

UK Biodiversity Partnership
7-8 October, York University **Conference 2009**



Alistair Macpherson
Plymouth CC



Securing Net Gains in Biodiversity through Planning

Alistair Macpherson
Plymouth City Council

Four parts to the story:

- *New Planning System*
- *Using existing policy and legislation*
- *The ecological skill base*
- *Local delivery of Ecosystems services & Green Infrastructure*

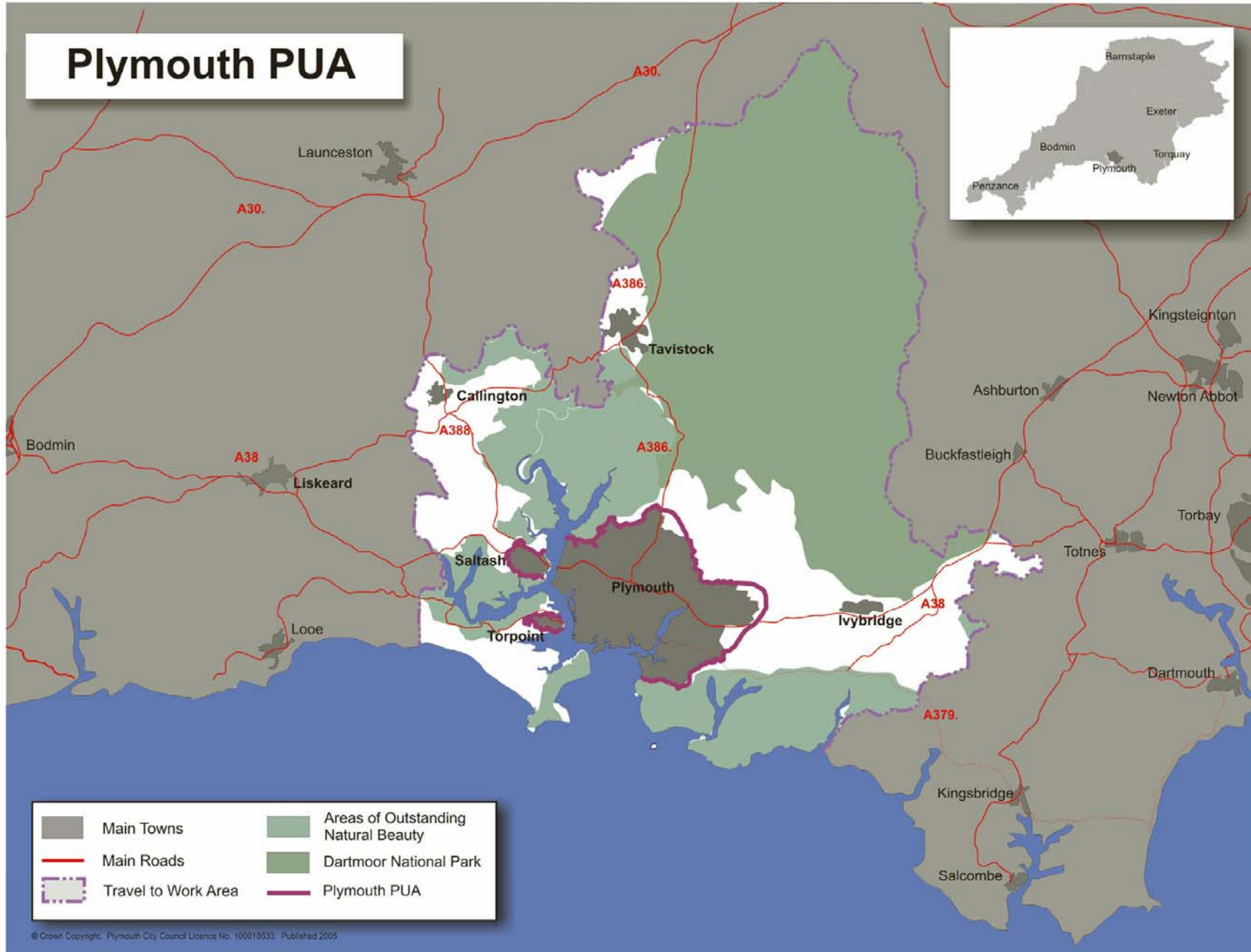
Three recurring themes:

- *Opportunities are significant*
- *Need for clarity on what we want*
- *Think how we allocate resources*

One hero.....



Plymouth PUA



Green Space Strategy Diagram

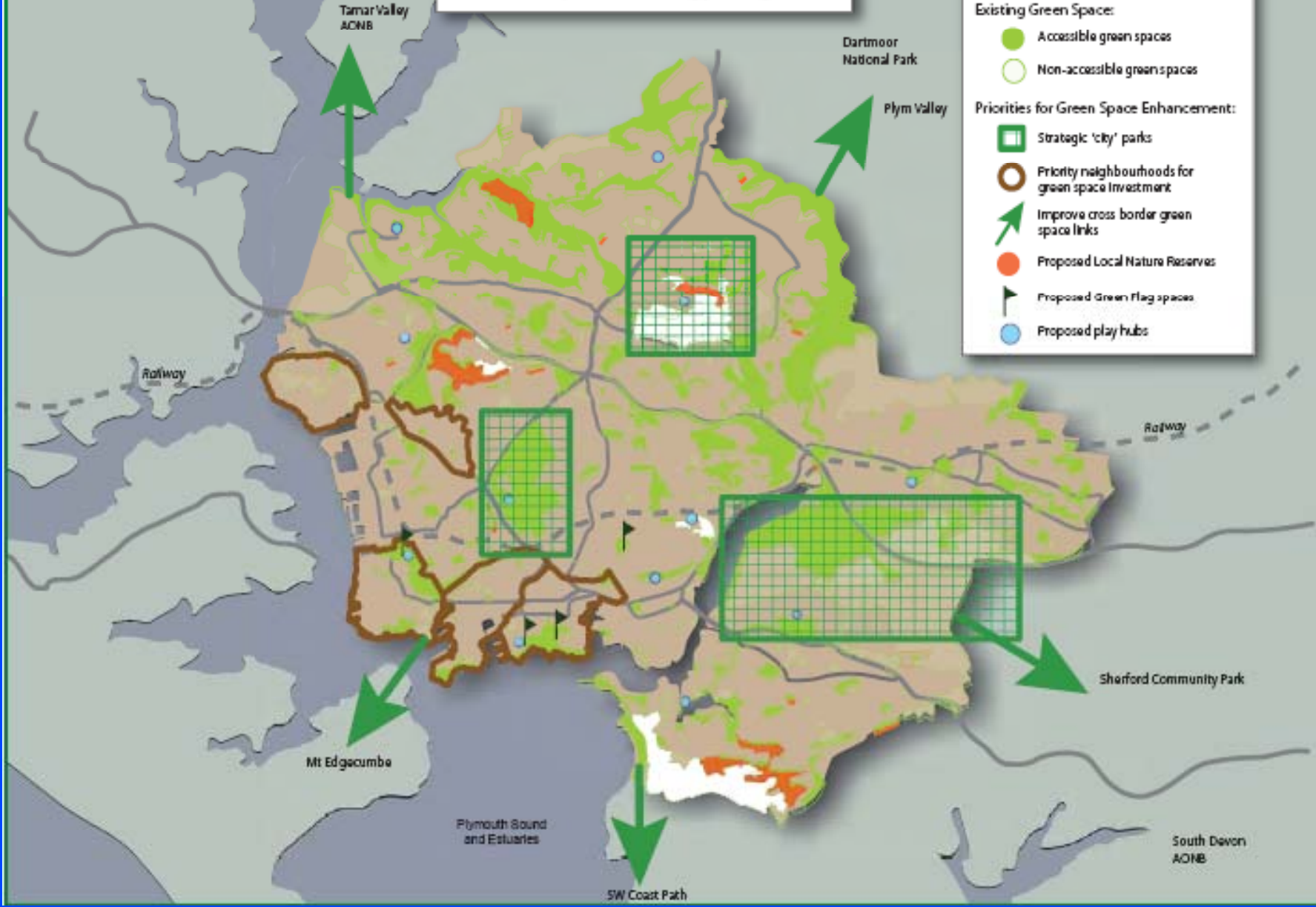
Key

Existing Green Spaces:

- Accessible green spaces
- Non-accessible green spaces

Priorities for Green Space Enhancement:

- Strategic 'city' parks
- Priority neighbourhoods for green space investment
- ➔ Improve cross border green space links
- Proposed Local Nature Reserves
- ▲ Proposed Green Flag spaces
- Proposed play hubs



Plymouth Planning Context:

- It plans to grow
- LDF Adopted Core Strategy
- 4 Adopted Area Action Plans
- Waste DPD
- Planning Obligations SPD
- Design SPD
- Fast & dirty

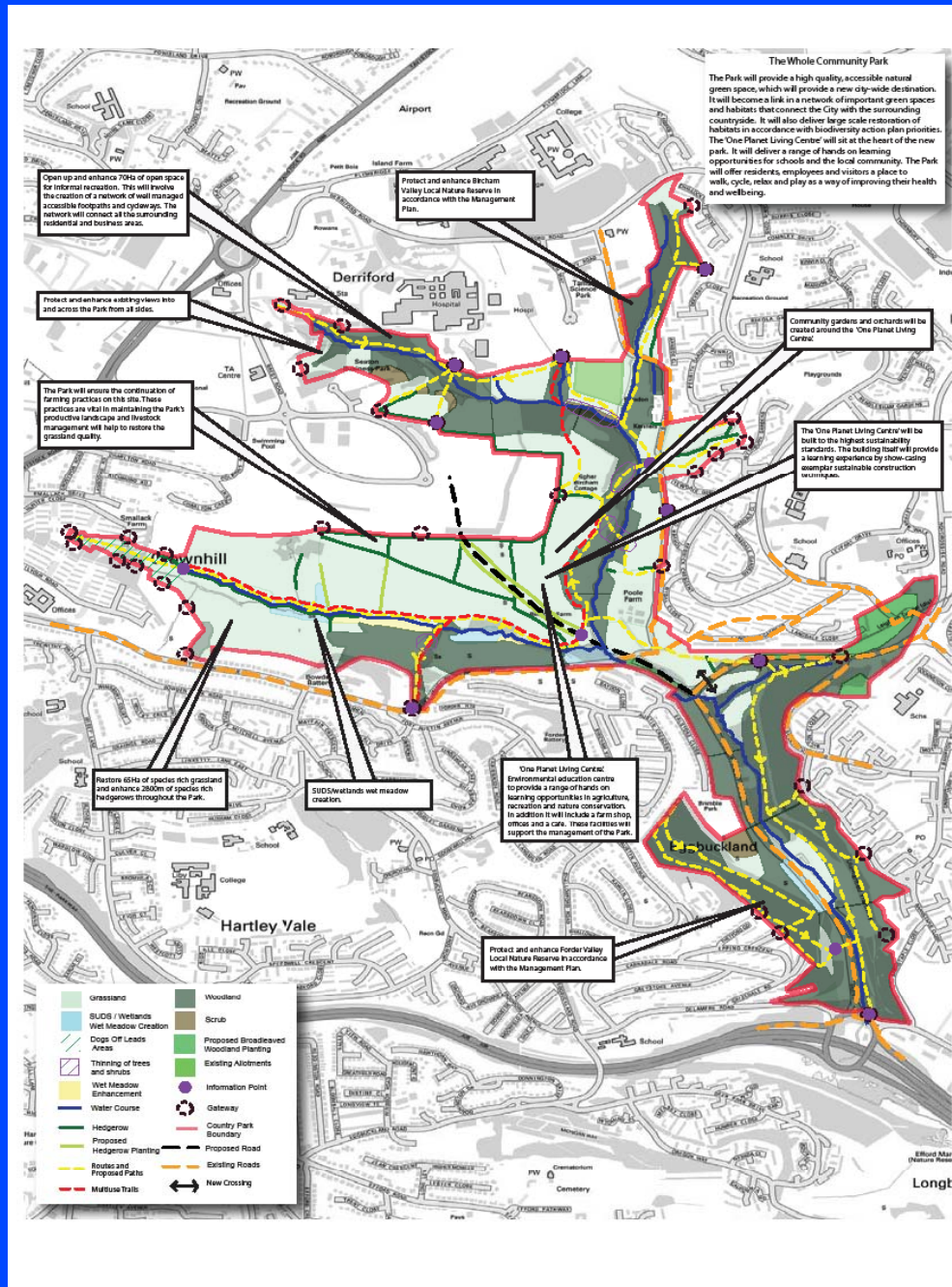


Chapter 1: The LDF System..

- *Evidence*
- *Spatial Planning vs Land Use Planning*
- *Place making – multi functional spaces*
- *Opportunity to think big*
- *Build consensus with wider audiences*
- *Resources – s106 & CIL*

Development Size/ Enter no of units or square metres *	Number of Units						Square metres		
	1 bedroom unit	2 bedroom flat	2 bedroom house	3 bedroom unit	4 bedroom unit	5+ bedroom unit	Per Retail 100 Sq m	Per Commercial 100 Sq m	
Childrens Services (Schools)	£0	£1,675	£1,675	£2,168	£2,463	£2,463	£0	£0	
Health	£222	£310	£408	£437	£475	£522	£0	£0	
Libraries	£112	£156	£206	£226	£238	£263	£0	£0	
Green Space, Natural Environment and Children's Play Space	£1,302	£1,821	£2,398	£2,565	£2,790	£3,064	£0	£0	
Recreation and Sport	£1,047	£1,464	£1,929	£2,062	£2,244	£2,464	£0	£0	
Public Realm	£55	£77	£102	£109	£119	£130	£0	£0	
Transport	£2,871	£3,589	£3,589	£4,307	£5,025	£5,743	£5,606	£2,189	
									Scheme Totals
Scheme Subtotal	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Management Contribution	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Developer Contribution	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	£5,889	£9,547	£10,822	£12,468	£14,022	£15,381	£5,886	£2,298	

Derriford Community Park



Chapter 2: Existing Policy & Legislation:

- *PPS 9 Enhancement*
- *Protected Species*
- *PPS1 Climate Change Supplement*
- *PPS12 Infrastructure*
- *Habitat Regulations Assessment*

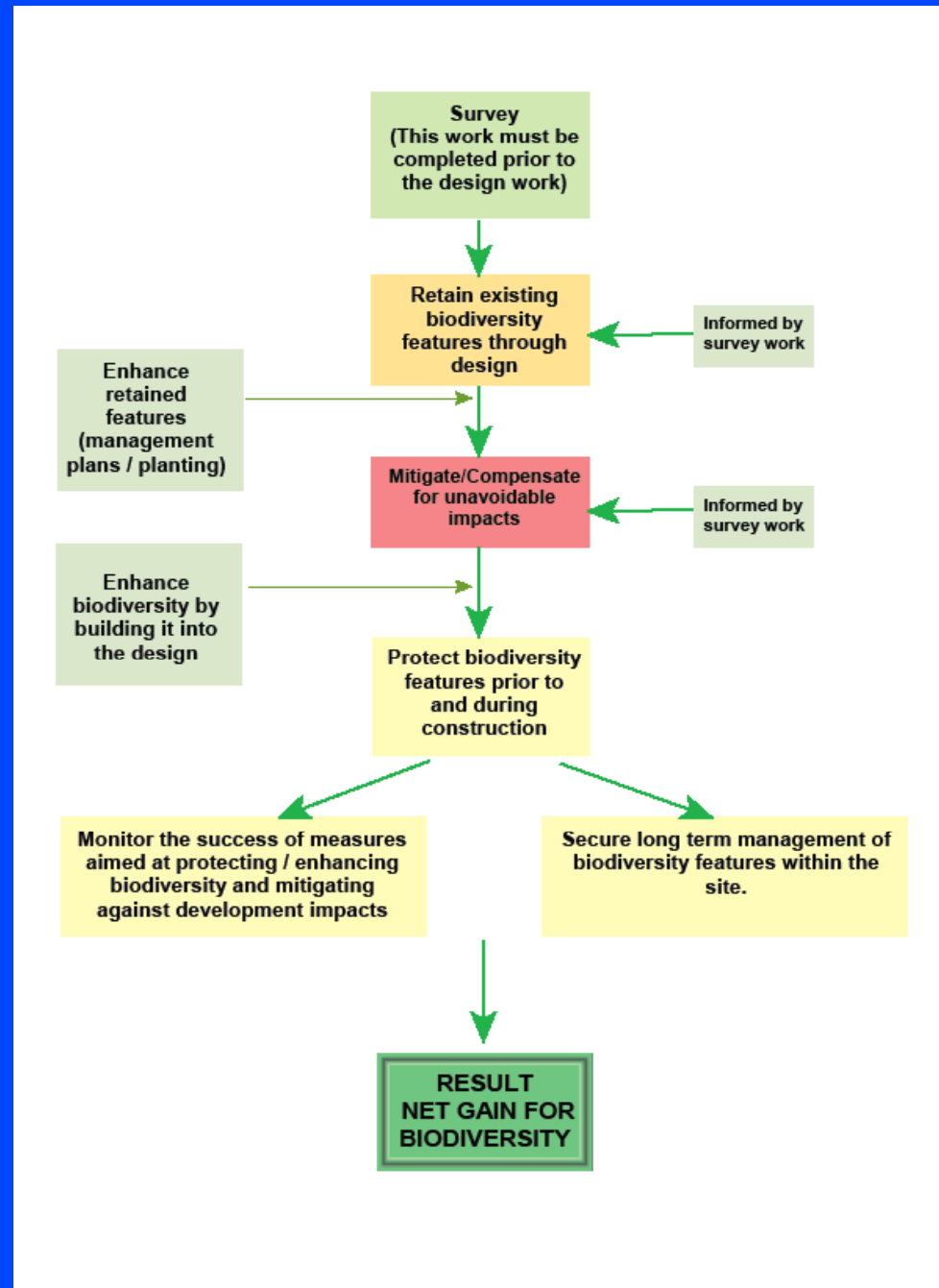
PPS9

PPS9 sets out the key principles of what Government wants.....

- *Information - A Good Evidence Base*
- *Explore Reasonable Alternatives And Avoid Impacts*
- *Strategic Approach to Wider Environment*
- *Mitigate and Compensate*
- *Maintain and Enhance*
- *Promote Benefits And Gains*

Net Gain as a Mantra...

- Resourcing the conversation
- Our input into planning applications generate Net gain on 68% of cases considered

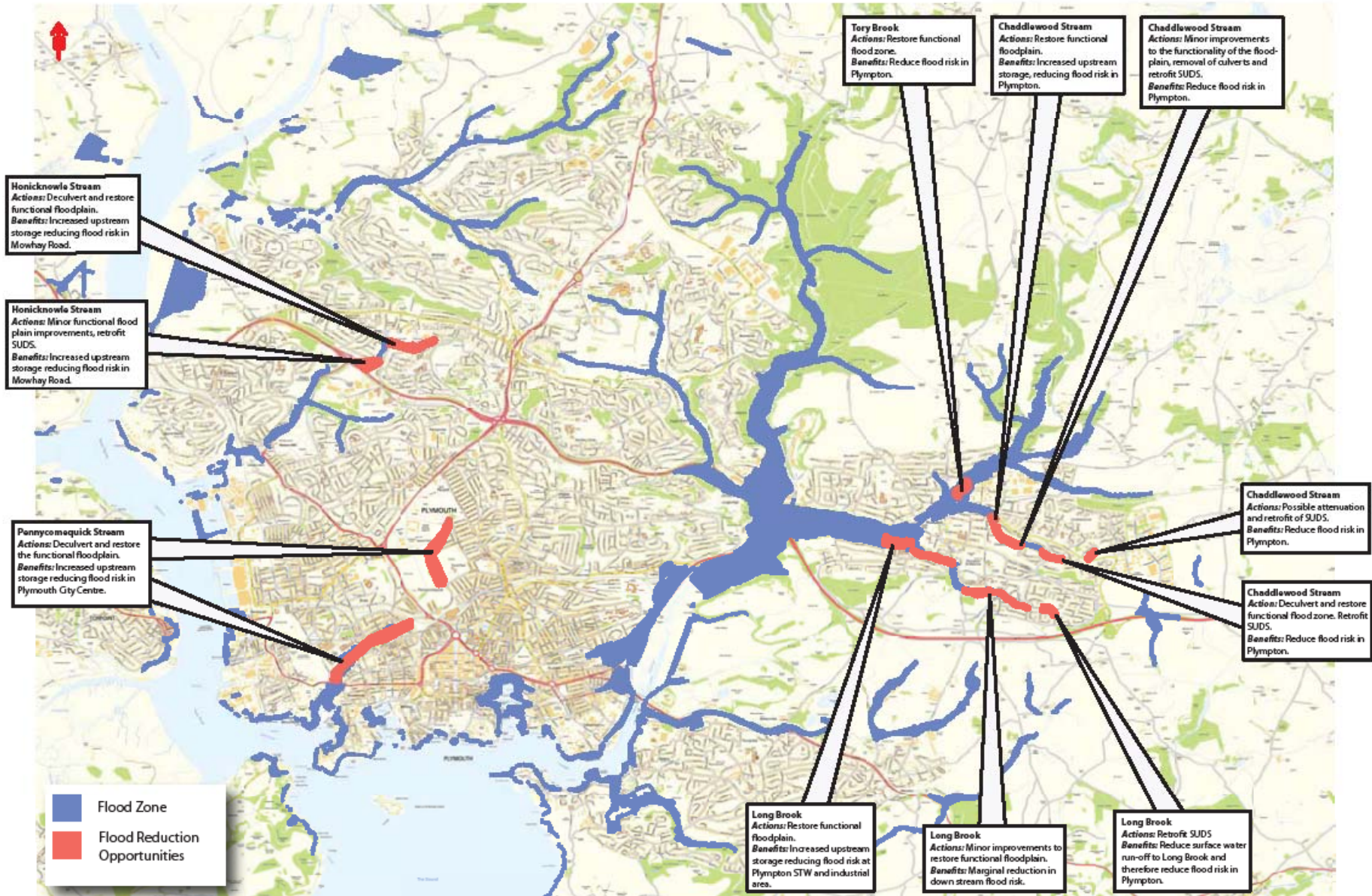


Chapter 3: The biodiversity skill base

- *More with less*
- *Standing Advice*
- *Improve Consistency of BP message*
- *Mobilising Private Sector Army*
 - *Training & CPD*
 - *Standard Mitgation Plans*
- *Utilise growing need for Env Planners*

Chapter 4: Delivering Ecosystemwhat?

- *Join up Green Infrastructure & Ecosystem Services agendas*
- *Move away from rhetoric into local definitions of need*
- *Identify specific multi functional deliverables – part of place making*
- *Think big*



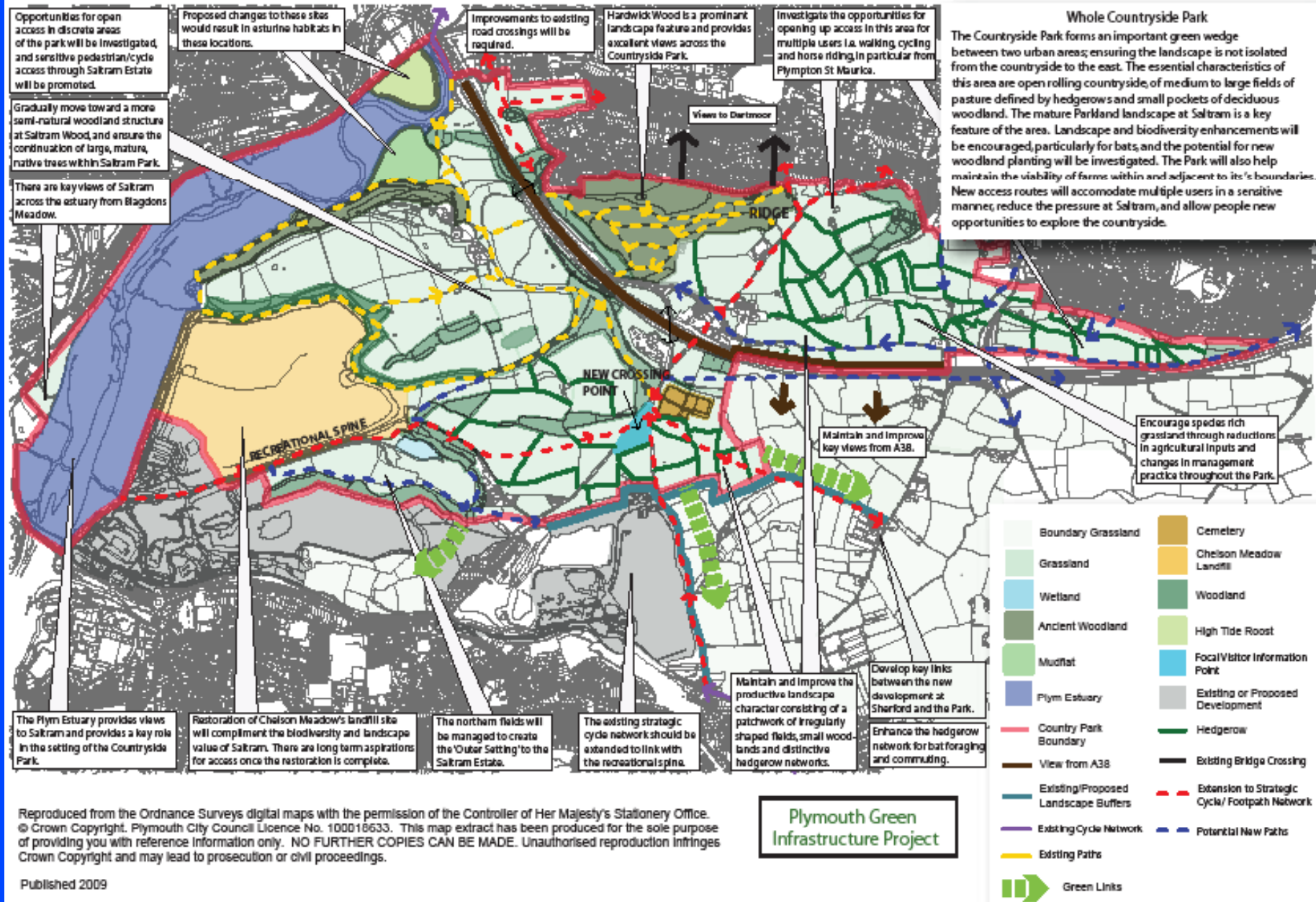
Reproduced from the Ordnance Surveys digital maps with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Plymouth City Council Licence No. 100018633. This map extract has been produced for the sole purpose of providing you with reference information only. NO FURTHER COPIES CAN BE MADE. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Published 2009

Potential Flood Reduction Options on Green Space (For Illustrative Purposes Only)

Plymouth Green Infrastructure Project

Countryside Park Vision (for illustrative purposes only)



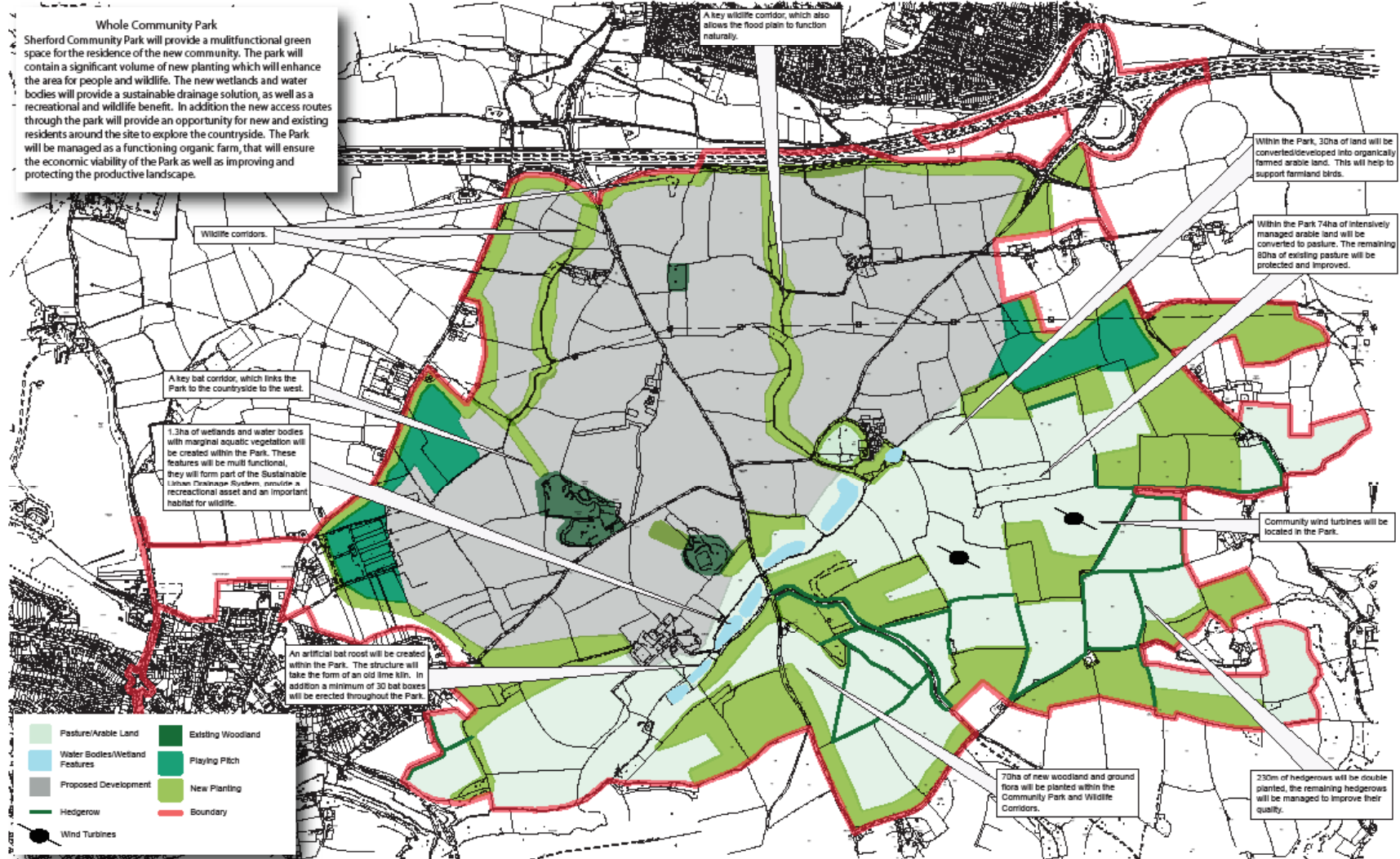
Reproduced from the Ordnance Surveys digital maps with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Plymouth City Council Licence No. 100018633. This map extract has been produced for the sole purpose of providing you with reference information only. NO FURTHER COPIES CAN BE MADE. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Published 2009

**Plymouth Green
Infrastructure Project**

Sherford Community Park Vision (for illustrative purposes only)

Whole Community Park
 Sherford Community Park will provide a multifunctional green space for the residence of the new community. The park will contain a significant volume of new planting which will enhance the area for people and wildlife. The new wetlands and water bodies will provide a sustainable drainage solution, as well as a recreational and wildlife benefit. In addition the new access routes through the park will provide an opportunity for new and existing residents around the site to explore the countryside. The Park will be managed as a functioning organic farm, that will ensure the economic viability of the Park as well as improving and protecting the productive landscape.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Surveys digital maps with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
 © Crown Copyright. Plymouth City Council Licence No. 100018633. This map extract has been produced for the sole purpose of providing you with reference information only. NO FURTHER COPIES CAN BE MADE. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Published 2009

Plymouth Green
 Infrastructure Project

So what have we learnt:

- *Planning System is underused delivery vehicle*
- *Brandish existing policy and legislation & policy with more vigour*
- *Smarter use of Ecological Skill Base*
- *Local Delivery of Ecosystems services & Green Infrastrucutre*

Alistair Macpherson
Environmental Planning Coordinator
Planning Services, Plymouth CC
(01752) 304255
alistair.macpherson@plymouth.gov.uk