

Shaping Our Place 2026

Local Development Framework

Core Strategy

Policy Direction Paper
Green Infrastructure

January 2010

LDF CORE STRATEGY: POLICY DIRECTION BACKGROUND PAPER

Policy: Green Infrastructure

Preferred Policy Direction

The preferred policies for green infrastructure will:

1. Ensure that new developments are designed in a way which enhances Herefordshire's green infrastructure, for example through linking into existing green networks; addressing climate change or enhancing biodiversity;
 2. Seek positive contributions for green infrastructure proposals, particularly in areas where there is an identified need, through the Infrastructure Delivery Policy.
-

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides background information and evidence to support the policy directions that form part of the Core Strategy Place Shaping Paper. The full policy wording will form part of the pre-submission Core Strategy.
- 1.2 The Core Strategy will set out the vision and objectives for the Herefordshire Local Development Framework (LDF), together with the 'place shaping policies' at a strategic level, explaining how the county as a whole is expected to develop up to 2026.
- 1.4 The remainder of this report seeks to address the following questions:
 - What is the current situation (issue)?
 - What is the national, regional and local policy framework?
 - What is the available evidence base indicating?
 - What can the Core Strategy do?
 - What were the results / indications for the Developing Options Consultation?
 - What further consultation will be taking place?
 - What conclusions can be drawn?
 - What happens next?

2.0 The need for the policy

- 2.1 Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12): Local Spatial Planning defines green infrastructure as a network of green space both new and existing, rural and urban, which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities.
- 2.2 The following represent green infrastructure typologies:

- **Parks and Gardens** – urban parks, country and regional Parks, formal gardens;
- **Amenity Greenspace** – informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, domestic gardens, village greens, urban commons, other incidental space, green roofs;
- **Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces** - woodland and scrub, grassland (e.g. downland and meadow), heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and disturbed ground), bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs and quarries);
- **Green corridors** – rivers and canals including their banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, pedestrian paths, and rights of way;
- **Other** - allotments, community gardens, city farms, cemeteries and churchyards.

2.3 Whilst new development and conservation initiatives, including flood alleviation schemes, are often reactive and focus on specific areas of land rather than considering the wider environment, green infrastructure presents an alternative approach to planning that is proactive, multi-scale and multi-functional.

2.4 Major built infrastructure developments such as roads or power distribution schemes succeed because of the long established process of careful planning, design and investment between a number of different disciplines, all in advance of implementation. Green infrastructure represents a similar co-ordinated interdisciplinary approach to environmental planning and regeneration, comparable to that used in built or 'grey' infrastructure planning.

2.5 Notwithstanding the benefits to the environment, the green infrastructure policy within the Core Strategy will contribute to the development of better places in which to live, work and invest. Such policies will help create places with a distinctive and attractive character that function well, are well connected and appealing. They will help forge a closer relationship between urban and rural areas, with countryside functioning more successfully as a place that feeds and sustains Hereford and the market towns.

Contributing to a wider agenda

2.6 The UK, like other western civilisations, has witnessed widespread exploitation of the earth's resources to fuel industrial and social progress, with little awareness or consideration to long-term impacts on society and the environment. At a global scale we are seeing the consequences of these activities, such as in the increasing and compelling evidence for climate change and environmental degradation. In this country, the effects are evident in the erosion of our diverse and attractive landscapes through agricultural intensification, the expansion of urban areas, and the loss and fragmentation of semi-natural habitats. Indeed, it is notable that in the core study area, landscape character, habitats and footpath networks have all experienced some degree of degradation and fragmentation in recent decades.

2.7 Green infrastructure policies within the Core Strategy, and notably habitat enhancement and creation, will contribute towards meeting several international biodiversity obligations, including a commitment to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010 (under

the Convention of Biological Diversity) and a European Union commitment to halt the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 under the 2001 Gothenburg agreement.

- 2.8 There is scope for bringing a greater proportion of SSSI land (Site of Specific Scientific Interest) in Herefordshire into favourable or recovering condition. This is particularly important, as the latest edition of the State of Herefordshire Report (2009) reveals that 40% of Herefordshire's SSSI land is in unfavourable condition with no sign of improvement.
- 2.9 It is possible, too, that green infrastructure policies can contribute towards meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This came into force in 2000 and was transposed into UK law in 2003. Among other things, the aim of the WFD is to enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of inland and coastal aquatic ecosystems, and wetlands by 2015.
- 2.10 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is also of importance. The aim of the convention is to promote the protection, management and planning of Europe's landscape, and applies to urban, urban fringe and rural areas. Natural England has published a framework for implementing the ELC, and will lead its implementation on behalf of DEFRA. Green infrastructure meets several key objectives of the ELC, notably through landscape protection, management, planning and common threads of raising awareness of landscape issues.

3.0 The policy framework

- 3.1 The concept of green infrastructure has been developing for some time as an important environment planning led tool. Green infrastructure is now being increasingly and successfully integrated into UK regional and local policies and actions, although the impetus has been largely focused within the urban areas of the south east of England, notably the Thames Gateway and other growth areas, such as the East Midlands region.

A national regeneration priority

- 3.2 The former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Sustainable Communities Plan sets out a long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in both urban and rural areas. The plan outlines a new approach to how and what we build, together with the delivery of a better quality of life for communities.
- 3.3 The Sustainable Communities Plan contains several key elements, two of which are directly relevant to green infrastructure:
 - **Liveability.** The plan sets out how the Government intends to intensify efforts to improve the local environment of all communities. This includes cleaner streets, improved parks and better public spaces; and
 - **Protecting the countryside.** The plan outlines how land will be used more effectively.

- 3.4 This focus on 'liveability' and the countryside has provided a platform for the wider promotion and understanding of the principles which underpin green infrastructure and its importance in the delivery of a healthy and enhanced environment for everyone.

National green infrastructure guidance

- 3.5 At a national level, Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance (2009) sets out the organisation's position in relation to green infrastructure planning and delivery, which is increasingly recognised as an essential part of sustainable spatial planning. This is due in no small part to the role of green infrastructure as a 'life support system', able to deliver multiple environmental functions, and to play a key part in adapting to and mitigating climate change.
- 3.6 The document explains how green infrastructure contributes to spatial planning and sustainability objectives, the function it fulfils, with a concise identification of resulting benefits in relation to government policy priorities.
- 3.7 Amongst other things, the guidance urges local planning authorities to ensure that green infrastructure is integrated into the planning process from the early strategic visioning stage through to the delivery stage.

National planning policy

- 3.8 The inclusion of green infrastructure in national planning policy is a significant landmark in strategic and collaborative environmental planning and delivery and represents an essential part of the Government's commitment to meeting sustainable development objectives.
- 3.9 Relevant planning policies include:
- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development;
 - PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas;
 - PPS9: Biological and Geological Conservation;
 - PPS12: Local Spatial Planning;
 - Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17): Sport and Recreation;
 - PPS25: Development and Flood Risk
- 3.10 **PPS1 – Delivering Sustainable Development:** fundamental driver through which the implicit requirement to take due regard to environmental issues in meeting sustainable development are set out.
- 3.11 **PPS7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas:** sets out the Government's planning policies for rural areas. A key objective of PPS7 is to raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through good quality, sustainable development that respects the local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside.
- 3.12 **PPS12 – Local Spatial Planning:** establishes the importance of creating strong, safe and prosperous communities and ensures local plans are supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to deliver sustainable communities.

- 3.13 **PPG17 – Sport and Recreation:** highlights the requirement to undertake open space audits and strategies, which can inform green infrastructure strategies at both the strategic and local scale.
- 3.14 **PPS25 – Development and Flood Risk:** refers specifically to making the most of the benefits of green infrastructure for flood storage, conveyance and sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), and re-creating functional floodplains and setting back flood defences.

Regional guidance

- 3.15 Green infrastructure does not feature prominently in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS), but a great deal of information is set within the West Midlands Green Infrastructure Prospectus (2007).
- 3.16 The prospectus sets out the regional vision for green infrastructure and there are five aims which underpin this vision:
1. To ensure politicians, policy developers and decision makers throughout the west midlands are aware of the vital roles of green infrastructure;
 2. To advocate greater investment in, and improved management of, the region's existing green infrastructure;
 3. To ensure green infrastructure is appreciated as an essential element of delivering sustainable communities, underpinning growth and regeneration;
 4. To promote a robust and systematic approach to green infrastructure assessment, planning and investment by local, sub regional and regional planning bodies;
 5. To ensure green infrastructure is proactively planned from the earliest stages of strategic plan preparation through to concept and design stages of all future developments in the region.

3.17 The prospectus sets out the preferred approach to the planning of green infrastructure across the region. As yet, there are no hard and fast ways of going about this, but given its integrated and multi-functional characteristics; green infrastructure must be embedded in a wide-range of plans, policies and strategies from the outset. This is essential for the development of sustainable communities, growth and future prosperity of the region.

3.18 The final chapter identifies Herefordshire as a major biodiversity enhancement area and urges the council to retain and restore existing wildlife and habitats, whilst ensuring that Hereford, as a growth point, has sufficient publicly accessible open space to meet the rising demand brought about by the likely increase in its population.

Green infrastructure in Herefordshire

3.20 At the sub-regional level, Herefordshire Council recognises the need to deliver green infrastructure through the **Local Area Agreement (LAA)** which is structured around five themes:

- Economic and Enterprise;
- Children and Young People;

- Healthier Communities and Older People;
 - Safer and Stronger Communities;
 - Environment.
- 3.21 Within each theme there are a number of outcomes, underpinned by performance indicators which are regularly monitored to show progress towards the achievement.
- 3.22 Two important LAA priorities 2008-11 are to:
- Improve the availability of sustainable services and facilities and access to them;
 - Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle with particular attention to reducing smoking, levels of obesity and excessive alcohol consumption.
- 3.23 These priorities are fully reflected in the **Sustainable Community Strategy** which sets out aspirations for the county by 2020 and how we might achieve them. The strategy also acts as Herefordshire's Local Agenda 21 Plan and Regeneration Strategy and is closely integrated with the emerging LDF for the county.
- 3.24 The **Vision** is that Herefordshire will be a place where people, organisations and businesses working together within an outstanding natural environment will bring about sustainable prosperity and wellbeing for all.

4.0 Evidence base

- 4.1 Over the last few years and as part of its LDF the council has been preparing a wide range of background studies as evidence to support its Core Strategy.
- 4.2 The Green Infrastructure Strategy is directly relevant and is being developed in two stages, with the first phase comprising evidence gathering and analysis forming the core of the Green Infrastructure Study. The second stage will involve the development of a strategic approach to infrastructure provision and the development of planning guidance. It is intended that the Green Infrastructure Strategy will be applicable at all levels; developing a set of principles applicable at a county scale but equally relevant at a local, site-specific level.
- 4.3 Work to date has concentrated upon developing the Green Infrastructure Study, which was commissioned by Herefordshire Council in January 2007 as part of its ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of new and future communities and to general environmental protection and enhancement.
- 4.4 The completed Green Infrastructure Study, published in April 2008, aims to ensure that the natural and cultural landscape features and functions are placed at the heart of planning for sustainable development within Herefordshire. To achieve this the study identifies the components forming 'Green Infrastructure', assesses their quality and quantity, identifies any shortfall in provision and considers the opportunities available to provide and manage such infrastructure within the context of growth of the county.

- 4.5 However, although the Green Infrastructure Study identifies opportunities and deficiencies for environmental enhancement and connection, the original document is currently being reworked and supplemented to fit within the structure of the wider Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Revised Green Infrastructure Study

- 4.6 Section three of the revised Green Infrastructure Study seeks to identify the extent of existing green infrastructure provision and understand the ways in which it functions or fails to function. In order properly to understand the current situation the study divides the analysis of the existing resource into manageable components, both geographically and thematically. For each component of the existing resource, analysis is made of the extent or provision, any apparent issues surrounding the resource and the opportunities that may arise for each component through the development of the strategy.

- 4.7 The assessment of the existing green infrastructure resource has been divided into two generic groups:

- Natural Systems
 - Geology;
 - Hydrology;
 - Topography;
 - Biodiversity.
- Human Influences
 - Land Use;
 - Access and Movement;
 - Archaeology, Historical and Cultural;
 - Landscape Character;
 - Designated and Accessible Open Space.

- 4.8 To further aid the analysis of the existing provision of green infrastructure, and in order to allow for the future identification of discrete opportunities for protecting, enhancing and creating new infrastructure, three geographic tiers have been defined; the sub-region or **county**, inter-town area or **district** and town and ward level or **local**. The study advises that developing green infrastructure policies based on this tiered principle allows for an easy understanding of how comparatively small sites and developments contribute to the wider asset.

Summary – Natural Resources

- 4.9 The Revised Green Infrastructure Study makes the following observations in respect of Natural Resources:

- The influences of topography and hydrology are particularly marked, the latter a critical influence on social and economic development at both a county and local level;
- Positive management of floodplains and water resources will be key to a sustainable future for green infrastructure;

- The biodiversity and ecological assets in the county are diverse, contributing to local distinctiveness and making the area recognised nationally as important;
- Ecological systems need to function at a broad spectrum, across whole landscapes and in distinct and localised territories;
- It is essential that connections are made between sites and habitats and that these connections are robust and fully functional;
- Adaptation to climate change, species migration and range expansion are critical challenges to be met.

Summary – Human Influences

4.10 The Revised Green Infrastructure Study makes the following observations in respect of Human Influences:

- Human activity, and the interaction with natural resources has shaped the present county to such an extent that clear characteristics, elements and features can be identified;
- Historic human activities, dating back to the earliest settlers of the county, can still be seen and still bear influence over the character of the area;
- Current land uses, often intrinsically linked with past activity, are many and distributed widely across the county. Distinct patterns of movement and transportation routes, again many rooted in the distant past, relate closely to the topography of the county and reinforce, or string together, a network of distinct and varied settlements.
- The intensity of human activity in some parts of the county, along with a sparse settlement pattern in others, has resulted in a paucity of publicly accessible space and a deficiency in public rights of way generally in the area;
- Popular accessible recreational land is pressured and there are risks of irreversible damage to some features of value. Naturally occurring resources and the products of human activity will need to be managed with extreme care, and a degree of ingenuity, if the characteristics of the county are to be maintained, preserved and enhanced;
- Linking current and projected human activity to the legacy of past activities and influences, whilst supporting and developing natural systems and resources, must form the foundation for future development within the county.

4.11 Once the study is complete there will then be a need to develop a comprehensive strategy for green infrastructure delivery.

5.0 What can the Core Strategy do?

5.1 The emerging Core Strategy can lead to the provision of new green areas whilst helping to maintain and enhance those which already exist by delivering the aspirations of the Sustainable Community Strategy. To achieve this, the following long-term headline spatial vision is proposed:

“By 2026, Herefordshire will be a place of distinctive environmental, historical and cultural assets and local communities, with sustainable development fostering a high quality of life for those who live, work and visit here. A sustainable future for the county will be based on the interdependence of the themes of social progress, economic prosperity and environmental quality with the aim of increasing the county’s self-reliance and resilience.”

5.2 There are twelve objectives which underpin this vision, one of which directly concern green infrastructure:

Objective 2: *To improve the health, well-being and quality of life of all residents by ensuring new developments positively contribute towards better access to, provision and use of, improved public open space, sport and recreation, education, cultural and health facilities.*

Key issues addressed:

- Providing for the needs of all generations;
- Protection and enhancement of environmental assets;
- Provision of, and access to, important services and facilities.

Sustainable Community Strategy priorities:

- Protect and enhance biodiversity within the county;
- Encourage investment in high quality streets, public spaces and the built environment;
- Ensure fair access to the services which Herefordshire residents need.

Objective 8: *To improve the economic viability of the market towns, villages and their rural hinterlands by facilitating employment generation and diversification, improving delivery and access to services (including affordable housing) and realising the value of the environment as an economic asset.*

Key issues addressed:

- Regeneration of the county;
- Promoting tourism and culture.

Sustainable Community Strategy priorities:

- Promote Herefordshire as a destination for food, tourism and businesses;
- Assist local communities to identify, retain and develop local distinctiveness.

Objective 9: *To develop Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism by enabling the provision of new, as well as enhancement of existing, tourism infrastructure.*

Key issues addressed:

- Protecting and enhancing environmental assets;
- Regeneration of the county.

Sustainable Community Strategy priorities:

- Promote sustainable land management;
- Act to mitigate climate change and its consequences including promoting adaptation where this is necessary and appropriate;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity in the county;
- Maintain landscape character;
- Assist local communities to identify, retain and develop local distinctiveness.

Objective 10: *To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment by delivering well-designed places, spaces and buildings, which use land efficiently, reinforce local distinctiveness and are supported by the necessary infrastructure including green infrastructure.*

Key issues addressed:

- Protecting and enhancing environmental assets;
- Better use of resources;
- Provision/access to important services/facilities;

Sustainable Community Strategy priorities:

- Act to mitigate climate change and its consequences including promoting adaptation where this is necessary and appropriate;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity within the county;
- Promote sustainable land management.

Objective 11: *To address the causes and impacts of climate change by ensuring new development: uses sustainable design and construction, methods to conserve natural resources, does not increase flood risk to new or existing property, increases the use of renewable forms of energy to reduce carbon emissions, minimise waste and pollution, manages water supply and conservation and conserves and protects biodiversity and geodiversity.*

Key issues addressed:

- Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding;
- Better use of resources.

Sustainable Community Strategy priorities:

- Act to mitigate climate change and its consequences including promoting adaptation where this is necessary and appropriate;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity within the county;
- Maintain landscape character;

- Promote sustainable land management.

Objective 12: *To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefits to the whole community by safeguarding the county's current stock of environmental assets from loss and damage, reversing negative trends, ensuring best condition and encouraging expansion, as well as appropriately managing future assets.*

Key issues addressed:

- Protection and enhancement of environmental assets.

Sustainable Community Strategy priorities:

- Act to mitigate climate change and its consequences including promoting adaptation where this is necessary and appropriate;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity within the county;
- Maintain landscape character;
- Promote sustainable land management.

6.0 Developing Options Consultation Results

6.1 Public engagement is an important element of developing the Core Strategy and a Developing Options Consultation took place through the summer of 2008 in order to determine the options which the council should address in more detail.

6.2 The consultation period ran from 16 June to 8 August 2008 and residents, statutory consultees and other interested bodies were encouraged to examine and comment upon, among other things, the council's draft spatial vision and objectives.

6.3 The Developing Options Paper asked the following question in respect of green infrastructure:

1. How should Herefordshire protect and enhance its green spaces?
 - a. Ensure that new developments are designed in a way which enhances Herefordshire's green infrastructure, for example through linking into existing networks;
 - b. Seek developer contributions for identified green infrastructure proposals, particularly in areas where there is an identified need;
 - c. Make the most of the benefits of green infrastructure for a number of purposes.

6.4 All the suggested options gained strong support:

- Option A – 696 respondents
 - Yes (98%)
 - No (2%)
 - No opinion/Not provided (286)

- Options B – 571 respondents
 - Yes (87%)
 - No (13%)
 - No opinion/Not provided (411)
 - Option C – 616 respondents
 - Yes (97%)
 - No (3%)
 - No opinion/Not provide (366)
- 6.5 Some respondents made additional comments in respect of green infrastructure. However, although one respondent raised the possibility of designating new Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this issue can only be addressed through an Act of Parliament.
- 6.6 No alternative options were put forward, but the Environment Agency detailed the need to include options to protect and enhance green spaces in line with PPS9. Similarly, the Woodland Trust made the comment that green infrastructure policies should place a strong emphasis on the benefits of woodland.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulation Assessment

- 6.7 As part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process of the whole Core Strategy, the objectives were appraised in April 2008 at the Developing Options stage. The results of that exercise were published in June 2008 and the objectives relating to green infrastructure were considered to be in accordance with each of the SA objectives.
- 6.8 The likely effects of options A, B and C (para 6.3) were considered to be moving towards sustainability and the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) reveals that maximising the use of green infrastructure is likely to aid biodiversity.

7.0 Further consultation undertaken and Sustainability Appraisal

- 7.1 Over the next few months, the council will be undertaking further consultation with relevant internal departments and external organisations in order to finalise a preferred policy. The list of consultees can be found at Appendices 1 and 2 of this report.
- 7.2 In August 2009, the council undertook four SA workshops in order to assess the sustainability of the emerging set of preferred directions for green infrastructure policies. The emerging policy directions were considered to be moving towards sustainability and a full copy of the SA and HRA of the Place Shaping Paper can be found on the council's website.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 In conclusion, green infrastructure is increasingly being seen within the national policy framework as critical infrastructure and as a positive way in which to conceptualise greenspace planning. The aim is to increase the

8.2 The purpose of green infrastructure planning is to:

- Value existing green areas and prevent deterioration;
- Improve the quality and diversity of these areas to better serve local needs;
- Connect green areas to present a strategic whole that is greater than the sum of the parts;
- Consider the management of all green areas under consideration, whether they are in private or public ownership.

8.3 Herefordshire's aspirations in relation to green infrastructure are set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LAA, albeit indirectly. The council's Green Infrastructure Strategy is directly relevant, but the final report is yet to be published. As a consequence it is difficult to determine the extent to which this key piece of evidence will influence green infrastructure policies.

8.3 However, on the basis of public consultation, policies in the Core Strategy will ensure that environmental assets of natural and cultural value are fully integrated with development and built infrastructure, and that all opportunities for protecting, enhancing and creating greenspace are realised, including on a multi-functional basis.

9.0 Way forward

9.1 Whilst Herefordshire Council needs to demonstrate that there are clear mechanisms for monitoring the outcomes of policies (including green infrastructure policies) within its Core Strategy, it is not the purpose of this report to propose indicators to measure their success or otherwise.

9.2 The range of possible indicators which could be used to monitor policies will be developed through further consultation with key stakeholders and other interested bodies throughout the development plan process.

Appendix 1: List of Internal Consultees

James Bisset - *Principal Countryside Officer*

Geof Tarring - *Parks Manager*

Fran White - *Parks Development Manager*

Spencer Grogan - *Public Rights of Way Manager*

Ruth Jackson - *Principal Leisure & Countryside Recreation Officer*

Chris Mayes - *Senior Landscape Officer*

Bridget Symons - *Planning Ecologist*

Nicky Davies - *Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator*

Kevin Bishop - *Principal Planning Officer (Central Team)*

Andrew Banks - *Principal Planning Officer (Northern Team)*

Edward Thomas - *Principal Planning Officer (Southern Team)*

Appendix 2: List of External Consultees

Natural England

Environment Agency

The Coal Authority

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Open Spaces Society

Confederation of British Industry WM

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Woodland Trust

Campaign to Protect Rural England

NFU West Midlands

British Waterways

Appendix 3: Bibliography and Further Reading

National documents

Natural England (2009): *Green Infrastructure Guidance*, Birmingham: NE Publications

ODPM (2003): *Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future*, London: HMSO

Planning policy statements/guidance notes

DCLG (2008): *PPS12 – Local Spatial Planning*, London: HMSO

DCLG (2006): *PPS1 – Delivering Sustainable Development*, London: HMSO

DCLG (2006): *PPS3 – Housing*, London: HMSO

DCLG (2006): *PPS25 – Development and Flood Risk*, London: HMSO

DCLG (2004): *PPS7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas*, London: HMSO

ODPM (2002): *PPG17 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation*, London: HMSO

Regional documents

GOWM (2008) *Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands (Incorporating Phase 1)*, London: TSO

Forestry Commission (2007): *Green Infrastructure: A Prospectus for the West Midlands Region*, Worcester

Sub-regional documents

The Herefordshire Partnership (2009): *The State of Herefordshire Report*, Hereford

Herefordshire Council (2009): *Core Strategy - Developing Options Analysis Schedules*, Hereford

Herefordshire Council (2009): *Core Strategy - Developing Options Paper Sustainability Appraisal*, Hereford

Herefordshire Council (2009): *Core Strategy - Habitat Regulation Assessment*, Hereford

Herefordshire Council (2008): *Shaping our Place 2026 - Core Strategy Developing Options Paper*, Hereford

The Herefordshire Partnership (2008): *Herefordshire Story of Place Local Area Agreement 2008-2011*, Hereford

The Herefordshire Partnership (2006): *The Community Strategy for Herefordshire “A Sustainable Future for the County”*, Hereford

External technical studies (consultants)

AMEY (2008): *Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Study*, Hereford

Strategic Leisure Limited (2006): *PPG17 Open Spaces Assessment*, Hereford

Background papers

Herefordshire Council (2009): *Core Strategy - Developing the Vision and Objectives Background Paper*, Hereford