



# Celebrating 20 years of the Habitat Biodiversity Audit

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Director  
The Wildlife Trusts England

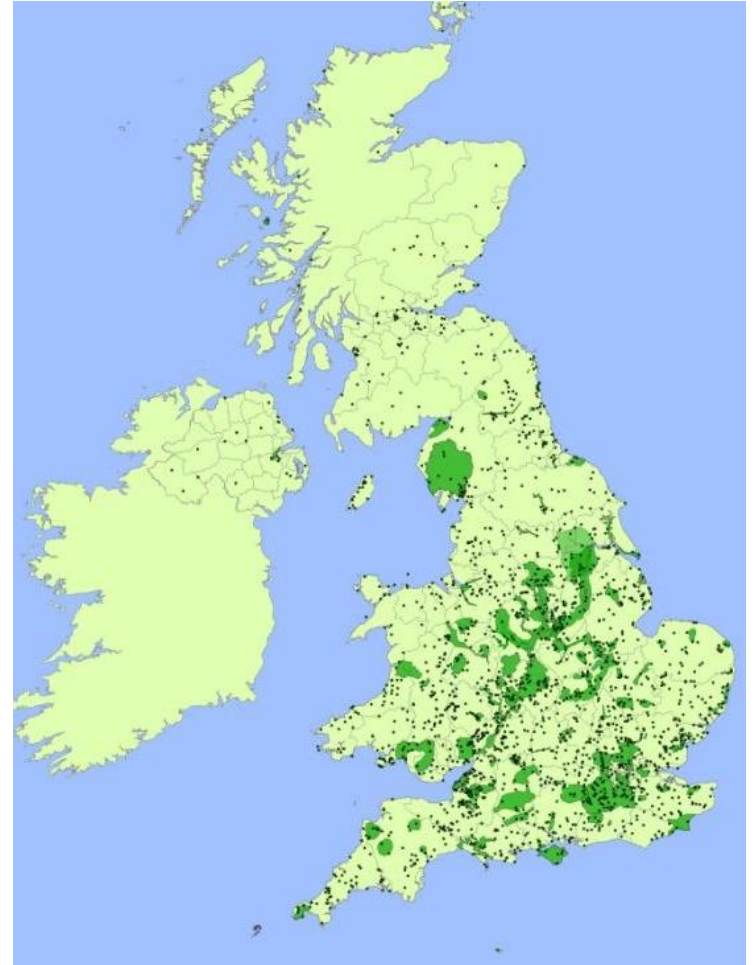


# Outline

- National policy context
- Making Space for Nature
- Purpose and importance of good data
- Volunteers – and engaging local people



# The Wildlife Trusts

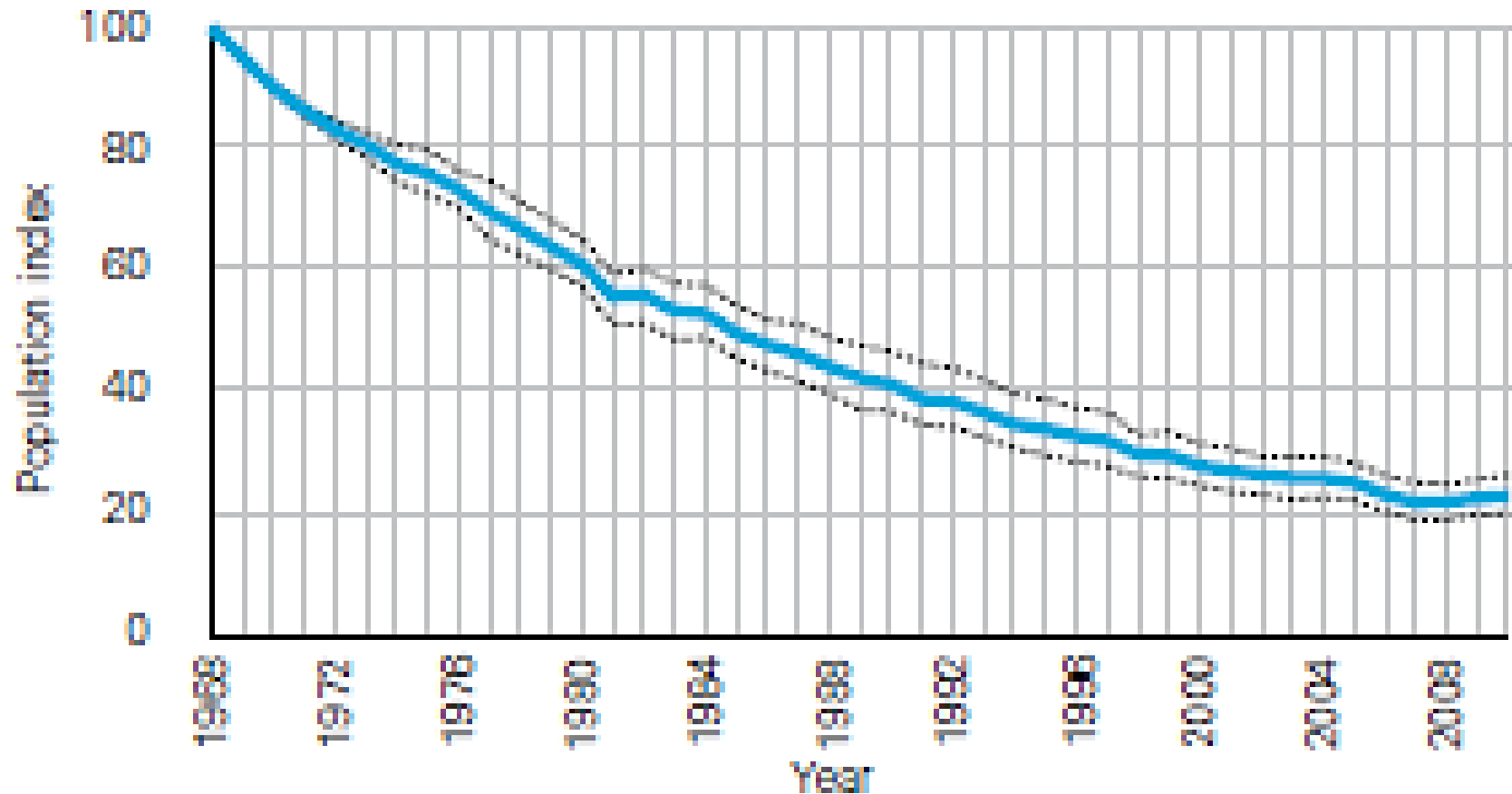






- 60% of the 3,148 UK species assessed have declined over the last 50 years
- 31% have declined strongly



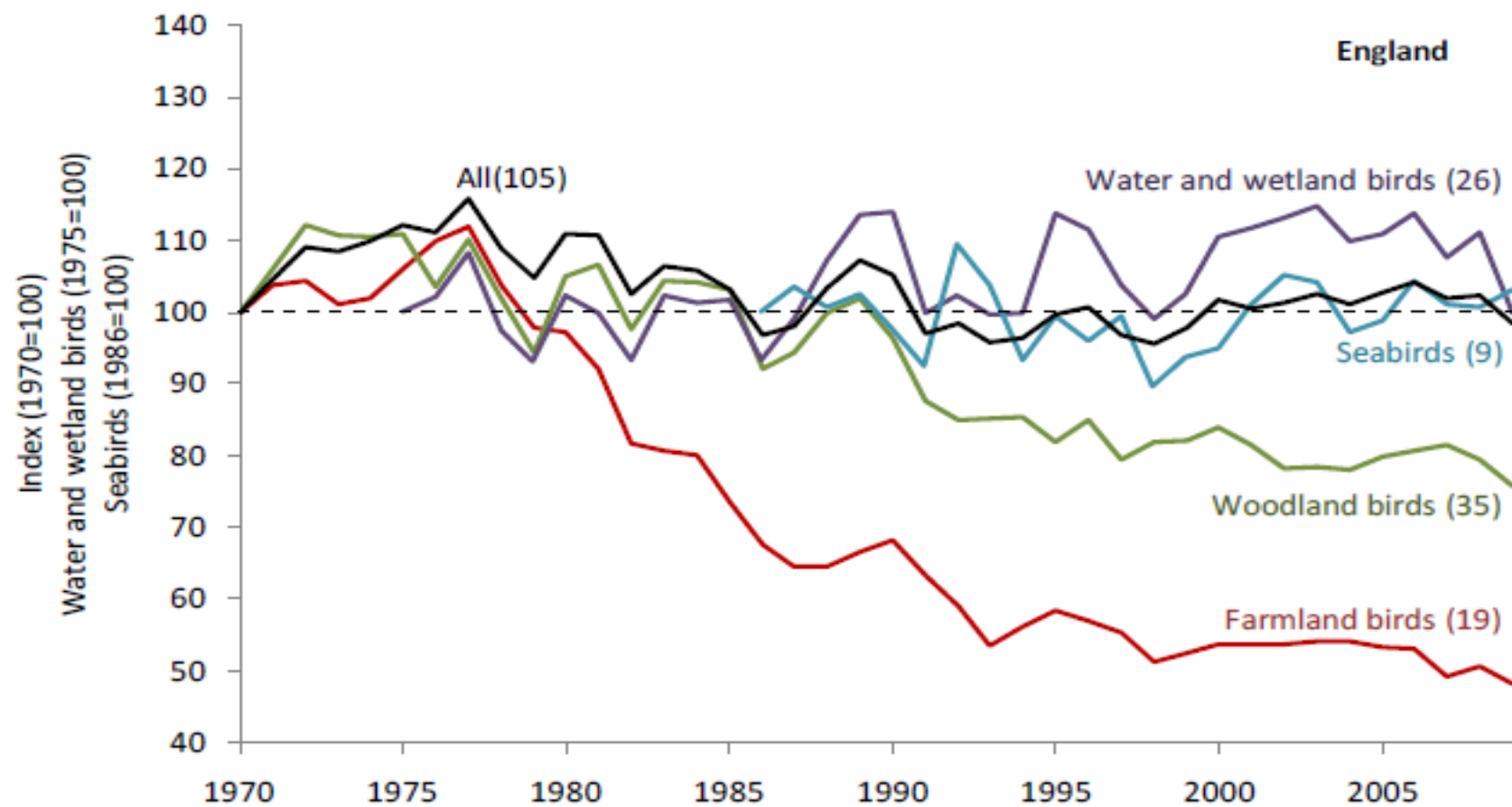


- A new Watchlist Indicator, developed for conservation priority species shows their overall numbers have declined by 77%



37%





Source: RSPB, BTO, JNCC, Defra

Note: figures in brackets show the number of species

# Tree Sparrow – decline 94%





# Lapwing – decline 41%













# Warwickshire moths

- Severe decline in numbers – a third fewer
- 20% of once common species now rare
- 43 moths extinct (24 since 1950)
- 41 spp declined; 33 increasing; 29 new ones





# Higher plant extinctions in Warwickshire

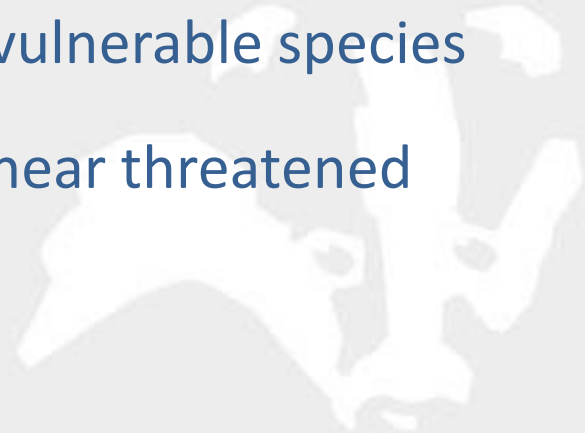
source: S. Falk 2009



Warwickshire



- 76 species lost – most since the 1950s and 60s
- 4 critically endangered
- 11 endangered
- 22 vulnerable species
- 15 near threatened



















Habitat loss / land use change and intensification / pollution / over exploitation / invasive species / development / fragmentation



**Nature can't exist in a box...**



# Living Landscapes



A recovery plan for nature championed by  
The Wildlife Trusts since 2006



# Lawton Review

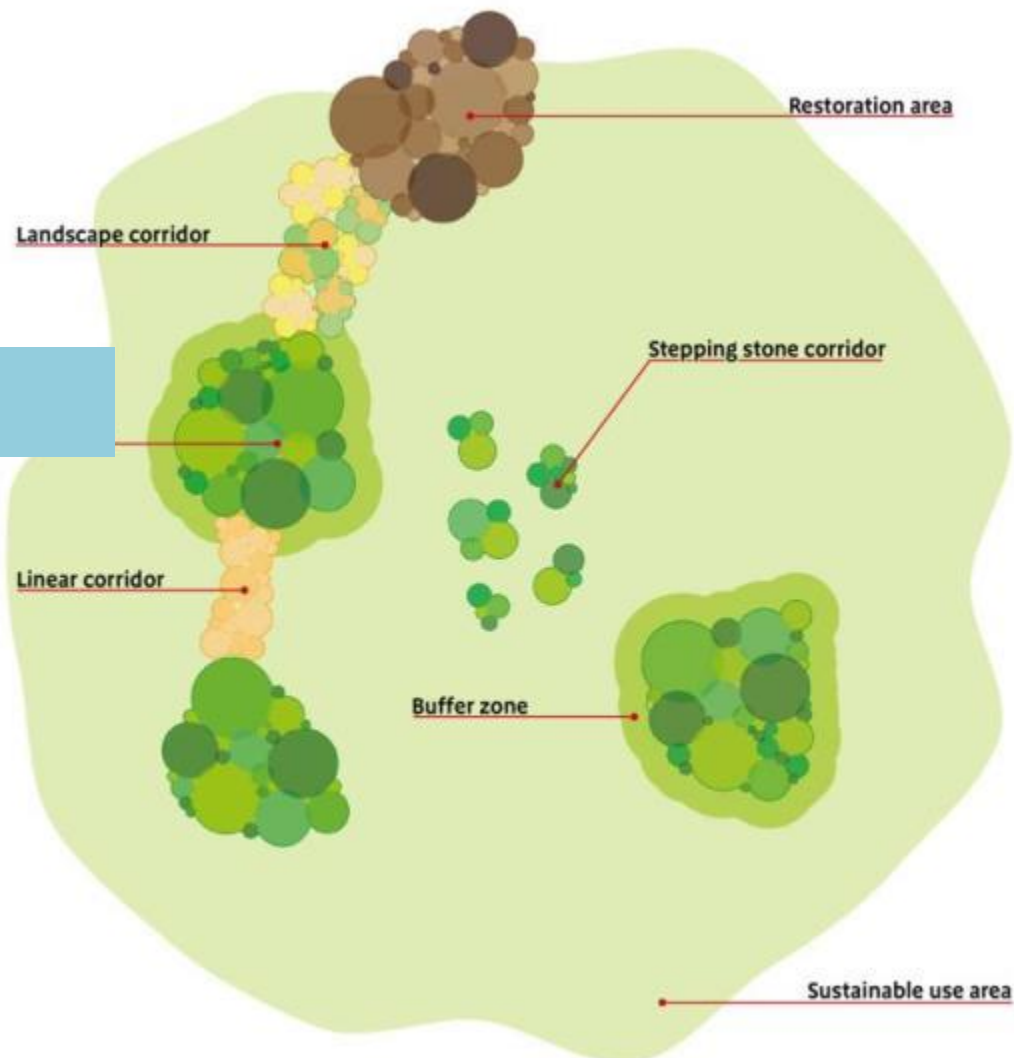
## Making Space for Nature



Natural Choice  
Natural Environment White  
Paper 2011

# Bigger, better, more and joined up

Core area







Core areas: SSSIs





# Secret Spaces

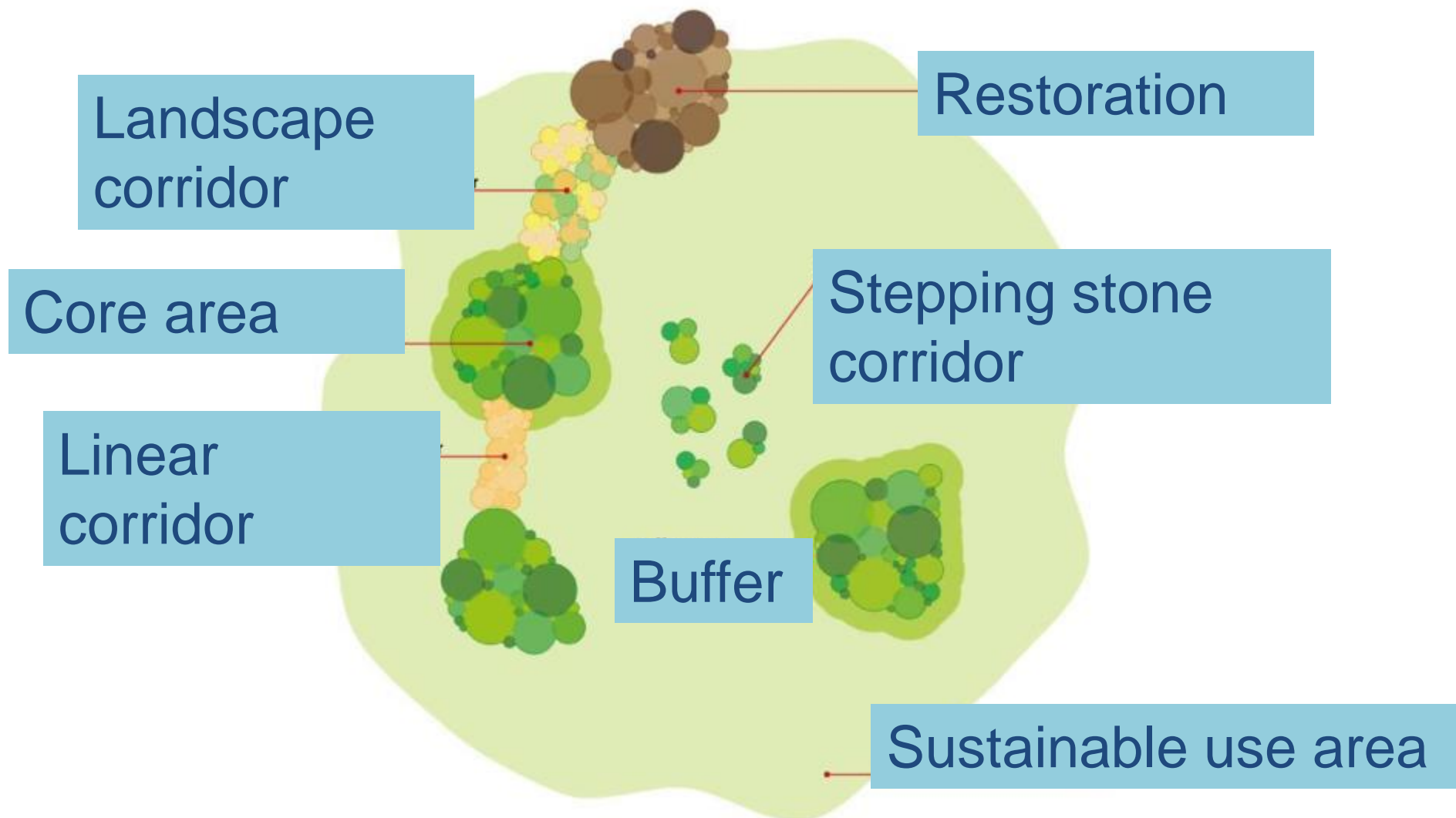
**The status of Local Wildlife Sites 2014  
& why these special places need saving**



# Wild flower rich grasslands



# Bigger, better, more and joined up

















# Ecological connectivity helps biodiversity by...

- Increasing amount of habitat
- Increasing area of maintained habitat
- Increasing populations
- Enabling metapopulation functions eg dispersal
- Reducing isolation and enhancing genetic health





# The matrix



Warwickshire



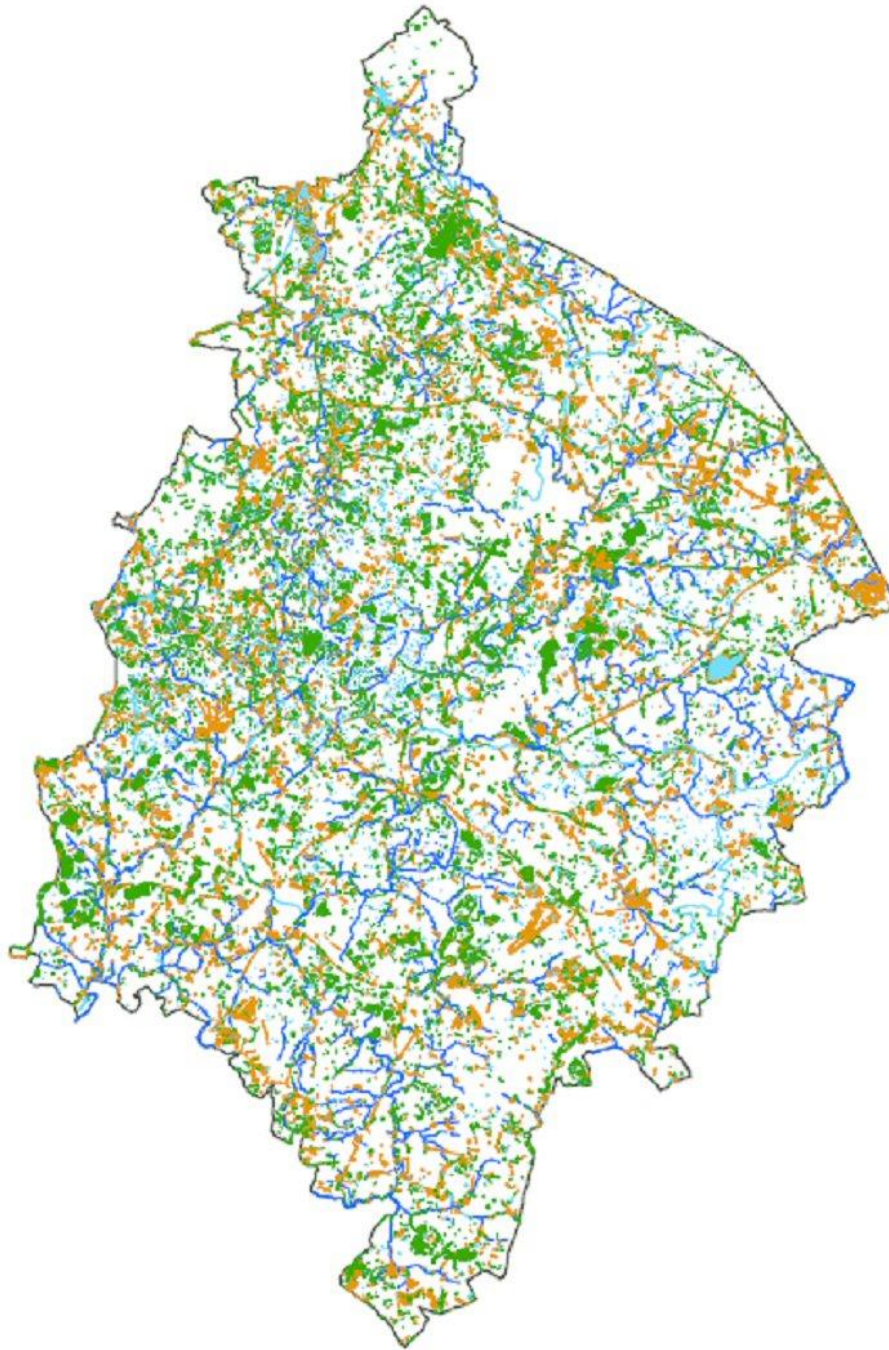












**Warwickshire  
is deeply  
fragmented**



# Ecological connectivity helps people by...

- Increasing access in multifunctional schemes
- Increasing ecosystem services eg improving visual amenity, reducing perception of noise, reducing pollution levels, increasing pollinators and other beneficial species
- Improving quality of local environments





# Ecological connectivity helps business by...



- Directing dispersal away from conflicts
- potentially reducing costs if well designed
- It's the right thing to do to offset consumption of natural capital
- Enhances reputation with local stakeholders
- Differentiation in bidding
- Competitiveness in access to land resources – esp in SE England where most of the extra 10 million people over the next 25 years will end up – the aggregates sector has known this for 15 years
- Longer term, mutually beneficial and trust based relationships with partners throughout the value chain



# Policy for England

## Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services



defra  
Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs

HM Government

## The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature



National Planning Policy Framework



## The State of Natural Capital

Protecting and Improving Natural Capital  
for Prosperity and Wellbeing

Third report to the Economic Affairs Committee  
Natural Capital Committee



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



HM Government

**Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans need to be compliant with national policies**





# 25 Year Plan for the Natural Environment

“first generation to leave the  
environment in a better state than  
we found it”



## HABITAT AND SPECIES DATA





# Neighbourhood Planning

- Statutory documents that must be taken account of in planning decisions
- Focused on landuse and development policies and proposals



ensuring **nature** is properly **valued** and recognised in plans is vital. HBA provides neighbourhoods with the evidence they need



















**MANCHESTER**

**LEEDS**

MANCHESTER AIRPORT

SHEFFIELD MEADOWHALL

EAST MIDLANDS

**BIRMINGHAM**

BIRMINGHAM INTERCHANGE

OLD OAK COMMON

**LONDON**

Source: DfT





**Sites of conservation  
interest at direct risk =  
214 (covering 2500ha)**

**300 ha of designated  
sites**

**Indirect effects = 337  
sites (covering  
1500ha)**







# A greener vision for HS2

Ideas for large-scale nature restoration along the proposed route



## A new vision for HS2

A ribbon of connected, wildlife-rich landscape that improves people's access to nature

### THE GREEN ZONE

A 100m wide ribbon of wildlife-rich habitat patches either side of the line creates new natural space for people and wildlife alongside farming and other land uses.

### NEW ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

New habitats also create Low Speed 2 – a new set of foot, cycle and bridle paths that connects existing routes and gives people opportunities for volunteering and education.

### IRREPLACEABLE HABITATS

Ancient woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and heathland which can never be truly recreated, have been saved from extinction and buffered by new green areas.

### A NET GAIN FOR NATURE

Existing areas are linked by new habitat, some of it regenerating naturally. This helps avoid local species extinction by reducing fragmentation and isolation.

### GREEN BRIDGES

Bridges with trees, hedges and grasslands plug into existing or new cycle networks to reduce the severing effect for communities and wildlife populations.

### HS2 AS PLANNED

The current proposals for Phases 1 and 2 will sever ecosystems and communities along the route, creating a net loss for communities and nature. 45 ancient woodlands will be lost or damaged, as well as 9 Wildlife Trust nature reserves, 10 SSSIs, 13 Local Wildlife Sites, 42 proposed Local Wildlife Sites and four government-funded Nature Improvement Areas. Over 300 more sites close to the route will suffer indirect impacts.

### ONLY CO-REIDOR

The new HS2 line would be a total strip about 80 metres wide, with security fencing, overhead electric wires and gantries.

[wildlifetrusts.org/HS2](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/HS2)



# Ecological Network Mapping

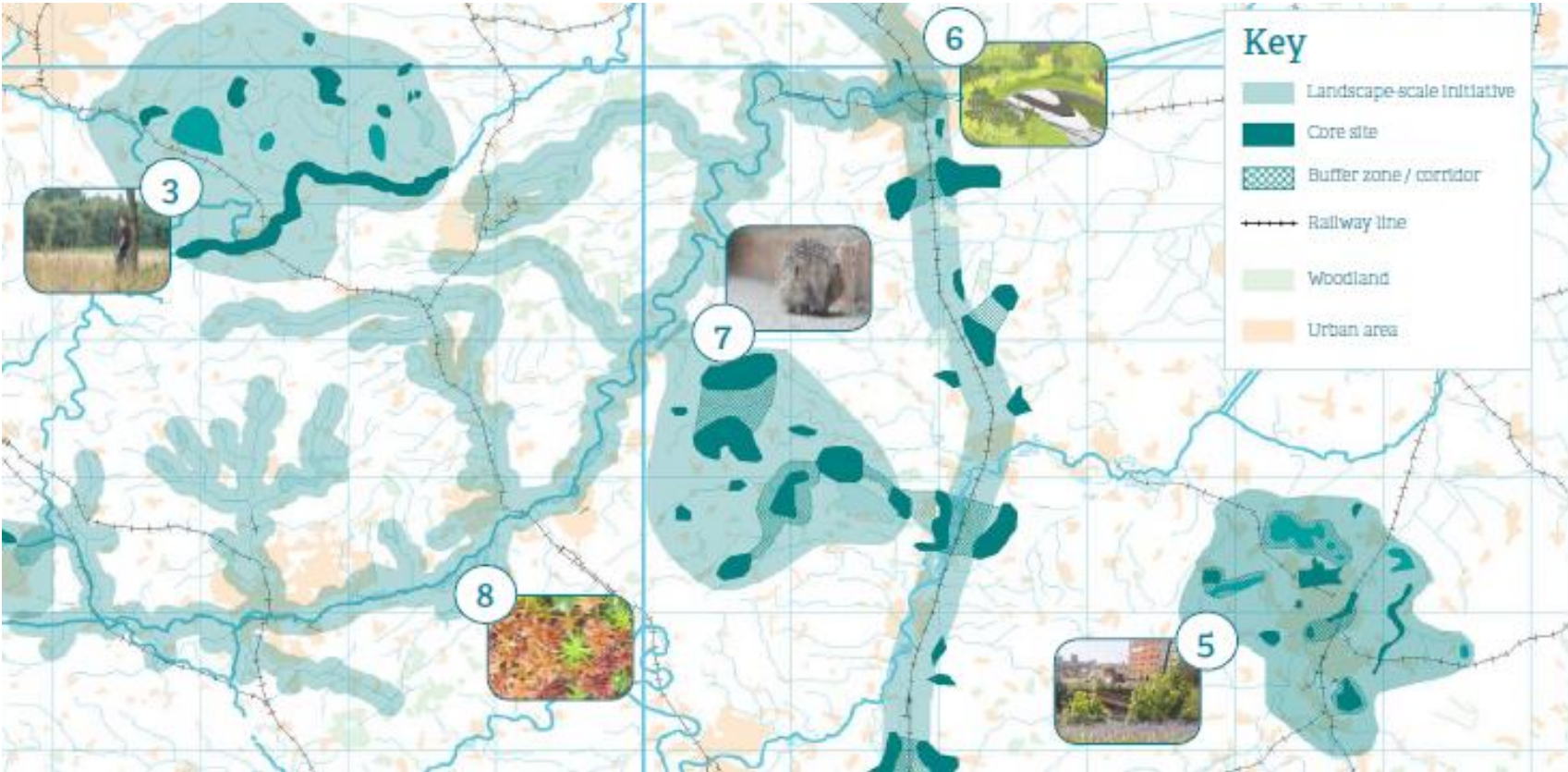
*A vital tool in local delivery for the environment*





# Providing the basis for local natural capital investment strategies

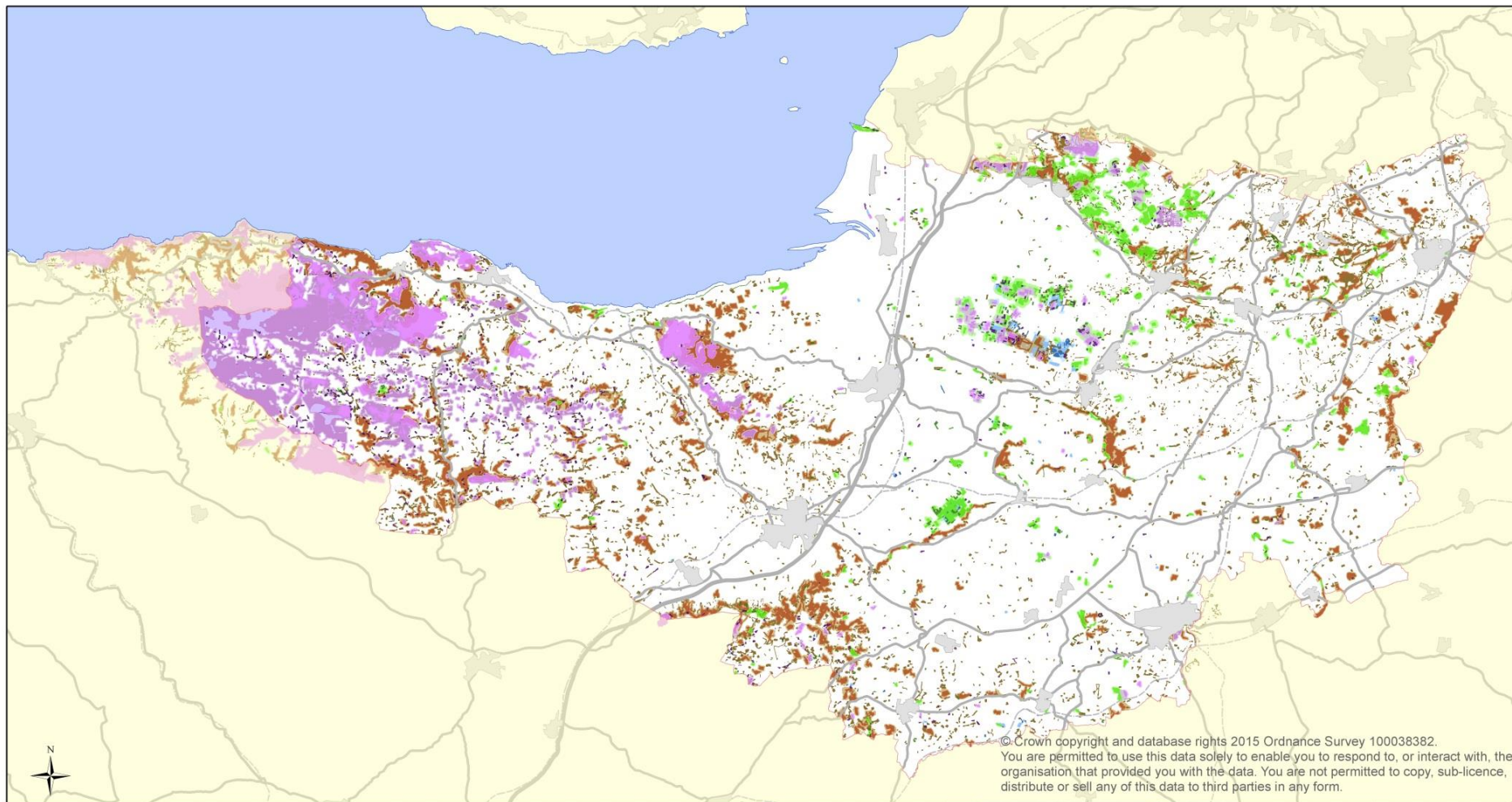
# Designing nature into major infrastructure projects




Embedding nature into local planning and development control


Coordinating partnership activity and investment in nature





- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Heathland and Acid Grassland Core Areas      |  Broadleaved Woodland Core Areas      |
|  Heathland and Acid Grassland Stepping Stones |  Broadleaved Woodland Stepping Stones |
|  Heathland and Acid Grassland Dispersal Area  |  Broadleaved Woodland Dispersal Area  |
|  Species Rich Grassland Core Areas            |  Wetland Core Areas                   |
|  Species Rich Grassland Stepping Stones       |  Wetland Stepping Stones              |
|  Species Rich Grassland Dispersal Area        |  Wetland Dispersal Area               |



Project <b>Somerset's Ecological Networks</b>		Drawing	
Project reference		Drawing number <b>Map 1</b>	
Scale 1:319,932	Date 25/03/2015	Drawn by <b>Michele Bowe</b>	
Contact details Somerset Wildlife Trust 34 Wellington Road Taunton TA1 5AW <a href="http://www.somersetwildlife.org">www.somersetwildlife.org</a> 01823 652400		 <b>SOMERSET</b>	

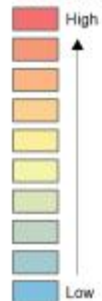



# Woodland potential network

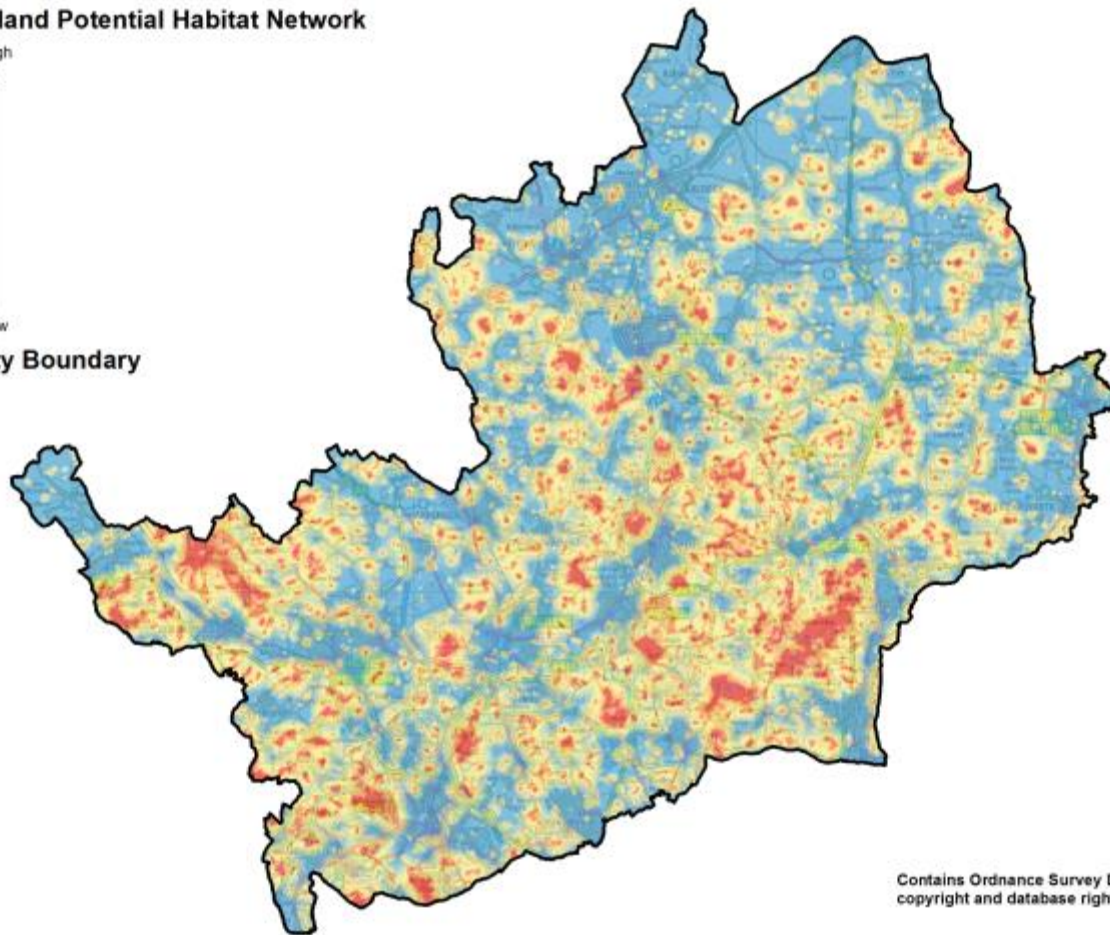
Herts and  
Middlesex



Woodland Potential Habitat Network



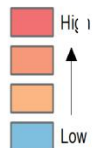
County Boundary  




Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown  
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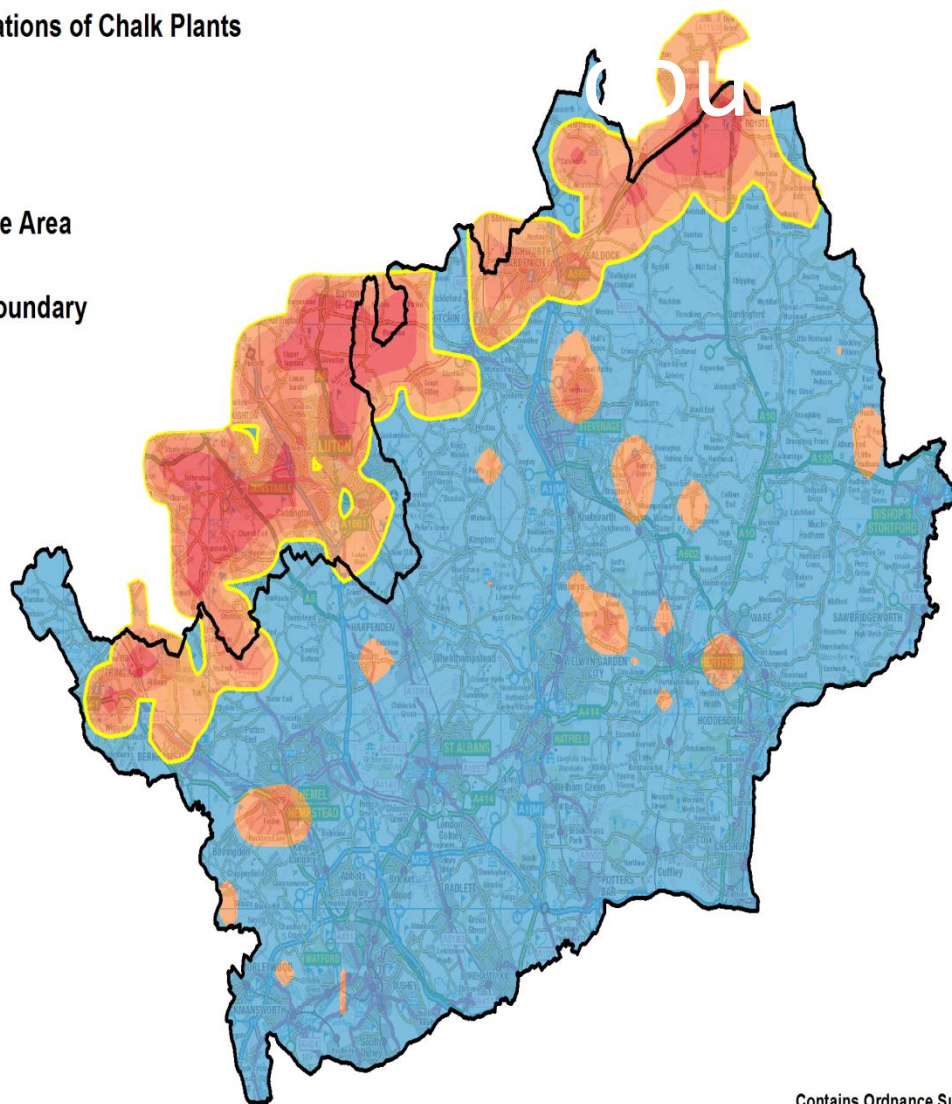
## Concentrations of Chalk Plants



## Chalk Core Area



## County Boundary



Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown copyright and database right 2013.



Herts and  
Middlesex











Better Housing  
Lower impact roads  
Sustainable growth and development

Good for people, developers, wildlife – and helping Warwickshire become a better place to live