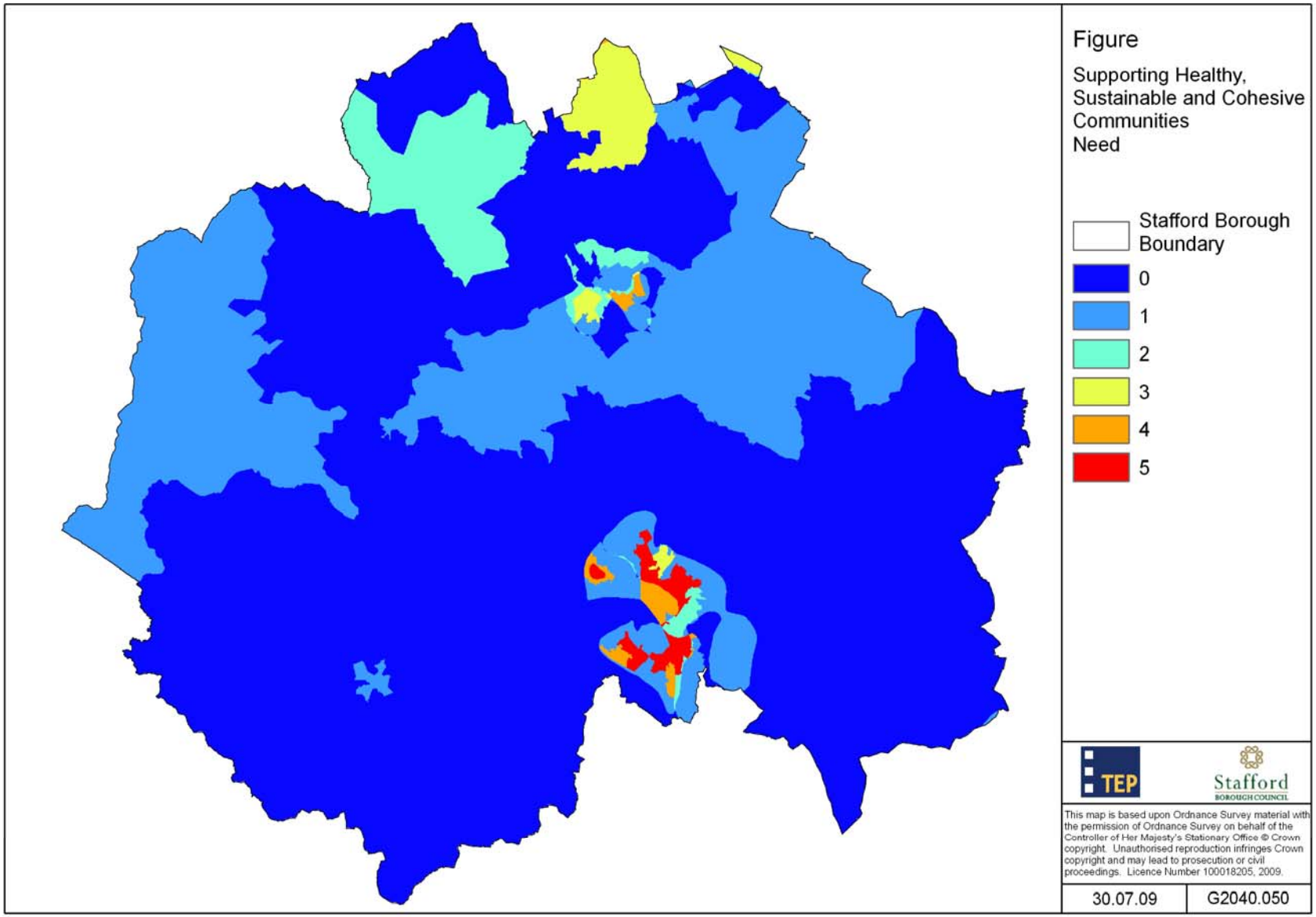
RESEARCH & EVIDENCE BASE: APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Public Benefit Recording System: Data & Indicator Maps

Function/benefit	Data source/s
Supporting healthy, sustainable and cohesive communities	
Improves access within and between settlements	**Need:** Multiple Deprivation and Health Domain - IMD 2007 (CLG) Population Density (2001 Census data) **Opportunity:** Public Rights of Way, Cycle Routes (SCC) Canal, Special Landscape Areas (SBC) Promoted Paths (TEP) Multi-functional green space (PPG17 Study) Accessible Woodland (Woodland Trust) Local Nature Reserves (Natural England)
Provides opportunities for social and community cohesion and interaction	
Provides opportunities for improving health and well-being	
Protecting and promoting local distinctiveness, heritage and cultural assets	
Protects and enhances landscape features	**Opportunity:** AONB, Ancient Woodland, Country Parks (Natural England) Canal (MasterMap) Special Landscape Area, Conservation Areas (SBC) Main Rivers (Environment Agency) National Inventory of Woodlands & Trees, English Woodland Grant Scheme (Forestry Commission) Battlefield Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens (English Heritage)
Safeguards historic and cultural assets	
Provides a distinctive and attractive living environment	
Adapting to and mitigating against the effects of climate change	
Provides additional flood zones that have alternative uses when not in flood, e.g. biodiversity site, country park, etc	**Need:** Flood zones (Environment Agency) Population Density, Age Structure, Car Ownership (2001 Census data) Health Domain - IMD 2007 (CLG) Main Roads, Sealed Surfaces (MasterMap) Air Quality - combined (OSN) **Opportunity:** Agricultural Land Grade 4 & 5, Country Parks, SSSIs, Ancient Woodlands, NNRs, LNRs (Natural England) National Inventory of Woodlands & Trees, English Woodland Grant Schemes (Forestry Commission) Water (including 20m buffer) (MasterMap) SBIs, BASs, Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves (SBC)
Combats the urban 'heat island' effect'	
Provides opportunities to reduce urban run-off and risk of flooding	
Provides space for wildlife to adapt to climate change reducing vulnerability to local extinction	
Improves air quality, through reducing CO2 and other greenhouse gases and pollution	

Function/benefit	Data source/s
Enabling urban and rural economic growth and sustainable prosperity	
Provides a setting to encourage inward investment	**Need:** Skills & Employment Domain - IMD 2007 (CLG) **Opportunity:** Main Settlement (ONS) Town Centre Shopping Area, Recognised Industrial Estates, EP, Employment, Employment Redevelopment Sites (SBC Local Plan) Major Roads, Railways, Canal (MasterMap) Schools, National Cycle Routes (SCC) Educational Access Sites (Natural England) Promoted Paths (TEP) Tourism Assets (as suggested by SBC)
Provides a local environment resource for education, learning and skills development	
Provides a setting for tourism and visitor assets	
Improving accessibility and use of green spaces	
Provides safe cycling and walking routes to school, work and for recreation	**Opportunity:** Public Rights of Way, Cycle Routes, Schools (SCC) Settlements (ONS) Promoted Paths (TEP) Multi-functional green space (PPG17 Study) Accessible Woodlands (Woodland Trust) Local Nature Reserves, CROW Access Layer (Natural England)
Increases access to high quality green and open spaces that deliver a range of functions to meet local needs	
Provision of diverse recreational opportunities	
Protecting, enhancing and extending biodiversity resources and natural networks	
Restores existing and creates new natural networks and corridors to enhance, expand and connect a variety of habitats at the landscape scale	**Need:** Floodzones (Environment Agency) Sealed surfaces (Mastermap) **Opportunity:** Non-sealed surfaces (MasterMap) Environmental Stewardship Agreements, Ancient Woodlands, Agricultural Land Grade 4 & 5, Ramsars, SACs, SSSIs, NNRs, LNRs, SBIs (Natural England) National Inventory of Woodlands & Trees, English Woodland Grant Schemes (Forestry Commission) Water (including 20m buffer)(MasterMap) SBIs, BASs, Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves (SBC)
Safeguards and extends priority habitats and species	
Reverses habitat fragmentation and decline	
Protects soils and watercourses through reducing erosion, silting-up and nitrification	
Providing the setting and infrastructure for growth	
Combined Public Benefit	Combines 'need' outputs and 'opportunity' outputs above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Supporting Healthy, Sustainable and Cohesive Communities
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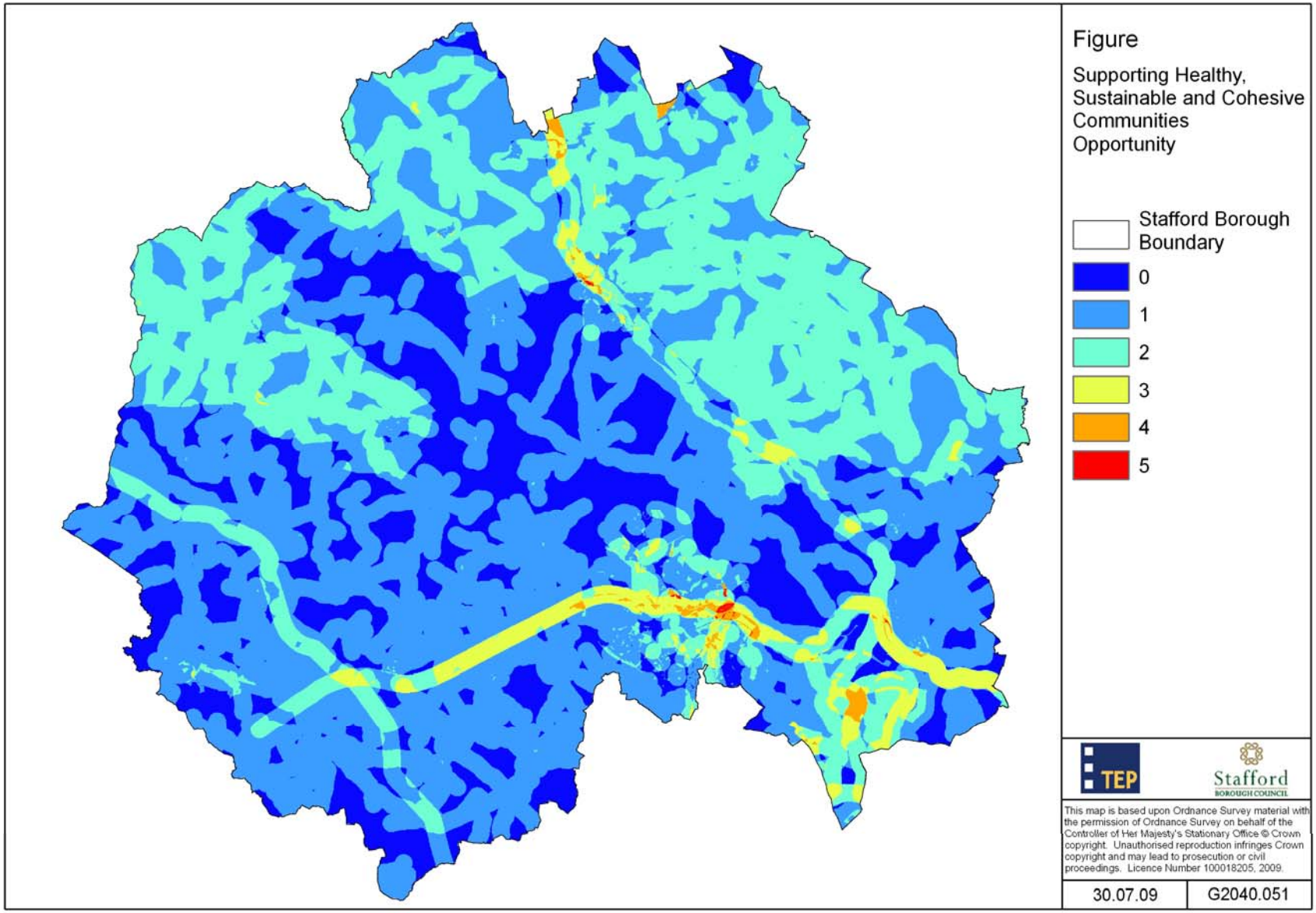
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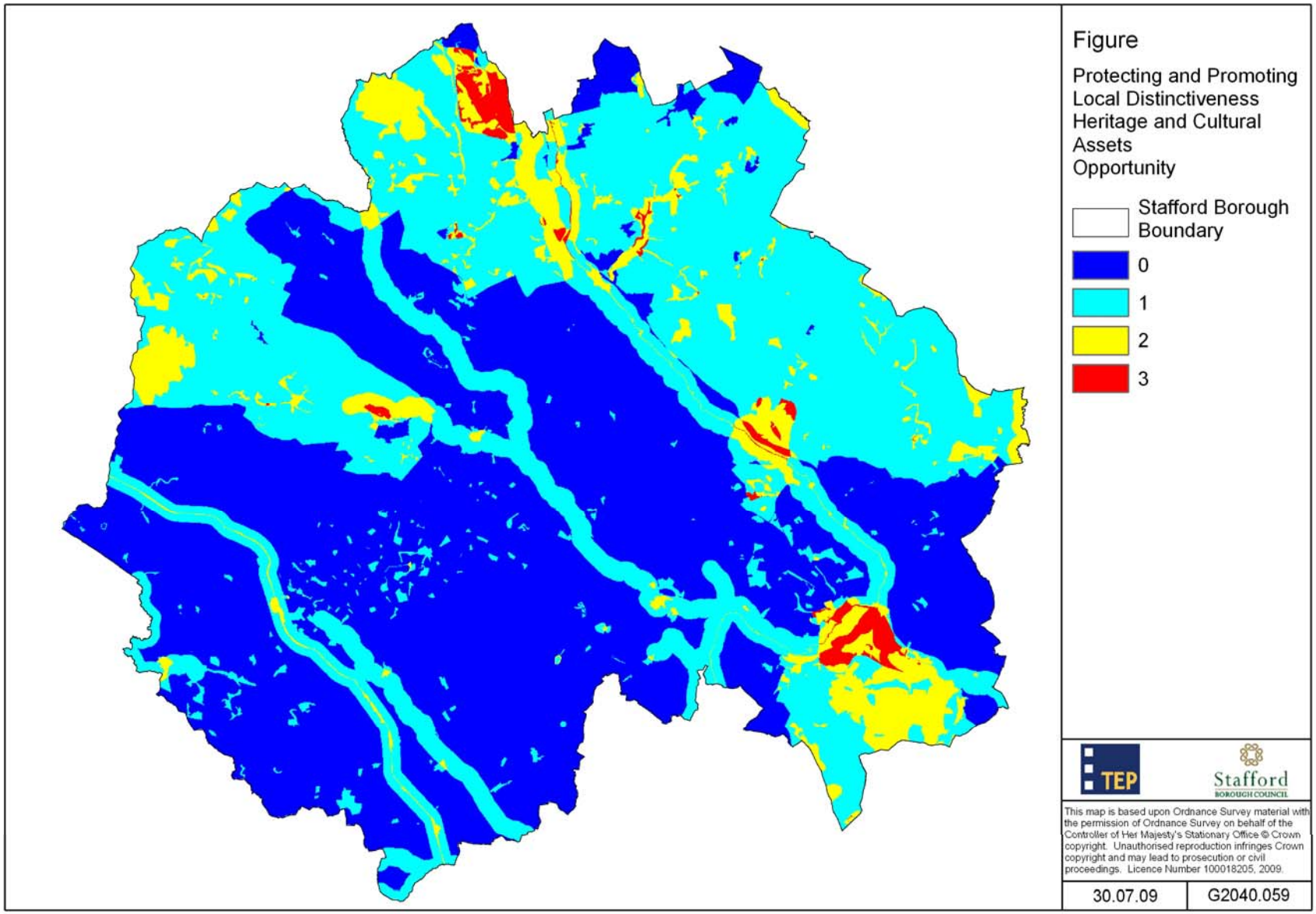
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Protecting and Promoting Local Distinctiveness Heritage and Cultural Assets Opportunity
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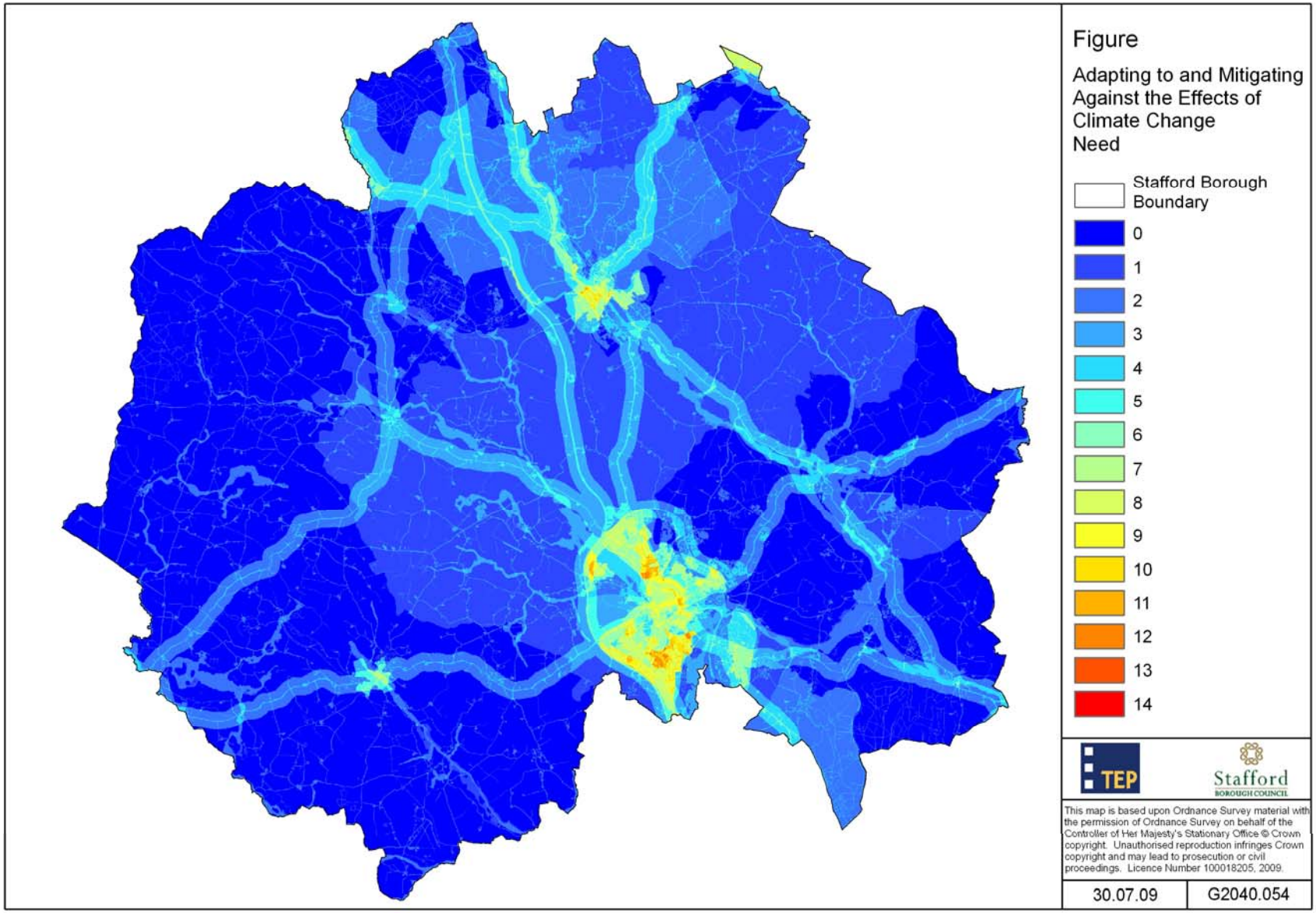
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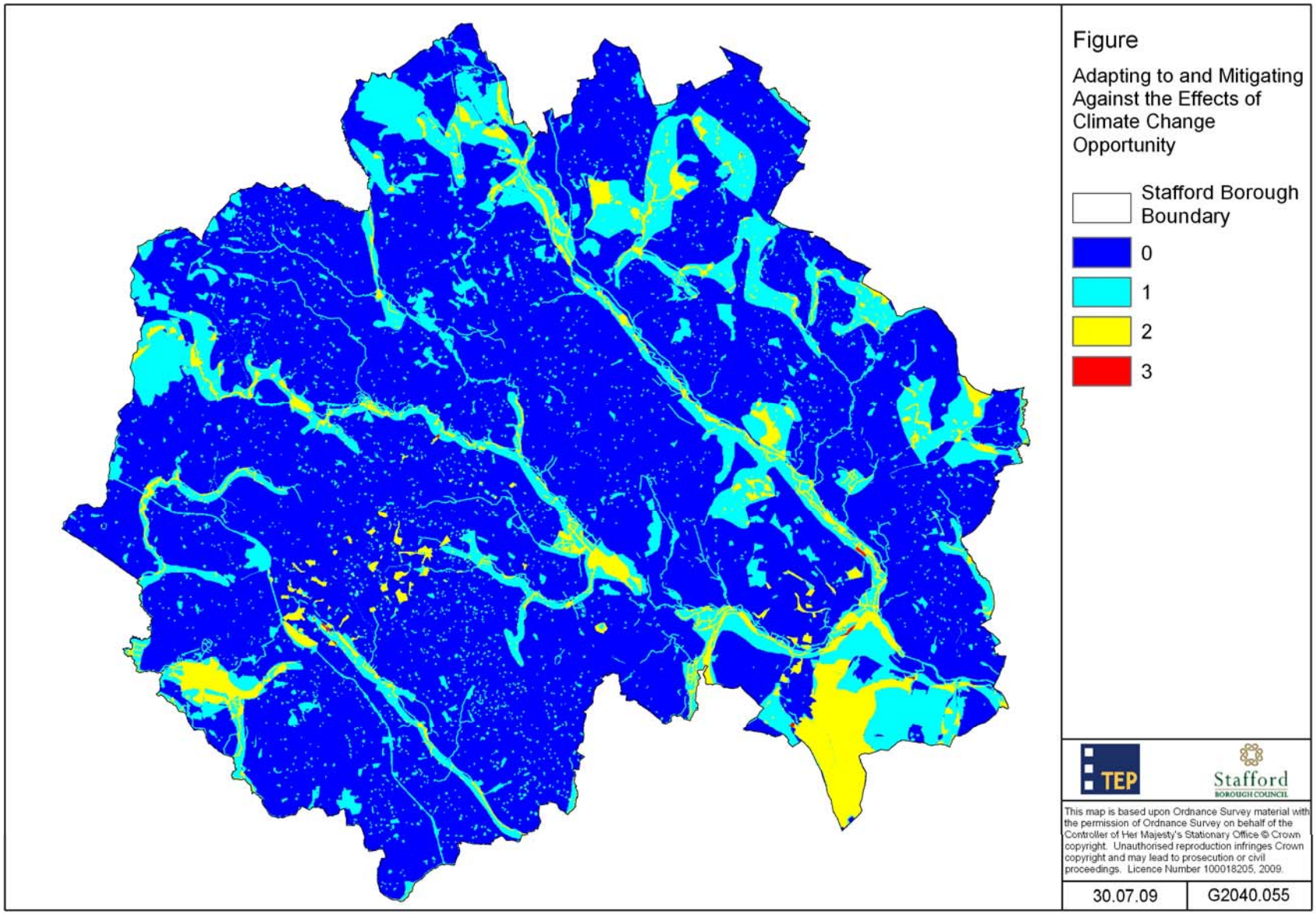
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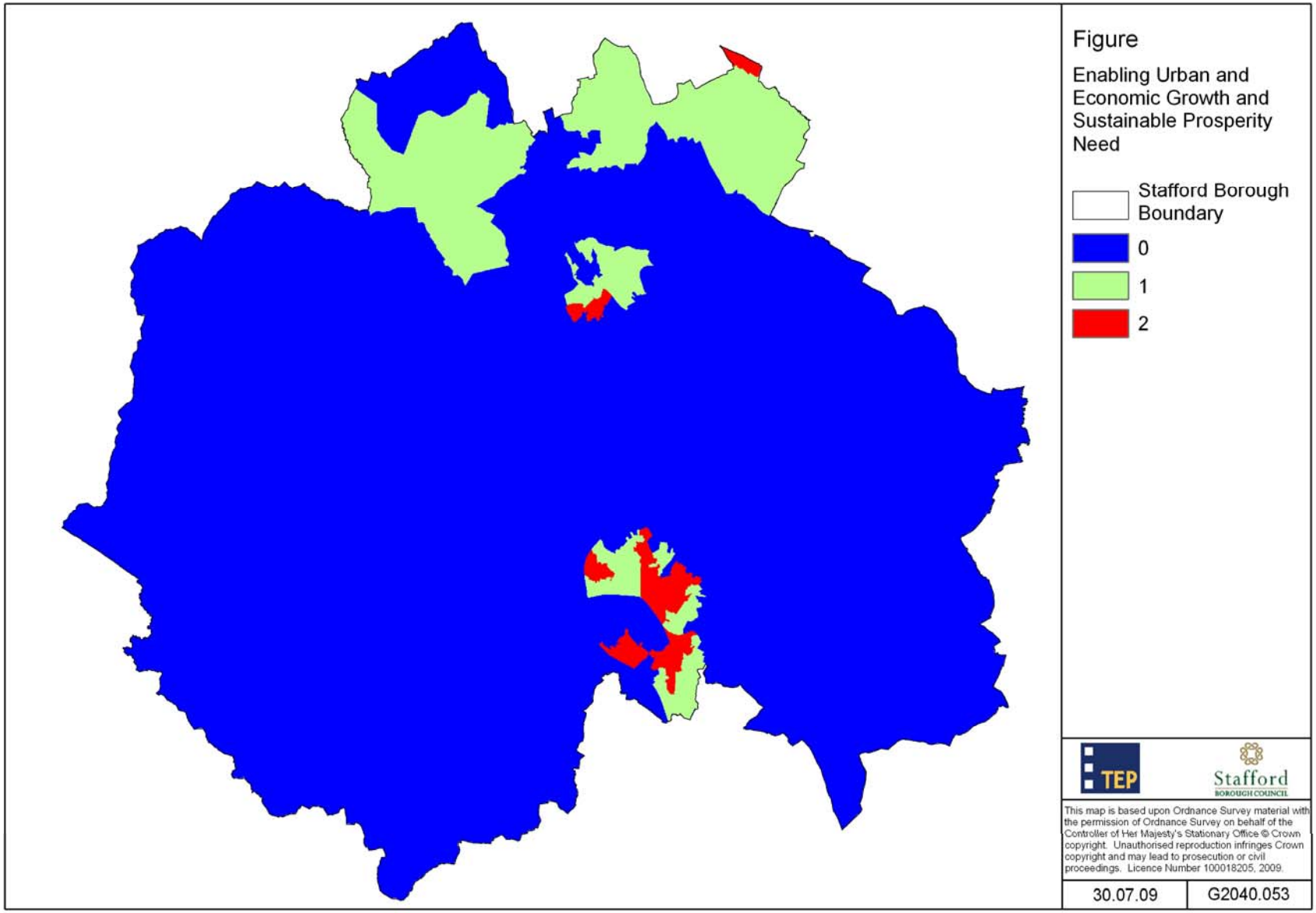
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Enabling Urban and Economic Growth and Sustainable Prosperity Need
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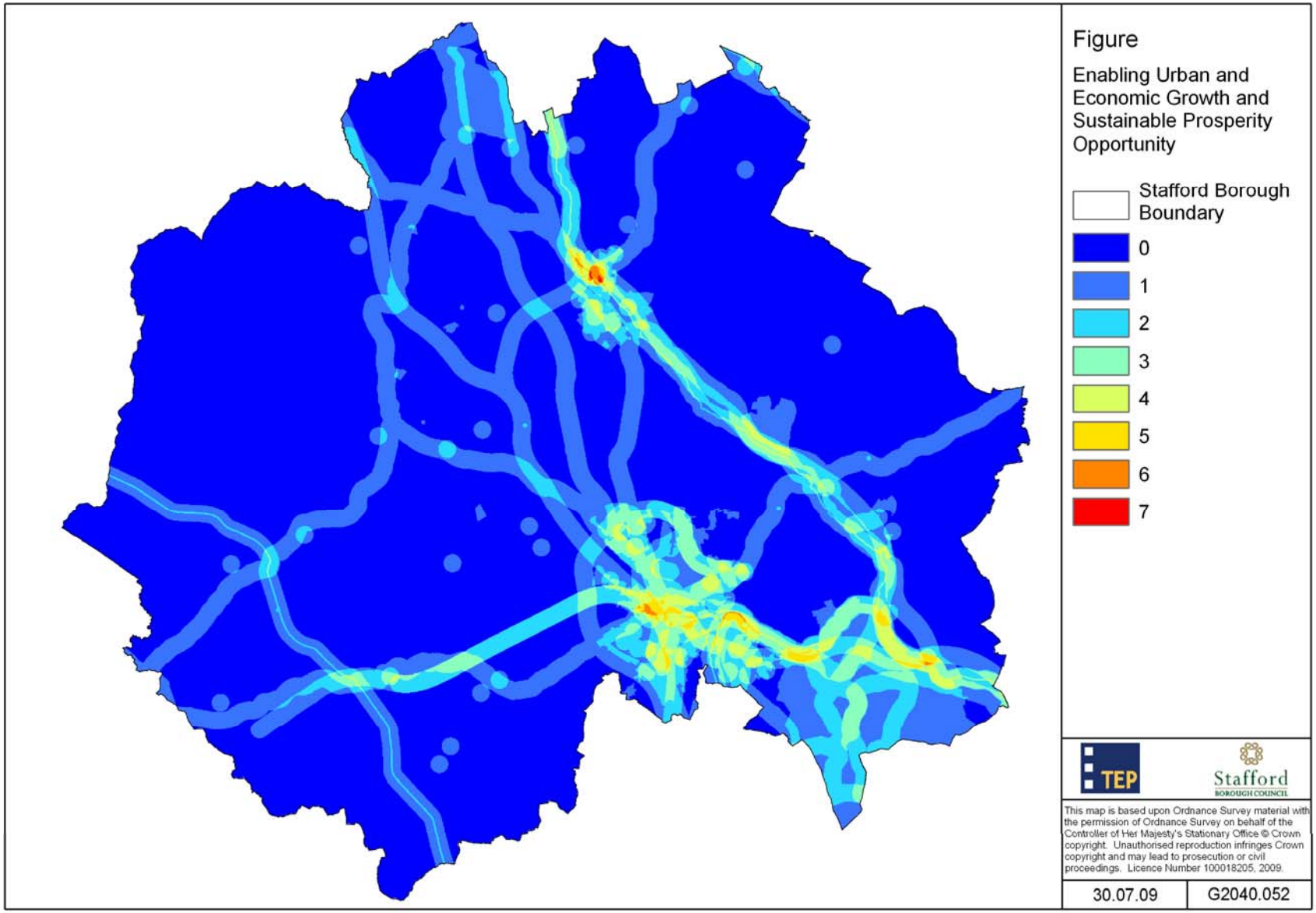
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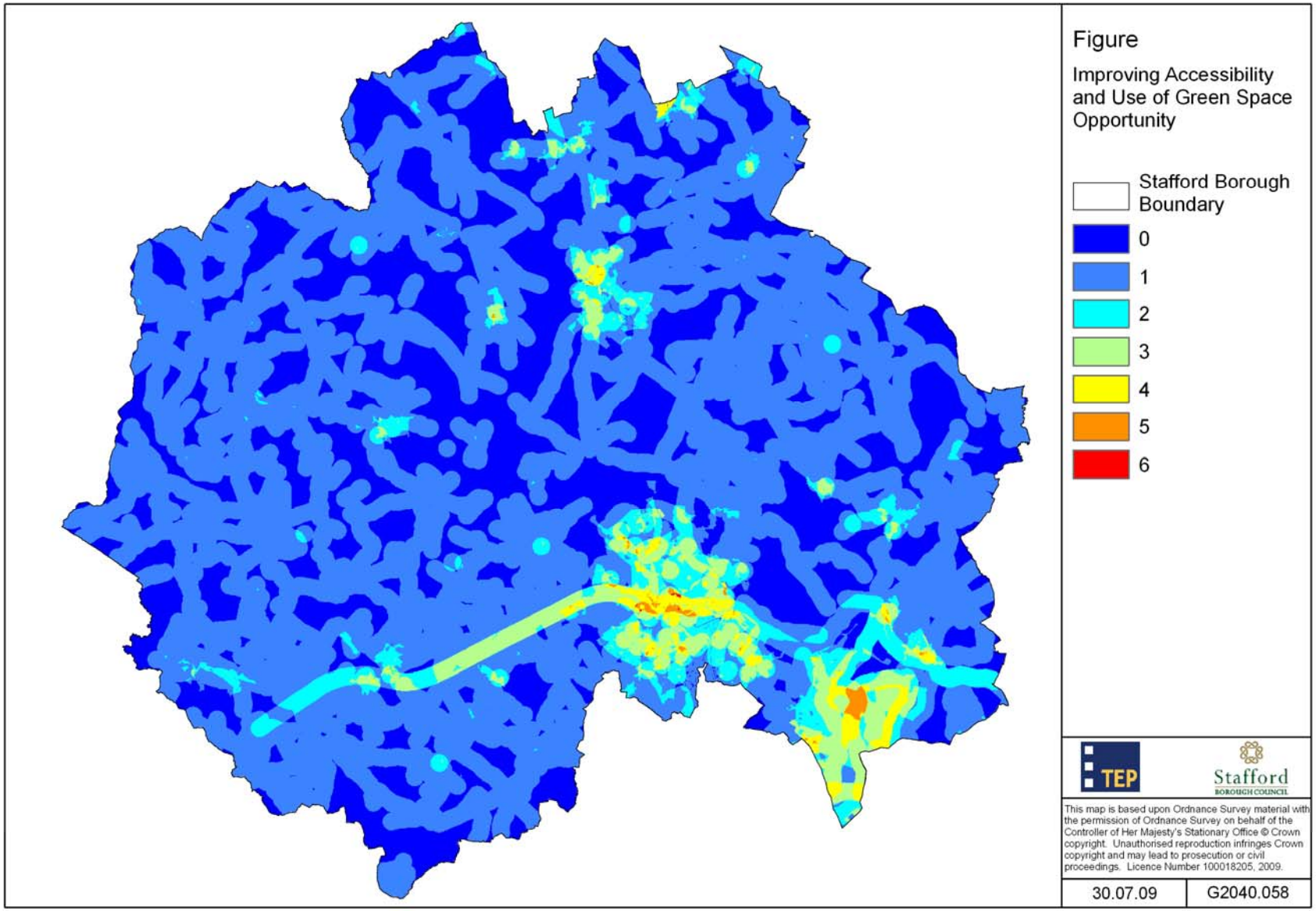
Figure
Improving Accessibility and Use of Green Space Opportunity
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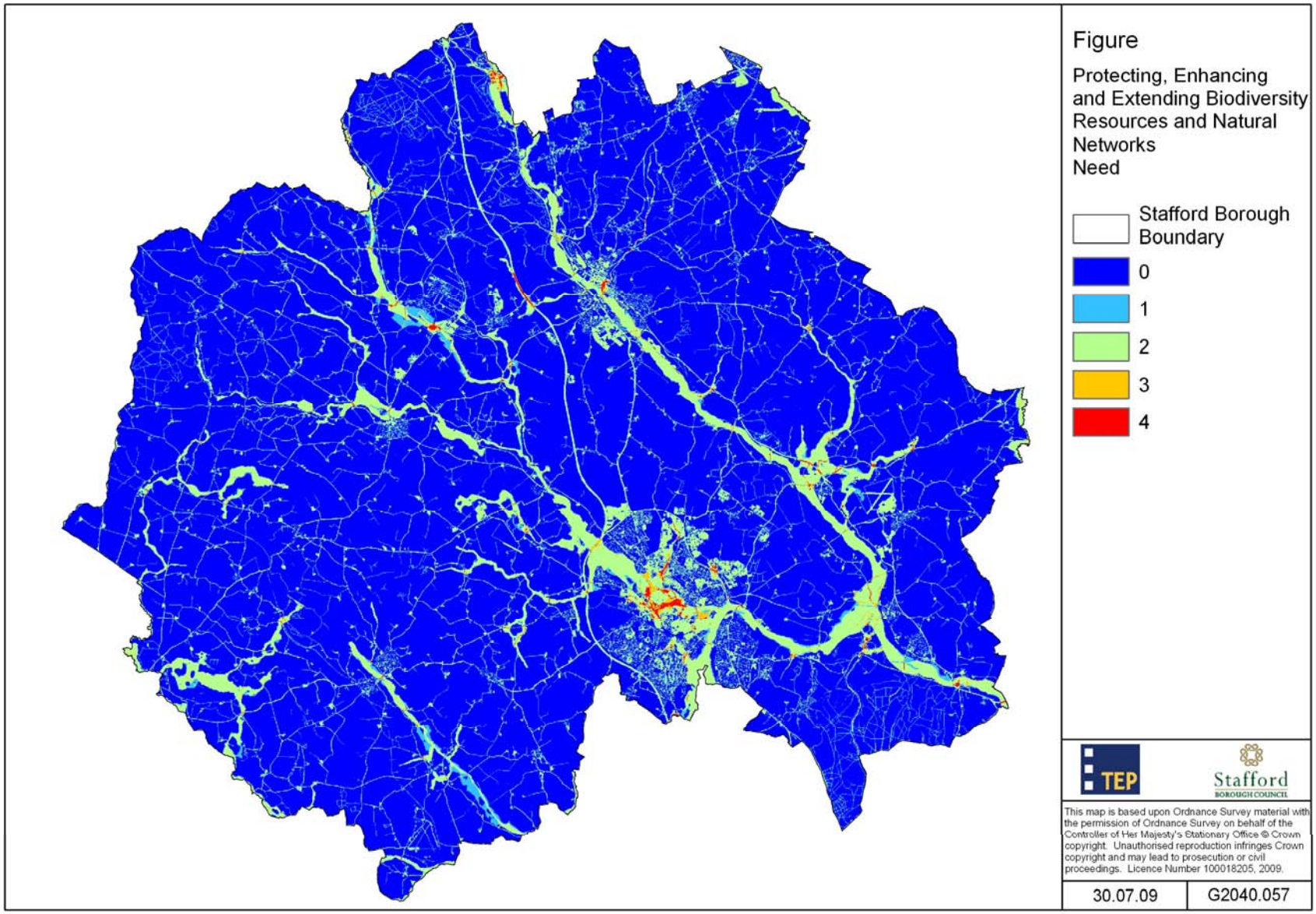
Figure
Protecting, Enhancing and Extending Biodiversity Resources and Natural Networks
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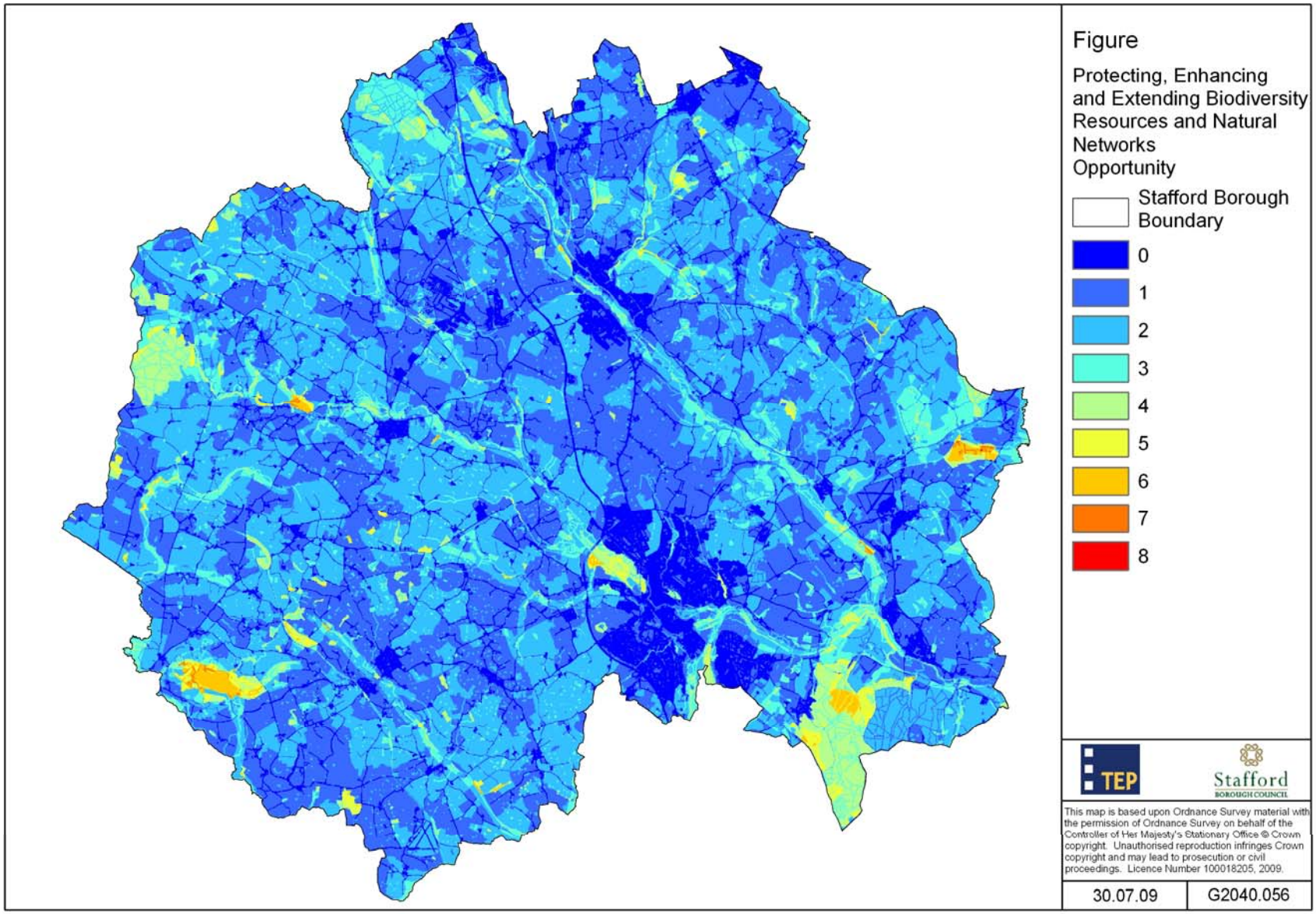
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APPENDIX 2: Examples of Green Infrastructure in Core Policy

Elmbridge Borough Council: LDF Core Strategy Preferred Approach

Policy CPA1: Green Infrastructure (Spatial Strategy)

The Borough's green infrastructure network will be protected and enhanced for its multi functional role and as a key determinant to shaping settlements in the future

The Council will protect the Green Belt and resist inappropriate development

The Council will work in partnership to implement improvements to the network

Policy CPA30: Green Infrastructure Assets

In accordance with CPA1: Green Infrastructure and Policy CC8: Green Infrastructure of the South East Plan, the Council will protect, enhance and manage a diverse network of accessible multifunctional green infrastructure for its biodiversity, landscape character and recreational value by:

1. Maintaining a robust and defensible Green Belt, resisting inappropriate development within it and improving opportunities for formal and informal outdoor recreation, where this does not conflict with the provisions of PPG2;
2. Safeguarding the existing network and its setting, specifically with regard to Strategic Open Urban Land. In exceptional circumstances a limited loss of open space may be acceptable where:
   - the recreational function and character of the site and public access to it can be enhanced, through the development of part of the site
   - development provides an opportunity to exchange the use of one site for another and it can be clearly demonstrated that facilities of a higher standard are being provided in at least an equally convenient and accessible location to serve the same community
3. Protecting local landscape character, strategic views and key landmarks, identified on the proposals map, for their setting, intrinsic character and amenity value.
4. Protecting and enhancing all sites designated for their biodiversity or geological importance, in accordance with Policy NRM5 of the Draft South East Plan, PPS9 and CPA18.
5. Protecting all ancient woodland in accordance with Policy NRM7 of the Draft South East Plan.
6. Optimising the role of and seeking to develop, the green infrastructure network through:
   - Improvements to quality and accessibility, where this does not conflict with the wildlife interests of sites
   - Seeking to develop the role of the network in providing recreational, healthy living and educational opportunities
   - Protecting and developing access routes within and between the network that promote sustainable transport choices and healthy living, and seeking opportunities to link to, and extend, the existing rights of way network
   - Securing the dual use of school facilities for sports use in accordance with CPA22 Community Infrastructure

- Developing green links within and across borough boundaries by supporting the Green Arc initiative and development of a network of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGS)
- Working in partnership to create, restore and promote access to Brooklands Community Park and Esher Commons SSSI – in accordance with the measures set out in the Council's most up-to-date mitigation strategy for the Thames Basin Heath SPA and in the Esher Commons SSSI Restoration and Management Plan
- Working in partnership to enhance, re-create and restore those parts of Ockham Common in the Borough, which form part of the Thames Basin Heath SPA and is identified as an area of strategic opportunity for biodiversity improvement in Policy NRM5 of the South East Plan
- Requiring new housing development to contribute to new provision and improvements to the quality and accessibility of the network, at a level in accordance with the local standards set out in the Green Space Strategy and in Planning Obligations and Infrastructure SPD
- Using planning powers to safeguard important trees and hedgerows, to secure provision for 'soft landscaping' measures and to retain and integrate biodiversity interests

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Bracknell Forest Council
Amen Corner Area Action Plan (part of the LDF)

Policy AC4: Green Infrastructure and Landscape Character

Green Infrastructure in its various forms will create a distinctive and high quality landscape character throughout the site. The provision of extensive Green Infrastructure will protect and enhance biodiversity, physical and visual amenity. The development will be required to:

- Identify, protect and enhance important existing landscape features where possible
- Provide new landscape features
- Create a genuinely green landscape character for the development
- Integrate and connect the development with other landscape features adjoining the site

The development will provide an extensive range of green features in line with a Landscape and Green Infrastructure Plan which includes:

- Details of the existing and new landscape topography to be provided
- Active Open Space of Public Value to Council standards for provision
- Passive Open Space of Public Value to Council's standards for provision
- Enhancement of rights of way, the ramblers route and other green corridors
- Details for the retention and protection of important existing trees and hedgerows where possible, and the planting of new trees and hedgerows
- Creation and/or retention of a range of habitats for biodiversity
- Provision of gardens, communal allotments and amenity soft landscaping
- Provision of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS)

The Landscape and Green Infrastructure Plan will be agreed with the Borough Council as part of a detailed planning application for the development. All measures will be secured by planning obligations or other agreements unless other legal measures to secure contributions are put in place

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Peterborough City Council
Core Strategy Preferred Options
CS18: Open Space and Green Infrastructure

Peterborough and its villages will be provided with a range of open spaces of all types, including green infrastructure which will deliver benefits for biodiversity as well as places for recreation. There will be an overall increase in the total area of land for these purposes to meet the needs of a larger population, although some rationalisation of under-used and poorly located open spaces will take place.

All new residential development of one dwelling or more will be required to make provision for new open space in accordance with standards to be set out in the Planning Policies DPD. Where the scale of a proposed development would be too small to make the provision of open space on-site feasible, the Council will seek contributions towards the provision of open space elsewhere or to the improvement of existing open spaces, in accordance with the Planning Obligations policy CS 11 of this Core Strategy and any subsequent SPD.

The neighbourhood investment approach to the regeneration of existing areas of Peterborough will include the provision of new open spaces in areas of deficiency and the improvement of existing open spaces, with additional facilities and better management to Green Flag standards.

The Council, working with local communities, developers and partners, will develop a Green Grid for Peterborough. This will take the form of an integrated network of high quality and multi-functional green infrastructure within and linking urban and rural environments. Key features of this Green Grid will include (but not be restricted to) the following:

- the promotion of the River Nene, River Welland and adjoining land as sub-regional corridors for biodiversity and landscape retention, restoration and creation
- the promotion of the Catswater Drain, Maxey Cut, Stanground Lode and River Nene (Old Course) as local corridors for biodiversity and landscape enhancement and creation
- the continued development of a network of green spaces, water bodies, paths and cycleways within the former brickpits to the south of Peterborough as the 'South Peterborough Green Parks'
- the upgrading and extension of the Green Wheel Cycleway network and rights of way network, including improved connectivity to areas of green infrastructure outside the local authority boundary
- the provision of strategically significant greenspaces in association with areas of development proposed in this Core Strategy around the edge of the existing urban area of the City.

Planning permission will not be granted for development which would result in the loss of existing open space if that loss would give rise to a deficiency in open space, or would be in an area where there is already a deficiency, unless:

(a) the proposed development would be ancillary to use of the site as open space, and the benefits to recreation would outweigh any loss of open area; or

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(b) alternative provision is made, whether in open space or recreation facilities or both, that is at least as accessible to users, and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality as the open space that would be replaced.

Swindon Borough Council
Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document

Policy CP10: Green Infrastructure

Swindon will be at the centre of a far-reaching network of connected and multi-functional open spaces that:

i. Helps meet the challenge of climate change
ii. Connects and enriches biodiversity habitats
iii. Improves access, recreation and tourism opportunities
iv. Enhances landscape character and respect local distinctiveness
v. Realises the potential of historical and cultural heritage features to contribute to local identity and sense of place
vi. Meets the needs of both existing and new communities in Swindon.

Swindon's green infrastructure network will provide attractive and inspirational environments in which people want to live, work, learn and play: in which communities thrive and businesses want to invest.

Breckland Council
Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Proposed Submission Document

Policy CP6: Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure of local and strategic importance will be protected and enhanced.

All new development will be expected to contribute towards the provision of additional green infrastructure and the protection and enhancement of the district's existing green infrastructure. The Council will when allocating sites for development in subsequent Development Plan Documents have full regard to the protection and enhancement of the quantum and/or function of green infrastructure. The Council will set out specific requirements within subsequent Area Action Plans and/or other Development Plan Documents for the protection or enhancement of green infrastructure on allocated development sites.

Through its layout and design, new development should respond to the location of existing green infrastructure and should support appropriate uses and functions. Through the Development Control process where it is considered that the development will have a detrimental effect on the quantum or function of existing green infrastructure then the development will not be permitted unless replacement provision is made that is considered to be of equal or greater value than that which will be lost through development.

In enhancing existing green infrastructure development should seek to provide physical/functional linkages between different elements of green infrastructure, and introduce an appropriate multi–functional use of spaces and linkages. This may be achieved in part through the improvement of the function of existing green infrastructure.

On-site provision and/or off-site contributions will be sought. Such provision will be required in accordance with adopted policies and strategies relating to green infrastructure and biodiversity network provision.

Where compensatory provision is to be made for the loss of existing green infrastructure the provision of new and/or enhancement of green infrastructure will be required in addition to any compensatory provision. Where appropriate, in accordance with adopted standards, the Council will seek to secure via planning obligation provision for the future management and/or maintenance of green infrastructure.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options

Policy CSP40: Green Infrastructure

The Council will work with partners to ensure the successful creation of an integrated network of green infrastructure. This will be delivered through a planned network of multi-functional green space and inter-connecting links which are designed, developed and managed to meet the environmental, social and economic needs of communities across the borough and the wider City Regions. It will be set within and contribute to a high quality natural and built environment and will be required to enhance the quality of life for present and future residents and visitors, deliver sustainable communities and contribute towards the Biodiversity Action Plan.

At a strategic level this will include the following open spaces:-

- River Dearne Valley Corridor
- River Dove Valley Corridor
- River Don Valley Corridor
- Dearne Valley Green Heart Corridor
- Historic Landscape Corridor

These are shown on the Green Infrastructure Diagram

St Helens Council
Core Strategy Publication Draft

Policy CQL 1: Green Infrastructure

The Council will protect, manage, enhance and where appropriate expand the green infrastructure network in the following ways:

1. Identify the network on the Proposals Map and prepare detailed policies, in the Development Management DPD, for its protection taking account of the standards for green space provision derived from the Open Space Study
2. Reinforce the protection of green corridors and linkages between sites through the identification of ecological frameworks, building on the existing greenway network
3. Support the delivery of programmes and strategies to enhance allotment provision, sports provision and youth and children's play facilities

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4. Promote and improve the accessibility of greenspace within walking distance of housing, health, employment and education facilities
5. Require new development to contribute to the expansion and/or improvement of green infrastructure in accordance with local circumstances
6. Supporting greenspace improvements through a programme of Green Flag designation.

APPENDIX 3: Green Infrastructure Standards & Criteria

Natural England's ANGSt+ Pilot

Guidance provided by Natural England to those working on the pilot project to connect people to the natural environment and deliver the Access to Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt+) identified four key principles and outlined their application within the pilots:

1. Assessing supply – identifying opportunities to improve supply
2. Assessing use - connection
3. Assessing the ANGSt standards
4. Assessing a range of delivery models

1. Assessing supply

There is a four stage process to go through in assessing the supply of accessible natural greenspace.

a. Assessing accessible greenspace – using PPG17 definitions plus refinement for corridors and edges for water bodies

b. Mapping other greenspaces – Getting the whole picture of areas that are open but not currently accessible.

c. Mapping the natural spaces – using either survey or proxy measures

d. Mapping together identifying accessible greenspace (not natural), accessible natural greenspace, natural greenspace (not accessible), other greenspaces (not accessible or natural).

a. Mapping all accessible greenspace

It is recognised that all accessible greenspace has the potential to provide a natural experience. It is therefore important that mapping exercises within the pilot include all accessible greenspace over 0.25ha to help identify opportunities to reduce deficiency. For many local authorities data based on or similar to the PPG 17 land use categories is likely to be available.

i. parks and gardens - including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens;

ii. natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces - including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downland, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (eg cliffs, quarries and pits);

iii. green corridors - including river and canal banks, cycleways, and rights of way. For ANG pilot projects a nominal width of ANG should be applied to such corridors, i.e. 5m for public rights of way and up to 10m width for beaches and green corridors. Only use this where the corridor is green. Situations where this applies include:
   - coast (from the nearest urban development feature to high tide mark)
   - rights of way through or alongside permanent pasture
   - rights of way through or alongside woodland
   - green lanes/green corridors
   - rights of way alongside open water features such as reservoirs, lakes,
   - rivers, canals and estuaries

iv. outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) - including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas;

v. amenity greenspace (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) - including informal recreation spaces, greenspaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens;

vi. provision for children and teenagers - including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas (eg 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters);

vii. allotments, community gardens, and city (urban) farms, where access is available;

viii. cemeteries and churchyards;

ix. Open access land, common land with access (not all Commons are mapped as open access)

x. civic spaces, including civic and market squares, and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians;

xi. land owned by Government agencies where access is available

xii. land owned by utilities and other businesses where access is available

xiii. land owned by NGOs where access is available.

b. Mapping other green spaces

Wherever possible data sets such as private gardens, open spaces in business grounds or other private institutions, intensive farmland and other green open spaces with no public access should be recorded. They do not directly affect Accessible Natural Greenspace but are important in providing a context for prioritising areas of deficiency and need for action. Also, areas such as derelict land may provide opportunities for creating natural space.

c. Mapping naturalness

Within this framework the definition of natural within the ANG standard is:

> *"Places where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate"*

When using the definition above for natural, actually deciding at which point a feeling of naturalness predominates may be difficult to determine and it can be argued that there is considerable room for interpretation. Therefore, in practice some form of proxy for a feeling of naturalness will be necessary particularly where GIS is used for identifying ANG.

Recent research by Aleksandra Kazmierczak of Salford University has used land use categorisation as a proxy measure for naturalness, creating a four stage rating where all land should be mapped to indicate its "naturalness" using the four categories below:

Level 1:

Nature conservation areas, including SSSI, Wildlife Sites (SNCIs),LNRs, NNRs, woodland, remnant countryside (within urban and urban fringe areas)

Level 2:

Formal and informal open space, unimproved farmland, rivers and canals, unimproved grassland, disused/derelict land, mosaics of formal and informal areas scrub etc., Country Parks, Open Access Land

Level 3:
Allotments, church yards and cemeteries, formal recreation space

Level 4:
Improved farmland

Level 1 and 2 is a proxy indicator of ***natural*** greenspace. The distribution of land use types has been adapted for Natural England purposes. It is important that the groupings of land use types are adjusted to account for local management regimes. For example, if local policy/management regimes manages areas of church yards and cemeteries for nature conservation, this would move these areas into Level 2. This is particularly true of many closed cemeteries and also disused/abandoned allotments.

The ideal situation is that full ground surveys are available so that an accurate measure of natural greenspace can be mapped. In practice most greenspace managers have sufficient knowledge of their sites to be able to classify them into the above levels through a desktop exercise supported by habitat surveys where available. Where this is not the case a proxy measure (adjusted using local knowledge, site management plans and policy) should be used.

d. Mapping Accessible Natural Greenspace
The categories for accessible greenspace (1.2) and naturalness (1.4) should be compared to identify Accessible Natural Greenspace. This analysis will also identify two further categories of land: accessible greenspace which does not meet the "naturalness" criteria; and, natural greenspace which is not "accessible". Both categories indicate possible areas for improving people's accessibility to natural greenspace.

Applying the tools - Making accessible greenspace natural
The improvement in provision of accessible natural greenspace can be achieved through habitat improvement and creation. The mapping of all accessible greenspace (as in 1.1 above) should help to identify these opportunities.

Applying the tools - Making natural greenspace accessible
The improvement in provision of accessible natural greenspace can be achieved through measures which improve accessibility. This is about more than providing gates. The mapping of all natural greenspace (as in 1.2 above) should help to identify these opportunities.

2. Assessing Use - Connection

Greenspace provision should be equitable so that everyone including the most disadvantaged and under-represented communities in both urban and rural areas has easy access to natural greenspace close to home.

The following categories should be used to survey both users and non-users:

Gender
How many men/boys and how may women/girls use the site

Age groupings
It is recommended that where age is required in surveys, actual age is obtained. However, where grouping is necessary Office of National Statistics groupings of age are used.
Surveys of children require care and advice should be sought from within a local authority on accepted survey methods.

Ethnicity

The Commission for Racial Equality has a set of categories that should be used to collect information about ethnic background. This will allow comparison users with the wider population and assess success in reaching target populations.

Disability

Recording of disability usage is vitally important. The following question, or wording very close to it is used by a wide range of organisations to record use of facilities by people with a disability:

"Do you have a long-standing (i.e. for more than 12months and likely to continue) illness or disability which affects (or limits) your day to day activities"

Sustainable access options

Sustainable access options to local greenspace should be available by wheelchair, pushchair, foot, bike, and public transport. Essential information to gather will be the green space location, where travelled from on that visit (postcode would allow identification of distance as the crow flies and actual route distance) and mode of transport.

Improving the Quality of life

Daily opportunities should be available for everyone to improve both their health and overall quality of life through contact with the natural environment; this may be contributions to physical or mental health.

Assessing Greenspace quality

Greenspace quality should meet visitor expectations as measured by a national standard such as Green Flag Award or Green Pennant Award. Increased intensity of management where density of population is high might allow for larger numbers using sites. Installing quality measures such as Green Flag Award standards would ensure sites are fit for purpose. This may go along with targeting resources e.g. in Nottingham, Green Flag Award applications are currently focused on the most deprived areas (this includes a prospective LNR). It may not be necessary for all areas to formally apply for a Green Flag Award but parts of the standard can usefully be applied to informal spaces. Natural England will continue to work towards better application of the Green flag Award Criteria to natural sites.

ANG and climate change

Accessible Natural Greenspace has a role in reducing the predicted negative impacts of climate change on people within urban environments. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report on the urban Environment identifies urban areas as especially vulnerable to climate risk e.g. areas of London where the elderly are at increased risk during heatwaves. Accessible greenspace can provide an important respite from the highest temperatures.

3. Assessing the ANGSt standards

Mapping site provision (size)

Within PPG 17 the ANSt standard is stated as:

Every home should be within 300 m of an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 ha, plus:

At least one accessible 20 ha site within 2 km

At least one accessible 100 ha site within 5 km

At least one accessible 500 ha site within 10 km

Within the original ANGSt model as set out in EN 153 the standard also included:

Provision of at least 1 ha LNR per 1000 population

From the mapping in section 1.2 and 1.4 it should be possible to identify the sites which meet the four size groups. It should be noted that if people live within 300m of a 20ha,100ha, or 500 ha site it is important to recognise that the 2ha standard has been achieved, and so on.

Mapping population/homes
To map population (and so the potential intensity of use) surrounding a greenspace the most straightforward measure is a count of the postcodes within a catchment area. Postcode data contains a residential address count (for each postcode) that can be used to allocate population based on applying an average population per household derived from the Census. A regional (or finer) headcount could be measured from the Census to account for denser inner city dwellings and other variations. The data set that can be used for this analysis is Ordnance Survey's Codepoint and may be available from Natural England regional GIS colleagues. Codepoint data contains a point feature for each postcode, this represents a 'centre' point of the postcode area i.e. the centre point of the collection of dwellings that fall in the postcode.

There are a number of other indicators that it may be useful to investigate over the coming months such as social indicators (worst 5 & 10% of the population using Index of Multiple Deprivation for urban and rural areas, or social categories).

4. Assessing a range of delivery models

Delivery tools
A range of delivery models which support the achievement of the Accessible Natural Greenspace standards can be applied to the delivery of all of the key principles. Delivery tools for Natural England include:

Regulatory powers - e.g. enforcement of Habitats Regulations, SSSI regulation, protected species laws, access legislation, management agreements

Financial incentives – e.g. the agri-environment schemes; the partnership and innovation fund (includes the ANGS budget provided to each region); and delegated grant schemes, where the funds are provided by external funders.

Advice – e.g. advice on the application of PPG17 within development plans , land management advice, NERC duty; statutory consultee on strategic policy and EIA; Local Area Agreements,

Advocacy – Natural England has a duty to articulate the role of the natural environment in relation to sustainability and well-being

Direct Action – the skill-set available to us and on offer to our stakeholders.

In addition projects should indicate where the use of one tool, such as grant giving, results in the use of another tool by the recipient eg a grant is given to a local council which then runs workshops for its employees or community groups.

Delivery partners
Pilots should identify where they are working with partners, local authorities, parish councils, eNGOs, other NGOs, Regional Development agencies, business, community groups, schools,

Primary care trusts, registered social landlords etc. The number, type and characteristics of partners should be identified.

Mapping partners
Pilots should identify the partners who have contributed to mapping studies – either through the provision of data or provision of other resources.

Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance

i) Landscape character, setting and management

- Does the green infrastructure take full account of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) which requires a 'whole landscape' approach?
- Has account been taken of the key characteristics identified in the relevant landscape character assessments (LCAs), where appropriate, and delivery of design and management guidelines within ELC compliant tools such as LCAs and Landscape Strategies?
- Has a landscape management plan been prepared for the scheme?
- Does the management plan for the proposals allow for traditional and sustainable landscape management techniques e.g. sylvicultural systems such as pollarding or coppicing? (ELC, Strategic Outcome No 1: A healthy natural environment; Strategic Outcome No 4: Decisions that collectively secure the future of the natural environment)
- Does the scheme conserve existing structural landscape features, such as trees, woodlands and hedgerows? (delivery of ELC compliant landscape protection and enhancement; Strategic Outcome No 1)
- Where proposals abut settlement edges or create new edges, do they deliver peri urban landscape enhancement and restoration, in the form of new linkages both physical and visual? Is the setting of the settlement and the interface with the landscape enhanced? (Strategic Outcome No 1 and No 2: People are inspired to conserve and value the natural environment)
- Does the scheme conserve important geological or topographical features and key views or visual relationships? (ELC)
- Is positive reference made to the setting of historic landscape elements, such as parks and gardens or Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)? (ELC)
- Is provision made for the restoration of historic or lost landscape features? (ELC)
- If appropriate, does the scheme deliver opportunities for interpretation?

ii) Biodiversity and access to nature

- Does the scheme abut or incorporate a designated nature conservation site? If so does the scheme deliver positive management to conserve and enhance the condition and diversity of this? (Strategic Outcomes No 2 and 4)
- Does the green infrastructure take full account of other non- designated sites or BAP habitats or species?
- Does the project create new wildlife corridors to link existing sites and therefore assist in reversing habitat fragmentation? (Strategic Outcome No 2)
- Are new and accessible areas of habitat created, which could have the potential to alleviate pressures on other areas of habitat, and in the process help to achieve the

Accessible Natural Greenspace(ANGSt) standards? (Strategic Outcomes Nos 1, 2 and 4; delivery of the ELC and ANGSt)

- Does the green infrastructure allow for more 'naturalistic' landscape management, to enhance biodiversity and character? (Strategic Outcomes 1 and 2)
- Has use been made of native plant material, and in particular planting of local provenance or locally sourced seed populations? (Landscape enhancement and ELC compliance, Strategic Outcomes Nos 1 and 4)
- If appropriate, does the scheme provide for free or natural play, to provide an educational resource for children (access to nature)? (Place-making objectives; contribution to spatial targeting; Strategic Outcome No 2)
- Has a nature conservation management plan been produced for the scheme? (This should be integrated with the landscape management plan)

iii) Water management

- Has provision been made for water balancing measures such as stormwater ponds or lagoons, to recharge groundwater? (Delivery of the ELC through appropriate design which responds to landscape character and place; Strategic Outcome No 3: Sustainable use of the natural environment; Policy Position Statement on Climate Change)
- Does the scheme incorporate SuDS, either in the form of permeable paving or swales? (Strategic Outcome No 3: Policy Position Statement on Climate Change)
- Has provision been made for green roofs to slow water run off?

iv) Climate change adaptation

- Does tree planting within the scheme have the potential to fulfil a shading and cooling function? (Strategic Outcome No 3; Policy Position Statement on Climate Change) Do buildings or structures within the scheme incorporate provision for 'urban greening' or shading through green roofs or walls (also contribution to sustainable water management)?
- Are microclimates created through new or restored areas of landscape, such as woodland, shelterbelts or wetlands? (Strategic Outcome No 1)
- Does the green infrastructure allow species to move in response to climate change, through creation of habitat corridors and linkages? (Policy Position Statement on Climate Change)
- Does the scheme use street trees, if appropriate to provide 'urban greening', positioned to reduce water run off? (Policy Position Statement on Climate Change)
- Does the scheme provide for SuDS to recycle grey water and harvest rainwater, or, where appropriate, to reduce fl ash flooding in rivers?

v) Healthy, cohesive communities

- Does the distribution of green spaces meet Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)?
- Is provision made for local food production, either in the form of allotments or community orchards and gardens? (Strategic Outcomes No 1 and 4)
- Does the scheme provide for active recreation e.g. Green Gyms, health walks, cycling routes?
- Does the scheme provide passive recreation for all ages which can enhance social interaction e.g. meeting places, quiet areas and areas for natural play?

vi) Green travel

- Does the scheme connect to or incorporate an existing or planned low carbon transport, or a recreation network, such as walking and cycling routes? (Strategic Outcome No 3)

vii) Green specifications

- Does the project make use of locally sourced or grown plant material? (Strategic Outcomes No 1,3 and 4; also potential to deliver landscape character enhancement and to contribute to delivery of ELC compliance)
- Has use been made of site won material?
- Have reclaimed materials been used for structures or hard landscape works?

viii) Standards and facilities

- Have standards been adopted for the quality and accessibility of facilities such as green spaces and the services visitors can expect from different spaces?

ix) Ensuring green infrastructure delivery

- Have planning conditions been put in place to secure green infrastructure and to ensure the required funding is in place?
- Are there proposals for adoption, long term management and governance (with identified parties and funding sources)?

BREEAM Communities

BREEAM Communities assesses development masterplans against the eight categories used in BRE's Regional Sustainability Checklists (already familiar to many local authorities and developers), several of which have relevance to green infrastructure:

Category Description		Issues Covered
Climate and Energy	Reducing the proposed project's contribution to climate change whilst ensuring that developments are appropriately adapted to the impacts of present and future climate change.	• Flood Management • Energy and Water Efficiency • Renewable Energy • Infrastructure • Passive Design Principles
Resources	Designing for the efficient use of resources including water, materials and waste in construction, operation and demolition, and minimising the life cycle impacts of materials chosen.	• Land Use and Remediation • Material Selection • Waste Management • Construction Management • Modern Methods of Construction
Transport	Addressing how people can get to the facilities and locations that they need; giving people choices other than private cars and encouraging walking and cycling for healthier lifestyles.	• Walkable Neighbourhoods • Cycle Networks • Provision of Public Transport • Green Travel Plans • Construction Transport

Ecology	Conserving the ecology living on and visiting the site and taking full opportunity for ecological enhancement within and around the development as well as on buildings.	• Maintaining / Enhancing Habitat • Green Corridors • Ground Pollution • Contaminated Land • Landscaping Schemes
Business	Providing opportunities for businesses to locate to serve both the locality and provide jobs for people living in and around the development.	• Inward Investment • Local Employment • Knowledge Sharing • Sustainable Charters
Community	Designing the development to support a vibrant new community which can integrate with surrounding areas, avoiding creating actual or perceived "gated" communities.	• Social Impact Assessment • Community Engagement • Sustainable Lifestyles • Facilities Management • Mix of Use • Affordable Housing
Place Shaping	Provide a framework for the design of a 'real place' with an identity that ensures that people can instinctively find their way around. Also ensuring that the new development draws from local context and heritage.	• Site Selection • Defensible Space • Active Frontages • Green Space • Secured by Design • Housing Density
Buildings	Ensuring that the design of individual buildings contributes to the sustainability of the overall development through high environmental and social standards.	• BREEAM Buildings • Code for Sustainable Homes • EcoHomes

BREEAM certification for buildings (offices, schools, homes, etc) is compulsory for all developments that have some element of public funding, for all (public and private sector) developments in Wales and for all developments as part of planning requirements in some Local Authority areas (such as Leeds). It is possible that BREEAM Communities will also become a compulsory feature of the planning process in the future.

BREEAM Communities assessments must be carried out by a registered assessor.

Green Flag Criteria

1. A Welcoming Place

The overall impressions for any member of the community approaching and entering the park or green space should be positive and inviting, regardless of the purpose for which they are visiting. Features of particular importance are:

- Good and safe access
- Good signage to and in the park or green space
- Equal access for all members of the community

2. Healthy, Safe, and Secure

The park or green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues must be addressed in management plans and implemented on the ground. New issues that arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately. Particularly important issues are:

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use.
- The park or green space must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse.
- Dog fouling must be adequately addressed.
- Health & Safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.
- Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. life belts by water) should be available in or near the park or green space, and clearly sign posted.

3. Clean and Well Maintained

For aesthetic as well as Health and Safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addressed, in particular:

- Litter and other waste management issues must be adequately addressed.
- Grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained.
- A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.

4. Sustainability

Methods used in maintaining the park or green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed. Specifically:

- An environmental policy or charter and management strategy should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.
- Pesticide use should be minimised and justified.
- Horticultural peat use should be eliminated.
- Waste plant material in the park or green space should be recycled.
- High horticultural and arboricultural standards should be demonstrated.
- Energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling, and resource conservation measures should be used.

5. Conservation and Heritage

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:

- Natural features, wildlife and fauna.
- Landscape features.
- Buildings and structural features.
- These features should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment.

6. Community Involvement

Management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park or green space user groups as possible. Management should be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use.
- Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved.
- Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community.

7. Marketing

- Marketing strategy in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.
- Good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved.
- Promotion of the park or green space as a community resource.

8. Management

A Green Flag Award application must have a management plan or strategy in place which reflects the aspirations of Local Agenda 21 and clearly and adequately addresses all the above criteria and any other relevant aspects of the park or green space's management. The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed. Financially sound management of the park or green space must also be demonstrated.

Building for Life

Environment and community

1. Does the development provide (or is it close to) community facilities, such as a school, parks, play areas, shops, pubs or cafes?
2. Is there an accommodation mix that reflects the needs and aspirations of the local community?
3. Is there a tenure mix that reflects the needs of the local community?
4. Does the development have easy access to public transport?
5. Does the development have any features that reduce its environmental impact?

Character

6. Is the design specific to the scheme?
7. Does the scheme exploit existing buildings, landscape or topography?
8. Does the scheme feel like a place with distinctive character?
9. Do the buildings and layout make it easy to find your way around?
10. Are streets defined by a well-structured building layout?

Streets, parking and pedestrianisation

11. Does the building layout take priority over the streets and car parking, so that the highways do not dominate?
12. Is the car parking well integrated and situated so it supports the street scene?

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13. Are the streets pedestrian, cycle and vehicle friendly?
14. Does the scheme integrate with existing streets, paths and surrounding development?
15. Are public spaces and pedestrian routes overlooked and do they feel safe?

Design and construction

16. Is public space well designed and does it have suitable management arrangements in place?
17. Do the buildings exhibit architectural quality?
18. Do internal spaces and layout allow for adaptation, conversion or extension?
19. Has the scheme made use of advances in construction or technology that enhance its performance, quality and attractiveness?
20. Do buildings or spaces outperform statutory minima, such as building regulations?

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