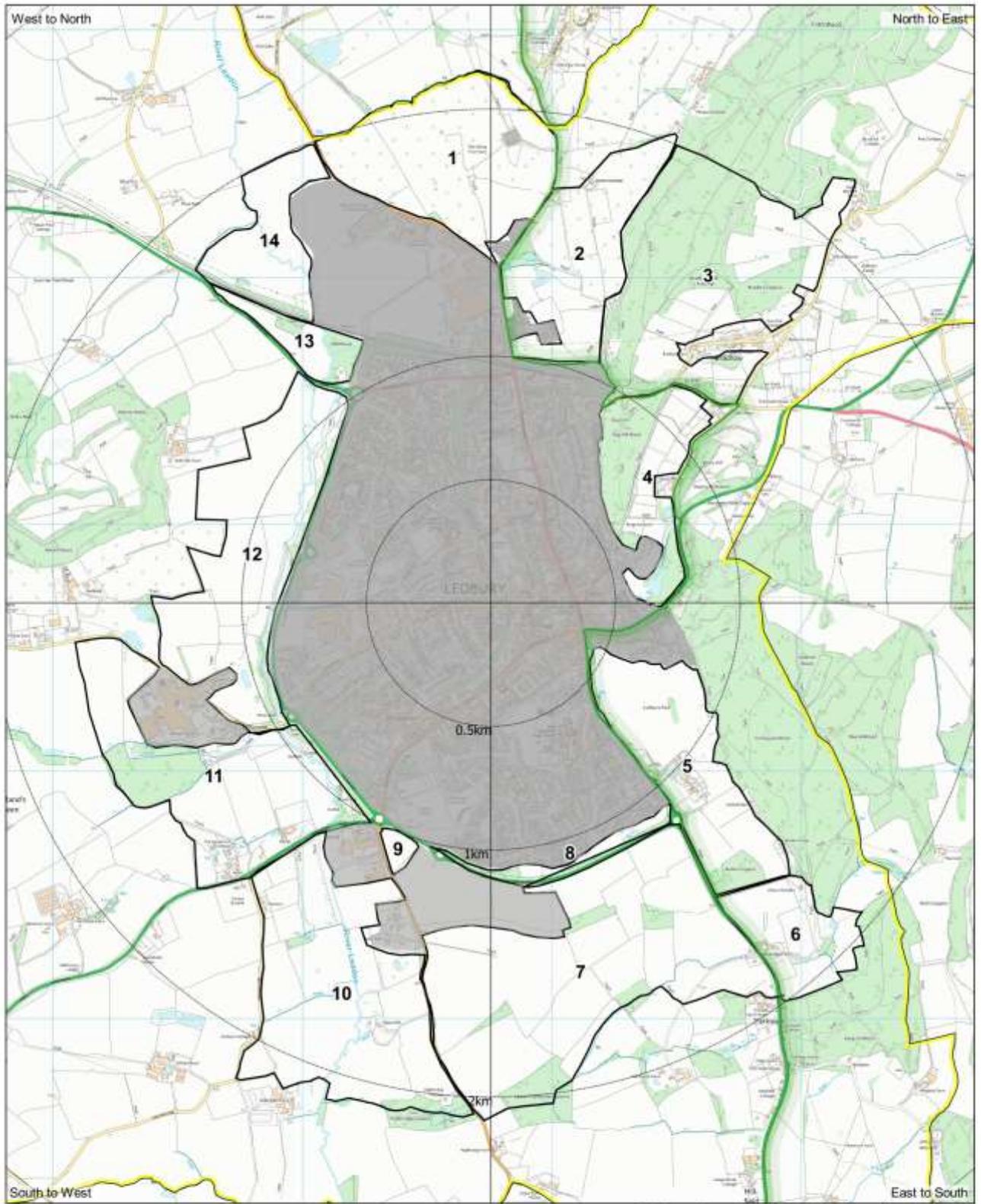


Appendix E

LSCA Area Schedules for Public & Social
Amenity Topic (Footpaths)

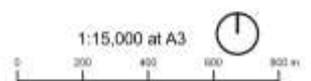
Map of LSCA Areas for reference



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KEY

-  Parish boundary
-  Malvern Hills AONB
-  LSCA Areas



LSCA Area 1

This area is in the shape of an upside-down triangle, bordered to the east by the Wellington Heath road and Beggars Ash, to the west by the Bromyard Road, and to the north by the parish boundary. Footpath LR16 crosses the triangle from its southern apex to the centre of the baseline.

The majority of the area is covered by apple orchards. To the east is open land including the Hilltop Fruit Farm (photos 1 & 2). On the western edge is also open pastureland skirting the Bromyard Road. The whole of the central area is covered in orchard trees (photos 3 - 7).

Photo 8 is taken from footpath WH6 outside the parish boundary but captures the majority of the area looking across it to the (hideous) Orchard Business Park and on to the viaduct.

LR16 provides good connectivity into the Wellington Heath (WH) footpath network to the north but peters out at the southern end where it meets the junction between the Bromyard and Wellington Heath roads.

With the likely extra traffic in this area once the viaduct development is built, some form of crossing for pedestrians, to the path into Ledbury, should be considered.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



LSCA Area 2

This area is bordered to the north by a metalled track from Beggars Ash to Briars Hundred and on to Kiln Cottage (photo 9). The eastern border is footpaths LR21 and LR21A, skirting Frith Wood (photos 10 & 11), the southern border is footpath ZB19, and the western border is the Bromyard and Wellington Heath roads (photos 1 & 2). Footpath LR18 bisects the area from NW to SE.

The south of this area encircles the old kennels and consists of pasture fields (photos 6, 7 & 8). The remainder of the area is made up of arable land and apple orchards (photos 1 - 5, 10 & 11). The whole area slopes down from east to west, providing panoramic views to Marcle Ridge and beyond along the entire length of LR21 and LR21A (photos 6 - 8, 10 & 11).

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



LSCA Area 3

The approach to Frith Wood from the south using footpath LR24 beginning in Bradlow at GR716387 (photo 2) rises through a steep field. This is a breeding ground for marbled white butterflies. Before it enters the wood, the path gives one of the most glorious views of Ledbury extending across to May Hill (photo 3).

Frith Wood is a 75 hectare ancient wood which lies just to the north of Ledbury, on the western edge of the Malvern Hills AONB, and occupies a roughly north-east / south-west aligned limestone ridge. The wood is almost 2km long and 300m wide. The highest point of Frith Wood is called Bradlow Knoll at 260m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The wood can probably be identified with the wood 'half a league by a half' mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086). Long before that time, and up to the present day, the woodland has provided a variety of resources for the inhabitants of Ledbury. Now managed by the Forestry Commission, it is still productive woodland. It is also a great recreational area, its many paths heavily used by walkers and runners, easily accessible directly from the town, allowing the exploration of the flora, fauna and history of the area.

The tracks through Frith Wood provide an opportunity to explore an historic landscape on foot. Both the woodland boundaries and usage have changed with the passage of time, and traces of man's activities in the past are still visible today. The north western part of the wood is primarily chestnut coppice. The north eastern part is conifer (photo 32) and the southern end is old coppice; a mixture of ash, oak, chestnut, hazel, birch and some small-leaved lime.

Many of the tracks in Frith Wood have been given names by pupils of John Masefield School, Ledbury.

A survey showed 154 species of plant, including some rarely seen in the county, such as the violet helleborine. There are common spotted and early purple orchids, and probably the best showing in the county of the rare spreading bellflower. There are 39 species of tree, 33 of bird (including goshawk, linnets, goldcrest, nuthatch and tawny owl) and 26 of butterfly and moth, including comma, gatekeeper, red admiral, peacock, orange-tip and holly blue. There are many nest boxes scattered throughout the wood (photo 6) as well as boxes for the study and conservation of dormice, a protected species (photo 7).

Footpath LR21, which skirts the whole of the western edge of the wood, forms part of the Herefordshire Trail and the Geopark Way. It connects to other public footpaths in Colwall and Wellington Heath parishes. Photo 13 gives views from LR21, across the orchards in LSCA Area 2, of Wellington Heath. There is also a good view of the railway viaduct which should be preserved (photo 22). LR25 from the northern end of the wood, provides connectivity via LR26 to the Ridgeway and directly on to the Malvern Hills. As it exits the wood, LR25 provides a stunning panoramic view across to the Hills.

Area 3's eastern boundary is the Coddington Road. Between it and the western edge of the wood are several pasture fields crossed by a series of power lines (photos 26 a - d).

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 2a



Photo 2b



Photo 2c



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17



Photo 18



Photo 19



Photo 20



Photo 21



Photo 22



Photo 22a



Photo 23



Photo 24



Photo 25



Photo 26



Photo 26a



Photo 26b



Photo 26c



Photo 26d



Photo 27



Photo 28



Photo 29



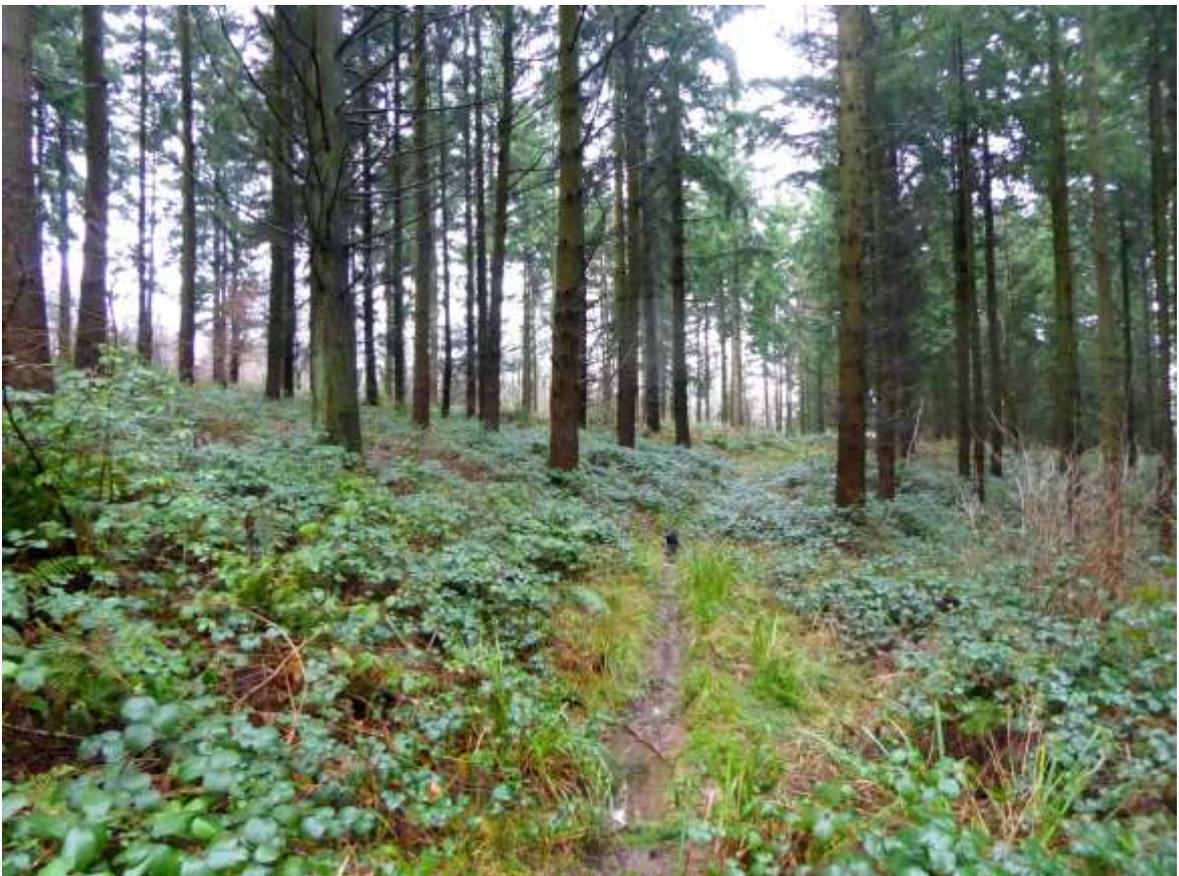
Photo 30



Photo 31



Photo 32



LSCA Area 4

Dog Hill Wood is directly accessible from the town via footpath ZB13 (photo 1) and is heavily used by and very popular with walkers, runners and horse riders, thus is of very high value. It is the closest area of woodland to the town centre and is a mixed deciduous, ancient wood with mature oak, ash and yew (photo 5). Wood anemones, bluebells and primroses can be seen in abundance in spring. The rocks that underlie Dog Hill Wood all formed during the Silurian Period over 400 million years ago.

Green Lane, which marks the eastern boundary of the wood, is not a designated right of way but could be incorporated into LR24 as a designated bridleway for continued connectivity. At the southern end of the wood is the 'cricket pitch' beauty spot which gives excellent views over the town (photos 3 & 4). Footpath LR33 (photo 6) leads east from Green Lane providing connectivity via LR26 and LR29 across to the Ridgeway (along western edge of Eastnor RPG), and directly on to the Malvern Hills.

The western boundary of Area 4 is the Coddington Road. Between it and Green Lane are open fields (photos 12,13 & 14). The south of the area is bordered by the Worcester Road, to the west of which is Upper Hall which is surrounded by woodland.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14



LSCA Area 5

This area is bounded to the south by bridleway LR1 (photo 1), to the east by Coneygree Wood (photos 7, 8 & 9), to the west by the A417, and to the north by the northern boundary of Ledbury Park (Photos 14 & 15).

Coneygree Wood is an ancient woodland site of 56 hectares, rich in plant and insect life. Evidence has been found of prehistoric occupation, such as Neolithic flint implements and, in more recent times, the sites of a water-mill and lime-kiln.

With its public footpath to the north, linking Ledbury with Eastnor, a bridleway to the south which passes up The Bullen and crosses to Eastnor, and its easy access from the town, this wood is popular with residents and visitors, and is a high value recreational resource.

A Naturalists' field study in 2005 recorded 166 species of flowers along the edges of rides and in clearings, including primrose, cowslip, wood anemone, a range of violets, common spotted and early purple orchid and yellow figwort. Oak, ash, hazel, field maple, spindle and hornbeam are among 47 species of tree recorded.

Small-leaved lime and wild service trees indicate the woodland's ancient origins. Bird life includes the green and greater-spotted woodpeckers, tree-creeper and goldcrest among the 28 species found. There is a wealth of butterflies and moths, including holly and common blues, painted lady, marbled white and small copper. There are badger setts, grey squirrels and Muntjac deer present.

The south west corner of this area contains Bullen Copse (photo 3). The area consists mainly of undulating pasture fields to the south which used to be apple orchards (photos 2 – 6). To the north of the area is Ledbury Park, consisting of further undulating pasture land usually inhabited by cattle (photos 11 – 15). Ledbury Park has at various times been host to town events such as displays by The Sealed Knot Company and the annual firework display.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15



LSCA Area 6

This area is bordered to the north by bridleway LR1, to the west by the A417, to the north east by Coneygree Wood, and to the south and south west by Hospital Wood.

It mainly consists of Dundridge Farm, which sits half way along the western border and is accessible from the A417, and its surrounding fields both arable and pasture. Water collects and flows through the centre of this area and there is a large pond to the south of Dundridge Farm.

There is a good route through the northern edge of Hospital Wood which could, if allocated PRow status, connect EA1 to LR6.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



LSCA Area 7

This area is bordered to the east by the A417 and to the west by the B4216. The northern boundary is the Ledbury bypass and the southern skirts the northern boundary of the Hall House Farm estate and passes through the middle of Upper Highbridge Coppice. The route of footpath LR7 cuts the bypass and enters the field at the NW corner of the area (photo 6).

This is an area already under threat of development and LR7's integrity must be maintained should it occur. This footpath is important as it provides connectivity out to Donnington and across to Eastnor and the Malvern Hills. To the SE can be seen the ongoing development on the Barratt site south of the bypass (photo 7) and the field between.

LR7 heads directly south through various fields and through the Hall House Farm Estate. Photos 8 – 13 give views of the fields to the east to the A417 and west to the Dymock Road.

Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 14a



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17



Photo 18



Photo 19



Photo 20



Photo 21



Photo 22



Photo 23



Photo 24



Photo 25



Photo 26

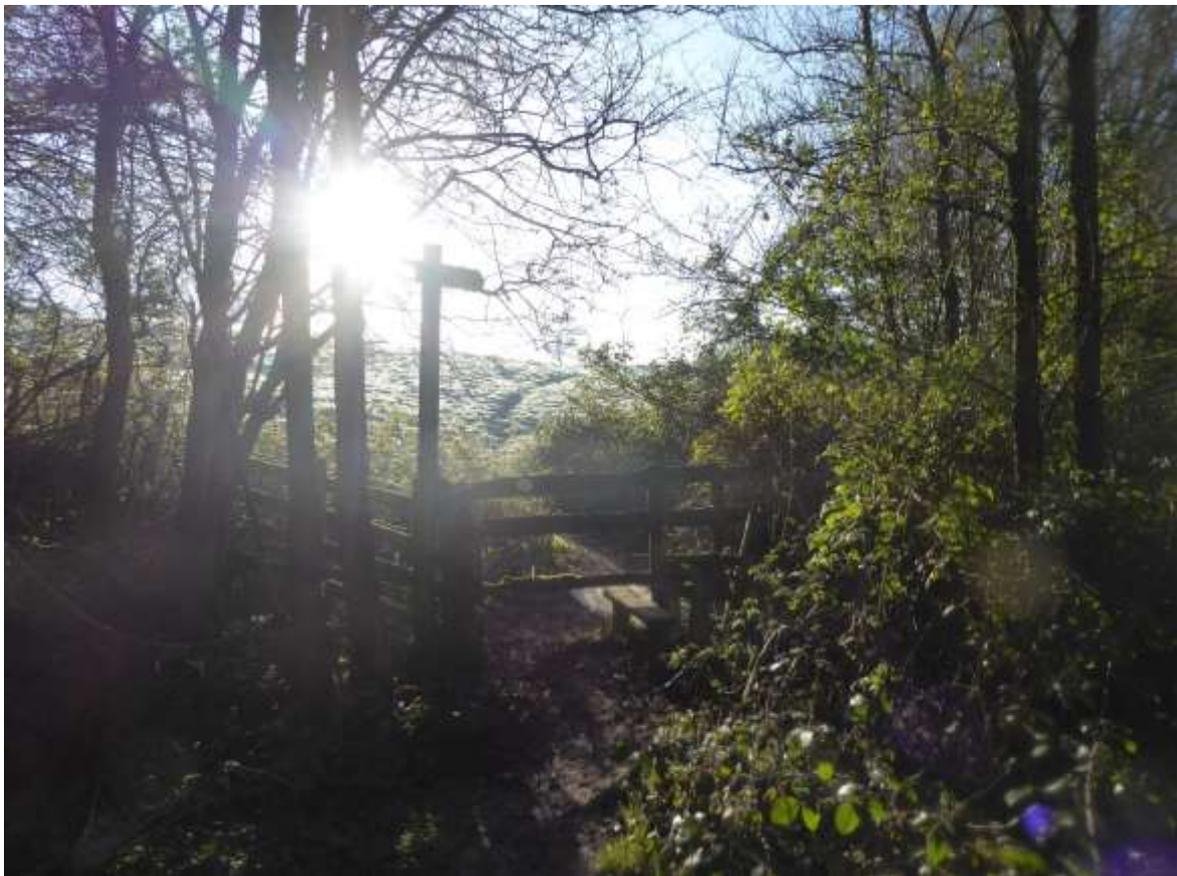


Photo 27



Photo 28



Photo 29



Photo 30



Photo 31



Photo 32



Photo 33



Photo 34



Photo 35



Photo 36



Photo 37



Photo 38



Photo 39



Photo 40



Photo 41



Photo 42



LSCA Area 8

This area is a green wildlife corridor, running east to west, which acts as a noise buffer between the Ledbury bypass and the Deer Park Estate. It loosely links Conigree Wood to the River Leadon / Town Trail and could be better established, particularly at the western end. It consists of privately-owned amenity land to the east and is crossed by footpath LR7, to the west of which is pasture land which is informally used by dog and other walkers.

An underground water course runs along the northern edge of the area and emerges at the edge of the green space at the bottom of Jubilee Close. The pasture land often has cattle grazing on it and is smothered in cowslips in the spring.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



LSCA Area 9

This is a triangular piece of land in a prominent position at the Full Pitcher roundabout, which forms an important gateway into the town from the south and south west. It is bordered by the B4216 to the west (an ancient routeway), the 1980s A417 Leadon Way to the north (photo 1) and the new, very ugly and ubiquitous Barratt development to the east / south east (photo 2). The photos are taken from the B4216.

The land is open grass which could be used as a green space and / or planted with trees.

Photo 1



Photo 2



LSCA Area 10

This area is bordered to the south by Highbridge Coppice and Siddington Farm, to the east by the Dymock Road (photo 4), to the west by Orham Lane, and to the north by the Much Marcle Road (photos 12 & 13). The River Leadon runs north to south down the middle of the area (photo 5).

Much of the south of the area is arable land (photos 1 – 3) with a few orchards (photo 6). The north west of the area has been developed as Pughs auctioneers and is also used for Ledbury car boot sale in the summer. The area to the north east, between the stables and the existing industrial estate could be used for further light industry (photos 7 – 11).

There are no footpaths across this area, but an extension of LR6 to skirt Highbridge Coppice and meet Orham Lane would increase connectivity in this area.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



LSCA Area 11

The eastern boundary of this area consists of Leadon Way, the River Leadon and the Riverside Walk.

The Ledbury Riverside Park came into existence in the late 1980s when the Ledbury bypass / Leadon Way was built and the River Leadon subsequently diverted. It is split into three areas: The Leadon Valley Picnic Place (from Ross roundabout to Little Marcle roundabout); the Weir Gardens (from Little Marcle roundabout to Homebase roundabout); and the Riverside Park (from Homebase roundabout to Hereford Rd roundabout). It contains a vast diversity of trees (42 species including 5 types of willow) and excellent habitat for assorted birds and insects. Over 200 species of wildflower grow here, and otter spraint has been found.

The remaining south-eastern part of this area consists of the Ledbury Rugby Club and associated sports pitches. The southern edge of the area is the A449 Much Marcle Road. From this road, and opposite Orlham Lane, is the start of LR8, a bridle path which heads NNW until it connects with LR12 running east / west and skirting the perimeter fence of the cider factory.

The start of the Riverside Park/Town Trail from Much Marcle Road is marked by a picnic / parking area and green space (photo 1). The Town Trail and Riverside Park must be conserved as PRsoW as they are heavily-used by locals and visitors alike and provide circuitous routes through and around the town. The area around the River Leadon is very prone to flooding during periods of heavy rainfall.

From the Marcle Road, LR8 emerges into open crop-sown fields (photos 2, 3 & 4) which it crosses to meet LR12. The route of LR12 skirts the cider factory boundary through land with low scrub (photos 5, 6 & 7). The north-western part of the area is an open field with views across to Flights Farm on the Little Marcle Road.

The north-eastern part of the area is where LR12 and LR8 emerge onto the Little Marcle Road (photo 9) and give views to the rugby club to the south across scrub land (photo 10).

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



LSCA Area 12

This area incorporates the Weir Gardens and Riverside Park. It is bordered to the south by the Little Marcle Road (photo 1). The eastern boundary is the Leadon Way bypass and the northern boundary is the Hereford Road. To the west are open pasture fields and arable land.

Halfway up this area, footpath LR10 crosses from the bypass and, after crossing the bridge over the river, turns north to become LR11 (photos 6,7 & 8).

The bypass crossing from ZB2 to LR10 would be helped by some form of traffic calming. LR11 continues to the west of, and parallel with, the river until it meets the Hereford Road.

LR11's route is through pasture land grazed by cattle and sheep and to the north across arable, crop sown land (Photos 11 – 14) offering a good view of Frith Wood to the east.

The area of land in the north-eastern sector of Area 12 is scrubby pasture land (photos 15 & 16 looking south from Hereford Road).

The Weirside Walk becomes the Riverside Park to the north of the Homebase roundabout and continues until it emerges onto the bypass at the Hereford roundabout (photos 17 – 20).

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17



Photo 18



Photo 19



Photo 20



LSCA Area 13

Bounded to the south by the Hereford Road and to the north by the railway line and viaduct, this is a crop-sown single field, with a mature woodland belt between the field and the railway, and a large, dense block of mature woodland at the eastern end (in the southern sector of which there are three dwellings). See photos 1 - 3.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



LSCA Area 14

The River Leadon runs through the centre of the area. The area is bordered to the west by open arable farm land, to the south by the railway, to the north east by the Bromyard Road, and to the east by the viaduct site which is to be developed for residential and employment use. The western boundary of the development site has been determined by the proposed line of the restored Herefordshire to Gloucestershire Canal.

The south east corner of the area is overgrown, covered with bramble and fairly impassable (photo 1). Photos 2 – 5 are views across the area from the same point on the Bromyard Road.

This would seem to be an ideal site for an allotment area especially for new residents in the viaduct development, and is close to the existing allotments on Burtons Lane.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

