Portishead Neighbourhood Development Plan

Green and Blue Infrastructure Report

Submission Version 2022

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Introduction

North Somerset Council defines Green Infrastructure as *'a strategically planned network of natural and semi natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation.'*

This network of green (land) and blue (water) spaces can improve environmental conditions and therefore citizens' health and quality of life. It also supports a green economy, creates job opportunities and enhances biodiversity. Many environmental features make up green infrastructure, but they are underpinned by two fundamental concepts:

- Natural capital: The world's stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things.
- Ecosystem services: Natural capital delivers a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services, which make human life possible and include production of food and water, regulation of floods, and non-material benefits such as recreational and spiritual benefits.

(information above extracted from North Somerset Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy 2021[1]).

This report uses the term **Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI)** to refer to the above.

Portishead has a rich blue and green environment. Located on the southern shore of the Severn Estuary at the mouth of the River Avon, the town has a line of cliffs, beaches and salt marsh along its northern and eastern fringes, opening into the watercourses known as rhynes and low-lying Somerset Levels to the south. The whole of Portishead's coastline has various statutory protections due to its significant biodiversity and scientific value. There are also large expanses of ancient and protected hillside woodland at East Wood and Weston Big Wood.

At present, Weston Big Wood dominates the slopes of the valley to the south and south west of Portishead, with the built area of the town lying behind the ridge of the hill. Around Weston Big Wood there are natural buffer areas of meadows which consist of unimproved and improved grassland, hedgerows, shelterbelts and trees around the woodland, which link the woodland with the surrounding Gordano Valley.

The inter-relationships and inter-connections between the woodland, rhynes, grassland and agricultural land are what sustain the Woods, the Valley, its beauty and wildlife.

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[1] https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-01/30249%20NS%20GI%20Strategy%20ACC%20FINAL.pdf

Objectives of this report:

- To provide a source of information and evidence on existing GBI assets as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, for the community as well as for planners, landowners and developers.
- To identify priority assets and opportunities to enhance the Green and Blue Infrastructure of the Portishead Neighbourhood Area.

Following this introduction, the report is structured as outlined below:

- **Part 1** sets out a detailed overview of the existing GBI of the Neighbourhood Area.
- **Part 2** sets out the methodology for assessment undertaken of valued GBI areas in Portishead, and their ecosystem services, against key GBI principles.
- **Part 3** sets out the key priorities and assets to retain and enhance, as well as opportunities to extend the GBI network and the ecosystem services it provides.

Policy context

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework defines green infrastructure as: "A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity." (National Planning Policy Framework, 2021, p.67). The document, particularly Section 15 (Conserving and enhancing the natural environment), sets high level policy for conserving and enhancing the natural environment and protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity.

West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030[2]

This Strategy covers the whole of the West of England area (North Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucester and Bath and North East Somerset), providing high level information on, and strategy to manage, the strategic green infrastructure network. The document identifies a number of Green Infrastructure Areas to aid Green Infrastructure (GI) delivery, for which GI Area Profiles are being drafted, to include a summary of landscape character assessments, key issues, opportunities and projects (both current and potential) within the Area. Portishead Neighbourhood Area lies within GI Area 1 - Clevedon, Portishead and Gordano. The GI Area profile has not yet been drafted, but it is hoped that this evidence base report will inform the content of the Area Profile.

North Somerset Local Plan

Relevant adopted planning policies in the North Somerset Local Plan include:
- **CS1 Addressing climate change and carbon reduction**. Promoting a network of multifunctional green space to be delivered through new development, also including the creation and enhancement of woodland areas. Protecting and

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[2] https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Joint-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-%E2%80%93-June-2020..pdf

enhancing biodiversity across NS, including species and habitats characteristic of the area. Encouraging opportunities for local food production. Enhancing flood defences through effective shading e.g. tree planting.

- **CS4 Nature conservation.** Maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of North Somerset through seeking to meet local and national Biodiversity Action Plan targets, seeking to ensure that new development is designed to maximise benefits to biodiversity, seeking to protect, connect and enhance important habitats (particularly ancient woodlands, veteran trees and designated sites), promoting the enhancement of existing and the provision of new green infrastructure of value to wildlife, and promoting native tree planting, well targeted woodland creation and the retention of trees.

- **CS9 Green Infrastructure**. Safeguarding, improving and enhancing the existing green infrastructure network, ensuring it is multifunctional and accessible. Priorities of particular relevance to Portishead include:
  - the protection and plating of trees in woodlands and in urban areas,
  - the protection and enhancement of biodiversity,
  - connection of disjointed woodlands,
  - continued development of a network of green spaces, water bodies, paths and cycleways and bridleways in and around urban areas,
  - management, maintenance, upgrading and extension of the public rights of way network including improved connectivity to areas of green infrastructure,
  - provision of strategically significant green spaces in association with all areas of development.

- **DM1 Flooding and Drainage**. Sustainable drainage systems are expected for all major developments. Open areas within developments must be designed to optimise drainage and reduce run-off.

- **DM8 Nature Conservation**. Development proposals must take account of their impact on local biodiversity and identify appropriate mitigation measures to safeguard or enhance attributes of ecological importance. This includes the Severn Estuary (site of national and international importance), Portishead Down and Fore Hill (local nature reserves and local sites). The policy also provides detail on how legally protected species and habitats should be protected in development proposals. The policy requires development proposals that may impact on legally protected and notable species and habitats to be accompanied by an up to date ecological survey.

- **DM9 Trees and Woodlands.** The policy provides detail on how trees should be considered and protected by development proposals. This includes design considerations as well as practical protection measures to be deployed during construction.

- **DM19 Green Infrastructure**. Large scale proposals in locations where there is a lack of GI or opportunities to creation or improve green networks, will be required to contribute to the quality of the environment through the creation of high quality well designed and accessible GI.

North Somerset Biodiversity and Trees SPD (2005)

This document provides further guidance on the delivery of biodiversity and tree benefits across North Somerset.

Emerging Local Plan Review

North Somerset Council is currently preparing the new Local Plan, to cover the period 2023 to 2038. North Somerset Council is consulting on the emerging Local Plan in Spring 2022. Relevant emerging policies include:
- SP11 Green Infrastructure and historic environment
- DP5 Climate change adaptation and resilience
- DP11 Rivers, watercourses and springs
- DP31 Green Infrastructure
- DP32 Nature Conservation
- DP33 Biodiversity Net Gain
- DP34 Trees and Woodlands
- DP36 Green spaces not designated as Local Green Space

North Somerset Council Green Infrastructure Strategy (January 2021)

This document provides a comprehensive basis and context for the Neighbourhood Plan GBI evidence gathering, and was prepared in support of the Local Plan Review.

The document identifies Strategic Green Infrastructure corridors across the whole of North Somerset - two of which run through / adjacent to the Portishead Neighbourhood Area:

- Strategic Corridor 3 (woodland). Corridor linking a number of Local Wildlife Sites starting with the Severn Estuary through Portbury Wharf, Gordano Valley and Walton Common before looping back through Clevedon Court, Twickenham Hill/Cadbury Camp and Failand Ridge and ending at the River Avon. This corridor contains a mixture of woodland, wetland and grassland.
- Strategic Corridor 5 (water). Severn Estuary Corridor covering the coastal stretch of the district.

Portishead Neighbourhood Plan

Relevant Portishead Neighbourhood Plan objectives include:

- O2 To protect and enhance the multifunctional blue-green (water and green) spaces of our town and the links between them, recognising the importance of these areas for health and wellbeing.

- O3 To protect, maintain and expand Portishead's distinctive treescape and woodland areas such as Weston Big Wood.

- O4 To protect and enhance the biodiversity of our area, recognising the important sites in Portishead that act as carbon sinks and sustain species under threat, including our small locally valued green spaces, nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and internationally designated RAMSAR site and associated Salt Marshes.

- O10 To ensure all residents have easy access to local green, blue and open spaces, and to promote environments and transport networks that offer all individuals and communities the greatest potential to lead active and healthy lifestyles.

Part 1 Existing Green and Blue Infrastructure

The Portishead Neighbourhood Area benefits from a wide range of green and blue assets that make up the local level Green and Blue Infrastructure network. This section sets out the existing assets in the area, including biodiversity and ecology, woodland and trees and open spaces.

Ecology and Biodiversity

Supporting healthy green and blue infrastructure is vital for the resilience of wildlife which is under increasing stress from habitat loss. Portishead Neighbourhood Area is host to a range of wildlife sites and features which support the overall wildlife network and contribute to the wellbeing of the ecosystem.

The Severn Estuary is an internationally and nationally important wildlife site, which spans a significant stretch of the Somerset, North Somerset and Gloucestershire coastline, including Portishead's distinctive coastline. The coastline has a number of designations, which are detailed below, along with other important ecological designations in the Neighbourhood Area. These designations are also shown on Figure 1.

Figure 1 Ecological designations in the Neighbourhood Area
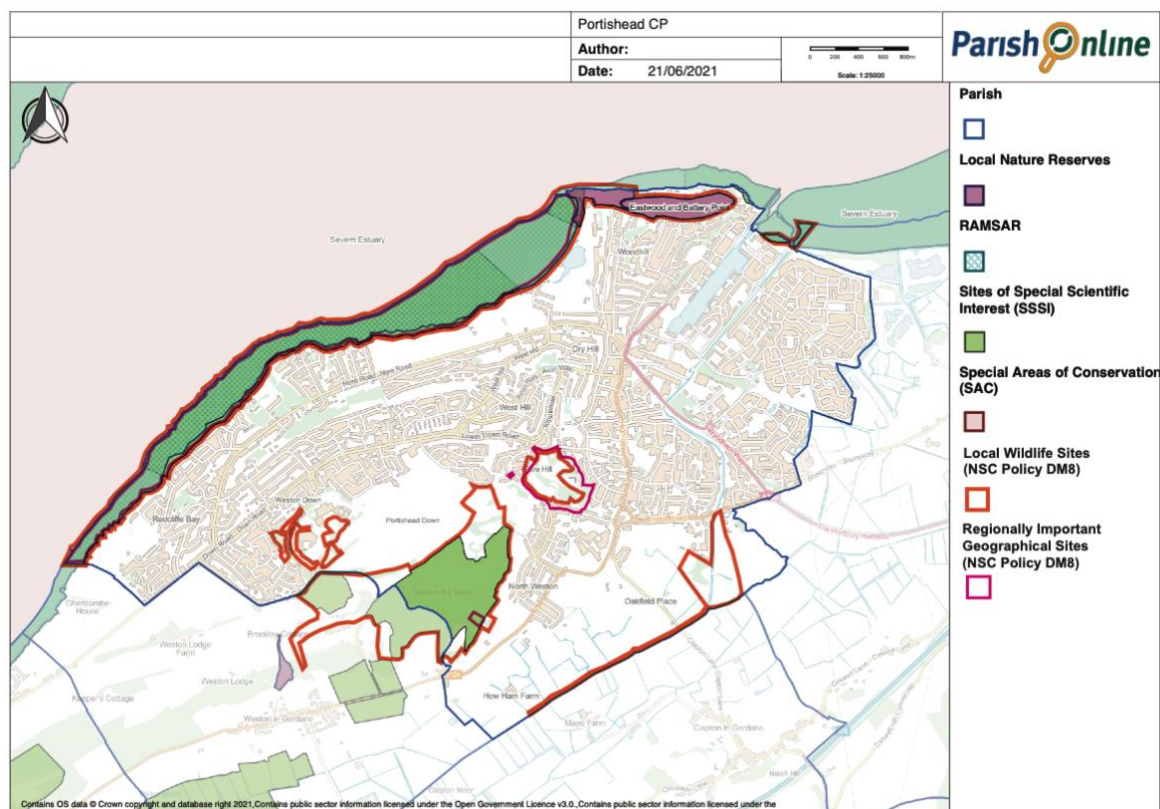
Severn Estuary Ramsar Site

The Severn Estuary coastline and associated habitat is designated as a wetland of international importance Ramsar site, described by the Ramsar Sites Information Service[3] as below:

'The estuary has the second highest tidal range in the world and consists of an extensive intertidal zone comprising intertidal mudflats, sand banks, saltmarsh, shingle, and rocky platforms. Flora and fauna communities typical of extreme physical conditions occur at the site. The invertebrate community provides an important food source for passage and wintering waders. The site is of particular importance for staging nationally important numbers of several species of waterbirds, including Tadorna tadorna and Numenius phaeopus, and supports internationally important numbers of various species of wintering waterbirds, including Limosa limosa islandica. This site is important for several species of fish migrating between sea and river via the estuary. Small patches of a nationally rare plant Lythrum hyssopifolia are found in the grassland zone. Human activities include recreation, fishing, and hunting, and a visitors' centre, trails and hides are maintained.'

With the exception of an area of coastline at Avonmouth and Portbury Docks, The Ramsar site spans the coastline from Stogursey Parish to the west of Portishead, eastwards to near Slimbridge and Awre in Gloucestershire, and the whole of the northern boundary of the Portishead Neighbourhood Area. The full Ramsar listing information can be found on the Ramsar Sites Information Service webpage[4].

Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation

The same area is also a designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is an environmental designation made under the European Commission Habitats Directive. The SAC is designated primarily due to the estuary, mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide and Atlantic salt meadows present in the area[5].

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Natural England manage Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and their objective is to achieve 'favourable condition' status for all SSSIs. The Neighbourhood Area includes two distinct SSSIs, which are identified on Map 1. Full Natural England listing information for the SSSIs can be found via the links in the footnotes.

Severn Estuary SSSI

The coastline is also a designated SSSI, which spans from Old Cleeve to the west of Portishead, eastwards all the way to Slimbridge and Awre in Gloucestershire. The immense tidal range (the second highest in the world) and classic funnel shape make the Estuary unique in Britain and very rare worldwide. This is a large SSSI, and Natural England describe its 'intertidal zone of mudflats, sandbanks, rocky platforms and saltmarsh' as 'one of the

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[3] https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/67

[4] https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/67

[5] https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0013030

largest and most important in Britain. The estuarine fauna includes: internationally important populations of waterfowl; invertebrate populations of considerable interest; and large populations of migratory fish, including the nationally rare and endangered Allis Shad (Alosa alosa)[6].

In June 2021, c.93% of the measurable units (types of habitat) of the SSSI were identified as in a 'favourable' condition, with the remaining measurable units being in an 'unfavourable' condition, detailed below.

Below: Severn Estuary SSSI Condition Summary chart and table (Natural England)
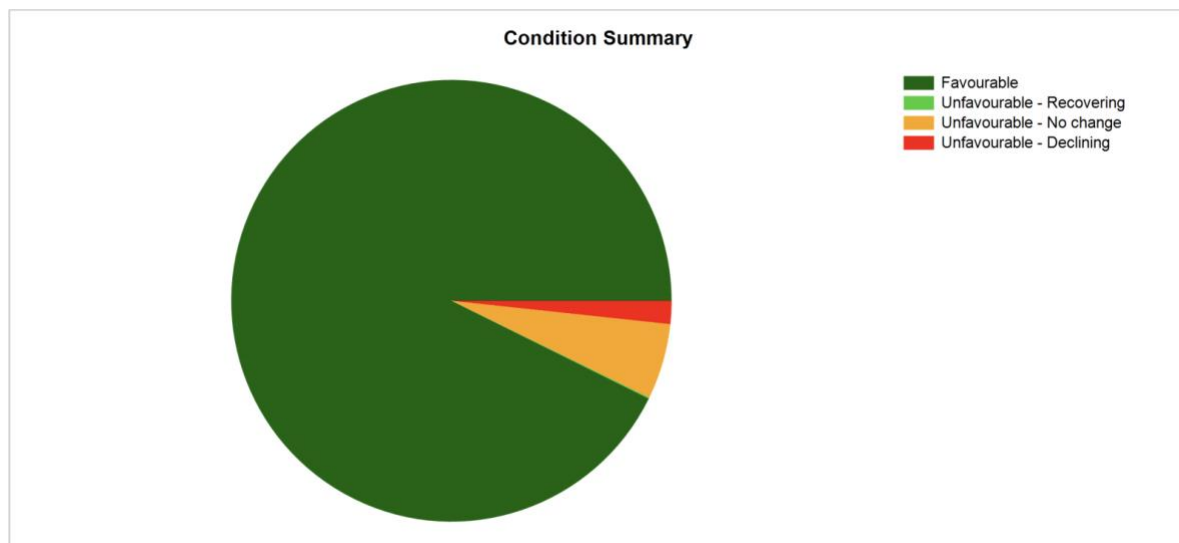
Portishead Pier to Black Nore

This specific part of the coastline, which is wholly within Portishead Neighbourhood Area, is designated as a distinct SSSI due to its importance to understanding paleogeography and geology of the area. In June 2021, 100% of the measurable units of the SSSI were identified as being in a 'favourable' condition[7].

Weston Big Wood

Weston Big Wood SSSI is located at the south west of the Neighbourhood Area, and occupies land in Portishead Neighbourhood Area and its adjacent parish Weston in Gordano. Natural England describes Weston Big Wood as 'a fine example of mixed deciduous woodland, with a rich variety of plant species. It occupies largely uncultivatable land in 2 parishes, and its shape, name, the heterogeneous structure of the oaks, the presence of ancient-woodland indicator species, together with historical records of the site, all suggest that it is the remnant of an ancient forest.[8]'

[6] https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1002284.pdf

[7] https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1002867&SiteName=portishead%20pier%20to%20black%20nore&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=

[8] https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1003590.pdf

In June 2021, 100% of the measurable units of the Weston Big Wood SSSI were identified as being in a 'favourable condition'[9].

The southern and western areas of the woodland were quarried during the 19th and 20th centuries, but this stopped since Avon Wildlife Trust took on ownership[10]. Weston Big Wood is designated Ancient Woodland (see 'Ancient Woodland' below). There is an area to the north east of the woodland which has more recently returned to woodland since grazing of the land has reduced. This is shown on the photograph below.
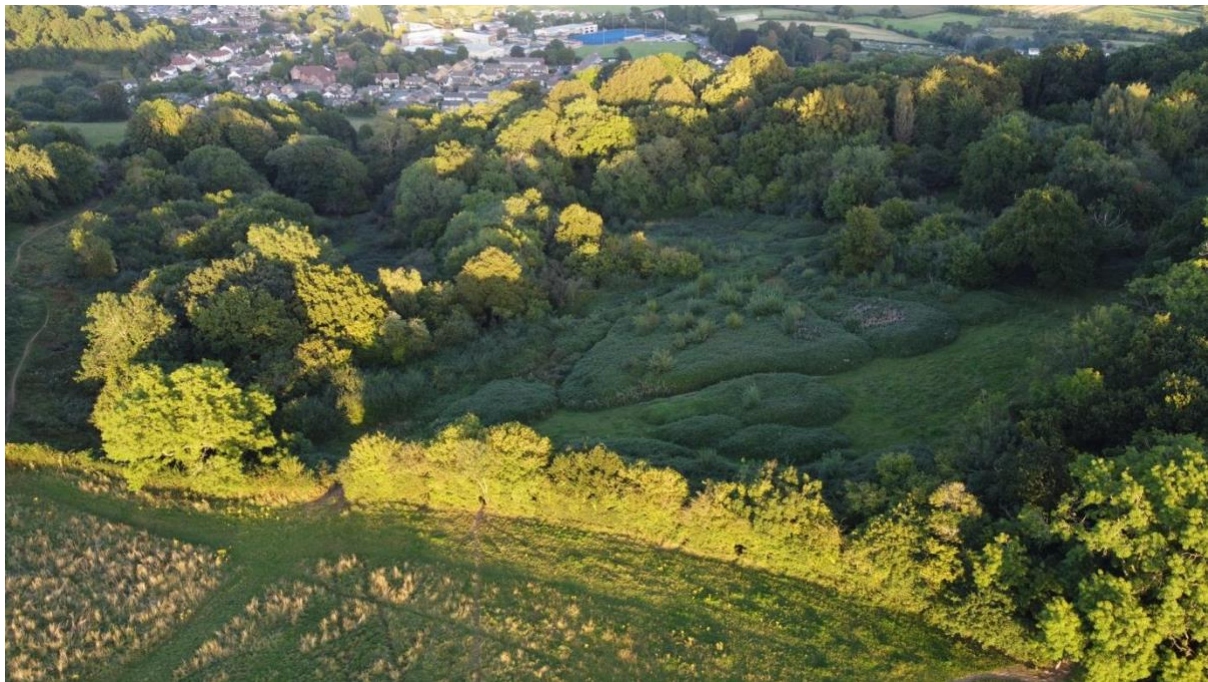
The NPPF is clear in stating "development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists" [paragraph 180].

In their 'Planners' Manual for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees[11]' (2019) the Woodland Trust state in relation to providing adequate buffers, "Although there is no 'one size fits all' with buffer design, each one should be designed to fulfil the specific requirements of its location and the type of proposed development... As a precautionary principle, a minimum 50 metre buffer should be maintained between a development and the ancient woodland, including through the construction phase, unless the applicant can demonstrate very clearly how a smaller buffer would suffice. A larger buffer may be required for particularly significant engineering operations, or for after-uses that generate significant disturbance."

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https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1003590&SiteName=weston%20big%20wood&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=

10 https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/weston-big-wood/

11 https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/3731/planners-manual-for-ancient-woodland.pdf

Weston Big Wood - SSSI Impact Risk Zones

The Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks to SSSIs posed by development proposals. They define zones around each SSSI which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts.

The closest zone to WBW (shown in blue in the map to the right) measures 50m (which relate to ALL PLANNING APPLICATIONS - EXCEPT HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS.) NOTE – no development encroaches within this buffer currently though back gardens of houses along Underwood Road are close.
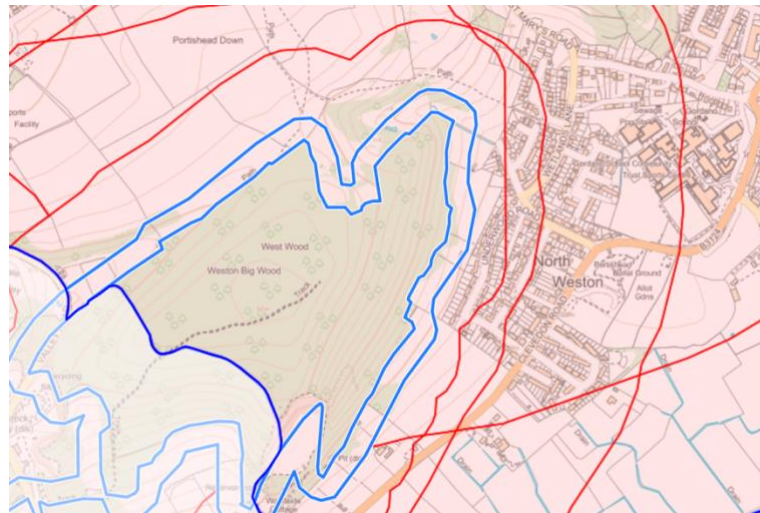
The second layer (approximately 150m) - (which applies to any residential development of 10 or more houses outside existing settlements/urban areas.)

Local Nature Reserves

East Wood and Battery Point Local Nature Reserve

East Wood Nature Reserve is approximately 9 hectares and owned by North Somerset Council. The area is designated a Local Nature Reserve because of its broadleaf coastal woodland habitat which supports a huge range of wildlife. The nature reserve offers views over the Bristol Channel towards Wales. It is also a limestone outcrop with fossils and geological formations which create the headland. Eastwood is also a designated heritage asset (Conservation Area) because of its rich history, dating back to the Iron Age. The Nature Reserve is easily accessible with good paths. See the Woodland Trust website for more information[12].

Local Wildlife Sites

North Somerset Local Plan identifies the following areas as local wildlife sites, protected by policy DM8 (Nature Conservation):

- Fore Hill
- Weston Big Wood – Nightingvale Valley Area
- Land Adjacent to Severn Estuary

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[12] https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/east-wood/

- Portishead Down Police HQ
- Gordano Valley, Clapton Moor, Middle Bridge and rhynes

Regionally Important Geographical Sites

North Somerset Local Plan identifies the following areas as regionally important geographical sites, protected by policy DM8 (Nature Conservation):

- (Clevedon and) Portishead Coast
- Fore Hill
- St Mary's Park Road

Wildlife and Priority Habitats

Supporting healthy GI is vital for the resilience of wildlife which is under increasing stress from habitat loss. The Neighbourhood Area is host to a range of wildlife sites and features which support the overall wildlife network and contribute to the wellbeing of wildlife and residents alike.

UK BAP priority habitats cover a wide range of semi-natural habitat types, and were those that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Whilst the UK BAP is now succeeded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, the list of priority habitats remains an important reference source. Priority Habitats in Portishead are shown on Figure 2.

Figure 2 also shows locally identified important areas for biodiversity, including an area to the north east of Weston Big Wood (where agricultural grazing has declined) and the old golf course, which has been subject to a rewilding scheme. More information on rewilding in Portishead is included in the 'Community Actions' section below, as well as on the North Somerset Council Rewilding map which is available here: http://map.n-somerset.gov.uk/Rewilding.html

Figure 2: Priority Habitats
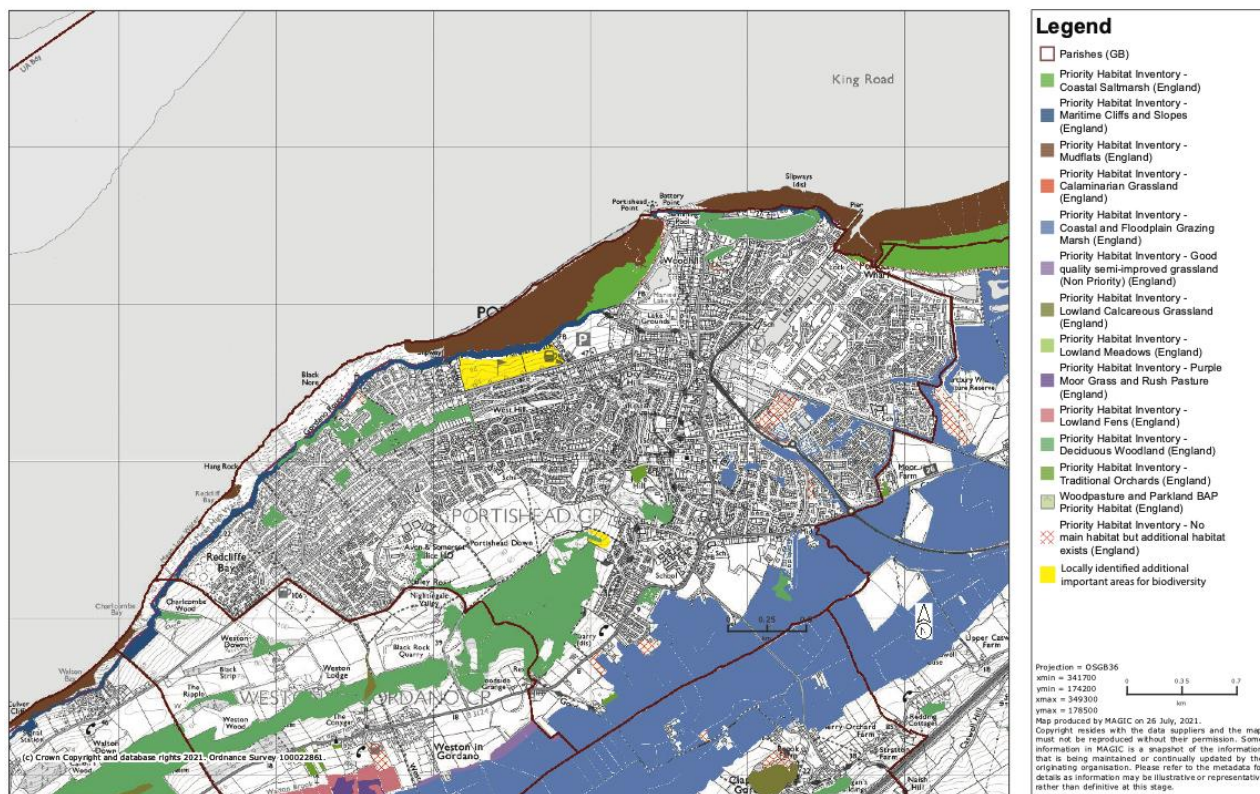
Wild Portishead Ltd is a local not-for-profit enterprise set up to protect, preserve and conserve Portishead's green spaces. The group focuses on making Portishead more wildlife friendly and hosts local events and projects to share information and promote protection and enhancement of the local wildlife network. More information on their work is found on their website[13] and Facebook page[14].

Wild Portishead has set up an iNaturalist page[15] where residents and visitors can map and share sightings of any form of wildlife (plants, insects, trees, birds, small and large mammals). In September 2021, there were a total of 2,717 observations of more than 810 species within the Portishead area. This is an ongoing project.

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[13] https://www.wildportishead.com/

[14] https://www.facebook.com/WildPortishead/

[15] https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/wild-portishead-green-spaces

Below: Extract from Wild Portishead's iNaturalist page – Most Observed Species (Sept 2021)
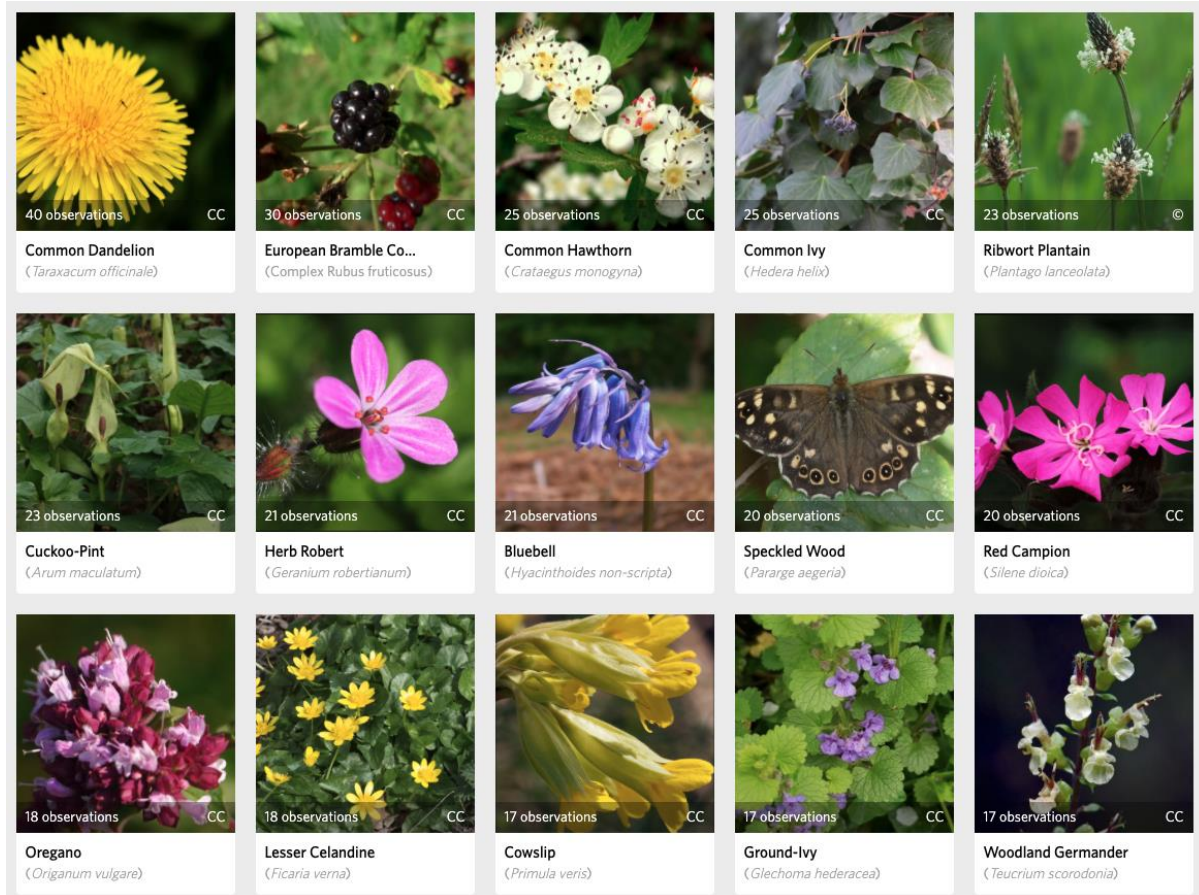
A record of biodiversity information can be obtained from the Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre[16], which holds information on species sightings across the Neighbourhood Area.

The Gordano Valley is rich in biodiversity and wildlife habitats and networks. The 1988 **Gordano Valley: The Future for Wildlife** Report, prepared by the Avon Wildlife Trust went some way to describe and detail the physical and cultural background of the valley, along with its (major) wildlife habitats, and the pressures and opportunities in the valley. The report also made recommendations for protection and enhancement of the valley within the context of the development pressures of the time. The Report is a key source of information, though now over 30 years old. The Town Council has suggested that an equivalent study should be undertaken and updated report be produced to detail the condition, pressures and opportunities of the Gordano Valley in the 21st Century.

Light Pollution

The term 'light pollution' refers to artificial light which shines where it is neither wanted nor needed. In broad terms, there are three types of light pollution:
- skyglow – the pink or orange glow we see for miles around towns and cities, spreading deep into the countryside, caused by a scattering of artificial light by airborne dust and water droplets

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[16] http://brerc.dyndns.org/live/BRERC/imaps.html

- glare – the uncomfortable brightness of a light source
- light intrusion – light spilling beyond the boundary of the property on which a light is located, sometimes shining through windows and curtains

There is increasing awareness of the impact that light pollution can have on wildlife, by interrupting natural rhythms including migration, reproduction and feeding patterns. Man-made light is known to cause confusion to migrating birds, often with fatal outcomes, and many of us will have heard birds singing late into the night in trees lit by a streetlight. Figure 3 below has been sourced from CPRE, the countryside charity. It shows clearly the intrusion of light into the natural areas of Portishead which impacts on the sensitive environments. Through the Neighbourhood Plan, where planning permission is needed, sensitive approaches to lighting could be encourage to address this issue.

Figure 3: Portishead Light Pollution, or 'Night blight'
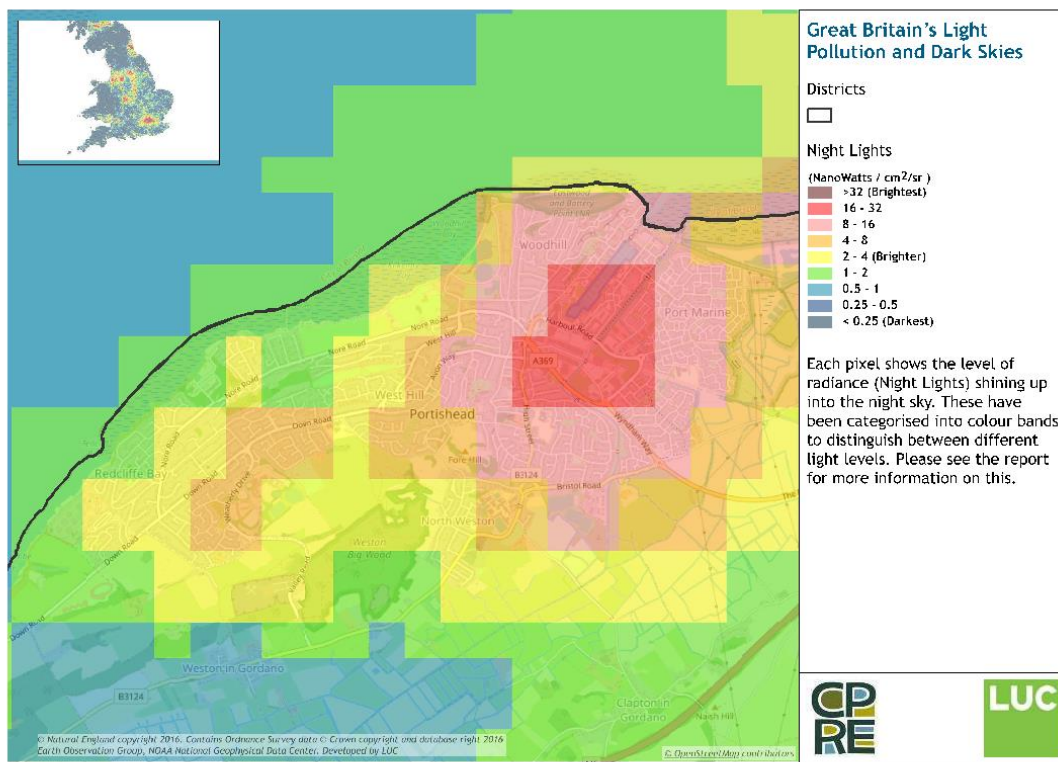
Woodland and Trees

The importance of trees:

- Trees naturally absorb CO_2, a key greenhouse gas removing 4 million tonnes of it from the atmosphere every year
- Greenspace with good levels of tree cover is proven to be much less costly to maintain than grassed areas
- The presence of trees often encourages people to exercise, thereby reducing the incidence of heart attacks and Type 2 Diabetes.

- Symptoms of anxiety, depression and insomnia alleviated with the presence of trees
- Family and community environments are much more harmonious and closely knit where the setting includes trees
- Local air quality is improved as trees cut the level of airborne particulates10 and absorb nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone
- Trees can link pockets of wildlife that, in time, helps to increase it and also bring people closer to nature
- Trees and greenspaces can increase property value of 15 – 18%. The larger the trees are then the greater their proportional value[17].

In June 2021, the Forest of Avon Trust released the Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England[18]. The Strategy sets out a long-term, generational vision for trees and woodlands across the West of England, with a 5 year action plan, principles to guide delivery and priorities for specific land areas, including the development of nature recovery networks. The Portishead Neighbourhood Area falls within the Clevedon, Portishead and Gordano Landscape Character Area. The document sets out a range of priorities for different areas within this Landscape Character Area, including Clapton Moor and Clevedon and Portishead Ridges and Combes, which are within the Portishead Neighbourhood Area. Particularly relevant priorities for Portishead include:

- Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- Buffer Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodlands and Planted Ancient Woodland Sites by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- Work with Natural England, Avon Wildlife Trust and other landowners to ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing nature conservation and also landscape objectives supporting their preparation and delivery. Set out a long-term replacement plan for high landscape impact poplar trees, maintaining these as a landscape feature.
- Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- Conserve areas of coastal scrub, absorbing Park Homes and residential development into the wider landscape.
- Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries, reflecting NNR and SSSI guidance where applicable.
- Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow

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[17] Facts taken from 'The Case for Trees' Forestry Commission 2010

[18] https://forestofavontrust.org/admin/resources/documents/the-forest-of-avon-plan-min.pdf

- Establish native trees and shrubs within greenspaces in Portishead through the rewilding project, working with residents to deliver this.

Portishead has a tree canopy coverage of approximately 20%, which is estimated to sequester around 640 tonnes of carbon each year. Full related information, obtained from i-Tree Canopy, is available in the Appendix. The Woodland Trust recommend an increase in UK woodland cover from its current 13% of land area to 19% by 2050 to tackle this country's biodiversity and climate crises[19]. The Urban Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee Network[20] advise that 'a minimum standard for tree canopy cover is set for a local area, with evidence showing that 20% is a good aspiration'. It is therefore considered necessary and achievable, for any development proposals in Portishead to continue to deliver 20% tree canopy coverage.

There are a great number of Tree Protection Orders in place in Portishead. These can be viewed on North Somerset Council's planning map, available here: http://map.n-somerset.gov.uk/dande.html

Figure 4: Ancient Woodland and Locally Identified Significant Trees

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are our richest land-based habitat for wildlife. According to the Woodland Trust they are home to more threatened species than any other habitat. Ancient woodland covers a significant proportion of the land in the town area at around 4.7%, which is significantly higher than the national average of 2.5[21]% - much of this ancient woodland is within Weston Big Wood, but also includes East Wood and Wood Hill. See 'Local Nature Reserves' and 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' above for information on these areas. Classification as ancient woodland is not a formal statutory designation and does not necessarily offer additional protection for woodland – however it is clear that the irreplaceable habitats should be protected. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2018 report, "Global Warming of 1.5C"highlights the impacts of climate change. Fifty percent of the carbon in woods is stored in the soil and leaf litter. In ancient woodland this represents a huge carbon store that has been locked up for some time, making their preservation even more important.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines ancient woodland as area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).

A buffer is a landscape feature used to protect ancient woodlands and trees from the impact of disturbance both during and after construction. A buffer can:

- Circle the whole area to be protected or just along one edge;
- Be planted with trees or shrubs, or grass.

There is no 'one size fits all' with buffer design. Each one should be designed to fulfil the specific requirements of its location and the type of proposed development.

The purpose of a buffer zone is to protect ancient woodland and individual ancient or veteran trees. The size and type of buffer zone should vary depending on the scale, type and impact of the development.

For ancient woodlands, the 'standing advice' from Natural England and the Forestry Commission is for a buffer zone of at least 15 metres to avoid root damage[22]. Where assessment shows other impacts are likely to extend beyond this distance, a larger buffer zone is likely to be needed. The community of Portishead are keen to protect the Ancient Woodland and would like to see the biggest possible buffer applied to Weston Big Wood.

Significant Trees of Portishead

During the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, members of the Environment Working Group took part in a project to log significant trees in Portishead to catalogue key information such as their species, size, health, function and location. Part of the project's aim was to identify trees with potential for tree preservation orders (TPOs) and / or for

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[21] https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/habitats/ancient-woodland/

[22] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences

listing on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory[23], which would grant them further protection.

Figure 4 in this Report (also Figure 7 in the Portishead Neighbourhood Plan) shows those that have been identified as part of the project, although there will be many more within the Neighbourhood Area.

Nominations and suggestions for significant trees were made directly from the community via online engagement and other methods.

The work is recorded on iNaturalist[24] – an online mapping tool. Figure 4 shows those that have been identified already, although there will be many more to be identified at a later date.

The project builds evidence around what makes a tree valuable and successful in particular places in Portishead, and locations for potential tree planting; useful to inform rewilding projects within the Neighbourhood Area to help ensure that the 'right trees are planted in the right places' (NPPF, para. 131[25]).

Areas of Water and Waterways

Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership have produced an analysis of the river and wetland network of the West of England area, including the challenges and opportunities seen in smaller scale areas (see Appendix 3, West of England Joint GI Strategy[26]). The Bristol Avon City, Portbury Ditch and Kenn catchment areas are within the Portishead Neighbourhood Area.

Open Spaces

Local Green Spaces

Local Green Space is a planning designation that enables local communities to identify and protect particular green areas of significance for protection by a planning policy as part of Local and Neighbourhood Plans. For a Local Green Space to be eligible for designation, it must be:

● in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
● demonstrably special to the local community and hold particular significance, for example, because of its beauty, historic significance recreational value (including playing fields), tranquillity or richness of wildlife, and

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[23] https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/

[24] https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/significant-trees-of-portishead

[25] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

[26] https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Joint-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-%E2%80%93-June-2020..pdf

● local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

The Environment Working Group has progressed an evidence base to support the proposed designation of Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan (additional to Local Green Spaces already designated in the North Somerset Local Plan). These are identified in Table 1 below. More information on this process is included in the Portishead Local Green Space Evidence Base Report.

Other Open Spaces

In the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Open Space is defined as "All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity." (NPPF 2021, p.70). In this section of the report, open space in Portishead is generally defined as those green spaces having recreational or amenity value, and being freely accessible to the public (the exception to this is allotments and education grounds, which are generally not freely accessible, but are important components of open space provision). Areas of water are addressed in other parts of this report.

Open space, and the diversity of open spaces that exist in Portishead, is highly valued by the residents of Portishead for many reasons. Consultation during NDP preparation identified that local people value open space in Portishead due to its diversity and its benefits for wellbeing.

Figure 5 (and Table 1 below) identifies open spaces in the Neighbourhood Area. This draws on work at the neighbourhood level as part of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.

The spaces come under the following typologies (adapted from Wiltshire Open Space and Play Area Study 2016[27] and Ordnance Survey OpenData Greenspaces layer):

- Community Growing Spaces (including allotments and orchards)
- Playing Field
- Play Space (children / youth)
- Parks and Recreation Grounds
- Religious Grounds
- Amenity Green Space
- Tennis Court
- Other Sports Facility
- Education

Through work on the open space audit, which also fed into work on potential Local Green Space designations in the NDP, the Environment Working Group has identified **Community Open Spaces (COS)**. Community Open Spaces are those that have a particular valued social community use such as a school playing field or medical centre garden. For these spaces,

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[27] http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire-open-space-study-draft.pdf

limited development of the land could be supported, so long as it is in keeping with its existing use, function and community value.

For example, a school may wish to build a sports pavilion on its playing field, or a medical centre may need to build additional healthcare facilities on its land.

Figures 5A-C (below): Open Spaces in Portishead Neighbourhood Area

Parish

Green Spaces

Amenity Green Space		Playing field	
Community Growing Spaces incl. allotments		Play space Children/Youth	
Other sports facility		Religious Grounds	
Other Sports Facility		Saltmarsh	
Parks and recreation grounds		Tennis Court	
		Community open space	

	Portishead		
	Author: G. Perry		Parish Online
	Date: 28/07/2022	Scale: 1:10000	

Map labels (first map):
- 43. Battery Point (Local Green Space designated in North Somerset Local Plan)
- 44. Eastwood (Local Green Space designated in NS Local Plan)
- Open Space
- Saltmarsh open space
- 3. Lake Grounds
- 94. Bowling Club
- 2. Kilkenny Fields (designated as a Local Green Space in NS Local Plan)
- Kilkenny Bay
- PORTISHEAD
- 47. Welly Bottom (designated as a Local Green Space in NS Local Plan)
- LGS28 Phoenix Way, The Finches to Ecology Park
- West Hill
- Brampton Way riverside Open Space
- 57. The Deans

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	Portishead		
	Author: G. Perry		Parish Online
	Date: 28/07/2022	Scale: 1:10000	

Map labels (second map):
- LGS29a Fore Hill
- LGS29 Fore Hill North of St Mary's Road
- Portishead Down
- COS3b Bristol Road Playing Fields Open Space
- COS7 Gordano School Field
- COS3a Bristol Road Playing Fields Open Space
- West Wood
- Weston Big Wood
- North Weston
- Nightingale
- Blackrock Quarry (dis)
- Clapton Moor

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Table 1(below). Open Spaces Audit in Portishead Neighbourhood Area

Spaces in bold are designated as Local Green Space in North Somerset Local Plan

Spaces in italic bold are potential additional Local Green Spaces to be designated in Portishead Neighbourhood Plan (see Local Green Space Evidence Base Report for more information and detail)

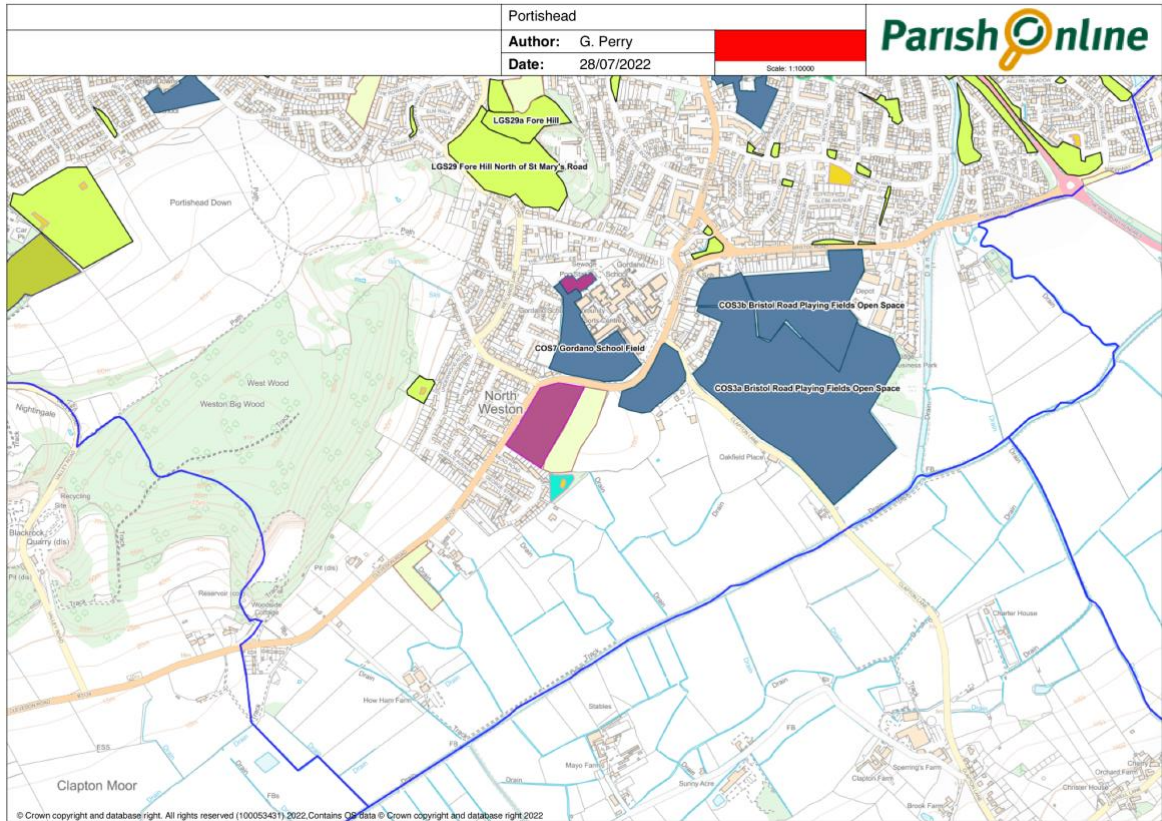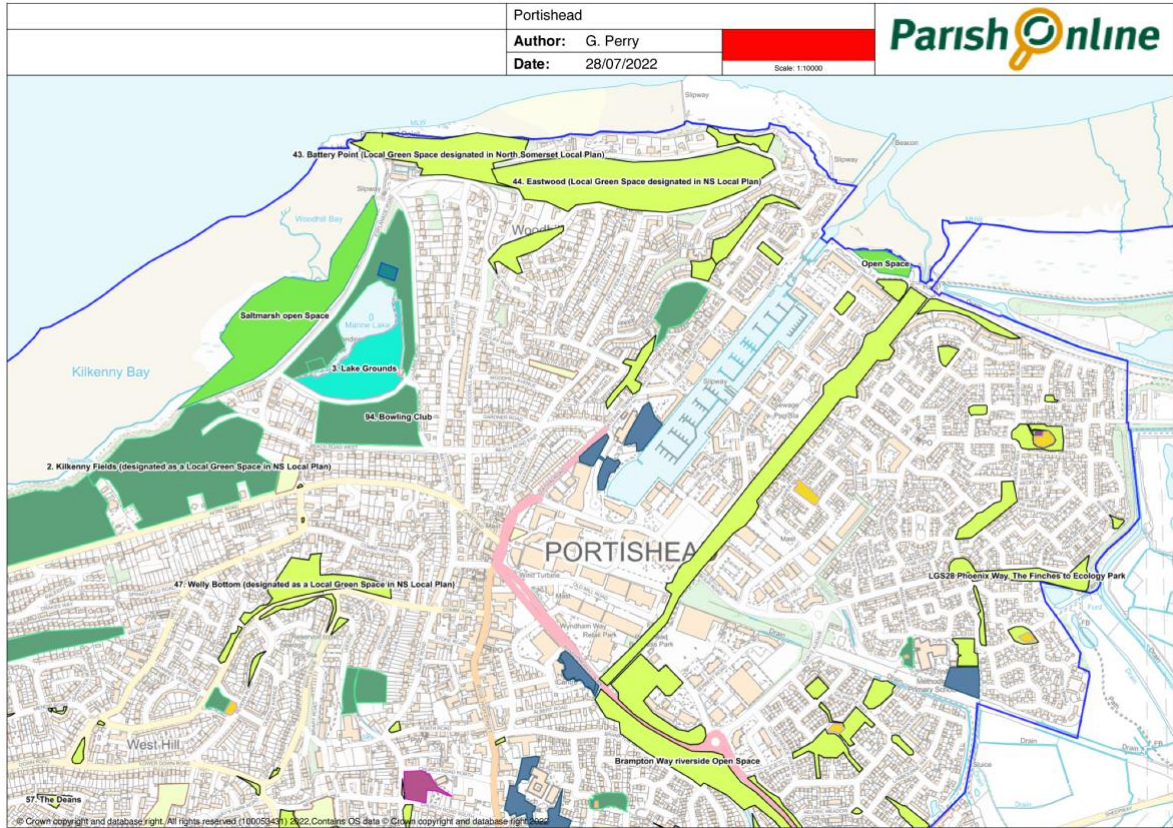| ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
1	**Portishead Golf Course**	Parks and Recreation Grounds	This space is used by a wide variety of the public and provides tranquil areas for those who need them as well as picnic areas and kiting spaces. Plenty of dog walkers use the area and are very responsible in clearing up any dog mess. The beauty of the views is beyond measure. The presence of trees and wild plants provide cover and sustenance for a wide variety of animal life. Birds including Ravens and robins, curlews and oyster catchers, shelducks and sparrows etc. Dog mess is an issue here.
2	**Kilkenny Fields**	Parks and Recreation Grounds	It's an inspiring space - great views, good for walking and picnicking. I love the kite flyers too. Stunning views across the Channel and open to all, including dog walkers.
3	**Lake Grounds**	Parks and Recreation Grounds, Playing Field, Tennis Court	Portishead Lake Grounds is a popular beauty spot, ideal for both sport and leisure. The open green space is popular for picnics alongside the play equipment for small children, public gym apparatus, tennis courts and cricket pitch. The lake itself provides an ideal opportunity to feed the ducks or take out a rowing boat. The Lake Grounds is also home to Portishead Bowls Club and an outdoor swimming pool. The heated outdoor pool, with sun terraces, has undergone extensive refurbishment since it opened in 1962. In 2009 the pool was saved from closure by the community and is now run by a community trust.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
			It is beautiful with amazing views, the wildlife on the lake is quite vast. It's tranquil out of season. It is already used for many recreations. NDP consultation responses highlighted poor(ly maintained) facilities, litter and better maintenance of the lake itself as key areas for improvement.
4	**Central Park (aka Jubilee Park), Port Marine**	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Used by local residents as a community open space for family picnics & children's play area. Part of Portishead Sculpture Trail. Lots of people sit in the park, people have picnics, and local children play in the park. There is a wide variety of plants and some wildlife.
5	*Charlecombe Rise*	Parks and Recreation Grounds, Play Space (children / youth)	
6	**Redcliffe Hall Green Area (aka Heaven's Field)**	Parks and Recreation Grounds	
7	*Slade Road*	Parks and Recreation Grounds	
8	**Blackdown Road Park and Play Area**	Parks and Recreation Grounds, Play Space (children / youth)	Open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats). Hedges could be better maintained here.
9	*Halletts Way Park*	Parks and Recreation Grounds, Play Space	Popular with dog walkers, families. Provision of seating should be considered here. Area would benefit from refurbishment of play facilities.

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
		(children / youth)	
10	**Merlin Park**	Parks and Recreation Grounds, Amenity Green Space, Play Space (children / youth)	Dog mess is an issue here. Area would benefit from refurbishment of facilities. There are opportunities to enhance the skate park. It meets all of the criteria because it has a huge wildlife population and diversity. It provides space for walking, playing and dog exercise. It has spectacular views across the valley. The Woods have historic significance for the quarry.
11.	Trinity/Tansy Lane	Parks and Recreation Grounds	
12	*Avon Way Recreation Ground*	Parks and Recreation Grounds, Play Space (children / youth)	
13	Bristol Road Playing Field	COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE Playing Fields, Other Sports Facility	Identified as Community Open Space
14	*Lower Down Road Allotments*	Community Growing Spaces	
15	*Potager Garden*	Community Growing Spaces	
16	*Beach Hill Allotments*	Community Growing Spaces	

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
17	*Sheepway Community Orchard*	Community Growing Spaces	
18	*North Weston Allotments*	Community Growing Spaces	
19	*South View Allotments*	Community Growing Spaces	
111	*Gertie Gales Allotments*	Community Growing Spaces	
20	Victoria Green	COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE Community Growing Spaces	Identified as Community Open Space
21	*Lyes Orchard*	Community Growing Space	Fantastic landlocked green space. Rich in flora and fauna including orchids, primroses meadow flowers. A traditional old orchard. Well used by deer badgers foxes owls and other birds bats and small mammals. Fantastic views. A real oasis of nature.
22	*Mead Road*	Playing Field, Play Space (children / youth)	Would benefit from improvement of range of play facilities here including for younger children
23	*Harbour Edge Park / Papermill Gardens*	Play Space (children / youth)	Open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats). Area would benefit from refurbishment of play facilities. Litter is an issue here.
24	**Stonechat Green**	Play Space (children / youth),	

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
		Other Sports facility, Amenity Green Space	
25	**The Vale**	Play Space (children / youth), Amenity Green Space	Open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats). Litter is an issue here. Other facilities could be provided to ensure everyone feels safe using this area.
26	*Sorrel Gardens*	Play Space (children / youth), Amenity Green Space	Open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats)
27	Cheviot Meadow	Play Space (children / youth)	Open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats). The area would benefit from refurbishment of play facilities.
28	*Brampton Way Playground*	Play Space (children / youth)	Would benefit from refurbishment of play facilities
29	*Underwood Road*	Play Space (children / youth), Amenity Green Space	
30	Trinity Playground	Play Space (children / youth)	
31	Nightingale Rise	Play Space (children / youth)	
32	Redcliffe Bay Play Area	Play Space (children / youth)	
33	**St Peter's Graveyard, including**	Religious Grounds	

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
	Millennium Garden		
34	Portishead Burial Ground	Religious Grounds	
35	Methodist Churchyard	Religious Grounds	
36	St Nicholas Churchyard	Religious Grounds, Amenity Green Space	
37	Hillside Road	Amenity Green Space	
38	Beechwood Drive / Woodside Gardens	Amenity Green Space	
39	**Fedden Village**	Amenity Green Space	
40	*Black Nore*	Amenity Green Space	Open grassed area, with benches adjacent to beach and coastal PROW. Access is via coastal PROW, Nore Road PROW or available to residents in Fedden Village. Much used by the community.
41	Riverleaze	Amenity Green Space	
42	Nichols Road / Sailing Club	Amenity Green Space	Small open grassed area, two benches and steps down to beach slipway. Adjacent to coastal PROW. A much-used rest and view point.
43	**Battery Point**	Amenity Green Space	Portishead lighthouse situated here
44	**Eastwood**	Amenity Green Space	Is of Historic significance as the point Cabot passed. You get a wonderful view up, down and across the Bristol Channel

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
45	*Royal Inn Wooded Area and Viewing Point*	Amenity Green Space	
46	Watch House Place	Amenity Green Space	
47	**Welly Bottom**	Amenity Green Space	
48	*Tommy Broom Memorial and Green Space*	Amenity Green Space	Used by local residents as a community space for family picnics & children's play area. Open space for local residents with small gardens.
49	St Peters Road	Amenity Green Space	
50	Tower Road	Amenity Green Space	
51	Badger Rise	Amenity Green Space	
52	*Weatherly Drive*	Amenity Green Space, Play Space (Children and Youth)	
53	Brock End	Amenity Green Space	
54	Valley Road Roundabout	Amenity Green Space	
55	Hillcrest	Amenity Green Space	
56	**Land North of Hawthorne Close (AKA Bracken Wood)**	Amenity Green Space	Zig Zag path is a popular PROW that is situated within this space
57	The Deans	Amenity Green Space	

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
58	St Mary's Park Road	Amenity Green Space	
59	Norfolk Road	Amenity Green Space	Open space for community, rewilding of trees in place & Portishead in Bloom
60	Exeter / Brampton Green	Amenity Green Space	
61	Bristol Road	Amenity Green Space	
62	*Winford Close*	Amenity Green Space	
63	Brampton Way Riverside	Amenity Green Space	Large open grassed areas in housing estate with riverside walking area. Open space for local residents & wildlife area by riverside. Part of this space is identified as a potential LGS.
64	Wyndham Way / Kittiwake Drive	Amenity Green Space	
65	Premier Inn Green and Serbert Way Corner	Amenity Green Space	
66	Wyndham Way Corridor	Amenity Green Space	
67	**The Russets (AKA The Orchard)**	Amenity Green Space	
68	*The Park*	Amenity Green Space	Open space for community used for football etc.
69	*Trinity / Marjoram Multi-use Games Area*	Amenity Green Space	Next to primary school and used by children for football, basketball & play. Used to be bigger but school expanded. Could do with some TLC and always busy.
70	**Linnet Gardens, The Finches, Ashlands**	Amenity Green Space	Open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats)

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
71	**Land north of Denny View**	Amenity Green Space	
72	**Woodhill, between Pier Road and Wood Hill Park**	Amenity Green Space	
73	Portishead Flower Show Field	COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE Amenity Green Space	Used for community events such as the Spring & Summer Flower Show also can be hired out for revenue
74	*Island in West Hill with Tree*	Amenity Green Space	
75	***Memorial Garden, Brampton Way***	Amenity Green Space	
76	Fennel Road	Amenity Green Space	
77	Aelfric Meadow	Amenity Green Space	
78	Lower Down Road	Amenity Green Space	
79	Sheepfield Gardens 1 & 2	Amenity Green Space	
80	Falcon Close	Amenity Green Space	
81	Forester Road	Amenity Green Space	
82	Brampton Way / Court Close	Amenity Green Space	
83	Portland Drive	Amenity Green Space	

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
84	The Triangle, West Hill	Amenity Green Space	
85	Avon Way Top	Amenity Green Space	
86	Mendip Road (1,2,3,4)	Amenity Green Space	
87	Brendon Road (1,2)	Amenity Green Space	
88	Bruton Avenue	Amenity Green Space	
89	Down Close	Amenity Green Space	
90	Gaunts Close	Amenity Green Space	
91	Rippleside	Amenity Green Space	
92	Severn Road	Amenity Green Space	
93	Avon Way Reservoir	Amenity Green Space	
101	Seafarers Memorial Green	Amenity Green Space	Wellbeing - open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats). Also part of Portishead Sculpture Trail
102	Sandbanks	Amenity Green Space	Wellbeing - open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats)
103	Argentia Place Green	Amenity Green Space	Wellbeing - open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats)
104	Ox Sculpture Trail Area	Amenity Green Space	Large open grassed area used by residents & visitors with sea views. Benches have been installed. Part of Portishead sculpture trail. Consider picnic benches as popular area for community and visitors to town.
105	Robin Place Green	Amenity Green Space	Open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats)

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
106	*Phoenix Way, The Finches to Ecology Park*	Amenity Green Space	Leads to ecology park
107	Wren Gardens Green	Amenity Green Space	Open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats)
108	Lockside Square	Amenity Green Space	
109	Dunlin Drive Green	Amenity Green Space	
110	Galingale Quadrant	Amenity Green Space	
112	*Fore Hill*	Amenity Green Space	Local Nature Reserve
94	Bowling Club	Other Sports Facility, Play Area (children	
95	Parish Wharf	COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE Other Sports Facility, Amenity Green Space	Open space near sports centre and marina. Open space for local residents with small or no gardens (nearby flats). Used for sport etc Identified as Community Open Space
96	Sports Field behind Police HQ	Other Sports Facility	
97	Gordano School	COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE Education	Identified as Community Open Space
98	High Down Junior School	COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE	Identified as Community Open Space

ID	Site Name	Typology	Notes on value to the community & suggestions for improvement (including extracts from Commonplace responses where relevant)
		Education	
99	St Joseph's Catholic Junior Schhol	COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE Education	Identified as Community Open Space
100	Portishead Primary School	COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE Education	Identified as Community Open Space
101	*Spanish Steps*	Amenity Green Space	Part of this space identified as a potential LGS. This space contains a zig zag set of steps in a semi-formal laid-out garden with a couple of benches with views. It is a steep area of land linking Eastwood with the Marina. The steps are a public right of way and the space is well used by walkers/dog walkers.
102	Saltmarsh	Amenity Green Space	XXX
103	St Peter's Church of England Primary School Playing Field	COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE Education	Identified as Community Open Space
104	*Lorymers Park, Nore Road*	Amenity Green Space	
105	*Paper Mill Play Area*	Play space children / youth	
106	*Brampton Way Playground*	Play space children / youth	

Part 2 Assessment of Valued GBI Areas against Key GBI Principles: Methodology

Portishead NDP Green and Blue Infrastructure Key Principles

The North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy (2021) sets out a number of objectives that are based around promoting a range of ecosystem services in North Somerset's green infrastructure network. These are informed by the West of England Nature Recovery ambitions[28].

Informed by key themes from community consultation undertaken as part of the NDP-making process, these objectives have been adapted into more Portishead-specific key principles for green and blue infrastructure improvements. Portishead-level detail is included in pink below.

- **Improved and better-connected ecological networks:** protect, restore, enhance and expand coherent, thriving and resilient ecological networks that deliver net gains in biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the creation of bigger, better, more and joined-up woodland, grassland and wetland habitats.
- **Greater resilience to climate change:** Provide natural solutions to build resilience against the impacts of climate change including use of well-designed Green Infrastructure to stabilise slopes and attenuate flood water, absorb carbon, and increased use of trees to reduce urban heating.
- **Sustainable water management:** Optimise and improve the use of Green Infrastructure to deliver an improved water environment by working with natural processes to help reduce flood risk, manage drought, improve water quality and improve connectivity to reduce the loss and quality of aquatic habitats and wildlife.
- **Health and wellbeing for all:** Improve the network of green and active travel routes and accessibility to green spaces to support healthy lifestyles and mental wellbeing (e.g. opportunities to run/jog, cycle, walk the dog), improve air quality, and provide more opportunities for people to connect with landscape and nature, and address inequalities in provision.
- **Improve upkeep, care and general maintenance of our open spaces,** creating more attractive, green areas for people to spend time in.
- **Create and maintain sustainable places:** New development which provides more green spaces and maximises the multiple benefits of Green Infrastructure in delivering resilient, healthy and environmentally friendly places and a net gain in natural capital by investing in Green Infrastructure for the long term.
- **Create and maintain valued healthy landscape:** Design and deliver high quality Green Infrastructure that improves local sense of place and protects and enhances landscape character and views and the natural, cultural and heritage services that they provide.
- **Support sustainable and local food production:** Increase opportunities for local food production in urban and rural areas and increase food sovereignty by, for example,

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[28] https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Joint-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-%E2%80%93-June-2020..pdf

protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land and enhancing our pollinator network.

- **Build a resilient economy:** Create attractive areas for investment and job creation and support the environmental resilience of economic sites by enhancing Green Infrastructure relating to housing, businesses and other associated infrastructure

The Portishead NDP Environment Working Group identified 7 broad valued GBI areas within Portishead. These areas were assessed against the principles above. This provided an assessment of how well they currently perform at a range of ecosystem services, and identified opportunities for improvement of the type and range of ecosystem services each area provides.

The full assessment is included in the Appendix. The assessment of and opportunities for improvement of ecosystem services is detailed in Part 3.

Part 3 Key GBI Assets, Links and Priorities

This section draws on Part 1 and 2, to identify the key GBI assets and linkages in the Portishead Neighbourhood Area to retain and enhance, along with opportunities and priorities to improve the performance and range of ecosystem services that they provide.

Green and Blue Infrastructure Assets, Links and Priorities are shown diagrammatically in Figure 6 below.

Figure 6: Green and Blue Infrastructure Key Assets, Links and Priorities: Strategy Diagram
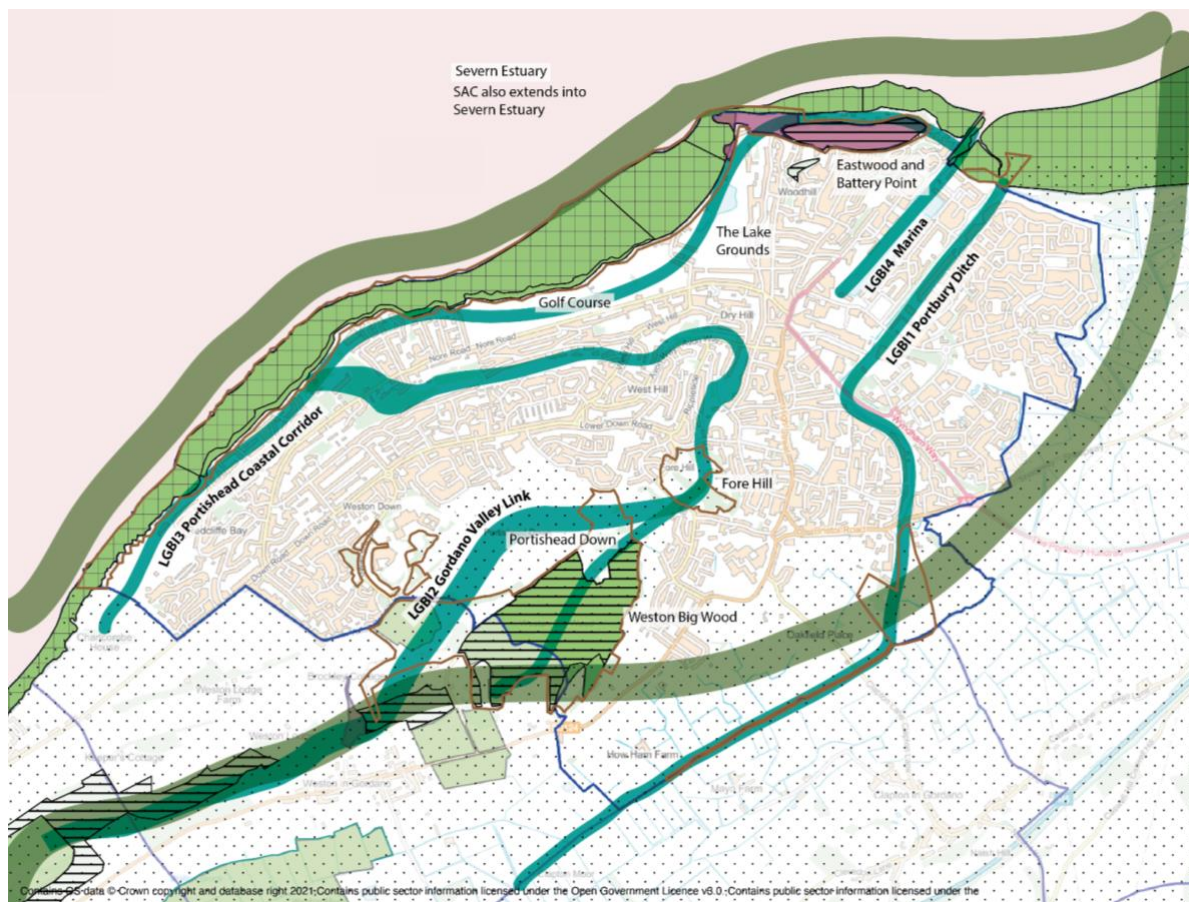
As well as through the North Somerset Local Plan and North Somerset GI Strategy, the protection and enhancement of the key GBI assets, links and priorities in Portishead will be enabled and delivered by associated planning policies and Community Actions in the NDP. The NDP Green and Blue Infrastructure Community Actions are included in Table 2 below.

Local GBI Corridors

These are linear elements of Portishead's GBI, linking local sites and delivering connectivity of assets between and within different parts of the Neighbourhood Area.

- **LGBI1 Portbury Ditch**
  Environment Agency-managed waterway / rhyne linking Portbury to the east and Swiss Valley to the south to the Severn Estuary. This blue corridor crosses under Portbury Common and alongside part of Wyndham Way before running north eastwards, parallel to the marina, towards the coast. Parts of the rhyne are already wildlife rich; herons and kingfishers are seen here. There is a footpath that runs alongside the rhyne.

  Assessment of Current Ecosystem Services
  High score: Sustainable water management
  Medium score: Improved and better-connected networks, Greater resilience to climate change, Health and well-being for all, Improve general maintenance of open spaces, Create and maintain a valued healthy landscape
  Low score / N/A: Support sustainable local food production, Build a resilient economy

  Opportunities for ecosystem service improvement along this corridor include:
  - Connectivity improvements. The footpath that runs alongside the rhyne is poorly accessible in parts, particularly as it nears the coast, parallel to the marina.
  - Water quality improvements. In 2019, Portbury Ditch was assessed as 'moderate' in quality. The ecological assessment result was 'moderate' and the chemical assessment result was a 'fail', with agriculture and rural land management and waste treatment and disposal cited as reasons for this[29].
  - Placemaking Plan. The Wyndham Way project identifies Portbury Ditch as an area for an 'enhanced green corridor', to support clear walking and cycling links, and to link to green spaces within new development to boost biodiversity in the wider area[30].

- **LGBI2 – Gordano Valley Link**
  This is a significant GBI corridor linking the centre of the Town out to Weston Big Wood. It links into North Somerset-identified Strategic GI Corridor 3, which encompasses the Gordano Valley. This corridor is a mixture of grassland and woodland, and includes Fore Hill local nature reserve (also a regionally important

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[29] https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB109052027330

[30] Portishead Wyndham Way Opportunity Area Scoping Study, Allies and Morrison, February 2021, p66.

geographical site), the Lyes Orchard and Weston Big Wood Ancient Woodland. This is a highly locally valued corridor linking the built settlement to the Gordano Valley beyond via ecologically important habitats including Ancient Woodland at Weston Big Wood.

Assessment of Current Ecosystem Services

Weston Big Wood and Portishead Down
High score: Improved and better-connected networks, Greater resilience to climate change, Sustainable Water Management, Health and Wellbeing for all, Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces, Create and Maintain valued healthy landscape,
Medium score: Support sustainable local food production, Build a resilient economy
Low score / N/A: None

Slade Road and Fore Hill
High score: None
Medium score: Improved and better-connected networks, Grater resilience to climate change, Sustainable Water Management, Create and maintain valued healthy landscape, Support sustainable and local food production
Low score / N/A: Health and Wellbeing for all, Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces, Build a resilient economy

Opportunities for ecosystem service improvement along this corridor include:
- o Connectivity improvements. Fore Hill is quite inaccessible for walkers, and lacks a clear link through to Portishead Down. Potential for a better footpath map and signposting along this link for walkers between the High Street and Weston Big Wood. This is linked to a wider project to promote a package of walking routes throughout the town and its wider landscape as a visitor attraction.
- o SUDS. There are instances of surface water flooding on Clevedon Road due to poor management of nearby fields.
- o Recreation improvements and management. Walking and other recreation activities must be carefully managed to ensure there is no harm to valuable ancient woodland at Weston Big Wood.
- o Sustainable local food production. There are opportunities to promote more sustainable farming practices on the fields surrounding Weston Big Wood to ensure biodiversity associated with the Ancient Woodland is protected.
- o Better care and maintenance of open spaces along corridor. Slade Road open space and Fore Hill local nature reserve have opportunities for improved maintenance.

- **LGBI3 Portishead Coastal Corridor**
  This corridor is highly distinctive, covers a wide area, and includes a range of GBI features, including:
  - Portishead / Clevedon coastal path (major footpath route identified in NSC GI Strategy)

- East Wood and Battery Point Local Nature Reserve and Ancient Woodland and Wood Hill Ancient Woodland. Associated also with nearby saltmarsh environment.
- Kilkenny Field / Golf Course open green spaces
- The Lake Grounds open green space town focal point

Assessment of Current Ecosystem Services

The Lake Grounds
High score: Improved and better connected networks, Health and wellbeing for all, Create and maintain a valued healthy landscape
Medium score: Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces, Greater resilience to climate change, Build a resilient economy
Low score / N/A: Sustainable water management, Support sustainable local food production

East Wood and Battery Point
High score: Improved and better connected networks, Greater resilience to climate change, Sustainable Water Management, Health and wellbeing for all
Medium score: Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces, Create and maintain a valued healthy landscape, Build a resilient economy
Low score / N/A: Support sustainable local food production

Kilkenny Field / Golf Course
High score: Improved and better connected networks, Greater resilience to climate change, Sustainable Water Management, Health and wellbeing for all, Create and maintain a valued healthy landscape
Medium score: Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces, Build a resilient economy
Low score / N/A: Support sustainable local food production

Opportunities for ecosystem service improvement along this corridor include:
- Connectivity improvements. North Somerset Council identify potential to extend coastal path through Clevedon to Weston Super Mare. There is generally good connectivity, especially in the Kilkenny Field / Gold Course area where paths connect to the coastal path. It is important to maintain access to the coastal path from within the built settlement. Upkeep and maintenance of the coastal path could be improved.
- Signposting and interpretation. Potential for more interpretation boards along this link, especially in the East Wood and Battery Point area. Potential for more signposting to join-up coastal link to Marina. This is linked to a wider project to promote a package of walking routes throughout the town and its wider landscape as a visitor attraction.
- Accessibility improvements. There are natural springs in the Kilkenny Fields / Golf Course area and because of this some areas get boggy and inaccessible at times e.g. by the Windmill. Parts of the area are very steep and also

inaccessible at times; potential for some sensitively designed steps here to improve accessibility.

- o Rewilding. North Somerset Council has already planted some trees in parts of the Kilkenny Fields / Golf Course area. This should continue. Consideration should be given to whether tree planting at Battery Point would 'spoil' views from this area.
- o Water Quality improvements in the lake at the Lake Grounds; algae is an issue.
- o Tourist facility improvements. The buildings at the Lake Grounds are dilapidated and need investment. There is potential to make more of the Lake Ground area as a tourist destination.
- o Flood risk management. The Lake Grounds is an area at risk from coastal flooding.

- **LGBI4 – The Marina**
  This local corridor links the Severn Estuary and the built environment around the Marina development, built in the early 2000s. The space around this corridor was formally occupied by the two power stations and chemical plant, but is now redeveloped to provide a range of housing and leisure facilities. The corridor links to the Severn Estuary SSSI. The Marina itself is used for mooring of boats, and access to the mooring area is managed by a lock.

  Assessment of Current Ecosystem Services
  High score: Create and maintain a valued healthy landscape, Build a resilient economy
  Medium score: Improved and better connected networks, Health and wellbeing for all, Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces,
  Low score / N/A: Greater resilience to climate change, Sustainable water management, Support sustainable local food production

  Opportunities for ecosystem service improvement along this corridor include:
- Marine biodiversity improvements. For the most part, the marina is used for mooring and there is evidence of pollution associated with this. Local reports of mullets recently being seen in the marina suggest that the water quality may be improving.
- Opportunities to 'green the grey'. The built environment is relatively void of greenery and there are opportunities for green walls and planters in this area. Particularly identified opportunities include the roofs of the Portishead Town Council owned bus stops.
- SUDS. There are instances of surface water flooding in the built area, which is heavily concreted. There are opportunities here for slowing the flow of surface water run off[31]
- Connectivity improvements and wayfinding. The Marina is a key area for tourists and general recreation area, which is close to other recreation areas such as Eastwood

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[31] https://slowtheflow.net/

and Battery Point, and the Saltmarsh. There is oppotunity to better link these areas as part of a package of walking routes.

- Accessibility improvements. The Marina is a key area for visitors from Portishead and from outside of the Town. There is a need for more seats, more toilets and direct access to the Marina, to encourage and enable people of all ages and abilities to visit.
- Renewable energy projects. Portishead's resilience to climate change could be improved through exploring projects to harness the tidal power of the Severn Estuary within the Marina.

North Somerset Council Strategic GI Corridors

These are linear strategic elements of Portishead's GBI, identified by North Somerset Council, linking GI sites across North Somerset.

- **Strategic Corridor 3**: links a number of Local Wildlife Sites starting with the Severn Estuary through Portbury Wharf, Gordano Valley and Walton Common before looping back through Clevedon Court, Twickenham Hill/Cadbury Camp and Failand Ridge and ending at the River Avon. This corridor contains a mixture of woodland, wetland and grassland.

- **Strategic Corridor 5 Severn Estuary:** covers the coastal stretch of the district and the whole of the north boundary of the Portishead Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Plan Environment Working group highlighted the potential for ship pollution within this corridor, and the importance of carefully monitoring the pollution levels also linked to the sediment disposal from Hinkley Point which happens just off the coast of Portishead.

Trees and Tree Replacement

Bristol Tree Replacement Standard

The importance of trees in the Neighbourhood Area is clear and tree loss and replacement as part of development is an important factor. Bristol City Council have developed a bespoke system of compensation for the loss of trees from development sites, where the number of trees required to compensate for loss of existing trees depends upon the size of its trunk diameter – the Bristol Tree Replacement Standard[32]. This replacement standard can be used to inform how trees lost in the Plan area should be replaced. The aim of this standard is to plant suitable numbers of replacement trees in relation to trees lost, and increase tree coverage in the plan area overall.

The Bristol Tree Replacement Standard (BTRS) is a tool which Bristol City Council developed for its Local Plan, does this[33]. It is arguably more sophisticated than using tree replacement

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[32] See page 21 of the Planning Obligation Document 2012
https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/34520/SPD%20Final%20Doc%20Dec2012.pdf/daf75908-50fd-4138-afed-770310a6a431

[33] Bristol Local Plan – Site Allocations and Development Management Policies, Bristol City Council, 2014, Policy DM17

ratios, as it takes into account the size (and therefore age) of the existing tree. The BTRS has also been successfully adopted at parish level, with a made Neighbourhood Plan in Stroud District, Cam Parish Neighbourhood Plan[34].

This replacement standard, as shown in Table 2 below, can be used to inform how trees lost in the Portishead Neighbourhood Area should be replaced. Replacement planting should normally be within the development site, but if this is not feasible, could also be planted at a suitable location off site.

Trunk Diameter of Tree lost to development (cm measured at 1.5 metres above ground level)	Number of Replacement Trees
Less than 15	0 - 1
15 - 19.9	1
20 - 29.9	2
30 - 39.9	3
40 - 49.9	4
50 - 59.9	5
60 - 69.9	6
70 - 79.9	7
80 +	8

Table 2: Bristol City Council Tree Replacement Standard

The West of England Nature Partnership 'State of the Environment' project has mapped opportunities for Nature Recovery, including opportunities for woodland creation[35]. Identifying new areas for woodland and trees should be informed by this mapping.

Portishead NDP Green and Blue Infrastructure Community Actions

Table 3

North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation (if relevant)	Portishead NDP Community Action / Notes
Expand rewilding management regimes (e.g. along roadside verges (highway and residential) in order to increase biodiversity.	Portishead Town Council support carefully designed rewilding projects within the town, and work with Rewilding Britain's definition of rewilding[36] as the: *'large-scale restoration of ecosystems to the point where nature is allowed to take care of itself. Rewilding seeks to reinstate natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species – allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within.'*

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[34] Cam Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019 – 2031 Referendum Version, Cam Parish Council, 2020, Policy CAMCD2

[35] https://www.wenp.org.uk/nature-recovery-network/, https://www.wenp.org.uk/state-of-environment/

[36] https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/explore-rewilding/what-is-rewilding/defining-rewilding

North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation (if relevant)	Portishead NDP Community Action / Notes
	In Portishead, it is important that potential rewilding projects are well communicated with the nearby community and informed by community engagement to inform the type of project (including species etc) that is suitable in each particular location. Recent NSC-led rewilding projects for tree planting in Portishead have not been particularly successful as a number of the saplings did not survive, either through lack of watering/care and/or vandalism due to trees being planted in the wrong locations. Better collaboration with knowledgeable local partners would help to ensure that appropriate projects are brought forward. There is particular opportunity for rewilding projects on the Portishead Town Council-owned land at the football fields on Bristol Road. This would need to be carefully managed to ensure that the recreation function of this important green space was protected and enhanced where possible.
Identify additional opportunities to improve the biodiversity value of parks and green spaces.	*Promoting Portishead's Biodiversity Net Gain* Portishead Town Council is committed to increasing biodiversity in the town. The recently passed legislation in the Environment Act requires developments to increase biodiversity value on site by at least 10%. This is a positive step towards nature recovery, but it relates only to sites that are being developed. North Somerset Council recently declared an ecological emergency, recognising that the survival of our society and economy relies on the health of the natural environment and ecosystems[37]. We need to do all that we can to increase biodiversity in Portishead, not just in areas where development is taking place. There is opportunity for us to improve the wildlife value of our public realm and spaces; improving, rewilding and restoring natural habitats, increasing the range of ecosystem services they provide to improve health and wellbeing of residents as well as of ecological networks. These local community assets are within our management and have potential to secure biodiversity gains well in excess of 10%.

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[37] https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/avon-wildlife-trust-are-delighted-north-somerset-councils-recent-declaration-ecological

North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation (if relevant)	Portishead NDP Community Action / Notes
	Portishead Town Council will work with partners such as North Somerset Council and local wildlife groups to identify the best opportunities. This should be informed by Nature Recovery Network mapping from the West of England Nature Partnership[38] and North Somerset Council's rewilding map. These projects identify particular areas for biodiversity improvements, as well as the type of habitat most appropriate.

Also see Open Spaces section above. |
| Reduce pesticide usage and/or go pesticide free in some areas. | Portishead Town Council supports this and has already banned the use of Glyphosate pesticide in Portishead. |
| Identify additional tree planting opportunities. This could include street tree planting, allowing areas of natural regeneration, individual trees, new woodland, 'Tiny forests', and community orchards. | *Significant Community Trees of Portishead*

The project, initiated by the NDP Environment Working Group, aims to log all of the significant trees in Portishead to catalogue key information such as their species, size, health, function and location. Community involvement is key to the project; nominations and suggestions for significant trees will come directly from the community via online engagement and other methods. The project will identify trees with potential for TPO and listing on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory[39] which would grant them further protection.

The project will also build evidence around what makes a tree valuable and successful in particular places in Portishead, and locations for potential tree planting; useful to inform rewilding (and other GBI) projects within the Neighbourhood Area to help ensure that the 'right trees are planted in the right places' (NPPF, para. 131[40]).

Some recent tree planting undertaken as part of NSC-led rewilding has been criticised due to its use of plastic tree guards, used to protect young trees from damage. The community in Portishead have expressed concern over this as plastic does not biodegrade and the rewilding project has had |

[38] https://www.wenp.org.uk/nature-recovery-network/

[39] https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/

[40] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation (if relevant)	Portishead NDP Community Action / Notes
	negative impacts in terms of plastic pollution. The Woodland Trust has committed to the goal of using no plastic tree guards in use by 2030, and is actively researching alternative methods of young tree protection[41]. This is something that should inform tree planting in Portishead.
Identify opportunities for 'greening the grey' within the built area e.g. green roofs, walls and planting in built up areas where the opportunities to provide new open space is limited.	Development around the Marina has been identified as an area where this could be particularly beneficial. Portishead Town Council own a number of bus shelters around the town and a toilet block – these have been identified as potential green roofs.
Raise awareness of soil health, regenerative agriculture and agroecology practices, and help support farmers and landowners to transition to these practices, as well as encourage residents/communities to support their local food producers where possible.	Portishead Town Council supports sustainable farming practices, as well as opportunities for community farms and local food production.
Consider landscape and heritage assets to ensure that GI proposals complement these and contribute to place making.	The NDP Green and Blue Infrastructure evidence base overlaps significantly with NDP evidence bases around landscape, key views and character, which identify key components of the landscape and heritage in Portishead.

The Portishead Sculpture Trail is a key local route that taps into and promotes the landscape and heritage value of the town. |

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[41] https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/research-and-evidence/plastic-tree-guards/

North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation (if relevant)	Portishead NDP Community Action / Notes
Encourage and support schools to take up wildlife friendly management on their grounds, involving school pupils in their management and making use of outdoor classrooms.	Supported by the Town Council.
Encourage and support wildlife friendly gardening.	Wild Portishead promotes this through campaigns such as the Metre Meadow[42] which encourages people to leave a 1m^2 unmown area of their garden and keep a note of how it develops; the species it attracts etc. Portishead in Bloom is another relevant local partner that could be involved in promoting this. The annual Portishead Flower Show is an ideal opportunity for a stall to promote wildlife friendly gardening techniques and skills.
Retain, restore and re-connect priority habitats and green and blue spaces in order to help restore biodiversity and support functioning ecosystems.	*Joined up working for a joined up Strategic GBI Network* This is a key principle that provides the framework for relevant policies in the Portishead NDP. Priorities for delivering this are summarised in Figure 6 (GBI Strategy diagram). The Portishead Neighbourhood Area is part of key strategic Green and Blue infrastructure corridors that sweep beyond the Neighbourhood Area and across North Somerset. It is key that Green and Blue Infrastructure assets in Portishead are managed appropriately and in collaboration with neighbouring parishes to ensure benefits to the strategic network. Portishead Town Council already works collaboratively with its neighbouring parishes and is committed to continuing this in relation to green and blue infrastructure where appropriate.

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42 https://www.wildportishead.com/meadow

North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy Recommendation (if relevant)	Portishead NDP Community Action / Notes
Maintaining and Improving the Public Rights of Way Network	The Neighbourhood Plan evidence identifies a number of important rights of way, including those not currently on the definitive PROW map. See Prosperity evidence base. A particular priority for Portishead is to ensure that access to the coast from within the town is maintained. Work to identify Portishead 'Leisure Loops' for recreational walking has been done as part of the NDP Prosperity evidence base. This links into the existing Portishead Sculpture Trail Link and the Gordano Trails which could be updated.

Appendix

Portishead NDP: Assessing Key GBI Areas against GBI Strategy Objectives

Key GBI Area: Weston Big Wood and Portishead Down		
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Objective	**Score 1 (low) - 3 (high)**	**Reasons for score**
Improved and better-connected ecological networks	3	Good at the moment. Mixed agriculture buffer zones around woodland.
Greater resilience to climate change	3	Natural solution in place but under threat because of development.
Sustainable water management	3	Natural solution in place but flooding on Clevedon Road due to poor management of two fields
Health and wellbeing for all	3	Lots of opportunities for walking. Careful management of cycling needed.
Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces	3	Well managed at the moment. Weston Big Wood owned and manged by Avon Wildlife Trust.
Create and maintain valued healthy landscape	3	Enhances pollinator network. Ideal opportunities for community ownership and community farm. Maintains complex food chain and wildlife
Support sustainable and local food production	2	There are opportunities for more sustainable farming here, to also better protect biodiversity associated with Ancient Woodland.
Build a resilient economy	2	See above. Could be part of a better promoted network of walking routes packaged as visitor attraction.

Key GBI Area: The Lake Grounds and Surroundings

Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Objective	Score 1 (low) - 3 (high)	Reasons for score
Improved and better-connected ecological networks	3	Well connected to adjacent green areas of Eastwood and Kilkenny Field
Greater resilience to climate change	2	Area subject to coastal flooding
Sustainable water management	1	Lake water quality is an issue (algae) This area is subject to pollution from the Severn Estuary which could potentially worsen with sediment disposal (from Hinkley Point). Potential for ship pollution.
Health and wellbeing for all	3	Valued recreation space
Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces	2	Buildings are dilapidated. Green spaces are OK.
Create and maintain valued healthy landscape	3	This is a focal point for the town; cultural centre.
Support sustainable and local food production	N/A	None
Build a resilient economy	2	There is potential to make more of this area to attract more tourists, concessions.

Key GBI Area: Fore Hill and Slade Road		
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Objective	**Score 1 (low) - 3 (high)**	**Reasons for score**
Improved and better-connected ecological networks	2	Fore Hill is very inaccessible and not joined up. Slade Road is neglected playing fields which could be restored to a natural play area. Part of wider strategic green corridor Slade Road – Fore Hill – Portishead Down – Weston Big Wood.
Greater resilience to climate change	1	
Sustainable water management	2	Natural drainage
Health and wellbeing for all	1	Needs a better footpath map and signposting. Potential for linkage to High Street and trail to Weston Big Wood.
Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces	1	More opportunity; these are 'hidden gems'
Create and maintain valued healthy landscape	1	More could be made of this area being part of the strategic corridor that supports the ancient woodland in Weston Big Wood. Views across the Gordano Valley in parts.
Support sustainable and local food production	N/A	
Build a resilient economy	N/A	

Key GBI Area: Blackdown Road / Denny View / Hawthorne Close		
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Objective	**Score 1 (low) - 3 (high)**	**Reasons for score**
Improved and better-connected ecological networks	1	These spaces are not particularly well connected due to their varying topography and the fact that they are not publically accessible.
Greater resilience to climate change		
Sustainable water management		
Health and wellbeing for all		
Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces		
Create and maintain valued healthy landscape		
Support sustainable and local food production		
Build a resilient economy		

Key GBI Area: Golf Course and Kilkenny Fields		
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Objective	**Score 1 (low) - 3 (high)**	**Reasons for score**
Improved and better-connected (ecological) networks	3	Good connectivity. Connects to English Coastal Path. Public rights of way traverse this area.
Greater resilience to climate change	3	Tree planting rewilding project happening in parts of this area.
Sustainable water management	3	Natural drainage. Water management will improve with tree planting.
Health and wellbeing for all	3	Popular with dog walkers, walkers, kite flyers.
Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces	2	Well maintained generally. There are natural springs in this area and because of this some areas get boggy and inaccessible at times e.g. by the Windmill. Parts of the area are very steep and also inaccessible at times; potential for some sensitively designed steps here to improve accessibility.
Create and maintain valued healthy landscape	3	Valued coastal views
Support sustainable and local food production	N/A	
Build a resilient economy	2	Could make more of this area being part of key strategic route along the coast; part of a Portishead walking route network.

Key GBI Area: East Wood and Battery Point		
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Objective	**Score 1 (low) - 3 (high)**	**Reasons for score**
Improved and better-connected ecological networks	3	Well connected. Near to important salt marsh environment. Ancient Woodland.
Greater resilience to climate change	3	Woodland provides shade
Sustainable water management	3	Natural drainage
Health and wellbeing for all	3	Good generally but paths could be better maintained. Small area. Potential for more interpretation boards.
Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces	2	
Create and maintain valued healthy landscape	2	Valuable landscape and coastal views. Conservation Area.
Support sustainable and local food production	N/A	
Build a resilient economy	2	Area could be better integrated with a visit to the Marina with better signposting.

Key GBI Area: The Marina and The Rhyne		
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Objective	**Score 1 (low) - 3 (high)**	**Reasons for score**
Improved and better-connected (ecological) networks	1-2	The Rhyne is a linear route but there are opportunities to make this better connected as an active travel route. Marina – variable. There is lots of concrete.
Greater resilience to climate change	2	Marina is subject to surface water flooding. The Rhyne is managed by the Environment Agency. Opportunities to 'green the grey' around the Marina e.g. green walls, planters.
Sustainable water management	2	The Rhyne is there to manage water. Issues with surface water run off flooding around the Marina. Lots of this area is in flood zone.
Health and wellbeing for all	2	Area for recreation and socialising. More seats, bins and public toilets would make this area much more attractive to a wider range of people.
Improve care and general maintenance of open spaces	2	Some areas need better maintenance.
Create and maintain valued healthy landscape	3	Attractive environment overall. Significant landscape, coastal views, power station heritage. Art in Marina is part of Portishead Sculpture Trail.
Support sustainable and local food production	N/A	
Build a resilient economy	2/3	Could make more of this area as a tourist destination. Access / parking is a bit of an issue. Also lack of connection to High Street and future rail station.