

Cople Parish

Green Infrastructure Plan



Cople Parish
Council

Cople Neighbourhood
Plan Group



Bedfordshire & Luton
Biodiversity
Recording &
Monitoring
Centre



A Parish Map Pack for Cople
Produced by the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre to assist with Green Infrastructure Planning

March 2017

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COPLE PARISH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Introduction:

The Cople Parish Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan is one of more than 35 parish and town GI plans to have been produced across Bedfordshire.

The production of the Cople Parish GI Plan has been funded through a Locality grant and facilitated by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

The production of the GI Plan was requested by Cople Parish Council and the Cople Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group; both to be a valuable tool in its own right as a planning document, and to inform policies and objectives in the emerging Cople Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

BRCC was appointed to facilitate the production of this Plan as it is a charity that works with local communities and landowners to conserve and enhance the landscape, wildlife and history in this area. At the heart of BRCC's work is the belief that the best results are achieved by empowering local communities, giving them a say in issues that affect them. BRCC has over 60 years experience of community development support and facilitating community consultation; and has nearly 20 years experience of planning and delivering green infrastructure projects in Bedfordshire.

The need for GI Planning has been identified at all levels, from central government, through regional bodies (the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy), to County and District levels. The Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic GI Plan was produced in 2007 by the Bedfordshire & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium. Parish and Town GI Plans are a valuable tool for planners, committees, developers and communities themselves. They can help inform important decisions and help local people identify what is important to them, and what they would like to happen in the future. Parish and Town GI Plans have been used to support funding bids, helping people make important improvements to their local environment, and they also provide a snapshot of the local environment.

It should be acknowledged that not all of the aspirations identified will be delivered, because there are many other influencing factors, such as the views of landowners, existing planning permissions and allocations, potential future land use allocations and the cost of implementation. The value of this GI plan lies in the fact that it has been produced by local residents for their own community. It can help inform planning decisions and be used as a mechanism to identify where financial benefits from development should be directed. It cannot be used as a tool to prevent development but may influence considerations in the planning process. All aspirations which gained community support have been included; however, it remains a community owned document and, though not endorsed or formally adopted by Bedford Borough Council in its current form, will be incorporated into the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan. The plan as a whole is based on a robust approach to mapping and implementing a high quality GI network for the existing, and future, residents of the parish of Cople.

Endorsements

Endorsement by Cople Parish Council:

Cople Parish Council is happy to endorse this Green Infrastructure Plan, which has been produced by current residents of the parish, for this and future generations. In endorsing this Plan, the Parish Council confirms its support for the concept of GI Planning and the methodology used to produce the Plan. In addition, the Parish Council will seek to be an active partner in the delivery of this Plan, leading and assisting the implementation of those actions which fall into the remit and plans of the Council.

The Parish Council will regularly review the Plan, reporting to the community activity undertaken and planned, both by the Council and others, towards implementing the Plan.

Endorsement by Cople Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

Cople Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is pleased to endorse this Green Infrastructure Plan. It has been produced using an agreed and well developed process involving current residents in a series of focussed working groups. As such it represents their more detailed views on how the issues previously identified can be addressed in the future. It sets a clear plan for the future that will be supported by Local Planning Policies in the forthcoming Cople Neighbourhood Plan.

Support from BRCC:

BRCC will support the community of Cople in implementing this Plan where appropriate and feasible, providing advice, support in securing funding and leading practical works.

Definition of Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure is the network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features which provide:

- a healthy and diverse environment
- attractive places to live and visit
- a good quality of life
- a sustainable future

Green Infrastructure assets include:

- Accessible green space
- Country parks
- Green corridors
- Urban parks and gardens
- Habitats for wildlife including nature reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife Sites.
- Historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Waterways and water bodies, including flooded quarries
- Public rights of way and cycleways
- Allotments
- Children's play space
- Formal sports facilities
- Cemeteries

It is important to plan the GI network in the same way that we plan other networks and facilities, so that we can safeguard and enhance the environment and meet the needs of a wide range of people, both now and in the future. Green infrastructure also provides social and economic benefits, including:

- Places that can be used as a focus for community activity and events
- Opportunities to keep fit and healthy
- Helps support the local economy, including village shops, pubs and B&Bs
- Links between town and country helping people in rural areas to access facilities
- Helps reduce the use of cars

Green Infrastructure Themes

Green Infrastructure is composed of 5 themes; landscape, history, biodiversity, access and open space. These themes are presented separately to enable the different elements of GI to be considered both individually in detail and as part of the integrated GI network.

The Living Networks pack of maps identifies the existing GI assets for each of the above themes. The Living Network maps for the parish of Cople can be viewed at Appendix A.

Aims of this Plan:

To identify the key existing natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, accessible greenspace and rights of way and to plan new features that will provide a connected network of green infrastructure for the benefit of present and future generations.

Objectives

To create a comprehensive document that will assist the local community to:

- Protect and where possible enhance the landscape, biodiversity and the historic environment
- Improve access and links for people and wildlife
- Provide a multi functional green infrastructure network
- Provide a source of information and guidance for planners, landowners and developers in formulating land use plans
- Promote community involvement
- Identify projects and produce an action plan to implement projects.

Links to other GI related plans

The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan

The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (2007) identifies a broad, spatial vision for green infrastructure across the area and highlights 11 strategic GI corridors across the county. The parish of Cople lies within the Lower Great Ouse River Valley Corridor.

The Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan

The Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan 2009 complements the Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan for Bedfordshire and Luton by identifying more detailed spatial priorities across Bedford Borough and providing detailed background information to support policies and proposals in the Bedford Borough Local Development Framework.

Sustainable Communities Strategy for Bedford

The Sustainable Communities Strategy for Bedford Borough (2009 -2021), in its Environment and Climate Change theme states that, "We are supporting community led action to improve and care for the local environment including community woodland, allotment, orchard and heritage projects."

There is also recognition of the importance of green infrastructure in the Strategy, which refers to the fact that, "The extent and quality of our green infrastructure contributes greatly to our quality of life, providing people with opportunities for sport, recreation or just quiet contemplation."

Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan

Policy CP 22 (Green Infrastructure) of the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (adopted 2008) states that, "Existing green infrastructure of both local and strategic importance will be protected from development. Where appropriate, development will provide green infrastructure in accordance with adopted local standards."

Methodology & Community Involvement

A methodology for the production of Parish Green Infrastructure Plans was developed in 2007 and 2008 by the PGIP Working Group and endorsed by the Beds & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium (now the Beds & Luton Local Nature Partnership). This standard methodology has been used to produce 35 parish-level GI Plans across Bedfordshire.

As with all GI Plans, two community workshops were held, to which local stakeholders and the wider community were invited. At the first workshop (20 July 2016), a map pack summarising all of the information currently known about the parish's GI assets was presented; and consultees were asked to use this information to identify aspirations for enhancing and adding to the existing local GI. At the second workshop (28 September 2016), these aspirations were reviewed, added to and prioritised. Between the two workshops a drop-in session for the whole community was held (10 September 2016), to increase the level and range of input into the plan.

Attendance at the 3 consultation activities totalled 83.

Across the 3 consultation activities, there was an almost exact 50:50 split between male and female attendees. The gender breakdown of attendees at each activity is given below.

Workshop 1		Drop-in		Workshop 2		Totals	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
23	18	10	13	8	11	41	42
41		23		19		83	

As with many PGIPs, the majority of attendees were over the age of 45. The age breakdown of attendees at each activity is given below.

	Under 18		18-24		25-44		45 -59		60-74		75+		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Activity													
Workshop 1	2	0	0	0	1	4	5	7	12	7	3	0	41
Drop-in	0	3	0	0	3	3	4	5	3	2	0	0	23
Workshop 2	0	2	0	0	2	1	3	4	3	3	0	1	19
	7		0		14		28		30		4		83

Also, as with many PGIP's, the majority of attendees had lived in the parish for more than 6 years. The breakdown of length of residence of attendees at each activity is given below.

	<1 yr		1-5 yrs		6-10 yrs		11-25 yrs		>25 yrs		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Activity											
Workshop 1	0	0	0	0	4	4	10	10	6	5	39[1]
Drop-in	0	0	1	1	4	3	2	4	3	5	23
Workshop 2	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	2	2	5	19
	0		4		20		31		26		81 [1]

[1] – 2 attendees at the first workshop lived outside of the parish (in neighbouring Willington).

Green Infrastructure Network Map

Ref	Aspiration
1	Create new cycleway on south side of Grange Lane to link with Chapel Road, Cardington
2	Create new cycleway westwards along A603 from Willington Road to meet BW4
3	Create new cycleway from A603 / Willington Road junction northwards to link to Bedford-Sandy Country Way
4	Create new footpath on north, east and south sides of field, and a link to Water End (road) – south of the playing field – to formalise existing circular walk route and access
5	Improve the condition of BWS, from A603 northwards to Cycleway 51, for all users
6	Create multi-user route along track (just north of Cople Lower School) heading north and east to join A603 opposite the Balls Lane junction
7a	Create new brideway to link Park Lane to Aspiration 7b
7b	Upgrade footpath to brideway to link Aspiration 7a and Aspiration 7c
7c	Create new brideway to link Aspiration 7c and Northhill Road, to a point opposite BW13 at Hoo Farm
8	Create multi-user route southwards from Aspiration 6 (from south of New Road Farm) to BW2
9	Improve the condition of BW4 between Grange Lane and A603
10	Improve the condition of footpaths within Cople Pits (FP2 and informal paths)
11	Create accessible greenspace on 'golf course' site
12	Create community greenspace east of Willington Road, close to Home Farm, to possibly include community orchard and/or allotments
13	Manage 'finger lakes' area, east of Willington Road, for biodiversity and wildlife
14	Create accessible greenspace - possibly with allotments - east of Northhill Road, opposite Woodlands Close
15	Enhance landscaping of western and southern playing field boundaries through hedgerow management and wildflower planting, and upgrade / install play equipment for older children
16	Create parking / viewing area close to the south-west corner of Sheerhatch Wood
17	Install a footbridge to link Dog Field to Aspiration 11 above
18	Increase safety at A603, including enhanced crossing points and new path with safety fencing
19	Create new footpath through Girl's School playing field site
20	Create new footpath along north side of Grange Lane from entrance of Girl's School playing field site to BW4
21	Create greenspace/ woodland/ wildlife haven - land south and east of Lower School
Parish-wide initiatives	
P	Identify ponds for inclusion in a parish pond restoration project
Out of parish aspirations	
X	Create new brideway parallel to Wood Lane, Willington to link with existing and proposed (Aspiration 7) routes
Y	Improve the condition of FP10, linking A603 to Church Road, Willington

- Existing Infrastructure**
- Accessible Sites
 - Other Green Infrastructure
 - Formal Recreational Areas
 - Parish Boundary
- Rights of Way Network**
- Bridleway
 - Footpath
- Aspirations**
- Green Infrastructure
 - Right of Way Upgrade
 - Green Infrastructure Route
 - Improve A603 Crossing
 - Install Footbridge
 - Create Parking / Viewing Area
 - Protect Viewpoints
 - Pond Restoration

Last updated: 06/10/16

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The table in the above map is repeated below for clarity, with each numbered aspiration relating to a point on the map.

Cople Green Infrastructure Plan Aspirations

Reference	Aspiration
1	Create new cycleway on south side of Grange Lane to link with Chapel Road, Cardington
2	Create new cycleway westwards along A603 from Willington Road to meet BW4
3	Create new cycleway from A603 / Willington Road junction northwards to link to Bedford–Sandy Country Way
4	Create new footpath on north, east and south sides of field, and a link to Water End (road) – south of the playing field – to formalise existing circular walk route and access
5	Improve the condition of BW6, from A603 northwards to Cycleway 51, for all users
6	Create multi-user route along track (just north of Cople Lower School) heading north and east to join A603 opposite the Balls Lane junction
7a	Create new bridleway to link Park Lane to Aspiration 7b
7b	Upgrade footpath to bridleway to link Aspiration 7a and Aspiration 7c
7c	Create new bridleway to link Aspiration 7c and Northill Road, to a point opposite BW13 at Hoo Farm
8	Create multi-user route southwards from Aspiration 6 (from south of New Road Farm) to BW2
9	Improve the condition of BW4 between Grange Lane and A603
10	Improve the condition of footpaths within Cople Pits (FP2 and informal paths)
11	Create accessible greenspace on 'golf course' site
12	Create community greenspace east of Willington Road, close to Home Farm, to possibly include community orchard and/ or allotments
13	Manage 'finger lakes' area, east of Willington Road, for biodiversity and wildlife
14	Create accessible greenspace - possibly with allotments - east of Northill Road, opposite Woodlands Close
15	Enhance landscaping of western and southern playing field boundaries through hedgerow management and wildflower planting, and upgrade / install play equipment for older children
16	Create parking / viewing area close to the south-west corner of Sheerhatch Wood
17	Install a footbridge to link Dog Field to Aspiration 11 above
18	Increase safety at A603 crossing points, including enhanced crossing points and new path with safety fencing
19	Create new footpath through Girl's School playing field site
20	Create new footpath along north side of Grange Lane from entrance of Girl's School playing field site to BW4
21	Create greenspace/ woodland/ wildlife haven – land south and east of Lower School

Parish-wide initiatives	
P	Identify ponds for inclusion in a parish pond restoration project
Out of parish aspirations	
X	Create new bridleway parallel to Wood Lane, Willington to link with existing and proposed (Aspiration 7) routes
Y	Improve the condition of FP10, linking A603 to Church Road, Willington

Prioritisation activities:

At the final workshop, three prioritisation activities were undertaken.

Groups were asked to discuss the aspirations and identify and rank their top 5 aspirations. Top ranked aspirations were given a score of 5 points, with the 2nd aspiration scoring 4 points, etc. The scores from the 4 groups were then collated to give an overall list of priorities. This activity identified the top 4/5 (see note below following table) aspirations as scoring significantly higher than the others. These top 4, as identified by the groups, are shown below.

Priority Ranking	Aspiration Reference	Priority Aspirations as identified by Workshop Groups
1	1	Create new cycleway on south side of Grange Lane to link with Chapel Road, Cardington
2	2 & 18 (joint aspirations)	Increase safety at A603 crossing points – including enhanced crossing points and new paths with safety fencing Create new cycleway westwards alongside A603 from Willington Road to meet BW4
3	4	Create new footpath on north, east and south sides of field, and a link to Water End (road) – south of the playing field – to formalise existing circular walk route and access
4	20	Create new footpath along north side of Grange Lane from entrance of Girl's School playing field site to BW4

Note: Although Aspirations 2 and 18 were originally noted separately, in practical – and priority – terms it became evident that they are connected issues and should thus be considered as a single aspiration. This also applies to the table below.

Individuals were also asked to identify their top 5 priority aspirations. The purpose of this second prioritisation activity was to ensure that quieter group members, or those whose views were in a minority in their groups, had an equal say. Individuals were each given 5 'votes' and instructed to use only 1 vote per aspiration, to avoid skewed results. See below for priorities as identified by individuals.

Priority Ranking	Aspiration Reference	Priority Aspirations as identified by Individuals
1	1	Create new cycleway on south side of Grange Lane to link with Chapel Road, Cardington (17 votes)
2	2 & 18 (joint aspirations)	Increase safety at A603 crossing points – including enhanced crossing points and new paths with safety fencing Create new cycleway westwards alongside A603 from Willington Road to meet BW4
= 3	6	Create multi-user route along track (just north of Cople Lower School) heading north and east to join A603 opposite the Balls Lane junction (8 votes)
= 3	12	Create community greenspace east of Willington Road, close to Home Farm, to possibly include a community orchard and/ or allotments (8 votes)

5	4	Create new footpath on north, east and south sides of field, and a link to Water End (road) – south of the playing field – to formalise existing circular walk route and access (7 votes)
6	20	Create new footpath along north side of Grange Lane from entrance of Girl's School playing field site to BW4 (6 votes)

All 4 of the group's top priorities, featured in the same order, in the individuals' top 6 priorities. In addition to these 4 shared priorities, individuals also prioritised aspirations 6 and 12.

This two-part prioritisation exercise shows a significant level of agreement between the groups and individuals, giving a high level of confidence in the results.

Local Green Space Designation

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. A new designation to protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities has been introduced. The Local Green Space designation will allow communities to identify and protect areas that are of value to the community through local and neighbourhood plans.

The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

In addition to the prioritisation of the individual aspirations above, a further over-arching priority agreed at the workshop was to propose that the Cople Neighbourhood Plan seeks Local Green Space (LGS) designation on the parishes' most important green spaces. The sites listed below, in order of preference, were identified by those present at the 2nd workshop as the most important sites in the parish.

Priority Ranking	Site
1	Playing field by village hall
2	Millennium Wood
3	Dog Field
=4	Cople Pits
=4	New community greenspace (Aspiration 12) east of Willington Road, close to Home Farm

The Cople Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are encouraged to assess these sites against the LGS criteria and where appropriate to seek LGS designation.

Cople Parish Green Infrastructure Plan Action Plan

[1] Lead Partner	Organisation / individual taking the lead in the planning and implementation of the aspiration (See key below table)
[2] Other Partners	Other organisations to be involved in the planning and implementation of the aspiration
[3] Resourcing	Likely level of funding needed: Low (achievable with no or minimal funding), Medium (achievable with moderate new funding), High (achievable with significant new funding)
[4] Timescale	Likely date of implementation: Short 2016-18; Medium 2018-20; Long 2021+

CPC Cople Parish Council
BBC Bedford Borough Council
LO Land Owner

CPNPSG Cople Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
BRCC Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

Ref	Aspiration	Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
1	Create new cycleway on south side of Grange Lane to link with Chapel Road, Cardington	BBC	LO (Southill Estate) CPC		Medium	Through further discussions the creation of a bridleway is favoured over a cycleway - thus providing a higher status route
2	Create new cycleway westwards along A603 from Willington Road to meet BW4	BBC			Medium	
3	Create new cycleway from A603 / Willington Road junction northwards to link to Bedford–Sandy Country Way	BBC			Long	
4	Create new footpath on north, east and south sides of field, and a link to Water End (road) – south of the playing field – to formalise existing circular walk route and access	BBC	LO (Southill Estate) CPC		Short	CPC to discuss / action with LO
5	Improve the condition of BW6, from A603 northwards to Cycleway 51, for all users	BBC	CPC Sustrans			PC to liaise with BBC and Sustrans

Ref	Aspiration	Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
6	Create multi-user route along track (just north of Cople Lower School) heading north and east to join A603 opposite the Balls Lane junction	BBC	LO PC		Short / Medium	
7a	Create new bridleway to link Park Lane to Aspiration 7b	BBC	LO CPC		Medium - Long	
7b	Upgrade footpath to bridleway to link Aspiration 7a and Aspiration 7c	BBC	LO CPC		Medium - Long	
7c	Create new bridleway to link Aspiration 7c and Northill Road, to a point opposite BW13 at Hoo Farm	BBC	LO CPC		Medium - Long	
8	Create multi-user route southwards from Aspiration 6 (from south of New Road Farm) to BW2	BBC	LO CPC		Long	
9	Improve the condition of BW4 between Grange Lane and A603	BBC	CPC Sustrans		Short	
10	Improve the condition of footpaths within Cople Pits (FP2 and informal paths)	BBC	CPC LO (Wildlife Trust)		Short	
11	Create accessible greenspace on 'golf course' site	LO PC	MVCF Wildlife Trust		Long	
12	Create community greenspace east of Willington Road, close to Home Farm, to possibly include community orchard and/ or allotments	LO	CPC Other interested parties		Long	
13	Manage 'finger lakes' area, east of Willington Road, for biodiversity and wildlife	LO				
14	Create accessible greenspace - possibly with allotments - east of Northill Road, opposite Woodlands Close	LO CPC			Long	
15	Enhance landscaping of western and southern playing field boundaries through hedgerow management and wildflower planting, and upgrade / install play equipment for older children	CPC Village Trust			Short	
16	Create parking / viewing area close to the south-west corner of Sheerhatch Wood	BBC				

Ref	Aspiration	Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
17	Install a footbridge to link Dog Field to Aspiration 11 above	BBC CPC	Other interested parties		Medium	Research re water pipe and flooding issues
18	Increase safety at A603 crossing points, including enhanced crossing points and new path with safety fencing	BBC CPC			Medium - Long	
19	Create new footpath through Girl's School playing field site	BBC LO CPC				Confirm verbal agreement with school over informal access to site
20	Create new footpath along north side of Grange Lane from entrance of Girl's School playing field site to BW4	BBC CPC				
21	Create greenspace/ woodland/ wildlife haven – land south and east of Lower School	LO CPC				
P	Identify ponds for inclusion in a parish pond restoration project	CPC				CPC to discuss project
X	Create new bridleway parallel to Wood Lane, Willington to link with existing and proposed (Aspiration 7) routes	BBC	LO			Alternative parallel route to X, along Wood Lane, proposed
Y	Improve the condition of FP10, linking A603 to Church Road, Willington	BBC				

Appendix A – Cople Living Networks Parish Map Pack

Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and managed network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features which meet the needs of existing and new communities by providing:

- an essential environmental foundation and support system
- a healthy and diverse environment
- attractive places to live and visit and a good quality of life
- a sustainable future

Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan, February 2007

Contents

1) Context Map

2) Landscape Map

The landscape map shows the position of contours within your parish. It also shows the areas at risk from a 1% chance flood from a river. Contours and flood zones can be useful when creating green infrastructure corridors.

3) Biodiversity Map

This map shows the location of designated sites, important habitats and opportunities to enhance wildlife in Cople parish.

Within the parish is only one County Wildlife Site (CWS) called Cople Pits CWS, comprising three parcels of land. This was recognized as a CWS in 1990 as a collection of waterbodies containing a population of Great Crested Newts, and also areas of neutral and calcareous grassland. The River Great Ouse CWS also runs along the northern boundary of the site, recognized because it is a river and because of adjacent riparian habitats.

County Wildlife Sites are sites that have been recognized as important for wildlife when assessed against a set of criteria. The selection guidelines consider aspects of the site such as size, diversity, rarity, fragility, typicalness and recorded history. Recognition as a CWS does not confer protection on the site, or right of access, however for any significant change of land use the planning authorities will expect the wildlife interest to be taken into account alongside other normal planning considerations. Local conservation organisations may comment on planning applications that could affect a CWS.

Accessible Wildlife Sites (i.e. sites managed for the benefit of wildlife and with free public access) within the parish occur at Dog Field, Cople Pits Nature Reserve, Octagon Wood, the Grange Estate and at Water End. These total approximately 30 hectares.

Within the parish are approximately 36 hectares of land that were identified as semi-improved neutral grassland in the late 1980s and may have remained as grassland since then.

Species records of note are mostly of birds from the collection of gravel pits in the north of the parish; amphibians and mammals around Cople village; and plants and invertebrates at the disused landfill site. There is a scattering of other notable records.

The register of ancient and veteran trees maintained by the Woodland Trust does not show any trees within the parish.

Green infrastructure planning can help to link or buffer existing wildlife sites, providing them with increased protection from harmful activities and making their wildlife populations more sustainable. The Biodiversity Network suggests where this could be most beneficial.

If you would like further information or advice about the wildlife in your parish, please contact The Wildlife Trust (01234 364213 or bedfordshire@wildlifebcn.org). The Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre (BRMC) has a wealth of records about the species seen in your parish and is beginning to compile habitat data. If you would like to access this resource please contact them (01234 355435 or brmc@bedsbionet.org.uk).

4) Historic Map

A variety of historic sites are shown on this map. Integrating these sites into green infrastructure plans can help to preserve parish history. The numbers next to most of the site boundaries represent locations in the Historic Environment Record (HER) which is maintained at Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP. The table below gives a brief summary of each numbered site; more details are available from the HER, along with historic maps of your parish. Due to the scale of this map only Listed Buildings are shown, however, there are many other historically important buildings recorded. For advice or further information about historic areas in your parish please contact the Historic Environment Information Officer at Bedford Borough Council (01234 718560 or vanessa.clarke@bedford.gov.uk or use the online Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

124	GRAVEL PIT SPINNEY
130	DOVEHOUSE CLOSE
337	CROPMARKS, in North West of Willington Plantation
707	CROPMARKS, Water End
812	BUILDINGS (site of) Water End
1358	OLD SAND PIT
1462	GRAVELL FIELD
1480	CROPMARKS, Octagon Farm, South of River Ouse
1480	CROPMARKS, Octagon Farm, South of River Ouse
1480	CROPMARKS, Octagon Farm, South of River Ouse
1618	CROPMARKS, North of Dog Farm
1861	CROPMARKS, South of Willington
2840	CROPMARKS, West of Cople House
3238	?MOAT, South East of Wood End Farm
3269	?MOAT, Cople Hoo Farm
3893	MOATED MANOR SITE & EARTHWORKS, Wood End
5203	IRON AGE OCCUPATION, NW of Hoo Farm
5205	CROPMARKS
5505	RIDGE AND FURROW
8109	?MOAT Rowsacks
8110	FLINT AXE
8113	QUERN STONE
8114	MULTI-PERIOD ACTIVITY; Claypit Close
8115	CLAYPIT FURLONG
8238	GREEN CLOSE
8879	ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCHYARD
9090	CROPMARKS, Water End
9287	ARROWHEAD
10596	ROMAN TILE, SW of Coplehoo Farm
10597	ROMAN POTTERY, at S end of Cople parish

11826	HANGMAN'S GRAVE on Cardington/Cople boundary
14658	ROMAN COIN (Gratian?) North West of Cople Church
14769	GRAVEL PITS
14770	GRAVEL PITS (?fishponds)
14498	BRICK KILNS Risinghoe
15091	LINEAR CROPMARKS, South East of Hoo Farm
16713	CROPMARKS, adjacent to Park Lane
16714	CROPMARKS, South of Wood End Farm
16716	CROPMARKS, SW of Middle Farm
16717	CROPMARKS, SW of Hoo Farm
16718	CROPMARKS, West of Grange Farm
16752	LINEAR CROPMARKS, ROMAN, IRON AGE & MEDIEVAL FINDS & CREMATIONS, South West of Sweetbrier Farm
DBD1310	Neolithic and Bronze Age mortuary complex 600m NW of Octagon Farm
DBD3708	Two barrows 500m NE of Octagon Farm: part of a Neolithic and Bronze Age mortuary complex
DBD3709	A barrow 400m north of Octagon Farm: part of a Neolithic and Bronze Age mortuary complex
DBD3710	Three barrows and a rectilinear enclosure 1000m NNW of Octagon Farm: part of a Neolithic and Bronze Age mortuary complex
DBD3711	Mortuary enclosure 900m NNW of Octagon Farm: part of a Neolithic and Bronze Age mortuary complex
MBB21763	Probable prehistoric pit alignment west of Cople
MBB21764	Evidence for post-medieval water meadow management west of Cople

5) Open Space, Access and Recreation Map

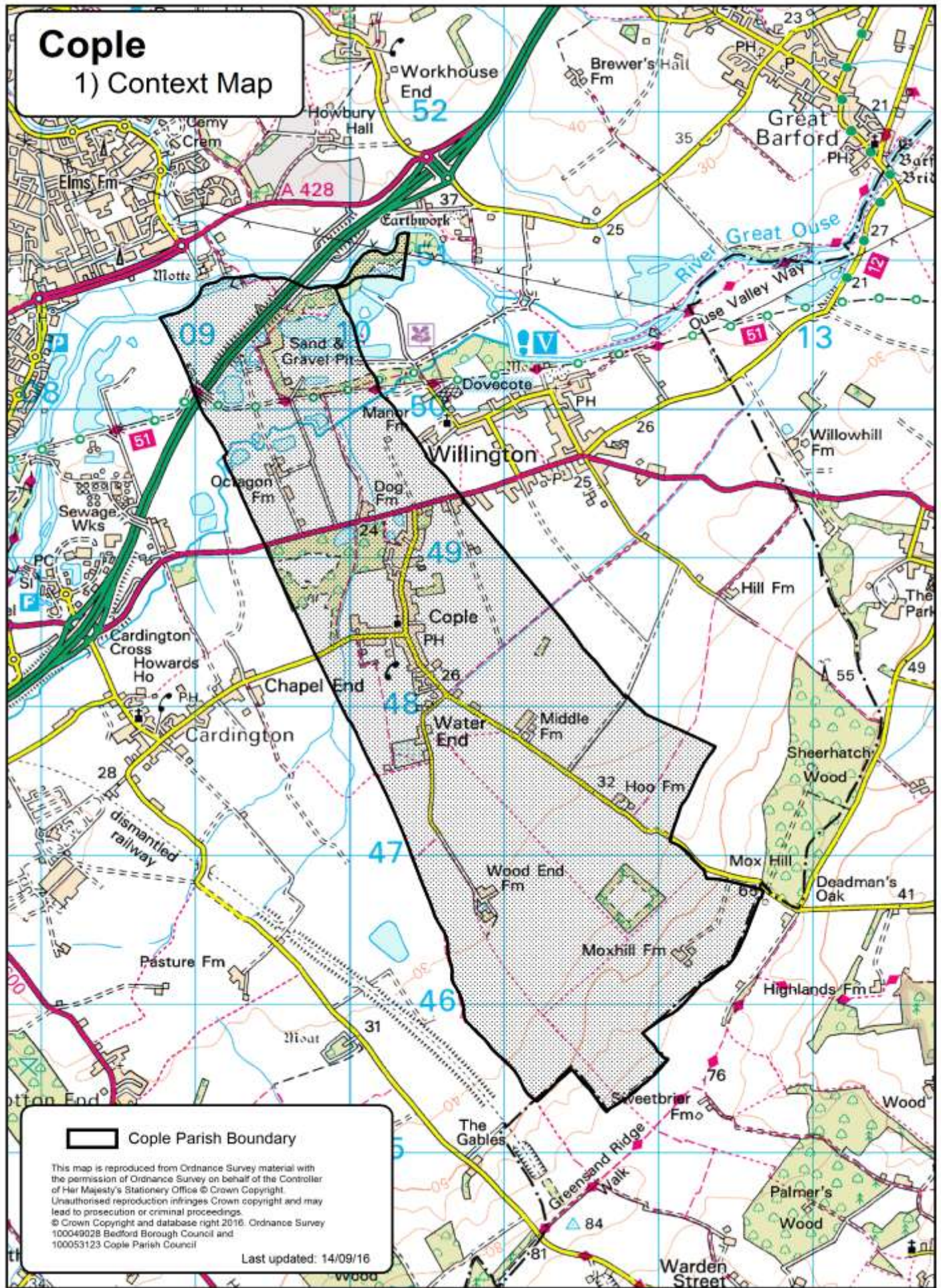
This map shows the positions of open spaces (e.g. golf courses, recreation grounds or school playing fields) within your parish. Not all of them are accessible to the public. Rights of Way are key to providing access to open spaces within green infrastructure plans. When creating networks access barriers, such as busy roads, would need to be considered.

Cople

1) Context Map

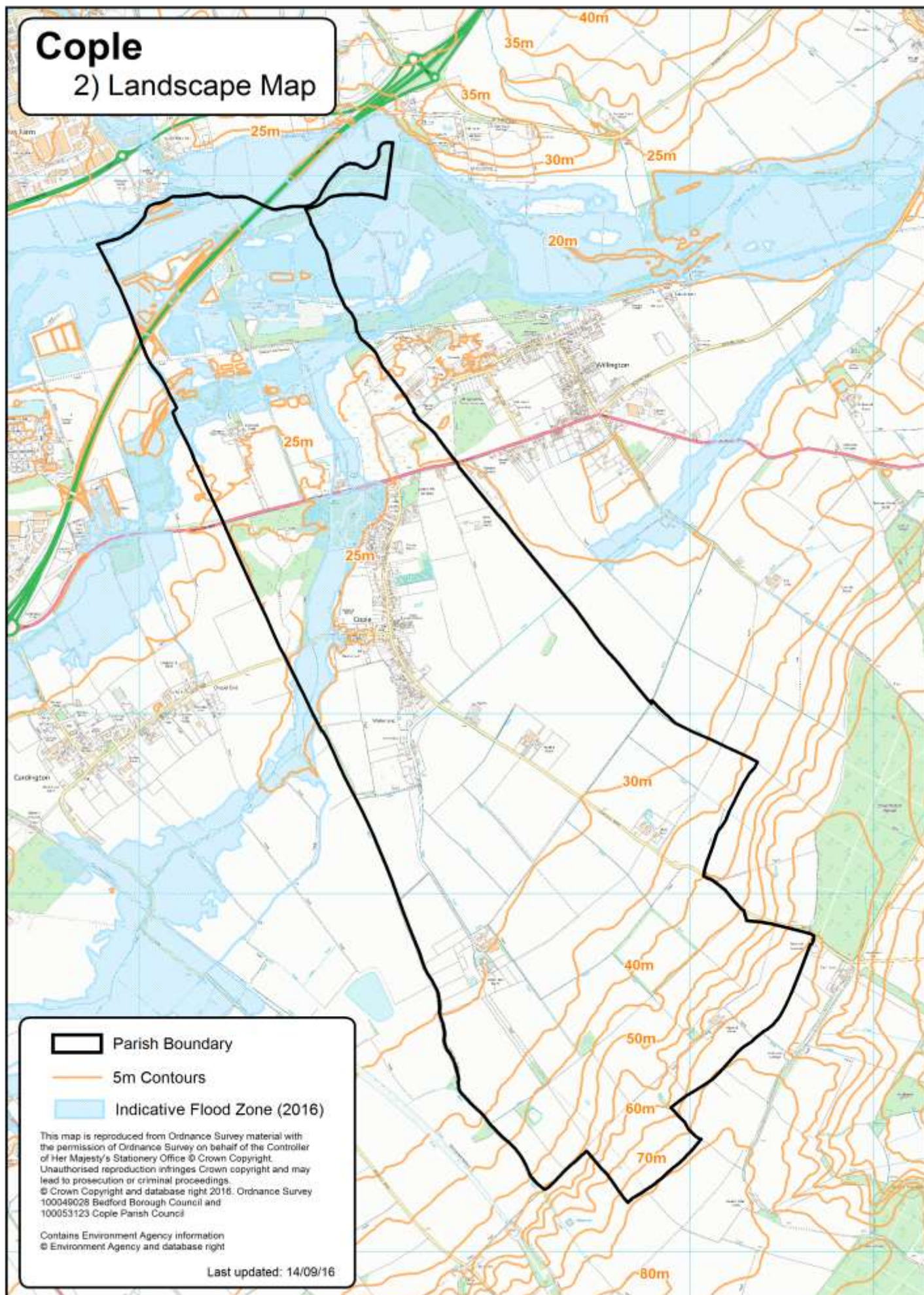
Cople

1) Context Map



Cople

2) Landscape Map



Cople

3) Biodiversity Map

Biodiversity Network

The network has been created to suggest where biodiversity enhancements would be most beneficial. The aim is to buffer and link existing wildlife rich areas, creating a landscape through which species can move. This will make populations more sustainable and help them respond to climate change. Within the network there is a range of options which would benefit biodiversity, from creating new habitats to improving existing hedgerows.

Recognized Wildlife Sites

One County Wildlife Site (Cople Pits CWS), comprising three parcels of land, lies completely within the parish, and the River Great Ouse CWS runs along the northern boundary.

Accessible Wildlife Sites

Approx 30 hectares of land within the parish are "Accessible Wildlife Sites". (Land managed for wildlife and with free public access)

Permanent Grassland

Approx 36 hectares of land in the parish may have been semi-improved grassland throughout the last 25 years.

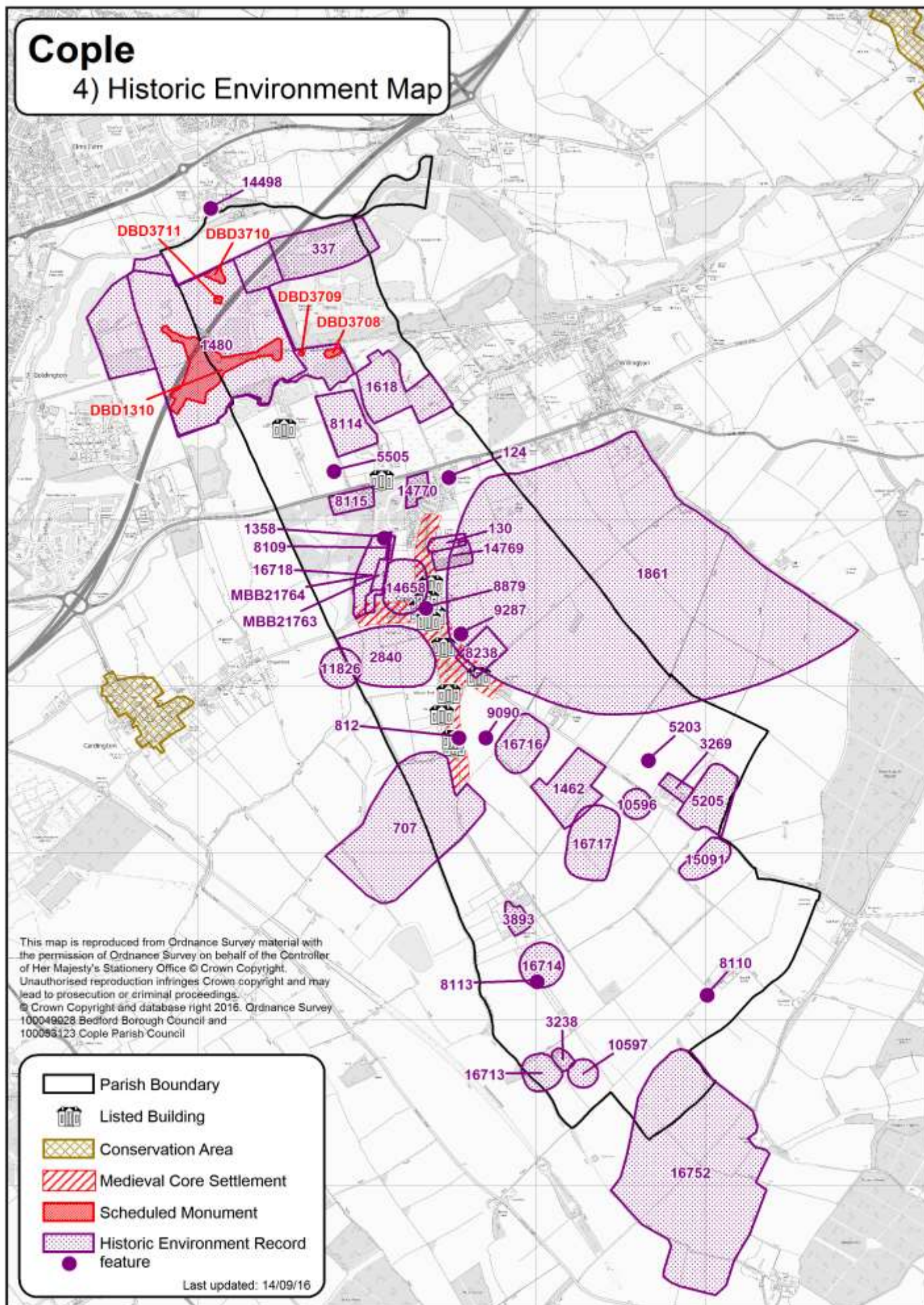
-  Parish Boundary
-  County Wildlife Site
-  Accessible Wildlife Site
-  Permanent Grassland
-  Biodiversity Opportunity Network
-  Ancient/Veteran Tree

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Last updated: 14/09/16

Cople

4) Historic Environment Map



Cople

5) Access, Open Space and Recreation Map

