

## **West Norfolk Ecological Network Map**

### **What is an ecological network?**

Ecological networks are sometimes described as 'stepping stones'. These can be groups of trees in a field, ponds or old buildings where species can make their homes and from which utilise the surrounding area.

Ecological networks can also be described as 'corridors'. For example a hedgerow in a field, a stream or a verge of wild flowers can act as a corridor, helping wildlife to move around an area.

### **Why are ecological networks important?**

When roads or houses are built or where intensive agriculture removes landscape features such as hedgerows and trees, it means that species are left in small isolated islands or patches. Species such as reptiles, amphibians and mammals may find it difficult to move around. This means that instead of a species being able to move to new areas and grow in numbers, the species gradually die out as they are more susceptible to disease and the habitat which they depend on for food and shelter will in time diminish as the population grows too big for the environment to support it.

It is important that there are opportunities for wildlife to move around and flourish creating a healthier and interesting environment for future generations to enjoy.

### **The ecological network map for West Norfolk**

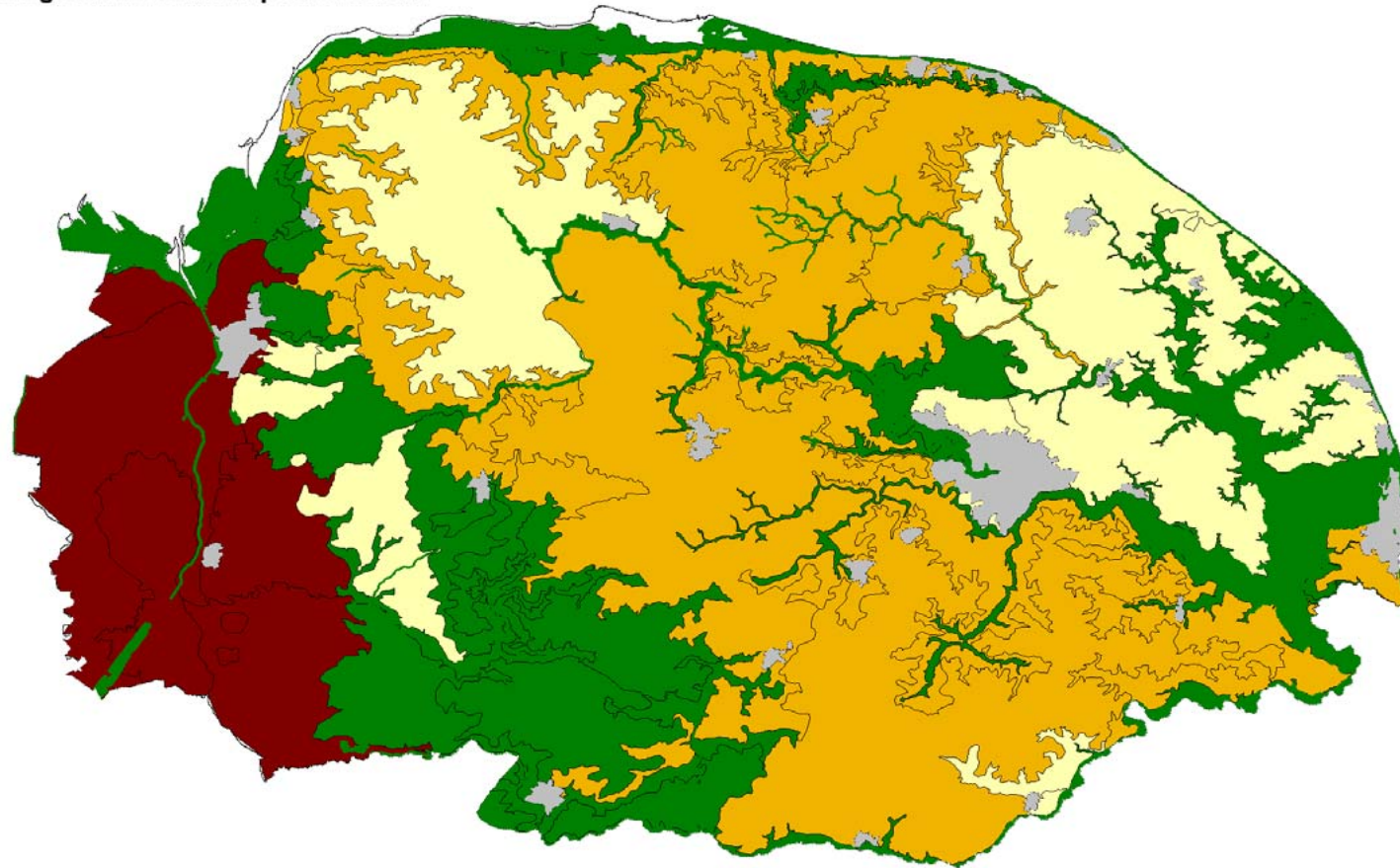
An ecological network map for the County of Norfolk as well as maps for the other local authorities in Norfolk have been prepared, led by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership.

Different core areas of habitat are mapped such as heathland, wetland and woodland. The report also identifies main habitat corridors and potential areas of habitat enhancement as well as creation of new areas of habitat.

By mapping the habitat types and possible areas for creation and enhancement, efforts can be directed towards specific areas where organisations, groups or individuals can make a distinct improvement to the environment in the Borough.

Both the map for the County and West Norfolk and the accompanying report for the district can be seen in the *LINKS* below.

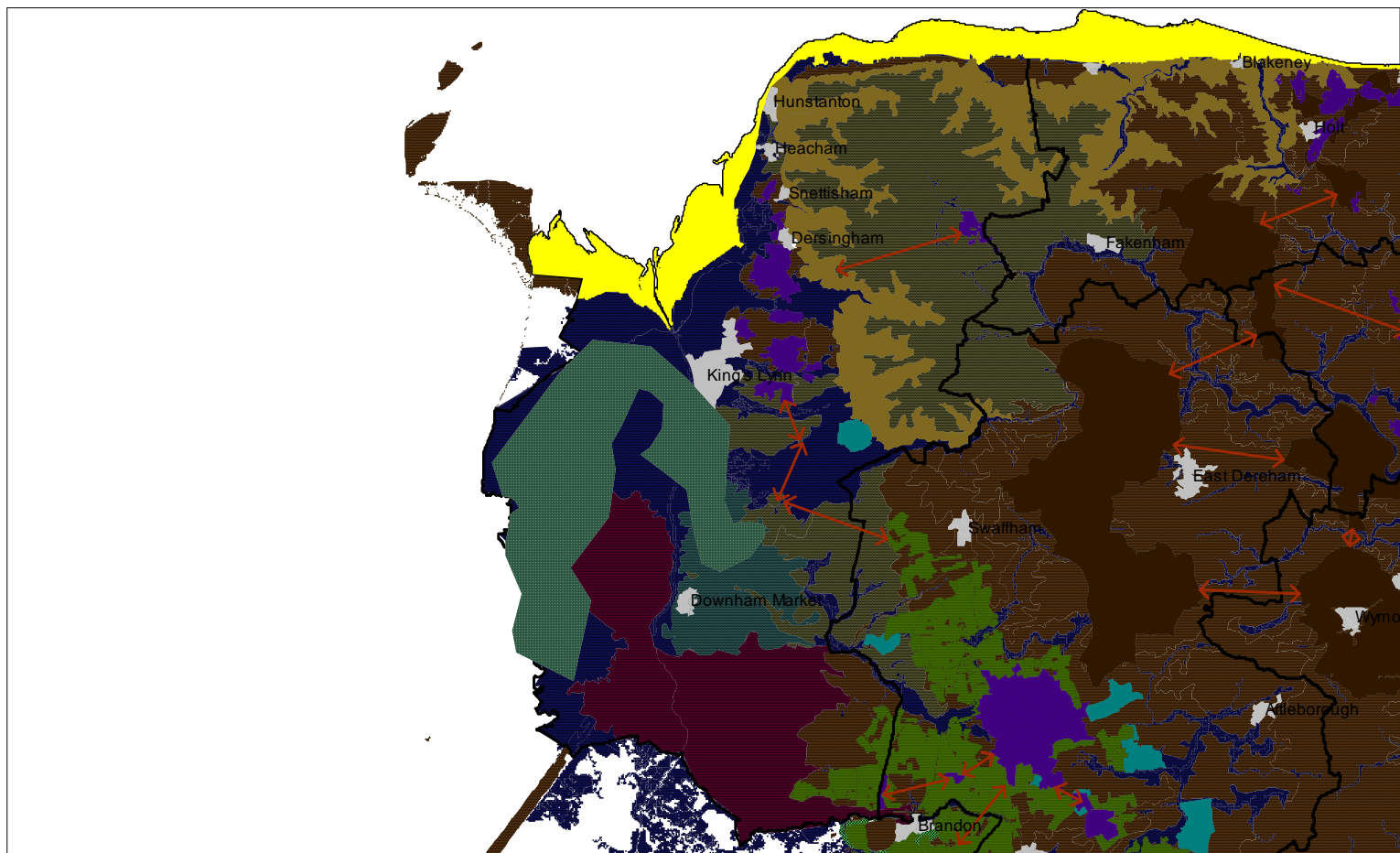
## An Ecological Network Map for Norfolk



### LEGEND

- County Boundary
- LDU Boundary
- Urban LDU

- Core area
- Zone of general habitat enhancement
- Zone of heath, grassland and wood
- Zone of wetland enhancement
- Chalk river



## West Norfolk District Ecological Network Summary Map

Note: This map is a summary. Please refer to additional information in the Ecological Network Toolkit.

Scale 1: 460036 Compiled by Norfolk County Council on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2007

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller Of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Norfolk County Council. Licence No: 100019340. 2007

District Boundary



Core Habitat Corridors



Coastal Buffer Zone



Coastal Habitat Enhancement Zone



Large Scale Habitat Creation Zone - Peat Soils



Downham Market Landscape Zone



Calcareous Grassland Core Area



Heathland Core Area



Orchard Core Area



Fluctuating Water Bodies



Brecks Buffer Zone



Brecks Core Area



Urban Areas



Wetland Habitat Enhancement Zone



Core Woodland Area



Zone of Grassland - Heathland - Woodland Enhancement



Zone of General Habitat Enhancement



River Buffer Zone

