

# Stroud Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study



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

Final June 2019



Ecology | Green Space | Arboiculture | GIS

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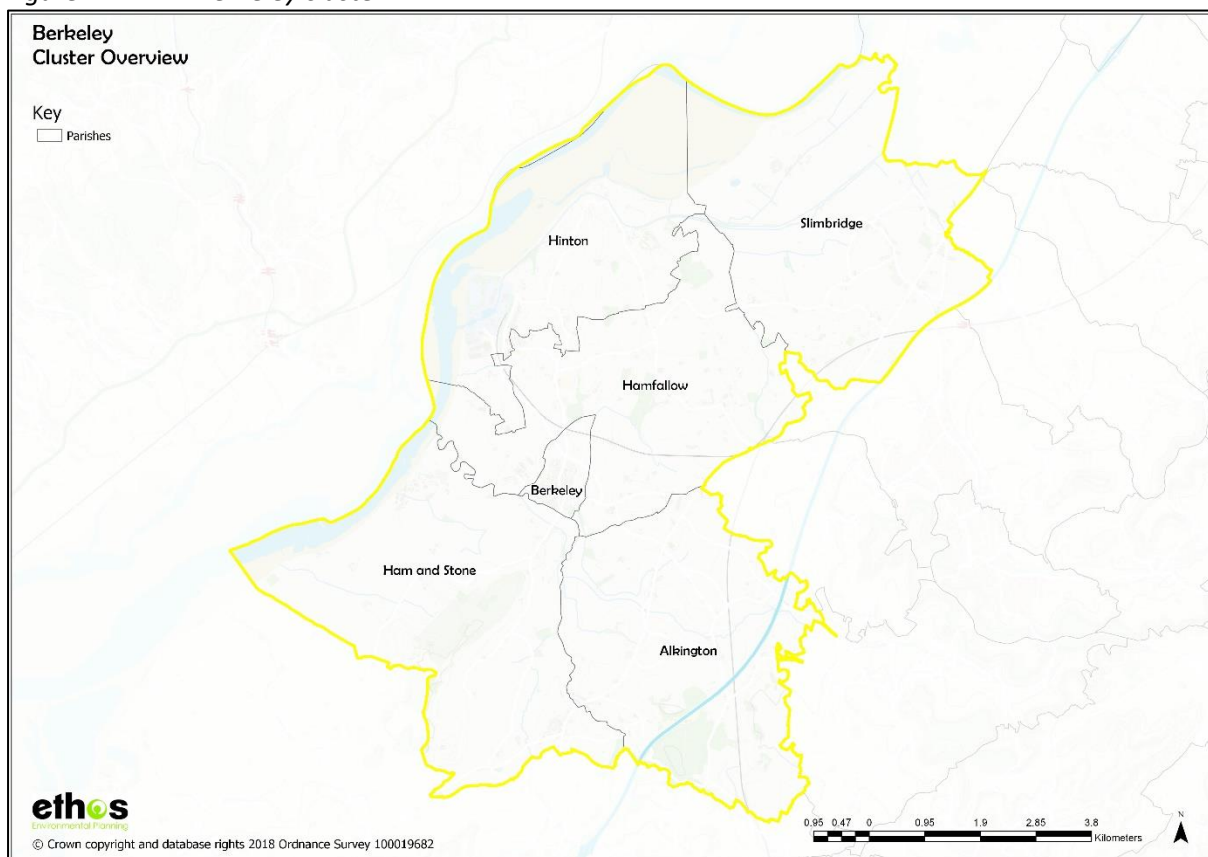
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## 1.0 Geographical area and population

The Berkeley sub area comprises the Parishes of Alkington, Berkeley, Ham and Stone, Hamfallow, Hinton and Slimbridge as shown in figure 1. The population of this area is 7,146 (ONS mid-year estimate 2017).

Figure 1 Berkeley cluster



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

This cluster of parishes lies in the Severn Vale at the south-western corner of Stroud District, close to the boundary between Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. Berkeley is a historic market town, which today acts as a local service centre for a rural hinterland. Many residents of these parishes commute out of the District for work, leisure and anything other than convenience shopping (Bristol and Thornbury are within easy reach). The closure of Berkeley Nuclear Power Station had an impact on local employment opportunities, but the development of the Gloucestershire Science and Technology Park is providing new opportunities for growth. Sharpness Docks is a thriving and busy port but has scope for new development focussing on the leisure and tourism potential of the Gloucester-Sharpness canal and its Severn Estuary location. The area is blessed with some beautiful landscape and valuable estuarine habitats, which are nationally and internationally protected. These parishes are also home to some of the District's major tourist attractions: notably, Berkeley

Castle, The Jenner Museum, Cattle Country Adventure Park and the world-renowned Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge.

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

Figure 2 shows the existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the Berkeley 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 Berkeley 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 Berkeley cluster

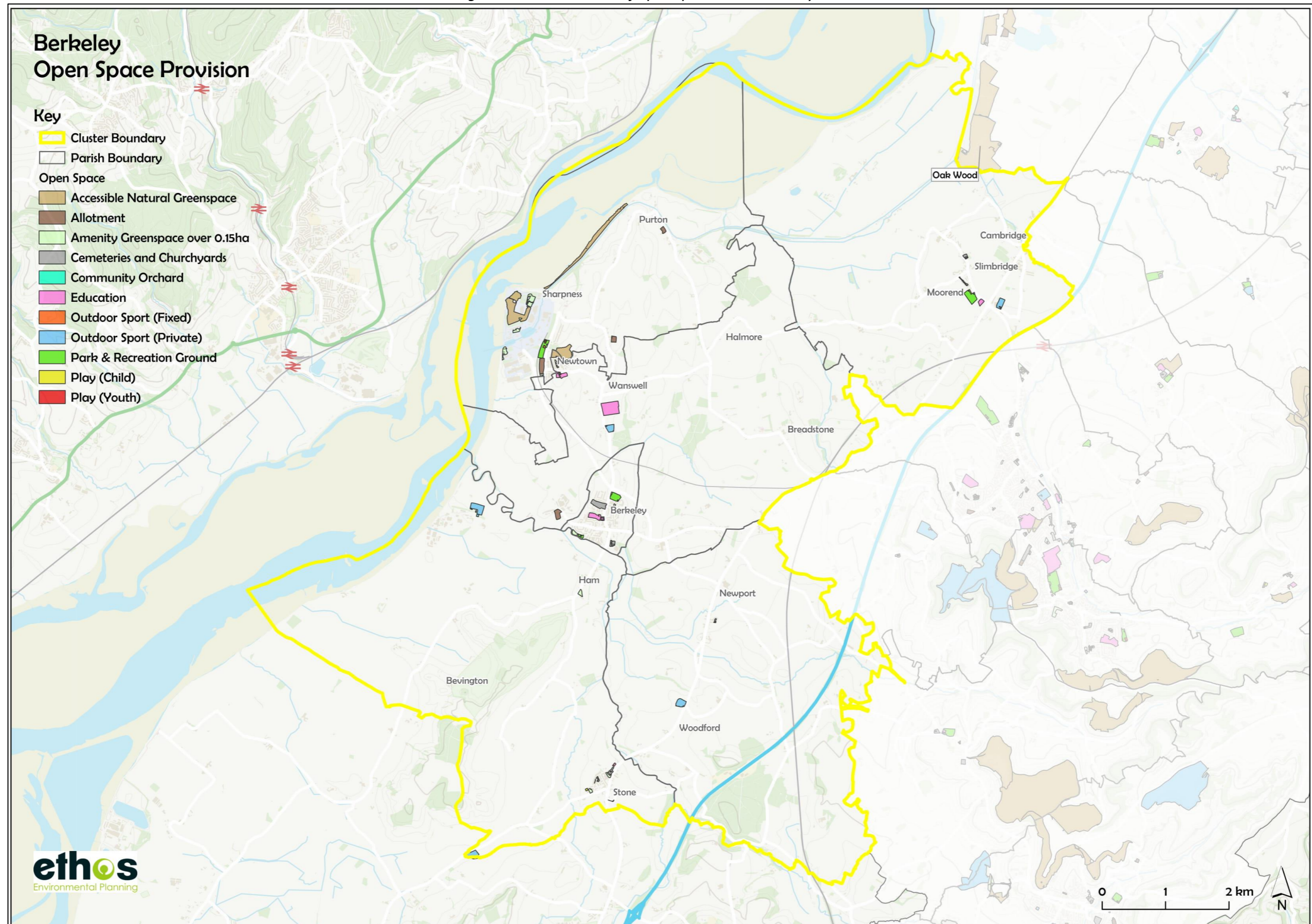


Figure 3 Overview of GI in the Berkeley cluster

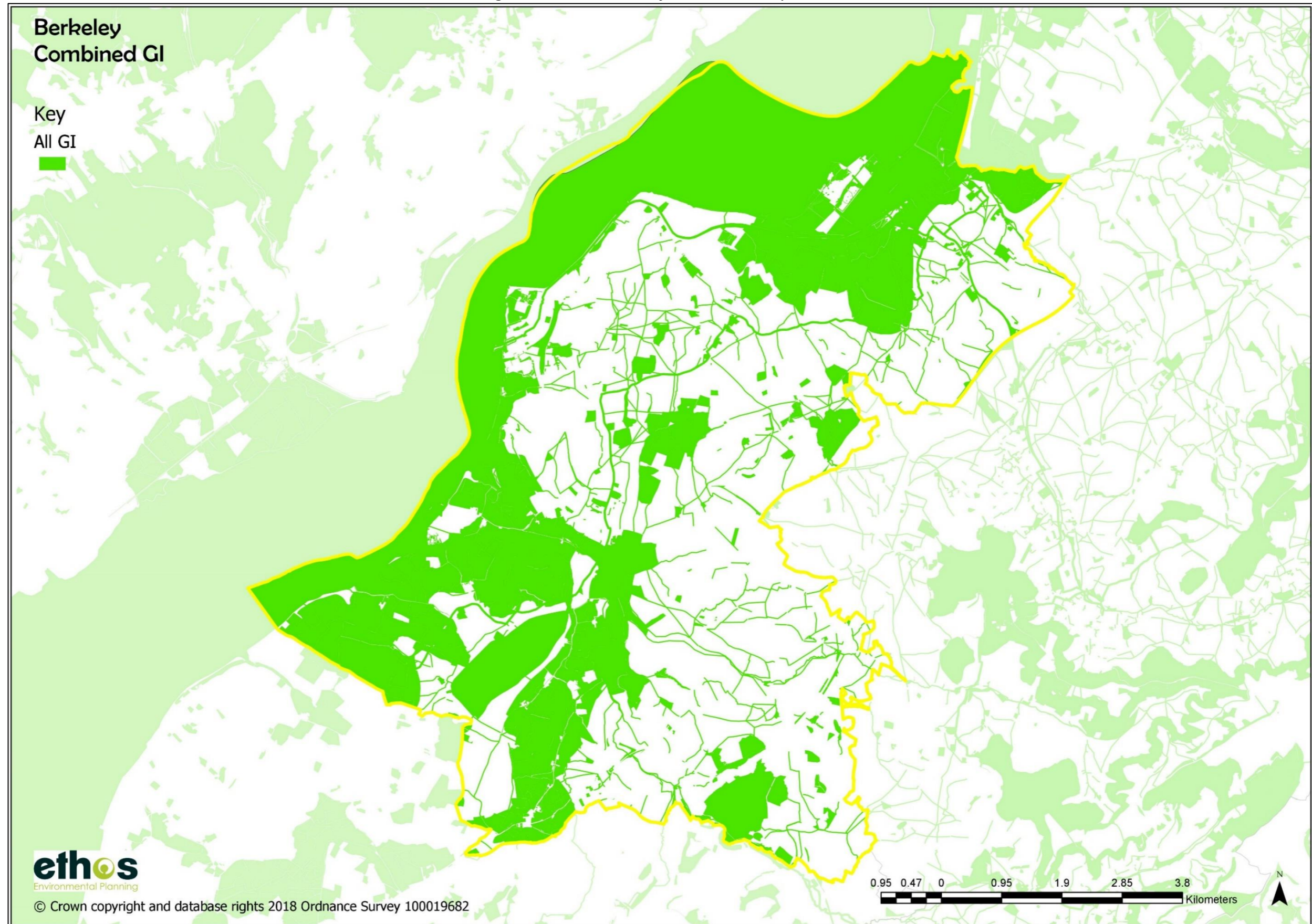


Figure 4 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Designated Sites

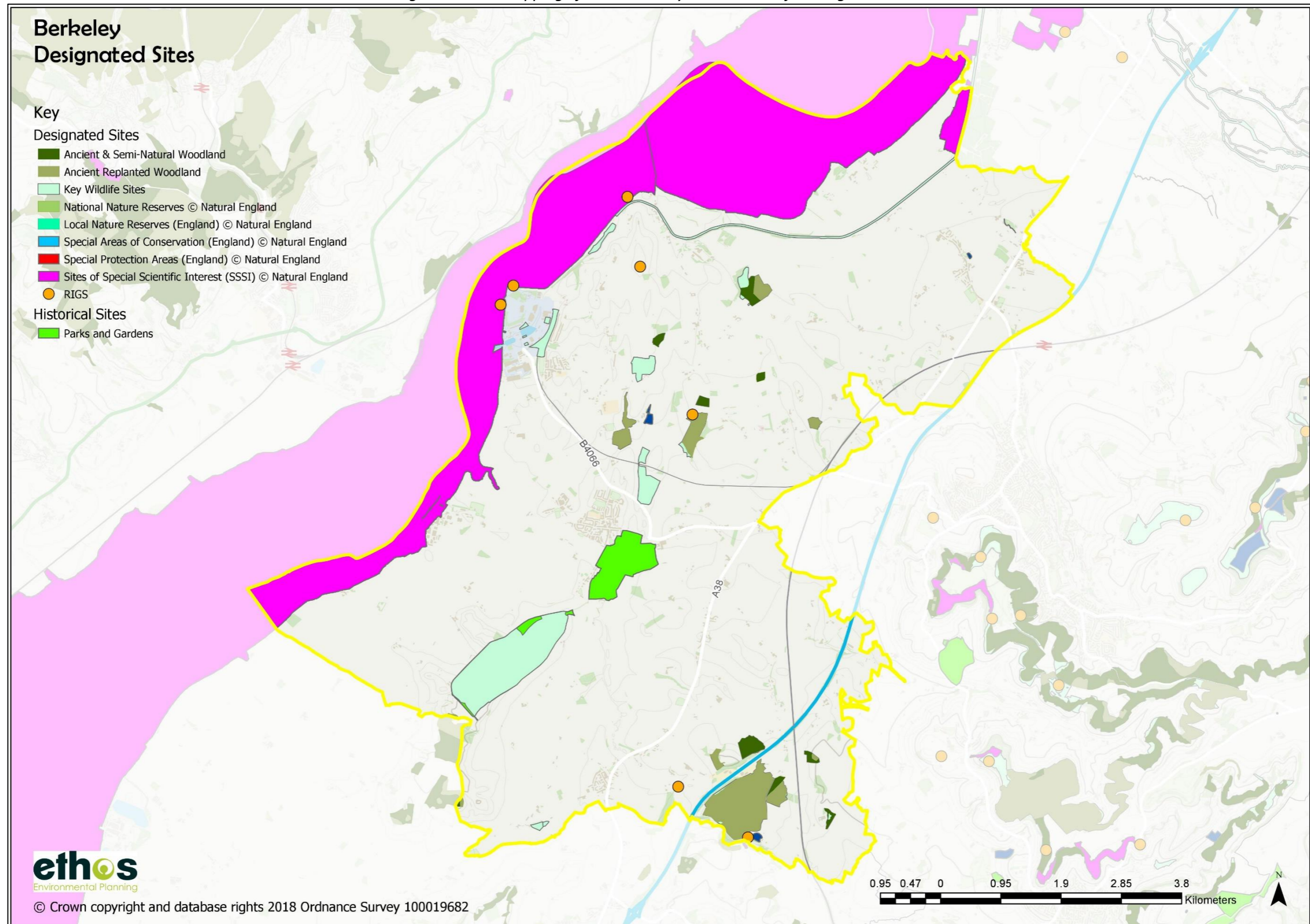


Figure 5 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Priority Habitats, Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs)

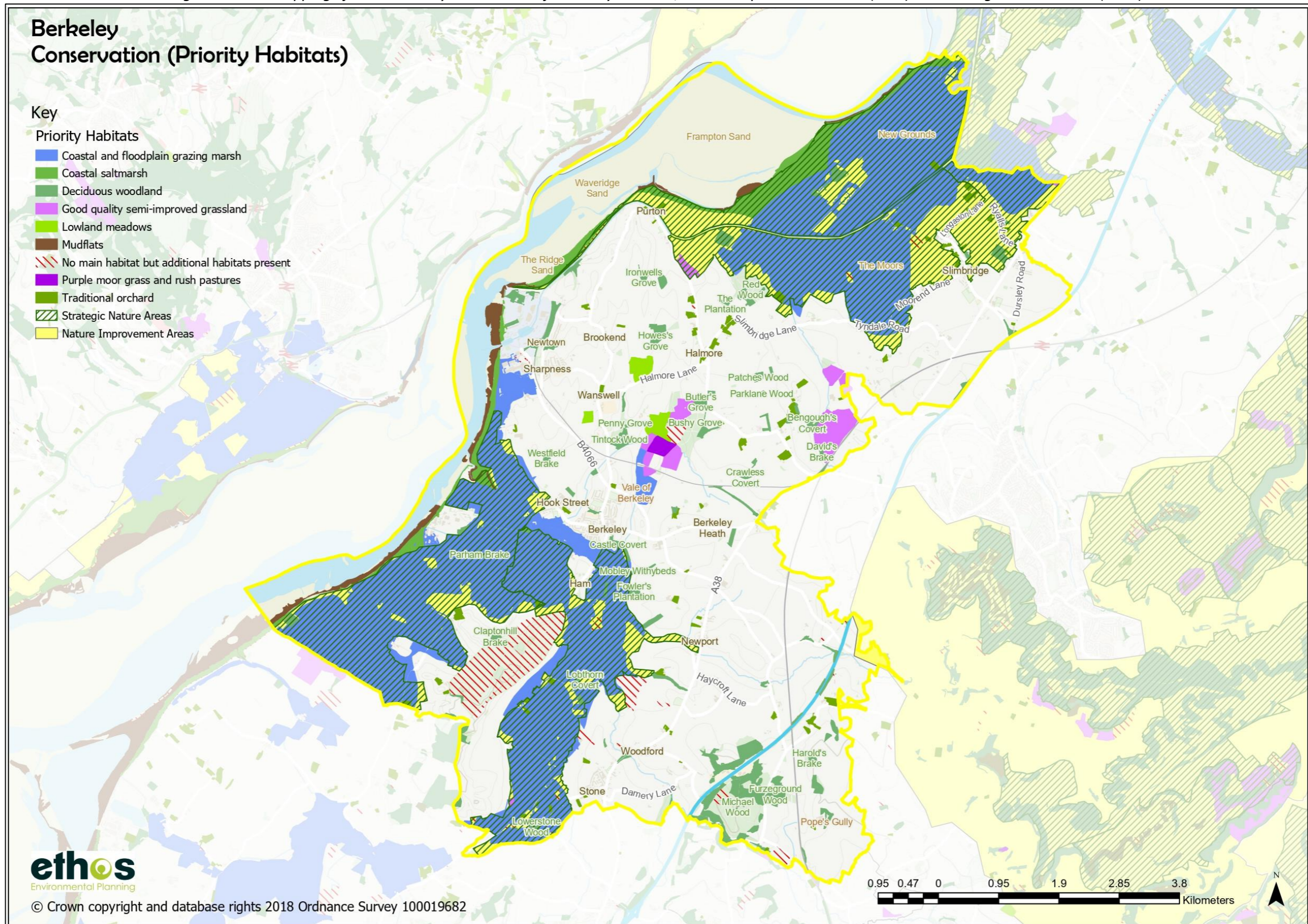




Figure 6 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: National Character Areas (NCAs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

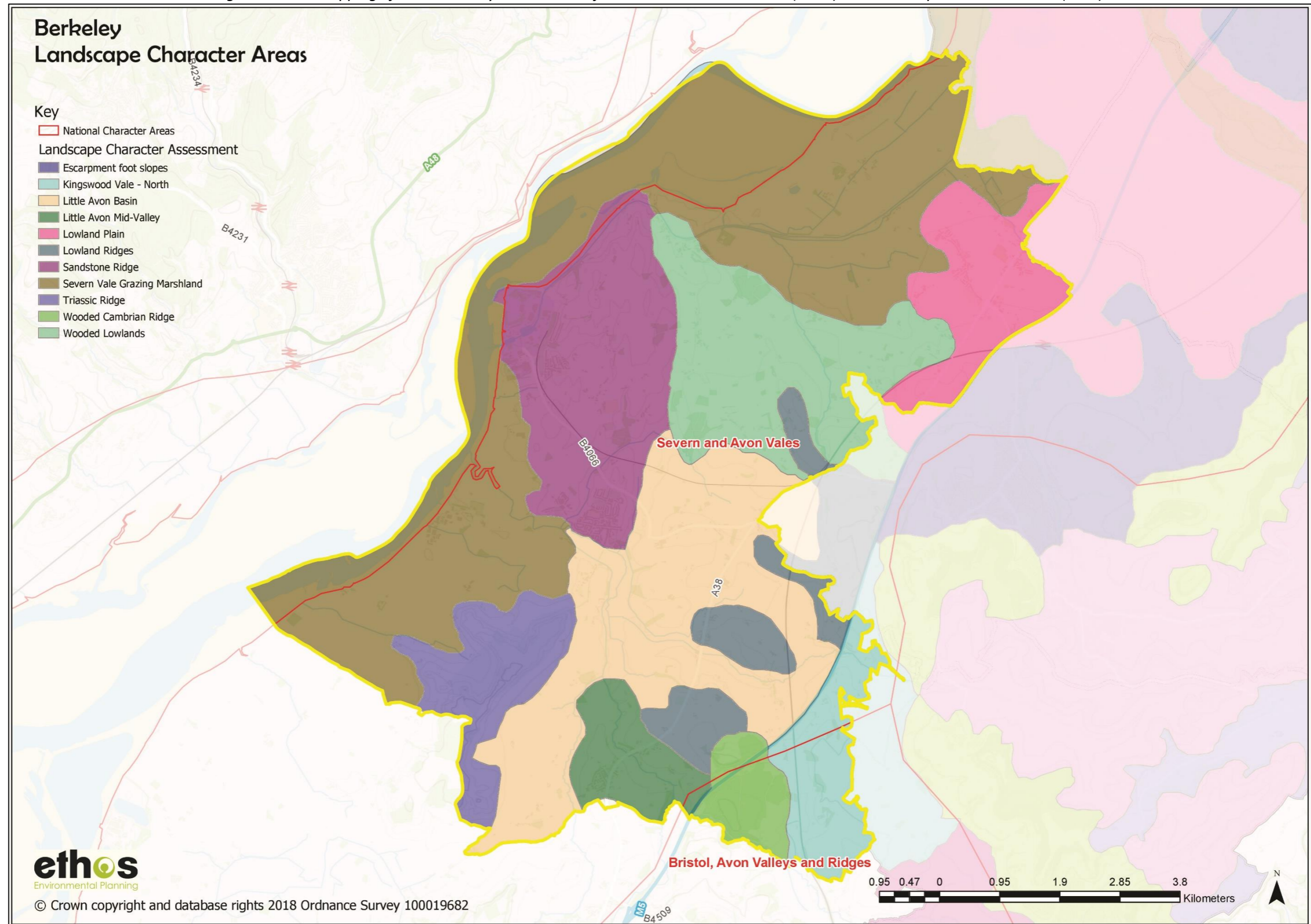


Figure 7 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Water: Canals, Rivers/Streams, Lakes/Surface Water, Priority River Habitat, Floodzone, Source Protection Zones

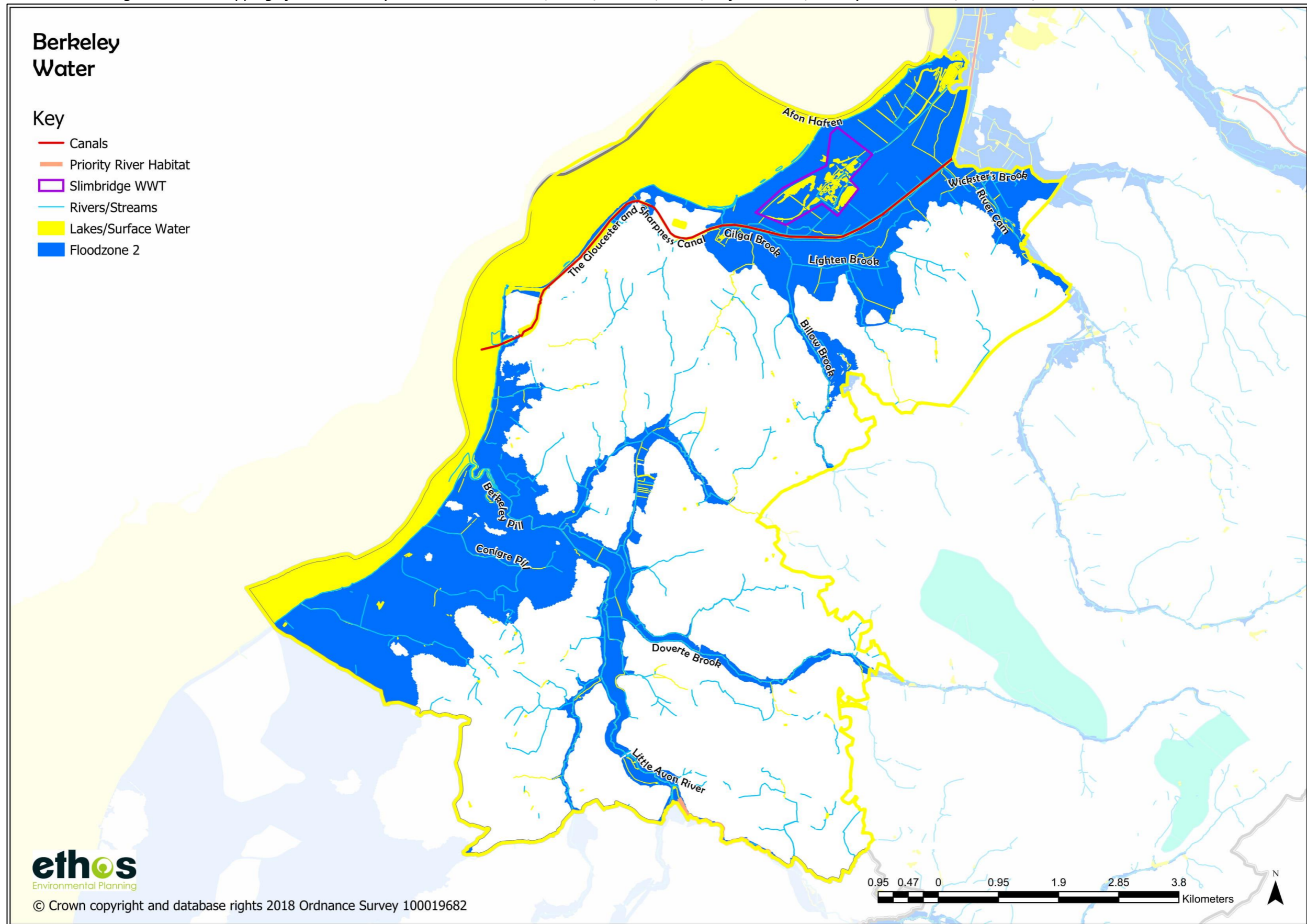
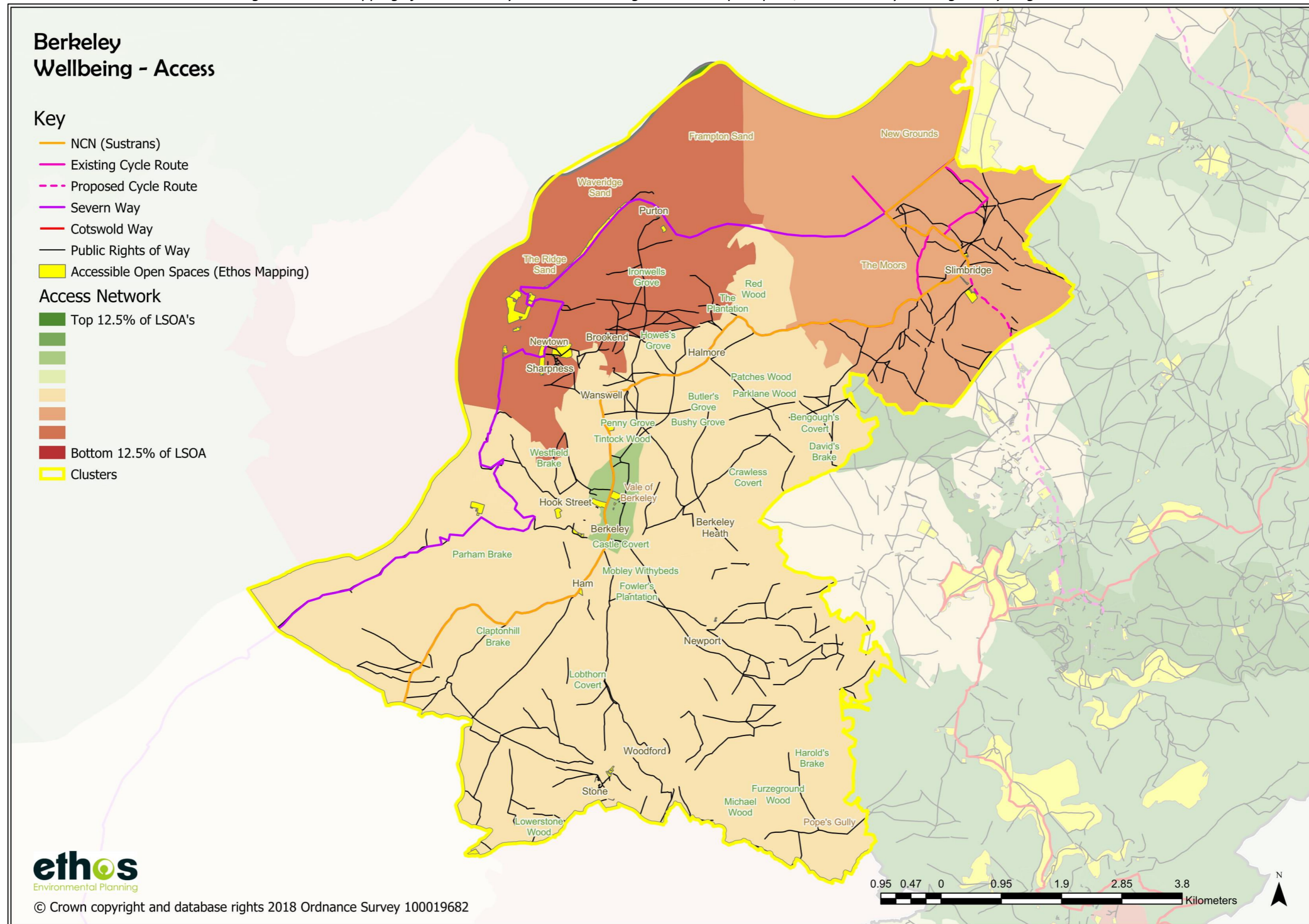


Figure 8 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wellbeing: Accessible open space, PROW and key walking and cycling routes



### 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 Berkeley 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 Berkeley cluster

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall supply
Allotments	4.11	0.58	2.50	0.35	1.61	0.23	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Community Orchards	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amenity Green Space	4.94	0.69	2.86	0.40	2.08	0.29	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	6.36	0.89	8.58	1.20	-2.22	-0.31	UNDER SUPPLY
<i>Park and Recreation Grounds</i>	<i>6.24</i>	<i>0.87</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>0.12</i>	<i>0.02</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Play (Child)	0.44	0.06	0.43	0.06	0.01	0	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Play (Youth)	0.11	0.02	0.43	0.06	-0.32	-0.04	UNDER SUPPLY

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall supply
Accessible natural green space	21.10	2.95	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education	8.44	1.18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Churchyards and Cemeteries	3.48	0.49	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outdoor Sport (Private)	8.06	1.13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

As can be seen from the table above, within the Berkeley cluster, there is an overall sufficient supply of allotments, amenity green space and children's play space against the standards, with shortfalls in parks and recreation grounds and youth play space. The total shortfall is 2.52 ha.

## GI

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

Table 2 GI assets

Priority Habitats	Area (ha)
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	2004.67
Coastal saltmarsh	148.83
Deciduous woodland	183.72
Good quality semi-improved grassland	71.92
Lowland calcareous grassland	0
Lowland dry acid grassland	0
Lowland meadows	23.98
Mudflats	64.26
No main habitat but additional habitats present	177.05
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	8.21
Traditional orchard	52.98

Nature conservation, AONB, geology and historic sites	Area (ha)
Ancient Woodland	152.98
KWS	342.62
LNR	0
NNR	0
RAMSAR	1322.96
SAC	1163.06
SPA	1322.96
SSSI	1351.15

<b>Nature conservation, AONB, geology and historic sites</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>
RIGS	7 <sup>1</sup>
AONB	11.49
Registered Parks	4.09
SAM	11.49

<b>Rivers and Canals</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>
River Severn	7909.20
The Gloucester and Sharpness Canal	10434.21
Little Avon River	6616.98
River Cam	2471.08

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<sup>1</sup> This is the number of RIGS, rather than the area, as the dataset is mapped using point data rather than polygons.

## **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 Berkeley 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)

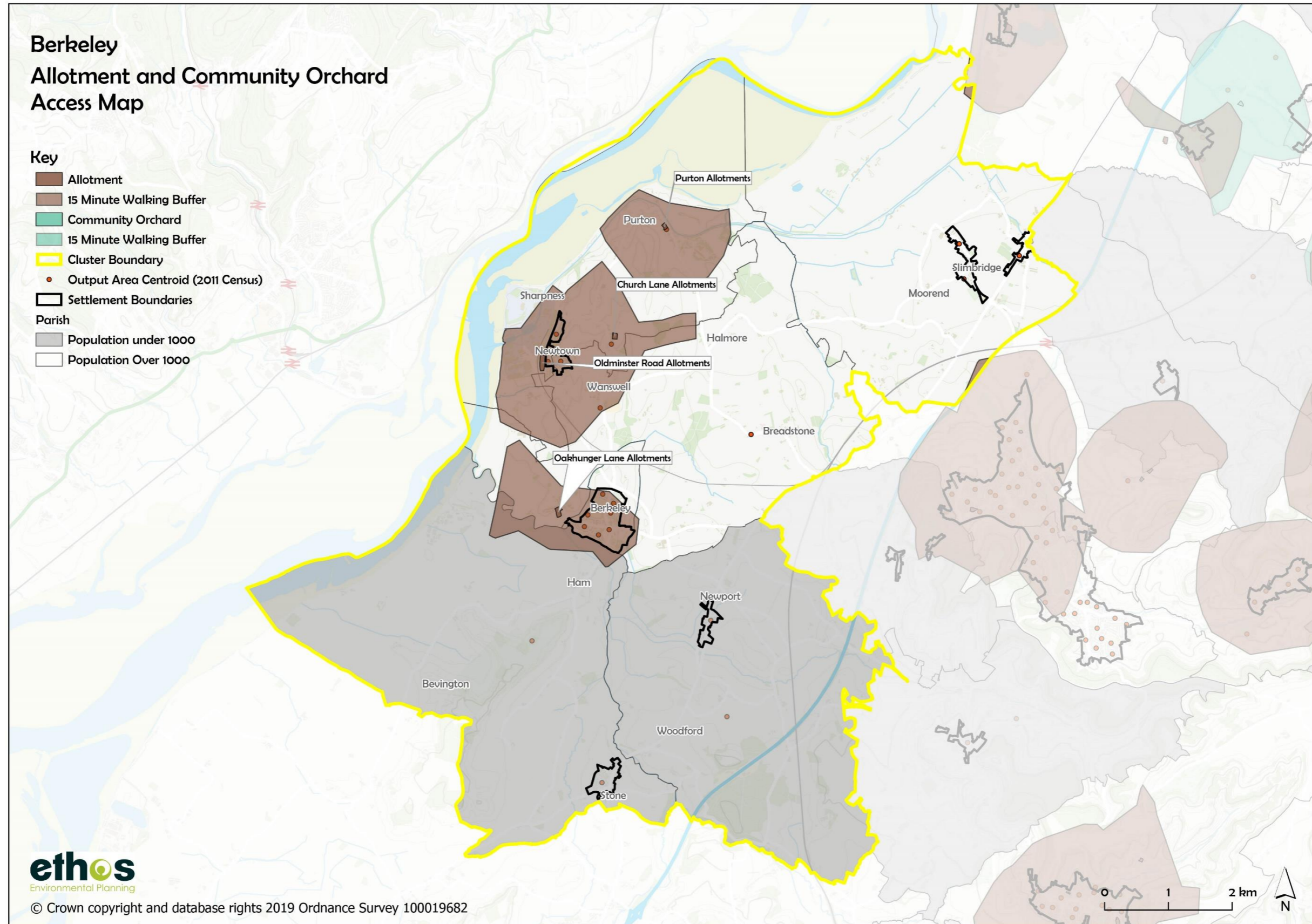




Figure 10 Access to amenity green space (13 minutes' walk time)

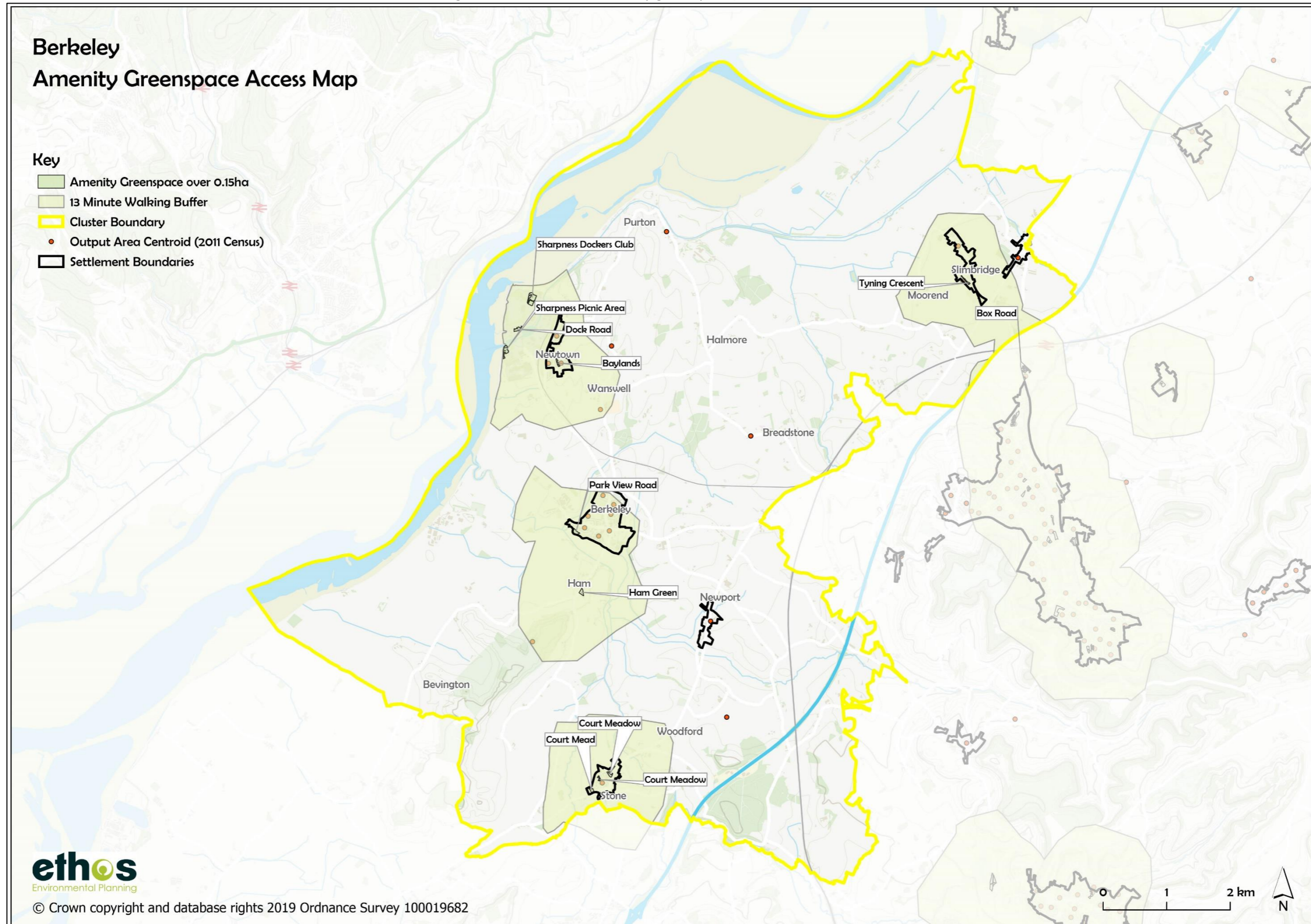


Figure 11 Access to parks and recreation grounds, amenity green space and outdoor sport private (13 minutes' walk time)

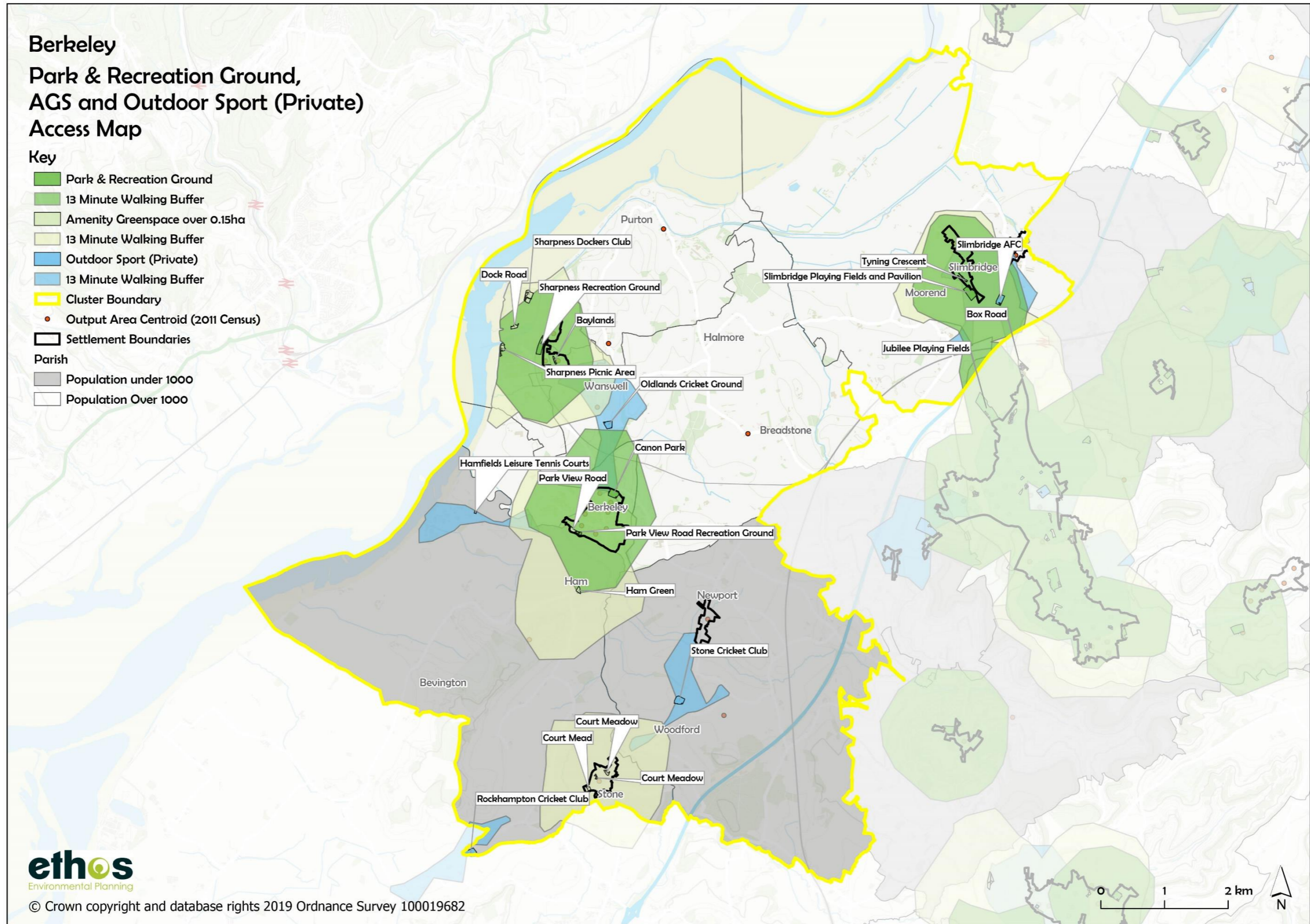


Figure 12 Access to children's play space (10 minutes' walk time)

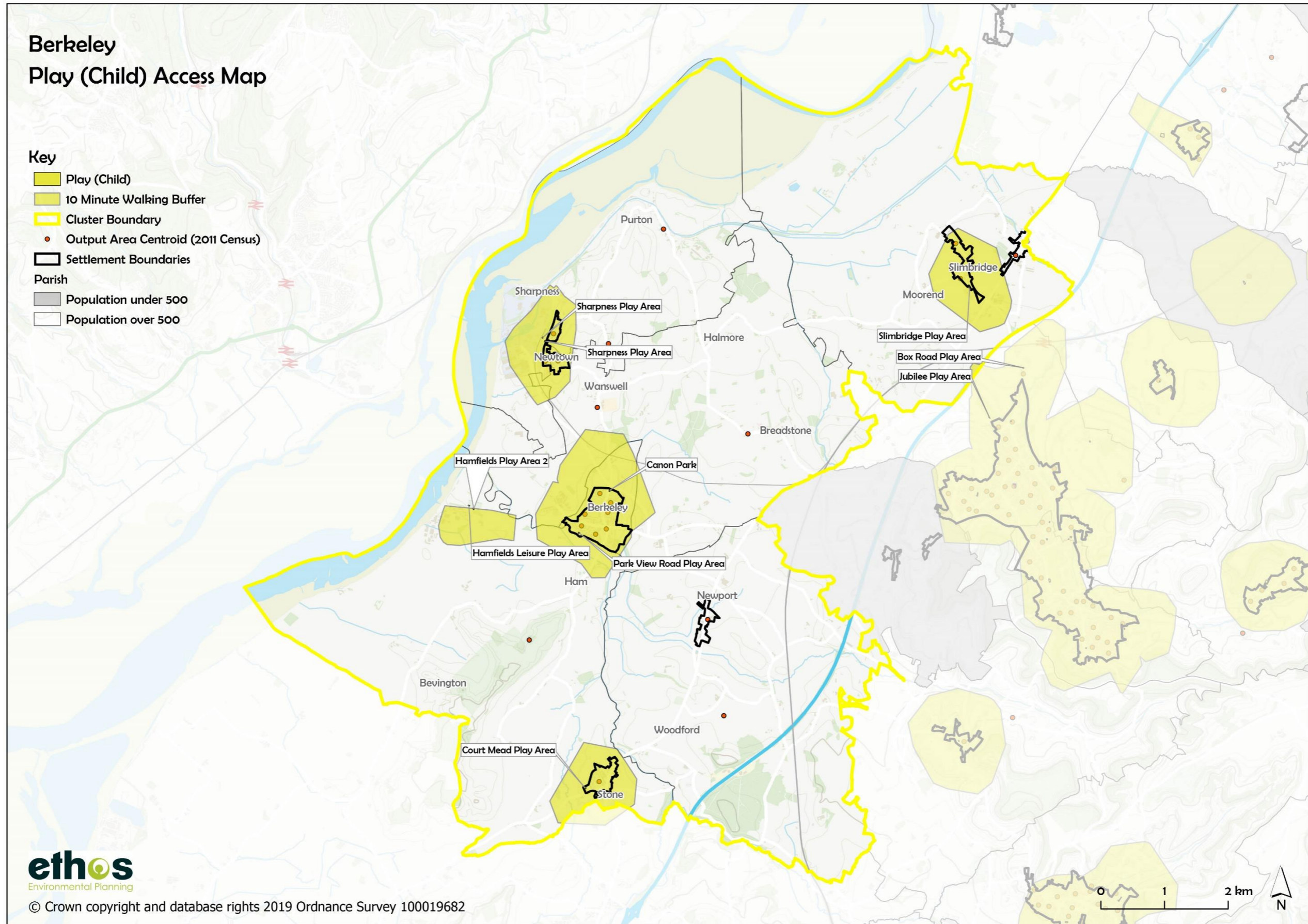


Figure 13 Access to youth play space (15 minutes' walk time)

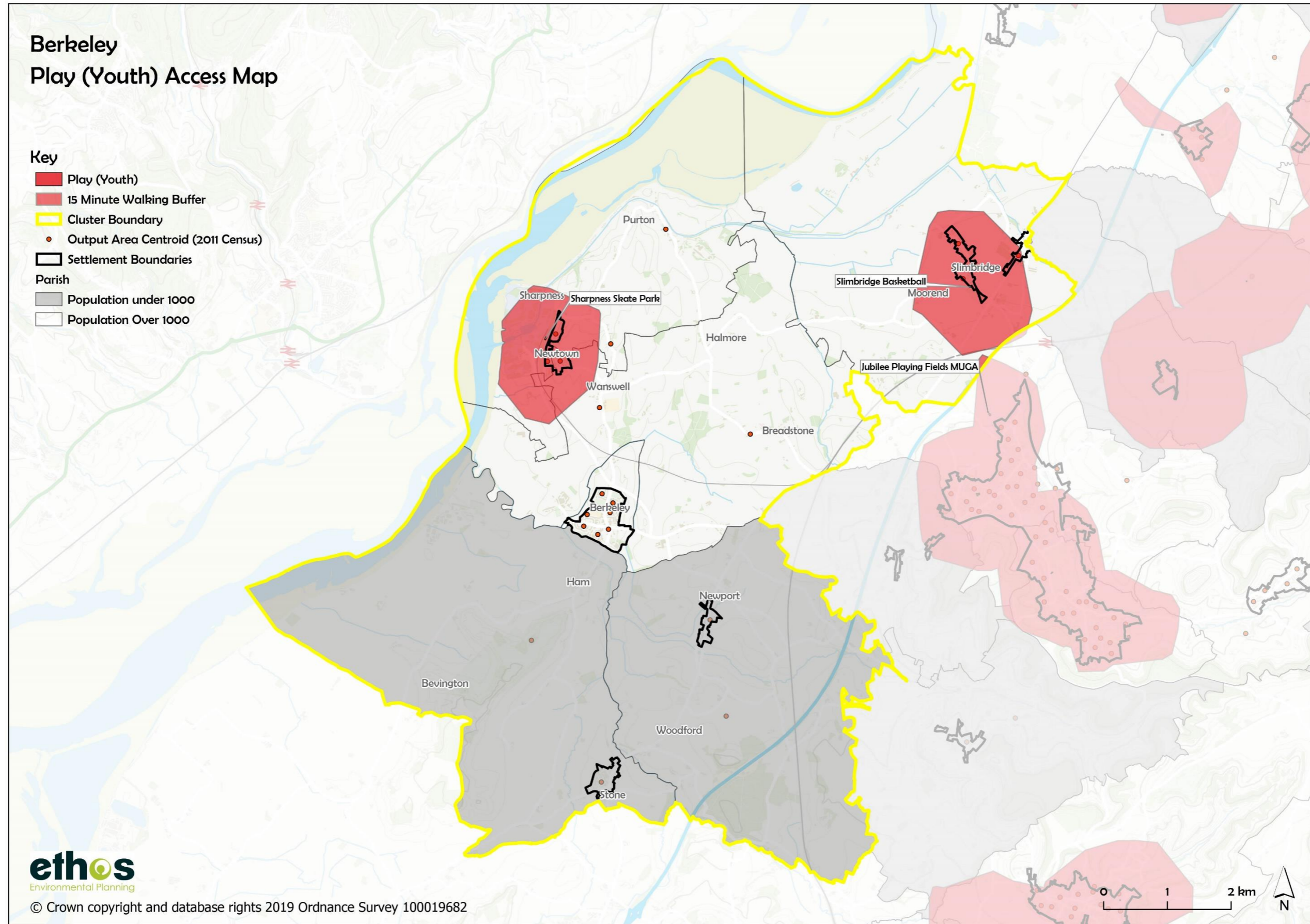


Figure 14 Access to accessible natural green space (960m buffer)

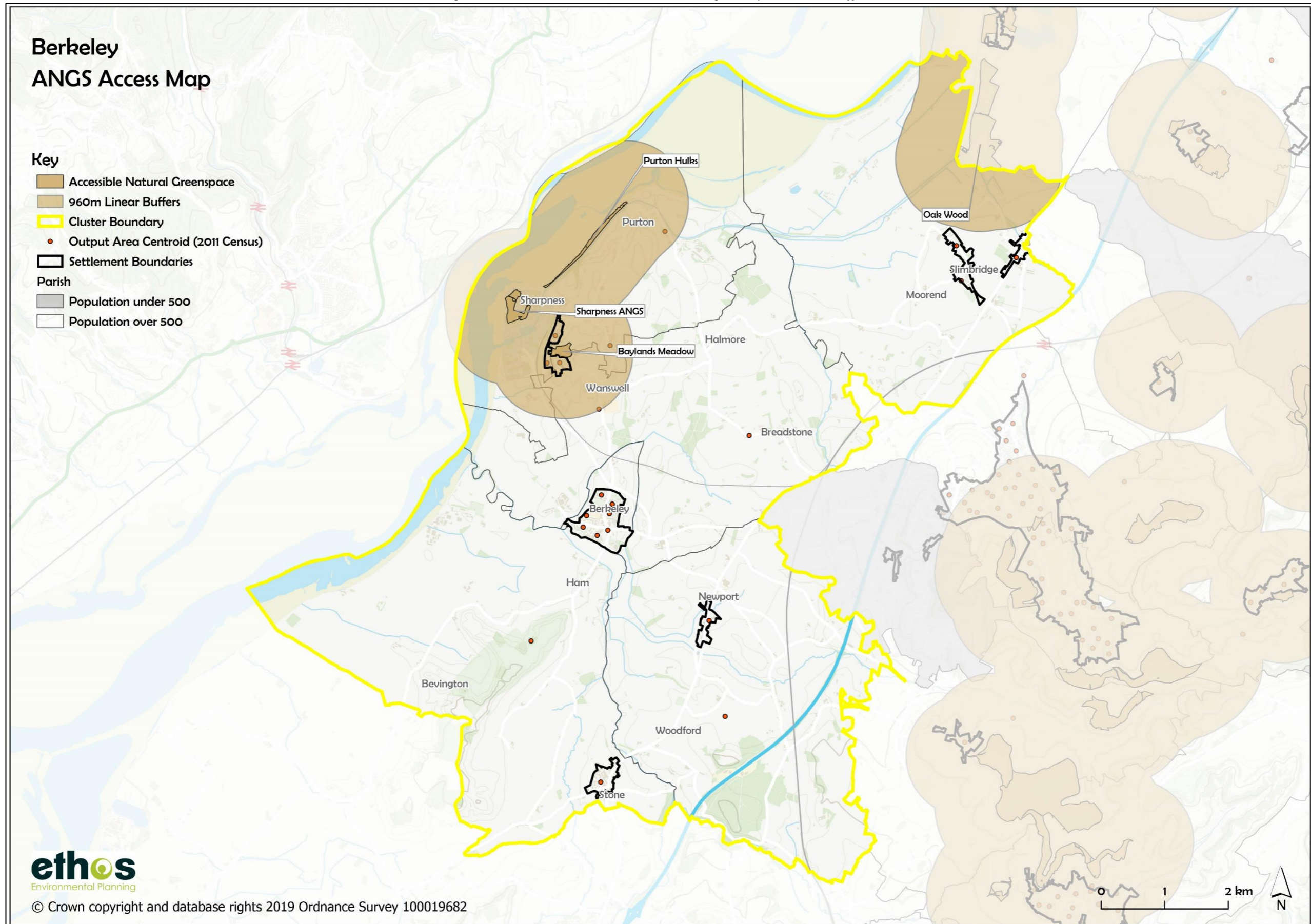


Figure 15 Access to accessible natural green space (20ha+ sites within 2km)

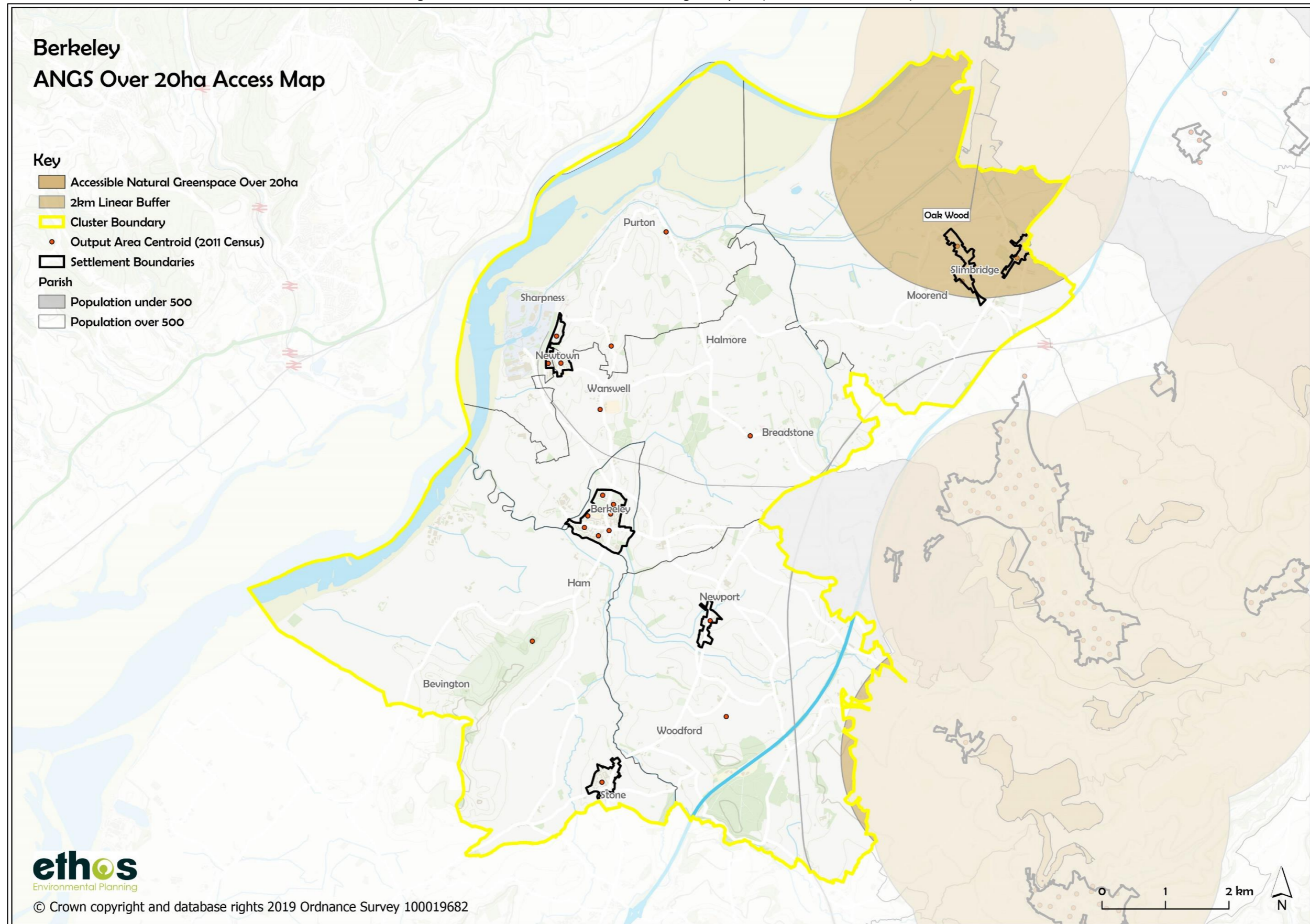


Figure 16 Access to accessible natural green space (100ha+ sites within 5km)

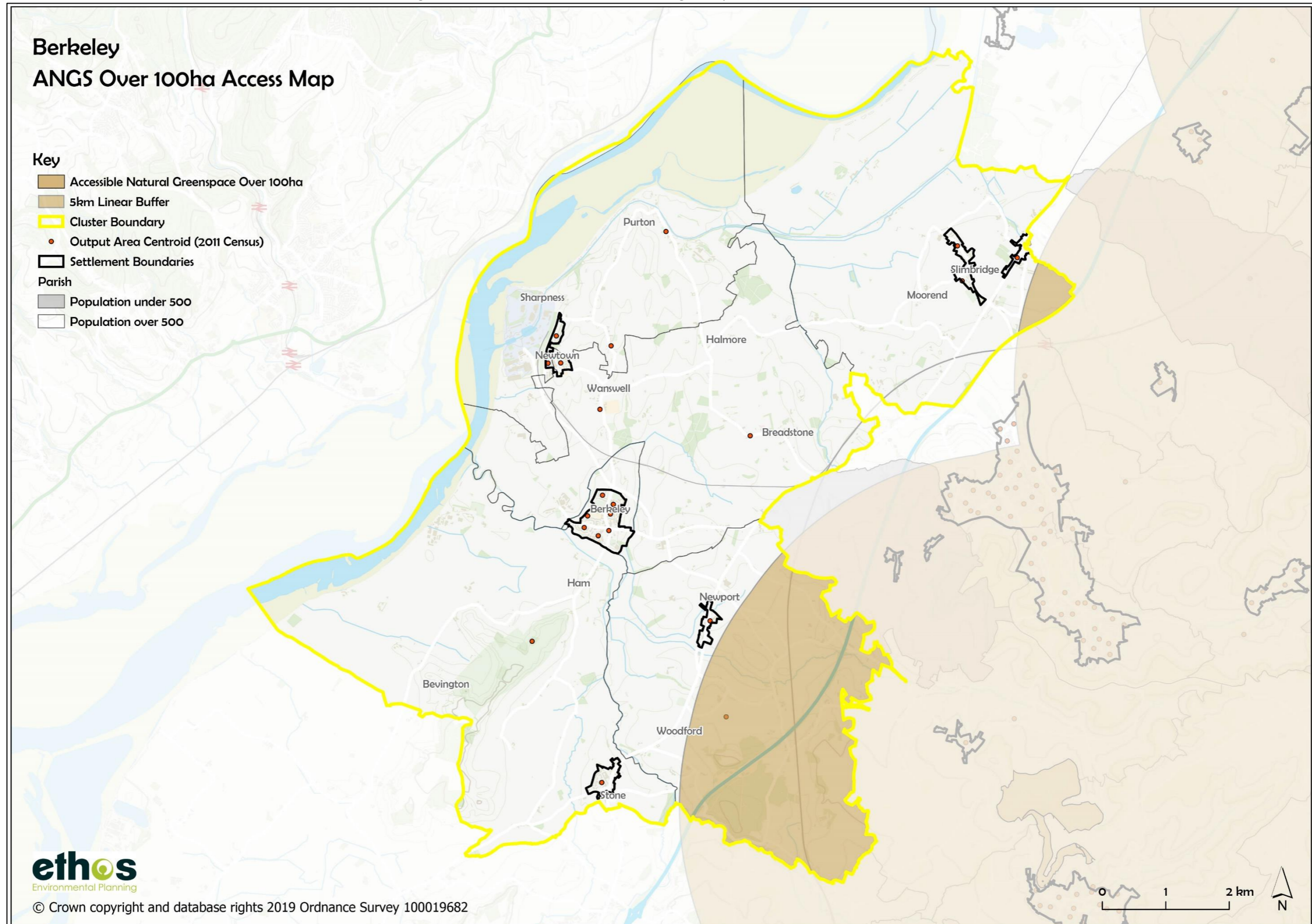


Table 3 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 9 to 16, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

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

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Current Access</b>
Allotments and community orchards	There are no community orchards within the cluster. However, access to allotments is generally good across parishes with over 1000 people, although there is a gap in access in Slimbridge.
Amenity Green Space	There is generally good access to amenity green spaces within the key settlements of the cluster, however there is a gap in access in Newport, and to the east of Slimbridge.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good access across key settlements in parishes with over 1000 people, with amenity green space providing access to open space in Stone (but none in Newport). There is a small gap in access to the east of Slimbridge.
Children's play space	Good access across key settlements, with a gap in access in Newport, and to the east of Slimbridge.
Youth Play space	In those parishes with over 1000 people, there are large gaps in access in Berkeley town, but good access in the other settlement areas - Sharpness and Slimbridge.
Accessible Natural Green Space	Large gaps in access against all standards. It should be noted that the Severn Way and the public right of way network also provides an important element of access to open space and the countryside.

## GI

Figure 8 (section 2) shows the PROW network and key walking and cycling routes.

As can be seen, there is good access along the Severn Way long distance footpath, which also links with accessible open space, and is connected to the wider PROW network and the Sustrans National Cycle Network. There is a good network of PROW, although there are areas where connectivity could be improved e.g. improving safe walking and cycling routes between villages (as identified in the Local Plan Review Emerging Strategy (2018) – see section 6 below).

When analysing access against the Natural England Access Network Mapping (also see figure 8), it shows that the area has an average to low relative abundance of accessible open space. However, there are limitations with this data as explained in section 7.6 of the main report (part 1).

## 5.0 Open Space and GI Quality Assessment

### Quality audit results

Figure 17 provides a summary of the quality audit results for the Berkeley cluster. As can be seen, the majority of open spaces assessed are good quality (with a score of A). There is



however 1 open space (Hamfields Leisure Centre Play Area) that has been assessed as poor quality (with a score of C).

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 below, generally sites were good to average<sup>2</sup>.

A summary of the quality and GI audit results from the Berkeley cluster is provided in the table 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
4272	Sharpness ANG5	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Excellent meadow area with high GI value and well managed paths.	Potential to install informational signage.	None.	86.66	A	9.33	A
4273	Purton Hulks	Accessible Natural Greenspace	An incredible large area following the coast and canal, the area has ample information and historical welcoming signage. Access from both ends with decent path following the canal.	None.	Excellent area for biodiversity, no suggestions.	93.00	A	8.67	A
404	Tynning Crescent	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity lined with mature trees.	There are few bins on the site but it is very clean and neighbourhood seems to take care of it.	None.	86.66	A	7.00	B
436	Baylands	Amenity Greenspace	Very well kept residential amenity with paths, lighting, trees and shrubs.	None.	None.	85.00	A	6.33	B
491	Park View Road	Amenity Greenspace	Attractive small amenity with informal paths used by dog walkers at time of audit. Connected to recreation grind by style.	None.	None.	72.86	A	7.67	A
516	Court Meadow	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity site with path network, mature trees and bins.	The paths are quite misshapen and might need some attention soon.	None	84.44	A	6.70	B
536	Court Mead	Amenity Greenspace	A patch of amenity with informal football and bench.	None.	Increase species richness in margins	82.00	A	5.70	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
542	Court Meadow	Amenity Greenspace	A large grass amenity with mature trees, bin, bench.	Remove strip of hard standing	None	78.89	A	6.30	B
3168	Ham Green	Amenity Greenspace	A very attractive village green with high quality bench, cycle parking, dog bin, community noticeboard and variety of trees and fairly long grass.	None.	None	87.00	A	6.7	B
4271	Dock Road	Amenity Greenspace	Fairly unattractive residential amenity used as car park but with some formal planting.	Install seating and relandscape	None	73.75	A	4.00	C
472	The Leys	Amenity Greenspace	Two patches of residential grass amenity, each with tree.	The grass is worn through in many places and would benefit from reseeded.	None	64.28	B	4.7	B
4269	Sharpness Dockers Club	Amenity Greenspace	Fairly dilapidated site with car parking for adjacent cemetery.	Grass needs reseeded in places and room to plant more diverse.	Increase biodiversity with wildflowers and new trees.	59.00	B	4.3	B
503	Hamfields Leisure Centre	Outdoor Sport (Private)	A large playing fields with ample parking, bins and seating lined by trees and hedgerow.	None.	None	78.00	A	6.00	B
402	Slimbridge Playing Fields and Pavilion	Parks and Recreation Grounds	A large playing field with village hall car park and tree lined margins. Plenty of benches and bins on site, very clean.	Site could be sign posted better from the road.	None	77.00	A	6.00	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
440	Sharpness Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Exemplary site with modern facilities, wide range of biodiversity and clear signage.	None.	None	95.00	A	7.70	A
452	Canon Park	Parks and Recreation Grounds	A good quality playing field used by local football club. Gated entrance points with signage prohibiting dogs.	No issues.	None	83.00	A	6.00	B
489	Park View Road Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Gated recreation ground with uneven surface, large open play and basketball half.	The site is virtually hidden from the road with no signage. the grass is also overgrown and the landscape uneven.	Increase biodiversity along the sites boundary e.g. by planting species rich hedgerow, which could also help to hide the chainlink fence.	75.55	A	5.70	B
447	Sharpness Play Area	Play (Child)	High quality gated play area with good range of equipment in good condition.	None.	N/A	93.00	A	N/A	N/A
448	Sharpness Youth Provision	Play (Child)	Good quality infant to teen play area with zip line and climbing area. All in very good condition.	None.	N/A	85.00	A	N/A	N/A
488	Park View Road Play Area	Play (Child)	A large play area with varied and high quality equipment, plenty of seating and bins.	None.	N/A	89.00	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
535	Court Mead Play Area	Play (Child)	A very good play area with excellent wooden equipment. Unable to take photos due to use at the time of visit.	No issues.	N/A	91.00	A	N/A	N/A
403	Slimbridge Play Area	Play (Child)	A fairly dilapidated play area with some broken equipment.	Repair broken equipment or install new equipment.	N/A	58.00	B	N/A	N/A
454	Canon Park	Play (Child)	A very unloved play area with broken signage at entrance and antiquated equipment.	Retrofit with new and more interesting equipment and repair signage.	N/A	54.00	B	N/A	N/A
507	Hamfields Leisure Play Area	Play (Child)	A disused play area with poor access, broken swings although the climbing frame is good quality. Appears to be private.	Resurface play area and repair swings.	N/A	35.00	C	N/A	N/A
446	Sharpness Skate Park	Play (Youth)	Very high quality MUGA and skate ramp.	None.	N/A	91.11	A	N/A	N/A

Figure 17 Summary of open space quality audit results in the Berkeley cluster

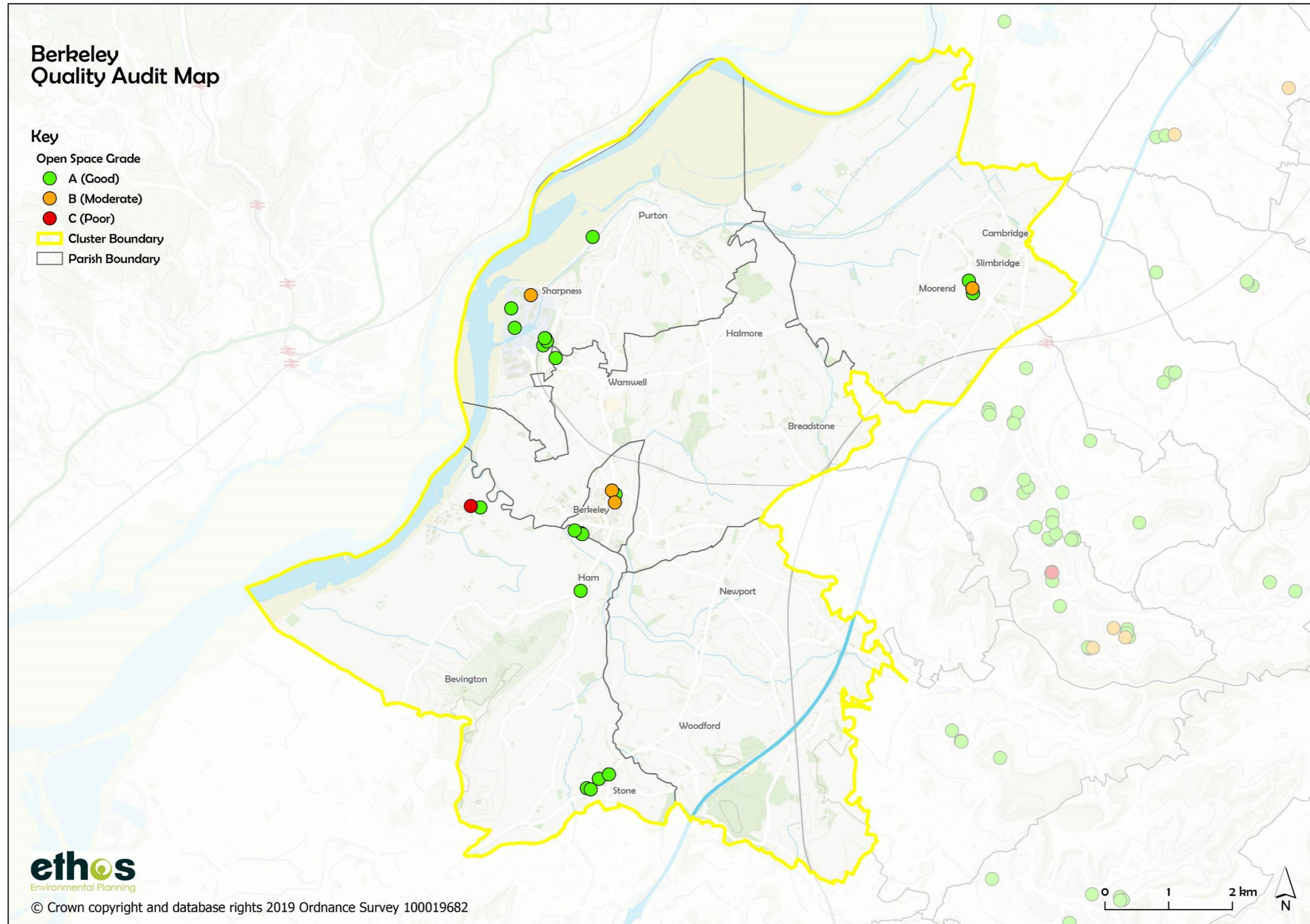
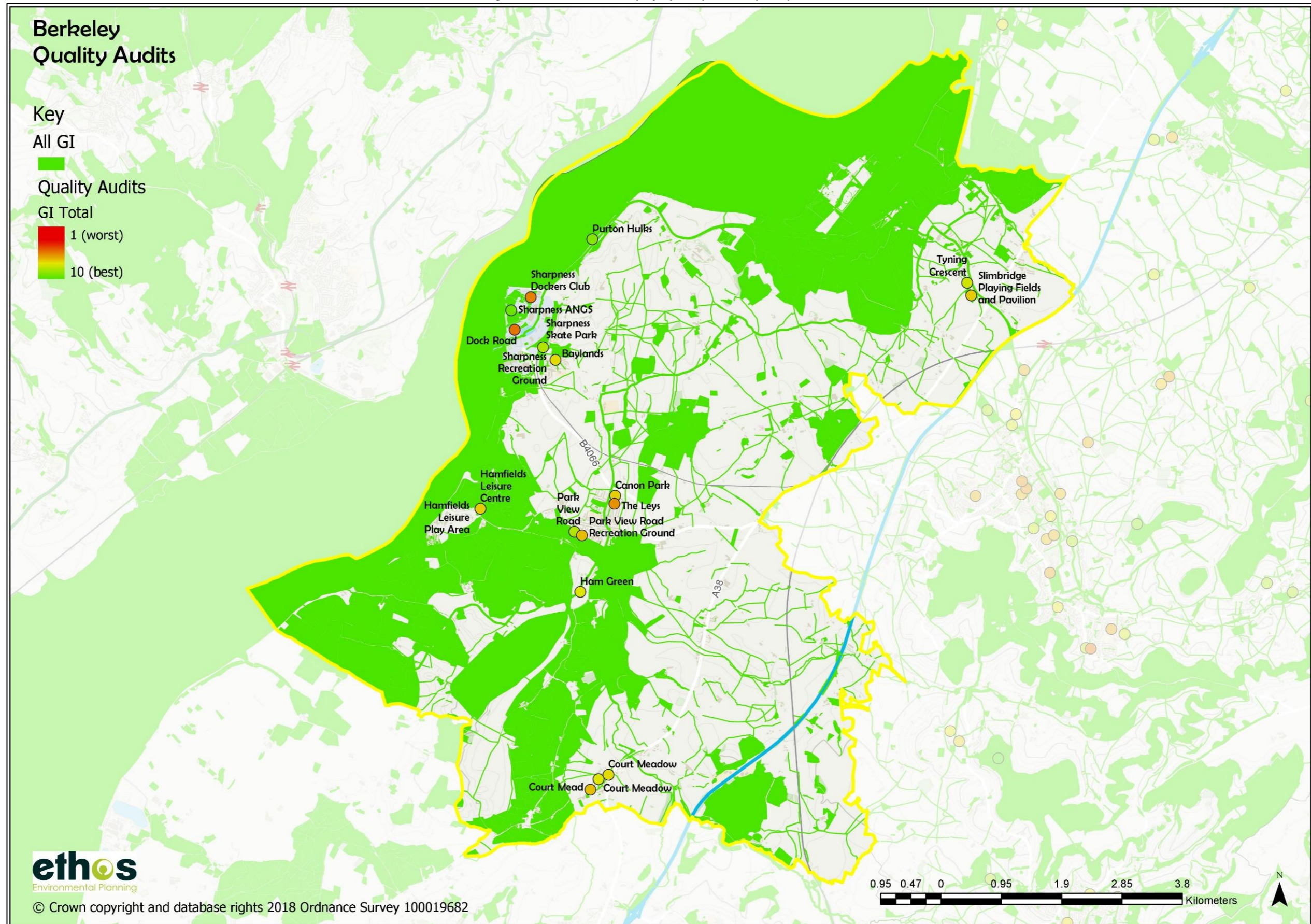


Figure 18 Summary of open space GI quality scores



### 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, these SSSI's are largely in favourable condition, although there is scope to improve the condition of the Seven Estuary and Upper Severn Estuary SSSI.

Figure 19 Berkeley SSSIs

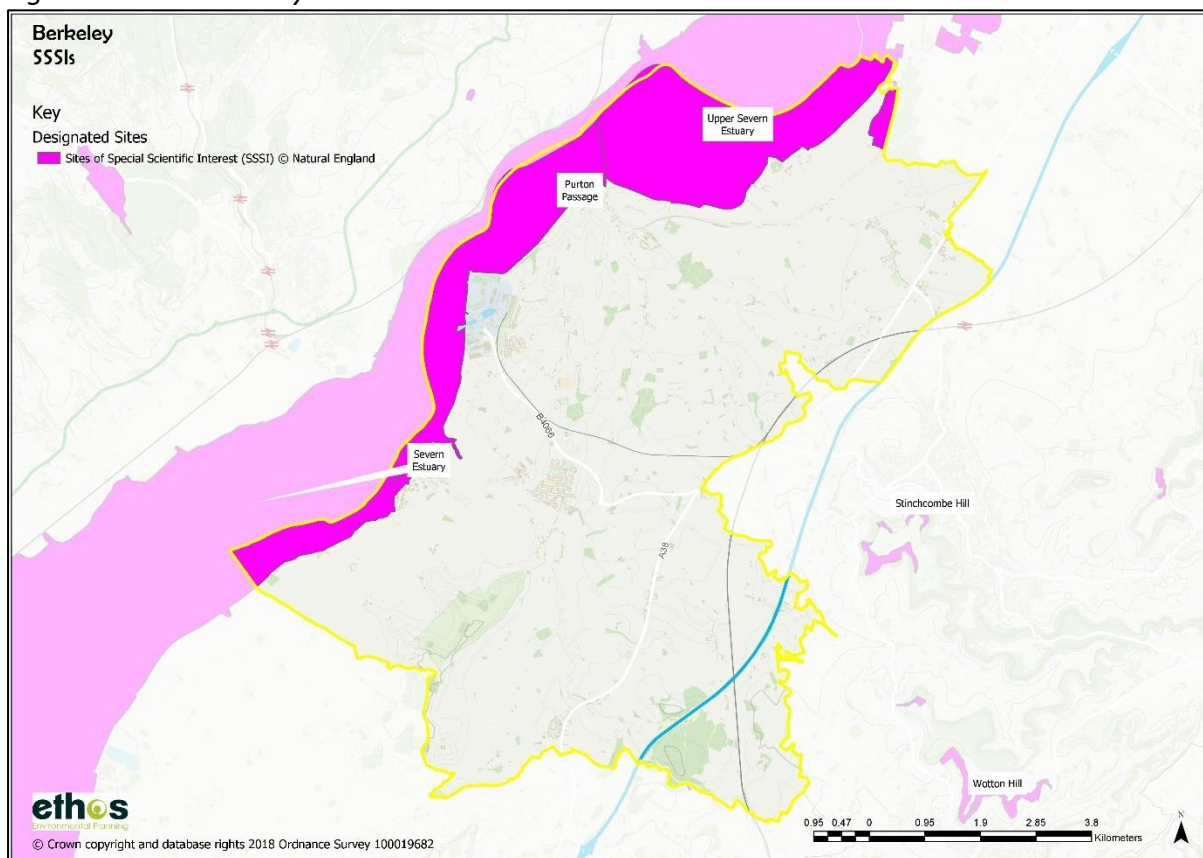


Table 5 Condition summary of SSSI's sites within the Berkeley cluster

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
Purton Passage	SSSI	4.09	An important locality for vertebrate palaeontology. Rocks of Upper Ludlow age are exposed and include bone beds which are the most productive bone beds of their age. There are a diverse and abundant range of fish remains which includes plates of <i>Cyanthaspis banksi</i> which even though are abundant at this location are rarely found elsewhere.	100% Favourable.



Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
Severn Estuary	SSSI	645.02	The Severn Estuary forms part of a larger area which includes the Upper Severn Estuary SSSI, and is also protected as an SPA and RAMSAR site. The tidal range and classic funnel shape makes this unique in Britain and worldwide. The intertidal zone of mudflats, sand banks, rocky platforms and saltmarsh is one of the largest and most important in Britain. The estuarine fauna includes internationally important populations of wildfowl, invertebrate populations of significant interest and large populations of migratory fish including the rare and endangered Allis Shad.	95.80% Favourable. 2.43% Unfavourable - no change. 1.69% Unfavourable - declining.
Upper Severn Estuary	SSSI	702.03	A site of international conservation importance consisting of the uppermost part of the Severn Estuary and its marginal saltmarsh and pastureland. It also has international ornithological importance supporting more than 10,000 wintering wildfowl.	85.85% Favourable. 3.31% Unfavourable - recovering. 10.84% Unfavourable declining.

### Natural England National Habitat Network Mapping

The Natural England National Habitat Network mapping also indicates that there is 'restorable habitat' within the Berkeley 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. This relates to the coastal floodplain grazing marsh priority habitat. 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 Berkeley 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 Berkeley cluster (up to 2040)

Typology	Standard for new provision (Ha/1000)	Requirement for 7,690 people (Ha)
Allotments	0.35	2.69
Community Orchards	0.15	1.15
Amenity Green Space	0.40	3.08
Park and Recreation Ground	1.20	9.23
Play Space (Children)	0.06	0.46
Play Space (Youth)	0.06	0.46
Natural Green Space	1.00	7.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>24.76</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.

As can be seen from figure 20, the key GI corridors are the Severn Estuary and associated grazing marshland (this is a strategic GI corridor as identified by the GLNP (shown in yellow) – although the yellow area does not cover all of the grazing marshland priority habitat, it is considered that this area is included as part of the strategic GI corridor).

In addition to this, a number of locally important GI corridors have been identified as follows:

- C) Dovere Brook linking coastal flood plains in Berkeley to woodlands south of Dursley.
- H) Frampton Moors to Berkeley grazing via Meadows KWS and Bushy Grove.

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

1. Improvements to cycle and pedestrian routes in line with SA5 allocation. Protect and enhance Purton Hulks SSSI and Purton Timber Ponds Key Wildlife Site. This area has also been identified by Natural England as a Fragmentation Action Zone.
2. Potential to improve connectivity between various traditional orchards e.g. through wildflower margins to provide corridors for pollinators
3. Potential to improve PRoW and protect and enhance stream and associated habitats between Berkeley Heath Water Meadows and Berkeley Castle grounds (both coastal floodplain grazing marsh priority habitat). In addition, protect and enhance adjoining priority habitats further north (semi-improved grasslands, purple moor grass and rush pastures and lowland meadows).

4. Improvements to biodiversity/flood defences from SA5a employment allocation and potential link for wildlife to KWSs such as Tintock Wood and Berkeley Meadow. Also identified by Natural England as a Potential Network Join. Potential to link allocation to existing cycle route to the east.
5. Identified in local plan review to improve walking and cycling connectivity (which should protect and incorporate habitat for the dispersal of wildlife).
25. Proposed Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway.
27. Protect and enhance Gloucester and Sharpness Canal corridor for biodiversity and access.

### **Strategic Site Allocations**

#### Site Allocation SA5a: South of Severn Distribution Park

Allocated for B2 -B8 employment uses, has planning consent. The development of the site will provide contributions to off-site highway works including public transport, pedestrian and cycle links to Newtown, Berkeley and Dursley, and other infrastructure including flood defences and biodiversity.

#### Site Allocation SA5: Sharpness Docks<sup>3</sup>

Development will deliver dock uses and dock related industrial and distribution uses (in the South) and a mix of tourism, leisure and recreational uses, supported by new housing (in the North). This will include a community football pitch, community gardens, informal green space, landscaping incorporating existing hedgerows and trees, SuDS and cycle and pedestrian routes. This allocated site is currently undetermined.

#### ***Example of how open space and GI requirements would be determined:***

The example has been provided below for illustrative purposes, so that the Council can apply this to other allocated sites that come forward.

Strategic Site Allocation SA5 falls within the Severn and Avon Vales National Character Area and the Sandstone Ridge and Severn Vale Grazing Marshes Landscape Character Areas. The key priorities and statements of environmental opportunities for these areas are identified in tables 5 and 6 of the main report (part 1, section 5.2). The masterplan for this allocated site should address these priorities, in addition to the GI principles (section 6.2) and recommended policy (section 8) set out in part 1.

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<sup>3</sup> Allocated in the current Local Plan 2006 – 2031, but currently undetermined (as March 2019). Site Allocation SA5a was given consent in 2016.

In terms of open space requirements, all open space would be expected to be provided on site (as with all allocated sites) in the following quantities (based on 300 dwellings and an average household occupancy of 2.3):

*Table 7 On-site open space requirements for SA5 based on 300 dwellings*

Typology	Standard for new provision (Ha/1000)	Requirement for 690 people (Ha)
Allotments	0.35	0.24
Community Orchards	0.15	0.10
Amenity Green Space	0.40	0.28
Park and Recreation Ground	1.20	0.83
Play Space (Children)	0.06	0.04
Play Space (Youth)	0.06	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.00	0.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>2.22</b>

For this allocation, whilst the policy is for all open space to be provided on site, the allocation includes existing open spaces, and therefore the masterplan for SA5 needs to address how existing open spaces could be improved as well as new provision of open space in accordance with the standards.

### Emerging Local Plan

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

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

- *Designing safe walking and cycle routes from Newport to Berkeley*
- *Promoting tourist opportunities in Berkeley town centre and the river estuary for tourism and increasing tourist accommodation opportunities<sup>4</sup>.*

***Draft vision to 2040: “Growing two new villages and boosting local vitality by making the most of our natural resources, leisure and tourism...”***

*New communities at Sharpness and at Wisloe Green will help to meet the housing and employment needs of the District, whilst delivering a step change in services and facilities available to the local area. Following Garden City principles, the mix of uses, design quality and an accessible layout within a green setting will deliver a truly sustainable pattern of living for new and existing local residents.....*

*.....The new settlement at Sharpness, together with improvements to the working environment and leisure amenities at the Docks and the development of Gloucestershire Science and Technology Park at the former Nuclear Power Station site, will provide a local boost. These will act together with other attractions (including Berkeley Castle, Dr Jenner’s Museum,*

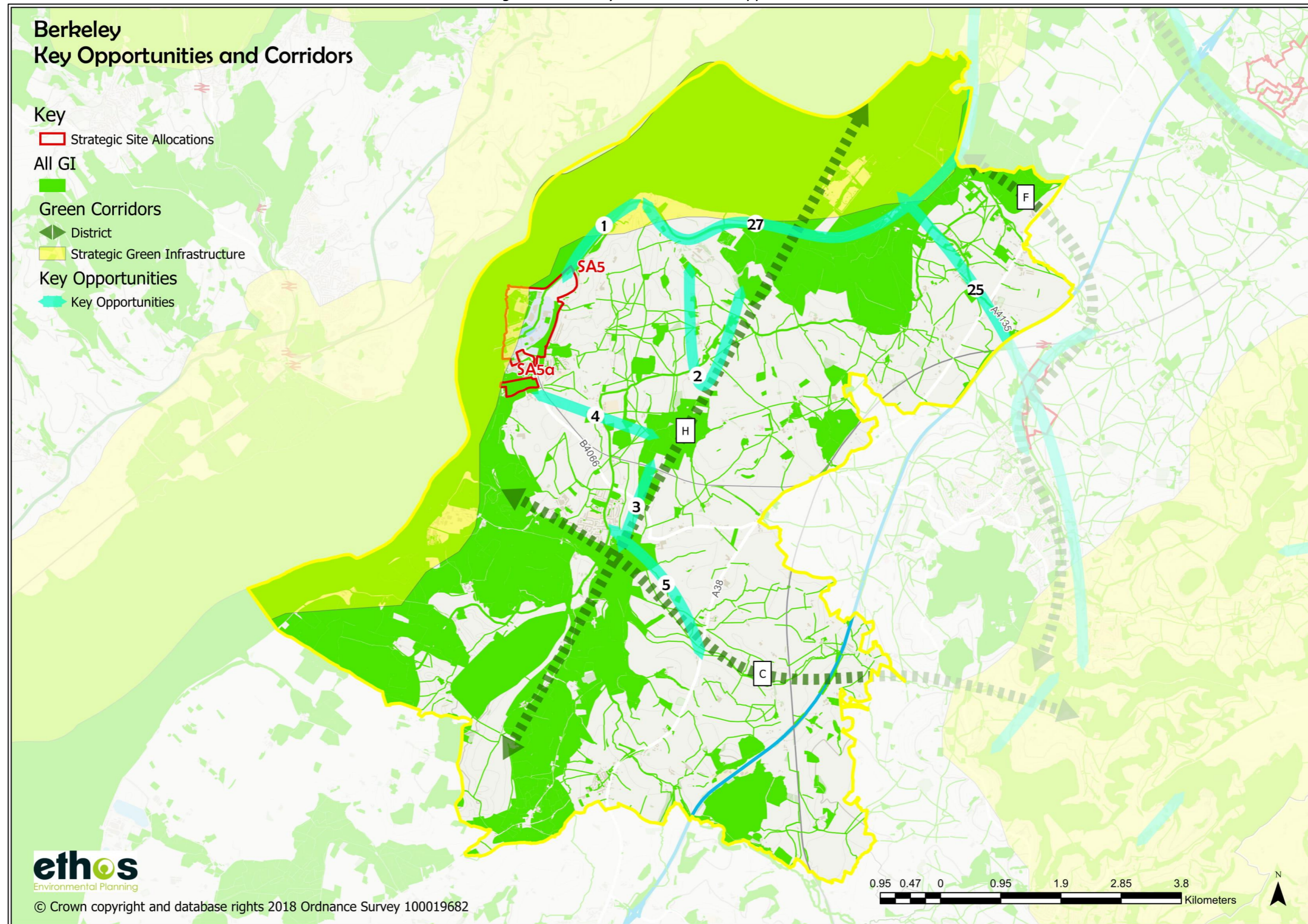
<sup>4</sup> Needs to ensure that impacts on the Severn Estuary are avoided/mitigated.

*Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and several safe and attractive walking and cycling routes) to raise the profile of this part of the District.....*

*....Villages and hamlets may see small scale development in response to identified local needs, boosting their ability to remain sustainable and thriving communities. Where possible, safe walking and cycling routes will link places together....*

*.....Conservation and management of the area's distinctive built heritage, precious estuarine landscape and habitats will remain high priorities, as will resilience to climate change and associated flood risk.*

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 protection and new provision of open space; and
- Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

### Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5 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:

- The Leys (B)
- Sharpness Dockers Club (B)
- Slimbridge Play Area (B)
- Canon Park Play Area (B)
- Hamfields Leisure Centre Play Area (C)

The GI quality scores and recommendations should also be considered.

A desktop assessment has also identified potential to improve the condition of the Seven Estuary and Upper Severn Estuary SSSI (from SSSI condition assessments), and the Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh Priority Habitat (from the Natural England National Habitat Network Mapping).

### 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 Berkeley cluster, there is sufficient supply of allotments, amenity green space and children's play space. There is little opportunity for amenity green space to be upgraded to park and recreation grounds and/or accommodate youth provision (to reduce the shortfalls in these typologies) due to the small sizes of these spaces.

## Identification of areas for new provision of open space

The assessment has identified that there is an existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of parks and recreation grounds 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 allotments, amenity green space and children's play space, there are gaps in access to these facilities, and therefore 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 Berkeley cluster from new development, which is 24.76 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.

Table 7 shows the requirements for on-site provision of open space for Strategic Site Allocation SA5, which totals 2.22ha.

The GI corridors and opportunities map (figure 20, section 6) 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):

6. Improvements to cycle and pedestrian routes in line with SA5 allocation. Protect and enhance Purton Hulks SSSI and Purton Timber Ponds Key Wildlife Site. This area has also been identified by Natural England as a Fragmentation Action Zone.
7. Potential to improve connectivity between various traditional orchards e.g. through wildflower margins to provide corridors for pollinators
8. Potential to improve PRoW and protect and enhance stream and associated habitats between Berkeley Heath Water Meadows and Berkeley Castle grounds (both coastal floodplain grazing marsh priority habitat). In addition, protect and enhance adjoining priority habitats further north (semi-improved grasslands, purple moor grass and rush pastures and lowland meadows).
9. Improvements to biodiversity/flood defences from SA5a employment allocation and potential link for wildlife to KWSs such as Tintock Wood and Berkeley Meadow. Also identified by Natural England as a Potential Network Join. Potential to link allocation to existing cycle route to the east.
10. Identified in local plan review to improve walking and cycling connectivity (which should protect and incorporate habitat for the dispersal of wildlife).
25. Proposed Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway.



27. Protect and enhance Gloucester and Sharpness Canal corridor for biodiversity and access.

### **2.7.1 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. it's 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 parks and recreation grounds and youth play space and the supply of children's play space only just exceeds the minimum requirement, therefore these typologies are not considered as surplus.

Although there is sufficient supply of allotments and amenity green space against the standard this does not mean they are surplus, as any loss of facilities may result in gaps in access. The planned growth in the area is also likely to put pressure on existing facilities and before any decision is made if these sites may be surplus, they should be considered for meeting shortfalls in parks and youth play space, or other typologies where there are gaps in access.

Irrespective of this, the role that amenity green space and allotments (and all 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.