

Strategic Priority GBI Zone: Golden Valley and Black Mountains Edge

Vision: Deliver distinctive and nature-rich valleys of the River Dore and River Monnow, enhancing physical and ecological connections with the Black Mountains.

Spatial coverage and connectivity

6.11 Flowing broadly parallel on north west to south east alignments, the corridors of the River Dore and River Monnow characterise the landscape of this zone. The orientation of these deeply incised valleys, coupled with the distinctive ridgeline topography, reinforces the sense of a border between England and Wales. The zone also boasts a landscape rich in heritage and natural assets, bound to the west by the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Summary of analysis of assets

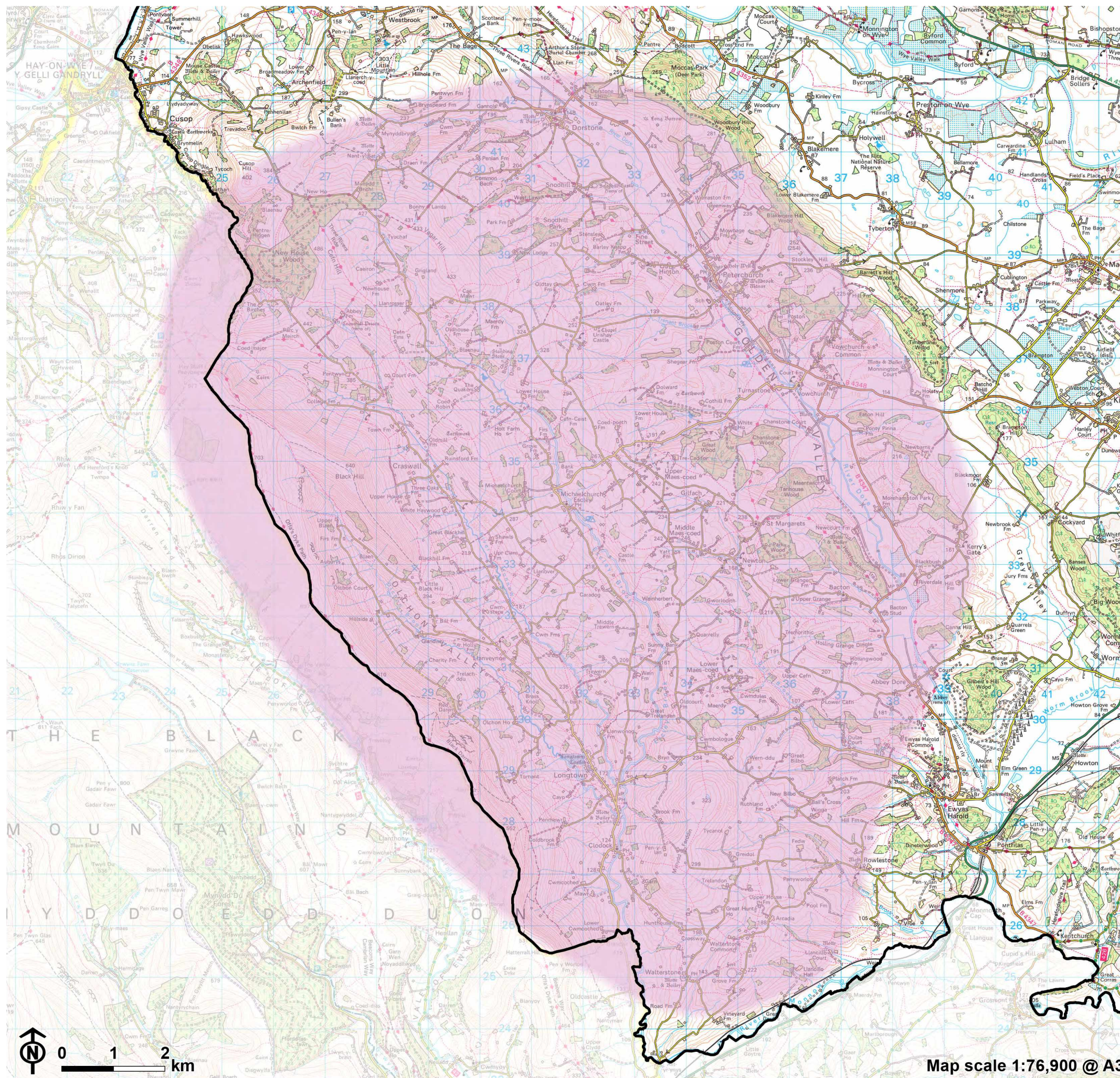
- The corridor is characterised by north to south ridges and valleys, remnants of historic field patterns, woodland, castles and churches, settlements and farmsteads. The well visited, neolithic burial chamber of Arthur's Stone is located near Dorstone.
- The Herefordshire Trail, which circumnavigates the county, passes through the Golden Valley. There is an extensive and well connected PRoW network, offering links to Offa's Dyke Trail and NCN Route 42.
- The River Dore, which traverses the Golden Valley, and River Monnow, which flows alongside the Black Mountains form the principal watercourses.

- The Moccas Hill Wood / Moccas Park National Nature Reserve encompasses the largest and most diverse example of wood pasture in England. The LNR of Little Mountain Common and Chanstone Wood SSSI also supports deciduous woodland. In addition, there are several SSSIs consisting of meadow grasslands; including Caeiron Meadows SSSI , Pike's Farm Meadow SSSI and Olchon Farm Meadows SSSI.
- The Black Mountains SSSI supports ancient and deciduous woodland, as well as substantial areas of grass moorland and upland heathland.

Summary of analysis of needs

- Land lying between Peterchurch and Hinton is deficient in accessible greenspace, achieving three or less of the buffers as defined by the Natural England GI Framework. These buffers provide an indication of the extent of areas that meet the Accessible Greenspace Standards. Where an area does not meet the standard, this indicates a deficiency in greenspace provision.
- Land at Dorstone Hill and to the west of Dorstone exhibit a low density of Public Rights of Way (PRoW). This pattern is also reflected at land to the north of Mynydd Brith and land bordering the south western extent of the county, delineated by the route of the River Monnow.
- Lying to the south west of Llanveynoe, the condition of Olchon Farm Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is described as 'unfavourable declining'.
- The Working with Natural Processes (WWNP) Floodplain woodland potential, which provides an estimation of locations where tree planting may be possible on smaller floodplains close to flow pathways (effective for both attenuating flooding and connecting woodland corridors), indicates potential for reforestation adjacent to the River Dore.
- Running broadly parallel to the corridors of the B4348 and B4347, the channel of the River Dore (Golden Valley) provides a source of flood risk, partially incorporating the settlements of Dorstone, Hinton, Peterchurch, Vowchurch, Turnastone and Abbey Dore.

Figure 6.7: Golden Valley and Black Mountains Edge Strategic Priority GBI Zone



- Herefordshire boundary
- Golden Valley and Black Mountains Edge

Map scale 1:76,900 @ A3

Source: LUC, Ordnance Survey

Table 6.3: Golden Valley and Black Mountains Edge - GBI Priority Projects

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Strategic scale							
GV1	Restore floodplain habitats along the River Dore	Provide flood risk mitigation	Expand riparian woodlands to offer flood risk mitigation at the head waters of the River Dore where the river forks at Dorstone. Utilising nature-based solutions, interventions should strengthen the remaining areas of woodland and hedgerows to create a belt of woodland along the river terraces on either side of the valley.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Natural England; ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Environment Agency; and ■ Land owners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management (sustainable farming incentive). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Improved water management.
GV2	Create a strategic active travel route	Reduce dependency on private transport and enhance the recreational offer	The Golden Valley Railway line is a dismantled line which previously provided connection between Pontrilas and Hay-on-Wye, where further rail connections exist with Brecon to the south west and Kington to the north east. The opportunity exists to enhance connections within and adjoining the Golden Valley Railway Line and identify opportunities for extending the PRow along this corridor to provide an active travel route, which connects with the Herefordshire Trail.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; and ■ Sustrans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Thriving and prosperous places; and ■ Active and healthy places.
GV3	Identify opportunities for the enhancement of lowland meadows	Recognise the status of meadows as a local conservation priority	Create a nature-rich and resilient network of pollinator habitats through the identification of opportunities for expansion and connectivity of lowland meadows. Interventions should incorporate purple moor grass, rush pastures and good quality semi-improved grasslands along the Golden Valley in partnership with Herefordshire Meadows.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Natural England; ■ Marches Nature Partnership; ■ Herefordshire Meadows; ■ Herefordshire Council; and ■ Land owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.
Local / settlement scale							
GV4	Deliver “greening the grey” initiatives	Address local deficiencies in accessible natural greenspace	Deliver enhancements to settlements which are currently deficient in accessible natural greenspace through “greening the grey” on land stretching from Pontrilas to Peterchurch. Through the improved management of road verges, these interventions offer the opportunity to create an ambitious and diverse range of pollinator habitats which reinforce the B-Line that passes through the area and enhance roadside verge linkages in Abbey Dore and Llanveynoe. These settlements	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; and ■ Environment Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.

			are also at risk of surface water flooding and fluvial flooding from the River Dore and therefore naturalised surface level SuDS would offer multiple benefits. Long-term sustainable tree planting as part of rain gardens and tree pits offer the opportunity for increase canopy cover and enhancements to existing wildlife corridors.				
GV5	Improve the connectivity of the PRow network	Address areas with a low density of Public Rights of Way (PRow)	Explore opportunities to increase the density of the PRow network on land to the west and south west of Dorstone. The opportunity also exists to improve PRow connections bordering the corridor of the B4348 to improve connections to Dorstone Hill and beyond.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Active and healthy places.

Strategic Priority GBI Zone: Hereford to Leominster Lugg Corridor

Vision: Utilise the river corridor and floodplain to connect local communities and provide strategic linkages from Hereford to Leominster, whilst conserving and enhancing areas of ecological importance.

Spatial coverage and connectivity

6.12 This zone forms a green-blue corridor connecting the settlements of Hereford and Leominster, following the north-south alignment of the River Lugg. The route of the A49 runs broadly parallel to the meandering course of the watercourse. Encompassing Leominster and the northern fringes of Hereford, the zone includes a cluster of ecological and recreational assets.

Summary of analysis of assets

- The River Lugg is valued for its natural heritage value and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Wildlife Site (LWS). The lower section of the watercourse lies within the wider River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- The zone is characterised by large tracts of ancient woodland; including within the SSSIs at Dinmore Hill Woods, Wellington Woods and Queenswood Country Park and Arboretum.
- A right of navigation exists along the River Lugg with stretches of accessible waterside evident throughout the corridor, particularly to the south east of Leominster.

- The zone incorporates conservation areas at Wellington, Bodenham, Leominster and Leominster Meadows, as well as the Registered Park and Garden at Hampton Court.
- The zone exhibits a high density of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) around Leominster and between Bohenheim and Sutton.

Summary of analysis of needs

- Significant areas of flood risk, including some pluvial flood risk and extensive areas of fluvial flooding associated with the River Lugg.
- Management of recreational pressures is required, particularly around Lugg and Hampton Meadows.
- Clearance of vegetation is required to retain navigability of the River Lugg.
- Large stretch of the zone fall within an area of flood risk, associated with the corridors of the River Lugg and its tributaries. Additional areas of flood risk at Brierley and Ivington Green are also attributed to the floodplain of the River Arrow.
- The Lugg catchment is subject to adherence to nutrient management to achieve 'nutrient neutrality'.
- The zone encompasses section of the River Lugg Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The condition of this site is described as 'unfavourable declining' (25%) and 'unfavourable- recovering' (75%).
- Land lying within the east of Leominster, contained to the north by the A44 and to the east by A49, is deficient in accessible greenspace, achieving three or less of the buffers as defined by the Natural England GI Framework. These buffers provide an indication of the extent of areas that meet the Accessible Greenspace Standards. Where an area does not meet the standard, this indicates a deficiency in greenspace provision. Other areas exhibiting greenspace deficiency include Moreton on Lugg, Holmer and a belt of land parallel to the corridor of the B4361 at Luston.

- As described by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, land to the south of Kenwater in the east of Leominster falls within most deprived 10-20% health domain.
- A low density of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) coverage exists at land to the north of the A417 at Hampton Park and between Wellington Wood and Urdimarsh. Gaps in the PRoW network are also apparent at Pipe and Lyde on the A49 corridor.
- Road and rail noise associated with the A49 corridor and the Welsh Marches Rail Line exists between Hereford and Leominster. This exceeds the guidelines of 55 decibels average for the night and 60 decibels average for the day. This zone also incorporates Bargates Leominster Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), an area declared due to nitrogen dioxide pollution.

Planned growth

6.13 Housing growth is projected within Leominster between the 20-year period from 2021 to 2041. This growth equates to 2,100 new properties. The floodplains of the Rivers Lugg and Arrow form environmental planning constraints. The requirement for adherence to nutrient management to achieve 'nutrient neutrality' also forms a key planning consideration in this zone.

Figure 6.8: Hereford to Leominster Lugg Corridor Strategic Priority GBI Zone



- Herefordshire boundary
- Hereford to Leominster Lugg Corridor

Source: LUC, Ordnance Survey

Table 6.4: Hereford to Leominster Lugg Corridor - GBI Priority Projects

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Strategic scale							
LC1	Lugg Ecological Masterplan	Recreational pressure particularly on Lugg and Hampton Meadows SSSI and deficiencies in accessible greenspace	In accordance with the aspirations of the Hereford City Masterplan and recognising the designation of the River Wye SAC and the River Lugg SSSI and LWS, develop an Ecological Masterplan and Management Plan for the Lugg corridor to dilute recreational pressure on Lugg and Hampton Meadows SSSI. This could be achieved through the creation of new destination natural greenspace, with the aim of addressing deficiencies in both the Accessible Greenspace Sub-Regional and District Standards to the north west of Hereford. The creation of wet meadows (through potential partnership with Herefordshire Meadows), creation of reedbeds and restoration of riparian vegetation along the Lugg corridor may also contribute towards improvements in water quality of the River Lugg. To carefully balance the requirements for recreation, interactions with nature, and undisturbed habitat, the masterplan should identify areas of 'active access', 'exploring nature', and 'undisturbed areas' reflecting local pressures and needs.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Natural England; ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Environment Agency; and ■ Land owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme; ■ Grant funding for capital works and management (sustainable farming incentive); and ■ Defra's Landscape Recovery Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Resilient and climate positive places; ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Thriving and prosperous places; and ■ Active and healthy places.
LC2	Hereford to Leominster Active Travel Route	Deficiencies in access to nature and high levels of deprivation within areas of Leominster	Explore options for a Hereford to Leominster active travel / walking link, utilising existing 'slow ways' identified by Herefordshire's residents. This should incorporate the various recreation and access to nature assets around Queenswood Country Park and Arboretum. Explore options to extend these links north towards the market town of Ludlow in adjoining Shropshire, and west towards Kington on the former Leominster to Kington railway line.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Sustrans; ■ Living Streets; and ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active Travel England ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places
LC3	Build on existing success in restoring functional and resilient grassland habitats for declining bird species	Loss and fragmentation of species-rich grasslands and grassland mosaics	As for the Wye Corridor, noticing that meadows are significant as a local conservation priority, opportunities for wet meadows within and expanding from the River Lugg corridor should be identified. These may be best located within areas of existing flood risk. Utilising existing expertise from Herefordshire Meadows for example and their involvement with local landowners and farmers. Work with landowners to explore opportunities to enhance wet meadow habitat and create additional areas of shallow pools and scrapes for curlews along their known breeding areas along the floodplain of the River Lugg.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Natural England; ■ Herefordshire Meadows; ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; and ■ Landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery); and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management (sustainable farming incentive) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
LC4	Build on existing success in increasing flood resilience of catchments and reducing nutrient pollution	Improve water quality along the Lugg and address flooding within Herford and Leominster	<p>Continue to support the work being undertaken by the Riverscape Partnership and the Wye & Usk Foundation as part of the Woodlands for Water project being delivered along the course of the Lugg. This includes ongoing engagement with landowners to identify opportunities for delivering tree planting alongside farm advice and natural flood management to provide run-off interception and nutrient offsetting.</p> <p>A particular focus should be reducing flooding within the catchment areas upstream of Hereford and Leominster.</p> <p>Initial consultation with potential delivery partners would be required to identify best methods for reducing downstream flooding and follow on consultation with landowners to develop a strategic plan.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Riverscape Partnership; ■ Wye and Usk Foundation; ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Environment Agency; and ■ Land owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery); and ■ Defra's Landscape Recovery Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved water management; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Nature rich beautiful places
Local / settlement scale							
LC5	Create integrated wetlands	Address water quality and increase resilience against surface flooding of Leominster Waste Water Treatment Works	Continue to explore opportunities for the creation of wetlands around the Leominster Sewage Treatment Works to help deliver nature-based solutions to water quality issues caused during overflow events.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Leominster Town Council; ■ Welsh Water; and ■ Environment Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and ■ S106 / CIL / BNG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved water management; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Nature rich beautiful places
LC6	Create a nature-rich network of habitats to support the resilience of the Lugg corridor	Address habitat loss, degradation and reduce recreational pressures on sensitive SSSIs	<p>Deliver a core of wetland and grassland habitat adjacent to the River Lugg at Wellington, utilising former and new sand and gravel quarries / restoration sites.</p> <p>Identify opportunities for collaboration with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust in order to build on the existing network of former gravel and quarry pits at Bodenham Lakes, Brockhall Gravel Pits, Hartleton Lakes and Wellington Gravel Pits.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Natural England; ■ Herefordshire Meadows; ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; and ■ Landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Improved water management
LC7	Nature based solutions to address flooding	Reduce flooding within Hereford and Leominster	Ensure that new development maximises opportunities for the integration of nature-based solutions to manage surface water run-off and limit potential flooding events, particularly through the use of SuDS.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Leominster Town Council; ■ Hereford City Council; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GBI-led scheme design; ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Environmental Land Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved water management; ■ Resilient and climate positive places;

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; ■ Environment Agency 	<p>Scheme (local nature recovery).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places
LC8	Flood alleviation within Leominster	Reduce flood risk within Leominster	<p>Conduct an optioneering appraisal for a flood alleviation scheme to reduce flood risk within Leominster. Opportunities could include the creation of wetland and flood storage areas within the zones of significant flood risk to the north, east and south of the town. These wetlands could form a linear park providing access by residents across Leominster.</p> <p>Any new wetlands should meet accessible natural greenspace standards and offer connection with existing or enhanced PRow and cycle networks in order to reduce deficiencies in access to nature, which is a particular pressure facing residents living in Leominster East Ward.</p> <p>Additional opportunities include in-channel and floodplain enhancements to slow the flow of water along the River Lugg and network of tributaries, ditches and brooks around Leominster.</p> <p>Options should aim to address flooding within 'The Broad', 'Kenwater' and 'The Marsh' and along the south-east of Leominster.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Leominster Town Council; ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; ■ Environment Agency; ■ Landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery); and ■ Defra's Landscape Recovery Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved water management; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places
LC9	Greening the Leominster AQMA	Address air quality issues in the centre of Leominster	<p>The Leominster Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) covers the junction between the junction between the A44 and B4361 at Bargates. Opportunities to increase pollutant capture by vegetation and other urban greening methods should be explored here. Additional tree planting along the car park boundary of the Bupa Leominster Care Home could help to trap particulates whilst also helping to screen the busy junction from residents. Where spatially constrained, green screens / vertical greening could be implemented along the boundary of the petrol station and Kwik Fit to help capture pollutants from idling vehicles.</p> <p>Additional vegetation and greening will also help to reduce noise pollution at this junction whilst also increasing canopy coverage. This could be replicated elsewhere across Leominster.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Leominster Town Council; ■ Landowners; and ■ Local businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Business sponsorships; ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and ■ Grant funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.
LC10	Creating green gateways into Leominster	Create green and biodiverse gateways into Leominster which make	Enhance biodiversity and aesthetic value of Barons' Cross Road as vehicles using the A44 and B4360 enter Leominster. The road is currently bounded by extremely narrow grass verges which create unnecessary maintenance tasks. Re-establishing these verges as Flower-rich pollinator-friendly strips could help to reduce regular maintenance requirements once established, whilst also creating a	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Highways; ■ Highways England; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Business sponsorships; ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Improved water management;

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
		better use of short mown grass and grey spaces	<p>pollinator corridor through Leominster and enhance the aesthetic value of the road. Where verges are wider, opportunities for additional street trees should be explored to help capture pollutants and enhance canopy coverage. Where possible, seek to reclaim grey space for vegetation, including the northern side of the roundabout at Morrisons.</p> <p>A more intensive option for this route could include the re-alignment of the road to include linear swales / rain gardens. This would help to better manage surface water along the route.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Leominster Town Council; and ■ Local businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Grant funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.

Strategic Priority GBI Zone: Gateway to the Malvern Hills

Vision: Conserve and enhance the rural landscape as the setting of the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), maintaining its distinctive sense of place.

Spatial coverage and connectivity

6.14 Encompassing a large section of the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), this zone also includes the eastern fringes of Ledbury. Characterised by its distinctive north-south ridgeline, the Malvern Hills landscape incorporates a network of woodlands, orchards, pastures and common land.

Summary of analysis of assets

- The landscape is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Special qualities of the AONB include the high dramatic ridge, distinctive combination of orchards and parklands and number of historic environment assets.
- The landscape is typified by a network of open commons on the high ridges, extensive woodland blocks and a mixed, small-scale agricultural land use.
- In the south, Eastnor Castle Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (RPG) provides 19th century gardens and pinetum within a medieval deer park. Sections of the gardens lie within Eastnor Park Site of Special Scientific

Interest (SSSI). Further north, Hope End Registered Park and Garden (RPG) is also situated within this zone.

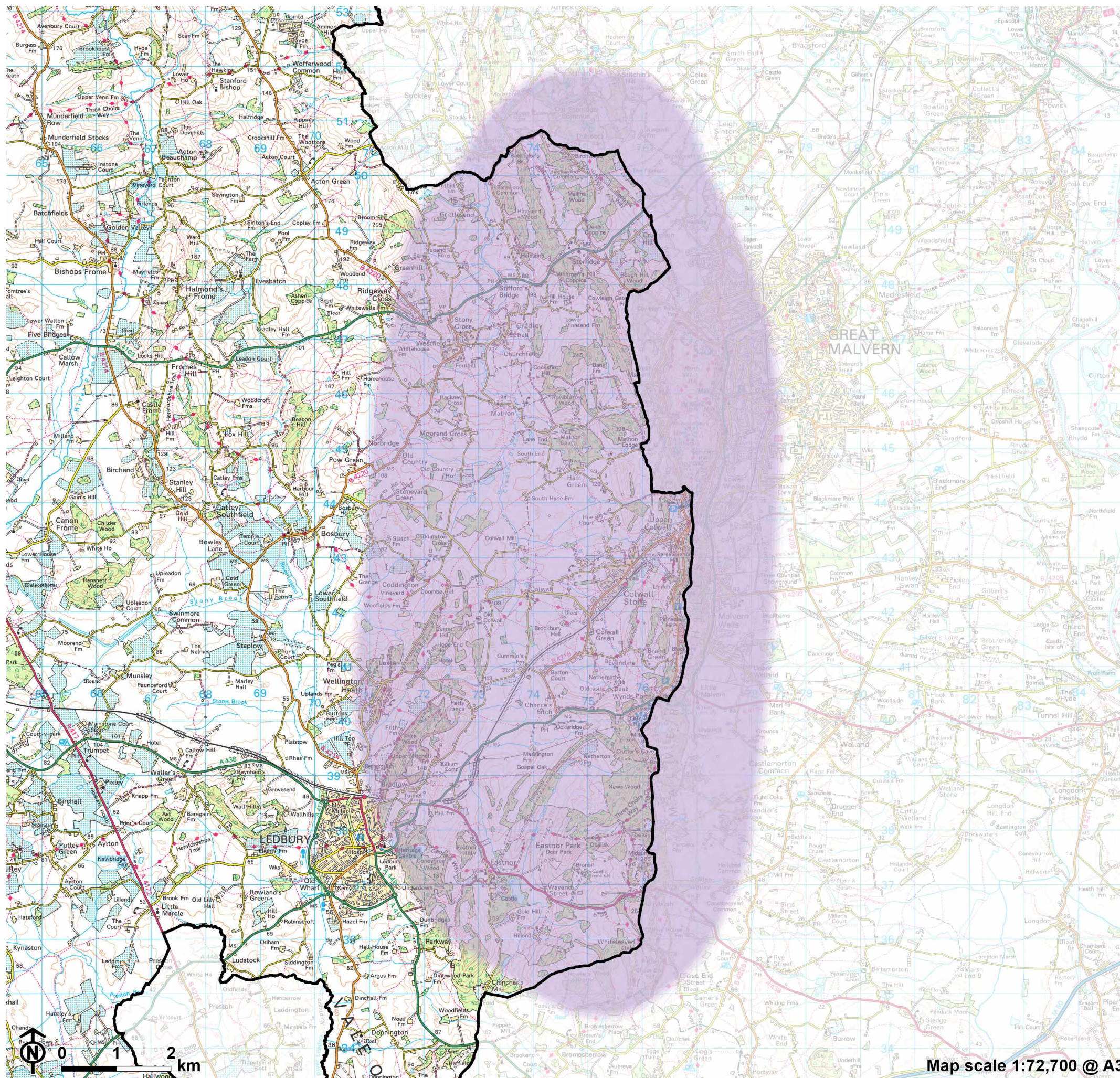
- The zone exhibits a high density of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), notably around Colwall Stone and Westfield.
- Malvern Hills SSSI lies within the boundary of the zone, designated for its acid grassland, mixed woodlands and heritage assets.

Summary of analysis of needs

- The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan [See reference 15] describes recreation as a key issue affecting the protected landscape. This has resulted in a range of impacts on the landscape; including erosion of the path network, creation of ‘desire lines’ and disturbance to ground-nesting birds.
- Poor access to greenspace provision exists within the settlements of Westfield and Cradley, located to the south of the A4103 corridor. Further pockets of deficiency are situated within the settlement of Colwall Stone, to the west of the Malvern Hills.
- The Malvern Hills SSSI includes units which are noted as in an ‘unfavourable – recovering’ (76%) and ‘unfavourable – declining’ (11%) condition (predominantly recovering due to recreational pressure, resulting in detrimental impacts on grassland habitats).
- Land associated with the corridor of Cradley Brook, stretching from Grittlesend to Colwall Green, is defined as at risk of flooding. Pockets of flood risk are also evident on land associated with Eastnor Lake and the chain of waterbodies to the north.
- Road noise on sections of the A449 and A4103 exceed 60 decibels during day light hours and 55 decibels during the night.

Figure 6.9: Gateway to the Malvern Hills Strategic Priority GBI Zone

- Herefordshire boundary
- Gateway to the Malvern Hills



Map scale 1:72,700 @ A3

Source: LUC, Ordnance Survey

Table 6.5: Gateway to the Malvern Hills - GBI Priority Projects

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Indicative timescales and potential costs	Key delivery mechanism / partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Strategic scale							
MH1	Promote local informal recreational access to the Malvern Hills AONB	Address local deficiencies in accessible natural greenspace whilst balancing wider recreational pressures	Enhance opportunities for quiet informal recreation within the Malvern Hills AONB, whilst respecting the character of the area and ensuring the conservation of the special qualities of the designated landscape. Interventions should include improvements to the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network and the implementation of a coordinated signage strategy. This would promote new opportunities for countryside access from nearby settlements (such as Colwall Stone) which are currently deficient in in access to greenspace provision. Reference should be made to the Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan to ensure that areas can sustain any additional recreational pressures and suitable supporting infrastructure is provided.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Malvern Hills AONB; ■ Malvern Hills Trust; ■ Natural England; and ■ Herefordshire Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Active and healthy places.
MH2	Manage wider recreational pressures within the designated landscape	Manage recreational pressures at key sites within the Malvern Hills AONB.	This intervention should include the identification of areas for ‘active access’, ‘exploring nature’, and ‘undisturbed areas’ to manage recreational sensitivities. Consideration should also be given to guiding and controlling access spatially to protect sensitive sites and habitats. Route signage should be used to deliver this opportunity, as well as mechanisms which allow engagement, education and visitor access without causing disturbance. An access management plan should also be developed for the Malvern Hills, using robust data to understand levels of use and associated impacts to help manage future forces for change.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Malvern Hills AONB; ■ Natural England; ■ Malvern Hills Trust; ■ Herefordshire Council; and ■ Environment Agency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Active and healthy places.
MH3	Manage recreational pressures within designated ecological sites	Manage recreational pressures at Malvern Hills Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).	The Malvern Hills SSSI includes units which are noted as in an ‘unfavourable – recovering’ (76%) and ‘unfavourable – declining’ (11%) condition. This is due predominantly to recreational pressure, resulting in detrimental impacts on grassland habitats. These include direct impacts from damage, soil compaction, erosion, eutrophication, littering, disturbance and fire. The opportunity exists to introduce a range of access management and mitigation options, particularly in the central hills where impacts are most evident. Potential interventions could include the strategic management of parking, development of a PRoW management plan, increased engagement with the public and monitoring. Specific restrictions or controls on particular activities could also be introduced. A role for strategic planning also exists to ensure adequate protection for the SSSI from future housing growth.	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Malvern Hills AONB; ■ Natural England; ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Malvern Hills Trust; ■ Environment Agency; and ■ Local sports / walking groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Indicative timescales and potential costs	Key delivery mechanism / partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Local / settlement scale							
MH4	Create destination accessible natural greenspace where there are current deficiencies	Address local deficiencies in accessible natural greenspace	Create destination accessible natural greenspace where there are current deficiencies within the settlements of Westfield, Cradley, and Colwall Stone to the west of the Malvern Hills AONB. The potential also exists to explore the potential expansion of the PRow network and the 'Miles without Stiles' scheme to mitigate for the lack of accessible greenspace in these locations. This scheme currently covers large sections of the AONB in Herefordshire and offers promoted footpaths and quiet lanes which are suitable for use users who do not want to clamber over barriers when out enjoying the countryside.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Malvern Hills AONB; ■ Malvern Hills Trust; ■ Natural England; and ■ Herefordshire Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Grant funding for capital works and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Resilient and climate positive places; and ■ Active and healthy places.
MH5	Green Ledbury town centre	Remove vehicle dominance and create a more pedestrian-friendly town centre	Ledbury's distinctive Market House, historic burgage plots and attractive mix of timber-framed buildings has created a bustling high street and town centre. However, at present the High Street is dominated by vehicles, both moving and parked. Landscape architects should be appointed to explore opportunities to deliver greening and public realm opportunities which enhance the experience of pedestrians and cyclists using the town centre, whilst ensuring sufficient parking and economic vitality of the High Street it retained. Careful consideration of Ledbury's historic character must be at the heart of all interventions. Public realm improvements will provide the opportunity to shift people's reliance from the private car towards walking and wheeling. Greening the town centre will also reinforce Ledbury's role as a gateway to the Malvern Hills AONB.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ledbury Town Council; ■ Malvern Hills Trust; ■ Local businesses; ■ Landowners; and ■ The community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Grant funding; and ■ S106 / CIL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Active and health places; ■ Thriving and prosperous places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.

Strategic Priority GBI Zone: South Herefordshire Infrastructure Corridors

Vision: Address habitat fragmentation and enhance infrastructure corridors as conduits for improved habitat connectivity.

Spatial coverage and connectivity

6.15 Radiating from the southern fringes of Hereford, the corridors of the A465 and A49 delineate this zone. Stretching to the border with Wales, the A465 lies to the west of the zone whereas the route of the A49 provides a wider connection to Ross-on-Wye.

Summary of analysis of assets

- The zone is predominantly comprised of agricultural land, with tracts of deciduous woodland priority habitat.
- Watercourses within the zone are defined by the tributaries of the River Dore (Worm Brook) and the River Wye (The Gamber and Garren Brook).
- A Herefordshire B-Line transverses the zone, forming a section of a wider connection between Kentchurch to the south of the county and the Malvern Hills to the east.

Summary of analysis of needs

- The zone is devoid of sites designated for landscape or ecological value.

- Land lying between Pontrilas and Ewyas Harold, connected by the corridor of the B4347 is deficient in accessible greenspace, achieving three or less of the buffers as defined by the Natural England GI Framework. Pockets of greenspace deficiency also exist within the settlements of King's Thorn and Little Birch.
- Land lying within Broad Oak and to the south of St Weonards is characterised by generally low density of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. This trend is also repeated at land to the south east of Pontrilas, Portway and land separating Kilpeck and King's Thorn.
- The River Dore and River Wye are affected by inputs from rural land management activities, resulting in poor nutrient and soil management, bank erosion as well as point source sewage discharge.
- Land associated with the Worm Brook, running broadly parallel the corridor of the A465, lies within an area of flood risk. The meandering routes of both Garren Brook and The Gamber are also at risk of flooding. Areas exhibiting surface water flood risk exist on land to the west of King's Thorn.
- Stretching from the northern extent of the zone to its junction with the A4137, the corridor of the A49 exhibits an average road noise during day light hours of above 60 decibels.

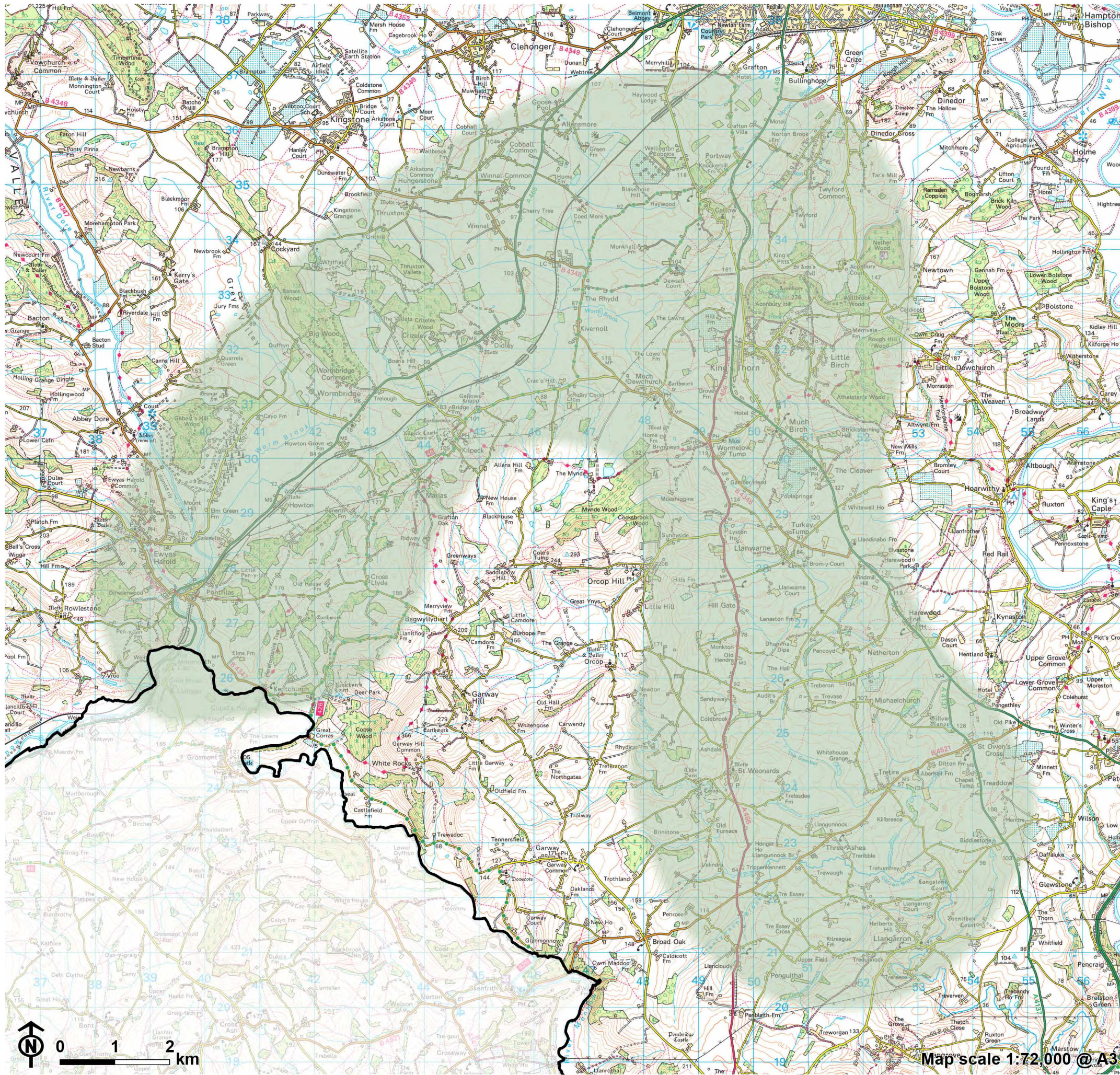


Figure 6.10: South Herefordshire Infrastructure Corridor Strategic Priority GBI Zone

- Herefordshire boundary
- South Herefordshire Infrastructure Corridor



Map scale 1:72,000 @ A3

Source: LUC, Ordnance Survey

Table 6.6: South Herefordshire Infrastructure Corridors - GBI Priority Projects

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Strategic scale							
SH1	Enhance roadside verges for local wildlife	Address fragmentation of habitats through enhancement of dispersal corridors	<p>Collaborate with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Balfour Beatty Living Places and Verging on Wild to deliver strategic wildlife corridors within and between settlements through improved management of roadside verges. Consultation with community groups and parish councils should be used to provide a starting point for identifying intervention locations and ongoing management requirements.</p> <p>Furthermore, the opportunity exists to enhance existing features such as hedgerows, tree coverage and grassy margins within the PRow network to deliver strategic wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Enhance existing roads for wildlife through strengthening existing hedgerow networks by gapping up with diverse shrub species and improving management of hedgerows. Plant new hedgerows, where appropriate, along existing and new roads incorporating species-rich berry bearing shrubs, and pollen and nectar rich wildflower and grassy margins to create edible and pollinator pathways.</p> <p>Plant berry bearing shrubs and biodiverse native flowering plants within planters as part of retrospective improvements to existing hard standing within settlements.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ National Highways; ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; and ■ Verging on Wild. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; and ■ Resilient and climate positive places.
SH2	Extend the national cycle network to Ross-on-Wye	Address gaps in the coverage of cycle routes.	Explore opportunities to address gaps in the coverage of cycle routes. This includes NCN Routes 44 and 46 which terminate abruptly within Hereford and do not permit onward travel. Opportunities to expand these routes east towards Ross-on-Wye should be explored. Engagement should include representatives from 'hard to reach' and under-represented groups.	Via the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Sustrans; ■ Living Streets; and ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active Travel England; ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places
SH3	Improve public access to Wye Valley AONB	Address accessibility issues in public transport routes to nearby AONB.	Identify opportunities for delivery through collaboration between Wye Valley AONB and Herefordshire Enhanced Partnership Scheme for Buses to engage with local communities to identify any gaps in local transport links to the nearby AONB with the aim of encouraging access to this designated landscape, particularly by families, children and young people. Engagement should include communities from 'hard to reach' and under-represented groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Via the planning system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Wye Valley AONB; and ■ Herefordshire Enhanced Partnership Scheme for Buses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active Travel England; ■ S106 / CIL; and ■ Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.

Ref.	Proposed GBI project	Issue to be addressed	Details of the proposed intervention	Potential delivery mechanisms	Potential delivery partners	Funding opportunities	Benefits (as defined by the Natural England GI Framework – refer to Figure 2.2)
Local / settlement scale							
SH4	New accessible natural greenspace and greening interventions	Address deficiencies in accessible natural greenspace and address flood risk	<p>Create new accessible natural greenspaces to address areas of relative deficiency within King's Thorn and Little Birch.</p> <p>Supplement this with enhancements to settlements which are currently deficient in accessible natural greenspace through “greening the grey” on land stretching from Pontrilas to Peterchurch. These areas offer the opportunity through improved management of road verges to create an ambitious and diverse range of pollinator habitats which reinforce the B-Line that passes through this area and provides additional roadside verge linkages to those which exist in Abbey Dore and Llanveynoe. These settlements are also at risk of surface water flooding and fluvial flooding from the River Dore and therefore naturalised surface level SuDS would offer multiple benefits. Long-term sustainable tree planting as part of rain gardens and tree pits offers the opportunity for increase canopy cover and enhancements to existing wildlife corridors.</p>	Via the planning system and / or landowner buy-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Herefordshire Council; ■ Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; ■ Balfour Beatty Living Places; ■ Verging on Wild; and ■ National Highways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S106 / CIL / BNG; and ■ Environmental Land Management Scheme (local nature recovery). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature rich beautiful places; ■ Improved water management; ■ Active and healthy places; and ■ Thriving and prosperous places.