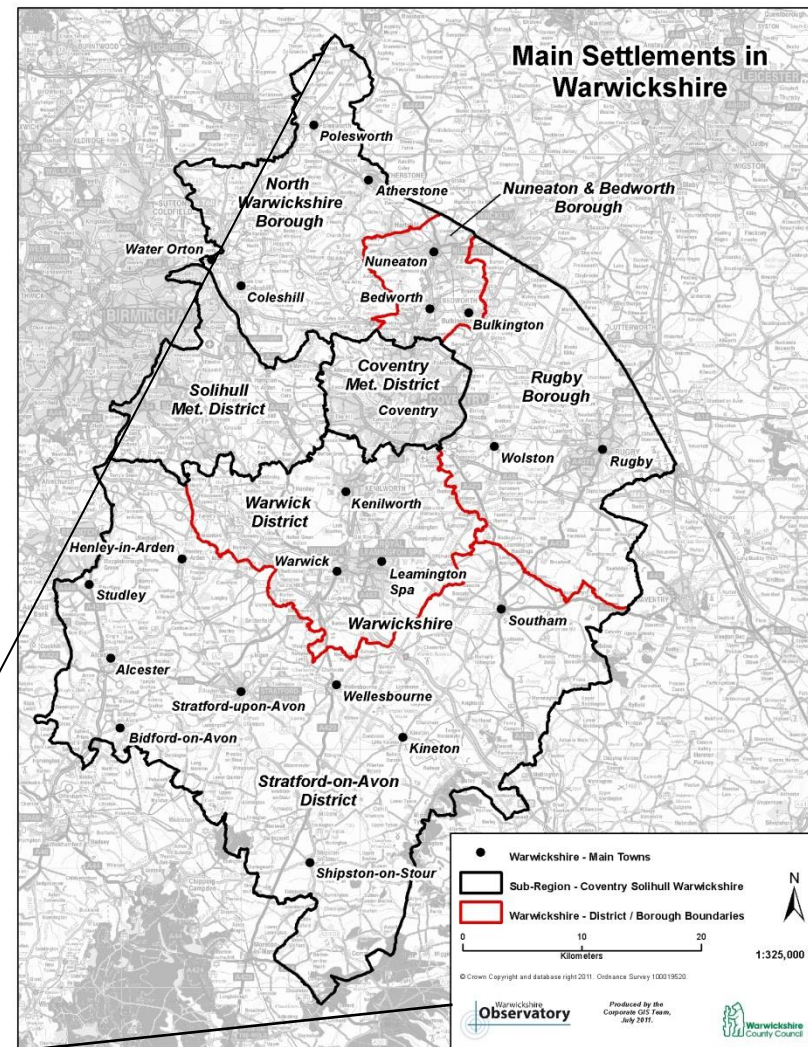


**20 Years Young**

# Biodiversity Offsetting

**By  
David Lowe**

**Team Leader:  
Ecology,  
Historic Environment  
& Landscape**



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Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 2016

[maps.warwickshire.gov.uk/greeninfrastructure](https://maps.warwickshire.gov.uk/greeninfrastructure)

## REMINDERS

‘Animal, plant and marine biodiversity comprise the “natural capital” that keeps our ecosystems functional and economies productive. But the world is experiencing a dramatic loss of biodiversity’  
(World Bank, Sept. 2015)

‘Science alone will not save the planet. Science in the hands of the decision maker will.’  
(Natural Capital: Theory & Practice of Mapping Ecosystem Services, 2011)

## **Without the Habitat Biodiversity Audit none of what WCC does would be (robustly) possible...**








- WCC Biodiversity Strategy
- LPA Core Strategies and decision making
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
  - ✓ Connectivity mapping
  - ✓ Habitat Core Areas
  - ✓ Biodiversity Offsetting
    - Strategic Biodiversity Enhancement areas
  - ✓ Ecosystem Services analysis

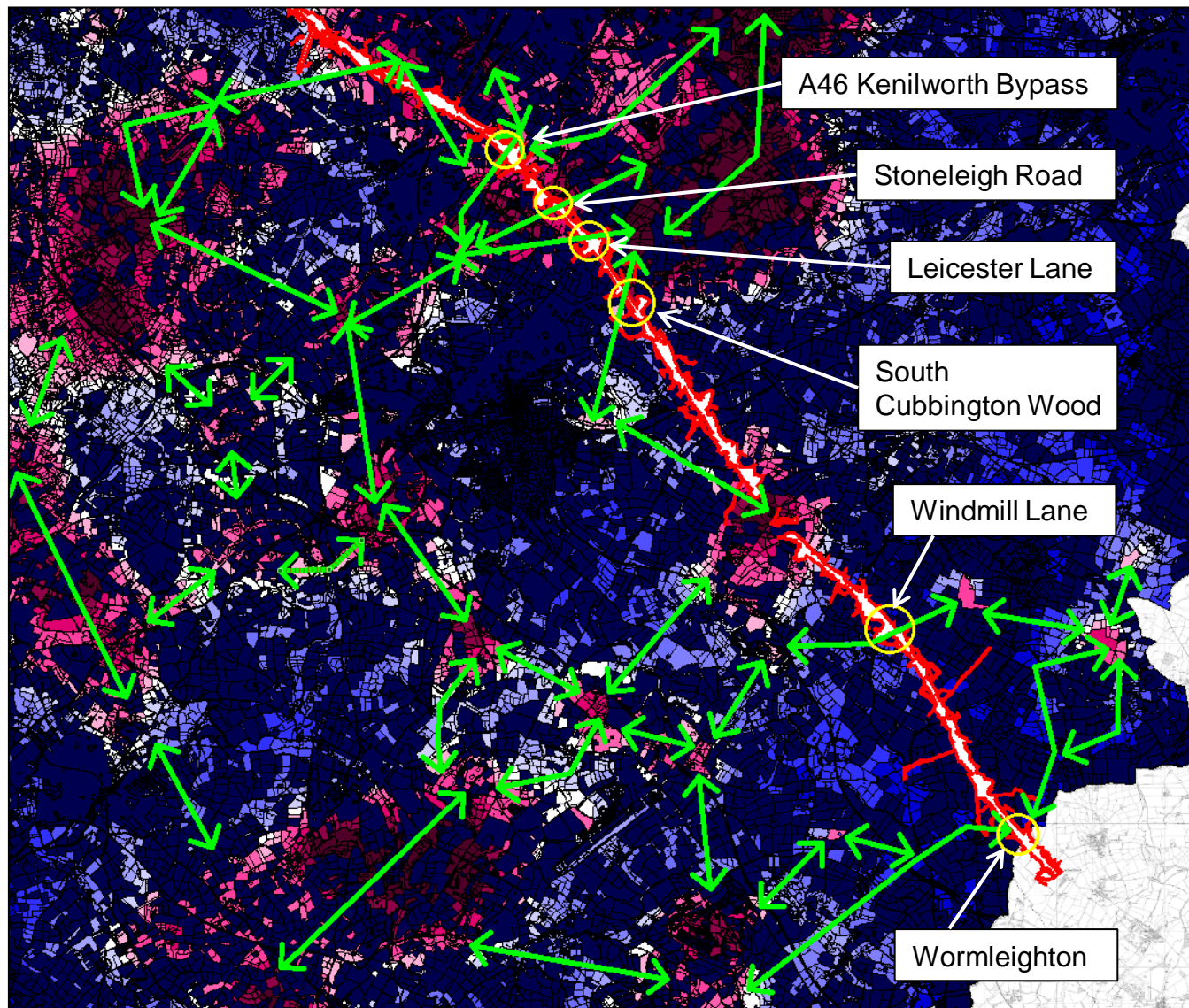
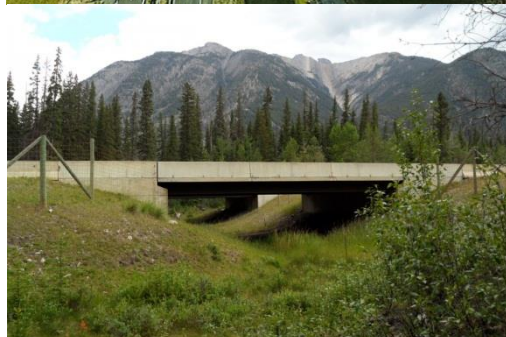


# Evidence for HS2 Select Committees

## LEGEND

### Connectivity Model

-  High Connectivity
-  Medium / High Connectivity
-  Medium Connectivity
-  Medium / Low Connectivity
-  Low Connectivity
-  Indicative species movement
-  Critical Conflict Points along HS2 Proposed Route

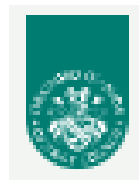


# The WCS Green Infrastructure Strategy

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide evidence for the preparation of plans, policies and strategies at a sub-regional level

The Application of the principles:

Site



Local

Parish



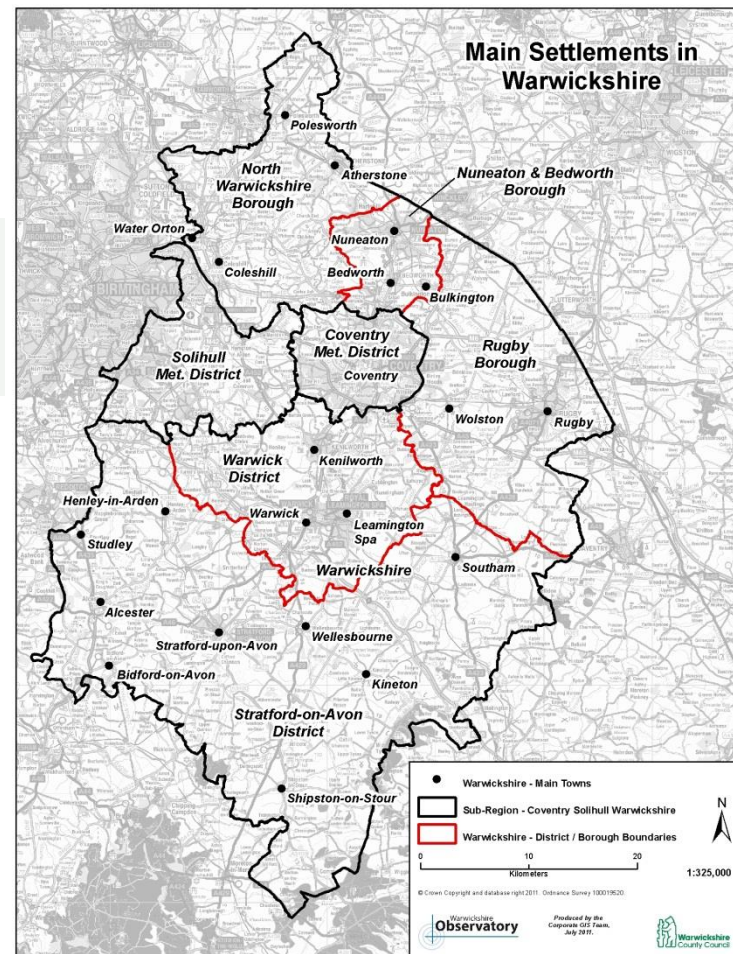
Authority Area



Sub-regional Area

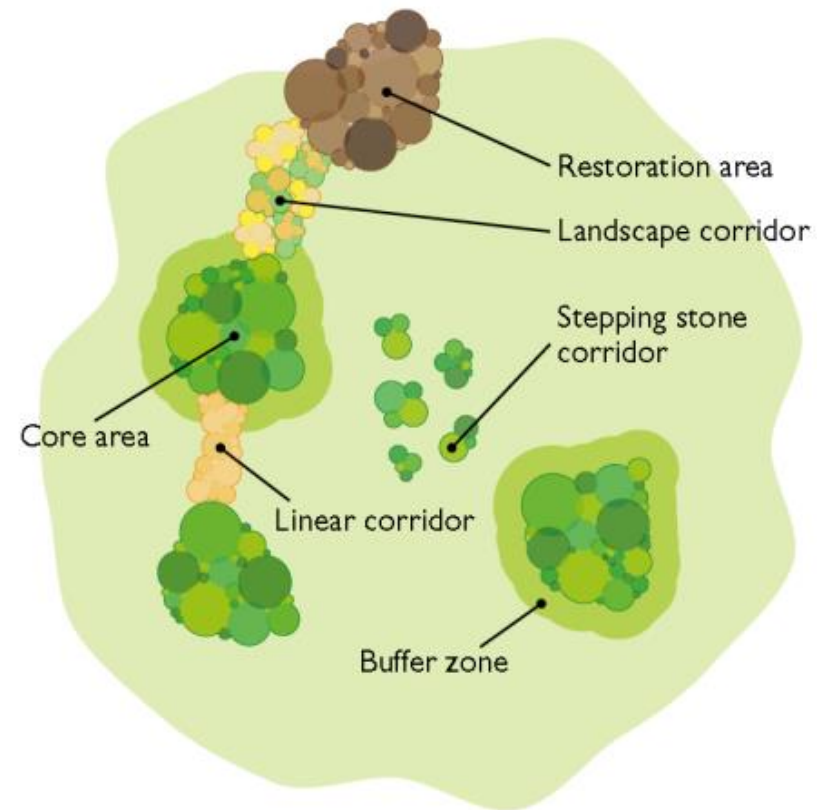
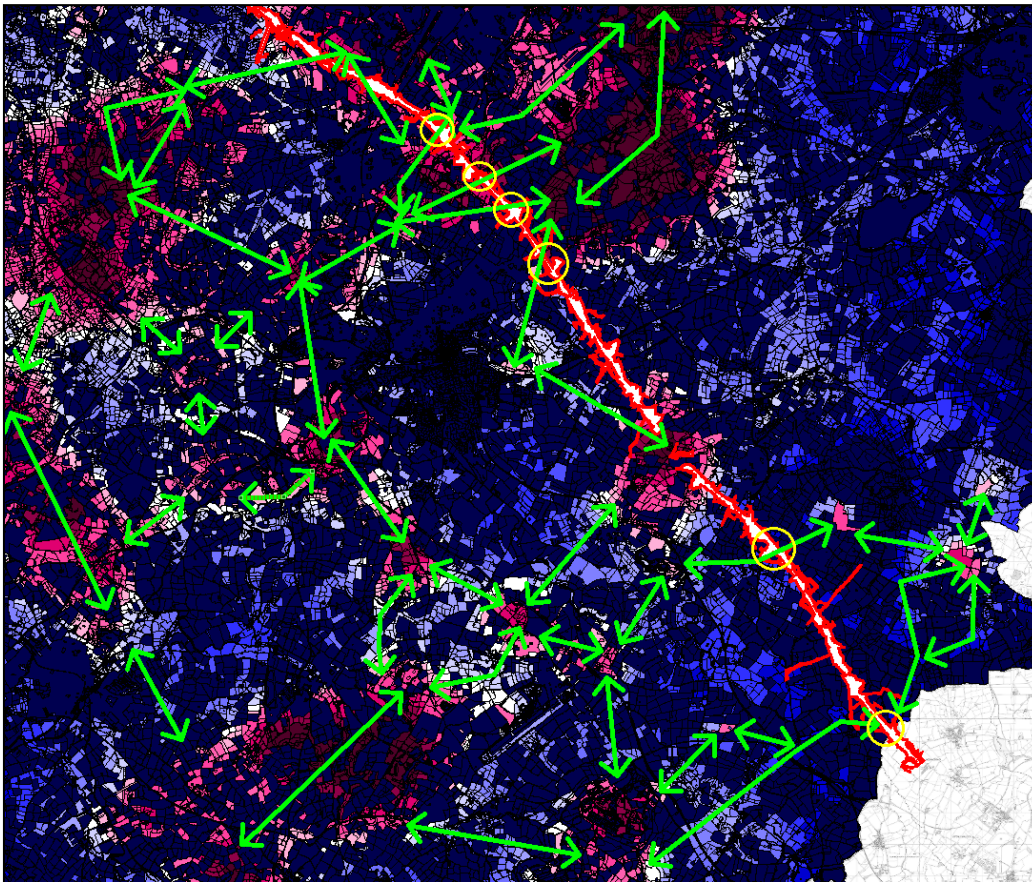


Adopted in December 2013

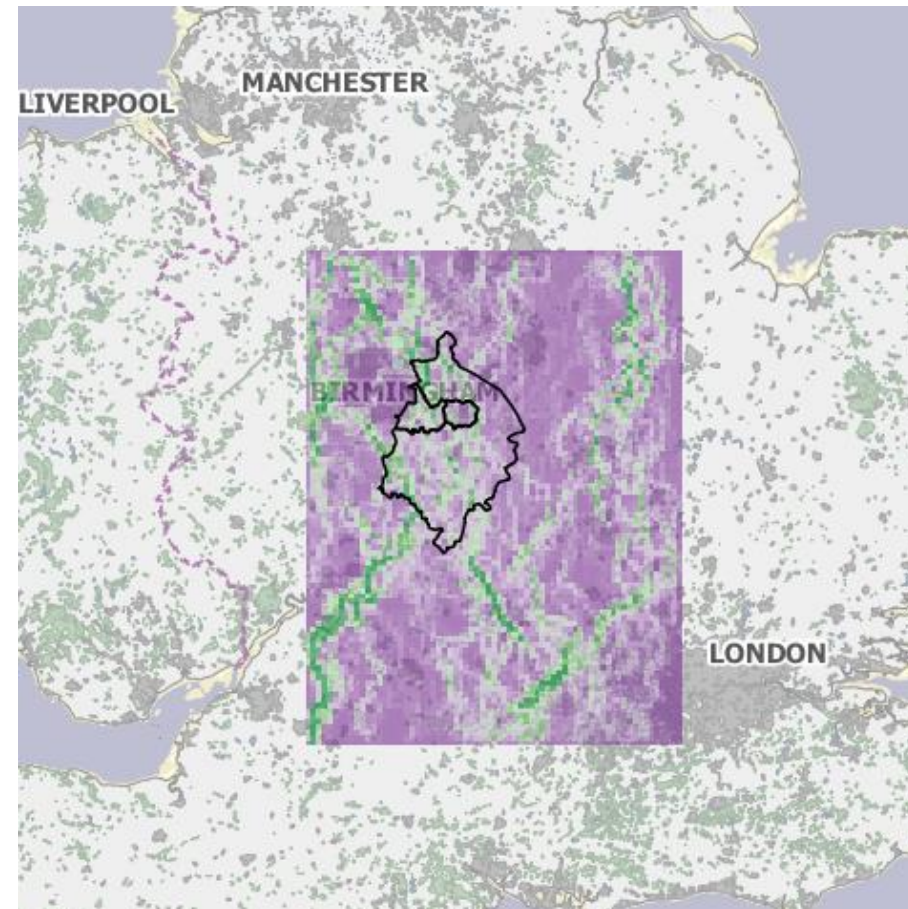




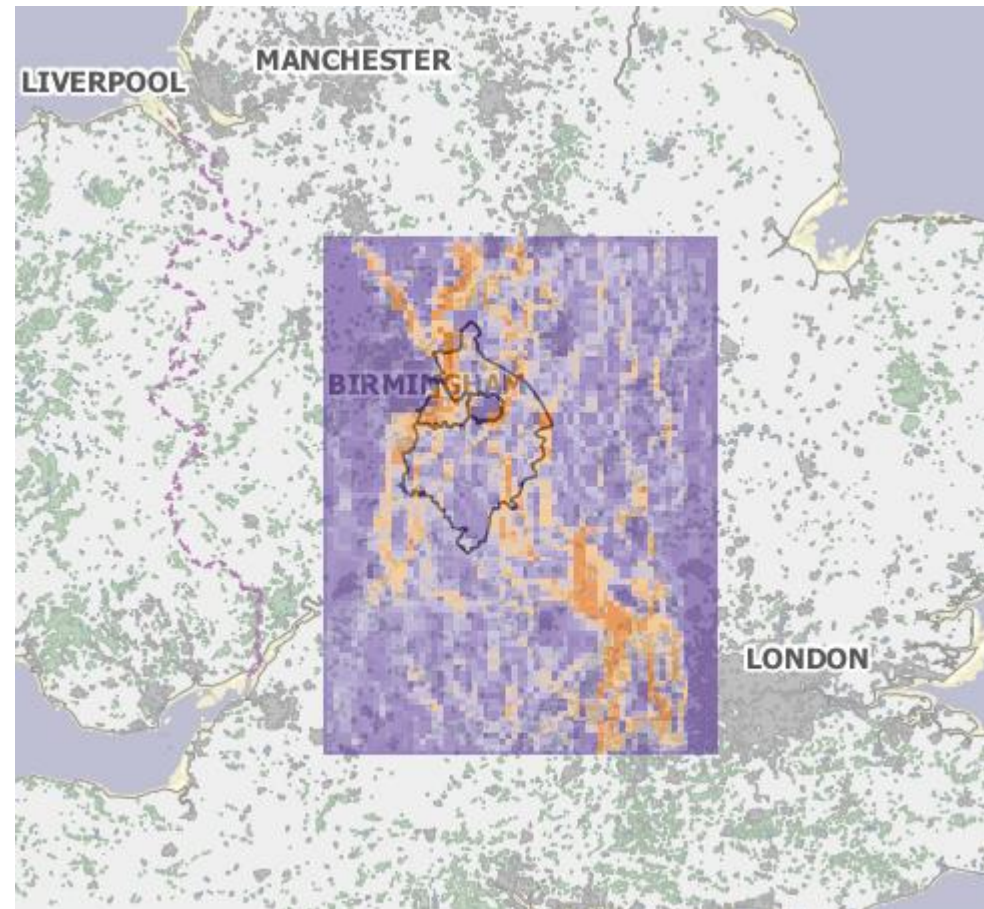
# The Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Biodiversity Strategy



# CONDATIS



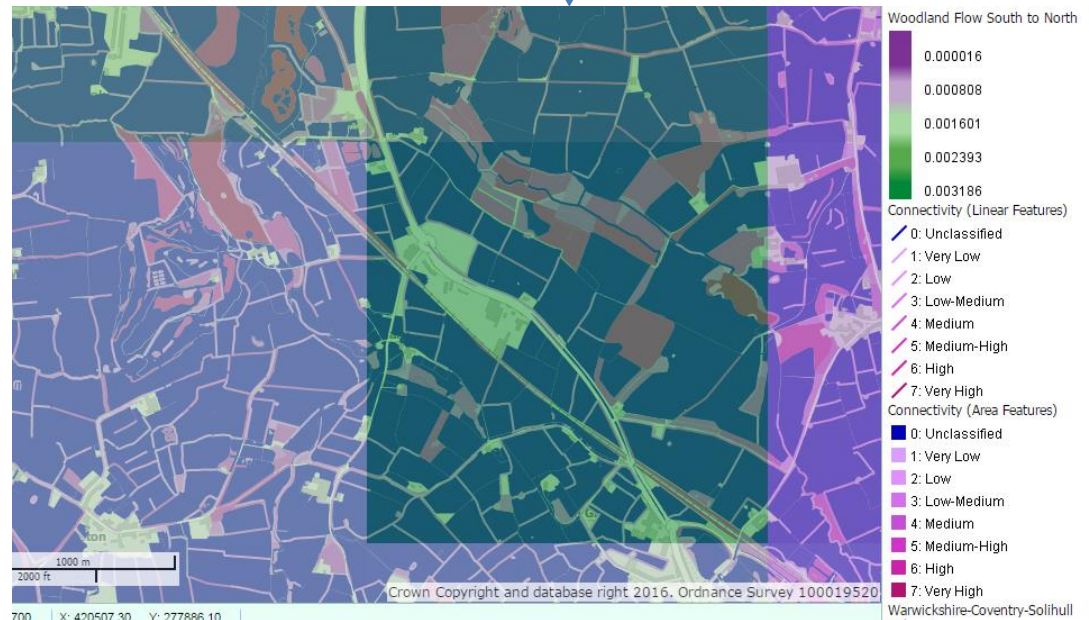
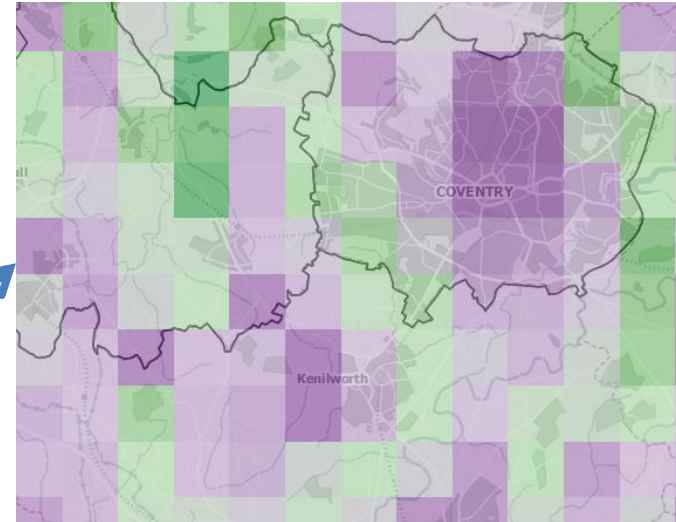
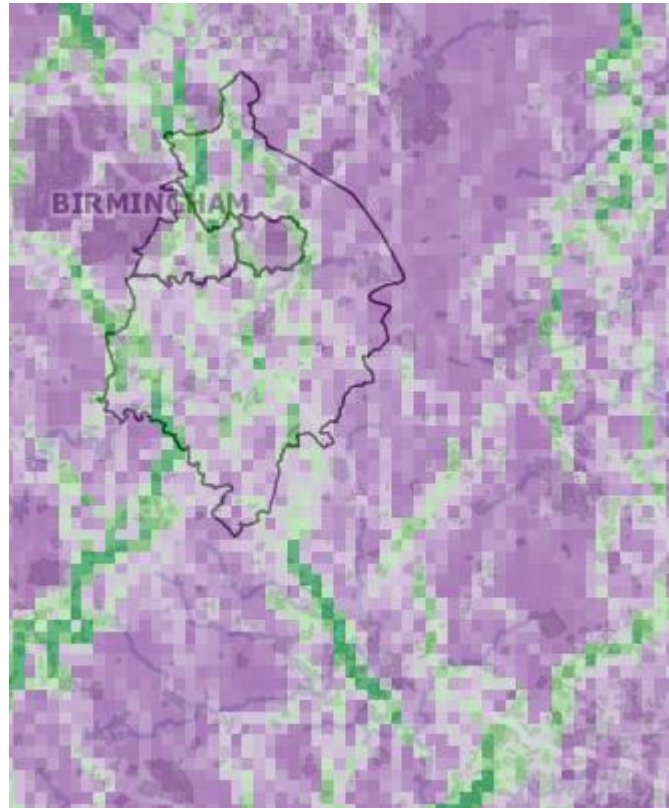
South – North Woodland species Flow



South – North Grassland species Flow



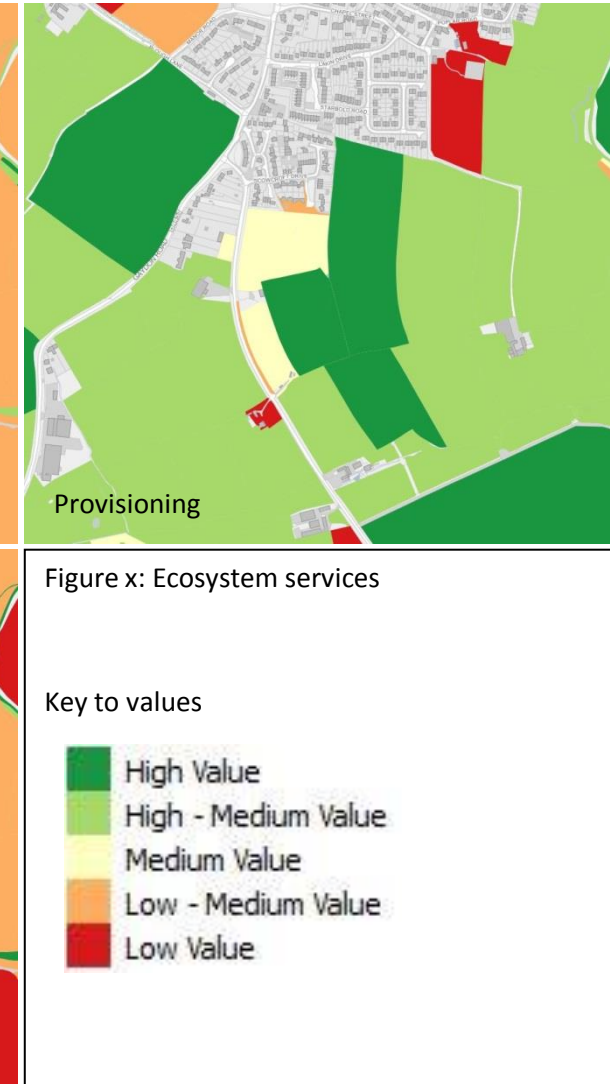
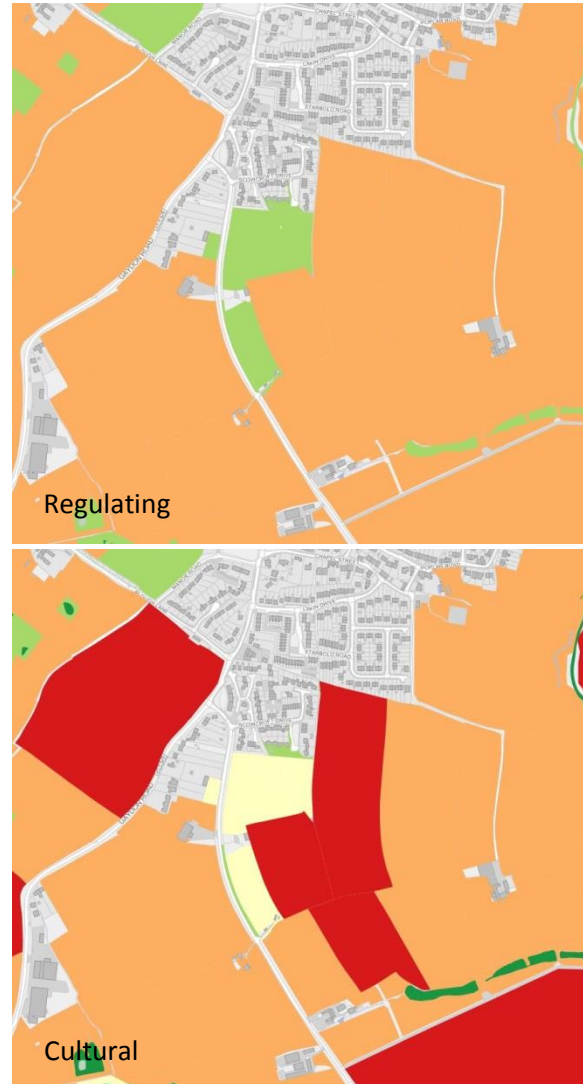
# CONDATIS





# Ecosystem Services

WCC with the HBA, in partnership with Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute, has mapped the Ecosystem Service value for every 'field' in the sub-region



## North Warwickshire Borough Council

### Core Strategy

#### NW13 Green Infrastructure

Throughout the Borough a comprehensive network of high quality, multi-functional, green spaces, corridors and other environmental features will be maintained, enhanced and created for flora, fauna and humans, which link into the sub-regional green infrastructure networks.

Development proposals must demonstrate how they contribute to maintaining and enhancing a comprehensive and strategically planned green infrastructure network, where appropriate. With reference to the sub-regional

cal Green Infrastructure resource

#### NW12 Nature Conservation

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) will be subject to a high degree of protection, in view of their national importance. Development adversely affecting a SSSI will only be permitted where the benefits of the development at this sites clearly outweigh the likely impacts on the site and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSI's.

Development that damages habitats and features of regional or local importance for nature conservation will only be permitted where there are no alternatives to the development taking place in that location. Where appropriate, developments will be required to help secure the beneficial management of such features.

Development should help ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity and geological interest, and where appropriate contributions will be sought to ensure the enhancement of biodiversity, geological and other natural features in line with local, regional and national priorities for nature conservation.

infrastructure assets;

links between existing green and to surrounding sub-regional

the assets where specific need has

be provided on site, or where an ed, contributions will be sought ts and improvements within the on.



# Biodiversity Offsetting

What is it?

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{The Value} & & \text{The Value} & & \text{Biodiversity} \\ \text{of the} & & \text{of the} & & \text{Gain or} \\ \text{Future} & - & \text{Existing} & = & \text{Loss} \\ \text{Habitat} & & \text{Habitat} & & \end{array}$$

The Basic basics

2015/16

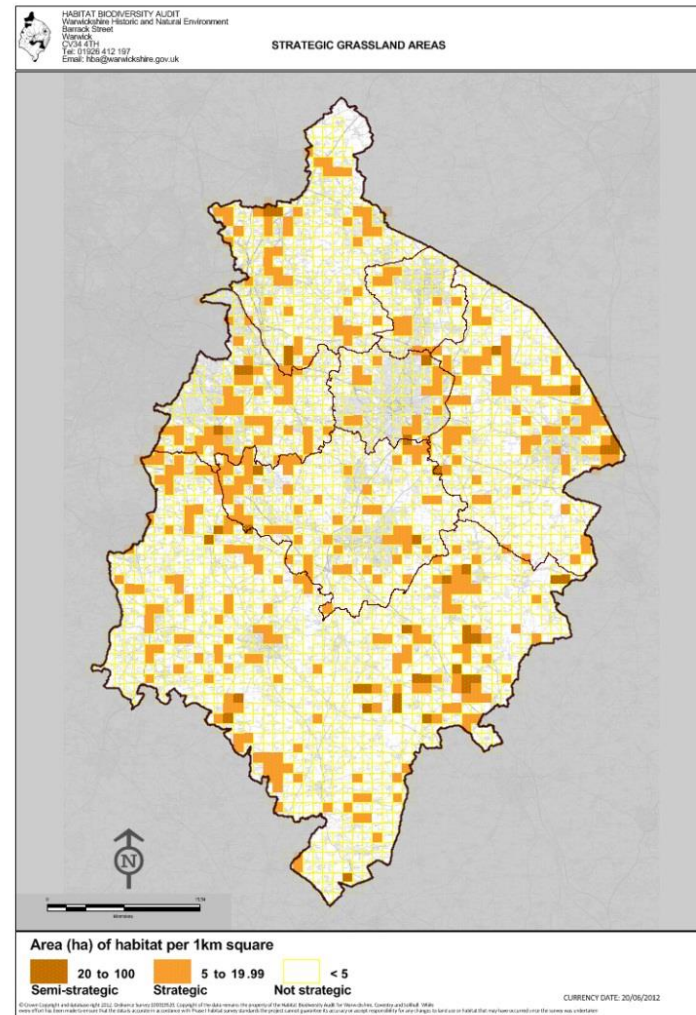
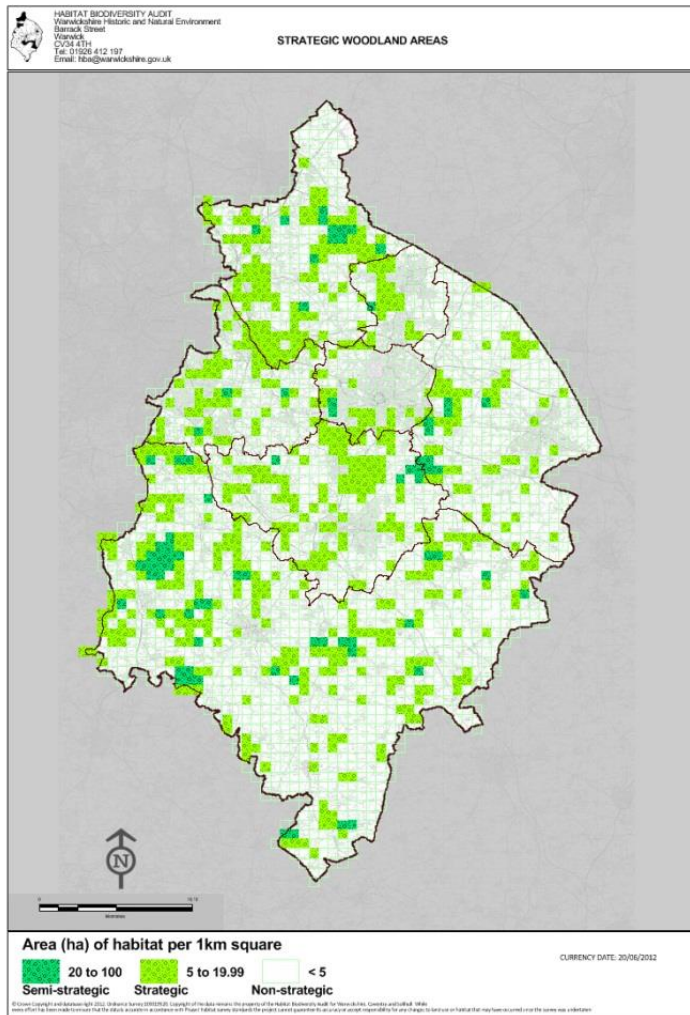
- two offsetting schemes have or are about to commence through the Environment Bank, and
- £104.5k has been submitted to WCC through Section 106 agreements.

This totals £258.3K to the local economy through biodiversity enhancement over the schemes' 30 year agreements.



## Where should it be offset?

*Find potential offset sites, in a strategic location, with suitable biodiversity gain assessed using same risk factors and as close to the loss as possible*



# OPTIMISM – The next 20 years

## Planning Decision...

Straight to Compensation: “It may be that development could take place elsewhere but this would not, for the reasons noted above, provide any guarantee that the field’s grassland habitat would not deteriorate further”

“There are incentive schemes available to encourage landowners to retain and restore grasslands, but there is no evidence before me to suggest that this is something that would be actively pursued by the field’s owner. In theory, therefore, there is nothing to stop its continued deterioration from over grazing by horses or from different agricultural management practices.” [Richard Schofield BA(Hons) MA MRTPI – Inspector]

## What happened to the Mitigation Hierarchy!



## What if...

A fund that could (possibly) include offsetting contributions amongst others that reward landowners for the Ecosystem Services their landholding delivers as an automated process...

**Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP**

**Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum: Next steps for UK farming: policy priorities, implementing CAP, and developing the rural economy**

(11th December 2014)

**See later talks.... Discuss**

**Could we be a Pilot Area over the next 2 years?**

## Biodiversity Auditing...

**Highways England** are using the Defra Metrics to report on 2020 No Net Loss habitat targets (i.e. report on Natural Capital)

The HBA could monitor this in partnership with Highways England

The HBA can do this for the Sub-region (tomorrow, subject to resources)

WCC is looking to do this for our Estates (early days)

**Could the HBA do this for other partners....  
Discuss**

## **Biodiversity Species Offsetting...**

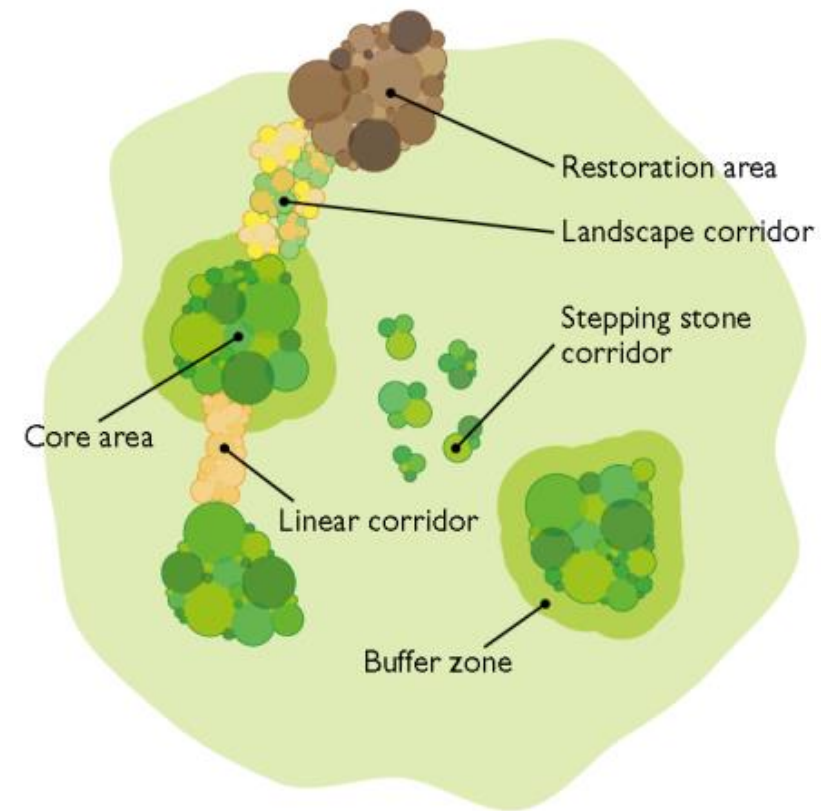
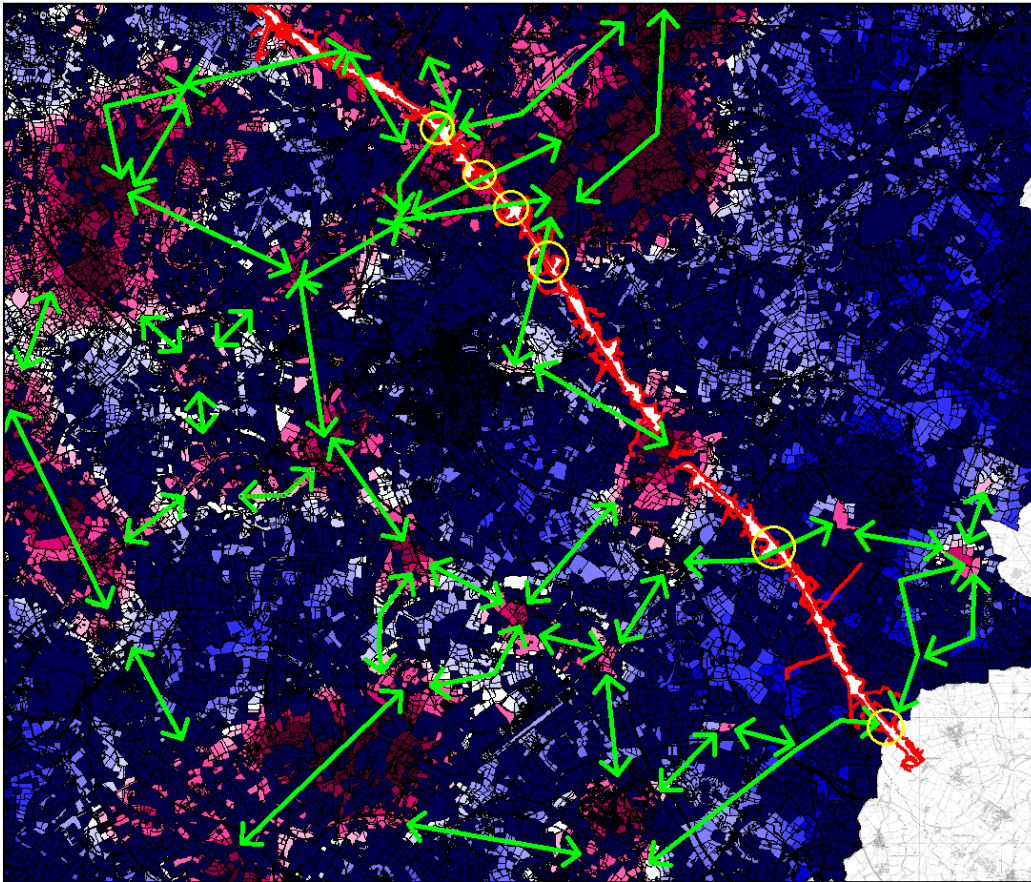
Warwickshire and Solihull LAs are working closely with Natural England to deliver consistent Protected Species advice and exploring how Licencing and Habitat Offsetting can benefit species favourable status. [p.s. Not the Woking Model]

This will require extensive Species Habitat Modelling on a sub-regional level to inform planning decisions... a national first [and quite possibly last!]

**.... Discuss**



# OPTIMISM – The next 20 years



**THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE ENDLESS - Thank you**