

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



4 April 2013

at 3.00pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Ainslie, Cranney, Dawkins, Hall, Payne, Sirs and Wells

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2013 *(to follow)*

4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM

No items

5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

No items

6. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

6.1 New Dwellings Outside of Development Limits Supplementary Planning Document – *Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)*



- 6.2 The Plans and Strategies which Together Comprise the Development Plan –
Green Infrastructure – Supplementary Planning Document – *Assistant Director
(Regeneration and Planning)*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No items

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) Date of Next Meeting - 18 April 2013, commencing at 3.00pm in Committee
Room B



REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

4 April 2013



Report of: Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

Subject: NEW DWELLINGS OUTSIDE OF DEVELOPMENT
LIMITS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Forum with information relating to the Draft New Dwellings Outside of Development Limits Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SPD is attached as **Appendix 1**.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The need for new dwellings in the countryside is driven by many factors and there are circumstances in which isolated residential development may be justified:
- **Rural Enterprise:** Accommodation is required to enable agricultural, forestry and other rural based enterprise full-time workers to live at, or in the immediate vicinity of, their place of work, or
 - **Heritage:** The development would represent the best viable use or secure the future of a heritage asset, or
 - **Outstanding Design:** The development is of truly outstanding design, architecture, sustainable construction methods, etc
- 2.2 The existing planning policy framework allows for new dwellings in the countryside subject to the proposals according with criteria established in the following policies:
- Local Plan (2006) policy Rur12
 - Emerging Local Plan (2012) Submission document policy HSG3 (Once adopted, the 2012 Local Plan will replace the 2006 Local Plan)
 - National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 55

In order to ensure any development is in accordance with the planning policy framework in most cases it is essential that a functional test is undertaken.

- 2.3 The Planning Policy Statements (PPS) have been cancelled and replaced with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). PPS7 previously

outlined the specific requirements of the functional test and this provided certainty to developers and the Council on what was expected as part of special justification. This specific functional test guidance has not been repeated in the NPPF and as a result there is uncertainty with regard to what is expected from developers in order to justify a new dwelling outside of development limits.

- 2.4 The SPD provides the detail as to when a functional test will be required and details what information the applicant will be required to submit as part of the functional test. The functional test assessment criteria are established in Tables 1 and/or 2 of the SPD. In accordance with the planning policy framework, any new dwellings outside of development limits will not be permitted unless the criteria established in Tables 1 and/or 2 are satisfied.
- 2.5 It is important to note that a functional test is only required for new dwellings outside of development limits where applicants are claiming housing need where:
- **Rural Enterprise:** Accommodation is required to enable agricultural, forestry and other rural based enterprise full-time workers to live at, or in the immediate vicinity of, their place of work, or
 - **Heritage:** The development would represent the best viable use or secure the future of a heritage asset.
- 2.6 There is no requirement to undertake a functional test where new dwellings outside of development limits are proposed due to their truly outstanding design, architecture, sustainable construction methods etc.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 It is proposed that public consultation be undertaken on the SPD starting in Spring 2013 and would run for a minimum period of eight weeks.
- 3.2 The public consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI was prepared in compliance with the Hartlepool Compact and its associated protocols.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 The Adopted Hartlepool Local Plan (2006) with specific regard to policy Rur12.

- 5.2 The Emerging Local Plan (2012) Submission document with specific regard to policy HSG3.
- 5.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) with specific regard to paragraph 55

6. CONTACT OFFICER

Damien Wilson
Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)
Hartlepool Borough Council
Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Department
Level 3
Centre Civic
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523400

E-mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

New Dwellings Outside of Development Limits

Supplementary Planning Document

Draft

January 2013

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Need for new dwellings in the countryside is driven by many factors; one of the few circumstances in which residential development may be justified is when accommodation is required to enable agricultural, forestry and other rural based enterprise full-time workers to live at, or in the immediate vicinity of, their place of work.
- 1.2 The existing planning policy framework allows for new dwellings in the countryside subject to the proposals according with criteria established in the policies. In order to ensure any development is in accordance with the planning policy framework in most cases it is essential that a functional test is undertaken.
- 1.3 This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides the detail as to when a functional test will be required and details what information the applicant will be required to submit as part of the functional test.

2. NEED FOR NEW DWELLINGS OUTSIDE OF DEVELOPMENT LIMITS

- 2.1 Most of the land in the borough which falls outside of development limits can be characterised as being “countryside”. Therefore most dwellings proposed outside of the development limits will be, by definition: development in the countryside.
- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and policies in the existing Local Plan (2006) and emerging Local Plan (2012) make clear that new houses in the countryside require special justification for planning permission to be granted. Circumstances in which residential development may be justified are:

- **Rural Enterprise:** Accommodation is required to enable agricultural, forestry and other rural based enterprise full-time workers to live at, or in the immediate vicinity of, their place of work, or
- **Heritage:** The development would represent the best viable use or secure the future of a heritage asset, or
- **Outstanding Design:** The development is of truly outstanding design, architecture, sustainable construction methods etc

- 2.3 Historically there have not been many cases of new dwellings outside of development limits justified through heritage or outstanding design housing need. Therefore it is anticipated that the majority of the new dwellings outside of development limits proposed will be justified through the rural enterprise housing need argument.

Rural Enterprise

- 2.4 It will often be as convenient and more sustainable for such workers to live in the main urban area or in nearby villages or in suitable existing dwellings, so avoiding new and potentially intrusive and unsustainable development in the countryside. However, there will be some cases where the nature and demands of the work concerned make it essential for one or more people engaged in the enterprise to live at, or very close to, the site of their work. Whether this is essential in any particular case will depend on the needs of the enterprise concerned and not on the personal preferences or circumstances of any of the individuals involved.

- 2.5 It is essential that all applications for planning permission for new occupational dwellings in the countryside are scrutinised thoroughly with the aim of detecting attempts to abuse (e.g. through speculative proposals) the concession that the Local Plan makes for such dwellings. In particular, it will be important to establish whether the stated intentions to engage in farming, forestry or any other rural-based enterprise, are genuinely financially viable and are reasonably likely to materialise and are capable of being sustained for a reasonable period of time. It will also be important to establish that the needs of the intended enterprise require one or more of the people engaged in it to live nearby.

Heritage

- 2.6 It may be appropriate justification where a new dwelling, conversion or change of use of a building to residential that would represent the best viable use of heritage asset or secure the future of the asset is proposed. The heritage justification is an individual justification and as a result the heritage justification can be made without the need to justify the need via the rural enterprise need.

Outstanding Design

- 2.7 Notwithstanding the rural enterprise and heritage justification, in exceptional circumstances, new dwellings outside of development limits may be permitted where the design is truly outstanding, groundbreaking, innovative, reflecting the highest standards in architecture and the development significantly enhances the immediate setting.

3. EXISTING AND EMERGING PLANNING POLICY

- 3.1 The current Local Plan (2006) includes a policy which outlines when new housing in the countryside will be appropriate. The policy wording is detailed in appendix 1.
- 3.2 The emerging Local Plan (2012) Submission document includes a similar policy, which is detailed in appendix 2. The emerging Local Plan (2012) allocates sufficient land within the development limits to accommodate the anticipated housing need over the next 15 years. Bearing this in mind, proposals for new additional dwellings outside of development limits will need to be given special and detailed consideration prior to planning permission being granted.
- 3.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identifies when new housing in the countryside would be appropriate. The policy wording is detailed in appendix 3.
- 3.4 The cumulative planning policy framework allows for new dwellings in the countryside subject to proposals according with the criteria established in the policies. In order to ensure any development is in accordance with the planning policy framework it is essential that a functional test is undertaken. The functional test will be required for all relevant development that would be considered under:
- Local Plan (2006) policy Rur12
 - Local Plan (2012) policy HSG3
 - NPPF paragraph 55
- 3.5 The emerging policy HSG3 in the 2012 Local Plan is the most up-to-date policy with regard to new dwellings outside of development limits and reflects the planning policy framework established in the NPPF. Although not yet part of an adopted Local Plan, the HSG3 policy holds significant weight with regard to making decisions and guiding development; as a result it is currently being used to determine relevant planning applications. As a result the functional test assessment criteria are designed to incorporate the relevant requirements of policy HSG3.
- 3.6 The following section outlines the function test requirements with regard to justification made under the rural enterprise or heritage needs.

4. THE FUNCTIONAL TEST

4.1 It is important to note that a functional test is only required for new dwellings outside of development limits where applicants are claiming housing need where:

- **Rural Enterprise:** Accommodation is required to enable agricultural, forestry and other rural based enterprise full-time workers to live at, or in the immediate vicinity of, their place of work, or
- **Heritage:** The development would represent the best viable use or secure the future of a heritage asset.

4.2 There is no requirement to undertake a functional test where new dwellings outside of development limits are proposed due to their truly outstanding design, architecture, sustainable construction methods etc. as detailed in points 7 to 11 in policy HSG3 in the Local Plan 2012 Submission document or paragraph 55 in the NPPF as detailed in appendix 2 and 3.

4.3 The functional test criteria are assessed against the criteria established in the planning policy framework consisting of policies detailed in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5. The assessment criteria are established in tables 1 and/or 2. In accordance with the planning policy framework, any new dwellings outside of development limits will not be permitted unless the criteria established in tables 1 and/or 2 are satisfied.

Rural Enterprise

4.4 In order to justify housing need through rural enterprise, all applicants will be required to submit the relevant information to answer the questions (a) to (l) in table 1 to the Local Planning Authority in order to justify the housing need.

Heritage

4.5 For applications which are justified under heritage need, applicants will be required to submit relevant information to answer the questions (m) to (s) in table 2 to the Local Planning Authority in order to justify the housing need.

Outstanding Design

4.6 For applications which are justified under outstanding design there is no requirement to submit relevant information to answer the questions in tables 1 or 2 in order to justify the housing need.

Table 1: Rural Enterprise Functional Test Assessment Criteria

NPPF Para 55 Criteria Point	LP 2006 Rur12 Criteria Point	LP 2012 HSG3 Criteria Point	Criteria Subject	Functional Test Criteria	Application Assessment Mechanism
1	(a)	1	There is a clearly established functional need and that they are essential for a full time rural worker(s) to live permanently at or near their place of agricultural, forestry or other rural based enterprise considered acceptable by the Borough Council.	<p>(a) Is it essential for full time workers to attend to agricultural or rural enterprise business at short notice?</p> <p>(b) Is it essential for full time workers to quickly deal with emergencies that could otherwise cause loss of agricultural produce such as livestock?</p> <p>(c) Is it essential for full time workers to protect livestock or business infrastructure from theft and/or vandalism day and night?</p>	Planning Statement
1	(b)	2	The agricultural, forestry or other rural based enterprise considered acceptable by the Borough Council has been established for at least three years, has been profitable for at least one of them, is currently financially sound and has a clear prospect of remaining so.	<p>(d) Has the enterprise been established for three or more years?</p> <p>(e) Has the enterprise been profitable for at least one of the three years it has been established?</p> <p>(f) Is there a clear prospect of the enterprise remaining economically viable in the long term?</p>	Business accounts
1	(a)	3	The need could not be met by another existing dwelling nearby.	<p>(g) Are there any other suitable dwellings nearby which can meet the housing need?</p> <p>(h) Have suitable dwellings or buildings suitable for conversion been sold separately from the farm and/or rural enterprise business holding? Such a sale could constitute a lack of housing need.</p>	<p>Residential property search Report</p> <p>Historical land use Report</p>

NPPF Para 55 Criteria Point	LP 2006 Rur12 Criteria Point	LP 2012 HSG3 Criteria Point	Criteria Subject	Functional Test Criteria	Application Assessment Mechanism
n/a	(c)	4	The dwelling(s) proposed is of a size commensurate with the size/value of the agricultural, forestry or other rural enterprise it is supporting.	<p>(i) Is the size of the dwelling proportionate to the functional requirements of the rural enterprise?</p> <p>(j) Is the market value of the dwelling proportionate to the current and/or future income generated through the rural enterprise?</p> <p>(k) Is the dwelling sited so as to meet the identified functional need and does it relate well to existing buildings and/or other dwellings?</p>	<p>Planning Statement</p> <p>Property Valuation & Business Accounts</p> <p>Plans & Drawings</p>
n/a	(d)	5	Proposals are in accordance with other relevant policies in the Local Plan and the NPPF.	(l) Are the proposals in accordance with all relevant policies in the Local Plan and NPPF?	Plans & Drawings

Table 2: Heritage Functional Test Assessment Criteria

NPPF Para 55 Criteria Point	LP 2006 Rur12 Criteria Point	LP 2012 HSG3 Criteria Point	Criteria Subject	Functional Test Criteria	Application Assessment Mechanism
2	n/a	6	Where relevant the development would represent the best viable use or secure the future of a heritage asset.	<p>(m) Will it not materially harm the heritage values of the place and/or its setting?</p> <p>(n) Will it avoid detrimental fragmentation of management of the place?</p> <p>(o) Will it secure the long term future of the place and where appropriate, its continued use for a sympathetic purpose?</p> <p>(p) Is it necessary to resolve problems arising from the inherent needs of the place, rather than the circumstances of the present owner, or the purchase price paid?</p> <p>(q) Is sufficient subsidy not available from any other heritage/conservation source?</p> <p>(r) Can it be demonstrated that the amount of enabling development is the minimum necessary to secure the future of the place, and that its form minimises harm to other public interests?</p> <p>(s) Does the public benefit of securing the future of the significant place through such enabling development outweighs the disbenefit of breaching other public policies?</p>	Heritage Statement (Where Relevant)

END OF SPD

NEW HOUSING IN THE OPEN COUNTRYSIDE

ISOLATED NEW DWELLINGS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN THE OPEN COUNTRYSIDE UNLESS IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT:

- a) THEY ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY OR OTHER APPROVED OR ESTABLISHED USES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE,**
- b) THE ENTERPRISE FOR WHICH THEY ARE REQUIRED IS ECONOMICALLY VIABLE,**
- c) THEY ARE OF A SIZE COMMENSURATE WITH THE ESTABLISHED FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENT,**
- d) THE SITING, DESIGN, SCALE AND MATERIALS WILL NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY DETRIMENTAL TO THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT.**

PROPOSALS FOR ONE FOR ONE REPLACEMENT DWELLINGS WILL ONLY BE APPROVED WHERE:

- i. THE EXISTING ACCOMMODATION NO LONGER MEETS MODERN STANDARDS AND IS INCAPABLE OF ECONOMIC REPAIR OR ADAPTATION, AND**
- ii. THE SCALE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS BROADLY SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL AND THE FORM, SCALE, MASSING AND GENERAL DESIGN IS SUCH TO MINIMISE VISUAL INTRUSION.**

INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING SEWAGE DISPOSAL TO SERVE HOUSING IN THE RURAL AREA MUST BE ADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

HSG3: New Dwellings Outside of Development Limits

The Borough Council will ensure that new dwellings outside of development limits will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:

- 1) There is a clearly established functional need and that they are essential for a full time rural worker(s) to live permanently at or near their place of agricultural, forestry or other rural based enterprise considered acceptable by the Borough Council, and;
- 2) The agricultural, forestry or other rural based enterprise considered acceptable by the Borough Council has been established for at least three years, has been profitable for at least one of them, is currently financially sound and has a clear prospect of remaining so, and;
- 3) The need could not be met by another existing dwelling nearby, and;
- 4) The dwelling(s) proposed is of a size commensurate with the size/value of the agricultural or forestry business it is supporting.
- 5) Proposals are in accordance with policies ND2, ND3 and NE2.
- 6) Or where relevant the development would represent the best viable use or secure the future of a heritage asset.

Notwithstanding the above criteria, in exceptional circumstances, new dwellings outside of development limits may be permitted where the design:

- 7) Is truly outstanding, groundbreaking and innovative, for example in its use of materials, methods of construction or its contribution to protecting and enhancing the environment, and;
- 8) Reflects the highest standards in architecture, and;
- 9) Significantly enhances the immediate setting, and;
- 10) Is sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area, and;
- 11) Is an exemplar of sustainable construction.

Proposals for replacement dwellings outside of development limits will only be approved where:

The existing dwelling no longer meets modern standards and is incapable of economic repair or adaption, and the scale of the proposed development is similar to original and the form, scale, massing and general design is such to minimise visual intrusion.

Appendix 3: National Planning Policy Framework Extract

Paragraph 55

To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. For example, where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby. Local planning authorities should avoid new isolated homes in the countryside unless there are special circumstances such as:

- the essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside; or
- where such development would represent the optimal viable use of a heritage asset or would be appropriate enabling development to secure the future of heritage assets; or
- where the development would re-use redundant or disused buildings and lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting; or
- the exceptional quality or innovative nature of the design of the dwelling. Such a design should:
 - be truly outstanding or innovative, helping to raise standards of design more generally in rural areas;
 - reflect the highest standards in architecture;
 - significantly enhance its immediate setting; and
 - be sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area.

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

4 April 2013



Report of: Assistant Director (Planning & Regeneration)

Subject: THE PLANS AND STRATEGIES WHICH TOGETHER
COMPRISE THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE SPD

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Forum with information relating to the Draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (**see Appendix 1 attached**) which is anticipated to go out to public consultation following Cabinet approval on 2 April 2013.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Hartlepool Local Plan will be the key Development Plan Document setting out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and core policies for the Borough for the next 15 years. Contained within the emerging Local Plan, policies ND1, NE1 and NE2 make specific reference to elements which comprise green infrastructure.
- 2.2 The Green Infrastructure SPD outlines the benefits and purpose of Green Infrastructure and its importance to the Borough. It highlights the current areas of green infrastructure within Hartlepool and looks at investment in green infrastructure as well as the management of it. As part of the SPD an action plan (**see Appendix 2 attached**) is included which looks at improvements and enhancements which are needed over the coming years to continue the successful development of the Green Infrastructure network within the Borough.
- 2.3 The document does not contain any policies; it is intended to guide future development of and investment in green infrastructure and will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications where green infrastructure contributions have been requested or where the application will contribute to the development of green infrastructure in the Borough.
- 2.4 Due to the wide ranging nature of green infrastructure a steering group has been set up which includes a number of disciplines including representation from Natural England as well as the Parks and Countryside team, Ecology, Arboricultural Officer, Neighbourhood Regeneration and Sport and

Recreation. The format for the Green Infrastructure SPD was agreed in a Steering Group meeting and members have been informally consulted on the draft SPD and have fed information in to inform the development of the Action Plan which accompanies the SPD.

- 2.5 If approved for consultation by Cabinet, an 8 week public consultation event will be held to seek the views of local residents and interested stakeholders. Comments will be taken into account and a finalised SPD will be taken to a future Cabinet/Committee meeting to seek adoption of the SPD.

3. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision-making. The council is committed to securing safe and secure environments within the borough.
- 3.2 Safety and security is a key consideration when assessing landscaping schemes; however the issue is not specifically addressed in the draft supplementary planning document as this is a more strategic level document. Reference to this is made in the Trees and Development SPD and is covered by policy in the emerging Local Plan and will be taken into account in the consideration of future planning applications.

4. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 there is a statutory duty for Local Planning Authorities to ensure, wherever appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development, adequate provision is made for the preservation and planting of trees. There is also a duty on the authority to ensure that new development does not increase the risk of flooding; the provision of high quality green infrastructure, which includes SuDS ponds, has the ability to mitigate against potential issues in terms of flooding.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Consultation on the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document is being carried out in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI was prepared in compliance with the Hartlepool Compact and its associated protocols.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Green Infrastructure SPD is funded by Natural England who have committed up to £5000 towards its production. However in order to secure

this funding a draft document must be out to public consultation in April 2013.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

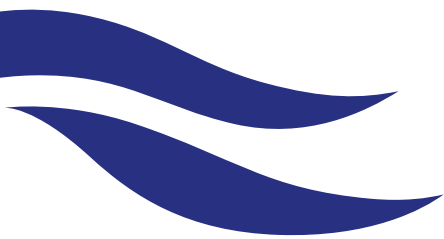
- 8.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-
(i) The emerging Hartlepool Local Plan.
http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy/108/planning_policy/1

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Damien Wilson
Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)
Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Department
Hartlepool Borough Council
Level 3
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523400

E-mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk



Hartlepool Local Development Framework

Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document



April 2013



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Hartlepool Green Infrastructure SPD

Introduction

What is Green Infrastructure?

There are a number of definitions of green infrastructure (GI) but for the purposes of this SPD one has been adapted to more closely reflect GI within Hartlepool:

“GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE BOROUGH'S LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM – THE NETWORK OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS AND GREEN AND BLUE SPACES THAT LIES WITHIN AND BETWEEN THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHICH PROVIDES MULTIPLE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS.”

Green infrastructure planning involves the provision of strategically planned networks that link existing (and proposed) green spaces with green corridors running through urban, suburban, urban fringe, and rural areas. Through the maintenance, enhancement and extension of these networks multi-functional benefits can be realised for local communities, businesses, visitors and the environment. Appropriate strategies, plans and programmes led by the Council and involving local partnerships and individual organisations can help to maintain existing green infrastructure, and promote solutions to remedy deficiencies and create new opportunities.

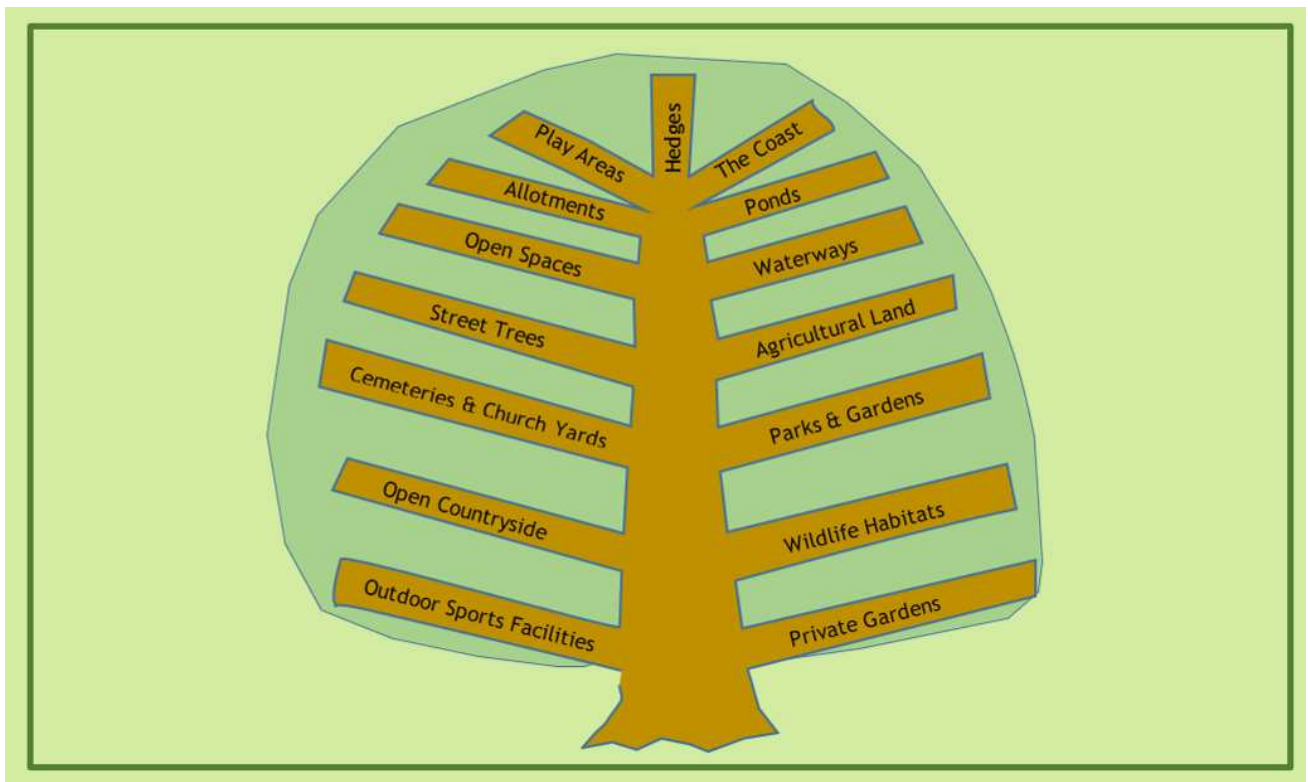
What is the Purpose of the SPD?

This document sets out the future strategy for the development of GI within Hartlepool by assessing the town's current GI and looking at areas which can be improved and where there are gaps in the current provision which need to be addressed in the future, ensuring a green and sustainable future for the town.

Diagram 1, on the following page, illustrates the types of physical components which link together to form GI. Through looking at these green components in a comprehensive way and recognising that they are all intrinsically linked, this strategy will help to ensure that critical elements are not only protected but are also joined together, where possible, to help to develop the networks of GI within the Borough.

This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), once adopted, will form part of the Local Development Framework, linking with the Hartlepool Local Plan to drive forward the development of GI in the town. It will enable the Council, driven forward by a GI working group, to seek funding to help implement distinct elements of the Action Plan contained within the SPD. The Council will ensure that the SPD stays relevant and up-to-date through monitoring and review.

Diagram 1: The Components which form Green Infrastructure in Hartlepool



Who Benefits from Green Infrastructure?

Due to the multi-functional nature of GI, it is capable of delivering a range of benefits in a variety of different situations. One such example would be to consider the value of GI in areas of deprivation where people suffer from higher levels of ill health – in such areas the delivery of high quality GI can contribute to improving wellbeing. Good quality GI can be of considerable economic benefit too. A number of studies from around the world have illustrated how, through the delivery of quality GI, towns and cities have helped to attract inward investment improve the housing market and drive up local economies.

How the SPD fits together

This SPD considers relevant national, regional and local policies which will impact on the delivery of GI. It also sets a number of objectives and an overall vision for the delivery of GI in Hartlepool. The SPD maps the existing GI within the borough, looking at the strengths, weaknesses and a functionality of GI within distinct areas of the town and rural area and thus helping to highlight areas of deficiency and where connections and improvements can be made in the future to further enhance the overall GI within the borough. In order to fund future development of GI identified within the SPD, financial options and investment are considered along with a section looking at the future

maintenance of GI. In order to ensure the vision and aspirations of the SPD are delivered on the ground an Action Plan has also been developed which forms Appendix 1. It will be necessary to monitor and review the delivery of the Action Plan and details of this are also set out within the SPD.



(Figure 1 – Tree lined corridor)

Policy Context

At a **national level** the importance of Green Infrastructure (GI) is recognised in a number of documents which help to highlight the benefit of the protection and enhancement of GI within towns and cities:

- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** recognises the positive impact that GI can have in the battle against Climate Change including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. It requires local planning authorities to prepare local plans which positively plan for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- The Countryside Agency, in its publication '**The countryside in and around towns**', also supports the concept of GI. The document outlines a vision of networks of new and improved parks, woodlands and other green spaces that are linked to urban centres and the wider countryside by footpaths, bridleways and cycle ways. Urban parks, country parks and other green spaces would be joined up to form continuous green corridors between town and country.
- Natural England's **Green Infrastructure Guidance** considers the planning and delivery of green infrastructure, recognised it as an essential part of sustainable spatial planning. It highlights the role of green infrastructure as a 'life support system', able to deliver multiple environmental functions, and to play a key part in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

On a **regional level** the importance of GI in making the north east an attractive place to live and work whilst also providing the benefits highlighted in national guidance is outlined in the following documents:

- The **Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)** emphasises the importance of GI throughout and notes that open spaces, woodlands, wildlife habitats, parks and other natural areas will play a key role in the Region's competitiveness and economic strength.
- The **Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy** sets out the strategic vision for the development of GI within the Tees Valley and identifies key strategic corridors including a number within Hartlepool including The Coast – Hartlepool to Cowbar, the Town Centre to Summerhill and Saltholme to Cowpen Bewley, Wynyard and Hartlepool. Along with the development of this strategy an extensive piece of work, the GI Valuation Toolbox, was also undertaken to

illustrate the monetised public and private sector benefit values for a given GI investment. This is a tool which can be used to help illustrate the extensive and multifunctional benefits that can be derived from the implementation of GI.

At a **local level** the importance of GI has been recognised for some time, however, to date the delivery of GI in the town has not always been considered in an integrated manner. At present there are a number of documents which recognise the need to protect, enhance and develop GI within the town in the future to ensure current and future generations enjoy the wide range of multi-functional benefits which GI can delivery.

- Within the **emerging Hartlepool Local Plan 2012** Policy NE1 (Green Infrastructure) sets out the local authorities stance in terms of safeguarding GI and working with partner organisations to actively improve the quantity and quality of GI including sports pitches, cycle routes and greenways over the plan period. The policy provides guidance on green wedges, key green spaces including parks and gardens, play areas green corridors, playing pitches, allotments, amenity green space, natural and semi natural greenspace and other forms of green space. It considers the formation of new green wedges in three separate locations within the borough which will be developed over the next 15 years.

Policy NE2 within the emerging Local Plan is also vital in terms of protecting the natural environment which forms a critical element of GI within the borough. This policy will ensure all national, regional and locally designated nature sites are protected and where appropriate enhanced. Other important elements it aims to protect include existing woodland and in particular ancient semi-natural woodland.

There are a number of other emerging Local Plan policies which will be used to ensure the GI in Hartlepool continues to improve over the plan period, most notably Policy ND1 (Planning Obligations) which enables the authority to seek contributions from development towards a number of elements of GI. Policy CC1 (Climate Change) also seeks to reduce the impacts of climate change through the delivery of GI such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) within new developments.

- The importance of GI is also reflected in the Council's Local Infrastructure Plan which includes a section covering some of the key areas of GI that the local authority is seeking to further develop and enhance over the coming years. Many of the areas covered are within the strategic green infrastructure corridors identified in the Tees Valley GI Strategy however there are others which form smaller, more discrete elements of Hartlepool's GI such as North Cemetery which is an important open space in a densely populated area of the town.

Vision and Objectives

Vision of SPD: ***By 2028 Hartlepool will have a high quality, multifunctional, accessible green infrastructure network which enhances the community's quality of life and also of wildlife.***

An improved rights of way network will make it possible to move safely, easily and comfortably through the borough on foot or by bike, so that those who live in, work in or visit Hartlepool have abundant opportunities to explore its distinctive, historic and valued green neighbourhoods with tree lined streets, historical parks or village greens surrounded by attractive, wildlife rich countryside. Sitting within the town, urban fringe and countryside outstanding outdoor sport facilities, tourism attractions, unique heritage and biodiversity features will help people enjoy the high quality of life Hartlepool is known for.








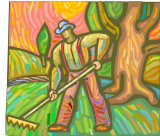


The rural character of the countryside will be protected and the open landscape aspect to the west of the town will be maintained as far as possible. Traditional farming will sit comfortably within a more wildlife friendly and accessible landscape alongside sustainable, small scale rural attractions and renewable energy initiatives, providing those who work and live there with opportunities to make increasingly diverse use of their land.

The capacity of GI to accommodate protected and priority habitats and species, especially in coastal regions, will be enhanced encouraging valuable, healthy ecosystems to flourish, so that wildlife and plants can move, feed, disperse, migrate or reproduce more easily, making them more resilient to climate change. The environment in the built area and the urban fringe will mature and expand providing unique environments where opportunities for recreation, biodiversity, food and fuel production can sit side by side. Making the best use of existing and new greenspaces will provide greater opportunities for play, sport, recreation, relaxation and local food production, promoting active healthy lifestyles close to home. The growing appreciation for the natural environment will be actively captured so people of all ages can value, manage and care for it.

A quality, distinctive and well connected GI network will help attract new investment, encouraging people to live and work in Hartlepool because of its exceptional ability to deliver healthy, safe and sustainable lifestyles. New green neighbourhoods will improve the quantity and quality of greenspace, habitats and trees for people and wildlife while integrating sustainable drainage and flood storage will help the borough mitigate the effects of, and help the natural environment adapt to climate change.

The objectives on the following page link the vision to the rest of this Strategy. The projects identified in the accompanying Action Plan should achieve one or more of

these objectives, to help deliver the vision. As all objectives are interrelated, delivery of one will help to deliver benefits elsewhere. Where the symbols shown in the table below appear in the Action Plan, this will show where an objective is being met.

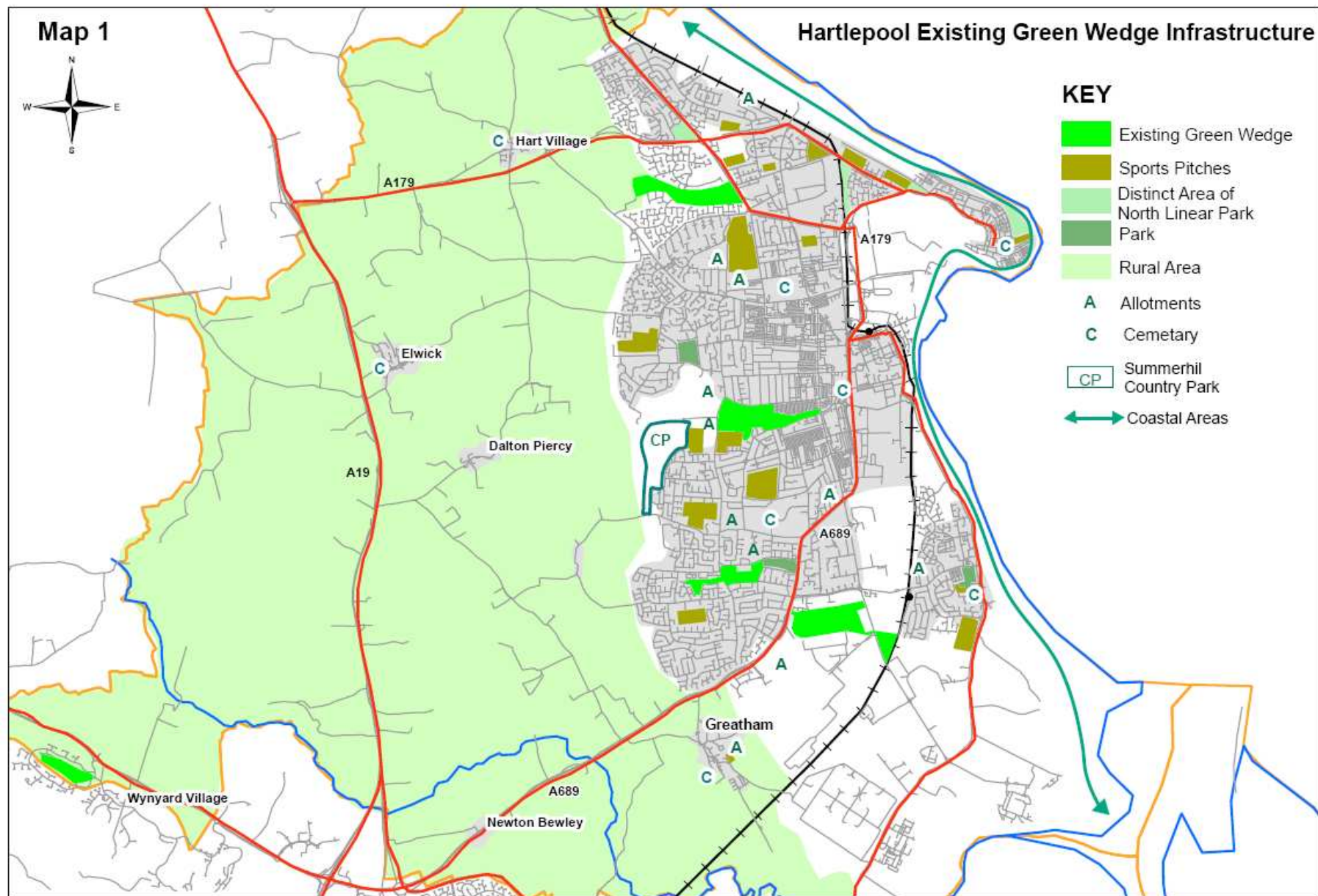
Objective	Key Symbol	Objective Description
1		Protect a high quality visual landscape and townscape, and enhance the unique character, heritage, function, intrinsic quality and sense of place of Hartlepool's GI network to contribute positively to its distinctiveness
2		Provide a network of interconnected 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		Ensure trees and hedges are protected throughout the borough and integrate planting schemes within all new developments.
5		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.
6		Involve users and neighbours of GI in its design, ensuring usability and helping to create a sense of ownership and pride.
7		Support economic growth and attract inward investment by improving the setting of industrial and commercial areas through the delivery and enhancement of quality, distinctive and attractive GI.
8		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.
9		Ensure key green hubs, such as parks, play spaces and woodlands, are linked by means of safe and easily accessible green networks that together form a high quality GI grid across the whole of the borough.
10		Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks including working across Local Authority boundaries where appropriate

Existing Green Infrastructure in Hartlepool

Hartlepool currently benefits from a wide range of green infrastructure spread across the Borough. This ranges from traditional parks in the town such as Ward Jackson and Rossmere to significant green wedges running from the countryside into the town, acting as green lungs, and offering a range of different green spaces and activities. Given its coastal location Hartlepool also benefits from a high quality coastline much of which is designated as Special Protection Area (the highest ecological protection) and which is home to a diverse range of species. To the west of the town are vast areas of rural land which bring with them not only opportunities for walking and cycling but also offer a wide range of other opportunities and benefits to the town and the economy. This section will look in detail at the various distinct areas and green infrastructure which the town currently benefits from, considering their strengths and weaknesses. Map 1 on the following page illustrates the main areas of green infrastructure within the Borough. From developing a sound understanding of the current provision, this informs the priorities set out in the Action Plan and will enable opportunities for new green infrastructure, enhancement to current provision or where new linkages are needed to help create a successful and useable network of green infrastructure across the Borough in the future.



(Figure 2: Summerhill Country Park)



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Scale 1:56,000

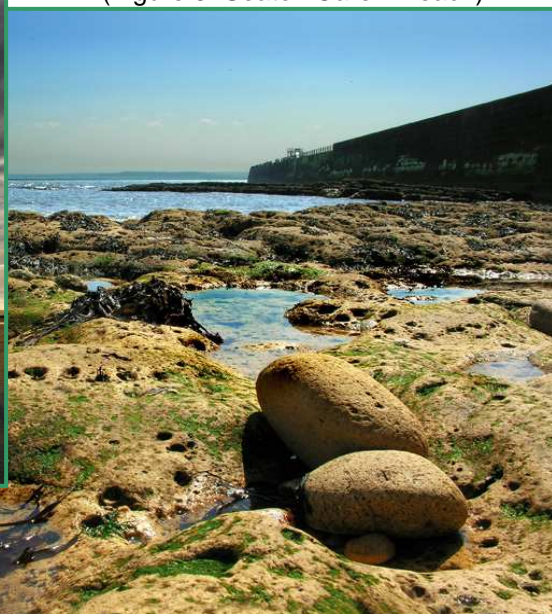
DRAWN BY J.BROWN 2013
DEPT REGENERATION & NEIGHBOURHOOD
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Coast

Hartlepool has around 15km of coastline that faces the North Sea with another 2km along its southern border at Seaton Channel. Most of this is fronted by wide and shallow sandy beaches except for a wide fringe of magnesian limestone rock that wraps around the Headland and mudflats along Seaton Channel. Over half of the entire length of the coastline is designated as part of the Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA and other sections are also important for their over wintering birds. The Headland, as an elevated promontory over the North Sea, is noted nationally as being of importance for attracting rare migrant birds and locally it is becoming increasingly recognised as a good place to see marine mammals. South of Seaton and north of the Brus tunnel, there are extensive dune systems that are nationally or locally designated for nature conservation.

The beaches from the northern end of Seaton Carew to North Gare are used by large numbers of people for various recreational purposes throughout the year. Much of the remainder of the sandy beaches are used by relatively few people. Other than a 500m length of beach in front of Seaton, all of the beach and rocky areas become inaccessible at mean high tides. However access along the coast continues to be good due primarily to the extensive promenades from Seaton to the Marina and around the Headland. Much of the remaining coastline can be accessed along the dunes although these are delicate systems which can easily be damaged by trampling. Currently there is no regular access around Victoria Harbour and Seaton Channel due to industrial and commercial uses. Access is also difficult for the 2km section of the former industrial works north of the Headland but this may be addressed through the development of the coastal path.

(Figure 3: Seaton Carew Beach)



(Figure 4: Rock Pools at the Headland)



A recent development has been the enactment of the Marine and Coastal Access Path Act 2009; Part 9 of this act has placed a duty for a coastal path to be created along the whole of the English coastline. One of the first stages is being developed between Seaton Common and Roker at Sunderland. This route runs primarily on routes with multi-user rights. When approved and adopted by the Secretary of State (Department Environment Fisheries and Rural Affairs) this route will have the legal status of a Coastal Path and will be recognised as a national trail.

Ward Jackson Park

The park was provided by public money in 1883 to commemorate one of Hartlepool's greatest entrepreneurs, Ralph Ward Jackson. The park is listed in the National Register of Historic Parks & Gardens because of its collection of Victorian and Edwardian features: the Lodge House (1883), the Bandstand (1901), the Fountain (1902), the Clocktower (1925) and the magnificent lake set in its Victorian landscape.

A project to restore and develop the park was recently completed, being funded by Hartlepool Borough Council, The Heritage Lottery Fund and Capital Challenge. This project returned the park to its original splendour and providing for the full involvement of park-users in its future. 'The Friends of Ward Jackson Park' meet to represent the views of park-users, organise events and activities and raise funds for their own Park projects.



(figure 5 – Ward Jackson Park Lake)



(figure 6 – Ward Jackson Park Band Stand)

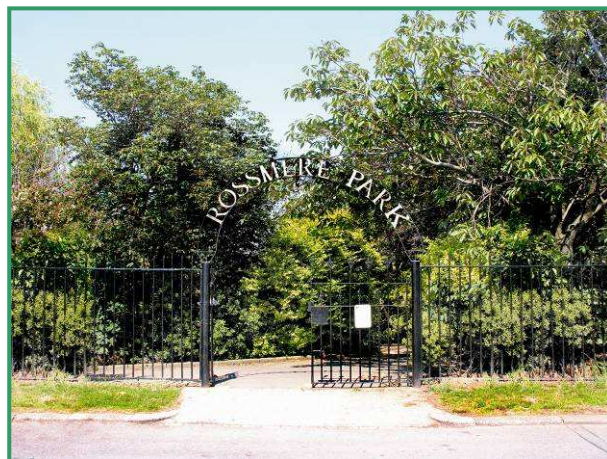
Ward Jackson Park continues to play a crucial role in the provision of attractive green space in the west of the town, acting as a focal point for residents and visitors to enjoy, especially in the spring and summer months when its true beauty can best be appreciated.

Rossmere Park

The park is ten acres in size and forms an important element of the Owton Manor Green Wedge. Set in an urban residential area, the park incorporates open-grassed areas, trees, flower beds, an all weather pitch and a fixed equipment playground (for toddlers and teenagers).



(Figure 7: Lake at Rossmere Park)



(Figure 8: Entrance to Rossmere Park)

There is a lake with a wooded island and a nature area incorporating a pond dipping platform. The park is used for both formal and informal sport and recreation. Facilities are available for basketball, netball, football, tennis on the all weather pitch and angling is permitted on the lake.

The new MUGA and skatepark development at the top end of Rossmere Way, coupled with the pitch provision on Rossmere Way provide a green corridor of activities in this location

Seaton Park

Seaton Park is 16 acres in size and provides a range of facilities for users including a play area, 5 tennis courts, a bowling green, flower gardens and open grassed areas. The park is well used and a valuable asset to Seaton Carew although elements of the park are in need of restoration or replacement.

Owton Manor Green Wedge

This green wedge is probably the least identifiable of the three existing green wedges in the town, running from the rural fringe at Owton Manor through to Rossmere Park in the east and provides a gateway into and out of the urban area. The eastern end of the green wedge including Rossmere Park and the recreation ground on Rossmere Way are major assets to this area of the town and provide space for recreational and sporting activities. The western end of this green wedge is predominantly green open space with

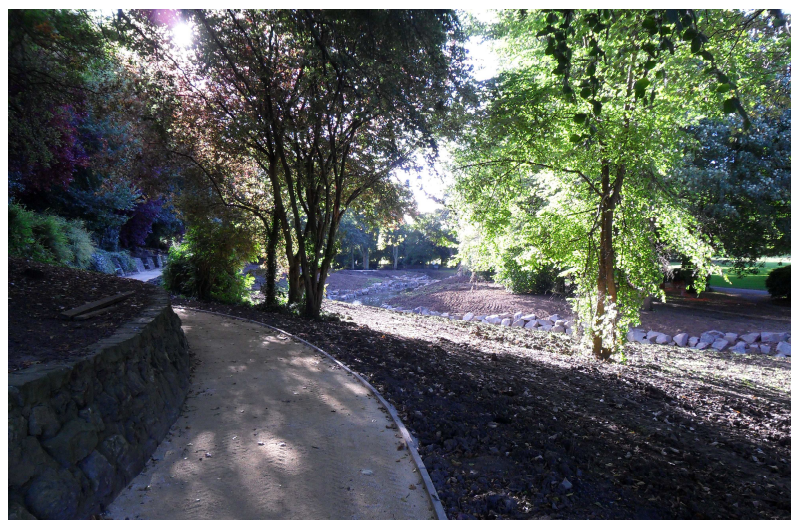
some tree planting. In itself it is not of particularly high quality in terms of green infrastructure and does suffer from anti social behaviour including use by motorbikes and quad bikes which regularly causes significant damage to the grassed areas. However, due to the lack of green infrastructure in the south of the town, it is of great importance to residents. Recently a play builder scheme was created towards the western end of the green wedge which has provided valuable play space for young people in the area.

Burn Valley Green Wedge incorporating Summerhill Country Park

One of the 3 current green wedges within Hartlepool is the Burn Valley Green Wedge running from the centre of town out to the countryside in effect forming a green lung for the town. This park is 19 acres in size with 3 bowling greens a new bowling pavilion, Ornamental gardens, playground and provides a walk through park land from the town centre to family woods and on to open country side.

Works carried out during 2011/12 have seen the improvement in the environmental quality and landscape of the Upper Burn Valley through habitat creation and restoration thereby creating more 'wild places and natural spaces' within easy reach of the urban populace have been coupled with improvements to the public and permissive rights of way to enhance the quality of the green wedge. Specifically the works have seen the extension of the Family Wood, general environmental improvements and resurfacing of paths along with works to the river banks.

There are a number of multi-functional benefits of the work within the Burn Valley section of the link as it will enhance biodiversity as well as providing a safer pedestrian and cycle route which will encourage people to exercise and will further enhance the sense of place within the Burn Valley. In economic terms this will allow people from the western areas of the town to access work in the town centre in a sustainable manner.



(Figure 9: Burn Valley Gardens)

The works have given communities the opportunity to gain knowledge, training, qualification and experience to enable them to take ownership of the area, with the intention of them running the site in the future with support from the Local Authority. Schools and pre-school groups were encouraged to visit during the works for educational, health and recreational purposes, as they will be the future conservation stewards of the borough.

To the west of the Burn Valley, improvements and a new pedestrian / cycle route are proposed which would improve access opportunities to Summerhill for residents and would have a positive contribution to the success of the leisure/tourism facility. Summerhill also offers a cycle maintenance scheme to help to encourage people to use and look after their bikes.

Middle Warren Green Wedge

This green wedge is an integral element of the Middle Warren housing development that has built out over the past 20 years. This is the most northerly green wedge in Hartlepool and begins to the east of Hart Reservoir and forms a valuable green corridor running through to Easington Road. To the east the green wedge is more natural with mature trees in a ravine which leads into a less mature green wedge which has been formed as part of the development. A stream meanders its way through the area forming an attractive feature which has been diverted in recent years to help form wetland areas and to control the waters more in times of high rainfall. Extensive tree planting has taken place over the years with more mature trees tending to be towards the western end of the green wedge with younger trees and saplings towards the eastern end. A network of footpaths allow users to enjoy a variety of walks and routes through the green wedge and the area is well used by locals for walking and running. A new childrens play area has recently been approved and will be constructed to the south of Merlin Way helping to provide further recreational provision within the area.

Wynyard Woods Green Wedge

The green wedge at Wynyard Woods helps to provide an attractive setting for the executive housing product at Wynyard. This green wedge is relatively young having developed over the past decade or so in line with the housing development in this area. It mainly provides a green space with some planting which provides recreational space for running or dog walking. In line with future development in the area there is an aspiration to extend the green wedge through to link with the Castle Eden Walkway.

Golden Flatts Green Wedge

Currently this area is a semi-natural area of land which acts as a barrier between housing on Seaton Lane and the steel pipe mill. The area currently is an unmanaged area which is mainly used for dog walking although it does incorporate SuDS ponds

associated with the recent housing development on Seaton Lane. This area is seen as an area of opportunity and will be developed into a formal green wedge over the coming years which is likely to incorporate tree planting, woodland walks, ponds, play space and possibly some pitch provision.

Allied to Golden Flatts is a small triangular area of land on the other side of Brenda Road. This is at the rear of the Council road salt store and links to the footpath network to Seaton. Several ponds were created on this area in 2010 in collaboration with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

North Linear Park

Within the northern area there are a number of elements of individual green space which currently exist including the Town Moor on the Headland, Central Park, a green corridor on Central Estate, Clavering play area and the Middle Warren Green Wedge as well as areas of accessible, attractive coastline and countryside. These elements all play an important part in the overall green infrastructure within the northern area of the town. However, to varying degrees, they will all need investment and care over the coming years to ensure that residents and visitors are provided with a high quality of environment to enjoy. One of the major issues that has been highlighted is that these key green spaces do not currently benefit from a good standard of connectivity and tend to be areas that people may use in isolation and do not offer an opportunity to move easily between the distinct areas in a safe green environment. The North Linear Park in its entirety will play an important part in the improvements to the access network in the north of the town and to the north west of the town and will form links with other key programmes including Limestone Landscapes, Coastal Access and Hartlepool Pondscape.

A steering group has been formed to help drive forward the aspirations of local people in this area of the town, using a masterplan for the linear park as a basis. Currently it has prioritised its areas of work in the short term to focus on the large open green space on Central estate and Clavering Play Area. In recent years, both of the green spaces have been blighted by a number of issues in relation to anti-social behaviour, vandalism and damage, litter and dog fouling and addressing these issues is seen as key to their development in the future.

The Central estate green space is situated between West View Road and Old Cemetery Road and is located within an area falling within the top 5% most deprived nationally (IMD 2010¹). For some time, the Central estate community has aspired to enhance the natural environment, increase biodiversity, educate local people about wildlife and habitats that are in close proximity, but ultimately to encourage health and wellbeing

¹ Indices of Multiple Deprivation

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6871/1871208.pdf

and improve resident levels of satisfaction. Funding is being sought to implement the masterplan, subject to further consultation and statutory consents.

One of the key aims of the group has been to reclaim this key piece of green space for local community use through the redesigning and planning of the area, driven by the needs and aspirations of local residents. The area has not been subject to investment for a long time, and it is anticipated that improving and enhancing the Central estate green space will also be of benefit to the wider Hartlepool community. It is currently very well used for recreation, is an integral part of the Coastal Access Pathway (of which Hartlepool is one of five National Pilots, funded by Natural England) and is on one of the main key rail routes into the town. The interaction between poor quality environments, areas of high economic and social disadvantage, and reduced levels of health and wellbeing are well documented, and the provision of a formalised park space to utilise will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for those residents living within close proximity. It is also hoped that by aesthetically improving the green space and this important connecting section of the Coastal Access Pathway, that people will be encouraged to exercise more frequently.



(Figure 10: Clavering Play Builder)

Clavering Play Area is situated between West View Road and Easington Road in Clavering, improvement works are anticipated to commence in 2013. The scheme, which is a joint initiative between Hartlepool Borough Council and Groundwork North East and overseen by the steering group includes new fencing, trees, paths, car park, wetland scrape and skate park.

Rural Hartlepool

Hartlepool's rural area covers more than half of the borough's total area with the majority of the public and permissive rights of way path network located there. This network of paths is an important part of the makeup of rural Hartlepool. People rely on these paths for pleasure as well as access to and from work and local amenities. The majority are public footpaths with a few public bridleways located to the north of the borough. A major issue with the rights of way network in rural Hartlepool is the A19 dual carriageway which severs many of the routes and adds a large degree of danger to those walking circular routes where they need to cross the A19.

The main usage of these paths is recreational, with the emphasis on exploration and enjoyment. The majority of these pathways link into a wide range of Hartlepool's green spaces infrastructure. From parks, wild green spaces and local nature reserves to simple green spaces close to or within housing areas, these vital links provide access to and from these open spaces and form part of a wider network that becomes regional in scope and aspect. Regionally the footpath and cycle network is growing and increasing in importance, as organisations such as NHS Trusts, Natural England and Local Communities groups recognise the benefits to mental and physical health that these paths provide for any user of any capability.

Summerhill Country Park lies to the west of the urban area and in effect forms a rural extension to the Burn Valley Green Wedge. This excellent facility provides a wide range of outdoor activities including a circular walk which has areas of ecological interest with signposting to educate users where there are particular flora or fauna of interest. Other activities include a bmx track, boulder park for climbing and cross country running. These facilities are further supplemented by an outdoor play area for children and an information centre and café.

Sports Pitches and Recreational facilities

Hartlepool benefits from a wide variety of sports and recreational facilities which are vital in the future health of residents. The Council appointed consultants in 2012 to undertake a Playing Pitch Strategy to assess the adequacy of key pitch sports including football, cricket, rugby and hockey as well as looking at tennis and bowling facilities, all of which play a vital part in the green infrastructure provision. This updates and supplements the information gathered as part of the PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment which was produced in 2008.

The assessments looked at issues including the levels of provision, location, the quality of the pitches and future need. This information helps to assess where investment and

development needs to be focused in coming years. The findings from the study will help to inform the Action Plan however this section reflects the contribution that these sports facilities have on green infrastructure at present.

Over the past decade or so football pitch provision has grown significantly with demand and there are now 105 individual pitches across the Borough on a number of sites and split between adult, junior and mini pitches, therefore catering for all ages. This includes all public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured community use. To compliment this there are also 4 full size artificial pitches which, whilst not natural green infrastructure, play a vital part in the health of the community and provide sports provision in times of poor weather conditions when the grass pitches cannot be used. Most of the pitches which do not benefit from public access are at schools, however many of these do cater for clubs, for example the former Brierton School site pitches are used by Greatham Football Club which has expanded significantly over the past few years. A number of the schools do not currently provide any community access however, in the future it is anticipated that some of these schools may be willing to consider providing some access.

During the consultation exercise, carried out by the consultants who undertook the Playing Pitch Strategy, users were asked for the thoughts regarding the provision of pitches and the quality of the pitches within Hartlepool. It is generally considered that there is approximately the right level of pitches although there is a need for some of the adult pitches to be sub-divided to meet the increasing demand for junior pitches and in fact in the longer term there may be a need to identify additional land for pitch provision. The main issue that was raised by users was the quality of the pitches and the supporting facilities. Concerns over grass coverage, drainage and changing facilities were some of the main issues raised and the need for improvements to pitches are reflected within the Action Plan.

In terms of other sports which contribute greatly to the green infrastructure within the borough there are six cricket pitches and 18 rugby pitches which in quality terms suffer from similar issues to the football pitches such as wear and tear of pitches and quality of changing facilities.

There are a total of 45 tennis courts (in 2013) available throughout the borough. Many of the courts are on school or Council owned sites with 13 courts being on private club sites. In terms of tennis the main issue is the surfacing and a concern with the private clubs is lack of flood lights and a need to improve training facilities.

Bowling is a particularly important sport especially with the ageing population of the town. There are 12 bowls greens on a total of 10 sites across the town (in 2013). The

majority are owned and maintained by the Council however there are 3 private clubs which are successfully operated. In terms of improvements needed most relate to the quality of the surface or drainage ditches. There are however some facilities where either improvements to the existing pavilion facilities or, in the case of Grayfields, a new pavilion is needed.



(Figure 11: Playing Pitch Provision)

Allotments

There are a large number of allotments spread throughout the town which provide a valuable amenity for local residents, allowing for the growth of fresh fruit and vegetables. This is not only beneficial in health terms but also helps in hard economic times when the cost of food is rising. The allotments across the town vary greatly in quality and maintenance terms with some suffering from security issues. Whilst on the whole most allotments are used for their proper use, there are issues with mis-use of allotments for others purposes such as keeping dogs or other animals. This obviously causes issues with noise but also stops the allotments being productive. This is a major issue especially as the Council has a large waiting list for allotments. The Action Plan highlights some of the improvements which it is hoped will be made over time.

Cemeteries

While the principle role of cemeteries is clear and must be respected and pre-eminent in their use, it is also acknowledged that they provide extensive areas of attractive green space which can have important secondary benefits. For example Spion Kop cemetery

is of sub-regional importance for the coastal grassland that is found there and this has been recognised in its designation as a Local Nature Reserve in 2004. North Cemetery is a 12.6 hectare area of wooded greenspace in an area that is surrounded by dense housing and is very well used by local residents for walking. Seaton Cemetery is frequented by bird watchers as its situation as the closest area of mature trees to the coast attracts a range of migrant birds.

Wildlife Habitats

In addition to the internationally designated sites along the coast, Hartlepool has a further four Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 49 sites that are of sub-regional importance for their wildlife or geological interest and six Local Nature Reserves. Many of the other areas of green space have some importance for wildlife. Away from the coast, the wildlife habitats in Hartlepool are generally small in extent and widely dispersed, nevertheless they represent a varied suite of different habitats. Expanding and linking these habitats together is a key objective.

Local Nature Reserves are specifically places that the public can access to appreciate or learn about wildlife but some of the other areas of wildlife habitat are publically accessible and add to people's experience of nature. The range of wildlife habitats and in particular the many opportunities to see wildlife along the coast and to link to adjacent wildlife habitats adjacent to Hartlepool, such as Salholme, has the potential to see an increase in green tourism.

Investment in Green Infrastructure

Ongoing investment is critical in GI to ensure that all forms of GI are provided to the best possible standard. It is not only Council funding that will provide crucial investment into GI and the Council continues to work with a wide range of stakeholders and organisations, listed below in order to access various sources of funding:

- Council: funding usually for maintenance;
- Central government: funding for service delivery;
- Government Agencies: from agencies like Natural England, Environment Agency, Sport England;
- The Football Foundation
- National Governing Bodies for Sport such as the Football Association, the RFU, England Hockey etc
- European Union: funding usually has to be matched by the Council;
- Rural Development Programme: from the Government for agri-environment schemes in the rural area;
- National Lottery Fund: external partners bid for funding from the Big Lottery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund;
- Local Transport Plan: from the Government to provide and/or improve the rights of way network and sustainable transport corridors;
- Developer contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy: used to provide, improve and/or maintain green space from new development;
- Landfill Communities Fund: landfill site operators contribute funding to carry out projects that meet the environmental objects of the Landfill Tax regulations;
- Private sector funding: includes sponsorship of a green space or feature like a roundabout;
- Conservation trusts: projects are delivered by groups like the Durham Wildlife Trust;
- Co-operative ownership: community management of spaces like allotments allows committees to bid for external funding;
- Charitable Trusts: funding could be invested and the income generated used with other resources so the Trust can manage the space; and
- Income-generating opportunities: includes rental income from businesses such as cafés and restaurants, sports facilities and the use of greenspaces for events, weddings and private functions.

The various studies and records that are kept by the Council help to identify areas of greatest need and are therefore used to help inform the Action Plan for investment in GI.

Contributions which can be secured as part of the planning process on applications for housing (and to a less extent other forms of development) can be used, within the vicinity of those developments, to seek improvements to GI considered necessary as a result of those developments whether that be in the form of planting, walkways, recreational facilities or sports facilities. It must be noted that these contributions are also highly dependent on the economic situation at the time. Whilst contributions will always be requested where considered necessary, if an applicant can show in viability terms that it is not feasible to provide the amount requested contributions can be reduced if it is considered the other benefits of a development outweigh the benefit of the GI contribution. As such it is very hard to gage the levels of funding for distinct elements of GI that will be drawn down through this source and it is often used to help provide match funding for schemes which are to be delivered through other sources.

Management of Green Infrastructure

For most forms of publicly accessible GI in the borough, the Council is the main organisation with the responsibility for the maintenance and management of these spaces including parks and gardens, play areas, the beaches and coastal margins and the green wedges. The delivery of new GI must be considered against the long term maintenance liabilities it will bring. A critical element of the Action Plan which accompanies this document will be the formulation of a management plan for distinct elements of GI.

As each project is implemented a detailed management plan will be prepared with partners. The mix of stakeholders involved will reflect the necessary actions needed to secure its successful delivery. This will ensure that people with the appropriate skills are available to design projects, bid for resources, deliver the project and to secure its ongoing management. Available on the Council's website, these public documents/plans, will make it clear who has ongoing responsibility for management and maintenance and will include a key contact for each scheme should interested parties wish to ask questions in relation to them.

Monitoring and Review

It is important to the success of this Strategy that measures are put in place to:

- evaluate the impact that the Strategy is having;
- monitor delivery of the Action Plan; and
- use this information to review both the Strategy and Action Plan in the medium and long term.

Each project in the Action Plan will have milestones and targets for delivery which will be used to update the Action Plan. The Green Infrastructure Project Group will monitor and review the Strategy and Action Plan; the results will be published in regular progress reports (at least biennial). Monitoring will be used to help show progress, identify areas where delivery of the Strategy is not taking place and provide vital information to feedback to partners and stakeholders.

A review of this Strategy will be considered where:

- There is significant change in European and national legislation, or national, regional or sub regional policy; or
- The Green Infrastructure Project Group considers that the Green Infrastructure Strategy is insufficiently effective in delivering its vision and objectives.

Who are the Green Infrastructure Project Group?

The project group will consist of representatives from the Council and other stakeholders such as Natural England, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, Groundwork North East and neighbouring authorities where appropriate.

Appendix 1 - Commonly Used Green Infrastructure Definitions

Accessible greenspace: space for the public to use free of charge and without time restrictions; some spaces may be closed overnight.

Agri-environment scheme: provides funding to farmers and land managers to deliver environmental management of farmland, includes Entry Level, Organic Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Schemes.

Ancient woodland: woodland that has existed continuously since 1600 or before.

Biodiversity: variety of life including different plants, animals and micro-organisms, and the ecosystems which they are a part of.

Biomass: material from living or recently living organisms including trees and plants to be used directly or as biofuels to deliver renewable energy.

Buffer zone: area situated around the edge of a wildlife site or corridor or as a connecting zone which links areas, increasing their biodiversity value.

Carbon footprint: total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced by a person, group, organisation town or country.

Climate change: effect of global warming on weather conditions and unpredictable variations in temperatures.

Community woodland: woodland that is provided for community use

Conservation Area: area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Ecosystem: relationships between living things, water, soil and people.

Ecosystem services: are the benefits healthy natural ecosystems provide

directly or indirectly including food, fresh water, clean air, climate regulation or pollination of crops.

Flood plain: flat-lying areas adjacent to a watercourse, where water flows in times of flood or would flow but for the presence of flood defences.

Green corridor: linear green space connecting different types of greenspace, can incorporate walking and cycling routes. Most are also wildlife corridors.

Green infrastructure: strategically planned and delivered interconnecting, visually linked network of public and private multifunctional green spaces, landscapes and natural environments in the urban and rural area used for recreation, biodiversity and food production, which supports natural, cultural and ecological processes, with benefits for people, wildlife and place.

Green infrastructure levy: sum paid by homeowners to be used to maintain greenspace in a new development.

Green wedge: open area between neighbourhoods which helps to maintain their separate distinctive qualities.

Landscape: consistent, distinct pattern of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and settlements.

Listed building: property or structure, protected by the Government because it has special architectural or historic interest.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR): designated by the Council and Natural England for its special local wildlife or geological value and which provide people with opportunities to learn about nature or enjoy it.

Local Wildlife Site: designated by the Council for its wildlife importance.

Multifunctionality: the ability of a space to perform more than one greenspace function at the same time.

Priority habitats and species: habitats and species of principal importance identified in the UK and Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plans.

Protected habitats or species: protected by national legislation because of their vulnerable status.

Public art: permanent or temporary works of art visible to the public either as part of a greenspace, a building or as freestanding artwork.

Public Right of Way: includes public footpaths (walking), bridleways (walking, horse riding and cycling) and byways (walking, horse riding and cycling and vehicles) where the public have the right to go.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens: protected by English Heritage as being of special historic interest.

Renewable energy: energy that occurs naturally and repeatedly in the environment from wind, water, sun and biomass.

Scheduled Monument: nationally important monuments protected against inappropriate development.

Site of Special Scientific Areas Interest (SSSI): protected by the Government it is of national importance for wildlife, geology or geomorphology.

Special Protection Area (SPA): Internationally designated wildlife site.

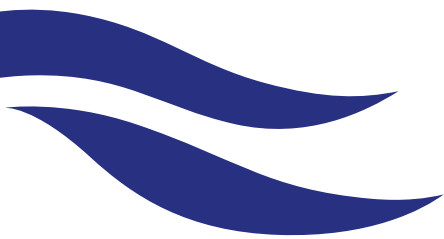
Surface water run off: excess rainwater or from drains that flow over land.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): reduce and slow the quantity and rate of surface water run off from new development, dealing with it as close to the source as possible.

Wildlife corridor: linear greenspace that provides links for wildlife dispersal

and movement, can have wider amenity benefits.

Wildlife friendly greenspace: space where naturalness dominates.



Hartlepool Local Development Framework

Hartlepool Green Infrastructure

Action Plan

Supplementary Planning Document



April 2013



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Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - Action Plan

Introduction

Green infrastructure (GI) planning involves the provision of strategically planned networks that link existing (and proposed) green spaces with green corridors running through urban, suburban, urban fringe, and rural areas. Through the maintenance, enhancement and extension of these networks multi-functional benefits can be realised for local communities, businesses, visitors and the environment. Appropriate strategies, plans and programmes led by the Council and involving local partnerships and individual organisations can help to maintain existing GI, and promote solutions to remedy deficiencies and create new opportunities.

The Green Infrastructure SPD has explored the benefits that can be gained from developing a successful GI network. It is highlighted that whilst Hartlepool currently has many elements of GI that are of great value it also has areas which are not as well served by green space as others, there are links between certain elements of GI that could be created or greatly enhanced and there will always be a need for ongoing investment and enhancement in the facilities and habitats that already exist.

This Action Plan sets out areas of investment and improvement that are needed in the coming years to help develop and grow the GI systems in Hartlepool. It is envisaged that this Action Plan will be a living document that will be updated when necessary to reflect where works are carried out or where new schemes and improvements are identified. For instance, the green wedge at the south west extension will be included once the Hartlepool Local Plan is adopted and if the housing site remains in the Local Plan. The schemes within this document will allow funding to be sought towards their implementation and will also be useful in directing developer contributions, which are sought through planning applications, to schemes relevant to the application. The Action Plan sets out the costs of schemes where the information is available and, where the elements of specific funding are known, lists where funding has already been secured.

The 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 Green Infrastructure in the town. It will enable the Council to seek funding to help implement distinct elements of the Action. The Council will ensure that the SPD stays relevant and up-to-date through monitoring and review.

Project Areas to meet the Objectives and Vision

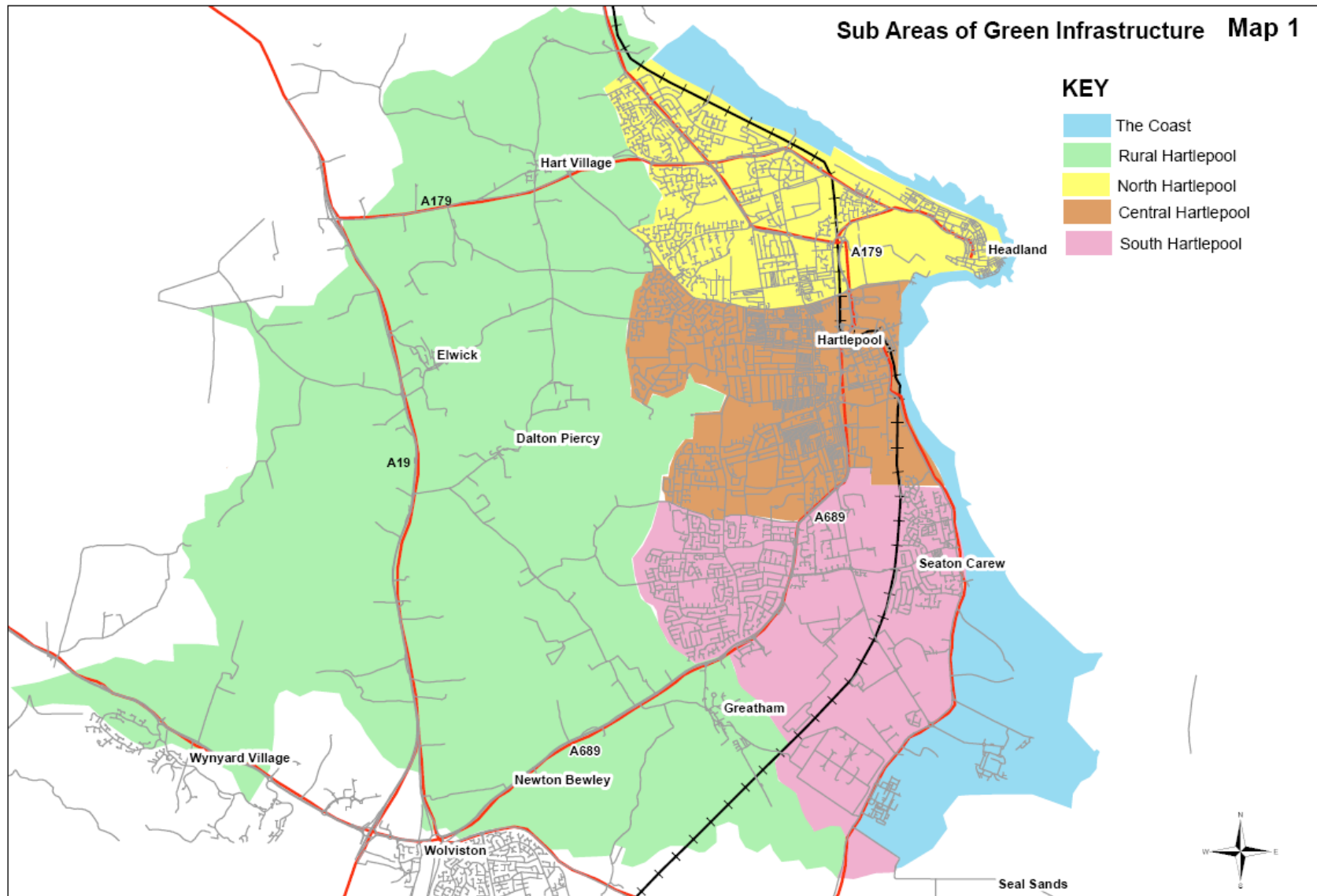
This section looks at the areas within the Green Infrastructure Strategy and looks at project ideas and costs which are needed over the coming years to develop the GI network within Hartlepool. Where schemes will meet an objective set out within the SPD the appropriate symbol is shown alongside the project description. Where available project designs are included to help people to visualise the potential improvements that may be seen on the ground. 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 are included to help secure funding packages which will be vital to the future development of GI, especially over the next few years where the economy is likely to remain in a depressed state. Over time however, as the economy improves, and, as the GI develops and enhances, the benefits of the investments will be seen not only in the health of the community but also in prices of homes and businesses. This intrinsic link between good quality GI (from tree lined streets and incidental open space through to parks, country parks and the coast) and the prices of homes and businesses has been illustrated in a number of national studies over the past few years.

In order to keep this Action Plan manageable it has split the town into sub areas looking at the GI within these areas but, importantly, also considers how the sub areas are linked together by GI. The sub areas have been divided into the following:

1. The Coast and its Margins
2. Rural Hartlepool
3. North Hartlepool
4. Central Hartlepool
5. South Hartlepool

These areas are shown on Map 1 on the following page. Those sub areas are then illustrated in more detailed maps showing more localised GI. These more detailed maps help to form a view for where there are gaps in the GI provision in certain areas of the town but also help to demonstrate how movement between these areas is possible.

Map 1: Sub Areas of Green Infrastructure



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Area 1: The Coast and its Margins

The coast of Hartlepool borough continues to attract people to explore the pathways and scenery that are characteristic of the town and its coastline. Walkers and, in certain areas, cyclists and equestrians, are able to access the entire Hartlepool coastline as well as the majority of its beaches and dunes.

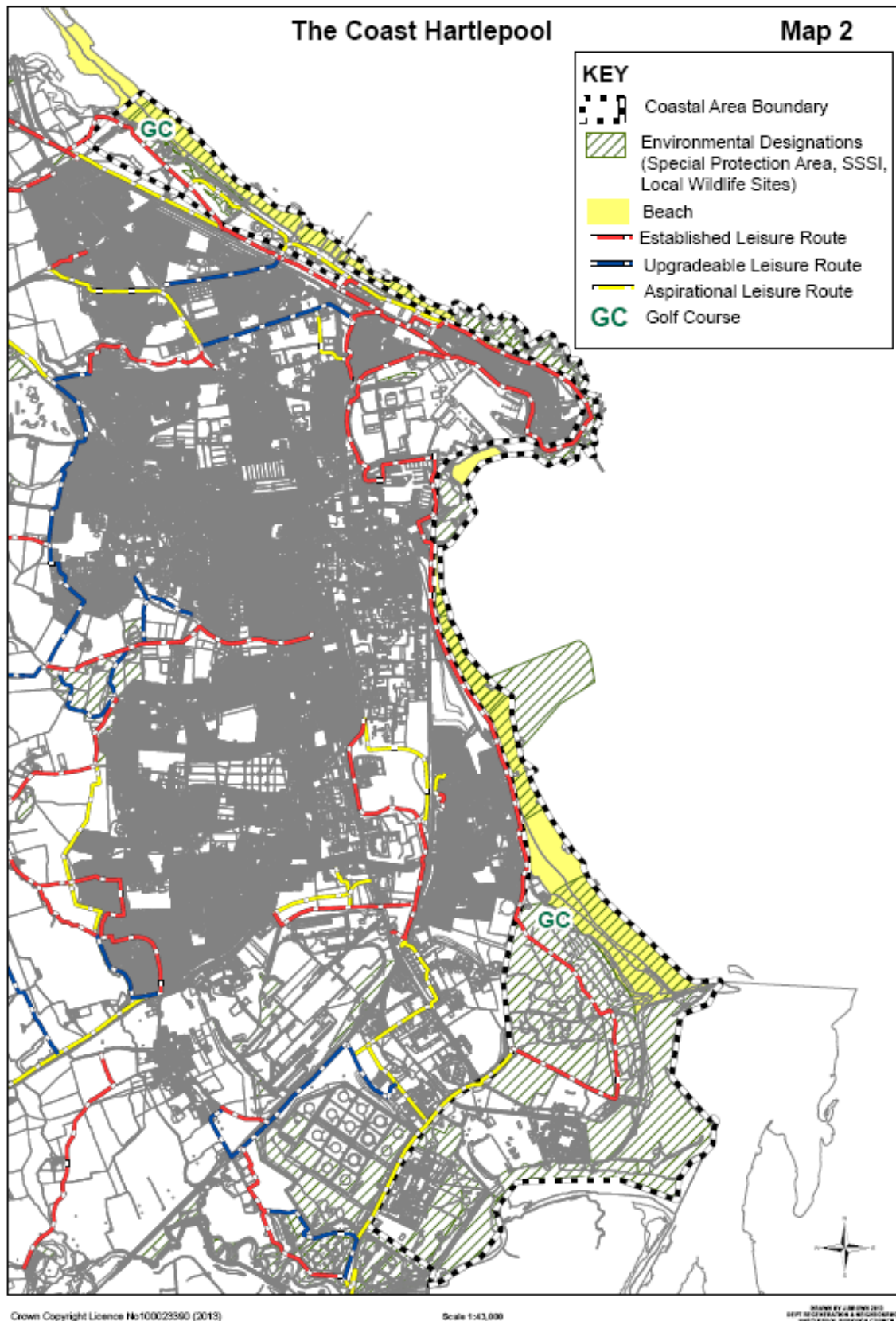
There are a number of rights of way that are located on or close to the coastline; they range from public footpaths to public bridleways and in one case a public byway. The coastline is, for most of its length, an urban environment and as such the majority of the paths and promenades are formally surfaced and maintained at public expense.

At Seaton Carew a new stage of sea defence works will provide new and formal equestrian access to Seaton beach. As part of the flood defence a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was undertaken which illustrated there would be no detrimental impact on the wildlife or ecosystems in the area.

A recent development has been the enactment of the Marine and Coastal Access Path Act 2009; Part 9 of this act placed a duty for a coastal path to be created along the whole of the English coastline. One of the first stages is being developed between Seaton Common and Roker at Sunderland. This path primarily runs on pedestrian routes with occasional sections running over routes with multi-user rights. When approved and adopted by the Secretary of State (Defra) this route will have the legal status of a Coastal Access Path and will be recognised as a National Trail. Again, as part of this work Natural England undertook a HRA which indicated no negative impact.

The Council is aware of the sensitivities that exist between the natural environment and its users, especially in these very delicate ecosystems, many of which are protected by international, national and local designations. The challenge that exists in the future 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 such as Natural England and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to identify funding sources for enhancement schemes along the coast. Should schemes be identified these would need to be the subject of a HRA at that time.

Map 2: The Coast and its Margins



Area 2: Rural Hartlepool

The rural area of Hartlepool covers over 50% of the Borough. There are six villages, but the majority of the area is undulating farm land. There are a number of footpaths, bridleways, links and access routes which allow access to the rural area. The existing routes along with the aspirational routes can be seen on the map 3 on page 10. One of the main issues which impacts on the rural area is the severing impact the A19 dual carriageway has and this continues to be not only an issue for the creation of circular routes but also a major safety issue. A longer term aspiration of the Council, which is also identified in the Local Infrastructure Plan 2012, is to create a safe link over the A19 in the vicinity of Elwick in the form of a bridge. The creation of such a bridge would vastly improve safety and would allow people to access the western parts of the borough and in particular the employment opportunities at Wynyard. Currently there are no plans drawn up for such a bridge however it has been estimated a multi-user pedestrian bridge could cost in the region of £2m.

There is a need to provide a key route which would run from the Sappers Corner at the south west of the town out to Wynyard. This route will be particularly important in coming years to provide the opportunity of sustainable travel to Wynyard which is one of the main employment areas in the Borough and is likely to be the location of a new hospital to serve the town and surrounding areas. There are no footpaths or cycleways which currently exist along this corridor and it is likely that such a route would cost in the region of £1m to provide. Developments in the Wynyard area could be required to contribute a significant percentage of the overall cost to ensure developments are seen as sustainable.

There are also a number of cycleways in the rural area including the national cycle route one which runs through the western part of the rural area along the Castle Eden Walkway. Developments which occur in and around the Wynyard area will need to link into the green network in this area to ensure that residents have access to key green spaces such as the Wynyard Woodland Park in Stockton.



Summerhill Country Park lies in the rural area immediately to the west of the Burn Valley Green Wedge, in effect acting as a gateway into the countryside. Summerhill is owned and operated by the Council and offers a wide variety of outdoor activities. Key elements of the management of Summerhill are shown in table 1 below. In addition to

this, the Council developed a scheme to create a Myths, Monsters and Legends Trail at Summerhill which is an aspiration of the Council's to deliver subject to funding. The concept is to develop a Trail around Summerhill with some key features in relation to Hartlepool myths and folklore. This would create a significant visitor attraction. The Council also want to further develop the outdoor sports provision at the site. £60k current investment in the BMX track to develop it into a track that can stage national league events.

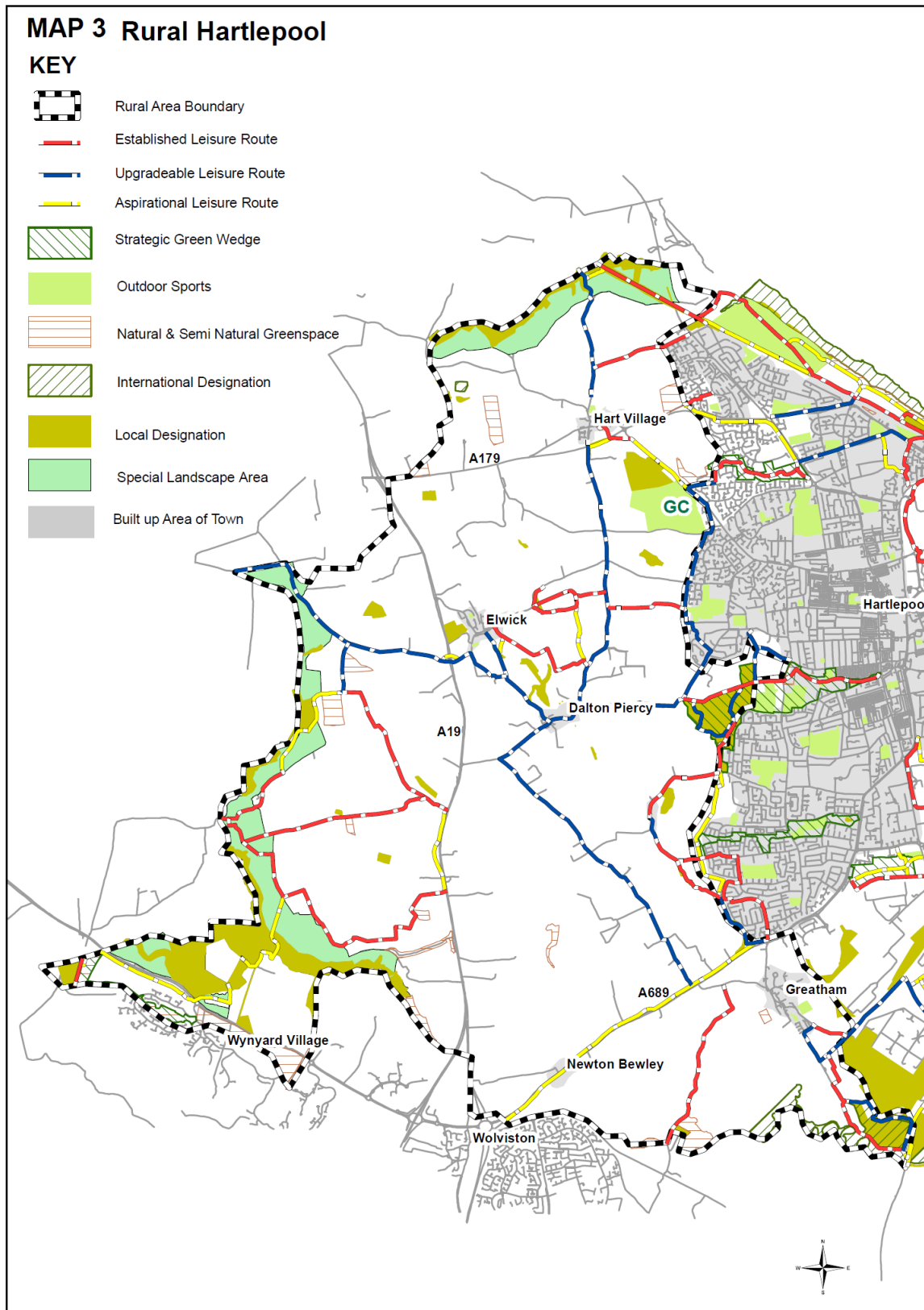
Table 1: Summerhill – Green Infrastructure Action Plan

1 Woodland management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current 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	Year 2 works have been completed.
Future coppicing	Further possible locations have been identified	Funding would be required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with volunteer groups or funding to support private contractors)	Initial ideas only – coppicing management plan to be updated.
Existing thinning of woodland areas	4 locations have been identified within Summerhill	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	Two locations have been completed. One location has included further works to create small wetlands
Future woodland thinning	Other areas throughout the developing woodland of Summerhill	Funding would be required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with volunteer groups or funding to support private contractors)	Initial ideas only – thinning management plan to be updated.
2 Hedgerow management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current status
Gap planting	Small amounts of planting to attend to gaps within existing hedgerows. 3 areas identified	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	One area completed, another to be completed before the end of March 2013.
Hedge laying	Annual programme of hedge laying for hedges around Summerhill including those	Funding required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with and organise volunteer groups or funding to	Two key hedges completed, further locations identified for future years.

	planted during the sites' early development	support private contractors)	
3 Wetland management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current status
Management of existing wetlands	At present 9 wetland sites have been identified including areas recently excavated	Funding required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with and organise volunteer groups)	2 small wetland sites recently excavated, one site re-shaped. Small scale species introduction carried out on one site.
Excavation of new or existing wetlands	At present one new pond site has been identified and 3 existing sites that could benefit from further excavations. Plans are subject to management advice regarding the presence of Great Crested Newts	No funding has been identified but as some of the operations could involve heavy machinery funding in the region of £3,000 to 5,000 may be required.	Plans drafted in outline
Watercourse management	Management of 2 streams that run through Summerhill	Funding required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with and organise volunteer groups)	Work ongoing including clearing streams of litter, planting small scale reed beds and minor excavations
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 to 5,000.	Full site ditching plan to be updated.
4 Grassland management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current status
Amenity grassland management	Regular amenity mowing of 9 identified grasslands throughout Summerhill	Work currently carried out by Regeneration and Neighbourhoods work teams	Ongoing programme carried out between April to October
Meadow management	Low intensity management of 6 meadow areas	Operations can potentially generate a small amount of income subject to identifying	No hay was cut in 2012 due to not being able to identify someone who

	within Summerhill. Preferred management is by taking an annual cut of hay	someone who wants the hay. Some meadows may have to be cut for amenity purposes	was interested.
Meadow management through low intensity grazing	One meadow has been identified where management for conservation aims could be carried out by low intensity grazing (grazing over selected summer months by horses).	In order to make the meadow area suitable fencing would be required. Cost would be in the region of £2,500. No funding has been identified. Once set up the grazing could generate income	Meadow area and fencing requirements identified.
5 Access management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current status
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 or staff/volunteers	Year 2 of Woodland Grant Scheme works completed. Ongoing programme undertaken throughout the summer months and to assist cross-country running events.
Resurfacing of main site route	Shared walkers/cyclists section of the main route that travels around Summerhill. Route is 2km long x 2.5m 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	Top surface has fully eroded.
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	Year 2 of Woodland Grant scheme works completed including new stiles and kissing gates.

Map 3: Rural Hartlepool



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 so as not to impinge 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 enjoyment.



Figure 1: Close Wood, Wynyard

Area 3: North Hartlepool

As is highlighted in the main SPD, there are a wide variety of elements of GI in this part of Hartlepool. The aim of the Action Plan is to ensure that these key elements of GI are enhanced whilst also considered movement to and between these areas.

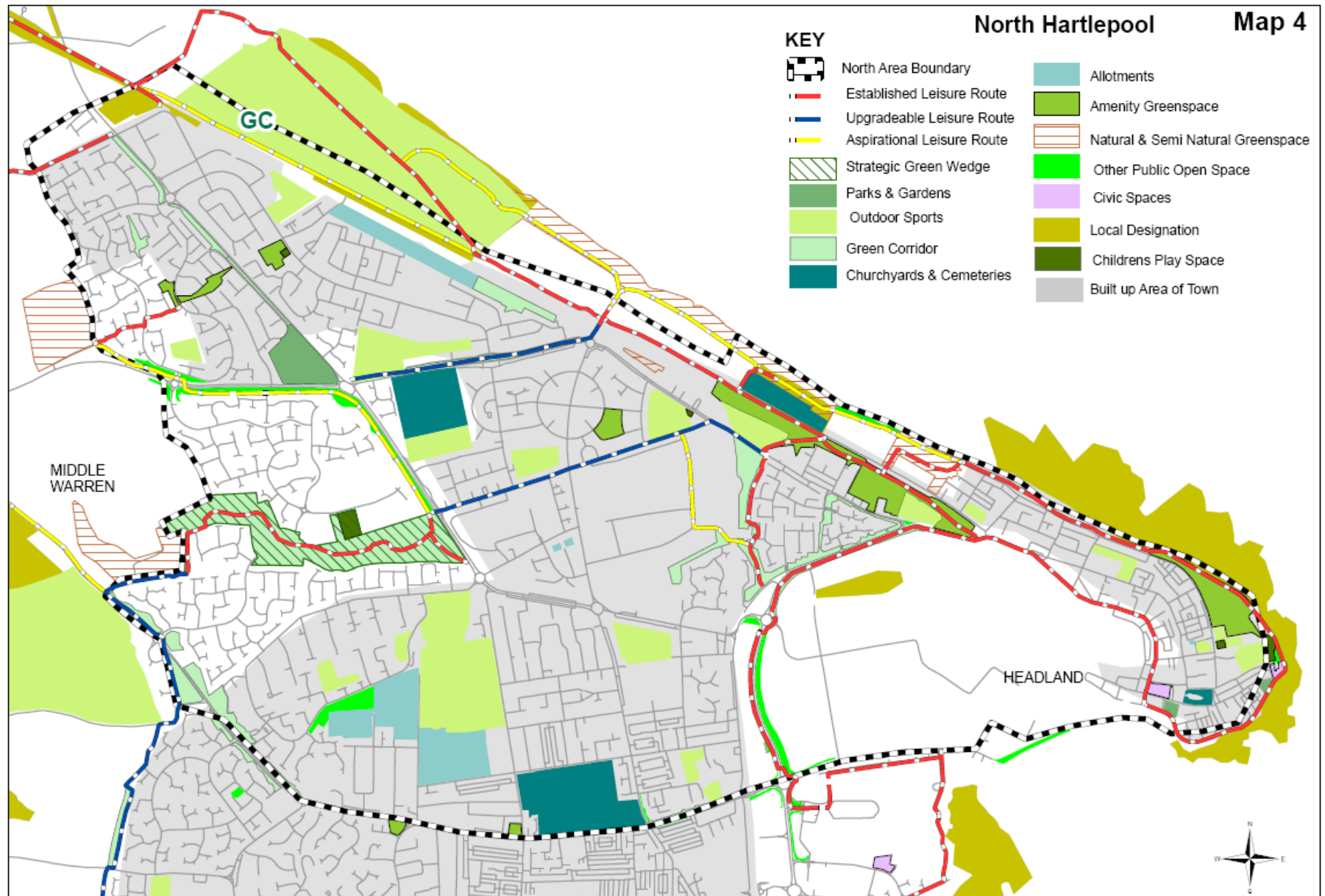
One of the key elements of the North Linear Park concept is the Middle Warren Green Wedge. It is a linear green space that extends from the Easington Road (A179) in the east to the Hart reservoirs in the west. It cuts through the Middle Warren housing development and is a major recreational resource for the area. The wedge has a main housing estate road, Merlin Way, dividing it into two distinct areas.

The eastern area is the more formal of the two with a number of surfaced paths that extend east west and south and north into various areas of housing. It is well used and is regarded as a vital access and recreational link by all of the users. This area is primarily a grassed area with sections planted up with young broadleaved trees. Part of a developer agreement in relation to housing in the area requires the developers to provide a play park to the north linking into this element of the green wedge which will diversify the attractions that this element of GI provides.

The western area is informal in nature with a central path running through the site, extending beyond the wedge, past the reservoir to Hart Lane. The vegetation is natural in character with formal planted areas of semi-mature broadleaf trees. All connecting paths, to the central surfaced path, are natural/unsurfaced. They, like the formal area paths, link to various parts of the housing estate and are vital to the users as they provide the potential to create circular walks.

All of the surfaced paths are used by cyclists as well as pedestrians and are regarded as important links to and from amenities and employment. There are plans to consider dedicating the surfaced paths as public footpaths in the future. At present all of the paths, whether surfaced or otherwise are permissive in nature. The importance of the green wedge to the overall North Linear Park concept can be appreciated in Map 4 on the following page.

Map 4: North Hartlepool



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Clavering Park



Another critical element of the linear park is the open space at Clavering. This area has seen investment over the past few years to provide a modern “play builder” space. This form of play area uses undulations in the land to help create natural play equipment which uses wood to help blend in with the surrounding environment. These recent works have helped to dramatically improve the quality of this green space and formed the first element of a masterplan for the area.

Diagram 1: Clavering Park Masterplan



Further works included within the Masterplan include tree planting, a shallow wetland scrape, fencing and gateway to improve security and safety as well as a skate park. The provision of the access at the south of the park will make the area accessible to people living to the south and east of the park. This is seen as a priority for the North Linear Park steering group as a skate park will cater for older children for older children who are currently not well provided for.

Diagram 2: Clavering Park Skatespot

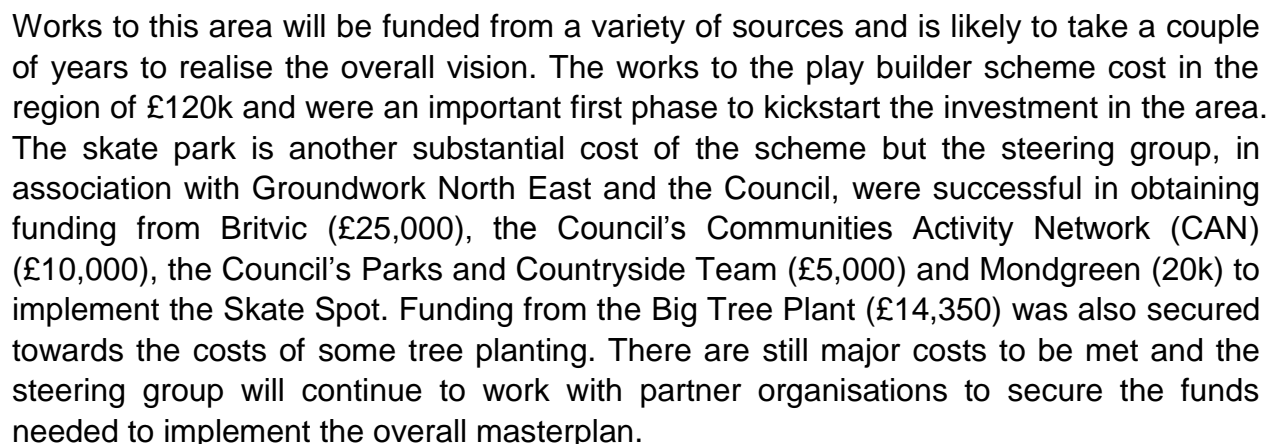


Table 2: Remaining Clavering Park Masterplan Costs

REMAINING CLAVERING PARK MASTERPLAN COST ESTIMATES				
Boundary Fence				
Item	Unit	Est. rate	Quantity	Works Total
Railings	Lm	90.00	592	53,280.00
Gates - double 2.4m	No.	1,500.00	3	4,500.00
Gates double 4.0m	No.	2,500.00	1	2,500.00
			Total	60,280.00
			Contingency	6,028.00
			Fees	3,978.48
			Total Budget	70,286.48
New Pathways				
Item	Unit	Est. rate	Quantity	Works Total
Pin kerb	Lm	16.00	738	11,808.00
Block paving kerb	Lm	30.00	40	1,200.00
Bitmac	m2	45.00	630	28,350.00
Drop-kerb works	Item	600.00	2	1,200.00
			Total	42,558.00
			Contingency	4,255.80
			Fees	4,681.38
			Total Budget	51,495.18
Wetland Area				
Item	Unit	Est. rate	Quantity	Works Total
Wetland scrape excavation	m3	45.00	85	3,825.00
Wetland scrape finishing	m2	10.00	200	2,000.00
			Total	5,825.00
			Contingency	582.50
			Fees	640.75
			Total Budget	7,048.25
Planting Works				
Item	Unit	Est. rate	Quantity	Works Total
Hedge planting	No.	1.20	2400	2,880.00
			Total	2,880.00
			Contingency	288.00
			Fees	316.80
			Total Budget	3,484.80
			TOTAL WORKS BUDGET	132,314.71

Central Park Improvements



This area forms a critical linkage between the Headland and West Hartlepool. Identified as one of the two main priorities by the North Linear Park Steering Group this area has seen little investment over recent years and is in need of much rejuvenation. The area currently has a number of footpaths and informal areas of open space as well as 2 football pitches and a rugby pitch along with some car parking. It is considered that with some significant investment the Central Park area could become a much more multi-functional green space which would attract a far wider range of visitors. A masterplan has been drawn up to illustrate how the park could be re-invented to include play space, wetland scraps and habitat creation alongside much improved walkways (including signage) and improved car parking provision. The pitches will be maintained (and possibly redrawn to provide solely for junior football) and opportunities for enhancing both the pitches and changing facilities will be explored and funding sought.

To the north of this site is an area formerly known as “Steetly” which was previously an industrial area. The site has been cleared in 2012/2013 and an application was approved for 484 new homes. As part of the approval a new road is needed which is proposed to run through the eastern end of the Central Park. As such the masterplan has been designed to minimise the impact that this road would have. The Council have agreed that should this development proceed 50% of the sale price of the land would be reinvested into improving the park alongside a contribution of £20,000 from the developer. This potential funding equates to circa £145,000. The total cost estimate for the masterplan is circa £400,000 and a breakdown of the specific works is included in table below. The North Linear Park Group will continue to liaise with the Council and other organisations in order to try and secure further funding to implement elements of the scheme.

An early phase of tree planting has already taken place. This was delivered through funding obtained from the “Big Tree Plant” and saw circa £5,000 of investment in the Park. In the short term this investment is obviously beneficial to the GI in the area and will provide habitat for a range of species. It is also hoped that this investment will help to kick start the rejuvenation of the park and will see a great deal of GI investment over the coming years.

Diagram 3: Central Park Masterplan



Table 3: Central Park Masterplan Cost Estimates

CENTRAL PARK MASTERPLAN COST ESTIMATES				
Description	Unit	Qty	Rate	Amount
Excavation and Fill				
Reposition existing mounding. Reshape to flowing contours approx. 1.2m high. Topsoil to a min depth of 150mm.	sum			5000.00
Excavate areas to form Wetland Scrape. Deposit spoil on-site to form mounds above.	sum			2000.00
Re-grade existing embankment for new ramp and steps. Infill intermediate track as shown with imported fill and topsoil.	sum			3000.00
Excavate new defensive ditches approx 1m deep. Retain material on site for fill.	m	140	12.00	1680.00
Paving and Kerbs				
Construct new Tarmacadam paving for footpaths and car park, consisting of 20mm depth 6mm nominal size bitumen macadam wearing course.55mm depth 20mm nominal size dense bitumen macadam base course. 150mm depth type 1 sub base . Dispose of arisings in mounding above.	m2	3210	27.00	86670.00
Extra-over for coloured surfacing to key footpath.	m2	1555	5.00	7775.00
Supply and fix 50x100 pc concrete pin kerb concrete haunched..	m	2000	12.50	25000.00
Construct Raisby Golden gravel. 50mm consolidated depth onto 100mm type-1 sub base. Timber edging.	m2	1000	15.00	15000.00
Parking bays formed with existing surface material consolidated.	m2	625	5.00	3125.00
Timber decking to Nature conservation area	m2	40	100.00	4000.00
Fencing and Railings				
Close boarded timber fencing 1.8m high.	m	94	55.00	5170.00
Hoop-topped railings 1.2m high to match.	m	275	75.00	20625.00
Brick piers and railings entrance area.	m	80	150.00	12000.00
Entrance feature. Steel fabrication. Provisional sum.	item			20,000.00

Timber post and rail fencing	m	230	50.00	1150.00
Half tree trunk Timber barriers		30	50.00	1500.00
Play Area				
Play equipment	item	7	10000.00	70000.00
Safety surfacing including play mounds	m2	700	100.00	7000.00
Steps				
Timber steps with bound gravel treads and landings.	item	2	2,500.00	5000.00
Proposed Tree Planting				
Extra heavy standard trees and specimen Pines 1.2m high.	No	200	100.00	20000.00
Whip and transplant tree planting to mounds and Nature area	Item			20,000.00
Cultivation Grass Seeding				
Cultivate to a fine tilth, areas of new mounding and disturbed areas	m2	15000	0.15	2,250.00
Carry out Grass seeding, using hard-wearing Amenity mix, BSH A19 mix or similar at 35gms per m2. Carry out single cut and making good of defects, including over-seeding, prior to hand-over	m2	15000	0.30	4500.00
			Works Total	344,125.00
			Fees and Contingencies at 20%	68,826.00
			Total	413,125.00

The Town Moor



One of the oldest pieces of public open space in Hartlepool, the Town Moor on the Headland provides one of the only publicly accessible green spaces on the Headland. The Town Moor plays host to an annual fair which attracts large numbers of visitors into the area. The Town Moor is extremely open to the elements which minimises the uses and facilities which it can incorporate. It is very popular with dog walkers and provides open space for recreational activities. Given the limited opportunities for improvement there are no significant plans for this area however, as it is the easterly point of the North Linear Park, it is crucial that it continues to be signposted and provide seats and resting places for walkers who may be enjoying coastal routes.

North Cemetery



North Cemetery in Hartlepool is located to the north of the town centre and is a green space covering approximately 12.6 hectares. The whole of the site area is in the ownership of the Borough Council. The cemetery is of particular value to the local community as it is surrounded by areas of dense terraced housing with few attractive open spaces. However, the cemetery is currently under utilised as an open space, suffering from a degree of anti social behaviour and a perceived fear of crime which discourages legitimate users.

In the wider context of the site, there are a number of major regeneration works taking place, which is bringing substantial investment to the area. Two major housing regeneration schemes on the north and south boundaries of the Cemetery are being built and a further scheme is planned to the east of the cemetery. Key Issues for improving the North Cemetery include:

- community safety,
- environmental improvements,
- action to improve the biodiversity,
- boundary treatments,
- management and long term sustainability,
- relationship with the surrounding regeneration works,
- sensitivity around keeping part as a working cemetery whilst encouraging public use, and
- how the cemetery could be used as an educational resource.

The Council have invested £15,000 to create a Masterplan to help address the above issues and to ensure that North Cemetery has a multi-functional future. This work has been undertaken in partnership with the Friends of North Cemetery and other community groups.

As part of the Masterplan study, a comprehensive public consultation programme was undertaken. This identified considerable opportunities to improve what the site has to offer the community in terms of access, recreation, and biodiversity. Combating anti-social behaviour and improving community safety were also identified as key issues to improve the overall attraction of the cemetery. Issues such as safe access, boundary treatment and visual surveillance in and out of the site were all consultee concerns which have been addressed by the Masterplan.

The masterplan proposals include the provision of a more accessible, enhanced green space for the existing community and for the significant area of new housing under development. The proposed access improvements and efforts taken to address security and safety issues will also alleviate public perceptions of 'fear of crime', which has a detrimental impact on casual and recreational use of the area. The masterplan has been designed so that individual elements can be delivered as funding permits.

In addition, the Masterplan proposals seek to protect and enhance site biodiversity and habitat value, both of which will also help make the area more appealing to visitors. Such environmental enhancements, when coupled with access and infrastructure improvements (such as new gateway schemes and footpath rationalisation) will also contribute to the feeling of a sense of place in this area, located as it is, within proximity to a number of key regeneration sites. The total cost of the masterplan to implement would be in the region of £1.2m. Early phases of the work have been undertaken but these only account for in the region of £200,000 of expenditure, still leaving a large amount to be funded.

The Council has also been undertaking work to improve the biodiversity and habitat value of the cemetery over a few years under the guidance of the HBC Ecologist. Completion of the Borough Tree Strategy also highlighted that the existing cemetery woodland cover is all of a similar age, which was likely to be nearing the end of its life in the next 50 years. Tree planting activities using multi-aged replacement stock have, therefore, taken place with local schools. New trees have been planted within controlled areas where the grass has been allowed to grow, stimulating an increase in biodiversity and species numbers amongst wildlife and wildflowers.

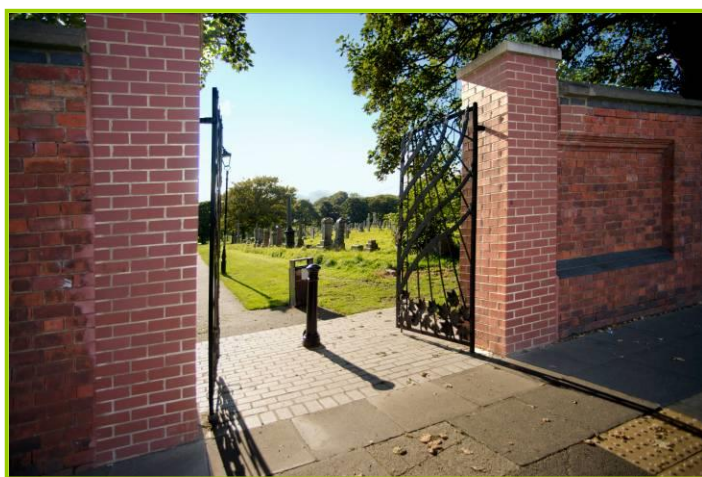


Figure 2: North Cemetery Gates



Figure 3: Inside North Cemetery

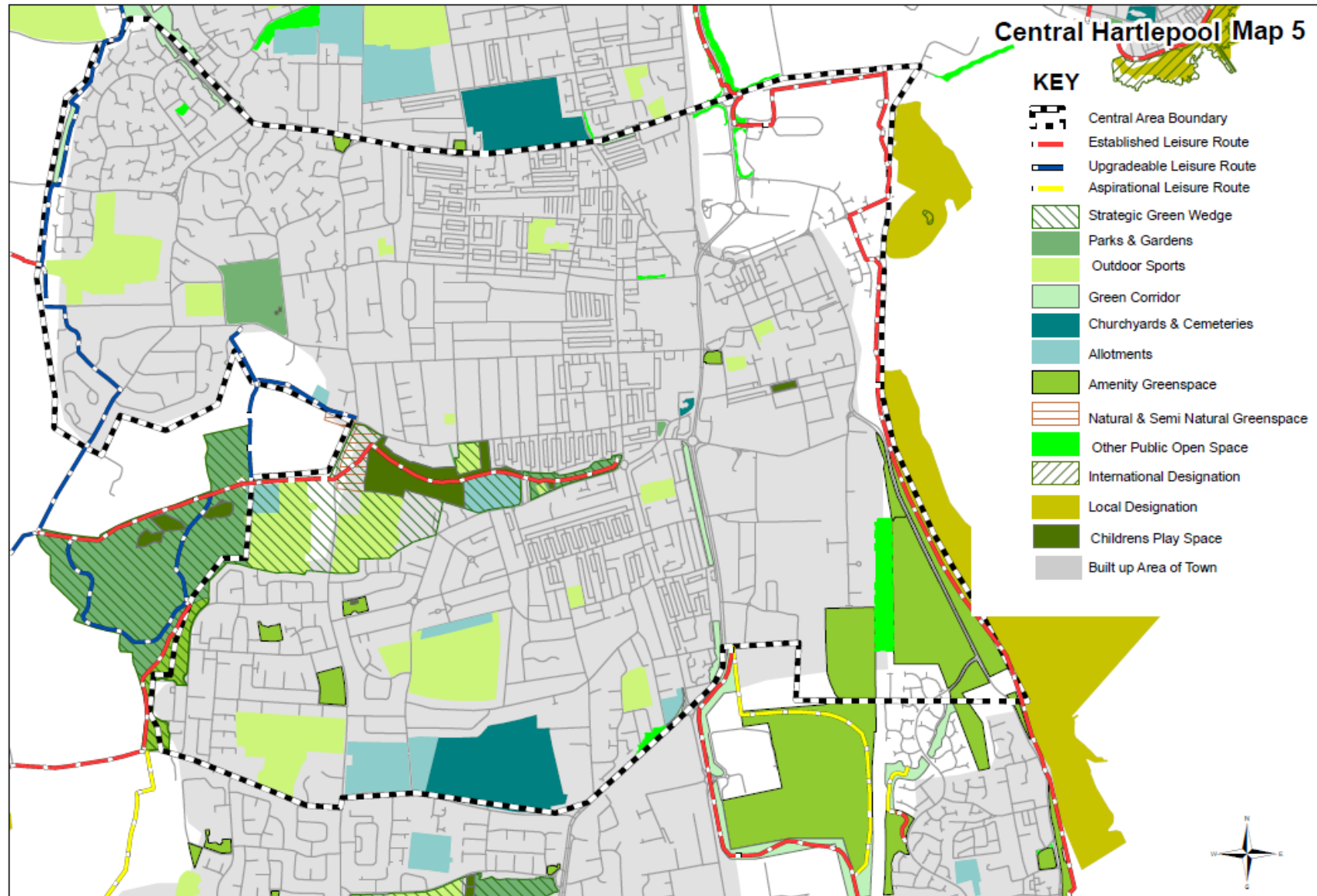
Area 4: Central Hartlepool

The central area suffers from a deficiency of quality GI especially in the town centre area and the northern element of this sub-area. It is however very well served by a range of quality GI within the southern and western areas including the Burn Valley Gardens and Ward Jackson Park. The area is also home to the two largest sports pitch locations in Brierton School and the Rift House Recreational Ground. There are also a number of allotment sites and a major cemetery within this area, all of which help to contribute significantly to the GI of the Borough.

It is evident from map 5 on the following page where the shortfalls in GI are within this area. For this reason it is extremely important to protect the small pockets of GI in the future as well as exploring ways in which the densely populated areas of terraced housing can add elements of GI, such as street trees, helping to enhance the appearance and feel of the street. In any new developments that occur in the east of this area it will be an important element of the planning process to ensure that GI is considered in a positive way, helping to improve the quality of the development whilst also meeting a shortfall in provision.

The importance of grass verges and planting in areas where general green infrastructure is lacking can be extremely beneficial, not only in terms of aesthetics but also to provide much needed habitat for wildlife in the area. The positive benefits that tree planting can have in the battle against climate change is also of great importance and these corridors provide the opportunity for such provision.

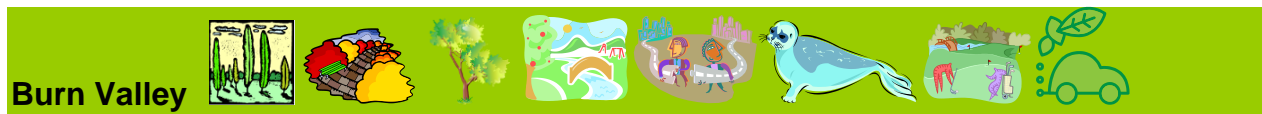
Map 5: Central Hartlepool



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Scale 1:20,000

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Within this area one of the main assets in terms of GI is the Burn Valley Green Wedge. This area has recently benefitted from significant investment through Natural England and the Environment Agency to improve a number of aspects of the area including realignment of the beck, restoration of habitat and creation of natural spaces. All the capital and revenue works that could be funded from the Natural England funding have nearly been completed but some capital work that is identified in the master plan still remains to be funded and the largest part of this is the creation of a car park on what was the site of the gardens flower nursery. The aim of this part of the project is to create parking space for the users of the bowling green and old boys club so that traffic and pedestrian users can be separated as far as possible. There will be ongoing revenue costs forming two types one being the continuous maintenance of the gardens and the other which is more aligned to soft landscape improvements of a plant management nature that would not be part of the normal maintenance works. For example the planting of bluebell and wild garlic drifts under the tree canopy.

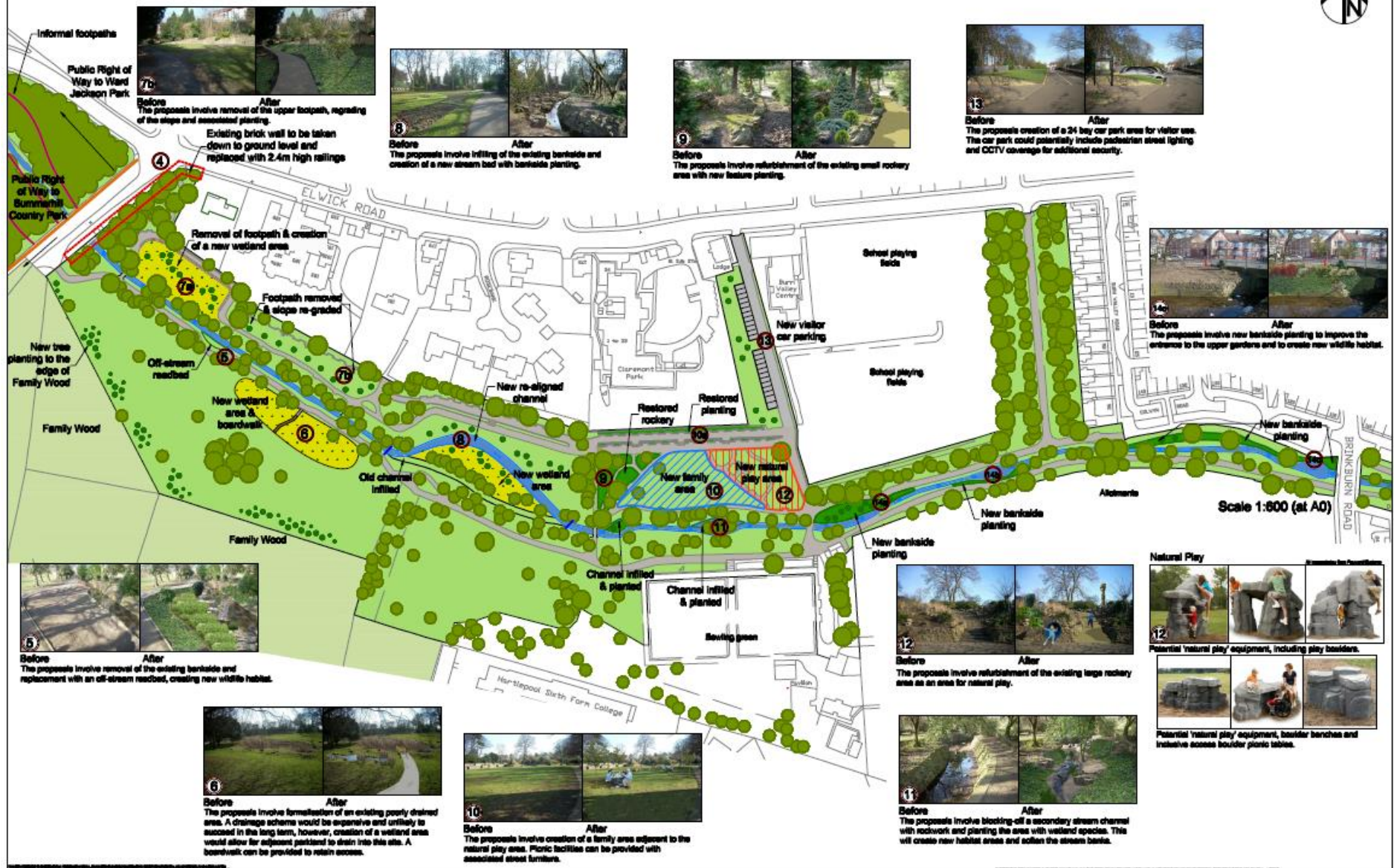
The illustration on the following page shows the masterplan which was drawn up for the Burn Valley Gardens and which is well on the way to be realised on the ground. The Burn Valley plays a crucial part in creating green linkages between a number of areas of the town including the town centre and various residential estates in the central part of the town. The Upper Burn Valley (Family Wood) is the informal westward continuation of Burn Valley Gardens. It is a heavily tree planted area with a formal surfaced path running through it from Elwick Road to Catcote Road. The paths designation is Public Footpath No.10, Hartlepool. Other informal and unsurfaced paths run through the community wood and are used exclusively by pedestrians. The surfaced path has permissive cycle rights placed on it and is a vital safe cycle route for all types of users. The landscape character of Family Wood is informal with areas of good biodiversity value.

Beyond the main area of family wood is a satellite area located on the western side of Catcote Road, at the junction with Elwick Road. Another public footpath (Public Footpath No.8, Hartlepool) runs through this trees area and continues to another section of Elwick Road, opposite Ward Jackson Park. This as with some other urban fringe rights of way has permissive cycle rights placed upon it and is regarded as an important safe route to and from schools. The Council will continue to ensure that these routes are well maintained and upgraded where necessary to help promote the use of sustainable travel. Summerhill Country Park lies to the west of the Burn Valley Gardens and helps to create a green link between the urban and rural area. Ongoing investment in Summerhill is covered within the Rural Section of this Action Plan.

Diagram 4: Burn Valley Gardens Masterplan

Burn Valley Gardens Environmental Improvements Masterplan

Upper Burn Valley Gardens area



Ward Jackson Park



Following substantial works to the park in the late 1990's a Management Plan for the Park was formulated supported by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Friends of Ward Jackson Park in association with the Council produce and update the Management Plan when necessary. Within the Management Plan it sets out a wide range of information including a history of the site covering key historical features, health and safety, staffing, maintenance of the park and environmental sustainability. The Park has been awarded Green Flag status and regular review of this management plan as well as continued maintenance and improvements to the Park will be crucial to maintaining this prestigious award.

The Friends of Ward Jackson Park is an active group which is classed as a charitable organisation. They organise regular events within the park to help with fund raising towards its maintenance and towards the actions set out within the Management Plan. The actions look at different features the park has to offer and how they will be managed and maintained over time such as woodland walks and the need to promote and maintain structural diversity within the woodland belt through maintenance of planting and natural colonisation to develop wildlife potential of site. Other elements covered within this section of the plan and with actions associated with them include the bowling greens, bandstand area, lake, fountain, grass areas, planted areas, path system and the Place in the Park (community building and café). A table of actions for the financial year is maintained by the Council's Parks and Countryside team and where known funding sources are identified. The Friends Group works in association with the Parks and Countryside team to identify funding sources where necessary.

Grayfields Recreational Ground



This site runs north/south along Jesmond Gardens and is operating well with its new pavilion, 3G all weather pitch and protective fencing. The highest quality football pitch in the Borough is located on this site and provides an excellent facility. There is however a requirement for path and road refurbishment, an additional bowling pavilion and improved drainage for the grass playing pitches. Funding for these improvements is currently being sought and a bid will be submitted to the "Protecting Playing Fields" fund for the pitch improvements.

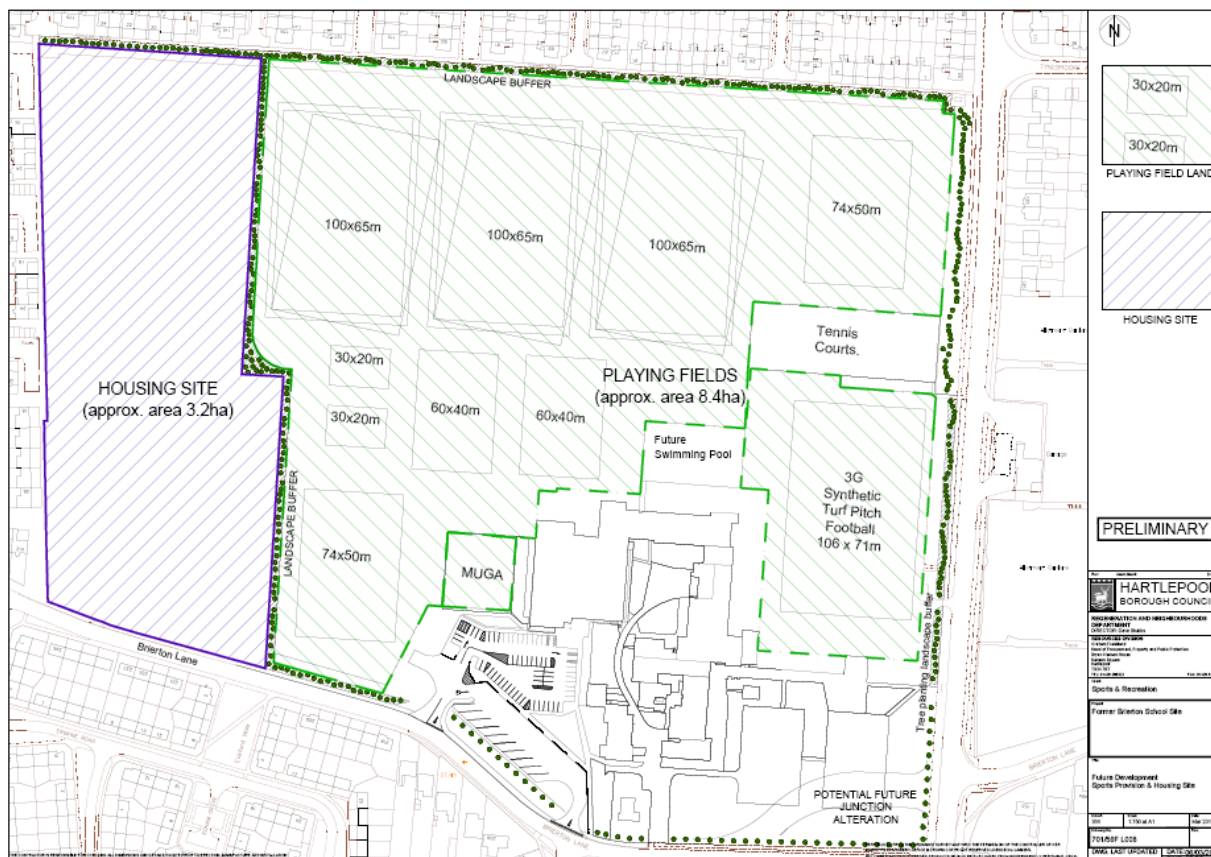
Brierton Sports Centre



The site is identified within the Playing Pitch Strategy (2012) as one of the key sites in Hartlepool due to its size and location. As with all sports pitches future investment and care will be critical to ensure that it continues to provide a valuable asset. Alongside the pitch provision is a sports centre catering for a wide range of sporting activities. Together they play a vital role in the health of the community. The pitches, although no public access is permitted, are used by Greatham Community Football Club which has football teams ranging from U7's through to U18's including some girls teams. The scale of the club obviously means that a large number of local children benefit greatly from the pitches at Brierton.

The draft plan below illustrates improvements to the quality of the provision at Brierton whilst also looking to provide a full size 3G football pitch which would have wider public use available. Funding is currently being sought to enable the Council to progress these works and would be aided by money from the sale of the land on which the upper school used to be located in the west of the site as shown below.

Diagram 5: Brierton Sports Site



Area 5: South Hartlepool

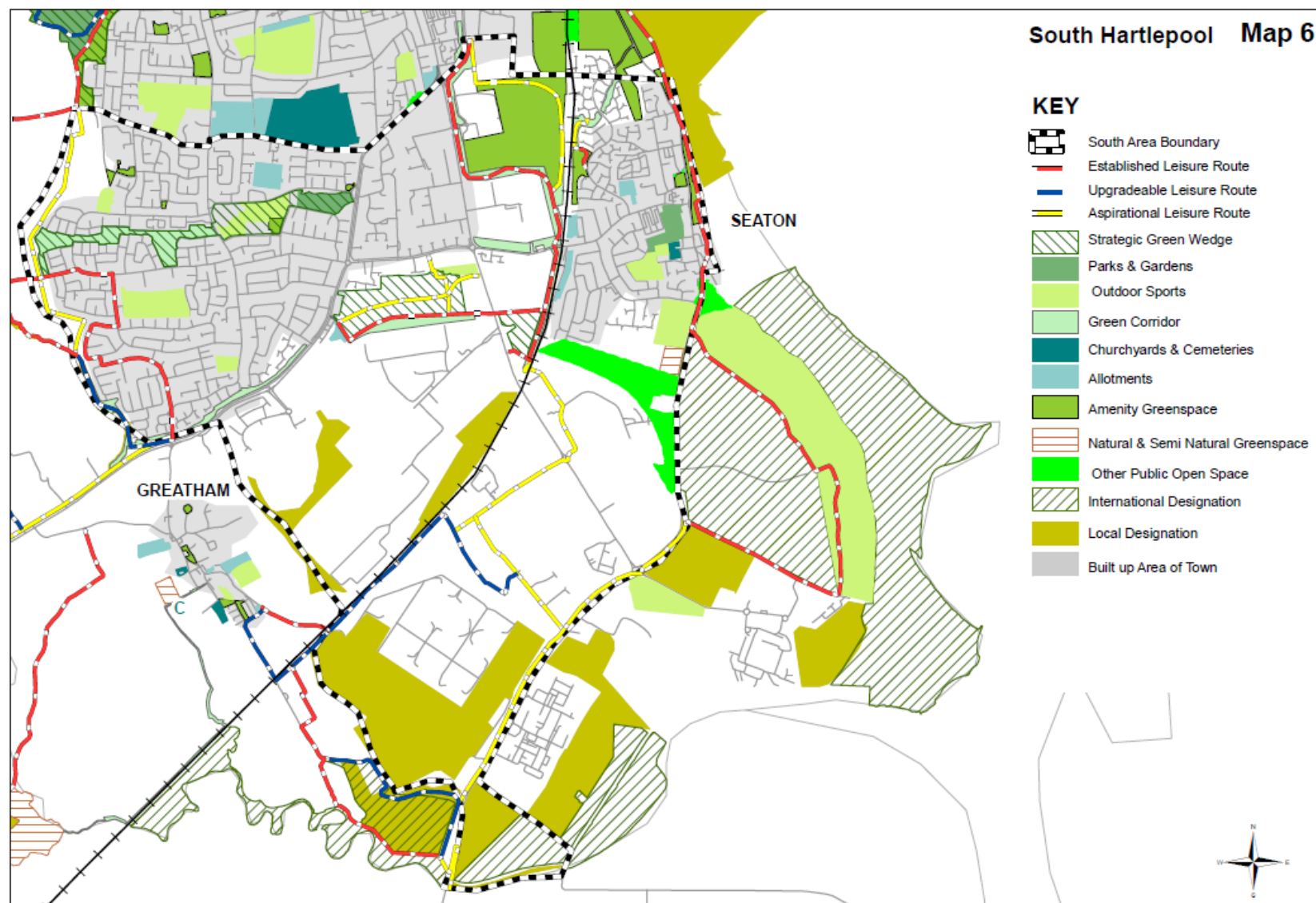
This area of the town is served by a variety of major elements of GI of differing quality, some of which benefit from established green corridors which help to link them with other areas of the town and linking into the countryside. This is illustrated in Map 6 on the following page. It is very clear however from the Green Infrastructure Strategy in the SPD that significant investment is needed over the coming years not only to develop areas such as the green wedge at Golden Flatts, but to help rejuvenate existing areas of GI such as Rossmere and Seaton Parks.

This investment will also need to focus on the provision of leisure routes within the southern industrial area to facilitate sustainable travel to work in the area and also to significantly improve the linkages south into Stockton towards Saltholme International Nature Reserve. Some of these routes will require sensitive planning to avoid any detrimental impact on the environmental designations in the south of the town. However, if planned correctly these routes could offer users the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of attractive GI which is home to many different species of wildlife.



Figure 4: Golden Flatts

Map 6: South Hartlepool



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Scale 1:30,000

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Diagram 6: Rossmere Park Masterplan



Rossmere Park Masterplan



The park plays a vital role in the provision of a variety of green spaces within the Owton Manor Green Wedge. Its location adjacent to the A689 means the park is accessible not only to those on foot but also to visitors to the town. There is a clear opportunity to transform this park into an attraction which can benefit far more people than it currently does. The park has a number of strengths, most notably the lake, but other features are in need of investment.

The Friends of Rossmere Park Group have consulted the local residents and park users and had (with the assistance of the Council) a master plan produced. The next stage is to go out to further consultation on this and to create the final masterplan which will enable the Friends Group and the Council to pursue funding opportunities for its implementation. The draft masterplan on the previous page helps to give an impression of the scale of the park and the wide ranging GI it includes. Once finalised individual elements of the scheme will be costed to ensure that should funding opportunities emerge, interested parties are in a position to bid for funding and will be able to demonstrate the overall benefits which will be derived from the works.

Recently, as a first phase of the masterplan, a new play site in the vicinity of the proposed new café and community building has been constructed. This has helped to provide a valuable facility for local children and has helped to enhance the quality of the Owton Manor Green Wedge.

Golden Flatts



This project is one of the most significant pieces of green infrastructure in the south of the town. The site, which is approximately 20 hectares, was previously allocated as employment land. This use however has changed in the emerging Local Plan and the site has been allocated as a green wedge. The new allocation excludes the business/industrial unit at the eastern end of the site. The scale of this site obviously presents an exciting opportunity to dramatically improve the contribution GI makes within this area of the town and also offers the opportunity to provide sustainable links through to the southern business zone and on towards Seaton Carew.

Diagram 7 on the page 34 illustrates a masterplan that has been drawn up for the green wedge. This masterplan combines significant amounts of woodland planting, wildflower planting, ponds, walkways, play space, grazing areas and car parking for visitors. This scheme was consulted on with the local community and overall was positively received.

The costs included give an indication of the levels and types of funding which would be needed to deliver this scheme. It should be noted that there is potential in the future that the Council may need to look at the potential for pitch provision on this site alongside changing facilities. If such a change is required the Action Plan will be amended to reflect this. The estimated costs related to the Golden Flatts Masterplan (as shown on table 4) are as follows and based on Forestry Commission standard costs with the exception of the surfaced track and play builder scheme:

Table 4: Golden Flatts Cost Estimates

Element	Size	Estimated costs	Specification
Total area of woodland planting	6.68ha	£9,600	based on £400 for trees and £240 for labour per 1000 trees (stocking density must be 2250 trees per ha)
Total length of fencing for planted areas	3717m	£21,930	based on standard 18 gauge netting, posts at 5m centres two line wires. Rabbit proof for min 10 years (£5.90 per m)
length of fencing for grazing areas	950m	£17,100	based on amenity post and rail fence (£18 per m)
Total length of surfaced track	933m	£23,325	based on £25 per m (taken from Sustrans Technical Information Note 8. Cycle Path Surface Options)
Play Builder Scheme		£120,000	As per the Clavering Play Builder
Total length of mown paths	2826m	£650/pass	path strimming (3m wide) (£0.23 per m)

Diagram 7: Golden Flatts Green Wedge Masterplan



Example images



Wildflower meadow and woodland



Ponds and woodland



Play area



Footpaths



Ponds and woodland



Wildflower meadow and woodland



Footpaths



Wide track



Car park



Main entrance

Seaton Park Improvements



Although well maintained by the Council, the park has poor horticultural infrastructure and a number of outdated recreational facilities in the form of football pitches, a bowling green and tennis courts. In recent years the only main capital investment into the park has been the creation of the main car park, which was created in the mid 1990's and investment into the play provision through the Playbuilder programme of 2009-11 concentrated on the play provision, with the complimentary wetland area.

As a result of the need for investment and improvement of the facility a group of stakeholders including the Council, residents and agencies came together to form a Masterplan to guide future development in the areas. This work was coordinated through Groundwork North East who produced a final masterplan as shown on Diagram 8 on page 38 in late 2011. The Masterplan will now be taken forward by the newly formed Friends of Seaton Park group who were established during the development of the masterplan.

The final designs for the Masterplan illustrates an ambitious redevelopment of the park which will compliment improvements to the sea front whilst also maintaining the traditional features of a neighborhood park.

The most far-reaching component of the proposals plan was the proposal to replace the existing out-dated 1960s bowling pavilion and changing cabins by a single multi-purpose structure, housing all the current functions of the bowling pavilion, football changing and parks storage. This would also incorporate much-requested cafe and public toilets. The principle features include:

1. New multi-functional 'Park Pavilion';
2. New access road for service / deliveries and accessible parking;
3. Improved and extended footpath network providing circular routes;
4. Fitness trail and wildlife margin on under-used football field margins;
5. Active area - table tennis / pump track / mini skatepark / crazy golf;
6. Canopy / open pavilion providing covered space for outdoor activities (tai chi, fitness classes, dance, performance art and 'boot camps');
7. Planting structure: boundary hedge and tree planting, internal trees, Boundary treatment along Allendale Street and Farndale Road to include mounding and hedge as buffer to park activities;
8. Main park entrance and boundary along Station Lane and The Cliff opened up and integrated with the town centre;
9. Events space and overspill car parking (organised events, markets, fetes, ice-skating, music events);
10. Open park with street lighting along the main routes.

The costs of the masterplan are indicated overleaf with a substantial overall cost in the region of £1.4million. Specific elements are however broken down and this will

obviously allow funding to be sought for individual elements depending upon the criteria of the funding being sought. This scheme will likely take a number of years to realise the overall vision.

Table 5: Seaton Park Costs

Element	Quantity	Units	Rate	Cost
Park Pavilion				
Remove existing building. Design and build new combined facility.	1	Prov	£650,000.00	£650,000.00
				£650,000.00
Hard surfaces				
Break out and remove hardstanding to realign paths and car park	991	m2	£5.00	£4,955.00
Break out and remove hard surfacing at entrance	377	m2	£5.00	£1,885.00
Extend car Park	292	m2	£50.00	£14,600.00
New access road, incl drainage	524	m2	£65.00	£34,060.00
New footpaths - main park	1889	m2	£35.00	£66,115.00
New footpaths - sports field	1076	m2	£25.00	£26,900.00
Paths resurfaced	1192	m2	£7.00	£8,344.00
Woodland path	194	m2	£20.00	£3,880.00
Overspill and sports field car parks - reinforced grass	1261	m2	£30.00	£37,830.00
Recycling compound	48	m2	£50.00	£2,400.00
Patio	128	m2	£55.00	£7,040.00
Refurbish tennis / basketball pitches	2628	m2	£7.00	£18,396.00
				£226,405.00
Soft Landscaping				
Bund creation - spread and shape mounds	890	m2	£3.00	£2,670.00
Swales and surface drainage into wetland area	item			£2,000.00
Perimeter hedge planting	1068	lin m	£7.00	£7,476.00
Semi-mature tree planting	210	nr	£180.00	£37,800.00
Wild flower meadow creation	7819	m2	£1.50	£11,728.50
Wetland area				£0.00
Shrub planting to front entrance area and Library entrance	200	m2	£35.00	£7,000.00
Bulb planting	5000	m2	£0.50	£2,500.00
Sensory Garden	635	m2	£35.00	£22,225.00
				£93,399.50
Boundary Wall and				

Railing				
Remove panels of brickwork. Face up exposed sides of piers	160	lin m	£15.00	£2,400.00
Metal railing infill panels and new section of boundary fence and gate. Arch re-erected	157	lin m	£120.00	£18,840.00
				£21,240.00
Miscellaneous				
Sculpture in woodland garden and elsewhere				£50,000.00
Signage				£10,000.00
Street lighting	12	nr	£1,500.00	£18,000.00
Benches, picnic tables and site furniture	20	nr	£500.00	£10,000.00
				£88,000.00
Active Play Elements				
Pump Track				£30,000.00
Crazy Golf				£60,000.00
Table tennis tables	3		£800.00	£2,400.00
Outdoor gym equipment	7		£700.00	£4,900.00
				£97,300.00
Sub- total				£1,176,344.50
Preliminaries on above works	4%			£47,053.78
Contingencies (on total costs + preliminaries)	5%			£61,169.91
Professional fees (on total costs + preliminaries + contingencies)	8%			£102,765.46
Total				£1,387,333.65

Diagram 8: Seaton Park Masterplan



Linkages and Movement

The creation and enhancement of green, sustainable linkages and corridors between the main areas of GI identified above and other smaller, yet equally important, elements of GI will be a key priority of the Council and will be of vital importance to the implementation of the Action Plan.

The leisure routes illustrated on Maps 1-6 help to illustrate how movement is currently possible throughout the Borough, but also indicates where improvements and enhancements to the network of footpaths and cycle paths will be sought. The use of tree planting and planting of plants and shrubbery to create attractive, multi-functional corridors will ensure that residents and visitors will be able to move freely and safely along green corridors in the area.

It will also be important to ensure that as part of new developments that occur in the town, thought is given to how open space, tree planting and walkways are integrated into the plans from the outset so that they link into the existing GI network.

Various sources of funding will be accessible to ensure sustainable linkages are created in the future, they include:

- Local Transport Plan
- Sustrans Funding
- Coastal Walkway initiatives such as the Durham Heritage Coast
- Developer Contributions from planning applications

Through these improvements, along with the improvements in the sections above, will ensure that Hartlepool's GI network continues to develop and grow in the future delivering with it the multi-functional benefits widely associated with successful GI.

The benefits these leisure routes offer is illustrated by the Walks Programme and Orienteering Programme that the Council operates. Walk about in Hartlepool launched in March 2011 and has attracted 379 participants to the scheme, the walks vary in length from 30 minutes up to 2 hours but all utilise the public rights of way in and around Hartlepool. The Scheme not only advertises normal walking but also has a very successful Nordic Walking Programme incorporated into the scheme. There are

currently 11 walks (7 normal walks and 4 Nordic walks) that occur weekly targeting the community as well as closed walks for various organisations and their services users. These walks increase in the summer months and cover walks around the local Nature Reserves. Common walks that are utilised within this scheme are;

- Dalton Piercy Circular
- Hart to Haswell
- Summerhill
- Seaton Dunes
- Headland – along Promenade
- Greatham
- Crimdon Coastal Routes
- Crimdon Dene

Through funding received from the Community Activities Network (CAN) the Council have been able to develop Orienteering in Hartlepool;

- English Martyrs school and Manor College have had their schools sites mapped
- St Hilds have had their site updated
- Schools have added orienteering onto their curriculum; however the sport and Physical Activity Team have supported in some of the initial delivery and have engaged 84 students.
- Training has been delivered through Cleveland Orienteering Club to school staff and Sport and Physical Activity staff to support the development of orienteering, 66 people currently have been trained through this project.
- Family taster sessions and a Begin 2 Orienteering programme have been run and engaged 79 participants to the sport.

The development of orienteering in Hartlepool has been strongly supported by Cleveland Orienteering Club (CLOK) and they are re-mapping the old orienteering course at Burn Valley which will enable the team to develop orienteering in town utilising a key green wedge.

The Council are also launching the Xplorer/ Run Challenge project in partnership with British Orienteering and CLOK in Hartlepool from April for a 6 month period, this project is aimed at getting more people engaged in orienteering utilising sites and mapped courses in slightly different way to that of conventional orienteering.