

Babergh Development Framework

August 2012

A Green Infrastructure Framework for Babergh District



Babergh's Green Infrastructure – A Framework for the Future 2011 - 2031

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1. Introduction

Green infrastructure is all around us, particularly in a rural district like Babergh. This Framework identifies where key green infrastructure functions are evident, how these relate to each other, where communities of all types- wildlife/ economic/ people/ places are located in relation to this and perhaps most importantly, how well connected the green infrastructure spaces are linked to each other and to the communities and functions that they intend to serve.

This framework pulls together the evidence base for Babergh, drawing on the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy (HaGGIS) and the West of Babergh Green Infrastructure Evidence Base (July 2012). It focuses particularly on the location and function of green infrastructure and the connectivity between existing areas and places which are a key focus for activity, or are likely to be in the future. This may include urban areas, locations identified for future growth, employment locations, schools and other areas where there is a concentration for activities. It identifies key opportunities for the enhancement of future provision/ connections in a number of areas, including Ipswich, Hadleigh, Sudbury/ Great Cornard/ Chilton. It pulls together outputs from HaGGIS, for those areas covered by it and is informed by consultation with stakeholders in the Sudbury area. It also summarises the key deficiencies in these areas, as identified in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Audit (2010).

The Green Infrastructure Vision for Babergh District

Future provision, enhancement and management of green infrastructure will seek to maximise the connectivity and potential of the wealth of multi-functional green infrastructure throughout the district. Green Infrastructure will be enhanced and managed to ensure there is a well connected green infrastructure network for the benefit of all interests and communities that the spaces intend to serve, throughout the district.

Approach

Having established a comprehensive picture of the Green Infrastructure (GI) resource, an iterative approach is followed to inform the green infrastructure framework for the future. The approach is summarised as follows;

- **Context Maps-** Map based data showing the raw evidence representing the key themes which characterise the GI resource;
- **Analysis Maps-** Map based analysis of the functions of green infrastructure and the communities they serve, including the links and connectivity;
- **Opportunities-** detailed maps identifying concepts and opportunities for future enhancement and provision of GI. This focuses on key locations / themes based on issues identified through analysis and consultation and realistic potential for delivery.

Unlike many GI strategies, including HaGGIS, this approach is not based on defining priorities informed by minimum standards of provision. Although, where this is relevant it is referred to, or drawn out for example, formal open space. This concept is perhaps suited to more urban locations and formal recreation provision. In a rural area such as Babergh, it can rarely be argued that any communities are situated very far from green infrastructure of some sort, however, often it may be that access is inadequate or there are missing links between green infrastructure areas or that spaces in close proximity do not provide complementary functions.

The approach adopted instead focuses on the function of the GI, its location in relation to the communities it serves and the opportunities to improve / enhance its role and the links between spaces, connecting the functions for a range of benefits, including; access, wildlife, landscape, climate change, water management, requirements under the Habitats regulations and so on. Adopting this approach allows GI improvements to be focussed on those locations and GI functions which are identified as priorities and to link these closely to known or anticipated growth and expansion and ensure opportunities are realistic and deliverable.

Broad Principles

The overarching principle for GI in Babergh is that:

GI should provide for multi-functional uses including recreation, cultural, wildlife and ecological benefits, flood protection, and be responsive to climate change/mitigation/management. It includes green spaces and civic areas, rivers and their flood plains and operates at all spatial scales from urban centres to open countryside.

Babergh's broad principles for achieving GI provision, enhancement and management are listed below:

- Create and enhance accessible green space and wildlife areas through an integrated network of safe routes suitable for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Use GI opportunities to establish more effective functional links between urban areas and the surrounding countryside for people and wildlife;
- Enhance biodiversity by linking, extending and creating important BAP habitats, including opportunities to reverse habitat fragmentation and promotion of sustainable landscape management practices;
- Promote GI as a central focus to new development and ensure GI is well integrated within development schemes, ensuring that GI connectivity is enhanced within and beyond the development area;
- Ensure new provision creates linkages between existing GI and the type and function of GI is complimentary to the multi-functionality of adjoining areas;
- Maximise the opportunities to ensure GI seeks to address climate change issues including flood protection, microclimate control and Sustainable drainage systems;
- Promote opportunities to attract economic investment by establishing, maintaining and enhancing high quality accessible green space;
- Promote health and well being by encouraging active exercise, enhancing recreation and amenity opportunities and encourage contact with nature;
- Provide a distinctive landscape setting for the built environment which reinforces the inherent character of local landscapes, provides enhanced connectivity and offers multi-functional GI to serve a range of communities;
- Plan GI provision to respond to issues arising from the Habitats Regulations Assessment and any required management, mitigation or compensation.

2. Context

A range of national and local strategy documents, background evidence and policy provide the context for this GI framework. The policy context is constantly changing with new legislation and guidance emerging. The broad principles at a national and local level which are relevant as of July 2012 (following a period of extensive reform), are briefly summarised below.

2.1. National Policy Context

Green infrastructure is recognised as integral to the development of sustainable communities due to its importance for quality of life. This is clearly emphasised in national policy including in:

- **Natural Environment White Paper;**
- **The Biodiversity Strategy for England;**
- **The Localism Act 2011;**
- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, March 2012).**

Natural Environment White Paper

Refers to the role of planning in protecting and improving the natural environment. It specifically refers to the role of urban green infrastructure in completing the links in our ecological network and one of the most effective tools available to us in managing environmental risks, such as flooding and heat waves. It advocates that green spaces should be facilitated into the development of all communities. The White Paper introduced initiatives including Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs), Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs): Biodiversity offsets and the GI partnerships.

The Biodiversity Strategy for England (published by the Government in August 2011)

Sets out a series of actions to help implement international and national commitments, including how the planning system will guide development to the most suitable locations, encourage greener design and enhance natural networks.

The Localism Act

One of the most far reaching reforms of the planning system since 1947, bringing about the duty to co-operate, neighbourhood planning and the focus on the presumption in favour of sustainable development, borne out by the guidance provided in the NPPF.

National Planning Policy Framework

Consolidates and streamlines previous national planning guidance, such as Planning Policy Guidance Note 17, the supporting companion guide remains extant. The NPPF places emphasis on the importance of green infrastructure directly and indirectly in a number of objectives, including; protection and enhancement of the natural environment, valued landscapes, and designated sites, as well as open space for sport and recreation, rights of way/ access and introducing a new local green space designation. Continued emphasis is also placed on the need for robust and up to date assessment of the need for open space.

2.2. Adjoining Districts and cross-boundary context

It is important to ensure that any framework for GI is responsive to green infrastructure issues across adjoining boundaries, into neighbouring districts, as the location, function and use of green infrastructure clearly does not respect administrative boundaries. Colchester, Tendring and Ipswich, are all part of the HaGGIS, so will already reflect cross boundary considerations. However, the west of the district adjoins Mid Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds and Braintree. A Green Infrastructure Strategy has been prepared for St Edmundsbury Borough which provides a relevant context and where appropriate GI areas close to the boundary, within St Edmundsbury, are included on the context and analysis maps below. Braintree has evidence in the form of a green Spaces Strategy 2008 and a Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace Report 2010, and Mid-Suffolk District have comparable evidence for open space, sport and recreation facilities and GI resources close to the boundary based on a desk top research exercise are also illustrated as part of the context and analysis. It is also recognised when considering which communities serve particular GI areas, that many GI resources in Babergh, also contribute to provision and enjoyment by communities beyond the Babergh boundaries.

2.3. Local Policy Context

In addition to the evidence base provided by HaGGIS and the West of Babergh GI, a district wide Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy together with an audit of open space, sport and recreation (including allotments summary) were prepared for Babergh in September 2010. These provide an up to date and robust evidence base in accordance with the NPPF, recording and assessing the existing provision of all typologies of open space in terms of their quality and quantity. This assessment categorises open spaces by their primary typology and the overall provision is included in the context and analysis below. Regardless of the primary function of an area of open space, it is recognised that all green spaces contribute to the overall green infrastructure network and that many are multi functional.

This is important in considering future opportunities, particularly in relation to connectivity and enhancing links between places where people or wildlife wish / need to go.

This framework for GI is intended to support the Babergh Core Strategy (Part 1 of the New Local Plan) and future Development Plan Documents, including Site Allocations and Development Management Policies. The Submission Draft Core Strategy, places significant importance on GI recognising the important role it has in meeting a wide range of spatial objectives. Draft Policy CS9 takes a positive stance towards protecting and enhancing existing GI, as well as encouraging new provision in the right place, of the right kind and maximising the potential of existing areas through improving connectivity between new and existing GI spaces. The objectives of Policy CS9 are:

- Create links which connect existing spaces to each other especially close to areas where people live and work;
- Contribute to habitat connectivity and to habitat creation, protection and enhancement;
- Assist in adapting to climate change and contribute towards mitigating climate change;
- Promote healthy lifestyles by providing opportunities for exercise;
- Improve access and recreation opportunities including providing alternative locations away from more sensitive locations;
- Enhance links from urban areas to the countryside;
- Enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape;
- Make a positive contribution to creating a sense of place especially within large new developments including the strategic sites. Use green infrastructure opportunities to inform the shape and character of development and ensure the design reflects this. Green field sites and those within or close to sensitive landscapes will be particularly important, including the strategic site at the Ipswich fringe.

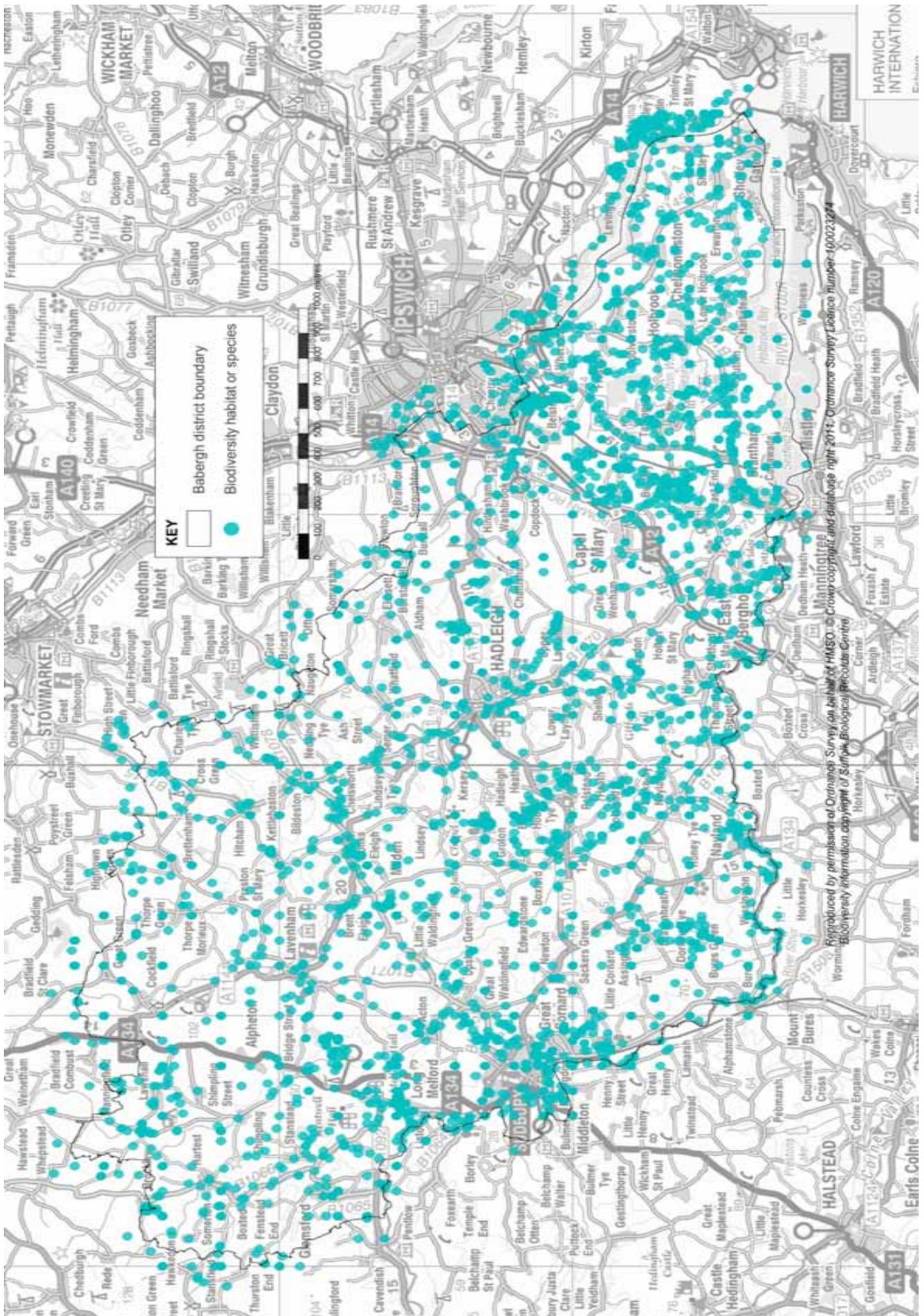
The Core Strategy also emphasises the importance of GI being a central focus for many larger scale development schemes, including those identified as New Directions of Growth in draft policies CS3 and CS3a (Sudbury / Great Cornard), CS4 (Hadleigh) and CS5 (Ipswich Fringe). The detailed interpretation of this will be informed by this GI framework informing more detailed stages including, Site Allocations, Development Management Policies, Site Allocations and Master Plans where appropriate.

3. Characterisation and Context of Existing Green Infrastructure

The following series of GI context Maps establish the district wide baseline data for Babergh to inform the framework. Although this evidence is available in the HaGGIS and the West of the District GI, for the respective areas of the district it is helpful to pull together this evidence to provide a comprehensive District wide context for the existing GI resource, prior to following on with a more detailed interpretation and analysis with a view to identifying constraints, opportunities and priorities. The GI resource is illustrated in GIS maps in the following themes:

- **Biodiversity** Illustrates the extent of existing habitats, many of which may be important ecologically, or landscape value, in which case they will also be included as part of the designated sites. The location and distribution of these are illustrated on Fig 1.

Figure 1: Biodiversity



The range of biodiversity habitats and species is illustrated in more detail in the analysis in section 4 below.

- **Statutory Designated sites/ protected sites-** some areas of the district area designated for their landscape, nature conservation, biodiversity or environmental value, and protected by European or National legislation. In Babergh these areas include:

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Ramsar (European coastal / habitats designation)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

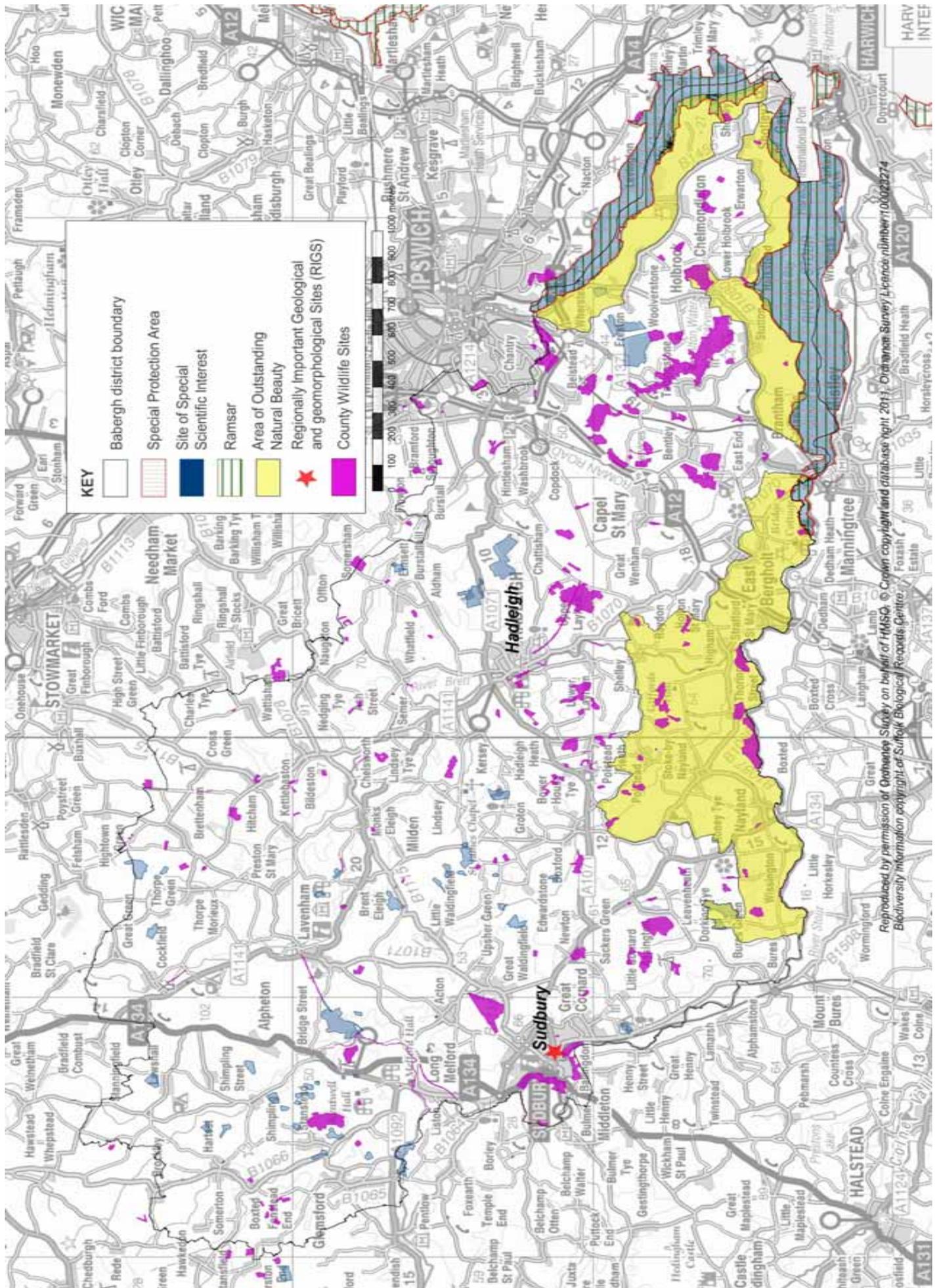
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty- Dedham Vale AONB and Stour and Orwell AONB)

Regionally important geological sites (RiGs)

County Wildlife sites (CWS) local sites designated or their local wildlife interest / importance.

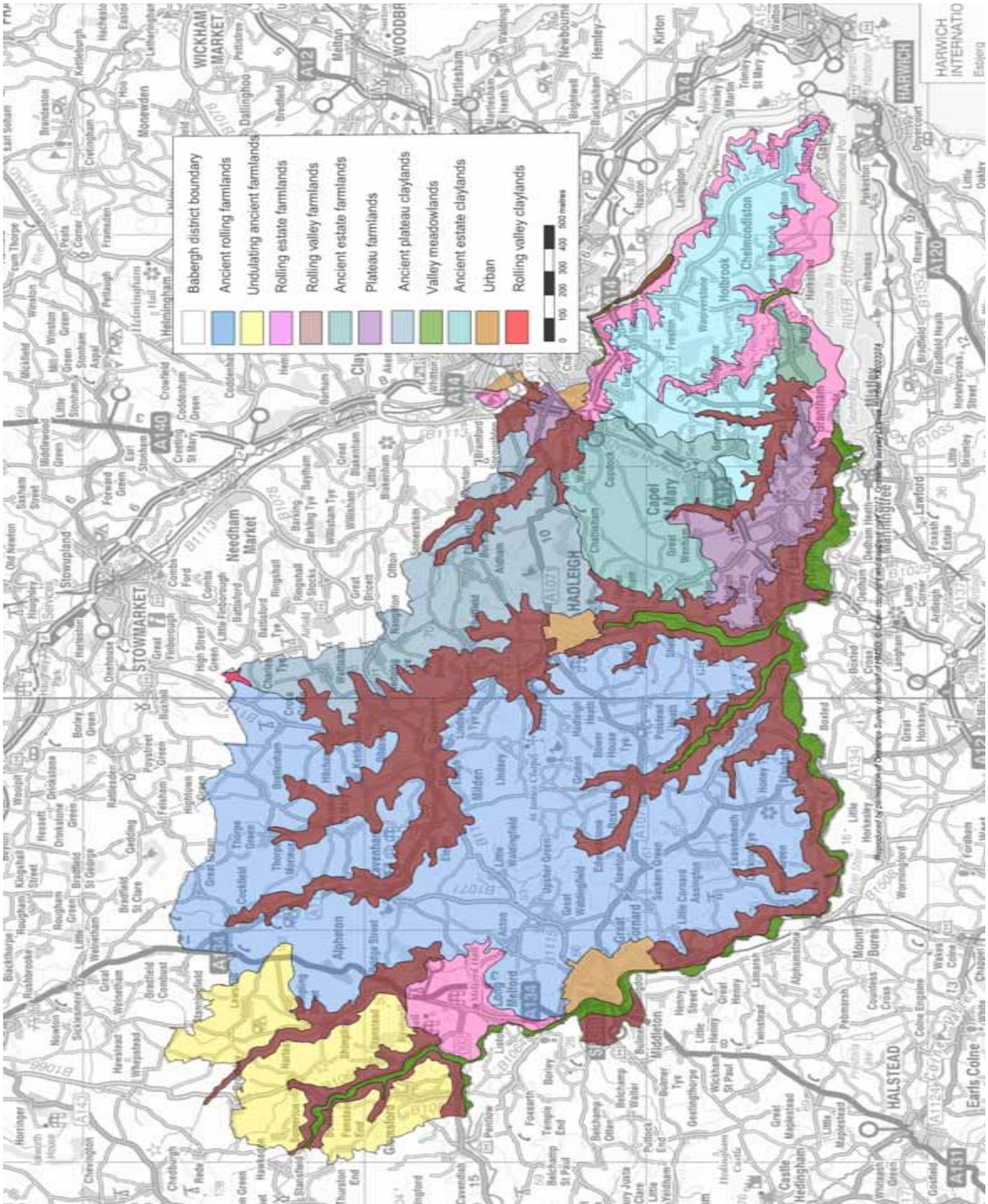
European designated sites beyond the district are also important as the Habitats Directive requires consideration of potential impacts from development a significant distance from the site itself. This also includes SPA and Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and candidate SACs

Figure 2: Designated Sites



- Landscape Character-** Suffolk County Council – web based tool characterising the landscape throughout the District and providing detailed description, interpretation and guidance. The character types defined on the web based maps are illustrated here. More detail is available on the website www.suffolklandscape.org.uk

Figure 3: Landscape Character



The footpath routes illustrated on the map include:

Long Distance Routes

Stour Valley Path
Gipping Valley River Path
Stour and Orwell Path
St Edmunds Way (way marked long distance walk)

Other Promoted Shorter Routes

Threads Trail Long Melford
Threads Trail Sudbury
Threads Trail Hadleigh
Threads Trail Lavenham
Hadleigh Railway Walk
Hadleigh Circular walk
Sudbury / Long Melford Railway Walk
Alton water circular walks
Hadleigh Riverside path
Lavenham railway walk

Cycle Routes

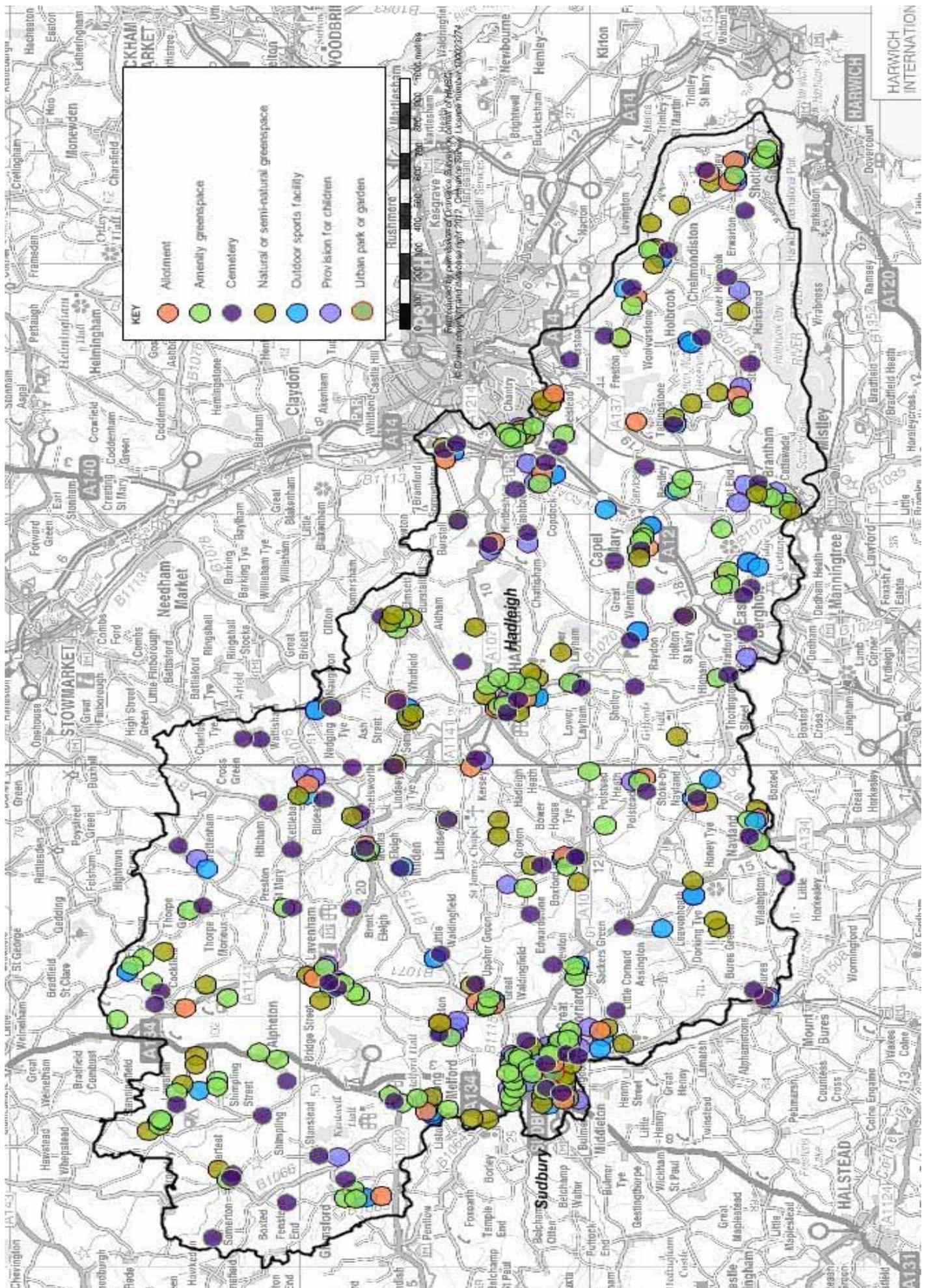
South Suffolk Cycle routes 6 routes
Sustrans routes
Designated cycle routes

- **Recreational Open Space network-** The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy indicates all recreational open space, including sports pitches, play areas and allotments. The overall distribution of these is illustrated on the map below fig 6. The open space audit categorises types of open space according to the primary function. These are based on standard nationally recognised typologies including;

- Allotments
- Amenity Green space
- Natural / Semi Natural green space
- Outdoor Sports provision
- Provision for children
- Urban Park / Garden
- Cemetery

Work is currently underway with the Town and Parish Councils to update, check / verify the open space audit data. On completion of this, all open space audit sites will be defined on the Council's geographical information systems, which will be a useful tool, providing the ability to share data and will help inform planning for future needs.

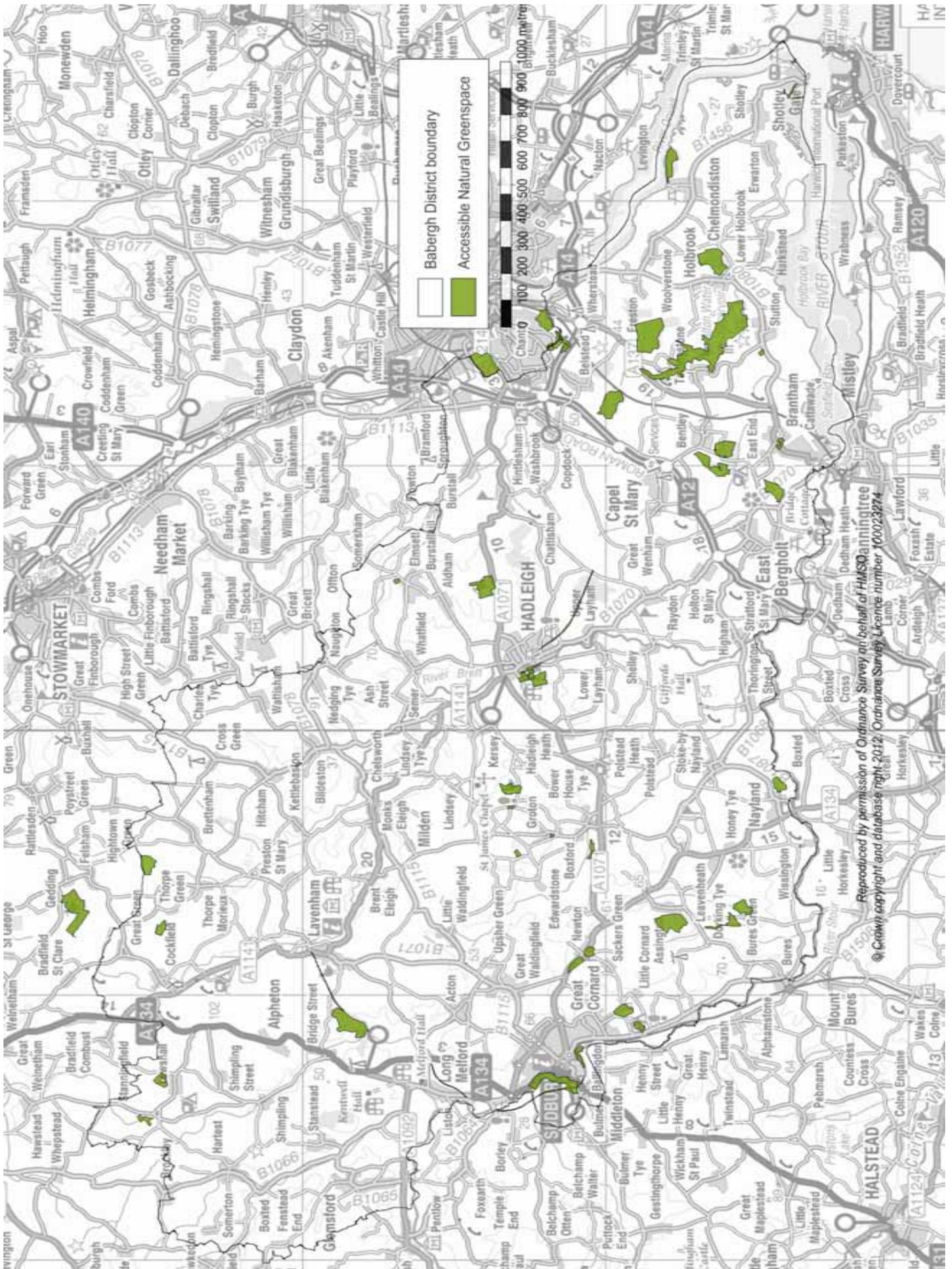
Figure 6: Recreational Open Space - Distribution



Accessible Natural Green Space- areas of woodland or open space to which the public may gain access comprises ANGS and may include woodland, waterways (sometimes referred to as blue infrastructure) country parks etc.

The evidence for the West of Babergh and HaGGIS, illustrate a catchment area for ANGS, using minimum standards developed by the Town and Country Planning Association and Natural England, based on population catchments and the distance people should live away from various scale accessible natural green space. In some very urban areas this may be the most effective way to plan for and identify priorities for future provision and ensure adequate access is provided to green space by all. However, as stated in the introduction this is not considered to be the most appropriate approach in a rural district such as Babergh. The analysis focuses more on the location and connections between spaces and places, recognising that some of these larger accessible natural green space sites serve a wide surrounding area and may have greater potential than the current role, eg Alton Water and Country Parks.

Figure 7: Accessible Natural Greenspace



4. Analysis of Green Infrastructure.

Having illustrated a picture / record of the green infrastructure resource in categories linked to the function of the spaces, it is helpful to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the Green Infrastructure resource, in order to consider future opportunities and priorities.

The analysis of the Green Infrastructure takes the context and resource mapping a step further and interprets the data to identify constraints and opportunities for Green Infrastructure. It shows the key environmental assets which need to be protected, conserved and enhanced, the key gaps in respect of the type, function and location of GI and the areas where accessibility would benefit from enhancement, and establish improved connectivity.

The analysis takes a themed approach to focus on the importance of the role of green infrastructure as a connecting network serving many varied functions. This approach helps identify the gaps and the opportunities to inform the type and function of Green Infrastructure which may be a priority in particular areas.

The analysis maps are based on four key themes which represent the principal function of the GI network;

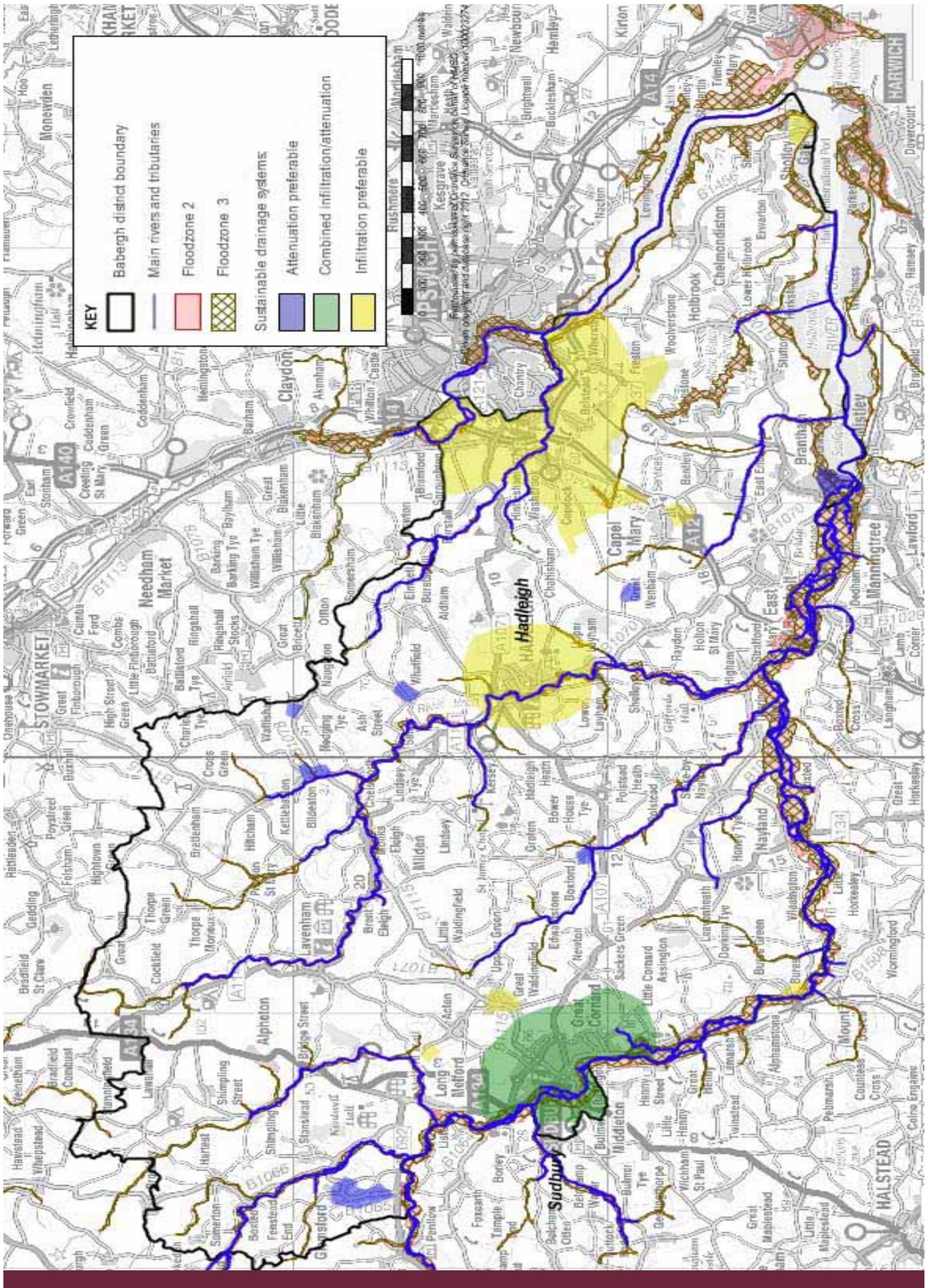
- Water Management
- Biodiversity
- Destinations
- Connections

(i) Water Management

Fig 8 illustrates the water features throughout the district which are an intrinsic part of the landscape and contribute to the GI network, (sometimes referred to as blue infrastructure) directly and indirectly. The district includes south bank of the Orwell Estuary and the north bank of the Stour Estuary with the ports of Felixstowe to the north and Harwich to the south, both beyond the district boundary. All of the Orwell within the Babergh boundary is tidal, with the lock at Cliff Quay within the Waterside area of Ipswich Borough being the cut off before the River Orwell runs north. The Stour is tidal between the mouth at Shotley Gate and Catterwade Sluice, beyond which it runs west towards Dedham and further up stream to Sudbury.

Other water courses include tributaries of the Stour including the River Brett, Box, Glem and Chad Brook and off the Orwell, including Belstead Brook. Also contributing significantly to the water infrastructure and associated green infrastructure is the inland freshwater reservoir Alton Water. Situated between Tattingstone, Stutton and Holbrook, it is Anglian Water's fourth largest Reservoir covering almost 400 acres and provides drinking water for 200,000 customers.

Figure 8: Water Management



Also shown on Fig 8 are areas which are identified as being suitable for use of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SuDS). Drainage is an essential infrastructure requirement, which can have a positive effect on the environment and GI network if approached sustainably. As a scarce resource it is important to ensure there is a sustainable approach to conserve the resource and minimise water loss. Green infrastructure has a part to play through functional flood storage during drought periods, water balancing / SUDs and urban greening including green roofs to slow run offs

Areas at risk from flooding are also shown on the map, including places subject to tidal, fluvial and surface water flooding. Along the river valleys, areas of functional flood plain provide a critical role in protecting more vulnerable areas from flooding (including people and property). These areas often also provide important habitats, some of which are legislatively protected through designations including SPAs and SSSIs. This includes the Stour and Orwell SPA. Often functional floodplains also provide a recreational function, for example, the meadow in Bures, recently acquired by the community for informal recreation. It is also important to recognise that some GI functions and habitats may be well suited to locations which are at risk from flooding, whilst others may be damaged by such effects. It is important to understand the opportunities and constraints associated with flood risk areas when considering future GI provision and enhancement.

Having regard to the water management considerations it is possible to identify potential opportunities for enhancement which may include;

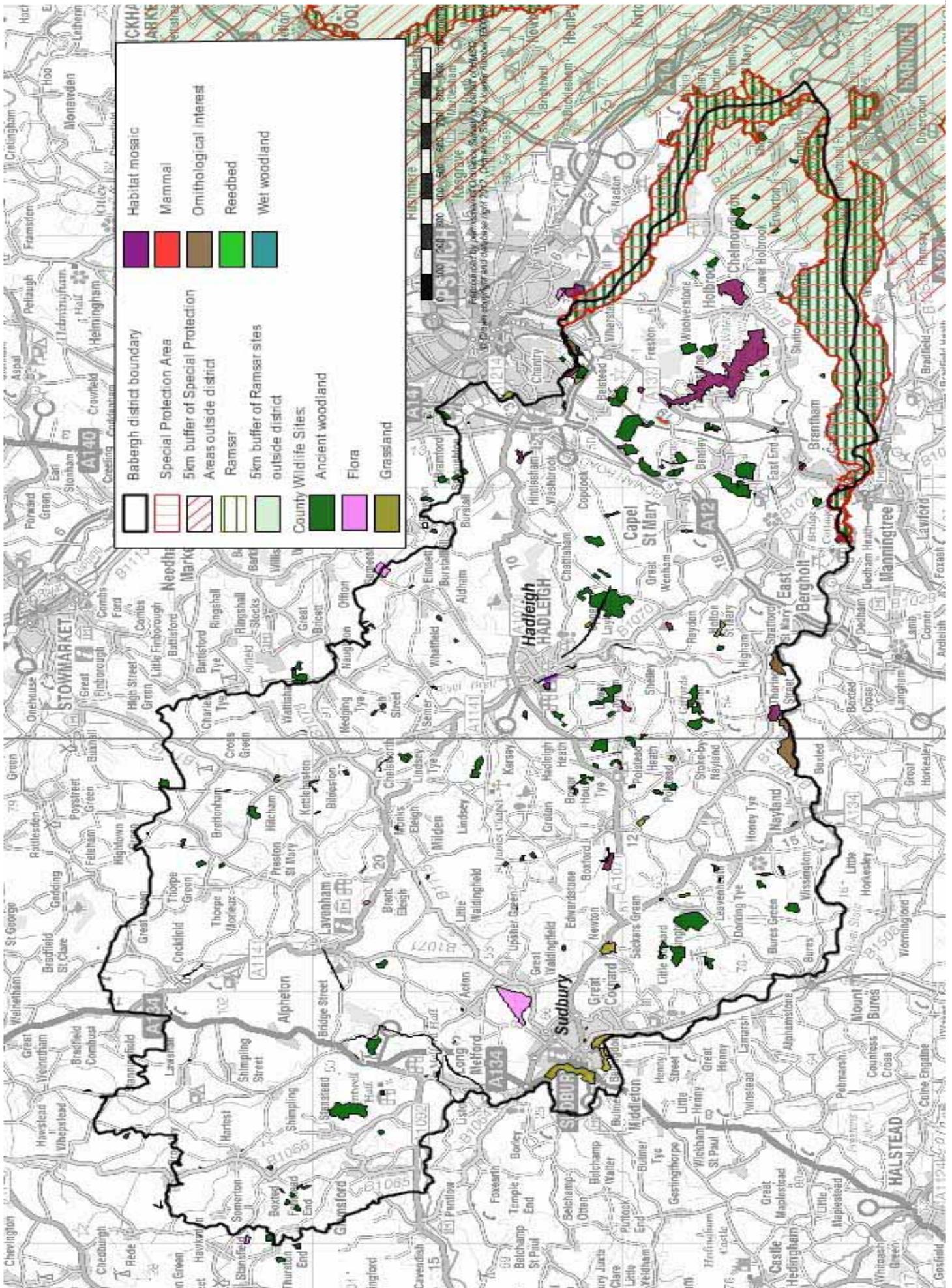
- habitat creation;
- habitat connectivity
- positive promotion of SUDs
- Appropriate water recreation / promotion/ restriction/ management (river / estuaries)
- Inland water recreation enhancement / promotion/ management (Alton Water)

The information can also provide guidance in respect of constraints for particular activities, eg due to flood risk or conservation management interests. These can be balanced against opportunities and offset potential pressures, particularly minimising effects of development and increased population on the sensitive European sites.

(ii) Biodiversity

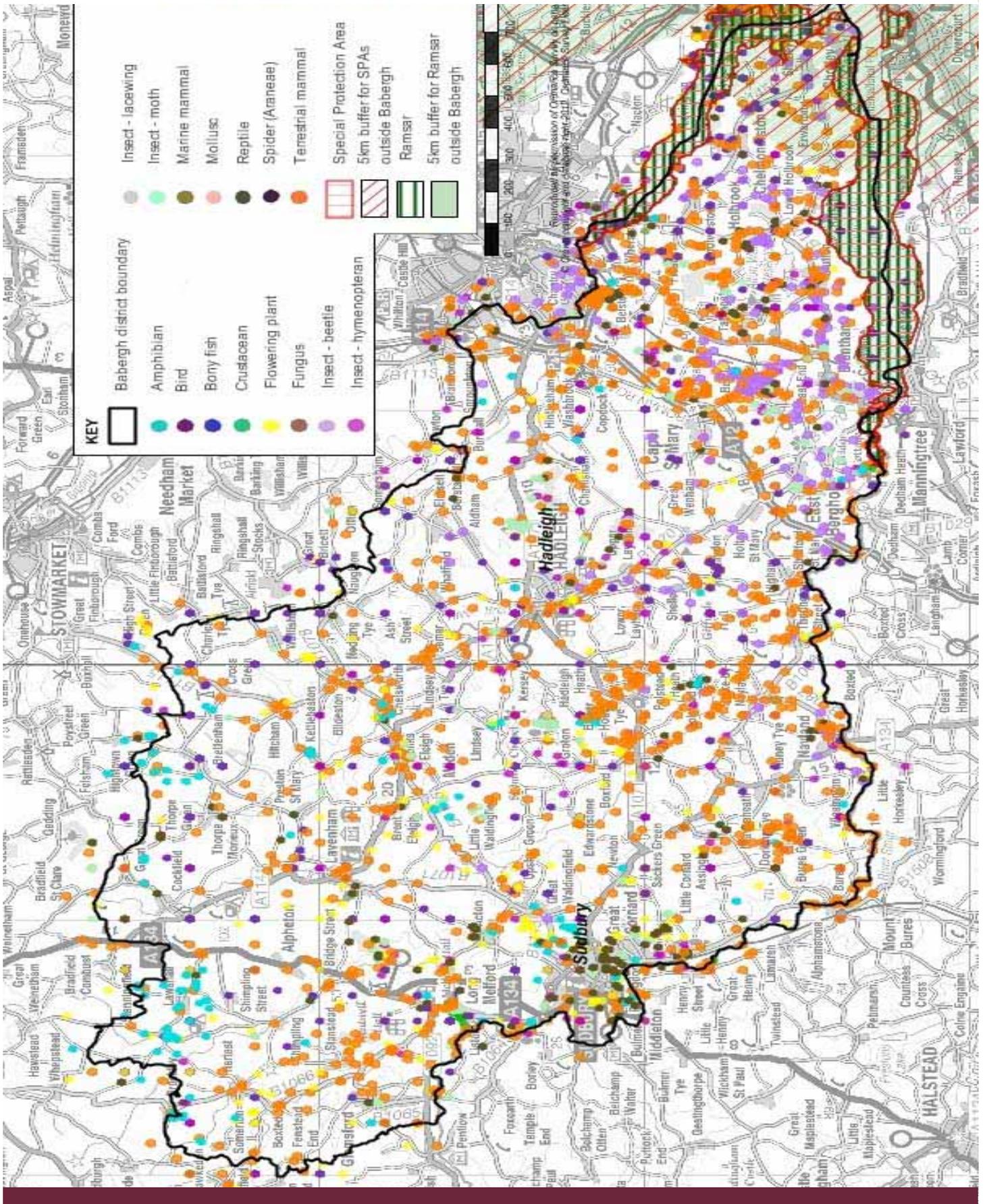
The biodiversity analysis Maps Fig 9 and 10 illustrate the location and distribution of key habitats and statutory designated sites for their ecological or nature conservation value. Most importantly the analysis starts to illustrate the gaps between habitats and where there may be opportunities to create an inter-connected network of habitats. The analysis looks at key species of conservation interest where there are significant and particularly identifies where there are significant distances separating other spaces of suitable habitat, which are greater than the species normal dispersion capabilities. A well connected network of habitats allows species to expand their range, reducing habitat fragmentation and adapting to the threats of climate change. Consideration also must be given to the multifunctional opportunities of any habitat areas established in addressing connectivity issues, for example, some habitats may sit comfortably alongside a footpath, or informal recreation area, whereas other may be damaged by such activity

Figure 9: Biodiversity (County Wildlife Sites)



The analysis map is just a starting point and allows for identification of potential opportunities to improve connectivity and to inform regarding suitability for habitat creation in particular locations and equally prevent the wrong type of habitats be promoted in inappropriate locations. Given the multi functional role of GI this will be important in identifying the nature of GI opportunities when addressing future potential enhancement including for example, connecting access for pedestrians between two popular destinations and ensuring suitable habitats are created alongside this.

Figure 10: Biodiversity - Species



The analysis of biodiversity has its limitations, due to the need to manage the availability of detailed data. However, looking at the general distribution of habitats and the pattern of recorded presence of types of species, it is possible to make a cursory assessment of where there may be gaps/ concentrations, sufficient for this to inform opportunities for enhancement, or to ensure an appropriate habitat is provided when GI is being planned, serving other functions or including additional provision, enhanced access and connectivity.

(iii) Destinations

In considering potential opportunities for enhancing Green Infrastructure in the future, both in terms of quantity and quality, it is important to understand the location of the destinations which are a focus for activities including recreation, everyday functions such as places to work, or shop or go to school. Understanding and visualising an overall picture of this will help significantly in identifying opportunities, particularly when information about connections and gaps is overlaid with this.

The destinations analysis map Fig 11 illustrates principal places of interest, which are currently a focus for local people and visitors. It includes identifying destinations and attractions where people may plan walks and cycle rides to, as well as daily trips.

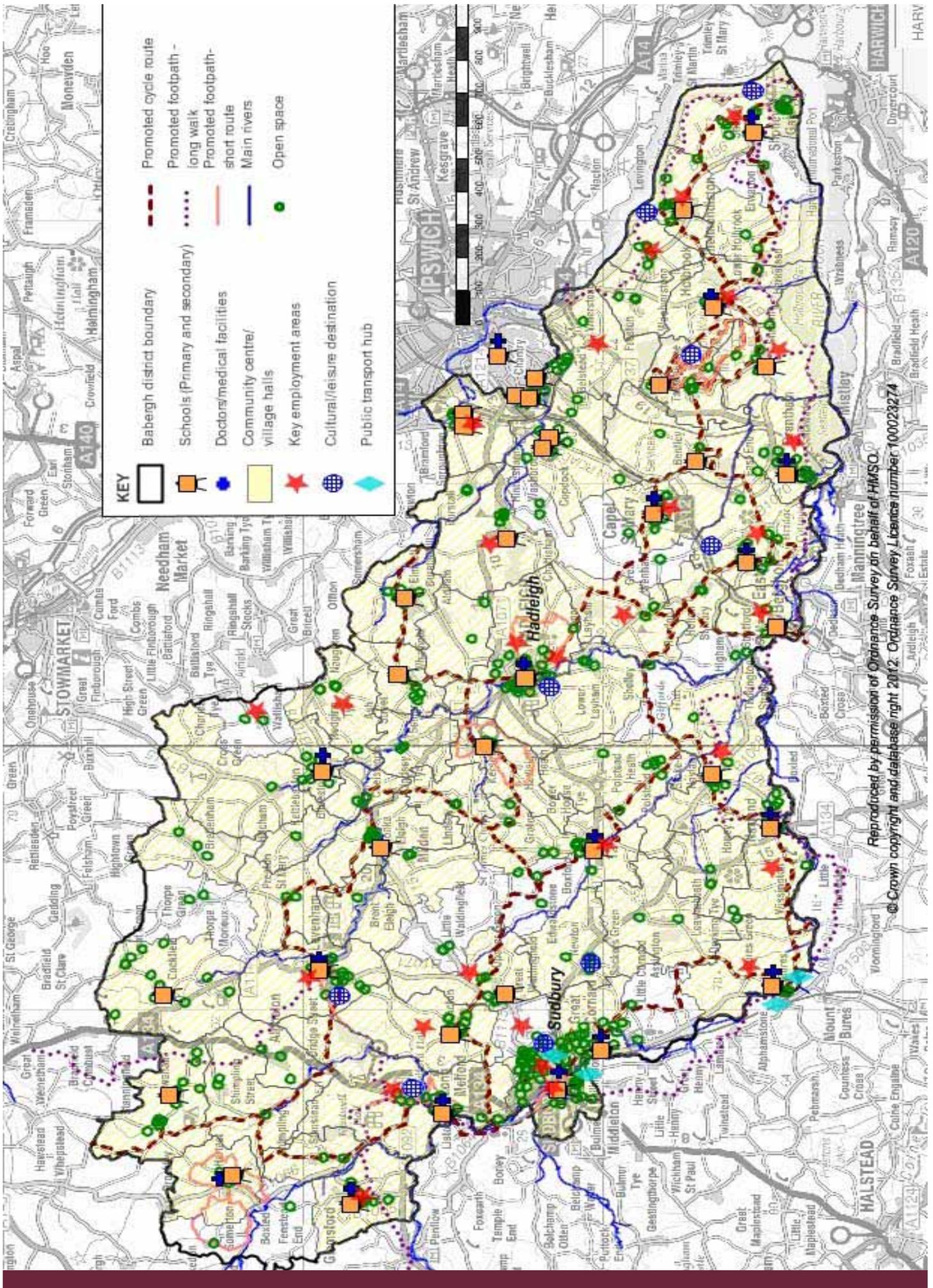
Using data from the Core Strategy Evidence base, Suffolk County Council –Discover Suffolk and tourist information promotional brochures, destinations are illustrated on the map as follows;

- Shopping centres including supermarkets
- Neighbourhood shopping areas
- Libraries
- Parks and play areas
- Other recreational areas including country parks
- Community and village halls
- Leisure centres / swimming pools
- Places of interest including;

In the towns and larger villages there is a concentration of places which are a focus for daily trips. These busy areas are subject to more detailed analysis below, as it is helpful to drill down in more detail to identify gaps, consider constraints and opportunities. This will inform the identification of GI requirements, to ensure that those opportunities which are identified, are the most suitable for the comprehensive GI needs in that location at that time.

This is at the core of the “multi-functional” role of GI, - making the connections between one place and another to serve all potential users including people and wildlife. Focussing on where people need to go, if carefully planned could also provide the opportunity to offer the right type of GI which also provides an enhancement for biodiversity, water management and / or recreation.

Figure 11: Destinations and Connections



(iv) Connections

The connections between GI spaces and destinations are at the core of making a series of separate green spaces a comprehensive green infrastructure network. It is likely that, for the most part, this will be the focus for improvements to enhancing the potential and multi-functional opportunities of GI.

The connections analysis map Fig 11 illustrates the key existing access routes. This includes the identification of promoted routes (footpaths or cycle routes) as well as designated cycle ways, which are limited. It also shows the location of public transport destinations (Railway station / bus station / interchange), car parks associated with destinations such as country parks / picnic site, and Biodiversity connections where these are known, for example, through river valleys and green corridors which may share the same habitats. The analysis begins to identify any obvious constraints (eg trunk roads or railway lines), any clear gaps and potential gaps where there may be opportunities to address linkages. It is important in identifying these, that careful thought is given to the benefits of making those connections to ensure that the multi-functionality is appropriately considered and that opportunities are maximised.

As an overview analysis this has its limitations, many of which are overcome when a more detailed focussed analysis of an area is carried out. This is provided for the 3 urban areas in the district below in section 5.

It is however, helpful to see the settlement pattern and distribution and often the concentration of key facilities of daily and visitor interest. This is particularly helpful when related to access and connections to existing green infrastructure and to and from these key popular facilities. Knowing where people already need to / choose to go, in relation to existing GI and access and connections between places, is essential to ensure a comprehensive multi-functional green infrastructure network is provided. This together with where spaces currently exist and the access to them is fundamental to the planning for opportunities and enhancement. Even at this district level, it can be seen how this analysis can usefully inform future opportunities for GI. For example in seeking to enhance cycle routes between destinations, these need to relate to existing access, destinations and places.

5. Area focussed analysis

The analysis mapping above creates a comprehensive overview of the district wide Green Infrastructure network. Detailed consideration is given to potential opportunities for enhancing the GI network through a focused analysis of 3 key areas in the district, Sudbury and Great Cornard, Hadleigh and the Ipswich Fringe. These locations are the urban areas in the district and as such are the busiest locations in terms of destinations for activities and also are likely to be the focus for more significant growth in the future. This framework provides the opportunity to inform everyone of the GI potential and to reflect this in any early conceptual thinking about growth in these areas, ensure any new GI provision is in the best location, beneficial to many functions and well connected to other spaces and its intended users. Furthermore it provides a basis for informing future policy formulation, site allocations and master planning on sites allowing GI to have a key focus in these developments.

Further attention is also given to Alton Water, as a unique larger scale facility offering a range of green infrastructure opportunities for as an inland water and accessible natural green space. This area is highlighted in the HaGGIS as an opportunity for further GI provision and enhanced access connecting a number of locations. It has the potential to play a role in district and possible sub regional level of provision and in particular in providing opportunities to alleviate pressure from more sensitive locations such as the Stour and Orwell Estuaries (SPA).

For each key area, this framework identifies the following;

- Concepts/ objectives relating to GI in each focus area;

- Specific opportunities/ aspirations identified through stakeholder consultation and in HaGGIS where appropriate;
- Key deficiencies / gaps in Gaps in GI specifically identified in the evidence assessment (including reference to the open space audit)
- Opportunities and issues associated with planned growth in each area, to inform later planning stages such as master plans;
- Action points with emphasis on furthering delivery of enhanced GI in the area.

The focused analysis for Hadleigh and the Ipswich Fringe draws on work undertaken as part of the HaGGIS which identified potential opportunities following extensive consultation. The Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton analysis has been carried out with the community including the, Sudbury, Gt Cornard and Chilton Town and Parish Councils and a range of Green Infrastructure and community interest groups.

Section 6 goes on to identify further areas suggested for action which arises from the evidence base, including the HaGGIS.

5.1. Hadleigh

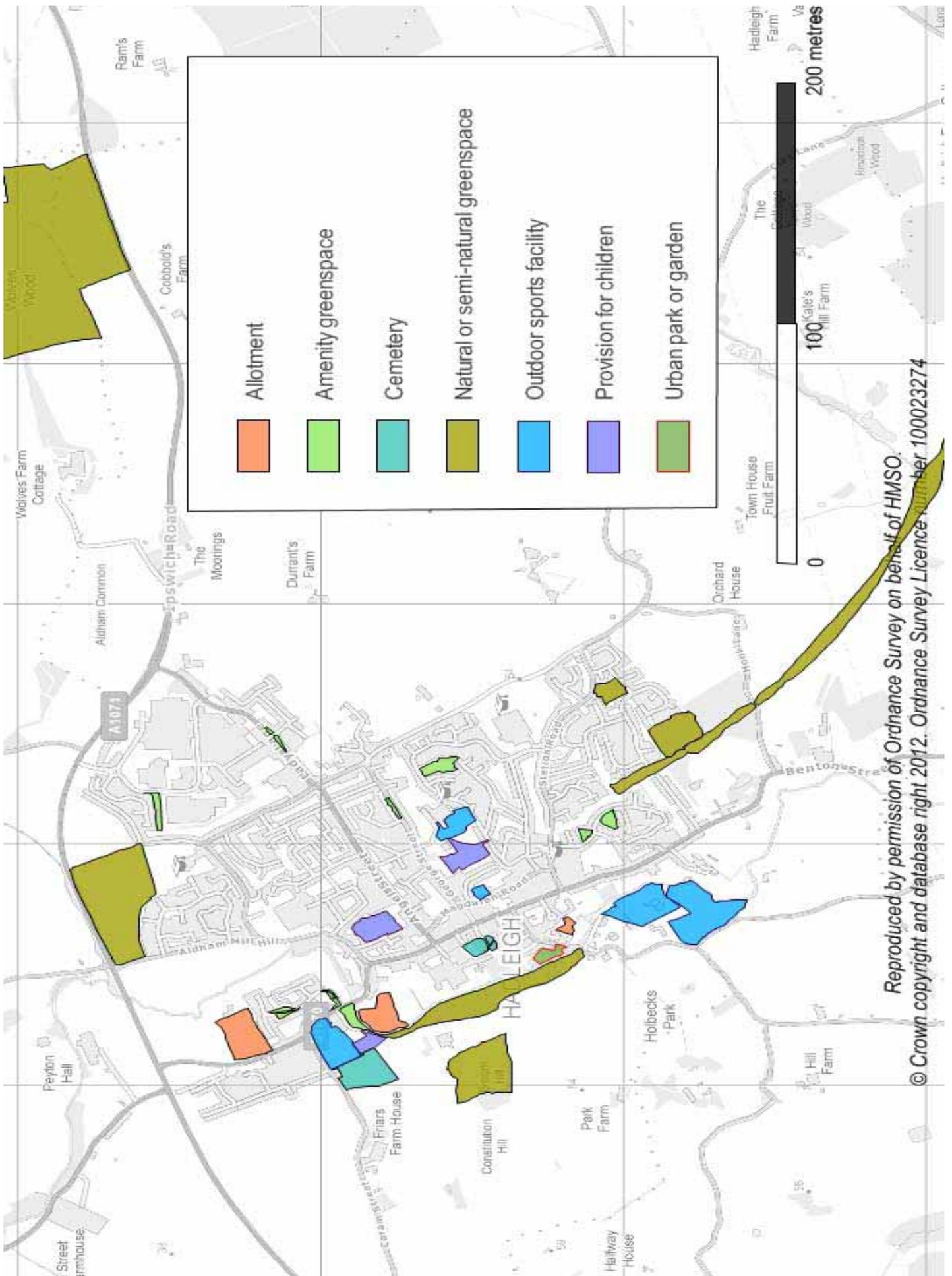
Hadleigh is a market town centrally situated within Babergh with a population of approximately 8,000. For a town of its size it supports a wide range of employment opportunities, primary and secondary education, retail opportunities, community facilities including a swimming pool and outdoor recreation provision.

Existing Open Space provision and deficiencies

The open space audit identifies the existing provision within Hadleigh and where local minimum standards are set indicates where there are deficiencies in provision. Although Hadleigh is well provided for in many types of open space, when assessed against the minimum standards significant deficiencies are evident for;

- Allotments;
- Amenity Green space;
- Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) (sufficient in terms of hectares, but needed in more locations to meet the accessibility standard)
- Neighbourhood Areas for Play (NEAP)- none exist at present required 2.11 hectares which also reflects the wider catchment areas which these facilities serve
- Outdoor sports provision (deficient by 11.21 hectares when the wider catchment area is considered)

Figure 12: Open Space—Hadleigh



For other types of open space including accessible natural green space, although not assessed against a minimum standard, provision is reasonably good with assets including Wolves Wood, the Riverside Walk and the Railway walk all making a valuable contribution towards a total of 62.97 hectares.

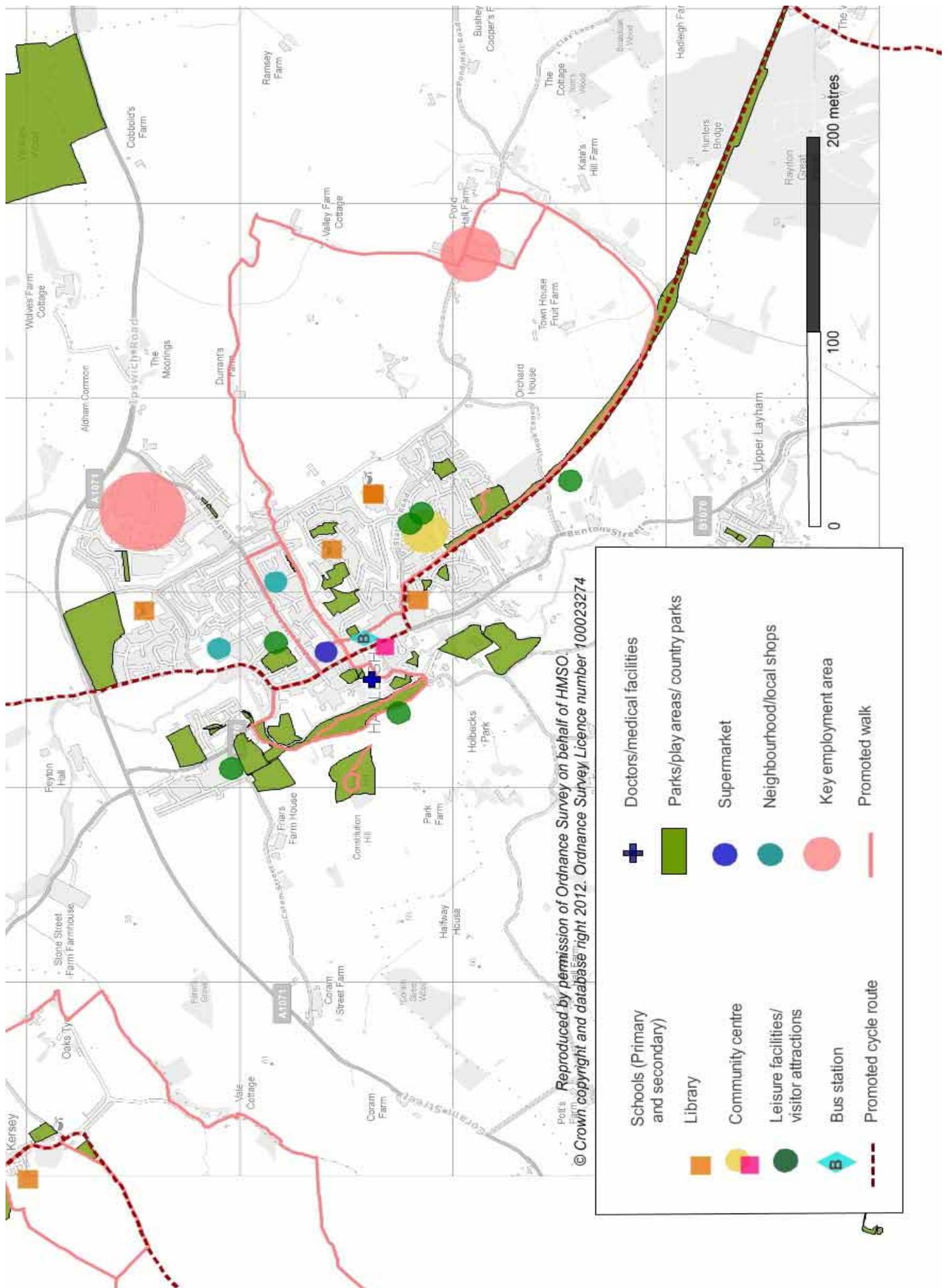
Future Growth in Hadleigh

Hadleigh is one of three urban areas in Babergh and as such is a focus for growth in the current Local Plan and the Core Strategy 2011-31. Existing commitments of 200 together with a proposed allocation of 250 new dwellings as part of a mixed use scheme comprise the growth in Hadleigh for the next 20 years. Planned GI provision will be important as part of these future developments and in contributing to enhanced provision through appropriate GI, access and connections as informed by this evidence.

Map analysis for Hadleigh

The overall provision of all types of GI for Hadleigh is reasonably good for the town itself. Some larger elements of GI, which serve a wider catchment area, beyond Hadleigh, including district/ sub regional accessible natural green space, outdoor sports provision and NEAPs are however, significantly deficient. As a central market town, with key transport links to Ipswich and good access to a wide rural hinterland, additional provision on this scale would be sustainably located within or close to Hadleigh. Particular areas would be significantly enhanced for a range of GI functions through improved connections, links and green corridors and river corridors.

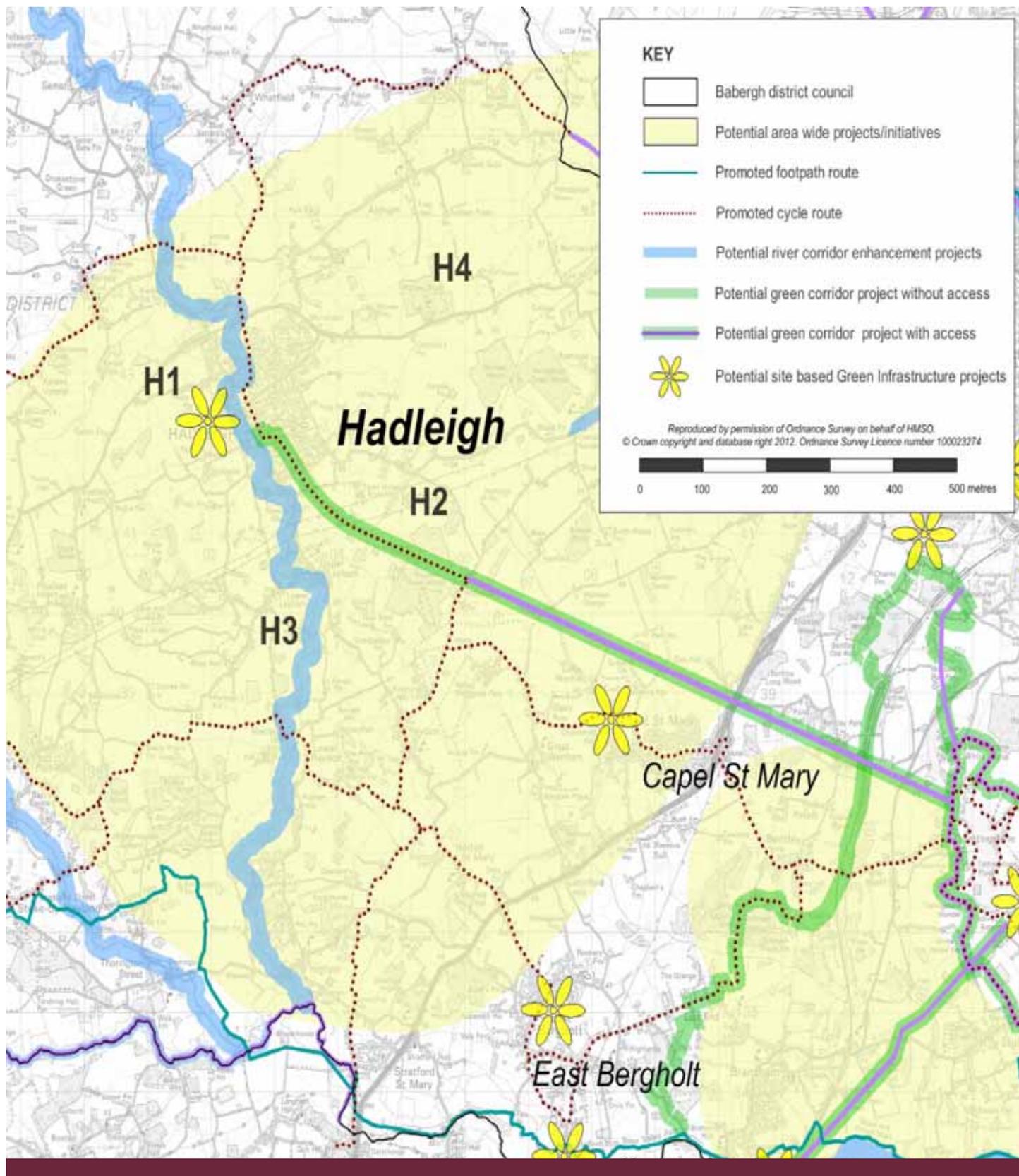
Figure 12a: Destination and Connections



The map opposite Fig 12 illustrates the GI provision in Hadleigh in relation to existing destinations and connections. It is evident from this that a focus for enhancement should start with improving connections between spaces and destinations and between one space and another. A more detailed analysis of the habitats, and species will inform how best to maximise the potential of such enhancement for biodiversity interests, as well as access and recreation.

Opportunities for Hadleigh

The Hadleigh Opportunities illustrated in HaGGIS are shown on Fig 12b below.



These opportunities include additional provision to address existing deficiencies, river corridor enhancement and green corridor enhancement to improve links. Not all opportunities identified were site specific, but more conceptual. They are all summarised in the list below;

- **H1.** Accessible natural green space deficiency- a new large scale provision such as a country park
- **H2.** Hadleigh Railway Walk LNR green corridor including the potential to extend towards Alton Water(also has biodiversity benefits as well as access);
- **H3.** River Brett Corridor enhancement (no additional access);
- **H4.** Fabric of Historic countryside- an area wide opportunity to conserve and enhance existing GI including the provision of linear links to the west of Ipswich.

As well as these identified opportunities additional open space provision to address deficiencies as identified in the open space audit including;

- Allotments
- LEAP and NEAP provision
- Outdoor sports provision (including all weather facilities which serve a wider catchment area due to the potential opportunity for extended useage.

Actions for Hadleigh

Based on the detailed analysis and the opportunities identified through HaGGIS the following Actions are suggested to take forward the delivery of GI enhancement in Hadleigh;

- Work with local stakeholders to identify specific opportunities to enhance links / connections between spaces and places within and beyond Hadleigh to serve multi GI functions.
- Reflect the GI opportunities and needs identified in future planning, particularly as part of the mixed use strategic site and outstanding commitments. The GI evidence to be used to inform the master planning process and early scheme consideration where appropriate.
- Additional provision to include opportunities for NEAPs and Outdoor sports with further consideration to be given to specific opportunities for the potential of an all weather facility.
- Identify specific opportunities for new provision of accessible natural green space, with particular emphasis on linking new areas with existing provision, such as Wolves Wood (recognising limitations with the barrier of the A1071).
- Identify specific opportunities, working with local stakeholders to enhance river corridors in particular the River Brett and Hintlesham Brook, particularly for biodiversity benefits.

5.2. Ipswich Fringe

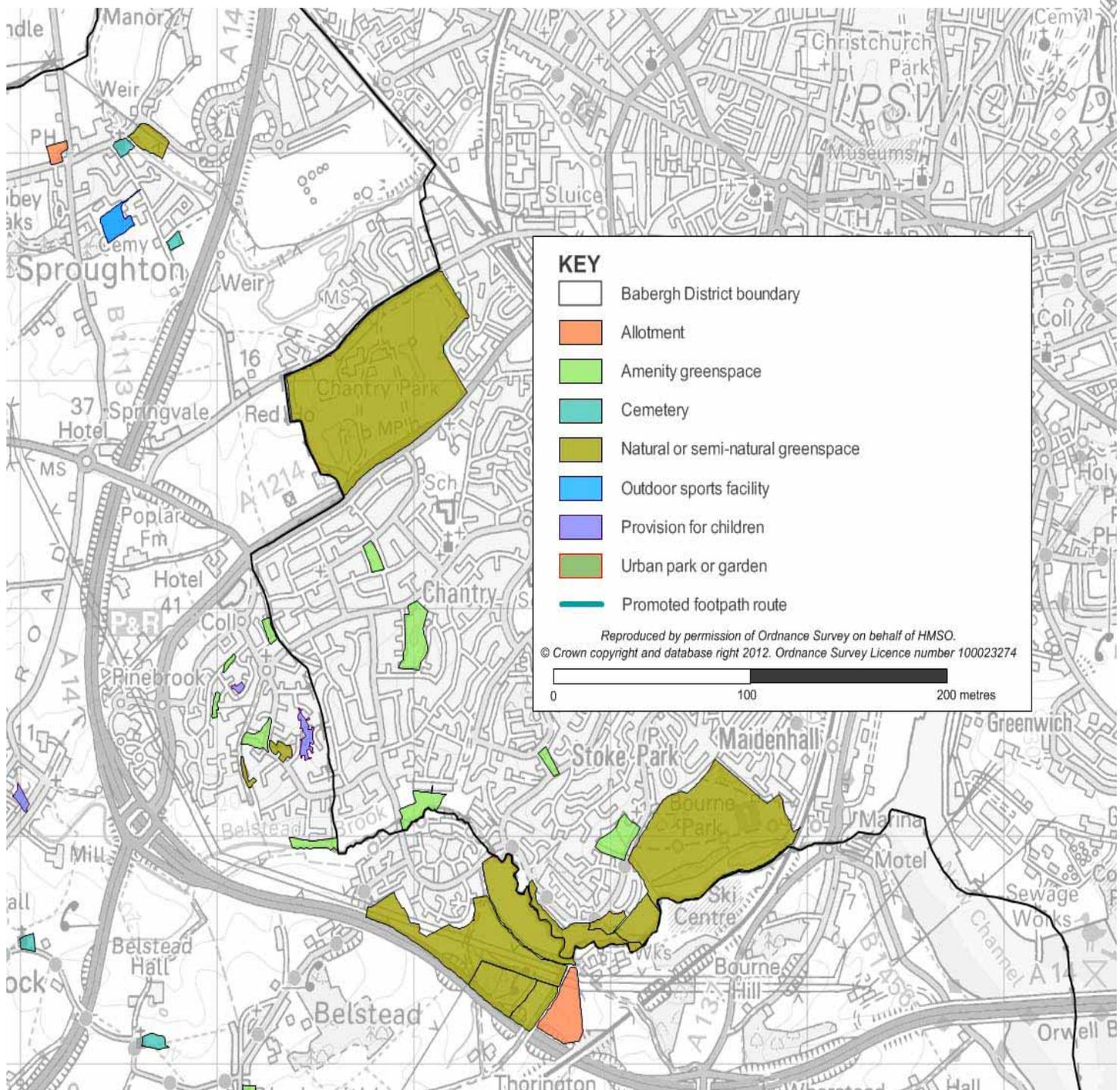
Ipswich Fringe is the area of the urban edge of Ipswich, which is situated in the Babergh District. It is part of the Ipswich Policy Area with Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council. In Babergh, it is essentially defined to the west by the A14 and it includes the parishes of Pinewood, Sproughton, Belstead, Wherstead, Copdock and Washbrook. Together they have a combined population of approximately 8,000. Each Parish is a community in its own right with a focus for many activities being centred around key facilities including schools, shops and community facilities. The area is also home to the new Suffolk One Sixth Form College. For many other needs these communities look to Ipswich with the benefits of a large town and transport, retail and employment hub.

Existing Open Space Provision and deficiencies

As the Ipswich Fringe area is made up of a number of parishes and it adjoins Ipswich Borough, the evidence for existing open space provision is considered at a parish level, for the smaller types of provision and reflects the wider catchment area for other facilities which includes the west of Ipswich. The Ipswich Borough Open Space Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (March 2009), has also been referred to in order to assess deficiencies, as provision in adjoining areas will also serve these settlements for some types of provision, particularly outdoor sports provision and NEAPs. The table below summarises the overall position and areas of deficiency.

Parish	Existing Deficiencies
Copdock and Washbrook	Allotments Outdoor Sport (including Catchment) NEAP
Pinewood	NEAP Outdoor sport (within IBC provision catchment but also deficient)
Sproughton	Amenity Outdoor sport LEAP NEAP
Belstead	Allotments NEAP Outdoor sport (within IBC provision catchment but also deficient)
Wherstead	Allotments Amenity Outdoor sport LEAP
South West Ipswich (IBC evidence)	Outdoor sport NEAP(Belstead within IBC provision catchment)

Figure 13: Ipswich Fringe - Open Spaces



Accessible natural green space exists on the southern fringe in the form of Belstead Brook Country Park and on the north west boundary Chantry Park (within IBC boundary). Both of these are valuable assets and make a significant contribution to the GI serving Ipswich and this area of Babergh and beyond and the locally distinctive character of the immediate area. Significant improvements have been implemented to Belstead Brook Park through the Greenways Project and Haven Gateway Growth Point funding.

Future Growth in the Ipswich Fringe

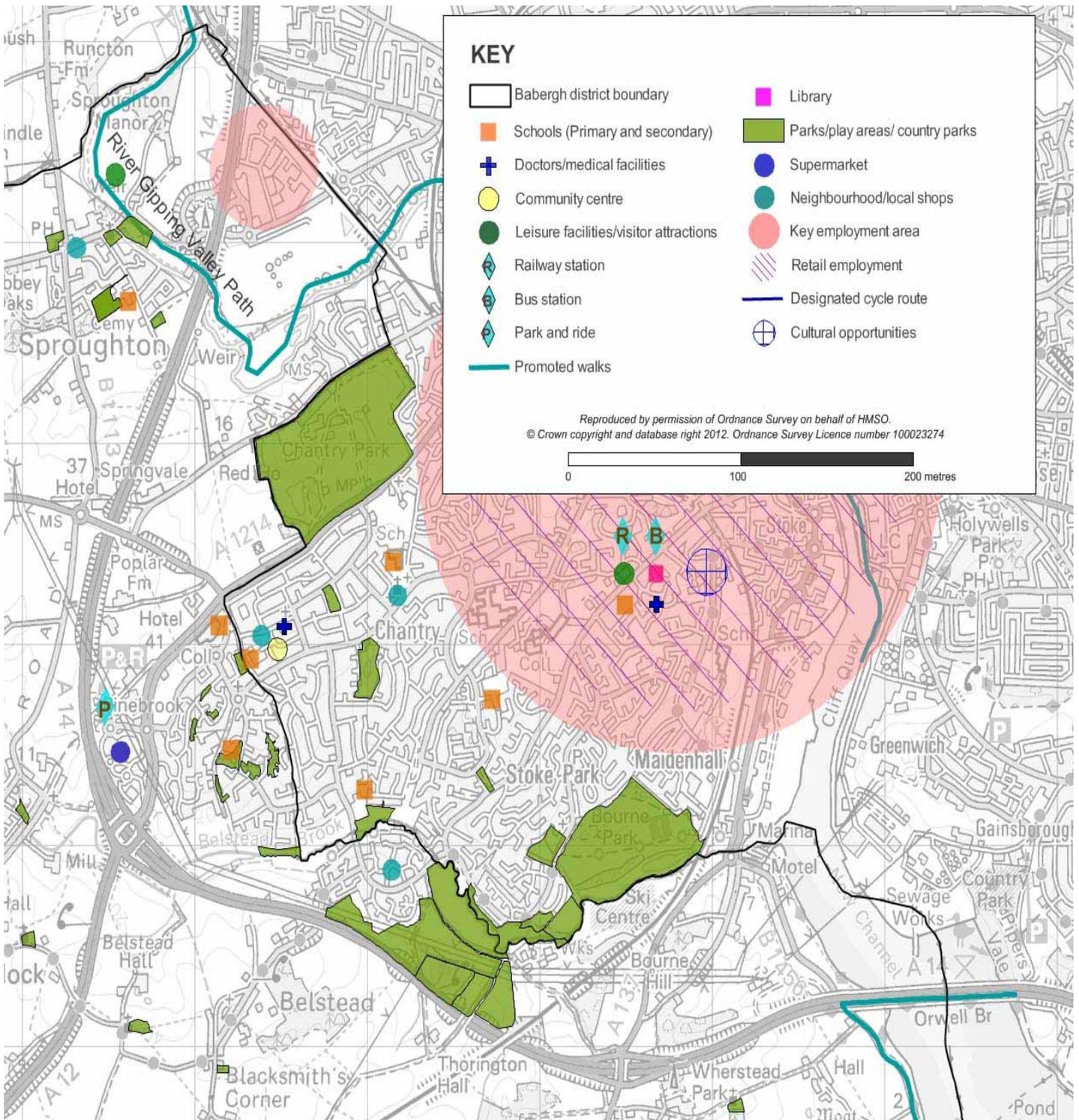
Ipswich fringe is one of three urban areas in Babergh and as such is a focus for growth in the current Local Plan and the Core Strategy 2011-31. Existing commitments of 200 together with a proposed allocation of 350 new dwellings as part of a mixed use scheme to the west of Ipswich, comprise the growth in the Ipswich Fringe for the next 20 years. Planned GI provision will be important as part of these future developments and in contributing to enhanced provision through appropriate GI, access and connections as informed by this evidence.

The setting and location of the new strategic site defined by the A14, A1214 and A1071, will need to reflect a key focus on GI reflecting the landscape characteristics provided by the nearby Chantry Park and the proximity to the internationally designated SPA of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries. This will require good provision of GI to provide sufficient opportunities to alleviate potential effects of this growth on these more sensitive areas, particularly from increased visitor recreational use as a result of the growth in this location.

Map Analysis for the Ipswich Fringe

As part of the urban edge of Ipswich, the analysis needs to be considered in the context of the rest of Ipswich. Map in Fig 13, illustrates that the open space provision within the Ipswich Fringe area is patchy. Accessible natural green space is well provided for, and through Belstead Brook Park and Chantry Park. A notable deficiency is in the Pinewood area, in outdoor sport provision and NEAP facilities. This pattern is also evident across the border in the west of Ipswich.

Figure 13a: Destinations and Connections - Ipswich Fringe

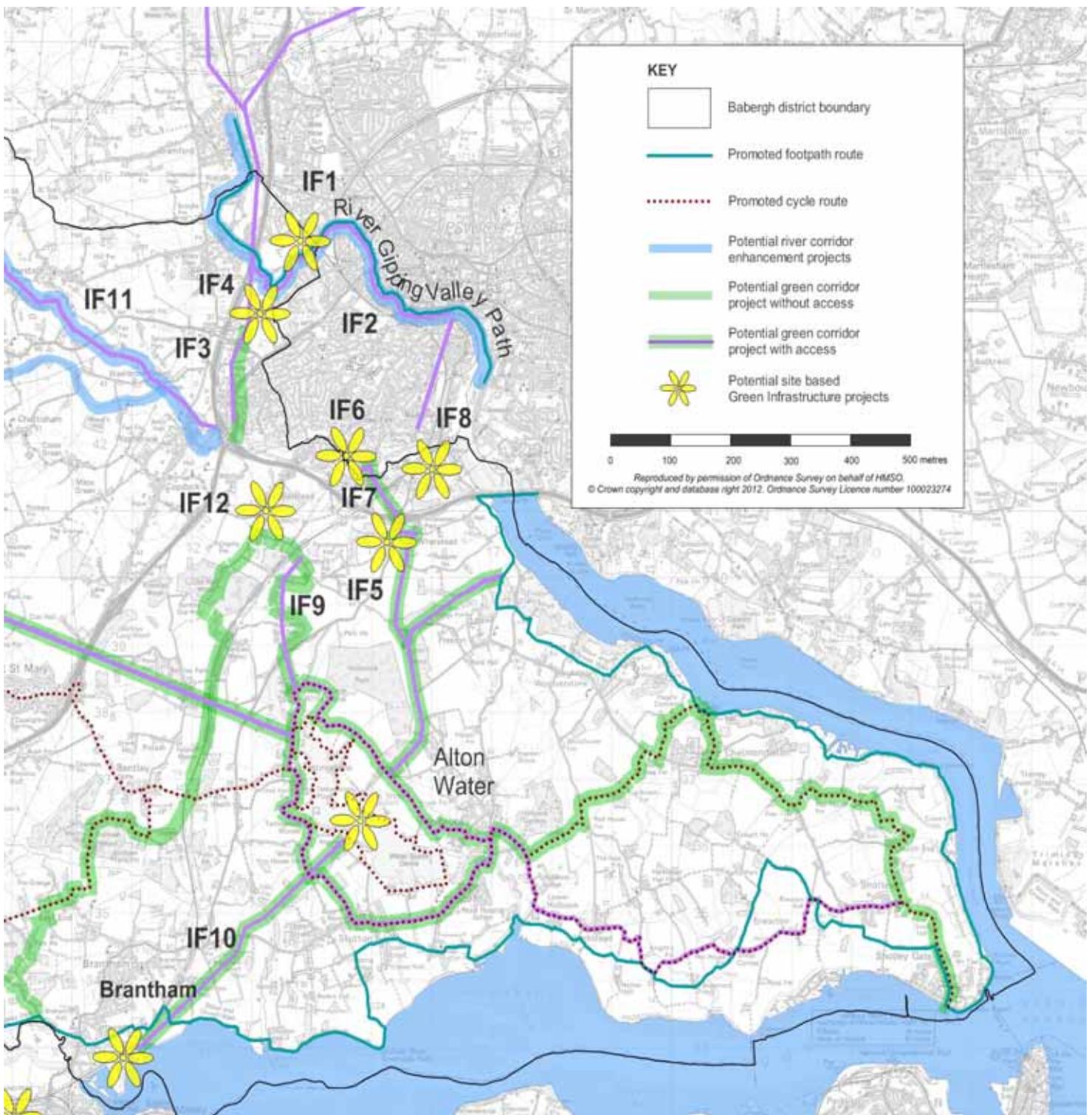


The map on the preceding page Fig 13a illustrates the GI provision in the Ipswich Fringe in relation to existing destinations and connections. It is evident from this that a focus for enhancement should start with improving connections between spaces and destinations and between one space and another. In addition it is also evident that new development in this area needs to take a lead form the nearby Chantry Park / Chantry Vale to ensure GI is a key focus to development and that good links and connections are made with existing provision.

A more detailed analysis of the habitats, and species will inform how best to maximise the potential of such enhancement for biodiversity interests, as well as access and recreation.

Opportunities in the Ipswich Fringe

The Ipswich Fringe Opportunities illustrated in HaGGIS are shown on Fig 13b below.



These opportunities include additional provision to address existing deficiencies, river corridor enhancement and green corridor enhancement to improve links. Not all opportunities identified were site specific, but more conceptual. They are all summarised in the list below;

- **IF1.** Proposed Nature Reserve and Accessible natural green space associated with the redevelopment of the Sugar Beet Site at Sproughton (retention of the Island as a nature reserve and retain a substantial area of green space and access corridor along the river bank)
- **IF2.** Ipswich River Corridor (River for All) links to existing and proposed GI Ipswich Water front to proposed new green space provision at Sproughton.
- **IF3.** Belstead Linear Park / Hadleigh Road Green Corridor, including Cycle ways
- **IF4.** West Ipswich / Hadleigh Road Country Park- New accessible natural green space provision-extension to Chantry Park(delivery related to development)
- **IF5.** Wherstead Country Park new accessible natural green space provision and contribute to green corridor (2006 Local Plan) Important habitat saltmarsh/ foreshore, links well with other GI, including Orwell Country Park and Belstead Brook. Also links towards Alton Water.
- **IF6.** Belstead Brook Park Extension Progress missing links habitat. This has been delivered
- **IF7.** Belstead Brook links to Thorrington Hall, Jimmys Farm and Alton Water
- **IF8.** Thorrington Hall- volunteer/ community centre around new provision/ interpretation (only likely to be required and delivered if development came forward)
- **IF9.** Belstead Green corridor, links to Alton Water, up grade existing Rights of Way
- **IF10.** Brantham to Belstead green corridor opportunity to reduce woodland and wetland fragmentation, links to Dodnash woods and Bentley Vale;
- **IF11.** Burstall Brook river corridor enhancement
- **IF12.** Grove Hill open space Belstead – new Accessible natural green space – new LNR (2006 Local Plan)

As well as the above listed opportunities also need to identify opportunities for new provision of open space facilities to address deficiencies identified in the open space audit as follows;

- Outdoor Sports provision
- NEAP
- Allotments in Wherstead, Belstead, Copdock and Washbrook
- Amenity space in Sproughton and Wherstead
- LEAP in Sproughton and Wherstead

Actions For the Ipswich Fringe

Based on the detailed analysis and the opportunities identified through HaGGIS the following Actions are suggested to take forward the delivery of GI enhancement in the Ipswich Fringe;

- Work with local stakeholders to identify specific opportunities to enhance links / connections between spaces and places within and beyond Ipswich Fringe to serve multi GI functions.
- Reflect the GI opportunities and needs identified in future planning, particularly as part of the mixed use strategic site and outstanding commitments. The GI evidence to be used to inform the master planning process and early scheme consideration where appropriate to ensure appropriate emphasis is placed on GI provision as part of any scheme progressed in this location.
- Additional provision to include opportunities for NEAPs and Outdoor sports with further consideration to be given to specific opportunities for the potential of an all weather facility.
- Identify the potential to establish specific opportunities for a new country park as part of the GI provision at west Ipswich, work with stakeholders and developers to further this opportunity;
- Identify potential to establish specific opportunities for enhancement including retention of new green space for biodiversity benefits and enhancement of the River Corridor, including improvements to the River Gipping Path, at Sproughton associated with redevelopment of the Sugar Beet Factory in accordance with Core Strategy Policy 5a (Main Modifications to Core Strategy Document (July 2012)), work with stakeholders and developers to further this opportunity;
- Identify potential to establish specific opportunities for a new country park at Wherstead, work with stakeholders and developers to further this opportunity;

5.3. Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton

Sudbury with Great Cornard is the largest of the 3 urban areas in Babergh with a combined population of 20,000+. Sudbury is an historic market town situated in the west of Babergh, with the River Stour running through comprising part of the district and county boundary with Braintree and Essex. The river valley is a key feature contributing to the locally distinctive character of the town and its hinterland. Great Cornard forms part of the urban edge of Sudbury, although it has its own community, there is little separation between the two and they are regarded as one urban area for planning purposes. Chilton is located to the north of Sudbury and is a separate parish, although as a focus for growth in recent years has been in this area of Sudbury, the separation between the two is limited, so again it is considered as being part of the edge of the urban area for Sudbury. As this area of Sudbury has been and will continue to be a key focus for growth, it is important that Chilton is included in the consideration of Green Infrastructure for Sudbury.

As a market town, Sudbury hosts all key services, supporting the urban area and extensive rural hinterland, including a wide range of employment, leisure and culture, retail, community facilities and education provision including 2 secondary schools.

Existing Open Space provision and deficiencies

Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton are all significantly deficient in open space provision, other than amenity space and accessible natural green space which is well catered by way of spaces including Friars Meadow and Great Cornard Country Park, which are great assets for the town and far beyond. Provision for children in the form of LEAPs, (other than at Chilton), NEAPs, outdoor sports, as well as allotments, are all significantly deficient in all areas of Sudbury.

Taking into account the wider catchment area for the larger facilities the following requirements are evident when existing provision is assessed against a local standard;

- NEAP provision -11.28ha required in 5-6 separate locations
- Outdoor sports provision - 26.07 ha
- Allotments -7 ha

Given that Sudbury is the largest urban area in the district, additional provision for outdoor sport, provision for children, particularly NEAPs, and allotments should be a key priority reflected in planning for open space and community infrastructure in the future. It should also be acknowledged that provision of larger scale, multi -purpose facilities such all-weather pitches located in a sustainable location make a more significant contribution to supply than standard pitch provision. This should be considered further when reviewing detailed requirements for future provision and identifying specific opportunities. This is may be particularly relevant when planning for open space and green infrastructure, as further growth places additional pressure on limited facilities.

Future Growth In Sudbury

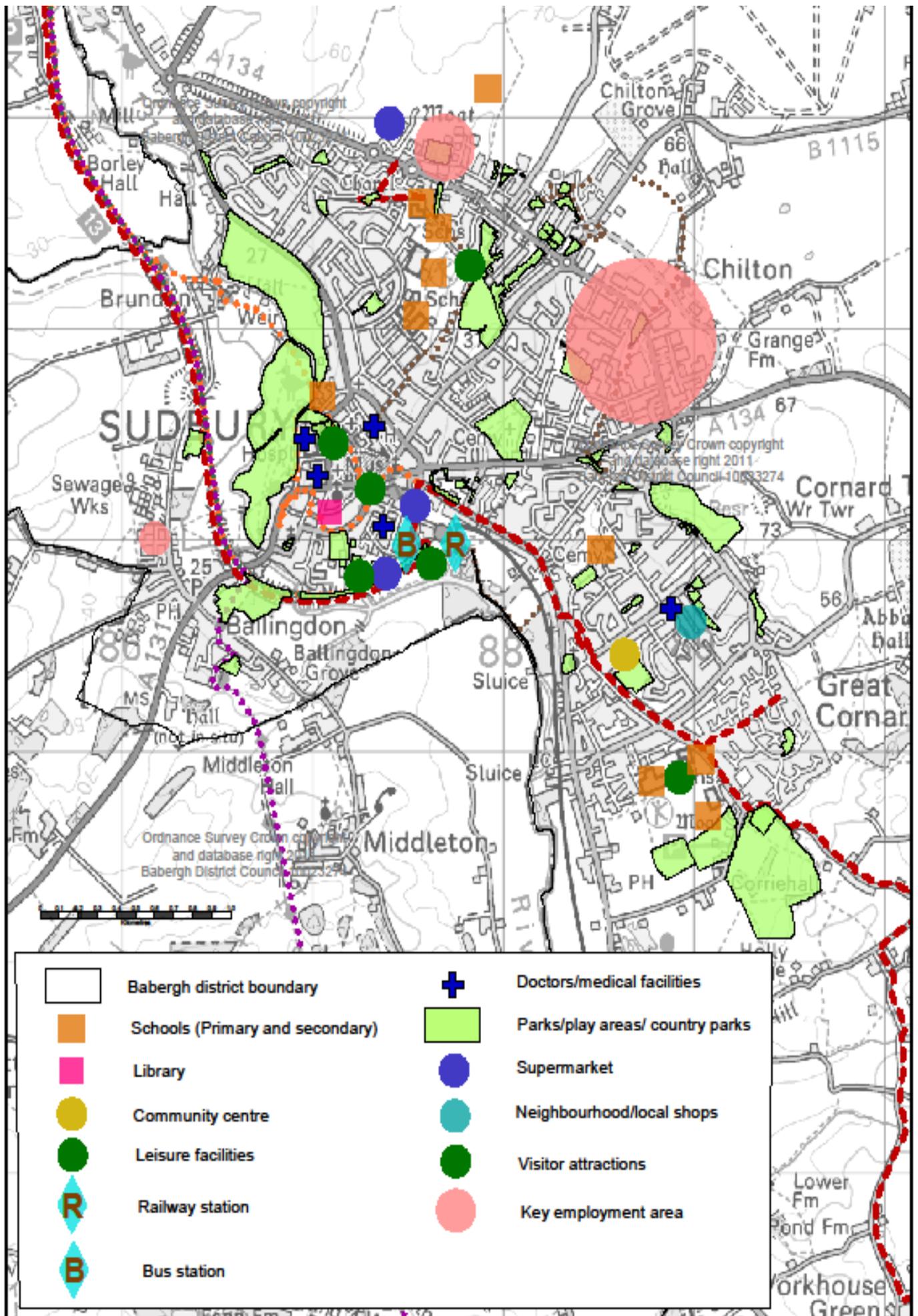
Sudbury is the largest of three urban areas in Babergh and as such is a focus for growth in the current Local Plan and the Core Strategy 2011-31. Existing commitments of 1,500 together with a proposed allocations of 850 new dwellings as part of an extension to the mixed use scheme at Chilton to the north of Sudbury adding 350 houses (making the total planned at Chilton Woods 1050) and a further 500 as part of a mixed use scheme to the east of Sudbury, comprise the growth in Sudbury for the next 20 years. Planned GI provision will be important as part of these future developments and in contributing to enhanced provision through appropriate GI, access and connections, as informed by this evidence

Map Analysis of Sudbury

As Sudbury and Great Cornard are fortunate to have valuable green infrastructure areas including Friars Meadow and Great Cornard Country Park, with a number of smaller areas of green space, interspersed within the built up area, there are many pockets of GI providing varying functions. Some are well connected, whilst others are not. There are also parts of the town where provision is very patchy, particularly towards the south eastern area, also with limited connections to GI provision elsewhere.

The map Fig 14a below illustrates the GI provision in the Sudbury in relation to existing destinations and connections. It is evident from this that a focus for enhancement should start with improving connections between spaces and destinations and between one space and another, for example Friars Meadow and Great Cornard Country Park.

Figure 14a: Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton - Destinations and Connections



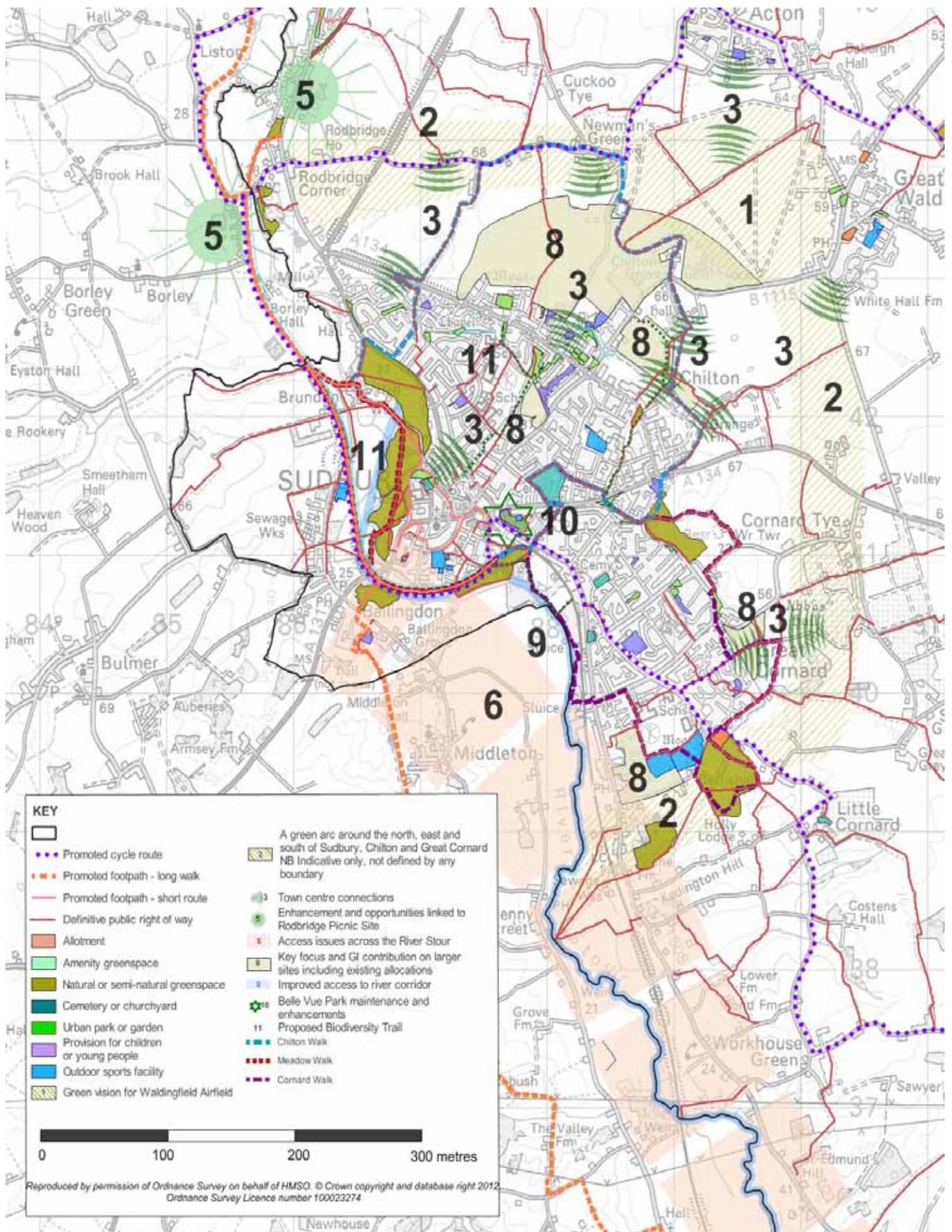
In addition it is also evident that new development in this area needs to ensure GI is a key focus of development and that good links and connections are made with existing provision, the town centre and adjoining settlements.

A more detailed analysis of the habitats, and species will inform how best to maximise the potential of such enhancement for biodiversity interests, as well as access and recreation

Opportunities in Sudbury

In order to identify potential opportunities for future provision of green infrastructure in Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton, a consultation workshop was held with key stakeholders in April 2012. This provided the opportunity for the participants to participate in a focussed exercise to consider potential opportunities and identify aspirations for provision in the future. The starting point for the identification of opportunities for Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton is therefore, the outputs from this workshop. At the consultation workshop 3 groups undertook a map exercise to identify, gaps, opportunities and aspirations for the area including Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton. The information as presented on the 3 maps has been summarised. Based on the feedback provided by the stakeholders overall concepts / potential opportunities put forward at the consultation event are illustrated in Fig 14b and explained in the summary schedule below. These suggested opportunities are grouped together as “Concepts” with some key objectives / ideas linked to the concepts also listed. The map is entirely to aid illustration and understanding and should be read alongside the listed concepts and corresponding numbers. Not all concepts are mapped, as they may not directly represent geographical locations. It also should be noted that the concepts illustrated are intended to be indicative and are not site specific or defined by boundaries.

Figure 14b: Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton - Potential Opportunities



Suggested Concept

Concept: A Green Vision for Waldingfeild Airfield

Woodland to be created

Opportunity for quiet non-motorised recreation including organised activity

Meadows and open areas of green space

Concept: A green arc around the north, east and south of Sudbury, Chilton and Great Cornard

North -of Chilton Woods to link existing, new / proposed GI including any proposals which arise from Concept 1. Linkages through, green corridors, landscape areas open space sites, and access routes for cyclists and pedestrians.

East -of Sudbury and Great Cornard, to link development and green spaces to the north, including Chilton Woods-existing /new GI associated with new development with Great Cornard Country Park. Linkages through, green corridors, landscape areas open space sites, and access routes for cyclists and pedestrians.

South to link Great Cornard Country Park to the River Stour to the south of Sudbury. Linkages through, green corridors, landscape areas open space sites, and access routes for cyclists and pedestrians.

Concept: Town Centre Connections

Various indicative points from the North (Chilton Woods) and the GI provision within and at the edge of the Chilton Woods development. Points / routes to be designed around the design and layout- important to link up with GI sites as well as continuing to the town centre edge to provide access for cyclists and pedestrians and provide a green corridor link also with bio-diversity benefits.

Although this was indicated for Chilton Woods, the concept also applies to other locations and in particular where new development and additional GI provision is planned into schemes.

Concept: Green setting of historic buildings to safeguard and compliment the character

GI to safeguard and maximise the potential of the setting of the historic buildings. Particular reference given to Chilton Hall and the Church at Chilton.

Principle may also apply to Abbas Hall

Potential to establish GI opportunities for example through provision such as a Formal Park which looks to the setting of the historic buildings to shape its character.

Concept: Enhancement and Opportunities Linked to Rodbridge Picnic Site

Improvements and enhancement to the picnic site

Improved access and completing the link with the Melford Valley Walk (missing section)

Concept: Access Issues across the River Stour, including links with Essex

Opportunities to improve access to enable routes to and from Essex and beyond. Reference made to a link at Ballingdon to the South. Other indicative points may also be appropriate

Concept: Additional Provision of Allotments

Relates to Sudbury, Chilton and Great Cornard in general also specific mention of need for provision within Chilton Woods indicated.

Concept: Key focus and GI contribution on larger sites including existing allocations

People's Park- Retain some Green / open element and ensure strong links to and from area using GI provision to achieve this. Maximise GI in association with well designed development when this comes forward.

Carson's Drive- Retain some Green / open element and ensure strong links to and from area using GI provision to achieve this.

Concept: Improved Access To River Corridor
Various opportunities linked to improved access and also including interpretation and navigation if appropriate
Concept: Belle View Park maintenance and enhancements
Value of park emphasised
Enhancement opportunities primarily linked to the entrance and access to and from the town centre.
Include signage and information to and from the town, the park and other key locations
Concept: Biodiversity Trail and other access routes to enhance and link existing access routes, including providing a continuous route around Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton
Walks already proposed and schemes worked up (Biodiversity Trail) Chilton Walk Cornard Walk Meadow Walk Other routes may be appropriate indicative links suggested
Concept: Green Verges /setting spine routes serving development
Spine routes to be designed well and sufficient land allowed to create wide buffers and strong green verges and planting (Moreton Hall in Bury St Edmunds sited as good practice)

Actions for Sudbury

The concepts identified above, as indicated, summarises the feedback from the consultation with stakeholders. Accordingly, they do not have formally agreed status, but these provide a good picture of local aspirations. The Actions below suggest the potential for taking some of these concepts forward towards establishing specific opportunities for implementation and delivery of enhanced provision and better connected GI in Sudbury;

- Work with local stakeholders to identify specific opportunities to enhance links / connections between spaces and places within and beyond Sudbury to serve multi GI functions, building on the routes developed and promoted by the Biodiversity Group around, Sudbury, Great Cornard and Chilton.
- Reflect the GI opportunities and needs identified in this evidence in future planning, particularly as part of the mixed use strategic sites and outstanding commitments. The GI evidence to be used to inform the master planning process and early scheme consideration where appropriate to ensure appropriate emphasis is placed on GI provision as part of any scheme progressed in Sudbury.
- Additional provision to include opportunities for LEAPs, NEAPs and Outdoor sports with further consideration to be given to specific opportunities for the potential of an all weather facility. In addition to identify further opportunities for provision of allotments
- Work with local stakeholders to identify potential opportunities for further developing the concept for a green arc to the north and east where appropriate, together with additional green vision opportunities around Great Walldingfield airfield. Any additional provision to provide multi functions, enhanced access and the offer enhanced opportunities to link between existing green spaces and the town centre and to be linked to new provision which may be delivered as a result of new development.
- Work with local stakeholders to identify specific opportunities for further developing the concept for enhanced connections with the town centre, particularly associated with new development on larger sites, including the strategic sites to the north and east of Sudbury.
- Work with local stakeholders to identify specific opportunities for further developing the concept for enhancement of Belle Vue Park, with particular emphasis on the access to and from it, linkages with elsewhere in the town and other green spaces, including improved signage.

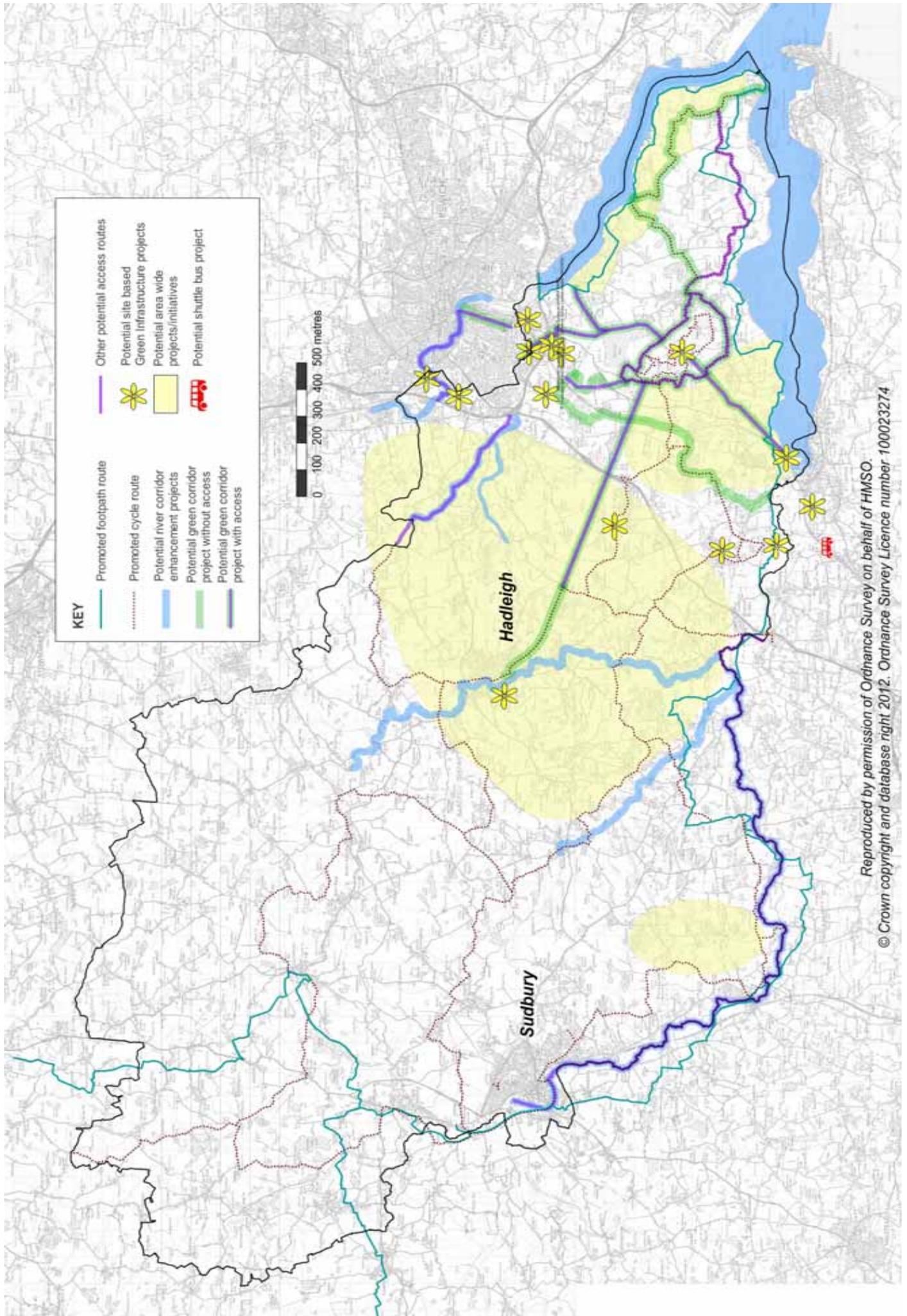
- Work with local stakeholders to identify potential opportunities for further developing the concept for enhanced river access, including any potential to improve access across the river between Suffolk and Essex.
- Work with local stakeholders to identify specific potential opportunities for further developing the concept for improvements to the Rodbridge Pincic site, including establishing enhanced access such as the missing link or the Melford Valley Path.
- Use GI evidence to inform future planning policies or detailed master planning, to ensure good design and layout is reflected around GI needs. In addition to ensure the green / open setting of listed buildings, which often contribute to or link with the surrounding GI, are safeguarded. Policies and master planning also to encourage the concept of designing strong wide, well planted buffers, particularly along spine routes and for these to link with other GI provision and access routes.

6. Other Key Green Infrastructure Opportunities Identified in Babergh

Although the main focus of the HaGGIS concentrated on the urban areas, and in particular areas where further growth is likely to be planned, some areas beyond these were also identified as potential opportunities for new provision and enhancement of Green Infrastructure. These are listed below, with a summary of any update or action required related to the opportunities.

6.1. Alton Water

Alton Water is a large inland water reservoir, which currently provides opportunities for water recreation activities including sailing and windsurfing, as well as informal recreation incorporating significant routes for walking and cycling. Although it makes an important contribution towards accessible natural green space, serving a wide catchment area, it has been identified as having the potential to provide a more significant role at a district/ sub-regional level and that there are opportunities to enhance this asset as well as improve access and green corridor links to and from various locations. The potential projects associated with Alton Water identified in HaGGIS, are listed below and shown on the map in fig 15



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- Key significant accessible natural green space, to provide opportunities serving a district and sub regional level
- Various access routes / green corridor links as identified;

Alton Water to Shotley;

Alton Water, green corridor to Bentley Wood, and Holbrook Park;

Alton Water to Thorrington Hall, through to Jimmy's Farm and Belstead Brook Park;

Brantham to Alton Water

Update / Action for Alton Water

The potential for Alton Water to enhance its role as a green infrastructure, informal recreation resource is an opportunity which remains relevant and should be explored further;

- Open up a dialogue with Anglian Water (landowners) and other stakeholders to further pursue potential opportunities;
- Work with stakeholders to develop ideas, perhaps by way of a concept statement, to further consider a potential comprehensive package of proposals which provide opportunities to enhance the green infrastructure asset at Alton Water. This is to include exploring the identified potential linkages, plus any others that may emerge.
- Identify opportunities for Alton Water to increase its role in alleviating potential additional pressure on the more sensitive international sites, including the Stour and Orwell SPA. This is a consideration which may have benefits arising from the Habitats Regulations requirements.

6.2. Other Accessible Natural Green space deficiency provision

There are a few other areas where HaGGIS identified the need for additional or enhanced provision of green space in Babergh including East Bergholt and Capel St Mary. Here, the need for additional accessible green space is indicated as being required to address deficiencies in existing provision. These are identified as aspirational opportunities and would need significantly further work to identify, the needs, potential location and likely delivery mechanisms. In addition Brantham is identified as having an opportunity to provide additional accessible natural green space, providing a range of functions including biodiversity benefits. This is identified as a deficiency and also as an opportunity that is associated with the regeneration proposals which is included in the Core Strategy as Policy CS6a. Green infrastructure provision should be established in accordance with the requirements of this policy. (Main Modifications to Core Strategy Document (July 2012))

Action for Brantham

- To work with stakeholders to identify opportunities for the provision of additional green space for ecological and biodiversity benefits as part of the regeneration proposals, with this being reflected in the early planning and master planning for the site.
- To use the green infrastructure evidence to guide the detailed requirements in terms of habitats, access, and management for any future green infrastructure provision.
- To ensure the GI provision also serves to provide a buffer to the SPA and opportunity to tie in with coastal access policies.

6.3. Further work in rural areas- Core and hinterland villages – Functional Clusters

For those rural areas and villages within the HaGGIS boundary, some potential opportunities were identified in the form of access corridors, for example the Holbrook to Pin Mill green corridor, which is suggested to include an enhancement of a promoted strategic cycle route to create a green corridor linking the Stour and Orwell Estuaries. A further area wide opportunity identified was for Habitat restoration at Bures, although this was outside of the HaGGIS boundary. These together with further work to identify a comprehensive network of opportunities in the rural areas requires further consideration in the future.

Action for the rural areas

It is suggested that future work should include key study areas (with the communities) working with groups of parishes, perhaps in the “functional clusters” identified in the Core Strategy, together with the relevant stakeholders to take a focussed look at green infrastructure needs and opportunities in the same way, as has been set out in this document for the urban areas. The evidence base provided here, together with the open space, sport and recreation audit can be used as a starting point. This detailed GI assessment of opportunities could be carried out alongside, other planning considerations such as site allocations or as part of a wider neighbourhood plan. This can inform site allocations, master plans and infrastructure requirements.

Contact us

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