

## 3. GI Vision

### 3.1 Strategic Vision

The GI Vision for the Borough was identified following discussion with key stakeholders at the Stakeholder Workshop in February 2009 and meetings with the Steering Group. The Vision draws on the Sustainable Community Strategy, Core Strategy (Regulation 25 Consultation February 2009) and other GI related strategies and documents reviewed as part of this Strategy.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk's GI Vision for the next 20 years is set out in Box 1. The first part of the overarching Vision is the same as the vision set out in West Norfolk's Sustainable Community Strategy<sup>1</sup> and developed further within 'Our Vision for the Future' set out in the Core Strategy<sup>2</sup>. The second section of the overarching Vision sets out the various objectives for the provision of GI in the Borough, these are specific to this GI Strategy.

<b>Box 1</b> <b>King's Lynn and West Norfolk's GI Vision (2009-2029)</b>
<p><i>"We want to safeguard our justly famous natural and historic environment, at the same time making sustainability a central part of our vision. We want to build connections with other local and regional economies, reduce reliance on the car, and prepare ourselves for the challenges of climate change.</i></p> <p><i>In 2030...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>West Norfolk has undergone regeneration and growth that complements its high quality historical and natural inheritance;</i></li> <li><i>communities in West Norfolk benefit from quality public spaces and parks with access to the coast and countryside that make the area special;</i></li> <li><i>West Norfolk is meeting the challenges of climate change;</i></li> <li><i>people will be less reliant on the motor car to access places and services; and</i></li> <li><i>West Norfolk still feels like somewhere unique in its own right, based on its own local distinctiveness".</i></li> </ul> <p>(Source: West Norfolk's Sustainable Community Strategy and Core Strategy Regulation 25 Local Development Framework).</p>

<sup>1</sup> West Norfolk Partnership (2007). *Transforming West Norfolk Work Together - Making a Difference. West Norfolk's Sustainable Community Strategy Tackling Important Local Issues 2007-2030. Draft.* Available at <http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/Community%20Strategy%2017th%20Jan%202008.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> King's Lynn and West Norfolk Development Services (2009). *Core Strategy Regulation 25 Local Development Framework. Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, King's Lynn.* Available at <http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/SSAPDPDwebMay2009.pdf>



## Overarching Objectives

A number of overarching objectives were also created for delivery in line with this vision they include:

- protect and develop woodlands and orchards in appropriate locations;
- protect and enhance biodiversity assets;
- promote and improve the communication of accessible greenspaces and routes;
- develop and create recreational and orbital routes around the key centres of King's Lynn, Downham Market and Hunstanton;
- create a range of new strategically accessible greenspaces in and around King's Lynn, Downham Market and Hunstanton;
- protect, enhance and develop corridors for biodiversity, which link up strategic sites, within the Borough and adjoining districts;
- seek the creation of multi-functional spaces;
- design to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, opportunities should be sought to integrate SUDS into major development sites, and to provide appropriate planting within developments and town centres;
- maintain and restore historic features where possible;
- connect urban and rural settlements and the countryside; and
- protect and where possible open up disused railway lines for access and biodiversity.



## 3.2 Spatial Plan

A number of GI plans have been created for the three main towns and the Borough overall and they act as a spatial framework of how the GI vision will be delivered. The plans have been developed to demonstrate existing GI assets and potential new projects. The new projects were identified through two stakeholder consultation events, the first in relation to Stage One, where ideas for new projects were discussed, and the second that was completed as part of the Stage Two study and examined the wider GI network, as well as specific projects. The location of current provision was used to determine future projects and a literature review also completed to identify relevant projects, e.g. plans for residential development within the Urban Development Strategy.

Following the completion of outline plans for GI development within Stage One of the project, it was decided that a series of masterplan style diagrams was required for the three main towns of the Borough and a further map to demonstrate provision at a Borough scale. These spatial plans aim to highlight where linkages are required in the GI network and demonstrate the location of identified projects and how they fit with the existing GI network.

### 3.2.1 Borough

The Borough wide masterplan in Figure 3.1 indicates a number of key strategic, large projects, which tend to be more rural in nature. Many of these projects provide links with neighbouring authorities and have been identified to be of regional significance. Figure 3.1 also demonstrates the location of wards, ranked to be in the 20% most deprived areas in England (IMD, 2007). This area should be considered to maximise GI's potential role in supporting opportunities for future regeneration and image enhancement.

To the north of the Borough a number of potential GI projects have been identified, they include the King's Lynn Wash/Norfolk Coastal Path, which will increase linkages between the Borough's primary town, and the linkages along the East coast, supporting both the movement of wildlife and opportunities for recreation. It is also expected that increasing King's Lynn's links with the Coast will support tourism objectives. There is also potential to develop further links to the Coast through the enhancement of the existing disused railway, which runs between King's Lynn and the Coast.

Three significant conservation projects are identified in Figure 3.1. This includes the Living Landscapes projects of Gaywood Valley and the Wissey, plus the Brecks Regional Park. It should be considered that the Brecks Regional Park consists of a number of sites and one of which is included within the Borough (as demonstrated in Figure 3.1). The development of a circular waterway supporting movement around the Fens Waterways is also identified in Figure 3.1 (Project A).



### 3.2.2 King's Lynn

Figure 3.2 provides a GI masterplan for King's Lynn. It indicates a number of sites for future potential residential development, including an urban extension site. Opportunities to include GI within these sites will be sought in relation to the policies described in section 4. Efforts should be made to protect the GI assets that currently exist in these areas and configure new GI provision to create a coherent network. Significant development is planned for the River Great Ouse area and GI linkages in these areas should be considered, particularly the Nar Ouse Riverside Park. Consultation demonstrated that GI linkages should be identified in relation to the existing road network, particularly crossings of the A149.

GI can be used to improve the environmental quality of an area and therefore enhance the image of a town. The Urban Development Strategy indicates the need for enhancements to gateway sites in the Town to improve environmental quality and these sites are therefore identified in the GI masterplan as key areas for development. Employment sites are also demonstrated in the masterplan, as it is possible to incorporate GI within these commercial areas through green roofs, formal garden areas for workers and sustainable transport routes. The construction of such provision in commercial areas can make such sites more appealing with a related positive impact upon rental prices.

### 3.2.3 Downham Market

Figure 3.3 illustrates aspirations for a comprehensive GI network in Downham Market based upon a hub and spoke model. Consultation demonstrates demand for a circular route of footpaths and cycleways around the perimeter of the town linking residential areas with employment sites and the surrounding countryside. Demand for further synergies between the village of Wimbotsham, to the north, and Downham Market are also demonstrated. Proposed new residential areas are located primarily on the perimeter of the Town and will also be supported by these linkages.

New GI provision will be sought to the south of the Town (Wissey) and the north-west to support the recreation of the existing and new residents. As at King's Lynn, linkages are required across the boundaries created by the current road structure, primarily the A10.

### 3.2.4 Hunstanton

The GI masterplan for Hunstanton is demonstrated within Figure 3.4. The Plan demonstrates the GI linkages required with Heacham to the south of the Town and Hunstanton Park to create comprehensive support for the existing GI network, supporting movement along the Coast and between residential areas and recreation provision. The enhancement of Oasis Way and the Promenade is highlighted in the Hunstanton Masterplan and GI provision creates opportunities to support such enhancement, whilst providing attractions for tourists. An urban extension



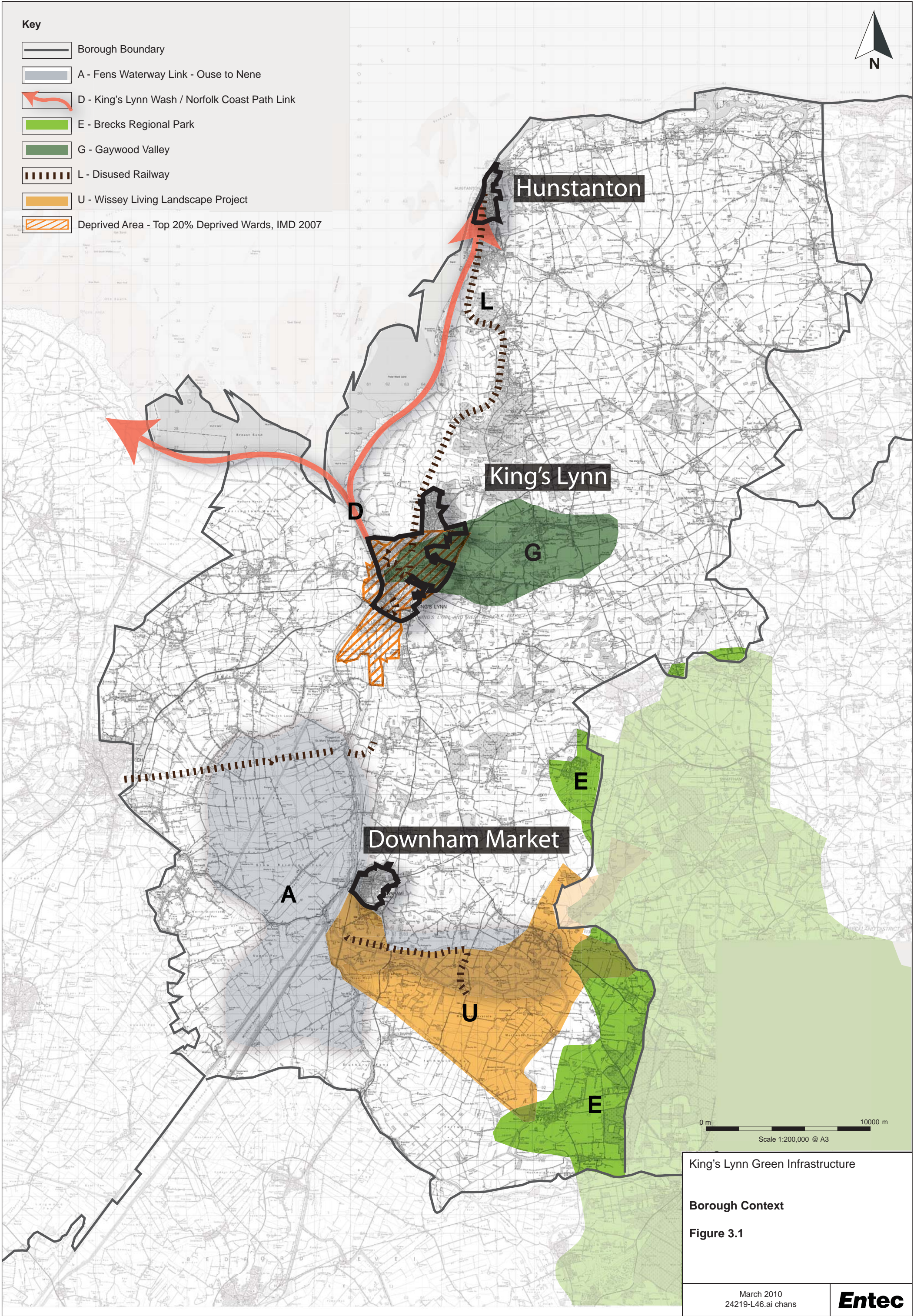
site has been identified in Hunstanton and any future development of this area should adhere to the GI policies as indicated in chapter 4.

The keys for the four maps are provided in Appendix F in larger print.







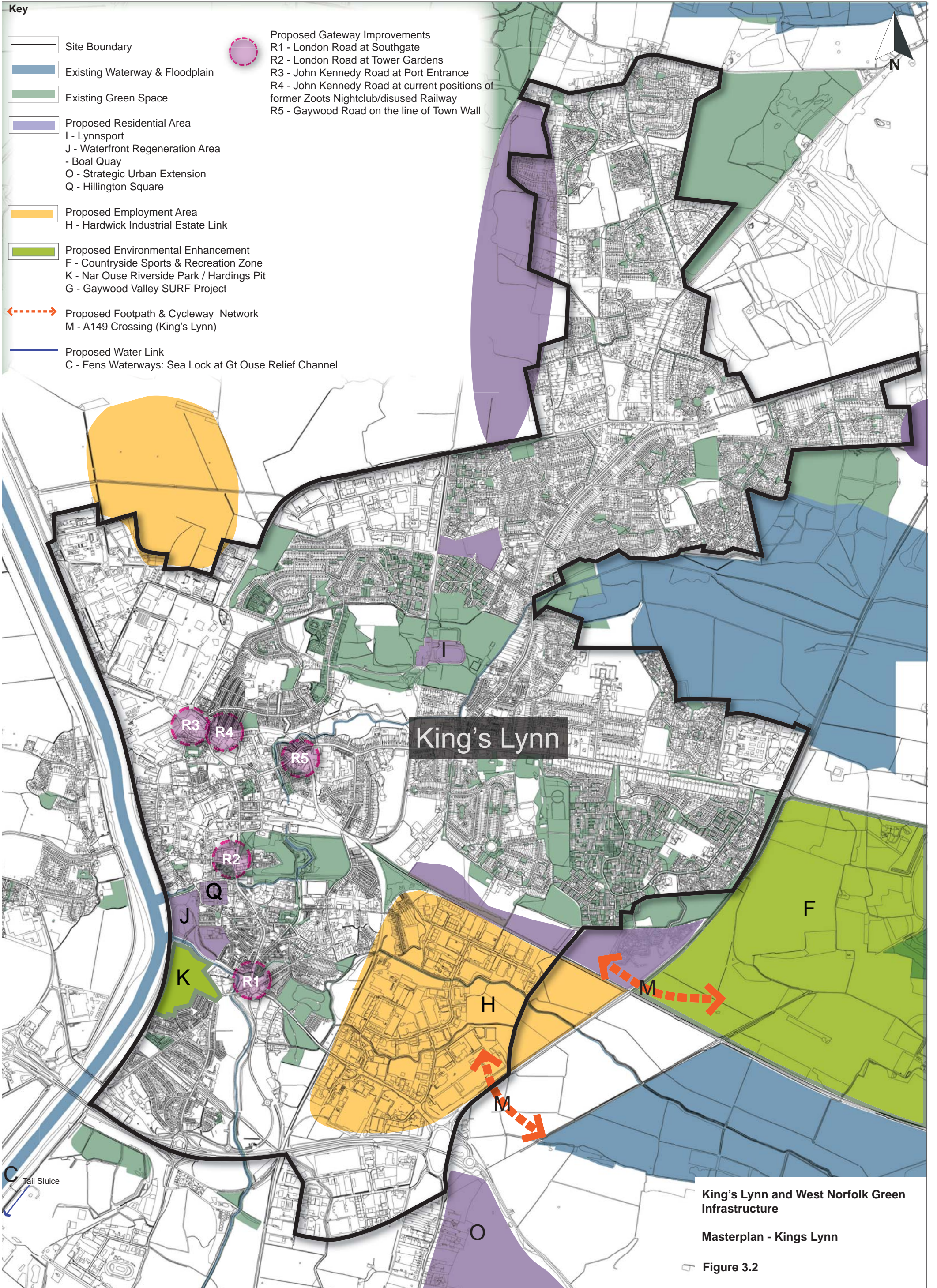




Key

- Site Boundary
- Existing Waterway & Floodplain
- Existing Green Space
- Proposed Residential Area
  - I - Lynnsport
  - J - Waterfront Regeneration Area - Boal Quay
  - O - Strategic Urban Extension
  - Q - Hillington Square
- Proposed Employment Area
  - H - Hardwick Industrial Estate Link
- Proposed Environmental Enhancement
  - F - Countryside Sports & Recreation Zone
  - K - Nar Ouse Riverside Park / Hardings Pit
  - G - Gaywood Valley SURF Project
- Proposed Footpath & Cycleway Network
  - M - A149 Crossing (King's Lynn)
- Proposed Water Link
  - C - Fens Waterways: Sea Lock at Gt Ouse Relief Channel

- Proposed Gateway Improvements
- R1 - London Road at Southgate
  - R2 - London Road at Tower Gardens
  - R3 - John Kennedy Road at Port Entrance
  - R4 - John Kennedy Road at current positions of former Zoots Nightclub/disused Railway
  - R5 - Gaywood Road on the line of Town Wall



King's Lynn and West Norfolk Green Infrastructure

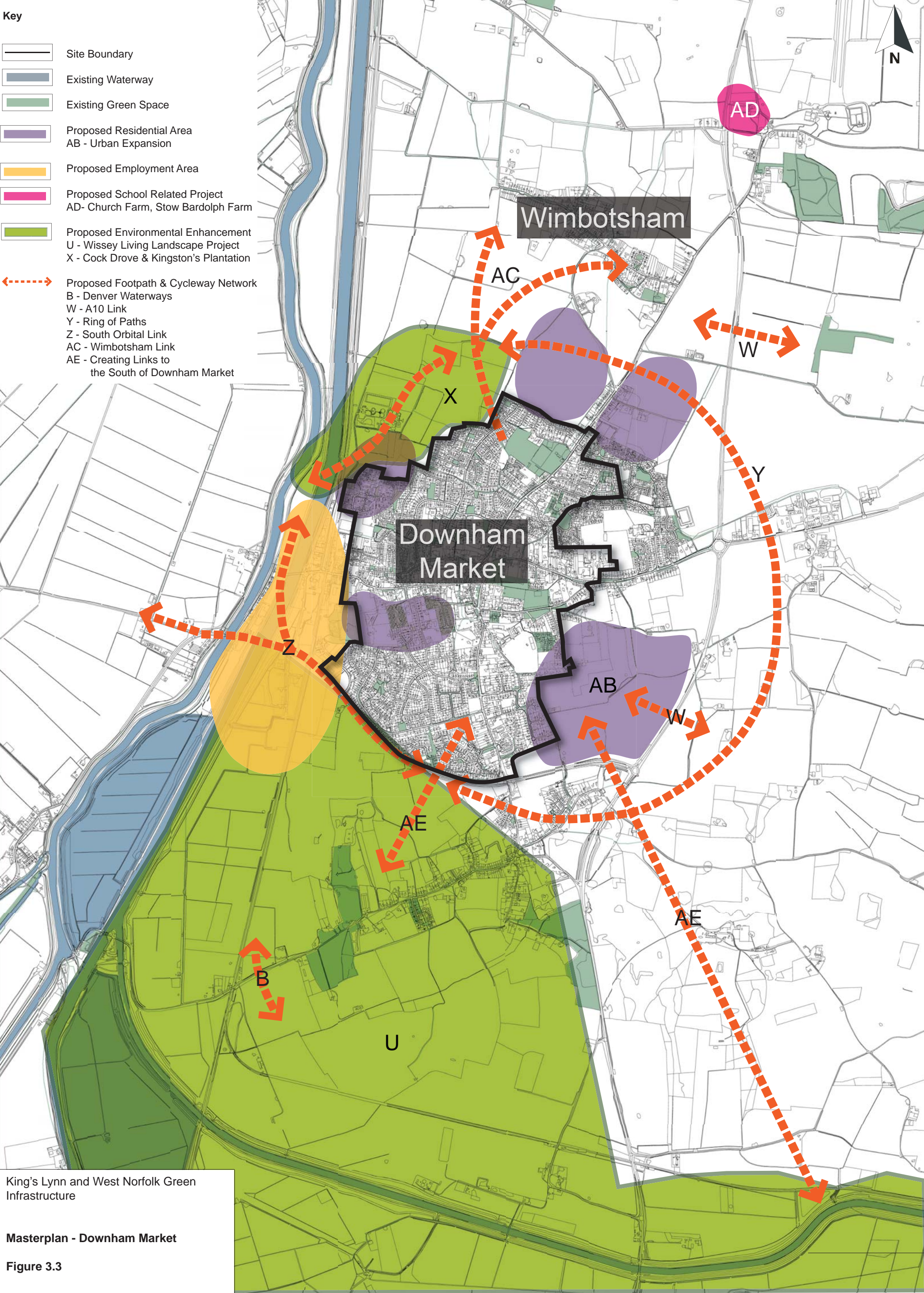
Masterplan - Kings Lynn

Figure 3.2

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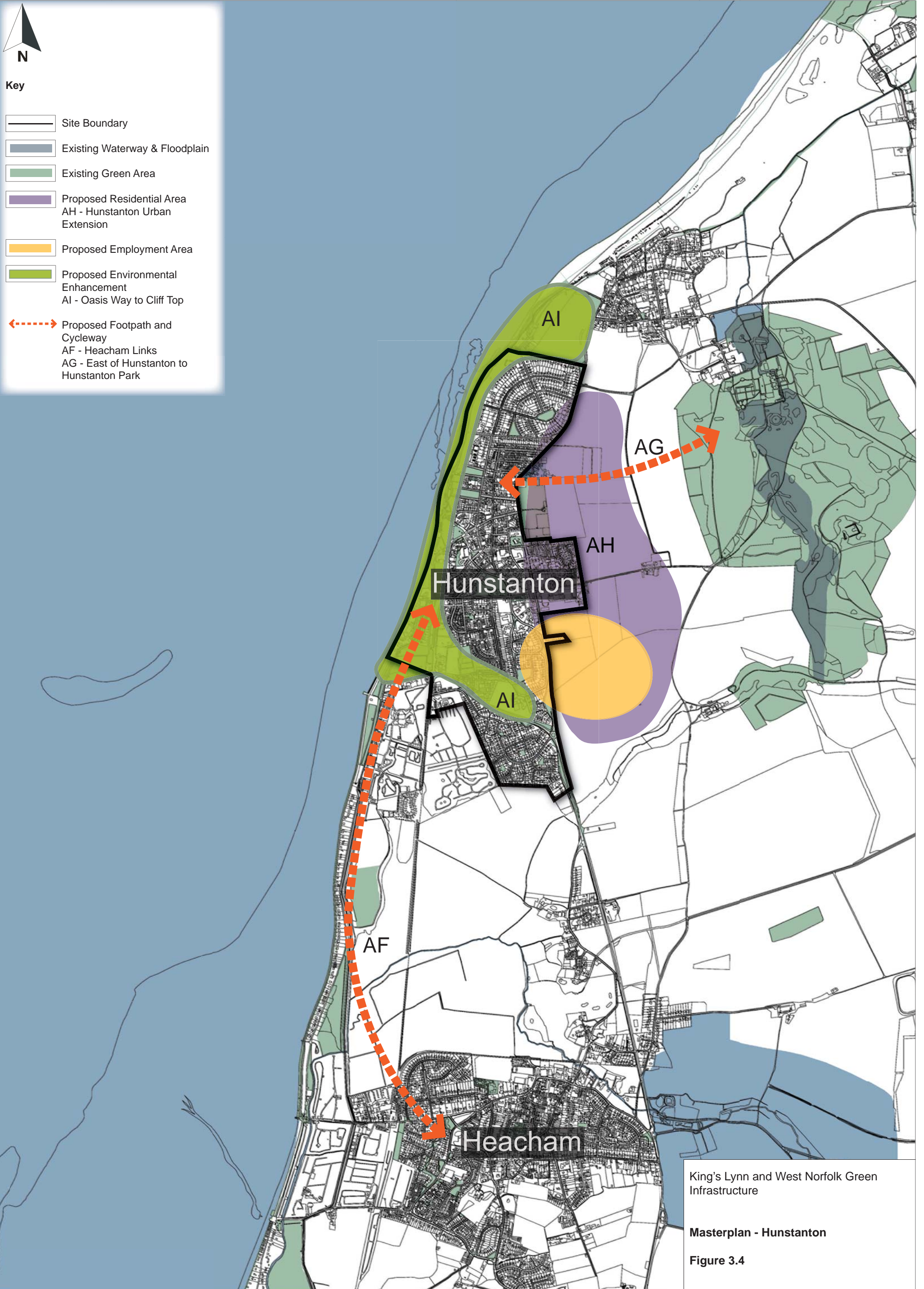






Key

-  Site Boundary
-  Existing Waterway & Floodplain
-  Existing Green Area
-  Proposed Residential Area  
AH - Hunstanton Urban Extension
-  Proposed Employment Area
-  Proposed Environmental Enhancement  
AI - Oasis Way to Cliff Top
-  Proposed Footpath and Cycleway  
AF - Heacham Links  
AG - East of Hunstanton to Hunstanton Park



0 km 3 km  
Scale 1:50,000 @ A1

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Green Infrastructure

Masterplan - Hunstanton

Figure 3.4

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