

siting and views away from and towards the heritage asset in order to ensure that the design is sympathetic and minimises harm to the asset.

- Requiring proposals for the change of use of heritage assets, including listed buildings and buildings in Conservation Areas to demonstrate that the proposal is considered to be the optimum sustainable and viable use that involves the least change to the fabric, interior and setting of the building
- Requiring development proposals in Conservation Areas to demonstrate how the proposal has taken account of the distinctive character and setting of individual Conservation Areas including open spaces and natural features and how this has been reflected in the layout, design, form, scale, mass, use of traditional materials and detailing, in accordance with Character Appraisals where available
- Requiring the retention of shop-fronts of high architectural or historical value wherever possible. Proposals for replacement shop-fronts and signage, or alterations to shop-fronts affecting heritage assets should respect the character, scale, proportion and special interest of the host building and its setting
- Continuing the programme of Conservation Area Character Appraisals
- Ensuring that appropriate heritage assets are added to the local list of buildings of architectural or historic interest
- Using Article 4 Directions to control permitted development in the Central, College, Hardwick, and Buxton Park Conservation Areas in Buxton and the Old Glossop, Higher Chisworth and New Mills Conservation Areas
- Providing occasional grant funding as resources permit to allow owners or occupiers of historic commercial buildings to improve and enhance their shop-fronts, windows, doors and signage in a traditional and sympathetic manner

### Supporting Guidance and Evidence

- National Planning Policy Framework; 2012
- Derbyshire Historic Environment Record Database
- Heritage at Risk Register 2013 East Midlands
- Counting our Heritage project
- Local Heritage Register (under preparation)
- Buxton Design and Place Making Strategy
- Glossop Design and Place Making Strategy
- Torr Vale Development Brief
- Conservation Area Character Appraisals

### Green Infrastructure

**5.64** Development of high quality and comprehensive networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure will deliver a range of sustainable development objectives by improving opportunities to walk and cycle and to enjoy the natural assets of the Local Plan area; improving the health and well-being of local communities; helping mitigate the impacts of climate change and supporting the Borough's wildlife.

## 5 Development management policies

**5.65** The Green Infrastructure Network of High Peak comprises sites important for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, outdoor recreation and cultural heritage. These are linked together by corridors including river valleys, long distance trails and canals to form a comprehensive network of green areas for the benefit of wildlife as well as the health and well-being of local communities.

**5.66** Development proposals resulting in loss of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land including playing fields will be determined in accordance with the NPPF and Local Plan Policy CF4.

**5.67** The network within the Local Plan area, shown in the map below, includes three historic parks and gardens, eight sites of special scientific interest, 106 Local Wildlife Sites, over 960km of public rights of way and parts of three sites of international conservation importance known as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

**5.68** The Council will act to help create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure as part of the Council's strategy for the development of sustainable and inclusive communities. Ecological and green infrastructure networks have a key role to play in providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and social interaction, improving accessibility through safe and attractive routes for walking and cycling and supporting local biodiversity.

**5.69** The Table and Map below set out details of the multi-functional corridors and trails that link green spaces, residential areas and town centres together across the Local Plan area.

Map 4 Green Infrastructure Network

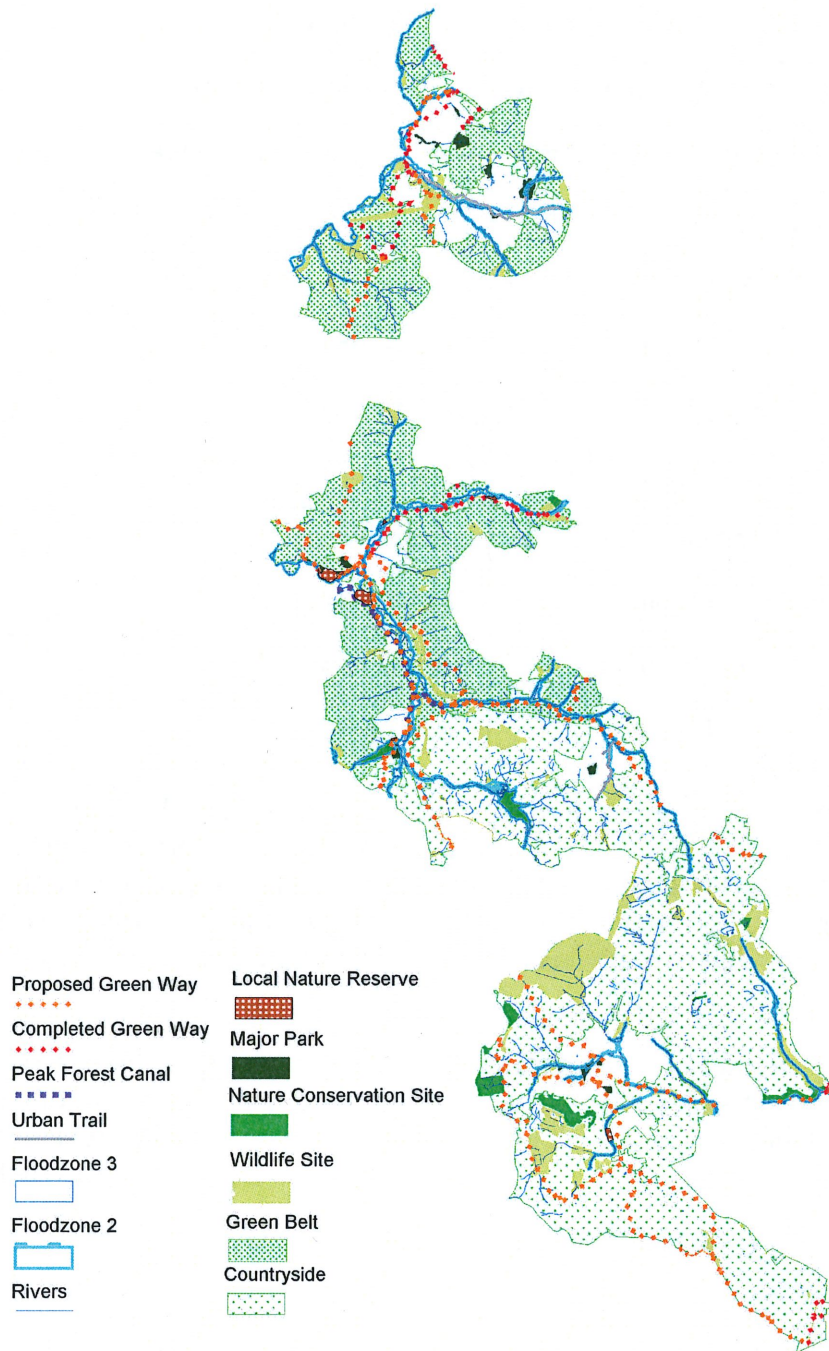


Table 8 Long Distance and Local Trails in the High Peak

Route	Type	Sub Area
Trans Pennine Trail	Long Distance Trail	Glossopdale
Midshires Way	Long Distance Trail	Central Area - Buxton
Pennine Cycleway	Long Distance Trail	Glossopdale - Central Area - Buxton
Pennine Bridleway	Long Distance Trail	Glossopdale - Central Area - Buxton
Peak Forest Canal	Canal	Central Area
Sett Valley Trail	Local Trail	Central Area
Goyt Way	Local Trail	Central Area
High Peak Trail	Local Trail	Buxton
Warmbrook Footpath	Local Trail	Central Area
Lyme to Longdendale Link	Local Trail	Central Area
Peak Forest Tramway	Local Trail	Central Area
Glossop Trail	Local Trail	Glossopdale

**5.70** Although there is an existing green infrastructure network across the Local Plan area - gaps have been identified that if addressed, could strengthen the current network. The implementation of the West Derbyshire and High Peak Greenway Strategy and the completion of the Matlock to Buxton Cycle Trail (in partnership with Derbyshire County Council and the Peak District National Park) both provide opportunities to achieve improvements in the Borough's green infrastructure network.

**5.71** In addition, the Council will work with partners to identify and map further components of the Borough's ecological networks, including wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect designated nature conservation sites, along with areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation.

### Policy EQ 8

#### Green Infrastructure

The Council will, through partnership working, develop, protect and enhance networks of Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.

This will be achieved by:

- Requiring that development will not have a detrimental effect on the amount or function of existing green infrastructure unless replacement provision is made that is considered

to be of equal or greater value than that lost through development; taking particular account of appropriate levels of mitigation where development would result in habitat fragmentation

- Requiring that any green infrastructure development project that could result in adverse effects to a European site is subject to project-level HRA
- Requiring that development proposals, where appropriate, contribute towards the creation of new or enhancement of existing green infrastructure, including public and private open space, recreation areas, parks and formal outdoor sports facilities, local nature reserves, wildlife sites, woodlands, allotments, bridleways, cycle ways and local green spaces
- Requiring that through its layout and design, new development responds to the location of existing green infrastructure and ecological networks, supporting their appropriate uses and functions
- Where appropriate, ensuring that green infrastructure helps mitigate the effects of climate change including through management of flood risk and waterways
- The protection and extension of existing long distance trails and development of a network of Greenways in accordance with the West Derbyshire and High Peak Greenway Strategy
- Working with the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area and other partners to help create better access routes linking High Peak settlements into the surrounding countryside for tourism and recreation
- Identifying and protecting key wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect sites of importance for biodiversity, including creating or restoring habitats of nature conservation value, in accordance with Local Plan Policy EQ5

### Supporting Guidance and Evidence

- National Planning Policy Framework; 2012
- West Derbyshire and High Peak Greenway Strategy; 2008
- High Peak Green Infrastructure Network
- High Peak Ecological Network; Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (draft)
- High Peak Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2014-2017

## Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

**5.72** Woodlands and trees are important to the quality of life and environment of the Borough. Woods, and the trees that make up a vital component of them, are essential to life. They have a myriad of different benefits for both wildlife and people. They stabilise the soil, generate oxygen, store carbon, play host to a wide variety of wildlife, as well as providing us with raw materials.

**5.73** Ancient and semi-natural woodlands are not re-creatable within any practical time frame as the ecological and physical features of a site will have developed over hundreds of years. Mature and ancient woodland are an essential part of the Borough's natural capital and a significant source of biodiversity. Ancient semi-natural woodland is a priority habitat in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan. Trees can play a role in mitigating the effects of climate change through carbon storage and shading. They are also an important feature in creating a high quality local environment.