

# COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

Landscape Conservation Action Plan - March 2018

Round 2 Heritage Lottery Fund Application

LCAP Part 1 (Extract for Web Publication)



Chair of  
Landscape  
Partnership

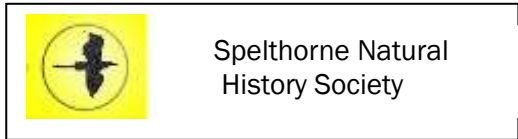


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Front cover photo of Stockers Lake – Greg Townsend



# FOREWORD

## BY ROB REES, CHAIR OF THE COLNE VALLEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

The Landscape Partnership programme, run by the Heritage Lottery Fund, seeks to 'conserve areas of distinctive landscape character' and promote a 'holistic and balanced approach to the management of landscape heritage at a landscape scale'. Landscape Conservation Action Plans (LCAPs) required as part of this programme, provide the foundation for planned work to benefit heritage, people and communities and are needed in order to secure the Heritage Lottery Fund grant towards the proposed work.

Our LCAP, 'Colne Valley – Landscape on the Edge', comprises a suite of exciting projects (the Scheme), and seeks to: set these in the landscape context; highlight the views of local people about the lower Colne area and the Scheme; demonstrate to partners, funders and the public that the Scheme is well thought through and will deliver important outcomes and benefits; present a clear and accurate vision of what is planned and why;

provide an essential project management tool for effective and efficient delivery.

The partnership involved in preparing this LCAP considers it to be a compelling, innovative and realistic bid, with a range of projects which will connect people, biodiversity and access. 'Colne Valley – Landscape on the Edge' meets all the objectives of the Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership programme, with each of the projects proposed under the Scheme meeting at least one objective.

Covering parts of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Greater London, Hertfordshire and Surrey, 'Colne Valley – Landscape on the Edge' will harness and stimulate organisations and communities across the area to support and sustain delivery. Residents and visitors will gain positive perceptions about the area, will learn more about the landscape and feel more confident about exploring it. They will be supported to assist in 'shaping their place', and feel more motivated to venture out and enjoy the area, and to participate in efforts to improve and maintain it. The partnership will continue to work together, building on the substantial foundation already achieved, and looks forward to giving practical expression to the LCAP through its delivery.

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# INTRODUCTION

## i) Scheme Area Overview

'Colne Valley – A Landscape on the Edge' is a Landscape Partnership Scheme. The Scheme area lies in southern England on the western fringes of Greater London. Its context is essentially the lower part of the Colne River catchment (its valley sides and plateau), a river basin incorporating a complex tributary of the River Thames (a braided river system originating from the late Ice Age). Many of the 17 river waterbodies in the catchment originate from the Chilterns (part of which is covered by an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation).

The Scheme area stretches from Rickmansworth to Staines and South Bucks to Hillingdon. Modern administrative boundaries do not mirror the Colne Valley landscape; parts of 10 local authorities, including counties and districts, cover the area. Settlements within the area comprise small centres of population such as at Denham and Iver. Though the Colne Valley landscape is surrounded by people from major towns (such as West Drayton, Uxbridge and Slough) and some residents are drawn into the countryside on their doorstep, for many its natural beauty feels hidden as there are few areas where one can get a glimpse of the wider landscape from the thoroughfares.

The Valley landscape is a patchwork of wetland, woodland, grassland (pasture and meadows) and parkland that have been influenced by the river, underlying geology and socio-economic change. Historically the floodplain was occupied by small mixed farms set in a characteristic 'ditches-with-pollards' landscape. Several ancient woodlands are found on the northern valley sides and plateau and there are occasional areas of wet willow and alder 'carr' woodland on the valley floor. The mineral extraction industry has created a string of over 70 former gravel pits including The Aquadrome and Church Lammas, and mineral extraction continues in places. Many of these pits are now attractive lakes used for angling, water sports and nature conservation. Around the Grand Union Canal, many brickfields were dug

from the late 19th century and transported by canal to build London. In the southern part of the Valley, the landscape is characterised by aqueducts and large reservoirs which are recreational areas, local landmarks and important water sources for London and the South East. Some of these form part of internationally important Ramsar Site and Special Protection Area wetlands designated on account of the high number of wildfowl they support.

Extraction and development throughout the Valley have uncovered evidence of longstanding human occupation including hunter-gather butchery sites on gravel islands in the floor of the valley at Uxbridge and Staines and one of the earliest settlements in the country discovered at Kingsmead Quarry near Horton. Bronze Age and Iron Age finds include jewellery and weapons such as a bronze sword at Wraysbury. A Roman settlement was discovered at the Lea Quarry, Denham in the early 21st Century. The first written evidence citing the Colne comes from the Saxon period, the 'Chronicles of St Aethelweard'. Towns such as Uxbridge started to develop as market centres and staging posts in the Medieval period. During the 18th Century the area became a fashionable place to build country houses and parkland due to its proximity to London. This led to changes in the landscape as landowners closed or re-routed paths and roads.

This landscape is changing. A growing population is leading to the need for development, resulting in loss of 'open space' and change of land use, raised water consumption and increased likelihood of anti-social behaviour. Major national transport projects including High Speed 2 (HS2) Rail Link and Heathrow Airport Expansion are impacting on the area and this has generated much local concern. Lack of awareness by local people of the regional importance of the area for recreation and biodiversity will potentially weaken the area's standing and integrity. The Landscape Partnership Scheme has the opportunity to bring positive enhancements to the area and generate a sense of community cohesion. It will do this through the delivery of four programmes focussing on habitats and species, people, access and landscape change. A fifth programme will provide the necessary support for these.



One of the 250 weirs in the Colne Catchment



Visitors enjoying a river view from one of the many bridges in the Colne Valley.

## ii) Timeline

Figure 1 provides a timeline for the Scheme. A Round 1 Landscape Partnership Scheme submission was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund in summer 2016 and was successful. A key output of the Development Stage that followed has been the production of this Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) by Ewa Prokop, Stewart Pomeroy and Alex Snelling-Day, with the welcomed support and input of partners.

This LCAP was formally adopted by members of the Landscape Partnership Board on 17th January 2018 and was submitted, alongside other documents, to HLF on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Part 1 of the LCAP will be available to the public on the Landscape Partnership Scheme webpages which are to be created for the Scheme from August-October 2018.

## iii) Boundary of the 'Landscape on the Edge' Area

At Round 1, the boundary of the Landscape Partnership Scheme area broadly followed the boundary of the Colne Valley Regional Park in addition to some expanses of countryside incorporating significant areas of ancient woodland. Alison Farmer was commissioned (in April 2017) to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment of the Scheme area and one of her tasks was to re-examine the boundary of the Scheme. Through this process and a period of consultation the Scheme boundary has been slightly amended from that presented at Round 1. The Scheme area now covers an area of 128 km<sup>2</sup> and in the main follows the boundaries of the Landscape Character areas.

A map of the Scheme Area is shown in Figure 2. A 5km buffer zone is also shown on the following page in recognition of the fact that much of the population that benefits from the Scheme area is located outside of its area, on its borders. (This map also incorporates the top most visited sites in the Landscape Partnership Scheme area). Audience development will be taking place in the buffer zone as well as in the Scheme area itself.

Figure 1: Timeline

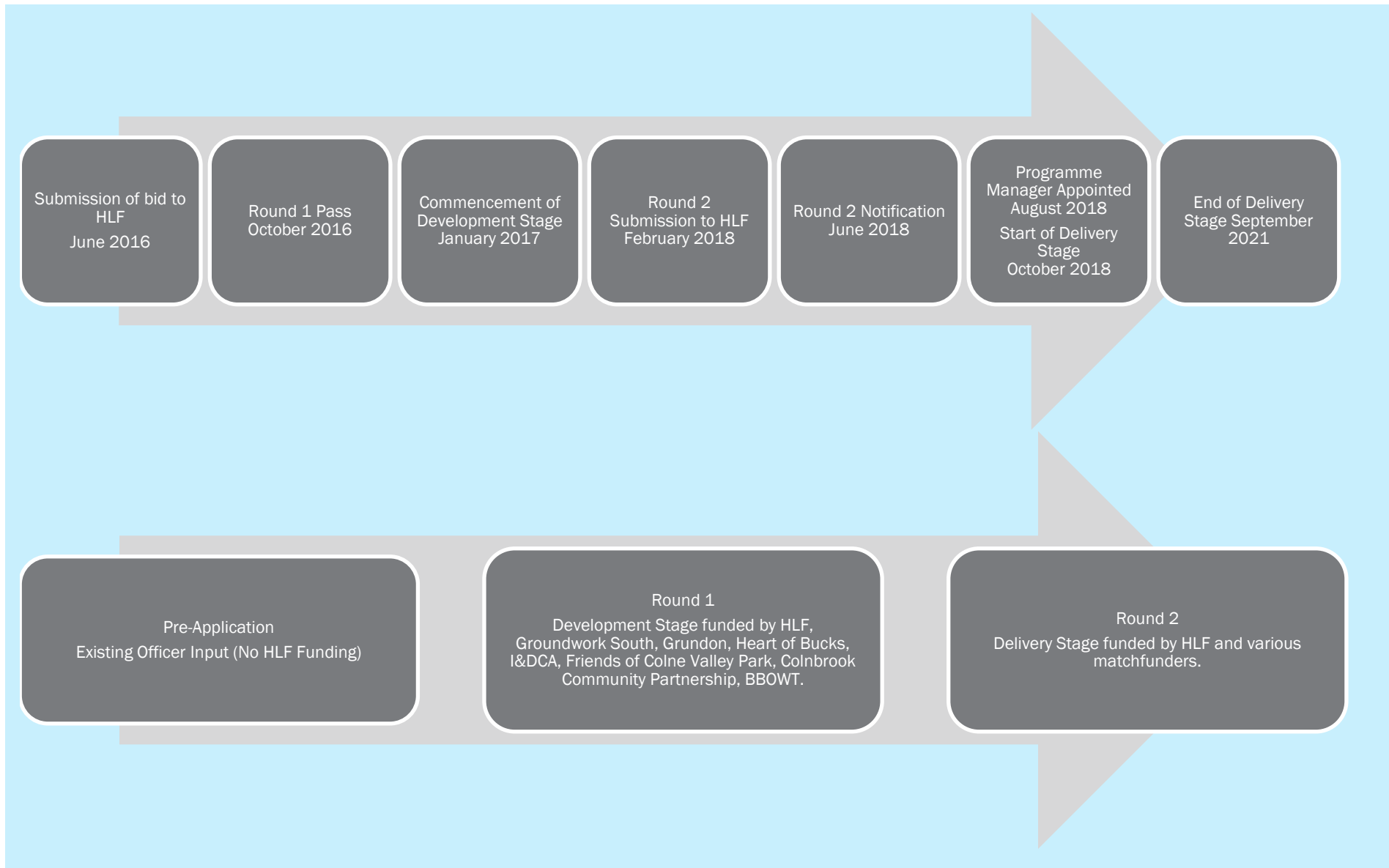
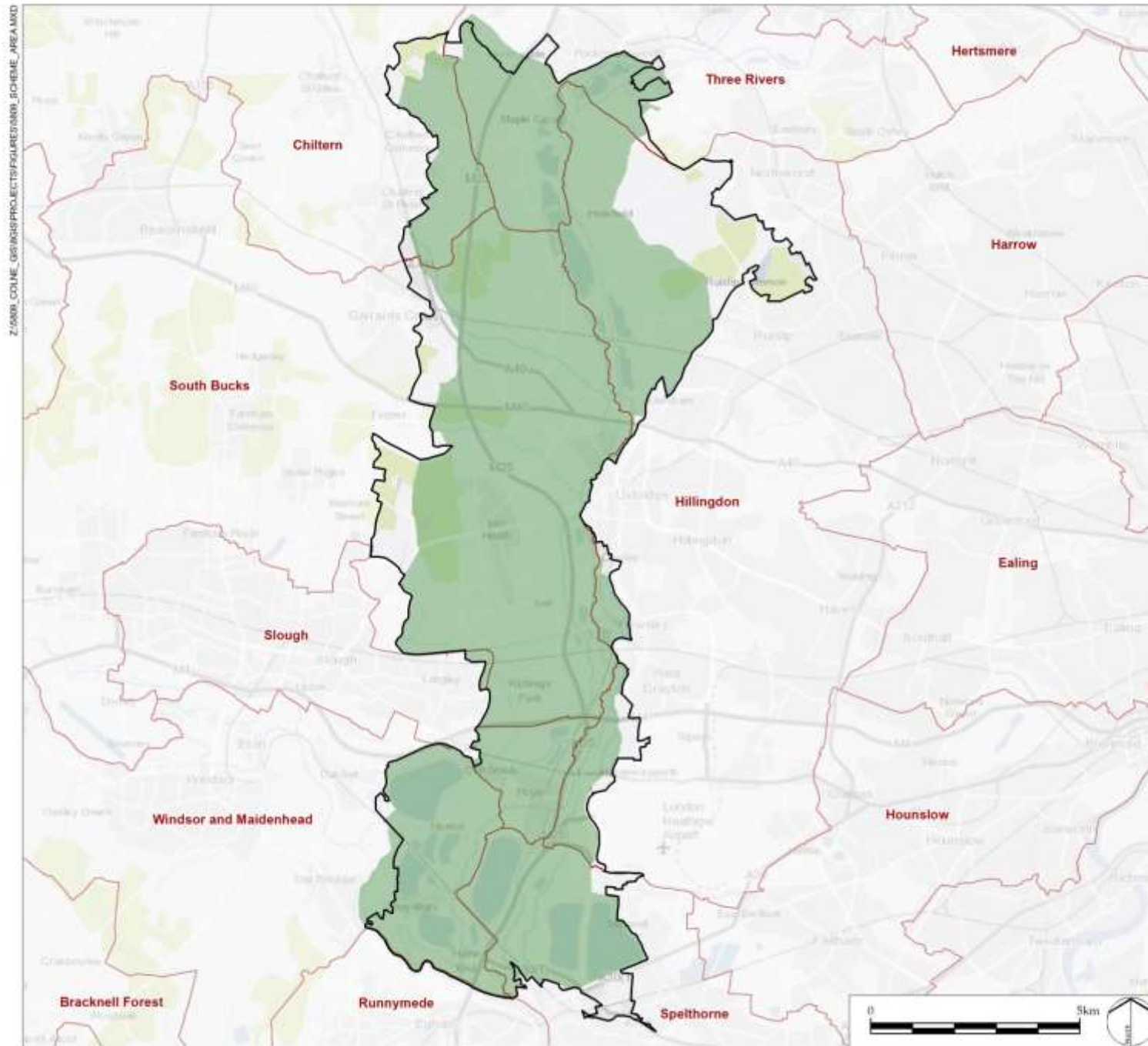




Figure 2: Scheme Area



LEGEND

-  Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
-  Colne Valley Regional Park
-  Local Authority Boundary



PROJECT TITLE  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

DRAWING TITLE  
Scheme Area

DATE Dec 2017  
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# Part 1: The Scheme Plan



The Colne Valley landscape - *Photoshot License Limited*

# SECTION 1.1 UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE AREA

## 1.1.1 Geology

### 1.1.1.1 Description

The bedrock geology of the Colne Valley is fairly uniform. The oldest rock is the Upper Cretaceous chalk found in the north (the southern margins of the Chilterns), followed by younger sedimentary rocks called the Lambeth Group and London Clay Group. The Lambeth Group comprises of sands and mudstones and is closely associated with the fringes of the chalk. South of Denham the bedrock geology is dominated by the London Clay mudstones.

The chalk geology in the north gives rise to the highest topography in the Project Area (c. 115m AOD) and smooth rounded rolling landform. In places the chalk geology is at or near the surface, particularly along the valley sides of the Upper Colne valley. In the past some areas have been quarried and today the chalky soils support patches of important calcareous grassland.

South of Denham the chalk geology changes quickly to the younger London Clay mudstone and elevation drops giving rise to more low lying and uniform topography in the middle and southern parts of the Project Area.

The geology of the Scheme Area is made more complex by the influence of superficial deposits. Glacial meltwater gravels from ancestral rivers have been deposited within the floodplains of the current rivers but also on land above the river valleys which were former river terraces. Within the current valleys a further layer of alluvium or silt has been deposited on top of the gravels.

On the higher land above the valley, the superficial glacial river terrace sand and gravel deposits have been subject to less extraction. These deposits give rise to patches of sandy acidic soils which are free draining and historically were less valued for agriculture. Often these areas formed a common or a heath and latter, the creation of 18th century parkland and plantations - this pattern is particularly noticeable in terms of present day land use and vegetation west of Iver.

South of Harmondsworth the Colne valley broadens to become an extensive alluvial plain or fan. The river splits into distributaries (totalling 12 in number) which, as they approach the Thames, spread out across the ancient alluvial fan. Here broad deposits of gravel and sand were formed during the ice age and are somewhat higher than the ground to the east. This has allowed radial distributaries such as the River Ash to drain eastwards towards the Thames.

The sand and gravel deposits, within the northern valley floor, and alluvial fan to the south have resulted in the intense extraction industries which reached their peak of activity in the first half of the 20th century and the subsequent extensive development of open water and lakes throughout the Scheme Area.

Two maps showing the geological bedrock and superficial geology may be found in Figures 3 and 4.

The main texture of soils in the Scheme area is 'sand to sandy loam' with 'chalk, silty loam' and 'clay silt' in the north and north east. The majority of the area comprise light and medium soils. The pH is mainly acid, from pH5-6.5 with some areas in the north-west being alkaline, where chalk has its strongest influence. For maps showing soil attributes see Appendix 1.



## 1.1.1.2 Geological Significance

### i) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

SSSIs are nationally important areas protected by legislation and overseen by Natural England, a Government body. There is one SSSI within the Scheme area which is designated on geological grounds - Harefield Pit SSSI. Figure 8 shows the location of the site.

The notification states that 'the site provides a key section in the London Basin for a sequence through the Upper Chalk, Reading Beds and London Clay. It is also the only known site for calcareous floral remains in the Reading Beds. The site covers part of a disused chalk quarry which has been infilled leaving only the upper faces exposed above ground level. These display a superb Tertiary section including the contact between the Upper Chalk and the Reading Beds, which has here been intensively bored by crustaceans. The faces also show a full section through the Reading Beds, up into mottled fluvatile clays of the Upper Reading Beds. These are overlain by sandy clays with a diverse marine fauna, comprising the Harefield Member of the London Clay, for which this is the stratotype locality'.

### ii) Local Geological Sites

Local Geological Sites (formerly known as RIGS - Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites) exhibit important geological and geomorphological features of regional importance on account of their educational fieldwork value, value for scientific study, historical significance and aesthetic value.

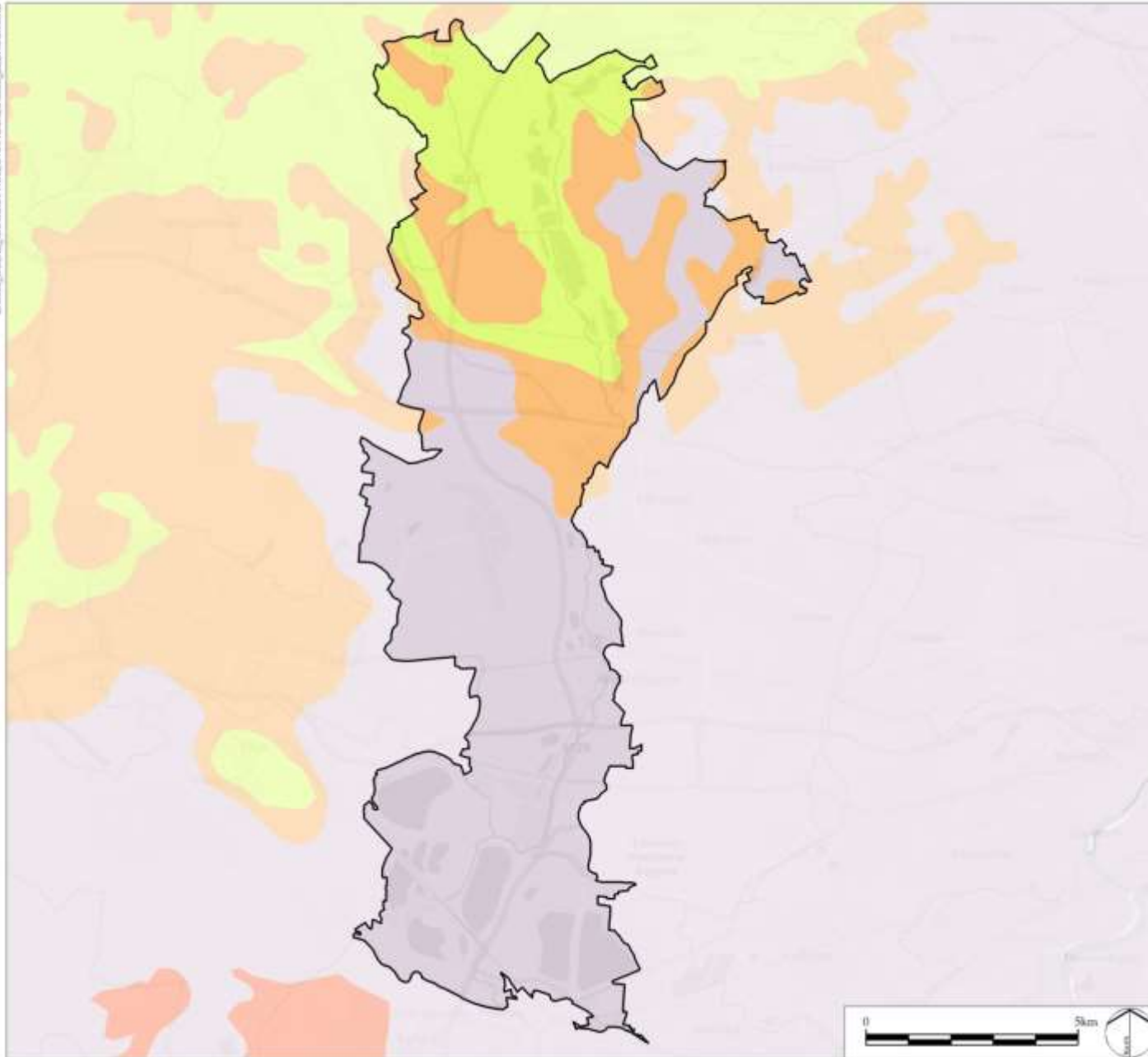
Northmoor Hill, near Denham, is the only LGS in the Scheme area and shows Reading Formation Clays, Reading Formation Sands, active swallow-holes, a fossil swallow-hole and the Pleistocene Thames Terrace system known as the 'Winter Hill terrace'.



The fossil swallow-hole at Northmoor Hill at the old quarry location - Bucks Geology Group



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LEGEND

-  Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
- Bedrock Geology**
-  Bracklesham Group And Barton Group (undifferentiated) - Sand, Silt and Clay
-  Thames Group - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel
-  Lambeth Group - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel
-  White Chalk Subgroup - Chalk

Figure 3: Bedrock

PROJECT TITLE

COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

DRAWING TITLE

Bedrock (1:625 000 scale geology)

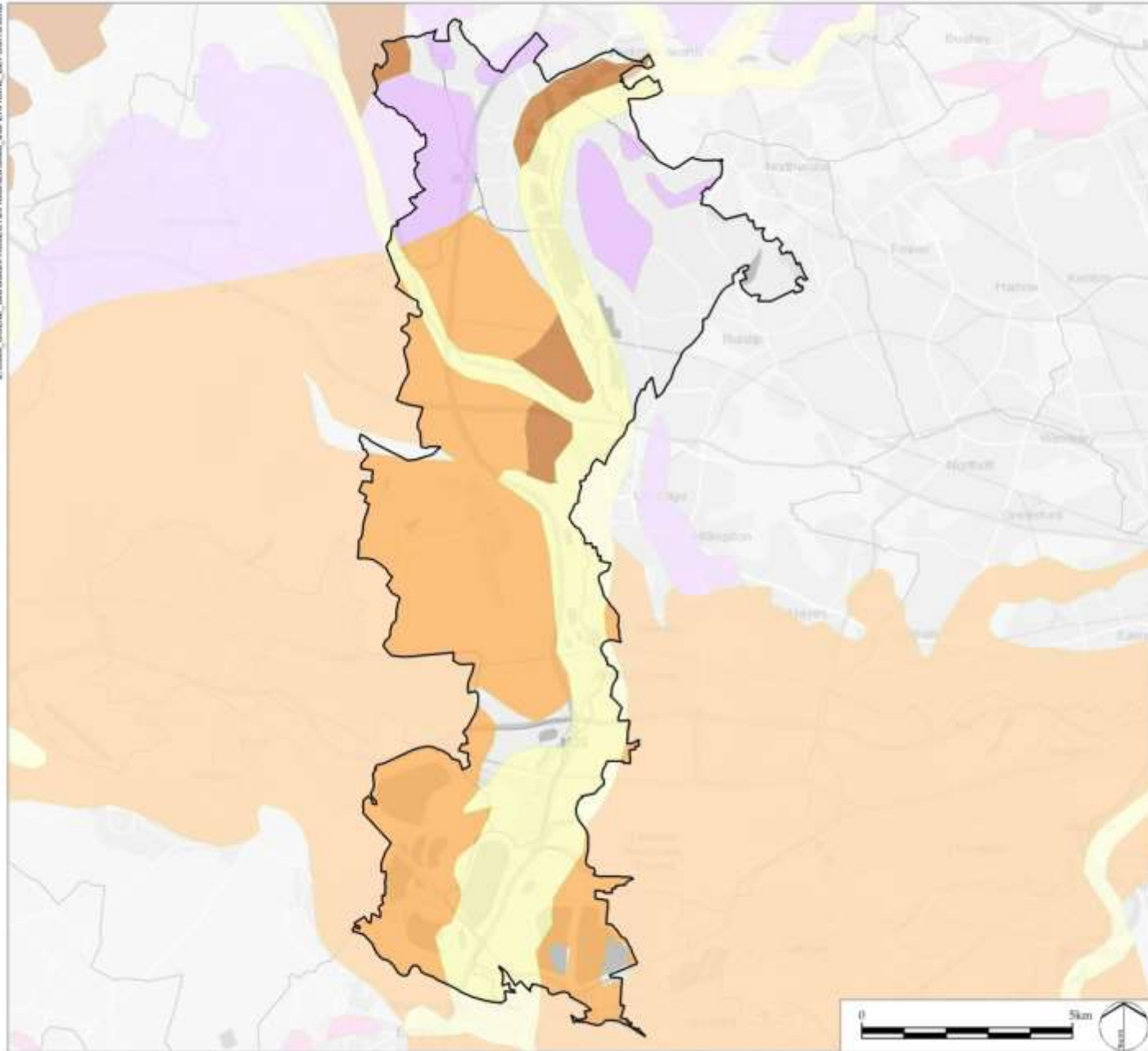
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- LEGEND
-  Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
  - Superficial Deposits**
  -  Alluvium - Clay, Silt and Sand
  -  Glacial Sand And Gravel - Sand and Gravel
  -  River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) - Sand and Gravel
  -  Sand and Gravel Of Uncertain Age and Origin - Sand and Gravel
  -  Clay-with-flints Formation - Diamicton

Figure 4: Superficial Deposits

PROJECT TITLE  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

DRAWING TITLE  
Superficial Deposits (1:625 000 scale geology)

DATE Dec 2017  
SCALE @A3 1:90,000

DWG. NO. 5809\_Superficial\_Deposits

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## 1.1.2 Human Markers in the Landscape (including Built Heritage)

### 1.1.2.1 Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Colne Valley Park

In March 2007 an Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Colne Valley Park was undertaken. This summarised the following historic characteristics of the present day Colne Valley Park (which takes up much of the Scheme area):

- A rich archaeological heritage spanning more than ten thousand years, including several nationally important prehistoric sites such as Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge and Yeoveney Lodge, Spelthorne.
- Series of flooded mineral extraction sites running from Batchworth Lake in Three Rivers, Herts; to Denham Quarries, near Denham, the majority of which are used for recreation and are recognised for their wildlife interest.
- Four large reservoirs in the south also functioning as recreational areas and are also valued for their wildlife habitat.
- Several nationally important registered historic parks open to the public including Langley Park and Denham Country Park.
- National Trust property at Ankerwyke Estate.
- Several historic parks now in use as golf courses including Harefield Place and Richings Park.
- Several areas of pre 18th century hedged field systems.
- Surviving areas of meadowland around the River Misbourne.
- Significant early twentieth century settlement including Richings Park estate and Wraybury estates.
- Artificial watercourses, including the Grand Junction Canal and associated Victorian industrial heritage and architecture including locks, weirs, cottages and mill buildings.



Listed station building at Denham Golf Course half – Ewa Prokop





## 1.1.2.2 Historical Periods

- Palaeolithic (400,000 – 8,500 BC)

The earliest traces of people in the area dates to around 400,000 BC when Stone Age people inhabited the region during the temperate 'interglacial' phases. Evidence includes remains of abraded flint tools, moved from their original location and re-deposited in riverbeds. Yiewsley is one of the most important sites in Europe for this period, and the earliest tools found here are crudely modified rocks. Within the last great interglacial period (175,000 – 70,000 BC), more sophisticated flint tools appear at Denham (The Lea), Harefield and Uxbridge. They are pointed with a heavy rounded butt for gripping and could have been used for a number of different tasks. Other tools include 'cleavers', long straight edges (for chopping and hacking) and 'scrapers' with rounded smooth edges (to remove fatty tissue). Sites in Uxbridge and Staines have revealed a sequence of hunter-gatherer butchery sites which were discovered on gravel islands on the floor of the valley. As well as numerous stone tools, bone and antler artefacts (harpoons and pins) have been uncovered.

- Mesolithic (c. 8,500 – 4,500 BC)

The period following the final retreat of ice sheets resulted in a series of climatic and environmental changes. With the melting of the ice, the climate grew steadily warmer and wetter, and forest land expanded in the clay hills to the north of the Scheme area. The river valley became dominated by a system of marsh and fen, interconnecting streams and firmer ground. From site finds it has been suggested people practised a shifting subsistence economy combining hunting and gathering with fishing, fowling, and trapping. Tools include heavy flint axes, probably used for tree felling and boat construction.

- Neolithic (4,500–2,300 BC)

A sign of increasing complexity and social organisation in the area comes from Staines during the Neolithic period where the remains of a 'causewayed camp' were discovered. The site would have been a large, roughly circular enclosure with two concentric rings of interrupted ditches. Although little remains, it has been interpreted as a specialised centre for trade and social activities. Finds include: pottery shards and broken fragments of polished flint and stone axes – several brought from a long distance indicating trade with Wales and the Lake District. One of the earliest settlements in the

country was discovered at Kindsmead Quarry near Horton in 2013. Leaf arrowheads have also been found at the Lea, Denham. Settlement evidence remains limited in the Scheme area until the medieval period. This coincides with the growth of written sources, such as the Domesday Book in 1086.

- Bronze to Iron Age (2,300– AD 43)

Finds from this period include jewellery and weapons, such as a bronze sword at Wraysbury. Remains of Iron Age settlements at Iver, Staines and Denham reveal traces of roundhouses with postholes and hearths, but generally evidence is limited, this is probably because the low lying areas of the Scheme area were prone to flooding and only suitable for grazing. The picture that emerges is of an agricultural economy with a mixture of arable farming and stock raising (cattle, sheep and pigs).

- Roman to Saxon (AD 43–1066)

The area seems to have remained sparsely settled in Roman and Saxon times, although evidence for Roman occupation in Londinium (London) points to a well developed market economy with roads and waterways. Farmers in the area continued to have access to imported goods – luxury pottery, beads, glass and small pieces of metalwork. The best evidence for occupation has been discovered just outside the Scheme area at Heathrow, but also at Staines where the remains of a subrectangular camp were uncovered. Towards the end of the Roman period (AD 280 - 400) someone was buried near Denham. Although no trace of bones remained, iron nails were found close to the grave-cut corners suggesting the use of a coffin. Grave goods suggest the occupant was a woman because finds included a necklace of three hundred small glass beads and seven Jet hairpins.

In the Saxon period (AD 400 – 1066) there are the beginnings of written evidence, but little about the people who lived, worked and died in the area. The first documentary reference to Iver, for example, is in the 'Chronicles of St Aethelweard' from 893, where the settlement is called 'Evreham' (Village on a slope). The source also makes reference to a host of Danes taking refuge on an island in the Colne after escaping from King Alfred's army. The fact that waterways in the area were important can be gleaned through the origin of names: West Drayton means 'Draegtun', a place where boats had to be dragged a short distance; Uxbridge means 'the bridge belonging to the Wixan', an important site for crossing the Colne.

Denham meanwhile means 'village in a valley' and is first recorded in 1065 when the Saxon Lord Wulfstan granted it to Westminster Abbey.

#### Medieval to the Nineteenth Century (1066-1904)

The Medieval period yields more substantial remains. The Domesday Book, a national register of land and landholders, gives details of who owned the land within the Scheme area. The record reveals that the area was shared amongst manors, such as Colham and Hillingdon. The book also illustrates the continuity of certain villages from 1086 to present, such as Wraysbury ('Wirecesberie'). Each Manor's land was divided into extensive fields, each containing a number of long, narrow strips. In any one field, groups of these strips were reserved for the Lord of the Manor, as part of his farm. The remainder were distributed among tenant farmers, local officials and villagers. Other settlements within the area began to develop and grow, such as Colnbrook in the Eleventh century as a river crossing and staging post. In this period a noteworthy historical event occurred in 1215 when King John sealed the Magna Carta at Runnymede, which enshrined the principle that King and barons were bound by the rule of law. Runnymede, although now connected to the mainland, was an islet and lay halfway between the King at Windsor and the camp of the rebel barons at Staines. The Ankerwycke Estate incorporate the ruins a Benedictine nunnery, founded in the reign of King Henry II and the Ankerwycke Yew which dates from the Iron Age .

Hunting was popular and in 1086 there was a 'park for wild beasts' at Ruislip. Agriculture was well organised and sophisticated, at 'Evre' (Iver) meadows for thirty plough teams, four fisheries, and a vineyard were recorded. Agricultural surplus was sent to market towns such as Uxbridge to be sold. Medieval farm and Manor houses were in many cases surrounded by water filled moats. A late medieval Harmondsworth Great Barn is an example of a traditional tithe barn that survives in the area. Towns like Uxbridge started to develop and became important market centres and staging posts on the way to other areas (such as Oxford and Bristol).

During King Henry VIII reign the Duke of Northumberland River was constructed to augment the flow of water supplying existing mills and to supply new mills along the water channels and Colne River. By the end of the 18th century mills were an important local industry within the Colne Valley. There were thirteen in the Uxbridge area alone which made use of local farm produce.



Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport opened in 2008 (above); the historic Grand Union Canal is celebrated in the locality (below) – Ewa Prokop



In general, the area prospered due to developments in transport; of particular significance was the construction of the Grand Junction Canal which linked industrialised Midlands and London. The Brentford to Uxbridge stage was completed in 1794. In 1882 the Slough arm was initially built to provide transport for the brick industries at Langley, but later carried sand and gravel and rubbish from London to fill the gravel pits. The development and encroachment of urban areas from the Nineteenth century onwards created a great demand for gravel, brick-clay, sand and cement-making materials. The mineral extraction industry impacted hugely on the landscape creating over 70 former gravel pits many of which are now lakes and chalk pits as seen at Northmoor Hill Wood. It canal was nationalised in 1948 and right-up until the 1970s, was used for commercial traffic.

During the Eighteenth century, the area became a fashionable place to build country houses due to the proximity of London, especially in the Mid Colne and west of Iver. One example is Chalfont Park, which was built in 1755 by General Charles Churchill. The growth of estates led to changes in the landscape as many landowners closed or re-routed paths and roads. The landscape was also changed through the enclosure acts, a process whereby the system of regulation and communal use of arable land, open pastures, meadows and uncultivated areas were gradually replaced by a system of private land management. The communal areas were abolished and individual landowners and tenants took over separate control of defined areas of land. For example in Iver, in 1725 the parish register records state that Richard Bigg, a local brickmaker, took on an apprentice and in 1741 leased Coney Warren from the Earl of Uxbridge to make and burn bricks.

During the early nineteenth century turnpike roads were developing and providing closer links between London and surrounding urban areas. In 1838 part of the Great Western Railway opened between London and Maidenhead with stations at West Drayton, Iver, Langley and Slough. Further developments in rail transport occurred when the Metropolitan Line reached Rickmansworth in 1887 and Uxbridge in 1904. The railway reached Wraysbury in 1848 when a station was opened on the Waterloo to Windsor route, stimulating trade and property expansion.

The early 20th century saw an increased demand for housing, leading to the creation of suburban settlements. This was halted in the late 1950's by the establishment of the Metropolitan Green Belt. Modern urban infrastructure

within the Scheme area includes the M25 (completed in 1986), M40 (constructed in this locality between 1967 -1974) and M4 (opened in this locality in 1965) as well as Heathrow Airport and the construction of four large water reservoirs which supply London and the South East.



St. Peter's Church in Iver Village Conservation Area (Ewa Prokop)



### 1.1.2.3 Built Heritage Significance

#### i) Historic Environment Legislation & Policy

A suite of historic environment legislation and policy exists for sites in England, and applies to many areas within the Scheme area. The legislation is enforced by Historic England, local government and local police forces.

Legislation and policy primarily includes the:

- National Planning Policy Framework, Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2012 (superseding Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5) as Government Policy on the management of change to the Historic Environment in England).
- S8 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- Ancient Monuments Act 1882

#### ii) Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)

Scheduling is the designation that has evolved specifically for sites of archaeological character since the passing of the 1882 Ancient Monuments Act, Historic England advises the Secretary of State on sites which should be added to it. The SAM's within the Scheme Area (see Figure 5) include:

Buckinghamshire

Two concentric ditches showing as crop marks at Thorney, Iver

List Entry Number: 1006944

Mound with ditch and outer bank 200ft (60m) S of Savay Farm, Denham, List

Entry Number: 1006945

Moated site 200m north west of Chalfont Lodge 1014602

Hillingdon

Brackenbury Farm moated site  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile NW of Ickenham Church  
1055555

Park Pale, Ruislip 1021402

Windsor & Maidenhead

Ankerwycke Priory Benedictine nunnery with associated moat and fishponds 1007943

#### iii) Conservation Areas

The first Conservation Areas in England were designated in 1967. They are normally designated by local planning authorities for their special architectural and historic interest and are protected by law against undesirable changes which amount to property alterations, demolitions and tree felling or pruning. Conservation areas within and adjacent to the Scheme area include:

Buckinghamshire: Denham Village, Iver, Uxbridge Lock, Stoke Poges, Framewood Road.

Hertfordshire: Stockers Lock and Farm, Copper Mill Lock, North Park, Kingsway and clips Heronsgate, Cedars Avenue and Rickmansworth Town Centre.

London Borough of Hillingdon: Black Jacks and Copper Mill Lock (Harefield), Denham Lock (Uxbridge), Harefield Village, Harmondsworth Village, Springwell Lock, Uxbridge Lock, Widewater Lock, Cowley Lock, West Drayton Green, Longford Village.

Windsor & Maidenhead: N/A

Slough: Colnbrook.

#### iii) Listed Buildings

Listed Buildings are identified and graded by Historic England, a Government body as Grade I, Grade II\* and Grade II. The following number are found in the Scheme area (see Figure 5):

Buckinghamshire: 171

Hertfordshire: 35

London Borough of Hillingdon: 89

Windsor & Maidenhead: 23

Slough: 34

#### iv) Locally Listed Buildings

Locally listed buildings are identified by local planning authorities. They do not receive national protection but can be conserved through the policies of Local Plans. It is estimated that the Scheme area includes hundreds of these

buildings however there is difficulty in counting them all for the purposes of the LCAP as records have not been digitised by the local planning authorities.

## v) Register of Parks & Gardens

The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest is compiled by Historic England. Registration means that special consideration is given to the landscape in the planning process. They are graded Grade I, Grade II\* and Grade 2. There are two such designations within the Scheme area:

Buckinghamshire: Denham Place (Denham) and Langley Park (Wexham).  
London Borough of Hillingdon: Harefield Place.



## Biodiversity

### 1.1.3.1 Habitats

The valley landscape incorporates habitats that have been influenced by the river, underlying geology and socio-economic change. Figure 6a (Biological Recording Centre Field Data) and Figure 6b (Natural England Desk-based Data) show the distribution of 'Priority Habitats'.

The greatest connectivity in the landscape is achieved through the network of rivers and lakes in the Scheme area. The majority of lakes have come about from industrial activity; mainly on account of gravel extraction. Many aquatic and marginal plants flourish in and around the margins of these habitats including large bittercress, purple loosestrife, nodding bur marigold and flowering rush. The canal system provides additional waters in which wetland vegetation may grow. Along many stretches of wetland may be found old, pollarded willows; some examples occur at Uxbridge Moor and Harmondsworth Moor. Reedbeds are not extensive in the Scheme area; Springwell Reedbed is the largest example of this habitat in London and the Scheme area. Lowland fen is mainly represented to the east of Denham. A wide range of wetland birds are associated with these habitats and have led to the designation of many sites.

Deciduous woodland is mainly scattered in the upper half of the Scheme area and also demonstrates a degree of connectivity. Figure 7 indicates the distribution of ancient woodland. The majority is located away from these on the valley sides and plateau. A proportion of these are 'ancient' or 'ancient replanted'. Examples may be found in Denham, Harefield, Chalfont, Ruislip & Rickmansworth. Old Park Wood SSSI is spectacular for its bluebells and other spring flowers such as coralroot bittercress and wood anemone; small teasel, moschatel and nine species of fern grow may be found at

Harefield Place. Small areas of wet willow and alder 'carr' woodland occur on the valley floor; Denham Woods, Black Park (by Black Park Lake) and Broadwater Lake have examples of alderwood. Denham Lock Wood incorporates fenland.

High quality, species-rich grassland no longer covers the extent it once did in the Colne Valley landscape. The areas that remain are therefore very precious. Good quality semi-improved grassland is scattered across the Scheme area, including around Wraysbury and Denham.

The largest extent of lowland meadow in the Scheme area) occurs near Staines and Colnbrook at Staines Moor and Poyles Meadow. Staines Moor has not been subject to intensive agriculture for over 1000 years. The largest areas of floodplain grazing marsh may be found at Staines Moor and near Rickmansworth. Frays Farm Meadows SSSI supports kingcups, ragged robin and other wetland plants in the damper areas. Lowland calcareous grassland is rare in the Scheme area. The largest areas occur near Harefield where chalk-loving plants such as restharrow, wild thyme and pyramidal orchid can be found.

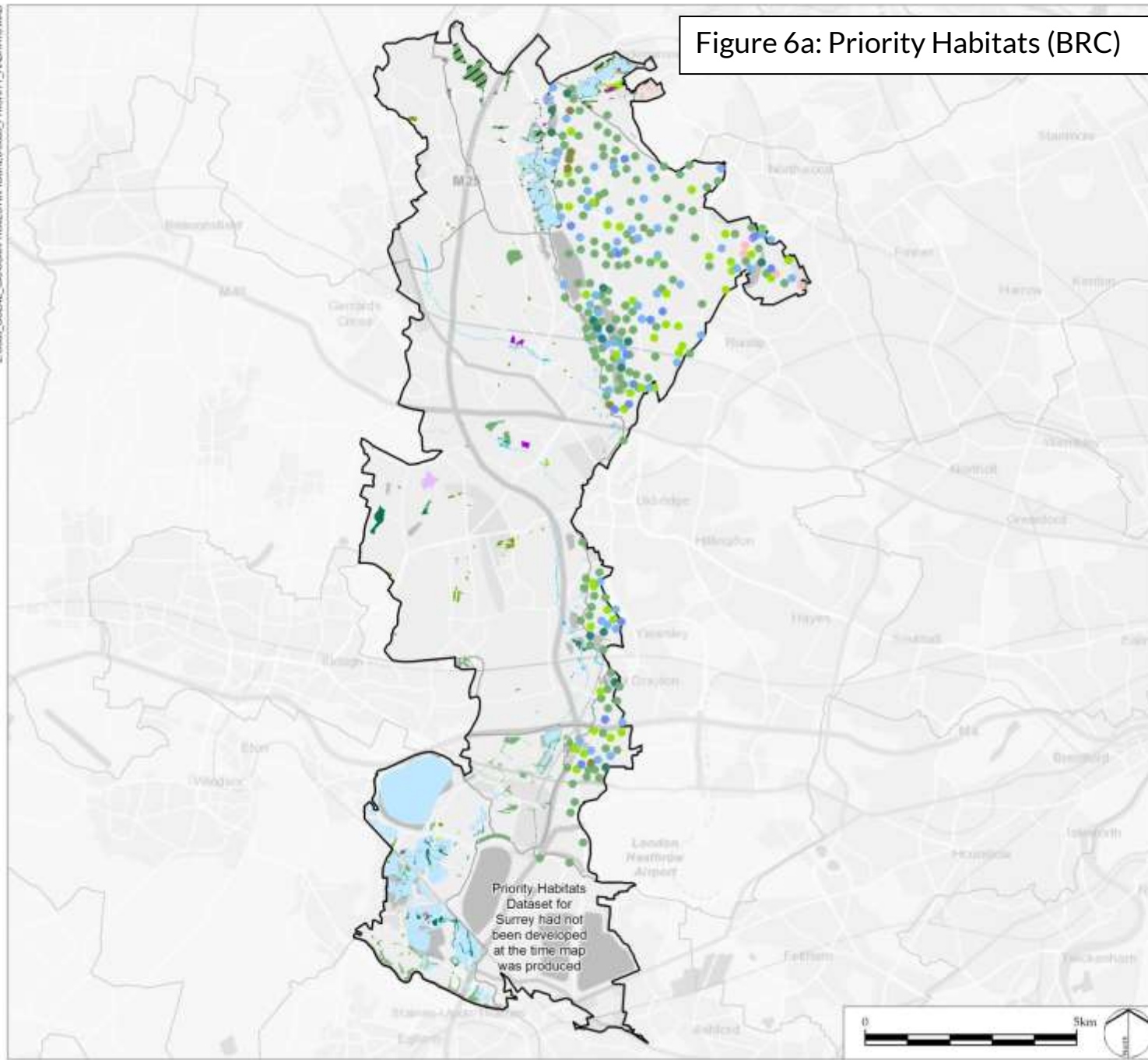
Pockets of lowland heathland occur in the Scheme area, the largest site being at Black Park Country Park. Typical heathland plants such as heather, heath wood rush and purple moor grass grow there.

Table 1a shows statistics in relation to Priority Habitats.



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Figure 6a: Priority Habitats (BRC)



LEGEND

- Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
- Priority Habitats**
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Lowland Heathland
- Lowland meadows
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Purple moor-grass and rush pastures
- Reedbeds
- Rivers
- Wet woodland
- Traditional Orchards
- Eutrophic Standing Waters
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Wood-Pasture and Parkland
- Lowland fens
- Hertfordshire Ecological Network Map (hatch may represent more than one Priority Habitat)**
- Lowland beech and yew woodland / Lowland mixed deciduous woodland / Wet woodland
- Lowland Fen / Reedbeds
- Priority Habitat as described by GIGL**
- Heathland
- Acid Grassland
- Calcareous Grassland
- Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Reedbed
- Lowland Meadow
- Standing Water (Ponds)
- Woodland

PROJECT TITLE  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

DRAWING TITLE  
Priority Habitats

DATE            Dec 2017  
SCALE @A3    1:90,000

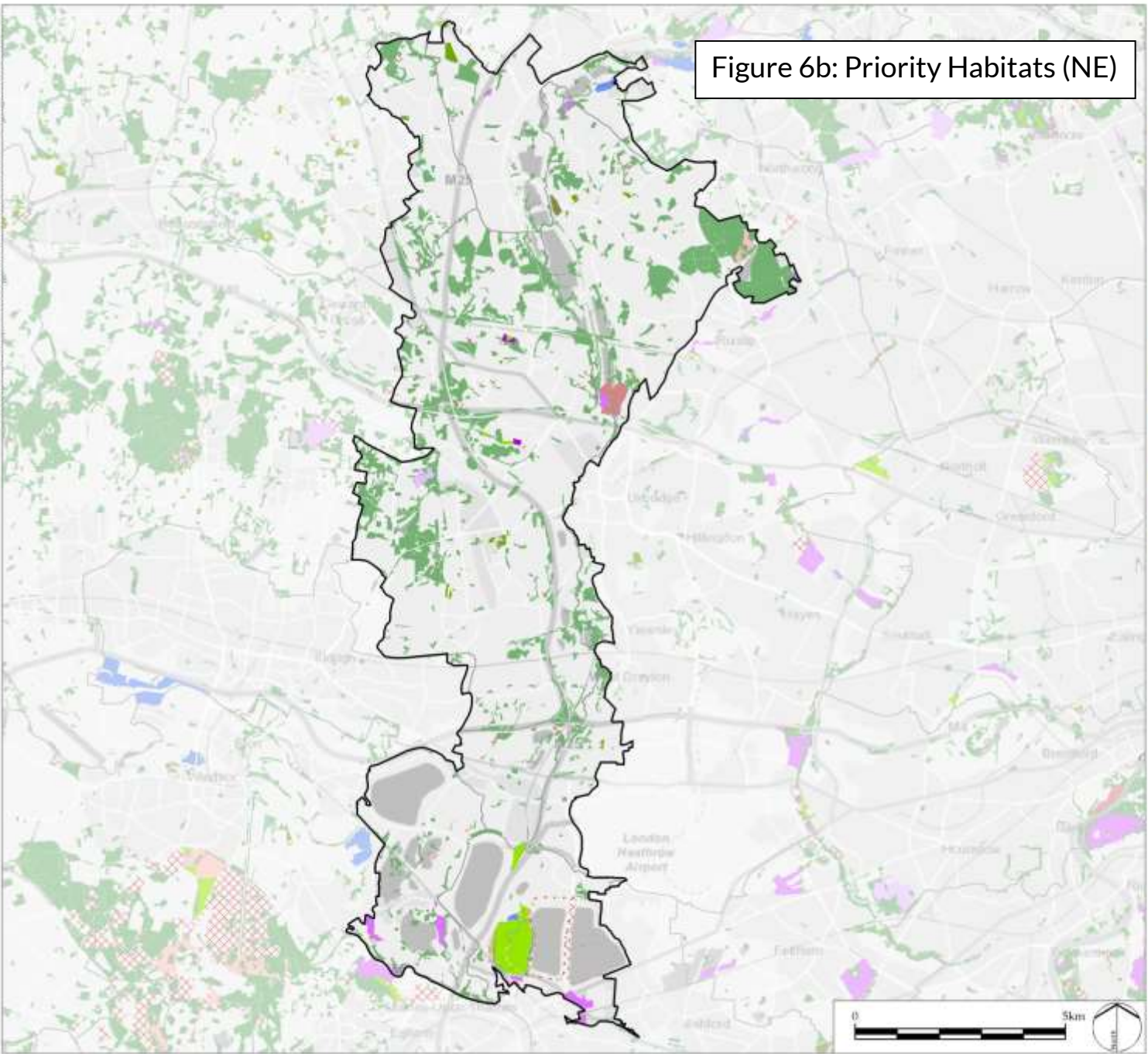
**DWG. NO. 5809\_Priority\_Habitats**

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Figure 6b: Priority Habitats (NE)



LEGEND

-  Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
- Priority Habitat Inventory**
-  Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
-  Deciduous woodland
-  Good quality semi-improved grassland
-  Lowland calcareous grassland
-  Lowland dry acid grassland
-  Lowland fens
-  Lowland heathland
-  Lowland meadows
-  Mudflats
-  Purple moor grass and rush pastures
-  Reedbeds
-  Traditional orchard
-  No main habitat but additional habitats present

PROJECT TITLE  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

DRAWING TITLE  
Priority Habitat Inventory Natural England

DATE            Dec 2017  
SCALE @A3    1:90,000

DWG. NO. 5809\_Priority\_Habitat\_Inventory\_NE

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- LEGEND
- Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
  - Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
  - Ancient Replanted Woodland

Figure 7: Ancient Woodland

PROJECT TITLE  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

DRAWING TITLE  
Ancient Woodland

DATE            Dec 2017  
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**Table 1a Priority Habitat**

	Area Ha	% of Scheme area
<b>1. Priority Habitat (Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, Thames Valley, Hertfordshire Ecological Network Map)</b>		
Lowland calcareous grassland	1.72	
Lowland Heathland	9.99	
Lowland meadows	7.38	
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	99.14	
Purple moor-grass and rush pastures	9.95	
Reedbeds	4.99	
Rivers	28.20	
Wet woodland	43.40	
Traditional orchards	20.98	
Eutrophic standing waters	582.67	
Lowland dry acid grassland	7.06	
Wood-pasture and parkland	2.01	
Lowland fens	1.65	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>817.50</b>	<b>6.37</b>
<b>1.a. Hertfordshire Ecological Network Map (where area may represent more than one Priority Habitat, this is not included in 1. above)</b>		
Lowland beech and yew woodland / Lowland mixed deciduous woodland / Wet woodland	94.76	
Lowland fens / Reedbeds	1.36	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>96.12</b>	<b>0.75</b>
<b>Total 1. and 1.a. (excluding Surrey)</b>	<b>913.62</b>	<b>7.12</b>
<b>2. Priority Habitat as described by GIGL only</b>	<b>Area Ha</b>	
Heathland	1.64	
Acid Grassland	13.94	
Calcareous Grassland	7.16	
Floodplain Grazing Marsh	106.47	
Reedbed	9.92	
Lowland Meadow	94.68	
Standing Water (Ponds)	26.40	
Woodland	442.66	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>702.87</b>	<b>5.48</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL 1. and 1.a. (excluding Surrey) and 2.</b>	<b>1616.49</b>	<b>12.60</b>

Natural England Priority Habitats map areas in Hectares

<b>Main Habitat</b>	<b>Area Ha</b>
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	12.42
Deciduous woodland	1797.58
Good quality semi-improved grassland	61.12
Lowland calcareous grassland	6.37
Lowland dry acid grassland	16.65
Lowland fens	33.33
Lowland heathland	11.28
Lowland meadows	115.43
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	5.27
Traditional orchard	31.73
No main habitat but additional habitats present	117.22
<b>Natural England Priority Habitats TOTAL</b>	<b>2208.39 / 17%</b>

### 1.1.3.2 Species

The Scheme area is particularly known for its wetland birds, especially wildfowl, which are attracted to the extensive areas of water in the valley. The most familiar include the heron, which features in the Colne Valley Regional Park logo, and the kingfisher. Tufted duck, gadwall, pochard, shoveler, goldeneye, smew, goosander great crested grebe may be found on local lakes. More uncommon species, such as ruff, little ringed plover and golden plover may be found at sites such as Staines Moor SSSI and Broadwater Lake. Rarer species such as great northern diver, red necked grebe, black tern and greenshank have been sighted in the area too.

The Scheme area supports a suite of mammal species able to exploit the mixed landscape. Water voles nest within the banks of rivers and ditches and feed on terrestrial and wetland vegetation. They may be found in the Scheme area, most notably in and around Frays Farm Meadows, near Denham. Otters have been sighted in the area, especially along the northern parts of the Scheme area. Deer may be found in the area, including muntjac. A range of bat species have been noted across the area; in Ankerwycke Estate alone there are records of brown long-eared, Noctule, daubenton and pipistrelle species.

The Scheme area supports a wide range of song birds. Around wetlands, reed warbler, sedge warbler and willow warbler occur. In the woodlands, tawny owls, woodpeckers (e.g. all three species of woodpecker may be found at Old Park Wood SSSI), nuthatch, lesser whitethroat (e.g. at Broadwater Lake) and several finch and tit species may be found. Large flocks of lapwing, fieldfare, redwings and skylarks occur in local fields. Migrants such as swifts, swallows and house martins breed here over the summer months. 'The Avian History of Staines Moor' (Lee Dingain, London Bird Report No. 76, 2011) states that 187 species of bird have been reported at Staines Moor.



A heron on one of the canal towpaths – Ewa Prokop



The common frog, common toad, smooth newt (the most commonly found species of newt in the area) palmate newt and great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) all occur within the Scheme area. Grass snake is common due to its association with wetlands. Slow worms, common lizards and adders are also occasionally sighted in the local countryside and are most likely under-recorded.

The network of wetlands supports a range of fish species. In the lakes and canals can be found Carp, Tench, Bream, Perch, Pike, Roach, Rudd, Bleak and Eels. In the rivers and canals may be found Barbel, Chub, Gudgeon, Bullhead and Ruffe.

Dragonflies (e.g. brown hawker) and damselflies (e.g. red-eyed damselfly) are very common in the Scheme area due to the large amount of flowing and standing fresh water and associated habitats. At Ankerwycke Estate, for example, banded demoiselle, emperor dragonfly, golden ring dragonfly and nationally scarce club-tailed dragonfly and white-legged damselfly have been recorded.

Many common species of butterfly such as common tortoiseshell and orange tip are found in the Scheme area, but more unusual species such as purple hairstreak and white admiral also occur. Eighteen species of butterfly have been recorded at Black Park alone.

The Scheme area supports a range of other invertebrates too. These include: Desmoulin's whorl snail which is found in Denham Lock Wood; glow worms which can be found at Harefield Place Nature Reserve; yellow meadow ants which occur on Staines Moor SSSI; balsam carpet moth at Denham Lock and nationally rare Roesel's bush cricket at Black Park.

### **1.1.3.3 Biodiversity Significance**

#### **i) Species and Habitats Protected by Legislation**

Relevant legislation primarily includes the:

- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 (as amended).
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (in England and Wales).

EU Legislation includes:

- Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC 1992 expressing how the EU meets its obligations under the Bern Convention.
- Birds Directive 2009/147/EC expressing how the EU meets its obligations for bird species under the Bern Convention and Bonn Convention.
- Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for EU action in the field of water policy.

#### **ii) Section 40 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006**

Section 40 of the Act requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'Biodiversity Duty' .

#### **iii) Protected Species**

Appendix 1a includes a list of 900 protected species occurring within the Scheme area.

#### iv) Ramsar Site & Special Protection Area

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention or Wetlands Convention) was adopted in Ramsar, Iran in February 1971 and came into force in December 1975. One of the three main 'pillars' of the Convention is the designation of wetlands of international importance. 'South West London Waterbodies' (UK11065) was designated in 2000. It supports *Anas clypeata* (northern shoveler), *Anas strepera* (gadwall) *Podiceps cristatus* (Great crested grebe), *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Great cormorant), *Aythya fuligula* (Tufted Duck), *Podiceps nigricollis* (Black-necked grebe) and *Mergellus albellus* (Smew),

Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive) was adopted by the European Union in 2009. There are nine main provisions in the Directive. One of the provisions is 'the identification and classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands of international importance (Article 4)'. 'South West London Waterbodies Special Protection Area' (UK9012171) is specifically designated for its importance to *Anas clypeata* (northern shoveler) and *Anas strepera* (gadwall) and overlaps with the Ramsar Site. Figure 8a indicates the location of the SPA.

#### v) National Nature Reserve (NNR)

National Nature Reserves were established to protect some of the most important habitats, species and geology in the country, and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. They cover 0.7% of England. The Scheme area incorporates one, Ruislip Woods NNR. It is an extensive example of ancient semi-natural woodland, including some of the largest unbroken blocks remaining in Greater London. It incorporates a diverse range of oak and hornbeam woodland types, with large areas managed on a



Bluebells at Ruislip Woods NNR – Ruislip Woods Trust



The River Colne at Staines Moor SSSI – Stewart Pomeroy

traditional coppice-with-standards system. The site also includes acidic grass-heath mosaic and areas of wetland. Figure 8a indicates the location of the NNR.

## vi) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

SSSIs are nationally important areas for wildlife (and/or geology) protected by legislation and overseen by Natural England. The following SSSIs may be found in the Scheme Area:

- Frays Farm Meadow SSSI - one of the last remaining examples of unimproved wet alluvial grassland in Greater London and the Colne Valley.
- Denham Lock Wood SSSI - diverse area of open mire and wet woodland, with particularly varied woodland herb flora.
- Old Rectory Meadow SSSI - exceptional area containing a range of grassland types, notably base-rich and poor marsh, wet alluvial meadows and water meadows with grazed wet and damp meadows, as well as alder carr woodland.
- Ruislip Woods SSSI (see NNR reference for details).
- Mid-Colne Valley SSSI - of significant ornithological interest for the diversity of breeding woodland and wetland birds, and for the numbers of wintering wildfowl. On the eastern valley slope lies unimproved chalk grassland of Coppermill Down.
- Old Park Wood SSSI - comprises some of the most floristically rich ancient woods in Greater London and contains complex transitions through examples of widely differing woodland types
- Black Park SSSI – variety of habitats comprising dry and wet heath and alder carr, particularly rare in Buckinghamshire, mixed and coniferous woodland and small areas of acid grassland.
- Staines Moor SSSI - Staines Moor incorporating a semi-natural stretch of the River Colne with the largest area of alluvial meadows in Surrey and three adjacent reservoirs supporting nationally important populations of wintering wildfowl.
- Wraysbury Reservoir SSSI – artificially embanked reservoir regularly supporting nationally important numbers of wintering cormorant, great crested grebe and shoveler.

- Wraysbury No. 1 Gravel Pit SSSI - of national importance for wintering gadwall *Anas strepera*.
- Wraysbury and Hythe End Gravel Pits SSSI - a mosaic of open water, islands, grassland, scrub and woodland supporting nationally important numbers of three species of wintering wildfowl together with an important assemblage of breeding birds.
- Kingcup Meadows and Old House Woodland SSSI - an intimate mosaic of habitats adjacent to the River Alderbourne, which includes woodland, unimproved pastures and semi and unimproved meadowland.

(N.B. Harefield Pit SSSI is designated for geology rather than biodiversity).

Figure 8a indicates the locations of the SSSIs.

## vii) Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves are designated by local government authorities and Natural England. The following LNRs may be found in the Scheme area:

- Black Park LNR – Mixed woodland and grassland providing good numbers of bats, woodland birds and invertebrates.
- Frays Valley LNR (see SSSI reference for details).
- Denham Country Park LNR – woodland and wet meadow on the banks of the rivers Colne, Misbourne and Frays.
- Denham Quarry Park LNR - wet meadows and flooded quarry.
- Ruislip LNR - a species-rich association of willow carr, tall fen and swamp communities (now part of the NNR).
- Northmoor Hill Wood LNR – alderwood containing diverse woodland flora.
- Stockers Lake LNR - one of the oldest gravel pits in the Colne Valley with over sixty species of breeding birds recorded, including nationally important numbers of wintering duck such as shoveler and goldeneye.
- Rickmansworth Aquadrome LNR – comprising lakes, grassland and woodland.
- Arthur Jacobs LNR - derelict sludge lagoons forming important wetland habitats with wet woodland.

Figure 8a indicates the locations of the LNRs.



### viii) Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

LWS's are normally identified by local Wildlife Trusts and adopted by local authorities in Local Plans. Greater London uses the term 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)' to reference these sites. Sites falling within the Scheme area are listed in Table 2. Local Wildlife Sites total 1772.10 ha or 13.8% of the Scheme area. Figure 8b presents a map showing their distribution.

### ix) Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) are normally identified by 'local biodiversity partnerships' and aim to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Priority Habitats will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim. Figure 9 indicates the locations of the BOAs.

In relation to the Scheme area, Buckinghamshire Natural Environment Partnership has identified the following BOAs:

- Central Chilterns Chalk Rivers - two chalk rivers, the Misbourne and the Wye.
- Colne Valley - a diverse river catchment on the fringes of London.
- South Bucks Heaths & Parklands - Heathland, wood pasture and parkland and ancient woodland are three key habitats in a diverse and complex area.

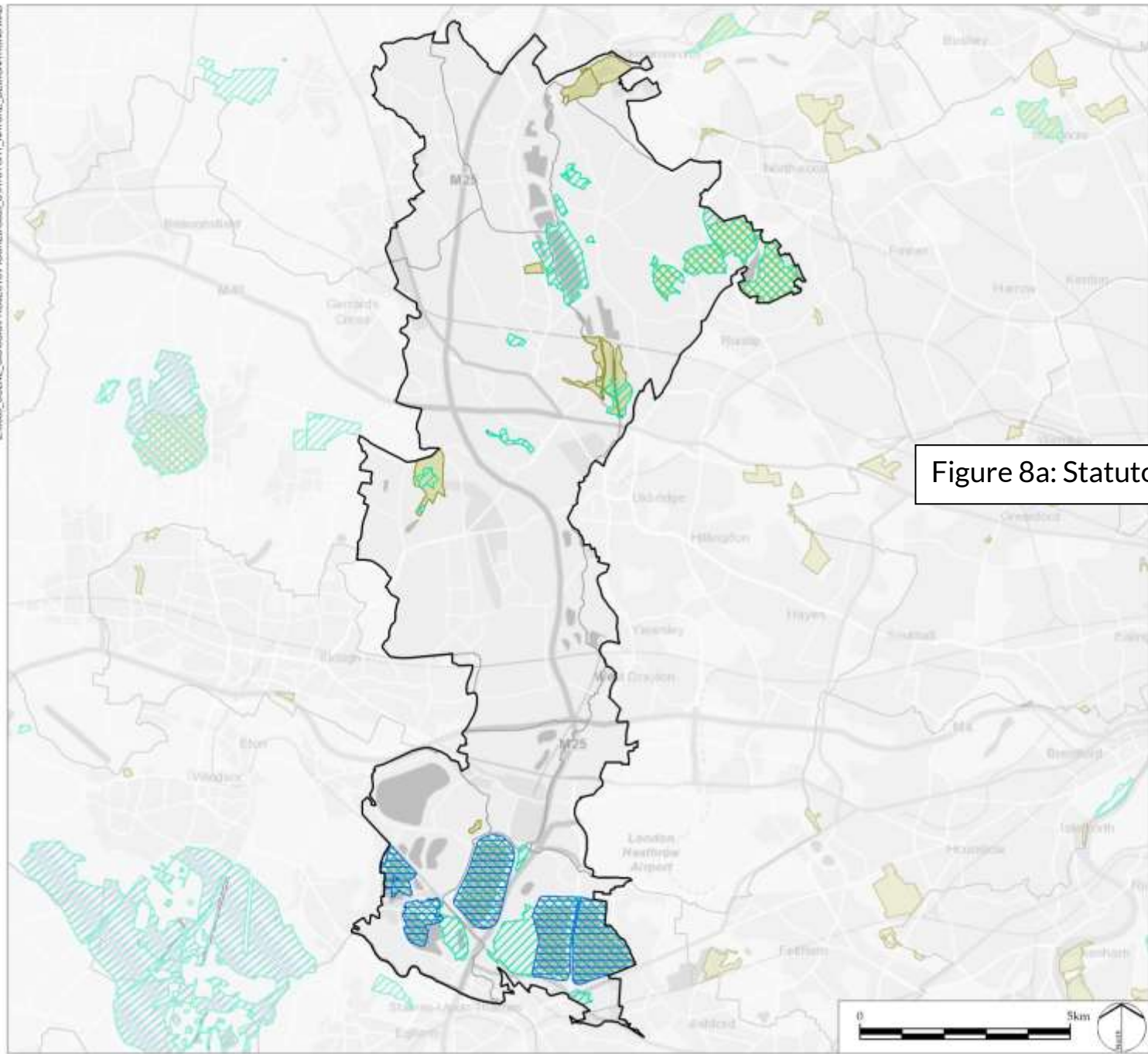
Berkshire Local Nature Partnership has identified the following BOA:

- Colne Valley Gravel Pits and Reservoirs - encompasses the extensive gravel pits near Wraysbury and the large reservoirs in the area including those at Staines in Surrey.



Black Park lies within a Buckinghamshire BOA - Catharine Kyle

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- LEGEND**
- Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
  - Ramsar Sites
  - Special Protection Areas
  - National Nature Reserves
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - Local Nature Reserves
  - Special Areas of Conservation

Figure 8a: Statutory Nature Designations

PROJECT TITLE  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

DRAWING TITLE  
Statutory Nature Designations

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**DWG. NO. 5809\_Statutory\_Nature\_Designations**

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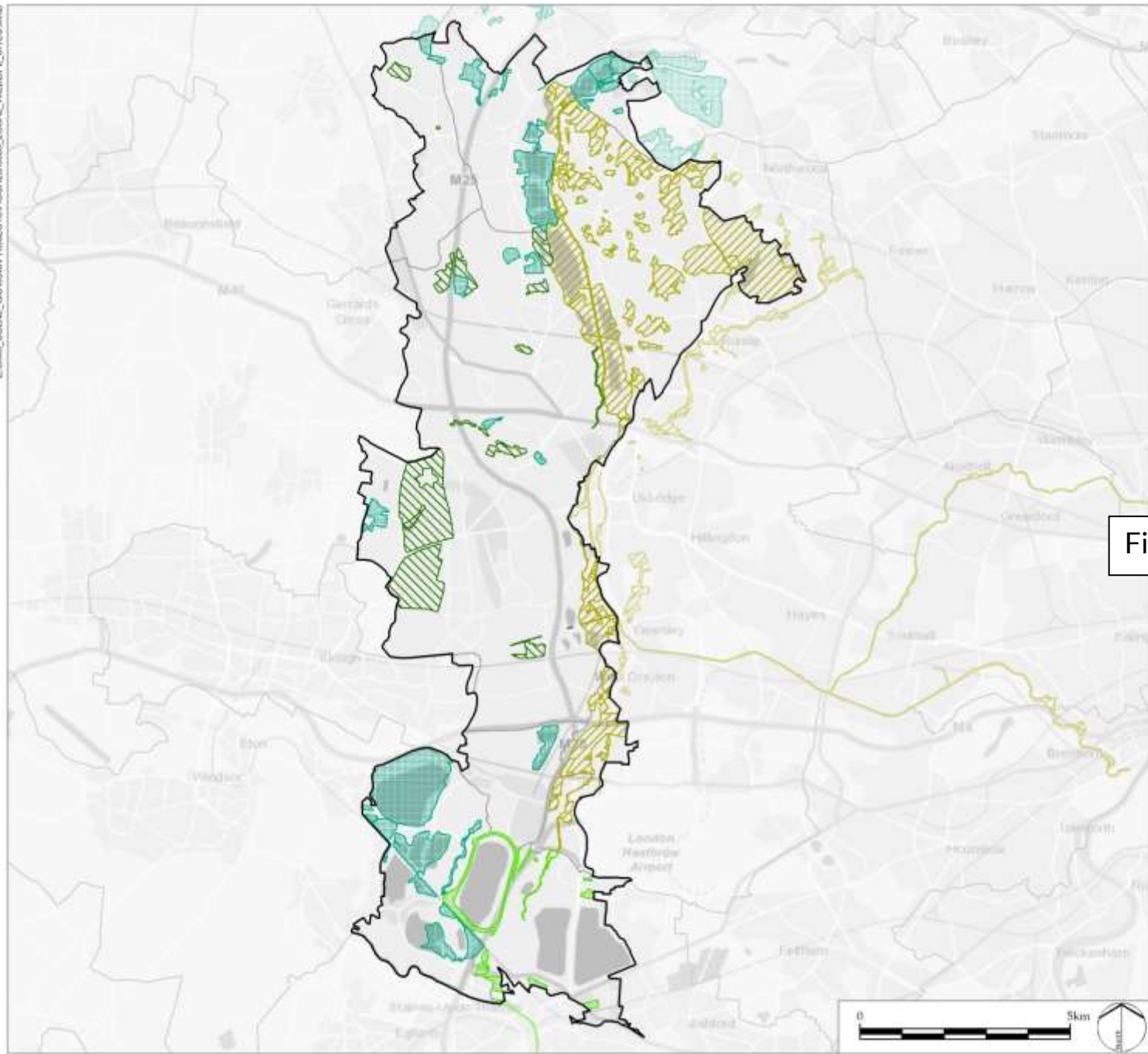
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Arthur Jacobs Nature Reserve	Fields and Hedgerows South of Mount Vernon Hospital	Ladywalk Wood
Colne Brook	Fore Street Meadows	Long Spring (Woodcock Hill)
Datchet Common and Gravel Pits	Frays River at Uxbridge Moor	Maple Lodge Marsh South
Datchet Common and Gravel Pits	Harefield Chalk Pit	Maple Lodge Nature Reserve
Datchet Common and Gravel Pits	Harefield Churchyard and Wood	Pollardshill Wood
Horton and Kingsmead Lakes	Harefield Green Pond	Rickmansworth Aquadrome, Bury & Batchworth Lakes
Old Slade Lake	Harefield Hall and The Lodge	Stockers Farm Meadow
Queen Mother Reservoir	Harefield Hospital Ponds and the Old Orchard	Stockers Lake
Wraysbury I Gravel Pits	Haste Hill Golf Course, Northwood Golf Course and Northwood Park	Uxbridge Road Verge
Wraysbury II Gravel Pits	Hill End Road Pond	Woodcock Hill Cemetery Meadow
Chiltern Open Air Museum, Newlands Park	Knightscote Farm Ponds	Black Park
Denham Marsh Wood	Land north of Waterdell Farm	Black Park Lake
Gossams Wood	Little Britain	Grand Union Canal, near Iver North
Great Halings Wood	Londons Canals	Grand Union Canal, Slough Branch
Northmoor Hill Wood & Wyatt's Covert	Lower Colne	Langley Park
Phillipshill Wood	Medipark Site	Long Coppice
Rowley & Gallions Woods	Mid Colne Valley	Nightingale Wood
Southlands Manor	Newyears Green	Oakend Wood
Birch Green by River Ash SNCI	Old Park Wood	Old Rectory Wood
Church Lammas SNCI	Old Pumping Station Field	Opposite Iver Station
East of Poyle Meadows SNCI	Ruislip Woods and Poors Field	River Alderbourne, east of Fulmer
Greenham's Fishing Pond SNCI	Shepherds Hill House	River Colne, east of Denham
Hilda May Lake SNCI	Shepherds Hill Woods and Fields	Shrubs Wood
Moor Lane Nature Reserve SNCI	Springwell and Stockers Lakes	St. Paul's Churchyard, Hornhill
River Colne (from County Boundary to Staines Moor), Stanwell Moor SNCI	Springwell Lane Chalk Pit	Tilehouse Gravel Pits
River Thames SNCI	Springwell Pit Wood	Watergate Farm, River Colne
Shortwood Common North SNCI	St Vincents Hospital Meadows	Wetland north of Long Coppice
Stanwell II SNCI	Summerhouse Lane Chalk Pit	
West of Poyle Meadows SNCI	The Dairy Farm, Harefield	
Wraysbury Reservoir SNCI	White Heath Farm and Harefield Grove	
Brackenbury Railway Cutting	Bottom Wood	
Breakspear House Wood	Chalk Pit S.E. of Ladywalk Wood	
Coppermill Down	Colne Valley Gravel Pits	
Dews Dell	Croxley Hall Lakes	
	High Wood and Garrett Wood	

**Table 2: Local Wildlife Sites Within or Skirting the Scheme Area**



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- LEGEND**
-  Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
  -  Local Wildlife Sites - Herts Environmental Records Centre
  -  Local Wildlife Sites - Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre
  -  Local Wildlife Sites - Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre
  -  Biological Notification Sites - Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre
  -  Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation - GiGL
  -  Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre

Figure 8b: Local Wildlife Sites

**PROJECT TITLE**  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

**DRAWING TITLE**  
Local Wildlife Sites

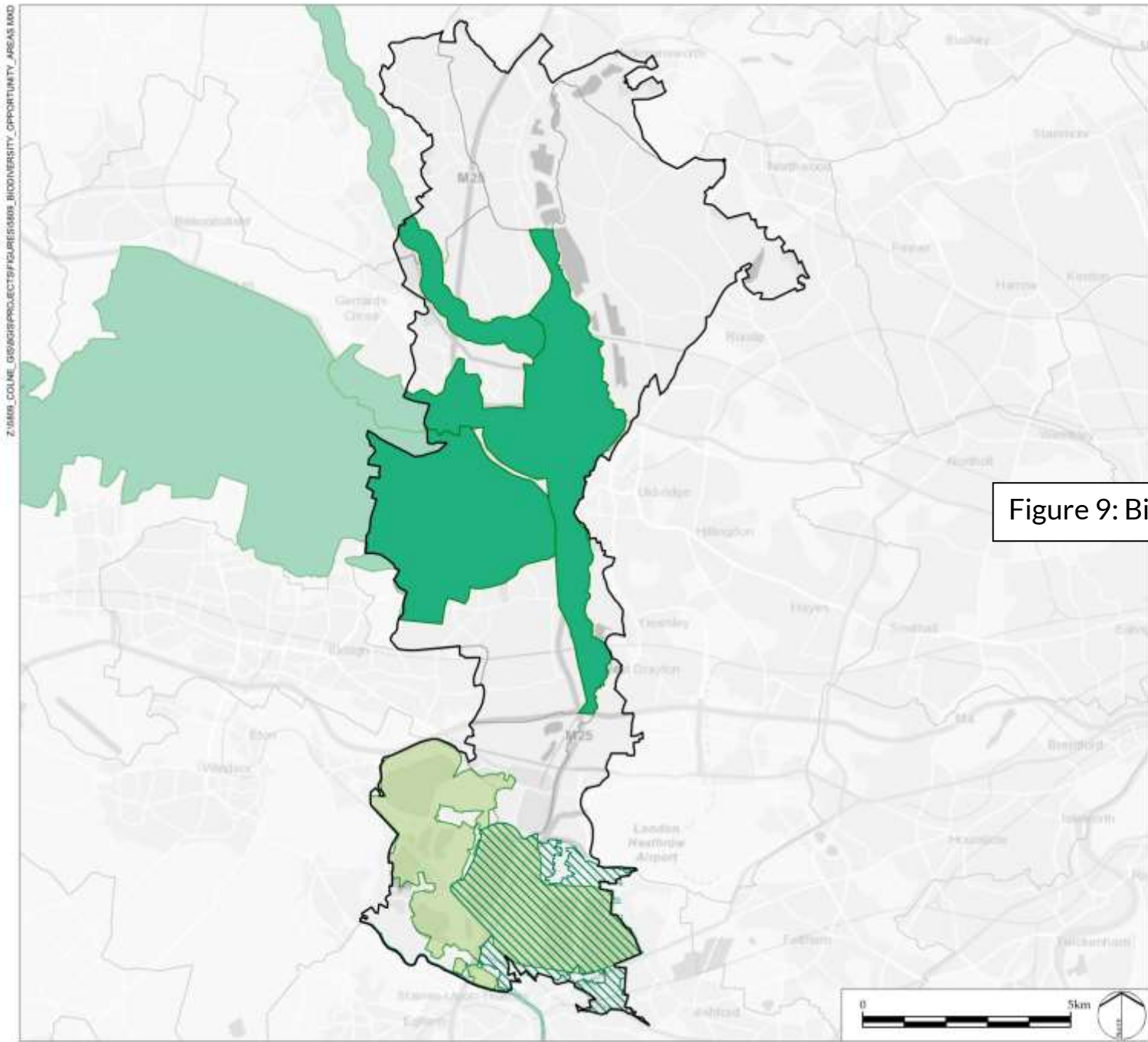
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**DWG. NO.** 5809\_Local\_Wildlife\_Sites

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**LEGEND**

- Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
- Colne Valley, South Bucks Heaths and Parklands, Central Chilterns Chalk Rivers Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre)
- Colne Valley Gravel Pits and Reservoirs Biodiversity Opportunity Area (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre)
- Staines Moor and Shortwood Common, River Thames (towpath and islands) Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre)

Note: London and Hertfordshire have no designated Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

Figure 9: Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

**PROJECT TITLE**  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

**DRAWING TITLE**  
Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

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**DWG. NO.**  5809\_Biodiversity\_Opportunity\_Areas

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All dimensions are to be checked on site.  
Area measurements for indicative purposes only.

**Sources:**  Ordnance Survey, © Geoandwork, © Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre, © Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, © Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre

## 1.1.4 Landscape

### 1.1.4.1 The National Perspective

NCA Profile:115 Thames Valley (NE379), updated by Natural England in 2012, incorporates the area covered by the Landscape Partnership Scheme. The profile describes : ‘a mainly low-lying, wedge-shaped area, widening from Reading, which includes Slough, Windsor, the Colne Valley and the southwest London fringes’. It continues: ‘The River Thames provides a unifying feature through a very diverse landscape of urban and suburban settlements, infrastructure networks, fragmented agricultural land, historic parks, commons, woodland, reservoirs and extensive minerals workings. Hydrological features dominate the Thames Valley and include the Thames and its tributaries, part of the Grand Union Canal and the reservoirs which form the South- West London Waterbodies Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site. These features provide essential water supply services for London and the surrounds, as well as being important areas for wildlife and recreation in an essentially urban landscape. Flows and water levels in the River Thames are managed by a series of locks and structures upstream of Teddington. Flood defence and water quality improvement measures, such as the restoration of wetlands for flood management, provide opportunities for biodiversity and recreation.’ The ‘Statements of Environmental Opportunity’ identify:

- Enhancement of the area’s rivers, and the expansion of their operational flood plains and associated wetland habitats
- Landscape-scale enhancement of the extensive gravel workings and other open waterbodies (including reservoirs)
- Maintenance of existing greenspace and planning for the creation of green infrastructure associated with projected growth of urban areas
- Protection and management of historic parklands, wood pastures, ancient woodland, commons, orchards and distinctive ancient pollards, and restoration of and increase in woodland
- Development of the recreational, educational and commercial tourism opportunities offered by public access to – and engagement with – the historic buildings and landscapes in the area.

### 1.1.4.2 The Colne Valley Landscape Character Assessment

A landscape character assessment for the Scheme area was completed in August 2017 by Alison Farmer Associates. Using pre-existing landscape character assessments that had been undertaken by local authorities, as a guide, sensible Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas were identified which were not constrained by administrative boundaries. Relevant maps may be seen in Figure 10 and 11. The full report may be found in Appendix A.

The 14 Character Areas are as follows:

- Heronsgate/Chalfont Farmland

This landscape character area comprises rolling farmland to the west of the Colne Valley within the Colne Valley Regional Park area. Its gently rolling landforms, open and simple character (typical of chalk landscape) as well as patches of beech woodland and small paddocks give it a deeply rural character.

- Colne Valley: Rickmansworth to Uxbridge

This character area comprises the valley floor and the sloping valley sides of the Colne Valley which stretches between Rickmansworth and Uxbridge with a north-south orientation. Open water lakes surrounded by often dense regenerated tree cover fill much of the valley floor and the sloping valley sides offer elevated views along and across the valley. The combination of open water, tree cover, open farmed and wooded valley sides and variations in topography give rise to high scenic quality in places.

- Rickmansworth to Uxbridge Wooded Farmland

This character area comprises rolling wooded farmland to the east of the Colne Valley. Its gentle landform, high concentration of woodland and often intact small scale 18th and 19th enclosure pattern give it an attractive rural and unspoilt character.



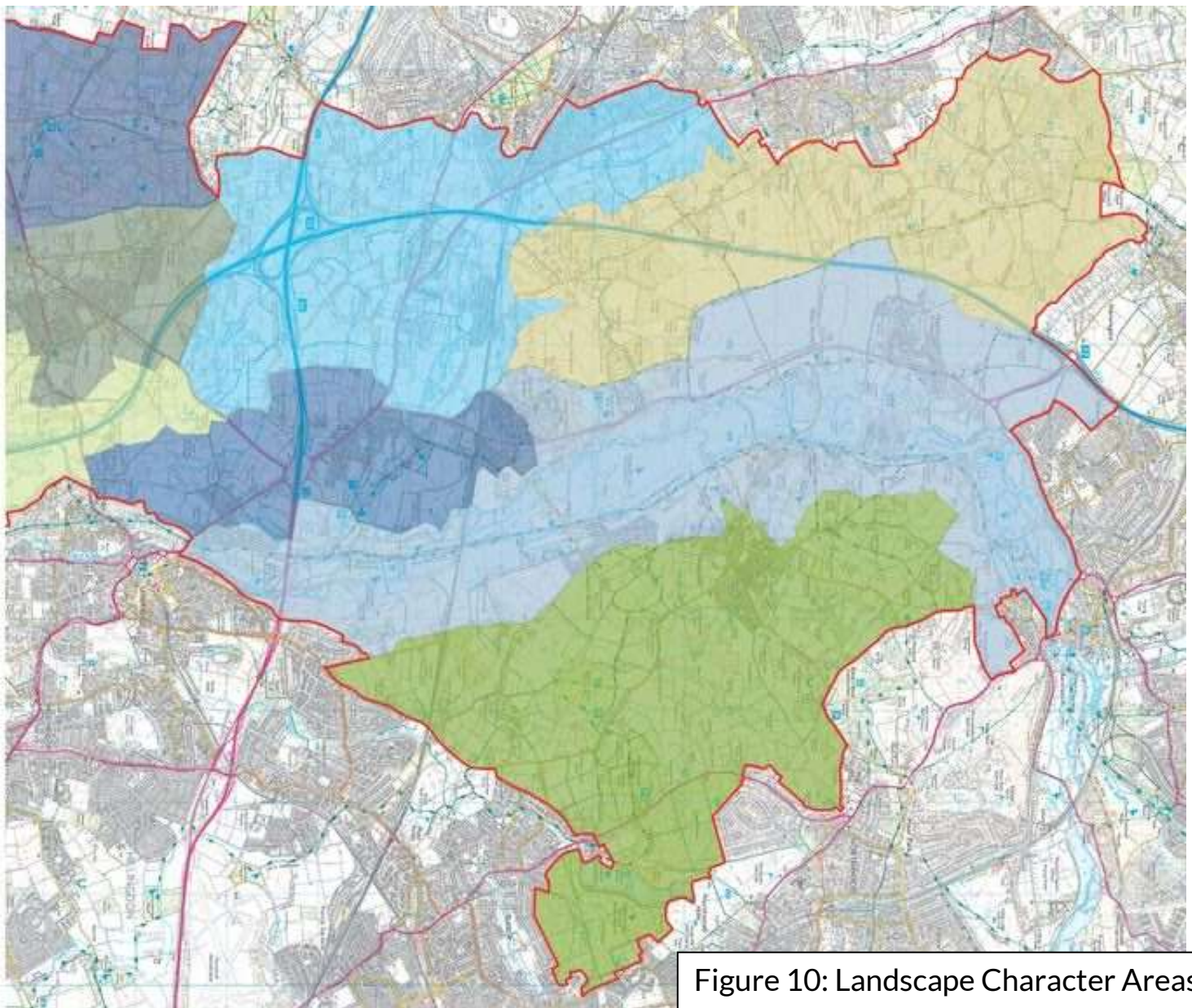


Figure 10: Landscape Character Areas - North



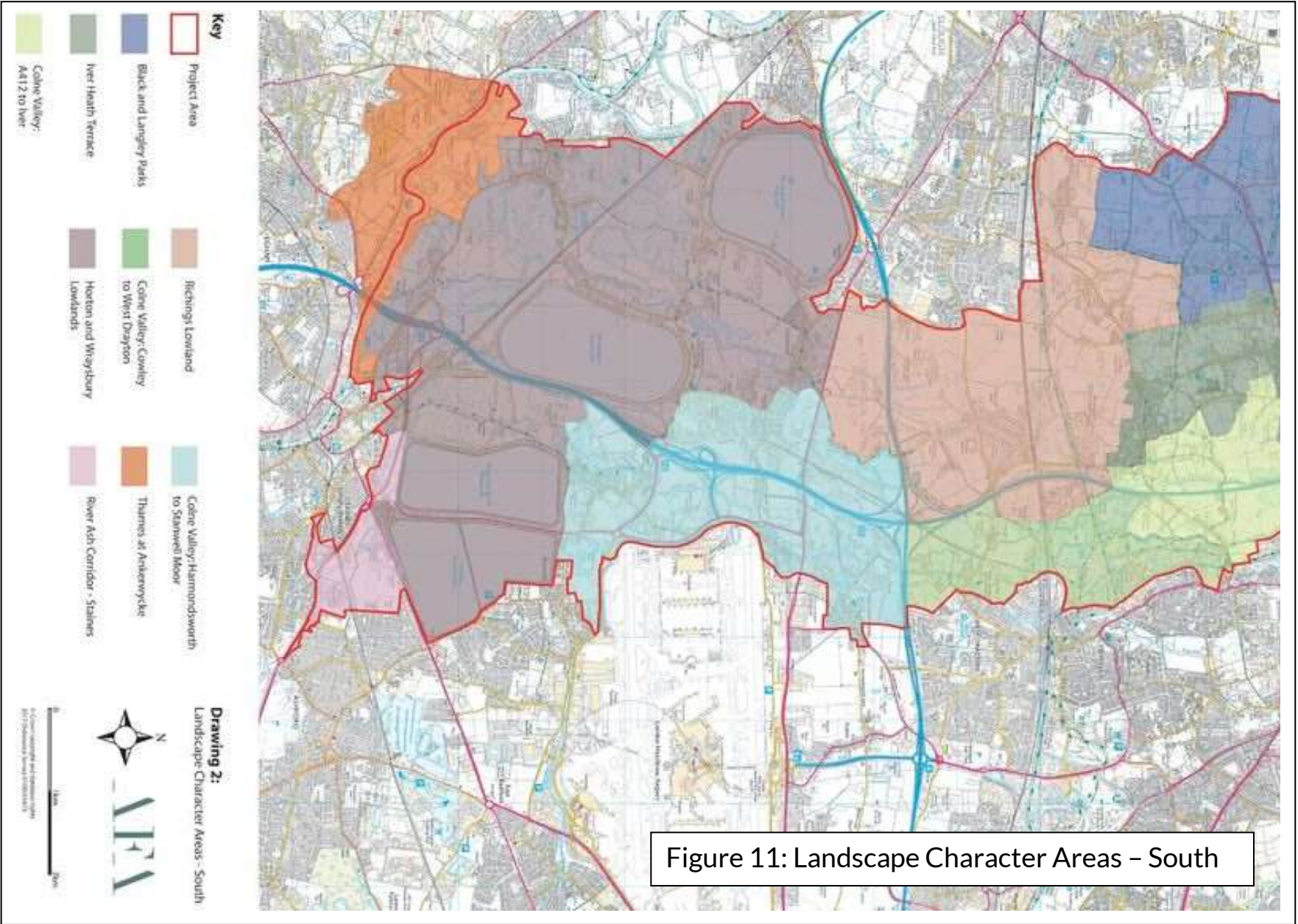


Figure 11: Landscape Character Areas - South



Photo representative of 'Rickmansworth to Uxbridge Wooded Farmland'  
- Alison Farmer

- Misbourne and Alder Bourne Tributaries

This landscape character area comprises the River Misbourne and the Alder Bourne valleys and the higher river terrace between them. The valleys flow west east and are relatively narrow, defined by undulating valley sides. The River Misbourne and Alder Bourne stream are both tributaries to the River Colne.

- Denham Valley Floor

This landscape character area lies between Denham Green and Uxbridge Moor substation. It comprises a broad lowland floodplain west of the River Colne, where the lower reaches of the River Misbourne and Alder Bourne enter the Colne Valley.

- Black and Langley Parks

This landscape character area forms an elevated river terrace which sits west of Iver Heath and Colne Valley. It is comprised of south facing slopes reaching 75m AOD in the north and dropping to around 40m AOD in the south. It is a well wooded landscape with occasional expansive views southwards across the Thames floodplain to Windsor Castle and Cooper's Hill. To the north lies the Alder Bourne Valley while to the south is Slough.

- Iver Heath Terrace

This landscape lies immediately to the west of the Colne Valley and to the south of the Alder Bourne Valley. It is a transitional landscape of former river terrace which drops in elevation towards a lowland landscape in the south. The south facing slopes rise to 75m in the north and drop to around 40m AOD in the south. This landscape has experienced significant built development and growth of settlement over the last century. It is accessible via major roads A412 and A4007 as well as several minor roads. Subsequently, this landscape has a semi-urban character with a busy feel.

- Colne Valley: A412 to Iver

This character area comprises the valley floor of the River Colne and its distinctive western valley sides between Uxbridge Moor substation and the M25/M4 junction. The eastern valley sides comprise the town of Uxbridge



and lie beyond the Scheme area. The M25 flanks the western side of the valley floor. This section of the Colne Valley has a strong historic character but is also affected by significant lines of pylons extending from the Uxbridge Moor substation.

- Richings Lowland

This landscape character area comprises low lying and gently sloping land between Langley Park and the Thames/Colne floodplain between 40-25m AOD. It is a predominately agricultural landscape, used for arable, orchards/market gardening and golf courses. There is a notable east west grain to the landscape due to the Grand Union Canal and railway line, pylons, M4 and A4.

- Colne Valley: Cowley to West Drayton

This landscape character area forms the lower reaches of River Colne defined by the M25 to the west and Yiewsley and West Drayton to the east and M4 to the south. It comprises the valley floor of the River Colne which contains a complex network of different water channels including the River Colne, Grand Union Canal, Duke of Northumberland's River and Fray's River. There are numerous naturalistic lakes, post gravel extraction, which have a strong recreation focus. The area is well wooded giving rise to an enclosed and intimate character.

- Colne Valley: Harmondsworth to Stanwell Moor

This landscape character area comprises the Colne Valley and associated historic villages adjacent to Heathrow Airport. It is a lowland landscape with limited variations in topography and is significantly affected by infrastructure serving the airport and/or visual/audible intrusion of aircraft manoeuvres.

- Horton and Wraysbury Lowlands

This landscape character area comprises part of the flat Thames floodplain and River Colne alluvial fan and has a flat low lying character. Much of the area has been altered by gravel extraction and the construction of reservoirs resulting in a repetitive pattern of large lakes and steep reservoir



Photo representative of 'Denham Valley Floor' – Alison Farmer



Photo representative of 'Colne Valley: A412 to Iver' – Alison Farmer



embankments. Between these waterbodies are braided channels of the Colne Brook and Colne and Wraysbury Rivers, remnant meadows and historic villages.

- Thames at Ankerwycke

This landscape character area focuses on the River Thames and lies predominantly beyond the Colne Valley. It included both sides of the River Thames and the distinctive Cooper's Hill which provides the landscape context to Runnymede and Ankerwycke with the Scheme area. Coopers Hill offers panoramic views across the character area and the wider Scheme area to the north.

- River Ash Corridor - Staines

This landscape character area comprises low ground beside the River Ash between Staines Moor and Fordbridge, Ashford. Tree lined roads and one railway cross the open ground, so creating a corridor that comprises of a series of open spaces. Varied land uses include parks, allotments and wider areas of grazed common land.

The range of sensitivities that have been identified within a range of character areas includes:

- Ancient woodlands, trees and hedgerows vulnerable to lack of management, development or loss of connectivity.
- Small scale pasture and meadows susceptible to under/over grazing and lack of management.
- Vulnerability to tranquillity, time-depth, rural character, small lanes from growth of settlement/infrastructure and adhoc change.
- Compromising of scenic and attractive views from tree growth or development.
- Loss of recreation opportunities, accessible landscape and remnant landscapes from development.
- Reduction in water quality of watercourses from erosion due to grazing pressure and run-off.
- Reduction in quality of watercourses due to lack of management of vegetation.
- Inappropriate planting along river valley floors.

- Fragmentation of ecological networks along watercourses, wetland meadows and other meadows from infrastructure and development.
- Vulnerability of historic villages from unsympathetic development, including linear expansion along roads.
- Loss of traditional management techniques to matrix of habitats.

### 1.1.4.3 Landscape Significance

#### i) Colne Valley Regional Park

Regional Parks are areas of land preserved on account of their natural beauty, historic interest or recreational use, covering a region which crosses several administrative boundaries. They are identified jointly by local authorities and do not have the status or legislative-backing afforded to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Colne Valley Regional Park covers an area of countryside to the west of London amounting to 112km<sup>2</sup> or 43 square miles (see Figure 2). It was established in 1965. It is estimated that it attracts at least 2 million visitors each year.

The vision for the Regional Park is: "The Colne Valley Park will be a sustainable network of high quality countryside, villages, green spaces and other amenities that provide a regionally significant destination for recreational and cultural pursuits. The Colne Valley Park will be a pleasant environment in which people live, work and play that also supports thriving farming & forestry and a rich range of wildlife. The Green Infrastructure of the Colne Valley Park and the built landscape of West London will blend in an integrated manner."

Defra's Natural Environment White Paper recognises places such as the Colne Valley as being capable of fulfilling valued economic and social as well as environmental objectives. Defra's catchment-based approach provides

greater prominence for the Colne Valley as a spatial concept which transcends local government boundaries. The All London Green Grid, recognises the Colne Valley as an integral part of the capital's strategic open space network. Herts and Bucks also have green infrastructure plans that include significant links with the objectives of the Colne Valley Park.

## 1.1.5 Existing Management Information

### 1.1.5.1 Land Ownership

The landscape of the Colne Valley is in multiple ownership. Figure 12 shows of map which indicates the landownership or management coverage of all members of the Landscape Partnership in the Landscape Partnership Scheme area. This covers approximately 3823.76 Hectares or 30% of the area and it is within these areas that many of the project activities for the Landscape Partnership Scheme will be focussed.

### 1.1.5.2 Agri-Environment Schemes

Figure 13 shows coverage of Agri-environment schemes in 2017. This demonstrates how much of the area is not supported through European Union grants, administered through Natural England. The imminent departure of the UK from the EU is likely to reduce this proportion.

### 1.1.5.3 Green Flag Sites

The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces (publicly accessible parks and green spaces) in the United Kingdom. Figure 14 indicates the location of sites holding an award in 2017.



Colne Valley Visitor Centre on a Buckinghamshire CC landholding – *Groundwork South*



Pond on an Affinity Water landholding – *Ewa Prokop*

#### 1.1.5.4 Strategies: National, Regional & Local

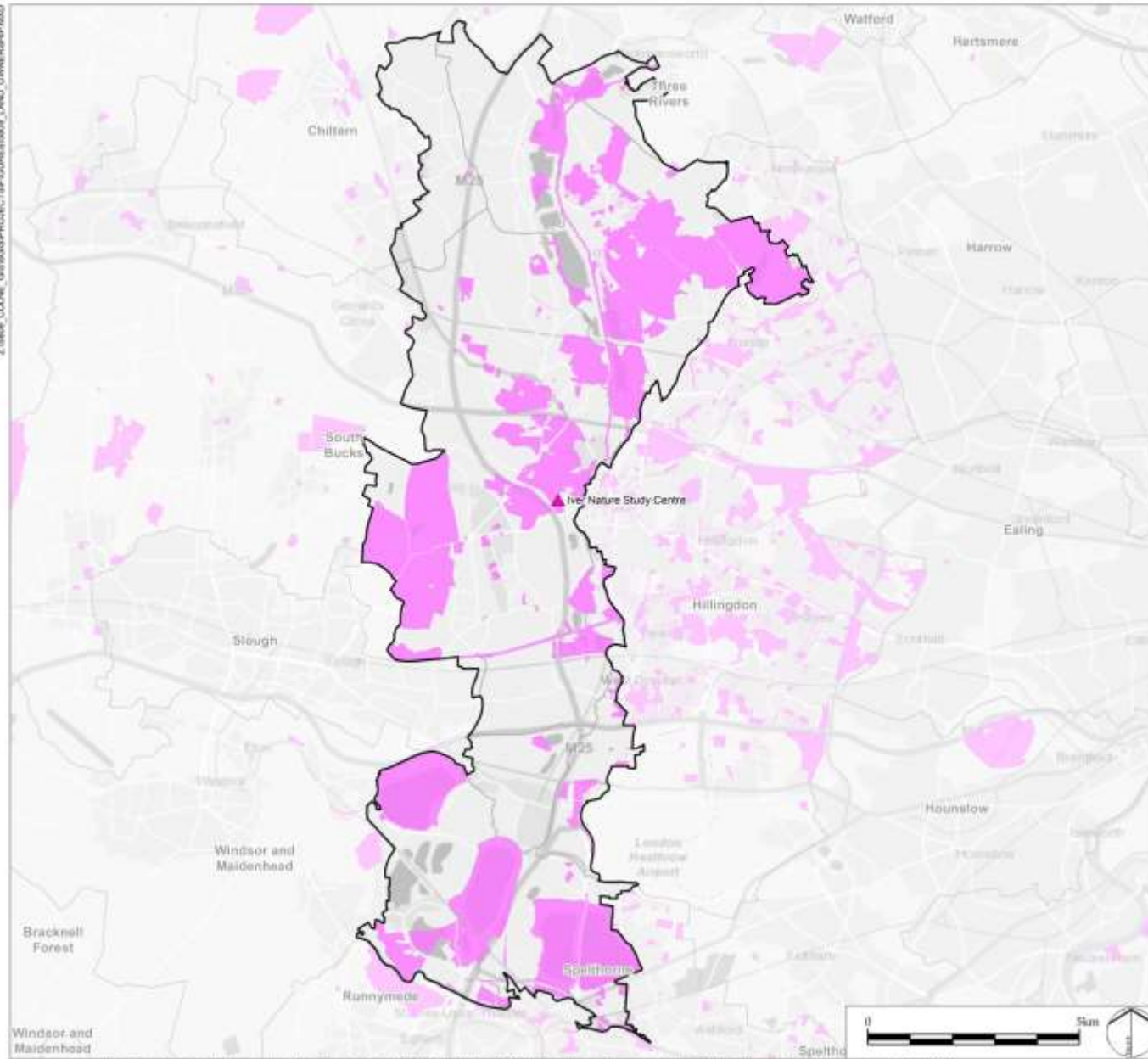
Table 3 highlights the range of strategies applying to the Landscape Partnership Scheme area. For convenience, the columns highlight how these relate to each project under the Scheme (though the details of the projects are not presented until later, in Part 2 and 3). Details of each strategy may be found in Appendix 2.



Steam Engine by Ruislip Woods – *Ruislip Lido Railway*



Z:\1408\_COLNE\_05\03\PROJECT\FIGURES\089\_LAND\_OWNERSHIP\DWG



LEGEND

-  Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
-  Iver Nature Study Centre
-  Land managed or owned by members of the Landscape Partnership

**Figure 12: Map of Landownerships**

PROJECT TITLE  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

DRAWING TITLE  
Land Ownership

DATE Dec 2017  
SCALE @A3 1:90,000

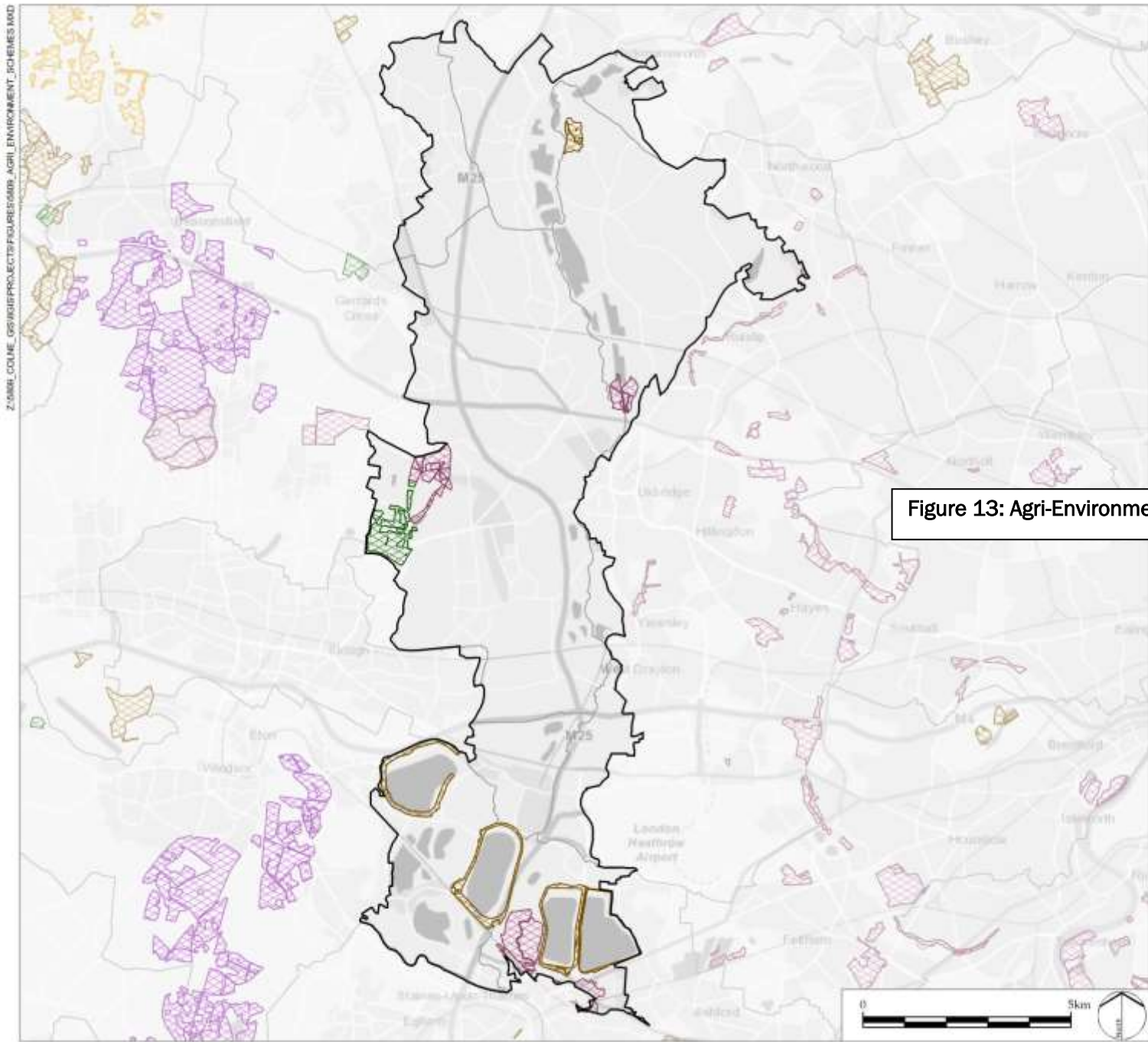
DWG. NO. 5809\_Land\_Ownership

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- LEGEND**
- Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
  - Countryside Stewardship Agreement Management Areas**
  - NELMS - Countryside stewardship (high tier)
  - Environmental Stewardship Scheme Agreements**
  - Entry Level Stewardship
  - Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
  - Higher Level Stewardship
  - Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship

Figure 13: Agri-Environment Scheme (Stewardship Schemes)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

**DRAWING TITLE**  
Agri-Environment Schemes

**DATE** Dec 2017  
**SCALE @A3** 1:90,000

**DWG. NO.** 5809\_Agri\_Environment\_Schemes

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**LEGEND**

- Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
- Green Flag Award Sites

**Figure 14: Green Flag Award Sites**

**PROJECT TITLE**  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

**DRAWING TITLE**  
Green Flag Award Sites

**DATE:** Dec 2017  
**SCALE:** A3 1:90,000

**DWG. NO.** 5809\_Green\_Flag\_Sites

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**Sources:** Ordnance Survey; © Groundwork; © Green Flag Award Scheme









People enjoying the Colne Valley Festival (below) – Catharine Kyle

Volunteers workforce working with the Green Team (below) – Catharine Kyle



## 1.1.6 People with a Stake in the Landscape

### 1.1.6.1 Demographics

Around 160,000 people live within the Landscape Partnership Scheme area, in villages and small towns, and a further 830,000 within a 5km margin of the edge of the Scheme area, where a number of large settlements, such as Uxbridge and Slough, may be found. 3m people reside with 10km of the area.

79% of the population within the Scheme area comprises white people (in line with the South East average) and the population is relatively affluent. The highest areas of deprivation and poor health occur around Colnbrook, Poyle and Harefield.

Just outside the Scheme area, at least half of the population of Slough supports residents of Pakistani and Indian ethnicity. This locality also suffers from high levels of deprivation. To the east, in the Borough of Hillingdon, higher levels of deprivation than those of the South East may be found, with there being evidence of poor health and limited access to car transport. There are a significant proportion of people of Indian ethnicity present. In comparison, locations to the north, north-western and southern margins of the Scheme area, including Rickmansworth and Staines, are affluent. Over 80% of the populations there are white here.

On-line surveys undertaken during 2016 (prior to Round 1) and during 2017 (as part of the Development Stage) appear to show that current users are of mainly white ethnicity (93% in the 2017 survey) are over the age of 45 (but under the age of 65) and from the least deprived areas. This is supported by survey work undertaken at Langley Country Park and Denham Country Park in 2017. The age and ethnicity profile were similar for the Aquadrome (2016) and Stockers Lake (2016) surveys. Only 2% and 4% of on-line respondents were of Asian origin or considered themselves to have a disability, respectively. 6% of visitors to the Aquadrome (2016 Survey) had a disability. The Consultation Tour respondents were overwhelmingly White

British; the second most prevalent group were of Asian origin. There were also a handful of people who were White European, Middle Eastern, Chinese, Black British, Black Afro-Caribbean and Irish. Respondents were mainly aged 50+.

Local, recent survey data falls in line with the typical audiences found to have an existing interest in the countryside, nature and heritage in England. In short, those of Black and Minority Ethnic origin, those with long term illness or disability and those in DE social grades are least likely to visit.

Through the analysis of demographic and local survey data, five under-represented audiences have been identified for the Scheme: those of Asian ethnicity; teenagers; people with disabilities and mental health problems; unemployed people or young families living in deprived areas within or close to the Scheme area; 25-35 year olds.

Local barriers to participation have been identified as:

- Lack of car ownership.
- Poor north-south transport (bus and train) links.
- Poor network of on-road or off-road cycle lanes (e.g. along the A412 Uxbridge Road).
- Lack of knowledge of how to access the Scheme area from transport stops along safe paths.
- Lack of knowledge of the existence of the Colne Valley Regional Park and therefore inability to access information through associated on-line channels with a similar name.
- Lack of information on what the Scheme area has to offer especially due to lack of 'presence' in newspapers, local magazines, libraries and local websites or social media.
- Unfamiliarity with the Colne Valley Regional Park name resulting in perceived distance of the Scheme area to respondents' locations.
- Lack of foreign language material or images featuring individuals of ethnic origin which may present an image that the Scheme area does not welcome BAME groups.
- Cost of car parking, activities, events and café food at venues within the Colne Valley.
- Personal safety concerns from physical hazards (e.g. litter, deep water) and strangers.

- Lack of confidence in undertaking trips and exploring, especially without company.
- Peer pressure amongst teenagers who have risk of being stigmatised for doing something 'boring'.
- Unappealing events and activities for teenagers.
- Lack of physical 'accessibility for all' (e.g. unsurfaced paths, lack of benches, presence of countryside furniture, difficulty in negotiating routes) or knowledge of level of accessibility expected (e.g. availability of disabled toilets).
- Limited range of activities 'open' to those with disabilities or mental health issues.
- Lack of time.
- Lack of knowledge of volunteering opportunities.

National research shows that most volunteers come from the 35-74 age bracket, have higher qualifications, have managerial or professional qualifications or live in rural (rather than urban) areas. The 2017 on-line survey revealed that most volunteers were over the age of 65 and those volunteering the least were 25-34 in age. Local motivators were found to include: current environmental awareness and appreciation; attachment to 'place' (areas that mean something to the individual); learning new skills and gaining practical experience; provision of structure to life; encouragement from friends, family and community members; gaining a sense of achievement; witnessing visible improvement in 'before' and 'after'. Lack of time and lack of knowledge of how to find out about volunteer opportunities were given as the key barriers to volunteering. Teenagers were found to be most interested in 'challenges' that were supported by some form of accreditation.

The information presented here: has influenced the detail of projects to be undertaken as part of the Delivery Stage with regard to the range of audiences that should be reached; has been considered when devising the Volunteering Strategy (Appendix E); will be considered when creating an annually-reviewed Marketing Strategy during the Delivery Stage.

## 1.1.6.2 Significance of Audience Views

### i) Level of Public Participation

Prior to Round 1 submission, Groundwork South organised an on-line survey. This generated 415 responses, with the vast majority of people wanting to be kept up-to-date with Scheme news. Details of some of the findings may be found in Appendix Bi. The 'word art' in Figure 15a was generated from responses relating to 'what words do you associate with the Colne Valley Regional Park'.

During the Development Stage the Programme Manager spoke to 479 people about the Scheme to ascertain the level of support for the bid, to gain opinion on the individual project elements, to gain an understanding of awareness of the Colne Valley Regional Park and use of the Landscape Partnership area and to gauge to what extent the public and various groups wished to be involved. All but 1 person expressed enthusiasm for the outputs of the bid. Raw data and related summary data from these consultations may be found in Appendix Bii.

The Places Team were appointed in April 2017 to develop an Audience Development and Interpretation Plan. As part of this process consultants:

- Arranged seven focus groups in order to speak to people from under-represented audiences including people of Asian origin, young people, residents from deprived areas, disabled people and those with mental health issues. Details of findings may be found in Appendix B. All wish to be further involved with the Scheme during Delivery Stage.
- Organised an on-line survey. This generated 301 responses. Details of findings may be found in Appendix Bi.



Public consultation revealed the value placed on waymarked walking routes– Ewa Prokop





## ii) The Wider Community – Comments About the Area

There were four overwhelming comments that came through from the public during the Consultation Tour 2017.

- The area needs better promotion.
- The area needs better information about transport links and/or better transport provision.
- The area needs better protection from development and anti-social behaviour.
- More events need to be held in the area.

In relation to the type of events that people preferred to see, the following was ascertained from the 2017 on-line survey (in order of preference):

- Self-guided nature trails
- Local country fairs and guided walks
- Spotting or watching nature
- Talks about the area
- Rambles, Demonstration of Crafts and Seeing a performance of environmental or heritage theme
- Photography sessions, Attending a Training Course and seeing an exhibition
- Art and craft sessions and Challenges such as creating a willow sculpture or undertaking a bike ride
- Finding or collecting things e.g. scavenger hunts, treasure hunts, geocaching and Smart phone photography
- Storytelling
- Being part of a performance.

Specific suggestions that were made included:

- Providing guided walks that teach people about tree/flower/bird identification, built/industrial heritage etc.
- Events for young children on map-reading, exploring, adventures, new skills etc.
- Providing performances of acting companies along canals etc.
- Litter-picking events.
- Wild plant and mushroom foraging.
- Swimming in lakes.

## iii) The Wider Community – Comments About the Proposed Projects

When specifically shown the project descriptions on the Consultation Tour 2017, the majority of respondents were interested in the 'Walks Through a Changing Landscape Project', 'Colne Valley Trail Project' and 'Nature Conservation Group Support Project'. The next most popular, in no particular order, were: 'Preventing the Water Voles from Being Extinct Project', 'Invasive Species Project', 'Improving the Interface between Town & Country Project', 'Missing Links Project', 'Ancient Woodland Interpretation Project' and 'Events Flowing Through the Colne Valley Project'. All the remaining projects were supported, though by fewer numbers.

The 2017 on-line survey revealed that:

- 'Projects for Wildlife' responses supported improving river habitats, controlling non-native plant species, conservation grazing, water vole conservation, weir amendment, water saving and conservation of wildlife at angling lakes (in order of priority).
- 'Improving Local Places and Helping Communities Get Involved' responses supported addressing problems (e.g. flytipping), improving under-used/under-managed sites; promoting and improving paths from villages and towns; supporting nature conservation groups, creating a River Warden Scheme, promoting 'gateways', creating path connections and improving the Colne Valley Trail (in order of priority).
- 'Improving Awareness of the Colne Valley Regional Park' responses supported events for under 12's, raising awareness of ancient woodland, creating river signage, creating a plan for Colne Valley Regional Park's future, events for 13-21 year olds, events for adults, raising awareness of how the landscape has changed, creating an app, creating a website promoting the local landscape, directing people to the best views of the Colne Valley (in order of priority).

#### iv) Focus Groups

Hillingdon Access and Mobility Group were keen to be involved with the Scheme (e.g. Spatial Vision) and to ensure that projects 'designed in' accessibility wherever possible (e.g. having integrated events, have an accessible website and audio, ensuring clear map production and accessible paths).

Slough Youth Parliament were keen to press the need to use Snapchat and Instagram as well as Facebook and Twitter. They indicated that they would like to see special events for teenagers (e.g. community picnic, film-making, volunteering) and more and better promoted off-road routes for cycling.

Harefield Tenants and Residents Association want more local events for children and/or adults to be run to instil local pride in the area (e.g. night walks, nature walks), occasional volunteer days to look after local sites, an improved Colne Valley Park website and improvements to Denham Quarry.

Aik Saith wanted to see a range of small and large scale events (examples were given, including camping with bushcraft) and opportunities for volunteering. They wanted to see safe route promoted and to have opportunity to get involved with film-making and outdoor arts projects. They encouraged the use of Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook as well as publicity through schools.

Hillingdon Asian Women's Group said that they wanted to have more organised trips to the area as a group with visits incorporating such activities as photography, guided walks, practical tasks and painting for children, yoga and knitting. They felt that Denham Country Park should have better signage, more information boards and more benches. They suggested that publicity for the area be circulated in hospitals and conveyed through radio. An events for all Hillingdon Community Organisations in the area was suggested.

At West Drayton Com Café participants expressed the need for more information on how to get to the Regional Park and the need for more

information in local gazettes and Facebook pages. Some suggested that organised trips could be made to the area from West Drayton so that people could enjoy the landscape and nature.

Attendees of the Hillingdon Mind session requested organised trips to the area to visit new places and perhaps do activities such as drawing and painting, learning about nature and preparing and eating food.

#### vii) Existing Volunteer (Nature Conservation) Groups

Volunteers groups expressed a need to engage younger people with conservation (especially 25-35 year olds) and better promotion of groups, such as through Volunteer Weeks. They requested informal and formal training and 'get-togethers'. Many were open to receiving advice from other groups and staff appointed through the Landscape Partnership Scheme. A handful of groups asked for support in purchasing tools.



Programme Manager talking to a member of the public on the Consultation Tour 2017 at the Ruislip Woods Festival – Deborah Valman



## viii) Suggestions for Other Actions

The most feasible 'new' ideas put forward by members of the public follow. Those with an asterisk have been incorporated into the Scheme. It may be possible for some of the others to be taken up during the Delivery Stage, should there be an underspend. Alternatively the ideas could be considered during the legacy period.

- Provision of additional seating.
- Provision of bat and bird nest boxes including 'swift towers'.
- Provision of bridge over the Colne Brook from the Arthur Jacobs Nature Reserve to Colnbrook village centre.
- Using innovative means of reaching people utilising technology.
- Promotion of overnight accommodation for long distance walkers and cyclists.
- Encouraging businesses to adopt wildlife-friendly practices.
- Creating brand new habitat where none exists to encourage wildlife.
- Encouraging coppicing.
- Planting more trees as woodland blocks or hedgerows.
- Promoting wildlife-friendly gardening including for hedgehogs, newts and bees.
- Undertaking an anti-litter campaign.
- Undertaking natural flood risk management projects.
- Create green corridor connections between housing.
- More access and facilities from Chalfont St. Peter into the Colne Valley.
- Better cycling connections between parks/honeypot locations in the area and across the whole area from local settlements.
- Promotion of gateways from various settlements and public transport stops.
- Promotion of Colne Valley through community magazines and websites.\*
- Promoting wildlife conservation along the Grand Union Canal, including wildlife recording.
- Running wildlife and birdwatching walks similar to Woodberry Wetland Site (East London).\*
- Surfacing of paths across more of the network so people in non-rambling gear and with disabilities can access various locations.
- Building a bridge over or underpass under the railway to enable access from Staines town centre to Staines Moor.
- Production of a map that covers all the Aquadrome lakes.
- Promotion of connectivity between various circular walks.
- Improving public transport across the Regional Park.
- Promoting healthy community walks through GP surgeries.
- Tagging locations against social media feeds so that individuals are inspired about how the valley can be used or appreciated.
- Promoting the eco-services provided by wetlands.
- Introducing more signs as visitors enter the Colne Valley Regional Park.
- Encouraging local schools to visit the countryside around them.\*
- Promoting Colne Valley Regional Park through national press, radio and TV.
- Providing a map showing the best views of the valley\*.
- Publicity of the area in a newspaper broadsheet either separately or as an insert into existing newspapers.\*
- Placing of carved marker posts along trails.\*
- Promotion of public transport links with gateways, circular walks etc.\*
- Provision of trainee placements to improve opportunity for young people.\*
- Provision of art and photography workshops.\*
- Pollarding of riverside trees.
- Creation of an Field Studies Centre fold-out guide for the Colne Valley for educational use and family visits .
- Creation of a generic activities pack for children walking through the Scheme area, including along trails.
- Creation of map showing photos of people enjoying particular 'spots' in each 1km<sup>2</sup>.

## ix) Interpretation

Figure 15b presents how interpretation plans have adapted during the Development Stage on account of public consultation and the input of the Audience Development & Interpretation consultant. (Further background details may be found in Appendix 2a and Appendix Bi).

## x) Audience Engagement

Figure 15c presents how audiences will be engaged through the Scheme in response to public consultation and the input of the Audience Development & Interpretation consultant.



Examples of Existing Interpretation in the Scheme Area – Jennifer Smith

Figure 15b: Summary of Interpretation Plan

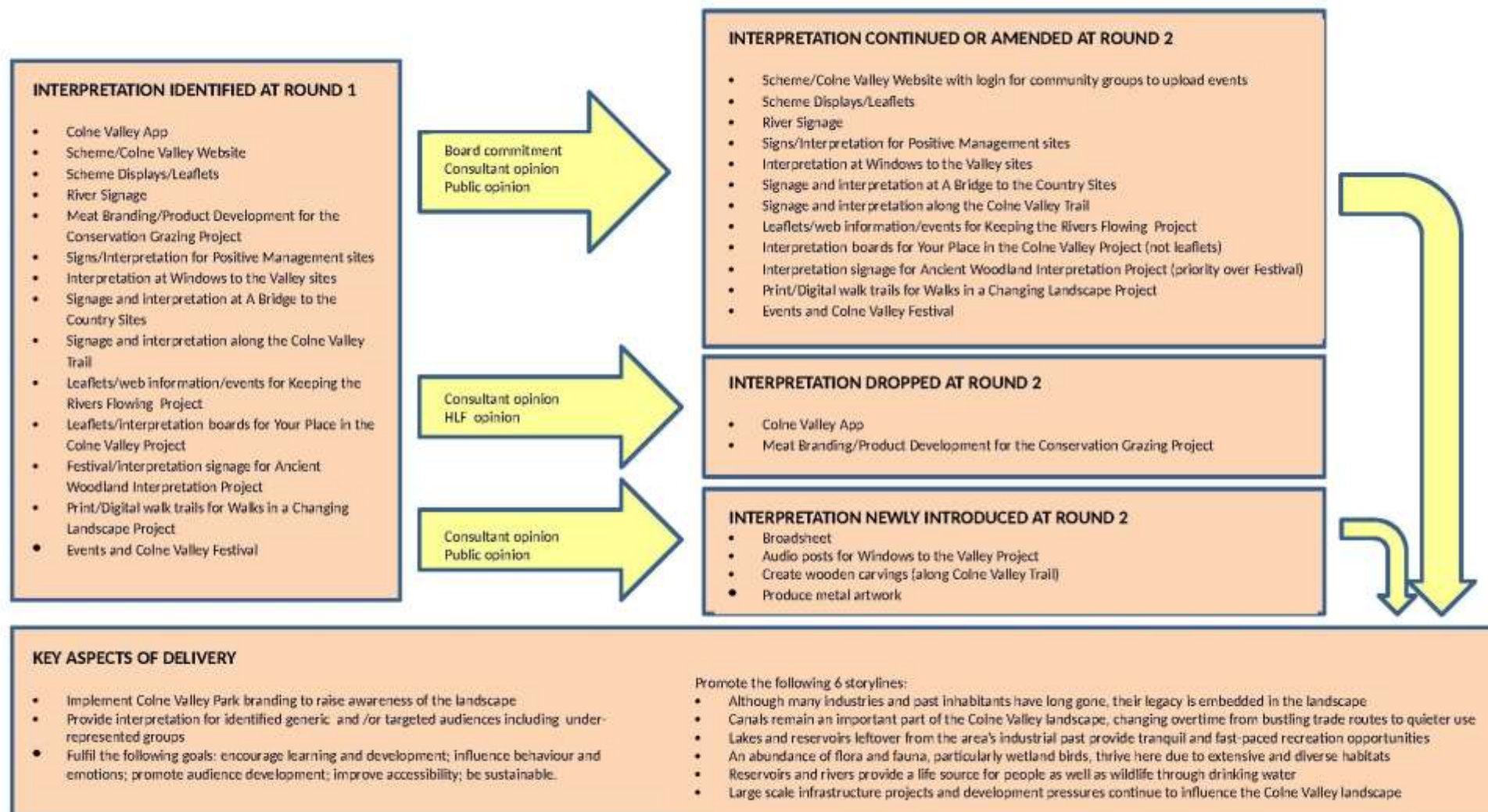
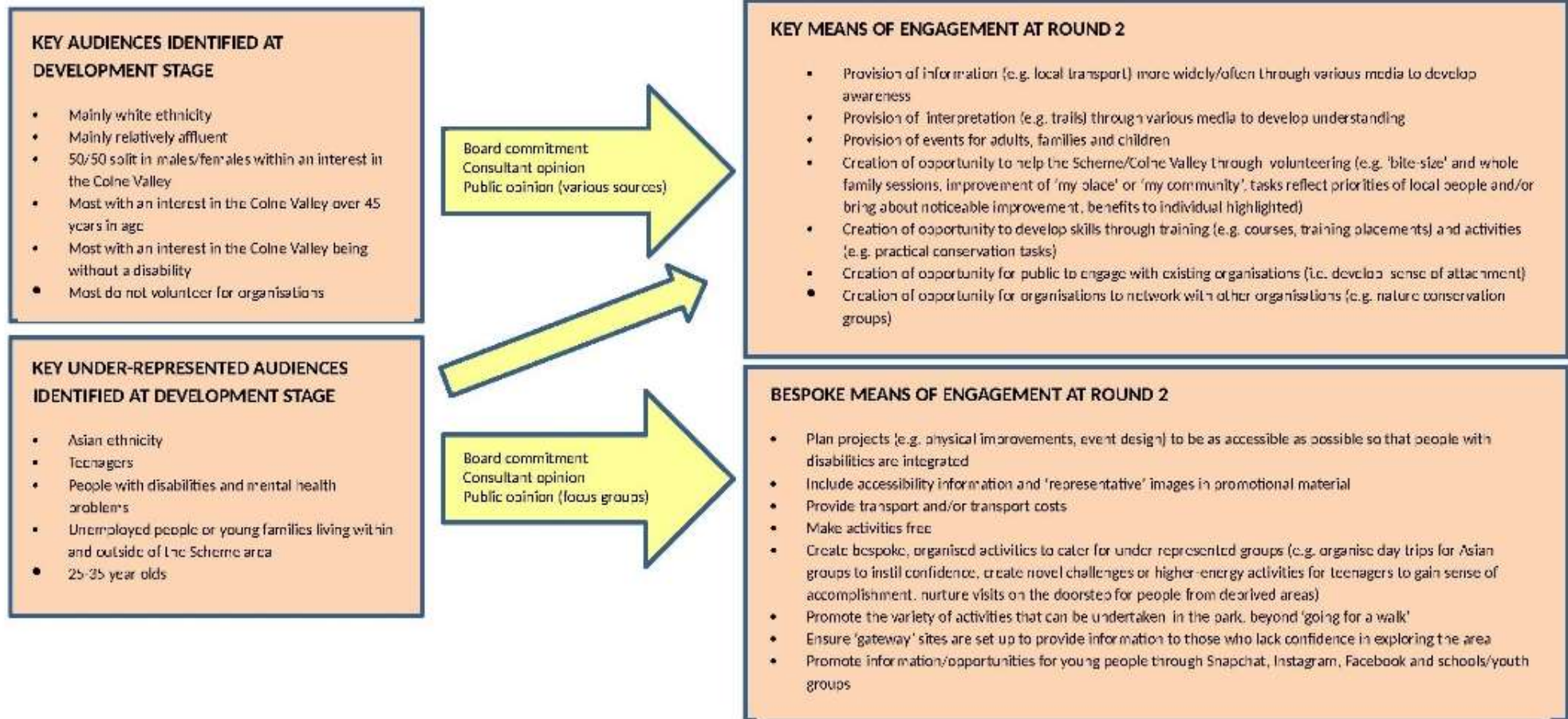




Figure 15c: Summary of Audience Engagement Approaches





Chainsaw sculpture in Swan Meadow highlighting local red kites – Ewa Prokop

### 1.1.6.3 Cultural Significance

#### i) Literary Associations

Wraysbury is the location for the sealing of the Magna Carta in 1215 (which is the foundation of the modern legal system).

John Milton (1608 – 1674), the English poet who wrote such poems as ‘Paradise Lost’, lived in Horton; his family rented Berkyn Manor, a house that belonged to Sir John Egerton, in the parish between 1632 and 1640.

The landscape was cherished in 1907, illustrated in Steven Springall’s book ‘Country Rambles Round Uxbridge’. One quote from the book states: “Very pleasant is the hundred Acres....(it is)... soft to the feet and pleasing to the eye, and as we traverse its springy grassiness, get from bricks and mortar, and imbibe the freshness of nature, we quickly respond to the subtle influences of nature and feel that life is worth living”.

In 1973, the naturalist, writer and broadcaster, Richard Mabey, wrote ‘The Unofficial Countryside’ which highlighted how nature flourishes against the odds, surviving in the most obscure and surprising places; he referenced the Colne Valley. He wrote ‘That canal side stroll was as good an antidote to the workday blues...for I had beaten off urban stresses in their own territory’. This was followed up by ‘A Good Parcel of English Soil’ in 2013.

Bill Bryson wrote about Wraysbury and Staines Moor in his book ‘The Road to Little Dribbling: More Notes from a Small Island’ (2015) ; he wrote of the Moor: “It was an unexpectedly lovely walk down a green lane, with large, well-tended homes on one side and a broad, restored gravel pit dotted with boats and sailboards, on the other.”

## ii) Visual Art Associations

John Nash (1893–1977), painter of landscape and still-life, grew up in Iver.

Denham Film Studios were a British film production studio operating from 1936 to 1952. Founded by Alexander Korda, notable films made at Denham included 'Brief Encounter' and David Lean's 'Great Expectations'.

In 1935, J. Arthur Rank created a partnership with Boot to transform Heatherden Hall estate into a film studio. Pinewood Studios is one of the world's leading destinations for the makers of film, television, commercials and video games and is based within the Landscape Partnership Scheme area. Many scenes have been shot at the studios and within the environs of the Scheme area. Examples include 'Casino Royale' and 'Stardust' at Black Park.

There are a number of art groups active in the area. One example of an establishment which has been open since the 1960's is the Southlands Arts Centre, just outside of the Scheme area. Here high quality exhibitions are held throughout the year often featuring local artists. The site is also home to The West London Photo Exhibition and Southlands Live.

## iii) Museums

Chiltern Open Air Museum was founded in 1976 with the aim of rescuing threatened buildings. More than thirty historic buildings have been saved and rebuilt at the site. The Museum's collection focuses on vernacular buildings – the past houses and workplaces of ordinary people that are gradually disappearing from the landscape.

Spelthorne Museum was founded in Staines in 1980 and is run by volunteers, with financial support from Spelthorne Borough Council. The archaeology collection is one of major importance in Surrey. The Museum has many permanent and temporary displays including ones showcasing Ice Age mammoth teeth and tusks found during local gravel extraction and a

selection of Roman artefacts ranging from roof tiles to a baby's feeding bottle.

The Three Rivers Museum of Local History in Rickmansworth houses an interesting and varied collection of historical artefacts and old photographs of the Three Rivers area. A range of permanent and temporary displays provides a visual history of the area - its development, buildings, personalities, transport, local businesses and industries - while our collection of memorabilia provides a wider perspective on bygone times.

Harmondsworth Barn is Grade I listed and is stated by Historic England to rank alongside the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey for its exceptional architectural and historic interest. It was dubbed the 'Cathedral of Middlesex' by Sir John Betjeman. Built in 1426 by Winchester College as part of its manor farm at Harmondsworth, the oak-framed barn is an outstanding example of medieval carpentry and contains one of the most intact interiors of its era. At nearly 60 metres long, 12 metres wide and 11 metres tall, with 13 massive oak trusses holding up the roof, both its size and aisles evoke the space and shape of a cathedral. It is managed by the Friends of the Great Barn at Harmondsworth.



Mural of local wildlife under the M25 close to Staines Moor SSSI – Ewa Prokop



Arable landscape near West Hyde - Ewa Prokop



# SECTION 1.2: LANDSCAPE RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES

## 1.2.1 Climate Change

### Risk

The area will be susceptible to extremes of weather in the face of climate change, which will impact upon a range of wildlife habitats as well as visitor infrastructure.

Warmer summers may lead to an increase in amount of vegetation in water courses, especially of invasive plant species, so swamping more light-needy species and affecting flow and the build up of debris (as dominant aquatic and marginal vegetation dies off).

There is risk of reduced water levels in water courses and on grazing marsh and other fields in summer which can negatively impact on grassland breeding waders in May and June, for example, or cause the desiccation of plants and reduced success of seeding and germination. Warmer temperatures can lower oxygen levels in water and impact on invertebrate and fish life, or increase concentrations of pollutants. Drying out, arising from both climate change (e.g. dry winters impacting on aquifer recharge) and abstractions, has been experienced in parts of the Misbourne and Colne in its upper reaches, can lead to loss of associated wildlife.

Higher rainfall and ground water levels in winter can reduce the capacity of the system to cope with storm events, so leading to flooding, which can impact on farming, homes and businesses and wildlife, such as water voles, that can be 'flushed out' of the system. Flooding can, however, sometimes bring benefit to foraging birds.

A longer growing season of plants associated with paths can lead to encroachment and impede easy-walking whilst wetter ground conditions in

the winter can affect the muddiness of routes or flooding of routes and cause gullying or uneven surfaces.

### Opportunity

There is scope to control water levels on some sites. There is opportunity to control invasive plant species as early on in their colonisation as possible, to ensure that their impact is reduced across the landscape. The creation of habitat for water voles across a wider landscape, rather than a narrow corridor, can increase their chances of survival. The Environment Agency and Affinity Water can monitor levels of abstraction to reduce impact. The 'water-saving message' can be shared with residents of the locality to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Paths can be better surfaced or more frequently maintained.

## 1.2.2 Broader Political Issues and Policy Changes

### i) Exit from the European Union

#### Risk

Government commenced negotiations for the two-year departure period from the European Union in spring 2017. 'Brexit' is likely to affect a wide range of matters in the Colne Valley landscape including: impacts on the availability of funding streams for farming and the economy; changes to legislation and targets relating to habitats, species and water quality; changes to regulations and market opportunities for local businesses.

#### Opportunity

In the short-term, businesses will need to be more efficient to maintain their levels of sales. Environmental organisations are likely to sustain their level of reverence for sites and species that have received European protection. Farmers will need to identify more sustainable management options for habitats that were supported under agri-environment schemes. In the longer term there may be opportunity for inward investment on a regional basis from Government.



The dry bed of the River Colne at London Colney (outside the Landscape Partnership Scheme area) in April 2017- *Tony Booker*

## ii) Austerity Measures

### Risk

Austerity measures refer to 'official actions taken by the government, during a period of adverse economic conditions, to reduce its budget deficit using a combination of spending cuts or tax rises' (Financial Times, 2015). Various austerity measures have been announced since the global recession in 2008 and the Eurozone crisis in 2009. These have affected central and local government spending as well as budget considerations of other organisations and businesses. Austerity means that what must be achieved must be done so within constrained budgets and with greater efficiency. Local authorities are facing financial pressures and in many cases are no longer able to manage land for public benefit in the way that they have in the past. This particularly relates to smaller green spaces and woodlands outside of the network of country parks which attract high visitor usage. For the Colne Valley, the situation is compounded by the fact that it lies on the margins of many local authorities.

### Opportunity

There is opportunity for organisations to look more widely for sources of funding to 'fill the gap' in order that their main aims can be supported. Grant funding schemes such as from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Esmée Fairbairn Trust and Greener City Fund can provide alternative sources. In addition, other organisations may take on sites formerly managed by local authorities.

## 1.2.3 Social and Economic Changes

### i) Strains on Urban-Fringe Farming

#### Risk

Farming in the Colne Valley, whilst still strong, has been facing declines in recent years particularly in the smaller family-run farms that have stayed in the same family for generations.

Change from Environmental Stewardship to Countryside Stewardship Schemes has brought with it a tightening of Government budgets and stricter criteria on who can apply. Combined with issues of Brexit and the



absence of landowner collaborations in the form of 'facilitation fund partnership working', opportunities for receiving environment funding are limited. Any positive gestures that farmers have made to the environment through the creation of bespoke features, such as buffer strips, will be vulnerable to reversion back to agricultural use.

'Colne Valley Food', set up in 2009, was a not for profit company set up to make it easy and convenient to buy the produce from local farms in and around the Colne Valley. During the lifetime of this social enterprise the area lost several small-scale vegetable producers who were outcompeted by larger-scale enterprises elsewhere in the country. In the last financial statement produced for 2012, the company could not continue due to there not being enough farms sustaining involvement to make the business viable in addition to farms closing their doors to selling produce direct to consumers.

Due to anti-social behaviour, local farmers complain that their costs are significantly higher than in other areas of countryside, this can be seen in the metal gates and height restriction barriers, for example, at road access points to farmland in the Colne Valley. In the nearby Chilterns, 5-10 miles traditional timber field gates provide sufficient protection for landowners.

### **Opportunity**

Landowners have opportunity to seek advice from their local Wildlife Trusts on how they can sustain their wildlife features at minimal cost in the long-term. There is opportunity to support landowners with grazing needs through the establishment of a grazing hub to take the burden of having permanent stock. There is scope to spread the message of farming being an important feature of the local landscape and having 'productive use' through the work of the Colne Valley Park CIC. Opportunities should be taken to create multiple uses for landscapes where possible.

## **ii) Development Pressure from Schemes of National Importance**

### **Risk**

The proposal to build a new strategic rail route across the northern part of the Colne Valley – High Speed 2 – will completely change the character of the landscape, with major impact being experienced during several years of construction too. On receiving royal assent, construction started in 2017. There is continued uncertainty about whether Heathrow Airport will be the preferred location for expansion of runway capacity in the South East. The consequence of this and associated proposals for infrastructure to service the existing and potential expanded airport, will have implications on the landscape.

Another challenge is to the central part of the Park around Iver, Richings Park, Langley and Colnbrook, where the Park is narrowest, is the cumulative impact of several large National Strategic Infrastructure projects. These include, Crossrail, West Rail Link to Heathrow (WRLtH) and the relocation of the Heathrow Express depot as part of the HS2 Hybrid Bill. In addition gravel extraction proposals are moving forward in an attempt to extract gravel before the resource is 'sterilised'.

Cumulatively, these projects will have a catastrophic impact on the Colne Valley if there is an uncoordinated and piecemeal approach to landscape strategic management and conservation. There is no coherent framework at the landscape scale in order to guide and minimise impacts. The impacts include noise and fragmentation of habitats, access and views.

### **Opportunity**

There is opportunity to influence mitigation through consideration of the development proposals and to source funding for the Colne Valley Regional Park. HS2 Additional Mitigation Plan funding and the HS2 Community Fund are particularly notable. Groundwork South has been successful in appointing a Programme Manager to support the HS2 mitigation and is influencing Heathrow Airport mitigation. The development of a 'Spatial

Vision' for the area can help to address potential threats and identify opportunities into the future.

### iii) 'Hope Value' Land in Limbo

#### Risk

The landscape borders a number of urban centres including the Watford suburban area, in the north, and Slough, in the south. This presents significant issues with property prices sky-rocketing in and around the Colne valley landscape. Strategic aspirations relating to the need to fulfil housing targets to expand businesses so close to London, with good transport links, means that 'hope value' is generated for any blocks of land that become available, potentially compromising the ability of the Colne Valley Park CIC and others to implement improvements to land in line with the 6 objectives of the Regional Park and commit to new investment. The 'hope value' of land leads to a lack of willingness of landowners to invest (or allow the Colne Valley Park CIC or similar organisations to invest) in improvements to land for the benefit of local residents and visitors to the Colne Valley.

#### Opportunity

Land has a high development value so it is important that the local organisations are able to raise public perception of the area to bring equal value to the landscape, countryside, amenity and biodiversity. In this way an effective challenge can be made to development and building projects can be planned with the environment in mind. The development of a 'Spatial Vision' will be able to assist with the process. There is opportunity to influence local plans and mitigation so as to minimise impact on the Colne Valley Regional Park as much as possible. Section 106 agreement funds can be directed to the Regional Park to benefit the environment. The area may be able to benefit from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which enables (but not obliges) local authorities to place a charge on most types of development to 'green' as well as 'grey' infrastructure'.



Sites falling derelict or subject to under-management become vulnerable to development proposals – Ewa Prokop



Protest sign to Heathrow Airport expansion in Harmondsworth Village – Ewa Prokop

## 1.2.4 Attitudes and Understanding

### i) Lack of Knowledge of the Existence and Importance of the Colne Valley Regional Park

#### Risk

The Regional Park plays an important role in providing access to nature, recreation facilities and large areas of green space to the three million people who live within 10 miles of it, yet many local people are unaware of the Colne Valley as a coherent landscape. Public consultation undertaken during the Development Stage showed that the majority of people had never heard of the Colne Valley Regional Park.

A conservative estimate puts annual usage of the Regional Park as at least two million visits annually to specific attractions such as Black Park, Rickmansworth Aquadrome, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Staines Moor, fishing lakes and sailing clubs. Many people do not appear to be aware of how these places are connected to each other by landscape features, waterways and the extensive network of public rights of way or how important these landscape features are. The landform of the valley and the growth of trees over recent decades means that at certain locations the valley is invisible to visitors, so compounding a lack of connection to the wider landscape.

#### Opportunity

Resources need to be directed to promoting awareness of the Regional Park and Scheme area amongst the local community, the working population within the area, users of the area's facilities, politicians & decision makers and the millions of people who live near the area. This can be done through better promotion of the area through publications, the web and social media, for example and the creation of 'gateway' sites. Effort can be placed into highlighting the value of important features such as ancient woodland. The is scope to improve and direct people to viewpoints in the area where they can appreciate the wider landscape. Also, to show how villages and towns connect via paths to the wider Colne Valley landscape.



Walkers appreciating the Colne Valley landscape at Langley Park (above) Road bridge at Moor Hall Lane giving little clue to the existence of the river beneath (below)- Ewa Prokop





## ii) Lack of understanding of the network of watercourses within the Colne Catchment

### Risk

There are 200km of watercourses within the Colne Valley Regional Park. Their courses are difficult to follow and though some can be named, others can not. Rivers are presently not 'celebrated' on an ongoing basis through signage or events, for example. A number are hidden from view behind buildings and trees or are even culverted. It is easy for local people not to feel a connection to the heritage of the 'riverscape' on account of this.

### Opportunity

There is opportunity to give identity to river courses that cross roads and run along rights of way by providing signage. There is scope to highlight the importance of rivers through events. Members of the public can act as 'champions' to the river by volunteering their time to spread positive messages to local communities.

## iii) Difficulty of Coordinating Organisations and Local Authorities that only Cover Part of the Area.

### Risk

Local government tends to, understandably, focus on issues within its administrative boundary. National organisations, such as Natural England, are split regionally. Businesses, such as the biological recording centres, are also split geographically. Together, this plethora of 'boundaries' creates major hurdles for organisations working to the benefit of the Colne Valley Regional Park. Information needs to be pieced together and separate negotiations need to take place in relation to service level agreements, for example. At the very least this can slow a project process down; at worst it can prove too cumbersome to overcome within resources available.

### Opportunity

Wherever possible it is justifiable to arrange working partnerships that see things from the same perspective or to arrange agreements to which a number of organisations can work to. Plans, such as 'Spatial Visions', can



Fly-tipping and graffiti alongside a right of way in Uxbridge – Ewa Prokop

help provide a united approach within a landscape which is subject to many administrative boundaries. The Landscape Partnership Scheme has demonstrated the benefits of partnership working, in itself. There is opportunity to encourage better networking between nature conservation groups and to set up River Wardens to coordinate river monitoring across the landscape.

#### **iv) Anti-Social Behaviour**

##### **Risk**

The Scheme area's location as the first large taste of countryside to the west of London brings many opportunities but also creates stresses on the local countryside. Rural/urban fringe issues include flytipping, trespass, graffiti, drug-taking, arson, illegal motorcycle access and poaching. Operational and insurance costs are increased as a result.

Some attractive parts of the Colne Valley receive fewer visits than would be expected because of the unattractive access paths available to reach them. Examples of this can be seen at the path under the A40 from Uxbridge to Denham Country Park or Trout Lane between Yiewsley and the Slough Arm/Little Britain.

##### **Opportunity**

There is opportunity to work with landowners to take steps to deter anti-social behaviour and make these areas of countryside more welcoming to visitors.

#### **1.2.5 Local Issues**

##### **i) Perceived Remoteness of one end of the Regional Park to the other**

##### **Risk**

The Regional Park is approximately 13 miles from its most northern to its most southern tip. Consultation with volunteer groups, for example, indicated how there is little communication between those in the south of the Regional Park with those located in the north; each perceived the other groups as 'unconnected' despite their conservation works benefitting the

whole area including a connected string of rivers and gravel pits. Public consultation indicated that there is lack of exploration of the Regional Park where it did not lie on the doorstep of residences. Reasoning was based on the lack of north to south transport connections in the area and that in logistical terms it proved difficult to visit other parts of the landscape in the absence of a car. 'Missing links' in the path network were mentioned as barriers to accessing the countryside.

##### **Opportunity**

Better promotion of how existing transport routes link to the Colne Valley area are needed when publishing events, circular walks and trails. Producing a programme of events right across the landscape will encourage people to venture further. Promotion of the strategic Colne Valley Trail will help link communities together. There is scope in the future to put pressure on bus companies to provide a north to south route, should sufficient evidence for need be gained. There is potential to address 'missing links' by creating new routes.

##### **ii) Connectivity of Quality Wetland Habitat**

##### **Risk**

Most of the wetlands in the Colne Valley are privately owned and used for many different leisure pursuits. It is known that many owners or managers would like to manage their waters to benefit wildlife and people but lack the knowledge and skills to take a holistic approach. As a result potentially important wetlands are being neglected or mismanaged with the result that vulnerable wildlife is being lost. Water voles are a prime example of a species on the brink of local extinction.

##### **Opportunity**

There is possibility to co-ordinate management and help owners and managers to care for their wetlands whilst still ensuring recreational activities continue. Angling lakes can be managed to improve their wildlife appeal. Habitat can be enhanced for water voles so that they are not isolated but connected by 'corridors' within the landscape. River corridors can be

adapted to promote natural processes and wetland plant colonisation. Weirs can be amended or removed to enable better fish passage along the river network.

### iii) Invasive, Non-Native Species

#### Risk

The Colne Valley landscape is vulnerable to the spread of invasive, non-native species, especially those associated with wetland habitats. These species are able to gain a foothold at the expense of other native species. Himalayan balsam and floating pennywort are particular nuisances along waterways, contributing to winter erosion and creating a barrier to navigation respectively. Animal species, such as signal crayfish and mink can cause riverbank erosion and impact upon wetland creatures, such as water vole, respectively.

#### Opportunity

There is opportunity to undertake practical action to tackle species of local concern. For example, there is scope to control mink or tackle the spread of Himalayan balsam. For some species, action may need to wait for national research and solutions (e.g. new biological methods). Awareness can be raised amongst the public and landowners on the negative impact these species make on the local environment, to encourage them to take steps to prevent spread (e.g. chemical treatment, applying biosecurity).



Floating pennywort growing in the river near Little Britain Lake – Ewa Prokop



## 1.2.6 Long-Term Management of Natural Heritage

### **Risk**

Traditional grazing of grassland prevents sites succeeding to scrub and woodland. Without grazing grasslands quickly become dominated by coarse, vigorous plants, leading to a loss of diversity as the smaller, less competitive plants are shaded out. As the areas of grasslands and heathlands shrink, the associated populations of invertebrates decrease too.

In the last 50 years, due to disease, many farmers have opted out of livestock grazing. Combined with urbanisation of surrounding land, habitats are becoming fragmented and fauna find it harder to move and find food.

Sites can lose their purpose when economic pressures or other factors come to bear, which can lead to site being neglected or under-managed.

The public can lose connection between how the landscape was managed (and looked) in the past and how it is managed now.

### **Opportunity**

There is opportunity to promote the benefits of sustainable grazing through a programme of events and by 'setting an example', by promoting a grazier who has responsibility for grazing a number of valuable habitat sites across the Colne Valley. There is scope to reinstate positive management to neglected sites for the benefit of people and biodiversity and take account of future management through the creation of management plans. There is opportunity to highlight change in the landscape through publications and events to help people understand the impact of change in landscape ownership and management (land use).

Grazing of meadows at Ankerwycke – Ewa Prokop



# SECTION 1.3: AIMS, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

## 1.3.1 Vision for the Scheme

A Landscape Partnership was established in 2016 to identify potential projects to be included within a Landscape Partnership Scheme. (For more details about the 'Origins of the Scheme', see Appendix 3). In 2017, during the Development Stage, a 'Shorter Vision' (below) and 'Longer Vision' (see Appendix 4) for the Scheme were agreed.

*Colne Valley is a 'Landscape on the Edge' of Greater London, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey and Berkshire, with a strong rural character. Through the Scheme residents and visitors will develop more positive perceptions about the area, will have learnt more about the landscape, will feel more confident about exploring it and feel more motivated to take on volunteer roles to maintain it. There will be demonstrable change in wetland habitats and under-managed sites, for the better. A Spatial Vision will provide a unified voice for the future of the area so that it is cared for in perpetuity.*

## 1.3.2 Scheme Aims & Objectives

The aims and objectives have been derived from having a thorough understanding of:

- The Scheme area's heritage and its significance.
- The risks to local heritage.
- Opportunities for improving heritage.
- Public opinion arising from consultation work.



The kingfisher and water vole (the population in the Scheme area is centred around Fray's Farm Meadows, Denham) will benefit from Scheme activities – BBOWT





**AIM 1: To restore and strengthen the landscape character and its visibility, focusing on key habitats intrinsic to the landscape, providing resilience and the ability to sustain the landscape in the long-term.**

**The objectives are:**

- i) **To restore and enhance areas of river floodplain so that they are able to better support biodiversity and reflect natural river processes by undertaking in-channel works, improving the condition of alluvial grassland, pollarding trees and providing or restoring scrapes or ponds.**

**Reasoning:**

- Rivers and associated wetlands are an important, landscape-constructing element of the Colne Valley landscape and the Scheme can play a part in improving their condition.
- Supportive landowners have been identified through the Development Stage process and their sites are of national importance.
- River enhancement is one of the aims of ColneCAN, which oversees management of the Colne catchment.
- This meets Objective 3 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To conserve and enhance biodiversity'.
- Public opinion has highlighted the need to care for local rivers.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- This meets the HLF outcomes of 'Will be better managed' and 'Will be in better condition.'

- ii) **To amend a proportion of the 250 weirs within the local river network through engineering works so as to improve fish passage.**

**Reasoning:**

- Rivers are an important, landscape-constructing element of the Colne Valley landscape and the Scheme can play a part in improving their condition.

- A fluvial study in the local area over 2017 revealed the benefits of addressing weir removal or amendment for fish.
- River enhancement is one of the aims of ColneCAN, which oversees management of the Colne catchment.
- This meets Objective 3 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To conserve and enhance biodiversity'.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- This meets the HLF outcomes of 'Will be better managed' and 'Will be in better condition.'

- iii) **To address the issue of invasive wetland plant species in the area by targeting survey and advisory work and presenting a handful of demonstration management sites.**

**Reasoning:**

- The Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNS) works on behalf of Government to promote the national problem presented by invasive species and the Scheme can play a part in meeting their goal to reduce the presence and impact of invasive species in the country.
- Current records show that invasive species are present in the Colne Valley and consultation with wetland managers has indicated which species are particularly appropriate to target.
- Control of non-native species is one of the aims of ColneCAN, which oversees management of the Colne catchment.
- This meets Objective 3 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To conserve and enhance biodiversity'.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- This meets the HLF outcomes of 'Will be better managed' and 'Will be in better condition.'



The non-native invasive species, Himalayan balsam - GBNNSS

- iv) **To strengthen the population of water voles present in the Colne Valley by providing optimal habitat around their current stronghold and gaining a better understanding of the potential spread in the future through surveys and advisory work.**

Reasoning:

- The water vole is a species of national importance which has experienced national decline and the Scheme can play a part in improving conditions locally to prevent extinction.
- It is accepted that better connectivity of habitats within the landscape can enable water vole migration within the landscape and support reproductive success.
- Current records show that water voles have a 'stronghold' at Fray's Farm Meadows SSSI vicinity.
- Supportive landowners have been identified through the Development Stage process.
- Improving habitats to benefit local wildlife is one of the aims of ColneCAN, which oversees management of the Colne catchment.
- This meets Objective 3 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To conserve and enhance biodiversity'.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- It meets the HLF outcomes of 'Will be better managed' and 'Will be in better condition.'

- v) **To enhance angling lakes within the Colne Valley landscape so as they are of greater conservation benefit for biodiversity by establishing conservation management plans and implementing improvements works.**

Reasoning:

- There are over 70 angling lakes within the Colne Valley and as such they are a prominent feature of the Scheme area; steps taken on these sites can benefit wetland biodiversity in the wider landscape.
- There is support from the Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative to support anglers in creating management plans for their sites.

- Supportive angling clubs have been identified through the Development Stage process; engagement with the 'angling audience' can influence other sites not forming part of the Scheme.
- This meets Objective 3 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To conserve and enhance biodiversity' and Objective 4 'To provide opportunities for countryside recreation'.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- It meets the HLF outcomes of 'Will be better managed' and 'Will be in better condition.'

**vi) To introduce appropriate grazing to meadows within the area by providing infrastructure and managed stock.**

Reasoning:

- Remnant floodplain meadows are important features of the Colne Valley landscape and the Scheme can play a part in improving their condition.
- Supportive landowners have been identified through the Development Stage.
- This meets Objective 3 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To conserve and enhance biodiversity'.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- Public opinion has indicated support for conservation grazing.
- It meets the HLF outcomes of 'Will be better managed' and 'Will be in better condition.'

**vii) To bring underused, under-managed and under-valued sites into positive management through the implementation of biodiversity, access and interpretation works.**

Reasoning:

- Suitable sites with supportive landowners and stakeholders have been identified through the Development Stage process.
- The chosen sites provide potential for crucial connectivity of wetland, heathland and reptile habitat or local access provision.
- This meets Objective 3 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To conserve and enhance biodiversity'.

- This meets Objective 4 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To provide opportunities for countryside recreation'.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- It meets the HLF outcomes of 'Will be better managed' and 'Will be in better condition.'

**AIM 2: To reconnect local communities with their heritage by raising awareness of the Colne Valley to more and a wider range of people through learning activities, information and interpretation resources, cultural events and creation of viewpoints .**

The objectives are:

- i) Introduce new and revised interpretative materials such as leaflets, interpretation panels, films and artwork through a range of projects.**

Reasoning:

- Colne Valley has stories to tell about the landscape, biodiversity, cultural history and industry as identified in Appendix B.
- Physical interpretation provides an appropriate way to transfer heritage understanding to the community and visitors in the absence of knowledgeable people on hand.
- There are gaps in use of interpretative media locally.
- Public consultation has shown that people are interested in hearing more about their local environment through various media.
- This meets Objective 6 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To encourage public participation'.
- It meets HLF outcomes 'Heritage will be better interpreted and explained', 'People will have learnt about heritage', 'People will have had an enjoyable experience', 'More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage', 'The local area and community will be a better place to live, work or visit', 'The local economy will be boosted'.





Interpretation for Iver as part of a pilot project - carved bench (above), interpretation board (below)



- ii) **Encourage people to explore the area on foot, bicycle and horseback by promoting the Colne Valley Trail and other new trails.**

Reasoning:

- Trails can be an effective way of directing people to some of the best parts of the landscape and the best-maintained routes.
- The value of the landscape and its features can be communicated in snippets of information as the public explores the outdoor environment.
- Consultation revealed that some residents are unaware of the opportunities offered by the Colne Valley Trail; it is likely that many visitors to the area are in the same position.
- Consultation revealed that it is not enough to have routes on a map but that these have to be supplemented with transport, facility and timing information.
- This meets Objective 6 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To encourage community participation'.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- It meets HLF outcome 'Heritage will be better interpreted and explained', 'people will have learnt about heritage', 'People will have had an enjoyable experience', 'More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage', 'The local area and community will be a better place to live, work or visit', 'The local economy will be boosted'.

- iii) **Provide a stimulating, varied programme of events for the public and specific groups to enjoy and learn about the natural, built and cultural heritage of the area.**

Reasoning:

- Colne Valley has stories to tell about the landscape, biodiversity, cultural history and industry as identified in Appendix B.
- Events can be a key way of enhancing enjoyment of and respect for heritage and local people have overwhelmingly indicated during consultation that they would like to see more events held in the area.

- There is opportunity to expand the variety, scale and location of events and to make these available to bespoke groups (including under-represented audiences) as well as the wider public.
- This meets Objective 6 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To encourage community participation'.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- It meets HLF outcome 'Heritage will be better interpreted and explained', 'people will have learnt about heritage', 'People will have had an enjoyable experience', 'More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage', 'The local area and community will be a better place to live, work or visit', 'The local economy will be boosted'.



Colne Valley guided walk (above) and river-dipping event (below) – Groundwork South



- iv) **Provide information about the Scheme area and progress on the initiative through webpage creation and maintenance, social media communication, broadsheet and e-newsletter distribution.**

Reasoning:

- There is phenomenal scope to promote the landscape and heritage through communication of 'stories' in appropriate media.
- Consultation work has revealed that people think it is important for there to be more promotion of the area and a need for regular updates.
- This meets Objective 6 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To encourage community participation'.
- It meets HLF outcomes 'Heritage will be better interpreted and explained', 'People will have learnt about heritage', 'The local area and community will be a better place to live, work or visit', 'The local economy will be boosted'.



- v) **Provide and promote viewpoints into the Colne Valley where people can get a flavour of what the landscape has to offer.**

Reasoning:

- There are few places where there is sufficient vantage point to get an overview of the Scheme area or examples of the character of the landscape; historic photos show how trees have grown over the last half-century so enclosing views, so providing people with fewer opportunities to 'see' the Colne Valley on their daily travels.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- This meets Objective 1 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To maintain and enhance the landscape'.
- It meets HLF outcomes 'People will have had an enjoyable experience' 'The local area and community will be a better place to live, work or visit'

- vi) **Provide information about the names of local rivers so that local people can get their bearings and celebrate the wetland landscape around them and how it is connected.**

Reasoning:

- This is an aim of ColneCAN, which oversees the management of the Colne catchment.
- The pilot project, held during the Development Stage, at Colnbrook indicated support for this approach.
- The signs will provide the dual purpose of promoting the Colne Valley Regional Park (via logo) and emphasising the importance of the regional landscape, endowed with rivers.
- This meets Objective 6 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To encourage community participation'.
- It meets HLF outcomes 'Heritage will be better interpreted and explained', 'People will have learnt about heritage', 'The local area and community will be a better place to live, work or visit'.



One of the most popular viewpoints of the Colne Valley is from the Old Orchard pub in Harefield – *The Old Orchard Management*



**AIM 3: To invest in skills of local people to enable the stewardship and promotion of the landscape, at grass roots level.**

**The objectives are:**

- i) **Provide a selection of volunteer activities, with clearly defined 'job profiles,' with which the public can participate.**

**Reasoning:**

- Natural heritage is under threat due to lack of knowledge or appropriate management; the involvement of the community can help mitigate this risk.
- There are clear opportunities for the public to help with a range of research, conservation and promotional activities in the area.
- Some members of the public have already expressed an interest in volunteering their time to help local heritage during the consultation process.
- This meets Objective 6 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To encourage community participation'.
- It meets the HLF outcome of 'People will have volunteered their time'.

- ii) **To provide appropriate and adequate training for volunteers so that they feel confident about their role and can convey that confidence and enthusiasm to project audiences.**

**Reasoning:**

- Training represents an investment in people and in the future of the area.
- Trained volunteers in the fields of nature conservation have already demonstrated what can be achieved in the area with appropriate effort and sensitivity. Training for new volunteers or extended training for existing volunteers will bring greater achievement.
- Many local volunteer groups have expressed an interest in being trained in ecological survey skills, conservation and people skills.

- This meets Objective 6 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To encourage community participation'.
- It meets the HLF outcome of 'People will have developed skills', 'People will have had an enjoyable experience'.

- iii) **To promote awareness of the difference that volunteer engagement makes within the local community and environment and demonstrate shared responsibility for local heritage.**

**Reasoning:**

- Heritage needs protection, conservation and promotion in order that it remains 'alive' and 'relevant' in the community and landscape. Volunteers are some of the people that can play an active role in ensuring this.
- Strategies such as the State of Nature Report 2016 emphasise the value and importance volunteering.
- Letting non-volunteers know about the work of volunteers allows them to share in the 'community experience'.
- Most existing nature conservation groups want the Scheme to highlight their volunteer work and opportunities, in order to attract new members.
- This meets Objective 6 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To encourage community participation'.
- It fulfils the HLF outcome 'People will have changed their attitudes and/or behaviour'.

- iv) **To take on and develop trainees in landscape conservation so young people gain a deeper understanding of the value and requirements of good landscape management.**

**Reasoning:**

- There are clear opportunities for young people to help with a range of research, conservation and promotional activities.
- There is scope for the Scheme to leave a lasting legacy in the form of career development for local people.

- There is scope for Groundwork South and partners to learn from the experience of appointing and managing trainees.
- Local people and volunteer groups have indicated the importance of providing young people with job opportunity and nature conservation experience.
- This meets Objective 5 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To achieve a vibrant and sustainable rural economy' and Objective 6: 'To encourage community participation'.
- It meets the HLF outcome of 'People will have volunteered their time'.

**AIM 4: To provide a welcoming network of recreational routes and 'gateways' into the Colne Valley by instigating agreements, making improvements on the ground and promoting access opportunities.**

**The objectives are:**

- i) To fill a gap in the rights of way network at a strategic point in the valley.**

Reasoning:

- Local people and visitors will be able to explore the landscape in a more logical way through the provision of better connectivity.
- Public consultation has indicated support for development of the access network.
- Landowners have been supportive of proposals at Iver-Farlowes Lake during the Development Stage.
- This meets Objective 4 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: '4.To provide opportunities for countryside recreation'.
- It meets the HLF 'will be in better condition'.

- ii) To ensure a well sign-posted and improved route of the Colne Valley Trail.**

Reasoning:

- There has been some concern expressed by local people of the need for improvements along the route (e.g. better signage).

- There has been a long-held desire to connect the end of the current Trail at Colnbrook to the Thames, where the Colne catchment ends.
- This meets Objective 4 of the Colne Valley Regional Park 'To provide opportunities for countryside recreation'.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- It meets the HLF outcome 'Will be in better condition', 'Will be better interpreted and explained', 'Will have had an enjoyable experience'.

- iii) To enhance one location which provides a strategic entrance into the Landscape Partnership Scheme area but which is currently unwelcoming due to anti-social behaviour and neglect.**

Reasoning:

- There is support from existing landowners for the need for improvements.
- Local concern about these locations have been expressed by the public (e.g. Television coverage).
- The route in question provides a key linkage from a local town centre into the surrounding countryside and a poor experience might deter local people from re-using the route.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports the objective.
- This meets Objective 1 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To maintain and enhance the landscape.'
- It meets the HLF outcome 'Will be better managed', 'Will be in better condition', 'Will be better interpreted and explained', 'Will have changed their attitudes and/or behaviour'.

- iv) **Promote and enhance 'gateway' sites into the Scheme area in the north, south, east and west, where visitors can experience their first taste of the countryside of the Colne Valley.**

Reasoning

- The chosen sites are appropriately-placed to attract people from the surrounding settlements into the Scheme area.
- The Consultation Tour revealed that very few people visit areas beyond their immediate doorstep, if at all, and therefore miss-out on experiencing the range of landscape character areas on offer.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports this objective.
- This meets Objective 4 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To provide opportunities for countryside recreation'.
- It meets the HLF outcomes 'Will be better managed', 'Will be better interpreted and explained', 'Will have changed their attitudes and/or behaviour', 'Will have had an enjoyable experience', 'More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage'.

- v) **To enhance access routes leading into the Colne Valley countryside in the vicinity of villages and towns**

Reasoning:

- A pilot project in Iver village has demonstrated the need and support for path improvements and interpretation.
- The Landscape Character Assessment supports this objective.
- This meets Objective 4 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To provide opportunities for countryside recreation'.
- Public consultation has revealed that the public lack confidence about where they can walk or cycle in their local area.
- It meets the HLF outcomes 'Will be in better condition', 'Will be better interpreted and explained', 'Will have learnt about heritage', 'Will have had an enjoyable experience', 'More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage', 'the local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit'.



Concrete blocks placed at the entrance of permissive bridleway near Thorney Park Golf Club an attempt to deter motorbikes and traveller encampments – Ewa Prokop



vi) Encourage people with mobility issues (especially those using manual or mechanised wheelchairs) to use heritage routes which are known to be accessible and kept to a high standard by promoting suitable locations on webpages.

Reasoning:

- Opportunities for disabled (mobility) people are not currently highlighted in the area and the provision of web-based information will improve the situation.
- The focus group involving disabled people indicated a desire for an accessible resource; improvement to some of the gateways will meet this need.
- This meets Objective 6 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To encourage community participation' and Objective 4 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To provide opportunities for countryside recreation'.
- It meets HLF outcome 'People will have had an enjoyable experience', 'More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage', 'The local area and community will be a better place to live, work or visit'.

**AIM 5: To create a robust and effective Spatial Vision supported by an active partnership, which will seek to manage the landscape beyond the life of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.**

The objectives are:

- i) To provide a strategic document comprising aspirations to which local authorities and other stakeholders can adopt and help implement.



Bridge opening (above) and disabled access route at Church Lammas (below)



Reasoning:

- The impact of high profile development proposals in the area and the need for a proactive response.
- The role a collaborative statement could make in influencing protection, mitigation and enhancement opportunities.
- Support has been secured from local planning authorities, MP's and the Colne Valley Park CIC.
- Significant support has been expressed by the public for the need to protect the area in the long-term, as part of consultations.
- This meets Objective 2 of the Colne Valley Regional Park: 'To safeguard the countryside'.
- The document would be central to delivering a legacy for the area.
- It meets the HLF outcomes 'Will have changed their attitudes and/or behaviour', 'Environmental impacts will be reduced', 'The local area/community will be a better place to live, work and visit', 'The organisation will be more resilient'.

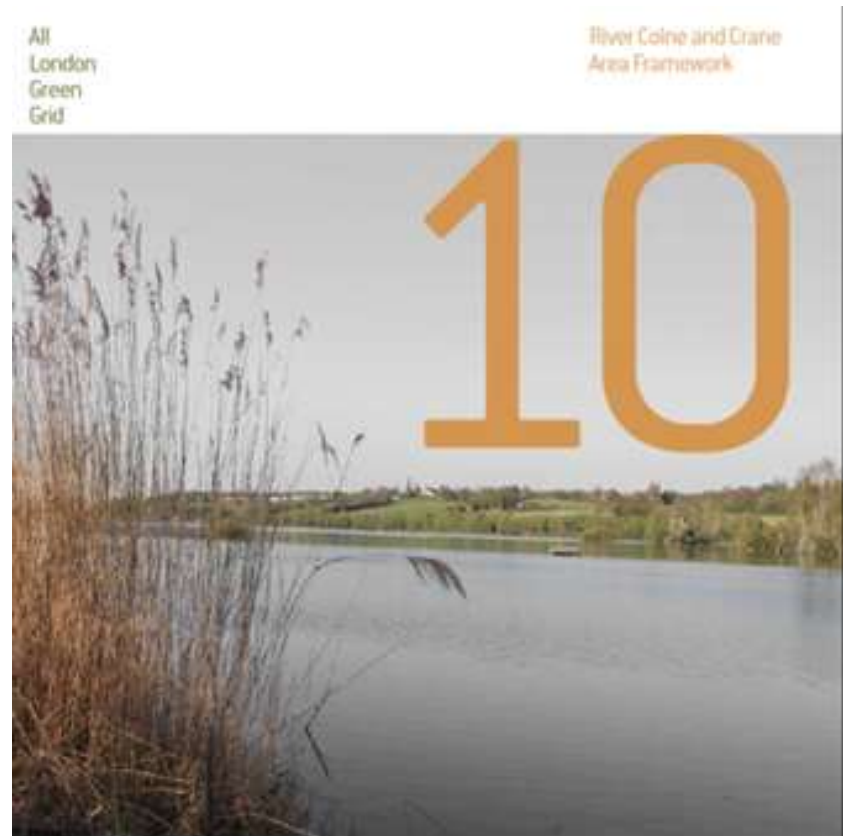
ii) **To provide an on-going partnership, led by the legacy organisation Colne Valley Park CIC, which seeks to work jointly on matters of local and regional importance in order to protect and conserve the value of the area.**

Reasoning:

- The core of the Scheme area, the Colne Valley Regional Park, is a long-standing area of landscape whose future protection is only possible through collaboration of sympathetic individuals and organisations.
- There has been strong public support for the Landscape Partnership bid, which demonstrates the desire for coordinated action to benefit the area.
- Effective partnership working can help support the six objectives of the Colne Valley Park CIC.



A Spatial Vision will take account of documents like the ALGG and developments such as HS2



- It meets the HLF outcomes 'The local area/community will be a better place to live, work and visit', 'The organisation will be more resilient'.

**AIM 6: To provide a skilled team of people to implement heritage projects in the Landscape Partnership Scheme area.**

**The objectives are:**

- i) **Appoint, manage, support and train (as appropriate) personnel to advance the Scheme programme of activities.**

**Reasoning:**

- The Scheme area's heritage, and engagement with heritage, requires dedicated time and expertise in order that projects may be implemented with appropriate sensitivity and maximum effect.
- A team based within the Scheme area will nurture relationships with and between local people and organisations, including partner organisations.
- Concerted effort made during the 3 year delivery stage can lay the foundations for legacy management structures and projects.
- It meets the HLF aim that 'Heritage will be better managed', 'Heritage will be better interpreted and explained', 'People will have developed skills', 'The local area or community will be a better place to live, work and visit', 'The local economy will be boosted', 'The organisation will be more resilient'.

**AIM 7: To adequately monitor and evaluate outputs and outcomes of the Scheme and ensure legacy.**

**The objectives are:**

- i) **Appoint a consultant to collate monitoring records, evaluation records and legacy ideas (recorded by various stakeholders) and feed these into Evaluation Reports and Legacy Plans.**

**Reasoning:**

- Individual partners wish to develop their evaluation skills.
- The Board wishes to create a quality Scheme with a lasting legacy.
- It meets the HLF aim that 'The local area or community will be a better place to live, work and visit', 'The organisation will be more resilient'.

**AIM 8: To comply with legislation and procedures.**

**The objectives are:**

- i) **Comply with legislation and procedures in line with guidance and local practice.**

**This will include the requirements to:**

- Abide by protected species legislation.
- Abide by Wildlife and Countryside Act 81 (as amended) legislation with regard to designated sites.
- Abide by planning legislation.
- Abide by Rights of Way legislation.
- Seek consent from EA and NE when undertaking works that might affect watercourses or designated sites.
- Abide by Health & Safety Legislation (eg. Risk Assessments, COSHH Regulations).
- Abide by Pesticide & Pest Control Regulations.
- Abide by employment legislation.
- Abide by contract legislation.
- Abide by Groundwork South's policies and procedures.
- Abide by Heritage Lottery Fund procurement guidelines.

**Reasoning:**

- Care must be taken to avoid any detrimental impacts on precious landscape features and the people who live there, work there or visit it.



- The public and statutory authorities must be confident that project work is undertaken appropriately and that the area is not put under unnecessary risk.
- It meets the HLF outcomes that 'Heritage will be better managed', 'heritage will be in better condition', 'Heritage will be identified or recorded', 'Environmental impacts will be reduced', 'The local area or community will be a better place to live, work or visit'.



Volunteer work force at Hardings Row subject to risk assessments – *Groundwork South*



### 1.3.3 Programmes & Projects

19 exciting projects have been identified as part of the Landscape Partnership Scheme to meet the aims and objectives listed above. Details of the projects were drawn up during the Development Stage. ('Primary Changes Since Round 1 Submission' may be found in Appendix 5).

'Colne Valley – Landscape on the Edge' seeks to conserve local heritage, promote access to the local countryside and engage local people with volunteering and events across the Scheme area. The projects are based around four themes and one supporting theme.

- **Programme A: A Landscape of Water, Meadows and Woods** which seeks to undertake management work to benefit the landscape, habitats and species.
- **Programme B: A Landscape of People** which seeks to engage with the public and volunteers including raising their awareness of rivers and highlighting how residents can benefit from the countryside setting.
- **Programme C: A Landscape of Connections** which seeks to address urban fringe issues and overcome boundaries in accessing the Landscape Partnership area.
- **Programme D: A Landscape of Change** which seeks to improve the long-term management of the area and promote understanding of how the landscape has been shaped and will change in the future.
- **Programme E: Scheme Support** which relates to core staff, promotional outputs, minibus provision and monitoring & evaluation.

Figure 16 shows which projects relate to which themes, as well as providing an indication of the leads for each project.



Carp in a local fishing lake (CVFC ,above) and volunteers cutting back trees at Crown Meadow (Groundwork South, below)



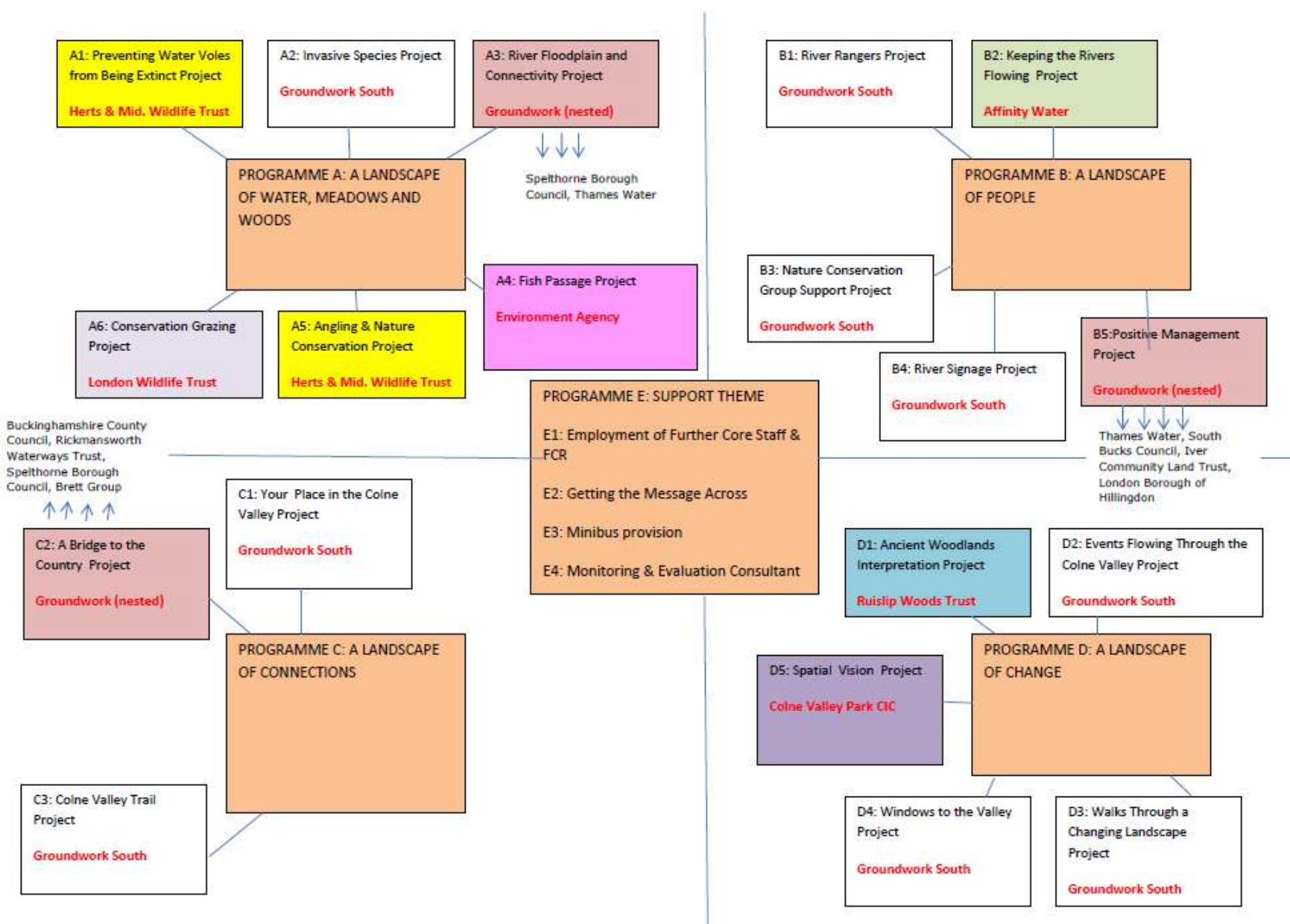


Figure 16:  
Relationship  
between  
Scheme and  
Projects



**'Programme A – A Landscape of Water, Meadows and Woods'** seeks to conserve, expand and monitor water vole populations, surveying for predatory mink in the process. There are plans to enhance riversides to benefit wildlife through such activities as bank re-profiling, in-channel works and scrape and pond creation. Grazing will be introduced to meadowland, to improve its condition for biodiversity and people will have opportunity to 'meet the farmer'. Angling lakes will be enhanced for wildlife through the establishment and implementation of management plans by anglers. The passage of fish will be eased at a handful of weirs occurring along rivers in the catchment.

**'Programme B – A Landscape of People'** will engage new volunteers with recording, monitoring and promoting rivers in their capacity as 'river rangers'. The conservation of wetlands will be encouraged through the promotion of reduced water consumption, through innovative approaches, and the provision of information and advice to landowners and contractors in relation to the control of Himalayan balsam and floating pennywort, non-native species that are taking a hold in the area. The network of river courses will be highlighted through the installation of river signage, so promoting a 'sense of place'. The programme will support existing and new nature conservation groups covering the Landscape Partnership Scheme area by attracting new volunteers and by providing tools, training and expertise. Neglected sites across the area will be brought into better management for people and wildlife.

**'Programme C- A Landscape of Connections'** will upgrade the Colne Valley Trail and promote the route through new publications. Communities will have increased knowledge of how to access the Landscape Partnership area via improved access routes on their doorstep. In addition, one of the routes will 'fill a gap' in the rights of way network and another will enhance a route suffering from neglect and anti-social behaviour. Four gateways covering the north, south, east and west will be enhanced to create a 'welcome' to visitors, especially those who are getting their first taste of the Colne Valley countryside.

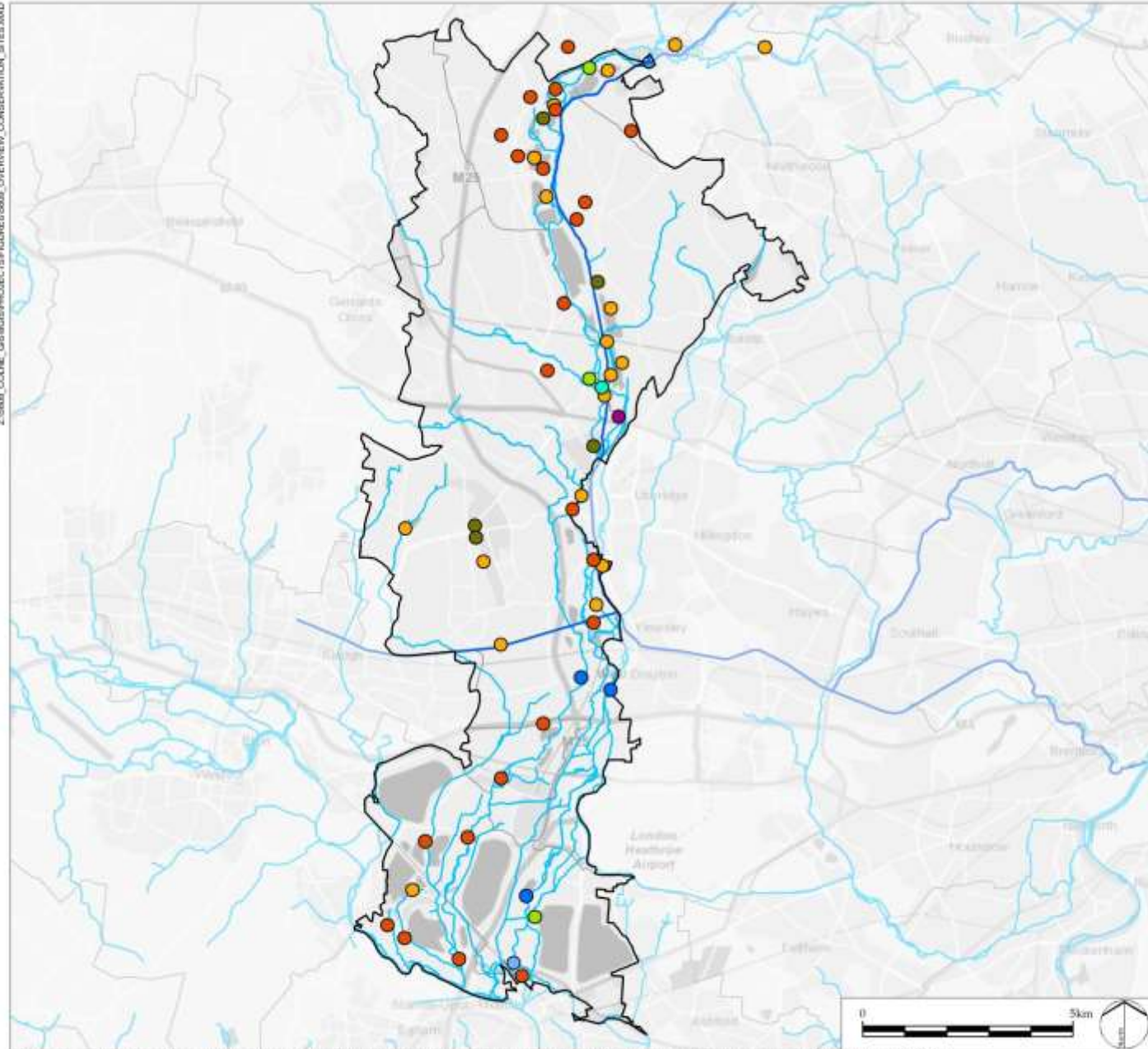
**'Programme D – A Landscape of Change'** will aim to provide events for the public and specific groups, including under-represented audiences and schools. Audiences will get a feel for the landscape's past by finding out more about ancient woodlands in the locality and historic descriptions of the landscape. The community will explore future landscape change through workshops. Viewpoints into the Colne Valley will be created, supported by audio interpretation, to inspire residents about the area. A long term-future for the landscape will be secured through the development of a Spatial Vision.

**'Programme E – Scheme Support'** will appoint core staff on short-term contracts to oversee implementation of a number of projects. Materials, such as equipment and stationary will be purchased. Promotional material, such as Scheme leaflets and displays will be devised. A website will be created to present the Scheme and the landscape to the public. A minibus will be utilised to provide transportation for event attendees, volunteers, materials and equipment. An Evaluation & Legacy consultant will work alongside the whole team to ensure that monitoring, assessment and legacy planning are undertaken during the Delivery Stage.












Table 4 indicates how each project meets the Scheme aims and objectives (set out in Section 1.3). The following link <https://graphcommons.com/graphs/338fc19c-b02b-4910-902e-05612ebd6adf> shows how each project connects with other projects in the Scheme. Figure 17 presents the geographical distribution of nature conservation projects in the Scheme.

**More information about each project may be found in slightly more detail in Part 2 and in greater detail in Part 3 of the LCAP. Table 5 lists the 'Sources of Information' which have helped to inform project detail; these documents may be found in the Appendices (as separate documents) to the LCAP. Table 6 lists the permissions gained or to be sought for each project.**

Z:\5809\_COLNE\_GIS\GIS\PROJECTS\FIGURES\5809\_OVERVIEW\_CONSERVATION\_SITES.AXD



LEGEND

-  Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary
-  River network
-  Canal network
-  Hedgeworks between Uxbridge and Denham
-  Positive Management Sites
-  Potential Windows to the Valley Sites
-  Conservation Grazing Sites
-  Angling Clubs
-  Fish Passage Sites
-  River Floodplain Enhancement Projects
-  Water Vole Site (Phase 1)

**Figure 17 The geographical distribution of nature conservation projects in the Scheme**

PROJECT TITLE  
COLNE VALLEY – LANDSCAPE ON THE EDGE

DRAWING TITLE  
Overview of Conservation Sites

DATE            Dec 2017  
SCALE @A3    1:90,000

**DWG. NO. 5809\_Overview\_Consevation\_Sites**

No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing.  
All dimensions are to be checked on site.  
Area measurements for indicative purposes only

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## Table 5 Sources of Information

Name of Report	Date of Publication	Authors	Most Applicable Projects	Detail
<b>Consultant Commissioned Reports which have Informed the LCAP</b>				
Landscape Character Assessment	September 2017	Alison Farmer Associates	All projects	Identifies landscape character areas at a local level in considerations for protecting, managing and planning.
Audience Development & Interpretation Plan	September 2017	The Places Team	Your Place in the Country Project, River Signage Project, Positive Management Project, Improving the Interface between Town & Country Project, A Bridge to the Country Project, Flowing Through the Colne Project Walks Through a Changing Landscape Project, Generic Interpretation (e.g. website)	Identifies audiences, presents public consultation during the Delivery Stage, suggests audience involvement, presents interpretation audit and future options under the Scheme.
Monitoring & Evaluation Framework	November 2017	Heritage Insider Ltd.	All projects	Presents the Evaluation Framework including reference to Legacy.
Legacy Framework				
GIS -Based Factual Information about the Scheme Area	November 2017	LDA Design	All projects	No report. Series of pdf files showing various information about the Scheme area (e.g. biodiversity).
<b>Reports Produced by Partners</b>				
Branding & Publicity Guidance for 'Colne Valley - Landscape on the Edge'	January 2017	Groundwork South	All projects	Presents how the Landscape Partnership Scheme and HLF logo should be used and the organisations referenced.
Consultation Tour 2017	August 2017	Groundwork South	All projects	Presents public opinion on the Landscape Partnership Scheme.
Volunteer Strategy	January 2018	Groundwork South	All projects	Gives overview of volunteer involvement with the Scheme and steps taken to recruit and support volunteers.
Fundraising Strategy	March 2018	Groundwork South	All projects	Presents secured and likely sources of match-funding
Your Place in the Colne Valley Report	Various 2017-2018	Groundwork South	Your Place in the Colne Valley Project	Presents background to the development of the project and outlines future plans.
Nature Conservation Group Support Report		Groundwork South	Nature Conservation Group Support Project	
River Signage Report		Groundwork South	River Signage Project	
Positive Management Report		Groundwork South	Positive Management Project	
Improving the Interface Report		Groundwork South	Improving the Interface Between Town & Country Project	
Missing Links Report		Groundwork South	Completing the Missing Links Project	
Colne Valley Trail Report		Groundwork South	Colne Valley Trail Project	
Events Flowing Through the Colne Report		Groundwork South	Events Flowing Through the Colne Valley Project	
Changing Landscape Report		Groundwork South	Walks Through a Changing Landscape Project	
Windows to the Valley Report		Groundwork South	Windows to the Valley Project	
Water Vole Report		Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	Preventing Water Voles from Being Extinct Project	
Invasive Species Report		Groundwork South	Invasive Species Project	
Riverside Enhancement Report		Spelthorne Borough Council, Thames Water & London Wildlife Trust	Riverside Enhancement Project	
Fish Passage Report		Environment Agency & London Wildlife Trust	Fish Passage Project	
Angling & Conservation Report		Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust & Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative	Angling & Nature Conservation Project	
Conservation Grazing Report		London Wildlife Trust	Conservation Grazing Project	
River Rangers Report		Groundwork South	River Rangers Project	
Keeping the Rivers Flowing Report	Affinity Water	Water Saving Project		
A Bridge to the Country Report	Groundwork South & Buckinghamshire County Council	Keeping the Rivers Flowing Project		
Ancient Woodland Interpretation Report	Ruislip Woods Trust	Ancient Woodland Interpretation Project		
Spatial Vision Report	Groundwork South & Colne Valley Park CIC	Spatial Vision Project		



## Table 6 Permissions Gained and Permissions to be Sought

Project	Already Gained	To be sought
A1 Preventing Water Voles from Being Extinct	Buckinghamshire County Council (landowner) consent gained	Landownerships of other target sites, and permissions, to be sought in Year 1 of Delivery Stage
A2 Invasive Species Project	-	2-3 exemplar/demonstration sites to be secured in Year 1
A3 Riverside Enhancement Project	Thames Water (landowner) permission gained Spelthorne Borough Council (land manager) permission gained In principle agreement gained from the Environment Agency who have been heavily involved in the development of the project In principle agreement gained from Natural England	Environment Agency consents to be gained during 2018 by Spelthorne Borough Council Site of Special Scientific Interest consent to be gained from Natural England during 2018 by Spelthorne Borough Council/Thames Water Approval to be sought from commoners.
A4 Fish Passage Project		Landowner consent to be sought by LPS decision date (June 2018) Environment Agency consent to be gained during 2018
A5 Angling & Nature Conservation Project	In principle agreement gained from numerous angling clubs (see map in Project Proforma in Part 3)	Further engagement from other clubs will be sought during the Delivery Stage
A6 Conservation Grazing Project	Buckinghamshire County Council (landowner) consent gained Thames Water (landowner) consent gained Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (land manager) consent gained In principle agreement gained from Natural England for Thames Water site	Site of Special Scientific Interest consent to be gained from Natural England during 2018 by London Wildlife Trust/Thames Water
B1 River Rangers Project		Most monitoring will take place on publicly accessible sites. Where, however, access is needed on privately-owned sites, landownerships will be determined during the Delivery Stage
B2 Keeping the Rivers Flowing Project		Where consent is needed from landowners or local authorities to undertake community filming, consent will be secured during the Delivery Stage.
B3 Nature Conservation Group Support Project	Numerous nature conservation groups have agreed to participate with the project.	
B4 River Signage Project	Pilot project undertaken successfully so demonstrating support of local community groups and local authorities and the ease of gaining permissions.	Local highway authorities and/or landowners will be approached for permissions during the Delivery Stage. Should agreement not be reached for some sites, alternative locations will be found.
B5 Positive Management Project	Thames Water (landowner) permission gained. South Bucks & Chilterns District Council (landowner) permission gained. Affinity Water (landowner) permission gained. London Borough of Hillingdon (landowner) permissions gained.	Planning permission for GAM's Field (creation of public open space and associated business) will be sought by Iver Community Trust during 2018.

Project	Already Gained	To be sought
C1 Your Place in the Colne Valley Project	<p>Pilot project undertaken successfully so demonstrating support of local community groups, landowners and local authorities and the ease of gaining permissions.. In principle agreement has been secured to progress project at the following locations: Rickmansworth, Maple Cross, Denham, Wraysbury, Colnbrook, from Three Rivers District Council, Denham Parish Council, Wraysbury Parish Council and Colnbrook Community Partnership.</p> <p>Landowner permission gained for hedge works at A40 Uxbridge-Canal path.</p> <p>Herts &amp; Middlesex Wildlife Trust permission gained for use of site materials at A40 Uxbridge-Canal Path .</p> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council permission gained for path enhancements at A40 Uxbirdge-Canal Path.</p> <p>(Highways England and Affinity Water enhancements to be undertaken outside of the Landscape Partnership Scheme).</p> <p>Permission gained from St. Peter's Church &amp; Diocese for new path.</p> <p>Permission gained from Buckinghamshire County Council for new path.</p> <p>In principle agreement gained from Highways England subject to securing funding under the EDF Programme (run by Highways England) for new path</p>	<p>Permissions from Rights of Way Officers for path works will be sought during the Delivery Stage, when specific works are identified.</p> <p>Permissions will be sought from landowners for path works and interpretation board installation, where necessary, during the Delivery Stage.</p>
C2 A Bridge to the Country Project	<p>Spelthorne Borough Council (landowner) permission gained</p> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council (landowner) permission gained.</p> <p>In principle agreement from Rickmansworth Waterways Trust (tenant) gained.</p> <p>In principle agreement gained from Canal &amp; Rivers Trust regional representative (landlord)</p>	<p>Canal &amp; Rivers Trust formal permission to be gained during Delivery Stage for installation of interpretation board/talking post at Rickmansworth Waterways Trust.</p> <p>Permission to be gained for Church Lammas site from Bretts should a long-term lease be signed between Bretts and the Colne Valley Park CIC.</p>
C3 Colne Valley Trail Project		<p>Relationship with Rights of Way Officers is strong; formal agreement to individual locations of signage to be secured from Rights of Way Officers, and landowners if necessary, during the Delivery Stage.</p>
D1 Ancient Woodlands Interpretation Project	<p>London Borough of Hillingdon (landowner) permission gained.</p> <p>Ruislip Woods Trust committed to informing interpretation.</p>	
D2 Events Flowing Through the Colne Project	No permissions necessary for use of Rights of Way.	Landowner permissions to be gained during the Delivery Stage dependant on where events are to be held.
D3 Walks Through a Changing Landscape	<p>No permissions necessary for use of Rights of Way.</p> <p>Harmondsworth Moor agreeable to use of site for children's art and creative writing workshops.</p>	Landowner permissions to be gained during the Delivery Stage for workshops where elements do not occur on Rights of Way.
D4 Windows to the Valley Project		Permissions from landowners to be secured during Year 1 of the Delivery Stage with a view to undertaking works in Year 2 and 3.
D5 Spatial Vision Project	<p>Local authorities have expressed in principle support for the development of a Spatial Vision.</p> <p>Colne Valley Park CIC has consented appointment of Supervisory Consultant from amongst its Directors.</p> <p>Groundwork South have signed a contractor agreement with a consultant.</p>	
E1 Employment of Further Core Staff & FCR		<p>DBS checks to be undertaken during Delivery Stage</p> <p>Employment contracts to be signed on appointment during Delivery Stage.</p>
E2 Getting the Message Across	<p>Colne Valley Park CIC via Managing Agent, has consented to the creation of a new website and Colne Valley Broadsheet.</p> <p>Groundwork South have signed contractor agreements with the website and broadsheet consultants.</p>	
E3 Minibus Provision	Groundwork South has consented to hosting/being responsible for minibus.	
E4 Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant	Groundwork South have signed a contractor agreement with a consultant.	

### 1.3.4 Cross-cutting Projects and HLF Outcomes

The Heritage Lottery Fund identifies that there is potential for fourteen key outcomes to be met through any of its grant schemes. 'Landscape on the Edge' meets all of the objectives through at least one project. The relationships are presented in Table 7.

### 1.3.5 Underspend Ideas

In the event of any underspend arising during the Delivery Stage, the Landscape Partnership will aim to be use the funding under existing project remits. Some of the opportunities that have been identified under the Project Proformas (Part 2) are:

- Enhancement of the Ash River Corridor (owned by Spelthorne Borough Council) under the Riverside Enhancement Project (estimated at £33,337 including VAT).
- Further enhancement of Maple Lodge Marsh (owned by Thames Water) under the Positive Management Project (estimated at £21,637 including VAT).
- Undertaking of fish pass improvements at additional weirs under the 'Fish Passage Project'.
- Enhancement and access improvements at Harefield Moor under the 'Positive Management Project' (estimated at £34,272 including VAT).
- Enhancement of other Thames Water landholdings under the Positive Management Project.
- Provision of more costed events under the Events Flowing Through the Colne Valley Project.
- Undertaking grazing at Coppermill Down SSSI under the Conservation Grazing Project.
- Broadwater Lake path link (estimated at £24,579 inc VAT) and Mabey's Meadow path link under the Your Place in the Colne Valley Project.

In addition, suggestions made by the public (See Section 1.1.6.2 viii) will be considered.



Two South Bucks Council sites to be enhanced during the Delivery Stage under the Positive Management Project – *Ewa Prokop*







Beside the Canal at Hill End - Ewa Prokop

## SECTION 1.4: LEGACY

The fixed period of the Landscape Partnership Scheme means that there is call for an appropriate 'exit strategy', so that the benefits arising from the time and money invested by HLF and match-funding providers does not quickly dissipate. HLF expects there to be 'enduring benefits' on completion of the Delivery Stage, with the Scheme providing a 'springboard' for future work.

A 'Legacy Framework' was devised by Heritage Insider Ltd, Groundwork South and partners during 2017 and may be found in Appendix C. In preparing it, two development sessions were held by Heritage Insider Ltd. and one by the Programme Manager with the Colne Valley Park CIC Directors.

A layered approach to legacy planning has been used. The 'structure' is presented in the diagram in Figure 18a. The 'Landscape Scale Legacy' (outlined in Figure 18b) seeks to demonstrate how the overall 'Vision' for the Landscape Partnership Scheme will be continued. It includes reference to volunteering, reinforced identity for the area and off-shoot projects, amongst other things. The 'Organisational Legacy' (presented in Figure 18b) outlines the anticipated impact and legacy of the Landscape Partnership Scheme on the individual partner organisations involved with the Scheme. Figure 18c gives an overview of the project legacies. Figure 18d shows how the capital elements of each project will be maintained after Scheme completion. Each project proforma (in Part 3 of the LCAP) also includes reference to project-specific legacy.

Legacy will be considered more deeply at the mid-term review in April-May 2020. A Legacy Task & Finish Group will be set up at this time to consider ideas right up until the end of the Delivery Stage. It will take account of the Legacy Framework, Interim Evaluation Report, any up-to-date guidance from HLF, discussions with other Landscape Partnerships on legacy, views of the Colne Valley Park CIC (as legacy organisation) and advice from the Evaluation & Legacy consultant (see Programme E). The devised 'Legacy Strategy' will then begin to be implemented in September 2021.



Figure 18a: Layered Approach to Legacy Planning



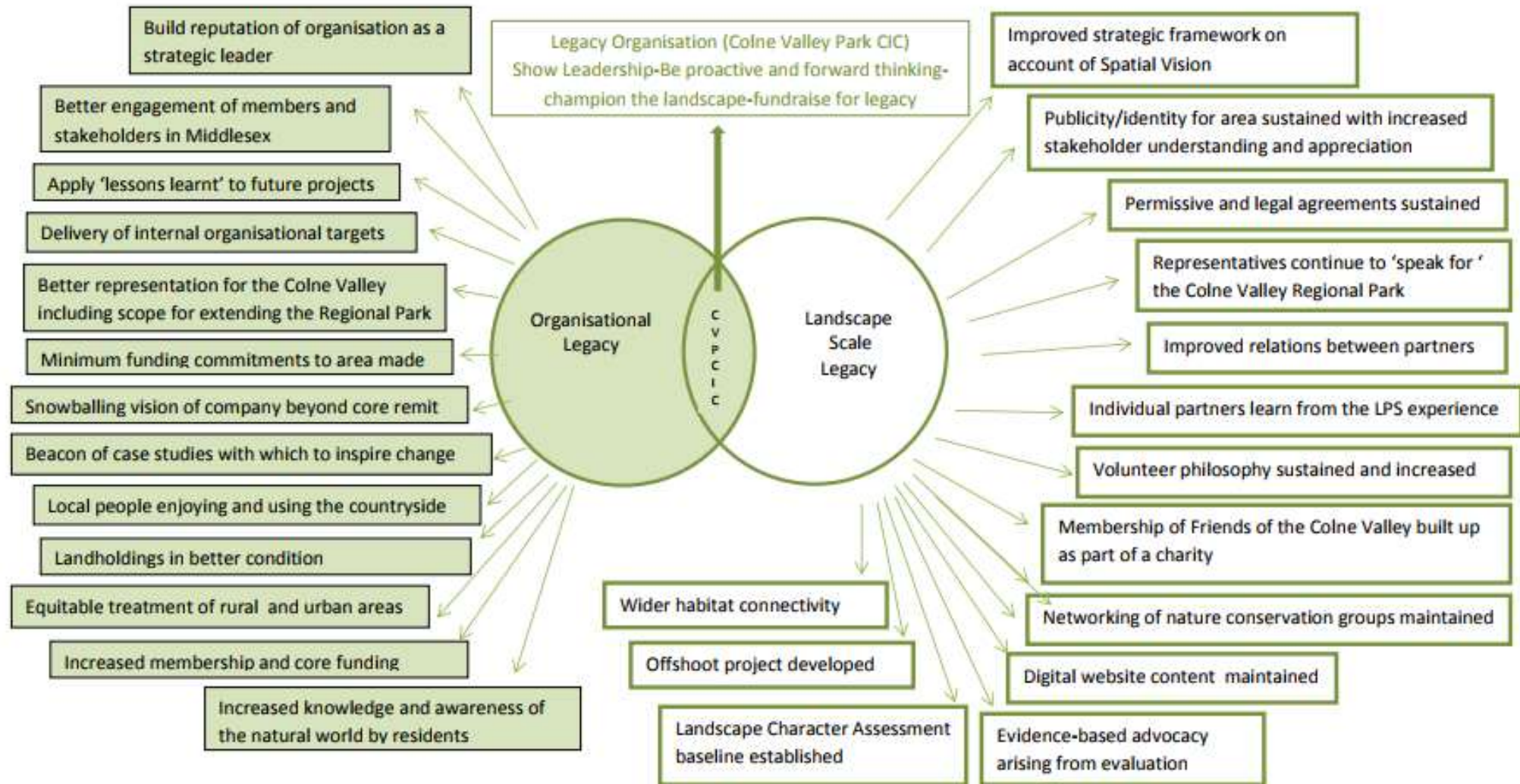
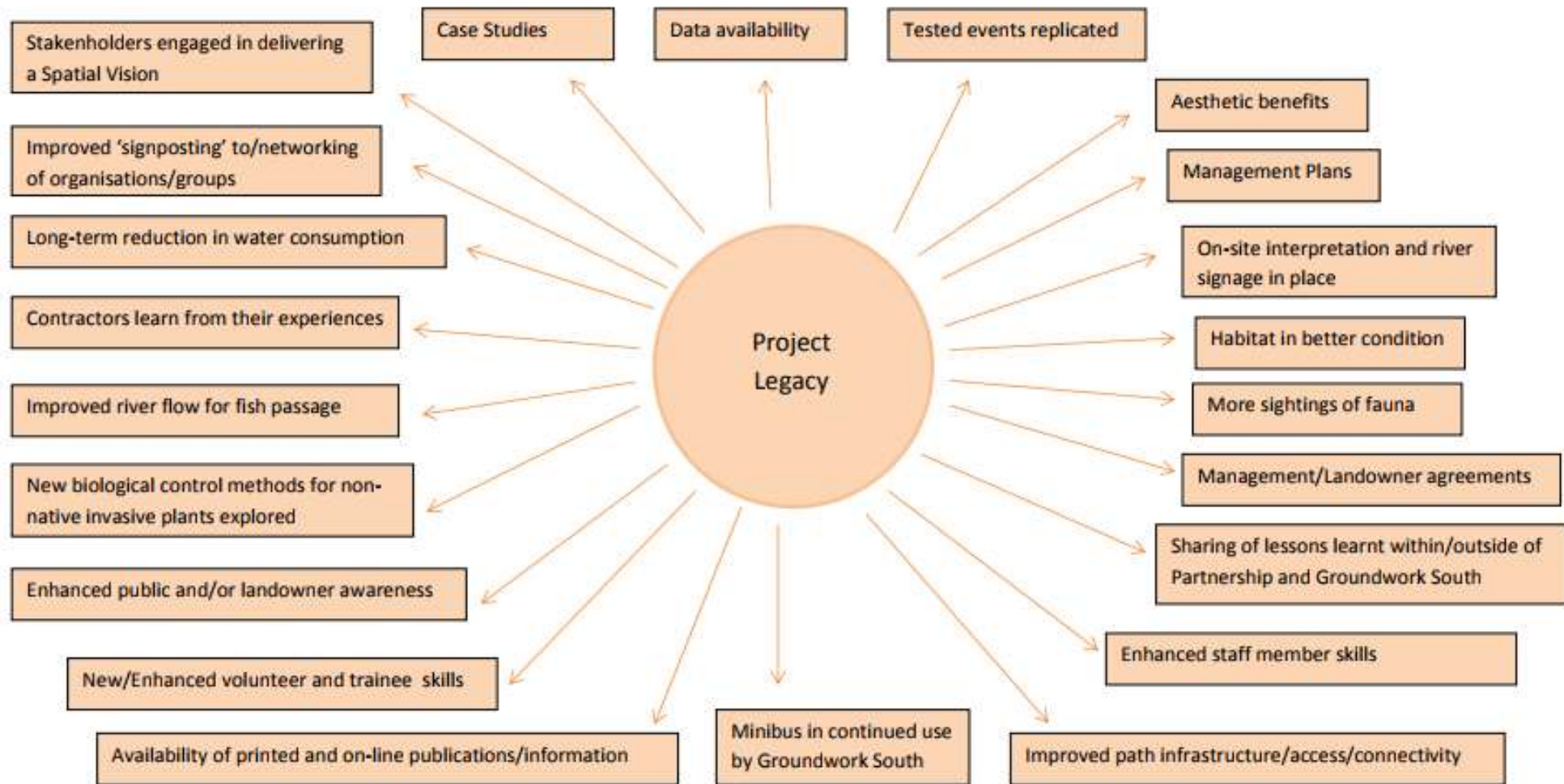


Figure 18b: Organisational and Landscape Legacy Summary

Figure 18c: Project Legacy Summary



**Figure 18d: Maintenance of Capital Elements beyond Scheme completion**

Project	Capital Element	Responsibility
Preventing Water Voles from Being Extinct	Biodiversity enhancements	Landowners
Invasive Species Project	N/A	N/A
Riverside Enhancement Project	Features on Staines Moor	Spelthorne Borough Council & Thames Water
Fish Passage Project	Fish passage improvements	Landowners
Angling & Nature Conservation Project	Biodiversity enhancements	Relevant angling clubs
Conservation Grazing Project	Infrastructure	Landowners
River Rangers Project	N/A	N/A
Keeping the Rivers Flowing Project	Leaflets on line Films on line	Colne Valley Park CIC Colne Valley Park CIC
Your Place in the Colne Valley Project	Interpretation Path surfacing and infrastructure Entrance infrastructure, fencing, biodiversity enhancements.at Iver-Farlowes new link Safety barriers at Iver-Farlowes new link Hedge near A40 Right of Way near A40	Colne Valley Park CIC Rights of Way Officers/Landowners Buckinghamshire County Council  Highways England Landowner Buckinghamshire County Council
Nature Conservation Group Support Project	Tools	Nature Conservation Group in receipt of tools
River Signage Project	Signs	Colne Valley Park CIC
Positive Management Project	Fencing, Interpretation, biodiversity enhancements etc.	Relevant landowners (Thames Water, Affinity Water, Iver Community Land Trust, South Bucks & Chilterns District Council, London Borough of Hillingdon)
A Bridge to the Country Project	Interpretation, paths, biodiversity enhancements etc.	Landowners/managers (Buckinghamshire County Council, Rickmansworth Waterways Trust, Spelthorne Borough Council)
Colne Valley Trail Project	Signage, interpretation Entrance infrastructure, fencing	Colne Valley Park CIC Landowners
Ancient Woodlands Interpretation Project	Indoor and outdoor interpretation boards Komoot trails	London Borough of Hillingdon Ruislip Woods Trust
Events Flowing Through the Colne Project	N/A	N/A
Walks Through a Changing Landscape	Walks pamphlet hard copy and on-line Anthology on-line	Colne Valley Park CIC Colne Valley Park CIC
Windows to the Valley Project	Audio discs Interpretation, benches, biodiversity maintenance where this impacts on views	Colne Valley Park CIC Colne Valley Park CIC
Spatial Vision Project	Spatial Vision leaflet and on-line	Colne Valley Park CIC & Local authorities
Employment of Further Core Staff & FCR	N/A	N/A
Getting the Message Across	Website	Colne Valley Park CIC
Minibus Provision	Minibus	Groundwork South
Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant	Legacy Plan implementation	Colne Valley Park CIC in association with partners



# SECTION 1.5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

HLF expects due consideration to be given to assessing the quality, content, delivery process and impact of the Landscape Partnership Scheme through monitoring and evaluation. The difference between 'monitoring' and 'evaluation' may be found in Figure 19.

A 'Monitoring & Evaluation Framework' was devised by Heritage Insider Ltd., Groundwork South and partners during 2017 and can be found in Appendix D. In preparing it a Training Needs Assessment Survey was undertaken, meetings were held with the Programme Manager and one-to-one telephone meetings held with each project lead, by Heritage Insider Ltd.

The Evaluation Framework sets out the roles of all participants in the process – at the formative, interim and summative stages - including that of the consultant to be appointed during the Delivery Stage. A central monitoring spreadsheet will be devised and used from the start of the Delivery Stage to ease collation of data. Two reports will be produced by the consultant; one in Spring 2020 and one in September 2021. Figure 21 provides an indication of the timeline for their production.

Key evaluation questions that will be asked during the Delivery Stage are:

- Have project outputs and outcomes been achieved?
- Have the relevant HLF outcomes for each project been achieved?
- What have been the key facilitators and blockers for project work?
- Who has benefitted and how?
- Has the project been successful in engaging new, more diverse audiences?  
Which strategies have been most successful and where is there work still to be done?
- Have project management systems been appropriate and effective?

The Framework (Appendix D) presents a table listing each project, the specific questions that need to be answered and the approach to be taken to data gathering. An overview of how projects will be evaluated is given in Figure 20a. Each project proforma (in Part 3 of the LCAP) includes references to outputs and outcomes and to evidence (including indicators and evidence) as defined in Figure 20 that will be used to assess achievement.

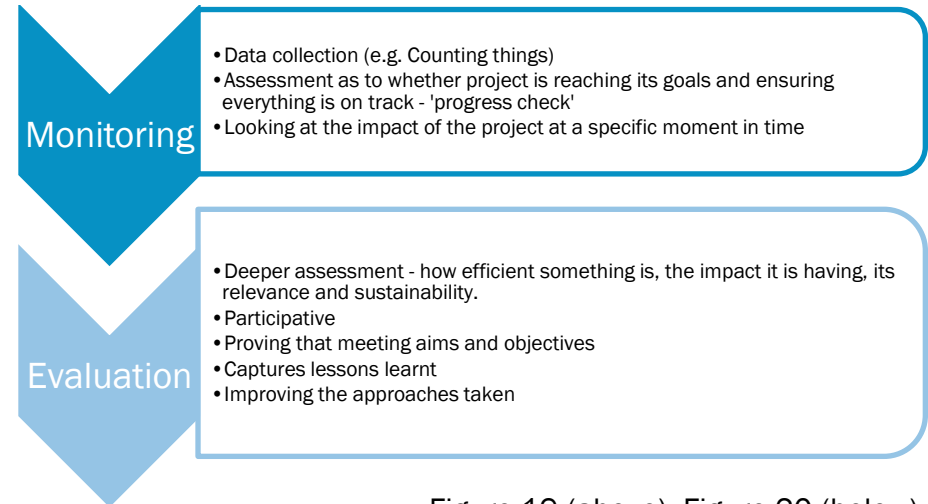
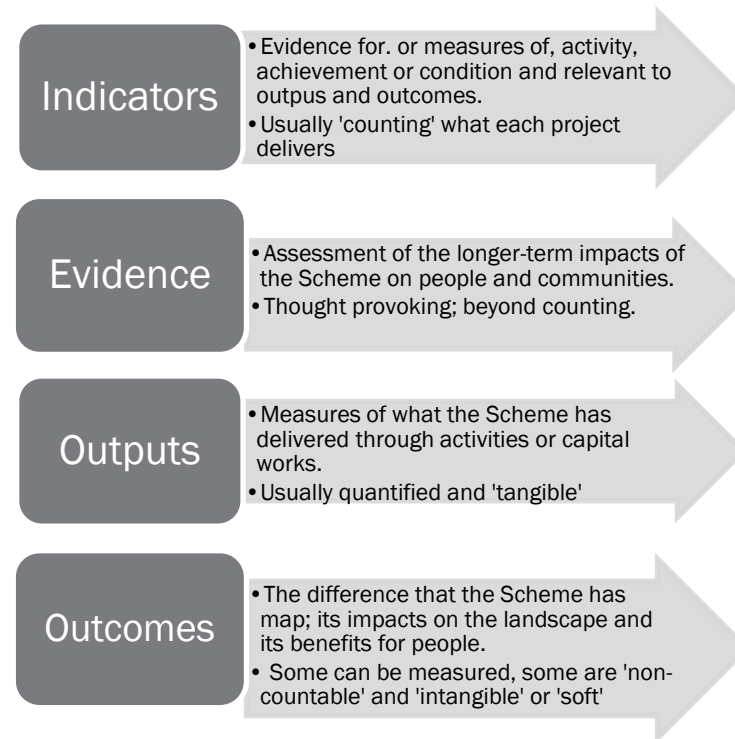


Figure 19 (above); Figure 20 (below)



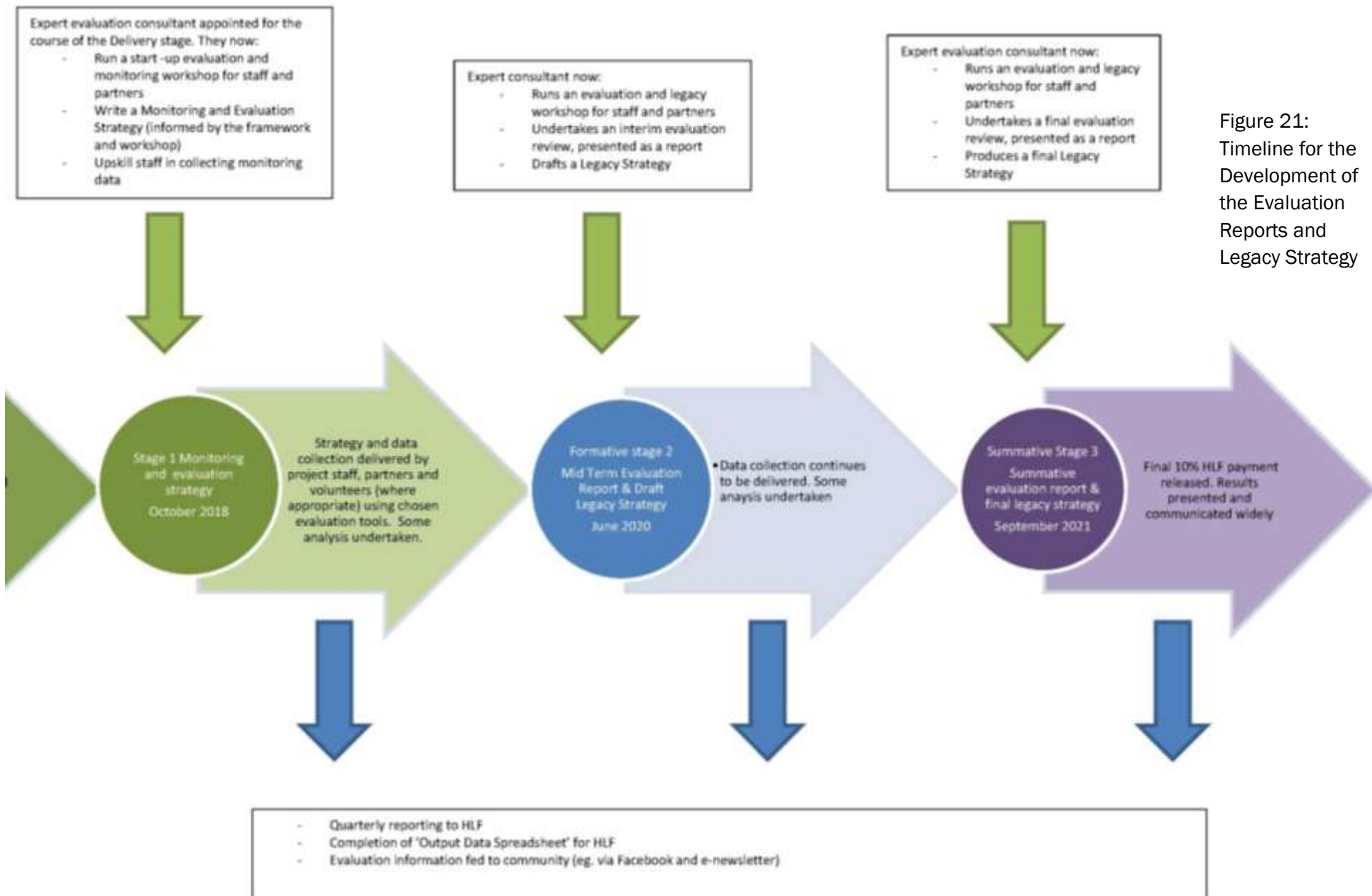
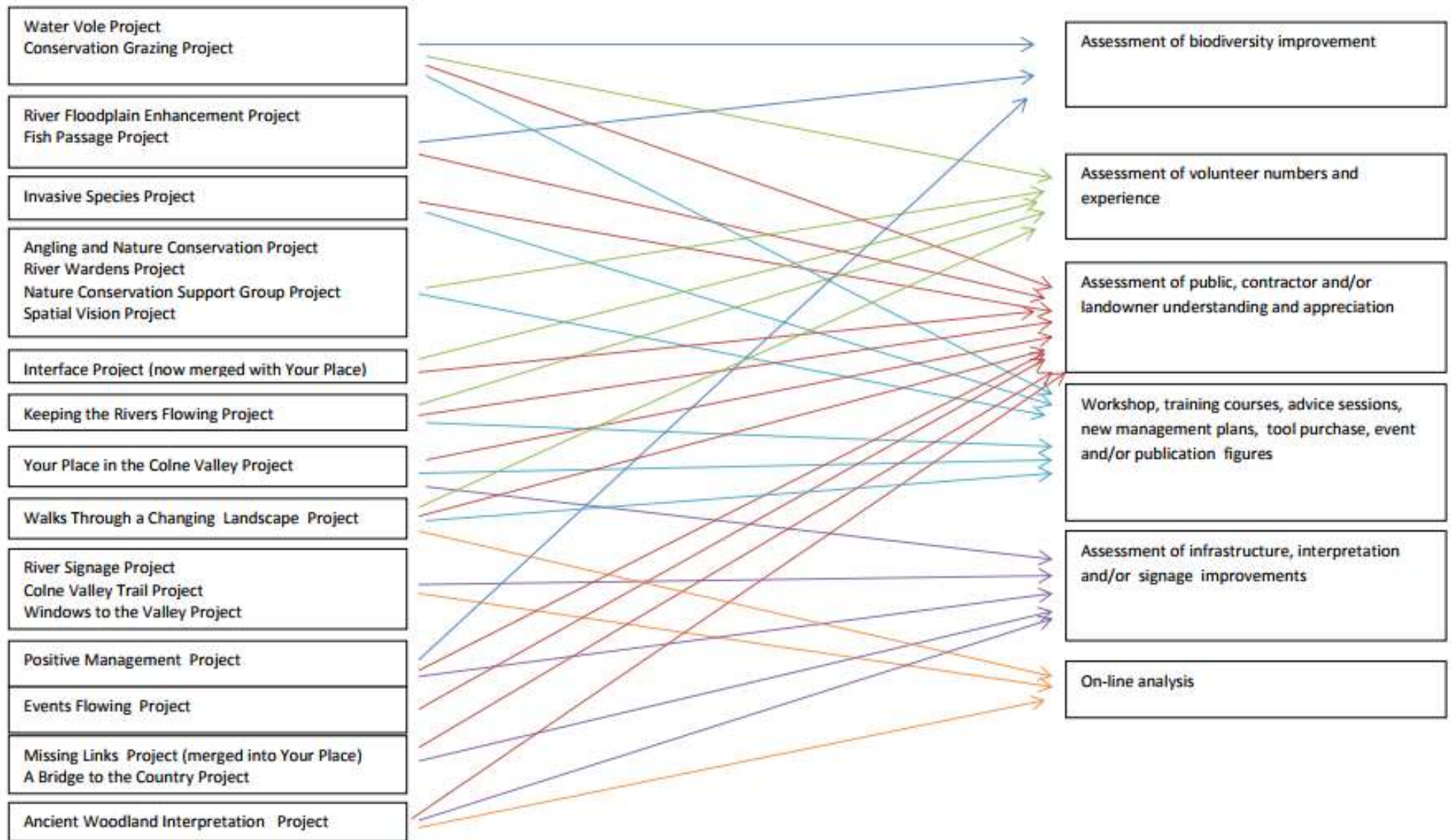


Figure 21:  
Timeline for the  
Development of  
the Evaluation  
Reports and  
Legacy Strategy

Figure 20a: How Projects will be Evaluated





## SECTION 1.6: DELIVERY OF THE SCHEME

### 1.6.1 The Colne Valley Landscape Partnership Board

The accountable, Lead Body for the Landscape Partnership Scheme is Groundwork South. A Board, chaired by the Environment Agency, is responsible for overseeing and supporting the work of Groundwork South and partners involved with the Scheme. The Board comprises local government authorities, government agencies and representatives of the environmental and heritage sector. The remits of the organisations involved are listed in Appendix 6.

The Board has: discussed progress and issues at regular board meetings ; held a HLF Project Seminar (September 2017); identified opportunities for match-funding; identified evaluation and legacy opportunities; positively advocated and publicised the Landscape Partnership Scheme and delivered the necessary outputs of the Development Stage.

The role of the Board will continue during the Delivery Stage. For this period the aim will be to deliver, monitor and evaluate the LCAP actions. Terms of Reference for the Partnership Board for the Delivery Stage may be found in Appendix 7. Bespoke Terms and Conditions have been drawn up for each partner for the Delivery Stage. Copies of the 'signature sheets' (Partner Agreements) for each organisation may be found in Appendix 8. Organisations unable to sign a formal agreement have provided a letter of support and are deemed 'associate members'. Evidence of this support may be found in Appendix 9.

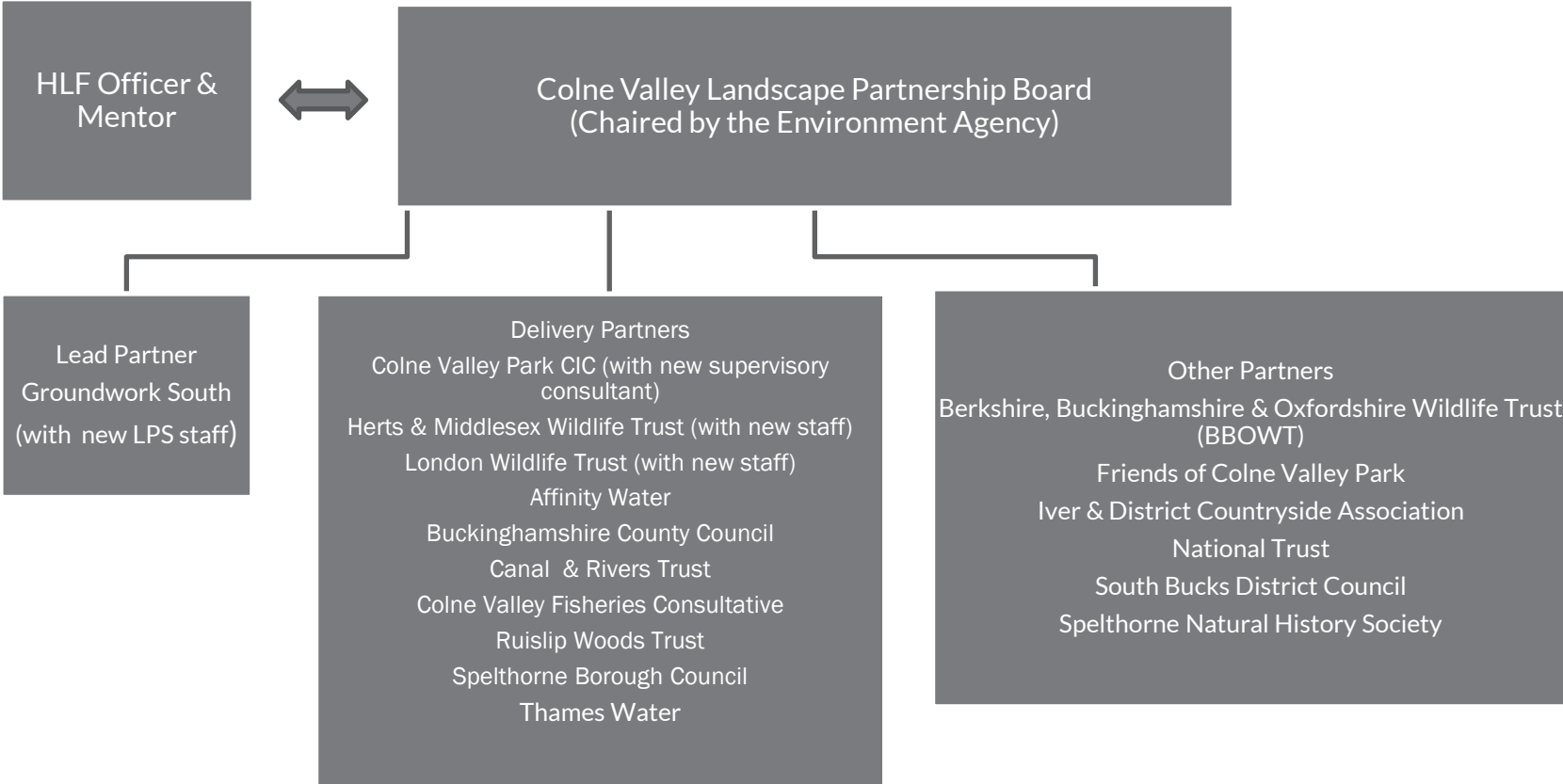
Figure 22 outlines the management structure of the Partnership during the Delivery Stage.



Colne Valley Park CIC Directors Away Day (above) and HLF Project Seminar held in September 2017 (below) - Colne Valley Park CIC



Figure 22: Partnership Management Structure



## 1.6.2 Team Roles During the Delivery Stage

Five core staff members will be appointed by the lead organisation, Groundwork South, at the start of the Delivery Stage in 2018. These posts include: Programme Manager, Project Officer, Administrator, River Officer and Interpretation Officer. Landscape Conservation Trainees will also be appointed on three occasions for a 7 month period. In addition one part-time member of staff managed by London Wildlife Trust (for 10 months) and one full time member of staff managed by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (for 3 years) will be appointed. A consultant working on behalf of the Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company will be contracted in for a nine-month period too. The full job descriptions and person specifications for the roles may be found in Appendix 10. A diagram showing the staff structure may be seen in Figure 23.

Together, staff will ensure delivery of the Landscape Partnership Scheme as presented in the LCAP. The Programme Manager will have a particular responsibility in ensuring that the outputs and outcomes of the Delivery Stage are met by all members of staff, regardless of their host organisation.

It is likely that the whole team will be located at Colne Valley Visitors Centre (Denham) and occasionally Iver Environment Centre (Iver) as these provide a good, central geographical base within the Landscape Partnership Scheme area. The proximity of staff will also aid communication amongst the whole team and so create a stronger foundation for the Scheme.

Calculations of how Full Cost Recovery (FCR) has been derived for Groundwork South are presented in Appendix 11, alongside those of the other organisations that are hosting a staff role.

## 1.6.3 Volunteer Roles

A number of the projects will be supported by volunteers and as such a Volunteer Plan has been devised (Appendix E). Figure 8 summarises the various volunteer opportunities presented through the Scheme.



Path surfacing undertaken by Groundwork South staff, volunteers and contractors at part of a pilot project for the Landscape Partnership Scheme – Dhush Selvarajah.



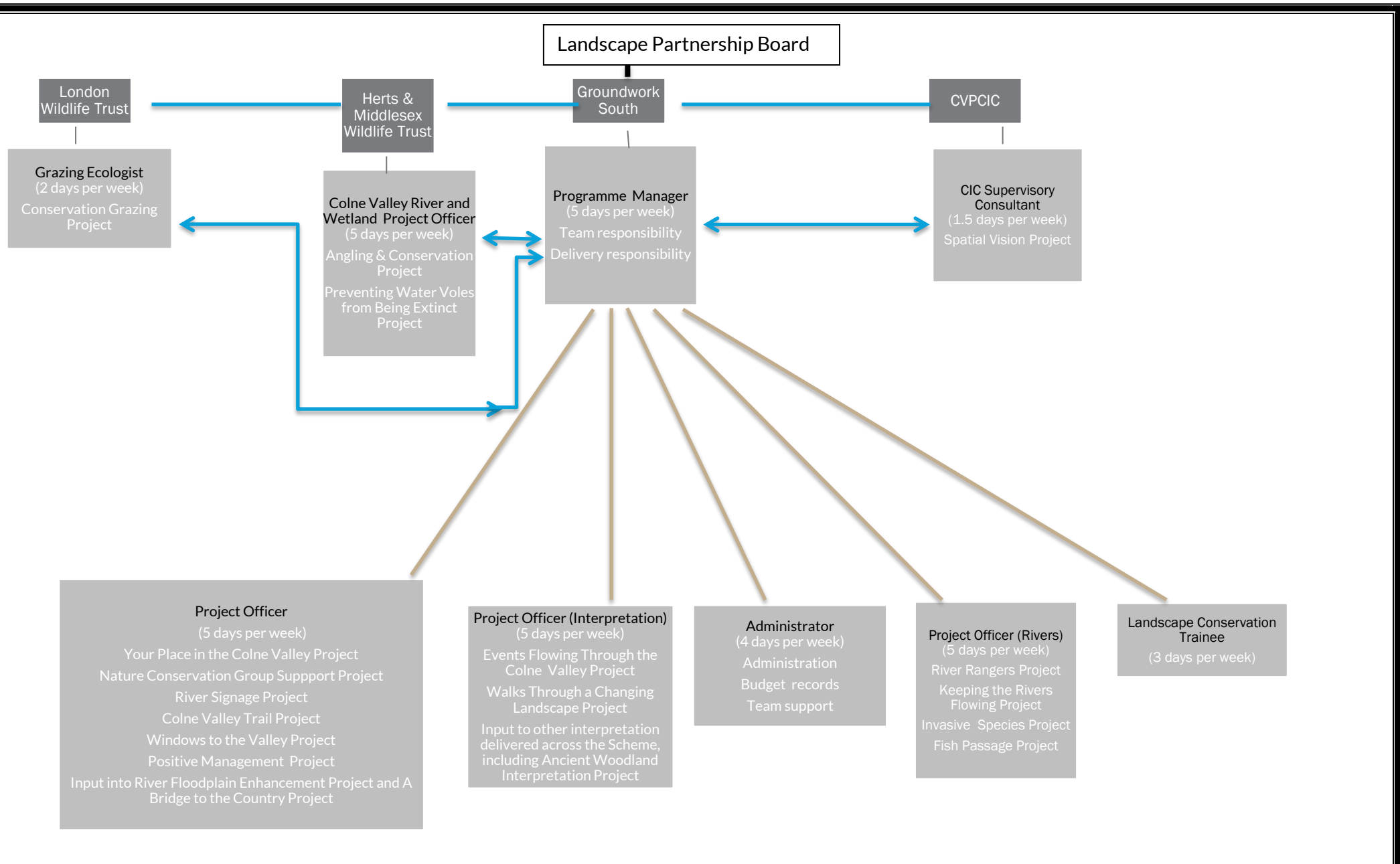


Figure 23 Staff Structure

## Table 8 Volunteer Roles

Preventing Water Voles from Being Extinct Project	Water vole surveyors Mink surveyors
Invasive Species Project	N/A
Riverside Enhancement Project	N/A
Fish Passage Project	N/A
Angling & Nature Conservation Project	Management plan volunteers (anglers) Practical conservation volunteers (anglers)
Conservation Grazing Project	Volunteer Lookers
River Rangers Project	River Rangers volunteers (variety of roles which can also assist with other projects)
Keeping the Rivers Flowing Project	Ambassador volunteers Film-making volunteers Leaflet review volunteers (other languages) Summer School volunteers
Your Place in the Colne Valley Project (incorporating Improving the Interface Between Town & Country Project and Completing the Missing Links Project)	Interpretation board review volunteers Path investigation volunteers Practical conservation volunteers (from local area or from nearby existing nature conservation groups) working on hedge by A40 and along Iver-Farlowes link
Nature Conservation Group Support Project	Existing practical conservation volunteers from various groups New practical conservation volunteers attached to the nature conservation groups Landscape Conservation Trainees (work experience supported by training budget and bursary). See Appendix 10 for Job Description.
River Signage Project	N/A
Positive Management Project	Practical conservation volunteers (from local area or from nearby existing nature conservation groups) Metal-work creation volunteers
A Bridge to the Country Project	Existing Friends of Langley Park volunteers Existing Rickmansworth Waterway Trust volunteers
Colne Valley Trail Project	Practical conservation volunteers (from local area or from nearby existing nature conservation groups) Woodcarving volunteers
Ancient Woodlands Interpretation Project	Event volunteers
Events Flowing Through the Colne Valley Project	Event volunteers Practical conservation volunteers working at Iver Environment Centre
Walks Through a Changing Landscape Project	History volunteers Walk leader volunteers Photography volunteers Art volunteers Creative writing volunteers
Windows to the Valley Project	Practical conservation volunteers (from local area or from nearby existing nature conservation groups)
Spatial Vision Project	Volunteers from local community and environmental groups wanting to input into the Spatial Vision

## [1.6.4 Excluded from this document]

### 1.6.5 Management & Project Timetable

Table 9 provides an overview of key management milestones for the Scheme.

Note that the role of the lead organisation (Groundwork South) between the submission of the LCAP (15<sup>th</sup> March 2018) and October 2018 may be found in Appendix 14.

### 1.6.6 SWOT Analysis

Table 10 highlights strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the Scheme.

### 1.6.7 Generic Scheme Risks

Table 11 provides an analysis of generic risks in relation to the implementation of the Scheme. Risks to individual projects are presented in each project proforma in Part 3.



Peacock butterfly resident (above) and river view (below) – Ewa Prokop







**Table 10 SWOT Analysis of the Landscape Partnership Scheme**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
Bid is being led Groundwork South, which has had strategic responsibilities over Colne Valley Regional Park for 30 years. The current Managing Agent has been in post for ten years and has in depth knowledge of the area and has built good relationships.	The Landscape Partnership area is covered by a range of authorities meaning that negotiations have to take place with each separately and information from them has to be arranged separately; there is limited coordinated effort in relation to the environment across the Colne Valley.	Organising walks, talks, activities and events for local people and visitors so they can enjoy and learn more about the Landscape Partnership area.	Changing priorities of partners due to pressure of other work commitments
Supported by a strong partnership with partners with various remits and a proactive Chair.	Bid does not tackle the archaeological or built heritage features of the Colne Valley landscape other than through highlighting this heritage through events.	Creating new trails for people to explore and better-linkages between Rights of Way..	Problems in securing match-funding for the Scheme in a competitive market.
Diverse range of projects so that it appeals to a wide range of people.	The Scheme does not actively seek to attract people from outside the immediate environs (through 'tourism' actions) though the remit of the Colne Valley Regional Park is to serve the region.	Promotion of the Landscape Partnership area through webpages, e-newsletters, social media and signage and generating appreciation of it.	Challenges of resourcing the legacy.
The Partnership uses a long-established brand at the core of its logo.	People on the doorstep of the area do not necessarily visit it and do not know of the existence of the Colne Valley Regional Park and the role of the Colne Valley Park CIC.	Build on the networking effort already undertaken by the Colne Valley Park CIC membership/Forum.	Challenges of securing strong volunteer engagement.
Overwhelming support from the public, gleaned from consultation work.	The network of roads and motorways, large developed sites (e.g. Heathrow Airport) and the lack of viewpoints makes it difficult for residents and visitors to perceive the Colne Valley as one landscape.	Build up ecological information on e.g. water voles, river wildlife and invasive species.	Significant hurdle to leap in raising the profile and importance of the landscape as an entity across residents from different localities (administrative areas) and backgrounds.
Presence of 'Runnymede Revealed' and 'Chalk, Cherries and Chairs' bids enabling mutual support and learning opportunities.	The limited number of heritage events run within the Colne Valley landscape are not coordinated or marketed centrally at present and there are not normally free.	Addressing difficult issues such as anti-social behaviour, pollution, water wastage and under-representation of key audiences.	Development pressure (e.g. HS2, Heathrow Airport expansion, housing need).
All staff appointed through the various projects will be based within the area and as such have closer contact with stakeholders and better understanding of their 'wards'.	There is limited signage across the Colne Valley Regional Park so that the public know they are entering and within the Regional Park.	Taking practical steps on the ground to enhance rivers, neglected sites, meadowland and 'gateways' into the Colne Valley.	
Much of the practical implementation work is being undertaken on land owned in Trust or by local authorities and therefore arguably in constant-keeping for the benefit of the public.	There are a range of nature conservation organisations working within the valley but due to geographical separation and other factors, there is little communication between them.	Promotion of rare woodland habitat to engage with residents who aren't aware of its value..	
The Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative is already well-networked with key users of the landscape, i.e. anglers and has long established links with the Colne Valley Park CIC	Colne Valley Regional Park (the core area of the Landscape Partnership Scheme) does not benefit from compulsory contributions from authorities within Greater London (as Lee Valley Regional Park has) and therefore resourcing is a challenge.	To come to terms with the changing landscape by taking active steps to appreciate what exists and how it can be cared for in the future.	
There are long-established trails and circular walks in the area for people to enjoy the local countryside.	The Scheme is complex and therefore difficult to summarise for audiences.	Increasing public support through membership of the Friends of Colne Valley Regional Park (or the proposed replacement charity).	
A range of environmental groups (including volunteer conservation groups) and organisations actively work to improve the environment of the Colne Valley.	Action for water voles, invasive species and fish passes in the Scheme 'make a start' on addressing key issues of extinction, invasion and fish movement respectively.		
	Involvement of the farming community and woodland owners is limited within the Scheme as few large-scale areas of private land are being conserved and enhanced.		
	The dependence on landowner agreement to address 'missing links' in the rights of way network has proved a barrier to progress as there is no incentive or regulations in place to encourage path development.		

**Table 11 Analysis of Generic Risks**

Risk Description	Probability of Event	Impact	Implications of Risk	Actions to Reduce Risk
<b>FUNDING &amp; BUDGETS</b>				
Unavailability of principal HLF funding	Low	High	Inability to complete Scheme as envisaged. Loss of community support and involvement	Ensure bid is well prepared. Seek comprises with HLF on delivery elements so that at least some projects can proceed.
Unavailability of partner and match-funding	Low	High	Inability to complete Scheme as envisaged. Loss of community support and involvement	Ensure bids are well prepared. Secure and make the most of secured partner and match-funding. Backup plans in place in case of reversal in offers. Funding strategy in place.
Project unachievable within budget	Low	High	Budget overspend or lack of resources (eg. materials, equipment) to undertake projects	Regular monitoring of budget spend, seek best costs, communicate with funder, use of contingency as 'back-up', attract grant-funding income.
Failure to maintain a decision audit trail	Low	High	Unable to account for expenditure	Regular and detailed reporting. Agreements in place between Groundwork South and partners.
<b>STAFF &amp; VOLUNTEERS</b>				
Delays in recruiting staff	Low	Medium	Delay in completing team and ensuring sufficient 'gelling' of team, impacting on project delivery.	Wide distribution of vacancy adverts, ready to be advertised in July 2018. Competitive employment packages and conditions.
Changes in Landscape on the Edge personnel	Low	Medium	Lack of continuity affecting community relationships and understanding of area; loss of knowledge from team.	Ensure project information is well-documented and handover thorough to remaining staff, partners consultants and volunteers.
Illness of staff	Medium	Medium	Key tasks not undertaken	Seek support of partners; share workload amongst remaining staff.
Poor performance of staff	Low	Medium	Errors and omissions occur. Failure to fulfil duties; projects do not meet objectives; reputation dented	Regular and decisive team meetings and 1 to 1 meeting with Programme Manager; balance of motivation and discipline.
Extent of works exceeds volunteer and staff resources available	Medium	High	Pressure/stress on staff and volunteers. Projects not completed on time.	Ensure detailed project planning and that staff time and priorities are well managed. Spread burden amongst additional support that can be mustered, such as through partners.
Inability to recruit trainees	Low	Medium	Unable to meet Scheme targets	Wide distribution of vacancy adverts.
Inability to recruit and retain sufficient volunteers	Medium	Medium	Degree of work undertaken, reduced; Scheme objectives to build skills not met; need to use contractors increases.	Start building project interest as soon as possible; ensure good volunteer training and support; share volunteers good experiences; provide volunteer 'job profiles' so volunteers are clear of what is expected of them.
Inappropriately skilled staff and volunteers to carry out work programmes.	Low	High	Poor standards; slower progress; additional training costs.	Ensure appropriate leadership and training in place from early stage; ensure volunteers are well managed and motivated; plan activities well in advance to identify issues that may arise and address early on.
Partners not fulfilling their roles (eg. through redundancy)	Low	High	Partnership working weakened	Identify alternative staff within relevant organisation who can contribute; find alternative partner to take on a role.



**Table 11 Analysis of Generic Risks (continued)**

Risk Description	Probability of Event	Impact	Implications of Risk	Managed Response
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>				
Poor project communication within partnership and between partners and consultants/contractors	Low	High	Lack of clarity leading to confusion, time delays, mistakes and additional costs.	Ensure regular meetings (with minutes where appropriate) and email updates; undertake site visits where appropriate.
Insufficient promotion of Scheme to the general public	Low	Medium	Lack of clarity; lack of support; lack of attendees to events; failure to maximise legacy opportunities.	Use websites, social media, e-newsletters, press and related media to inform and engage with the community. Use telephone calls and emails to maintain personal contact with interested parties, ensuring response within five working days.
Public complaints (e.g. Public dissatisfaction with works)	Low	Medium	Lack of public support; dissatisfaction of residents and visitors; future engagement dented; Scheme reputation dented.	Build up communication with stakeholders and members of the public to provide reasons for works and show how concerns have been taken into account to adapt future activities. Encourage suggestions for improvement; involve staff and volunteers in project planning so that the best outputs and outcomes are sought.
<b>AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT</b>				
New audiences do not visit the area or engage with activities	Medium	Medium	Audiences do not experience new opportunities	Review marketing on a regular basis; engage with representatives of 'new audience' groups.
Interpretation fails to meet visitor needs or excite interest	Low	Medium	Poor visitor experience	Work closely with stakeholders to develop interpretation ideas and/or revise approach from feedback
Volunteer 'fatigue'	Low	High	Decline in engagement in volunteer activities Negative word of mouth communication influences opinions and actions of others.	Ensure potential volunteers are aware of progress, timescales and opportunities through regular updates via social media, e-newsletters and press. Learn from monitoring and evaluation to develop fresh ideas.
<b>PROJECT LOGISTICS</b>				
Programme delays or omissions due to bad weather	Medium	Low	Disappointment or frustration amongst stakeholders	Be proactive about re-scheduling operations and events; allow sufficient slack in timetables for alternative dates.
Delay in activities due to absence of 'permissions'	Low	Medium	Adverse effect on programme; loss of reputation and potential litigation if permissions left unsecured	Seek permissions as early as possible; ensure agreement in place from statutory bodies, landowners and organisations before commencing.
Failure to meet Health & Safety standards	Low	High	Damage to personnel and property. Loss of respect and credibility. Additional costs and possible delay.	Thorough risk assessments for all projects and tasks in place. Training and suitable equipment available for staff, volunteers etc. Monitor contractors to ensure they are compliant.
Poor performance by consultants/contractors	Medium	High	Deadlines not met; standards not met; additional cost implications; reputation dented as residents/visitors judge on third party effort.	Well-defined tender documents with regular monitoring and decisive meetings; use of most appropriate form of contract; option to cease contract.

Towpath near Harefield - Ewa Prokop



The Development Stage of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, resulting in the production of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP), has been made possible on account of contributions and grant funding offered by the providers shown below.

