flood Alleviation Scheme should also be explored. Funding applications should be prepared,	Broxtowe Borough Council; Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust; Severn Trent Water; Environment Agency; Natural England (to be consulted as part of works to Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI).	Payments for ecosystem services (including off-site BNG); Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs); S106 / CIL; Grant funding e.g. Species Survival Fund; Public funding	Low - Medium

Reference	Name of action	Target for 2025 - 2030	Potential delivery partner(s)	Delivery mechanism(s)	Indicative cost
		<p>targeting SuDS and nature-based solutions funding streams.</p> <p>Local landowners, such as floodplain owners, farmers, and stakeholders should be consulted to secure support for tree planting and floodplain reconnection.</p>			
6.4	Explore the potential to create new interconnected floating reedbeds and improved management of existing reedbeds to benefit breeding bitterns within and around Attenborough Nature Reserve.	Commission a feasibility study and design proposals aimed at establishing additional floating reed beds. Review the success of the floating reed beds established as part of the Environment Agency's Nottingham Left Bank Flood Alleviation Scheme to inform the proposed approach to design and delivery. Undertake comprehensive consultation with Natural England and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.	Broxtowe Borough Council; Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust; Canal and River Trust; Environment Agency; Natural England (to be consulted as part of works to Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI).	Payments for ecosystem services (including off-site BNG); Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs); S106 / CIL; Grant funding; Public funding	Low - Medium
6.5	Enhance the corridor of the River Trent as a recreational resource	Introduce localised improvements to the condition of the PRow network to provide linkages to the Trent Valley Way long distance footpath. Install educational signage to communicate the sensitivity of the surrounding habitats to the public. Consult with local communities to determine 'buy-in' and gain understanding of where footpath connections and improvements are most required.	Broxtowe Borough Council; Nottinghamshire County Council	Payments for ecosystem services (including off-site BNG); Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs); S106 / CIL; Grant funding; Public funding	Medium
6.6	Introduce a programme of future tree planting within Beeston Rylands to address inequitable access to trees, as identified by the Tree Equity Score.	Undertake feasibility surveys to ascertain areas best suited for the intervention, including appropriate species selection. Engage with the local community to establish 'buy-in' and prioritise sites for the delivery of tree planting.	Broxtowe Borough Council; Landowners; Residents and community groups	S106 / CIL; Grant funding; Public funding	Medium

Figure 5.6: River Trent Corridor BGI Zone

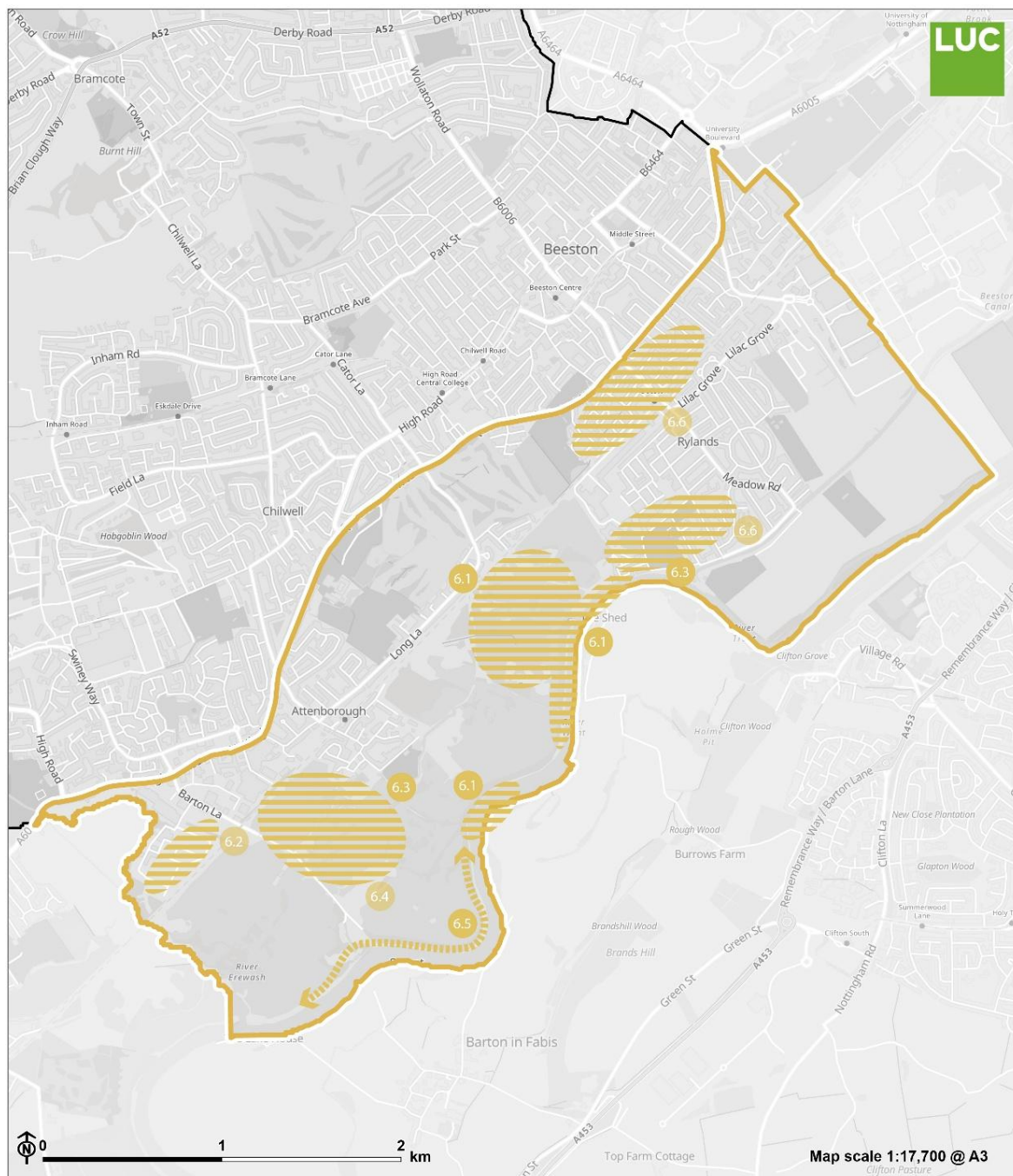


Figure 5.6: River Trent Corridor

- Broxtowe borough boundary
- BGI zone**
- River Trent Corridor



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Appendix A

Policy Context

A.1 This appendix covers all relevant policy and legislation at national, regional and local level. This includes existing policies and legislation as well as new plans and strategies likely to be developed during the lifespan of the Broxtowe BGI Strategy 2025 – 2030.

National

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024)

A.2 The NPPF (updated December 2024) [\[See reference 55\]](#) emphasises the importance of placing green infrastructure (GI) at the heart of plan making, reinforcing the value of taking a strategic approach to maintain and enhance networks of GI, and planning for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries (Paragraph 188). GI is identified as a tool to help meet the challenge of climate change, notably in relation to incorporating GI and sustainable drainage within new development (Paragraph 164) and to promote healthy, inclusive and safe communities (Paragraph 96).

A.3 Paragraph 103 of the NPPF states that ‘access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative and qualitative deficits and surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

A.4 Paragraph 104 states that: ‘existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or

- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use’.

A.5 The NPPF also provides a mechanism by which local authorities can protect some open spaces through ‘Local Green Space’ designations (Paragraph 107). Policies and decisions for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts (paragraph 108).

Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023)

A.6 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act received Royal Ascent in October 2023, resulting in significant changes to the planning system. Regarding the provision of BGI the following changes are important:

- Requirements for design codes to accompany Local Plans;
- Strengthening protection of the historic environment through the planning system, including giving registered parks and gardens the same statutory protection as conservation areas; and
- Placing more weight on neighbourhood plans in decision making.

Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) (2023)

A.7 The EIP builds on the 25 Year Environment Plan vision and sets out how government, landowners, communities and businesses can deliver goals for improving the environment, aligned with interim targets to measure progress. The delivery of GI will contribute to the delivery of several of the updated targets the EIP sets against the 25YEP’s 10 goals. The headline targets within the EIP which GI will contribute to include:

- Restoring and enhancing habitats;
- Improving air quality by tackling NO₂ hotspots;
- Contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Reducing flood risk;

- Meeting greenspace access targets ensuring everyone has access to greenspace within a 15-minute walk of their home; and
- Improving active travel and increasing the number of journeys cycled or walked to 50%.

Environment Act (2021)

A.8 The Environment Act requires the development of targets by government to enact change, and drive a landscape-scale, network-led response. The Act addresses four ‘priority areas’ of air quality, water, biodiversity and resource efficiency / waste reduction. The legislation also outlines the requirement for a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (Biodiversity Net Gain). In addition, the Act includes a duty on local authorities to review every five years all policies regarding nature conservation.

UK 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) (2018)

A.9 The 2018 25YEP sets the direction for the Environment Act, including long-term targets for environmental improvement. It includes a commitment to a national GI framework, a network of ‘nature recovery areas’ and to embed the principle of ‘environmental net gain’ to development (see later subheadings). These emerging approaches will become established during the lifespan of this Strategy. The 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan builds on the 25YEP vision, setting out how government, landowners, communities and businesses should deliver each goal for improving the environment. This is matched with interim targets to measure progress.

Regional

Draft Greater Nottinghamshire Strategic Plan (2024)

A.10 The Greater Nottinghamshire Planning Partnership comprises Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Council. The Partnership is currently in the process of undertaking a review of their Aligned Core Policies, with the publication of the Regulation 19 Draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan [\[See reference 56\]](#) published in Autumn 2024.

- Spatial Objective 11 ‘protecting and improving natural assets’ focuses on improving and providing BGI by enhancing and developing the network of

multi-functional green spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife. It is supported by Policy 16: Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space and Policy 17: Biodiversity which set out requirements for BGI and biodiversity.

Draft Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document (2024) (emerging)

A.11 Nottinghamshire County Council are currently consulting on their Draft BNG Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) [\[See reference 57\]](#). It sets out guidance for the delivery of biodiversity enhancement in line with national statutory requirements for all development, unless exempt, to deliver 10% BNG. The SPD sets out local principles and priorities for BNG in Nottinghamshire including signposting relevant guidance, setting out validation, determination and post-determination requirements, and identifying key plans and strategies to inform the delivery of BNG priorities, including the emerging LNRS.

A Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham (2024)

A.12 This regional BNG framework [\[See reference 58\]](#) was produced collaboratively by the Environment Agency, Natural England, Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, and constituent local authorities. It sets out a vision for meeting the aims of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan and delivering exemplary BNG in the region. While the statutory minimum BNG requirement is 10%, this partnership and framework sets out that it will encourage developments to provide a higher minimum of 20% BNG where possible, taking account of evidence and viability considerations.

A.13 The framework sets out ten over-arching principles for delivering BNG. It also sets out other considerations relevant to BNG in Nottinghamshire including key priorities, pre-application advice, use of the BNG metric, measuring significant on-site enhancement, assessing strategic significance (including signposting LNRS), off-site compensation, approaches for delivering the right habitat in the right place, BNG validation and determination requirements, and associated guidance and tools.

Greater Nottingham Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy (2022)

A.14 The Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership produced a regional-level BGI strategy [See reference 59] to inform the preparation of the Greater Nottingham Strategic plan and the development of policies and plans within it. The plan sets out ten key priorities for BGI, key national and local planning priorities, and regional and local BGI initiatives. Across the Greater Nottingham region, the Strategy identifies:

- 'Primary Strategic Networks' which have regional or sub-regional significance (such as the Trent Valley or the Erewash Canal / river Erewash);
- 'Secondary Strategic Networks' which may have significance due to their connectivity with the primary network, provision of cross-boundary links between neighbouring authorities, importance for outlying settlements/wider rural areas, or other strategic importance due to their land use, connectivity or function.
- 'Urban Fringe GI Enhancement Zones' surrounding the main urban area of Nottingham. These zones are identified to represent a significant resource for urban communities and already experience urban edge pressures.
- 'Local / Neighbourhood Networks' generally connect local communication within settlements or urban areas or provide links to other areas of the BGI network.
- 'Biodiversity Opportunity Areas' are based on the existing ecological network, including biodiversity focal areas and existing areas of connectivity.

Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan

A.15 Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group produced a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) [See reference 60] which sets out the overall goal for conserving and enhancing the County's unique variety of wild species and natural habitats, to contribute to the conservation of both UK and global biodiversity. It sets out three key objectives for delivery of the LBAP:

1. To conserve and where appropriate to enhance Nottinghamshire's unique variety of wild species and natural habitats, in particular: a) internationally and nationally important species and habitats; b) species and habitats that

are characteristic of Nottinghamshire and its distinctive Regional Character Areas (section 3.4); and c) species and habitats that are rare or threatened in the County.

2. To increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity.
3. To contribute to biodiversity conservation on a national, European and global scale.

A.16 The LBAP sets out threats, issues and opportunities in Nottinghamshire, generic actions for biodiversity, implementation and monitoring measures, Habitat Action Plans for the County's various habitats and Species Action Plans for priority species.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Nottinghamshire (emerging)

A.17 LNRSs are an England-wide system of spatial strategies introduced by the Environment Act 2021. Nottinghamshire County Council is developing an LNRS which seeks to help reverse the decline of nature in the county and help to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) locally. The final LNRS for Nottinghamshire is expected to be published in Autumn 2025 [\[See reference 61\]](#).

Severn Trent Gateway Strategy (2020)

A.18 The EA and partnerships produced a strategic landscape vision and masterplan for the Trent Gateway [\[See reference 62\]](#), covering a 75km length of the river Trent between Erewash and Newark. The Trent Gateway Strategy aims to deliver a functioning watercourse that reduces flood risk, creates and connects habitats, and complements the aims of a range of stakeholders, while supporting sustainable growth and local economic priorities. The Strategy identifies both larger-scale strategic opportunities for the Trent Gateway, as well as smaller scale projects targeting local habitats, species and recreational opportunities. The strategic objectives for the river Trent corridor are to:

- Achieve a natural, functioning and healthy river through creation of a high-quality and well-connected environment.
- Bring key partners together to align initiatives that achieve multiple outcomes and transform the river in the most sustainable and relevant way.

- Pro-actively coordinate and influence activities to develop opportunities and set an agenda for future change.

A.19 Of key relevance to Broxtowe, identified interventions include:

- Improved access and interpretation within Attenborough Nature Reserve to maintain and increase usage by a wider population leading to improved wellbeing and health. The Attenborough Nature Reserve is identified as a key case study and one of the most important sites for wildlife in the East Midlands. It is also a key resource for the community and visitors.
- Wetland habitat creation / enhancement along the river Trent including enhanced wetland habitat creation to reinforce GI along the river Erewash leading to Toton Fields Nature Reserve.
- Improve surfacing and seating provision along the 'Big Track', linking Beeston Marina to Victoria Embankment in Nottingham, to improve accessibility and encourage increased usage.

6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)

A.20 The 6Cs GI Strategy [\[See reference 63\]](#) provides an evidence base of data and information for the regional context. The document is comprised of a strategic framework and action plan. The '6Cs' refer to the 3 cities and 3 counties that make up the study area Derby; Leicester; Nottingham; Derbyshire; Leicestershire; and Nottinghamshire. The document identifies existing GI assets, and the strategic infrastructure needs of the region and identifies opportunities for enhancing connectivity of the natural greenspace network across the region Strategic GI Network, informing the preparation of the previous Broxtowe Borough Council GI Strategy.

Borough

Adopted Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies Part 1 Local Plan: Core Strategy (2014)

5.6 The Aligned Core Strategy [\[See reference 64\]](#) forms part of the adopted Broxtowe Local Plan and sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and strategic policies for the Borough up to 2028. Neighbouring councils have worked together to ensure that core planning policies are consistent across Greater Nottingham. The Core Strategy covers:

- **Section A: Sustainable Growth** reinforces the presumption in favour of sustainable development, contained within NPPF, ensuring that development proposals are considered against the core policies related to climate change, strategic spatial growth, the Green Belt, employment provision and economic development, town and local centres, and regeneration priorities.
- **Section B: Places for People** sets out the principles of good development relating to housing provision, design principles, the historic environment, local services and healthy lifestyles, culture, tourism and sport, travel demands and transport infrastructure priorities.
- **Section C: Our Environment** sets out priorities for the environment and biodiversity in a strategic and comprehensive way, including Policy 16: 'Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space' which supports the delivery, protection and enhancement of GI through a network of regional and sub-regional GI corridors and assets.

Adopted Broxtowe Part 2 Local Plan 2018 - 2028 (2019)

A.21 BCC adopted the Part 2 Local Plan in 2019 [\[See reference 65\]](#). It sets out specific site allocations required to meet the housing need, as set out in the Core Strategy, as well as Borough level planning policies. Of key relevance to the delivery of BGI in the Borough:

- Site allocation policies include site-specific considerations and requirements for proposals, including key site sensitivities, infrastructure requirements and contributions to the strategic GI network.
- Policy 27: Local Green Space allocates the field off Cornwall Avenue, Beeston Rylands, as Local Green Space, in accordance with NPPF.
- Policy 28: Green Infrastructure Assets sets out requirements for proposals likely to lead to increased use of any GI asset in the Borough. Proposals are required to take reasonable opportunities to enhance these assets.
- Policy 29: Biodiversity Assets sets out the requirements for biodiversity net gain and contributions to the Borough's ecological network.

Reduction of Carbon in New Development: Supplementary Planning Document (2024)

A.22 Broxtowe Borough Council and Nottingham City Council have produced this joint SPD [\[See reference 66\]](#) to provide detailed advice and guidance for new development in meeting low carbon requirements through improving energy efficiency and sustainable construction. Of relevance to the delivery of BGI in the Borough, the SPD sets out best practice guidance related to:

- The Urban Heat Island Effect (UHIE) including suggested mitigation measures, and the requirement for applicants to demonstrate they have incorporated measures to combat UHIE.
- Incorporating green roofs to mitigate heat gain.
- Incorporating trees for shading and green spaces into development to increase biodiversity, reduce overheating and promote outdoor recreation.

Broxtowe Borough Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 (2019)

A.23 The Corporate Plan [\[See reference 67\]](#) sets the vision for the Borough to be a ‘greener, healthier Broxtowe where everyone prospers’. It sets out aims and priorities for the Borough in relation to housing, the environment, business growth, community safety, leisure and health, and communications and engagement. Relevant to the delivery of BGI in the Borough, the Plan sets out ambitions for:

- Reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality including working with stakeholders to create climate resilience against extreme weather events (such as against flooding through measures such as sustainable urban drainage).
- Investing in parks and open spaces, including enhancing BGI corridors and ensuring biodiversity net gain positively enhances the environment.
- Promoting active and healthy lifestyles in every area of Broxtowe.
- Improving public safety including the public realm and cycle security infrastructure.

Broxtowe Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2022 – 2028 (2024)

A.24 The Broxtowe Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy [\[See reference 68\]](#) sets out the strategic direction for future activity that will support the local economic and improve the prosperity and wellbeing of Broxtowe, without compromising the environment. Of key relevance to the delivery of BGI in the Borough, points of the 10-point framework of the strategy include:

- 2) Deliver place-making and sustainable town centres: Help town centre businesses and services adapt to changing consumer demands and patterns, alongside the need for digital transformation. Place-making, pedestrian improvements and the expansion of markets across the Borough are part of this aim to maintain and improve footfall, improve perceptions of Broxtowe, and drive tourism and the visitor economy.
- 4) Develop sustainable and active green travel around the Borough: Work with residents, businesses and specialised organisations to encourage greater uptake of sustainable methods of transport, such as public transport, cycling, other forms of non-motorised users and walking.

A.25 The Strategy sets out key priorities for supporting town centres in the Borough as economic, social and cultural hubs. The 'K.E.B.S+ (Kimberley, Eastwood, Beeston and Stapleford) approach aims to keep the Borough's main towns vibrant, prosperous and adaptable. The '+' reflects that objectives must also reflect challenges and opportunities in the Borough's other neighbourhoods and economic hinterlands.

A.26 The Strategy sets out major projects committed to take place in the Borough, provides a SWOT analysis of Broxtowe and lists other relevant local strategies for investment, development, the visitor economy, health and wellbeing, and business.

Broxtowe Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy 2023 – 2027 (2024)

A.27 The Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy [\[See reference 69\]](#) sets out the plan protecting the environment for the future of Broxtowe. This includes three key priorities relevant to the delivery of BGI in the Borough:

- Reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality; and
- Continue to invest in our parks and open spaces.

A.28 The Strategy sets out strategic aims for the Borough, organised by ten themes. Of key relevance to the delivery of BGI in the Borough:

- 1) Climate Strategy:
- 2) Transport and Travel
 - Improve air quality
 - Raise awareness and influence behaviour change to increase uptake of active travel options.
- 7) Natural Environment
 - Identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity across the Borough.
 - Maximise opportunities through Biodiversity Net Gain.
 - To establish a sequestration value for the Council's natural assets using an appropriate methodology.
 - To continue to work with relevant stakeholders in order to bring about improvements in local air quality.
- 8) Communities
 - Support Town/Parish Councils and local community groups to take climate action.
 - Formulate appropriate climate adaptation strategies to support health and wellbeing.
 - Develop a green social prescribing model in Broxtowe.

Tree Management Strategy 2023 – 2027

A.29 The Council's first Tree Management Strategy **[See reference 70]** was adopted in 2023 and sets out a proactive approach to the management of the Council's own trees. It aims to enhance and safeguard the environment, establish green spaces and effectively mitigate against the impacts of climate change. The strategy includes key objectives to improve landscape enhancement, biodiversity, physical environmental benefits, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and delivery of health and wellbeing benefits in the Borough.

Neighbourhood

A.30 Several local communities are currently in the process of preparing Neighbourhood Plans, which once ‘made’ will sit alongside the Local Plan and take precedence over non-strategic policies. The following Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted and so form part of the Development Plan for their respective neighbourhoods:

- **Awsorth Neighbourhood Plan 2015 – 2030** (adopted 2021) [See reference 71]. Key objectives and policies of relevance include:

- Policy GI 1: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
- Policy GI 2: Local Landscape Character Areas
- Policy GI 3: Biodiversity
- Policy GI 4: Designated Local Green Spaces
- Policy GI 5: Local Woodlands, Tree Belts and Hedgerows

- **Chetwynd Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2040** (adopted 2024) [See reference 72]. Key policies of relevance include:

- ENV01: Local Green Space
- ENV02: Natural Environment
- ENV03: Green and Blue Infrastructure Requirements
- INF02: Active Travel

- **Cossall Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2037** (adopted 2024) [See reference 73]. Key policies of relevance include:

- Policy 2: Protecting landscape character
- Policy 3a: Protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure
- Policy 3b: Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

- **Nuthall Neighbourhood Plan 2015 – 2030** (adopted 2018) [See reference 74]. Key objectives and policies of relevance include:

- Policy 4: New and Enhanced Green Infrastructure Network.

Appendix B

Developer Checklist

A.31 The following checklist for development provides a concise set of questions related to BGI provision within new development. These can act as a guide for both developers and decision-makers, ensuring that BGI is considered from the beginning of the design process.

A.32 It is recommended that developers complete and submit a copy of this checklist with their planning application stating whether or not each requirement has been met and providing further information or justification where necessary.

BGI Developer Checklist

Understanding the site and wider context

Table 0.1: BGI Developer Checklist

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Has the BGI Strategy been reviewed to identify any specific opportunities in the specific BGI zone or within the vicinity of the development?		
Is the development masterplan landscape-led (meaning it is context-driven by an understanding of the surrounding landscape character and main BGI features on and surrounding the site and have these been integrated into the earliest stages of design)?		
Has the project team directly engaged with local stakeholders with regards to BGI plans, including the Council as local planning authority and the local community?		
Does the development proposal result in loss or fragmentation of the BGI network?		

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Does the development prejudice the retention, use, enhancement, or further development of the BGI network?		
Has long-term stewardship of BGI been discussed at the earliest stages of design, to ensure stewardship in perpetuity? Have delivery partners been identified?		

Ensuring BGI is protected, enhanced and incorporated into design

Table 0.2: BGI Developer Checklist

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Does the development considered the Headline Standards of the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework ?		
Has the development proposal considered the Building with Nature standards?		

Improved water management

Table 0.3: BGI Developer Checklist

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Have opportunities to improve water quality and natural flood management on the development site and in the wider catchment been considered? Do the proposed measures provide an important contribution to Flood Risk Management and Water Framework Directive objectives for each watercourse ?		
Have high quality Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) considered at the earliest stages of concept planning and selected for site characteristics (topography, ground conditions, surface water runoff destination, and character of the setting) integrated into the development which maximise multi-functional benefits including water quality and recreational access?		

Nature-rich and beautiful

Table 0.4: BGI Developer Checklist

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Has the proposal evidenced how the development strengthens habitat connectivity opportunities within the site and the wider area, including those identified in the emerging Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy ?		
Has the site layout and design been oriented to maximise opportunities for improved habitat linkages and enhancement of adjacent / nearby wildlife assets and networks?		
Does the design prioritise the retention of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows? Are any losses adequately compensated?		
Do BGI proposals follow the mitigation hierarchy to approach habitat and species protection and creation, and do they deliver an enhancement of biodiversity (i.e. 10% Biodiversity Net Gain)?		

Active and healthy

Table 0.5: BGI Developer Checklist

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Does the scheme connect effectively into the wider walking and cycling networks and greenways, so that people of all ages and abilities can access important daily destinations (including schools, shops and leisure centres) without a private car?		
Are walking and cycling routes attractive and integrated with BGI assets of all scales?		
Have opportunities to enhance education and interpretation of BGI been explored?		
Are play areas multi-functional, nature-based, inclusive and accessible?		
Has the scheme considered the provision of designated space to enable effective community growing with appropriate environmental considerations in terms of aspect, shelter, drainage and soil provision?		
Has the development been designed to minimise disturbance and protect amenity against noise and air quality?		

Resilient and climate-positive

Table 0.6: BGI Developer Checklist

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Does the development deliver multi-functional BGI which effectively integrates opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including flood risk and urban heating?		
Does the proposal ‘make space for water’ through the delivery of new BGI to sustainably manage flood risk for the duration of the anticipated lifespan of the development? Has an allowance for climate change been made in line with Environment Agency guidance?		

Thriving and prosperous

Table 0.7: BGI Developer Checklist

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Does the development seem to retain, protect and incorporate existing landscape / townscape and cultural heritage features as part of BGI proposals?		
Does the development deliver high-quality design and an attractive environment with a distinctive sense of place?		

Planning submission

Table 0.8: BGI Developer Checklist

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Has a BGI Plan been prepared (as a standalone document or incorporated into the Design and Access Statement)? Does it set out how BGI is managed, maintained and monitored within the development, for a period of at least 30 years?		

Checklist	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Does the development comply with the relevant Local Plan policies?		

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