



Strategic Environment Plan for Frodsham  
March 2018



## Executive Summary

The Mersey Forest Team have worked with partners to develop a business plan for a strategic approach to the delivery of a programme of environmental improvement in and around Frodsham, focussed on environmental improvements and health and wellbeing gains for local communities.

The local community will benefit from increased funding for projects and programmes making the area a better place to live and work.

The plan has focussed on the opportunities provided by the windfarm fund (Marshes Community Benefit Fund), but has also looked more widely for match-funding and other funding strands that can maximise the value of the wind farm fund. The plan is long-term, aspirational and not everything will be put into action all at once. The plan has identified a range of funding sources, deadlines and timescales and potential lead partners – an action plan to take the work forward.

Through discussions with organisations and two consultation events in the town local people had the opportunity to comment on specific proposals as plans progressed.

### 1. Background

The business was commissioned by Councillors Lynn Riley and Andrew Dawson in 2017 with the aim to:

- Develop a business plan for a strategic approach to the delivery of a programme of activity in and around Frodsham, focussed on environmental improvements and health and wellbeing gains for local communities.
- The plan will focus on the opportunities provided by the Community Benefit Fund, and will look more widely for match-funding and other funding strands that can maximise the value of an initial investment.
- The Business Plan will provide costings for a range of projects, with more detailed costings for improvements along the Weaver footpath/cycle way.

- The plan will also identify a range of funding sources, deadlines and timescales and potential lead partners – an action plan to take the work forward.
- The Plan will link to THRIVE priorities and local plan policies
- An agreement on how activities in the area can be co-ordinated

## 2. Strategic Context

This sets out the key national documents, strategies, plans and policies considered that can provide the framework to the plan.

### *25 Year Plan for the Environment*

This was announced in January 2018 which commits the Government to championing sustainable development and sets out the following 25-year goals which the Government aims to achieve:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as drought and flooding
- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

This includes references to the Northern Forest, the role of the Community Forests in delivery of the strategy, as well as featuring the work of The Mersey Forest Partnership as a case study to illustrate the goal of increasing green infrastructure in urban areas.

### *The Northern Forest*

The Northern Forest was announced on 6 January 2018 to plant 50 million trees across the North of England, stretching from Liverpool to Hull. The Northern Forest builds on the work of the Mersey Forest Partnership to date and supports future delivery. The announcement of new funds and focus will help the Partnership to achieve the Mersey Forest Plan.

### *Industrial Strategy Green Paper*

The Industrial Strategy green paper sets out the long-term direction of infrastructure policy, including, where relevant, how we use and improve our stock of Natural Capital. 'Natural capital' refers to those elements of nature which either directly provide benefits or underpin human wellbeing. It encompasses a wide variety of different assets, such as rivers, lakes, woodlands, clean air, soils, plants and wildlife; and systems such as the water cycle, nutrient cycles, gas exchange in the atmosphere and ecosystems. These provide us with valuable benefits such as water, crops, food and clean air.

### *National Planning Policy Framework*

The National Planning Policy Framework was published in March 2012 and is designed to consolidate and simplify guidance for the preparation of development plans and assessment of planning applications. In relation to green infrastructure the document encourages local authorities to: "set out a strategic approach in their local plans, planning positively for the: *creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.*" Approved Community Forest Plans such as the [Mersey Forest Plan](#) are highlighted as material considerations.

### *Natural Environment White Paper – The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature*

The White Paper aims to halt biodiversity loss by 2020 by supporting healthy functioning ecosystems and establishing coherent ecological networks. It is informed by the NEA and the Lawton Report - Making Space for Nature which sets out the case for improving our ecological network. It highlights the ethical case for biodiversity conservation and also clearly sets out the value of the natural environment in providing services and benefits critical to the wellbeing of individuals, communities and the economy.

Urban green infrastructure is cited as being an effective tool for managing environmental risks such as flooding and heat waves and advocates green spaces being factored into all development.

### *Localism Act 2011*

The Localism Bill was introduced to Parliament in December 2010 with the underlying aim of shifting power from central government to individuals, communities and councils. Provisions in the Bill include:

- A duty to cooperate that requires local authorities and other public bodies to work together on planning matters.
- A requirement for communities to draw up neighbourhood development plans consistent with the Councils local plan and national guidance.
- The ability to use community infrastructure levy funds on maintaining infrastructure, creating new infrastructure.

### 3. Regional context

The policies, strategies and programmes that enable delivery on the ground are crucial, as well as the wider partnership of public, private and voluntary sector organisations:

#### *Sub Regional Economic Plans*

LEPs role is to “provide the clear vision and strategic leadership to drive sustainable private-sector led growth and job creation”.

Growth Plans set out the sub-regional priorities for the economy. With a strong focus on jobs and growth, these Plans have little to say specifically about the environment. They do however identify locations where investment will be targeted.

#### *Local Nature Partnerships*

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are partnerships of a broad range of influential organisations, businesses, and people, and from a range of sectors, charged by the government with the task of bringing about improvements in their local natural environment in England. To achieve this, they are expected to ensure that consideration for the environment is put right at the heart of local decision-making.

Local Nature Partnerships originated in a vision set out in the UK government’s 2011 ‘Natural Environment White Paper’, which identified the need to take greater account of the value of the environment when strategic decisions are made that affect people and the local economy.

The overall purpose of an LNP is to:

- Drive positive change in the local natural environment, taking a strategic view of the challenges and opportunities involved and identifying ways to manage it as a system for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.
- Contribute to achieving the Government’s national environmental objectives locally, including the identification of local ecological networks, alongside addressing local priorities.
- Become local champions influencing decision-making relating to the natural environment and its value to social and economic outcomes, in particular, through working closely with local authorities, [Local Enterprise Partnerships](#) (LEPs) and [Health and Wellbeing Boards](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

With a role set in the Environment White Paper, the LNP can provide the “environmental arm” for the local economic and health strategic partnerships. In Cheshire West there is the Cheshire and Warrington LNP

## 4. Local context

Whilst the statutory planning system is an important policy hook, local authorities set the context for development in their area within their Local Plans. Through mechanisms such as developer contributions, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and the duty to cooperate, resources can be secured to match with other funds to achieve a greater outcome. The role of area based and neighbourhood plans are increasingly being used to support delivery of environmental and social benefits.

### *Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan*

Strategic Objectives include:

Economic: SO4 – Provide and develop reliable, efficient transport networks that support sustainable growth and improve accessibility to jobs and services

Social: SO8 – Create stronger, safer and healthier communities by enabling access to leisure, recreational and community facilities and promoting walking and cycling

Environmental: SO3 – Manage, expand and improve GI and waterways networks, recognising their importance in delivering local environmental social, economic and health benefits

### *Cheshire West and Chester Council Local Transport Plan 2011-2026*

The Local Transport Plan sets out a number of goals and objectives, including:

- Reduce carbon emissions from transport and takes to adapt our transport networks to the effects of climate change
- Contribute to safer and secure transport in West Cheshire to promote types of transport which are beneficial to health

### *Cheshire West & Chester Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015- 2020*

Strategy Vision: To reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of people in the borough, enabling our residents to live more fulfilling, independent and healthy lives. We will do this by working with communities and residents to improve opportunities for all to have a healthy safe and fulfilling life.

### *Cheshire West Rights of Way Improvement Plan*

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000 places a duty on highway authorities to prepare Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs). Guidance on producing ROWIPs is provided by DEFRA. ROWIPs are intended to be a mechanism for improving the local network of public rights of way for all users – walkers, cyclists, horse riders, vehicular users and those with mobility problems.

Each ROWIP must assess:

- The extent to which local ROW meet the present and likely future needs of the public.
- The opportunities provided by local ROW for exercise and other forms of outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of the area.
- The accessibility of local ROW to the blind or partially-sighted people and people with mobility problems. They must also state how the local authority proposes to manage its ROW network and improve it in the future.

### *Cheshire West and Chester Cycling Strategy*

Sets out the Council's plans and proposals to make cycling easier, cheaper, safer, attractive and more convenient over the next 15 years

### *Cheshire West & Chester Sustainable Community Strategy*

By 2026 West Cheshire will be even more prosperous and attractive; a really great place to live, work, learn and visit. The borough will play a full role in the region and beyond, fulfilling our challenging responsibilities and enabling our residents to benefit from the opportunities in the twenty first century.

### *The Council Plan (2016 - 2020) - Helping the Borough Thrive*

A key theme throughout the vision is to help the borough – including residents, communities and the local economy - to thrive by 2020.

### *The Mersey Forest Plan - More from Trees*

The Vision is to get more from trees to help make Merseyside and North Cheshire one of the best places in the country to live. One of the policies is to increase access, recreation and sustainable travel opportunities.

## Frodsham

Frodsham is a town of around 9,200 residents with an aging population; 17% of population is aged between 0-15 compared to England average of 19%), and with a quarter of the population aged over 65 – again much higher than the average of 17% in England.

### *Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan (in development)*

The Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led planning framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of Frodsham; it is a legal document which must be considered for any planning application. Frodsham Town Council tasked a steering group to manage the process of producing the plan which sets out what the people of Frodsham want the town to look like in the future.

## 1. Stakeholder Engagement

A series of one to one stakeholder meetings were held between February and April 2017. These included:

- Cllr Lynn Riley, Frodsham
- Cllr Andrew Dawson, Frodsham
- Locality Officer, CWAC
- Locality Officer CWAC
- Low energy manager CWAC
- Representatives from Weaver and Sandstone Cycling Forum
- Transition Frodsham
- Frodsham Town Council Environment committee
- Frodsham Festival of Walks
- Weaver Gowy
- Groundwork/Saltscape
- Canal & River Trust
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- Frodsham History Society
- Faith groups
- Environment Agency
- Peel
- Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan

Two half-day drop-in information sessions in Frodsham were organised:

- Thursday 6 July , Brew & Tucker Coffee Shop
- Saturday 8 July , Brew & Tucker Coffee Shop

To ensure maximum numbers of residents were able to attend, these events were spread across daytimes and evenings, weekdays and weekends. In order to maximise coverage within budget, information was disseminated in the following ways:



- Web site postings
- Social media
- Direct letters and e-mail



## 2. Feedback from information sessions



Feedback from the information sessions was collated and analysed. The response was very positive; with each participant time was taken to explain the background of the project and the aspirational nature of the plan.

There was interest in the process; the way it can inform funding decisions and the relationship with the statutory planning system. There was good acknowledgement of the cross-border working and the joined-up approach to the whole project. Residents were supportive of the wide range of organisations working together in partnership.

The main themes arising from the consultation included:

## Access - Within Frodsham

- Poor footpath access to Frodsham Station – reduces use in winter. FP 110, ping pong between CWAC and to FTC to sort. Opportunities with Rail Partnership
- Poor sustainable access - Fluin Lane. Need to connect with the right officers in CWAC Transport.
- Safe access to Helsby High School – many drive. Pinch point around footpath/bridge. Mark's heat map. Findings from Youth provision questionnaire.
- Manley Road dangerous for walkers and cyclists
- Better linkages between footpaths as back on main road and v dangerous.
- Support for new footpaths and request for all existing footpaths to be kept open

## Access - Recreational Routes

- Access alongside the Weaver – footpath and multi-use
- Access along the Weaver: Canoe; kayak
- Support for new footpaths and request for all existing footpaths to be kept open
- Cycle route to Mouldsworth; links to Delamere.
- Frodsham's Festival of Walks

## Food

- Celebrating food heritage: honey, cheese, milk, jam, potatoes, salt
- Permanent orchard
- Incredible Edible
- Ship Street- mainly apples, pears, one cherry and one plum

## Low Carbon

- Community owned wind turbine
- Opportunities for community heat with Protus
- Aquaponics
- Tidal lagoons

- Micro algae
- Electricity generation/battery storage
- Electric bikes at the station
- Frodsham Transition initiatives –eg. Reusable bags; trade association
- Wood allotments

## Play

- Top Road playground – issue over boundaries resolved - owned by FTC
- Natural Play

## Reconnecting with nature:

- Orchard tree planting
- Forest school
- Biodiversity: pollinators, wildlife friendly areas

## Tourism Economy

- Marina
- New opportunities for the Bunker/Archives
- Access to Beechwood Swimming Pool, Runcorn suggestion of CWAC to subsidise rather than build new swimming pool in Frodsham.  
Possible free train to Runcorn East
- Runcorn Rowing Club, proposals for development (outside project area)

## Social

- More social than physical needs.
- Queen Charlotte's Wood – Frodsham Sea Scouts
- Good gardening club – volunteers, individuals; scouts; world challenge badge; Forestry badge

## 3. Delivery Plan Summary

	Project	Area	Funding	Cost estimates	Delivery Mechanisms	Time Frame
1	Footpath improvements within Frodsham	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	MCBF; ESIF Low Carbon call; members' budget		Frodsham Town Council; CWAC	Short term
2	Safe access to Helsby High School	Access; low carbon; health;	Transport funding; ESIF Low Carbon call; members' budget		CWAC; Weaver & Sandstone Cycle Forum;	Short/ Medium term
3	Increased recreational use of Weaver	Access; health; tourism	S106; Bags of Help; Lottery; MCBF		Canal & River Trust	Medium term
4	Natural Playgrounds	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	S106; Bags of Help; Lottery; MCBF; members' budget	£10,000-£40,000	CWAC; TMF	Short term
5	Orchard Planting and management	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	Bags of Help; Lottery; TMF; MCBF	£7,000	FTC; TMF	Short term
6	Wood Allotments with Hob Hey Woods and around	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	Woodland Trust; Defra; TMF	£10,000	Mersey Forest; Frodsham Town Council	Short term
7	School Landscape Improvements	Health	Defra; Awards for All Tesco's Bags of Help; Section 106		The Woodland Trust; Mersey Forest	Short term
8	Food heritage – celebrating and promoting local food	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	LEADER; MCBF		Transition Frodsham; Marketing Cheshire; Mid Cheshire Development Board	Medium term

9	Volunteer Co-ordinator	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	Saltscape continuation funding		Saltscape legacy team; Frodsham Town Council; CWAC	Short Term
10.	Information Campaign	Tourism; access	MCBF	£10K - £40K	Frodsham Town Council; CWAC	Short Term
11	Forest Schools	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	MCBF		The Mersey Forest	
12	Footpath along Weaver	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	Landfill Tax	£52,000 per km	CWAC; TMF	Medium - Long
13	Weaver Hydro	Low carbon	ESIF Low Carbon call		CRT	Medium - Long
14	Deliver cycle way improvements in Frodsham	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	ESIF Low Carbon call		Weaver & Sandstone Cycle Forum; CWAC	Short- Medium
15	Development of Frodsham Forest Park	Access; low carbon; health; tourism			TMF; CWAC	medium - Long term
16	Community wind turbine	Low carbon	ESIF Low Carbon call		CWAC	Long term
17	Marina on Weaver Navigation	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	Private finance		Private Sector	Long term

18	Multi-user route to Delamere via Mouldsworth	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	MCBF; ESIF Low Carbon call		Weaver & Sandstone Cycle Forum; CWAC;	Long term
19	Electric bikes at the station	Access; low carbon; health; tourism	MCBF; ESIF Low Carbon call			Long term
20	Electric buses	Access; low carbon; tourism	ESIF Low Carbon call			Long term
21	Battery Storage	Low carbon	MCBF; ESIF Low Carbon call			Long term

## 4. Key Projects

### 1. Footpath Improvements within Frodsham

Footpaths: work with Frodsham Town Council and CWAC officers and local people in setting up new or supporting volunteers to become Footpath Wardens (see 9 Volunteer Co-ordinator). Link with Frodsham Festival of Walks; Heritage: Cheshire's Lost Paths; Poor footpath access to Frodsham Station (FP110) reduces use in winter, currently subject of discussion between CWAC and FTC. Opportunities exist with Rail Partnership.

### 2. Safe access to Helsby High School

Members of Weaver & Sandstone Cycle Forum <http://www.cyclenorthcheshire.com> have produced a report which details the issues around safe routes to school, the nature of the A56 discourages school children from cycling along the road. The report proposes quick wins:

- Reclamation of existing footway and re-designation as 'share with care'
- Buffer painting the existing cycle lanes to IAW Sustrans recommendations
- Installation of signage along the route from FP59 through Castle Park to Howey Lane
- Implementation of connections from FP59 to the town centre

In the longer term it proposes construction of a segregated asphalt path.

### 3. Increased recreational use of River Weaver

This project will maximise opportunities for water based recreation and tourism, with potential to attract visitors from further afield. The project could take the form of a grant scheme to local entrepreneurs to encourage them to set up water based recreation and tourism businesses, including boat hire (canal boats, rowing, canoeing), boating lessons, fishing, campsites and accommodation next to waterways which can cater for people on boating tours. Frequently updated maps will show where different types of boats are allowed to go, campsites, areas reserved for wildlife, tourist attractions, etc.

### 4. Natural Play

Natural play areas in green spaces help to reconnect children with nature. Projects have breathed life into under-used parks, previously described by residents as "not very interesting", many of which had an uninspiring play area and a lack of accessible pathways. Research demonstrates that providing natural play facilities means greater opportunities for imaginative recreation, reduced risk of injuries, enhanced social interaction between children and higher levels of physical activity.



In Warrington working with Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council, the Mersey Forest team has transformed a local park into a natural wonderland to benefit people and wildlife alike. New features included wildflower meadows, logs for children to scramble over, a community orchard, picnic benches, accessible pathways, and ornamental trees. Residents were actively involved in the project from the start, shaping the plans by attending a community open day, where they voted for the features they wanted to see. Use of the park has rapidly increased, with parents having to drag eager kids off the logs:



Euclid Park, Warrington



Consultation day, Cheyney Road, Chester



Willow Dome and log play, Cheyney Road, Chester

Following the success of Euclid Park, The Mersey Forest has been commissioned to create similar spaces in Warrington and Cheshire including Cheyney Road, Chester which included natural play features such as a willow dome, den building area and den building areas.

### 5. Frodsham Orchard Project

Cheshire once had a great name for the fruit, supplying Liverpool and Manchester. Work started in 1994 by the Cheshire Landscape Trust supported the heritage of fruit trees in Cheshire. The Mersey Forest supported the community orchard project in Frodsham. Sentiment and history are further spurs to the project: they are important too as part of our heritage and culture and many varieties were named after local places. Intergenerational project working with local history society and schools. Opportunities for grafting classes; tree planting and apple juicing will give future generations more chances to try the flavour of apples. Orchards are at Ship Street- mainly apples, pears, one cherry and one plum; Hawthorn oad – planted 12 trees on 12/12/2012. New orchard planting took place in Autumn 2017 funded through the Mersey Forest.

## 6. Wood Allotments

'Wood allotments' is a scheme developed in The Mersey Forest which enables woodland owners to engage local communities and manage their woods at the same time. The concept is simple. Local wood burning stove and fire owners pay a small fee to the landowner for the chance to harvest logs from carefully marked trees within a young woodland. They get fresh air, exercise and a cheap, locally sourced renewable fuel, while the woodland receives important thinning to ensure its future health.

There are now wood allotments in Cheshire West, Warrington and Sefton with new ones planned across The Mersey Forest. Wood allotments offer a good way to engage new audiences with local woodlands, and the schemes can work in a variety of ways, with flexibility for site owners to adapt the core idea to fit local circumstances. The Mersey Forest team has developed an online hub for wood allotments in the region: [woodallotments.com](http://woodallotments.com), where potential "allotmentees" are able to browse existing wood allotments and contact the landowner, or suggest where they would like to see new wood allotments, helping to build up a map of demand.



## 7. School Landscape Improvements: Trees for Learning

This project aims to provide support for schools that wish to improve their outdoor environment, linking to the wider landscape to promote habitat connectivity and increase environmental awareness of young people. Using match funding there is the opportunity over the next few years to develop a flexible tree planting and forest enhancement programme for school children from the local schools to create improved settings for

outdoor learning. Through working with the schools and pupils this could create new forest settings by planting in their school/ local community land where they have owner's permission or adapting and adding to existing tree cover within these areas to create inspiring settings for outdoor learning. The aim is to connect children with nature, inspiring this generation to love and understand the outdoors.

### **8. Food heritage – celebrating and promoting local food**

Frodsham was the birthplace of the Rev William Charles Cotton, former vicar of Frodsham, who was noted for introducing honey bees to New Zealand in the 19th Century); Warburton's potatoes; Natural Veg Man (now moved to Malpas). This project is concerned with supporting local food initiatives such as 'Made in Cheshire', farmers markets, etc, seeking in particular to connect food producers with their local markets, including tourist attractions. One initiative could involve staging a local food festival within a market town. Mapping orchards within the environs of Frodsham.

### **9. Volunteer Co-ordinator**

Supporting projects to avoid cycle of create and not maintained; raised beds at Ship Street. The issue in past is lack of long term management yet at the same time long "huge" waiting list for allotments on Townfield Lane. Can we connect the keen gardeners who have yet to get an allotment to the raised beds? Or try Good Gym <https://www.goodgym.org/>. Possible links with Helsby Running Club; youngsters undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh awards, fire service.

To encourage greater social interaction and community engagement, eg. encourage local people to become volunteer footpath wardens within Frodsham and encourage parishioners to adopt paths with a view to keeping them 'walkable' way. Support intergenerational projects eg. gardening. Linking physical assets of the town with volunteers eg. Sea Scouts; Gardening Clubs; those on waiting list for allotments; Duke of Edinburgh participants.

### **10. Information campaign**

A quick, high impact action would be to produce a map leaflet linking sustainable travel routes and attractions to business locations and offers (See also 14 Developing the Visitor Potential of Frodsham's Woodlands). The map should also highlight Frodsham's green spaces and heritage assets, and promote attractions. It is important that any interventions dovetail with other organisations' efforts.

There are many examples of these types of map, both printed and web based. Below is a selection of examples: Bold Forest Park – paper based map. Bold Forest Park attracts over 300,000 people each year. The Bold Forest Park is developing the links between business and these green infrastructure assets. A map was produced that promoted access routes, green infrastructure assets and local businesses.



Northwich Woodlands - an Explorer Guide exists for Northwich Woodlands. A similar plan could be developed for Frodsham highlighting the links to the town more clearly and potentially promoting local business in the same way as the Bold Forest Park map.

## 11. Forest School Activities

The new government 25 Year Plan for the Environment emphasises the value of green spaces for health and wellbeing. There is a growing evidence base supporting the role that green space plays in helping to improve wellbeing and also reducing health inequalities. Good quality natural environment and access to green spaces are part of the wider range of determinants of health. It is not to suggest that on their own green spaces keep people well, but reduced access or poorer quality green space add to the burden of factors that impact on wellbeing. Forest-play activities include shelter-building, active group-games, healthy outdoor cooking, planting/growing and coppicing, tree-climbing, building rope structures, whittling and tool-use, bug-hunting. This project will also promote healthy eating through practical engagement in preparing/cooking healthy food outdoors. Delivered over eight weeks a Family Forest School could offer forest-play programmes for families in a local woodland setting to encourage parents to engage in active outdoor play with their children. Learning in the outdoor environment can have huge benefits in terms of children's health and wellbeing. Forest School is already active in many local schools and community groups.



## 12. Recreational path along the Weaver

Part of the Weaver Way, a 40 mile long distance footpath along the River Weaver from Frodsham down to Audlem. Parts of the Weaver Way have already received substantial funding and improvements as part of the Weaver Valley Regional Park programme, however the footpath nearest to Frodsham is now in need of better definition and upgrading. The land on which the footpath runs is in private ownership and is used for agriculture. Cost estimates to upgrade to a cycle way have been calculated by a qualified landscape architect. These are based on a nominal 1000m length of footpath 2m wide and range from £52,000 and £66,000 per kilometre depending on material used and ground conditions.



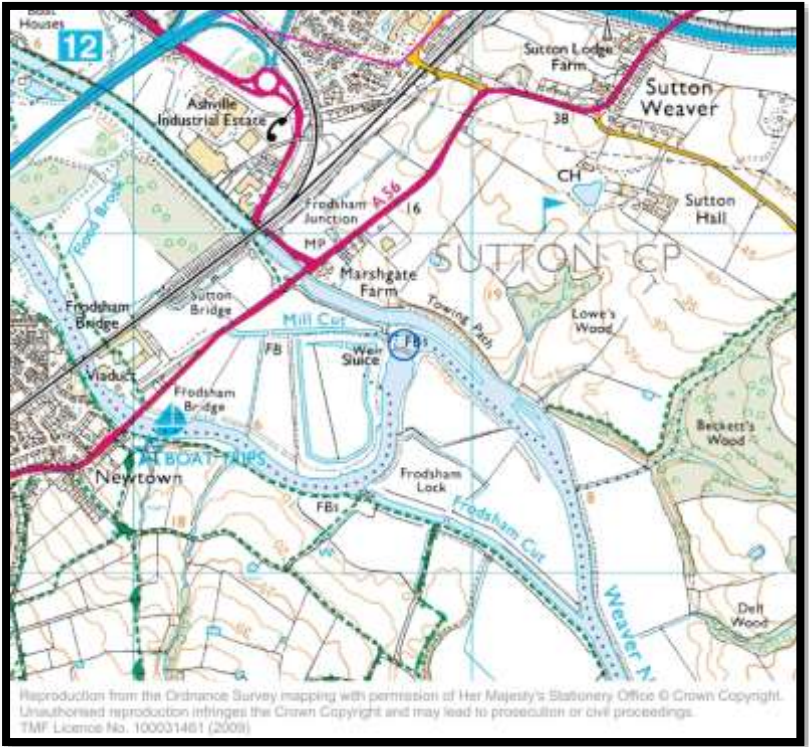
River Weaver access

### **13. Hydro power generation on Weaver**

In 2008 a Weaver Valley Climate Change Action Plan for the Weaver Valley, was commissioned by the Weaver Valley board. As part of this electricity generation through hydroelectric power was considered. Through consultation with key hydro-power stakeholders, including British Waterways and the Environment Agency, five sites on the River Weaver were identified as potential locations for hydro generation. These are 'Dutton Locks', 'Locks', 'Saltersford Locks' and 'Vale Royal Locks'. A further site on the River Weaver at Frodsham and two more close to Barnton where there are weirs that flow into the old channel were not been assessed.

Whilst it is possible to generate electricity from these sites, hydro power on this scale can be difficult to make cost effective. Capital costs can be high for grid connections and often access is only by boat. Furthermore, 'head' height is generally low on the River Weaver, but conversely may flood in wet weather.

Technical hydro energy potential of around 11,527 GJ (3 GWh) per annum, to the overall energy supply in the WV, is rather small equivalent to around 0.05% of the estimated annual energy demand in the Weaver Valley.



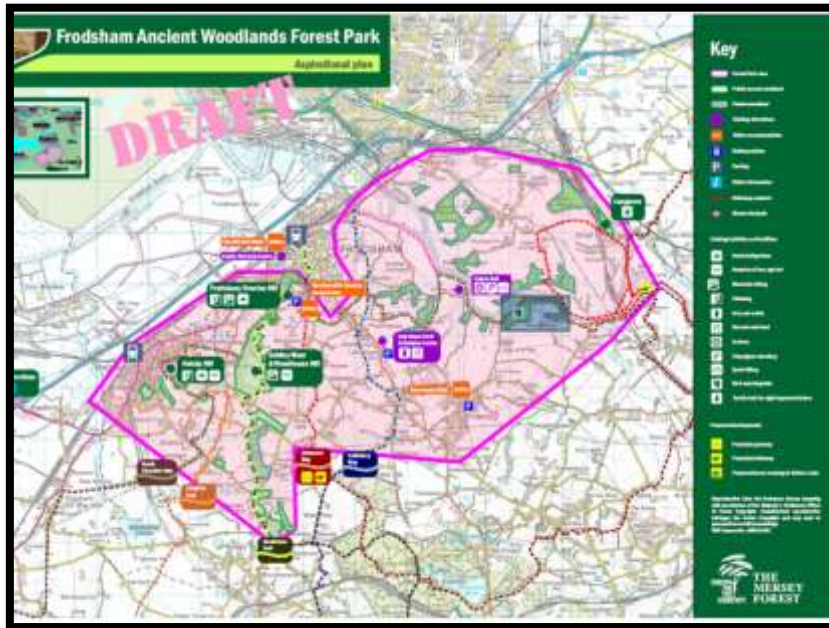
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★ Possible hydroelectric sites (with estimated annual energy yield)

#### 14. Developing the Visitor Potential of Frodsham Woodlands

Frodsham's Ancient Woodlands are part of The Mersey Forest's 'Active Woodlands' project which seeks to identify the opportunity for sport, recreation and tourism in a number of key sites within the Mersey Forest area. A previous study identified the potential to develop the visitor aspects of the Frodsham Woodlands in Cheshire.





## 5. Funding Plan

Funding source	Timescale for applications	Indicative scale	Risk	Capital/revenue	Longevity	What can be funded?	Criteria	Timeline
<b>Tesco Bags of Help Scheme</b>	Application windows publicised	Up to £12k	Medium	Capital & revenue	1-12 months	The money raised by Tesco customers paying 5p for bags will be used to pay for a large number of local projects to improve green spaces in communities	Programme coordinated by Groundwork who can provide details	1-3 months
<b>Sainsbury's Community Grants</b>						Charitable groups in the local community, is funded by sales of Bags for Life.	Local charities, community and environment projects	1-6 months
<b>Interreg</b>	September 2017 and at other times up to 2020	£50k - £1m	high	Revenue	3 years	General green infrastructure projects and programmes	This is a competitive EU fund. Partners in at least two  Other EU countries are required to develop a proposal. There is good local experience of this funding stream.	6 months

<b>Landfill Tax Credit Scheme</b>	Continuous	£1k - £50k	medium	Capital	3 years	This fund can provide money for improvements to parks and open spaces and/or for the conservation of wildlife habitats.	Project within 10 miles of a landfill site, funding applied for through an Environmental Body such as local authority, Groundwork or Mersey Forest 10% match funding required.	1-6 months
<b>Lottery Funds – Reaching Communities</b>	Continuous	£500k	medium	Capital & revenue	5 years	The lottery operates a range of community and heritage programmes that are currently open. There are elements of the BID GI programme that would be eligible to apply for these funds.	Engaging communities, safeguarding and celebrating heritage (including natural heritage)	6 months
<b>Trusts</b>	Variable	£250 - £50k	medium	Capital & revenue	1 year	Trusts vary enormously in what they will fund, from environmental improvements to community engagement, innovative products to cultural events	Each trust has different rules and criteria.	1-6 months
<b>Marshes* Community Benefit Fund</b>	Twice/year: 30 Nov & 28 Feb	£250 - £60K per app	low	Capital & revenue	25 years	Open to any community project which is for the benefit of community residents.	Local charities and community organisations, incl. CWAC	6 months

<b>Section 106/ Community Infrastructure Levy</b>	Variable	£5k- £50K +	medium	Capital & revenue	1 year	Contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place.	Close working with Cheshire West and Chester Planners	Up to 1 year depending on the complexity of the scheme
<b>EU Structural and Investment Funds IP4E</b>	Variable	£20k- £100K	high	Capital & revenue	5 years	The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are the EU's main funding programmes for supporting growth and jobs across the EU. There is funding for business support and development of low carbon projects for which GI businesses or projects could be eligible	This is not an easy fund to access, and administration of the funding can be offputting. However, developing businesses and job creation are important outputs for the programme, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and so there may be scope for the BID to be involved in a proposal	Up to 1 year

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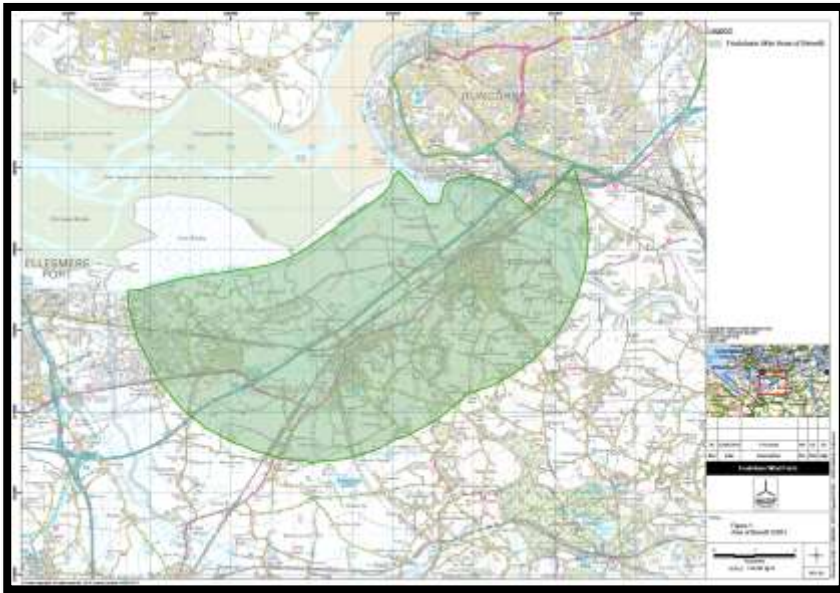
<b>Horizon 2020</b>	Variable	£500k	High	Capital & revenue	5 years	Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the <a href="#">Innovation Union</a> , a <a href="#">Europe 2020</a> flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.	This is a very competitive fund with a 10% chance of success. However, the funding does provide opportunities for implementation, monitoring and provides high profile for successful cities.	Up to 1 year
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## Marshes Community Benefit Fund\* (summary)

The Marshes Community Benefit Fund was created in 2016 by Frodsham Wind Farm Ltd. The fund is managed by a panel drawn from the local community. The fund will invest up to a total of £3m over 25 years. Two tranches of grants will be made per year to local projects of up to £60,000 per tranche. The fund is specifically for the benefit of the community in the local area of the wind farm located on the marshes close to the villages of Frodsham, Helsby and Elton.

Applications will be open three months prior to the closing dates 1st December and 1st June. Applications therefore need to be submitted before the 28th February and 31st August each year. For applications seeking grants in excess of £2,000, priority will be given to organisations that can demonstrate that they will also be making a contribution towards the project. This contribution might be money from the group itself, a grant from another fund that has been secured or another pending grant application. It may also be a benefit-in-kind of labour and / or materials. In the event that no eligible awards are received the money will be rolled into the next award round.



Eligible Area to apply for MCBF

The MCBF is intended to be open to any community project which is for the benefit of local community residents.

**Examples of projects:**

- Projects to improve public amenities (e.g. community sports halls)
- Footpath improvements, cycle paths
- Environmental and wildlife projects (e.g. public park improvements)
- Energy efficiency or sustainability projects such as additional insulation/generation/storage
- Activities / events to engage the local community

**Relevant exclusions include**

- to make payments to individuals
- for making speculative investments
- to co-fund statutory activities carried out by the Local Authority
- by Parish or Town Councils for purposes solely connected with their day-to-day business
- to promote political views or to finance election campaigns by prospective candidates in local and / or general elections
- to cover retrospective payment for events or services that have already taken place or been delivered
- for projects with the sole purpose of promotion or feasibility studies
- for projects that may endanger the natural or built environment

**Successful Funding Applications 2017**

- Frodsham Women's Institute – £250 towards the cost of the Frodsham Show
- Frodsham Junior Volleyball Club – £1,000 for training and development for their coaches
- Girl Guiding Frodsham – £1,500 towards the cost of an accessible toilet
- Alvanley Village Hall – £5,000 for cladding and insulation of the Hall
- 1st Helsby Scout Group – £30,000 towards refurbishing the Scout Hut
- Frodsham Cricket Club – £10,000 for a lawnmower and storage
- Elton Primary School & Nursery – £12,000 for a community garden

## 6. Next Steps

- Support activity aligned to the business plan which sets out a strategic approach to the delivery of a programme of activity in and around Frodsham, focussed on environmental improvements and health and wellbeing gains for local communities.
- Continue to work with stakeholders to ensure agreement on how activities in the area can be co-ordinated and funding bids developed
- Continued discussion with stakeholders to confirm projects for future submissions to MCBF and those which are more suitable to other funding strands that can maximise the value of the wind farm fund

## **11. For further information**

For further information please contact:

Clare Olver  
The Mersey Forest Team  
Tel. 01925 816 217  
[clare.olver@merseyforest.org.uk](mailto:clare.olver@merseyforest.org.uk)