

Hartlepool Borough Council

Green Infrastructure Action Plan

Supplementary Planning Document

Adopted Version



September 2020



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1 Introduction

What is the purpose of this document?

- 1.1 This document builds upon the information found in the main SPD regarding Green Infrastructure (GI) in the borough, and will set out areas of investment and improvement that are needed in the coming years to develop and grow the GI network in the borough. The improvements and schemes within this document will allow funding to be sought towards their implementation and will also be useful in directing developer contributions, which are acquired through planning applications, to schemes relevant to the application.
- 1.2 It should be noted that the schemes within this document are not the only schemes where contributions may be sought towards their implementation, they are simply the schemes which are most advanced. There are wider, more strategic aspirations which are equally as important in terms of the future delivery of GI in Hartlepool.
- 1.3 Where costs of schemes are available, these have been included.
- 1.4 It will be important that, where necessary, proposals for development or enhancement of GI will be developed in a way which will safeguard, enhance or even re-establish the assets. The involvement of key stakeholders in the development of GI will help to ensure that the proposals in this Action Plan are delivered in a sustainable manner, helping to ensure a better future for Hartlepool and its residents.
- 1.5 This Action Plan forms an integral part of the Green Infrastructure SPD and, once adopted, will form part of the Local Development Framework, linking with the Hartlepool Local Plan to drive forward the development of GI within the borough. It will enable the council to seek funding to help implement distinct elements of the Action Plan.

2 Vision and Objectives

Vision of SPD: *By 2029 Hartlepool will have a high quality, multifunctional, accessible green infrastructure network which enhances the community's quality of life and protects wildlife.*

- 2.1 The following objectives link the vision to the rest of this Strategy. The projects identified in this Action Plan should achieve one or more of these objectives, to help deliver the vision.

Objective	Objective Description
1	Protect a high quality visual landscape and townscape, and enhance the unique character, heritage, function, intrinsic quality and sense of place of Hartlepool's GI network to contribute positively to its distinctiveness.
2	Provide a network of interconnected GI and spaces rich in habitat and home to a diverse range of wildlife which also play a critical role in improving the health of residents through providing attractive opportunities for recreation and sustainable travel.
3	Minimise the impact of, and adapt to, the effects of climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the use of resources, the risk of flooding and pollution and provide for species adaptation by maximising the protection and creation of GI.
4	Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and expanding and linking habitats together, including working across council boundaries where appropriate, to assist in restoring biodiversity and allowing species to respond to climate change. SANGs will be used where necessary to take pressures off sensitive protected areas.
5	Ensure trees and hedges are protected throughout the borough and integrate planting schemes within all new developments and, on larger housing schemes, deliver new areas of woodland. The conservation of ancient woodland and veteran trees which are irreplaceable is imperative.
6	Protect and enhance a wide range of high quality opportunities for safe and accessible formal and informal sport, recreation and leisure facilities to encourage the community and visitors to undertake a variety of healthy exercise within attractive settings.
7	Involve users, including "friends of" groups, and neighbours in the design of GI, ensuring usability and helping to create a sense of ownership and pride.

8	Support economic growth, attract inward investment and support redevelopment of brownfield land by improving the setting of industrial and commercial areas through the delivery and enhancement of quality, distinctive and attractive GI.
9	Create a quality, distinctive and productive GI network to support local food production, rural diversification and tourism to meet the needs of local businesses, landowners and to provide a diverse employment base.
10	Ensure key green hubs, such as parks, place spaces and woodlands, are linked by means of safe and easily accessible green networks and rights of way that together form a high quality GI grid across the whole of the borough.

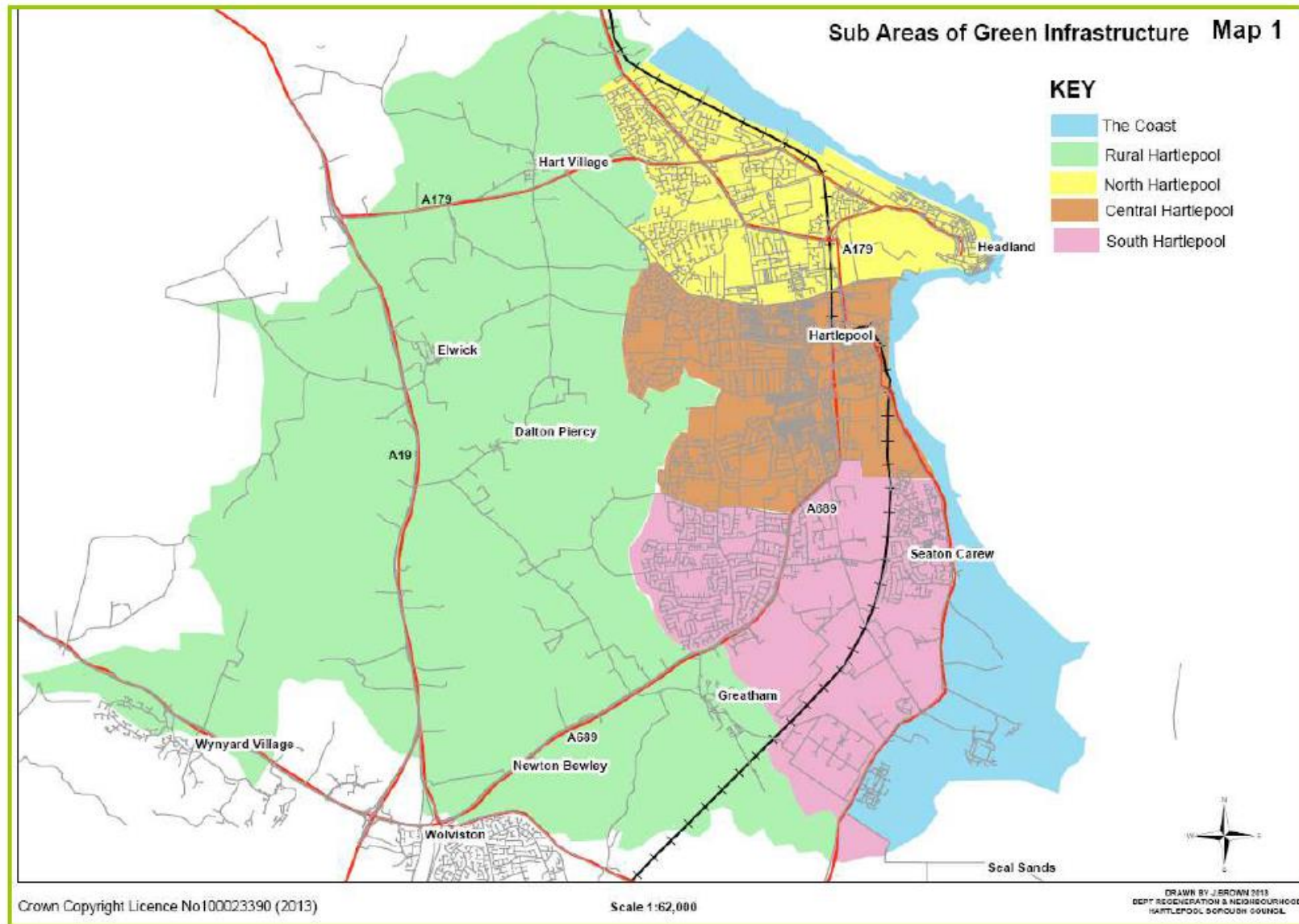


Image 1: Ward Jackson Park

3 Green Infrastructure Project Areas

- 3.1 This section splits the borough into main areas, and looks at project ideas and costs/resources (where available) which are needed over the coming years to develop the GI network within Hartlepool. In some cases, project designs are included to help aid visualisation of the potential improvements. Maps of corridors are also included to show the wider impact for areas of the town that certain projects could have in the future. Importantly, costs of improvements will be included, where known, to help secure funding packages which will be vital to the future development of GI. It must be acknowledged that these costs are estimated and could be subject to change.
- 3.2 Due to the large scale of a lot of the project areas in this document, the majority of works completed may be split down into phases or separate projects to ensure that work can be completed as and when funding is provided, to ensure the continual development of GI in Hartlepool.
- 3.3 The town has been split into sub areas to assess the GI within these areas, but will also consider how the sub areas are linked together by GI. The sub areas are:
1. The Coast and its Margins
 2. Rural Hartlepool
 3. North Hartlepool
 4. Central Hartlepool
 5. South Hartlepool
- 3.4 These areas are shown on Map 1 on the following page and the individual sub areas have their own detailed maps which show more localised GI, and help to inform a view on gaps in the GI provision in certain areas of the borough and demonstrate how movement between these areas is possible.

Map 1: Sub Areas of Green Infrastructure



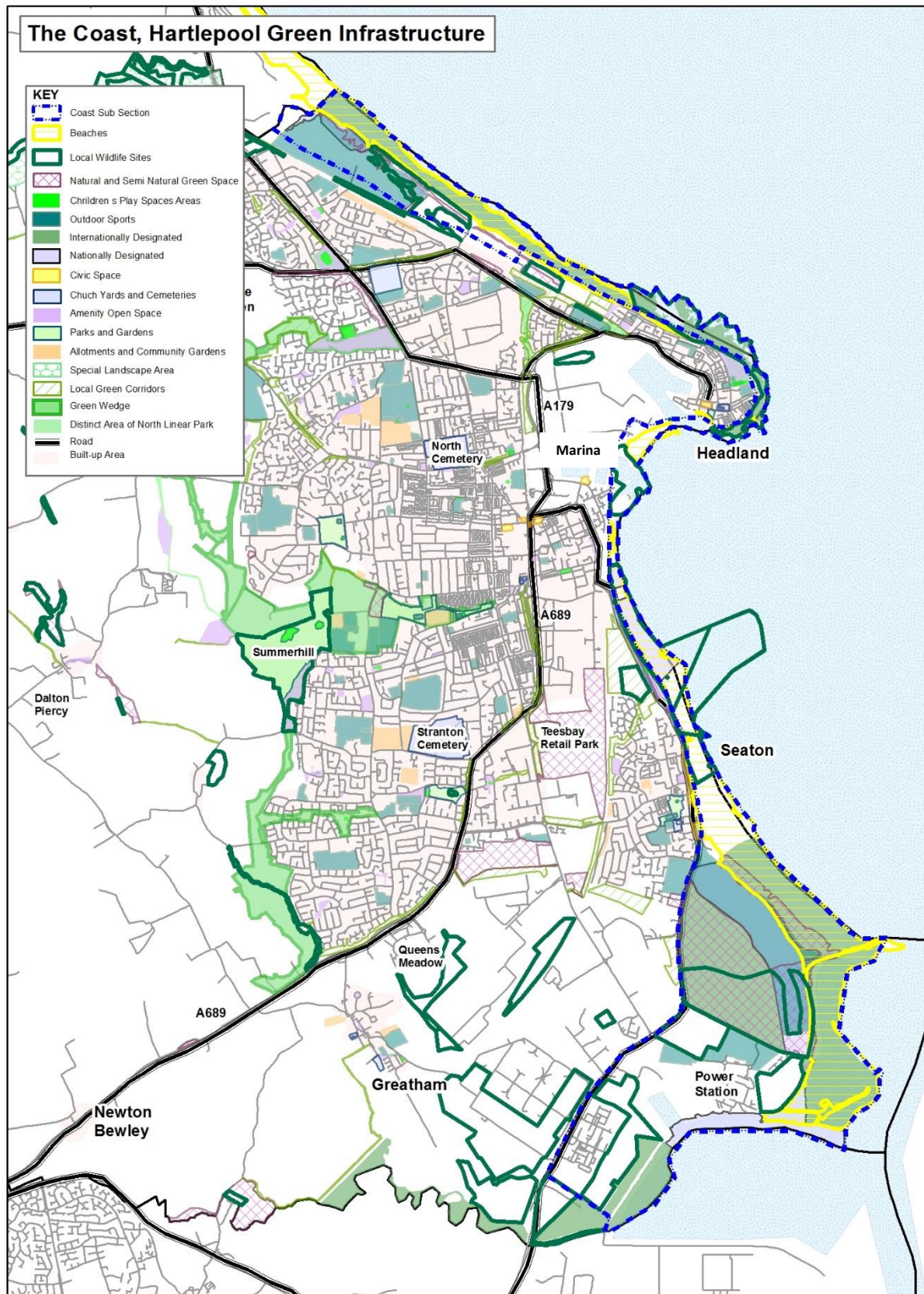
4 Area 1: The Coast and its Margins

- 4.1 Hartlepool's coastline continues to act as an attraction for both local residents, and visitors to the area, due to the opportunity to explore the pathways and scenery that are characteristic of the borough. There are a number of rights of way that are located on or close to the coastline, ranging from public footpaths to public bridleways. The coastline is an urban environment for the majority of its length, and so the majority of the paths and promenades are formally surfaced and maintained at public expense.
- 4.2 The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 placed a duty for a coastal path to be created along the whole of the English coastline, and the government aims for its completion in 2022. When approved and adopted by the Secretary of State (DEFRA) the route will have legal status and the title of English Coastal Path Trail, being recognised as a national trail.
- 4.3 One of the biggest challenges which the coastal area faces is to ensure that users can continue to enjoy the beauty and variety of these areas whilst at the same time, protecting the natural environment from harm. The Council will continue to work with key organisations to identify funding sources for enhancement schemes along the coast. Potential enhancement schemes along the coast may need to be subject to a Habitat Regulations Assessment, and contributions will be sought to ensure that these delicate habitats continue to be protected and enhanced where necessary and possible.

Future Developments within this area

- 4.4 The Council has adopted Local Plan policy LT2 which stipulates that developments at The Marina should incorporate and encourage sustainable transport links through provision and enhancement of pedestrian and cycle routes, public realm and green infrastructure. The implementation of this policy, will ensure that the area is developed in a way which makes it easily accessible by all, and encourages tourism in this area.
- 4.5 The coastal fringe is a priority stretch of the ecological network (policy NE4), this means that thorough consideration will be given to the impact of any developments in this area, to mitigate any negative impacts on the natural environment and priority will be given to this area for enhancing ecological networks at a landscape scale. There is protection in this area due to Local Plan policy NE1, which covers a large stretch of the coastal area, and this ensures the protection of highlighted nature conservation areas. This protection will ensure that the GI within this area is maintained and enhanced and the coast stays attractive and accessible to all.

Map 2: The Coast Green Infrastructure Map



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HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Table 1 – Coastal Area GI Projects

Item	Details	Ward	Funding	2019 Status
Marina pedestrian link	Coastal footpath improvements between Newburn Bridge and the Marina.	Headland & Harbour	Funding still required.	Ongoing
England Coast Path National Trail	Way marking and promotion of trail.	Headland & Harbour/Seaton/De Bruce	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Premier Inn Marina	Footpath improvements adjacent to the site.	Headland & Harbour	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Seaton Dunes	Removal of invasive plants including sea buckthorn and Japanese rose.	Seaton	Funding still required.	Ongoing



Image 2: Recently installed play area and beach huts in Seaton Carew

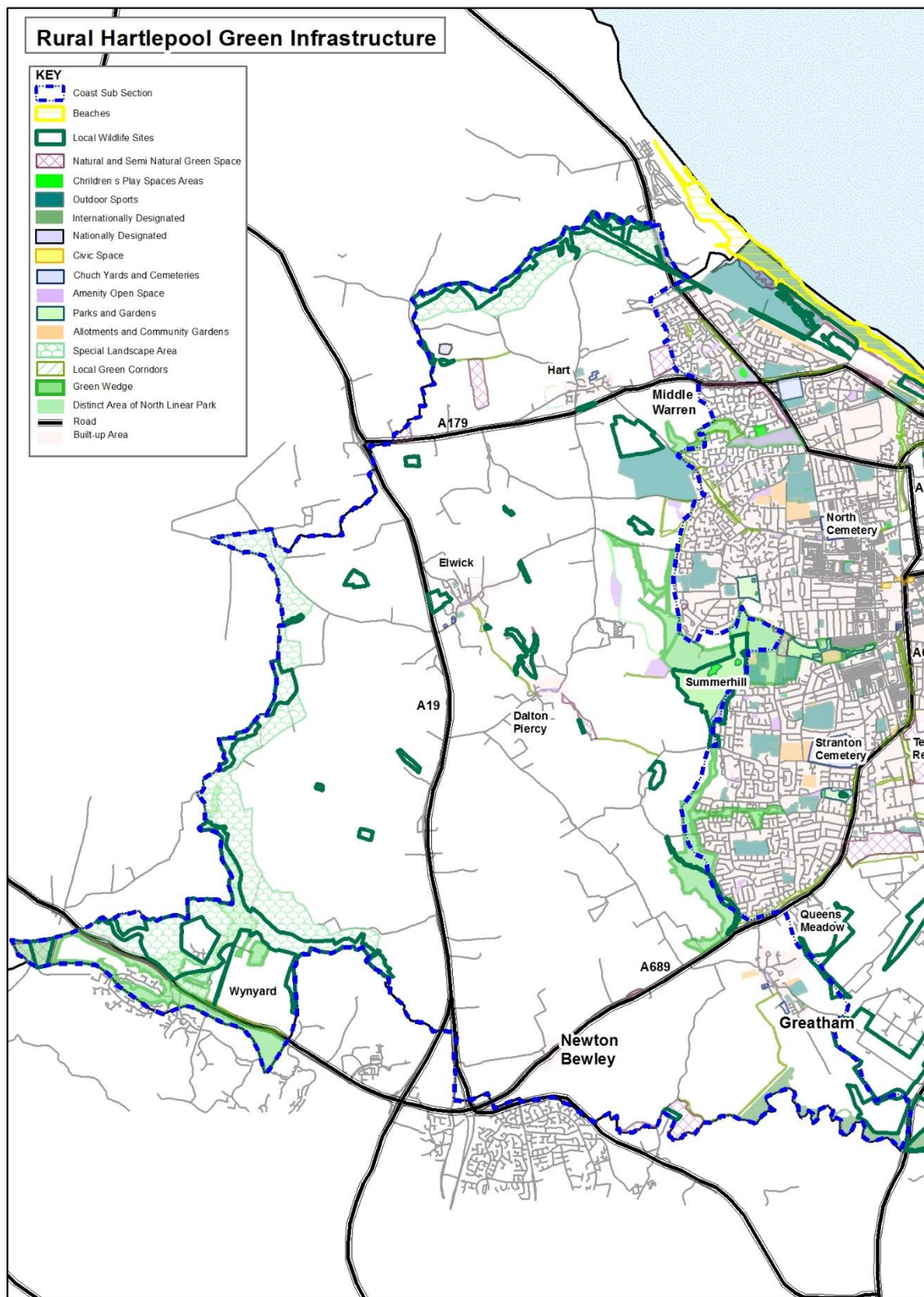
5 Area 2: Rural Hartlepool

- 5.1 Hartlepool benefits from a large rural area, which covers over 50% of the borough. There are six villages within this area, but the majority of land is undulating farm land. The rural area can be accessed via a number of footpaths, bridleways, links and access routes.
- 5.2 The south of the rural area has seen growth and development due to the development at Wynyard Park. In order to ensure the development's sustainability and mitigation of any negative impacts on the rural area, developments at Wynyard have and will be expected to contribute towards the provision of walking and cycle links in the borough, in order to improve connectivity, enabling the local residents to travel around the borough in a sustainable way, reducing the reliance on vehicular travel.
- 5.3 A diverse range of attractive sites and places of importance for wildlife are located within this rural area and improving access to and enjoyment of these areas is a key aspiration of the Council. These improvements need to be developed in a sensitive manner which won't impact on the quality or ecological value of these natural areas. Information and signposting will be an important element of any improvements to ensure that walks provide educational as well as physical benefits. Where appropriate, developer contributions from developments nearby these areas (in particular Local Nature Reserves) will be sought to implement these improvements.
- 5.4 Improvements and new developments within this area will contribute towards the achievement of objectives **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10**.

Future Developments within this area

- 5.5 It is crucial that any developments in the rural area provide the designated areas of green infrastructure to ensure that the residents and visitors can reap the benefits associated with it, and guarantee the sustainability of the developments. More information regarding this can be found in chapter 10 of the Local Plan.
- 5.6 The rural area also contains a priority section of the ecological network; rural west from Wynyard to Thorpe Bulmer and Crimdon Dene (policy NE4), this means that thorough consideration will be given to the impact of any developments in this area, to mitigate any negative impacts on the natural environment, where possible priority will be given to this area for enhancing ecological networks at a landscape scale.

Map 3: Rural Green Infrastructure Map



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Summerhill Country Park

- 5.7 Summerhill lies in the rural area, immediately to the west of the Burn Valley Green Wedge, acting as a gateway into the countryside. This park is owned and operated by the Council and provides opportunities for users to partake in a wide variety of activities. Key elements of the management of Summerhill are shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Summerhill GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Existing coppicing of selected areas	5 locations identified within Summerhill, two of which are cut in rotation	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	Ongoing
Future coppicing	Further possible locations have been identified	Funding would be required to support implementation	Ongoing
Existing thinning of woodland areas	4 locations have been identified within Summerhill	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	Ongoing
Future woodland thinning	Other areas throughout the developing woodland of Summerhill	Funding would be required to support implementation	Ongoing
Gap planting	Small amount of planting to attend to gaps within existing hedgerows. 3 areas identified	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	Ongoing
Hedge Laying	Annual programme of hedge laying for hedges around Summerhill including those planted during the sites' early development	Funding required to support implementation	Ongoing
Management of existing wetlands	At present 9 wetland sites have been identified including areas recently excavated	Funding required to support implementation	Ongoing
Watercourse management	Management of 2 streams that run through Summerhill	Funding required to support implementation	Ongoing
Ditching work	Excavation and management of ditches in and around Summerhill. This includes new ditches and re-excavating existing ditches	Funding required for larger excavations involving bringing in heavy plant. Est £2,000-5,000.	Ongoing

Countryside routes vegetation control	Vegetation control of tracks and paths throughout Summerhill. In total there are about 6.8km of tracks and paths	Work part supported under the 5 year Woodland Grant Scheme. Resources will continue to be required to support cut back by utilising works teams of staff/volunteers	Ongoing
Resurfacing of main site route	Shared walkers/cyclists section of the main route that travels around Summerhill. Route is 2km long x 2.5km wide with two sections of non-slip tarmac	The full route requires re-surfacing. Costs depend on specifications and designs and could range from £80,000 to £250,000	So far approximately 800m has been re-laid.
Stile and gate works	Upgrading of stile, gates and access points throughout the site.	Most of the works are being funded under the existing 5 year Woodland Grant Scheme programme. Additional works would need in the region of £2,000.	Ongoing
Bridleway improvements	Improvements to the bridleways at Summerhill.	Funding still required, costs not available.	Ongoing
Surfacing improvements to Brierton Lane.	Surfacing improvements to the permissive path from Brierton Lane to Summerhill.	Funding still required, costs not available.	Ongoing

5.8 Summerhill has been identified in the Local Plan as a site which will be developed in order to provide local residents and visitors to the borough with access to the countryside, and act as a green link between the rural and urban areas. Through the works highlighted in the table above, Summerhill's position as a Country park of strategic importance within the borough will be reinforced.

Other Rural Key Projects

5.9 Alongside the projects within Summerhill, there are several other isolated projects that have been identified for development or improvement within the rural area.

Table 3: Other Rural Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Greatham Village Allotments	Recognised as a potential development within the Rural Plan.	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Quarry Farm Footpath	A footpath near Quarry Farm to provide increased pedestrian connectivity.	Potential funding identified in planning applications.	Ongoing
Elwick Footpath 1	Improvements to the footpath e.g. resurfacing	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Hart and Clavering footpath	Improvements to the footpath connecting the areas.	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Footpaths south of the A689	Improvements or additions to the network of footpaths south of the A689	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Sappers Corner to Wolviston Footpath and Cycleway.	This will link to the Wynyard developments to provide sustainable transport links.	Funding identified through applications at Wynyard.	Ongoing.
Hart to Haswell Walkway	Countryside management of the Hart to Haswell Walkway Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site	Funding still required.	Ongoing

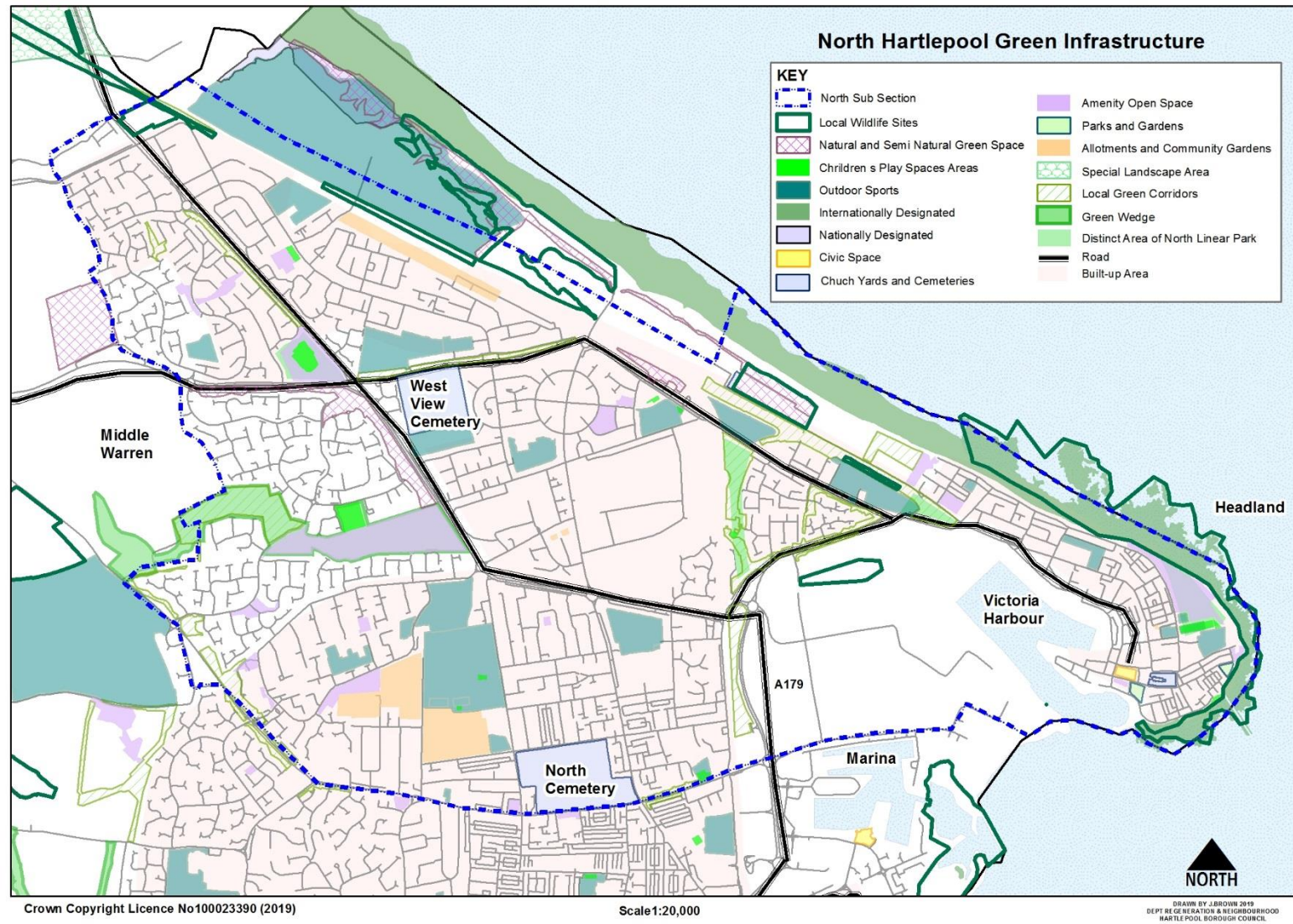
6 Area 3: North Hartlepool

- 6.1 There are a wide variety of elements of GI in this part of Hartlepool. It is crucial to ensure that these are enhanced whilst simultaneously considering the movement to and between these areas.
- 6.2 Middle Warren Green Wedge is considered a key element of the North Linear Park concept. This wedge cuts through the Middle Warren housing development and is a major aesthetic and recreational resource for the area.
- 6.3 Improvements and new developments within this area will contribute towards the achievement of objectives **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.**

Future Developments within this area

- 6.4 It is of key importance that future developments to the north of Hartlepool facilitate access to the small pockets of GI in the area alongside the more substantial green wedge at Middle Warren, which is protected under policy NE3. Developments within this sub-area may be expected to contribute towards enhancing the parks in the area, the cemetery, or other links and green areas within the north of the town. Development of sustainable links such as public rights of way or cycle links will look to be improved where necessary to enable easy movement.

Map 4: Northern Green Infrastructure Map



Clavering Park

- 6.5 Clavering Park is a critical element of the North Linear Park. Works to provide a modern play space in recent years have helped to dramatically improve the quality of this green space and formed the first element of a masterplan for the area. There are still improvements to be made within this area, and the Council will work with partner organisations and developers to secure the funds needed to implement all the works in the area.

Table 4: Clavering Park GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Boundary Fence	Provision of new railings and gates.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £55,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
New Pathways	Includes works such as block paving, drop kerb works etc.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £38,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Planting Works	Hedge planting.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £2,500	Awaiting on funding to be secured.



Image 4: Clavering Park

Central Park

- 6.6 Central Park forms a critical link between the Headland and West Hartlepool. Within the North Linear Park Steering Group, this area was considered as one of the two main priorities for improvement due to its neglect and lack of investment over the years. Previously, funding obtained by the “Big Tree Plant” enabled an early phase of tree planting in the area. This was beneficial to the GI in the area and will provide habitat for a range of species.

Table 5: Central Park (including Local Wildlife Site at Spion Kop) GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Drainage Works	Drainage works to refurbished car park, including excavation, new manhole, drainage runs and connections.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £25,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Car park surfacing.	New bitmac surfacing.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £150,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Footpath Surfacing	New bitmac surfacing.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £15,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Fencing and Railings	Inc. timber fencing, entrance feature, car park barrier etc.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £1,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Provision of Timber Steps	Timber steps with bound gravel treads and landings.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £10,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Tree Planting	Extra heavy standards trees, and transplant tree and shrub planting to embankment.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £5,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Grass Seeding	Reinstatement to grass areas.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £22,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Summer Mowing	Annual summer mow of the Local Wildlife Site in Central Park.	Pedestrian fail mower £8,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.

North Cemetery

- 6.7 North Cemetery is located to the north of the town centre and is a large green space owned by the Council. The cemetery provides a welcome change from the dense terraced housing which surrounds the cemetery, and is of particular value to the local community as an attractive open space. The key improvements needed within the site are the provision of a more accessible, enhanced green space for the existing community, including the residents of the new housing developments. The issues of crime and anti-social behaviour might be mitigated through safe access, boundary treatment and visual surveillance in and out of the site.

Table 6: North Cemetery GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Green Space Enhancement	Mixed spring bulb planting.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £4,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Green Space Enhancement	Woodland areas planted initially with whips rather than standards.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £3,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Access Improvements	Footpath surfacing improvement works (network totals circa 1,050 linear meters, approximately 2,100m ²)	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £105,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Security Improvements	Automated vehicle gates to prevent motorcycles and cars accessing site but allowing maintenance vehicles daily access.	Funding required – could be a project in three phases (£8,000 each), total estimated cost £24,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.

West View Cemetery

- 6.8 West View Cemetery is a very important green open space providing a vital service to the community and an area for nature within an ever increasing urban area. The cemetery is in need of some road way improvements to offset the growth of large trees, boundary and internal road side planting to enhance biodiversity and increase the variety and quantity of trees and shrubs.

Table 7: West View Cemetery

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
West View Cemetery, West View Road	Internal refurbishment of West View Cemetery welfare facility circa £30,000 including public toilets circa £35,000.	Funding required total estimated cost £65,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Management of large tree roots in relation to road ways.	The large trees that are growing next to path ways in the cemetery are lifting the Macadam road surface, making it hazardous to access the cemetery.	Funding is required for this, approx. £10,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Increase internal road way and boundary tree and shrub planting	It is wished to improve the biodiversity and aesthetics of the cemetery by increasing the planting around the boundaries of the cemetery and along the internal road sides	Funding is required for this, £8,000 to £9,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
New Macadam areas	As the cemetery expands there is need to increase the road ways to allow access.	Funding is required for this, £51,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.

Grayfields Recreation Ground

- 6.9 Grayfields is one of the largest recreation grounds in Hartlepool offering a large area of green space in the Thornhill Gardens, Chester and Jesmond road area of the town, for many this is the nearest green space.

Table 9: Grayfields Recreation Ground

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Boundary enhancement	There is 1400 m of boundary that if planted with trees and shrubs would improve biodiversity and the quality of the grounds.	Funding is required for this, £40,000 to £50,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Lowering of Poplar trees	There is a large stand of Poplar trees within the site that are now very tall and in danger of being blown over in high winds given the shallow root base of this type of tree, to mitigate this and to encourage lower growth on the trees it is proposed to reduce their height by half	Funding is required for this, £2,500 to £3,500	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Access Improvements	Footpath surfacing improvement works (network totals circa 119 linear meters, approximately 742m2)	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £37,100	Awaiting funding to be secured.

Other Northern Hartlepool Key Projects

6.10 Alongside the identified projects, there are several other isolated projects that have been identified for development or improvement within the Northern area.

Table 10: Other North Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Chester Road Allotments	Maintenance of allotments.	Estimated costs not provided.	Ongoing.
King George 5 th Recreation Ground	Boundary enhancement - there is 262 m of boundary that if planted with trees and shrubs would improve biodiversity and the quality of the grounds.	Funding is required for this, £10,000 to £12,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Linear park area to rear of Phoenix Centre	Care of young trees planted previously by volunteers, children and local community, grassland area and pond. Machinery/tools for HBC volunteers 'tool library' to enable volunteers to undertake works.	Strimmer, brushcutter, pole saws, pruning saws, hand tools for pond maintenance circa £2,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Improve existing informal path – Merlin Way to Hart Lane	Improve surfacing to accommodate pedestrian and cycle users	Funding required – total estimated cost £30,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Improve existing informal path – Bishop Cuthbert	Improve surfacing to accommodate pedestrian and cycle users	Funding required – total estimated cost £7,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Create new pathways – Green Wedge west of Merlin Way	Create new paths to link various housing developments	Funding required – total estimated cost £11,500	Awaiting funding to be secured.

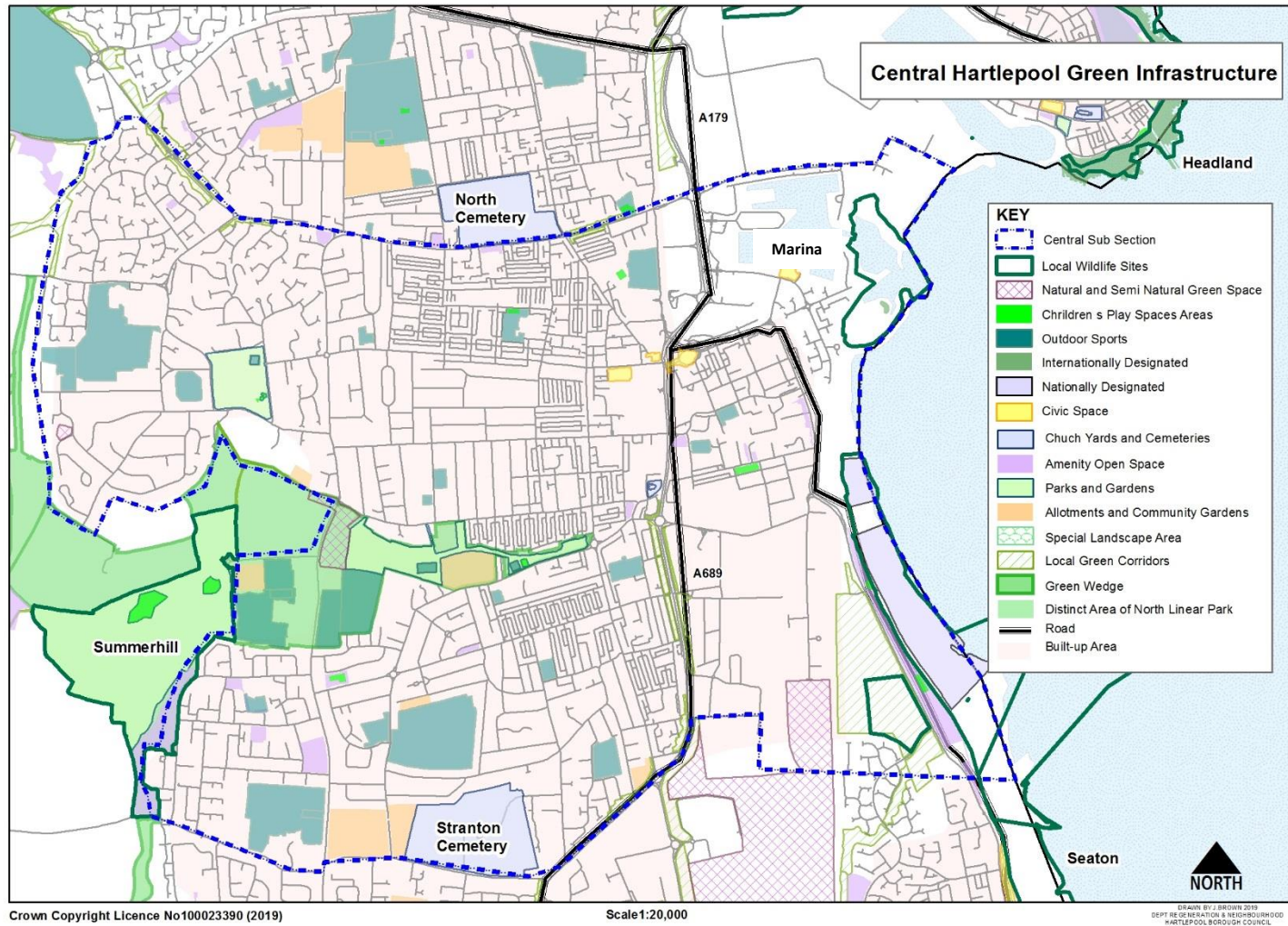
7 Area 4: Central Hartlepool

- 7.1 Hartlepool's central area is considered to be suffering from a deficiency of quality GI – something which is particularly noticeable in the town centre and the northern element of this sub area. However, it is in an ideal location to be well served by the quality GI within the southern and western parts of this sub-area, including Burn Valley Gardens and Ward Jackson Park. The area also houses the two largest sports pitch locations; Brierton School and the Rift House Recreational Ground. As well as this, the allotment sites and major cemetery within this area all help to contribute significantly to the GI not only in this sub-area, but borough wide.
- 7.2 As can be seen in the following map of the central sub-area, it can be noted where the shortfalls of GI can be found specifically. It is of key importance to protect the small pockets of GI as well as exploring ways in which elements of GI can be added in urban areas.
- 7.3 In areas where general green infrastructure is lacking, grass verges and planting can be very beneficial in terms of aesthetics and also providing much needed habitat for wildlife in the area.
- 7.4 Updates and new developments within this area will contribute towards the achievement of objectives **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.**

Future Developments within this area

- 7.5 Emphasis will be placed on enhancements of existing and development of new GI within this area. Burn Valley Green Wedge is protected under policy NE3 to ensure it is maintained as an open and attractive green space in the centre of the borough. Developments within this area may be expected to contribute not only to the larger, more obvious pockets of green infrastructure, but also to the smaller pockets of GI. This contribution could be, for example, through the introduction of street trees – which will help to improve and enhance the feel of the urban space.

Map 5: Central Green Infrastructure Map



Burn Valley

- 7.6 The Burn Valley Green Wedge is one of the Central sub-area's greatest GI assets. This wedge previously benefitted from extensive investment through Natural England and the Environment Agency in order to improve a number of aspects of the area. This has enabled enhancements to biodiversity alongside providing safe pedestrian and cycle routes.
- 7.7 The Burn Valley is crucial in creating green linkages between a number of areas of the borough, including the town centre and various residential estates in the central part of the borough. The Upper Burn Valley is a heavily tree planted area with a formal surfaced path running through it from Elwick Road to Catcote Road. Other informal and unsurfaced paths run through the community wood and are used exclusively by pedestrians. The Council will continue to ensure that these routes are well maintained and upgraded where necessary to help promote the use of sustainable travel.

Table 8: Burn Valley GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Wildlife improvements	Timber decking for mini-beasts to return to watercourse after seasonal clearance of timber and debris from York Road culvert entrance. Estimate 40m2.	Funding required, total estimated cost £1,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Wildlife improvements	Soft landscaping enhancements to watercourse areas to be undertaken with support from volunteers. Circa 60m2.	Funding required, total estimated cost £1,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Wildlife improvements	Wildlife meadow creation (1000m2) circa £1,250 and bulb planting (100m2) circa £4,000.	Funding required, total estimated cost £5,250.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Enhancement of public routes	Phase 1 Colwyn Road bridge footpath access point to play area up to Brinkburn Road surfacing improvement works (circa 130 linear meters, approximately 260m2)	Funding required, total estimated cost £13,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.

Enhancement of public routes	Phase 2 Colwyn Road access point footpath Brinkburn Road towards link footpath to Elwick Road surfacing improvement works (circa 170 linear meters approximately 340m2)	Funding required, total estimated cost £17,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Enhancement of public routes	Phase 3 vehicle and pedestrian bridge area up to upper play picnic area and back to south side path which joins steps and path to Sixth Form college surfacing improvement works (circa 120 linear meters approximately 240m2)	Funding required, total estimated cost £12,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Enhancement of public routes	Phase 4 steps and path to Sixth Form College surfacing improvement works (circa 165 linear meters approximately 330m2)	Funding required, total estimated cost £16,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Enhancement of public routes	Phase 5 snake path from Elwick Road to the burn. Replacement of revetments with rock armour	Funding required, total estimated cost £10,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.



Image 6: Burn Valley

Ward Jackson Park

- 7.8 Ward Jackson Park was built in 1883 and boasts a collection of Victorian and Edwardian features and an impressive lake, which have contributed towards its listing in the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The park makes a significant contribution to the currently 'at risk' Park Conservation area and so enhancement and maintenance is essential. The Friends of Ward Jackson Park work in partnership with the Council's Parks and Countryside team in order to keep the park in excellent condition and provide improvements where necessary.
- 7.9 Due to the high level of maintenance which is necessary within the park, contributions from developments within the vicinity that are likely to have an impact on footfall within the park may be required towards particular areas for the financial year.

Table 9: Ward Jackson Park GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Enhancement of public access	Internal refurbishment of historic public toilet facilities estimated budget £35,000	Funding required – total estimated cost £35,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Dahlia Garden	Soft landscaping improvements to rejuvenate circa 200m2 and provision of benches.	Funding required – total estimated cost £8,800	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Island Erosion Repairs	Remedial work on the island in the lake.	Funding required – total estimated cost £6-7,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Fencing & Railings	Provision of additional security fencing circa 180 linear meters £20,700 and new metal railings circa 200 linear meters £23,000	Funding required - total estimated cost £43,700.	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Invigoration of park boundary planting	To bring more colour and interest, along the inside boundary of the park to Park Ave. This would involve thinning of existing planting and the introduction of new plants of a colourful shrub that fruit.	Funding still required £10,000 to £12,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured

Ward Jackson Car park surfacing	Ward Jackson Park car park is designed to protect the tree roots underneath and is made of a loose material that has now moved owing to usage and needs releveling and the addition of some new surfacing.	Funding still required £6,000 to £7,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured
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Stranton Cemetery

- 7.10 Stranton Cemetery and Crematorium was opened in 1912 and provided a large green space within an urban setting containing a large number of mature trees and shrubs, with a thriving community of rabbits and squirrels amongst other wildlife.

Table 10: Stranton Cemetery

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Tree planting	Small growing decorative trees planted along road sides to enhance the appearance of the cemetery.	Funding still required £50,000 to £57,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Hedge planting	In 2 areas A, Rc 17 & 23 and Con 36 & 34 in area B rear of a car park next to crematorium	Funding still required £3,000 to £4,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured

Other Central Hartlepool Key Projects

7.11 Alongside the identified projects, there are several other isolated projects that have been identified for development or improvement within the Central area.

Table 11: Other Central Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Thornton Street linear park	Green space enhancement, provision of standard trees with protective cages	Funding required – total estimated cost £1,800	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Burbank Street community garden	Green space enhancement, provision of standard trees with protective cages	Funding required – total estimated cost £1,800	Awaiting on funding to be secured.



Image 8: Ward Jackson Park

8 Area 5: South Hartlepool

- 8.1 This area is served by a variety of major GI elements, some of which benefit from established green corridors which aid in linking to other areas of the borough and into the countryside. Investment is needed over the coming years to develop and rejuvenate areas of GI.
- 8.2 The provision of leisure routes within the southern industrial area is necessary to facilitate sustainable travel to work and to significantly improve the linkages south. It is critical that these routes are planned correctly to offer users the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of attractive GI, whilst avoiding any detrimental impact on the environmental designations in the south of the borough.

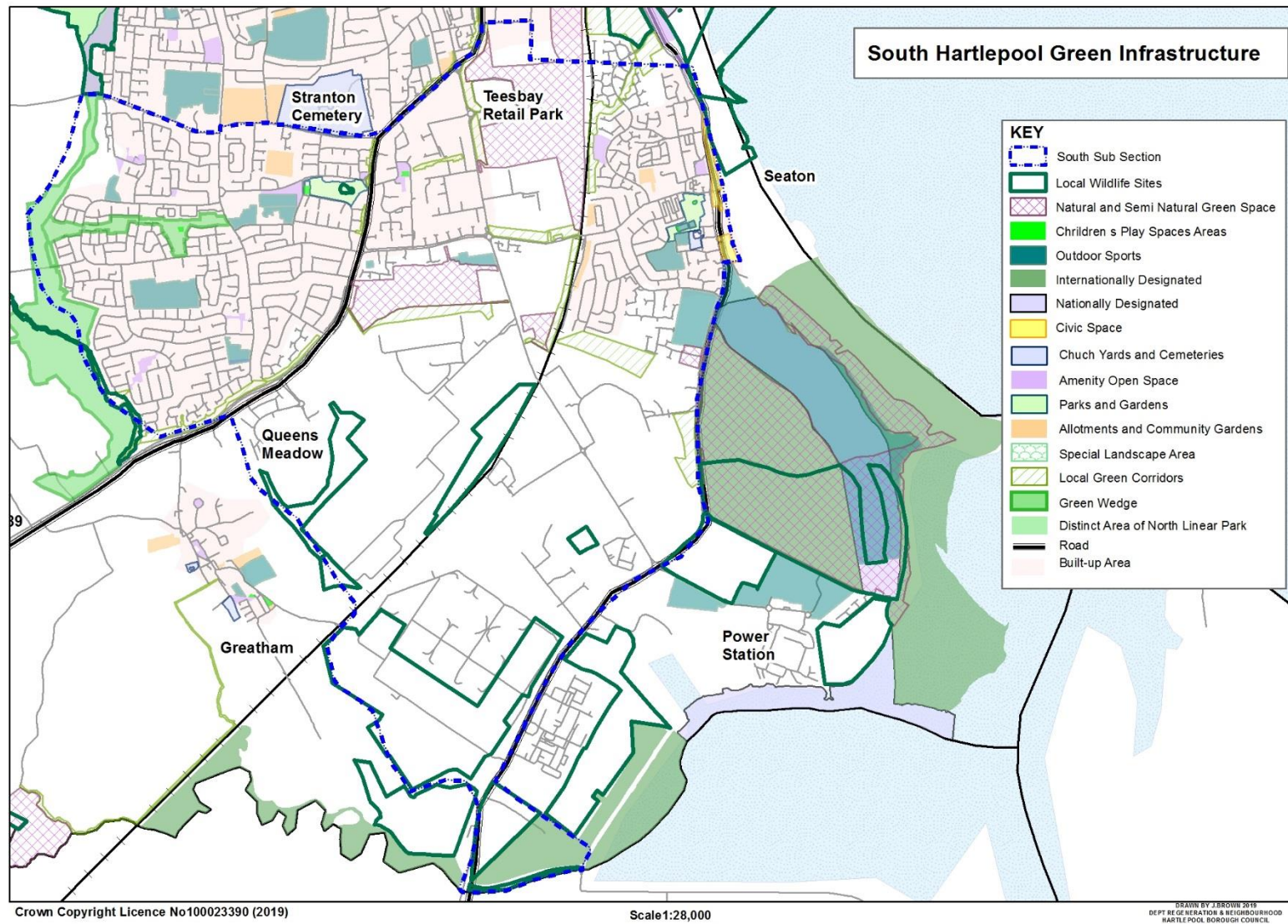
Future Developments within this area

- 8.3 Developments within this area will be expected to contribute towards enhancement of green infrastructure in this area, including the parks, leisure routes and the green wedges. Small scale GI will also be encouraged to improve the links from the south to other parts of the borough. Local Plan policy NE4 protects the ecological network of Dalton Beck/Greatham Beck and prioritises it for enhancement and improvement.



Image 9: Seaton Park

Map 6: Southern Green Infrastructure Map



Seaton Park

- 8.4 Some changes have previously been made to the park in accordance with a Masterplan created in 2011 by The Friends of Seaton Park. The final designs for the Masterplan proposes an ambitious redevelopment of the park which will compliment improvements to the sea front whilst also maintaining the traditional features of a neighbourhood park. There are individual projects which will go together to complete the aspirational vision for the park on completion.

Table 10: Seaton Park GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Development of new park pavilion	Pavilion includes changing rooms estimated at £1.5m.	Funding required – total estimated cost £1.5m.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Footpath network	Improvements and extension to footpath network circa 250lm (500m2)	Funding required, could be phased, project total estimated cost £25,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Creation of fitness trail and wildlife margin	Fitness trail and associated landscape improvements.	Funding required – total estimated cost £30,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Canopy/open pavilion	Introduction of canopy/open pavilion for outdoor activities. Canopy circa £30,000, surfacing circa £20,000, contingency sum and fees circa £10,000	Funding required – total estimated cost £60,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Planting of boundary hedge and tree planting	Provision of boundary hedge 200lm £2,000 including protective 1.2m high post/rail and stock mesh fence £2,400. Tree planting £3,600.	Funding required – total estimated cost £8,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Boundary treatment	Provision of new metal railing fence along Allendale Road boundary circa 200lm.	Funding required – total estimated cost £23,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Enhancements to main park entrance	To include re-surfacing works, 'gateway feature' and associated landscaping.	Funding required – total estimated cost £30,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.

Creation of events space and overflow parking.	Creation of event space circa £150,000 to include overflow car parking using SUDS type system. Circa £60,000	Funding required – total estimated cost £210,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Wildlife improvements	Wildflower meadow creation (1000m2) circa £1,250 and bulb planting (240m2) circa £9,600	Funding required total estimated cost £10,850	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Invigoration of park boundary planting to bring more colour and interest	Along Allendale St, Station Ln and to the rear of the Marine Hotel. This would involve thinning of existing planting and the introduction of new plants of colourful shrubs that fruit.	Funding still required £8,000 to £10,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.



Image 10: Seaton Park

Other South Hartlepool Key Projects

8.5 Alongside the identified projects, there are several other isolated projects that have been identified for development or improvement within the Southern area.

Table 10: Other South Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Rossmere Park	GI improvements.	Various funding required – no details submitted.	Ongoing.
Golden Flatts Green Wedge	Surfaced tracks, woodlands planting, trim trail, play area and pond creation.	Some s106 already secured however further funding required.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Brierton Lane and Kingsley Avenue	Footpath improvement between the two.	No details submitted.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Brenda Road Brownfield Local Wildlife Site	Countryside management and creation of new ponds.	No details submitted.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Belle Vue Way and Brenda Road Roundabout	Landscape improvement works	Funding required – total estimated cost £25,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Creation of new public footpath	Create a new footpath between Longhill Industrial Estate and Station Lane, Seaton Carew	Funding required – total estimated cost £46,500	Awaiting on funding to be secured.

9 Linkages and Movement

- 9.1 The creation and enhancement of green, sustainable links and corridors between areas of GI will be a key priority of the Council and will be of vital importance to the implementation of the Action Plan.
- 9.2 Planting trees, plants and shrubbery to create attractive, multi-functional corridors will ensure that residents and visitors will be able to move freely and safely in a sustainable manner along green corridors between residential, employment and more natural areas. The delivery of these will also contribute towards vital habitats and new wildlife corridors.
- 9.3 It is also important to ensure that as part of new developments, thought is given to how open space, tree planting and walkways are integrated into the plans from the outset so they link into the existing GI network.
- 9.4 These improvements will go hand in hand with the improvements highlighted within this document, alongside any further GI development in the borough. Hartlepool's GI network will develop and grow in the future and develop the multi-functional benefits widely associated with successful GI.

10 How Green Infrastructure Objectives are to be met

10.1 In order to ensure that the Council is successfully working towards the 10 objectives that are set out in the main document, and at the beginning of this action plan, this table has been created to inform all users and summarise what actions are taking place and need to take place to achieve these.

Objective	Objective Description	Actions to meet Objective
1	Protect a high quality visual landscape and townscape, and enhance the unique character, heritage, function, intrinsic quality and sense of place of Hartlepool's GI network to contribute positively to its distinctiveness.	The Council will continue to work within the sub-areas identified in this document to seek to ensure that the GI components are of a high quality. Developments within the borough will be required to positively reflect the character of the local area.
2	Provide a network of interconnected GI and spaces rich in habitat and home to a diverse range of wildlife which also play a critical role in improving the health of residents through providing attractive opportunities for recreation and sustainable travel.	Policy NE4 specifies that all developments within the borough must take consideration of any ecological importance within the area. Disturbance of ecological networks will be restricted and particular attention will be paid to the priority sections of the network.
3	Minimise the impact of, and adapt to, the effects of climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the use of resources, the risk of flooding and pollution and provide for species adaptation by maximising the protection and creation of GI.	All new developments are required to be designed in a way which minimise their impact on the environment. Developments will be encouraged to contribute towards the protection and creation of GI in the area, through design, conditions and planning obligations.
4	Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and expanding and linking habitats together, including working across council boundaries where appropriate, to assist in restoring biodiversity and	Policy NE4 recognises priority sections of the ecological network, however the network as a whole is of importance and needs protecting. Developments must consider the natural environment as a whole, and it is encouraged that applicants consult with the Council's

	allowing species to respond to climate change.	ecologist to understand any risks their development pose to ecological networks, the natural environment and any mitigation required to address this.
5	Ensure trees and hedges are protected throughout the borough and integrate planting schemes within all new developments and, on larger housing schemes, deliver new areas of woodland. The conservation of ancient woodland and veteran trees which are irreplaceable is imperative.	Development within the major parks in the borough (Summerhill, Clavering Park etc.) will include new planting schemes, and maintenance of existing trees and hedges. Development which impacts on ancient woodland and veteran trees will be restricted.
6	Protect and enhance a wide range of high quality opportunities for safe and accessible formal and informal sport, recreation and leisure facilities to encourage the community and visitors to undertake a variety of healthy exercise within attractive settings.	Policy NE5 ensures that the Council will protect existing playing fields, tennis courts and bowling greens. Developer contributions towards playing pitches and built sports facilities will be required on a range of developments, to enhance existing or develop new facilities.
7	Involve users, including “friends of” groups, and neighbours of GI in its design, ensuring usability and helping to create a sense of ownership and pride.	Those proposing improvements in areas where “friends of” groups are present e.g. Ward Jackson Park, will be encouraged to consult with these groups to ensure that works completed will be beneficial for the local community.
8	Support economic growth, attract inward investment and support redevelopment of brownfield land by improving the setting of industrial and commercial areas through the delivery and enhancement of quality, distinctive and attractive GI.	The 2018 Local Plan dedicates a chapter to strengthening the local economy. This includes requirements for developments at Queen’s Meadow Business Park to provide high quality landscaping, woodland planting, wildlife habitat enhancement etc. The Council will encourage re-development within brownfield sites.

9	Create a quality, distinctive and productive GI network to support local food production, rural diversification and tourism to meet the needs of local businesses, landowners and to provide a diverse employment base.	GI developments and improvements which are highlighted in this document, alongside any future schemes that may materialise, will where appropriate contribute towards achieving an effective GI network which all residents can reap the benefits of.
10	Ensure key green hubs, such as parks, play spaces and woodlands, are linked by means of safe and easily accessible green networks and rights of way that together form a high quality GI grid across the whole of the borough.	New developments may be required make GI contributions where appropriate. Where necessary, these may go towards enhancing GI links within the local area to ensure access to green hubs is made easier.

10.2 As highlighted in this document, the Council has explored how the proposed developments and enhancement of GI in the sub-areas will contribute towards the achievement of the 10 key objectives. Completing the actions needed to meet these 10 objectives will lead to the Council achieving its vision regarding Green Infrastructure.

10.3 It is important to consider that this does not represent an exhaustive list of main GI improvements that are needed within the town, and depending on the type of future developments, alongside their location, the Council may identify a requirement for contributions to other elements of GI including towards smaller, less obvious areas of GI and this will be considered on a case by case basis. Developers must consider that the Council consider improvements in GI as necessary to render a development sustainable. Creation of or enhancements to GI will improve the conditions in which people work and live, encourage sustainable transport and improve the appearance of the borough as a whole, leading to increased visitors, more investment in the borough and overall a better quality of life for residents.