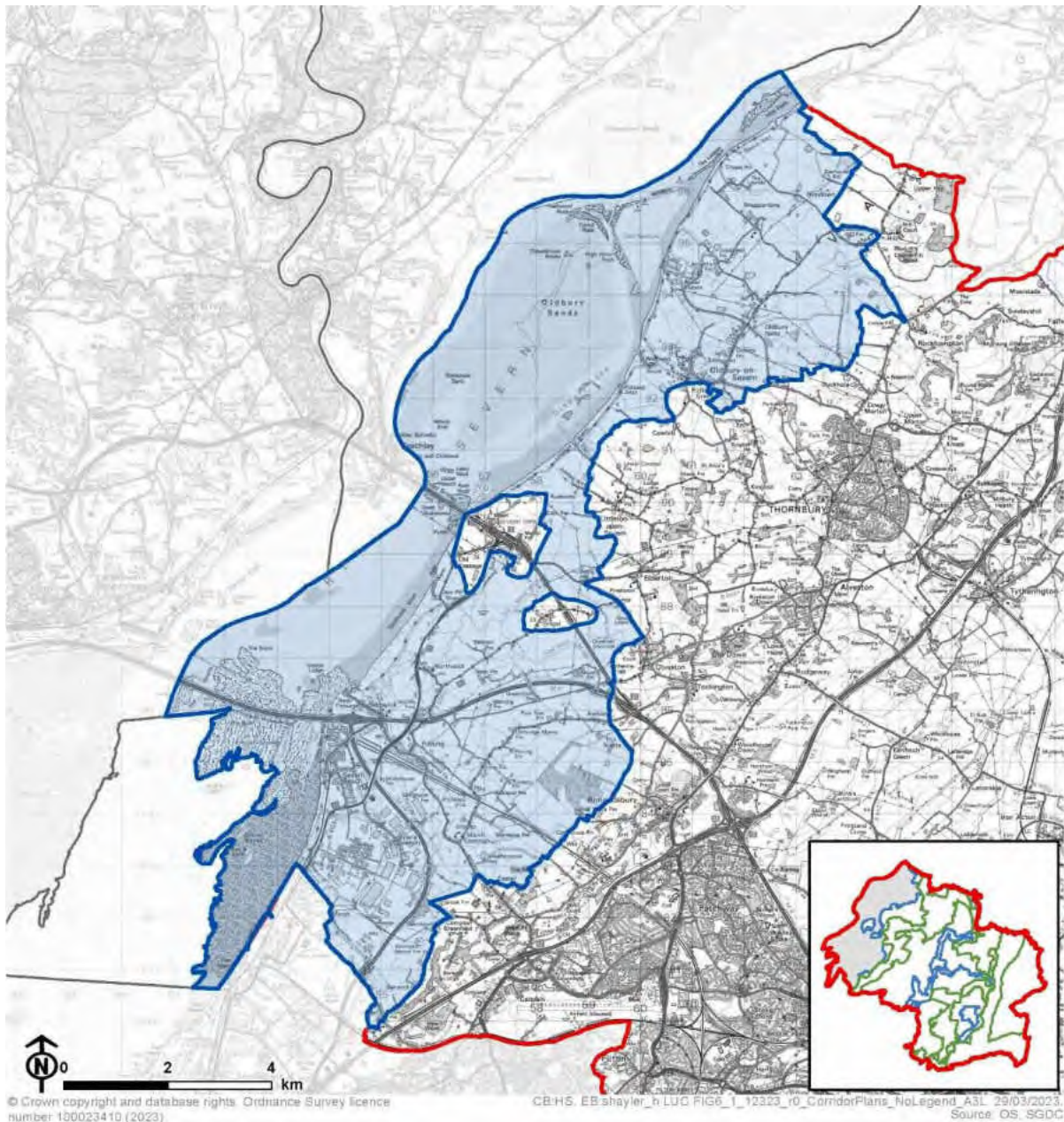


Chapter 6

Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)

Figure 6.1: Corridor A Location Plan



Importance and purpose

6.1 Blue-green infrastructure (BGI) corridor: extends from south-west to north-east to follow the River Severn Estuary to take in the marine, foreshore and adjacent Levels areas.

6.2 Primary function and importance: focused on the strategic wetland network associated with the Severn Estuary corridor, including a designated Special Protection Area (SPA) / Special Area of Conservation (SAC) / Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) sites, alongside a linked network of rhines and watercourses across the Levels. Some parts of the strategic woodland network extend into the south-east of Corridor A.

6.3 The committed development area of Severnside (South Gloucestershire Policy CS35) is safeguarded for distribution and other extensive employment uses, broadly in line with extant planning permissions from 1957 and 1958. This strategic allocation is located within the boundary of Corridor A, and various stages of development has commenced. Although a lot of the Severnside area is being built on, under the original 1957/58 ICI planning consent, unbuilt areas which retain the GI function of Corridor A will also be delivered, as part of the wider GI masterplan for the area. Therefore, it is important to retain this development area within Corridor A. Development proposals which come forward within this area and have the potential to affect the European protected Severn Estuary requires a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken due to the sensitive nature of the Estuary.

6.4 Corridor A includes two cut outs which straddle the M4 at Ingst and Junction 1 with the A403 at Severn View. These have been excluded as they occupy higher lying land which rises up out of the main floodplain and therefore do not form part of the primary GI function of Corridor A.

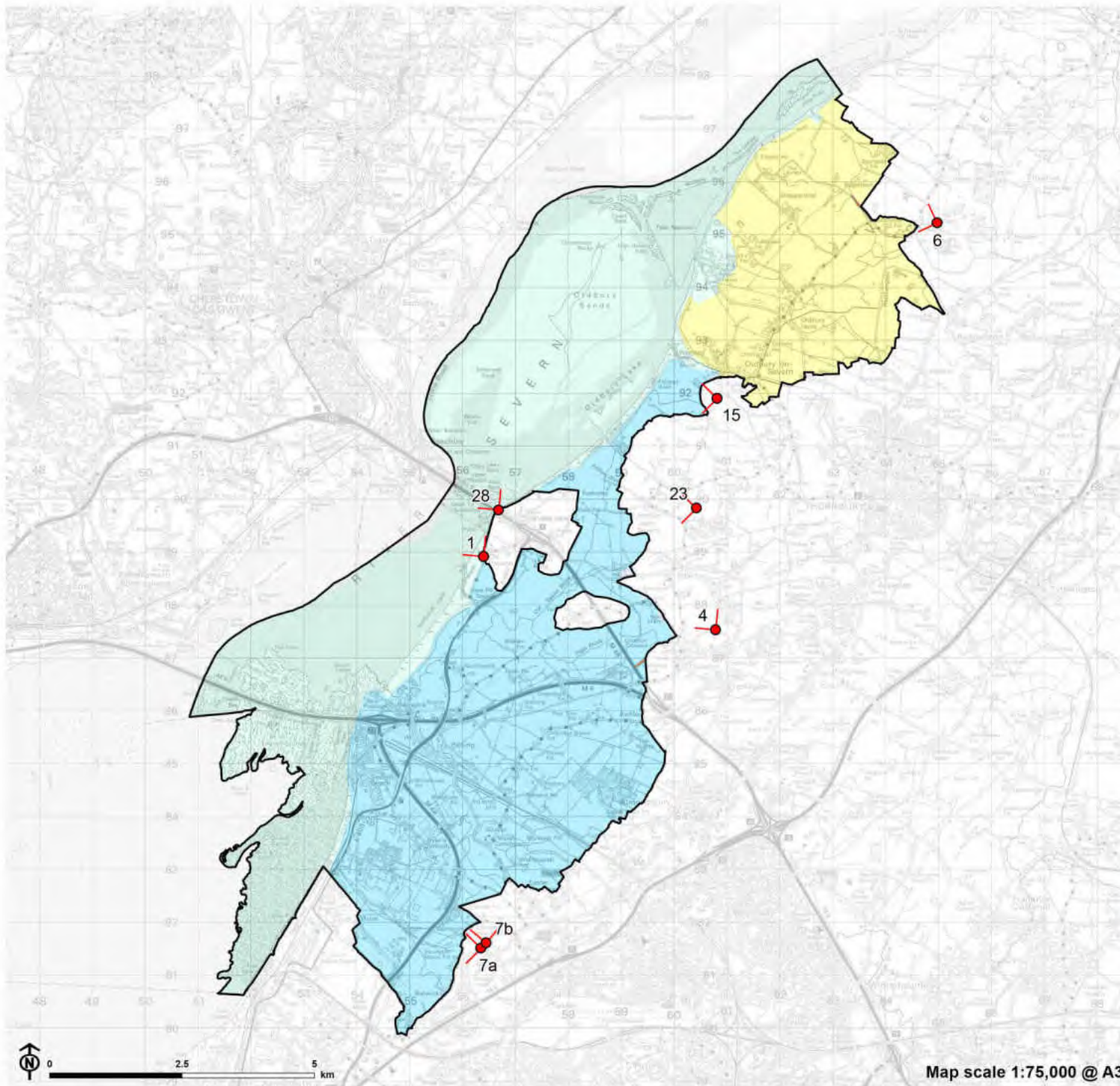
Supporting figures

6.5 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing green infrastructure areas and assets within the strategic BGI corridor, namely:

- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 6.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 6.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 6.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 6.5).

6.6 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

**Figure 6.2: Blue-Green Corridor A:
Landscape and Heritage**



Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on
Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and
Levels)

Strategic viewpoint and angle

Registered Common Land

Landscape Character Area

18: Severn Ridges

19: Oldbury Levels

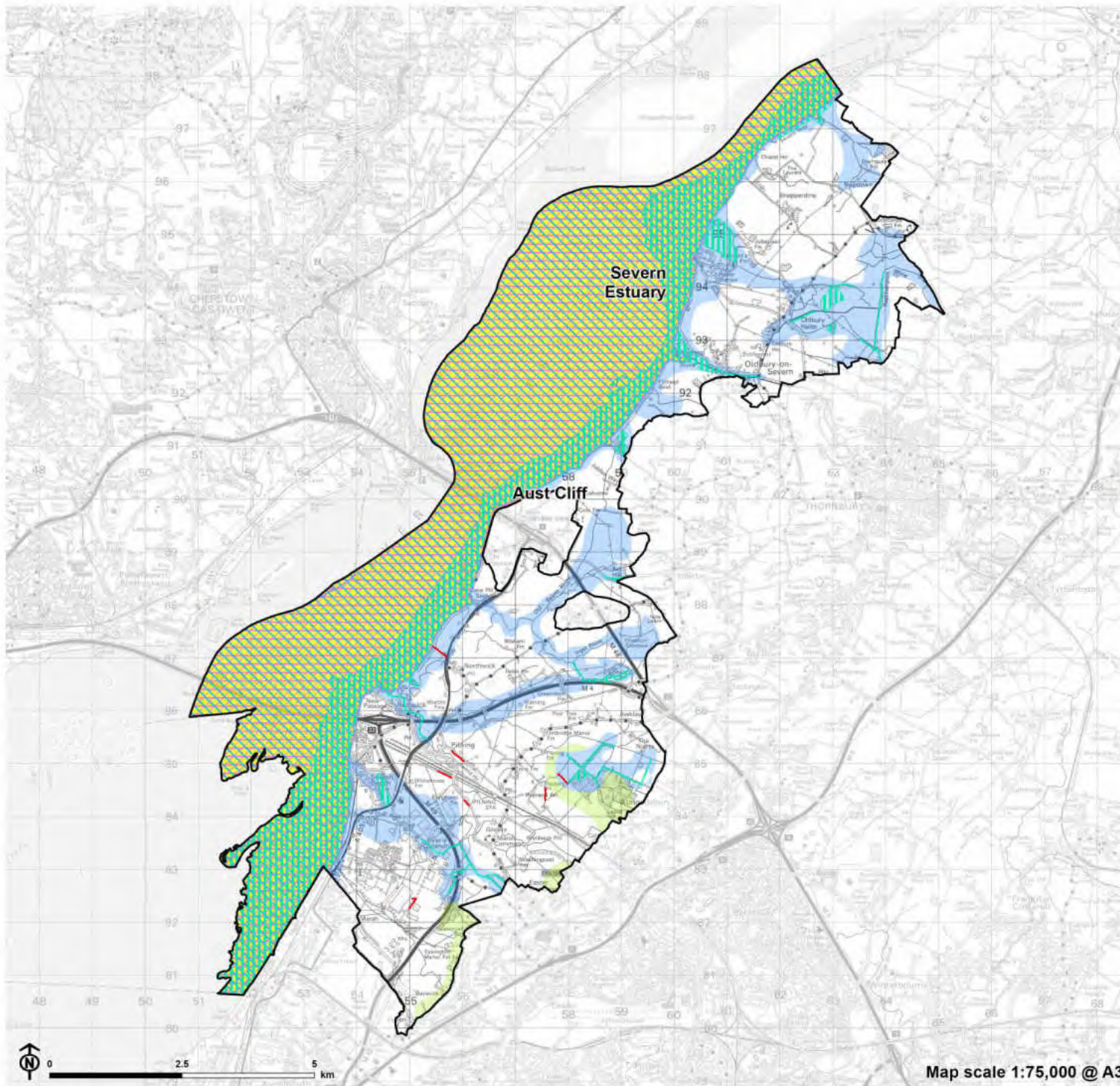
20: Pilning Levels

21: Severn Shoreline and Estuary

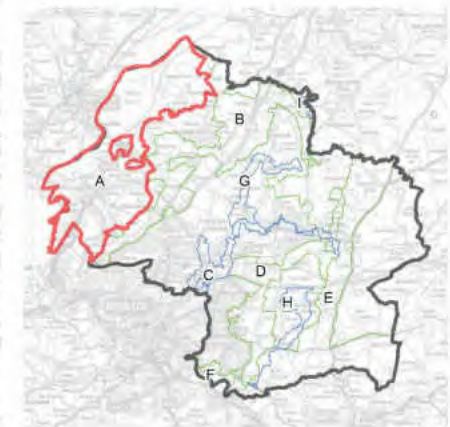


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**Figure 6.3: Blue-Green Corridor A:
Ecology and Biodiversity**

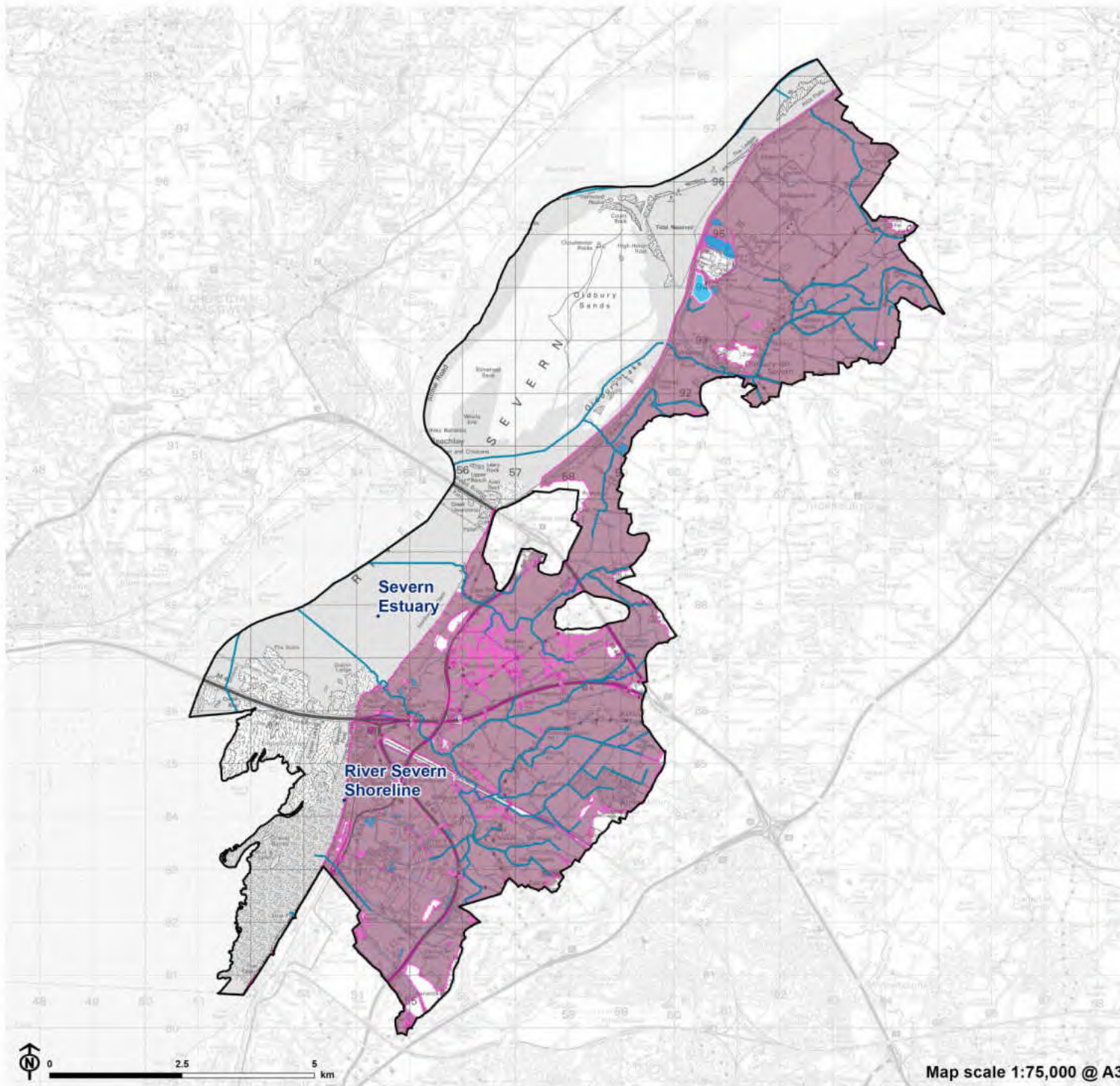


- Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)
- Important Hedgerow
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Protection
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar site
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network

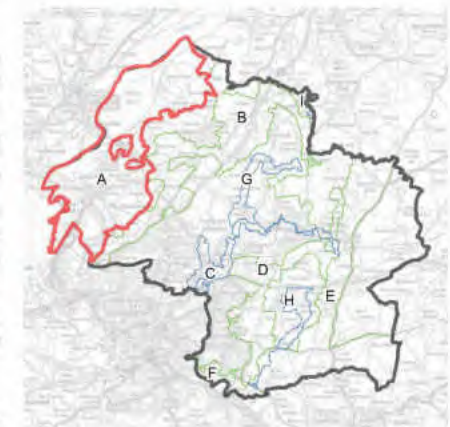


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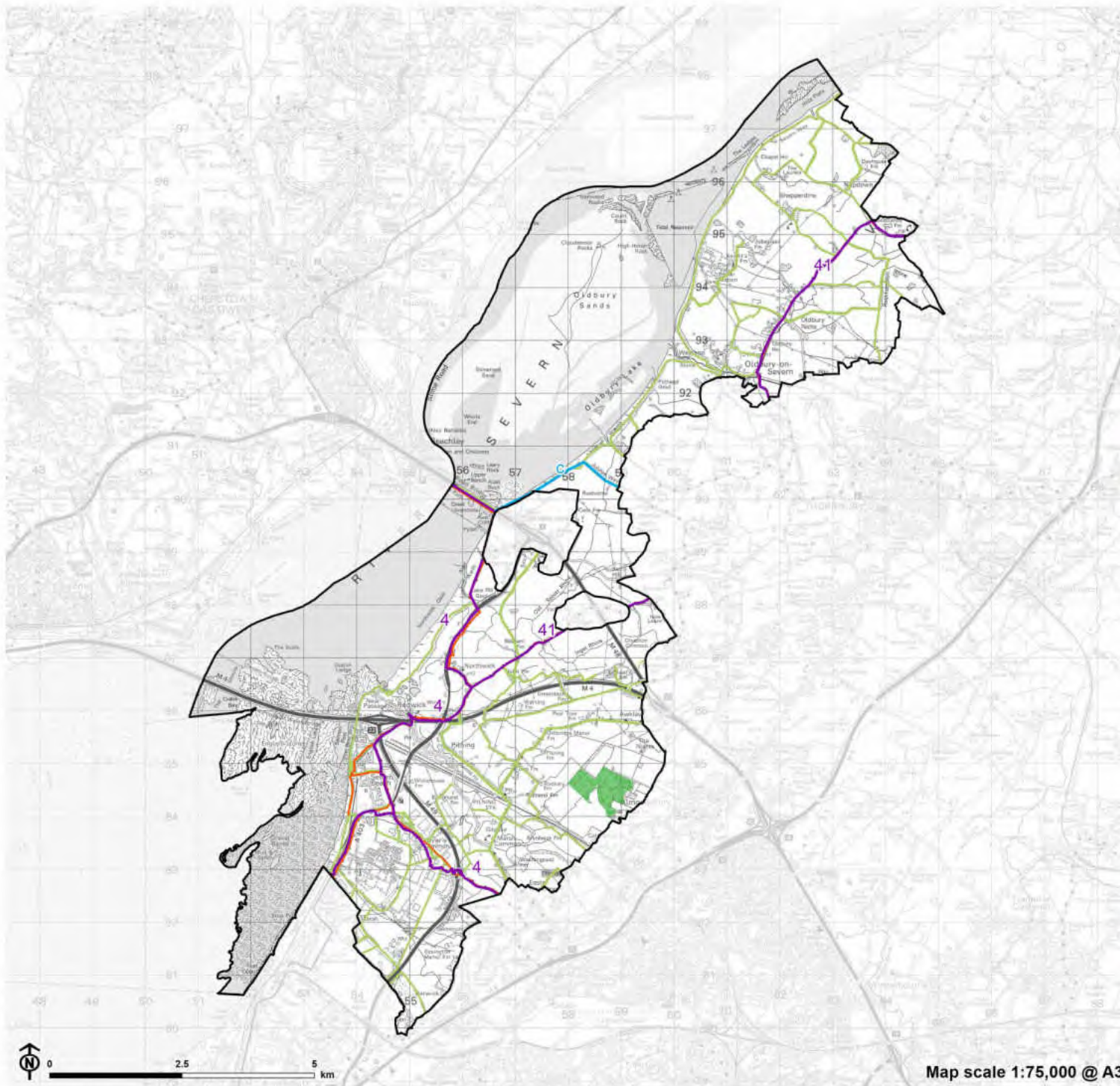
**Figure 6.4: Blue-Green Corridor A:
Hydrology**



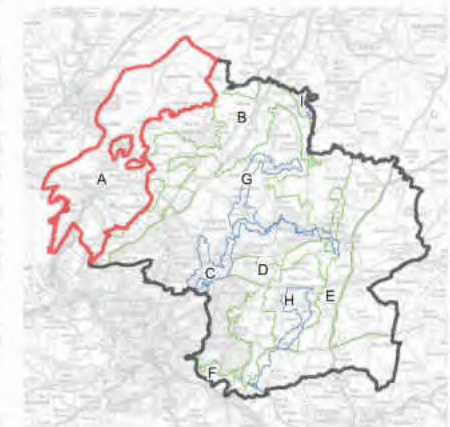
- Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)
- Waterbody
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3a



**Figure 6.5: Blue-Green Corridor A:
Recreation and Access**



- Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)
- National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths
- c: Jubilee Way
- National Cycle Network
- Other strategic and major cycle route
- South Gloucestershire Active Travel Route
- Large green space
- Open access land



Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3

Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

6.7 Table 6.1 sets out the SPD summary description for each of these Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that are within the strategic BGI corridor.

Table 6.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
19: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Oldbury Levels	A largely flat, open to semi-enclosed agricultural area with rhines, small orchards and relatively little but scattered settlement, strongly influenced by the adjacent Severn Estuary
20: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Pilning Levels	An area of contrasts, with a largely flat, semi-enclosed to open agricultural landscape, divided by rhines and linear transport routes across the central and northern area, and extensive areas of industry and warehousing in the south.
21: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Severn Shoreline and Estuary	A flat open exposed linear landscape of warths, tidal wetlands, mudflats, and rock. The large expanse of the Estuary and changing tides, is its most dominant feature.

Visually Important Hillsides & Other Key Landform Features

6.8 Table 6.2 below identifies how Visually Important Hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 6.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillsides and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
19: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Oldbury Levels	-	River Severn and shoreline
20: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Pilning Levels	-	River Severn and shoreline
21: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Severn Shoreline and Estuary	-	River Severn and shoreline

Strategic Viewpoints

6.9 There are two strategic viewpoints (SVPs) on the boundary of the strategic BGI corridor:

- **SVP 1: View from Old Passage** – north and west (over the Severn Estuary and Severn bridges); and

Chapter 6 Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)

- **SVP 28: View from Severn Viewpoint** – north and west (over the Severn Estuary and Severn bridges).

6.10 There are six additional strategic viewpoints which are located a short distance outside of the strategic BGI corridor, the views from which encompass land within the corridor. Five are within Corridor B (strategic viewpoints 6, 31, 4, 3, and 7) and one is not within any corridor SVP 15 (View from Saint Arilda's Church, Cow Hill).

6.11 There is one Local Viewpoint (LVP) located within the BGI corridor:

- **LVP 1: View from Severn Way** - panorama west (over the Severn Estuary to Wales).

Conservation Areas

6.12 There are no Conservation Areas within the strategic BGI corridor.

Historic Parks and Gardens

6.13 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the strategic BGI corridor.

Common Land

6.14 There are two small areas of common land within the strategic BGI corridor, as follows:

- The pieces of land between "Meadlands" and Nupdown Farm in the north of the corridor, east of Nupdown; and
- A narrow, linear strip of land at Mead Lane, west of Olveston.

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

6.15 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire's Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic BGI corridor takes in the following from north to south:

- Wetland connections covering much of the corridor, linking the network of rhines and minor watercourses across the levels and improving connectivity with the adjacent estuary shores; and
- Woodland connections in the south-east to link Old Withy Bed and Mill Rhine Plantation to other woodlands within the wider area.

International Designations

6.16 In recognition of its importance for wildlife in South Gloucestershire, the Severn Estuary – which covers the western half of the strategic BGI corridor – is subject to a series of international nature conservation designations including a SPA, SAC and Ramsar.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

6.17 There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the strategic GI corridor, as follows:

- Severn Estuary SSSI which covers an extensive area of the western half of the corridor (as described above); and
- Aust Cliff geological SSSI (6.23 ha in size).

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

6.18 There are 31 SNClS within the strategic BGI corridor, covering 1,507 ha. They mainly comprise grassland and wetland habitats, as well as aquatic habitats associated with rhines. Some SNClS within the corridor overlap with parts of the Severn Estuary SSSI at Sheppardine to Oldbury, Oldbury Pill, Littleton Warth, Aust to New Passage, and a small area of the New Passage to Chittening Warth section.

Local Nature Reserves

6.19 No Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Important Hedgerows

6.20 The strategic BGI corridor contains a few short sections of important hedgerows, concentrated in the south of the corridor around Pilning.

Ancient Woodland

6.21 There is no ancient woodland within the strategic BGI corridor.

Regionally Important Geological Sites

6.22 Aust Cliff SSSI is also a RIGS.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

6.23 The strategic BGI corridor includes the Severn Estuary, which runs along its western edge. The corridor is also covered by a dense network of rhines (drainage ditches) surrounding the fields.

Flood Zone

6.24 Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 cover the whole of the strategic BGI corridor due to the low-lying nature of the landscape associated with the Estuary and Levels.

Large Scale Water Bodies

6.25 No large-scale water bodies are located within the corridor. However, smaller-scale water bodies are found at Oldbury Power Station silt ponds and fishing ponds at Whale Wharf, as well as numerous small pools and ponds scattered across the corridor.

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

6.26 The two areas of common land listed above under 'landscape and heritage' are also designated open access land and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2002 gives the public the right to walk across this land.

Large Green Spaces

6.27 There is one large green space within the strategic BGI corridor comprising natural and semi-natural green space at Ellens Wood which is in the south-east of the corridor, south of Awkley.

Active Travel Routes

6.28 The following ATRs (which include National Cycle Network (NCN) routes) are within or cross the strategic BGI corridor from north to south:

- Part of NCN route 41 which from Hill through Oldbury-on Severn;
- Two short lengths north from Nupdown Road;
- Routes east off NCN route 41 along Rhines (Oldbury Naite Rhine and towards Rockhampton Rhine);
- A route around Oldbury Power Station;
- Cophills Lane north-west of Littleton-upon-Severn;
- A route south from Aust along Common Lane and Lords Rhine to join NCN 41;
- Part of NCN route 4 which runs north from Severn Beach crossing the M4 to Old Passage (joins NCN route 41 at the junction of Bilsham Lane with the B4055);
- Adjacent to the M4 near Olveston Mill Rhine; and
- Part of the Avon Cycleway (an 85-mile circular route around the city of Bristol) which runs from the south-eastern part of the corridor from Easter Compton (outside of the corridor boundary) to Awkley before continuing north and east, roughly following the boundary of corridor B.

6.29 The following long-distance footpaths also lie within or cross the strategic BGI corridor from north to south:

Chapter 6 Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)

- **Severn Way:** long distance footpath which runs along the western edge of the corridor, following the estuary shoreline; and
- **Jubilee Way:** runs from the estuary edge (where it joins the Severn Way) eastwards towards Littleton-Upon-Severn.

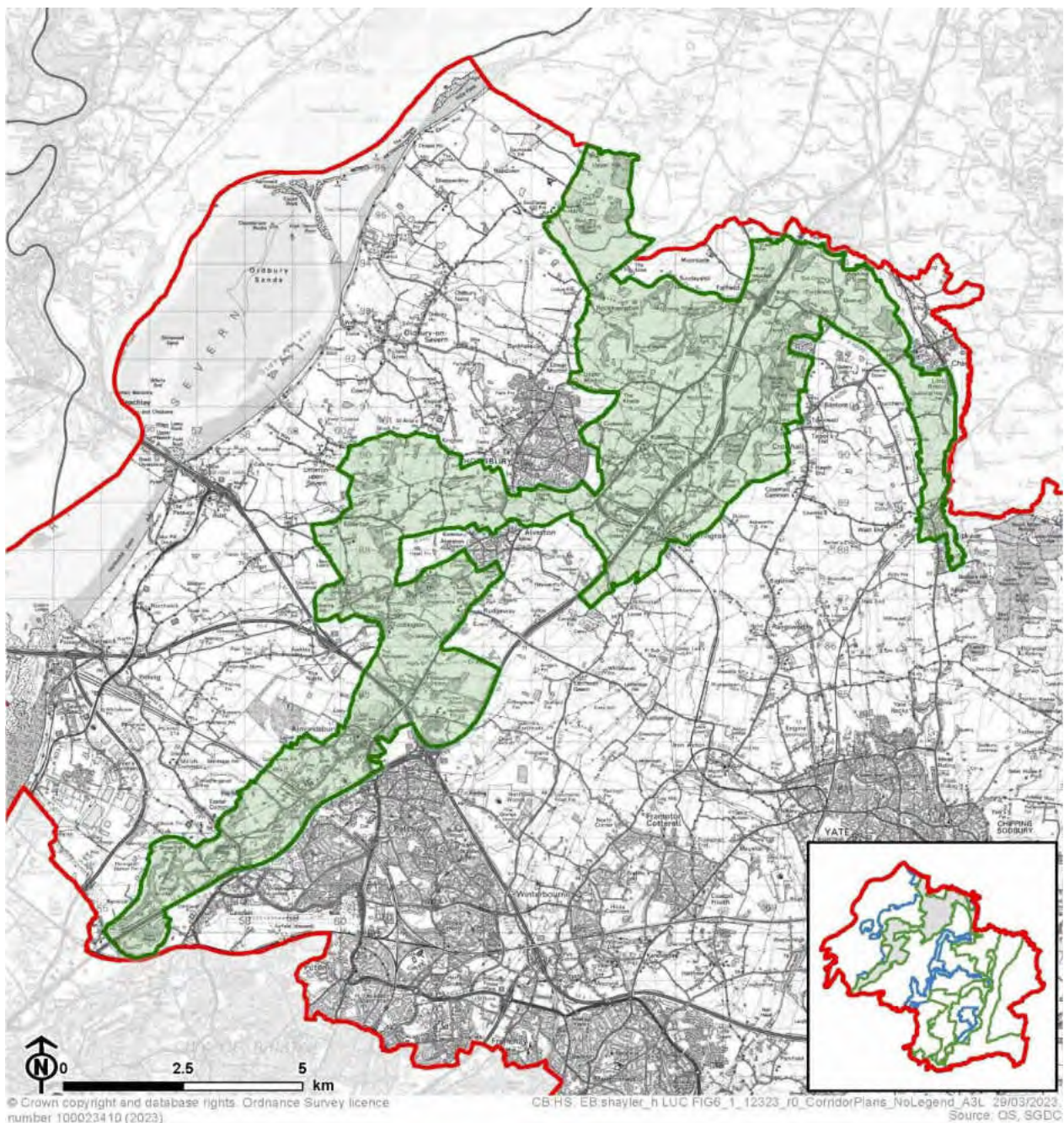
Summary

6.30 Corridor A is a BGI corridor, extending south-west to north-east along the Severn Estuary to take in the marine, foreshore and adjacent Levels areas. There are two strategic viewpoints within the corridor including panoramic views north and west over the Severn estuary and towards Wales. The primary NRN function and importance of corridor A relates to the strategic wetland network associated with the river corridor, estuary, and network of rhines and watercourses across the Levels including internationally important designated SPA, SAC, Ramsar (Severn Estuary) and SSSI sites (Severn Estuary and Aust Cliff). There are also several SNCIs and one RIGS (Aust Cliff). The corridor is crossed by several South Gloucestershire active travel routes, national cycle routes 4 and 41, part of the Avon Cycleway (regional cycle route), the Severn Way and Jubilee Way long distance footpaths. Two small commons are designated as open access land, and there is one large green space (Ellens Wood).

Chapter 7

Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)

Figure 7.1: Corridor B Location Plan



Importance and purpose

7.1 Green infrastructure (GI) corridor: extends from south-west to north-east, before turning south-east, along the 'S shaped' Severn Ridge that comprises a series of interlinked scarps.

7.2 Primary function and importance: strategic woodland network associated with a Visually Important Hillside / ridge landform feature with some relatively large sections of ancient woodland. The existing woodland network does not currently extend along the most easterly section.

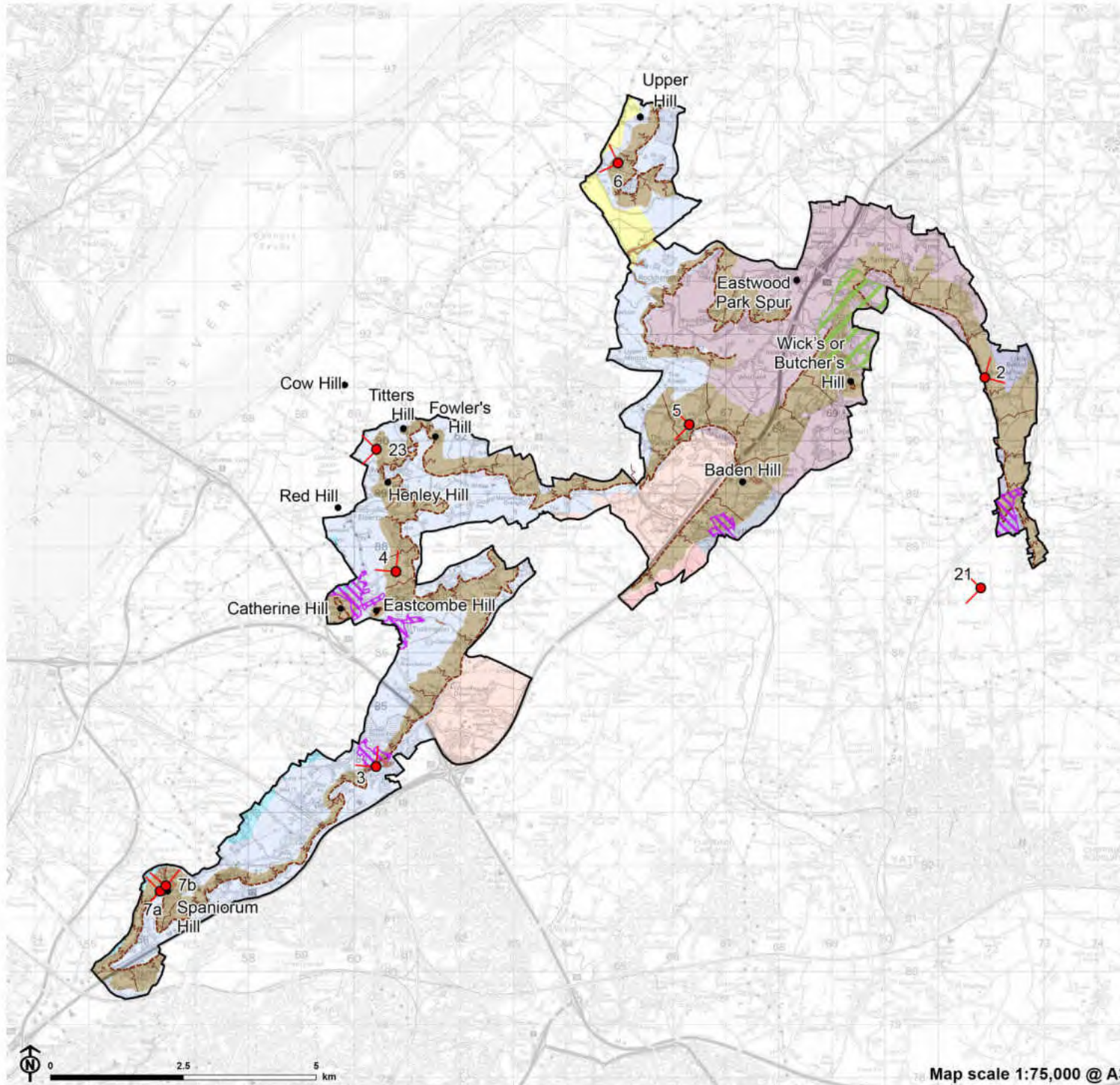
Supporting figures

7.3 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing green infrastructure areas and assets within the strategic GI corridor, namely:

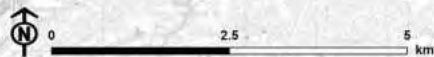
- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 7.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 7.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 7.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 7.5).

7.4 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

**Figure 7.2: Green Corridor B:
Landscape and Heritage**

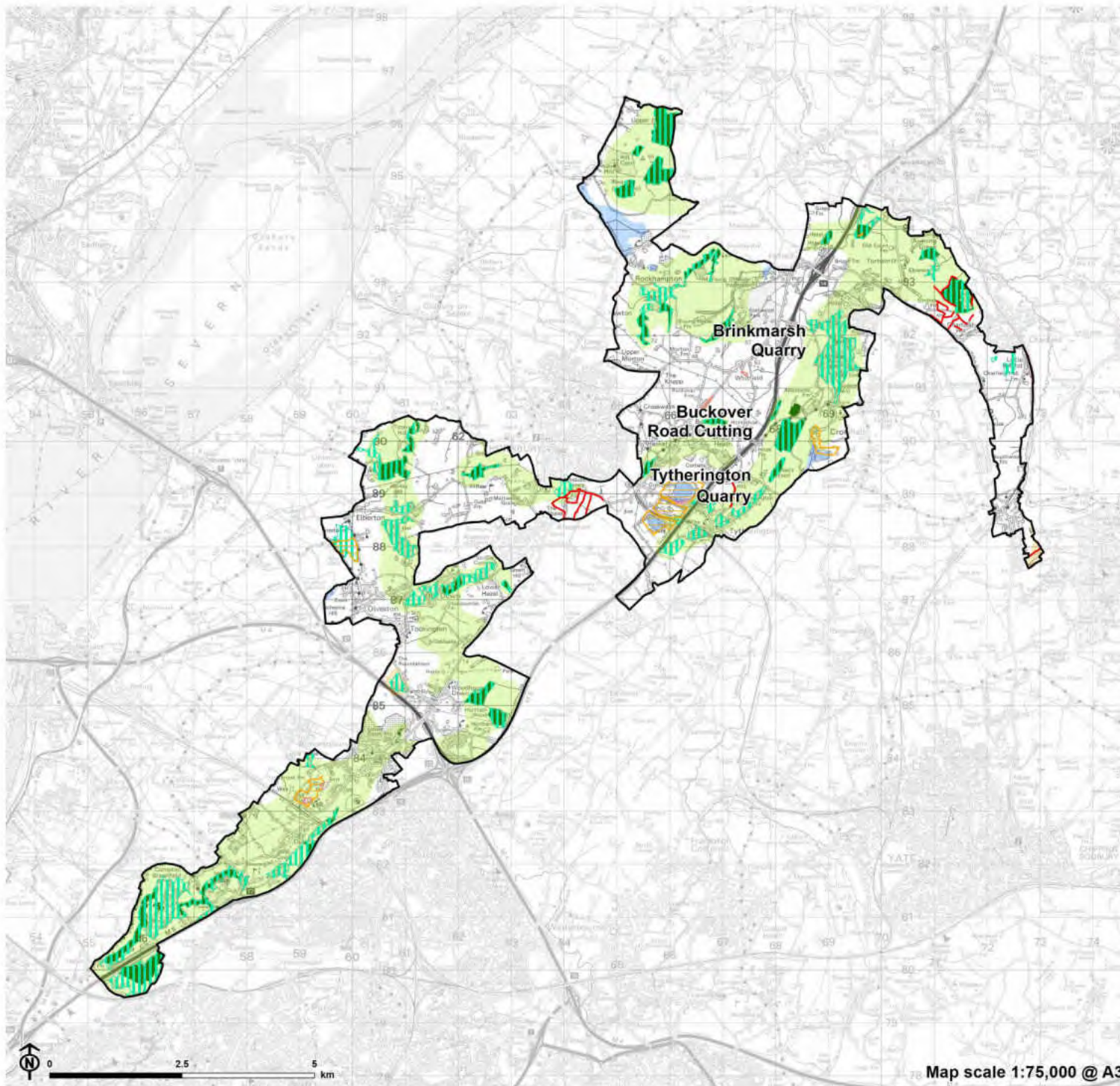


- Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)
 - Strategic viewpoint and angle
 - Visually Important Hillside
 - Visually Important Hillside top of slope
 - Conservation Area
 - Registered Park or Garden
 - Registered Common Land
- Landscape Character Area**
- 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale
 - 7: Falfield Vale
 - 9: Tytherington Plain
 - 10: Earthcott Vale
 - 17: Rudgeway and Tytherington Ridge
 - 18: Severn Ridges
 - 19: Oldbury Levels
 - 20: Piling Levels



Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3

Figure 7.3: Green Corridor B: Ecology and Biodiversity

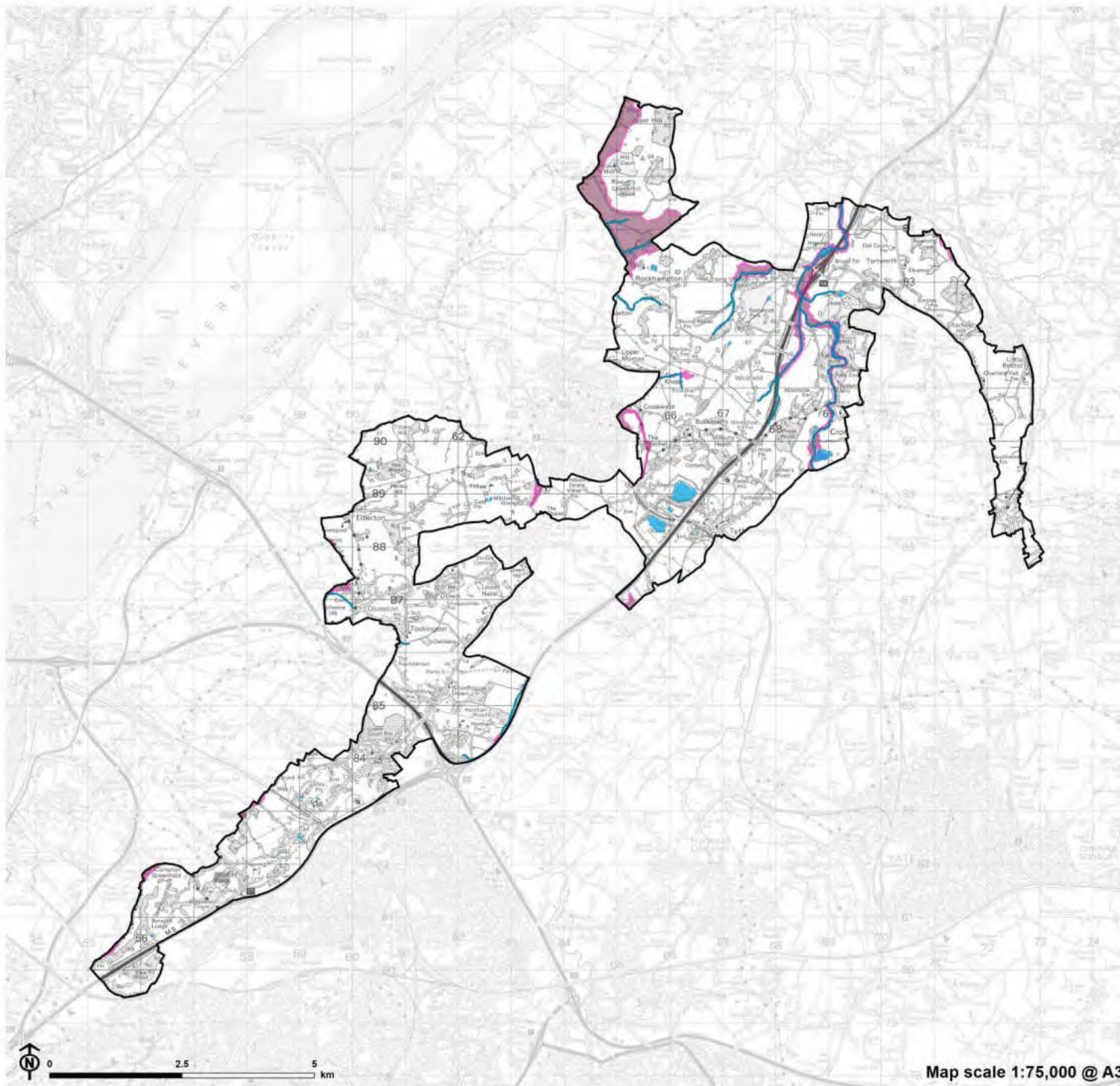


- Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)
- Important Hedgerow
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Ancient Woodland
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network
- Grassland Strategic Network



Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3

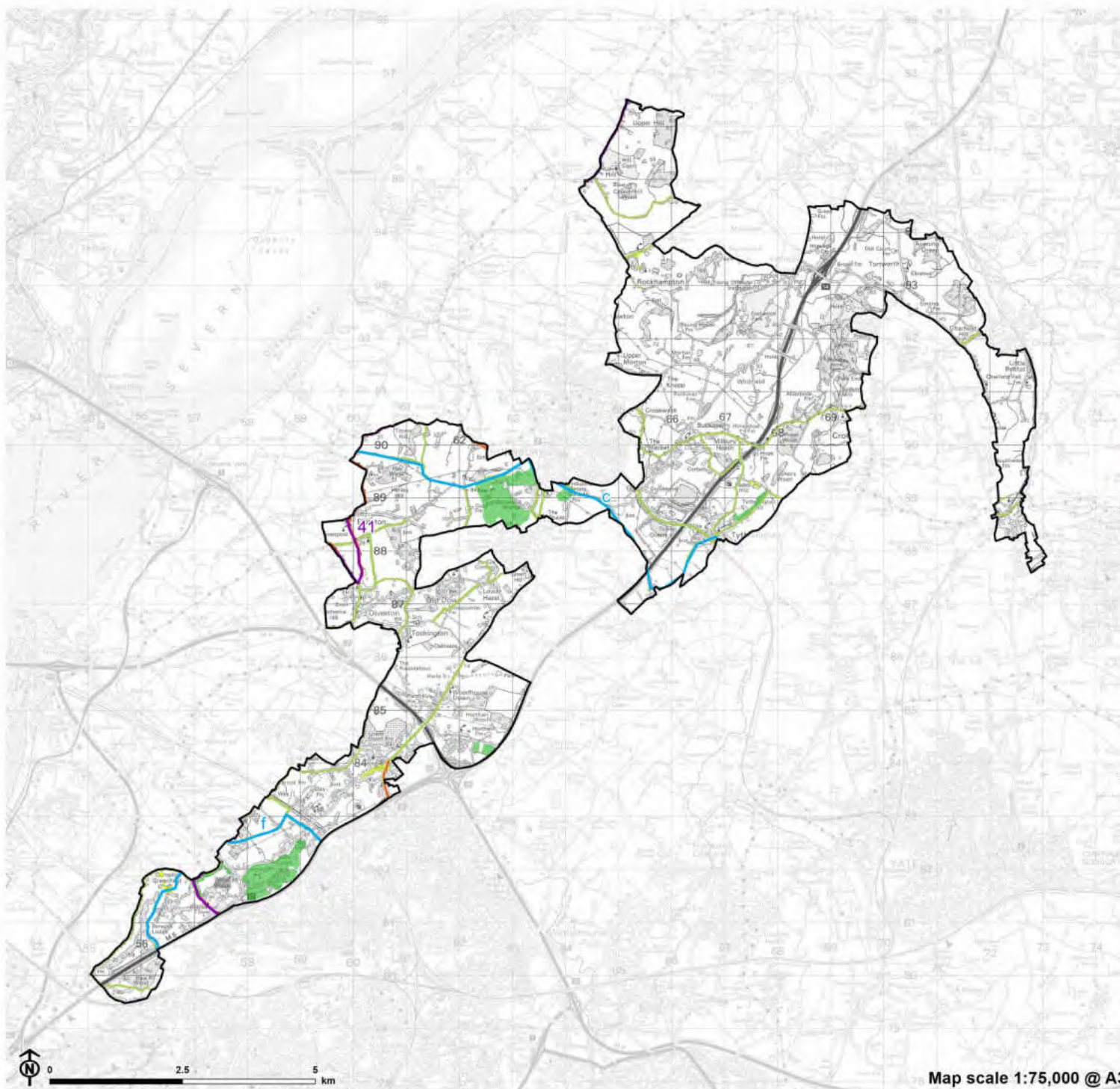
**Figure 7.4: Green Corridor B:
Hydrology**



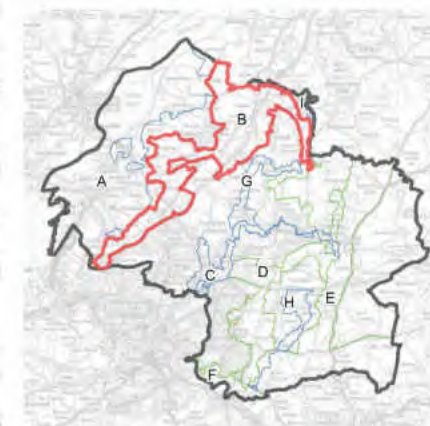
- Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)
- Waterbody
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3a
- Flood zone 3b



**Figure 7.5: Green Corridor B:
Recreation and Access**



- Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)
- National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths
 - c: Jubilee Way
 - f: Community Forest Path
- National Cycle Network
- Other strategic and major cycle route
- South Gloucestershire Active Travel Route
- Large green space
- Open access land



Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3

Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

7.5 Table 7.1 sets out the SPD summary description for each of these Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that are within the strategic GI corridor from north to south.

Table 7.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	Diverse undulating landscape covered with a mix of farmland, woodland and common.
7: Parkland Vale - Falfield Vale	Agricultural land and parkland, with a prominent mosaic of woodland, copses and mature trees on surrounding higher ground.
17: Undulating Ridge - Rudgeway and Tytherington Ridge	A pastoral landscape, punctuated by woodland and copses and dissected and defined by roads.
18: Undulating Ridge - Seven Ridges	An extensive, complex landform of abrupt scarps and gentle ridges, which rises from the lower Levels area.

Visually Important Hillsides & Other key Landforms

7.6 Table 7.2 below identifies how Visually Important Hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features, relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 7.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillsides and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	VIH 11: Churchend Ridge	-
7: Parkland Vale – Falfield Vale	VIH 13: Eastwood Park Spur VIH 12: Wick's / Butcher's Hill (outlier to Severn Ridge) VIH 11: Churchend Ridge	-
17: Undulating Ridge - Rudgeway and Tytherington Ridge	VIH 12: Wick's / Butchers Hill and Baden Hill	-
18: Undulating Ridge - Seven Ridges	VIH 14: Upper Hill VIH 15: Severn Ridges (including Fowler's Hill, Titters Hill, Henley Hill, Spaniorium Hill and Milbury Heath) and outlying hills at Cow Hill, St Arilda's Church,	-

Chapter 7 Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
	Catherine's Hill and Eastcombe Hill.	

Strategic Viewpoints

7.7 There are seven strategic viewpoints in the corridor, which include (from north to south):

- **SVP 6: View from Hill Court (church) and Oldbury** – across Levels landscape to south and west;
- **SVP 2: View from Churchend** – panorama (north and east);
- **SVP 5: View from A38 near Grovesend** – north-west (across 'bowl' landscape of Thornbury, with Severn Estuary beyond);
- **SVP 23: View from Woodwell Meadow, Littleton Upon Severn** – west (across levels landscape);
- **SVP 4: Views from Old Down** – west and south-west (across levels landscape);
- **SVP 3: View from Almondsbury scenic viewpoint, Over Lane** – panorama (over levels landscape north and west); and
- **SVP 7a and 7b: Views from Spaniorum Hill** – west and north-west (wide ranging views across Estuary and Pilning Levels landscape).

7.8 There are three local viewpoints within the BGI corridor; from north to south they include:

Chapter 7 Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)

- **LVP 2:** View from Baden Hill Tytherington:
- **LVP 4:** View from woodland edge north of M5 at Hallen: and
- **LVP 3:** View from M5 Overbridge.

Conservation Areas

7.9 There are five Conversation Areas (CAs) within the strategic GI corridor:

- Wickwar CA - for its special architectural and historic character, displaying the typical characteristics and layout of 13th century planned medieval settlement within its village core. The designation includes the north-west part of the village together with the fields to the west, which are important to the village settings and views.
- Tytherington CA - was designated in 1975 due to its long history of human settlement of Norman origin, with the 13th Century Church of St James (Grade II listed) and its historic economy associated with agriculture and its associated industries, particularly cloth making and malting together with historic limestone quarrying. The village retains much of its rural character enhanced by its setting of wooded slopes and vistas across the open countryside.
- Olveston CA - was designated in 1975 due to its well-preserved historic village core centred on the church of St Mary with a rich variety of historic buildings, the most significant being the former fortified manor house of Olveston Court with its associated grounds that are of national architectural and archaeological significance.
- Tockington CA - was designated in 1975 due to its strong agricultural character and heritage based mainly on cattle rearing on the surrounding fertile flood plains, and is centred on Tockington Green with Georgian-style houses and traditional cottages surrounding it, and more dispersed farmhouses further out.
- Lower Almondsbury CA - designated in 1975 for its historic interest and value as an early settlement of Saxon origin, important agricultural community and trading centre on the main route between Bristol and

Chapter 7 Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)

Gloucester. It contains the Grade I listed Church of St Mary, with its distinctive diagonally patterned lead spire. The area sits below the steep wooded Almondsbury Hill, which provides an attractive backdrop to the village and contributes significantly to its character. There are extensive panoramic views from the A38 over the area towards the Estuary, Severn Levels and the bridges.

Historic Parks and Gardens

7.10 Tortworth Court (Grade II*) Registered Park and Garden is located in the north-east of the strategic GI corridor.

Common Land

7.11 A number of small commons are located within the strategic GI corridor; from north to south, these are:

- Parts of Rockhampton Common;
- Badenhill Common;
- Land bordering Stowell Hill;
- Holecombe Field or Itchington Fields Common; and
- Almondsbury Hill Common.

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

7.12 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire's Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic GI corridor takes in the following from north to south:

- Woodland strategic network across much of the GI corridor, connecting the numerous areas of existing woodland (including ancient woodland); with larger areas in the north and south associated with the Severn Ridge;
- A small, isolated area of the grassland strategic network is included at Lower Woodhouse Farm, south of Tockington; and
- Small, isolated areas of wetland strategic network associated with disused gravel pits at Grovesend Quarry and a tributary stream west of Falfield.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

7.13 Four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) lie within the strategic GI corridor, as follows:

- Brinkmarsh Quarry (0.42 ha in size);
- Buckover Road Cutting (1.6 ha in size);
- Tytherington Quarry (1.06 ha in size); and
- Cattybrook Brickpit (2.28 ha in size).

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

7.14 There are 50 SNCIs within the strategic GI corridor, covering 608 ha. The SNCIs within this corridor are relatively evenly distributed throughout the area and mainly comprise grassland and woodland habitats, including several areas of Ancient Woodland.

Local Nature Reserves

7.15 No Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are located within the strategic GI corridor.

Important Hedgerows

7.16 The strategic GI corridor contains a small network of important hedgerows concentrated within boundaries surrounding fields to the north-east of Alveston.

Ancient Woodland

7.17 The strategic GI corridor contains many areas of ancient woodland scattered throughout. In the north of the strategic GI corridor, the largest areas of ancient woodland are:

- Cat Grove;
- Priest Wood; and
- Round House Wood.

7.18 The largest areas of ancient woodland in the south of the strategic GI corridor are:

Chapter 7 Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)

- Blackhorse Wood;
- Haw Wood;
- Hay Wood; and
- Unnamed woodland on the west facing slope of Spaniorum Hill.

7.19 Other smaller ancient woodlands include:

- In the north of the corridor - Little Tortworth Copse, Daniels Wood, Church-Hill Wood, Sundays Hill Wood, Longmans Grove, and Stumps Wood.
- In the south of the corridor - Kington Grove, Sheepcombe Brake, Tockington Park wood, and Hortham Wood.
- In addition to those listed above, there are also several small (less than 5 ha) areas of ancient woodland scattered throughout the corridor.

Regionally Important Geological Sites

7.20 There are numerous RIGS within the strategic GI corridor, from north to south these are:

- Daniel's Wood, Tortworth;
- Brinkmarsh Quarry SSSI;
- Buckover Road Cutting SSSI;
- Cromhall Quartzite Quarry;
- Tytherington Quarry SSSI;
- Grovesend Quarry;
- Woodleaze Quarry; and
- Cattybrook Brickpit SSSI near Almondsbury.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

7.21 No major watercourses are located within the corridor. However, the corridor includes the upstream reaches of a small tributary stream of the Little Avon River in the north, Pool Brook and Tockington Mill Rhine in the south, as well as several drainage ditches/rhines across the south of the corridor.

Flood Zone

7.22 Areas of flood risk within the corridor are generally constrained to the immediate banks of the rivers and brooks in the north of the corridor, However, there are slightly larger areas of flood risk (Flood Zones 2 and 3) near Rockhampton, associated with the adjacent low lying Levels landscape in strategic BGI corridor A.

Large Scale Water Bodies

7.23 No large-scale water bodies are located within the corridor. However, smaller-scale water bodies are found at Tortworth Park (Gall Pond and The Lake), Eastwood Park, and disused gravel pits at Grovesend Quarry and Cattybrook Brickpit. There are also numerous smaller ponds and pools scattered across the south of the corridor, including at Thornbury Golf Course, Bristol Golf Course and Over Court.

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

7.24 The commons listed above under 'landscape and heritage' are also designated open access land and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2002 gives the public the right to walk across this land.

7.25 In addition, there are two areas of designated open access land in the south of the corridor, on the north-western slope of Spaniorum Hill.

Large Green Spaces

7.26 There are several large green spaces in the strategic GI corridor, including:

- Natural and semi-natural green space at Finore Woods and Bowstreet Lane (Hollywood Towers - paid public access);
- Old Down Country Park - paid public access; and
- Playing fields and sports facilities at Hortham Playing fields.

7.27 There are also two golf courses. From north to south these are as follows:

- Thornbury Golf Club (PRoW around the north, east and south, and part of the Jubilee Way route runs along the northern edge); and
- The Bristol Golf Course (no PRoW).

Active Travel Routes

7.28 The following ATRs (which include National Cycle Network (NCN) routes) are within or cross the strategic GI corridor from north to south:

Chapter 7 Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)

- A short section along the B4058 west of Charfield;
- Part of the Avon Cycleway (an 85-mile circular route around the city of Bristol) which runs eastwards out of Thornbury towards Crossways and Milbury Heath, crossing the M5 and continuing to the north of Priest Wood towards Cromhall. It merges with NCN route 41 to the west of Thornbury;
- NCN route 41 which follows the western boundary of the corridor to the west of Thornbury, between Olveston through Littleton upon Severn to Kington;
- A route along the railway line from Tytherington across the M5 and A38 to Thornbury;
- Along the B4061 from Alveston north into Thornbury. This route also joins merges with a route which continues south along the A38, crossing the M4 through Almondsbury to become a strategic route into Bristol;
- Routes off NCN route 41 between Elberton and Olveston, into Old Down Country Park;
- A short route north-east of Tockington off Washingpool Hill Road; and
- A short section of NCN route 4 in the south of the corridor along Hollywood Lane, south of Easter Compton, into Bristol.

7.29 National trails and long-distance footpaths are also important strategic ATRs. These are less likely to be used for commuting purposes, but sections likely form part of people's daily transport route. No national trails cross the corridor, but the following long-distance footpaths lie within or cross the strategic GI corridor from north to south:

- **Jubilee Way:** runs west to east from Littleton upon Severn to Thornbury, continuing south-eastwards along Abbey Lane towards Itchington); and
- **Community Forest Path:** runs across the south of the corridor, north of Over, passing through Easter Compton (outside the corridor boundary) continuing south-west past Spaniorum Hill.

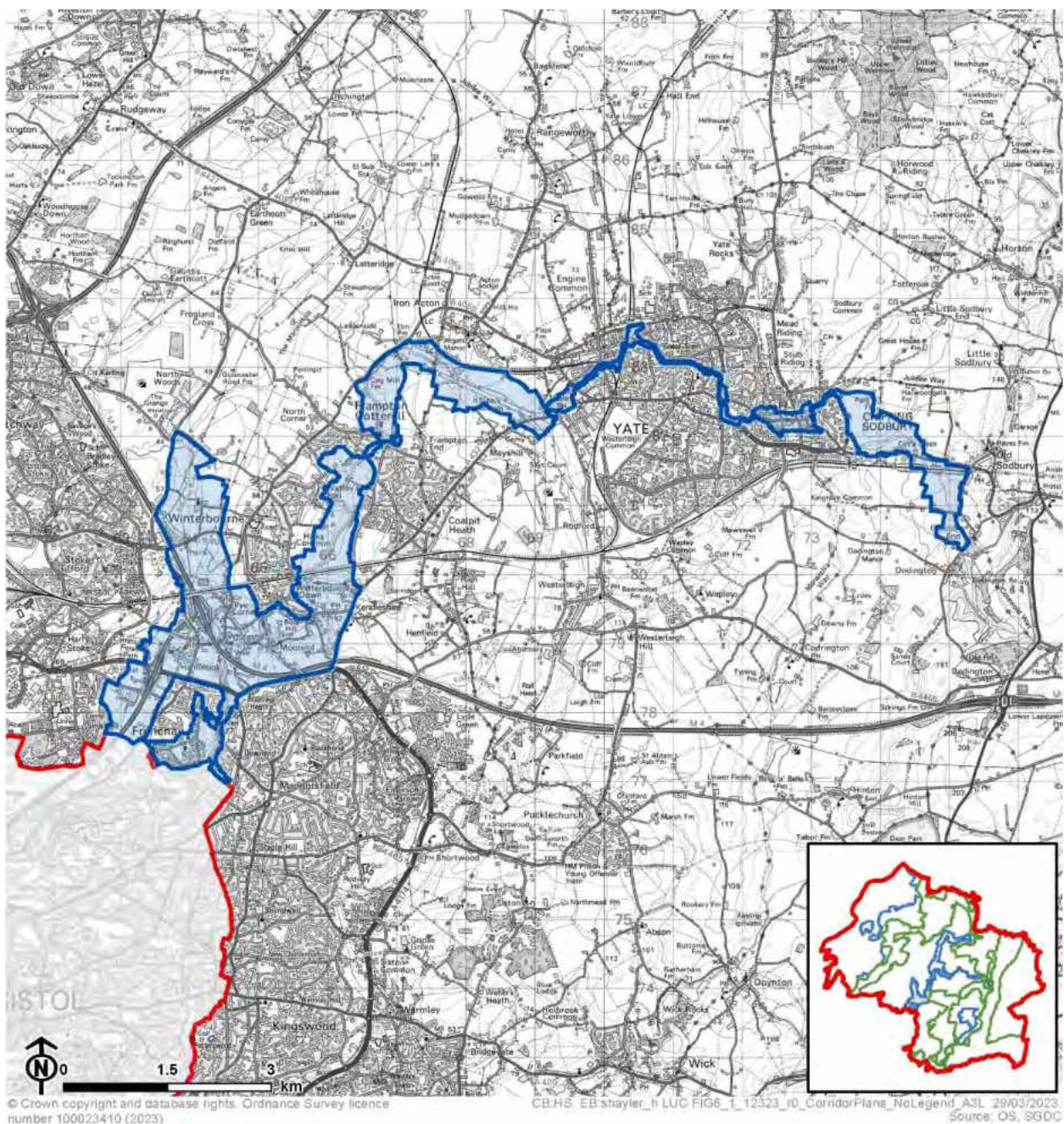
Summary

7.30 Corridor B is a GI corridor, encompassing the 'S shaped' Severn Ridge that comprises a series of interlinked scarps which extend westwards from Charfield, to straddle the M5 motorway corridor before ending near Hallen. There are a number of strategic viewpoints towards and from this series of Visually Important Hillside features; the latter including a number of views north-westwards across the Thornbury bowl landform and Severn Levels. Five CAs lie within the corridor (Wickwar, Tytherington, Olveston, Tockington, and Lower Almondsbury) together with the Grade II* registered historic parkland at Tortworth, and five small areas of registered common. The primary NRN function and importance of corridor B relates to its strategic woodland network, which is largely associated with the ridge landform (excluding the eastern section near Charfield) and takes in several ancient woodland sites as well as SNCIs and RIGS. There are four SSSI (Brinkmarsh Quarry, Buckover Road Cutting, Tytherington Quarry and Cattybrook Brickpit). The central part of the corridor, in particular, is crossed by several South Gloucestershire active travel routes, the Jubilee Way long distance footpath and national cycle route 41. Large green spaces include natural and semi-natural green space at Finore Woods and Bowstreet Lane (Hollywood Towers), parkland at Old Down Country Park, and playing fields and sports facilities located in settlements.

Chapter 8

Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)

Figure 8.1: Corridor C Location Plan



Importance and purpose

8.1 Blue-green infrastructure (BGI) corridor: extends from south to north and then northeast and eastwards along the River Frome corridor, with a north westerly fork along the Bradley Brook corridor.

8.2 Primary function and importance: strategic wetland network and areas of adjoining grassland habitats associated with both river corridors, with that of the River Frome penetrating the urban areas of Yate and Winterbourne. The corridor also takes in part of the strategic woodland network at its western end and the strategic grassland network at its eastern end. To the east of Chipping Sodbury, the corridor forms a strategically important link between different habitat types, including the grassland network of Corridor D, the woodland network of Corridor E, and the wetland network of Corridor C.

8.3 The committed development area of 'East of Harry Stoke' (South Gloucestershire Policy CS27) is located on the boundary of Corridor C. The new neighbourhood area overlaps with the western margin of Corridor C. This is a large-scale mixed-use development. GI is included within the overarching masterplan for the eastern edge of this development area.

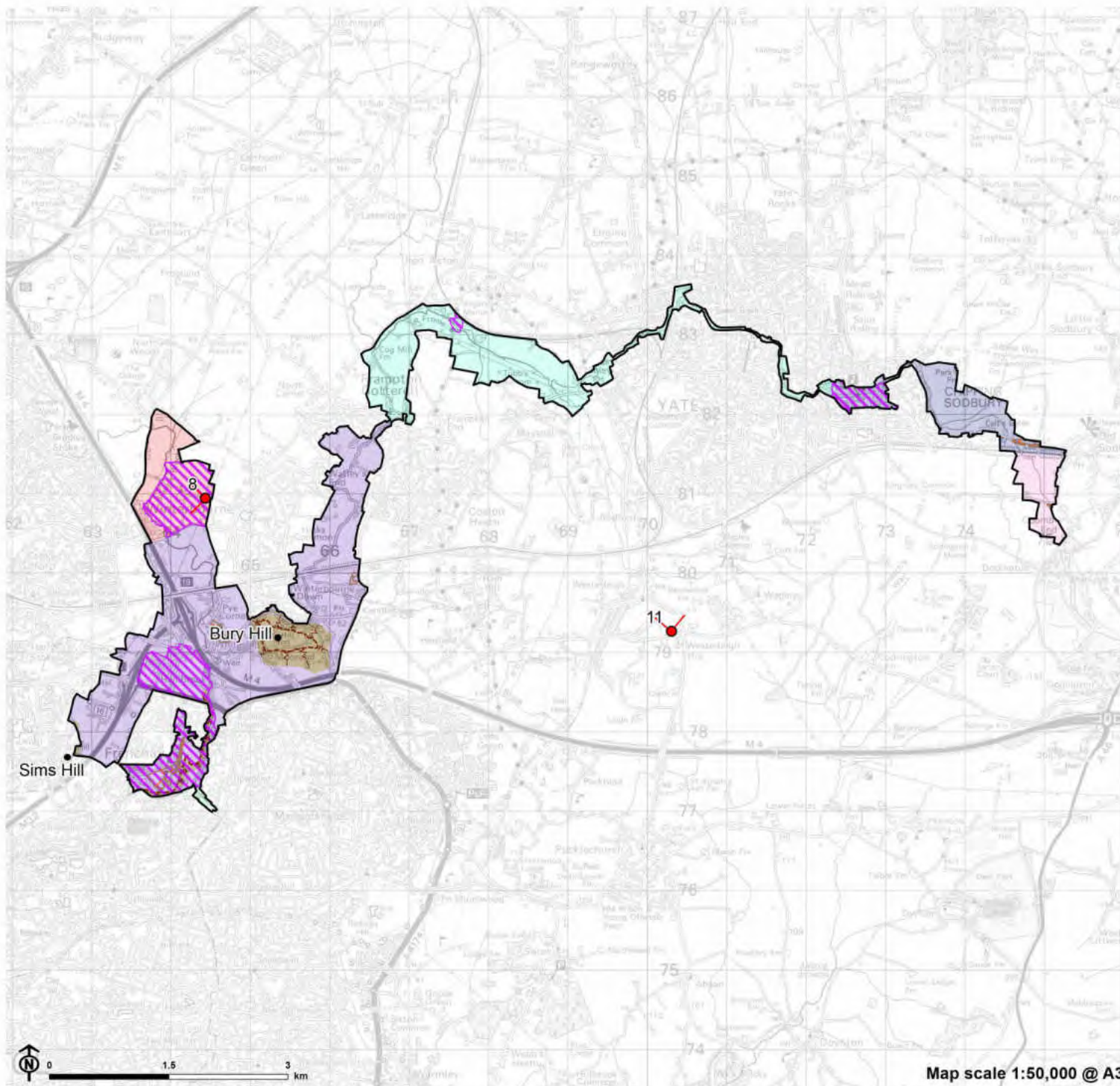
Supporting figures

8.4 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing GI areas and assets within the strategic BGI corridor as follows:

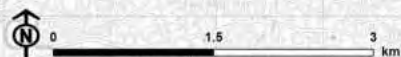
- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 8.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 8.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 8.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 8.5).

8.5 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

**Figure 8.2: Blue-Green Corridor C:
Landscape and Heritage**

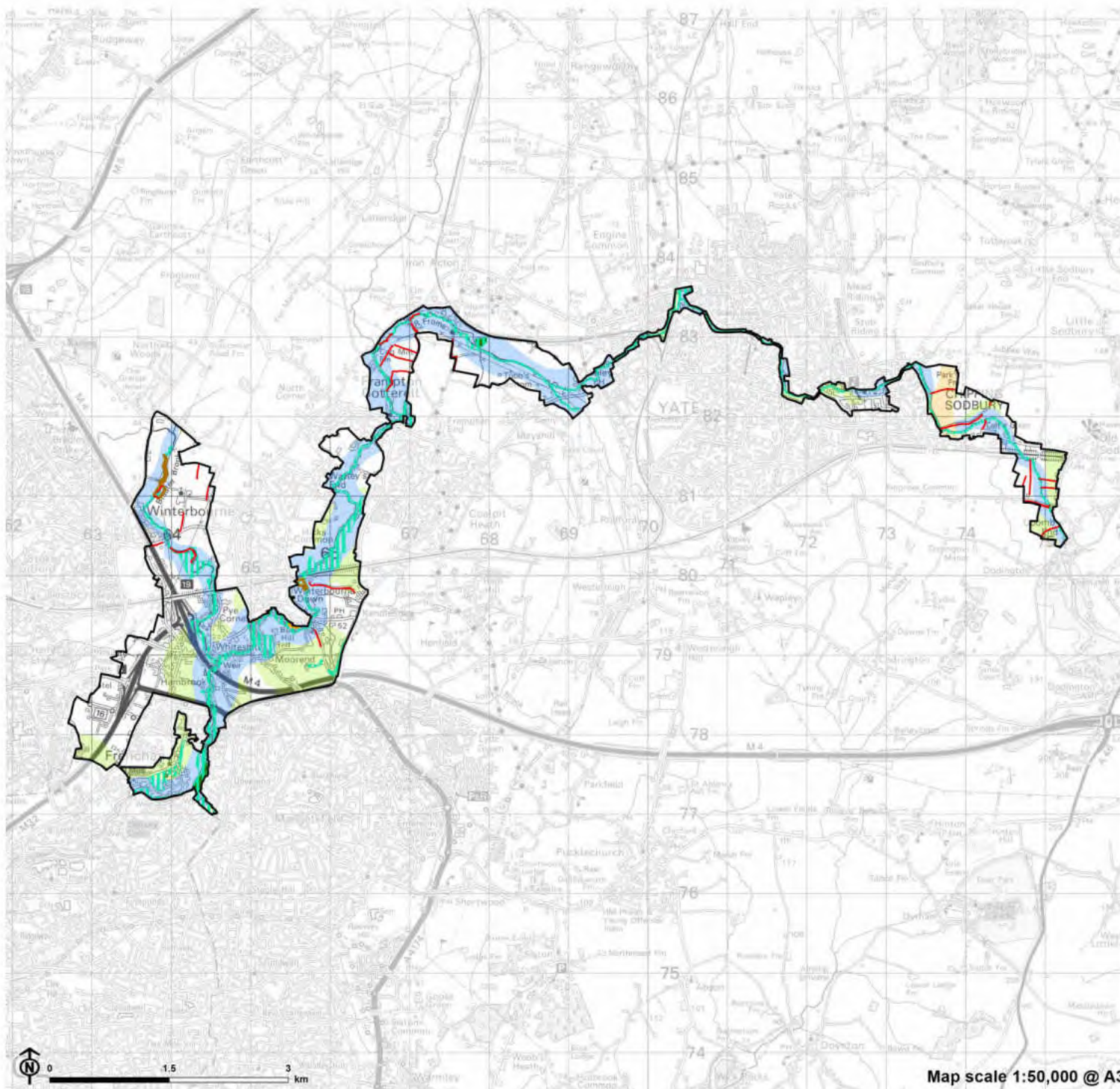


- Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)
- Strategic viewpoint and angle
- Visually Important Hillside
- Visually Important Hillside top of slope
- Conservation Area
- Registered Common Land
- Landscape Character Area**
- 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale
- 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley
- 8: Yate Vale
- 10: Earthcott Vale
- 13: Frome Valley
- 14: Kingswood



Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

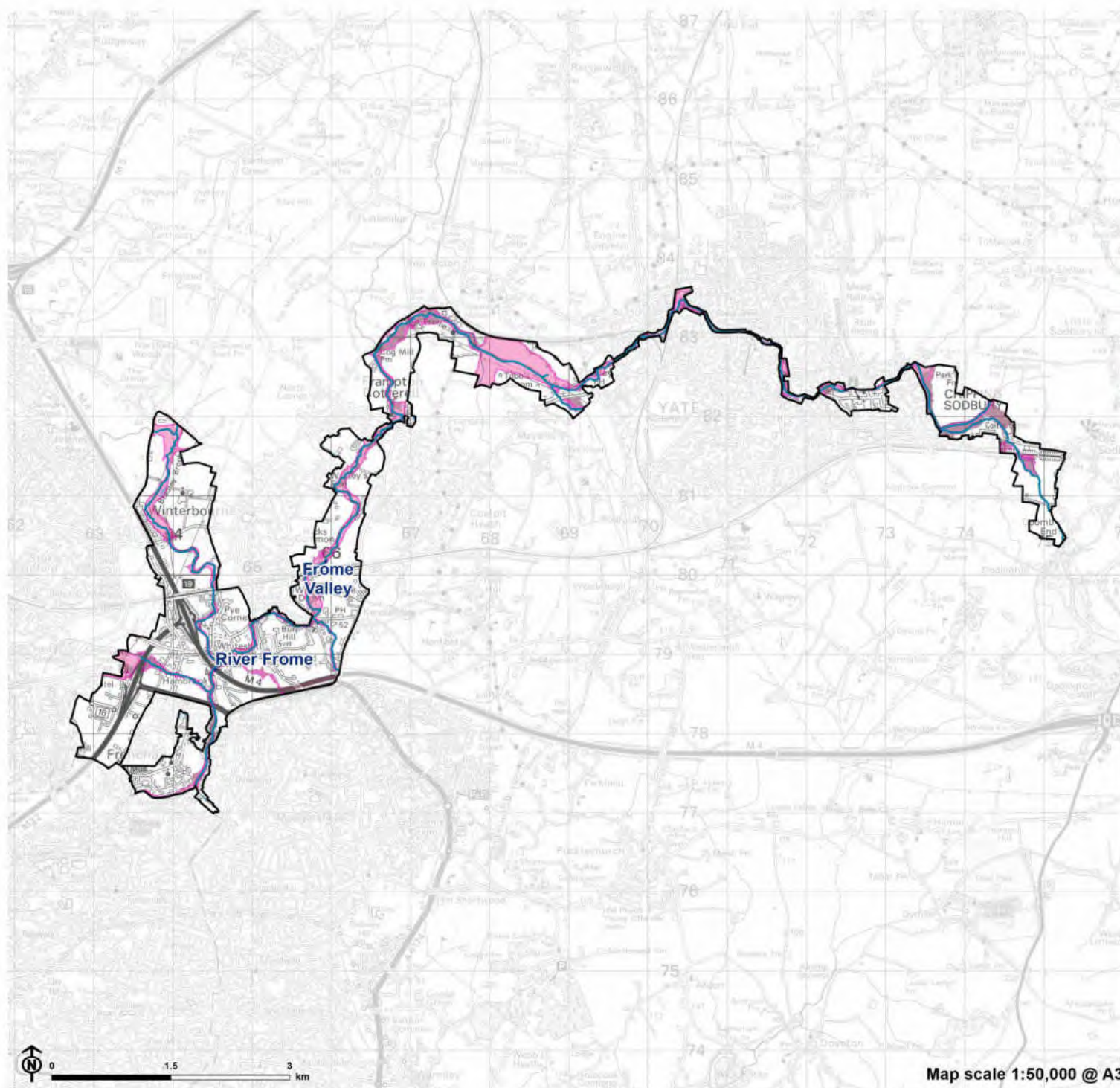
**Figure 8.3: Blue-Green Corridor C:
Ecology and Biodiversity**



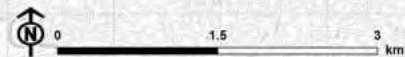
- Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)
- Important Hedgerow
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Nature Reserve
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network
- Grassland Strategic Network



**Figure 8.4: Blue-Green Corridor C:
Hydrology**

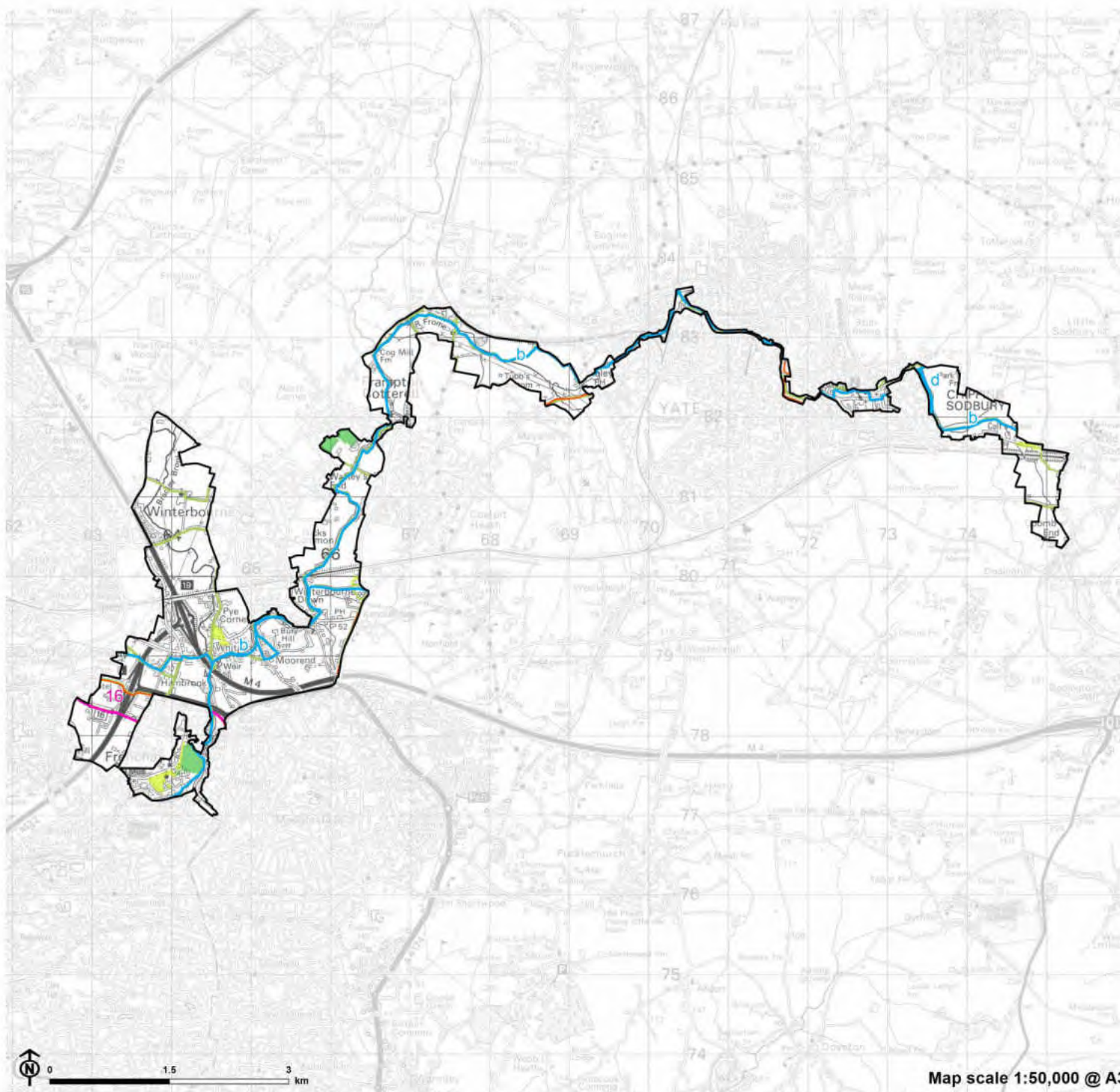


- Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)
- Waterbody
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3a
- Flood zone 3b

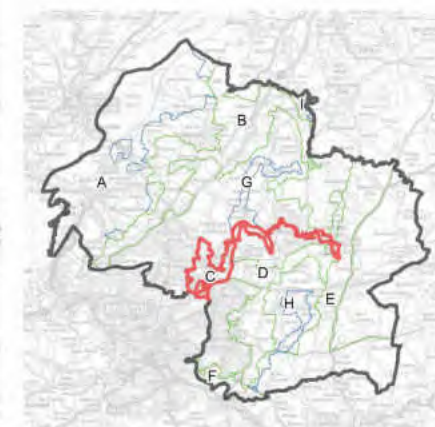


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**Figure 8.5: Blue-Green Corridor C:
Recreation and Access**



- Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)
- National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths
 - b: Frome Valley Walkway
 - d: Monarch's Way
 - f: Community Forest Path
- Regional Cycle Network
- Other strategic and major cycle route
- South Gloucestershire Active Travel Route
- Large green space
- Open access land



Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

8.6 Table 8.1 sets out the SPD summary description for each of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that are within the strategic BGI corridor from north to south.

Table 8.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
8: Shallow Vale - Yate Vale	Gently sloping, largely agricultural often well treed area of medium sized fields, with large settlements in the south.
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale (small area only at east)	Diverse undulating landscape covered with a mix of farmland, woodland and common.
6. Shallow Ridge - Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley (small area only at east)	Diverse undulating rural landscape of mainly mixed farmland.
13: Broad Valleys - Frome Valley	Diverse, enclosed, intricate combination of agriculture and settlement, divided by major roads.
10: Shallow Vale - Earthcott Vale (small area only by Winterbourne)	Gently undulating agricultural area, divided by a complex network of hedgerows, trees and lanes.

Visually Important Hillside & Other Key Landforms

8.7 Table 8.2 identifies how Visually Important Hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 8.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillsides and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
8: Shallow Vale - Yate Vale	-	River Frome valley
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale (small area only near Chipping Sodbury)	-	River Frome valley
6. Shallow Ridge - Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley (small area only at east)	-	River Frome valley
13: Broad Valleys - Frome Valley	VIH 3: Bury Hill VIH 1: Sims Hill VIH 2: River Frome (steeper valley sides)	River Frome valley
10: Shallow Vale - Earthcott Vale (small area only by Winterbourne)	-	-

Strategic Viewpoints

8.8 There is one strategic viewpoint within the corridor, as follows:

- **SVP 8: View from corner of Green Lane and Church Lane, Winterbourne** – west (towards Bradley Stoke and Patchway across valley).

Conservation Areas

8.9 Four Conservation Areas (CAs) lie wholly within the strategic BGI corridor:

- Chipping Sodbury CA - designated in 1975 in recognition of its special architectural and historic character and appearance; with its exceptionally well-preserved medieval town plan, long, narrow burgage plots curving gently back from the wide bustling market street; and rich variety of historic buildings.
- Church Lane, Winterbourne CA - designated in 2005 and is centred on the 13th century Church of St Michael's and medieval tithe barn. Other important features include the Tudor garden feature 'Monk's Walk', Bradley Brook and Monks Pool Nature Reserve plus the tranquil, rural setting of the hamlet provided by surrounding open fields and unimproved grassland.
- Hambrook CA - originally designated in 1975 to protect the historic village core and was enlarged in 1999 to protect more land to the west, which contributes to its rural setting.
- Frenchay CA - it lies in a dramatic setting overlooking the River Frome and remains a largely unspoilt secluded backwater, despite the extensive areas of surrounding suburban development. The 1975 designation seeks to protect the green oasis which contains an attractive group of fine Georgian houses built on the edge of a common, and the stone cottages on a steep south facing slope to the River Frome.

8.10 A small part of Iron Acton CA also falls within the corridor (majority falls within Corridor G) - designated in 1975 in recognition of its special architectural and historic character and attractive appearance. This part of the CA seeks to conserve and enhance Algars Manor, the 19th century railway and Station House and the isolated groups of buildings along Station Road which are surrounded by an attractive open landscape of fields.

Historic Parks and Gardens

8.11 No Registered Parks and Gardens are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Common Land

8.12 A number of commons are located within the strategic BGI corridor, from north to south these are:

- A small part of Sodbury Commons in the east alongside the A432;
- The Common, Ivory Hill;
- Whiteshill Common; and
- Frenchay Common.

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

8.13 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire's Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic BGI corridor takes in the following from north to south:

- Wetland network of the River Frome across the full length of the corridor which also encompasses Bradley Brook; and
- Woodland network along the southern part of the River Frome valley from Winterbourne Down (and an extension east across Ram Hill) south towards the SGC boundary at Frenchay.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

8.14 No Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

8.15 There are 31 SNCIs within the strategic BGI corridor, covering 121 ha. They mainly relate to aquatic and riparian habitats associated with The River Frome and Bradley Brook, as well as grassland and woodland habitats, including Ancient Woodland at Chill Wood.

Local Nature Reserves

8.16 There are two small Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), as follows:

- Monks Pool and Bradley Brook (west of Winterbourne); and
- Huckford Quarry LNR (east of Winterbourne Down).

Important Hedgerows

8.17 Isolated lengths of important hedgerows lie within the strategic BGI corridor as follows:

- Around Chipping Sodbury;
- East of Frampton Cotterell;
- East of Winterbourne Down (e.g., Huckford Lane); and
- West of Winterbourne (e.g., Green Lane).

Ancient Woodland

8.18 There are two areas of ancient woodland which are located next to the watercourse of the River Frome. From north to south these are:

- Chill Wood (south of Iron Acton); and
- On the east bank of the river near Frenchay (unnamed).

Regionally Important Geological Sites

8.19 The following Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) are located within the BGI corridor:

Chapter 8 Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)

- River Frome, Huckford or Harcombe Quarry; and
- River Frome, Winterbourne Down.

8.20 River Frome, Pye Corner is also a RIGS which adjoins the boundary of the corridor in the vicinity of Winterbourne Down.

Local Nature Action Plans (LNAPs)

8.21 There are various local projects that seek to protect, enhance and link GI assets, for example the Local Nature Action Plans (LNAPs) which are being developed between Parish and Town councils and SGC, and River Frome Reconnected (see Appendix A). Within and adjacent to Corridor C, LNAPs have been advanced for Yate, Chipping Sodbury and Dodington.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

8.22 The River Frome is the main water course which runs the entire length of the strategic BGI corridor. River Frome Reconnected is a strategic GI partnership project underway (listed in Appendix A) with an overarching aim to improve the health and resilience of the River Frome and its catchment and to make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

8.23 There are also several tributaries located within the corridor, the most notable of which are Bradley Brook and Folly Brook.

Flood Zone

8.24 There is risk of flooding along the entire length of the River Frome and its tributaries, which is currently being reviewed by South Gloucestershire and adjoining councils. More extensive areas at risk of flooding include land south of Iron Acton and by the M32/A4174 junction west of Hambrook.

Large Scale Water Bodies

8.25 No large-scale water bodies are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

8.26 A number of the commons listed above under 'landscape and heritage' are also designated open access land and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2002 gives the public the right to walk across this land.

Large Green Spaces

8.27 There are three large accessible green spaces in the strategic BGI corridor, from north to south these are:

- The Park Playing Fields near Frampton Cotterell; and
- Two general amenity spaces at Frenchay (Frenchay Moor and Frenchay Common).

Active Travel Routes

8.28 The following ATRs lie within or cross the strategic BGI corridor from north to south:

- Along the railway on the north border of the corridor near Iron Acton which crosses a short section of the River Frome on North Road;
- Along the A432 west of Westerleigh Common which then runs through Coalpit Heath (outside of the corridor) to then trace the corridor boundary east of Winterbourne Down (still on the A432) before turning right along the A4174 towards Frenchay;
- Beacon Lane, off the B4057 towards Winterbourne which continues south along the B4058 (Winterbourne Hill, Bristol Road) by Whiteshill Common;
- A route north off of the A4174 along the B4058 (Bristol Road) to Hambrook where it turns west on the Stream, crossing the M32 towards Rosedown Avenue; and
- A major route along Filton Road south off of the A4174 which cuts across the M32 towards Bristol Business Park.

8.29 No NCN routes or national trails are located within the strategic BGI corridor. However, the following long-distance footpaths are within or cross the corridor:

- **Frome Valley Walkway:** enters the corridor at the east by Chipping Sodbury and follows the course of the River Frome to the south boundary of the corridor at Frenchay; and
- **Community Forest Path:** runs west from the Frome Valley Walkway at Hambrook.

Summary

8.30 Corridor C is a BGI corridor extending north-east and eastwards along the River Frome corridor, with a north-westerly fork along the Bradley Brook corridor. There is one strategic viewpoint from the top of Beacon Lane in Winterbourne, with views west across the River Frome valley towards Bradley Stoke and Patchway. Four CAs lie within the corridor (Chipping Sodbury, Church Lane-Winterbourne, Hambrook and Frenchay, as well as a small part of Iron Acton CA) together with four small areas of registered common land. The primary NRN function of Corridor C relates to its strategic wetland network based around the River Frome and Bradley Brook, encompassing a number of SNCIs associated with the wetland and riparian habitats provided by the rivers. There are also two areas of ancient woodland located on the banks of the River Frome, and two small LNRs within the corridor (Monks Pool and Bradley Brook, and Huckford Quarry). There are three large accessible green spaces within the corridor, two general amenity spaces at Frenchay Moor and Frenchay Common, and The Park Playing Fields near Frampton Cotterell. The west of the corridor is crossed by several South Gloucestershire active travel routes, as well as the Community Forest Path long distance footpath and The Frome Valley Walkway, which runs north-south through the corridor.

Importance and purpose

9.1 Green infrastructure (GI) corridor: extends from south to north along the Oldland Ridge and Westerleigh Vale to link with the Pucklechurch Ridge, and further north takes in the Wickwar Ridge. It is separated at its centre near Chipping Sodbury by BGI corridor C (River Frome).

9.2 Primary function and importance: a mosaic of strategic woodland and grassland habitat associated with the Visually Important Hillside / ridge landform features within its southern part. It takes in the strategic grassland network principally associated with common land (which are concentrated in its central part), and the strategic woodland network within its northern part, including the Lower Woods SSSI and Wetmoor. Strong links with the strategic wetland network, as part of Corridor C to the east of Chipping Sodbury, are essential for the successful connectivity of Corridor D.

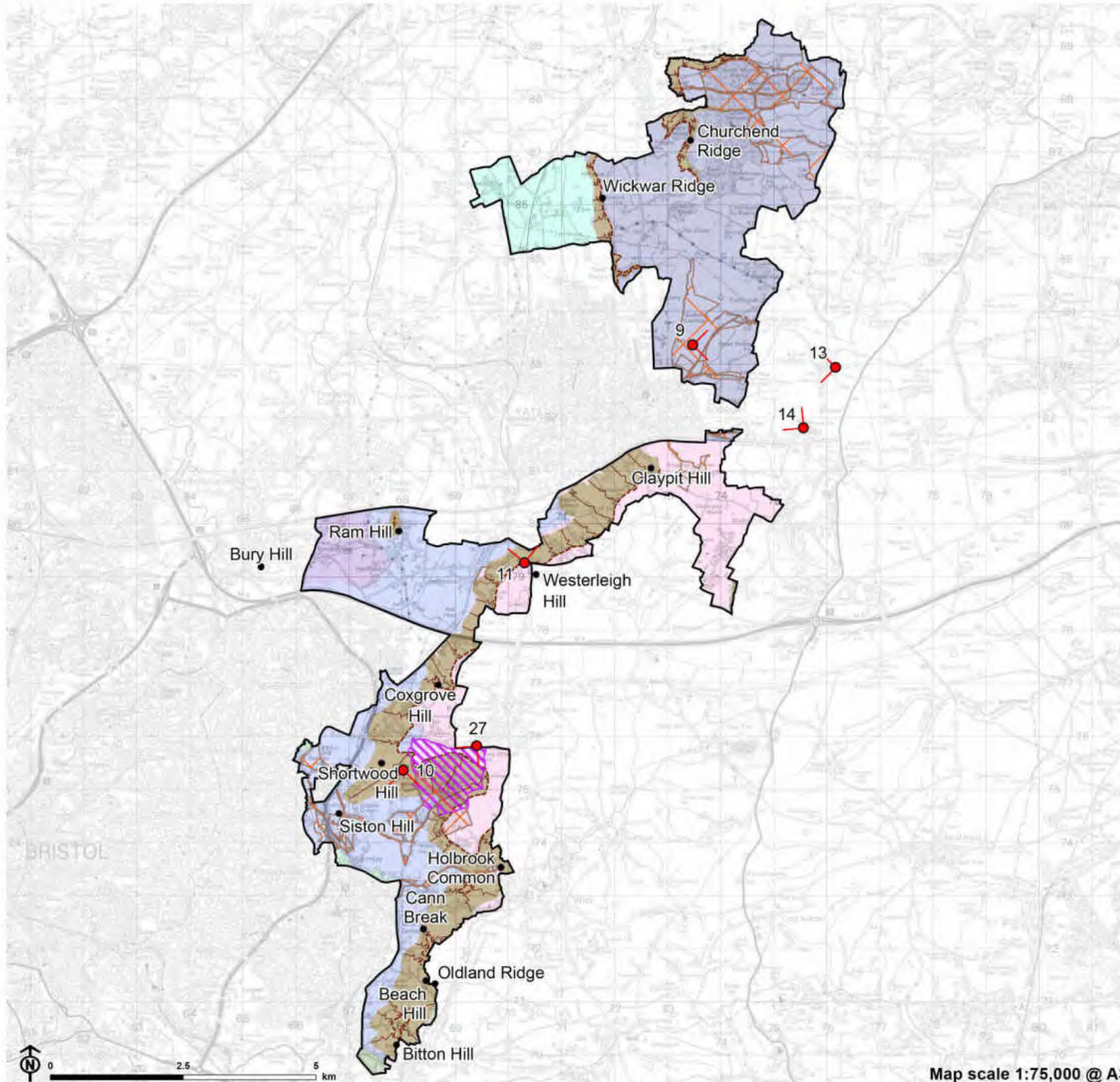
Supporting figures

9.3 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing green infrastructure areas and assets within the strategic GI corridor as follows:

- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 9.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 9.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 9.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 9.5).

9.4 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

**Figure 9.2: Green Corridor D:
Landscape and Heritage**



Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Biton
(Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

- Strategic viewpoint and angle
- Visually Important Hillside
- Visually Important Hillside top of slope
- Conservation Area
- Registered Common Land

Landscape Character Area

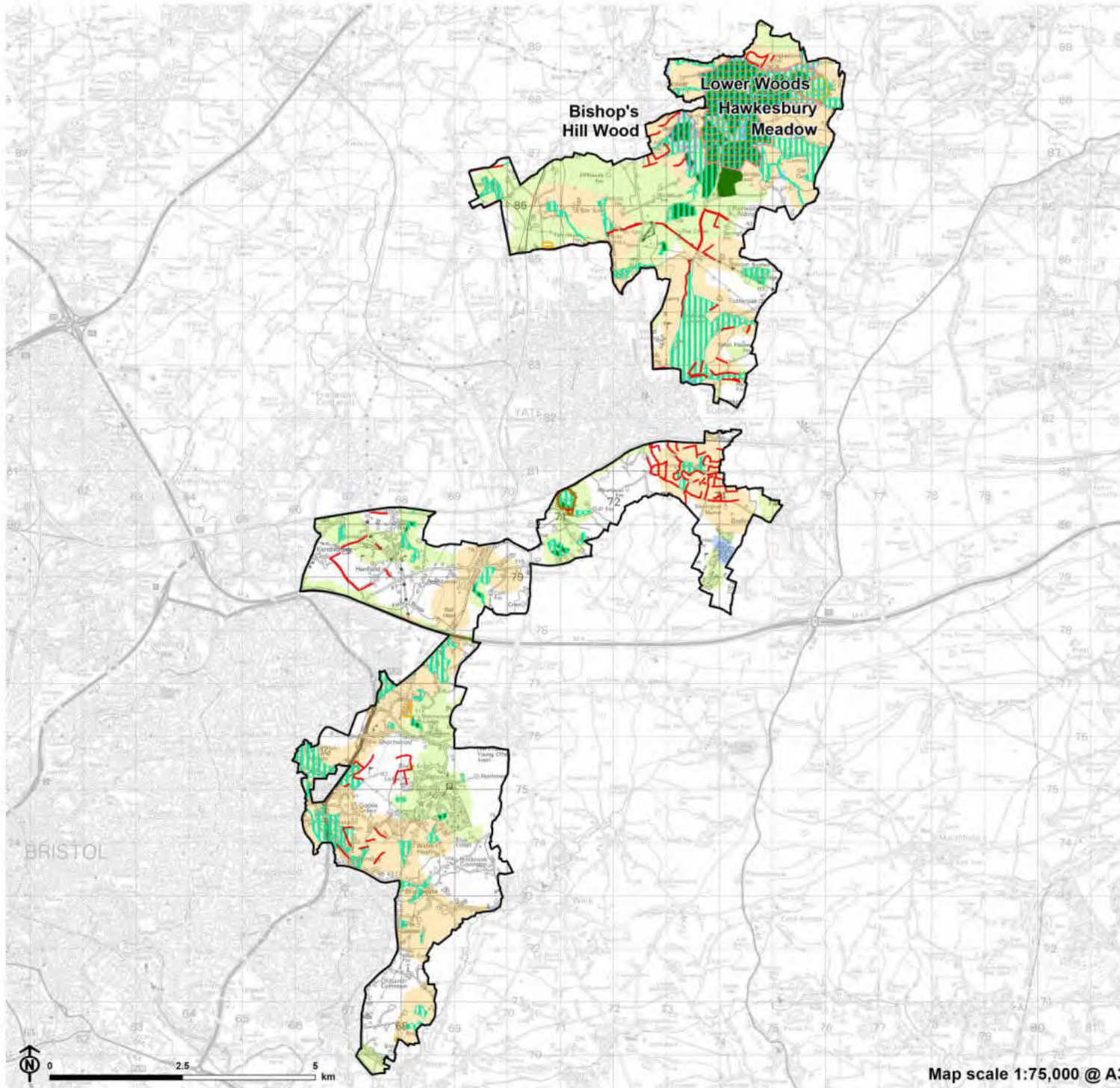
- 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale
- 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley
- 8: Yate Vale
- 11: Golden Valley
- 12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge
- 13: Frome Valley
- 14: Kingswood
- 16: Avon Valley

Corridor D has been split into a northern and southern part to account for an overlap with Corridor C.



Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3

Figure 9.3: Green Corridor D: Ecology and Biodiversity

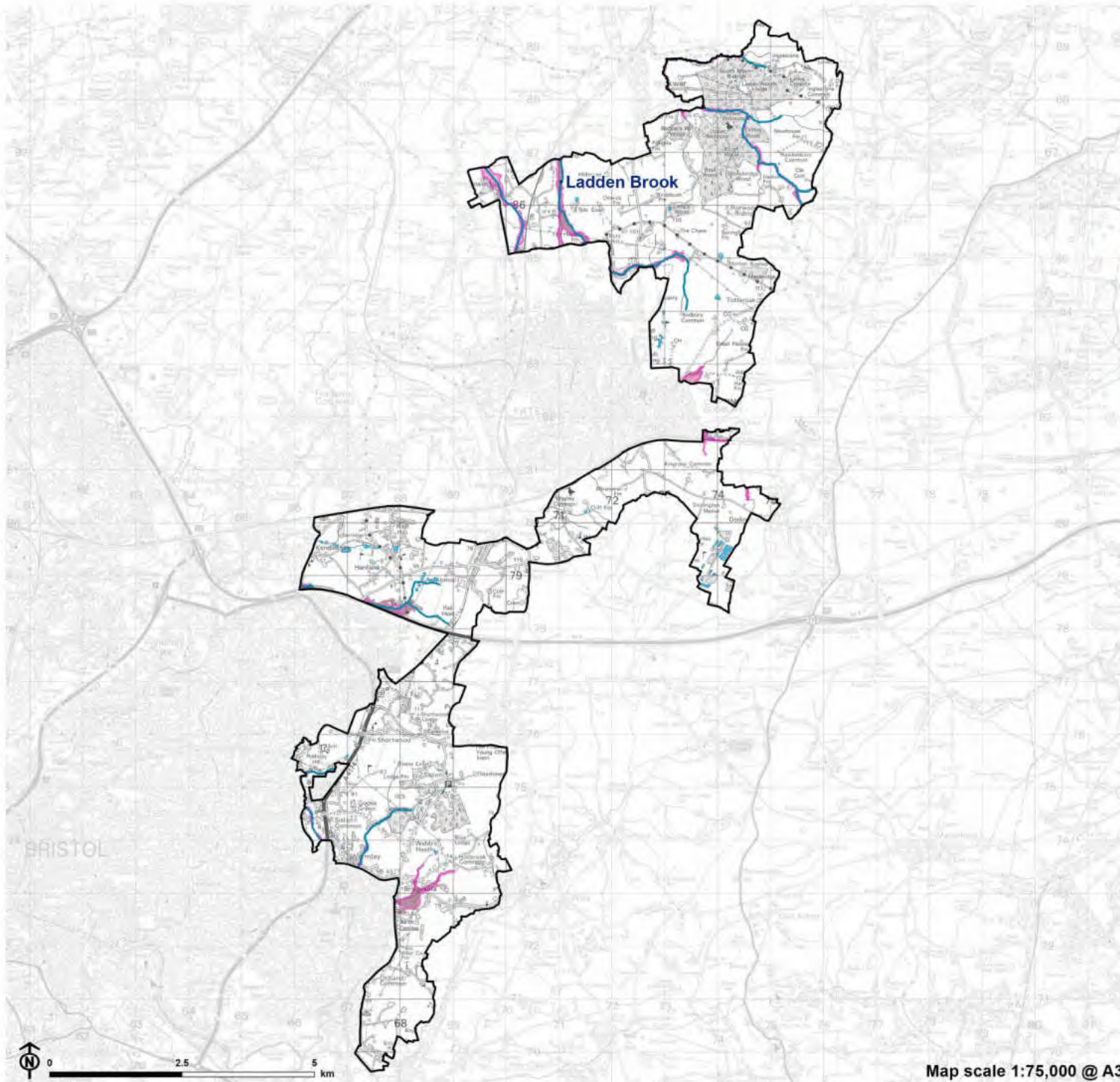


- Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Biton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)
- Important Hedgerow
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Nature Reserve
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network
- Grassland Strategic Network

Corridor D has been split into a northern and southern part to account for an overlap with Corridor C.



**Figure 9.4: Green Corridor D:
Hydrology**

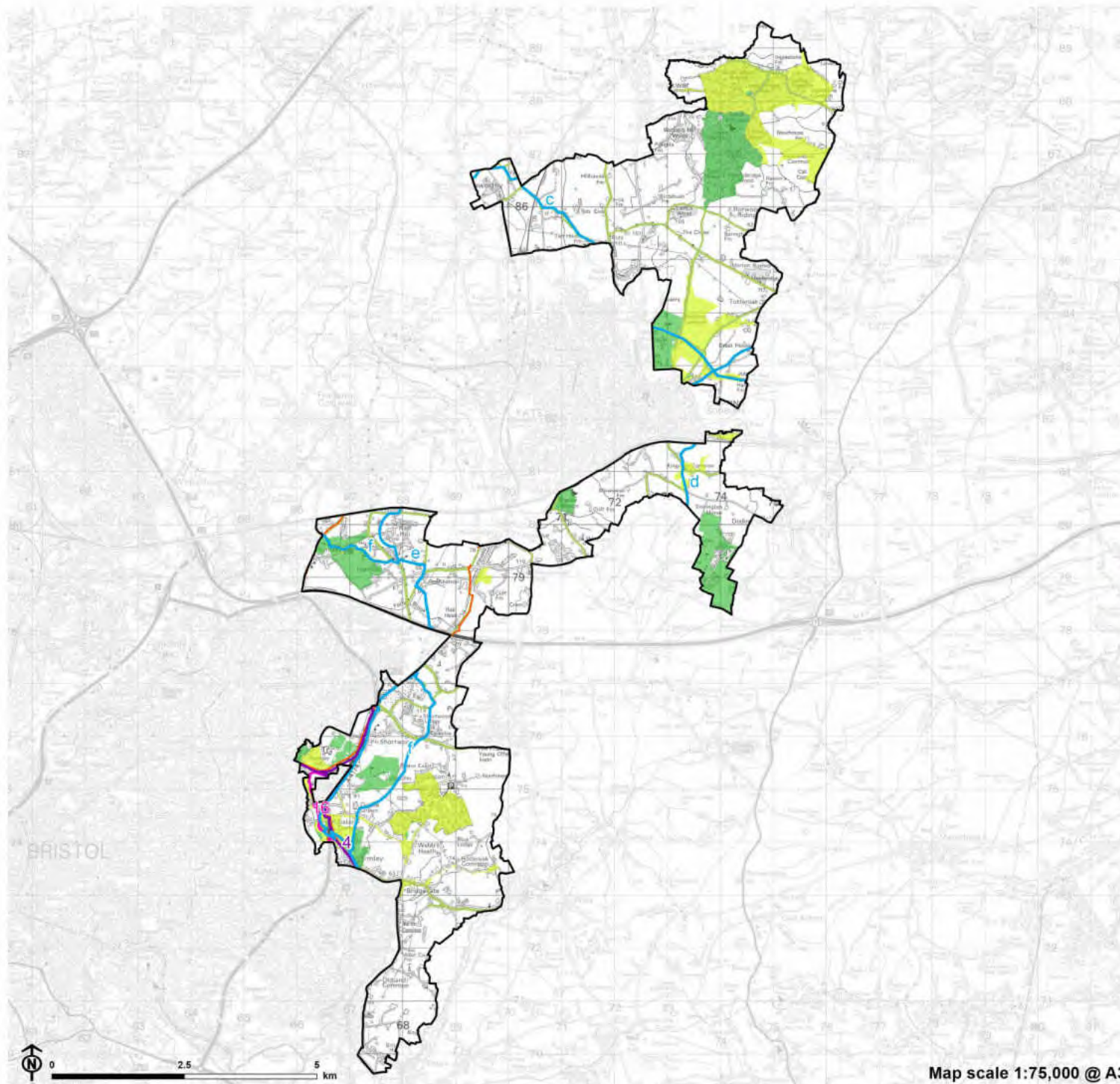


- Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Biton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)
- Waterbody
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3a
- Flood zone 3b

Corridor D has been split into a northern and southern part to account for an overlap with Corridor C.

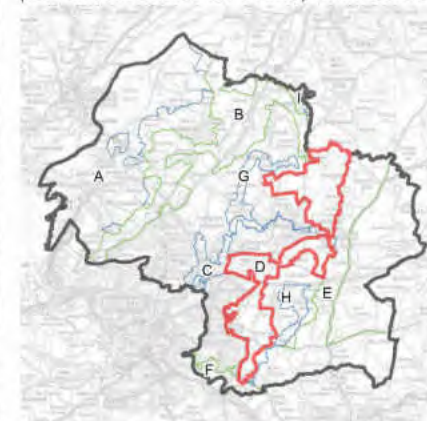


**Figure 9.5: Green Corridor D:
Recreation and Access**



- Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Biton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)
- National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths
 - c: Jubilee Way
 - d: Monarch's Way
 - e: The Dramway
 - f: Community Forest Path
- National Cycle Network
- Regional Cycle Network
- Other strategic and major cycle route
- South Gloucestershire Active Travel Route
- Large green space
- Open access land

Corridor D has been split into a northern and southern part to account for an overlap with Corridor C.



Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3

Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

9.5 Table 9.1 sets out the SPD summary description for each of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that are located within the strategic GI corridor from north to south.

Table 9.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	Diverse undulating landscape covered with a mix of farmland, woodland and common.
6: Shallow Ridge - Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley	Diverse undulating rural landscape of mainly mixed farmland.
8: Shallow Vale - Yate Vale	Gently sloping, largely agricultural often well treed area of medium sized fields, with large settlements in the south.
12: Broad Valleys - Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge	Diverse and intricate mix of farmland, settlement, roads, commons and industrial heritage.
13: Broad Valleys - Frome Valley (small area only)	Diverse, enclosed, intricate combination of agriculture and settlement, divided by major roads.

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
14: Broad Valleys - Kingswood (small area only)	Heavily built-up area of residential, commercial and industrial uses and roads, interspersed with pockets of open space.

Visually Important Hillside & Other Key Landforms

9.6 Table 9.2 identifies how Visually Important Hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 9.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillsides and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	VIH 11: Churchend Ridge VIH 16: Wickwar Ridge	-
6: Shallow Ridge - Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley	VIH 5: Pucklechurch Ridge (including Claypit Hill and Westerleigh Hill in north, and Coxgrove Hill and Holbrook Common)	Upper reaches of River Frome valley, which largely lies within strategic Corridor C
8: Shallow Vale - Yate Vale	VIH 16: Wickwar Ridge (including Bury Hill at south end)	Laddon Brook valley (upstream reach)

Chapter 9 Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
12: Broad Valleys - Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge	VIH 6: Oldland Ridge (including Beach Hill, Cann Break, Bitton Hill) VIH 5: Pucklechurch Ridge (including Shortwood Hill in north and Siston Hill in south)	-
13: Broad Valleys - Frome Valley (small area only by The Kendleshire Golf Club)	-	-
14: Broad Valleys - Kingswood (small area only on south-west of corridor)	-	-

Strategic Viewpoints

9.7 There are three strategic viewpoints in the corridor, from north to south these include:

- **SVP 9: View from Sodbury Common** – panorama (east to the Cotswold scarp across the common from near the golf club and north across the common towards Lower Woods);
- **SVP 11: View from top of Westerleigh Road Hill** – north and west (across Yate vale and Coalpit Heath); and
- **SVP 10: View from Community Forest Path, west of Siston Court** – panorama (prominent views west and south).

Chapter 9 Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

9.8 There are three additional strategic viewpoints which are located a short distance outside of the strategic GI corridor, the views from which encompass land within the corridor. These include two strategic viewpoints located in corridor E (SVP 13: Little Sodbury Hillfort and SVP 14: View from Old Sodbury Churchyard), and one strategic viewpoint which is not in any corridor, SVP 27 (view from south-west edge of Pucklechurch).

Conservation Areas

9.9 There is one Conservation Area (CA) in the strategic GI corridor:

- Siston CA - designated in 1989 and enlarged in 2010 due to its special architectural and historic character including the Grade 1 listed Elizabethan manor house of Siston Court. It seeks to protect the sense of enclosure achieved by a combination of landform and planting contributes significantly to the perception of remoteness and tranquillity, which along with the rural and undeveloped landscape is a defining characteristic, together with the open buffer between Siston and the Eastern Fringe.

Historic Parks and Gardens

9.10 No Registered Parks and Gardens are located within the strategic GI corridor.

Common Land

9.11 A number of commons are located within the strategic GI corridor; from north to south these are:

- Assley, Hareley, Hawkesbury and Ingelstone Commons;
- Sodbury Commons;
- Lyde Green Common;

Chapter 9 Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

- Rodway Hill or Rodway Common;
- Siston Common, Goose Green and Webbs Heath;
- Holbrook Common; and
- Bridgeyate Common.

9.12 Several are included within the Common Connections strategic GI project (listed in Appendix A), a landscape and habitat restoration project along the South Gloucestershire and Bristol border to improve links between registered common land, woodlands and other natural habitat.

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

9.13 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire's Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic GI corridor takes in the following from north to south:

- Woodland and grassland connections northwards that improve connectivity to and from Lower Woods SSSI.
- Woodland connections from Lower Woods extending south-west to encompass Wickwar Ridge;
- Wet grassland and common land, including Lower Woods SSSI (Hareley, Hawkesbury and Ingelstone Commons) extending east towards Hawkesbury (corridor E), and towards Sodbury Commons. The Lower Woods and Wetmoor stewardship scheme is a strategic GI project aimed to improve connectivity (listed in Appendix A);
- Wetland connections in upstream reaches of Little Avon River (corridor I);

Chapter 9 Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

- Grassland connections stretching from Lyde Green Common to Siston Common, Goose Green and Webbs Heath, and further south to Bridgegate Common and Holbrook Common; and
- Woodland connection from Overscourt Wood northwards (Avon Valley woodland – Community Forest – Pucklechurch Ridge).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

9.14 Three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) lie within the northern part of the strategic GI corridor, near Wickwar, as follows:

- Lower Woods SSSI (283.09 ha in size) (also Lower Woods Nature Reserve);
- Bishop's Hill Wood (29.87 ha in size); and
- Hawkesbury Meadow (3.38 ha in size).

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

9.15 There are 79 SNCIs in the strategic GI corridor, covering 819 ha. They mainly comprise grassland and woodland habitats, including a large area of Ancient Woodland at Shortwood Brake in the north, (which overlaps with Lower Woods SSSI) and a smaller area nearby which overlaps with Bishops Hill Wood SSSI. Smaller Ancient Woodland SNCI sites are located in the south of the GI corridor at Dewshill Wood, Bean Wood, Tuts Wood and Wapley Bushes. There are several areas of SNCI-designated grassland, concentrated in the west and south-west of the GI corridor.

Local Nature Reserves

9.16 Wapley Bushes Local Nature Reserves (LNR) located to the east of Westerleigh is the only LNR in the strategic GI corridor.

Important Hedgerows

9.17 The strategic GI corridor contains an extensive network of important hedgerows to the south and east of Chipping Sodbury, as well as small sections west of Sodbury Common extending north to Mapleridge Lane, around Shortwood Lodge Golf Course and east of Siston Common.

Ancient Woodland

9.18 There is a large extent of ancient woodland located to the north of the strategic GI corridor at Shortwood Brake. Other important ancient woodland located in the north of the corridor includes:

- Bishops Hill Wood SSSI;
- Bedford Wood; and
- Lady's Wood.

9.19 Smaller areas of ancient woodland are scattered across the south of the corridor, including:

- Wapley Bushes;
- Bean Wood;
- Westerleigh Wood
- Short Wood; and
- Tuts Wood.

Regionally Important Geological Sites

9.20 The following Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) are located within the strategic GI corridor:

Chapter 9 Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

- Lower Woods SSSI;
- Hawkesbury Quarry SSSI;
- Bitton Hill Sand Pit; and
- Shortwood Clay Pits.

Local Nature Action Plans (LNAPs)

9.21 There are various local projects that seek to protect, enhance and link GI assets, for example the Local Nature Action Plans (LNAPs) which are being developed between Parish and Town councils and SGC. Within and adjacent to Corridor D, LNAPs have been advanced for Yate, Chipping Sodbury and Dodington.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

9.22 The upstream reaches of Laddon Brook (which is primarily contained within corridor G) falls within the north-west of the corridor, north of Yate. The corridor also includes the upstream reaches of the Little Avon River (which is primarily within corridor I) plus Bishop's Hill Brook, Folly Brook, Siston Brook and Warmley Brook.

Flood Zone

9.23 Areas of flood risk within the corridor are constrained to the immediate banks of the rivers and brooks. However, there are slightly larger areas of flood risk (in Flood Zones 2 and 3) near Bridgegate, Chipping Sodbury and along the Laddon Brook valley.

Large Scale Water Bodies

9.24 No large-scale water bodies are located within the corridor. However, smaller-scale water bodies are found at Bitterwell Lake, Parkgate Farm and several golf courses within the corridor.

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

9.25 A number of the commons listed above under 'landscape and heritage' are also designated open access land and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2002 gives the public the right to walk across this land.

9.26 In addition to the designated open access land associated with some of the commons, there are two areas of designated open access land within:

- The north of the corridor, west of Hawkesbury Common and south of Littlely Wood; and
- The centre/south of the corridor, east of Oakley Green.

Large Green Spaces

9.27 There are several large accessible green spaces in the strategic GI corridor, including:

- Natural and semi-natural green spaces (e.g., Overscourt Wood, Warmley Forest Park, the range of commons and Lower Woods);
- Playing fields and sports facilities (e.g., Pomphrey Hill);

Chapter 9 Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

9.28 There are also four golf courses and although these are not always widely publicly accessible, they do represent large green spaces with potential GI benefits (information on Public Right of Way (PRoW) has been provided in brackets). From north to south these are as follows:

- Chipping Sodbury Golf Course, which abuts the western edge of Sodbury Common (includes PRoW);
- The Players Golf Course, which lies south of Chipping Sodbury near Dodington (no PRoW);
- The Kendleshire Golf Course, which lies to the west of Westerleigh, to the north of the M5 motorway (includes PRoW); and
- Shortwood Lodge Golf Course, which is west of Siston (includes PRoW).

Active Travel Routes

9.29 The following ATRs (which include National Cycle Network (NCN) routes) are within or cross the strategic GI corridor from north to south:

- Part of the Avon Cycleway - (an 85-mile circular route around the city of Bristol) which crosses Lower Woods before turning south and skirting along the corridor boundary to Horton. Here it heads west along Mapleridge Lane north of Yate where it then passes out of the corridor. It re-joins the corridor at Henfield Road before crossing the M4 motorway to head south to Lyde Green and the A4174 where it connects with NCN route 410;
- West of Sodbury Common - connecting with Mapleridge Lane (part of the Avon Cycleway);
- Part of the A362 near Coalpit Heath;
- A section of Coxgrove Hill - which joins Lyde Green and the Bristol and Bath Railway Path;
- Short traffic-free sections of NCN routes 410, 16 and 4 - near Rodway Common and A4174 junction into east Bristol;

Chapter 9 Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

- The section of NCN route 4 is also part of the Bristol and Bath Railway Path;
- The B4465 Shortwood Hill between the A4174 and Pucklechurch; and
- The A420 from Warmley through Bridgegate to Wick.

9.30 The following long-distance footpaths also lie within or cross the strategic GI corridor from north to south:

- **Jubilee Way:** runs from the north-west around Rangeworthy across Sodbury Common to the east of Yate, to intersect with Monarch's Way and Frome Valley Walkway near Chipping Sodbury;
- **Monarch's Way:** connects Little Sodbury to Chipping Sodbury and then further south across Kingrove Common to Codrington;
- **Community Forest Path:** connects to the Dramway east of The Kendleshire Golf Course to the north of the M4 motorway and then extending south towards Siston Common and Warmley Forest Park;
- **The Dramway:** which continues south of the M4 to cross the Bristol and Bath Railway Path, to then run southwards to the east of the A4174 before crossing the A420 and continuing southwards to the west of Bridgegate; and
- **Bristol and Bath Railway Path:** (part of NCN routes 410 and 4).

Summary

9.31 Corridor D is a GI corridor that extends northwards along the Oldland Ridge and Westerleigh Vale, joining the Pucklechurch Ridge and Wickwar Ridge and Vale in the north. There are three strategic viewpoints from this series of ridgelines including views north and west towards Yate Vale and Coalpit Heath, and south-east towards Lansdown and the Cotswold Scarp. Siston CA lies within the corridor and includes the Grade I listed Siston Court. There are a number of registered commons within the corridor, many of which are included within the South Gloucestershire 'Common Connections'

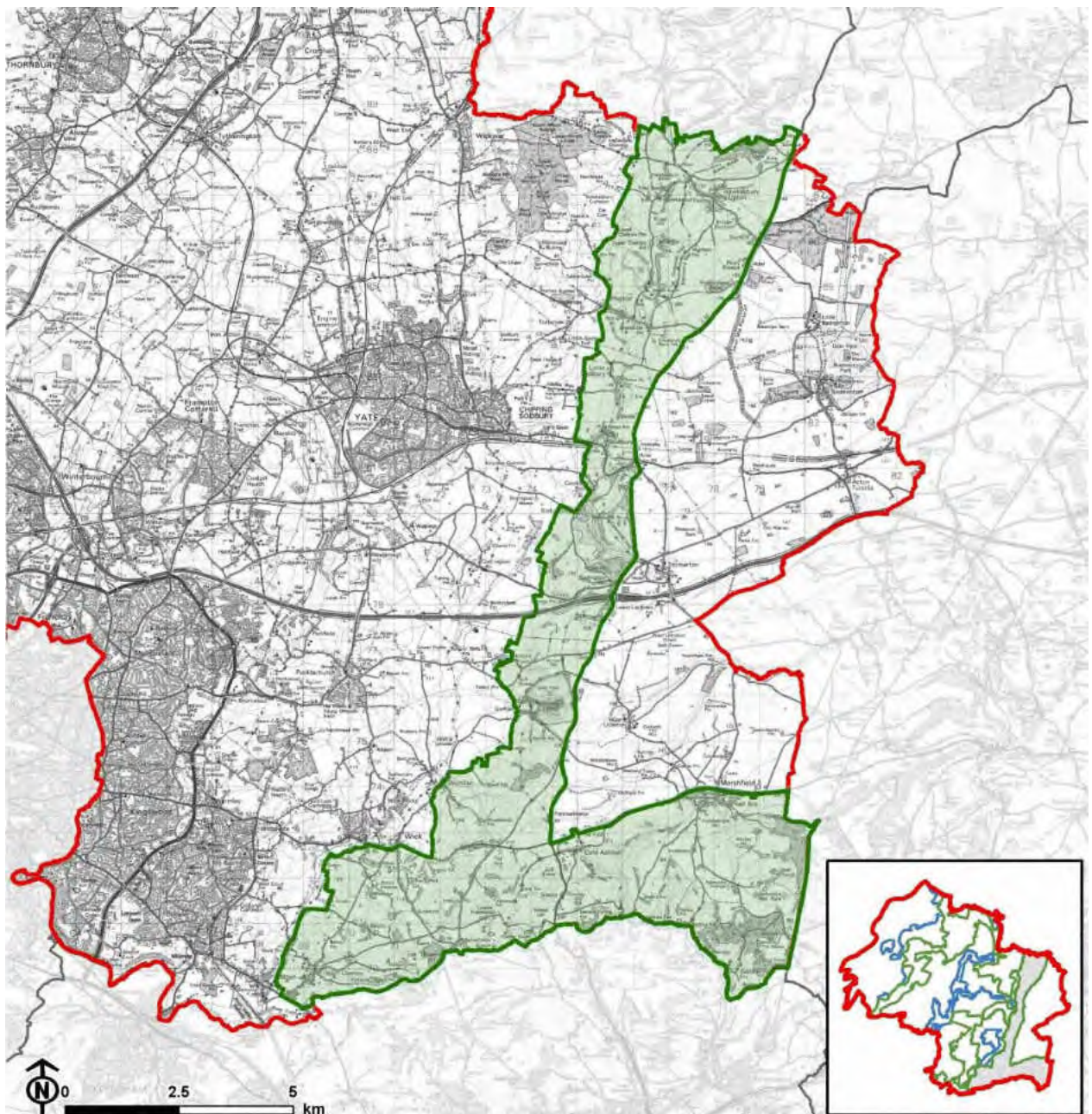
Chapter 9 Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

landscape and habitat restoration project. The primary NRN function and importance of corridor D relates to its strategic woodland habitats associated with the Visually Important Hillside/ridge landform features in the north and south. It also takes in the strategic grassland network, associated with the commons. There are three SSSI (Lower Woods, Bishops Hill Wood, and Hawkesbury Meadow), eight ancient woodland sites (the largest of which are Bishops Hill Wood SSSI, Bedford Wood and Lady's Wood, as well as four RIGS and numerous SNCIs. There is one LNR at Wapley Bushes, to the east of Westerleigh. Large accessible green spaces comprise woodlands (including Warmley Forest Park), and commons, as well as playing fields and sports facilities (e.g. at Pomphrey Hill). Several South Gloucestershire active travel routes cross the corridor, as well as part of the Avon Cycleway and the Bristol and Bath Railway Path (part of NCN routes 410 and 4). Four long distance footpaths also cross the GI corridor (Jubilee Way, Monarchs Way, The Community Forest Path and The Dramway).

Chapter 10

Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)

Figure 10.1: Corridor E Location Plan



Importance and purpose

10.1 Green infrastructure (GI) corridor: extends from south to north to take in the prominent, westerly facing scarp of the Cotswold National Landscape (CNL), which for the purposes of this project takes in the whole of South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Area (LCA) 4: Cotswolds Scarp, together with connected areas of the strategic GI network. The corridor also takes in the series of valleys and ridges within the southern margin of the CNL, including St Catherine's, as described in LCA 3: Ashwicke Ridges.

10.2 Primary function and importance: a mosaic of strategic woodland and grassland habitat associated with the Visually Important Hillside feature of the Cotswold Scarp. The corridor also takes in a number of historic parks and gardens associated with large estates. Small sections of the strategic wetland network also extend into the corridor, associated with the St Catherine's Brook and the River Frome, for example.

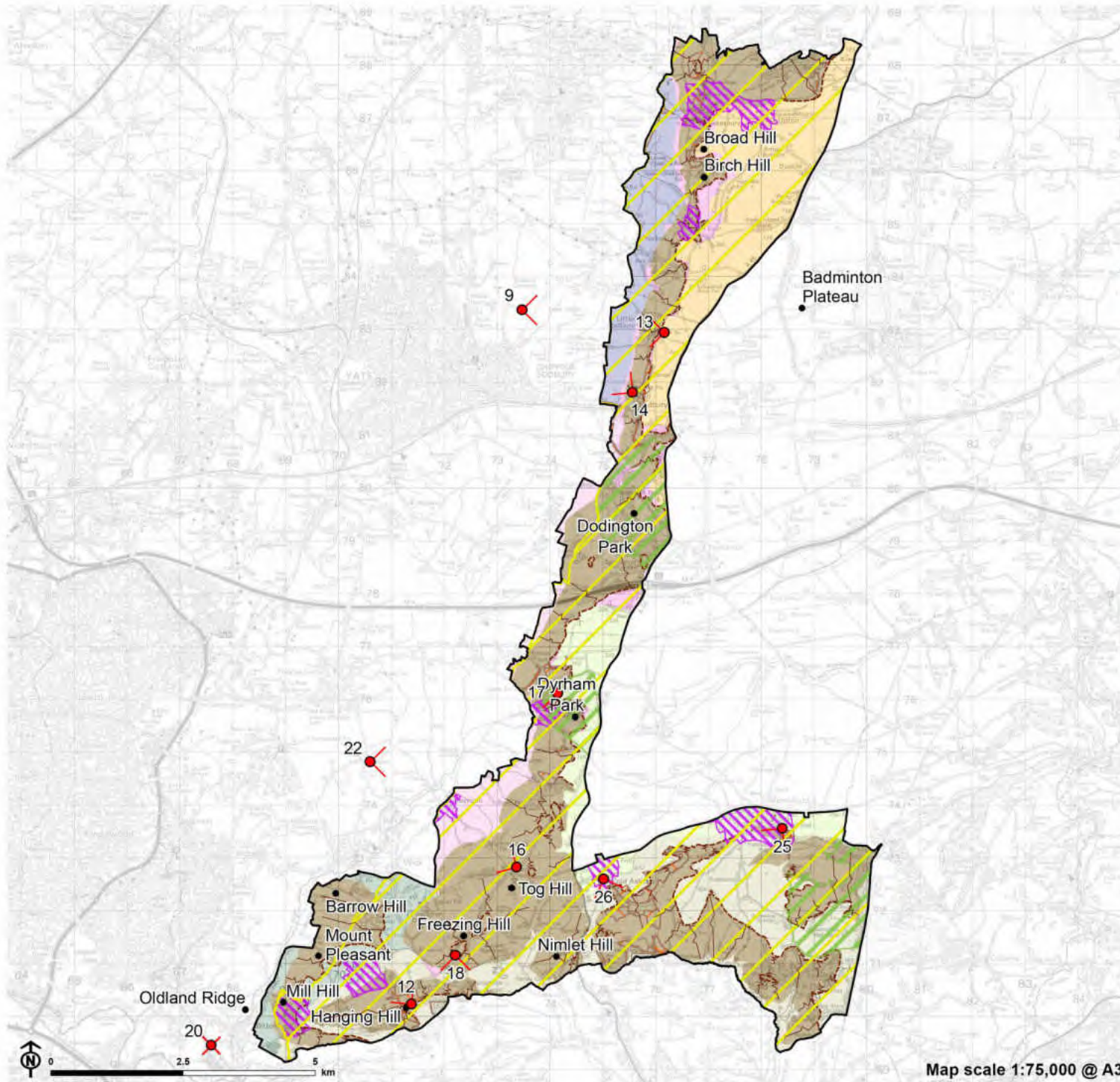
Supporting figures

10.3 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing green infrastructure areas and assets within the strategic GI corridor as follows:

- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 10.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 10.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 10.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 10.5).

10.4 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

**Figure 10.2: Green Corridor E:
Landscape and Heritage**



Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)

- Strategic viewpoint and angle
- Visually Important Hillside
- Visually Important Hillside top of slope
- Cotswolds National Landscape
- Conservation Area
- Registered Park or Garden
- Registered Common Land

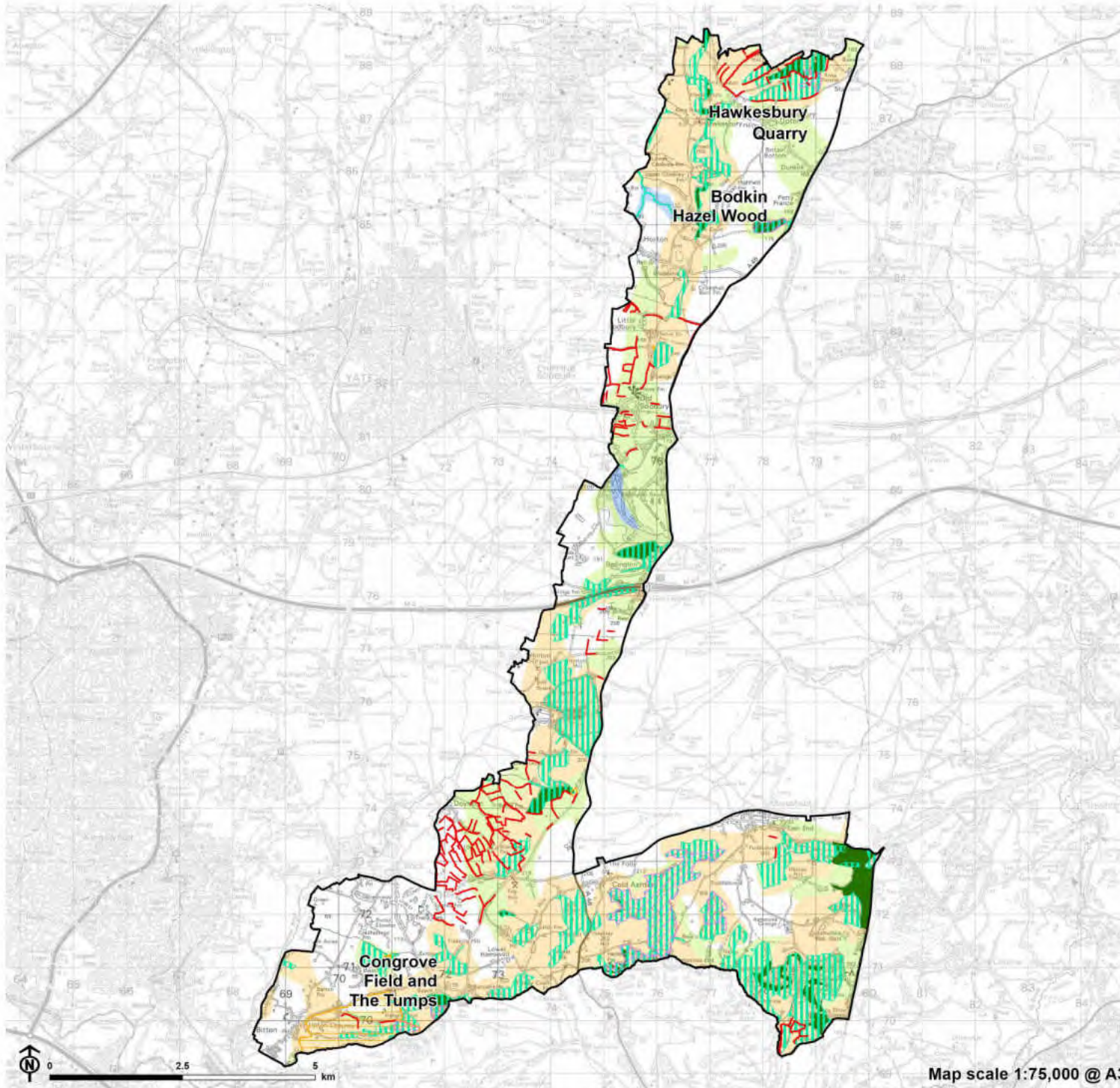
Landscape Character Area

- 1: Badminton Plateau
- 2: Marshfield Plateau
- 3: Ashwicke Ridges
- 4: Cotswold Scarp
- 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale
- 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley
- 11: Golden Valley



Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3

Figure 10.3: Green Corridor E: Ecology and Biodiversity

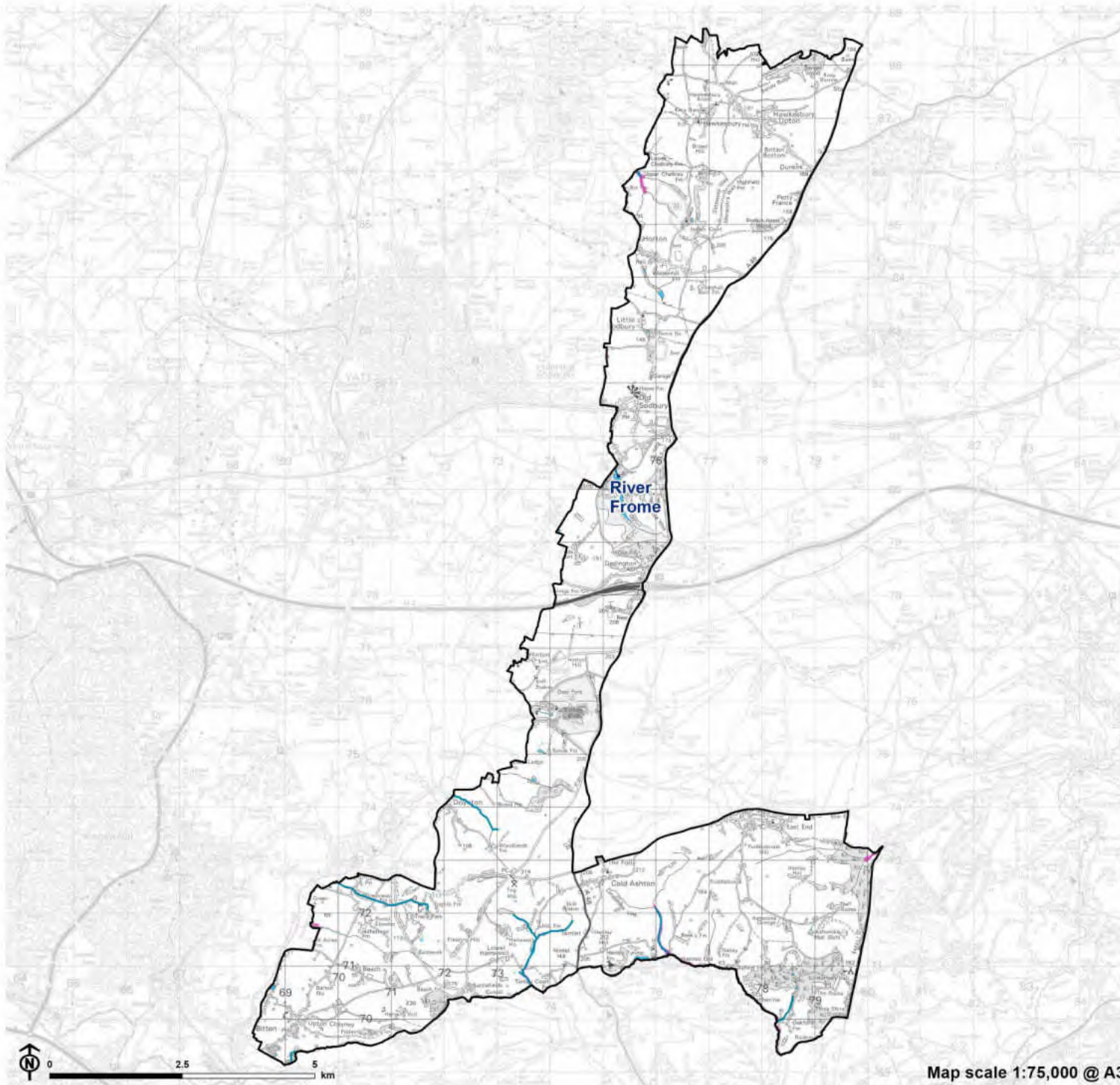


- Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)
- Important Hedgerow
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Ancient Woodland
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network
- Grassland Strategic Network



Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3

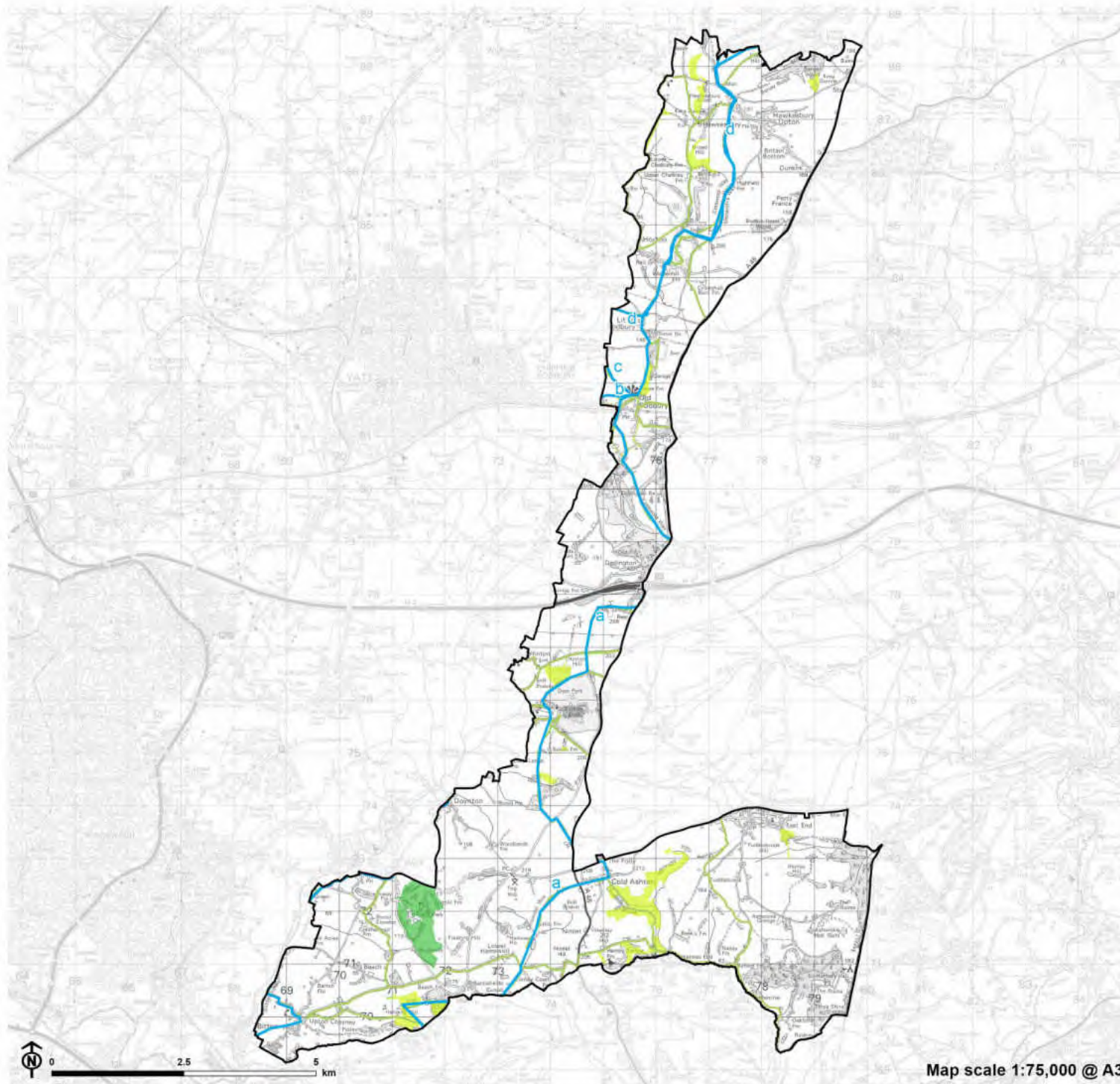
**Figure 10.4: Green Corridor E:
Hydrology**



- Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)
- Waterbody
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3a



**Figure 10.5: Green Corridor E:
Recreation and Access**



- Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)
- National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths
 - a: Cotswold Way
 - b: Frome Valley Walkway
 - c: Jubilee Way
 - d: Monarch's Way
- South Gloucestershire Active Travel Route
- Large green space
- Open access land

Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3



Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

10.5 Table 10.1 sets out the SPD summary description for each of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that are located within the strategic GI corridor from north to south. In addition to taking in the whole of South Gloucestershire LCA 4: Cotswolds Scarp, the corridor also overlaps with the inter-connected margins of several adjacent LCAs, many of which form an intrinsic part of the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape and related GI assets and habitat areas.

Table 10.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
1: Plateau and Scarp - Badminton Plateau	Gently sloping, open, agricultural area evenly scattered with Cotswold stone structures and field boundaries.
2: Plateau and Scarp - Marshfield Plateau	Gently sloping agricultural plateau dissected by two shallow river valleys.
3: Plateau and Scarp - Ashwicke Ridges	Complex area of ridges and valleys covered by a diverse and varied mix of agricultural fields and woodlands.
4: Plateau and Scarp - Cotswold Scarp	Steeply sloping, dramatic feature, dominated by its distinct topography.
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	Diverse undulating landscape covered with a mix of farmland, woodland and common.

Chapter 10 Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
6: Shallow Ridge - Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley (small area only)	Diverse undulating rural landscape of mainly mixed farmland.
11: Enclosed Valleys - Golden Valley	Steeply sloping broad agricultural valley, containing the meandering River Boyd visually enclosed by the Oldland Ridge and the much higher Ashwicke Ridges.

Visually Important Hillside & Other Key Landforms

10.6 Table 10.2 identifies how Visually Important Hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 10.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillsides and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
1: Plateau and Scarp - Badminton Plateau (small area only) (Nationally important)	Nationally important plateau landform and associated features	-
2: Plateau and Scarp - Marshfield Plateau (small area only)	Nationally important plateau landform and associated features	Broadmead Brook valley

Chapter 10 Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
(Nationally important)	(including Broadmead Brook valley)	
3: Plateau and Scarp - Ashwicke Ridges (Nationally important)	Nationally important valleys of Doncombe Brook, Catherine's Brook, Lam Brook and Piple Bottom. VIH 7: Ashwicke Ridges (Nimlet Hill, Henley Hill, Freezing Hill and Hanging Hill).	Doncombe Brook, Catherine's Brook, Lam Brook and Piple Bottom
4: Plateau and Scarp - Cotswold Scarp (Nationally important)	VIH 8: Cotswold Scarp (including Hawkesbury Knoll, Broad Hill, Birch Hill, wooded slopes of Dodington Park and Dyrham Park, Tog Hill and Freezing Hill Beeches).	Upstream valleys of Little Avon River and River Frome
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	-	-
6: Shallow Ridge - Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley (small area only)	-	-
11: Enclosed Valleys - Golden Valley	VIH 6: Oldland Ridge (Barrow Hill, Mount Pleasant, Mill Hill).	-

Strategic Viewpoints

10.7 There are eight strategic viewpoints, from north to south these include:

- **SVP 13: View from Little Sodbury Hill Fort** – panorama east towards Badminton and west from scarp slope towards Chipping Sodbury;
- **SVP 14: View from west of Churchyard and Public Right of Way at Old Sodbury** – panorama north and west (wide ranging view across the vale and to Chipping Sodbury);
- **SVP 17: View from viewing point at the top of Dyrham deer park from the edge of the scarp** – panorama (west to vale and to earthworks at Hinton);
- **SVP 25 View from East End, Marshfield** – view south across the Doncombe Brook Valley;
- **SVP 16: View from Tog Hill picnic site and car park** – panorama (north to south and west across vale);
- **SVP 26 View from Seating Area Cold Ashton** – view south and south-east across St Catherine’s Valley;
- **SVP 18: View from Freezing Hill** – panorama (long distance views south and west to Bristol and Wales); and
- **SVP 12: View from Hanging Hill and Lansdown Battlefield** – panorama (south-west across the Avon Valley and east across the deep valley to Tadwick and Charmy Down).

10.8 There are three strategic viewpoints which are located a short distance outside of the strategic GI corridor with views that encompass land within the corridor. These are located in corridor D (SVP 9: view from Sodbury Common), in corridor F (SVP 20: View from Bristol-Bath Cycle Path) and one not within a corridor (SVP 22: view north-west across Yate Vale and Rangeworthy). One local viewpoint is located within the strategic GI corridor, that is LVP 8: view from Somerset Monument.

Conservation Areas

10.9 There are eight Conservation Areas (CAs) within the strategic GI corridor:

- Hawkesbury Upton, Hawkesbury Village and Hawkesbury Somerset Monument were originally designated as individual CAs in 1981, but their boundaries were combined amended in 1999 to protect more of the surrounding landscape and features, which contributed to their historic character and setting.
- Horton CA - designated in 1985, nestled below the Cotswold escarpment, this CA is highly picturesque in its setting. It includes important historic features including the 12th century Parish Church of St James, Horton Court and Normal Hall.
- Dyrham CA - designated in 1975, lies at the western edge of the Cotswold escarpment, with the River Boyd running through its centre. The designation seeks to protect features in the village either side of the River Boyd with views out over the surrounding landscape, including the western side of Dyrham Park with its Grade I listed house, orangery and magnificent gardens (its streams and waterfalls associated with the River Boyd), and the 13th century Church of St. Peter.
- Doynton CA - designated in 1983 in recognition of its special architectural and historic character and appearance. With a deep history stretching back to Anglo-Saxon times, the settlement is centred around the 12th century Church of the Holy Trinity. Its eastern part lies within the Cotswold National Landscape.
- Beach CA - designated in 1989, to protect the tranquil rural setting of the hamlet on the slopes of Lansdown Hill.
- Upton Cheyney CA - designated in 1983 to protect the attractive rural character of the village with its cluster of traditional natural lias stone buildings on the steep slopes of Lansdown Hill.
- Cold Ashton CA – designated in 1983 to protect its historic character and appearance. Mentioned in the Domesday book, the village is clustered around the Holy Trinity Church and Manor House, and has a tranquil,

Chapter 10 Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)

secluded character. The entire settlement is located within the Cotswold National Landscape.

- Marshfield CA – designated in 1973 to protect the planned medieval layout, notable 17th and 18th Century buildings, and its rural setting, located in a prominent position on the dip slope of the southern Cotswolds set within attractive open countryside. The entire settlement is located within the Cotswold National Landscape.

Historic Parks and Gardens

10.10 There are two Registered Parks and Gardens in the strategic GI corridor, as follows:

- Dodington House (Grade II*) which is 237 ha in size;
- Dyrham Park (Grade II*) which is 110 ha in size; and
- Ashwicke Hall (Grade II) which is 236 ha in size.

Common Land

10.11 A number of commons are located within the strategic GI corridor; from north to south these are:

- The Pool;
- A small eastern edge of Hareley, Hawkesbury and Ingelstone Commons (predominantly in corridor D);
- The Pounds;
- Eastern parts of Sodbury Commons;
- Eastern parts of Hinton Common;
- The Green;
- The piece of land at the junction of Barrow Hill with Manor Farm; and

- Ringswell Common.

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

10.12 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire's Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic GI corridor takes in the following from north to south:

- Grassland connections from Little Sodbury and woodland connections from Dodington Park both northwards through Hawkesbury, and which continue north beyond the corridor boundary and west into corridor D towards Lower Woods SSSI. Woodland connections from Hawkesbury also continue south-east encompassing a swathe of woodland stock towards Badminton.
- Woodlands connections from Dyrham Park south through to Lower Hamswell.
- Grassland networks along the south and south-east of the corridor connecting important grassland habitat north towards Dyrham and Hinton.
- Woodland connections across the south and south-east boundary of the corridor including woodland associated with Ashwicke Hall and Marshfield wood, also encompassing Hanging Hill and Beech Wood. This network extends across the length of the Cotswold National Landscape to the south of the corridor boundary.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

10.13 Six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) lie within the strategic GI corridor. Three of these are located in the north near Hawkesbury and Petty France, as follows:

- Upton Combe (8 ha in size);
- Hawkesbury Quarry (0.21 ha in size);
- Bodkin Hazel Wood (10.76 ha in size)

10.14 The remaining three are located in the south of the GI corridor as follows:

- Congrove Field and The Tumps (split into two parts totalling 14.16 ha in size);
- St Catherine's Valley (split into two parts totalling 156.75 ha in size); and
- The northern part of Monkwood Valley (30.97 ha in size) which extends southwards outside of the South Gloucestershire boundary.

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

10.15 There are 70 SNCIs within the strategic GI corridor, covering 1,156 ha. They are relatively evenly distributed along the length of the GI corridor, comprising frequent areas of calcareous grassland as well as Ancient Woodlands, including at Upton Combe SSSI in the north, and Beech Wood (Ancient Woodland and SSSI) in the south.

Local Nature Reserves

10.16 No Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are located within the strategic GI corridor.

Important Hedgerows

10.17 The strategic GI corridor contains several areas with an extensive network of important hedgerows, from north to south these are as follows:

- Around Upton Coombe;
- Around Little Sodbury and Old Sodbury; and
- Between Dyrham and Hinton, south to Doynton to Freezing Hill.

Ancient Woodland

10.18 There are several ancient woodlands within the strategic GI corridor. These are primarily in the north of the corridor around Hawkesbury and Petty France, as follows:

- Bangel Wood;
- Church, Miry and Sticksey Woods;
- Splatts Barn Wood;
- Notch Brake;
- Hawkesbury Knoll Wood;
- Bodkin Hazel Wood SSSI;
- Chalkley and Walk Woods; and
- Between Dodington and Dyrham.

10.19 There are two large areas of ancient woodland in the centre of the corridor at Dodington Wood and Dyrham Wood. Further south, there are two further areas of ancient woodland around Lower Hamswell, which include St John's Wood and Beach Wood, as well as Cloud / Marshfield Woods and Orchard / Bandywell Woods in the south-east.

Regionally Important Geological Sites

10.20 Little Sodbury is the only Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) located within the strategic GI corridor.

- Little Sodbury;
- Dyrham Wood;
- Grandmother's Rock; and
- Lansdown Lane to Lansdown.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

10.21 No major watercourses are located within the strategic GI corridor. However, the corridor includes the upstream reaches of the Little Avon River and the River Frome, as well as the valleys of Doncombe Brook, Catherine's Brook, Lam Brook and Piple Bottom.

Flood Zone

10.22 There are no areas of flood risk within the corridor aside from a very small section in the short upstream reaches of the Little Avon River south of Hawkesbury, and a small section of St Catherine's Brook south-east of Cold Ashton.

Large Scale Water Bodies

10.23 There is a large reservoir south of Horton, and south of Cold Ashton at Monkwood Reservoir (partially within the GI corridor). There are also several areas with ponds or standing water bodies, often associated with parks or farms (e.g., fish ponds at Horton Court, a series of mill ponds at Dodington House, falls at Dyrham, and within Tracy Park golf course).

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

10.24 A number of the commons listed above under 'landscape and heritage' are also designated open access land and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2002 gives the public the right to walk across this land.

10.25 In addition, there are several areas of designated open access land spread across the corridor. From north to south these include:

- Around Hawkesbury Knoll and the disused quarries;
- South of Bangel and Church Woods;
- Around Broad Hill;
- South of Little Sodbury and fort;
- Around Hinton Hill;
- South of Cold Ashton including St Catherine's Valley and Monk Woods;
and
- Sands Farm, Dyrham and an area north-west of Dyrham Wood.

Large Green Spaces

10.26 There are several large green spaces in the strategic GI corridor. These are typically natural and semi-natural green spaces, and from north to south include:

- Broad Hill;
- Eastern part of Hawkesbury Common (mainly in corridor D);
- Upper Chalkley;
- Old Sodbury;
- Hinton Hill;
- Cotswold Way;
- Hanging Hill; and
- Great Moody's Wood.

10.27 Tracy Park Golf Course is an additional large green space in the south of the corridor east of Wick and is partly accessible in its north-western parts owing to the Public Right of Way (PRoW) here.

Active Travel Routes

10.28 ATRs are sparse within the strategic GI corridor. Short lengths of ATRs, from north to south, include:

- A short length of Cotswold Way around Horton Court, ending in Horton village;
- A route off the A46 west into Old Sodbury;
- A part of the Cotswold Way minor road north of Dyrham Park through Tolldown;
- A part of Upper Street in Dyrham and a minor road into Dyrham Park; and

Chapter 10 Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)

- Halldoor Lane, a Green Lane to the south/south-west of Marshfield.

10.29 No National Cycle Network routes are within the strategic GI corridor.

10.30 The following national trails and long-distance footpaths also lie within or cross the strategic GI corridor from north to south:

- **Cotswold Way** (national trail): runs across the length of the corridor from north to south, only passing out of the corridor for a short section at Tormarton;
- **Monarch's Way**: short sections of the route where it deviates from the Cotswold Way, including at the northern boundary of the corridor where it enters and also between Horton Court and Little Sodbury. Also, sections further south where it passes out into corridor H, including west of Wick and from Upton Cheyney to Bitton;
- **Jubilee Way**: a short section west off the Cotswold way north of Old Sodbury where it passes into corridor D; and
- **Limestone Link**: running south from Cold Ashton to follow St Catherine's Brook along the southern edge of South Gloucestershire.

Summary

10.31 Corridor E is a GI corridor extending northwards between Upton Cheyney and Hawkesbury Upton incorporating the prominent, westerly facing scarp of the Cotswold National Landscape. There are eight strategic viewpoints with views either towards or from this Visually Important Hillside feature, including long views south and west to Bristol and Wales beyond. Eight CAs lie within the corridor (Hawkesbury Upton, Horton, Dyrham, Doynton, Beach, Upton Cheyney, Cold Ashton, and Marshfield), and three registered parks and gardens at Dyrham Park, Dodington House (Grade II* listed) and Ashwicke Hall (Grade II listed). There are also several areas of registered common land. The primary NRN function and importance of corridor E relates to its mosaic of strategic woodland and grassland habitat associated with the Cotswold Scarp,

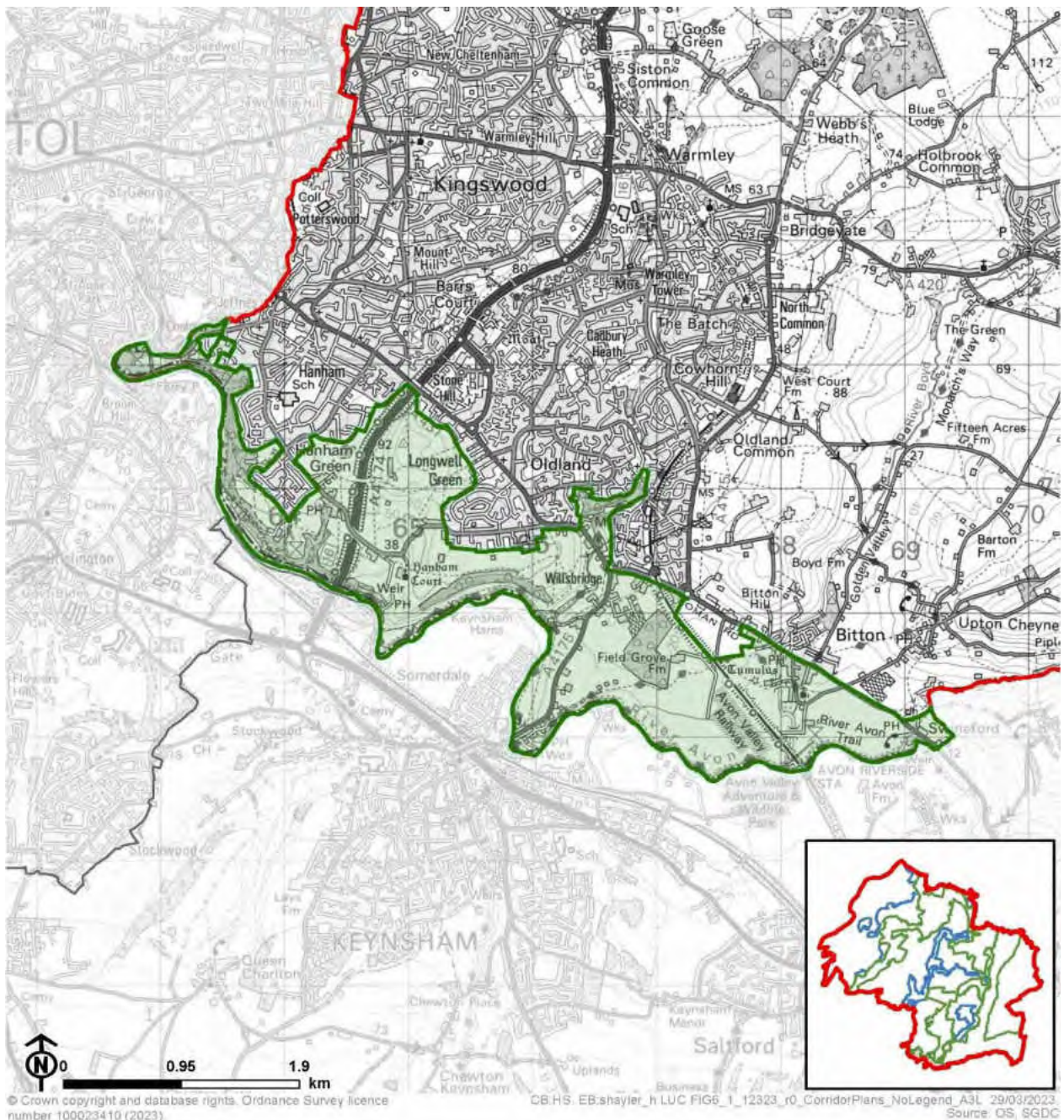
Chapter 10 Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Upton Cheyney-Ashwicke (Cotswold Scarp and Ashwicke Ridges)

taking in several ancient woodland sites in the north of the corridor, as well as two large areas associated with parkland at Dodington Park and Dyrham Park. In addition, there are numerous SNCIs. There are six SSSI (Upton Combe, Hawkesbury Quarry, Bodkin Hazel Wood, Congrove Field and the Tumps, Monkswood Valley, St Catherine's Valley) located within the corridor. There are several areas of designated open access land spread across the corridor, as well as large green spaces at Broad Hill, Upper Chalkley, Old Sodbury, Hinton Hill and Great Moody's Wood. South Gloucestershire active travel routes are sparse, although short sections of The Cotswold Way, Monarchs Way, Jubilee Way and Limestone Link long distance footpaths cross through the corridor.

Chapter 11

Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)

Figure 11.1: Corridor F Location Plan



Importance and purpose

11.1 Green infrastructure (GI) corridor: extends from NW to SE along SW facing valley side of the River Avon.

11.2 Primary function and importance: largely associated with the strategic woodland network which traverses the Visually Important Hillside / landform feature. The corridor also hosts sections of the strategic grassland network at Hanham Hills and the strategic wetland network associated with the River Avon.

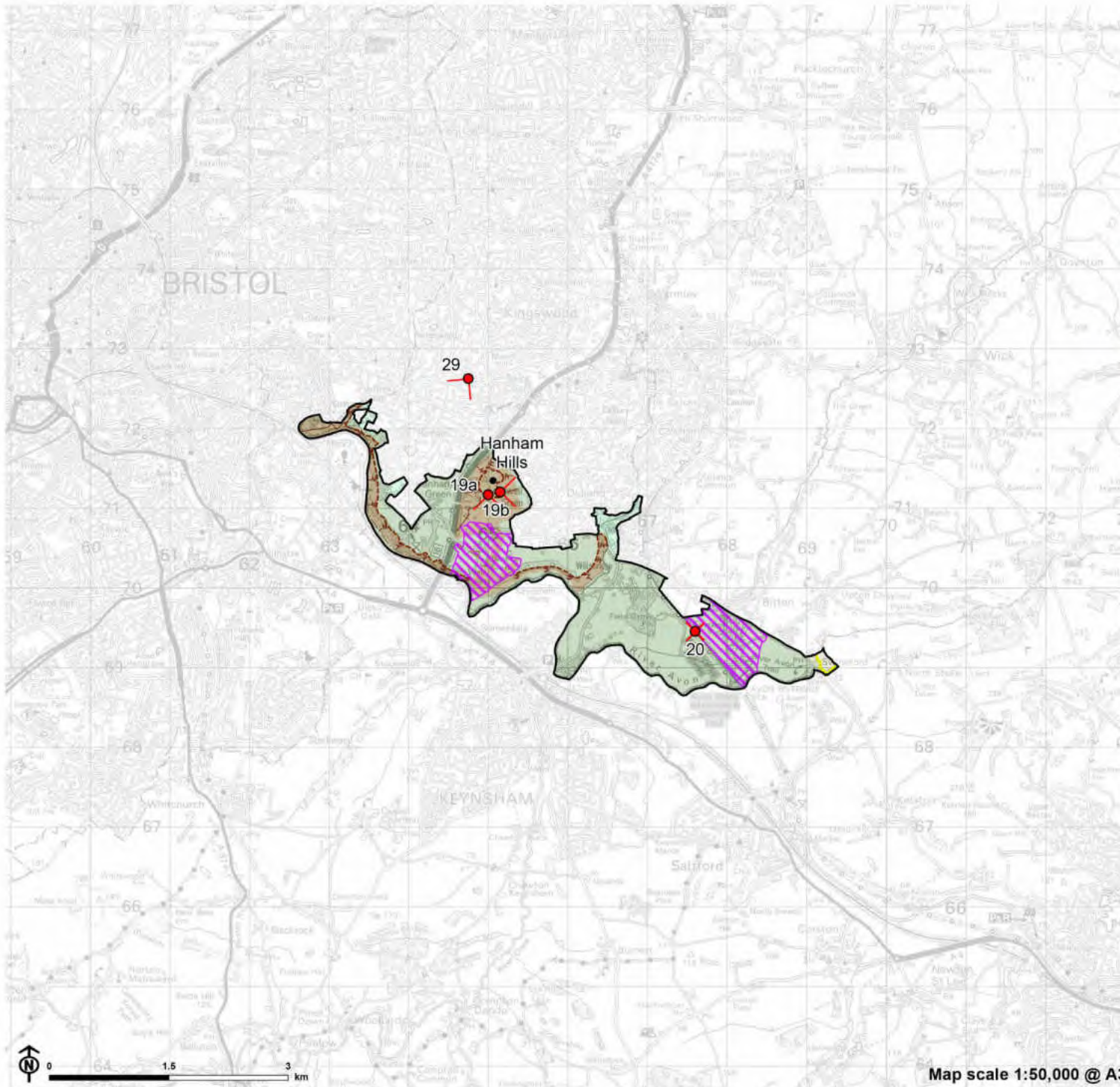
Supporting figures

11.3 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing green infrastructure areas and assets within the strategic GI corridor as follows:

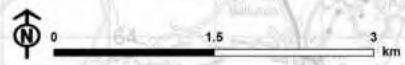
- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 11.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 11.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 11.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 11.5).

11.4 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

**Figure 11.2: Green Corridor F:
Landscape and Heritage**

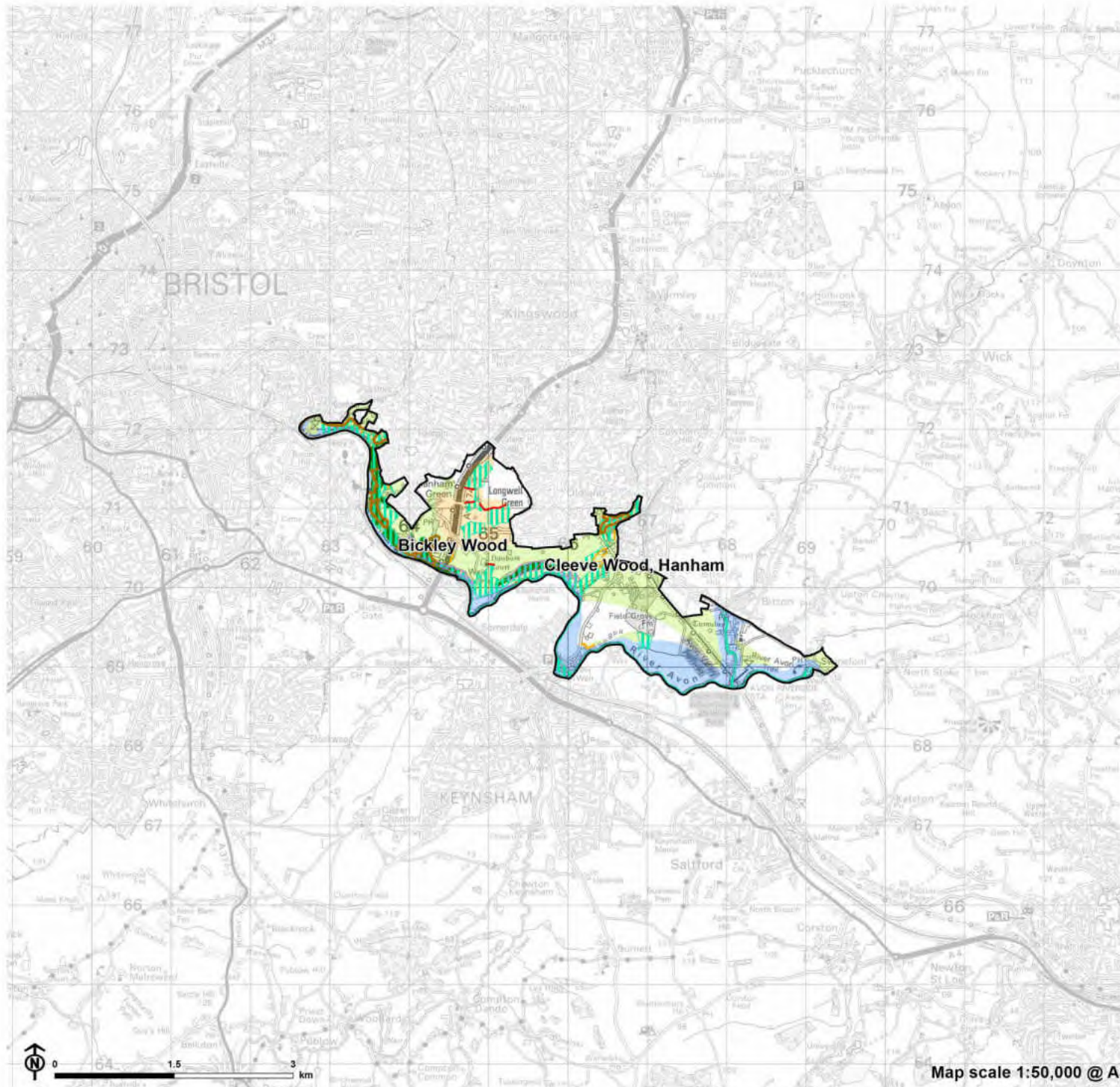


- Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)
- Strategic viewpoint and angle
- Visually Important Hillside
- Visually Important Hillside top of slope
- Cotswolds National Landscape
- Conservation Area
- Registered Common Land
- Landscape Character Area**
- 3: Ashwicke Ridges
- 11: Golden Valley
- 14: Kingswood
- 16: Avon Valley



Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Figure 11.3: Green Corridor F: Ecology and Biodiversity









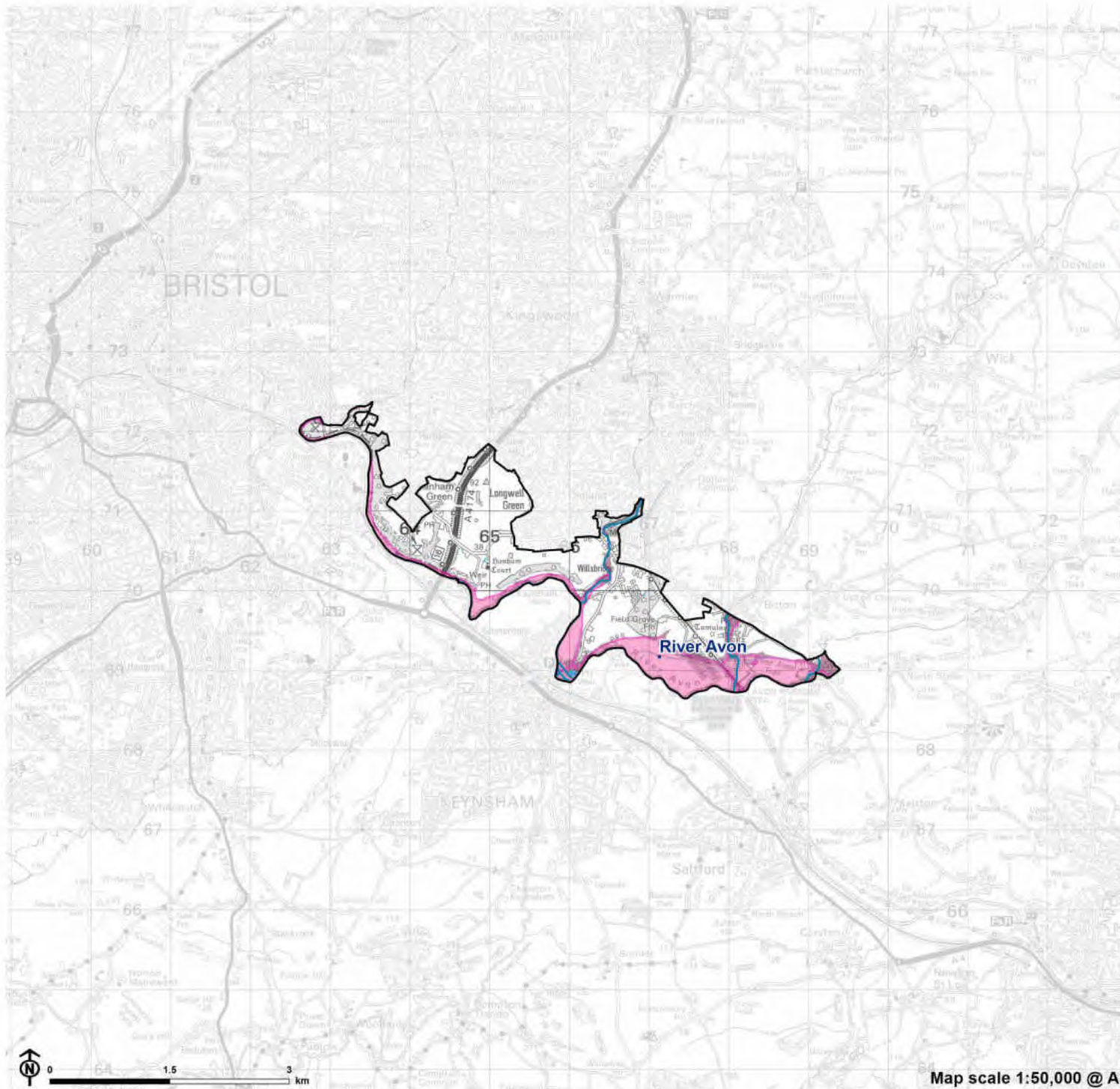
- Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)
- Important Hedgerow
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Nature Reserve
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network
- Grassland Strategic Network



Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

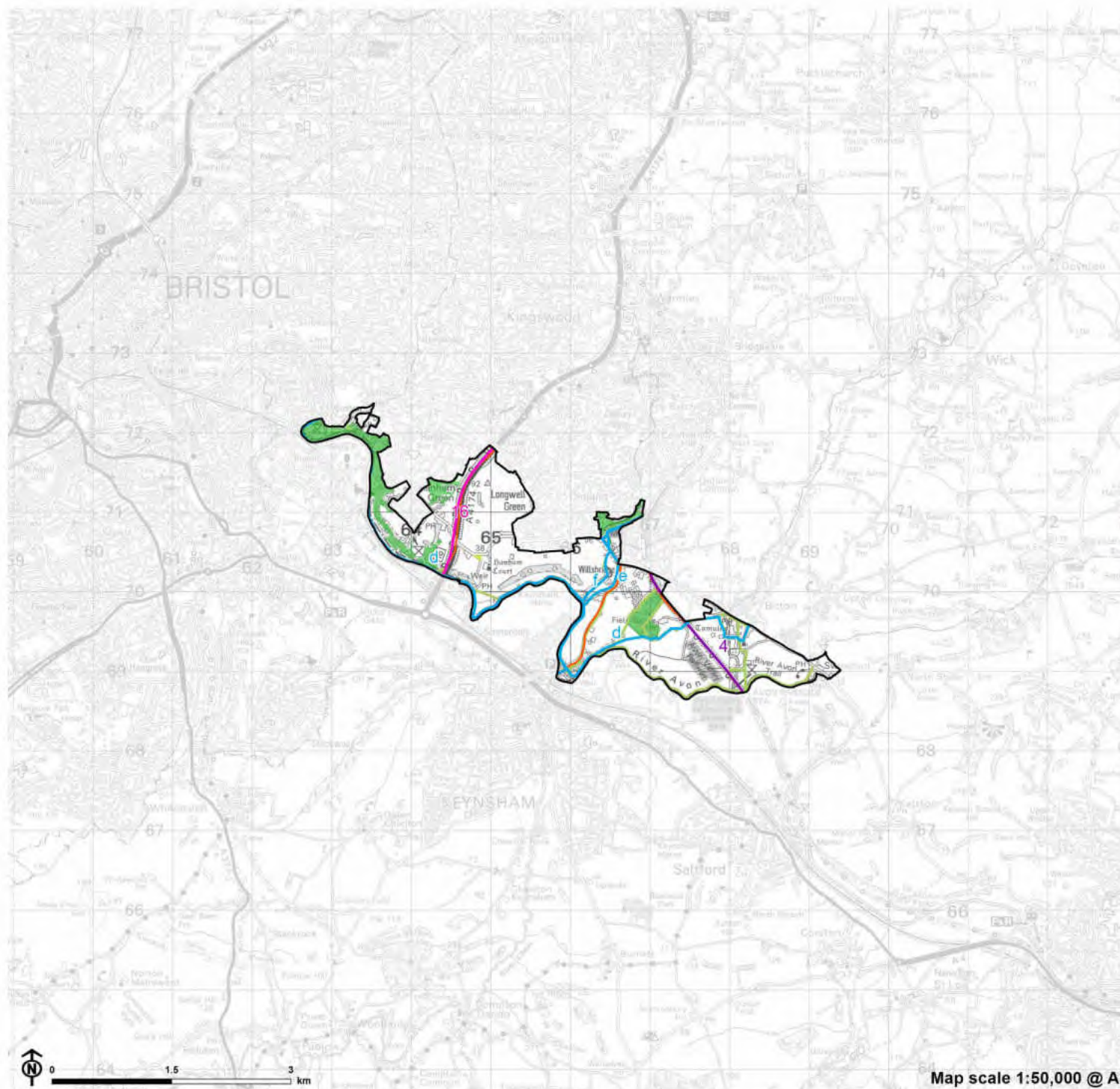
**Figure 11.4: Green Corridor F:
Hydrology**

-  Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham
Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)
-  Waterbody
-  River
-  Flood zone 2
-  Flood zone 3a
-  Flood zone 3b

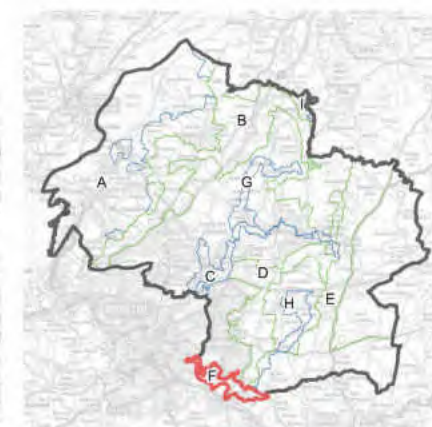


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**Figure 11.5: Green Corridor F:
Recreation and Access**



- Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)
- National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths
 - d: Monarch's Way
 - e: The Dramway
 - f: Community Forest Path
- National Cycle Network
- Regional Cycle Network
- Other strategic and major cycle route
- South Gloucestershire Active Travel Route
- Large green space
- Open access land



Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

11.5 Table 11.1 below sets out the SPD summary description for each of these Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the strategic GI corridor from west to east.

Table 11.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
16: Enclosed Valleys - Avon Valley	Open river floodplain, enclosed steep wooded valley and gentle upper slopes defined by urban edge.
14: Broad Valleys - Kingswood (small area only)	Heavily built-up area of residential, commercial and industrial uses and roads, interspersed with pockets of open space.

Visually Important Hillsides & Other Key Landforms

11.6 Table 11.2 identifies how Visually Important Hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 11.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillside and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
16: Enclosed Valleys - Avon Valley	VIH 10: Hanham Hills VIH 9: River Avon (Steeper valley sides)	River Avon
14: Broad Valleys - Kingswood (small area only)	-	-

Strategic Viewpoints

11.7 There are two strategic viewpoints in the corridor, namely:

- **SVPs 19a and 19b: View from Hanham Hills** – panorama; and
- **SVP 20: View from Bristol and Bath Railway (cycle) Path** – panorama east.

Conservation Areas

11.8 There is one Conservation Area (CA) that lies wholly within the strategic GI corridor:

- Hanham Abbots CA - designated in 1989 and is centred on Hanham Court, with the surrounding open areas being important for the landscape setting of the Court and attractive, rural, agricultural character of the area which is set at the foot of the Hanham Hills and stretches down to the north and Bank of the River Avon.

11.9 The south half of Bitton CA (south of the A431 linear through route) is also in the strategic GI corridor - designated in 1989 (previously two separate areas from 1972) to reinforce and enhance the rural setting and character of the area including St Mary's Church, in its quieter position off the main route, together with King's Square.

Historic Parks and Gardens

11.10 No Registered Parks and Gardens are located within the strategic GI corridor.

Common Land

11.11 There is one small common within the strategic GI corridor at Stephens Green near Hanham Court and Cleeve Wood.

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

11.12 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire's Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic GI corridor takes in the following:

- Woodland connections across the length of the corridor; this is focused on the River Avon Valley, as well as an arc from the River Boyd-River Avon confluence along the Bristol and Bath Railway Path through Willsbridge to reconnect to the River Avon Valley.

Chapter 11 Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)

- Grassland strategic network at Hanham Hills, west of Longwell Green (which encompasses two SNCIs – Hanham Hill Fields and Great Haynes Field); and
- Wetland strategic network along the length of the River Avon and north along the River Boyd from its confluence with the River Avon.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

11.13 Two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) lie within strategic GI corridor, from east to west, these include:

- Cleeve Wood, Hanham (8.54 ha in size); and
- Bickley Wood (9.2 ha in size).

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

11.14 There are 40 SNCIs within the strategic GI corridor, covering 124 ha. Most are concentrated in the western half of the corridor. They mainly comprise Flowing Open Water and Bankside Vegetation habitat, with areas of Ancient Woodland at Bickley Wood and Cleeve Wood SSSIs along the northern banks of the River Avon. There are also several grassland SNCI sites scattered throughout the GI corridor.

Local Nature Reserves

11.15 There are three Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in the strategic GI corridor which include, from west to east:

- Willsbridge Valley;
- Bickley Wood; and
- Avon Valley Woodland.

Important Hedgerows

11.16 The strategic GI corridor contains a small number of important hedgerows on the slopes of Hanham Hill Fields.

Ancient Woodland

11.17 There are extensive areas of ancient woodland in the strategic GI corridor, mostly concentrated in the west along the River Avon. From west to east these ancient woodlands are:

- Cleeve Wood;
- Bickley Wood; and
- A large area extending along the north side of the River Avon valley (including Hencliff Wood).

Regionally Important Geological Sites

11.18 There are several Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) around Willsbridge, including:

- Willsbridge Valley Quarry (plus no.1 and no.2);
- Willsbridge Dramway Tunnel; and
- Willsbridge Terraces.

11.19 Other RIGS located within the strategic GI corridor include:

- Sydenham Mead Quarry;
- Avon Ring Road Cutting;
- Goldings Quarry, Hanham Wood; and

- Conham Hill Quarry.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

11.20 The strategic GI corridor follows the route of the River Avon and its northern valley slopes. Smaller tributaries include Siston Brook and the River Boyd.

Flood Zone

11.21 A narrow area along the south-western edge of the corridor, following the route of the River Avon is located in both Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3.

Large Scale Water Bodies

11.22 No large-scale water bodies are located within the corridor. However, some small ponds exist.

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

11.23 Stephen's Green (near Hanham Court/Cleeve Wood) is a common as noted above in 'landscape and heritage' and is also designated open access

land also designated open land. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2002 gives the public the right to walk across this land.

Large Green Spaces

11.24 There are several large green spaces in the strategic GI corridor, including:

- Natural/Semi-Natural Green Spaces (e.g., Conham River Park and Bickley Wood (both part of Avon Valley Woodlands), Meadow Drive and Willsbridge Valley);
- General amenity space (e.g., Hanham Green); and
- School playing fields (Hanham Woods Academy).

Active Travel Routes

11.25 The following ATRs (which include National Cycle Network (NCN) routes) lie within or cross the strategic GI corridor from west to east:

- A route from King's Square along part of Bath Road in Bitton before turning right along Church Road where it continues south to meet the River Avon and a fork west to meet Bristol and Bath Railway Path. A section continues east along the course of the River Avon to meet Bath Road at the east edge of the corridor;
- Bristol and Bath Railway Path (also part of Avon Cycleway and NCN route 4);
- Two routes off Bristol and Bath Railway Path south-west across Meadow Drive;
- A length of Keynsham Road (A4175) from Willsbridge south to meet the River Avon;
- A short section east of Hanham Mills off of the River Avon; and

Chapter 11 Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)

- Regional cycle network route along the length of the A4174 between Barrs Court and west of Hanham Mills (towards the A4 south of the corridor).

11.26 No national trails cross the strategic GI corridor, but the following long-distance routes lie within or cross corridor from east to west:

- **River Avon Trail:** runs along the course of the River Avon;
- **Monarchs Way:** runs from the Bristol and Bath Railway Path south-west to meet the A4175 and River Avon Trail;
- **Community Forest Path:** from Willsbridge south to run along part of the River Avon before merging with Two River's Way (south of the corridor); and
- **The Dramway:** from Willsbridge south-west to meet River Avon Trail.

Summary

11.27 Corridor F is a GI corridor running along the south-west facing valley side of the River Avon, south of Hanham. There are two strategic viewpoints within the corridor, offering panoramic views from Hanham Hills and the Bristol and Bath Railway (cycle) Path. Hanham Abbots and Bitton (southern half) CAs lie within the corridor, together with a small area of common land at Stephens Green in the centre of the corridor.

11.28 The primary NRN function and importance of corridor F relates to the strategic woodland network associated with the River Avon Valley, which incorporates extensive areas of ancient woodland, as well as grassland strategic network at Hanham Hills (including two SNCIs). There are two SSSIs (Cleeve Wood and Bickley Wood) and three LNRS (Willsbridge Valley, Bickley Wood, and Avon Valley Woodland) along with several RIGS within the corridor. Natural and semi-natural green spaces are present, as well as general amenity space at Hanham Green, and school playing fields at Hanham Woods Academy. There are several South Gloucestershire active travel routes, mainly concentrated in the west of the corridor, as well as a section of the Bristol and

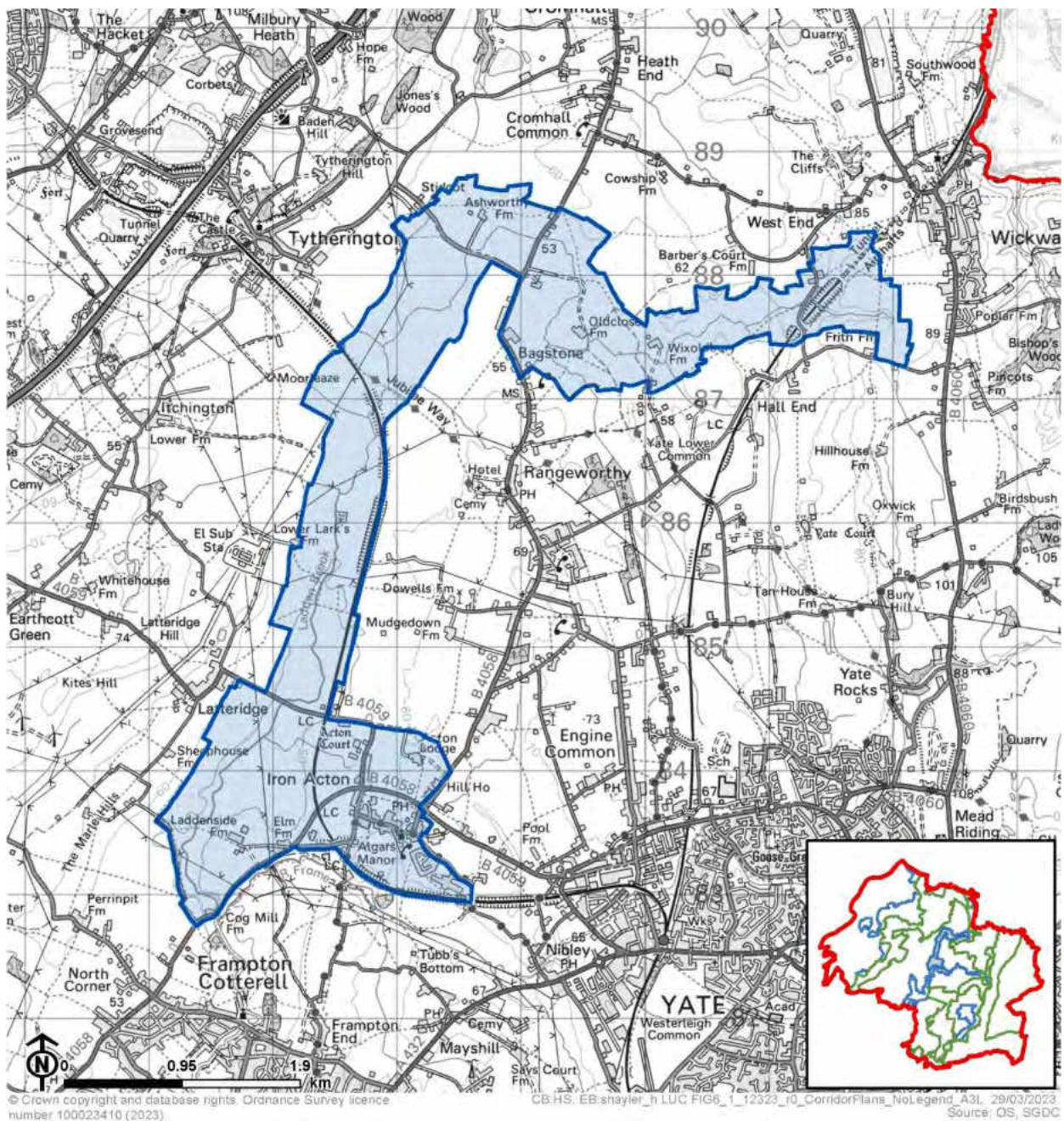
Chapter 11 Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)

Bath Railway Path (also part of the Avon Cycleway and NCN route 4) and several long-distance footpaths which cross through the corridor including the River Avon Trail, Monarchs Way, Community Forest Path and The Dramway.

Chapter 12

Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)

Figure 12.1: Corridor G Location Plan



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Importance and purpose

12.1 Blue-green infrastructure (BGI) corridor: extends from south to northeast along the Laddon Brook valley. Additional land away from the river corridor has been included in this narrow blue-green corridor to provide for habitat creation and off-setting.

12.2 Primary function and importance: strategic wetland network associated with the Laddon Brook. Small sections of the strategic woodland network and part of the Wickwar Ridge Visually Important Hillside are also present within this corridor.

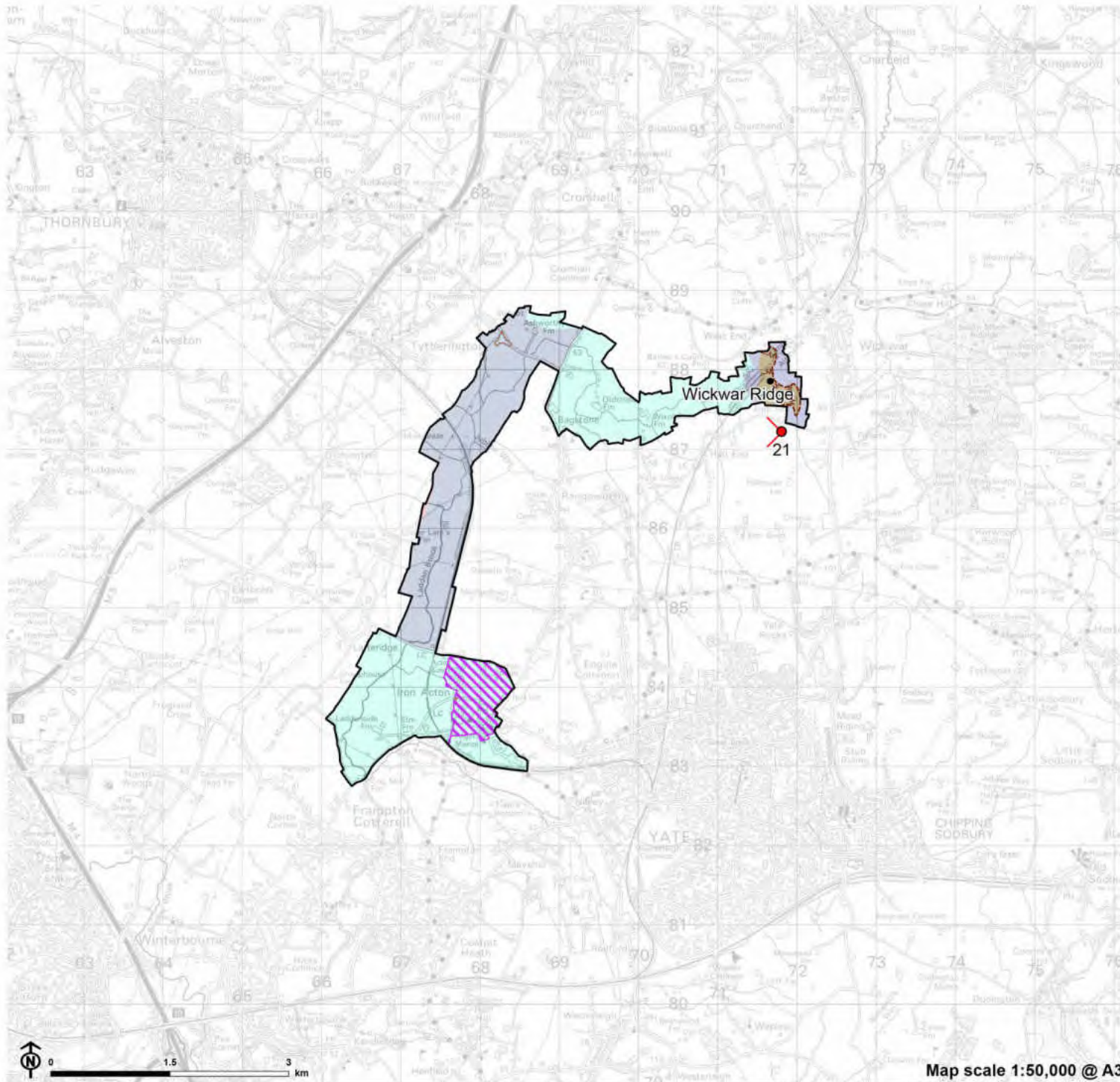
Supporting figures

12.3 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing green infrastructure areas and assets within the strategic BGI corridor, namely:

- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 12.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 12.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 12.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 12.5).

12.4 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

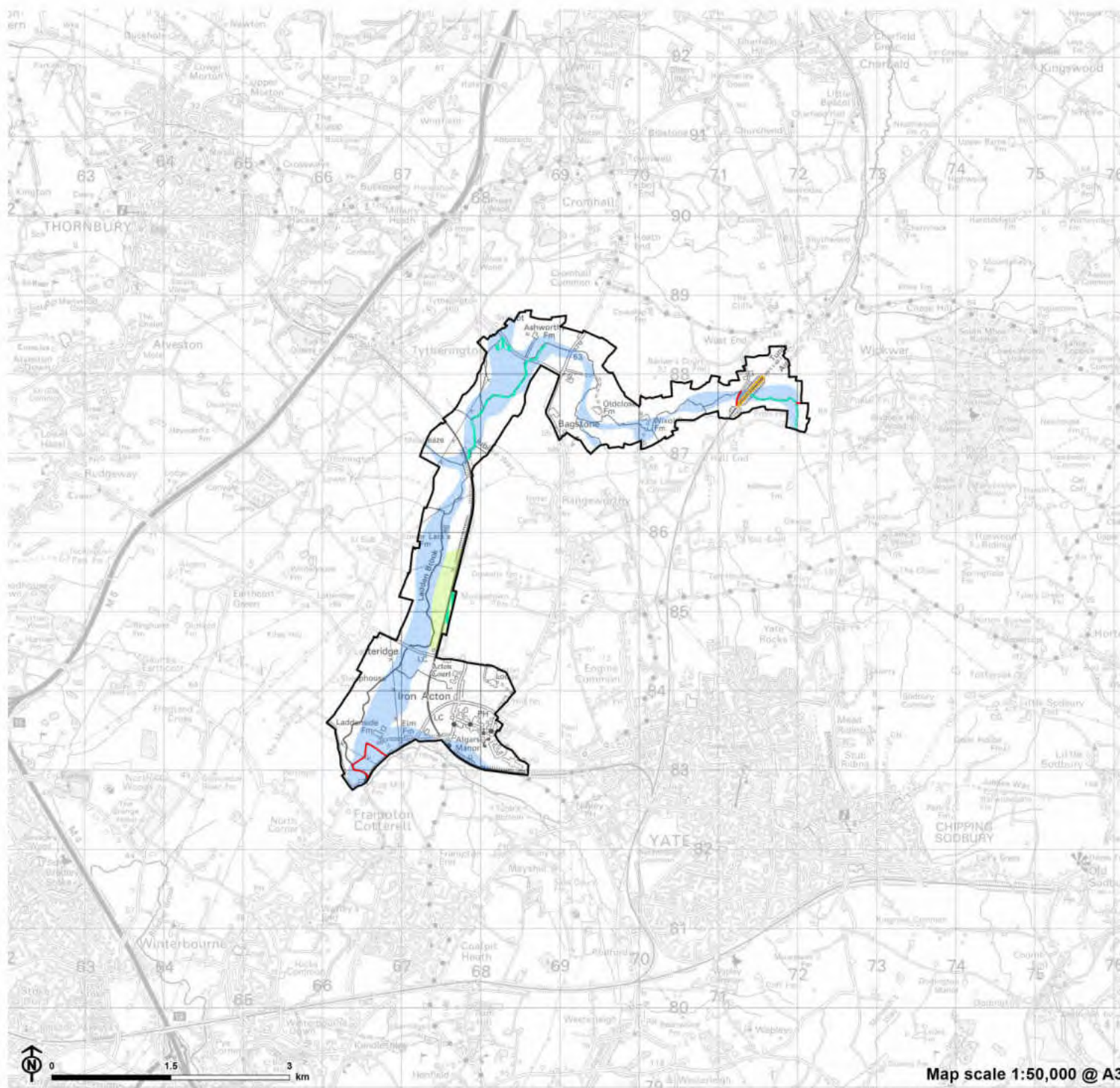
Figure 12.2: Blue-Green Corridor G: Landscape and Heritage



- Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)
- Strategic viewpoint and angle
- Visually Important Hillside
- Visually Important Hillside top of slope
- Conservation Area
- Registered Common Land
- Landscape Character Area**
- 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale
- 8: Yate Vale
- 9: Tytherington Plain
- 10: Earthcott Vale



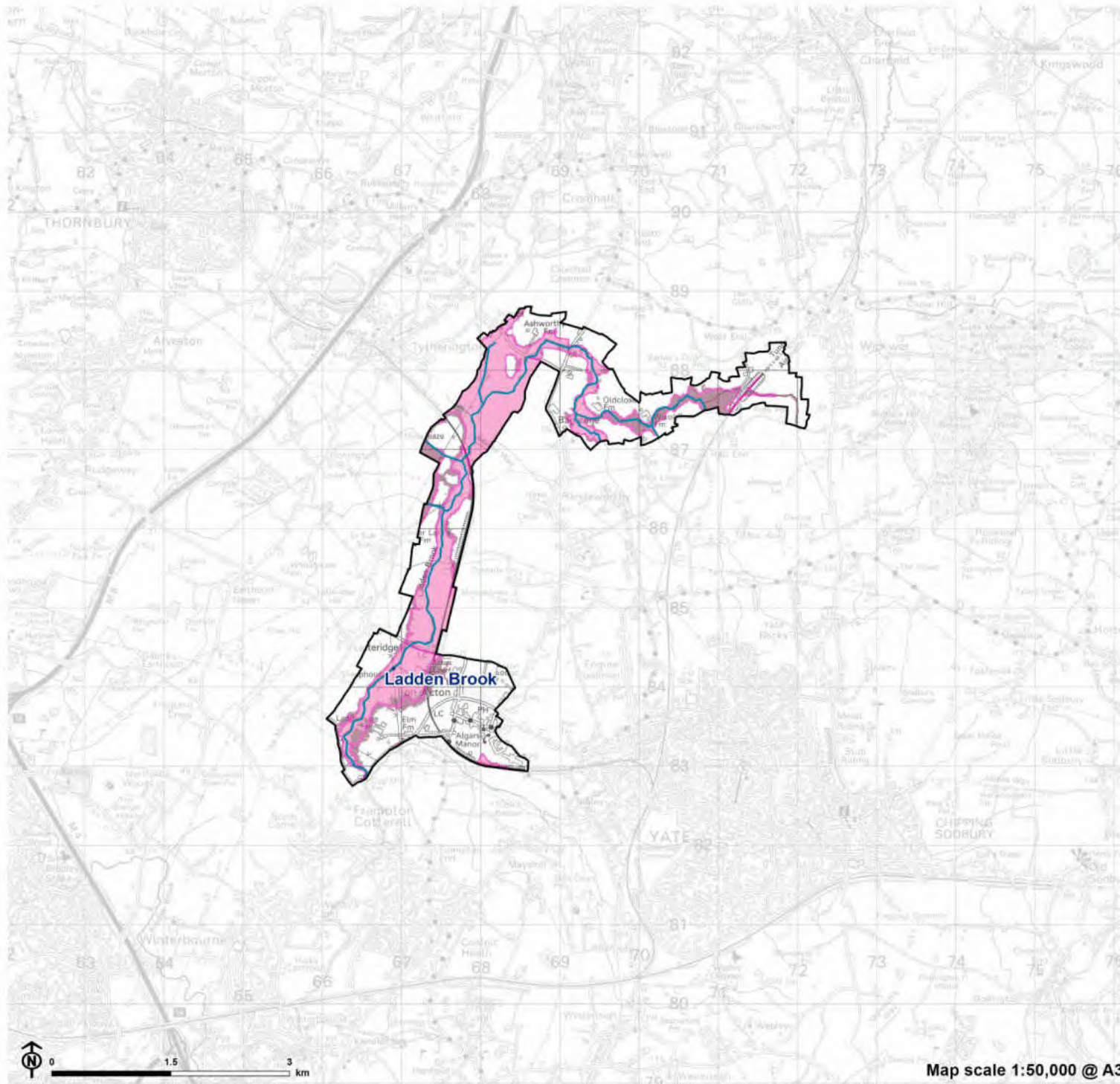
Figure 12.3: Blue-Green Corridor G: Ecology and Biodiversity



- Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)
- Important Hedgerow
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network



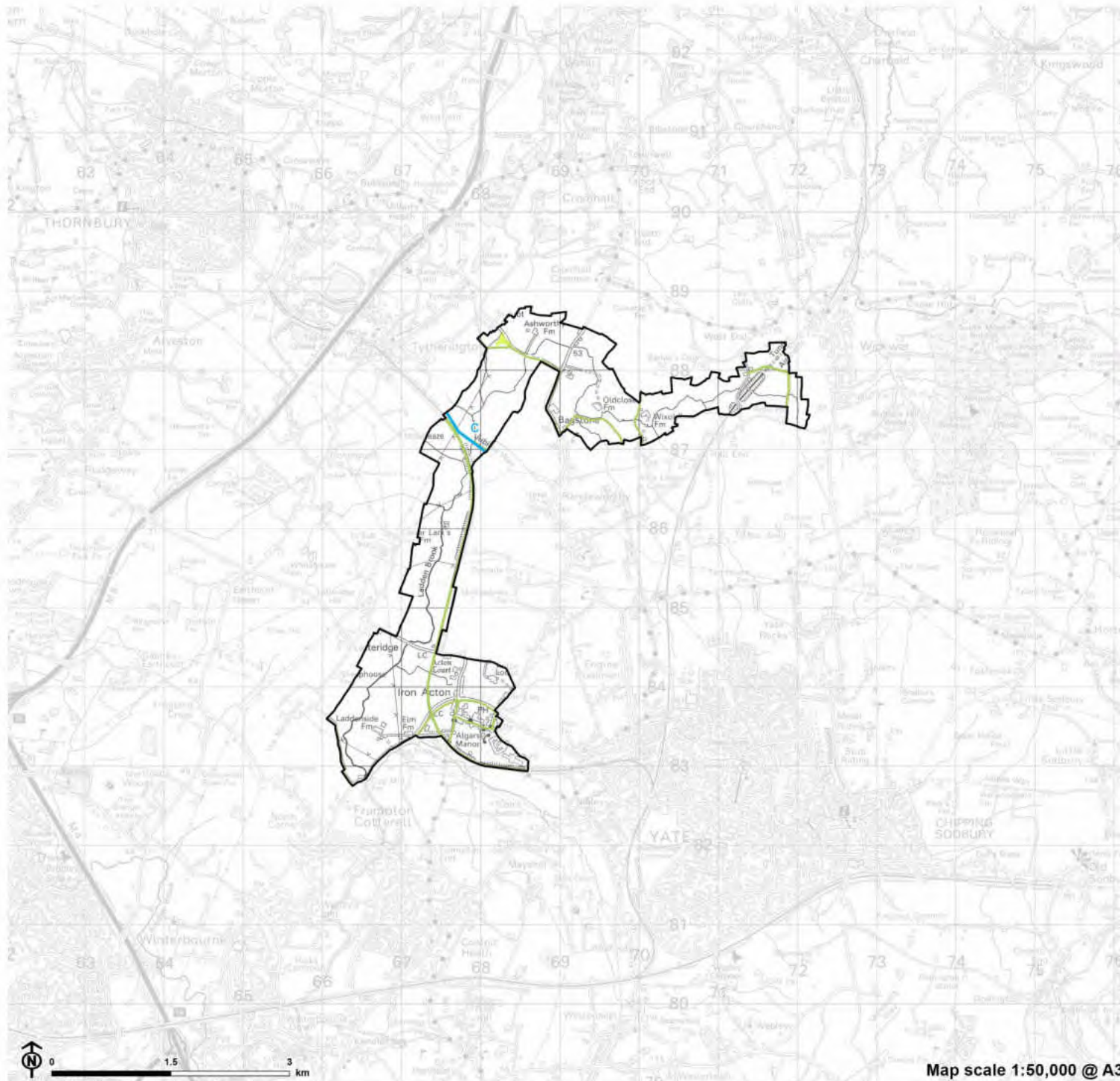
Figure 12.4: Blue-Green Corridor G: Hydrology



- Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)
- Waterbody
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3a
- Flood zone 3b



**Figure 12.5: Blue-Green Corridor G:
Recreation and Access**



- Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)
- National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths
- c: Jubilee Way
- South Gloucestershire Active Travel Route
- Large green space
- Open access land



Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

12.5 Table 12.1 sets out the SPD summary description for each of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that are within the strategic BGI corridor from north-east to south.

Table 12.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	Diverse undulating landscape covered with a mix of farmland, woodland and common.
8: Shallow Vale - Yate Vale	Gently sloping, largely agricultural often well treed area of medium sized fields, with large settlements in the south.
9: Shallow Vale - Tytherington Plain	An almost flat area of large scale, irregular, open agricultural fields bounded by hedgerows with sporadic mature trees. The village of Tytherington lies in the north-west.
10: Shallow Vale - Earthcott Vale (very small area only)	A gently sloping largely agricultural landscape of irregular fields bounded by hedgerows although urbanising features such as golf courses and solar PV farms are present. The LCA contains the villages of Ichington and Latteridge.

Visually Important Hillsides & Other Key Landforms

12.6 Table 12.2 identifies how Visually Important Hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 12.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillsides and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	VIH 16: Wickwar Ridge (incl. Bury Hill at south)	Ladden Brook
8: Shallow Vale - Yate Vale	-	Ladden Brook
9: Shallow Vale - Tytherington Plain	-	Ladden Brook
10: Shallow Vale - Earthcott Vale (very small area only)	-	Ladden Brook

Strategic Viewpoints

12.7 There are no strategic viewpoints within this strategic BGI corridor. There is one strategic viewpoint located a short distance outside of the strategic BGI corridor, the views from which encompass land within the corridor:

- **SVP 21:** View across Yate Vale and Rangeworthy (south-west of Wickwar) – view west.

Conservation Areas

12.8 One Conservation Area (CA) lies within the strategic BGI corridor:

- Iron Acton CA (the small southern edge of the CA lies within strategic BGI corridor C) - designated in 1975 in recognition of its special architectural and historic character and attractive appearance. It comprises the linear planned village including the late 14th century church of St James the Less, Grade I listed Tudor manor house of Acton Court, and adjoining open fields (including the former deer park) which reinforce the rural context and history of Action Court and its relationship with the village.

Historic Parks and Gardens

12.9 No Registered Parks and Gardens are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Common Land

12.10 Stidcot Plat is the only common within the strategic BGI corridor.

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

12.11 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire's Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic BGI corridor takes in the following from north to south:

Chapter 12 Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)

- Wetland connections along the length of the corridor following the course of Ladden Brook; and
- A small area of woodland strategic network on the valley slopes between Rangeworthy and Latteridge, enclosing part of the railway line.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

12.12 No Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

12.13 There are four SNCIs within the strategic BGI corridor, covering 10 ha within the northern half of the BGI corridor. They comprise some neutral grassland habitat, as well as riparian habitats associated with the flowing open water and bankside vegetation of Ladden Brook.

Local Nature Reserves

12.14 No Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Important Hedgerows

12.15 The strategic BGI corridor contains two small areas of important hedgerows, from north-east to south these are:

- Near Frith Farm, Wickwar; and
- Hedgerows which enclose a large arable field in the south of the corridor, north of Frampton Cotterell.

Ancient Woodland

12.16 No areas of ancient woodland are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Regionally Important Geological Sites

12.17 Wickwar Railway Cutting is the only Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

12.18 The strategic BGI corridor follows the route of the Ladden Brook and includes short sections of its minor tributaries.

Flood Zone

12.19 A large proportion of the strategic BGI corridor is Flood Zone 2, with a smaller but sizable area of land categorised as Flood Zone 3. The most extensive flood zone areas occur to the south of Stidcote Lane although a ribbon of flood risk follows the entire length of the Ladden Brook.

Large Scale Water Bodies

12.20 No large-scale water bodies are located within the strategic BGI corridor. Where small ponds occur, they are often associated with settlements.

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

12.21 A number of the commons listed above under 'landscape and heritage' are also designated open access land and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2002 gives the public the right to walk across this land.

Large Green Spaces

12.22 No large (above 5 ha) accessible green spaces are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Active Travel Routes

12.23 The following ATRs are within or cross the strategic BGI corridor from north-east to south:

- PRoW to the south-west of Wickwar between Frith Farm and Westend Farm;
- Along the length of the railway line from Tytherington to Iron Acton;

12.24 There are no National Cycle Network (NCN) routes or national trails. However, there is one long-distance footpath in the corridor:

- **Jubilee Way:** runs north-west from Rangeworthy towards Tytherington.

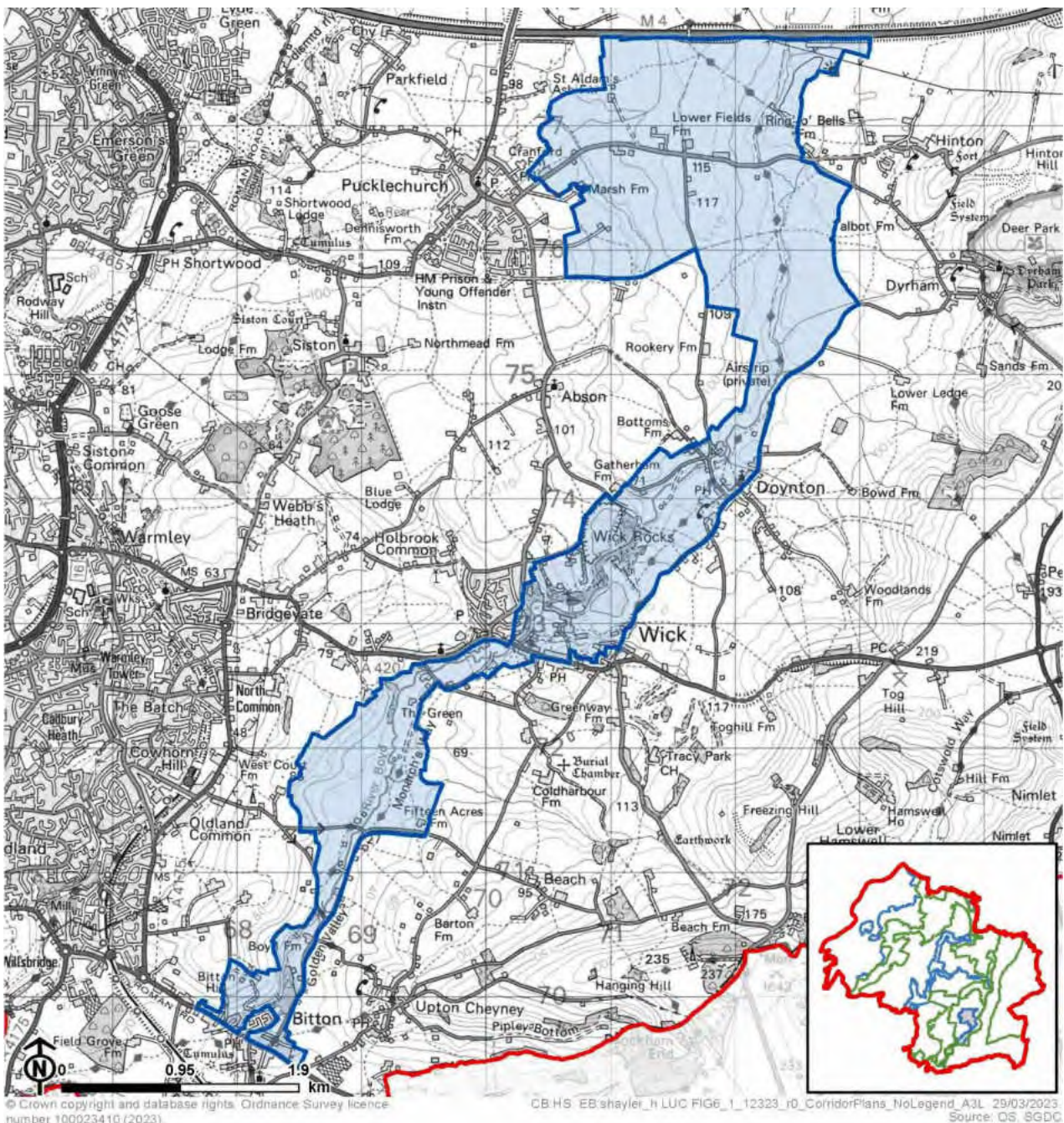
Summary

12.25 Corridor G is a BGI corridor running south to north-east along the Ladden Brook Valley, north-west of Iron Acton. There is one strategic viewpoint from Frith Farm, south-west of Wickwar, with views north-west across Yate Vale and Rangeworthy. The majority of Iron Acton CA lies within the corridor, together with a small area of common land at Sidcot Plat. The primary NRN function and importance of corridor G relates to its strategic wetland network associated with the Ladden Brook, taking in four SNCIs. There is also one RIGS in the corridor, at Wickwar Railway Cutting. The corridor is crossed by two South Gloucestershire active travel routes, as well as the Jubilee Way long distance footpath.

Chapter 13

Corridor H: Hinton-Doynnton-Bitton (Boyd Valley)

Figure 13.1: Corridor H Location Plan



Importance and purpose

13.1 Blue-green infrastructure (BGI) corridor: captures the two watercourses of the River Boyd and the Feltham Brook in the north of the corridor, before following the course of the River Boyd south through Wick and towards the River Avon.

13.2 Primary function and importance: a mosaic of strategic wetland, grassland and woodland habitats associated with the length of the River Boyd corridor, as well as the strategic wetland network associated with its tributary, the Feltham Brook.

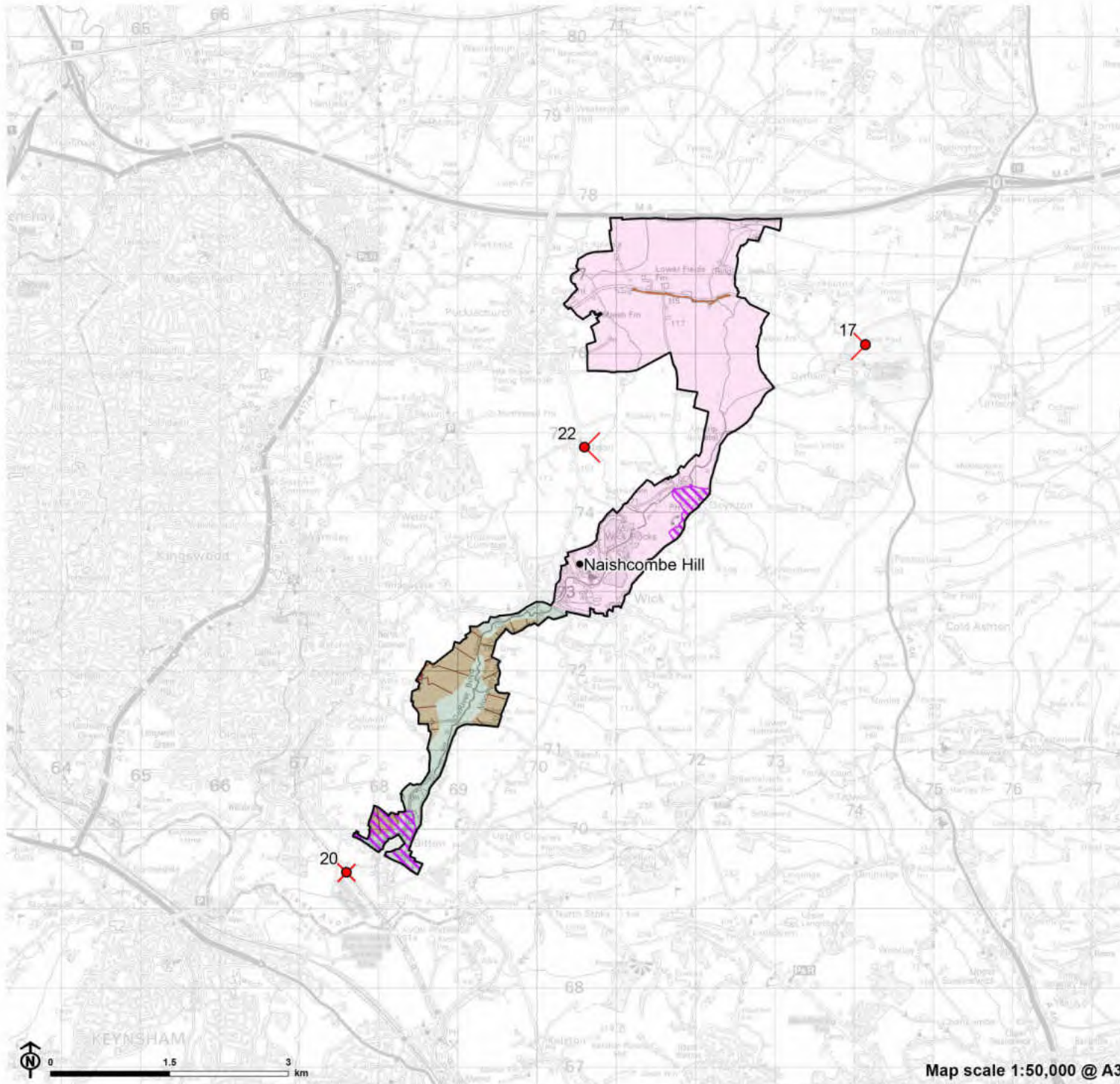
Supporting figures

13.3 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing green infrastructure areas and assets within the strategic BGI corridor, namely:

- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 13.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 13.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 13.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 13.5).

13.4 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

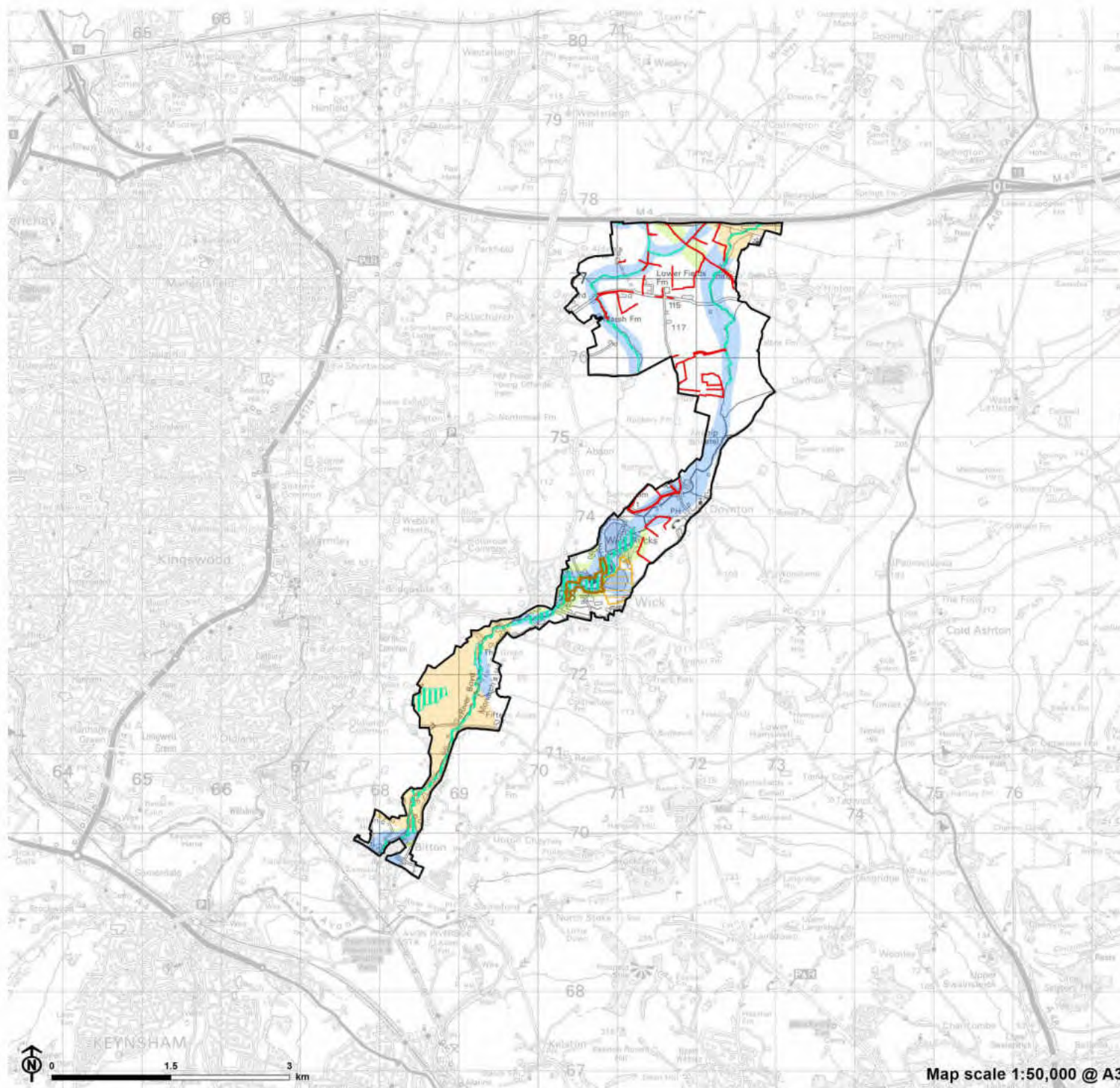
**Figure 13.2: Blue-Green Corridor H:
Landscape and Heritage**



- Corridor H: Hinton-Doynton-Bitton (Boyd Valley)
 - Strategic viewpoint and angle
 - Visually Important Hillside
 - Visually Important Hillside top of slope
 - Conservation Area
 - Registered Common Land
- Landscape Character Area**
- 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley
 - 11: Golden Valley
 - 12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge



Figure 13.3: Blue-Green Corridor H: Ecology and Biodiversity

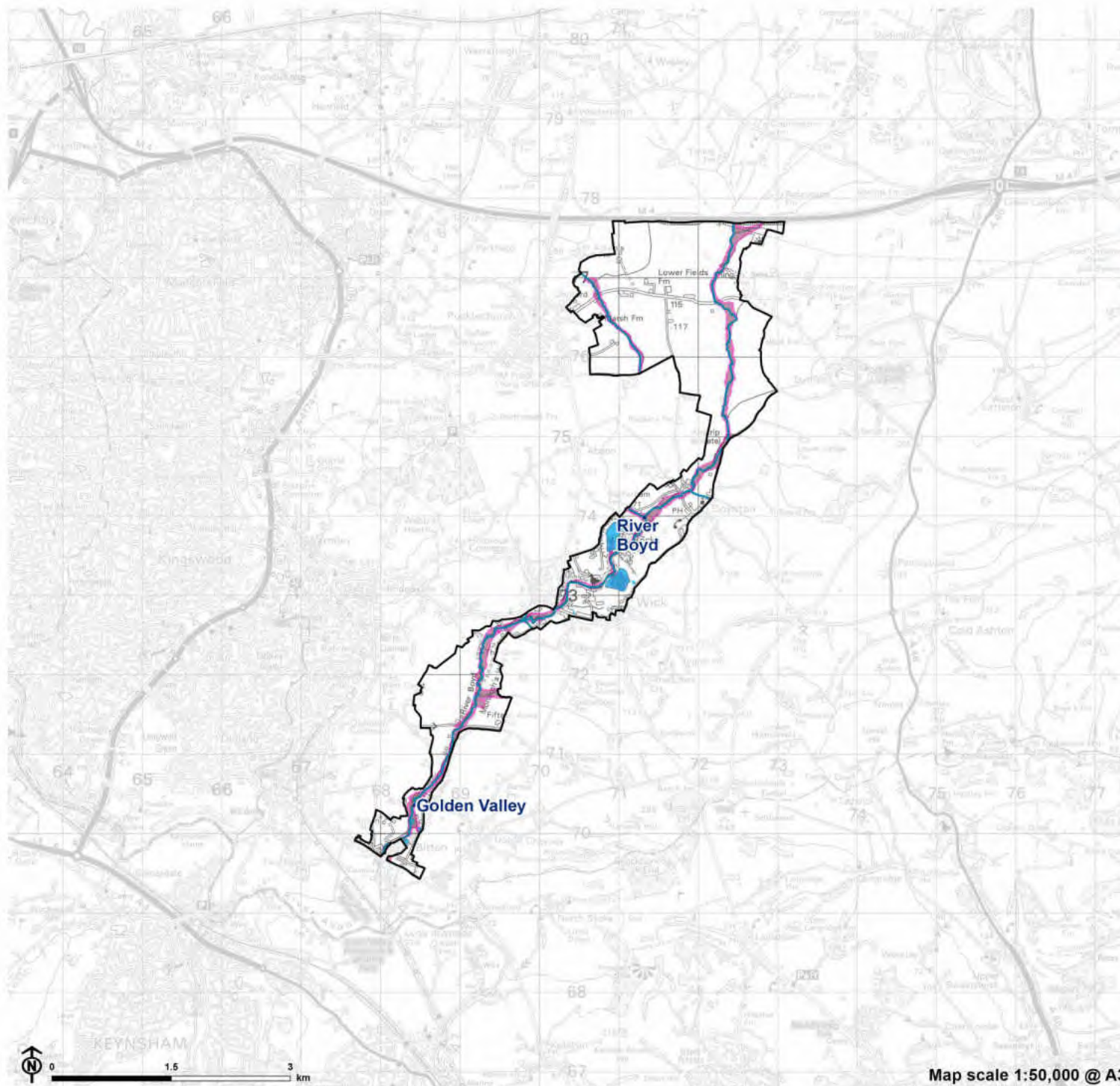


- Corridor H: Hinton-Doynton-Bitton (Boyd Valley)
- Important Hedgerow
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Local Nature Reserve
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network
- Grassland Strategic Network



Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

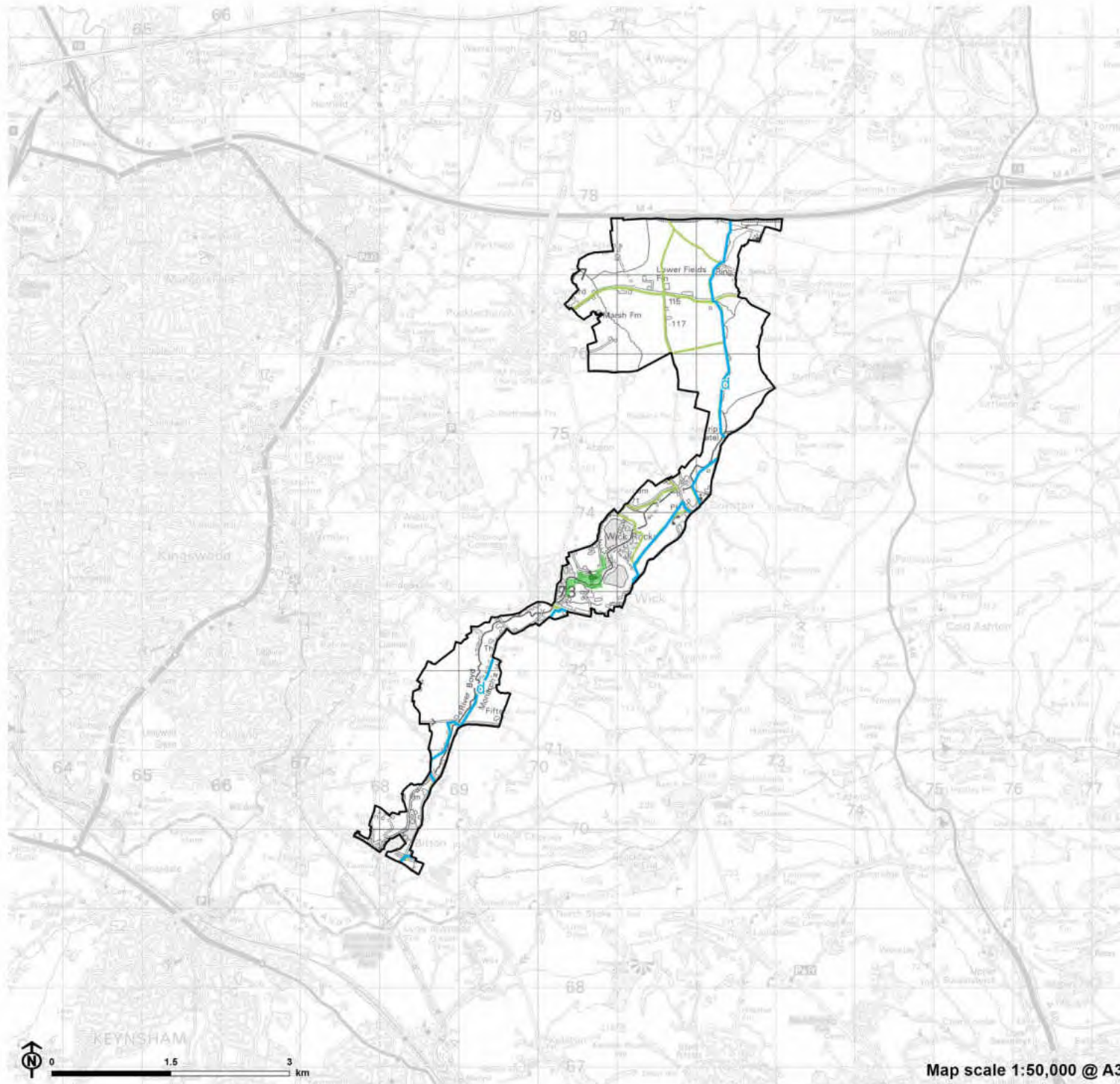
Figure 13.4: Blue-Green Corridor H:
Hydrology



- Corridor H: Hinton-Doynton-Bitton (Boyd Valley)
- Waterbody
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3a
- Flood zone 3b



**Figure 13.5: Blue-Green Corridor H:
Recreation and Access**



- Corridor H: Hinton-Doynton-Bitton (Boyd Valley)
- National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths
- d: Monarch's Way
- South Gloucestershire Active Travel Route
- Large green space
- Open access land



Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

13.5 Table 13.1 sets out the SPD summary description for each of these Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that are within the strategic BGI corridor, from north to south.

Table 13.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
6: Shallow Ridge - Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley	Diverse undulating rural landscape of mainly mixed farmland.
11: Enclosed Valleys - Golden Valley	Steeply sloping broad agricultural valley, containing the meandering River Boyd visually enclosed by the Oldland Ridge and the much higher Ashwicke Ridges.

Visually Important Hillsides & Other key Landforms

13.6 Table 13.2 identifies how Visually Important Hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 13.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillside and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
6: Shallow Ridge - Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley	-	River Boyd valley
11: Enclosed Valleys - Golden Valley	VIH 6: Oldland Ridge (slopes of Bitton Hill and Beach Hill)	River Boyd valley

Strategic Viewpoints

13.7 There are no strategic viewpoints within the BGI corridor. Two strategic viewpoints are located a short distance outside of the strategic BGI corridor with views that encompass land within the corridor. One is located within corridor E (SVP 17: View from viewing point at the top of Dyrham deer park from the edge of the scarp) and one is not located within any strategic BGI corridor (SVP 22: View from Abson Road South of Church). One local viewpoint is located within the strategic BGI corridor, that is LVP 9: view from Wick Rocks.

Conservation Areas

13.8 There are two Conservation Areas (CA) within the strategic BGI corridor:

- Doynton CA - designated in 1983 in recognition of its special architectural and historic character and appearance. With a deep history stretching back to Anglo-Saxon times, the settlement is centred around the 12th century Church of the Holy Trinity. The eastern part of the CA is within the Cotswold National Landscape.

- The north half of Bitton CA (north of the A431 linear through route) - designated in 1989 (previously two separate areas from 1972) to ensure areas of more recent development to the north of the linear route, including the industrial mills on the River Boyd and modern infill, do not unbalance and weaken the overall rural character of that in the south of the area (within Corridor F).

Historic Parks and Gardens

13.9 No Registered Parks and Gardens are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Common Land

13.10 A small linear section of Hinton Common extends into the strategic BGI corridor from Hinton village to the east (outside of the corridor boundary).

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

13.11 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire's Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic BGI corridor takes in the following from north to south:

- Woodland connections linking small farm-based woodlands, as well as improving connectivity between woodlands in Wick Golden Valley Nature Reserve and the wider Boyd River valley.

Chapter 13 Corridor H: Hinton-Doynton-Bitton (Boyd Valley)

- Wetland connections along the length of the River Boyd within the strategic BGI corridor and enhancing connectivity with the wider River Avon catchment.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

13.12 No Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

13.13 There are 13 SNCIs within the strategic BGI corridor, covering 56 ha. They comprise grassland and broadleaved woodland habitats, as well as riparian habitats (including flowing water and bankside vegetation) associated with the River Boyd, which runs roughly north-south through the strategic BGI corridor.

Local Nature Reserves

13.14 There is one Local Nature Reserves (LNR) in the centre of the strategic BGI corridor at Wick Golden Valley.

Important hedgerows

13.15 The strategic BGI corridor contains an extensive network of important hedgerows to the north-west of Doynton on either side of Rookery Lane, as well as small sections south of the M4 between Pucklechurch and Hinton.

Ancient Woodland

13.16 There is no ancient woodland within the strategic BGI corridor.

Regionally Important Geological Sites

13.17 There are two Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) located within the strategic BGI corridor:

- Golden Valley Ochre and Oxide Works, Wick; and
- Wick Quarry.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

13.18 The River Boyd runs south through the strategic BGI corridor before joining the River Avon south of Bitton (outside the corridor boundary). Feltham Brook runs in from the north-west, joining the River Boyd approximately 700m west of Doynton.

Flood Zone

13.19 Areas of flood risk are constrained to the immediate banks of the river and brooks. However, there are slightly larger areas of Flood Zone 3 near Wick.

Large Scale Water Bodies

13.20 Two larger, free-standing waterbodies are focused within the centre of the strategic BGI corridor near Wick Golden Valley Local Nature Reserve (LNR), associated with the now disused Wick Quarry.

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

13.21 The section of Hinton Common noted above in 'landscape and heritage' is also designated open access land. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2002 gives the public the right to walk across this land.

Large Green Spaces

13.22 There is one large green space in the strategic BGI corridor, the natural/semi-natural green space at Wick Golden Valley LNR.

Active Travel Routes

13.23 The following ATRs lie within or cross the strategic BGI corridor from north to south:

- A section of Feltham Road from between Pucklechurch and the River Boyd (west of Hinton); and
- A short section of the A420 from Wick, west towards Bridgegate.

13.24 No National Cycle Network (NCN) routes or national trails cross the strategic BGI corridor. There is however one long-distance walking route within the corridor, as follows:

- **Monarch's Way:** follows course of the River Boyd along the length of the corridor.

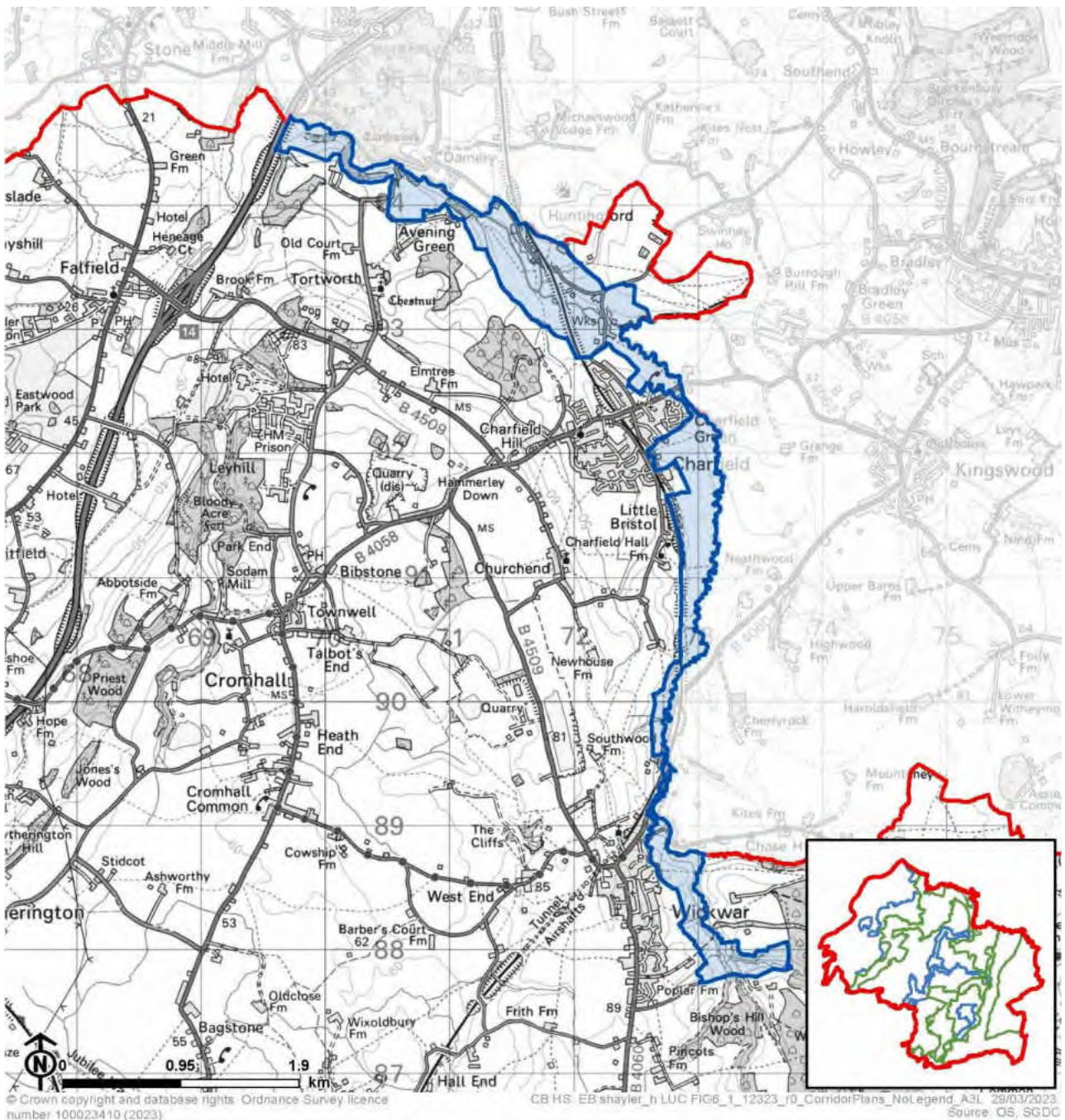
Summary

13.25 Corridor H is a BGI corridor, which follows the valley of the River Boyd to branch west along the Feltham Brook to the north of Wick. Two conservation areas lie within the corridor (Bitton - northern half, and Doynton), together with the linear Hinton Common. The primary NRN function and importance of corridor H relates to its mosaic of strategic wetland and woodland habitats associated with the length of both river corridors, as well as connectivity with the wider River Avon catchment, encompassing several SNCIs and two RIGS. Two larger, free-standing waterbodies are focused within the centre of the strategic BGI corridor, associated with the now-disused Wick Quarry. There is one LNR at Wick Golden Valley which is also a large green space. Two South Gloucestershire active travel routes lie within the corridor, and The Monarchs Way long-distance footpath runs through the centre, following the River Boyd.

Chapter 14

Corridor I: Huntingford-Charfield-Wickwar (Little Avon River Corridor)

Figure 14.1: Corridor I Location Plan



Importance and purpose

14.1 Blue-green infrastructure (BGI) corridor: extends from south to north-west along the Little Avon valley. Additional land away from the river corridor has been included in this narrow blue-green corridor to provide for habitat creation and off-setting. Although seemingly local in scale, Corridor I is considered to be of strategic importance due to its rich mosaic of terrestrial and riparian habitat, as well as its potential to form strategic connections with surrounding local authorities.

14.2 Primary function and importance: strategic wetland network associated with the river, which also takes in part of the strategic woodland network at both its southern and northern ends, as well as the strategic grassland network at its southern end.

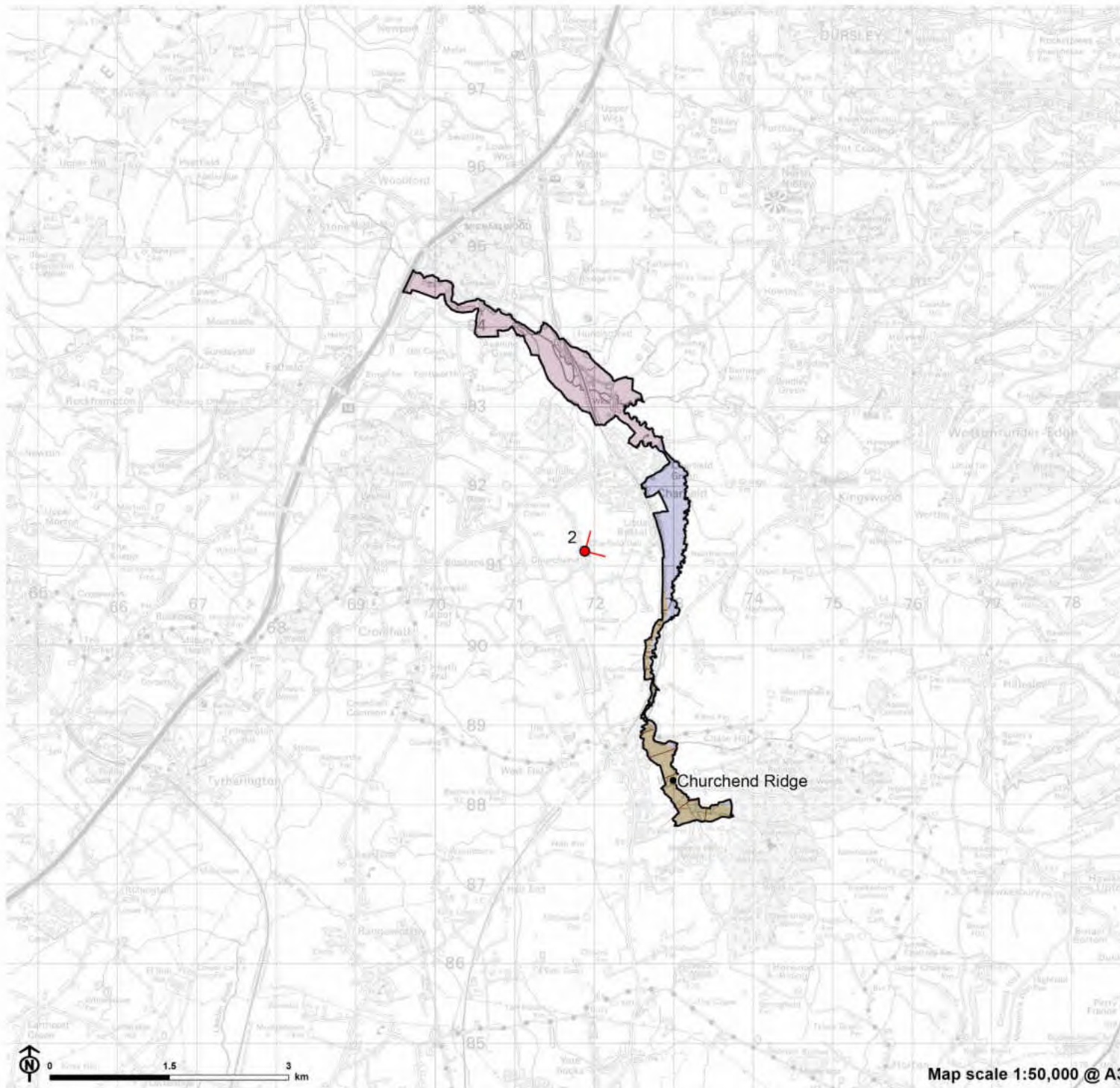
Supporting Figures

14.3 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing green infrastructure areas and assets within the strategic BGI corridor, namely:

- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 14.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 14.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 14.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 14.5).

14.4 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

**Figure 14.2: Blue-Green Corridor I:
Landscape and Heritage**



Corridor I: Huntingford-Charfield-Wickwar
(Little Avon River Corridor)

Strategic viewpoint and angle

Visually Important Hillside

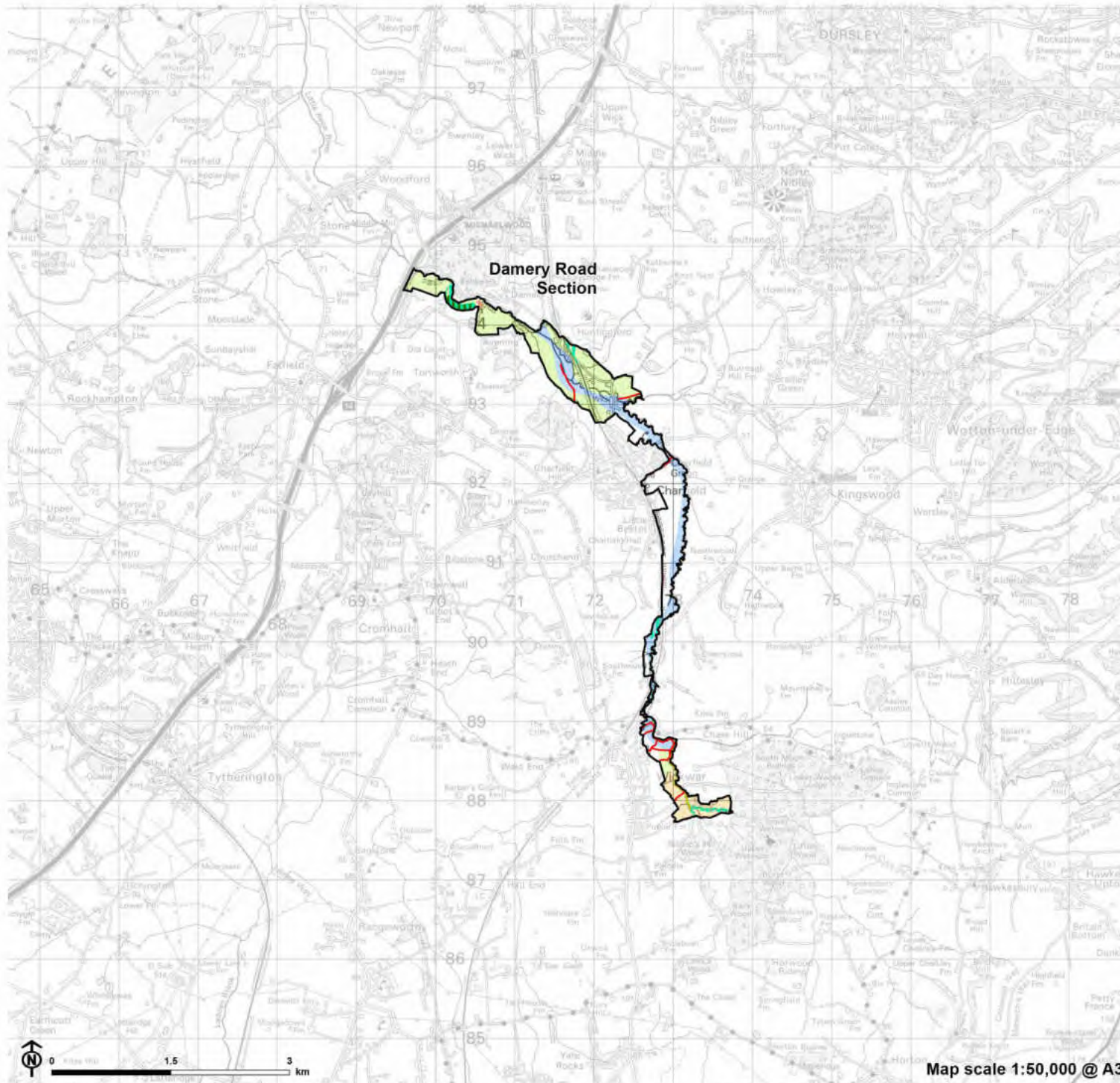
Landscape Character Area

5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale

7: Falfield Vale



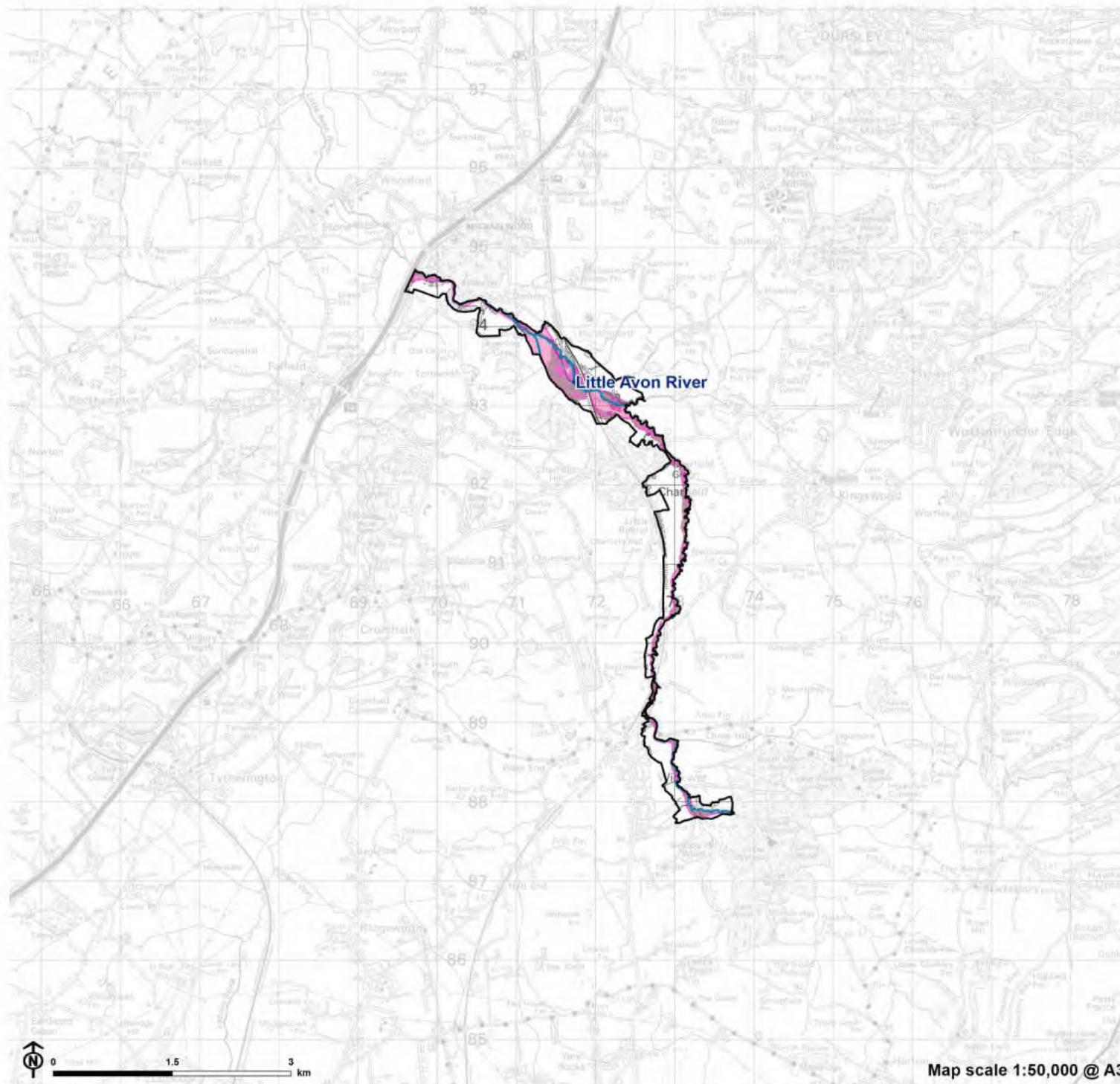
Figure 14.3: Blue-Green Corridor I: Ecology and Biodiversity



- Corridor I: Huntingford-Charfield-Wickwar (Little Avon River Corridor)
- Important Hedgerow
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Ancient Woodland
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network
- Grassland Strategic Network




**Figure 14.4: Blue-Green Corridor I:
Hydrology**

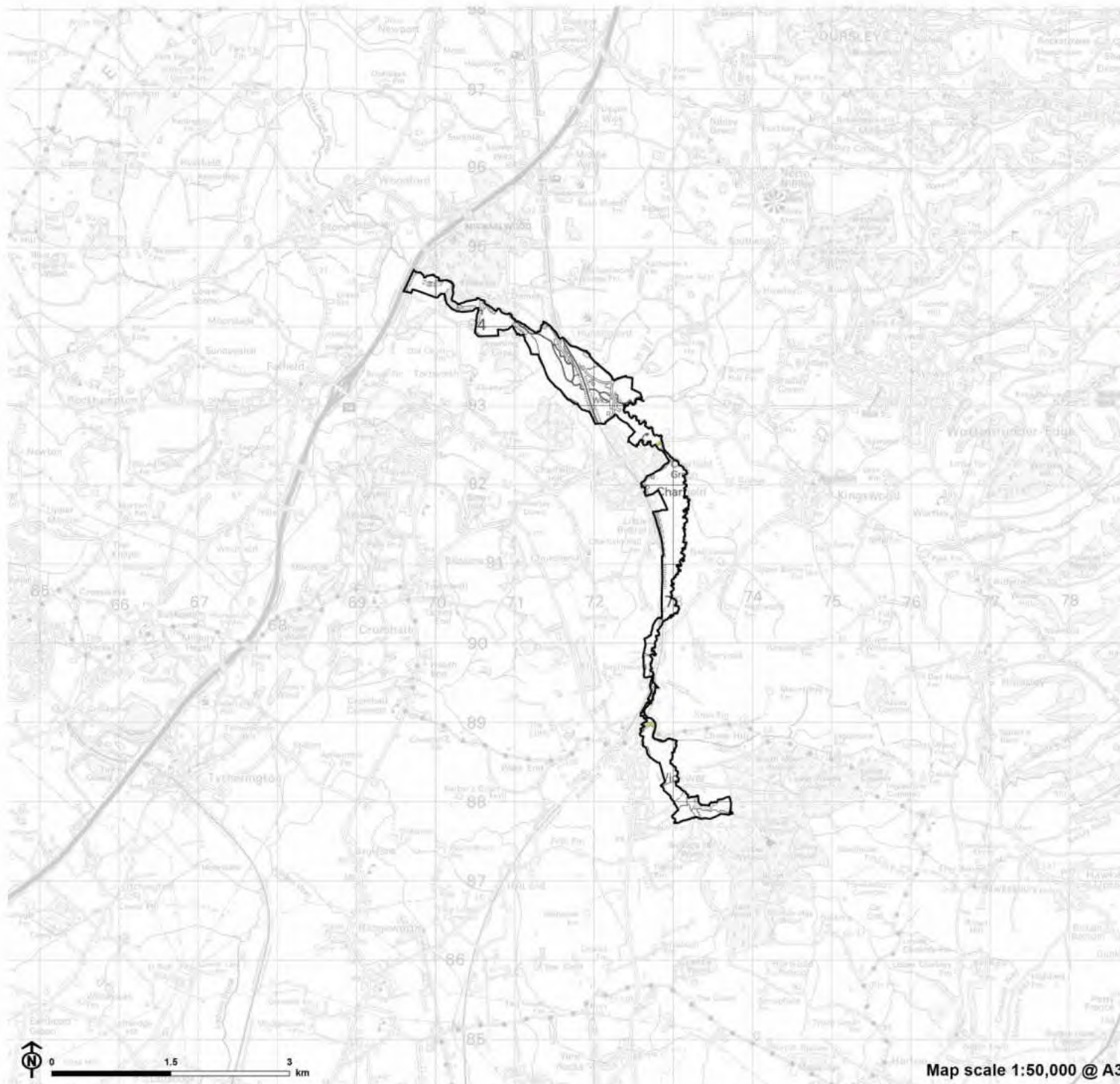


- Corridor I: Huntingford-Charfield-Wickwar (Little Avon River Corridor)
- Waterbody
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3a
- Flood zone 3b



**Figure 14.5: Blue-Green Corridor I:
Recreation and Access**

-  Corridor I: Huntingford-Charfield-Wickwar (Little Avon River Corridor)
-  South Gloucestershire Active Travel Route
-  Large green space
-  Open access land



Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

14.5 Table 14.1 below sets out the SPD summary description for each of these Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that are within the strategic BGI corridor from north-west to south.

Table 14.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	Diverse undulating landscape covered with a mix of farmland, woodland and common.
7: Parkland Vale – Falfield Vale	Shallow bowl comprising agricultural land and parkland, with a prominent mosaic of woodland, copses and mature trees on surrounding higher ground.

Visually Important Hillsides & Other Key landforms

14.6 Table 14.2 identifies how Visually Important Hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 14.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillside and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside (including prominent valley sides)	Main Watercourse Valley
5: Shallow Ridge - Wickwar Ridge and Vale	VIH 11: Churchend Ridge	-
7: Parkland Vale – Falfield Vale	-	-

Strategic Viewpoints

14.7 There are no strategic viewpoints within or near to the BGI corridor.

Conservation Areas

14.8 No Conservation Areas are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Historic Parks and Gardens

14.9 No Registered Parks and Gardens are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Common Land

14.10 No commons are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

14.11 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire's Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic BGI corridor takes in the following from north-west to south:

- Wetland connections along the length of the Little Avon River;
- Woodland connections across the north-west of the corridor, linking smaller areas of ancient woodland within the corridor and within the wider landscape (both north and south);
- Woodland connections in the south, improving connectivity between riparian woodland associated with the upper reaches of the Little Avon River east to Lower Woods; and
- Similar to the woodland connections above, grassland connections in the south to wrap around Lower Woods.

14.12 There are opportunities to enhance the connectivity of Corridor I with surrounding Local Planning Authorities, including linking Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood Greenway with Charfield.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

14.13 Damery Road Section (0.29 ha in size) in the northern part of the BGI corridor is the only Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

14.14 There are eight SNCIs within the strategic BGI corridor, covering 13 ha. They comprise woodland (including Ancient Woodland at Iron Mill Grove in the north-west), as well as grassland sites and riparian habitats (including flowing open water and bankside vegetation associated with the Little Avon River in the south-east of the BGI corridor).

Local Nature Reserves

14.15 No Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Important Hedgerows

14.16 The strategic BGI corridor contains a small cluster of important hedgerows to the north-east of Wickwar, as well as small sections to the south of Charfield along the railway line, and east of Charfield along a tributary stream of the Little Avon River.

Ancient Woodland

14.17 There is a small area of ancient, replanted woodland in the north of the strategic BGI corridor at Iron Mill Grove (3.06 ha in size).

Regionally Important Geological Sites

14.18 The following Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) are located within the strategic GI corridor from north-west to south:

Chapter 14 Corridor I: Huntingford-Charfield-Wickwar (Little Avon River Corridor)

- Damery Road Section SSSI; and
- Little Avon River Valley, Wickwar.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

14.19 The Little Avon River (including some small unnamed tributary streams) flows north and north-west through the strategic BGI corridor.

Flood Zone

14.20 Areas of flood risk are concentrated along the whole length of the strategic BGI corridor, associated with the banks of the Little Avon River, with a slightly larger area of flood risk (Flood Zones 2 and 3) south-west of Huntingford where the river channel temporarily splits in two.

Large Scale Water Bodies

14.21 No large-scale water bodies are located within the corridor. However, there is one small pond in the north of the BGI corridor in a field just off Damery Lane near Crockley's Farm.

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

14.22 No commons or areas of open access land are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Large Green Spaces

14.23 No large green spaces are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Active Travel Routes

14.24 The following ATRs lie within or cross the strategic BGI corridor from north-west to south:

- A short section of the B4058 north-east of Charfield; and
- Part of the Avon Cycleway (an 85-mile circular route around the city of Bristol) crosses a short section of the B4060 (The Chase) north of Wickwar.

14.25 No National Cycle Network (NCN) routes, national trails or long-distance routes cross the strategic BGI corridor.

14.26 In Local Plan Stage 2 consultation feedback, both Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council have highlighted the opportunity to link Corridor I with the Wotton-under-Edge, Charfield and Kingswood greenway project.

Summary

14.27 Corridor I is a BGI corridor extending south to north-west along the Little Avon valley near Charfield. The primary NRN function and importance of Corridor I relates to its strategic wetland network associated with the Little Avon River, which also takes in part of the strategic woodland network at the southern and northern ends of the corridor, including ancient woodland at Iron Mill Grove and several SNCIs. There is one SSSI (Damery Road Section) in the north of the corridor, which is also a RIGS. One South Gloucestershire active travel route passes through the corridor to the east of Charfield, as well as a short section of the Avon Cycleway (a regional cycle route) north of Wickwar. Additional land away from the river corridor has been included in this narrow blue-green corridor to provide for habitat creation and off-setting. Corridor I also provides a good opportunity for making green and blue linkages with surrounding Local Planning Authorities, including better connecting Charfield with Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood Greenway.