



KNUTSFORDS GREEN CORRIDORS

Introduction

The Green Infrastructure in Knutsford comprises of a number of elements. Green Corridors are just one of these elements.

Green Corridors play a vital part in allowing the natural environment into Knutsford, making it an attractive and healthy place to live, work and visit. They also enable the free movement of wildlife within the Town, which is critically important when natural habitats have been lost and fragmented by urban development and modern agriculture. Wildlife populations need to move between their natural habitats to forage for food and to mix with other individuals to ensure populations remain healthy through genetic diversity. The biodiversity of Cheshire East is dependent on wildlife being able to move easily between their habitats, whether they be within built environments or natural ones.

The importance of connecting natural spaces is made clear in Professor John Lawton's 2010 report to DEFRA entitled "Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network".

The town of Knutsford is surrounded by countryside and a key feature of its character is that large wedges of green space penetrate right into its centre (such as Tatton Park, The Moor and Dog Wood). There are also numerous individual pockets of green infrastructure within the Town (for example, The Heath, Sanctuary Moor and St. John's Wood). Many of these areas are Designated Wildlife Sites and therefore their protection is imperative.

Protection of the pockets of green infrastructure in the Town must include creating viable wildlife corridors linking them with other pockets and the wider countryside. Clearly, existing housing cannot be removed but measures can be taken to minimise barriers to wildlife. Built environment densities should be kept to levels to allow for natural and green spaces to feed through them. Wildlife-friendly trees and hedges planted within developments will help encourage the passage of wildlife within and through these built areas. Future developments will provide the opportunity for creating new green infrastructure, which should be intrinsically linked to existing green infrastructure in other areas of the built environment in the Town. These corridors should be designed to help wildlife movement and also to provide space for people to play, exercise and experience nature.

Green Corridor Classification

Through the analysis within the following pages, the Green Corridors in and around Knutsford have been grouped into four categories. These have been based on findings by Cheshire Wildlife Trust in their 'Indicative Wildlife Corridor Network' (see core documents of the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan).

These categories are:

1. **Principal:** Those Green Corridors branching into Knutsford which pass through regions of medium or high ecological distinctiveness, or are part of linear features such as a ditch, watercourse or hedge line.
2. **Secondary:** Those Green Corridors branching into Knutsford that pass through regions of low ecological distinctiveness. While these may represent poorer ecological value, they are still important in providing wildlife connections into the Town. These are considered to be areas for future improvement to increase their potential as Green Corridors.
3. **Aspirational:** This represents those Green Corridors that should be created to mitigate the impacts that future development may have on the wildlife links into the Town
4. **Urban:** Green Corridors within the Town, typically those provided by avenues of mature trees or lines of shrubs.

Identified Green Corridors

A number of Green Corridors have been identified. They are listed in the table in Figure 1 and illustrated in the map Appendix 1 of the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan

Figure 1: Table of identified green corridors in and around Knutsford

C-id	Name	Category	End Node 1	End Node 2	Comments
C-001	Bluebell Wood	aspirational	Warren Avenue Allotments	Bluebell Wood	Required to link The Heath to the open countryside when the LPS sites have been developed. The Heath is a Local Wildlife Site and its vitality depends on the free movement of wildlife in and out. Free movement has been restricted by past developments hemming in The Heath. The situation must not be worsened by future developments but improved where possible. This corridor should link the Warren Avenue Allotments to Bluebell Wood taking in the pond and ditch near Spinney Lane, and the existing hedges.
C-002	Green Lane Ponds	aspirational	Manchester Road Pond	Bluebell Wood	Required to link the pond network in north west Knutsford to The Heath when the LPS sites have been developed.
C-003	Railway	secondary	Bexton	Mobberley	The relatively undisturbed land on either side of the track provides a corridor for wildlife to move through the Town.
C-004	St. John's Wood	secondary	St. John's Wood	Booths Mere	A corridor through the site of St Helena's Ancient Monument and the public open space between Higher Downs and Longridge to Booths Mere and the open countryside. It is vital for maintaining the biodiversity of St. John's Wood. Its current ecological value is low as it is mainly open grass but it can easily be enhanced by suitable planting of trees and shrubs.
C-005	Footpath 19	secondary	Toft Wood	Leycester Road	Provides a route for wildlife movement to and from Windmill Wood towards Sanctuary Moor via the tree-lined footpath (FP19) to Gough's Lane, then along the track past Humbug Cottage and ending at the small wood (S-123) adjacent to the property known as "Woodgarth" on Leycester Road.
C-006	Sanctuary Moor	urban	Leycester Road	Sanctuary Moor	Provides a route for wildlife movement to and from Sanctuary Moor via the large gardens between Croft Lane and Legh Road.
C-007	Birkin Brook	principal	Shawheath Plantation	Springwood	A corridor along the eastern parish boundary following the wooded Birkin Brook from Marthall Brook and Springwood in the south to Shawheath Plantation and beyond to Witchcote Wood in the north.
C-008	Windmill Wood	principal	Toft Church	Marthall Brook	A corridor along the south-eastern parish boundary linking Windmill Wood to Marthall Brook via a patchwork of woods and hedges.
C-009	Dog Wood	principal	Dog Wood	Shawheath Plantation	A corridor along the eastern side of Tatton Park from The Moor through Dog Wood to Shawheath Plantation and beyond to Witchcote Wood.
C-010	Tatton Mere	principal	Tatton Mere	Moor Pool	A water corridor from the Moor Pool to Tatton Mere. Part of the wider Ramsar site.
C-011	Longridge	principal	Birkin Brook	Booths Hall	A corridor from Booths Hall past Booths Mere to Birkin Brook, mainly following hedges.
C-012	Booths South	principal	Springwood	Grange	A corridor from Springwood, east to the Booths Park Ancient Monument and then south, following a patchwork of woods and hedges.
C-013	Sparrow Lane	urban	Aylesby Close	Delmar Road	A tree-lined footpath (FP15).
C-014	Booths Footpath	urban	Booths Hall	Chelford Road	A tree-lined footpath.

C-id	Name	Category	End Node 1	End Node 2	Comments
C-015	Old Hall Trees	urban	Booths Roundabout	Old Hall	A line of mature trees that weaves through the housing developments. It is probably a remnant of an avenue that belonged to the Old Hall.
C-016	Sandfield Wood	secondary	Bexton Wood	Toft Road	A corridor in the south west from Bexton Wood, along hedges to Sandfield Wood and continuing along hedges to Toft Road.
C-017	Knutsford Golf Course	principal	Golf Course	Tatton Park Entrance	The golf course provides a mixture of natural features including grassland, trees and ponds. Sitting alongside Tatton Park, it brings the natural environment into the middle of the Town.
C-018	Tatton Park Entrance	principal	Approach Clump	Tatton Park Entrance	Tatton Park is a huge natural space that projects into the middle of the Town.
C-019	Booths Mere Wood	principal	Booths Mere Wood SW	Booths Mere Wood E	The edge of Booths Mere is heavily wooded. This section runs along the north and east banks.
C-020	Ashworth Park	urban	Railway	Ashworth Park Green	Two closely linked neighbourhood greens in the Ashworth Park housing estate (S-026 and S-026) abut the railway. They provide the facility for wildlife to come into the neighbourhood, as anecdotally, it does.
C-021	Thorneyholme Tree Loop	urban	Thorneyholme Drive	Mansion Drive	A dense, linear collection of mature trees. A section follows Footpath 13.
C-022	Manor Park South	urban	Sharston	Delmar Road	A dense, linear collection of mature trees encompassing two small woods (S-018 and S-048).
C-023	Garden Road	urban	Manchester Road	Mereheath Lane	The corridor is provided by a wide, tree-planted verge along the north side of Garden Road.
C-024	Leycester Road	urban	Chelford Road	Toft Road	The corridor is provided by the mature trees lining the street.
C-025	Parkfield Road	urban	Chelford Road	Toft Road	The corridor is provided by the mature trees lining the street.
C-026	Around Cross Town Bowling Green	urban	Chelford Road	Toft Road	The corridor is provided by the mature trees around the bowling club and between adjacent properties.
C-027	Legh Road	urban	Chelford Road	Toft Road	The corridor is provided by the mature trees lining the street.
C-028	Tabley Road	urban	Queensway	Manchester Road	The corridor is provided by the mature trees in the properties along the street and The Heath which is lined with Limes.
C-029	Bexton Lane	urban	Blackhill Lane	Toft Road	The corridor is provided by the mature trees lining the street.
C-030	Bexton Road	urban	Blackhill Lane	Cranford Avenue	The corridor is provided by the mature trees lining the street.
C-031	Toft Road	urban	Leycester Road	Beggermans Lane	The corridor is provided by the mature trees lining the street.
C-032	Adams Hill	urban	Toft Road	Brook Street	The corridor is provided by the mature trees from Grove Park to Brook Street.
C-033	Longridge	principal	Birkin Brook	St. John's Wood	The corridor from Birkin Brook to St John's Wood. It has a pinch-point where it crosses the Longridge Road.
C-034	Tableymoss Wood	aspirational	Tableymoss Wood	Green Lane Ponds	A corridor to link Tableymoss Wood, an LWS north west of Knutsford, to the Green Lane Ponds. This should link on to Bluebell Wood and The Heath.