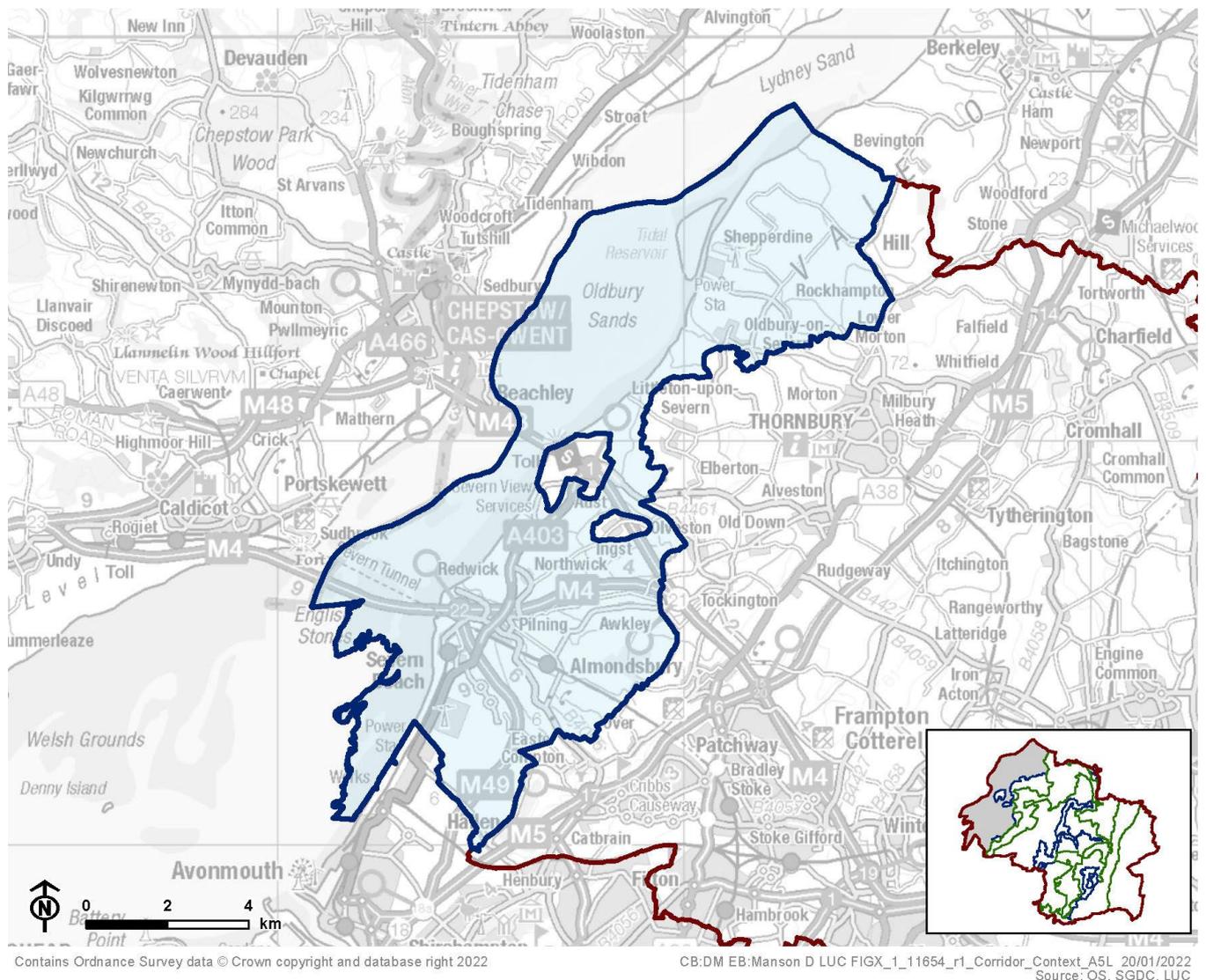


Chapter 6

Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)

Figure 6.1: Corridor A Location Plan



Importance and purpose

6.1 Blue-green infrastructure (BGI) corridor: extends from south-west to north-east to follow the River Severn Estuary to take in the marine, foreshore and adjacent Levels areas.

6.2 Primary function and importance: focused on the strategic wetland network associated with the river corridor and estuary, includes a designated Special Protection Area (SPA)/Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/Ramsar and SSSI sites, and linked network of rhines and watercourses across the Levels.

6.3 The committed development area of Severnside (South Gloucestershire Policy CS35) is safeguarded for distribution and other extensive employment uses, broadly in line with extant planning permissions from 1957 and 1958. This strategic allocation is located within the boundary of Corridor A, and development has commenced. As part of the development proposals a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) needs to be undertaken due to the sensitive nature of the Severn Estuary.

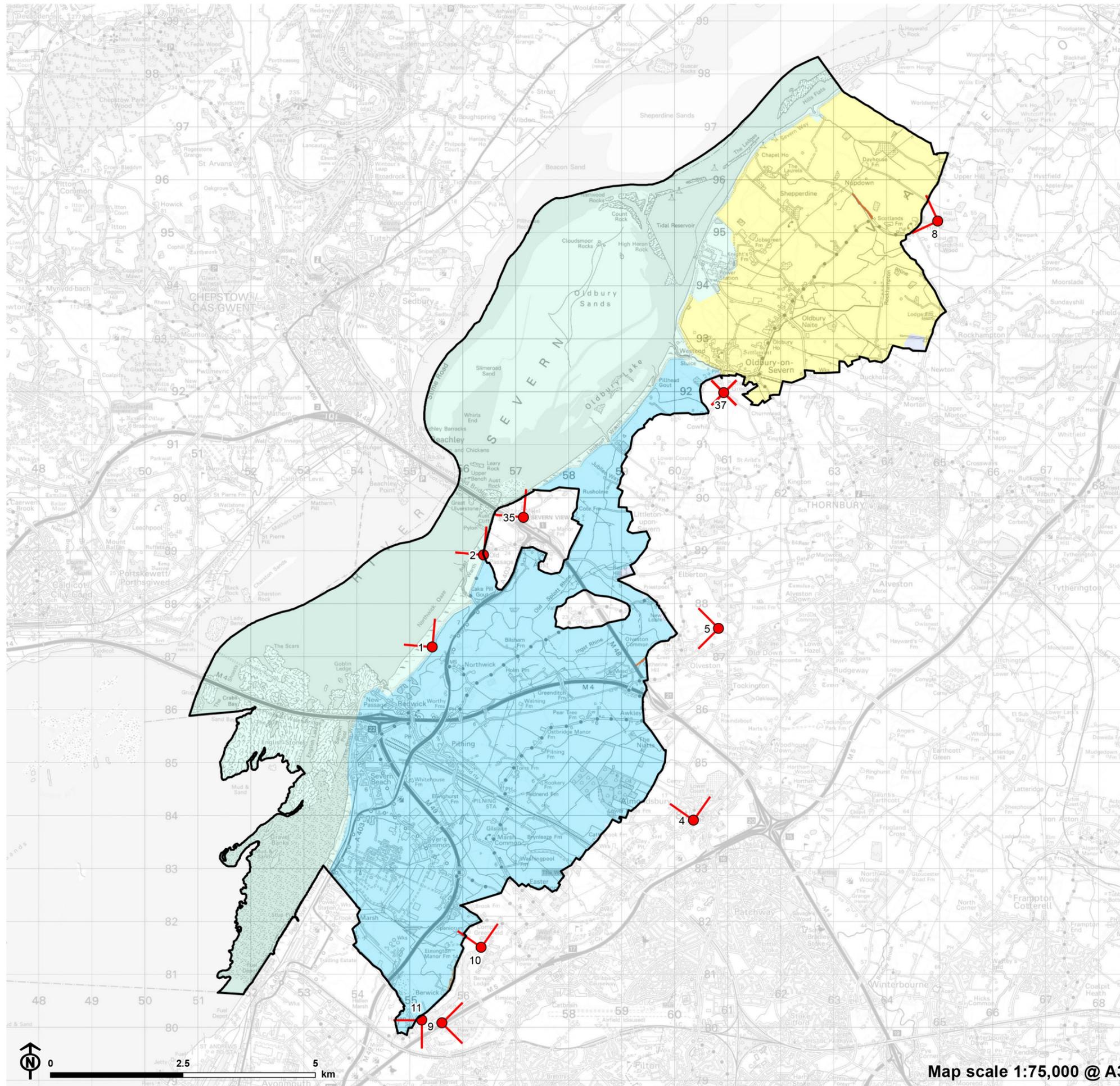
Supporting figures

6.4 Four topic-based plans have been produced to map and audit the existing green infrastructure areas and assets within the strategic BGI corridor, namely:

- Landscape and Heritage (Figure 6.2);
- Ecology and Biodiversity (Figure 6.3);
- Hydrology (Figure 6.4); and
- Recreation and Access (Figure 6.5).

6.5 The information presented on them is considered in turn below.

**Figure 6.2: Blue-Green Corridor A:
Landscape and Heritage**



□ A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach
(Severn Estuary and Levels)

● Strategic viewpoint
(see Appendix B for descriptions)

✕ Panoramic View

✓ Illustrative Viewpoint Angle

■ Visually Important Hillsides

▨ Conservation Area

▨ Registered Common Land

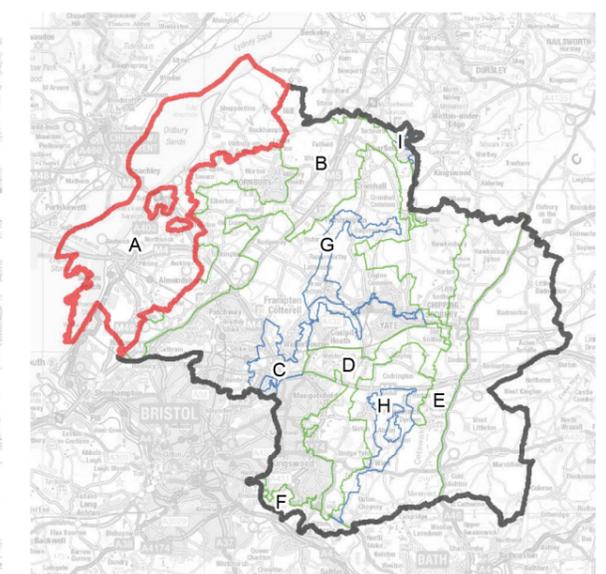
Landscape Character Area

18: Severn Ridges

19: Oldbury Levels

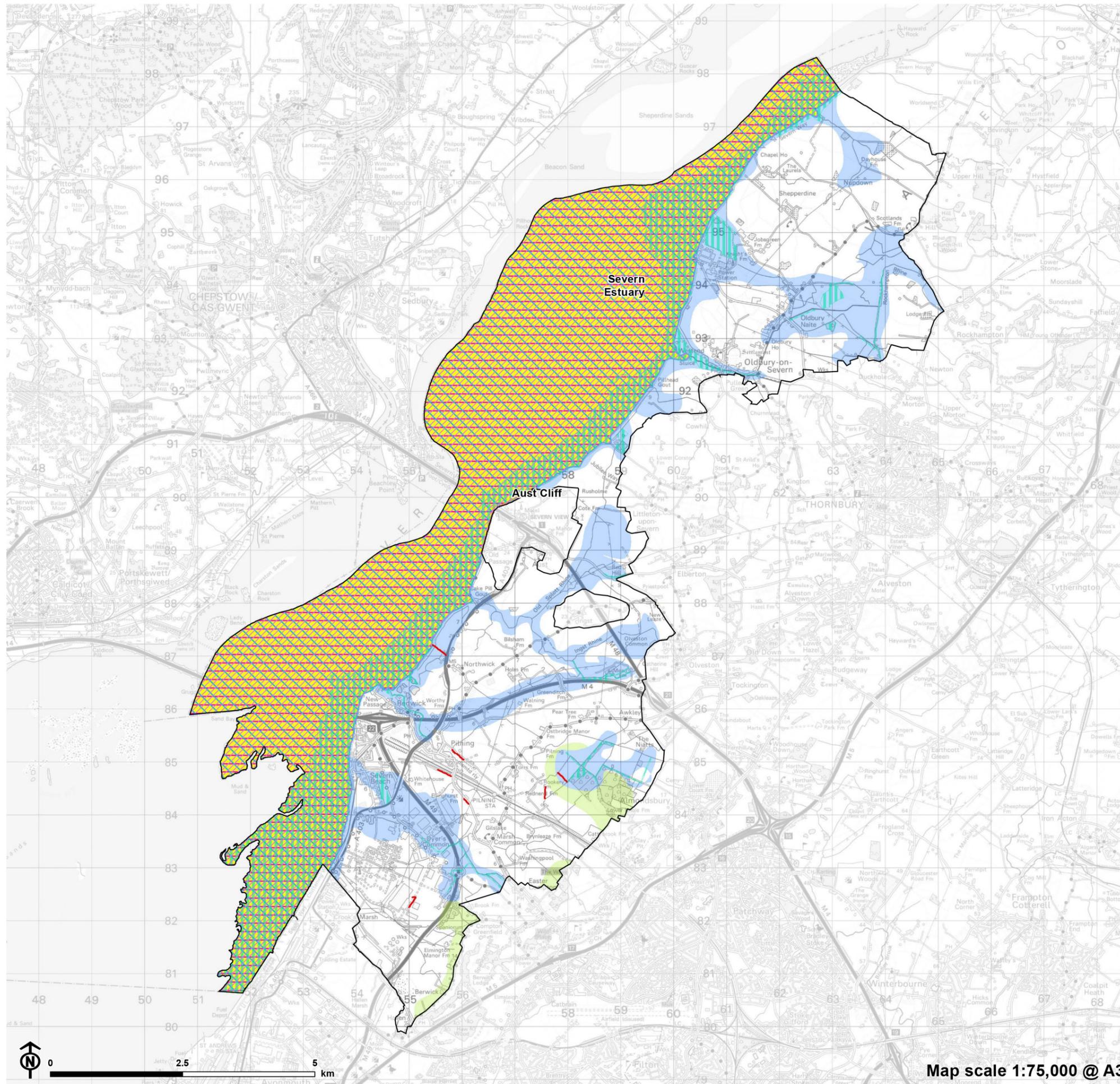
20: Pilning Levels

21: Severn Shoreline and Estuary

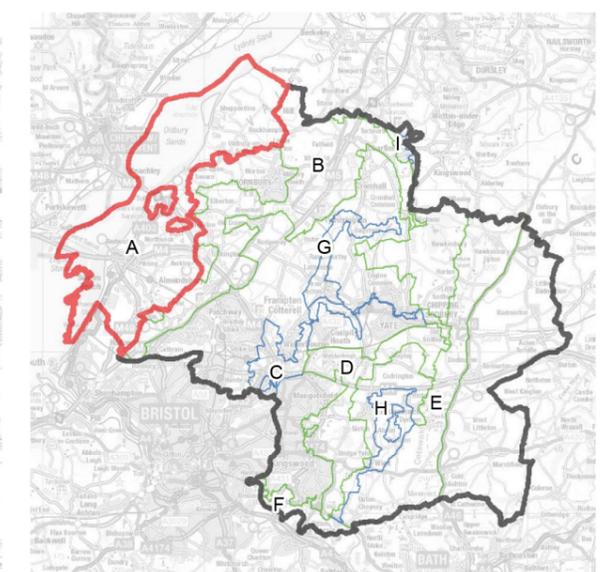


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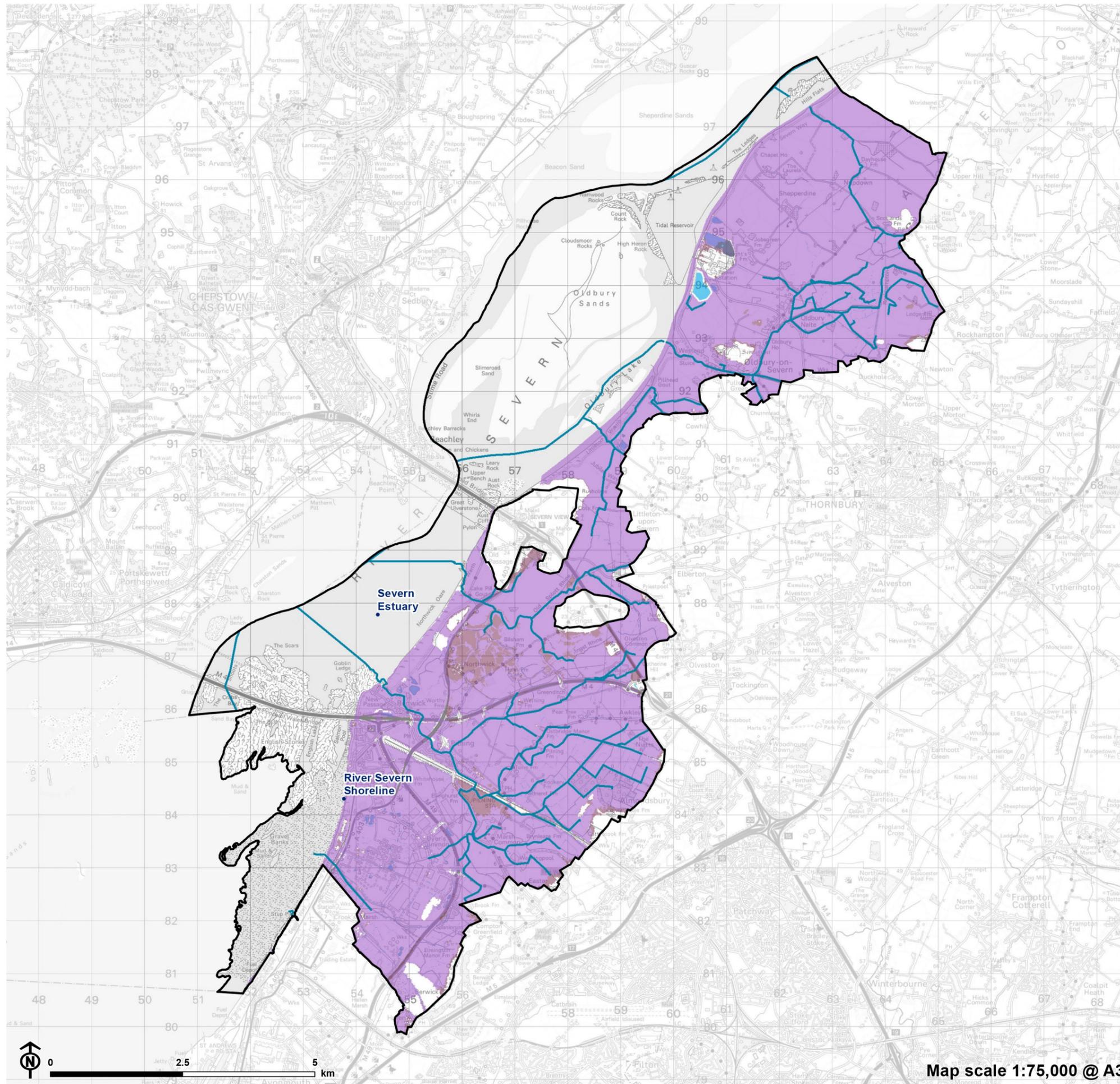
**Figure 6.3: Blue-Green Corridor A:
Ecology and Biodiversity**



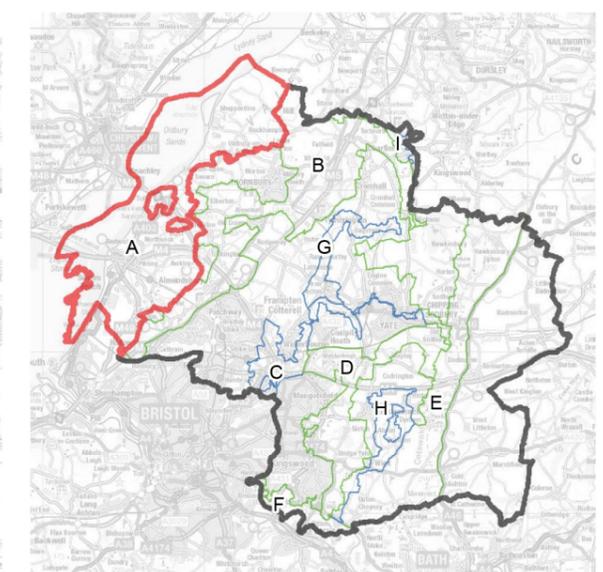
- A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)
- Important Hedgerow
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar site
- Regionally Important Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- Woodland Strategic Network
- Wetland Strategic Network



**Figure 6.4: Blue-Green Corridor A:
Hydrology**



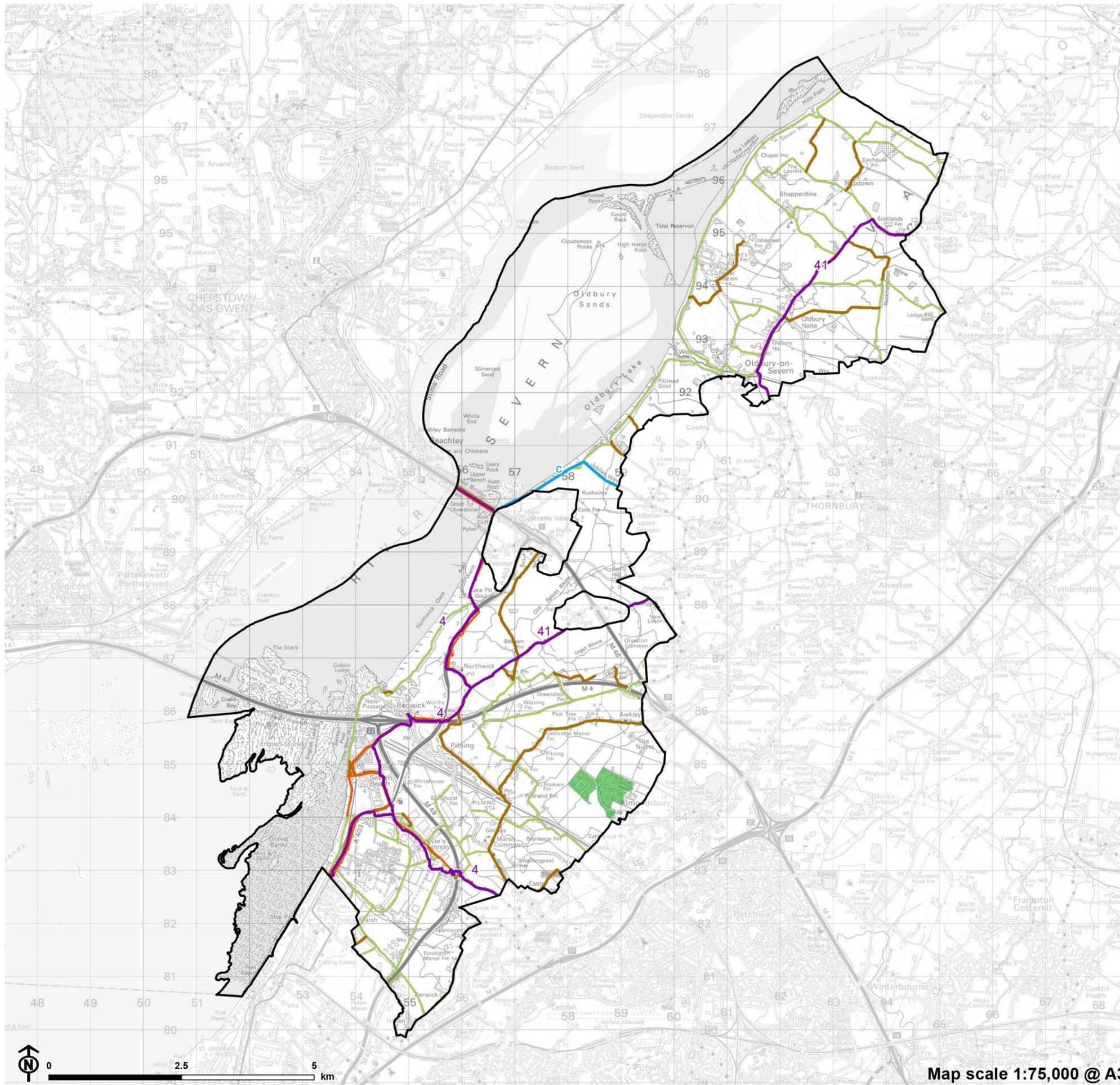
- A: Shepperton-Oldbury on Sever-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)
- River
- Waterbody
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3a



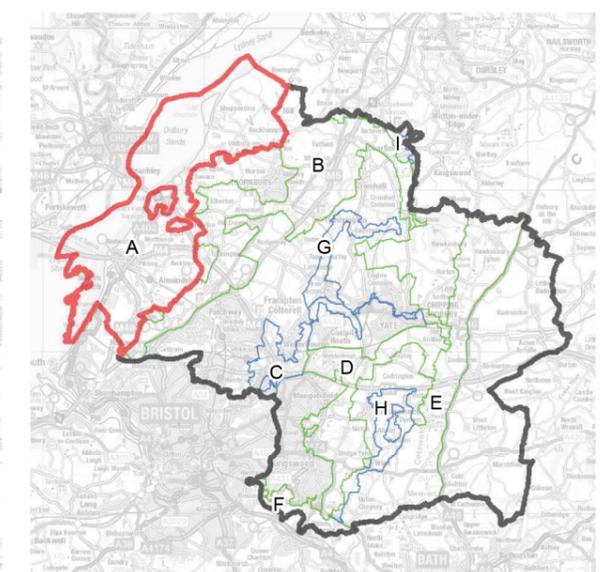
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Figure 6.5: Blue-Green Corridor A: Recreation and Access



- Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)
- National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths
c: Jubilee Way
- National Cycle Network
- Other strategic and major cycle routes
- South Gloucestershire Active Travel Routes
- Large Green Open Space
- Open Access Land



Map scale 1:75,000 @ A3

Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Character Areas

6.6 Table 6.1 sets out the SPD summary description for each of these Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) that are within the strategic BGI corridor.

Table 6.1: Summary of SPD Landscape Character Descriptions

Landscape Character Area	Summary Description
19: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Oldbury Levels	A largely flat, open to semi-enclosed agricultural area with rhines, small orchards and relatively little but scattered settlement, strongly influenced by the adjacent Severn Estuary
20: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Pilning Levels	An area of contrasts, with a largely flat, semi-enclosed to open agricultural landscape, divided by rhines and linear transport routes across the central and northern area, and extensive areas of industry and warehousing in the south.
21: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Severn Shoreline and Estuary	A flat open exposed linear landscape of warths, tidal wetlands, mudflats, and rock. The large expanse of the Estuary and changing tides, is its most dominant feature.

Visually Important Hillsides & Other Key Landform Features

6.7 Table 6.2 below identifies how visually important hillsides (as key landform features), together with other topographical features relate to each of the South Gloucestershire LCAs.

Table 6.2: Landscape Character Areas, Related Visually Important Hillsides and Other Topographical Features

Landscape Character Area	Visually Important Hillside	Main Watercourse Valley
19: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Oldbury Levels	-	River Severn and shoreline
20: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Pilning Levels	-	River Severn and shoreline
21: Estuary, Shoreline and Levels - Severn Shoreline and Estuary	-	River Severn and shoreline

Strategic Viewpoints

6.8 There are two strategic viewpoints, which from north to south include:

- **(1) View from Severn Way** – panorama (west over Severn Estuary to Wales); and
- **(2) View from Old Passage** – north and west (over the Severn Estuary and Severn bridges).

Chapter 6 Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)

6.9 There are six additional strategic viewpoints which are located a short distance outside of the strategic BGI corridor and encompass land within the corridor. Four are in corridor B (strategic viewpoints 4, 5, 8 and 10) and two are not in any corridor, as follows:

- **(35) View from Severn View / Travelodge** – panorama (over Severn Estuary to Wales and north to Oldbury power station); and
- **(37) View from Saint Arilda's Church, Cow Hill** – panorama (north, south and west over Severn vale and Estuary).

Conservation Areas

6.10 There are no Conservation Areas within the strategic BGI corridor.

Historic Parks and Gardens

6.11 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the strategic BGI corridor.

Common Land

6.12 There are two small areas of common land within the strategic BGI corridor, as follows:

- The pieces of land between "Meadlands" and Nupdown Farm in the north of the corridor, east of Nupdown; and
- A narrow, linear strip of land at Mead Lane, west of Olveston.

Ecology and Biodiversity

South Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network

6.13 In terms of its relationship to South Gloucestershire’s Nature Recovery Network (NRN), the strategic BGI corridor takes in the following from north to south:

- Wetland connections covering much of the corridor, linking the network of rhines and minor watercourses across the levels and improving connectivity with the adjacent estuary shores; and
- Woodland connections in the south-east to link Old Withy Bed and Mill Rhine Plantation to other woodlands within the wider area.

International Designations

6.14 In recognition of its importance for wildlife in South Gloucestershire, the Severn Estuary – which covers the western half of the strategic BGI corridor – is subject to a series of international nature conservation designations including a SPA, SAC and Ramsar.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

6.15 There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the strategic GI corridor, as follows:

- Severn Estuary SSSI which covers an extensive area of the western half of the corridor (as described above); and
- Aust Cliff geological SSSI (6.23 ha in size).

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

6.16 There are 21 SNClS within the strategic GBI corridor, covering 1,498.8 ha. They mainly comprise grassland and wetland habitats, as well as aquatic habitats associated with rhines. Some SNClS within the corridor overlap with parts of the Severn Estuary SSSI at Sheppardine to Oldbury, Oldbury Pill, Littleton Warth, Aust to New Passage, and a small area of the New Passage to Chittening Warth section.

Local Nature Reserves

6.17 No Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are located within the strategic BGI corridor.

Important Hedgerows

6.18 The strategic BGI corridor contains a few short sections of important hedgerows, concentrated in the south of the corridor around Pilning.

Ancient Woodland

6.19 There is no ancient woodland within the strategic BGI corridor.

Regionally Important Geological Sites

6.20 Aust Cliff SSSI is also a RIGS.

Hydrology

Main Water Courses

6.21 The strategic BGI corridor includes the Severn Estuary, which runs along its western edge. The corridor is also covered by a dense network of rhines (drainage ditches) surrounding the fields.

Flood Zone

6.22 Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 cover the whole of the strategic BGI corridor due to the low-lying nature of the landscape associated with the Estuary and Levels.

Large Scale Water Bodies

6.23 No large-scale water bodies are located within the corridor. However, smaller-scale water bodies are found at Oldbury Power Station silt ponds and fishing ponds at Whale Wharf, as well as numerous small pools and ponds scattered across the corridor.

Recreation and Access

Commons and Open Access Land

6.24 The two areas of common land listed above under 'landscape and heritage' are also designated open access land and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act) 2002 gives the public the right to walk across this land.

Large Green Spaces

6.25 There is one large green space within the strategic BGI corridor comprising natural and semi-natural green space at Ellens Wood which is in the south-east of the corridor, south of Awkley.

Active Travel Routes

6.26 The following ATRs (which include National Cycle Network (NCN) routes) are within or cross the strategic BGI corridor from north to south:

- Part of NCN route 41 which from Hill through Oldbury-on Severn;
- Two short lengths north from Nupdown Road;
- Routes east off NCN route 41 along Rhines (Oldbury Naite Rhine and towards Rockhampton Rhine);
- A route around Oldbury Power Station;
- Cophills Lane north-west of Littleton-upon-Severn;
- A route south from Aust along Common Lane and Lords Rhine to join NCN 41;
- Part of NCN route 4 which runs north from Severn Beach crossing the M4 to Old Passage (joins NCN route 41 at the junction of Bilsham Lane with the B4055);
- Adjacent to the M4 near Olveston Mill Rhine; and
- Part of the Avon Cycleway (an 85-mile circular route around the city of Bristol) which runs from the south-eastern part of the corridor from Easter Compton (outside of the corridor boundary) to Awkley before continuing north and east, roughly following the boundary of corridor B.

6.27 The following long-distance footpaths also lie within or cross the strategic BGI corridor from north to south:

Chapter 6 Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)

- **Severn Way:** long distance footpath which runs along the western edge of the corridor, following the estuary shoreline; and
- **Jubilee Way:** runs from the estuary edge (where it joins the Severn Way) eastwards towards Littleton-Upon-Severn.

Summary

6.28 Corridor A is a BGI corridor, extending south-west to north-east along the Severn Estuary to take in the marine, foreshore and adjacent Levels areas. There are two strategic viewpoints within the corridor including panoramic views north and west over the Severn estuary and towards Wales. The primary NRN function and importance of corridor A relates to the strategic wetland network associated with the river corridor, estuary, and network of rhines and watercourses across the Levels including internationally important designated SPA, SAC, Ramsar (Severn Estuary) and SSSI sites (Severn Estuary and Aust Cliff). There are also several SNCIs and one RIGS (Aust Cliff). The corridor is crossed by several South Gloucestershire active travel routes, national cycle routes 4 and 41, part of the Avon Cycleway (regional cycle route), the Severn Way and Jubilee Way long distance footpaths. Two small commons are designated as open access land, and there is one large green space (Ellens Wood).