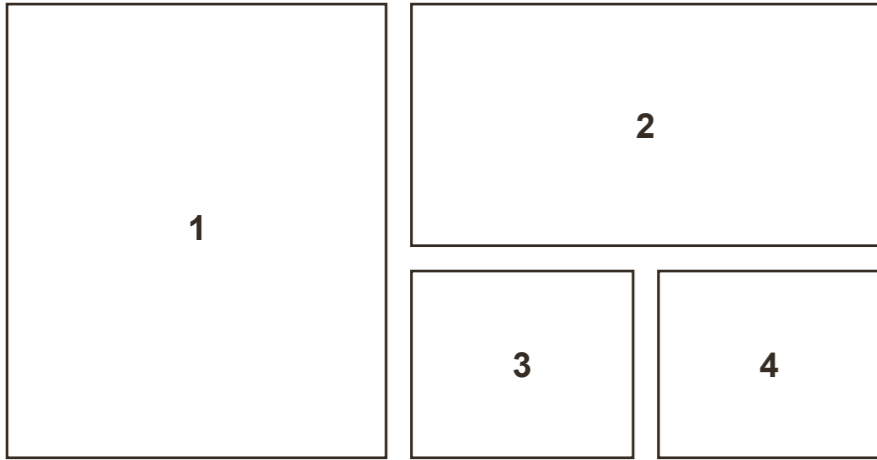




## Oldham's Green Infrastructure Strategy

*AUGUST 2022*



**Photos on front cover:**

- 1. Landscape near Denshaw
- 2. Oldham Town Centre
- 3. Hoverfly
- 4. Snipe Clough

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## Foreword

Green Infrastructure (GI) is vital infrastructure for the health of Oldham’s residents, wildlife and habitats both now and in the future.

As a Green New Deal council, we are committed to becoming carbon neutral as a local authority by 2025 and as a borough by 2030. Our GI strategy will play an important role in achieving these targets.

It will help us to enhance peatland, wetland, woodland and semi-natural grassland habitat to be more effective in storing and sequestering carbon. Promoting high quality active travel routes, it will reduce the need for local car journeys and their resulting emissions.

On the broader theme of climate change, the strategy will help residents, wildlife and habitats to adapt by extending the tree canopy across the borough, connecting the Nature Recovery Network – a national network of wildlife-rich places - and implementing sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) to reduce the risk of flooding.

As the strategy highlights, there are a wealth of existing projects, run by communities, organisations and the council, which protect and enhance the environment for residents and we need to continue to support and encourage this excellent work.

Despite this, Oldham continues to face unique challenges including high levels of physical inactivity amongst residents, concentrated pockets of poor air quality and a lack of wildlife corridors in some areas. These can all be improved by enhancing and growing the GI network in the borough.

The strategy will guide opportunities for a greener, healthier, more biodiverse and prosperous Oldham.

**Councillor Amanda Chadderton**

**Leader of Oldham Council**



Alexandra Park



## Executive Summary

Our Vision for Oldham’s Green Infrastructure (GI) is that by 2037 the borough will be a carbon neutral exemplar with a GI network which brings multiple benefits to people, wildlife and neighbourhoods. Over 75% of Oldham borough is GI. This includes agricultural land (25%), semi-natural habitat (18%), private gardens (12%), deciduous woodland (6%) and amenity space (6%). Although GI is extensive, we need to manage it more effectively to better respond to the needs of people and nature, and ensure it is resilient to the changing climate. We have identified seven priority themes to do this which are introduced below. Figure 1 presents place based opportunities which are linked to the seven priority themes.

### 1. Thriving Wildlife

Our scattered core biodiversity areas can be joined up by increasing tree canopy cover, establishing meadows and wetlands or managing open spaces with biodiversity as an objective. Key corridors and ‘stepping stones’ could be enhanced along our main river valleys; the Medlock, the Beal and the Tame. New developments will help fund biodiversity net gain and in the countryside areas, habitats can be created and enhanced by landowners.

### 2. Carbon Neutral Oldham

Oldham Council aims to be carbon neutral by 2025; and it is hoped the borough will be carbon neutral by 2030. GI will contribute to these targets. Wetlands, woodlands and semi-natural grasslands

are effective at storing and sequestering carbon. We recommend the protection of peat habitats in the uplands and encouraging sustainable agricultural land uses elsewhere. The Bee Network map highlights active travel routes which reduce the need for local car journeys.

### 3. Healthy and Active Communities

The borough has many types of open space including allotments, amenity space, parks and gardens and play space. Over 50% are already ‘good’ quality or better. The GI Strategy and Oldham’s Open Space Assessment set a target that all open spaces are brought up to at least ‘good’ quality.

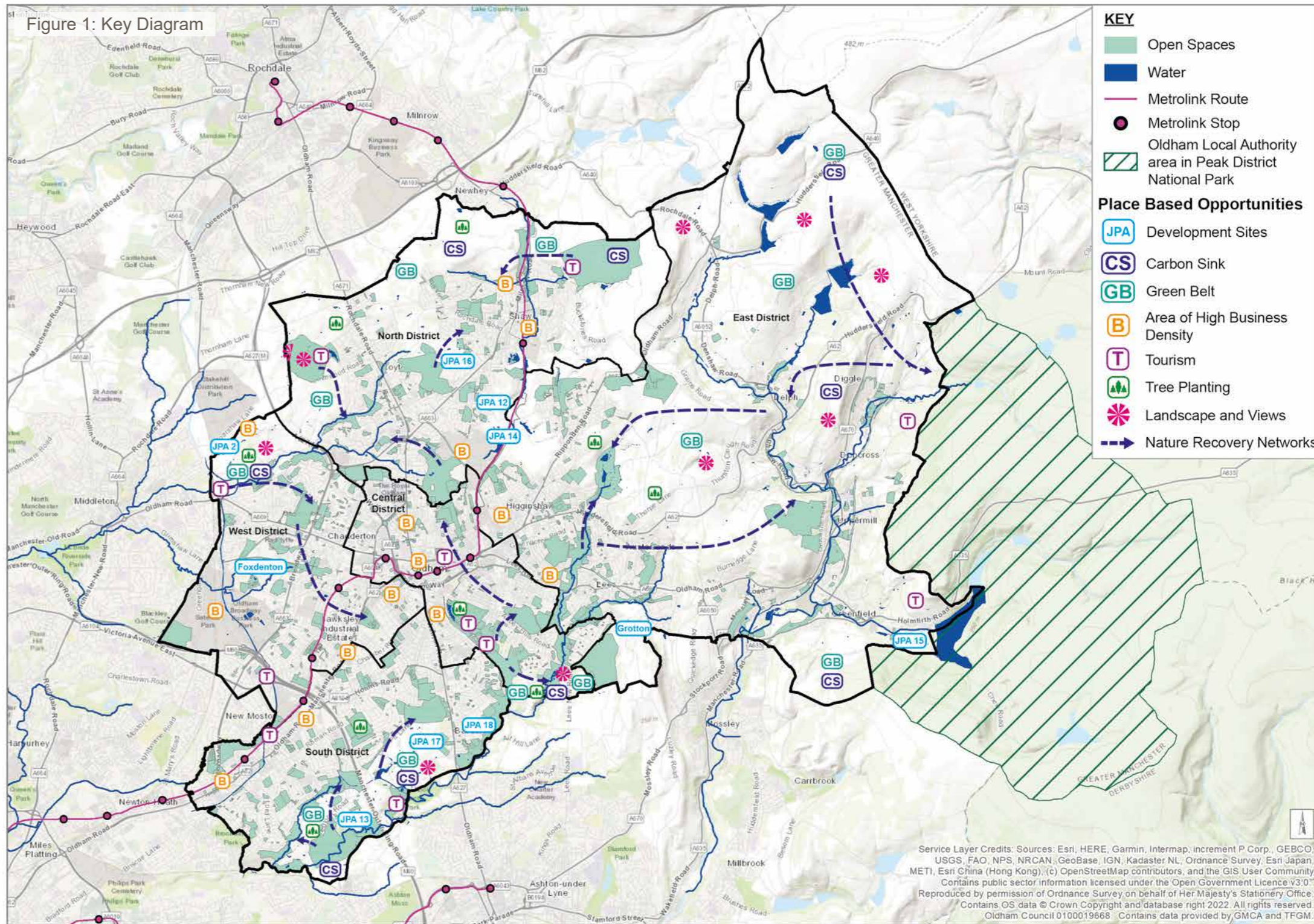
### 4. Green Access for All

Many houses in Oldham’s central wards have no private garden. Nearly a third of Oldham’s population are classed by the NHS as “inactive” i.e. doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week. The GI Strategy highlights potential active travel routes to the borough’s open spaces and recommends a ‘whole system approach’ to increase participation in physical activity.

### 5. Distinctive Landscapes

Oldham has a unique landscape being at the edge of the Pennine range. The valley systems, variation in landform and many long range views contribute to our quality of life and attract visitors. Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has an ambition to plant one million trees by 2024, of which 100,000 trees could be planted in

Figure 1: Key Diagram





Oldham. Our GI Strategy also recommends that most of the borough's wards should have at least 20% tree canopy cover (except on precious peat habitats).

## 6. Slowing the Flow and Water Quality

Four of Greater Manchester's rivers find their source in Oldham: the Beal, Tame, Medlock and Irk. They are all prone to flooding, particularly downstream in neighbouring local authorities. SuDS and natural flood management can mitigate some of flood risks. Parts of Royton, Shaw, River Tame, Lees and Oldham town centre are identified for critical drainage management.

## 7. Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

"Green New Deal" is Oldham's strategy for carbon neutrality and development of the green technology sector (GTS). Oldham's GI can help deliver green jobs through inbound tourism, keeping the borough's reputation for being at the forefront of cutting-edge environmental technologies, and ensuring workers and residents are 'carbon literate' and actively engaged in delivering environmental change.

## Call to Action

Improving the borough's GI resource is a critical task which can only be delivered by Oldham's Council, residents, businesses, charities and landowners working in partnership. The GI network, wildlife habitats, open spaces and active travel routes often cross boundaries

of ownership and responsibility. The Council will invest in GI on its own estate through large initiatives like Northern Roots and the new town centre linear park (Jubilee Park). The Council will also encourage partners to join together to develop other GI initiatives.

# 1.0 Introduction



## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Borough of Oldham is within the north east of Greater Manchester and has a mix of urban townships and rural villages. Being on the edge of the Pennines, Oldham is also home to an abundance of Green Infrastructure (GI) assets which form a key part of the fabric of our towns, villages and landscapes.
- 1.2 Our GI is vital to the quality of life of our residents, workers and visitors. Looking after our GI is part of our goal to become a carbon neutral Borough, and plan for climate change. Investing in our GI will deliver multiple benefits including environmental enhancements, public health and contribution to Oldham's economy.
- 1.3 The GI Strategy will form part of the evidence base for Oldham's emerging Local Plan, which is in the early stages of preparation. The Strategy will guide the protection, enhancement, creation and maintenance of GI across the borough until 2037.
- 1.4 References are contained on Page 150.
- 1.5 In September 2019, Oldham's councillors voted to declare a climate emergency, committing the council to taking action to reduce carbon emissions and 'make space for nature'. It is important that the GI Strategy reflects the objectives of the Climate Emergency Motion, which are woven into our GI vision.

### 1.6 Our Vision for Oldham's Green Infrastructure

*"By 2037, Oldham will be a carbon neutral exemplar with a resilient, multifunctional Green Infrastructure network which brings multiple benefits to the natural and built environment and provides a solid foundation for the Council's response to climate change. Oldham will be a greener and healthier place to live, work and visit".*

### What is Green Infrastructure ?

- 1.7 Green Infrastructure is a network of green spaces and water environments that sustains the ecosystems we need for a good quality of life. Page 3 lists the habitats that make up the GI network, comprising both public and private green and blue spaces.

### Types of GI

- Agricultural
- Allotments
- Amenity open space
- Grounds to public buildings
- Grounds to religious buildings
- Parks and gardens
- Private gardens
- Sport facilities
- Transport corridors
- Semi-natural habitats
- Water: watercourses, canals and reservoirs
- Trees and woodland

Note: definition for each type is provided on page 20

### Creating Multi-functional Networks

- 1.8 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF - 2021) defines green infrastructure as:

*'A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering*

*a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity'.*

- 1.9 Green Infrastructure transcends administrative boundaries and professional specialisms (engineers, town planners, landscape architects and ecologists). Citizens and professionals from a range of disciplines need to collaborate in planning and delivering GI in Oldham.



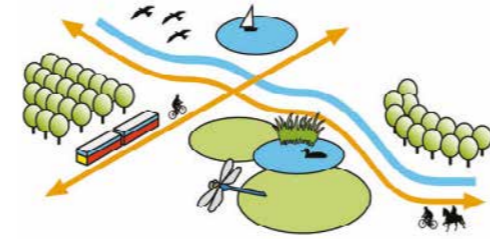
1.10 As the NPPF definition indicates a key concept of GI is the creation of multi-functional networks connecting natural and man-made elements and spaces to enhance neighbourhoods and wider areas. GI can be planned, designed and managed as a network so that the whole is more than the sum of the parts. We can benefit because such networks help our future urban and rural landscape to address challenges such as climate change, flood risk, water management, food supply, providing efficient and renewable energy and creating comfortable, attractive places in which to live.

1.11 The following diagrams provide examples of multi-functional GI networks in a range of situations<sup>1</sup>:

- Main green spine
- Urban areas
- Business park
- Suburban housing
- Country park
- Allotments, smallholdings and orchards
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- Upland Areas

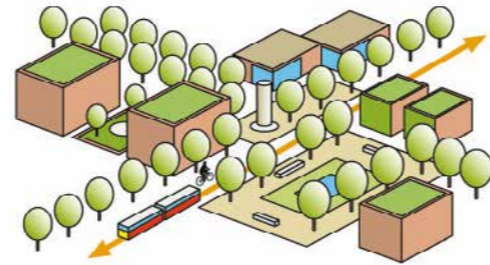
### Main Green Spine

1.12 Trees, green spaces, river valleys and waterways, pedestrian and cycle routes connecting places, reflecting local character, enabling wildlife to flourish, offering sustainable transport routes and reducing the impact of climate change.



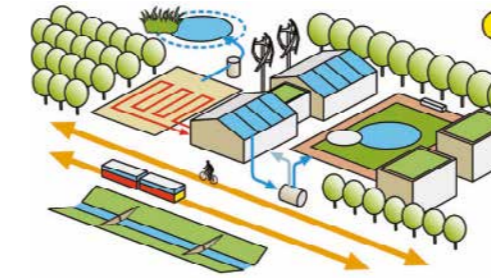
### Urban Areas

1.13 Boulevards, plazas, green roofs and walls making attractive settings for shopping and leisure, improving the vibrancy of local economy. Street trees and green space making our settlements more liveable, providing cooling, shade and cleaner air, giving us spaces for relaxation and healthy living, creating distinctive places and delivering multiple economic benefits.



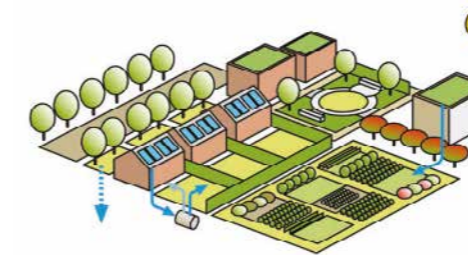
### Business Park

1.14 Attractive settings encouraging inward investment, incorporating sustainable transport, sustainable urban drainage, rainwater collection and waste water cleansing. Creating attractive and distinctive workplaces, contributing to a vibrant local economy and economic benefits, reducing flood risk and climate change impacts and creating space for nature.



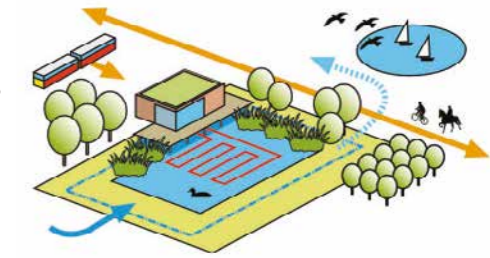
### Suburban Housing

1.15 Spaces for relaxation and healthy living, encouraging social interaction, neighbourhood events and foodgrowing, building community cohesion, making the settlement comfortable and liveable. Improving property values and reducing effects of climate change through natural drainage, renewable energy use and building orientation which maximise solar gain and daylight.



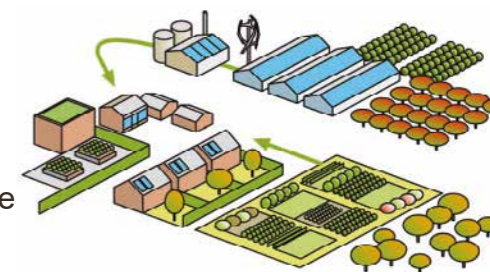
### Country Park

1.16 Range of accessible habitats and green spaces managed for wildlife to flourish and people to enjoy, also giving spaces for relaxation and active recreation. Learning and employment opportunities via interpretation and events and jobs as rangers, green space managers and education outreach.



### Allotments, Smallholdings and Orchards

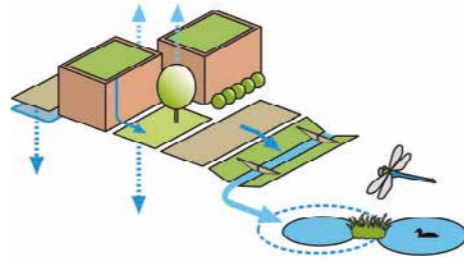
1.17 Providing space to restore locally sourced and distinctive food production and to connect urban populations with the rural economy. Opportunities to learn about and gain apprenticeships in gardening, vegetable and fruit growing, bee-keeping and horticulture, as well as providing for outdoor places and activities that help bring communities together and provide an active lifestyle.





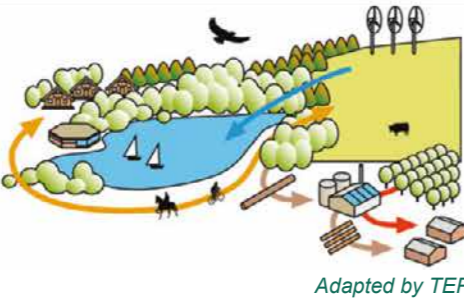
### Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

1.18 Attenuation ponds, swales and reed beds, providing natural ways to reduce flood risk, provide temporary storage and improve water quality, while creating wetland habitats for wildlife in an attractive aquatic setting with additional potential for accessible leisure facilities.



### Upland Areas

1.19 Agriculture, pasture, timber production and timber products, including biomass for local combined heat and power plant and renewable power generation all providing multiple economic benefits and contributing to reducing climate change impact. Areas set aside for extreme sports, relaxation and activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle whilst protecting vulnerable wildlife habitats, restoring peatlands, and retaining the essential natural character of the landscape.



### Ecosystem Services

1.20 People and nature benefit from a multitude of natural resources and processes that are sustained by ecosystems. These 'ecosystem' services include the provision of food, clean water, resources for energy and industry, flood alleviation, pollination, and recreation opportunities. Ecosystem services are grouped into four broad categories: provisioning, such as the production of food and clean water; regulating, such as managing the climate; supporting, such as nutrient cycles and crop pollination; cultural, such as recreational benefits.

1.21 GI planning can help support and underpin ecosystem services and the diagram highlights those particularly relevant to Oldham, including provision of leisure and recreation, provision of food, improving air quality, supporting and enhancing biodiversity, carbon sequestration and natural flood risk management. Using the Mapping GM dataset nine ecosystem services have been mapped and a selection of these maps are located in Chapter 5.0 Oldham's Needs and Opportunities.



Figure 2: Ecosystem Services

### Settlement

1.22 The population of 238,984<sup>2</sup> residents is concentrated in the town of Oldham and the areas of Chadderton, Failsworth, Hollinwood, Royton, Shaw, Crompton, Saddleworth and Lees.

Residents live across five districts (see map on page 23) and twenty wards and make up 8.3% of Greater Manchester's population<sup>3</sup>. Oldham town centre is the main town, acting as the main employment and service centre for the borough. The borough's other town centres of Shaw, Royton, Uppermill, Lees, Hill Stores, Chadderton and Failsworth also provide retail and commercial facilities and services.

1.23 The GI Strategy covers the Oldham Planning Authority area as shown on Figure 3, page 8.

### The National Park

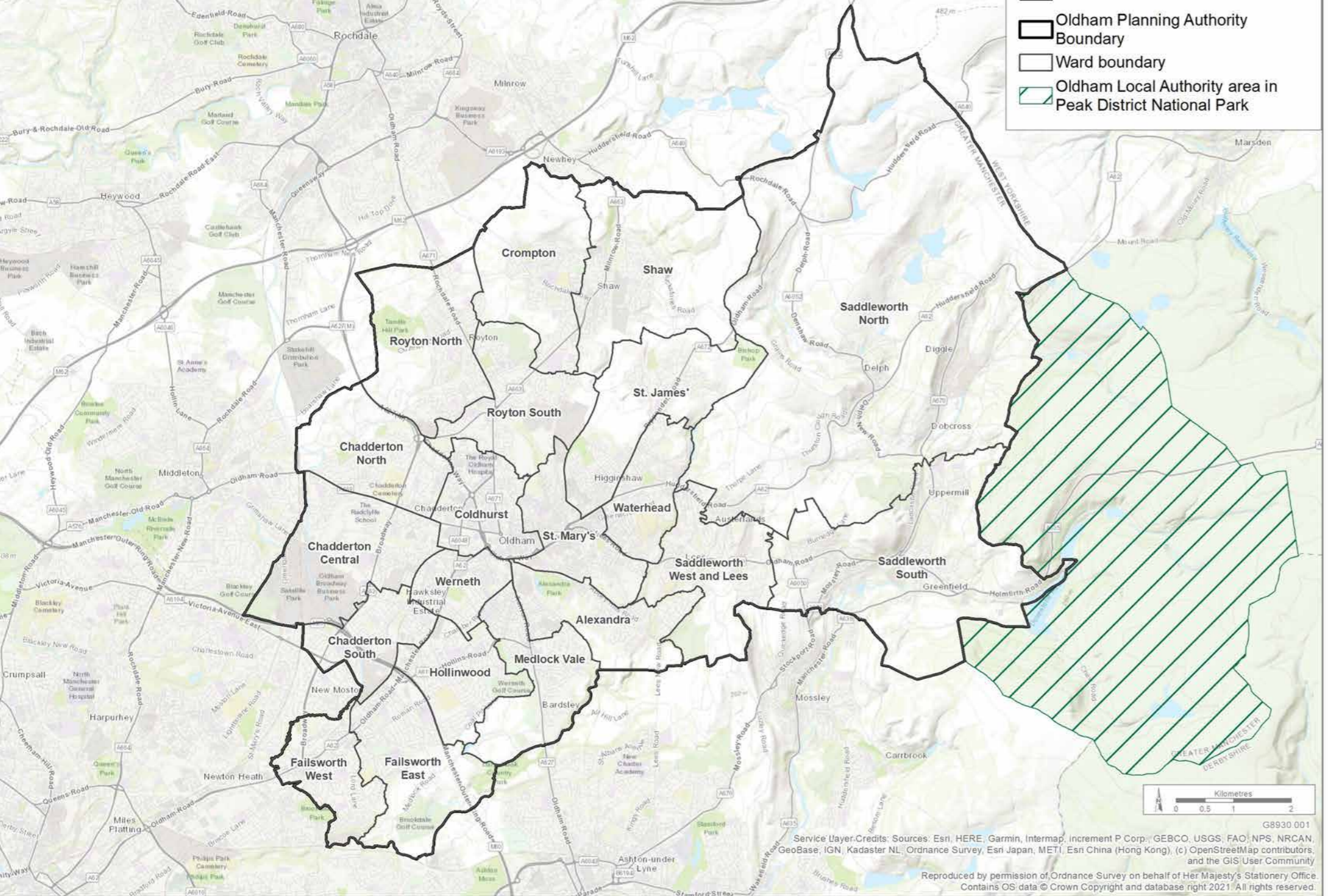
1.24 The GI Strategy does not include the Oldham local authority area in the Peak District National Park (refer to Figure 3), however, it does place great emphasis on protecting the setting of, and the quality of access and links to, the National Park.

### Oldham Open Space Assessment (2021)

1.25 A supporting study, the Oldham Open Space Assessment (2021) considers open space typologies in more detail. That study assesses quantity, quality and accessibility of all open spaces across the borough. It sets standards for open space and will also inform the requirement for on-site or off-site open space in relation to new development. It will become a policy document for the Council and used to inform the emerging Local Plan review.



Figure 3: GI Strategy Study Area



## 2.0 Priorities

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## 2.0 Priorities

2.1 Seven priorities have been identified for the delivery of tangible and impactful action to deliver a resilient Green and Blue Infrastructure network across Oldham. Our priorities have been informed by national and local policies and have been clarified through local stakeholder consultations. The priorities are all interconnected, reflecting that GI delivers multiple benefits. Alongside the priorities are seven themes that will provide structure to the later chapters of the GI Strategy. Table 1 lists the priorities and themes.

Table 1: Priorities and Themes

Priority	Theme
Biodiversity and ecosystems	Thriving Wildlife for Oldham
Climate change and carbon targets	Carbon Neutral Oldham
Quality of life, healthy lifestyles and active travel	Healthy and Active Communities
Equality of Access to GI	Green Access for All
Landscape Character and Trees	Distinctive Landscapes
Water and Flood Risk	Slowing the Flow
Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs	Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

### Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- 2.2 Much of Oldham is recognised nationally and locally for the quality of its wildlife and habitats. Restoring, protecting and improving existing habitats can improve the resilience of Oldham’s biodiversity in the face of climate change and human pressures. Effective networks of GI provide opportunities for wildlife to move and colonise new habitats, which is a key ecological response to climate change.
- 2.3 Biodiversity decline caused by humans and climate change is real. Urgent action is needed in terms of:
- woodland and wetland creation
  - soil conservation
  - establishment of wildlife-friendly landscapes to reverse loss and fragmentation of habitats

### Climate Change and Carbon Targets

2.4 The effects of climate change are increasingly evident and addressing the crisis is rising up the national and local government agenda. The UK government has set a target to become carbon neutral by 2050. Oldham Council has set more ambitious targets with the local authority and the borough to become carbon neutral by 2025 and 2030 respectively. Statistics from UK government show that greenhouse gas

emissions<sup>4</sup> in 2019 (of which 80% are carbon) arose from the following sectors:

- 27% transport
- 22% energy supply
- 17% business
- 15% residential
- 10% agriculture
- 4% waste management

2.5 GI is able to help with adaption and mitigation of climate change and to assist in meeting de-carbonisation targets. For example, comprehensive and connected GI networks can encourage walking and cycling and local day trips, reducing the need for car journeys. Active travel results in lower vehicle emissions and helps to meet carbon targets.

2.6 In terms of adaptation, networks of GI can help prevent increased rainfall causing flood damage. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) can help slow surface water flows. Peat bogs, trees and diverse grasslands are able to lock up carbon from the atmosphere.

### Quality of Life, Healthy Lifestyles and Active Travel

2.7 Physical health is a public health priority, however research undertaken as part of Oldham Adult Active Lives (2018-2019)<sup>5</sup> found that 32.3% of Oldham’s population are ‘inactive’ doing

less than 30 minutes of activity per week. Greater Sport’s research (2019)<sup>6</sup> advised that 45% of Oldham’s children and young people are less active, completing less than an average of 30 minutes of activity per day. The figures for Oldham are less favourable than the average statistics for Greater Manchester (32%) and England (29%). Providing all of Oldham’s residents with good access to GI can raise levels of physical activity such as walking and cycling, having secondary health benefits such as reducing obesity and improving overall levels of health. GI-based activity is a cost-effective method of improving public health.

2.8 The benefits of interaction with the natural, outdoor settings provided by GI assets are well documented, and have been shown to support good mental health, combat social isolation and aid recovery from illness. Population level change will also require a ‘whole system’<sup>7</sup> approach involving policy, social environment and personal choice (see Equality of Access to GI, below).

2.9 Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts, though GI projects have been shown to reduce levels of pollutants in the air. The GMCA Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) extends to Oldham and incorporates major roads though the borough including the M60, Oldham Way through the town centre, the A627 in the north of the borough and several roads through Chadderton linking the M60 to



Oldham Way and the A627. AQMAs are areas where pollutants are above recommended levels, posing a health risk to the population. Targeting GI in these areas with street trees and pocket parks can have a range of positive benefits. This needs to be combined with the promotion of active travel (see below) as an effective measure in reducing vehicle emissions.

2.10 TFGM, as part of the [Clean Air Zone](#) (CAZ) work, modelled the roads in the area likely to be above the objectives for Air Quality.

2.11 GI can also be used to encourage active travel, providing an enhanced environment for integrated walking and cycling networks, promoting improved health and reducing carbon emissions. Increasing investment now in maintaining and creating these assets will make us healthier both physically and mentally and can have wider social benefits in addressing inequalities. Sport England<sup>8</sup> has devised ten principles of active design to inspire and inform the layout of cities, towns, villages, neighbourhoods, buildings, streets and open spaces, to promote sport and active lifestyles. GI can contribute to the 10 principles which are:

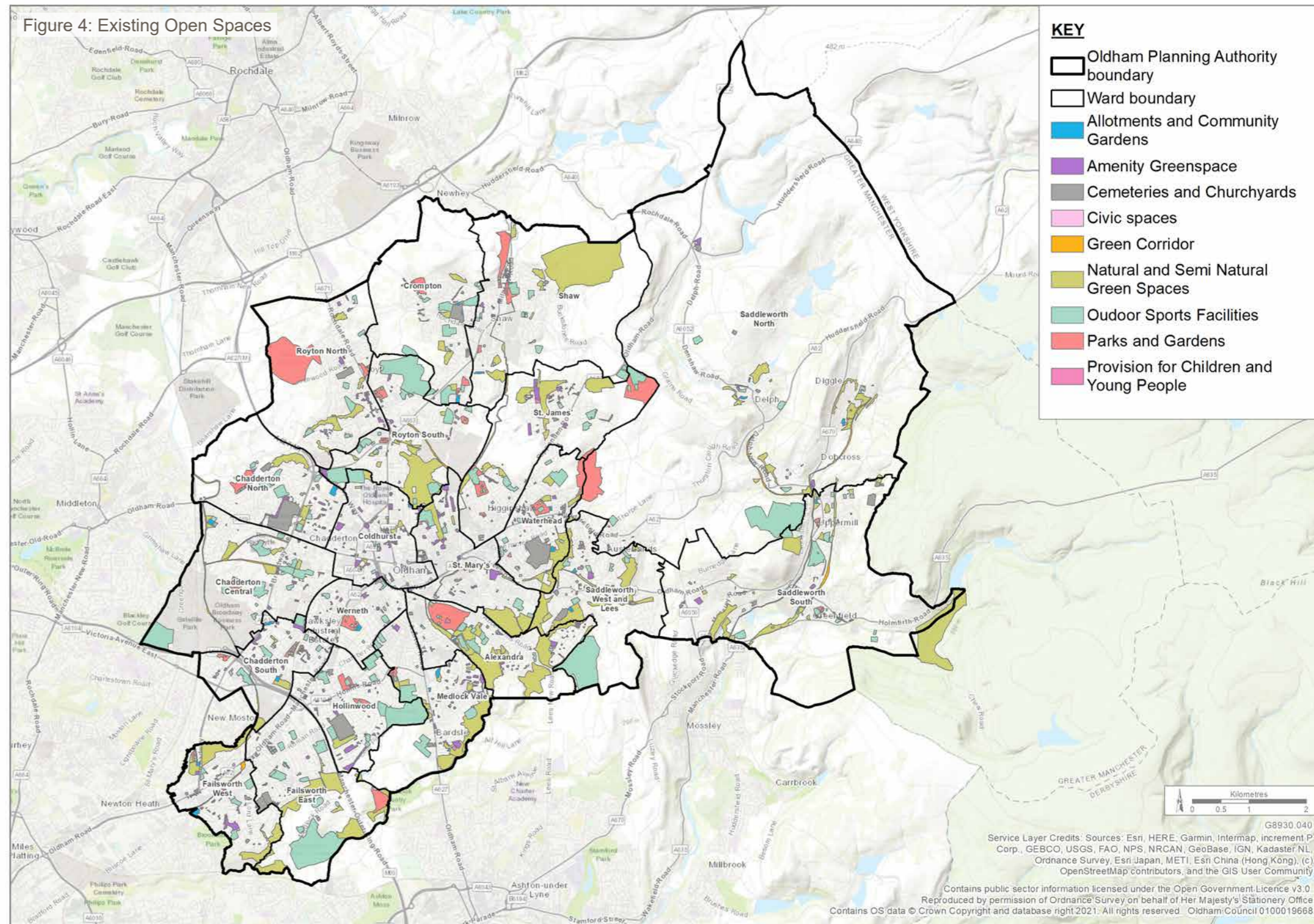
- Activity for all neighbourhoods
- Walkable communities
- Connected walking and cycling routes
- Co-location of community facilities
- Network of multifunctional open space
- High quality streets and spaces
- Appropriate infrastructure
- Active buildings
- Management, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation
- Activity promotion and local champions

### Equality of Access to GI

2.12 A number of residential properties in Oldham, particularly the central wards of Werneth, Coldhurst and St Mary's have no private garden space, often compounded by limited access to public open space. The supporting Oldham Open Space Assessment (2021) highlights where there is particular need for access to open space.

2.13 There are other social issues around access to GI where there may be no family tradition in the use of open space near to the home for exercise, wellbeing and socialising. Alternatively, there may be concern for personal safety surrounding the use of open space. The Greater Manchester Moving Strategic

Figure 4: Existing Open Spaces





Framework 2017-21 (GMCA) is the comprehensive plan to reduce inactivity and increase participation in physical activity and sport. It advocates a 'whole system approach' using person centred principles, understanding individual needs and encouraging behaviour change. The framework will focus on the places and demographic groups with the highest levels of inactivity to maximise health benefits for all, in particular those from lower income groups, those with a long-term disability or illness, older people and people from black and minority ethnic groups.

### Landscape Character and Trees

- 2.14 The landscape of Oldham gets its unique identity from its geology and dramatic topography being at the edge of the Pennine range. The valley systems and variation in landform means there are many distinctive long range views to the north, south and west. There are also more local views to key landforms and landmarks such as the peak at Wharmton (Grasscroft), Oldham Edge and tall buildings in Oldham town centre. Planning for GI at landscape scale can ensure that the character can be conserved and enhanced in the more rural parts of Oldham.
- 2.15 GI can also bring a sense of place to urban areas through street trees, shrub and hedgerow planting, greens, pocket parks and green corridors. Any proposals should embody the ten

principles of active design (referred to above under Quality of Life).

- 2.16 There is an ambition to plant one million trees in Greater Manchester by 2024 to contribute to a '*clean, carbon-neutral, climate resilient city region with a thriving natural environment*'. This means that Oldham, being one of ten authorities, could plant up to 100,000 trees by 2024 which would bring many benefits to people and nature. However, peat is present in the east of the borough which needs restoring and enhancing and extensive tree planting would not be suitable here. Tree planting also needs consideration so as not to interrupt distinctive views.



View from Diggle Uppermill towards Wharmton Tower

### Water and Flood Risk

- 2.17 GI can be planned in a way that helps to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding, drawing on catchment wide approaches for landscape scale management. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and natural flood management (NFM) such as woodland planting, leaky dams and grip-blocking can slow the flow of surface water whilst providing a range of other benefits for wildlife .
- 2.18 Four rivers find their source in Oldham: River Beal, River Tame, River Medlock and River Irk. All of these are subject to flooding downstream of the study area and SuDS and natural flood management can mitigate some of these risks. Water quality is also pertinent to better management of riparian land in the upper section of the rivers can reduce sediments reaching the rivers.
- 2.19 Oldham's watercourses, reservoirs and canals are also valued for recreational activities such as sailing, canal cruising, paddle boarding and providing an enhanced setting for walking and cycling. Enabling people to safely access Oldham's blue infrastructure and encouraging more young people to get involved in water-related sports is key for physical and mental wellbeing.

### Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

- 2.20 Green New Deal<sup>9</sup> is Oldham's strategy for carbon neutrality and development of the green technology sector (GTS). Oldham's GI can deliver green jobs through:
- Generating inbound tourism by building on Oldham's reputation for being a green, attractive and forward-thinking sustainable borough
  - Keeping Oldham at the forefront of development and deployment of cutting-edge environmental technologies
  - Ensuring that Council staff and strategic partners, residents, schools and businesses are 'carbon literate' and actively engaged in delivering environmental change.
- 2.21 A 2013 study<sup>10</sup> indicated Oldham's low carbon business sector comprised 118 companies, employing 2,300 people, with a market value of £338 million. Oldham has a strong asset base for developing the GTS sector: a solid engineering presence, affordable and available premises, good connectivity to Manchester and the motorway network and high-quality natural capital. The sector is expected to grow fast and GI is part of the attraction for workers in this sector.



2.22 In Oldham's voluntary and community sector, there are:

- An estimated 1,231 voluntary organisations, carrying out 1.8 million interventions annually with their clients, users or beneficiaries
- 37,000 volunteers who contribute 90,300 volunteer hours a week
- A paid workforce with 2,200 full-time equivalent posts

2.23 Oldham's GI can assist the third sector by providing places for environmental volunteering events and training in outdoor skills.

2.24 Northern Roots is a project in Oldham that will create the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park and will contribute to sustainable growth, green jobs, along with community, education and learning opportunities.

2.25 It is described in more detail from paragraph 3.68.

## 3.0 Oldham's GI Resource



### 3.0 Oldham's GI Resource

3.1 The Borough of Oldham covers 11,800 hectares and has a rural character to the east and an urban character to the west. The rural east includes moorland, grassland, woodland, watercourses, reservoirs and villages nestled in valley bottoms. The urban west is extensively developed but does also include wooded river valleys, a canal corridor and a network of green spaces. Approximately 77% of Oldham is green infrastructure of which 10% is designated for international, national or local biodiversity value.

3.2 Table 2 provides a summary of the approximate percentage of GI in infrastructure by type, including coverage in hectares.

3.3 The mapping on the following pages uses the datasets from Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) MappingGM, with updates to that dataset following the site audits for the Open Space Assessment (Autumn 2021). Although related to the Open Space Assessment, the Mapping GM data presents information by habitat type and is more detailed than the former which is presented by open space type.

Table 2: Approximate Percentage (%) of GI Type in Oldham Borough Planning Authority Boundary

GI Type	Approximate Hectares	Approximate Percentage (%) of Oldham Borough land (planning authority)
Agricultural land	2931	24.86
Allotments	17	0.14
Amenity	724	6.14
Grounds to public buildings	127	1.08
Grounds to religious buildings	64	0.54
Parks and gardens	79	0.67
Private Gardens	1370	11.62
Sport facilities	356	3.02
Transport corridors	55	0.47
Other Greenspace	189	1.60
Semi-Natural Habitat	2165	18.36
Water	163	1.38
Coniferous woodland	58	0.49
Deciduous woodland	726	6.16
Other woodland	23	0.20
Unclassified	19	0.16
Non GI	-	-
Urban	2,725	23.11

### GI Type % of Oldham Land

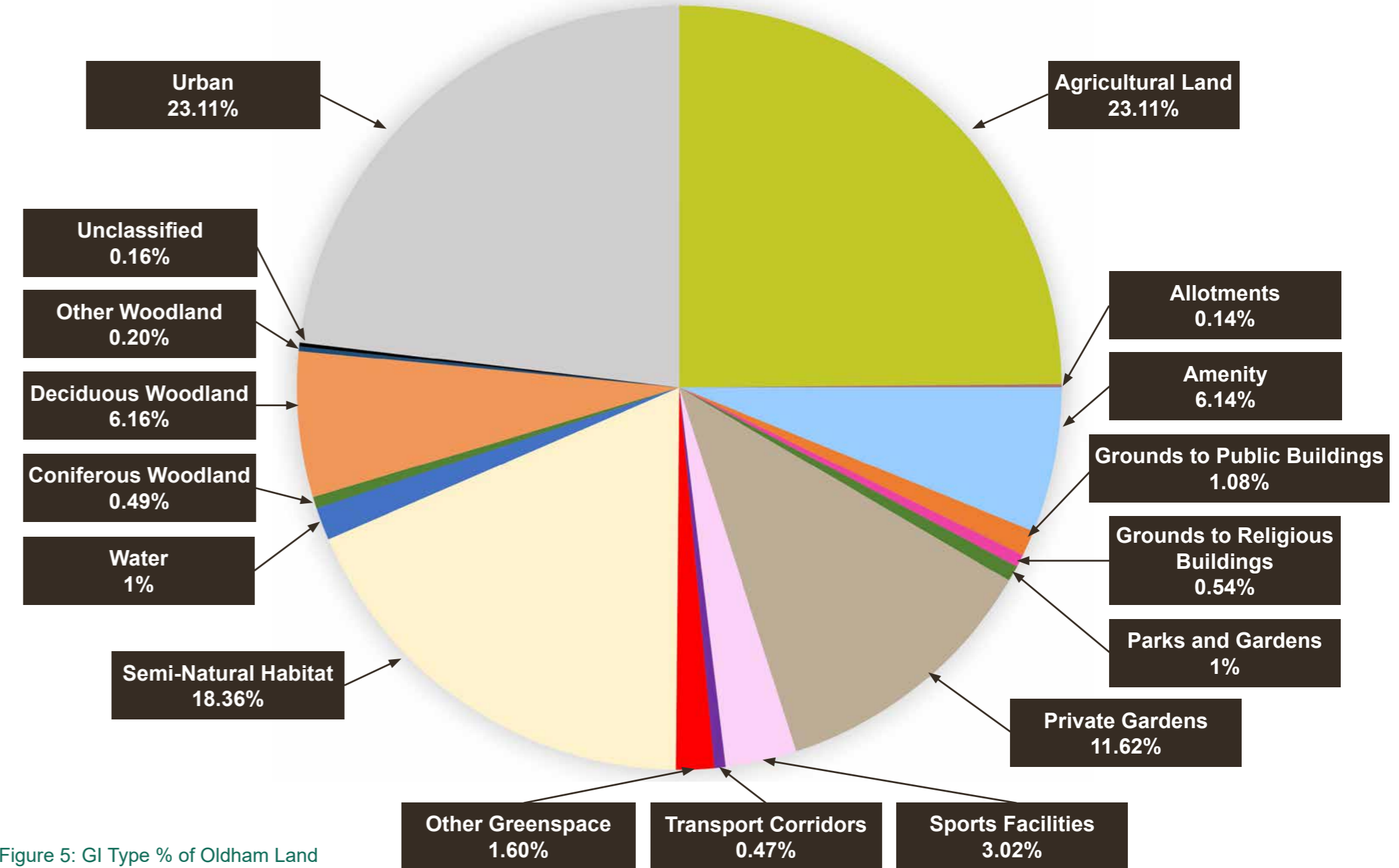


Figure 5: GI Type % of Oldham Land



## GI Type

### Agricultural Land

- 3.4 A large area of the borough is agricultural land, primarily pastoral or hill grazing, with relatively little arable land.

### Allotments

- 3.5 The borough has 31 allotments and community grounds for food growing ranging in size from 0.1 to 1.5 hectares.

### Amenity

- 3.6 Amenity includes informal recreation space under a Council management regime along with other grassed areas in private ownership.

### Grounds to Public Buildings

- 3.7 These are open spaces to public buildings such as schools, colleges and hospitals.

### Grounds to Religious Buildings

- 3.8 Grounds to religious buildings include external spaces to places of worship and cemeteries.

## Parks and Gardens

- 3.9 Parks are open spaces that have well defined boundaries and a strong sense of place and design. They include country parks and contain a range of facilities which cater for a wide range of users including young children, teenagers, families, office workers and the elderly. There are 40 parks and gardens in the borough ranging in size from 0.02 to 48.35 hectares.

### Private Gardens

- 3.10 Private gardens are areas of soft landscape within the plot boundary of a residential property. They are common in low and medium density housing, however some areas of high density housing have no private garden provision.

### Sport Facilities

- 3.11 Sport facilities include bowling greens, tennis courts, playing pitches (including school pitches), recreation grounds and golf courses. There are 246 sites in the borough for outdoor sport ranging in size from 0.016 to 44.26 ha.

### Transport Corridors

- 3.12 This type of GI includes landscaped verges to the road network and the rail and Metrolink system.

## Other Greenspace

- 3.13 This includes incidental open space that does not comply with the definition of the other amenity GI types described above.

### Water

- 3.14 There are three types of water body in the borough: reservoirs, canals and watercourses. There are several reservoirs in the east including Dowry Reservoir and the Castleshaw Reservoirs. The Huddersfield Narrow Canal passes near to the eastern edge of the borough, while the Rochdale Canal passes near to the western edge of Oldham. The Rivers Tame, Medlock, Irk and Beal all rise from higher ground in the borough.

### Coniferous Woodland

- 3.15 There are relatively large areas of this type of woodland at Oldham Edge and at Crompton Moor.

### Deciduous Woodland

- 3.16 This is mixed broadleaved woodland and there are many areas of this type of woodland across the borough. Mixed broadleaved woodland has a particular association with the valley landscape of the River Medlock.

### Other Woodland

- 3.17 This includes small, incidental areas of woodland.



## Disposition of Broad Habitat Types

3.18 Key findings for the disposition of broad habitat types: agricultural, greenspace, semi natural habitat, water, woodland and urban are outlined below for the five districts:

- North: Royton, Shaw and Crompton
- East: Saddleworth (including the parish) and Lees
- Central: Oldham town centre, Glodwick and Derker
- South: Hollinwood and Failsworth
- West: Chadderton and Werneth

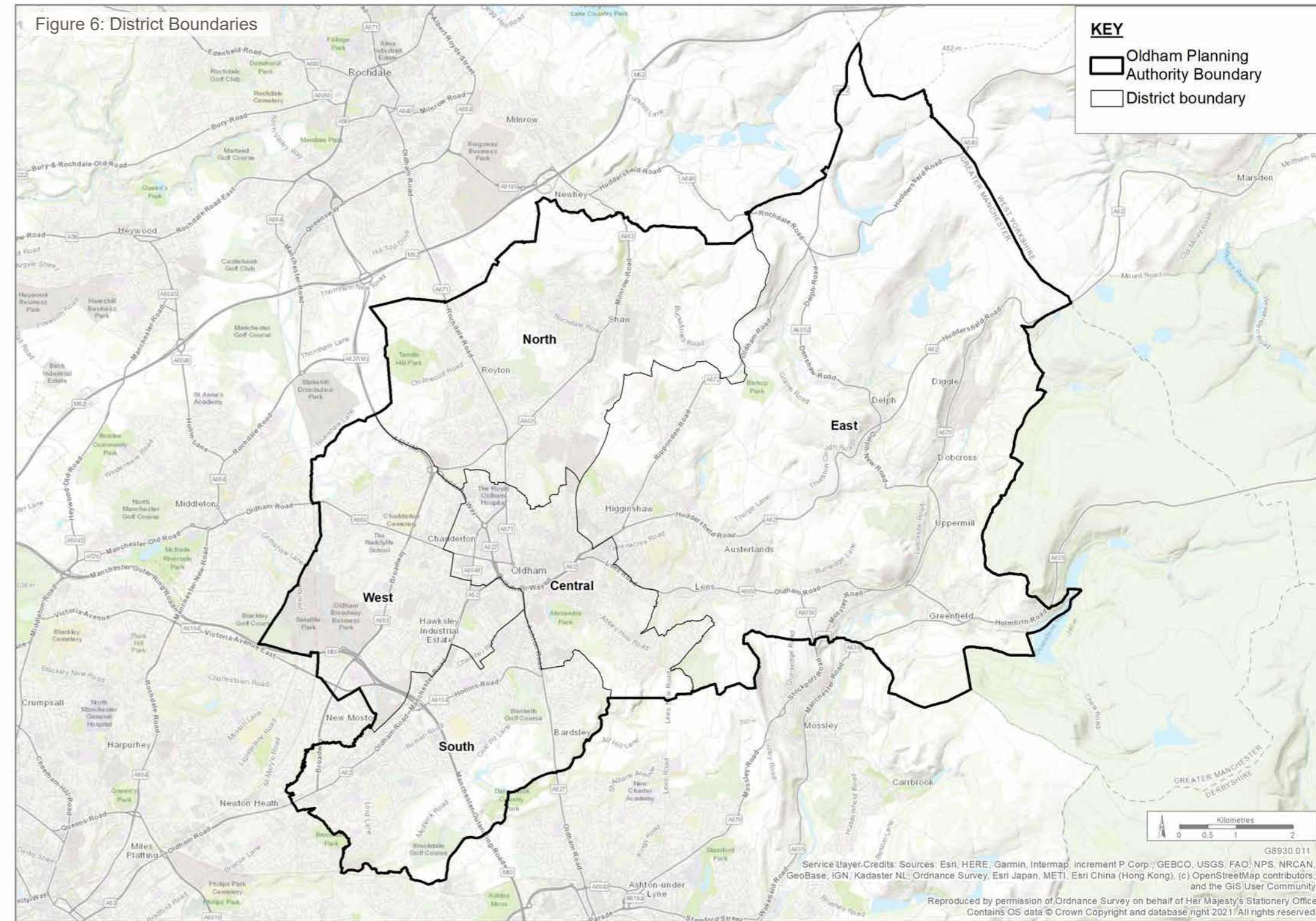


Stream near Denshaw



Oldham Town Centre

Figure 6: District Boundaries





North District

Royton

3.19 A summary description of broad habitat types for Royton is as follows:

*Agricultural*

- Agricultural land is to the northern, eastern and western fringes of Royton and is predominantly pasture

*Greenspace*

- Larger areas of greenspace include Tandle Hill Country Park (including wooded areas) which is to the west and Crompton and Royton golf course to the east
- There are a range of smaller greenspace types throughout Royton



Tandle Hill Country Park, Royton

- A medium to high proportion of residential properties have private gardens

*Semi Natural Habitat*

- There is a small area of semi natural habitat at the southern edge of Summit

*Water*

- The River Irk flows from Low Crompton in a westerly direction through Royton and is partly culverted as it passes through the settlement
- A tributary to the River Irk meanders through Oozewood Clough along the western edge of Royton

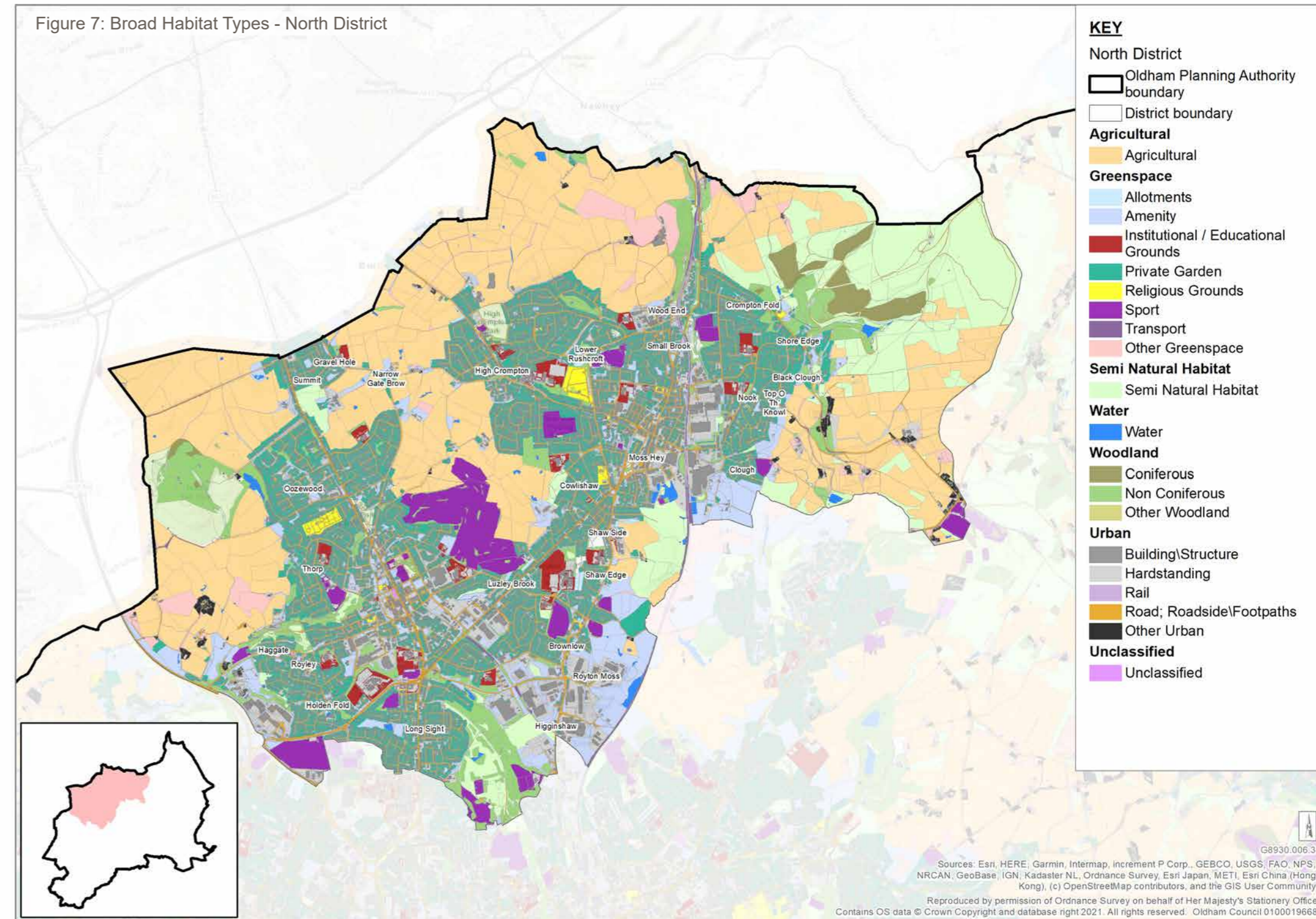
*Woodland*

- There is a wooded corridor along the River Irk, west of Rochdale Road (A671)
- A large wooded area links the south of Royton with Oldham Edge. It is interspersed with pockets of amenity space

*Urban*

- There are large retail and employment related building footprints and areas of hardstanding at Royton town centre and Royton Moss
- Residential areas have a medium density of built form

Figure 7: Broad Habitat Types - North District





## Shaw and Crompton

3.20 A summary description of broad habitat types for Shaw and Crompton is as follows:

### *Agricultural*

- Agricultural land is to the northern, south eastern, southern and western fringes of the town and is predominantly pasture

### *Greenspace*

- Crompton Moor and Dunwood Park form the larger areas of accessible greenspace (also referred to below)
- High Crompton Park and Crompton Cemetery
- There are a range of smaller greenspace types throughout Shaw
- A medium to high proportion of residential properties have private gardens

### *Semi Natural Habitat*

- There are areas of moorland and blanket bog at Crompton Moor

### *Water*

- Tributaries of the River Beal flow northwards from Royton

Moss, from higher ground east of Shaw and from Brushes Clough Reservoir

### *Woodland*

- The largest wooded areas are at Dunwood Park and at Crompton Fold

### *Urban*

- There are large employment related building footprints and areas of hardstanding east of Shaw centre.
- Residential areas have a medium to high density of built form



View from Delph towards Crompton Moor



View from Sholver towards Royton Moss



East District

Saddleworth

3.21 A summary description of broad habitat types for Saddleworth is as follows:

*Agriculture*

- Agriculture is the predominant habitat type in the Saddleworth area with pasture and grazing extending from the north east (Denshaw) to the urban fringes of Oldham

*Greenspace*

- There are larger areas of greenspace near to Oldham’s urban fringe, with Besom Hill Country Park at Sholver and Strinesdale Country Park at Waterhead. Greenacres Cemetery is an open space of amenity value
- There are smaller areas of greenspace in the Saddleworth towns and villages, including a linear corridor linking Uppermill with Greenfield
- A medium to high proportion of residential properties have private gardens

*Semi-natural habitat*

- The north eastern area is characterised by blanket bog extending from Denshaw Moor to Standedge

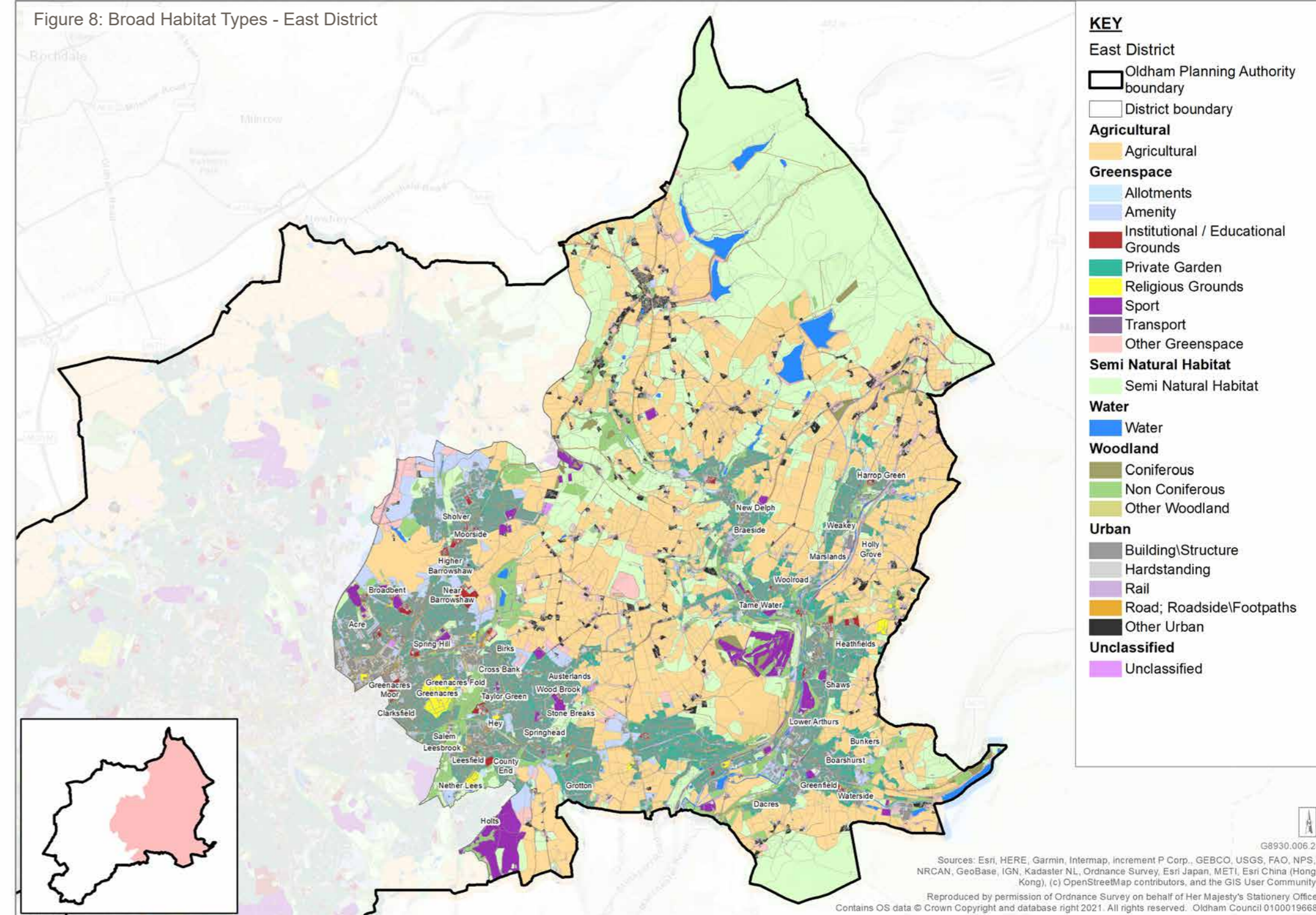


Greenacres Cemetery



Denshaw Moor

Figure 8: Broad Habitat Types - East District





*Water*

- The River Tame and its tributaries define the valley system and outfall from the reservoirs: Readycon Dean, Crook Gate, New Years Bridge, Castleshaw and Diggle. The River Tame continues south into Tameside
- The Huddersfield Narrow Canal emerges from the tunnel (from Marsden) at Diggle and heads along the valley bottom to Uppermill and Greenfield and then south into Tameside

*Woodland*

- There are blocks of woodland on the slopes to the valley system

*Urban*

- Towns and villages in the Saddleworth area include Greenfield, Uppermill, Delph, Diggle, Denshaw. Residential areas have a medium density of built form
- Eastern urban fringes of Oldham include: Sholver, Higginshaw, Austerlands and Greenacres with a medium to high density of built form



Open Space at Sholver

*Lees*

3.22 A summary description of broad habitat types for Lees is as follows:

*Agricultural*

- Agricultural land is to the eastern and southern fringes of Lees and is predominantly pasture

*Greenspace*

- There is a connected wooded corridor linking Greenacres to Alt along the River Medlock
- A medium to high proportion of residential properties in the Lees area have private gardens, other than Clarksfield where many have no private garden space

*Semi Natural Habitat*

- There is an area of semi natural grassland at Springhead

*Water*

- The River Medlock outfalls from the reservoir at Strinesdale Country Park and Thornley Brook rises at Austerland and flows along the southern edge of Lees

*Woodland*

- There are wooded corridors to the River Medlock system of watercourses (referred to above)

*Urban*

- Lees is characterised by medium to high density of built form.



Leesbrook Nature Park



Footpath through Leesbrook Nature Park



Central District

Oldham

3.23 A summary description of broad habitat types for Oldham is as follows:

*Agricultural*

- There is a small area of pasture in the southern part of the district at Mill Brow and Cockfield Farm

*Greenspace*

- There is an area of parkland and sport at Oldham Edge and Alexandra Park south of the town centre
- There are large areas of amenity space and woodland, south east of Alexandra Park, that will form part of the proposed Northern Roots urban farm and eco park
- A small to medium proportion of residential properties have private gardens
- A number of terraced residential properties have no private garden space

*Semi Natural Habitat*

- There is a large area of semi natural grassland next to the River Medlock, south of Alt

*Water*

- The River Medlock flows southwards in the southern part of the district

*Woodland*

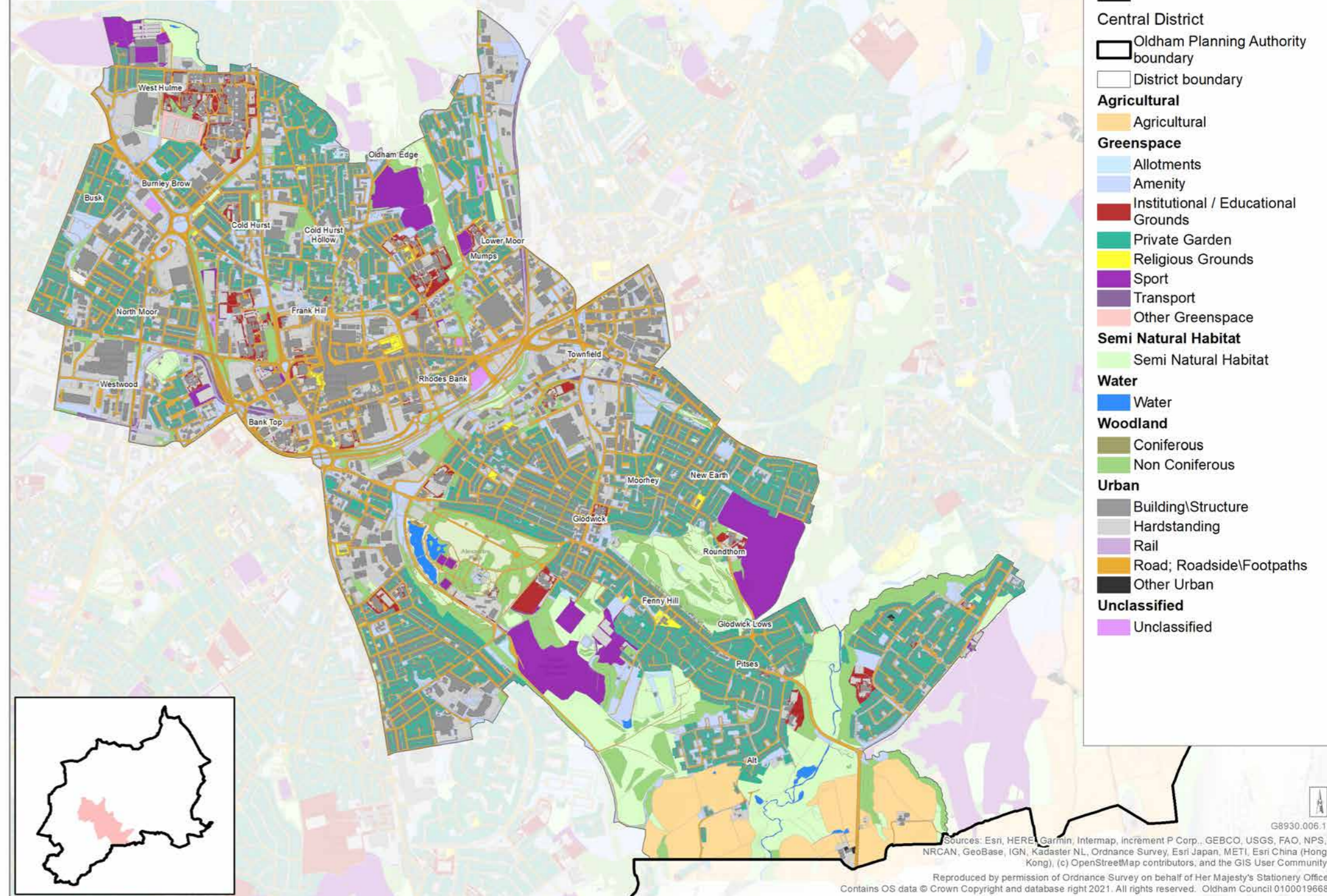
- There are wooded areas associated with Oldham Edge, Alexandra Park and the Northern Roots site

*Urban*

- Oldham town centre and the Royal Oldham Hospital have virtually no open space and very limited other types of GI such as woodland
- There are large employment related building footprints and areas of hardstanding at Townfield and Westwood
- Oldham Way is a major section of road infrastructure that creates severance in terms of movement from the town centre to the south and west
- Residential areas in the district have a medium to high density of built form



Figure 9: Broad Habitat Types - Central District





South District

Hollinwood

3.24 A summary description of broad habitat types for Hollinwood is as follows:

*Agricultural*

- There is pasture along the southern edge of Hollinwood from Fitton Hill to the M60 corridor

*Greenspace*

- The larger areas of greenspace include Daisy Nook Country Park (partly in neighbouring Tameside), areas of amenity space and woodland that will form part of Northern Roots, Lime Gate Cemetery and Werneth Golf Club
- There are smaller areas of greenspace across Hollinwood
- A medium to high proportion of residential properties have private gardens

*Semi Natural Habitat*

- There is a corridor of semi natural grassland extending along a watercourse from Bardsley to Crime Lake

*Water*

- The River Medlock flows in a south westerly direction along the southern district boundary. It continues into the City of Manchester
- The Hollinwood Branch Canal runs from Crime Lake to Ashton Road (A627)
- Crime Lake is a small water body near the southern edge of Hollinwood

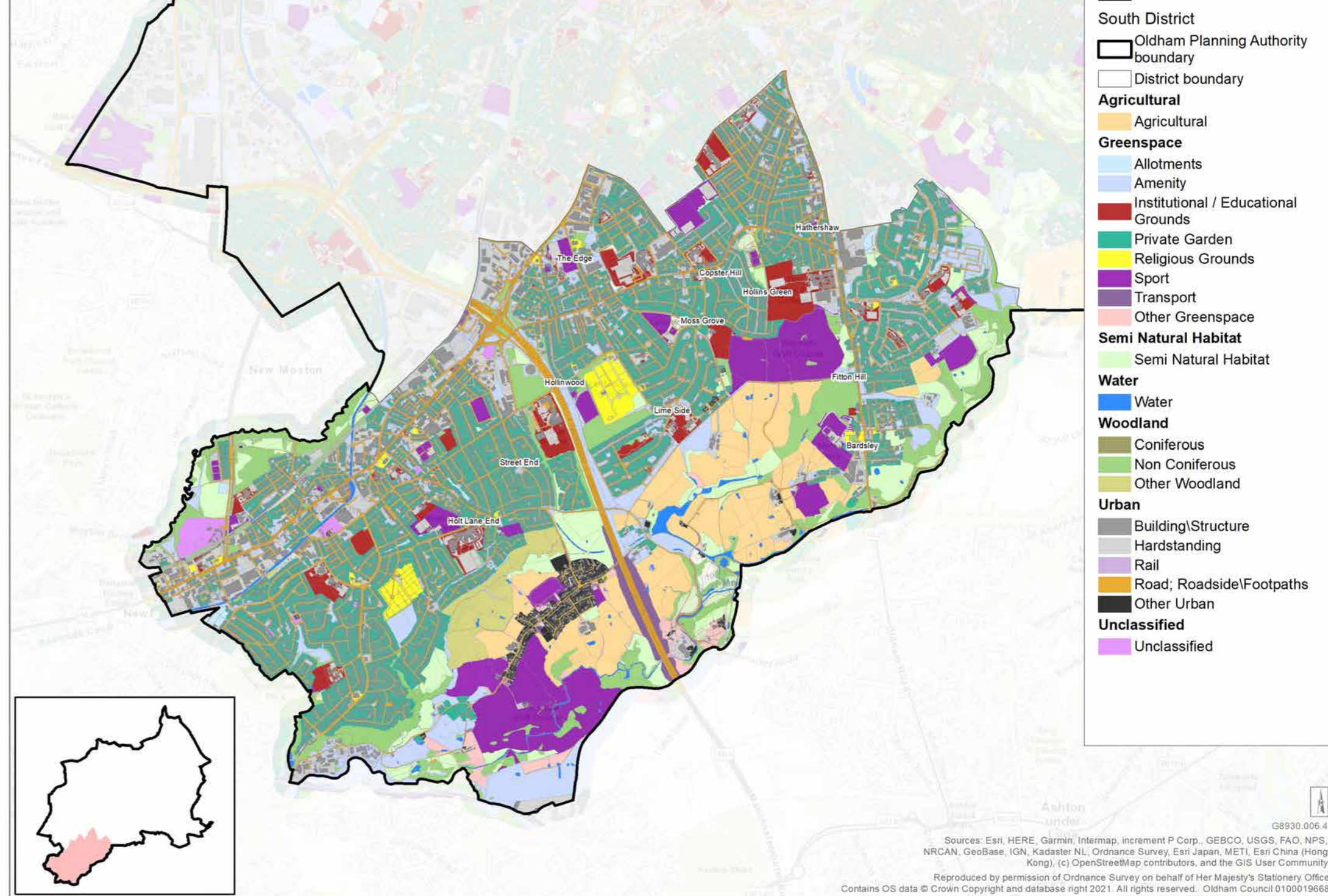
*Woodland*

- There are extensive areas of woodland at Daisy Nook Country Park

*Urban*

- There are large employment related building footprints and areas of hardstanding along the frontage to Manchester Road (A62)
- Residential areas have a medium to high density of built form

Figure 10: Broad Habitat Types: South District





Failsworth

3.25 A summary description of broad habitat types for Failsworth is as follows:

*Agricultural*

- There is pasture north of Woodhouses and to the west of the M60 corridor

*Greenspace*

- The larger areas of greenspace are at Moston Brook and Brookdale Golf Club (Woodhouses)
- There are smaller areas of greenspace across Failsworth, including Failsworth Sports Campus and Failsworth Cemetery
- A medium to high proportion of residential properties have private gardens

*Semi Natural Habitat*

- There are small pockets of semi natural habitat near to the River Medlock and Lord's Brook

*Water*

- The River Medlock flows in south westerly direction along the southern district boundary. It continues into the City of Manchester

- Lord's Brook, near the southern edge of Failsworth, is a tributary to the River Medlock, rising near Woodhouse Green
- The Rochdale Canal runs through the centre of Failsworth and the towpath accommodates Sustrans National Cycle Route 66

*Woodland*

- There are wooded corridors along the River Medlock and Lord's Brook

*Urban*

- There are large retail and employment related building footprints and areas of hardstanding along the Oldham Road (A62) corridor
- Residential areas have a medium to high density of built form



Allotments at Failsworth



West District

Chadderton

3.26 A summary description of broad habitat types for Chadderton is as follows:

*Agricultural*

- There is pasture on land at the northern fringes of Chadderton

*Greenspace*

- There are some larger areas of greenspace at Werneth Park and Chadderton Cemetery
- There are smaller areas of greenspace across Chadderton and Werneth
- There is relatively high provision of outdoor sports sites

*Semi Natural Habitat*

- There are some pockets of semi natural habitat along the western side of the A627 (M), north of Chadderton

*Water*

- The River Irk flows in a westerly direction near to the northern edge of Chadderton and it continues westwards into the City of Manchester

- A tributary to the River Irk rises near to Broadway (A663) and Foxdenton Farm
- The Rochdale Canal runs to the western edge of Chadderton and the towpath accommodates Sustrans National Cycle Route 66

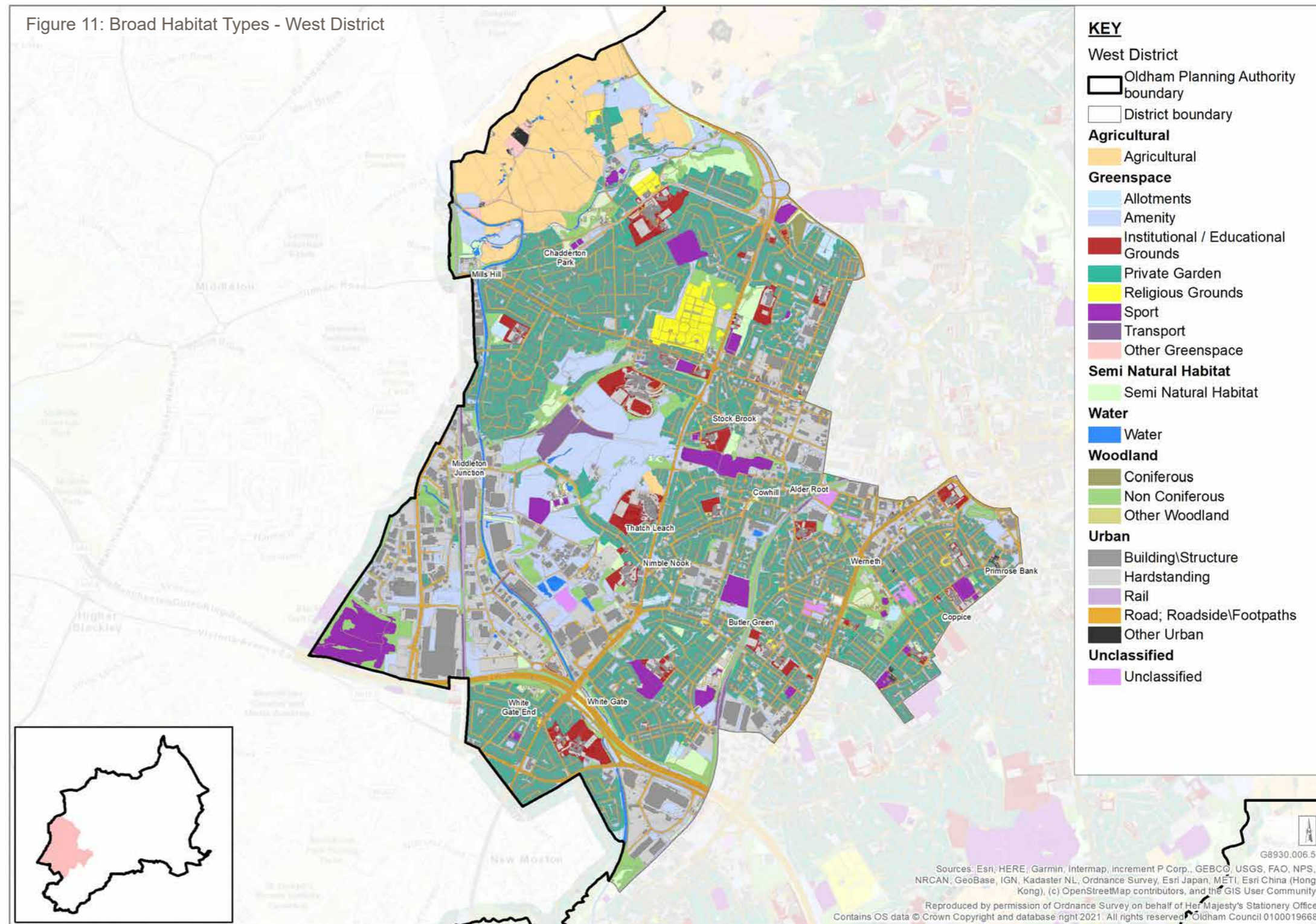
*Woodland*

- There is a wooded corridor along the River Irk along the northern edge of Chadderton towards Mills Hill

*Urban*

- There are large building footprints and areas of hardstanding at Oldham Broadway Business Park and at the employment area at Stockfield Road
- Residential areas have a medium to high density of built form

Figure 11: Broad Habitat Types - West District





## Cycle and Walking Network

3.27 The Bee Network Map opposite shows the Oldham extents of the cycling and walking proposal for Greater Manchester. Prepared by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) in 2018 it is updated on a regular basis with new information, including comments from the general public. The Bee Network is a vision for Greater Manchester to have a fully joined up cycling and walking network to get more people cycling and walking for local journeys. The Bee Network is mainly on quiet streets, connected by new or upgraded crossing facilities of main roads. Some of the Bee Network has been implemented, others are proposed and subject to further investigation.

3.28 The map also includes on-road, off-road, canal towpaths and National Cycle Network routes as compiled by the local authorities in Greater Manchester.

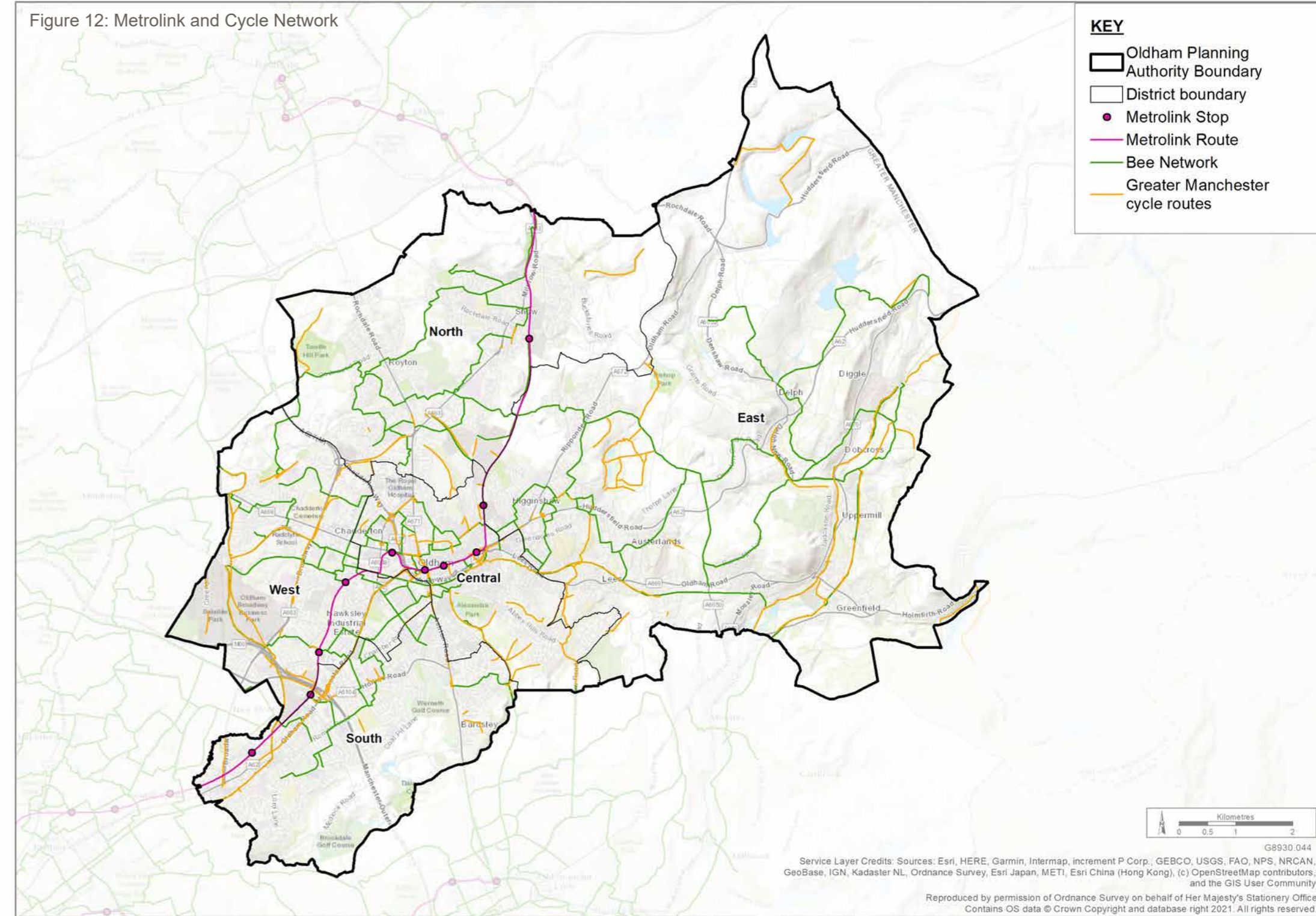


Precedent cycle infrastructure in Copenhagen, Denmark



National Cycle Network route in Trafford, Greater Manchester

Figure 12: Metrolink and Cycle Network



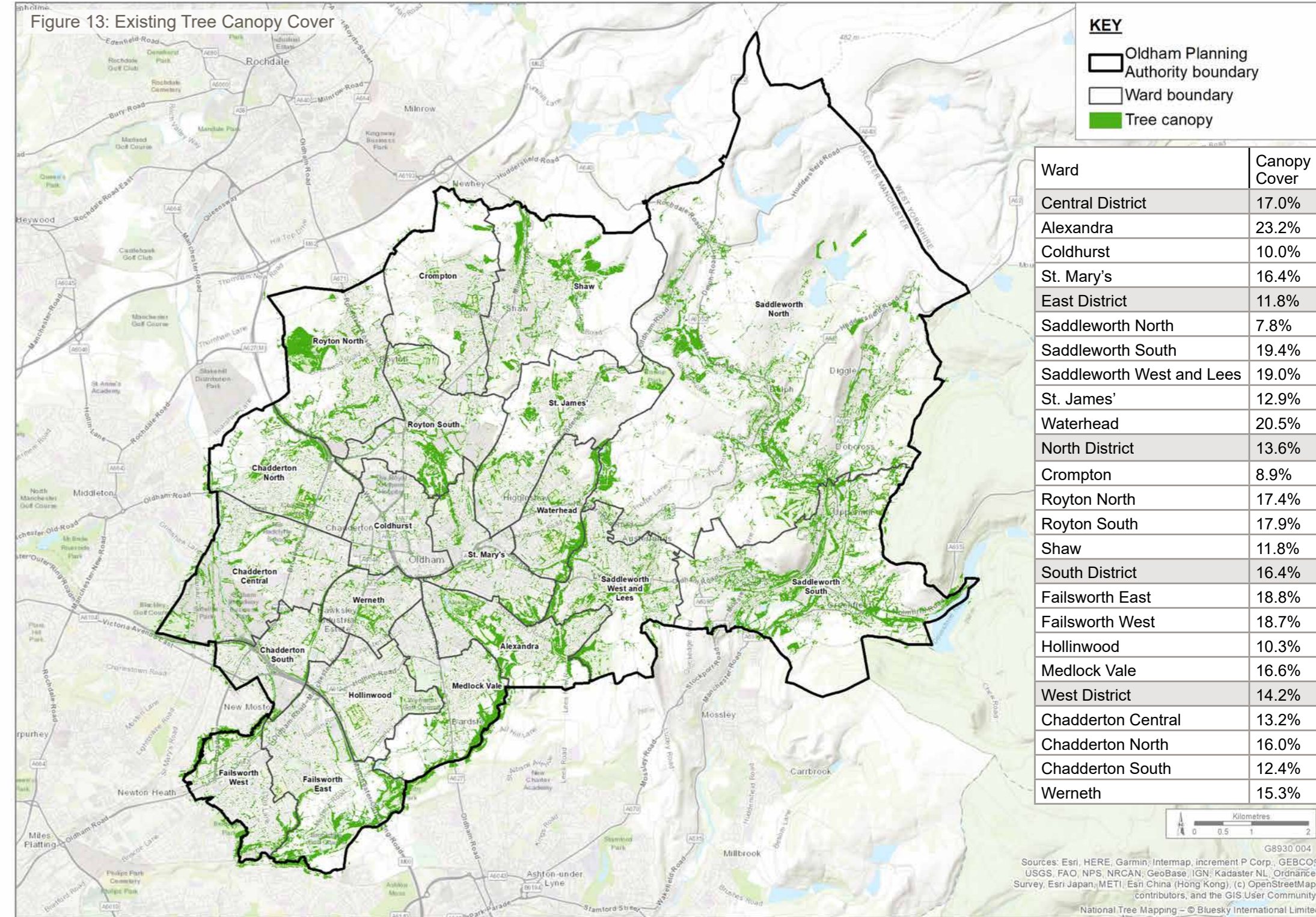


### Tree Cover

- 3.29 The map opposite (Figure 13) uses the National Tree Mapping dataset to present canopy cover across the borough using highly accurate infra-red aerial photography mapping trees over 3 metres in height. This type of mapping is pertinent as it is through their crown spreads that trees deliver benefits particularly when large numbers of trees have extended canopies over a larger area. The dataset confirms that the average canopy cover across the borough is 13.4%, with the percentage canopy cover per ward indicated on the map.
- 3.30 The borough's average tree canopy cover compares with 16% for Greater Manchester<sup>11</sup> and 14% for Greater London<sup>12</sup>. The Canopy Cover of England's Towns and Cities<sup>13</sup> advises that the mean tree canopy cover of England's towns and cities is 16.4%. Evidence from the report shows that trees are a cost effective remedy in moderating heat stress, reducing elevated levels of air pollution, managing rainfall and contributing to human well-being. With reference to Scottish, Welsh and international cities a minimum tree canopy cover target of 20% for UK towns and cities (15% for coastal locations) is recommended.
- 3.31 In terms of Oldham there is a notable spatial pattern to the tree canopy in that it tends to extend along some of Oldham's main river corridors including the River Medlock from its source near Strinesdale Country Park and then along a south westerly direction towards the boundary with Manchester. There is a

similar pattern of tree cover along the course of the River Tame from Delph towards the boundary with Tameside. Other areas of extended tree canopy are at Tandle Hill Park, Crompton Moor and Oldham edge.

- 3.32 Figure 13 highlights the absence of tree canopy in some of the more elevated areas of Saddleworth and Shaw wards due to the presence of peatland habitat. The later section (paragraph 4.18) on the draft Greater Manchester Nature Recovery Strategy highlights that peat should be improved or restored for their ability to sequester carbon. Large areas of tree planting in these areas would not be suitable.
- 3.33 During 2019 Oldham Council commissioned a Valuing Oldham's Urban Forest<sup>14</sup> study to set out detailed evidence in terms of:
- species composition
  - size class
  - benefits of trees to people and nature
- 3.34 In terms of species composition in urban Oldham, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash\* (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) are the most three commonly recorded trees with 15.8%, 8.3% and 6.4% of the population respectively. In rural Oldham, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash\* (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Larch (*Larix kaempferi*) are the three most commonly recorded trees with 31.6%, 15.8% and 13.2% of the population respectively.





3.35 Size class distribution is an important factor in managing a sustainable tree population, as this will ensure that there are enough young trees to replace those older specimens that are eventually lost through old age or disease. The majority of trees in Oldham are in the lowest size categories, 72% of the trees recorded have a diameter at breast height (dbh) of less than 30cm, whilst around 40% of the trees have diameters less than 15cm. Across Oldham approximately 28% of the tree population is larger than 30cm dbh. This compares favourably with cities and towns in other regions of England, where the Trees in Towns 2 survey found that on average only 10–20% of trees have a dbh that is greater than 30cm. Large mature trees offer unique ecological roles not offered by smaller or younger trees. Furthermore, older trees with larger crowns provide greater benefits than a similar number of smaller sized trees. To maintain or increase a level of mature trees, young trees are needed to restock the larger size classes (with surplus) to include planning for mortality.

\* Ash die back is an issue in the borough and the Council officer responsible for tree matters confirmed that up to 60,000 trees (over 10% of total tree stock) could be affected in the study area. The Council has a programme of removal of ash trees affected by the disease on its landholdings.

### Ecosystem Services Resource

3.36 The Valuing Oldham’s Urban Forest Study reports on the following ecosystem services resource, in brackets, provided by trees in terms of benefit to people and nature and as a monetary value.

- Air pollution (air quality)
- Carbon storage (carbon sequestration)
- Stormwater runoff (flood risk management and water quality)

#### Air Pollution

3.37 Urban trees can help to improve air quality by reducing air temperature and by directly removing pollutants from the air. They intercept and absorb airborne pollutants through leaf surfaces. By removing pollution from the atmosphere, trees reduce the risks of respiratory disease and asthma, thereby contributing to reduced health care costs.

#### Carbon Storage and Sequestration

3.38 Trees can help mitigate climate change by sequestering atmospheric carbon as part of the carbon cycle and storing carbon in their structures in the long term. Tree stems and roots can store up carbon for decades or even centuries. Over the lifetime of a single tree, several tonnes of atmospheric carbon dioxide can be absorbed.

### Stormwater Runoff

3.39 Surface water runoff can contribute to flooding and a source of pollution to watercourses and wetlands. During rainfall events, a proportion of the precipitation can be intercepted by vegetation (trees and shrubs) while a further quantity of rain reaches the ground. Precipitation that reaches the ground and does not infiltrate into the soil becomes surface water runoff.

3.40 The Valuing Oldham’s Urban Forest Study establishes a monetary value of each ecosystem services resource (see table below). It includes trees on land owned by First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) as co-sponsors of the study, and then trees in rural and urban Oldham set out separately in the table.

3.41 Table 3 sets out the confirmed annual values which show significant natural capital savings for people and nature.

Table 3: Summary Figures

Air Pollution Removal	Area	Air Pollution Removed (tonnes)	Value (£)
-	First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO)	2.04	£32,252.00
-	Rural Oldham	39.50	£624,974.00
-	Urban Oldham	23.30	£369,424.00
-	Study Area	64.82	£1,026,649.00

Carbon Sequestration	Area	Carbon Sequestration (tonnes/yr)	Value (£)
-	FCHO Urban	153.00	£9,770.00
-	Rural Oldham	1,502.00	£95,879.26
-	Urban Oldham	1,513.00	£96,608.88
-	Study Area	3,168.15	£202,254.57
Stormwater Runoff	Area	Avoided Runoff (m³/yr)	Avoided Runoff Value (£/yr)
-	FCHO Urban	6,367.15m³	£9,654.80
-	Rural Oldham	123,382.60m³	£187,090.00
-	Urban Oldham	72,932.14m³	£110,550.00
-	Study Area	202,679.89m³	£307,333.10

### Biodiversity

#### Habitat

3.42 The borough and the surrounding areas support a wide variety of wildlife-rich habitat. The eastern half of Oldham supports large tracts of moorland (upland heath and blanket bog), much of which lies within the South Pennines Moor SPA (Special Protection Area) and Peak District National Park. This area contains over a third of the county’s wet heath. Major upland reservoirs at Castleshaw and Dovestone add to the diversity of habitats.



3.43 The rivers Medlock, Irk and Tame have their sources high up in the Pennines and provide important corridors for wildlife to move through, as they flow through the borough. Oldham also has significant areas of both unimproved and semi-improved acid grassland.

3.44 The stretch of the Rochdale canal that runs through the borough has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area for Conservation (SAC).

**Wildlife**

3.45 The moorland supports important numbers of breeding upland birds, including Golden Plover, and is also home to a small population of Mountain Hares. Ravens have recently returned to the borough's high land. They can be located by their gruff calls and can be seen in late winter performing their spectacular aerial displays.

3.46 Roe Deer are an increasingly common site in the woodlands and Badger, Fox, Stoat, and Weasel add to the variety of mammals to be found in Oldham.

3.47 During spring large numbers of Common Toads head towards the ponds and lodges in the Uppermill area to spawn. Oldham's ponds also support three species of Newt as well as the Common Frog. Extensive conifer plantations provide a habitat for specialist species of bird and fungi.

3.48 The Oldham section of the Rochdale Canal SSSI contains important habitats for submerged plants and emergent vegetation including floating water-plantain and an assemblage of aquatic flora. The canal also provides habitat for a number of waterside bird species. Coot, moorhen and mallard breed along the length of the canal, whilst grey wagtail also breeds in smaller numbers and kingfisher regularly use the canal for feeding. Improvements in habitat management at Daisy Nook have resulted in an increase in Orchids, relocated when the M60 was extended.

3.49 Many of the borough's habitats can be categorised as important sites for wildlife and are defined as a key habitat type in line with the designations or descriptions below:

**Designated Sites**

3.50 Internationally Designated Statutory Nature Conservation Sites:

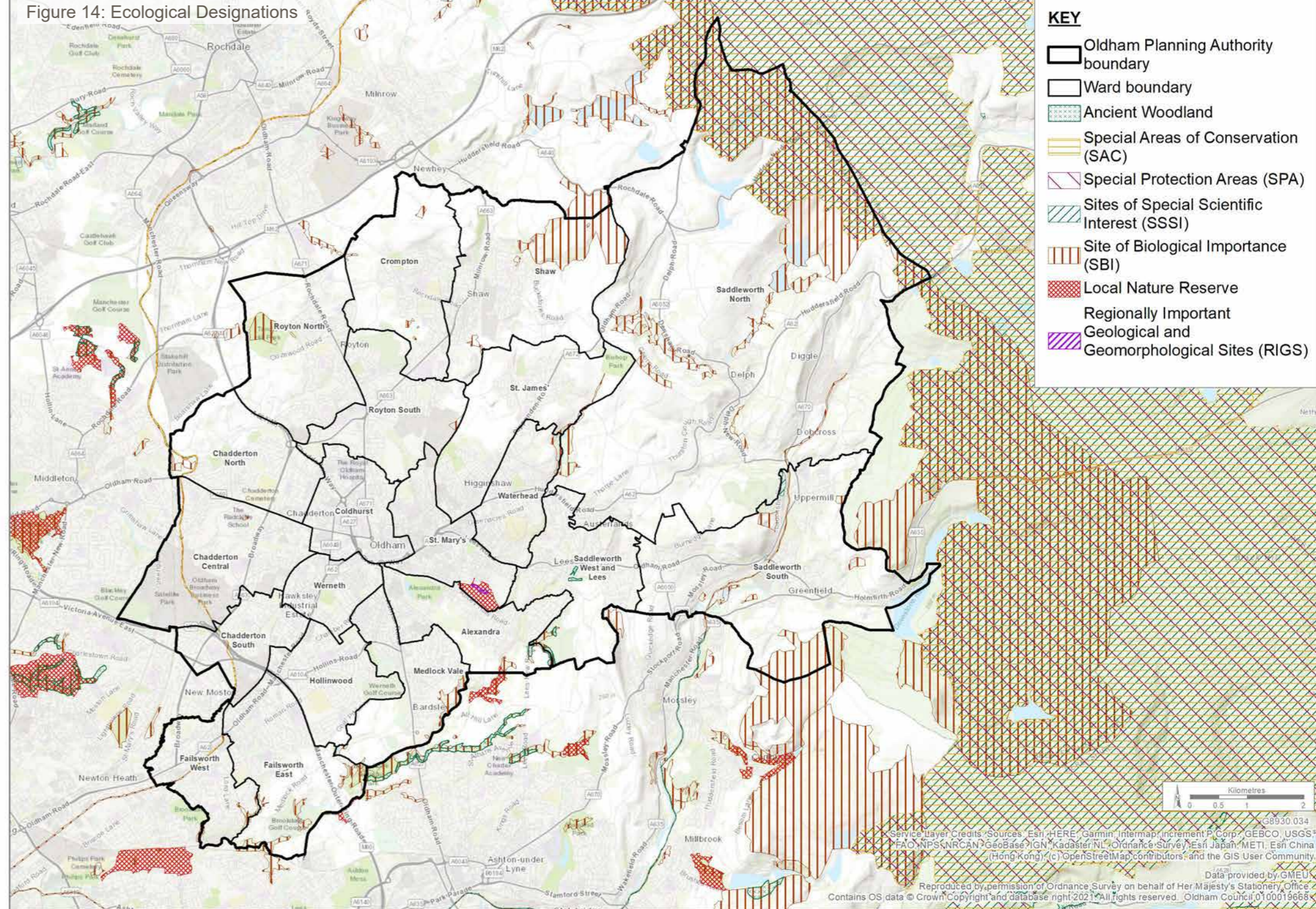
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

3.51 Nationally Designated Statutory Nature Conservation Sites:

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

3.52 Locally Designated Non-statutory Sites:

- Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs)





3.53 Ancient woodland is formally defined on maps by Natural England.

3.54 More detail on habitats is provided from page 62 under the draft Greater Manchester Nature Recovery Strategy. Analysis of the quantity of biodiversity units by ward is provided in Chapter 5.0 Needs and Opportunities (page 75).

### Landscape Character

3.55 During 2018 Greater Manchester Combined Authority undertook a Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment<sup>15</sup>. It established that there are six landscape character types (LCT) across the borough ranging from urban fringe landscapes to open moorland.

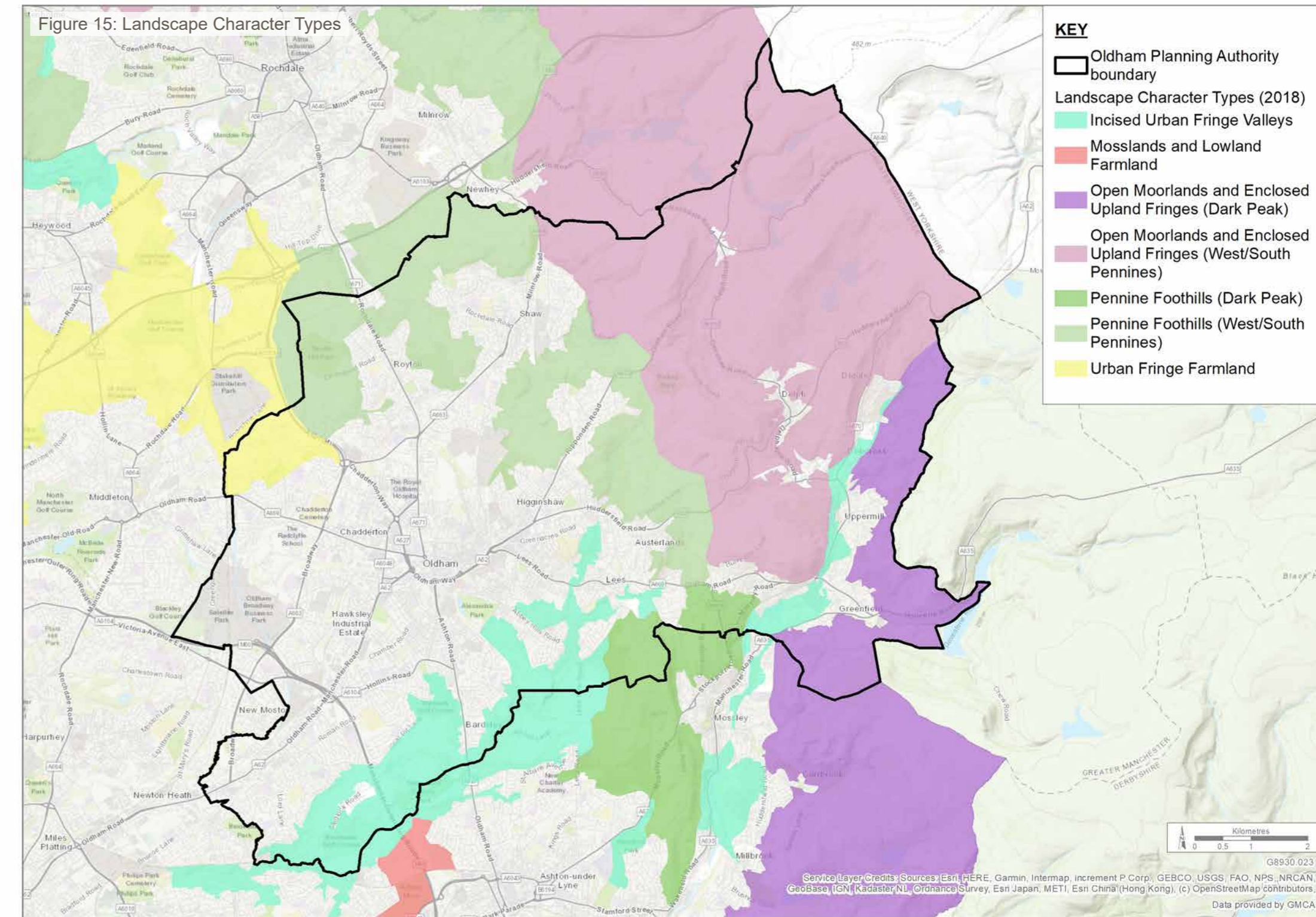
3.56 The Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (West/South Pennines) LCT is in the east of the borough extending north from Uppermill to Castleshaw Moor and is a remote and highly rural landscape of uplands and upland fringes. Generally the landscape is intact with an important mosaic of textured semi-natural upland habitats on the unenclosed moorland and grassland traditionally managed by sheep grazing in the enclosed fields. Long, panoramic views are afforded by the high elevations. There is often intervisibility with the dramatic Dark Peak moorlands of the Peak District National Park, particularly in the eastern parts of the LCT.

3.57 The Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (Dark Peak) LCT is on the eastern valley side of a tributary to the River Tame extending from Diggle to Greenfield and east into the Peak District National Park. This is a remote, highly rural landscape with few modern influences. Character and perceptions are strongly influenced by the elevated open moorlands rising up to the National Park and beyond. Elevation affords expansive views west over Greater Manchester, with tall tower blocks often featuring. To the east, the moorlands blend into those of the adjacent National Park, emphasising contrasting wild and remote qualities.

3.58 There is a small area of the Pennine Foothills (Dark Peak) LCT near Grasscroft. This rural landscape sits at the edge of urban communities, evidenced by the presence of urban fringe land uses such as golf courses and well-grazed pony paddocks, detracting from the traditional farmed 'Dark Peak' character of the wider area. Elevated points afford expansive views over the sprawling urban lowlands, often featuring mill chimneys, tower blocks and industrial warehouses.

3.59 The Pennine Foothills (West/South Pennines) LCT is the landscape to the eastern fringes of Lees, Shaw and Royton. Despite the close proximity of urban development, this is a strongly rural and traditional working landscape characterised by pasture fields, reservoirs and wooded cloughs and stream with a transitional, upland fringe feel. Trees are frequent and

Figure 15: Landscape Character Types





provide a naturalistic quality to the landscape and characterise skylines. There is a variable visual character depending on topography and vegetation cover; there are some long views across the urban conurbation to the West and South Pennine uplands and the Peak District. Other areas are visually enclosed due to valleys or vegetation which creates wooded skylines.

3.60 A small area of the Urban Fringe Farmland LCT is in the north west of the Borough, north of Chadderton and extending into Rochdale. This is a predominantly rural landscape of low grade pasture land and semi-improved grassland associated with stock rearing and rough grazing. The more elevated, rolling farmland has an exposed and open character with little sense of enclosure and strong visual connections with surrounding landscapes.

3.61 The Incised Urban Fringe Valleys LCT is associated with the River Medlock as it flows westwards from Alt towards Daisy Nook Country Park. The narrow incised valleys are typically wooded and have a natural character, with areas having a strong sense of seclusion and relative tranquillity, contrasting with surrounding densely populated urban areas. Views are typically contained by the steep valley sides and woodland. From the more elevated locations along the valley sides there are views to the surrounding Pennine uplands and over Greater Manchester.



Upper Tame Valley – LCT Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes



Leesbrook Nature Park – LCT Incised Urban Fringe Valleys

## Existing Green Infrastructure Initiatives

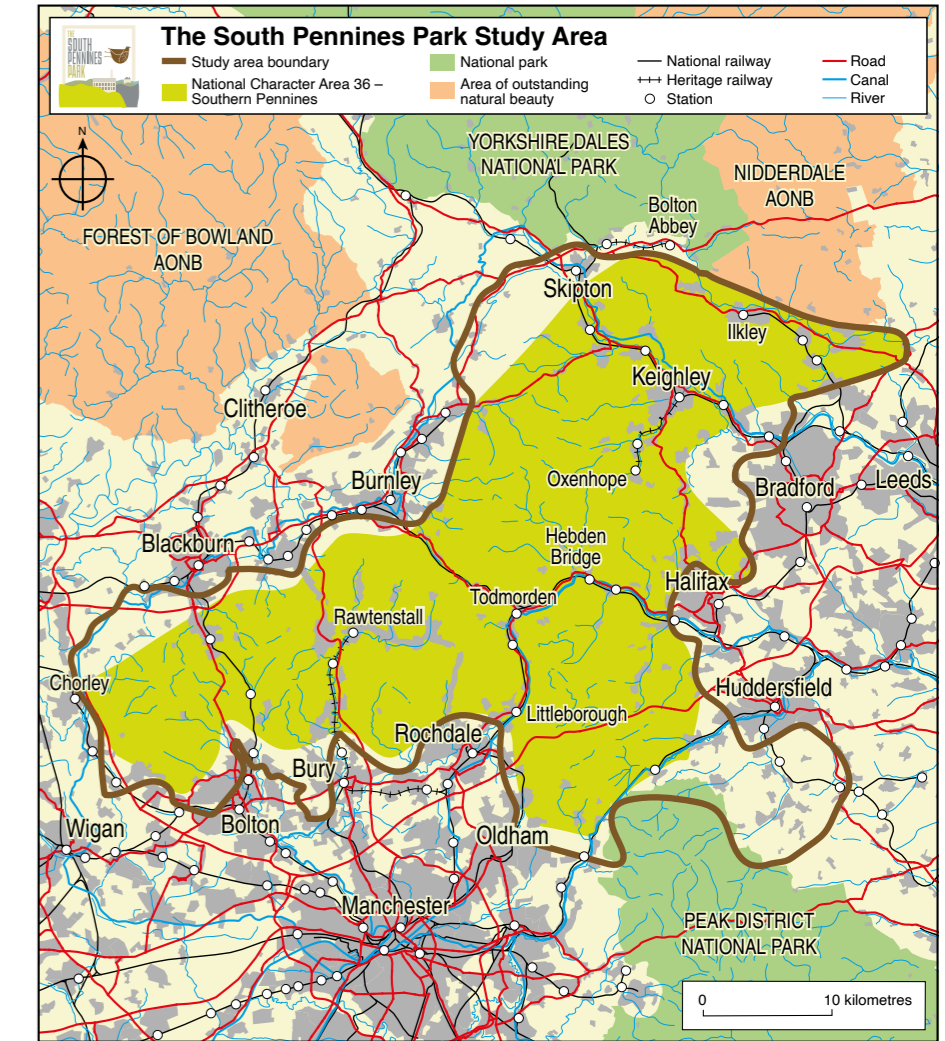
### The Moors for the Future Partnership

3.62 The South Pennine Moors, which is designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), as well as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Site of Biological Interest (SBI), has the highest degree of international importance for birds and habitats. [The Moors for the Future Partnership](#), established in 2003, is dedicated to preserving 8,000 years of moorland history. Moors for the Future have been working to reverse more than 200 years of damage that left large areas of these uplands bare of vegetation. The Moors for the Future Partnership works at landscape scale across the Peak District and South Pennine moors pioneering research and action to stabilise the degraded bare peat of the blanket bogs and then to help moorland plants of sphagnum, cotton grass and crowberry to re-establish with the help of ‘nurse’ grasses.

### South Pennines Regional Park

3.63 Pennine Prospects is in the process of developing a new non-statutory uplands park, known as [The South Pennines Regional Park](#). Parts of Oldham are included within this and the aim is to have a management plan that reflects the importance of investing public money for public good in accordance with the

Agricultural Bill (2021). It is described as ‘a landscape for the future, a space for everyone and a distinctive local economy’.



South Pennines Regional Park Study Area



Northern Forest Project (from 2018)

3.64 The Northern Forest Project aims to create a new forest for the region, across 200 sqm. It is a combined project run by The Woodland Trust and The Community Forest Trust (including Mersey Forest, White Rose Forest, City of Trees and Heywoods). The aim of the project is to plant over 50 million trees over a 25 year period, stretching from Liverpool across to Hull with the M62 as its spine. The project brings together a set of shared ambitions and ideas on the role that trees and woodland can provide in enhancing the environment and improving the lives of communities in and around the towns and cities of northern England.



Northern Forest

Northern Roots

3.69 [Northern Roots is a project in Oldham](#) which will create the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park on Snipe Clough comprising 160 acres of green space in the heart of Oldham. The aim is to develop Northern Roots in a way that creates jobs, skills and business opportunities for local people, while preserving and enhancing the biodiversity and environmental value of the site. It will be developed for and with local communities, supporting a wide range of activities and businesses. This will include growing edible crops at scale, animal husbandry and bee-keeping, forestry, mountain biking, outdoor events and performances.

3.70 The ambition is that Northern Roots will become self-financing in the longer term through a blend of social investment, enterprise, tourism, licensing and commissioning. Northern Roots will be an exemplar for Oldham's Green New Deal Strategy promoting a carbon neutral economy, investing in renewable energy, wildlife habitat creation and providing a high quality recreational resource for residents and visitors. Northern Roots has a strong philosophy of co-design with the community, actively seeking views from all groups and developing a wide-ranging volunteer programme.

3.71 The plan opposite (Figure 16) is the sustainable drainage masterplan for Northern Roots. Other plans for Northern Roots cover nature recovery areas, locking carbon opportunities and placemaking.



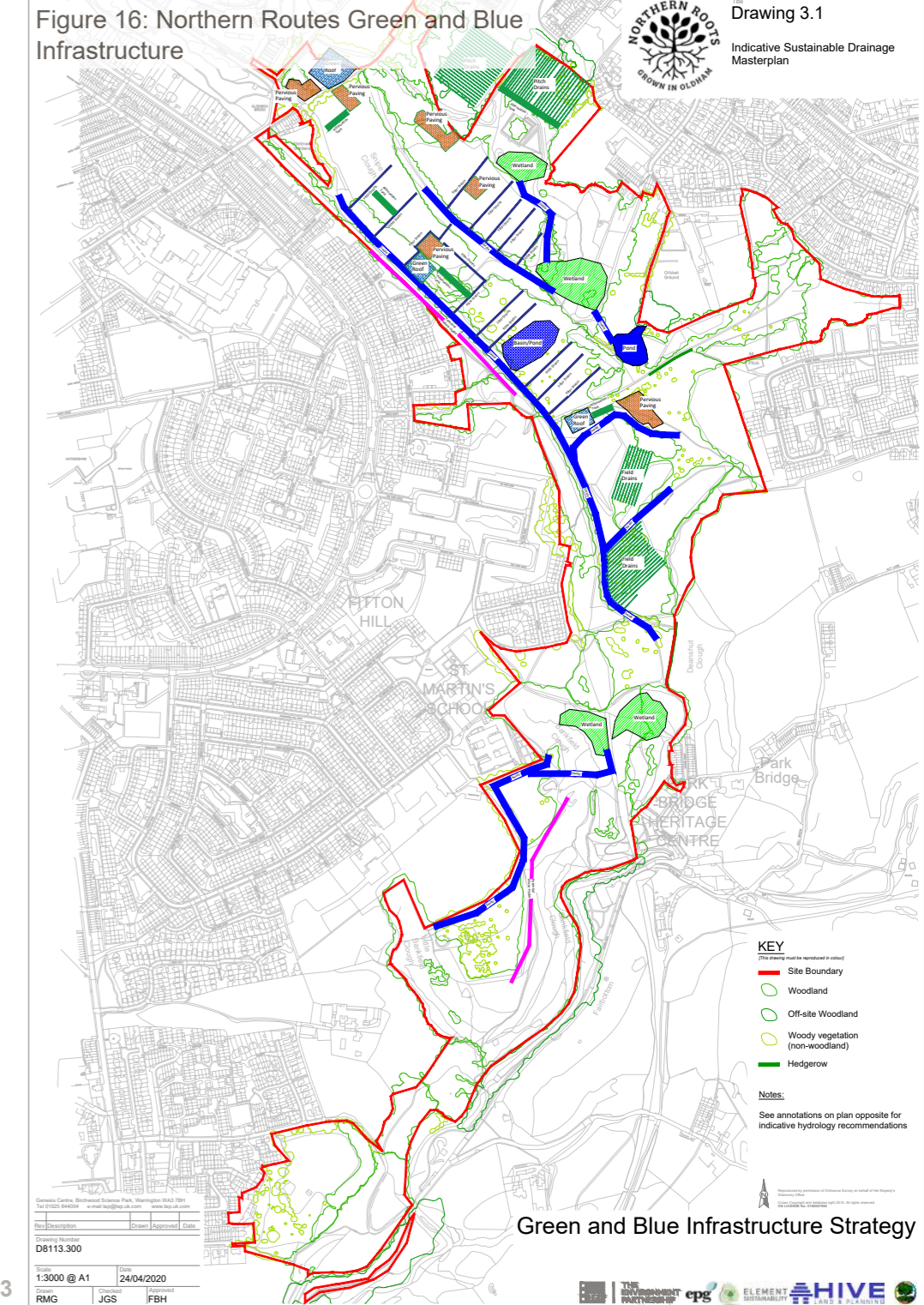
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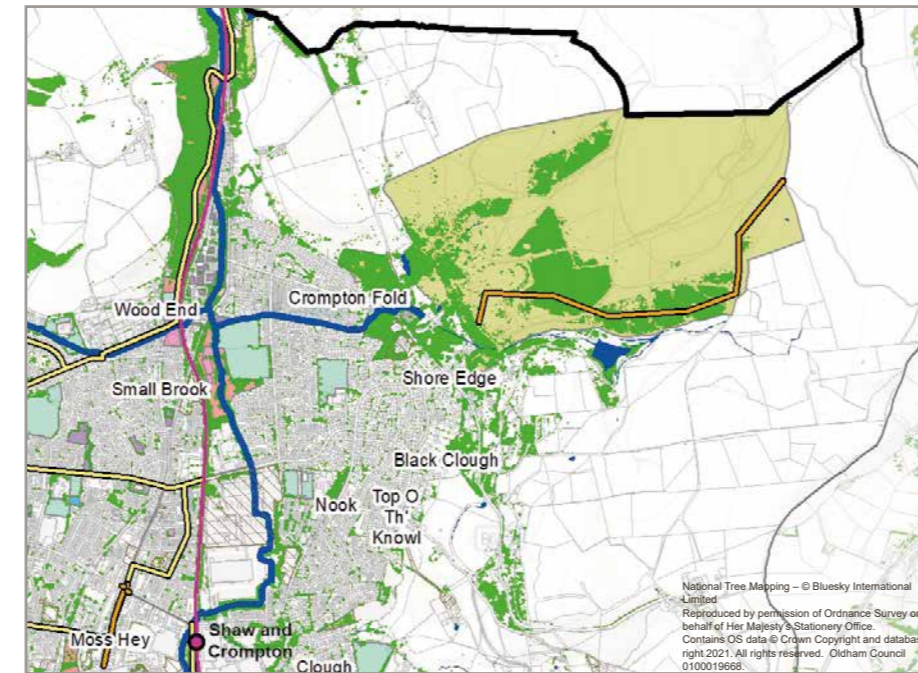


### Crompton Moor – Natural Flood Management

- 3.65 Crompton Moor is part of the South Pennines and is to the north east of Oldham. It covers an area of 28.3 hectares of heathland, woodland and rivers and is a Site of Biological Importance (SBI). The Old Brook watercourse flows through the moor and feeds into the River Beal which passes through the towns of Crompton and Shaw. Parts of the site is degraded from the mining of the industrial revolution, as well as more recent wildfires.
- 3.66 A pilot project is being undertaken to introduce natural flood management to prevent and reduce the risk of flooding in the communities in the valley below. The project is a partnership between City of Trees, the Environment Agency, EU LIFE IP Natural Course programme, Oldham Council, The Unity Partnership (Local Lead Flood Authority), Moors for the Future, the Friends of Crompton Moor and the Manchester Metropolitan University. The project was featured on BBC's Countryfile during 2021.
- 3.67 The project's natural flood management approach includes the installation of five 'leaky' dams, which are constructed using tree fells from the routine coppicing of conifer on the moor. These hold back water in storage areas behind the dams during heavy rainfall and reduce the speed of water flow in the Old Brook. The storage areas of water will also enhance the local environment by creating habitats for plants and wildlife, and

marginal aquatic plants have been planted here to encourage the restoration. Another method includes the planting of sphagnum moss plugs to increase the absorption of excess water on the moors, as it can hold up to 26 times its weight in water.

- 3.68 The City of Trees has also planted 4,000 trees in the last three years to intercept rainfall which will slow and reduce the amount of water entering the Old Brook. Native trees have been planted, which in combination with the coppicing of the non native sitka spruce, which currently dominates the landscape, enhances the habitat's biodiversity.





## Moston Brook

3.72 The Moston Brook project is a long-standing initiative with a Friends Group and Manchester City Council to regenerate the Moston Brook corridor and improve the environment in and around Failsworth. A project officer and Oldham Council assist the community to organise walks and community engagement and educational activity. As and when funding or development opportunities arise, the project seeks to improve water quality, woodland cover, habitats and access.

## Oldham town centre Linear Park (Jubilee Park)

3.73 Oldham Council's "Creating a Better Place" regeneration strategy (2020)<sup>16</sup> includes measures to restructure the town centre and attract new businesses and create up to 2,000 residential units. Part of the town centre vision is the creation of a new linear park south of the current market and former leisure centre. These will be repurposed for mixed uses, with the linear park featuring public squares, play spaces and micro-retail opportunities.

## Oldham Way

3.74 Oldham Way is a long distance route which partly follows the Rochdale Canal and links several of the borough's landscape types, including urban, pastoral and upland habitats. It is promoted and signed as a long-distance path.



Moston Brook corridor intersection with the Rochdale Canal



Moston Brook

## 4.0 Policy Context



## 4.0 Policy Context

4.1 Green Infrastructure (GI) has a number of policy drivers and forms of protection and this chapter covers:

- National Policies;
- Greater Manchester Policies;
- Local Policies; and
- Key guidance informing those policies.

4.2 Green Infrastructure has a number of policy drivers and forms of protection and this chapter covers (see summary diagram in Figure 17):

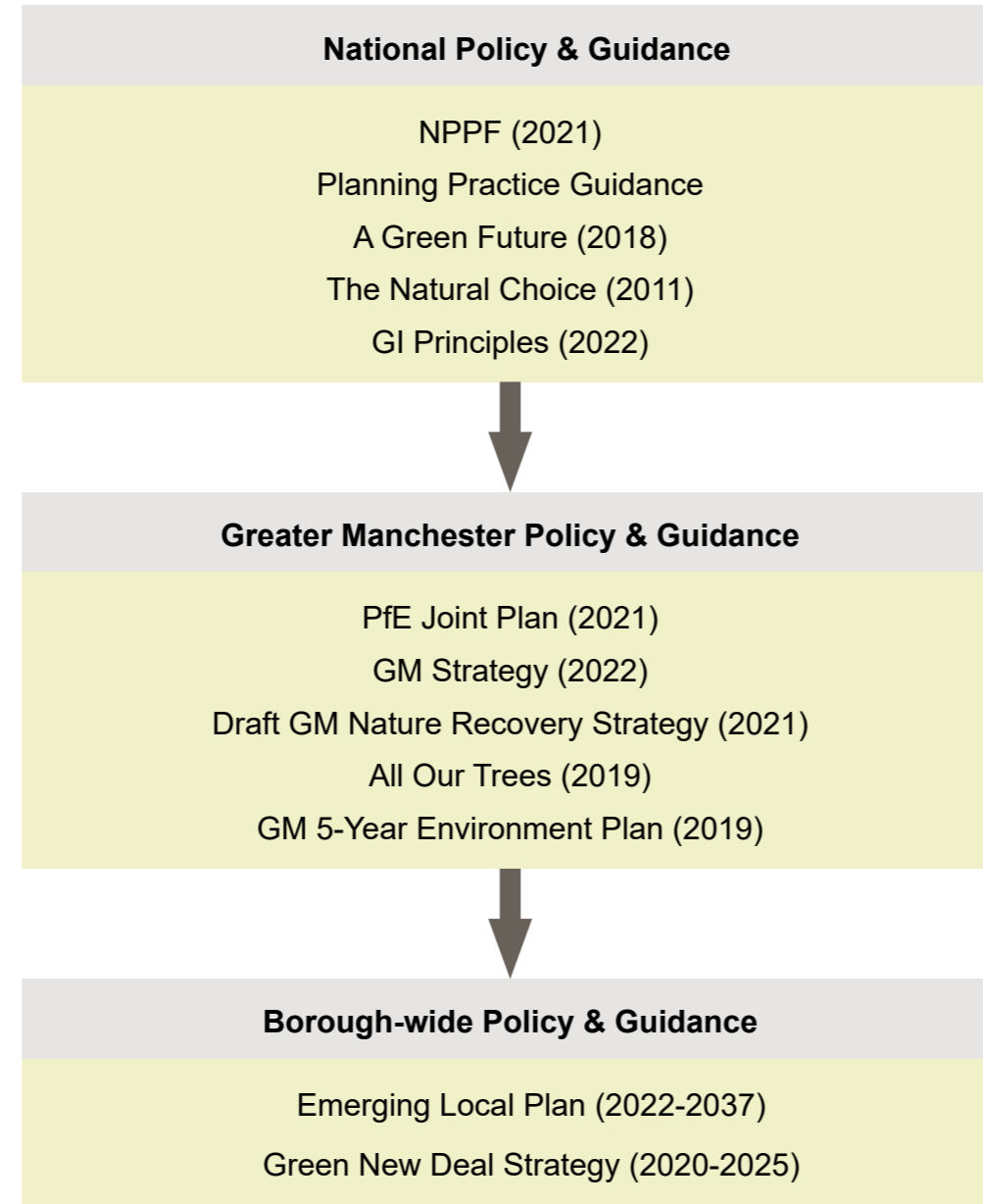


Figure 17: Policy Summary

## National Policy and Guidance

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021)

4.3 The NPPF requires local authorities to make every effort to promote healthy communities, meet the challenge of climate change and flooding and conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment through the planning process. The NPPF directs local authorities to make every effort to allocate land for development where it is of low environmental value. The following NPPF policies influence the objectives and outcomes of this GI strategy:

- Core land use principles;
- Promoting healthy and safe communities;
- Achieving well-designed places;
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change; and
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

4.4 Relevant extracts from those policies are provided in Appendix A.

### Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

4.5 PPG sets out the value and benefits of open space, sports and recreation and the need to protect and enhance public rights of way (PRoW). In terms of biodiversity, it reinforces the NPPF

with the need to pursue sustainable development and achieve net gain in the context of an expanding ecological network. It promotes evidence-based authority-wide GI strategies and recognises that GI networks cross administrative boundaries and the need for collaboration among stakeholders to address cross-boundary issues. Arrangements for the management and funding of GI are also key. GI is also needed to absorb pollutants to enable better air quality. The PPG considers climate change and how a comprehensive approach to GI can promote better water efficiency and water quality. GI can also reduce overall flood risk on development through the use of sustainable drainage system (SuDS), which can also realise benefits for amenity, recreation and wildlife.

### A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)

4.6 The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in the UK's cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. It calls for an approach to agriculture, forestry, land use and fishing that puts the environment first. The Plan details proposals for tackling waste and soil degradation, in addition to addressing pollution for people living in less favourable areas. The Plan covers the approach to tackling



the effects of climate change, including higher land and sea temperatures, rising sea levels, extreme weather patterns and ocean acidification.

**Natural Environment White Paper – ‘The Natural Choice’ (2011)**

- 4.7 The White Paper outlines the government’s vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years. Entitled ‘The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature’ it is a key document promoting the delivery of green infrastructure.
- 4.8 The document acknowledges that to improve the natural environment there is a need to take on a more integrated approach to it, providing networks and links, along with reforms to the planning system. It reinforces the role that the green economy plays in GI, and also highlights the important role that nature plays in communities, for health, and education.
- 4.9 The approach advocates that ecological networks are to be integrated with existing land uses and economic activities. Networks have five components:
  - core areas
  - corridors and stepping stones
  - restoration areas
  - buffer zones
  - sustainable use areas

4.10 These components are illustrated in Figure 18, which is derived from the White Paper, but with modifications to show community interaction with the network.

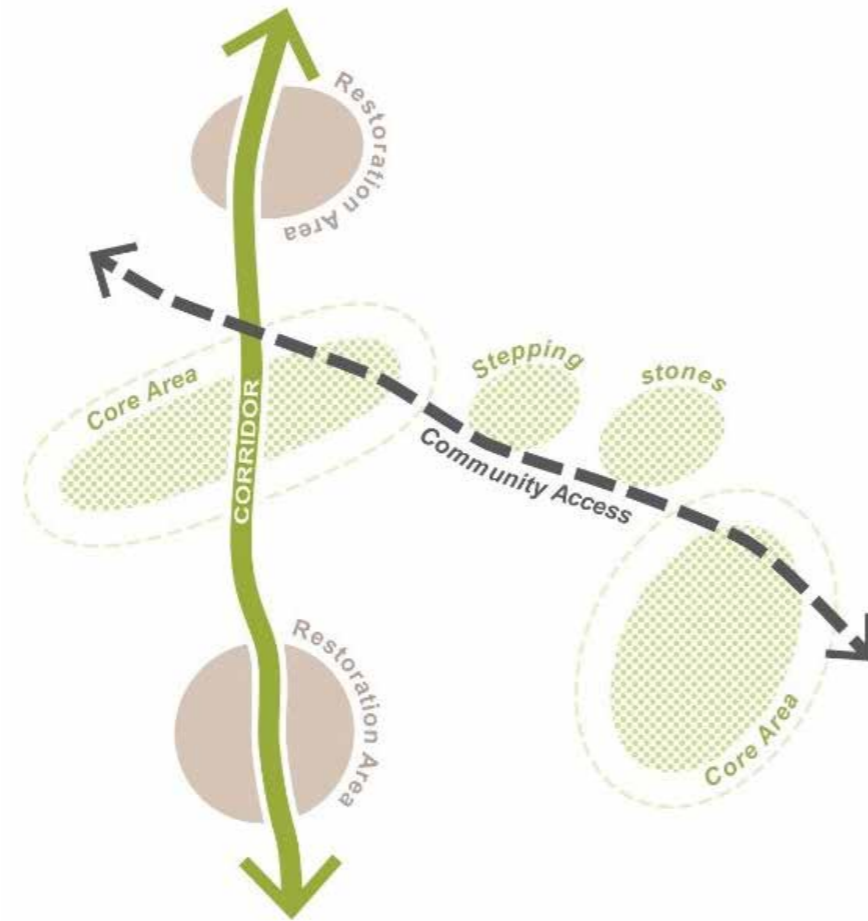


Figure 18: Making Space for Nature (Lawton)

**GI Principles – Why, What, Way**

4.11 [Natural England has devised the Green Infrastructure Principles Wheel](#) (see Fig. 19) and this is accompanied by the GI Framework, GI Principles and the online interactive mapping system called GI Mapping. At the time of writing, National GI Standards and the GI Design Guide are still under preparation. Natural England advises that any plans for GI, including Local Plans should follow the Green Infrastructure Principles Wheel.

- 4.12 These include 5 principles of multiple benefit – the “Why” principles of place-shaping.
- 4.13 There are 5 principles to influence how GI is designed – the “What” principles of good GI design.
- 4.14 There are 5 process principles – the “Way” principles which set out how to plan effectively, work with communities and ensure partnerships and good governance.

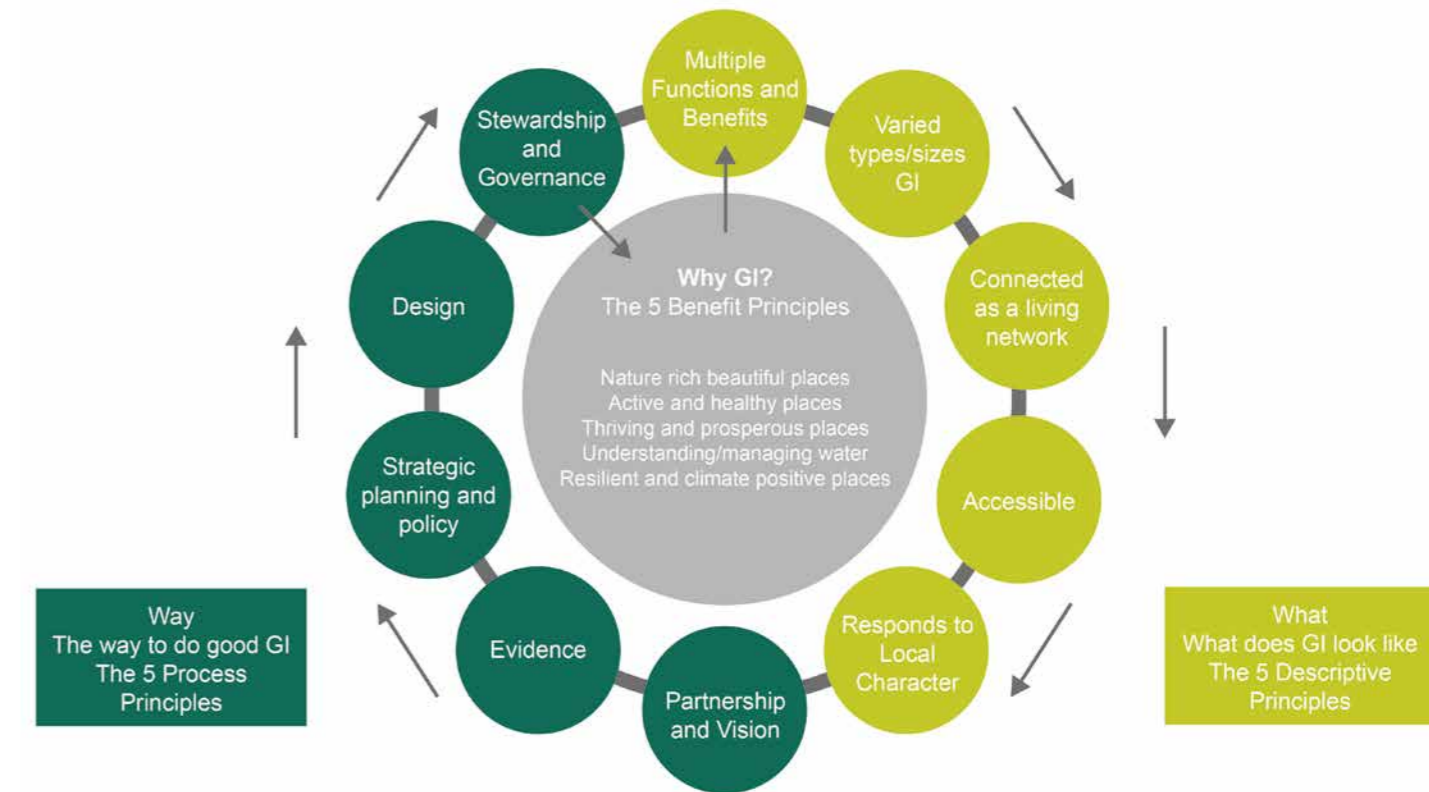


Figure 19: Green Infrastructure Principles Wheel (Adapted by TEP)



## Greater Manchester Policy and Guidance

### Places for Everyone Joint Plan (2021) GMCA

4.15 The Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan covering nine local authorities in Greater Manchester recognises the importance of a strategic GI network to support the following policy areas:

- sustainable development
- carbon and energy
- resilience of communities and business
- flood risk and the water environment
- clean air
- valuing important landscapes
- urban green space
- trees and woodland
- net enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity
- sustainable places
- heritage
- health
- walking and cycling

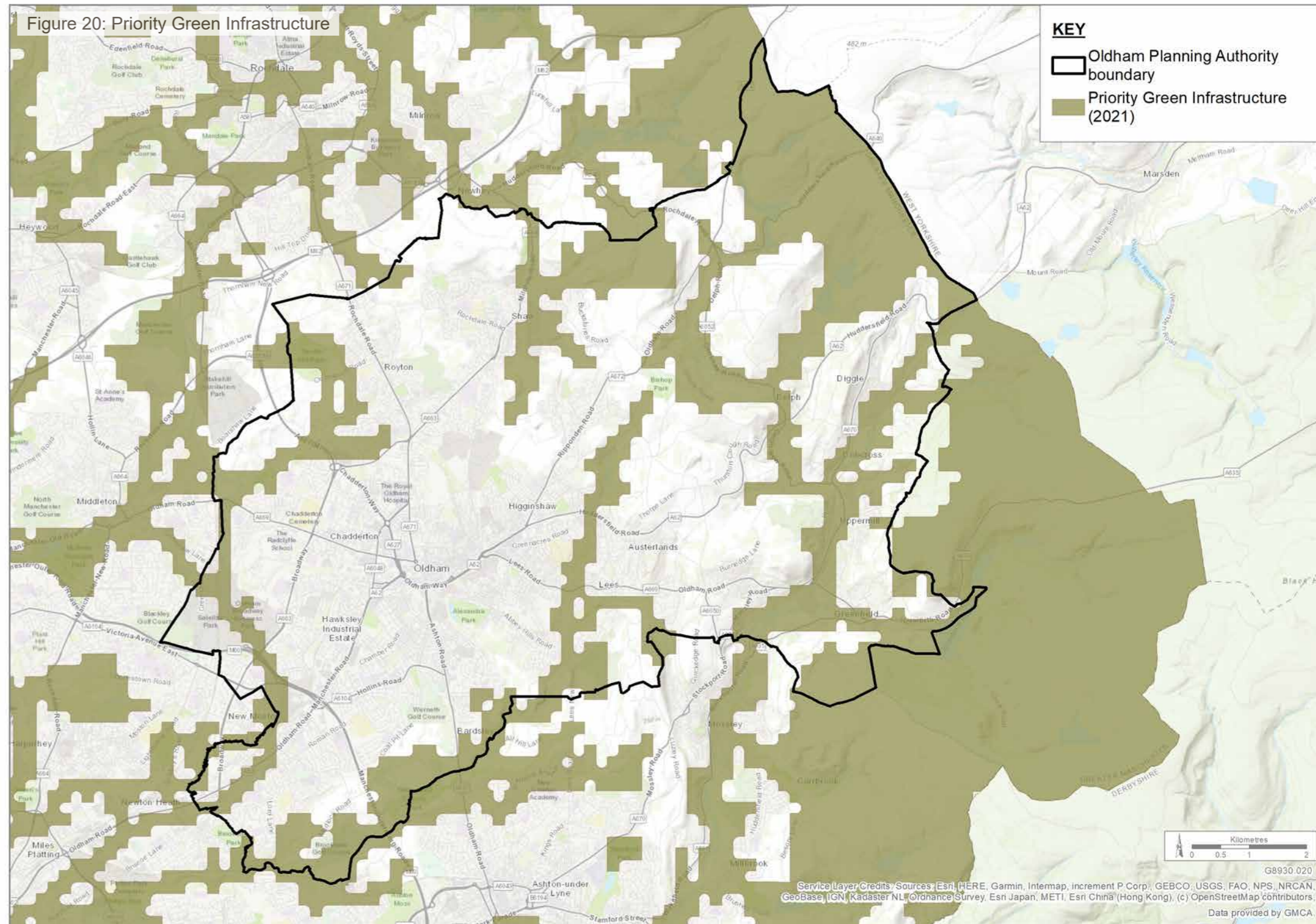
4.16 The map opposite (Figure 20) shows the priority GI network as part of Places for Everyone (PfE). It includes: moorland areas in the east; the Rivers Beal, Tame, Medlock and Irk and their tributaries; the Rochdale Canal, Tandle Hill Park and Crompton Moor. The Oldham GI Strategy will extend the priority GI, with additional areas and linkages across the study area.

### The Greater Manchester Strategy: Good Lives for All (2021 – 2031)

4.17 The Greater Manchester strategy sets out a route, over the next decade, to deliver the vision for the benefit of people, places and the planet. The Greater Manchester Strategy details a number of visions and GI is particularly able to contribute to:

- A Greener Manchester: Responding to the climate emergency
- A Fairer Greater Manchester: Addressing inequalities and improving wellbeing for all
- Ten distinctive places: One unique GM

Figure 20: Priority Green Infrastructure





**Draft Greater Manchester Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (GMNRS)**

4.18 The draft Strategy was developed in line with provisions in the Environment Act 2021. This is in advance of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) becoming mandatory across England. LNRS are required to address the biodiversity emergency across the UK and the GMNRS maps existing sites and areas that form the basis for nature recovery. It then considers the different parts of Greater Manchester’s natural environment and the potential for improvement. The baseline and analysis was presented to stakeholders, including Natural England and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, to identify outcomes for the GMNRS and how those outcomes will be measured.

4.19 The GMNRS concludes with prioritisation for management, improvement, creation and expansion of habitats and their potential locations. As such it does not identify within it a set of actions through which this strategy will be delivered. Nor does it identify funding sources, delivery agencies and timelines for those actions.

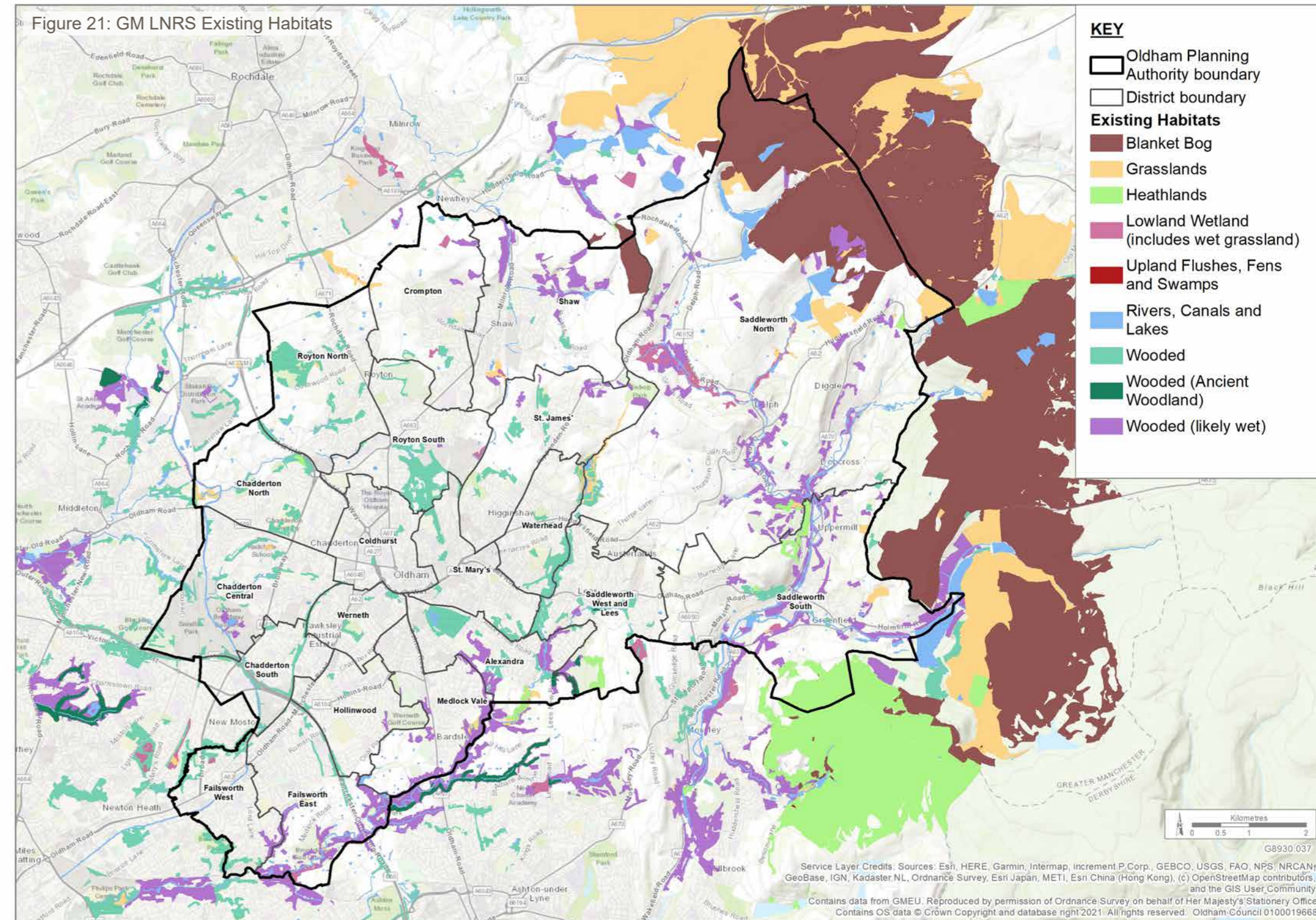
4.20 The draft Strategy identifies opportunities for nature recovery, rather than imposing constraints on other activities. This does not mean that those actions have to be delivered in those

locations or that nothing else can take place there, be that development or other types of nature recovery activities. As far as development is concerned, local planning authorities will continue their role in reconciling and balancing competing pressures for land in their areas.

4.21 The plan opposite (Figure 21) confirms the location of existing habitats and core areas across the study area and a summary description is outlined below.

- Blanket bog - Blanket bog is located on the open moorlands around Castleshaw Moor, north of Denshaw and Diggle, with a smaller area of blanket bog at Crompton Moor
- Upland grasslands - There are pockets of this habitat at Standedge, east of Castleshaw Reservoirs and at the western fringes of the blanket bog
- Heathlands - The largest heathland habitat is on the northern slopes of Alphin Pike (south of Greenfield) and this extends south across the borough boundary into a much larger habitat area around Hoarstone Edge in Tameside. There are smaller pockets of heathland west of Uppermill and south of Springhead
- Lowland wetland - The largest area of lowland wetland is associated with an upper section of the River Tame north

Figure 21: GM LNRS Existing Habitats





- of Delph. There are also pockets of this habitat next to a section of the River Tame at Greenfield and the River Medlock south of Failsworth
- Upland flushes occur outside of the study area in Peak District National Park
- Water habitats are associated with watercourses, reservoirs and canals. There is a network of tributaries feeding both the River Tame (flowing from New Years Bridge Reservoir) and River Medlock (rising near Springhead) that provide good water habitat. Moston Brook also forms a water habitat as it rises near Hollinwood and flows west into Manchester. There is a network of reservoirs west of Castleshaw Moor that outfall into the River Tame. These include Readycon Dean, New Years Bridge and Castleshaw and they all contribute to this type of habitat. A section of the Rochdale Canal (SSSI) passes along the western edge of the study area, while a section of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal runs from Diggle to Greenfield
- Trees - The main wooded areas are at Tandle Hill Country Park (Royton), Oldham Edge, Alexandra Park and along the wooded corridor to the upper section of the River Medlock between Greenacres and Lees. There are smaller pockets throughout the study area



Dowry Reservoir, Denshaw

- Ancient woodland - There are pockets of ancient woodland at Wildmoor Leach Wood, south of Holts and at the edge of Lees
- Wet woodland - There is a network of wet woodland along the upper River Tame and River Medlock catchments respectively and also near the River Beal (north of Shaw)



Lowland wetland habitat, near Delph



Woodland habitat, River Medlock corridor, Greenacres



4.22 The GMNRS prepared opportunity maps for all habitats, with a combined opportunity map (opposite, Figure 22). A summary of priorities and opportunities is confirmed below.

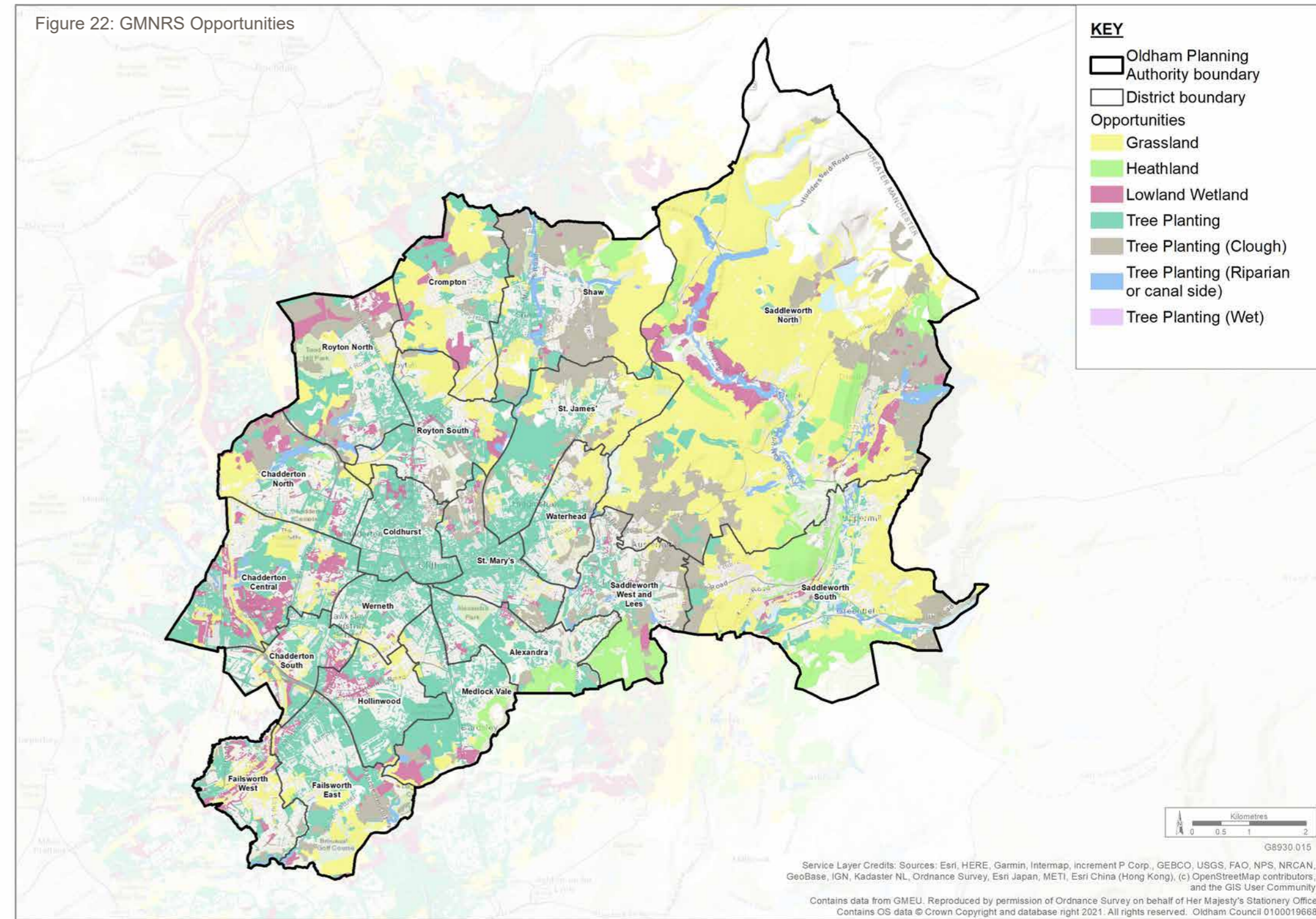
- Most areas of blanket bog are in need of improvement, with removal of non-native plants required. There are also pockets of blanket bog in poor condition which require stabilisation and re-establishment
- A restoration area of upland grassland is proposed west of Castleshaw Moor and along the valley sides of the upper River Tame
- The extension of the heathlands habitat is proposed on the valley slopes above Greenfield and slopes south of Alt and Holt
- The extension of lowland wetland is proposed north of Delph, along the River Tame towards Denshaw. Other smaller lowland wetlands are proposed south of Greenfield, south west of Shaw, adjacent the Rochdale Canal south of Chadderton and in the Medlock Valley near Crime Lake
- Upland flushes occur outside the study area in the Peak District National Park
- Tree planting is proposed across most urban areas in the west of the study area
- Clough tree planting is proposed on steeper ground along the valley sides to Diggle and slopes on open land near to Lees, Shaw, Royton and east of the M60 at Daisy Nook

- Riparian tree planting is proposed along the upper catchment watercourses to the River Tame and River Beal
- Pockets of wet woodland are proposed near to an upper tributary to the River Beal near Royton Moss and near to the River Irk in Chadderton



Clough tree planting at Crompton Moor

Figure 22: GMNRS Opportunities





### Natural Capital Approach (Oldham)

4.23 The Urban Pioneer Programme<sup>17</sup> has prepared a natural capital account across Greater Manchester, with specific outputs for Oldham. It includes headline figures annual natural capital value and avoided healthcare costs over the next 60 years.

4.24 Table 4 provides the value of the natural capital approach and a description for each of the values.

Table 4: Natural Capital Approach

Value	Description
£168m	The 'conservative' estimate of the value that Oldham receives from its natural capital each year
£130m	The total value of avoided healthcare costs over the next 60 years from the positive difference to physical and mental health, reducing financial pressures and demand on the NHS and Local Authority health providers
£4.7bn	The total asset value of natural capital to Oldham over the next 60 years

4.25 Urban Pioneer present [the annual benefit from Oldham's Natural Capital](#) and the natural capital logic chain: Ecosystem Asset – Ecosystem Service – Benefits – Value

### Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan (2019) GMCA

4.26 The GM 5-Year Environment Plan (5YEP) sets out an ambitious vision for a 'clean, carbon-neutral, climate resilient city region with a thriving natural environment', and sets out the following targets:

#### Land

- Plant 1 million trees by 2024, 3 million trees by 2035
- Restore 50-75% of peatlands by 2040
- Carbon neutral city region by 2038

#### Water

- Improve waterbodies to achieve quality standards by 2027
- Shift to more nature-based solutions for flood alleviation schemes

#### Biodiversity

- Embed biodiversity net gain for developments
- Accelerate delivery of the nature recovery network

#### Investment

- Develop GM Environment Fund Opportunity (GMEF) to broaden range of funding sources

- Deliver investment readiness support and proof-of-concepts?

#### Environment Engagement

- Widen engagement via volunteering and employment opportunities
- Build on evidence base to promote benefits

### All Our Trees – Greater Manchester's Tree & Woodland Strategy (2019) GMCA

4.27 The Strategy is drafted by the City Trees on behalf of GMCA with contributions from the 10 Greater Manchester Districts, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Woodland Trust. It presents the baseline survey across the city region in terms of urban forest distribution, structure and benefits to the economy and residents. It addresses the need for more trees across 20 individual ecosystem service needs, including air quality, active travel, and mental wellbeing. It shows where new planting could meet multiple needs. The Strategy concludes with a section on planting, establishing, and managing trees to ensure health and longevity, maximise ecosystem benefits and resilience, and minimise the potential dis-benefits of trees.

### Greater Manchester Environment Fund Opportunity (GMEF)

4.28 [The GMEF is an independent vehicle and body](#) and was launched in 2021 with a developed pipeline of investment opportunities. It is seeking long-term philanthropic funding partners to enable to scale and leverage of significant additional funds. The GMEF is open for green infrastructure related project applications. Under the Green Recovery Challenge it has funded a number of projects including:

- Northern Roots – Creating the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park
- Dove Stone – Restoring peatland in the Dove Stone area of Saddleworth
- Love Your River Tame – Delivering in-river and riparian nature conservation and habitat restoration over a 6km corridor of the River Tame
- The Rochdale Canal – Working to manage the complex habitat for local wildlife and rejuvenate the canal's water quality



4.29 The Greater Manchester Green Space Fund (GMGSF) will be taking applications from Spring 2022 to include:

- Improving existing or creating new accessible green space for people and/or wildlife
- Permanently greening streets
- Creating new permanent parklets or pocket parks
- Community gardening and food growing

## Local Policy and Guidance

### The Local Plan (the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Development Plan Document (Joint DPD) (2011)

4.30 The Local Plan (joint DPD) sets out a long-term spatial vision, objectives and the planning and development strategy for the borough up to 2026, core policies and development management policies and a monitoring and implementation framework.

4.31 It is recognised in the Local Plan that the borough has a great, rich and vast built and natural environment. The Local Plan identifies existing GI assets in the borough including nature conservation sites; strategic recreational routes; green corridors and links; canal corridors; river corridors; and open spaces.

4.32 The Local Plan sets out how the Council will identify, protect, conserve and enhance the multi-functional GI network in the borough and maximise the benefits associated with GI.

### Emerging Local Plan (2022-2037)

4.33 Oldham Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan which will replace the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document once adopted.

4.34 The Issues and Options document recognises the importance of GI “*Green Infrastructure provision helps to underpin people’s quality of life. It has a key role to play in the protection of the environment: supporting biodiversity, habitats and nature conservation; and combating the effects of climate change*”.

4.35 The Issues and Options document sets out that the Council needs to identify the GI Network in the Local Plan and form a strategy for how the network can be protected and enhanced to obtain maximum ecosystem benefits and improve connectivity for both residents and nature.

### Green New Deal Strategy (2020-2025)

4.36 The Oldham Green New Deal sets new targets for the Council and for the borough to “*Make Oldham a greener, smarter and more enterprising place*”.

4.37 Central to the Green New Deal Strategy are two new ambitious targets for achieving carbon neutrality:-

#### Carbon Neutrality for the Council by 2025

- Investing in large-scale renewable energy generation
- Implementing local, meaningful and verifiable ‘carbon offset’ measures such as tree planting

#### Carbon Neutrality for the Borough by 2030

- Leading a strategic partnership of major energy users across all sectors in Oldham to achieve carbon neutrality
- Investing in and supporting the development and roll-out of large-scale low carbon anchor energy infrastructure such as low carbon heat networks
- Supporting the development of the Green Technology and Services sector across the borough
- Maximising the local benefits from Greater Manchester and national level schemes which aid decarbonisation

4.38 The Green New Deal Strategy includes three pillars which will work together under the Green New Deal approach. The three pillars include:

- Green Economy – with a growth in the green business sector, support for the wider economy to go green, with apprenticeships and training
- Low carbon – promoting sustainable travel
- Northern Roots – the 160-acre eco-park at Snipe Clough (introduced on page 52)



## 5.0 Oldham's Needs and Opportunities



## 5.0 Needs and Opportunities

### Introduction

5.1 This chapter identifies where investment in multi-functional GI can meet the seven themes of the GI Strategy and deliver greatest benefits for society and nature. This chapter looks at Oldham-wide needs and opportunities, whilst Chapter 6 has more detail on specific place-based opportunities. The seven themes are:

- Thriving Wildlife for Oldham
- Carbon Neutral Oldham
- Healthy and Active Communities
- Green Access for All
- Distinctive Landscapes
- Slowing the Flow
- Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

### Needs

5.2 The essence of sustainable development is providing for the needs of society and nature now and into the future. For instance, accessible open spaces can enable exercise to improve health and wellbeing in areas of health deprivation. Mapping under the theme Green Access for All (page 87) highlights where open space is currently not easily accessible.

### Opportunities

5.3 The Greater Manchester Ecosystems Opportunity Maps<sup>18</sup> identify opportunities for GI to address some of Oldham’s priorities, including carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and water management. The map under the theme Carbon Neutral Oldham (page 81) highlights areas where there are greater opportunities for GI to sequester carbon.

5.4 Where new housing or employment is proposed, development offers opportunities to create fully functioning GI and reverse past environmental degradation. Mapping under Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs highlights proposed and potential development sites which can incorporate GI within their boundaries and can contribute to the wider GI network across Oldham and beyond.



Watercourse near Denshaw



Churchill Playing Fields, Saddleworth



Orchard planting



Play area, Lower Memorial Park, Failsworth



## Thriving Wildlife for Oldham

### Need

5.5 Core biodiversity areas provide habitats for wildlife. However, with more challenging conditions caused by climate change, it is important that corridors between core areas are provided to assist species to disperse and find forage and shelter.

### Analysis

5.6 Core biodiversity areas include Castleshaw Moor, Crompton Moor, sections of the River Tame valley and the Huddersfield Canal. Core areas are more fragmented in the west of the borough, but include Tandle Hill, the Rochdale Canal and the River Medlock corridor.

5.7 Gaps between core areas could be partially filled by enhancing the existing GI resource including increasing tree canopy cover, establishing wetlands and managing open spaces with biodiversity as an objective (in a manner appropriate for the type of open space).

5.8 Key corridors and “stepping stones” could be enhanced from the source of the River Medlock north of Strinesdale Country Park downstream towards Manchester City. An additional corridor could be promoted extending northwards from Alexandra Park across Oldham town centre (with suitable stepping stones) towards Oldham Edge, the Beal Valley and

Royton. In the east of the borough, there is also opportunity for better connectivity along the River Tame.

5.9 Priority for ecological networks should also be focussed on ‘nature deprived’ Oldham wards; Waterhead, Coldhurst, Werneth, Hollinwood and Chadderton South. This would require improving the functionality and biodiversity value of existing open spaces, as there is little opportunity to create new greenspace.

5.10 The maps on page 77 show a sequence from baseline: Oldham’s core biodiversity areas (Figure 23); need in terms of ‘nature deprived’ wards (Figure 24) opportunities to enhance ecological networks using existing tree cover (Figure 25) and opportunities to enhance biodiversity in open spaces (Figure 26).

5.11 Addressing needs and opportunities is considered further in Chapter 6.0.

### Other Opportunities

#### Biodiversity Net Gain from Development

5.12 Proposed Strategic Allocations in Places for Everyone (Publication Plan 2021) and other potential developments could impact biodiversity across Greater Manchester. In order to compensate and deliver a 10% net gain, new habitats need to be created on and off site.

Figure 23: Designated Sites – Biodiversity

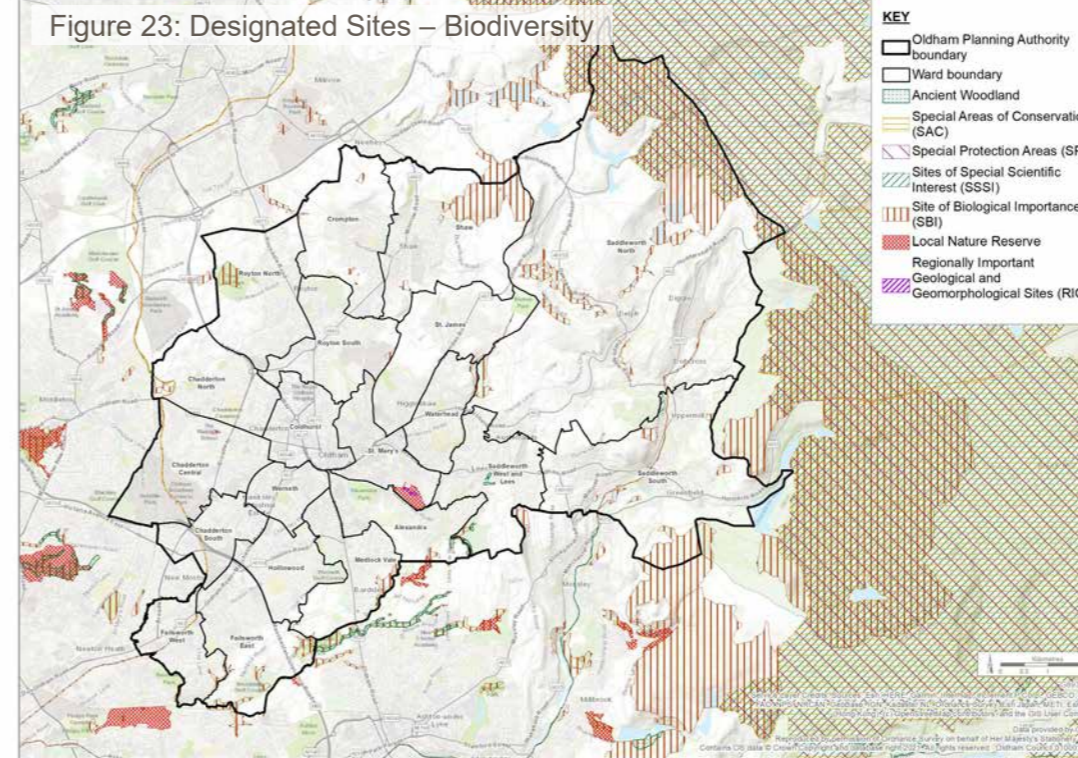


Figure 24: Nature Deprived Wards

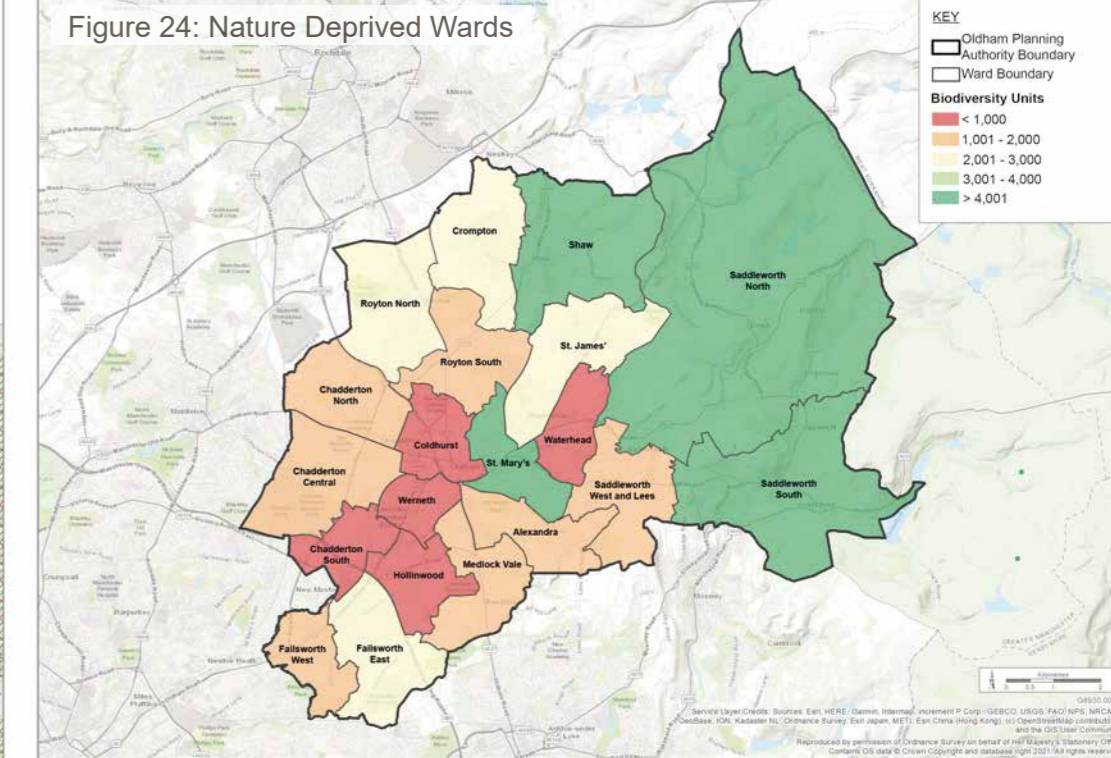


Figure 25: Tree Canopy Cover

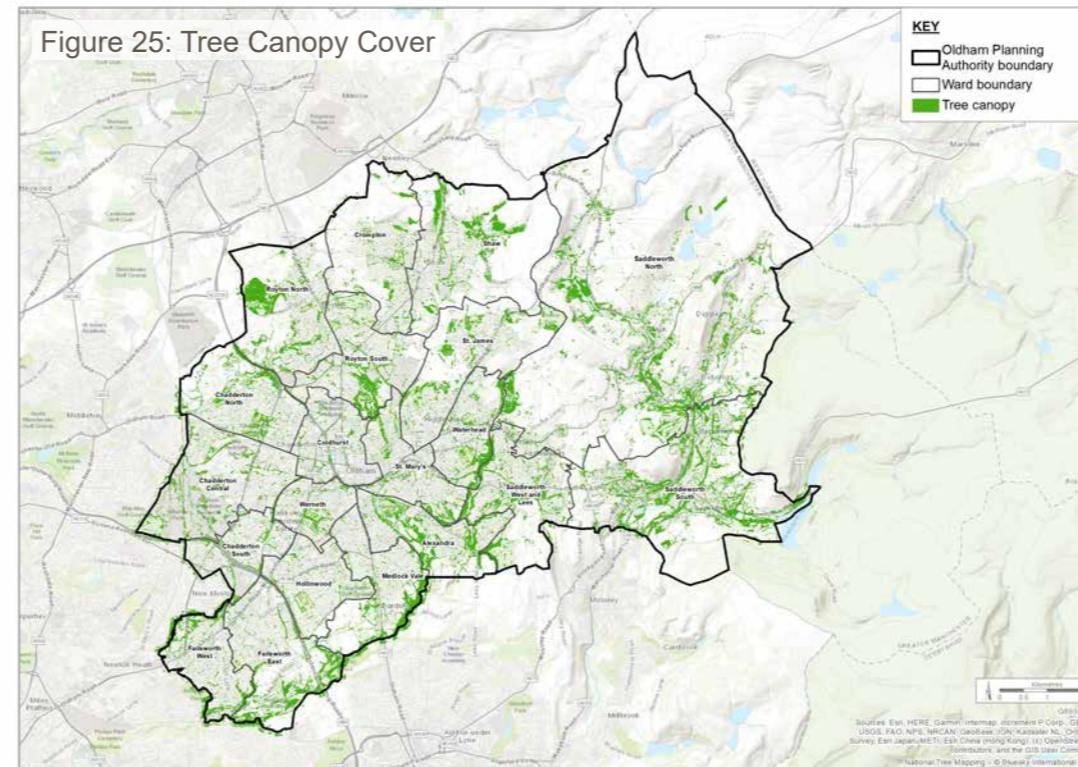
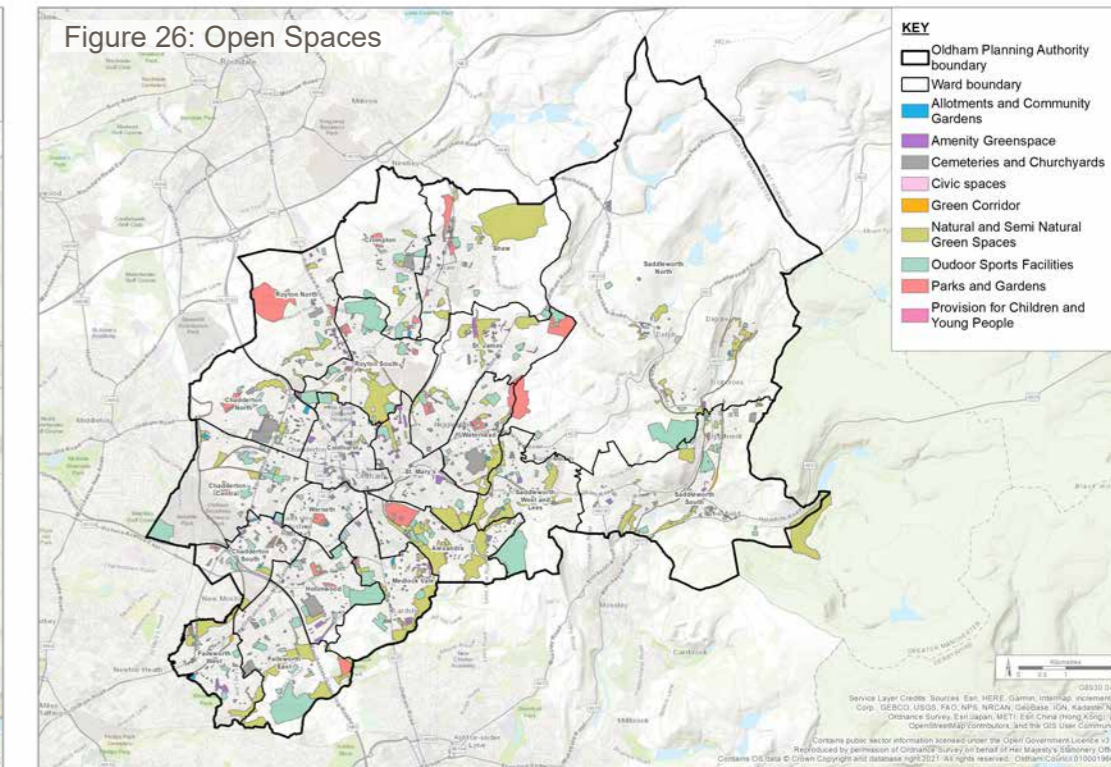


Figure 26: Open Spaces





5.13 In Oldham, the current<sup>19</sup> biodiversity value of the proposed PfE strategic allocations and the [saved UDP allocations](#) (in the existing Local Plan) is estimated as 3,225 Biodiversity Units (BU's)<sup>20</sup> (Refer to Glossary for Bio units definition). New habitats associated with development can replace some but not all biodiversity interest on or near site. It is estimated that there would be a shortfall of 711 BU's if development is to make good losses and also achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain target. This shortfall would need to be made up away from the development sites themselves. The emerging Local Plan can identify “areas of search for habitat banks” where biodiversity improvements will meet the objectives of the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Land Management in the Green Belt

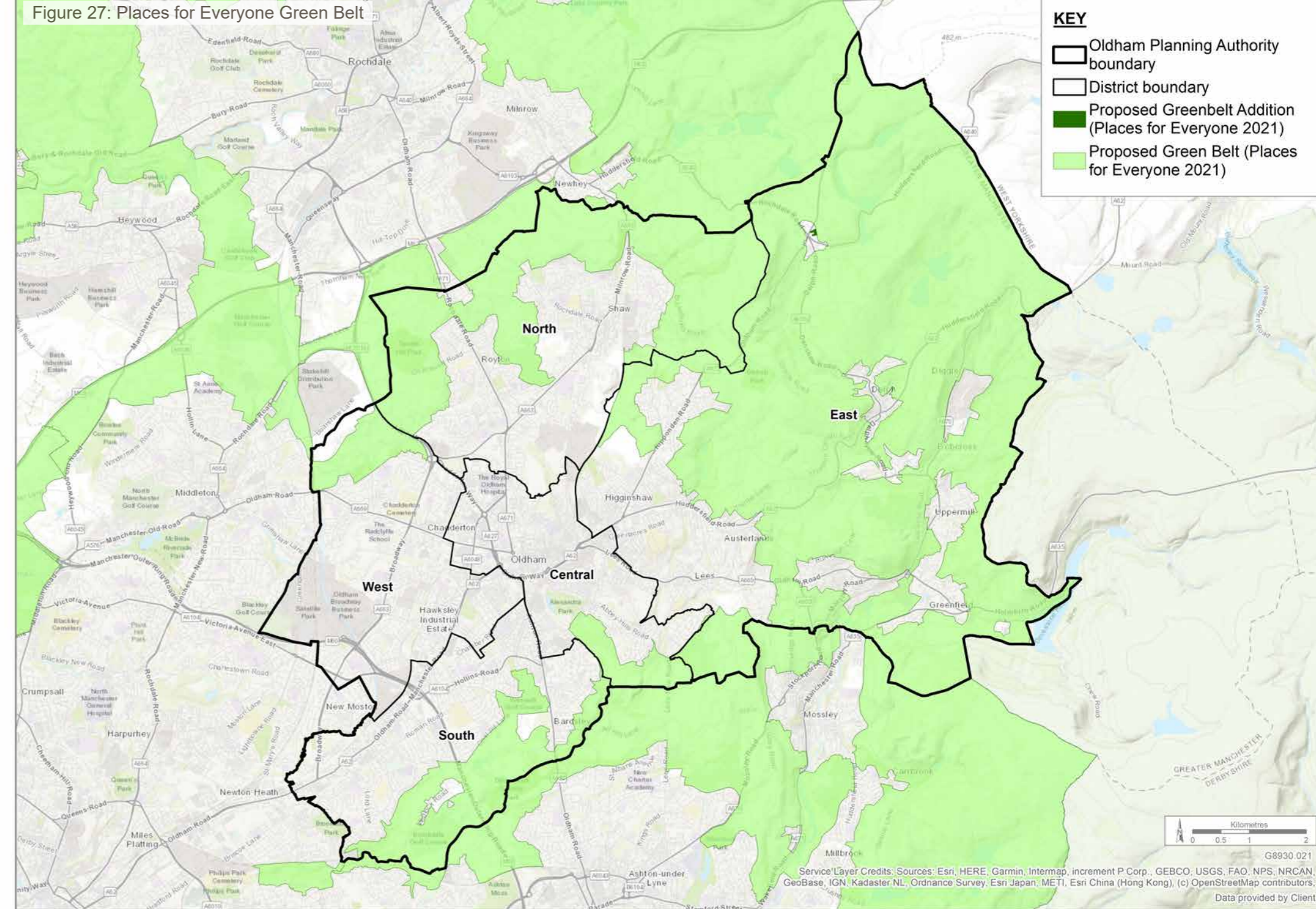
5.14 The green belt offers an opportunity for habitat creation and enhancement, due to its long-term protection from development. Oldham's current Green Belt boundary, as adopted, is available to view on the [Local Plan Proposals Map](#). Enhancements can include diversifying habitats through creation of new woodlands, scrub and wetlands. Currently, Oldham has 49,463 BU's in its green belt, equivalent to 7.91 BU's per hectare. Other local authorities such as Tameside and Rochdale have 10.75 and 9.42 BU's per hectare, respectively. This demonstrates that Oldham's green belt has scope for

habitat creation, helping the Borough achieving a biodiversity net gain target of 10%, whilst also delivering landscape and water management benefits that come from a more biodiverse landscape.

5.15 Some Green Belt loss is proposed through PfE and this will need to be mitigated through measures such as enhancements to existing habitats and some habitat creation. PfE also proposes additional land for inclusion within the Green Belt comprising approximately 0.6 hectares behind Denshaw Village Hall (Policy Green Belt Addition 17 in PfE) (Figure 27).



Opportunity for habitat creation and enhancement in valley landscape near Denshaw





## Carbon Neutral Oldham

5.16 The Council has set ambitious targets with the local authority and the borough to become carbon neutral, by 2025 and 2030 respectively. GI will contribute to achieving those targets. Wetlands, woodlands and semi-natural grasslands are effective at carbon sequestration so conversion of intensive land use to these habitats will yield rapid results. Peatland habitats are vital carbon stores. They are relatively slow in terms of carbon sequestration, but the priority is to reverse the loss and degradation of peat habitats to protect their existing carbon stores, as well as their inherent habitat value.

5.17 The Greater Manchester Ecosystems Opportunity Mapping assesses opportunities for soil enhancement and agricultural land use change (moving land from arable and amenity to woodland) and wetland creation to contribute to carbon sequestration.

## Opportunity

5.18 The 'heat' map opposite (Figure 28) indicates areas with the greatest overall opportunity (5-6 individual opportunities) for carbon sequestration and storage. These are as follows:

### North District

- ND1: Moorland and blanket bog at Crompton Moor
- ND2: Agricultural land north of Shaw and Crompton

### East District

- ED1: Moorland and blanket bog extending from Denshaw Moor to Standedge
- ED2: Heathland at Alphin Pike (south of Greenfield)
- ED3: Agricultural land between Springhead and Uppermill
- ED4: Agricultural land east of Strinesdale County Park

### Central District

- CD1: Grassland and wooded areas forming part of the Northern Roots site in the Medlock valley

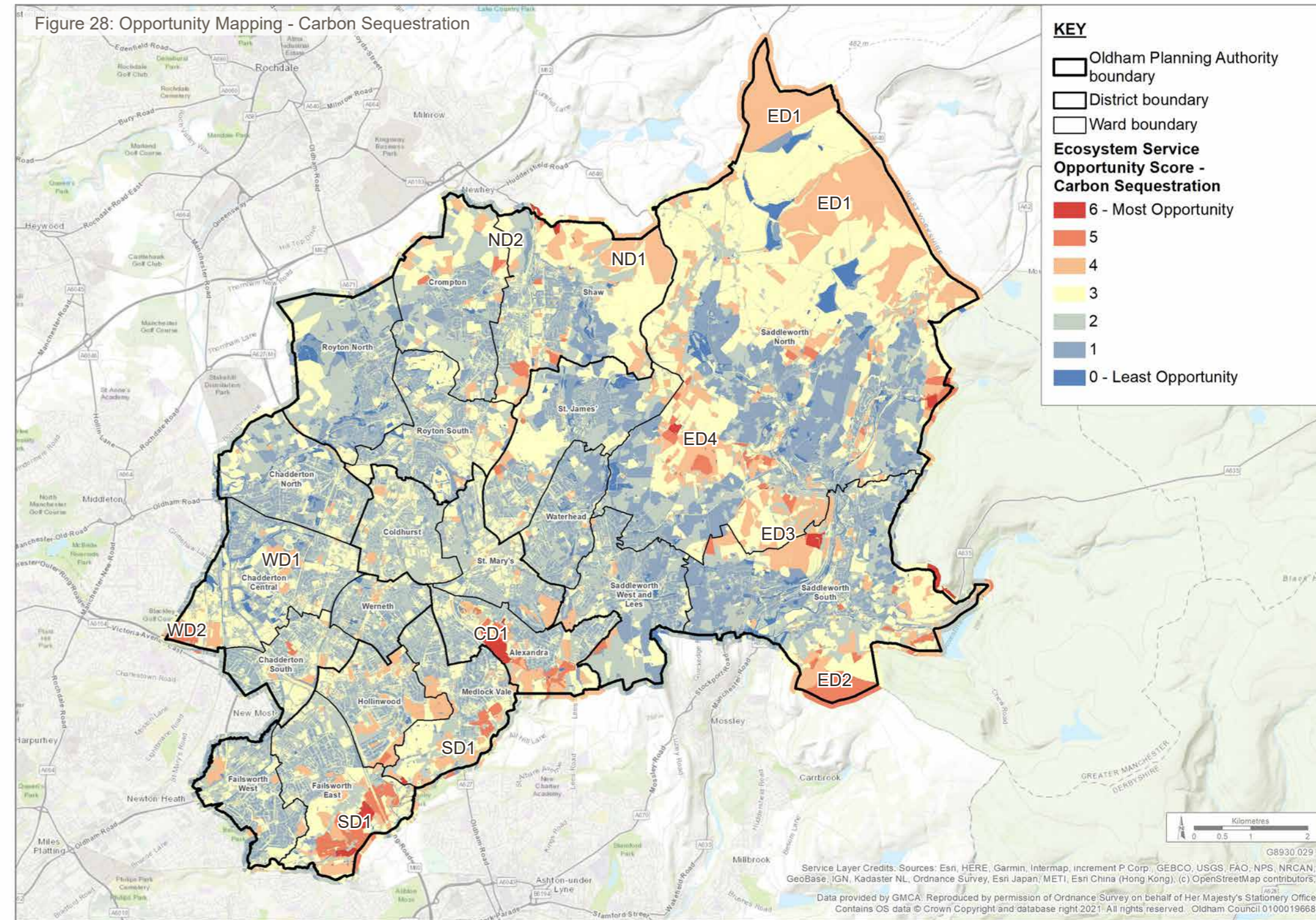
### South District

- SD1: Land of various habitat types in the Medlock valley

### West District

- WD1: Amenity land near to Wince Brook, east of Middleton Junction
- WD2: Land at Blackley Golf Course

Figure 28: Opportunity Mapping - Carbon Sequestration





## Healthy and Active Communities

5.19 The Oldham Open Space Assessment (2021) assesses the quantity and quality of the different type of open spaces across the borough. The type of spaces considered are allotments and community gardens, amenity greenspace, churchyards and cemeteries, civic spaces, green corridors, natural and semi-natural greenspace, outdoor sports facilities, parks and gardens and play space.

### Quantity

5.20 To help ensure that need for open space is met, local authorities can set quantitative standards in terms of hectares of open space per 1,000 population. Standards can be set for the borough as a whole, taking account of likely population growth. Each ward is assessed against the standard. As well as an overall standard for all types of open spaces, standards can also be set for some specific types.

5.21 The current population of Oldham is estimated at 238,984 and the total amount of open space is 1,578 ha. **Current (2021) provision of open space is 6.61 ha per 1,000 population.** The projected future population for Oldham in 2037 is 254,829 .

5.22 Using the proposed standard, there is a current deficiency in provision of Amenity Greenspace (0.08 ha per 1,000 population) and Provision for Children and Young People (0.21 ha per 1,000 population). This would equate to a space

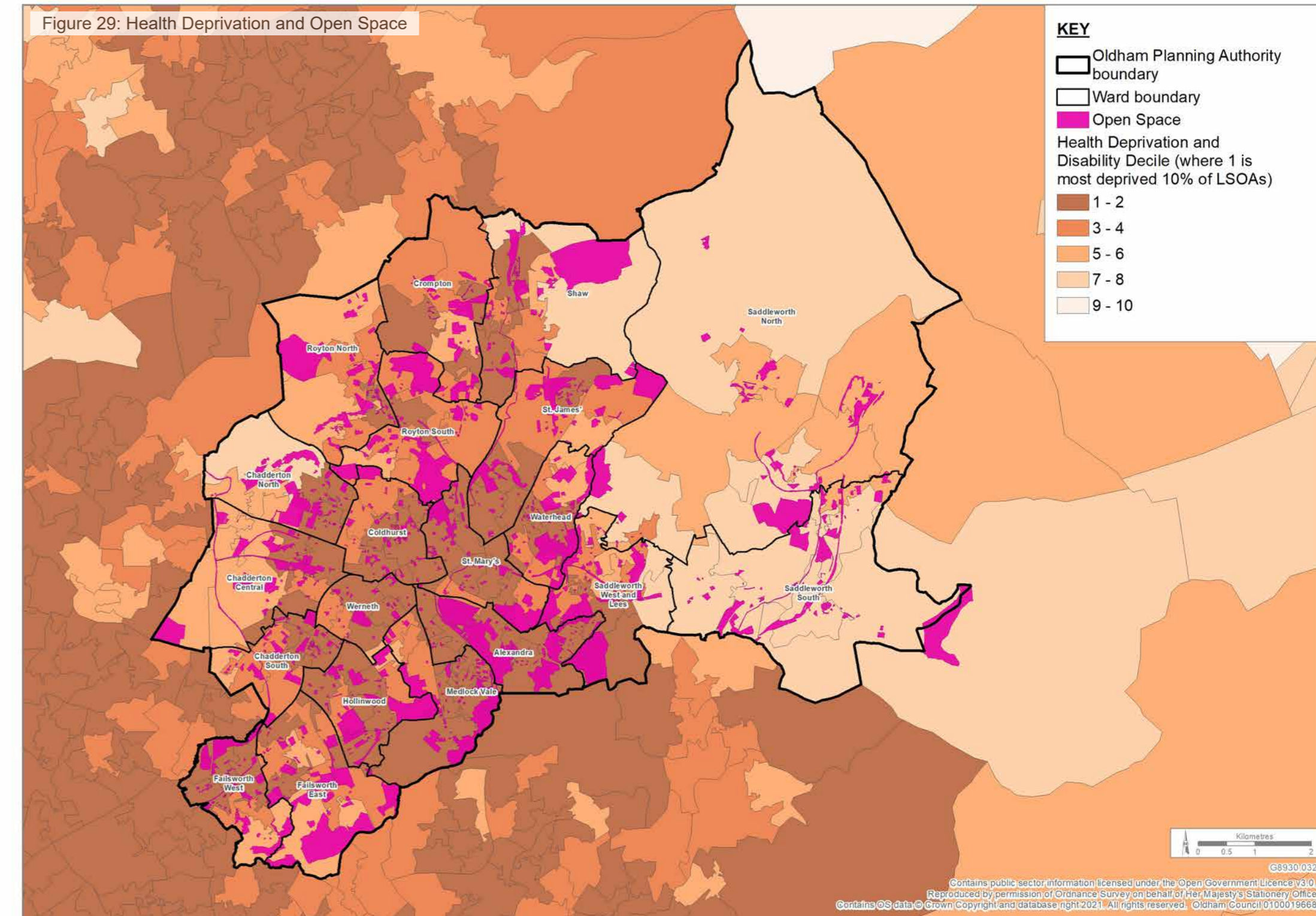
of approximately 30m x 30m for Amenity Greenspace and a space of 50m x 40m\* for Provision for Children and Young People per 1,000 population respectively. There is a current surplus in Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks and Gardens although that is not an indication that those spaces should be reduced or developed.

5.23 The population of Oldham Borough is projected to grow to 25,829 by 2037, the plan period for Places for Everyone and the emerging Local Plan. When compared to the current provision of open space, this increase in population would result in a quantitative deficiency in Amenity Greenspace (0.11 ha per 1,000 population) and Provision for Children and Young People (0.21 ha per 1,000 population) equating to a space of approximately 40m x 30m and 50m x 40m respectively.

5.24 The shortfall for Provision for Children and Young People is particularly pertinent given the current inactivity rates amongst the population highlighted in Chapter 2.0 Priorities. This shortfall needs to be addressed and could include natural play opportunities in the typologies with a quantitative surplus, which includes natural and semi-natural greenspace, parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities (even with the increase in population by 2037).

5.25 The plan opposite (Figure 29) shows the location of all types of open space compared with health deprivation. Any interventions in terms of quantity and quality provision (see below) should be prioritised in areas of highest health deprivation.

Figure 29: Health Deprivation and Open Space





Quality

5.26 The NPPF recognises the opportunities that appropriately located and well-designed open spaces can provide. Paragraph 98 states:

5.27 *Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and supports efforts to address climate change.*

5.28 A selection of sites were audited in 2021, using criteria aligned with the Green Flag Award assessment:

- Welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean

5.29 The assessment sets a quality standard for all open space typologies of Good or above. The outcome of the quality audit confirms that 56% of sites assessed achieved good or above.

5.30 The Open Space Assessment proposes a quality standard of 70% to ensure that all sites achieve at least a Good quality score. This means that 43.29% of sites (197 sites) need to be brought up to a Good quality score. There is an ongoing need for continued investment in open space management to meet local needs including the health and well-being of communities,

and the delivery of wider benefits for nature and supporting efforts to address climate change.

5.31 The plan opposite (Figure 30) shows the location of sites assessed and their corresponding quality score.

5.32 Table 5 provides a summary of the quality standard for open spaces assessed as part of the quality audit.

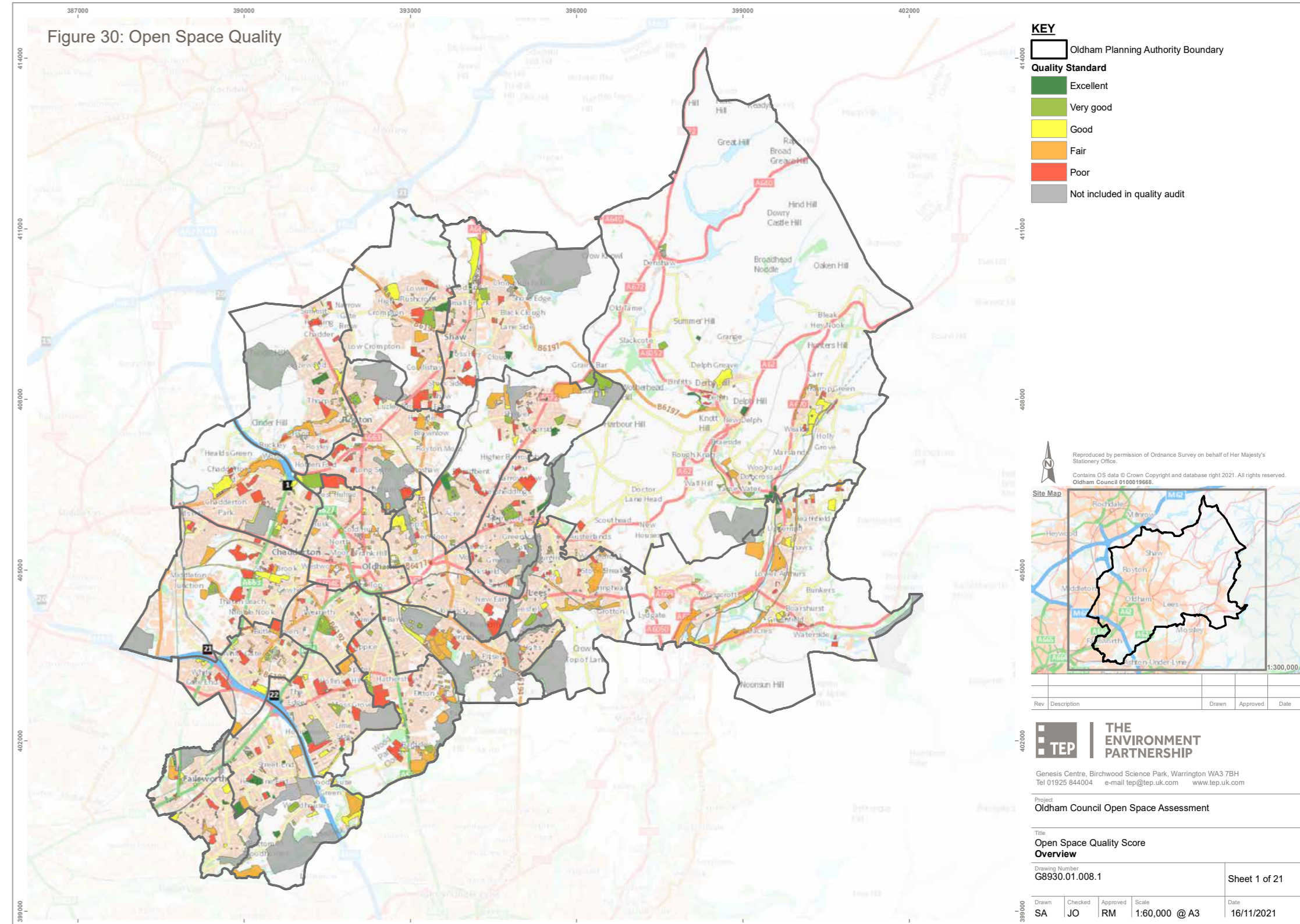
Table 5: Open Space Quality Scoring

Quality Banding	No. of Open Space Sites	Percentage of Sites
Excellent: 90% to 100%	39	8.55%
Very Good: 80% to 90%	84	18.46%
Good: 70% to 79%	135	29.67%
Fair: 50% to 69%	162	35.60%
Poor: 0% to 49%	35	7.69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>100%</b>

5.33 Further detailed analysis about open space provision in terms of quantity and quality by Ward is available in the Oldham Open Space Assessment. Chapter 6.0 Place Based Opportunities for GI also highlights some of the specific recommendations of the Open Space Assessment, including green travel routes to open spaces.

\* Equivalent to the footprint of eight tennis courts (approx. 24m x 11m per court)

Figure 30: Open Space Quality





## Green Access for All

5.34 The section on Equality of Access to GI in Chapter 2.0 Priorities, highlights that a proportion of residential properties in Oldham have no private garden space, particularly the central wards of Werneth, Coldhurst and St Mary's. Further to this, Oldham Adult Active Lives (2018-2019) found that 32.3% of Oldham's population are 'inactive' doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week. These issues can be partly addressed by ensuring that open space is accessible to all and that it is of sufficient quantity and quality (see previous section).

5.35 The Oldham Open Space Assessment (2021) has assigned accessibility standards for amenity greenspace, natural and semi-natural greenspaces, outdoor sports facilities, parks and gardens and provision for young people and children. The proposed accessibility standards are shown 'as the crow flies' (straight line) from an open space. This has been converted into walking time to show approximately how long it should take for residents to walk to their local open space. Accessibility buffers have been applied to sites across the study area.

### Amenity Greenspace

5.36 The plan opposite (Figure 31) shows the buffer of 720m (walking threshold, taking approximately 15 minutes) applied to all amenity greenspaces. It shows that there is good coverage in most of the urban wards, but there is less provision in Shaw and Saddleworth North.

### Natural and Semi Natural Greenspaces

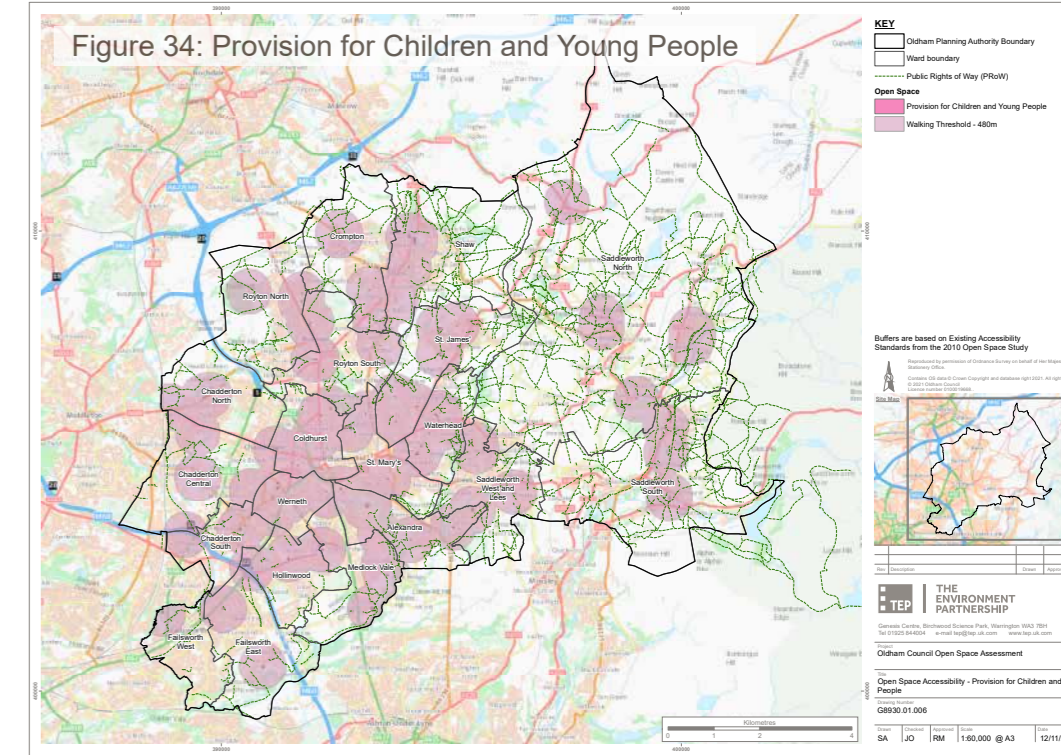
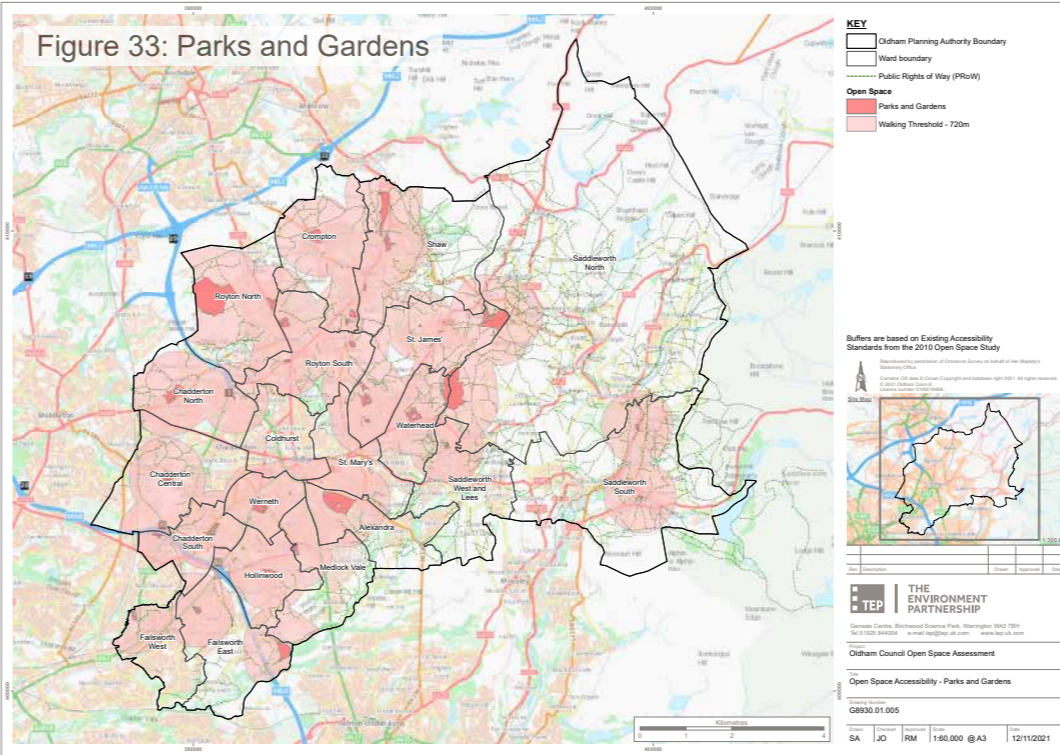
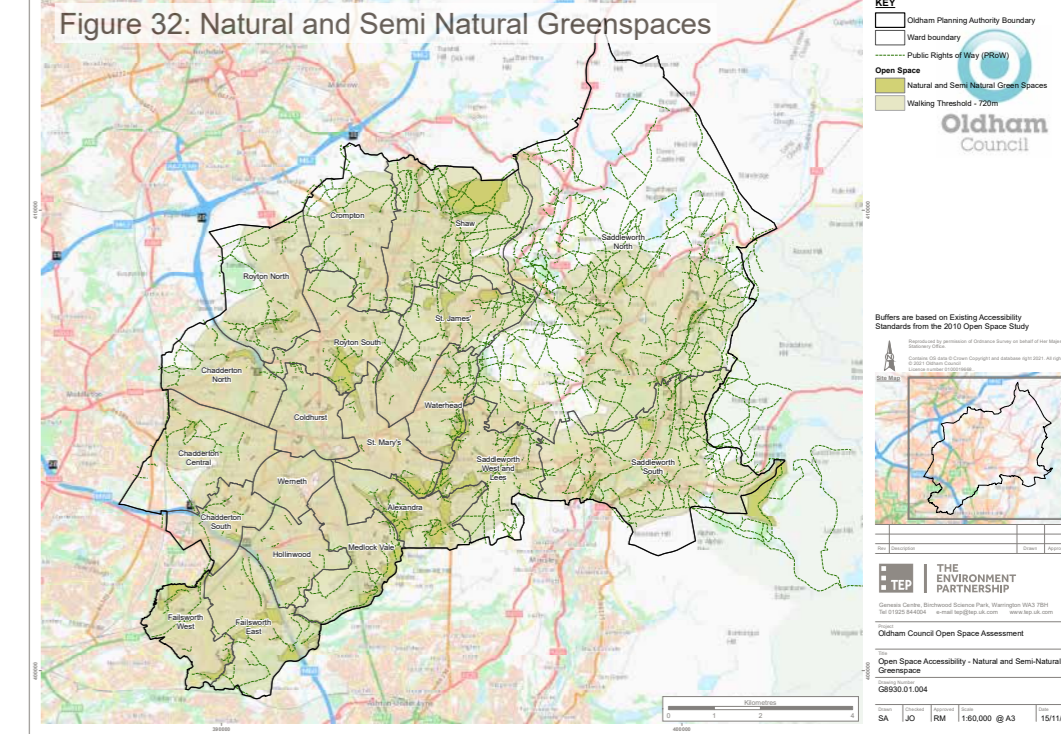
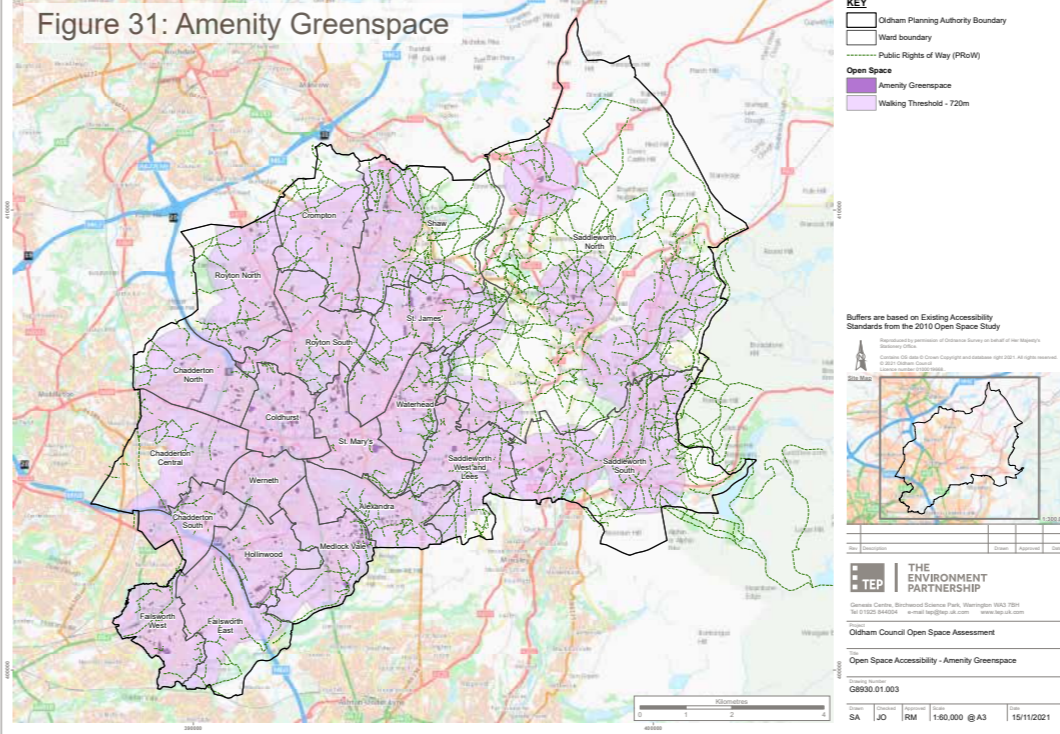
5.37 The plan opposite (Figure 32) shows the buffer of 720m applied to all natural and semi natural greenspaces. It shows that there is good coverage across all wards except Saddleworth North. However, it is acknowledged that this ward has access to the open countryside.

### Parks and Gardens

5.38 The plan opposite (Figure 33) shows the buffer of 720m applied to all parks and gardens. Accessibility to Parks and Gardens is mixed across the borough. There are large gaps in access to Parks and Gardens in parts of Shaw, Saddleworth North, Saddleworth South, Saddleworth and West Lees, Coldhurst, Alexandra, Medlock Vale, Failsworth East and Failsworth West. There is good accessibility to Parks and Gardens in Royton North, Werneth, St James and Royton South.

### Provision for Children and Young People

5.39 The plan opposite (Figure 34) shows the buffer of 480m (walking threshold, taking approximately 10 minutes) applied to all provision for children and young people. There are large gaps in access to provision for children and young people in the east of the borough. However, it is acknowledged that these areas have proximity to the open countryside including natural and semi natural greenspaces. There are gaps in access to provision in parts of Failsworth, Hollinwood, Chadderton, Royton, Crompton and Shaw.





## Distinctive Landscapes

5.40 The earlier section on landscape character and trees established that Oldham’s distinctive landscape arises from its underlying geology and dramatic topography. Trees contribute to that character although tree cover tends to be more associated with the borough’s river valleys rather than the open moorland to the east. This section firstly considers opportunities for enhancement of each landscape character type (LCT). The second part of the section considers opportunities for significant areas of tree planting in the study area, focussing on multiple benefits for people and nature but also in keeping with landscape character.

### Landscape Character

5.41 The Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment includes guidance and opportunities for future development and landscape management/enhancement for each landscape character type, which includes tree planting in keeping with landscape character.

#### North District

5.42 Guidance and opportunities for the Pennine Foothills (West and South Pennines) LCT include:

- Avoid areas of the landscape with distinct or complex landforms, including the locally prominent hills and intricate

stream valleys, including Besom Hill and Tandle Hill

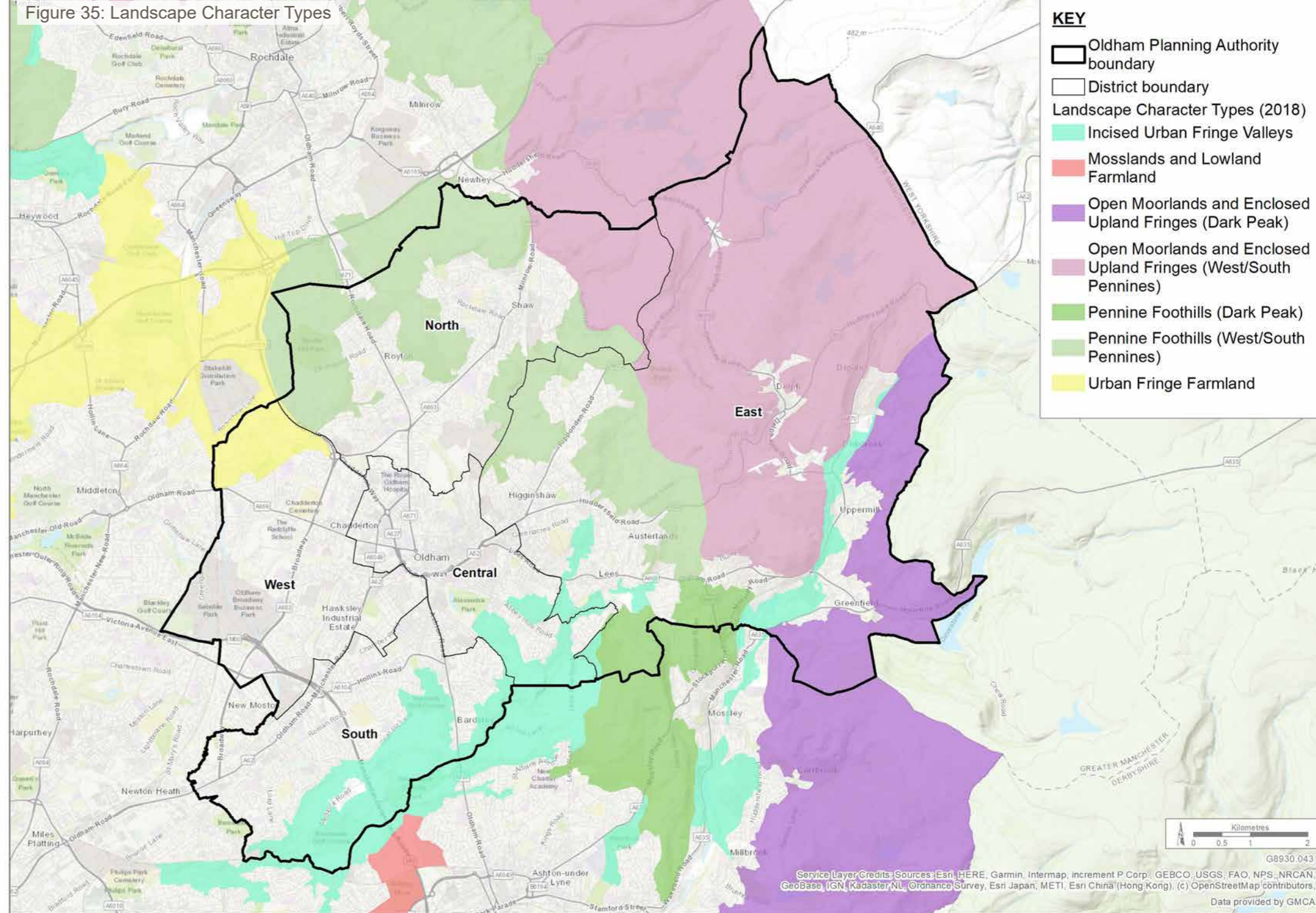
- Retain the role of the landscape as an undeveloped backdrop to existing development
- Utilise areas of undulating landform and woodland cover to integrate new development into the landscape
- Protect areas of broadleaved woodland (particularly ancient woodland) which provide important semi-natural habitat and create wooded skylines
- Retain the distinct visual character of the landscape, including views to monuments on skylines which form local landmarks (including Tandle Hill War Memorial), church spires and chimneys

#### East District

5.43 East District is covered by five LCTs and these are:

- Incised Urban Fringe Valleys
- Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (Dark Peak)
- Open Moorland and Enclosed Uplands (West and South Pennines)
- Pennine Foothills (Dark Peak)
- Pennine Foothills (West and South Pennines)

5.44 A summary of landscape guidance and opportunities is provided below for each LCT in the East District (excluding Incised Urban Fringe Valleys LCT and Pennine Foothills (West





and South Pennines) LCT which are covered elsewhere in this section). Further detail should be sought from the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment.

5.45 Guidance and opportunities for Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (Dark Peak) include:

- Avoid siting any development within the open moorland and areas on the immediate edge of the Peak District National Park
- Encourage the natural regeneration of woodland and restoration of wetland habitats fringing the stream valleys, slowing water flow before it enters the Tame and Etherow valleys below
- Conserve open, sweeping skylines which form a backdrop to views from valley settlements and Greater Manchester more widely

5.46 Guidance and opportunities for Open Moorland and Enclosed Uplands (West and South Pennines):

- Avoid siting any development on the unenclosed upland moorland and in areas on the immediate edge of the Peak District National Park. Also avoid development on steeply sloping areas or on complex landforms
- Protect and where possible enhance the valued mosaic of semi-natural habitats, including internationally designated areas of heather moorland, blanket bog, acid grassland

and wet and dry heathland. Conserve semi-natural habitats within the upland fringe including broadleaved woodland, species rich grassland and wetlands

- Ensure the visual character of the landscape is retained. Avoid development where it would be prominent on the broad, sweeping skylines. Protect long, uninterrupted views from higher ground over the mill settlements in the valleys below, and Greater Manchester communities beyond

5.47 Guidance and opportunities for Pennine Foothills (Dark Peak):

- Avoid siting any development on the highly prominent, elevated ridgelines and hill summits of the LCT, including Mottram Hill, above Oldham Golf Club and above Capstone
- Protect the landscape's role as an immediate rural hinterland and backdrop to the adjacent urban areas of Oldham, Mossley and Ashton-under-Lyne
- Conserve expansive views from elevated land to the distinctive remote moorlands of the Peak District National Park and South Pennines, as well as visual connections with important mill heritage features at lower elevations

Central District and South District

5.48 Landscape guidance and opportunities for the Incised Urban Fringe Valleys LCT include:

- Avoid siting development on the edges of valley where buildings would be prominent on the skyline
- Conserve wooded and open undeveloped skylines
- Hedgerows should be preserved and enhanced where applicable the fill in gaps
- Encourage woodland creation schemes on areas of low grade agricultural land, including through the Northern Forest initiative
- Conserve key views and intervisibility with the South/West Pennines and Dark Peak foothills, upland fringes and open moorlands and including the landmarks such as Saddleworth War Memorial

West District

5.49 Landscape guidance and opportunities for the Urban Fringe Farmland LCT include:

- Avoid siting any development on the highly prominent, elevated and very sparsely settled land in the elevated north and east
- Conserve open, undeveloped skylines

- Encourage woodland creation schemes on areas of low grade agricultural land, including through the Northern Forest initiative
- Woodland planting along motorways and staggered blocks of planting should be used to help screen views of traffic and reduce noise
- Protect the pockets of tranquillity and relative remoteness associated with the landscape, and the role the LCT plays as a rural backdrop and buffer between discrete urban areas
- Conserve key views and intervisibility with the South/West Pennines and Dark Peak foothills, upland fringes and open moorlands



Trees

5.50 The ‘heat’ map opposite (Figure 36) represents the areas in Oldham where trees could potentially be planted for multiple benefits. The output was produced by City of Trees (2019) based on an analysis of multiple datasets, using the Ordnance Survey Mastermap as a base. The ‘priority’ value relates to the degree to which land parcels provide a range of opportunities, including:

- Air quality improvements
- Climate regulation
- Enhancing habitat and wildlife
- Improved health outcomes
- Improving place
- Water quality and flood management

5.51 Figure 36 indicates areas where proposed tree planting can deliver the most opportunities (7-12 opportunities). It should be considered alongside existing tree canopy cover by ward, presented on page 41 and be in keeping with the recommendations of the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment. The ‘hotspots’ for delivering the most opportunities include:

North District

- ND1: Agricultural land east of Royton

- ND2: Agricultural land north of Shaw and Crompton
- ND3: Agricultural Land in the Beal valley (east of Royton)

East District

- ED1: Agricultural land north of Denshaw
- ED2: Agricultural land east of Oldham’s urban fringe
- ED3: Land south west of Sholver
- ED4: Agricultural land west of Greenfield

Central District

- CD1: Land north of Glodwick Lows
- CD2: Land forming part of Northern Roots proposals
- CD3: Grassland areas south of Alt

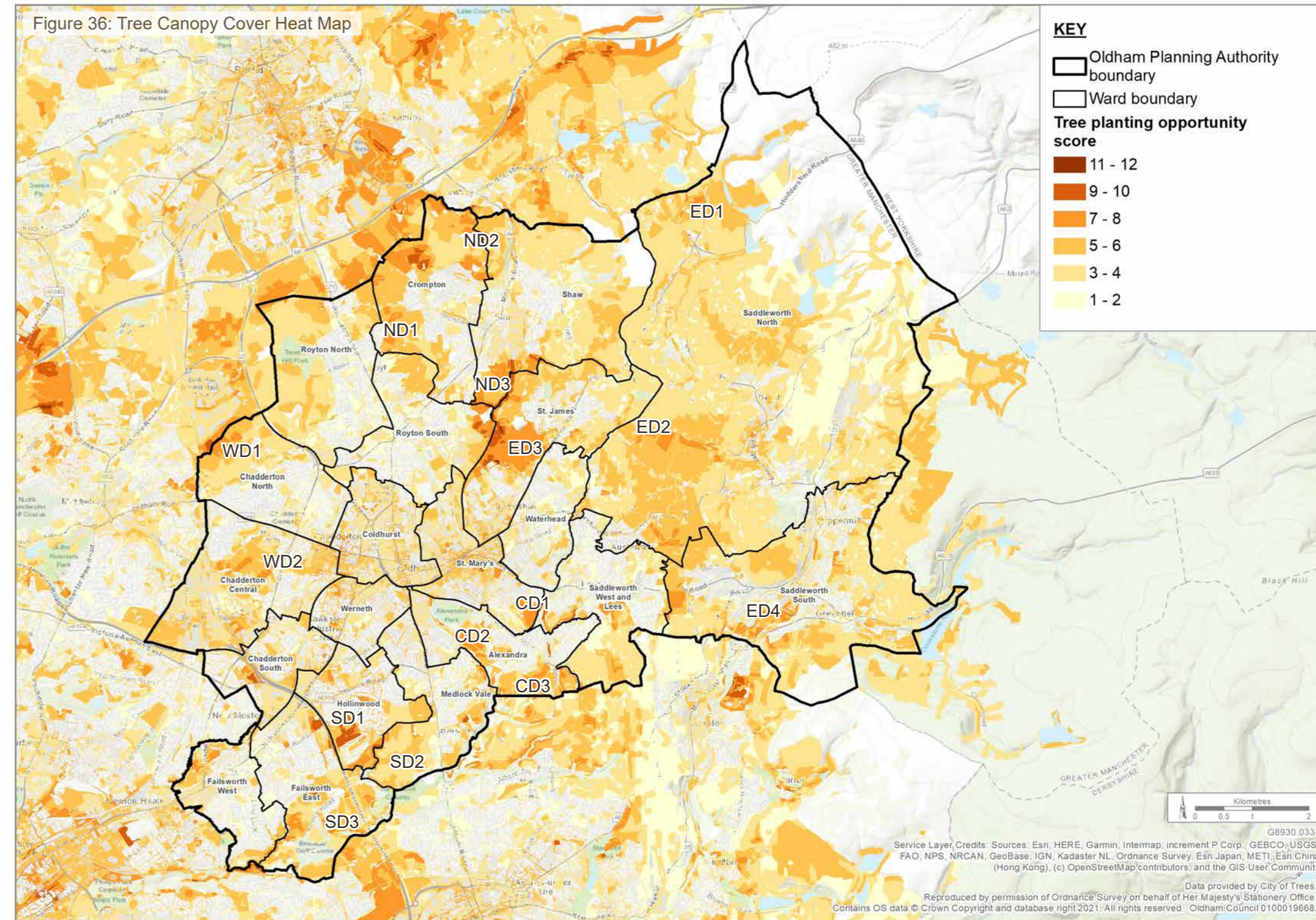
South District

- SD1: Hollinwood Cemetery
- SD2: Agricultural land south of Hollinwood
- SD3: Agricultural land south of Failsworth

West District

- WD1: Agricultural land north of Chadderton
- WD2: Amenity land near to Wince Brook, east of Middleton Junction

Figure 36: Tree Canopy Cover Heat Map





## Slowing the Flow and a Quality Water Environment

5.52 GI can be planned in a way that helps to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding, drawing on catchment wide approaches for landscape scale management. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and natural flood management (NFM) such as woodland planting, leaky dams and grip-blocking can slow the flow of surface water whilst providing a range of other benefits for wildlife. In addition the Environment Agency (EA) can designate Areas with Critical Drainage Problems (ACDPs). ACDPs are designated where the EA is aware that development within a certain catchment and drainage area could have detrimental impacts on fluvial flood risk downstream, and/or where the EA has identified existing fluvial flood risk issues that could be exacerbated by upstream activities. In these instances, the EA would work with the Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) and Local Planning Authority to ensure that adequate surface water management measures are incorporated into new development to help mitigate fluvial flood risk. Opportunity areas for further critical drainage management in Oldham are highlighted below.

### Analysis

5.53 The maps on page 97 show a sequence from baseline: Oldham’s main rivers (Figure 37), need in terms of flood risk (Figure 38), need in terms of surface water flooding (Figure 39),

and opportunity areas for further critical drainage management (Figure 40). Further commentary for each map is provided below.

### Need – Flood Zone 3

#### River Beal

5.54 The upper section of the River Beal includes flood zone 3b (functional floodplain). There are areas of flood zone 3a in Shaw and to the north of the town.

#### River Tame

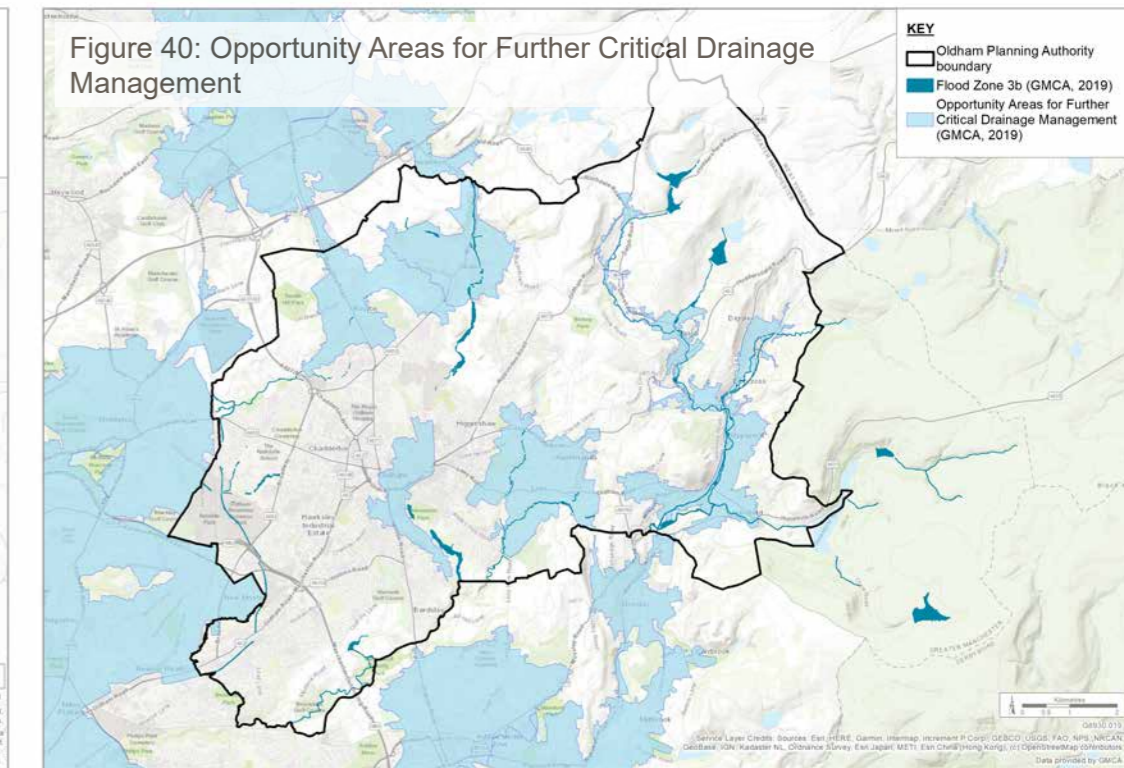
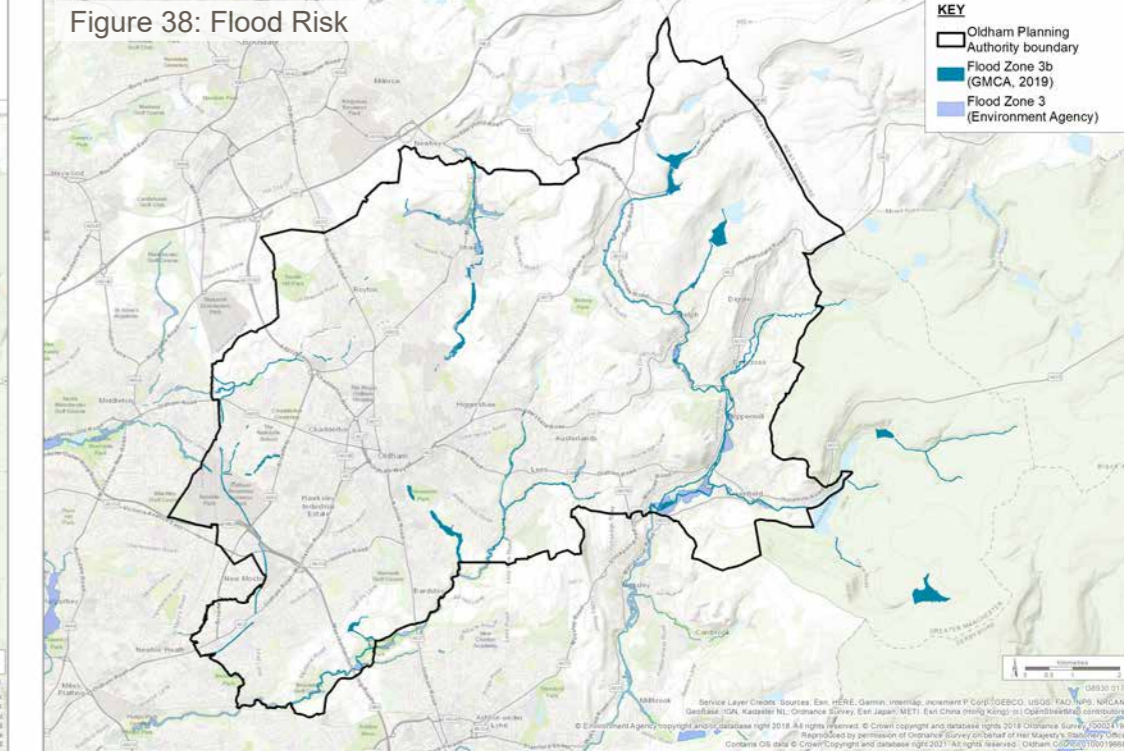
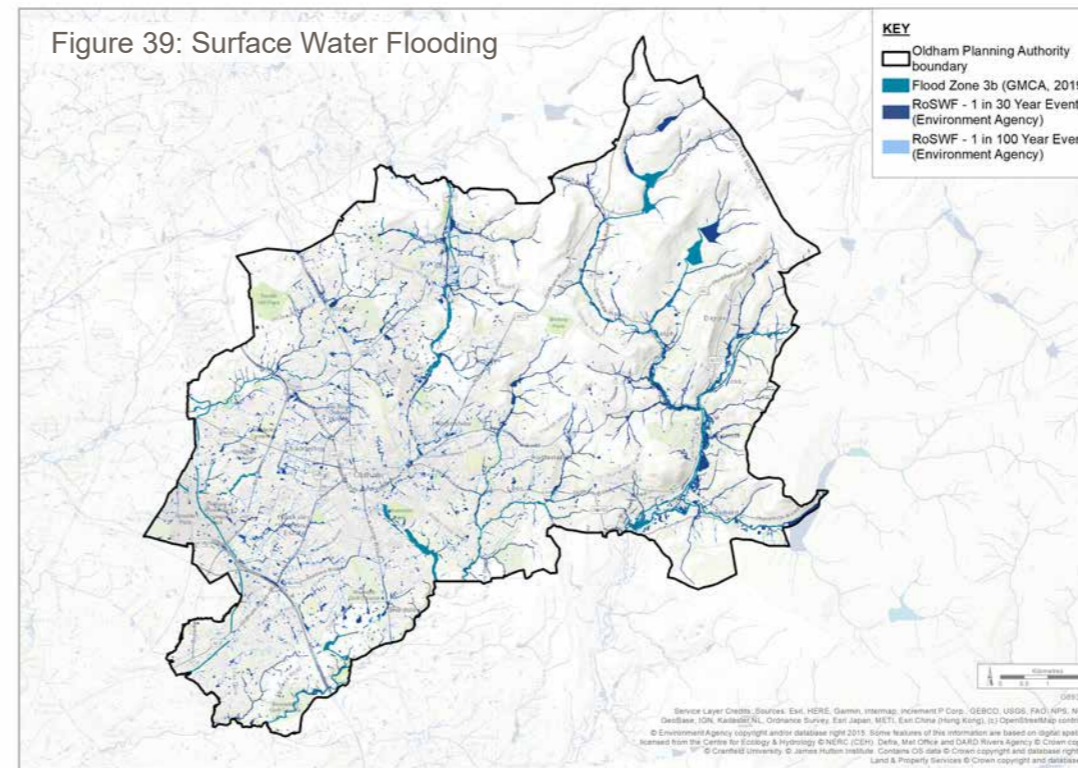
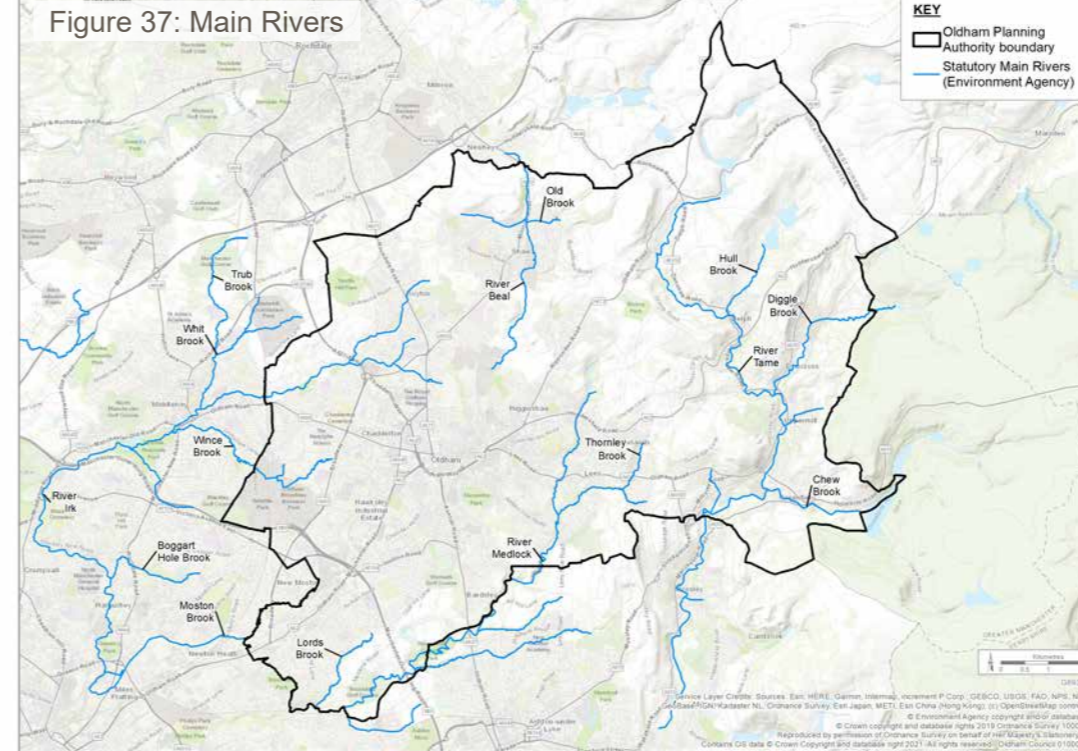
5.55 The section of the River Tame south of Uppermill includes areas of flood zone 3a to the boundary with Tameside.

#### River Medlock

5.56 The upper section of the River Medlock and Thornley Brook includes some flood zone 3b. A tributary to the Medlock in the Northern Roots site is also flood zone 3b. There are areas of flood zone 3a alongside the Medlock as it passes through Daisy Nook Country Park.

#### River Irk

5.57 Sections of Wince Brook and the other tributaries to the River Irk are flood zone 3b.





## Need – Risk of Surface Water Flooding

5.58 In addition to flood zone 3b, the map shows risk of surface water flooding (RoSWF) for a 1 in 30 year event and RoSWF for a 1 in 100 year event. In most cases Oldham's rivers and their tributaries are affected by RoSWF for a 1 in 30 year event, where not already flood zone 3b. In terms of RoSWF for a 1 in 100 year event, the following areas are more affected; Royton, Shaw, Lees, Oldham town centre, Hollinwood, Failsworth, Werneth and Chadderton.

## Opportunity

5.59 The GMCA Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 recommends the following opportunity areas for further critical drainage management:

### North District

- Thorp: covers most of the central areas of Royton (including a tributary to the River Irk) and Shaw (including River Beal and Old Brook)

### East District

- Saddleworth: covers most of the central areas of Denshaw, Delph, Dobcross, Diggle, Uppermill, Greenfield and Grasscroft (including sections of the Hull Brook, Diggle Brook, Chew Brook and River Tame)

- Lees: covers most of Lees and Springhead (including Thornley Brook and the upper section of the River Medlock)

### Central District

- Oldham (town centre): covers western parts of Derker, most of Oldham town centre and the eastern part of Hathershaw



## Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

5.60 GI can deliver many aspects of sustainable growth by supporting quality of place and reducing the impact of economic and housing development on the natural environment. GI planning can also provide environments conducive to productive lifestyles through connecting people with the outdoors and by the provision of new GI near to homes and places of work. Some GI is itself an economic asset, notably the Pennine fringes, waterbodies and open spaces which support businesses and jobs.

### Need

#### Places for Everyone (2021) and Housing Land Supply (SHLAA)

5.61 This dataset is a useful predictor as to the location of future communities and neighbourhoods and their proximity to existing GI networks. It will also indicate where there may be loss of GI to development and the need for offsetting that loss.

#### Business Density

5.62 This has been selected as an indicator as to where existing economic activity is concentrated in Oldham, with the opportunity to prioritise GI investment through retrofitting GI to encourage inward investment and maintain staff retention. Figure 42 on page 103 shows areas of business density.

5.63 Retrofitting GI can also assist in climate resilience by reducing surface water run-off and the ‘heat island’ effect. Green travel routes to homes and existing GI assets encourage sustainable commuting and recreation respectively.

### Opportunities

#### Proposed Places for Everyone (2021) Strategic Allocations and Oldham’s identified housing land supply (SHLAA)

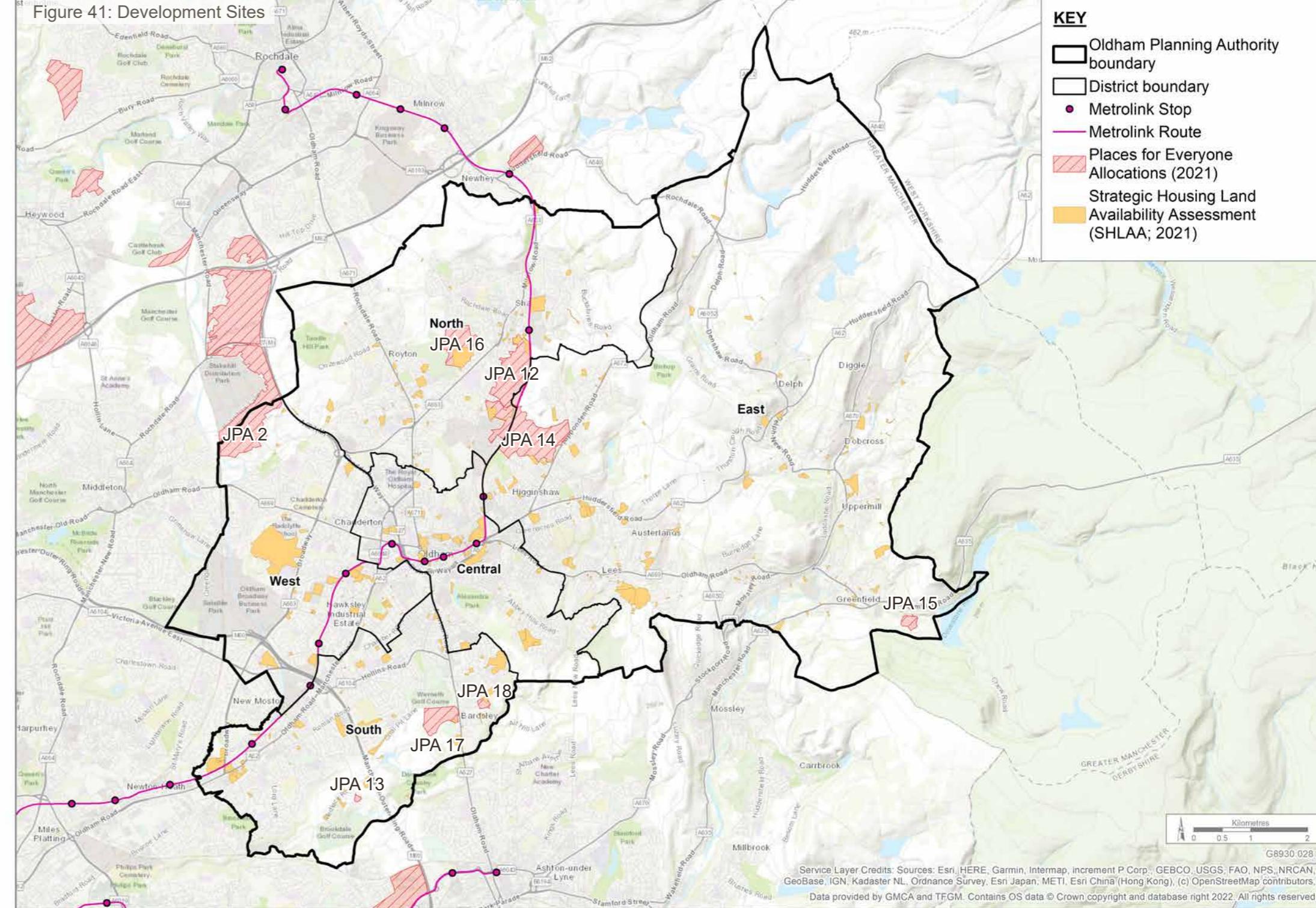
5.64 The map opposite (Figure 41) shows the location of the proposed PfE Strategic Allocations and Oldham’s identified housing land supply (SHLAA).

#### North District

- JP Allocation 12 Beal Valley
- JP Allocation 14 Broadbent Moss
- JP Allocation 16 Cowlshaw
- SHLAA sites in Royton, Crompton and Shaw

#### East District

- JP Allocation 14 Broadbent Moss
- JP Allocation 15 Chew Brook Vale (Robert Fletchers), Greenfield
- SHLAA sites in Saddleworth area
- Group of SHLAA sites south east of Lees





**Central District**

- Group of SHLAA sites in Oldham town centre
- Also east of Alexandra Park

**South District**

- JP Allocation 12 Bottom Field Farm (Woodhouses)
- JP Allocation 17 Land South of Coal Pit Lane (Ashton Road)
- JP Allocation 18 South of Rosary Road
- SHLAA Sites in Fitton Hill
- SHLAA Sites in Hollinwood
- SHLAA Sites in Failsworth

**West District**

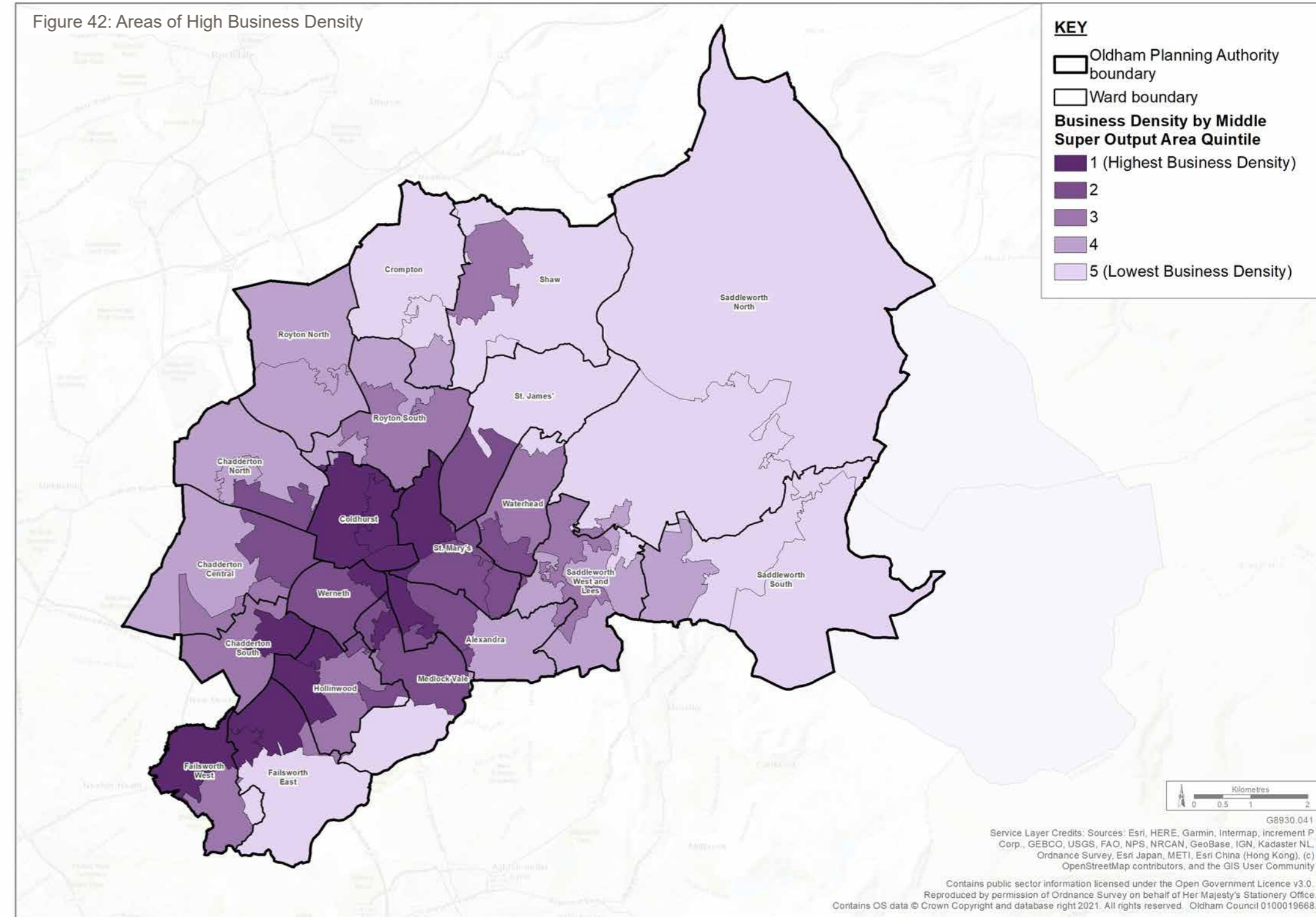
- JP Allocation 2 Stakehill
- SHLAA site Foxdenton

**Business Density**

5.65 The map opposite (Figure 42) shows areas of business density. Highest business density tends to be concentrated along the A62 corridor from Failsworth towards Oldham town centre. The remainder of Coldhurst ward (north west of the town centre) also has high business density. Other wards with high business density include:

- Failsworth West
- Failsworth East
- Hollinwood
- Chadderton South
- St Mary's
- Alexandra
- Medlock Vale

Figure 42: Areas of High Business Density





## 6.0 Place Based Opportunities for GI



## 6.0 Place Based Opportunities for GI

6.1 The aim of this chapter is to advise on the range of place based green infrastructure (GI) opportunities and interventions in Oldham's five districts. This responds to the seven themes introduced in Chapter 2.0 and considered at a study area level in Chapter 5.0. The seven themes are:

- Thriving Wildlife for Oldham
- Carbon Neutral Oldham
- Healthy and Active Communities
- Green Access for All
- Distinctive Landscapes
- Slowing the Flow and Quality Water Environment
- Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

6.2 Guided by the review of best practice, policy, baseline, needs and opportunities and stakeholder consultation, several objectives have been devised for each theme to guide GI opportunities and interventions at district level. Borough-wide objectives are described below. On pages 108 to 127 more specific opportunities and interventions are proposed according to the specific circumstances of each district.

### Thriving Wildlife for Oldham

- Promote nature recovery networks in areas of lower biodiversity, using the Lawton concept of core areas,

corridors and stepping stones

- Optimise the GI functionality of existing open spaces to encourage wildlife
- Promote multi-functional GI in allocated and potential development sites
- Encourage habitat creation and enhancement in the green belt
- Encourage residents to provide more wildlife friendly gardens

### Carbon Neutral Oldham

- Work with landowners to promote more woodlands and wetlands
- Promote high quality active travel routes in a GI setting

### Healthy and Active Communities

- Ensure open spaces meet quality standards from the Open Space Assessment
- Prioritise open space investment in areas of higher health deprivation and where few people have access to private garden space
- Encourage community participation and engagement in GI initiatives

### Green Access for All

- Address gaps in access to open space, particularly in the provision for children and young people
- Promote active travel routes linking residential areas to open spaces, schools, work and public transport hubs
- Promote a 'whole system' approach to reduce inactivity (borough wide)

### Distinctive Landscapes

- Retain distinctive characteristics of the landscape
- Encourage tree planting in suitable locations to provide multiple benefits while also contributing to distinctiveness
- Encourage land managers and developers to follow landscape character guidance (borough wide)

### Slowing the Flow and a Quality Water Environment

- Promote critical drainage management in north, east and central districts
- Promote SuDS in new development and also retrofit in existing built-up areas
- Encourage natural flood management in peri-urban and rural areas

- Enable improvements to water quality and water-based habitats
- Enable better access to a range of waterbodies

### Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

- Ensure GI underpins Places for Everyone allocations and other potential development proposals
- Prioritise GI investment in areas of high business density
- Promote GI assets to generate inbound tourism in Oldham
- Encourage Council staff, businesses, residents and school pupils to be actively engaged in delivering environmental change
- Support and extend the third sector's involvement in GI

### Maps

6.3 The maps in this chapter highlight (Figure 34) some of the GI assets and supporting infrastructure that can contribute to a comprehensive and connected GI network across the borough. The maps include tree canopy cover and the different types of open space along with parts of the sustainable transport mode network: the Metrolink system, Greater Manchester cycle routes and the Bee Network. The PfE strategic allocations and Oldham's housing land supply (SHLAA) are also highlighted due to their size and scale and their potential to contribute to GI multi-functionality and the wider GI network.



## North District

6.4 The more specific opportunities and interventions (below) are informed by the evidence base gathered in the earlier chapters of the GI Strategy.

### Headlines

North district includes the settlements of Royton, Crompton and Shaw and has a number of major GI assets: Tandle Hill Park in the west, Oldham Edge in the south, Dunwood Park and Crompton Moor to the east. Green belt land occupies the fringes of the district. The average tree canopy cover is slightly above the borough average at 13.6%, and open spaces are spread throughout the urban fabric, with some of them linked by the Bee Network. There are major development proposals at Cowlshaw, Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss to the southern edges of Crompton and Shaw respectively.

### Thriving Wildlife for Oldham

- Promote nature recovery networks linking Tandle Hill Park, Oldham Edge and Royton Moss using green belt land and open spaces as intermediate stepping stones  $\dashrightarrow$   
Promote nature recovery networks linking Crompton and Royton golf course, Dunwood Park and Crompton Moor

using green belt land and open spaces intermediate stepping stones  $\dashrightarrow$

- Optimise the GI functionality of existing open spaces to encourage wildlife, with a particular focus on building more spaces for nature into outdoor sports facilities
- Promote multi-functional GI in allocated and potential development sites: PfE sites Cowlshaw (JP Allocation 16), Beal Valley (JP Allocation 12) and the western part of Broadbent Moss (JP Allocation 14) **JPA**
- Target green belt land for habitat creation and enhancement by working with landowners to fringes of Royton, Crompton and Shaw **GB**

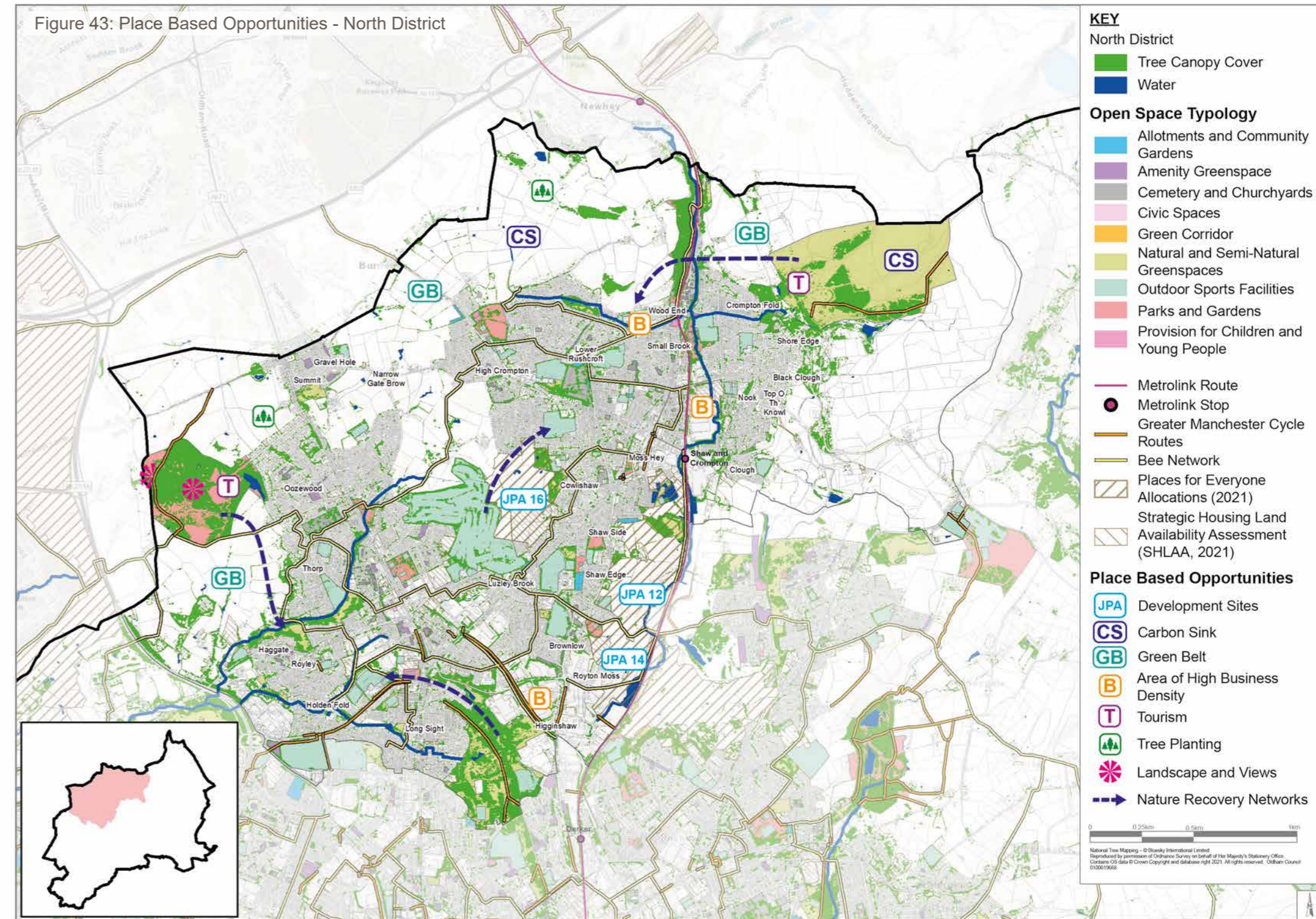
### Carbon Neutral Oldham

- Work with agricultural landowners to promote more woodlands and wetlands to act as carbon sinks. Target land to fringes of Royton, Crompton and Shaw **CS**
- Promote high quality active travel routes, in a GI setting, linking homes to schools, work places and public transport hubs as outlined below

Greater Manchester cycle routes including:

- Oldham Edge to Royton
- Royton to Chadderton

Figure 43: Place Based Opportunities - North District





The Bee Network including:

- Royton Moss to Shaw
- Royton to High Crompton and Wood End
- Thorp (Royton) to Cowlshaw and Shaw

### Healthy and Active Communities

1. Ensure all open spaces meet quality standards including the following assessed as 'poor':
  - Hanging Chadder Lane natural and semi-natural greenspace, Royton North
  - Valley Rise natural and semi-natural greenspace, Crompton
  - Moss Hey Street Recreation Ground natural and semi-natural greenspace, Shaw (also located in Beal Valley (JP Allocation 12))
  - Twingates Community Nature Area, Shaw (also located in Beal Valley (JP Allocation 12))
2. Prioritise investment in open space in areas of high health deprivation and with lower provision of private garden space: Royton centre, Crompton south west, Shaw
3. Encourage community participation and engagement through GI initiatives, including groups such as Friends of Crompton Moor.



### Green Access for All

1. Address gaps in access to open space, particularly in the provision for children and young people: Royton west, Crompton east, Shaw east.
2. Promote active travel routes linking homes to open spaces, including:

Bee Network

- Royton to Tandle Hill Park
- Royton to Irk Valley (natural and semi-natural greenspace)




### Distinctive Landscapes

1. Retain distinctive characteristics of the landscape: 
  - Protect areas of the landscape with distinct or complex landforms, including the locally prominent hills and intricate stream valleys, including Tandle Hill
  - Retain the distinct visual character of the landscape, including views to monuments on skylines which form local landmarks (including Tandle Hill War Memorial)
2. Encourage tree planting in suitable locations to provide multiple benefits while also contributing to landscape character: 
  - Beal Valley
  - Land to fringes of Royton, Crompton and Shaw

### Slowing the Flow and Water Environment

1. Promote surface water management measures in: Royton, Crompton and Shaw
2. Promote SuDS in new development and retrofit in existing built-up areas
3. Encourage natural flood management in peri-urban and rural areas
4. Enable improvements to water quality and water-based habitats – River Irk tributaries, River Beal, Old Brook
5. Enable better access to a range of waterways - River Irk tributaries, River Beal, Old Brook

### Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

1. Ensure GI underpins PfE allocated sites and other potential development sites 
2. Prioritise GI investment in areas of high business density 
3. Promote GI assets to generate inbound tourism in Oldham including: 
  - Tandle Hill Country Park
  - Crompton Moor



View from Royton towards Oldham Edge



Dogford Park, Royton



## East District

### Headlines

The East district is characterised by the parish of Saddleworth and the eastern fringes of Oldham including: Sholver, Greenacres and Lees. The major GI assets include the blanket bog extending from Denshaw Moor to Standedge, the fringes of the Peak District National Park, the upper River Tame catchment, Huddersfield Canal, the upper River Medlock corridor and the country parks at Strinesdale and Besom Hill. Green belt occupies all open land beyond the settlement footprint. Tree canopy cover is below the Oldham average at 11.8%, and there are relatively few areas of public open space, although the countryside is highly accessible to most residents. There is a major development proposal at Broadbent Moss, east of Sholver.

### Thriving Wildlife for Oldham

- Promote nature recovery networks linking the blanket bog at Denshaw Moor, the fringes of the Peak District National Park and the upper River Tame catchment and upper River Medlock corridor  $\dashrightarrow$   
Promote nature recovery networks linking the upper River Tame catchment, the country parks at Strinesdale and Besom Hill and the upper River Medlock  $\dashrightarrow$

- Optimise the GI functionality of existing open spaces to encourage wildlife
- Promote multi-functional GI in allocated and potential development sites: PfE site eastern part of Broadbent Moss (JP Allocation 14), Chew Brook Vale (Robert Fletchers) (JP Allocation 15) and the site west of Grotton (Knowls Lane) **JPA**
- Target green belt land for habitat creation and enhancement by working with landowners across the east district (all land in East District is green belt excepting settlements) **GB**

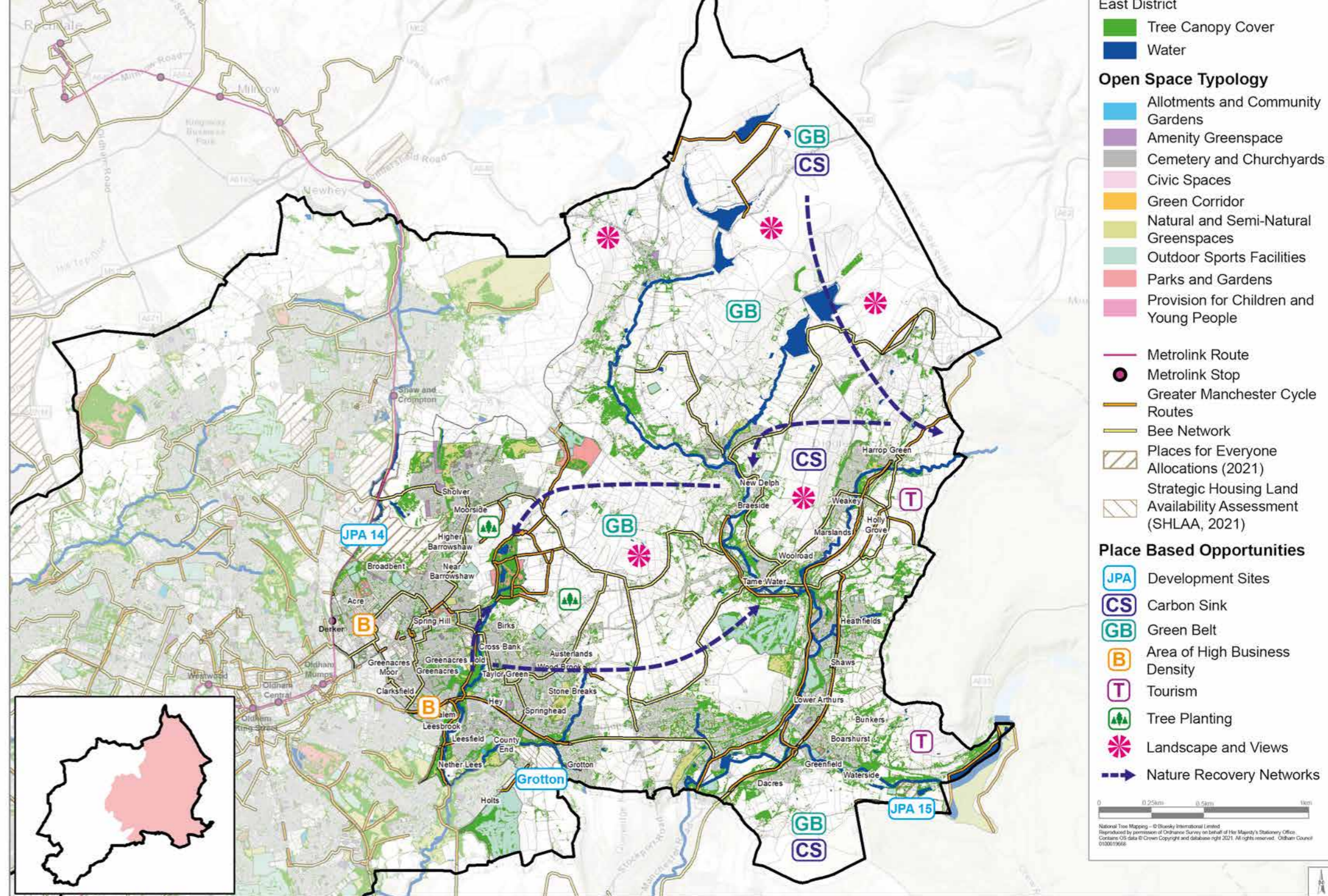
### Carbon Neutral Oldham

- Work with agricultural landowners and stakeholders to promote more carbon sequestration. Target peat bogs around Denshaw Moor, agricultural land on high ground between Delph and eastern fringes of Oldham and heathland at Alphin **CS**
- Promote high quality active travel routes, in a GI setting, linking homes to schools, workplaces and public transport hubs as outlined below

Greater Manchester cycle routes including:

- Huddersfield Canal towpath from Diggle to Friezland
- Off-road route from Uppermill to Dacres
- Off-road route from Clarksfield to Grotton

Figure 44: Place Based Opportunities - East District





## Healthy and Active Communities

1. Ensure all open spaces meet quality standards including the following assessed as 'poor':
  - Chepstow Drive natural and semi-natural greenspace, Derker
  - Broadbent Road natural and semi-natural greenspace, Broadbent (also located in Broadbent Moss (JP Allocation 14))
  - Railway Rec natural and semi-natural greenspace, Geenacres
  - Greenfield Mill Football Ground, Greenfield
2. Prioritise investment in open space in areas of high health deprivation: Sholver, Greenacres and Lees
3. Encourage community participation and engagement through GI initiatives, including groups such as Friends of Parks, Get Oldham Growing and Veg in the Park.

## Green Access for All

1. Address gaps in access to open space, particularly in the provision for children and young people in the rural areas
2. Promote active travel routes linking homes to open spaces, using the Greater Manchester cycle routes including:
  - Huddersfield Canal towpath from Diggle to Friezland
  - Off-road route from Uppermill to Dacres

## Distinctive Landscapes

1. Retain distinctive characteristics of the landscape: 🌸
  - Protect areas of the landscape with distinct or complex landforms, including: Denshaw Moor, Standedge, Harrop Edge, Crompton Moor and High Moor
  - Conserve open, sweeping skylines which form a backdrop to views from valley settlements and Greater Manchester more widely
2. Encourage tree planting in suitable locations to provide multiple benefits while also contributing to landscape character: 🌳
  - Land south east of Sholver
  - Land north of Lees

## Slowing the Flow and Water Environment

1. Promote surface water management measures in the River Tame catchment
2. Promote SuDS in new development and retrofit in existing built-up areas
3. Encourage natural flood management in peri-urban and rural areas
4. Enable improvements to water quality and water-based habitats – River Tame catchment and upper River Medlock
5. Enable better access to a range of waterways - River Tame and tributaries, upper River Medlock and Huddersfield Canal

## Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

1. Ensure GI underpins PfE allocated sites and other potential development sites JPA
2. Prioritise GI investment in areas of higher business density B
3. Promote GI assets to generate inbound tourism in Oldham including: T
  - Landscape to fringes of villages of Saddleworth Parish
  - Recreation routes (Oldham Way, Medlock Valley Way)



View from Grains Road towards Harrop Edge



View from Grains Road towards Crompton Moor



## Central District

### Headlines

The central district is characterised by Oldham town centre, mixed used areas in Coldhurst ward including Oldham Royal Infirmary, with Alexandra Park and the largely residential areas of Glodwick and Alt to the south. The more major GI assets include Alexandra Park, parkland and sports facilities at Oldham Edge, Glodwick Low Local Nature Reserve and the River Medlock. Green Belt occupies land at the southern extent of the district. Tree canopy cover is above the Oldham average at 17%. There are a number of potential development sites in the town centre proposed as part of the council's Creating a Better Place and this includes the Jubilee Park proposals. The exciting Northern Roots proposal will create an urban farm and eco-park of regional significance between Alexandra Park and the Medlock Valley. The A62 Oldham Way acts as a barrier limiting free movement between the town centre and GI assets to the south.

### Thriving Wildlife for Oldham

1. Promote nature recovery networks linking Alexandra Park, Glodwick Lows Local Nature Reserve and Oldham Edge using open spaces as stepping stones

Promote nature recovery networks linking the River Medlock and Alexandra Park

2. Optimise the GI functionality of existing open spaces to encourage wildlife
3. Promote multi-functional GI in allocated and potential development sites
4. Target green belt land for habitat creation and enhancement by working with landowners and stakeholders

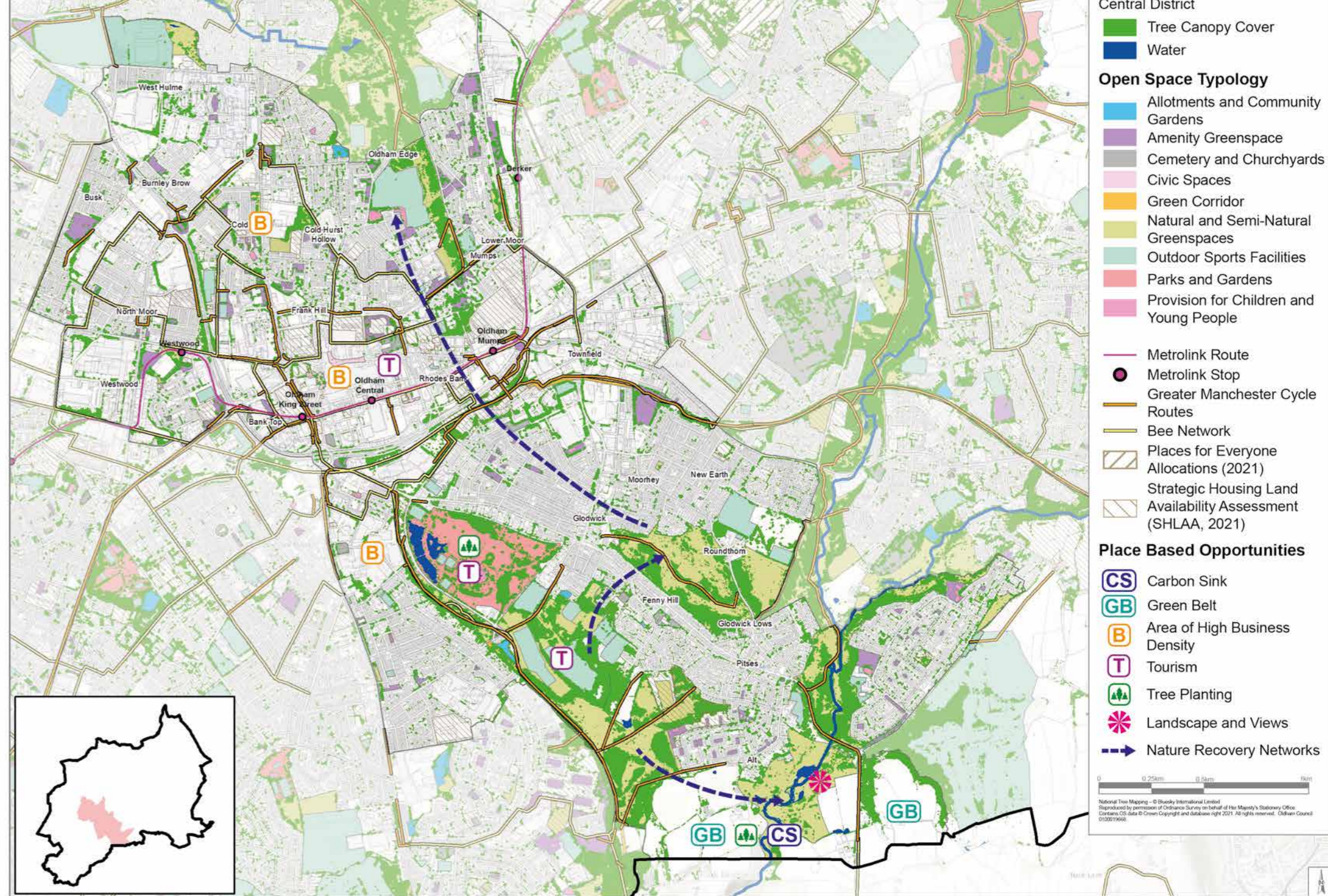
### Carbon Neutral Oldham

1. Work with landowners and stakeholders to promote more woodlands and wetlands to act as carbon sinks, targeting land to fringes south of Alt
2. Promote high quality active travel routes, in a GI setting, linking homes to schools, workplaces and public transport hubs as outlined below

Greater Manchester cycle routes including:

- National Cycle Network Route 601 running south of Alexandra Park connecting with potential future off-road links across Oldham Way to the town centre and Oldham Edge
- Off-road cycle route north of Glodwick linking to Greenacres and Lees
- Route from Coldhurst to Oldham town centre

Figure 45: Place Based Opportunities - Central District





The Bee Network including:

- Coldhurst to Oldham town centre
- 3. Investigate and implement a Greenway linking Oldham Edge to the Northern Roots site, via the Town Centre’s cultural quarter, improving attractiveness of non-car routes across the A62 Oldham Way

### Healthy and Active Communities

1. Ensure all open spaces meet quality standards including the following assessed as ‘poor’:
  - Oldham/Bardsley Recreation Route, south of Alexandra Park
  - Pearl Mill Close outdoor sports facilities, Glodwick
  - Roundthorn natural and semi-natural greenspace, Leesbrook
2. Prioritise investment in open space in areas of high health deprivation: Oldham town centre, Glodwick and Derker
3. Encourage community participation and engagement through GI initiatives, including groups such as Northern Roots Urban Farm and Eco Park



### Green Access for All

1. Address gaps in access to open space, particularly in the provision for children and young people in Glodwick
2. Promote active travel routes linking homes to open spaces,

using the network of Greater Manchester cycle routes including:

- National Cycle Network Route 601 running south of Alexandra Park
- Off-road route north of Glodwick linking to Greenacres and Lees
- A Greenway linking Oldham Edge to the Northern Roots site, via the Town Centre’s cultural quarter, improving attractiveness of active travel routes across the A62 Oldham Way

### Distinctive Landscapes




1. Retain distinctive characteristics of the landscape: 
  - Conserve wooded and open undeveloped skylines
  - Conserve key views and intervisibility with the Pennines and Dark Peak foothills
2. Encourage tree planting in suitable locations to provide multiple benefits while also contributing to landscape character: 
  - Alexandra Park
  - Land south of Alt

### Slowing the Flow and a Quality Water Environment

1. Promote surface water management measures in the River Medlock catchment

2. Promote SuDS in new development and retrofit in existing built-up areas
3. Encourage natural flood management in peri-urban areas
4. Enable improvements to water quality and water-based habitats – River Medlock
5. Enable better access to a range of waterways – River Medlock

### Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

1. Ensure GI underpins potential development sites
2. Prioritise GI investment in areas of higher business density including: 
  - Oldham town centre
  - Coldhurst ward
  - Employment area west of Alexandra Park
3. Promote GI assets to generate inbound tourism in Oldham including: 
  - Northern Roots Urban Farm and Eco Park
  - Alexandra Park
4. Improve the quantity and quality of GI in the town centre, particularly the Cultural Quarter, to increase its attractiveness and creating visual interest and shade 



View from Oldham Edge towards the town centre



View from Deanshut Clough towards mill building in Hathershaw



## South District

### Headlines

South district includes the settlements of Failsworth and Hollinwood and has a number of major GI assets including the Medlock Valley Way, Daisy Nook Country Park, the Moston Brook corridor and Rochdale Canal. Tree canopy cover is above the Oldham average at 16%, while public open spaces are spread across the urban form and some of these are linked by the Bee Network. There is a major development proposal west of Fitton Hill with smaller development sites throughout the district.

### Thriving Wildlife for Oldham

- Promote nature recovery networks linking Brookdale Golf Club and natural greenspace to the north of Woodhouses using green belt land and open spaces as intermediate stepping stones **---**
- Promote nature recovery networks linking Daisy Nook Country Park and Werneth Golf Club **---**
- Promote nature recovery networks along the Moston Brook corridor **---**
- Optimise the GI functionality of existing open spaces to encourage wildlife

- Promote multi-functional GI in allocated and potential development sites: PfE allocations Bottom Field Farm (Woodhouses) (JP Allocation 13), Land South of Coal Pit Lane (JP Allocation 17) and South of Rosary Road (JP Allocation 18) **JPA**
- Target green belt land for habitat creation and enhancement by working with landowners to fringes of Failsworth and Hollinwood **GB**

### Carbon Neutral Oldham

- Work with agricultural landowners to promote more woodlands and wetlands to act as carbon sinks. Target land to fringes of Failsworth and Hollinwood **CS**
- Promote high quality active travel routes, in a GI setting, linking homes to schools, work places and public transport hubs as outlined below

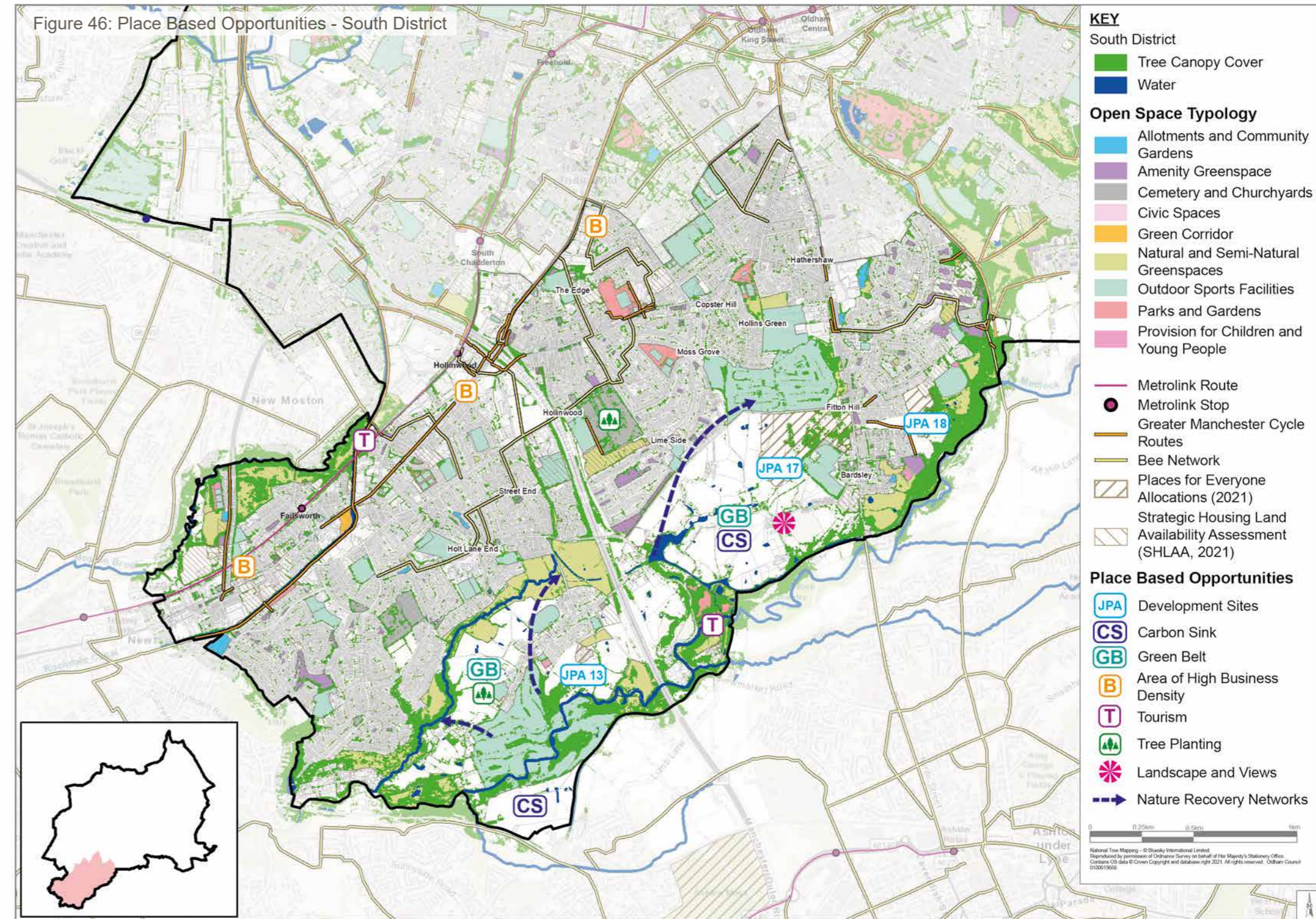
Greater Manchester cycle routes including:

- National Cycle Network Route 66 along Rochdale Canal towpath
- Route along Broadway, Failsworth

The Bee Network including:

- Hollinwood to Holt Lane End and Failsworth
- Hathershaw and Fitton Hill to National Cycle Network Route 601 (section between Oldham and Ashton-under-Lyne)

Figure 46: Place Based Opportunities - South District





### Healthy and Active Communities

1. Ensure all open spaces meet quality standards including the following assessed as ‘poor’:
  - Broadway amenity greenspace, Failsworth
  - Higher Lime Recreation Ground natural and semi-natural greenspace, Hollinwood
  - Woodpark Close natural and semi-natural greenspace, Medlock Vale
2. Prioritise investment in open space in areas of high health deprivation and with lower provision of private garden space: Failsworth West, Hollinwood and Medlock Vale.
3. Encourage community participation and engagement through GI initiatives, including groups such as Moston Brook Friends Group



### Green Access for All

1. Address gaps in access to open space, particularly in the provision for children and young people: Failsworth East, Hollinwood and Medlock Vale
2. Promote active travel routes linking homes to open spaces, including:
  - Greater Manchester cycle routes including:
    - Route along Broadway, Failsworth

### Bee Network

- Hollinwood to Lime Side Park
- Hollinwood to Failsworth Sports Campus

### Distinctive Landscapes




1. Retain distinctive characteristics of the landscape: 
  - Encourage woodland creation schemes on areas of low grade agricultural land
  - Conserve key views and intervisibility with the South/West Pennines and Dark Peak foothills
2. Encourage tree planting in suitable locations to provide multiple benefits while also contributing to landscape character: 
  - Oldham Crematorium
  - Land to fringes of Failsworth

### Slowing the Flow and a Quality Water Environment

1. Promote surface water management measures in Failsworth and the River Medlock catchment, including the large grassed areas of Brookdale Golf Course and Werneth Golf Course
2. Promote SuDS in new development and retrofit in existing built-up areas
3. Encourage natural flood management in peri-urban and rural areas

4. Enable improvements to water quality and water-based habitats – River Medlock, Lords Brook, the Hollinwood Branch Canal and Rochdale Canal
5. Enable better access to a range of waterways - River Medlock, Lords Brook, the Hollinwood Branch Canal and Rochdale Canal

### Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

1. Ensure GI underpins PfE allocated sites and other potential development sites 
2. Prioritise GI investment in areas of high business density including: 
  - Failsworth
  - Hollinwood
3. Promote GI assets to generate inbound tourism in Oldham including: 
  - Daisy Nook Country Park and the Medlock Valley Way
  - Rochdale Canal corridor (Oldham Way)



View from Medlock Valley towards the Pennines



View from Woodhouses towards Manchester city centre



## West District

### Headlines

West district includes the settlement of Chadderton and has a number of major GI assets including large areas of greenspace at Werneth Park and Chadderton Cemetery. Green belt land occupies the fringes of the district to the north. Tree canopy cover is above the Oldham average at 14.2%, while public open spaces are interspersed throughout the urban form and some of these are linked by the Bee Network. There are major development proposals at Foxdenton and on the northern edge of the district which partly lies in neighbouring Rochdale.

### Thriving Wildlife for Oldham

- Promote nature recovery networks linking the River Irk to Chadderton Cemetery and Werneth Park utilising open spaces intermediate stepping stones
- Optimise the GI functionality of existing open spaces to encourage wildlife, with a particular focus on outdoor sports facilities
- Promote multi-functional GI in allocated and potential development sites including:
  - PfE allocation Stakehill (JP Allocation 2)

- Land at Broadway and Foxdenton Lane
- Target green belt land for habitat creation and enhancement by working with landowners to fringes of Chadderton

### Carbon Neutral Oldham

- Work with agricultural landowners to promote more woodlands and wetlands to act as carbon sinks. Target land to fringes of Chadderton
- Promote high quality active travel routes, in a GI setting, linking homes to schools, work places and public transport hubs as outlined below.

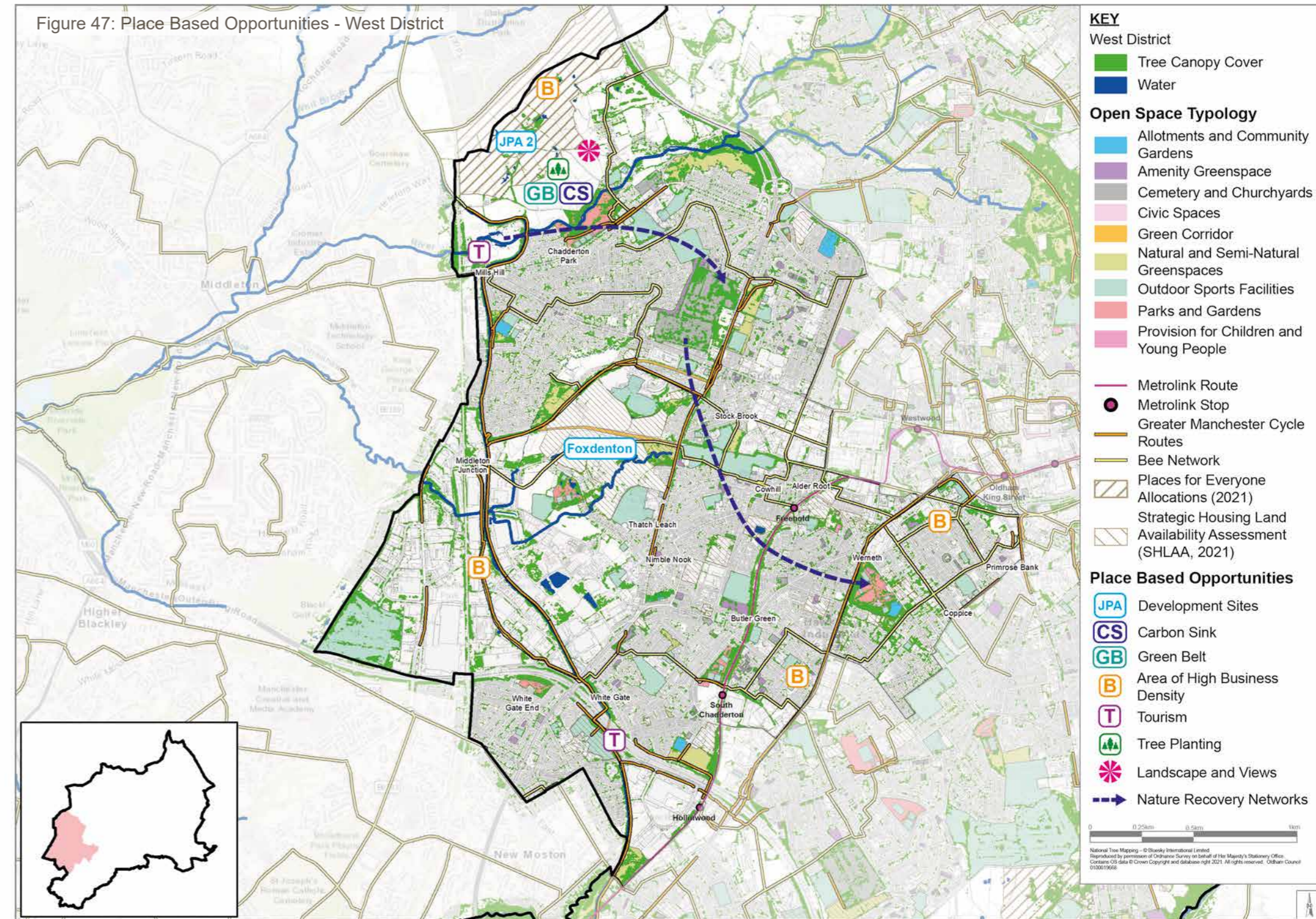
Greater Manchester cycle routes including:

- National Cycle Network Route 66 along Rochdale Canal towpath, linking to Stakehill Industrial Estate
- Mills Hill to South Chadderton via Middleton Junction
- Middleton Junction to Broadway
- Broadway
- Werneth to Oldham town centre along Manchester Road (A62)

The Bee Network including:

- Middleton Junction to Freehold
- Mills Hill to Freehold
- South Chadderton to Oldham town centre via Coppice
- Chadderton Park to Royton

Figure 47: Place Based Opportunities - West District





## Healthy and Active Communities

1. Ensure all open spaces meet quality standards, including the following assessed as 'poor':
  - Park View amenity greenspace, Chadderton
  - Chadderton Fold, Chadderton
  - Cathedral Road Playing Fields, Chadderton
2. Prioritise investment in open space in areas of high health deprivation and with lower provision of private garden space: Werneth, Chadderton east
3. Encourage community participation and engagement through GI initiatives, including groups such as Friends of Parks, Get Oldham Growing and Veg in the Park.



## Green Access for All

1. Address gaps in access to open space, particularly in the provision for children and young people: Chadderton east
2. Promote active travel routes linking homes to open spaces, including:

### Bee Network

- Mills Hill to Freehold
- South Chadderton to Werneth Park

## Distinctive Landscapes




1. Retain distinctive characteristics of the landscape: 
  - Protect the pockets of tranquillity and relative remoteness associated with the landscape, and the role the LCT plays as a rural backdrop and buffer between discrete urban areas, including land around Chadderton Fold and Chadderton Heights
  - Conserve key views and intervisibility from land around Chadderton Fold and Chadderton Heights with the South and West Pennines and Dark Peak foothills, upland fringes and open moorlands
2. Encourage tree planting in suitable locations to provide multiple benefits while also contributing to landscape character: 
  - Land to fringes of Chadderton

## Slowing the Flow and a Quality Water Environment

1. Promote surface water management measures in: Chadderton
2. Promote SuDS in new development and retrofit in existing built-up areas
3. Encourage natural flood management in peri-urban and rural areas

4. Enable improvements to water quality and water-based habitats – River Irk and Wince Brook
5. Enable better access to a range of waterways - River Irk and Wince Brook, Whit Brook, and the Rochdale Canal

## Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

1. Ensure GI underpins PfE allocated sites and development sites coming forward as part of the housing and employment land supply 
2. Prioritise GI investment in areas of high business density including: 
  - Werneth
  - Eastern extent of Chadderton
  - Middleton Junction
  - Stakehill Industrial Estate
3. Promote GI assets to generate inbound tourism in Oldham including: 
  - Rochdale Canal corridor and the Oldham Way



## 7.0 Recommendations for Planning Policy



## 7.0 Recommendations for Planning Policy

- 7.1 Chapter 7.0 sets out guidance and recommendations to assist in the development and implementation of GI policies in the new Local Plan which will replace the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document once adopted.
- 7.2 Taking into account the key needs and opportunities identified by this GI Strategy, recommendations for GI policies in the new Local Plan are set out below.

### Strategic GI Policy

- 7.3 In accordance with paragraph 20 of the NPPF, strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, and make sufficient provision for conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 7.4 Paragraph 92 also sets out that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure.

- 7.5 This GI Strategy provides an evidence base and proposed strategic framework for GI planning in the Oldham Council Planning Authority boundary to support the new Local Plan. The GI Strategy identifies needs and opportunities for the creation of a multi-functional network, having regard to factors such as accessibility, existing open space, natural and semi-natural habitats and the water environment, landscape character and contribution to ecological networks. These needs and opportunities are outlined in Chapters 5.0 and 6.0 for the borough as a whole and also for Oldham's five districts.
- 7.6 An overarching policy should be included in the new Local Plan to provide strategic policy direction for the provision of GI to support the delivery of sustainable development. This will be set within the context of the approach taken in the Places for Everyone Joint Plan and in particular Policy JP-G2 Green Infrastructure Network.
- 7.7 In line with the vision of the Oldham GI Strategy and the declaration of a climate emergency, planning policy within the new Local Plan must advocate for the development of a resilient and multi-function GI network which brings multiple benefits to the natural and built environment so that by 2037, Oldham will be a green and healthier place to live, work and visit.
- 7.8 It is recommended that the strategic GI policy for Oldham should reflect the following elements:

- Development proposals must consider opportunities for the following benefits through GI creation, enhancement and protection, health and well-being, support sustainable growth of the economy, underpin the borough's response to climate change and carbon reduction, and provide connected and resilient ecological networks
  - GI should be viewed as critical infrastructure and planned for alongside transport, flood alleviation and utilities to ensure maximum benefit
- 7.9 Development should have regard to this GI Strategy, including:
- The assessment of GI functions, needs and opportunities
  - The seven priority themes (thriving wildlife for Oldham, carbon neutral Oldham, healthy and active communities, green access for all, distinctive landscapes, slowing the flow and a quality water environment, sustainable growth and green jobs)
  - Development must avoid the loss of existing GI assets or compromising the integrity of the GI network wherever possible, unless suitable replacement alternative provision can be made that enhances the GI network
  - Where the scale of development would be too small to accommodate on-site GI provision, the Council will, where reasonable, seek developer contributions either towards the improvement of existing green spaces or towards the provision of new GI in an area of need

- Where compensation is required for the loss of existing GI, then the provision of new or enhanced GI as required by the scale of the development should be in addition to the requirement for compensation
- Development that will cause significant harm to the functioning of the GI network, particularly in relation to GI's ability to reduce the impacts of, and adapt to, climate change, will be discouraged
- Where appropriate the Council will also seek developer contributions for the future management and maintenance of green infrastructure
- Development should incorporate measures for adapting to and mitigating against the effects of climate change through innovative GI design solutions, including sustainable water management/drainage systems and urban cooling measures

### Spatial Planning Recommendations

- 7.10 This GI Strategy provides an up-to-date assessment of current GI provision and opportunities using existing data sets and an updated open space dataset. The spatial data sets produced within this GI Strategy, which highlight opportunity areas aligned to local need can be used to guide development decisions, where appropriate.



7.11 This may be particularly relevant for any site allocations that are included within the new Local Plan. Policy relevant to sites identified as suitable for development should be guided by spatial data sets and opportunity mapping produced as part of this GI Strategy.

### Strategic Sites

7.12 A number of strategic sites are proposed for allocation as part of PfE as shown on Figures 41 and 43 – 47. In addition, the new Local Plan will also allocate a range of sites – small, medium and large, to come forward for residential, employment and mixed-use development.

7.13 For development on medium to large sites identified through the Local Plan it is recommended that the approach to delivering GI reflects the following elements:

- New development should be required to make an appropriate contribution to addressing local needs and opportunities for GI provision by retaining, enhancing and creating green spaces and corridors

7.14 Development will be required to contribute to:

- Retaining existing trees and hedgerows wherever possible
- Providing a network of well-connected multi-functional GI corridors in and around the strategic site, particularly near to existing vegetation in or adjacent the site

- Enhancing the landscape setting of the strategic site by improving the character, appearance and condition of access corridors, gateways, settlement edges and landscape features, including historic environment assets where appropriate
- The production of food (e.g. allotments and community gardens) where possible
- Incorporating sustainable drainage systems into development proposals
- Enhancing pedestrian and cycle connectivity between residential areas, town centres, schools and workplaces, outdoor sports, tourism and recreational facilities, public transport services and the countryside around the strategic site as appropriate

### GI in Development

7.15 The Council's expectations for integrating GI in development is set out in the section named *Building Oldham's Green Infrastructure – A Step-by-Step Approach for Development* towards the end of this document. It confirms the Council's expectations for integrating GI in development through six steps including GI opportunities the proposed development could bring to Oldham, the importance of pre-application discussions with the Council and advice on the format and presentation of GI proposals in the planning application submission.

7.16 GI can be delivered as a co-product of investment in new or refurbished infrastructure. Development creates opportunities in the form of new or improved assets as well as the potential loss and alteration of environmental features. This justifies seeking contributions from developers to assist in both the continuing management of existing GI assets and in the creation of new assets – particularly where deficiencies have been identified.

7.17 Planning conditions allow the Council to enhance the quality of developments and mitigate potential adverse impacts of the development, which will be in accordance with the new Local Plan.

7.18 Planning obligations traditionally take the form of Section 106 (s106) agreements. These are legal agreements negotiated between the local planning authority and person(s) with an interest in a piece of land (usually in the context of planning applications) and are intended to make development acceptable which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms.

7.19 Section 106 agreements can provide land and long-term funding for the implementation of new greenspace assets and improvements

7.20 GI related policies in the Local Plan should incorporate the following criteria that relevant development proposals will be required to demonstrate:

- The development protects and improves the GI network on and around the site through the provision or enhancement of functional links or corridors between different GI assets
- The development provides new GI and/or introduces multi-functional use of existing green spaces or links/corridors; in response to a site-specific assessment of need and GI opportunity
- In accordance with the Canopy Cover of England's Towns and Cities, the tree canopy should aim for 20% cover, taking account of the retention of existing trees and the future canopy growth of trees to be planted as part of the landscape for the site (The exception to this is in parts of the Shaw and Saddleworth wards, where the existing peatland habitat takes precedence)
- The development uses green infrastructure assets to enhance flood resilience in line with the SuDS Manual (CIRIA C753F, or updates thereto)
- A significant net gain in biodiversity is demonstrated on site and/or the wider landscape, using the "mitigation hierarchy" approach
- A long-term resourcing plan for the management and cyclical renewal of GI assets is provided



## Policy Relating to GI Priority Areas

7.21 This section sets out more targeted policy recommendations relating to each of the GI Strategy priority themes. The priority themes include: Thriving Wildlife for Oldham, Carbon Neutral Oldham, Healthy and Active Communities, Green Access for All, Distinctive Landscapes, Slowing the Flow and a Quality Water Environment, Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs. The more detailed recommendations for each priority themes are provided in Chapter 6.0.

7.22 The seven priority themes are interconnected, so policy recommendations for one priority area may benefit other priorities.

### Theme 1: Thriving Wildlife for Oldham

- Retain and enhance existing habitat corridors, whilst improving linkages between existing habitats using green belt land and open space as intermediate stepping stones
- Protect and enhance designated sites and sites and habitats of biodiversity value
- Secure a net increase in biodiversity and incorporate opportunities to enhance biodiversity and improve ecological connectivity in and between development sites
- Include ecological building design measures that enhance biodiversity – e.g. green roofs, green walls, and planting

or habitat creation within green spaces, including nesting and roosting spaces for birds, bats, insects and amphibians where this is feasible

- Avoid or mitigate disturbance of sites of biodiversity value, arising from recreational use e.g. sports use and dog-walking
- Target green belt land for habitat creation and enhancement by working with landowners

### Theme 2: Carbon Neutral Oldham

- Connect schools, housing, retail and employment areas to cycle routes, the Bee Network, and the public transport network to contribute to healthy communities and carbon reduction
- Encourage the creation of woodland and wetlands to act as carbon sinks

### Theme 3: Healthy and Active Communities

- Ensure inclusive GI design from the outset of site identification stage through constraints and opportunities mapping within and around the site
- Promote local sustainable food production and facilities to enable such enterprises to operate and expand, e.g. community co-ops and stores
- Ensure proposed open spaces on development sites

meet the quality standards set out in the Open Space Assessment

- Seek off-site open space contributions to improve open space in areas of higher health deprivation and in areas of low private garden space

### Theme 4: Green Access for All

- Recreational and play spaces should be designed to provide an enjoyable environment, to encourage social interaction and interaction with nature by drawing on natural materials
- Encourage proposals which address the gaps in access to open space, particularly in the provision for children and young people

### Theme 5: Distinctive Landscapes

- Support proposals that respect the characteristics of the surrounding landscape and follow landscape character guidance
- Protect areas of the landscape with distinct or complex landforms
- Conserve key views and intervisibility between development proposals and the surrounding landscape
- Retain existing trees and encourage proposals which will increase tree canopy cover

### Theme 6: Slowing the Flow and A Quality Water Environment

- Encourage proposals which will contribute to improved water quality and enable access to watercourses
- Safeguard water quality from potential negative impacts associated with drainage and waste from development
- Retain and enhance existing watercourse corridors and consider opportunities for diversification of habitats, such as wetland, grassland, scrub and trees
- Advocate for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and retrofit SuDS into the urban environment, in line with the SuDS Manual (CIRIA C753F)

### Theme 7: Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs

- Promote the green economy through associated business opportunities resulting from GI and development that results in GI enhancement and carbon reduction
- Support business development and buildings that incorporate multifunctional GI
- Ensure the resourcing of management and cyclical renewal of GI assets is secured prior to commencement of development
- Encourage and promote tourism proposals which improve access to the GI network
- Promote green infrastructure initiatives set up by third parties



## 8.0 Next Steps and Key Actions



## 8.0 Next Steps and Key Actions

### Introduction

- 8.1 This Oldham Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy is part of a suite of documents that are relevant to the GI resource, including the borough's Green New Deal Strategy (2020-2025) and the Draft Greater Manchester (GM) Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) and GM All Our Trees (2019). It provides direction for a number of actions that will add to the social, economic and environmental value of the borough's GI resource. Alongside this Strategy, it will be necessary to champion GI in the local authority and in other public bodies, businesses and in the community.
- 8.2 Experience in the field shows the sustained success of a GI partnership approach, underpinned by Local Authority enabling and resources, but with a public brand that is arms-length from the authority, embraced by community groups, residents, businesses, funders and non-governmental bodies. This "co-delivery" approach is already used by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) through its partnership with Greater Manchester Environment Fund Opportunity (GMEF). Given pressures on public-sector budgets, a GI partnership offers added value with relatively little added cost incurred by the Local Authority.

### GI Coordinator

- 8.3 Partnership working is particularly appropriate for management of a multi-functional asset such as GI. Many of the actions described in Chapters 5, 6 and 7 will involve cross-sector working, notably with open space, biodiversity, flooding, health, education, economic, transport and highways teams. To assist with this cross-sector working, it is recommended that the council considers the creation of a GI Co-ordinator to support the delivery of the strategy, allocate responsibilities and develop new GI programmes. A GI Co-ordinator would be aware of all that GI has to offer, and co-ordinate between different local authority departments and partners referred to below (see following paragraph). They would act as a first point of contact for other delivery partners, engaging with stakeholders, planners and seek funding for future GI projects.
- 8.4 There are some organisations working across and beyond Oldham focussing on GI delivery that coordinate actions and maximises cross-sector working and the benefits and cost savings associated with such an approach. At a more strategic level they include the Northern Forest Project, South Pennines Regional Park, Moors for the Future Partnership, City of Trees and statutory bodies such as GMCA, Peak District National Park Authority, Environment Agency and Natural England. At a more local level it includes farmers and landowners and projects such as Northern Roots and the third sector such as Moston Brook Friends Group and Friends of Crompton Moor.

- 8.5 There are a range of potential funding, partnership and other resources that will be needed to deliver the recommended GI interventions in the borough. It includes:
- Retrofitting GI in existing development
  - Land management
  - GI Targets and Monitoring
  - Biodiversity Offsetting
  - Partnership working
  - Funding

### Retrofitting GI in existing development

- 8.6 Retrofitting GI would apply to existing areas of higher density development where there is limited opportunity to create new green spaces. Street trees, hedgerows and SuDS features (see paragraph 1.17) require limited space but can bring much added value to the public realm in urban areas.
- 8.7 For street trees and hedgerows, provision needs to be made for the construction of underground pits or trenches to insert growing medium and irrigation. Where space is particularly limited, there may be opportunity to remodel existing built structures to accommodate green roofs, green walls and wildlife "boxes".

### Management of land in council ownership

- 8.8 The earlier section on Healthy and Active Communities in Chapter 5 highlighted that approximately 40% of open space sites need to be brought up to a 'good' quality score. Investment will be required for these spaces and this could be assisted through the drafting and implementation of focussed management plans. The management plan would provide an assessment of the site, establish a series of aims and objectives that identify tasks and actions that seek to improve quality and GI functions and benefits in the space.

### GI Targets and Monitoring

- 8.9 To set meaningful and reasonable goals for achieving GI improvements, habitat targets on a landscape scale should be developed for the restoration, creation and maintenance of key habitat types over the period of the strategy (to 2037) to help meet the Greater Manchester Nature Recovery Strategy objectives, contribute to a net gain in biodiversity (see paragraphs on BNG below) and support the other GI Strategy themes such as increasing tree canopy cover.
- 8.10 An appraisal of the delivery of GI through the strategy should be produced annually. This would address the delivery of the Strategy's themes and any factors that have affected them during the year.



## Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

- 8.11 BNG is the result of a process applied to development so that, overall, there is a positive outcome for biodiversity. The process itself follows the mitigation hierarchy, which sets out that everything possible must be done to firstly avoid, secondly minimise, and thirdly restore/rehabilitate losses of biodiversity on Site. As a last resort residual losses are compensated for by using biodiversity offset, which are distinguished from other forms of mitigation in that they are located outside the Site.
- 8.12 Adopting a BNG approach for a proposed development allows an applicant to demonstrate adherence to national and local policy. The mandatory target of 10% BNG for developments in England is set out in the Environment Act 2021.
- 8.13 At the time of the publishing of this GI Strategy, the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) is building a database to monitor submitted planning applications and BNG assessments.
- 8.14 Biodiversity protection and enhancement schemes should, where possible, also deliver GI functions, especially carbon sequestration, natural flood management, and wellbeing through connection with nature.

## Funding

- 8.15 In addition to direct funds secured from the planning process (S106 or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)) and the indirect funding available via existing initiatives, the following organisations and programmes may provide funding for the establishment and management of existing and new assets as part of a GI Strategy. It should be noted that these are correct at the time of publication, however, may change be subject to change.

### Council:

- Capital and Revenue Funding

### Greater Manchester:

- Greater Manchester Environment Fund Opportunity
- Greater Manchester Green Space Fund

### UK

- Levelling Up Fund
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund

### Farmers

- The Sustainable Farming Incentive
- Local Nature Recovery
- Landscape Recovery
- Countryside Stewardship

## External:

- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Landfill Communities Fund
- Woodland Grant Schemes (including Woodland for Water – England Woodland Creation Offer)

## Commercial sponsorship

- Local fund raising
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) action funds



## Building Oldham's Green Infrastructure – A Step-by-Step Approach for Development



## BUILDING OLDHAM'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH FOR DEVELOPMENT

Table 6 sets out a step-by-step approach the developers should consider when proposing new development in Oldham to ensure that GI is an integral part of the proposals.

Table 6: A Step-by-Step Approach for Development

<p>Step 1: List the GI opportunities and benefits that the proposed development could bring to Oldham</p>	<p>Referring to the Oldham Green Infrastructure Strategy (the GI Strategy), establish which District the proposed development site (the Site) is in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ North (includes Royton, Shaw and Crompton)</li> <li>▪ East (includes Saddleworth &amp; Lees)</li> <li>▪ Central (includes Oldham town centre, Glodwick and Derker)</li> <li>▪ South (includes Hollinwood and Failsworth)</li> <li>▪ West (includes Chadderton and Werneth)</li> </ul> <p>List the Site's current and future importance for opportunities for GI based on the Strategy's seven themes (Thriving Wildlife for Oldham, Carbon Neutral Oldham, etc.) Identify existing GI assets both on and off-site which may be affected by development. It is important to consider the future users of the development and the GI benefits that could be provided.</p> <p>Different types of development provide differing opportunities for creation or enhancement of GI for Oldham.</p> <p>Residential development provides the opportunity for the creation of open space for recreation, human connections to nature, active travel, flood resilience and distinctive landscapes.</p> <p>Other types of development may present opportunities to link to the cycle network, public rights of way (PRoW) and other pedestrian routes to encourage visitors and workers to use active travel modes. Climate-conscious landscape design can assist with cooling buildings and managing surface water.</p> <p>Seek advice from skilled GI practitioners, such as landscape architects, ecologists, and environmental planners.</p>
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<p>Step 2: Identify the GI assets within and near the proposed development</p>	<p>Identify GI assets within 1km of the proposed development, including aquatic and terrestrial habitats, ecologically designated sites, tree canopy cover, public rights of way (PRoW), Bee Network (cycle network) and GM Cycle routes. Most of these GI assets can be located on the figures in the GI Strategy.</p> <p>Evaluate the Site in terms of all GI constraints and opportunities. Use information from ecology, tree, landscape and planning desk and field surveys to evaluate the constraints on the development caused by the existing GI as well as opportunities for enhancing GI on and around the site.</p>
<p>Step 3a: Review the Local Plan and the evidence base</p>	<p>Review Oldham Council's Local Plan and evidence base to understand requirements for development as well as opportunities to contribute to GI projects identified in the GI Strategy, Oldham Open Space Assessment and other studies.</p>
<p>Step 3b: Identify opportunities for meeting the GI Strategy's Place-Based Opportunities</p>	<p>Consider the information gathered from Steps 1 – 3a to understand how the Site can deliver the following Place-Based Opportunities for Oldham (Chapter 6 of the GI Strategy presented according to the District):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thriving Wildlife for Oldham</li> <li>▪ Carbon Neutral Oldham</li> <li>▪ Healthy and Active Communities</li> <li>▪ Green Access for All</li> <li>▪ Distinctive Landscapes</li> <li>▪ Slowing the Flow and Quality Water Environment</li> <li>▪ Sustainable Growth and Green Jobs</li> </ul> <p>Look to address deficiencies in local and borough wide GI networks where feasible. Seek to ensure active access linkages from the development to GI Networks</p>



Step 4: Design for GI	<p>Using the “mitigation hierarchy”, as far as possible, safeguard GI assets on site.</p> <p>Mitigate for any unavoidable loss of GI assets by designing the development to deliver net gains in GI functions such as accessible green space, tree canopy cover, surface water attenuation and habitats for wildlife. Identify any functions of GI where net gains cannot be delivered within the proposed development and discuss with the Council about opportunities for off-site GI enhancement that will ensure the scheme complies with GI policy.</p> <p>Ensure the GI design takes account of, and informs, the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment for the proposed development. Biodiversity protection and enhancement schemes should, where possible, also deliver GI functions, especially carbon sequestration, natural flood management, and wellbeing through connection with nature.</p> <p>Establish long-term management and governance arrangements for GI on-site and off-site, where relevant.</p>
Step 5: Carry out pre-application discussions with Oldham Council	<p>Oldham Council recommends applicants engage with the Council prior to submitting a planning application so that the Council’s specialists can provide advice regarding development type, design and layout.</p> <p>Pre-application discussions can identify opportunities for an applicant to understand the Council’s specific GI priorities for the site. Where GI assets are likely to be affected by the proposed development, the Council can advise on the relative importance of the GI assets and opportunities for compensatory enhancements near the site.</p> <p>Post implementation maintenance arrangements for GI should also be discussed.</p>
Step 6: Submit planning application	<p>GI proposals, in the context of the GI Strategy, should be clearly communicated in the planning application. These can be presented in the Design and Access Statement, for example.</p> <p>The Council encourages applicants to use an appropriate framework to report on the proposed development’s GI standards. Externally accredited frameworks are Building with Nature, Building for a Healthy Life and, for some schemes, BREEAM frameworks can be helpful.</p>

## Glossary and References



## Glossary

### Biodiversity Net Gain

This is an approach to development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a better state than before, improving a site's biodiversity value. Where developments impact upon biodiversity, biodiversity net gain encourages developers to increase natural habitat and ecological features over and above the way it is affected, such as through habitat creation or enhancement.

### Biodiversity Units

These are units allocated to land parcels where there is GI, which measure the habitat's distinctiveness, its condition, its connectivity, and its area. The metric used allots different land types a score based on their contribution to biodiversity. For example, species-poor habitats such as playing fields score 2 biodiversity units per hectare, whilst mature broadleaved woodlands, reedbeds and heathland can score over 20 points per hectare. Hardstanding scores nil.

### Carbon Sequestration

The process of capturing and storing carbon in a carbon pool or sink, an example of a form of carbon sequestration is forest regrowth. It is a method of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and can occur both naturally and as a result of human-related activities.

### Ecosystem

An interacting biological community or group of living organisms such as plants and animals, who live in a specific physical environment in which they interact with.

### Ecosystem services

The many and varied benefits to humans provided by surrounding ecosystems, making human life both possible and worth living. Examples of ecosystem services include provisioning services such as food and water, the regulation of floods and disease, and non-material but cultural benefits such as recreational and spiritual benefits in natural areas.

### Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is the network of green spaces, natural elements and pathways that intersperse and connect our cities, towns and villages. It includes watercourses and wetlands, hence includes elements sometimes called "blue infrastructure".

### Nature-based solutions

These are actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and semi-natural ecosystems, such as the creation of new ecosystems in and around cities. It involves working with nature to address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, which provide benefits for both human well-being and biodiversity.

### Natural Capital

These are the elements of nature that both directly and indirectly produce value or benefits to people. These elements include ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and the oceans, and natural processes and functions.

### Net Zero

This refers to achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. There are two different, but interconnected pathways to achieving this: reducing existing emissions and removing greenhouse gases. As reducing all emissions to zero is unrealistic, the net-zero target recognises that the emissions produced need to be fully offset, such as through natural carbon sinks, for example oceans and forests.

### GI Specific Terminology:

#### Asset

An asset is the general term of covering any component of GI, such as a park, woodland or an allotment.

#### Benefits

This refers to the wider, potentially less tangible contributions (when compared to the term 'functions') to people and nature arising out of GI. For example, the multifunctionality of street trees include improving aesthetic quality and environmental health, but can involve

wider benefits such as economic growth and investment and increase land and property values.

#### Functions

Functions refer to the specific use of land and are the primary purpose of GI assets, aiming to manage the land in a more sustainable way. Functions can also co-exist leading to multifunctional GI, which allows the land to be used more effectively and efficiently. For example, street trees make our settlements more liveable and aesthetically pleasing, but also provide cooling, shade and cleaner air for people and wildlife.

#### Needs

The essence of sustainable development is providing for people's and nature's needs, now and in the future. So it is important to take people and nature as the starting point for GI planning in the context of the built and natural environment. People and wildlife have many needs: for example people have needs to use greenspace for recreation and leisure and health and wellbeing; wildlife species have needs to move across land to find sources of food and places to shelter.

#### Type

This is the primary description/purpose of the GI component, such as 'amenity open space' or 'semi-natural habitats'.





**References**

<p>1 Landscape Institute (2011) <i>Local Green Infrastructure: Helping communities make the most of their landscape</i></p> <p>2 Oldham Council</p> <p>3 Oldham Council (2021) <i>Oldham Local Plan Review: Issues and Options</i></p> <p>4 Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021)</p> <p>5 GM Moving (2019) <i>Oldham Adult Active Lives (2018-19)</i></p> <p>6 Greater Sport (2019) <i>Oldham: Children &amp; Young People – The Physical Activity &amp; Sport Picture</i></p> <p>7 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2017) <i>Greater Manchester Moving Strategic Framework 2017-21</i></p> <p>8 Sport England (2019) <i>Active Design and BREEAM Certification Schemes</i></p> <p>9 Oldham Council (2020) <i>Green New Deal</i></p> <p>10 2013 Environmental Sustainability Technical Assistance study</p> <p>11 Greater Manchester Tree Audit (2010)</p> <p>12 Treeconomics (2015), <i>Valuing London’s Urban Forest</i></p> <p>13 Doick et al (2017), <i>The Canopy Cover of England’s Towns and Cities</i></p> <p>14 i-Tree Eco Project (2019) <i>Valuing Oldham’s Urban Forest</i></p> <p>15 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2018) <i>Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment</i></p>	<p>16 Oldham Council (2020) <i>Creating a Better Place</i></p> <p>17 Urban Pioneer Programme (2019)</p> <p>18 October 2021</p> <p>19 Greater Manchester Ecosystem Services Mapping <a href="https://mappinggm.org.uk/gmodin/?lyrs=v_tep_ecosystem_services_2019#os_maps_light/11/53.5068/-2.3205">https://mappinggm.org.uk/gmodin/?lyrs=v_tep_ecosystem_services_2019#os_maps_light/11/53.5068/-2.3205</a></p> <p>20 Informal research published by TEP <a href="#">The-Briefing_Development-and-Biodiversity-in-Greater-Manchester_Oct-2021.pdf</a> (<a href="http://tep.uk.com">tep.uk.com</a>) (accessed 8th December 2021)</p>
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