



Local Plan 2020-2040

Open Space and Green and Blue Infrastructure Topic Paper (Preferred Options Stage)

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1. Policy Context

European

- 1.1 Whilst the UK is no longer part of the European Union (EU), EU legislation as it applied to the UK on the 31 December 2020 is now part of the UK domestic legislation, under the control of the UK's Parliaments and Assemblies. As such EU law still applies to the UK.

The Habitats Directive 1992

- 1.2 This legislation (https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm) contributes to ensuring the protection of biodiversity in the European Union by conserving natural habitats and wild fauna and flora. It consists of 24 articles of legislation grouped into five main categories: birds directive, zoos directive, wildlife trade legislation, habitats directive, and invasive alien species regulation.

Natura 2000 Network

- 1.3 This network (https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm) was created as a result of the Habitats Directive Network and is the world's biggest coordinated network of protected areas. It offers a haven to Europe's most valuable threatened species and habitats.

National

Open Space Act 1906

- 1.4 This piece of legislation (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Edw7/6/25>) was the first in helping to create public areas of open space. It relates to the creation of parks and burial grounds and the transfer of these areas to local authorities or charity trustees.

The Environment Act 2021

- 1.5 This Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>) requires the UK Government to set legally binding long-term environmental targets. These targets will help secure long-lasting improvement in the natural environment. It focuses on four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water and waste. It includes a target to reverse the decline of species abundance by the end of 2030.

The 25 Year Environmental Plan

- 1.6 This document (25 Year Environment Plan, January 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>) sets out the government's plan to improve the UK's air and water quality, protect threatened plants, trees and wildlife species. Relevant to green and blue infrastructure networks are the following key points:

- Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our natural scenery and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage.
 - Ensuring that there are high quality, accessible, natural spaces close to where people live and work, particularly in urban areas, and encouraging more people to spend time in them to benefit their health and wellbeing.
- 1.7 The plan sets out various aspirations related to green infrastructure including providing more and higher quality infrastructure in urban areas. There is a specific mention of encouraging more tree planting in and around these areas.

Levelling up and Regeneration Bill 2022

- 1.8 The Bill it sets out that biodiversity net gain will be implemented through the planning system from late 2023 onwards. The Bill improves the process used to assess the potential environmental effects of relevant plans and major projects, through a requirement to prepare ‘Environmental Outcome Reports’, which replaces the existing EU-generated systems of Strategic Environmental Assessment (including Sustainability Appraisals) and Environmental Impact Assessment. The Bill creates a duty on the Secretary of State to ensure that the new system of environmental assessment does not reduce the overall level of environmental protection.

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

- 1.9 Whilst the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>) is guidance and not statute, it is an important document that supports the creation and protection of open spaces and green infrastructure. Paragraph 20 states that local development plans should contain strategic policies setting out an overall strategy for a number of topics including green infrastructure. Paragraph 98 highlights how access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built upon unless specific criteria have been met.

Local

Stafford Borough Council Corporate Business Plan (2021-2024)

- 1.10 The three year plan sets out how Stafford Borough Council will deliver and sustain economic growth, respect the environment, support communities and ensure that the borough is a great place to live, work and visit. Within this plan, Objective 3 states:

“To tackle climate change by implementing our Climate Change and Green Recovery objectives.”

1.11 Within the next three years to meet this objective the plan states that the council will:

- Reduce emissions from the councils own activities;
- Work in partnership with Government Elected Bodies, Elected Members, Public and Voluntary Sector Partners, Residents and Businesses across the borough to take action that contributes to carbon neutrality and sustainable development within communities across the natural environment;
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change; and
- Implement council green recovery objectives.

Stafford Borough Climate change and Green Recovery Strategy 2020-2040

1.12 This strategy sets out how the council aims to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic to achieve a more sustainable borough by protecting and enhancing the environment. The Strategy has the same four objectives as within the Corporate Business Plan. Attached to this Strategy is a delivery plan which provides more detail on the milestones that are to be delivered within a given time period.

Stafford Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)

1.13 The strategy (<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/open-space-sport-and-recreation>) assesses the anticipated growth in population and the impact that this will have on the existing provision of playing pitches and recommends what facilities will be required to meet the needs of the borough's future residents.

1.14 The strategy ensures that a planned approach to sport and physical activity takes place within the borough to provide communities access to high quality facilities strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- Protect existing playing pitches against development pressures on land in and around urban environments.
- Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicted population changes.
- Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- Improve delivery of playing pitch facilities under council ownership and management.

1.15 The Strategy and related evidence base helps inform Local Plan policy and planning decisions. It also provides evidence to support funding bids to external funders.

- 1.16 As part of the PPS a new development calculator tool has been created which helps to establish playing pitch demand generated from residential developments. Demand identified by the calculator could be met by improving existing sites (drainage, maintenance and ancillary provision) and/or providing for new playing fields. The approach utilises the detailed evidence base which informs the local plan rather than applying a generic standard for sports facilities.

Stafford Borough Council Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy

- 1.17 This strategy (<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/open-space-sport-and-recreation>), and its background supporting document, assesses all formal sport and leisure facilities across the borough to assist in planning for the future. The strategy considers demand for facilities based on population distribution and anticipated growth.

Stafford Borough Nature Recovery Network Mapping

- 1.18 This document (https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Planning%20Policy/New%20Stafford%20Borough%20Local%20Plan%202020-2040/Evidence%20Base%20Documents/Nature_Recovery_Network_Mapping.pdf) provides a strategic assessment of the borough's biodiversity and habitat networks. It provides an outline of the existing nature network and describes key locations where habitats may be created or enhanced to contribute to nature recovery.

2. What is the Green and Blue Infrastructure Network

- 2.1 The green and blue infrastructure network (GBN) is a holistic approach to viewing the natural and historic environment, acknowledging the multiple benefits and vital functions it provides for the economy, wildlife and the health and wellbeing of communities and individuals. For the purpose of this topic paper the GBN is defined as:

‘A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.’ (NPPF, 2021)

- 2.2 GBN delivers ‘ecosystems services’ which are the varied benefits that humans freely gain from the natural environment, including goods and services, some of which can be valued economically.
- 2.3 Some examples of GBN are:
- Parks and gardens;
 - Green corridors such as road and rail corridors, hedgerows;
 - Natural and semi-natural greenspaces – nature reserves, grassland, heath land;

- Amenity greenspace i.e. play areas, community gardens, playing fields, cemeteries; and
- Blue spaces i.e. canals, rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, meres, sustainable drainage systems.

Why is it Important

- 2.4 The GBN provides areas for recreation and education, habitats for wildlife and environmental services such as flood defence and absorption of air pollution. The network presents opportunities to adapt to and mitigate for climate change, for example by helping with surface water flooding, reducing the urban heat island effect, and lowering the energy demands of buildings.
- 2.5 Access to a network of high quality green and blue spaces also provides many health and wellbeing benefits. These benefits include increased life expectancy, increased levels of physical activity and improved mental wellbeing.
- 2.6 Additionally, the GBN supports the traditional economy and the evolving green and blue economy by attracting investment through building more attractive places to live that are resilient to climate change.

3. Existing Green and Blue Network Resources

- 3.1 Stafford borough covers an area of over 230 square miles and is centrally located within the North Staffordshire sub-region of the West Midlands. The borough has a population of 136,800 (2021 census)at an average density of 2.2 persons per hectare. The majority of the population is located within the urban centres of Stafford and Stone. The rural areas of the borough are predominately characterised by dispersed pattern of villages and hamlets which vary in size.
- 3.2 Due to the informal nature of GBN it is hard to define exactly how much land contributing to the GBN exists in the borough. However, it is possible to specify certain key assets within the area, many of which are accessible to the public.

Biodiversity Assets

- 3.3 The borough supports 16 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of which three sites totalling some 296ha are designated as Ramsar sites (Chartley Moss, Aqualate Mere and Mottey Meadows), which is an international designation of wetlands designated by UNESCO. Approximately 296ha of land is designated as Ramsar sites. The borough also contains a number of areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). The SAC sites are Cannock Chase, Pasturefields Saltmarsh, Mottey Meadows and Chartley Moss, which total approximately 1,001ha. The Cannock Chase SAC is of particular note, as it is one of the best areas in the UK for European dry heathland and is the most extensive in the Midlands region.

- 3.4 Cannock Chase is also designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), designated in 1958 due to its beautiful landscape, its wildlife and its history. The Cannock Chase AONB covers a larger area than the SAC and contains an expansive area of lowland heathland, an internationally scarce and threatened wildlife habitat. The AONB also has extensive areas of forest and woodland along with areas of designed parkland, sand and gravel quarrying and mixed agriculture. A section of the AONB lies within the Stafford Borough boundary.
- 3.5 Within the borough there are also nine Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) - (Kingston Pool Covert (south), Astonfields Balancing Lakes, Riverside, Goodall Meadow, Kingsmead Marsh, Southern Meadow, Ferndown and Barlaston and Rough Close Common) and Crown Meadow, Stone. LNRs are places that support a rich variety of wildlife and allow people to interact with the natural world. The borough is fortunate to have a diverse range of LNRs in terms of having marsh, heath, reedbed, woodland and meadow.
- 3.6 Within the borough there are a further 13 Local Geological / Geomorphological Sites (LoGS), which are sites of areas of significant earth science importance that are considered worthy of protection.

Green space within the built environment

- 3.7 There are two areas of green belt within the borough; part of the the North Staffordshire Green Belt, which in total is 9,266ha in size and part of the South Staffordshire Green Belt, which totals 1,810ha in size.
- 3.8 There is a range of open space throughout the borough, encompassing all the public land used for recreation in its widest sense. This ranges from sports pitches and allotments to landscaped areas within housing developments designed for general amenity purposes. The Borough Council itself currently owns/manages:
- 180 Amenity green spaces
 - 43 Churchyards and 3 cemeteries
 - 30 Natural greenspaces
 - 4 Destination Parks:
 - Victoria Park
 - Rowley Sport Stadium Park
 - Wildwood Park
 - Westbridge Park
 - 7 District Parks:
 - Castlefields
 - Cambridge Street
 - Charnley Road
 - Stonefield Park
 - Sundown Drive
 - The Meadows
 - Tilling Drive
 - 68 local play areas
 - 29 allotments which are owned by SBC but managed by the Staffordshire Horticultural Society.

3.9 Appendix 1 shows the amount of total green space broken down by ward and population.

Play Spaces

3.10 There are a total of 104 play spaces (including those recently built within the East of Stafford Strategic Development Location and Stone Strategic Development Location, both of which were housing allocations under the Plan for Stafford Borough) in the borough that are either owned by Stafford Borough Council or by a management company. This results in an average of 1,315 persons per play space (current population/existing play spaces). In total, there is approximately 31.08ha of play space in the borough which equates to 0.03ha per 1000 persons (0.3sqm per person).

3.11 Play England has produced a classification of types of play spaces, shown in Table 1 below. Play spaces in the borough categorised by these classifications are set out in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Types of Play Space

| Type | Walking (m) | Straight line distance (m) |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|
| Local (Doorstep): A small space within sight of home where children, especially young children can play within view of known adults | 100 | 60 |
| District (Local): A larger space which can be reached safely by children beginning to travel independently with friends. | 400 | 240 |
| Destination (Neighbourhood): A larger space or facility for informal recreation which children and young people, used to travelling longer distances independently. | 1000 | 600 |

Quality / Quantity of play areas

3.12 Play areas owned/maintained by the borough council are assessed annually by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA). The most recent assessment for the borough undertaken in 2021 showed:

- 5 play spaces rated poor
- 46 rated basic
- 14 rated reasonable
- 2 rated good
- 2 rated high
- 1 rated very good

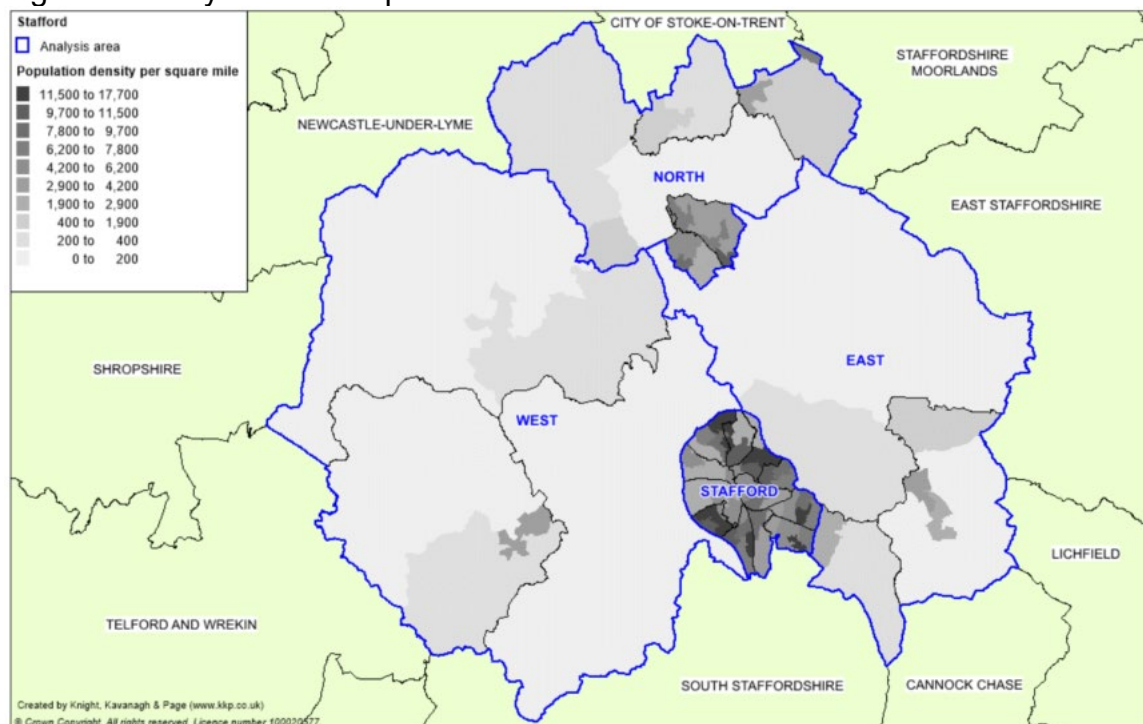
3.13 This illustrates a need to improve the quality of existing play areas in the borough.

Sport Pitches

3.14 There are a range of sports pitches spread across the borough. The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies:

- A total of 107 grass football pitches across 57 sites. Of these, 98 pitches are available, at some level, for community use at 51 sites. The only unavailable pitches are located at MOD Stafford or at education sites.
- 19 grass wicket cricket squares across 16 sites. All the squares are available for community use, with the majority being in the North Analysis Area and there being fewer in the Stafford Analysis Area (these areas are defined in the Playing Pitch Strategy).(see figure 1 below).
- A total of 23 rugby pitches of which 19 senior pitches, two junior pitches and two mini pitches are available. All but one senior pitch is available for community use, the unavailable pitch is located at MOD Stafford.
- There are three full size Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) in Stafford Borough. Most of the provision (66%) is located in the East Analysis Area, whereas the remaining pitch at Alleyne's Sports Centre is located in the North Analysis Area.
- Six golf courses situated within Stafford Borough.
- 20 bowling greens in Stafford Borough located across 17 sites. All of the bowling greens are normal crown greens and are available for community use.

Figure 1: Analysis area map



Food Growing

- 3.15 Within Stafford Borough there are twenty-nine allotment sites accessed by local people. The ownership and management of the allotments varies, with most of the sites being owned by Stafford Borough Council but managed by the Stafford Borough Horticultural Committee (SBH Allotments) on behalf of the council with community groups or Parish Councils. Details can be seen in Appendix 3.
- 3.16 There are 20 sites in Stafford managed by the Town Allotment Trustees the largest site is Holmcroft, with 91 plots, and the smallest is Silkmore Lane with just 5.
- 3.17 At the present time almost all the plots are let, except for some at the Tithe Barn Road site which has a recent history of under use. Most sites have a waiting list of prospective plot holders of between 1 and 7 applicants, and there is a core list that is centrally coordinated by the Secretary to the Trustees.
- 3.18 The average allotment plot within Stafford is 3.4 roods. A rood is an archaic measurement of approximately 64yds² (53.5m²). Therefore, an average plot size is 217.6 yds² (181.9m²).
- 3.19 Within Stafford the amount of land identified as allotments provided by the borough is 1926.8 roods. This equates to 123,315.2 yds² (350,484.92m²) or 86.60 acres. According to NOMIS and the Council's completions data from April 2011 to March 2022, there are 32,561 dwellings in Stafford Town as of 31 March 2022. If an average household of 2.33 people is applied this results in 75,867 persons in Stafford Borough. This represents a provision of 0.03 roods (1.61m²) per resident or 0.07 roods per household. Alternatively, this can be expressed as one average sized plot 3.4 roods (217.6 yds²) available for every 49 household.
- 3.20 Stafford Borough Council Horticulture Society Allotment Trustees have advised that in terms of critical mass it appears that the optimum size of any new site would be between 25 and 30 full plots with water supply, toilet, off road parking and very modest communal storage facilities. They suggest that any new site should be in the region of 1,500m² to 1,650m².

Landscape and Historic Environment

- 3.21 The borough is fortunate to have a rich historic built environment with over 800 entries on the statutory list of buildings with special architectural or historic interest. These comprise of:
- 22 Grade I and 63 Grade II* Listed Buildings;
 - 30 Conservation Areas;
 - 4 Historic Parks and Gardens (Shugborough (Grade I), Trentham Gardens (Grade II*), Sandon Park (Grade II) and German Military Cemetery on Cannock Chase (Grade II*); and
 - 47 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

- 3.22 A Landscape Character Assessment of Stafford Borough undertaken in 2001 provides a detailed and focused assessment of the borough through smaller units of land descriptions. Overall, there are 173 landscapes designated with a high visual sensitivity, 75 landscapes with a low visual sensitivity, 275 landscapes with a moderate visual sensitivity and 225 urban landscapes.

Blue Infrastructure

- 3.23 Within the borough there is a network of blue infrastructure that is accessible to the public.
- 3.24 There are several walks which follow rivers. For example, within Stafford town there is the River Sow Leisure Walk, which follows the River Sow through Victoria Park and provides a close hand experience of the river. There is also the Littleworth to Baswich Bridge Waterside doorstep walk which is approximately five miles of walking within a water-based landscape.
- 3.25 There is a total of approximately 205 miles of accessible canal tow paths with the borough containing stretches of the Trent and Mersey, Shropshire Union, and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canals.
- 3.26 There are also a number of brooks within the area. Some of these brooks provide public access, however it is considered access to some of these resources could be further enhanced and improved.
- 3.27 Aqualate Mere National Nature Reserve (NNR) is the largest natural lake in the West Midlands. As a designated RAMSAR site it is recognised as an internationally important wetland reserve for its habitats and overwintering wildfowl populations. Whilst this site is situated within a private estate, the 210 hectare wetland reserve is leased and managed by Natural England from the Aqualate Estate and is publicly accessible for walking via Public Rights of Way and horse riding along defined bridleways.

4. Needs and Standards

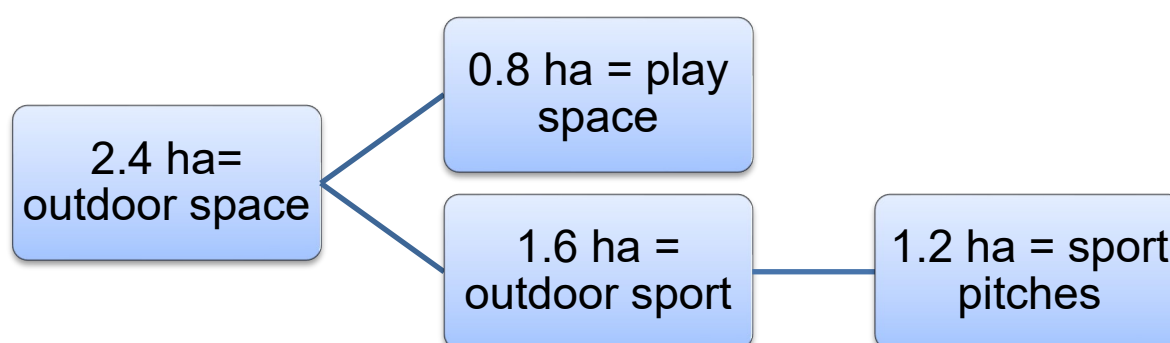
Open space and play space standards

- 4.1 Through the Local Plan it is possible to set standards for developers to adhere to which would result in new developments producing high quality open spaces that will contribute to the green blue network. It is considered that by stipulating a set of standards, such as those produced by ANGst and Play England, that, this will provide clarity on what will be required in terms of policy requirements and can then be accounted for as part of development costs.
- 4.2 There are a number of standards related to open space and the provision of play spaces and sport provision.

National Playing Fields

- 4.3 This national standard (<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England-Apr18.pdf>) states that there should be 2.4 hectares of playing fields per 1000 population. Of this, 1.6 hectares is required for outdoor sport, with 1.2ha of this to be used for sport pitches and the remaining 0.8ha is required for play space.

Figure 2: NPF standard calculation



- 4.4 When the National Playing Field Standard (NPFs) is applied to Stafford borough's current population of 136,800, the open space requirement total is 328 ha. Of this 218ha is required for outdoor sport, with 164ha for sports pitches, and 109ha for play space.
- 4.5 Current provision for the borough if broken down by the National Planning Fields Standard leads to a total of 1,462.51ha of open space, which includes Accessible Natural Greenspace standard (ANGst), Play Spaces and Sport venues. Of this total:
- 40.05ha is defined as play space
 - 3.2ha as bowling green
 - 15.5ha as cemetery/burial ground
 - 54.3ha as grass pitches (football, cricket, rugby)
 - 5.7ha as food growing

Play England

- 4.6 Play England (<http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/70684/design-for-play.pdf>) produced a classification of spaces for play indicators as can be seen in Table 21 above, categorising play spaces as either local (doorstep), district (local), or destination (neighbourhood). Play England also indicates the accessibility standards for each category, which is measured in metres walking in a direct straight line from a home to a play space.

4.7 When applying Play England play space classifications and accessibility standards to this existing provision in the borough, the following is found:

4.8 Local (Doorstep) Play Spaces:

- 10,527 residential properties are within the accessible distance for a Local Play Space, with 58,543 residential properties not within accessible distance.
- All wards within Stafford have some properties that are within the accessible distance for accessing a local play space.
- Both wards within Stone have properties that fail the access standard.
- Whilst the majority of the rural settlements have a play space, 26,265 residential properties are not within the accessibility zone.

4.9 Destination Play Spaces:

- 26,182 residential properties are within the accessible distance for a destination play space. 42,675 residential properties are not within accessible distance.
- 20,689 residential properties not within the accessible distance are properties outside of Stone and Stafford as no destination play space exist outside of the two towns.
- Properties located in the Common and Holmcroft ward are not within the accessible distance for accessing a destination play space.
- The majority of the properties within Stone are within the accepted distance for a destination play space.

4.10 District Play Spaces:

- 9,299 residential properties are within the accessible distance for a District Play Space. 55,469 residential properties are not within accessible distance.
- The majority of properties within Stone are not within the acceptable distance for accessing a district play space.
- All wards within Stafford have some properties that are within the accessible distance for accessing a district play space.
- All rural properties fail to have access to a district play space.

Accessible Natural Green Space

4.11 The definition of natural space in the Accessible Natural Green Space Standard (ANGst; <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/65021>) is “places where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate.”

4.12 Natural England categorises areas into the following levels:

Level 1:

- Nature conservation areas, including SSSIs
- Local sites (including local wildlife sites, Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites(RIGs))
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

- National Nature Reserves (NNRs)
- Woodland
- Remnant countryside (within urban and urban fringe areas)

Level 2:

- Formal and informal open space
- Rivers and canals
- Unimproved farmland
- Unimproved grassland
- Disused / derelict land, mosaics of formal and informal areas, scrub etc.
- Country Parks
- Open access land (as defined under CROW Act)

Level 3:

- Allotments
- Church yards and cemeteries
- Formal recreation space

Level 4:

- Improved farmland

4.13 The standards for accessing natural green space according to ANGSt are:

- 2ha no more than 300m (straight line from home)
- 20ha no more than 2km
- 1 accessible 100 ha site no more than 5km
- 1 accessible 500 ha site no more than 10km
- 1 Local Nature Reserve (LNR) per 1000 population

4.14 It is not practical to calculate the total amount of green space within the borough as often access to green space may involve private land and as such it is not technically accessible open space despite it being used.

4.15 In terms of level 1 sites, there are:

- 338 sites within the borough,
- 2 sites comprise of both formal and informal designated open space sites.

4.16 For the borough, there are a number of formally designated open space sites, which can be seen in Appendix 2.

4.17 The amount of mapping involved makes it impractical to quantify information on Level 2 sites in terms of specifically disused/derelict land, mosaics of formal and informal areas scrub etc, and unimproved farmland and grassland due to the amount of land mapping it would involve.

- 4.18 There are 188 level 3 sites in the borough consisting of:
- 29 allotments;
 - 113 formal play spaces; and
 - 43 churchyards and 3 cemeteries.
- 4.19 If the ANGst standards are applied to Stafford Borough, it highlights that the borough is currently lacking in LNRs. As can be seen in Appendix 2, there are 8 LNRs within the borough, in comparison to the 134 LNRs that should be provided according to ANGst based on the existing population.

Green and Blue Infrastructure

- 4.20 Although there are standards as presented above for play and sport provision, there are no national standards for the provision and implementation of GBN infrastructure. However, standards do exist for many of the elements that contribute to and create a green and blue infrastructure network, for example:
- Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGst (see above));
 - Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance;
 - Green Flag Criteria (<http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>);
 - Building with Nature; and
 - The Green Infrastructure Valuation Toolkit.

5. Issues and Opportunities

- 5.1 There are a variety of challenges and opportunities in relation to the provision of GBN at the local scale.

Challenges

Linked to new development

- 5.2 The green and blue network presents an opportunity for individuals and communities to be physically active in terms of walking, playing, running etc. but also active in terms of being aware of the environment through the care and maintenance of an area. To encourage the use and extension of the network, new development has to provide high quality, accessible green infrastructure, including formal spaces i.e. play spaces where appropriate.
- 5.3 A failure to promote and provide newly created neighbourhoods with high quality, accessible open space will result in a population not taking advantage of the many physical and mental benefits these assets can provide.
- 5.4 If developers do not understand the importance of creating well designed open space, in a way that provides links between communities, services, employment and the surrounding countryside, the end result will be a poorly designed space, with poor access, in the wrong location. This will result in a

number of unconnected 'green islands' and is more likely to lead to an increase in traffic, making these new developments more unsustainable.

Cost / Viability

- 5.5 The implementation of GBN is often seen as an 'added' cost to developers despite it being capable of being a multifunctional space in terms of providing open space, sustainable drainage, biodiversity etc.

Adoption and Maintenance

- 5.6 To retain its quality and functionality many aspects of the GBN require ongoing maintenance and periodic updating. This is particularly true for play spaces and playing pitches but is also natural greenspace and parks.
- 5.7 As GBN is a multi-functional space the adoption and maintenance of the spaces can be problematic. For example, a play space may be owned and maintained by a management company, however an area for biodiversity could be owned and maintained by the local authority and the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) system could be another body. This has the potential to cause confusion as to who is doing what and can result in incidents where maintenance does not occur and the quality of the GBN will deteriorate over time and will be used less and perform worse in terms of drainage etc.

Willingness

- 5.8 Using GBN as a way to address drainage and flooding issues is not a new concept. The implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) is undertaken as part of new developments, however often the SuDS designed and implemented are still very traditional and are not always designed to be part of a multi-functional space.

Disengagement

- 5.9 To ensure the use of GBN, engagement with individuals and communities is required. Often engagement on the specific development of GBN is not undertaken by developers and it becomes a by-product of other elements e.g. SuDS, open space, play spaces, un-developable land etc. This lack of engagement at the design stage can result in GBN that is underused, not cared for, and undervalued by the very community that was supposed to use it.

Opportunities

Countryside Enhancement Areas

- 5.10 Within Stafford and Stone there is the opportunity to develop Countryside Enhancement Areas. The rationale behind the creation of these areas is to provide the opportunity to improve biodiversity and manage flood risk whilst also promoting the visitor economy. The opportunity to develop countryside enhancement areas was first identified in 2009 in the Green Infrastructure Strategy and evidence review. In order to deliver these spaces, the council

will need to work with partners e.g. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and private landowners.

Strategic Green Infrastructure

- 5.11 Within Stafford and Stone, it is possible to identify key areas of strategic green (see Appendix 4) infrastructure which act as 'green lungs' for the two main towns.

Grey to Green

- 5.12 Green infrastructure can be utilised to provide a multi-functional space, offering a working landscape and a sustainable alternative to the traditional grey infrastructure (e.g. stormwater pipes, non-permeable surfaces) which provides space for people but also help with flooding, drainage and mitigating climate change.

New Play Areas

- 5.13 Where appropriate, developments will be required to provide new play spaces to contribute to the GBN and the play space network. The type and size of the play space will be dependent on the size of the development, i.e. the larger the development the bigger the play space required.

Habitat Connectivity Opportunity Areas

- 5.14 Habitat Connectivity Opportunity Areas (HCOA) were identified within the Nature Recovery Network (NRN) document. For each HCOA the document provides information on:
- Key Habitats;
 - Key Species;
 - Opportunities
 - Threats; and
 - Specific Opportunities.
- 5.15 These mapped areas can be used to focus investment opportunities to improve existing resources.

6. Implications of Drivers for Change

- 6.1 A key driver for change for GBN is climate change and the need to build places that can mitigate and respond to the effects of climate change. The main implications identified are:
- Reduction of land for development due to the implementation of GI principles
 - Viability issues

7. Objectives

7.1 Due to the nature of GBI, several objectives within the Local Plan Preferred Options apply to this topic, specifically:

- To provide an attractive place to live and work and support strong communities that promote health and wellbeing
- To increase and enhance green and blue infrastructure in the borough and to enable greater access to it while improving the natural environment and biodiversity

8. Issues and Options Consultation

8.1 The responses from the Issues and Options consultation highlighted that there is support for enhancing and expanding the GBN network, and specifically that development opportunities should provide additional green infrastructure to provide the 'missing links' in the network.

8.2 Responses particularly noted the importance of Sustainable Drainage Systems and their relationship to green infrastructure and how green and blue infrastructure needs to be considered as part of the full planning process and not as an afterthought.

9. Policy

9.1 Under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Planning Act 2008, there is a legal obligation to make climate mitigation and adaptation a central principle of plan-making. Specifically, development plans must include "policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change."

9.2 The need to mitigate against, and to adapt to the effects of the climate emergency is recognised by the council, as demonstrated by the climate emergency declaration in July 2019. As this topic paper sets out, the GBN provides a vital element in mitigating some of the issues posed by climate emergency.

9.3 As GBN covers a number of areas there are a number of policies proposed as follows:

POLICY 46 Green and blue infrastructure network

A. The existing green and blue infrastructure network in Stafford Borough will be protected, enhanced and extended. New development proposals shall, where appropriate to their nature and scale, contribute to, or enhance, the connected and functional network of habitat, open spaces and waterscapes by:

1. Creating and improving connectivity for people and nature by providing better links between urban and rural landscapes, enabling communities to make regular contact with the natural environment, by encouraging walking, cycling and horse-riding;
 2. Maximising opportunities for street tree planting, green roofs, green walls and green landscaping to assist urban cooling in a changing climate;
 3. Creating high quality open spaces that are robust and adaptable so that they remain fit for purpose and are accessible to all users;
 4. Providing clear arrangement for the long-term maintenance and management for the enhancement of the green and/or blue infrastructure assets;
 5. Avoiding conflict with the function(s) or characteristics of existing public open spaces and green and blue infrastructure; and
 6. Retaining existing public open space, green and blue infrastructure unless it is demonstrated that it is surplus to local requirements or the loss will be replaced by enhanced provision.
- B. The Strategic Green Infrastructure Network is identified on the policies map. Development proposals within and adjacent to the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network shall ensure:
1. The function and connectivity of green infrastructure network and assets are retained or replaced;
 2. New or enhanced green infrastructure is designed and integrated into the development scheme where appropriate, including natural greenspace, woodland and street trees;
 3. The scheme integrates into existing and proposed cycling, bridleway and walking routes by providing new connecting links where opportunities exist;
 4. The protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological links.
- C. Residential developments of 10 or more dwellings will be required to contribute towards extending the green network by providing onsite publicly accessible open space and/or contributions to offsite open space provision, together with contributions to ongoing maintenance, to meet a standard of 32m² of open space per person, comprised of:
1. 20m² accessible natural green space per person; and
 2. 8m² equipped play space per person; and
 3. 4m² informal sport space per person

- D. Play space should be provided as follows (definitions of the different types of play spaces are provided in Appendix 3):
1. Developments of 10-50 homes: contribution to offsite play spaces unless no other facilities exist locally (within a 10-minute walk of the site) then on-site locally equipped play space;
 2. Developments of 51 – 499 homes: on-site locally equipped play space;
 3. Developments of 500-999 homes: on-site neighbourhood play space;
 4. Developments of 1000 homes: on-site destination play space.
- E. Accessible natural green space should be provided on site. Where it is demonstrated that a useable area of onsite accessible natural green space cannot be provided an offsite open space contribution calculated in accordance with Appendix 3 will be sought.
- F. Developments will be required to contribute towards sport facilities necessary to mitigate demand, which will be calculated using the Sport England calculator, as follows:
1. Residential developments with less than 1000 units shall contribute to improvements to the quality of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities (see appendix 3).
 2. All new residential developments over 1000 units shall contribute to new playing pitch provision on site as part of an integrated scheme.

9.4 Two policies are proposed for the Countryside Enhancement Areas:

POLICY 14: Penk and Sow Countryside Enhancement Area

- A. Penk and Sow Countryside Enhancement Area as identified on the policies map will be conserved and enhanced to provide a major nature conservation and recreational resource for the town of Stafford.
- B. A masterplan for the delivery of the Countryside Enhancement Area will be prepared. The masterplan will identify actions to improve the area's biodiversity, public access, flood plain management and contribution to climate change mitigation.

POLICY 15: Stone Countryside Enhancement Area

- A. Stone Countryside Enhancement Area as identified on the policies map will be conserved and enhanced to provide a major nature conservation and recreational resource for the town of Stone.
- B. A masterplan for the delivery of the Countryside Enhancement Area will be prepared. The masterplan will identify actions to improve the area's biodiversity, public access, flood plain management and contribution to climate change mitigation.

Appendix 1: Green space and play spaces within Stafford Borough

Table A: Green space by ward

| Ward | Total area (ha) | Population* | Green space per 1000 | Green space per person |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Barlaston | 31.48 | 2,860 | 0.03148 | 0.011006 |
| Baswich | 3.69 | 6,217 | 0.00369 | 0.000594 |
| Common | 6.61 | 4,893 | 0.00661 | 0.001350 |
| Coton | 17.23 | 8,841 | 0.01723 | 0.001948 |
| Doxey & Castletown | 8.45 | 4,173 | 0.00845 | 0.002049 |
| Eccleshall | 83.75 | 6,974 | 0.08375 | 0.012008 |
| Forebridge | 19.16 | 3,793 | 0.01916 | 0.005051 |
| Fulford | 44.67 | 6,053 | 0.04467 | 0.007379 |
| Gnosall & Woodseaves | 149.89 | 6,795 | 0.14989 | 0.022058 |
| Haywood & Hixon | 2677.16 | 6,704 | 2.67716 | 0.399337 |
| Highfields & Western Downs | 10.21 | 7,110 | 0.01021 | 0.00143 |
| Holmcroft | 66.47 | 6,735 | 0.06647 | 0.009869 |
| Littleworth | 3.86 | 5,866 | 0.00386 | 0.000662 |
| Manor | 6.21 | 7,301 | 0.00621 | 0.00085 |
| Milford | 52.64 | 3,040 | 0.05264 | 0.017315 |
| Milwich | 131.12 | 7,452 | 0.13112 | 0.017595 |
| Penkside | 4.24 | 3,994 | 0.00424 | 0.001061 |
| Rowley | 45.25 | 3,004 | 0.04525 | 0.015063 |
| Seighford & Church Eaton | 10.25 | 10,311 | 0.01025 | 0.001684 |
| St. Michael's & Stonefield | 10.14 | 6,390 | 0.01014 | 0.001586 |
| Swynnerton & Oulton | 204.91 | 6,581 | 0.20491 | 0.031136 |
| Walton | 14.08 | 6,700 | 0.01408 | 0.002101 |
| Weeping Cross & Wildwood | 12.48 | 6,071 | 0.01248 | 0.002055 |

* Population is based on ONS ward-level population estimates

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/wardlevelmidyearpopulationestimatesexperimental>)

Table B: Play Spaces owned / maintained by SBC

| Name | Type | Size (ha) | Residential Dwellings within catchment |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| Rowley Park | Destination (Neighbourhood) | 13.3 | 7493 |
| Victoria Park | Destination (Neighbourhood) | 4.7 | 5544 |
| Westbridge Park | Destination (Neighbourhood) | 11.2 | 5874 |
| Wildwood Park | Destination (Neighbourhood) | 10.2 | 3978 |
| Castlefields (Carling Close) | District (Local) | 0.4 | 365 |
| Castlefields (Lineker Close) | District (Local) | 2.5 | 1177 |
| Charnley Road | District (Local) | 5.4 | 2044 |
| Coton Fields (Cambridge Street) | District (Local) | 0.9 | 1571 |
| Meadow Road | District (Local) | 6.6 | 1443 |
| Stone(Tilling Drive) | District (Local) | 1.2 | 1192 |
| Stonefield Park | District (Local) | 0.7 | 1371 |
| Queensville (The Meadows) | District (Local) | 7.5 | 1057 |
| Western Downs (Sundown Drive) | District (Local) | 3.4 | 815 |
| Adbaston (Marsh Meadow) | Local (Doorstep) | 3.8 | 63 |
| Allis Close | Local (Doorstep) | 0.3 | 109 |
| Aston Lodge (Pembroke Drive) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.2 | 77 |
| Aston Lodge (Springwood Close) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.04 | 52 |
| Barlaston (Beechcroft) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.05 | 51 |
| Baswich (Danta Way) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.05 | 100 |
| Baswich (Dawlish Avenue) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.9 | 70 |
| Batholdi Way | Local (Doorstep) | 0.03 | 140 |

| Name | Type | Size (ha) | Residential Dwellings within catchment |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Beaconside (Melbourne Crescent) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.6 | 340 |
| Brassworks Farm (Copeland Drive) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.2 | 142 |
| Burton Manor (Morton Road) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.4 | 139 |
| Carisbrook Drive (Weston Downs) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.4 | 70 |
| Common (Lovatt Street) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.07 | 169 |
| Corporation Street | Local (Doorstep) | 0.3 | 174 |
| Cotes Heath (Nelson Crescent) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.6 | 49 |
| Coton Fields (Bell Close) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.4 | 130 |
| Cresswell Manor Farm | Local (Doorstep) | 6.9 | 270 |
| Doxey (Doxey Crescent) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 58 |
| Eccleshall (Beech Road) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 104 |
| Falmouth Avenue | Local (Doorstep) | 2 | 189 |
| Fernwood | Local (Doorstep) | 0.02 | 83 |
| Forebridge (St George's Road) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 73 |
| Fulford (Highview Road) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.08 | 74 |
| Harrowby Street (Kingston Centre) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 47 |
| Highfields (Barnes Road) | Local (Doorstep) | 1.7 | 180 |
| Highfields (Dryden Crescent) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.3 | 167 |
| Hilcroft Park (Wells Drive) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.02 | 76 |
| Hilderstone (Dingle Lane) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 70 |
| Inglemere Drive Play Area | Local (Doorstep) | 0.02 | 119 |

| Name | Type | Size (ha) | Residential Dwellings within catchment |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Jupiter Way | Local (Doorstep) | 0.3 | 157 |
| Little Haywood (St Marys Close) | Local (Doorstep) | | 149 |
| Littleworth (Kensington Drive) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 81 |
| Littleworth (Richards Avenue) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.09 | 54 |
| Longhusrt Drive | Local (Doorstep) | 0.3 | 110 |
| Meadow Road | Local (Doorstep) | 6.6 | 1405 |
| Mill Lane (The Rocks) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.2 | 4 |
| Milwich (The Allways) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 39 |
| Moss Pit (Boon Grove) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.5 | 192 |
| Norton Bridge (St Lukes Close) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 49 |
| Oulton (Vanity Lane) | Local (Doorstep) | 1.03 | 67 |
| Parkside (Beton Way) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.6 | 79 |
| Parkside (Lawnsfield Walk) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.3 | 155 |
| Parkside (Wayfield Drive) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.2 | 134 |
| Redhill Gardens | Local (Doorstep) | 0.04 | 47 |
| Rising Brook (Brook Glen Road) | Local (Doorstep) | 1.1 | 160 |
| Sandyford Street | Local (Doorstep) | 0.5 | 164 |
| Silkmore (Exeter Street) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 118 |
| Silkmore (Perin Close) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.4 | 170 |
| Stone (Heathfield Avenue) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.04 | 90 |
| Stone (Hill Crescent) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.05 | 95 |
| Stone (Priory Road) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.2 | 144 |

| Name | Type | Size (ha) | Residential Dwellings within catchment |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Stone (The Lindens) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 62 |
| Stone (Whitemill Lane) | Local (Doorstep) | 1.2 | 240 |
| Swynnerton (Park View) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.6 | 60 |
| The Garthlands Play Area | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 157 |
| Tillington (Pitt Street) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.2 | 78 |
| Wedgewood (Flaxman Close) | Local (Doorstep) | 2.0 | 73 |
| Western Downs (Clarendon Drive) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.2 | 127 |
| Western Downs (Sunddown Drive) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.1 | 814 |
| Western Downs (Torridge Drive) | Local (Doorstep) | 0.06 | 131 |
| Woodlands Road | Local (Doorstep) | 2.9 | 287 |

Table C: Play Spaces not owned / maintained by SBC

| Name | Type | Size (ha) | Residential Dwellings within catchment |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|---|
| Badgers Croft Eccleshall | Local | 0.40791 | 99 |
| Bagnall Meadows Play Area (Stafford) | Local | 0.403404 | 94 |
| Bentham Way | Local | 0.11118 | 95 |
| Bluebell Hollow (Stafford) | Local | 0.101414 | 39 |
| Brazenhill Lane Haughton | Local | 0.305358 | 28 |
| Brookhouse Road Play Area | District | 0.187763 | 504 |
| Cauldon Way Play Area (Stone) | Local | 0.137482 | 140 |
| Cherrytree Crescent Great Bridgford | Local | 0.04195 | 13 |
| Derrington Play Area | Local | 0.190789 | 38 |
| Elizabeth Gardens (Hixon) | Local | 0.119467 | 75 |
| Ferndown Play Area (Claytone) | Local | 0.3955 | 34 |

| Name | Type | Size (ha) | Residential Dwellings within catchment |
|---|-------------|------------------|---|
| Gnosall Park Play Area | Local | 0.079774 | 13 |
| Hoffman Drive Stallington | Local | 0.040275 | 66 |
| Jubilee Play Area (Little Haywood) | Local | 0.104965 | 15 |
| Jubilee Playing Fields Play Area (Hixon) | Local | 0.196453 | 50 |
| Knightley Road (Gnosall) | Local | 0.383494 | 13 |
| Mahogany Drive Play Area (Stafford) | Local | 0.035738 | 89 |
| Meadow Road Play Area (Barlaston) | Local | 0.150129 | 51 |
| Millenium Green Play Area (Hixon) | Local | 0.018656 | 63 |
| Milwich Play Area | District | 0.110481 | 66 |
| MOD Play Area (Stafford) | Local | 0.303274 | 201 |
| Navigation Loop Play Area (Stone) | Local | 0.293467 | 111 |
| Old School Drive Play Area | Local | 0.054353 | 83 |
| Silver Jubilee Playing Fields Play Area (Brocton) | Local | 0.052207 | 6 |
| St George Hospital Play Area (Stafford) | Local | 0.166535 | 129 |
| St Marys | Local | 0.519149 | 149 |
| Stone Strategic Development Location | District | 2.024578 | 794 |
| Sundown Drive (Stafford) | Local | 0.209211 | 47 |
| Sweepers Avenue | Local | 0.102303 | 85 |
| The Crossings (Abberley Grove, Stafford) | Local | 0.431283 | 198 |
| Tittensor Village Hall | Local | 0.065292 | 15 |
| Valerian Drive Play Area (Stafford) | District | 1.770607 | 1113 |
| Worthington Grove | Local | 0.132906 | 94 |
| Yarnfield BT Site Play Area | Local | 0.987965 | 10 |
| Yarnfield Play Area | Local | 0.067858 | 76 |

Appendix 2: Accessible Natural Green Space

Table D: ANGst - Level 1

| Sites | Number of Sites | Area (ha) |
|----------|-----------------|---|
| AONB | 1 | 68.65 (sq kilometre) |
| RAMSAR | 3 | 296 |
| NNRs | 3 | 223 |
| SSSIs | 16 | 654.15 (some of these sites are also other categories e.g. NNR, RAMSAR) |
| LNRs | 8 | 70.19 |
| SBIs | 174 | 2869 |
| Woodland | 120 | 1422 |
| RIGS | 13 | N/A |

The table below provides additional detail in terms of the formally designated open space, some of which are accessible to the public.

Table E: Formal designated open space

| Site Name | Description | Designation | Size (ha) | Accessibility | Residential Dwellings within catchment |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------|--|--|
| Allimore Green Common | Wet pasture | SSSI | 2.7 | Public | 8 (300m buffer) |
| Aqualate Mere | Largest natural lake in the West Midlands | SSSI, NNR, RAMSAR | 72 | Private (only visible from footpaths and public bird hide) | 346 (2km buffer) |
| Astonfields Balancing Lakes | Created for flood defence but has evolved over the years to provide a number of habitats | LNR | 4 | Public | 1183 (300m buffer) |
| Barlaston and Rough Close Common | Dry heath and dry acid grassland, abundant with heather, | LNR | 20.9 | Public | 1348 (2km buffer) |

| Site Name | Description | Designation | Size (ha) | Accessibility | Residential Dwellings within catchment |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|--|--|--|
| | bilberry and bell heather | | | | |
| Baswich Meadows | Unimproved, low-lying permanent pasture. | SSSI | 13.1 | Private | NA |
| Brocton | Mixture. Brocton Coppice – oak and birch woodland Lowland heathland | LNR, SSSI (part) | 40.9 | Public (owned by Stafford County Council) | 801 (2km buffer) |
| Burnt Wood | Semi-natural woodland, with remnants of ancient broadleaved woodland. | SSSI | 41.3 | Private/Forestry Commission – paths through | NA |
| Cannock Chase | Heathland and woodland | AONB, SSSI, SAC | 68.65 (sq kilometre) of which 24.9 sq kilometer is within Stafford Borough | Public | 19342 (10km buffer) |
| Chartley Moss | Largest floating bog. A raft of peat about 3, thick floats on a 13m deep lake. | SSSI, NNR, RAMSAR | 107.4 | Private (only available to the public at specific times) | 1033 (5km buffer) |
| Cop Mere | Lake. Areas of dry and marshy and unimproved pasture fringe of dry woodland. | SSSI, RAMSAR | 37.4 | Private | NA (2km buffer) |
| Doley Common | Acid grassland/heath | SSSI | 17.4 | Private | NA |

| Site Name | Description | Designation | Size (ha) | Accessibility | Residential Dwellings within catchment |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Doxey Marshes | Wet grassland habitat | SSSI | 129.3 | Public | 5022 (5km buffer) |
| Ferndown | Meadow and scrub woodland | LNR | 6.7 | Public | 261 (300m buffer) |
| Kings and Hargreaves Woods | Wood | SSSI | 45.7 and 11.8 | Public | 544 (2km buffer) |
| Kingsmead Marsh | Wetland | LNR | 7.8 | Public | 1597 (300m buffer) |
| Kingston Pool Covert (south) | Damp woodland | LNR | 4.6 | Public | 1242 (300m buffer) |
| Loynton Moss | Grassland, wetland, woodland. | SSSI | 13.7 | Public | 10 (300m buffer) |
| Mottey Meadows | Wet meadow | SSSI, NNR, SAC | 43.6 | Private (only available to the public at specific times) | NA |
| Pasturefields Saltmarsh | Saltmarsh | SSSI, SAC | 7.8 | Private (Owned by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust) | NA |
| Rawbones Meadow | Wet meadow | SSSI | 21.3 | Private | NA |
| Stafford Brook | Carr woodland, acidic marshy grassland and fen | SSSI | 6.9 | Owned by Stafford County? | NA (300m buffer) |
| Stone Meadows and Crown Meadow | Three separate meadows | LNR | 14.2 3 (Crown Meadow) | Public | 1934 (300m buffer) |

Appendix 3: Allotments within Stafford Borough

Table F: Existing allotment sites within Stafford and Stone

| Site | Location | Ward | Number of Plots | Area (ha) | Owner / Management |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Astonfields | Kenworthy Rd on Astonfields Ind Est. | Common | 10 | 0.30 | Owned SBC Managed by SBH |
| Avon Rise | Junction of Avon Rise & Wolsley Rd. (Kingston Hill) | Littleworth | 18 | 1.15 | Owned SBC |
| Barnes Road | On Barnes Rd next to Highfields Social Club | Highfields and Western Downs | 15 | 0.34 | Managed by SBH |
| Eccleshall Road | By Bristol St Motors | Common | 36 | 1.14 | Owned SBC |
| Exeter Street | Sidney Ave - Alongside railway track | Penkside | 19 | 0.60 | Managed by SBH |
| Hawksmoor Road | Rear of houses 57-85 Hawksmoor Rd | Manor | 15 | 0.47 | Owned SBC |
| Herbert Road | Rear of Herbert Rd, off Wolverhampton Rd (south side of Railway track) | Manor | 13 | 0.70 | Managed by SBH |
| Holmcroft | In between houses on Eccleshall Rd. & Pitt St. Entrance just passed Alliance St. | Holmcroft | 75 | 2.33 | Owned SBC |
| Oxford Gardens | Rear of Houses 329 - 331 Oxford Gardens & Chesham Rd. | Coton | 11 | 0.30 | Managed by SBH |
| Rising Brook | Opposite West Way on A449, Wolverhampton Rd | Manor | 44 | 1.73 | Owned SBC |
| Sandyford | Rear of Travis Perkins Builders Merchants (on Corporation St.) | Coton | 19 | 0.63 | Managed by SBH |
| Sheridan Hall | Next to St Patrick's Church, Sandon Rd. | Common | | 0.42 | Owned SBC |
| Silkmore Crescent | Rear of houses 43-47 in Silkmore Cres. | | 4 | 0.04 | Managed by SBH |

| Site | Location | Ward | Number of Plots | Area (ha) | Owner / Management |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| St George's Road | Rear of flats in St George's Rd. (Off St Leonards Ave.) | Forebridge | 30 | 0.80 | Owned SBC |
| St Peter's Gardens | Rickerscote - Rear of houses in St Peter's Gardens, alongside railway line | Penkside | 19 | 0.84 | Managed by SBH |
| Tenby Drive | Rear of Houses 1 - 9 in Tenby Drive & Nos 272 & 298 Sandon Rd. | Coton | 22 | 0.66 | Owned SBC |
| Tilling Drive | Off Tilling Drive by the Sports Grounds | Walton | | 1.84 | Tiling Drive C.I.C |
| Tithe Barn Road | Opposite play area on Tithe Barn Rd | Littleworth | 21 | 0.48 | Owned SBC |
| West Way | West Way at Wolverhampton Rd (A449) end | Highfields and Western Downs | 21 | 0.44 | Managed by SBH |
| Wildwood | Back of Wildwood Drive - to left of playing fields / recreation area | Weeping Cross and Wildwood | 37 | 1.04 | Owned SBC |

Table G: Existing rural allotment maintained by Parish Council

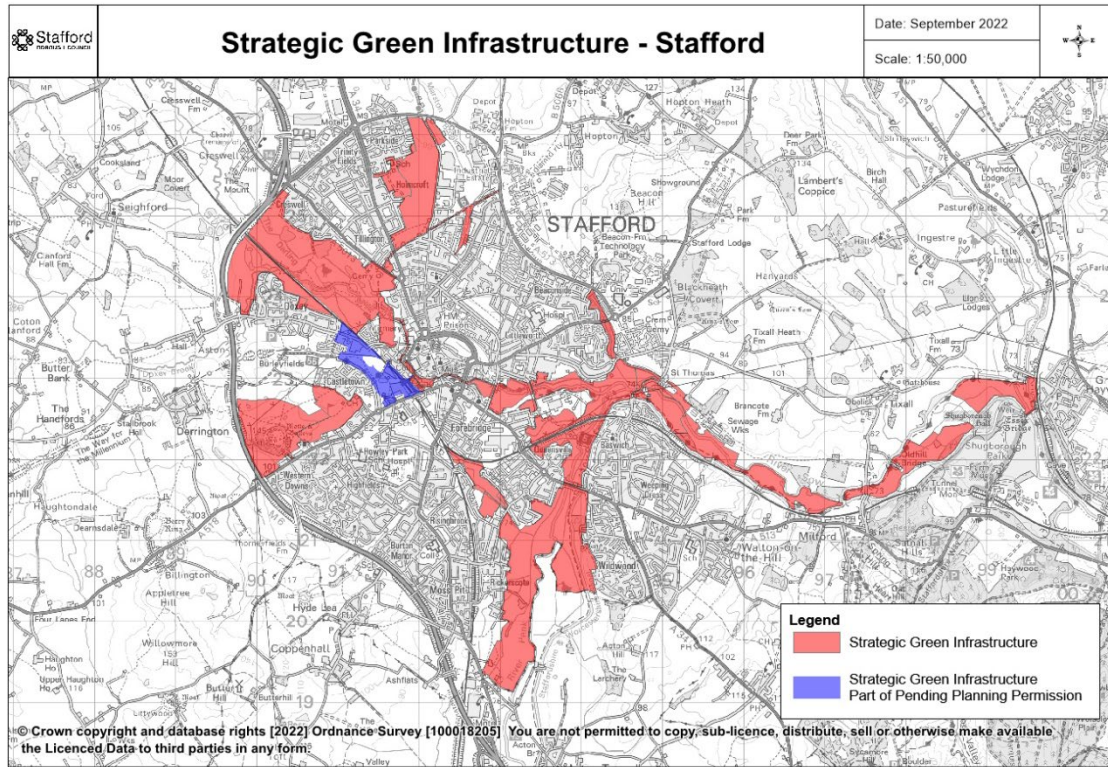
| Site | Town/Village | Location | Ward | Area (ha) |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Shaws Lane | Eccleshall | Eccleshall | Eccleshall | 1.31 |
| Gnosall Allotments | Gnosall | Off Station Road (A528) | Gnosall and Woodseaves | 1.12 |
| Wellington Fields | Hixon | Egg Lane | Haywood and Hixon | 0.62 |
| Colwich Allotments | Little Haywood | Coley Lane | Haywood and Hixon | 1.15 |

Table H: Existing allotments owned by Stafford and Rural Homes

| Site | Town/Village | Location | Ward | Area (ha) |
|-------------------|---------------------|---|-------------|------------------|
| Adamthwaite Drive | Blythe Bridge | Behind garages off Adamthwaite Drive | Fulford | 0.06 |
| Brookhouse Drive | Barlaston | Rear of houses at Brookhouse Drive, off Meadow Road | Barlaston | 0.06 |
| Meadow Road | Stafford | Behind houses at Meadow Road, off Kamienna Close | Penkside | 0.12 |

Appendix 4: Maps of Strategic Green Infrastructure

Map 1: Stafford Strategic Green Infrastructure



Map 2: Stone Strategic Green Infrastructure

