

### **Policy G3 Proposed emerald network**

This is to emphasize the importance of Clay Lane (Public Footpath No. 15) and adjacent tree-cover being included as a green area in the proposed emerald network, together with the adjacent area between Potters Bank and Quarryheads Lane and also the triangular area adjacent to the footpath and to Potters Bank. This main part of Clay Lane has been an important pedestrian route into Durham since the medieval period and continues to serve as a major pedestrian artery into the city centre.

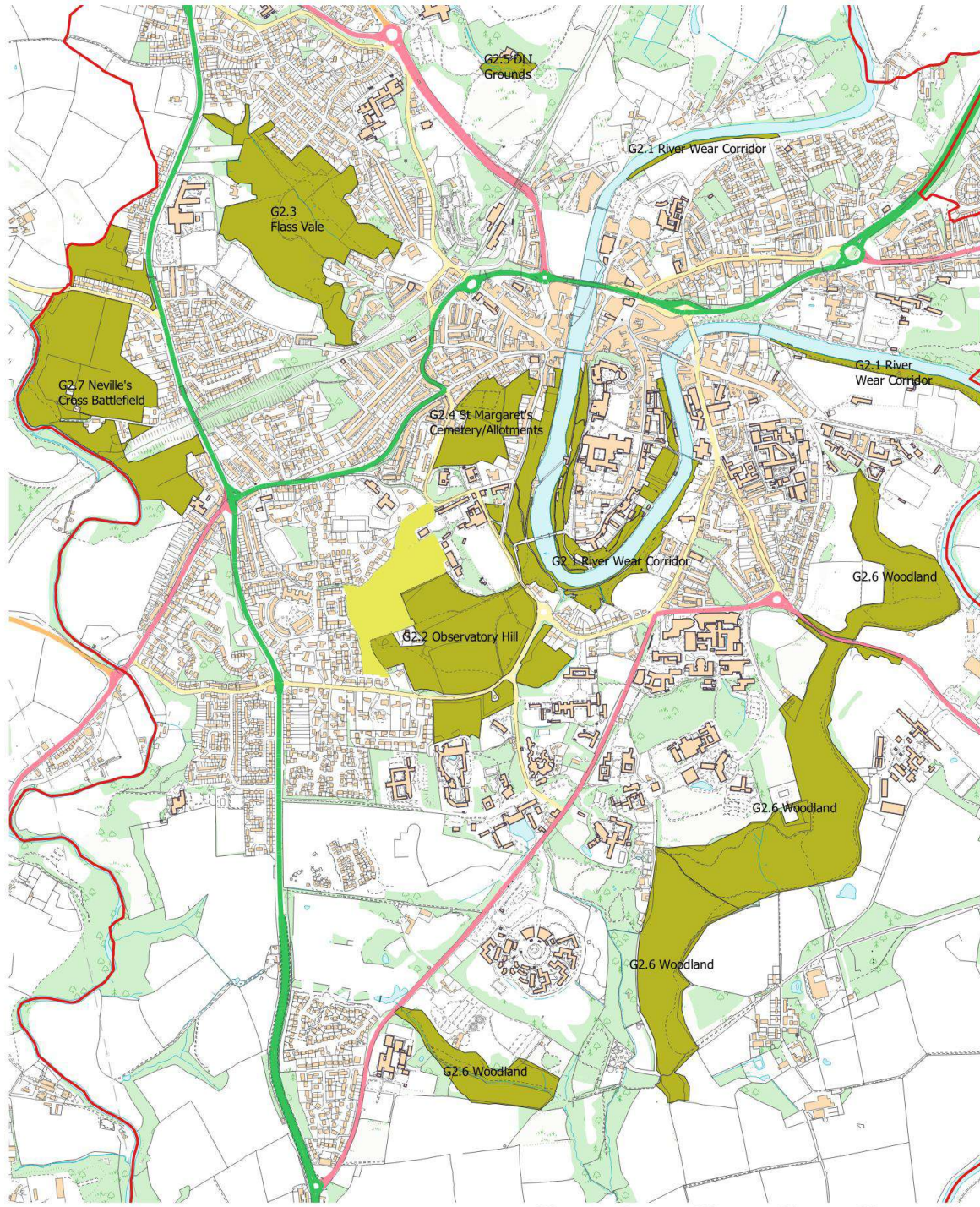
It is also an attractive green area of biodiversity, providing a significant habitat for wildlife that includes badgers, foxes, bats and the occasional weasel. It forms one of the green corridors linking the river banks with country outside Durham. Because of this, any additional lighting should be strongly discouraged. Most local people walking along the lane on dark evenings seem to find no need for torches, though many students rely on mobile phone lights or small torches.

In recent years a considerable problem has developed caused by cyclists on the footpath. Cycling was banned here by local police in the 1980s, occasionally with strong reprimands for those who ignored this, but now there are not only cyclists, but frequently cycling in an antisocial way. Pedestrians are forced aside and oncoming lights on fast-moving bicycles in the dark are sometimes so bright that the pedestrian has to step into the shrubbery.

The inclusion of Footpath No. 15 into a city-wide cycling network has never been presented formally to Durham City Parish Council, This path is shown by Durham County Council on the "Definitive map for County Durham", as "public footpath - walkers only". As a Public Footpath, maintenance of unimpeded right of way for "walkers only", rests with the Local Highways Authority- Durham County Council.

# Proposals Map 2: Local Green Spaces

proposed extension  
Observatory Hill to West of Clay Lane



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# Map 2a

