



# Plants, Trees and Automobiles

## A Greenspace and Highways Forum

**Karen Notman BEng CEng MICE**  
**MHA+ Manager**

<https://www.mhaplus.org.uk/>

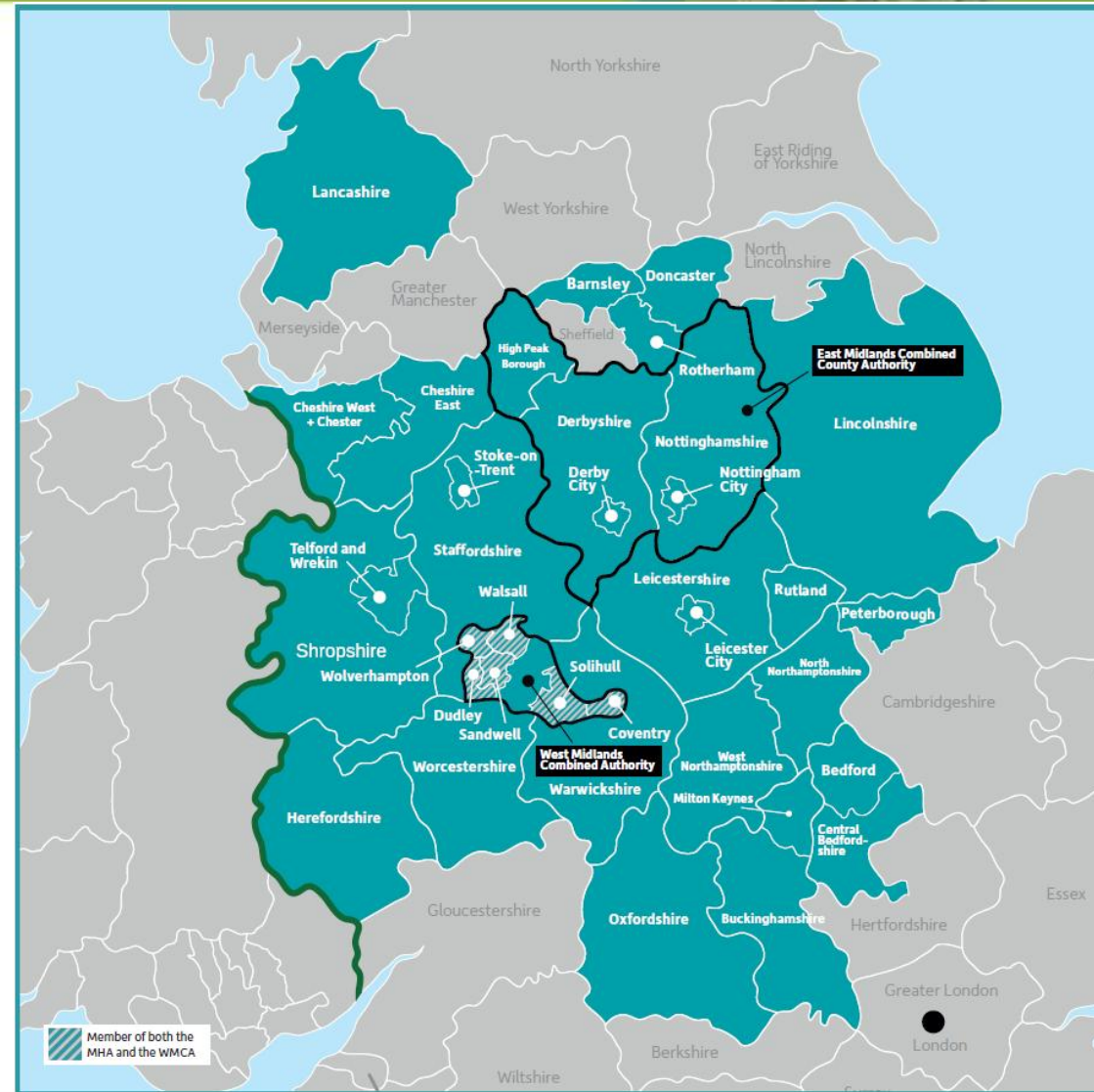
- ✓ 38 members (25% England's local highway authorities plus 2 Combined Authorities)
- ✓ 2 procurement frameworks:
  - Professional Services
  - Medium Schemes



Member: National Association of Construction frameworks

- ✓ Shared skills & development incl. free training
- ✓ 16 Service Improvement Groups, 700+ members
- ✓ 3 Collaboration themes, clients & suppliers:
  - Social Value
  - Resilience, Efficiencies & Carbon
  - Digital Working

<https://www.mhaplus.org.uk/>



Vision: An independent collaborative alliance that supports its member authorities to deliver effective, efficient, innovative, sustainable, and customer-focused highway services.

Aim to provide:

- ✓ One united voice for our members
- ✓ A community of best practice
- ✓ Collaboratively procured delivery frameworks

Not for profit – any profits used to support:

- ✓ free training and development of low-cost bespoke training
- ✓ face-to-face annual events, workshops and meetings
- ✓ collaborative working projects

Encourage best practice through various collaborative groups, Annual Events and workshops, programme of lunchtime webinars, newsletters, social media, websites

*Governed by our members for our members*

# MHA+ Resilience, Efficiency and Carbon Steering Group (RECSG)

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of the RECSG is to provide a focus for MHA+ in relation to all issues around resilience, efficiency and carbon reduction in the highways sector.

### **Sharing good practice & learning:**

It is vital to help keep member authorities informed about developments in the highways sector and provide a means of sharing best practice. The RECSG produces a seasonal bulletin shared widely with MHA+ members and via Social Media on all things Resilient, Efficiency and Carbon (see below). In addition, there are regular presentations to provide for shared learning and innovation.

### **Cross sector working:**

The group ensures members are aware of relevant work being completed by government and various key organisations, such as the DfT, National Highways, the Future Highways Research Group (FHRG), the Local Government Association, ADEPT and of course Local Highways Authorities regionally and nationally.

### **Promoting Innovation:**

RECSG identifies and shares innovative solutions to improve resilience, efficient working and carbon reduction in the sector.

## News Bulletin, Spring 2026

Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of the MHA+ Resilience, Efficiency and Carbon Steering Group (RECSG) bulletin, chaired by Peter Wells from Via/Nottinghamshire County Council.

This bulletin is your regular update on resilience, efficiency and carbon reduction work across the highways and transport sector. With 39 Local Authority members, MHA+ is well placed to make a real difference in these areas - and this edition is packed with updates, learning opportunities and news from across the sector.



## Annual Events & Lunchtime Webinars

**MHA**  
Midlands Highway Alliance Plus  
MHA, MSGL, WMHA: Moving Forwards Together

**Alliances & Sustainability**  
Monday 12th - Friday 16th October 2020

**MHA**  
Midlands Highway Alliance Plus  
MHA, MSGL, WMHA: Moving Forwards Together

**Alliances & Sustainability**  
Wednesday 14th October 2020  
**Environment**

**MHA**  
Midlands Highway Alliance Plus  
MHA, MSGL, WMHA: Moving Forwards Together

**Alliances & Sustainability**

Wednesday 14 October 2020  
**Environment – workshop 1**  
Carbon calculator  
John Paterson, Atkins

**MHA**  
Midlands Highway Alliance Plus  
MHA, MSGL, WMHA: Moving Forwards Together

**Alliances & Sustainability**

Wednesday 14 October 2020  
**Environment workshop 2**  
Climate change adaptation  
Caroline Toplis and Eloise Orrey, Aecom

**MHA**  
Midlands Highway Alliance Plus  
MHA, MSGL, WMHA: Moving Forwards Together

**Alliances & Sustainability**

Wednesday 14 October 2020  
**Environment – workshop 3**  
Biodiversity net gain  
Emma Eves, Balfour Beatty

## Annual Event: Sustainability and Carbon Reduction

Wednesday 13th October 2021 - 10:00am – 4:30pm

Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre, Coventry.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE: [www.mhaplus.org.uk/events/annual-event-2021](http://www.mhaplus.org.uk/events/annual-event-2021)

- A Tree for Every Resident – Warwickshire CC
- Creating Better Spaces & Places – Taylor Woodrow
- Biodiversity – Amey
- Mansfield SuDs - Aecom
- The Value of Roadside Verges - Leicestershire CC
- The Value of Trees - Leicestershire CC

Save the date: Wednesday 22 June 2022

## Annual Event: Carbon Reduction and Value

Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough

[www.mhaplus.org.uk/events](http://www.mhaplus.org.uk/events)

**MHA**  
Midlands Highway Alliance Plus

**Annual Event 2025**  
Wednesday  
17 September

**Digital and Environment**

Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough, LE11 3GR

# Delivering wider community benefits



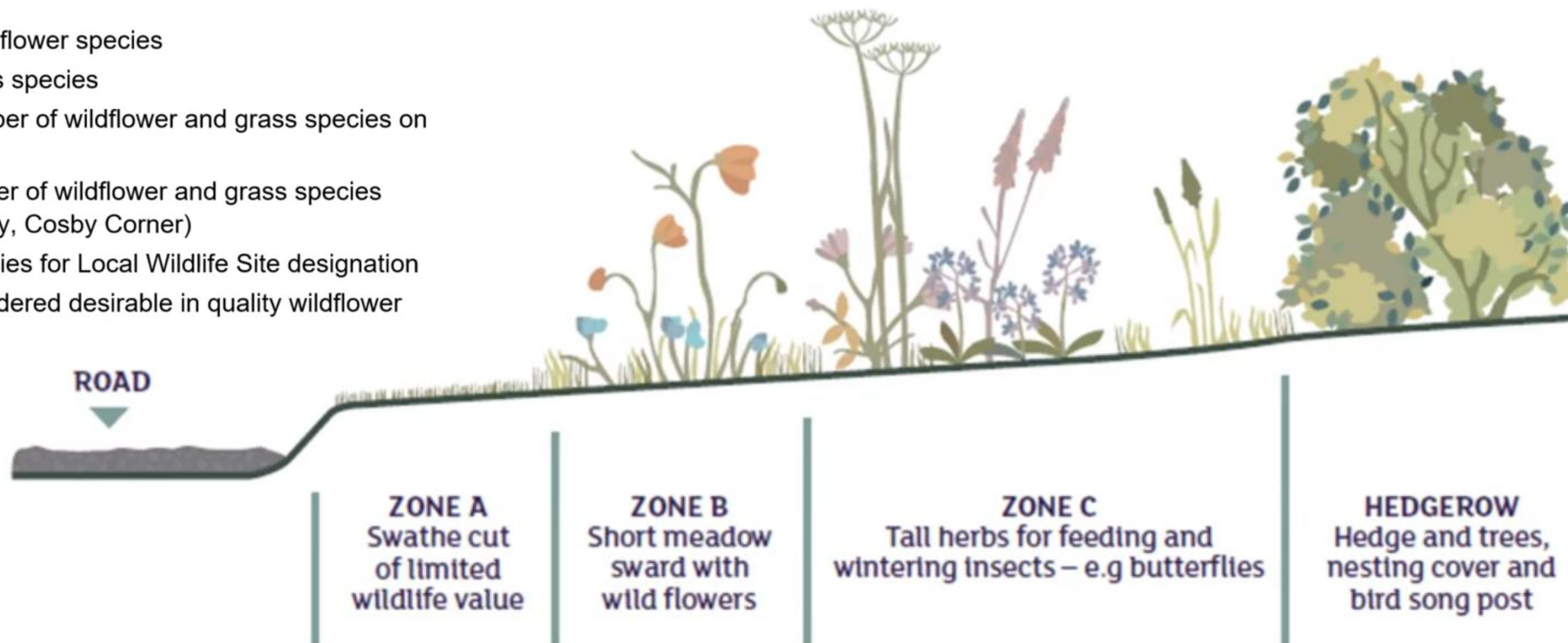
# Value of Verges

- The value of roadside verges – the national picture



# Value of Verges

- 54 Leicestershire verges surveyed by NatureSpot volunteers
- 18 volunteers contributed 335 hours
- 339 species (across 26 different wildlife groups)
- 1937 records
- 172 different wildflower species
- 30 different grass species
- 32 average number of wildflower and grass species on each verge
- 62 highest number of wildflower and grass species (Broughton Astley, Cosby Corner)
- 27 indicator species for Local Wildlife Site designation
- 71 species considered desirable in quality wildflower meadows



Idealised management zones across the width of a roadside verge

# Value of Trees

## Leicestershire and the national context

- **One of the least wooded counties in England**
- **Changing national policy and growth** (NPPF, National Design Code & Guidance, Biodiversity Net Gain)
- **Climate Change** – trees can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as other benefits (wellbeing, economic benefits)
- **Tree pests and diseases and climate change** – what do we plant?
- **Biodiversity loss** – the county has relatively low numbers of high-quality sites.

- Project management
- Highways – HDM, Engineering, Asset Management
- Planning and Growth
- Forestry
- Ecology
- Environment
- Comms



- Workshops and consultation with key stakeholders including:
  - Developers
  - LPAs
  - Statutory Bodies – Forestry Commission
  - Conservation bodies – Woodland Trust, National Forest, Wildlife Trust
  - Technical organisations – Trees and Design Action Group
- Need for wider awareness raising – Members and residents
- Linking to other projects with similar aims
- National publicity.

# Value of Trees

## What is it?

- A toolkit to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right place within adopted highway land
- This is applied to both Leicestershire CC's own and 3<sup>rd</sup> party developer schemes
- It is promoted through the Growth, Environment & Transport department's highway design guide

## How does it work?

- A toolkit that provides guidance on
  - ✓ how to select the right tree species for specific locations
  - ✓ information about the monetary value of different tree species in terms of the ecosystem services they provide (carbon storage and sequestration, managing flooding and air pollution)
  - ✓ life cycle costs of trees (the cost of looking after trees over their lifetime)
  - ✓ and best practice guidance on how to procure, plant and maintain trees so that they thrive
- Uses a matrix that assesses suitability of tree species for different planting conditions and locations to achieve ecosystem service and aesthetic objectives.

## Tree Charter

We have joined forces with our friends at the National Forest in signing up to the Tree Charter, which sets out our intent to continue preserving and enhancing our trees and woodlands for the benefit and enjoyment of county residents and visitors.



# Healthy Streets

## What is it?

- Healthy Streets is an evidence-based approach to creating fairer, sustainable and attractive urban spaces.
- It uses 10 indicators including “people feel safe” and “shade and shelter” to assess the quality of street environments.

## How does it work?

- On-street assessments are used to create a %age score baseline of the health of a street
- Where a scheme is being delivered at a certain location then a design check tool is used to assess whether it delivers on Healthy Streets indicators
- The on-street assessments are then used post delivery to reassess the location

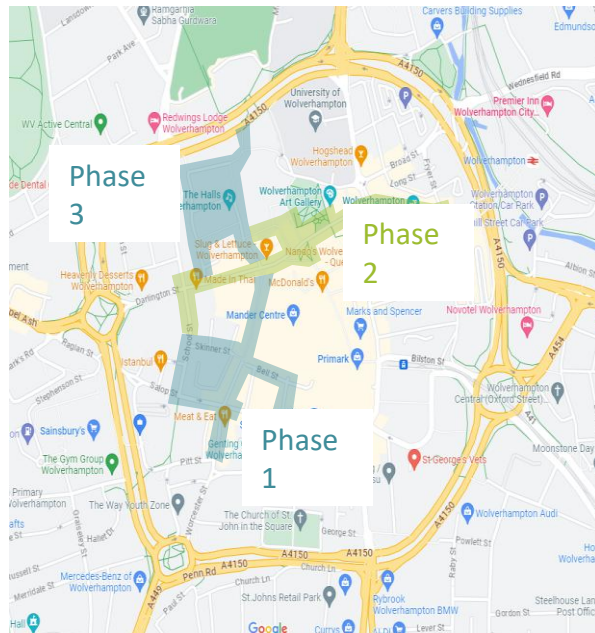
## What is Leicestershire doing?

- Applying the initiative to transport projects to deliver wider benefits – integrating principles into working practice
- Employed Healthy Streets auditors to carry out assessments



Wolverhampton City Council  
Amey Consulting  
Taylor Woodrow Infrastructure

## Scheme Location



- Works within city center ring road
- Links to public transport
- Train station
- Tram station
- Bus station
- Large shopping centers
- Molineux stadium
- “The Halls” Concert venue
- Civic Centre (Council Offices)
- University of Wolverhampton

## Public Realm

### Pedestrian Management

- Ensure easy access to businesses
- >2000m barrier
- Constant change

### Logistics

- Limited space on site – little to no storage
- Busy compound, office, and welfare
- One-way roads and ring road

### Design Change

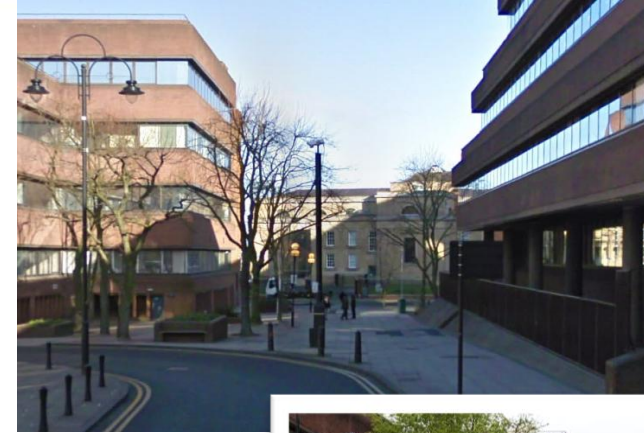
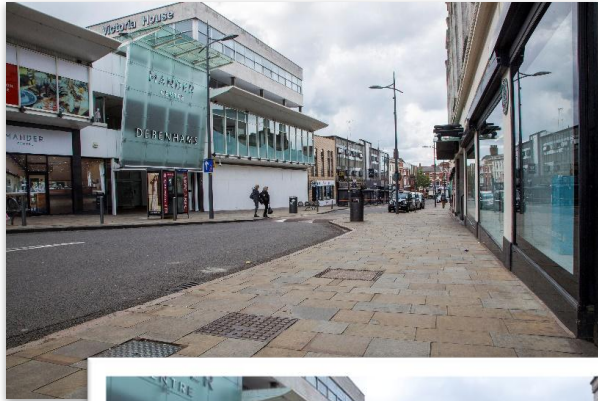
- Lighting, HVM, paving, planting, etc.

### Events

- Commonwealth games
- Food festival, Art Festival, Christmas events
- Film of BBC show

# Wolverhampton Phase 1 & 3

Wolverhampton City Council  
Amey Consulting  
Taylor Woodrow Infrastructure





## Melton Mowbray Distributor Road



TOGETHER  
DELIVERING  
FOR MELTON

## Social value

**£48.2m**

Local spend



**£25,000**

Raised for  
local charities



**80%**

Local  
workforce  
employed



**48/50**

Considerate Constructors Scheme score



**£35.9m**

Added  
Social Value

**7**



New Jobs  
created locally  
for previously  
unemployed  
people

## Education and local community support

**669hrs** voluntary time supporting  
local community projects including  
schools and charities.



50 students directly engaged with  
construction related interest including  
group site visits and classroom-based  
training sessions

**£24,600**

Donated in time and materials to local  
school & community projects



## Environmental benefit

**1843 tonnes**  
of waste diverted  
from landfill

**98%**  
recycle  
rate



**3741 tonnes**  
of waste from local  
area reused on site



**2300 tonnes**  
of CO2e  
emissions  
savings



**2 artificial badger sets**  
created

**20 bat and bird boxes**  
installed across the  
project

## Employment and skills



**13 work placements**  
including ex  
military, SEND &  
mainstream  
students

**10**



Apprentices



**345 weeks** APPRENTICESHIP training  
and student placement

# Thank You

<https://www.mhaplus.org.uk/>

