Update of the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Ipswich Policy Area

Babergh District Council, Ipswich Borough Council,
Mid-Suffolk District Council
and Suffolk Coastal District Council

August 2015

Summary

Introduction and purpose

i. In 2008 the Haven Gateway Partnership published the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy[1]. This Strategy, which focused upon strategic accessible natural greenspace provision, used the standards in place at the time to identify provision and deficiencies across the Haven Gateway area and identified opportunities to enhance provision. This paper provides an update to the 2008 Strategy for the Ipswich Policy Area and surroundings and should be read alongside the 2008 Strategy. The 2008 Strategy can be viewed at http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/policy/local-plan/evidence/documentlibrary/infrastructure.

ii. This update forms part of the work programme of the Ipswich Policy Area Board which is established as a forum for five local authorities (Babergh District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council) to work together on planning across the Ipswich Policy Area. The update relates to Task 104 of the Ipswich Policy Area work programme – 'Review of green opportunities and mapping'.

iii. The purpose of the update is to identify progress since 2008 and to update the analysis of provision and deficiencies of accessible natural greenspace. The update will form an important part of the evidence base for any future joint working in the Ipswich Policy Area. It will also provide an up to date framework for implementing the local plan policies of the four authorities and for mitigating the effects of new development on protected habitats.

iv. Accessible natural greenspaces have been mapped according to the Natural England standards set out in Nature Nearby[2]. The standards for provision are as follows:
- 2ha+ of ANG within 300m of home – neighbourhood level
- 20ha+ of ANG within 2km of home – district level
- 100ha+ of ANG within 5km of home – sub-regional level
- 500ha+ of ANG within 10 km of home – regional level

v. Greenspaces have also mapped according to the Woodland Trust's standards for woodland provision which are:
- No person should live more than 500 metres from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 hectares in size;
- There should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 hectares within 4 kilometres (8 kilometre round trip) of people's homes.

Accessible Natural Greenspace provision

vi. Map 13 identifies current and planned provision of accessible natural greenspace using the above standards. The conclusions of this mapping update are:

- Whilst there are gaps in provision of neighbourhood scale accessible natural greenspace across large parts of the urban areas, there are few locations which are not within the catchment area of district level spaces. This is with the

[1] A Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Haven Gateway (The Landscape Partnership, 2008)
[2] Nature Nearby – Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (Natural England, 2010)

exception of parts of northwest Ipswich, parts of Woodbridge, southern and western Felixstowe including the Trimley villages, Claydon/Great Blakenham and some smaller villages such as Kirton and Capel St Mary.

- With the proposed extension to Orwell Country Park, there is provision of sub-regional scale accessible natural greenspace for much of the population of the study area. However, north west Ipswich, Claydon/Great Blakenham, Needham Market and East Bergholt are outwith the catchments of these spaces.

- Rendlesham Forest is the only regional scale area of accessible natural greenspace in the study area and based upon the standards in Nature Nearby there is no provision serving Ipswich, Felixstowe or any locations further west.

- In terms of woodland, there is a lack of provision of larger scale (20ha+) woodland serving Felixstowe and the area around northwest and north Ipswich. Woodbridge and south and east Ipswich are particularly well served with woodland provision. The population density map shows that some of the most densely populated parts of the study area are lacking in large scale woodland provision. With the exception of woodland within Ipswich Borough, a lot of the accessible woodlands are not well related to concentrations of population.

- Geographically, in terms of overall provision, the eastern Ipswich area towards Suffolk Coastal is well served with a corridor of neighbourhood level greenspaces, sub regional and regional greenspace due to the large catchment served by Rendlesham Forest. Furthermore the planned provision at Adastral Park will enhance provision of district scale accessible natural greenspace in this area.

- The northern edge of Ipswich currently shows a deficiency in district accessible natural greenspace, however as can be seen from Map 7 the planned provision of a country park at Ipswich Garden Suburb will help to address this deficiency.

- The northwest part of Ipswich into Mid Suffolk, is fairly well served in terms of neighbourhood level accessible natural greenspace but lacks anything of a larger scale and is also noticeably lacking in woodland. Provision of district scale space will be enhanced through the provision of the country park at the garden suburb and depending on the level of tree cover this could also address deficiencies in woodland.

- The south and eastern edges of Ipswich are better served than the north of Ipswich in terms of larger (district and sub-regional) spaces and woodland but lack any regional level green infrastructure.

- The Felixstowe area is relatively well served although provision is not as great or diverse as within Ipswich. Provision of smaller spaces is particularly lacking in the Trimley area and the area is outwith the catchment of any regional scale provision. The beach however is a sub-regional scale asset.

- The population density by ward (based on the 2011 Census) is shown in Map 14. The population is notably less dense outside of the boundary of Ipswich Borough itself; therefore any deficiencies are less prominent given the rural nature of these areas. Therefore whilst large areas of deficiency may exist, particularly to the west and north of the study area, addressing these may not be seen as a

priority when weighed against addressing gaps in provision in and around the more densely populated areas.

- In terms of links between health and accessible natural greenspace provision, maps 6a - 6f show that the larger areas of accessible natural greenspace (sub-regional and regional scale) generally correspond with areas recorded as having better levels of health and lower levels of deprivation.

vii. When compared to the conclusions of the 2008 Strategy it is evident that the pattern of provision is largely similar.

Progress with enhancements

viii. Map 16 shows progress with opportunities since 2008. The review of progress with reveals that progress has been made in relation to a number of actions including enhancements to the river Gipping corridor, the addition of Kiln Meadow Nature Reserve and improvements to Purdis and Martleshamm SSSI. In addition to physical enhancements, progress has been made with planned provision of new green infrastructure on the northern fringe of Ipswich (as part of the Ipswich Garden Suburb development) as well as the extension of the Orwell Country Park, both of which are proposed through the emerging Ipswich Local Plan. Other new planned greenspace is to be delivered in association with the development of Adastral Park in Martlesham.

ix. However limited progress has been made on a number of projects and therefore when planning for future opportunities to address deficiencies, it may be necessary to identify priorities based upon areas of greatest deficiency. An indication of likelihood of delivery or any known barriers to delivery is provided where known.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Future housing growth

x. Particular areas of current deficiency (including planned greenspaces) exist in and around Felixstowe, around the northern and western parts of Ipswich and around Claydon / Great Blakenham, Needham Market, Hadleigh and Capel St Mary. The deficiencies in these locations relate largely to the provision of larger (sub-regional and regional scale) greenspaces and the allocation of strategic sites in these locations would provide an opportunity to secure new larger spaces. Linking with wider objectives, enhancing provision around north and west Ipswich would increase provision close to areas where health is relatively poorer in comparison with other parts of the study area. In addition these areas are relatively distant from the majority of internationally protected sites. Development within these areas should be expected to provide enhancements towards the network of strategic accessible natural greenspaces as without enhancements the deficiencies would become more pronounced.

xi. Across other parts of the area deficiencies are less pronounced but green links between spaces could be enhanced through the delivery of unimplemented 2008 opportunities.

xii. As described in Table 1, a number of sites around the Sandlings area of Suffolk Coastal district and around the estuaries could be sensitive to significant levels of growth due to the presence of internationally protected sites.

xiii. The planned country park at the Ipswich Garden Suburb, whilst providing a key element of mitigation in relation to Habitats Regulations Assessment, would not address deficiencies under the Nature Nearby standards within the north-west part of Ipswich and around the Claydon / Great Blakenham area. Delivery of a further large area or areas of accessible natural greenspace would be required alongside strategic growth within this area. In relation to regional and sub-regional scale spaces, development of a very significant scale would be needed to secure space(s) of such a scale and therefore it is considered more reasonable that a network of neighbourhood and district scale provision (i.e. spaces of up to 100ha) along with improved links and corridors could be achieved.

xiv. Growth to the north-west of Ipswich, Claydon / Great Blakenham and Needham Market would also provide an opportunity to address the deficiency in woodland which is particularly pronounced within this area, and any new greenspaces should incorporate woodland. Development within this area may help to deliver opportunity 30 which relates to the provision of a strategic cycle route along the River Gipping, linking west Ipswich with Sproughton, Bramford, Claydon / Great Blakenham and Needham Market, and Stowmarket beyond. Growth to the north of Ipswich towards Claydon / Great Blakenham may also facilitate delivery of opportunity 59 in terms of providing a green corridor connecting the Country Park at Ipswich Garden Suburb with the River Gipping corridor, thus completing part of the Green Rim around Ipswich.

xv. Existing strategic green infrastructure provision at the 'district' scale around Felixstowe provides for much of the existing urban area but there is a deficit in the north Felixstowe / Trimley area in relation to other scales of spaces which would need to be addressed through new development. In addition, there is a qualitative deficit in this area specifically in relation to provision of woodland. New development within this area could assist in addressing this deficiency and in enhancing links between Felixstowe and east Ipswich.

xvi. The eastern part of Ipswich extending outwards towards Woodbridge is relatively well provided for in terms of provision of accessible natural greenspace however this should not mean that no enhancements should be provided through any new development within this area. There are a number of opportunities identified in 2008 relating to creating better links between existing spaces and further development to the east of Ipswich may help to deliver green corridors (opportunities 49 and 59) which could provide access to the new open space planned for Adastral Park (subject to consideration of the effects of this on the nearby Deben Estuary). Improving provision in the area to the east of Ipswich may also help to relieve pressure from existing protected sites in the area.

xvii. Whilst there is a significant deficiency of strategic accessible natural greenspace around the Capel St Mary area, enhanced provision would only address the deficiency for Capel St Mary and any new development in that location, and there are a limited number of other nearby spaces or access corridors which could be linked (i.e. less potential for wider gains than might be afforded by development to the north west of Ipswich). A similar situation exists in Hadleigh in that enhancing provision is likely to meet a local need rather than providing an opportunity to link up existing spaces.

xviii. Development in the locations referred to in paragraph 8.5 may provide opportunities for securing substantial enhancements to the network of accessible natural greenspace within the study area.

xix. Both smaller and larger sites may contribute through the provision of improved corridors, although larger scale development would be needed to secure provision of larger spaces. A number of smaller sites could contribute to provision of accessible natural greenspace enhancements off-site through the Community Infrastructure Levy although consideration should be given to providing this at locations with deficiencies which are close to higher population densities and/or future growth areas.

xx. There is no standard formula for calculating the amount of strategic accessible natural greenspace required per amount of new population or households. The Nature Nearby standards relate to distance rather than number of local residents.

xxi. It should also be recognised that it is unlikely that accessible natural greenspace can be enhanced to a point where every person living in the study area has access to greenspaces in line with the Nature Nearby standards. It is therefore logical to target enhancements towards areas where there are substantial gaps and where there is already an existing relatively large number of people living (i.e. around those settlements identified above).

xxii. The next stage of work identified by the IPA Board is to 'Identify needs of new development and mitigation' (Task 105). This report should inform these decisions in the following ways:

- The information in this report should form part of the baseline for any Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken as part of assessing options for growth across the Ipswich Policy Area. Specifically, any potential locations for new development should be assessed in terms of the contribution they are able to make towards enhancing provision of accessible natural greenspace. The Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment make recommendations regarding the incorporation of new greenspaces to address deficiencies;
- In identifying options for new development across the Ipswich Policy Area, options which enable deficiencies in accessible natural greenspace to be addressed should be considered. The information in this report would suggest that selecting a smaller number of larger developments is more likely to address the gaps, which relate generally to deficiencies of larger areas of greenspace. In terms of location, broad recommendations are outlined in paragraphs 8.4 to 8.15 above;
- The information contained in this report suggests that focusing new development close to the Sandlings SPA or close to the estuaries may result in additional pressure being placed upon European protected sites in relation to recreational disturbance. This should help to inform selection of options for growth, but the actual effects on protected sites would need to be identified through a plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Habitats Regulations Assessment mitigation

xxiii. This update will also act as a basis for identifying those enhancements which will specifically need to be put in place as part of a wider mitigation package to address potential effects of recreational disturbance related to housing growth. It is possible that the appropriate mechanism for this will be via a joint Habitats Regulations Assessment mitigation strategy, through which specific enhancements can be identified.

xxiv. This should include consideration of the ecological sensitivities, usage and promotion of existing spaces as set out in Table 1. The update has shown that there are a number of ecologically less sensitive sites which are currently not well promoted and it is possible that these could act as alternative spaces to relieve pressure from protected sites. Further detailed consideration would need to be given to the potential role and capacity of such spaces as part of the mitigation strategy.

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Map 13: All Accessible natural greenspace

Map 14: Population density by Ward

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Map 16: Future green infrastructure opportunities

1. Background and Context

1.1 In 2008 the Haven Gateway Partnership published the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy[3]. This Strategy, which focused upon strategic accessible natural greenspace provision, used the standards in place at the time to identify provision and deficiencies across the Haven Gateway area and identified opportunities to enhance provision. This paper provides an update to the 2008 Strategy for the Ipswich Policy Area and surroundings and should be read alongside the 2008 Strategy. The 2008 Strategy can be viewed at http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/policy/local-plan/evidence/documentlibrary/infrastructure.

1.2 This update forms part of the work programme of the Ipswich Policy Area Board which is established as a forum for five local authorities (Babergh District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council) to work together on planning across the Ipswich Policy Area. The update relates to Task 104 of the Ipswich Policy Area work programme – 'Review of green opportunities and mapping'.

1.3 The purpose of the update is to identify progress since 2008 and to update the analysis of provision and deficiencies of accessible natural greenspace. The update will form an important part of the evidence base for any future joint working in the Ipswich Policy Area.
It will also provide an up to date framework for implementing the local plan policies of the four authorities and for mitigating the effects of new development on protected habitats (see Section 5).

1.4 This paper may also act as a framework for prioritising and attracting funding for future green infrastructure enhancements within and around the Ipswich Policy Area either as part of new development, through developer contributions or through other funding or delivery mechanisms. Where green infrastructure is to be delivered as part of new development, the update could provide a basis for integrating green infrastructure at the masterplanning stage.

1.5 The geographical focus for this project is shown on Map 1. The study area extends beyond the Ipswich Policy Area - outwards from Ipswich as far as the towns of Needham Market in Mid Suffolk District, Hadleigh in Babergh District and Woodbridge and Felixstowe in Suffolk Coastal District. This acknowledges the strategic role of green infrastructure across the area.

1.6 This study follows a format similar to the 2008 Green Infrastructure Strategy. It is strategic in nature and is not intended to provide detailed specifications for provision of green infrastructure at the site-specific level. This assessment of current provision of strategic scale accessible natural greenspace should be viewed alongside any local assessments of open space provision.

[3] A Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Haven Gateway (April 2008, The Landscape Partnership)

2. Methodology

Methodology of Update

2.1 The update has been undertaken by planning officers covering the four local planning authority areas of Ipswich, Babergh, Mid-Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal, with input from the key stakeholders identified within the 2008 Strategy.

2.2 The provision of accessible natural greenspace has been identified through use of GIS data supplied as part of the 2008 Strategy supplemented with information on accessible natural greenspaces held by the Councils, information on accessible woodlands from the Woodland Trust, an audit of woodlands undertaken by Ipswich Borough Council and information on land identified as open access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

2.3 Contact was made with stakeholders to obtain further information on any opportunities which have been progressed since 2008, any other accessible natural greenspaces which should be included and any projects or plans they are working towards which should be identified within the list of opportunities. A meeting was held on 23rd April 2015 to discuss the purpose of the update and to explain what information would be useful in completing the update. The meeting was attended by representatives of Suffolk County Council (Natural Environment and Rights of Way), The Woodland Trust, Environment Agency, Greenways Project, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Wild Anglia, Sustrans, Ipswich Borough Council (Parks and Open Spaces) and Mid Suffolk District Council / Babergh District Council (Parks). Natural England were unable to attend but have provided input subsequently. It should be noted that there has been no formal consultation with stakeholders or others on the final output (this report). However it is a piece of evidence which will inform future plans which themselves would be subject to consultation.

Structure of Report

Section 3: Review of definitions of green infrastructure and accessible natural greenspace.

Section 4: Overview of the methodology and conclusions of 2008 Strategy. This provides the context for the methodology of the update.

Section 5: Review of the policy context, in particular focusing on new policies and strategies introduced since 2008.

Section 6: Identifying provision and deficiency. Existing accessible natural greenspace provision was appraised in relation to anticipated strategic residential growth and population density to identify deficiencies in provision. Existing and planned green infrastructure provision was appraised based on four accessible natural greenspace standards (as set out in the Natural England publication 'Nature Nearby'[4]).

Section 7: A review of the green infrastructure opportunities identified in the 2008 Strategy including those which have progressed, those which are still relevant; and those which no longer apply. This also identifies any new opportunities not included within the 2008 Strategy. An indication of likelihood and timescale for delivery is provided where known.

Section 8: This section summarises the main conclusions from Sections 5 and 6 and identifies any key linkages between deficiency and opportunities which could form the basis for considering locations for growth and/or for prioritisation of enhancements.

[4] Nature Nearby: Accessible natural greenspace Guidance (Natural England, 2010)

3. Definition and Role of Green Infrastructure and Accessible natural greenspace

3.1 Green Infrastructure is defined by Natural England[5] as

'A strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.

Green Infrastructure includes established green spaces and new sites and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. Consequently it needs to be delivered at all spatial scales from sub-regional to local neighbourhood levels, accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.'

3.2 Green Infrastructure therefore relates to the provision of a network of spaces and corridors, which offer benefits for both people and wildlife and can assist in meeting numerous objectives. Amongst these wider objectives is the contribution that can be made to improving health and wellbeing and improving quality of life. One of the four outcomes sought through the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Strategy[6] is that **'**Suffolk residents have access to a healthy environment and take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing'. Within this outcome priorities include 'creating an environment where it is easy to make healthy choices' and 'increasing the levels of physical activity and encouraging greater use of our natural environment'.

3.3 The focus of the 2008 Strategy was on provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace. The Nature Nearby publication includes descriptions of what Accessible natural greenspace comprises. This is:

'Accessible greenspace *– places that are available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions (although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle). The places are available to all, meaning that every reasonable effort is made to comply with the requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995). An accessible place will also be known to the target users, including potential users who live within the site catchment area.*

Natural greenspace *– Places where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate. Natural and semi-natural greenspace exists as a distinct typology but also as discrete areas within the majority of other greenspace typologies.'*

3.4 Annex 2 of Nature Nearby categories spaces into four levels in terms of their naturalness (see Appendix 1).

[5] Green Infrastructure Guidance (Natural England, 2009)

[6] A Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Suffolk 2012 – 2022 (Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, May 2013)

4. Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy 2008

4.1 The 2008 Strategy considered relevant policies and strategies at the time, environmental resources of the area, existing 'accessible natural greenspace' sites, strategic routes and access, built up areas and future planned growth, census data and feedback from consultations and workshops to inform an opportunities map which identified potential opportunities for enhancements to the network of green infrastructure in the Haven Gateway area. The aim of the strategy was to ensure that 'everyone has access to a high quality natural and historic environment'.

4.2 The Strategy considered green infrastructure of 2 hectares or more. In relation to the Ipswich Policy Area the Strategy identified that the outer perimeter of Ipswich, particularly to the north, northwest and east, Hadleigh and Capel St Mary were particularly less well served in terms of sub-regional and district accessible natural greenspace and that deficiencies in regional scale existed across the area with the exception of Woodbridge due to the presence of Rendlesham Forest. Map 2 shows the conclusions of the 2008 Strategy in terms of deficiencies. The Strategy also noted very little provision of accessible natural greenspace at Felixstowe other than the seafront.

4.3 A number of the opportunities identified were within the wider Ipswich Policy Area, as shown on Map 3 in the Appendices. This map shows the provision of strategic accessible natural greenspaces and the location of potential enhancements (numbered) as identified at the time. The specific projects identified in and around the Ipswich Policy Area included:

- The creation of a green corridor around the north of the town and a green bridge to help to overcome the potential barrier afforded by the A14 at Whitehouse;
- New country parks in the vicinity of Whitehouse and Henley Rise;
- Improvements to recreational access into / out of Ipswich, linking with Kesgrave / Grange Farm / Martlesham and the establishment of a country park on Foxhall Landfill site;
- Improvements to the waterfront corridor providing a green access corridor linking Gipping Valley and the town centre with an extended Orwell Country Park;
- Extensions to Belstead Brook Park and creation of a western green park / new country park / extension to Chantry Park;
- A new country park at Wherstead;
- Open space at Grove Hill, Belstead;
- Network of green corridors to the south which would provide enhanced links to the improved Alton Water and Shotley peninsula and Dedham Vale.

4.4 A full list of the projects identified in the 2008 Strategy (which are relevant to this study area) and an update on the progress made with regards to implementation is provided in Section 7 of this report.

5. Policy Context

5.1 Since 2008 there have been a number of changes in the policy context, including the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy, however broadly the promotion of green infrastructure and accessible natural greenspaces remains. In particular though, the links between the natural environment and people and the relationship between open space and health has become more prominent in policy.

5.2 The National Planning Policy Framework[7] states that access to high quality open spaces for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Paragraph 114 states that planning authorities should 'set out a strategic approach in their local plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure'.

5.3 The Planning Practice Guidance[8] takes this forward by stating 'It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.' By considering provision of strategic green spaces across the Ipswich Policy Area, this update takes forward this guidance.

5.4 The 2011 Natural Environment White Paper[9] identifies reconnecting people with nature as one of its main objectives alongside protecting and improving the natural environment, and acknowledges the role green infrastructure can play in this.

5.5 The Suffolk Nature Strategy[10] sets out a strategy, which includes the enhancement of habitats and networks, including through provision of urban greenspace, and facilitating access to the natural environment for people. The Strategy also identifies the importance of the natural environment to the economy of the county.

5.6 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Suffolk[11] sets out a number of outcomes including 'Suffolk residents have access to a healthy environment and take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing'. Under this outcome 'Increasing the levels of physical activity and encouraging greater use of our natural environment' is listed as a priority for action.

Local Plan policies

5.7 The adopted plans of the planning authorities which make up the Ipswich Policy Area contain requirements for provision of green infrastructure as set out below.

Ipswich Core Strategy and Policies (adopted December 2011)
Policy CS16: Green Infrastructure, Sport and Recreation

'The Council will protect, enhance and extend the network of green corridors, open spaces, sport and recreation facilities for the benefit of biodiversity, people and the management of local flood risk. It will do this by:

[7] National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012)
[8] See http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities/
[9] The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (HM Government, June 2011)
[10] Suffolk's Nature Strategy (Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB and the National Trust, 2014)
[11] A Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Suffolk (Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, 2013)

a. Requiring all developments to contribute to the provision of open space according to the Borough's standards, identified strategic needs and existing deficits in an area;
b. Requiring major new developments to include on-site public open spaces and wildlife habitat. On-site provision must create a network or corridor with existing green infrastructure where such a network exists beyond the site boundaries;
c. Supporting proposals or activities that protect, enhance or extend open spaces and sport and recreation facilities;
d. Working with partners to prepare and implement management plans for green spaces, including visitor management plans for key parts of European sites within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB to be completed by 2015, and a plan for Orwell Country Park that will result in a reduced impact upon birds in the Orwell Estuary;
e. Supporting the Greenways Project in working with communities and volunteers to manage green corridors in Ipswich;
f. Working with partners to improve green infrastructure provision and link radial green corridors with a publicly accessible green rim around Ipswich;
g. Working with partners to ensure the provision of a new country park in the urban fringe of north eastern Ipswich (e.g. within any Northern Fringe development - see Policy CS10);
h. Promoting improved access to existing facilities where appropriate; and
i. Reviewing the town's estate of sports facilities to consider how they can best meet the needs of a growing population.

5.8 The IP-One Area Action Plan and Site Allocations and Policies development plan document will identify existing, new and proposed open spaces, sport and recreation facilities and green corridors.'

5.9 Relatively minor revisions to the wording of Policy CS16 are being proposed through the current review of the Core Strategy[12] however the provisions of the policy remain broadly similar with the inclusion of reference to supporting the enhancement of canopy cover and ecological networks. Proposed policies DM29 'Provision of New Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Facilities', DM31 'The Natural Environment' and DM33 'Green Corridors' iterate how CS16 would be implemented through development management decisions.

5.10 The Ipswich Garden Suburb Supplementary Planning Document Interim Guidance (September 2014) contains further details relating to the implementation of the Country Park including the requirement for a network of walking, cycling and horse-riding routes, woodland planting, water features and new habitat areas, to be informed by a detailed development brief.

5.11 The Proposed Submission Site Allocations plan[13] proposes to allocate an extension to Orwell Country Park to provide for better management of visitors.

Babergh Core Strategy (adopted February 2014)
Policy CS14: Green Infrastructure

'Existing green infrastructure will be protected and enhanced. In new developments green infrastructure will be a key consideration and on the larger sites it will be central to the character and layout of development. All new development will make provision for high quality, multi-functional green infrastructure appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposal. Particular consideration will be given to ensuring new provision establishes links

[12] Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review (Ipswich Borough Council, November 2014)
[13] Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (Incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD (Ipswich Borough Council, November 2014)

with existing green infrastructure, providing a well connected network of green infrastructure in urban and rural areas.

5.12 Specific requirements, characteristics and standards of GI provision within strategic sites and larger site allocations will be identified in the Site Allocations DPD and where appropriate through Masterplanning mechanisms.'

Mid Suffolk Core Strategy (adopted September 2008)
Policies CS5 and CS6

5.13 Policy CS5 includes an aim to 'where appropriate increase opportunities for access and appreciation of biodiversity and geodiversity conservation for all sections of the community'.

5.14 Policy CS6 states that 'New development will be expected to provide or support the delivery of appropriate and accessible infrastructure to meet the justifiable needs of new development.' It states that local priorities may include provision of green infrastructure.

Suffolk Coastal District Council
Policy SP17 – Green Space

'The Council will seek to ensure that communities have well-managed access to green space within settlements and in the countryside and coastal areas, in order to benefit health, community cohesion and greater understanding of the environment, without detriment to wildlife and landscape character. Where adequate green space is not provided as part of a development, developer contributions will be sought to fund the creation of appropriate green space and/or management and improvement of access to green space. In particular, the Council will work on green infrastructure opportunities with partners in strategic housing growth areas in order to suitably complement development proposals. Developer contributions will be secured by means of conditions, legal agreements and/or through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (once a charging schedule has been adopted).'

Habitats Regulations requirements

5.15 The local plans produced for planning authorities within the Ipswich Policy Area have each been subject to assessment under the Habitats Directive (known as Habitats Regulations Assessment and/or Appropriate Assessment). Assessments for Ipswich[14], Babergh[15] and Suffolk Coastal[16] identified that the provision of housing as planned may lead to disturbance of birds in Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within and beyond each individual authority boundary. For Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal this relates to potential effects on a number of SPAs within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and for Babergh this relates to the Stour and Orwell Estuary SPA. Recreational disturbance was not identified as a potential significant effect in the Habitats Regulations Assessment carried out for Mid-Suffolk's Core Strategy.

[14] Appropriate Assessment for Ipswich Borough Council – Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies (The Landscape Partnership, September 2009)
Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) for Ipswich Borough Council – Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review (The Landscape Partnership, December 2014)
[15] Babergh District Council Core Strategy Submission Draft – Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening (Atkins, September 2011)
[16] Appropriate Assessment for Suffolk Coastal District Council – Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (The Landscape Partnership, November 2011)

5.16 Mitigation measures have been identified in each of the Appropriate Assessments. Many of the mitigation measures for Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal are similar reflecting the identification of 'in-combination' effects resulting from growth in both areas.

Mitigation measures for Ipswich include:

- Provision of a new Country Park or similar high quality provision to the north or north-east of Ipswich;
- Management measures in relation to Orwell Country Park (south east Ipswich);
- Provision of green spaces as part of new development;
- Implementation of policy CS16 (see above) as far as this relates to creation of publicly accessible greenspaces and corridors;
- Visitor management measures for key European sites in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB; and
- Monitoring the impact of recreational pressure on birds in protected sites.

Mitigation measures for Suffolk Coastal include:

- Provision of a new Country Park or similar high quality provision;
- 1km separation of strategic allocations from European sites;
- Improvements to convenient local greenspace for routine use;
- Visitor management measures for key European sites in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB; and
- Monitoring the impact of recreational pressure on birds in protected sites.

5.17 Mitigation measures for Babergh District focus upon implementation of policies requiring green infrastructure provision and on monitoring the impact of recreational pressure on birds in the Stour and Orwell Estuary.

5.18 Whilst visitor management measures on their own would not necessarily increase the quantity of green infrastructure, they may enhance the quality of provision at these sites as well as reducing effects on European sites.

Health

5.19 As mentioned in paragraph 5.5, the health benefits associated with provision of accessible natural greenspaces are recognised in policy and the enhancement of provision of greenspaces is identified as contributing towards improved health. This not only applies to physical health but also to mental health. Nature Nearby cites a study which found that for every 10% increase in greenspace there can be a reduction in community health complaints equivalent to the reduction of 5 years of age[17].

5.20 In September 2014, Public Health England published a briefing paper entitled 'Improving Access to Green Spaces[18]'. Based on various pieces of research, this reports that access to good quality green space is associated with positive health outcomes including:

- Improvements in mental health and wellbeing, such as depression, stress and dementia;
- Increased longevity in older people;
- Lower body mass index (BMI) scores, overweight and obesity levels and higher levels of physical activity;
- Better self-rated health.

[17] *The importance of Greenspace in sustaining Good Health, Dr William Bird, Natural Fit (2004)*

[18] Local Action on Health Inequalities – Improving Access to Green Spaces (Public Health England, September 2013)

5.21 The briefing paper also points to research which shows that there are higher levels of physical activity in areas with more greenspace. The briefing identified creating new areas of green space as one way of improving access, along with increasing accessibility and increasing the use of existing good quality green spaces. Importantly, the briefing refers to the planning practice guidance and identifies planning as a mechanism for achieving improvements.

5.22 Nature Nearby states two key aims to achieving health benefits from accessible natural greenspace:

- To increase the number of households that are within five minutes' walk of an area of greenspace of at least two hectares.
- To enable every GP or community nurse to be able to signpost patients to an approved health walk or outdoor activity programme.

6. Provision of Green Infrastructure in the wider Ipswich Policy Area

6.1 The 2008 Strategy analysed green infrastructure based upon the standards available at the time. The 2010 Nature Nearby[19] standards for district and neighbourhood level are slightly different to those used within the 2008 Strategy (which were district = 20ha within 1.2km and sub-regional = 60ha within 3.2km) but have been used for the update due to being the most recent standards. The Nature Nearby standards are:

- 2ha+ of ANG within 300m of home – neighbourhood level
- 20ha+ of ANG within 2km of home – district level
- 100ha+ of ANG within 5km of home – sub-regional level
- 500ha+ of ANG within 10 km of home – regional level

6.2 Nature Nearby also sets out the Woodland Trust's standards for woodland provision which are:

- No person should live more than 500 metres from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 hectares in size;
- There should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 hectares within 4 kilometres (8 kilometre round trip) of people's homes.

6.3 The 2008 Strategy used the following criteria to determine whether a site is accessible natural greenspace. Sites must:
'be 2ha or greater in size. Anything under 2ha in size is not included, as these sites will not have a significant impact at the strategic scale. However, consideration will be given to strategic corridors created by the amalgamation of a number of sites each of less than 2ha in size;
Have a public right of access that is not subject to admittance, membership or subscription fees, and a security that such access will remain in perpetuity;
Have an access network that allows public infiltration across a substantial part of the site;
Be positively managed for public access (as appropriate to the site).'

6.4 Accessible Woodland is defined by the Woodland Trust as:
'Woodland is defined as 'land under stands of trees with, or the potential to achieve, tree crown cover of more than 20 per cent'. This is taken from the Forestry Commission's National Inventory of Woodland and Trees (now the National Forest Inventory).
Accessible woodland is defined as 'any site that is permissively accessible to the general public for recreational purposes'.' [20]

6.5 Within Ipswich Borough further work has recently been undertaken on identifying woodlands using the definition of woodland above but with further consideration given to other more qualitative factors such as the amount of ground flora. This is currently draft but provides a robust indication of woodland provision within Ipswich.

6.6 Through discussion with stakeholders as part of this update it became apparent that the update should specify which types of spaces have been judged to be 'accessible natural greenspace'. Annex 2 of Nature Nearby categorises different types of green space depending upon their degree of naturalness (see Appendix 1). Suffolk County Council, via the Suffolk Landscape Officers Group, are currently refining this to produce a definition of accessible natural greenspace for Suffolk. The categories of spaces judged to be 'natural greenspaces' are those which are identified in level 1 and level 2 of Annex 2. For the purposes of this update this is with the addition of cemeteries as these were identified as

[19] Nature Nearby – Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (Natural England, 2010)
[20] Spaces for People – Targeting Action for Woodland Access (Woodland Trust, 2010)

natural greenspaces in the 2008 Strategy and provide many of the associated benefits including a corridor function.

6.7 Tables 1 and 2 on pages 15-24 provide an account of the current and planned accessible natural greenspaces of 2 hectares or more in size, both within and serving the Ipswich Policy Area. These are identified and numbered on Map 4. Note that the catchments have been drawn up to the rivers / estuaries in recognition that these act as a barrier to access.

6.8 Stakeholders also considered that visual access to natural spaces should be taken into account within the update. This can be provided by footpaths which provide visual access to large open spaces, such as the estuaries. This also reflects the nature of provision at places where recreational activities could be causing harm to important bird species at the estuaries. However it is acknowledged that these paths provide a different type of access which cannot be mapped in the same way that spaces can by using the Nature Nearby standards.

6.9 Map 5 shows the spaces in relation to access corridors throughout and beyond the study area, including those which provide this visual access to the estuaries. This includes rights of way and cycle paths. This shows that some accessible natural greenspaces also act as corridors, particularly where Rights of Way pass through the spaces.

6.10 Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Natural England are in the process of creating access around the entire coastline of England. In respect of the study area subject to this update, the River Deben and River Orwell are programmed to be started during 2017-18, Felixstowe seafront between the Orwell and Deben estuaries is programmed to be started during 2016-17 and the River Stour is programmed to be started during 2015-16.

6.11 Following discussion with stakeholders it emerged that it would be useful to identify a wider range of attributes and issues associated with each space and which would provide a useful basis when considering the role of the spaces in the future. This provides an indication of whether existing spaces are being used effectively or whether there might be scope to increase usage. It also helps to link accessible natural greenspace provision with the wider aims. Information has therefore been gathered in relation to:

- Health characteristics of the local population;
- Patterns of use of sites;
- Ecological Sensitivities;
- How spaces are promoted;
- Ecosystems Services.

These are all documented in Table 1 with the exception of health and ecosystems services due to the extent of repetition across sites.

Health

6.12 In order to identify any key links between accessible natural greenspace and the current state of human health in the wider Ipswich Policy Area, this study has mapped available health data against accessible natural greenspace provision. There is, however a lack of health related data at local level, particularly related to mental health, and therefore this does not allow for extensive local level analysis. It should be noted also that data relating to physical activity and levels of child obesity is only available at district / borough level whilst other data sources are available at ward level. This is shown on maps 6a to 6f. Whilst self-reported health data is included, it should be noted that levels are similar across the study area with no marked differences between areas, with less than 5% of people

reporting themselves being in bad health across all wards. Suffolk County Council are to produce a 'health fly over' for Suffolk which will map a number of health indicators overlain with green spaces.

6.13 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (2010) is a measure of deprivation by ward from 1 (most deprived) to 5 (least deprived). The differences in deprivation between areas are a major determinant of health inequality. The IMD is a composite score based on 38 indicators grouped according to income, employment, health and disability, education, skills and training, barriers to housing and other services, and crime and living environment.

Patterns of use

6.14 Few existing spaces have been subject to a visitor survey. In terms of the current patterns of use of each greenspace, this has been documented where information is available. It should be noted that this information is obtained from a variety of different sources and is not comparable across the greenspaces, but provides an indication of usage levels.

6.15 The Suffolk Coastal District Council Open Spaces Assessment[21] states that 'more than one-third of respondents [to a household survey] visit open space sites at least daily, most drive to reach the locations concerned and around 80% live within 20km. A wide variety of different uses of open space include several forms of active physical recreation.' It also states that outdoor activities such as cycling and running have higher than average participation rates in Suffolk Coastal.

6.16 The findings show that 34.9% of respondents visit open spaces daily, 29.5% visit open spaces weekly, 10.6% visit open spaces monthly, 14.8% visit open spaces less than monthly and 10.3% visit open spaces less than annually.

6.17 The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study 2009[22] represents the most up to date published information on use of green spaces across the Borough. The spaces relevant to this update are Parks and Gardens, Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Areas, Cemeteries and Churchyards and Green Corridors.

- Parks and gardens - Parks and gardens were the most popular types of open space, sport and recreation facility for children and young people, as highlighted through the internet survey. The majority of pupils walked to the open space that they visited most often (43%). The next most popular mode of transport was cycling (38%);

- Amenity Greenspace - 26% of household survey respondents indicate that they use amenity green space sites more than once a month;

- Natural and Semi-Natural Areas (NSN) - 11% of residents indicated that NSN is the open space type that they use most regularly, making it the third most popular open space type behind parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities. 47% of residents indicated that they use NSN areas more than once a month and 40% indicated that they use the sites at least once a month, reinforcing the importance of these areas for local residents.

- Cemeteries and churchyards – no information on current usage levels;

[21] Suffolk Coastal District Council Open Spaces Assessment (Ploszajski and Lynch, October 2014)
[22] Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009)

- Green Corridors - 29% of household survey respondents said that they use green corridors more than once a month and 39% said they use them less than once a month with the rest saying that they do not use them at all. Only 3% of respondents stated that green corridors are their most frequently used open space site.

6.18 No similar survey or report exists for Babergh or Mid-Suffolk Districts.

6.19 The 'South Sandlings Living Landscape Project Visitor Survey Report'[23] analysed patterns of visitor usage across the South Sandlings area (to the north and east of Woodbridge) which contains Special Protection Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The area includes Rendlesham Forest (site 58), Tunstall Common (site 59), Hollesley Common (site 63 and site 66) and Sutton Heath (site 64). The report identified that usage was predominantly by residents of Leiston, Saxmundham, Wickham Market, Rendlesham, Woodbridge, Martlesham and the eastern side of Ipswich. The median distance travelled by those who were not on holiday was 6.17km and 64% of visitors visited at least once per week. Proximity to home and enjoyment for dogs were the main reasons for visiting.

Ecological sensitivities

6.20 Maps 7a – 7d show the environmental designations across the study area. The South Sandlings report concluded that the distribution of nightjar (an interest feature of the South Sandlings Special Protection Area) and Dartford warbler are related to visitor patterns. Whilst the presence of woodlark (also an interest feature of the South Sandlings Special Protection Area) did not appear to relate to patterns of visitor usage the report could not conclude that they are not being disturbed, but that possibly avoidance levels are not being reached.

6.21 A recent report on the Deben Estuary[24] analysed bird numbers to consider whether visitors are currently having an effect. The report concluded that 'bird numbers on the Deben estuary currently exist at levels of national and international importance and this is testament to limited levels of disturbance. However, this situation could rapidly change if increased disturbance were to occur through a rise in recreational activities in and around the estuary.' Melton Riverside (site 90 on Map 4) and Felixstowe Ferry (site 67) lie within the area covered by this research. Specifically the report shows that, in relation to the area around Melton Riverside, the less populated eastern bank of the Deben contains higher wading bird populations. In relation to the area around Felixstowe Ferry, the report concludes that current usage does not appear to be causing disturbance with the exception of part of a well-used part of seawall just to the north of the ferry.

6.22 A 2007 report[25] investigating recreational disturbance on the Stour and Orwell estuaries concluded 'Overall, birds in most parts of the SPA, particularly on the Stour, are affected little by the majority of activities at low tide. Fewer events, the larger number of birds and the availability of alternative areas on the estuary probably caused the increased sensitivity of birds on the Stour. By contrast, the high levels of activity around most of the Orwell, the relatively low numbers of birds at high tide and comparatively small mudflats at low tide, suggest that disturbance may be having an impact on populations of birds in this estuary.' Orwell Country Park and the proposed extension (site 30 and planned site A), Nacton Shore

[23] South Sandlings Living Landscape Project Visitor Survey Report (Footprint Ecology, 2011)
[24] The Deben Estuary and its Hinterland, Evaluation of Key Areas for Birds, Recreational Disturbance Issues and Opportunities for Mitigation and Enhancement (Suffolk Wildlife Trust for Deben Estuary Partnership, 2014)
[25] Disturbance to waterbirds wintering in the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA (Wildside Ecology for Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit, 2007)

(site 93), Pin Mill (site 17), Cordey's Lane (site 65) and Shotley Cliff (site 15) all border the estuary. The 2007 report identified that walkers, those with dogs and boats were the most frequent activities and caused most disturbance, but that the birds were most sensitive to infrequent events such as shots, aircraft and bait diggers.

Promotion of sites

6.23 The extent to which a site is promoted is based upon information provided by stakeholders and supplemented with a web-based search. Where a site is identified as 'not widely promoted' this indicates that no promotional material has been found however it may be that it is promoted locally including through recommendation.

Ecosystems Services

6.24 Ecosystems Services are the benefits that are derived from ecosystems. The UK National Ecosystem Assessment was produced by a range of organisations in 2011 and provides an account of the UK's ecosystems and the services they provide. Recreational value can be attributed to each of the greenspaces identified in this report, however other services include the provision of raw materials (particularly woodland and forests), regulation of water run-off, carbon storage, food provision and pollination.

Table 1: Existing and Proposed Accessible Natural Greenspace over 2ha in the wider Ipswich Policy Area

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
1	Babergh	Tattingstone/Holbrook/ Stutton	Alton Water	209.3	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. A large part of the site is water but there is public access around the greenspaces around the water. Range of water sports subject to fee.	Wide range of recreational uses – waterbased, walking, cycling, enjoying nature. By-laws are in place regarding dog-walking (on lead).	County Wildlife Site. Important populations of nightingales and common terns.	Dedicated website- www.altonwildlife.co.uk. This details the wildlife, visitor information, and nature trail
2	Babergh	Pinewood	Belstead Brook Park (including Spring Wood and Millennium Wood)	122.29	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. Includes areas of ancient woodland, wet woodland, ponds, meadows, reedbeds, hedges, farmed land and the brook.	Used by local residents.	Includes a number of Local Nature Reserves.	Promoted on Greenways Project website. Greenways Project manage the site on behalf of IBC, SCC, BDC. Leaflets within Reg Driver Visitor Centre in Christchurch Park.
3	Babergh	Hintlesham	Ramsey and Hintlesham Woods	74	Natural or semi-natural greenspace - woodland. Access on public rights of way. Parking is noted as being limited.	RSPB managed site but no information available on patterns of use.	SSSI- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. Site designated for its ground flora, breeding birds (nightingales). Good numbers of wintering woodcock sensitive to daytime disturbance.	Not actively promoted. There is a small amount of information on the Woodland Trust website.
4	Babergh	Aldham and Hadleigh	Wolves Wood	37	RSPB owned woodland. Car park open from 9am to 6pm (or dusk if earlier). No public rights of way. Dogs not allowed due to sensitivity of site – ground-nesting birds and flora.	Used for bird watching, nature appreciation and by families for quiet recreation.	Part of Hintlesham Woods SSSI ancient woodland. Site designated for its ground flora, breeding birds (nightingales). Good numbers of wintering woodcock sensitive to daytime disturbance.	Features on RSPB website- detailing accessibility, nature trail and wildlife that can be found
5	Babergh	Sproughton	Hazel Wood	6.7	Woodland-privately owned	Unknown	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
6	Babergh	Hadleigh	Recreation Area- Hadleigh	5.5	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	Unknown	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
7	Babergh	Hadleigh	Cemetery- Hadleigh	2.1	Cemetery or Churchyard	Unknown	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
8	Babergh	Hadleigh	Greenspace along River Brett	4.9	Amenity greenspace/Natural or semi-natural greenspace	Unknown	No designations.	Visit Suffolk website features a circular walk around Hadleigh including along the River Brett
9	Babergh	Hadleigh	Broom Hill	4.1	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. Habitats include grassland, tall herb communities, gorse and broom, scrub and woodland.	Unknown	Local Nature Reserve.	Features on Natural England website under catalogue of LNRs
10	Babergh	Hadleigh	Recreation Area- Hadleigh	2.0	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	Unknown	No designations.	Not promoted online- space is local in nature
11	Babergh	Hadleigh	Hadleigh Railway Walk	12.7	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	Unknown	No designations.	Featured on a number of walking websites and Discover Suffolk website
12	Babergh	Holbrook	Royal Greenwich Hospital Wood	4.8	Woodland	Unknown	No designations.	Features on Woodland Trust website
13	Babergh	Wherstead	Groves Wood	4.4	Woodland	Unknown	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
14	Babergh	Brantham	Pattles Fen	3.5	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. Site includes broadleaved woodland, wetland and grassland. Dogs allowed. Limited facilities.	Unknown	County Wildlife Site.	Features on Woodland Trust website
15	Babergh	Shotley	Shotley Cliff	2.9	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	Unknown	Adjacent to Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA). Potential issues of recreational pressure (e.g. dogs off leads) on internationally	Features in Shotley Explorer Guide on Suffolk Coast and Heaths website

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
							important assemblages of wintering and breeding birds.	
16	Babergh	Shotley	Ganges Wood	3.5	Woodland with a central open glade. Dogs allowed.	Unknown.	No designation	Via Woodland Trust website.
17	Babergh	Chelmondiston	Pin Mill	25.3	Natural or semi natural greenspace	Unknown	Adjacent to Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA). Potential issues of recreational pressure (e.g. dogs off leads) on internationally important assemblages of wintering and breeding birds.	National Trust website features a circular walk through the woodland, healthland and cliff top path with views over the Orwell
17a	Babergh	Chelmondiston	Pin Mill (Woodland Trust wood)	32.61	Natural or semi natural greenspace - woodland	Unknown	No designation but close to Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area.	Features on Woodland Trust website.
18	Mid Suffolk	Offton	Middle Wood (East)	22.2	Natural or semi natural greenspace - woodland	Unknown	SSSI- Ancient Woodland	Features on Woodland Trust website, but no further details listed
19	Mid Suffolk	Barking	Priestly Wood (Woodland Trust)	24.6	Natural or semi natural greenspace - woodland	Management plan (2015-2020) aims to maintain current levels of use.	SSSI- Ancient Woodland	Features on Woodland Trust website.
20	Mid Suffolk	Barham	Barham Green/Skeet's Green	8.0	Village green/common land	Unknown	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
21	Mid Suffolk	Barking	Barking Green	15.2	Village green/common land	Unknown	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
22	Mid Suffolk	Barham	Bonny Wood	16.4	Natural or semi natural greenspace - woodland	Suffolk Wildlife Trust site but no information on patterns of use available.	SSSI- Ancient Woodland	Features on Suffolk Wildlife Trust Website- with details about what to see, accessibility.
23	Mid Suffolk	Bramford	Bramford Meadows	9.0	Natural or semi natural greenspace	Unknown	Site is a Local Nature Reserve	Bramford Meadows features on a number of websites- promoted walk on visit east Anglia website
24	Mid Suffolk	Claydon	Claydon Recreation Area	2.4	General amenity space	Unknown	No designations.	Features on Parish Council website
25	Mid Suffolk	Elmsett	Elmsett Park Wood	2.64	Woodland	Unknown	SSSI- Ancient Woodland	Not widely promoted.
26	Mid Suffolk	Needham Market	Needham Lake	13.2	Natural or semi natural greenspace	Unknown	No designations.	Features on MSDC website and with information leaflet and map of the area. Also features on various other websites including Needham Market online and the Suffolk guide
27	Mid Suffolk	Needham Market	Crowley Park	3.2	Park or public garden	Unknown	No designations.	Features on a number of sport club websites but is not actively promoted online
28	Mid Suffolk	Henley	Damerons Farm	5.2	Woodland	Unknown	No designations.	Features on Woodland Trust website
29	Mid Suffolk	Bramford	Bramford near Paper Mill Farm	6.5	Natural or semi natural greenspace	Unknown	No designations.	Features on Suffolk Wildlife Trust Website- with details about what to see, accessibility.
30	Ipswich/Suffolk Coastal	Ipswich Borough / Nacton Parish	Orwell Country Park	80	Natural and semi-natural greenspace. Variety of walks, wildlife and scenery. Part is within Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. Variety of habitats such as woodlands (including ancient woodland and veteran trees), grasslands and river shore. Includes two areas of woodland of	See reference to 2007 Stour and Orwell Estuaries report above. Of those areas surveyed this is one of the most used parts of the estuary, with the most frequent activity being dog walking, followed by walking.	Adjacent to Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA). Potential issues of recreational pressure (e.g. dogs off leads) on internationally important assemblages of wintering and breeding birds. See reference to 2007 Stour and	Low key promotion – brown and white tourist signs and information on Ipswich Borough Council website.

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
					23.73ha and 38.75ha. The recent visitor survey indicates that winter use is predominantly local (south east and central Ipswich), with the majority of visitors walking dogs.		Orwell Estuaries report above.	
31	Ipswich	Gipping Ward	Chantry Park	28	Park and garden with natural and semi-natural areas. Contains ponds, grassland, native and non-native plants, and woodland - including old and veteran trees. Also contains children's play areas and car park. Includes 2 areas of woodland of 2.11ha and 2.8ha.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	Part County Wildlife Site	Via www.ipswich.gov.uk
32	Ipswich	St Margarets Ward	Christchurch Park	33	Park and garden with natural and semi-natural areas. It contains ponds, grassland, native and non-native plants, and woodland - including old and veteran trees. Facilities include a children's play area, tennis courts, table tennis table, bowling greens, public toilets, refreshment kiosks and the Reg Driver Visitor and Education Centre. Includes 2.12ha of woodland.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	Mostly County Wildlife Site	Via www.ipswich.gov.uk and allaboutipswich.com
33	Ipswich	St Margarets Ward	Ipswich Cemetery	27	Cemetery. Provides visual access to open greenspace through a series of paths through the site.	Unknown	No designations	Not widely promoted
34	Ipswich	Bridge / Stoke Park wards	Bourne Park	27	Park and garden including natural and semi-natural areas, grassland, woodland, Local Nature Reserve and County Wildlife Site. The park contains play areas and a carpark, and National Cycle Route 1 passes through the park. Includes two areas of woodland of 2.54ha and 3.84ha.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	Part County Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve.	Via www.allaboutipswich.com and www.ipswichwaterfront.co.uk.
35	Ipswich	Holywells Ward	Holywells Park	27	Park and garden with natural and semi-natural areas. It contains rolling grounds, ponds and woodlands. Recent improvements provided through a Heritage Lottery Fund grant include a visitor centre in the Stable Block, the restoration of the Orangery, an open-air theatre space, better access and new toilets. It also contains a play area. Includes 7.94ha of woodland.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	Mostly County Wildlife Site	Via www.ipswich.gov.uk and www.holywellspark.org.uk A series of activities and events will be organised over coming years to increase the number of visitors to the park.
36	Ipswich	Gainsborough Ward	Landseer Park	26	Park and garden. Includes Natural and semi-natural areas. It contains a play area and BMX track. Includes 6.36ha of woodland.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	Much of the site is a County Wildlife Site	Via www.ipswichwaterfront.co.uk.
37	Ipswich / Suffolk Coastal	Ipswich Borough / Rushmere St. Andrew	Rushmere Golf Club / Common	79.7	Natural and semi-natural area - Heathland. Open Access land with a network of rights of way.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that natural and semi natural areas are the third most	County Wildlife Site.	Not widely promoted, Information on 'walking for health' website.

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
						popular open space type behind parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities, with 47% of residents indicated that they use natural and semi-natural areas more than once a month.		
38	Ipswich	Whitton Ward	Whitton Church Lane Recreation Ground	3.14	Amenity greenspace	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that amenity green spaces are a frequently used type of open spaces in Ipswich (26% of people use them more than once a month).	No designations	Not widely promoted.
39	Ipswich	Whitton Ward	Whitton Recreation Ground	2.81	Amenity greenspace. Includes a children's play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that amenity green spaces are a frequently used type of open spaces in Ipswich (26% of people use them more than once a month).	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
40	Ipswich	Whitehouse Ward	Whitehouse Park	12	Park and garden. Includes a children's play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
41	Ipswich	Whitton Ward	Castle Hill Recreation Ground	2.90	Amenity greenspace. Includes a children's play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that amenity green spaces are a frequently used type of open space in Ipswich (26% of people use them more than once a month).	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
42	Ipswich	Whitehouse Ward	Bramford Lane Recreation Ground	5.93	Amenity greenspace, including grassed areas and children's play area. Natural and semi natural areas exist along the western edge of the site.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that amenity green spaces are a frequently used type of open spaces in Ipswich (26% of people use them more than once a month).	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
43	Ipswich	Whitehouse Ward	Bramford Lane Park	4.84	Amenity greenspace. Includes a children's play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
44	Ipswich	Castle Hill Ward	Dales Open Space	5.87	Natural and semi natural area. Includes a children's play area. Includes 5.34ha of woodland.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that natural and semi natural areas are the third most popular open space type behind parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities, with 47% of residents indicated that they use natural and semi-natural areas more than once a month.	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
45	Ipswich	St Margaret's Ward	Broomhill Park (north of Valley Road)	5.15	Natural and semi natural area. Includes 4.28ha of woodland.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that natural and semi natural areas are the third most popular open space type behind parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities,	No designations.	Not widely promoted.

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
						with 47% of residents indicated that they use natural and semi-natural areas more than once a month.		
46	Ipswich	St Margaret's Ward	Broomhill Park (south of Valley Road)	3.12	Amenity greenspace	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
47	Ipswich	Gipping Ward	Alderman Road Recreation Ground	5.5	Park and garden with natural and semi-natural areas. Includes children's play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	Part is a County Wildlife Site	Not widely promoted.
48	Ipswich	Gipping Ward	Gippeswyk Park	18.18	Park and garden. Includes children's play areas.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
49	Ipswich	Gipping Ward	Birkfield Drive	3.07	Natural or semi natural greenspace	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that natural and semi natural areas are the third most popular open space type behind parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities, with 47% of residents indicated that they use natural and semi-natural areas more than once a month.	Local Wildlife Site	Not widely promoted.
50	Ipswich	Sprites ward	Stonelodge Park	3.12	Park and garden. Includes a children's play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	Part Local Wildlife Site.	Via www.allaboutipswich.com
51	Ipswich	Stoke Park Ward	Stoke Park Wood	2.15	Natural and semi natural area – woodland.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that natural and semi natural areas are the third most popular open space type behind parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities, with 47% of residents indicated that they use natural and semi-natural areas more than once a month.	Local Nature Reserve and County Wildlife Site	Via www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
52	Ipswich	Rushmere Ward	Brunswick Road Recreation Ground	2.42	Amenity greenspace. Includes a play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that amenity green spaces are a frequently used type of open spaces in Ipswich (26% of people use them more than once a month).	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
53	Ipswich	Rushmere Ward	Dumbarton Road Recreation	6.47	Amenity greenspace. Includes a children's play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that amenity	No designations.	Not widely promoted.

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
			Ground			green spaces are a frequently used type of open spaces in Ipswich (26% of people use them more than once a month).		
54	Ipswich	Alexandra Ward	Alexandra Park	4	Park and garden. Includes a play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that in Ipswich parks and gardens were the most frequently used type of open space with only 4% stating they never use a park or garden.	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
55	Ipswich	Priory Heath Ward	Murray Road Recreation Ground	4.61	Amenity greenspace. Includes a children's play area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that amenity green spaces are a frequently used type of open spaces in Ipswich (26% of people use them more than once a month).	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
56	Ipswich/Suffolk Coastal	Bixley Ward	Bixley Heath	5.08	Natural and Semi Natural Area - Heathland	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that natural and semi natural areas are the third most popular open space type behind parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities, with 47% of residents indicated that they use natural and semi-natural areas more than once a month.	SSSI and Local Nature Reserve	Not widely promoted.
57	Ipswich	Priory Heath Ward	Ravenswood - Village Green	2.68	Park and garden. Grassed area.	The Ipswich Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PMP, 2009) states that amenity green spaces are a frequently used type of open space in Ipswich (26% of people use them more than once a month).	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
58	Suffolk Coastal	Rendlesham	Rendlesham Forest	1500.0	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. Provision of walking trails, play areas, bike trails, toilets, horse riding, camping and bike hire, plus special events. Fee payable at car park. Dogs must be on leads. Much of the forest is open access land.	See reference in report to 2011 Footprint Ecology report. This also notes that Rendlesham was busier than Tunstall.	RSPB and SWT manage areas to restore heathland. Site part of Sandlings SPA. RSPB and SWT managed areas are sensitive for ground nesting woodlark and nightjar. See reference in report to 2011 Footprint Ecology report.	Widely promoted by the Forestry Commission.
59	Suffolk Coastal	Tunstall	Tunstall Forest & Common	1186.9	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. Opportunities for walking and horseriding. Dogs must be on leads. Fee payable at car park. Dogs must be on leads. Much is open access land.	See reference in report to 2011 Footprint Ecology report. This also notes that Tunstall was less busy than Rendlesham.	RSPB and SWT manage areas to restore heathland. Site part of Sandlings SPA. RSPB and SWT managed areas are sensitive for ground nesting woodlark and nightjar.	Promoted by Forestry Commission
60	Suffolk Coastal	Rendlesham	Aldewood Forest	71.4	Much is open access land.	See reference to 2011 South Sandlings report. Levels of use are much lower than Rendlesham Forest, Tunstall Forest, Sutton Heath or Hollesley Common. Visitors undertook dog walking or walking. (Note no summer survey was undertaken at this location).	SSSI and part of Sandlings SPA. See reference in report to 2011 South Sandlings report.	Promoted as part of Rendlesham Forest (see site 58 above)
61	Suffolk Coastal	Felixstowe	Landguard Common	33.0	Natural or semi-natural greenspace Nature reserve, footpaths and part of	The Landguard Point Management Plan 2010 – 2015 identifies that recreation	Local Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest.	Website http://www.discoverlandguard.org.

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
					National Cycle Route 51. Dogs off leads areas. Part of wider attraction which includes Landguard Fort and a visitor centre and café. Parking available.	pressure is high in the nature reserve.	The Landguard Point SSSI Management Plan 2010 – 2015 identifies that recreation pressure on the reserve is high, with dog walkers creating the greatest disturbance to wildlife, particularly where dogs are allowed off leads.	uk/. Management Plan has an objective to 'Maintain pathways and encourage use of the Peninsula and reserve'
62	Suffolk Coastal	Saddlemakers Lane, Melton	Foxburrow Farm	67.0	Natural or semi-natural greenspace Ponds, woodlands, meadows, orchard and cropped fields. Education centre, picnic area and toilets. Wheelchair and pushchair accessible trails. Dogs not allowed. Parking available.	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	Suffolk Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve	Via Suffolk Wildlife Trust website.
63	Suffolk Coastal	Melton Road, Hollesley	Lower Hollesley Common	92.6	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. Heathland. Much is open access land. Dogs must be on leads. Parking available.	See reference to 2011 Footprint Ecology report.	SSSI and part of Sandlings SPA. See reference to 2011 Footprint Ecology report.	Via Suffolk Wildlife Trust website.
64	Suffolk Coastal	Sutton Heath Estate, Sutton	Sutton Common and Sutton Heath	104.6 and 62.3	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. Heathland. Much is open access land. Dogs must be on leads. Parking available.	See reference to 2011 Footprint Ecology report. Sutton Heath was identified as being particularly well used by dog walkers.	SSSI and part of Sandlings SPA. See reference to 2011 Footprint Ecology report.	Via Suffolk Wildlife Trust website.
65	Suffolk Coastal	Cordey's Lane, Trimley St. Martin	Trimley Marshes	77.0	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. Limited access linear public bridleway track to and from reserve hides and public footpath on river wall. Dogs must be on leads. Parking available.	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	Adjacent to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA. SSSI. Suffolk Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve.	Via Suffolk Wildlife Trust website.
66	Suffolk Coastal	Heath Road, Hollesley	Upper Hollesley Common	102.6	Natural or semi-natural greenspace Heathland. Much is open access land. Dogs must be on leads. Parking available.	See reference to 2011 Footprint Ecology report.	SSSI and part of Sandlings SPA. See reference to 2011 Footprint Ecology report.	Via Suffolk Wildlife Trust website.
67	Suffolk Coastal	Felixstowe East	Felixstowe Ferry (Open Access Land)	45.9	Adjacent to estuary. Free of charge car park.	Deben Estuary report (see paragraph 6.20) states that usage has increased over recent years.	Adjacent to Deben Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA). Potential issues of recreational disturbance to birds. See reference to Deben Estuary report above.	Via www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk
68	Suffolk Coastal	Rushmere St. Andrew	Foxhall Stadium Woods	46.1	Natural or semi-natural greenspace - woodland	The Suffolk Coastal County Wildlife Site Review (2009) states that 'the site is well used by the public with popular routes across the site well trodden. Other paths however have become overgrown through lack of use.'	County Wildlife Site – semi natural woodland and heathland.	Not widely promoted.
69	Suffolk Coastal	Levington	Levington Heath	45.9	Heathland. Open access land.	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted.
70	Suffolk Coastal	Kesgrave	The Mount	43.8	Natural or semi-natural greenspace - woodland	The Suffolk Coastal County Wildlife Site Review (2009) states that 'Footpaths are well maintained and well used.'	County Wildlife Site	Not widely promoted.
71	Suffolk Coastal	Newbourne	Newbourne Springs	21.4	Natural or semi-natural greenspace - wet meadows and plantation woodland.	There is no reference to patterns of use within the Suffolk Coastal County Wildlife Site Review (2009).	SSSI and County Wildlife Site.	Via Suffolk Wildlife Trust website
72	Suffolk Coastal	Ufford	Ufford Parklands	22.1	Woodland	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	Part County Wildlife Site	Not widely promoted.

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
73	Suffolk Coastal	Ufford	Parklands Wood	5.0	Natural or semi-natural greenspace - woodland	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted
74	Suffolk Coastal	Kesgrave	Ashdale Green Amenity Greenspace	2.7	Amenity greenspace	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted
75	Suffolk Coastal	Bromeswell	Bromeswell Green	7.2	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	County Wildlife Site. Adjacent to Deben Estuary SPA, SSSI, Ramsar site.	Via Suffolk Wildlife Trust website
76	Suffolk Coastal	Melton	Brown's Planting/Home Wood, Sutton Hoo	18.56	Natural or semi-natural greenspace - including woodland. Parking, café, toilets and interpretation. Payment is required to enter the visitor centre.	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	County Wildlife Site. Adjacent to Deben Estuary SPA, SSSI, Ramsar site.	Via National Trust website
77	Suffolk Coastal	Felixstowe	Cavendish Park North	3.1	Park or garden	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations.	Not widely promoted.
78	Suffolk Coastal	Waldringfield	Church Field	2.6	Amenity greenspace including play area.	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations.	Via local website waldringfield.onesuffolk.net
79	Suffolk Coastal	Felixstowe	Cliff Town Hall and Spa Gardens	3.0	Park or garden	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations.	Via www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk/places-to-go/the-seafront-gardens/ Felixstowe Town Council (Felixstowe Forward)
80	Suffolk Coastal	Melton	Deben Riverside	6.0	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	Adjacent to Deben Estuary SPA, SSSI, Ramsar site. Potential issues of recreational disturbance to birds.	Via www.choosewoodbridge.co.uk/places/riverside-walk
81	Suffolk Coastal	Eyke	Eyke Common	14.6	Open Access Land	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted.
82	Suffolk Coastal	Church Lane, Eyke	Eyke Playing Field	3.1	Amenity greenspace	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	Adjacent to Sandlings SPA and SSSI, Rendlesham Forest County Wildlife Site	Via infolink.suffolk.gov.uk
83	Suffolk Coastal	Felixstowe	Felixstowe Cemetery	5.0	Cemetery – Provides visual access to open greenspace through a series of paths through the site.	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted.
84	Suffolk Coastal	Felixstowe	The Grove	4.3	Woodland	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Via Woodland Trust
85	Suffolk Coastal	Elmers Lane, Kesgrave	Grange Meadow	2.0	Amenity greenspace	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted
86	Suffolk Coastal	Hall Road, Kesgrave	Kesgrave Woods	19.3	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	The 2009 Suffolk Coastal County Wildlife Site Review does not note any visitor	SSSI and County Wildlife Site	Via www.discoversuffolk.org.uk

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
						usage patterns although does state that litter is a problem in part of the site.		
87	Suffolk Coastal	Church Lane, Levington	Levington Lagoon	5.0	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal. Dogs must be on a lead.	County Wildlife Site. Near to Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA). Potential issues of recreational disturbance to birds.	Via Suffolk Wildlife Trust website - http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/reserves/levington-lagoon
88	Suffolk Coastal		Long Wood	5.3	Woodland	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	County Wildlife Site.	Not widely promoted
89	Suffolk Coastal	Martlesham	Martlesham Common	9.2	Natural or semi-natural greenspace. Lowland heath and small area of woodland	The 2009 Suffolk Coastal County Wildlife Sites Review states that 'The site is well used for amenity purposes'	County Wildlife Site.	Not widely promoted
90	Suffolk Coastal	Melton	Melton Riverside	6.5	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	Adjacent to Deben Estuary SPA. Potential issues of recreational disturbance to birds. See reference to Deben Estuary report above.	Not widely promoted
91	Suffolk Coastal	Melton	Melton Woods	10.5	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted
92	Suffolk Coastal	Rushmere St. Andrew	Mill Stream Local Nature Reserve	7.5	Natural or semi-natural greenspace	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	County Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve	Promoted on local information website at www.rushmerestandrew,oensuffolk.net
93	Suffolk Coastal	Nacton	Nacton Shore	8.0	Natural or semi-natural greenspace – estuary.	See reference to 2007 Stour and Orwell Estuaries report above. Of those areas surveyed this is one of the most used parts of the estuary and had by far the highest number of walkers, with the most frequent activity being walking, followed by dog walking.	Adjacent to Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA). Potential issues of recreational pressure (e.g. dogs off leads) on internationally important assemblages of wintering and breeding birds.	Promoted on a number of websites including walkit.com, walkforlife.info and ipswichlife.com.
94	Suffolk Coastal	Butts Road, Playford	Playford Alder Carr	6.8	Natural or semi-natural greenspace – woodland.	A well used public footpath from Tuddenham to Playford runs through the wood.	County Wildlife Site	Not widely promoted.
95	Suffolk Coastal		Purdis Farm/Bucklesham Road (name not known)	17.2	Natural or semi-natural greenspace - Open Access Land	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted.
96	Suffolk Coastal	Rushmere St. Andrew	Sandlings Open Space	2.3	Natural or semi-natural greenspace – grassland and meadow	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	Local Nature Reserve	Via Local Nature Reserve website http://www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/lnr/lnr_details.asp?C=0&N=&ID=1539
97	Suffolk Coastal	Rushmere St Andrew	St Andrew's Church	3.0	Churchyard	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted.
98	Suffolk Coastal	Shottisham	Tom's Wood, Shottisham	7.22	Woodland	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted.
99	Suffolk Coastal	Melton	Top Hat Wood	3.76	Woodland	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	No designations	Not widely promoted.
100	Suffolk Coastal	Cemetery Lane, Woodbridge	Woodbridge Old and New Cemeteries	10.0	Cemetery/ Churchyard	See paragraphs 6.15 – 6.16 regarding general patterns of use of open space in Suffolk Coastal.	County Wildlife Site	Not widely promoted.

Site ref	District / Borough	Location / Parish	Name of Greenspace	Size (hectares)	Description/Type of Greenspace	Patterns of use	Ecological value / sensitivities	How is the site promoted?
101	Suffolk Coastal	Woodbridge	Porters Wood	2.2	Woodland. Dogs allowed.	The Woodland Trust website states that 'This wood is very popular with and well used by local people.'	County Wildlife Site	Via Woodland Trust website.

Table 2: Planned strategic accessible natural greenspace

Site Reference	Borough / District	Name of site	Size	Type of greenspace	Ecological value / sensitivities
A	Ipswich/Suffolk Coastal	Orwell Country Park	Extension of 25 hectares	Variety of habitats such as woodlands and grasslands.	Adjacent to Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA). Potential issues of recreational pressure (e.g. dogs off leads) on internationally important assemblages of wintering and breeding birds.
B	Ipswich	Ipswich Garden Suburb Country Park	Minimum 24.5ha	Planned provision of Country Park as part of Ipswich Garden Suburb development, plus a further 40ha of public open space.	No designations. The Country Park is required as part of the mitigation of potential impacts of increased recreational pressure on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA resulting from housing growth. It is therefore anticipated that it will have a positive effect upon the SPA.
C	Suffolk Coastal	Adastral Park open space	36 hectares	Total open space of 54 hectares, incorporating 36ha of high quality provision providing a similar role to a Country Park.	Close to Deben Estuary SPA. The open space is provided as part of mitigation against potential impacts of increased recreational pressure on the Deben Estuary SPA resulting from housing growth.

6.25 In order to fully assess the level of green infrastructure provision, consideration needs to be given to where future housing growth is planned and to population densities. The table below sets out strategic growth planned in the wider Ipswich Policy Area. This includes both allocated sites/identified broad locations for housing growth and permissions of 150 dwellings or more, within each of the four council areas. These locations are shown on Map 4 alongside the accessible natural greenspaces.

6.26 For Ipswich, proposed allocations in broad locations in the town have been grouped where these total more than 150 dwellings. These figures do not represent the total overall levels of growth anticipated for the Borough. Ipswich's Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review (November 2014) identifies that between 2014 and 2031 10,585 additional dwellings are needed[26], of which 4,051 are proposed to be provided through joint working with neighbouring local authorities.

[26] Discounting those under construction or with planning permission or a resolution to grant planning permission at 1st April 2014

6.27 For the other three Council areas, the total growth in housing relates to a wider area than the area covered by this study. However, the table below identifies areas where strategic levels of growth are expected within the parts of those Council areas covered by this study. In addition, there is also anticipated to be growth at other locations within the study area, although of lower numbers.

Table 3: Strategic Growth planned in the Ipswich Policy Area

Id Number on Map	Locations of planned housing growth *(permissions over 150 dwellings and allocations)*	Number of dwellings planned
IPSWICH[27]		
1	Ipswich Garden Suburb	3,500 total dwellings, 2,800 of which by 2031
2	Total proposed allocations in IP-One area (including 271dwellings at the Island Site)	932 dwellings
3	Total proposed allocations in east Ipswich (including 227 dwellings at St Clements Hospital Grounds – see 3a on map)	386 dwellings
4	Total proposed allocations in west Ipswich	361 dwellings
5	Total proposed allocations in north west Ipswich (including 200 dwellings at Former Tooks Bakery, Old Norwich Road and King George V Field, Old Norwich Road - adjacent sites – see 5a on map)	230 dwellings
MID SUFFOLK[28]		
6	South West Needham Market allocation	150 dwellings
7	Former Masons Cement Works, Great Blakenham (planning permission)	356 dwellings
BABERGH[29]		
8	Babergh Ipswich Fringe allocation	350 dwellings
9	Hadleigh East allocation	250 dwellings
10	Shotley Marina (planning permission)	150 dwellings
11	HMS Ganges (planning permission subject to completion of Section 106 agreement)	285 dwellings
SUFFOLK COASTAL[30]		
12	Trinity Park (planning permission)	300 dwellings
13	Adastral Park, Martlesham strategic growth area	2,000 dwellings
14	Land south of Main Road, Martlesham (planning	180 dwellings

[27] As contained in Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (Incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD and Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review (both Ipswich Borough Council, November 2014). St. Clements Hospital Grounds has a resolution to grant planning permission subject to Section 106.

[28] See Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Mid Suffolk District Council, 2008). Former Masons Cement Works Great Blakenham is a planning permission.

[29] See Babergh Local Plan 2011-2031 Core Strategy and Policies (Babergh District Council, 2014). The 150 dwellings at Shotley Peninsula is a planning permission.

[30] See Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (Suffolk Coastal District Council, July 2013), Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan Issues and Options Consultation (Suffolk Coastal District Council, December 2014) and Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Issues and Options (Suffolk Coastal District Council, December 2014). Trinity Park, Land at Main Road Martlesham and Walton Green South, Walton, Felixstowe are all planning permissions.

	permission)	
15	Ferry Road, Felixstowe	Up to 200 dwellings
16	Walton Green South, Walton, Felixstowe (planning permission)	Up to 190 dwellings
17	Felixstowe and the Trimleys area	Approx. 850 dwellings
18	Woodbridge	Approx. 100-150 dwellings

6.28 Maps 8-12 show provision and catchments of neighbourhood, district, sub-regional and regional accessible natural greenspace based on the Nature Nearby standards (see paragraph 6.1). Map 13 shows all scales together. These maps also show the locations for strategic levels of planned housing growth as per the table above. Whilst woodland is included on the maps showing all types of accessible natural greenspace according to scale, a separate map (Map 12) has also been produced for woodland in reflection of the separate standards. Population density for the study area has also been mapped (Map 14) in order to identify where deficiencies are more or less prominent given the density of the population within that area.

6.29 Map 13 shows that the urban part of Ipswich is characterised by more formal parks and moving outwards across the Ipswich Policy Area takes the form of natural/semi natural greenspace, for example at Orwell Country Park. An extension is proposed at the Orwell Country Park of approximately 25 hectares, a new country park of at least 24.5ha is also planned as part of the Ipswich Garden Suburb development along with 40ha of other open space and new space is planned at the Adastral Park development of at least 54 hectares in total. The extension/new planned green infrastructure is around the edges of Ipswich and will help to address deficiencies identified in the 2008 Strategy (this is detailed in Section 7).

6.30 Accessible natural greenspace of significant size within the hinterland includes Rendlesham Forest to the west, Alton Water to the south and Orwell Country Park at south west Ipswich**.** Minsmere RSPB Reserve is located to the north east and whilst this is outside of the catchment of the study area itself (based on the Nature Nearby standards), it is over almost 1,000 hectares and is known to be visited by the population of the study area. Boyton and Hollesley Marshes, to the east of Rendlesham Forest, are also just outside the study area but represent 84.8ha of free to access grazing marshes operated by the RSPB.

6.31 The following key conclusions can be drawn:

- Whilst there are gaps in provision of neighbourhood scale accessible natural greenspace across large parts of the urban areas, there are few locations which are not within the catchment area of district level spaces. This is with the exception of parts of northwest Ipswich, parts of Woodbridge, Claydon/Great Blakenham and some smaller villages such as Kirton and Capel St Mary.

- With the proposed extension to Orwell Country Park, there is provision of sub-regional scale accessible natural greenspace for much of the population of the study area. However, north west Ipswich, Claydon/Great Blakenham, Needham Market, Hadleigh, East Bergholt, Felixstowe and the Trimleys are outwith the catchments of these spaces.

- Rendlesham Forest is the only regional scale area of accessible natural greenspace in the study area and based upon the standards in Nature Nearby there is no provision serving Ipswich, Felixstowe or any locations further west.

- In terms of woodland, there is a lack of provision of larger scale (20ha+) woodland serving Felixstowe and the area around northwest and north Ipswich. Woodbridge and south and east Ipswich are particularly well served with woodland provision. The population density map shows that some of the most densely populated parts of the study area are lacking in large scale woodland provision. With the exception of woodland within Ipswich Borough, a lot of the accessible woodlands are not well related to concentrations of population.

- Geographically, in terms of overall provision, the eastern Ipswich area towards Suffolk Coastal is well served with a corridor of neighbourhood level greenspaces, sub regional and regional greenspace due to the large catchment served by Rendlesham Forest. Furthermore the planned provision at Adastral Park will enhance provision of district scale accessible natural greenspace in this area.

- The northern edge of Ipswich currently shows a deficiency in district accessible natural greenspace, however as can be seen from Map 7 the planned provision of a country park at Ipswich Garden Suburb will help to address this deficiency.

- The northwest part of Ipswich into Mid Suffolk, is fairly well served in terms of neighbourhood level accessible natural greenspace but lacks anything of a larger scale and is also noticeably lacking in woodland. Provision of district scale space will be enhanced through the provision of the country park at the garden suburb and depending on the level of tree cover this could also address deficiencies in woodland.

- The south and eastern edges of Ipswich are better served than the north of Ipswich in terms of larger (district and sub-regional) spaces and woodland but lack any regional level green infrastructure.

- The Felixstowe area is relatively well served although provision is not as great or diverse as within Ipswich. Provision of smaller spaces is particularly lacking in the Trimley area and the area is outwith the catchment of any regional scale provision. The beach however is a sub-regional scale asset.

- The population density by ward (based on the 2011 Census) is shown in Map 14. The population is notably less dense outside of the boundary of Ipswich Borough itself; therefore any deficiencies are less prominent given the rural nature of these areas. Therefore whilst large areas of deficiency may exist, particularly to the west and north of the study area, addressing these may not be seen as a priority when weighed against addressing gaps in provision in and around the more densely populated areas.

- In terms of links between health and accessible natural greenspace provision, maps 6a - 6f show that the larger areas of accessible natural greenspace (sub-regional and regional scale) generally correspond with areas recorded as having better levels of health and lower levels of deprivation. A more detailed commentary on the links between health and accessible natural greenspace is contained in Appendix 2.

6.32 When compared to the conclusions of the 2008 Strategy it is evident that the pattern of provision is largely similar.

7. Review of opportunities identified in 2008 Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy

7.1 The findings from the 2008 Strategy informed an opportunities map which identified potential opportunities/projects for enhancements to the network of green infrastructure in the Haven Gateway area (see Map 2).

7.2 A number of these projects were identified within the wider Ipswich Policy Area and Table 4 overleaf provides details on progress with these projects. The table has been categorised using a traffic light system to detail those projects which have completed (green), those which have been partly progressed or where there are firm plans in place to progress (yellow), those which haven't but remain relevant (red), those which are no longer relevant (grey) and those where no information is currently available (white). These are shown on Map 16 in relation to areas of provision and deficiency.

7.3 To summarise, progress has been made in relation to a number of actions including enhancements to the river Gipping corridor, the addition of Kiln Meadow Nature Reserve and improvements to Purdis and Martlesham SSSI. In addition to physical enhancements, progress has been made with planned provision of new green infrastructure on the northern fringe of Ipswich (the country park planned as part of the Ipswich Garden Suburb development) as well as the extension of the Orwell Country Park, both of which are proposed through the emerging Ipswich Local Plan[31]. Other new planned greenspace is to be delivered in association with the development of Adastral Park in Martlesham.

7.4 However limited progress has been made on a number of projects and therefore when planning for future opportunities to address deficiencies, it may be necessary to identify priorities based upon areas of greatest deficiency. An indication of likelihood of delivery or any known barriers to delivery is provided where known.

7.5 Maps 15a to 15g show the opportunities in relation to health indicators. The results from the health data have shown that urban areas tend to experience higher levels of poor health and higher levels of deprivation. While there are some gaps in neighbourhood provision, there are few locations not within the catchment area of district spaces. While theoretically there may be 'accessibility' by drawing catchment areas on a map, in reality many people may not be able to access these spaces to experience day to day health benefits, without the use of transport. A number of the opportunities shown on Map 16 seek to connect up existing greenspace through walking and cycling routes to connect the urban areas of Ipswich to its hinterland, especially to the north, east and south, and indeed around the centre of Ipswich itself, which may provide opportunities to those within areas identified as being of poorer health. While Felixstowe benefits from the coastline, there is considered to be a deficiency in smaller neighbourhood spaces. Again opportunities have been identified to connect Felixstowe to the countryside to the north and west providing both accessibility and green corridors.

[31] See Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review and Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (Incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD (both Ipswich Borough Council, November 2014)

Table 4: Review of projects or opportunities identified in the 2008 Strategy within the wider Ipswich Policy Area

Key

	Opportunity implemented
	Opportunity part implemented (including where plans are in place to implement)
	Opportunity not progressed
	No information
	Opportunity no longer relevant

Key to Abbreviated Stakeholders
AO – Access Officer (County Council)
AWS – Anglian Water
CyO - Cycling Officer (County Council)
BDC – Babergh District Council
EA – Environment Agency
GWP – Green Ways Project
IBC – Ipswich Borough Council
MSDC – Mid Suffolk District Council
NE – Natural England
RSPB – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SCC – Suffolk County Council
SCDC – Suffolk Coastal District Council
SCHU – Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Unit

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
11	Melton to Snape Green Corridor	Green corridor to link Melton (Wilford Bridge) to Snape, via Bromeswell Heath, Rendlesham Forest, Bentwaters, and Tunstall Forest. Where possible, to utilise existing RoW. To include cycle access	SCC/SCDC /FC/SCHU	No particular deficit identified in accordance with ANGst standards, but would provide increased linkages between existing greenspace	No progress made, although SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority due to the amount of traffic on the B1084 / B1083.
18	Lower River Deben Corridor Enhancement	Improvements to existing riverside access, and feasibility study to assess potential for restoring missing sections of public RoW on west bank	SCC/EA/ SCHU	Deficit for all levels of ANG identified in Trimleys with Kirten Ward. Continuous access along this part of the River Deben would help to address this deficit. Potential for disturbance on	No information at present. East Suffolk Rivers Trust also relevant to implementation.

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
				SPA features.	
19	Shottisham Creek Corridor Enhancement	Biodiversity link between Sutton Heath and River Deben	EA/SCHU	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No information at present
20	Sutton Hoo Circular Walk	Upgrade of existing RoW around Sutton Hoo and negotiation to create new link from access facilities at Sutton Heath (SCDC), to create a circular walk. To include a feasibility study to assess the potential for a ferry link to Woodbridge Tide Mill Quay	SCHU	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	Sutton Heath Explorer has been completed. See http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Publications/Explorers/Web-150dpi-Explorers/Sutton-Heath-WEB.pdf
21	Woodbridge to Martlesham Green Corridor	Green corridor to incorporate Fynn Valley Walk and other existing RoW around Kyson Point. Opportunity to address ANG deficiency in south Woodbridge at the District (20ha+) Level and Sub-regional (60ha +) Level. Corridor will form part of an important green link between Ipswich and the Sandlings. Sensitivity needed to reflect potential for flood risk / adverse disturbance.	SCC	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace, and potential to address district level ANG deficiency	A green corridor is already in place. Suffolk County Council are now looking to include the estuaries. A Woodbridge to Martlesham walk exists. SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority as cycling currently takes place on the river wall at Martlesham Creek due to the condition of the roads.
25	Otley to Wickham Market Green Corridor	Upgrade of existing RoWs and establishments of missing links to create a green corridor linking Otley to		Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No information at present

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
		Wickham Market via Clopton, Charsfield and Potsford Brook			
26	Fabric of Historic Countryside	Area wide initiative to conserve and enhance the historic fabric of the countryside to the north of Ipswich. To include provision of opportunities for improved linear access	SCC	Increased access through countryside could address sub regional ANG deficiency in this area.	No progress made.
27	River Gull Corridor Enhancement		EA	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No progress made.
28	Otley College - ANG potential	Possible links to Otley Diversification Partnership initiatives, e.g. 2012 Olympics	SCC	Deficit for all levels of ANG identified in this area- potential to address this deficiency	No progress made.
29 / 63	Ipswich to Otley Green Corridor	Upgrade and promotion of existing RoW (incorporating the Fonnereau Way out of Ipswich) to create green corridor from Christchurch Park to Otley, via Westerfield, Witnesham and Swilland. To include spur to Fynn Valley Walk	SCC	Connection of Ipswich (including the proposed Ipswich Garden Suburb and Country Park) to surrounding countryside to the north.	Enhancements within the boundaries of the Ipswich Garden Suburb would come forward as part of this development. Suffolk County Council has recorded Fonnereau Way as a Public Right of Way.
	Fonnereau Way	Links existing and proposed access, ANG and other GI. Upgrade and promotion of existing RoW to create green corridor linking Christchurch Park and Witnesham via	IBC		

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
		Westerfield, and thus strategic route northwards out of Ipswich to the Fynn Valley.			
30 / 65	Gipping Valley Corridor Restoration and Cycle Provision	Project to explore opportunities to restore the landscape of the Gipping Valley and enhance cycle access. To include delivery of strategic cycle route, linking development sites, and a number of new bridges including the difficult crossing of the Norwich Line Sluice. Project will link Sproughton, Bramford and potentially Claydon. Supported by Sustrans.	SCC/MSDC/ Sustrans/EA	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	Some progress has been made to improve access as far as the former sluice through railway improvements. Sustrans are looking for funding to remove sluice steps. Greenways and RAG have continued management of the corridor. Considerable improvements have been achieved through Haven Gateway funding including new bridges at Alderman Canal, detailed signage with destinations and distances, information boards and a widely distributed leaflet for the river path. Future resourcing currently uncertain. SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority.
	Ipswich River Corridor, River for all	River corridor enhancement, links existing and proposed ANG and other GI. Ipswich Waterfront to countryside at Sproughton. Completion of riverside cycleway including ramp over flood barrier, access links, new bridges linking communities, warden post and other facilities and pocket parks.	GWP/ River Action Group		
31	Shrubland Park	Creation of new ANG	SCC	N/A	Shrubland Park has now been sold to commercial enterprise. Project to create ANG unlikely to progress.

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
32	North Ipswich to Henley Access Improvements for cycling	Contributes to creation of key potential green corridor. Links existing access and proposed ANG	SCC CyO	Connection of Ipswich (including the proposed Ipswich Garden Suburb and Country Park) to surrounding countryside to the north.	Suffolk County Council no longer has a Cycling Officer. The Supplementary Planning Document for the Ipswich Garden Suburb incorporates measures for cycling through the site which could provide access enhancements as far as Westerfield.
33	Northeast Ipswich to Grundisburgh Access Improvements for cycling	Contributes to creation of key potential green corridor. Links existing access and proposed ANG	SCC CyO	Connection of Ipswich to the surrounding countryside to the northeast. Increased access through countryside could address district/ sub regional ANG deficiency in this area.	Suffolk County Council no longer has a Cycling Officer. No progress made.
34	River Fynn Corridor Enhancement	River corridor enhancement	EA	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No progress made.
35	Sinks Valley SSSI	Opportunity to address District Level ANG deficiency. Opportunities for access and habitat links to other Greenways projects. Possible partnership with Kesgrave High School.	SCC/GWP/ EA	Enhancement of existing SSSI- to provide ANG.	Contact has been made between IBC and Kesgrave High School who own part of the site. Natural England are very supportive of any efforts to improve the SSSI.
36	Walk Farm Open Space	Purchase of site to facilitate greater access opportunities and restore heathland and acid grassland	GWP/Martlesham PC	Enhance existing ANG- increasing population in this location with housing	No progress made. Some modest new open space is proposed adjacent to Martlesham Common in relation to housing development.

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
				development at Martlesham	
37	Martlesham to Felixstowe Green Corridor	Enhancement of Strategic Cycle Way and other RoW to create green corridor linking Martlesham and Fakenham, via Waldringfield, Newbourne and Kirton, and thus to other green corridors into Felixstowe, etc. Corridor to link green lanes and pockets of habitat (heath, acid grassland, woodland copses), including the	SCC/SCDC	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No progress made.
38 / 39	Mill River Corridor Enhancement	River Corridor Enhancement. Negotiate new access down Mill River Valley from Purdis Farm to Kirton Creek.	SCC/EA	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No information at present
	River Orwell to Mill River Green Corridor	Enhancement of existing RoWs and Promoted Strategic Routes, (together with negotiation to provide missing links) to create green corridor linking River Orwell and Mill River, via Trimley and Falkenham	SCC/EA		
40	North Felixstowe Fringe Green Corridor	Improvements to urban fringe and enhancement to Strategic Cycle Route and other RoW to create green corridor around north	SCDC	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace, and potential to address regional/ sub regional	No progress made. Suffolk Coastal District Council are currently producing a Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan. The Issues and Options consultation document (December 2014) identifies that the Area Action Plan provides an opportunity to enhance

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
		Felixstowe, with links to the Grove and Eastward Ho. To include study of feasibility of opportunities of creating new ANG		ANG deficit through increased access to the countryside	green infrastructure and green links provision. No further progress made, although SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority.
41	Felixstowe - ANG deficiency	Opportunity required to address ANG deficiency for Felixstowe at the Regional (500ha+) Level and (for western Felixstowe) at the District (20ha +) Level	None identified in 2008 Strategy.	Felixstowe has a deficit of sub regional and regional ANG. Existing high population density and increasing population in this location through housing allocations	No progress made. Suffolk Coastal District Council are currently producing a Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan. The Issues and Options consultation document (December 2014) identifies that the Area Action Plan provides an opportunity to enhance green infrastructure and green links provision. No further progress made, although SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority.
42	Trimley Marshes Extension	Extension of marshes to include access improvements	SWT/SCHU/ EA	Extension and enhancement of existing ANG	No progress made
43	A14(T) Trimley Green Bridge	Development of existing proposal to create a green bridge over the A14(T) at Trimley, thus contributing to practicability of proposed Felixstowe/Trimley to Martlesham cycle and pedestrian link	SCC AO	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	A cycle track has been put in place across the A14 close to the Port of Felixstowe roundabout to the south east of Trimley. The bridge identified in the 2008 Strategy has not been implemented.
44	Ipswich to Trimley Green Corridor	Contribute to creation of key potential green corridor. Enhancement of Suffolk Coast and Heaths Path to create green corridor from east Ipswich (Orwell Country Park) to Trimley, via Nacton and	SCHU	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace, and relieve pressure from immediate River Orwell edge	No information at present

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
		Levington. Very important access route relieves pressure on immediate River Orwell edge.			
49	Foxhall Road Green Corridor	Contributes to creation of key potential green corridor. Links existing and proposed ANG. Improvements to highway environs to create green corridor out of Ipswich, linking Martlesham Heath and various biodiversity sites and existing and proposed green infrastructure (Foxhall Country Park, Foxhall/ Brock Hill Wood).	SCC	Connection of Ipswich to the surrounding countryside to the east. Links existing ANG to proposed ANG at Adastral Park	IBC have re-established contact with Commoners Committee regarding biodiversity and heathland habitat however no progress on cycle and access enhancements.
51/57	Purdis Heath and Martlesham Heath SSSI	Opportunity to improve management for ANG and to provide outward links to Mill River Valley, Sinks Pit, etc. Acquisition of SSSI sites would improve current status and allow better management access.	SWT/GWP	Enhance existing greenspace for ANG	Substantial improvement of Purdis and Martlesham SSSI due to grant aid from Butterfly Conservation. Sites still not in ownership of conservation body. The SSSI is being managed informally by Butterfly Conservation but would benefit from formalised / regular management.
52	Longstrops Open Space	Strategic space identified by GWP, SCDC, etc. Links important heathland sites	GWP	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No progress made.
53	Ipswich to Kesgrave/Martlesham Green Corridor	Green corridor to incorporate Promoted Strategic Walks and provide foot and cycle links between Rushmere Heath, Grange Farm and	SCDC/GWP / SCHU/SCC AO	Connection of Ipswich to the surrounding countryside to the east.	Some access, particularly for walking, already exists including Rushmere Heath, Foxhall stadium, wood, Longstrops, Dobbs Wood (The Mount), Martlesham Heath SSSI. No further progress, although SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority.

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
		Martlesham Heath, and potential future ANG at Longstropps and Walk Farm			
54	Foxhall/Brock Hill Wood	Acquisition required to facilitate access from Ipswich to proposed Foxhall Country Park, also includes heathland and woodland	GWP	N/A	The land has been sold off into small private lots and it is therefore unlikely that this will come forward comprehensively as an accessible greenspace.
55	Trimley Cycle Routes and Green Corridor	Completion of cycle routes through the Trimleys to create green corridor	Sustrans	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No information at present
56 / 59	Ipswich Northern Fringe Green Corridor (N.B. this relates to the eastern part of the corridor)	Creation of new urban fringe and outer green corridor for Ipswich, linking the Gipping Valley and the Orwell Country Park. Upgrade and enhancement of existing RoWs, and negotiation for provision of missing links to create green corridor and new urban edge for Ipswich via Rushmere Common, Brookhill Wood, Warren Heath, and Ravenswood. To include links to existing ANG and proposed ANG, and exploration for inclusion of other new ANG opportunities.		Enhance linkages between existing and proposed ANG at Orwell Country Park, Purdis Heath and Ipswich Garden Suburb.	The creation of a publicly accessible green rim is set out in IBC Core Strategy and Policies DPD Policy CS16. Some delivery likely through the Ipswich Garden Suburb development, within the boundaries of the Garden Suburb. Orwell Country Park can be accessed via the Ravenswood development. SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority.
	Ipswich Northern Fringe Green Corridor (N.B. this relates to the	Opportunity to create key potential green corridor. Creation of new urban fringe and outer green corridor for	IBC		

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
	northern part of the corridor)	Ipswich, linking the Gipping Valley and the Orwell Country Park. Upgrade and enhancement of existing RoWs and negotiation for provision of missing links to create green corridor and new urban edge for Ipswich via the proposed green bridge at Whitehouse, Whitton, Henley Rise, Humber Doucy Lane area. To include links to existing ANG (e.g. North Ipswich Country Park), and exploration for inclusion of other new ANG opportunities.			
57 – see 51					
58	Rushmere Common – Access and Management Improvements	Opportunity to address sub-regional and district level ANG deficiency and contribute to key potential green corridor. Project to provide improved heathland management and improved cycle access through Rushmere Heath. Some LTP funding available.	SCC/Sustrans/Rushmere Commoners /GWP	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No progress made. Likely to require creation by order, unless there is evidence of presumed dedication.
59 – see 56					
60	A14 (T) Whitehouse Green Bridge	Opportunity to contribute to key potential green corridor by bridging the A14 (T) barrier.	SCC AO	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace- connect	Rights of Way orders have been made for the Whitton / Fisks Lane area. No other progress made, although SCC Rights of Way would consider this a

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
		Provision of green bridge to provide foot and cycle access across the A14 (T) at Whitehouse, and link adjacent habitats.		urban edge with surrounding countryside by overcoming A14 barrier	priority.
61	Whitehouse Country Park	Opportunity to address sub-regional and district level ANG deficiency and contribute to key potential green corridor. IBC owned farmland around the west Meadows Travellers' Site, providing access links to the Gipping River path for residents in the northwest corner of Ipswich.	IBC/GWP	Deficit for all levels of ANG identified in this area	No progress made. This was included as an aspirational opportunity and there are no plans in place for its delivery.
62	North Ipswich Country Park	Opportunity to address sub-regional and district level ANG deficiency and contribute to key potential green corridor. Opportunity to create significant area of ANG and thus address current deficiency. New country park to double as green wedge to safeguard strategic gap between Ipswich and Westerfield. To include links with/ to Fonnereau Way and the Fynn Valley. Possibility of delivery via proposed new housing development.	IBC/GWP	Address sub regional ANG deficiency. Existing high population density and increasing population in this location through proposed housing at Ipswich Garden Suburb	The proposed allocation of Ipswich Garden Suburb through the IBC Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review includes the provision of a Country Park of at least 24.5ha. SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority.
63 –					

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
see 29					
64	British Sugar Beet Factory site	Opportunity to create new ANG and contribute to key potential green corridor. Island site likely to be retained as nature reserve as undevelopable. Desire to also retain substantial are of green space on the main site for public access, informal country park facility and access corridor along the riverbank. BDC Local Plan Alteration No 2, June 2006.	IBC/BDC	Could address a need for district level ANG serving the west of Ipswich which is densely populated	Purchased by Ipswich Borough Council in 2014. Opportunities for green infrastructure provision to be identified as part of development of the site.
65 - see 30					
66	Belstead Linear Park/ Hadleigh Road Green Corridor	Opportunity to contribute to key potential green corridor. To include cycle access.	SCC	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No information at present.
67	West Ipswich/ Hadleigh Road Country Park	Opportunity to create new ANG and contribute to key potential green corridor. Extension to Chantry Park, in area known as Chantry Vale.	GWP	Extension to Chantry Park could provide additional ANG serving the west of Ipswich which is densely populated	No progress made.
68	Waterfront to Orwell Country Park Green Corridor	Opportunity to create key potential green corridor. New green corridor to link Ipswich Waterfront with Orwell Country Park, via Landseer Park and Hollywells Park. To include	IBC/GWP	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace, connecting ANG southwards from Ipswich	No progress made.

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
		access road.			
69	Bridge Wood, Braziers Wood ANG extension	Opportunity to extend existing ANG and create significant area of new ANG, and contribute to key potential green corridor. Extension of ANG provision at Bridge Wood and Braziers Wood, to include Pond Hall Farm.	IBC/GWP	Extension could provide additional ANG serving the south of Ipswich which is densely populated	Parts of Pond Hall farmland north of A14 managed as part of the Orwell Country Park. Remainder of Pond Hall Farm proposed as Orwell Country Park extension through the emerging Site Allocations and Policies (Incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD.
70	Orwell Country Park Visitor Centre	Opportunity to enhance existing ANG. Eco-designed sustainable centre to help interpret Orwell Country Park and Orwell Estuary.	IBC/GWP	Enhancement to Country Park could increase visitor numbers	A visitor centre would be subject to assessment of potential impacts on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area.
71	Orwell Ecological Opportunity Project	Area-wide opportunity to enhance existing GI	SWT/NE/EA	Enhancement to ANG in location where there is a deficit of neighbourhood and sub-regional spaces, plus opportunity to address potential disturbance impacts.	Natural England are producing a Site Improvement Plan for the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site which contains the following actions of relevance to this opportunity: • Informed by investigation into public access/disturbance, produce and implement a plan to improve user awareness on sensitive areas of the Stour and Orwell Estuary and how they can minimise disturbance. This will include working with and updating as needed the Voluntary Code of Conduct led by the Stour and Orwell Estuary Management Group and the production of signage and interpretation. • Ensure impacts are assessed and that measures are in place to mitigate against impact from increased disturbance from development in the area (including the proposed Brantham housing development; housing and proposed

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
					Sizewell C Development; through displacement of users away from the Sizewell area and increased population during construction in he locality). Mitigation may include provision of recreational green space at robust locations (such as new country parks) etc.
72	Chelmondiston to Shotley Gate Green Corridor	Enhancement of Promoted Strategic Cycle Route to create green corridor along the AONB	SCHU/BDC	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace and help address deficit in district and sub regional ANG identified to south of Bemers Ward.	Resolution to grant planning permission at HMS Ganges to include contribution towards enhancement of this cycle route.
73 / 75	Alton Water to Shotley access improvement	Contributes to creation of key potential green corridor Links existing access and proposed ANG	SCC/BDC	Extension could help address the need for regional ANG in this location	No progress made, although SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority.
	Alton Water Green Corridor and Project	Opportunity to create significant area of ANG and thus address current deficiency. Creation of green orbital corridor of open space, to include extending the accessible area around the reservoir, links to Bentley woods and Holbrook Park, and initiatives to enhance habitats and reduce fragmentation.	SCC/AWS/EA		
74	Holbrook to Pin	Enhancement of Promoted	SCHU/BDC/	Enhance linkages	No information at present

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
	Mill Green Corridor	Strategic Cycle Route to create green corridor linking Rivers Stour and Orwell	EA	between existing greenspace	
75 – see 73					
76 / 79 / 81	Alton Water to Ipswich and Freston Green Corridor	Links existing and proposed ANG. Upgrade of existing RoW, and negotiation for provision of missing sections to create green corridor linking Alton Water and Ipswich via Holbrook Park, Wherstead and Bourne Park, making use of existing A14 (T) crossing at Wherstead, and a link to Freston.	SCC/EA	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace, by providing link between the densely populated south of Ipswich out to significant strategic greenspace heading southwards from Ipswich	Management of Belstead Brook Park and parts of Thorington Hall Farm continues through the Greenways project. Suffolk County Council Access team have been investigating the possibility of improving link for cycling through to Alton Water. SCC Rights of Way would consider this a priority.
	Belstead Brook Park, links to Thorington Hall, Jimmy's Farm on to Alton Water	Opportunity to contribute to key potential green corridor. Access improvements at BBP and Thorington Hall end. Identification and promotion of routes to Alton Water.	GWP		
	Belstead to Alton Water Green Corridor	Opportunity to contribute to key potential green corridor. Upgrade of existing RoW, and negotiation for provision of missing sections to create green corridor with cycle access linking Belstead and Alton Water, with links to other ANG in vicinity.	SCC/EA		

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
77	Wherstead Country Park	Opportunity to create new ANG and contribute to key potential green corridor. Country Park allocation included in BDC Local Plan. Proposed site includes important habitats and links well with Belstead Brook Park and Orwell Country Park across the Orwell. Contributes to the overall concept of creation a green doughnut around Ipswich. Also links well towards Alton Water.	BDC/GWP	ANG in this location would link well with Orwell Country Park and Belstead Brook Park – helping to enhance the sub regional ANG provision in this location	No progress.
78	Belstead Brook Park Extension	Opportunity to extend existing ANG and contribute to key potential green corridor. Acquisition and habitat creation/ management and access improvements. Acquisition of missing links sites within Park and important access routes.	GWP	Extension to Belstead Brook Park would enhance sub regional ANG provision, serving the densely populated south west of Ipswich	Kiln Meadow Local Nature Reserve has been added. The western end is still sought but not available at present. Belstead Brook Park could be better promoted to increase usage.
79 – see 76					
80	BBP/ Thorington Hall volunteer and community centre	Opportunity to enhance existing ANG. Conversion of historic barn for use as centre for volunteer and community action for green space management in area.	GWP	Enhancements could increase visitor numbers	This project is based around the Ipswich Borough Council barn used by Greenways. Ipswich Borough Council Building and Design services are currently working to produce a schedule of repairs and improvements as a step towards longer term use as Greenways Project base including office and

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
					volunteer action/ training centre, etc.
81 – see 76					
82	Brantham to Belstead Green Corridor	Opportunity to create key potential green corridor. Creation of green corridor linking Brantham to Belstead via Bentley. To include exploration of opportunities to reduce woodland and wetland fragmentation, and links to Dodnash Woods and Bentley Vale.	SCC/SCHU	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No information at present.
83	Brantham to Alton Water Green Corridor	Upgrade of existing RoW, and negotiation for provision of missing sections to create green corridor linking Alton Water and Brantham	SCC/SCHU/ E A	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace and help address deficit in district level ANG identified in Alton Ward.	No progress made.
84	Woodland and Wetland Fragmentation Reduction (near Brantham)	Area-wide initiative to explore opportunities to reduce woodland and wetland fragmentation	SCC	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace and help address deficit in district level ANG identified in Alton Ward.	No information at present
85 / 91	Hadleigh Railway Walk Extension	Extension of Hadleigh Railway Walk to Alton Water to enhance and expand scope of links and access in vicinity of Alton Water and	BDC SCC AO SCC CyO	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace, extending neighbourhood level	No progress made. Suffolk County Council no longer has a cycling officer.

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
		enable biodiversity benefits		ANG and link to sub regional ANG	
	Hadleigh Railway Walk LNR Green Corridor	Potential link with project to extend access to Alton Water	BDC		
86	Grove Hill Open Space, Belstead	Opportunity to address sub-regional and district level ANG deficiency. Site proposed as new LNR in Local Plan. Likely to be delivered by developer. Site adjacent to Thorington Hall farm heathland and woodland area.	BDC/ GWP	Additional ANG in this location would help to address the district level ANG deficit	**Planning permission granted at Mill Hill and Grove Farm, Belstead includes a legal agreement to provide the nature reserve.**
87	Burstall Brook Corridor Enhancement	River Corridor Enhancement. To include upgrade of existing RoW, and exploration of opportunities to negotiate provision of missing links.	Partners not identified in 2008 Strategy.	Enhance linkages between existing greenspace	No information at present.
88	Hintlesham Brook Enhancement	River Corridor Enhancement. No additional access proposed.	Partners not identified in 2008 Strategy.	Enhancement to quality of river corridor	No information at present.
89	Fabric of Historic Countryside	Area wide initiative to conserve and enhance the historic fabric of the countryside to the west of Ipswich. To include provision of opportunities for improved linear access	SCC	Increased access through countryside could address district/ sub regional ANG deficiency in this area.	No information at present
90	Hadleigh - ANG deficiency	Opportunity required to address ANG deficiency for Hadleigh at the Sub Regional (60ha+) Level and at the	BDC	Additional ANG in this location would help to address the district / sub regional level	The Babergh Local Plan allocates a strategic mixed use allocation to the east of Hadleigh. The allocation includes the requirement for 'a green infrastructure / open space framework connecting

Project number (from 2008 Strategy)	Project (title from 2008 Strategy)	Description (if one was provided)	Partners	Need / gap being addressed and benefits derived	Update and relevance for future
		District (20ha+) Level		ANG deficiency	with and adding or extending formal and informal green spaces, wildlife areas, and natural landscape settings and features, and proposals for green and blue infrastructure to assimilate new development into the landscape and create new habitats.'
91 – see 85					
92	River Brett Corridor Enhancement	River corridor enhancement. No additional access proposed.	DVSV/EA	Enhancement to quality of river corridor	No progress made
93	Capel St Mary - ANG deficiency	Opportunity required to address ANG deficiency for Capel St Mary at the Sub Regional (60ha+) Level and at the District (20ha+) Level	BDC	Additional ANG in this location would help to address the district / sub regional level ANG deficiency	No progress made
95	East Bergholt Area - ANG deficiency	Opportunity required to address ANG deficiency for East Bergholt area at the Sub Regional (60ha+) Level and at the District (20ha+) Level	BDC	Additional ANG in this location would help to address the district / sub regional level ANG deficiency	No progress made
96	RSPB Wildlife Garden, Flatford	Creation of garden to demonstrate wildlife friendly techniques	RSPB	Additional garden would help to address neighbourhood level ANG deficiency and increase education of wildlife friendly gardens	Flatford Wildlife Garden has opened and is operated by the RSPB. It is under 2ha and therefore does not meet the criteria for strategic green infrastructure for the purposes of this Green Infrastructure update.

7.6 Stakeholders were asked whether they were aware of any additional projects which were underway or planned. None were identified although Rights of Way Officers at Suffolk County Council have identified the creation of a green route from east Ipswich to Waldringfield as an enhancement they would like to see. However, this would require careful consideration due to the potential for increased recreational disturbance on the Deben Special Protection Area at Waldringfield.

7.7 It is important to recognise that delivery of enhancements for accessible natural greenspace as part of growth in the IPA is not the only way in which enhancements will be delivered. Delivery of other strategies and plans will also contribute to accessible natural greenspace enhancement at both the strategic and local levels, some of which are described below:

- Ipswich Open Space and Biodiversity Policy – This contains an analysis of provision of a range of different types of open space, not just accessible natural greenspace, across Ipswich. A number of actions are set out in relation to each type of open space, including in relation to enhancing and maintaining the quality of parks, maintaining amenity greenspaces, creating natural and semi-natural areas in existing areas of open space and surplus allotments, maintaining and developing the River Orwell Green Corridor, prioritising the creation of green corridors to link existing open spaces and implementing the opportunities identified in the 2008 Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy.

- Ipswich Ecological Networks (Policy DM31 of Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review) – Ipswich Borough Council has developed a 6 year action plan targeting ecological improvements to enhance networks across the Borough. This is based upon Plan 5 accompanying the Proposed Submission Core Strategy (see http://ipswich.jdi-consult.net/documents/pdfs18/Plan%205%20Ecological%20Network%20Nov%202014.pdf). The 6 year plan divides the network into geographical areas with efforts concentrated on different areas each year. Whilst the focus is on ecological enhancement there may also be incidental enhancement to public access and/or experience of the natural environment.

- Ipswich Green Corridors (Policy DM33 of Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review) – Green corridors extending across and beyond Ipswich have been identified (see http://ipswich.jdi-consult.net/documents/pdfs18/Plan%206%20Green%20Corridors%20Nov%202014.pdf) and Policy DM33 states that development will only be permitted where it would maintain and enhance the corridor's amenity, recreation and green transport functions. The supporting text to the policy states that the Council will work to develop a more detailed map of green corridors. Actions surrounding enhancements to green corridors are also set out in the Council's Open Space and Biodiversity Policy (see above) which refers back to implementing the opportunities for green corridors identified in the 2008 Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy.

- The Suffolk Coastal Leisure Strategy identifies actions which relate to enhancing access to accessible natural greenspace within the district. This includes the following actions amongst others:
  - Develop mechanisms to ensure new planning developments consider active travel routes and easy access for all to leisure facilities and open spaces.
  - Support the growth of active travel methods by:

- Encouraging and promoting use of the cycle footpath networks available across the district;
- Using a partnership working approach with officers and partner organisations identify a network of safe footpath and cycle routes that link rural communities together and advertise these networks to communities through the appropriate channels;
- Ensure key facilities such as frequently used countryside sites and leisure centres have the facilities required for ease of active travel i.e. cycle racks.

- The Suffolk County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan[32] acknowledges the links with strategies and plans aiming to enhance green infrastructure. Of particular relevance it includes the aims to protect and enhance Rights of Way along the coast and estuaries; improve routes between urban areas and the countryside; and improve access to and from Open Access land, recreation sites, and other public open spaces.

[32] In Step with Suffolk – Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006 – 2016 (Suffolk County Council, 2006)

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Conclusions relating to the existing provision of accessible natural greenspace are outlined in paragraph 6.31 above and conclusions in relation to recent delivery of enhancements are identified in 7.3 – 7.4.

Future housing growth

8.2 Map 13 forms a key piece of information in respect of identifying locations for future housing development where this will provide opportunities to provide enhancements for accessible natural greenspace.

8.3 Map 16 forms a key piece of information in respect of identifying where there are specific projects that new development could help to bring forward.

8.4 Particular areas of current deficiency (including planned greenspaces) exist in and around Felixstowe, around the northern and western parts of Ipswich and around Claydon / Great Blakenham, Needham Market, Hadleigh and Capel St Mary. The deficiencies in these locations relate largely to the provision of larger (sub-regional and regional scale) greenspaces and the allocation of strategic sites in these locations would provide an opportunity to secure new larger spaces. Linking with wider objectives, enhancing provision around north and west Ipswich would increase provision close to areas where health is relatively poorer in comparison with other parts of the study area. In addition these areas are relatively distant from the majority of internationally protected sites. Development within these areas should be expected to provide enhancements towards the network of strategic accessible natural greenspaces as without enhancements the deficiencies would become more pronounced.

8.5 Across other parts of the area deficiencies are less pronounced but green links between spaces could be enhanced through the delivery of unimplemented 2008 opportunities.

8.6 As described in Table 1, a number of sites around the Sandlings area of Suffolk Coastal district and around the estuaries could be sensitive to significant levels of growth due to the presence of internationally protected sites.

8.7 The planned country park at the Ipswich Garden Suburb, whilst providing a key element of mitigation in relation to Habitats Regulations Assessment, would not address deficiencies under the Nature Nearby standards within the north-west part of Ipswich and around the Claydon / Great Blakenham area. Delivery of a further large area or areas of accessible natural greenspace would be required alongside strategic growth within this area. In relation to regional and sub-regional scale spaces, development of a very significant scale would be needed to secure space(s) of such a scale and therefore it is considered more reasonable that a network of neighbourhood and district scale provision (i.e. spaces of up to 100ha) along with improved links and corridors could be achieved.

8.8 Growth to the north-west of Ipswich, Claydon / Great Blakenham and Needham Market would also provide an opportunity to address the deficiency in woodland which is particularly pronounced within this area, and any new greenspaces should incorporate woodland. Development within this area may help to deliver opportunity 30 which relates to the provision of a strategic cycle route along the River Gipping, linking west Ipswich with Sproughton, Bramford, Claydon / Great Blakenham and Needham Market, and Stowmarket beyond. Growth to the north of Ipswich towards Claydon / Great Blakenham may also facilitate delivery of opportunity 59 in terms of providing a green corridor connecting the Country Park at Ipswich Garden Suburb with the River Gipping corridor, thus completing part of the Green Rim around Ipswich.

8.9 Existing strategic green infrastructure provision at the 'district' scale around Felixstowe provides for much of the existing urban area but there is a deficit in the north Felixstowe / Trimley area in relation to other scales of spaces which would need to be addressed through new development. In addition, there is a qualitative deficit in this area specifically in relation to provision of woodland. New development within this area could assist in addressing this deficiency and in enhancing links between Felixstowe and east Ipswich.

8.10 The eastern part of Ipswich extending outwards towards Woodbridge is relatively well provided for in terms of provision of accessible natural greenspace however this should not mean that no enhancements should be provided through any new development within this area. There are a number of opportunities identified in 2008 relating to creating better links between existing spaces and further development to the east of Ipswich may help to deliver green corridors (opportunities 49 and 59) which could provide access to the new open space planned for Adastral Park (subject to consideration of the effects of this on the nearby Deben Estuary). Improving provision in the area to the east of Ipswich may also help to relieve pressure from existing protected sites in the area.

8.11 Whilst there is a significant deficiency of strategic accessible natural greenspace around the Capel St Mary area, enhanced provision would only address the deficiency for Capel St Mary and any new development in that location, and there are a limited number of other nearby spaces or access corridors which could be linked (i.e. less potential for wider gains than might be afforded by development to the north west of Ipswich). A similar situation exists in Hadleigh in that enhancing provision is likely to meet a local need rather than providing an opportunity to link up existing spaces.

8.12 Development in the locations referred to in paragraph 8.4 may provide opportunities for securing substantial enhancements to the network of accessible natural greenspace within the study area.

8.13 Both smaller and larger sites may contribute through the provision of improved corridors, although larger scale development would be needed to secure provision of larger spaces. A number of smaller sites could contribute to provision of accessible natural greenspace enhancements off-site through the Community Infrastructure Levy although consideration should be given to providing this at locations with deficiencies which are close to higher population densities and/or future growth areas.

8.14 There is no standard formula for calculating the amount of strategic accessible natural greenspace required per amount of new population or households. The Nature Nearby standards relate to distance rather than number of local residents.

8.15 It should also be recognised that it is unlikely that accessible natural greenspace can be enhanced to a point where every person living in the study area has access to greenspaces in line with the Nature Nearby standards. It is therefore logical to target enhancements towards areas where there are substantial gaps and where there is already an existing relatively large number of people living (i.e. around those settlements identified above).

8.16 The next stage of work identified by the IPA Board is to 'Identify needs of new development and mitigation' (Task 105). This report should inform these decisions in the following ways:

- The information in this report should form part of the baseline for any Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken as part of assessing options for growth across the Ipswich Policy Area. Specifically, any potential locations for new development should be assessed in terms of the contribution they are able to make towards enhancing provision of accessible natural greenspace. The

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment make recommendations regarding the incorporation of new greenspaces to address deficiencies;

- In identifying options for new development across the Ipswich Policy Area, options which enable deficiencies in accessible natural greenspace to be addressed should be considered. The information in this report would suggest that selecting a smaller number of larger developments is more likely to address the gaps, which relate generally to deficiencies of larger areas of greenspace. In terms of location, broad recommendations are outlined in paragraphs 8.4 to 8.15 above;
- The information contained in this report suggests that focusing new development close to the Sandlings SPA or close to the estuaries may result in additional pressure being placed upon European protected sites in relation to recreational disturbance. This should help to inform selection of options for growth, but the actual effects on protected sites would need to be identified through a plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Habitats Regulations Assessment mitigation

8.17 As outlined in paragraphs 5.10 to 5.13, this update will also act as a basis for identifying those enhancements which will specifically need to be put in place as part of a wider mitigation package to address potential effects of recreational disturbance related to housing growth. It is possible that the appropriate mechanism for this will be via a joint Habitats Regulations Assessment mitigation strategy, through which specific enhancements can be identified.

8.18 This should include consideration of the ecological sensitivities, usage and promotion of existing spaces as set out in Table 1. The update has shown that there are a number of ecologically less sensitive sites which are currently not well promoted and it is possible that these could act as alternative spaces to relieve pressure from protected sites. Further detailed consideration would need to be given to the potential role and capacity of such spaces as part of the mitigation strategy.

Appendices and Maps

Appendix 1: Nature Nearby categories of naturalness

Appendix 2: Overview of health data and greenspace provision

Map 1: Green Infrastructure Study area 2015

Map 2: Opportunities Map (from 2008 Strategy)

Map 3: Accessible natural greenspace areas of search for opportunities (from 2008 Strategy)

Map 4: Existing and Planned Green Infrastructure and Planned Residential Development

Map 5: Existing and Planned Green Infrastructure in relation to access corridors

Maps 6a – 6g: Existing and planned greenspaces and health data

Maps 7a – 7d: Environmental designations

Map 8: Neighbourhood Accessible Natural Greenspace

Map 9: District Accessible Natural Greenspace

Map 10: Sub- Regional Accessible Natural Greenspace

Map 11: Regional Accessible Natural Greenspace

Map 12: Accessible Woodland

Map 13: All Accessible Natural Greenspace

Map 14: Population density by Ward

Maps 15a - 15g: Opportunities and health data

Map 16: Accessible natural greenspace opportunities - progress

Appendix 1: Nature Nearby Categories of Naturalness

Level 1

Nature conservation areas, including SSSIs
Local sites (including local wildlife sites, RIGs)
Local Nature Reserves
National Nature Reserves
Woodland
Remnant countryside (within urban and urban fringe areas).

Level 2

Formal and informal open space
Unimproved farmland
Rivers and canals
Unimproved grassland
Disused/derelict land, mosaics of formal and informal areas scrub etc
Country Parks
Open access land.

Level 3

Allotments
Church yards and cemeteries
Formal recreation space.

Level 4

Improved farmland.

Appendix 2: Overview of health data and greenspace provision

Physical activity

As shown on Map 6c adult physical activity (2011-2103) is lowest in the Ipswich Borough at just 18% of the population achieving 3x30 mins of physical exercise per week. Suffolk Coastal, Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts achieve a higher percentage- between 25% and 26%. However according to ANGst standards, in Ipswich there is a fairly high level of the population with accessibility to greenspace, with a number of neighbourhood and district ANGs. In the three other districts there is less accessibility to ANG, however given the predominantly rural nature of these districts it could be argued that there is no lack of greenspace, for example following a public right of way through the countryside provides local enjoyment of greenspace, and indeed opportunities for physical activity.

From this indicator alone, there does not appear to be a clear correlation between ANG provision and physical activity. Further work would be required to understand what encourages people to undertake physical activity to determine to what extent access to greenspace is a driver of this. As can be seen in Ipswich, while many people theoretically have access to greenspace, perhaps what is lacking is the accessibility or knowledge of organised physical activity regimes.

Obesity

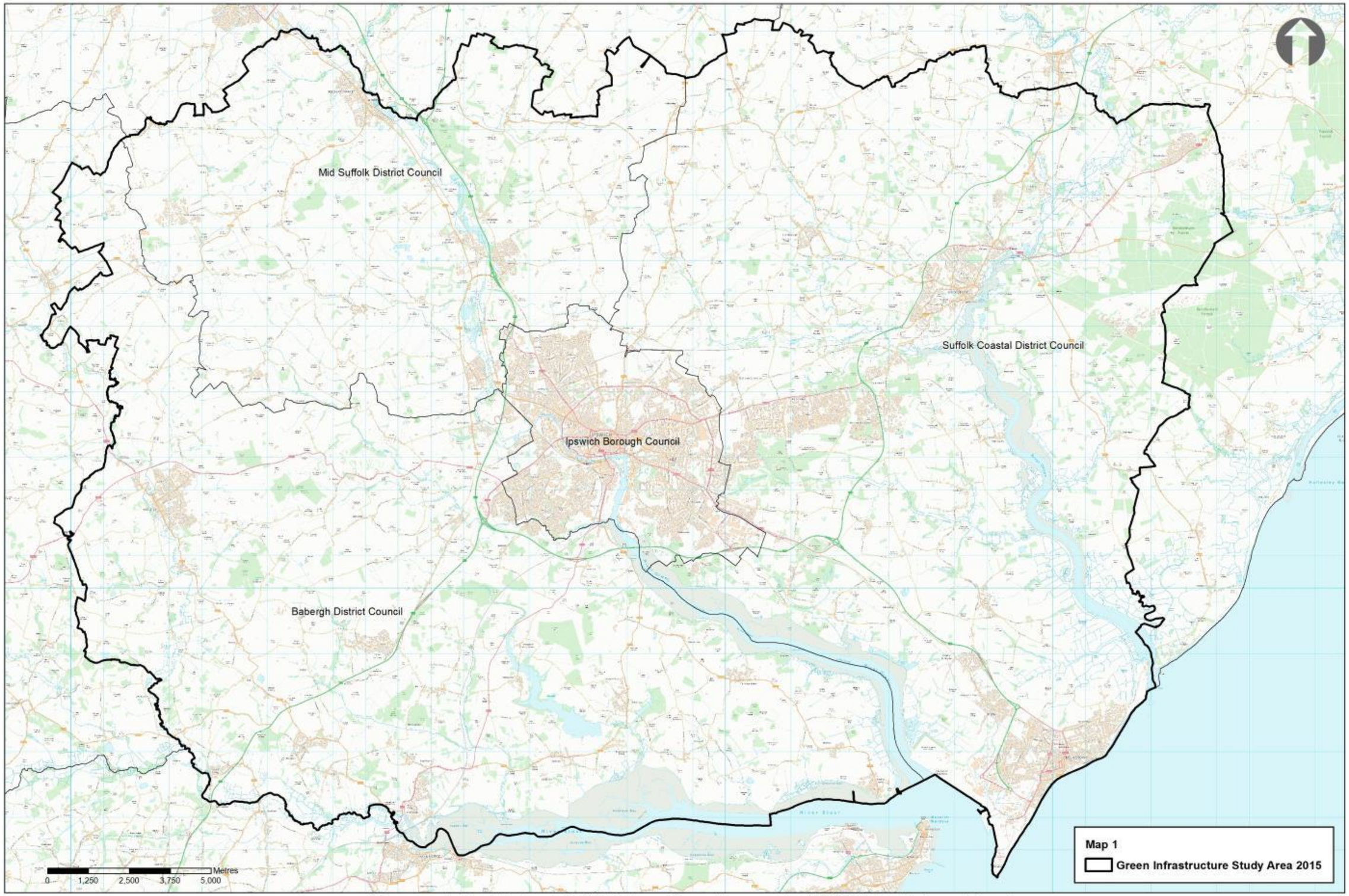
The percentage of adults considered to be obese (2006-2008) ranges between 16% and 29% across the 4 districts. On average in all four districts almost a quarter of the population are considered to be obese. The maps show that generally the urban wards/most densely populated wards have higher levels of adult obesity. The higher percentages of childhood obesity aged 10-11 (2012-2013) also exist within the urban wards, although there is not a dramatic increase between the rural and urban wards. Therefore there does not appear to be a clear correlation between obesity and accessible natural greenspace provision.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

Generally the urban wards have the highest deprivation scores, for example the most deprived wards are located in Ipswich and Felixstowe. The rural wards generally have low to average levels of deprivation. Again there is no clear correlation between deprivation and accessible natural greenspace; for example Gainsborough ward with a high deprivation score is in close proximity to significant areas of greenspace including both Orwell Country Park and Landseer Park. In contrast, Felixstowe North and West which have high levels of deprivation also have a lack of ANG.

Self-reported health

The Census 2011 provides an indication of the population's perceived quality of health. The data shows that the majority of the population within the study area perceive their health as either good or very good. Perceived bad health is very low at between 2 and 5% of the population. Again there are slightly more instances of self-reported bad health in urban areas, but the difference is not significant enough to draw any clear conclusions.



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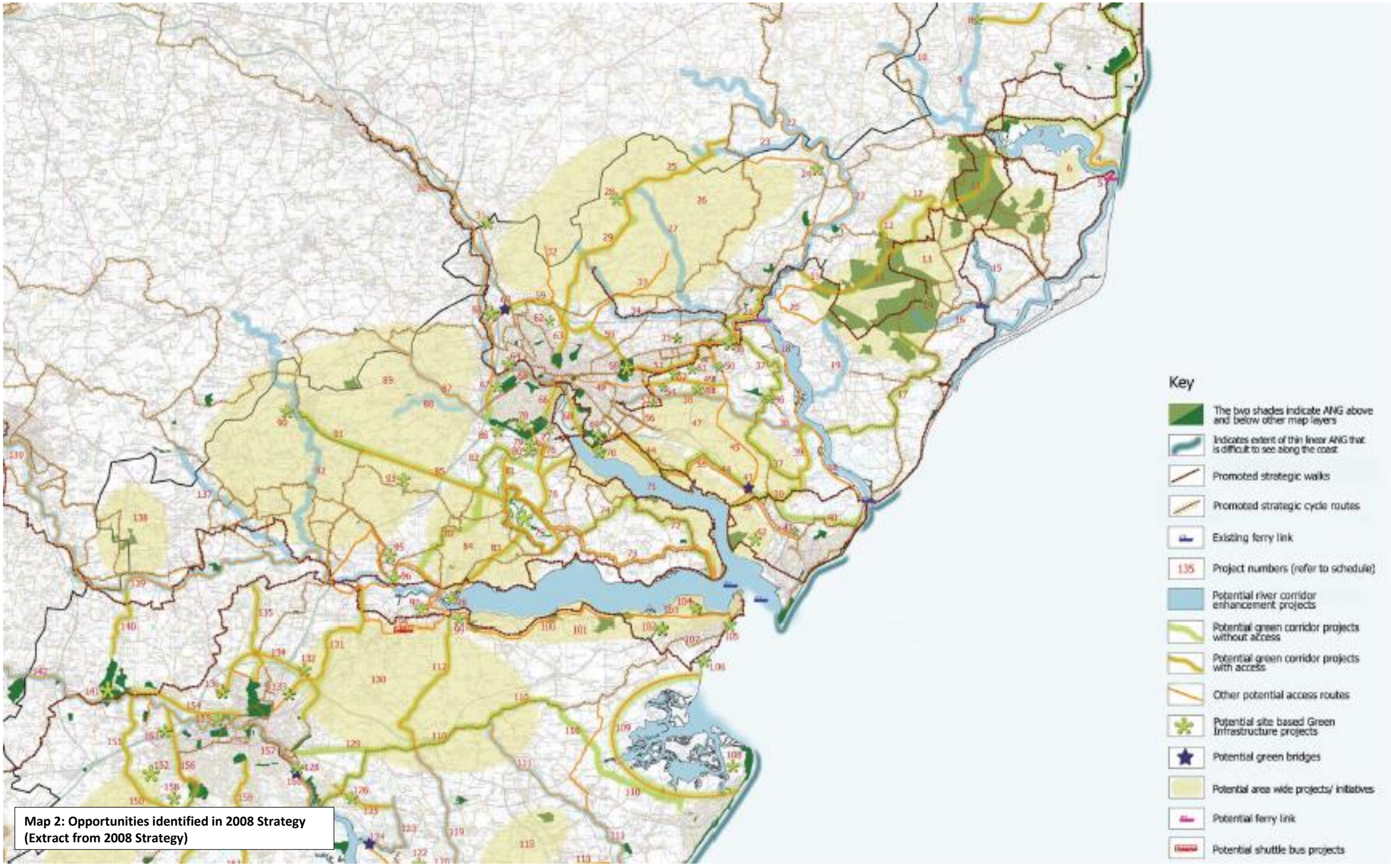
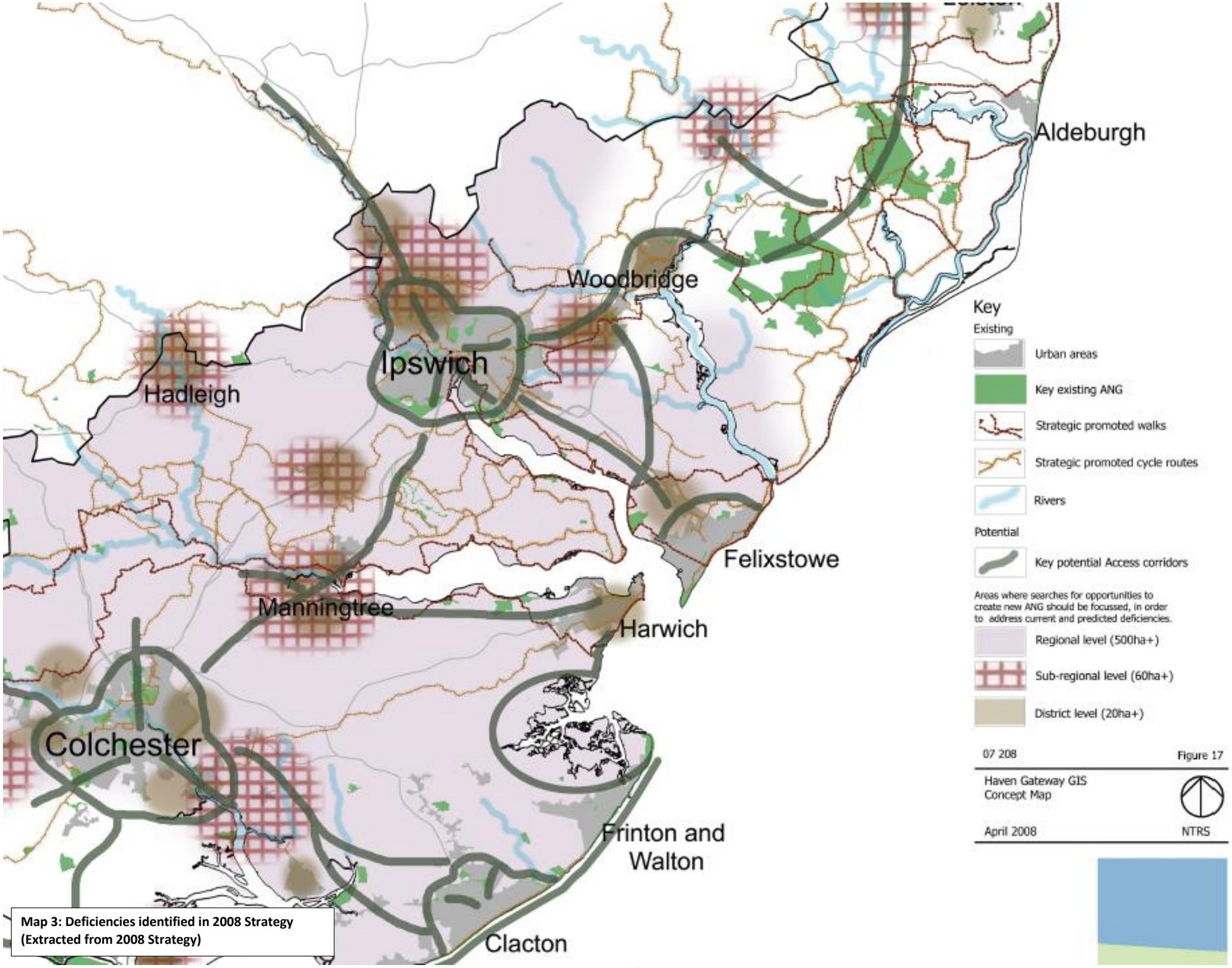
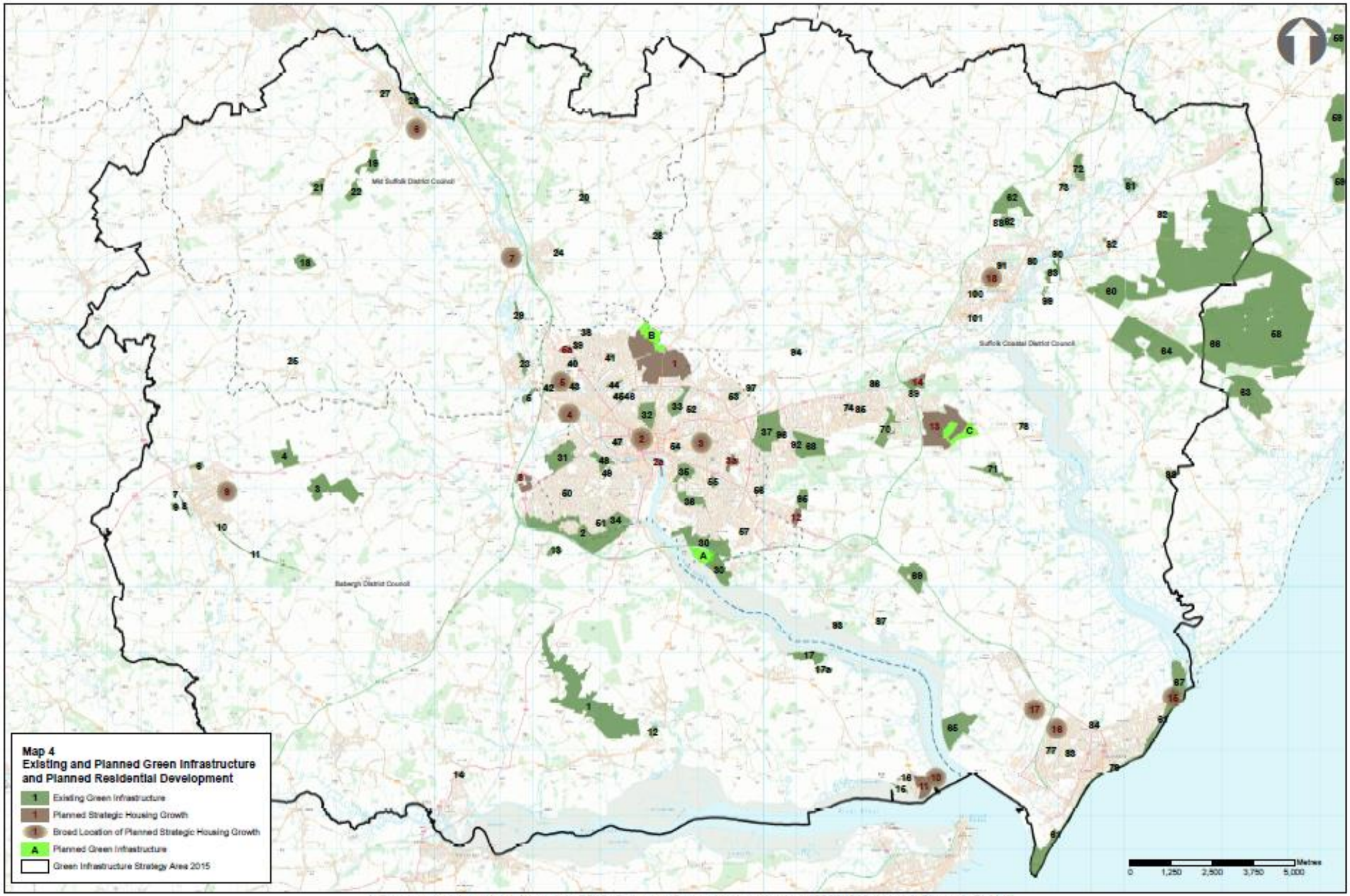


Map 2: Opportunities identified in 2008 Strategy (Extract from 2008 Strategy)



Map 3: Deficiencies identified in 2008 Strategy (Extracted from 2008 Strategy)



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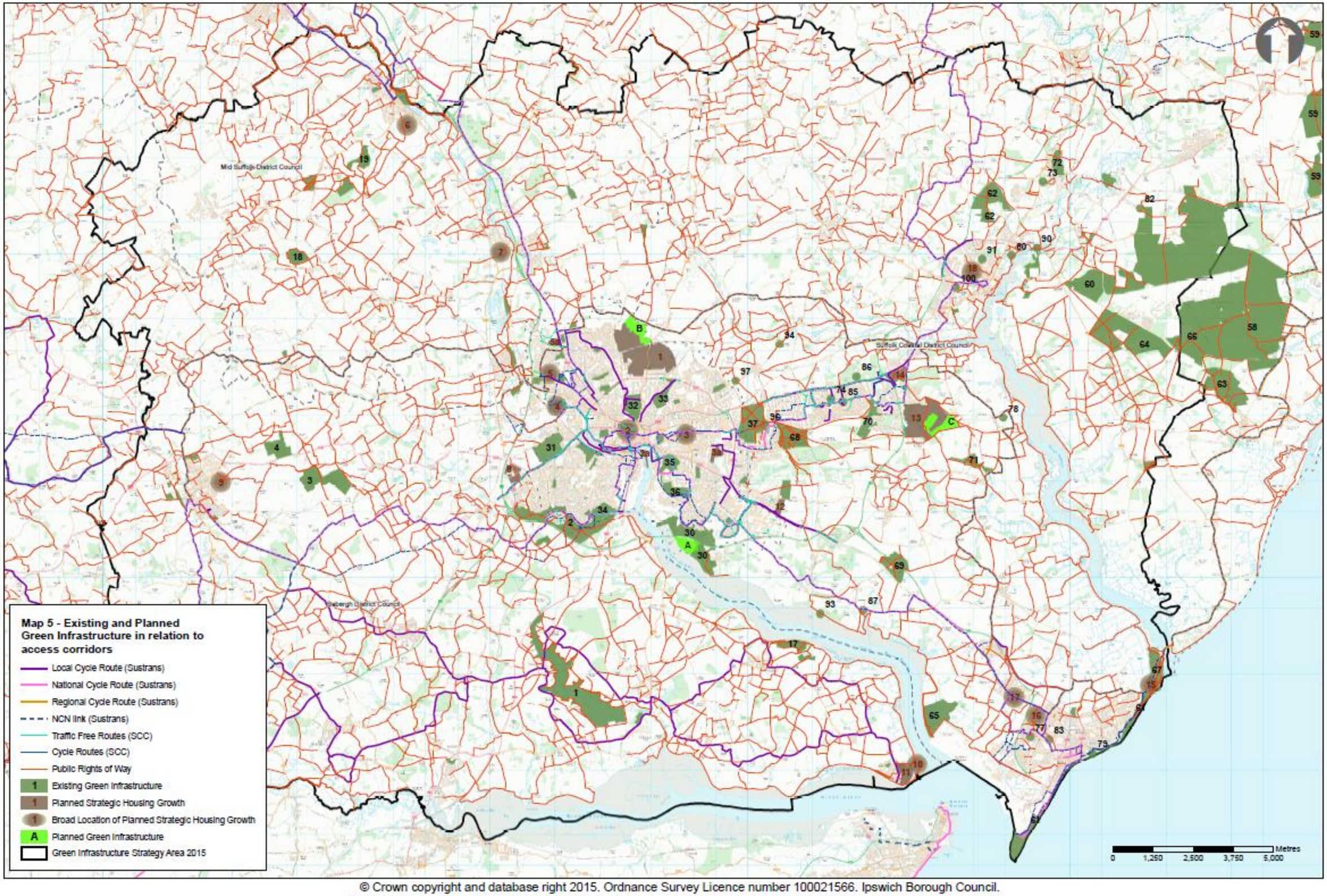
Note: Housing Growth locations in Ipswich identified by a 'circle' represent the broad location of a number of smaller sites which together equate to over 150 dwellings.
Note: A number of Suffolk Coastal greenspaces are referenced by their centre point rather than their outline.



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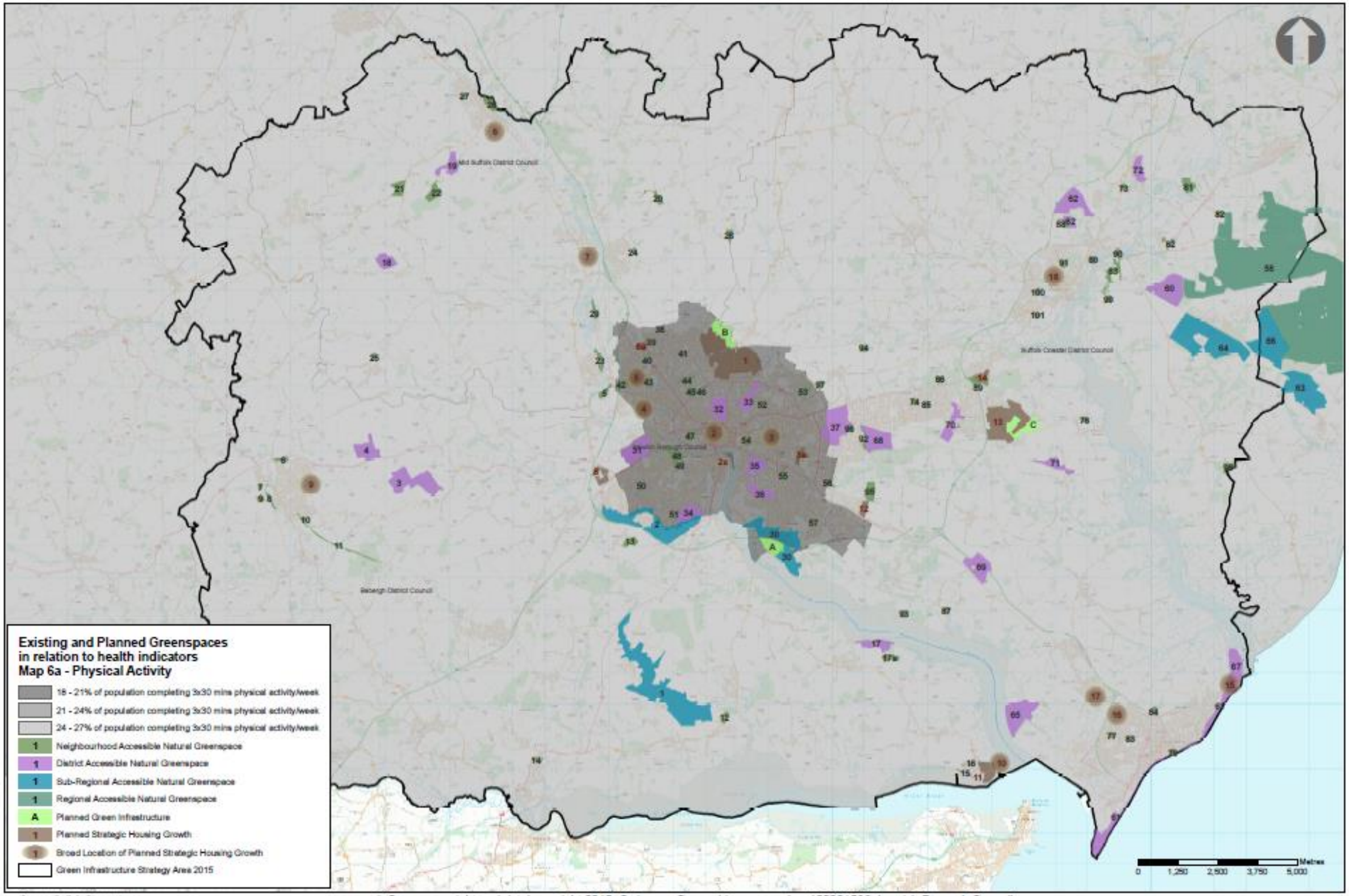

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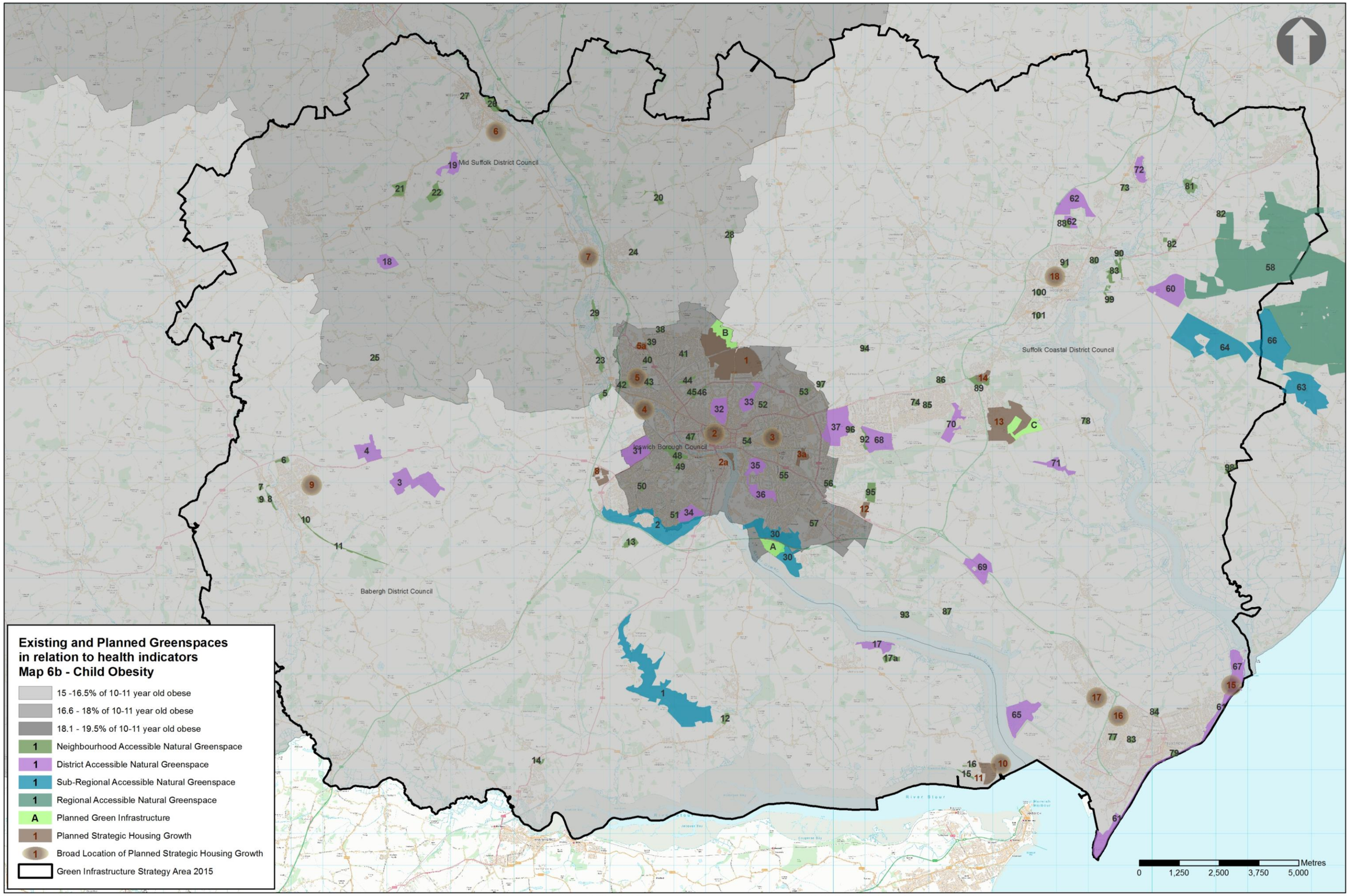

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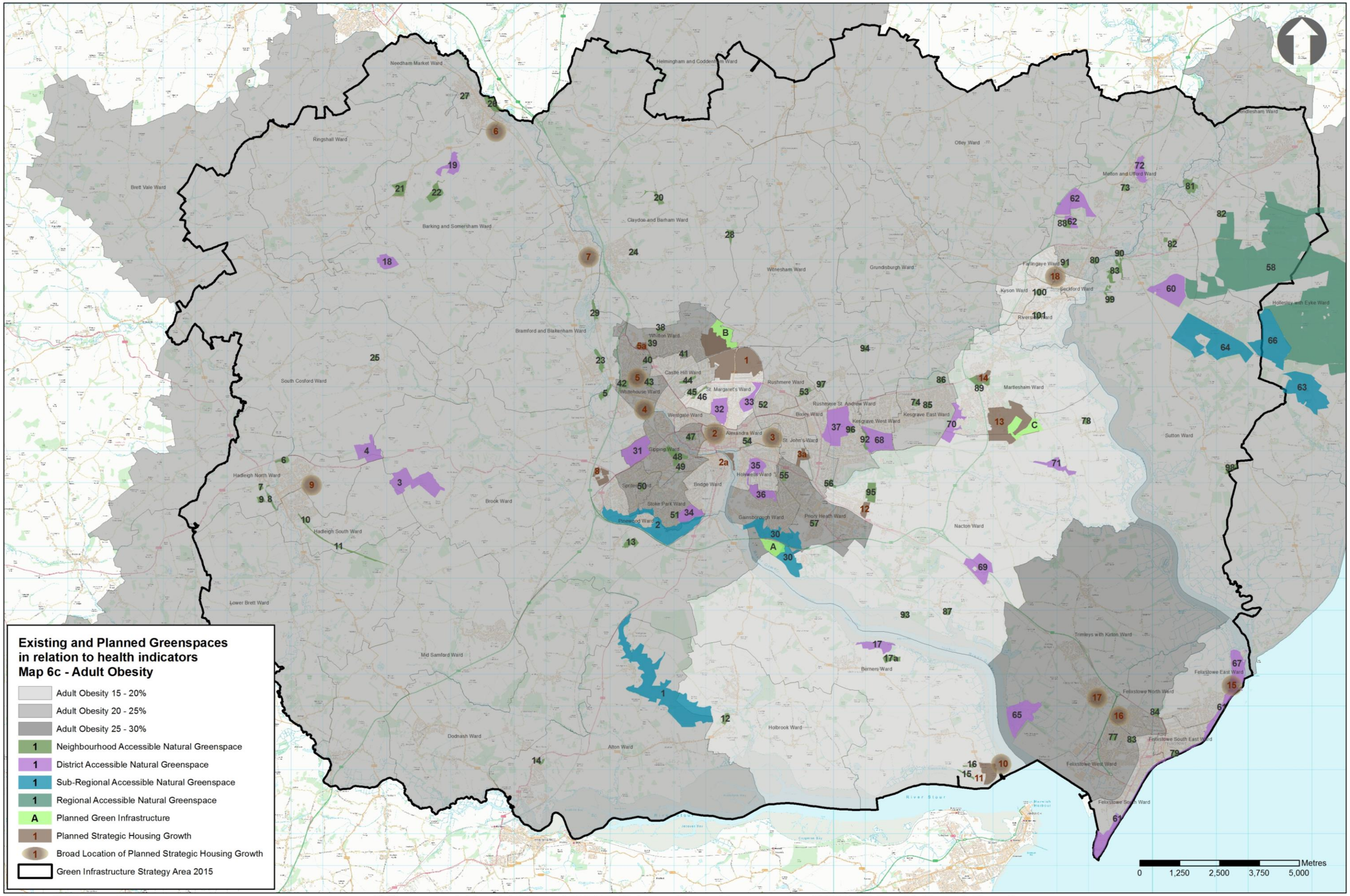

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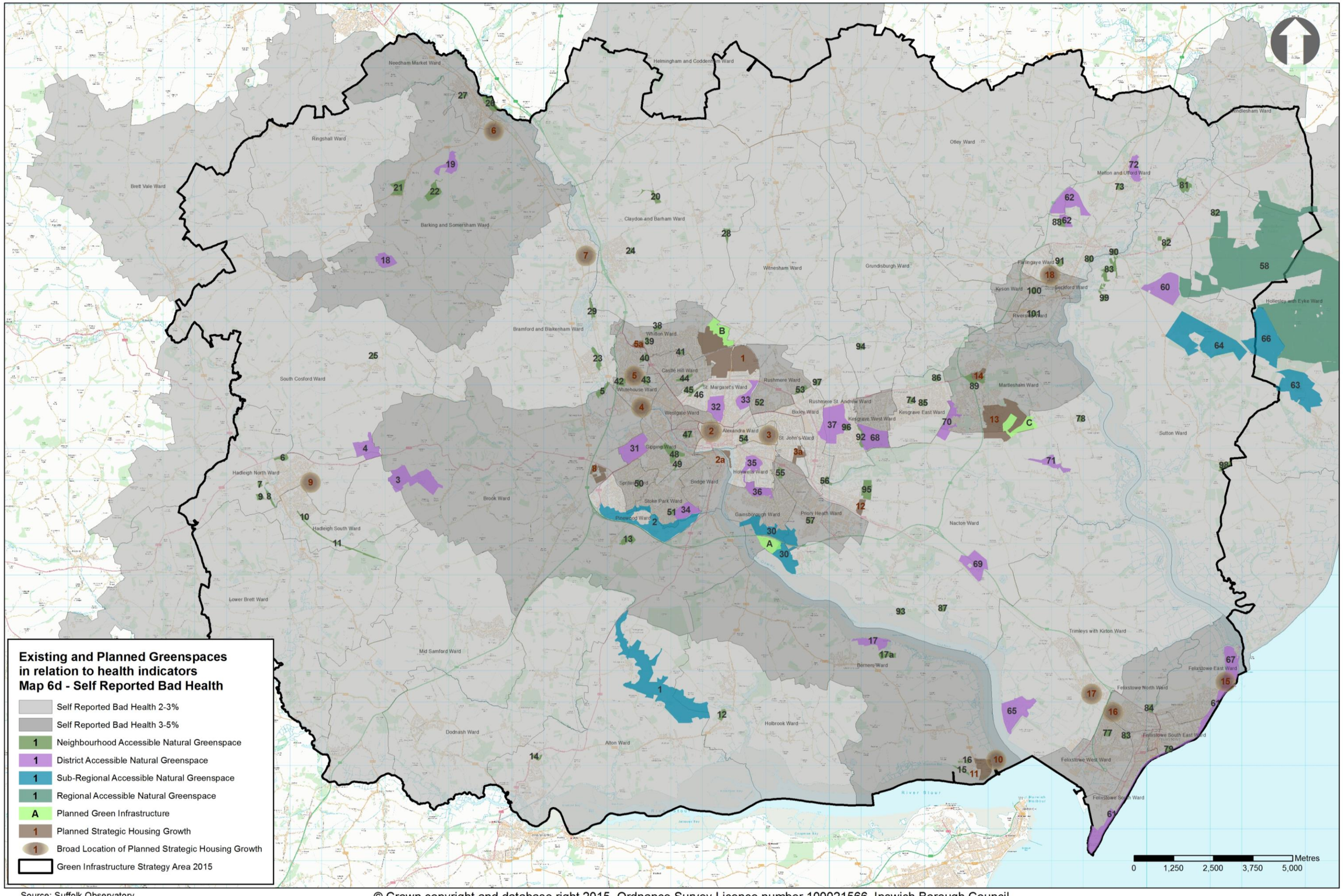

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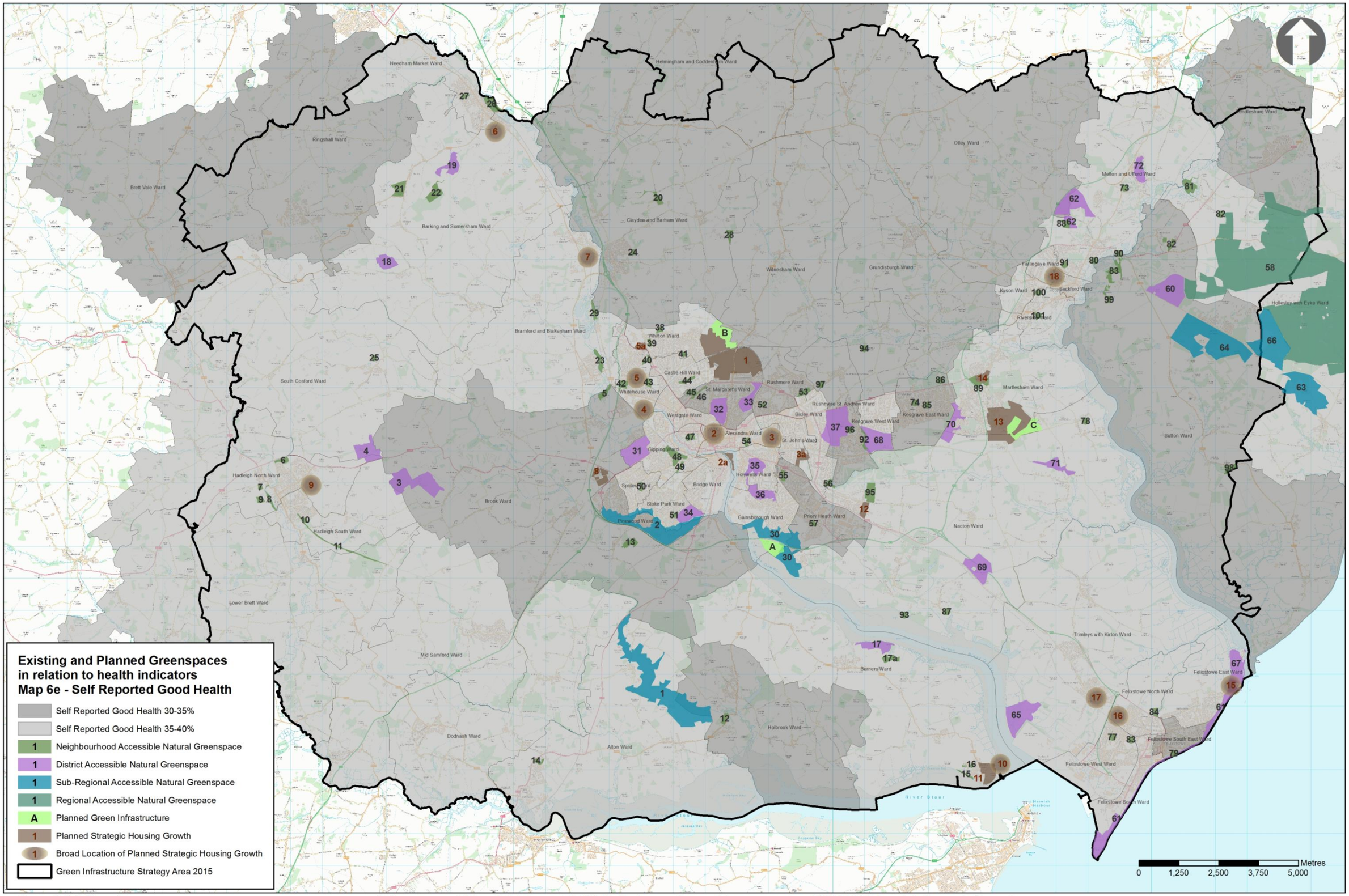

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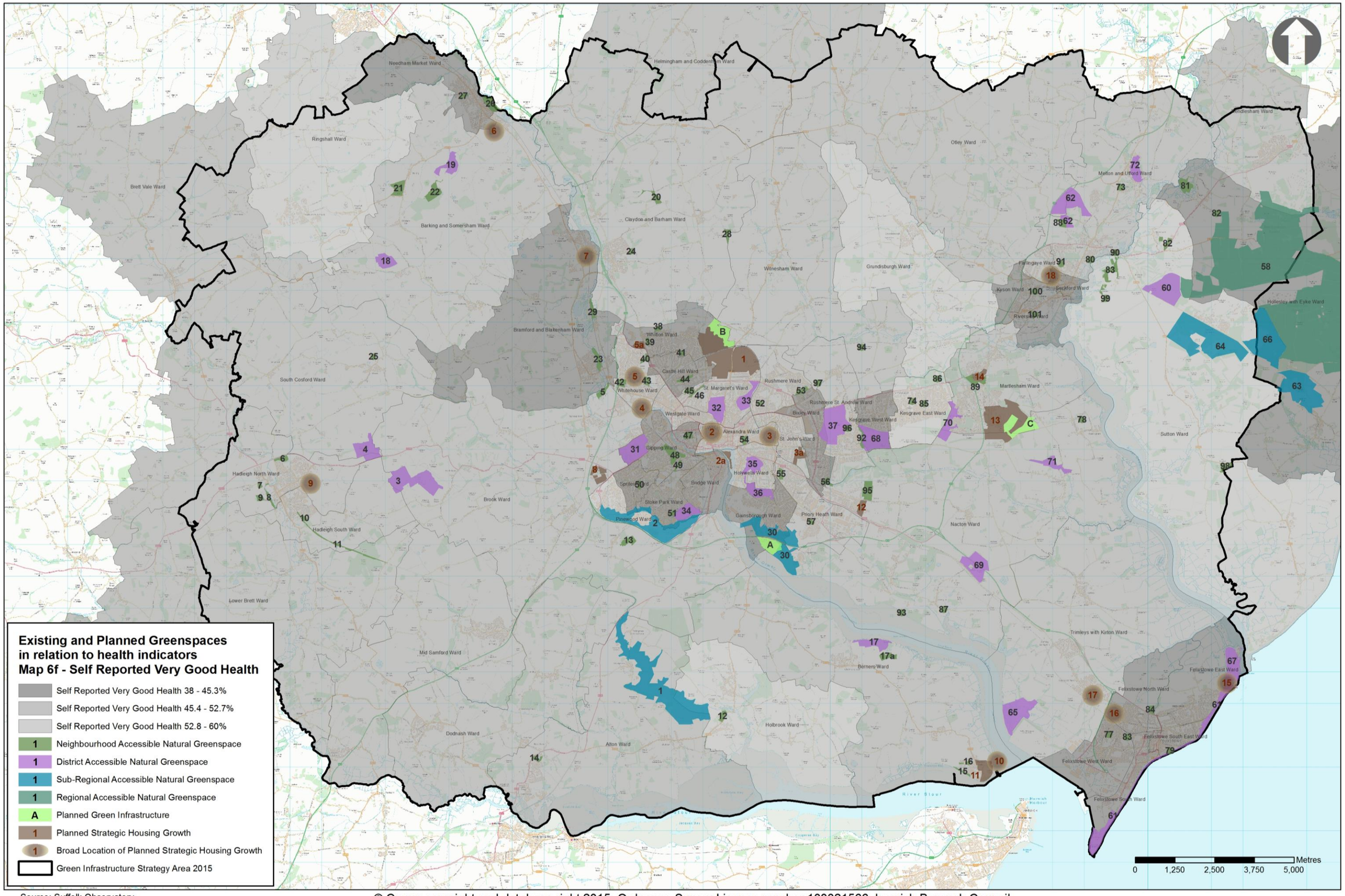

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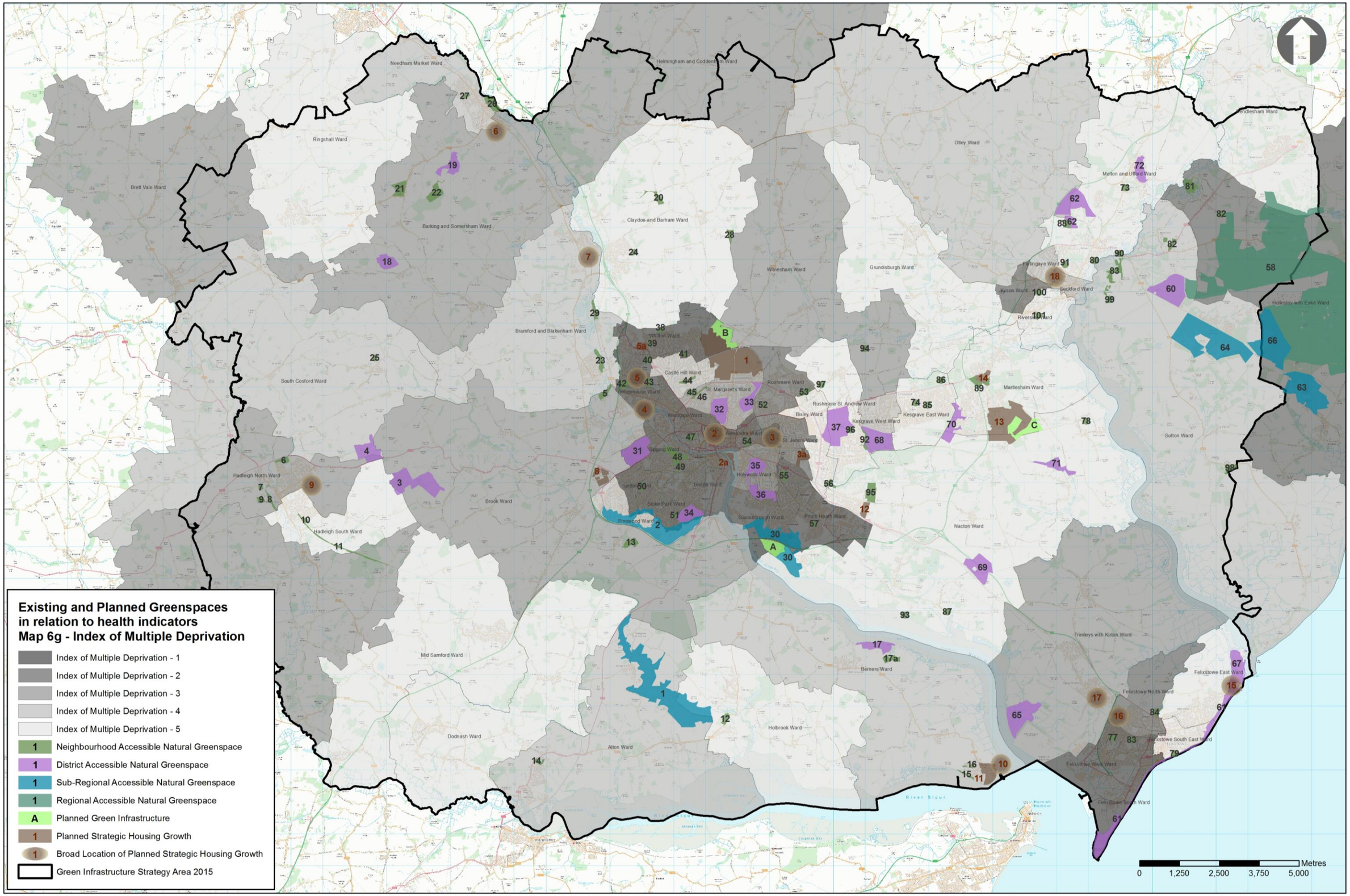

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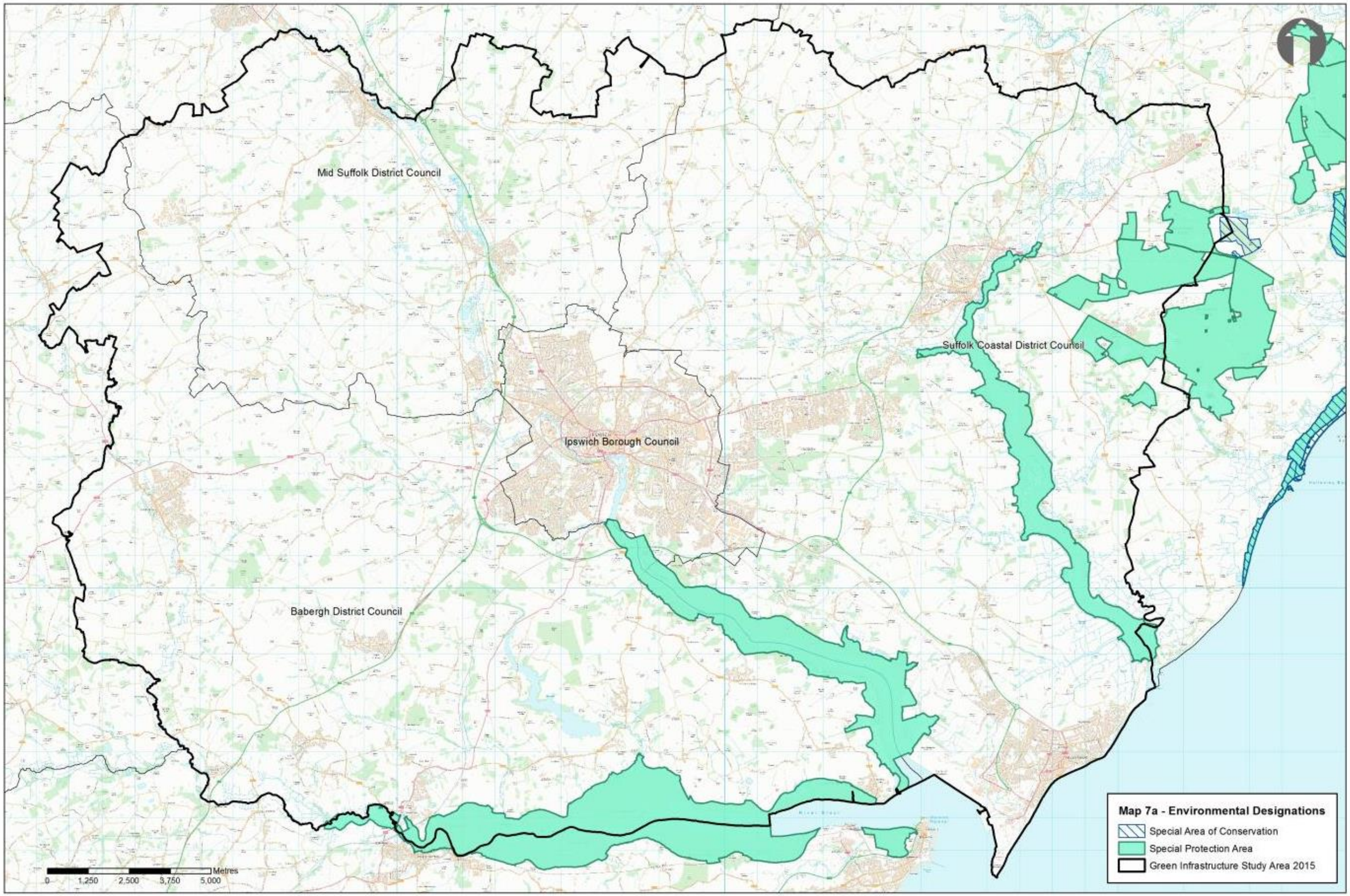

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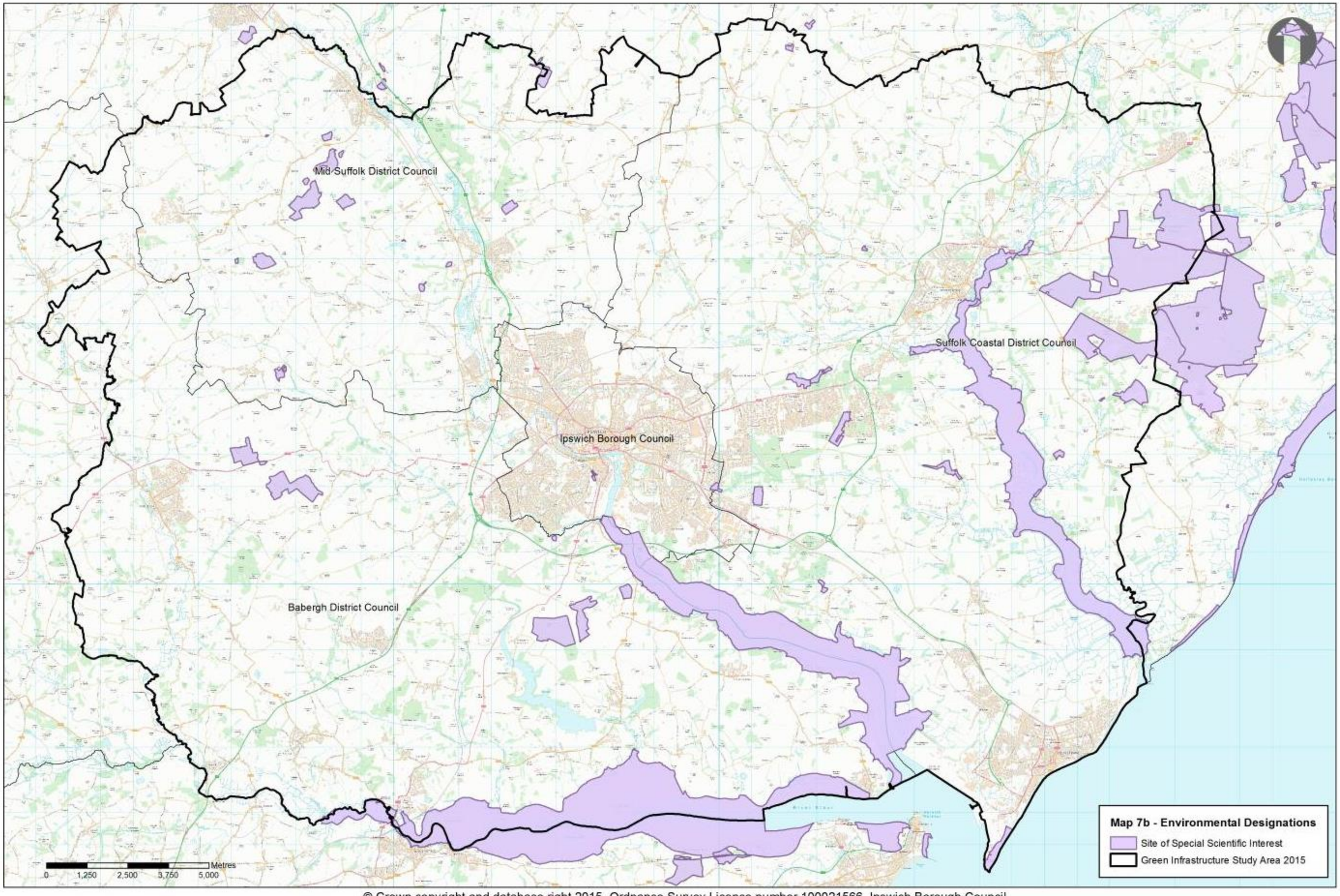

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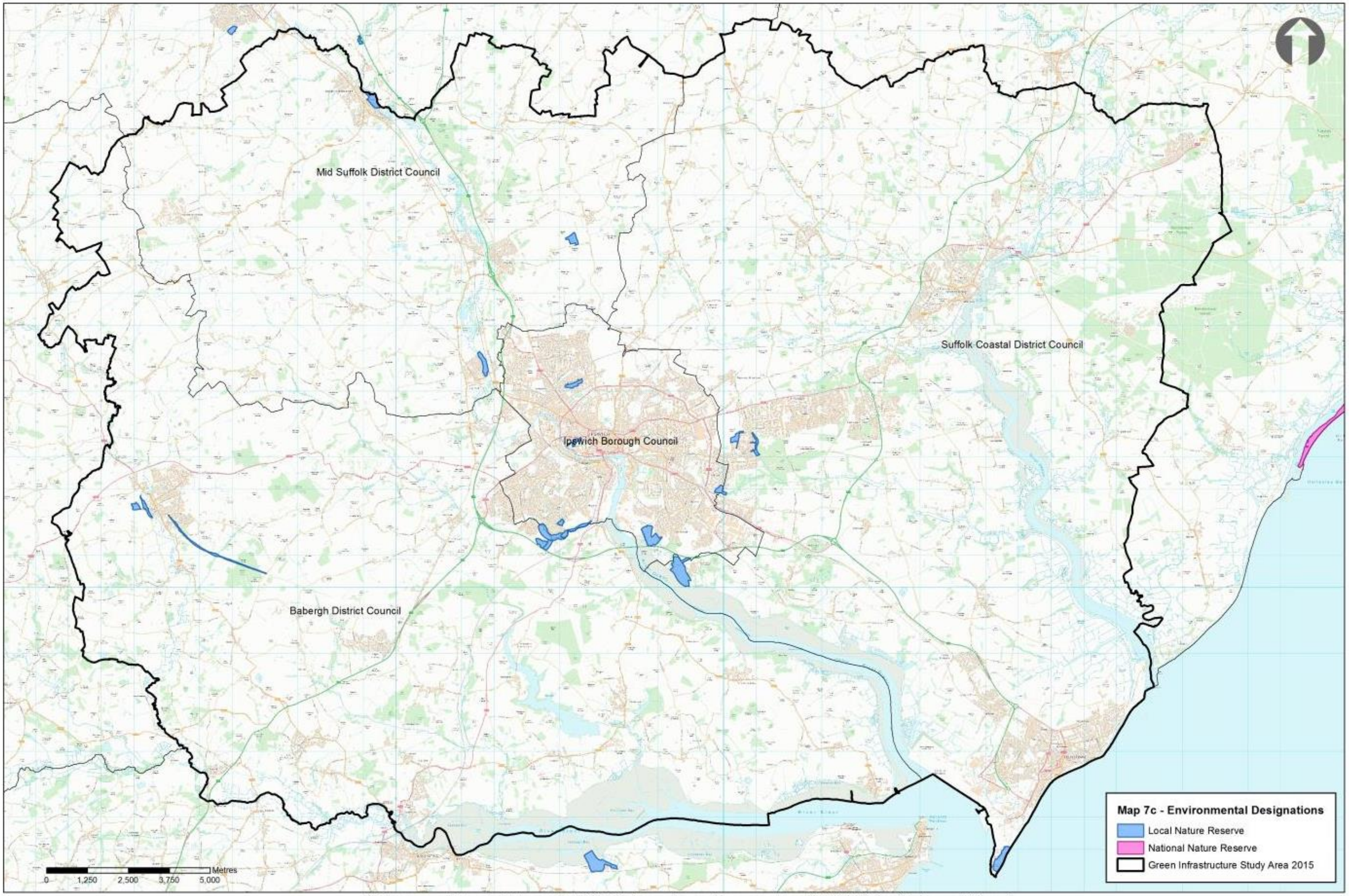

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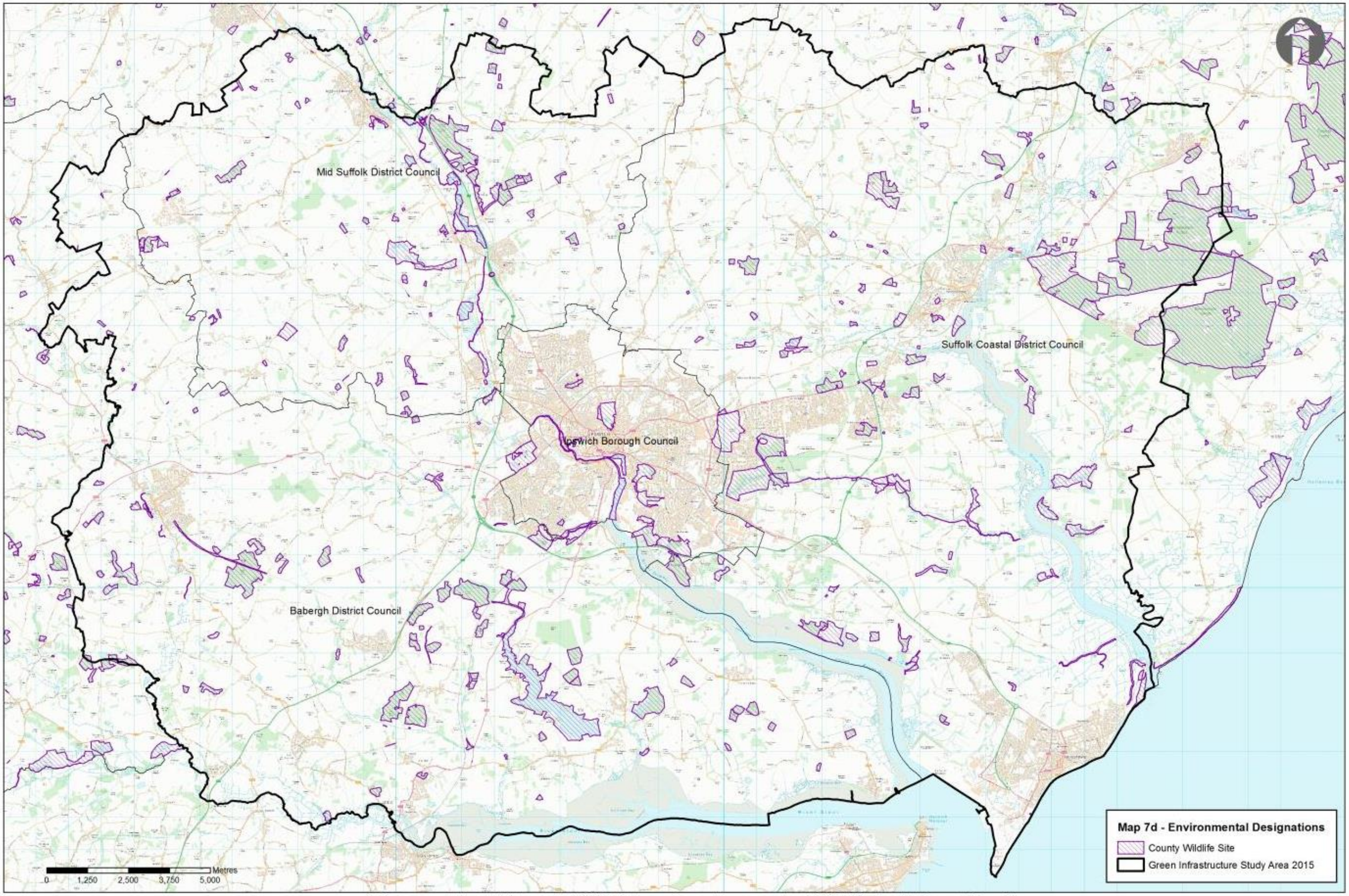

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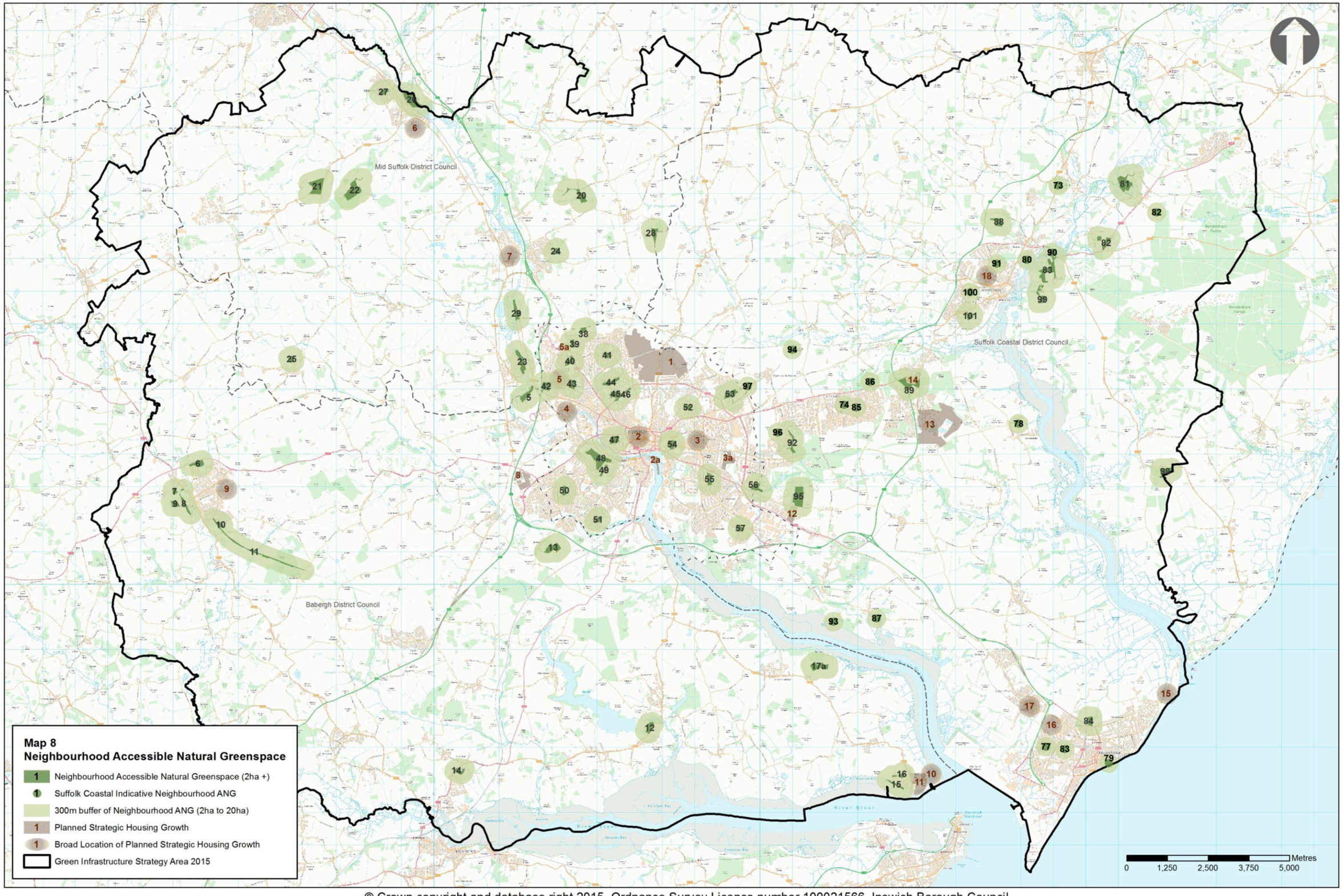

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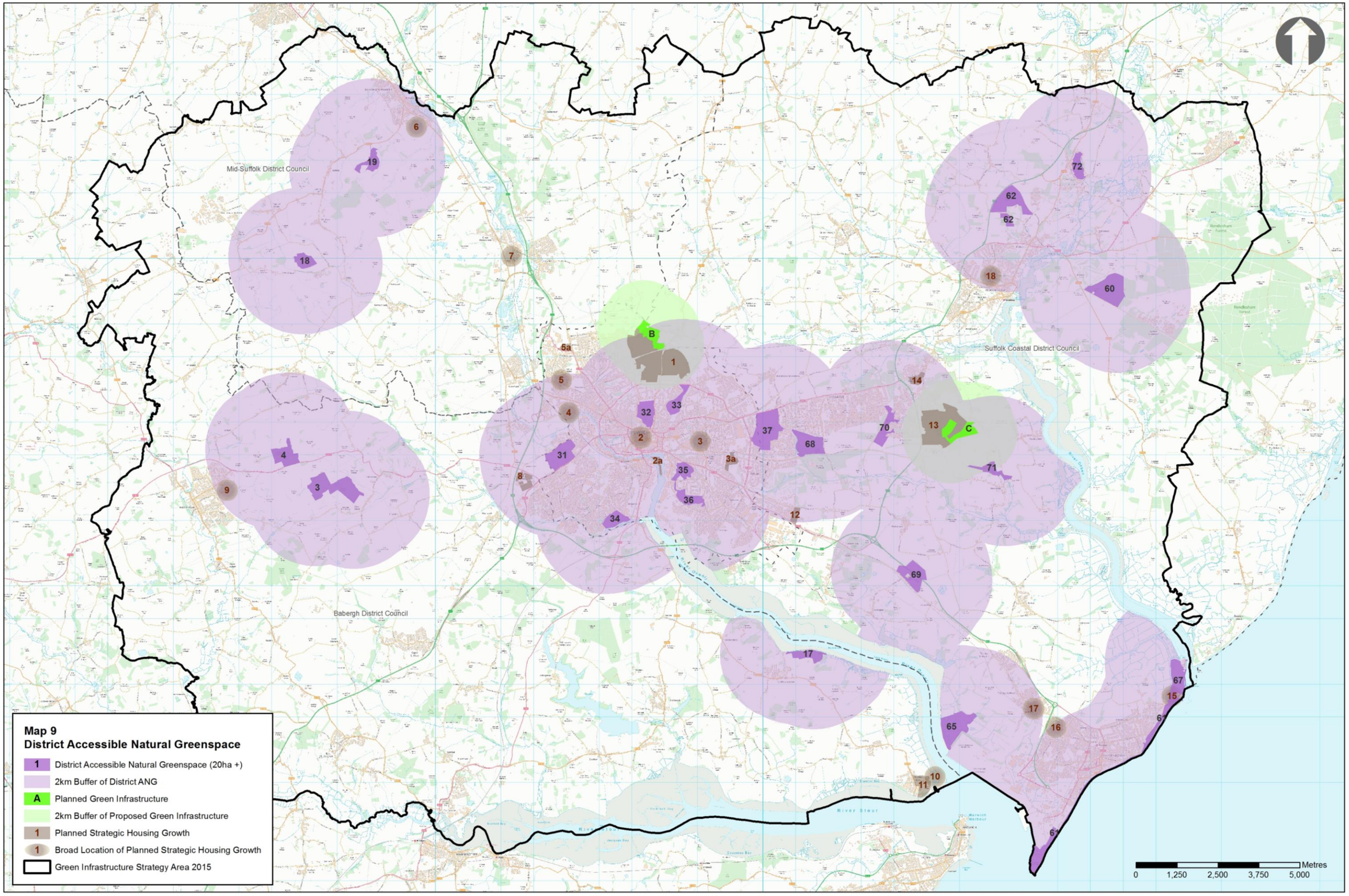
Note: Housing Growth locations in Ipswich identified by a 'circle' represent the broad location of a number of smaller sites which together equate to over 150 dwellings.
Note: A number of Suffolk Coastal greenspaces are referenced by their centre point rather than their outline.



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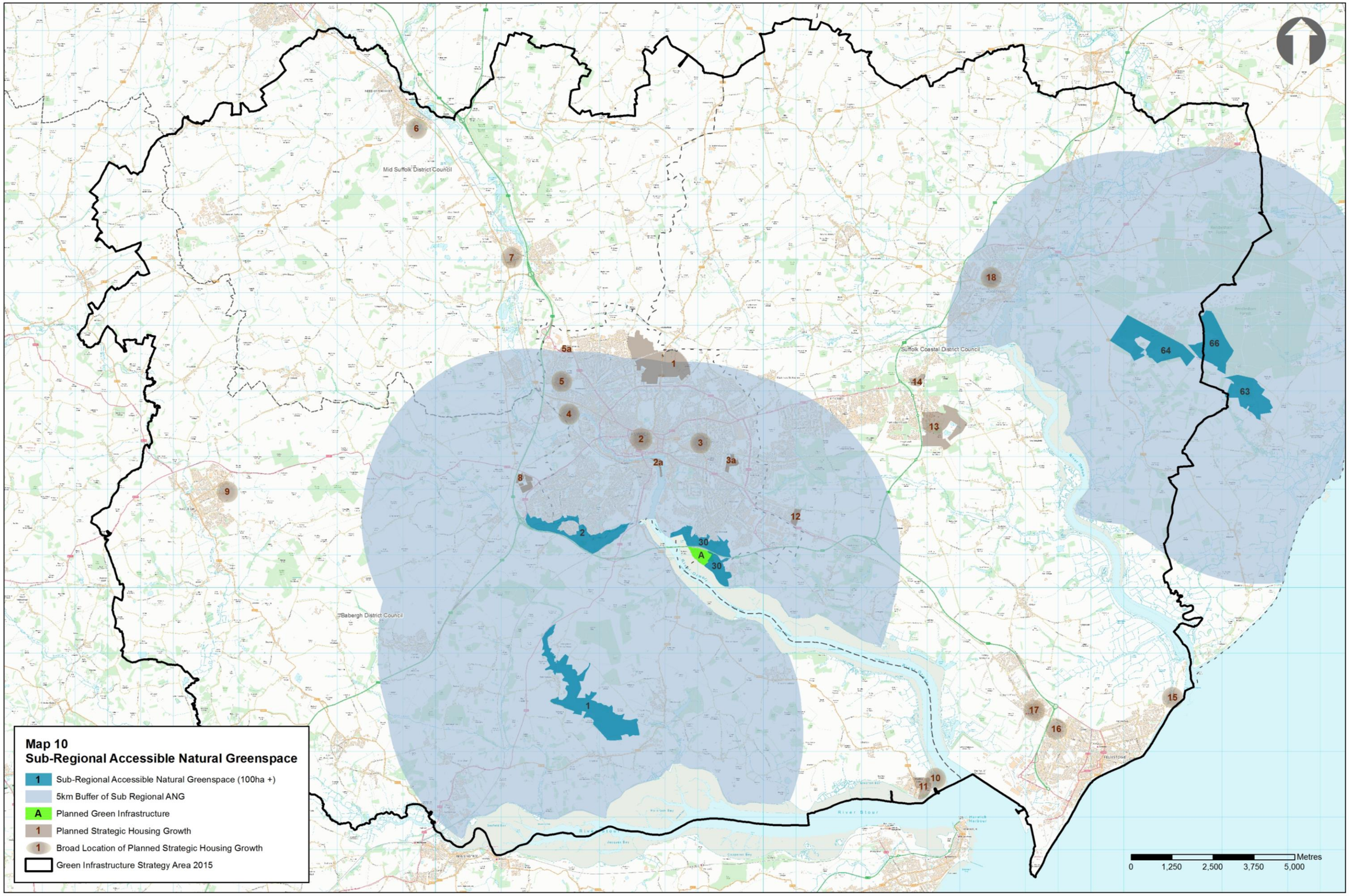

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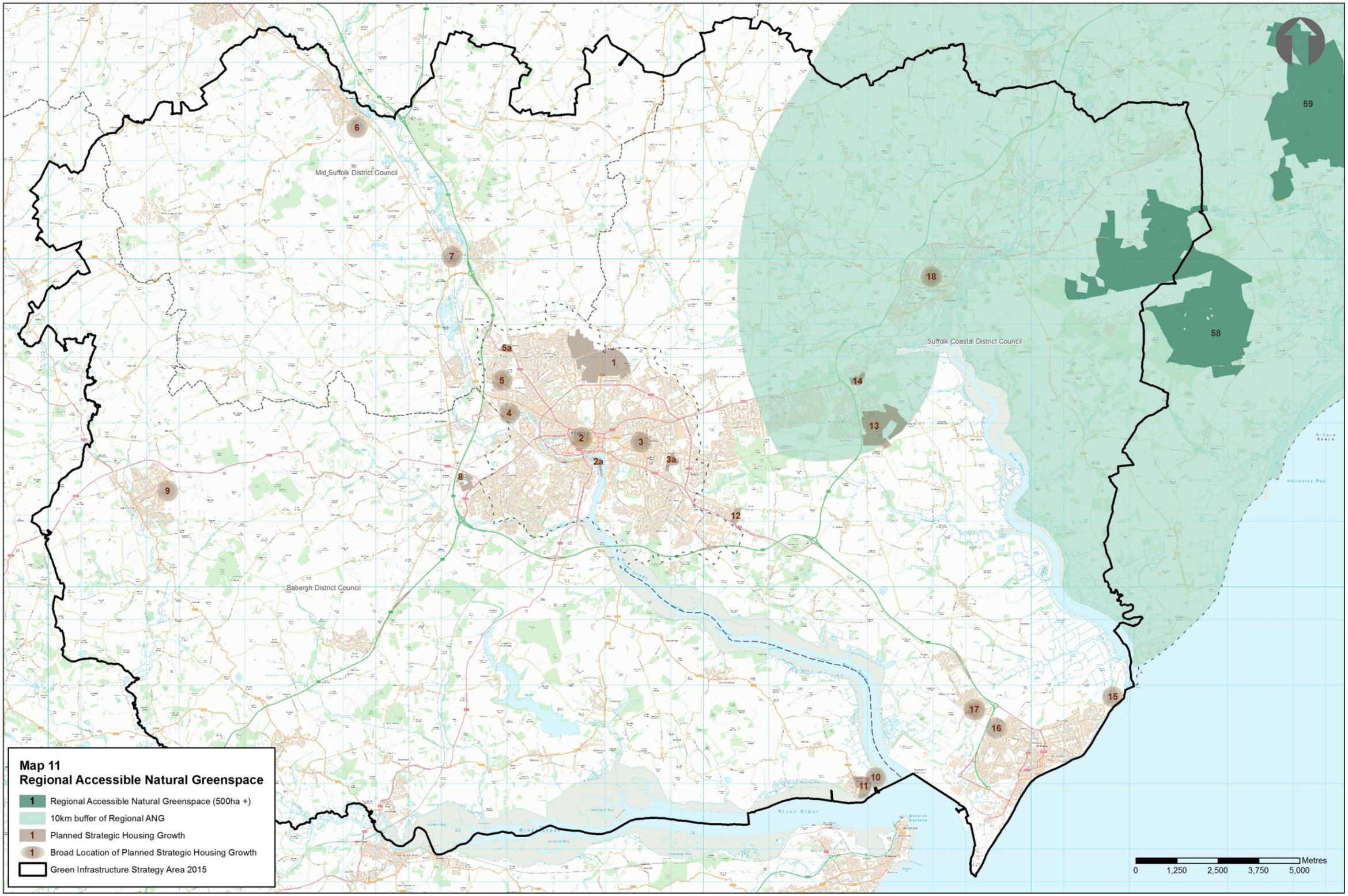

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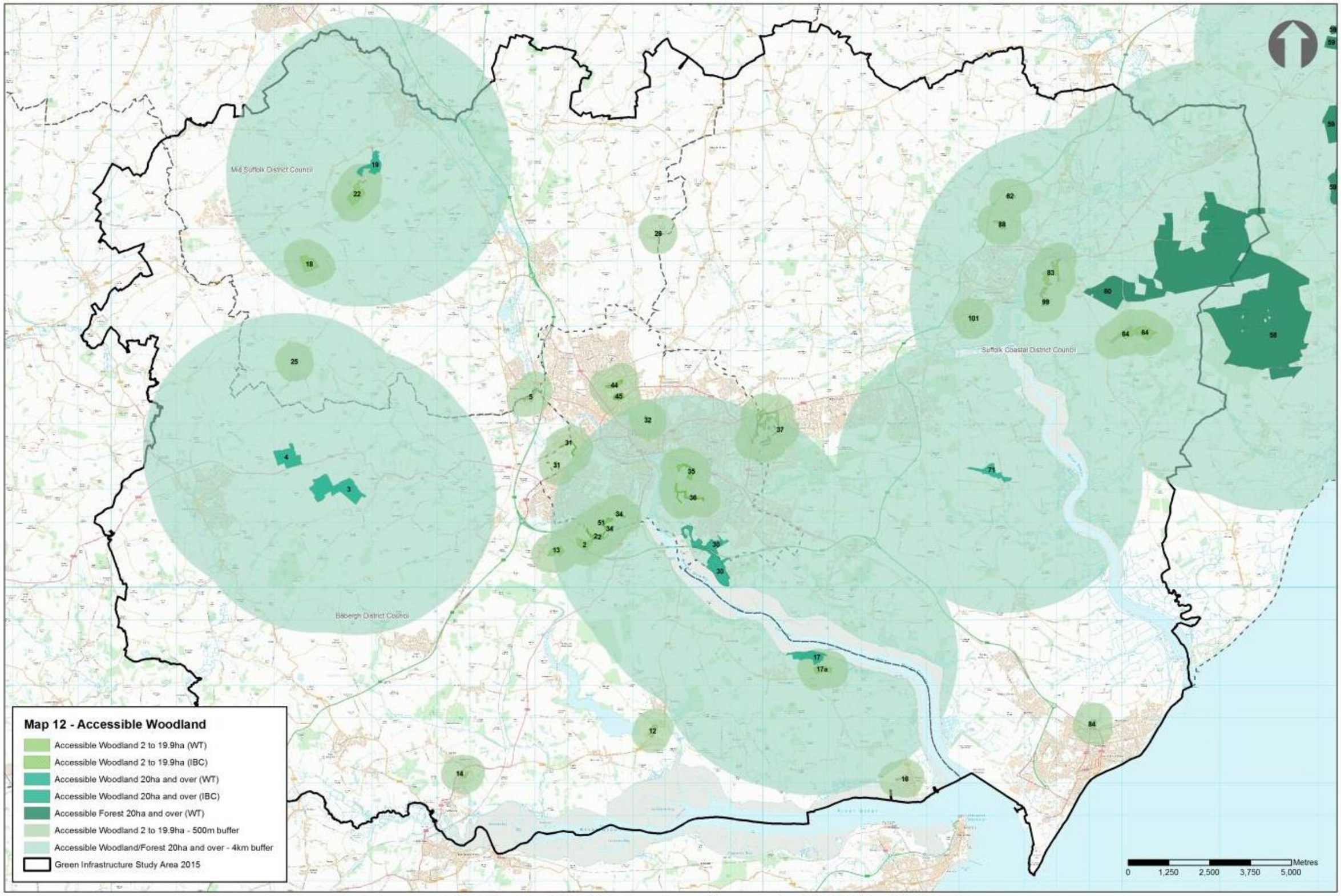

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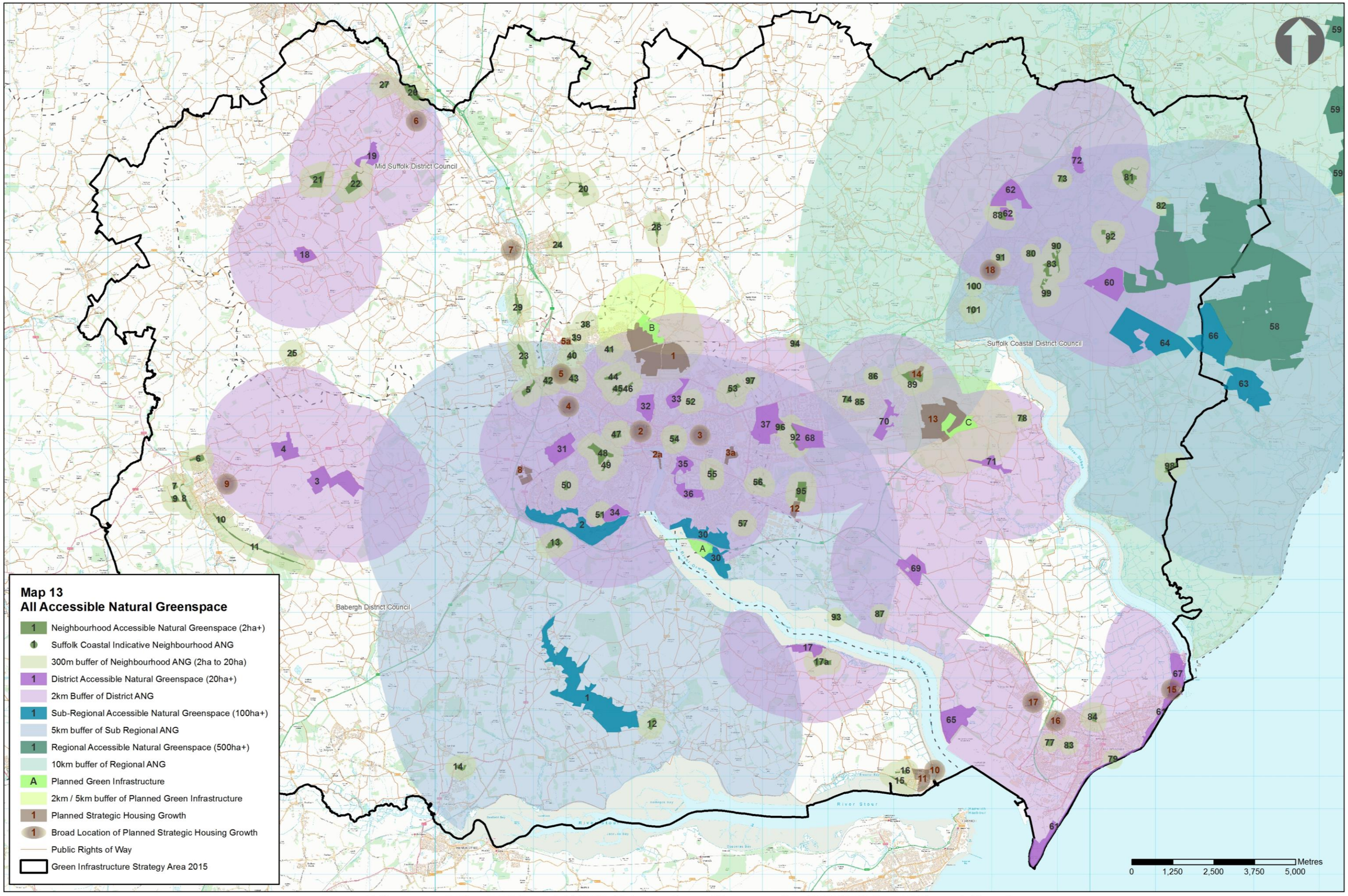
Sources: Woodland Trust Accessible Woodlands data (outside IBC). Ipswich Borough Council Woodland categorisation (within IBC).



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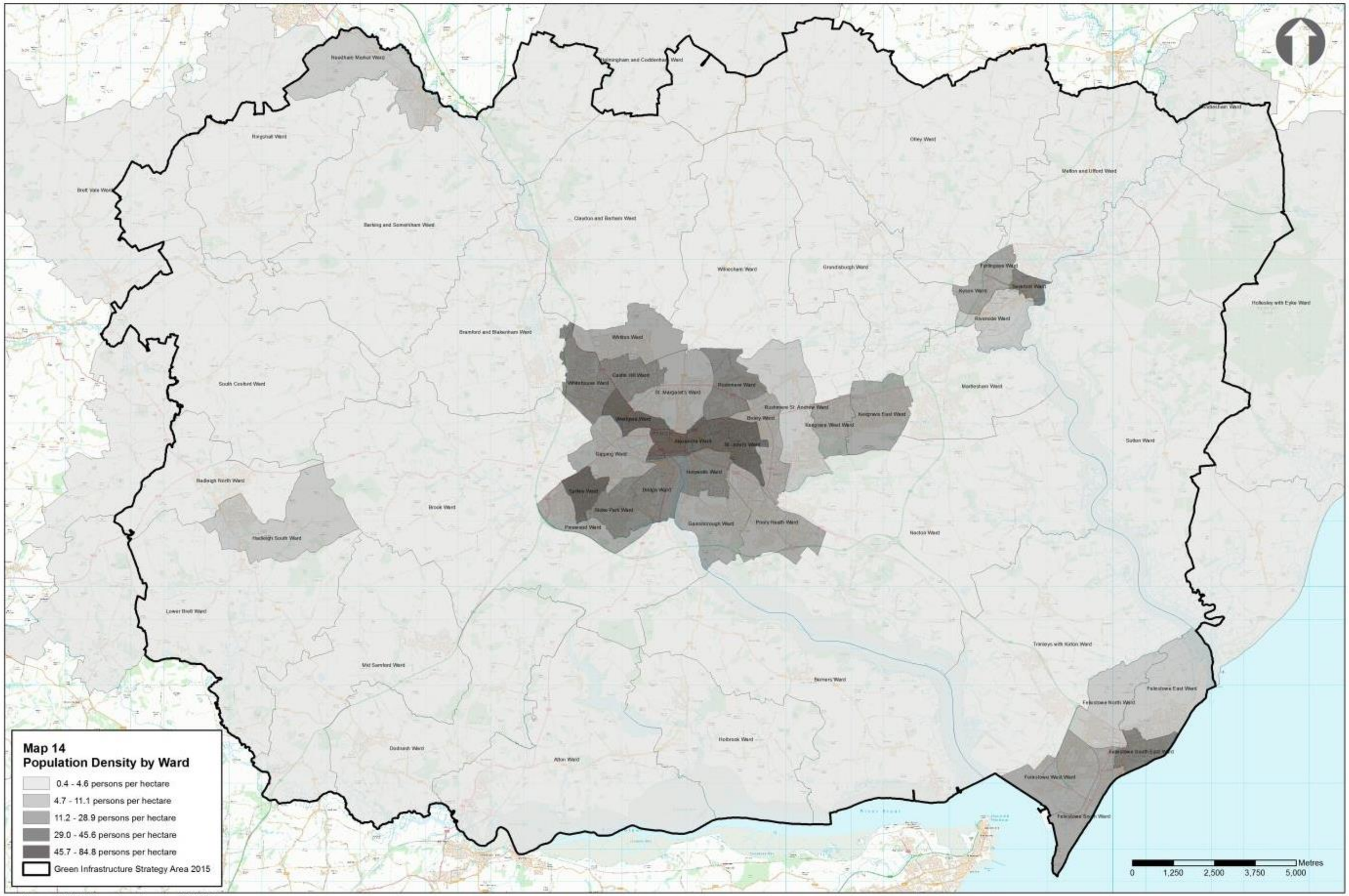

Source: Suffolk Observatory. Based on 2011 Census

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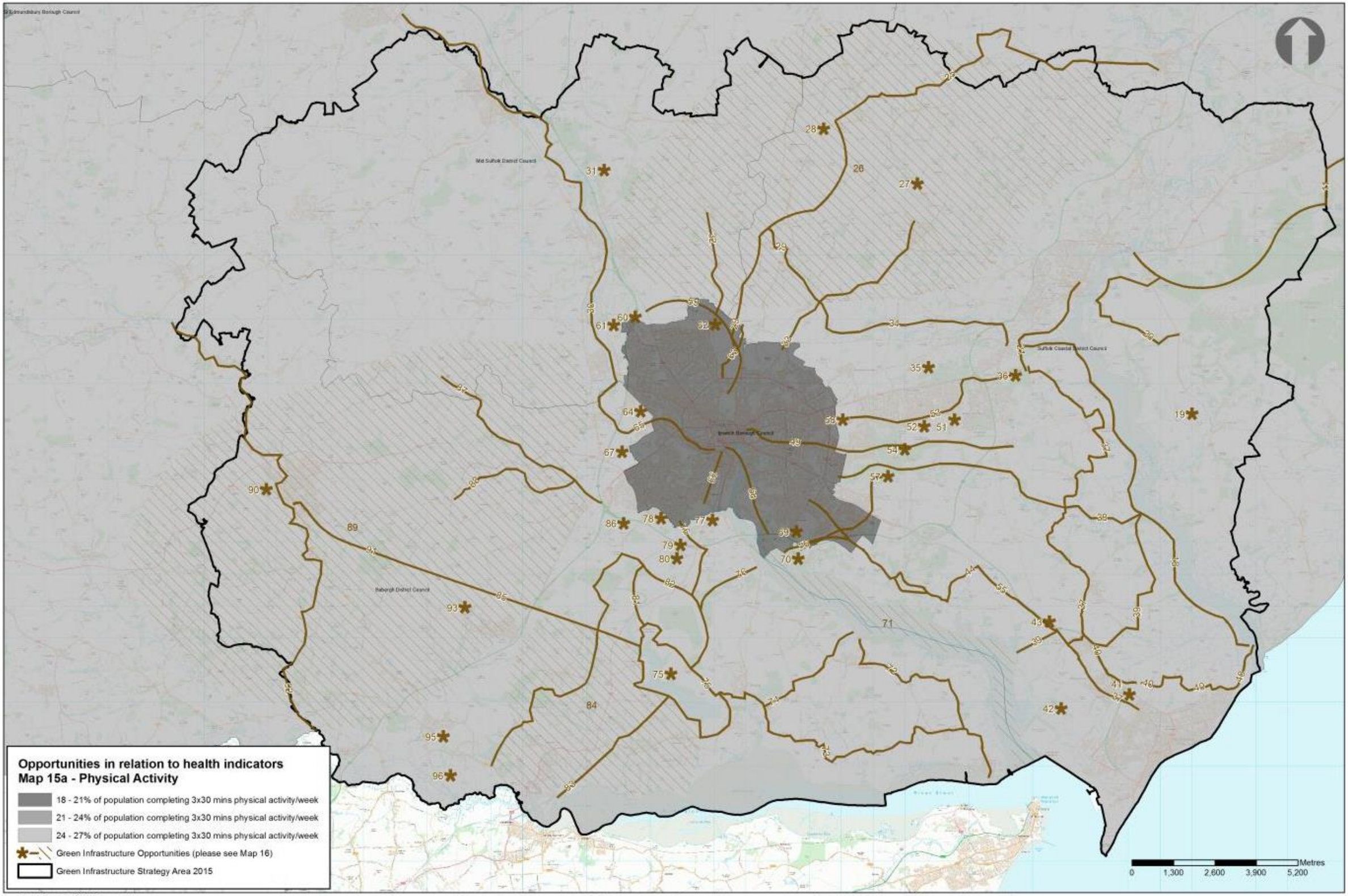

Data from Suffolk Observatory

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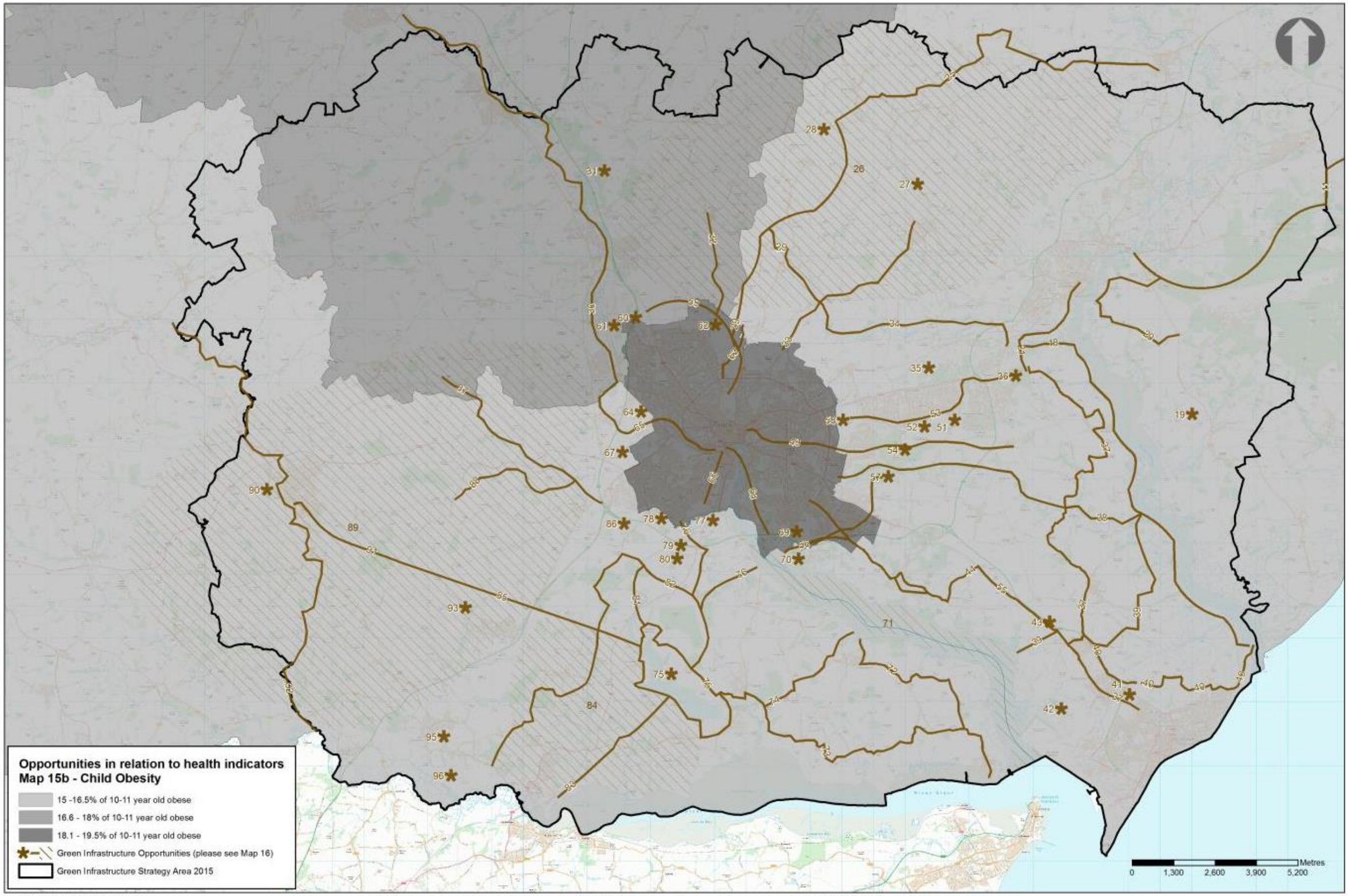

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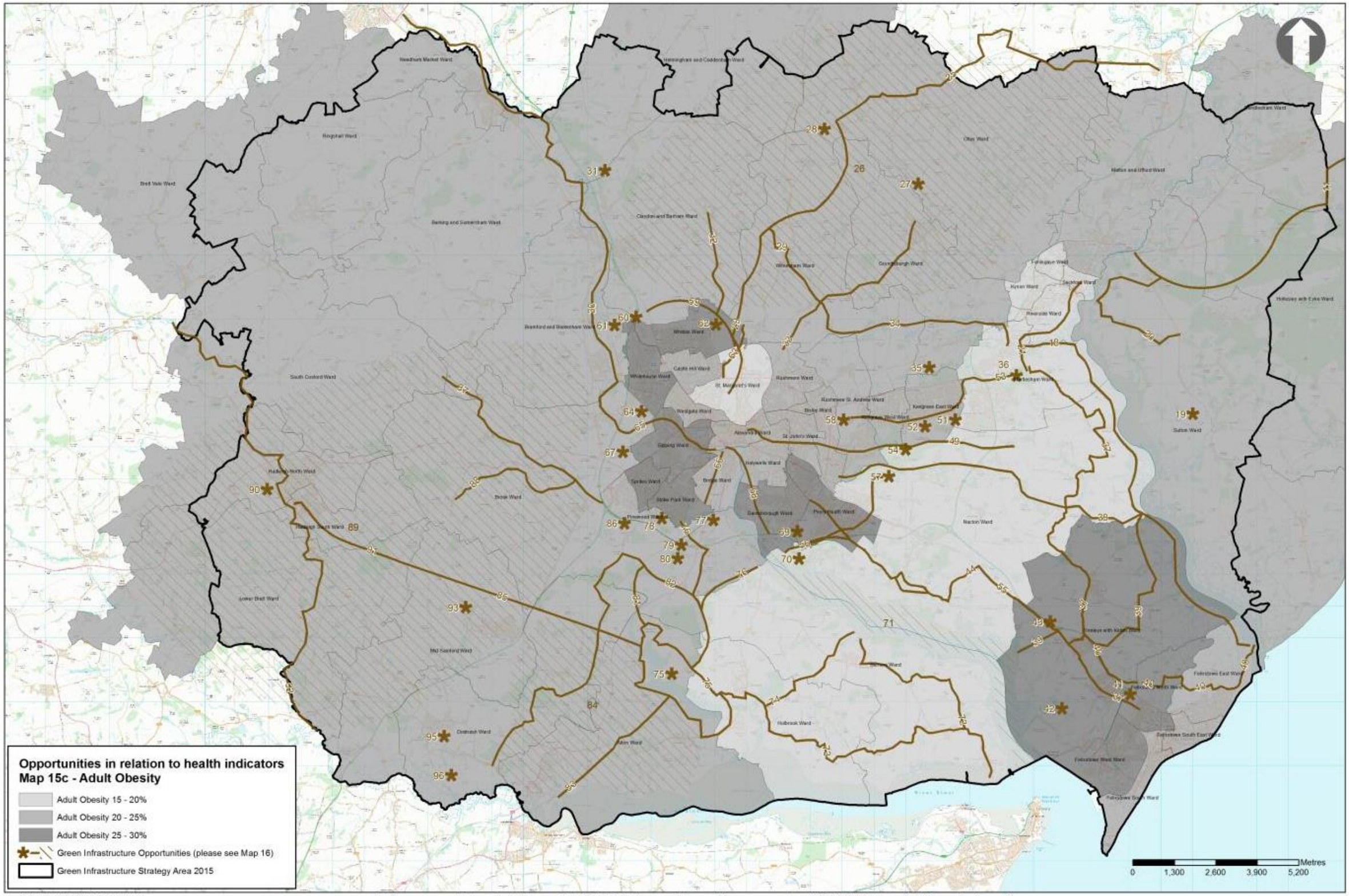

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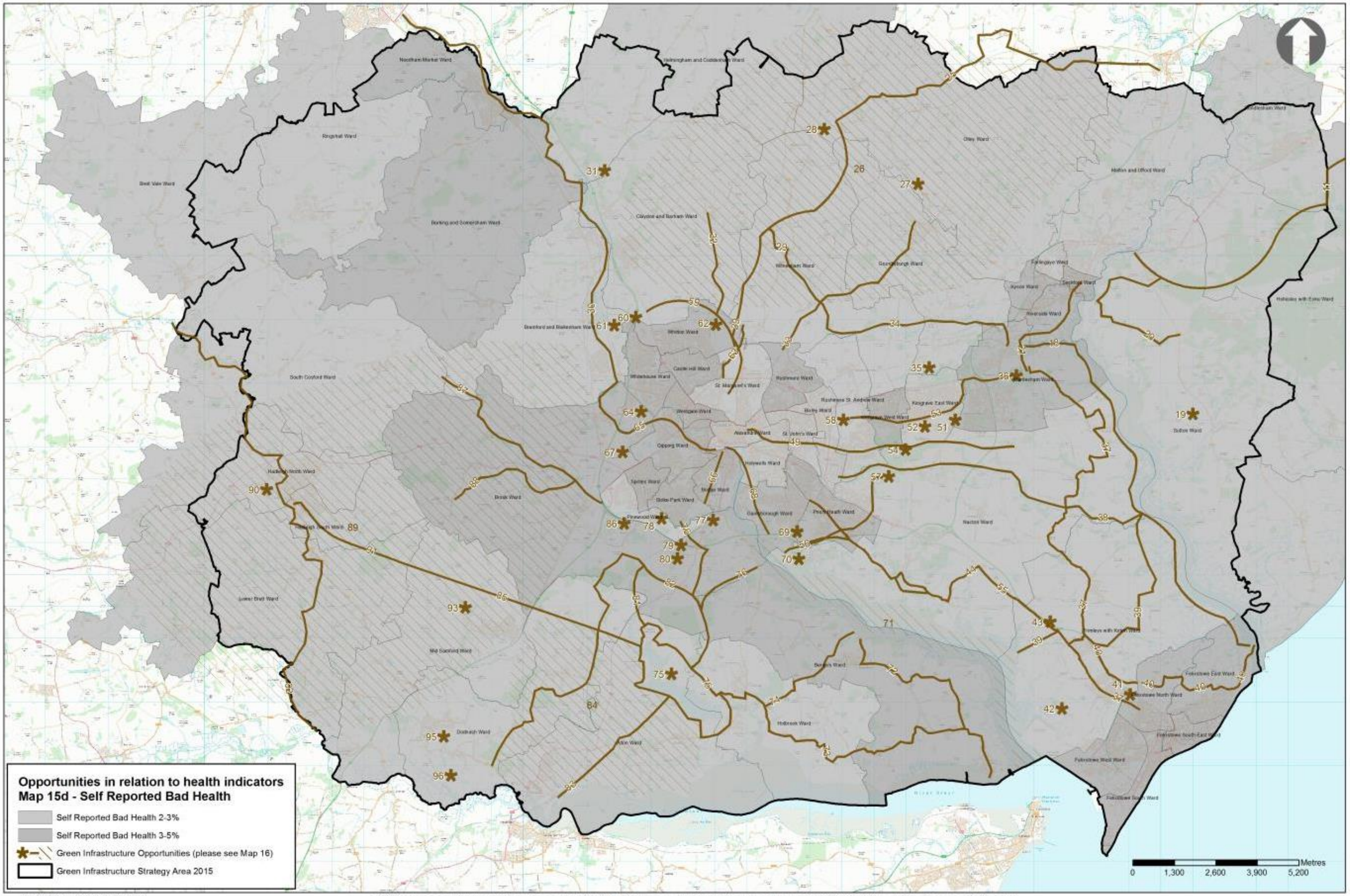

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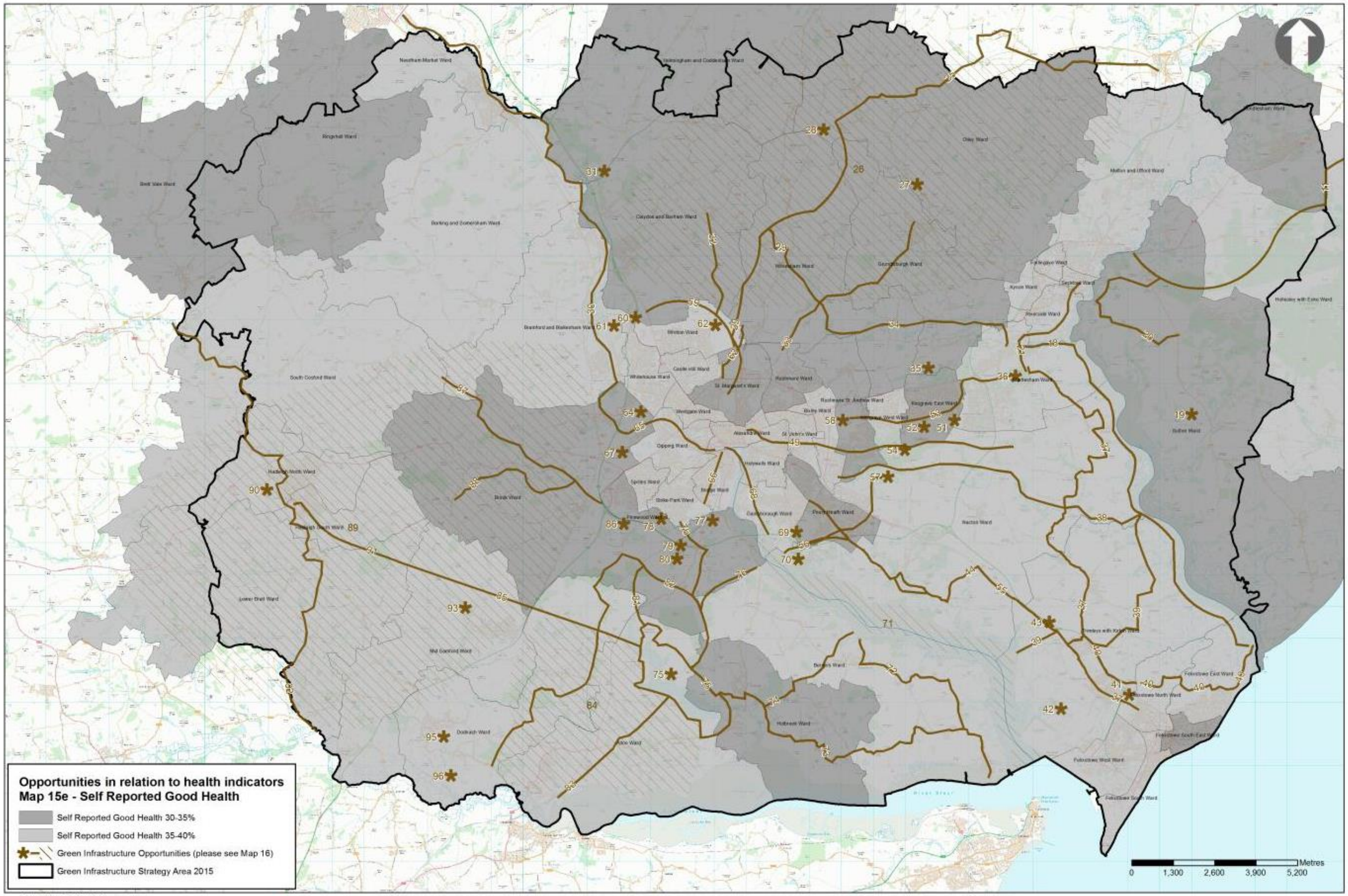

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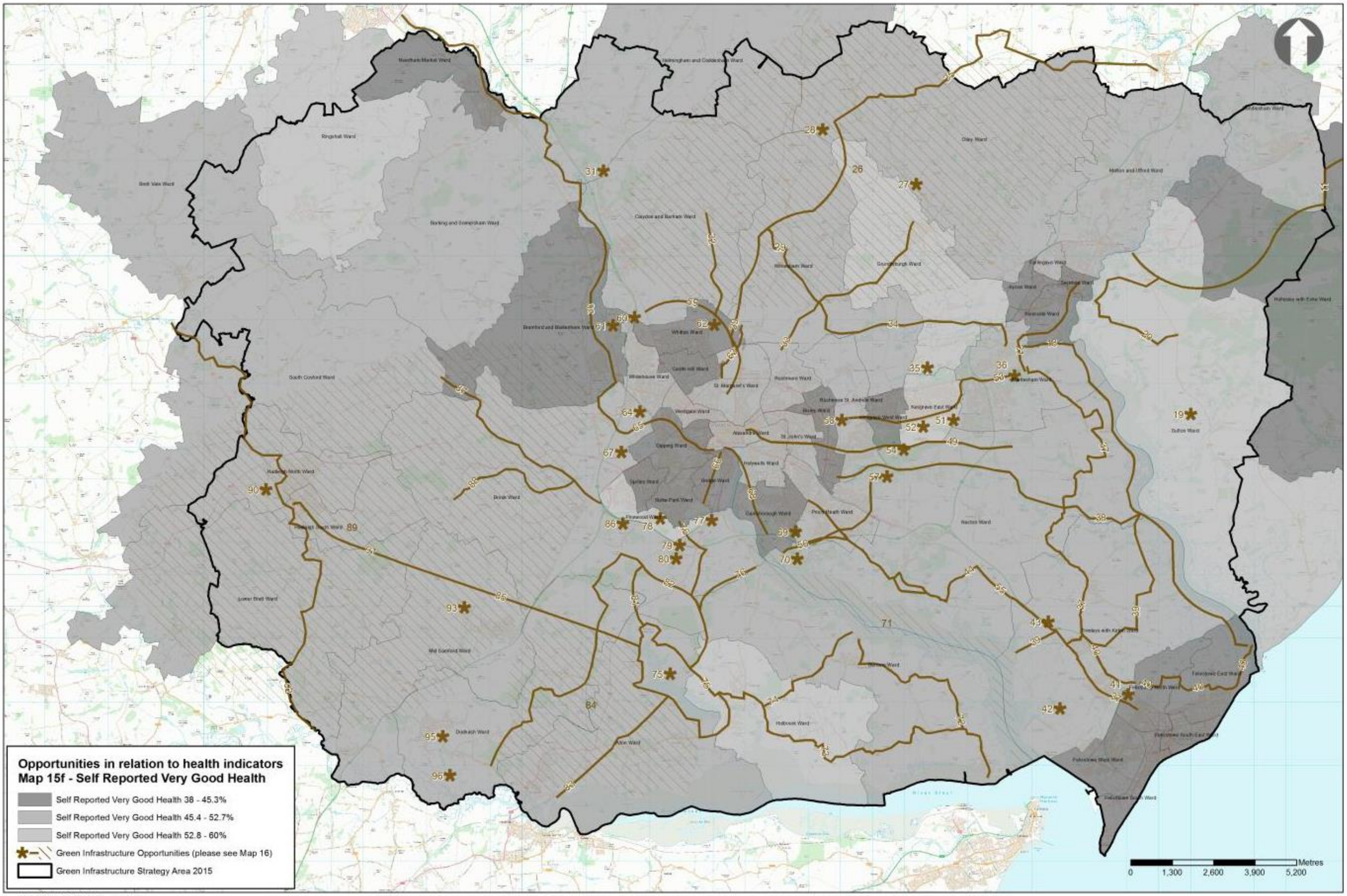

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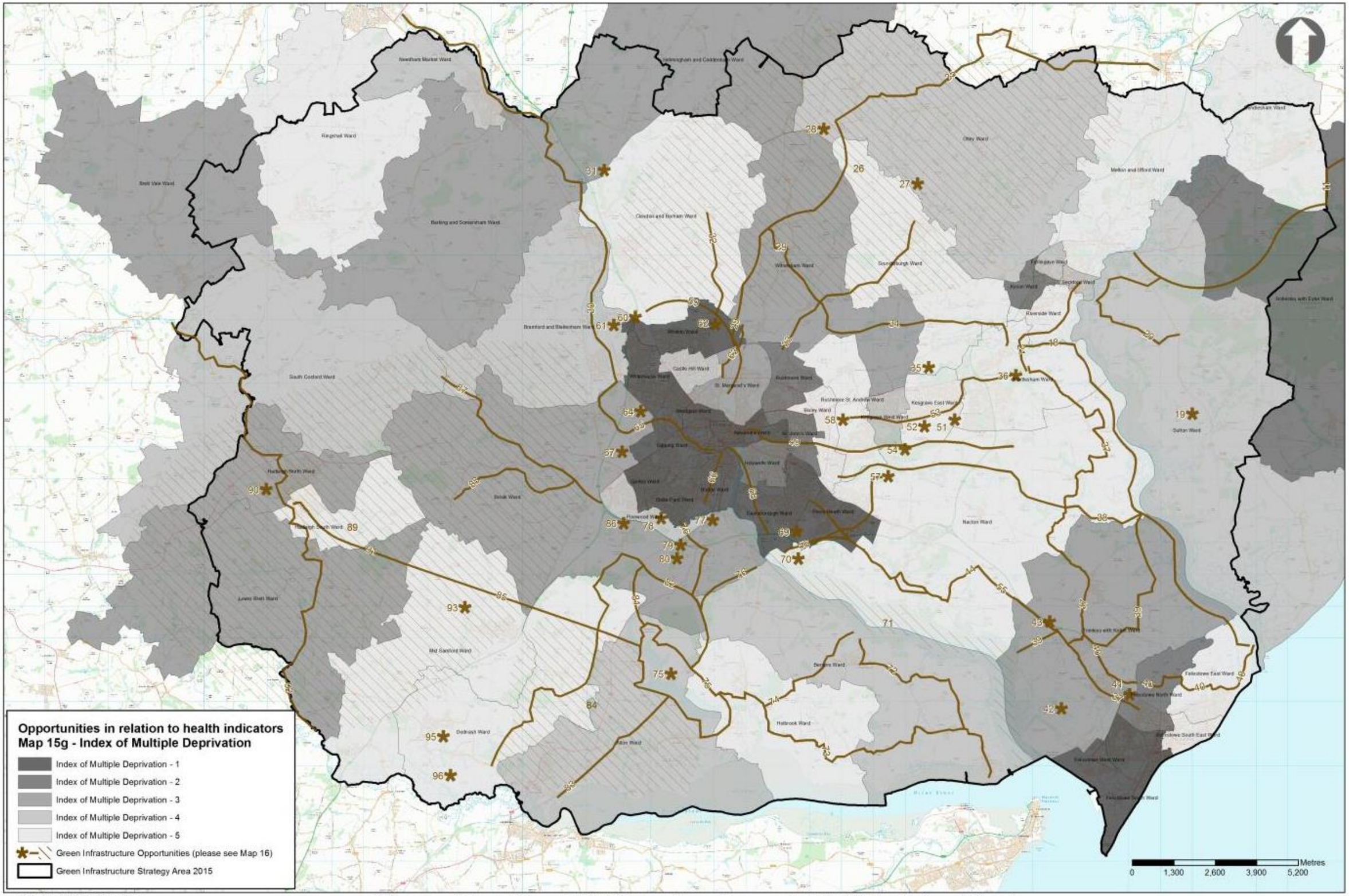

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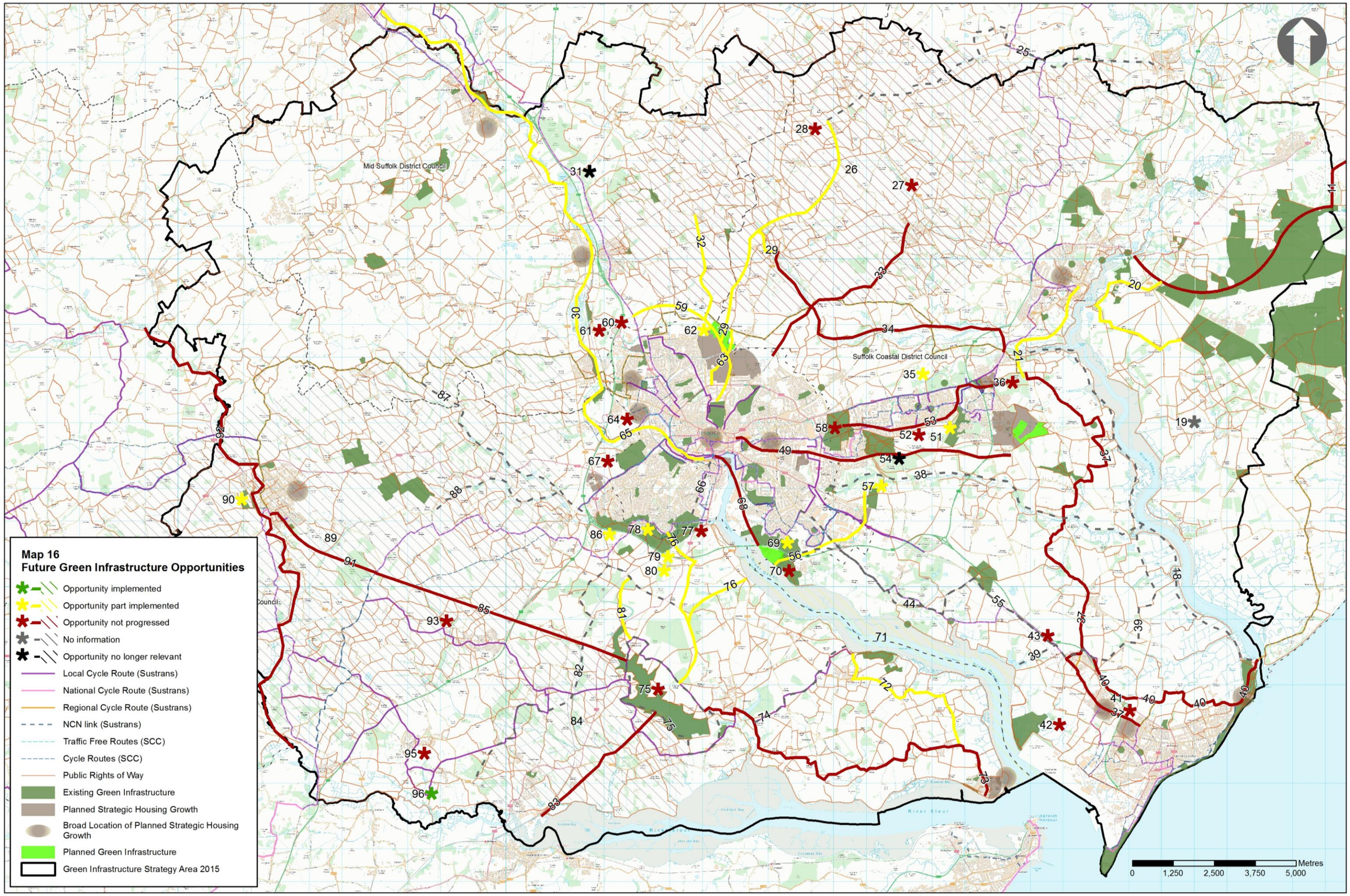

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