

# Stroud Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study



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

Final June 2019



Ecology | Green Space | Arboiculture | GIS

Unit 2 The Old Estate Yard | North Stoke Lane  
Upton Cheyney | Bristol | BS30 6ND

[info@ethosep.co.uk](mailto:info@ethosep.co.uk) | 01179328203

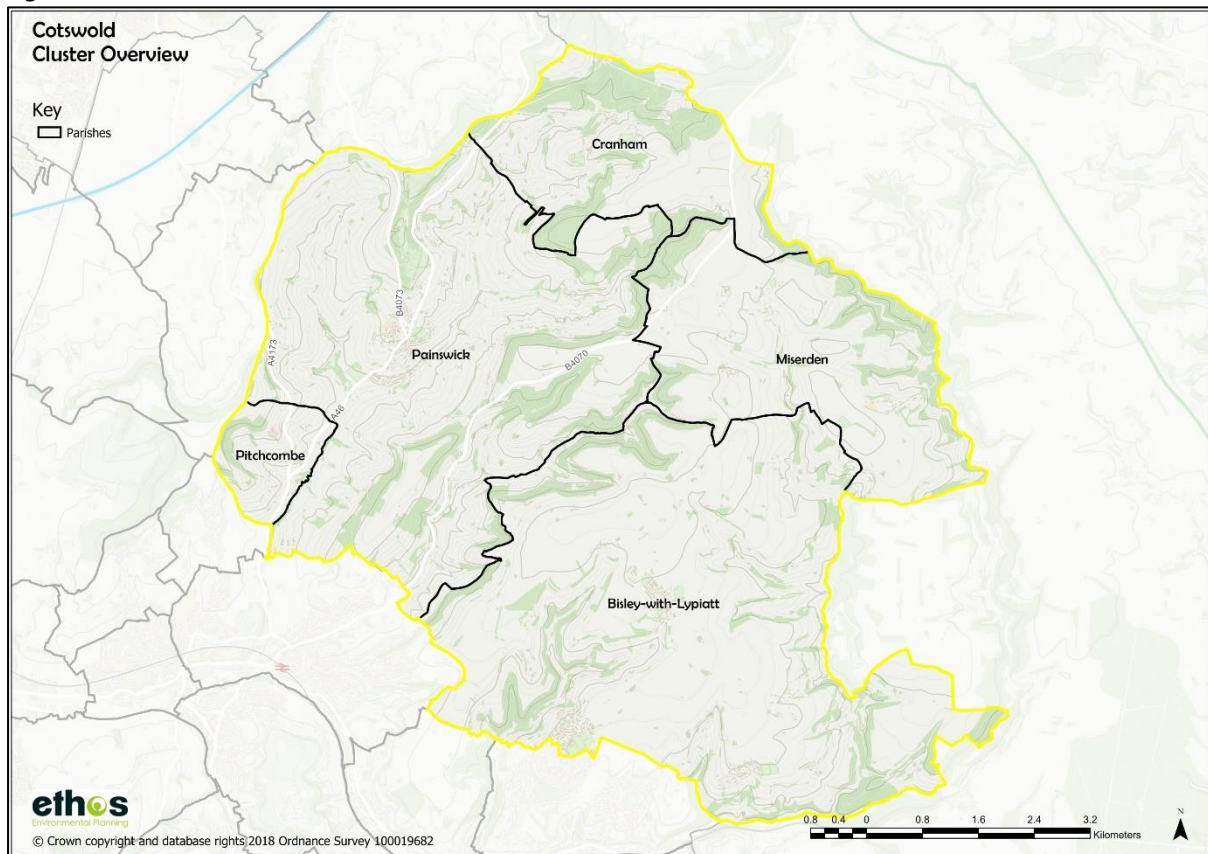
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## 1.0 Geographical area and population

The Cotswold cluster comprises the Parishes of Bisley-with-Lypaitt, Cranham, Miserden, Painswick and Pitchcombe as shown in figure 1. The population of this area is 6,558 (ONS 2017 mid-year estimate).

Figure 1 Cotswold cluster



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

This cluster of parishes falls entirely within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is predominantly rural. The largest settlement here is Painswick, which lies at the heart of these rural parishes. The Cotswolds are world-renowned for their landscape and the pretty limestone villages that populate it. The area includes a number of popular tourist attractions including the Rococco Gardens, Painswick; the village of Slad and the Laurie Lee Wildlife Way; and the Garden at Miserden. But, as with elsewhere in the District, rural life is changing with fewer people now working in the villages and residents commuting long distances to work. There has certainly been a decline in village services in modern times. Housing affordability is an issue – average house prices here are amongst the highest in the District. Owner-occupation levels are high compared to elsewhere in the District, while levels of social housing are very low. A very high proportion of residents are retirement aged. The loss of traditional skills is perhaps the most significant issue for the future management of the landscape. The wooded landscape known collectively as the Cotswold Beechwoods around

Cranham and Sheepscombe is recognised as being particularly vulnerable to recreational pressures.

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

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

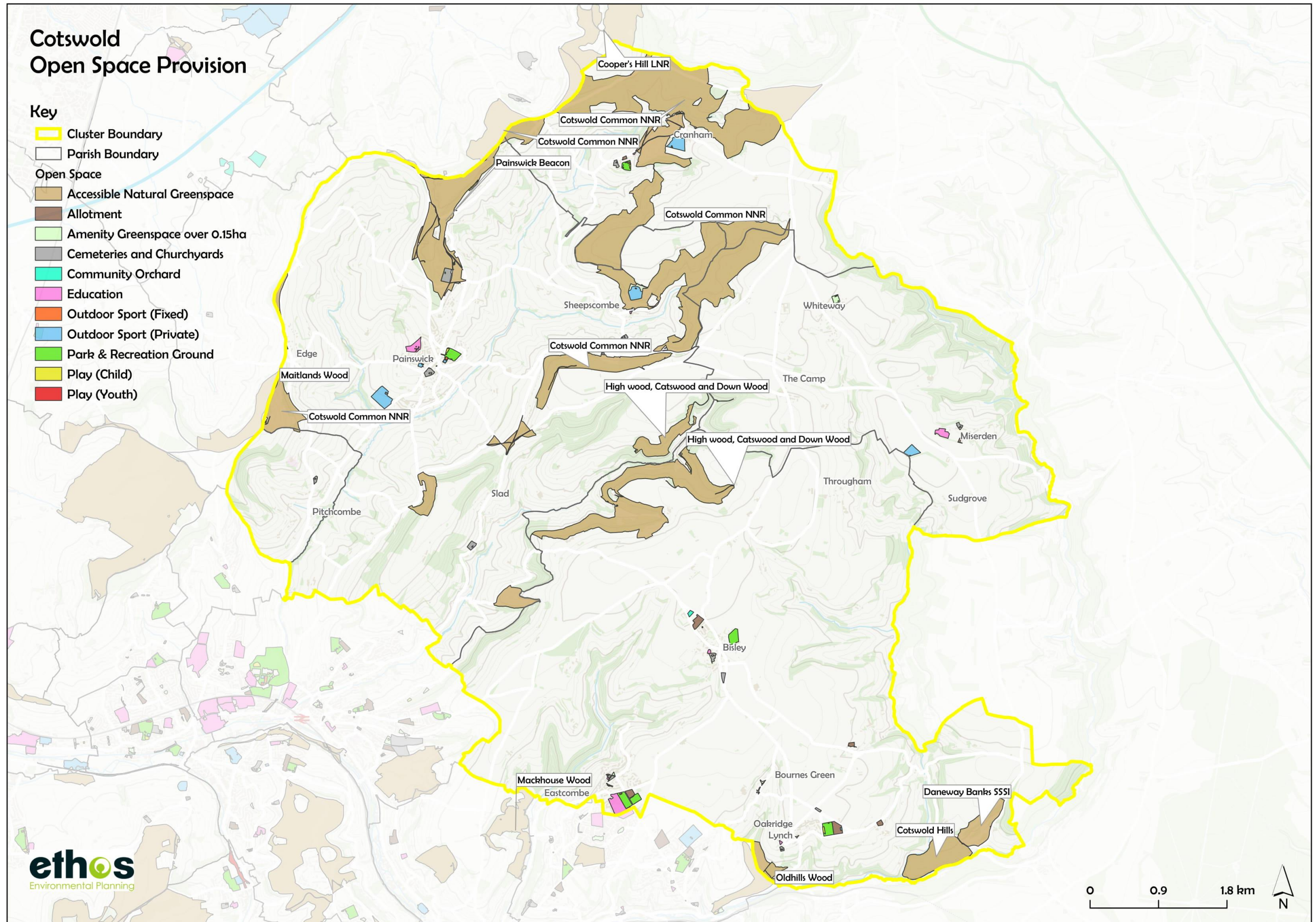




Figure 3 Overview of GI in the Cotswold cluster

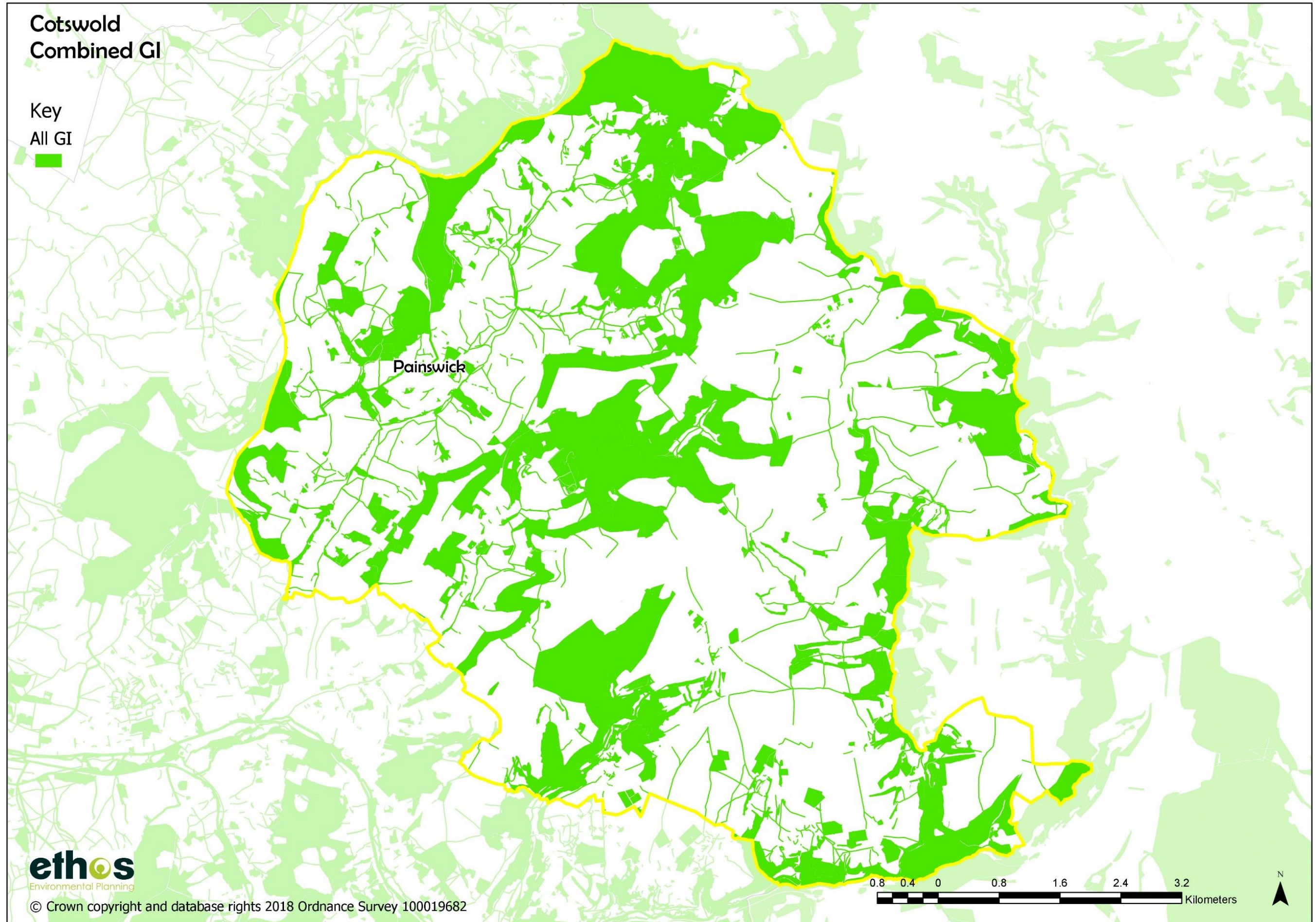




Figure 4 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Designated Sites

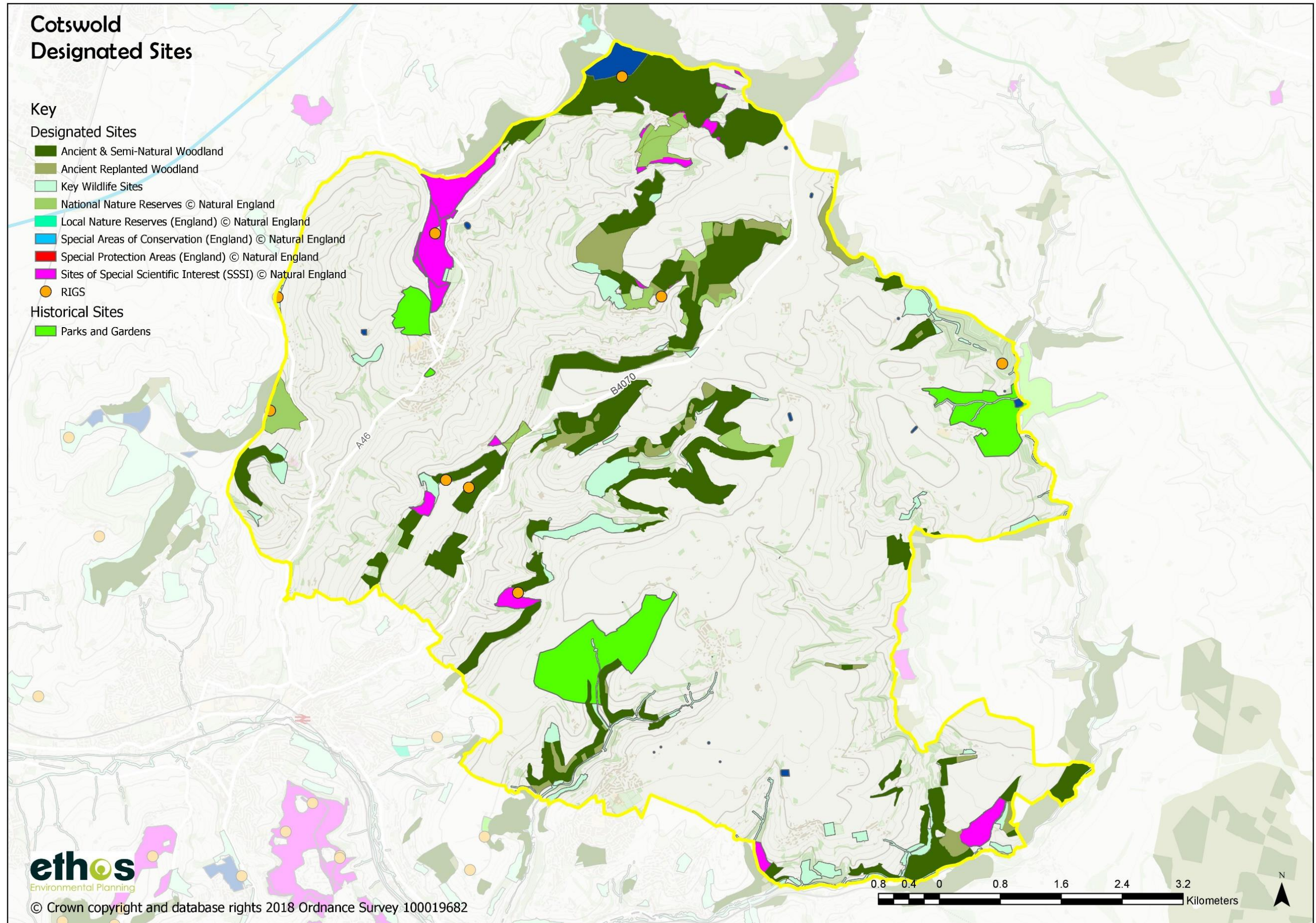




Figure 5 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Priority Habitats, Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs)

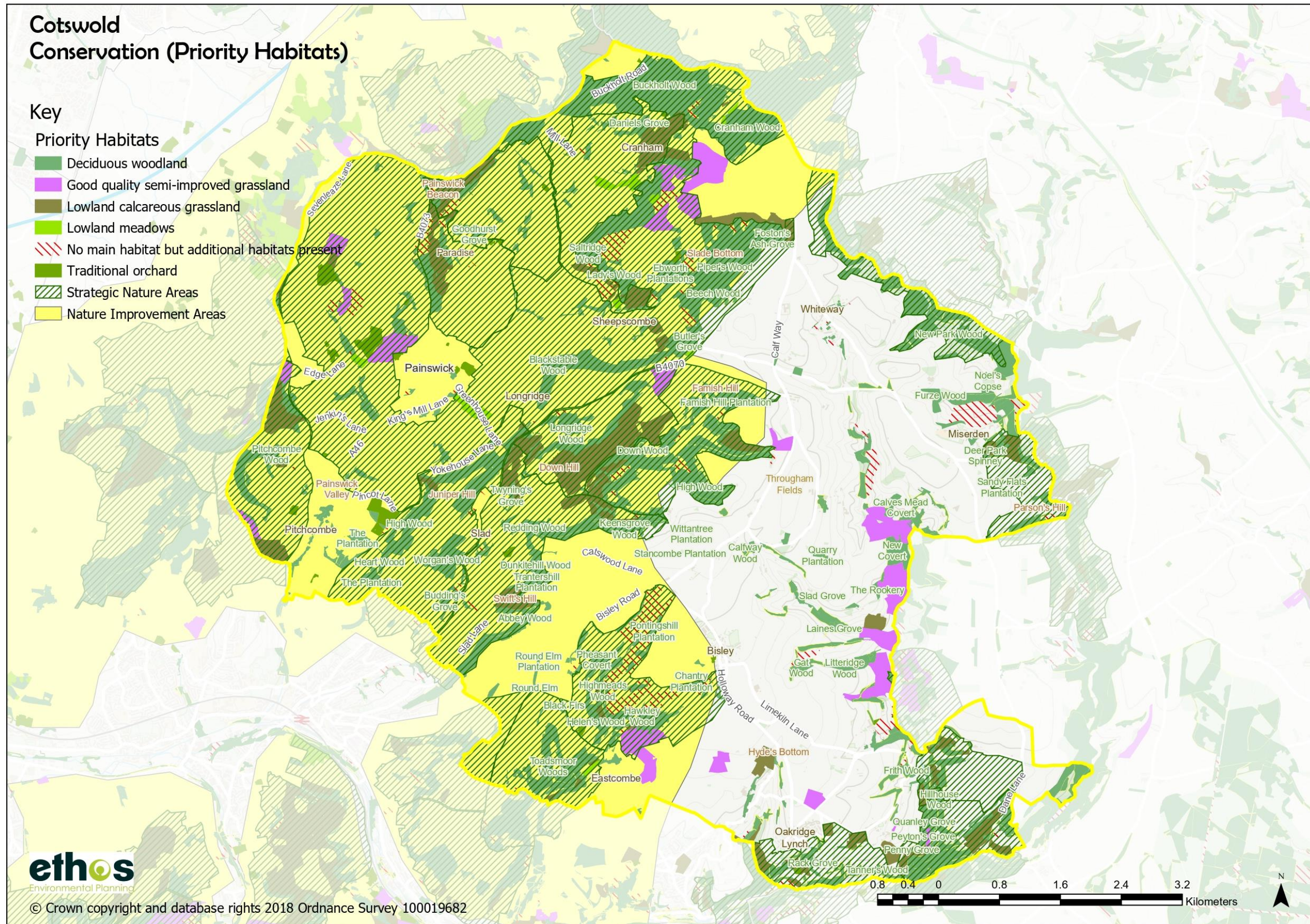




Figure 6 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: National Character Areas (NCAs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

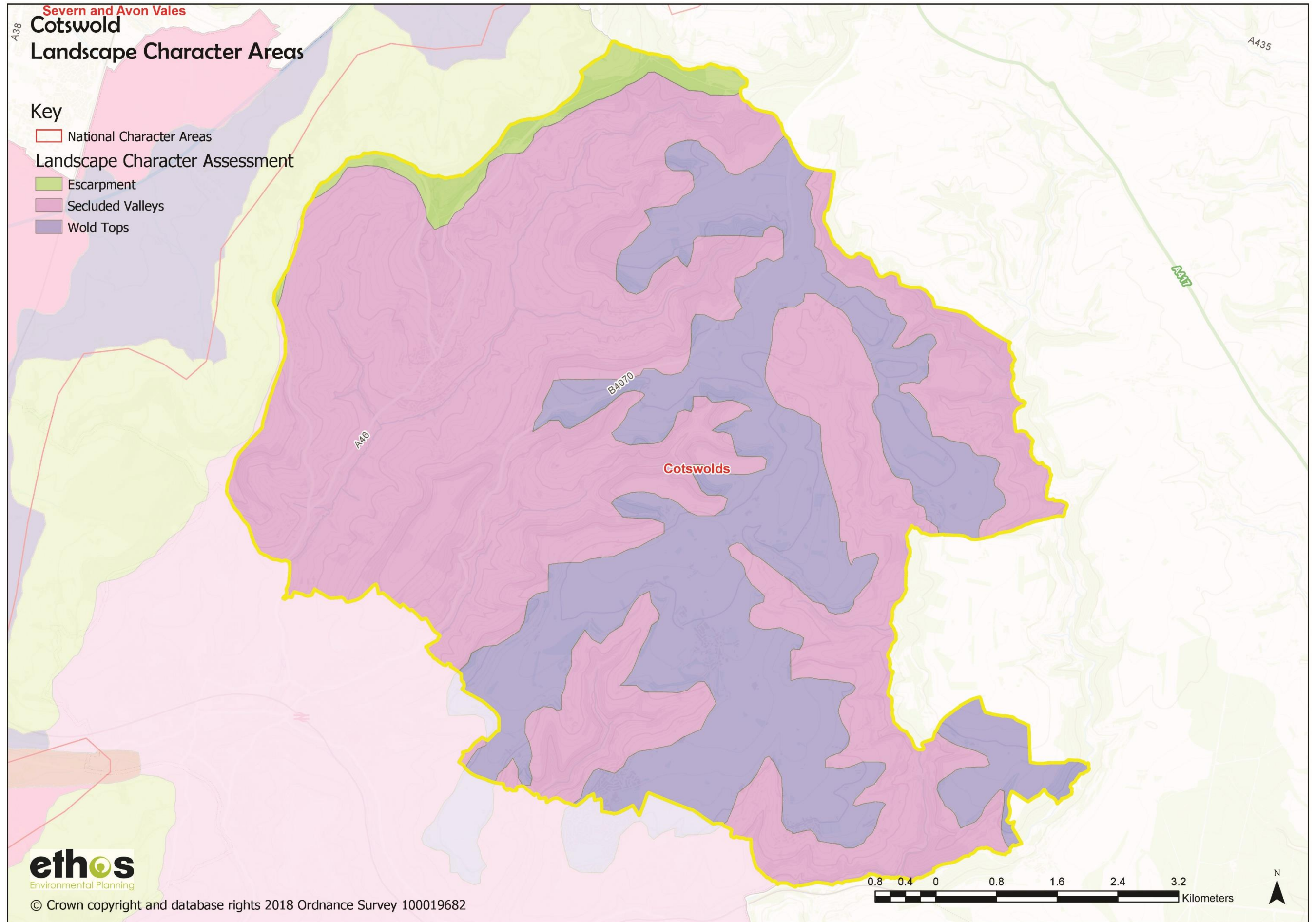




Figure 7 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Water: Canals, Rivers/Streams, Lakes/Surface Water, Priority River Habitat, Floodzone, Source Protection Zones

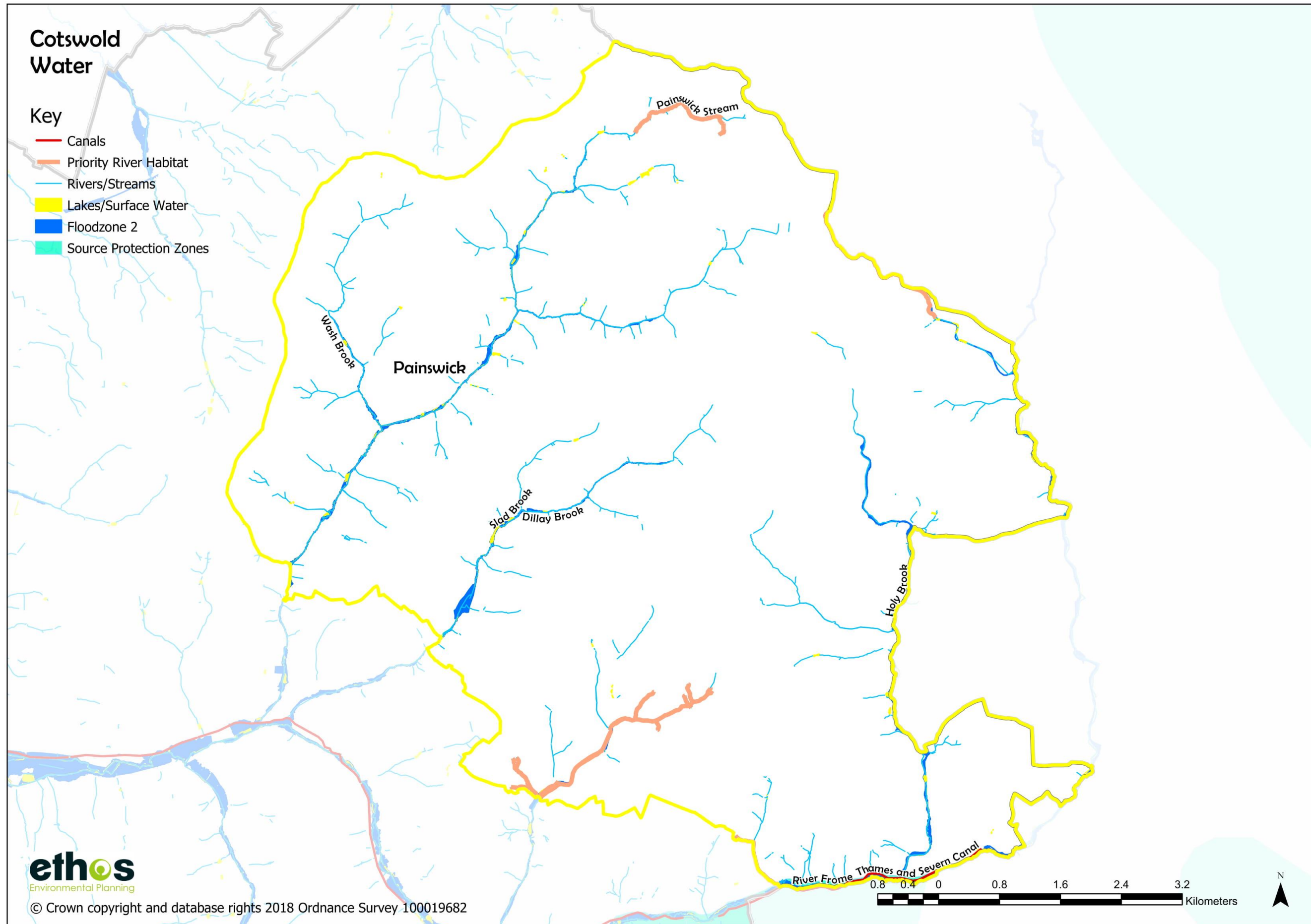
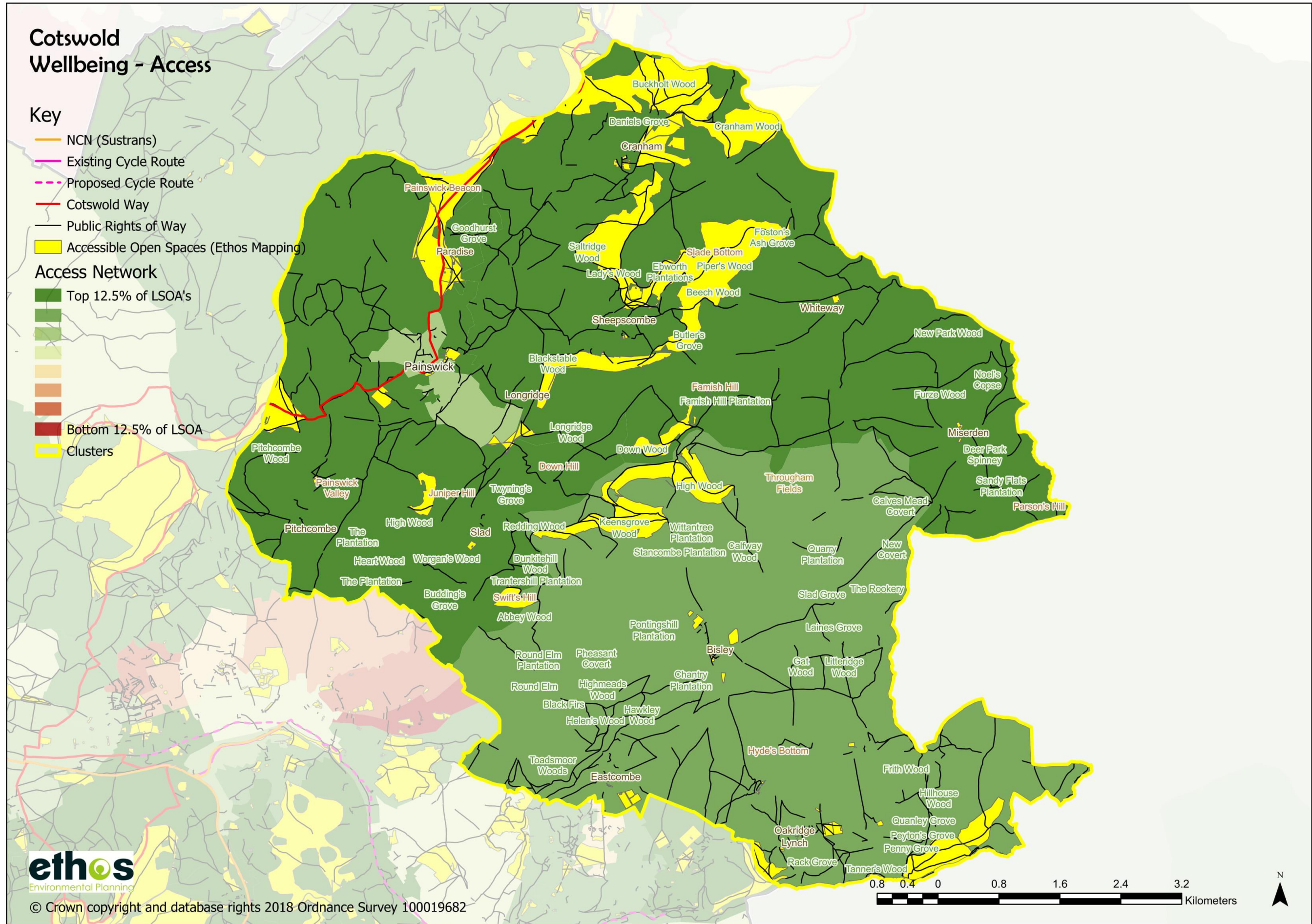




Figure 8 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wellbeing: Accessible open space, PROW and key walking and cycling routes



### 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 Cotswold 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 Cotswold cluster

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall supply
Allotments	4.98	0.76	2.3	0.35	2.68	0.41	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Community Orchards	0.33	0.05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amenity Green Space	0.79	0.12	2.62	0.4	-1.83	-0.28	UNDER SUPPLY
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	10.63	1.62	7.87	1.2	2.76	0.42	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
<i>Park and Recreation Grounds</i>	<i>10.44</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>0.19</i>	<i>0.03</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Play (Child)	0.52	0.08	0.39	0.06	0.13	0.02	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Play (Youth)	0	0	0.39	0.06	-0.39	-0.06	UNDER SUPPLY

Accessible Natural Greenspace	672.11	102.49	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education	8.13	1.24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cemeteries and Churchyards	7.17	1.09	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outdoor Sport (Private)	11.84	1.81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

As can be seen from the table above, within the Cotswold cluster, there is a sufficient supply of allotments, parks and recreation grounds, play (child) against the standards, with shortfalls in amenity green space and play (youth). The total shortfall is 2.22 ha.

## GI

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

Table 2 GI assets

Priority Habitats	Area (ha)
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	0
Coastal saltmarsh	0
Deciduous woodland	1216.24
Good quality semi-improved grassland	174.07
Lowland calcareous grassland	298.45
Lowland dry acid grassland	0
Lowland meadows	19.39
Mudflats	0
No main habitat but additional habitats present	169.37
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	0
Traditional orchard	35.55

Nature conservation, AONB, geology and historic sites	Area (ha)
Ancient Woodland	789.84
KWS	510.86
LNR	0.18
NNR	376.60
RAMSAR	0
SAC	362.49
SPA	0
SSSI	565.49
RIGS	9 <sup>1</sup>
AONB	7574.08
Registered Parks	211.04

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



SAM	43.74
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Rivers and Canals	Length (m)
Painswick Stream	9972.56
River Frome	5024.01
Holy Brook	3498.09
Slad Brook	2311.81
Wash Brook	2302.18
Thames and Severn Canal	1982.12
Dillay Brook	986.30

## 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 Cotswold 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)

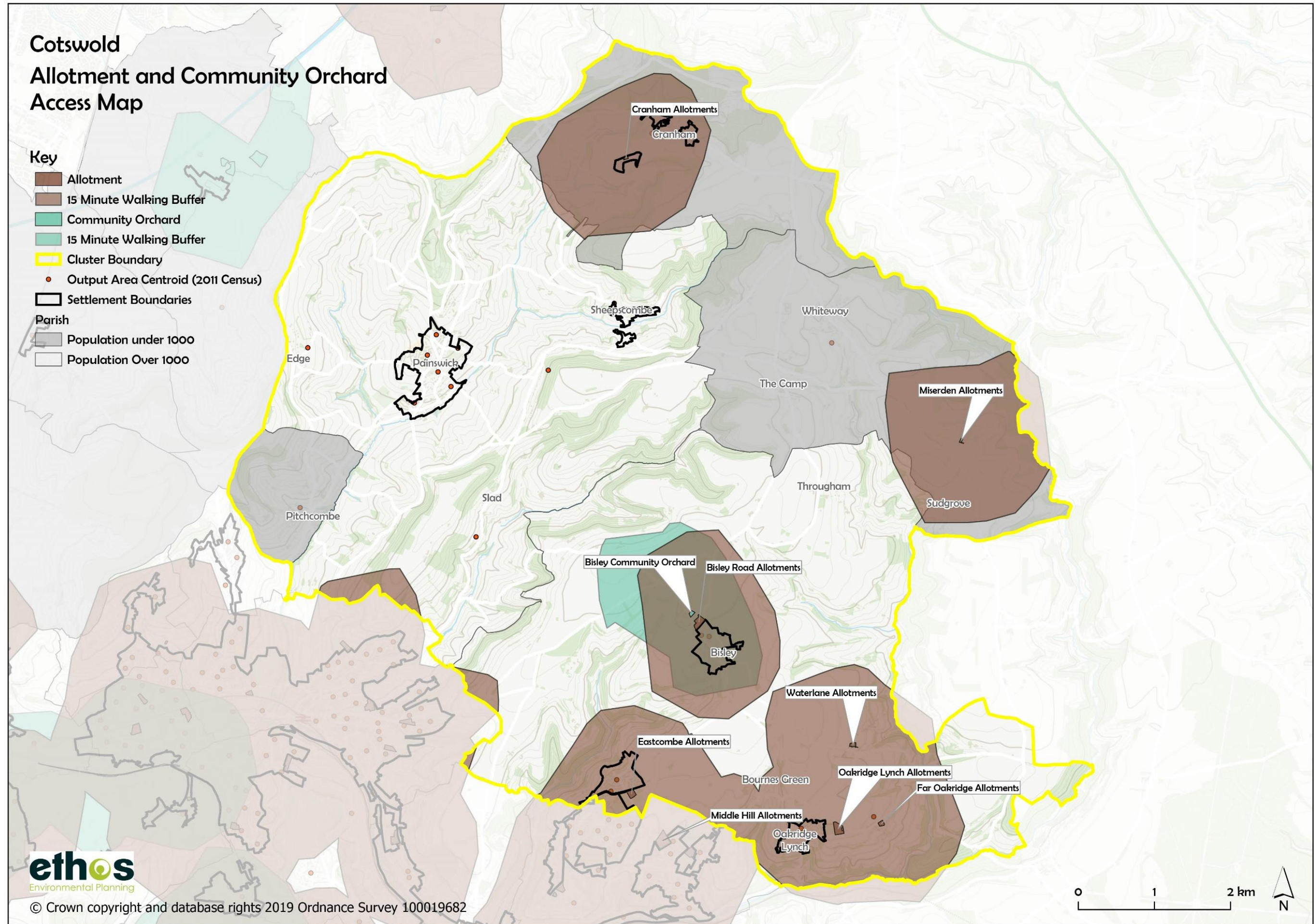




Figure 10 Access to amenity green space (13 minutes' walk time)

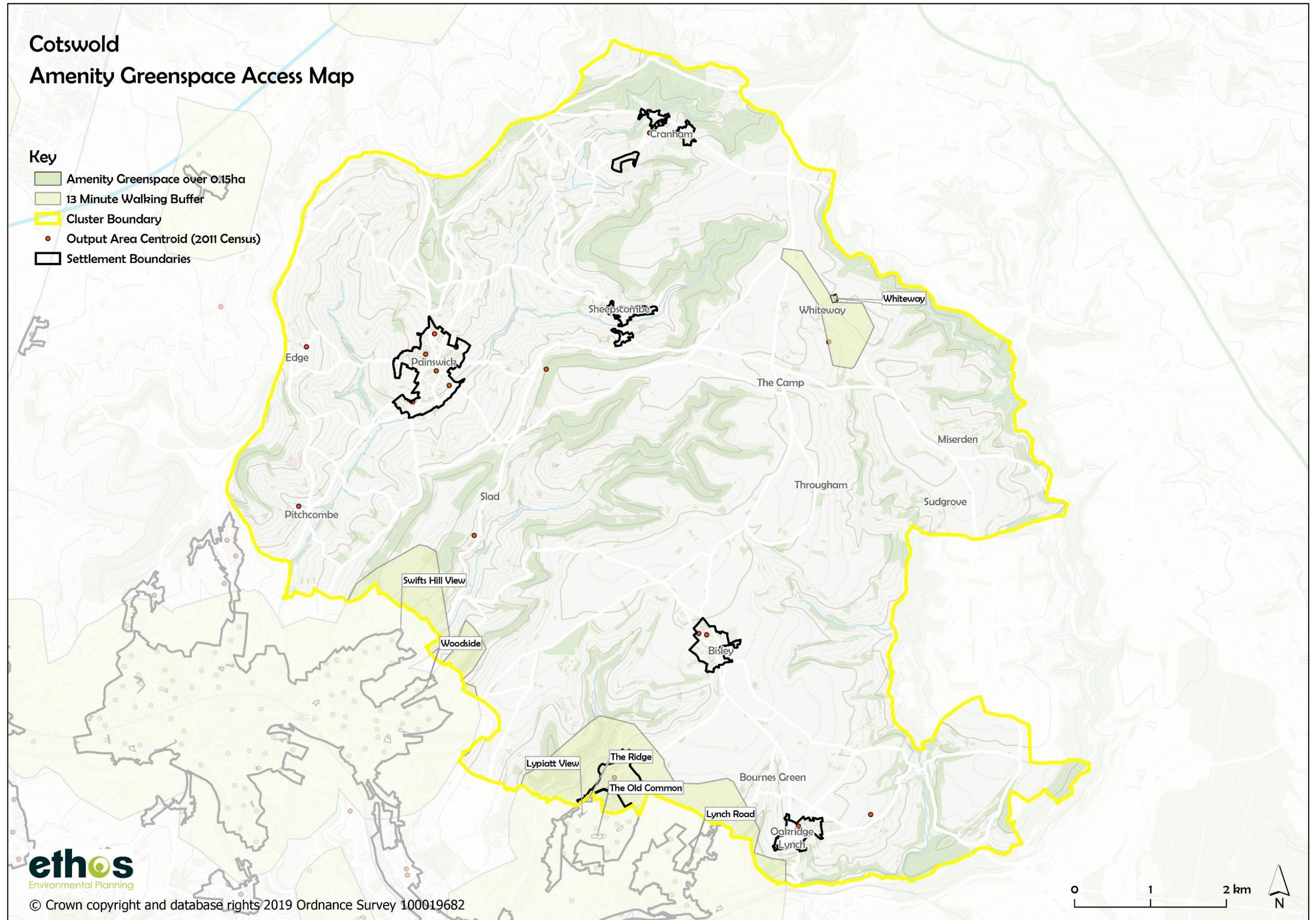




Figure 11 Access to parks and recreation grounds, amenity green space and outdoor sport private (13 minutes' walk time)

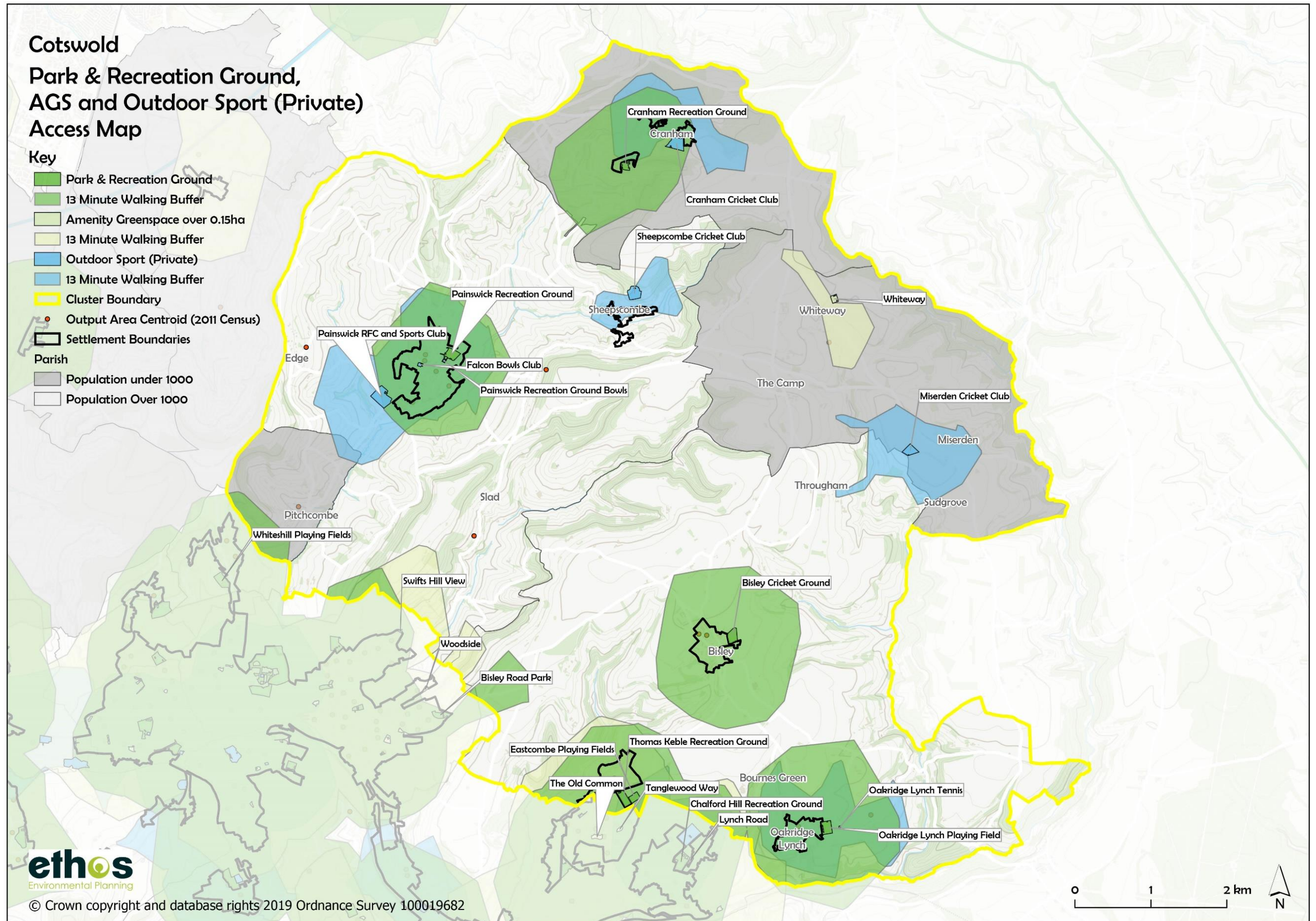




Figure 12 Access to children's play space (10 minutes' walk time)

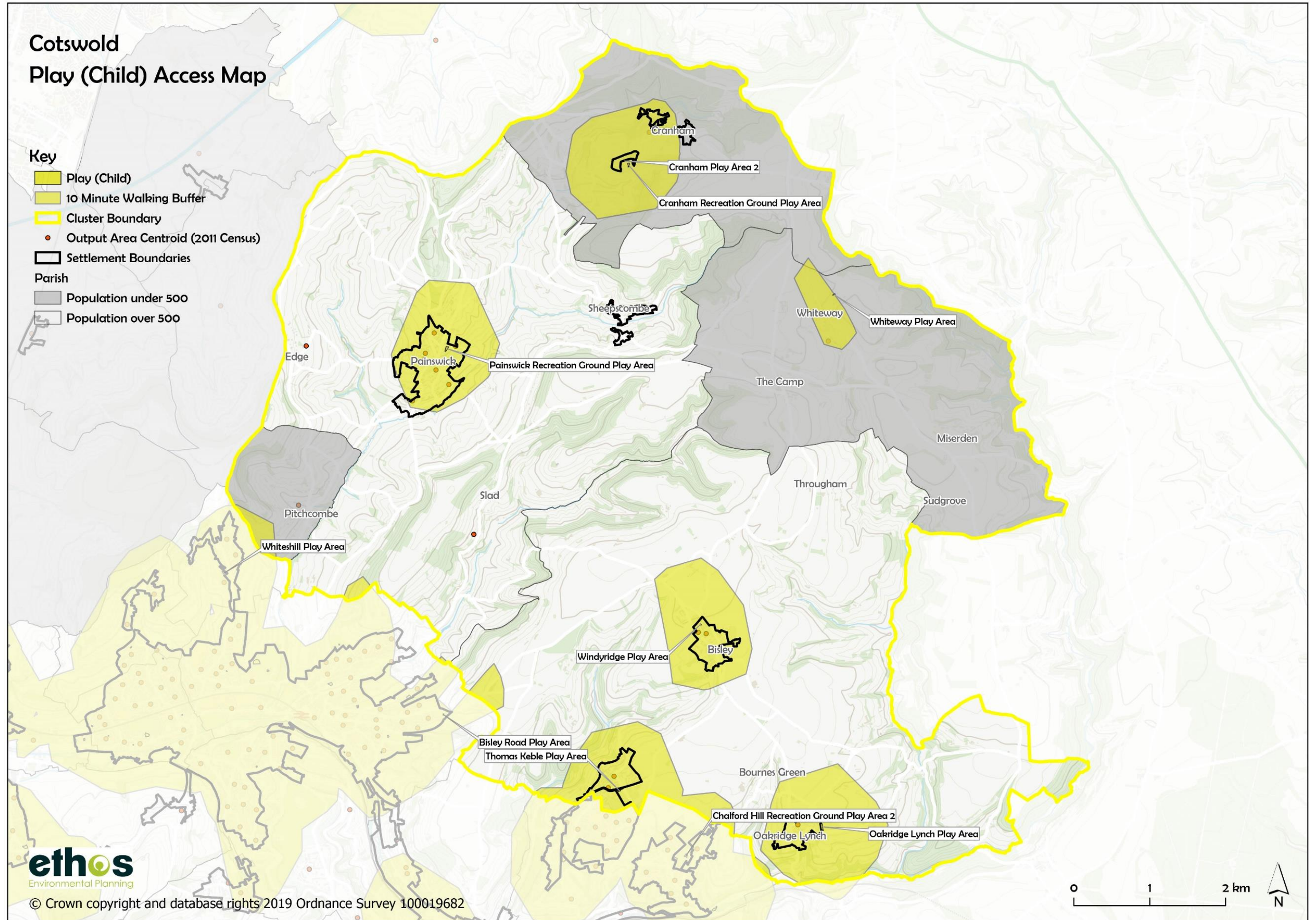




Figure 13 Access to youth play space (15 minutes' walk time)

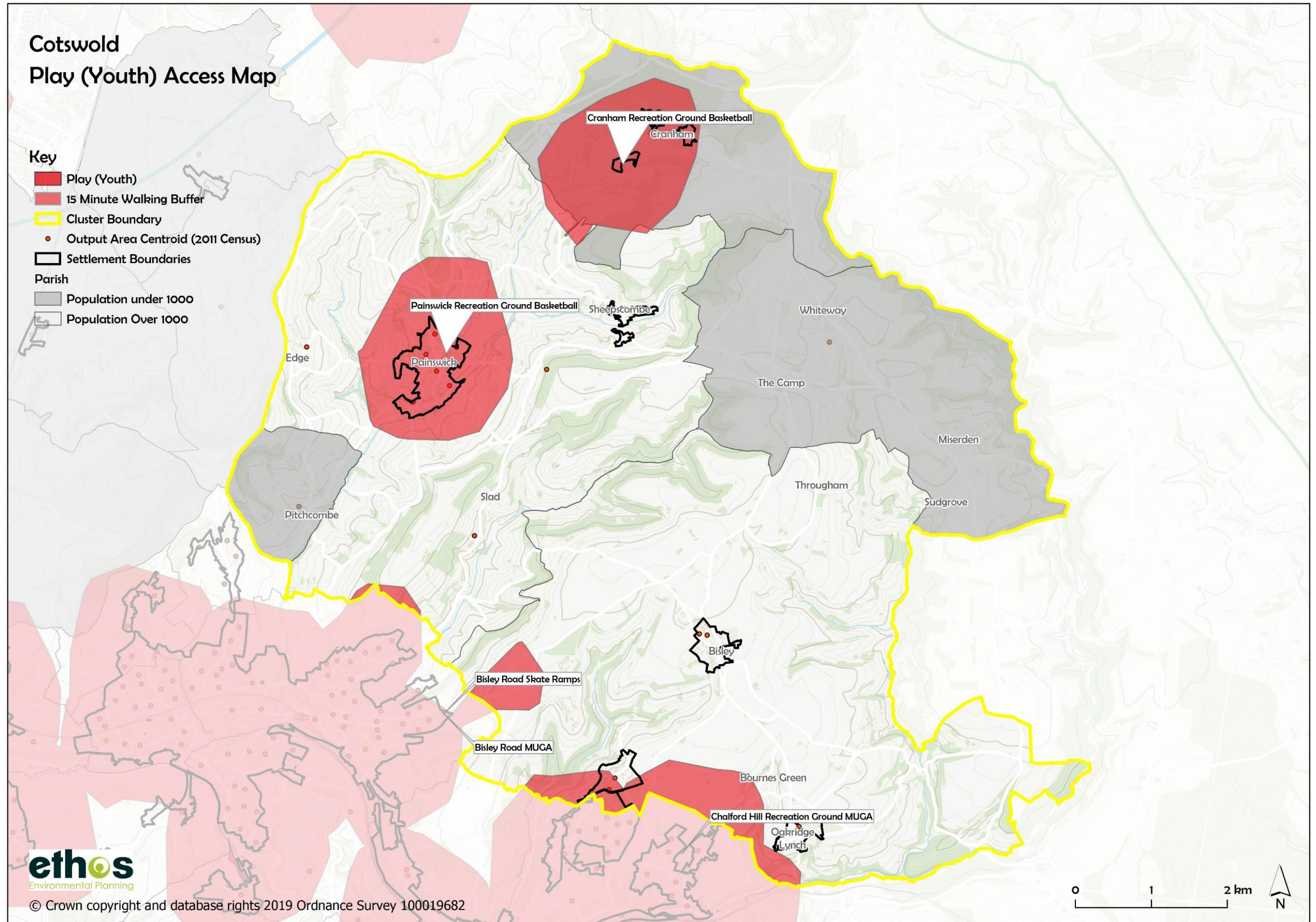




Figure 14 Access to accessible natural green space (960m buffer)

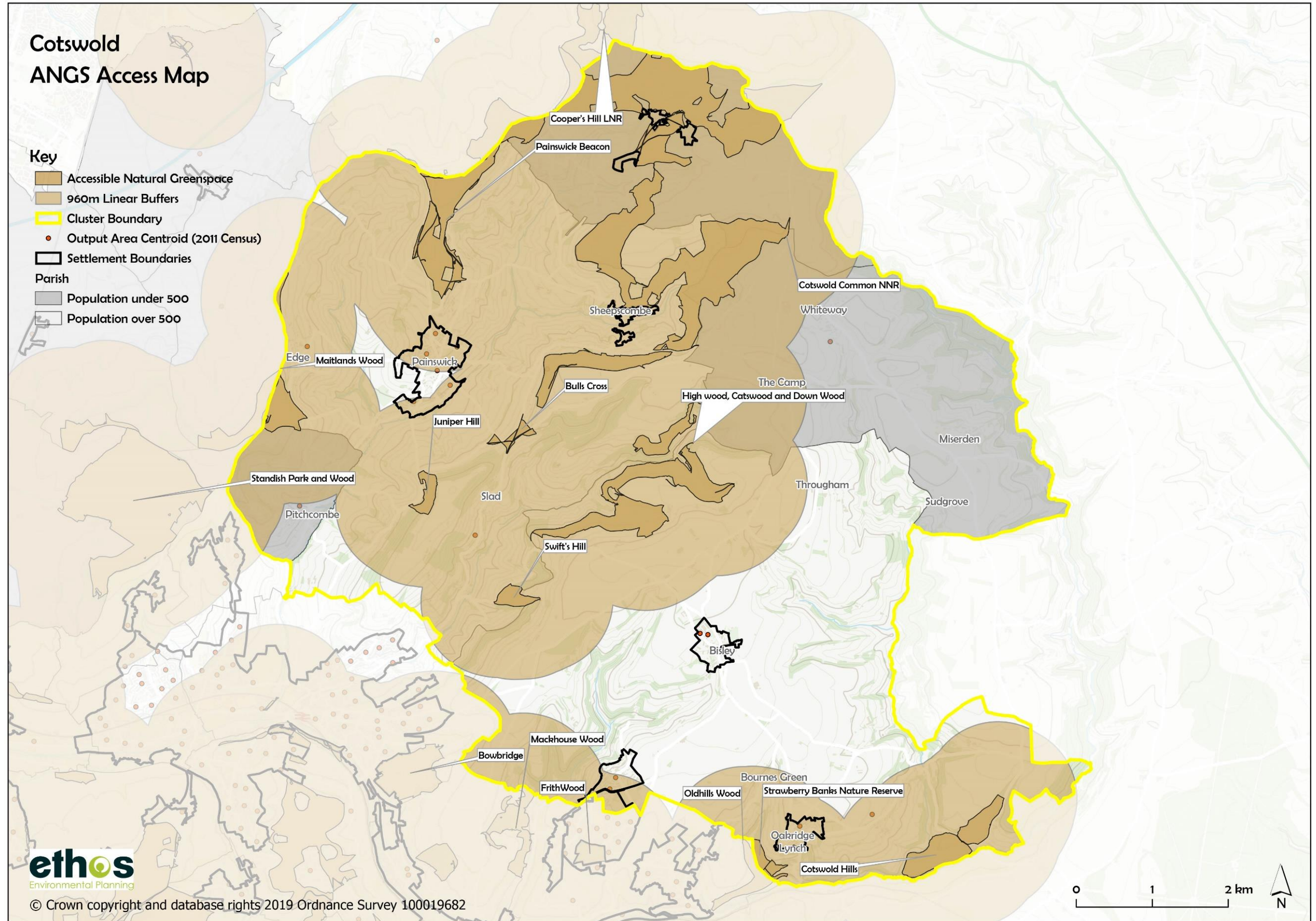
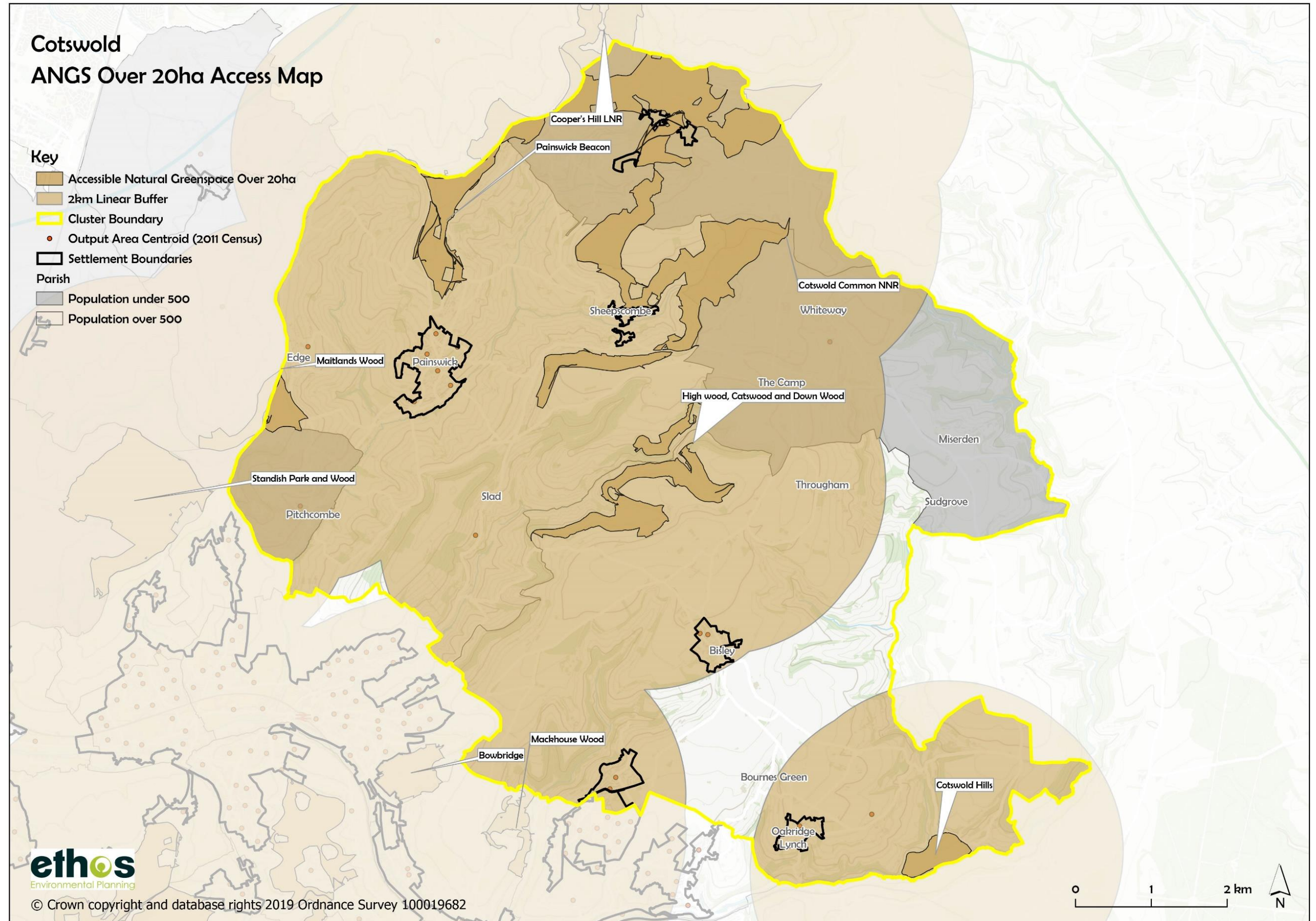




Figure 15 Access to accessible natural green space (20ha + sites within 2km)<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> As with all of the access maps, the colour of the buffer has been lightened/faded where it falls outside of the cluster. The sites that are buffered are coloured slightly darker than the buffer itself, and in the case of Figures 14, 15 and 16, the buffer slightly changes colour where it overlaps with a greyed out parish (a parish with less than 500 people), due to its transparency.



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

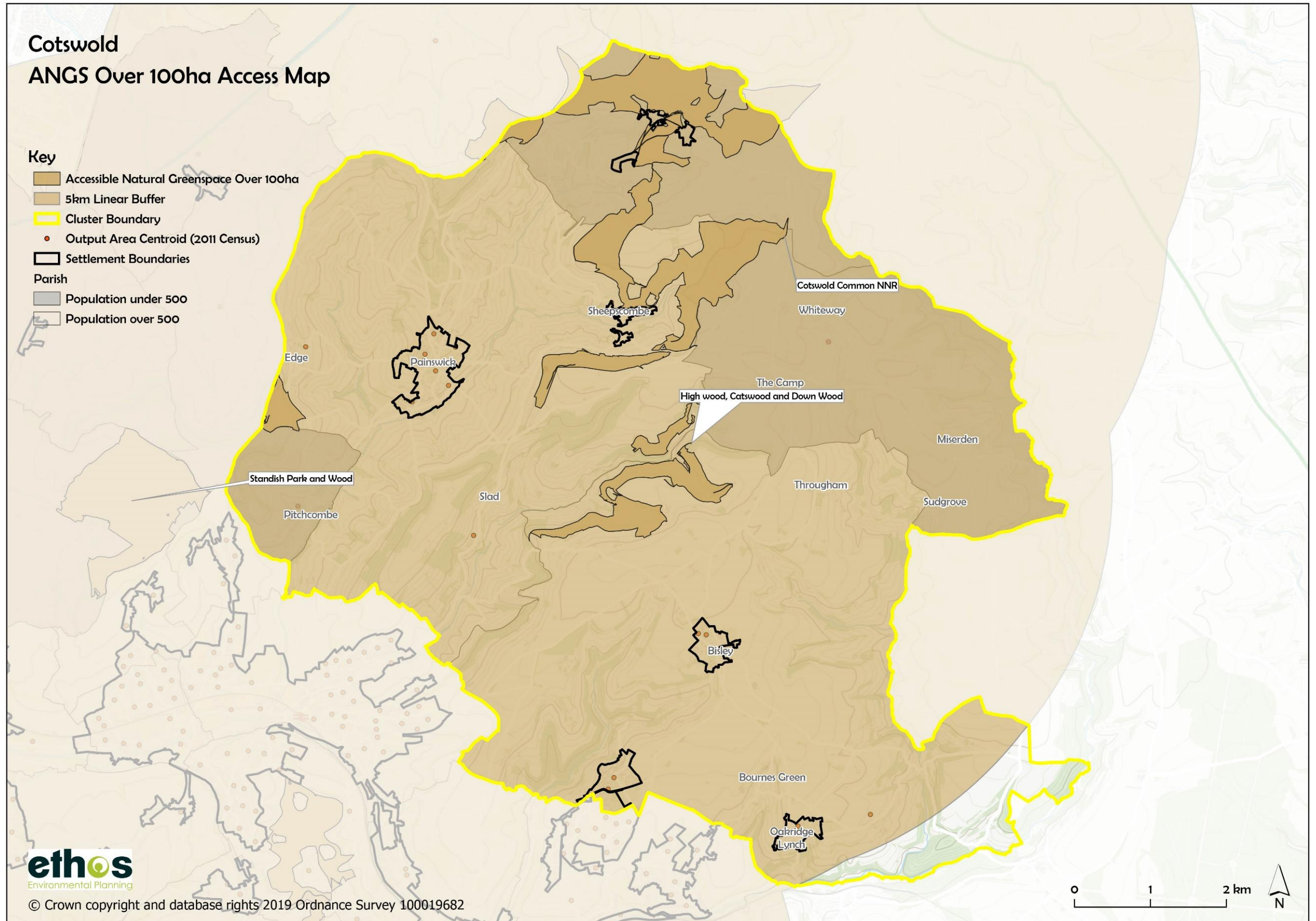




Table 3 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 9 to 16, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

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

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Current Access</b>
Allotments and community orchards	There is only one community orchard but several allotments across the cluster. However, there is a large gap in access in Painswick, and also Sheepscombe.
Amenity Green Space	Access is poor across the cluster with a very small proportion having access to amenity green space. All of the settlements have a lack of access except for Eastcombe.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Generally good across the cluster to parks and recreation grounds, although access in Sheepscombe is provided by a private outdoor sports space.
Children's play space	Access is generally good across the cluster, although there is a gap in access in Sheepscombe.
Youth Play space	There are only 3 play youth facilities across the cluster resulting in a lack of access to facilities. Bisley, Sheepscombe and Oakridge Lynch all have gaps in access.
Accessible Natural Green Space	Good access against the 960m across the majority of the cluster, although there is a gap in Bisley. Good access against ANGSt standards 20+ha sites and 100+ha sites.

## GI

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

As can be seen, there is good provision of PROWs across the cluster which link accessible open spaces. The Cotswold Way runs through the western side of the cluster. Within the southern part of the cluster, the PROW network appears to be more fragmented. There are no existing or proposed cycle routes within the cluster

When analysing access against the Natural England Access Network Mapping (also see figure 8), it shows that the area has a good relative abundance of accessible land. There are limitations with this data as explained in section 7.6.2 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 Cotswold cluster. As can be seen, all open spaces were assessed as being good quality (with a score of A).

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, all sites scored highly in terms of their contribution to GI.

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

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
2185	Cotswold Hills	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Two nature reserves with gated entrances and good signage. One was more open and tussocky whilst the other was a woodland. No clear access for visitors via parking.	Include a parking area for visitors within walking distance.	None.	80	A	10	A
3829	Oldhills Wood	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Woodland with a network of paths, good signage at main entrance, accessed via narrow lane with limited parking.	None.	None.	78.89	A	8.33	A
3831	Cooper	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Large woodland with a vast network of footpaths and nature trails. Signage showing rights of way are scattered throughout the site.	Add signage at the car parks to show suitable routes through the woodland, can be disorientating. Add dog waste bins.	None.	83	A	9.33	A
4279	Swift	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Nature reserve. No parking on site and difficult to access.	Add better signage and parking nearby to make the site easier to access.	None.	78	A	8	A
1837	Painswick Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Village park with play areas, football goals, basketball and outdoor gym equipment. The site is well managed and in good condition with bins, benches and signage provided.	None.	Could include more tree and flora planting along the site perimeter.	87	A	9	A
2029	Cranham Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large recreation ground with an outdoor gym, football pitch, play equipment and tennis courts. The site a village park and is well managed	Could include footpaths to play areas, or a perimeter path to access facilities during damper condition.	Could include tree planting to enhance the site for wildlife and to support flood management.	83	A	8.67	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
			with bins and benches provided. Good habitat management.						
2175	Oakridge Lynch Playing Field	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large playing field with a play area and a cricket green. A pavilion and a car park were also present. The site is well managed with the grassland cut short and bins provided.	Space for more facilities such as further play or youth provision.	The sites fringe habitat had good biodiversity. However, there is room for further tree planting to enhance the site.	85	A	8.33	A
2208	Eastcombe Playing Fields	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Amenity grass dominated by football pitch, bordered by mature trees, and road/allotments.	Entrance point and fencing could be improved, goal posts are rusted and need repainting. Install welcome signage and benches. introduce tall grass/wildflower margins.	Introduce tall grass/wildflower margins.	71	A	7	B
1835	Painswick Recreation Ground Play Area	Play (Child)	Large play area with a wide range of equipment suitable for children of all ages. equipment is well used and in good condition.	None.	None.	83	A	9	A
2027	Cranham Recreation Ground Play Area	Play (Child)	Play area comprising wooden equipment suitable mainly for older children. The equipment is in good condition and well used.	None.	None.	82	A	8.67	A
2175	Oakridge Lynch Playing Field	Play (Child)	Large playing field with a play area and a cricket green. A pavilion and a car park were also present. The site is well managed	Space for more facilities such as further play or youth provision.	The sites fringe habitat had good biodiversity. However there is room for further tree planting to enhance the site.	85	A	8.33	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
			with the grassland cut short and bins provided.						
1836	Painswick Recreation Ground Basketball	Play (Youth)	Single basketball hoop with a patch of hard standing. Decent condition.	Could enlarge the space into a MUGA.	None.	83	A	N/A	N/A
2028	Cranham Recreation Ground Basketball	Play (Youth)	Single basketball hoop with section of hard standing in excellent condition.	Could enlarge the space into a MUGA.	None.	83	A	N/A	N/A



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

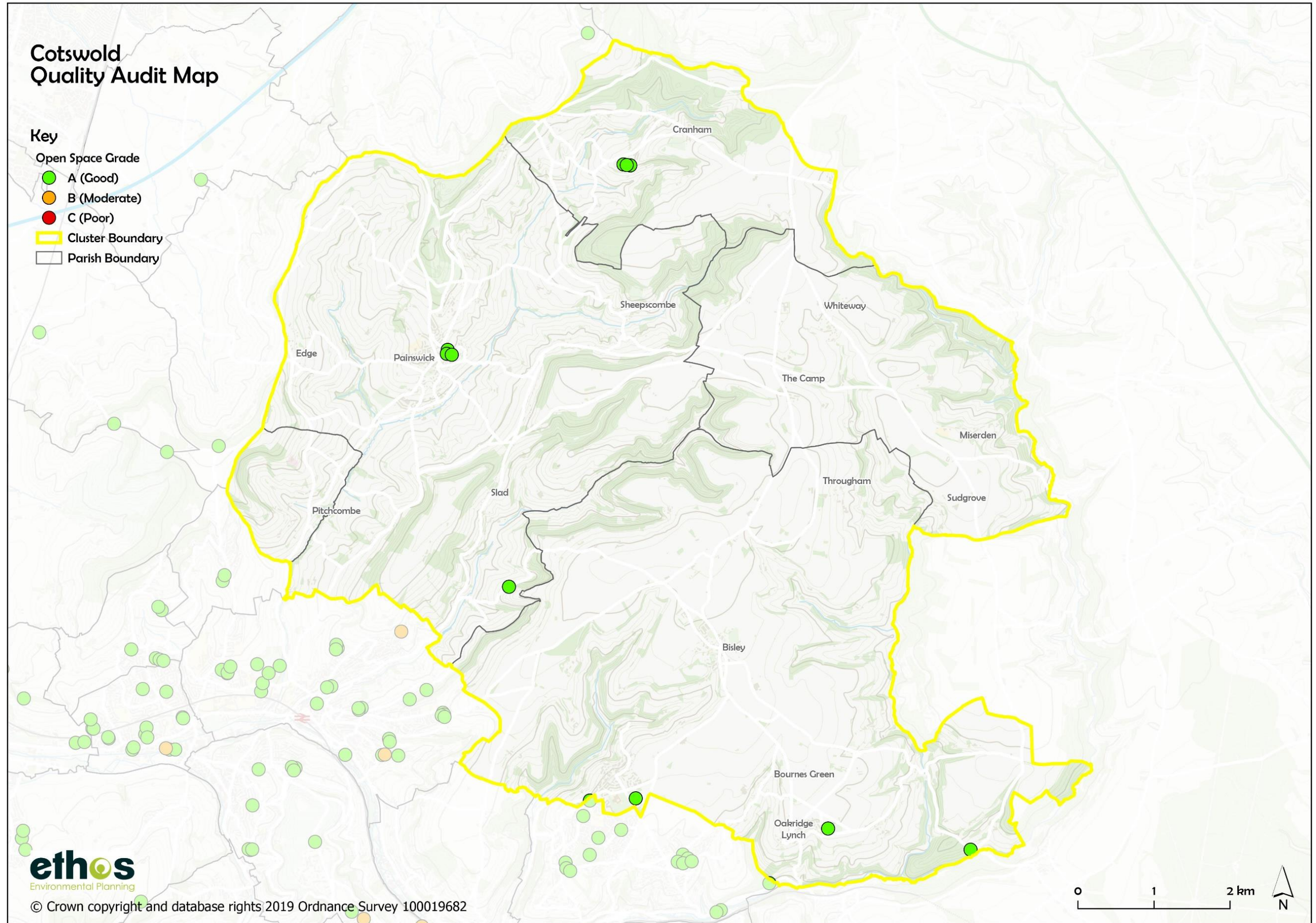
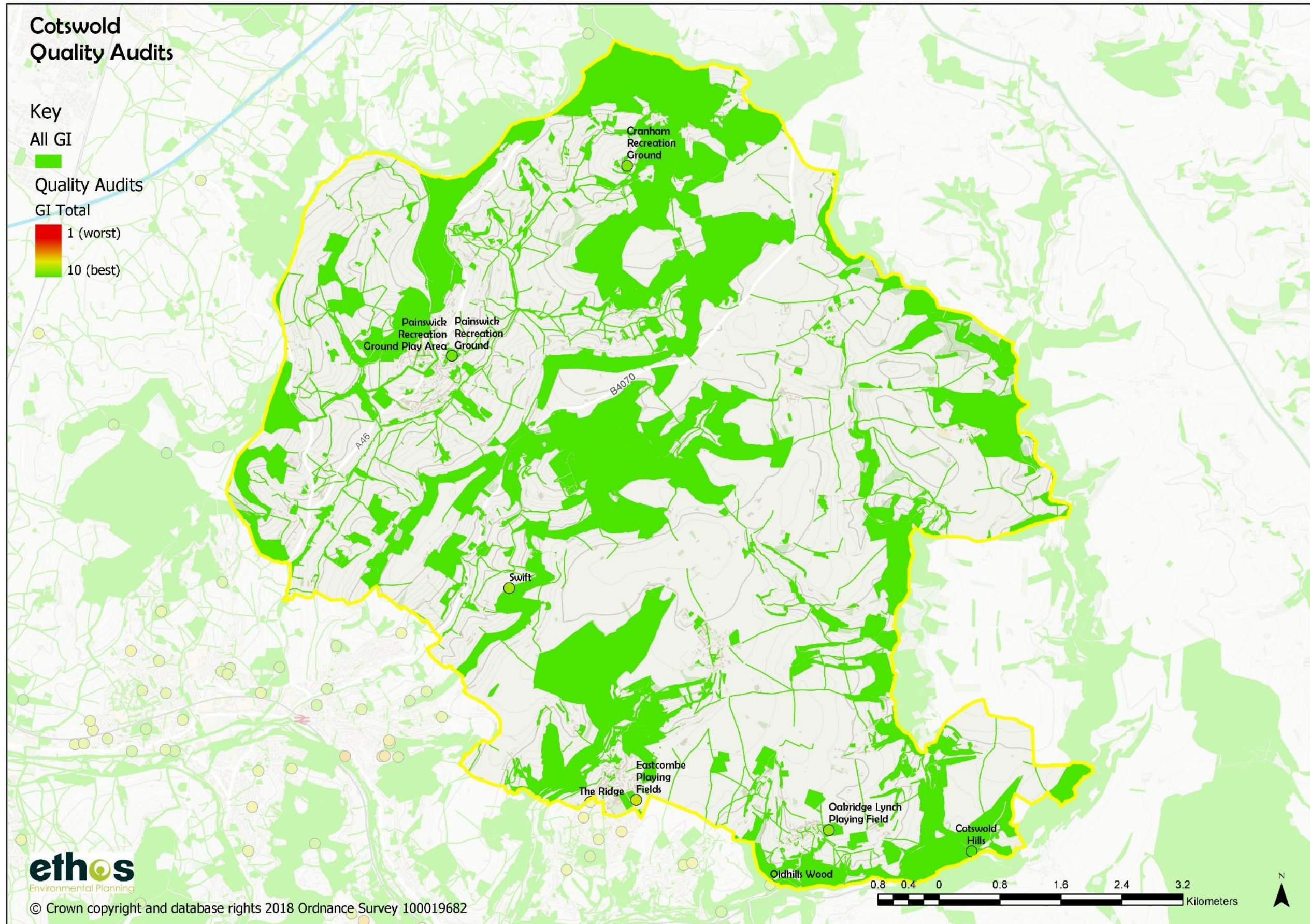




Figure 18 Summary of open space GI quality scores





## 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, five of the SSSIs Daneway Banks, Edge Common, Rough Bank, Strawberry Banks and Swift's Hill are in favourable condition, although there is scope to improve the condition of Bull Cross, The Frith and Juniper Hill, Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods and Juniper Hill SSSI.

Figure 19 SSSIs within the Cotswold cluster

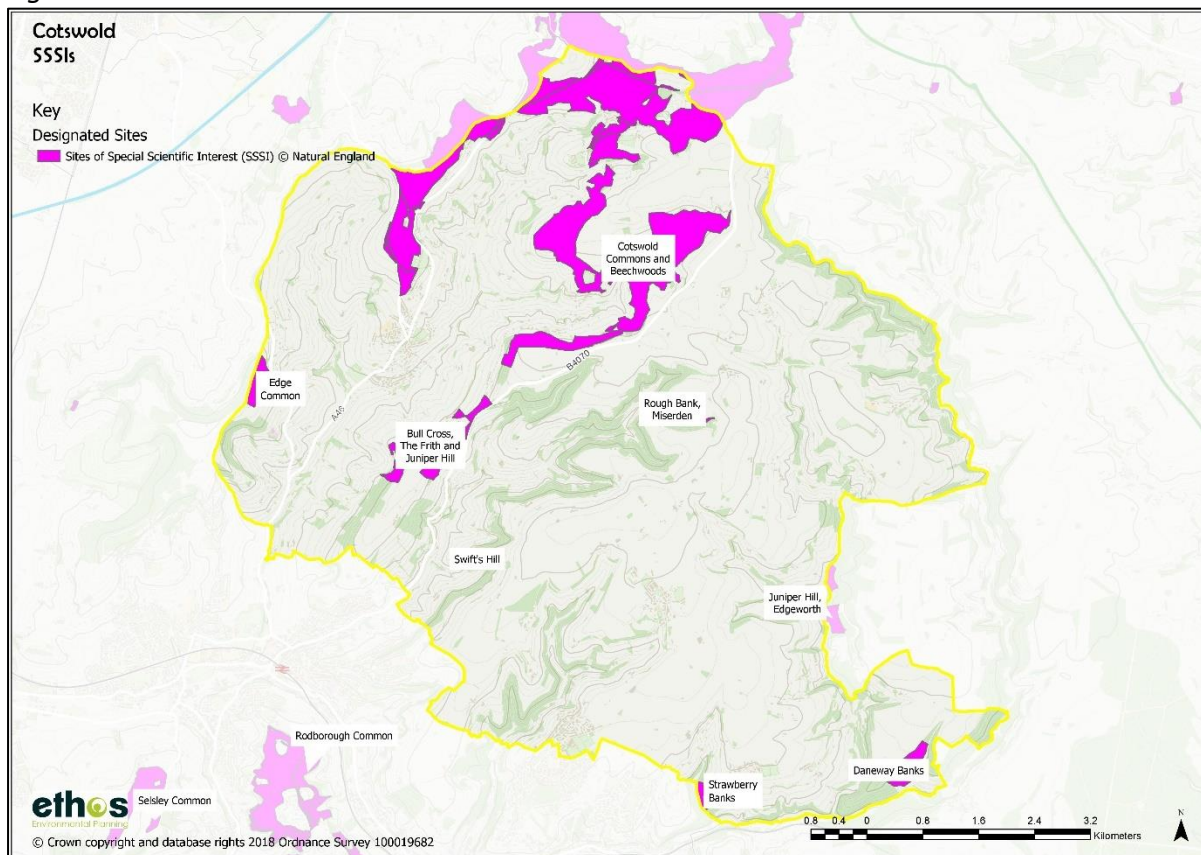


Table 5 Condition summary of SSSI's sites within the Cotswold cluster

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
Bull Cross, The Frith and Juniper Hill	SSSI	40.68	Part registered as Common Land and part managed by the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conversation, this site is situated with the AONB. This is a diverse area of ancient beech woodland, unimproved grassland, scrub and disused quarries. The wood thrives in rich fungi and has a large colony of lapidary snail. The semi-natural grassland is abundant with orchids including the uncommon musk	63.88% Favourable. 13.09% Unfavourable – recovering. 23.04% Unfavourable – no change.

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
			orchid. Firth Quarry is an important national geological site for its exposures of Middle Jurassic rocks.	
Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods	SSSI	463.40	This site includes the Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve, and Cooper's Hill Local Nature Reserve. Part of the site is Common land and part owned by the National Trust. The site comprises of ancient beech woodland and unimproved grassland, the woodlands are amongst the most diverse and species-rich of their type while the grassland typify the unimproved calcareous pastures.	44.17% Favourable. 55.83% Unfavourable – recovering.
Daneway Banks	SSSI	16.93	Managed by the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation, this site has species-rich unimproved grassland on calcareous and neutral soils of one of the small Cotswold valleys. A range of herbaceous plants are present including nationally rare cut-leaved germander and mountain bedstraw.	100% Favourable.
Edge Common	SSSI	20.62	An unimproved Jurassic limestone grassland site representing the formerly widespread habitat of the Cotswolds. A rich assemblage of plants existing which is one of the best for butterflies in the Cotswolds.	100% Favourable.
Juniper Hill	SSSI	0.70	Split into two sections representing areas of calcareous scrub habitat dominated by Juniper. It is one of the few sites in the Cotswold to have Juniper. There are specimens of over 100 years old recorded. However, many are dying with no signs of regeneration.	100% Unfavourable – no change.

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
Rough Bank	SSSI	9.25	One of the best examples of ancient herb-rich pasture remaining in the Cotswolds. Characterised by an abundance of upright bone, tor grass and sheep's fescue and a large amount of orchid species. The richness of the grassland is also reflected in the diversity of invertebrates including butterflies, snails and woodlouse.	100% Favourable.
Strawberry Banks	SSSI	5.03	This site consists of two unimproved limestone grassland pastures divided by scrub and trees and a small stream. The grassland is species rich supporting exceptional orchid flora. It has also supported a breeding colony of marsh fritillary butterfly for at least two decades which is nationally scarce in Britain. It also has a strong invertebrate interest including the rare oil beetle.	100% Favourable.
Swift's Hill	SSSI	9.52	Unimproved calcareous grassland overlying the Jurassic limestone of the Cotswolds. The site has a wide range of herbaceous plants including fifteen species of orchid, along with twenty-nine species of butterfly and the rare dew moth. The north end of the site is a quarry which has exposed Middle Jurassic strata - this has made it a key Cotswold locality for geological studies of the Middle Jurassic.	100% Favourable.

### Natural England National Habitat Network Mapping

The Natural England National Habitat Network mapping also indicates that the 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.

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 Cotswold 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 Cotswold cluster (up to 2040)*

Typology	Standard for new provision (Ha/1000)	Requirement for 217 people (Ha)
Allotments	0.35	0.08
Community Orchards	0.15	0.03
Amenity Green Space	0.40	0.09
Park and Recreation Ground	1.20	0.26
Play Space (Children)	0.06	0.01
Play Space (Youth)	0.06	0.01
Natural Green Space	1.00	0.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>0.70</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 strategic GI corridor as identified by the GLNP (shown in yellow), which corresponds with the AONB/Nature Improvement Areas/Strategic Nature Areas. In addition to this, the following district GI corridors have been identified:

E) River Frome and Thames and Severn Canal east from Stroud through Ancient Woodlands and Key Wildlife Sites.

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:

8. Connect Keensgrove Wood and Catswood KWS (ancient woodland) to Lypiatt Park, this is a Potential Network Join identified by Natural England.

9. Strengthen connectivity of deciduous woodland (priority habitat).



## Strategic Site Allocations

There are no site allocations within this cluster.

## Emerging Local Plan

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

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

- *Conserving and enhancing the countryside and biodiversity.*

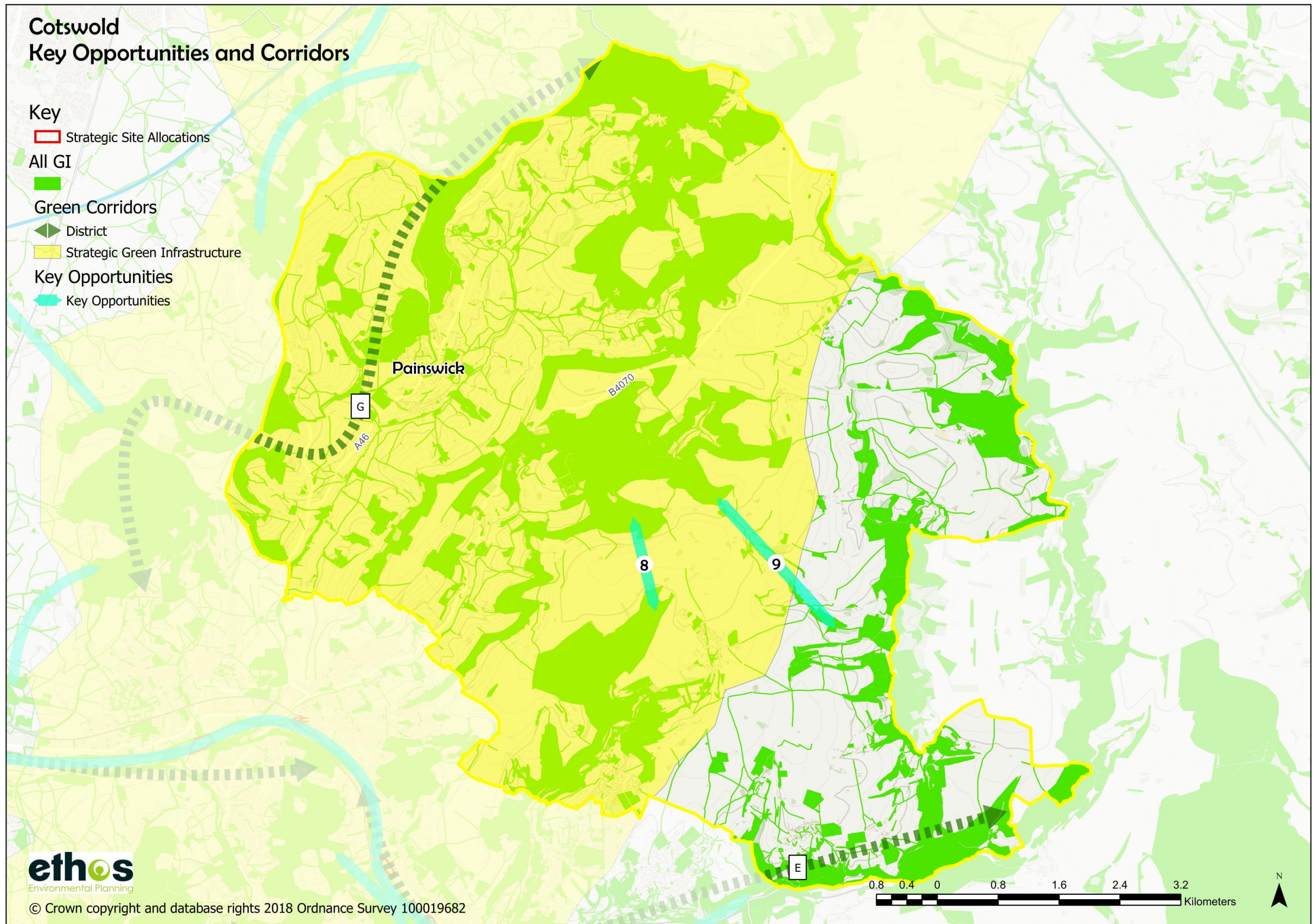
***Draft vision to 2040: “Protecting and enhancing all the things that will make the Cotswolds a thriving and inclusive place to live, as well as a great place to visit...”***

*A key goal for the future of this areas will be to ease the tension between its role as a major tourist attraction and “protected landscape” and its ability to function as a place where people can live and work....*

*....the preservation and enhancement of the area’s landscape, character and built heritage will be paramount.....*



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 existing open spaces - although all sites scored A (good), there are some recommendations for improvements which should be considered, alongside the GI recommendations.

A desktop assessment has also identified potential to improve the condition of Bull Cross, The Firth and Juniper Hill, Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods SSSI (from SSSI condition assessments).

### **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 Cotswold cluster, there is sufficient supply of allotments, parks and recreation grounds and children's play space. Existing youth provision could be expanded, or there may be potential for parks and recreation grounds to accommodate new provision to reduce the shortfall in this typology. There is little opportunity to reduce the shortfall in amenity green space, however there is good access combined with parks and recreation grounds and private outdoor sport space, and therefore little need to address this shortfall.

Although there is sufficient supply of allotments within the cluster, there is no provision of allotments/community orchards within Painswick. There may be the potential for the park and recreation ground here to accommodate a food growing area.

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

The assessment has identified that there is an existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of amenity green space and youth play space, therefore, the need to protect these existing facilities and maximise opportunities for securing new open space is key.

Although there is sufficient supply of allotments, parks and recreation grounds 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. There is a clear gap in access to allotments in the main settlement of Painswick, which should be addressed.

Table 6 sets out the overall requirement for new open space provision within Cotswold cluster from new development, which is 0.7 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) 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):

8. Connect Keensgrove Wood and Catswood KWS (ancient woodland) to Lypiatt Park, this is a Potential Network Join identified by Natural England.

9. Strengthen connectivity of deciduous woodland (priority habitat).

#### **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 amenity green space and youth play space and the supply of children's, therefore these typologies are not considered as surplus.

Although there is sufficient supply of allotments, 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. 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, they should be considered for meeting shortfalls in youth play space, or other typologies where there are gaps in access e.g. the park in Painswick may have potential to accommodate a food growing area.

Irrespective of this, the role that allotments, parks and play space (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.

All open space facilities within this cluster were also assessed as being of high quality.