

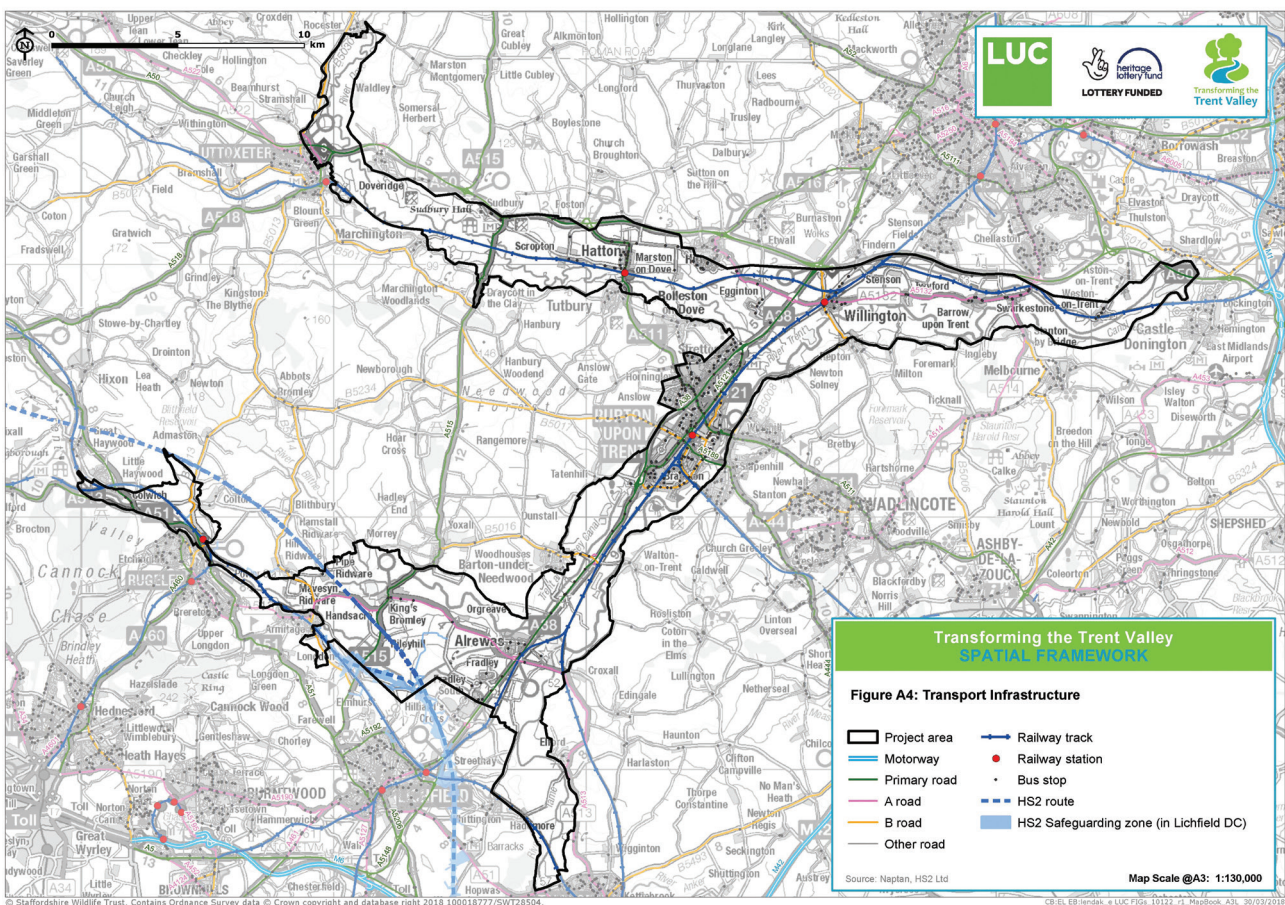
2.5 Strategies, Policies and Local Initiatives

There are a number of proposals that are of national significance that will have a major impact on our landscape. These range from large housing developments to significant travel infrastructure proposals such as HS2, through to quarry expansion and potential new quarry sites. There are also a number of initiatives and projects that overlap with our landscape and complement the work we are doing. This offers opportunity to work together where we share common goals to add value and extend our influence. Understanding the scale and effect of anticipated change is essential to perceiving the potential risks it has on altering the character, heritage and

economy of our landscape. With a strong vision for our landscape and its future, we can work to influence change, which whilst inevitable, does not need to be the death of our landscape.

There are a number of planned and proposed developments that will have significant impact on our landscape. These developments will influence how the landscape is used in the future and provide a number of varying opportunities. There are also external partnerships that we have connections with and can link into initiatives that complement our vision for this landscape.

Map 26. Transport infrastructure highlighted as having a spatial influence on the landscape (LUC)



2.5.1 High Speed 2 (HS2)

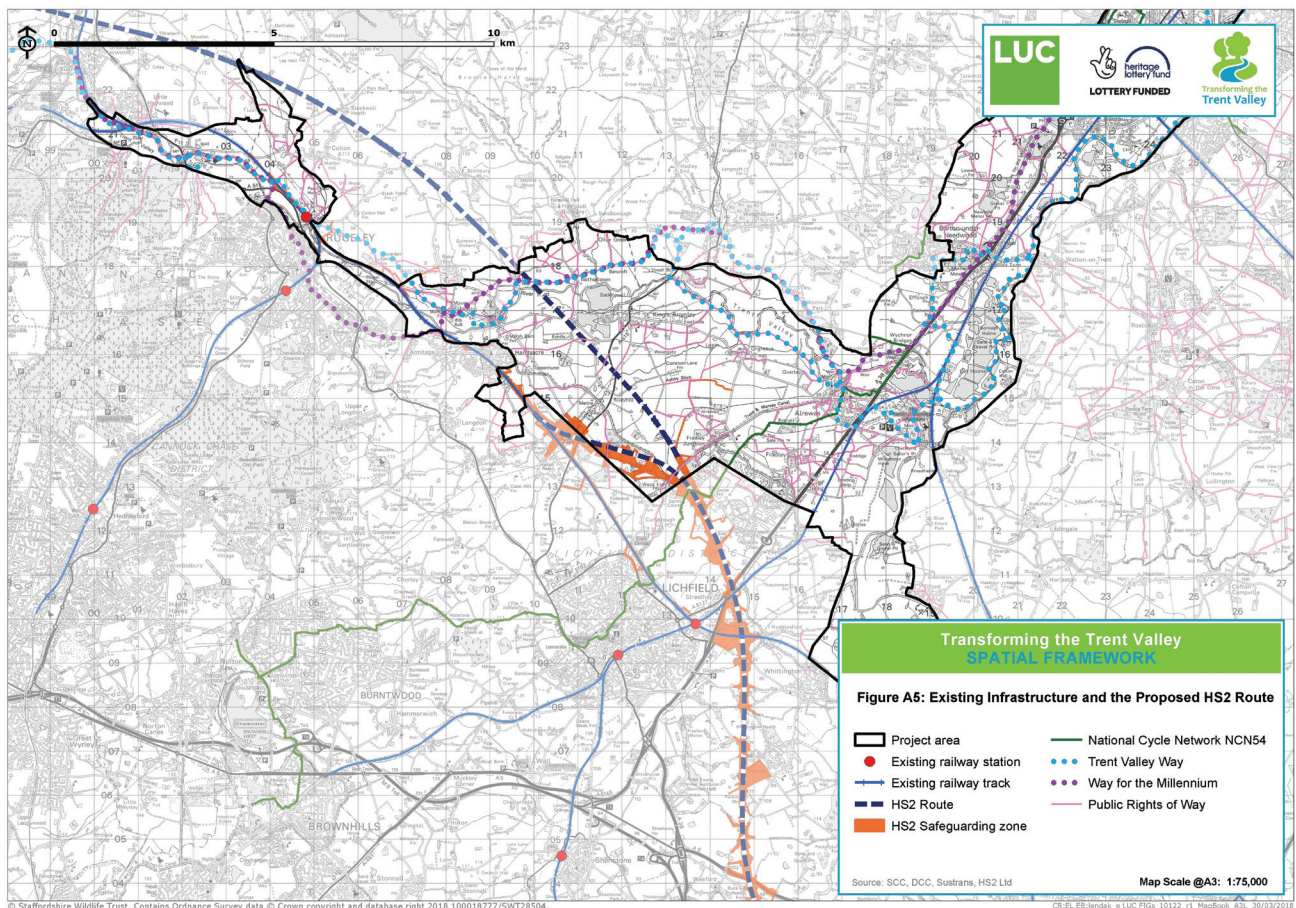
The planned route of HS2 cuts across the landscape from Hilliard's Cross, running north-west across the project area for around 6.1km and exiting it at Pipe Ridware. It also runs close to the landscape from Great Haywood to Tamworth. Detailed work has been done on its impact on transport during construction and in its finished state.

The route affects numerous roads and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the landscape and which provide access to it. The majority are proposed for diversion, some for closure, and this audit is not

at a level of detail sufficient to assess the actual impact of what is proposed, depending as that impact does on the quality, safety and convenience of both the existing and diverted roads and PRoW (The Landscape Partnership, 2018; LUC, 2018).

Mitigation from the proposals offer some potential opportunity in the landscape for improvements to be made. Funds are available that could be used to deliver habitat restoration, access improvements or projects for community benefit.

Map 27. Existing Infrastructure and the proposed HS2 Route (LUC)



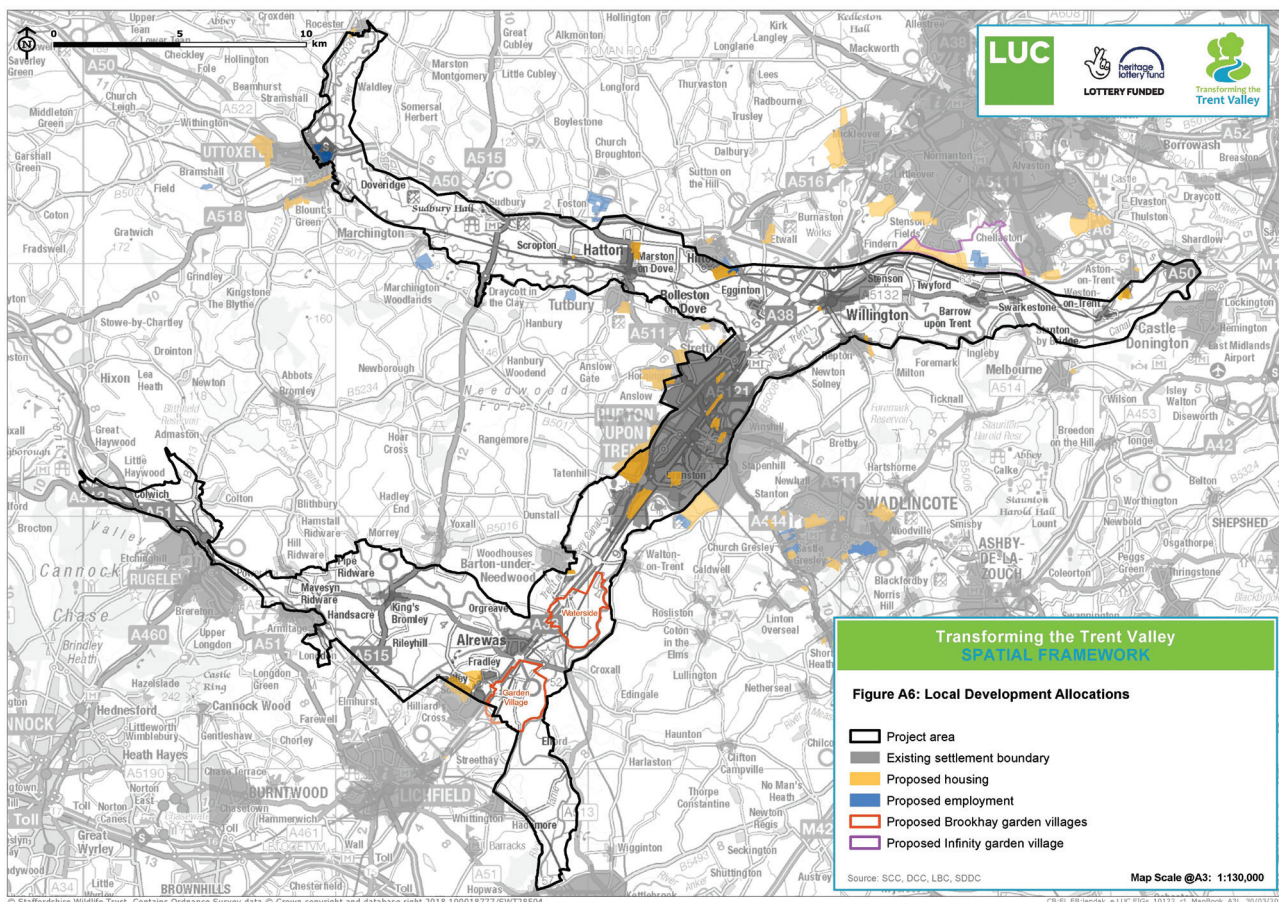
2.5.2 Burton-Leicester railway reopening

This is a long-standing proposal for reopening the freight-only line from Burton to Leicester to passenger traffic, which could provide stations at Swadlincote, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville, but the economic case for reopening has not yet proven attractive (AECOM, 2016). Were this proposal to come about, it would improve strategic access by rail from the east and be a major asset for developing the tourist potential of the landscape. However, the route ends at Burton upon Trent station, which has very poor facilities for interchange with bus routes serving the landscape, and poor wayfinding to the canal and river. There is opportunity for the Landscape Partnership to work with the promoters of the scheme and, should it come to fruition, with train operating companies, bus companies and local authorities to improve interchange and onward travel at Burton station in particular (The Landscape Partnership, 2018).

2.5.3 Housing

Significant housing developments are planned in and around the landscape, adding further pressure upon it. There are thirteen housing proposals totalling 4.5km² in area and adding a further 8,298 dwellings to the landscape. The most significant of these urban expansions will take place around Burton-upon-Trent adding a total of 3,630 new dwellings within the East Staffordshire local authority and 2,239 new dwellings within the South Derbyshire local authority. East Staffordshire has been identified as a growth area and proportionally more housing is planned for this local authority than for most parts of the UK (LUC, 2018). In general, however, access to the landscape could benefit from this new audience and the additional population represent a new audience for the appreciation of this landscape and its sustainable development (The Landscape Partnership, 2018). Map 28 shows the distribution of proposed and existing development in the landscape area.

Map 28. The distribution of proposed housing development in the Trent Valley landscape (LUC)



2.5.4 Garden Villages

There are two new garden villages proposed within the project area (Brookhay Garden Village and Brookhay Waterside). A further garden village (Infinity Garden Village) has been approved just outside its northern boundary, south of Derby (LUC, 2018). Whilst still in early stages of development and consultation, if they do come to fruition they will have a significant impact on the landscape.

The Brookhay mixed-use proposals are for a 7500-home, two-centre complex (Barratt Developments PLC and Urbed, 2015). Brookhay Garden Village would be situated east of the A38, opposite Fradley. Brookhay Waterside, a residential, business and leisure complex, would be 2 km away, north-east of Alrewas, again east of the A38 (The Landscape Partnership, 2018). The Infinity Garden Village is for the development of 2000 homes, with the aim

to alleviate the housing demand in Derby City and South Derbyshire (LUC, 2018).

The development of these garden villages will impact on a number of existing long distance walking trails and cycling routes. However, with the implementation of suitable measures these developments can also contribute to the enhancements of existing, and development of new, access links through the affected area.

Around half of the Waterside proposal is within the Barton active sand and gravel quarry run by Hanson Aggregates Ltd, scheduled to cease operation in 2030; and just over half of the Garden Village proposal is within the Whitemoor Haye / Alrewas sand and gravel quarry, operated by Lafarge Aggregates and Concrete Limited, scheduled for closure in 2027 (LUC, 2018).



Kings Bromley signs to Alrewas and the NMA (Aimee L. Booth)

2.5.5 Quarrying

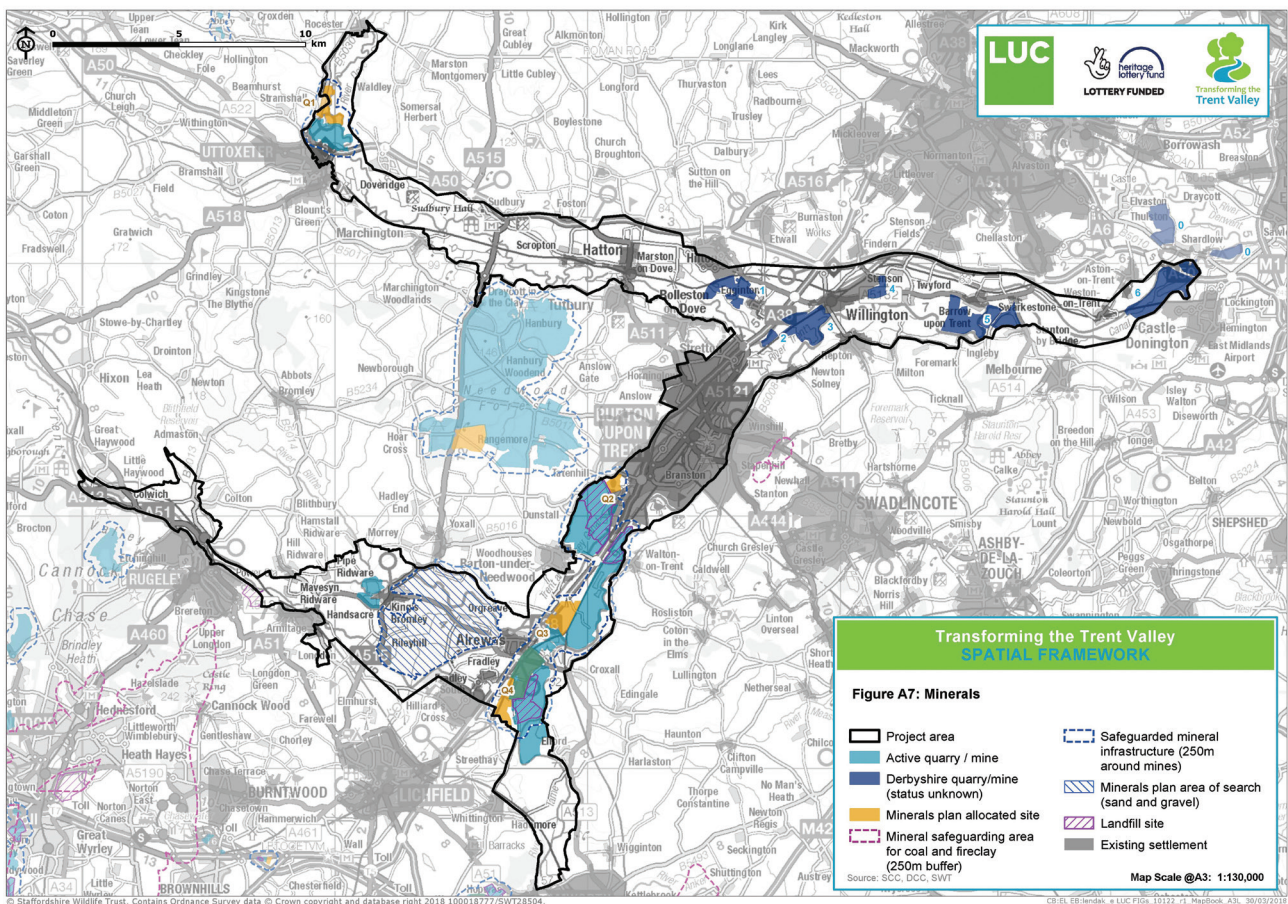
The aggregates industry has a large presence throughout the project area, especially along the River Trent from Kings Bromley all the way to Shardlow in the north-eastern tip of the project area. There are currently 12 active quarries identified within the project area, all of which are sand and gravel. The total extent of these quarries is 14.55km², which represents around 7.3% of the project area (LUC, 2018)

A large proportion of the available aggregate has already been quarried, with significant quarrying in progress (The Landscape Partnership, 2018). There are

four further sites within the project area identified for mineral extraction in the Staffordshire Minerals Local Plan, with a total area of 3.69km². A further 15km², between King's Bromley and Alrewas, is identified as a Search Area for sand and gravel in the same Minerals Local Plan (LUC, 2018).

Surface extraction of sand and gravel inevitably erases the existing, traditional landscape and access routes. However, upon restoration, former quarry sites can become important nature reserves and wildlife sites.

Map 29. Plan showing the extent of active and planned mineral developments across the landscape highlighting the significant pressure this landscape is under (LUC)



2.5.6 Economic Value

In the Final Report on the future economic value of the Trent Valley (RPA and the Planning Cooperative, 2016) prepared for Derbyshire County Council, it was emphasised that the Trent Valley within Derbyshire is becoming increasingly fragmented as a result of mineral extraction, urban development, transport infrastructure and agriculture, both arable and pastoral.

The report suggests two possible options for the way forward: an uncoordinated approach, which would lead to disjointed, piecemeal change and a potentially degraded natural environment; or a coordinated approach involving all sectors working together to effect positive long-term change.

The scenarios for each way forward were worked through, comparing the economic benefits and ecosystem service benefits of each. The results showed substantial benefits could be achieved through a coordinated approach, significantly above an uncoordinated approach. It was noted that to achieve the benefits the actions would need to be fully supported and resourced. These were summarised as:

Vision and approach: a master plan is required establishing key principals, direction of travel and spatial iteration.

Personnel: Large scale projects can only be implemented with staff.

Resources and funding: to enact a fully coordinated approach, financial resources are required.

Partnership development: a functional partnership requires a breadth of support from a wide range of stakeholders.

Business case, operational structure and governance: to enact the coordinated approach in the longer term. (This could be a not-for-profit business or charitable trust).

The approach analysed data in the form of reports, strategies, plans and datasets from across a wide range of sectors including the aggregate industry, energy generation, manufacturing, tourism and retail, water, and wildlife and biodiversity. Baseline data was analysed using an ecosystem services approach. Population change was extrapolated from census data provided by the Office of National Statistics.

The coordinated approach was based on a 'vision for the coordinated scenario', which focussed on directing mineral extraction towards the least sensitive areas, whilst restoration schemes would create interlocking waterbodies and robust areas of woodland. These will integrate with the best of the existing landscape, including historic and natural assets, to provide a range of recreation and leisure opportunities.

This vision was then broken down by sector for a bespoke approach that enabled an integrated contribution towards the whole.



Industry in the valley (Aimee L. Booth)

2.5.7 Local Enterprise Partnerships

Our landscape is incorporated within two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP): the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP; and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP. Both partnerships focus on providing housing and leisure space for urban areas around the Trent Valley. The Trent Valley, already home to many large industries, is not seen as an area for expanding industry, but will see growing pressure for transport infrastructure serving an expanding population.

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Enterprise Partnership aims to grow the local economy by 50% and generate 50,000 new jobs in the next 10 years. Staffordshire is set to become a more connected county by securing strategic and local links, leading to 'super connectivity'. This will be achieved through maximising opportunities presented by strategic infrastructure investments like HS2, and developing the 'growth triangle' presented by the M6/West Coast Mainline, A5/M6 toll and A38/A50 eastern links, an area that intersects with the Trent Valley.



Rugby power station (Aimee L. Booth)

Long-term (to 2030) aspirations are committed to rapid, planned growth of urban centres, such as Burton-upon-Trent and creating right conditions for industries of tomorrow.

Burton-upon-Trent is a key Strategic Centre in the Strategic Economic Plan for the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP.

The vision: *'We will sustain economic growth in our town centres by encouraging sustainable economic development which meet local needs, achieves balanced communities and attracts new people to invest in, live in, work in and enjoy our urban centres.'*

The plan gives projections of 31,000 new households in the LEP area over the next 10 years. Growth should be accommodated in attractive urban centres which are well-connected to employment opportunities (GBSLEP, 2016).

Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership aims to generate 50,000 new jobs and 14,315 new houses over the next 10 years. Burton-upon-Trent is a Strategic Growth Site and falls within the East Staffordshire Growth and Regeneration Programme with a total spend of £5.7m creating 707 new job and 306 new homes (SOTSEP 2014).

Our partnership has existing ties with the LEPs, with many of our partners individually represented on these Partnership Boards. There is scope to influence planned growth in Burton and capitalise on opportunities such as biodiversity offsetting, green infrastructure, and sustainable access that will arise from new development plans.

2.5.8 The Catchment Based Approach and the Transforming the Trent Valley

The Catchment Based Approach (CABA) is a community-led approach that engages people and groups from across society to help improve our precious water environments. Promoted by Defra and the Environment Agency since 2015 this initiative seeks to encourage organisations to work in partnership to deliver improvements to rivers at a catchment scale. The Catchment Based Approach encourages organisations to manage land and water in a balanced way, by identifying the pressures on the water environment, by working together to agree common objectives and by implementing solutions.

The CABA aim is to provide a clear understanding of the issues in the catchment, engage with stakeholders, users of the river and communities to begin to create an achievable, holistic vision for the future of these rivers and waterways. A partnership and ways of working has been established for each CABA catchment. The ethos is very much about working with existing mechanisms to deliver greater benefit for the river.

CABA encourages working with a range of organisations and partnership to deliver benefits for our water environment.

There are overlaps between the CABA approach and our Landscape Partnership in that they are both partnership initiatives and both aiming to improve the awareness and management of wetlands and rivers within the Trent catchment.

England and Wales has been divided up into over 100 Catchments.

The TTTV LPS overlap with four CABA catchments.

- Staffordshire Trent Valley
- Tame Anker Mease
- Dove
- Derbyshire Derwent

It is important that our partnership works alongside each of the CABA partnerships, as additional value can be generated by the two initiatives sharing information and potentially supporting the delivery of projects and identifying opportunities for the future.



A View across the Landscape (Aimee L. Booth)

2.5.9 The Water Framework Directive

The area covered by our landscape sits within the Humber River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). The latest edition of the RBMP is 2015 and sets out the current state of the water environment, the pressures and environmental objectives for improving and protecting waters. The RBMP is written to inform and deliver obligations of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The WFD breaks down catchments into individual waterbodies which are classified as to their ecological and chemical 'status'. Various elements make up reporting and classification of the waterbodies' status, e.g. fish and phosphate. Waterbody action plans are put in place to address identified pressures on elements and the assigned 'reasons for failure' of waterbody WFD status.

Currently over two thirds of UK rivers fail to reach Good Ecological Status against requirements of WFD.

Our landscape overlaps with 24 separate WFD waterbodies. More details of each one can be found using the 'Catchment Data Explorer'. This website shows the current status of each waterbody, lists the reasons for failure and shows the quality of a range of environmental parameters recorded by the EA. It provides a useful reference point for organisations to identify measures needed to help these waterbodies to reach good ecological status.

The CABA Partnerships are key to driving forward the agreement and delivery of catchment management plans, including individual waterbody action plans to improve WFD status and at the very least secure 'no deterioration' of status.



River Trent at Wychnor (*Nick Mott*)

2.5.10 The Trent and Tame River Valleys Futurescape

Our landscape sits within the RSPB's Trent and Tame River Valleys Futurescape – one of the Society's priority landscapes into which they are focussing their efforts on a landscape-scale, to work with partners and local communities to give nature a home.

This vision is to create a wetland corridor from Birmingham to the Humber that is rich in nature and an inspirational place to live, work and visit. By working together, we can provide a haven for birds and other wildlife in the face of a changing climate. Marsh harriers, bitterns and avocets will breed once again, and salmon and eels will thrive in our rivers. All kinds of amphibians, bats, water voles and wetland plants will also benefit from restored habitats.

But people will benefit too. Increased recreational resources will improve the health and well-being of residents and visitors alike. Local communities will be able to take a more active role in their natural surroundings through local decision-making and volunteering.

The parallels between the RSPB's vision for the Futurescape as a whole, and those of our partnership, are clear.

Throughout the Futurescape, current and planned sand and gravel quarrying is the most important single driver of landscape change. The current and proposed mineral sites cover approximately 8,000 hectares – roughly equivalent to the City of Nottingham in area. The Nature After Minerals partnership between the RSPB, Natural England and the Mineral Products Association has responded to this by producing "Bigger and Better", an advocacy document promoting joined-up strategic planning across the six mineral planning authorities involved (including Staffordshire and Derbyshire) to realise the vision for nature and people. "Bigger and Better" has been endorsed by the CRI, Trent Rivers Trust and both Wildlife Trusts involved in our scheme, and has been widely acclaimed and praised as a great example of partnership working and policy advocacy by mineral operators, statutory agencies, and other partnerships in England.



Croxall Lakes Nature Reserve (C Wilkinson)

2.5.11 The National Forest

Over twenty years ago, visionary leaders made the decision to create a new, large, forested area in England, to show all the many benefits that come from woodland near where people live and work. The area in the Midlands, which came to be known as The National Forest, was chosen in part because the woodland cover was very low (about 6%). There was also a great need for regeneration after the end of mining and, importantly, incredible public support for the idea.

Since then, the 200 square miles of The National Forest have been transformed through the planting of millions of trees (8 million by October 2012) and the creation of many other valuable habitats. It boasts many new attractions and forest-based activities and has stimulated many woodland-linked businesses. Whilst more than 200,000 people live in the Forest, it is also within just 90 minutes' journey time for about 10 million people and is open to all, with an increasing network of trails and recreational opportunities.

The creation of The National Forest is forming new areas for wildlife every year. As these new habitats mature over

time, the plants and animals they support become more varied and important. These newly-created habitats link with existing natural havens to create a landscape that is not only richer in wildlife, but more robust and better able to meet the challenge of climate change (The National Forest Company, 2018).

Around 41km² of our landscape intersects with The National Forest. There are currently 112 National Forest schemes running within the project area and grants are available for tree planting, creation of wildlife habitats and implementation of innovative woodland management initiatives. The ethos of the two schemes complement one another and it can be expected that the extent of the woodland within the National Forest will increase due to our scheme (LUC 2018).

The National Forest Way is a long distance walk (approximately 75 miles) that crosses the National Forest from the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas to the west to Beacon Hill Country Park in Leicestershire in the east. Sections of the walk intersect with the Trent Valley Way and offer opportunities to unite efforts between the two landscapes (LUC, 2018).

2.5.12 Glimpses of change

Large-scale change is inevitable, but by working in partnership we have the potential to influence this change in a way that can result in some positive benefits for our landscape. There are already glimpses that the changes that will make a Living Landscape possible are already happening. Tucklesholme, just outside Burton, was a vast agricultural monoculture that will soon be transformed into the county's biggest reed bed, with aspirations to attract species that have not bred in the area for almost 100 years. Partnership working by the quarry company, developers, economists, public sector and the wildlife

trust has led to a unique situation where the working quarry is actually owned by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

Rather than simply extracting as much gravel as possible and leaving a big hole to be filled with water, the restoration approach is based on purposefully removing material in a way that will leave features that are essential for biodiversity. There is just as much focus on creating a nature reserve as there is on minerals extraction. This is illustrative of how a partnership can achieve what at the outset can often be perceived as contradictory aims.