# Brierley Hill Area Action Plan

## Green Infrastructure: A Sustainable Future

# Progress on the Area Action Plan

Strategy and policies developed after extensive consultation (taking on board comments from agencies including Sport England, English Heritage, Inland Waterways Association, British Waterways & Natural England)

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Draft plan prepared

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Special Cabinet 18th November 2009 for approval to publish

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Public Consultation 30th November 2009 – 15th January 2010

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Submit to Secretary of State End February 2010

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Examination in Public November 2010

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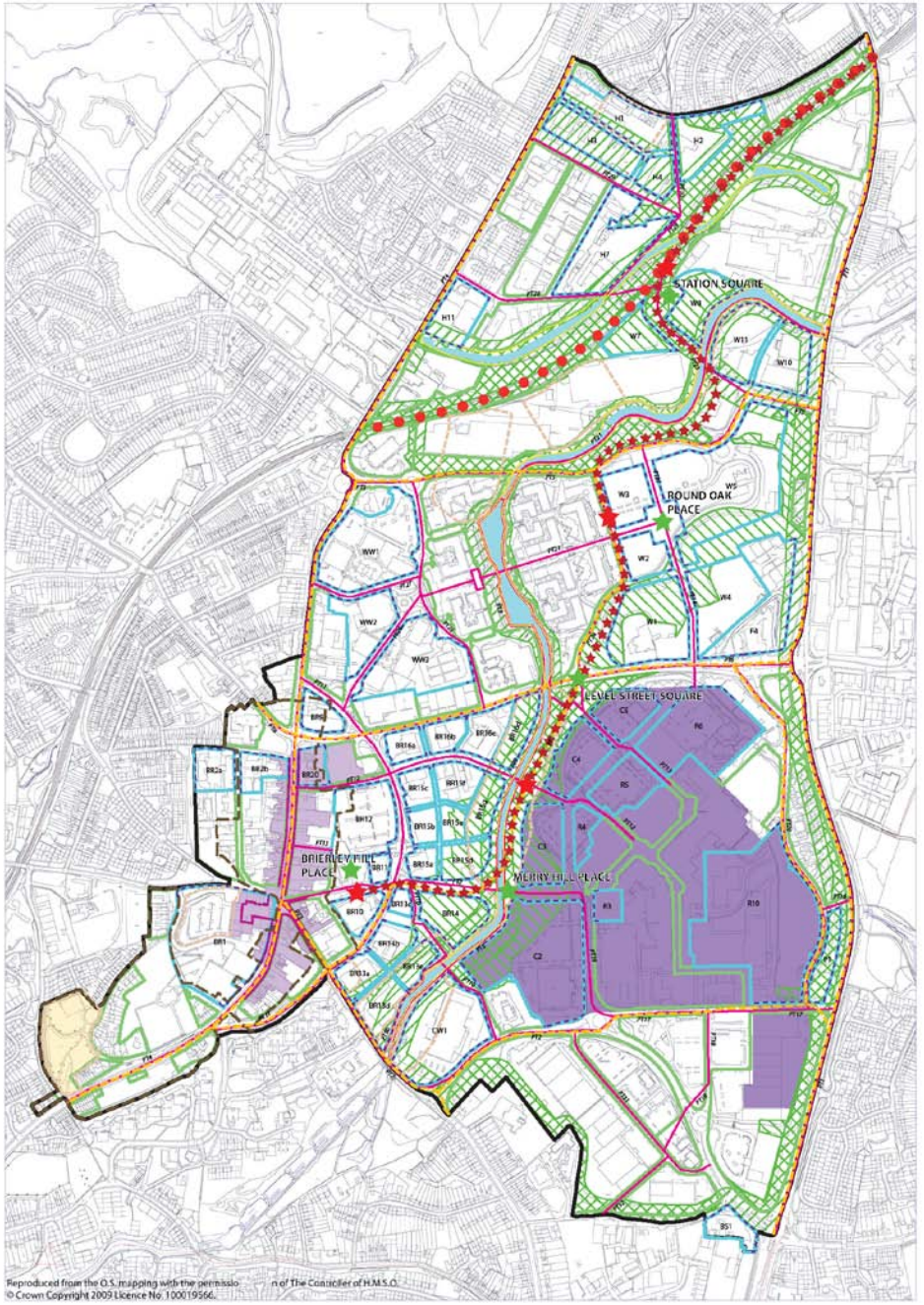
Adoption July 2011

# The Area Action Plan

- A strategic plan to guide £1.5bn of investment to 2026
- Will be used for making decisions on planning applications and guiding investment
- Accommodates over 3000 new homes, 220,000m$^2$ offices, 65,000m$^2$ comparison retail, leisure and community facilities in a connected network of public thoroughfares, the canal and wildlife corridors
- Key theme is ‘green infrastructure’. The strategy aims to preserve important areas, seek mitigation for any damage and deliver enhancements to create an overall positive balance.



# Designated Wildlife Sites

Fens Pool: Special Area of Conservation, Local Nature Reserve, Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Saltwells: Local Nature Reserve, Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Delph Locks, Dudley No.1 Canal & Pensnett Canal: Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

# Priority Species & Habitats

The area is home to many species, of these the key species (and the habitat they depend on) could be seen as:

- Bats (open water, woodland, scrub, rough grasslands, trees and structures)
- Black redstart (brownfield sites, canals and railways)
- Dingy skipper (brownfield sites, species rich grassland)
- Great crested newt (ponds, rough grassland, scrub/woodland)
- Green hairstreak (brownfield sites, species rich grassland)
- Kingfisher (open water and banksides)
- Otter (open water and banksides)
- Water vole (open water and banksides)

Priority habitats present, or bordering the area:

- Ancient and semi-natural woodland
- Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
- Open water
- Semi-natural grassland

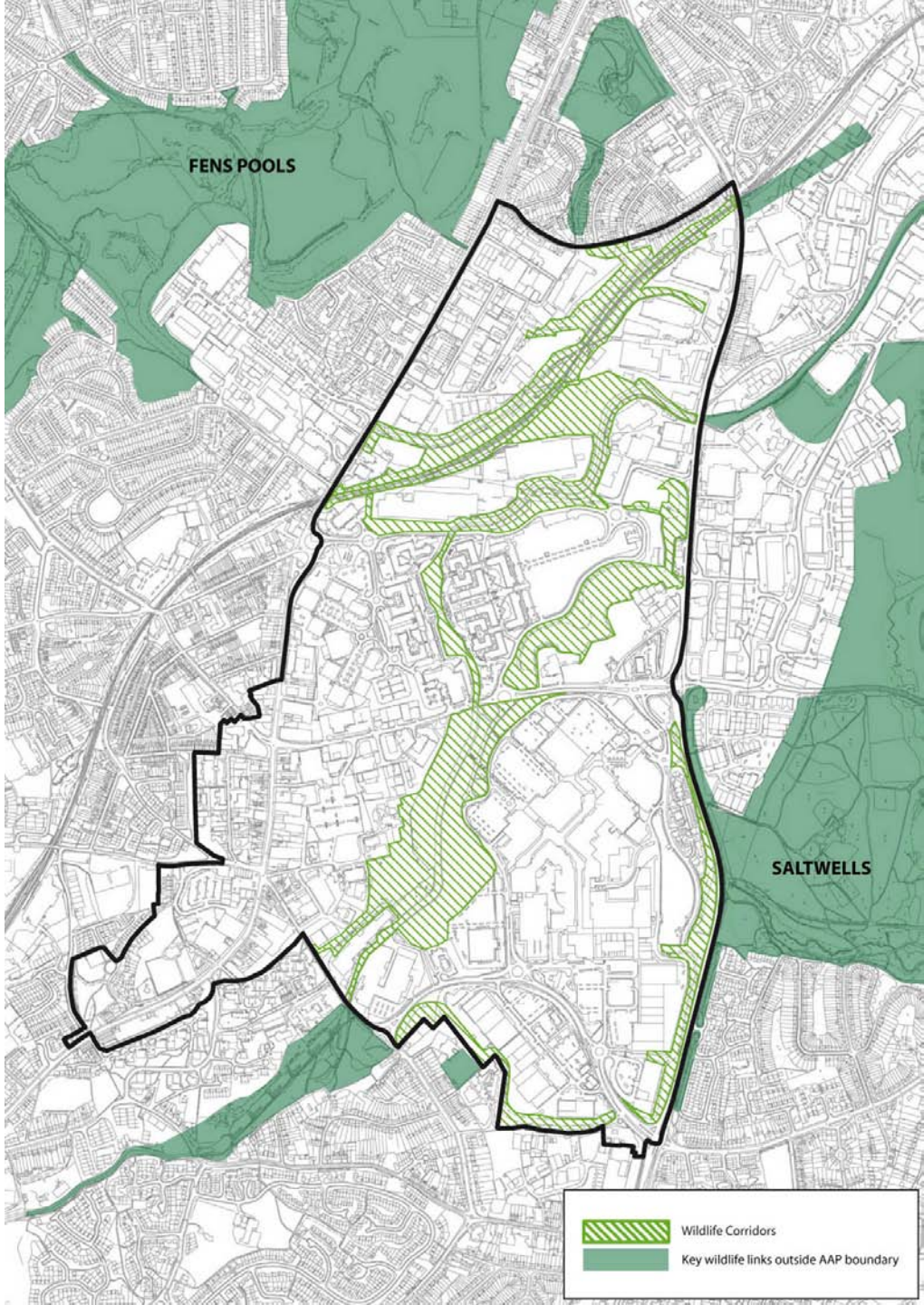
# Tier 1:

# The Wildlife Corridors

Existing corridors linking Fens Pool to Saltwells by linear habitats and stepping stone sites

Seek to maintain and where possible enhance the corridor

Development in these areas will be required to protect areas of high ecological value and provide mitigation for any unavoidable damage



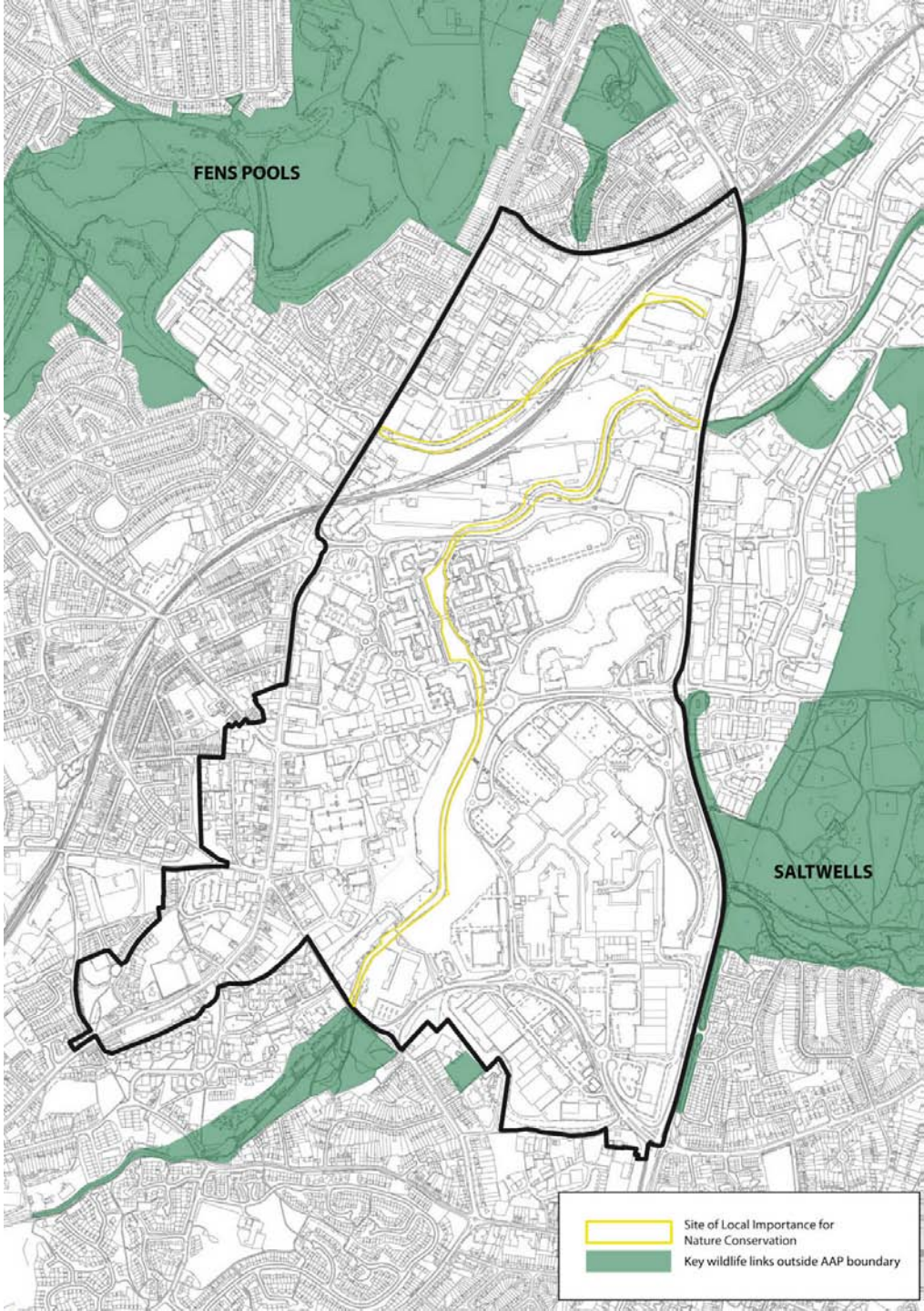
# Tier 2:

# The Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Part of a wider Black Country network of SLINCS

Seek to maintain and where possible enhance the quality, amount and distribution of the key habitat types and features within this sub-regional network

Development in these areas will be required to protect areas of high ecological value and provide mitigation for any unavoidable damage



# Tier 3:

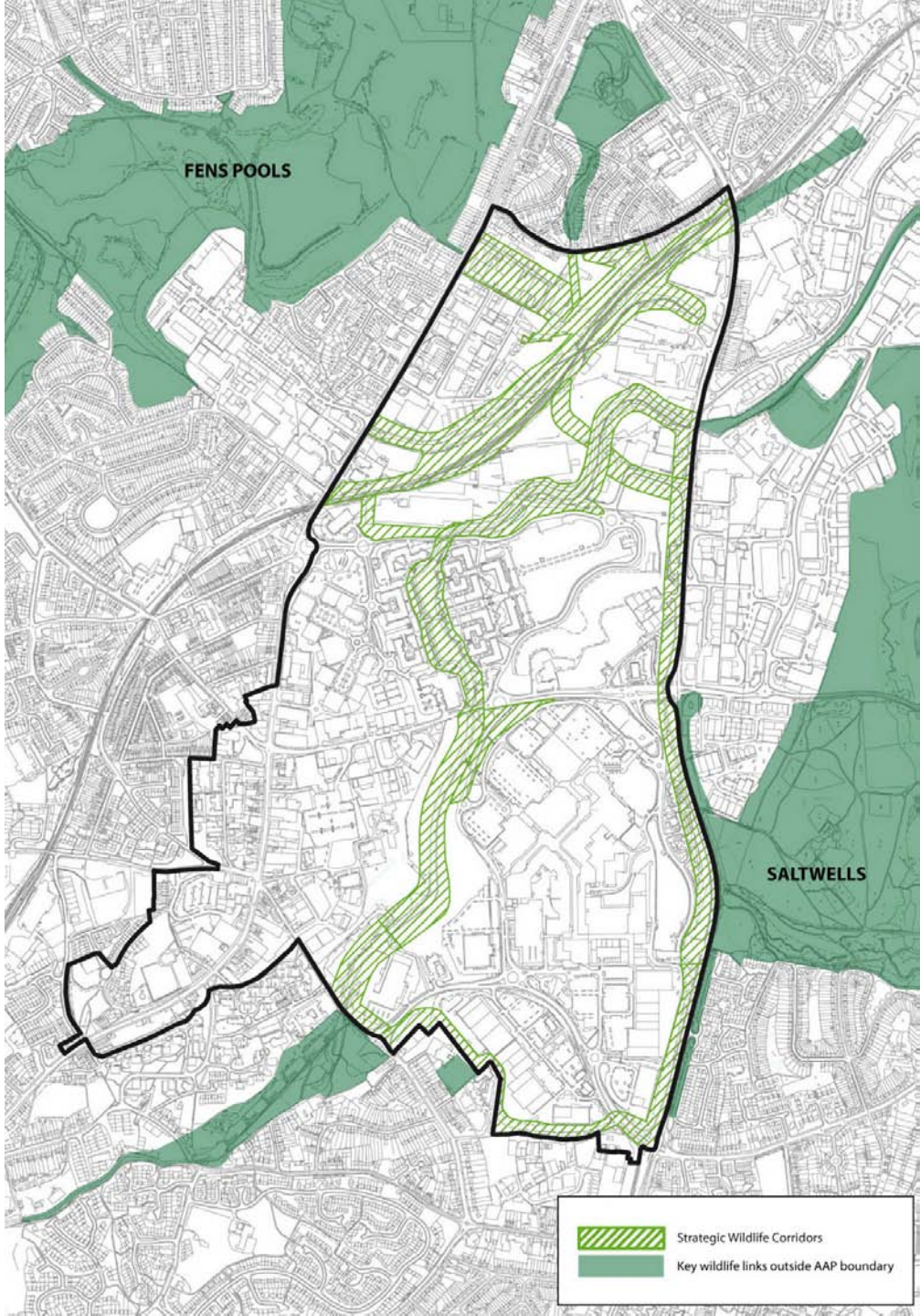
# The Strategic Wildlife Corridors

Demonstrate the most efficient and effective routes to link Fens Pool and Saltwells.

Development will be required to positively contribute to this network.

Need to function for many different species and will need to be at least 12-15m wide with larger areas to provide resting places and breeding habitat

Creation of enhancements to create an overall positive balance



# The Local Environment

- Landscaping and street trees
- Water management including sustainable urban drainage systems
- Green roofs and walls