



LOTTERY FUNDED



# LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN SCHEME PLAN

Including Project Plan Summaries



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# 1

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

City and country are more closely connected in Bath than perhaps any other British city. The surrounding hills not only provide a spectacular backdrop to this most compact of cities but also allow unparalleled opportunity for access and enjoyment. Within fifteen minutes it is possible to walk from urban centre to wildflower-rich valley, while a half hour in almost any direction will lead you to walks amongst open fields and wooded slopes that are recognisable from Georgian times. Looking back to the city, the iconic views underline the interplay between the rural and urban landscape and their collective value.

This value was recognised in 1987 by UNESCO in its inscription of the entire city of Bath as a World Heritage Site (WHS), with the Roman remains, 18th century architecture, 18th century town planning, social setting, hot springs and landscape setting collectively cited as the reasons for its inclusion. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value from that inscription summarises Bath and its surroundings as *“a demonstration par excellence of the integration of architecture, urban design and landscape setting, and the deliberate creation of a beautiful city”*.

Not only was the visual landscape setting utilised to such great effect in the design of the city, but the hills themselves provided the Oolitic limestone that is such a distinctive feature of the city’s buildings, allowing a coherence of design that continues today.



Left: Looking across Bath



Above: Newton Park grounds

The value of the countryside, however, goes beyond that of its relationship to the city. It is home to a huge variety of wildlife, features of historic, geological and archaeological interest and is brimming with cultural history. Writers, artists, scientists and industrialists have found inspiration here, while its therapeutic reputation dates back millennia.

***The rich landscape legacy of the Bathscape is reflected in the breadth, number and quantity of designations including:***

- The City of Bath World Heritage Site – the only city-wide WHS in the UK
- The Bath Conservation Area – one of the largest in England
- 2,714 listed buildings within the city
- Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty surrounding three sides of the city
- 15 Nationally Recognised Gardens in the WHS setting
- 41 Locally Designated Gardens in the WHS setting
- 20 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

- 7 important hillsides within the urban area
- 1,942 Historic Environment Records Monument within the WHS setting
- A Nationally Registered Battlefield (partially) in the WHS setting
- The Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation
- 8 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 780ha of priority habitat.

Today the Bathscape area is home to around 107,000 residents, with software, publishing and service-oriented industries being important employers. The Georgian prime of the city and wider Bathscape was superseded by a period of industry with crane works, quarrying, plasticine manufacturing and numerous mills, but following a decline in manufacturing, tourism re-emerged as a principal industry. The area now attracts an estimated 5 million day visitors each year.

THE AREA  
NOW ATTRACTS  
AN ESTIMATED  
5 MILLION  
DAY VISITORS  
EACH YEAR.

The expansion and reinvention of the city through the 19th century to the 21st century is as important to understanding the heritage of the Bathscape as the story of its 18th century heyday. As a distinct landscape centred upon a compact city attracting millions of visitors the pressures upon the Bathscape and its heritage features are extensive, however so too is its potential for health, enjoyment and inspiration.

The Bathscape scheme brings together a broad group of partners with a shared ambition to see the value of this significant landscape recognised, and the threats it faces addressed through coordinated management and increased public appreciation. The partnership also recognises the opportunity for the scheme to further address the social inequality that is prevalent in Bath.

The heritage will not benefit in isolation, more and a wider range of people will be helped to actively enjoy and learn about the landscape. Addressing social inequality is central to Bathscape and opportunities for projects that work for disadvantaged communities are prominent.

Through the delivery of twenty five interconnected projects across the four themes of Conserving and Restoring, The Therapeutic Landscape, Access and Learning, Training & Skills, the Bathscape scheme will bring the landscape centre stage. The surrounding hills and valleys that enhance the World Heritage Site deserve to be better managed and experienced. Bathscape will inspire a greater number and wider range of people to: explore the outstanding built and natural environments; become involved in the protection of the heritage; and improve their health and wellbeing.



Left: Bath from Alexandra Park viewpoint

# 2

# INTRODUCTION

# INTRODUCTION

In November 2016 the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a first round pass to the Bathscape Landscape Partnership Scheme allowing the partners to develop and submit a fully worked-up second round submission. This document is the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) supporting that submission.

The LCAP relates to a scheme area of approximately 101km<sup>2</sup> centred around Bath, forming the 'landscape setting' as cited in the UNESCO statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the City of Bath World Heritage Site. The scheme area incorporates both urban and rural landscape, stretching across the hilltop plateaus and valleys that surround the city, with the majority of the area falling within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The LCAP's authors are Bathscape Development Manager, Dan Merrett and Community and Access Officer, Lucy Bartlett. Dan has 20 years of experience working in the environmental sector, including project-managing a Heritage Lottery Funded national project to involve missing audiences in bat conservation and a project to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation through the creation of one hundred wildflower meadows across the UK. Lucy spent six years working for historic building preservation trusts followed by 15 years with Citizens Advice, supporting organisational change and volunteer and staff development. She was then People Engagement Officer on a nature reserve. They were supported by Bath & NE Somerset Council staff including Landscape Architect and author of the Landscape Character Assessment Andrew Sharland. The development stage and production of the LCAP has been overseen and contributed to by the Partnership Board, the members of which are outlined in this section.

MAP OF SCHEME AREA



## 2.1 PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION

A large number and broad range of organisations and individuals have been involved in informing and shaping the scheme, building on the significant work undertaken in developing the phase one bid. In addition to the organisations represented on the Partnership Board, national bodies Natural England and Historic England and local organisations including The Joint Local Access Forum, Wiltshire Council, Bath City Farm, Bath Natural History Society, Bath and Counties Archaeological Society, The South West Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, BathHacked, The Forest of Avon Trust and Blooming Whiteway have advised on developing projects.

During the development phase project staff members have held individual meetings with over 70 key stakeholders and regularly attended community meetings, particularly in the target area of south west Bath where the wards suffering significant deprivation are clustered. The stakeholders were targeted to represent a range of views, needs and potential for involvement. They encompassed organisations such as Carrswood Day Centre for adults with learning disabilities, local interest groups, health and education officers, parish councillors and community groups. The public were consulted at seven free to attend community events: World Heritage Day; Bath University 50th anniversary community festival; Bath Bioblitz; Bath Festival of Nature; Bath City Farm Family Fun Day; Bath City Conference; and Bath City Farm Easter celebration.

### *Additional Bathscape activities piloted by project staff with the help of partners were:*

- a school outdoor activities event involving four local schools
- a family nature day targeting residents in the Foxhill area of the city
- a bug hunt in Sydney Gardens heritage park
- a bat walk for residents of the Foyer in Twerton (sheltered housing for young people) and the Friends of Carr's Wood (a Local Nature Reserve in Twerton)
- a week long Bathscape Walking Festival incorporating 25 walks attracting over 800 participants
- improved outdoor learning facilities at Bath City Farm.

Feedback was collected at these activities to help understand the interests and requirements of participants and to shape the development of the scheme project plans. Areas experiencing significant deprivation such as Twerton West (an area falling within the 10% most deprived in the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation), Whiteway (within the bottom 1% for the children and young people subdomain of the education, skills and training component of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation), and Foxhill (within the 10% most deprived areas for children and young people, and education, skills and training domains) were targeted to ensure the views of these residents were included.

Further consultation was undertaken by those delivering woodland, grassland, interpretation and access briefs, with over 650 residents completing a questionnaire exploring how they currently use the landscape and the barriers they perceive.

### *Example comments received across the consultations include:*

- The main challenges facing the farming community around Bath are declining returns from dairy and sheep and diminishing agri-environment support
- As a single female and with children with additional needs it's a challenge to embark on 'exploring'. Would love to have options for families to connect with to be guides, or child friendly information to download to guide
- I only visit local areas that are easy to access on foot/public transport

- There is currently more work to do than people to do it, so volunteers could have a role, and woodland management could be undertaken in exchange for firewood
- I'm a Scout Leader which is one of the main ways I get involved with the outdoors, would be great to know how I might be able to link up more
- I'm amazed how many Bathonians know so little about the joys of the natural world in such close proximity to the city
- I love that I can access countryside on foot from my front door in 15min, no matter where I have lived in Bath. It's part of what keeps me here
- I would like to explore more but I don't know where to start.



Right: Public consultation

## 2.2 THE PARTNERSHIP

The Bathscape Partnership was established in 2013 to realise opportunities to enhance the heritage, landscape and wildlife value of the setting of the City, and to improve access and understanding to this setting. The Partnership consists of a wide variety of organisations and individuals represented on either the Board, Delivery Group and/or Advisory Groups. Members have overseen the development phase and contributed knowledge and expertise to the production of this LCAP.

Further details on the operation of the partnership and delivery of the scheme are given in the appendices.

### BATHSCAPE CHAIR ANDREW GRANT

Bath resident Andrew Grant established the highly-respected landscape architecture practice Grant Associates 20 years ago. He took on the role of Bathscape chair in October 2017 to serve a three year term.



Left: The Bathscape Board

### BATHSCAPE LEAD PARTNER – BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Bath & NE Somerset Council is the unitary authority for the district and the lead partner for the Bathscape scheme. Its 2020 vision is that 'Bath and North East Somerset will be internationally renowned as a beautifully inventive and entrepreneurial 21st century place with a strong social purpose and a spirit of wellbeing, where everyone is invited to think big – a 'connected' area ready to create an extraordinary legacy for future generations'. The Environment and Design Team have guided development of the scheme, representing Bathscape interests such as ecology, landscape, trees and green infrastructure.

### AVON WILDLIFE TRUST

Avon Wildlife Trust is the local wildlife charity working to secure a strong future for the natural environment and to inspire people to care for it. With the support of over 17,600 members and 900 volunteers, the Trust cares for 30 nature reserves and works with landowners to restore habitats at a landscape scale. The Trust provides opportunities for people of all ages to experience nature, learn about wildlife, develop practical skills and experience the benefits to their health and wellbeing. It has experience of working within the Bathscape project area over many years, with good knowledge of the landscape, wildlife habitats and landowners around the city.

### BATH CITY FORUM

The Bath City Forum was established to improve engagement with local communities. It assists the Council in policy development and delivery on matters essential to allow Bath to realise its full potential as a leading small city.

### BATH PRESERVATION TRUST

Bath Preservation Trust's remit includes conservation, education and museums. The Trust recognises the value for nature and people of the green countryside around the City of Bath and the need to protect it and promote access. In addition, the Trust takes a working interest in planning matters arising in the 14 parishes which surround the City of Bath.

### BATH SPA UNIVERSITY

Bath Spa University is committed to sustainability and environmental improvement, playing a key part in the wider economic, cultural and environmental wellbeing of the region. The new Environmental Humanities Research Centre provides a space for humanities scholars, artists, writers, natural scientists and social scientists to work with each other and with communities beyond academia to produce ethical, creative, historically informed and culturally sensitive responses to environmental problems – something at the heart of the Bathscape project.

### COTSWOLDS CONSERVATION BOARD

Established by Parliament in 2004 the Cotswolds Conservation Board has two statutory purposes:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB
- To increase understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB.

In fulfilling these purposes, the Board has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the AONB. As far back as 2013 the Board recognised that the setting of Bath faced particular issues around proximity to the urban environment and a community disconnected from their landscape.

## CURO

Curo is a not-for-profit housing and support organisation based in Bath, providing affordable homes and high quality care and support services across the West of England. Curo owns 5,700 homes in Bath including over 500 in Foxhill and other homes in deprived communities in Bath such as Snowhill, Southdown, Whiteway and Twerton. It recognises Bath's landscape as intrinsically linked to its economic prosperity, societal wellbeing and host to a wealth of important wildlife and wildlife corridors that reach into the city.

## FEDERATION OF BATH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

FoBRA is a group of about 30 residents' associations in the city of Bath, along with a number of associated groups representing nearby villages, students in the city, or interest groups such as bus users. Members range from small groups, representing only a score of households, to the Widcombe Association with 600 households and 60 businesses in membership, and from the social housing of Foxhill to the Georgian terraces of Royal Crescent. FoBRA is fully committed to the Bathscape programme.

## NATIONAL TRUST

The National Trust has owned land and prominent built heritage sites within Bath since the 1930s and, with the help of donations of and public support for further purchases of countryside, it currently owns and manages 10% of the land within the World Heritage Site of Bath. As one of the leading partners caring for this countryside in the city, a key aim for its work is to help promote best practice for the management of, and access to, this internationally important green setting. The National Trust is proud to be playing an active role within this partnership.

## PUBLIC HEALTH BATH & NE SOMERSET

The Public Health team works with local communities and a wide range of health and social care professionals, education settings, workplaces and other colleagues to promote the health of local people, helping them stay healthy, and protecting them from threats to their health. Public Health Bath & NE Somerset is pleased to be part of Bathscape, recognising the contribution the projects will make to the health and wellbeing of local people, by enabling people to be active in the landscape, reducing isolation, improving mental wellbeing and enhancing connection to place.

## UNIVERSITY OF BATH

The University of Bath is currently ranked in the top 10 of all UK league tables and has a reputation for research and teaching excellence. It is positively engaged with the Bathscape bid as key stakeholder and active partner with a vested interest in the setting of the World Heritage Site which has high amenity value to a staff and student body of over 17,000 people. The University's research portfolio is engaged with the health, lifestyle and community benefits to be gained from physical and intellectual engagement with the landscape and how it can be widely and effectively used as a resource for learning in all sectors and phases of education and training.

## VISIT BATH

Visit Bath works with its partners to deliver a flourishing and sustainable tourism industry in Bath & NE Somerset which contributes to economic prosperity, enhances the image of Bath and the surrounding area, is in harmony with its unique environment and adds to the quality of life for those who live there. The surrounding hills and valleys enhance the World Heritage Site and Visit Bath knows from experience that it is actively enjoyed by thousands of visitors to the area.

## WESSEX WATER

Wessex Water is the regional water and sewerage business serving 2.8 million customers across the south west of England including Dorset, Somerset, Bristol, most of Wiltshire and parts of Gloucestershire and Hampshire. Its aim is to give all

customers excellent standards of service by providing high quality water and environmental services that protect health, improve the environment and give customers good value for money. Wessex Water is committed to the Bathscape scheme as a way of connecting with the residents of Bath to promote their enjoyment of the city and surrounding landscape.

## WOODLAND TRUST

The Woodland Trust is the UK's only organisation dedicated to the protection and conservation of the nation's native woodland heritage. It focuses on protecting, restoring and creating native woodland in the UK with the help of over 500,000 members and supporters. The Trust owns more than 1,000 sites, covering over 26,000 hectares, and campaigns on behalf of the country's woods, aiming to engage and inspire people about woods and trees. The Woodland Trust is excited to be a partner in the Bathscape project.

## ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

Towards the end of development phase, the Terms of Reference and membership of the Partnership have been reviewed and the governance structure is outlined in the appendices. Part of this has been to create theme subgroups and an Advisory Group for organisations with similar aims and support for Bathscape. This wider partnership includes Bath City Farm, Bath Natural History Society, Bath and Counties Archaeological Society, Wiltshire Council, The Joint Local Access Forum and other local community groups each of whom has been involved in developing the scheme.

## 2.3 BATHSCAPE SCHEME VISION

### The vision of the Bathscape partnership is that

The Bathscape scheme will ensure Bath and its setting are better recognised, managed and experienced as a landscape city, with the surrounding hills and valleys enhancing the World Heritage Site and actively enjoyed by all. A greater number and wider range of people will feel connected to their local landscape and inspired to explore the outstanding built and natural environments, improving health and wellbeing.

Underpinning this vision are the twenty five projects proposed. These have been arranged under four themes, each of which will contribute to achieving both the Bathscape vision and the nine Landscape Partnership programme outcomes.

#### The themes are:

- **Conserving and Restoring.** Projects and activities that will enable the heritage to be better managed and in better condition
- **The Therapeutic Landscape.** Projects and activities that develop the therapeutic tradition associated with the heritage of Bath to support health and wellbeing through greater contact with the landscape and natural environment
- **Access.** Projects and activities to improve access to the landscape and natural environment and reduce physical and other barriers
- **Learning, Training & Skills.** Activities to improve the understanding and skills of target audiences, volunteers and participants.



Above:  
Developing  
the Vision

## 2.4 GAPS AND LIMITATIONS

As a heritage-rich landscape centred on a city and with over 100,000 residents in an area attracting around 5 million visitors a year, it is not possible to explore the requirements of all potential beneficiaries, however through extensive consultation we feel confident that the key priorities have been identified.

The presence of two universities within the project area presents significant opportunity for adding value to certain projects. Research groups and lecturers from both universities have expressed keen interest in exploring links between scheme projects and future student research ranging from the effects of weather as a perceived barrier to outdoor activity to community participation in interpretation and behaviour change. Such opportunities are dependent upon the student cohort and the success of university research funding bids and so cannot yet be detailed. They are likely to be cost neutral for the scheme, so not requiring the setting aside of budget, though may shape our evaluation and enhance the value of projects in ways that cannot yet be completely defined.

The development phase commissioned grasslands brief has identified the inadequacy of existing data regarding local priority grasslands. As an urban fringe landscape, the pressures and changes of management for grasslands have been acute and past surveys often fail to reflect their current state. The scheme itself will seek to address this, however it means that a baseline for the current state of grasslands is imprecise and the ability to set targets for recovering priority grasslands in terms of area remains limited.

Certain projects such as Caring for Heritage at Risk incorporate higher levels of community involvement in the selection of sites and design of activities and as a result, only initial site proposals are detailed. We have consulted local archaeological society volunteers and professional archaeologists to inform the first year's activities and budgets, but hope from these initial activities to expand the numbers and range of people involved and respond to the interests of this wider group.

Finally, the development phase has seen a period of change related to wider volunteering and healthcare. These have not impacted upon the ability to deliver the projects, however they mean the delivery phase will see a revised provision of general volunteering and healthcare support that in the area that cannot yet be fully detailed. In January 2018 it was announced that Bath Volunteer Centre would be closed, though it will now continue in some form under the auspices of local care provider Virgin Care.

The future arrangement of healthcare in the Bathscape has similarly seen changes with Virgin Care taking over responsibility from Sirona in 2017. Two proposed Bathscape projects are centred specifically upon health and GP referrals to green prescription services. The process of how referrals are made and logged is being reviewed by Virgin Care and won't be finalised until after the submission date for this LCAP.

This has been a factor in us choosing to combine the two projects into one and planning for a review in year one regarding the most effective referral approach for us to pursue within the emerging Virgin Care systems.

While the scheme did not envisage a significant number of volunteers being sourced through the Volunteer Centre, its recent uncertainties were an additional consideration in the decision to budget for a part-time volunteer coordinator on the Bathscape project staff to more efficiently deliver the suite of projects and reduce the risk of a less certain wider volunteering arrangement in the area.

## 2.5 DOCUMENTS TO READ ALONGSIDE THE LCAP

### **Bathscape Landscape Character Assessment**

*Bath & N E Somerset Council 2017*

### **Bathscape Interpretation Plan**

*Red Kite Environment 2017*

### **Grasslands for the Future Consultation Report**

*South West Farming & Wildlife  
Advisory Group 2017*

### **Woodlands of Bathscape report**

*The Forest of Avon Trust 2017*

### **Bathscape Volunteering Strategy and Training Plan**

*Bath & NE Somerset Council 2018*

### **Bathscape Circular Path & Radial Routes report**

*Cotswolds Conservation Board 2018*

### **Bathscape Views and Vistas Project Report**

*Fiona Fyfe Associates 2017*

### **Bathscape Evaluation Framework**

*Heritage Insider 2018*

These studies are available within the Appendices.

The Bathscape partnership would like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund for its support, help and encouragement in developing the Bathscape scheme.

# 3

## THE BATHSCAPE AREA, ITS HERITAGE AND ITS PEOPLE

### 3.1 THE BATHSCAPE BOUNDARY

The Bathscape scheme area covers a hundred and one square kilometres, centred on the historic city of Bath and encompassing its landscape setting. Around 80% of the area comprises natural features including woodland, grasslands, river corridors, commonland, parkland and green spaces that form the green setting of the World Heritage Site.

***The Circular on the Protection of World Heritage Sites states:***

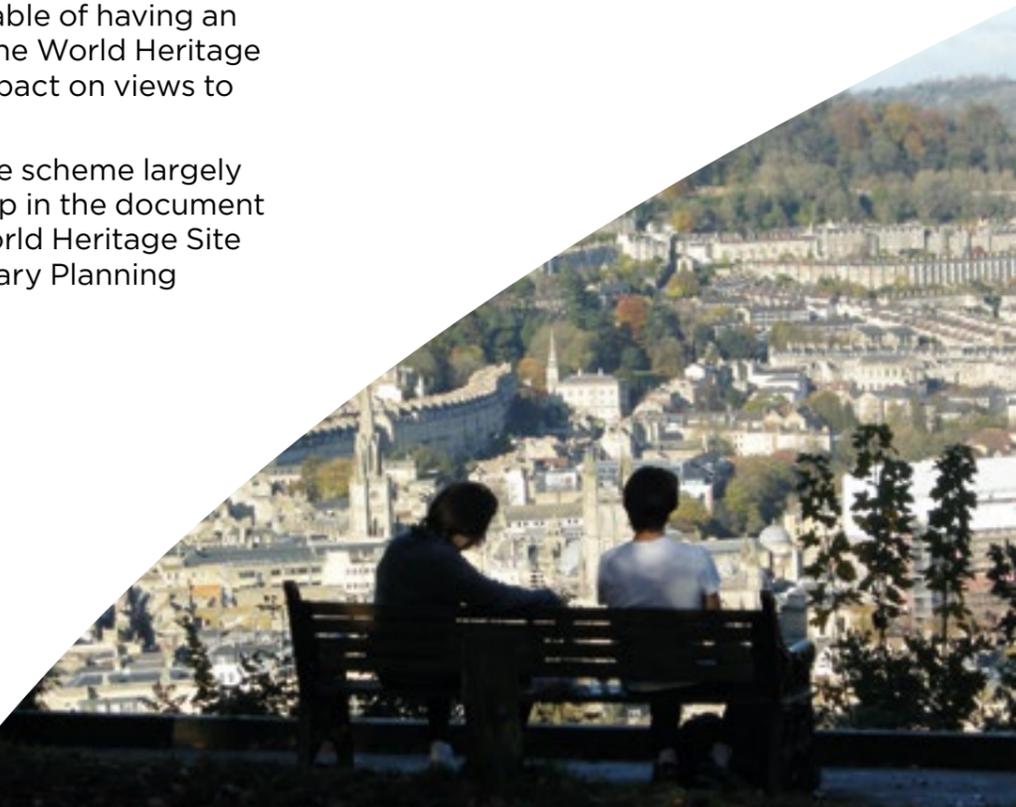
‘The setting of a World Heritage Site is the area around it .... in which change or development is capable of having an adverse impact on the World Heritage Site, including an impact on views to or from the site.’

The boundary for the scheme largely follows that drawn up in the document ‘The City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting Supplementary Planning Document’ of 2013.

***Produced by Bath & NE Somerset Council the document describes the setting and its extension from the city as being dictated by the need:***

- To include sufficient area around the WHS to protect the distinct character and relationship of the city to its surroundings
- To include sufficient area to include key topographic features of the setting such as river valleys and slopes including views from the WHS and key heritage assets to undeveloped slopes
- To incorporate areas which provide views of the WHS and its key heritage assets within their wider setting and which therefore reveal and provide understanding of the significance of the WHS
- To incorporate key historical sites, buildings and features associated with or revealing the significance of the WHS.

Right:  
Overlooking Bath





The boundary was reviewed for the Bathscape phase 1 bid as, unlike the planning document, the scheme is not constrained by administrative boundaries. As a result, based on a topographical review it was extended on its eastern edge into Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire where it had previously been curtailed at the district boundary.

There have been no amendments to the boundary in the development phase of the scheme, though it is recognised that in certain sections, where no obvious boundary features or hard-edged change in land use or landscape character exist, an argument could be made for slight extensions.

### BATHSCAPE BOUNDARY



Above: Walking out from Combe Hay

### 3.2 LANDSCAPE HERITAGE

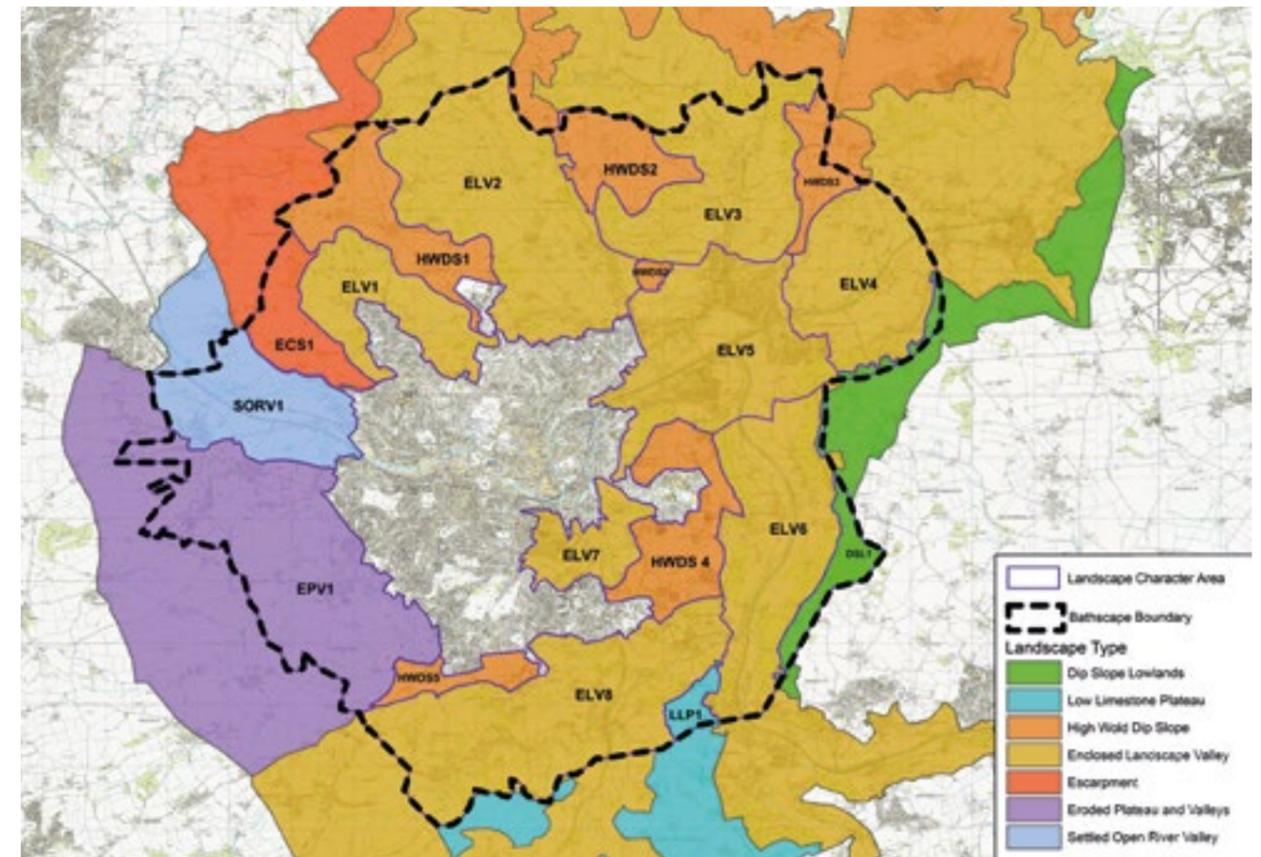
The following summarises the findings of the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). Where appropriate it also lists suggested actions for projects within character areas, as identified in the LCA exercise.

The landscape character of the Bathscape area is a product of the River Avon and its tributaries cutting through the Cotswolds Hills and resulting in the formation of a bowl-like hollow in the hills. This hollow is itself a complex landform with an undulating base and fluted sides formed by the tributary valleys and the plateaus surrounding the city. The location of the hot springs within the river valley attracted early settlers and throughout history the presence of the springs, the river Avon and its tributary valley setting have contributed to the close relationship of the city with its surroundings.

The characteristic hilly, and often steep topography of the landscape hollow and surrounding hills has both restricted and determined the pattern of development within the city. As a result it has provided Bath with its superb wooded skyline; its steep, undeveloped upper valley slopes and plateau areas with an inter-weaving of woodland and pasture; and important green spaces penetrating deep within the built-up area. Many of these bring high quality rural landscapes right into the heart of the city.

Nationally the scheme area lies wholly within the Cotswolds National Character Area (NCA107), the scarp of which provides a backdrop to the major settlements of Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud and Bath and provides expansive views across the Severn. The esteemed character of the area is reflected in its designation as the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Bathscape Landscape Character Assessment subdivides the scheme area into eighteen distinct character areas divided amongst seven landscape character types, reflecting the complexity of the local landscape.

#### BATHSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS AND LANDSCAPE TYPES



Left: Engraving of the South East Prospect of the City of Bath. Buck 1734

THE LOCATION OF THE HOT SPRINGS WITHIN THE RIVER VALLEY ATTRACTED EARLY SETTLERS

## 3.3 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

### Escarpment Landscape Type

#### ESC1 DEAN HILL TO PROSPECT STILE

##### Summary Landscape Character

- It consists of a distinctive landform of the southernmost end of the steep escarpment slope of the Cotswold Hills. The landform is much affected by the complex geology and with landslips resulting in west and south-west facing slopes which are highly undulating and is indented due to the effects of tributary streams
- The harmonious pastoral landscape of the escarpment slopes, with a patchwork of small, medium and occasional large-sized irregular shaped fields bounded by often thick hedgerows with good hedgerow trees. Limited woodland and tree clumps

- Expansive, panoramic west and south-west facing views are distinctive features. Important local landmark Kelston Roundhill with its upstanding nature and distinctive conical shape affords 360° views. In general the views from the escarpment extend into Wales on a clear day and to the Mendips in the south and the Wiltshire Downs to the southeast. From both Prospect Stile and Dean Hill there are excellent views which show part of the City of Bath in its landscape context.

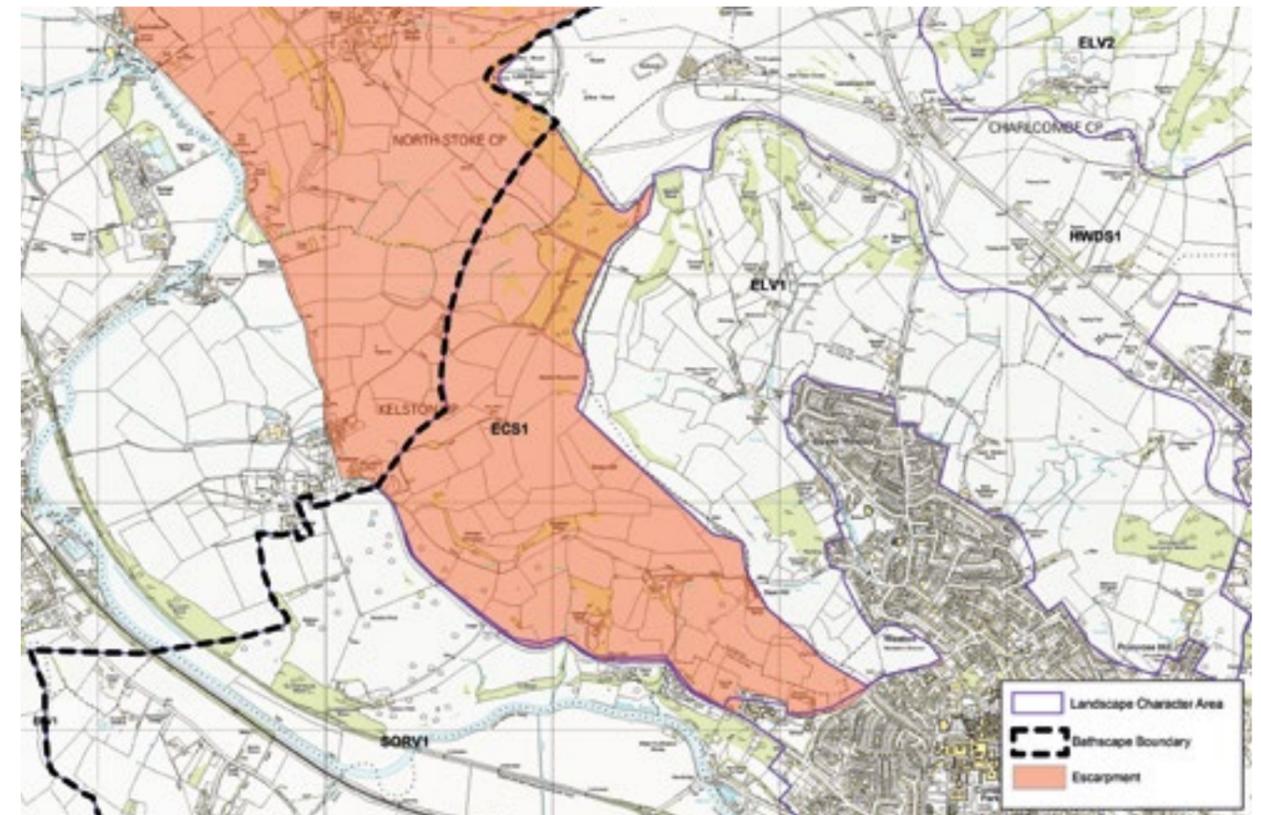
##### Project Suggestions

**Views and Vistas.** To look at the impact of the recently planted Shiner's Wood on the iconic views, to liaise with the land owner and to resolve the problem which is likely to result in the loss of these views.

**Grasslands for the Future.** Potential for expanding the habitat restoration and management work being carried out around Kelston Roundhill.

**Woodlands of Bathscapes.** Help is needed with hedgerow management and management of mature copses (this is true for almost all the Bathscape character areas).

### ESCARPMENT LANDSCAPE TYPE



**Right:** View from Kelston Roundhill over the Avon valley

## Enclosed Limestone Valley landscape types

### ELV1: WESTON VALLEY

#### Summary Landscape Character

- This is a complete, relatively open and simple, valley within the Bathscape area. Weston village occupies much of the base of the valley and shallower slopes. There is a harmonious balance and strong interrelationship between the developed village and the surrounding undeveloped valley slopes
- Gently undulating valley sides and a variety of landslip effects forming benches and slumping down slope give a varied landform to the valley sides
- Harmonious pastoral landscape with a patchwork of mostly medium sized fields and clusterings of small fields bounded by hedgerows. Towards the head and foot of the valley these are often overgrown and thick, with some good hedgerow trees

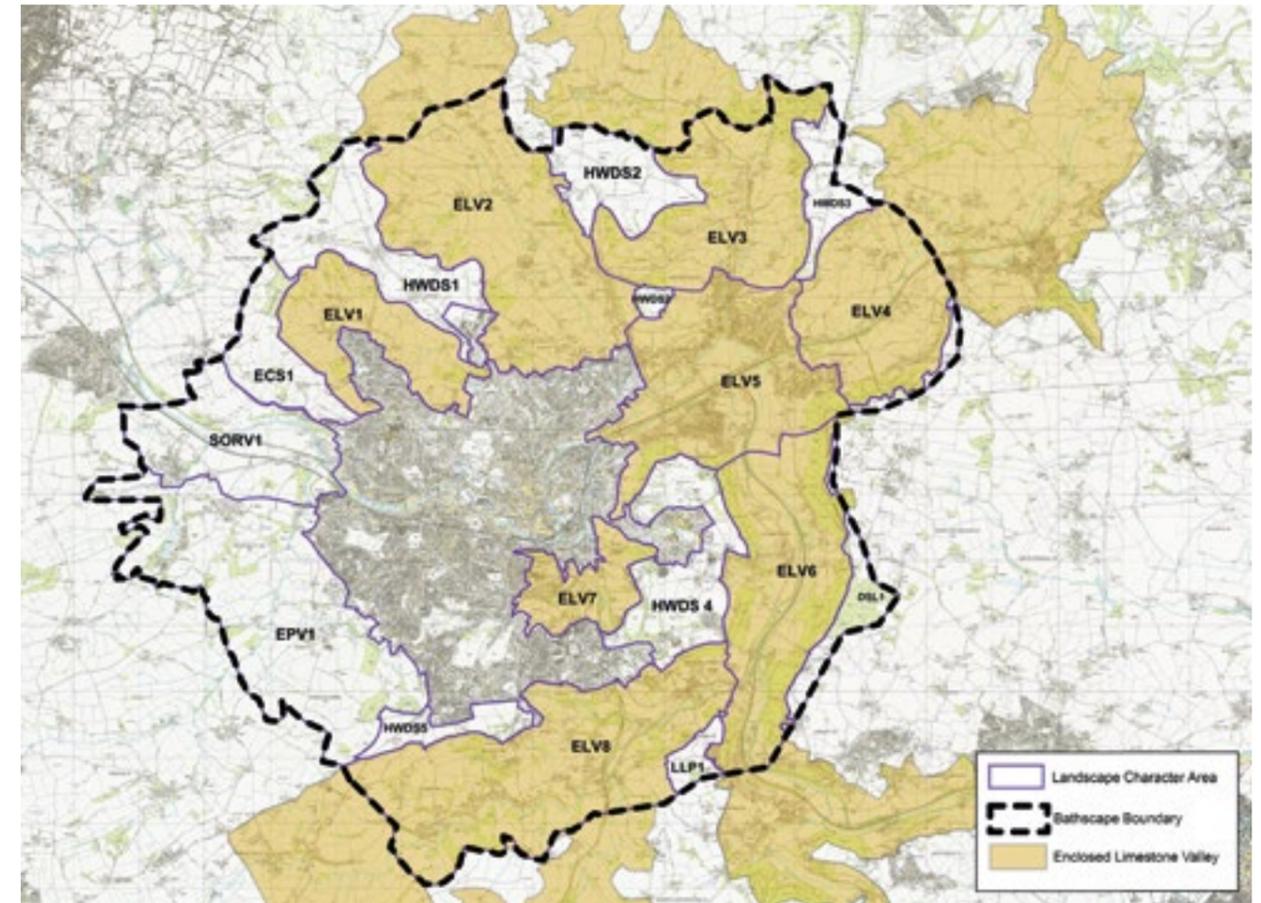
- Scattered small woods, often linear and including two larger woodland blocks, give a varied tapestry of pasture and woodland linked by hedgerows
- Attractive views across the valley from footpaths and open access land on either side of the valley. The Cotswolds Way through the area is a popular walking route with extensive views which include Beckford's Tower on the edge of Lansdown Plateau.

#### Project Suggestions

**Woodlands of Bathscapes.** Increase understanding of the important landscape characteristics of the valley to local landowners especially with regard to new woodland or tree belt planting such that it develops in harmony with the overall landscape character.

**Grasslands for the Future.** There are signs that some of the SNCI and UK priority habitat areas are deteriorating with some scrub encroachment and likely species loss through possible management changes. Opportunities for re-survey should be taken as well as working with landowners to improve management.

## ENCLOSED LIMESTONE VALLEY LANDSCAPE TYPES



Left:  
Weston valley

**THERE IS A HARMONIOUS BALANCE AND STRONG INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED VILLAGE AND THE SURROUNDING UNDEVELOPED VALLEY SLOPES.**

## ELV2: SWAINSWICK AND CHARLCOMBE VALLEY

### Summary Landscape Character

- Viewed from a distance is seen as having a simple shallow “v”-shape outline cut into the Cotswolds Hills. Close-up however, it has a distinctive open but also highly complex, rolling, undulating and indented landform. This is the result of both the underlying geology with the occurrence of landslips and cambering and the hydrology of the valley forming small, steep-sided, indented tributary stream valleys along the valley sides
- This is a very harmonious, open, pastoral landscape with a patchwork of variously sized pasture fields surrounded by often thick and grown out hedgerows with occasional areas of arable. Woodland is generally small, often quite linear copses and concentrated within the steep sided tributary valleys or along steeper areas on the upper valley sides. They all lie along the contours. Three larger woodland areas integrate well within the overall landscape. The relatively small area of woodland reinforces the open landscape character with its focus on the landform shapes within the valley

- The Lam Brook is a particularly attractive tree-lined and tightly meandering feature
- There is a very distinctive settlement pattern with five small hamlets scattered through the valley, usually located about a third to a half of the way up the slope from the brook
- The Charlcombe Valley, although technically a tributary valley of the Lam Brook, is visually and physically separated from the main valley with its own distinctive character. It is an open horse-shoe shaped valley with the hamlet of Charlcombe nestling amongst two linear belts of woodland
- Discordant elements in the valley are generally limited to poor design and sighting of houses in the landscape at two prominent locations.

### Project Suggestions

**Woodlands of Bathscapes.** This valley is partly characterised by its limited area of woodland and relatively open nature which shows off its complex landform to advantage. Whilst a small increase in small copses would be potentially tolerable on the landscape, overall the current balance in relation to pastoral use is very harmonious. An exception to this would be the need to screen the visually jarring new housing at Ensleigh which has very significantly broken the skyline, by planting woodland on the upper slopes of Charlcombe valley.

**Grasslands for the Future.** There are very large areas of SNCI grassland habitat in the valley which almost certainly benefit from re-survey and from management. The Langridge to Woolley habitat complex is potentially a very important biodiversity resource.

**Access.** One small project which could perhaps be undertaken would be to find an alternative route for the public footpath which runs through a garden at Upper Swainswick.

Given the particular importance that the valley has had in the history of geology both as a science in itself and in developing an understanding of the importance of landslips in the Bath area, it would be interesting and educational to promote the occasional geological walk in the valley.



Right: Swainswick Valley

## ELV3: NORTHEND AND ST. CATHERINE'S VALLEY

### Summary Landscape Character

- St. Catherine's Valley is a steep-sided, relatively narrow valley with two major tributary valleys, Chilcombe Bottom and Oakford Brook Valley. Within the Bathscape area, these tributaries are particularly strong landscape features. All valley sides are indented and undulating at a range of scales and show the effects of landslips and slumping throughout
- The valley has a very well-treed and wooded character although overall there is more pasture than woodland. Larger areas of woodland are generally on the steeper, upper valley sides giving a well-treed skyline. Within Chilcombe Bottom there is a notable, winding ribbon of woodland which follows the very steep slopes where the Inferior Oolite meets the softer Midford Sands. The Oakford Brook tributary valley is almost entirely wooded
- St. Catherine's Court, close to the north-western boundary of the character area is a beautiful grade 1 listed manor house with a grade 2\* listed historic park

- Lanes in the valley are themselves notable features, very narrow, usually sunken and tree or hedgerow-lined with flowery hedge banks at their best in late spring
- There are no wide and panoramic views in St. Catherine's valley but many tantalising glimpses through trees along the lanes to patchwork countryside
- Discordant elements in the valley are limited to the unsightly metal spring-head capping structures and the occasional fencing and other structures belonging to Wessex Water which are painted a municipal green.

### Project Suggestions

**Grasslands for the Future.** There are very large areas of SNCI grassland habitat in the valley which would benefit from re-survey and from management.

**Community.** The Rocks East has classroom and camping facilities and may be a good location to bring children out for short residential stays to explore the valley's natural resources.

**Woodland.** Recognise the importance of the small woodlands and seek improved management.



**Left:** View over valley towards the Rocks Woodlands

**Top right:** Lower By Brook Valley looking East



## ELV4: LOWER BY BROOK VALLEY

### Summary Landscape Character

- Here the By Brook has cut right through the Cotswolds dip slope to form a flat-bottomed valley with a relatively broad cross-section and high valley sides. The overall convex middle section of each valley side has large-scale and quite gentle undulations and indentations giving a pleasing rounded and curvaceous character
- The land-use character of the valley is heavily influenced by the underlying geology and has given rise to heavily wooded upper steep slopes, a large mid-slope area of mixed farming, and a well-treed valley bottom
- Well-treed parkland around Shockerwick and well-treed grounds of Ashley House on the opposite side of the valley give a distinctively parkland character to the eastern end of the character area
- The transport corridor links Bath and Bristol with towns and cities to the east and comprises the A4 Box Road and the great Western Railway running parallel with each other beside the meandering By Brook

- The character of the valley is strongly influenced by the nearby stone mines and their later associated use as a national munitions store during and after WW2. The line of the tunnel linking the storage areas in the old mines to the railway sidings can still be seen as an earthwork in the fields
- There are few discordant elements. The Leyland Cypress Shelterbelt and somewhat out of character lines of trees of the old Bathford Nursery and some of the less well integrated shed development along the A4 are notable. The A4 and railway are, perhaps surprisingly, well integrated in the landscape as is the short section of pylon line. Locally, areas of horse tape and stabling are slightly discordant.

### Project Suggestions

**Woodlands of Bathscapes.** The existing woodland on the upper valleys sides is of great visual and wildlife value and its management status is unknown. There may be potential for help with woodland management. Similarly the parkland trees close to Shockerwick House are of great local landscape importance and replacements are needed as the existing trees decline.

## ELV5: BATHAMPTON MEADOWS AND RIVER AVON TRIBUTARY VALLEYS

### Summary Landscape Character

- A landscape and communications hub around wide, open flood plain of River Avon
- The convergence of Limpley Stoke, Bristol Avon, St. Catherine's and By Brook valleys and their associated transport corridors with intervening steep hillsides
- Three attractive and historic villages of Bathford, Bathampton and Batheaston are spaced around the hub on the lower slope of the hillsides facing towards each other contained by the encircling, steep hillsides and wooded upper slopes
- Woodland around the hillsides includes notable ancient woodland especially part of the Brown's Folly SSSI. There are large areas of SNCI habitat complex on slopes below Bathampton Down. The River Avon and Kennet & Avon Canal, the Bathampton Oxbow Nature Reserve and Kensington Meadows LNR are all wetland and water related SNCIs
- Strong visual and physical links with surrounding character areas of Northend and St. Catherine's Valley, Lower By Brook Valley and Bathampton and Limpley Stoke Valley. Longer views to mouth of Charlcombe and Swainswick Valley. Strong visual links with eastern edge of Bath

- This is an area with both significant human noise and activity and at the same time a real sense of tranquillity to confound expectations
- There are few discordant elements. The pylon line through the food plain, the views to the A46 in its concrete 'canyon', the housing under construction in isolation on the flood plain, longer views to the prominent housing breaking the skyline at Charlcombe/Ensleigh.

### Project Suggestions

**Woodlands of Bathscapes.** The main current requirement is for management of the existing woodland and skyline on the upper slopes where this is currently not in place.

**Views and Vistas.** The continuing increase in scrub on the Bathampton slopes is limiting views over the character area from footpaths. Scrub clearance would potentially increase views.

**Grasslands for the Future.** There is a definite increase in scrub on the ecologically designated fields on the Bathampton slopes. Management such as that being carried out by the National Trust in similar areas around Widcombe and Bathwick would be appropriate here.

**Access.** This attractive and fascinating character area is a potential hub for public access from Bath and the surrounding villages. There is considerable potential to enhance these links with the city to enable easy exploration of several different character areas.



Left: From Little Solsbury Hill to Batheaston



## ELV6: BATHAMPTON AND LIMPLEY STOKE VALLEY

### Summary Landscape Character

- Strong character of north-south running, gently curving, heavily wooded valley which is simple in outline and cross-section. The valley is high-sided and relatively broad with a flat valley floor through which the River Avon flows with limited meanders, in a moderately wide flood plain
- Woodland on middle to upper slopes and an almost complete wooded skyline. There are significant areas of ancient woodland but a larger proportion of the woodland dates from the ending of stone mining as well as the gradual loss of unviable steep sloping fields to scrub and then woodland. The majority of woodland is deciduous but there are a few stands of conifer
- Claverton Manor and its well-treed parkland is a strong landscape feature midway along the valley on the western side above Claverton. Warleigh Manor is a notable building on the eastern lower valley side

- There is a strong communications network with the A36, A363, Kennet & Avon Canal, and railway all running along the grain of the valley either side of the river. All are remarkably well visually integrated into the landscape and have generally well-treed corridors
- The Kennet and Avon Canal is an important recreational asset and is heavily used. Dundas Aqueduct and Claverton Pumping Station are architecturally and historically important local landmarks on the canal and river. Warleigh Weir is one of the UK's top locations for river swimming
- Brown's Folly Tower and nature reserve is an important site for wildlife, geology and for visitors and occupies a commanding position at the northern end of the valley.

### Project Suggestions

**Woodlands of Bathscapes.** Additional woodland should not be considered. The woodlands (excluding the Brown's Folly Nature Reserve) may well be in need of management but these are large areas for the scope of the Bathscape project.

## ELV7: PERRYMEAD AND WIDCOMBE

### Summary Landscape Character

- Although small, this area makes a significant contribution to the landscape setting of the City of Bath. The undeveloped hillsides have a balance of pasture and tree cover largely unchanged since the Georgian period. Deciduous woodlands and tree belts line the upper slopes and skyline, with pasture fields and parkland clothing the slopes below. The limited areas of settlement, with some elegant Georgian buildings, are largely hidden within the Lyn Brook Valley at Perrymead and Lyncombe Vale, leaving the historic buildings of Prior Park Mansion, Crowe Hall, Widcombe Manor, St Thomas à Becket Church, Macauley Buildings and the chapels within the cemeteries as the only other buildings set within this harmonious landscape. The mellow gold of the Bath Stone buildings throughout the largely green agricultural landscape is a unifying feature.

- The character area although comprising three distinct, small valleys and the associated Lyncombe Hill and Beechen Cliff, presents one united curving hillside and wooded skyline backdrop to the city centre. This backdrop is formed due to the asymmetrical nature of the three valleys
- From within the character area the three valleys form distinct character entities separated by largely tree-lined roads
- Smallcombe Brook Valley is the smallest with generally shallower slopes. There are limited trees and hedgerows amongst the pastures with most of the tree cover being the ancient Smallcombe Wood at the head of the valley, the tree belts around the rest of its skyline and the trees within the Smallcombe Garden cemetery
- Widcombe Brook Valley is the narrowest valley. The stunning Prior Park Mansion and its gardens with the lakes and Palladian bridge, run from the head of the valley down to Widcombe Manor
- Lyn Brook valley is the largest and most asymmetric valley with the steepest slopes. It has a different orientation to the other valleys, running west to east and hence apart from its upper slopes, it is hidden from much of the City

Top Left: Limpley Stoke Valley from Dundas Aqueduct



- The Beechen Cliff/Alexandra Park and Lyncombe Hill area although a small round hill rather than a valley, is an inextricable part of this character area with strong visual, landform and cultural links to the whole. There is inter-visibility between all of the valleys and the hill; and the whole character was part of the Georgian visitor's essential itinerary with walks or rides usually starting with Lyncombe Hill. Beechen Cliff and its hanging beech and yew woodland is an iconic part of the city centre landscape today as it was in the Georgian period
- The whole character area has ecological designations throughout
- There are spectacular views over Bath in its landscape setting from higher parts of Smallcombe Valley, Widcombe Hill; and from Beechen Cliff and Alexandra Park
- For such a small character area, the large number of cemeteries, five in all, bring a significant contribution to its landscape character
- There is plentiful public access throughout the character area including large areas of National Trust open access land.

**Project Suggestions**

**Woodlands of Bathscapes.** Given the importance of the tree belts on and just below the skyline around this character area (excluding Smallcombe Wood and other areas managed by NT), it is important to try and find ways to ensure their management for the future.

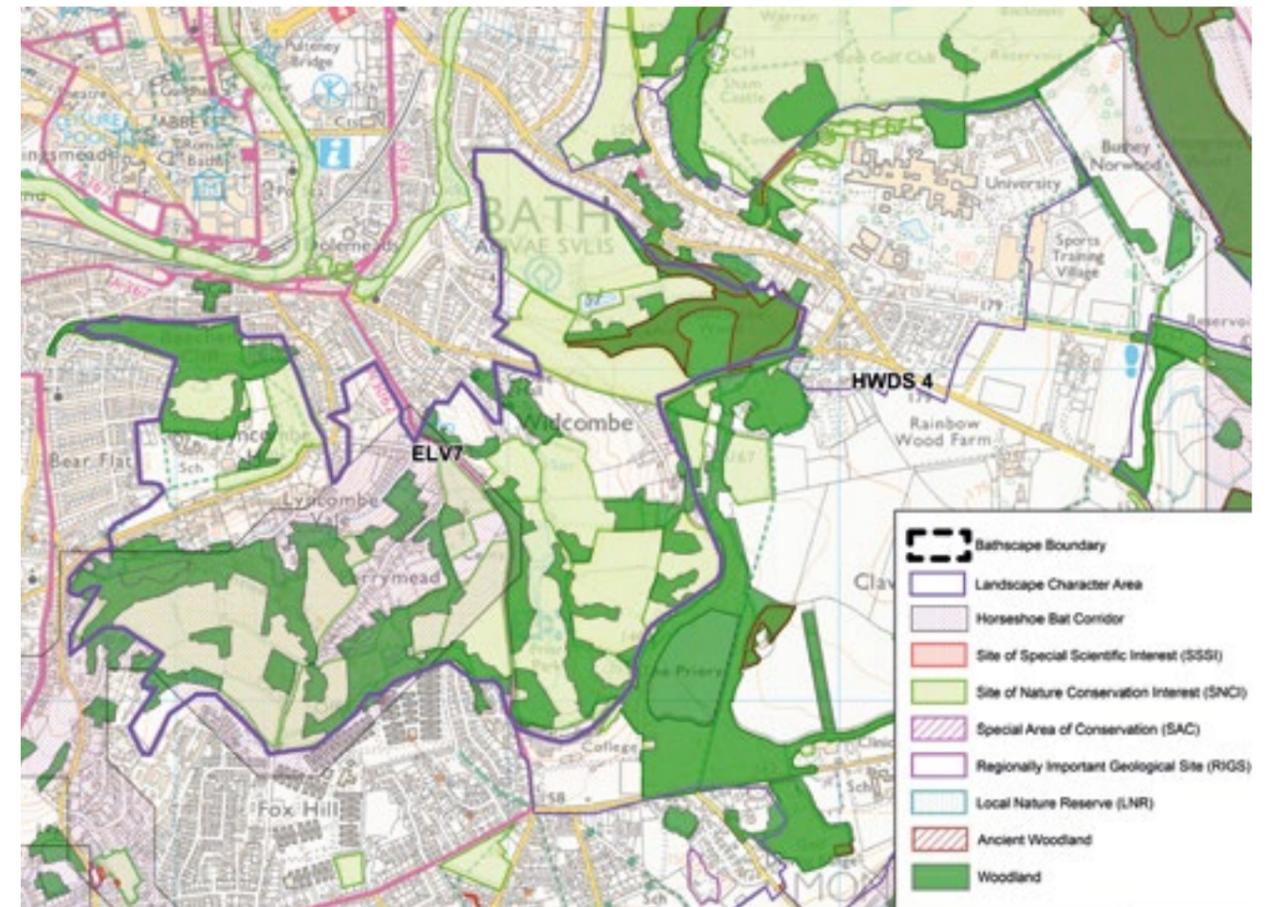
The increasing scrub and lack of hedgerow management in the Lyn Brook valley is very concerning, land ownerships are unknown.

**Views and Vistas.** Work to extend some of the views at Alexandra Park where tree and shrub encroachment has reduced them over time; whilst ensuring there is no damage to important trees/plants in Beechen Cliff.

**Community.** Possible arts project to create a 21st century 360° panorama from Alexandra Park. Also attempt to find the 1980s panorama and show with the original version.

**Grasslands for the Future.** Much of the Lyn Brook valley SNCI grasslands appear to be becoming neglected and scrubbing up. Find some way to bring this grassland into restoration management. Land ownerships need to be investigated.

**ELV7 PERRYMEAD & WIDCOMBE - BIODIVERSITY**



Credit: Courtesy of National Trust

Left: Prior Park

**THERE ARE SPECTACULAR VIEWS OVER BATH IN ITS LANDSCAPE SETTING FROM HIGHER PARTS OF SMALLCOMBE VALLEY, WIDCOMBE HILL; AND FROM BEECHEN CLIFF AND ALEXANDRA PARK**

## ELV8: CAM AND MIDFORD VALLEY

### Summary Landscape Character

- This valley character area has a roughly flat valley floor with a narrow flood plain and, complex landform reflecting the complex geology and number of small tributary valleys. The Midford Brook valley is relatively narrow, generally steep-sided but with some shallower slopes around Midford Castle. Cam Brook Valley is much wider and highly asymmetric
- Agriculture in the valley is a mix of arable, short term leys and pasture with a tendency to permanent pasture and short term leys in the Midford Valley, and in the Cam Valley a much more mixed landscape, with arable and short term leys on the shallower slopes and pasture on the steeper slopes
- Woodland scattered throughout the character area favours the steeper slopes. The tree-lined brooks and disused railway lines give the valley bottom a well treed character. There are few field trees apart from the parkland at Midford Castle
- This is an ecologically rich area with ecological designations clustered in complexes throughout the valley outside of the mainly arable shallow sloping areas. The whole valley is designated as a horseshoe bat corridor

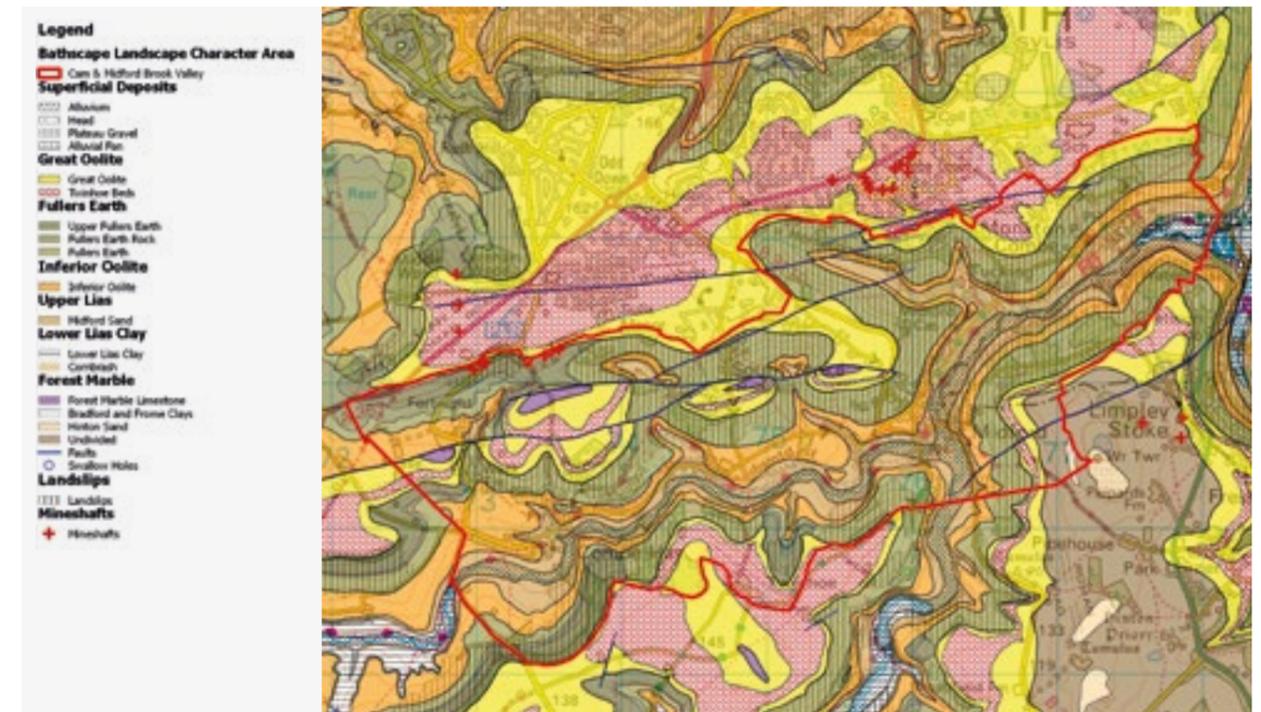
- The valley has a rich industrial heritage focussed on transporting coal from the Somersetshire coalfield in the Somersetshire Coal Canal, Victorian railway development, and the Fullers Earth workings. Remnants of this heritage remain, with the tree-lined disused railways and their viaducts being the most prominent landmarks in the landscape and with smaller scale remains of the Somersetshire Coal Canal
- Combe Hay, Tucking Mill, Midford and Monkton Combe are all very small, compact and well-treed settlements situated on the valley floor. Southstoke is a small spring-line village set just below the plateau and also well-treed. Elsewhere in the valley there are only a very few farms and individual properties on the valley sides
- The end of the Two Tunnels Greenway has brought a significant increase in recreational activity to the valley.

### Project Suggestions

**Views and Vistas.** There is an important local vista at Monkton Combe celebrated by the location of a commemorative Jubilee 2012 seat which will be lost if the recently planted woodland trees in the adjacent garden remain.

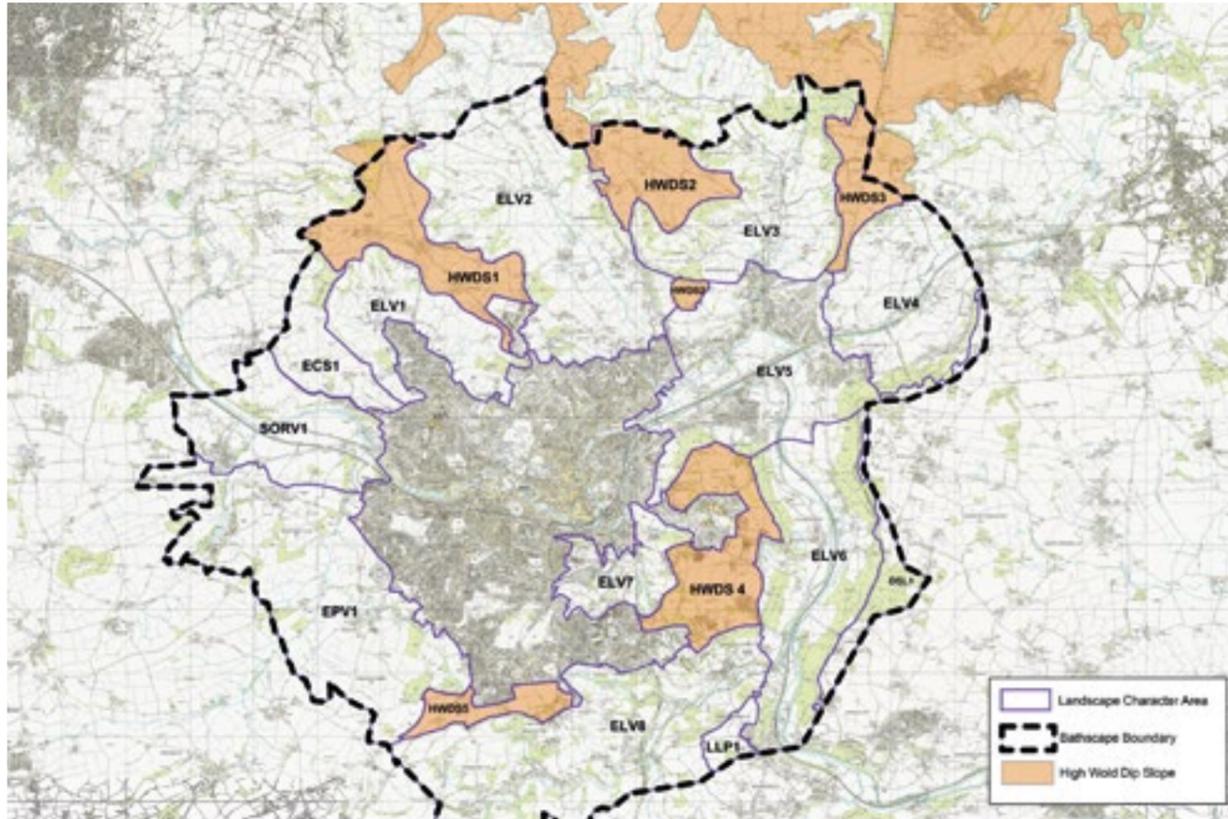
**Grasslands for the Future.** Horsecombe Vale's important grassland and woodland habitat complex appears to be suffering from significant neglect and may well benefit from management and restoration work through this project.

### ELV8 CAM & MIDFORD BROOK VALLEY - GEOLOGY



Above:  
Cam Valley  
overlooking  
Combe Hay

## HIGH WOLD DIP SLOPE LANDSCAPE TYPES



## High Wold Dip Slope Landscape Types

### HWDS1: LANSDOWN PLATEAU

#### Summary Landscape Character

- Distinctive narrow plateau area with a predominantly open and exposed landscape to the north-west of the hamlet of Lansdown and also in the smaller agricultural areas to the north-east of the playing field areas. The south-eastern end of the plateau has more trees giving a more enclosed landscape

- Agricultural areas have arable and pasture or grass ley fields bounded with Cotswolds stone walls the traditional boundary material on the Cotswold plateaus
- Distinctive clumps of beech trees scattered along the Lansdown Road but overall trees do not detract from the openness of the plateau. Many areas around the plateau edge have some visual containment provided by woodland on the upper slopes of surrounding valleys

- Historically important sites and monuments scattered over the plateau: Beckford's Tower and Lansdown Cemetery, the Racecourse, the Civil War Battlefield and Grenville's Monument, Little Down Hill Fort. Associations with "Riding out" in Georgian times
- Lansdown Road running along the centre of the plateau with the hamlet of Lansdown a prominent feature associated with the racecourse and set about halfway along the plateau
- Proliferation of playing fields and the Lansdown Park and Ride dominate the character south-east of Lansdown giving a suburban feel
- Important expansive views and vistas from close to the plateau edges, from Beckford's Tower and from Prospect Stile.

#### Project Suggestions

**Woodlands of Bathscapes.** The existing roadside beech tree clumps need a programme of management.

**Views and Vistas.** The visual impact of the Bath Racecourse grandstand canopy could be much mitigated by a woodland screen planting to fill in important gaps in the tree screen around the Racecourse. Work should be done where this would be required and a programme implemented in consultation with the Racecourse owners.

**Caring for Heritage at Risk.** Carry out an audit of the condition of boundary stone walls.

**Grasslands for the Future.** The stunning calcareous grasslands on the Kingswood School playing fields could be twinned with a school in one of the target areas to carry out practical management activities. Seed could be collected from the grassland and use it to restore other areas on the plateau which must at one time have been very similar.

**Access.** The large number of footpaths on this flat plateau would lend themselves to development of Access for all routes.



Right: Lansdown plateau

## HWDS2: CHARMY DOWN AND LITTLE SOLSBURY HILL

### Summary Landscape Character

#### Charmy Down

- Open, flat and extensive, rounded plateau with a sense of elevation given by the views to distant skylines all around
- Intermittent visual containment from woodland just below plateau. Two small copses on top of plateau within old airfield area are prominent features but slightly discordant
- The majority of the plateau area still retains a strong air field character and a sense of the historical use of the plateau in World War 2. The runways remain visible and derelict air field buildings and features
- The southern end of plateau retains its historical field enclosure pattern in contrast to the open, unenclosed landscape of the air field area
- A tree and stone-wall lined track runs along the spine of Holts Down in the south-east of the plateau and is a very distinctive local landscape feature
- Much of the old air field is designated for its calcareous grassland habitat and for the disturbed ground habitat on the runways. Skylarks sing over the plateau.

#### Little Solsbury Hill

- Distinctive round hill top, isolated from the rest of the plateau by a steep sided valley and with a commanding position over-looking the Avon Valley
- The complete lack of trees and scrub giving an absolute openness and the ability to see the strong form of the plateau and surrounding landscape
- The ramparts of the hill fort all around the hill top give a sense of connection with history
- Excellent grassland habitat with ramparts covered with wild flowers
- Nesting skylarks on the hill top
- Stunning, uninterrupted and panoramic views, near and far, from all around the hill top.

### Project Suggestions

**Grasslands for the Future.** The grasslands and disturbed ground habitat on Charmy Down have the appearance of some deterioration from the landscape assessment site visit. The area may benefit from a new assessment and from engagement with land-owners to promote suitable habitat management.

**Access.** Themed walks would be interesting in terms of local history and would take people to an area which is perhaps lesser known.



Left: Turf Maze on Little Solsbury Hill

Right: The Fosse Way



## HWDS3: BANNERDOWN AND THE ROCKS

### Summary Landscape Character

- Narrow, mostly open plateau in an elevated position with some spectacular and expansive views especially towards the east over the By Brook valley and to Browns Folly above Bathford
- The Fosse Way Roman road running north-south through the plateau is a strong, straight landscape feature
- There is an interesting split between arable farming on the eastern side of the Fosse Way; and pastoral farming on the western side
- Stone field boundaries are a typical Cotswold plateau landscape feature
- Limited trees apart from a strong beech shelter belt along the Fosse Way beside the Rocks Estate and the avenue and parkland trees within The Rocks Estate
- Tops of trees in woodlands just below the plateau area are a feature of the character in places

- Bannerdown Common is a very distinctive landscape feature and popular walking destination with its own much more enclosed landscape and wildflower grasslands
- At the north-western end of the plateau the parkland landscape of The Rocks Estate is yet another change in local landscape character with glimpse views to the more pastoral parkland landscape with a dairy herd grazing amongst the parkland trees. The high boundary wall along the Fosse Way is a distinctive feature north of the Beech shelter belt.

### Project Suggestions

**Community.** The stone field boundaries are in need of repair and are an opportunity for community training and involvement.

**Views.** Look for opportunities to provide more views and access to them.



## HWDS4: BATHAMPTON AND CLAVERTON DOWN

### Summary Landscape Character

- This is a gently domed, flat or slightly dipping plateau landscape which divides into the three distinctive and linking local character areas of Bathampton Down, Bushey Norwood and Claverton Down
- Bathampton Down is characterised by a slightly domed landform which is occupied by Bath Golf Course. The “roughs” are mostly important areas of flower-rich limestone grassland. Much of Bathampton Down is surrounded by woodland on the upper slopes of the adjacent valleys. Close to the golf club-house is Ralph Allen’s Sham Castle, once an important visual landmark but now shrouded in trees. The adjacent University campus is out of view, hidden behind trees
- Bathampton Down has significant ecological interest throughout, focussing on limestone grassland across the top of the Down and bat interest on the eastern side

- There is very significant archaeological interest on Bathampton Down, with the Celtic field system, enclosure and pillow mounds, now mostly under the golf course
- Bushey Norwood is a flat, relatively narrow, rectangular strip of land on the eastern edge of the University campus which links between Bathampton Down and Claverton Down
- Claverton Down is a traditionally farmed landscape centred around Rainbow Wood Farm. The well-managed pasture fields are bounded by walls and hedgerows, some with excellent hedgerow trees. On the western and southern edges of the Down are wooded areas and tree belts popular area for walking.

### Project Suggestions

**Views and Vistas.** Possibility of opening up and restoring views to Sham Castle.

**Access.** Restoring some of the carriage rides.

## HWDS5: SULIS PLATEAU

### Summary Landscape Character

- This is a very small, narrow and gently dipping plateau landscape falling away very gently from a high point along the A367
- There are three distinctive local character areas: the arable field to the north-west of the A367; the land between the A367 and Combe Hay Lane; and the land to the east of Combe Hay Lane
- The gently dipping, arable field owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, to the north-west of the A367 is a large open agricultural landscape heavily influenced by the open and expansive views to the lower countryside to the north-west, also largely owned by the Duchy of Cornwall

- The land between the A367 and Combe Hay Lane is occupied by the Odd Down Park & Ride and the Fullers Earth Recycling Centre, giving a distinctly urban fringe character. The Park & Ride is visually well screened by trees
- The land to the east of Combe Hay Lane is a partially enclosed agricultural landscape which is largely open and relatively featureless apart from the wooded Sulis Manor and some relatively young tree-belts. It is heavily influenced by the urban edge of the city on its northern border which intrudes into the north-western corner of the area
- The historic Wansdyke runs along the northern boundary of the eastern plateau area.

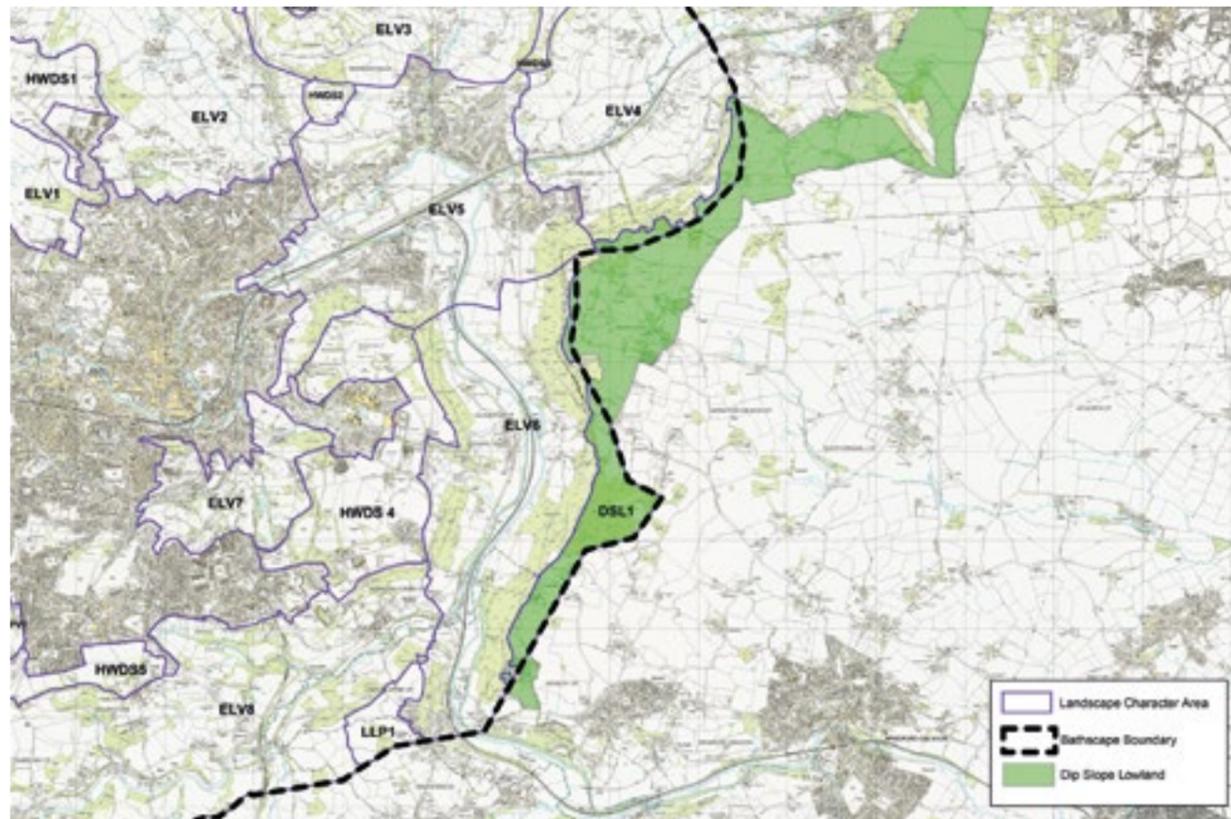
### Project Suggestions

None



**Far Left:** Bath Skyline Walk at Bushey Norwood  
**Left:** Odd Down East

DIP-SLOPE LOWLANDS LANDSCAPE TYPE



Dip-Slope Lowlands Landscape Type

DSL1 PLATEAU EDGES AROUND MONKTON FARLEIGH

Summary Landscape Character

- These four very narrow slivers of land form a skyline to the adjacent valleys to the north and west. They are very rural areas although the most northerly is the far western edge of Kingsdown Golf Course

- The two smallest areas above Bathford are parts of arable fields and the largest most southerly area is dominated by Innwood ancient woodland with very small permanent pasture fields interspersed by individual houses and a farm in semi-wooded settings on its southern side and small arable fields north of the woodland
- All four areas dip slightly down towards the wooded plateau edge rather than the wider dip slope to the east, and their characters are dominated by the woodland settings which they face.



Right: Towards Innwood

THEIR CHARACTERS ARE DOMINATED BY THE WOODLAND SETTINGS WHICH THEY FACE

## Low Limestone Plateau Landscape Type

### LLP1: LIMPLEY STOKE WATER TOWER AND HAYES WOOD PLATEAU

#### Summary Landscape Character

- This is a small area of relatively low, open, limestone plateau forming a slightly domed hill topped by Hayes Wood, with the nearby prominent local landmark of Limpley Stoke concrete water tower visible from some miles around
- The plateau forms a broad promontory with river valleys to the north, west and east and as such it can be seen from within all three
- This is an entirely farmed landscape with a mix of arable and grazing and a small area of horsiculture

- Hedges are notably sparse and clipped very low, with some good hedgerow trees. Apart from hedgerow and roadside trees there are few other trees apart from a length of beech avenue along a short length of track
- There is an Iron-Age enclosure adjacent to Hayes Wood although this is not visible on the ground. Neolithic and Bronze age finds as well as a Roman pot have been found in the enclosure area.

#### Project Suggestions

**Woodlands of Bathscapes.** Hayes Wood is an ancient woodland last surveyed in 1979 when it had a number of notable species. Its current management status is unknown. It would benefit from re-survey and may need management.



Left: Hayes Wood Plateau

Right: Corston Valley

## Eroded Plateau and Valleys Landscape Type

### EPV1: CORSTON AND NEWTON BROOK VALLEYS

#### Summary Landscape Character

- This is an open, gently rolling landscape of interweaving indented ridges, two main valleys and their tributary valleys. It lies at a significantly lower level than the Cotswolds plateau immediately to the east, and is overlooked by it. The lack of extensive tree cover enables the characteristics of the landform to predominate in the landscape character
- This is a patchwork, mixed farming landscape of very variable fields sizes, mainly clipped but with some tall hedgerows, occasional small woods, tree-lined meandering streams and lanes, and a predominance of arable over pastoral farming
- Ecological interest is limited to areas on the steep slopes on the eastern edge of the character area, as well as the Newton Brook
- Largely hidden in the steep-sided Corston Brook Valley is the Newton Park Estate with its C18th mansion and Registered Historic Park, with artificial lakes along the line of the brook and with excellent parkland and avenue trees. Considerable modern building has taken place as part of the University campus development within the centre of the park
- Newton St. Loe and Englishcombe are two small, compact, Duchy villages within the character area, dominated by attractive 17th and 18th century freestone or ashlar buildings

- The excellent and coherent management by the Duchy of Cornwall and its tenants, of land, trees, woods, hedgerows and buildings within the area adds to its special character
- There are extensive open views over the distinctive rolling countryside of the character area from the much higher plateau areas of the Cotswolds to the east and north.



#### Project Suggestions

**Access.** This area is in easy reach of Twerton, Whiteway and the whole of the south-west of Bath as well as being close to both Newbridge and Odd Down Park & Ride. It would be interesting to re-engage some of the enthusiasm for rambling in the area which was apparent in the early C20th century. It would be simple to create some circular walks out of the Park & Rides, taking in some of this varied landscape and its views; and it may be possible to work with the Duchy to establish some more permissive paths.

## Settled Open River Valley Landscape Type

### SORV1: RIVER AVON VALLEY WEST AND KELSTON PARK

#### Summary Landscape Character

- This is a largely open valley landscape with the River Avon leaving the constraints of a narrow, wooded valley on the edge of the city and suddenly entering an area of wide flood plain. To the north the valley butts up against the Cotswolds escarpment giving the appearance of high northern valley sides whereas to the south the valley sides are much lower allowing strong visual links with the countryside and reinforcing the open character overall

- On the north side of the valley the steep, wooded river cliff with Kelston Park Mansion looking out from the top of the cliff over the valley, is a key focus to the character area and an important landmark
- The parkland setting to the Mansion with its many parkland trees has a distinctive character of its own, slightly separate from the valley floor below
- The southern valley side divides into two distinctive sections. To the West of Corston village it is higher and has a well treed appearance; to the east considerably lower appearing as a separate rounded hill. It has sweeping, open, arable farmed slopes up to the distinctive Seven Acre Wood
- There is an important transport corridor along the flood plain with the busy A4 dual carriageway, GWR main line railway and disused railway route carrying the Bristol-Bath Cycle Path. The largely well-treed embankments carrying these routes break up the flood plain into sections and visually isolate the tree-lined river
- Playing Fields predominate along the western, narrower flood plain between the railway and the A4. At the narrow eastern end of the character area, Newbridge Park & Ride, a caravan park and small marina are hidden in trees
- The well treed Corston village climbs up the hill to the west of the Corston Brook, straddling the A39 Wells Road
- Ecological interest is limited to the River Cliffs and ancient woodland, and to the river corridor, with a geological SSSI by the slip road from the A4 to Newbridge bridge
- The winding, tree-lined river is a busy recreational area with boating on the river and the popular River Avon Trail walking route.

#### Project Suggestions

None



Left: Kelston Park

## 3.4 GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

The Landscape Character Assessment revealed that the influence of geology is particularly strong in the Bathscape area and it is a key under-pinning element of the development of Bath as a city. The striking and complex landform of the Bathscape was primarily created by the River Avon and its tributaries, in particular the Newton Brook and the Midford and Cam Brooks which cut through the southern tip of the Oolitic limestone Cotswolds plateau. At this point the plateau is dipping down and gradually merging with a complex surrounding geological landscape.

Where the River Avon cuts through the plateau between Bathampton and Twerton its meandering course has effectively given rise to a hollow within the Cotswold plateau; the base and sides undulating where tributary streams have eroded the plateau unevenly. The city expanded from its original location on the gravel beds beside the River Avon in the centre of the hollow, spreading up the slopes of the hollow to the edge of the plateau, and in places onto the plateau itself. This containment of the city by the bowl-like form of the landscape has given it one of its distinct characteristics of being compact and looking in towards the historic centre.

One of the notable influences of geology in the wider Bathscape is the prevalence of landslip and cambering where blocks of capping limestone break off and slip down-slope. This is caused in large part by the alternating layers of hard limestone and softer sands and clays, in particular Fullers Earth, and has had a profound effect on the landscape character of the enclosed limestone valleys giving them a complex and variable landform. Undulations and bulges form both along the slope and down the slope where the softer clays and sands are squeezed out between and below the harder limestones; with steeper angles where the harder limestones are present usually at the top of the slope and then around halfway down where the Inferior Oolitic limestone often forms bench-like outcrops.

The influence of geology in Bathscape however is not restricted to landform and pre-history. It has provided the hydro-geological conditions necessary for the hot springs, the stone that gives the buildings of the Bathscape their distinctive honey-coloured appearance and the calcareous soils so favoured by the wealth of wildflowers that are found across the area. 250,000 gallons of water still flow through the springs each day, representing the only hot springs in Britain. Bath stone continues to be quarried and used for local buildings, while wild orchids persist on many of the slopes.



The influence of geology even permeated the cultural life of the Bathscape. An essential part of a visit to Bath in the C18th was walking or riding out to appreciate the special landscape, the views, the fine houses and parks, and the new engineering feats associated directly or indirectly with the stone, coal and fullers earth. The rocky landscapes of the Bath Stone mines and quarries in the C18th and C19th were of particular interest to landscape painters such as Gainsborough. The dramatic landscapes and quarries around Bath at that time were an important source of inspiration for the developing “Picturesque” Movement in art and literature.



Credit: Courtesy of The Victoria Art Gallery, Bath and North East Somerset.

**Left:** View of Bath from the South  
East John Sayer  
(1846)

**Right:** Cambering at Chilcombe bottom



Credit: Courtesy of The Victoria Art Gallery, Bath and North East Somerset.

In the western part of the Bathscape pits supplying rag coal to Bath were being worked in the early C18th and by the 1730s others had been sunk in and around Newton St. Loe, on and close to the river valley floor. By the 1780s pumping-engine houses also began to appear, and new shafts were in operation by the Cross Post turnpike house near Newbridge. By 1845 however the pits had all closed, the coal being exhausted. It is difficult to imagine this noisy, dirty, industrial past today although it is possible to occasionally see dark marks in the soil when the fields are ploughed.

The Fullers Earth, which in particular is found on the upper valley sides of the Enclosed Limestone Valley character areas, was used from Roman times in fulling, a process used to clean woollen cloth of oil, dirt or impurities. Many of the mills which existed in the enclosed limestone valley character areas were initially fulling mills. The Combe Hay Mine was a Fullers Earth mine which operated until 1979. It is located next door to the Odd Down Park & Ride and today a few remnants of its buildings exist in the current recycling centre.

Above: Stone Quarries, Hampton Rocks, Anthony Devis (19th Century)

Given its geological interest it is fitting that William Smith, known as the “Father of English Geology”, has strong associations with the area. His 1799 circular geological map of five miles around Bath was the first-ever printed geological map, and it remains remarkably accurate today as well as coinciding surprisingly well with the Bathscape project area. Whilst supervising the building of the Somersetshire Coal Canal through Tucking Mill he was so impressed by its beauty that he bought an estate there in 1798 for his own home. Below his house he created a fishing lake behind the canal to drive a small mill which was intended to provide income to support the estate. All of this, he lost after his bankruptcy in 1819. However, Smith’s house still remains together with a gothic cottage which adjoined the mill which was itself demolished in 1927. The fishing lake, after being filled in later for the Fullers Earth works, has been restored by Wessex Water as a fishing lake for disabled anglers and storage reservoir. William Smith’s tramway was built between his stone quarry on Combe Down and his mill at Tucking Mill where stone was sawn into ashlar for export via the canal. The lower section of the old tramway now serves as a public footpath and stone sleeper blocks are still visible in places.



Top right: Somersetshire coal canal locks at south stoke  
 Left: William Smith  
 Right: Portrait of William Smith



Today there are three geological SSSI’s found in the Bathscape. One is a stone quarry exposing Oolite with dip and fault structures and interspersed with plateau gravel deposits important for understanding the Pleistocene sequence in the Avon Valley. The other two are Pleistocene gravel beds close to the River Avon, associated with cuttings for the railway, and allowing the history of early glaciation in the south west to be established.



Credit: Bath in Time

## 3.5 ARCHAEOLOGY

The Bathscape area has a pre-built history of several thousand years centred upon the city with its own near 2000 year built history. Many of the historical and archaeological sites of the surrounding area directly relate to the different eras of Bath's history but are also important in their own right.

Within the city the Roman remains, especially the Temple of Sulis Minerva and the baths complex are amongst the most famous and important Roman remains north of the Alps, and marked the beginning of Bath's history as a spa town.

In the wider Bathscape there are sixteen scheduled monuments including round barrows, an early iron-age hillfort, pillow mounds, a Roman camp, a Romano-British settlement, 12th century castle remains and a significant stretch of the Wansdyke which crosses the Bathscape from east to west. Several of these early features are found clustered on the plateaus and though often explored in the 19th and early 20th century many are now overgrown, listed as vulnerable or largely overlooked by the majority of residents and visitors.

Despite this lack of wider public attention the evidence of Roman occupation and activities including Roman roads, burials, cemeteries, camps, villas and other buildings that related to the Roman town and its hinterland are noted as significant features of the historic setting of the World Heritage Site. There is an active volunteer group in the Bath and Counties Archaeological Society dedicated to studying the archaeology of the area.



Credit: Bath in Time



**Top Left:** Archaeological Excavations c. 1900

**Left:** overgrown round barrow

## 3.6 BUILT HERITAGE

The topography surrounding Bath has provided unique architectural opportunities. The fine views have inspired architects to develop the high quality architecture of the crescents and terraces which characterise 18th century development in Bath and for which the city is so well renowned, while the slopes and hilltops provide their own backdrops.

From several city centre streets, views are channelled towards the fields and woodlands of the rural skyline, while throughout the city buildings are viewed set within, or against, a backcloth of trees. New landscapes were often created in association with the terraces and crescents to enhance the enjoyment of their views further and many of these have been conserved as important townscape features within the city.

This interplay of buildings with their immediate and wider landscape represented a new development in architecture and is typified by the works of John Wood the Elder and Younger in the city. Of the most famous of the latter's work, The Royal Crescent, Pevsner says "Nature is no longer the servant of architecture. The two are equals. The Romantic Movement is at hand". Bath's Georgian crescents snaked along the hillside contours, integrating with the landscape and making full use of the views afforded.



**Top right:** Bath's northern slopes

**Right:** sheep grazing in front of Lansdown Crescent



The World Heritage Site Statement of Outstanding Universal Value recognised this significance of the city's Georgian architects in "transposing Palladio's ideas to the scale of a complete city, situated in a hollow in the hills and built to a picturesque landscape aestheticism". Rev William Gilpin was the first to use the term 'picturesque' in print, in his 1768 *Essays on Prints* where he defined it as "that kind of beauty that would look well in a picture".

The many beautiful Bath Stone buildings were, and still remain, essential attractions of the City of Bath, and of those on the surrounding slopes two were a particular draw for visitors in the 18th and early 19th century. Quarry owner Ralph Allen's Prior Park Mansion at the top of Widcombe Brook Valley, and Sham Castle on the western edge of Bathampton Down, were both built with the specific intention of being seen as prominent features in the landscape, and are also sites from which wonderful views over the city and the wider countryside could be had.

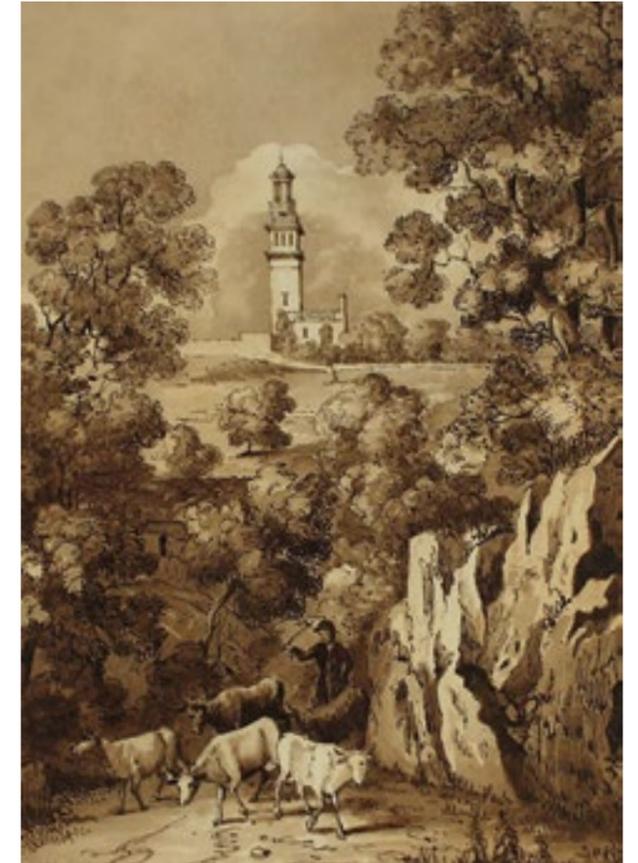
Today Prior Park (now a school and National Trust property) still fulfils that role but Sham Castle, built as an 'eye catcher' to be seen from Ralph Allen's town house, is now partially hidden by trees and only really visible when lit up at night.

Later additions to the wider Bathscape include Beckford's Tower, designed by Bath architect Henry Goodridge for the wealthy novelist, art collector and travel writer William Beckford who moved to Bath in 1822 after selling Fonthill Abbey. Standing at 120 feet high on the plateau of Lansdown to the north of the city, crowned with an octagonal lantern decorated with gilt gold columns, the tower forms an even more dominant local landmark than sham castle and can be seen from most of the surrounding hillsides. At the time Beckford reputedly regretted that it was not at least 40 feet higher, commenting that "however, such as it is, it is a famous landmark for the drunken farmers on their return from market".



Beckford also purchased the land behind his home in Lansdown Crescent to create a mile-long ride through a series of gardens and landscaped features to reach the tower, planting orchards, tree avenues that still survive and finally declaring "I have crowned Lansdown with a forest".

The close of the picturesque movement in the Bathscape can be said to be marked by Isambard Brunel's building of gothic inspired tunnel portals of the Bristol to Bath railway in the 1830s. Crenelated to appear as imitation castles and set into the picturesque setting of the wooded slopes of Twerton's Carr's Wood to the west of the city, leading the author Mary Mitford to conclude "even the railway (in Bath) contributes by a rare exception to the effect of the landscape".



Credit: Courtesy of The Victoria Art Gallery, Bath and North East Somerset.



Credit: Bath in Time

Left: Sham Castle

Top: Beckford's Tower

Top Right:  
Lansdown and  
Beckford's Tower,  
Henry Venn  
Lansdown 1855

Bottom right:  
Twerton tunnel  
in 1903

## 3.7 BIODIVERSITY

70% of the Bathscape project area is rural in nature, with beef and sheep farming the dominant land use. There is a relatively small amount of arable cropping, with this generally restricted to the flatter areas, while the number of dairy farms has reduced considerably in the last ten years. The main habitats are woodlands, grasslands and waterways, which together form critical components of the landscape and also incorporate the UK Priority Habitats of deciduous woodlands, lowland calcareous grassland, and lowland meadows. There are 8 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), several of which form part of the broader Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There are a further 142 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) in the project area totalling 2775Ha.

The overall ecological status of the Bathscape paints a rather complicated picture. On the one hand the calcareous soils of its slopes give rise to a wide array of wildflowers, its abandoned stone mines are of international importance for bats and the green fingers reaching right into the city mean Bath is recognised as amongst the best urban areas in the country to see wildlife, with otter and peregrine falcons resident in the centre. Conversely this juxtaposition with the city places a significant strain on the surrounding countryside, with pressure for development, overgrazing by horses and disturbance all adding to the tensions. The landscape itself also has a dual effect, with the awkward character of steeper slopes likely to have played a role in deterring wildlife-rich sites from being lost in the drive for intensive management during the latter half of the 20th century, but more recently leading to them being amongst the first to be neglected.



**Left:** Scrub encroachment

**Right:** Marsh fritillary

5% of the Bathscape area is mapped as UK Priority Grassland however interpretation of aerial photographs, anecdotal evidence and field observations confirm that many areas of priority habitat grassland are reverting to scrub. Furthermore, the development phase Grassland report highlighted that there is little quantitative data about the current rate of habitat change and that, outside of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), very little is known about the conservation condition and status of remaining habitats.

The continuing loss and fragmentation of Priority Habitat Grassland is concerning and has implications for associated species. The diversity and abundance of butterfly species across the region has declined in parallel with the loss of botanically rich grassland. Populations that remain are small, isolated and fragile and therefore highly vulnerable to continuing deterioration and fragmentation of grassland habitat. The future is not necessarily bleak however and during the development phase a Bathscape volunteer discovered a population of marsh fritillary butterflies in the project area, a species thought to be extinct in the county since the 1980s. It is also thought that the landscape might be important for chalkhill blue butterflies, which seem to be expanding their range in the Cotswolds. More widely the West of England Combined Authority's Pollinator Strategy, seeks to establish pollinator corridors across the county, with the Bathscape a target area.

Many of the best Bathscape grassland sites are within farm holdings. During development phase 46 live stewardship agreements were identified in the project area, though by the time of the anticipated delivery phase in December 2018 this figure reduces to a potential low of 29, dependent upon how many agreement holders seek to renew and are successful in doing so. With the continuing changes in countryside stewardship there is uncertainty as to whether renewals are likely to be successful or to best meet the needs of local habitats without individual landowner guidance.

There are additionally several pockets of high quality grassland within Bathscape either falling outside of agricultural holdings, too small to meet the requirements of stewardship schemes, or too small to be registered as priority habitat. A sharp rise in the number of 'hobby farms' and 'lifestyle buyers' in the Bath area has put added pressure on priority habitat grassland, with new owners often failing to fully appreciate the value of botanically-rich grassland or understand that it needs managing to maintain its value, commonly thinking the complete opposite. The scheme will therefore take a two pronged approach to target both agricultural and non-agricultural holdings.



Credit: Mike Williams

Woodland comprises just over 15% of the project area, making a critical contribution to the setting of the World Heritage Site. A woodland report commissioned in the project development phase identified that 37% of this woodland has no record of active management and a further 12% has no record of recent management. The potential quality of woodland in the area though is high with around a third of the Bathscape woodland area characterised as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, i.e. woodland that has continually existed since at least 1600. Several red data book invertebrates have been recorded in these woodlands and they still provide a stronghold for the once locally abundant but now nationally rare Bath asparagus plant. The distribution of ancient woodland closely matches that of the blocks of underlying Oolitic limestone, with several retained on the Cotswold scarps too steep for cultivation. Local Record Centre studies during development phase reported that of the 71 ancient woodland blocks recorded over half of them (38) have no known survey data and only 10 have any survey data more recent than 1990. Of the three woodland SSSIs in the Bathscape two are in mostly favourable condition, however of the third Natural England reports almost 90% of it to be in unfavourable condition and declining.

Few of the area's woodlands are in large holdings, which partially accounts for the high levels of neglect. 79% of the unmanaged woodland in the Bathscape falls beneath the three hectare threshold to qualify for an Environmental Stewardship Woodland Management Plan capital grant, which would fund a management plan and allow woodland improvement capital grants to be accessed. With further woodlands being sold off as small compartments, the proportion of woods too small to access national grant aid and being owned by people with little experience of woodland management is likely to increase.

As identified in the Landscape Character Assessment, the biodiversity value (and landscape value) of hedgerows across the Bathscape varies considerably with short cropped and sparse hedgerows dominating some character areas and thick hedgerows with good hedgerow trees in others. Larger hedgerows and hedgerow trees are particularly important in the Bathscape for greater and lesser horseshoe bats which use them extensively for hunting and commuting, and for woodland species where they link to wooded habitat. Creating a robust mosaic of treed habitat at a landscape scale is of particular importance for such creatures.



**Left:** Bath Asparagus

**Right:** Horseshoe bat



## 3.8 CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC ASSOCIATIONS

The cultural and artistic associations of the Bathscape are significantly enhanced by the internationally recognised culture of the city of Bath, its development as a fashionable resort and its celebrated residents and visitors, but many outlying areas and villages have a strong cultural heritage of their own.

The local landscape is perhaps most famously referenced in literature by Jane Austen who was a regular visitor and subsequent resident of the city (albeit one ambivalent to its charms) between the 1790s and 1805. Her heroine of Northanger Abbey, Catherine Morland, walks up Beechen Cliff "*That noble hill whose beautiful verdure and hanging coppice render it so striking an object from almost every opening in Bath*", while Jane Austen herself was a regular walker on the northern slopes of the Bathscape as recorded in her letters.

The writer Henry Fielding was another famed resident, living in Twerton which was at that time a village. He was a regular guest of Ralph Allen's at Prior Park mansion and Fielding's character of Squire Allworthy in his novel *Tom Jones* is thought to be based upon Allen.

In art, the contribution of 'picturesque' qualities of the Bathscape in both the designed and natural landscapes inspired landscape painters including Thomas Gainsborough and John Constable. Gainsborough was a resident of Bath for 16 years from 1759 and although most acclaimed for portraits was also a keen landscape painter. He rode in the countryside around Bath with the author Uvedale Price who was at the heart of the development of the Picturesque in art and literature, and who wrote a seminal essay on *The Picturesque, As Compared with the Sublime and The Beautiful* (1794). Price praises roughness and variety as essential elements of the Picturesque and the varied landform around Bath provides just that. The old quarry workings at Bathampton Down were a popular attraction for artists and a flat rock there (now shrouded in woodland) is known as Gainsborough's palette.



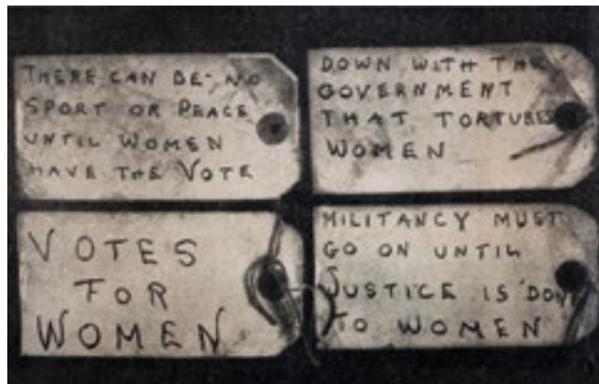
**Right:** A Scene at Bathampton near Bath, early 19th Century

Credit: Courtesy of The Victoria Art Gallery, Bath and North East Somerset.

*'The country which surrounds the city of Bath is so diversified and beautiful; so full of picturesque scenes and interesting views, the charms of nature, and the elegancies of art, that were we to descend to minuteness or individuality, the limits we have aligned to our labours would be entirely insufficient for that purpose.'*

Reverend Richard Warner, 1811, *'Warner's New Guide to Bath and Its Environs'*,

There are numerous lesser known stories and associations across the Bathscape, from Sally-in-the-wood the 19th century widowed gamekeeper's wife who lived wild and gained a reputation as a witch, before becoming immortalised in the name of the road that runs through the wood, to the imprisoned suffragettes recuperating in Northend tearing up golf course greens at Bathampton Down in protest.



Credit: Bath in Time

**Left:**  
Gainsborough's palette

**Top:** Hampton Rocks c1925

**Right:** luggage labels left by suffragettes after a night raid on Bath Golf links



## 3.9 HEALTH AND SIGHTSEEING

The Bathscape also has a strong connection to health and recuperation. The city itself, centred on the hot springs, has been known as a place of healing for over two thousand years. As it rose as a spa town in the 18th century it was pioneering in linking exercise in the surrounding landscape as part of the cure offered by taking the waters. 18th and 19th century doctors and physicians in the city urged their patients to take exercise by walking or riding in the 'Therapeutic Landscape'.

*'Another circumstance of great importance, and particularly connected with the use of Bath waters is exercise. This, in a moderate degree, in cases where it is practicable, is especially necessary during the use of Bath waters, in order to second their effects, in strengthening the organs of digestion, and increasing the diuretic and diaphoretic secretions, which are the best means of their passing off. I believe that the method commonly practised in this way is extremely proper, viz. a gentle walk early in the morning, between the intervals of drinking the waters, which encourages the diuretic evacuation, and moderate horse exercise at noon, to keep up the perspiratory discharge.'*

Dr William Falconer, 1752, *'An Essay on Bath Waters'*

*'Instead of sweating in a hot bed and close room at home for an hour of two, they should in general wash with and drink some cold water, and repose on their bed with open windows for an hour or two; and then making a meal of good hearty living food and drink, should walk into the fields, or on the neighbouring mountains.'*

Dr James Graham, 1789, *'A Treatise on the true Nature and Uses of the Bath Waters'*

The many visitors to Bath that came for pleasure rather than health were similarly encouraged out into the surrounding hills with the views, rocky landscapes of the stone workings and engineering feats such as the Caisson locks, and later Combe Hay locks, particular attractions.

Some of the known key routes for Georgian visitors include walks taking in Primrose Hill, Beacon Hill to Charlcombe, Widcombe to the Combe Down stone mines, Alexandra Park and Wells Road on to Oldfield Park. Of particular note is Ralph Allen's carriage drive around the edge of Bathampton Down and westwards to Foxhill. Another popular walk, often in conjunction with these walks and with ferry crossings, was alongside the river to places such as Newbridge to the west or Camden Crescent. The Bath World Heritage Site Setting Study notes the significance of the walks, promenades and rides in understanding how Georgian development was so fully integrated with appreciation and integration with the landscape. Valued views included to and from specific buildings, landmarks and other places of interest as well as an appreciation of the rural landscape within easy access of the town.

*The Difficulty of ascending our Hills is not so great as is generally reported; but when surmounted, what beautiful Prospects do they give? And what fine Air do the invalids breathe in upon them? I will venture to say, that thirty different Rides, each sufficient for a Morning's Airing, with so many beautiful points of view and Matters of Curiosity may be found about BATH, as conducive to the Health and Pleasure of Mankind in general, as can be met with in Ten times the Space of Ground in any other Country.'*

John Wood 1765, 'An Essay Towards a Description of Bath'

By the late 19th Century excursions into the wider Bathscape for pleasure became easier for all levels of the population thanks to the invention of the bicycle and the introduction of horse-buses and trams in the city suburbs. When the electric tramway system was laid in 1904, the line was extended for this purpose into the surrounding countryside to three rural termini; The Crown Inn at Bathford, The Globe Inn at Newton St. Loe and the Combe Down Convalescent Home. The trams were popular with the working population of Bath who could escape from the city and take circular walks across country between each terminus. As a result, tea-gardens and other amenities soon began to appear in previously out-of-the-way villages such as Englishcombe or Tucking Mill.



Credit: Courtesy of The Victoria Art Gallery, Bath and North East Somerset.

Left: Comforts of Bath Lansdown races 1798

## 3.10 THE LANDSCAPE THROUGH TIME

The Bathscape area is a remarkable palimpsest where you can view features in the landscape spanning several centuries. This is typified by the plateau of Bathampton Down rising above Bath to the east. Here pillow mounds and tumuli sit within a golf course bordered by disused stone quarries to the north, the eye catching Georgian folly Sham Castle to the west, a 1960s university campus to the south and a Georgian racecourse (itself on the site of a Roman villa) to the east, with evidence of each period crossing the other. Even the golf course itself is notable as the second oldest golf club in the south west, boasting a course redesigned in the 1930s by renowned golf course architect Harry Colt.

The series of plateaus and surrounding valleys provide discrete and often intimate landscapes where it is possible to immerse yourself in different historical periods. The iron age hillfort site of Little Solsbury hill or Roman camp at Lansdown with their commanding views and defensible positions, the meadows at Bathwick alive with wildflowers and butterflies looking across the river to the Georgian centre of the city, or the overgrown remains of the Somerset coal canal in the valleys at Combe Hay, built to transport coal in the 19th century but quickly made redundant by the railway.

The city of Bath itself was reputedly born of the healing qualities of the landscape. According to legend Bladud, father of King Lear, contracted leprosy and was cast out of court, becoming a swineherd. When crossing the river near Bath his pigs wallowed in the warm mud and were cured of a skin disease so Bladud followed suit and was himself promptly cured. He later became king and founded the city of Bath in 860 BC.

The area is famed however for its subsequent Roman history, and the health giving qualities of the warm springs. The Roman Baths in the centre of the city are recognised as amongst the most famous and important Roman remains north of the Alps with a temple built there around 50AD. In the surrounding hills and villages evidence of the Roman occupation is plentiful. As well as the hilltop Roman forts, there are Roman villas at Bathford, Newton St. Loe and Southstoke, and camps at Lansdown Hill and Bath Racecourse.

As the last Roman soldiers left England in the early 5th century the history of the area becomes less well documented. It is known the Saxons took over Bath following a decisive victory at Dyrham just outside the Bathscape area in 577AD, then in 973 AD Bath once again came to prominence with the crowning here of Edgar, the first king of all England. In the 12th century, a time when the area's prosperity was built on wool and the cloth industry the first great abbey was built, dominating the walled mediaeval city. Throughout the middle ages people still came to Bath to bathe in the hot springs in the hope it would cure them of their ailments. As the wool trade declined during the 16th and 17th century the area's dependence on attracting cure seekers to bathe in the springs grew. In 1643 the hills at Lansdown to the north of Bath were the scene of a civil war battle between the parliamentarian troops who held the city and the Royalists who took it from them.

The area's second great heyday came in Georgian times when the draw of the warm springs was combined with the development of Bath as a fashionable resort. The 18th century saw a boom in the city's size and standing with the development of the fine architectural buildings meeting the market for the rich summer visitors. With the area's association with artists, writers and tourism it is still possible to retrace walks taken centuries ago or stand within the frame of countless paintings to take in the views that attracted visitors and artists. Thanks to the city's long history of conservation much of what appears in these paintings is still to be seen today, though where it has been lost, replaced or augmented it often adds to the interest of uncovering the story.

Alongside this history of the wealth of Bath and its surroundings, however, lies that of the wider populace, often living in squalor in the city or labouring on the surrounding land. Six poor houses were recorded in the city in 1776, while in 1837 a further large workhouse was built at the hilltop south of the city at Odd Down to accommodate 600 people. By 1845 a total of 758 adults and 374 children were crammed into it. Most of the workhouse dead were buried in unmarked graves on the other side of the road in what is now a nondescript area of grass amongst the growing urban edge. A total of 4289 bodies were buried here between 1839 and 1899, their presence marked only by slight undulations of the ground.



**Left:** Battle of Lansdown notice board

**Right:** The Old Poor House, Twerton 1904

**Far right:** Quarrymen at Westwood 1880s



Credit: Bath in Time



Credit: Bath in Time

The seasonal nature of Bath's tourist economy made income uncertain for those city residents employed in serving it, while out in the villages people often fared little better. To the south, in the village of Combe Down, Ralph Allen's stone mine business was the major employer and had a significant influence both upon the people and the landscape. Allen built terraced housing here for his workers, though not for their comfort but rather so that he could reduce their pay rates by reducing the time they spent commuting to work. Recognising the impact of the quarries upon the views from Bath, Allen also set about planting fir trees. It is estimated he planted over 55,000 fir trees on his estates, though aesthetics wasn't his only concern as there was a ready market for the timber from the builders of Bath.

By 1820 it was reckoned that a significant proportion of the nearby village of Monkton Combe was employed in cutting stone from the Combe Down quarries, with only seven people employed by agriculture.

The demise of the Combe Down stone mines can be traced to the opening of Brunel's Great Western Railway in 1841. While excavating the line in west Wiltshire large quantities of good quality stone were uncovered and their proximity to the railway meant significantly reduced transport costs. By 1851 over 86% of wives of the labouring households in Combe Down were recorded in the census as taking in laundry to make ends meet.

The immediate surroundings of Bath have witnessed a steady urban spread beyond the mediaeval city walls, the arrival of roads, the canal and railway and the coming and going of industry. The natural resources and topography of the landscape – deposits of Fuller’s Earth, coalfields, hilltops of Oolitic limestone and valleys with strong flowing rivers – have had a strong influence on these industries. The rivers powered mills initially for flour then for refining cloth and for paper mills, the limestone, mined since Roman times, built much of the city and villages, while the combination of sheep pasture, Fuller’s Earth and water power at sites such as Twerton led to localised development of the cloth industry. The wool would be pounded in a mixture of water and Fullers Earth clay to clean and thicken it using wooden hammers driven by water wheels.

The landscape beyond the city slopes is often remarkably unchanged over the past century, except for a gradual gentrification of the larger old farms, conversion of mill buildings to pubs or residences, and intensification of the farmed grasslands. The people and scenes of the area going back to the late 19th century are recorded in the extensive and publically accessible Bath in Time resource of old photographs, sketches and paintings.

*A special attraction of the neighbourhood of Bath is the opportunity it affords all round for enjoyable walks into secluded valleys with their tiny villages, old-world manor houses and (mostly) picturesque churches: places which, though often within earshot of the railway-whistle, are the same as they were a century ago, ... Of course there are many parts of the country to which such a description might apply, but there is no part where nature has lent so much assistance.*

M.J. Baddeley, 1902 ‘Thorough Guide Series: Bath and Bristol and Forty Miles Round’



Credit: Bath in Time



**Left:** Twerton Mills 1890  
**Above:** Claverton village



Credit: Courtesy of The Victoria Art Gallery, Bath and North East Somerset.



**Top:** View of Bath from Bathwick Meadows by John Parker 1792  
**Left:** View of Bath from Bathwick Meadows 2018

### 3.11 PEOPLE IN THE BATHSCAPE

Centred on a compact city and international visitor attraction, the Bathscape scheme area is enjoyed by large numbers of people and has a generous reach in terms of potential beneficiaries. The two universities and thriving tourism industry create a vibrant city that spills out into the surrounding countryside. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-year data of 2016 shows the wards within the Bathscape area to be home to just over 107,000 residents, while a 2014 visitor survey report found the Bath & NE Somerset area attracted around 5,767,000 annual visitors from the UK and overseas, made up of 4.8 million day visitors and a further 967,000 staying visits.

Of the visitors profiled in the 2014 visitor survey report 16% lived within the wider district or South West region (excluding Bath) and 52% of respondents were from elsewhere in the UK. 28% of all visitors were from overseas with 8% visiting the city as part of an organised group or coach party. The most popular activities undertaken during a visit to the city were sightseeing/visiting attractions, eating out and shopping. The most popular activities undertaken during an overnight visit to the city were walking in the countryside nearby to Bath (46%) and touring the surrounding area (41%), along with making day visits to other places outside of Bath (28%) and visiting Stonehenge (27%).

Visitors are part of the audience for Bathscape and likely to be a significant beneficiary in terms of improved paths, maps and walking information. However the local community will benefit most from initiatives to conserve and restore the landscape and from learning and participation activities.



Left: Picnicking at Smallcombe Fields

The population of the Bathscape is predominantly urban and has some distinctive characteristics. 2016 ONS demographic figures for the Bathscape wards reflect the high proportion of students in the area with almost double the national average of 20–24 year olds, as well as a significant proportion of residents of 65 or over (17% against a national average of 12.5%).

#### ANALYSIS OF 2016 DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR BATHSCAPE WARDS

AGE CLASS	% OF POPULATION IN AGE CLASS
0-9	9.5
10-19	13.1
20-29	22.4
30-39	10.2
40-49	11.5
50-59	11.6
60-69	9.6
70-79	7.0
80-89	4.1
90+	1.0

Locally these figures vary significantly between wards with for instance 22% of residents in Twerton being 16 years or under, compared to 14% in the more affluent Widcombe ward. The Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population is lower than the national average with the highest concentrations in the less affluent wards, though international students and visitors add to the cultural diversity. Sharp rises in house prices have been experienced across the Bathscape in recent years driven in part by people moving out from London and by increasing numbers of landlords buying properties to rent to the growing student population. As a result there is strong demand for social housing.

Specialist interest groups abound in the area covering subjects such as social history, archaeology, wildlife, geology and local studies.

A Bath & NE Somerset wide 2017 Voicebox survey report into leisure time found respondents reporting being outdoors as the second highest consideration (behind 'having fun') when selecting a leisure activity. 47% suggested being outdoors mattered 'a lot' representing a steady rise over recent years of repeated surveys. A 2016 Voicebox report found that 61% of people visit natural green spaces in their local area either on a weekly or daily basis (though this figure dropped to 51% in the more disadvantaged areas) while a sizable proportion of the population (approx. 40%) are infrequent visitors or non-participants.

Wealth is a subject of significant variance in the area. Bath has a long history of carefully promoting itself in a favourable light but this is not the complete story. During the 18th century Bath's reputation was built on being a place where the upper classes could enjoy the summer season with amusements provided under the auspices of Beau Nash. In the 19th century, as its standing as a premier resort waned, it developed a name as a genteel back water suited to retired colonels, while in modern times it has presented itself as a romantic city of architectural beauty. All these things have been true, however alongside them there has always been another Bath, one experienced by large numbers of its residents.



Credit: Courtesy of The Victoria Art Gallery, Bath and North East Somerset.

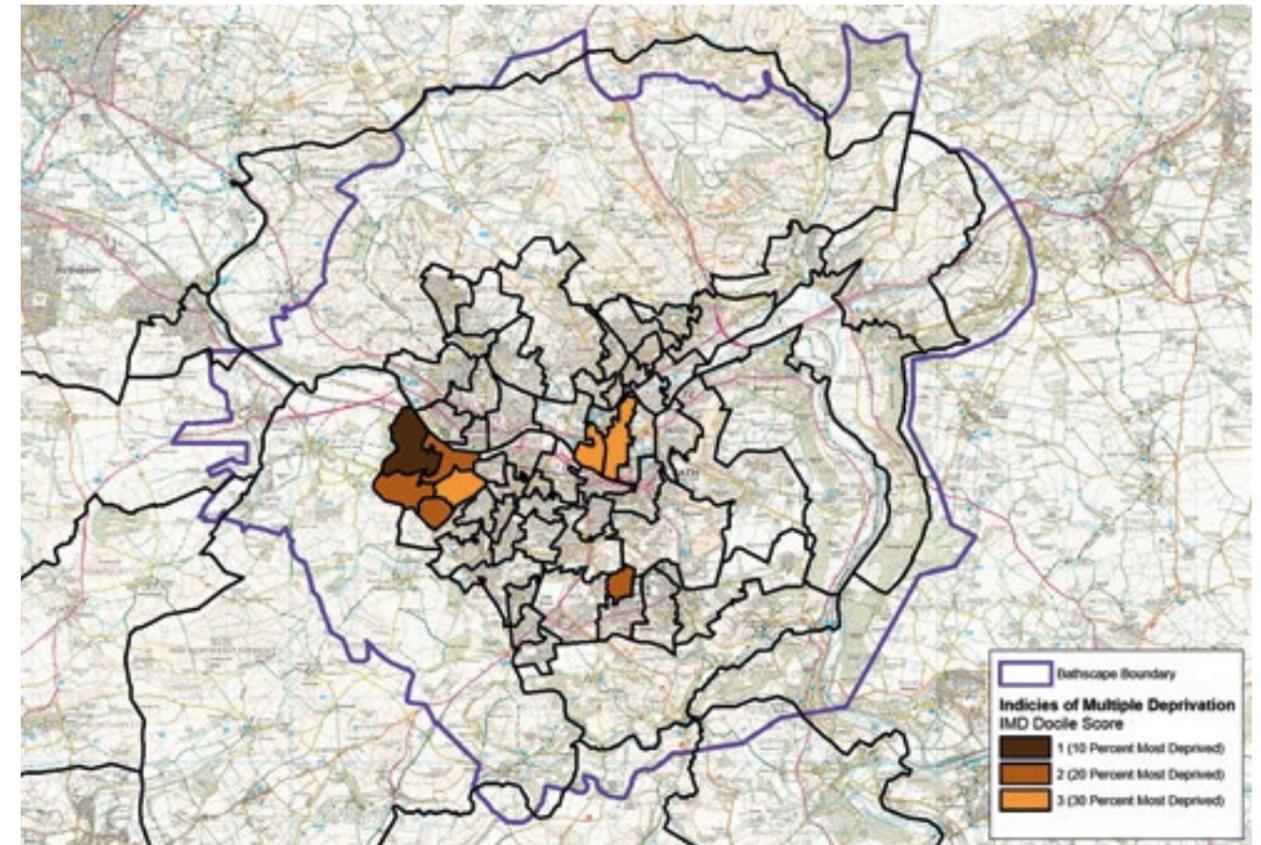


Credit: Bath in Time

Traditionally the day-to-day working class experience has been largely overlooked in the accepted story of Bath, or at best represented as an appendage to the genteel classes, and the city has tended to perpetuate the window dressing of its celebrity to the outside world. Historically the majority of Bathonians experienced the city not as a seasonal resort with theatre and dances but as a working city whose growth required labour. However the seasonal nature of its visitors added an extra pressure on those employed in their service. Slums appeared as the city grew, particularly alongside the river Avon, presented so idyllically snaking through the Bathscape in a multitude of paintings though increasingly unsanitary with raw sewage by the 19th century.

Today the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) indicate that though overall Bath & NE Somerset is one of the least deprived areas in the country, ranking 247 out of 326 English authorities (where 1 = most deprived), this hides pockets of high deprivation, all of which fall within the Bathscape area.

### AREAS OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION IN THE BATHSCAPE



One area, Twerton West is within the most deprived 10% of the country, scoring poorly on income, adult skills, children and young people (C&YP), education skills and training, employment, health deprivation and disability.

Four further areas are within the most deprived 20% of the country.

**The domains where each area falls into the 10% most deprived compared to England are:**

- Whiteway (10% most deprived in income, adult skills, C&YP, education skills and training and income deprivation affecting children)

- Twerton (10% most deprived in C&YP, education skills and training, employment and health deprivation and disability)
- Fox Hill North (10% most deprived in C&YP, education skills and training)
- Whiteway West (10% most deprived in children and young people, education skills and training).

For the Children and Young People subdomain of the education skills and training component of the IMD, Whiteway is within the bottom 1% in the country and deprivation has worsened amongst all these areas across nearly all the domains.

**POCKETS OF HIGH DEPRIVATION, ALL OF WHICH FALL WITHIN THE BATHSCAPE AREA**

Left top: View from North Parade. Henry Venn Lansdown mid 19th Century

Left bottom: Little Corn St Bath 1890s.

The poverty gap in the Bath area is starkly visible in statistics such as access to higher education. 2017 figures from the Higher Education Funding Council for England reported that 100% of young people in the Lansdown, Bathwick and Widcombe areas of the city went on to higher education compared to just 12.1% of young people in the Twerton area of the city. The Bath Chronicle reported this made Bath the most unequal of 573 constituencies in England and Wales in terms of school leavers going on to higher education.

2017 End Child Poverty figures, based on tax credit data, identified that 36% of children in Twerton and 29% of children in neighbouring Southdown were estimated to be in poverty after taking into account housing costs, with the percentage of children in low income families in those areas estimated at 28% and 21% respectively against a regional average across the south west of 14%. Public Health England in its 2014 Health Profile for the area reported that life expectancy is 7.5 years lower for men and 4.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Bath and NE Somerset than in the least deprived areas.



Credit: Bath in Time



With the assemblage of wards suffering high levels of deprivation in the south west of the city there is an increasing sense of widening disparity between different areas of the city. This is heightened by the landscape, with the river separating the slopes of south west Bath from the facing northern slopes of Sion Hill and Lansdown which are amongst the most affluent areas. On one of the walks that Bathscape ran as part of the walking festival pilot, an attendee from the Lansdown slopes reported this was the first time she had been in south west Bath despite looking across it each day from her home. South west Bath however has three of the best urban-edge wildlife sites in the city in Carr's Wood Local Nature Reserve, Bath City Farm and Twerton Roundhill, with residents' housing immediately adjacent. Each of the sites features strongly in the Bathscape project plans, while residents in this area are a specific target audience in several of the scheme's learning, training and skills projects.

**Top Left:** Fox Hill

**Above:** Snow Hill Estate in the 1960s

**Top Right:** Housing beside Carrs Wood

**Bottom Right:** Bath City Farm

## 3.12 IDENTIFYING NEEDS

As part of the work for the phase 1 bid in 2015/16 a series of consultations, questionnaires and research was undertaken to identify the audience and their needs, and engage them in developing project proposals.

**Forty meetings with community representatives and officers took place and the findings are summarised below:**

### GENERAL

- The findings from surveys confirmed that a significant proportion of people are infrequent visitors or non-participants and this proportion is higher in the more disadvantaged areas where there is a greater need to engage people and communities
- There is a need to engage people in their local green spaces, rather than further afield



Left: Carrs wood Local Nature Reserve

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- There is a need to improve mental and physical wellbeing for children and young people, and promote learning through greater contact with the landscape and natural environment
- There is a need to work with families who infrequently or never visit the natural environment as this will embed a love of the outdoors in children that will be carried forward in their lives – and this will increase the confidence of parents/carers to support their children to access outdoor environments for play, physical activity and learning
- There is a great need for outdoor learning and play projects to support children and young people in disadvantaged areas
- Obesity and inactivity is a growing problem for C&YP, so projects are required to help address this.

### ACCESS

- Improve access and links between urban areas and surrounding landscapes to improve accessibility for all, including people with mobility difficulties
- Reduce the barriers for people – physical, information and knowledge, cost, time
- Encourage more walking and cycling.

### LEARNING, SKILLS AND TRAINING

- There is a need for opportunities for people and communities to engage with the landscape and natural environment through skills and learning development
- Help tackle inequality by creating fairer life chances through improved skills, confidence and training that may lead to employment. This is particularly important for the more disadvantaged areas
- Inspire people and communities to care for the natural environment
- Improve information, interpretation and signing
- Tap into the potential to involve students.

### VOLUNTEERING

- There is a demand for volunteering opportunities from the community – for enjoyment and wellbeing, to improve understanding, to develop skills and confidence and to help manage and care for the landscape and natural environment
- There is a high level of enthusiasm from community groups and volunteers to engage with Bathscape – friends groups, access groups, archaeological/historical groups, natural history/biodiversity groups and local societies. Groups in all these sectors have identified needs that are reflected in other sections of this summary.

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING/DISABILITY

- There is a need for projects to support adults to increase levels of physical activity including a focus on the more deprived areas
- There is a need for projects that promote physical and mental wellbeing through increased contact with the outdoors and natural environment
- Activities are needed where people can relax and enjoy themselves outdoors
- Walking is the most popular activity – so supporting target audiences to walk more frequently should be a focus
- Obesity, poor diet and lack of activity are more acute problems in disadvantaged areas
- Isolation is also a problem so projects that bring people together and increase confidence and mental wellbeing are needed
- Long-term ill health and disability is a barrier for many and support is required for people to benefit from greater contact with the outdoors and natural environment.

### NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE

- Use increased contact with the landscape and natural environment to improve physical and mental wellbeing
- Use increased contact with the landscape and natural environment to reduce social isolation and
- intergenerational projects to improve social cohesion.

### 3.13 BARRIERS

Landowner consultation as part of the initial bid and during the development phase highlighted a general recognition of the conservation value of the area but also the difficulties faced in undertaking conservation work with limited farm labour and a challenging topography. Increased knowledge/training and assistance through grants and volunteers were raised as key needs as well as awareness raising of how the countryside works.

In the development phase an online questionnaire was sent via a Facebook advertisement to people within a 17km radius of Bath, in July 2017. During the month that the questionnaire was available 631 responses were received. It found the most common barriers preventing people visiting and enjoying the local countryside to be lack of time (46%) and lack of information (40%). 15% felt there was insufficient access to public transport. Lack of parking and health issues were also mentioned. Interestingly, 30% of people felt nothing prevented them visiting the countryside.

Asked how likely they would be to take part in different activities, the most popular responses were independent exploration with a printed or digital guide (30% very likely and 52% quite likely) and downloading information to read (27% very likely and 53% quite likely). Other activities people would like to participate in included training events, talks and workshops, guided walks and volunteering.

Consultation by Bathscape staff with local people in the more deprived south west area of Bath found that neighbouring areas of greenspace such as Bath City Farm and Carr's Wood were particularly valued by users, especially where health issues limited their journeying further afield.

Bath City Farm has built a strong reputation among residents both locally and further afield as an attraction for informal visits and its events are well attended. Nearby Carr's Wood, a large local nature reserve on the edge of Twerton, however remains underutilised. It is highly prized by the mainly dog-walking regular users but its limited use heightens safety concerns by some locals while dumping, graffiti and air-rifle shooting put off others.



Left: Dumping at Carrs Wood

**OTHER ACTIVITIES  
PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO  
PARTICIPATE IN INCLUDED  
TRAINING EVENTS, TALKS  
AND WORKSHOPS, GUIDED  
WALKS AND VOLUNTEERING**

Previously in 2005 when the Wood was designated a Local Nature Reserve, a questionnaire of neighbouring residents found 20% of people often visited, 60% sometimes and 20% never, with litter, safety, poor pathways and lack of information cited as the main things that put people off.

While insufficient access to public transport was highlighted in the online survey as amongst the perceived barriers preventing people visiting the Bathscape it is likely that compared to the more rural Landscape Partnership Schemes the area is relatively well-served.

With a mix of Park and Ride buses, a standard bus network that has lately undergone a renumbering exercise and recent additions such as the 2017 disabled access waterbus, people are understandably in the dark about the options. It is considered important therefore to underline the available public transport options in interpretative materials as proposed in the interpretation plan.



Left: Bushey Norwood history tour

# 4

## MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

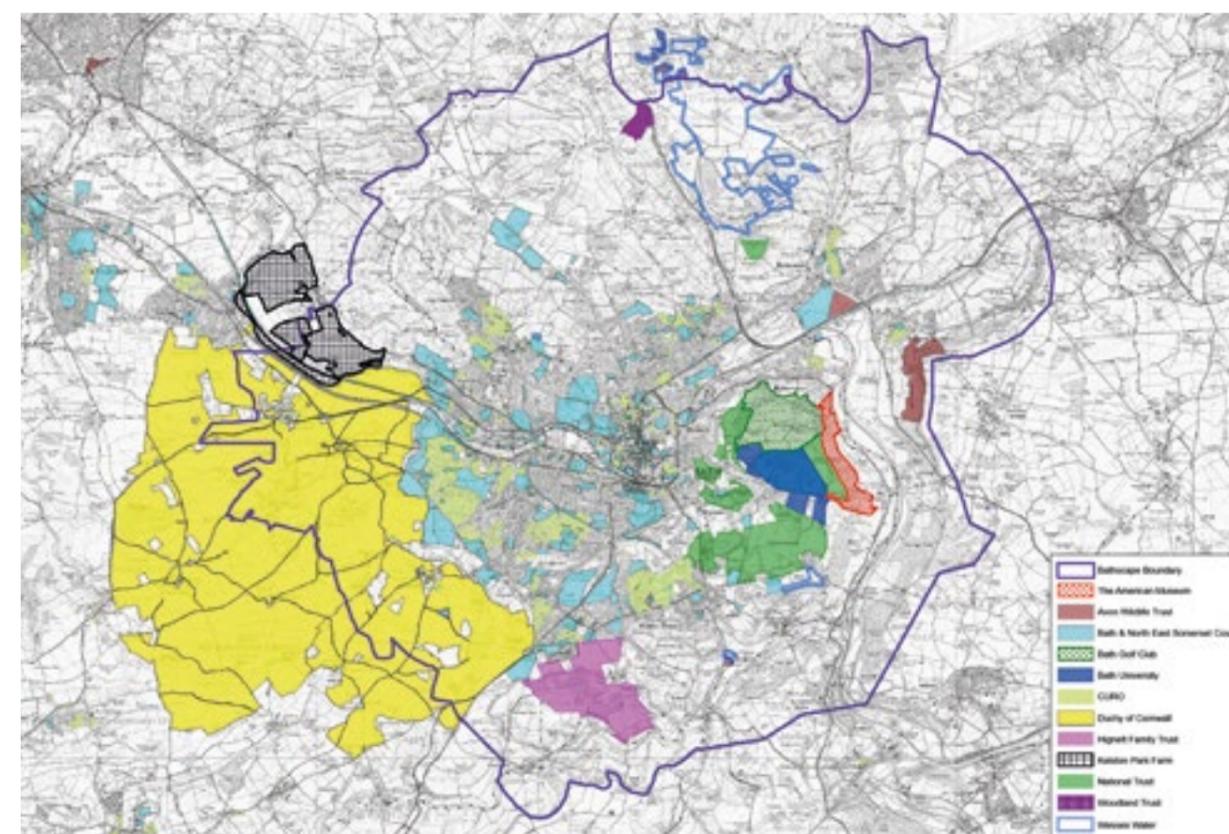
Bathscape comprises a complex mosaic of land ownership, management arrangements and designations. There are significant areas in single ownership with the remainder small landholdings in private ownership.

**Major landowners are shown on the map below.**

***The major landowners and land managers are:***

- National Trust owns and manages key tracts of land within the World Heritage Site (WHS) setting: Little Solsbury Hill, Bushey Norwood, Rainbow Wood, Bath Skyline, Prior Park
- The Duchy of Cornwall owns a significant proportion of land in the west of the WHS setting including Newton Park Estate which contains the main campus of Bath Spa University

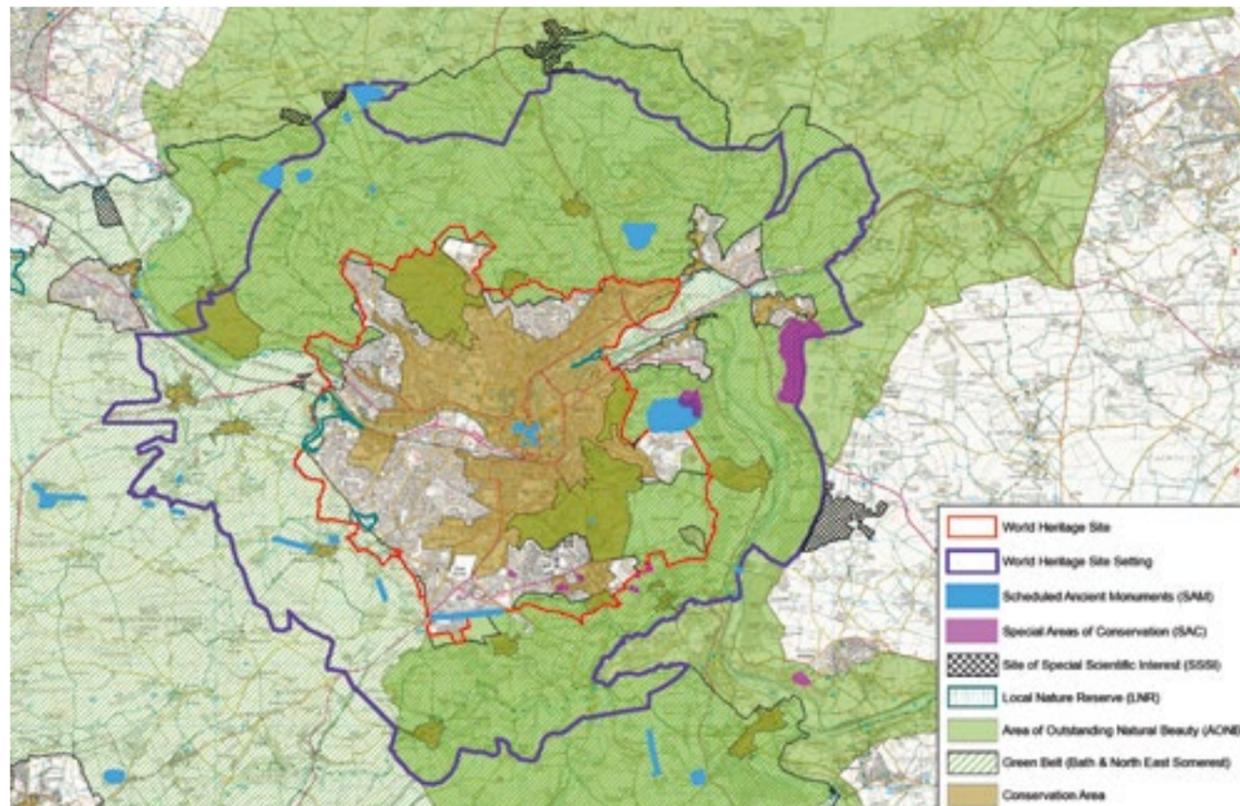
#### MAJOR LANDOWNERS



- Wessex Water owns and manages land, including Sites of Nature Conservation Interest
- Avon Wildlife Trust owns and manages nature reserves at Bathampton Meadow and Browne’s Folly
- The Hignett Family, University of Bath, The American Museum and Bath Golf Club all have areas of land within the Bathscape area
- Bath & NE Somerset Council and Curo own and manage land, mainly within the urban area and urban fringe.

**Designations and other management standards to be considered are shown on the map below.**

**LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS**



Bath & NE Somerset Council is the main planning authority, except for the far east of the Bathscape area, where it is Wiltshire Council.

Policies, duties and management plans relating to land in the Bathscape are outlined here.

## 4.1 INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

### UNESCO OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES (2015) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION (NOV 2011)

The convention requires the government to promote, interpret and protect WHS’s and their Outstanding Universal Value and to transmit them to future generations. The key principles relating to setting include ‘the proper protection of the property’ with ‘an added layer of protection’ which should include ‘the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection’.

## HISTORIC ENGLAND - HERITAGE AT RISK

Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Programme protects and manages the historic environment, so the number of ‘at risk’ historic places and sites across England is reduced.

**The three landscape related Scheduled Monuments on the Register within the Bathscape area are:**

**Little Down camp, North Stoke** – Declining condition with extensive significant problems principally from arable ploughing

**Lansdown Roman camp, North Stoke** – Declining condition with significant localised problems principally from arable ploughing

**Wansdyke, Southstoke** – Declining condition with major localised problems

A Management Plan for the Wansdyke is also referenced in Bath & NE Somerset Council’s Core Strategy Policy B3a.

Right: Sham castle

## 4.2 LOCAL PLANS AND POLICIES

### WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016–2022

The Management Plan describes the WHS and sets out its special significance. It identifies management issues and objectives with an action plan for addressing them.

#### ***Bathscape will contribute to Objective 6:***

- Work to increase interpretation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), especially intangible values and continue to encourage co-ordination amongst providers and promote citizen involvement.

#### ***Objective 11 is also particularly relevant to Bathscape:***

- Ensure that the natural setting of Bath, as a key attribute of OUV, is afforded equal importance to the built element and is protected, conserved and interpreted.

#### ***Action 31 under this Objective is:***

Support the 'Bathscape' partnership as a mechanism for delivering projects aimed at conserving the landscape of the WHS and of opening up and maintaining historically important views and vistas.

### BATH & NE SOMERSET COUNCIL'S CORE STRATEGY AND PLACEMAKING PLAN (BATH) (2017)

The Core Strategy is a key policy document for Bath & NE Somerset that puts in place a strategic planning framework to guide change and development in the District over the next 20 years and beyond. The Placemaking Plan complements the adopted Core Strategy by providing a set of detailed planning policies and site allocations for Bath & NE Somerset. It incorporates the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Strategic issues identified include that there are considerable areas of derelict and underperforming land and a number of prominent sites in need of redevelopment in order to enhance the World Heritage Site and protect its setting and the Green Belt from incursion.

The Vision and Spatial Strategy for the City is: Bath's natural, historic and cultural assets, which combine to create a unique sense of place of international significance, will be conserved and enhanced to maintain the city's key competitive advantage and unique selling point as a high quality environment, to live, grow a business, visit and invest.

### Policy B1: Bath Spatial Strategy

#### ***The strategy for Bath is to:***

1 Natural and Built Environment:

Sustain and enhance the significance of the city's heritage assets and green infrastructure, including:

- The Outstanding Universal Value of the City of Bath World Heritage Site and its setting
- Archaeology, scheduled ancient monuments, and historic parks and gardens
- Non-designated heritage assets of local interest and value
- Giving great weight to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- The network of green spaces and wildlife corridors including the River Avon and Kennet and Avon Canal, Local Nature Reserves, formal and informal parks and recreational areas, trees and woodlands
- The biodiversity resource including species and habitats of European importance.

### WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT SPATIAL PLAN (DRAFT 2018)

Bath & NE Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council have joined forces to prepare the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). The JSP is a statutory Development Plan Document that will provide the strategic overarching development framework for the West of England to 2036.

Strategic priority 4 is to protect and enhance the sub-region's diverse and high quality natural, built and historic environment and secure a net gain in biodiversity.

### BATH & NE SOMERSET GREEN SPACE STRATEGY 2015–2029

#### ***This strategy includes the following set of objectives for green spaces until 2029:***

- Deliver spaces which help support fit and healthy communities
- Support communities to connect with their green spaces
- Enhance the unique and beautiful landscape of the district
- Reveal and celebrate the unique local heritage
- Showcase excellence.

## COTSWOLDS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018–2023 (DRAFT)

The Management Plan seeks to define the approach to conserving, enhancing, understanding and enjoying the natural beauty of the AONB. It aims to inform the activity of a multitude of partners, stakeholders, landowners, businesses, communities and visitors to contribute to the enhancement and enjoyment of this nationally designated landscape.

### *It outlines four ambitions:*

- Promotion of the Cotswolds as the Walking and Exploring Capital of England
- The local design and delivery of a Cotswolds package of agri-environment payments for public good and services and rural development support
- Ensuring communities and businesses within and around the AONB identify and celebrate being part of a nationally recognised landscape
- To fully explore the case for and against the Cotswolds being designated as England's next National Park.

## AVON WILDLIFE TRUST VISION 2015–2020

The Trust's vision is to enable nature to 'recover on a grand scale'.

### *Goals for 2015 to 2020:*

- Create ecological networks through landscape-scale habitat management and enhancement
- Inspire people and communities to care for nature

Champion the value of nature.

ENSURING COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES WITHIN AND AROUND THE AONB IDENTIFY AND CELEBRATE BEING PART OF A NATIONALLY RECOGNISED LANDSCAPE

## THE NATIONAL TRUST IN BATH - BUSINESS PLAN SUMMARY 2015–18

The vision is 'by being champions of the green setting we will weave our special places into the life of the people and the City of Bath'. By 2025 the National Trust wants Bath to be seen as a showcase for how it can work with urban communities.

### *Key elements of its work include:*

- Looking after and promoting access to the landscape setting of the city
- Promoting walks and access both to and from the city
- Improved way-marking and interpretation of the Bath Skyline Walk
- Working with local schools on developing natural play areas and encouraging greater use by locals and visitors.

### Local management plans

Wessex Water and Duchy of Cornwall estate have management plans to cover the areas of Bathscape under their management.

### Natural England Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation

Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC

Primary reason for site selection: presence of Greater Horseshoe and Bechstein's Bats.

### Principal landscape management mechanisms

Two consultant's reports from the development phase provide the most up-to-date assessment of management mechanisms.



Left: Smallcombe field

SCHEME TYPE	NUMBER SCHEMES CURRENTLY	NUMBER 2018 SCHEMES
Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)	5	4
HLS plus Entry Level Stewardship(ELS)	21	19
HLS plus Organic ELS	3	2
ELS	11	0
Organic ELS	3	1
Countryside Stewardship	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>29</b>

### Grasslands

#### *FWAG's Grasslands for the Future Consultation Report, November 2017 reports:*

There are currently a total of 46 live agreements in the project area, broken down by scheme type as shown in the table below. In December 2018, when Bathscape is expected to start, this number reduces to 29. A number of these expiring agreements will almost certainly renew to Countryside Stewardship; however, it is difficult to say how many, as agreement holders would be changing to a new scheme and not simply renewing their existing scheme. Under Environmental Stewardship the renewal rate was high. Since its launch in 2015, the uptake of Countryside Stewardship has been poor. Whether this will change in the coming years is difficult to say but experience during the current 2017 application round would suggest that landowners are warming to the scheme.

### Woodlands

#### *Forest of Avon's Woodlands of Bathscape report from October 2017 reports:*

The Government's Magic website provides details of woodlands totalling 1,485.09ha in the Bathscape area.

#### *Of this:*

- 550.28ha (37%) has no record of management
- 178.31ha (12%) has had some management over the last 10–20 years
- 237.37ha (16%) has been managed within the last 10 years (and includes many recent woodlands); 342.27ha (23%) has a current grant (including an existing Environmental Stewardship Scheme agreement)
- 176.86ha (12%) has a current Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan.

Overall 49% of Bathscape's woodlands have had no management at all or no recent management.

### Training and heritage skills

The organisations of the Bathscape Partnership Board were asked what they considered to be key heritage skills gaps in the Bathscape area. They suggested botany (to survey sites and lead training), hedge laying (insufficient skilled people/volunteers for work that could be done) and interpretation of heritage (in its widest sense including attracting new audiences) were the key skills gaps relating to Bathscape works, while more widely, specialist building conservation, historic ironwork and mortar walling were raised.

In order to deliver the scheme projects, Bathscape will be using at least 795 volunteers. During the development phase an assessment has been carried out of: existing training offered by partners; current formal training provision in relevant fields; and the known heritage skills gaps.

#### *The areas of skills development required to deliver the Bathscape scheme are:*

- habitat management; rural skills; green space care and management; growing and horticulture
- surveying and recording
- outdoor learning; supporting outdoor activities for health and wellbeing
- developing interpretive resources, print and digital
- heritage research; archaeology
- project management; event management; marketing and promotion; work planning
- volunteer leadership
- risk assessment and first aid
- digital photography and video editing
- community empowerment: running a local community group; strategic planning and fundraising
- evaluation and monitoring.



Left: Identifying fungi

## 4.3 PARTIES WITH INTEREST IN THE BATHSCAPE WORK AREAS

THEMES	LOCATION AFFECTED	OWNERSHIP/ STATUTORY INTEREST	USERS/INTERESTS
<b>Conserving and restoring</b>	Grasslands/woodlands public ownership (e.g. Carr's Wood) Grasslands/woodlands in private ownership Views Scheduled ancient monuments	Private and major landowners Bath & NE Somerset Council Planning Natural England Historic England Forestry Commission	Farmers/graziers Walkers and dog walkers BACAS Community groups Friends groups Bath Naturalists Existing volunteers
<b>Therapeutic Landscape</b>	Bathscape wide, including public footpaths, parks, nature reserves, school grounds Bathscape walking routes Bath City Farm Entry Hill Golf Course	Bath & NE Somerset Council - Parks, Public Rights of Way, Sport & Active Lifestyles Bath City Farm	Walkers (individuals, organised groups e.g. ramblers) Cyclists Community groups Support groups Teachers and Forest School providers
<b>Access</b>	Bathscape walking routes, including circular walks and radial routes, cure walks etc. River and canal Park & Ride sites	Bath & NE Somerset Council - Parks, Public Rights of Way, Sport & Active Lifestyles, Transport (Park & Ride) Parish Councils Landowners Planning authority, Cotswold Conservation Board and National Trust (waymarking)	Landowners and farmers Walkers (individuals, organised groups e.g. ramblers) Cyclists Users of public transport Residents along routes Local businesses, e.g. cafes Julian House
<b>Learning, training and skills</b>	As per above sites	As per above	Special interest groups Teachers and Forest School providers Students and academic staff Community groups Walkers

# 5

# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This section describes the significance of the Bathscape scheme area, why it is important and to whom. It outlines existing designations and forms of protection alongside the value placed on the heritage by local people.

## 5.1 LANDSCAPE

The Bathscape area is defined in its capacity as the landscape setting of the Bath World Heritage Site, giving it internationally recognised status.

***Its significance is explicitly recognised by UNESCO in criterion (i) of its statement of Outstanding Universal Value:***

*“Bath’s grandiose Neo-classical Palladian crescents, terraces and squares spread out over the surrounding hills and set in its green valley, are a demonstration par excellence of the integration of architecture, urban design and landscape setting, and the deliberate creation of a beautiful city.”*

The statement goes on to cite the cultural attributes for which the City of Bath is considered of Outstanding Universal Value, which are subsequently expanded in The Bath World Heritage Site Setting Study of 2009 produced by Bath & NE Somerset Council.



**Left:** Overlooking Bath from Bath City Farm

**CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE CITY OF BATH WORLD HERITAGE SITE CITED IN THE STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (OUV).**

The Roman remains, especially the Temple of Sulis Minerva and the baths complex (based around the hot springs at the heart of the Roman town of Aquae Sulis, which have remained at the heart of the City's development ever since) are amongst the most famous and important Roman remains north of the Alps, and marked the beginning of Bath's history as a spa town.

The Georgian city reflects the ambitions of John Wood Senior (1704–1754), Ralph Allen (1693–1764) and Richard "Beau" Nash (1674–1761) to make Bath into one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, with architecture and landscape combined harmoniously for the enjoyment of the spa town's cure takers.

The individual Georgian buildings reflect the profound influence of Palladio (1508–1580) and their collective scale, style and the organisation of the spaces between buildings epitomises the success of architects such as the John Woods (elder 1704–1754, younger 1728–1782), Robert Adam (1728–1792), Thomas Baldwin (1750–1820) and John Palmer (1738–1817) in transposing Palladio's ideas to the scale of a complete city, situated in a hollow in the hills and built to a picturesque landscape aestheticism creating a strong garden city feel.

**KEY ASPECTS OF THE LANDSCAPE SETTING WHICH PARTICULARLY REINFORCE THE OUV AS OUTLINED IN BATH WORLD HERITAGE SITE SETTING STUDY**

Features or remains associated with the founding or workings of the Roman town of Bath particularly associated with characteristic landscapes or landforms will be of particular significance. Prehistoric hill forts and camps such as Little Solsbury Hill and Bathampton Down, Roman roads and their adjoining landscape and Roman villas which often were located in prominent and commanding locations fall within this category.

This includes both landscapes such as valleys and their associated slopes and surrounding ridges and plateaux, which may contribute over a wide area, and more local landscapes associated directly with particular buildings or groups of buildings such as the lawns in front of the Royal Crescent. These landscapes were and are valued both as part of the view and as a recreational resource and background to the life of the city.

The open countryside outside the hollow in the hills and the undeveloped landscape both within and outside the WHS are relevant. In the Georgian period the Picturesque landscape which includes features such as dramatic changes of slope, trees in pasture and comparisons with the Italian landscape were particularly valued.

Bath's landscape setting and its relationship to the city is highly prized by local residents as evidenced by a 2008 furore over development of the city's Southgate shopping centre. The Bath Preservation Trust was quoted at the time as saying *"From the centre of Southgate, you can't see out to views beyond – a feature of Bath over the centuries. It misses the spirit of Bath."*

***The importance of this sense of connection between the city and its countryside was underlined by residents during consultation for the development of the Bathscape scheme with comments such as:***

- I love the fact that from the city centre you're surrounded by green spaces on every horizon – please don't let it be spoiled!
- I love looking at the views of the trees and historic buildings surrounding Bath every day and it is very important to me that they are preserved.

While such valuing of Bath's surrounding landscape from the city perspective reinforces the appreciation of the Bathscape it perhaps more rarely extends to considering the intrinsic value of the setting alone. The steep hillsides interspersed with intimate hidden valleys create a remarkable landscape that merits recognition in its own right. The majority of the area receives this recognition through its incorporation in the Cotswolds AONB, the largest of the 38 AONBs of England and Wales.

The juxtaposition of the city and the countryside is an essential feature of the Bathscape. Standing on top of one of the seven hills that form the bowl surrounding Bath, facing inwards affords striking views of a city designed in harmony with its surroundings, with the countryside creeping along sheltered valleys and protected hillsides to reach almost to the centre of the city. Looking outwards gives the contrast of rolling landscape that seems to be a world away from city life but holds within it half-hidden reminders of the historic city links.



**Right:**  
Overlooking  
central Bath

## 5.2 BIODIVERSITY

The topography, geology and history of the Bathscape provide exceptional opportunities for wildlife to thrive. The steep hillsides and alkaline soils have created a landscape suited to woodlands and wildflower-rich grasslands while the remnant stone workings afford bat roosting conditions of international importance. Connecting it all is the network of tree lined rivers and tributaries. A legacy of species and habitats of local, national and international importance includes 8 SSSIs, 780ha of Priority Habitat (ancient/other woodland, grassland) and 12 of the 17 UK bat species. A further three European protected species are recorded and over 2000ha is designated as SSSI /SNCI.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board, however, recognises the Bathscape area as being relatively degraded in comparison with much of the rest of the AONB, facing particular issues around proximity to the urban environment and a community disconnected from their landscape. It is consequently deemed a priority area for intervention.

Undoubtedly there are both positive and negative consequences of the close connection of city and countryside. The stone mines that served to build the city support horseshoe bats of European importance. The green hillsides that flow into the city and its built environment enable these bats, together with swifts, house martins, peregrine falcons and others to survive right in the heart of the city. The nationally scarce Bath asparagus, uniquely characteristic of our hedgerows and verges, is linked to the city's Roman heritage.

Historically, however, the priority habitats were more extensive and bio-diverse than today. Ancient woodland and unimproved limestone grassland and meadows are priority habitats recognised by both the Cotswolds Conservation Board and Natural England as key features for the Cotswolds but are today found in the Bathscape typically as isolated fragments.

Natural England has a particular interest in the southern and eastern portions of the Bathscape area as home to the Bath and Bradford on Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The SAC consists of a collection of abandoned limestone mines which are of international importance for bats. The SAC as a whole supports 15% of the UK population of greater horseshoe bats and internationally-significant populations of lesser horseshoe and Bechstein's bats. The mines are used for breeding, hibernation, swarming and dispersal and the designation includes areas of supporting habitat: broadleaved woodland and species-rich grassland. The surrounding landscape is recognised as providing feeding and commuting opportunities between the component SSSIs, other SAC sites and other undesignated roosts, vital in supporting the bats throughout their life cycle. Features highlighted as being of significance within the wider landscape are watercourses, woodland, grazed pasture, hay meadows, hedgerows, linear trees and scrub.



The South West Biodiversity Partnership's Nature Map of 2006 represented an assessment of the best areas in the south west to maintain and expand terrestrial wildlife habitats at a landscape scale. It identified three Strategic Nature Areas partially within Bathscape, in the north, east and south of the area. At a finer grain, the West of England Nature Partnership opportunity maps produced in 2016 illustrated a selection of the region's natural assets and identified where investment could help enhance these assets for the benefit of people, wildlife and the economy. The grassland and woodland maps highlighted the Bathscape area as a hotspot of opportunity for targeted enhancement.

The Bath Natural History Society is an active group that covers the Bathscape area and is keen to work with the scheme and broaden the Society's membership. Its president, David Goode, author of the book *Nature in Towns and Cities*, lists the following as amongst his favourite wildlife features of the city and its surroundings:

*“Among my particular favourites are meadows full of orchids around the skyline walk; a huge colony of ivy mining bees that have recently colonized sandy banks near the Pavilion Restaurant in Victoria Park; a night time roost of up to 300 pied wagtails in the solitary tree in Southgate shopping centre; and perhaps best of all the pair of Peregrine Falcons that nest on the spire of St John's church in the city centre. Unseen by many people, they are for me an important link with the natural world that can bring enjoyment, stimulation and a sense of wonder.”*

Above: Bee on Knapweed

The Society builds on a long tradition of recording wildlife in the Bathscape area, such that the action of biological recording itself can be seen as part of the local heritage. This is best exemplified by *Euphorbia pilosa*, a rare and rather unassuming plant which was first noted in Britain in a wood in the south of the Bathscape belonging to a John Coates in 1576 by Matthias de Lobel, botanist to King James the First. In 1634 it is subsequently recorded on a botanical excursion in the same locality by Dr Thomas Johnson, best known for his edition of Gerard's Herbal. Being noted, however, in only two other localities in the country, it remained a questionable record as a British native until 1836 when it was located again by a Mr E Simms and Dr Hinneage Gibbes and confirmed by Edward Foster as a British plant in his paper in the transactions of the Linnaean Society the following year.

In 1855, over 300 years since its first sighting, it is noted once more in the same location within the Bathscape in the inaugural proceedings of the Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club, a forerunner of the Bath Natural History Society. The author notes that where it was described by de Lobel as plentiful it is now decidedly scarce, and appearing to grow scarcer each year. He ends by asking that members are sparing in gathering specimens lest it becomes entirely extinct. Thanks to online archiving projects such trails can now be traced with a few clicks of a mouse. The Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC) records for the plant are confined to that final 1855 account and it is not known whether it was ever searched for or found again.

**THE SOCIETY BUILDS ON A LONG TRADITION OF RECORDING WILDLIFE IN THE BATHSCAPE AREA, SUCH THAT THE ACTION OF BIOLOGICAL RECORDING ITSELF CAN BE SEEN AS PART OF THE LOCAL HERITAGE**



## 5.3 GEOLOGY

The area's three geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Hampton Rocks Cutting, Newton St Loe and North Road Quarry, are recognised for their value in interpreting the Pleistocene deposits. Like so much of the area's heritage they too are connected to the growth of the city, owing their discovery to stone mining and the building of the railway. They are perhaps overshadowed in significance by the area's association with William Smith, 'the Father of English Geology' who through studying the local quarried beds of stone and mined coal developed the theory of stratigraphy.

Smith bought a mill and 26 acres of land in the south of the Bathscape at Tucking Mill in 1798 where he lived for 20 years.

While working in the area surveying for the Somersetshire Coal Canal he noted the distinct fossils in the fresh cuts of strata, writing:

*"There is a wonderful order and regularity with which Nature has disposed of these singular productions and assigned to each class its particular stratum...Masons, miners and quarrymen can identify particular beds of stone dug many miles apart. Indeed every cliff and quarry represents a true section of a great many beds of stone which may be found in the same position in all or most of the neighbouring cliffs and quarries. And this regularity is nowhere more conspicuous than in the lime quarries of Somersetshire."*

In 1799 Smith produced his 'Table of Strata near Bath' a hand-coloured map of the geology in the five miles surrounding Bath, a remarkable fit for the Bathscape area and the first such map to be produced. He went on to expand his work and in 1815 published the first geological map of Britain, which became known as 'The Map that Changed the World' for the inspiration it gave in scientific dating of the planet.

## 5.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The archaeological and historical interest of the Bathscape is as abundant as it is diverse. The sixteen scheduled monuments of the Bathscape area stretch in time from an early iron-age hillfort to 12th century castle remains, while there are dozens of smaller barrows, earthworks and Roman sites recorded. The plateaus of Lansdown, Little Solsbury Hill and Bathampton Down are particularly well regarded, with each containing multiple sites of archaeological interest. The Bathscape area is served by the Bath and Counties Archaeological Society (BACAS) whose aim is the promotion of archaeology in all its branches. The scheduled ancient monuments at Lansdown are of particular current interest to the society and they hope to extend their studies in the area through the Bathscape scheme.

The historical significance of the area in terms of art, literature, urban design and health has already been outlined in the earlier section “the Bathscape Area its Heritage and its People”, however perhaps its greatest significance is its relationship to the city it contains. The Bathscape not only provides the ‘green setting’ for the World Heritage Site, it also reflects the changing face of the city and the people within it. The surrounding hills have served as sites for Roman camps and villas, grazing for the wool industry, quarries for the Georgian buildings and leisure for visitors. Today the Bath Skyline Walk is the National Trust’s most downloaded walk.

Stories and social history abound in the area. Eighteenth century gamblers have climbed the slopes to meet for illegal deals, highwaymen to ambush incoming carriages and wartime residents to escape the nights of the Bath blitz as the city burned below them. The hills have housed camps of 17th century Royalist soldiers, Buffalo Bill’s 19th century travelling Wild West Show and 20th century road protesters.

In the scattered villages there are further stories of note. In the east, suffragettes given shelter at Eagle House in Northend after periods in prison planted an arboretum in the grounds, selling photographs of each tree planting as a fund raiser for the cause of women’s suffrage. In the 1960s the arboretum was subject to the same unrestrained development that saw many of the city centre’s historic buildings torn down. It was bulldozed and replaced by a housing estate, leaving just one tree to survive to the current time.

In the west His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie, exiled from his homeland by Mussolini’s invasion, spent five years living at Fairfield House taking regular walks in the countryside and making it a place of reverence to Rastafarians. Today Fairfield House is home to Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association (BEMSCA) day centre.

Despite its change through time, the landscape of the city in a bowl is so distinctive as to be more remarkable for the similarities across the years than for the differences. The first impressions of the area documented three hundred years ago remain much the same as those given today.

*“Bath is a spot of ground which our country ought to esteem as a particular favour from heaven. It lies in a valley amphitheatrically surrounded by hills, and its situation on the west side of the Island is a considerable addition to its delights.”*

### Daniel Defoe 1724 A Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain

*Climbing up on Solsbury Hill, I could see the city light, Wind was blowing, time stood still.*

### Peter Gabriel Solsbury Hill



Left: Poster advertising Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Bath

Right: Emperor Haile Selassie in exile

Far Right: Suffragettes Adela Pankhurst and Annie Kenney 1910.



Credit: Bath in Time



Credit: Bath in Time



## 5.5 HOW DO PEOPLE CURRENTLY USE THE LANDSCAPE?

The Bath World Heritage Site Setting Study highlights that getting out of Bath to enjoy the immediate countryside was a popular pursuit amongst Georgian visitors, particularly with the views of the city that could be seen from the hilltops. As part of the background work for the phase 1 bid today's residents were asked 'How do you use the Bath Landscape?' Walking was the most popular activity with running, cycling, exploring and driving also mentioned. More passive behaviours such as relaxing, drawing, looking out from the city and looking in to view Bath were also highlighted.

An online questionnaire circulated in July 2017 via a Facebook advertisement and receiving 631 responses found the Kennet and Avon Canal (61%) and Bath Skyline Walk (45%) were the most popular places visited in the Bathscape. Within south west Bath, where levels of deprivation are higher, Bath City Farm (17%) and Carr's Wood (4%) also featured.

Once again the most popular activity when visiting the Bathscape was found to be walking (86%). People were also dog walking (28%), cycling (26%), running (24%) and picnicking (25%). Other activities mentioned include geocaching, going on a guided walk, attending talks or workshops run by experts, wildlife watching, photography, boating and visiting family.

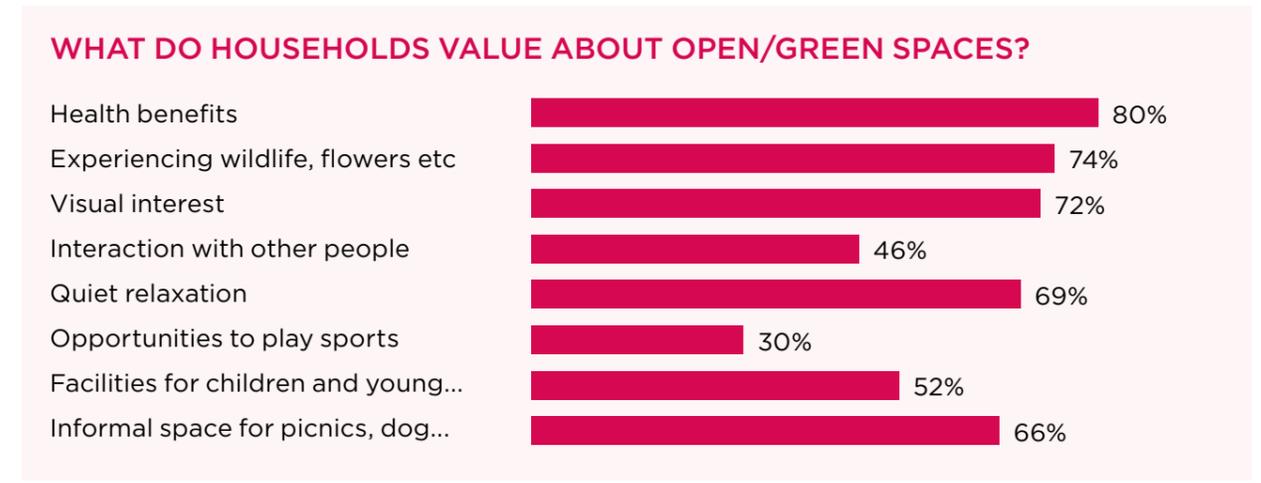
With the steep topography of much of the Bathscape, unsurprisingly discussions with residents with mobility issues or with pushchairs showed that flatter parts of the landscape with reasonable surfaces were highly prized. The restrictions of current access provision and lack of knowledge of accessible sites was highlighted by care providers such as Carrswood Day Centre. Accessibility was further reflected in the online questionnaire with the popularity of the Kennet and Avon Canal as a favoured place to visit. The canal and river are incorporated in a smaller focussed local partnership project called Waterspace and so do not feature as habitats in the Bathscape scheme, however they will be promoted as accessible routes to access the countryside.

## 5.6 THE VALUE PEOPLE PLACE ON THE LANDSCAPE

A Bath & NE Somerset-wide Green Space Study report undertaken in 2015 attracted 594 respondents. It recorded 67% of local households reporting open/green spaces as very important in their everyday lives. An additional 26% rated them as quite important, while only 5% thought them unimportant.

When asked what they valued about these green spaces, health benefits were most often cited, with experiencing wildlife, flowers etc., visual interest and quiet relaxation also featuring highly.

The sense of visual ownership of the landscape was repeatedly voiced by Bathscape residents during the outreach events of the development phase. It extended both to the built heritage such as Beckford's Tower and Sham Castle and natural heritage such as the hills, fields and wooded skyline.



Bath & NE somerset green space study

**Top Left:** View south from Twerton Roundhill.

**Left:** Bath City Farm Family Fun Day.

## 5.7 HOW PEOPLE VIEW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LANDSCAPE

During the consultation for the phase 1 bid, Bath Preservation Trust staged a 'Buildings in the Landscape' exhibition at the Museum of Bath Architecture. As part of the exhibition a noticeboard for post-it comments and a short questionnaire survey were provided to obtain people's views on the landscape around Bath. Sixty-nine people completed questionnaires or recorded comments on the board. A summary of the findings are below.

### What does Landscape mean to you?

- Big playgrounds, clean air, no boundaries
- Peace and the calming of the soul
- Landscape means everything
- Freedom
- Beautiful countryside to photograph
- Landscape is the epitome of natural beauty
- Relax, get mind off things.



### What does the Bath Landscape mean to you?

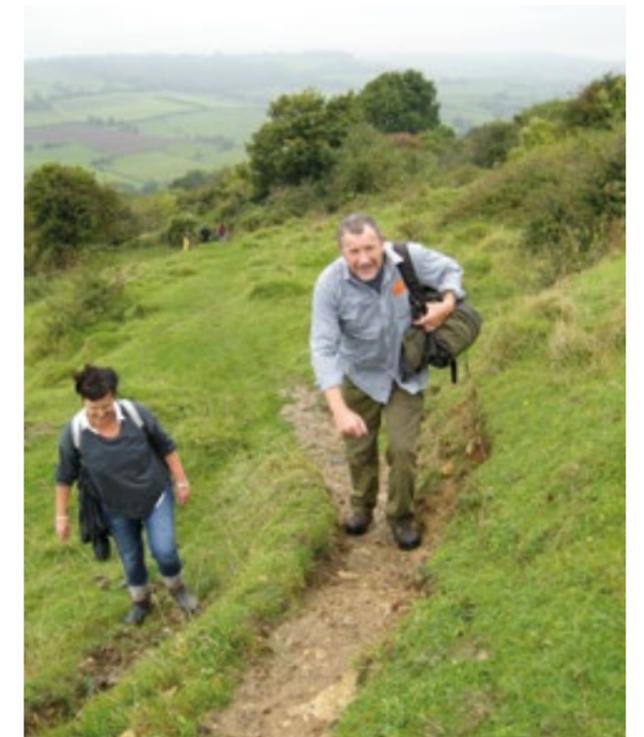
- Harmony between human influence and nature
- A perfect frame for a perfect city
- Works in harmony with the city
- Enhancing the built environment to ensure a place exists to relax, appreciate nature and enjoy the beautiful surroundings
- Pitched roofs only for all new builds in Bath
- A chance to see man-made nesting within fantastic countryside
- Space, peace, history
- Gives Bath its uniqueness
- The joy of living in a city where just to raise one's eyes means a view of trees and countryside – refreshing, comforting and shielding
- Space to breathe
- That no matter where I stand in the city my view should always include green
- Having lived in more urban environments, the Avon valley and surrounding hills are the reminders that life and work doesn't have to be separate from nature and rural environments. Bath Landscape holds that symbolism for me
- Natural Beauty and heritage.



### Comments recorded from the public in the development phase on what makes the Bathscape area so special included:

- 'I think the variety and diversity of hidden walkways and accessible routes that people can go on are really special. I love how there are so many beautiful natural places to explore. It makes the city richer and full of life. It's the character of these places that makes Bath an incredible place to live. It's charming and has such a huge range of opportunities to connect and appreciate nature'

- 'The green spaces around Bath are so important because they encircle the city in green – wherever you are in Bath you can see a green skyline. It's a constant backdrop and I think many of us take it for granted'
- 'Lovely dry stone wall marking Iron Age ditch enclosure. Great sky and landscapes reaching far into the distance'
- 'The rural landscape is very visible and encroaches on the edge of the City and is within our reach; I can be in the countryside within a ten minute walk from my house. We have on occasions sheep grazing below Lansdown Crescent; there are not many cities where you would see that!'
- 'In truth I suppose it's not that special, but what's important is that it's ours, and it's close by, and it's easily accessible, and there is variety, and there's history, and it's lovely, so that's good enough for anyone.'



Far Left: Walkers on Solsbury Hill

Left: Pyramidal orchid

Above: Consultation comments

Right: Climbing the hills

***What is apparent is that people value the Bathscape for a wide variety of purposes including:***

- a backdrop when in the city looking out
- a place to appreciate the city from outside
- a place of peace, calm and reflection
- as somewhere with historical and wildlife interest
- as providing opportunity for leisure and exercise
- a personal connection
- as accessible green space.

This public valuing of the Bathscape largely reflects that outlined by UNESCO but extends it to the day to day experience of a contemporary audience. What is crucial to the landscape's significance is this connection with people including the harmonious relationship between the city and surroundings, the rich natural and historic heritage, the deliberate consideration of beauty, and the encouragement of residents and visitors to experience it.



**Left:** Bath & Counties Archaeological Society volunteers

# 6

## RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## 6.1 THREATS TO THE LANDSCAPE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS THESE

The Bathscape is a dynamic landscape, strongly influenced by the growing city it encompasses and which helps to characterise it, but with important cultural and natural landscape features and assets that define its special character.

A number of these features are at risk from deterioration or permanent loss. As a landscape with an urban centre, development pressures, piecemeal land ownership and competing land use are significant concerns.

Habitat loss and fragmentation has seen a decline in both rare and common species while archaeology has been vulnerable to disturbance through ignorance or competing interests. The essential character of the landscape as a setting for the World Heritage Site suffers progressive impoverishment through small individual changes collectively diminishing its quality. While there is an acceptance of the landscape as a mutable feature rather than a wish to fix it in a particular time, there are fundamental components such as the retention of key views, incorporation of a natural (often treed) edge to the landscape as viewed from the city, green fingers reaching into the centre and an overall sense of the city in a bowl that are crucial to its character. The 'story' of Bath as told through the landscape is also a key constituent of its heritage though in danger of being overlooked with its physical remnants often subject to neglect.



**Left:** Increasingly fragmented ownership

## 6.2 LOCAL ISSUES

### PRESSURES FROM A VIBRANT, GROWING CITY WITH ITS COMPETING DEMANDS AND USES

The UNESCO statement of Outstanding Universal Value highlights that as a modern city “Bath remains vulnerable to large-scale development and to transport pressures, both within the site and in its setting that could impact adversely on its garden city feel and on views across the property and to its green setting”. Such developments are considered through the planning system with the requisite public consultation and scrutiny. The long-running search for an acceptable site for a Park and Ride to the east of Bath has been the most high profile such development in recent years with the latest proposal overturned largely through public opinion. Planning issues are outside of the auspices of the Bathscape scheme.

#### Opportunities

The Bathscape Partnership has made clear that it is not its role to oppose, endorse, or comment upon any planning proposals that affect the landscape setting. For many residents, however, such proposals are the flashpoint around which they realise how strongly they value their local landscape. The Views and Vistas project, while not involving any specific planning concerns and stressing that landscapes are inevitably subject to change, will give people the skills to assess key views, monitor their change and identify issues.

### FRAGMENTATION OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND HABITATS

In its site improvement plan for the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation, Natural England highlighted the issue “land ownership is fragmented and management has lapsed, particularly around the urban fringe of Bath”. With the rising costs of land and uncertain income from farming, large landholdings around Bath are increasingly being sold in lots. For woodland this trend has been driven by companies such as Woodlands.co.uk buying larger tracts of woodland and selling them off as small units. The economies of scale can make management of such small land parcels financially challenging.

#### Opportunities

The purchasers of such land parcels are often well-intentioned and wishing to protect the land. While they may not have the background in land management, they are often more amenable to accepting advice, and where that advisory service operates at a landscape scale significant change may be achieved. Grants via Bathscape Small Grant Scheme can help to kick start activity and a network of landowners will provide mutual support and spread of best practice.

### LOSS OF SKYLINE TREES AND INTRUSION OF DEVELOPMENT ON SKYLINES AFFECTING THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Skyline trees are vulnerable as a result of a lack of a varied age structure and reliance on a few species. This is often exacerbated by the narrow width of many tree belts on the skyline and because of development pressures and the proximity of housing nearby.

#### Opportunities

Improved woodland management and additional planting to restore wooded skylines and create them where considered beneficial. Trees of Bathscape will bring the importance of trees to the landscape to a wider audience, raising awareness of the significance of trees on private land and throughout the Bathscape.

### PRIORITY GRASSLANDS ARE DECLINING WITH A LOSS OF WILDFLOWER MEADOWS TO SCRUB ENCROACHMENT AND POOR GRAZING MANAGEMENT.

Across the Bathscape wildflower-rich grasslands are declining both in size and quality. As they typically occur on poorer soils and steeper slopes they are often challenging for landowners to tackle due to poor machinery access and limited available farm labour. They form a critical component of the Bathscape not only for the species they support but also for their visual quality and reflection of the landscape as it would have been.

#### Opportunities

Management advice and help with stewardship or grant applications coupled with access to volunteer work parties can restore sites to more open grassland that can be maintained through suitable grazing.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE UNDER PRESSURE

Scheduled ancient monuments and other sites of historic interest around the Bathscape are an important element of the story of the Bathscape but subject to degradation due to land use pressures and lack of understanding. Sites such as the Wansdyke sit alongside the urban fringe of Bath adding to their vulnerability. At Odd Down the Wansdyke has suffered through people damaging it to create rear access to their gardens, while the dramway used to transport stone from Bathampton Down has suffered the removal of stones. Out in the countryside a tumulus has recently been lost as a surface feature through ploughing. A nearby earthwork remains within a ploughed field but is of unknown extent and a further tumulus in the same area is no longer visible through being covered by encroaching scrub.

### Opportunities

With a keen and knowledgeable volunteer archaeological society active in the Bathscape area with access to geophysical survey equipment, such sites can now be recorded affordably and without disruption. The greatest threat to the sites is lack of information and understanding. Studies to assess and record features coupled with dissemination of identified issues to landowners and agencies can help to secure their future.

## RISKS TO HERITAGE FROM INCREASED VISITOR IMPACT

Encouraging more people to enjoy the landscape can put significant strain on habitats, particularly sensitive ones. For example wildflower-rich sites can suffer trampling by walkers or nutrient enhancement through dog faeces while rare species may suffer significant loss through single events. With a resident population of over 100,000 people and more than 5 million visitors a year the key natural heritage sites of the Bathscape area could see a significant increase in foot-fall if widely promoted.

### Opportunities

The habitats and species of the more accessible wildlife-rich sites in Bathscape are relatively resilient to visitor pressure having co-existed with people for some considerable time. The wildflower-rich sites likely to attract most visitors are biodiverse but typically lack the most rare and fragile species. Plants of public interest such as common spotted orchids and pyramidal orchids are widely spread across the Bathscape rather than restricted to single 'honeypot' sites and so less vulnerable to suffering through increased exploration of the countryside, while perhaps the most compelling species in the area is the Peregrine falcon which breeds each year on a church tower in the centre of the city and is there to be seen by any visitor who knows to look up. Encouraging people to explore and experience the richness of the area's wildlife can be achieved without exposing vulnerable sites to undue pressure when done thoughtfully.

## 6.3 BROADER ISSUES

### ATTITUDES AND UNDERSTANDING

There is an increasing general disconnect between people and the landscape which is considered to apply in the Bathscape area. With children shown to be playing outside less frequently, increased concern of 'stranger danger' and reduced motivation and knowledge, the next generation risks becoming further alienated from the landscape around Bath.

### Opportunities

Access projects will ensure that people will be linked from local residential areas and the centre of the city to the landscape, via the radial routes, cure walks, easy access/ phototrails and active landscapes. The therapeutic landscape projects will provide a walking programme and other resources to help people of all abilities access the landscape, or provide a first step to exploring it, via e.g. Naturewatch and community arts events. Interpretation material, events, exhibitions, online resources, printed leaflets and guided walks will build confidence to visit the landscape. Bathscape will work on joint research with Bath Spa University and University of Bath to explore effective strategies for behaviour and attitude change. Opportunities to find out more about the landscape via volunteering and training will be provided and online resources and community events will include opportunities for people to get directly involved.

Right: Dying Ash tree

## ASH DIE BACK AND FUTURE TREE DISEASES

Ash die back has recently appeared at sites around the city and estimates suggest it could kill approximately 20–30% of trees in the Bathscape area. Though Ash only occasionally appear as important individual feature trees within the Bathscape, collectively they form a significant proportion of the area's tree cover.

### Opportunities

Projects involving planting of trees will take into account the best species to plant to replace Ash, and those better adapted to changing climate. Management advice for existing woodlands will consider the gradual diversification of species at sites dominated by ash through selective thinning.



## LOSS OF WILDLIFE IDENTIFICATION SKILLS DUE TO AN AGEING COHORT OF SKILLED PEOPLE

The large majority of skilled wildlife recorders in the area are of an older generation with groups such as Bath Natural History Society having an ageing demographic. There is a concern that there are too few skilled people from the younger generation to replace their skills in the coming decades.

### Opportunities

Bath Natural History Society is an outward looking group keen to expand its membership both in number and age range. The scheme will work with Bath Natural History Society to upskill volunteers while also targeting new and younger audiences through events and training. The Grassland Restoration Volunteers, Habitat Recording and Monitoring and Trees of Bathscape projects will specifically involve training on wildlife recording. Entry level mass-recording opportunities will be developed involving social media as a first step to engaging wider audiences and Bathscape will participate in national and local engagement and learning events that contribute to skills development, such as Bath Festival of Nature and Bioblitz. Participants will then be encouraged to develop skills further through training or at more involved events where Bath Natural History Society will have a presence. Skills development pathways have been identified for the key volunteer roles, from basic familiarisation through to expert knowledge.

## ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Antisocial behaviour, specifically increased fly tipping, low level vandalism (e.g. graffiti/fires) and use of motorbikes is a general problem that exists at a number of urban fringe sites in the Bathscape and is cited as a reason for other residents no longer using local green spaces.

### Opportunities

Bathscape will work with Friends groups at key sites, including support for litter picks, and promote increased use particularly through projects under the Therapeutic Landscape theme. Through activities which encourage using the sites for volunteering, family events, nature watching and guided walks local people will be encouraged to see the area in a new way and to get involved in its care and protection.



## POLITICAL ISSUES AND POLICY CHANGES

The next few years are likely to see significant national policy change with the potential loss of some wildlife protection and uncertainty over the future of stewardship schemes when the United Kingdom leaves the EU, and potential changes in national and local planning policies leading to greater development pressure.

### Opportunities

The Bathscape themes align well with A Green Future – Defra's 25 year plan for the Environment, which outlines goals for restoring nature and reconnecting people to it. While the projects are not dependent on current EU protections they will encourage greater care for the local environment through active participation. Stewardship schemes are likely to continue to be attractive for Bathscape grassland sites which due to their often steep topography are less suited to intensive farming, while the Bathscape grant scheme should prove a draw to those sites and works which fall outside of stewardship. Previous changes in stewardship schemes have led to increased interest from local landowners in taking up the offer of land advisor visits or attending workshops to hear of new options.

## CLIMATE CHANGE PRESSURES

The unpredictability of future weather patterns in the face of climate change and the combined effects on species distribution and dispersal coupled with potential changes to farm economics putting grazing regimes at risk could have wide ranging effects on the Bathscape.

### Opportunities

While the trend of key grassland habitats of the area is currently heading towards a reduction in extent and greater isolation, they are still relatively widespread. The Bathscape scheme provides the opportunity to reverse this trend while there are still sufficient remnants of wildflower-rich grassland to form the basis of a robust network. Such a network will be vital to reduce the risk of local extinctions. Supporting landowners into stewardship schemes will encourage them to see the value of their land in terms beyond that of production-driven economic returns. The increased risk of flooding is likely to see a greater recognition of the role of tree cover in the Bathscape leading people to value woodlands and their management more highly. The need to reduce fossil fuels has led to increased interest in the use of wood for fuel as recognised by The Forestry Commission in its Woodfuel Strategy, which could in turn drive increased woodland management.

Left: Graffiti at Carrs Wood

## PARTNERSHIP-BASED RISKS

The Bathscape Partners are all committed to the successful delivery of the scheme and their success to date has attracted further organisations such as the Woodland Trust, Bath and Counties Archaeological Society, Bath City Farm and Bath Natural History Society to seek an active role in delivery. The success of the scheme relies on the broad range of skills that a large and active partnership brings and it is important to ensure that involvement of partners is retained. There is considerable interest from partners in helping to directly deliver projects and to bid for items of paid work. As a result of not wishing to jeopardise the ability of partners to bid for works (through being seen to have an unfair advantage) or to prioritise one partner above another, the majority of projects have the Bathscape team listed as the lead partner.

## Opportunities

While the risk of partners stepping back if they fail to secure work they tender for exists, this has not proved so in development phase where two partners tendered to produce different studies, one of which secured only part of the work and the other lost out to a bidder from outside the partnership. This track record of transparency and strong shared values is expected to retain the full partnership through the entire delivery and hopefully beyond. The partnership is open to the involvement of further organisations in delivery of the scheme and recognises the wider skills base this can bring.

**THE PARTNERSHIP IS OPEN TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF FURTHER ORGANISATIONS IN DELIVERY OF THE SCHEME AND RECOGNISES THE WIDER SKILLS BASE THIS CAN BRING**



**Above:** Burnt out car below Springfield Park, Fox Hill

## LONG TERM MANAGEMENT

Retaining priority grassland habitats and developing enhanced wildflower-rich grassland will require suitable long term grazing and other management beyond the end of Bathscape. Protection and promotion of heritage through events, management advice and publicity can have a shelf-life in terms of its effect, with a slow return to neglect.

### Opportunities

Bathscape will select sites for active enhancement works based in part on the owner's ability to reinstate or begin suitable management. With regard to priority grasslands, a concentrated effort to clear sites of scrub can often be the bottleneck action that can then allow a resumption of management through grazing, and the incorporation of the small grant scheme can support further action such as fencing or provision of water where these are required to allow the addition of stock. In terms of funding, stewardship remains the most secure and available source of long-term land management funding and this will be promoted through the scheme's landowner advisory works.

The proper recording and dissemination of information can make a lasting difference to the ability to protect heritage. Bathscape will ensure that all heritage works are properly documented and information disseminated to the relevant landowners, authorities and interested parties. The involvement of a wide partnership and incorporation of active volunteer groups such as Bath Natural History Society and Bath and Counties Archaeological Society will reduce the risk of works being 'forgotten' or agreed management reduced unseen. Landowner records will be retained alongside that of works done and the schemes mid-term review will set out the process whereby legacy is to be secured and assessed.

# 7

# AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

## 7.1 VISION

The Bathscape Partnership initially came together through a common recognition of the value of the Bathscape, the threats it faces if neglected and the opportunities it affords for improving the lives of residents and visitors. In refining our vision themes such as active management, connection, inclusivity, partnership, inspiration and enjoyment were repeatedly voiced.

### OUR VISION IS THAT

**The Bathscape scheme will ensure Bath and its setting are better recognised, managed and experienced as a landscape city, with the surrounding hills and valleys enhancing the World Heritage Site and actively enjoyed by all. A greater number and wider range of people will feel connected to their local landscape and inspired to explore the outstanding built and natural environments, improving health and wellbeing.**

Our scheme vision will be achieved through implementation of the proposed projects, grouped under our four themes, which collectively incorporate ten underlying objectives with two further scheme-wide objectives. The objectives are listed below, while the remainder of this section outlines: the strategies and consultation which have informed the objectives; threats facing the heritage; and how the Bathscape scheme meets HLF outcomes.



## 7.2 BATHSCAPE THEMES AND OBJECTIVES

### CONSERVING & RESTORING

Projects and activities that will enable the heritage to be better managed and in better condition.

#### Objectives:

- The green setting is cared for with more land managed, understood and in better condition, involving a greater number of people taking action to enhance our local heritage
- The Bathscape area is recognised and valued as a notable landscape, with landowners, managers, farmers and communities working in partnership and understanding the collective benefits they can achieve.

### THE THERAPEUTIC LANDSCAPE

Projects and activities that develop the therapeutic tradition associated with the heritage of Bath to support health and wellbeing through greater contact with the landscape and natural environment.

#### Objectives:

- The landscape will be used to benefit the health and wellbeing of residents, with barriers for use identified and overcome, where possible
- Teachers, community groups and support workers will have greater confidence in encouraging outdoor activity
- People are inspired to actively explore the landscape through celebration of its natural, cultural and built heritage.

### ACCESS

Projects and activities to improve access to the landscape and natural environment and reduce physical and other barriers.

#### Objectives:

- Increased and improved opportunities for people to access the landscape are presented
- Confidence in accessing the countryside is enhanced with barriers to access identified.

### LEARNING, TRAINING & SKILLS

Activities to improve the understanding and skills of target audiences, volunteers and participants.

#### Objectives:

- Attractive opportunities are provided for people to develop their skills and knowledge which can be utilised within the scheme and beyond
- Communities take care of and make decisions about their local heritage
- People are aware of the importance of the Bathscape and of opportunities to help protect it.

### SCHEME-WIDE OBJECTIVES:

- Activities that help to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change are supported and promoted
- Partnership working is improved and increased to help deliver the objectives of the Bathscape scheme and its legacy.

THE LANDSCAPE WILL BE USED TO BENEFIT THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF RESIDENTS, WITH BARRIERS FOR USE IDENTIFIED AND OVERCOME, WHERE POSSIBLE

## 7.3 LINKS TO STRATEGIES AND NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

There are a number of strategic plans, outlined in detail in the Management Information section of this plan, that have helped to identify the need for the scheme and the priorities of communities in the Bathscape area, driving the vision, objectives and development of projects.

***The following policies and strategic plans afford protection and promote enhancements to the landscape setting, and encourage its enjoyment, complementing and reflecting Bathscape's vision:***

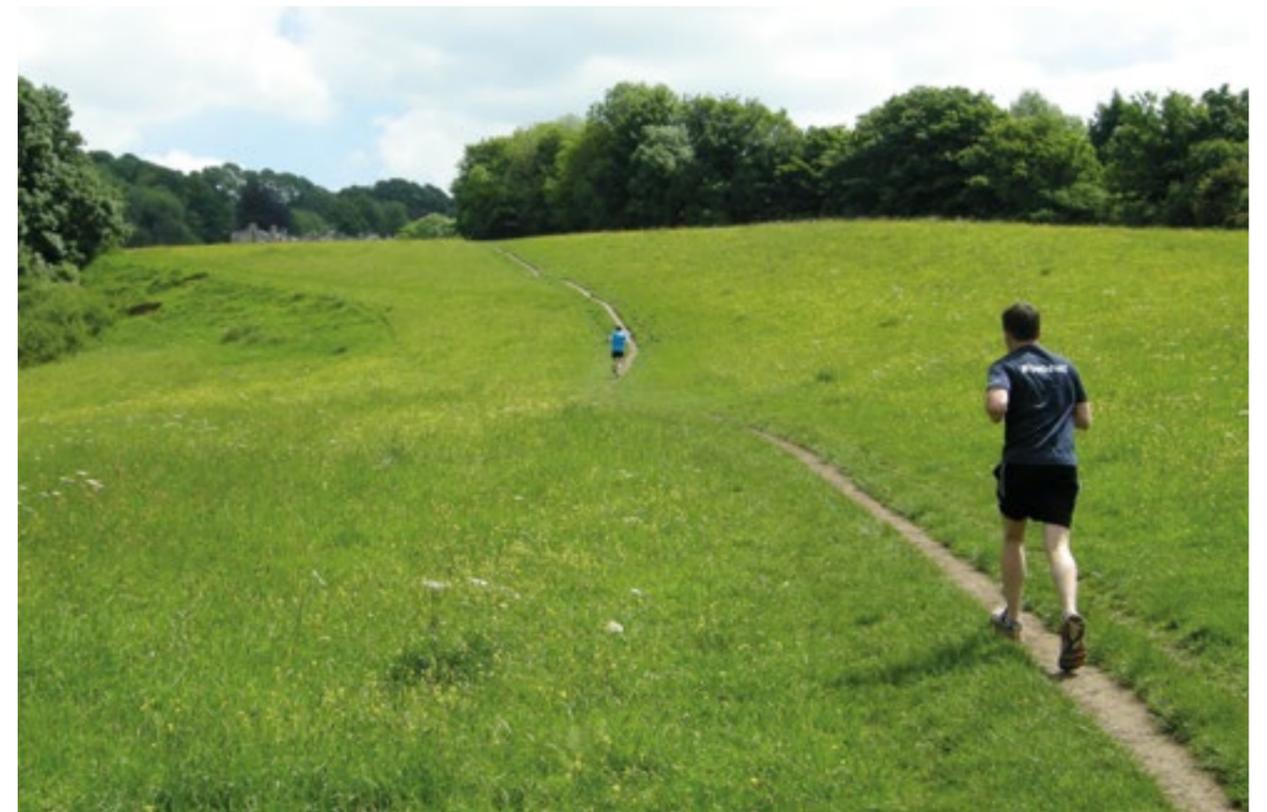
- UNESCO operating guidelines 2014
- National Policy Planning Framework 2012
- A Green Future – 25 year plan 2018
- Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services
- Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2017/18
- Natural Childhood Report 2012 – National Trust
- National Trust Strategy 2025
- World Heritage Site Management Plan 2016–2022
- Bath & NE Somerset Council's Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan (Bath) 2017
- West of England Joint Spatial Plan Draft 2018
- Bath & NE Somerset Green Space Strategy 2015–2029
- Avon Wildlife Trust Vision 2015–2020
- Cotswolds AONB Management Plan Draft 2018–2023
- The National Trust in Bath Business Plan Summary 2015–18
- Wiltshire Council Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2015–2025.

There are a number of policies and strategies that focus on the needs of people, their relationship to landscape, and the health and wellbeing benefits of being with nature.

***Developed under the leadership of Bath & NE Somerset Council, but with comprehensive consultation with the community, these plans share objectives with Bathscape's projects and have informed the outcomes the projects will achieve:***

- Getting around Bath – a transport strategy for Bath 2014
- Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2015–19
- Fit for Life Strategy 2014–19
- Shaping Up – Healthy Weight Strategy 2015–2020
- Children's and Young People Plan (Draft) 2018–2021.

The common thread in these strategies is the need for activities and accessible green spaces that enable and motivate people to move more and sit less and to look after their health and wellbeing.



**Right:** Running in the Bathscape

## 7.4 WHAT PEOPLE THINK IS IMPORTANT TO DO FOR THE LANDSCAPE

The Statement of Significance section of this plan outlines what people have told us they value about the landscape setting.

People have also told us what they want Bathscape to deliver to safeguard and build interest in the landscape. As part of the phase 1 bid background consultation people were invited to vote for the type of nature projects they would like to see happening. 225 votes were cast and the results are shown in the table below.

### Voting Results from Bath Festival of Nature June 2015

TYPE OF PROJECT	VOTES	%
Hands on projects. Projects where I can get involved with improving spaces for nature	36	16%
Monitoring and ID projects. Projects where I learn how to identify, record and help monitor wildlife	39	17%
Habitat restoration and creation. Projects that will restore or create better habitats for nature in and around the city	69	31%
Education and Play. Projects that provide new opportunities for children/young people to enjoy and explore nature	70	31%
My Project. Your project ideas	11	5%

Projects to restore and create better habitats for nature in and around the city and projects that provide opportunities for children and young people to explore and enjoy nature received the most support.

At the subsequent Bath City Conference voting was widened to provide further feedback on the types of projects that the public wished to see, collecting 142 responses.

The spread of votes was fairly even. It perhaps reflects perceptions of threats to the landscape, with protection of habitats and opportunities to help care for them scoring most highly, rather than increasing levels of interaction which other surveys showed to be primarily visual or through walking.

We also know from the pilots undertaken during development phase that people value activities and events which enable them to explore new places and learn new things about the heritage.

### Voting Results from Bath City Conference 2015

TYPE OF PROJECT	VOTES	%
The protection and enhancements of views and vistas	29	20%
The protection and enhancements of woodlands, grasslands and other habitats	47	33%
The extent to which people access and enjoy the outdoors	30	21%
The opportunities for people to help care for green spaces and wildlife habitats	35	27%
I have no particular concerns	1	1%

## 7.5 HERITAGE THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The strategies and policies recognise that the landscape needs to be protected and enhanced. The value people place on the landscape demonstrates its importance to their wellbeing. The landscape setting does face threats, and Bathscape projects are designed to counter these – whether in the habitats themselves or in attitudes and behaviours.

**Threats to the heritage are detailed in the Risks and Opportunities section of this report and summarised here:**

- Pressures from a growing city with its competing demands and uses
- Fragmentation of land ownership and habitats
- Loss of skyline trees and intrusion of development on skylines affecting the landscape character

- Priority grasslands declining with a loss of wildflower meadows to scrub encroachment and poor grazing management.
- Archaeological Heritage under pressure
- Attitudes and understanding – an increasing general disconnect between people and the landscape
- Ash die back and future tree diseases
- Loss of wildlife identification skills due to an ageing cohort of skilled people
- Antisocial behaviour causing residents to no longer use local green spaces.

Our vision, objectives and projects seek to reflect the importance that organisations and local people place upon the Bathscape, address the threats it faces and encompass the opportunities it affords. These are outlined in further detail next.

**OUR VISION, OBJECTIVES AND PROJECTS SEEK TO REFLECT THE IMPORTANCE THAT ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL PEOPLE PLACE UPON THE BATHSCAPE**

### Bathscape projects delivery against the nine Landscape Partnership programme outcomes

**KEY**

- H1 - Heritage will be better managed
- H2 - Heritage will be in better condition
- H3 - Heritage will be identified/recorded

- P1 - People will have developed skills
- P2 - People will have learnt about heritage
- P3 - People will have volunteered time

- C1 - Environmental impacts will be reduced
- C2 - More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage
- C3 - Local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit

			Outcomes for Heritage			Outcomes for People			Outcomes for Communities		
			H1	H2	H3	P1	P2	P3	C1	C2	C3
Conserving and Restoring	1.1	Grasslands for the future	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y		Y
	1.2	Grassland restoration volunteers		Y	Y	Y		Y			
	1.3	Woodlands of Bathscape	Y	Y	Y				Y		Y
	1.4	Small grant scheme	Y	Y							
	1.5	Views and vistas		Y	Y	Y		Y			Y
	1.6	Caring for Heritage at risk	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
The Therapeutic Landscape	2.1	Landscape on prescription		Y		Y		Y		Y	Y
	2.2	Connecting with nature				Y	Y			Y	
	2.3	Bathscape Naturewatch				Y	Y	Y		Y	
	2.4	Bathscape Green Spaces	Y			Y	Y	Y			Y
	2.5	Therapeutic walks programme				Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
	2.6	Connecting families with landscape				Y				Y	
	2.7	Outdoor seasonal celebrations					Y			Y	

			Outcomes for Heritage			Outcomes for People			Outcomes for Communities		
			H1	H2	H3	P1	P2	P3	C1	C2	C3
Access	3.1	Bathscape circular path & radial routes						Y	Y	Y	Y
	3.2	Area and local hubs					Y	Y			
	3.3	Cure walks and carriage rides				Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
	3.4	Easy access routes and phototrails				Y	Y	Y		Y	
	3.5	Active landscapes					Y	Y		Y	
Learning, training and skills	4.1	Interpretive media				Y	Y	Y		Y	
	4.2	Habitat recording and monitoring			Y	Y		Y		Y	
	4.3	Bathscape community skills	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
	4.4	Bathscape student placements			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
	4.5	SW Bath primary schools learning				Y	Y			Y	
	4.6	Trees of Bathscape			Y	Y	Y	Y			
	4.7	Intergenerational oral history			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y

## 7.6 OUTCOMES FOR HERITAGE

### THE HERITAGE WILL BE BETTER MANAGED

A Landscape Character Assessment has been produced and will ensure that decision making is based on a sound understanding of the area's landscape values.

Bathscape will work with a number of delivery partners to implement a suite of projects, supporting land managers to improve the management of vitally important habitats and landscape features through advice, skills development and training, making more use of existing resources and grant support.

***The projects and activities that will lead to better management of the heritage at the landscape scale are summarised below:***

- **Grasslands for the Future** will provide targeted support to landowners and land managers to help reverse the decline of lowland calcareous grassland and lowland meadow priority habitats. 40 priority sites will have been brought under stewardship and 60 landowners outside stewardship will have been advised on improved management strategies. A Meadow Owner's Guide will have been produced and distributed

- **Woodlands of Bathscape** will ensure 70ha of woodland are better managed with 40 woodland owners given management advice. Landowners will be part of a network and will receive training to support them to continue to manage their woodlands. Marketing of timber products will be supported to generate income to sustain woodland management
- **Bathscape Small Grant Scheme** will provide grants of up to £5,000 to support landowners to undertake targeted landscape conservation and enhancement work which fall outside the scope of the Countryside Stewardship and Woodland grants, enabling better management of woodlands and grasslands
- **Caring for Heritage at Risk** will promote better management and care of historic features within Bath's landscape. Ten sites will have been identified and a management plan produced. The sites will be surveyed and recorded and better protected as a result
- **Bathscape Green Spaces** will support and develop local Friends and community groups to take on the care of local green spaces. This will include developing three year management plans and working to improve the areas.

Volunteers will contribute to the improved management of the heritage in these projects and under Bathscape Community Skills. Support networks for landowners will be developed to share best practice and training. These projects and initiatives will ensure that the landscape remains resilient and healthy by fully engaging landowners and local people in the care and management of the heritage.

## THE HERITAGE WILL BE IN BETTER CONDITION

*There are a number of projects that will lead to the heritage being in better condition:*

- **Grasslands for the Future** will reverse the decline and improve the condition of lowland calcareous grassland and lowland meadow priority habitats by working with landowners. 12 new meadows will have been enhanced or created. Seeds propagated from target sites will have been distributed. A match-maker service for sites and grazing stock will help to resolve issues of under-grazing
- **Grassland Restoration Volunteers** will undertake a range of works in support of the Grasslands for the Future project, bringing species-rich grasslands into better condition
- **Woodlands of Bathscape** will enhance 10ha of publically owned woodland for people and wildlife. 70ha of woodland in private ownership, brought into management, will be in a better condition

- **Bathscape Small Grant Scheme** will provide grants to support landowners to undertake critical landscape conservation and enhancement work, e.g. stock fencing, small scale inter-planting, scrub clearance and coppicing, thus improving the condition of woodlands and grasslands
- **Views and vistas** will undertake practical work to enhance or maintain significant view-points
- **Caring for Heritage at Risk** will support volunteers to undertake restoration works identified in the management plans to prevent further decline and improve condition of local heritage assets
- **Landscape on prescription** will establish regular volunteer work parties combining outdoor exercise with practical management works. An area of woodland and grassland at Bath City Farm will be in better condition, other sites will have been improved and a nursery for seed propagation will have been established.

Volunteers will contribute to the improved condition of the heritage in these projects and under Bathscape Community Skills.

## THE HERITAGE WILL BE BETTER IDENTIFIED AND RECORDED

The projects that involve identifying and recording the heritage will work closely with relevant agencies: Historic Environment Record; Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC); Archives; Bath in Time; Ancient Tree Hunt; and Know Your Place, to ensure that all assets identified or surveyed will be added to the established resources.

*The following projects will ensure that the heritage is better identified and recorded:*

- **Grasslands for the Future** will record updated information on the condition of key sites and ensure landowners and managers recognise and fully understand the habitats in their care, recording this in their management plans. Training will include key species and priority habitat identification. Records will be digitised and held by BRERC

- **Grassland Restoration Volunteers** will provide additional support to the Grasslands for the Future project and undertake a range of surveying and recording works of species-rich grasslands, auditing the condition of key sites with outdated information to help target resources and improve management. Records will be digitised and held by BRERC
- **Woodlands of Bathscape** will record updated information on the condition of local woodlands and identify key sites for surveying by volunteers under the Habitat Recording and Monitoring project
- **Views and vistas** will train volunteers in view monitoring methodology. They will undertake full view assessments of 30 sites, producing reports that will be made available to the public and to relevant partners
- **Caring for Heritage at Risk** will achieve improved recording of historic features. Ten sites will be surveyed and new and updated information added to the Historic Environment Record
- **Habitat Recording and Monitoring** will train and support 30 volunteers in habitat recording and monitoring. 12 woodland sites will be surveyed and 12 enhanced grassland sites will be monitored. Key species will have been promoted and recorded via mass-participation social media campaigns. Records will be digitised and held by BRERC

- **Bathscape Student Placements** will work with other projects to include students in recording community events, collecting memories and stories and making them available to the public
- **Trees of Bathscape** will support volunteers to survey and collect data on veteran trees, significant to the landscape and upload to the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt and Treezilla
- **Bathscape Intergenerational Oral History** will use the creative and digital expertise of Bathscape partners to explore and record people's memories of the recent past.

Volunteers will contribute to the improved condition of the heritage in these projects and under Bathscape Community Skills.

As part of Bathscape public engagement activities, we will promote citizen science and social media campaigns to gain additional images of heritage assets and wildlife sightings. These will be shared with appropriate partners and archives.



Right: Twerton railway tunnel

## 7.7 OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE

The 25 projects of the Bathscape Scheme have taken into account our target audiences and target groups. Projects will encourage people to volunteer, learn new skills, learn about the heritage and take on the care of the Bathscape. The Volunteer Strategy and Training Plan outlines how we will reach the target audiences, the skills development pathways for volunteers, training opportunities and how we will work with partners. The Training, Learning and Skills theme incorporates projects aimed at increasing heritage skills and understanding.

### *The Bathscape target audiences are:*

- Farmers and landowners
- Local people
- Special interest user groups/ individuals
- Friends and community groups
- Students
- People living in the more deprived areas of Bath
- Young people
- Family groups
- Older age/those receiving social care
- People needing to improve physical/ mental wellbeing
- Children and adults with mobility/ additional needs
- Schools & organised youth groups
- Tourists & visitors
- Walkers – local people & visitors.

*The audience groups benefitting from each project is summarised in the table below:*

		Farmers and land-owners	Local people	Special interest groups	Friends and community groups	Students
1.1	Grasslands for the future	●	●	●	●	
1.2	Grassland restoration vols	●	●	●	●	
1.3	Woodlands of Bathscape	●	●	●	●	
1.4	Small grant scheme	●	●	●	●	
1.5	Views and vistas	●	●	●	●	●
1.6	Caring for Heritage at risk	●	●	●	●	●
2.1	Landscape on prescription					
2.2	Connecting with nature					
2.3	Bathscape Naturewatch		●	●		
2.4	Bathscape Green Spaces					
2.5	Therapeutic walks programme		●			
2.6	Connecting families		●			
2.7	Outdoor seasonal celebrations		●			
3.1	Circular path & radial routes		●			
3.2	Area and local hubs		●	●		
3.3	Cure walks and carriage rides		●	●		
3.4	Easy access routes/phototrails		●	●		●
3.5	Active landscapes		●			
4.1	Interpretive media	●	●	●	●	●
4.2	Habitat recording/monitoring		●	●	●	
4.3	Bathscape community skills		●	●	●	●
4.4	Bathscape student placements		●		●	●
4.5	SW Bath primary schools					
4.6	Tree survey training	●	●	●	●	
4.7	Intergenerational oral history		●		●	●

	More deprived areas	Young People	Family Groups	Older people	Improve well-being	Mobility needs	Schools	Tourists and visitors	Walkers
								●	
	●			●	●	●			
	●	●	●				●		
	●	●	●	●			●		
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	●	●	●			●			
	●	●	●				●		
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	●	●	●			●	●		
	●	●							
	●	●		●			●		

## PEOPLE WILL HAVE DEVELOPED SKILLS

There are 600 training opportunities provided within projects.

**Projects that enable volunteers to develop skills in order to deliver the project to a high standard are:**

- **Grassland Restoration Volunteers:** practical conservation and habitat management
- **Views and vistas:** surveying, assessing and recording views
- **Caring for Heritage at Risk:** research and archaeological explorations
- **Landscape on Prescription:** leading walks
- **Connecting with Nature:** confidence to use the network of outdoor learning sites
- **Bathscape Naturewatch:** delivering public engagement events
- **Bathscape Green Spaces:** develop Friends groups; managing local green spaces; and running events
- **Therapeutic Walks Programme:** leading walks and event management
- **Connecting Families:** bush-craft; outdoor activities; building confidence; family communication; and teamwork
- **Interpretive Media:** developing multi-media interpretive materials and running community events
- **Habitat Recording and Monitoring:** identifying key species and surveying techniques

- **Bathscape Student Placements:** projects that further individual study; research projects around behaviour change for health; and community multimedia projects
- **SW Bath Primary Schools learning:** using the landscape for teaching, with new learning resources
- **Trees of Bathscape:** veteran tree identification; and surveying skills
- **Intergenerational oral history:** multi-media skills; and collaborative working.

**In addition, the Bathscape Community Skills project focuses specifically on people from disadvantaged groups, encouraging access to general volunteering and skills development, and delivering:**

- Induction and essential skills provided to all volunteers
- Rural skills training courses
- Learning via skill sharing on practical conservation tasks
- Courses run by adult learning specialists for volunteers far from education
- City & Guilds community facilitator course or similar
- Accredited six week course for those not in employment, education or training
- Certificates of attendance and skills development issued from Bathscape and partners.

In all projects, a range of volunteering is included from entry level through to supervising other volunteers and leading community action. Project leads will encourage and assess volunteers and ensure that they progress.

## PEOPLE WILL HAVE LEARNT ABOUT HERITAGE

The audience profile is broad, and there are a wide range of activities, events and interpretive materials across projects that will enable people to learn about the heritage. The stories that people will learn are outlined in the Interpretation Plan.

**Projects with a particular learning element are:**

- **Grasslands for the Future** through which landowners will have learnt about the importance of priority habitats, via training, visits and networks
- **Caring for Heritage at Risk** will engage volunteers from the Bath and Counties Archaeological Society (BACAS) to demonstrate geophysical surveys of sites, inviting members of the public to take part and receive training in the use of equipment and learn about the archaeological site

- **Connecting with nature** will enable school children to learn about Bathscape iconic species, biodiversity, view points and landscape heritage. Entry Hill Golf Course and Bath City Farm will become well used as outdoor learning sites
- **Bathscape naturewatch** will provide public engagement sessions that: highlight and promote Bathscape iconic species (e.g. bat walks, finding Bath asparagus); showcase key sites and habitats within the Bathscape area; build understanding and appreciation of the relationship between the city and landscape, including both natural habitats and formal parks (e.g. from key viewpoints); contribute to the learning objectives identified in the interpretation plan. 200 people a year will attend



- **Bathscape Green Spaces** will support community groups to run public events. People attending will learn about the significance of green spaces in the planned landscape
- **Therapeutic Walks Programme** of guided walks throughout the year and at the Bathscape Walking Festival will be led by people able to talk about the landscape heritage and the stories and themes outlined in the Interpretation Plan. Over 300 people a year will benefit
- **Outdoor Seasonal Celebrations** will provide participatory arts events and accompanying workshops with schools and community groups. People will have a better understanding of the relationship between natural world, seasons, food and local heritage
- Projects in the **Access Theme** will enable people to learn about the heritage via the accompanying resources. Walking leaflets, trail guides and digital resources will include interpretive elements about the heritage. For example, the Cure Walks leaflets will outline the history of Bath as a spa town and the use of cure walks in the 18th century, as well as providing information about the modern cure walk trails
- The **Interpretive Media** project brings together all the media that Bathscape will use to enable people to learn about the heritage, including an interactive website, community events, exhibitions and projects
- The remaining projects in the **Learning, training and skills** theme include elements of volunteer skills development through which people learn about the heritage.

## PEOPLE WILL HAVE VOLUNTEERED TIME

Of the 25 projects comprising the Bathscape Theme, only four projects do not use volunteers.

The remaining 21 projects require a significant and skilled group of volunteers to deliver. In total 795 volunteers will provide over 3000 volunteer days.

### *The main volunteering activities spread across projects and delivery partners are:*

- Conservation and habitat restoration
- Developing interpretation resources and taking those to audience groups
- Monitoring, surveying, spotting and recording “iconic species” and habitats
- Developing community capacity to care for the natural heritage
- Encouraging and leading outdoor activities, particularly guided walks
- Researching local heritage
- Uploading resources and data input, working with established resources
- Mentoring and supervisory support to other volunteers.

## 7.8 OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITIES

### NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WILL BE REDUCED

All Bathscape activities and interpretive materials, such as trail guides, will promote the use of public transport. Walking activities feature prominently across projects, particularly those in the Therapeutic Landscape and Access themes. Activities encourage people to visit and care for their local green spaces and then to explore further afield, on foot where possible.

### *Projects specifically reducing negative impacts are:*

- **Grasslands for the Future** will increase the biodiversity on 40 priority grassland sites, reversing their decline, and will enhance 12 meadows helping to build more robust networks of sites allowing species to adapt to climate change
- **Woodlands of Bathscape** will improve the biodiversity and reverse the decline of 80ha of woodland
- **Bathscape Circular Path & Radial Routes** will provide and promote radial routes to the circular path from the city centre. This will encourage people to explore the landscape within easy walking distance of the city, without the need for cars. Public transport hubs and the Park and Ride sites will be promoted as ways to access the countryside in a sustainable way.

### MORE PEOPLE AND A WIDER RANGE OF PEOPLE WILL HAVE ENGAGED WITH HERITAGE

In addition to the 14 audience groups outlined above, five target groups have also been identified, those who are currently unlikely to be engaged with heritage, or those unlikely to have access to it.

### *These are:*

- Communities in more deprived areas where there are low levels of engagement with the heritage – particularly Twerton, Whiteway, Southdown, Foxhill and Snowhill
- Schools and organised youth groups
- Students in further and higher education
- People with mobility needs
- People over 65 – due to growing numbers in this age group, including those receiving social care.

Our activities, interpretive materials, events and approach to volunteering are aimed at increasing the understanding and commitment of the existing audience to safeguard the heritage and attracting new and wider audiences from the most disadvantaged communities and groups.

***We will achieve this through a number of specific projects and activities:***

- **Landscape on Prescription** will work closely with GP surgeries and offer conservation volunteering and guided walks to people in Twerton and Whiteway, those with mobility needs and people over 65. It will also enable those people to explore further in the landscape
- **Connecting with Nature** will provide additional outdoor learning facilities at Entry Hill Golf Course, near Foxhill, and ensure that schools in South West Bath have outdoor learning sites within walking distance, building teacher confidence in their use
- **Bathscape Naturewatch** and the Therapeutic Walks Programme will operate area-wide, but will include bespoke events for target groups. We will work closely with local community groups and support groups
- **Connecting Families with Landscape** is aimed specifically at families with young people with high emotional and behavioural needs
- **Outdoor seasonal celebrations** will deliver community arts events and workshops with schools in Foxhill, Whiteway, Twerton and Snowhill
- **Bathscape Circular Path and Radial Routes** will increase the number of people who access natural heritage. Improved pathways and signage and high quality trail guides and promotion, along with guided walks, will enable more people to access the countryside from the city centre
- **Cure Walks and Carriage Rides** is aimed at finding and promoting trails that are accessible for people with mobility needs, young families and those wanting to improve their health. It includes accessible walks, walks starting at Royal United Hospital and fitness trails at Springfield Park and Entry Hill
- **Easy Access Routes and Phototrails** will promote the more accessible walks from other projects, reducing barriers to access. Photo and video trails will enable people with additional needs to assess the routes against their own requirements
- **Active Landscapes** will provide bespoke activities for young people from more deprived parts of Bath and those with additional needs to explore the natural heritage, working with partners such as Mentoring Plus and Time-2-Share
- **Interpretive Media** provides activities, multi-media production and social media strategies covering all target audiences and based on heritage storylines and themes
- **Bathscape Community Skills** provides skills development for people from target areas and those currently a long way from education or employment. It includes entry level, taster sessions and micro volunteering

- **Bathscape Student Placements** enables students to engage with the heritage via projects, placements and community activities, working alongside local people
- **SW Primary School learning** will develop educational resources about the heritage, working with schools in south west Bath
- **Intergenerational oral history** will bring together students, young people in more deprived parts of Bath and older people to work on joint heritage research and interpretation projects.

A number of projects in the Therapeutic Landscape and Access themes enable collaborations between students, academics and community groups.

The Volunteer Strategy and Training Plan takes account of the barriers to volunteering and participation and ensures we provide flexible opportunities to suit those who are short of time and resources and people wanting to improve their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Across all projects, we will work closely with community groups, partners and sites, such as Bath City Farm, and build on the relationships already established during development phase.

**ACROSS ALL PROJECTS,  
WE WILL WORK CLOSELY  
WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS,  
PARTNERS AND SITES**

## YOUR LOCAL AREA/ COMMUNITY WILL BE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK OR VISIT

*Bathscape projects that make physical improvements to the area, increasing biodiversity and making it more interesting to visit are:*

- Grasslands for the Future
- Woodlands of Bathscape.

*Projects that both make physical improvements and make it easier for people to visit and appreciate the heritage are:*

- Views and vistas
- Landscape on Prescription
- Bathscape Green Spaces
- Bathscape Circular Path and Radial Routes.

*Projects that focus on reducing inequality of access to the landscape and increasing community cohesion, particularly amongst target groups are:*

- Therapeutic Walks Programme
- Cure Walks
- Bathscape Community Skills
- Bathscape Student Placements
- Intergenerational oral history.

# 8

## SCHEME COSTS SUMMARY

The Bathscape scheme will deliver twenty five projects across the four themes of Conserving and Restoring, The Therapeutic Landscape, Access, and Learning, Training & Skills. Summaries of the twenty five projects are given at the end of this section. Further details are provided in the appendices including role profiles for posts, projected spends across the delivery period and details of match funding.

## 8.1 PROJECT LEADS

The projects will be overseen by the Bathscape Team with support from project partners and/or external providers. This reflects that the projects operate across multiple landholdings rather than sites owned by individual organisations and will allow both project partners and external contractors to bid for items of commissioned work without unfair advantage.

The governance review for delivery phase broadens the support to the Bathscape Team, creating subgroups by theme (outlined in the appendices). Membership of the Landscape Partnership Delivery Group and the subgroups are drawn from the board and wider partners, creating a broad base of experience and skills in overseeing projects. They will not be involved in assessment of tenders for commissioned works where conflicts of interest could arise.

REF	PROJECT	PROJECT LEAD
1.1	Grasslands for the Future	Bathscape Team
1.2	Grassland Restoration Volunteers	Bathscape Team supported by Conserving and Restoring subgroup
1.3	Woodlands of Bathscape	Bathscape Team working with commissioned external provider
1.4	Bathscape Small grant scheme	Bathscape Team supported by Landscape Partnership Delivery Group
1.5	Views and vistas	Bathscape Team supported by externally commissioned expert
1.6	Caring for Heritage at Risk	Bathscape Team supported by Bath and Counties Archaeological Society
2.1	Landscape on prescription	Bathscape Team working with Wessex Water and Public Health
2.2	Connecting with Nature	Bathscape Team supported by Therapeutic Landscape subgroup
2.3	Bathscape Naturewatch	Bathscape Team supported by Therapeutic Landscape subgroup and Bath & NE Somerset Council's Ecologist
2.4	Bathscape Green Spaces	Bathscape Team
2.5	Therapeutic Walks Programme	Bathscape Team supported by Therapeutic Landscape subgroup
2.6	Connecting Families with Landscape	Bathscape Team working with commissioned external provider
2.7	Outdoor seasonal celebrations	Community Arts provider commissioned by Bathscape Team
3.1	Circular Path and Radials Routes	Bathscape Team working with commissioned external provider
3.2	Area and local Hubs	Bathscape Team
3.3	Cure walks and carriage rides	Bathscape Team supported by Bath & NE Somerset Council's Public Health and Sport & Active Lifestyles Teams
3.4	Easy access and phototrails	Bathscape Team supported by Access subgroup
3.5	Active Landscapes	Bathscape Team with local instructors supported by Bath & NE Somerset Council's Sport & Active Lifestyles Team

REF	PROJECT	PROJECT LEAD
4.1	Interpretive Media	Bathscape Team with oversight from the Landscape Partnership Delivery Group
4.2	Habitat recording and monitoring	Bathscape Team supported by Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre
4.3	Community Skills	Bathscape Team with oversight from the Landscape Partnership Delivery Group
4.4	Bathscape Student Placements	Bathscape Team with University of Bath and Bath Spa University
4.5	SW Bath Primary Schools learning	Bathscape Team working with a Partner's Learning Manager
4.6	Trees of Bathscape	Bathscape Team supported by commissioned external provider for 1.3 Woodlands of Bathscape
4.7	Intergenerational oral history	Bathscape Team supported by the Landscape Partnership Delivery Group



9

LEGACY

The Bathscape partnership first came together with the intention of making a lasting difference to the landscape setting of Bath. Landscape Partnership Scheme funding is seen as the vital step in achieving that ambition, but it has been recognised throughout the five years of partner discussions thus far that the process is much longer if benefits are to endure.

This section details the legacy of the scheme at the project, organisational and landscape scale and how this will be achieved.

As proposed in the HLF Guide 'Legacy planning for Landscape Partnerships' Bathscape staff will revisit legacy ambitions and arrangements at the scheme's mid-term evaluation review to provide detailed planning and a legacy strategy that fully reflects the activities and findings of the scheme. This will be used as a tool to help secure resources and create suitable structures and mechanisms to progress the Bathscape Partnership and its work into the future. It is the ambition of the board that Bathscape develops beyond the five years of Heritage Lottery Funding, continuing partnership working and seeking further resources.



£22,000 has been budgeted for an external consultant to carry out detailed evaluation and monitoring work, which will include developing the legacy strategy to present to the Board for comment and agreement. The Final Evaluation Report will make an assessment of Bathscape Scheme's longer term impacts and how the Partnership's legacy strategy will be implemented. It will also inform a review of the legacy strategy drawn up at the mid-term review stage. The legacy strategy will be amended and/or updated in response to final evaluation and will set out the long-term vision for sustaining the scheme's achievements.

**THE LEGACY STRATEGY WILL BE AMENDED AND/OR UPDATED IN RESPONSE TO FINAL EVALUATION AND WILL SET OUT THE LONG-TERM VISION FOR SUSTAINING THE SCHEME'S ACHIEVEMENTS.**

## 9.1 PROJECT LEGACY

In each project plan we have considered individual legacy and throughout the scheme the ways in which people can be involved in the long-term care of the landscape have been incorporated.

Sustainability issues are summarised for each of the four themes below.

### THEME 1 CONSERVING AND RESTORING

Capital works undertaken in this theme, such as woodland works or species-rich grassland restoration will be protected by agreements to ensure the benefits are maintained for a minimum five year period. Management plans stretching over at least five years will also be put in place.

Priority grassland works on farm holdings under the Grasslands for the Future project will be supported by Countryside Stewardship. Works undertaken through the Bathscape Small Grant Scheme will be subject to applicants having signed a five year management agreement.

With a significant proportion of the areas grassland and woodland owners being small or hobby landowners, networking is seen as a key way to build support, knowledge and understanding of shared goals in the long-term. Bathscape will create woodland and grassland owner networks, recruiting owners through training and visits, developing the networks during the scheme's lifespan and building towards light touch coordination. A successful model for this is the county meadows groups.

The involvement of specialist volunteer groups such as Bath Natural History Society and the Bath and Counties Archaeological Society alongside partner organisations with a strong volunteer base such as National Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust and Bath Preservation Trust allows opportunities for Bathscape trained volunteers to further their skills and continue their volunteering activities.

The records from habitat and species surveys will be held by the Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC). Archaeological survey findings will be added to the Historic Environment Record (HER). Survey and monitoring reports from the Views and Vistas project will be held by Bath & NE Somerset Council Landscape Architects.

Where equipment has been bought, such as the brush harvester and tools, these will be held and maintained by Bathscape partners for continued use.

### THEME 2 THE THERAPEUTIC LANDSCAPE

Projects in this theme focus on health and wellbeing. There are two main approaches to legacy planning. One will be to develop the case for different funding models and approaches, building on the delivery phase work and the mid-term evaluation. The other will be increasing community capacity to continue the activities without the need for additional future funding.

For the Walking Festival in the Therapeutic Walks Programme, once its reputation has developed, sponsorship will be trialled and charging policies piloted. Walks aimed at target groups will remain free, taking into account the need to be accessible to people on low incomes, but a blended approach will be considered and tested. The Walking Festival will become a regular feature of Bath Festival season and encourage people to become more active as well as showcasing Bath and its surroundings as a walking destination.

The Landscape on Prescription and Connecting Families with Landscape projects should be suitable for new funding bids, once their value and impact has been demonstrated. These are both projects which have extensive evaluation built in, including from the University of Bath, and we are expecting these to provide robust evidence for a case for future funding.

For all the projects in this theme, the events, interpretive material, marketing and evaluation processes will encourage people to take on activities themselves, individually and for the benefit of the community, using Bathscape to recruit, train and empower volunteers. People will be encouraged to, for example, start local walking groups or lead outdoor learning sessions and guided walks.

Other engagement projects, aimed at helping people learn about the heritage and care for the landscape, such as community arts events and Naturewatch sessions, will be used to promote the idea of regular volunteering in the landscape. They will seek to recruit additional volunteers to local community groups and Bathscape partners. Bathscape Green Spaces will have worked with local people to develop friends groups, with long-term planning, who will continue to use and look after the heritage assets.

One of the most important results for Bathscape to achieve is inspiring people to care more for the landscape setting, to enjoy being active in it and feel the benefits to their wellbeing as a result. Through the programme of events, work with schools, activities and volunteering, the legacy will be: people taking on their own projects; continuing to actively enjoy their surroundings; and to pass that on to future generations.

### THEME 3 ACCESS

An enhanced Cotswold Voluntary Warden service will be used to check maintenance requirements of the circular path and radial routes. They will be trained and equipped with basic maintenance tools during the lifespan of the scheme and will build checks of the routes into their existing programme. As the routes are on existing Rights of Way, maintenance will ultimately be the responsibility of the Local Authority Public Rights of Way Team who will liaise with the Wardens and undertake larger maintenance operations.

Trail leaflets and downloadable resources for Cure Walks and Easy Access Routes will form part of the legacy planning for the website and digital content.

Evaluation strategies for Access projects, particularly Active Landscapes, will monitor people's likelihood to explore the landscape independently, following a Bathscape-led event.

### THEME 4 LEARNING TRAINING AND SKILLS

Bathscape will equip volunteers with repeatable skills to continue activities beyond the life of the scheme. Specialist skills, such as habitat recording and monitoring skills and archaeological survey and assessment skills can be best supported in the long term through volunteers' engagement with existing volunteer specialist groups such as the Bath Natural History Society and the Bath and Counties Archaeological Society. Both societies are keen to take key roles in relevant projects and see increased and more diverse membership as a result. Both have a long and active history in the Bath area.

The skills development programmes include community facilitation, i.e. developing skills in volunteers to lead projects independently and supervise and motivate other volunteers. Community based organisations and groups will continue activities and to care for the green spaces and run events and activities. Support and guidance will continue to be available to these groups via networks and partners, particularly Avon Wildlife Trust and National Trust.

The Bathscape website is viewed as an important part of the legacy, as it will hold many of the outputs from the scheme including walking routes, interpretation of the landscape, summaries of the projects activities, oral history recordings, school resources, images and artworks.

For five years after the end of the scheme, the website content that enables people to access and learn about the heritage will remain useable. It will be maintained by Bath & NE Somerset Council as the lead partner, unless a new body is created as part of the scheme legacy, or a preferable website option becomes available. An allowance has been made in the budget for adapting materials, if required. Specific resources, such as those developed for schools, may be hosted on relevant Partner websites where it complements their own educational resources.



Left: Grazing at Bannerdown

## 9.2 ORGANISATIONAL LEGACY

The Bathscape partnership met in December 2017 to discuss evaluation and legacy. Strengthening individual Partners and the relationship and coordination between partners are crucial to the overall Scheme legacy.

**Partners identified the legacy elements they hoped would be achieved, both by the scheme and for their organisation:**

### Heritage Legacy

- Volunteer networks to help actively manage all landholdings
- Landscape better connected, heritage better preserved and both are making a full contribution to the lives of people
- Healthy landscape and community
- Better managed landscape
- The most walkable 'landscape city' in Europe
- Green setting is cared for and relevant to engaged local communities and visitors
- Farmers rewarded for conservation.

### People Legacy

- Enduring therapeutic landscapes to actively enable and encourage healthy lifestyle and reduce pharmaceutical use
- Students more connected with town and landscape
- Projects – art, science, ecology
- Increased opportunities for outdoor activities
- Improve knowledge of Bath environs among those in the city
- Improve traffic free routes within Bath
- More activities in the community for referrals for social prescribing
- Bathscape to excite members about their roles in stewarding access to land by the public.

### Community Legacy

- Improved community connection and presence within communities
- Student/staff/town together
- Outdoor learning/enjoying space together
- Bathscape will help us deliver conservation and community engagement in Bath and around Bath for wildlife and people
- Improve awareness of each other's communities within Bath (high income/low income, inner area/outer area).



### Organisational/partnership ambitions

- Working in partnership to achieve: more land managed and in better condition; more communities taking action for nature – urban and rural; a business network created to support future conservation strategies
- Develop an understanding of how to bring the skills, experience and energy of all the organisations involved to deliver a world leading Bathscape project
- Shared vision/activity
- Greater partnerships with external agencies for collaborating/funding for projects that benefit health and well being
- For the whole organisation to understand and value the 'Landscape city' i.e. its sense of place
- Strong partnerships
- We are perceived to fulfil the second aspect of our charitable remit (enjoyment of green countryside) as much as we do the first (preservation/conservation of built heritage)
- Stronger links with the Bath area.

These legacy ambitions are well covered within the scheme and will be revisited at the mid-term evaluation review to provide detailed planning and a legacy strategy.

Bathscape has multiple routes for delivering better management of the landscape setting and greater community involvement. Its own governance structure, with a Board, Landscape Partnership Delivery Group, Advisory Group and themed subgroups will allow for regular review and forging new ways for partners to work together. The projects involve mentoring of friends groups, skill sharing between partners and landowners networks. These will bring together different groups working towards a shared vision for the landscape and add to potential future scheme partners.

Bathscape Partners and wider networks will have benefited from increased awareness of the importance of the landscape and boosted volunteer numbers and their skills.

**Above:** Bath Natural History Society passing on skills

## 9.3 LANDSCAPE LEGACY

“Bathscape” will be used to refer to the landscape setting of the World Heritage Site. It will be synonymous with the idea of a landscape city and therapeutic landscape.

A greater area of the Bathscape will be better managed and in better condition, with long-term management plans and stewardship schemes in place for the newly created meadows and restored grasslands and woodlands. More and richer records will be available for planning and other authorities to protect the landscape. There will be greater connectivity of key habitats and an increase in biodiversity of Bathscape.

Existing and new audiences, both visitors and residents, will value the landscape and be involved in its long-term care. Bathscape partners will have more volunteers with more skills who are motivated to continue their work. Community groups will look after their local green spaces and anti-social behaviour or neglect will have been reversed.

There will have been a shift in how parts of South West Bath are perceived, with its natural heritage and thriving community groups properly recognised.



Left: The southern Bathscape from Twerton Roundhill

# 10

## EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Evaluation and monitoring are the processes through which Bathscape can be sure that it is achieving its vision. Evaluation and monitoring have two purposes: demonstrating that change is taking place; and a continual process of learning and growth.

**Monitoring** refers to the continual monitoring of data to check whether a programme or project is reaching its goals and to generally assess how it is doing. An example of monitoring data is monitoring the number of people attending a guided walk to see if they have increased following more targeted marketing. Monitoring is generally done regularly as a progress check, and the data can be used to adapt activities and overall plans.

**Evaluation** refers to a deeper assessment of how efficient something is, the impact it is having, its relevance, and sustainability. Evaluation is often used as a spot check to investigate how well a project has done for example in the middle or at end of a project, to capture lessons learnt for the future. This might include a range of factors for example understanding how a project has helped to improve wellbeing, how skills development has impacted on a young person or how learning practical conservation techniques has helped to bring a community together.

The Bathscape Partnership will embed evaluation and monitoring into its work programme in the start-up phase to inform subsequent reporting and to take full advantage of lessons learnt through delivery. An Evaluation Framework has been produced as part of Bathscape's development phase work and the external evaluators have been provisionally retained to oversee the five stages outlined here.

## 1. PROJECT START-UP, DEVELOPING THE DETAILED PLAN AND TRAINING

The aim of the project start-up phase, during the first six months, is to double check that plans for evaluation and monitoring are still fit for purpose, develop detailed plans and tools, to ensure all project team members are aware of their role and responsibilities in this area and provide training to up skill them.

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT START-UP PHASE, DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, IS TO DOUBLE CHECK THAT PLANS FOR EVALUATION AND MONITORING ARE STILL FIT FOR PURPOSE

## 2. FORMATIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Throughout project delivery, monitoring and formative evaluation will take place. The majority of data will be collected by the project team and partners with additional qualitative data collected by the external consultant where this requires a higher level of skill. Key monitoring data for each area of work will be recorded on a central monitoring spreadsheet and annual Landscape Partnership events will provide an opportunity to gather further data as well as review findings and recommendations.

**Outputs of formative monitoring and evaluation will be used to inform the:**

- Bathscape Board and Delivery Group of progress and alert them to risks that need to be addressed
- HLF progress reports
- HLF output data sheet
- Interim evaluation report
- Summative report.

## 3. INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT

An interim evaluation will be carried out by consultants in the 21st month of the scheme to check progress, project management structures and the quality of delivery. The review will assess whether Bathscape's wider level outcomes are being achieved in addition to that of the individual projects. The interim evaluation will identify what has been achieved to date, difficulties and challenges and the extent to which HLF and Bathscape outcomes/objectives are being met. It will also assess whether Bathscape is meeting the aspirations of partners and project beneficiaries and look at how effectively the Partnership is working.

**The mid-term evaluation report will draw on:-**

- Output data which the project team and partners will need to compile to meet HLF's reporting requirements
- Project documentation - in particular relating to delivery targets
- Interviews with a number of key individuals including funders, partners and volunteers
- Selected visits to project delivery sites.

The review will make recommendations for changes and delivery improvements for the second half of Bathscape. As part of the interim evaluation the consultants will also work with the Partnership to develop a draft legacy strategy. The consultant will be required to present their interim evaluation and the draft legacy plan to the partnership board for review and discussion.

This will primarily be a process and progress evaluation to assess whether the project is appropriate, effective and efficient half way through the delivery stage.

**Outputs of the interim evaluation will be:**

- A written report interpreting monitoring and evaluation data from across all project outcome areas
- A facilitated group critical reflection session - this workshop will explore the findings of the review with key stakeholders e.g. core project team and discuss recommendations and how they can be taken forward. This session will also review and build upon legacy planning for the project
- A face-to-face presentation of results.

## 4. SUMMATIVE REPORT

During the last six months of the scheme, the Bathscape team and consultants will produce a final project evaluation report (following HLF suggested format) which will be shared with HLF and all participant groups, partners, funders and stakeholders. This will be a meta-analysis and impact evaluation. This will assess whether the project was appropriate, effective and efficient but will go beyond this to influence legacy and look at the project in a much wider context. This report will tell the scheme's story, examine the extent to which outputs and outcomes were met, identify weaknesses and shortcomings and review how effectively Bathscape was governed and managed. It will also make an assessment of Bathscape's longer-term impacts and how the Partnership's legacy strategy will be implemented. The final evaluation report will also inform a review of the legacy strategy drawn up at the interim evaluation stage. The legacy strategy will be amended and/or updated in response to final evaluation and will set out the long-term vision for sustaining Bathscape's achievements.

The evaluation report will provide an honest assessment of Bathscape, being open both to successes and failures. A collaborative approach with the Scheme Delivery Team and Bathscape Partnership Board will underpin preparation of the report.

### ***The final evaluation will draw on:-***

- The mid-delivery review
- A wide range of written materials including the original bid document to HLF, the LCAP and supporting documents
- Monitoring data collected throughout the scheme delivery
- Additional information and insights gathered by the consultant during the end of the evaluation period. This might include additional stakeholder surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews (with delivery partners, project beneficiaries and other stakeholders, the HLF monitor/case officer etc.)
- Visits to sites around the Scheme area.

### ***Outputs of the summative evaluation will be:***

- A written report (no more than 100 pages) and stand-alone summary (no more than 6 pages) interpreting monitoring and evaluation data from across all project outcome areas including all of the essentials required by HLF (for example, who benefitted from the project, what were its impacts for heritage, people and communities and what the organisation has learnt from the project). The report will also focus upon telling the story of the scheme. Qualitative and quantitative data from all areas of the scheme will be synthesized together to create a rounded picture of the scheme and the impacts across its aims as well as unexpected outcomes. The final evaluation is part of the legacy of the scheme and its final 'sales pitch'

- A facilitated group critical reflection session- this workshop will explore the findings of the review with key stakeholders e.g. core project team and discuss recommendations and how they can be taken forward
- A face-to-face presentation of results.

## 5. LEGACY

Ensuring a legacy is key to the long-term success of the scheme and to attaining the vision. The interim and summative evaluation processes and reports will provide valuable points at which to further plan and ensure a robust legacy for Bathscape Landscape Partnership.

# 11

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

### *Development phase Consultant's reports (see appendices):*

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**Bathscape Landscape Character Assessment**

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**Bathscape Volunteering Strategy and Training Plan**

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**Grasslands for the Future Consultation Report**

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**Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018–2023 (draft)**

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*Historic England*

**Heritage at Risk**

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/>

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**West of England Joint Spatial**

**Plan (Draft)**

<https://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk/consult.ti/JSPPublication/consultationHome>

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# APPENDICES

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