

## Stroud Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study



### Gloucester Fringe Cluster Sub Area Analysis Report (Part 2 of 2)

Final June 2019



Ecology | Green Space | Arboiculture | GIS

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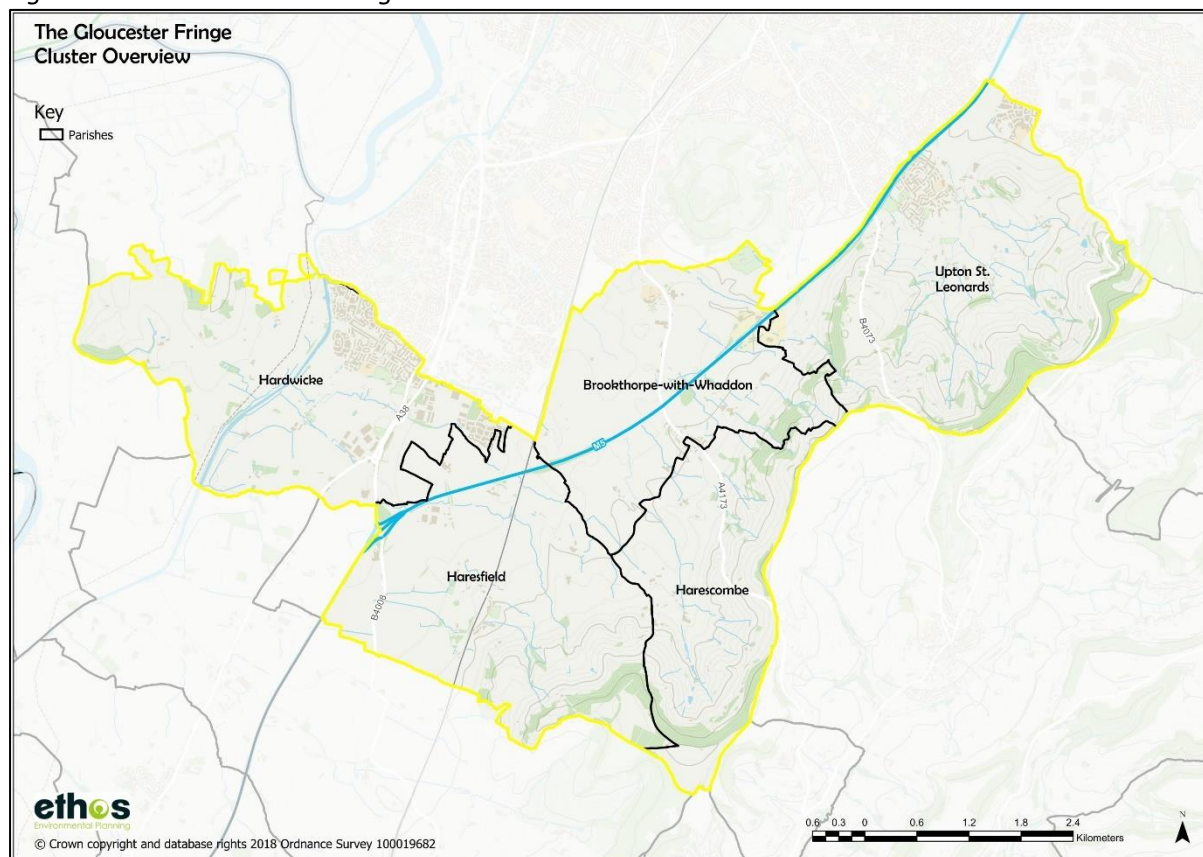


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## 1.0 Geographical area and population

The Gloucester Fringe cluster comprises the Parishes of Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Hardwicke, Harescombe, Haresfield and Upton St Leonards as shown in figure 1. The population of this area is 9,013 (ONS 2017 mid-year estimate).

Figure 1 Gloucester Fringe cluster



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

Most people in this area live on the edge of the Gloucester urban area, at Hardwicke and in the growing new community at Hunts Grove. There are also several key employment sites here. Over the District boundary, Gloucester City is experiencing significant employment growth, including at Waterwells Business Park. Upton St Leonards is the second largest settlement on the Gloucester fringe, but both Hardwicke and Upton have limited facilities and they look to Gloucester for most of their strategic needs. Beyond Hardwicke and Upton, the parishes are distinctly rural in character, populated by scattered hamlets and farmsteads, aside from the small villages of Haresfield and Brookthorpe. Almost half of the area is designated part of the Cotswolds AONB and there are dramatic and far-reaching views to and from the Cotswold escarpment. All the District's major routes north (road and rail, as well as the Gloucester-Sharpsness canal) pass through this area and Junction 12 (M5) lies just south of Hunts Grove. The motorway provides a distinct 'edge' to the urban expansion of the city.

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

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

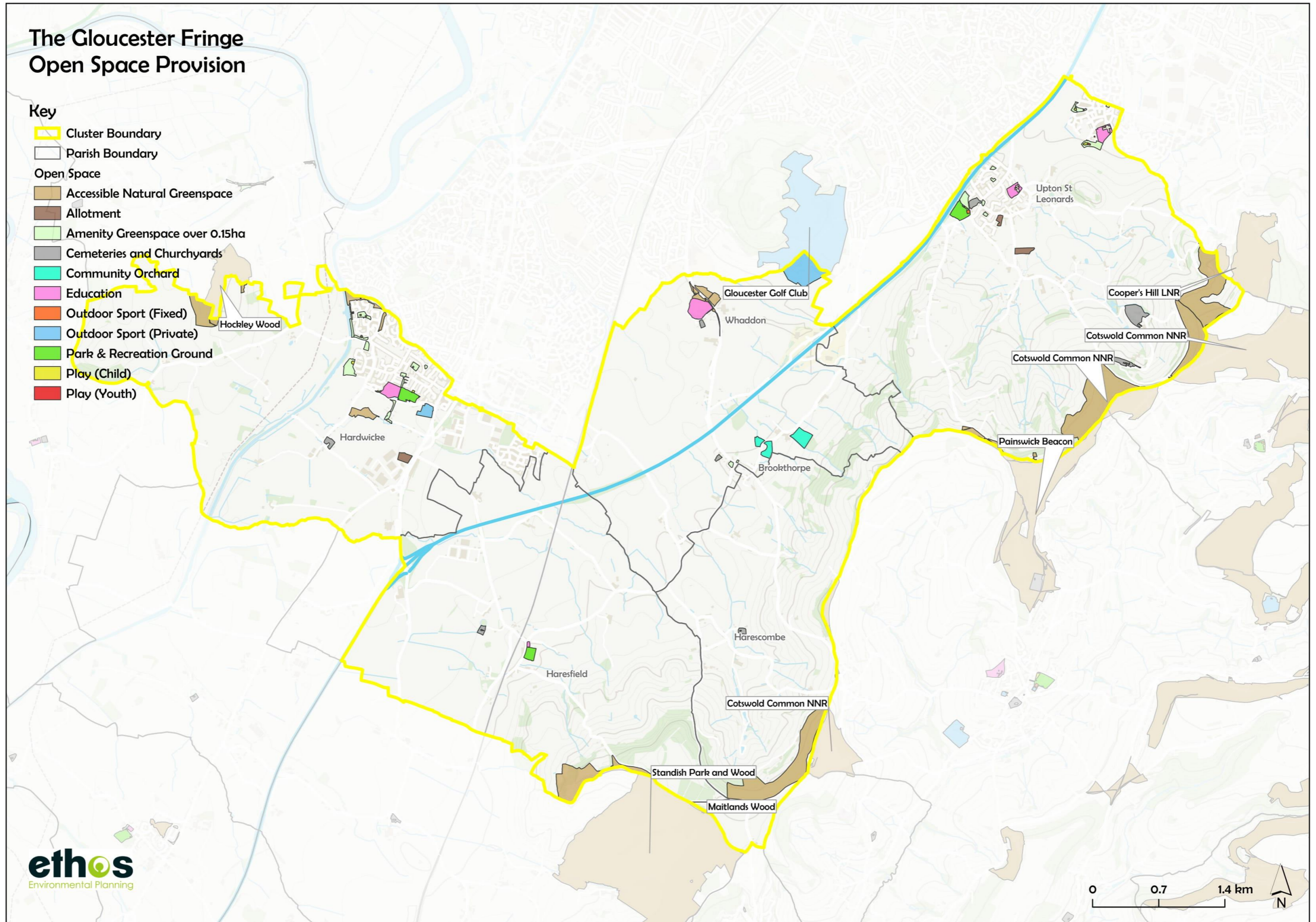


Figure 3 Overview of GI in the Gloucester Fringe cluster

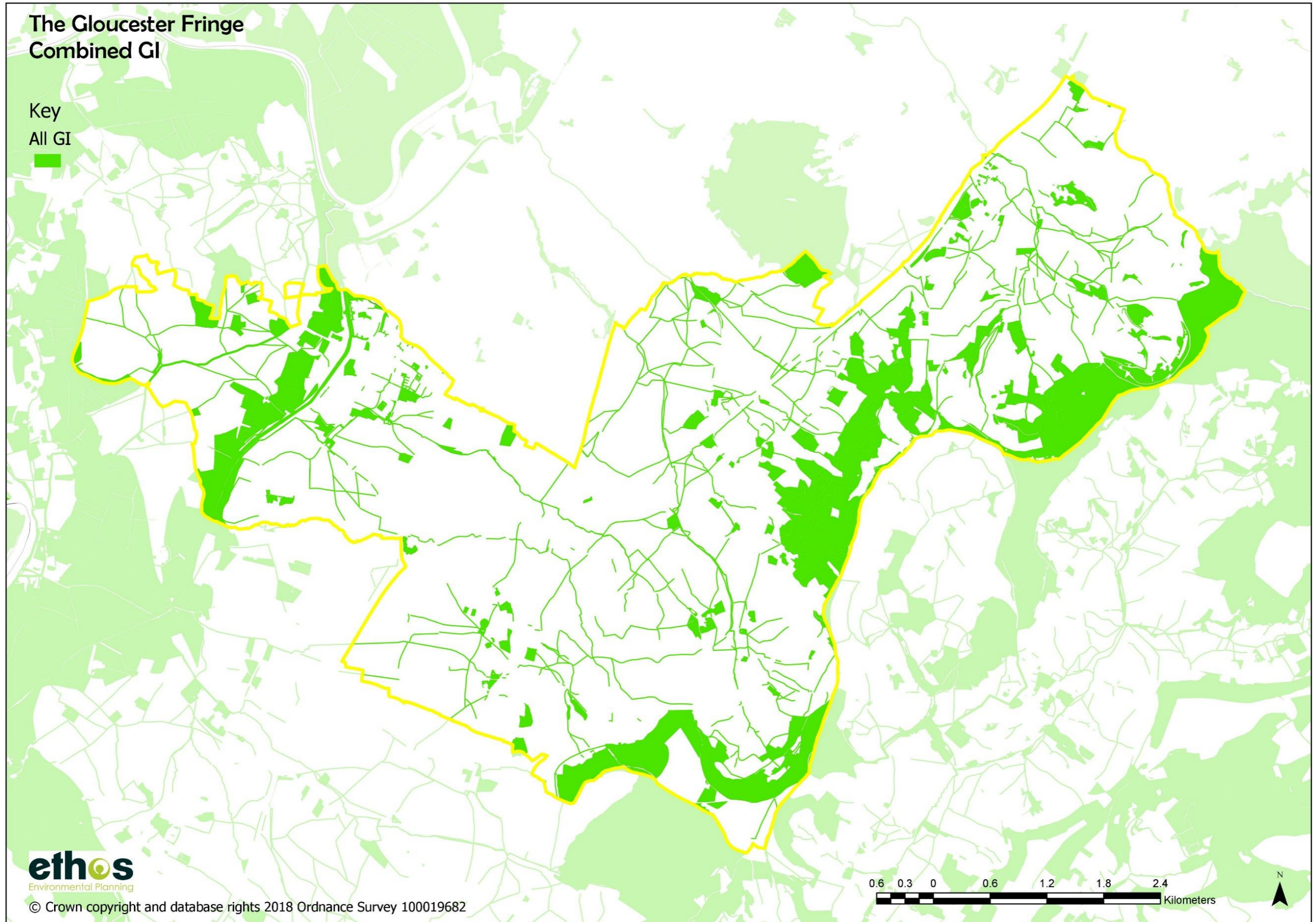


Figure 4 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Designated Sites

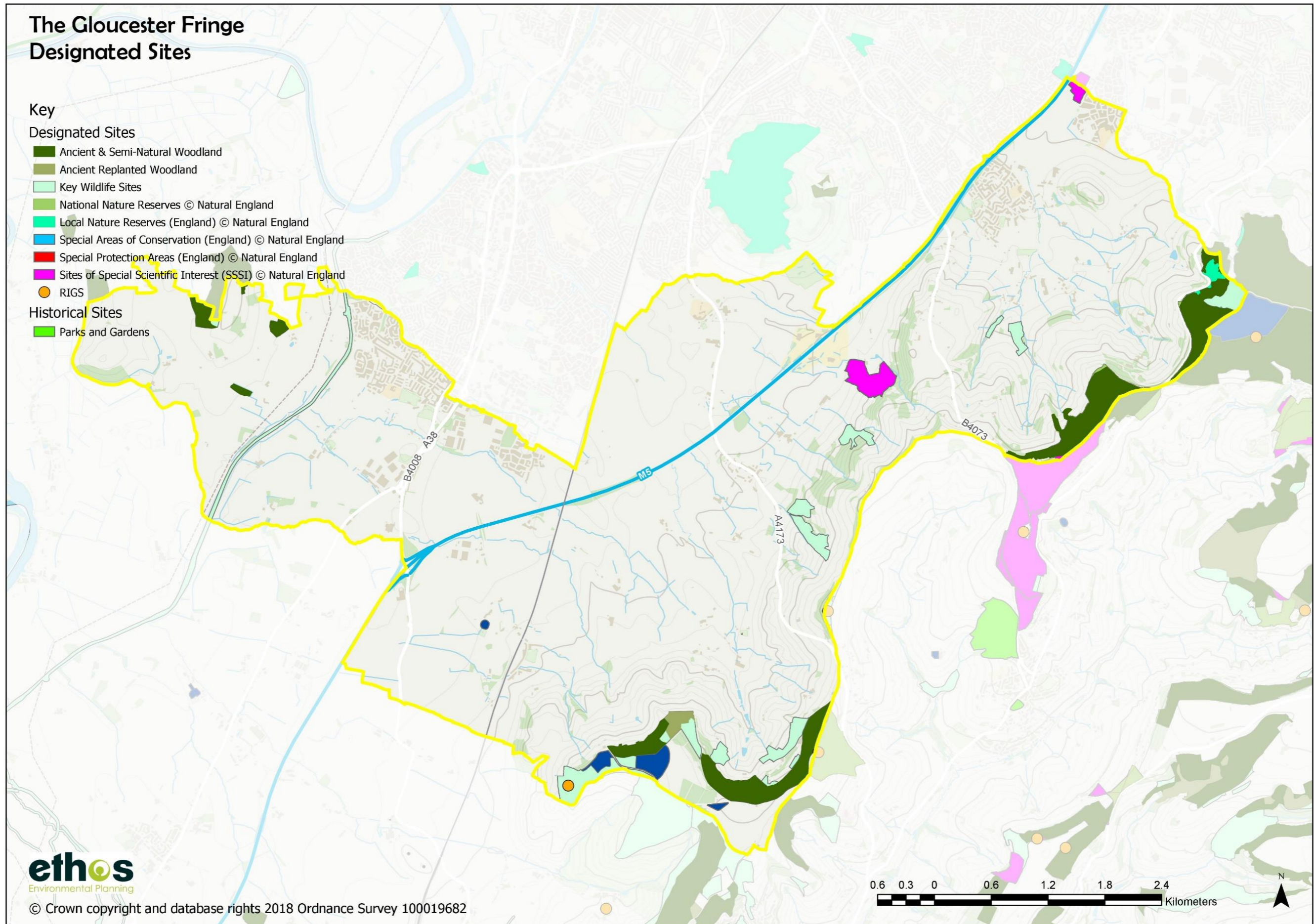


Figure 5 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: Priority Habitats, Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs)

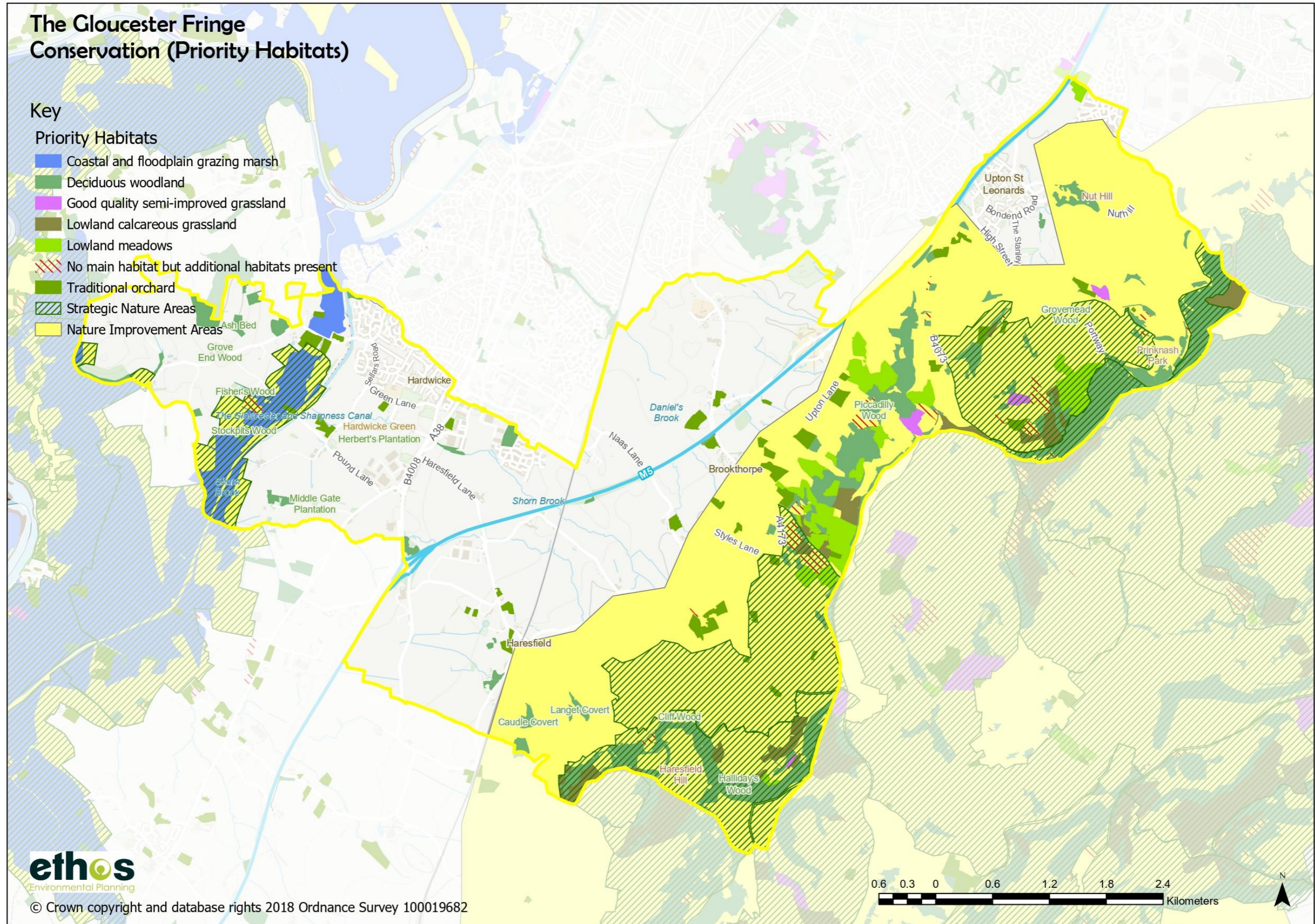




Figure 6 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wildlife: National Character Areas (NCAs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

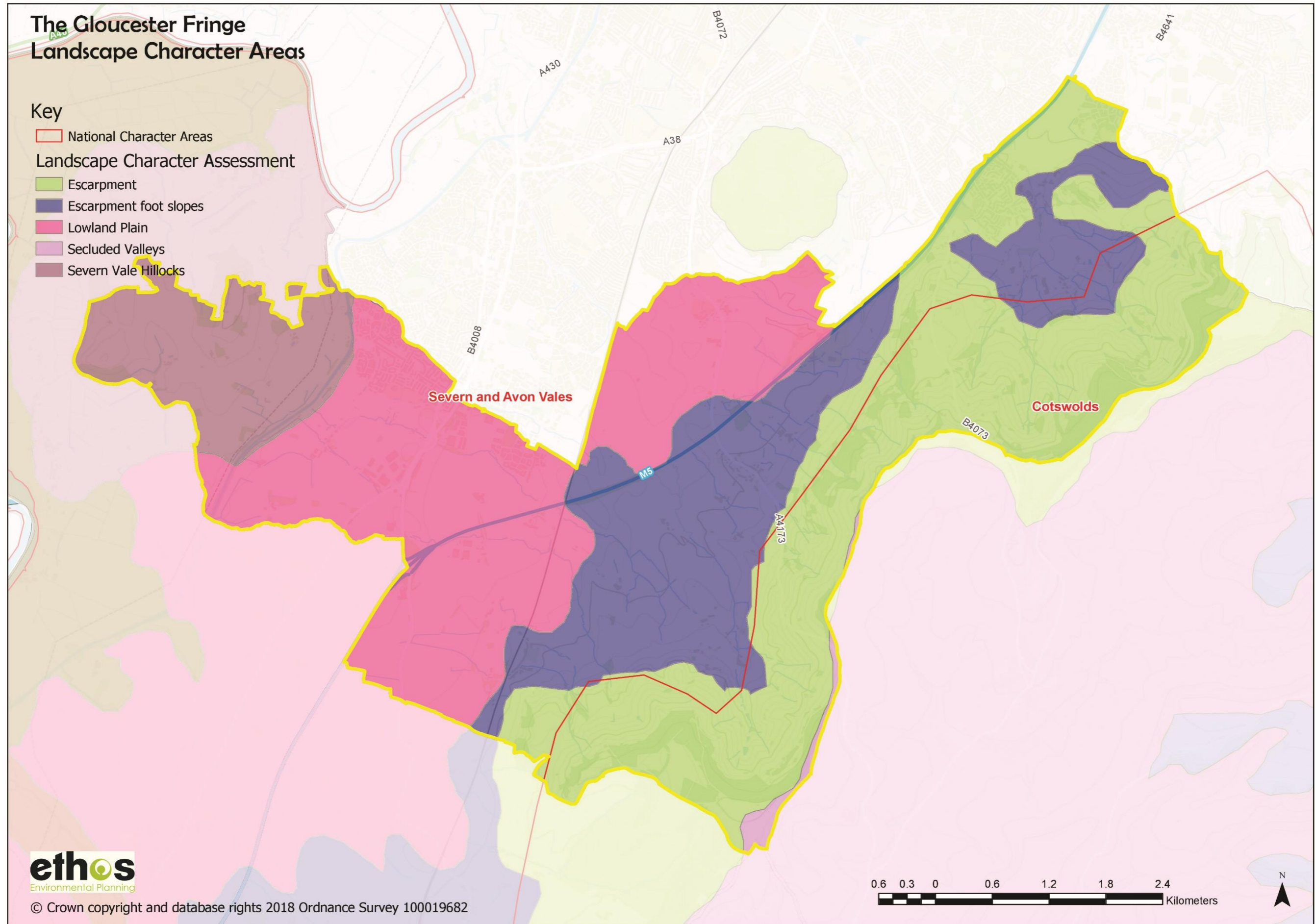


Figure 7 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Water: Canals, Rivers/Streams, Lakes/Surface Water, Priority River Habitat, Floodzone, Source Protection Zones

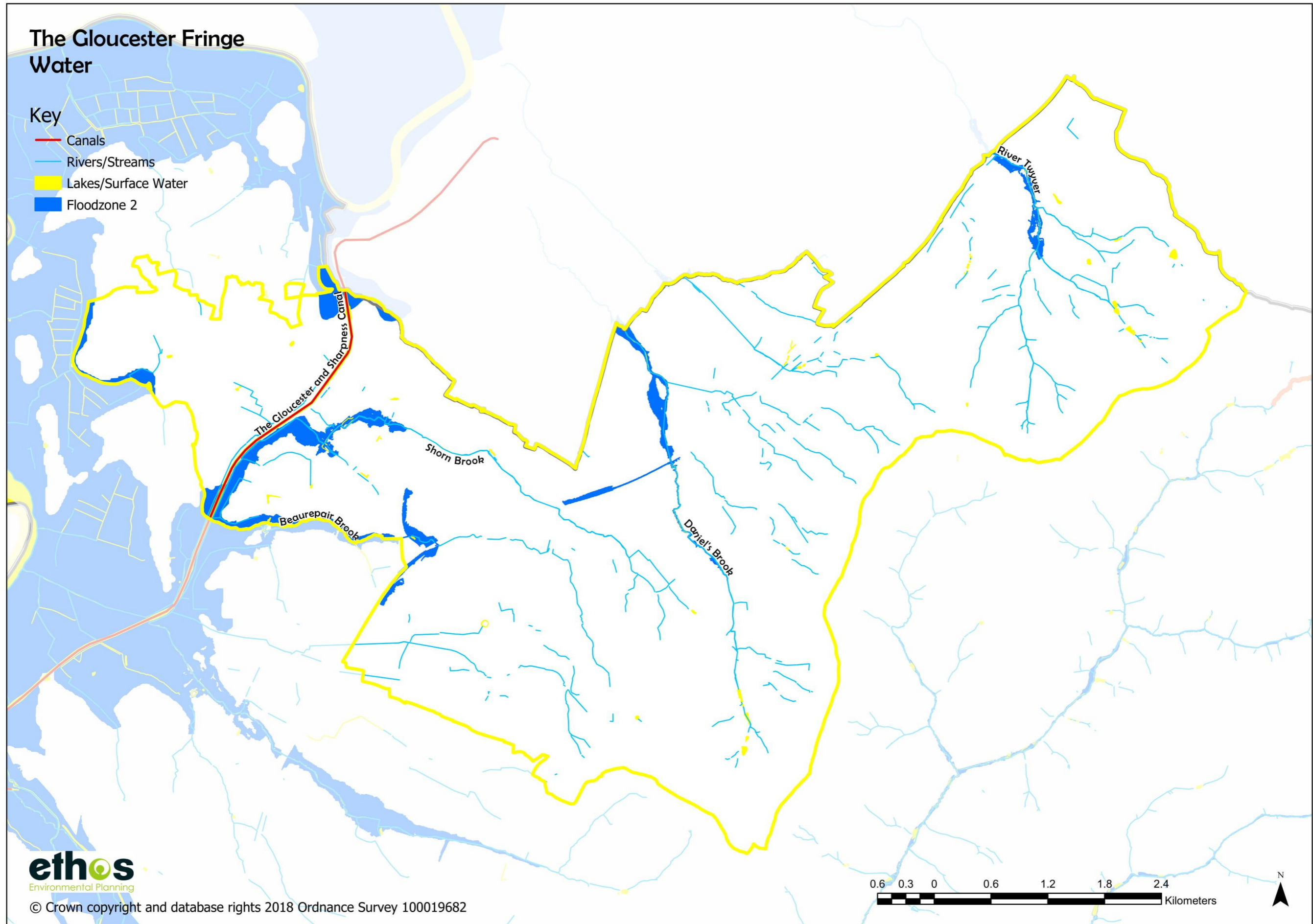
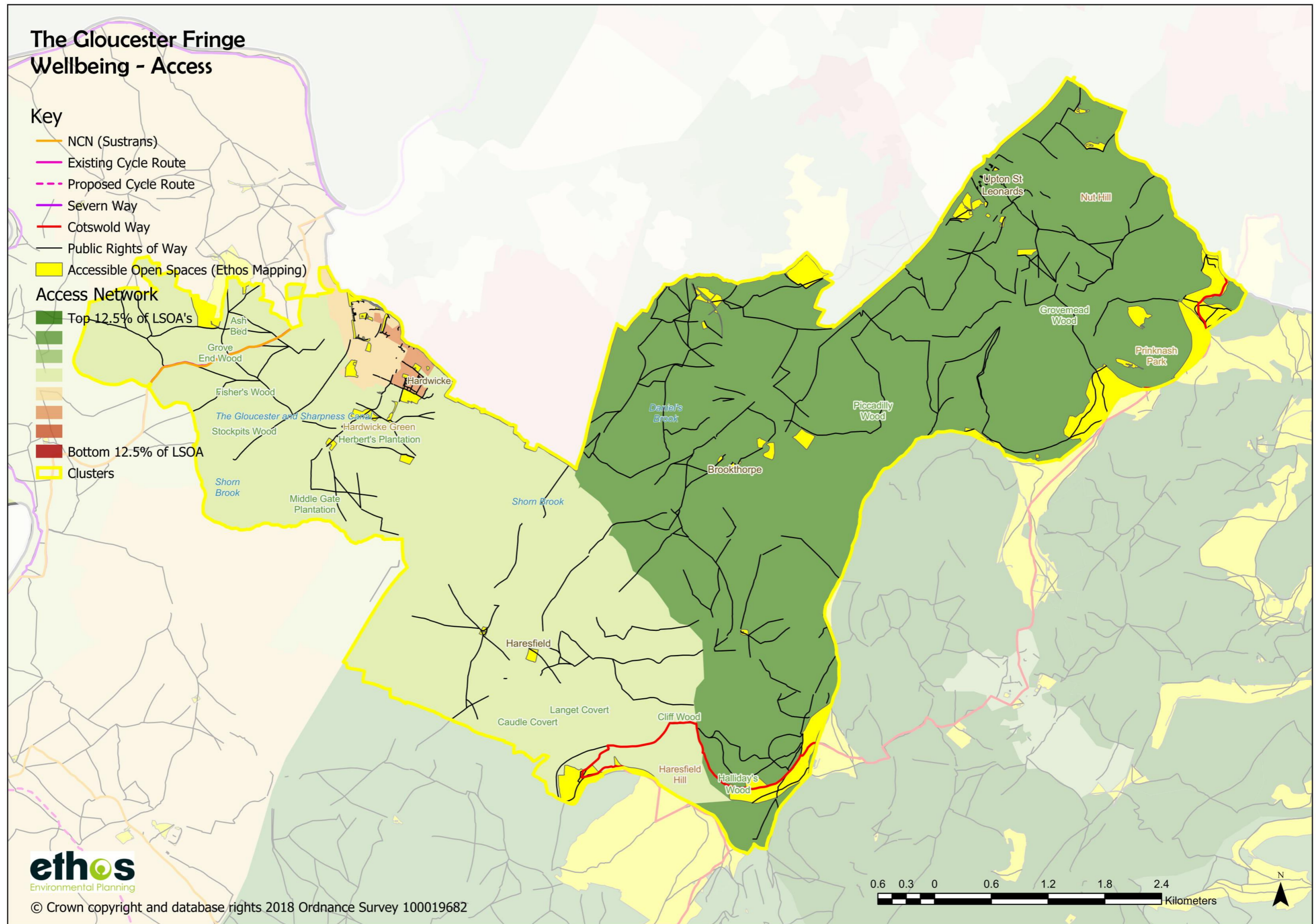


Figure 8 Mapping of GI Network by Theme: Wellbeing: Accessible open space, PROW and key walking and cycling routes



### 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 Gloucester Fringe 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 Gloucester Fringe cluster*

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall supply
Allotments	2.72	0.3	3.15	0.35	-0.43	-0.05	UNDER SUPPLY
Community Orchards	4.65	0.52	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amenity Green Space	8.17	0.91	3.61	0.40	4.56	0.51	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	5.93	0.66	10.82	1.20	-4.89	-0.54	UNDER SUPPLY
<i>Park and Recreation Grounds</i>	<i>5.81</i>	<i>0.64</i>	<i>0</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	<i>0.12</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Play (Child)	0.4	0.04	0.54	0.06	-0.14	-0.02	UNDER SUPPLY
Play (Youth)	0.06	0.01	0.54	0.06	-0.48	-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	110.72	12.68	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education	9.49	1.05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Churchyards and Cemeteries	7.67	0.85	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outdoor Sport (Private)	1.7	0.19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

As can be seen from the table above, within the Gloucester Fringe cluster, there is an overall sufficient supply of amenity green space against the standards, with shortfalls in allotments, parks and recreation grounds, play (child) and play (youth) The total shortfall is 5.94 ha.

## GI

The following GI assets have been identified within the Gloucester Fringe Cluster:

Table 2 GI assets

Priority Habitats	Area (ha)
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	71.11
Coastal saltmarsh	0
Deciduous woodland	269.59
Good quality semi-improved grassland	8.24
Lowland calcareous grassland	52.46
Lowland dry acid grassland	0
Lowland meadows	79.08
Mudflats	0
No main habitat but additional habitats present	33.9
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	0
Traditional orchard	50.27

Nature conservation, AONB, geology and historic sites	Area (ha)
Ancient Woodland	119.70
KWS	126.03
LNR	19.26
NNR	36.60
RAMSAR	0
SAC	55.62
SPA	0
SSSI	72.36
RIGS	1 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is the number of RIGS, rather than the area, as the dataset uses points rather than polygons.

Nature conservation, AONB, geology and historic sites	Area (ha)
AONB	1781.67
Registered Parks	0
SAM	32.04

Rivers and Canals	Length (m)
Shorn Brook	5961.86
Daniel's Brook	4929.53
River Twyer	3273.25
The Gloucester and Sharpness Canal	3011.37
Beaurepair Brook	1100.06
Dimore Brook	11.54

## 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 Gloucester Fringe Cluster area using the Stroud access standards summarised in table 2 (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)

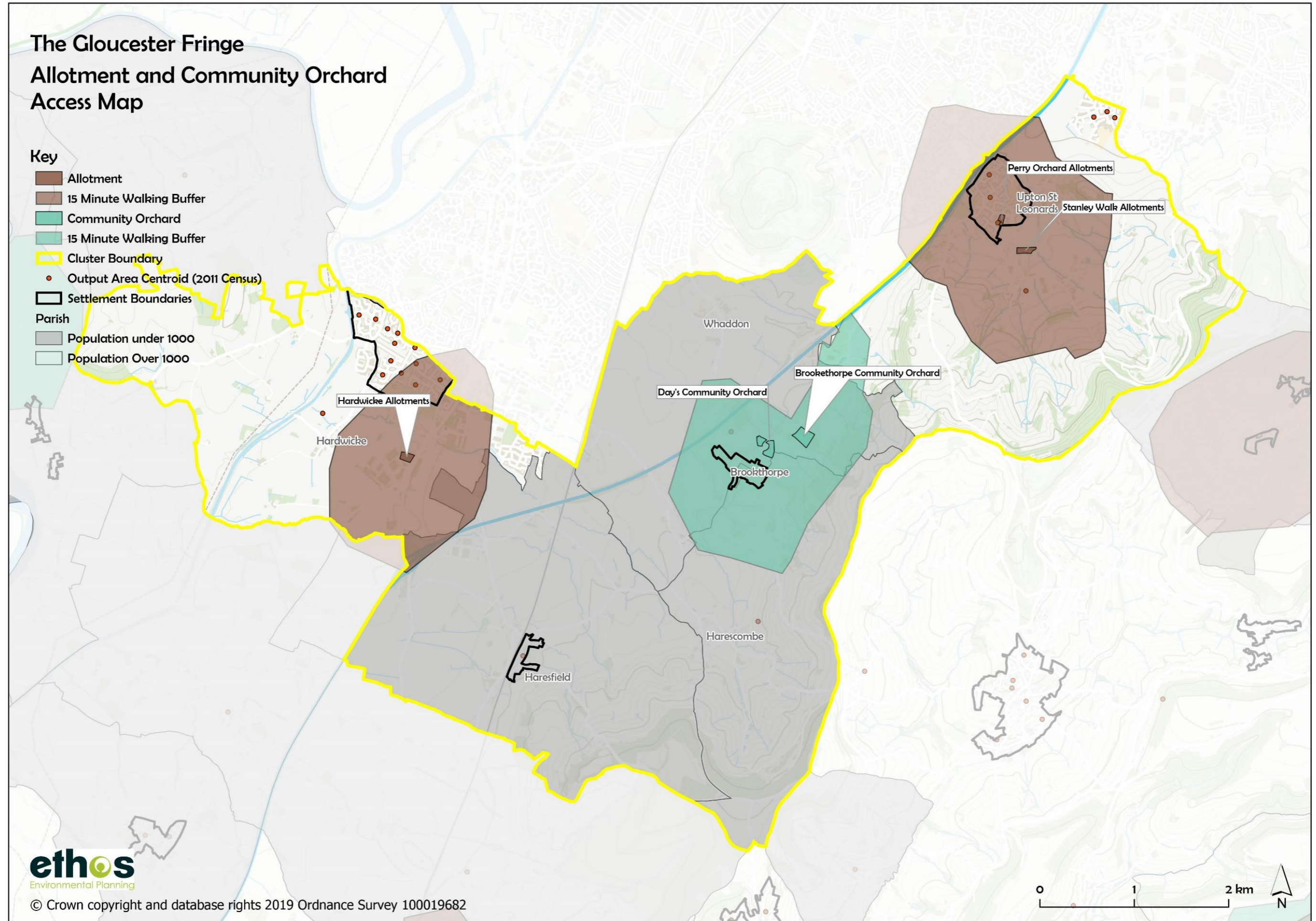


Figure 10 Access to amenity green space (13 minutes' walk time)

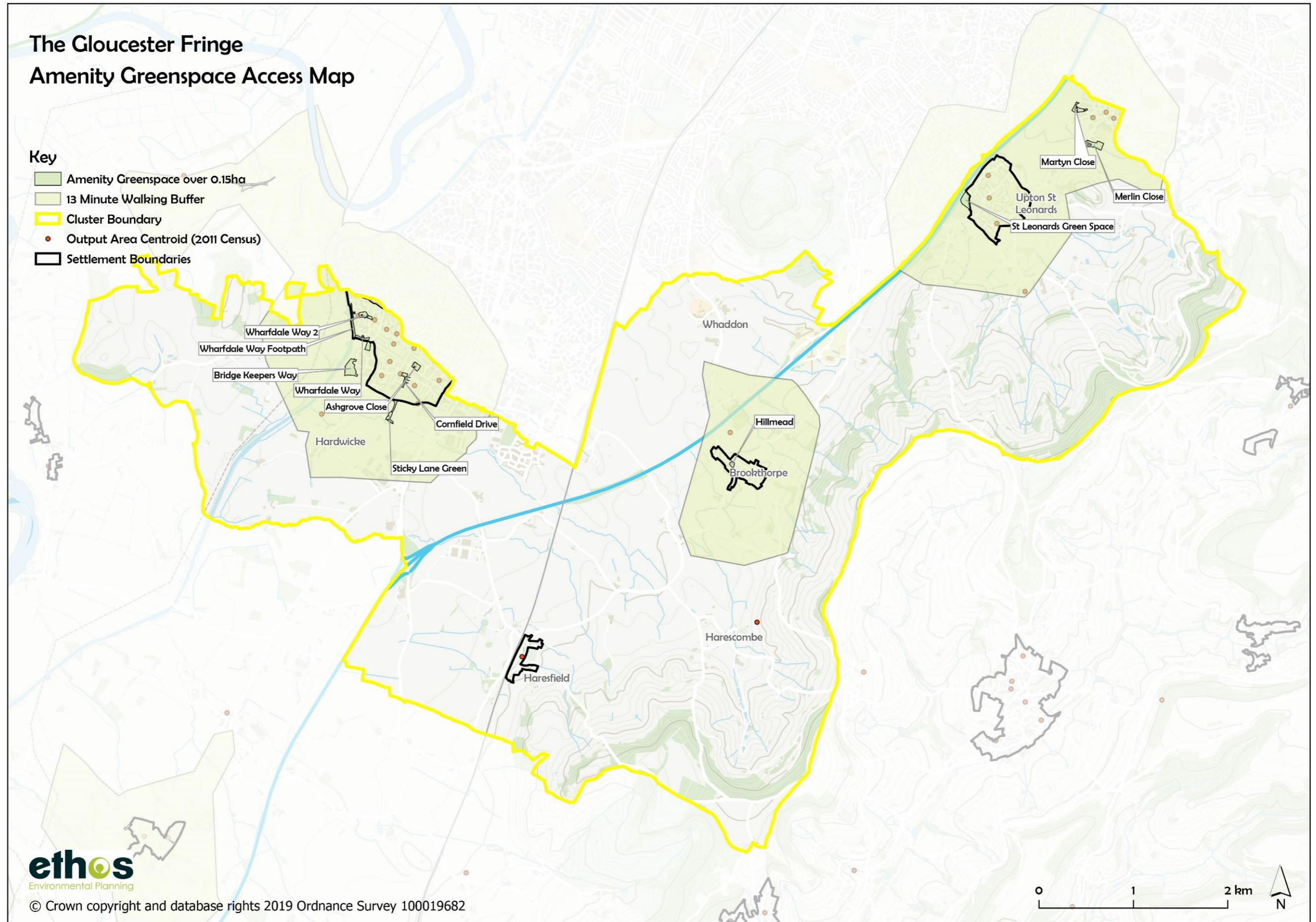




Figure 11 Access to parks and recreation grounds, amenity green space and outdoor sport private (13 minutes' walk time)

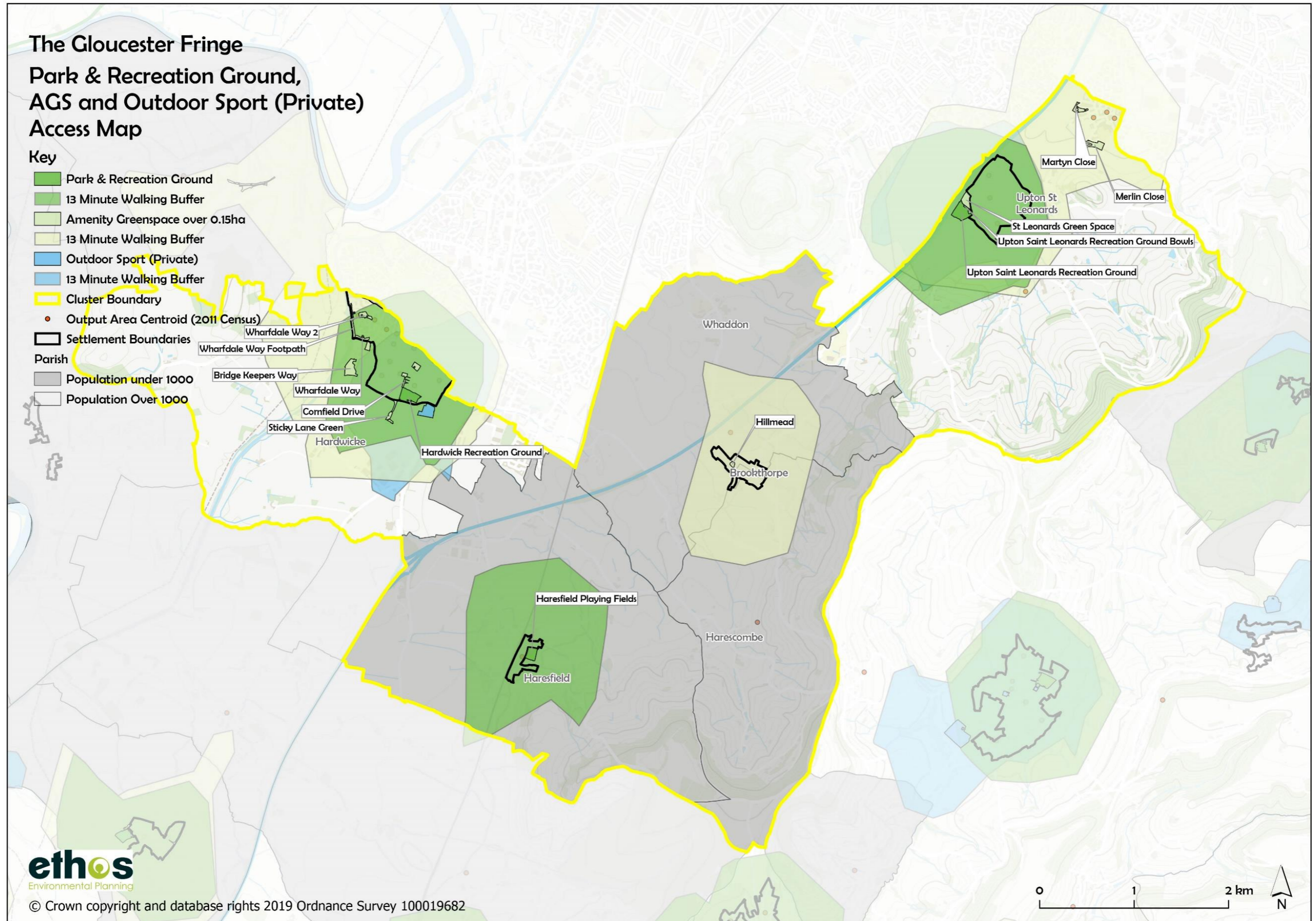


Figure 12 Access to children's play space (10 minutes' walk time)

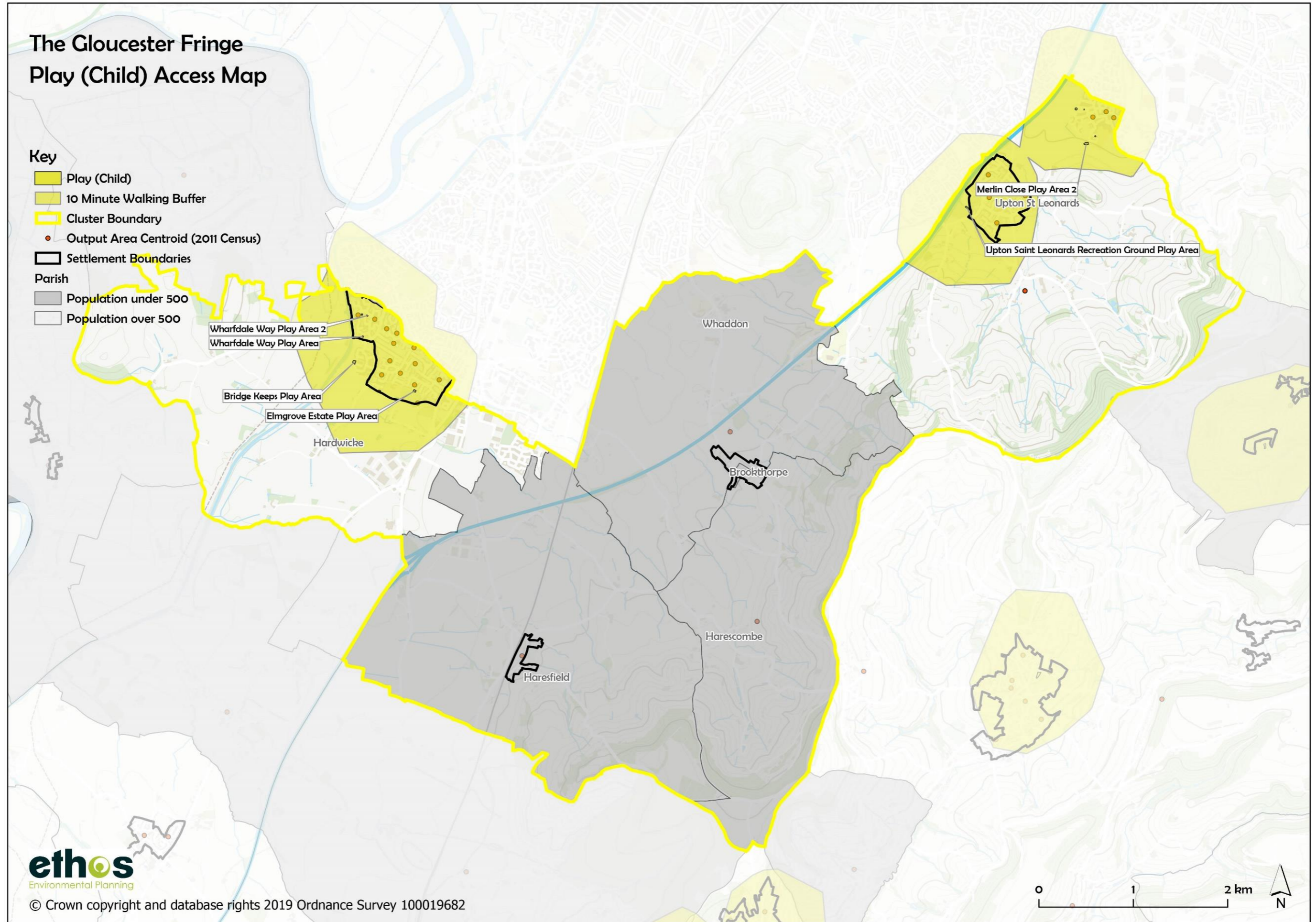


Figure 13 Access to youth play space (15 minutes' walk time)

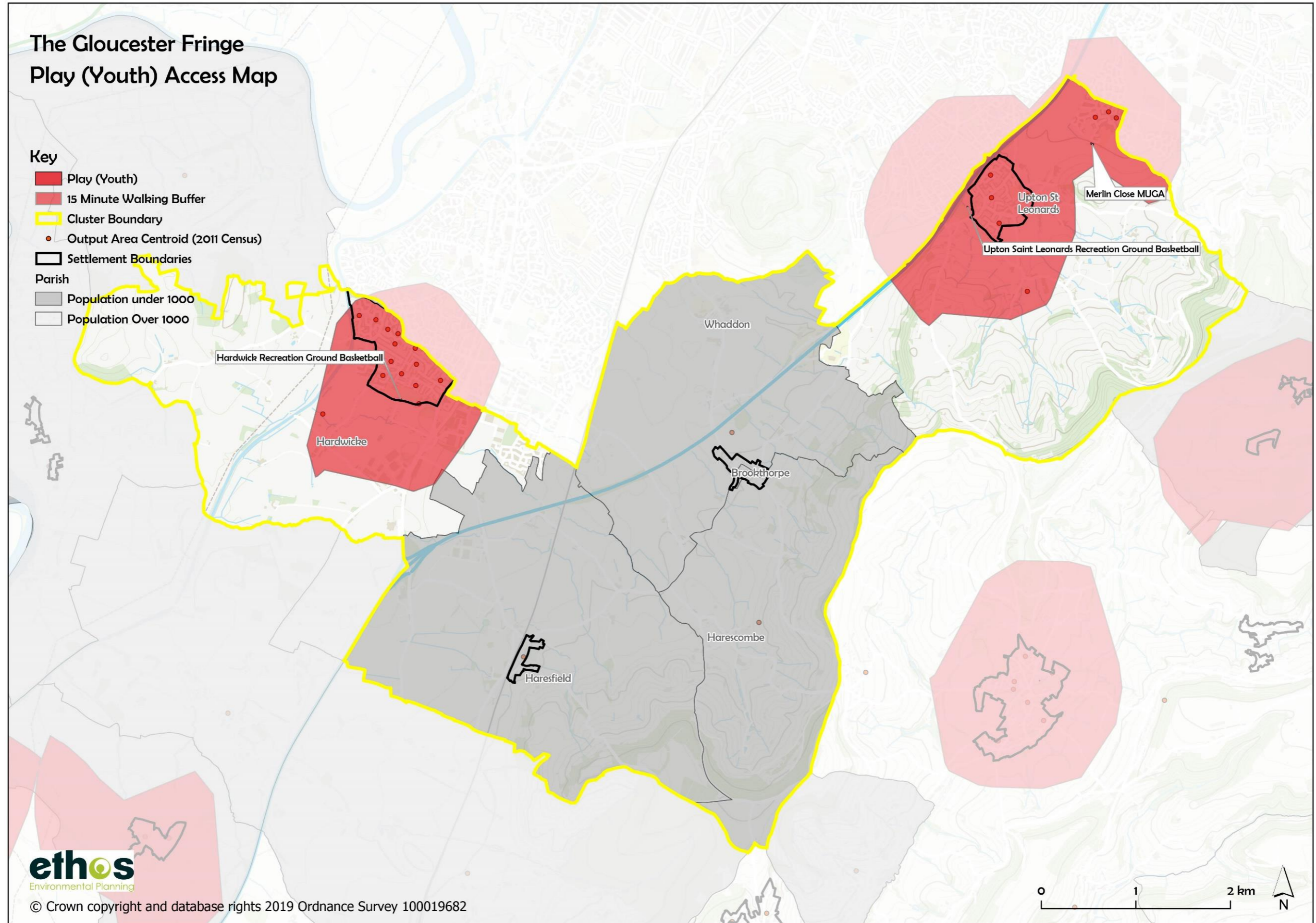


Figure 14 Access to accessible natural green space (960m buffer)

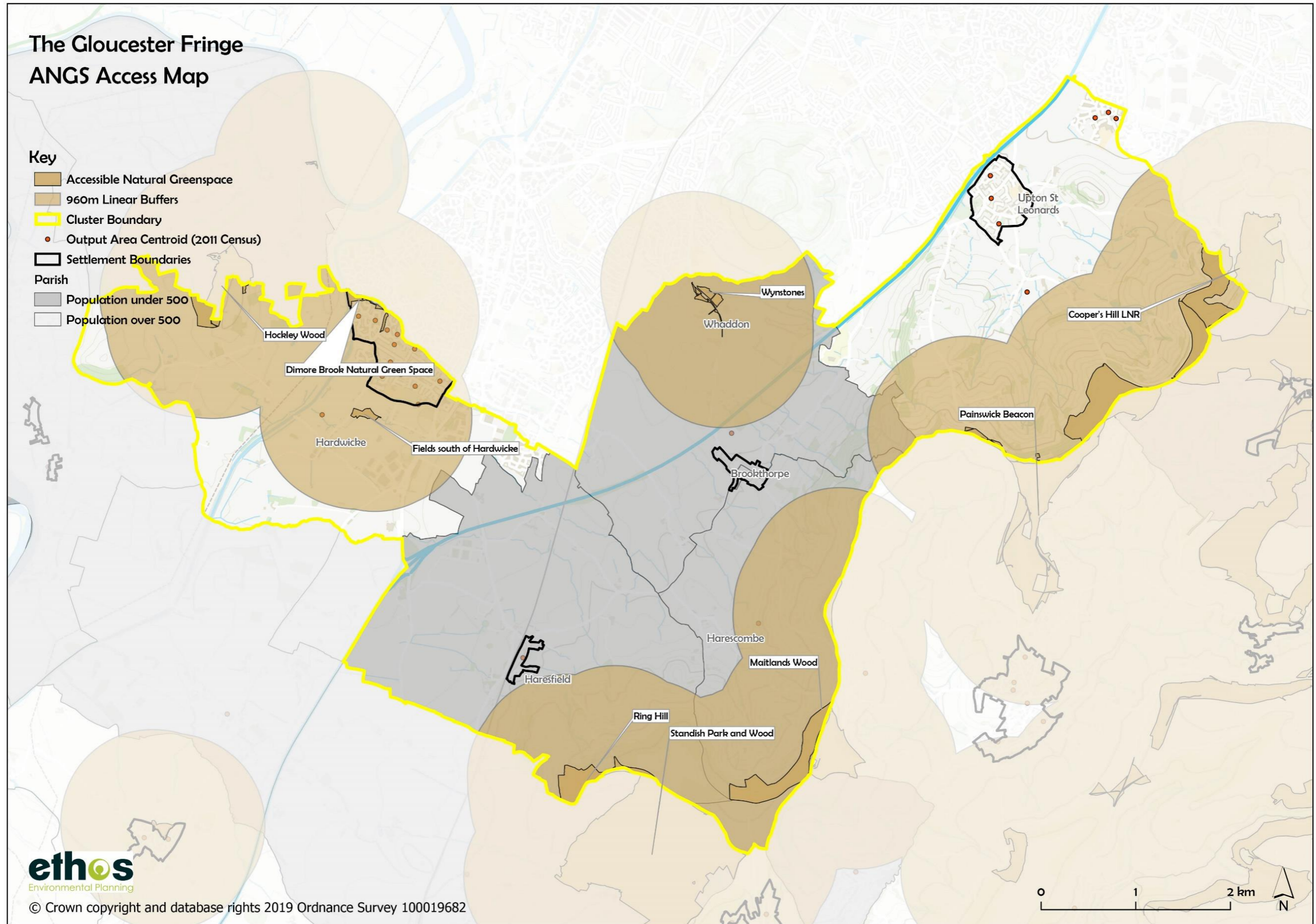


Figure 15 Access to accessible natural green space (20ha + sites within 2km)

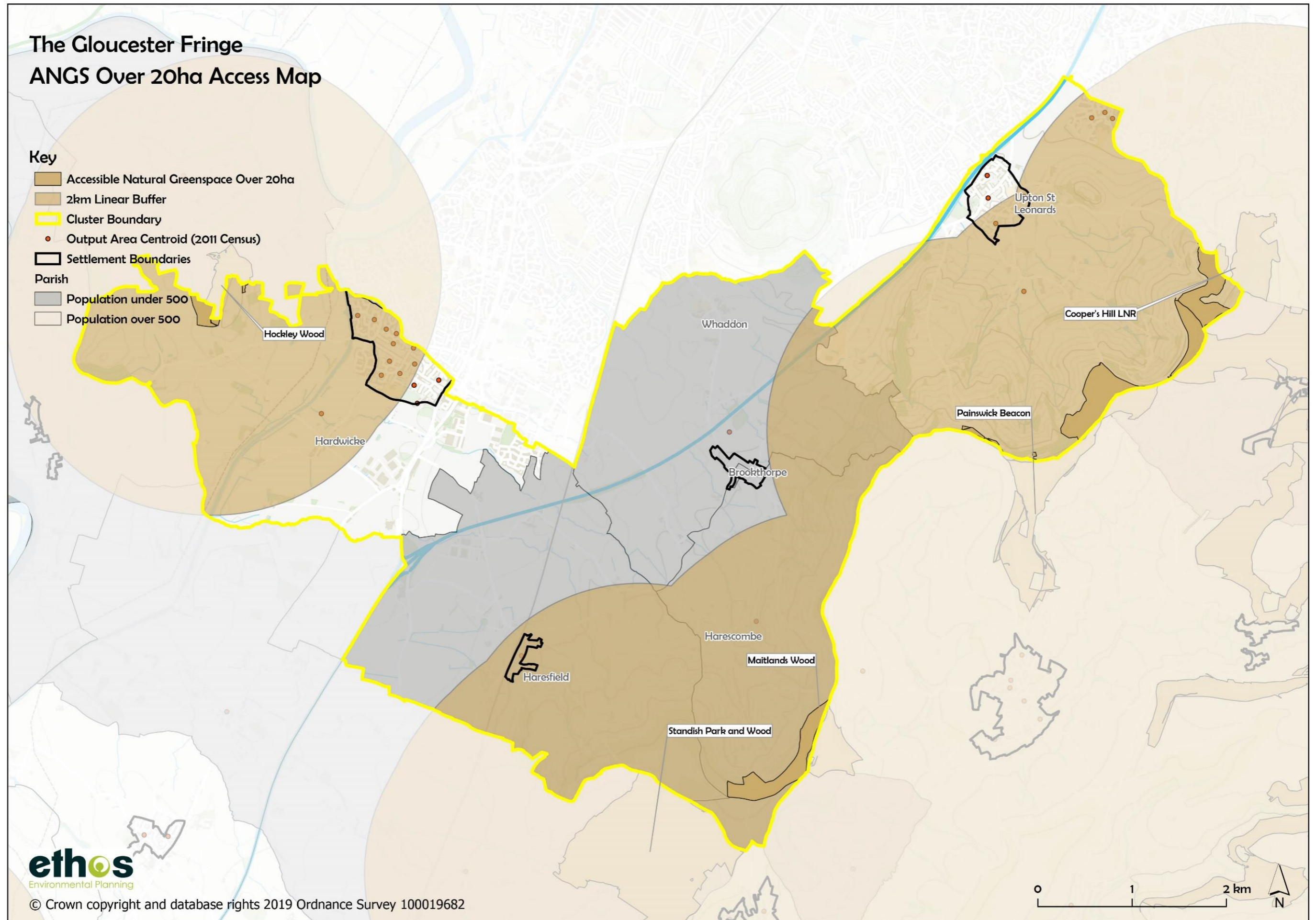


Figure 16 Access to accessible natural green space (100ha + sites within 5km)

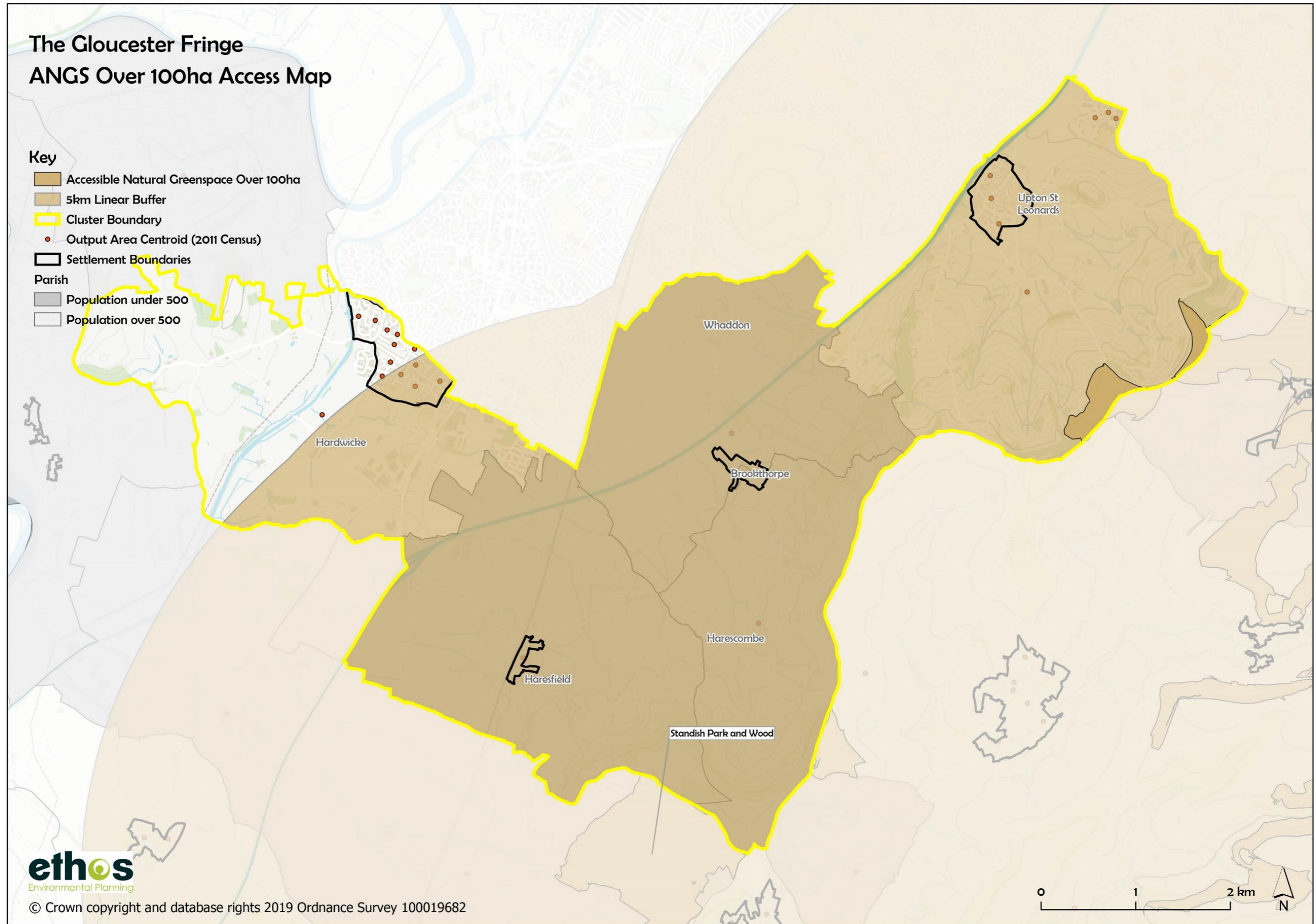


Table 3 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 9 to 16, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

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

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Current Access</b>
Allotments and community orchards	There are both community orchards and allotments within the cluster which generally provide good access to the majority of settlements in parishes with over 1000 population. The main gap in access is in Hardwicke.
Amenity Green Space	Access is generally good across the cluster with all settlements (except Haresfield) having good access.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good access across the cluster in parishes with over 1000 population.
Children's play space	Good access in parishes with over 500 people.
Youth Play space	Good access in parishes with over 500 people.
Accessible Natural Green Space	Against the 960m access standard, access is fairly good with gaps in Upton St Leonards, Brookthorpe and Haresfield. Fairly good access against the ANGSt standards 20+ha sites with gaps in Hardwick, Upton St Leonards and Brookthorpe.

## GI

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

As can be seen, the Cotswold Way and NCN runs through small parts of the cluster. The PROW network appears more fragmented within the western half of the cluster.

When analysing access against the Natural England Access Network Mapping (also see figure 8), it shows that the area has a good relative abundance of accessible land within the eastern part of the cluster, and comparatively less in the western part of the cluster, especially within Hardwicke. (However, within Hardwicke, a large number of accessible open spaces have been mapped as part of this study. There are limitations with this Natural England data as explained in section 7.6.2 of the main report (part 1)).

## 5.0 Open Space and GI Quality Assessment

### 5.1 Quality audit results

Figure 17 provides a summary of the quality audit results for the Gloucester Fringe cluster. As can be seen, the all of the open spaces were assessed as being good quality (with a score of A).

Figure 18 illustrates how each open space scores in relation to it's quality in terms of it's 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 of sites scored A (good) with a couple of sites scoring B (average); Haresfield Playing Fields and Ashgrove Close <sup>2</sup>.

A summary of the quality and GI audit results from the Gloucester Fringe 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
225	Dimore Brook Natural Green Space	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Footpath network leading to the river with pleasant wooded area. Site is well managed with high quality footpaths and green area.	Add benches along the water's edge to encourage people to use the space. Include signage at the entrance to the wooded area to show information about walking routes and what nature might be present.	None.	85	A	9.67	A
234	Maple Close Natural Green Space	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Hard standing footpath with wooded area. The wooded area is located up a steep slope off the footpath making it difficult for some. Bins and benches are present along the footpath.	Add better access to the wooded area.	Add planting along the path to make it more desirable to wildlife and more aesthetically appealing.	81.11	A	8.67	A
3831	Cooper	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Large woodland with a vast network of footpaths and nature trails. Signage showing rights of way are scattered throughout the site.	Add signage at the car parks to show suitable routes through the woodland, can be disorientating. Add dog waste bins.	None.	83	A	9.33	A

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
4276	Maitlands Wood	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Large woodland with various entrances but no nearby parking to access to woodland. The woodland has a variety of natural paths with decent signage at the entrances. No clear main entrance.	Install parking locations with signage leading to them.	None.	80	A	10	A
4277	Ring Hill	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Natural footpaths with formal gated access to surrounding woodlands. Pleasant site with well managed paths.	None.	None.	80	A	9	A
92	Martyn Close	Amenity Greenspace	Managed amenity grassland with play equipment. Benches and bins present also. Natural green area to the west of the site with a footpath. Small area where grassland has been allowed to grow up.	Space for informal football.	More planting of trees to improve the site for wildlife and for flood management.	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
102	Merlin Close	Amenity Greenspace	Large amenity with a play area and a MUGA which can be accessed via concrete footpaths. The grassland has been left unmanaged making it more suitable for wildlife.	None.	None.	88	A	9	A
193	Ashgrove Close	Amenity Greenspace	Small amenity area with concrete footpath. Section of hard standing where a play area might have been. Grass is managed, just not appealing.	Add planting to make the area more appealing. Install a play area in the wasted hard area.	Plant more trees for flood management, improve the site by planting flowers to attract more birds and other wildlife.	72	A	7	B
197	Oak Tree Close	Amenity Greenspace	Small amenity with trees and scrub. Area could have play installed but not a priority.	None.	Add planting to improve site aesthetic and to attract wildlife.	80	A	7.67	A
199	The Plantation	Amenity Greenspace	Small amenity grassland with associated play area. The grassland is well managed, cut to a short sward.	Add bins and dog waste bins.	Fringe trees and scrub are dense and desirable to birds, reptiles and hedgehogs, they also provide support	81	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
					for flood management.				
200	Cornfield Drive	Amenity Greenspace	Well managed amenity area with a concrete footpath and mature trees.	None.	None.	83	A	8.67	A
206	Bridge Keepers Way	Amenity Greenspace	Large amenity area with a play area brand new site well managed.	Good add further planting of trees. Add field sport facilities such as football posts, add benches around the edge. Install bins and dog waste bins.	Plant more trees and wild flowers to improve the sites biodiversity. Trees to improve flood management.	82	A	7.33	A
211	Sellars Road	Amenity Greenspace	Amenity green area with large pond adjacent to a new development. The pond and grassland are well managed with safety handrails where appropriate.	Add benches along the amenity edge, would be a pleasant place to sit.	Excellent for green infrastructure, no improvements needed.	83	A	9.33	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
214	Wharfdale Way	Amenity Greenspace	Footpath with green space. Bins are present at each end of the site.	Add benches to make the space more usable. Improve grassland and nature around the play area.	Add planting along the path edge and around the play area to improve its ability to support wildlife.	83	A	8	A
222	Wharfdale Way 2	Amenity Greenspace	Well managed park with separate child and toddler play areas. The grass is mown short throughout with scattered trees. Waste bins and benches are present along with good community signage.	Could provide provision for older children (Youth) such as more challenging play or basketball/MUGA.	Pleasant site, not many wildlife opportunities, but given the type of site, it's not necessary. No water bodies present.	92.22	A	8.33	A
358	Hillmead	Amenity Greenspace	Well managed amenity area with rope swing. Works being undertaken during audit.	The addition of play provision would benefit the site greatly.	None.	77	A	8	A
3249	Wharfdale Way Footpath	Amenity Greenspace	Footpath with green space either side, used predominantly by dog walkers and runners. Path is in good condition.	Add benches further by the river to make the space more usable.	None.	83	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
3539	Sticky Lane Green	Amenity Greenspace	Average amenity site, access is limited by a trench along the edge of the site. Nothing appealing about the space, or provision.	Opportunities to add benches and other facilities to make the site more desirable.	Add planting to make the site more desirable and to attract wildlife. Plant trees.	72	A	7.33	A
25	Upton St Leonards Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large flagship Park with high quality facilities and pavilion. Facilities on site include a play area, cricket green, tennis courts, bowls court and basketball.	None.	Do more planting of trees at the site edges.	89	A	8.33	A
186	Hardwick Recreation Ground	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large, flagship Park with good management and high-quality facilities. Football pitch, basketball, outdoor gyms and play area present. Bins and benches are appropriately positioned. Overall an excellent site.	None.	Could add planting in key areas to improve aesthetics and, in the case of tree planting, support flood management.	91	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
378	Haresfield Playing Fields	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good quality playing fields with a cricket green. Bins and benches around the perimeter with semi-mature trees scattered around the perimeter.	Potential for better provision for children and youth, like football pitches, or play provision.	Potential to enhance the site through the planting of trees and flowers.	78	A	7	B
31	Upton St Leonards Recreation Ground Play Area	Play (Child)	Excellent quality play area with high quality, modern equipment and good signage.	None.	None.	91	A	N/A	N/A
96	Martyn Close Play Area	Play (Child)	Brand-new high-quality site with excellent equipment.	None.	None.	97	A	N/A	N/A
99	Merlin Close Play Area	Play (Child)	Small play area aimed at young children. The play area comprises high quality wooden equipment.	None.	It's a small play area where flood management and wildlife are not relevant.	86	A	7.67	A
100	Merlin Close Play Area 2	Play (Child)	High quality play area with a mix of child, toddler and older children equipment. The site is brand new with	Grassy areas within the play need management.	None.	89	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
			excellent, challenge equipment.						
190	Elmgrove Estate Play Area	Play (Child)	Good quality play area with a wide variety of equipment for children of all ages.	Install signage on gate.	None.	87	A	N/A	N/A
198	The Plantation Play Area	Play (Child)	Small play area aimed at young children. Equipment is on decent condition with nothing damaged. Sign is damaged at gated entrance.	Replace broken sign.	None.	83	A	N/A	N/A
219	Wharfdale Way Play Area	Play (Child)	Small play area with a focus on toddler equipment. Play really has limited play value due to its size.	Expand the play area to include newer more interesting equipment.	None.	78	A	N/A	N/A
220	Wharfdale Way Play Area 3	Play (Child)	Fenced child play area with good quality equipment. Benches and bins are provided. In use during audit.	None.	None.	89	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
221	Wharfdale Way Play Area 2	Play (Child)	Small toddler play area with good provision, bins and benches provided.	None.	None.	88	A	N/A	N/A
233	Dimore Brook Play Area	Play (Child)	Small play area within a natural green space. Toddler equipment present, some is faded e.g paint rubbing off. Small bin and gated entrance.	Install relevant signage at the entrance, room to expand the play area to be more useful for children of all ages.	None.	84	A	N/A	N/A
33	Upton St Leonards Recreation Ground Basketball	Play (Youth)	Single basketball hoop in average condition. Backboard damaged and needs replacing.	Replace damaged backboard or upgrade to a full MUGA.	None.	76	A	N/A	N/A
101	Merlin Close MUGA	Play (Youth)	High quality MUGA facility with hard standing.	None.	None.	86.67	A	N/A	N/A
189	Hardwick Recreation Ground Basketball	Play (Youth)	Single basketball hoop with hard standing area. Hoop printing is faded and damaged.	Update hoop printing or expand to a full MUGA.	None.	84	A	N/A	N/A

Figure 17 Summary of open space quality audit results in Gloucester Fringe cluster

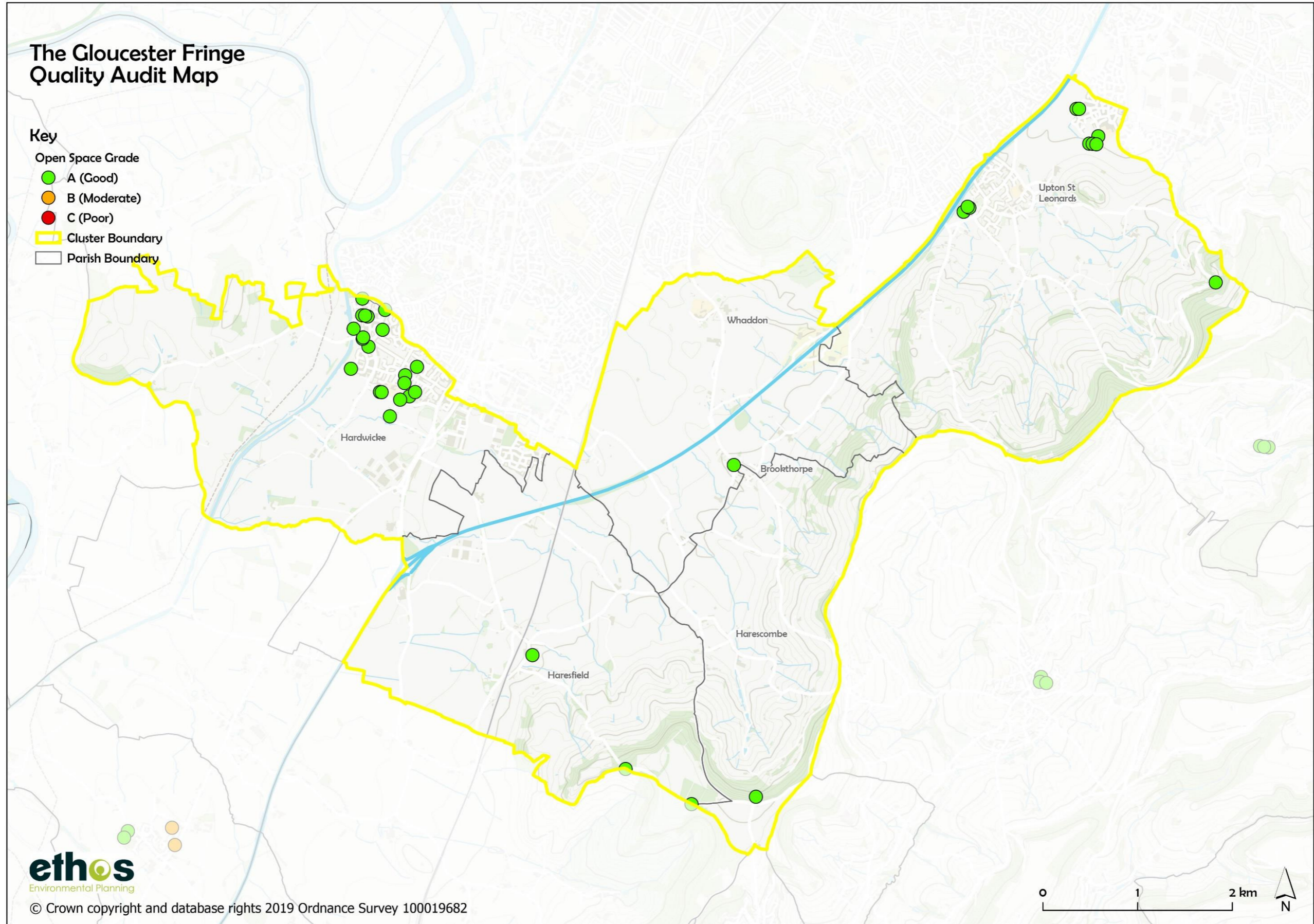
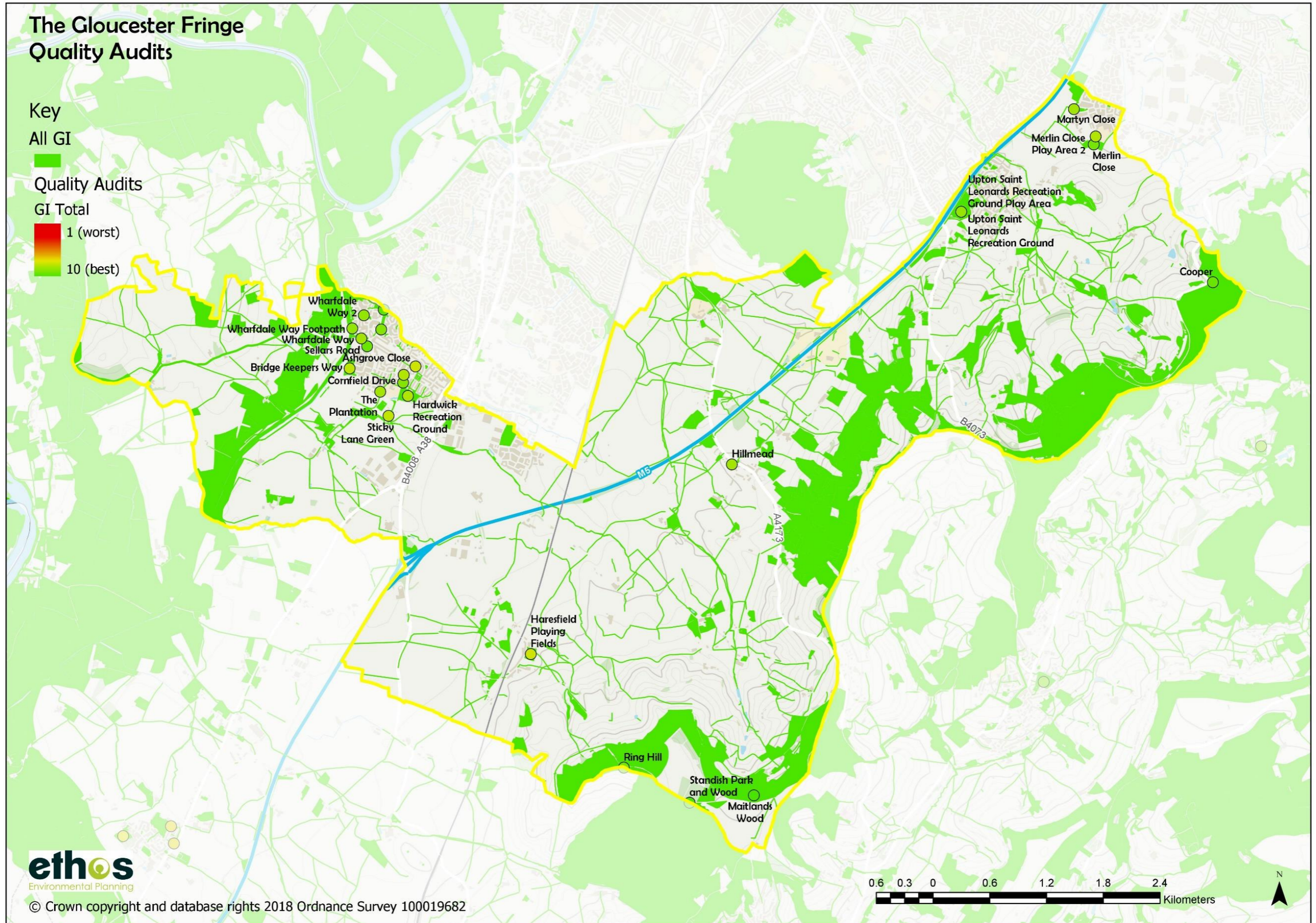


Figure 18 Summary of open space GI quality scores



## 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, Edge Common, Haresfield Beacon and Hucclecote Meadows are in a favourable condition, although there is scope to improve the condition of Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods and Range Farm Fields SSSI.

Figure 19 Gloucester Fringe SSSIs

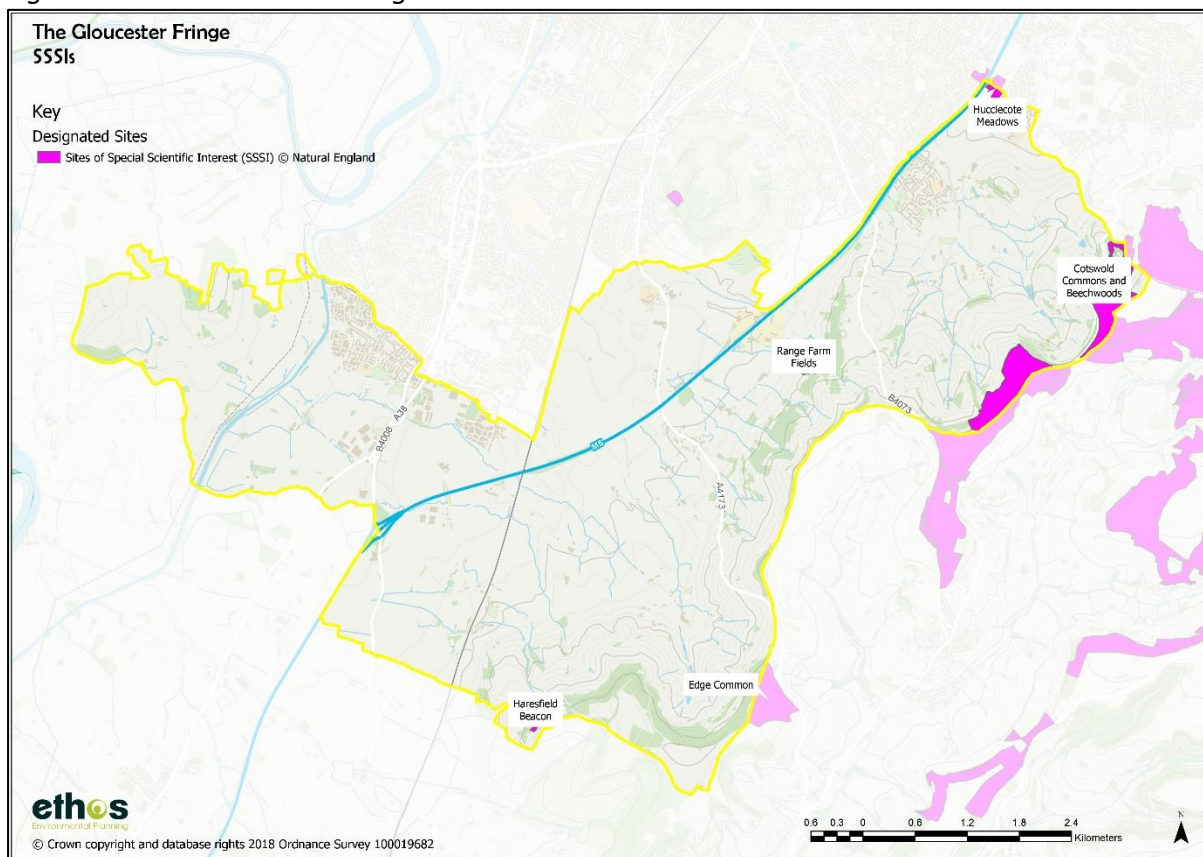


Table 5 Condition summary of SSSI's sites within the Gloucester Fringe cluster

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods	SSSI	55.81	This site includes the Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve, and Cooper's Hill Local Nature Reserve. Part of the site is Common land and part owned by the National Trust. The site comprises of ancient beech woodland and unimproved grassland, the woodlands are amongst the most diverse and species-rich of their type while the	44.17% Favourable. 55.83% Unfavourable – recovering.

Site Name	Designation	Size (ha)	Description/features of interest	Condition summary
			grassland typify the unimproved calcaerous pastures.	
Edge Common	SSSI	0.32	An unimproved Jurassic limestone grassland site representing the formerly widespread habitat of the Cotswolds. A rich assemblage of plants existing which is one of the best for butterflies in the Cotswolds.	100% Favourable.
Harefield Beacon	SSSI	0.80	A site of considerable geological importance for its exposure of Jurassic rocks including the Cotswold Cephalopod Bed of the Upper Lias and the overlying scissum Beds of Inferior Oolite. In the Cephalopod Bed it contains rich fossile fauna which have been the subject of detailed studies.	100% Favourable.
Hucclecote Meadows	SSSI	2.41	A series of lowland meadows overlying Lower Lias clays in the Severn Vale. These meadows are one of the few remaining areas of herb-rich ancient pastures in the country. They have exceptionally rich plant species containing 75 species across the whole site.	100% Favourable.
Range Farm Fields	SSSI	13.01	A large area of flower-rich, unimproved neutral grassland. This is a habitat that is nationally scare due to changes in land use and management. This site is exceptional in this part of the Cotswolds in being so extension and in containing a range of variants of the neutral grassland type from slightly acidic to slightly calcaerous. Compromising of four pastures surrounded by mixed hedgerows lying on a complex geology including lias clay, silt, limestone and former landslip which accounts for the variation in the overlying grassland.	100% 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 Gloucester Fringe 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 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 Gloucester Fringe cluster (up to 2040)*

Typology	Standard for new provision (Ha/1000)	Requirement for 3785 people (Ha)
Allotments	0.35	1.32
Community Orchards	0.15	0.57
Amenity Green Space	0.40	1.51
Park and Recreation Ground	1.20	4.54
Play Space (Children)	0.06	0.23
Play Space (Youth)	0.06	0.23
Natural Green Space	1.00	3.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>12.19</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 eastern part of the cluster falls within the strategic GI corridor that relates to the Cotswold Escarpment and Valley SNA, and the western tip falls within the strategic corridor that relates to the Severn Vale SNA, as identified by the GLNP (shown in yellow). In addition to this, the following district/locally important GI corridor has been identified which falls within part of the cluster:

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

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

20) Connect SA4a allocation via Haresfield to Cotswold Way, focusing on connecting traditional orchards and deciduous woodland. Improve access along PRoW network which is currently fragmented.

21) Improve access from SA4 allocation to Gloucester and Sharpness Canal along existing PRoW, with associated biodiversity enhancements.

22) Protect, enhance and connect priority habitats, including lowland meadows, calcareous grasslands, deciduous woodlands and traditional orchards.

23) Potential to improve access from Brockworth to priority habitat woodlands to the south, incorporating biodiversity enhancements to connect existing traditional orchards and deciduous woodland.

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

### Site Allocation SA4: Hunts Grove Extension

Allocated for 750 dwellings, including 225 affordable dwellings. Development will include the provision of accessible natural greenspace and publicly accessible outdoor playing space, structural landscaping buffer incorporating existing hedgerows and trees, SuDs, cycle and pedestrian routes. Currently undetermined.

### Site Allocation SA4a: Quedgeley East

Allocated for B1-B8 employment uses. The development will provide contributions to off-site highway works including public transport, pedestrian and cycle links to Gloucester city, Stonehouse and Stroud, in accordance with the recommendations of the evidence base transport assessments. The development must help to reduce the flood risk to the adjacent M5 motorway, by providing floodplain storage on site and keeping the floodplain and flow paths as open space. Has planning consent.

## Emerging Local Plan

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

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

- *Maintaining and designing safe footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways.*
- *Increasing health, sport and community facilities in nearby centres.*

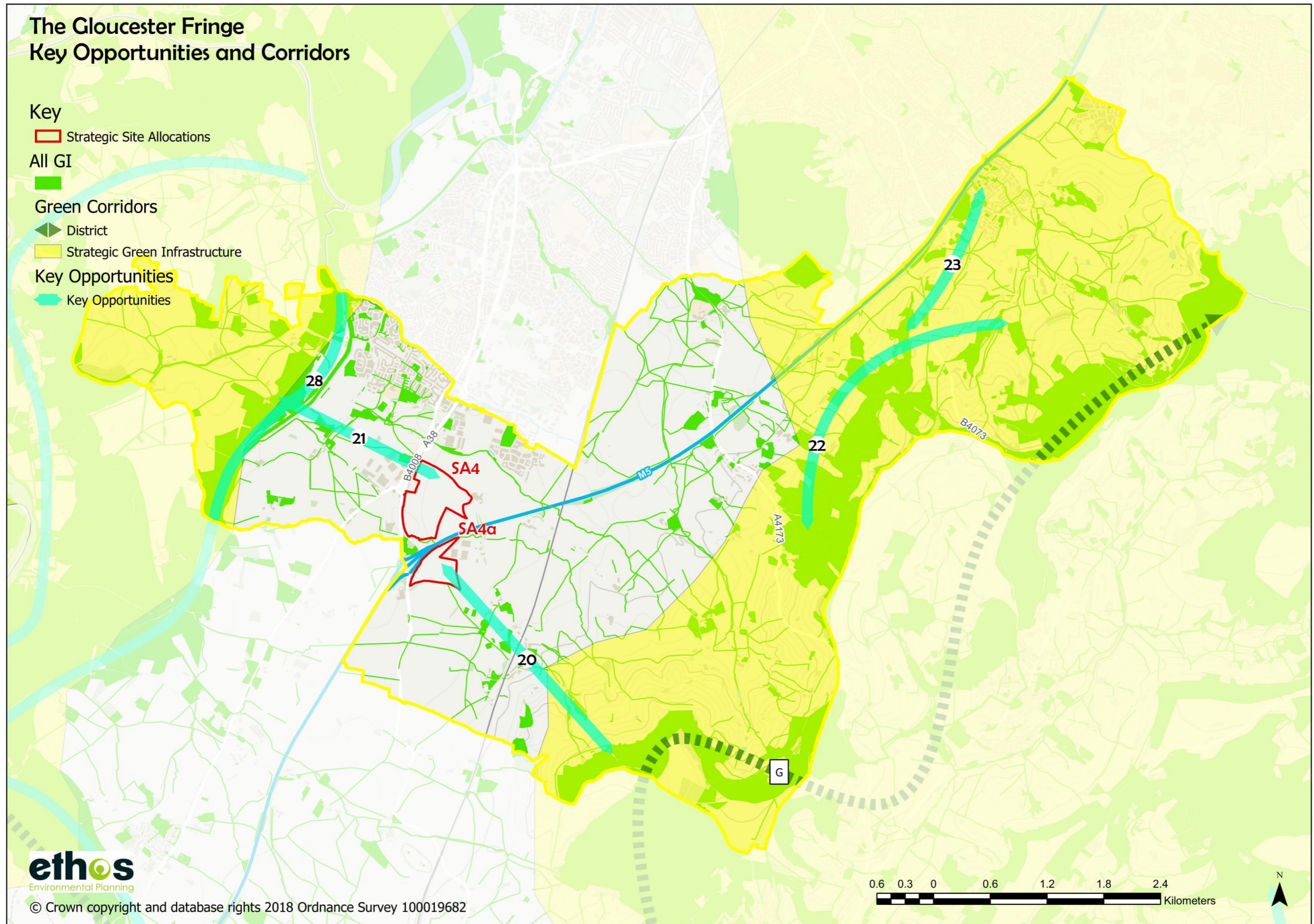
***Draft vision to 2040: "Growing a sustainable community at Hunts Grove and preserving Gloucester's rural hinterland..."***

*Parishes on Gloucester's fringe will retain their distinctiveness and rural character, providing a valuable green hinterland to the city and a setting for the Cotswold AONB....*

*....High quality design and improvements to transport and infrastructure will enhance the environment and quality of life....*



Figure 20 Key GI Corridors and Opportunities



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

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

- Existing provision to be enhanced;
- Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
- Identification of areas for protection and new provision of open space; and
- Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

### **7.1 Existing provision to be enhanced**

Section 5 provides a summary of the open space quality scores drawn from the quality audit.

When development sites are brought forward, consideration should be given to the potential to improve existing open spaces - although all sites scored A (good), there are some recommendations for improvements which should be considered, alongside the GI recommendations.

A desktop assessment has also identified potential to improve the condition of Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods and Range Farm Fields SSSI (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 Gloucester Fringe cluster, there are shortfalls in all typologies of open space except amenity green space. There is good access to either parks and recreation grounds or amenity green space across the cluster.

Amenity green space may provide potential to accommodate those facilities that are in shortfall and where there are gaps in access e.g. in Hardwick, there is a gap in access to allotments/community orchards. Three of the parishes have below 500 people, and although there are gaps in access to children's play space, youth play space and allotments, it would not be expected that these facilities be provided in parishes of this size.

### **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 types of open space, with the exception of amenity green space, therefore, the need to protect existing facilities and maximise opportunities for securing new open space is key. Although there is sufficient supply of amenity green space, on site provision of this typology may still be required - the requirements for on site provision will depend on the size and location of new development.

Table 6 sets out the overall requirement for new open space provision within the Gloucester Fringe cluster from new development, which is 12.19 ha. This is based on the predicted population growth, however this assumes that all provision will be on-site, which will not be the case in reality, as many developments will be too small, and therefore CIL contributions will be required for off-site provision and/or improvements.

The GI corridors and opportunities map (figure 20, section 6) sets out the framework for protecting and enhancing GI.

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

20) Connect SA4a allocation via Haresfield to Cotswold Way, focusing on connecting traditional orchards and deciduous woodland. Improve access along PRow network which is currently fragmented.

21) Improve access from SA4 allocation to Gloucester and Sharpness Canal along existing PRow, with associated biodiversity enhancements.

22) Protect, enhance and connect priority habitats, including lowland meadows, calcareous grasslands, deciduous woodlands and traditional orchards.

23) Potential to improve access from Brockworth to priority habitat woodlands to the south, incorporating biodiversity enhancements to connect existing traditional orchards and deciduous woodland.

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. it's loss would not result in deficiencies in quantity, access or quality, and would not have a negative impact on the GI network in terms of functionality/connectivity.

There are shortfalls in allotments, parks and recreation grounds, children's play space and youth play space, therefore these typologies are not considered as surplus.

Although there is sufficient supply of amenity green space against the standard this does not mean they are surplus, as any loss of facilities may result in gaps in access. The planned growth in the area is also likely to put pressure on existing facilities and before any decision is made if these sites may be surplus, they should be considered for meeting shortfalls e.g. accommodating allotments/community orchards in Hardwicke.

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

of open space would need to demonstrate that there would not be negative impacts on open space quantity, access and quality, or the functionality of GI network.