

## Stroud Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study



### Stroud Valleys Cluster Sub Area Analysis Report (Part 2 of 2)

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Ecology | Green Space | Arboiculture | GIS

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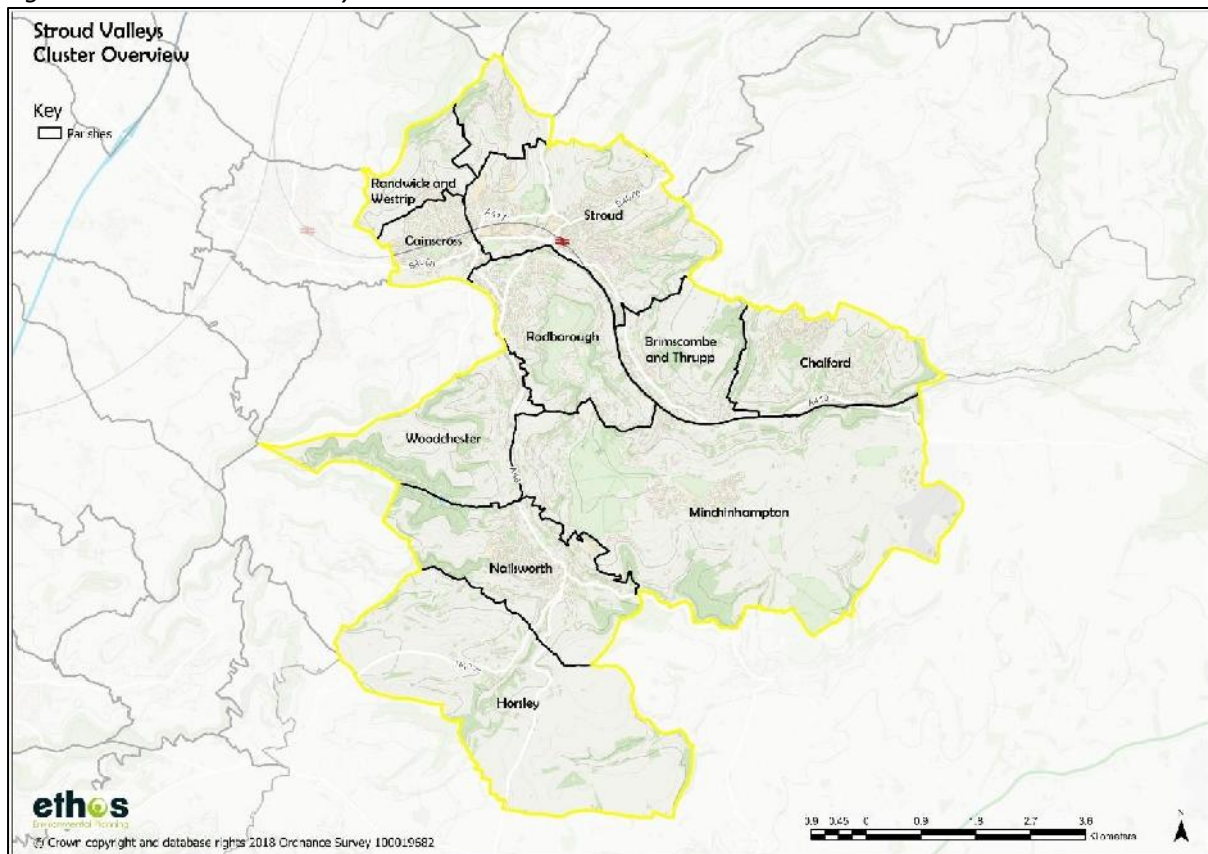


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## 1.0 Geographical area and population

The Stroud Valleys cluster comprises the Parishes of Brimscombe and Thrupp, Cainscross Chalford, Horsley, Minchinhampton, Nailsworth, Randwick and Westrip, Rodborough, Stroud, Whiteshill and Ruscombe and Woodchester as shown in figure 1. The population of this area is 49,666 (ONS 2017 mid-year estimate).

Figure 1 Stroud Valleys cluster



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

Around 40% of the District's population is concentrated within the parishes of the Stroud valleys. Stroud is the District's principal town and it has a reputation for its artistic and 'green'-thinking community. This is the most populous part of the District, yet it retains a distinctive rural character. The majority of this area falls within the Cotswolds AONB, with the exception of the valley bottoms, which is where industry was traditionally focussed and where today much of the transport infrastructure is squeezed in. The core urban area relates to the parishes of Stroud, Cainscross (the most densely populated parish in the District) and Rodborough, with the settlements of Thrupp, Brimscombe, North Woodchester, South Woodchester and Nailsworth having strong functional links to that core.

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

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

Figure 3 provides an overview of the GI network/assets within the Stroud Valleys 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 Stroud Valleys cluster

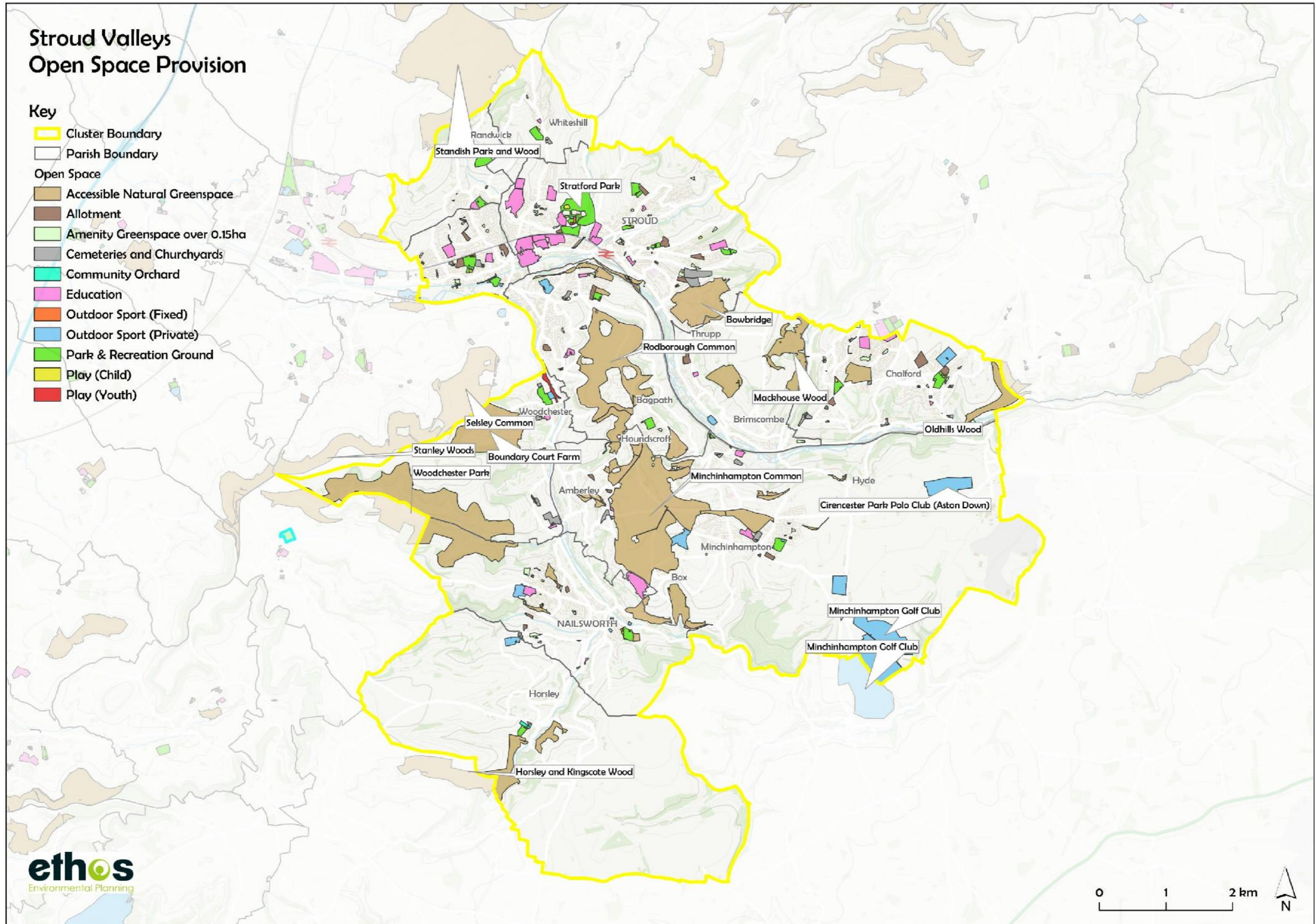


Figure 3 Overview of GI in the Stroud Valleys cluster

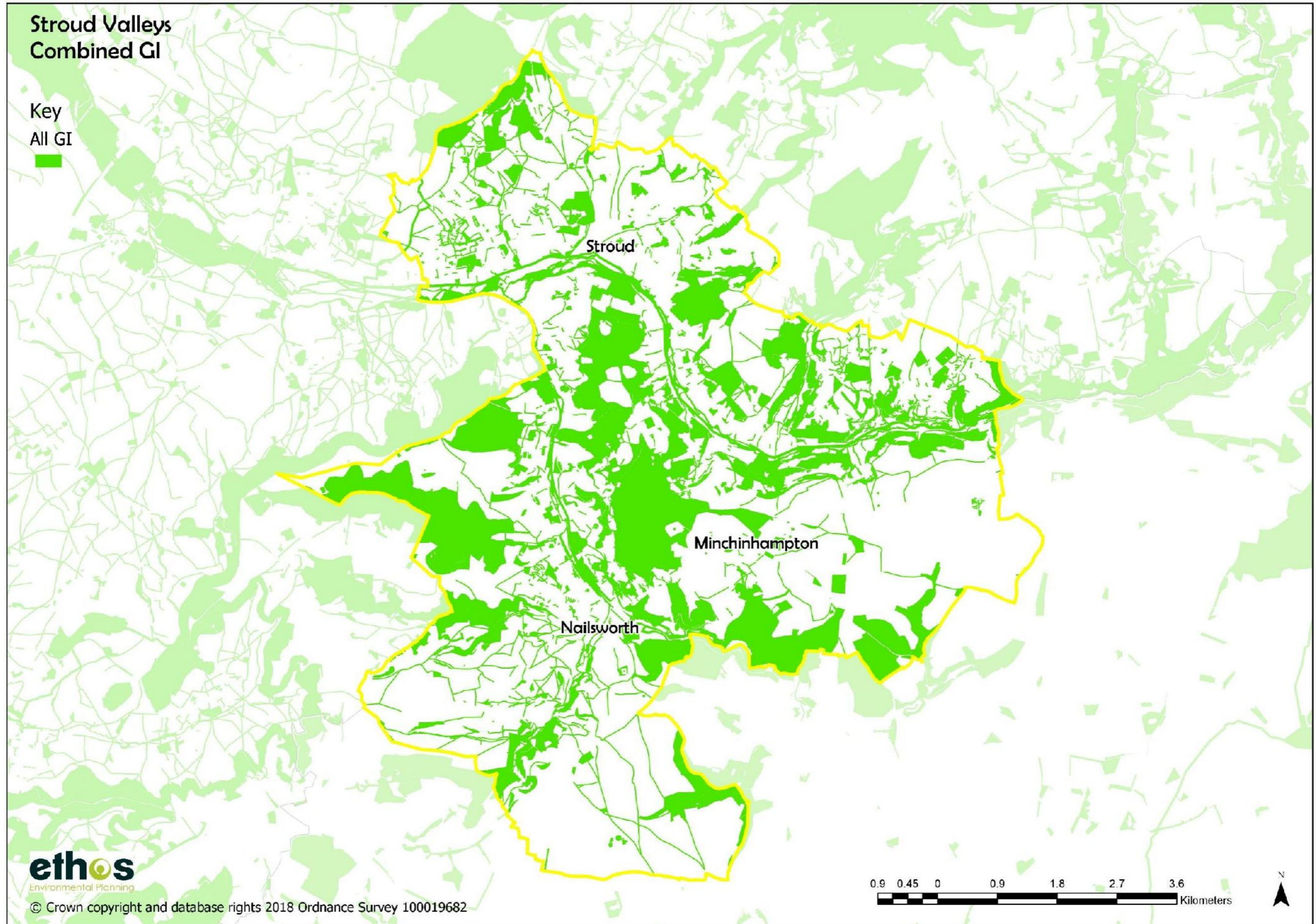


Figure 4 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Designated Sites

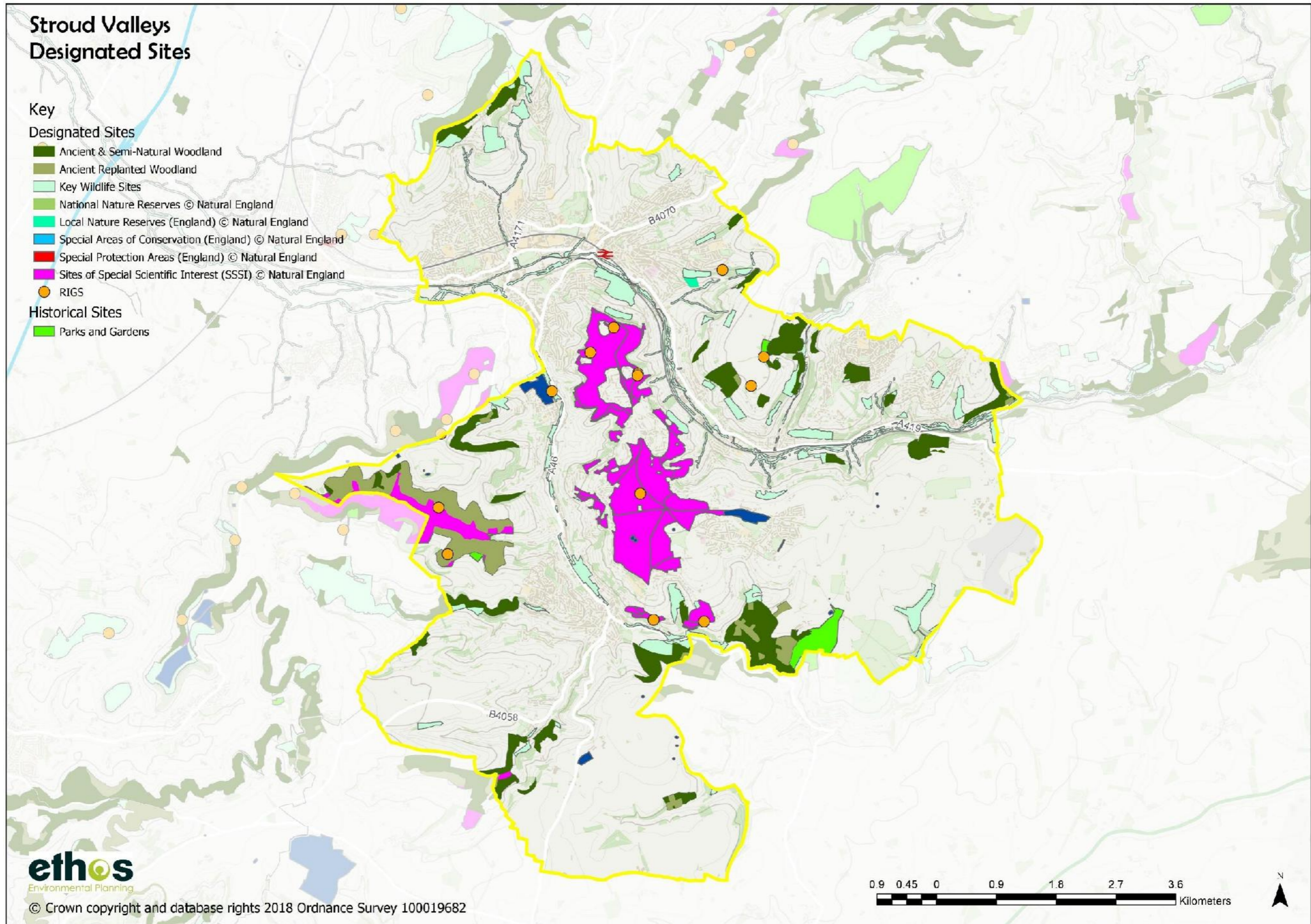


Figure 5 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Priority Habitats, Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs)

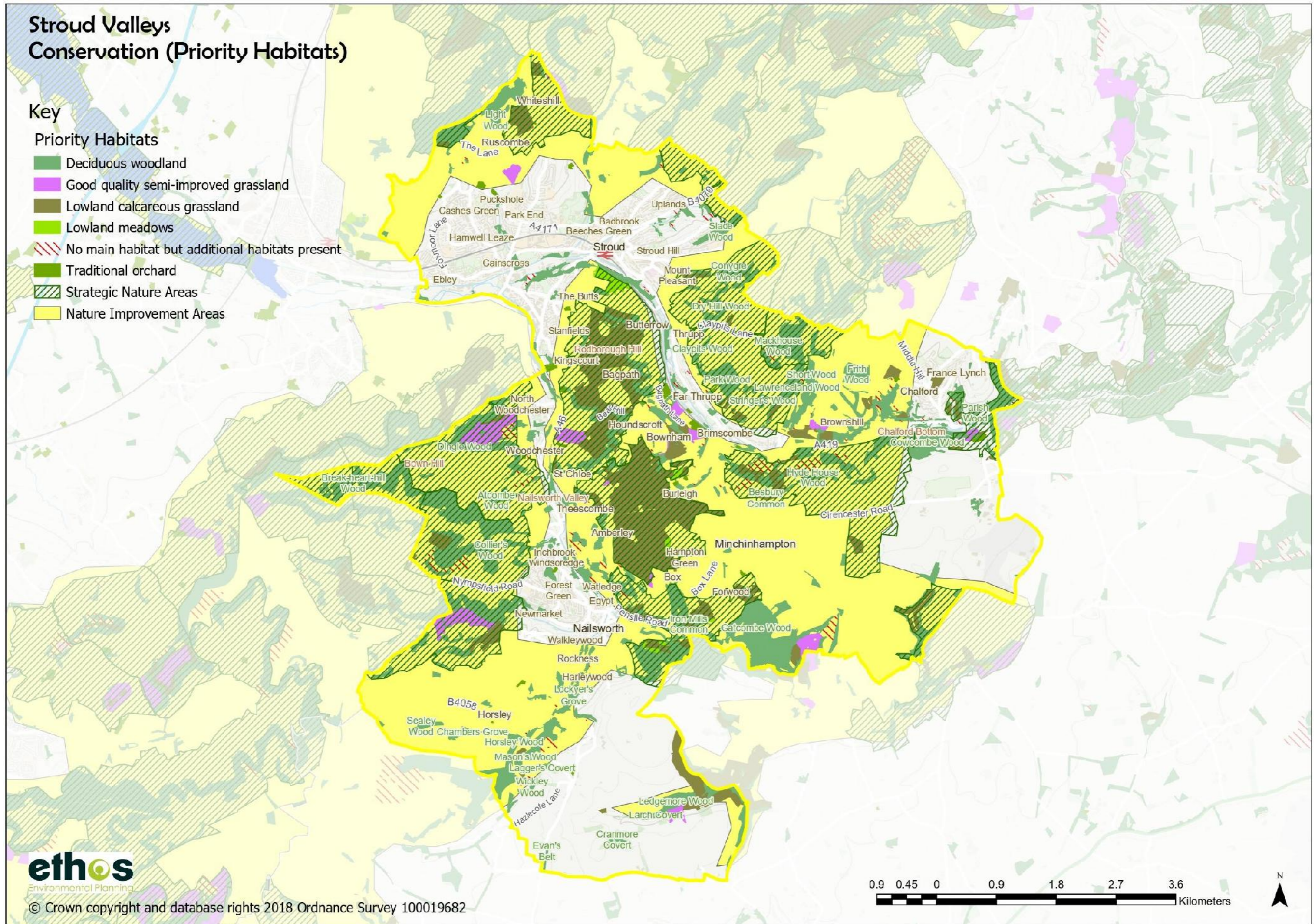




Figure 6 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: National Character Areas (NCAs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

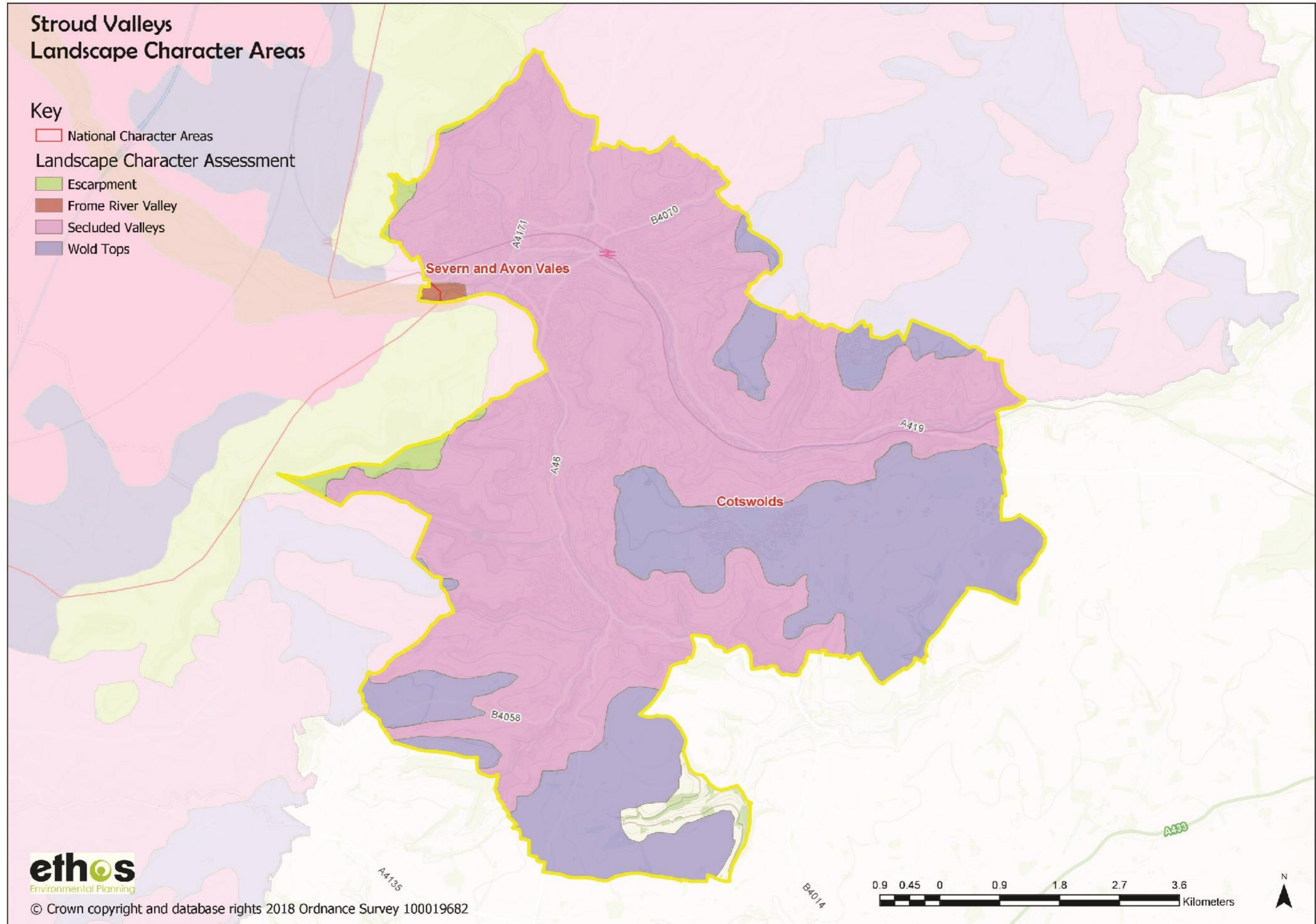


Figure 7 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Water: Canals, Rivers/Streams, Lakes/Surface Water, Priority River Habitat, Floodzone, Source Protection Zones

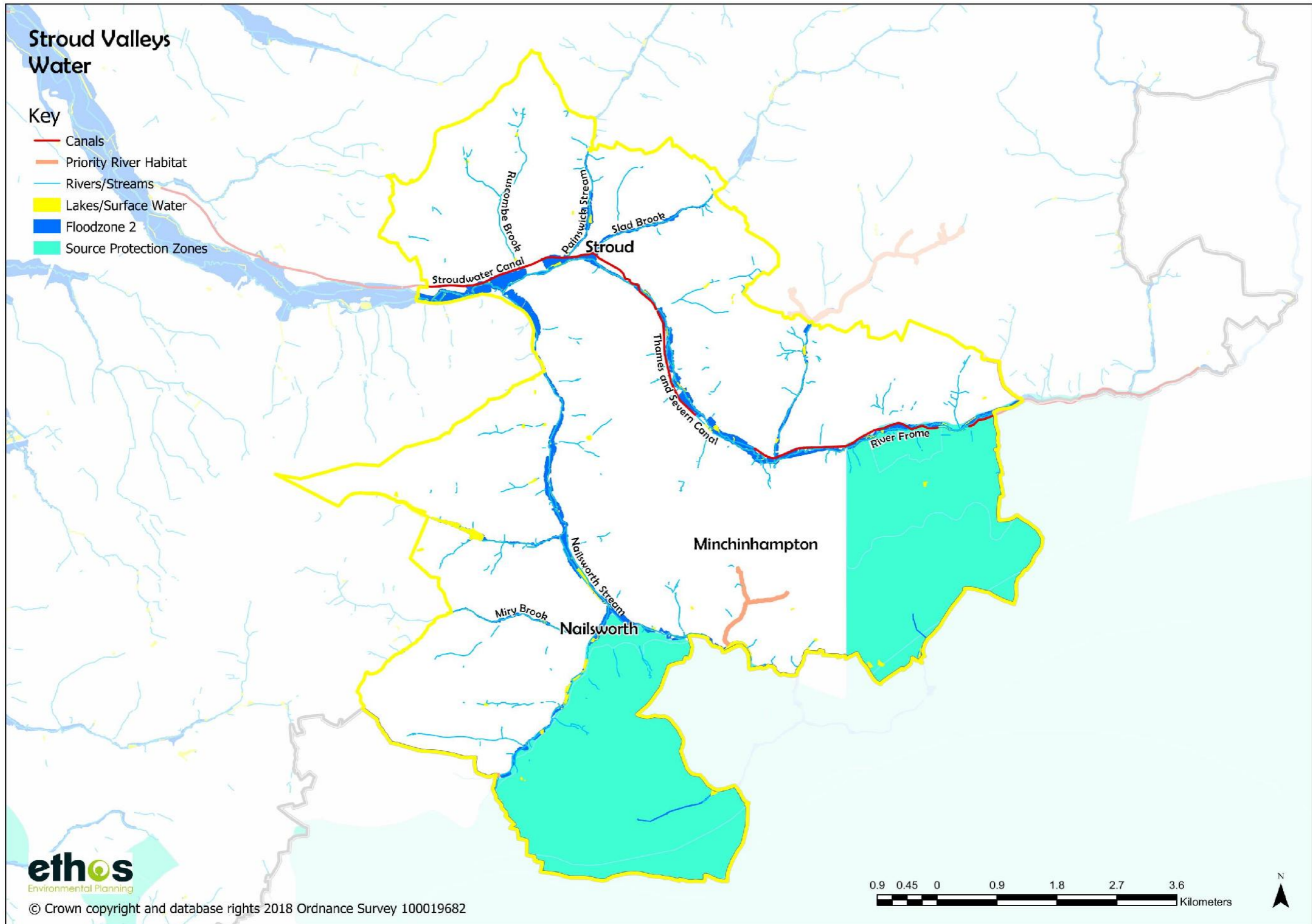
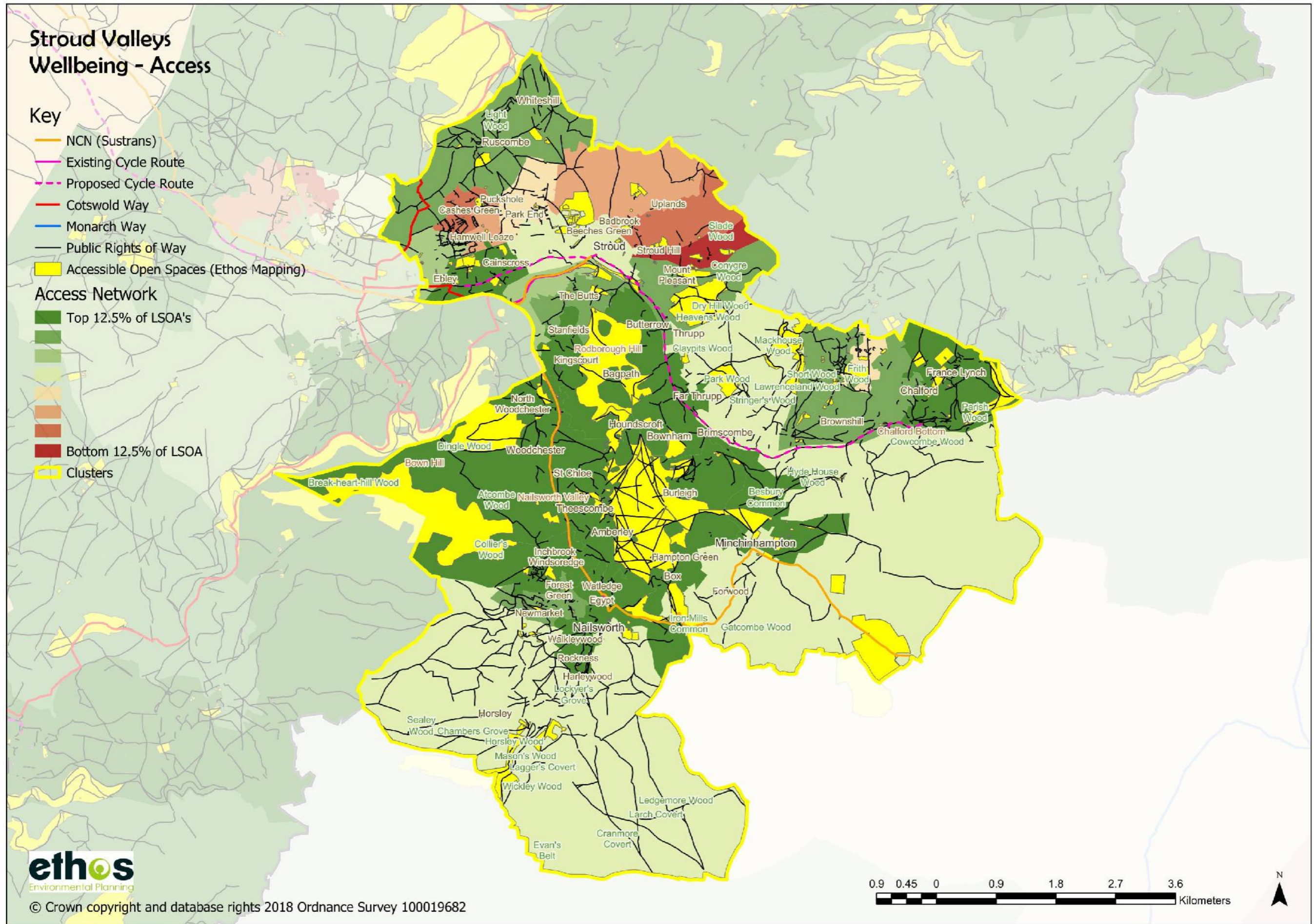


Figure 8 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wellbeing: Accessible open space, PROW and key walking and cycling routes



### 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 Stroud Valleys 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 Stroud Valleys cluster*

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall supply
Allotments	19.65	0.4	17.38	0.35	2.27	0.05	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Community Orchards	1.17	0.02	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amenity Green Space	9.43	0.19	19.87	0.40	-10.44	-0.21	UNDER SUPPLY
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	55.13	1.11	59.6	1.20	-4.47	-0.09	UNDER SUPPLY
<i>Park and Recreation Grounds</i>	<i>54.58</i>	<i>1.1</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>0.55</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Play (Child)	2.68	0.05	2.98	0.06	-0.3	-0.01	UNDER SUPPLY
Play (Youth)	2.73	0.05	2.98	0.06	-0.25	-0.01	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	681.96	13.73	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education	61.24	1.23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Churchyards and Cemeteries	23.36	0.47	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outdoor Sport (Private)	42.29	0.85	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

As can be seen from the table above, within the Stroud Valleys cluster, there is an overall sufficient supply of allotments against the standards, with shortfalls in amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds, play (child) and play (youth) The total shortfall is 15.46 ha.

## GI

The following GI assets have been identified within the Stroud Valleys Cluster:

Table 2 GI assets

Priority Habitats	Area (ha)
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	0
Coastal saltmarsh	0
Deciduous woodland	868.25
Good quality semi-improved grassland	70.89
Lowland calcareous grassland	430.02
Lowland dry acid grassland	0
Lowland meadows	13.39
Mudflats	0
No main habitat but additional habitats present	79.44
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	0
Traditional orchard	16.1

Nature conservation, AONB, geology and historic sites	Area (ha)
Ancient Woodland	405.63
KWS	537.67
LNR	6.49
NNR	0
RAMSAR	0
SAC	109.39
SPA	0
SSSI	478.66
RIGS	13 <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	5751.8
Registered Parks	172.50
SAM	122.21

Rivers and Canals	Length (m)
River Frome	12686.63
Thames and Severn Canal	8198.89
Nailsworth Stream	5171.66
Miry Brook	2992.71
Stroudwater Canal	2433.54
Slad Brook	2258.76
Painswick Stream	2228.84
Ruscombe Brook	1171.40

#### 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 Stroud Valleys 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)

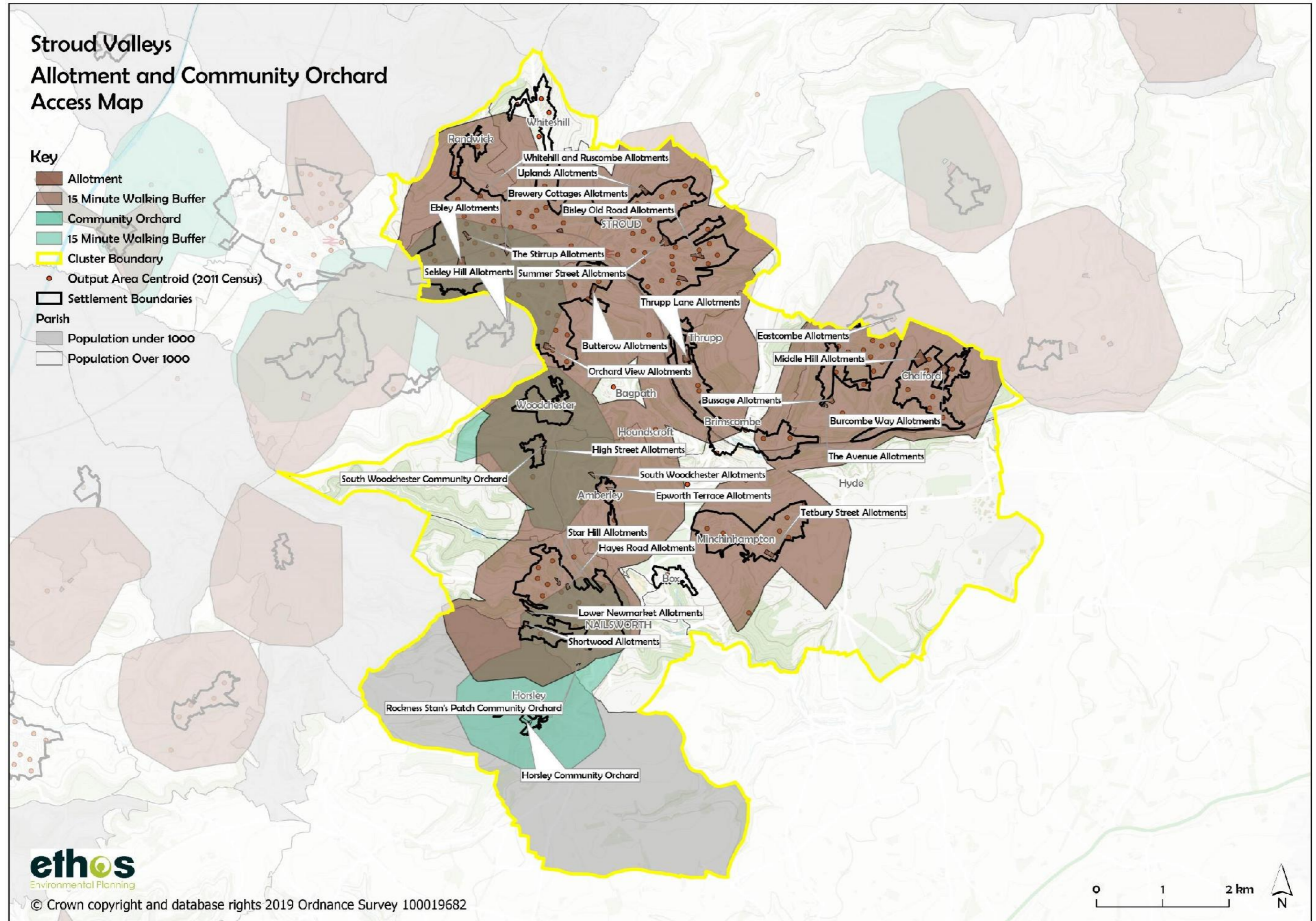


Figure 10 Access to amenity green space (13 minutes' walk time)

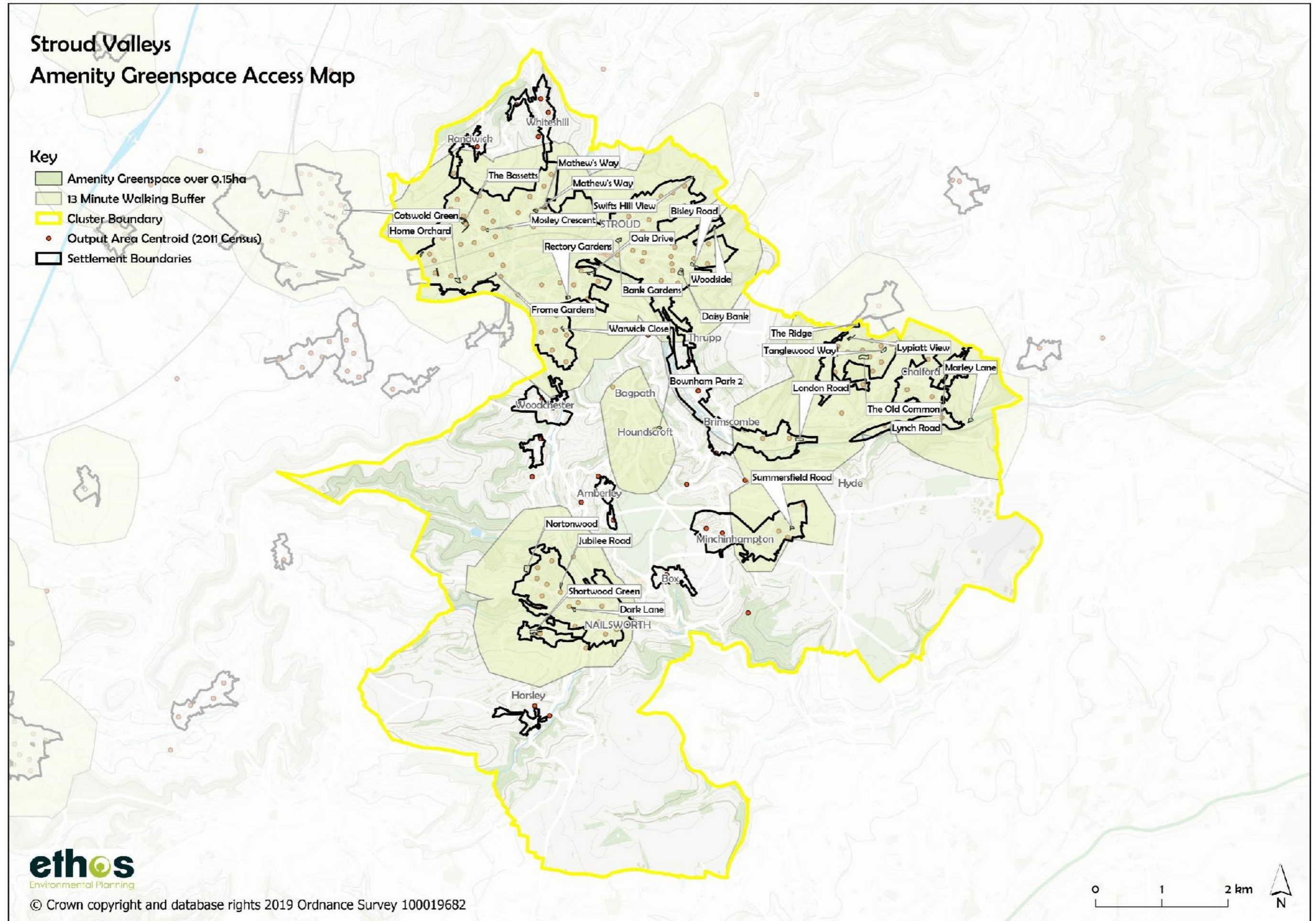




Figure 11 Access to parks and recreation grounds, amenity green space and outdoor sport private (13 minutes' walk time)

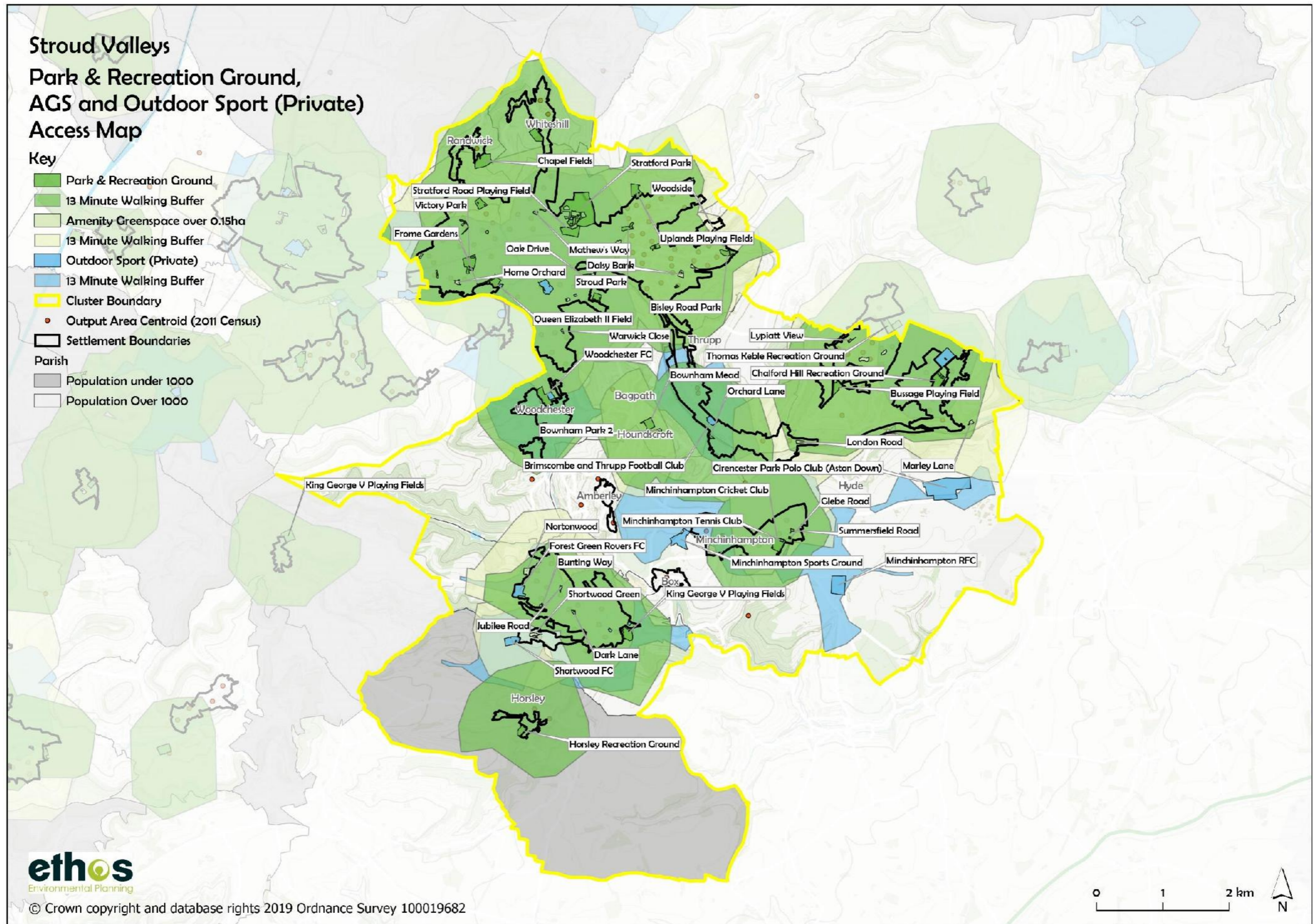


Figure 12 Access to children's play space (10 minutes' walk time)

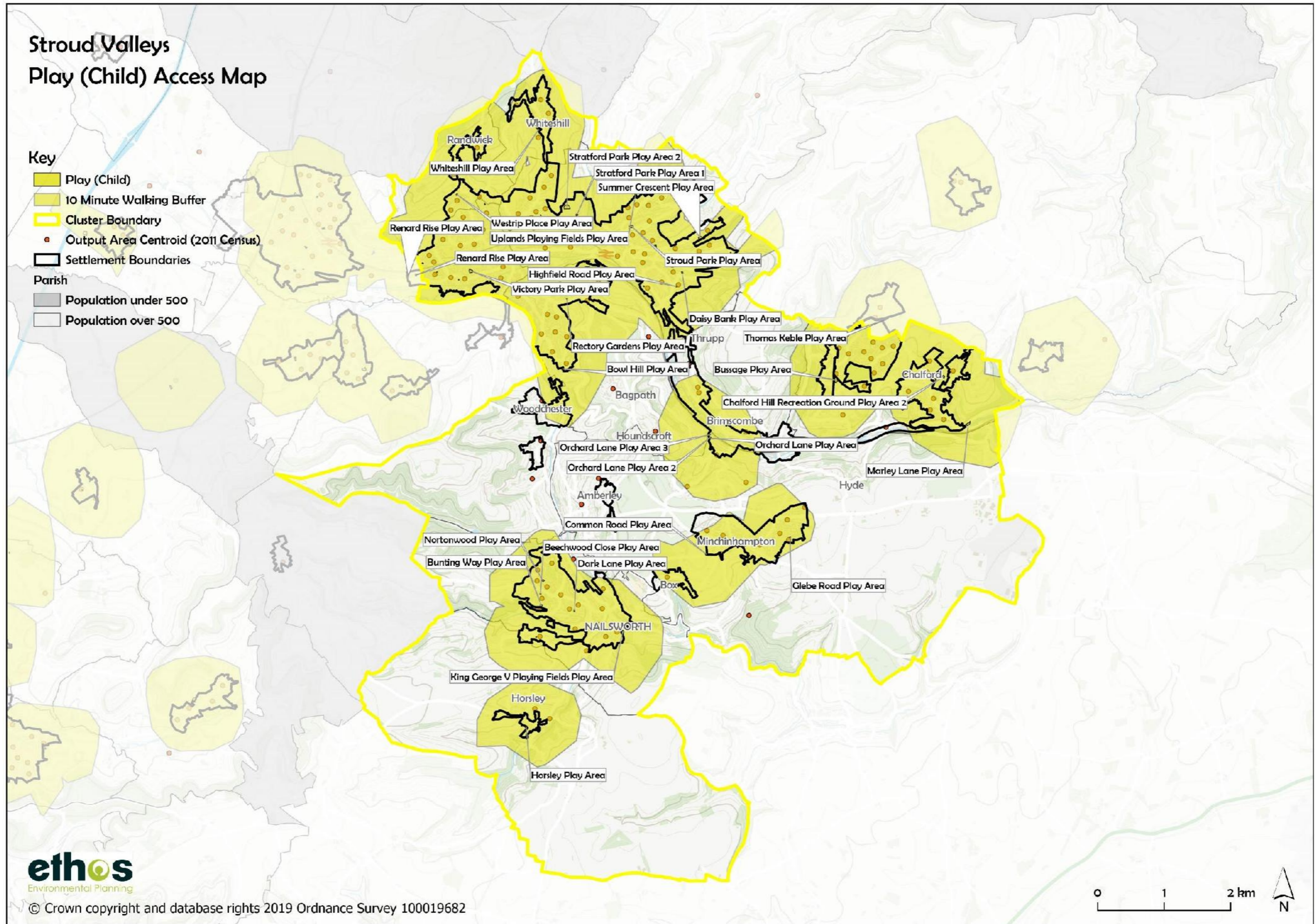


Figure 13 Access to youth play space (15 minutes' walk time)

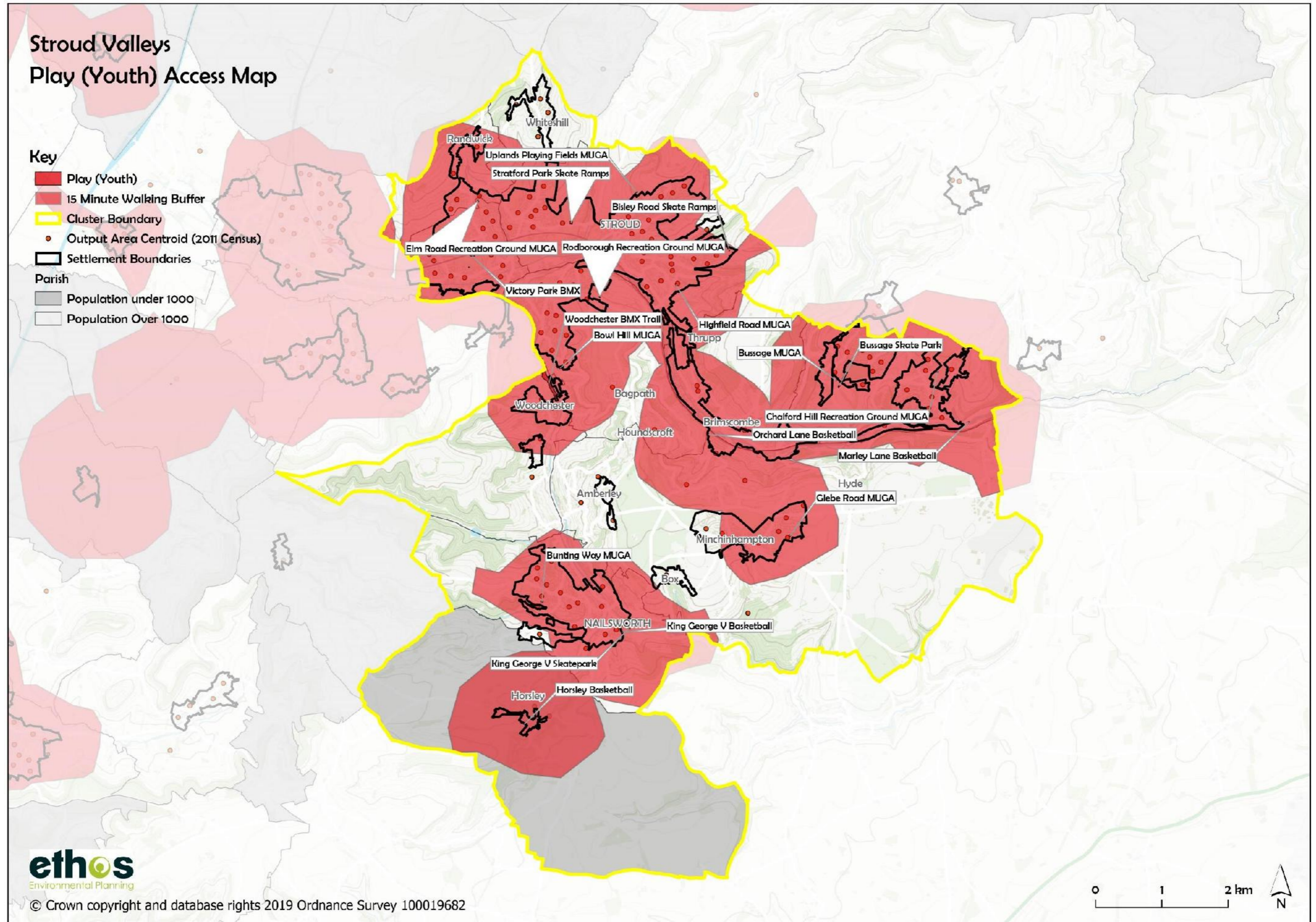


Figure 14 Access to accessible natural green space (960m buffer)

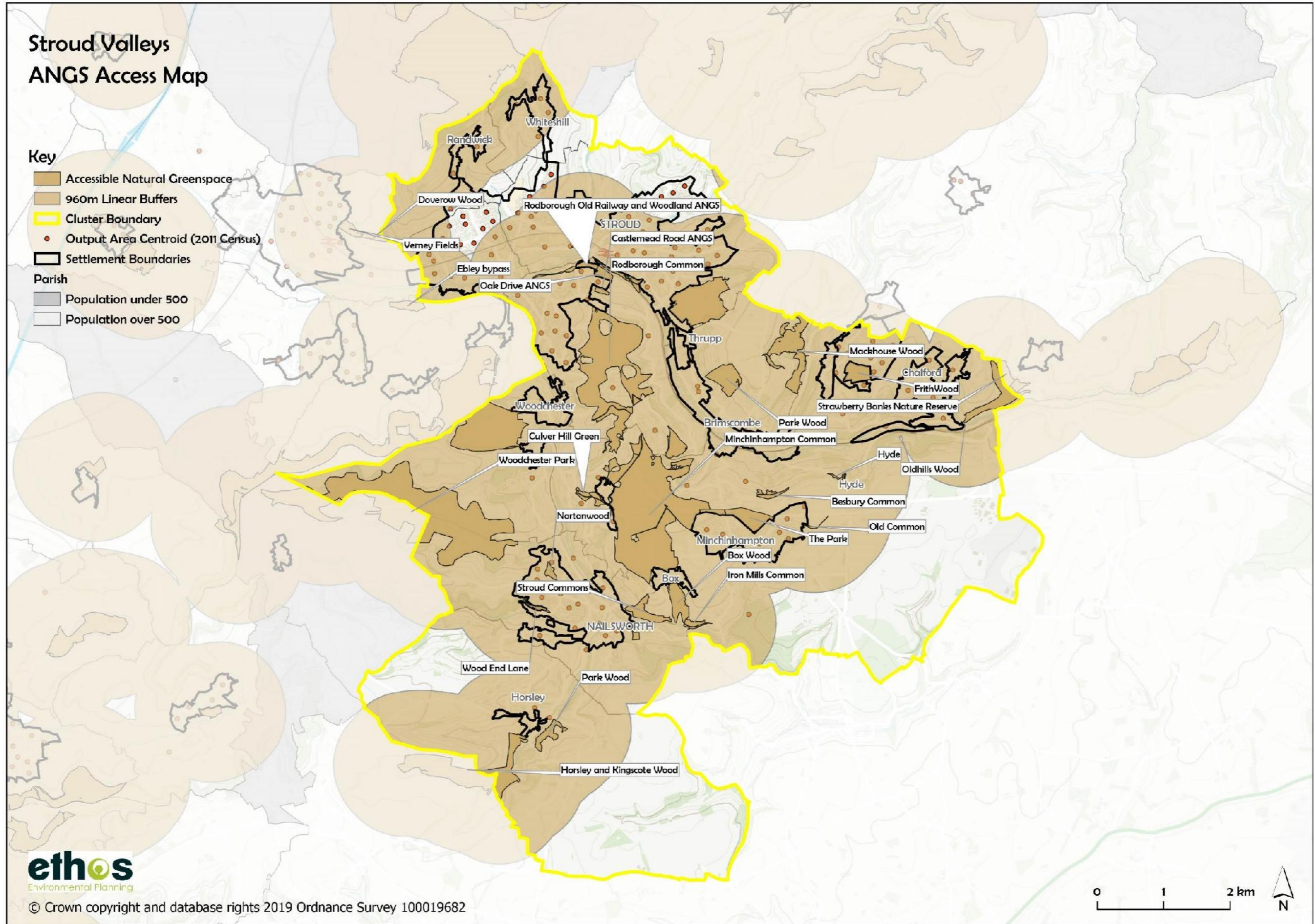


Figure 15 Access to accessible natural green space (20ha + sites within 2km)

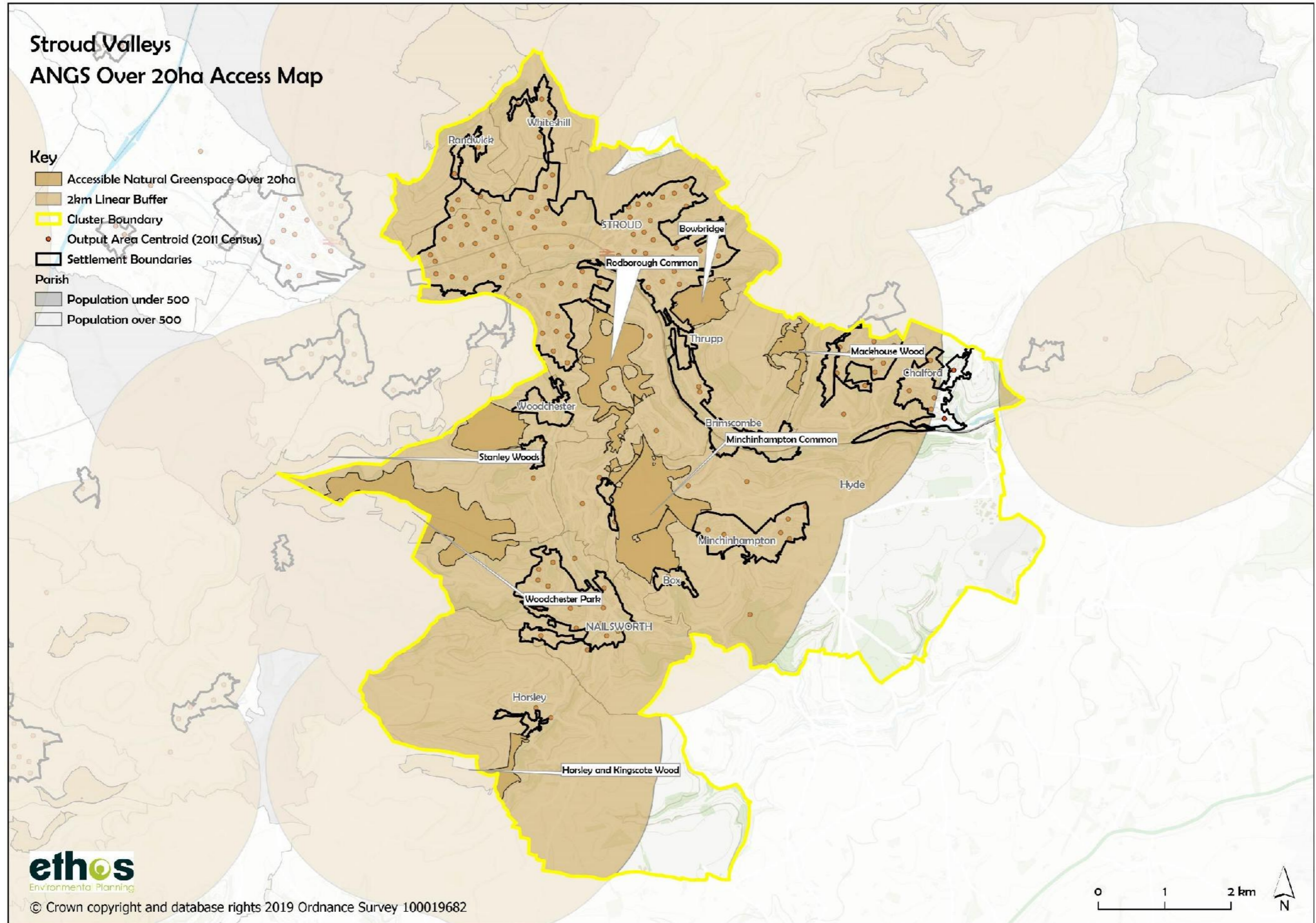


Figure 16 Access to accessible natural green space (100ha + sites within 5km)

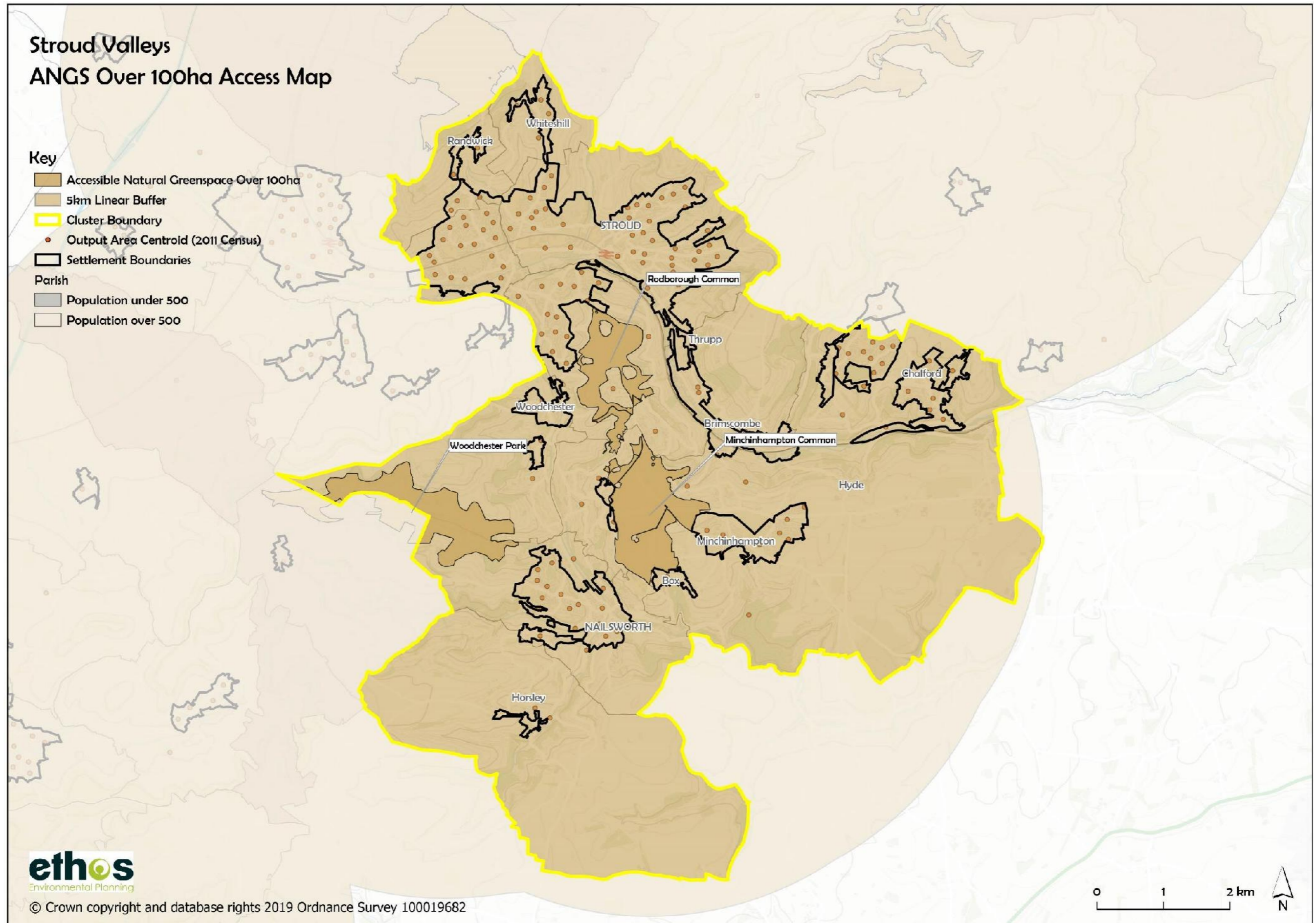


Table 3 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 9 to 16, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

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

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Current Access</b>
Allotments and community orchards	The main gaps in access are in Whiteshill, Box and Brinscombe.
Amenity Green Space	Access is generally good across the cluster with some gaps in the settlements of Woodchester, Amberley, Horsley, Box, Brimscombe, Minchinhampton and Whiteshill.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Overall access is good for parks and recreation grounds. There is a small gap in access in Amberley and Box.
Children's play space	There is generally good access to children play spaces across the cluster, although there are gaps in access in Amberley, Woodchester and Brinscombe.
Youth Play space	Good access to youth play space, with the majority of settlements having access. Gaps in access in Whiteshill, Amberley and Box (also a small section of Minchinhampton).
Accessible Natural Green Space	Good access across the whole cluster against the 960m standard. Also good access against ANGSt standards for 20+ha sites and 100+ha sites.

## GI

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

As can be seen, there is a good network of PROW across the cluster, connecting settlements and accessible open spaces. There is also a NCN, a small proportion of the Cotswold Way, and a proposed cycle route.

When analysing access against the Natural England Access Network Mapping (also see figure 8), it shows that the area generally has a varied relative abundance of accessible land. The central part of the cluster has a good relative abundance of accessible land (and also has the majority of accessible open spaces mapped as part of this study). The northern and southern areas of the cluster has a lower relative abundance of accessible land with the area just north of the Stroud settlement being particularly lower. 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

### 5.1 Quality audit results

Figure 17 provides a summary of the quality audit results for the Stroud Valleys cluster. As can be seen, the majority of open spaces assessed are good quality (with a score of A). There are 12 open spaces that have been assessed as average quality (with a score of B) but no sites that have been assessed scored 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, the majority of sites were assessed as good, with a lower number assessed as average, and one assessed as being poor<sup>2</sup>.

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

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



Table 4 Quality audit results

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
1065	The Park	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Lovely tall grass meadow with scattered mature trees, informal paths cross through the site, which is cattle grazed common land. Occasional bins and benches, parking area.	None.	None.	80	A	8	A
1335	Selsley Common	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Beautiful common, large expanse of tall grass meadow with informal paths, fantastic views, occasional benches and features such as a sun dial, car parking places along road with dog bins.	Redundant posts next to car parking area -assume there used to be information signage here- needs replacing. Information signage with maps would be a great addition to the main parking areas.	None.	82.22	A	9	A
1406	Minchinhampton Common	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Large common with lovely vistas and views, cattle grazed meadow, scattered scrub, golf course, all freely accessible, many informal paths and parking places.	Small amounts of litter need picking.	None.	83	A	8	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
1502	Nortonwood	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Large broadleaved woodland with numerous paths, bat boxes.	The entrances need to be made more welcome with interpretation signage including a map of the site showing the path network and connections, cur back vegetation overhanging steps and this area also needs litter picking. Could install way-marked trails.	Improve welcome and access by installing interpretation signage and way-marked trails.	72.22	A	8.33	A
1648	Standish Park and Wood	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Large natural green space with open common and woodland with a range of footpaths and entrances. Main entrance has a pay and display car park with good signage and map of the site.	None.	None.	87	A	10	A
2225	Frith Wood	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Large woodland with a network of paths - some formal PROW and some desire lines, small parking area with bins, interpretation sign within wood, but also private property signs.	Install interpretation/welcoming signage at main entrances.	None.	77	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
2412	Old Common	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Tall grass meadow with trees and scrub, informal paths, dog bin at entrance and small parking area. Dog fouling at entrance, despite provision of bin.	Clear litter from copse areas, improve entrance e.g. with welcome signage, improve surfacing of parking area/lay-by. Could install benches.	None.	75.71	A	7	B
2489	Bownham Green	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Tall grass meadow common land, national trust, cattle grazed, scattered mature trees and Scrub, a low number of benches, no mown paths- only desire lines. Wonderful views, partly overlooked by low numbers of houses.	Could potentially mow a path through the tall grass to improve access.	Could mow a path through tall grass to improve access.	78.89	A	8	A
2512	Culver Hill Green	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Area of sloping common land, tall grass, scattered mature trees, copse areas and scrub, informal paths and PROW, benches.	A number of the benches would benefit from refurbishing. Access difficult to improve due to nature of the site.	None.	77.78	A	8	A
2521	Rodborough Common	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Excellent site with fantastic views, large common land Managed by the	Some of the dog bins are over flowing- need more frequent emptying?	None.	78	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
			National Trust, cattle grazed, free car parking, benches, litter and dog bins and signage. Informal paths through site, scattered trees and copse areas.						
2975	Bowbridge	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Woodland with paths, steep steps at entrance, opportunities to make access safer, no signage.	Install signage at entrance, add hand rails on steep paths to improve access.	None.	72	A	8.33	A
3273	Jacob	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Cattle grazed tall grass meadow/common land with scattered trees and scrub, fantastic views, parking areas, no litter or dog fouling observed (despite lack of bins).	None.	None.	76.25	A	7.67	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

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
4262	Iron Mills Common	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Sloping grassland, woodland and scrub with informal paths and a bench well placed to enjoy lovely views.	Little that can be done to improve access due to nature of site. Invasive species and scrub need management to prevent encroaching on grassland - the grassland in this area has become quite rank.	Improve management of scrub/grassland.	74.44	A	7	B
4264	Besbury Common	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Sloping common land - tall grass with scrub and trees/woodland, with informal paths and tracks, litter in some areas.	Access is difficult to improve due to the nature of the site.	None.	75	A	7.67	A
4275	Stroud Commons	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Calcareous grassland, much of it sloping, with areas of woodland and scrub, informal paths and tracks, appears to be problems with litter are fire lighting in some areas.	Scrub needs to be managed to prevent too much encroachment on the calcareous grassland. There are problem areas with litter and fire lighting which need tackling. Not much that can be done to improve access due to nature of site.	Scrub needs managing to prevent it encroaching onto grassland habitat.	71.43	A	7.67	A
1066	Rectory Gardens	Amenity Greenspace	Good quality amenity space with children's play area, surrounded by lovely mature trees, hard surfaced paths, bins and	Replant trees in play area.	None.	80	A	7.33	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			benches, deadwood left on site.						
1419	Shortwood Green	Amenity Greenspace	Good quality amenity green space with lovely views, unfenced good quality children's play area, informal football, benches, bins and notice board.	Litter/old posts in copse needs clearing, copse area could be better managed and goal improved. Tall grass/herb margins could be expanded to improve biodiversity, vegetation around bottom entrance/fencing needs cutting back, could install welcome sign.	Tall grass/herb margins could be expanded.	79	A	7	B
1484	Nortonwood	Amenity Greenspace	Well managed amenity field with wonderful views, mature trees, shelter (needs repainting and there is broken glass), outdoor gym, bins.	Repaint youth shelter and clear broken glass, install benches, expand tall grass margins to improve biodiversity value.	Expand tall grass margins.	80	A	8	A
1496	Jubilee Road	Amenity Greenspace	Well managed amenity grass area with dog bin and trees.	None.	None.	80	A	7	B
1500	Dark Lane	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity green space with fenced children's play area, informal football, flowers, lovely views, bins.	The metal barrier fencing has bars removed - these should be replaced, and a gate installed. Could introduce wildflower	Install tall grass/wildflower Margins.	77	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
				margins to improve biodiversity value of site.					
1601	Devereaux Crescent	Amenity Greenspace	Small amenity with a large play area. Grassland is well managed but no notable features present.	None.	Include tree planting around the edge of the site to support flood management.	80	A	7	B
1602	Devereaux Crescent 2	Amenity Greenspace	Small amenity site with a mix of native and introduced shrubs. The grassland has been allowed to grow out and could do with management.	Improve site management.	None.	78	A	7	B
1616	The Bassetts	Amenity Greenspace	Visual amenity with trees and footpaths. Grassland is well managed, cut to a short sward and dog waste bins have been provided.	Some dog fouling, add signage to encourage people to clear up after their dogs.	None.	80	A	8	A
1624	Mosley Crescent	Amenity Greenspace	Small visual amenity with planted cypress trees around the site perimeter and introduced shrubs in the centre.	None.	Small amenity which can support flood management with mature trees. Limited GI connections.	78	A	7.67	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
2210	The Ridge	Amenity Greenspace	Sloping amenity grass area with village welcome sign, bench, path, bin and scattered trees, adjoins small copse area.	Bench would benefit from refurbishing. Potential for more tree/shrub planting.	Potential for more shrub/tree planting.	78.89	A	7	B
2217	Lypiatt View	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity green space with hard surfaced paths, bench and trees.	Potential for more tree planting and/or tall grass margins to enhance biodiversity value.	Potential for more tree planting and/or tall grass/wildflower margins.	80	A	6.33	B
2222	The Old Common	Amenity Greenspace	Attractive, large amenity green space, with small monument, scattered mature trees, bench and bins, surrounded by wooden bollards.	Potential to leave grass under some of the mature trees uncut, to enhance biodiversity value at the site.	Potential for tall grass areas under some of the mature trees.	89	A	7.33	A
2228	Tanglewood Way	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity green space with a few mature trees, hard surfaced path along road frontage with bench and bin.	Potential for more tree planting and tall grass areas (under trees) to improve biodiversity value.	Tree planting and tall grass areas.	80	A	6.33	B
2298	Lynch Road	Amenity Greenspace	Lovely amenity grass area with good views, mature tree, tall grass on bank, bench and	None.	None.	80	A	7	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
			bin, adjacent to park.						
2318	Marley Lane	Amenity Greenspace	Very popular small park and rec alongside stream, with children's play area, basketball hoop, table tennis and informal football, bins and benches, community notice board.	Install more welcoming signage, upgrade dated items of children's play equipment, consider improving/upgrading basketball hoop to half MUGA, improve area around table tennis, as doesn't appear to be well used.	None.	81	A	8.67	A
2526	Warwick Close	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity grass area with mature trees and shrubs, sloping.	None.	None.	80	A	6.67	B
2558	Home Orchard	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity space with mature trees and a play area. The site is well managed and pleasant, it is also directly adjacent to the canal and towpath.	Could add benches near the canal.	Good quality site with good links to the canal and other green spaces.	85	A	8.67	A
2564	Orchard Road	Amenity Greenspace	Small amenity area with a play area. Amenity is generally well managed with scattered trees and small patches of scrub.	Manage patches of scrub to make the space more child friendly.	None.	83	A	8	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
2597	Ashway Court	Amenity Greenspace	Well managed amenity space with early mature trees and a play area.	No improvements needed, visual amenity.	Small site but provides good flood support and is connected with other GI in the wider environment.	82	A	7.67	A
2629	Matthew	Amenity Greenspace	Sizeable section of amenity with wooden fencing and a gated entrance. The grassland is well managed with a short sward and some mature trees.	Could remove the small nearby play space and install a larger play space here.	Could add more tree and flower planting for flood management and aesthetics.	79	A	8	A
2631	Archway Gardens	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity space with a play area. The grassland is cut to a short sward with mature trees and bins present.	Visual amenity, could have some flower planting to improve aesthetics.	None.	80	A	8	A
2898	Bank Gardens	Amenity Greenspace	Pleasant amenity area used by lots of people for recreation. Lots of mature trees, flower planting and footpaths. Excellent site.	None.	None.	85	A	8.67	A
2919	Daisy Bank	Amenity Greenspace	Pleasant site with mature trees and wildflower fringes.	Install hard standing footpath to make site more accessible.	None.	85	A	8	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
			Bins, benches and dog waste bins are present at the entrances and around the site. Not fully accessible due to unofficial paths.						
2974	Woodside	Amenity Greenspace	Small amenity site behind housing, potentially could be used as a visual amenity.	Add tree planting, turn the space into a nature area.	None.	74	A	8	A
3251	Matthew	Amenity Greenspace	Section of road side amenity with mature trees. The site is well managed with short sward grassland.	None.	None.	79	B	8.33	A
1420	Shortwood	Amenity Greenspace	Sloping amenity green space with mature trees and informal path/desire line leading to church. Limited recreational value due to slope but provides visual amenity and biodiversity value.	None.	None.	70	B	6.67	B
2326	London Road	Amenity Greenspace	Old Orchard, concealed entrance - not easy to find/access,	This could be a really lovely community Orchard with better maintenance and more fruit trees. Install	Improve management, plant more fruit trees, potential	48	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
			redundant hard surfacing covered with cut branches, overgrown and poorly maintained - not welcoming.	signage and benches, involve the community in events and its management.	for a wildlife pond.				
2414	Summersfield Road	Amenity Greenspace	Unwelcoming amenity space with no facilities or features- only short mown grass, overlooked by housing.	Make entrances more welcoming e.g. with signage, new fencing, shrub planting. Plant trees/shrubs on site to improve biodiversity value- could plant a community orchard and/or wildflower area. Install benches, natural play, informal football.	Plant shrubs and trees, and wildflower areas and features for people to enjoy the space e.g. benches.	63.75	B	3.33	C
2487	Bownham Park 2	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity green space with trees on private road- for use by residents only. Not very welcoming or easy to find entrance as a hedgerow borders the majority of the site.	Make a more welcoming entrance, potential to install natural play facilities and benches.	Improve access and welcome of site, potential for more tree planting.	68.89	B	5.67	B
2874	Swifts Hill View	Amenity Greenspace	Small unmanaged amenity site with saplings. Site has been allowed to become over grown and unmanaged,	Site also smells of dog waste, empty bins and manage site better.	None.	63	B	7	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
			limiting its use as an amenity.						
3250	Frome Gardens	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity green space adjacent to the canal, visual amenity.	None.	Add planting to improve the aesthetics of the site.	70	B	7.67	A
1408	Horsley Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Park with a fantastic children's play area, basketball hoop, wildlife area, old hut/shelter, welcoming, connects to surrounding countryside walks, and near to lovely community shop with parking.	Overall the park is good, however the wildlife area needs better management as it has become very overgrown, the pond/wetland area may need restoring, and vegetation cutting back around the basketball. Shelter in poor condition with graffiti and litter.	Restore pond area, potential for more tree planting and/or more tall grass/herb margins.	83	A	7.67	A
1513	King George V Playing Fields	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good Park with a variety of good quality facilities including a large fenced children's play area, tennis courts, outdoor gym equipment, boules court, table tennis and skate park. There is also parking and a basketball hoop.	Improve condition of buildings/pavilions within the park.	Scope to improve the natural field which is an extension to the park e.g. put in a wildlife pond and additional planting to strengthen existing hedgerows / copse areas, or	83	A	7.67	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			The buildings are dated.		enhance grasslands for wildflowers				
1632	Elm Road Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large park with a marked football pitch, a play area and a MUGA. This site is generally well managed: the grassland is short and the equipment is in good condition.	Dog waste bins and normal bins are over flowing. Improve regular site maintenance or install more bins around the site.	Include tree planting along southern edge, this will create a screen between the site and the houses, improve aesthetics and improve flood management.	78	A	7.67	A
1635	Chapel Fields	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Park with a play area, informal football and a cricket green. Site is well managed with good bins and short grassland. Excellent views.	Could add more provision on site. Benches to enjoy the view.	Include tree planting to enhance the sites flood management.	81	A	7.33	A
1644	Whiteshill Playing Fields	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large field with benches, bins and a football pitch. Pleasant site adjacent to the village shop with nice views and a play area to the east.	None.	None.	82	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
2234	Bussage Playing Fields	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good park and recreation ground with large unfenced children's play area, skate park, basketball hoop, informal football, benches, bins, bordered by mature trees and tall grass margins, numerous access points.	Children's play equipment could be upgraded, signage at entrances would be improved to be more welcoming, access points could be improved, some of the benches would benefit from refurbishing.	There may be potential to increase the width of the tall grass area in some parts of the park.	80	A	7.33	A
2297	Chalford Hill Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good quality, large Park and rec with variety of children's play equipment (some items would benefit from upgrading), good quality MUGA, football, mature trees, tall grass margins, benches and bins, numerous access points, although some are very narrow.	Upgrade some items of children's play equipment, improve some of the entrance points with more welcoming signage, could consider widening some access points, repaint benches. Potential to expand tall grass margins to improve biodiversity value.	Potential to expand tall grass margins.	85.56	A	7.33	A
2488	Bownham Mead	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large amenity space with lovely views, tall grass margins, some trees, overlooked by housing, Short	Space for facilities such as natural play or goal posts, benches and bins. path could be extended.	None.	76.67	A	7.33	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			section of gravel Path at entrance						
2523	Bowl Hill Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Small, good quality park and recreation ground with good access to fenced children's play area along hard surfaced path, steps down to good quality MUGA. Overgrown footpath by play area. Bin, bench, bordered by trees and hedgerows, lovely views.	Play value of children's play area could be improved with more modern equipment, strip of grass between play area and MGA could be managed as a tall grass area. Evidence of fire damage to ground by MUGA. Clear overgrown footpath if still in use.	Could manage parts of site as tall grass areas.	80	A	7.33	A
2537	Rodborough Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good quality park and recreation ground next to Rodborough community hall, with car park, small children's play area, MUGA, stone dust paths, signage about the local wildlife, tall grass margin, lovely views and footpath leading into adjoining copse area.	Stone dust path near MUGA needs improving, there are small amounts of litter near the MUGA.	None.	88	A	7.33	A



Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
2555	Queen Elizabeth II Field	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large park with play facilities and picnic areas. A community pond is also present near the canal with excellent signage and good management.	Space for more provision including more play or sports facilities.	The site is key for green infrastructure with good links with other GI in the wider environment.	86	A	8.67	A
2572	Victory Park	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Flagship park with a variety of provision for both child and youth. The site also contains a pavilion, a toilet block and provision for both football and rugby pitches. The fields are dissected by a mature tree belt of lime and beech.	Better welcome signage at the entrances, including the car park entrances.	None.	85	A	9	A
2634	Stratford Road Playing Field	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Playing fields with a single temporary football goal. No markings present at the time of audit, possibly due to being the off season. Pavilion also present on site. Facility is well managed with no issues.	None.	Plant more trees around the site perimeter to screen houses and improve flood management.	81	A	7.33	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
2672	Stratford Park	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large flagship park with a wide variety of facilities including play areas, a woodland, a leisure centre, museum, outdoor swimming pool and ATP pitch for hire. The site habitat is managed to the highest quality with well managed flower planting.	None.	None.	95	A	9	A
2854	Stroud Park	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Excellent park site with various footpaths, green areas and sitting areas. The site is well managed and appears to get regular use.	None.	Site has had recent tree planting which will enhance the sites biodiversity and flood management.	87	A	8.67	A
2866	Uplands Playing Fields	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Park with large playing field, two play areas and a MUGA. Site is Generally well managed with good parking area and good equipment.	Site was hard to find, add signage at the start of track leading to the site. Also include more dog waste bins, only saw one right at the start of the track.	Include more planting where possible.	79	A	8.67	A
2905	Parliament Street	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Small site with two separate play spaces. The site is	Have a formal entrance to the site.	None.	82	A	8	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			well managed with bins, benches and signage present. Tree saplings appear to have been recently planted.						
3037	Bisley Road Park	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large park with football pitch markings. Good signage at entrance and good number of bins and benches around. Well managed site, pleasant picnic area by play area.	Add football posts in the appropriate markings.	Site could have planting to improve aesthetics as well as improve the site for wildlife.	85	A	7.33	A
1440	Bunting Way	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Amenity grass area with fenced children's play area (some items require repainting) and good quality MUGA. There is a small parking area with benches adjacent to the site.	Litter pick, install welcoming signage, repaint some of the play equipment, could enhance biodiversity by managing the slopes outside the fenced play area as tall grass meadows.	Manage slopes as tall grass / wildflower areas.	67	B	6.33	B
2419	Glebe Road	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Small park with children's play area and MUGA, despite the MUGA being good quality& the play area being in	Reinstate grass, or even tree/shrub planting where the bare ground is, fix broken fencing, more regular litter picks and	Same as open space suggestions.	69	B	6	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
			relatively good condition, the overall feel is not very welcoming or well maintained. There is broken fencing, large amounts of litter & dog fouling	enforcement re dog fouling. Upgrade play area.					
2475	Orchard Lane	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Small Park with a variety of children's play equipment including a fenced off play area, unfenced swings and wooden equipment, basketball hoop, benches, mini football, surrounded by trees and hedgerows, overlooked by housing on one side.	The benches and some of the play equipment would benefit from repainting, there are small amounts of litter and redundant posts and drum which need removing. The entrance could be made more welcoming with signage and access improved by removing steps	The overall quality of the facilities on site could be improved and wildlife enhancements such as wildflower areas could be incorporated.	65	B	6.67	B
2970	Highfield Road	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Small park with a play area, grassland is short and managed, litter scattered throughout the space, bins and benches are	Install signage at site entrance, improve parking area, manage litter.	Could introduce planting to improve aesthetics as well as for wildlife, install signage and introduce	69	B	5.67	B

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			present. Hard to find if you didn't know it was here.		better provision for children.				
1409	Horsley Play Area	Play (child)	Excellent fenced children's play area with a variety of modern equipment, sand area, wild areas, and trees.	None.	None.	90	A	N/A	N/A
1439	Bunting Way Play Area	Play (child)	Large fenced children's play area with variety of equipment, some dated and requires painting / modernising. There is quite a bit of litter and the overall space feels quite tired, and the signage is old and unwelcoming.	Repaint equipment, fix damaged safety surfacing, install more welcoming signage, litter pick.	None.	74	A	N/A	N/A
1483	Beechwood Close Play Area	Play (child)	Small fenced children's play space with only two items of equipment, a bench and a litter bin- decent quality but very low play value and no soft landscaping.	Little space for new equipment, limited potential for improvement. Some soft landscaping would greatly enhance the visual amenity of the site.	Introduce soft landscaping features e.g. tree/shrub planting.	72.22	A	1.33	C

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
1487	Nortonwood Play Area	Play (child)	Large children's play area with excellent play value - good variety of equipment for different ages, benches, bins, some litter and a broken piece of equipment.	Some of the benches would benefit from repainting, remove/replace broken/missing item of play equipment, litter pick, could plant a hedgerow along the fence line to improve biodiversity value.	Limited potential to improve for wildlife or water - although possibility for shrub/hedge planting along the fence line.	78	A	6.67	B
1499	Dark Lane Play Area	Play (child)	Good quality fenced children's play area with variety of modern equipment, bench and bin.	Could install path to play area to improve access.	None.	79	A	N/A	N/A
1515	King George V Playing Fields Area	Play (child)	Good quality, large, fenced children's play area with variety of modern equipment, benches and bins, good play value.	None.	None.	80	A	N/A	N/A
1600	Deveraux Crescent Play Area	Play (child)	Large play area within an amenity with a variety of equipment suited for children of all ages. Bins and benches are also present.	Add signage at the site entrances.	None.	81	A	N/A	N/A
1623	Westrip Place Play Area	Play (child)	Small play space at the end of a cul-de-sac. Space includes	None.	None.	76	A	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
			fairly modern equipment but limited play value.						
1633	Elm Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Play (child)	Small play space with a mix of toddler and junior equipment. Site is well managed with bins and benches provided.	Could expand the space to include more equipment, maybe some more challenging equipment for older children.	None.	81	A	N/A	N/A
1637	Chapel Fields Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with dated equipment and limited play value.	Enlarge the play area or include another play equipment with newer equipment to be used by children of all ages.	None.	75	A	N/A	N/A
1645	Whiteshill Play Area	Play (child)	Excellent play space with a wide range of equipment for children of varying ages.	Some of the equipment is varied in age and materials used, could be updated to a similar condition in the near future.	None.	88	A	N/A	N/A
2233	Bussage Play Area	Play (child)	Large, unfenced children's play area with variety of equipment, although generally well maintained the equipment is dated. Trees and tall grass margins, bins and benches.	Existing equipment could be upgraded to improve play value, or there is space to add new play items.	None.	77	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
2295	Chalford Hill Recreation Ground Play Area 1	Play (child)	Unfenced children's play area with benches and bin, although equipment is dated, it is in relatively good condition.	Play value could be improved by updating existing equipment and/or installing new items.	None.	77	A	N/A	N/A
2296	Chalford Hill Recreation Ground Play Area 2	Play (child)	Large, unfenced children's play area with good variety of equipment - good play value. Some of the equipment is newer, where as some items are dated, but in reasonably good condition - although safety surfacing could be improved in some instances.	Upgrade the older play items.	None.	79	A	N/A	N/A
2319	Marley Lane Play Area	Play (child)	Very popular unfenced children's play area alongside stream, some of the equipment is rather dated and would benefit from upgrading, however there is lots of opportunity for play in the surrounding area, with many	Upgrade some of the more dated play items.	None.	79	A	N/A	N/A



Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			children playing in the stream.						
2415	Glebe Road Play Area	Play (child)	Decent quality fenced children's play area, although play value could be improved.	There was litter in the play area at the time of the site visit, despite the provision of a bin, however the area was being well used. Some of the equipment would benefit from repainting. Play value could be improved by upgrading some of the items.	None.	71	A	N/A	N/A
2451	Common Road Play Area	Play (child)	Good quality children's play area, although the equipment is dated, it is well maintained and the space feels welcoming and well cared for.	Play value could be improved by upgrading equipment, the safety surfacing in particular looks poor. Cut back hedge overhanging entrance and sign. Could plant hedgerow along bare fence line.	Plant hedgerow along bare fence line.	73.33	A	6.33	B
2474	Orchard Lane Play Area	Play (child)	Small fenced off toddler play area with good/reasonable quality equipment, two basic wooden benches	Upgrade benches, install litter bin, improve access and welcome to park and also update the signage on play area fence, repaint gate.	None.	74	A	N/A	N/A
2524	Bowl Hill Play Area	Play (child)	Good quality play equipment in fenced area, although play value could be improved	Potential to upgrade existing equipment or add new play items.	None.	79	A	N/A	N/A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			by upgrading to more modern equipment, or with the addition of new items. Bench. Good access to play area via hard surfaced path.						
2538	Rodborough Recreation Ground Play Area	Play (child)	Good quality, small children's play area, with good access and lovely views.	Limited opportunity to enhance play value due to small size.	None.	83.67	A	N/A	N/A
2554	Queen Elizabeth II Field Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with a pirate ship theme aimed and young children. The equipment is modern and well managed with little deterioration.	Space for more play provision, add on to the existing zip line for older children.	None.	85	A	N/A	N/A
2562	Home Orchard Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with good quality, new equipment and excellent signage. Bins and benches are present within the play area but the bin is overflowing with litter.	Empty bins more regularly.	None.	81	A	N/A	N/A
2563	Orchard Road Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with a mix of junior and toddler equipment.	None.	None.	83	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
			Play is modern and has good value for its size.						
2589	Victory Park Play Area	Play (child)	Large play space with a range of equipment suitable for children of all ages.	Some of the equipment appears quite dated and could need replacing in the near future it keep up the premium feel of the site.	None.	84	A	N/A	N/A
2596	Ashway Court Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area aimed at toddlers. The play area contains modern equipment and is well managed with good signage.	None needed, as long as a larger play space for older children is present nearby.	None.	84	A	N/A	N/A
2628	Archway Gardens Play Area	Play (child)	Small play space with dated equipment, paint is fading on most equipment and provides limited play value.	Replace equipment with newer equipment or remove.	None.	78	A	N/A	N/A
2849	Stratford Park Play Area 2	Play (child)	Large play space with a variety of equipment for children of all ages. Play area is well managed with numerous bins and benches provided. Play area used by a lot of people during the audit.	Some equipment is damaged and fenced off, refurbish or remove.	None.	84	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
2851	Stratford Park Play Area 1	Play (child)	Small play area with equipment aimed at toddlers. All seems to be in condition and is well used with good signage and benches provided.	Some equipment is taped off due to damage, fix.	None.	84	A	N/A	N/A
2853	Stroud Park Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with good quality wooden equipment aimed at younger children.	Play area could be extended to include equipment for older children.	None.	81	A	N/A	N/A
2868	Uplands Playing Fields Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with a range of high-quality new equipment aimed at toddler and young children. The play area is fenced and in excellent condition.	Could add signage to the space.	None.	84	A	N/A	N/A
2908	Parliament Street Play Area 2	Play (child)	Small play area with equipment aimed at younger children. All equipment is in decent condition with some paint faded on the swings.	Refurbish existing equipment.	None.	80	A	N/A	N/A
2909	Parliament Street Play Area 1	Play (child)	Small play space aimed at junior children. The	None.	None.	83	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
			equipment is modern and in excellent condition with good play value.						
2918	Daisy Bank Play Area	Play (child)	Decent play area with good signage and modern timber equipment.	Small section is closed off and needs repairing.	None – not suitable for wildlife.	83	A	6	B
2968	Highfield Road Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with limited play value, low level, dated provision.	Install signage, add new modern provision.	Very few opportunities for wildlife and no water sources or management present.	76	A	5.67	B
2972	Arundel Mill Lane Play Area	Play (child)	Small play area with suitable amount of provision, no litter or vandalism, limited play value. No real access, installed gate is closed off.	Add signage appropriate, install better access, add bins/benches.	Site doesn't offer opportunities for wildlife as it is a play area. Improve access to the site.	73	A	5	B
2973	Summer Crescent Play Area	Play (child)	Large play area with a variety of equipment suitable for all ages. The site is well managed and needs no improvements.	None.	None.	85	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
3038	Bisley Road Play Area	Play (child)	Decent play area with good modern play equipment and boundary fencing.	None.	None.	86	A	N/A	N/A
1441	Bunting Way MUGA	Play (youth)	Good quality MUGA.	Litter pick. Repaint markings.	None.	77	A	N/A	N/A
1631	Elm Road Recreation Ground MUGA	Play (youth)	High quality MUGA facility with high fencing and easy access in and out of the space.	None.	None.	91	A	N/A	N/A
2236	Bussage Skate Park	Play (youth)	Excellent quality skate park with half pipe and quarter pipe.	None.	None.	88	A	N/A	N/A
2294	Chalford Hill Recreation Ground MUGA	Play (youth)	Good quality MUGA, in use at time of visit.	None.	None.	80	A	N/A	N/A
2418	Glebe Road MUGA	Play (youth)	Good quality MUGA, well maintained, with hard surfaced path leading to it.	Small amounts of litter need clearing.	None.	78	A	N/A	N/A
2522	Bowl Hill MUGA	Play (youth)	Good quality MUGA.	There are small amounts of litter next to the MUGA and the markings could be repainted to make clearer.	None.	78	A	N/A	N/A
2536	Rodborough Recreation Ground MUGA	Play (youth)	Good quality, well maintained MUGA with access via stone dust path.	None.	None.	80	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
2571	Victory Park Basketball	Play (youth)	Single basketball hoop with an area of hard standing.	Could enlarge the space to a full MUGA.	None.	79	A	N/A	N/A
2846	Stratford Park Skate Ramps	Play (youth)	Skate ramps a variety of equipment for usage by all abilities. Graffiti is present where appropriate.	None.	None.	85	A	N/A	N/A
2865	Uplands Playing Fields MUGA	Play (youth)	Modern MUGA facility in excellent condition with bins and benches provided. Signage is also present.	None.	None.	85	A	N/A	N/A
3035	Bisley Road MUGA	Play (youth)	High quality MUGA facility, no need for improvements.	None.	None.	89	A	N/A	N/A
3036	Bisley Road Skate Ramps	Play (youth)	High quality skate ramps and BMX ramps. Both in good condition with no need for improvements.	None.	None.	89	A	N/A	N/A
1513	King George V Playing Fields	Play (youth)	Good Park with a variety of good quality facilities including a large fenced children's play area, tennis courts, outdoor	Improve condition of buildings/pavilions within the park.	Scope to improve the natural field which is an extension to the park – e.g. put in a wildlife	83	A	7.33	A

Site ID	Site Name	Typology	Description of Site	Open Space Suggestions	GI Suggestions	Open Space Total Score	Open Space Grade	GI Total Score	GI Grade
			gym equipment, boules court, table tennis and skate park. There is also parking and a basketball hoop. The buildings are dated.		pond and additional planting to strengthen existing hedgerows / copse areas, or enhance grassland for wildflowers.				
1407	Horsley Basketball	Play (youth)	Basketball hoop with area of hard standing, fenced, accessible via children's play area only. Vegetation is overgrown.	Better management of vegetation directly around the hardstanding area.	None.	70	B	N/A	N/A



Figure 17 Summary of open space quality audit results in Stroud Valleys cluster

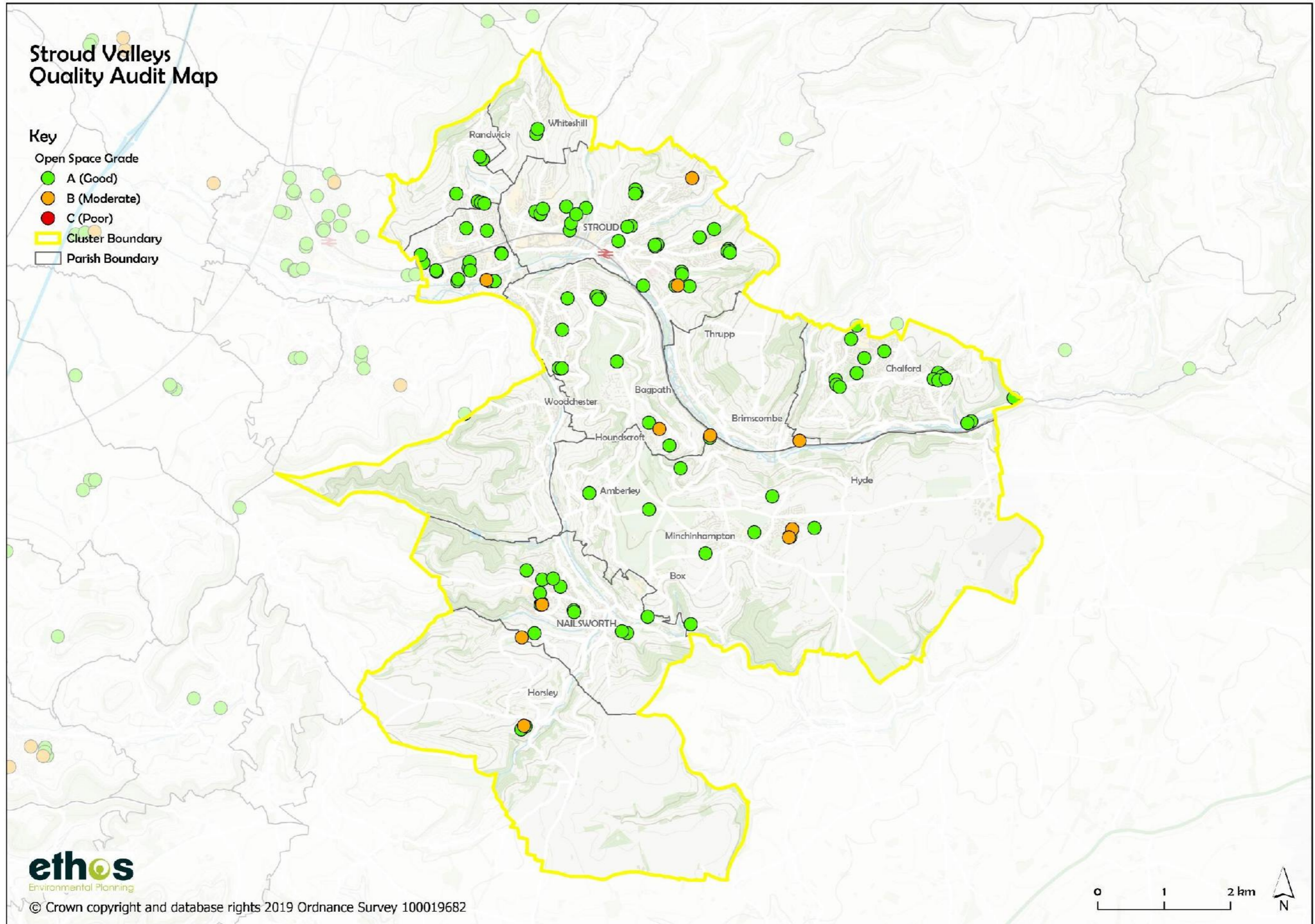
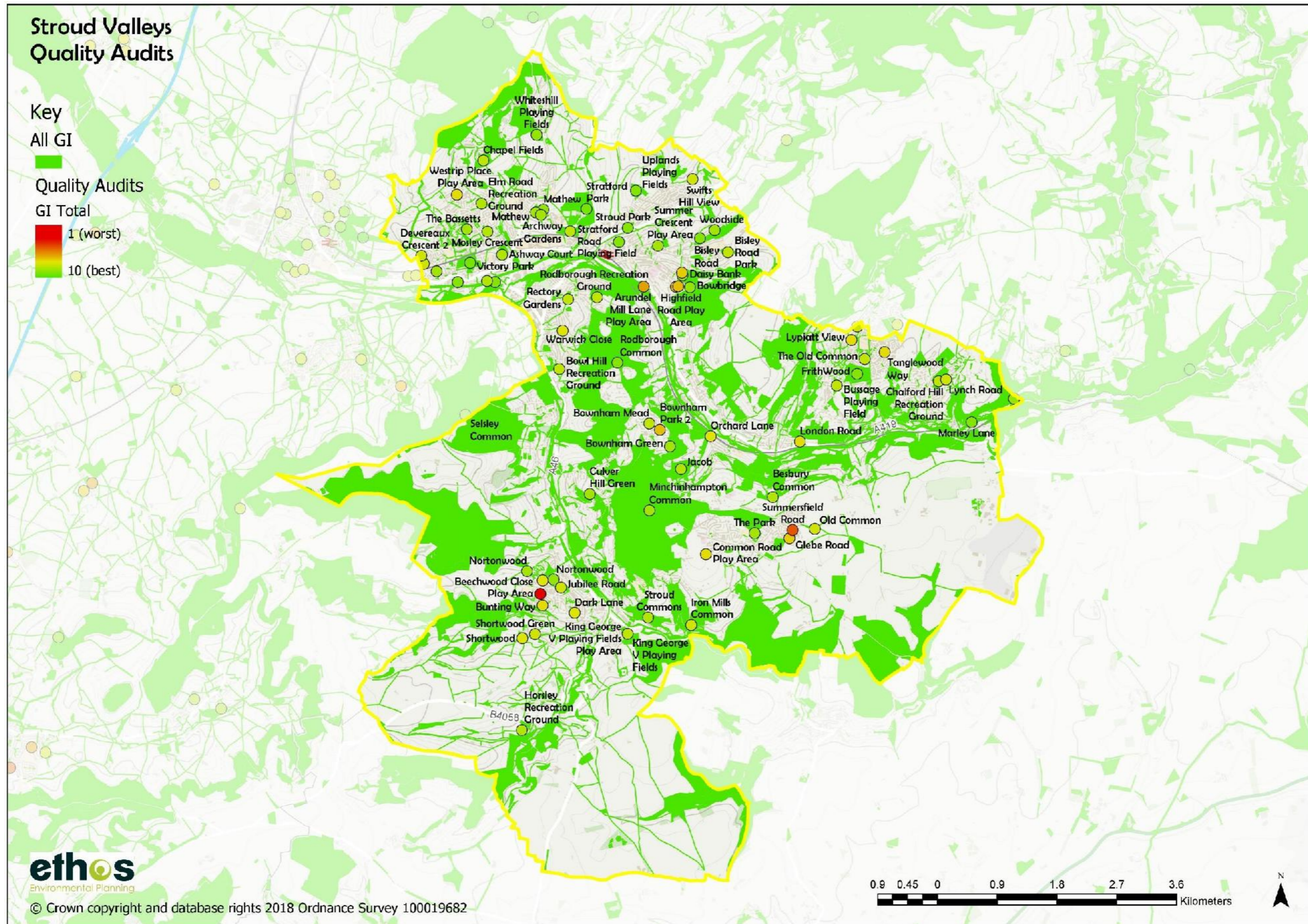


Figure 18 Summary of open space GI quality scores



## 5.2 Condition of SSSIs

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

Figure 19 Stroud Valleys SSSIs

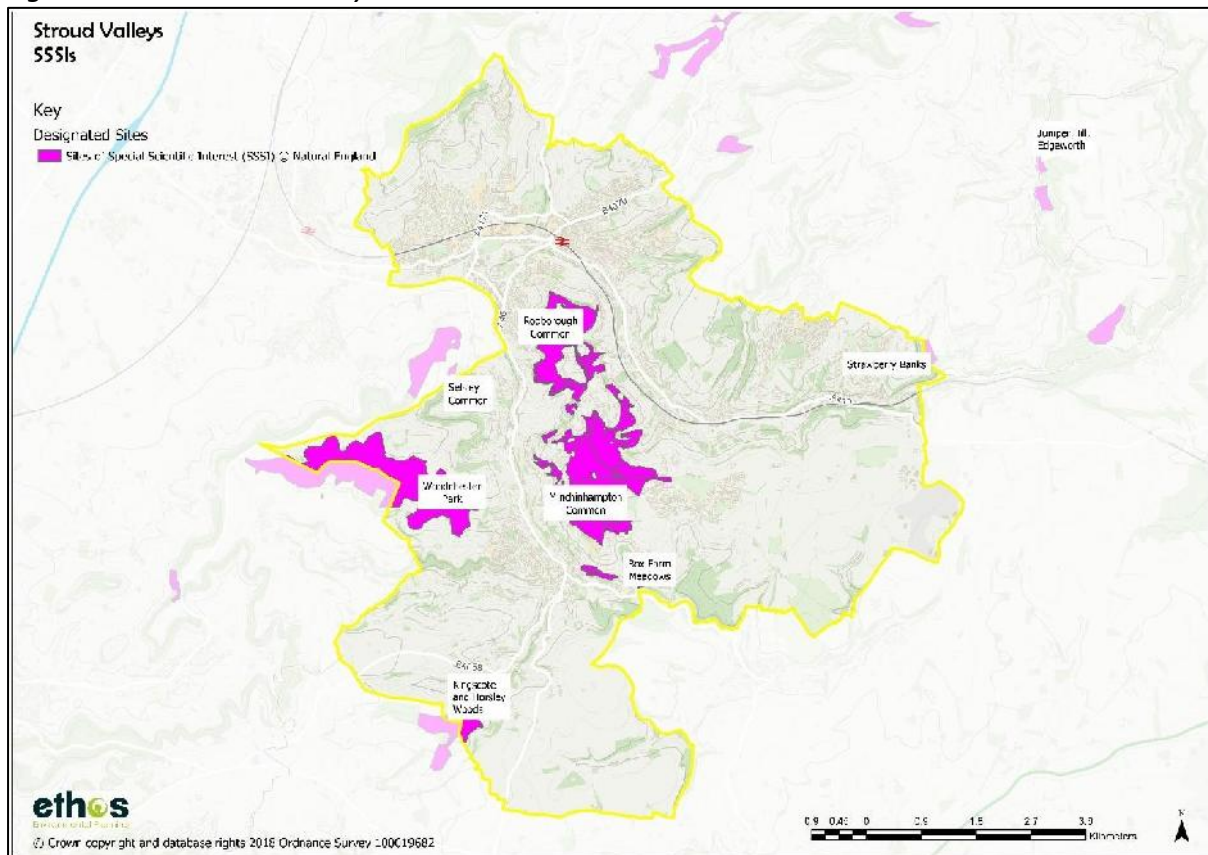


Table 5 Condition summary of SSSI's sites within the Stroud Valleys cluster

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
Box Farm Meadows	SSSI	8.29	Owned and managed by the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation, this site is a good example of species-rich limestone grassland and supports the national rare plant of rare meadow clary. The site has the largest population of this species in the country.	100% Favourable.

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
Kingscote and Horsley Woods	SSSI	14.64	These sites represent a good example of an ancient beech dominated woodland. The woods are dominated by beech of various ages with some ash and oak. The understory consists largely of hazel and hawthorn. The ground flora contains abundant bluebells.	79.51% Favourable. 20.49% Unfavourable – recovering.
Minchinhampton Common	SSSI	191.88	Owned by the National Trust, this is one of the largest grassland Commons on the Cotswolds. Lying immediately south of Rodborough Common SSSI, this site is important for its unimproved, herb-rich limestone grassland and the disused quarry in the middle of the Common is of geological importance for their fossils. The site supports a variety of insects including butterflies including the uncommon Duke of Burgundy fritillary.	91.97% Favourable. 8.03% Unfavourable – recovering.
Rodborough Common	SSSI	109.64	Situated on Jurassic Limestone of top of the Cotswold scarp lying on a hill. It consists of a central plateau which drops steeply, this provides variation in the species composition which is primarily unimproved, herb-rich, calcareous grassland. The slopes provide taller vegetation which is of particular value for insects including the uncommon snail. Also on site is an old quarry located near Rodborough Fort which provides exposures of Inferior Oolite Limestone of the Middle Jurassic Period. This is important in demonstrating the effects of earth movements on the local succession during the Jurassic.	99.77% Favourable. 0.23% Unfavourable – declining.

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
Strawberry Banks	SSSI	0.06	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.
Woodchester Park	SSSI	154.15	Situated within a secluded and sheltered valley running in a dip slope of the Cotswolds and managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. This site provides an environment for a breeding colony of greater horseshoe bats centred on the Mansion located within the site. Woodland is the most extensive habitat which includes original semi-natural woodland. There are some nationally restricted plants found in the woods including fingered sedge, angular Solomon's-seal and stinking hellebore. A range of important wildlife exists across the site including breeding birds (sparrowhawk, tawny owl), invertebrates (nationally restricted scarlet tiger moth) and butterflies.	95.80% Favourable. 4.2% Unfavourable – recovering.

### 5.3 Natural England National Habitat Network Mapping

The Natural England National Habitat Network mapping also indicates that there is 'restorable habitat' within the Stroud Valleys 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 Stroud Valleys 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 Stroud Valleys cluster (up to 2040)*

Typology	Standard for new provision (Ha/1000)	Requirement for 3839 people (Ha)
Allotments	0.35	1.34
Community Orchards	0.15	0.58
Amenity Green Space	0.40	1.54
Park and Recreation Ground	1.20	4.61
Play Space (Children)	0.06	0.23
Play Space (Youth)	0.06	0.23
Natural Green Space	1.00	3.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>12.37</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 6.5

As can be seen from figure 20, the majority of the area falls within the strategic GI corridor as identified by the GLNP, which relates to the Cotswold Escarpment and Valley SNA (shown in yellow). In addition to this, a number of locally important GI corridors have been identified as follows:

- A) Saul to Stroud. River Frome (KWS) and Stroudwater Canal
- B) Selsey Common to Kingscote via Nailsworth. Ancient woodland and broadleaved woodland including Nailsworth Brook KWS.
- D) Minchinhampton Common to Cherington linking SSSI and lower calcareous grassland to ancient woodlands and Minchinhampton Golf Course.
- E) River Frome and Thames and Severn Canal east from Stroud through Ancient Woodlands and Key Wildlife Sites.

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

- 11) Protect and restore canal and river corridors for biodiversity and cycle and pedestrian access.

12) Improve connectivity and quality of priority habitats, including deciduous woodland, calcareous grassland and good quality semi-improved grassland. Identified by Natural England as a Fragmentation Action Zone.

13) Enhance connectivity of fragmented woodland habitats and associated access improvements to existing PRoW network.

14) Enhance connectivity of priority habitats, including fragmented deciduous woodland and associated access improvements to existing PRoW network.

### **Strategic Site Allocations**

#### **Site Allocation SA1a: Land at Dudbridge**

Allocated for canal related tourism development, retail and employment uses, has planning consent.

#### **Site Allocation SA1b: Cheapside**

Allocated for 30 dwellings, town centre and canal uses, has planning consent.

#### **Site Allocation SA1c: Ham Mill**

Allocated for 100 dwellings and employment uses. Focus on achieving the conservation and adaptation of the historic mill and enhancement of its setting. No development should take place in Flood Zones 3a and 3b at the south eastern end of the site: this area will act as a natural buffer to the river. The site is currently up for sale and has planning consent.

#### **Site Allocation SA1d: Brinscombe Mill**

Allocated for 40 dwellings and employment uses. Potential for both housing and employment redevelopment to achieve environmental enhancements and to create a restored mill pond. Currently undetermined.

#### **Site Allocation SA1e: Brinscombe Port**

Allocated for 150 dwellings, canal related tourism development and employment uses, currently undetermined.

#### **Site Allocation SA1f: Wimberley Mills**

Allocated for 100 dwellings and employment B1-B8 uses. Has planning consent for housing with river and canal improvements, has planning consent.

#### **Site Allocation SA1g: Dockyard Works**

Allocated for 30 dwellings and employment B1-B8 uses. To include the de-culverting of the Toadsmoor Stream on-site and the reinstatement and maintenance of the adjacent Canal

channel off-site. These measures are to enable development by reducing flood risk and improving river corridor functionality, currently undetermined.

### **Emerging Local Plan**

The Local Plan Review Emerging Strategy (2018) sets out the following draft vision for the Stroud Valleys cluster:

***Draft vision to 2040: “Regeneration, creativity and cultural blossoming in the green valleys...”***

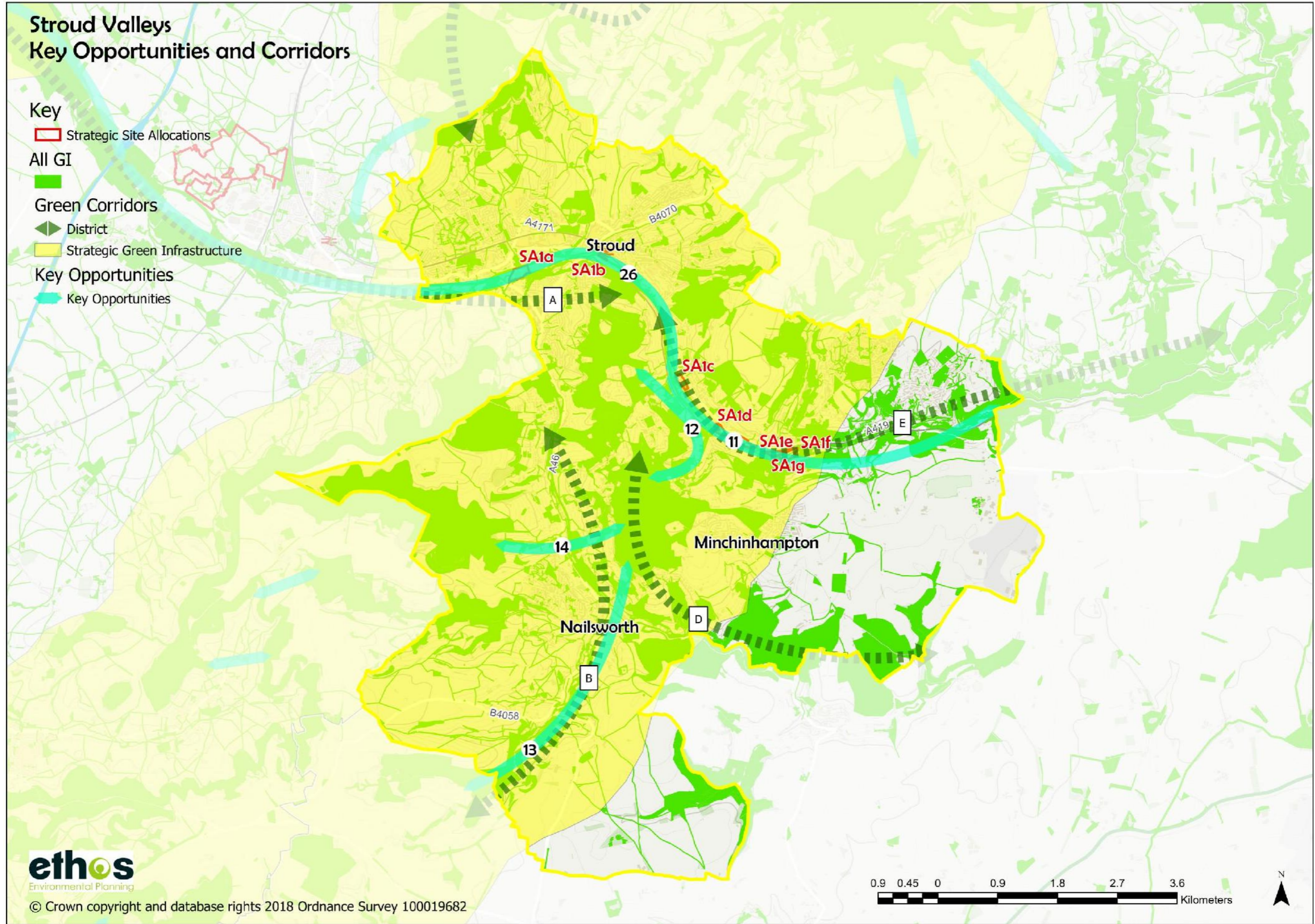
*Minchinhampton and the smaller villages within the Cotswold AONB will flourish as local communities set within a valued and protected landscape.....*

*.....The regeneration of the industrial valley bottoms and the restoration of the Cotswold Canals will provide a new lease of life for valleys’ rich architectural heritage....*

*.....This will be an environment that improves walking and cycling links through the area, boosts tourism, conserves, enhances and connects habitats along its varied river corridors....*



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:

- Shortwood (B)
- London Road (B)
- Summerfield Road (C)
- Bownham Park 2 (B)
- Swifts Hill View (B)
- Bunting Way (B)
- Glebe Road (B)
- Orchard Lane (B)
- Highfield Road (B)
- Frome Gardens (B)
- Horseley Basketball (B)

The GI quality scores and recommendations should also be considered.

A desktop assessment has also identified potential to improve the condition of Kingscote and Horsley Woods, Minchinhampton Common, Rodborough Common and Woodchester Park (from SSSI condition assessments).

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

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of the Stroud Valleys cluster, there are shortfalls in supply of all typologies of open space (with the exception of allotments), and therefore there is little opportunity for re-location/resignation of open space. There may be potential natural green space to accommodate low impact uses such as natural play or food growing where there are gaps in

access. Although there are shortfalls in supply, access to all typologies is generally good, and therefore the improvement of existing facilities is key.

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

The assessment has identified that there is an existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of all typologies of open space (with the exception of allotments), therefore, the need to protect existing open space and maximise opportunities for securing new open space is key.

The requirements for provision from new development will depend on the size and location of the development. Table 6 sets out the overall requirement for new open space provision within the Stroud Valleys cluster from new development, which is 12.37 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/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):

- 11) Protect and restore canal and river corridors for biodiversity and cycle and pedestrian access.
- 12) Improve connectivity and quality of priority habitats, including deciduous woodland, calcareous grassland and good quality semi-improved grassland. Identified by Natural England as a Fragmentation Action Zone.
- 13) Enhance connectivity of fragmented woodland habitats and associated access improvements to existing PRoW network.
- 14) Enhance connectivity of priority habitats, including fragmented deciduous woodland and associated access improvements to existing PRoW network.

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

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

There are shortfalls in all typologies of open space (with the exception of allotments). Although there is sufficient supply of allotments 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.

Irrespective of this, the role that 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.