

# Stroud Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study



## Stonehouse Cluster Sub Area Analysis Report (Part 2 of 2)

Final June 2019



Ecology | Green Space | Arboiculture | GIS

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## Contents

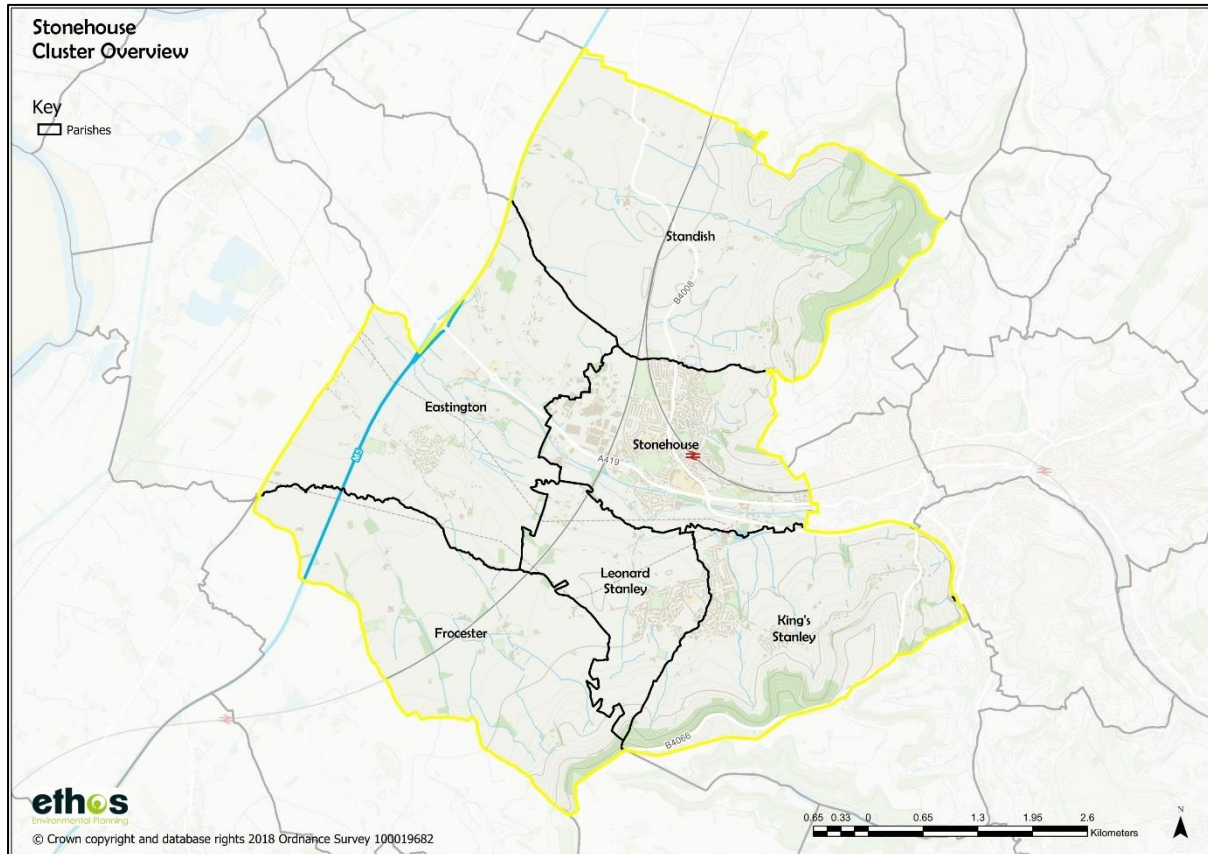
## Page no

1.	Geographical Area and Population	2
2.	Existing Provision of Open Space and GI	3-10
3.	Analysis of existing quantity of open space and GI	11-13
4.	Analysis of existing access to open space and GI	13-22
5.	Open Space and GI Quality Assessment	23-37
6.	Future need for open space and GI corridors and opportunities	38-40
7.	Open Space and GI - Summary of priorities for the area	41-43

## 1.0 Geographical area and population

The Stonehouse cluster comprises the Parishes of Eastington, Frocester, Kings Stanley, Leonard Stanley, Standish and Stonehouse as shown in figure 1. The population of this area is 14,133 (ONS 2017 mid-year estimate).

Figure 1 Stonehouse cluster



The Local Plan Review Emerging Strategy (2018) provides a summary of this area as follows:

The town of Stonehouse lies two miles east of Junction 13 (M5), with a rail station on the main Gloucester-London line (the main line to Bristol also runs to the west of the town, but the station is no longer operational). Although Stonehouse has a close relationship with nearby Stroud, it very much functions as a town in its own right, the second most populous town in the District, with a good range of services and shops at its centre. On its western edge lies a major industrial and business area, which provides jobs for over 4,000 people and is home to a number of national companies. By contrast, Standish and Frocester are amongst the most sparsely populated parishes in the District, with a strong rural character. Eastington, Leonard Stanley and Kings Stanley are amongst the District's larger villages, each having good access to everyday services and facilities, village essentials such as pub and primary school, and a strong sense of community. The Cotswold escarpment provides a dramatic landscape backdrop and the eastern edge of this cluster area is designated part of the Cotswolds AONB.

## **2.0 Existing provision of open space and GI**

Figure 2 shows the existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the Stonehouse cluster. The map is intended to be indicative – maps by Parish (appendix 1) and a GIS database has been provided to the Council.

Figure 3 provides an overview of the GI network/assets within the Stonehouse cluster, and figures 4 to 8 provide a breakdown of the GI by theme, which includes landscape considerations.

Figure 2 Overview of open space in the Stonehouse cluster

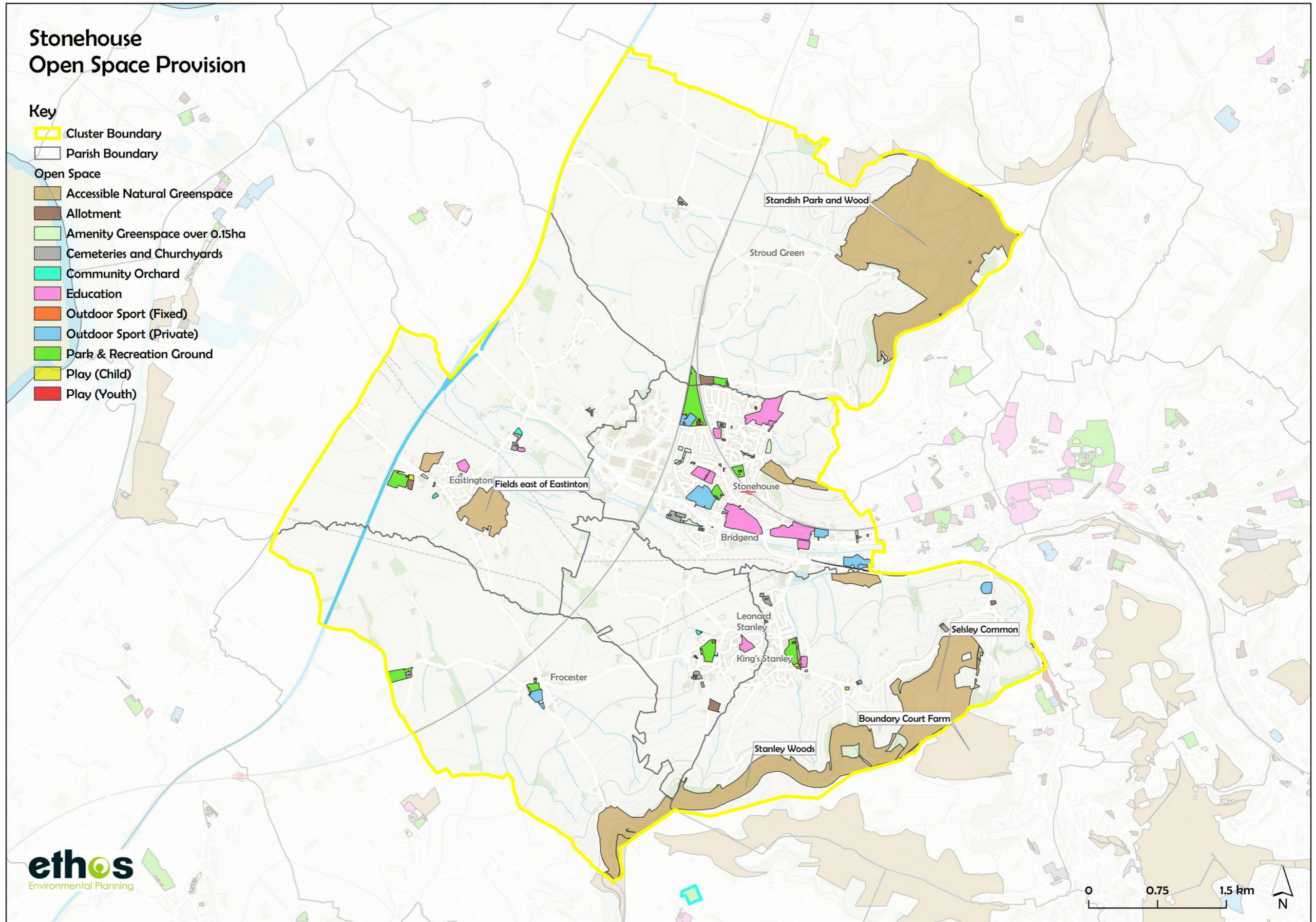
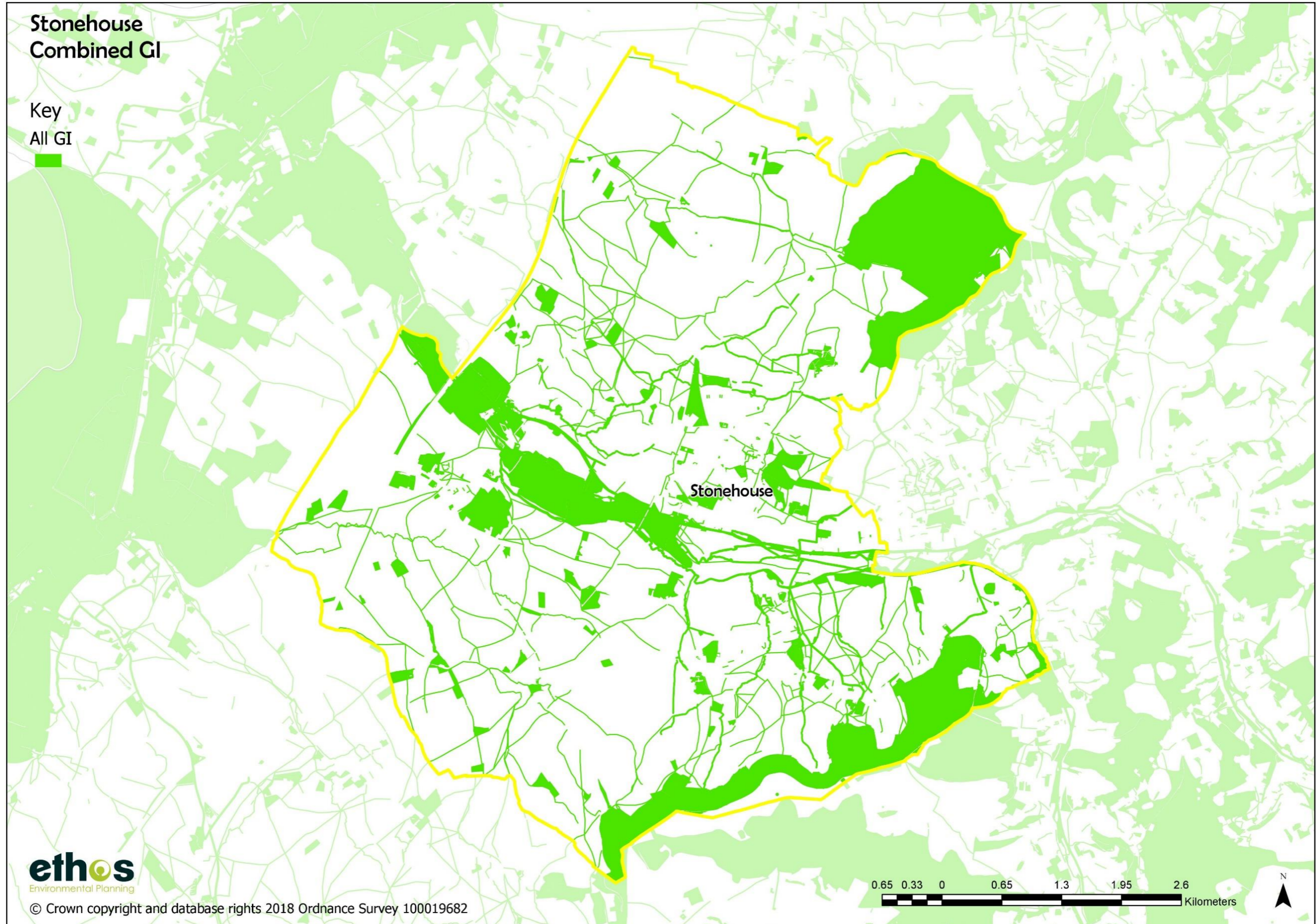


Figure 3 Overview of GI in the Stonehouse cluster



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0.65 0.33 0 0.65 1.3 1.95 2.6 Kilometers



Figure 4 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Designated Sites

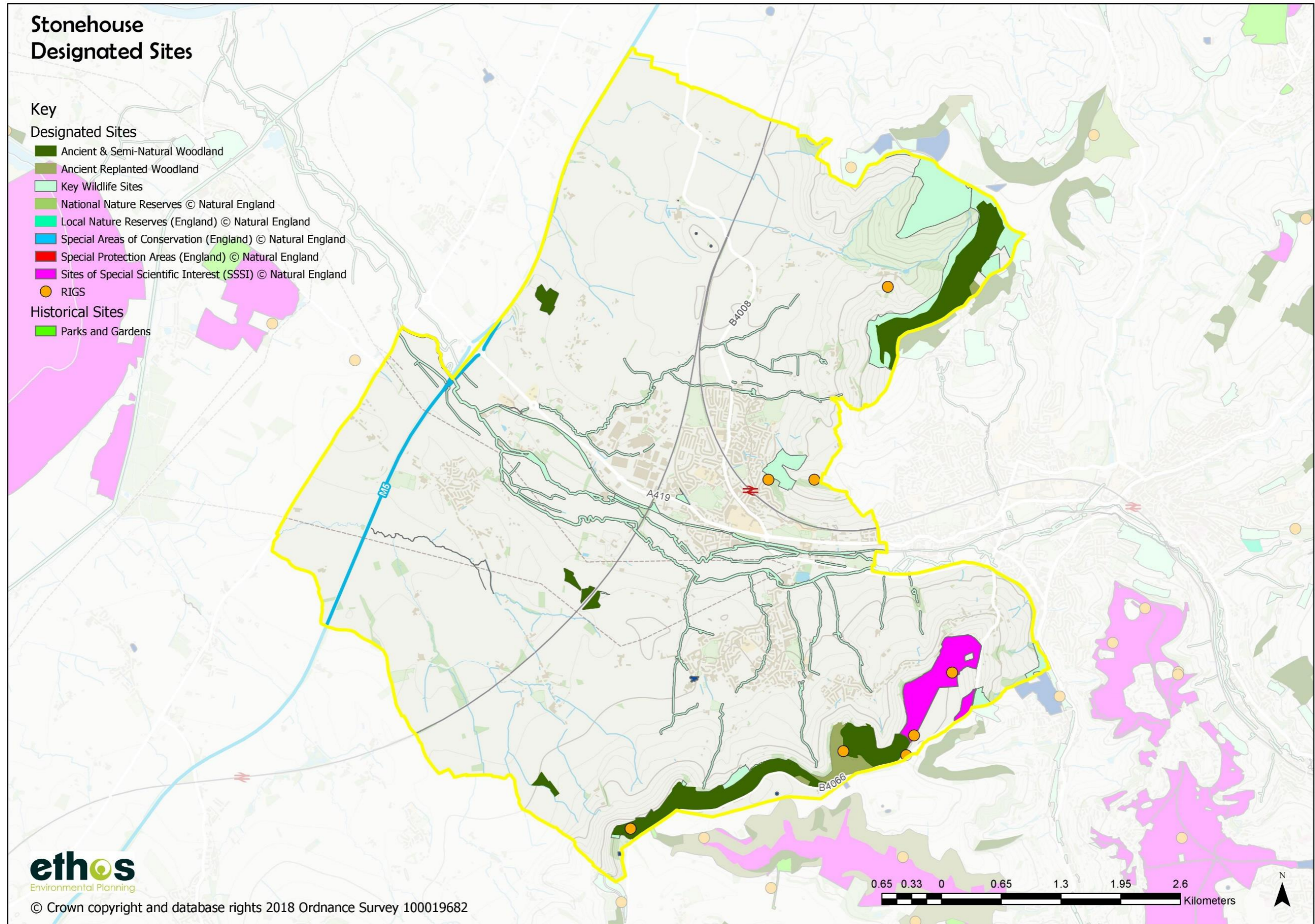


Figure 5 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Priority Habitats, Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs)

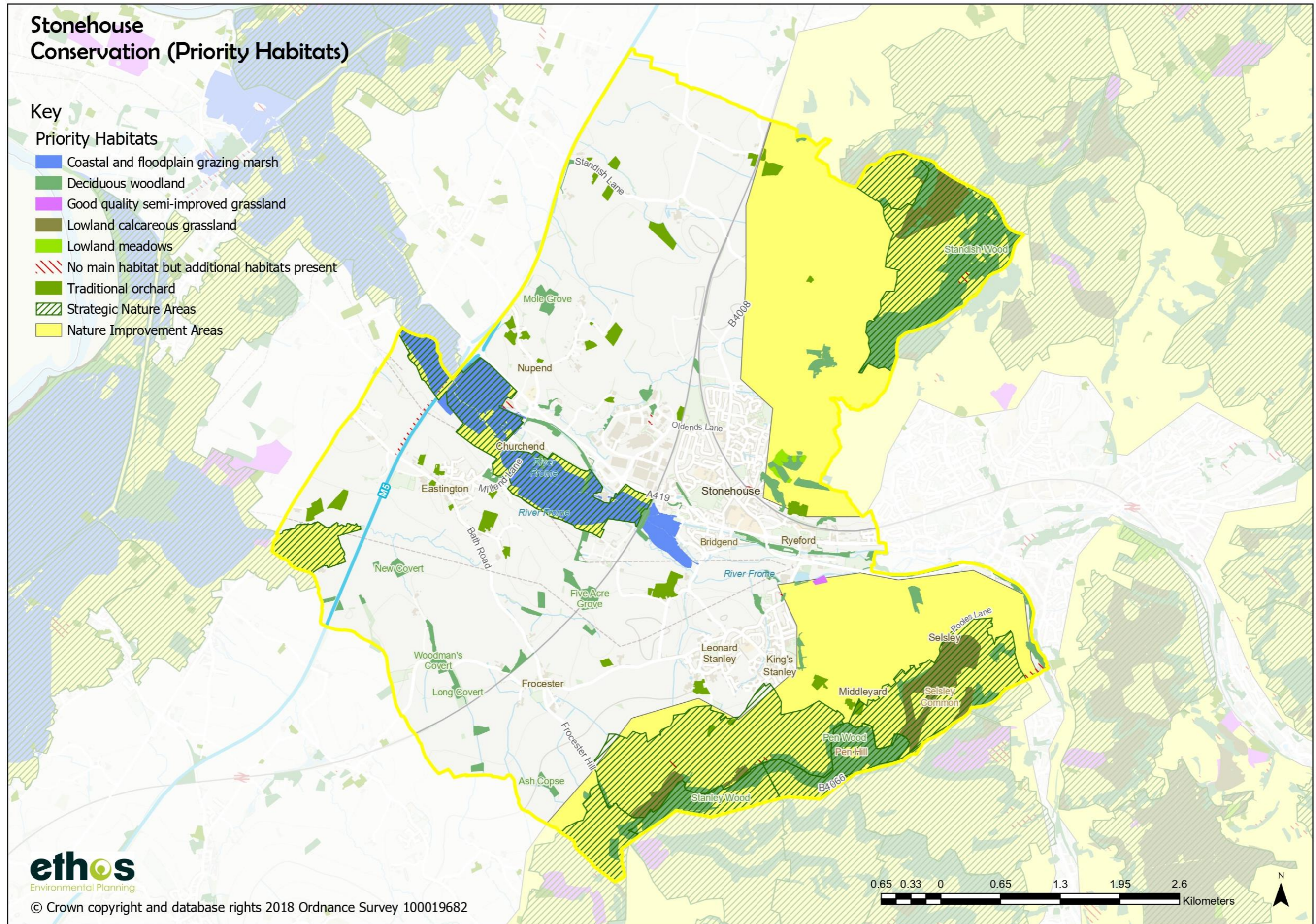




Figure 6 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: National Character Areas (NCAs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

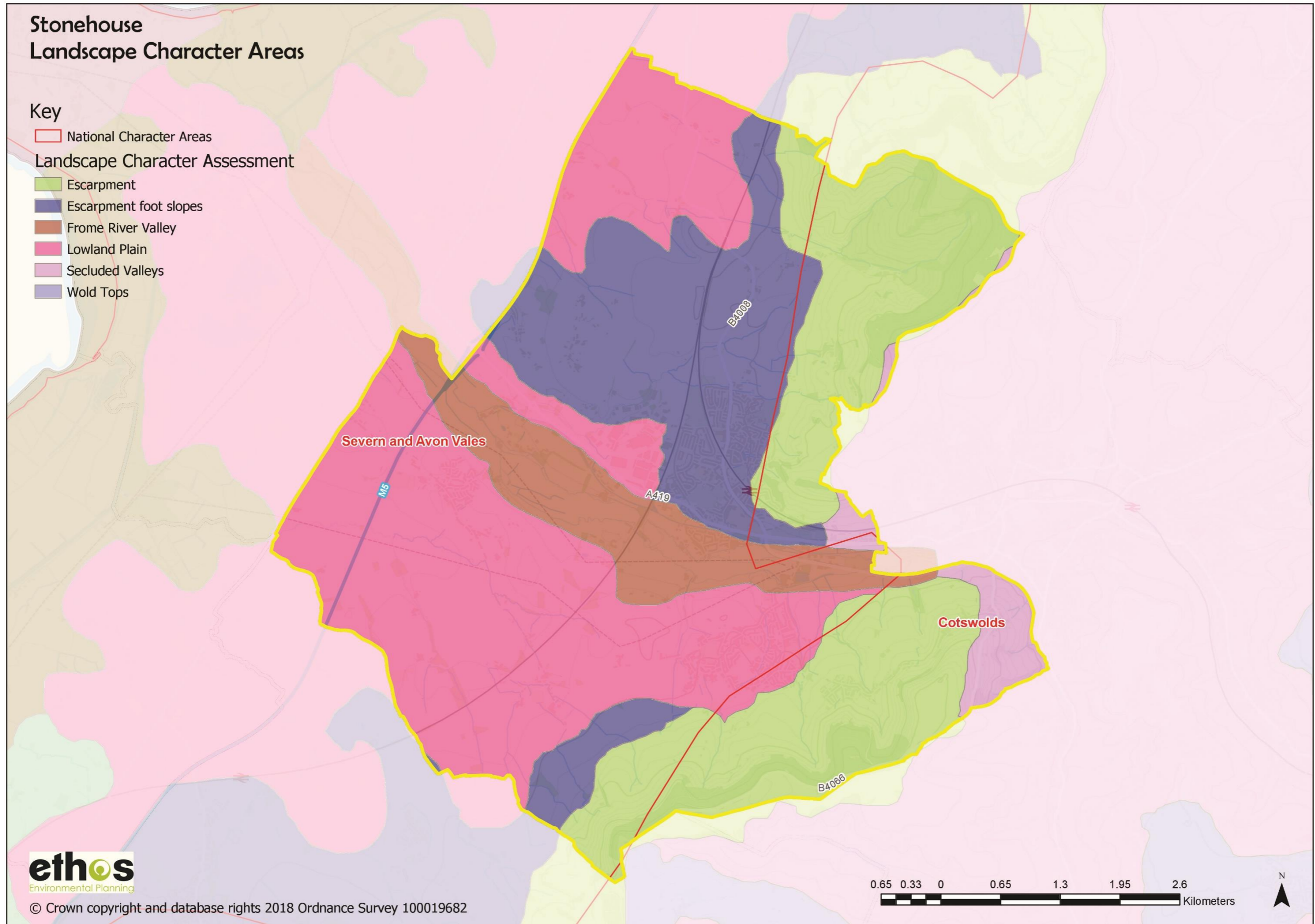


Figure 7 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Water: Canals, Rivers/Streams, Lakes/Surface Water, Priority River Habitat, Floodzone, Source Protection Zones

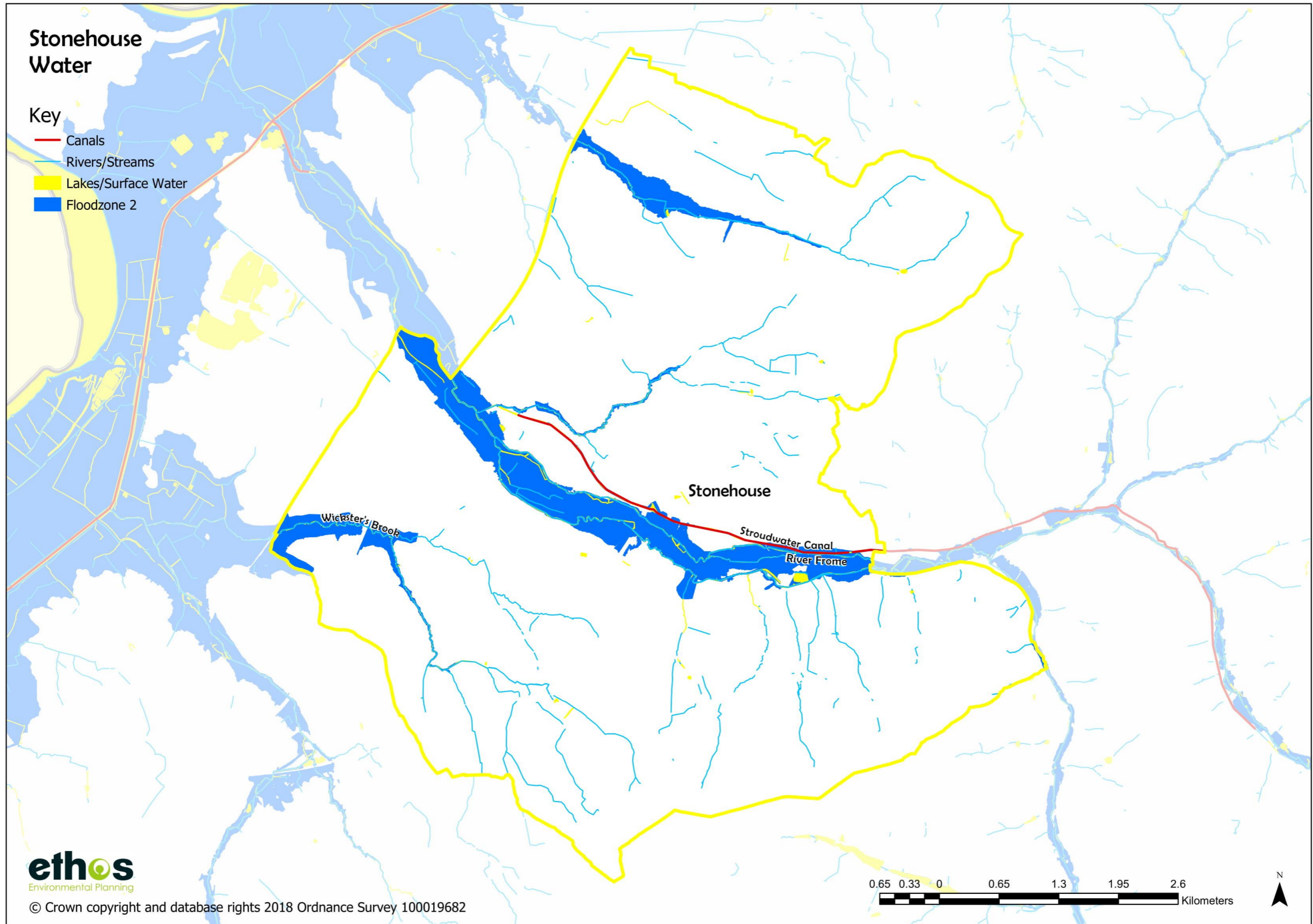
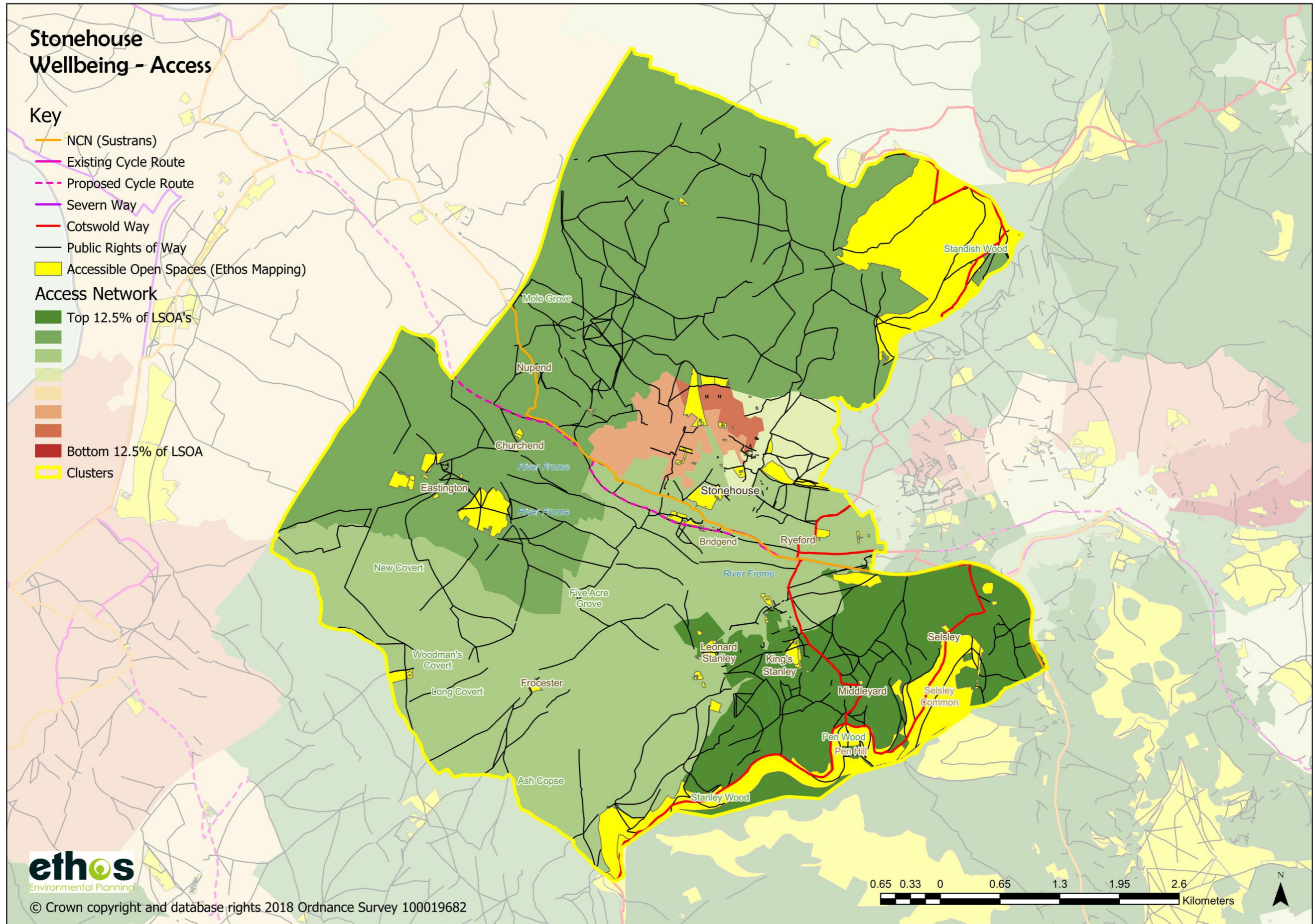


Figure 8 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wellbeing: Accessible open space, PROW and key walking and cycling routes



### 3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space and GI

#### Open Space

Table 1 shows the provision and supply of open space within the Stonehouse cluster, using the Stroud quantity standards and ONS 2017 mid year population estimates to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares per 1000 population.

The figures for 'Park and Recreation Grounds (Combined)' includes a combination of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground; and
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided for a number of typologies where there are no quantity standards for existing provision, these typologies are:

- Accessible Natural Green Space (existing provision analysed using the ANGSt standards);
- Community orchards;
- Education;
- Churchyards and Cemeteries; and
- Outdoor Sport (Private).

Table 1 Existing provision and supply of open space in the Stonehouse cluster

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall supply
Allotments	3.4	0.24	4.95	0.35	-1.55	-0.11	UNDER SUPPLY
Community Orchards	2.27	0.16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amenity Green Space	3.14	0.22	5.65	0.40	-2.51	-0.18	UNDER SUPPLY
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	22.63	1.6	16.96	1.20	5.67	0.4	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
<i>Park and Recreation Grounds</i>	<i>22.48</i>	<i>1.59</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	<i>0.15</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Play (Child)	1.15	0.08	0.85	0.06	0.3	0.02	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Play (Youth)	0.53	0.04	0.85	0.06	-0.32	-0.02	UNDER SUPPLY

Accessible Natural Greenspace	386.78	27.37	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education	30.23	2.14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cemeteries and Churchyards	5.92	0.42	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outdoor Sport (private)	14.04	0.99	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

As can be seen from the table above, within the Stonehouse cluster, there is a sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds and play (child) against the standards, with shortfalls in allotments, amenity green space and play (youth). The total shortfall is 4.38 ha.

## GI

The following GI assets have been identified within the Stonehouse Cluster:

Table 2 GI assets

Priority Habitats	Area (ha)
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	133.3
Coastal saltmarsh	0
Deciduous woodland	251.68
Good quality semi-improved grassland	0.87
Lowland calcareous grassland	73.21
Lowland dry acid grassland	0
Lowland meadows	3.04
Mudflats	0
No main habitat but additional habitats present	8.79
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	0
Traditional orchard	43.64

Nature conservation, AONB, geology and historic sites	Area (ha)
Ancient Woodland	141.70
KWS	326.97
LNR	0
NNR	0
RAMSAR	0
SAC	0
SPA	0
SSSI	39.89
RIGS	8 <sup>1</sup>
AONB	1490.64
Registered Parks	211.04

<sup>1</sup> This relates to the number of sites, rather than the area, as the dataset uses points rather than polygons.

SAM	43.74
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Rivers and Canals	Length (m)
River Frome	11561.47
Stroudwater Canal	4424.82
Wickster's Brook	1531.67
Nailsworth Stream	321.05

## 4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space and GI

### Open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of open space across the Stonehouse Cluster area using the Stroud access standards (more detail is provided in section 7.3 of the main report (part 1)).

These access maps show where the gaps in access are to the different open space typologies (using Census Output Areas and Settlement boundaries) against the access standards, and are to be used in conjunction with the analysis of supply of open space (see table 1) to help identify where the priorities for new open space provision are and also which open spaces should be protected i.e. those spaces that if lost, would create a gap in access.

Figure 9 Access to allotments and community orchards (15 minutes' walk time)

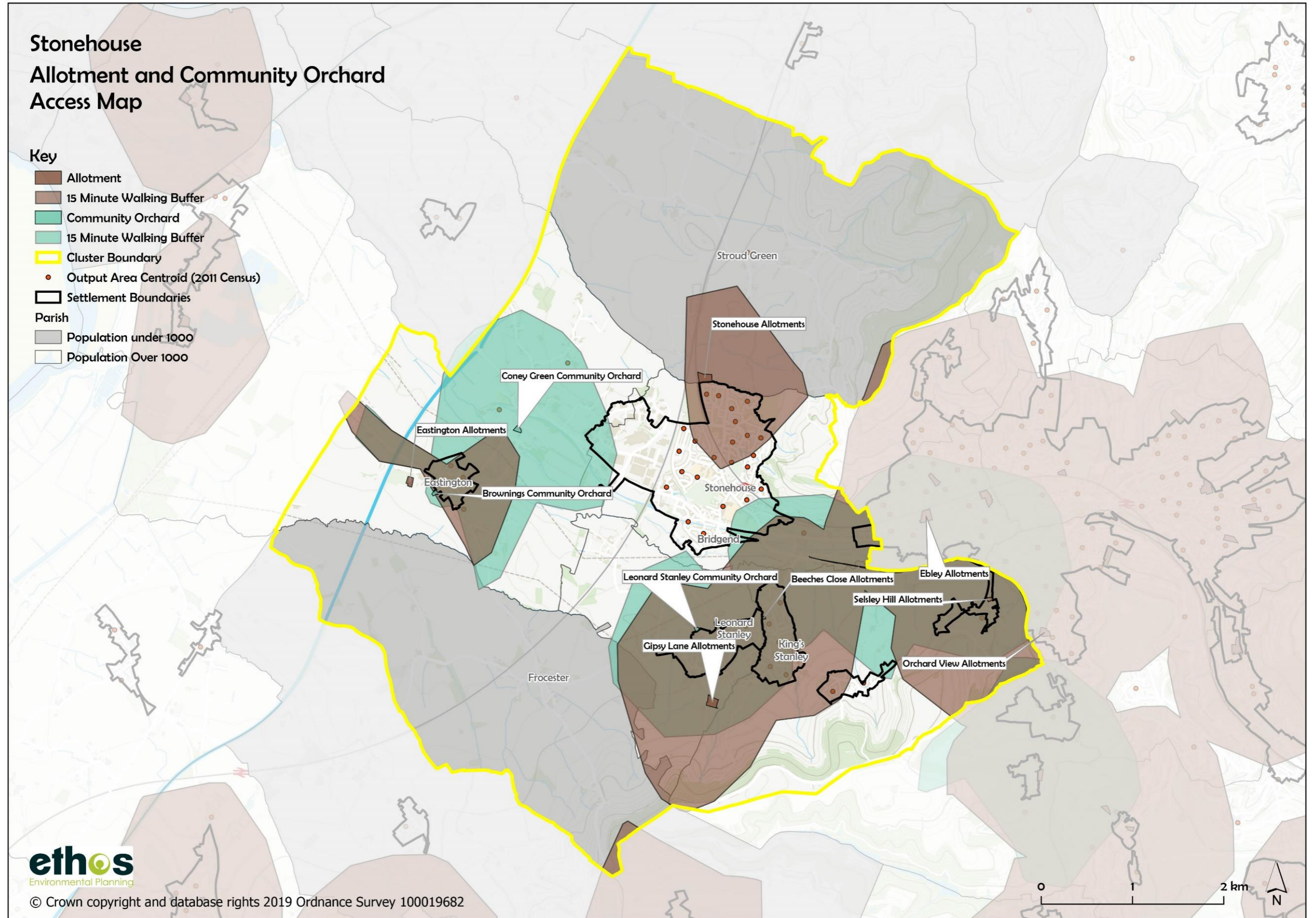


Figure 10 Access to amenity green space (13 minutes' walk time)

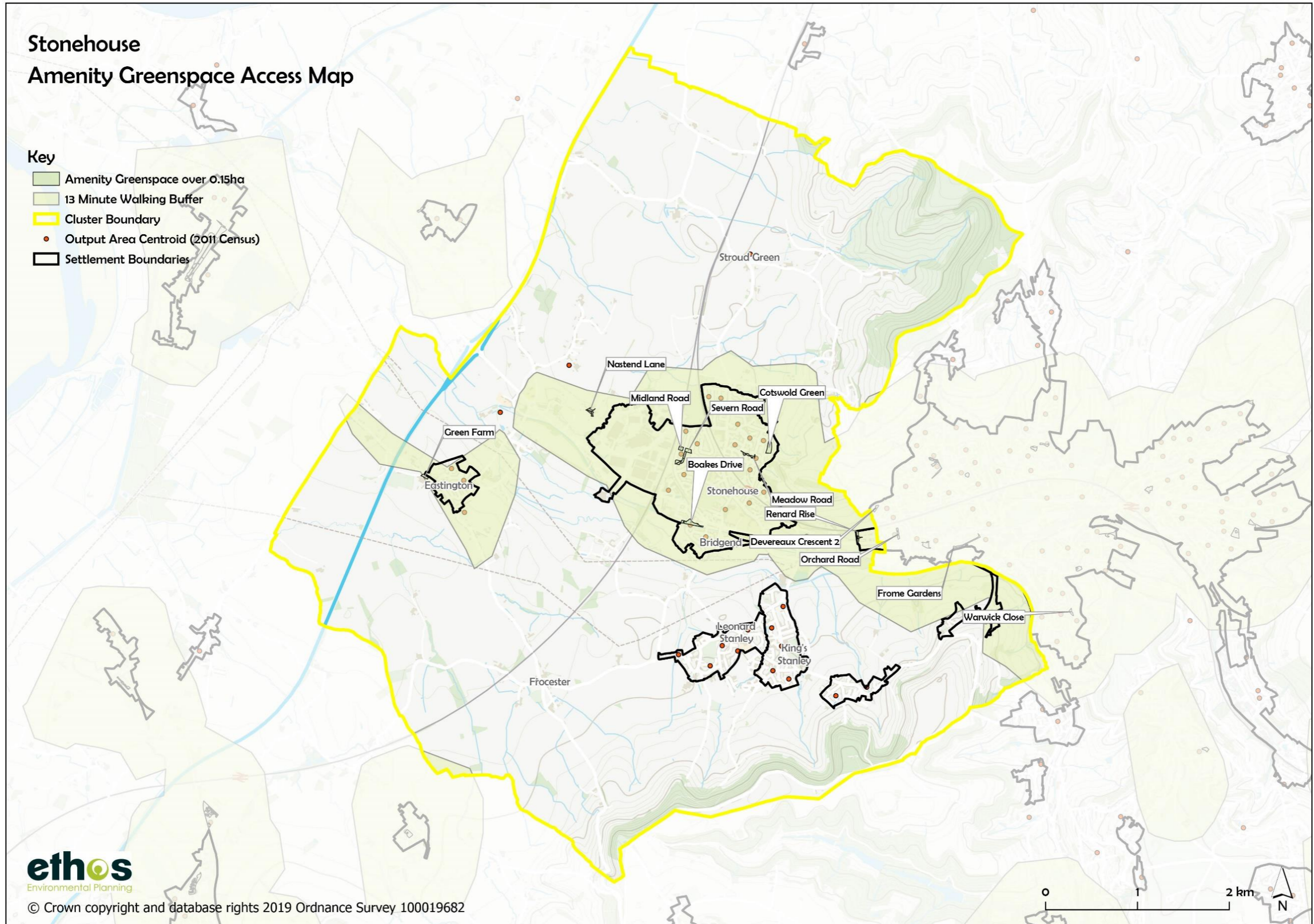




Figure 11 Access to parks and recreation grounds, amenity green space and outdoor sport private (13 minutes' walk time)

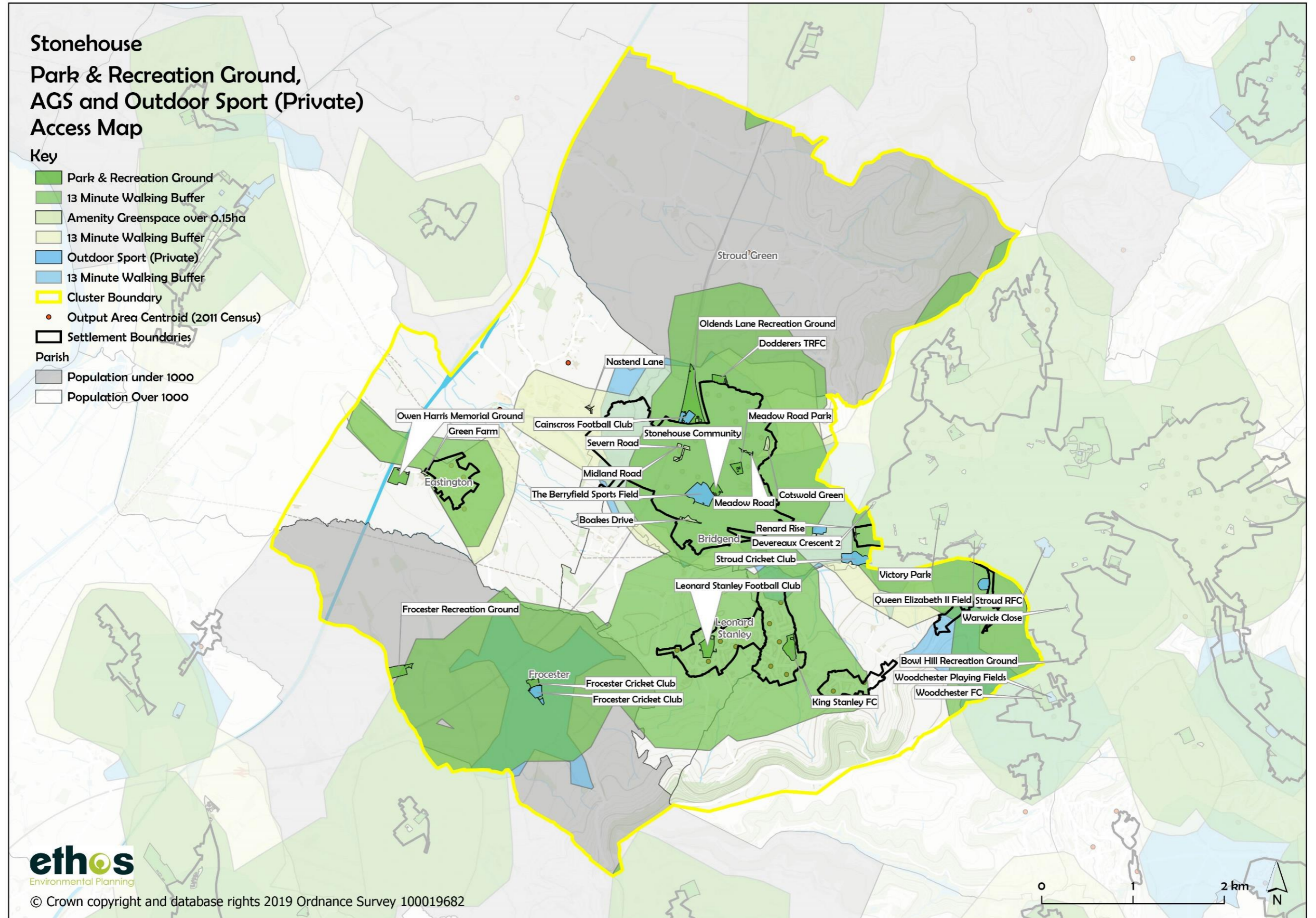


Figure 12 Access to children's play space (10 minutes' walk time)

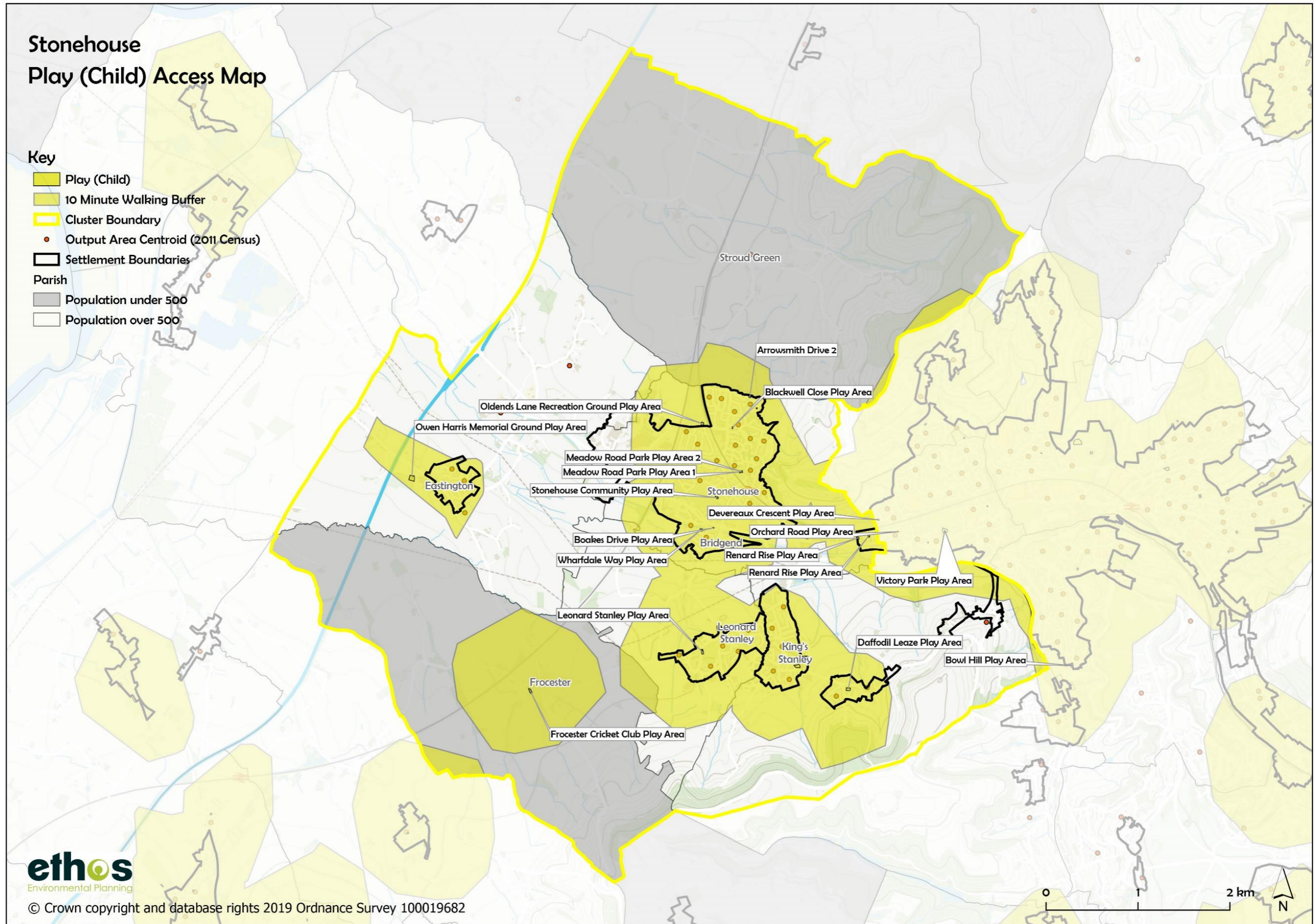


Figure 13 Access to youth play space (15 minutes' walk time)

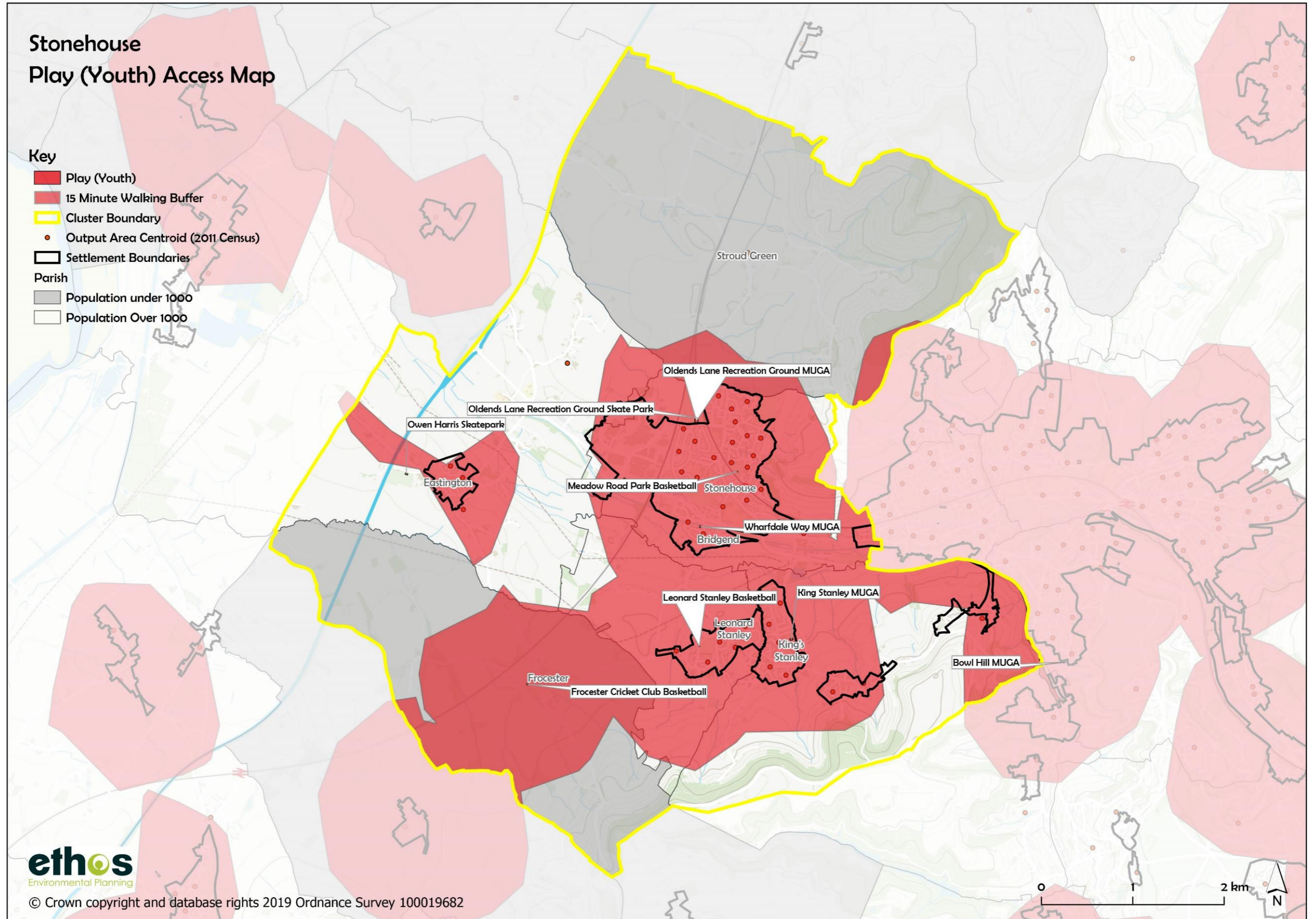


Figure 14 Access to accessible natural green space (960m buffer)

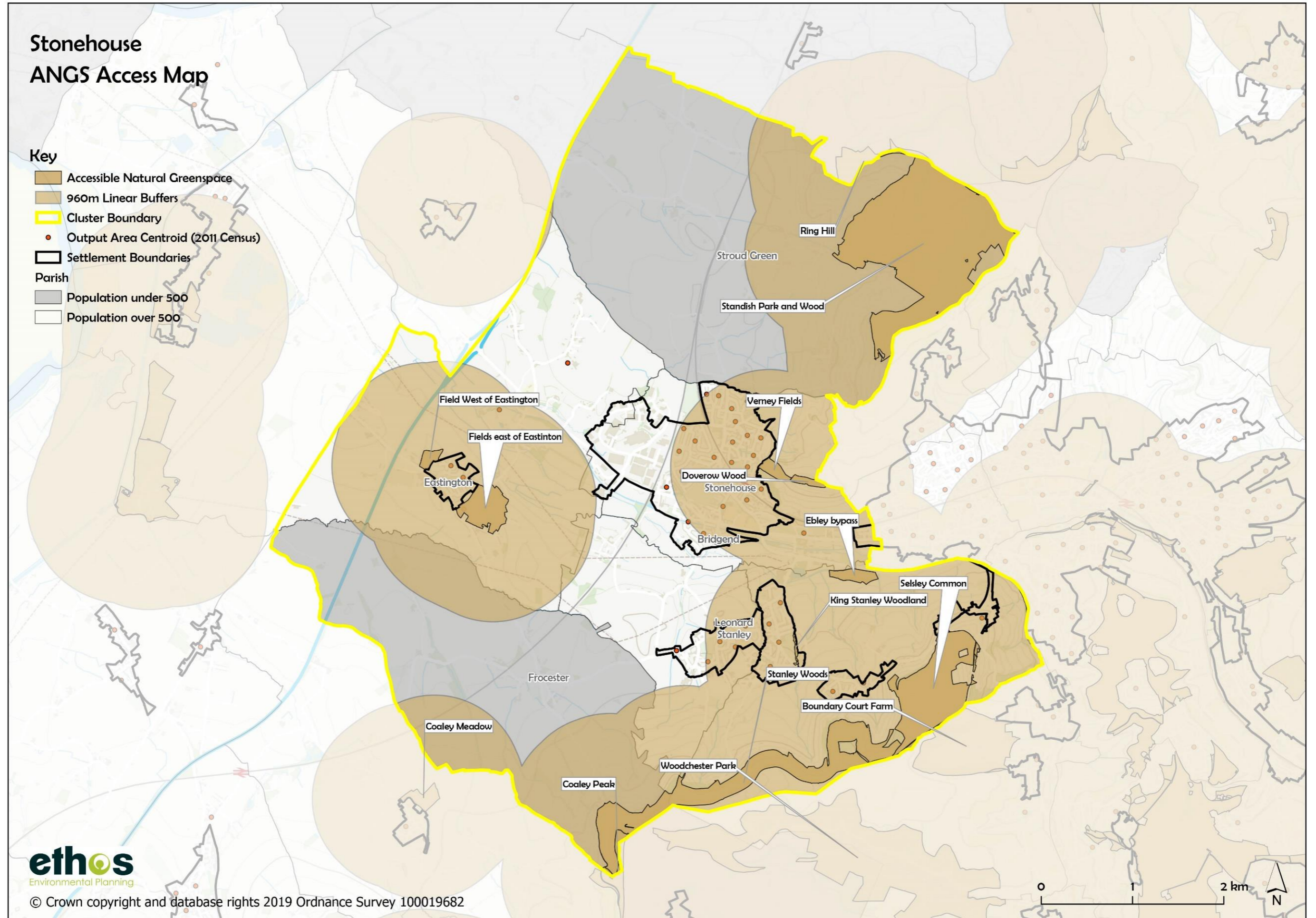


Figure 15 Access to accessible natural green space (20ha + sites within 2km)

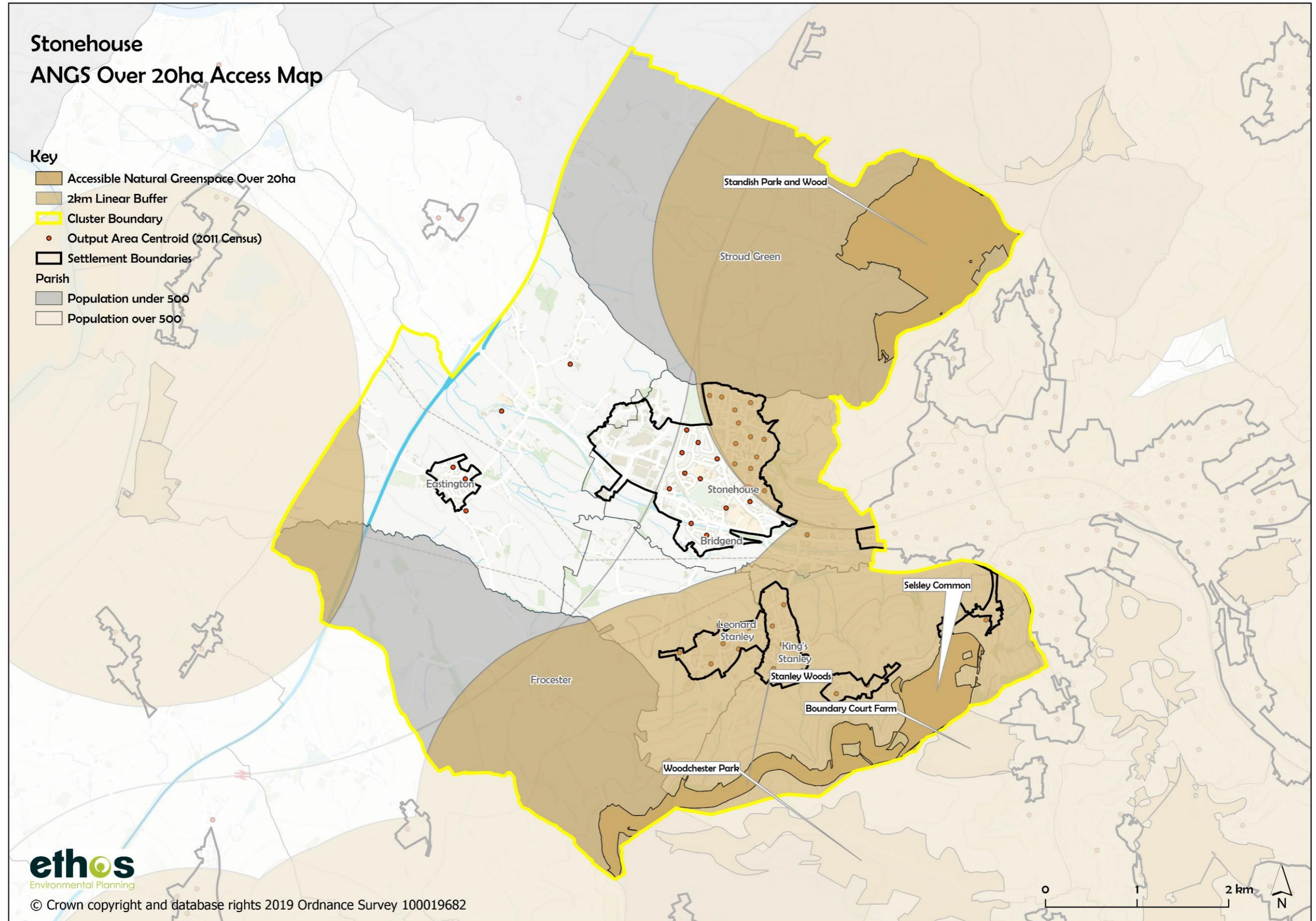


Figure 16 Access to accessible natural green space (100ha + sites within 5km)

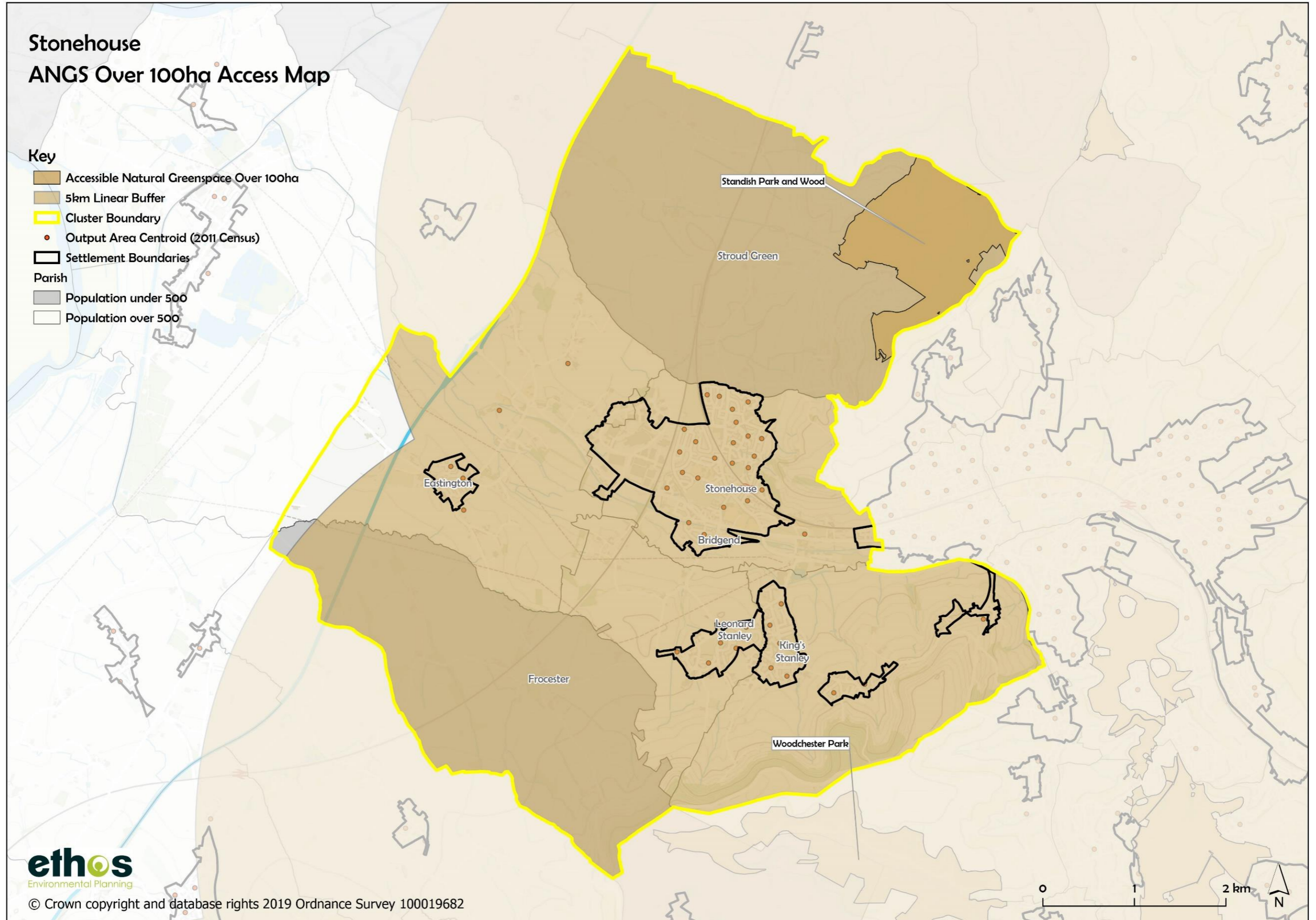


Table 3 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 9 to 16, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

*Table 3 Summary of existing open space access issues for the Stonehouse cluster*

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Current Access</b>
Allotments and community orchards	There are several community orchards and allotments across the cluster with the access being generally good, however there is a large gap in access in Stonehouse town.
Amenity Green Space	There are gaps in access in the southern part of the cluster, including the settlements of Leonard Stanley and Kings Stanley.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Access to parks and recreation grounds is very good across the cluster with only a small gap in access to the west of Stonehouse.
Children's play space	Generally, there good access across the cluster to children's play space in the parishes with populations of over 500. There are gaps in access in Stonehouse settlement and also in the south east of the cluster.
Youth Play space	Access to youth play space is very good across the cluster with all settlements with populations over 1000 having access.
Accessible Natural Green Space	Against the 960m standard access is relatively good with the west of Stonehouse having the only gap in access. Also, good access against the ANGSt 100+ha sites and 20+ha sites but there is a gap with the 20+ha sites in Eastington and Stonehouse.

## GI

Figure 8 (section 2.0) shows the PROW network and key walking and cycling routes.

As can be seen, there are several PROWs which connect the main settlements and there is good access to the Cotswold Way which connects various accessible open spaces across the cluster. There is a NCN route crossing the cluster and also a proposed cycling route.

When analysing access against the Natural England Access Network Mapping (also see figure 8), it shows that the area generally has a good relative abundance of accessible land, although it indicates that there is less accessible land in the central part of the cluster with Stonehouse having the least abundance of accessible land. It is, however, notable that there are accessible open space and PROWs within the Stonehouse settlement and there are limitations with this Natural England data as explained in section 7.6.2 of the main report (part 1).

## 5.0 Open Space and GI Quality Assessment

### 5.1 Quality audit results

Figure 17 provides a summary of the quality audit results for the Stonehouse cluster. As can be seen, the majority of open spaces assessed are good quality (with a score of A). 4 sites were assessed as being of average quality (with a score of B).

Figure 18 illustrates how each open space scores in relation to its quality in terms of its contribution to GI against the 3 themes – wellbeing, water and wildlife. As can be seen from the figure and table below, generally sites were assessed as being good in terms of their contribution of GI<sup>2</sup>.

A summary of the quality and GI audit results from the Stonehouse cluster is provided in table 4 below.

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<sup>2</sup> Only parent sites were considered for their contribution to GI.



Table 4 Quality audit results

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
1147	Coaley Peak	Accessible Natural Green Space	Fantastic site with numerous benches and picnic benches to sit and relax and admire the views, parking area, excellent information signage, historic feature (long barrow), bins, scattered trees and copse areas.	None.	None.	90	A	7.67	A
1335	Selsey Common	Accessible Natural Green Space	Beautiful common, large expanse of tall grass meadow with informal paths, fantastic views, occasional benches and features such as a sun dial, car parking places along road with dog bins.	Redundant posts next to the car parking area – assume there used to be information signage here – needs replacing. Information signage with maps would be a great addition to the main parking areas.	None.	82.22	A	9	A
1648	Standish Park and Wood	Accessible Natural Green Space	Large natural green space with open common and woodland with a range of footpaths and entrances. Main entrance has a pay and display car park with good signage and map of the site.	None.	None.	87	A	10	A
3260	Doverow Wood	Accessible Natural Green Space	Large accessible woodland with natural footpaths throughout and good signage.	None.	None.	80	A	10	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
3270	Verney Fields	Accessible Natural Green Space	Open green space area with natural footpaths and pleasant views.	Could add signage and dog waste bins at the entrances.	None.	78	A	9	A
4277	Ring Hill	Accessible Natural Green Space	Natural footpaths with formal gated access to surrounding woodlands. Pleasant site with well managed paths.	None.	None.	80	A	9	A
1234	Severn Road	Amenity Greenspace	Large amenity lawn in front of houses with good signage and bins present. Limited opportunity for improvement. Mature trees also present.	Add benches in key areas.	None.	83	A	8.33	A
1250	Boakes Drive	Amenity Greenspace	Large amenity with scattered trees. Site is well managed and used regularly by dog walkers.	Branches of a willow have snapped off and fallen, could remove any other dangerous branches to avoid potential incidents.	None.	82	A	8.67	A
1253	Wharfdale Way	Amenity Greenspace	Small amenity with play area and MUGA. No bins or benches present on site. Signage is limited to warnings as opposed to welcoming.	Add welcoming signage, bins and benches.	Site is adjacent to the canal. Could add planting to improve the sites aesthetics and support wildlife and water.	74	A	7.33	A
1263	Meadow Road	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity with footpath. Dog waste bins and bench at east entrance.	Could add waste bin to combat litter.	Water trench through the centre of the site should be cleaned out so it	72.22	A	7.67	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
					flows more efficiently.				
1284	Cotswold Green	Amenity Greenspace	Well managed amenity space with scattered trees and areas of dense scrub and other vegetation. The area is fenced so unsure if used as amenity.	Could add signage to show if the space is accessible for recreation.	None.	83	A	8.67	A
1594	Renard Rise	Amenity Greenspace	Small section of amenity a play space. The amenity is of average value with no bins or benches.	None.	None.	81	A	7	B
3252	Midland Road	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity lawn in front of residential houses. In well managed condition with little potential for improvements.	Could add benches to improve site usage.	None.	75	A	7	B
4261	Arrowsmith Drive	Amenity Greenspace	Small amenity area with hard standing path and planted trees. The site is well managed, and the grassland is cut to a short sward.	None.	None.	80	A	7.33	A
1182	Green Farm	Amenity Greenspace	Roadside amenity with large area that needs reseeding with grass.	Consider reseeding the barren area.	Potential to line the road with wildflower margin.	56.67	B	5.67	B

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
1202	Nastend Lane	Amenity Greenspace	Good quality amenity green space with mature trees.	None.	None.	70	B	7	B
1165	Frocester Cricket Club	Outdoor Sport (private)	Cricket pitch and pavilion are managed to a high standard with good quality facilities, whereas the play area appears less well maintained - the surfacing/access needs improving, there is litter and a poor quality bench, the play area could be upgraded.	Upgrade play area, improve access from this entrance by improving surfacing and installing welcome signage, refurbish/replace bench, clear litter.	None.	80	A	7.33	A
1163	Frocester Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good quality cricket pitch with practice nets and pavilion, and football pitch at the far end, there are benches around the periphery, and a large parking area. Informal access appears to be allowed, lovely views, site bordered by trees and hedgerows.	Improve access and welcome – install signage and proper gate (at present there is a pallet crate being used), some of the benches would also benefit from refurbishing, and any debris cleared from site margins.	None.	78	A	7	B
1188	Owen Harris Memorial Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good quality park and recreation ground with football pitches (unmarked at time of visit), excellent quality new skate ramps, fantastic children's play	Improve signage at entrance to the site, existing signs are old and faded. Scope to introduce tall grass margins to improve biodiversity value.	Introduce tall grass/wildflower margins.	81	A	7.33	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			area, next to community centre with free parking, there is CCTV, surrounded by hedgerows and trees.						
1224	Oldends Lane Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large park with pavilion, play area, skate ramps, football, basketball and MUGA. Site has good quality provision and is well used. Bins and dog waste bins are present at entrances.	Add benches and tidy up hard standing adjacent to basketball area.	Good fringe habitat present with mature trees and scrub. Could add further planting.	88	A	8.67	A
1249	Stonehouse Community	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large, flagship park with plenty of play provision and facilities. The site is very well managed with excellent signage, bins and benches and excellent facilities.	None.	Could add tree planting along the site edges to improve the site for water and wildlife.	93	A	8	A
1262	Meadow Road Park	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large park with good child and youth provision. Excellent signage present at the site entrances and bins and dog waste bins are provided throughout.	The large grassland area could be used for a football pitch. Space for more challenging play equipment for older children.	Could add further tree planting along site perimeter.	87	A	8.33	A
1295	Leonard Stanley Football Club	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large park and recreation ground with large children's play area, football, poor quality tennis courts, table tennis, basketball	Install welcome/info signage on main entrances, repaint youth shelter and clear litter from this area. Repaint some of the	Improve management of tall grass/scrub area.	74	A	7.33	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			hoop, youth shelter, benches, bins, tall grass/scrub areas, overlooked by housing.	benches, repair turf near picnic bench, upgrade/improve tennis courts, improve management of tall grass/scrub area.					
1308	Kings Stanley FC	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large, good quality park and recreation ground next to village hall with parking, with cricket pitch, football, floodlights, MUGA, outdoor gym, children's play area, hard surfaced path although no eastern boundary with footpath leading into adjacent wood.	Install sign on entrance into woodland, improve main entrance near car park by upgrading old paving slabs, some of the benches would benefit from repainting, management of oak saplings around children's play area.	None.	87	A	7.33	A
1165	Frocester Cricket Club	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Cricket pitch and pavilion are managed to a high standard with good quality facilities, whereas the play area appears less well maintained - the surfacing/access needs improving, there is litter and a poor-quality bench, the play area could be upgraded.	Upgrade play area improve access from this entrance by improving surfacing and installing welcome signage, refurbish/replace bench, clear litter.	None	80	A	7.33	A
1170	Frocester Cricket Club Play Area	Play (child)	Unfenced children's play area with dated equipment, although in	Upgrade play area to improve play value, space for new play	None.	71	A	N/A	N/A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			reasonable condition. There is a fair amount of litter despite the presence of a bin, and the bench is in poor condition with a screw sticking out.	items and at the very least existing equipment should be repainted. Bench needs refurbishing/replacing.					
1192	Owen Harris Memorial Ground Play Area	Play (child)	Fantastic, large fenced children's play area with high play value, modern equipment, welcoming signage, benches and bins.	None.	None.	89	A	N/A	N/A
1229	Oldends Lane Recreation Ground Play Area	Play (child)	Play area with lots of provision for both toddlers and older children. Play area is fenced with good signage, bins and benches.	Some of the equipment is dated. Could add newer, more challenging equipment.	None	82	A	N/A	N/A
1246	Stonehouse Community Play Area	Play (child)	Excellent play area with modern, high quality equipment.	None.	None.	89	A	N/A	N/A
1251	Wharfdale Way Play Area	Play (child)	Play area with swings, climbing apparatus and slide. Limited provision for the size of the space and provision is of varying age.	Replace dated equipment so everything is up to date.	None.	76	A	N/A	N/A
1260	Meadow Road Play Area 1	Play (child)	Small play area focusing on provision for toddlers. The play area is	None.	None.	82	A	N/A	N/A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			well managed with good provision, signage and benches.						
1261	Meadow Road Play Area 2	Play (child)	Play area focusing on provision for older children. The equipment is in good condition and the site is well managed with bins and benches provided.	Could add welcome signage to the play area entrance.	None.	81	A	N/A	N/A
1274	Blackwell Close Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with dated equipment and unmanaged habitat.	Hard to find play space, could be removed as very average and appears unused.	None	71	A	7	B
1283	Arrowsmith Drive 2	Play (child)	Small play area with limited provision.	Very average play area with limited play value.	Provides little support to green infrastructure, surrounding habitat is good for GI.	76	A	7	B
1293	Leonard Stanley Play Area	Play (child)	Large unfenced children's play area with excellent play value - there is a wide variety of play equipment, all in decent condition, although some would benefit from repainting.	Repaint some of the play items e.g. swings.	None.	78	A	N/A	N/A
1312	Kings Stanley Play Area	Play (child)	Good quality play area with variety of equipment, some old	Manage area of self-seeded saplings to ensure access to bench	None.	79	A	N/A	N/A



Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			and some more modern, fenced and unfenced area, good access, part of this area is becoming overgrown with self-seeded saplings. Works being undertaken to the nearby path at the time of the audit.	is maintained, and clear them around play equipment. Some of the equipment e.g. the slide would benefit from repainting.					
1595	Renard Rise Play Area	Play (child)	Small play space with a limited amount of equipment, low play value.	None – equipment is new.	None.	81	A	7	B
3195	Boakes Drive Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with mostly toddler equipment, sufficient play for the size of the space.	Equipment appears faded and worn, could be refurbished.	None.	77	A	7.33	A
1281	Arrowsmith Drive Play Area	Play (child)	Small play space with very little play value.	Has potential for newer, higher quality, more usable equipment.	None.	70	B	N/A	N/A
1324	Daffodil Leaze Play Area	Play (child)	Amenity green space (fenced) with children's play equipment in decent condition, space for more play items to improve play value, redundant hard surfaces area, litter bin, picnic bench, overlooked by housing on all sides,	Improve welcome and access by installing directional signage and welcome sign on entrance gates, upgrade path, either R.E. landscape or upgrade hard surfaced area. Has potential to accommodate a MUGA or skate area, install	Plant hedgerow/trees, improve management of grass and could put in a tall grass/wildflower margin.	66.67	B	5.67	B

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			hard surfaced path overgrown.	more plat items plant hedgerow.					
1171	Frocester Cricket Club Basketball	Play (youth)	Single basketball hoop with hard surfacing, low play value, surfacing is poor.	Space to upgrade MUGA.	None.	72.22	A	N/A	N/A
1230	Oldends Lane Recreation Ground MUGA	Play (youth)	MUGA and basketball area with a teen shelter by the basketball court. Hard standing around basketball could be improved and markings could be added.	Add markings and improve basketball.	None.	82	A	N/A	N/A
1231	Oldends Lane Recreation Ground Skate Park	Play (youth)	High quality skate ramps with lots of variation.	None.	None.	91	A	N/A	N/A
1256	Wharfdale Way MUGA	Play (youth)	Large good quality MUGA with high fencing and good signage.	None.	None.	83	A	N/A	N/A
1259	Meadow Road Park Basketball	Play (youth)	Half MUGA with basketball hoop and area of hard standing.	Space could be expanded to a full MUGA to improve play value.	None.	80	A	N/A	N/A
1311	Kings Stanley MUGA	Play (youth)	Good quality, large MUGA, well maintained.	None.	None.	80	A	N/A	N/A

Figure 17 Summary of open space quality audit results in Stonehouse cluster

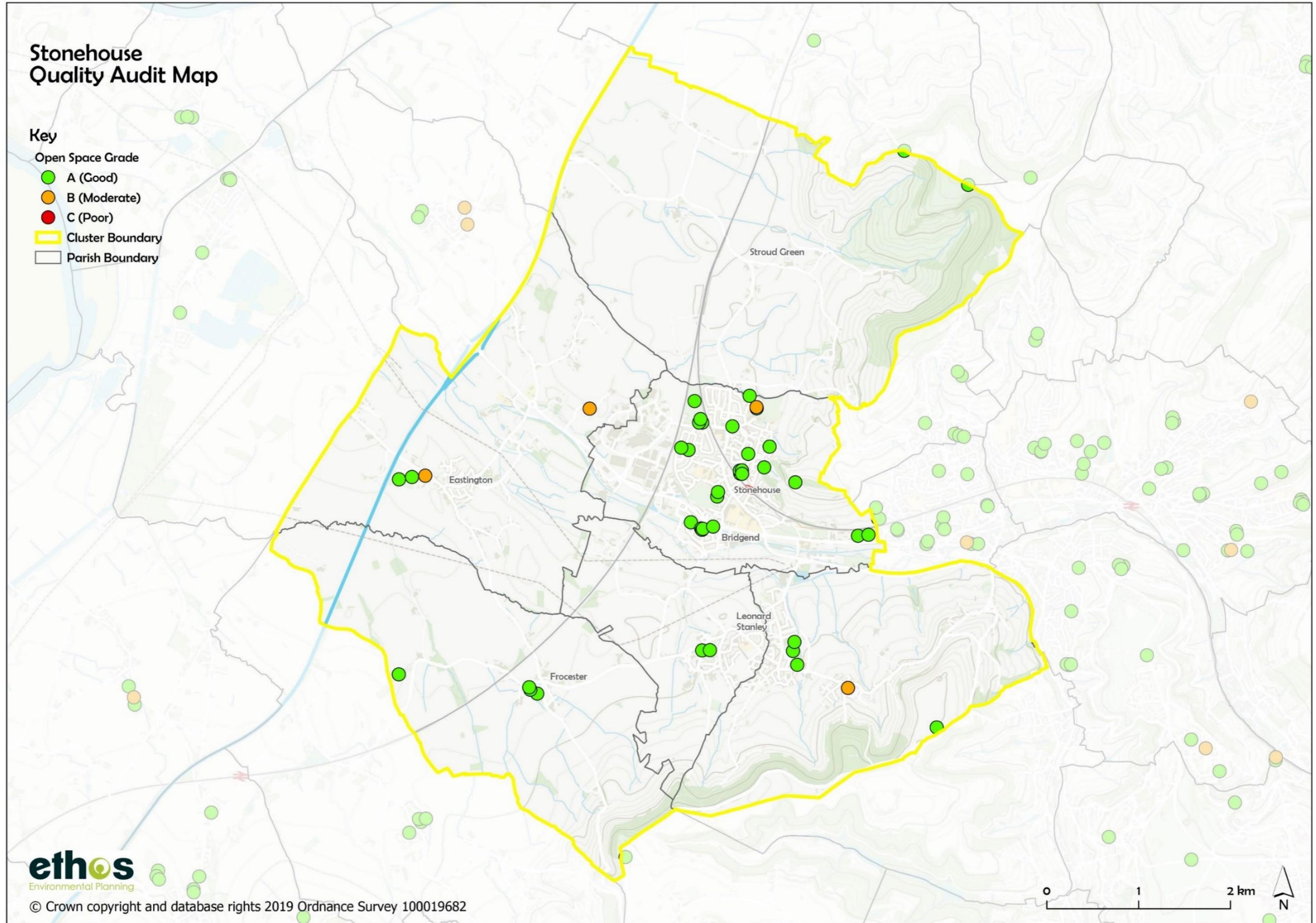
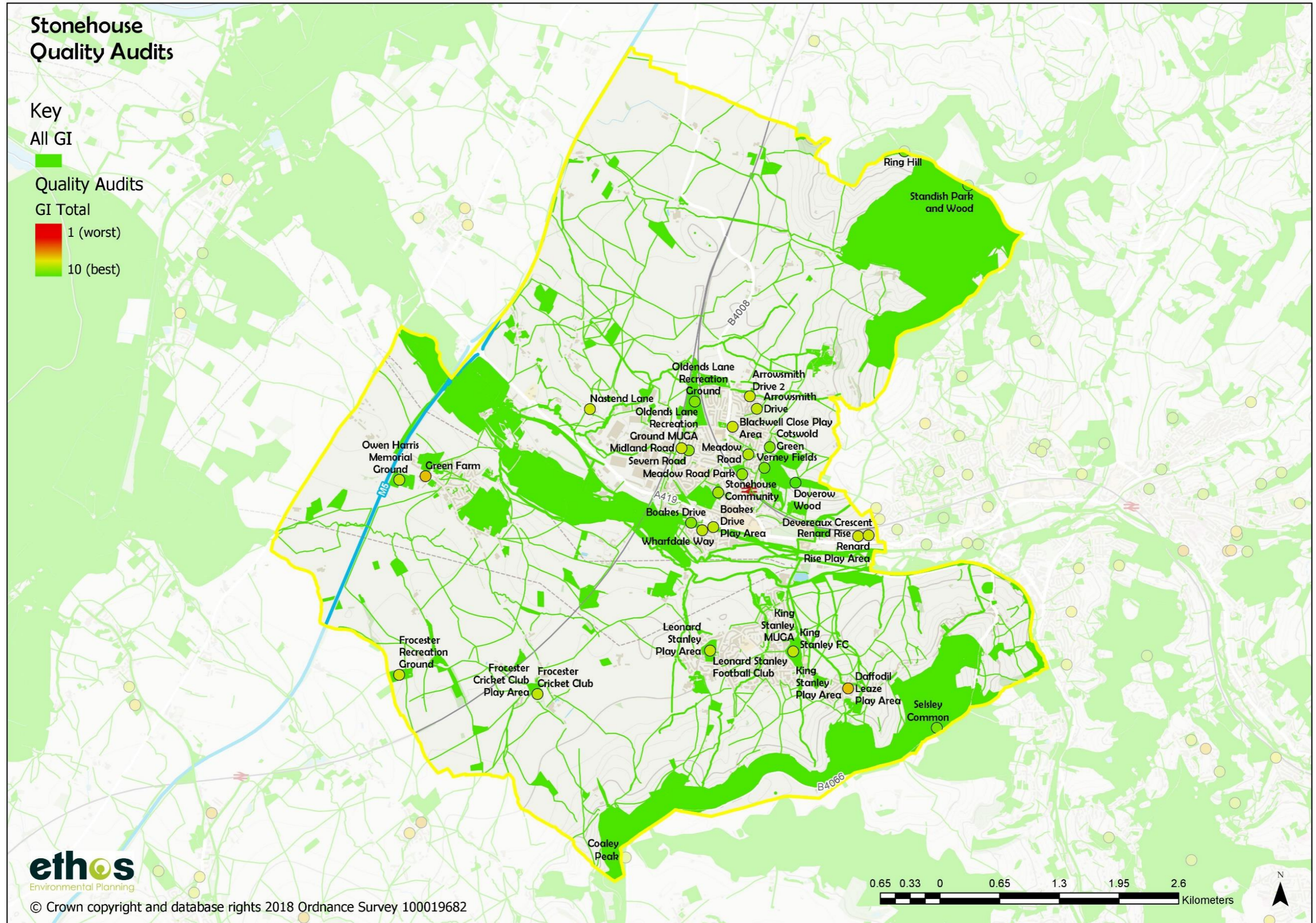


Figure 18 Summary of open space GI quality scores



## 5.2 Condition of SSSIs

In addition to the audits of open space, a desktop audit of the quality of designated sites/GI within the Cluster has also been undertaken. The following table shows the condition summary (as of February 2019) of SSSIs within the cluster. As can be seen, Selsey Common is in favourable condition, although there is scope to improve the condition of Woodchester Park SSSI.

Figure 19 Stonehouse SSSIs

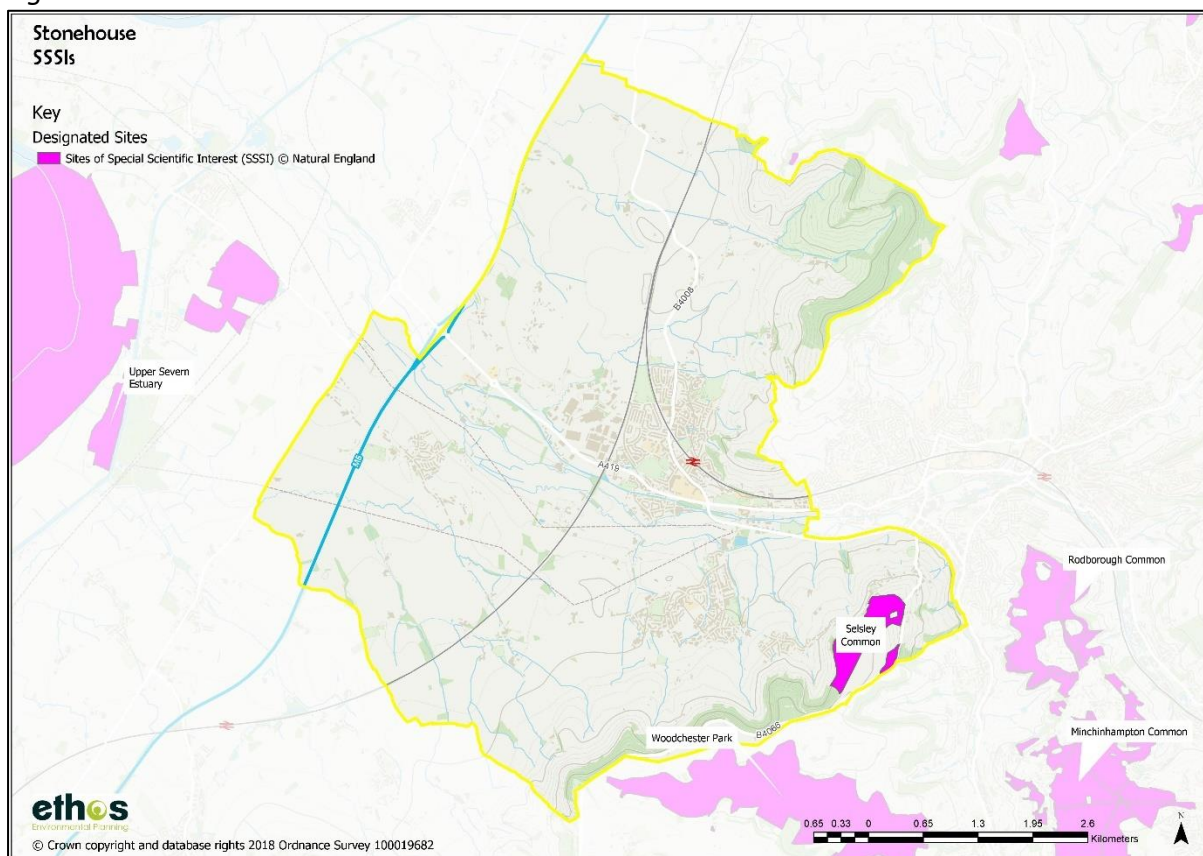


Table 5 Condition summary of SSSI's sites within the Stonehouse cluster

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
Selsey Common	SSSI	39.87	Site overlays the Jurassic limestone of the Cotswolds supporting herb-rich calcareous grassland habitat. Leigh's Quarry in the southern part of the site is noted for its geological significance. The grassland vegetation is managed by grazing and dominated by upright brome and sheep's fescue with little tor-grass which distinguishes from other similar grassland sites in the Cotswolds. The quarry provides	100% Favourable.

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
			one of the most extensive cross-sections of the Middle Jurassic Inferior Oolite of the South Cotswolds and provides great value for research and education.	
Woodchester Park	SSSI	0.01	Situated within a secluded and sheltered valley running in a dip slope of the Cotswolds and managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. This site provides an environment for a breeding colony of greater horseshoe bats centred on the Mansion located within the site. Woodland is the most extensive habitat which includes original semi-natural woodland. There are some nationally restricted plants found in the woods including fingered sedge, angular Solomon's-seal and stinking hellebore. A range of important wildlife exists across the site including breeding birds (sparrow hawk, tawny owl), invertebrates (nationally restricted scarlet tiger moth) and butterflies.	95.80% Favourable. 4.2% Unfavourable – recovering.

### 5.3 Natural England National Habitat Network Mapping

The Natural England National Habitat Network mapping also indicates that the is 'restorable habitat' within the Stonehouse cluster - areas of semi-natural habitat where the primary habitat is present in a degraded or fragmented form and which are likely to be suitable for restoration.

See main report (part 1), section 7.6, figure 25 for overview map.

## 6.0 Future need for open space and GI corridors and opportunities

### Open Space

The table below shows the quantity requirements for open space provision from the predicted population growth resulting from housing development within the Stonehouse cluster. An explanation of how these growth figures have been calculated is provided in section 7.2.2 of the main report (part 1).

*Table 6 Open space requirements from new development within the Stonehouse cluster (up to 2040)*

Typology	Standard for new provision (Ha/1000)	Requirement for 4251 people (Ha)
Allotments	0.35	1.49
Community Orchards	0.15	0.64
Amenity Green Space	0.40	1.70
Park and Recreation Ground	1.20	5.10
Play Space (Children)	0.06	0.26
Play Space (Youth)	0.06	0.26
Natural Green Space	1.00	4.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>13.71</b>

### GI

The figure below shows the key GI corridors within the cluster, and key opportunities for enhancing the network in terms of connectivity (both for biodiversity/wildlife corridors and access for people). Improvements in terms of quality/functionality of GI are considered in section 5.0.

As can be seen from figure 20, the key GI corridors are the Cotswold Escarpment and Valley (this is a strategic GI corridor as identified by the GLNP (shown in yellow) and the following district/ locally important GI corridors have been identified as part of this assessment:

A) Saul to Stroud. River Frome (KWS) and Stroudwater Canal

G) Standish Park/Wood to Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods through woodland

Opportunities for enhancing the connectivity of the network have also been identified as follows:

10) Improve connectivity between grassland and woodland priority habitats

26) Ongoing restoration work from Stonehouse to Thrupp along Stroudwater Canal. Protect and enhance River Frome corridor.

## Strategic Site Allocations

### Site Allocation SA2: West of Stonehouse

Allocated for a mixed-use development including residential, employment and community uses, has planning consent.

The development will provide accessible natural green space, allotments and formal public outdoor playing space, structural landscaping buffer incorporating existing hedgerows and trees, long term management and maintenance of open spaces to deliver local biodiversity targets, SuDS, restored water course corridor that enhances biodiversity and water quality and improves flood storage and flow rates, cycle and pedestrian routes, including improvements to canal towpath.

### Emerging Local Plan

The Local Plan Review Emerging Strategy (2018) sets out the following priorities and draft vision for the Stonehouse cluster:

***Local community representatives have highlighted the following key local issues and top priorities in relation to open space and GI:***

- *Designing safe cycle routes and achieving better public transport.*
- *Ensuring development enhances local green spaces and improves access to countryside.*

***Draft vision to 2040: “Economic growth and well-connected, thriving communities...”***

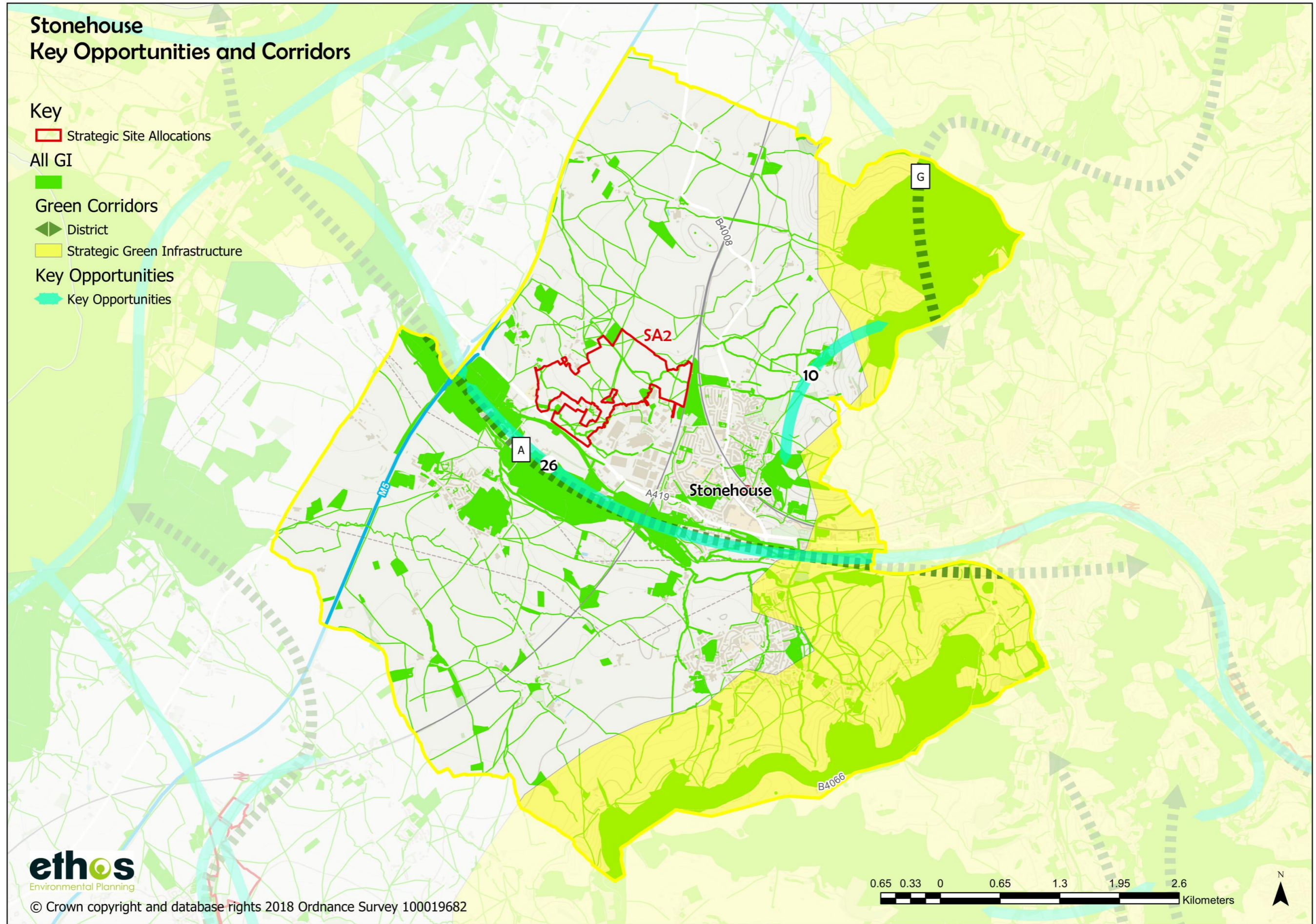
*Development to the west of Stonehouse will expand the existing Oldends/Stroudwater employment area with attendant transport and infrastructure improvements – including improved links to the town centre and opportunities for all to make sure of pleasant and safe ‘green links’ on foot or cycle.....*

*.....The area will see the environmental enhancement of both the river corridor and the canal restoration with boosted tourist appeal contributing to the local economy.....*

*.....Links will be improved into the countryside and between the town centre and the canal, providing valuable amenity for residents of Stonehouse and surrounding communities....*



Figure 20 Key GI Corridors and Opportunities



## 7.0 Open Space and GI - Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quantity, access and quality of open space and GI and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

- Existing provision to be enhanced;
- Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
- Identification of areas for new provision of open space; and
- Protection of open space (and consideration of sites that may be surplus to requirement).

### 7.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.0 provides a summary of the open space quality scores drawn from the quality audit.

When development sites are brought forward, consideration should be given to the potential to improve those sites that scored C (poor) or B (average) sites.

The list of sites that scored B or C are as follows:

- Green Farm (B)
- Nastend Lane (B)
- Arrowsmith Drive Play Area (B)
- Daffodil Leaze Play Area (B)

The GI quality scores and recommendations should also be considered.

A desktop assessment has also identified potential to improve the condition of Woodchester Park (from SSSI condition assessments).

### 7.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of the Stonehouse cluster, there is sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds and children's play space, and also good access to these facilities against the standards.

Although there is a shortfall in supply of youth play space, there is good access, suggesting that the focus should be on expanding and improving the quality of existing youth provision.

Not only is there a shortfall in supply of allotments, there is also a large gap in access within Stonehouse town. Parks and recreation grounds in this area may have potential to accommodate food growing areas to help reduce this shortfall.

There is also a shortfall in supply and gaps in access to amenity green space in Leonard Stanley and Kings Stanley, however there is access to parks and recreation grounds in this area, so there is unlikely to be a need to address this shortfall.

### **7.3 Identification of areas for new provision of open space**

The assessment has identified that there is an existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of allotments, amenity green space and youth play space, therefore, the need to protect existing facilities and maximise opportunities for securing new open space is key. Although there is sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds and children's play space, on site provision of these typologies may still be required - the requirements for on site provision will depend on the size and location of new development.

Table 6 sets out the overall requirement for new open space provision within Stonehouse cluster from new development, which is 13.71 ha. This is based on the predicted population growth, however this assumes that all provision will be on-site, which will not be the case in reality as many developments will be too small, and therefore CIL contributions will be required for off-site provision and/or improvements.

The GI corridors and opportunities map (figure 20, section 6.0) sets out the framework for protecting and enhancing GI.

Key opportunities for enhancing the connectivity of the network have been identified as follows (each number relates to the arrows on the map at figure 20):

10) Improve connectivity between grassland and woodland priority habitats

26) Ongoing restoration work from Stonehouse to Thrupp along Stroudwater Canal. Protect and enhance River Frome corridor.

### **7.4 Protection of open space (and consideration of sites that may be considered as surplus)**

All open space and GI will be afforded protection unless it can be proved it is not required i.e. its loss would not result in deficiencies in quantity, access or quality, and would not have a negative impact on the GI network in terms of functionality/connectivity.

There are shortfalls in allotments, amenity green space and youth play space, therefore these typologies are not considered as surplus.

Although there is sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds and children's play space against the standard this does not mean they are surplus, as any loss of facilities may result in gaps in access. In addition, the majority of spaces have been assessed as being good quality (with the exception of two children's play areas). The planned growth in the area is also likely to put pressure on existing facilities and before any decision is made if a site may be surplus, it should be considered for meeting shortfalls in allotments and youth play space, or other typologies where there are gaps in access.

Irrespective of this, the role that open spaces perform in relation to GI also needs to be considered, and even if the loss of a site would not have quantity or access impacts, it may have an impact on the functionality or connectivity of the GI network (e.g. in terms of nature conservation/biodiversity). Therefore, any potential loss of open space would need to demonstrate that there would not be negative impacts on open space quantity, access and quality, or the functionality of GI network.