

Tamworth Borough Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping

At a meeting in March 2010, representatives from Tamworth Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan subdivided the Ecosystem Action Plan (EAP) zones (taken from the third edition of the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan) covering the borough of Tamworth into discreet habitat areas which are based on local knowledge and habitat and species data. Whilst complimenting the aims and objectives of the overriding EAPs, the subdivided areas/zones provide the opportunity for localised habitat work throughout the Borough.

Urban Stepping Stone

The habitat priority in this zone is the conservation of Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land; a UK BAP habitat type, which Tamworth is known to support, most notably in the Hockley area. The retention of this habitat type will enable a unique flora and fauna to persist in the densely populated areas of the borough. Ideally, a range of developmental stages of the habitat type would be retained; from early pioneer communities through to late successional, but of equal important is the identification of 'new' locations where the habitat type can develop.

A significant amount of amenity grassland is located throughout this zone. Utilising areas of green open space could be achieved by softening amenity areas by the introduction of nature areas/corners and wildlife friendly gardening,

Arable Buffer/Habitat Network and Field Margin Enhancement Area

The current version of the Biodiversity Opportunity Map for southeast Staffordshire envelopes the majority of Tamworth's boundary with neighbouring Districts and Counties in a in Arable/ Habitat Network and Field Margin Enhancement Area, providing ecological permeability with southern areas of Lichfield District and, in the south of the borough; northern Warwickshire.

This vicinity would benefit from; an increase in floristically diverse grass margins in arable fields, the management of existing hedgerows, arable reversion, pollen and nectar mixes, appropriate ditch management and pond creation.

Kettle Brook

The priority in this zone is expanding the habitat work in and around Kettle Brook LNR by creating links between existing Local Wildlife Sites such as; Quarry Hill to the south and to the north; Stoneydelph Wet Woodland.

Anker Valley

The Anker Valley zone is host to the only Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the Borough; Alvecote Pools. The priority is to encourage habitats that compliment the SSSI such as the UK BAP Habitats; Coastal Floodplain Grazing Marsh and Lowland Meadow. The retention of marginal vegetation along the length of the Coventry Canal is also desirable.

Egg Meadow, in the centre of the town, provides a narrow link between the Anker Valley and Tame Valley areas.

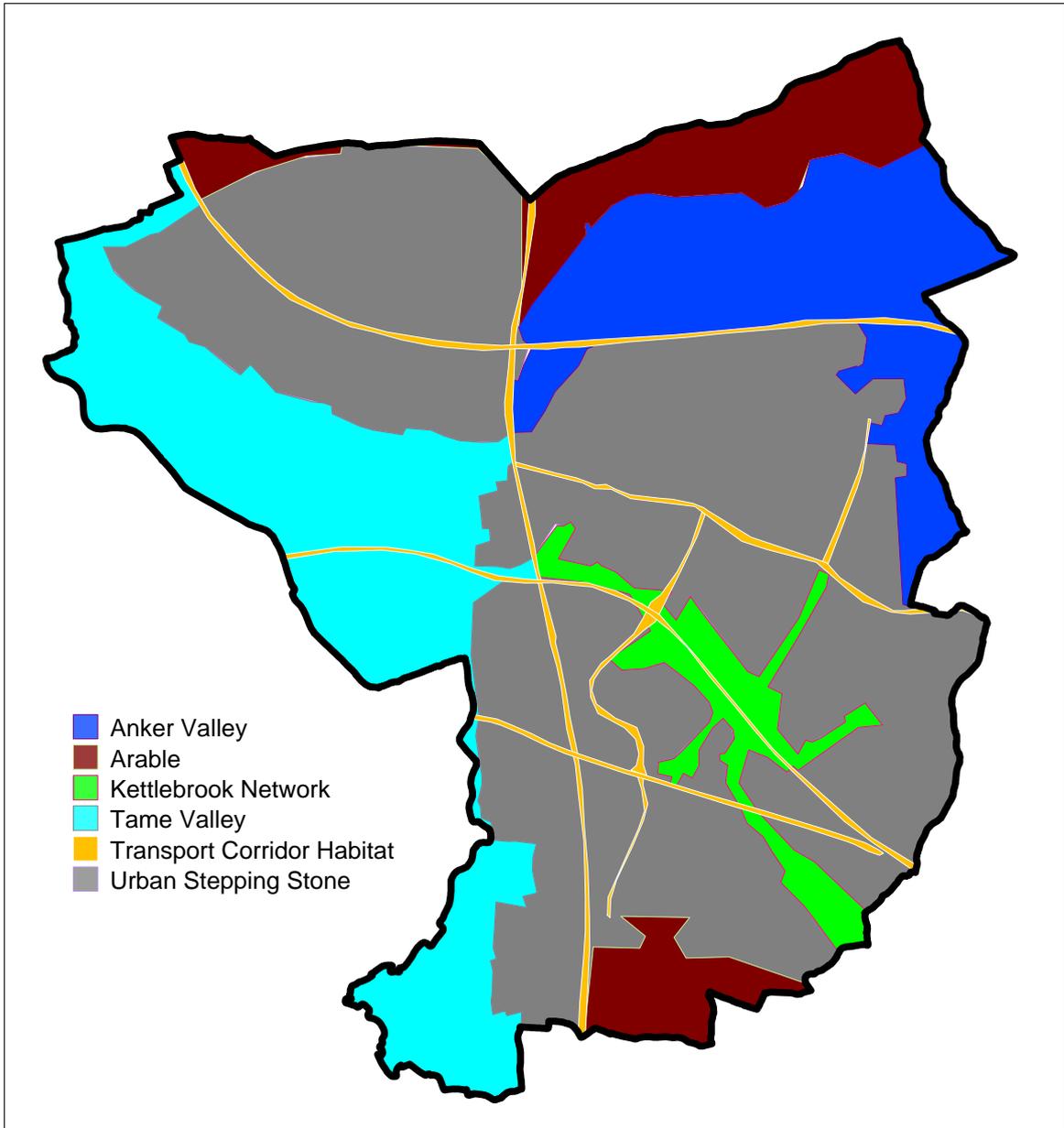
Tame Valley

Comprising the eastern quarter of the Borough, the Tame Valley zone supports a number of important sites such as Broad Meadow and Middleton Lakes. The restoration of wet grassland (Lowland Meadow & Coastal Floodplain Grazing Marsh) and riparian habitats, including the retention of riverside trees, to provide cover for Otters, are priorities. In addition, it is desirable to continue the process of river restoration/reprofiling that has taken place to date in the area.

The Tame Valley zone also forms an ecological and hydrological link with the neighbouring district of Lichfield with the Bourne Brook. The Bourne Brook is host to the wet woodland at Drayton Manor and a series of semi-natural habitats through to the Weeford area. The provision and maintenance of habitat connectivity between the Bourne Brook and the River Tame is crucial.

Transport Corridor Habitat

A wide range of transport links and routes including road, river/canal and rail dissect the Borough of Tamworth. Where possible less intensive management regimes should be implemented along road verges, enabling plants to flower and seed and to create a diversity vegetation structure benefiting invertebrate, mammal and bird species. Preserving hedgerows and marginal vegetation on canals can achieve further enhancements of the transport infrastructure.



-  Anker Valley
-  Arable
-  Kettlebrook Network
-  Tame Valley
-  Transport Corridor Habitat
-  Urban Stepping Stone

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