

Daventry Infrastructure Studies
Green Infrastructure
and Landscape Technical Report

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Milton Keynes – South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy (part of the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy or RSS) has identified that Daventry's population will grow substantially over the next two decades. It has identified that the town of Daventry is expected to grow towards a population of 40,000 by 2021 and that Daventry District, as a whole should continue to grow at an equally steady rate beyond 2021 until at least 2026. This study therefore sets out infrastructure requirements for expected population and dwelling growth for both 2021 and 2026 accordingly.

In order to help West Northamptonshire Development Corporation better understand the implications of these targets for the growth of Daventry in terms of certain types of infrastructure, they have commissioned a series of infrastructure studies from consultants, URS Corporation, ISU Limited and LDA Design.

This technical report covers green infrastructure and landscape, and sets out a series of preliminary conclusions for the infrastructure requirements in association with the growth set down in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

Purpose of the DIS

The DIS has been produced in accordance with an initial brief received from WNDC. This brief in turn had been developed and consulted upon in mid-2007 by WNDC and has been developed further as the course of the project progressed following consultation and engagement with partners. The views of several major applicants, who were in discussion with WNDC regarding existing or potential planning applications for development in and around Daventry, were also canvassed when the work was commissioned.

The objectives of the DIS have been refined and are:

1. To identify the likely infrastructure investment priorities for Daventry required to deliver long term sustainable growth as set out in the RSS, and recognise how and when they could be delivered;
2. To evaluate the current infrastructure constraints and opportunities for development in the medium to longer term (i.e. to 2021) and having regard to development up to 2026 and beyond;
3. To consider infrastructure development scenarios (but not to allocate land for development or predetermine planning decisions);
4. To consider how infrastructure could be phased alongside growth;
5. To allow consideration of the relationship between infrastructure investment and growth proposals for the town to assist in making planning decisions in the short to medium term; and
6. to provide an evidence base which may be used by other local planning authorities to support the plan making process for Daventry town as a whole.

With regard to GI & L, there is also a broad objective to promote and deliver an integrated system of green infrastructure, encompassing biodiversity and sustainable movement networks, the incorporation of strategic landscape and open spaces, and also respecting the unique cultural heritage of the study area.

Key Conclusions - Baseline

- The baseline study confirmed the wide diversity of the environmental resource within the study area, with the following key findings:
- A notable concentration of cultural heritage and biodiversity assets are focused on the visually prominent landmark of Borough Hill, and also associated with the Daventry Reservoir and Country Park area, both areas of which are also important Strategic and Local Green Spaces and recreational facilities
- There is a wide range of biodiversity interests with key areas classified as County Wildlife Sites. The principal assets comprise a mosaic of woodlands including some areas of ancient woodland, areas of neutral and acid grasslands and a range of wetland habitats. At a strategic level the town is associated with a regionally important area of Acid Grassland. These assets have enabled key habitats reservoirs and links to be identified
- The key cultural heritage resources comprise the Borough Hill and Burnt Walls SAMs but there are notable assets linked to the Conservation Areas associated with the Grand Union Canal and the ring of villages surrounding Daventry, as well as the historic core of the town, and the associated Listed Buildings, and disused railway lines. There are also notable areas of irreplaceable ridge and furrow and sites of medieval villages
- The setting of Daventry is physically and visually distinctive, with the town located on a broad plateau contained by prominent hills to the south-west, south and east and characterised by a predominantly undeveloped and rural landscape. The visually prominent steep west facing slopes on the western perimeter of the town that overlook the River Leam Valley are also a notable feature
- At the strategic level the town offers a network of Green infrastructure corridors focused on biodiversity and sustainable movement arising from the findings of the county study

Sensitivity Assessment

A sensitivity assessment of the baseline resource was subsequently undertaken for each of the four categories of biodiversity, cultural heritage, landscape and visual, and flood zones and minerals. The evaluation was based on the sensitivity to change arising from the effect of a major mixed-use urban extension development in excess of 5ha with a hierarchy of sensitivity categories of High, Medium, Low and No Known Assets / Negligible. Consideration was also given to the sensitivity to potential smaller scale detached developments albeit over 5ha and over.

The sensitivity assessment concluded that the highest areas of sensitivity within each of the categories focused on the Borough Hill area, the land surrounding Daventry Reservoir and associated Country Park, and the Grand Union Canal and associated open land on the northern perimeter of the town. The hills and associated woodlands on the southern perimeter of the town as well as the steep slopes overlooking the Leam Valley on the western perimeter of the town were also sensitive to change.

Key Conclusions – Infrastructure Requirements

This GI & L Technical Report has concluded that the key strategic infrastructure requirements for a population of 45,000 (which is expected to be reached in 2026) are:

- An additional 34.3 ha of amenity play space based on DDC's Saved Policy RC1 of 0.2 ha / 50 dwellings
- An additional 31.7 ha of new playing fields based on DDC's Saved Policy RC 12 of 1.6 ha / 1000 people
- An additional 7.9 ha of land to accommodate other areas of open space within development areas to include provision for allotments, woodlands and nature conservation areas
- An enhanced town park is another possible element that could be provided
- Provision to meet Accessible Natural Green Space standards (ANGSt) to ensure access to a natural green space within 300 metres of all homes;
- Potential to exceed the ANGSt standard of the provision of a Statutory Local Nature Reserve (LNR) of 1 ha per 1000 population, which is already fulfilled through the Daventry Reservoir and Country Park. The Borough Hill and associated Burnt Walls site has the potential to be a future LNR site

Other potential or desirable Open Space Projects and Green Infrastructure comprise

- Extension of the Daventry Country Park, which would deliver and supplement key areas of accessible natural green space and informal recreational areas for residents of the town
- Enhancement of the informal Country Park area at Borough Hill to supplement the level and quality of this accessible natural green space and could include the incorporation of the Burnt Walls area and green links between these areas
- A potential extension of the existing Northern Valley Park adjacent to the Grand Union Canal, accommodating pedestrian connections and biodiversity habitat links around the northern perimeter of the town

- The wider provision of a comprehensive Green Infrastructure network to meet the policy requirements in the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan and Government policy guidance. This would involve the incorporation of biodiversity and sustainable movement networks as well as structural landscape areas linked to major areas of new development
- As a specific output of the GI Sustainable Movement Network, the establishment of a town wide circular route for walking, cycling, and where appropriate, horse riding commencing at the Burnt Walls area, across Borough Hill to the Grand Union Canal then south westwards to Kentle Wood; and also a Daventry to Braunston Link, utilising the disused railway line

These potential projects would constitute 'town wide' facilities and form an integral part of the enhancement of the town and open space network commensurate with facilities appropriate to the needs and aspirations of Daventry's growing population.

Sustainable Landscape and Green Infrastructure Strategy

The sustainable infrastructure strategy for growth for landscape and green infrastructure encompasses a Green Infrastructure Network. This has been outlined through the consideration of the various GI & L elements, and consideration of their inherent sensitivity, and the opportunities that they present for future connection and enhancement.

In contrast to other topics addressed in the DIS, it was not considered appropriate to outline specific sustainable development scenarios through analysis and interpretation of baseline landscape and visual, cultural heritage, and biodiversity assets, and subsequent sensitivity assessment. The rationale for this was based on the premise that a sustainable scenario for GI & L would be highly dependent on more detailed site specific surveys. It would also require balancing and weighting of the respective GI & L interests arising from the separate but parallel assessments. It was considered, therefore, that this is largely a matter for the development plan process. Furthermore, of particular concern was that the setting out of suggested scenarios could be at risk of being interpreted as determining preferred potential sites or areas for development.

The study highlights the wide range of environmental resources within the study area and the potential for incorporating and enhancing these as an integral part of the future growth of the town.

The study also enables areas to be identified that would be more, or less, challenging for new development at a strategic scale, but for which further study would be required before any definitive judgment should be made. While areas of sensitivity are identified separately in relation to landscape and visual, biodiversity, heritage, and flood zones and minerals resources these need not exclude growth or development. Rather, they are indicative of the need for careful consideration of the identified constraints and areas of higher sensitivity in order to ensure any potential change delivers a positive and creative solution that is appropriate to local character.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1. This technical report is part of the Daventry Infrastructure Study (DIS). URS has been appointed by the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) to assist in the preparation of the DIS. The DIS will form part of WNDC's evidence base and will be a material consideration that will help to inform decisions about the future expansion of the town and the infrastructure required to support that growth. It should also be of assistance to Daventry District Council in determining planning applications which fall (in whole or part) outside of WNDC's planning functions area or beneath the threshold for determination by WNDC within that area. The DIS will also be used in the development of WNDC's infrastructure delivery programme for West Northamptonshire, within the WNDC Regeneration Framework. This technical report forms part of the DIS.
- 1.1.2. WNDC has the statutory function of securing regeneration of its three Urban Development Areas (Daventry, Northampton and Towcester) but also has a duty to consider planning applications which fall to it for determination in accordance with proper planning grounds.
- 1.1.3. This is a wide-ranging multi-disciplinary task, with green infrastructure and landscape constituting one of the five infrastructure elements under investigation. In the context of this study, green infrastructure and landscape encompasses all of the environmental resource at the strategic scale comprising landscape character and visual amenity, biodiversity and cultural heritage, and the wider networks and interrelationships of strategic green space, biodiversity and sustainable movement.
- 1.1.4. This technical report has been chiefly prepared by LDA Design, in conjunction with the River Nene Regional Park Community Interest Company (RNRP) and also with assistance from URS in their capacity as the overall project manager for the preparation of the DIS.
- 1.2.3. Given the predominantly desktop nature of the study and the strategic level of analysis conducted, a number of assumptions and limitations to the scope of the assessment have been necessary in order to define a green infrastructure framework and opportunities arising as a result of population growth in the town of Daventry. Such assumptions are outlined in Sections 1.2.5 – 1.2.10 and are also discussed in the relevant sections of this report.
- 1.2.4. Infrastructure requirements have been based on Daventry District Council's 'Saved' Policies in respect of green space. New emerging standards derived from the Open Space Strategy / PPG17 Audit that was in progress during the course of the Daventry Infrastructure Studies were not available to inform or adjust the requirements. In addition, a number of aspirational proposals were included, based on what might be regarded as necessary to help the town and its rural hinterland accommodate significant new growth, and provide a positive landscape and green infrastructure framework in which this new growth can become established.
- 1.2.5. Cost estimates for additional infrastructure requirements are based on broad strategic level costs derived from current guidelines set out in Spon's Landscape and External Works Price Book and by reference to a range of Local Authority costs for typical Green Space / landscape elements.
- 1.2.6. The overall scope of this report is:
- To provide a broad outline of the baseline resource
 - To provide a review of the sensitivity of the landscape and landscape character, biodiversity, cultural heritage, flood zones and minerals resources surrounding Daventry
 - To contribute to the identification of a sustainable landscape and green infrastructure strategy for Daventry as it grows to a population of about 40,000
 - To assist the public sector agencies involved in growth decisions in their understanding of the relative sensitivity of the areas surrounding the town to proposals for growth
 - To progress the understanding of sensitivity in relation to green infrastructure and to use this to guide a sustainable green infrastructure network linked to Daventry's growth
 - To identify a schedule for proposed green infrastructure investment associated with growth proposals for the town

1.2 Methodology and Scope of the Report

- 1.2.1. For the purpose of the Daventry Infrastructure Studies and this Technical Report green infrastructure and landscape includes all of the environmental resource at the strategic scale comprising landscape character and visual amenity, biodiversity and cultural heritage, and the wider networks and interrelationships of strategic green space, biodiversity and sustainable movement.
- 1.2.2. This report has been prepared as a technical study and is based on a desktop review of various sources of information compiled by other agencies that focus on green infrastructure and landscape issues in and around the town of Daventry. In addition to the desktop review that has been conducted, three site visits were undertaken during October, November and December 2007 to supplement the information available, and in particular to gather evidence in support of the landscape character and visual assessment analyses that form part of this study. The site visits were limited to the consideration of strategic

Additional Considerations in respect of Green Infrastructure and Landscape

- 1.2.7. The review of green infrastructure and landscape (GI & L) is of a different nature to the other infrastructure topics.
- 1.2.8. With respect to transport, water and sewage and utilities, the DIS is assessing the infrastructure requirements that arise as a consequence of growth. Furthermore, in the case of these topic areas, the identification of a sustainable development scenario has been led by the assessment of the infrastructure requirements of growth and by an analysis of the opportunities and constraints to providing additional infrastructure.
- 1.2.9. For GI & L, however, the DIS has also had regard to the potential impacts of growth. This is particularly with regard to impacts upon landscape character and visual sensitivity of Daventry and its surrounding areas that could potentially result from growth. It is therefore appropriate to set out the process that has been followed for GI & L and how that differs in comparison with the assessment of other elements of infrastructure.
- 1.2.10. The overriding imperative in respect of GI & L is intrinsically linked with recognising Daventry's unique character arising from the town's strong relationship with its distinctive topographical setting, and the wider rural hinterland that surrounds it and the equally important interrelationship with the biodiversity and cultural heritage resources of the area. In addition, there is a broad objective to promote and deliver an integrated system of green infrastructure, encompassing biodiversity and sustainable movement networks, and the incorporation of strategic landscape and open spaces, and also respecting the unique cultural heritage of the study area.
- 1.2.11. With regard to GI & L, the process commenced with a comprehensive baseline assessment, including an examination of character and the visual resource, followed by a sensitivity assessment. This latter process identified a hierarchy of sensitive areas in respect of the physical and visual landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage. It also provided the framework for an analysis of the key opportunities and constraints to providing for the town's future green infrastructure requirements.
- 1.2.12. This led to the identification of a GI & L Framework or sustainable infrastructure scenario for GI provision. However, unlike the other topic areas, the identification of sustainable development scenarios was not undertaken as part of the study because of the need for detailed site-specific investigations and the difficulty in identifying the precise balance between various GI and Landscape interests. Earlier versions of this study also led some parties to believe that the process appeared to be definitive in identifying locations for new development without the necessary site-specific assessments and balanced decision-making. Instead the process has been confined to examining areas of sensitivity in relation to opportunities associated with the identified GI Networks. This provides the basis for identifying opportunities that achieve positive and creative outcomes for potential growth areas and their ability to meet and deliver the sustainable GI and Landscape infrastructure framework for the town.

1.3. Report Framework

- 1.3.1. This report is presented in the following format within four sequential parts:
- Part A comprises the baseline review and Sections 2 – 7 discusses the green infrastructure and landscape, visual, biodiversity and cultural heritage baseline assets that are important when considering major new mixed use development within the peri-urban landscape around Daventry. These are examined under a series of Themes comprising Natural Systems; Cultural Heritage and Land Use Systems; Townscape and Visual Character; the Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment Suite; and Strategic Green Infrastructure
 - Following the review of the baseline resource, Part B, Section 8 provides details of the sensitivity analysis that has been undertaken within the core selected themes. This analysis seeks to identify and highlight particularly sensitive assets to enable decision makers to consider the appropriateness of major new development in and around the town
 - Following the sensitivity analysis, Part C: Infrastructure Requirements Assessment, Section 9 sets out the standards in respect of infrastructure requirements as well as aspirations for green space and green infrastructure. Then, Section 10 provides an assessment of the infrastructure requirements of Daventry's future growth to a population of 40,000 people to 2021 with regard to the provision of open space and other forms of green infrastructure. Consideration is also given to development up to 2026
 - Part D: Implications for Growth set out in Section 11 discusses the sustainable development scenarios assessment. It then describes the basis for the sustainable green infrastructure strategy and network for Daventry in light of the findings of the baseline, sensitivity analysis and infrastructure requirements assessment
- 1.3.2. For convenience, figures, supporting data and other relevant information referenced in the assessment are presented as Appendices.

PART A: Baseline Review (Local Context and Resource Review)

2 Approach to Undertaking the Baseline Review

2.1. Introduction - Green Infrastructure Assets

- 2.1.1. The assessment considers features and assets within a Core Study Area, as presented on Figure 1. This Core Study Area has been defined by establishing a 2km buffer around the existing urban area of Daventry as presented in the Northamptonshire Environmental Character Suite. A 2km buffer was regarded as being sufficient to assess assets that might be affected by an urban extension to Daventry. Areas beyond 2km are regarded as forming the wider countryside setting of the town.
- 2.1.2. The strategic nature of this assessment and the necessity to identify a core study area through which an assessment of Daventry could be undertaken should not limit the geographical scope of future, more detailed landscape and visual assessments, perhaps undertaken as part of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments for new developments in and around the town. For example, where new development is assessed as having adverse visual impact beyond the notional 2km buffer, it may be necessary or appropriate to develop landscape interventions in the wider landscape to mitigate their adverse impact. As a consequence of the nature and scale of this strategic assessment it has not been possible to identify all the detailed issues that may arise as a result of different types of development in and around the town.
- 2.1.3. In common with other topic areas within the DIS, the Core Study Area is divided into four quadrants. The findings of the assessment are presented separately for each quadrant.
- 2.1.4. Key assets have also been considered in the wider landscape, i.e. beyond the 2km boundary, in order to factor in the potential implications of development in the Core Study Area on the wider rural hinterland of the town.

2.2. Methodology

- 2.2.1. The chapter begins with an overview of assets, (the Baseline Review) and draws upon a number of sources of information, including baseline datasets supplied by the River Nene Regional Park Community Interest Company (RNRP CIC) and the findings of primary research and site assessment and consultations with Daventry District Council to summarise the key landscape and environmental assets that exist within the core study area, and in the wider landscape where relevant. Illustrations are provided where possible.
- 2.2.2. A full list of the datasets used during this assessment is presented in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2.3. The Baseline Review describes assets under a series of 'topics'. These topics have then been grouped into themes to facilitate their interpretation. A summary list follows:

Natural Systems

- Topography and Geology
- Minerals
- Hydrology
- Nature Conservation and Biodiversity, and Geological Sites

Land Use and Human Systems

- Cultural Heritage
- Strategic and Local Green Space
- Leisure, Recreation and Tourism
- Access and Movement
- Transport Infrastructure
- Strategic Agricultural Land Classification

Environmental and Visual Character

- Townscape Character
- Visual Baseline Analysis
- Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment Suite

Green Infrastructure

- Strategic Green Infrastructure (Proposed)
- 2.2.4. Following on from the Baseline Review is the **Sensitivity Review** (refer to Part B, Section 8). This takes the information gathered during the Baseline Review and assesses sensitivity of key features at the strategic scale of assessment, i.e. at the town level.

3 Theme One: Natural Systems

3.1. Topography, Geology and Minerals

- 3.1.1. Refer to Figure 3: Landform
- 3.1.2. Daventry is located in the west of Northamptonshire, to the north and east of some of the county's highest hills, notably Borough Hill (200m AOD), located to the east of the town, and Big Hill (213m AOD) to the south. These hills comprise predominantly Lias Group Clays and Mudstones capped by the Northampton Sand Formation. A plateau of higher ground located to the north west of the town (c. 168m AOD) is covered in Boulder Clay drift deposits. The Marlstone Rock Formation outcrops on the base of the hills with predominantly Lias Group silty clays occurring in the lower lying areas between.
- 3.1.3. Daventry was founded on a plateau underlain by the Marlstone Rock Formation. Beyond the defensive potential of the site, the Marlstone Rock Formation appears to have been popular for settlement in the Late Saxon period. The hinterland of Daventry and in particular the large tracts of permeable geology to the east will have provided sufficient productive land to allow for the population to increase during the medieval period¹.
- 3.1.4. Arbury Hill (224m AOD) is located approximately 2km to the south west of the town and is the highest point in the county. It forms part of the Northamptonshire Ironstone Belt, with a series of high hills running along the west of the county. This is a particularly distinctive topographical and geological feature. The ironstone rocks of the Northampton Sand and Marlstone Rock Formations have been an important source of local building stone. The ironstone is often displayed in the older buildings of numerous villages in the area and contributes to a distinctive local vernacular.
- 3.1.5. Dodford Minerals Site: A minerals site has been classified on land to the west of Dodford in the Northamptonshire Minerals Plan. The extent of the site is shown on Figure 4.

3.2. Hydrology

- 3.2.1. Refer to Figure 3: Landform and Figure 4: Hydrology and Flood Zones, and Minerals
- 3.2.2. The hills and high ground surrounding Daventry mark the watershed between three of England's major river systems: the Nene, the Severn and the Thames. From a hydrological perspective, therefore, this wider area surrounding Daventry is located at a nationally significant location.
- 3.2.3. The Jurassic Way, located to the west of the town, broadly follows and defines this watershed, with land to the west draining westwards to the River Leam, a tributary of the Warwickshire Avon and the River Severn. To the east, the land drains to the River Nene, with the source of the Nene located to the south of Daventry. A major tributary of the Nene runs southwards to the east of the town, broadly aligned along the M1 corridor. The River Cherwell, a tributary of the River Thames rises to the south of Daventry, close to the source of the River Leam.

- 3.2.4. The Grand Union Canal (opened 1796) follows an east west alignment to the north of the town. A section of the Canal is below ground within the Braunston Canal Tunnel, with its course marked by series of airshafts. The tunnel is a significant feature, notable for its industrial and transport heritage, and also because it breaches the watershed between the Severn and Nene catchments.
- 3.2.5. Two reservoirs with the Core Study Area are notable hydrological features. Daventry Reservoir was excavated and completed in 1804. The original purpose of the reservoir was to feed the Grand Union Canal and it is still used for this purpose today, which is why the water levels fluctuate outside of normal environmental factors. Daventry District Council rents the site from British Waterways. The Daventry Reservoir and adjacent land was established as Daventry Country Park in 1968 under the Countryside Act and extended in 1994. Drayton Reservoir is located approximately 1km to the north east of Daventry Reservoir is also a feeder reservoir for the Grand Union Canal.
- 3.2.6. Areas of Flood Zones in respect of the High, and Medium to Low risk are shown on Figure 4. A Protected Area (termed a Dam Break Corridor) has been identified to north of Daventry Reservoir associated with the potential breaching of the reservoir dam. A further Dam Break Corridor and Protected Area is located to the east of Drayton Reservoir and the A361. As its detailed extent has not been confirmed it is shown on Figure 4 as an indicative area.

3.3. Nature Conservation and Biodiversity, and Geological Sites

- 3.3.1. Refer to Figure 5: Nature Conservation, Biodiversity and Geological Sites
- 3.3.2. Figure 5 shows both strategic and local nature conservation and geological sites and areas with a statutory or non-statutory designation. Under Local Assets, the broad habitat types correlate with the categories classified in the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and cover Broadleaf Woodland, areas identified under the Grassland Inventory and Ancient Woodland. In addition to County Wildlife Sites (CWS), which are considered to be of high sensitivity to change, a number of Potential Wildlife Sites (PWSs) have been identified in a survey undertaken by The Wildlife Trust. These cover three separate conditions: surveyed sites considered to be of importance but whose condition do not fully meet the criteria to be classified as a CWS; sites not surveyed in detail but whose location or broad assessment indicate a high potential for classification as a CWS; and sites previously classified as a CWS but whose condition has changed to warrant exclusion as a CWS. A precautionary approach has been adopted in bringing the CWSs and other biodiversity data and associated mapping into the study in view of the time constraints that limited the undertaking of a more detailed study. However, the inclusion of this preliminary biodiversity assessment was considered essential in order to provide a strategic benchmark of the wider biodiversity resource.

A further assessment at the scale of an Environmental Statement, including the mapping of BAP habitat networks, would be necessary to measure their significance against development proposals.

- 3.3.3. There are no SSSIs or National Nature Reserves within the Core Study Area. The nearest SSSI is Badby Wood, approximately 500m to the south of the Core Study Area. Daventry Country Park was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in May 2007.
- 3.3.4. A single Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Site (RIGGS) is located in the Core Study Area. The site comprises the Staverton Golf Club Quarry and is noted for the exposure of the Lias Group Marlstone Rock Formation.
- 3.3.5. There are several other designations and notable habitats. A summary is presented below:
- 3.3.6. Quadrant 1: North West.
- Drayton Reservoir open water and mire/swamp grassland County Wildlife Site (CWS)
 - Bragborough Hole Ancient semi natural woodland
 - Daventry Disused Railway Line CWS
 - Braunston Covert (woodland) CWS
 - Braunston Old Railway Station CWS (part of)
 - Linear belt of broadleaved woodland to east of Royal Oak Industrial Estate (Woodland Trust Kentle Wood)
 - Grand Union Canal: Bridge Spinneys broadleaved woodland PWS
 - Grassland at Braunston Tunnel (east end) PWS
 - Two PWS sites to the north of the Braunston Tunnel
 - Dismantled Railway Line south of Braunston PWS
 - Extensive grassland PWS to east of Drayton Gate Farm
 - PWS to west of Royal Oak Industrial Estate
- 3.3.7. Quadrant 2: North East
- Daventry Reservoir and Country Park (woodland, open water and mesotrophic / mire / swamp grassland) CWS and Local Nature Reserve
 - Thrupp Covert (broadleaved woodland) CWS
 - PWS to north of Daventry Reservoir
 - Grassland PWS to east of Bridge Spinneys
 - PWS along brook to south of Grand Union Canal
 - Grassland PWS to north of Grand Union Canal
 - PWS to east of Welton
 - Woodland PWS to north of Norton (part of)
- 3.3.8. Quadrant 3: South East
- Daventry and District Golf Course CWS
 - Borough Hill Field calcifugous grassland CWS
 - Borough Hill Plantation (broadleaved woodland) CWS
 - Borough Hill Farm Field CWS
 - Borough Hill Spring CWS
 - Burnt Walls Farm Fields and Borough Hill Spring Fields PWS
 - Borough Hill west slopes PWS
 - Grassland PWS south west of Norton
- Two PWSs to north west of Northborough Farm
 - PWS along road to east of Borough Hill Farm
 - Dodford Holt broadleaved woodland PWS
 - PWS to north of A45 roundabout south west of Borough Hill
 - Extensive PWS to south east of Newnham (part of)
 - Woodlands and copses around Borough Hill
 - Woodlands and copses around Newnham Hill and Newnham Grounds
- 3.3.9. Quadrant 4: South West
- Oak Spinney (broadleaved woodland) CWS
 - Pond Spinney (broadleaved woodland) CWS
 - Staverton Wood (broadleaved woodland and coniferous plantation) CWS
 - Staverton Clump ancient woodland CWS
 - Stepnell Spinney (broadleaved woodland) CWS
 - Elderstubs Farm Pasture CWS
 - Woodland and Grassland PWS at Badby House Park
 - PWS to south of Newnham Hill Windmill
 - PWS along A45 to north of Newnham Windmill
 - PWS to east of Badby Fields
 - PWS around RIGG Site north of Staverton
 - Woodland PWS north of A425, north and south of Elderstubs Farm Pasture CWS
 - Two PWS to north and north east of Staverton
 - PWS south east of Staverton (part of)
 - Broadleaved woodland east of Pond Spinney
 - Small plantations around Staverton
- 3.3.10. A notable habitat resource with significant potential for improvement within the Core Study Area and in the wider landscape is Acid Grassland. A recent study² was undertaken to evaluate the condition of known acidic habitats within a 3km radius of High Wood and Meadow SSSI, in order to identify new sites and develop a strategy for acidic habitat buffering, restoration, creation and linkage.
- 3.3.11. The findings of this study identified Borough Hill, land to the north and south of the A45 at the eastern entrance to the town and land to the north and east of Staverton as Priority Target Areas for additional survey. This group is given second place in order of priority in the High Woods Acidic Habitats study based on the known survival and proximity of acidic habitats, where sites offer the greatest opportunity to achieve habitat extension, linkage and buffering.

4 Theme Two: Cultural Heritage and Land Use Systems

4.1. Cultural Heritage

- 4.1.1. Refer to Figure 6: Cultural Heritage
- 4.1.2. There are no Registered Parks or Gardens within the Core Study Area. However, the northern limits of the Fawsley Hall Estate (Grade II*) is located approximately 500m to the south. Brockhall Park and Ashby St Ledgers (both Grade II) are located within 2km of the Core Study Area.
- 4.1.3. There are no Registered Battlefields within the Core Study Area or wider area surrounding Daventry.
- 4.1.4. There are two Scheduled Monuments in the Core Study Area, both of which are located in Quadrant 2: South East. Of particular note is Borough Hill. The site is one of the largest hillforts in the country, with evidence of occupation dating to the Neolithic period. The contour fort was not built until the late Bronze Age and its size suggests it was possibly a tribal centre for the surrounding area. Subsequent use includes possible Roman religious activity and burials during Saxon and Viking periods. Burnt Walls is also a Scheduled Monument. This is a possible defensive prehistoric earthwork enclosure, with modern disturbance including possible quarrying for a nearby 19th century brickworks. Scheduled Monuments located a short distance beyond the Core Study Area include the site of Bannaventa, a Roman staging post on the A5 south of Buckby Wharf, remnants of a deserted Medieval Village at Muscott and further deserted medieval village sites at Wolfhamcote, south of Braunston. The setting of these various monuments is also important, particularly for prominent sites such as Borough Hill, and provides the physical context for appreciating and understanding their cultural heritage value.
- 4.1.5. Within the Core Study Area the historic cores of Daventry and two of the surrounding villages (Staverton and Newnham) are designated as Conservation Areas. Some of the villages located outside of the Core Study Area, but in proximity to Daventry are also designated as Conservation Areas. These comprise the historic cores of Badby, Braunston and Ashby St Ledgers. They are all noted for their vernacular architecture and use of local ironstone in older village buildings, many of which are also Listed on account of their historic or architectural interest. The Grand Union Canal is also designated as a Conservation Area.
- 4.1.6. There is a wide dispersal of local heritage assets within the Core Study Area including areas of ridge and furrow and the route of the dismantled historic railway line. Data indicates several areas of known archaeology assets. A summary of heritage features for each quadrant is presented below.
- 4.1.7. Quadrant 1: North West
- 1 no. Grade I Listed Building - the western portal of Braunston Tunnel
 - 1 no. Grade II* Listed Building - Welton Church
 - 21 no. Grade II Listed Buildings (generally located in the centre of Braunston and Welton villages)
 - Grand Union Canal / Oxford Canal Conservation Area
 - Route of Dismantled Historic Railway line (Braunston to Daventry Town Centre)
 - Ridge and Furrow, notably concentrated to south and east of Braunston
 - Known Archaeological Assets are predominantly related to transportation routes, including the turnpike roads to Daventry, Canal and dismantled railway line and areas of ridge and furrow. Two deserted medieval village sites of Braunstonbury and Wolfhamcote are located about 500m outside of the Core Study Area boundary to the south of Braunston
- 4.1.8. Quadrant 2: North East
- 3 no. Grade II Listed Buildings at Welton Manor, Crockwell Farm and on the northern fringes of Norton
 - Grand Union Canal Conservation Area
 - Ridge and Furrow, notably to the east of Welton
 - Known Archaeological Assets are more limited in extent than other Core Study Area quadrants and predominantly relate to transportation routes, including the turnpike roads to Daventry, Canal and dismantled railway line and to areas of ridge and furrow near to Welton
- 4.1.9. Quadrant 3: South East
- 2 no. Grade I Listed Building – Newnham Church and Norton Church
 - 1 no. Grade II* Listed Building in Newnham
 - 30 no. Grade II Listed Buildings predominantly located in Newnham
 - Borough Hill and Burnt Walls Scheduled Monuments
 - Newnham Conservation Area
 - Route of Dismantled Historic Railway line (Daventry Town Centre to Weedon)
 - Ridge and Furrow, notably concentrated around Newnham and Norton
 - Known Archaeological Assets are multi period, and relate to a diverse range of features including the route of the Toll road now occupied by the A45; the former landscape parks / deer parks at Newnham Grange and Norton Grange; the possible site of John of Gaunt's Castle and associated medieval deer park to the south of the A45; the shrunken village at Newnham; and the boundary of a late Saxon estate

4.1.10. Quadrant 4: South West

- 3 no. Grade I Listed Buildings, Daventry Church and a further property in the centre of town and Staverton Church
- 14 no. Grade II* Listed Buildings the majority of which are located in the centre of Daventry
- 104 no. Grade II Listed Buildings (predominantly located in Daventry town and Staverton)
- Daventry Town Centre and Staverton Conservation Areas
- Ridge and Furrow, notably concentrated to the north of Staverton
- Known Archaeological Assets relate to a diverse range of features including the boundary of a late Saxon estate running broadly through Arbury Hill, north to Big Hill and then east to Borough Hill and then continuing eastwards to the A5, and possible prehistoric funerary sites, areas of ridge and furrow and the site of Badby Park

4.2. Strategic and Local Green Space

4.2.1. Refer to Figure 7: Strategic and Local Green Space

4.2.2. The Daventry District Council's Open Space Strategy / PPG17 Assessment was in progress³ during the course of this study. As the findings were not available it was not possible to report in detail on the open space resources within and surrounding the town. As a consequence the following summary presents known open space assets based on the available data for each of the Core Study Area quadrants.

4.2.3. Leisure, Recreation and Tourism sites and destinations are reported in the subsequent section. A number of the sites and facilities that meet leisure and recreational needs also qualify as 'Strategic and Local Green Space'. For completion, these are referred to in both sections, so there is therefore an overlap or duplication in the reporting of these baseline assets.

4.2.4. Daventry Country Park is the primary open space resource for Daventry. The site, managed by Daventry District Council, covers 164 acres. The Reservoir at the centre of the park covers 70 acres when full and is 10 metres deep at its deepest point. The site provides a range of facilities including an Adventure Playground, toilets, Interpretation Centre and a café. A planning application for a Scout Hall and associated facilities has recently been approved; it will offer a further facility within the park.

4.2.5. Quadrant 1: North West

- Kentle Wood Woodland Trust site is a linear belt of recently planted broadleaved that was part of the nation-wide 'Woods on your Doorstep' initiative. Public access is welcomed and there is an informative sign at the southern perimeter of the wood
- Daneholme Park lies within Daventry a short distance to the west of the Country Park. It is owned by Daventry District Council, which allows public access. The site contains no definitive rights of way

- Bragborough Hall and Welton Manor are identified as parklands. These sites contain no definitive rights of way and it is believed that there are no permissive paths or access rights within the land
- Braunston contains a Pocket Park and Village Green. Two village greens are located in Welton

4.2.6. Quadrant 2: North East

- Daventry Country Park is located around Daventry Reservoir. The park occupies a broad valley that is developed along its western edge. The northern edge extends into open countryside. The south eastern edge is defined by land rising towards Borough Hill
- Northern Valley Park, located to the south of tunnelled section of the Grand Union Canal and coincident with the Dam Break Corridor for Drayton Reservoir is managed by Daventry District Council. It offers a range of habitats and a network of footpath and cycle routes
- An area of parkland has been identified at Welton Manor. The site contains no definitive rights of way and it is believed that there are no permissive paths or access rights within the land

4.2.7. Quadrant 3: South East

- Norton Park and Newnham Hall are identified as parklands. Norton Park contains no definitive rights of way and it is believed that there are no permissive paths or access rights within the land. Footpath access to Newnham Hall Park is possible
- The Nuttery, a small area of accessible woodland, is located in Newnham Village. The settlement also contains a Village Green
- Borough Hill is managed by Daventry District Council as an informal Country Park. The hill is open to the public as a place for quiet countryside recreation and enjoyment of the views across open countryside, the town of Daventry and nearby villages. Although referred to as a Country Park, the level of use is much less than at Daventry Country Park. Daventry District Council has an aspiration to enhance the Borough Hill area and also link to the Burnt Walls area and possible site of John of Gaunt's Castle to the south of the A45 in order to provide a linked area of public access

4.2.8. Quadrant 4: South West

- New Street Park is a key green space in Daventry town centre. There are outline proposals to restore and enhance the Park to meet the increased use as a consequence of the town's population growth. (DDC DIS / DAD3: New Street Park)
- Stefen Hill Pocket Park is located within Daventry town, in an area of late post war housing development
- Badby House is identified as parkland, although access rights are not known. These sites contain no definitive rights of way

³ At present the outcomes of the Open Space Audit are still unavailable. They are expected to become available in 2008.

4.3. Leisure, Recreation and Tourism

- 4.3.1. Refer to Figure 8: Existing and Proposed Leisure, Recreation and Tourism Destinations and Developments
- 4.3.2. Daventry Country Park is identified as a strategic destination in the Northamptonshire Tourism Strategy. Other destinations in the Tourism Strategy within and around the town include the picnic site at Daventry Country Park and two golf courses. A range of other destinations also exist. The following summary presents the existing leisure, recreation and tourist destinations for each of the Core Study Area quadrants.
- 4.3.3. As described in Section 4.3.34, a number of these sites can also be classified as areas of Strategic Open Space and are therefore described in the previous section. However, for completion they are reviewed again below.
- 4.3.4. Quadrant 1: North West
- Northern Valley Park is managed by Daventry District Council and provides a local recreation facility for the Lang Farm residential area. It also links to a wider Grand Union Canal Walk and Cycle routes.
 - Daventry Leisure Centre
 - Braunston Marina, linked to the Grand Union Canal
- 4.3.5. Quadrant 2: North East
- Daventry Country Park and Picnic Area, and Local Nature Reserve. This is also described in paragraph 4.2.4 in view of its status as a Strategic Open Space.
- 4.3.6. Quadrant 3: South East
- Daventry and District Golf Club (members club but open to public on payment of Green Fees)
 - Borough Hill: This is also described in paragraph 4.2.7 in view of its status as a Strategic Open Space and use as a Country Park.
- 4.3.7. Quadrant 4: South West
- Staverton Golf Course
 - Daventry Sports Park, Browns Road
 - New Street Recreation Ground

4.4. Access and Movement

- 4.4.1. Refer to Figure 9: Access and Movement
- 4.4.2. Within the Core Study Area, there are a number of recreational routes of regional or sub-regional importance. These comprise the Jurassic Way, which runs predominantly along elevated areas of land to the west of the town, and the Nene Way which runs east west in the south of the Core Study Area following the course of the upper reaches of the River Nene. The Grand Union Canal Way also follows the line of the canal on the northern side of the town. Sustrans regional cycle routes run on a north south alignment through Daventry.
- 4.4.3. Below this regional and sub-regional resource are a number of local assets comprising a network of footpaths, bridleways, byways⁴ and other cycle routes.
- 4.4.4. The following section presents a summary of access routes for each Core Study Area quadrant.

4.4.5. Quadrant 1: North West

- Jurassic Way (classified as a Long Distance Walking Route / County Walk (LDWR/CW) between Staverton and Braunston
- Sustrans Route 70 (Ashby St Ledgers to town centre)
- Limited footpath network, centred primarily at Welton and Braunston
- Bridleway route around northern edge of town from Middlemore Farm to county boundary at Berry Fields
- Network of local cycle routes and 'calmed routes' primarily within post war housing areas, notably the Ashby Fields and Lang Farm residential area and link to bridleway at Middlemore Farm, and the Dewar Drive / Timkin Way residential area

4.4.6. Quadrant 2: North East

- Bridleway through rural landscapes to east of town linking Welton and Norton

4.4.7. Quadrant 3: South East

- Nene Way (classified as a LDWR / CW) to north of Newnham
- Sustrans Route 70 (town centre to Newnham)
- Network of rights of way through rural landscape to east of Borough Hill and to Dodford
- Footpath network around Newnham with link to Weedon Bec
- Network of local cycle routes primarily within post war housing areas to west of Borough Hill (Southbrook)
- Bridleway through rural landscapes to east of town linking Welton and Norton

4.4.8. Quadrant 4: South West

- Nene Way (classified as a LDWR / CW) between Newnham and Badby
- Jurassic Way between Staverton and Berry Fields
- Part of Cycle Tour 7, linking Badby to town centre and Newnham
- Footpath route from Staverton to Braunston and from Drayton Lodge to the county boundary at Berry Fields

4.5. Transport Infrastructure

- 4.5.1. Refer to Figure 10 Transport Infrastructure
- 4.5.2. Daventry is located to the west of the M1/ A5 transport corridor. The corridor also carries the Grand Union Canal and mainline railway through the 'Watford Gap'. Daventry is served by Junctions 16 (south east) and 18 (north) of the M1. The nearest railway station is located approximately 7km to the north east of the town centre at Long Buckby. Other notable infrastructure elements are the Grand Union Canal, and marina at Braunston; the A45 (broadly along the route of the Old Stratford to Dunchurch Turnpike); A361 (broadly along the route of the Banbury to Lutterworth Turnpike); and A425 (broadly along the route of the Warwick to Northampton Turnpike).

⁴ Footpaths, Bridleways and Byways on Figure 9 illustrate data published in July 2005 and does not reflect legal events that have occurred since and have not yet been consolidated. This data is not the definitive map.

4.5.3. The Grand Union Canal runs to the north of the town, partially through the Braunston Tunnel. A marina is located at Braunston, where several lock and moorings are also located.

4.6. Strategic Agricultural Land Classification

4.6.1. Refer to Figure 11: Strategic Agricultural Land Classification

4.6.2. At the strategic scale of assessment Daventry is located within a broad belt of Grade 3 agricultural land, with higher quality (Grade 2) agricultural land located to the north and east of Borough Hill, to the north of Daventry reservoir at Monksmoor Farm, and to the north of Staverton.

4.6.3. Borough Hill is notable as an area of Grade 4 (poor quality) land.

4.6.4. Semi-detailed Agricultural Land Classification assessments have been undertaken at several sites in the vicinity of the town for the Daventry District Plan. While it is evident from a review of these assessments that the Strategic Agricultural Land Classification is only a broad guide to the pattern of agricultural land quality and versatility, it provides an appropriate level of information to enable judgements to be made in respect of the Daventry Infrastructure Study.

5 Theme Three: Townscape and Visual Character

5.1. Townscape Character

- 5.1.1. Refer to Figure 12: Indicative Townscape Character and the Northamptonshire Extensive Urban Survey for Daventry.⁵
- 5.1.2. Daventry is regarded as representing a good example of a small town with major Saxon origins. The location of the early Saxon settlement is not known, although a location to the north of the church appears likely. In the Middle and late Saxon period, the focus of the settlement appears to have been centred upon a low hillock on which the early town developed and a key feature of this appears to be an oval enclosure that may have contained the church and manor house, and later in the early 12th century a Cluniac Priory.
- 5.1.3. The arrival of the Priory and the establishment of a major route between Coventry and London through the town seems to have been a catalyst for the town's move to urban status. During the mid to late 12th century tenements on the High Street were raised to burgage status and new burgages created on the London Road, in an area called Newlands (now Sheaf Street). This essentially marks the historic core of the present town and the location of the majority of the historic buildings in Daventry.
- 5.1.4. As with many towns in the county, Daventry suffered economic decline in the 14th and 15th centuries, only to see recovery in the early 16th century. By the 18th and 19th centuries, Daventry was a major market and coaching centre; the town was on the Great Holyhead Road and a number of other important roads including the Banbury to Lutterworth Road and Warwick to Northampton Road.
- 5.1.5. During the 19th and early 20th centuries the town grew mainly in a north south direction along the London Road and westwards along Oxford Street and Warwick Street. The area mainly comprised solidly built terraced houses and semi detached villa style houses of individual design. By 1925 further expansion between these two main roads occurred. Surviving buildings from the Victorian and Edwardian expansion of the town can still be seen in this area, notably in the Edwardian / Victorian area of the town identified on the Indicative Townscape Character Map.
- 5.1.6. After 1925 inter war housing development resulted in a northward extension of the town. Then, following World War II, the town grew significantly, largely around these earlier areas of housing.
- 5.1.7. Daventry remained a small rural town until the 1950s. However, since the early 1960s the town has seen significant expansion. The town was designated an 'overspill' to house people and industry moved from Birmingham and a planned expansion was carried out as part of an agreement with Birmingham City Council. By 1981 the population had risen to 16,178. Several housing estates were created to the north, south and east of the old town, and large industrial zones established to the north, west and south.
- 5.1.8. More recent housing development has been established on the northern fringes of the town, notably around Drayton Reservoir (Middlemore) and the Lang Farm residential area to the south of the Northern Valley Park.
- 5.1.9. The expansion of the town to the south, east and south west has occupied the lower lying and gently undulating land up to the lower slopes of the hills and ridgelines that define its setting. However, some phases of industrial and commercial development to the north and west have extended onto the elevated land to the east of the Leam Valley.

5.2. Visual Baseline and Analysis

- 5.2.1. Refer to Figure 3: Landform, Figure 13: Slope Analysis and Figure 14: Visual Analysis
- 5.2.2. As with the Indicative Townscape Character, the report on the Visual baseline and analysis has examined Daventry and the Core Study Area as a whole rather than on a sector by sector basis. Many of the landscape and visual considerations extend across quadrants and therefore cannot be easily reviewed within separate quadrants.

Landform and Setting

- 5.2.3. Daventry has developed across a broad plateau which slopes gently to the north east but with steep west facing escarpment slopes to the plateau edge that overlook the broad valley of the River Leam to the west of the town. The historic core of Daventry developed on a local area of elevated land within the plateau area that merges north eastwards into a broad valley, now occupied by Daventry Reservoir.
- 5.2.4. A distinctive belt of undeveloped high ground and hills are located to the south-west, south and east of the plateau. This 'crescent' of hills, notably the prominent linear form of Borough Hill to the east, and Big Hill and Newnham Hill to the south create a significant landform and skyline feature that defines the current built limits of the town and contribute to the perception that the town lies within a broad 'bowl'. From elevated viewpoints, in particular from the summit and western slopes of Borough Hill, it is notable that residential areas are limited to the lower slopes of these steeper surrounding hills e.g. Newnham Hill and Big Hill. The retention of the upper slopes as open countryside or woodland, with a strong rural character, helps to emphasise their visual character and prominence. In contrast to this, however, it is evident that residential areas have encroached onto the middle and upper west facing slopes of Borough Hill and commercial development has done likewise to the west of the town extending across the elevated landform in the vicinity of Drayton Gate Farm and sloping northwards towards the canal and route of dismantled railway line.

- 5.2.5. These hills also serve to screen views of the town on many approaches into Daventry, and therefore help retain the rural character of the town's hinterland. From key approaches into Daventry, from the south on the A361, from the south west on the A425 and from the east along the A45 there is no awareness of the town's presence until the outer limit of the town is reached with the exception of glimpsed views of the Marches Industrial Estate obtained from the intermittent sections of the A45 in the vicinity of Weedon Bec.
- 5.2.6. In contrast to this enclosure, the western perimeter of the town is more open, with the steep escarpment slopes that define the western edge of the plateau overlooking the valley of the River Leam. A further 'open' area occurs to the north east of the town. The rural landscape to the north of the Daventry Reservoir, together with woodland and the Country Park associated with the reservoir area, has resulted in a distinctive 'green wedge' of land projecting into the heart of the town.
- 5.2.7. In addition to the prominent hills that define and contain the setting of the town to the south and east, a number of minor ridgelines and spurs provide a locally important separation between landform facets and slopes. Of note is a shallow ridge that projects north eastwards from the northern side of Borough Hill and to the east of the valley occupied by the Daventry reservoir. The B4036 followed the crest of this ridgeline, and defines a subtle but locally significant separation between land sloping to the north west, and to the south east.
- 5.2.8. This separation of slope facets and orientation also occurs on the north western side of Daventry where the steep slopes that define the western edge of the plateau have been breached by a small valley to the south and east of Braunston and now followed by the Grand Union Canal. As a result, a more gently sloping spur of the plateau edge projects northwards towards the village of Braunston with the crest of the slopes followed by the A45. The road therefore defines the separation of land sloping west towards the broad valley of the River Leam, and to the north and east towards the 'Braunston Valley'.
- 5.2.9. A further minor ridgeline occurs to the north of the Daventry where the land rises above the 'Braunston Valley' to form the continuation northwards of the crest of the high land above the steeper west facing escarpment slopes of the broad plateau area. In the vicinity of the Daventry, this local ridgeline and plateau crest is followed by the A361. As with the other local ridgelines, the road defines the separation of land sloping west towards the village of Braunston and east to the village of Welton.
- 5.2.10. The 'Braunston Valley' forms a small but locally distinctive landform to the north of Daventry where the plateau edge has been breached. The incised slopes of the valley have resulted in a small scale and intimate rural landscape, which although visible from the more elevated setting of Braunston, is perceived as a visually contained area of landscape that is distinct from Daventry.
- 5.2.11. Although these minor ridgelines and spurs, and valley forms are more subdued than the crescent of prominent hills to the south and east of Daventry, they nevertheless play an important part in defining and separating discrete areas of landform and defining local character areas.

Focal Points and Landmarks

- 5.2.12. There are a number of prominent and distinctive landmarks within and surrounding the town. Many relate to the hills and areas of elevated landform, notably Borough Hill and the telecommunication mast on its summit; Newnham Hill, again with a mast and windmill on the summit and upper slopes; the distinctive conical profile and smooth open summit area of Fox Hill; and the strong pattern of mature woodlands that extend across the upper north facing slopes and summit area of Big Hill and Staverton Clump to the east of the village of Staverton.
- 5.2.13. The church in the centre of the town is also a notable landmark. This marks the core of the ancient settlement and is located at the edge of the spur of land on which the town was founded, possibly to emphasise the visual impact of earlier structures on the site. Whilst modern building around the town obscures many views to the church, it remains an important focal point and orientation feature. It is also a notable landmark in views to and across the town from Borough Hill.
- 5.2.14. Daventry Reservoir is a significant feature and landmark within the town. Located in close proximity to the town centre, the reservoir and its surrounding landscape setting form an important landscape and open water resource and recreation facility within walking distance of large areas of population. The woodland that has developed along the western perimeter of the reservoir projects into the heart of the town and enriches the landscape setting.

Principal Viewpoints

- 5.2.15. While the prominent crescent of hills to the south and east limit views from within the town to its surrounding landscape, the intermittent views of these hills provide an attractive setting to the town. The exception to this is to the north of Daventry Reservoir, where more expansive views from the edge of the reservoir are possible into the surrounding lower lying wetland and undulating lowland agricultural landscape.
- 5.2.16. The uninterrupted and expansive views from the summit ridge and upper slopes of Borough Hill are particularly notable, with panoramic views across the town to the west, and to the open rural landscape to the east towards Northampton and line of hills to the south and south east.
- 5.2.17. Open and long distance views are also obtained from the western perimeter of the built area of Daventry and notably from the A45 on the northern perimeter of the built area from which expansive views across the River Leam valley and to the distant line of hills are obtained. Views of the town are also possible from sections of the A361 in the vicinity of Ashby St Ledgers.

Built Development including Villages

- 5.2.18. There is general absence of residential development on the upper slopes and summit areas. However, where residential areas have encroached onto sloping land, notably development on the middle and upper slopes of Borough Hill, they are visually prominent
- 5.2.19. The large scale Ford premises within the Royal Oak Industrial Estate are particularly prominent buildings in the landscape, and with their location on a plateau top above the River Leam valley, form a skyline feature on the western side of the town.
- 5.2.20. The southern, western and north western edges of Daventry present a hard defined edge to built development either as a consequence of residential areas contained by and extending up to the A45 ring road, or by the strong built edge of the premises within the industrial estates. In contrast, the northern and eastern perimeters of the urban area present a more filtered edge.
- 5.2.21. A distinctive 'ring' of villages surround Daventry and contribute to the character of the wider rural area that surrounds and leads into the town. All of the villages are located within a rural landscape and retain an attractive historic core with older ironstone properties, clustered around the church. Whilst recent development is evident in and around many villages, they retain a strong identity and rural character to their setting.
- 5.2.22. The relationship of these villages with Daventry varies as a consequence of the surrounding landform. Staverton, Badby, Newnham and Dodford are all located within 2 – 3km of the urban edge of Daventry. However, because of the intervening landform and prominent line of hills to the south and east of Daventry, they are physically and visually detached from the town. To the north west and west of the town, the villages of Welton and Norton have some limited intervisibility with the town although they retain a strong and detached rural setting. Because of its elevated position to the north east of the town, Braunston has a more direct physical relationship with Daventry with views to the north western edge of the town. However, the intervening 'Braunston Valley' ensures that the village retains a physical separation from the town.

6 Theme Four: Northamptonshire

Environmental Character Assessment Suite

6.1. Introduction and Background to the Suite

- 6.1.1. Refer to Figure 15: Environmental Character Assessment, Figure 16 Current Landscape Character Assessment, Figure 17: Biodiversity Character Assessment and Figure 18: Historic Landscape Character Assessment.
- 6.1.1. Many planning authorities have undertaken assessments of their administrative area in order to contribute a greater level of detail and local relevance to national scale landscape character assessments.
- 6.1.2. In 2006 the River Nene Regional Park Community Interest Company (RNRP CIC) and Northamptonshire County Council launched a series of character assessments that deliver an integrated characterisation of the county.
- 6.1.3. At the sub regional scale, the Environmental Character Assessment (ECA) describes the broad character of the county. This assessment seeks to refine the national scale character assessment by integrating more detailed assessments: namely the Current Landscape Character Assessment (CLCA), Biodiversity Character Assessment (BCA) and Historic Landscape Character Assessment (HLCA) to inform the description of Environmental Character Areas.
- 6.1.4. The three more detailed studies were undertaken to a greater degree of detail than the ECA and represent a county / district scale of assessment in the assessment hierarchy described in the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) and Scottish Natural Heritage 'Landscape Character Assessment Guidance'. These studies identify generic character types and geographically unique landscape character areas.
- 6.1.5. The studies provide a description of local landscape character and a series of strategies and guidelines that are designed to ensure change and development protects and enhances environmental character.

6.2. Environmental Character Assessment

- 6.2.1. Daventry and the study area fall almost entirely within the West Northamptonshire Uplands, an extensive area stretching from Aynho in the south to Wilbarston in the north. The West Northamptonshire Uplands is an expansive and elevated landscape of hills and valleys that acts as the major watershed between some of the region's principal rivers systems. The varied local landscape character across the Uplands is an integral part of its distinctiveness.
- 6.2.2. Low lying riverine landscapes to the west mark the broad valley of the River Leam. To the east is the broad valley of the Upper Nene Catchment.

6.3. Current Landscape Character Assessment

- 6.3.1. Daventry is located at the junction of three discrete local landscape character types. To the north and east of the town extends broad swathes of Undulating Hills and Valleys (broadly consistent with Quadrant 1: North West (to north of the A45), Quadrant 2: North East and Quadrant 3: South East (north of the A45).
- 6.3.2. To the south of the town lie a series of discrete Ironstone Hills, wrapping around the source of the Nene. The hills extend from Newnham Grounds in the east to Staverton in the west and occupy a small part of Quadrant 3: South East and a large proportion of Quadrant 4: South West.
- 6.3.3. To the west of the town, and below the steeper slopes following the perimeter of the elevated plateau area on which Daventry has developed, the land slopes gently down across a broad belt of Rolling Agricultural Lowland to the valley of the River Leam. This largely inaccessible area of land occupies part of Quadrants 1: North West and 4: South West.

6.4. Biodiversity Character Assessment

- 6.4.1. Variations in the physiographic and agricultural land use characteristics of the land fringing Daventry has created a complex pattern of biodiversity character types in close proximity to the town.
- 6.4.2. Quadrant 1: North West is characterised by Liassic Slopes, an area of slightly acidic soils with a low retention of semi-natural habitats. Within this broad belt of landscape, however, is a notable area of cropped clayland extending from Braunston Covert to Hobeberill Farm where superficial deposits of Boulder Clay has influenced agricultural land use and led to the low retention of semi natural habitats.
- 6.4.3. Quadrant 2: North East is dominated by Daventry Reservoir and the floodplain of the tributary stream flowing northwards to the upper catchment of the River Nene where open water or wetland habitats may be found. Further to the east, at the fringes of the Core Study Area, lies the Glacial Gravels that form a broad belt extending between Ashby St Ledgers and Nether Heyford.
- 6.4.4. Quadrant 3: South East and Quadrant 4: South West are dominated by the higher ground where Acid Sands influence biodiversity character. Where land is steeper, permanent grassland is dominant, although lower, flatter areas are characterised by arable cropping, falling towards a further area of Liassic Slopes fringing the source of the River Nene and the River Leam.

6.5. Historic Landscape Character Assessment

- 6.5.1. Daventry is located at the junction of two distinct Historic Landscape Character Types. To the east of the town landscape patterns are dominated by Fragmented Modern Fields, characterised by landscapes of modern fields created principally by the removal of earlier hedgerows during the 20th century.
- 6.5.2. To the south and west of the town the landscape is characterised by Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosures. The patterns here are created by blocks of parliamentary enclosure within which fragmentation has been caused by a range of factors.

7 Theme Five: Strategic Green Infrastructure

7.1. Introduction

- 7.1.1. Refer to Figure 19: Strategic Biodiversity Network, Figure 20: Sustainable Movement Network and Figure 21: Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework.
- 7.1.2. The following section provides a baseline review of the Green Infrastructure resource for Daventry and draws from the findings of the Northamptonshire Strategic Green Infrastructure Assessment.

Background

- 7.1.3. The following paragraphs provide an overview of the Northamptonshire Strategic Green Infrastructure Assessment. The Northamptonshire Strategic Green Infrastructure (GI) Assessment identifies a series of strategic and local GI corridors, as well as two connective networks: the Biodiversity Network and the Sustainable Movement Network. These are described below.

Sub Regional and Local Corridors

- 7.1.4. The GI study defines the Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework as an interconnected network of Sub Regional and Local GI Corridors. The Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework Plan for Northamptonshire illustrates the interconnected network of Sub Regional and Local GI Corridors across the county. They are not intended to indicate rigid corridors for Green Infrastructure provision but instead identify broad landscape zones within which Green Infrastructure related proposals and priorities for action and delivery of GI should be focused. These multi-functional zones will encompass a range of objectives. It should be regarded as a conceptual framework to aid the decision making process with regards to GI delivery on the ground. It is not intended to be prescriptive or inflexible, and as a consequence the network delivered in the longer term may vary depending on a multitude of strategic and local issues, not least those relating to the aspirations of local communities, land ownership and a changing development context.

The West Northamptonshire Biodiversity Network

- 7.1.5. The Biodiversity Network seeks to connect fragmented habitats displayed across much of the county in order to assist species persistence and habitat function. The network presented in the Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies a range of habitat reservoirs and habitat links around and within Daventry that build on the distribution of extant habitat in order to achieve a spatial map that can help target habitat protection and enhancement. This strategic plan has been reviewed and refined in consultation with The Wildlife Trust and utilising a recent review of Potential Wildlife Sites (PWSs) within the area of search.

The Sustainable Movement Network for West Northamptonshire

- 7.1.6. The Sustainable Movement Network identifies the principal networks and opportunities for sustainable people movement from centres of settlement to the countryside. By building upon the network of existing rights of way, it seeks to link assets and destinations to villages and towns with a hierarchy of routes that, where possible, takes advantage of areas of green space.
- 7.1.7. The network is described as operating from doorstep to countryside, within a structured hierarchy, with each level performing a separate function.
- 7.1.8. The top tier, comprising Primary and Secondary routes are identified for the entire county. The more local level tier, comprising a network of Inter Neighbourhood Connectors, Urban Green Streets and Suburban Roads, has also been proposed for Daventry.
- 7.1.9. The tiers in the movement hierarchy are described below:

Primary Network – Green Way

- Strategic links between major settlements through open countryside, composed of the Public Rights of Way (PROW) network and cycle routes.

Secondary Network – Countryside Connectors

- Link villages and hamlets together and to assets in the wider countryside, composed of the PROW network and cycle routes.

7.2. Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridors

- 7.2.1. Daventry is located between the Oxford Canal / Cherwell Valley Sub-Regional GI corridor, with the Daventry Spur running between the two to the north and along the eastern fringes of the town. A summary of The Daventry Spur Sub-Regional Corridor is presented below and is illustrated on Figure 21.
- 7.2.2. The GI resource within the Daventry Spur Sub-Regional Corridor includes a number of biodiversity and heritage assets that can be integrated with potential opportunities linked to development associated with the future growth and regeneration of the town.
- 7.2.3. The establishment of a linked network of green space on the eastern and northern perimeter of the town, utilising the reservoirs, Daventry Country Park and also incorporating the scheduled heritage features at Borough Hill and Burnt Walls, could benefit the setting of Daventry and the integration of new growth.
- 7.2.4. There is potential to strengthen and enhance the inter-settlement links to improve the network of sustainable movement, notably the Green Link to Braunston. There are also opportunities to enhance the biodiversity resource including the establishment of further woodlands to enrich the ridge top and hillside woodlands.

7.2.5. Priorities for Action will be focused on the creation of a multi functional green infrastructure network around the eastern and northern perimeter of the town that integrates a range of opportunities and assets that enrich this area, and provide a setting and accessible green space for communities within the potential growth areas.

7.3. The Biodiversity Network for West Northamptonshire

7.3.1. The Biodiversity Network seeks to connect fragmented habitats displayed across much of the county in order to assist species persistence and habitat function. This strategic plan has been reviewed and refined in consultation with the Wildlife Trust and utilising a recent review of Potential Wildlife Sites (PWSs) within the area of search.

7.3.2. The principal habitat reservoirs and links within the Core Study Area relate to wetland/wet woodland/open water and species rich grassland habitats, in combination with other semi natural habitat. Woodland Priority Zones and Links are also identified. Woodlands also form part of the matrix of habitats identified above but are separately identified where particular priority should be given to woodland habitat protection, creation and linkage.

7.3.3. In addition, a number of key woodland resources are illustrated, and opportunities to establish enhanced habitat links between them are also mapped.

7.3.4. The aim is to protect, enhance and create appropriate habitat in the reservoirs that have been identified and to establish appropriate links between these where possible, again through a process of protection, enhancement and creation.

7.3.5. Whilst the plan presented in Figure 19 represents a refinement of the strategic plan presented in the Green Infrastructure Strategy, it remains indicative of how habitat reservoirs and links might be achieved. A more refined review at the master planning and detailed design level will help refine the strategic plan as well as react appropriately to local conditions and exploit opportunities as and when they arise. For example, new development on the fringes of the town should help deliver in part or in total a link between two or more of the habitat reservoirs identified. The route that this follows and the nature of the link designed will vary depending on local conditions.

7.3.6. The most significant opportunities for wetland, wet woodland and open water habitat enhancement and connectivity are located to the north of the town. Major habitat reservoirs are located at the two reservoirs, the canal and various sites along its route including wet woodland at Bridge Spinneys. Whilst a habitat reservoir in itself, the canal also functions as a linkage feature. However, potential key links have been identified from the two reservoirs to the canal.

7.3.7. A number of designated and non designated sites have been identified as habitat reservoirs, including Borough Hill, land to the west of Daventry Reservoir and wooded hills to the south of the town. Particular emphasis has been placed upon the potential to protect, enhance and create new acid grassland habitat. However, it is acknowledged that these will often exist in a complex matrix of other habitat types, with variations dictated by underlying geology and pedology, land use and past management. A number of potential habitat links have been identified. These encircle the town with notable extensions to woodland and grassland habitats at Badby Wood.

7.4. The Sustainable Movement Network for West Northamptonshire

7.4.1. Elements of the Primary Network around Daventry comprise the Oxford Canal Blue Way to the north of the town, notably joining the Nene Valley Blue Way at Braunston. This route follows the Grand Union Canal where it joins the main north south corridor of the canal.

7.4.2. The Althorp Green Way provides a strategic link to Long Buckby Station to the north east of the town. To the south, the Nene Valley Green Way (broadly following the route of the Nene Way) enters the Core Study Area at Newnham.

7.4.3. A network of Countryside Connectors and Inter Urban Neighbourhood Connectors have been identified within and surrounding the town.

PART B: Sensitivity Review

8 Sensitivity Review

8.1. Introduction and Methodology

- 8.1.1. The following section assesses the sensitivity of landscapes and landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage features under a series of key themes derived from the baseline information presented in the preceding section. However, consideration is given to other baseline datasets and information sources to provide a comprehensive overview and context.
- 8.1.2. At the national level, the area around Daventry can be identified as being of moderate to low sensitivity, because of the absence of any national landscape designations (AONB, National Park). However, for the purposes of this assessment, a more localised review of sensitivity has been undertaken, observing local, town-wide assets and their sensitivity.
- 8.1.3. The assessment of sensitivity has therefore been undertaken at the strategic scale using information and data that have been available at the town-wide scale of the study. As such, judgements on the inherent sensitivity of landscapes, views, and features are considered at this broad scale. More detailed research and further site-specific assessment would be necessary to confirm the levels of sensitivity attributed to individual features.
- 8.1.4. Sensitivity is defined in Landscape Character Assessment Topic Paper 6, published jointly by the former Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage⁶. A distinction is made between overall landscape sensitivity, which refers to the inherent sensitivity of the landscape itself, irrespective of the type of change that may be under consideration and landscape sensitivity to a particular type of change. The former definition is most relevant in work at the strategic level such as in the preparation of regional and sub-regional strategies.
- 8.1.5. This assessment adopts the second definition of landscape sensitivity and is presented below:
- ‘Landscape sensitivity to a specific type of change:**
This term should be used where it is necessary to assess the sensitivity of the landscape to a particular type of change or development. It should be defined in terms of the interactions between the landscape itself, the way that it is perceived and the particular nature of the type of change or development in question.’
- 8.1.6. The assessment considers and assesses heritage and biodiversity features as a component of the landscape resource. Sensitivity scores have been attributed to features identified in a desk-based review and as such no site investigation or verification of the features identified has been undertaken. Confirmation of the survival of features assessed under these themes and their inherent sensitivity would be required at the more refined level of analysis and investigation, such as that conducted as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Statement.
- 8.1.7. Following on from the definition of ‘sensitivity’, it is essential that a clear definition of the term **‘the particular type of change or development’** is established, as this provides the reference for the consideration of the sensitivity of landscapes and environmental features to the specific change, and its type and scale. In the context of this study, ‘change or development’ is defined as major mixed-use urban extension development in excess of 5ha⁷.
- 8.1.8. It has also been necessary to make an additional assessment of sensitivity to smaller scale detached development in rural locations in respect of the landscape/visual theme. This is as a result of there being some potential for smaller scale development, albeit over 5ha in size, having been identified as a potential strategy to accommodate the necessary growth of the town.
- 8.1.9. It is important to note that the findings of this Sensitivity Assessment are not applicable to the assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape or environmental features to other types of development, such as major infrastructure such as road or rail schemes, or renewable energy initiatives such as wind farms.
- 8.1.10. As such, the following section presents an examination of the environmental resource within and around Daventry under a series of Strategic Themes. Reference to supporting plans is made where relevant.
- 8.1.11. It should be noted that a nominal 1km potential zone of influence has been defined for the purposes of establishing the setting for the villages around Daventry. At this strategic scale of assessment, a 1km potential zone of influence was regarded as sufficient to demarcate the setting of each village and to define an area of land within which development associated with the expansion of Daventry is more likely to lead to direct and potentially adverse impact on the settlement’s ‘separateness’ and village identity. Where separation between settlements or development is less than 1km, a more localised scale of assessment will be required to be able to define setting and impacts more precisely, based on analysis of views, vistas and factors of landform, vegetation and local perceptions.

⁶ Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, Landscape Character Assessment Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity

⁷ This 5ha threshold is derived from an interpretation of EIA Regulations Indicative Thresholds and Criteria – Appendix 3 Section 10b.

8.2. Sensitivity Categories and Definitions

- 8.2.1. The sensitivity analysis has been examined under the following four main themes: **Biodiversity; Cultural Heritage; Landscape and Visual;** and **Flood Zones and Minerals.**
- 8.2.2. Sensitivity, and the potential for development, is assessed under four categories: **High, Medium, Low** and **No Known Assets or Issues.** Under the landscape and visual theme an additional sub-category between High and Medium was necessary to identify sensitivity to smaller scale development in urban fringe and rural areas within the study area. A summary of the definition of each sensitivity category is presented below.
- 8.2.3. An assumption concerning the scale of development against sensitivity has been made (refer to **Section 8.1.5**). The assessment considers sensitivity to direct impacts through loss or damage of sites and features. In addition, due to the scale of assessment and the identification of a number of non-designated sites (i.e. Potential Wildlife Sites) throughout the study area all sites have been categorised as having equal weight, for the purposes of highlighting sensitivity at the strategic level. Mitigation such as buffer planting has also not been considered.
- 8.2.4. **High Sensitivity:** Features and areas identified as being of a high sensitivity on account of their international or national statutory designation status, rarity, or strategic importance. They are regarded as presenting a significant constraint to development, such that large-scale development would result in significant harm. Development is regarded as inappropriate or would present wide-ranging challenges to accommodate in these areas.
- 8.2.5. **High-Medium Sensitivity (for Landscape and Visual only)** – Significant constraints identified, although smaller scale development may be possible subject to further detailed investigation and appropriate mitigation.
- 8.2.6. **Medium Sensitivity:** Features and areas are identified as being of medium sensitivity on account of their local designation status, local significance or their inclusion within or association with a wider complex of sites and features of interest. In some instances the exact nature of the resource may not be fully understood or documented, but is nevertheless identified as a significant constraint to development. Some development within areas identified as medium sensitivity may be possible although further investigation will be required to fully evaluate the significance of the features and areas of landscape. Where features are not then identified as being of high sensitivity, appropriate mitigation will be required to limit adverse impact.
- 8.2.7. **Low Sensitivity:** Features and areas identified as being of low sensitivity are generally not designated but regarded as a locally important asset, which subject to further investigation may qualify for designation in the future. Development within areas identified as low sensitivity may be possible although further investigation will be required to fully appreciate the significance of features and areas of landscape. Where features are not then identified as being of medium or high sensitivity appropriate mitigation will be required to limit adverse impact.
- 8.2.8. Where it is considered that **No Known Assets or Issues** exist, development may be possible subject to further investigation and appropriate mitigation. While the likelihood of discovering high, medium or low sensitivity assets is less likely, this cannot be discounted.
- 8.2.9. In the case of landscape and visual sensitivity, the alternative term of **Negligible** is introduced, to represent the lowest threshold of sensitivity. As all areas are visible, and therefore have some degree of visual impact, it is inappropriate to use the term 'No Known Assets or Issues'. The term 'Negligible' therefore applies to those areas where it is considered that development would either be appropriate to local character or have a negligible adverse visual impact.
- 8.2.10. A further commentary on Landscape and Visual Sensitivity relates to the basis for the sensitivity categorisation of the various areas within the study area. Unlike Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage there are no designations of international, national or regional significance which would automatically have warranted a classification of 'High'. However, in the case of Landscape and Visual, the local landscape context of Daventry has formed the basis for the evaluation of the sensitivity classifications, with those in the highest categories selected because of their strategic significance, 'rarity' or a judgement that they are locally important. Although a landscape may not be formally designated it may nevertheless be of considerable importance locally and valued by the local population on the basis that 'all landscapes matter', not just those that are particularly well known, or evoke strong images. This latter premise is fundamental to the principles of Landscape Character Assessment and endorsed by Natural England.
- 8.2.11. Whilst sensitivity analysis across the four main themes identifies areas that may be regarded as being of high, medium and low sensitivity to new development, it does not necessarily preclude development, which may, through appropriate design and planning, be able to offer greater certainty in the long term protection and potential enhancement of features, or indeed make a positive contribution to the town and its visual setting.

8.3. Biodiversity Sensitivity

- 8.3.1. Refer to Figure 22: Biodiversity Sensitivity.
- 8.3.2. The sensitivity categories identified are based on a preliminary desk analysis, in conjunction with The Wildlife Trust. The presence of statutory and non statutory designations provided certainty and a clear basis for the classification. However, the evaluation of other biodiversity assets, notably the Potential Wildlife Sites (see 3.3.2) required an informed professional judgement. These were classified according to their known biodiversity importance or potential value and the relationship or connectivity with adjacent habitats. At this stage, therefore, the classifications are presented as a strategic evaluation and would need to be the subject of a more detailed site focused biodiversity assessment.

- 8.3.3. **Quadrant 1: North West** contains four distinct areas that have been identified as being of **High Sensitivity**, three of which are classified as CWSs. These comprise Drayton Reservoir, Braunston Covert and the dismantled railway. A PWS extends along the dismantled railway to Braunston from the western end of the CWS designation and is also identified as high sensitivity, as is the PWS to the south of the dismantled rail line cuttings to the west of Middlemore Farm. The remnant ancient woodland to the north of Bragborough Hall is also regarded as being of high sensitivity.
- 8.3.4. Sites of **Medium Sensitivity** are all PWSs, including two sites on the Braunston Tunnel and a large area of grassland to the east of Drayton Gate Farm, extending up to the industrial estate.
- 8.3.5. There is a single area of **Low Sensitivity** covering the recently planted broadleaved woodland of Kentle Wood that extends around the western flank of the Royal Oak Industrial Estate.
- 8.3.6. **Quadrant 2: North East** contains two biodiversity assets that have been assessed as being of **High Sensitivity**. These comprise Daventry Reservoir and an area of broadleaved woodland, both of which are CWS.
- 8.3.7. Three areas of **Medium Sensitivity** have been identified to the north of the Grand Union Canal, all of which are PWSs.
- 8.3.8. **Quadrant 3: South East** contains several areas of **High Sensitivity**, extending across the two CWSs on the summit of Borough Hill and across its southern flanks to Burnt Walls on areas that have been identified as PWSs. A further area of high sensitivity has been identified at the CWS grassland site within the golf course on the northern slopes of Borough Hill. Beyond the Core Study Area to the north of Dodford, the dismantled railway CWS has also been identified as of high sensitivity.
- 8.3.9. Areas of **Medium Sensitivity** have been identified at woodland at Dodford Holt and grassland to the west of Norton and to the south east of Newnham which is coincident with areas of remnant ridge and furrow. The PWS on the western slopes of the hill is regarded as being of Medium Sensitivity, with the wooded area to the south being of Low Sensitivity. This group of sites is notable as it falls within a priority area for acid habitat survey.
- 8.3.10. Areas of **Low Sensitivity** comprise PWSs in pastures between Norton and Dodford which are again coincident with remnant areas of ridge and furrow.
- 8.3.11. **Quadrant 4: South West** contains several fragmented sites of **High Sensitivity**, notably woodland and grassland CWSs on elevated land at Big Hill and to the south of Drayton Lodge and wet pasture land at Elderstubbs Farm. Beyond the Core Study Area, Badby Wood SSSI and an outlying area of woodland are also identified as being of high sensitivity.
- 8.3.12. Notable sites of **Medium Sensitivity** include the parkland at Badby House Monastery which is coincident with areas of ridge and furrow, woodlands and grassland on Newnham Hill and grasslands north and north east of Staverton, one area of which includes the RIGGS.
- 8.3.13. There are several small areas of **Low Sensitivity**, the majority of which are grassland PWSs.

8.4. Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

- 8.4.1. Refer to Figure 23: Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
- 8.4.2. As a general comment with regard to cultural heritage sensitivity, it must be emphasised that the sensitivity of the historic environment includes a number of elements comprising the sensitivity to change of a specific site; consideration of its setting; and the survival of historic landscapes, as identified through the Historic Landscape Characterisation process. The visual setting of an historical feature is only one part of a wider examination of the effect on 'setting' which would be the subject of a more detailed review on a site by site basis. However, in the context of this study, the visual setting is taken into consideration in the Landscape and Visual Sensitivity section.
- 8.4.3. **Quadrant 1: North West** contains only one area of **High Sensitivity**, comprising the Grand Union Canal which is designated as a Conservation Area and has several listed structures along its length. Beyond the Core Study Area the Braunston Conservation Areas and Braunstonbury deserted medieval village Scheduled Monument are also identified as highly sensitive.
- 8.4.4. A significant area of ridge and furrow has survived in the vicinity of the village of Braunston, and has been identified as an area of **Medium Sensitivity**, with similar areas of good preservation identified at Welton and Bragborough Hall, which is also set within an area of parkland. The village of Welton, and an area identified as Welton Park has been identified as being of medium sensitivity. Two historic transportation routes leading into the town are also identified as being of medium sensitivity, both of which follow the course of turnpikes.
- 8.4.5. Areas of **Low Sensitivity** include the dismantled railway line and several small isolated archaeological sites.
- 8.4.6. **Quadrant 2: North East** also contains the Grand Union Canal which, as in the North West Quadrant, has been identified as being of **High Sensitivity**.
- 8.4.7. Areas of **Medium Sensitivity** include an area of surviving ridge and furrow to the east of Welton and sites identified as a possible post medieval mill and a Roman settlement.
- 8.4.8. Two small areas have been identified as being **Low Sensitivity**, the larger of which includes land to the west of Daventry Reservoir including the area occupied by the former Daventry Sewage Works.
- 8.4.9. **Quadrant 3: South East** contains the Borough Hill Scheduled Monument which has been identified as **High Sensitivity**. The area extends across the golf course and has been extended to include a possible contemporary holloway and satellite settlement on its eastern slopes and areas of known archaeology to the south west. Further areas of high sensitivity have been identified at the Burnt Walls Scheduled Monument and the Conservation Area within Newnham.

- 8.4.10. Sites identified as being of **Medium Sensitivity** are centred around the villages of Newnham, Newnham Grange, Norton and Dodford, a short distance to the east of the Core Study Area. A further area of interest is located across the site of a medieval deer park associated with the possible site of John of Gaunt's Castle to the south of the A45. Linear features of medium sensitivity include the route of the toll road, now occupied by the A45 and a Late Saxon Estate Boundary which has survived for much of its length as the boundary of several parishes including Badby, Newnham and Dodford.
- 8.4.11. Areas of **Low Sensitivity** are limited to several isolated sites which include areas of remnant ridge and furrow and the remains of fishponds towards the centre of the town. The course of the dismantled railway line is also identified as being of low sensitivity.
- 8.4.12. **Quadrant 4: South West** contains three areas of **High Sensitivity**, all of which are defined by the extents of the Conservation Areas at the historic cores of Staverton, Newnham (west end) and Daventry town. Beyond the Core Study Area, the Badby Conservation Area and the Grade II* Fawsley Hall are also identified as being of high sensitivity.
- 8.4.13. Areas of **Medium Sensitivity** have been identified across areas of ridge and furrow that lie in close proximity to the villages of Badby, Staverton and Newnham, with additional sizable areas surrounding Badby House monastery. Linear features of medium sensitivity include the route of the toll road, now occupied by the A425 and a short stretch of a permissive way to the south of Drayton Lodge and the Late Saxon Estate Boundary that can also be seen extending into the South East Quadrant.
- 8.4.14. Areas of **Low Sensitivity** are limited, and where identified include small, isolated areas of remnant ridge and furrow and other sites.

8.5. Landscape and Visual Sensitivity

- 8.5.1. Refer to Figure 24: Landscape and Visual Sensitivity.
- 8.5.2. The assessment of landscape and visual sensitivity has been undertaken at a **strategic level**. The following sections identify the overall sensitivity of the landscape within each quadrant based upon the primary landscape characteristics identified. Given the impact of local landform and vegetation on landscape impact at the local (scheme) level, more detailed site specific appraisals would be required to reach a more definite position on sensitivity to change. These would need to be undertaken for a specific development proposal.
- 8.5.3. **Quadrant 1: North West** contains two separate areas of **High Sensitivity**. An area on the western side of the quadrant forms part of a broader area High Sensitivity that extends northwards from Staverton (within Quadrant 4: South West), to the south of Braunston. This expansive area of open rural landscape extends up to the western margin of the plateau area, and the built edge of Daventry. It has a strong intervisibility with the broad valley of River Leam and from the higher land commands wider views to more distant hills to the east.
- There is no development across these steep west and south-west facing slopes that follow the plateau edge within this quadrant, further reinforcing the high visibility and sensitivity of this landscape to change. A further area of High Sensitivity is located within the distinctive small valley to south east of Braunston. The valley has retained an enclosed and intimate rural character, further enriched by an assemblage of features that contribute to its historic landscape character, including areas of ridge and furrow, small scale irregular fields, and the industrial archaeological interest associated with the Grand Union Canal.
- 8.5.4. The settings of the village of Braunston and Welton, parts of which extend into this quadrant, are considered to be of **Medium Sensitivity**. A nominal potential zone of influence 1km from the built edge of the village has been defined in order to demarcate its setting. A further area of Medium Sensitivity is located within a very small part of the land associated with the open rural landscape that extends north eastwards from Daventry reservoir, and which forms part of a green wedge of rural landscape that penetrates into the heart of the town. However, the majority of this area of Medium Sensitivity is located within Quadrant 2: North East.
- 8.5.5. The remaining areas within this quadrant are of **Low Sensitivity** and comprise the undulating agricultural landscape between A45 and A361. Finally, the sections of the urban area of Daventry located within the quadrant are classified as **Negligible Sensitivity** to change although opportunities to accommodate new mixed use development are limited in view of the existing footprint of the urban development.
- 8.5.6. **Quadrant 2: North East** contains a small area of **High Sensitivity** in the south eastern part of the quadrant forming part of a wider swathe of land associated with the rural setting to the northern and north eastern side of Borough Hill.
- 8.5.7. Areas of **Medium Sensitivity** are associated with the settings of the villages of Welton and Norton, with the south eastern and north western sections of their areas of influence, respectively, extending into this quadrant. A nominal potential zone of influence set 1km from the built edge of the villages has been defined, in order to include their principal area of influence. The open rural landscape that extends north eastwards from Daventry Reservoir forms an extensive green wedge that penetrates into the heart of the town. With the continuity and intervisibility with the wider rural landscape, this area is considered to be of Medium Sensitivity. The rising north west facing slopes and broad crest of the local ridgeline followed by the B4036 is also included within this area of Medium Sensitivity.
- 8.5.8. A smaller area of **Low Sensitivity** is located around the Daventry Reservoir. Although this is a notable local feature and recreational resource, it is visually contained by landform and woodland with limited intervisibility from wider areas.

- 8.5.9. **Quadrant 3: South East** contains a large area of **High Sensitivity** associated with Borough Hill and its wider landscape and cultural heritage setting, and also the predominantly undeveloped summit area and slopes of the hill. While the middle and lower west facing slopes of the hill contain some residential development, the open upper slopes and summit area of the hill presents a prominent landmark and setting, and visual containment to the town. The east facing slopes of Borough Hill and the wider rural landscape that extends beyond the hill is physically separate from the setting of Daventry and there is only limited perception of the presence of the town or any associated built development apart from the limited area of development at the Marches on the lower southern slopes. The rural landscape to the east of Borough Hill, which forms the setting to this heritage landmark, is interspersed with isolated farm buildings, houses and villages that are locally characteristic of this area. The intervisibility between the prominent rising middle and upper slopes is punctuated by a sequence of minor ridgelines and undulations. These act to provide a rhythm to the landscape accommodating a number of compartments, some of which visually frame the eastern side of the hill as a single landform, whilst others offer discrete areas screened from the open countryside. From the summit of Borough Hill, beyond the lower slopes that are not visible, there is an expansive prospect to the east across the rural landscape with views possible towards the western perimeter of Northampton and the undulating agricultural landscape that characterises this part of the county and to the west of the town of Daventry.
- 8.5.10. Within the expansive views from Borough Hill eastwards, however, it is evident that at a more local scale there are some areas that are more visually contained as a result of local variations in landform and vegetation.
- 8.5.11. On the southern side of the quadrant, an area of the lower lying land is contained by the rising slopes of Borough Hill to the north and the eastern extension of Newnham Hill to the south. While the area has been influenced by a range of commercial and industrial developments, and the traffic associated with the A45, it is nevertheless a distinctive area of physically contained landscape that defines a gateway into the town. Although visually contained, this area is considered to be of **Medium Sensitivity**. A further area of Medium Sensitivity is located on the extreme south eastern section of the quadrant and forms the setting to and intervisibility with a wider area of rural landscape and rising hills to the south east of the town. The setting of the village of Norton, and a small part of the setting of Dodford, are located within this quadrant, and are considered to be of Medium Sensitivity. A nominal 1km potential zone of influence from the built edge of the village has been defined, in order to demarcate its setting. Both of these villages and their settings contribute to the character of the wider rural landscape that forms the distinctive setting to the eastern side of Borough Hill.
- 8.5.12. Notwithstanding the sensitivity of this 'gateway' landscape, it is acknowledged that some areas are more visually contained as a result of local variations in landform and vegetation. A more detailed visual assessment will be required to ascertain whether there are areas of land where limited and appropriate development would be acceptable
- 8.5.13. The small areas of existing urban development that are located within this quadrant are classified as **Negligible Sensitivity** to change. However, opportunities to accommodate new mixed use development are very limited in view of the existing footprint of the urban development, and the confined location below the rising west facing slopes of Borough Hill.
- 8.5.14. **Quadrant 4: South West** contains two areas of **High Sensitivity**, which are associated with the steep undeveloped slopes that define the southern and western side of Daventry, and the wider setting and intervisibility with the rural landscapes to the west of the town. Within this quadrant, the southern edge of Daventry is defined by a succession of elevated hills, comprising Big Hill in the west to Fox Hill and Newnham Hill in the east. The undeveloped summit areas and steep slopes are prominent features from the town, and present a well defined rural edge to the built area, and below Fox Hill and Newnham Hill the north facing slopes extend down the A45. This area is considered to be of High Sensitivity to change. The western part of the quadrant forms part of the expansive area of open rural landscape that extends up to the western margin of the plateau area, and the built edge of Daventry. It has a strong intervisibility with the broad valley of River Leam and from the higher land commands wider views to more distant hills to the east. There is no development across these steep west and north-west facing slopes that follow the plateau edge, further reinforcing the high visibility and sensitivity of this landscape to change.
- 8.5.15. An area of **Medium Sensitivity** is located within the Upper Nene valley, which is contained to the north by the sequence of hills extending from Big Hill to Newnham Grounds, and to the south by hills that rise above the village of Badby, beyond the Core Study Area. This quiet rural valley is physically and visually separated from Daventry by the intervening hills but provides the setting to and high intervisibility with the prominent hills and elevated land that contain the valley. The settings of the eastern side of the village of Staverton, and the western side of the village of Newnham both extend into this quadrant, and are considered to be of Medium Sensitivity. A nominal 1km potential zone of influence from the built edge of the villages has been defined, in order to demarcate their setting.

8.5.16. There is one area of **Low Sensitivity** within the quadrant comprising the lower lying and flatter land located below and to the north of the north facing slopes of Big Hill, and westwards across the A425 to the limit of the steeper escarpment slopes that define the western edge of the broad plateau that Daventry has developed across. This more visually contained area also extends up to the A45 and the built edge of Daventry. Finally, the existing urban areas of Daventry that are located within the quadrant are classified as **Negligible Sensitivity** to change, although opportunities to accommodate new mixed use development are limited in view of the existing footprint of urban development.

8.6. Flood Zones and Minerals Sensitivity

8.6.1. Refer to Figure 25: Flood Zones and Minerals.

Quadrant 1: North West

8.6.2. There are no Flood Zones identified in this quadrant. However, a Dam Break Corridor is located to the east of Drayton Reservoir and the A361. This is shown as an indicative area on Figures 4 and 25 as its extent has not been confirmed. This provisional Protected Area is identified as an area of **Medium Sensitivity**. There are no minerals reserves identified in this quadrant.

Quadrant 2: North East

8.6.3. The Protected Area for the Dam Break Corridor to the north of Daventry Reservoir and the Flood Zones 2 and 3 that border the stream flowing eastwards, and north of the canal, are identified as areas of **Medium Sensitivity**.

Quadrant 3: South East

8.6.4. A short section of the valley that extends northwards into Daventry Reservoir is identified as an area of **Medium Sensitivity** as a consequence of its location within an area classified as Flood Zones 2 and 3. The Dodford Minerals Reserve Site to the north west of Dodford is identified as an area of **High Sensitivity**.

Quadrant 4: South West

8.6.5. There are no Flood Zones or minerals reserves identified in this quadrant.

8.7. Summary of Sensitivity by Quadrant

8.7.1. A summary of the findings of the sensitivity analysis for each of the four quadrants, and particularly with regard to the key areas of high sensitivity and constraints, are described below.

Quadrant 1: North West

8.7.2. The Grand Union Canal provides the focus for a number of areas of **High Sensitivity** within the north-western quadrant. The Canal is designated as a Conservation Area and has an important industrial archaeological value, but it also lies in close proximity to Drayton Reservoir and sections of the dismantled railway line, both of which have a high biodiversity value and hence sensitivity.

8.7.3. Also of note are the village of Braunston, the historic core of which is designated as a Conservation Area, and the nearby deserted medieval village (DMV) of Braunstonbury, designated as a Scheduled Monument. There are scattered areas of ridge and furrow within this quadrant, notably associated with the Braunstonbury DMV and close to the villages of Welton and Bragborough Hall. Although classified as **Medium Sensitivity**, these areas are nevertheless of importance since they are a tangible but irreplaceable representation of past systems of land management. Woodland cover is generally scattered but where it does occur it provides local areas of high biodiversity interest and sensitivity; these comprise the woodlands surrounding Bragborough Hall to the east of Braunston, and Braunston Covert on the steep plateau edge slopes to the west of Daventry.

8.7.4. The visual assessment identified two areas of **High Sensitivity**. The steep undeveloped slopes that fall westwards towards the Leam Valley from the edge of the plateau that Daventry has developed across are visually prominent and exhibit a high degree of intervisibility between the western edge of Daventry and the open rural setting to the west. The distinctive local character of the small valley to the south east of Braunston within which the Canal is located was also identified as an area of high visual sensitivity. With its intimate scale and enclosed character, it is visually and physically detached from Daventry and its area of influence.

8.7.5. In respect of flood risk and minerals, there is also a localised and indicative area of **Medium Sensitivity** associated with an area of land within the Northern Valley Park to the east of the A361 and Drayton Reservoir which is identified as a Protected Area to accommodate a potential breaching of the reservoir dam.

Quadrant 2: North East

8.7.6. Areas of **Highest Sensitivity** are principally associated with Daventry Reservoir and associated Country Park area, with its mosaic of biodiversity rich wetland and woodland habitats, and as with the north western quadrant, the corridor of land through which the Grand Union Canal passes.

8.7.7. There are localised areas of ridge and furrow within this quadrant, on the northern side of the village of Welton. These areas of **Medium Sensitivity** are nevertheless of importance since ridge and furrow is an irreplaceable resource that provides a tangible link to past systems of land management.

8.7.8. The visual assessment identified only a small area of **High Sensitivity** within this quadrant, comprising the rising slopes on the north western side of Borough Hill. This land forms the northern limit of a much wider area of intervisibility with and setting to Borough Hill that extends across Quadrant 3: South East. A wide area of **Medium Sensitivity** in visual terms also extends northwards from Daventry Reservoir and Country Park encompassing an open rural landscape that provides the setting to and high intervisibility with the Country Park.

- 8.7.9. There is also a localised area of **Medium Sensitivity** associated with an area of land to the north of Daventry Country Park and Daventry Reservoir which is identified as a Protected Area to accommodate a potential breaching of the reservoir dam.

Quadrant 3: South East

- 8.7.10. The sites and areas of **High Sensitivity** within this quadrant are principally focused on Borough Hill, which combine to reinforce the overall sensitivity of this area to change.
- 8.7.11. Borough Hill is rich in cultural heritage and biodiversity interest and its designation as a SAM make it of national significance. The Burnt Walls SAM on the southern side of the Hill adds to the high cultural heritage and biodiversity sensitivity of this area. The summit of the hill is also a County Wildlife Site with peripheral areas to the north-west and south of the hill classified as Potential Wildlife Sites, together with areas of broadleaved woodlands on the western and eastern slopes of the hill. Also of note are the villages of Newnham, the historic core of which is designated as a Conservation Area, and Dodford and Norton, with their settings and areas of influence extending into the Core Study Area.
- 8.7.12. The visual assessment identified the **High Sensitivity** of Borough Hill and its setting including the compartmentalised structure of the landscape rolling over the lower slopes of the hill and the wider open rural landscape to the east of the hill which provides the strategic setting to this notable landform feature. The steep undeveloped middle and upper slopes, and the summit area of Borough Hill and the line of hills to the south comprising Newnham Grounds to Newnham Hill are also distinctive features in the setting of the town.
- 8.7.13. The enclosed 'gateway' at the eastern entrance into Daventry between Borough Hill and Newnham Hill is a notable area of **Medium Sensitivity** in visual terms and forms a clearly defined entrance into the town and a separation between the rural and urban landscape
- 8.7.14. Finally, to the east of the area, and immediately beyond the Core Study Area the protected minerals site of Dodford also forms an area of **High Sensitivity**, in so far as the protected minerals designation is a considered to be a significant constraint to development in the context of this study.

Quadrant 4: South West

- 8.7.15. The areas of **Highest Sensitivity** in respect of biodiversity are associated with the broadleaved woodlands that extend across Big Hill, which are also designated as a County Wildlife Site. Although not of high sensitivity, priority target areas for additional acid habitats surveys have also been identified around Big Hill and Staverton. The principal areas of high cultural heritage sensitivity are associated with Conservation Areas covering the historic cores of the villages of Staverton and Newnham, a small part of which extends into the extreme eastern part of the quadrant, and also the historic core of Daventry. There are also localised areas of ridge and furrow on the northern and north-eastern side of Staverton and also within the grounds of the Monastery to the west of the A361.

These areas of **Medium Sensitivity** are nevertheless of importance since ridge and furrow is an irreplaceable resource that provides a tangible link to past systems of land management.

- 8.7.16. The visual assessment identified two area of **High Sensitivity**. The steep undeveloped slopes that fall westwards and north-westwards towards the Leam Valley from the edge of the plateau that Daventry has developed across are contiguous with the area of high visual sensitivity in the north western quadrant. These areas are visually prominent and exhibit a high degree of intervisibility between the western edge of Daventry and the open rural setting to the west. A further area of high sensitivity extends across the summit area and steep slopes of the line of hills from Big Hill in the west to Fox Hill and Newnham Hill in the east. The undeveloped steep slope and summit areas of these hills form a distinctive setting to Daventry.
- 8.7.17. There are no areas of high sensitivity associated with Flood Zones.

PART C: Infrastructure Requirements Assessment

9 Infrastructure requirement standards

9.1. Introduction

9.1.1. This section of the assessment introduces the infrastructure requirement standards in relation to the green space requirements for the town of Daventry. It differentiates between requirements resulting from a set of policy 'standards' set out in the adopted local plan (either saved or not saved) and aspirations, based on what might be regarded as necessary to help the town and its rural hinterland accommodate significant new growth, and provide a positive landscape framework in which this new growth can become established.

9.2. Infrastructure Standards

- 9.2.1. The population increase to 2026 will trigger the need for measurable levels of open space requirements, based on the standards set out in Daventry District Council's (DDC's) saved policies from the current adopted Local Plan.
- 9.2.2. These standards may change in response to future guidance and recommendations that inform the emerging LDF. The emerging Open Space Strategy and PPG17 Audit is particularly relevant, as the findings will guide DDC in their preparation of revised standards for inclusion and approval in the LDF. Meanwhile, the current saved policies provide the baseline reference and set out standards for the level of provision for three categories of open space. These would all be provided within the developable area and funded through the development.
- 9.2.3. It should be noted that while amenity space and the hierarchy of play areas will always form an integral part of the development areas, in some circumstances it may be appropriate for some elements of the open space categories comprising playing fields, and 'other areas of open space', including allotment areas, to be located within the structural landscape areas or indeed out-with the developable areas if it is considered that it is more sustainable to cluster these strategic elements on a town wide basis.

Amenity and Play Space

9.2.4. DDC's Saved Policy RC1 stipulates a requirement for 0.2 ha / 50 dwellings. This category comprises formally managed amenity play space and the hierarchy of children's play areas ranging from LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs. This element of open space will always be provided within the development area.

Playing Fields

9.2.5. DDC's Saved Policy RC 12 stipulates a requirement of 1.6 ha / 1000 people.

Other Open Space and Allotments

- 9.2.6. National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) has set out a standard of 0.4 ha / 1000 population.
- 9.2.7. More specifically, DDC's current recommended standard in respect of allotment provision of 12 plots per 1000 people is derived from the unsaved policy of RC19.

Accessible Natural Green Space Standards

9.2.8. Natural England recognises the importance of nature in the urban context and sought to establish size and distance criteria for access to semi natural green space. The standards are set out in a number of key documents, and were published in the leaflet 'A Space for Nature' in 199 . The criteria are as follows.

People living in towns and cities should have:

- An accessible natural green space less than 300 metres (in a straight line) from home;
 - Statutory Local Nature Reserves provided at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population;
 - At least one accessible 20 hectare site within 2km of home; one accessible 100 hectare site within 5km of home; and one accessible 500 hectare site within 10km of home.
- 9.2.9. The 1ha per 1000 people standard for Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) has since been adopted by the Audit Commission as a Quality of Life Indicator and the Greenspace Standards (but not those for LNRs) have also been included as a benchmark in Local Government guidance on Open Space Strategies.

9.3. Green Space and Green Infrastructure Aspirations

- 9.3.1. Daventry's population increase by over 19,800 by 2026 will place increased pressure on several strategic green spaces and necessitate the establishment of a new framework of open spaces that will provide a positive multi functional landscape framework for existing and proposed communities. Whilst formal policies or standards apply, the principle of delivering Green Infrastructure is now in the Regional Spatial Strategy. As such there are general presumptions towards ensuring new development responds to the following core principles:
- To protect and enhance the natural and historic environment
 - To conserve the intrinsic character and quality of the countryside, open spaces and urban areas
 - To realise opportunities for enhancing Green Infrastructure alongside growth
 - To deliver a co-ordinated network of Green Infrastructure

- 9.3.2. It has been possible to outline several aspirational projects that will provide a positive new landscape framework and open space facilities for Daventry. In many instances these projects will provide a framework to deliver the statutorily required open space and recreational facilities outlined above.
- 9.3.3. A list of projects and a brief description of each is presented in Section 10.

10 Infrastructure Requirements Assessment

10.1. Introduction

- 10.1.1. Infrastructure demand is a function of population and dwelling growth.
- 10.1.2. The assumed population of about 40,000 people for the town of Daventry by 2021 is contained in paragraph 124 of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy (MKSM SRS), which constitutes part of the RSS. The population of Daventry in 2007 has been estimated at 25,379⁹. Taking this figure, it was estimated that there are approximately 10,192 dwellings in Daventry¹⁰. If all of this growth were to be accommodated within or immediately adjacent to Daventry's urban settlement area, then the town could be expected to grow by another 6,337 dwellings (assuming an average household size of 2.42 persons¹¹) and at least 14,622 people. Table 4-1 provides a summary of these assumptions.
- 10.1.3. This growth forecast for the town is in the context of stated RSS policy that the entire Daventry District area (i.e. the town and the rest of the district) should grow by 540 dwellings per annum between 2001 and 2021. Assuming growth in the town of 453 dwelling per annum to reach the stated population target, this equates to the town assuming an 84% share of the growth in dwelling numbers expected of the District.
- 10.1.4. At the present time, the draft RSS introduces an extension of the planning period to 2026 during which time it is identified that the entire Daventry District local authority area would be required to make continuing provision for housing growth at the same annual average rate of 540 dwellings per annum over the plan period¹². Assuming that the town continues to absorb the same proportion of development (within the District) after 2021, as it does before – it could be expected to grow by a further 5,222 people and 2,265 dwellings in the ensuing five year period. These assumptions are summarised in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1: Population and Dwelling Increase Assumptions, 2007 - 2026

Relevance / Status:	Population (Actual or Expected)	Dwellings (Actual or Expected)	Likely Year / Time Period	Daventry AHS (NCC Projection)
Census Record:	21,774	8,837	2001	2.46
Estimated Baseline:	25,379	10,192	2007	2.49
MKSM Figure:	40,000	16,529	2021	2.42
2026 with continued constant growth:	45,222	18,792	2026	2.41
Estimated Increase:	+ 14,622	+ 6,337	2007 - 2021	NA
Estimated Increase:	+ 19,843	+ 8,600	2007 - 2026	NA

Source: URS calculations derived from various information sources including ONS Census Data and Mid-Year Population Estimates, DDC Dwelling Completion estimates, NCC estimation of existing and projected average household size in Daventry.

- 10.1.5. A critical output of the DIS is the estimation of the key trigger¹³ points for new infrastructure. Most trigger points will be judged in terms of the increase in population and/or the increase in dwelling numbers. In order to identify the increase in population and set this against an approximate date (in this case a year) the DIS uses the MKSM SRS population level of 40,000 for the year 2021 applying an even rate of population increase over that period, as shown in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: Simplified Population and Dwelling Increase Assumptions, 2007 - 2026

Relevance / Status:	Population (Actual or Expected)	Dwellings (Actual or Expected)
Annual Growth	1,044	453

Source: URS calculations

- 10.1.6. It should be noted that these annual growth rates are an average and growth in terms of population and dwelling completions is likely to vary from year to year depending on the availability of developable land, economic circumstance and other factors. It is however a useful starting point when projecting growth over a medium to long term period.

⁹ This figure was estimated using ONS mid year population projections for 2001 to 2005 and extrapolating forward to 2007. The methodology used was confirmed as the best available by K. Palmer, Senior Research and Information Officer, Planning and Growth Department, Northampton County Council and also agreed with DDC.

¹⁰ This is based on an average household size of 2.49. Figure supplied by K. Palmer, NCC, 14/02/08.

¹¹ Average household size figures obtained from K. Palmer, NCC, 14/02/08.

¹² This number is specific to the whole local authority area rather than for the town of Daventry in isolation.

¹³ The term trigger point refers to a certain population level, or number of dwellings, which once reached triggers the requirement for additional infrastructure because existing spare capacity has been used up by preceding population and/ or dwelling growth. It is a useful concept for identifying the stage at which new infrastructure must or should be provided

10.2. Open Space Provision

The potential requirements for open space provision based on DDC's current standards are given below. Two figures are provided, initially to 2021 to meet the MKSM target population of 40,000 and for the projected population of 45,222 by 2026.

Amenity and Play Space

10.2.1. An additional **25.3 ha** (2021) and **34.3 ha** (2026) of amenity play space will be required to accommodate the population increase, based on the standard set out in DDC's Saved Policy RC1 of 0.2 ha / 50 dwellings.

Playing Fields

10.2.2. An additional **23.4 ha** (2021) and **31.7 ha** (2026) of new playing fields will be required based on the standard set out in DDC's Saved Policy RC 12 of 1.6 ha / 1000 people.

Other Open Space and Allotments

10.2.3. An additional **5.8 ha** (2021) and **7.9 ha** (2026) of land to accommodate other areas of open space within development areas should be allowed for to include provision for allotments, woodlands and nature conservation areas. One other possible element of provision that could be provided is an enhanced town park.

Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt)

10.2.4. The Accessible Natural Green Space Standards require the provision of a statutory Local Nature Reserve at a minimum level of 1 hectare per 1000 people. For a projected future population of 40,000 for Daventry by 2021 this amounts to a 40ha site, or combination of sites. This would increase to 45.2 ha with a projected population of 45,222 by 2026. As Daventry Country Park was designated as a LNR in May 2007 and is 64.6 ha (164 acres) in extent it therefore fulfils current and projected ANGSt requirements in respect of LNR provision to 2026.

Notwithstanding the existing LNR provision, there may be opportunities to establish a further site, or combination of sites that are accessible to the town to supplement the level of provision and form an integral part of green infrastructure.

- A potential site could be established adjacent to Borough Hill as part of proposed landscape and biodiversity enhancement work to the area linked to the existing informal Country Park. The area already supports notable areas of species rich grassland and could include part of the habitat rich area at Burnt Walls.

10.3. Open Space Projects and Green Infrastructure

10.3.1. Daventry Country Park Extension

10.3.2. Extension of the Daventry Country Park would deliver and supplement key areas of Accessible Natural Green Space and informal recreational areas for residents of the town. Appropriate management will help meet ANGSt targets and also form a key element in the Strategic Green Infrastructure network through the provision of enhanced habitat links between the reservoir and canal.

10.3.3. The character and nature of the park extension will be need to be carefully considered, as a more 'urban park' character might ultimately be regarded as more appropriate, given that significant urban areas are planned along its eastern and western boundaries.

Borough Hill Country Park

10.3.4. Enhancement of the informal Country Park area at Borough Hill would supplement the level and quality of this accessible natural green space and include the incorporation of Burnt Walls & land associated with the possible site of John of Gaunt's Castle and green links between these areas. The nature of any enhancement work would need to respect the landscape character of the area and ensure that the informal and open character was not devalued or altered. Similarly, the nationally important cultural heritage assets and the biodiversity importance of the area would need to be treated with care. Working within these parameters, enhanced facilities could comprise an improved car park; shelter / information area; improved or extended footpath and bridleway network; establishment of a heritage trail and improved interpretation of archaeological features; and biodiversity enhancement including the management of species rich grassland. The Country Park would continue to make a significant contribution to meeting ANGSt requirements and deliver components of the Green Infrastructure Sustainable Movement and Biodiversity Networks.

10.3.5. The enhancement of the informal Country Park, which is a 'town wide' facility, would form an integral requirement commensurate with the needs of Daventry's growing population. Contributions to the establishment of these town wide facilities should be sought from new developments.

Potential extension to Northern Valley Park

10.3.6. There is potential for expansion of the existing Northern Valley Park along the southern side of the canal, subject to development occurring to the east at the proposed Monksmoor and Churchfields sites.

10.3.7. This Linear Park Extension, along with the existing Northern Valley Park around the northern perimeter and eastern fringes will buffer new development, act as a transitional zone between town and countryside and function as a dam burst / flood overspill area for Drayton and Daventry reservoirs. The parks could also accommodate pedestrian connections and biodiversity habitat links around the northern perimeter of the town.

10.4. Green Infrastructure

Introduction

10.4.1. The provision of a comprehensive network of green infrastructure with multi-functional benefits is a policy requirement within the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan (Policy 27 – Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure) and is also incorporated in the MKSM SRS. While the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit has yet to finalise the Joint Core Spatial Strategy and policy framework, the principles underlying the provision of GI is endorsed by DCLG in Planning Policy Statements, and specifically referenced in PPS12: Local Spatial Planning, and at a regional level in the draft Regional Plan as noted above. It can therefore be anticipated that the principles delivering, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure, encompassing landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage interests will be incorporated in the emerging LDF.

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation is also working with the River Nene Regional Park CIC and the Local Authorities to develop a comprehensive approach to the delivery of GI within the growth area. On this basis the inclusion of GI networks should form an integral part of the town infrastructure requirements for growth.

10.5. Green Infrastructure Provision: Biodiversity Network

Biodiversity Enhancement

- 10.5.1. As a development of the principles and process underlying the West Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, a Biodiversity Network has been developed for Daventry building on the identified biodiversity resource, and through collaboration with The Wildlife Trust. This new plan takes forward strategic biodiversity networks identified at the county scale in the GI Framework for Northamptonshire and seeks to be more responsive to known assets and opportunities.
- 10.5.2. The Biodiversity Network focuses on identified areas of habitat reservoirs and the opportunities for connectivity of these core areas through the establishment of habitat links.
- 10.5.3. The proposed developments should incorporate opportunities for the delivery of biodiversity habitat links and enhancement, and the expansion of existing habitat reservoirs, and woodland priority zones.
- 10.5.4. This will include the establishment of mixed habitats appropriate to the local area including species rich grassland, native woodland and wetland. By combining the specific aims of habitat enhancement and connectivity, and with other goals such as providing accessible natural greenspace, pedestrian links and landscape mitigation, it will provide multifunctional landscapes, and as such deliver the broader principles that are inherent in Green Infrastructure delivery.

10.6. Green Infrastructure Provision: Structural Landscape Areas

- 10.6.1. The provision of structural landscape areas incorporating an enhanced landscape infrastructure will be required as part of all major new developments to mitigate adverse visual impact, strengthen local character and identity, and integrate new development into its wider landscape setting. The detailed assessment of development proposals may also necessitate off-site planting within the wider landscape. Site specific assessment of landscape and visual issues would be required to ascertain the nature of off-site mitigation proposals, paying particular regard to appropriateness to local character and other visual considerations.
- 10.6.2. A coordinated approach to the planning and design of structural landscape areas will contribute to local delivery of Green Infrastructure. Consistent with the principle of multi-functionality of green infrastructure provision, structural landscape areas have the potential to accommodate a wide range of functions and compatible uses. These may include the incorporation of a range of open space uses, including informal play areas and playing fields, and allotment areas, subject to appropriateness of location; biodiversity enhancement including strengthening and creation of new woodland, wetland and grassland and habitat links, or accommodation of more specific features such as a nature reserve; sustainable water management; and sustainable movement network incorporating footpath, cycle ways and bridleways. These rich and diverse areas with a high level of accessibility to local people would contribute to the wider network of GI across and beyond the town.

10.7. Green Infrastructure Provision: Sustainable Movement Network

- 10.7.1. The provision of a sustainable movement network is an important aspect of GI. It will be delivered through the town wide transport plan that will include provision for sustainable patterns for walking, cycling, and where appropriate, horse riding. This GI network focuses on the need to link doorstep to countryside and establish a network of safe green routes that link with the pattern of open space, parks and natural green space.
- 10.7.2. Potential town wide routes that form part of the wider resource for the town and commensurate with the needs of Daventry's growing population have been identified. These will also meet the needs of strategic sustainable movement network. The following routes are the key elements, and opportunities for contributions to their establishment could be sought from new developments.
- Daventry to Braunston Link, utilising the disused railway line;
 - Town circular route commencing at the Burnt Walls area and proceeding across Borough Hill to the Grand Union Canal then south westwards to Kentle Wood.

PART D: Implications for Growth

11 Sustainable Development Scenarios Assessment

11.1. Introduction

- 11.1.1. The objective of the Daventry Infrastructure Study is to provide an evidence base which can be used to assist decisions around planning applications for growth and to help identify, through the examination of a range of interrelated infrastructure themes, the infrastructure required to meet the demands of a larger population.
- 11.1.2. This section considers the opportunities for GI enhancement and consequential recommendations for an improved GI network around the town.
- 11.1.3. Green Infrastructure and Landscape is informed by a wide range of environmental resources incorporating physical landscape elements and features, biodiversity and cultural heritage. These are measurable and recordable and may have statutory or non-statutory designations.
- 11.1.4. However, unlike the other infrastructure-types (such as Transport, Sewage and Water and Utilities) GI and Landscape also examines intangible assets including character and visual assessment considerations. These make an important contribution to understanding the overall environmental resource, but need to be applied carefully at this level.
- 11.1.5. The use of strategic level assessment to determine the acceptability of site-specific development proposals is not therefore considered to be appropriate, and whilst the assessments have been based on informed professional judgements, the need for further investigation before reaching definitive conclusions on landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity matters in particular, is recognised.

11.2. Implications for a GI Development Scenario

Landscape and Visual Assessment: Key Principles and Findings

- 11.2.1. A visual survey and analysis of the Core Study Area and adjacent landscapes identified the key issues and principles that are critical to or supportive of the unique and distinctive setting of Daventry. The findings of this assessment (see Figure 14), have guided the identification of areas of highest visual sensitivity within which large-scale significant development would present wide-ranging challenges. These areas comprise:
- Summit areas and steep slopes of the hills surrounding the town comprising Borough Hill to the east and Newnham, Fox and Big Hills to the south and south-west.
 - Steep slopes below the plateau edge on the western side of Daventry, and the wider rural landscape setting of the Leam Valley and intervisibility with the Dasset Hills in Warwickshire to the west;

- The wider open landscape to the north-east, east and south-east of Borough Hill forming the rural setting to and intervisibility with this prominent hill and its tangible link to the historic landscape and the physical and visual setting of a designated heritage feature of national importance
- The steep slopes on the perimeter of the plateau on the western perimeter of Daventry; and
- small scale and enclosed rural valley to the south-east of Braunston

11.2.2. Areas of medium sensitivity were also identified where there are significant constraints. The principal areas of medium visual sensitivity comprise:

- The enclosed 'gateway' at the eastern entrance into Daventry on the A45 between Borough Hill and Newnham Hill / Newnham Grounds that forms a clearly defined entrance into the town and a separation between the rural and urban landscape;
- Crests of minor ridgelines that extend north-east, north and north-west out of Daventry and followed by the B4036, A361 and A45(T) respectively;
- The ring of villages that surround Daventry and their wider setting and area of influence; and
- the areas of rural landscape that form the setting to and intervisibility with higher land and distant hill that define the wider setting of Daventry

Enhanced Green Infrastructure Network

- 11.2.3. A Green Infrastructure Network has been outlined through the consideration of the various GI & L elements, and consideration of their inherent sensitivity, and the opportunities that they present for future connection and enhancement. Figure 28 illustrates the Green Infrastructure Networks although it does not identify the location or extent of open/green spaces and sports pitches required as part of new development. The location of these would follow as part of master plan proposals for new development subject to discussion with the LPA and linked to the findings and adopted standards of the emerging PPG17 Open Space Audit. It is recognised that the precise form of this network would require more detailed site specific assessments and appraisals and that these may justify deviations or changes based upon those findings. At a strategic level, however, the GI network seeks to express proposals for the enhancement and improved use of cultural heritage, ecological and landscape assets to support sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Scenario and Sensitivity Analysis

- 11.2.4. In contrast to other topics addressed in the Daventry Infrastructure Study, it was not considered appropriate to outline specific sustainable development scenarios through analysis and interpretation of baseline landscape and visual, cultural heritage, biodiversity assets, and the subsequent sensitivity assessment. The rationale for this was based on the premise that an “optimised” scenario for GI & L would be highly dependent upon more detailed site specific surveys and required complex balancing and weighting of the respective GI & L interests arising from these separate but parallel assessments. This is largely a matter for the development plan process. The strategic level conclusions expressed from this study still risk being interpreted as determining preferred potential sites or areas for development. Notwithstanding this risk, the conclusions from the exercise have identified areas that would be more, or less challenging for new development at a strategic scale, and for which further study would be required before any definitive judgment should be made. Thus, while areas of sensitivity are identified separately in relation to landscape and visual, biodiversity, heritage, and flood zones and minerals resources these need not exclude growth or development. Rather, they are indicative of the need for careful consideration of the identified constraints and areas of higher sensitivity in order to ensure any potential change delivers a positive solution.
- 11.2.5. A series of plans have been prepared that illustrate where the sensitivity analysis has identified areas where there are significant constraints to existing resources and also where GI provision would be most beneficial and provide opportunities for positive responses and enhancement of the resource. These plans will assist the LPA and developers in guiding decisions that reduces adverse impact on baseline resources and sensitivity to change as well as the location, scale and type of development that is appropriate.
- 11.2.6. Figures 28 (A - D) illustrate the Green Infrastructure Network overlaid with the four Sensitivity plans to indicate how development could respond positively to both the opportunities and constraints identified.

11.3. Infrastructure Programme and Cost Estimates

Green Infrastructure and Landscape Provision

- 11.3.1. Unlike other topic areas the identification of a sequence of specific trigger points for the provision of additional green space provision, and linked to an emerging green infrastructure network, cannot be clearly defined and predicted. While the requirements for amenity and play space, playing fields and other areas of open space will be directly proportional to the progressive increase in the population size, its disposition and extent will relate to the location of new areas of development and dwelling numbers and hence the population that they support.

The location of these areas is subject to the planning process and the dates at which these will come forward and their locations cannot be clearly defined. Furthermore, while it can be assumed that the provision of open space and green infrastructure for each development area will accord with current standards, there may be opportunities to vary from this through agreement as a consequence of the specific opportunities that the site offers.

- 11.3.2. The provision of identified levels of green space while currently linked to DDC's Saved Policies may be superseded by new emerging standards arising from the Open Space Strategy and PPG17 Audit that DDC has commissioned. Once adopted, these may require revisions to the current standards and level of provision that will be required.

Cost Estimates

- 11.3.3. Although costs for green infrastructure and landscape items have not been identified for specific trigger points, estimated costs have been identified for the overall growth periods to 2021 and to 2026. These costs amount to £24.2 million up to 2021 and a further £4.5 million to 2026, amounting to a total figure of £28.7 million.
- 11.3.4. The provision of the additional areas of amenity and play space, active playing fields and other open space and allotments, as detailed in Sections 10.2.1 to 10.2.3, and to accommodate the requirements of the population increase, would form an integral part of new development areas. The cost estimates for these elements is set at 12.2 million at 2021 rising to 16.7 million by 2026.
- 11.3.5. Additional areas of landscape and green infrastructure works have also been identified encompassing extensions and enhancements to Daventry Country Park, and the informal Borough Hill area; potential enhancements to the New Street Town Park, and a range of biodiversity enhancement work and green infrastructure provision. An additional allowance of £12million has been allocated for this range of work.
- 11.3.6. It should be noted that the costs are broad estimates only and based on current rates in Spon's Landscape and External Works Price Book, together with an amalgamation of typical rates applied by Local Authorities for typical broad scale landscape work.

Appendix 1: List of Datasets

The schedule below presents a summary of data presented on the Baseline Review Figures. For details concerning individual datasets, refer to River Nene Regional Park (RNRP) CIC.

- 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map
- Aerial Photograph
- Daventry Urban Area (from Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment)
- Northamptonshire County Boundary
- Landform (contours at 10m intervals)
- Reservoirs
- Canal
- River Channel / Major Watercourses
- Flood Zones 2 and 3
- Protected Areas for Dam Break Corridors and reservoirs
- Protected Area for Dodford Minerals Site
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGGs)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)
- County Wildlife Sites (CWSs)
- Potential Wildlife Sites (PWSs)
- Broadleaf Woodland
- Grassland Inventory
- Ancient Woodland
- Priority Target Area for Additional Acid Habitat Survey
- Listed Buildings
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Conservation Areas
- Ridge and Furrow
- Historic Railway Lines
- Known Archaeological Assets (derived from SMR)
- Country Park
- Woodland with Public Access/ Recreation Role
- Parks or Greenspaces
- Allotments
- Cemeteries
- Moorings
- Locks
- Leisure/Recreation/Tourist Site or Facility
- Proposed Leisure/ Recreation/ Tourist Site or Facility
- Daventry Country Park and Proposed Extensions
- Daventry District Council Ownership (Borough Hill and Northern Valley Park)
- Sustrans Regional Cycle Routes
- Long Distance Walking routes
- Cycle Tours and Cycle Routes
- Byways
- Bridleways
- Footpaths
- Transport Infrastructure (Motorways, A Roads, B Roads, Minor Roads), Rail Network and Stations
- Strategic Agricultural Land Classification
- Indicative Townscape Character (desk top assessment and site work)
- Slope Analysis (derived from landform data)
- Visual Analysis (derived from field work)
- Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment
- Northamptonshire Current Landscape Character Assessment
- Northamptonshire Biodiversity Character Assessment
- Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment
- Strategic Biodiversity Network (Adopted from Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Strategy)
- Sustainable Movement Network (Derived from Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Strategy)
- Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework (Derived from Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Strategy)

Figures

Figure 1: Study Area and Context

Figure 2: Aerial Photograph

Figure 3: Landform

Figure 4: Hydrology and Flood Zones, and Minerals

Figure 5: Nature Conservation, Biodiversity and Geological Sites

Figure 6: Cultural Heritage

Figure 7: Strategic and Local Green Space

Figure 8: Existing and Proposed Leisure, Recreation and Tourism Sites and Developments

Figure 9: Access and Movement

Figure 10: Transport and Infrastructure

Figure 11: Strategic Agricultural Land Classification

Figure 12: Indicative Townscape Character

Figure 13: Slope Analysis

Figure 14: Visual Analysis

Figure 15: Environmental Character Assessment

Figure 16: Current Landscape Character Assessment

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Figure 18: Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 19: Strategic Biodiversity Network

Figure 20: Sustainable Movement Network

Figure 21: Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

Figure 22: Biodiversity - Sensitivity

Figure 23: Cultural Heritage - Sensitivity

Figure 24: Landscape and Visual - Sensitivity

Figure 25: Flood Zones and Minerals – Sensitivity

Figure 28: Green Infrastructure Networks

Figure 28A: Green Infrastructure Networks with Landscape and Visual Sensitivity

Figure 28B: Green Infrastructure Networks with Biodiversity Sensitivity

Figure 28C: Green Infrastructure Networks with Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

Figure 28D: Green Infrastructure Networks with Floodzones and Minerals Sensitivity

Figure 1: Core Study Area and Context



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph



Figure 3: Landform



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Figure 4: Hydrology / Flood Zones and Minerals

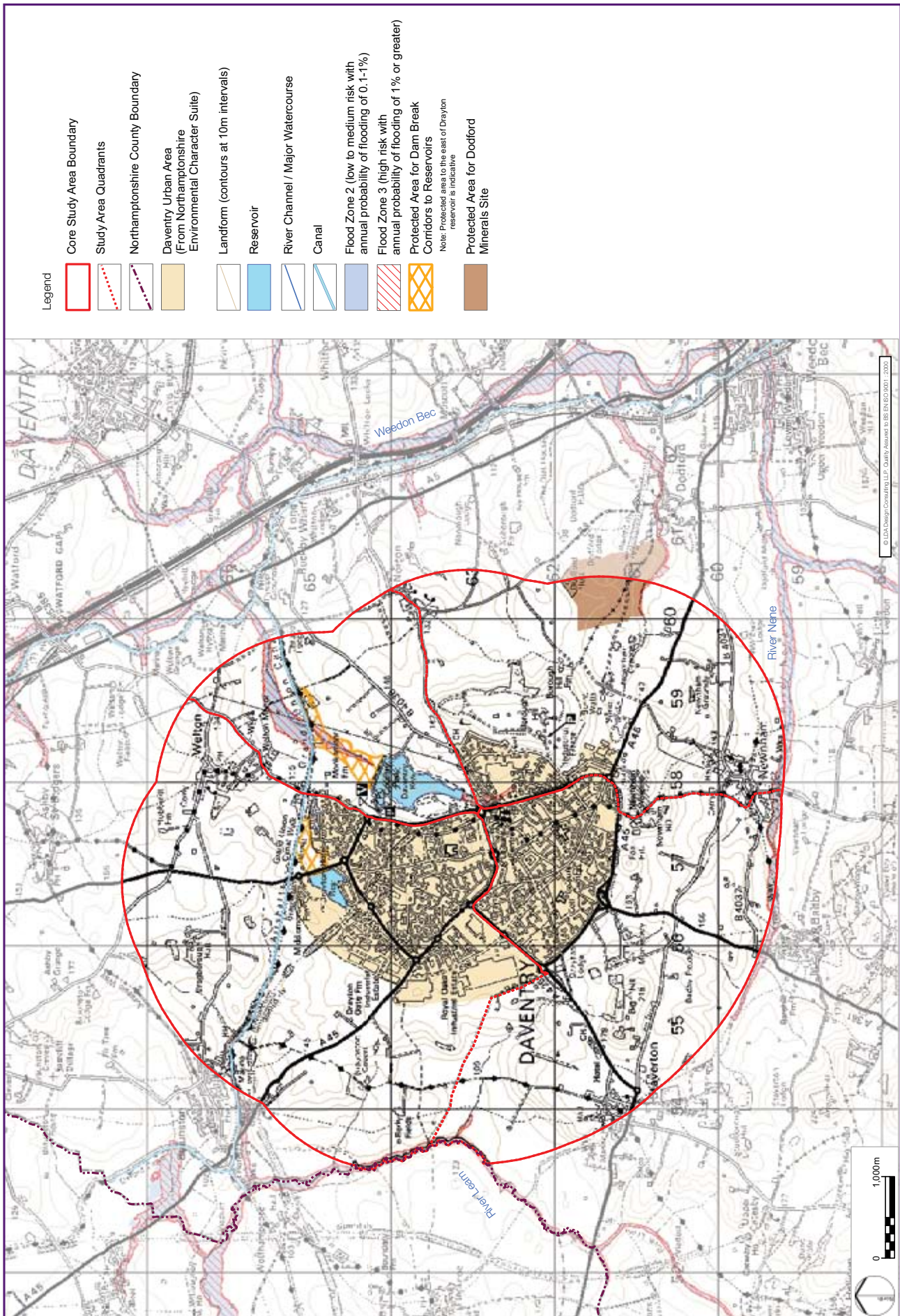


Figure 5: Designated Nature Conservation, Biodiversity and Geological Sites

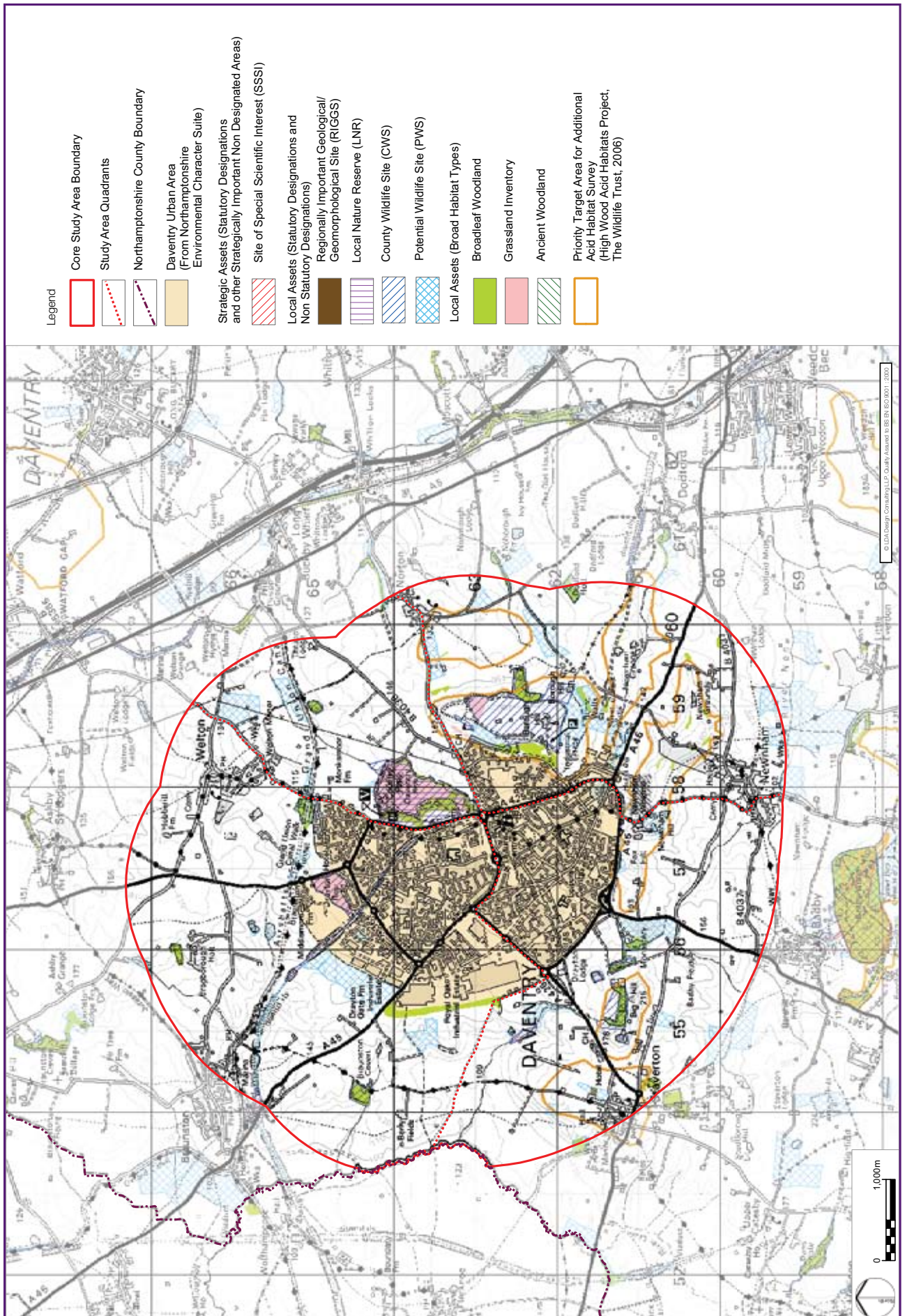


Figure 6: Cultural Heritage

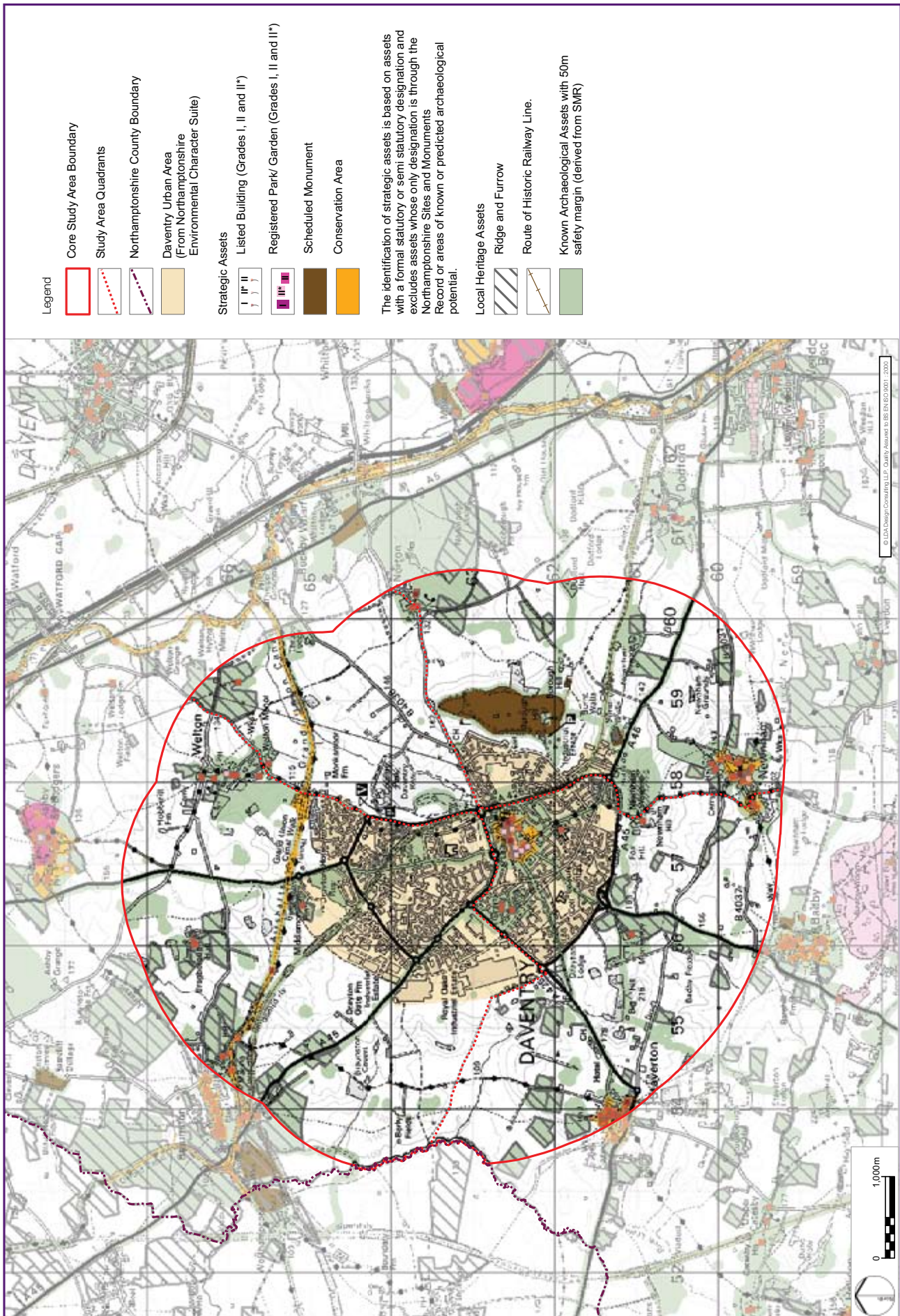


Figure 7: Strategic and Local Green Space

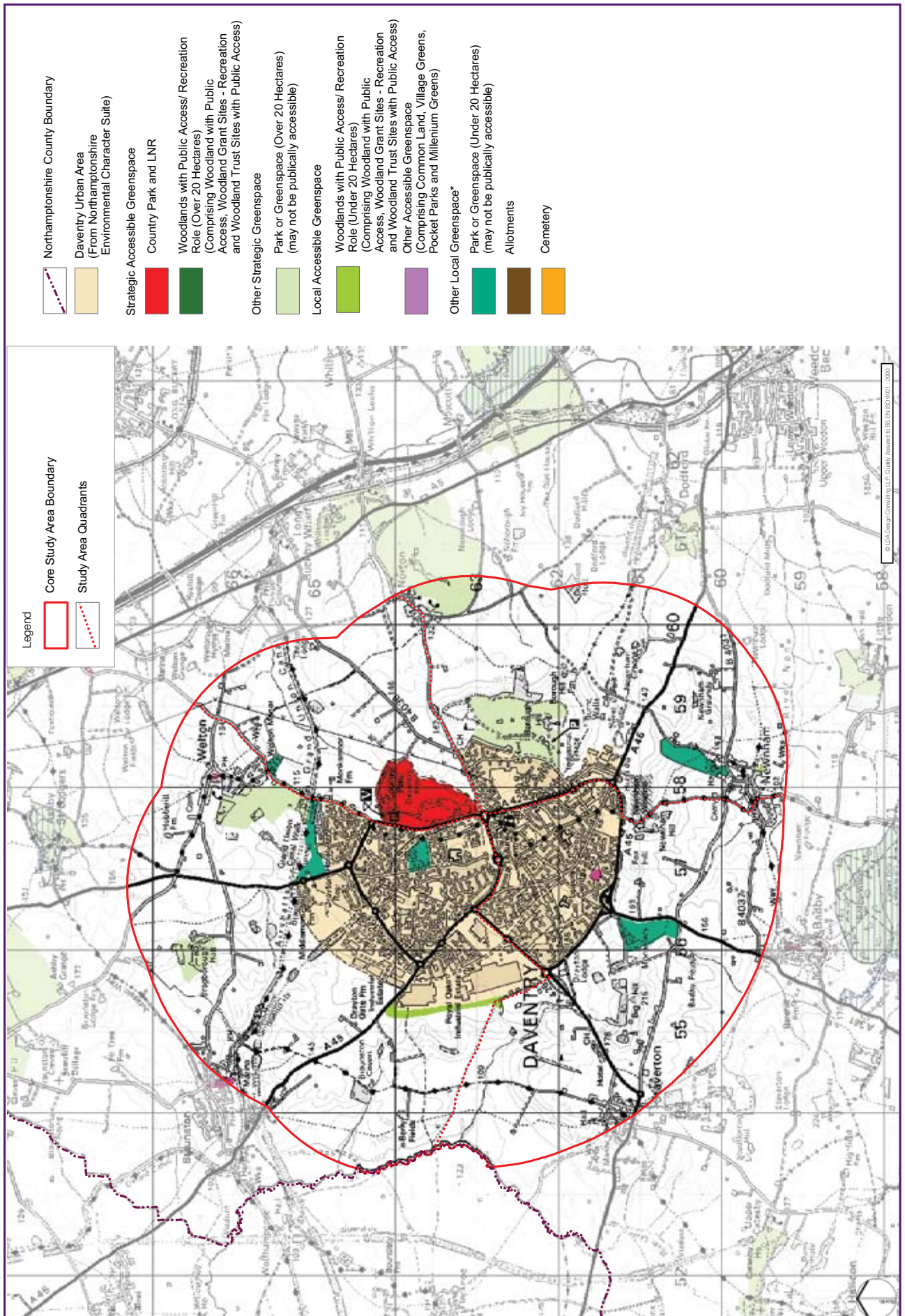


Figure 8: Existing and Proposed Leisure, Recreation and Tourism Destinations and Developments

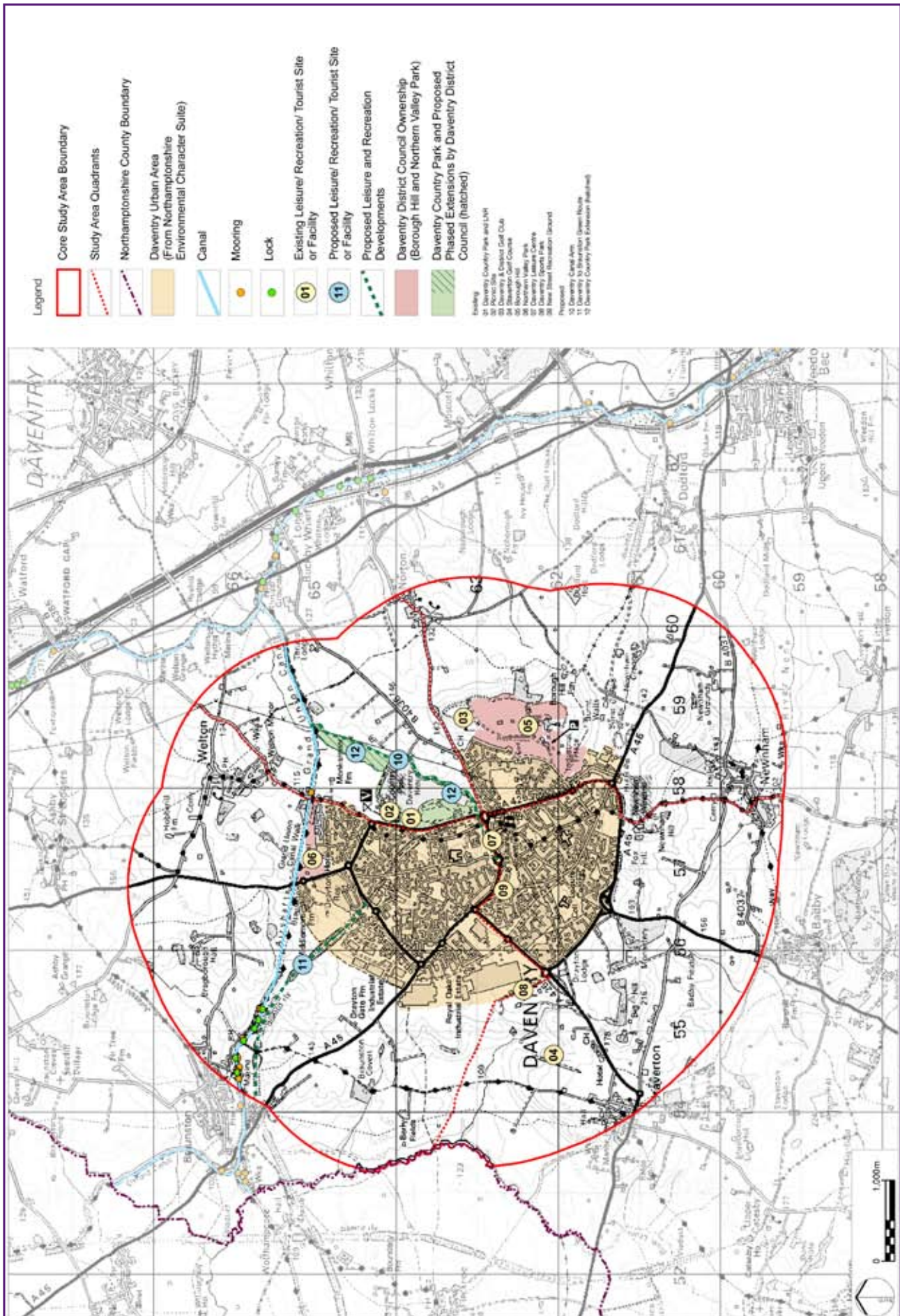


Figure 9: Access and Movement

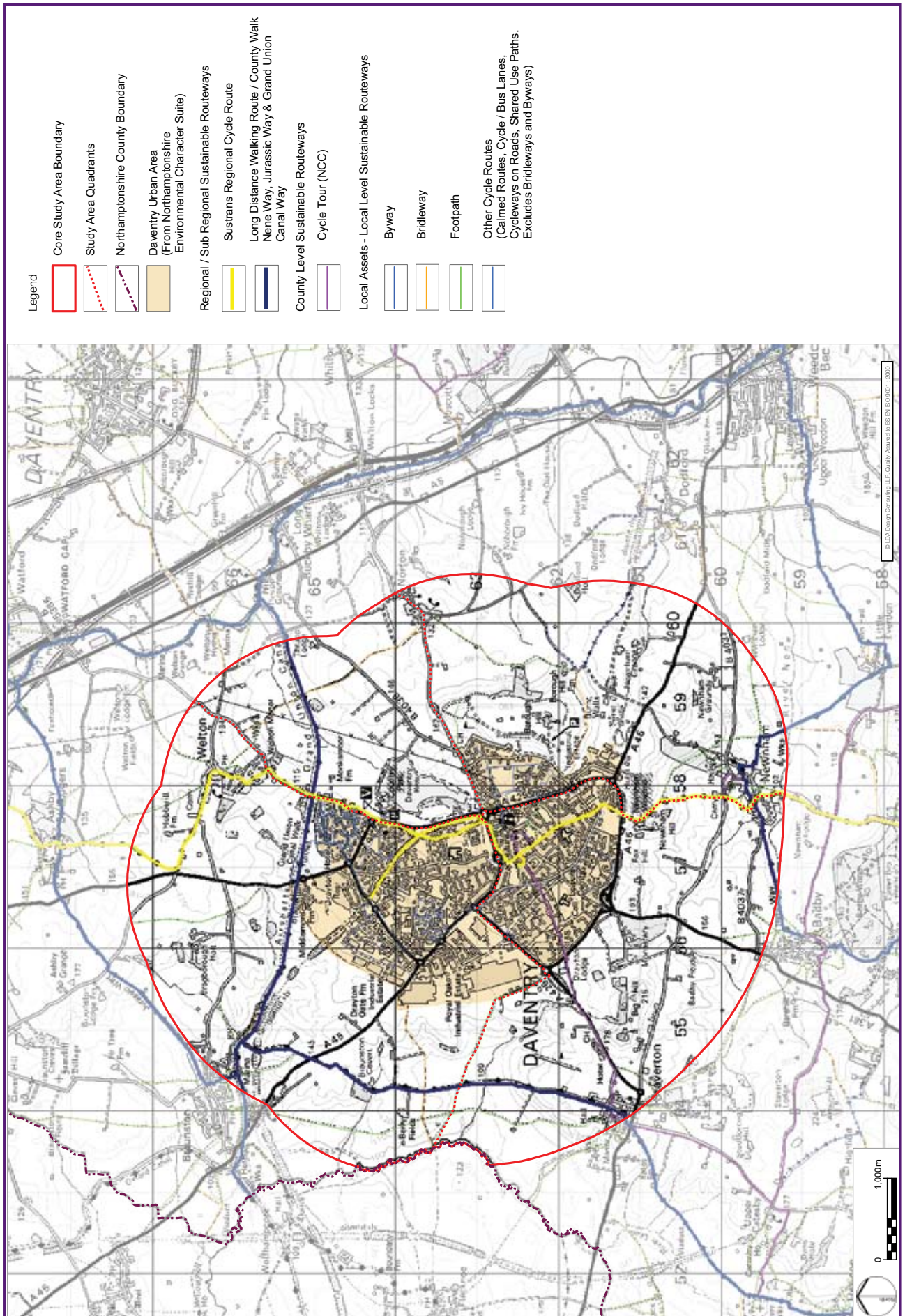


Figure 10: Transport Infrastructure

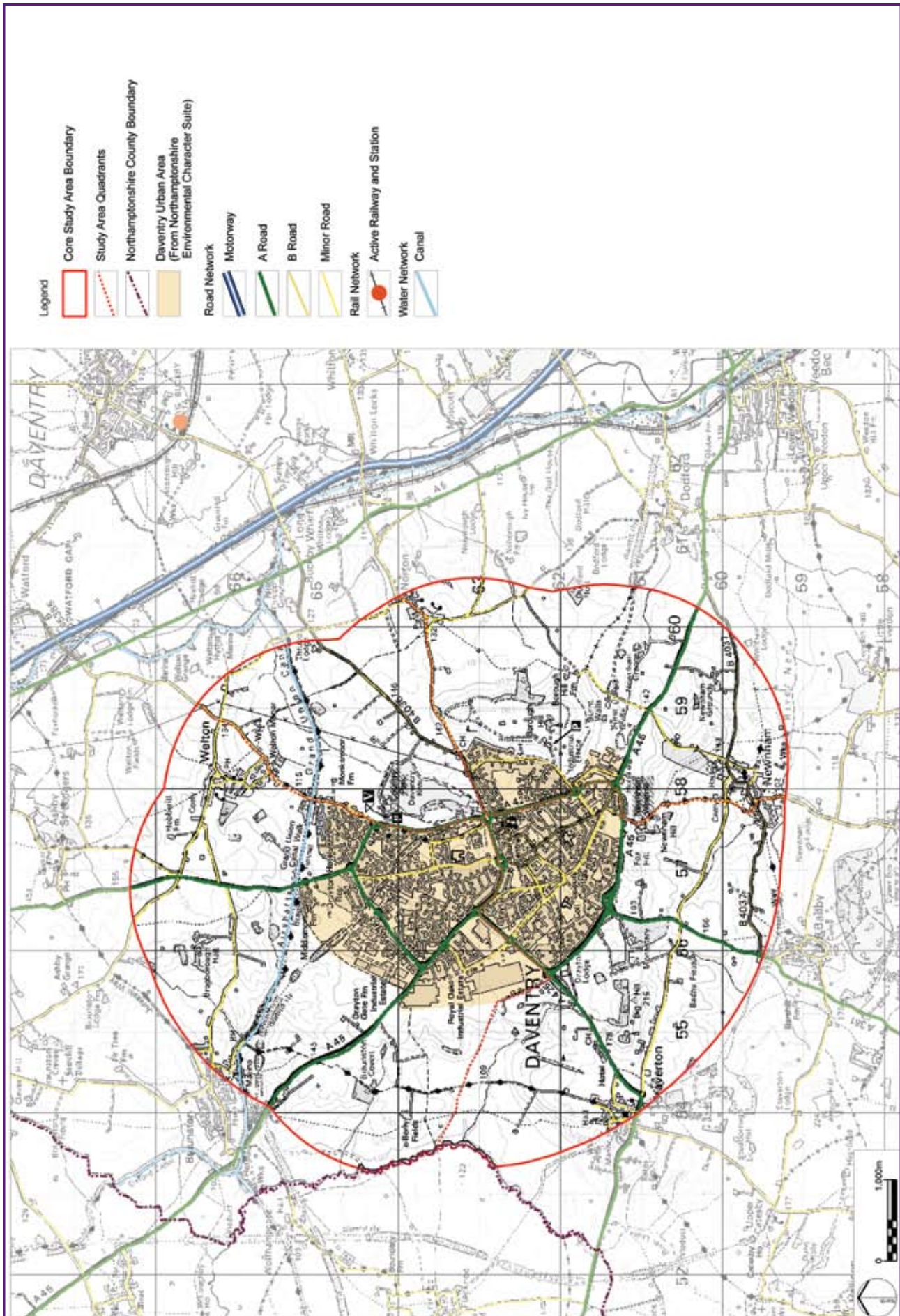


Figure 11: Strategic Agricultural Land Classification

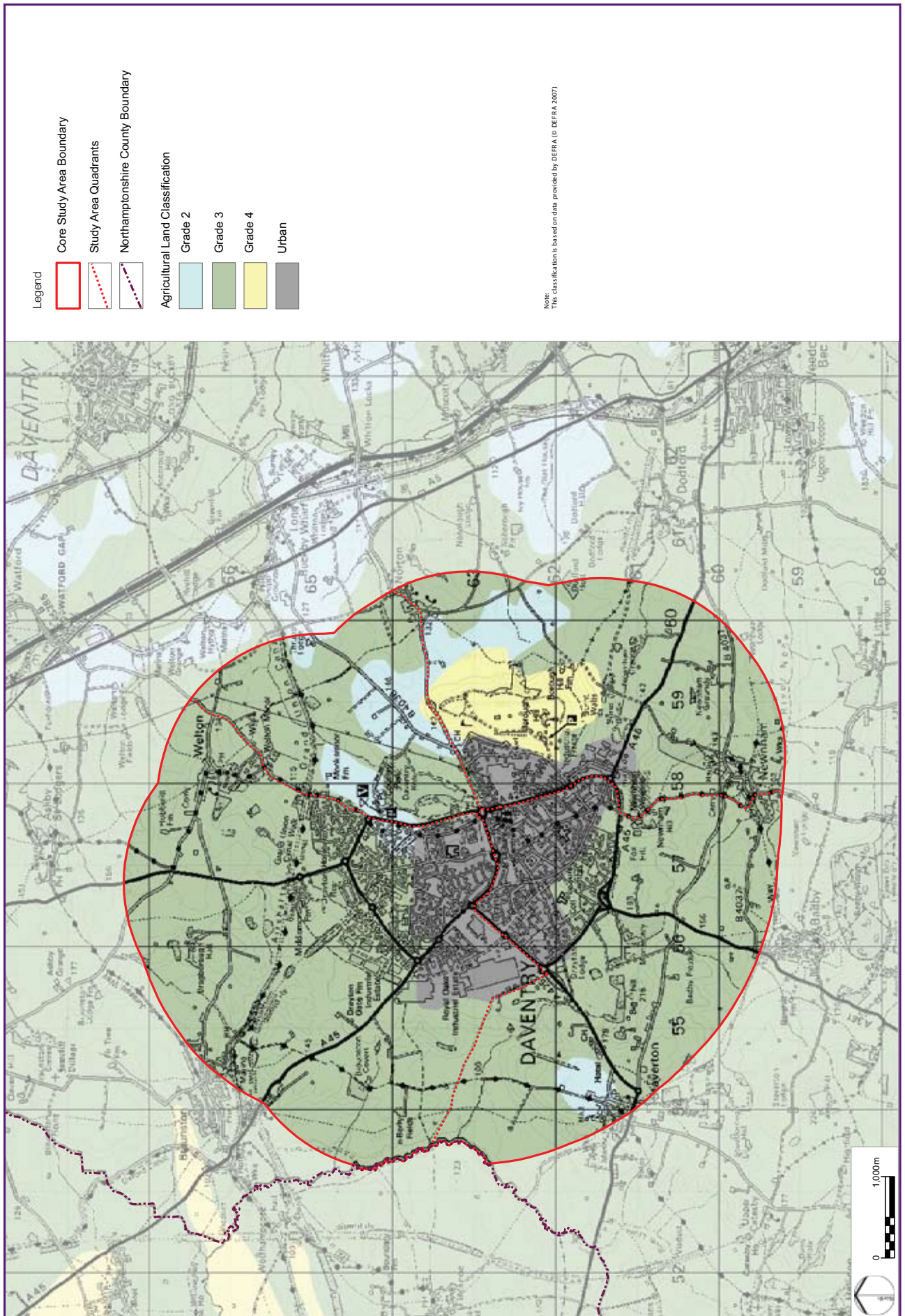


Figure 12: Indicative Townscape Character

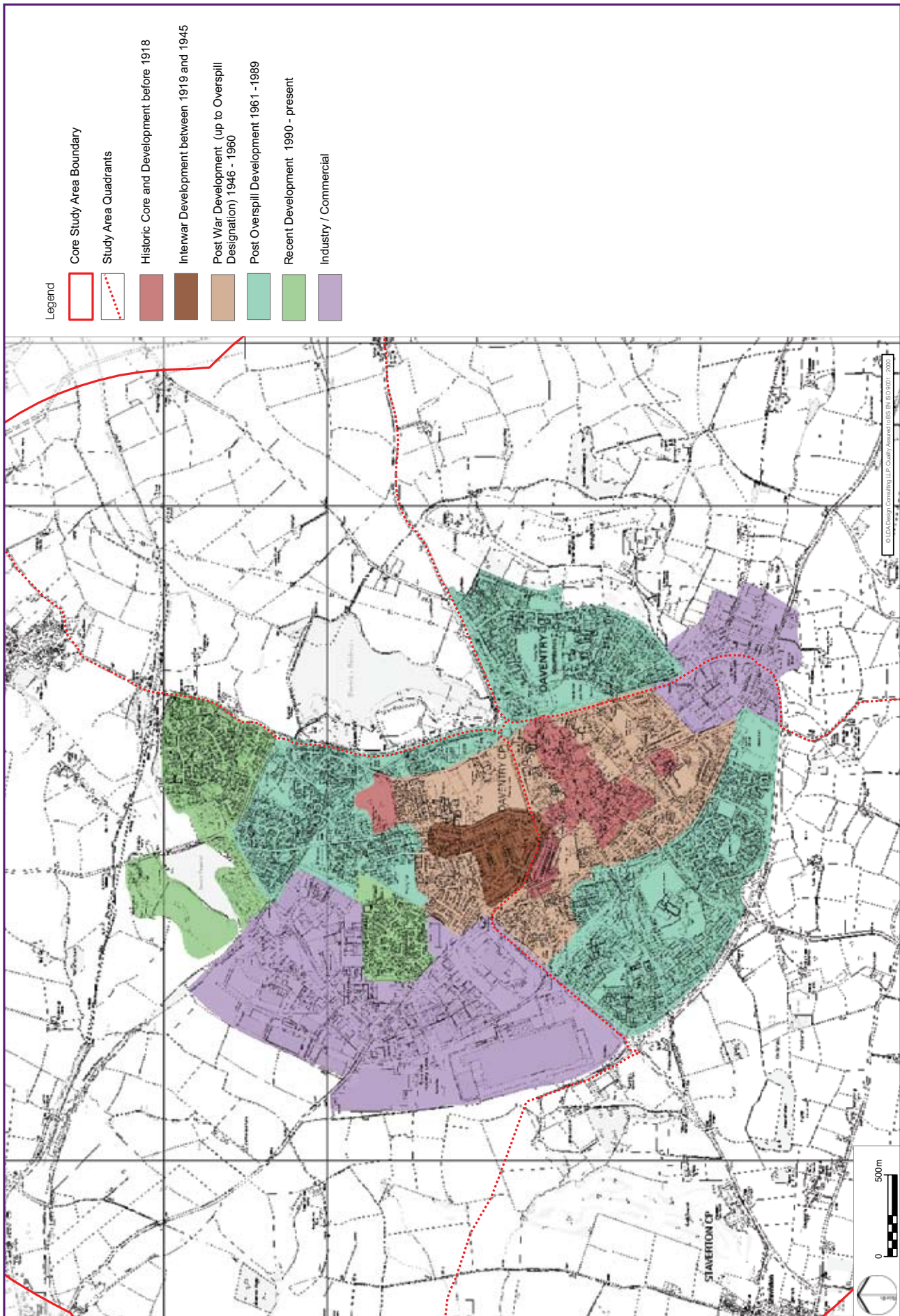


Figure 13: Slope Analysis

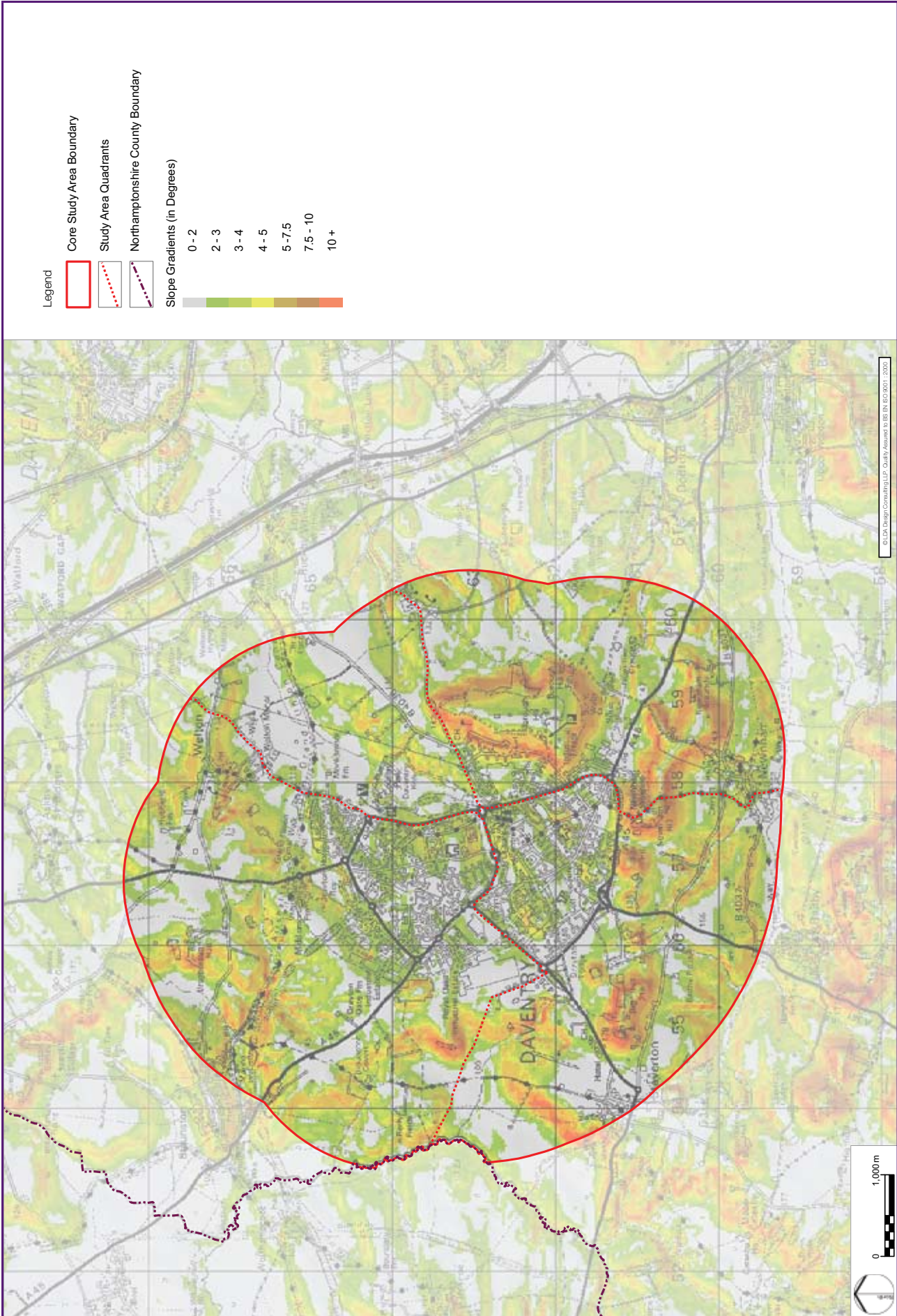


Figure 14: Visual Analysis

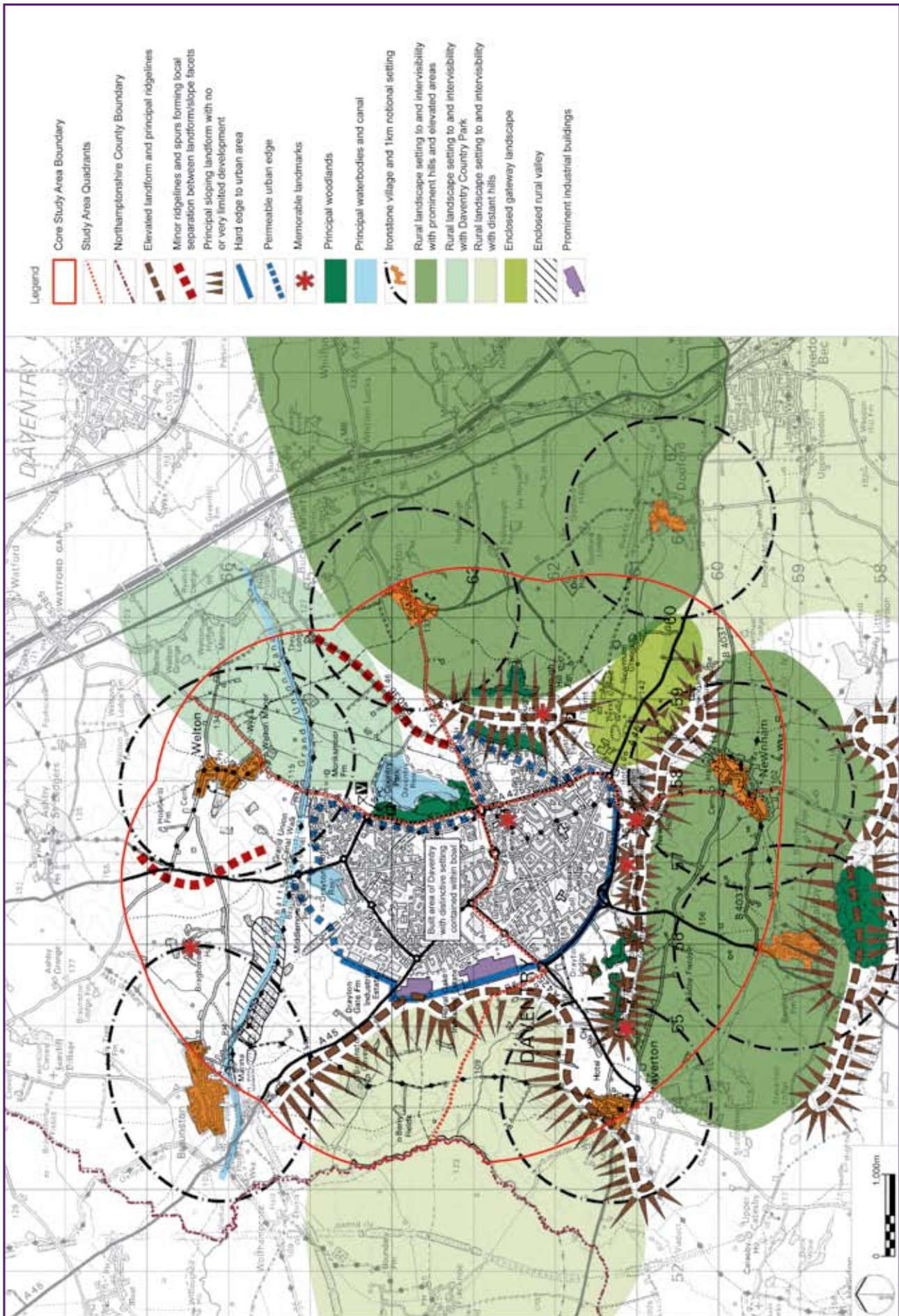


Figure 15: Environmental Character Assessment

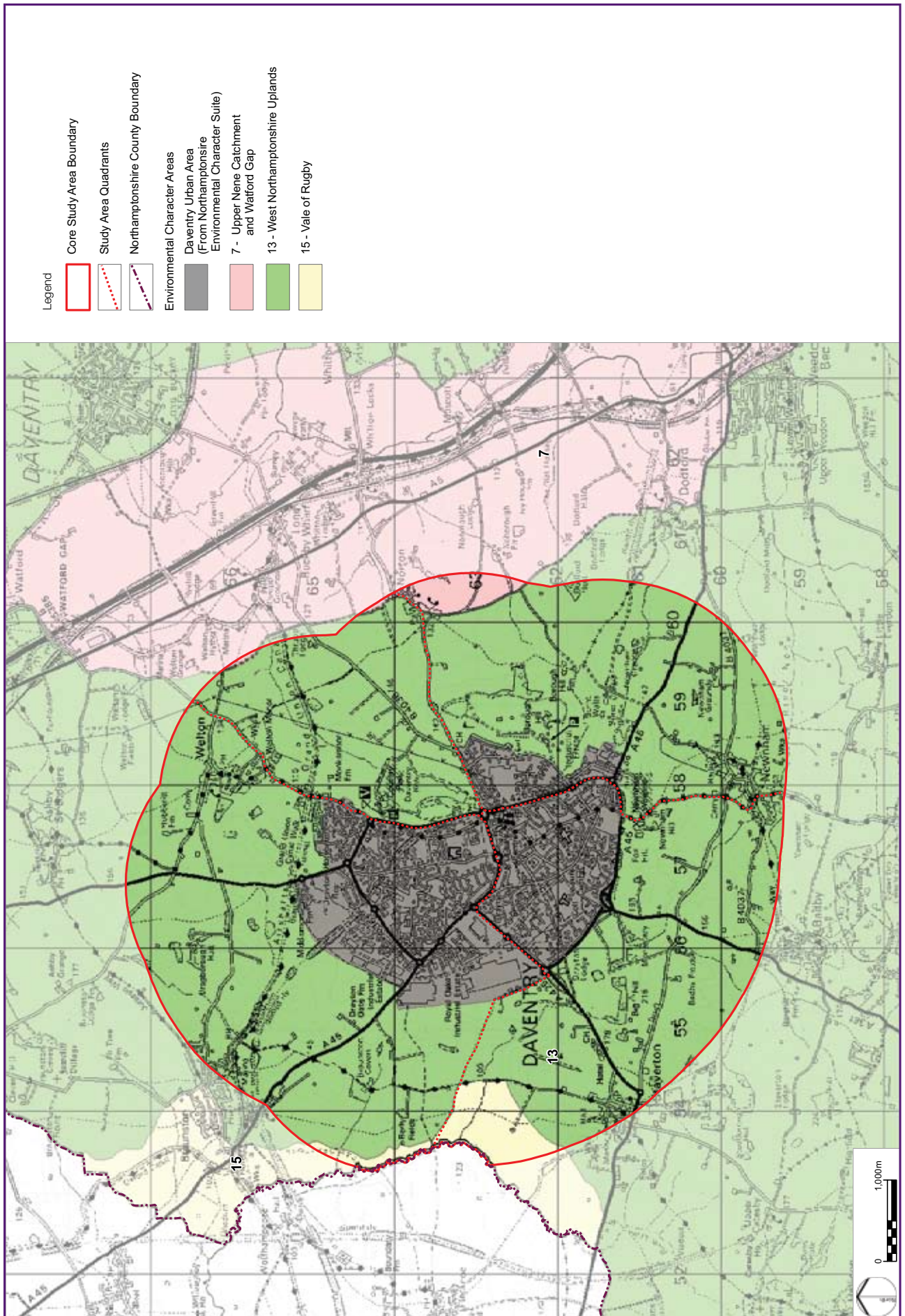


Figure 16: Current Landscape Character Assessment

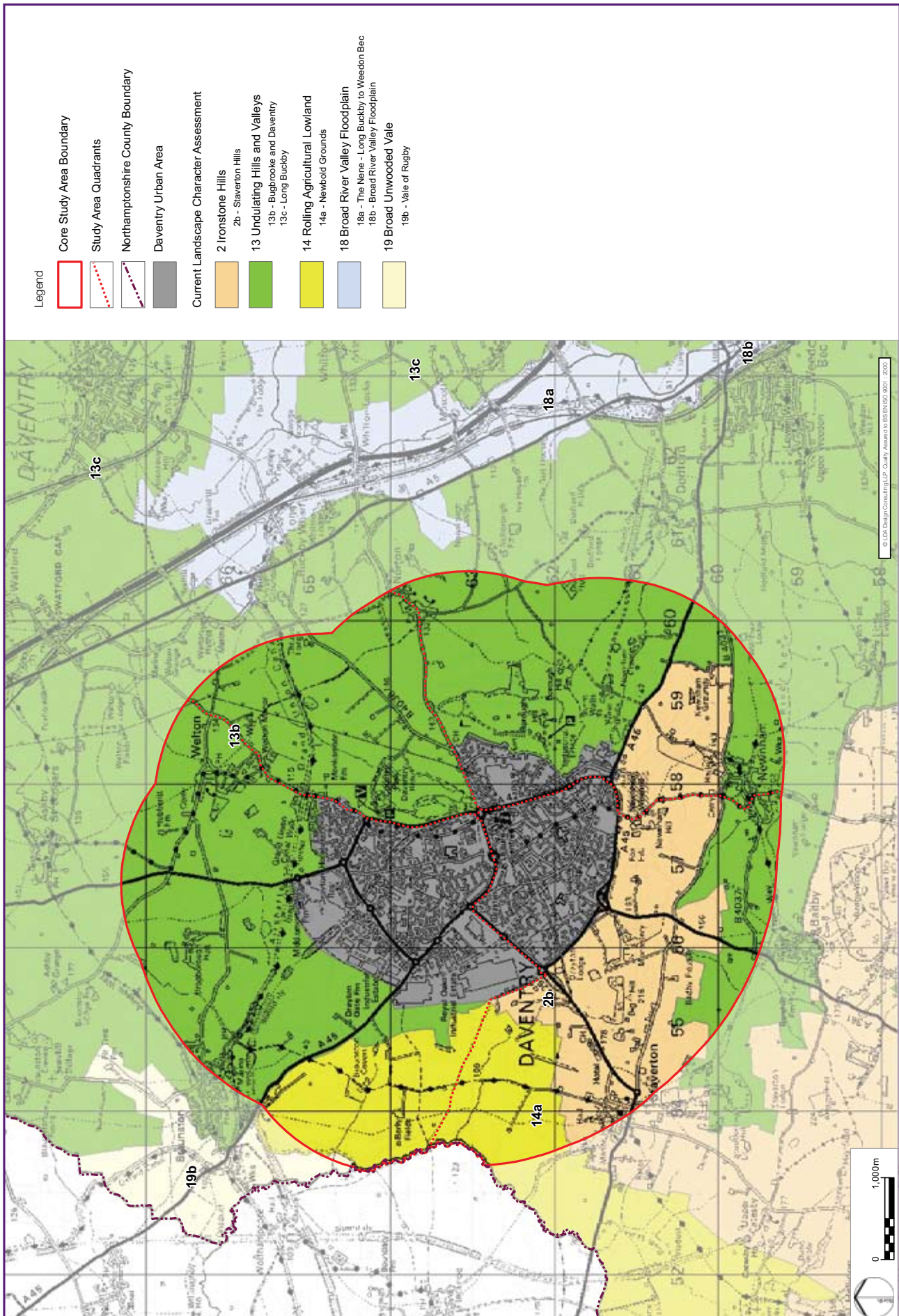


Figure 18: Historic Landscape Character Assessment

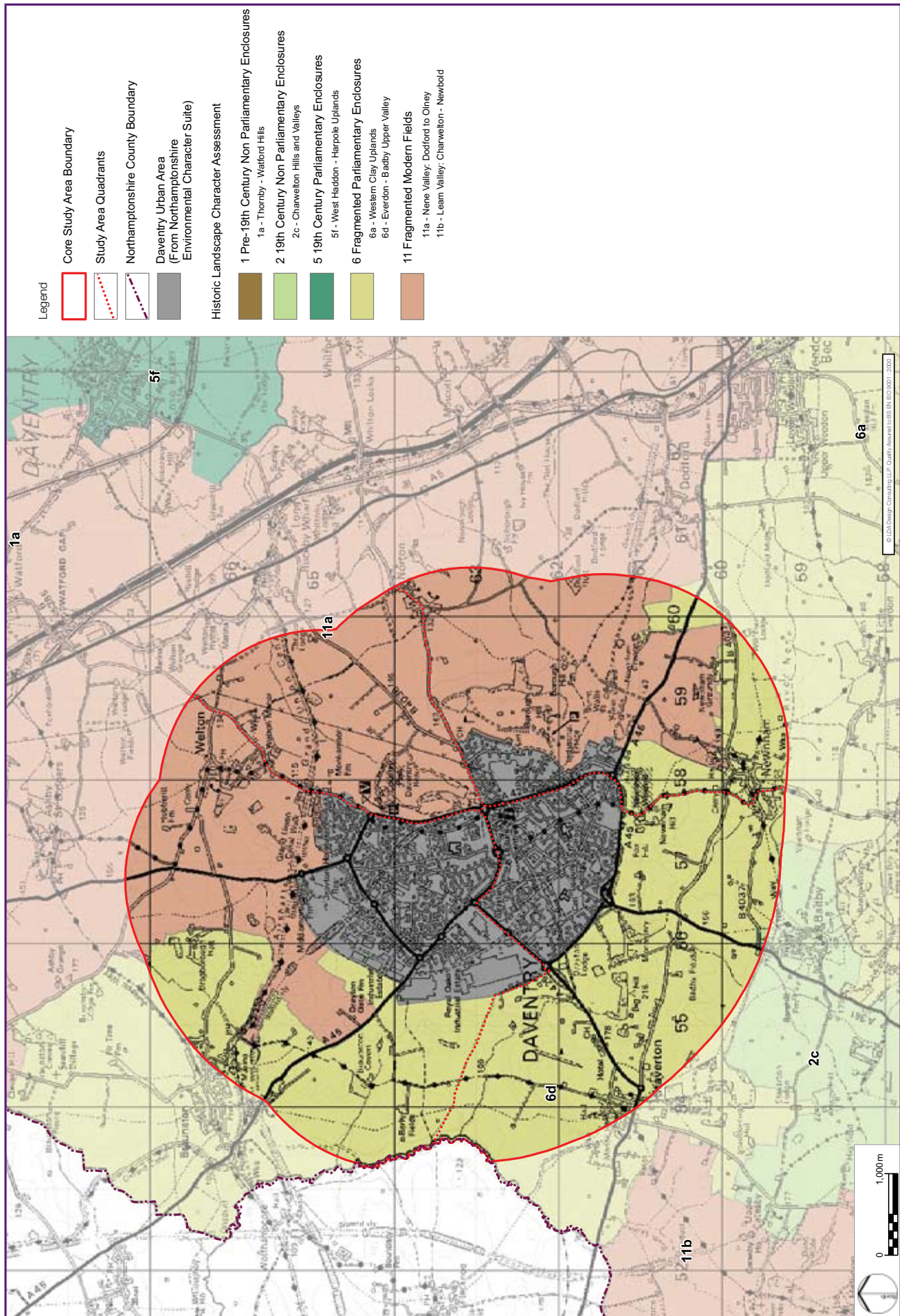


Figure 19: Strategic Biodiversity Network

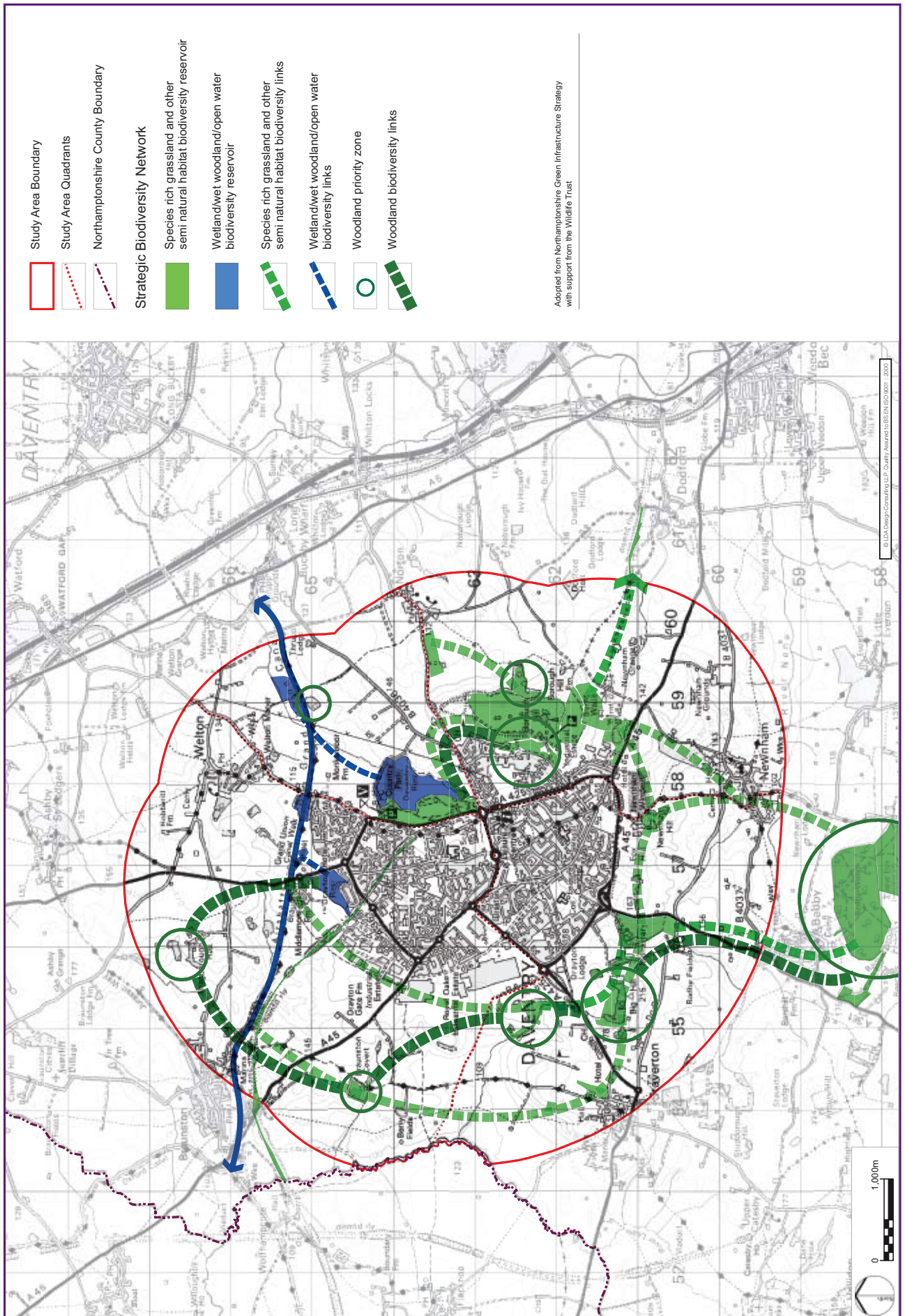


Figure 20: Sustainable Movement Network

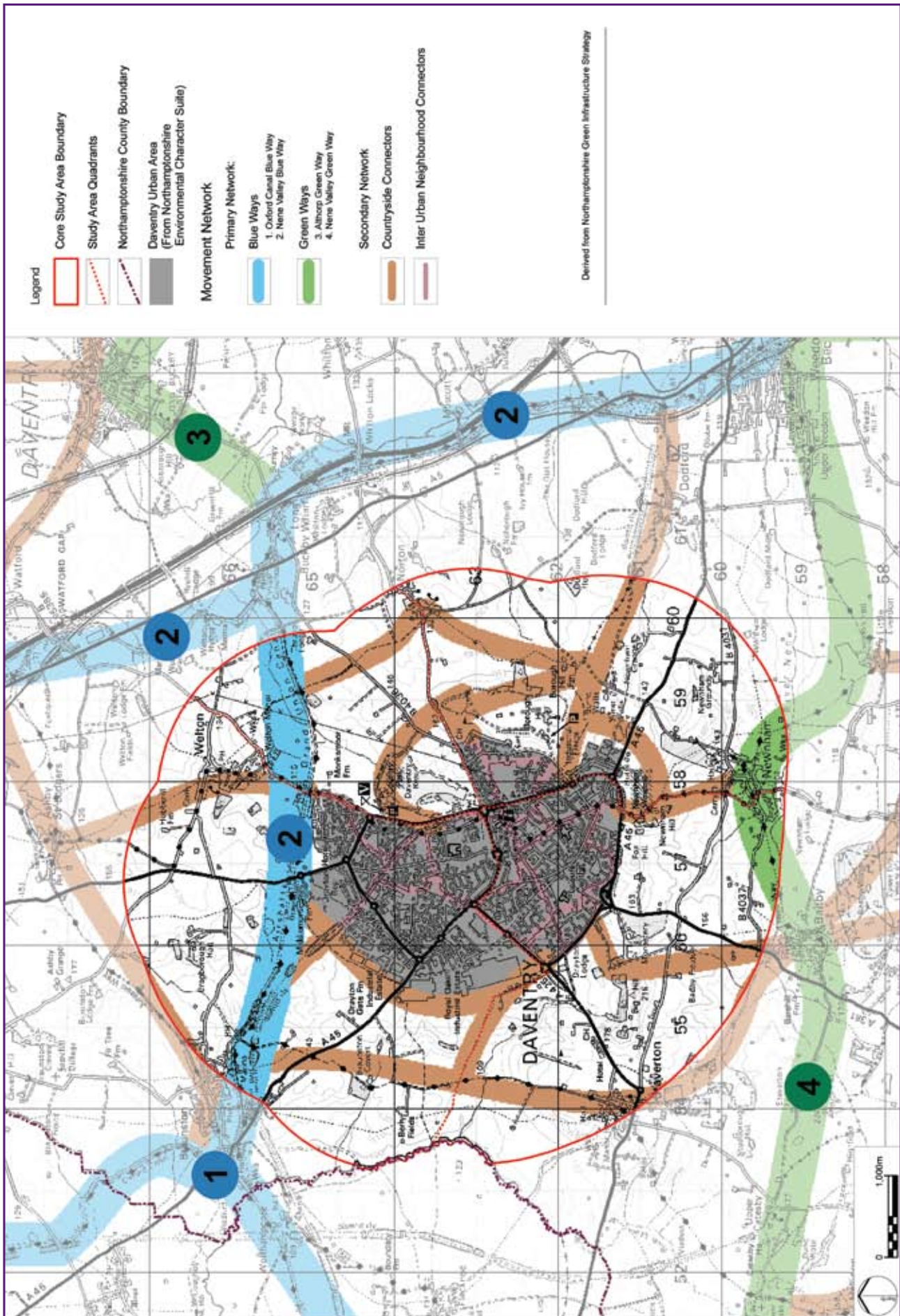


Figure 21: Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework

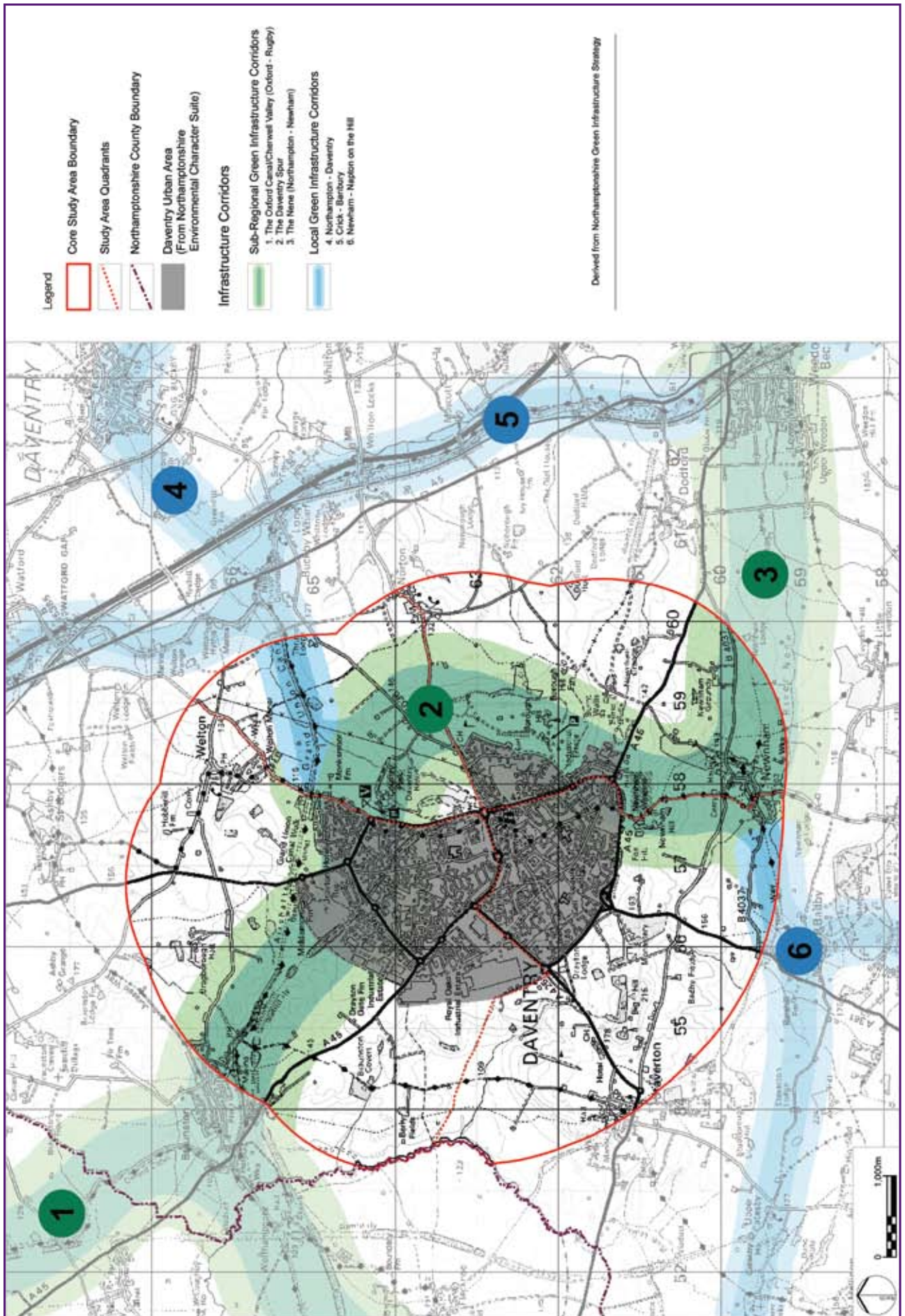


Figure 23: Cultural Heritage - Sensitivity

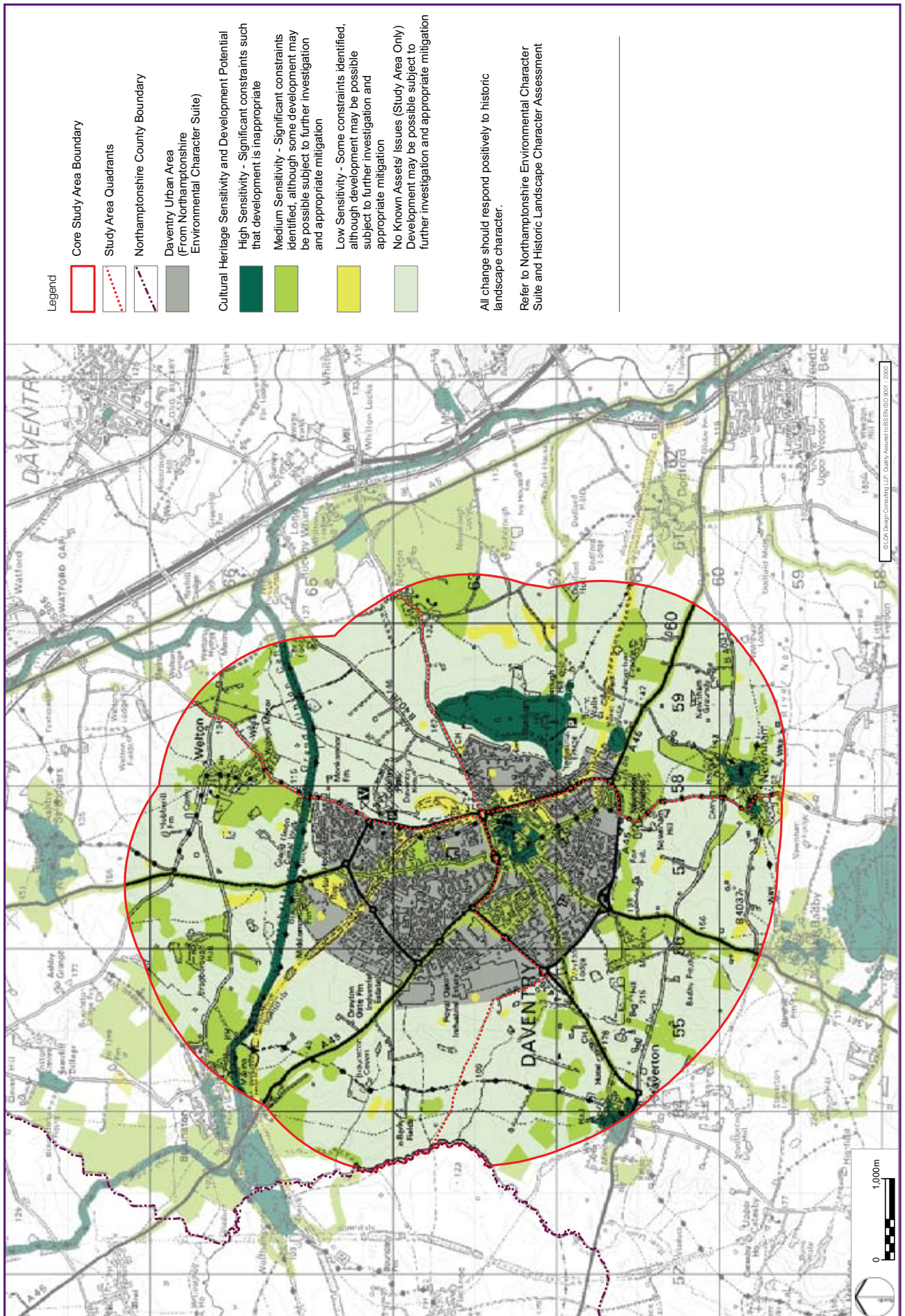


Figure 24: Landscape and Visual - Sensitivity

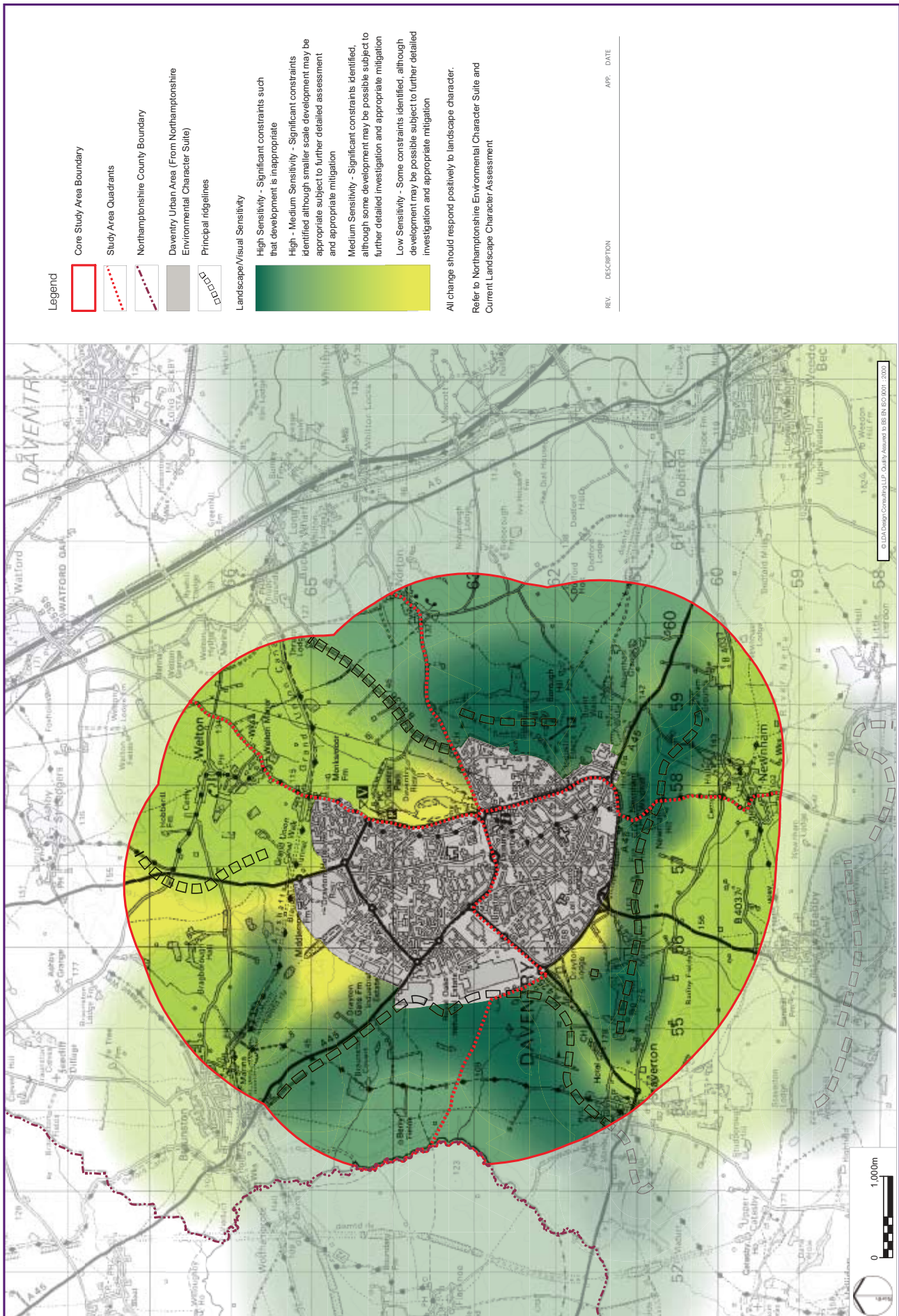


Figure 25: Floodzones and Minerals Sensitivity

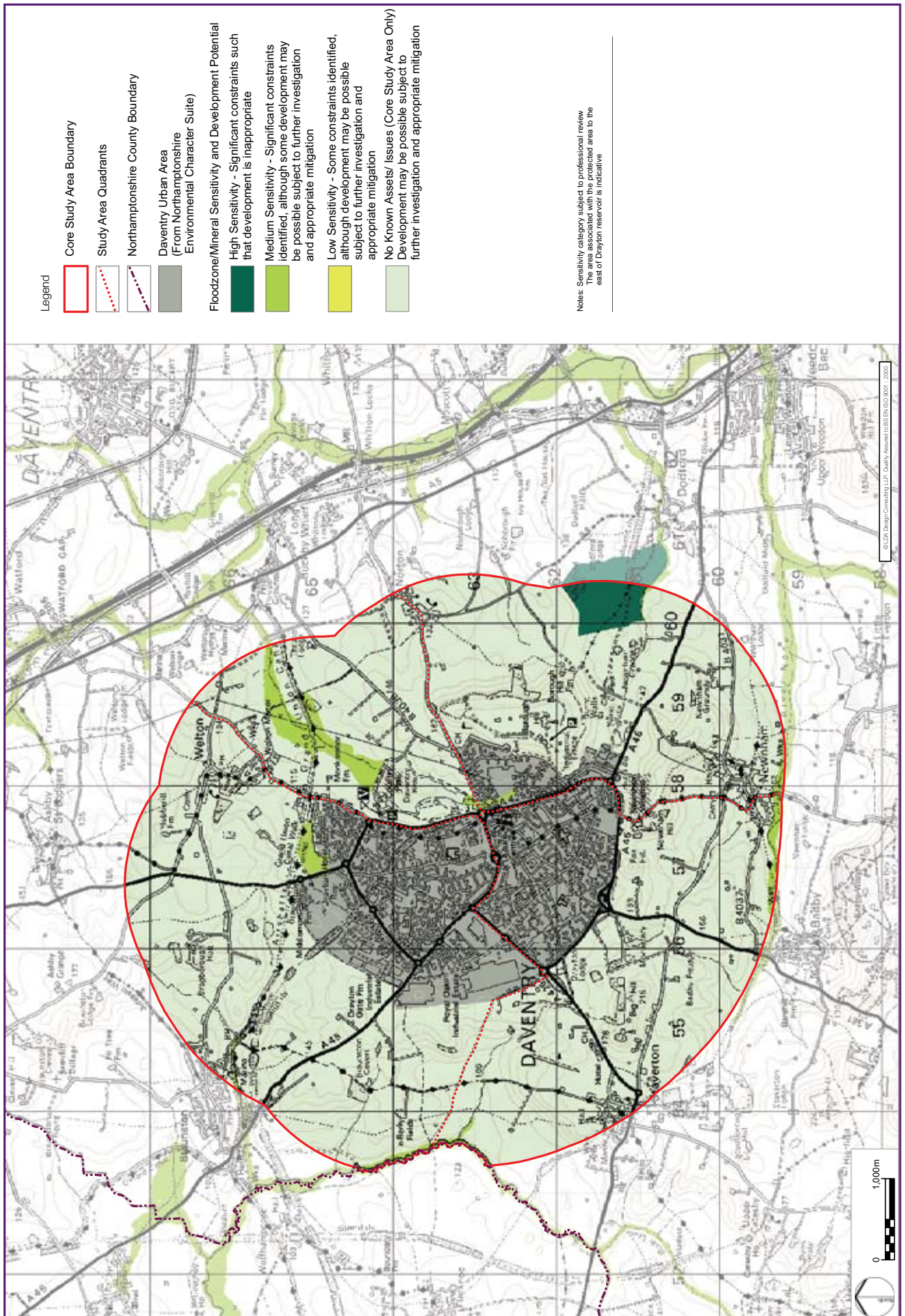
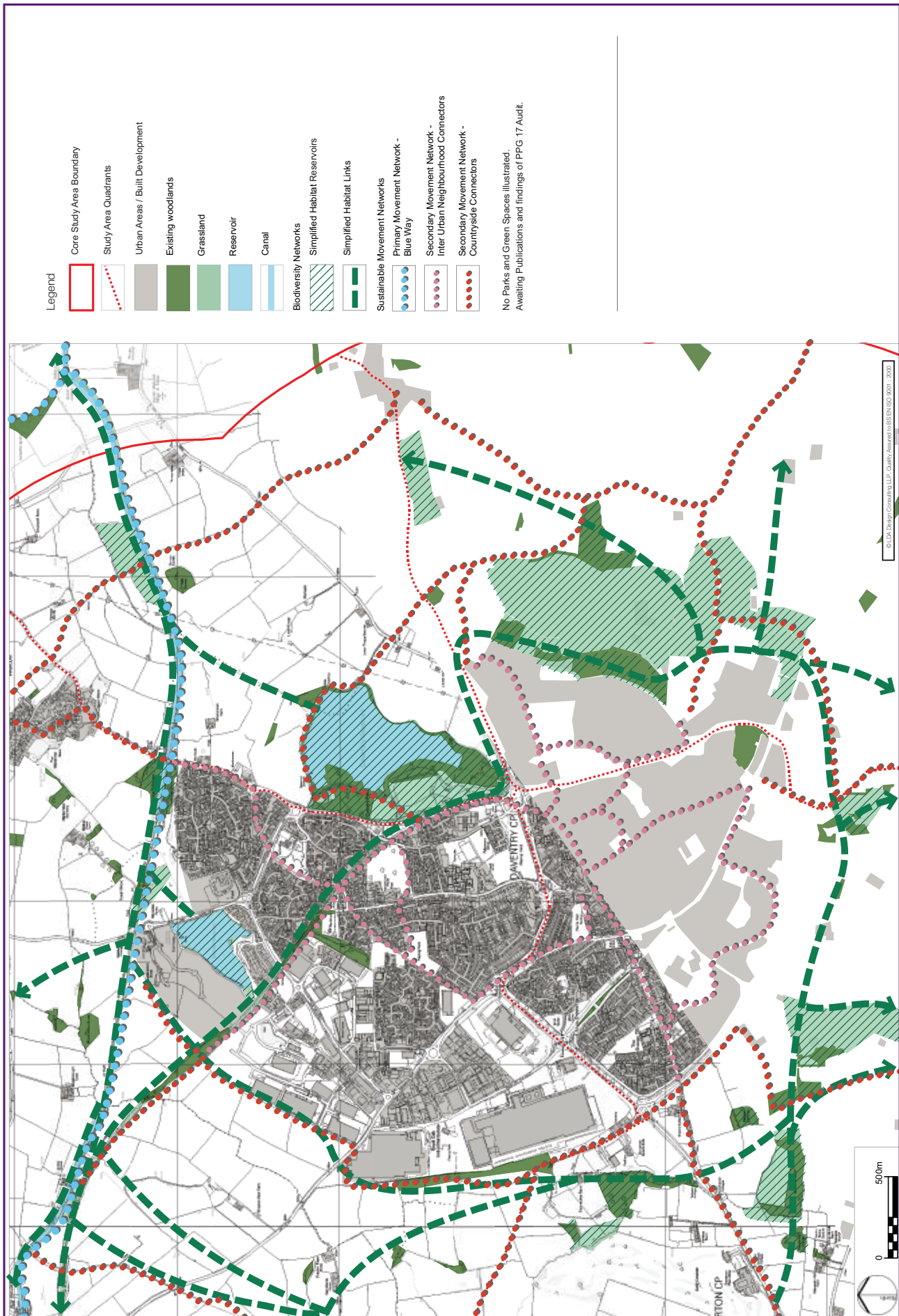


Figure 28: Green Infrastructure Networks



No Parks and Green Spaces illustrated.
Awaiting Publications and findings of PPG 17 Audit.

Figure 28A: Green Infrastructure Networks with Landscape and Visual Sensitivity

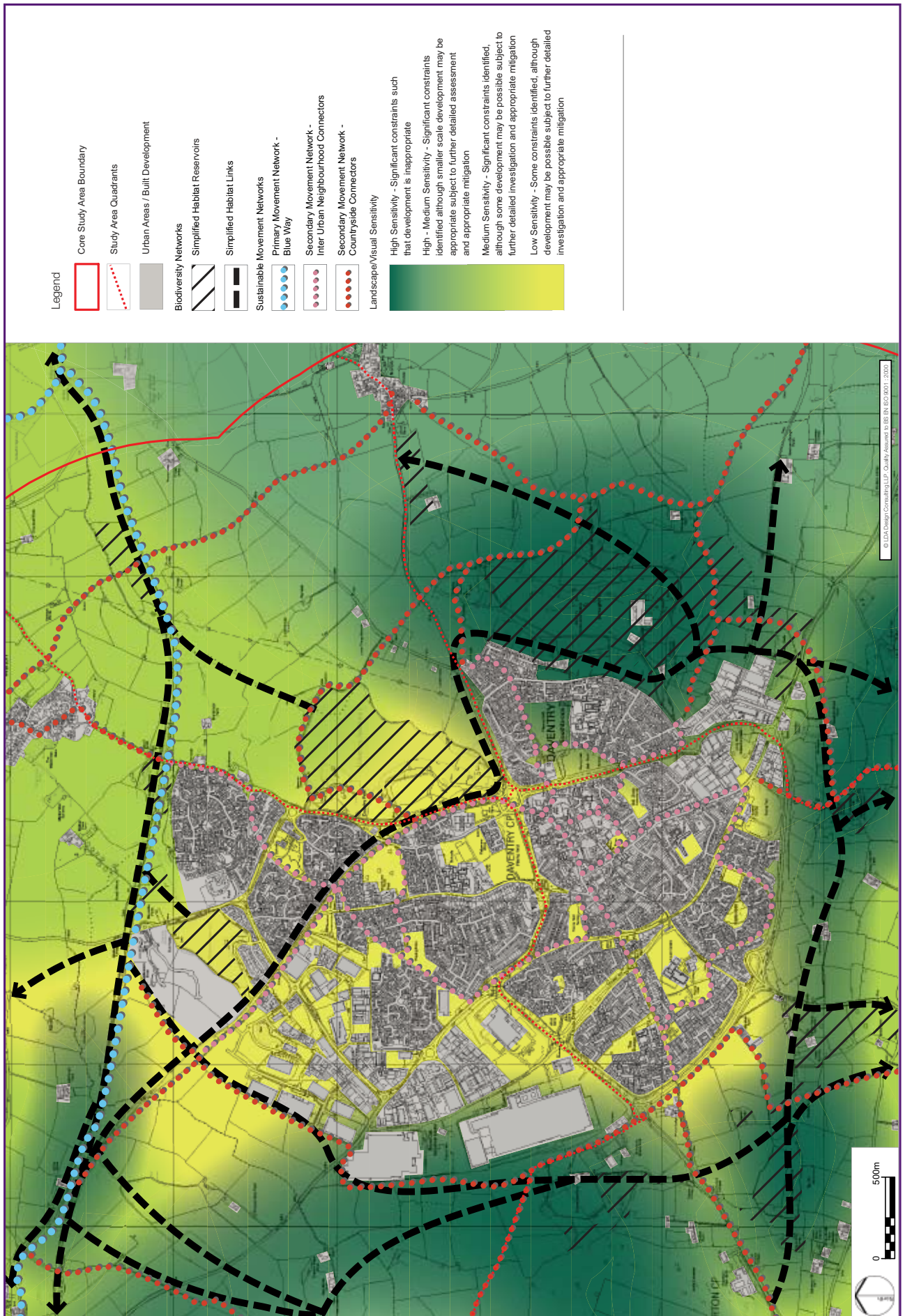


Figure 28B: Green Infrastructure Networks with Biodiversity Sensitivity

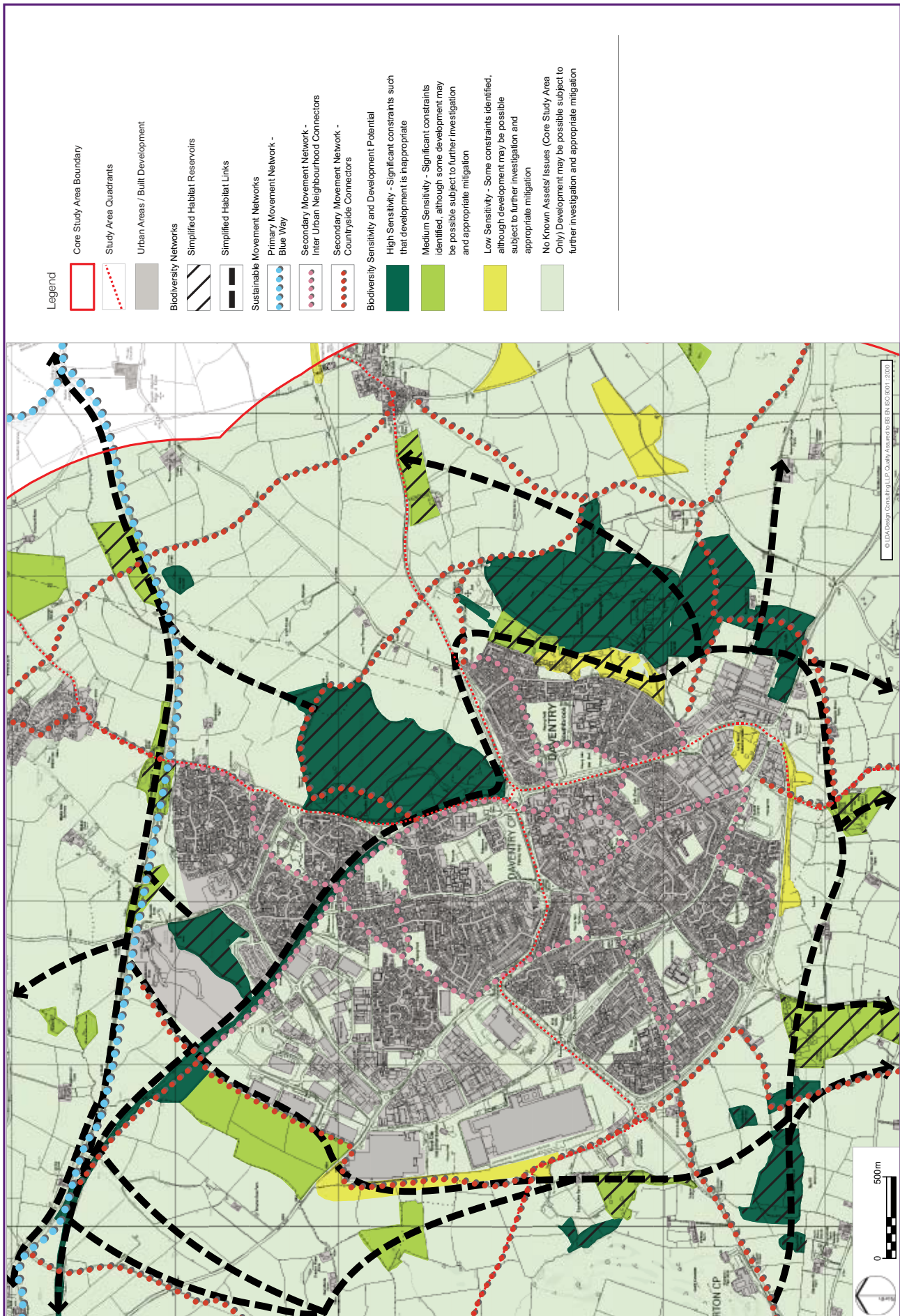


Figure 28C: Green Infrastructure Networks with Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

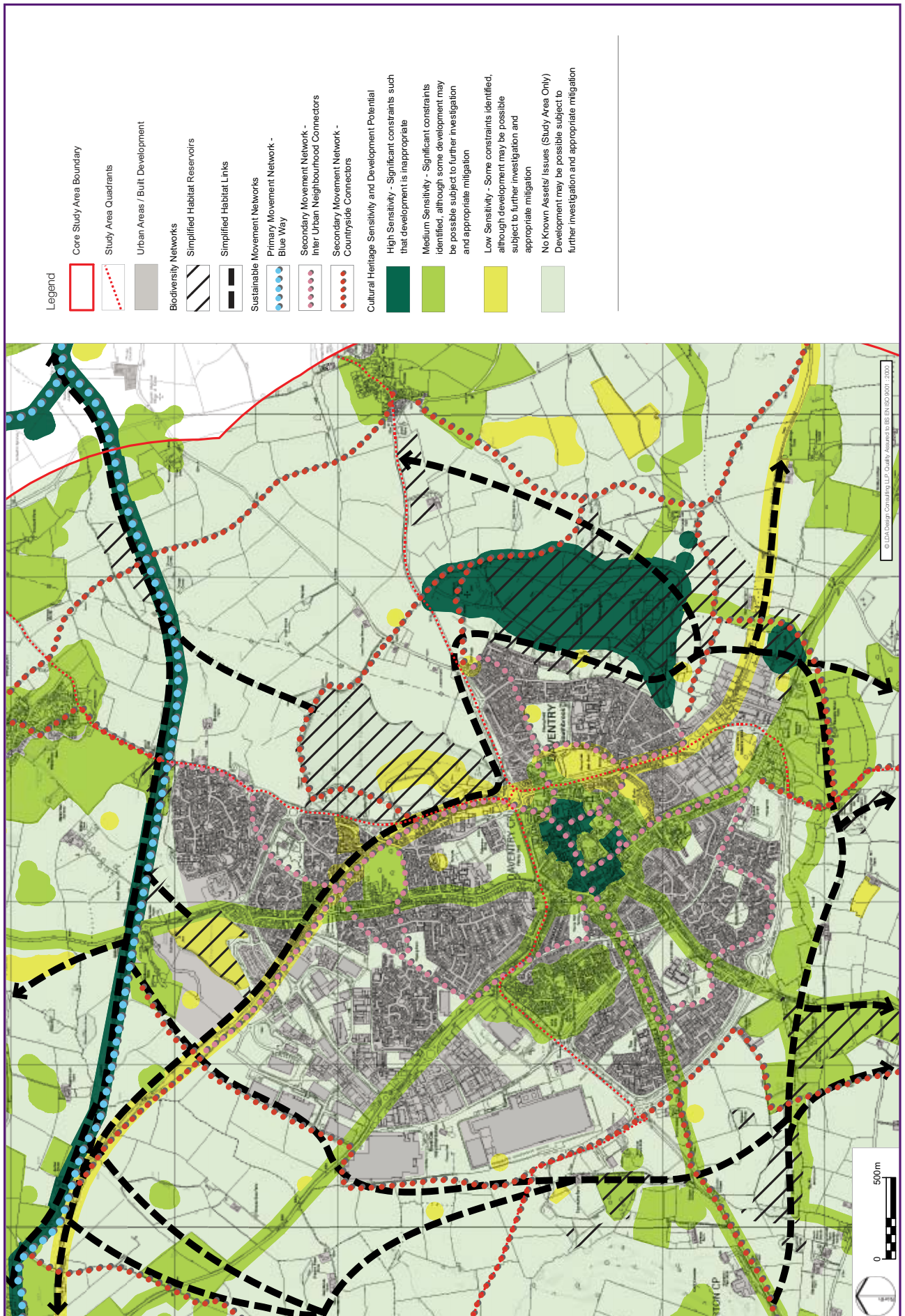
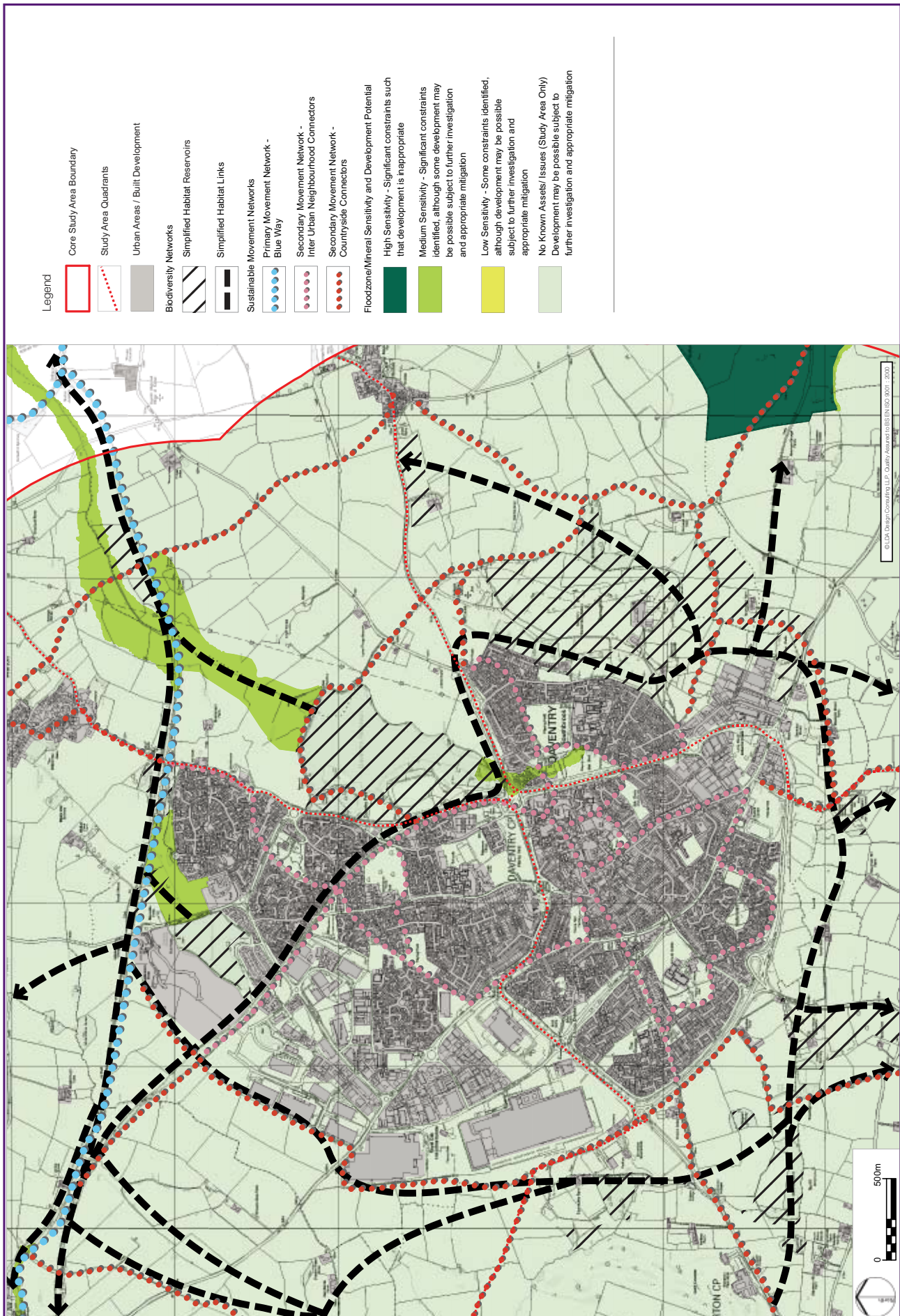


Figure 28D: Green Infrastructure Networks with Floodzones and Minerals Sensitivity





West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

PO Box 622, Franklin's Gardens,
Northampton NN5 5WR

Tel: 01604 586600
Fax: 01604 586648
e-mail: info@wndc.org.uk
www.wndc.org.uk

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LD&A DESIGN

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