

Appendix B

Evidence Base

Introduction

B.1 This appendix summarises the local evidence base used to inform this Green Infrastructure Strategy. As set out in Chapter 2 ‘methodology’, a number of evidence bases were used to inform the production of this Green Infrastructure Strategy, including both plans and strategies and GIS datasets. The tables below set out the plans and strategies used, with a brief summary of their scope / content. The tables group the plans / strategies by whether relate to planning in general, or if applicable, to the theme to which they are most relevant.

B.2 Please note that national plans and strategies, such as the national planning policy framework, or wildlife acts, are not included within this summary.

Planning documents

Evidence	Brief description
<p>Local Plan review: Consultation on preferred sites (2018)</p> <p>https://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/local-plan-review-preferred-sites-consultation/</p>	<p>Planning consultation setting out development strategy for settlements in Shropshire, including sites being proposed for allocation, and likely requirements of such allocations.</p>
<p>Local Plan review: Consultation on strategic sites (2019)</p> <p>https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/strategic-sites-consultation/</p>	<p>Planning consultation setting out development strategy for three strategic sites in Shropshire being proposed for allocation, and likely requirements of such allocations, including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clive Barracks; 2. Tern Hill; 3. Former Ironbridge Power Station; RAF Cosford 4. Plus a further potential strategic site at Land north of Junction 3 of the M54
<p>Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (2020)</p>	<p>Planning consultation setting out the revised development strategy for settlements and strategic sites – published following review of comments on the consultation on preferred sites and strategic sites. Please note the version available at the time of writing was the version which was considered by the Shropshire Cabinet Committee on 20 July 2020.</p>

Evidence	Brief description
Shropshire LDF Implementation Place plans for each settlement https://shropshire.gov.uk/place-plans/	Plans for numerous settlements in Shropshire, setting out the context and latest position on infrastructure requirements.
Shropshire Local Development Framework SAMDev https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/8503/samdev-adopted-plan.pdf	Shropshire Council Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan. Part of the development plan, includes extant allocations for development.
Shropshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/8534/core-strategy.pdf	Part of the development plan, includes extant policies relevant to development.
Shrewsbury Big Town Plan (Shrewsbury only) https://shrewsburybigtownplan.org/	A multi-agency plan developed to guide the development of Shrewsbury to 2035.
Much Wenlock neighbourhood plan https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-and-community-led-plans/completed-neighbourhood-plans/much-wenlock-neighbourhood-plan/	Neighbourhood plan for Much Wenlock
Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan http://www.shifnalplan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ShifnalNPDecember2016-MADEVERSION.pdf	Neighbourhood plan for Shifnal
Ellesmere and Whitchurch – visitor survey reports and management plans for Brown Moss and Cole Mere	Survey and management plans for Brown Moss and Cole Mere

Theme 1: Biodiversity and Geology

Evidence	Brief description
The Marches LNP investment prospectus https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/environment/Marches_LEP-Natural-Environment-Investment-Prospectus-Web.pdf	Review of case studies for Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services projects including financial assessments.
Marches Ecosystem Assessment https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/2737/marches-ecosystem-assessment-2016.pdf	Identification of key ecosystem services in the Marches area and an assessment of their relative value.
Shropshire Ecological Network assessment / nature recovery areas https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/1872/guidance-note-11-environmental-networks-aug13.pdf	Guidance note setting out the method for preparing the Shropshire Environmental Network maps.

Theme 2: Landscape, Heritage and Culture

Evidence	Brief Description
Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2019 -24	The management plan for the Shropshire Hills AONB.

Evidence	Brief Description
https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/our-work/management-plan/2019-24-management-plan	
Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study https://shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/local-plan-partial-review-2016-2036/evidence-base/landscape-and-visual-sensitivity-study/	An assessment of visual sensitivity surrounding the settlements in Shropshire.

Theme 3: Water Resources

Evidence	Brief Description
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2018 https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/12734/shropshire-level-1-sfra.pdf	Strategic flood risk assessment for Shropshire.
Shropshire Middle Severn Catchment Plan https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-12/Shropshire%20Middle%20Severn%20Catchment%20Plan.pdf	Catchment area plan for the Middle Severn catchment area.
Surface water management plans https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/drainage-and-flooding/policies-plans-reports-and-schemes/surface-water-management-plans/	Surface water management plans for various settlements including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Craven Arms ■ Church Stretton ■ Much Wenlock ■ Oswestry ■ Shifnal ■ Shrewsbury
Shropshire Water Cycle Study 2010 https://shropshire.gov.uk/drainage-and-flooding/policies-plans-reports-and-schemes/flood-risk-and-planning-policy/	Water Cycle Study for Shropshire setting out water needs and treatment issues and how watercourses and water supplies should be managed. Also includes information about the suitability of sustainable urban drainage systems in different parts of Shropshire.
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment 2011 https://shropshire.gov.uk/drainage-and-flooding/policies-plans-reports-and-schemes/preliminary-flood-risk-assessments/	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for Shropshire, setting out the flooding context of the planning authority and the flood risk of various development proposals (used to inform the extant local plan).
Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/	Data from the Environment Agency, which cannot be readily downloaded, but can be viewed online. Includes information about river catchment areas.

Theme 4: Active Travel, Access and Recreation

Evidence	Brief description
Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-transport/local-transport-plan/	Current local transport plan, setting out the key priorities for transport investment in Shropshire between 2011 and 2026
Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy 2018-2028 https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/9703/sgo-strategy-final-draft.pdf	Strategy which sets out the strategic direction for the management and development of publicly accessible greenspace, Rights of Way and other access

Theme 5: Health and Wellbeing

Evidence	Brief Description
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin sustainability and transformation plan https://www.stwstp.org.uk/key-documents/1-2016-21-transformation-plan-shropshire-and-telford-stp/file	Public health strategy, setting out measures to be taken to improve public health in Shropshire and Telford.
Health and Wellbeing Strategy http://www.shropshiretogether.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/FINAL-HWBB-Strategy-2016.pdf	Public health strategy, setting out measures to be taken to improve public health and wellbeing in Shropshire and Telford.
Specific open space assessment was undertaken to align the geography of the open space database and deficiency assessment with the study areas assessed as part of the Green Infrastructure strategy. A report setting out the open space assessment is included in Appendix C of this report.	
Shropshire Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (2019 draft)	A draft of the emerging playing pitch and outdoor sport strategy, setting out requirements for sports in Shropshire resulting from Local Plan Review proposals
Air Quality Assessment Reports https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/environmental-health/environmental-protection-and-prevention/air-quality/shropshire-council-air-quality-reports/	Reports relating to air quality management areas in Shropshire

Theme 6: Climate Change

Evidence	Brief description
Climate Change Strategy https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/12974/ccs-media-short.pdf	Strategy setting out context of climate change contributors in Shropshire and measures which the council will seek to undertake to address climate change.

Geographic information systems data

B.3 In addition to the plans / strategies set out above, the table below sets out the GIS datasets which were available to LUC when undertaking the assessment for this Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Background mapping
OS Base Maps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:25k • 1:50k
Aerial photography
Landscape
AONB
NCA
ALC
Environmental Stewardship
ES objectives
Countryside Stewardship
CS objectives
Nitrate vulnerable zones
Landscape and Visual Sensitivity
Geology
LIGS
RIGS
Historic environment
Listed Buildings
Parks and Gardens
Scheduled Monuments
World Heritage Sites
Registered battlefields
Historic Landscape Character Areas
Conservation areas
Historic Railways
Biodiversity
LNR
SSSI
SSSI units

SSSI IRZ
Shropshire Environmental networks
Wildlife Trust Reserves
Local wildlife sites
Species data
SAC
SPA
Ramsar
NNR
Ancient woodland
Priority Habitat Inventory
Natural England Habitat networks
National Forest Inventory
National Forest
RSPB reserves
TPOs
Street Trees
Verges
Water Resources
Water courses/ lakes
Flood zone 2
Flood zone 3
Flood Zone 3a
Flood Zone 3b
Surface Water flooding
Risk of flooding from rivers and seas
SFRA data including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change - Climate change 2 - Food defences AIMS - Flood zones (<i>including 3a, 3b, and indicative 3b</i>) - Flood zones areas benefit (<i>including natural defences, natural areas benefitting from defences, natural FSAs, FZ2 and FZ3</i>) - GWV - Historic flood map - Historic landfill - NRD (National Receptor Dataset)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recorded flood outlines – (2018 data so not included in PMF) - Reservoirs - RoFRS - RoFSW - Source protection zones - Aquifer designations bedrock - Astgwf - DRN Nodes v3 - DRN Offline - DRN v3 - Flood alert
SUDs
Source Protection Zones
Flood Storage Areas
Recorded flood outlines
Flood alert areas
Flood defences
Areas benefiting from flood defences
Access and Recreation
National Trails
OS greenspace
Open access land
Common land
National and regional cycle routes
Railway stations/lines
National trust open/restricted land
Country Parks
Accessible Green Space
Public Rights of Way
Local cycle routes
Open space (by typology)
Open space access buffers
Sports facilities
Play areas
Bus routes and bus stops
Long distance/promoted walking routes
Easy Access points

Open Greenspace: Access point
Open Greenspace: Greenspace Site
Mastermap Greenspace Area
Health and Well-Being
IMD
AQMA
Census 2011 data
Road and rail noise data
Crime data
Planning and Development
Local Plan Review proposed allocations
Settlement boundaries and adopted and proposed Urban Extensions
Schools
Brownfield land
Grid infrastructure data
Safeguarded land
North West Relief Road
Green Belt boundaries pre-local plan review
Anticipated Green Belt boundaries following de-designation
Brownfield Site
Proposed allocations
Planning permissions
Prior approvals
SAMDev employment allocations
SAMDev housing allocations
SAMDev mixed sites allocations
SAMDev retail shopping
Historic Landfill Sites
Shropshire Council Freehold
Shropshire Council Leased Out
Shropshire Council Leasehold

Limitations

B.4 The tree data used to inform assessments relating to tree cover is based upon the National Forest Inventory and the provisional register of Ancient Woodland, both of which are limited in that they only include woodland over certain size thresholds. Smaller areas are not included and this underrepresents the true woodland resource within an area of search. The effects are likely to be exacerbated in urban environments because urban woodlands are often small, isolated copses that would not show up on the national survey and register.

B.5 These national data sets also fail to take account of the overall canopy cover provided by the 'urban forest' – that is the entire tree and woodland resource (both publicly and privately owned) within a town or village. This misses the opportunity to calculate the value of ecosystem service benefits and the contribution towards climate change adaptation that an assessment of canopy cover would allow. Data on street trees from Shropshire Council has also been considered, in order to help identify individual trees and smaller pockets of planting, however, it is important to note that at present, there is no definitive and detailed dataset which comprehensively includes all of the smaller scale trees / woodland in Shropshire.