



Truro and Kenwyn Neighbourhood Plan

Green Infrastructure Strategy

September 2014



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Introduction

Truro is Cornwall's only City and the primary administrative and retail centre in the County. It sits at the confluence of the Kenwyn and Allen Rivers at the head of the Truro River.

To the south of the City lies the Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation, which itself borders an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Just to the west is an important part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site.

Residents, workers and visitors to Truro greatly value the city's unique landscape setting and wish to see this protected and enhanced.

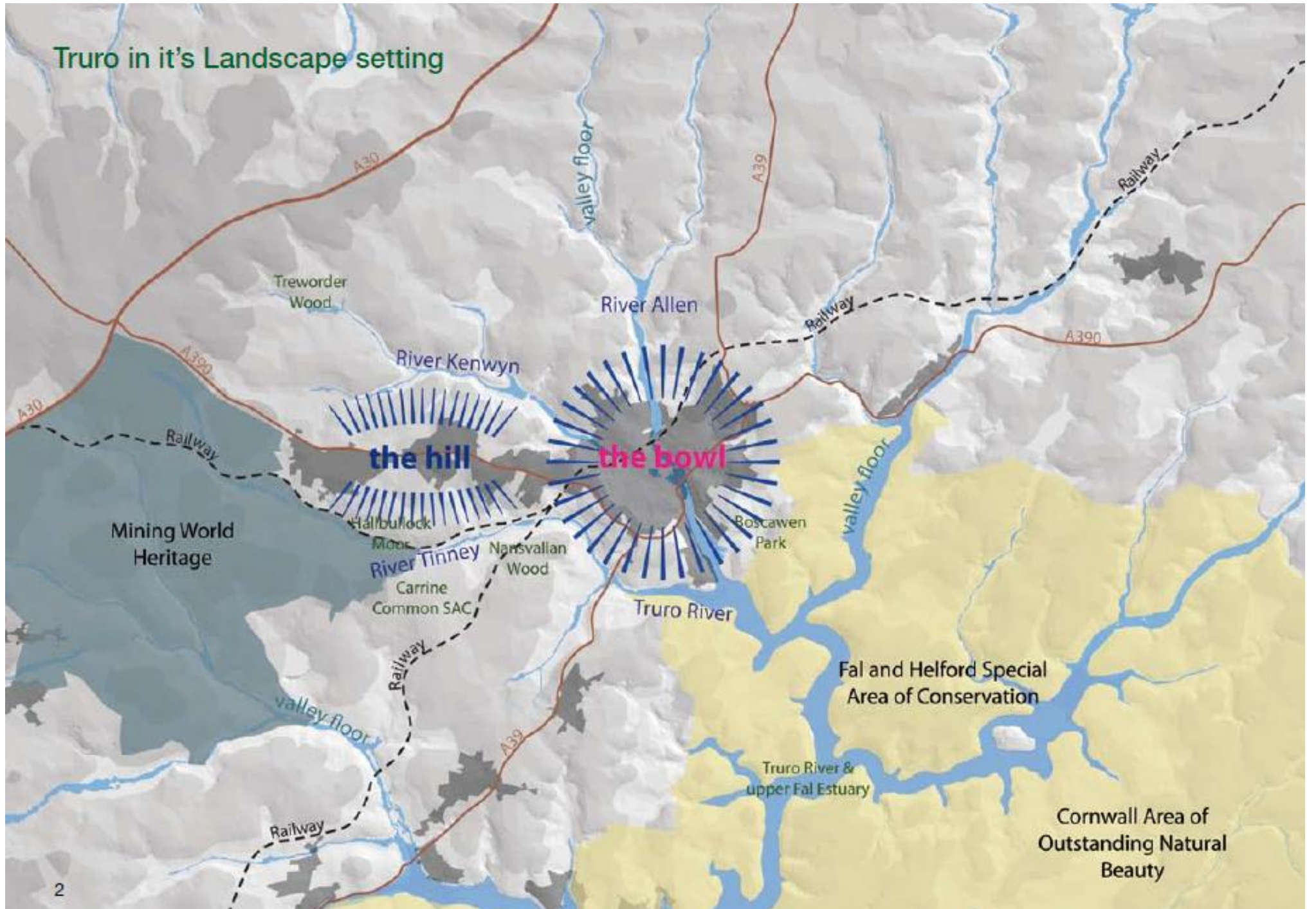
The Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan propose around 3,000 new homes up to 2030. As a result there will be pressures on the natural and cultural and environmental setting of the city.


Green infrastructure planning is a way to meet the challenges of growth whilst at the same time protecting and enhancing the environment and ensuring that the needs of existing and new communities are not compromised. The idea behind Green Infrastructure is simple. Just as road, railway, power distribution and drainage infrastructure are essential for the smooth operation of all settlements, so green infrastructure is essential to make sure that the natural, cultural, and health requirements of communities are integrated into new development.

This 'Green Infrastructure Strategy Summary' sets out the Council's aspirations to protect, manage and improve the natural and cultural environmental setting of Truro and Kenwyn as growth occurs. It establishes a vision for how the City should relate to its setting and describes how the main proposals of the strategy can be delivered.

The 'Green Infrastructure Strategy' is a bold vision to shape the form of the city, define natural limits to growth and set out specific projects for delivery. The Strategy is a working document to be taken forward to meet the emerging needs of the city, landowners, stakeholders and development as they arise.

Truro in it's Landscape setting





What is GI?....

The UK Government Green Infrastructure Planning Guide summarises five main roles for GI.

1. Sustainable resource management: particularly relating to the role of GI in the sustainable management of land and water resources including production (e.g. energy and food crops), pollution control, measures to alleviate the impact

of climate change such as better drainage and integration of shade in the built environment;

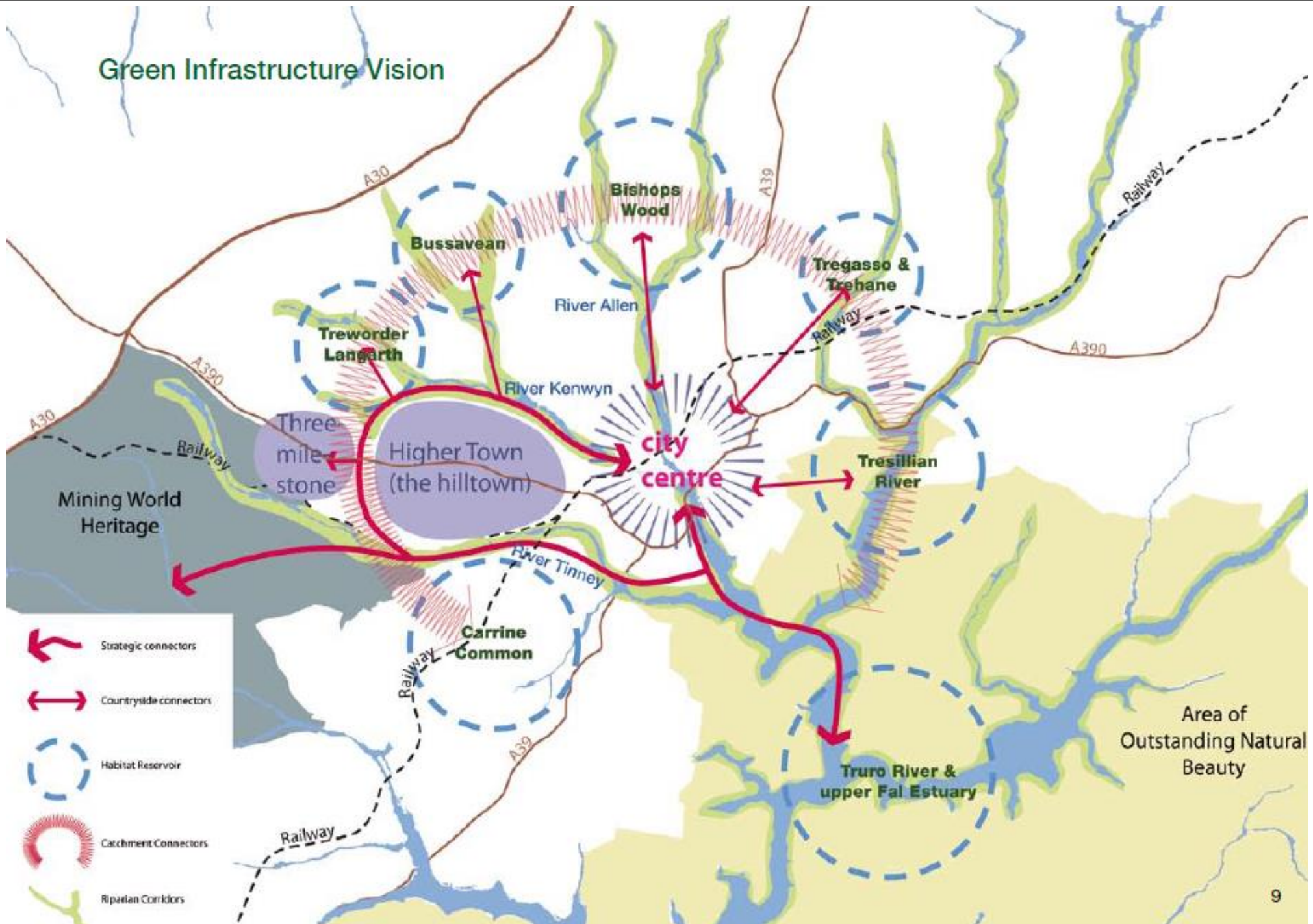
2. Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity: particularly relating to the importance of connectivity of habitats at a variety of landscape scales;

3. Provision and Improvement of Public health: particularly relating to greenways and the use of non-car routes to address public health and quality of life issues;

4. Protection and Enhancement of Landscape: examining resources such as green spaces and corridors from aesthetic, experiential and functional points of view;

5. Regional development and promotion: particularly relating to sustainable communities and issues relating to overall environmental quality and quality of life.

Green Infrastructure Vision



- Strategic connectors
- Countryside connectors
- Habitat Reservoir
- Catchment Connectors
- Riparian Corridors

Using the GI Strategy

The GI Strategy will be used to inform Development Management decisions and protect and assist with:

- The management of resources, productive land and the negative environmental impacts of development;
- The management and connection of habitats to help them thrive and adapt to the challenges of climate change;
- The improvement of recreational opportunities around the city and the creation of safe ways to walk and cycle around the city in a green environment;
- The creation of an attractive visual setting for the city and green spaces and corridors that make Truro an enjoyable place to live;
- The linkage of new and existing development areas to the rich natural and cultural setting of the city.

GI is fundamental to ensure that development in Truro and Kenwyn preserves and enhances the quality of the natural and cultural environment of the area into the future. The GI strategy therefore includes specific projects and actions that will be taken forward to delivery by the Council and its various partners.



energy



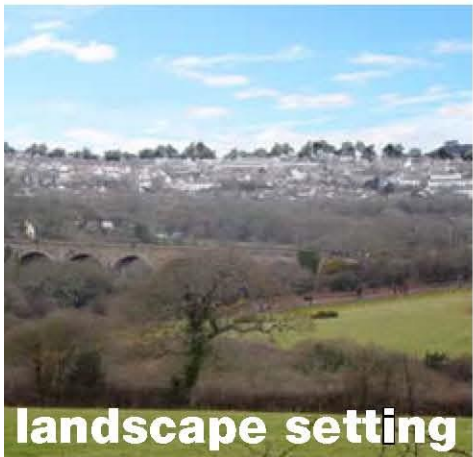
aesthetics



orchards



farming



landscape setting



recreation



food production



cultural landscape



biodiversity



agriculture



new communities



habitat

How the Strategy has been prepared

Many elements of the Green infrastructure Strategy were identified by surveying and mapping the most important, or valued, natural and cultural assets within the setting of Truro and in Kenwyn and mapping and linking these together.

This mapping and research identified the main biodiversity corridors and reservoirs; areas capable of being used for sustainable drainage; the main cultural heritage resources and; the most important elements of the city's visual setting.

The views of the community and other groups and individuals were also very important in providing a focus to the strategy. Workshops were held with community representatives and with people responsible for managing various aspects of the natural and cultural setting of the City. These workshops identified a number of key objectives directly related to GI

The GI Strategy was prepared to respond to the priorities identified by the community and the various partners of the Council. It shows how the valued natural and cultural landscape around Truro can be linked, managed and enhanced alongside the framework for growth set out in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The GI Strategy forms a part of the evidence base for the neighbourhood Plan and how the natural space elements will be delivered.

Consultation will direct how the Strategy is taken forward and delivered.

Key Objectives for the GI Strategy developed working with members of the Community and the Council's partners:

- **A connected landscape:**
Create a network of green corridors in the City and the countryside, making use of assets such as the river corridors, to provide well connected, accessible routes for people linking sites of key biodiversity and wildlife.
- **A biodiverse landscape:**
Manage and connect areas of habitat to protect and enhance a biodiverse landscape, accessible on foot from people's homes, in which nature can thrive and adapt to the challenges of climate change.
- **A cultural resource:**
Manage, interpret and recognise the landscape as a cultural resource that is a record of human settlement and use of the landscape around the City.
- **A productive resource for Truro and Kenwyn:**
Ensure that the land around the City and throughout Kenwyn is underpinned by viable long term use and management, predominantly by agriculture but also through other uses such as sustainable urban drainage infrastructure, open access areas, allotment gardens and health and educational uses.
- **A deliverable vision:**
Ensure that the aspirations for the identified Green Infrastructure assets in and around the City and urban extension are achievable through a long term programme of projects which will require investment, management and community involvement.

The Green Infrastructure Vision

The GI Strategy seeks to promote the delivery of a beautiful, biodiverse and culturally rich setting which will shape and sustain the city and provide quality of life for its residents, workers and visitors. It will achieve better connectivity between natural and cultural resources by people, wildlife, and water.

The main elements of the GI Vision are:

- **River Corridors:**

These corridors are key pathways for wildlife and are essential in ensuring a functioning biodiverse asset. They could provide pedestrian and cyclist access between different communities and the countryside and create strong edges to development areas. The Kenwyn and the Tinney corridors are particularly important with the potential to provide a multifunctional landscape resource that sets limits to the growth of development along the Highertown ridge in much the same way that the 'bowl' contains historic Truro.

- **Biodiversity Reservoirs:**

Key areas are the Fal and Helford SAC, Carrine Common SAC and Nansvallon Wood, and delimited areas at Treworder and Langarth, Bosvean, Bishops Wood, Tregasso and Trehane and the Tresillian River. These areas are all linked to the City by the river corridors described above and form a circle around the city. They provide the biodiversity resource that is fundamental to the ecological functioning of the landscape that the city sits within.

- **Catchment connectors:**

There is currently little opportunity for either human or wildlife connections between the river valleys. A "catchment connector" is a physical linkage for people and wildlife between the river catchments. The concept of the "catchment connector" encircles the city enhancing links between river valleys. One of the most important of these is the 'Highertown Pass' which links the Tinney and Kenwyn valleys in the Maiden Green area.

- **Strategic sustainable movement:**

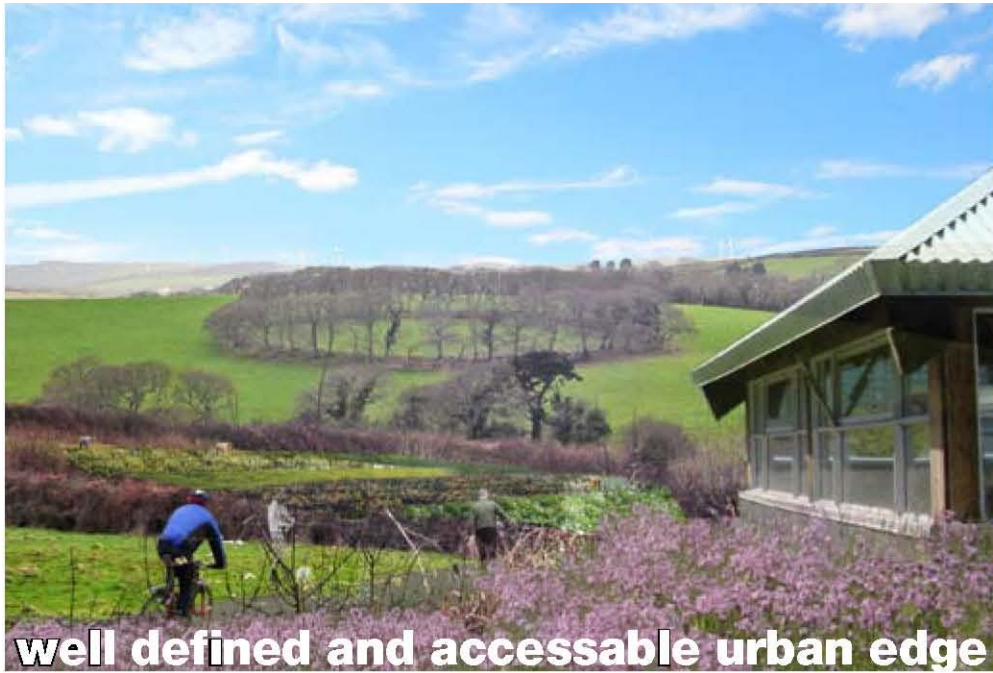
The vision highlights a small number of sustainable movement connections that link key areas of growth, the historic city, the countryside and areas of natural green space where people can come into contact with the natural environment. There is potential to create a city loop connecting the historic city and the growth area and the possibility of a strong route bringing together the World Heritage Site, the Fal and Helford Estuary and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- **Countryside connectors:**

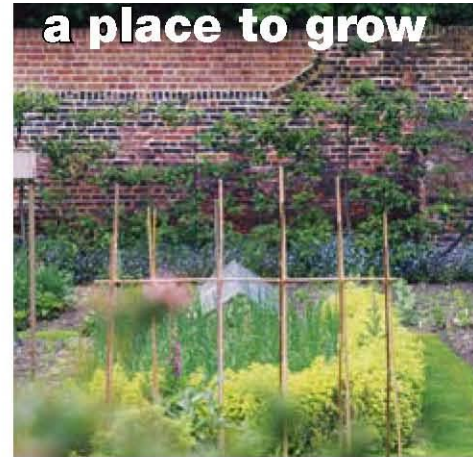
The countryside connectors are the 'spokes' of movement and that link city and countryside. They include proposed laneway, footpath and cycle routes along the river corridors such as those along the Allen and Kenwyn Rivers.

- **A multifunctional rural-urban edge:**

These areas would be managed to protect and improve biodiversity, incorporate sustainable urban drainage, provide opportunities for recreation, local food production and access between communities and the countryside. Cultural assets such as distinctive landscape character and scheduled ancient monuments would be recognised, protected and managed.



well defined and accessible urban edge



a place to grow



integration of sustainable transport

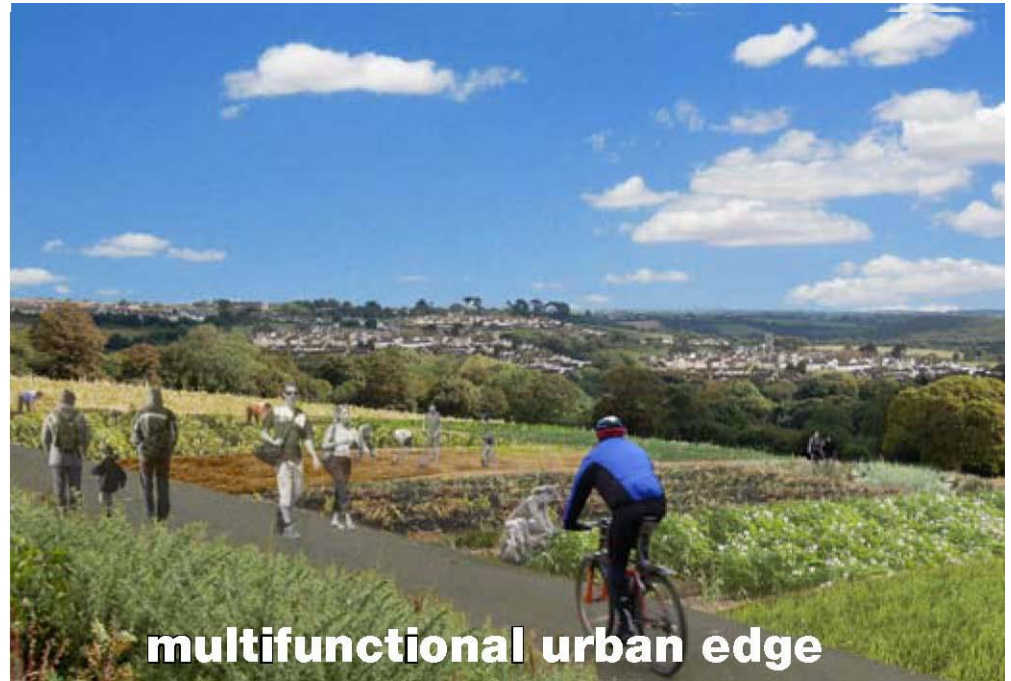


sustainable



drainage





Principles of Green Infrastructure for Truro and Kenwyn

The purpose of the GI Strategy is to ensure that in Truro and Kenwyn all new development relates well to the land resource that surrounds it. It achieves this by identifying a series of practical and realisable projects that the following key principles:

- Integrating flood risk management – the river valleys have been identified as the key element underpinning the concept of GI for Truro and Kenwyn, their water carrying and sustainable drainage role needs to be at the heart of the Strategy.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity – Truro and Kenwyn are surrounded by areas recognised nationally and internationally for wildlife. These cannot be compromised, a key function of the GI Strategy is to improve connectivity and access for both wildlife and people
- Encourage local food production – Improving the interdependency between the local population and local farms as well as increasing the area of land available for city residents to grow food on.
- Promote better access from the urban area to the surrounding countryside through a more comprehensive and joined up network of footpaths and cycleways.
- Protect the unique visual setting of Truro and Threemilestone which involves protecting the 'bowl' within which the historic city sits, and creating clear edges to development along the Highertown and Threemilestone ridge.

Projects

The GI plan identifies a number of projects that are the key to delivering the vision for the City. These projects are area based, and their delivery will involve partnership working to deliver the GI vision through achieving the objectives set out in this document and adhering to the principles. In this way the GI Strategy will address biodiversity, hydrology, cultural heritage, accessibility and landscape issues. Council will agree on the prioritisation of the projects working together with its partners and in consultation with the local community.

The Kenwyn River Valley Project:

This should develop the biodiversity, hydrology, landscape and accessibility functions of the Kenwyn Valley. Key areas with the potential to be taken forward immediately are Coosebean, and land to the north of Bosvean Gardens. This has already created high quality pedestrian and cycle links between Threemilestone, Highertown and the City Centre. Flooding is a priority concern in the Kenwyn River Valley and there is the opportunity to include sustainable drainage systems in open access areas.

Tinney River Valley Project:

The Tinney corridor also has potential to accommodate strategy sustainable drainage measures to mitigate potential downstream flooding impacts. Enhancement and management of the biodiversity resource to ensure that growth does not impact on Halbullock Moor nature reserve and maintenance of the wildlife connection between the Moor and the surrounding area. There are opportunities to improve linkage between the countryside to the south of the city and potential growth areas. The proximity of the Richard Lander School creates the possibility of informal use of the area for educational purposes and the creation of safe routes to school. It could also be developed to become an important strategic GI link between the World Heritage Site, The City, The Fal and Helford SAC and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Urban River project:

The urban rivers are an undervalued and underutilised resource and have the potential to become urban multifunctional landscapes and key linkages to the landscape beyond the city. The rivers in Truro, particularly the Kenwyn, are largely culverted. There is potential to enhance open space on the Allen at Furniss Island and adjacent to St Clement Street toward the Pydar Street redevelopment site. Another stretch of urban river that could be enhanced is the Kenwyn River adjacent to the Royal Hotel and Lemon Quay.

The Highertown Pass Project:

This is one of the 'catchment connectors' identified by the overall GI vision. The project would deliver a linkage between the Kenwyn and Tinney catchments. This would have an important landscape function, creating a link between the two river catchments and providing a separation between Gloweth and Threemilestone. Biodiversity linkage between the two catchments should be investigated but will be difficult to achieve due to the A390. However appropriate tree cover and other planting may be sufficient to enable connectivity for birds and bats.

Willow Green - Governs Project:

The landscape and scheduled ancient monument to the north east of the Governs farm is a dominant feature of the northern side of the Highertown ridge. The Governs fringe project should investigate the potential for appropriate access to this feature as recreational demands develop with the growth of the area. However the existing agricultural uses should continue to be the predominant use.

The Waterfront Project:

Much can be done to improve this area for access, recreation and biodiversity. The project envisages an incremental long term enhancement and management project that improves linkages and the appearance of the physical environment. A number of immediate gains could be made, including enhancement of the footpaths and physical environment that lead south from the City to Boscawen Park, and linkage between the City Centre and Garras Wharf. There may be potential to create a footbridge over the Truro River to Malpas Road. Improved links from Morlaix Avenue across Garras Wharf to the Newham Trail are an essential first step to the longer term goal of providing foot and cycle access to the Highertown and Treliske area.

The City Parks Project:

Growth will create new recreational pressures and the need for new formal and informal green space. The project acknowledges this and aims to ensure that growth areas are served by high quality new parks that meet the needs of new and existing communities alike. Truro City Council currently manages parks and gardens in Truro; they would be a key partner in developing new parks and areas of open space in the city.

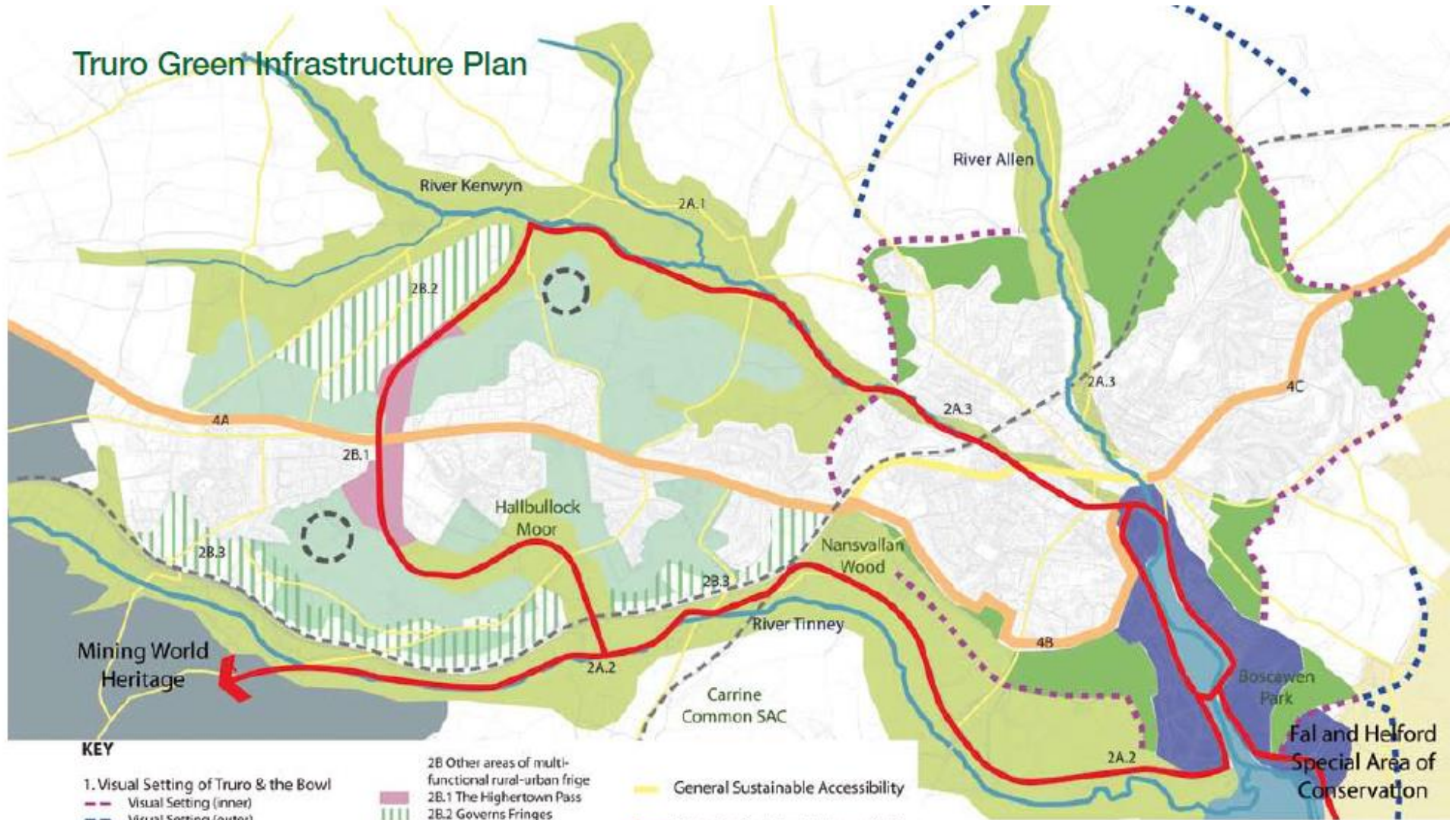
City Corridors Project:

Through a focussed programme of investment, the project would enhance the main movement corridors through the city to create linear landscapes that unite the historic city and the growth areas and bind them together as a cohesive piece of urban fabric. This project would only come forward in conjunction with a major development project such as the regeneration of the Pydar Street site. The City Corridor project objectives are most likely to be achieved through be achieved by working closely with a developers design team to provide complementary GI benefits linked to the development site.

Accessibility Project:

This would involve identifying opportunities to improve linkages and create new connections between city and countryside. The emphasis will be on improving existing footpaths and investigating ways to utilise laneways and minor roads for enhanced pedestrian, cyclist and public transport connectivity to the setting of the city. Longer term investment in new linkages and connections to create new routes especially where the developer controls the land interest may also be achieved.

Truro Green Infrastructure Plan



KEY

- 1. Visual Setting of Truro & the Bowl
 - - - Visual Setting (inner)
 - - - Visual Setting (outer)
 - Truro Bowl Landscape
- 2. Multi-functional Riparian Corridors
 - 2A River Corridors
 - 2A.1 Kenwyn
 - 2A.2 Tinney Valley and Calennick Creek
 - 2A.3 Urban Rivers

- 2B Other areas of multi-functional rural-urban fringe
 - 2B.1 The Hightertown Pass
 - 2B.2 Governors Fringes
 - 2B.3 Railway Fringes
- 3. Truro Waterfront
 - 3.1 Waterfront
- 4. City Corridors
 - 4A Hightertown Corridor
 - 4B Morlaix Avenue
 - 4C Tregolis Road

- General Sustainable Accessibility
- ➔ Strategic Sustainable Accessibility
- New City Parks

Fal and Helford
Special Area of
Conservation

Delivery

Much of the Green Infrastructure resource around Truro and Kenwyn is already managed and developed by a variety of landowners and other agencies. For example the Cornwall Wildlife Trust manages Halbullock Moor. The Fal and Helford SAC has an existing programme of management overseen by Natural England. Natural England and the Forestry Commission also have wider national funding programmes - Environmental Stewardship and Farm Woodland Scheme aimed at enhancing the natural and cultural landscapes. In addition the Local Authority is actively working with developers to secure improvements to, and investment in, Green Infrastructure.

Delivery of the Green Infrastructure vision for Truro and Kenwyn, once agreed through the consultation and any changes or additions have been made, will involve the creation of a formal partnership of agencies and landholders involved in the development and management of land around the city. The role of this partnership will be to coordinate existing Green Infrastructure management and investment activities towards the delivery of the key projects outlined in the GI Strategy. Where necessary the partnership will need to identify and bring forward new management and investment activities and engage with developers to achieve the aims of the strategy. The key partners will be:

- The Local Planning Authority
- Natural England
- The Environment Agency
- The Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- English Heritage
- Key Landowners
- Historical Environment Service
- Truro City Council and Kenwyn Parish Council

Once the consultation period is complete and alterations to the GI strategy (consultation draft) have been made the projects identified will need to be pushed forward by the partnership. This responsibility would fall to the LPA and potentially a Green Infrastructure Project Officer (initially part time funded by LPA and statutory stakeholders) with a remit to bring the partnership together, develop projects, secure funding and prioritise actions amongst the partners.

