

# Stroud Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study



## Severn Vale Cluster Sub Area Analysis Report (Part 2 of 2)

Final June 2019



Ecology | Green Space | Arboiculture | GIS

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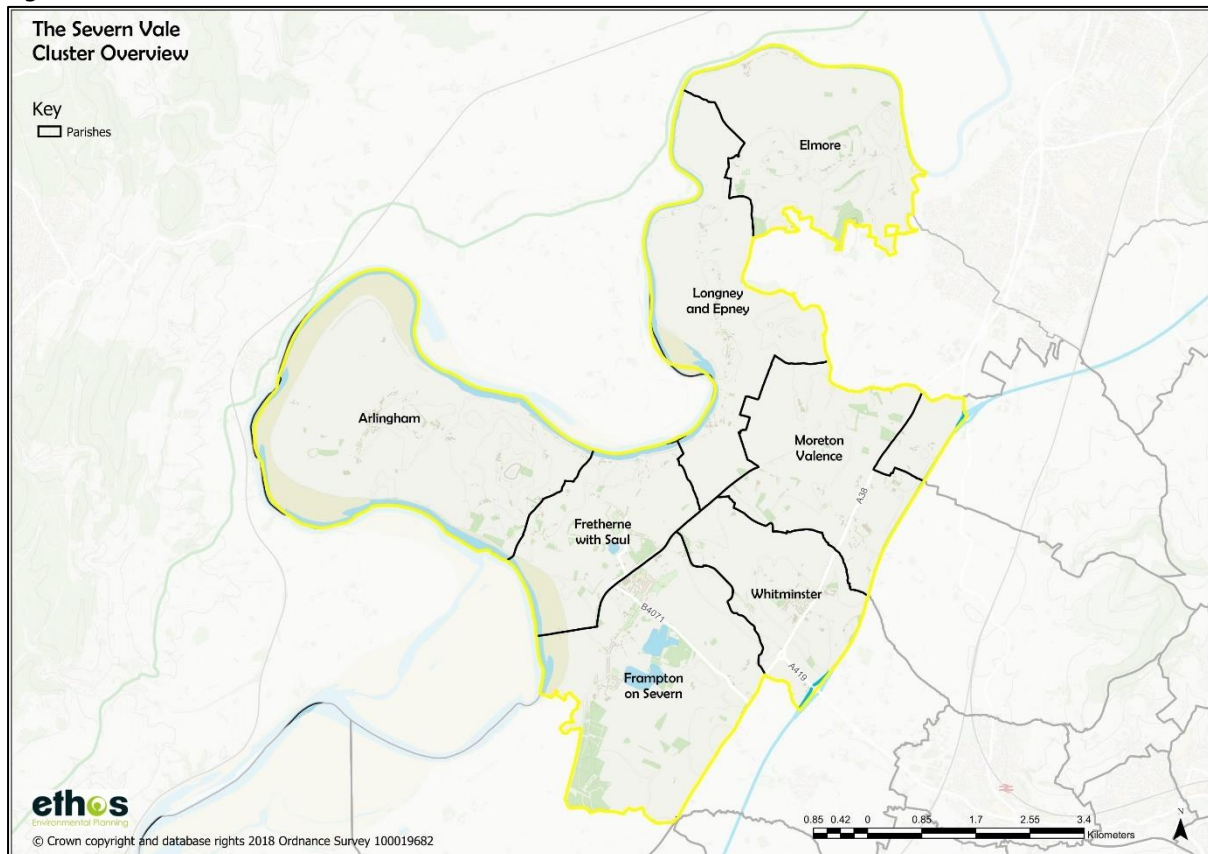
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## 1.0 Geographical area and population

The Severn Vale cluster comprises the Parishes of Arlingham, Elmore, Frampton-on-Severn, Fretherne-with-Saul, Longney & Epney, Moreton Valence and Whitminster as shown in figure 1. The population of this area is 4,110 (ONS 2017 mid-year estimate).

Figure 1 Severn Vale cluster



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

With much of this area falling within the functional floodplain of the Severn, it has a generally low lying open and flat landscape. The land is traversed by key north/south through-routes (M5, A38 and the Gloucester-Sharpness canal), but many communities lie a long way off any main road. The farming community is strong and holdings range from medium-scale dairy, arable and beef farms to family run smallholdings. The natural environment is high quality with sympathetically managed agricultural land, orchards, woodland and watercourses; the Severn Estuary and its margins offer an internationally important wildlife and habitat resource. Frampton-on-Severn has an exceptional built heritage, with a high number of listed buildings set around a very distinctive, long village green.

The hamlets and villages are few and relatively isolated, reflected in the relatively low population densities of these parishes, compared to many other parts of the District. The communities are active and have a strong sense of local identity with more than half living

there more than 10 years. The area is becoming well known for day tourism for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. There are no major employment areas within this cluster.

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

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

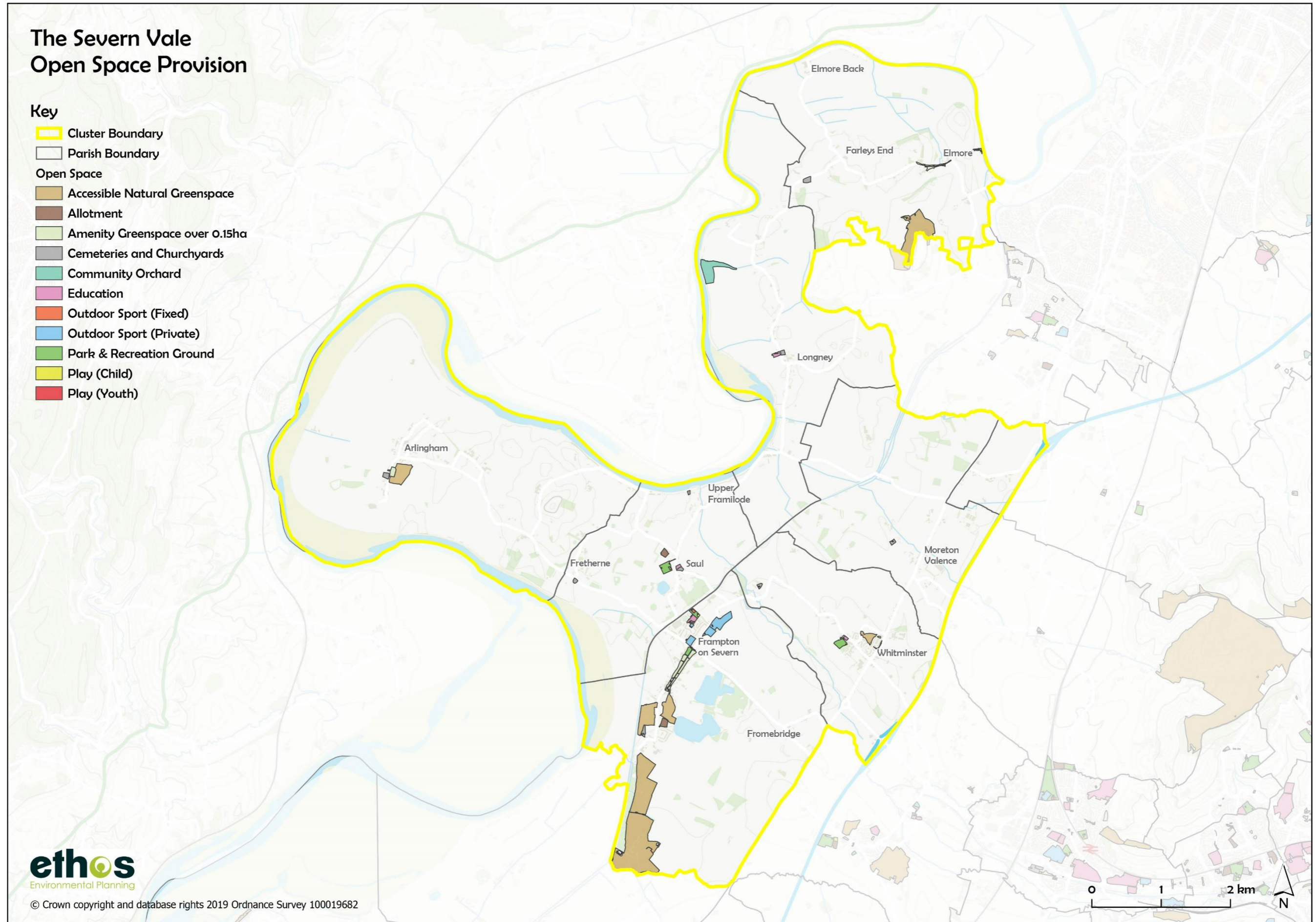


Figure 3 Overview of GI in the Severn Vale cluster

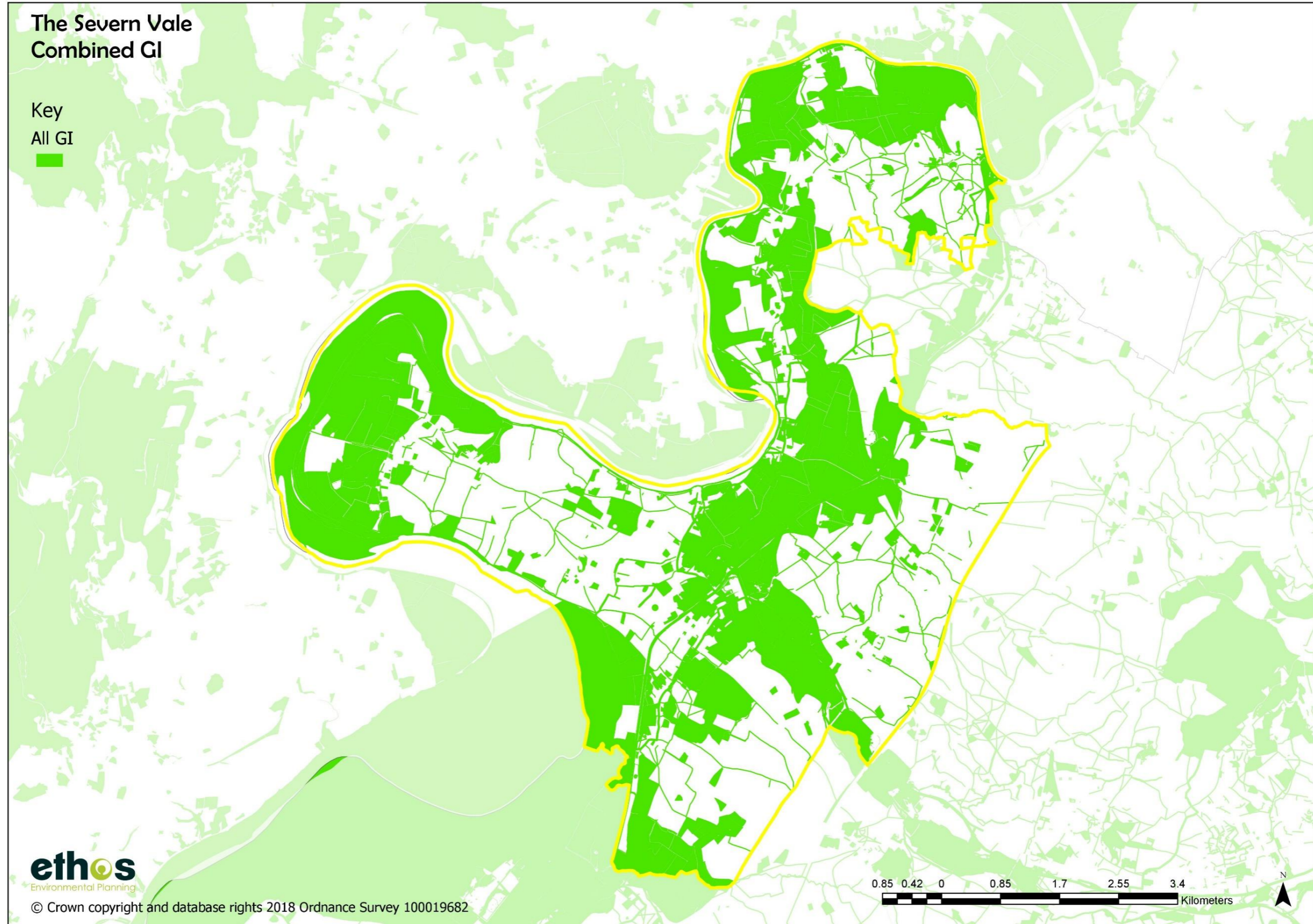


Figure 4 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Designated Sites

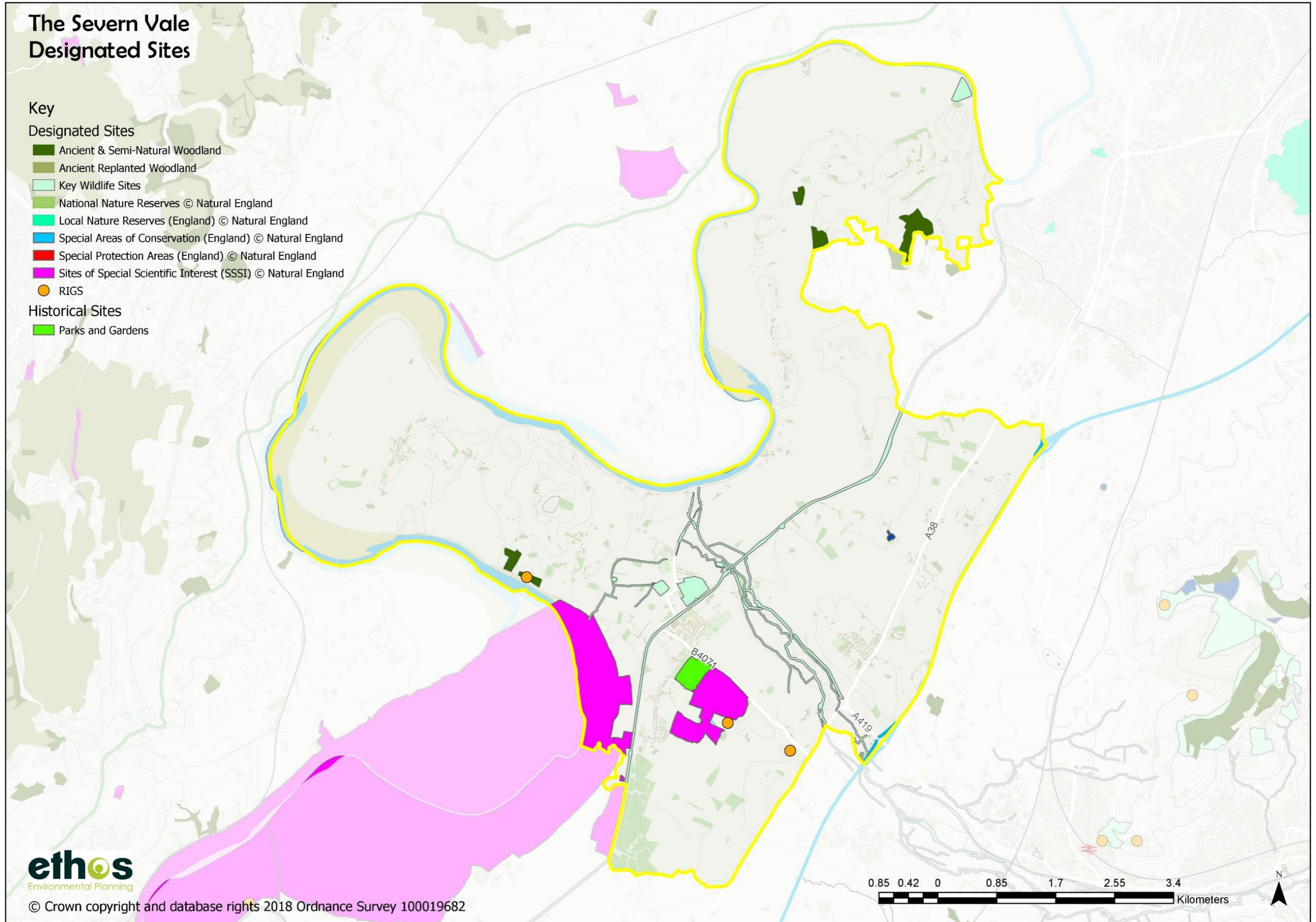


Figure 5 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Priority Habitats, Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs)

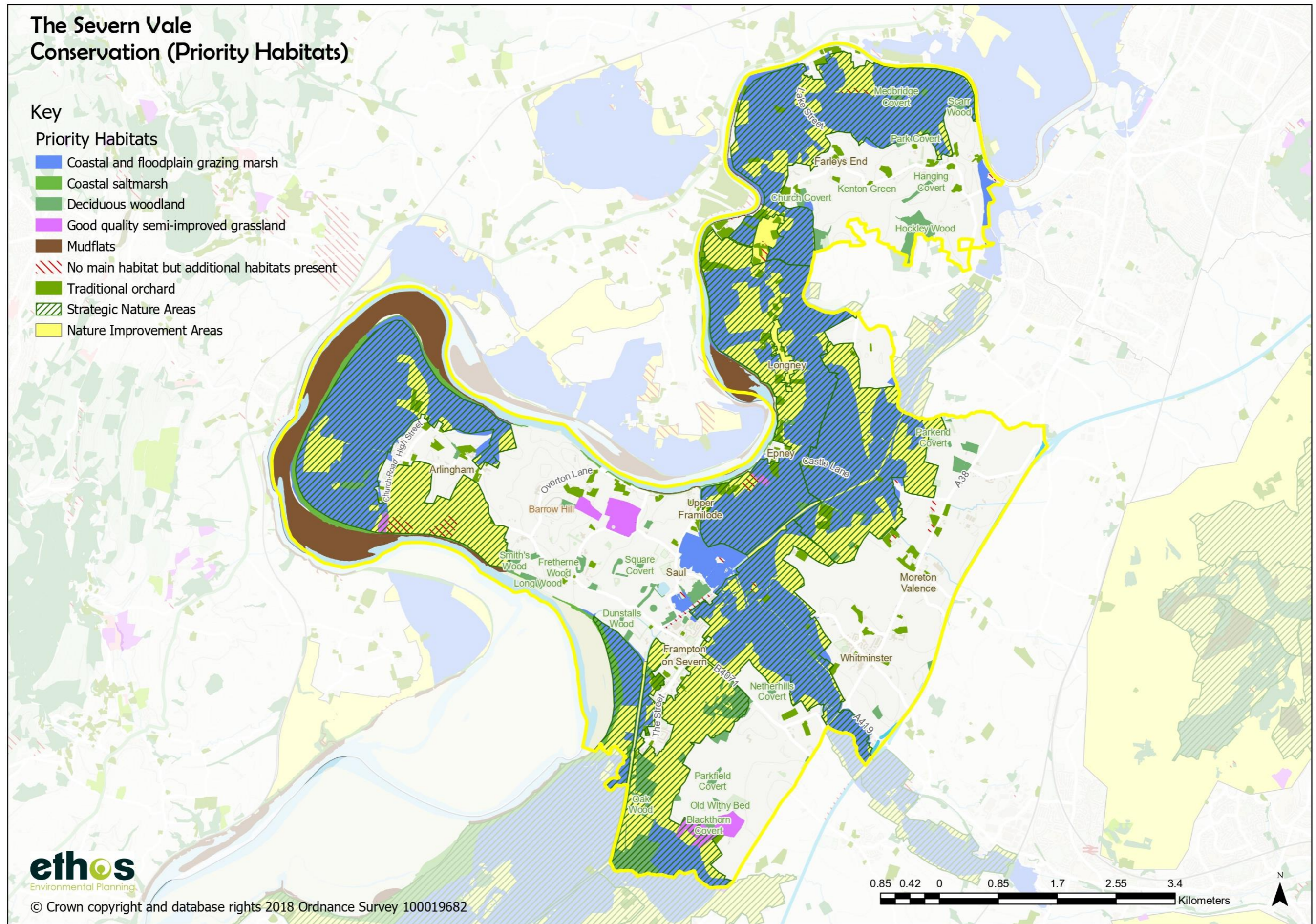




Figure 6 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: National Character Areas (NCAs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

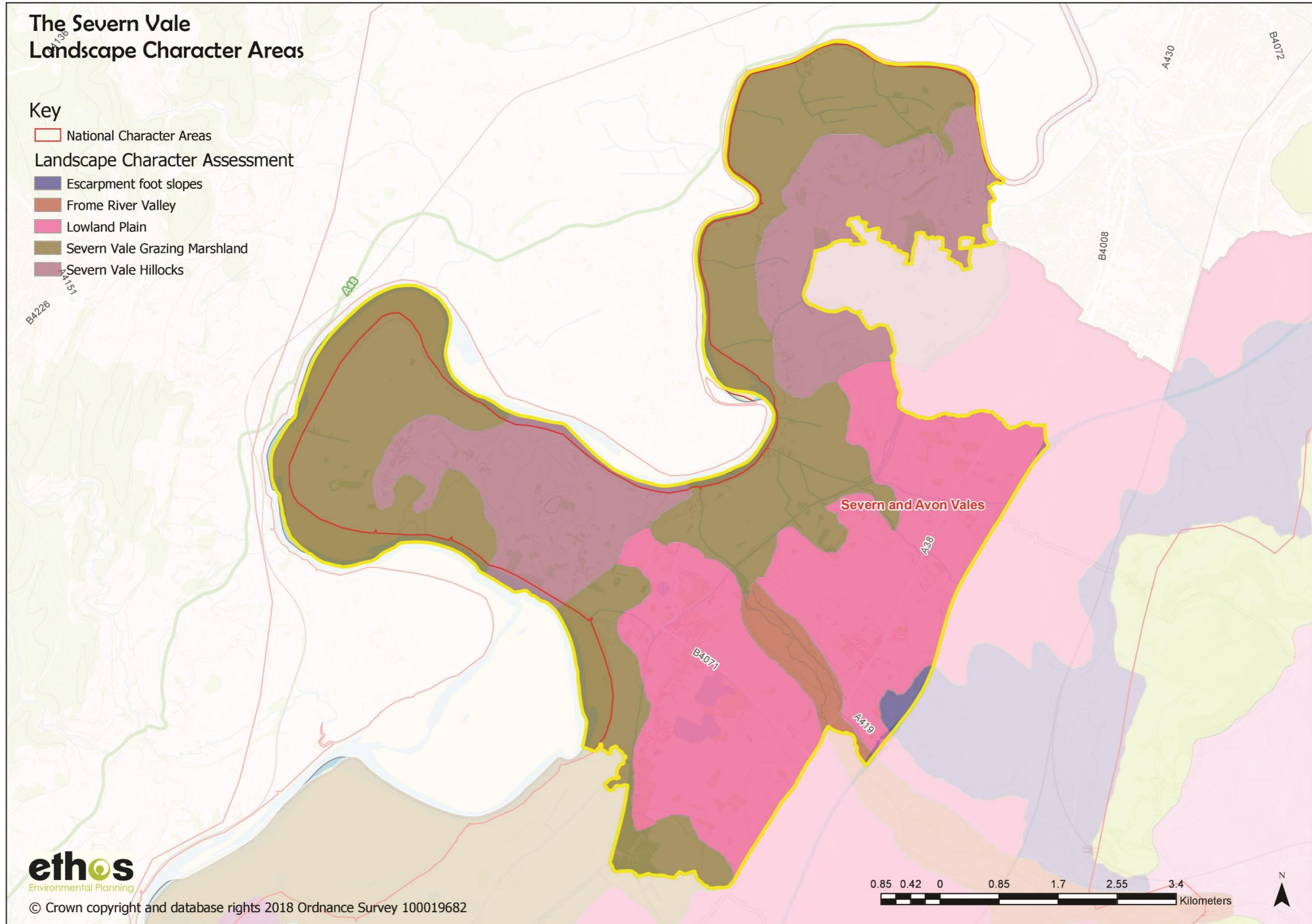


Figure 7 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Water: Canals, Rivers/Streams, Lakes/Surface Water, Priority River Habitat, Floodzone, Source Protection Zones

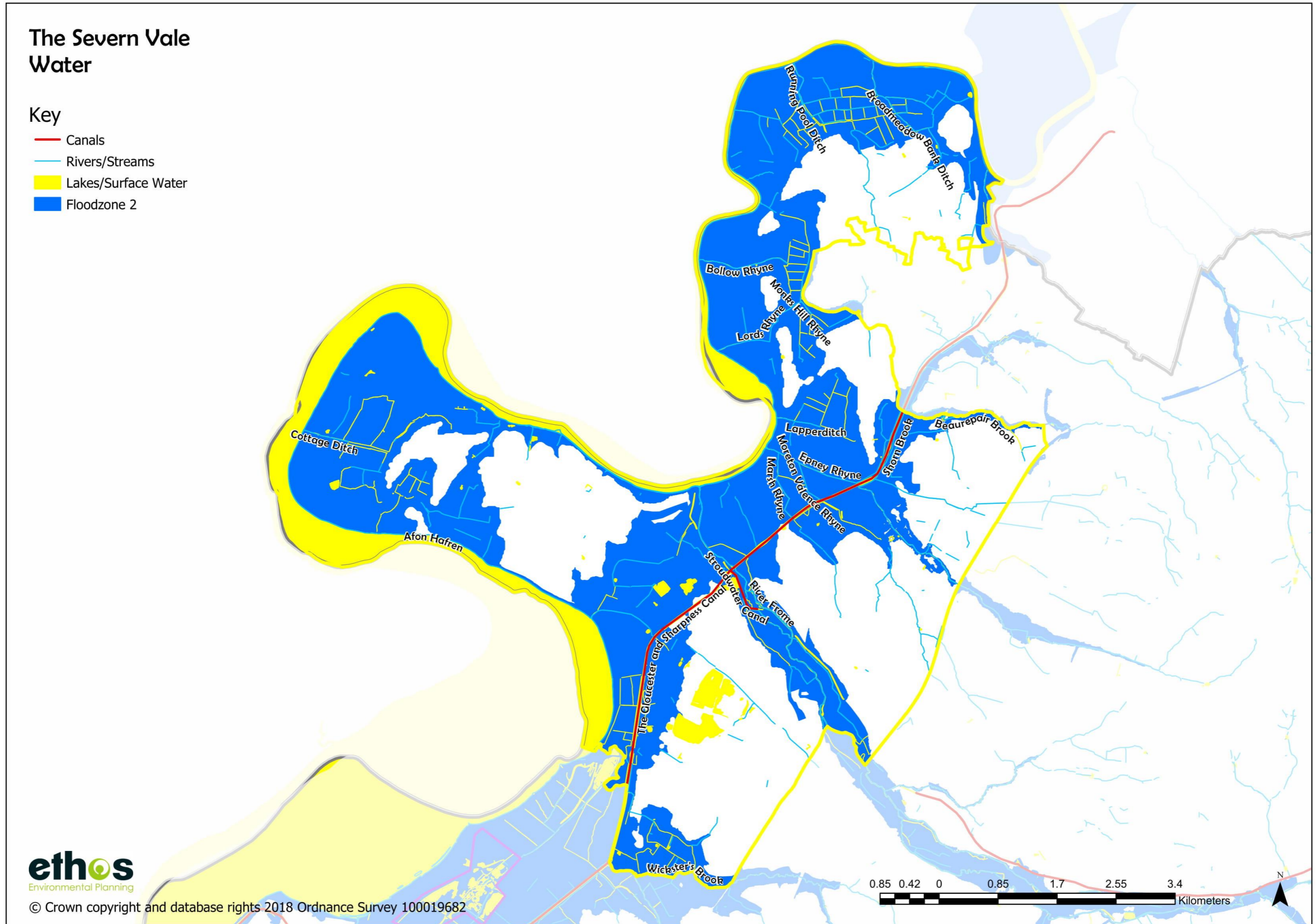
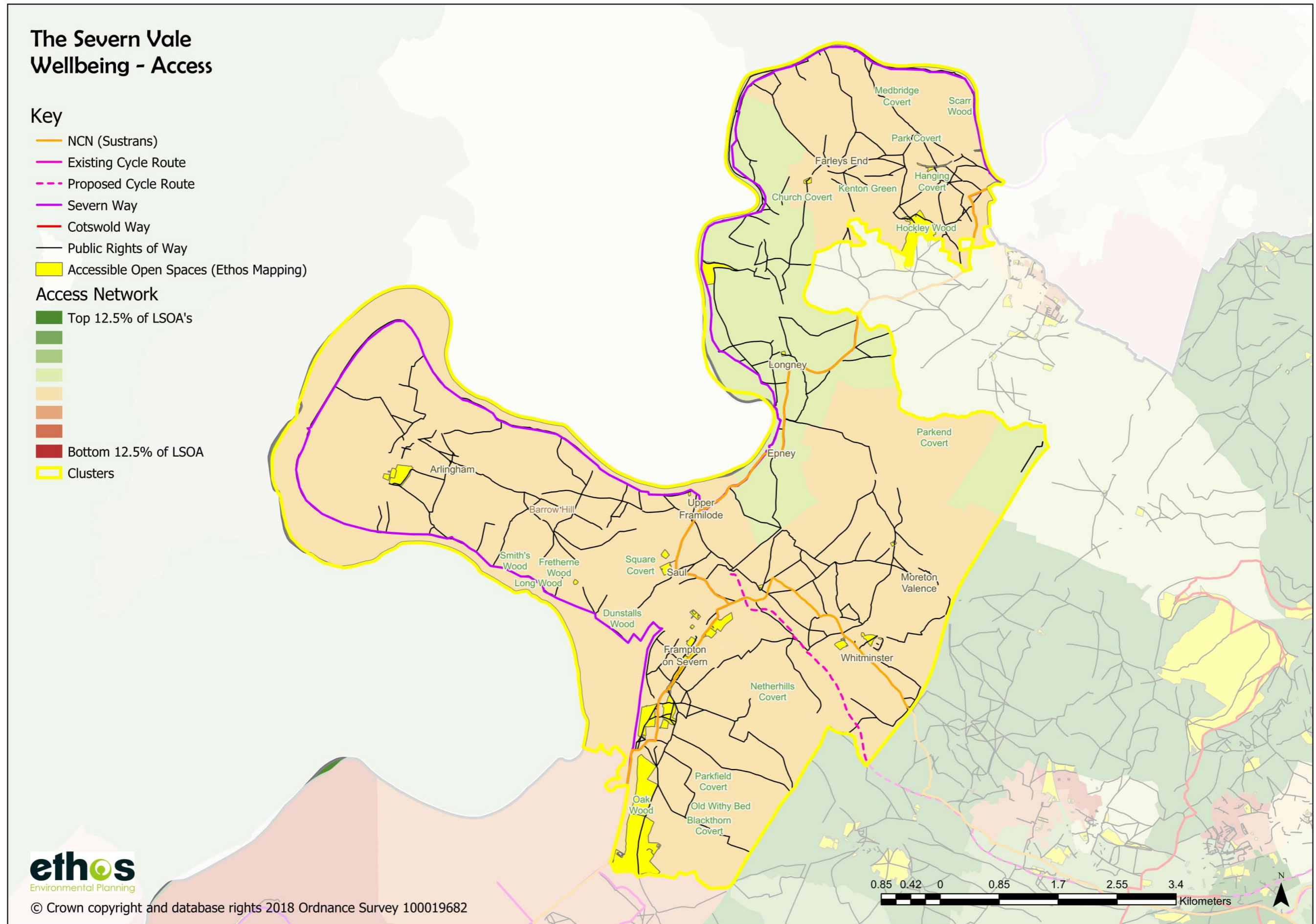


Figure 8 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wellbeing: Accessible open space, PROW and key walking and cycling routes



### 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 Severn Vale 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 Severn Vale cluster*

| Typology                                | Existing Provision (ha) | Existing Provision (ha/1000) | Required Provision (ha) | Required Provision (ha/1000) | Supply (ha) | Supply (ha/1000) | Overall supply    |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Allotments                              | 1.89                    | 0.46                         | 1.44                    | 0.35                         | 0.45        | 0.11             | SUFFICIENT SUPPLY |
| Community Orchards                      | 6.66                    | 1.62                         | N/A                     | N/A                          | N/A         | N/A              | N/A               |
| Amenity Green Space                     | 6.95                    | 1.69                         | 1.64                    | 0.40                         | 5.31        | 1.29             | SUFFICIENT SUPPLY |
| Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined) | 4.97                    | 1.21                         | 4.93                    | 1.20                         | 0.04        | 0.01             | SUFFICIENT SUPPLY |
| <i>Park and Recreation Grounds</i>      | <i>4.79</i>             | <i>1.17</i>                  | <i>0</i>                | <i>N/A</i>                   | <i>N/A</i>  | <i>N/A</i>       | <i>N/A</i>        |
| <i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>            | <i>0.18</i>             | <i>0.04</i>                  | <i>0</i>                | <i>N/A</i>                   | <i>N/A</i>  | <i>N/A</i>       | <i>N/A</i>        |
| Play (Child)                            | 0.26                    | 0.06                         | 0.25                    | 0.06                         | 0.01        | 0                | SUFFICIENT SUPPLY |
| Play (Youth)                            | 0.04                    | 0.01                         | 0.25                    | 0.06                         | -0.21       | -0.05            | 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 | 93.19                   | 22.67                        | N/A                     | N/A                          | N/A         | N/A              | N/A            |
| Education                      | 2.04                    | 0.5                          | N/A                     | N/A                          | N/A         | N/A              | N/A            |
| Churchyards and Cemeteries     | 3.98                    | 0.97                         | N/A                     | N/A                          | N/A         | N/A              | N/A            |
| Outdoor Sport (Private)        | 6.63                    | 1.61                         | N/A                     | N/A                          | N/A         | N/A              | N/A            |

As can be seen from the table above, within the Severn Vale cluster, there is an overall sufficient supply of allotments, amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds and play (child) against the standards, with a shortfall in play (youth) The total shortfall is 0.21 ha.

## GI

The following GI assets have been identified within the Severn Vale Cluster:

Table 2 GI assets

| Priority Habitats                               | Area (ha) |
|---|-----------|
| Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh            | 1638.37   |
| Coastal saltmarsh                               | 50.96     |
| Deciduous woodland                              | 155.99    |
| Good quality semi-improved grassland            | 52.41     |
| Lowland calcareous grassland                    | 0         |
| Lowland dry acid grassland                      | 0         |
| Lowland meadows                                 | 0         |
| Mudflats  | 216.24    |
| No main habitat but additional habitats present | 36.67     |
| Purple moor grass and rush pastures             | 0         |
| Traditional orchard                             | 119.35    |

| Nature conservation, AONB, geology and historic sites | Area (ha)      |
|---|----------------|
| Ancient Woodland                                      | 33.16          |
| KWS   | 127.24         |
| LNR   | 0              |
| NNR   | 0              |
| RAMSAR  | 90.37          |
| SAC   | 109.23         |
| SPA   | 90.37          |
| SSSI  | 181.16         |
| RIGS  | 3 <sup>1</sup> |

<sup>1</sup> This relates to the number of RIGS, not the area, as the dataset uses points rather than polygons.

| Nature conservation, AONB, geology and historic sites | Area (ha) |
|---|-----------|
| AONB  | 0         |
| Registered Parks                                      | 15.13     |
| SAM   | 0.92      |

| Rivers and Canals                  | Length (m) |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Afon Hafren                        | 11102.16   |
| The Gloucester and Sharpness Canal | 7211.46    |
| River Frome                        | 5166.48    |
| Lords Rhyne                        | 2344.86    |
| Broadmeadow Bank Ditch             | 1944.03    |
| Epney Rhyne                        | 1510.35    |
| Bollow Rhyne                       | 1401.98    |
| Wickster's Brook                   | 1371.15    |
| Shorn Brook                        | 1361.97    |
| Marsh Rhyne                        | 1072.66    |
| Running Pool Ditch                 | 939.08     |
| Dimore Brook                       | 742.22     |
| Stroudwater Canal                  | 733.55     |
| Cottage Ditch                      | 715.06     |
| Lapperditch                        | 709.12     |
| Moreton Valence Rhyne              | 670.26     |
| Beaurepair Brook                   | 655.18     |
| Monks Hill Rhyne                   | 243.33     |
| River Cam                          | 139.87     |
| Hope Pill Rhyne                    | 105.62     |
| Long Brook                         | 2.68       |

## 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 Severn Vale 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)

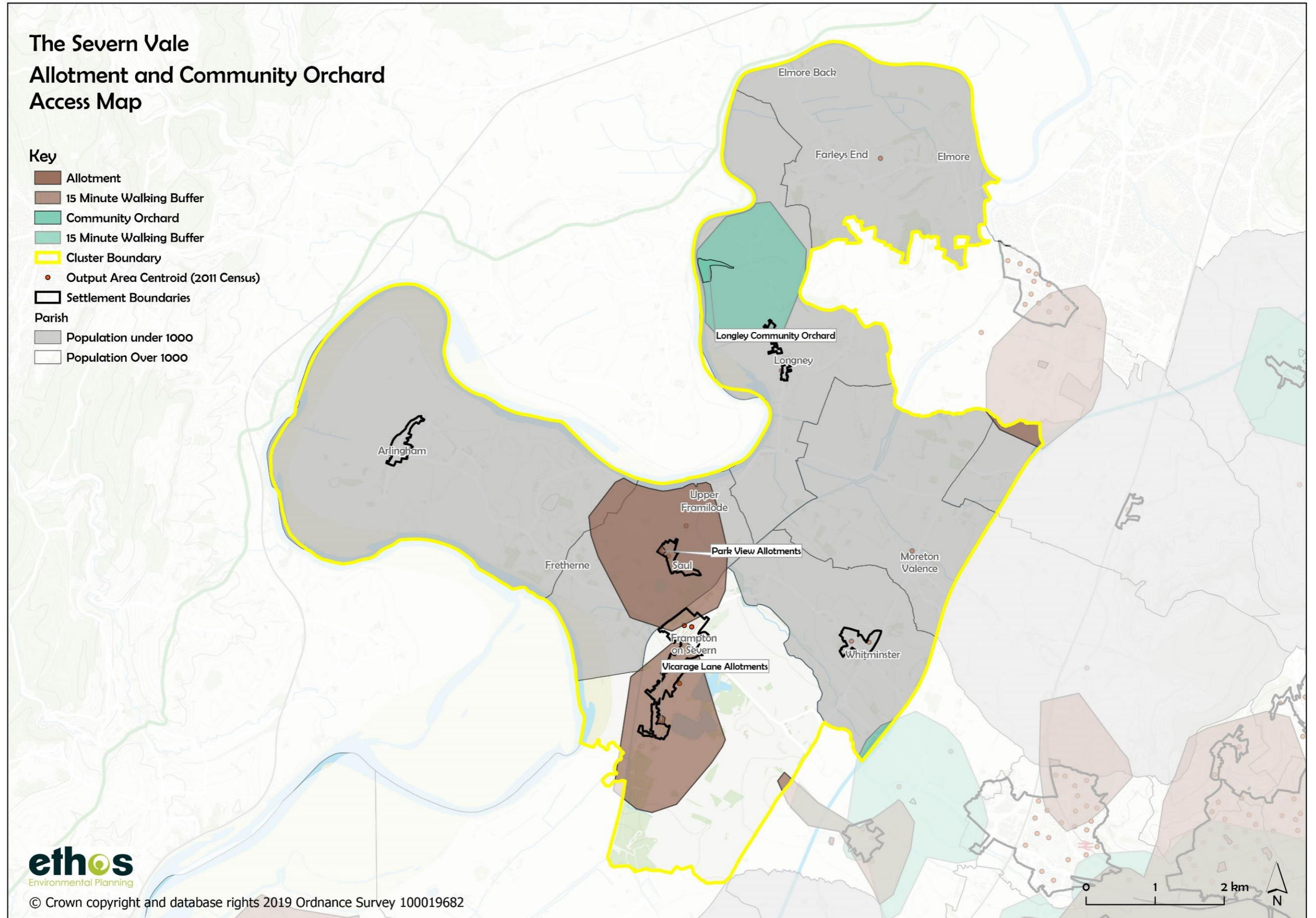


Figure 10 Access to amenity green space (13 minutes' walk time)

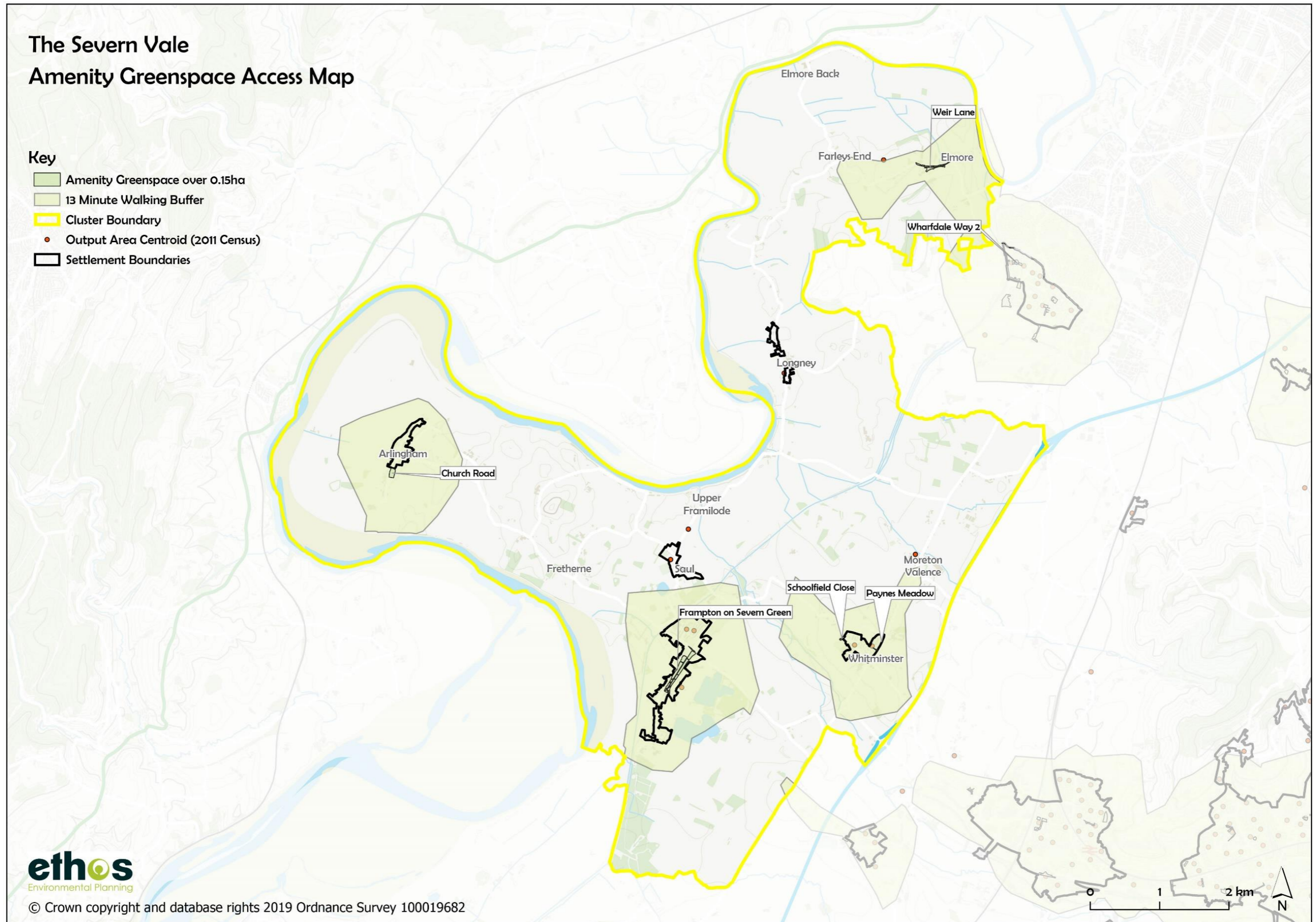




Figure 11 Access to parks and recreation grounds, amenity green space and outdoor sport private (13 minutes' walk time)

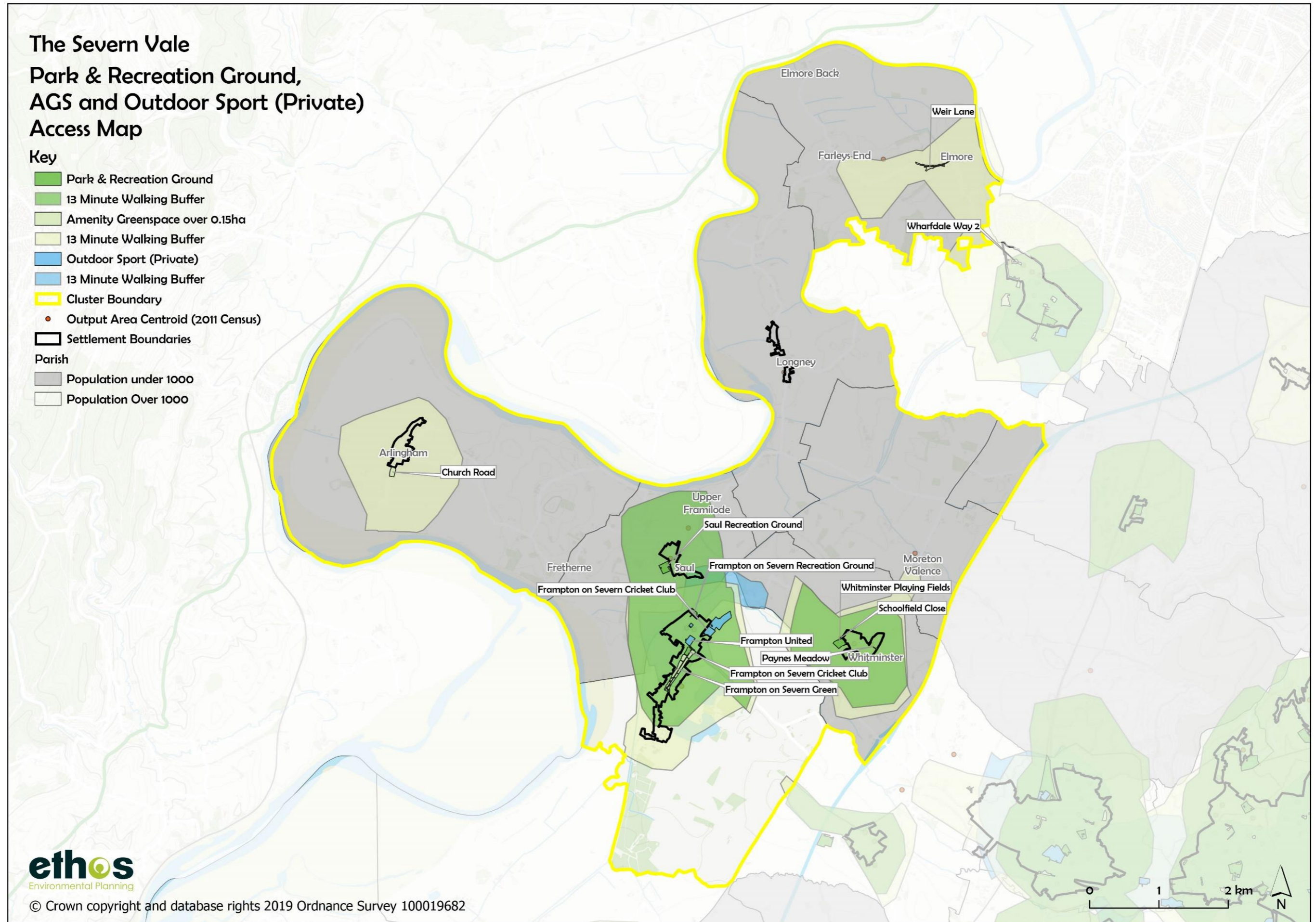


Figure 12 Access to children's play space (10 minutes' walk time)

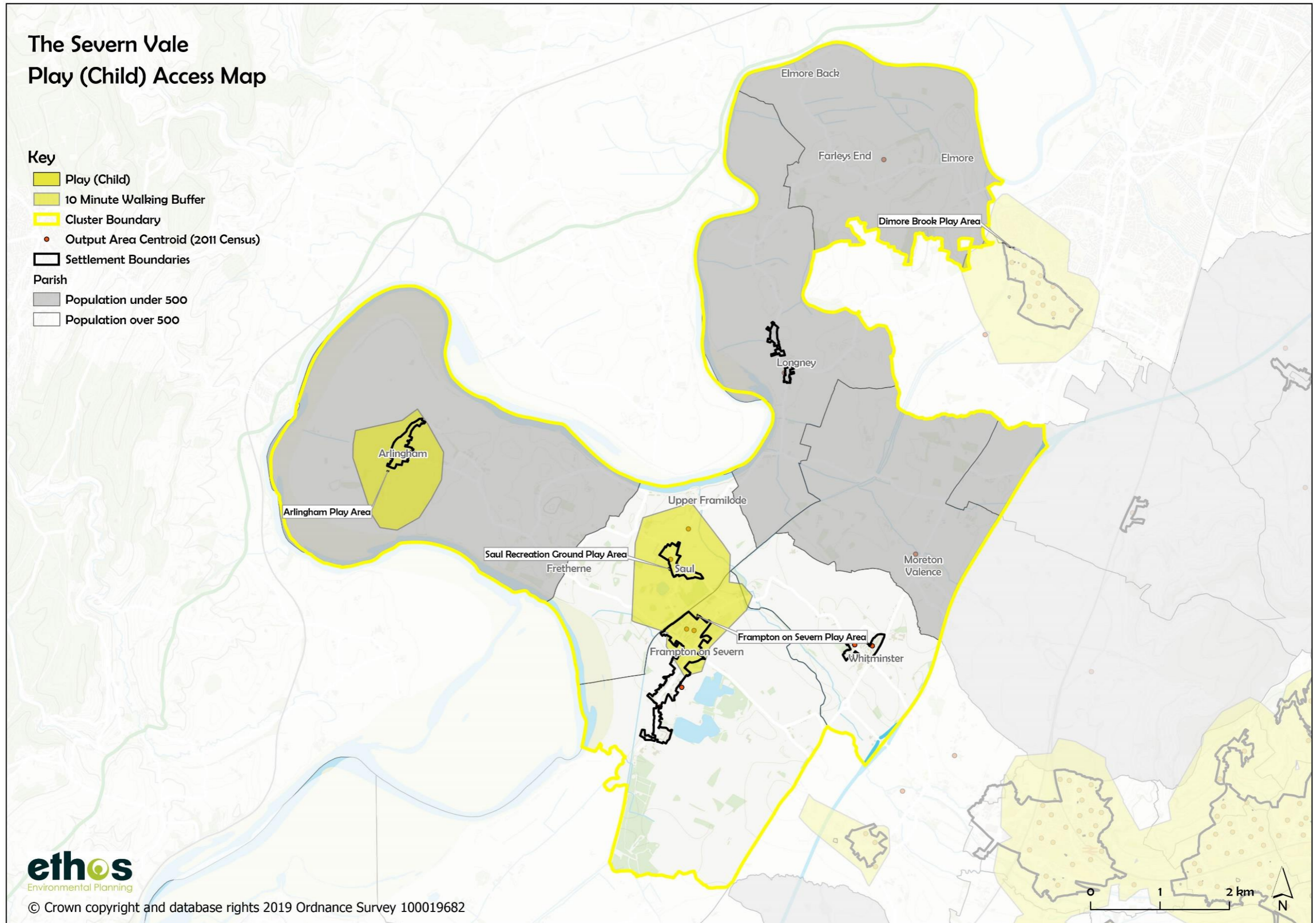


Figure 13 Access to youth play space (15 minutes' walk time)

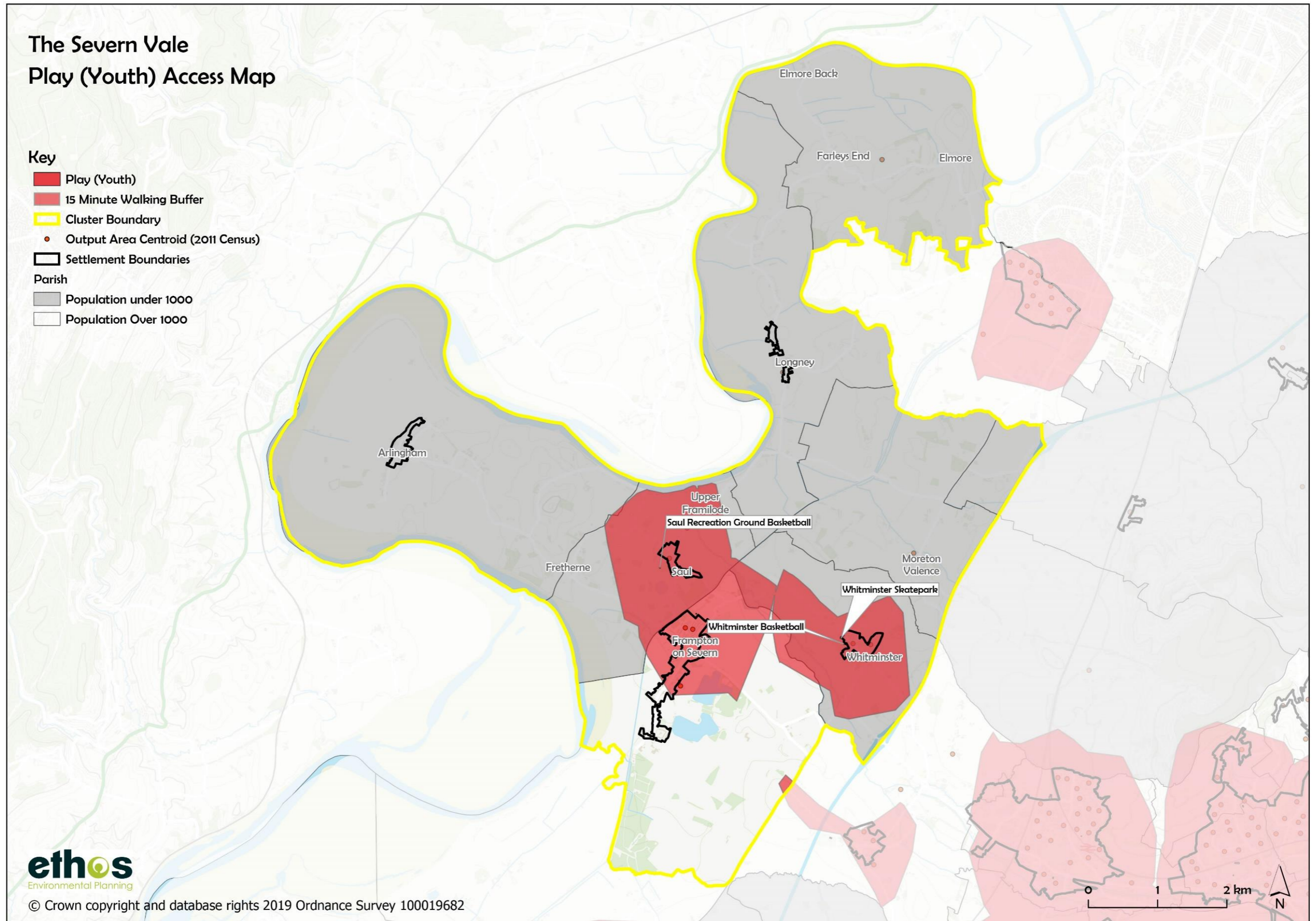


Figure 14 Access to accessible natural green space (960m buffer)

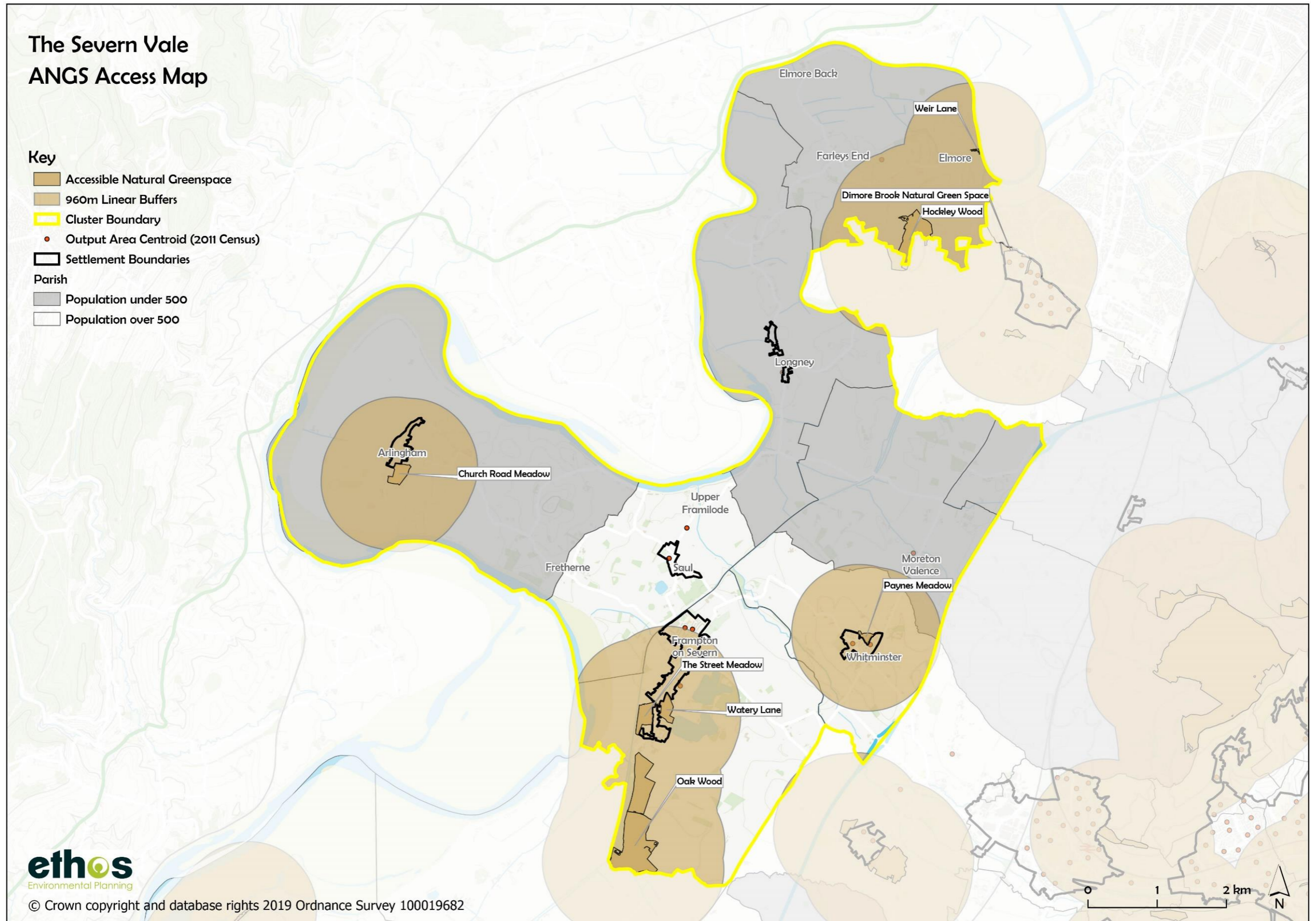


Figure 15 Access to accessible natural green space (20ha + sites within 2km)

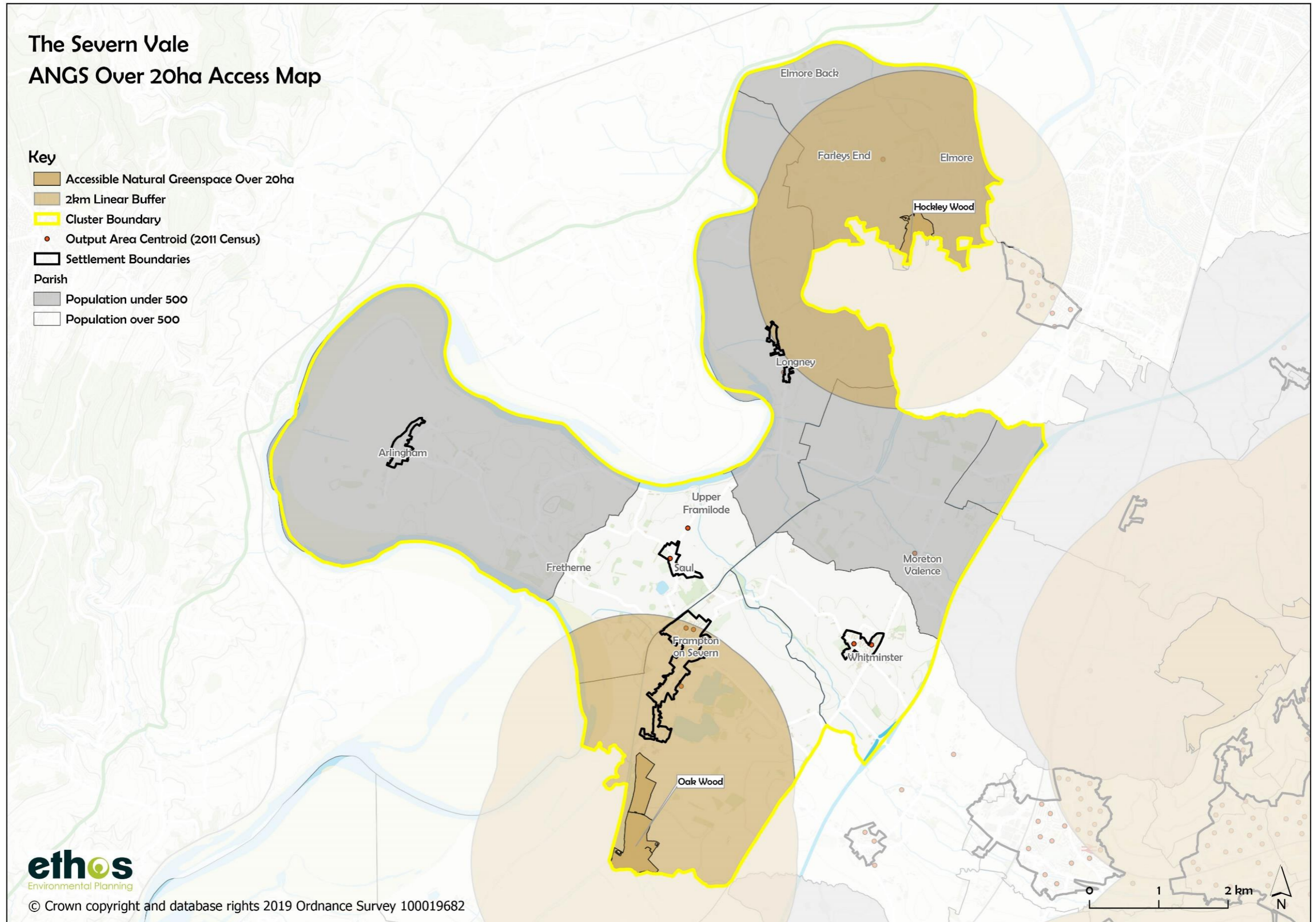


Figure 16 Access to accessible natural green space (100ha + sites within 5km)

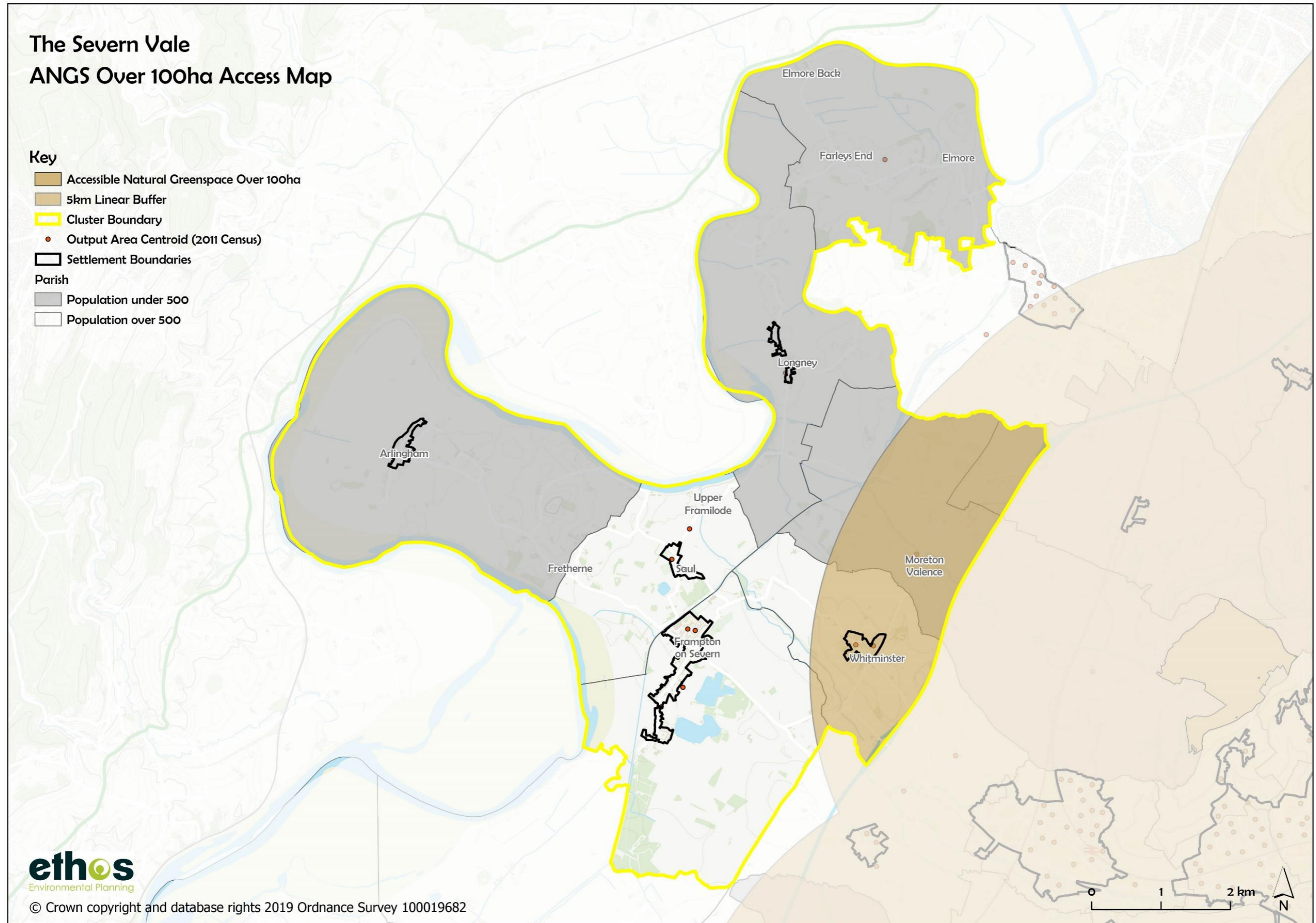


Table 3 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 9 to 16, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

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

| <b>Typology</b>                   | <b>Current Access</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Allotments and community orchards | Good access across the cluster in parishes with a population over 1000, small gap in access in Frampton on Severn.   |
| Amenity Green Space               | Access is generally good to amenity green space within the cluster. However, there are two settlements which have gaps (Longney and Saul).   |
| Parks and Recreation Grounds      | Good access, amenity green space provides access to some settlements in parishes with less than 1000 population.   |
| Children's play space             | In parishes with over 500 people, there are large gaps in access in Frampton on Severn and Whitminster.  |
| Youth Play space                  | Key gap in access is within the southern part of Frampton on Severn.   |
| Accessible Natural Green Space    | Fairly good access against the 960m access standard, although gaps in access in the settlements of Saul and Longney. Access is poor against the 20+ and 100+ha standards as the majority of the cluster not having access. |

## GI

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

As can be seen, there is good access to the Severn Way throughout the length of the cluster with a large number of PROWs connecting to it. Along with the abundance of PROWs, there is also the NCN and a proposed cycle route within the cluster. Most of the accessible open spaces and settlements are well connected through the PROWs.

When analysing access against the Natural England Access Network Mapping (also see figure 8), it shows that the area generally has an average to poor abundance of accessible land across the whole cluster. However, there is good provision of accessible open spaces and PROWs, especially in the southern part of the cluster (there are limitations with this NE 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 Severn Vale 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 (Paynes Meadow) that has been assessed as 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 below, the assessment identified that the majority sites that scored B (average) with only a couple of sites scoring A (good)<sup>2</sup>.

A summary of the quality and GI audit results from the Severn Vale 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 |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|
| 347     | Watery Lane              | Accessible Natural Greenspace | A large open grassland accessed by a footpath off the road that is very easy to miss.                                      | Improve signage so that the site is more obvious.  | Improve biodiversity of the site.                   | 76.67                  | A                | 6.67           | B        |
| 399     | Paynes Meadow            | Accessible Natural Greenspace | Large field, rough grass, informal paths/desire lines, numerous access points, no signage, barbed wire fence, some litter. | Site could be vastly improved with better access points, replace barbed wire fence with wooden fence, install welcome/info signage and directional signage, install benches and improve management of grassland - manage as wildflower meadow with mown paths. | Improve management of grassland and improve access. | 61                     | B                | 6.33           | B        |
| 324     | Frampton on Severn Green | Amenity Greenspace            | Enormous green with large pond, varied trees and long grass.   | All the site is roadside and yet there are no paths which limit the accessibility of the site for all.   | Brilliant site for wildlife. No suggestions.        | 87                     | A                | 8.67           | A        |
| 397     | Paynes Meadow            | Amenity Greenspace            | Amenity grass strip with trees alongside hard-surfaced path.   | Further tree/shrub planting to enhance biodiversity value.   | Planting to enhance biodiversity value.             | 70                     | B                | 6.33           | 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 |
|---------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|
| 272     | Saul Recreation Ground               | Parks and Recreation Grounds | Exemplary site with plenty of biodiversity, wildlife pond, a number of play facilities and varied seating and bins.  | None.   | None.   | 99                     | A                | 8              | A        |
| 304     | Frampton on Severn Recreation Ground | Parks and Recreation Grounds | A gated playing field with welcoming signage although a large proportion of the site is taken up by the tennis club. There is a small informal football.               | Increase seating.   | Plant more trees or shrubs along the sites border with the adjoining school.                      | 96                     | A                | 6.67           | B        |
| 396     | Whitminster Playing Fields           | Parks and Recreation Grounds | Decent quality park and recreation ground with cricket, football, skate park, basketball hoop and children's play area. Dated pavilion and shelters, car parking area. | Pavilion could be updated, the shelters at the rear of the park are poor quality and very unwelcoming with lots of litter and cigarette butts - these should be completely renovated or removed. The car parking area could also be upgraded. | Biodiversity value could be improved with wildflower margins/expanding existing tall grass areas. | 77                     | A                | 6.67           | B        |
| 257     | Arlingham Play Area                  | Play (Child)                 | A tucked away play area with high quality varied wooden equipment, sand pit and seating.   | The gate latch is missing and should be repaired. Otherwise, no issues.   | None.   | 91                     | A                | 6.67           | 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 |
|---------|---|--------------|--|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|
| 270     | Saul Recreation Ground Play Area                | Play (Child) | Perfectly maintained open play area with novel equipment such as mock kitchens! Formal planting nearby and bee houses. | None.                  | None.          | 99                     | A                | N/A            | N/A      |
| 312     | Frampton on Severn Play Area                    | Play (Child) | A spacious site with high quality new wooden equipment and excellent landscape management.                             | None.                  | None.          | 94.44                  | A                | N/A            | N/A      |
| 271     | Saul Recreation Ground Basketball               | Play (Youth) | A basic basketball hoop with two small skate ramps.  | None.                  | None.          | 88.89                  | A                | N/A            | N/A      |
| 311     | Frampton on Severn Recreation Ground Basketball | Play (Youth) | A somewhat dilapidated basketball hoop but in safe and fully functional condition with decent hard standing surfacing. | Restore net.           | None.          | 86.67                  | 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 |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------|---|--|----------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|
| 394     | Whitminster Play Area | Play (Youth) | Good quality skate ramps, part of park, fenced off, with good access. | Biodiversity value of surrounding area could be improved with shrub/tree planting. | None.          | 80                     | A                | N/A            | N/A      |

Figure 17 Summary of open space quality audit results in Severn Vale cluster

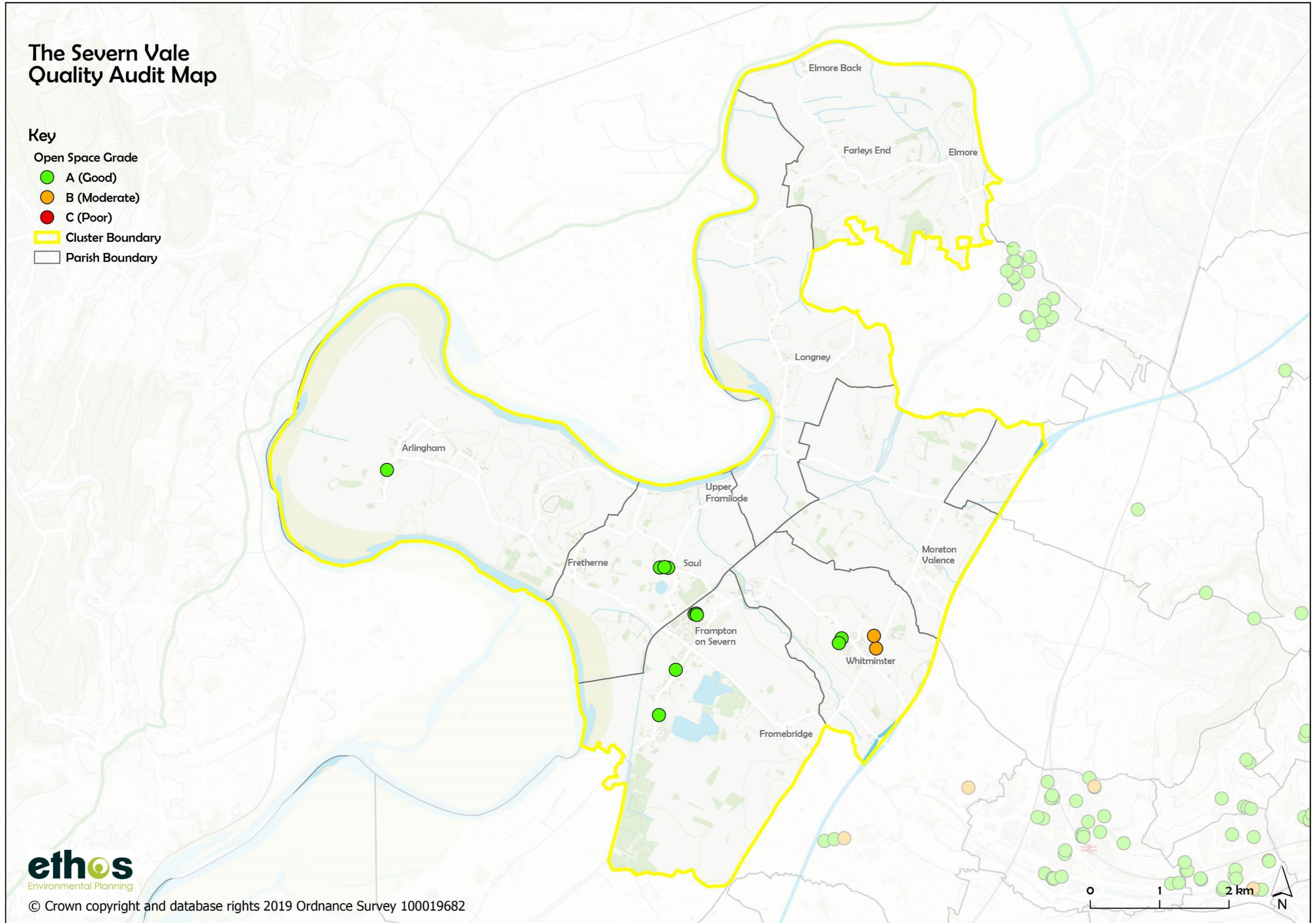
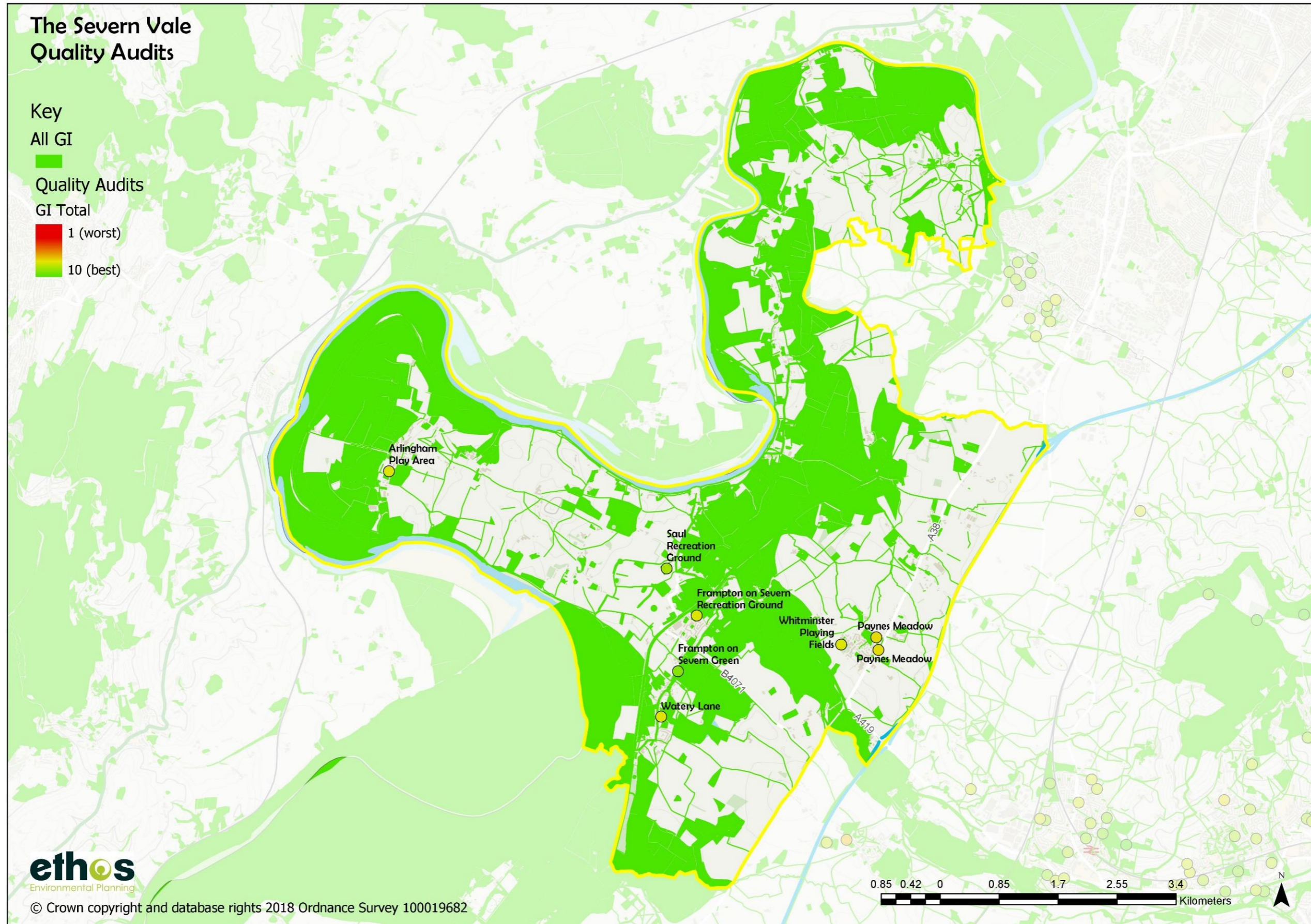


Figure 18 Summary of open space GI quality score



## 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 below, both Frampton Pools and Upper Severn Estuary have scope to improve the condition of the SSSIs.

Figure 19 Severn Vale SSSIs

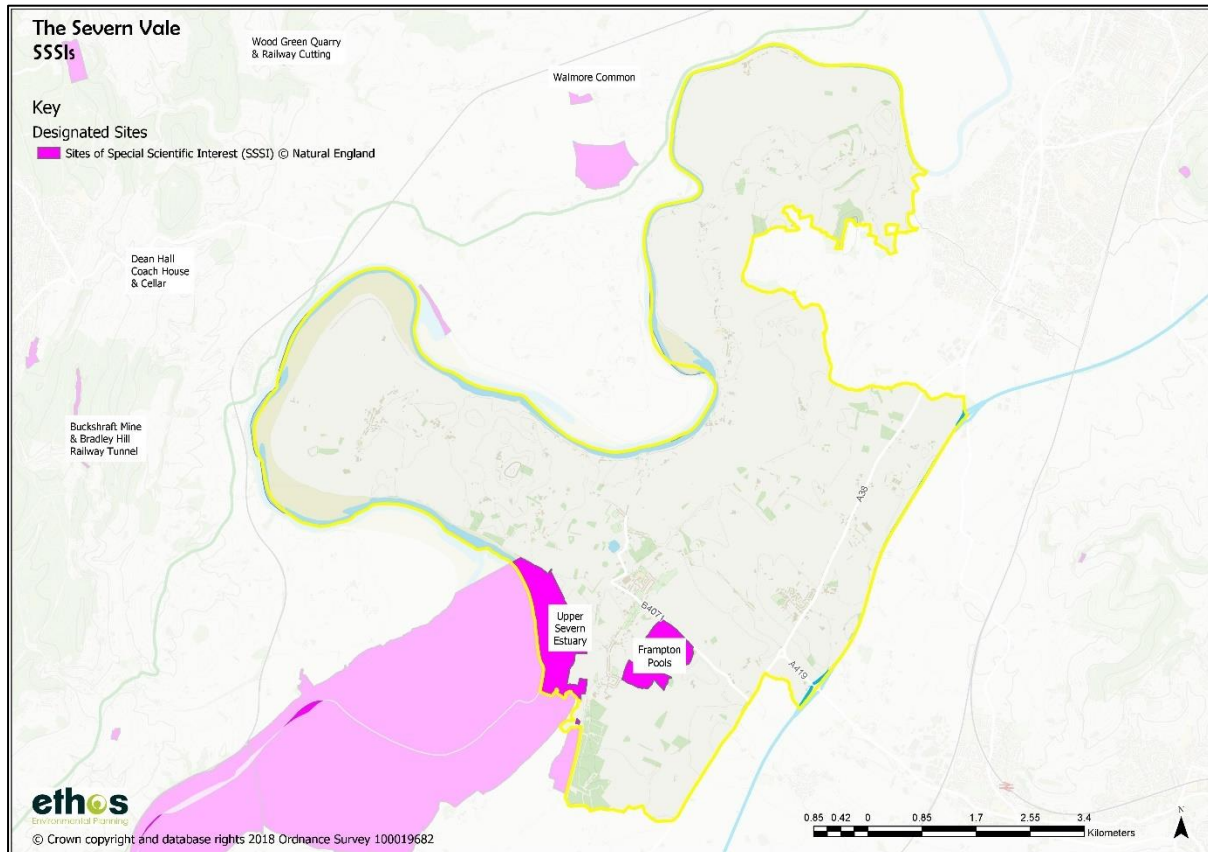


Table 5 Condition summary of SSSI's sites within the Severn Vale cluster

| Site Name      | Designation | Size (ha) | Description/features of interest   | Condition summary  |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|--|--|
| Frampton Pools | SSSI        | 55.81     | A good example of open water habitat in the Severn Vale. The site has several lakes formed as a result of gravel extraction which has developing fauna and flora and is important for wintering wildfowl. Most of the site consists of standing water surrounded by broadleaved woodland and scrub. The water contains aquatic plants and invertebrates and stocked with coarse fish. Winter wildfowl that can be seen on site include mallard | 34.13% Unfavourable – no change.<br>64.87% Unfavourable – declining. |

| Site Name            | Designation | Size (ha) | Description/features of interest   | Condition summary  |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|--|--|
|                      |             |           | and teal, whilst summer visitors to the site include reed warblers.  |  |
| Upper Severn Estuary | SSSI        | 120.56    | 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.<br>3.31% Unfavourable – recovering.<br>10.84% Unfavourable – declining. |

### 5.3 Natural England National Habitat Network Mapping

The Natural England National Habitat Network mapping also indicates that there is a large quantity of ‘restorable habitat’ within The Severn Vale - 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 Gloucester Fringe 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 Severn Vale cluster (up to 2040)*

| Typology                   | Standard for new provision (Ha/1000) | Requirement for 219 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>0.7</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 majority of the area falls within the strategic GI corridor as identified by the GLNP (shown in yellow), which relates to the Severn Vale SNA. 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, the following district/locally important GI corridor has been identified:

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

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

15) Key link for retaining and improving hedgerows, ensure numerous traditional orchards are protected.

16) Restore derelict canal between Stonehouse and Saul Junction.

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

28) Biodiversity and recreation corridor along Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, opportunities for recreation and tourism in line with local plan. Protect and enhance connectivity of priority habitats including floodplain grazing marsh and traditional orchards.

## 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 Severn Vale cluster:

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

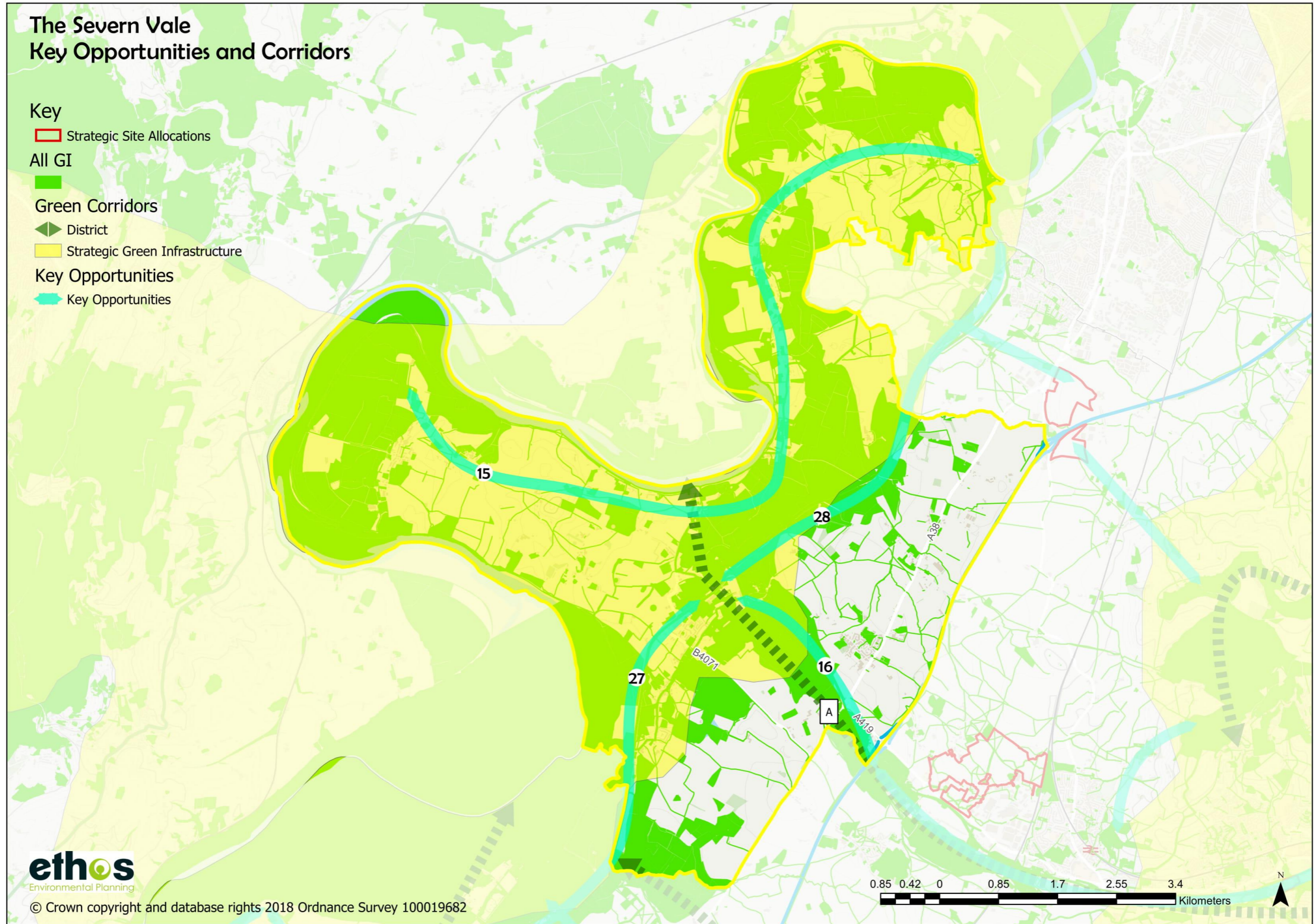
- *Designing a new cycle way between Arlingham Passage and Newnham on Severn.*

***Draft vision to 2040: “Maintaining a distinctive rural way of life and strengthening the resilience of the area’s communities, built heritage and natural environment...”***

*This area has a special character – its unique social and environmental distinctiveness relies partly on its relative isolation and its estuarine location. The relationship to the River Severn is a key aspect in local land use and management decisions.....*

*.....Communities will also feel the environmental and economic benefits of the restored Stroudwater canal. Saul Junction will become an important visitor ‘gateway’ to the Cotswold Canals and the wider Stroud District – part of a growing and ever improving network of walking and cycling routes....*

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:

- Paynes Meadow (B)

The GI quality scores and recommendations should also be considered.

A desktop assessment has also identified potential to improve the condition of Frampton Pools and Upper Severn Estuary (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 Severn Vale cluster, there is sufficient supply of all open space typologies, with the exception of youth play space.

There is good access to either amenity green space or parks and recreation grounds across the cluster (although there is no provision of amenity green space in Longney).

There may be potential for open space within Frampton on Severn to accommodate youth provision and/or food growing areas to reduce the gap in access in this area. There are also gaps in access to children's play spaces in the southern part of Frampton on Severn and in Whitminster, where existing open space may be able to accommodate new children's play space.

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

Although there is sufficient supply of all typologies (except youth play space), considering the parish population sizes, there are gaps in access to children's play space in Whitminster and in the southern part of Frampton on Severn (along with access to youth play space). There is also a gap in access to natural green space in Saul. 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 Severn Vale 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 2.6) 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):

- 15) Key link for retaining and improving hedgerows, ensure numerous traditional orchards are protected.
- 16) Restore derelict canal between Stonehouse and Saul Junction.
- 27) Protect and enhance Gloucester and Sharpness Canal corridor for biodiversity and access.
- 28) Biodiversity and recreation corridor along Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, opportunities for recreation and tourism in line with local plan. Protect and enhance connectivity of priority habitats including floodplain grazing marsh and traditional orchards.

### 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.

Although there is sufficient supply of open space (with the exception of youth play space) this does not mean there is any surplus in provision, as any loss of facilities may result in gaps in access or subsequent shortfalls in supply. 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 first be considered for meeting shortfalls in youth play space, or other typologies where there are gaps in access.

Irrespective of this, the role that open space performs 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.