

Appendix H










Tameside

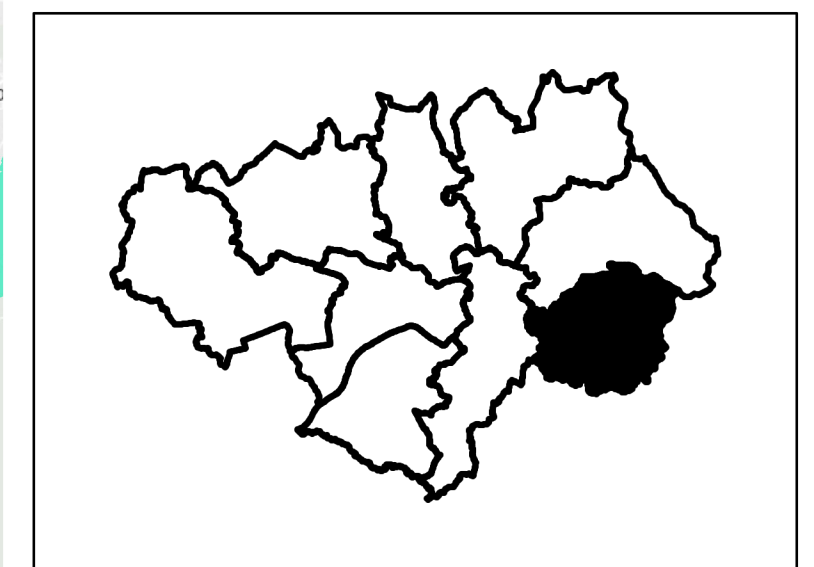
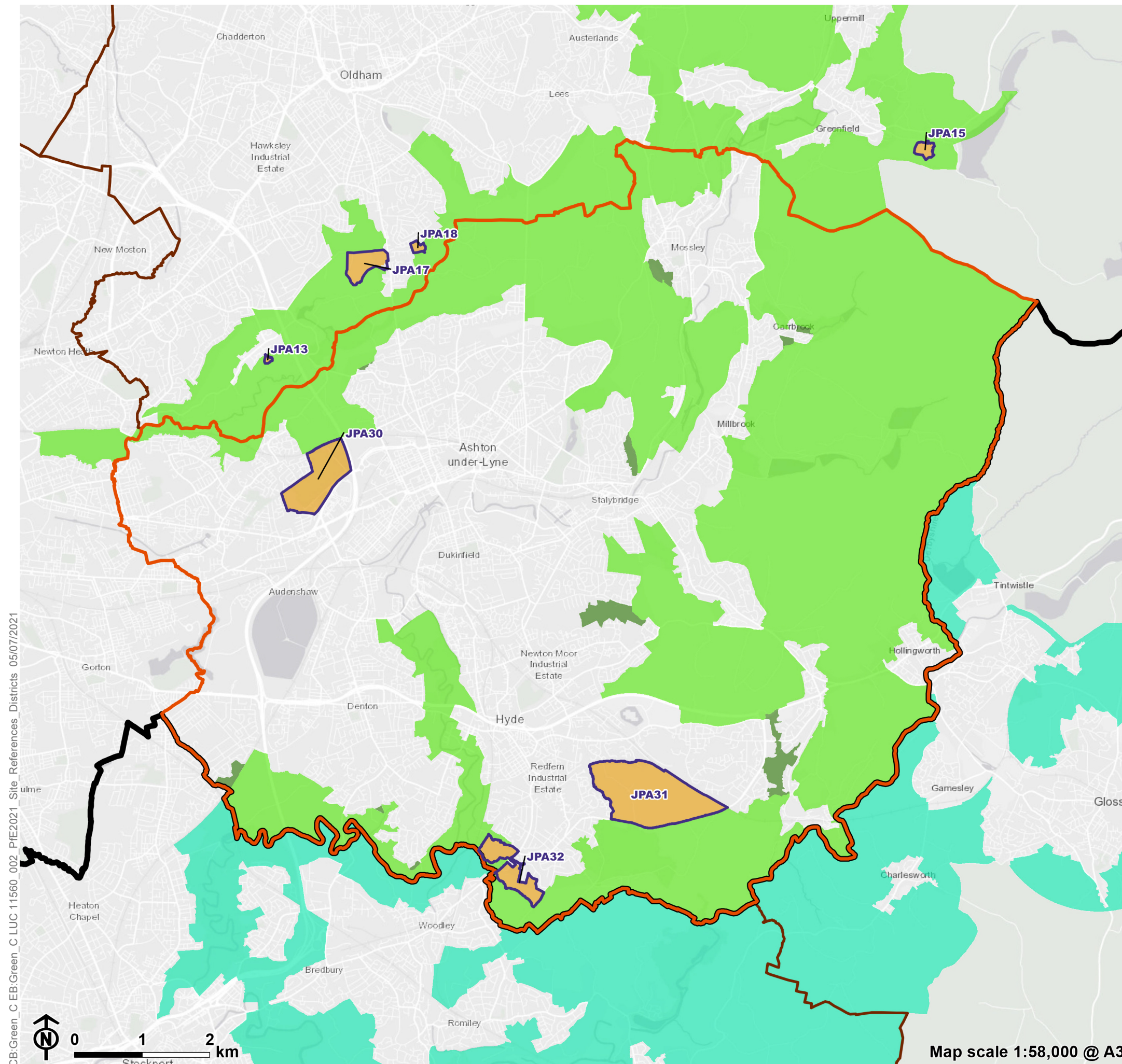
PfE 2021 SITE REFERENCES INSERT

The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) was replaced by the Places for Everyone (PfE) Plan in 2021. This report still forms part of the PfE Plan evidence base, but the allocation policy numbers used in it have subsequently changed. The 2020 GMSF policy numbers (and in some instances the allocation names) were also different to the allocation references used by LUC in their original assessments. The table below sets out a comparison between the LUC Allocation references and names, the 2020 GMSF policy numbers and names, and the 2021 PfE policy numbers. The following map shows the allocation locations with their PfE Plan policy numbers.

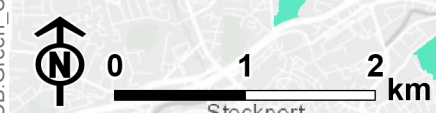
District	LUC Allocation Ref	LUC Allocation Name	GMSF 2020 policy number	2020 GMSF / 2021 PfE Allocation Name	2021 PfE policy number
Tameside	GM42	Ashton Moss West	GMA38	Ashton Moss West	JPA30
Tameside	GM43	Godley Green Garden Village	GMA39	Godley Green Garden Village	JPA31
Tameside	GM44	South of Hyde	GMA40	South of Hyde	JPA32
Trafford	GM45	New Carrington	GMA41	New Carrington	JPA33

PfE 2021 Site References: Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

-  Places for Everyone Plan boundary
-  Tameside Borough boundary
-  Greater Manchester Local Authority boundary
-  Other Local Authority boundary
-  Site allocation
-  PfE 2021 Green Belt proposed for release
-  PfE 2021 Green Belt land to be retained
-  PfE 2021 Proposed additional Green Belt
-  Green Belt outside PfE boundary



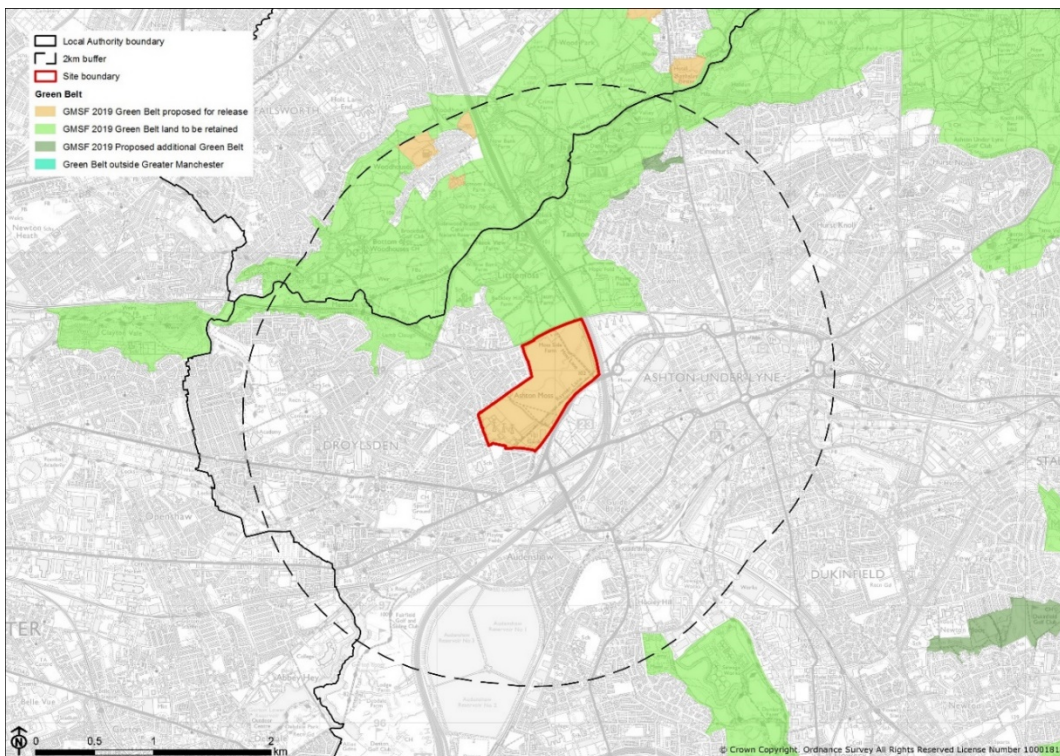
CB:Green_C EB:Green_C LUC 11560_002 PfE2021 Site References_Districts 05/07/2021



GM Allocation 42, Ashton Moss West



Above: View looking north from the northern extent of GM Allocation 42 towards retained Green Belt at the edge of Littlemoss



GM Allocation Area: 52.23 ha

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

Study area definition

Lying within the administrative boundary of Tameside MBC, the revised draft GMSF 2019 proposes to release Green Belt encompassing the full extent of GM Allocation 42, Ashton Moss West. Located within 2km of the GM Allocation site itself, land at Manor Farm Close and Oaken Clough, Waterloo (Ashton-under-Lyne) are identified as additional sites to be added to the Green Belt as part of the revised GMSF.

Land lying within 2km of GM Allocation 42 (identified as either retained Green Belt or additional sites) will form the focus of GI recommendations / mitigation to enhance the 'beneficial use' of the Green Belt. This includes land to the north within Oldham MBC. However, the study will also identify any features of GM Allocation 42 (Godley Green Garden Village) which afford the opportunity to provide additional GI benefits where relevant.

Summary of evidence and policy influencing 'beneficial use' proposals

Published landscape character assessments – Greater Manchester Combined Authority

GM Allocation 42 (Ashton Moss West) lies within Mosslands and Lowland Farmland LCT, as defined within the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018)¹. The LCT comprises generally flat or gently undulating topography characterised by largely reclaimed lowland farmland, interspersed with remnant mossland. Recreational provision; including golf courses, are evident within the landscape. Views tend to be foreshortened by surrounding development due to flat or gently undulating landform, albeit some distant views are available from elevated areas of farmland. The rural landscape provides an important sense of separation between settlements and urban areas, with parts of the LCT influenced by large scale industrial and commercial development, housing, motorway corridors and railway corridors.

¹ Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2018) Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment

This LCT is further refined into LCA 46: Littlemoss and Aston Moss. The Mosslands and Lowland Farmland LCT profile identifies the following guidance and opportunities for landscape enhancement of relevance to the site.

- Maintain open and long ranging views across the mossland from local high points, and long ranging views from more elevated areas of lowland farmland.
- Ensure that the sense of separation the landscape provides between distinct settlements is retained.
- Utilise areas of existing woodland (e.g. moss woodlands, valley woodlands, woodland along settlement edges) to integrate new development into the landscape, avoiding sites designated for their nature conservation importance.
- Protect areas of semi-natural habitat, including mosses and moss woodlands, which are locally designated as SBIs or nationally protected as SSSIs. Seek to enhance these where possible and provide linkages to form robust habitat networks.
- Conserve and manage the mosslands, including those areas which form part of SBIs and LNRs, to avoid drying and erosion. Consider the potential to restore less productive areas of farmland to lowland raised bog habitat where possible.
- Restore and enhance areas of deteriorating farmland including additional, species-rich, hedgerow planting to fill gaps and replace post and wire fencing. Reintroduce hedgerow trees where appropriate.
- Protect areas of moss woodland, which provide important semi-natural habitat and contribute to the distinctive geometric character of the mosslands. Utilise the screening effects of existing woodland to integrate development into the landscape where possible.
- Conserve and manage existing woodlands to encourage habitat diversity, using locally appropriate species and protecting from grazing during establishment.
- Improve the condition of the mossland 'rides', and restore ditches and field boundaries in the mosslands to improve grassland biodiversity.
- Consider additional woodland planting to enhance landscape structure, soften the urban fringe, screen industrial areas and reduce the noise and visual impacts of motorway corridors, where appropriate.

- Design-in the introduction of SuDS to any new development, addressing any changes in hydrology and subsequent knock-on effects, such as increased diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off.
- Conserve and protect the setting of important heritage assets.
- Consider the impact of overhead lines where these are proposed and mitigate the impact of existing lines where appropriate.
- Enhance existing public access and provide new informal recreational provision e.g. by creating circular routes with connections to canal tow paths, using derelict railways lines where possible. Tie in with proposals for a “Carbon Trail” under the Carbon Landscape project.
- Improve signage, interpretation and waymarking at areas used for informal recreation, with parking provision where appropriate.

Tameside Countryside Strategy²

The report defines the key themes and strategic objectives for the countryside within Tameside over the next 25 years. For the purposes of the document, the countryside includes country parks, river valleys, LNRs, moorland and areas of urban open space used for informal recreation. However, the report excludes formal parks, amenity grassland, urban gardens and allotments. The report identifies the following actions of relevance to potential Green Belt enhancement:

People in the Countryside

- Encourage people of all ages, ability and background to enjoy and experience the countryside.
- Encourage responsible enjoyment of Tameside’s countryside so that its qualities are understood, appreciated and safeguarded, now and for future generations to enjoy.
- Work in partnership with others to provide an integrated approach towards access and recreation which is sustainable and socially inclusive.

² Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2009) Tameside Countryside Strategy 2009-2019

- Support and encourage local community involvement in the planning and management of outdoor access throughout the countryside.
- Protect the fragile areas of Tameside's countryside from pressures arising from outdoor access and recreation.
- Develop the educational opportunities offered by the countryside of Tameside.
- Encourage people of all ages, abilities and communities to get outdoors frequently and experience the physical and mental wellbeing associated with the countryside.
- Improve and maintain the quality of experience within Tameside's countryside for all visitors.
- Promote awareness of access and recreation opportunities within the countryside and respect for its special qualities.

Conserving and Enhancing the Countryside

- Conserve and enhance the condition and diversity of habitats and species present throughout Tameside's countryside, through a landscape-scale approach to habitat networks.
- Ensure all designated nature conservation sites are in a favourable condition.
- Identify, prioritise and take action to address non-native species that pose a threat to the natural heritage and land management of Tameside's countryside.
- Promote appropriate reintroduction of species and reinstatement of habitats and identify the likely ecological and management impacts.
- Maintain and enhance the distinctive landscapes across Tameside.
- Understand, increase awareness and conserve the archaeological features, historic landscapes and historic built environment.

Playing Pitch Strategy – Assessment Report³ and Playing Pitch Strategy – Strategy & Action Plan Report⁴

The reports present a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in Tameside with the aim of assessing the quality of existing provision and informing the strategic development of playing pitch sites. The outcomes of the report are also intended to support funding bids from TMBC and local sports clubs regarding future pitch provision. The documents outline a number of strategic aims and recommendations to be addressed across outdoor sports facilities. The items listed below are of relevance to potential Green Belt enhancement:

Aims:

- To protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs.
- To enable and support the provision of new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- Ensure local planning policy is in accordance with Government Guidance to protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so.
- Assist in securing tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.
- Maintain the quality of sites and improve where appropriate.
- Seek to address the quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock.
- Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

³ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2016) Playing Pitch Strategy - Assessment Report 2015

⁴ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2016) Playing Pitch Strategy - Strategy & Action Plan Report 2015-2025

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan⁵

The report provides an overarching document for biodiversity across Greater Manchester, including Tameside Borough. The aim of the document is to promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of biological diversity in Greater Manchester for current and future generations. Comprised of 13 action plans covering a range of habitats and species occurring in Greater Manchester, the report states that consideration should be given to the promotion of links between habitats and populations to provide an integrated approach to conservation.

Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester⁶

Prepared to provide a “route-map” for a Greater Manchester approach to GI planning, the objectives of the report include the identification of priority areas for GI in the City-Region and to advise how GI principles and practice can be incorporated into the overall approach. The document also recommends next steps in the development of a City-Region-wide approach to GI. The following green infrastructure functions and priorities are listed below:

- Flood management function – to improve flood storage of existing greenspaces upstream of urban centres.
- Climate adaptation and mitigation function – to sustain and increase planting within town centres and to ensure doorstep access to significant greenspaces and waterways and ensure such spaces are well managed.
- Ecological framework – to enable the conservation of core biodiversity areas and the conservation of key wildlife corridors.
- Sustainable movement function – to ensure that all regeneration priority areas and areas of lower than average health are served by an accessible movement network.
- Place-making function – priorities include the safeguarding of natural and landscape heritage and to encourage access to greenspaces.

⁵ Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (2009) Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

⁶ AGMA and Natural England (2008) Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester: Full Report

- River and canal corridor management – to enable multi-user access alongside all waterways and enhancement of biodiversity and flood storage opportunities.
- Supporting urban regeneration – to ensure communities are not deficient in access to greenspace, waterways and a sustainable movement network.
- Community health and enjoyment – priorities include areas of derelict land, areas where there is a deficiency of accessibility to urban green infrastructure and residential areas in urban contexts.

Open Space Study⁷

The document provides an audit based assessment of both quantitative and qualitative green space, sport and recreation facilities with Tameside Borough. The specific objectives of the assessment include a comprehensive review of supply and demand for open space provision as well as an examination of existing open space sites. A localised assessment of provision, focussing on key deficiencies relevant to the Green Belt is provided below:

- Parks and formal gardens – there is provision for at least one park and garden in each major settlement across the Borough.
- Natural space – usage of ‘natural space’ is quite low and TMBC recognises the need to further develop site interpretation, natural play opportunities as well as the expansion and maintenance of the PRow network.
- Amenity space – there appears to be little current demand for additional provision in the Borough.
- Green corridors – bridleway provision in the Borough is considered disjointed by users.

Whilst it is acknowledged that Tameside MBC completed an Open Space Review in 2018, this document has not yet been adopted. Future GI enhancements should make use of this document once published.

⁷ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2010) Open Space Study – Final Assessment Report

Tameside Unitary Development Plan⁸

This report sets out Tameside MBC's strategic framework for land use planning, conservation and development across the Borough. In particular this highlights the importance of sustainable development, defined as "development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", as a basis for planning and land use decisions. The document summaries the following aims, providing a guide to inform the beneficial enhancements to the retained Green Belt:

- Transport systems within the Borough should be sustainable and with limited environmental damage.
- There should be improvement to landscape quality and the value of nature.
- Developed range of cultural, leisure and recreational opportunities available.
- Accessible countryside areas such as rivers valleys and country parks, should be protected.
- The character and biodiversity of the natural environment should be safeguarded.
- New developments should provide environments that are, amongst other things, accessible to people with sensory impairments or restricted mobility.

Existing baseline

Access

Sections of the Oldham Way delineate the administrative boundary with Oldham Borough, forming the towpath of the disused Hollinwood Branch Canal. The Medlock Valley Way adjoins the Oldham Way to the south of the disused Hollinwood Branch Canal Local Nature Reserve. Both routes cross the corridor of the M60 on footbridge at Medlock Hall before diverging at Daisy Nook Country Park, approximately 1.6km north of GM Allocation 42. A section of the Tameside Trail also follows this corridor.

⁸ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2004) The Tameside Unitary Development Plan – Written Statement

A network of local PRow cross the agricultural landscape separating Aston Moss, Littlemoss and Taunton. A series of underpasses and overbridges, including ASH/7, ASH/113 and 47 FAILS cross the corridor of the M60, providing access between these settlements. The route of Public Footpath DRO/71 crosses Manchester and Aston-under-Lyne Canal into Oldham Borough, where it connects with Public Footpath 50 FAILS towards Woodhouses.

The proliferation of infrastructure corridors within the study area, including the M60, A6140 and the A635, are identified as Severance Lines within the Bee Network. The Huddersfield rail line also forms the northern extent of GM Allocation 42, separating the GM Allocation site from an area of retained Green Belt to the north. Accommodated on the alignment of PRowS DRO/62, DRO/65, ASH/113 and ASH/113, a Beeway connects the settlements of Littlemoss and Taunton via a bridge over the M60. This Beeway forms part of broadly circular route linking Littlemoss, Crowhill, Ashton-under-Lyne and the eastern limit of Droylsden. An additional Beeway also runs parallel the Huddersfield rail line to the north of Lumb Clough, forming a wider connection to the Medlock Valley Way. The area of retained Green Belt within the study area is devoid of routes defined as Busy Beeways by TfGM.

The study area encompasses a section of the NCN 626, accommodated within a disused railway to the east of Bardsley. A cycle route defined by TfGM also occupies the towpath of the disused Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne Canal to the north of the study area. Further traffic-free cycle routes lie broadly parallel the River Tame and Ashton Canal in the southern portion of the study area.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Access

In order to address concerns regarding the disjointed bridleway network, as highlighted within the Open Space Study⁷, status and surfacing upgrades to existing public footpaths crossing the landscape to the north of GM Allocation 42 offer the potential to encourage a wider range of users (cyclists / horse riders). Surfacing improvements to the PRow network at the residential edge of Droylsden also offers the opportunity to create multi-user recreational routes.

An upgrade to Public Footpaths DRO/71 and 50 FAILS provides the potential to create a multi-user route connecting Littlemoss / Droylsden with Woodhouses, crossing perpendicular to the disused Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne Canal. Consideration should be given to the installation of barriers to control motor vehicles following surfacing upgrades. The proximity of residential settlement in Droylsden also offers the opportunity to promote new multi-user routes for recreational and health benefits as part of the Carbon Landscape Project as promoted by Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The creation of these routes is consistent with the recommendations of the Greater Manchester published landscape character assessment. The improvement of PRoW to allow use by cyclists and horse riders would encourage sustainable travel to the landscape and between urban areas.

The opportunity exists to mitigate the fragmented nature of cycle way provision through the creation of a continuous link connecting Droylsden with Bardsley. This intervention will require the extension of the existing TfGM cycle network to resolve gaps along the Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne Canal and land to the east of Stannybrook Road.

In conjunction with TfGM, the opportunity exists to introduce improvements to the existing Beeway / multi-functional recreational route accommodated along the route of the disused railway line.

The opportunity exists to address gaps in the continuity of TfGM cycle network parallel the disused Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne Canal. This includes areas adjacent Littlemoss Industrial Estate and to the east of Daisy Nook Country Park. Strategic multi-user routes could also be provided between Droylsden and Failsworth, via Woodhouses. Consideration should also be given to proposals which aim to utilise Alt Hill Road as a traffic free route (except for access) and reinstate the viaduct at Park Bridge. The Park Bridge viaduct scheme is led by Oldham MBC and endorsed by Tameside MBC whereas the Alt Hill Road proposal is Tameside MBC led.

Existing baseline

Sport and recreation

Daisy Nook Country Park occupies land lying between the River Medlock and the Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne Canal. Both the Medlock Valley Way and the Oldham Way form circuitous routes, diverging to the north at the Stables and converging again at Valley Bridge.

An area of retained Green Belt lying between the residential edge of Crowhill and the infrastructure corridor of the M60 is characterised by land at Tameside Stadium / Curzon Ashton F.C. and Richmond Street Playing Fields. Brookdale Golf Course lies within the boundary of Oldham Borough, occupying the valley sides of the River Medlock. Forming the northern extent of the study area, Bardsley Park Golf Centre is also located within land defined as retained Green Belt. Playing fields at Oldham Rugby Union Football Club characterise land use immediately north of Knott Lanes.

Audenshaw Cemetery as well as a playing field and play space abuts this land use to the north west, lying to the south of the B6169.

With the exception of the south western extent, the GM Allocation 42 is defined a Public Park or Garden within the OS Open Greenspace dataset.

A traffic-free, all weather, floodlit cycle circuit (Tameside Cycle Circuit) is located adjacent to Tameside Stadium / Curzon Ashton F.C. and Richmond Street playing fields. The facility is open to the public at specific times only.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Sport and recreation

Crossing the boundary between Tameside MBC and Oldham MBC, the opportunity exists to develop a partnership to guide the future management of Daisy Nook Country Park. Green Belt enhancement strategies could also look to improve existing features; including the car park and visitor facilities. The establishment of similar facilities at Hollinwood Branch Canal LNR could be reviewed, recognising the need for access for all.

It is noted within the Open Space Study⁷ that usage of 'natural space' is considered to be low within Tameside Borough. The opportunity therefore exists to create stronger links between the communities of Ashton-under-Lyne, Failsworth and Droylsden with the river corridor of the River Medlock. This could involve the expansion and maintenance of the PRow network as well as the integration of opportunities for 'natural play'.

Improvements to Richmond Street Playing Fields, could be explored, including enhanced access control, way-marking and interpretation to encourage healthy lifestyles and increase usage of the green space assets. In addition, the presence of Curzon Ashton, East Cheshire Harriers, Tameside Cycle Circuit, Ashton Cricket Club and Bardsley Park Golf Centre within retained Green Belt afford the opportunity to offer accessible sports packages to local residents.

Existing baseline

Biodiversity and wildlife corridors

The area of retained Green Belt is devoid of land described as an SAC or SPA as defined by Natural England. However, Hollinwood Branch Canal SSSI and LNR borders the administrative boundary of Tameside / Oldham Boroughs.

SBI at Daisy Nook (East), Daisy Nook (West), Crime Lake & Fairbottom Branch Canal and Holden Clough occupy the floodplain of the River Medlock to the east of the M60. Lying to the west of this corridor, Brookdale Golf Course SBI and Medlock Vale & Lumb Clough (North and South) SBI lie within land defined as retained Green Belt to the north of the study area.

Hollinwood Branch Canal SBI is linear in extent, running parallel to the disused canal.

Daisy Nook Wood and Holden Cough are defined as ancient woodlands, forming linear landscape features parallel the River Medlock.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Biodiversity and wildlife corridors

The opportunity exists to improve the wider ecological connectivity within the study area, reducing habitat fragmentation. This could be achieved through increased habitat connectivity and enhancement of the valley of the River Medlock as a wildlife corridor. However, a balance should also be sought between the promotion of access and recreation within the landscape with the need for managing the landscape for wildlife. The potential also exists to emphasize the link from the corridor of the River Medlock into surrounding areas (including Brookdale Golf Club and Bardsley Park Golf Centre) to reinforce and extend the wider habitat network.

The potential to restore Hollinwood Branch Canal SSSI to favourable condition in conjunction with Natural England should be explored. In addition, promote landscape management practices to achieve favourable condition / BAP targets for SBIs.

Habitat composition should be reviewed and addressed through careful planting regimes as identified by Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU). This recommendation is also consistent with the management guidance included within the Greater Manchester published landscape character assessment¹.

Existing baseline

Landscape and visual

The study area is devoid of land defined as Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas (2019). However, both the Rivers Tame and Medlock lie within wider green infrastructure corridors and networks.

As defined within the UHLC, tracts of Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational land use at Brookdale Golf Course and Daisy Nook Country Park characterise the study area. This dataset is consistent with the pattern of existing land use separating Failsworth and Ashton-under-Lyne,

comprised of largely agricultural Enclosures interspersed with Residential and Commercial areas.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Landscape and visual

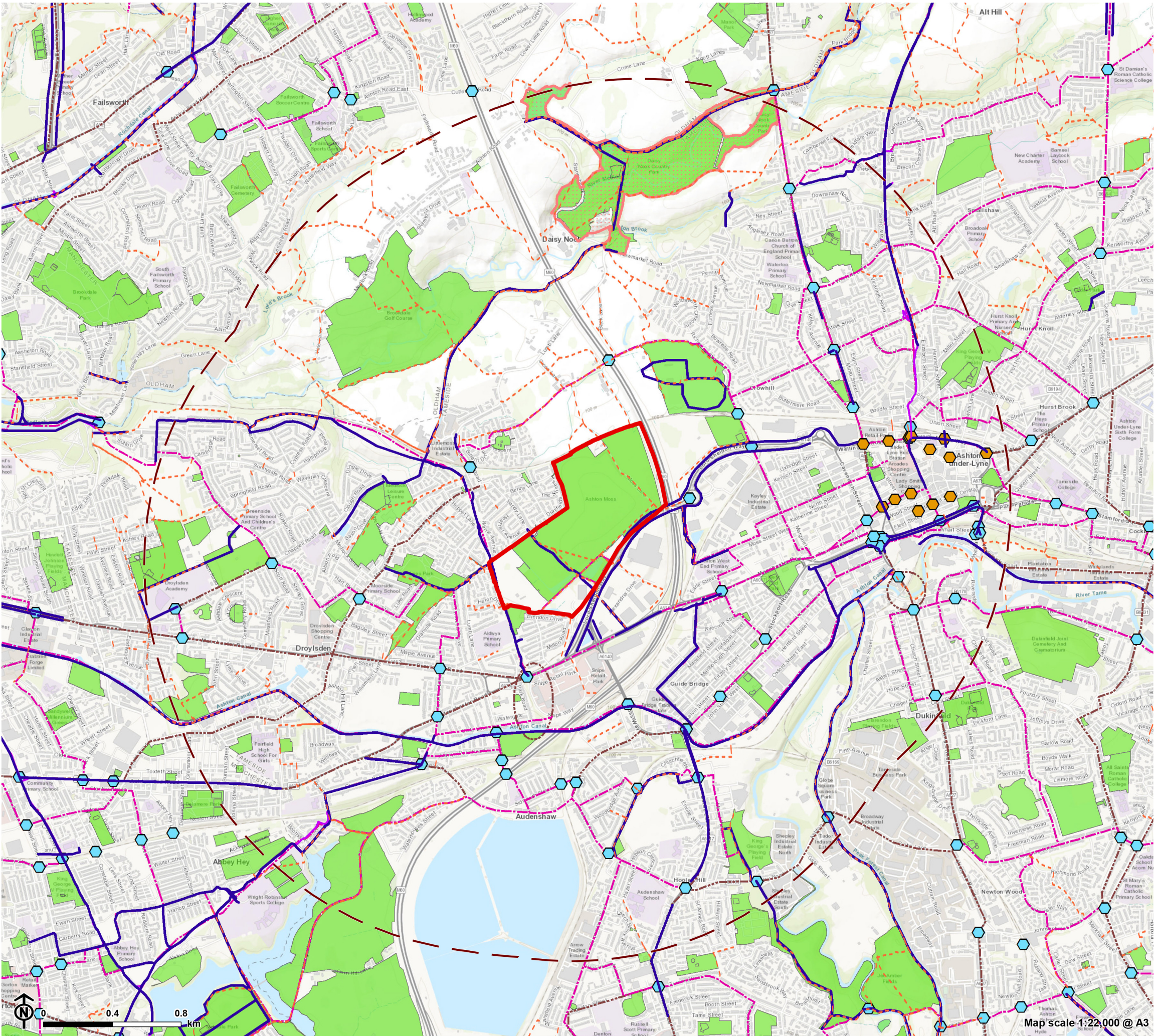
Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats and networks, including riparian, broadleaved and ancient woodland tracts bordering the River Medlock.

The route of the M60 bisects the Green Belt to the north of the study area. As a consequence, consideration should be given to the improvement of multi-user linkages across this infrastructure corridor. The prominence of the M60 dictates that east-west connections require enhancement. As outlined within the Greater Manchester published landscape character assessment¹, consideration should be given to the introduction of additional woodland planting to reduce the noise and visual impacts of motorway corridors.

Consider incorporating green roof schemes, such as green roof bus stops, within the retained Green Belt.

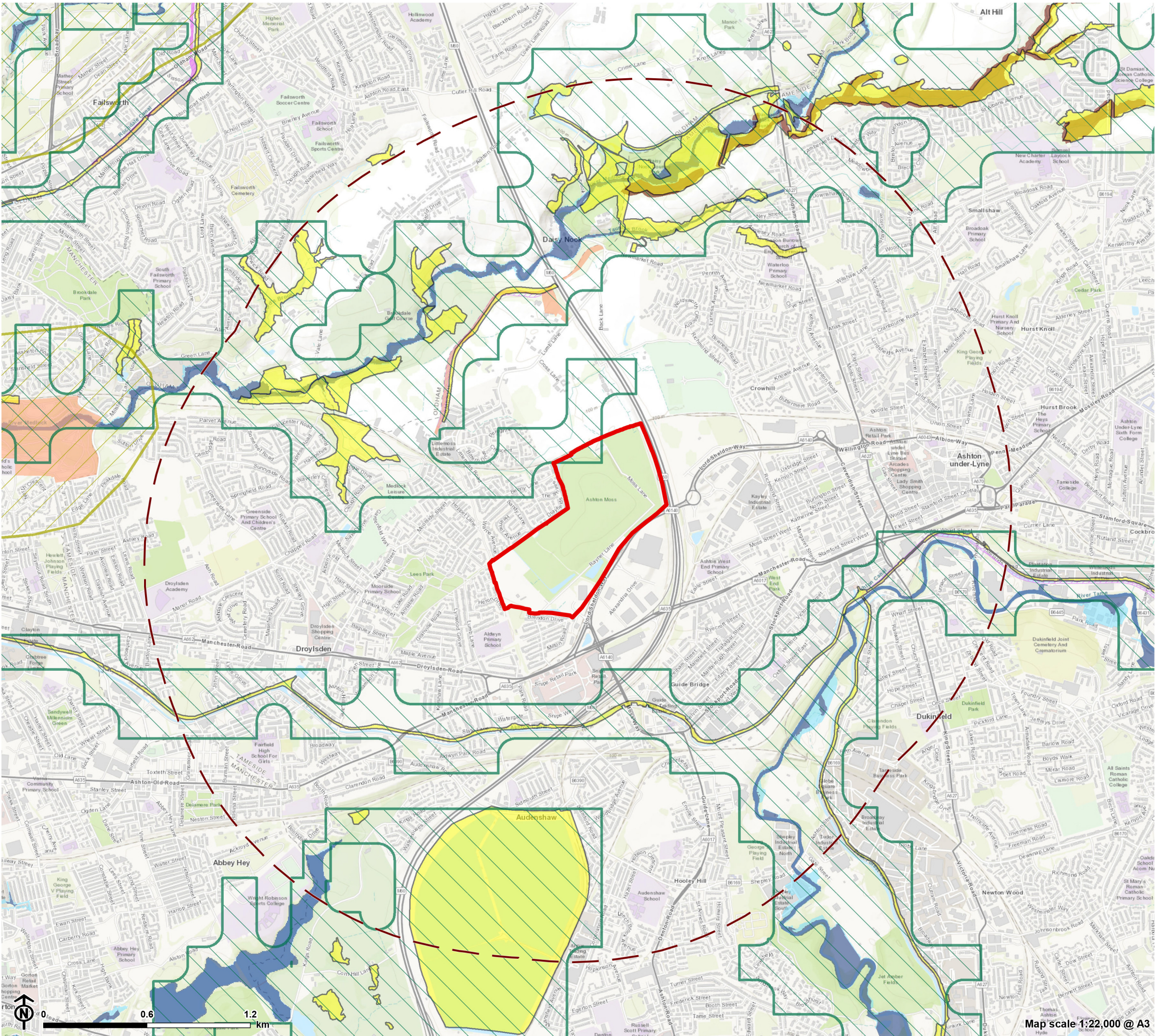
The character of poor quality farmland should be improved, through for example the preservation and reinstatement of hedgerows to aid habitat links. The retention of these agricultural areas should ensure the sense of separation between Ashton-under-Lyne and Failsworth. The area between Ashton Moss and the River Medlock also plays a key role in the maintaining separation of Littlemoss and Taunton.

In accordance with the Greater Manchester published landscape character assessment¹, the introduction of programmes to mitigate the existing fragmented hedgerow pattern could be explored. The opportunity therefore exists to reinstate, enhance and manage the network of hedgerows to help reinforce settlement separation.



Access, Sport and Recreation
GM Allocation 42

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 2km buffer
- Access**
 - Public right of way
 - Sustrans route
 - TfGM cycle route
 - Bee network - confirmed infrastructure
 - Bee network - crossing point
 - Bee network - beeway
 - Bee network - busy beeway
- Sport and Recreation**
 - Open green space
 - Country park



**Biodiversity, Landscape and Visual
GM Allocation 42**

- Site boundary**
- Biodiversity**
 - Site of biological importance
 - Local nature reserve
 - National nature reserve
 - SSSI
 - Special Area of Conservation
 - Ancient woodland
 - Flood zone 2
 - Flood zone 3
- Landscape and Visual**
 - Priority green infrastructure
 - Green infrastructure opportunity area

Potential enhancement projects

Access

1. In conjunction with TfGM, extend the existing Beeway on Moorside Street so that it forms a strategic north-south recreational route along the disused railway at the eastern extent of Droylsden.
2. Establish a cross boundary initiative between Tameside MBC and Oldham MBC to create stronger links between the communities of Ashton-under-Lyne, Failsworth and Droylsden with the corridor of the River Medlock.
3. Improve linkages for pedestrian, cyclists and equestrian users across existing infrastructure corridors, including at the corridor of the M60.
4. Upgrade Public Footpaths DRO/71 and 50 FAILS to create a multi-user route suitable for cyclists and horse-riders connecting Littlemoss / Droylsden with Woodhouses.
5. Promote new multi-user routes connecting settlement edges for recreational and health benefits as part of the Carbon Landscape Project as promoted by Lancashire Wildlife Trust.
6. Upgrade the status and surfacing of existing public footpaths crossing the landscape to the north of GM Allocation 42, offering the potential to connect the residential communities of Droylsden and Failsworth.
7. Explore the potential to improve existing links or create a continuous link connecting Droylsden with Bardsley.

Sport and recreation

8. Improve Richmond Street Playing Fields, including enhanced access control, way-marking and interpretation to encourage healthy lifestyles and increase usage of the green space assets.

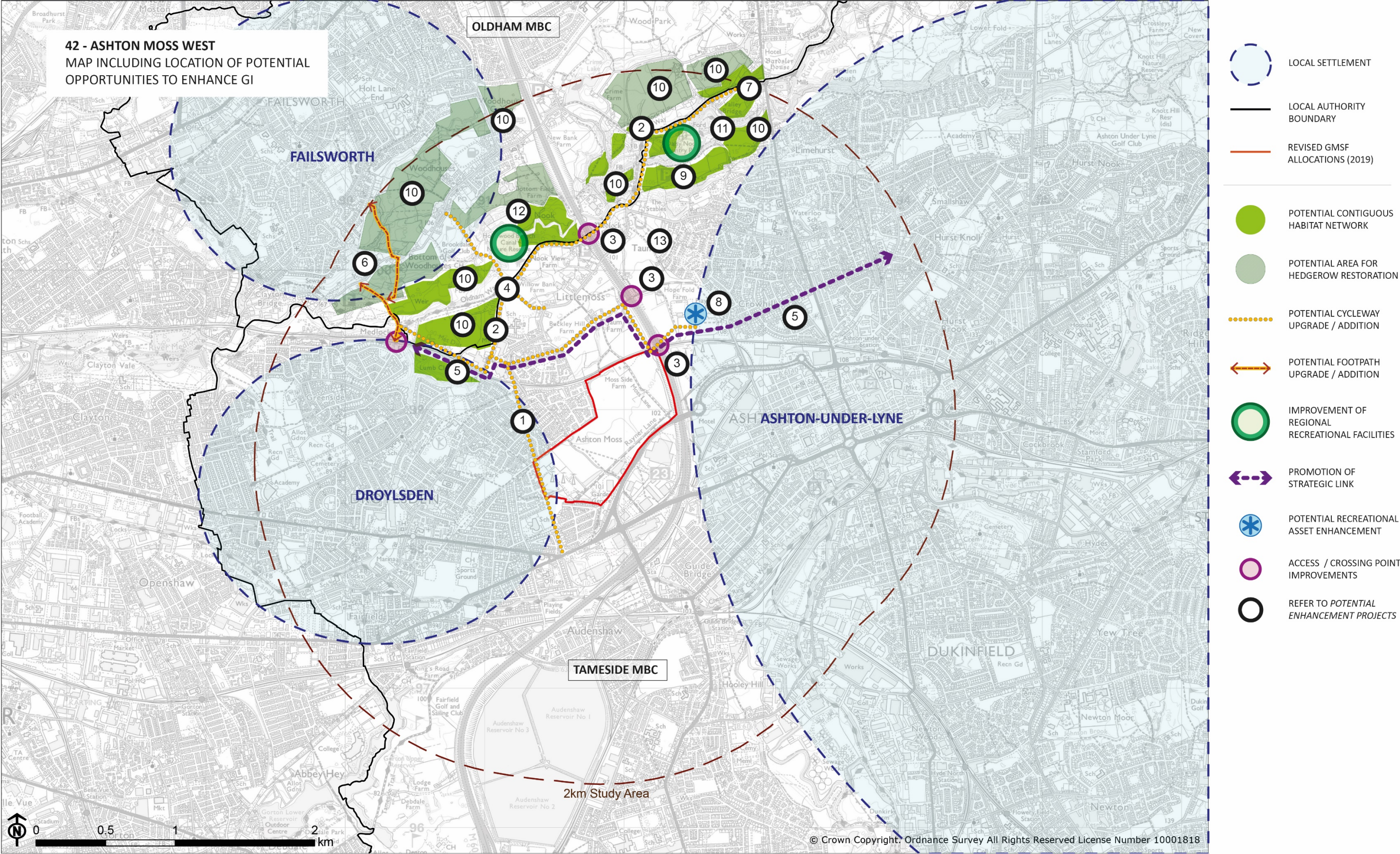
Biodiversity and wildlife corridors

9. Liaise with Oldham MBC to improve existing facilities; including the car park and visitor facilities at Daisy Nook Country Park.

10. Enhance the wider ecological connectivity within the study area, reducing habitat fragmentation. The character of poor quality farmland should be improved, through for example the preservation and reinstatement of hedgerows to aid habitat linkages.
11. Promote landscape management practices to achieve favourable condition / BAP targets for SBIs.

Landscape and visual

12. Restore Hollinwood Branch Canal SSSI to favourable condition in conjunction with Natural England.
13. Consider incorporating green roof schemes, such as green roof bus stops, within the retained Green Belt.

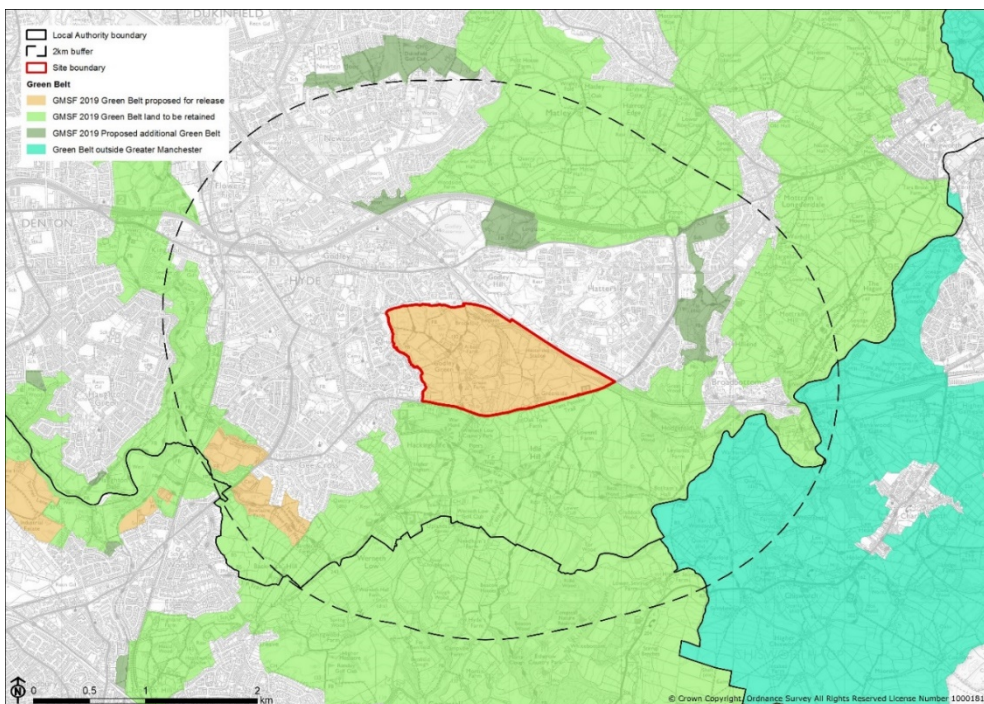


Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

GM Allocation 43, Godley Green Garden Village



Above: View looking north from retained Green Belt at Werneth Low Country Park, south of GM Allocation 43



GM Allocation Area: 123.95 ha

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

Study area definition

Lying within the administrative boundary of Tameside MBC, the revised draft GMSF 2019 proposes to release Green Belt encompassing the full extent of GM Allocation 43, Godley Green Garden Village. The 2km study area incorporates a number of areas identified as additional sites to be added to the Green Belt as part of the revised GMSF; including Land at Longlands House (Mottram Road, Hyde), Danby Road (Hyde), Yew Tree Lane (Dukinfield), Broadbottom Road (Broadbottom), Ashworth Lane (Mottram) and Hyde Road (Mottram).

Land lying within 2km of the GM Allocation 43 (identified as either retained Green Belt or additional sites) will form the focus of GI recommendations / mitigation to enhance the 'beneficial use' of the Green Belt. However, the study will also identify any features of GM Allocation 43 (Godley Green Garden Village) which afford the opportunity to provide additional GI benefits where relevant.

Summary of evidence and policy influencing

'beneficial use' proposals

Published landscape character assessments – Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Land at GM Allocation 43 (Godley Green Garden Village) lies within Pennine Foothills (Dark Peak) LCT, as defined within the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018)¹. Characterised by a complex landscape of steeply sloping land associated with the river valleys of the Tame, Medlock, Etherow and Goyt; the area affords expansive views over the sprawling urban lowlands. The strong visual relationship with the surrounding South Pennines / Dark Peak moorlands and foothills results in a remote eastern edge to Greater Manchester. Farmland is predominantly pastoral with fields enclosed by a combination of hedgerows, fence lines and gritstone walling. The urban extents of Oldham, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Hyde, Romiley and Marple occupy the adjoining foothills,

¹ Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2018) Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment

with land crossed by a dense network of minor roads and PRow which connect the nearby communities.

This LCT is further refined into LCA 35: Ludworth Moor and Dark Peak Foothills. The Pennine Foothills (Dark Peak) LCT profile identifies the following guidance and opportunities for landscape enhancement of relevance to the study area.

- Protect the landscape's role as an immediate rural hinterland and backdrop to the adjacent urban areas of Oldham, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Hyde, Romiley and Marple.
- 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.
- Protect the character and setting of historic landmarks, including Hartshead Pike Tower, church spires / towers (including the Grade II* church at Mottram) and Werneth Low war memorial.
- Protect and enhance the landscape's contribution to the character and setting of Conservation Areas at Compstall, Mill Brow, Mellor and Brook Bottom, with their concentrations of Listed Buildings.
- Protect the wider LCT's important relative sense of tranquillity and remoteness with a dispersed pattern of stone-built farms and cottages, including a number of Grade II Listed buildings.
- Protect and where possible enhance the landscape's semi-natural habitats in association with new development, including ancient and broadleaved woodlands, wetlands, ponds and grasslands.
- Encourage the natural regeneration of woodland and wetland habitats within valleys (as well as new planting/habitat restoration) to improve their function in flood prevention and preventing diffuse pollution.
- Strengthen the stone wall and hedgerow network, using local gritstone for walls and locally prevalent and climate resilient species for hedges. Any new boundaries should reflect local characteristics, including the planting of a new generation of hedgerow trees.

- Design-in the introduction of SuDS to any new development, addressing any changes in hydrology (and subsequent knock-on effects such as increased diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off).
- Improve and enhance sustainable opportunities for access and enjoyment by nearby communities, such as a more attractive gateway into Etherow Country Park at Compstall (Stockport) and additional promoted multi-user access points, particularly linking to urban areas and adjacent landscapes.

Tameside Countryside Strategy²

The report defines the key themes and strategic objectives for the countryside within Tameside over the next 25 years. For the purposes of the document, the countryside includes country parks, river valleys, LNRs, moorland and areas of urban open space used for informal recreation. However, the report excludes formal parks, amenity grassland, urban gardens and allotments. The report identifies the following actions of relevance to potential Green Belt enhancement:

People in the Countryside

- Encourage people of all ages, ability and background to enjoy and experience the countryside.
- Encourage responsible enjoyment of Tameside's countryside so that its qualities are understood, appreciated and safeguarded, now and for future generations to enjoy.
- Work in partnership with others to provide an integrated approach towards access and recreation which is sustainable and socially inclusive.
- Support and encourage local community involvement in the planning and management of outdoor access throughout the countryside.
- Protect the fragile areas of Tameside's countryside from pressures arising from outdoor access and recreation.
- Develop the educational opportunities offered by the countryside of Tameside.

² Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2009) Tameside Countryside Strategy 2009-2019

- Encourage people of all ages, abilities and communities to get outdoors frequently and experience the physical and mental wellbeing associated with the countryside.
- Improve and maintain the quality of experience within Tameside's countryside for all visitors.
- Promote awareness of access and recreation opportunities within the countryside and respect for its special qualities.

Conserving and Enhancing the Countryside

- Conserve and enhance the condition and diversity of habitats and species present throughout Tameside's countryside, through a landscape-scale approach to habitat networks.
- Ensure all designated nature conservation sites are in a favourable condition.
- Identify, prioritise and take action to address non-native species that pose a threat to the natural heritage and land management of Tameside's countryside.
- Promote appropriate reintroduction of species and reinstatement of habitats and identify the likely ecological and management impacts.
- Maintain and enhance the distinctive landscapes across Tameside.
- Understand, increase awareness and conserve the archaeological features, historic landscapes and historic built environment.

Playing Pitch Strategy – Assessment Report³ and Playing Pitch Strategy – Strategy & Action Plan Report⁴

The reports present a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in Tameside with the aim of assessing the quality of existing provision and informing the strategic development of playing pitch sites. The outcomes of the report are also intended to support funding bids from TMBC and local sports clubs regarding future pitch provision. The documents

³ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2016) Playing Pitch Strategy - Assessment Report 2015

⁴ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2016) Playing Pitch Strategy - Strategy & Action Plan Report 2015-2025

outline a number of strategic aims and recommendations to be addressed across outdoor sports facilities. The items listed below are of relevance to potential Green Belt enhancement:

Aims:

- To protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs.
- To enable and support the provision of new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- Ensure local planning policy is in accordance with Government Guidance to protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so.
- Assist in securing tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.
- Maintain the quality of sites and improve where appropriate.
- Seek to address the quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock.
- Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan⁵

The report provides an overarching document for biodiversity across Greater Manchester, including Tameside Borough. The aim of the document is to promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of biological diversity in Greater Manchester for current and future generations. Comprised of 13 action plans covering a range of habitats and species occurring in Greater Manchester, the report states that consideration should be given to the promotion of links between habitats and populations to provide an integrated approach to conservation.

⁵ Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (2009) Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester⁶

Prepared to provide a “route-map” for a Greater Manchester approach to GI planning, the objectives of the report include the identification of priority areas for GI in the City-Region and to advise how GI principles and practice can be incorporated into the overall approach. The document also recommends next steps in the development of a City-Region-wide approach to GI. The following green infrastructure functions and priorities are listed below:

- Flood management function – to improve flood storage of existing greenspaces upstream of urban centres.
- Climate adaptation and mitigation function – to sustain and increase planting within town centres and to ensure doorstep access to significant greenspaces and waterways and ensure such spaces are well managed.
- Ecological framework – to enable the conservation of core biodiversity areas and the conservation of key wildlife corridors.
- Sustainable movement function – to ensure that all regeneration priority areas and areas of lower than average health are served by an accessible movement network.
- Place-making function – priorities include the safeguarding of natural and landscape heritage and to encourage access to greenspaces.
- River and canal corridor management – to enable multi-user access alongside all waterways and enhancement of biodiversity and flood storage opportunities.
- Supporting urban regeneration – to ensure communities are not deficient in access to greenspace, waterways and a sustainable movement network.
- Community health and enjoyment – priorities include areas of derelict land, areas where there is a deficiency of accessibility to urban green infrastructure and residential areas in urban contexts.

⁶ AGMA and Natural England (2008) Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester: Full Report

Open Space Study⁷

The document provides an audit based assessment of both quantitative and qualitative green space, sport and recreation facilities with Tameside Borough. The specific objectives of the assessment include a comprehensive review of supply and demand for open space provision as well as an examination of existing open space sites. A localised assessment of provision, focussing on key deficiencies relevant to the Green Belt is provided below:

- Parks and formal gardens – there is provision for at least one park and garden in each major settlement across the Borough.
- Natural space – usage of ‘natural space’ is quite low and TMBC recognises the need to further develop site interpretation, natural play opportunities as well as the expansion and maintenance of the PRow network.
- Amenity space – there appears to be little current demand for additional provision in the Borough.
- Green corridors – bridleway provision in the Borough is considered disjointed by users.

Whilst it is acknowledged that Tameside MBC completed an Open Space Review in 2018, this document has not yet been adopted. Future GI enhancements should make use of this document once published.

Tameside Unitary Development Plan⁸

This report sets out Tameside MBC's strategic framework for land use planning, conservation and development across the Borough. In particular this highlights the importance of sustainable development, defined as "development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", as a basis for planning and land use decisions. The document summaries the following aims, providing a guide to inform the beneficial enhancements to the retained Green Belt:

⁷ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2010) Open Space Study – Final Assessment Report

⁸ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2004) The Tameside Unitary Development Plan – Written Statement

- Transport systems within the Borough should be sustainable and with limited environmental damage.
- There should be improvement to landscape quality and the value of nature.
- Developed range of cultural, leisure and recreational opportunities available.
- Accessible countryside areas such as rivers valleys and country parks, should be protected.
- The character and biodiversity of the natural environment should be safeguarded.
- New developments should provide environments that are, amongst other things, accessible to people with sensory impairments or restricted mobility.

Existing baseline

Access

Agricultural land to the south of the study area is bisected by a network of PRow, broadly following the lines of rectilinear field boundaries. These local routes provide wider connections between a number of long-distance routes, including the Cown Edge Way and the Etherow-Goyt Valley Way. The Tameside Trail also crosses land at Werneth Low Country Park, affording panoramic views overlooking Hyde from a promoted elevated vantage point adjacent Borough War Memorial.

The Trans Pennine Trail occupies the route of a disused railway forming the northern boundary of GM Allocation 43, before crossing Godley Green via Green Lane and then following the corridor of the A560. The route crosses the floodplain of Hurstclough Brook within an area of proposed Green Belt at Broadbottom Road, Broadbottom.

A network of local PRow bisects the area of retained Green Belt immediately north of the M67, separating Newton from settlements centred on the alignment of the A6018. Bridleways DUK/8 and DUK/8 stretch south from Matley Lane across the agricultural farmland, terminating at Higher Matley Hall.

The Trans Pennine Trail forms a section of NCN 62. TfGM also recognises a section of cycle network linking this route with Godley Station. The southern extent of the study area

encompasses a cycle network, forming a loop around existing agricultural land south of Werneth Low Road.

Running broadly north west to south east through the study area, the Manchester to Glossop rail line creates a barrier to pedestrian movement and is defined as a Severance Line by TfGM. The carriageways of the M67, A57 and A560 cross this corridor and are also identified as Severance Lines, bordering sections of retained Green Belt within the wider study area. The Beeway network crosses land at Godley Green Farm within GM Allocation 43, forming a section of the Trans Pennine Trail. Connecting Hyde to Mottram in Longdendale, the A57 is defined as a Busy Beeway, recognised by TfGM as a route that will require a higher level of design intervention to improve cycling and walking. A section of Sheffield Road, linking Godley Green with Dukinfield, also forms part of the wider Busy Beeway network.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Access

Improvements to access points and the quality of amenity greenspace along long distance footpaths would be consistent with the finding of the Open Space Study: Standards Paper⁷. The introduction of a coherent and improved interpretation strategy associated with the dense long distance footpath network would improve visitor experience. The proximity of the retained Green Belt to urban fringe at both Gee Cross and Woodley offers the opportunity to develop a waymarked and easily accessible network of circular health walks.

Upgrades to the hard surfacing along the Trans Pennine Trail, including short realignments to avoid the A560 at Woodley, would enhance access opportunities for both cyclists and pedestrians. These proposals would require liaison with the Trans Pennine Trail Office to inform the Masterplanning of the allocation site. Existing public art and sculpture located along the disused railway provides as an indicator of local recreational value. The expansion of the sculpture trail along the Trans Pennine Trail and towards the Cheshire Ring Canal Walk (in conjunction with Sustrans and the Trans Pennine Trail Office) provides the opportunity to create distinct experiences for recreational users.

Following landowner agreement, the opportunity exists to extend Bridleways DUK/8 and DUK/8 to provide a connection with Bridleway HYD/36, offering a strategic link for horse riders from the southern extent of Stalybridge to Hattersley.

The opportunity exists to connect the existing TfGM cycle network, located to the south of Werneth Low Road with NCN 62 on the A560 following agreement with local landowners. This could be achieved through improvements to Public Footpaths HYD/146 and HYD/147, amending the status of these PRoWs and upgrading the existing routes to multi-user access ways.

Potential extensions and upgrades to the Beeline Network, providing links into Hyde are also suggested as part of the Beeline proposals. The introduction of access audits could help to identify a programme of site improvements to encourage access for all, ensuring the PRoW network is well managed and maintained. The opportunity also exists to introduce enhancements to the Trans Pennine Trail where it crosses the Peak Forest Canal and River Tame between Apethorn Lane and Haughton Dale.

Existing baseline

Sport and recreation

Defined as a Public Park or Garden within the OS Open Greenspace dataset, Werneth Low Country Park adjoins GM Allocation 43's southern boundary and occupies an area of retained Green Belt within the wider study area. The country park covers approximately 76ha and incorporates many points of pedestrian access. Werneth Low Golf Club borders this space, dissected by the carriageway of Werneth Low Road. Hyde Cricket and Squash Club also lie on the alignment of Werneth Low Road to the south of the study area.

Crossing the boundary into Stockport MBC, Etherow Country Park lies approximately 1.1km south of the GM Allocation itself. GM Allocation 43 incorporates a playing field and football pitch associated with Alder Community High School, accessed via the A560 Mottram Old Road.

The area of retained Green Belt to the north of the 2.0km study area is currently devoid of sites defined within the OS Open Greenspace sites. However, the recreation ground and play space lying immediately south of the A57 is encompassed within an area of proposed Green Belt.

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Sport and recreation

Explore the potential for upgrades and improvements to the Tameside Trail and the Etherow-Goyt Valley Way, working in conjunction with landowners and third parties. These improvements would enhance connections between recreational facilities at Werneth Low Country Park and Etherow Country Park.

Existing baseline

Biodiversity and wildlife corridors

The area of retained Green Belt is devoid of land described as an SAC or SPA as defined by Natural England. However, the study area incorporates LNRs at Werneth Low and Great Wood, located to the south of the A560. Hurst Clough LNR also lies partially within the limit of retained Green Belt, occupying land parallel Hustclough Brook. The proposal to extend the Green Belt at this location dictates that Green Belt would encompass the full extent of the LNR.

GM Allocation 43 and the retained Green Belt incorporate SBIs, covering a total of 13ha within the GM Allocation site, 75ha on retained Green Belt (within 2km of the site) and 20ha on proposed new Green Belt. SBIs at Higher Higham Meadow, Werneth Low Country Park, Back Wood and Great Wood form discrete habitats to the south of the Allocation site within Tameside MBC.

Broadly following the corridor of the River Etherow, ancient woodlands at Hurst Clough, Great Wood, Back Wood and Tor Wood lie within the southern extent of the study area.

Areas of retained Green Belt parallel the corridor of the River Etherow are contained within land defined as EA Flood Zones 2 and 3.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Biodiversity and wildlife corridors

The opportunity exists to enhance existing green infrastructure networks through the creation of new native woodland tracts to connect with existing SBIs providing a contiguous habitat network; with a particular focus on connecting fragmented woodlands on either side of the M67, A560 and the Northern rail line.

Dissecting GM Allocation 43 broadly north-south, the opportunity exists to safeguard and enhance Godley Brook. This could be achieved through the creation of improved habitat linkages connecting to the proposed Green Belt addition area at Longlands House (Mottram Road, Hyde) and Godley Reservoir. The potential to reinforce the habitat connection towards the woodland south of Mottram Old Road could also be explored.

Enhancement projects could include the promotion of landscape management practices to achieve favourable condition / BAP targets for all of these SBIs, as recommended within the Tameside Countryside Strategy². There is also the potential to review GMEU's SBI designation criteria in order to ensure management plans are in place to protect and enhance the key habitat features.

A cross boundary approach to the management of woodland parallel the River Tame and lying on the border of Stockport MBC / Tameside MBC would help enhance landscape character, as well as providing biodiversity, access and recreational benefits. Similarly, enhancement options to improve the semi-improved moorland habitat to the north east of Allocation 43, would provide an increase in biodiversity for the area while enhancing the landscape character.

The opportunity exists to determine the extent of key invasive non-native species and devise a strategy for their management.

Due to the proximity of EA Flood Zones 2 and 3, any future GI enhancements could seek to enhance the ecological and hydrological beneficial features within the area of retained Green Belt by combining flood risk reduction with green infrastructure improvements. It may be feasible to provide features such as drainage ditches which could also function as SuDS, providing benefits for biodiversity.

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

Existing baseline

Landscape and visual

As defined by GMEU, Green Infrastructure (2018) networks bordering the River Etherow and Gigg Brook characterise the area of retained Green Belt to the south of GM Allocation 43. These corridors also cross the boundary into Stockport Borough. The channel of the River Tame and unnamed tributaries at Matley are also defined as Green Infrastructure (2018), based on numerous layers of wildlife, habitats and land types.

The northern extent of the study area encompasses a Green Infrastructure Opportunity Area (2019) at South Pennine Moors (Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside with connections to Calderdale Kirklees and High Peak). The Mersey Valley Green Infrastructure Opportunity Area (2019) also runs parallel the corridor of the River Etherow, forming a wider connection between the Boroughs of Tameside and Stockport within the study area.

GM Allocation 43 as well as the wider study area play a partial role in the prevention of settlement coalescence between Hattersley and Hyde, reinforced by the route of the Manchester to Glossop rail line and the associated cutting earthworks.

The study area is influenced by a pattern of agricultural Enclosures interspersed with tracts of Woodland and Residential areas at the urban fringe.

The southern portion of the study area is consistent with Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational land use, in virtue of Werneth Low Country Park and Etherow Country Park.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Landscape and visual

Working in collaboration with neighbouring districts, the opportunity exists to supplement and enhance existing Green Infrastructure (2018) networks associated with the River Etherow, Gigg Brook and Godley Brook. The opportunity exists to protect and enhance semi-natural habitats

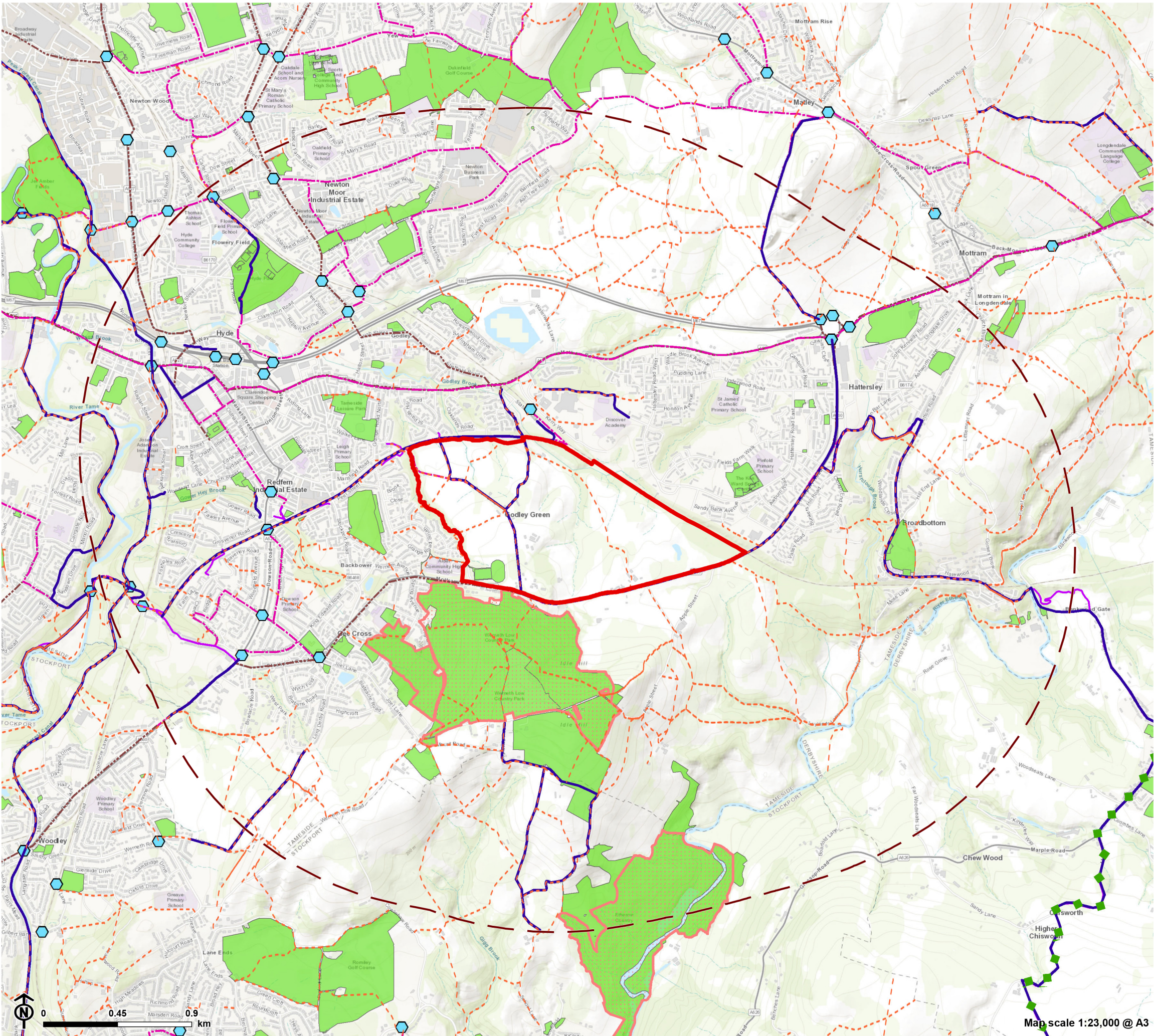
Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

and networks, including riparian, broadleaved and ancient woodland tracts bordering these water courses.

Retention of the character of the River Tame, minimising any sense of urban encroachment or settlement coalescence, forms a key landscape and visual consideration.

Working with landowners, explore the potential to improve green infrastructure linkages at the urban fringe through the introduction of community orchards. In addition, consider incorporating green roof schemes, such as green roof bus stops, within the retained Green Belt.

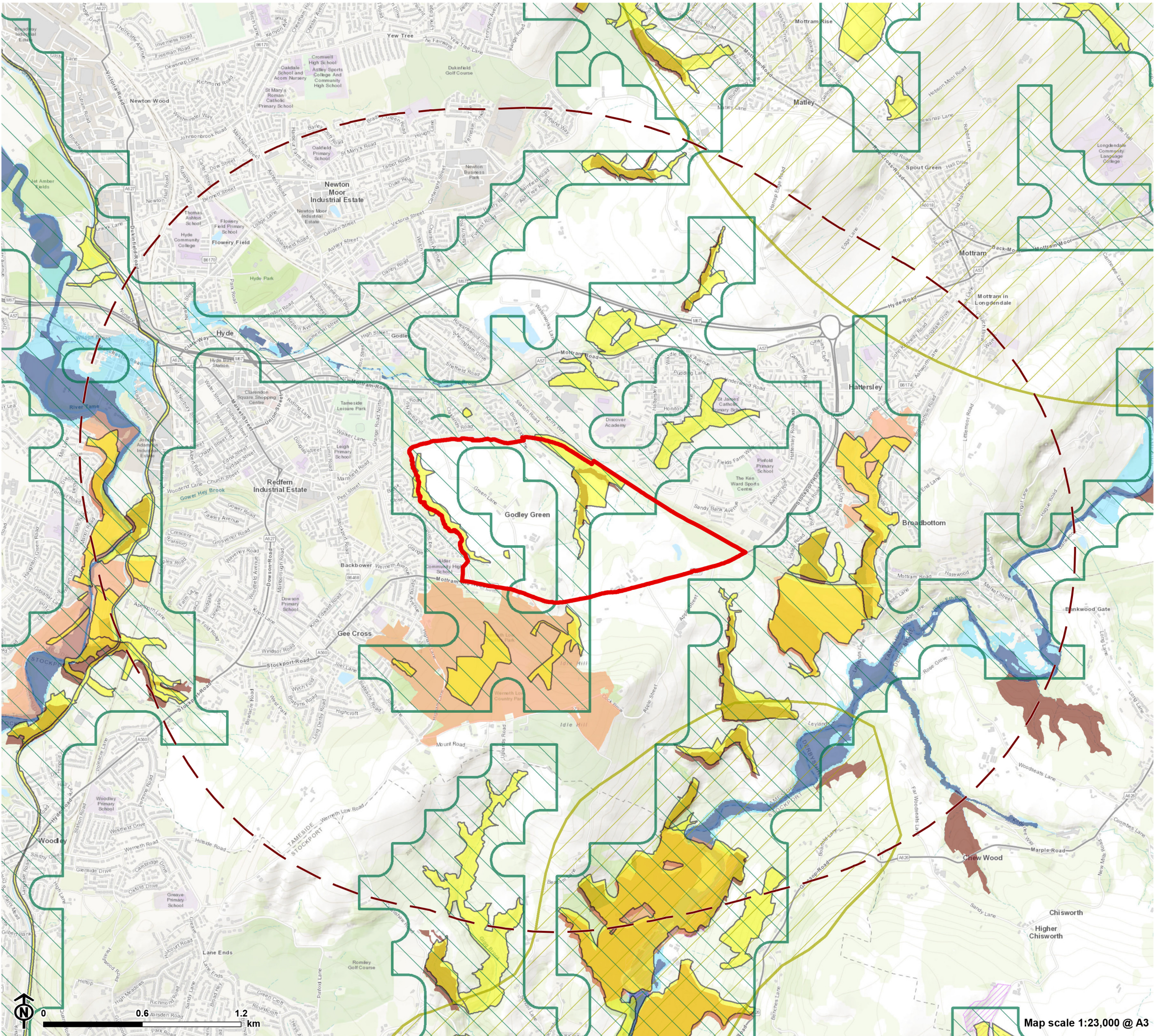
In accordance with the Greater Manchester published landscape character assessment¹, the introduction of programmes to increase and maintain the pattern of traditional hedgerow field boundaries could be explored. Consideration could also be given to the reinstatement / restoration of stone walling on higher ground. This could be achieved through the replacement of timber post and rail and post and wire fencing with hedgerows or stone walling.



Access, Sport and Recreation
GM Allocation 43

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 2km buffer
- Access**
 - Public right of way
 - National Trail
 - Sustrans route
 - TfGM cycle route
 - Bee network - crossing point
 - Bee network - beeway
 - Bee network - busy beeway
- Sport and Recreation**
 - Open green space
 - Country park

Map scale 1:23,000 @ A3



**Biodiversity, Landscape and Visual
GM Allocation 43**

- Site boundary
- Biodiversity**
 - Site of biological importance
 - Local nature reserve
 - National nature reserve
 - SSSI
 - Special Area of Conservation
 - Ancient woodland
 - Flood zone 2
 - Flood zone 3
- Landscape and Visual**
 - Priority green infrastructure
 - Green infrastructure opportunity area

Potential enhancement projects

Access

1. Improve access points and the quality of amenity greenspace along long distance footpaths, including improved signage. Introduce a coherent and improved interpretation strategy associated with the dense long distance footpath network, including a waymarked and easily accessible network of health walk circuits.
2. Liaise with Sustrans and the Trans Pennine Trail Office to explore the potential to expand the sculpture trail along the Trans Pennine Trail towards the Cheshire Ring Canal Walk, providing an opportunity to create distinct experiences for recreational users.
3. Explore the opportunity to extend Bridleways DUK/8 and DUK/8 to provide a connection with Bridleway HYD/36, offering a strategic link for horse riders from the southern extent of Stalybridge to Hattersley.
4. Liaise with TfGM to connect the existing TfGM cycle network, located to the south of Werneth Low Road with NCN 62 on the A560.
5. In conjunction with the Trans Pennine Trail Office, improve hard surfacing along the Trans Pennine Trail in order to upgrade this route to a multi-user network.

Sport and recreation

6. Explore the potential for upgrades and improvements to the Tameside Trail and the Etherow-Goyt Valley Way, working in conjunction with landowners and third parties. These improvements would enhance connections between recreational facilities at Werneth Low Country Park and Etherow Country Park.

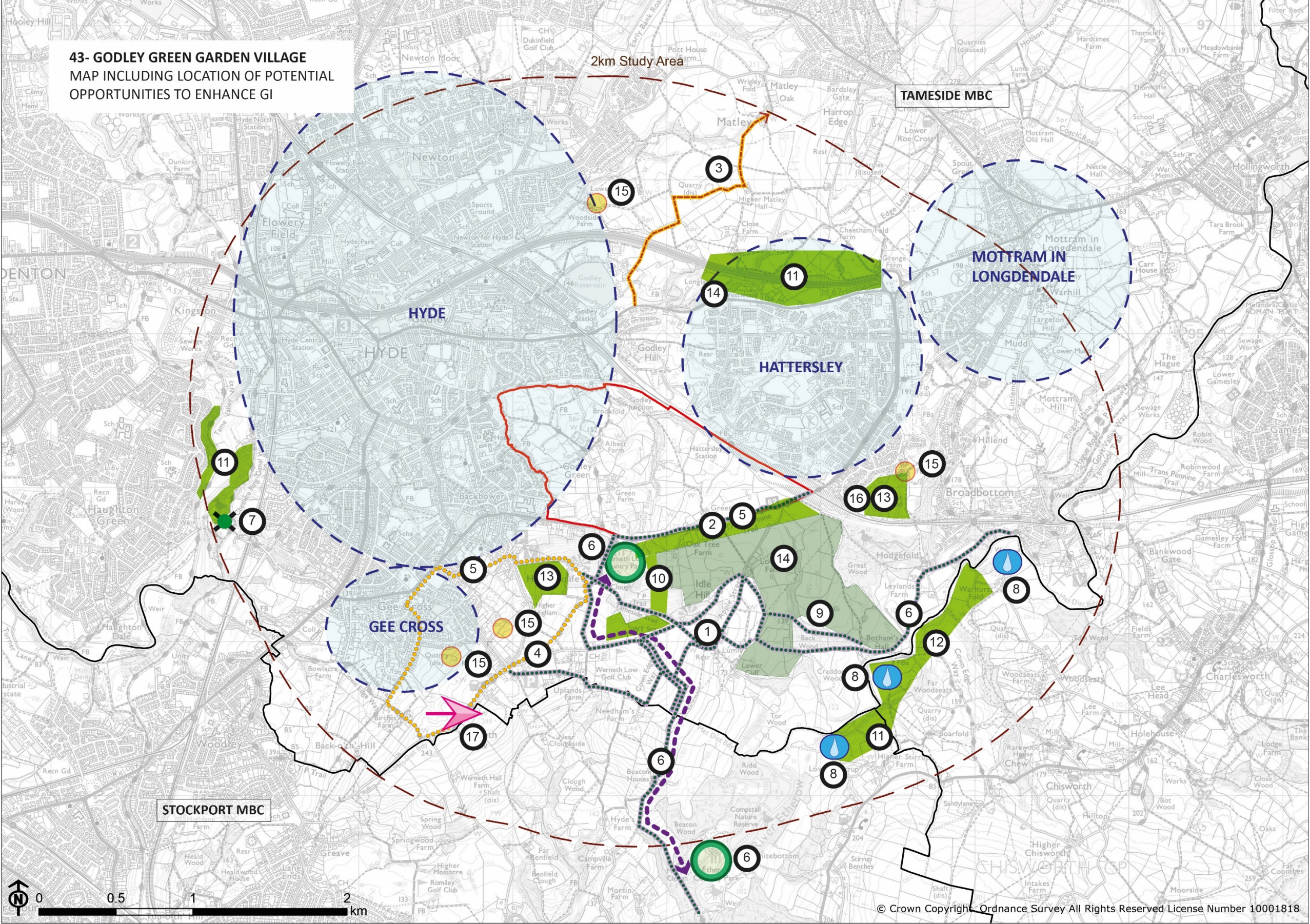
Biodiversity and wildlife corridors

7. Liaise with landowners and establish a multi-agency approach to determine the extent of key invasive non-native species and devise a strategy for their management.
8. Working in conjunction with the LLFA and neighbouring districts, enhance the ecological and hydrological beneficial features within the area of retained Green Belt by combining flood risk reduction with green infrastructure improvements.

9. Promote landscape management practices to achieve favourable condition / BAP targets for SBIs.
10. Safeguard and enhance Godley Brook through the creation of improved habitat linkages.
11. Promote a cross boundary approach to the management of woodland parallel the River Tame and land lying on the border of Stockport MBC / Tameside MBC.

Landscape and visual

12. Supplement and enhance existing Green Infrastructure (2018) networks associated with the River Etherow, in collaboration with Stockport MBC.
13. Enhance existing green infrastructure networks through the creation of new native woodland tracts to connect with existing SBIs to provide a contiguous habitat network.
14. Increase and maintain the pattern of traditional hedgerows and drystone wall field boundaries through the replacement of timber post and rail and post and wire fencing with hedgerows or stone walling as locally appropriate. This intervention will require agreement with local landowners.
15. Working with landowners, provide a community orchard network which connects to the urban fringe and education or community facilities.
16. Consider incorporating green roof schemes, such as green roof bus stops, within the retained Green Belt.
17. Enhance key easterly views towards the South/West Pennines and Dark Peak foothills from the topographical ridgeline at Werneth Low.



- LOCAL SETTLEMENT
- LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARY
- REVISED GMSF ALLOCATIONS (2019)
- POTENTIAL CONTIGUOUS HABITAT NETWORK
- POTENTIAL AREA FOR HEDGEROW RESTORATION
- POTENTIAL FOOTPATH UPGRADE / ADDITION
- POTENTIAL LONG DISTANCE FOOTPATH UPGRADE / ADDITION
- POTENTIAL CYCLEWAY UPGRADE / ADDITION
- PROMOTION OF STRATEGIC LINK
- POTENTIAL FLOOD STORAGE OPPORTUNITIES
- IMPROVEMENT OF REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
- POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES
- POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ORCHARD NETWORK
- MAINTAIN LONG DISTANCE VIEWS
- REFER TO POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

GM Allocation 44, South of Hyde, Apethorn Lane and Bowlacre Farm

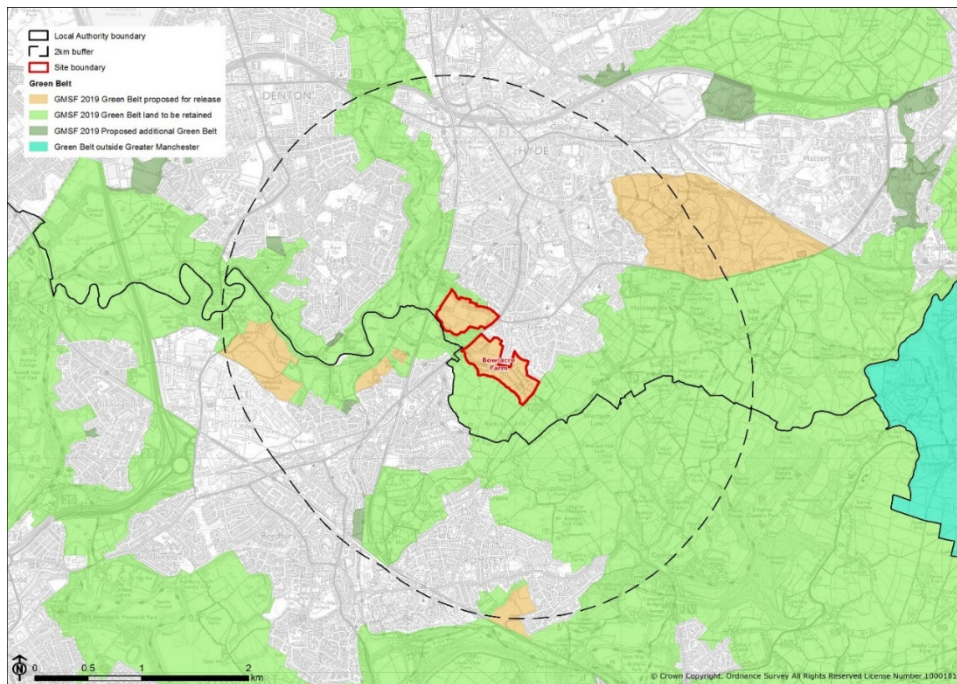


Above: View looking south towards commercial premises on Apethorn Lane within GM Allocation 44 (South of Hyde, Apethorn Lane)



Above: View looking south east towards sloping agricultural land at Birches Farm from the Crown Edge Way (GM Allocation 44 – South of Hyde, Bowlacre Farm)

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt



GM Allocation Area: 32.36 ha (total)

Study area definition

Lying within the administrative boundary of Tameside MBC, the revised draft GMSF 2019 proposes to release Green Belt encompassing the full extent of GM Allocation 44, South of Hyde, Apethorn Lane and Bowlacre Farm. Located within 2km of the GM Allocation site itself, land south west of GM Allocation 36, Cemetery Road (Denton), Ardenfield (Haughton Green) and Star Field (Romiley) are identified as additional sites to be added to the Green Belt as part of the revised GMSF.

With the exception of land at Gee Cross which adjoins the eastern perimeter, retained Green Belt borders both GM Allocation site areas. Land lying within 2km of the GM Allocation site (identified as either retained Green Belt or additional sites) will form the focus of GI recommendations / mitigation to enhance the 'beneficial use' of the Green Belt. This includes land to the south and west of GM Allocation 44 within Stockport MBC. However, the study will also identify any features of GM Allocation 44 (South of Hyde, Apethorn Lane and Bowlacre Farm) which afford the opportunity to provide additional GI benefits where relevant.

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

Summary of evidence and policy influencing 'beneficial use' proposals

Published landscape character assessments – Greater Manchester Combined Authority

GM Allocation 44 (South of Hyde, Apethorn Lane) is wholly encompassed within Incised Urban Fringe Valleys LCT, as defined within the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018)¹. Land lying to the west of Public Footpath HYD/128/10 at GM Allocation 44 (South of Hyde, Bowlacre Farm) is also contained within this LCT. The LCT comprises typically narrow, incised valleys cutting through rolling hills which include the Pennine and Dark Peak foothills. Largely wooded with a natural character, the valleys are bordered by riparian woodland with banks of dense broadleaved vegetation. Views are largely contained by these steep valley sides with woodland and areas of parkland creating important wildlife corridors between densely populated urban areas. Small to medium sized pastoral fields on the valley sides contrast with areas of wet grassland and scrub centred on the valley floor. Recreational land use forms a 'key characteristic of the LCT, consisting of amenity grassland associated with golf courses, playing fields and country parks. Numerous long distance footpaths and cycle routes also run through the valleys and along canals. Although major transport infrastructure severs the visual unity of the valley landscape, these areas have a long industrial heritage as a power source for the nineteenth and twentieth century cotton industry. This LCT is further refined into LCA 36: River Tame, characterised by large development such as electricity substations, water treatment works, industrial complexes and major road corridors. This urban influence detracts from the rural qualities and naturalistic character of the valley landscape.

The Incised Urban Fringe Valleys LCT profile identifies the following guidance and opportunities for landscape enhancement of relevance to GM Allocation 44.

¹ Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2018) Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment

- Protect and where possible enhance semi-natural habitats and networks, including riparian, broadleaved and ancient woodland, wet grasslands, meadows and regenerating habitats on former industrial land.
- Strengthen the dry stone wall network, reflecting local building styles and materials. Any new boundaries should also reflect local characteristics.
- Hedgerows should be preserved and enhanced.....New hedgerow planting should be encouraged where it has been removed and replaced by post and wire fencing.
- Avoid the felling of any significant areas of woodland to maintain the contained and secluded character of the valleys and to retain the existing screening of the urban edge.
- Explore opportunities to further develop post-industrial and reclaimed sites.....for habitat creation with possible links with The Northern Forest Initiative.
- Conserve remaining industrial relicts, including historic mill buildings, canals and railway lines.
- Design-in the introduction of SuDS to any new development, addressing any changes in hydrology (and subsequent knock-on effects such as increased diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off). This is of particular importance as the LCT covers many of Greater Manchester's main river valleys.
- 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.
- Recreational opportunities should be maintained and enhanced in order to preserve the high recreational value of the valleys as green fingers through densely populated areas. Opportunities should be sought to strengthen the links between valleys along public footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes and the various recreational destinations and heritage sites found within the landscape.
- Formal recognition should be sought for recreational routes with possible extensions of existing long-distance routes or the formation of new ones.

Land to the east of Public Footpath HYD/128/10 within GM Allocation 44, South of Hyde, Bowlacre Farm, lies within Pennine Foothills (Dark Peak) LCT. Characterised by a complex

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

landscape of steeply sloping land associated with the river valleys of the Tame, Medlock, Etherow and Goyt; the area affords expansive views over the sprawling urban lowlands. The strong visual relationship with the surrounding South Pennines / Dark Peak moorlands and foothills results in a remote eastern edge to Greater Manchester. Farmland is predominantly pastoral with fields enclosed by a combination of hedgerows, fence lines and gritstone walling. The urban extents of Oldham, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Hyde, Romiley and Marple occupy the adjoining foothills, with land crossed by a dense network of minor roads and PRow which connect the nearby communities.

This LCT is further refined into LCA 35: Ludworth Moor and Dark Peak Foothills. The Pennine Foothills (Dark Peak) LCT profile identifies the following guidance and opportunities for landscape enhancement of relevance to the study area.

- Protect the landscape's role as an immediate rural hinterland and backdrop to the adjacent urban areas of Oldham, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Hyde, Romiley and Marple.
- 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.
- Protect the character and setting of historic landmarks, including Hartshead Pike Tower (Grade II), church spires / towers (including the Grade II* listed Church of St. Michael and All Angels at Mottram) and Werneth Low war memorial.
- Protect and enhance the landscape's contribution to the character and setting of Conservation Areas at Compstall, Mill Brow, Mellor and Brook Bottom, with their concentrations of Listed Buildings.
- Protect the wider LCT's important relative sense of tranquillity and remoteness with a dispersed pattern of stone-built farms and cottages, including a number of Grade II Listed buildings.
- Protect and where possible enhance the landscape's semi-natural habitats in association with new development, including ancient and broadleaved woodlands, wetlands, ponds and grasslands.

- Encourage the natural regeneration of woodland and wetland habitats within valleys (as well as new planting/habitat restoration) to improve their function in flood prevention and preventing diffuse pollution.
- Strengthen the stone wall and hedgerow network, using local gritstone for walls and locally prevalent and climate resilient species for hedges. Any new boundaries should reflect local characteristics, including the planting of a new generation of hedgerow trees.
- Design-in the introduction of SuDS to any new development, addressing any changes in hydrology (and subsequent knock-on effects such as increased diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off).
- Improve and enhance sustainable opportunities for access and enjoyment by nearby communities, such as a more attractive gateway into Etherow Country Park at Compstall (Stockport) and additional promoted multi-user access points, particularly linking to urban areas and adjacent landscapes.

Tameside Countryside Strategy²

The report defines the key themes and strategic objectives for the countryside within Tameside over the next 25 years. For the purposes of the document, the countryside includes country parks, river valleys, LNRs, moorland and areas of urban open space used for informal recreation. However, the report excludes formal parks, amenity grassland, urban gardens and allotments. The report identifies the following actions of relevance to potential Green Belt enhancement:

People in the Countryside

- Encourage people of all ages, ability and background to enjoy and experience the countryside.
- Encourage responsible enjoyment of Tameside's countryside so that its qualities are understood, appreciated and safeguarded, now and for future generations to enjoy.
- Work in partnership with others to provide an integrated approach towards access and recreation which is sustainable and socially inclusive.

² Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2009) Tameside Countryside Strategy 2009-2019

- Support and encourage local community involvement in the planning and management of outdoor access throughout the countryside.
- Protect the fragile areas of Tameside's countryside from pressures arising from outdoor access and recreation.
- Develop the educational opportunities offered by the countryside of Tameside.
- Encourage people of all ages, abilities and communities to get outdoors frequently and experience the physical and mental wellbeing associated with the countryside.
- Improve and maintain the quality of experience within Tameside's countryside for all visitors.
- Promote awareness of access and recreation opportunities within the countryside and respect for its special qualities.

Conserving and Enhancing the Countryside

- Conserve and enhance the condition and diversity of habitats and species present throughout Tameside's countryside, through a landscape-scale approach to habitat networks.
- Ensure all designated nature conservation sites are in a favourable condition.
- Identify, prioritise and take action to address non-native species that pose a threat to the natural heritage and land management of Tameside's countryside.
- Promote appropriate reintroduction of species and reinstatement of habitats and identify the likely ecological and management impacts.
- Maintain and enhance the distinctive landscapes across Tameside.
- Understand, increase awareness and conserve the archaeological features, historic landscapes and historic built environment.

Playing Pitch Strategy – Assessment Report³ and Playing Pitch Strategy – Strategy & Action Plan Report⁴

The reports present a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in Tameside with the aim of assessing the quality of existing provision and informing the strategic development of playing pitch sites. The outcomes of the report are also intended to support funding bids from Tameside MBC and local sports clubs regarding future pitch provision. The documents outline a number of strategic aims and recommendations to be addressed across outdoor sports facilities. The items listed below are of relevance to potential Green Belt enhancement:

Aims:

- To protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs.
- To enable and support the provision of new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- Ensure local planning policy is in accordance with Government Guidance to protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so.
- Assist in securing tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.
- Maintain the quality of sites and improve where appropriate.
- Seek to address the quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock.
- Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

³ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2016) Playing Pitch Strategy - Assessment Report 2015

⁴ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2016) Playing Pitch Strategy - Strategy & Action Plan Report 2015-2025

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan⁵

The report provides an overarching document for biodiversity across Greater Manchester, including Tameside Borough. The aim of the document is to promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of biological diversity in Greater Manchester for current and future generations. Comprised of 13 action plans covering a range of habitats and species occurring in Greater Manchester, the report states that consideration should be given to the promotion of links between habitats and populations to provide an integrated approach to conservation.

Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester⁶

Prepared to provide a “route-map” for a Greater Manchester approach to GI planning, the objectives of the report include the identification of priority areas for GI in the City-Region and to advise how GI principles and practice can be incorporated into the overall approach. The document also recommends next steps in the development of a City-Region-wide approach to GI. The following green infrastructure functions and priorities are listed below:

- Flood management function – to improve flood storage of existing greenspaces upstream of urban centres.
- Climate adaptation and mitigation function – to sustain and increase planting within town centres and to ensure doorstep access to significant greenspaces and waterways and ensure such spaces are well managed.
- Ecological framework – to enable the conservation of core biodiversity areas and the conservation of key wildlife corridors.
- Sustainable movement function – to ensure that all regeneration priority areas and areas of lower than average health are served by an accessible movement network.
- Place-making function – priorities include the safeguarding of natural and landscape heritage and to encourage access to greenspaces.

⁵ Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (2009) Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

⁶ AGMA and Natural England (2008) Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester: Full Report

- River and canal corridor management – to enable multi-user access alongside all waterways and enhancement of biodiversity and flood storage opportunities.
- Supporting urban regeneration – to ensure communities are not deficient in access to greenspace, waterways and a sustainable movement network.
- Community health and enjoyment – priorities include areas of derelict land, areas where there is a deficiency of accessibility to urban green infrastructure and residential areas in urban contexts.

Open Space Study⁷

The document provides an audit based assessment of both quantitative and qualitative green space, sport and recreation facilities with Tameside Borough. The specific objectives of the assessment include a comprehensive review of supply and demand for open space provision as well as an examination of existing open space sites. A localised assessment of provision, focussing on key deficiencies relevant to the Green Belt is provided below:

- Parks and formal gardens – there is provision for at least one park and garden in each major settlement across the Borough.
- Natural space – usage of ‘natural space’ is quite low and Tameside MBC recognises the need to further develop site interpretation, natural play opportunities as well as the expansion and maintenance of the PRow network.
- Amenity space – there appears to be little current demand for additional provision in the Borough.
- Green corridors – bridleway provision in the Borough is considered disjointed by users.

Whilst it is acknowledged that Tameside MBC completed an Open Space Review in 2018, this document has not yet been adopted. Future GI enhancements should make use of this document once published.

⁷ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2010) Open Space Study – Final Assessment Report

Tameside Unitary Development Plan⁸

This report sets out Tameside MBC's strategic framework for land use planning, conservation and development across the Borough. In particular this highlights the importance of sustainable development, defined as "development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", as a basis for planning and land use decisions. The document summaries the following aims, providing a guide to inform the beneficial enhancements to the retained Green Belt:

- Transport systems within the Borough should be sustainable and with limited environmental damage.
- There should be improvement to landscape quality and the value of nature.
- Developed range of cultural, leisure and recreational opportunities available.
- Accessible countryside areas such as rivers valleys and country parks, should be protected.
- The character and biodiversity of the natural environment should be safeguarded.
- New developments should provide environments that are, amongst other things, accessible to people with sensory impairments or restricted mobility.

Existing baseline

Access

A network of long distance footpaths dissect the wider study area, crossing land separating residential settlement at Hyde and Woodley south of the A560. The corridors of the River Tame and Peak Forest Canal are also bordered by long distance multi-user routes; with the Cheshire Ring Canal Walk occupying the towpath of the Peak Forest Canal to the north west of the study area. The Trans Pennine Trail broadly follows the corridor of the River Tame before exiting the Tame Valley adjacent to the Apethorn Lane GM Allocation, providing a link into the former

⁸ Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (2004) The Tameside Unitary Development Plan – Written Statement

Godley-Apethorn railway line. The Trans Pennine Trail offers a national coast to coast route for recreation and transport – walkers, cyclists and (in parts) horse riders.

The Tameside Trail and Cown Edge Way link the corridor of the A560 with the route of Werneth Low Road. The Tameside Trail continues towards a promoted elevated viewpoint at Werneth Low Country Park, offering panoramic views across the wider study area. The Cown Edge Way diverges from the route of the Tameside Trail at the junction of Joel Lane and Werneth Low Road, forming the southern extent of Werneth Low Golf Club.

A network of PRoW, including HYD/130/40 and HYD/128/10, follow the lines of agricultural field boundaries at Back-o'th'-Hill. The routes occupy land lying between Hyde and Woodley. The short section of Public Footpath HYD/121/10 offers a link between GM Allocation 44 site and residential land use at Hyde. The study area also encompasses a crossing point traversing the River Tame, affording multi-user access from Haughton Green to Gee Cross.

The Trans Pennine Trail follows the route of the NCN 62, running parallel the banks of the River Tame as well as the route of a disused railway towards Godley Junction. The Peak Forest Canal towpath also accommodates cycling. A traffic-free cycling route defined by TfGM also links the western extent of Woodley with the A6017. Located to the north west of the study area, the Tame Valley Way is promoted as a walking route with sections that are suitable for other users.

Located within the wider study area, the Peak Forest Canal is defined as a Severance Line as part of the Bee Network proposals in virtue of its perceived barrier to pedestrian movement. The channel of the River Tame is also identified as a Severance Line, dissecting the area of retained green to the south of Haughton Green. In addition, the wider study area encompasses Severance Lines accommodated within the infrastructure corridors of the Hope Valley rail line and the A560. Severance Lines at the A627 and following Pennine Road are located beyond the extent of retained Green Belt.

The route connecting the pedestrian footbridge over the River Tame to Haughton Green Road is described as a Busy Beeway, judged to require a higher level of design intervention to improve cycling and walking. The corridor of the A560 linking Bredbury and Woodley is also defined as a Busy Beeway, located beyond the extent of retained or proposed Green Belt. The wider study area is also comprised of Beeways at the Trans Pennine Trail, Bridleway 69BR at Mill Dam, Apethorn Lane and the Cheshire Ring Canal Walk, occupying areas of retained

Green Belt within the study area. Sections of the A560 are also defined as a Busy Beeway / Beeway.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Access

By virtue of its potential to provide extensive recreational use and act as a ‘green finger’ dividing the residential areas of Haughton Green and Woodley, improvements to access points and the quality of amenity greenspace along the Trans Pennine Trail would be consistent with the findings of the Open Space Study: Standards Paper⁷. This project would involve agreement with third parties. Upgrades to the hard surfacing along the Trans Pennine Trail would enhance access opportunities for both cyclists and pedestrians.

The opportunity exists to improve the condition of existing PRoW connecting the urban area of Haughton Green with the network of the Trans Pennine Trail. The upgrading of DEN/49/10 to a cycle route would also afford a connection from residential properties at the south western extent of Haughton Green, supplementing the existing on-road cycle route accommodated on Gibraltar Lane and Apethorn Lane at the eastern limit of the settlement. The realignment of the Trans Pennine Trail along existing field boundaries towards Back-o’th’-Hill rather than Pennine Road could also be explored.

Given the existing network of long distance routes and proximity of the urban population, the upgrade of routes to multi-user trails would help to provide strategic recreational routes. The addition of short sections of the Trans Pennine Trail to the north east of Woodley and the upgrade of Public Footpath HYD/146/10 at the A560 provides the opportunity for a circular route linking the footprint of existing settlement. The proximity of the retained Green Belt to urban fringe at both Gee Cross and Woodley offers the opportunity to develop a waymarked and easily accessible network of circular health walks. This intervention would also allow the realignment of the Tameside Trail / Cown Edge Way so that it avoids the route of the A560 and the residential edge of Woodley. The route could be relocated within agricultural fields to the north of Poleacre Lane.

A relatively minor intervention to improve access at the Trans Pennine Trail could also be to review the kissing gate access on Dowson Road which currently forms a barrier to wheelchair users / parents with push chairs. It is noted that this would have to consider the potential issues surrounding anti-social behaviour, which could be remedied by improving alternative off-road cycling facilities. A balance would be sought between provision of disabled access and creation of an anti-social behaviour deterrent at this location. A review of the condition of surfacing would also be required at these access points to ensure that the Trans Pennine Trail continues to offer a multi-user recreational route.

Highlighted as a potential opportunity for improvement as part of comments sourced from the public on the Bee Network proposals, the bridge crossing the River Tame to the south of Haughton Green and the associated access points either side are described as requiring re-surfacing and upgrading. This project would involve liaison with landowners. The route forms a link to the Trans Pennine Trail as well a commuter connection between Denton and Woodley. Lack of maintenance to hard surfacing and the proliferation of overgrown vegetation where the Trans Pennine Trail runs parallel the River Tame are also highlighted as issues and barriers to cycle access. These problems could be addressed through improvements to the landscape management of the site and through liaison with third parties.

The varying condition of the surfacing along Gibraltar Lane is noted. The opportunity exists to upgrade the surfacing along this route as well as Apethorn Lane to form a traffic free cycle route connecting Gee Cross to Denton via Haughton Green. The potential to improve lighting at Woodley Tunnel along the Peak Forest Canal is also highlighted and would involve liaison with Stockport MBC and the Canal and Rivers Trust. Consideration should also be given to the likelihood of increased anti-social behaviour following the installation of lighting. The introduction of access audits across these sites could help to identify a programme of site improvements to encourage access for all, ensuring the PRow network is well managed and maintained.

Existing baseline

Sport and recreation

Defined as a public park or garden within the OS Greenspace Sites dataset, Werneth Low Country Park occupies land to the south of the A560. Both Werneth Low Golf Club and Romiley

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

Golf Club lie approximately 1.3km east and 1.2km south of GM Allocation 44 respectively. Hyde Cricket and Squash Club is also located within an area of retained Green Belt immediately south of Werneth Low Road. Despite lying beyond the extent of retained Green Belt, the urban context of Backbower and Gee Cross incorporate land defined as playing fields, play spaces and bowling greens.

In addition to the Neil Rourke Memorial Stadium, the retained Green Belt within the study area also incorporates a bowling green and play space accessed via Lambeth Grove. These community facilities are adjoined to the east by allotments on Riversdale View Encompassed on its eastern, southern and western fringes by vegetation at Hardy Wood; Denton Cemetery also lies within close proximity of the River Tame, approximately 1.6km north west of GM Allocation 44.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Sport and recreation

Green Belt enhancement strategies could also look to improve existing facilities; including the visitor facilities at Werneth Low Country Park. Whilst there is already a joint agreement between Tameside MBC and Hyde War Memorial Trust, who own most of Werneth Low Country Park, the opportunity exists to support partnership work between Tameside MBC and Stockport MBC to guide the future management of Werneth Low Country Park and Etherow Country Park.

The presence of private recreational assets (Romiley Golf Club, Werneth Low Golf Club and Hyde Cricket and Squash Club) affords the opportunity to offer accessible sports packages to local residents.

Improvements to the network of local playing fields could also be explored, including enhanced access control, way-marking and interpretation to encourage healthy lifestyles and increase usage of the green space assets.

Existing baseline

Biodiversity and wildlife corridors

A network of woodland tracts designated as ancient woodland occupy the floodplain of the River Tame; including Hardy Wood, Gower Hey Wood, Towing Path Wood and Wood Mill Wood. Woodland bordering the unnamed watercourse at Bowlacre Farm is also defined as ancient woodland.

The wooded riparian corridors typical of the locale include land lying between the routes of the Peak Forest Canal and River Tame are comprised of a number of SBIs; including Gibraltar Wood, Gower Hey Wood, Apethorn House (North and South) and Woodland near Unity Mills. SBIs within the western extent of the study area are largely centred on the channel of the River Tame, including Botany Mill Wood, Lower Haughton Meadows and Hulme's & Hardy Woods. The route of the Peak Forest Canal is delineated by an SBI itself. In addition, Pole Bank (South and North) crosses the route of the Hope Valley rail line.

The northern banks of the River Tame are defined by LNRs at Haughton Dale, Hulmes & Hardy Wood and Lower Haughton Meadows. Land at Haughton Dale LNR also abuts the residential settings of Gee Cross and Woodley as well as occupying the area between the River Tame and Peak Forest Canal.

Areas of retained Green Belt parallel the corridor of the River Tame is contained within land defined as EA Flood Zones 2 and 3.

'Beneficial use' proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Biodiversity and wildlife corridors

Wooded riparian corridors are recognised as a characteristic habitat of the locality and are of particular value as ecological corridors. Strategic landscape-scale connectivity is key, extending through in and around peri-urban areas as well as those that are more rural. The opportunity exists to enhance existing green infrastructure networks through the creation of new native woodland tracts to connect with existing SBIs and provide a contiguous habitat network.

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

Canopy connection between wooded river corridors and transport corridors may provide particularly far-reaching benefit.

Enhancement projects could include the promotion of landscape management practices to achieve favourable condition / BAP targets for all of these SBIs, as recommended within the Tameside Countryside Strategy². This may include support for local community and 'Friends Of' groups where these are appropriately skilled and resourced to help deliver management targets. There is also the potential to review GMEU's SBI designation criteria in order to ensure management plans are in place to protect and enhance the key habitat features. A cross boundary approach to the management of woodland parallel the River Tame and lying on the border of Stockport MBC / Tameside MBC would help enhance landscape character, as well as providing biodiversity, access and recreational benefits.

In areas close to the urban fringe or educational facilities and subject to agreement with landowners, community orchards may help to deliver a range of local BAP targets including those for trees and deadwood habitats.

The opportunity exists to improve the wider ecological connectivity within the study area, reducing habitat fragmentation. A balance should also be sought between the promotion of access and recreation within the landscape with the need for managing the landscape for wildlife.

Due to the proximity of EA Flood Zones 2 and 3, any future GI enhancements could seek to enhance the ecological and hydrological beneficial features within the area of retained Green Belt by combining flood risk reduction with green infrastructure improvements. This may be achieved by working in conjunction with the LLFA and neighbouring districts. It may be feasible to provide features such as drainage ditches which could also function as SuDS, providing benefits for biodiversity.

Existing baseline

Landscape and visual

As defined by Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), the River Tame and the Peak Forest Canal form corridors of Green Infrastructure (2018) based on numerous layers of wildlife, habitats and land types.

The extent of retained Green Belt forming the corridors of the River Tame and Peak Forest Canal make a strong contribution to the sense of separation between the urban areas of Haughton Green, Hyde and Woodley; playing a role in the prevention of settlement coalescence. Coupled with the linear corridor of the Hope Valley rail line, the routes of these watercourses also separate the residential extent of Gee Cross and Haughton Green.

As defined by the UHLC, the study area is characterised by tracts of Woodland associated with both the River Tame and Peak Forest Canal. These areas are interspersed by agricultural land use. The southern extent of the study area is also influenced by a pattern of Enclosed Land, albeit characterised by subtle variations in field size. Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational land use typifies the area of retained Green Belt bordering the residential area of Haughton Green.

‘Beneficial use’ proposals and potential GI enhancements subject to further work

Landscape and visual

The opportunity exists to protect and enhance semi-natural habitats and networks, including riparian, broadleaved and ancient woodland tracts bordering the River Tame and Peak Forest Canal.

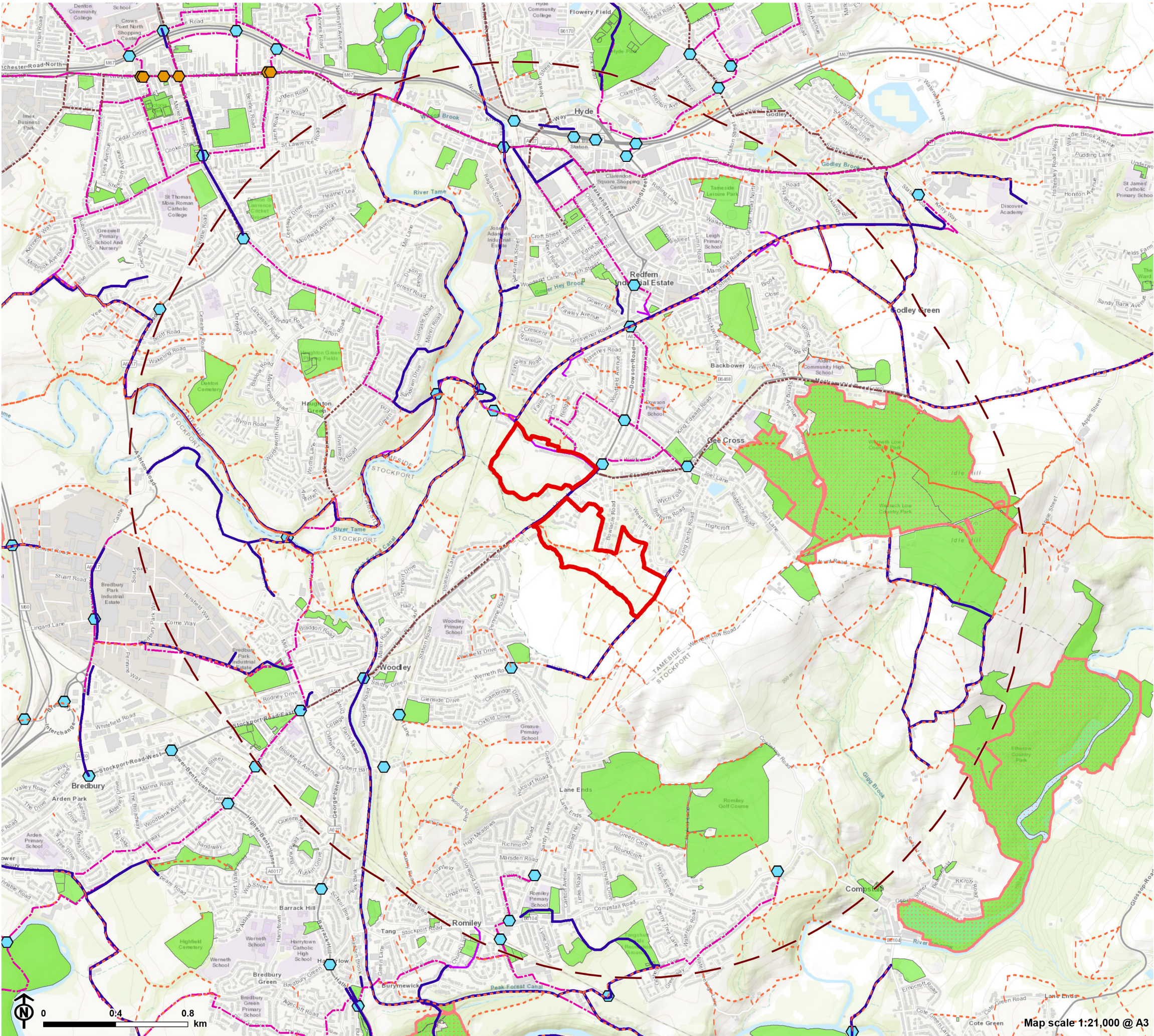
Consideration should also be given to incorporating green roof schemes, such as green roof bus stops, within the retained Green Belt.

Retention of the character of the River Tame, minimising any sense of urban encroachment or settlement coalescence, forms a key landscape and visual consideration. Proposals could aim to improve woodland management along the A560 in order to emphasize the gap between

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt

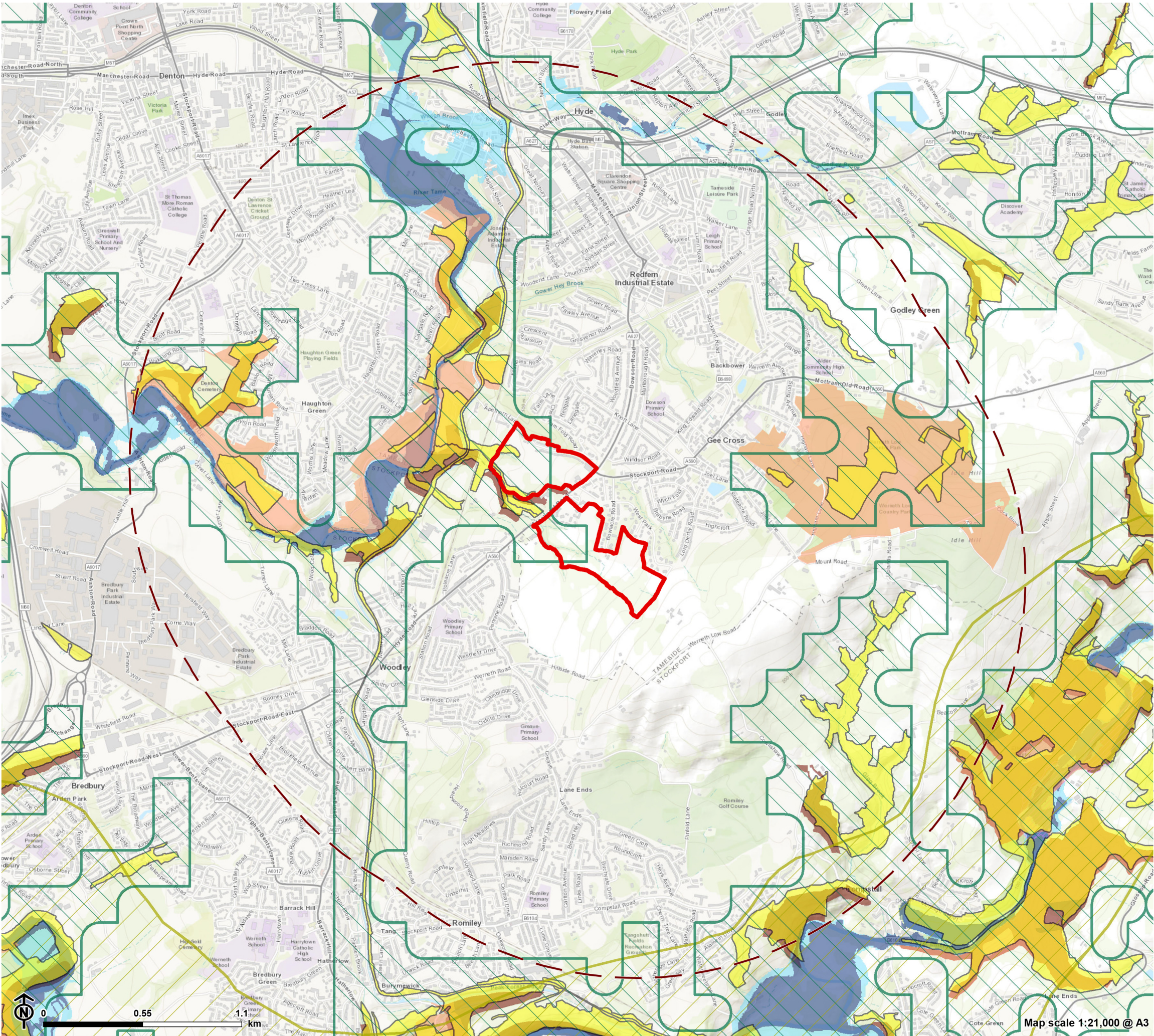
discrete settlements. In accordance with the recommendations outlined in the Greater Manchester published landscape character assessment¹, the protection and enhancement of semi-natural riparian and woodland habitats would help to improve the setting of this river corridor. The restoration of hedgerows as well as the extension of woodland belts along the tributary of the River Tame and the urban edge would also produce landscape benefits consistent with the aims of the Northern Forest.

Subject to agreement with landowners, preservation and reinstatement of hedgerows should also be encouraged to aid habitat enhancement and visual containment. Consideration could also be given to the reinstatement / restoration of stone walling, characteristic of the Dark Peak. This could be achieved through the replacement of timber post and rail and post and wire fencing with stone walling.



Access, Sport and Recreation
GM Allocation 44

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 2km buffer
- Access**
 - Public right of way
 - Sustrans route
 - TfGM cycle route
 - Bee network - confirmed infrastructure
 - Bee network - crossing point
 - Bee network - beeway
 - Bee network - busy beeway
- Sport and Recreation**
 - Open green space
 - Country park



Biodiversity, Landscape and Visual
GM Allocation 44

- Site boundary
- Biodiversity**Site of biological importanceLocal nature reserveNational nature reserveSSSISpecial Area of ConservationAncient woodlandFlood zone 2Flood zone 3
- Landscape and Visual**Priority green infrastructureGreen infrastructure opportunity area

Potential enhancement projects

Access

1. Review and improve access points along the Trans Pennine Trail, including at the kissing gate access on Dowson Road which currently forms a barrier to wheelchair users. Balance this intervention with the need to maintain anti-social behaviour deterrents at this location.
2. Liaise with landowners to potentially re-surface and upgrade the bridge crossing the River Tame (including associated access points either side) to the south of Haughton Green.
3. Subject to agreement with third parties, improve the quality of amenity greenspace and hard surfacing along the Trans Pennine Trail to enhance access opportunities for both cyclists and pedestrians.
4. Liaise with Stockport MBC to improve lighting at Woodley Tunnel along the Peak Forest Canal. Consideration should also be given to the likelihood of increased anti-social behaviour following the installation of lighting.
5. Working in conjunction with the Trans Pennine Trail Office, enhance the condition of existing PRow connecting the urban area of Haughton Green with the network of the Trans Pennine Trail.
6. Subject to local site conditions, upgrade existing long distance footpaths to multi-user trails to help to provide strategic recreational routes.
7. Upgrade the surfacing along Gibraltar Lane and Apethorn Lane to form a traffic free cycle route connecting Gee Cross to Denton via Haughton Green.

Sport and recreation

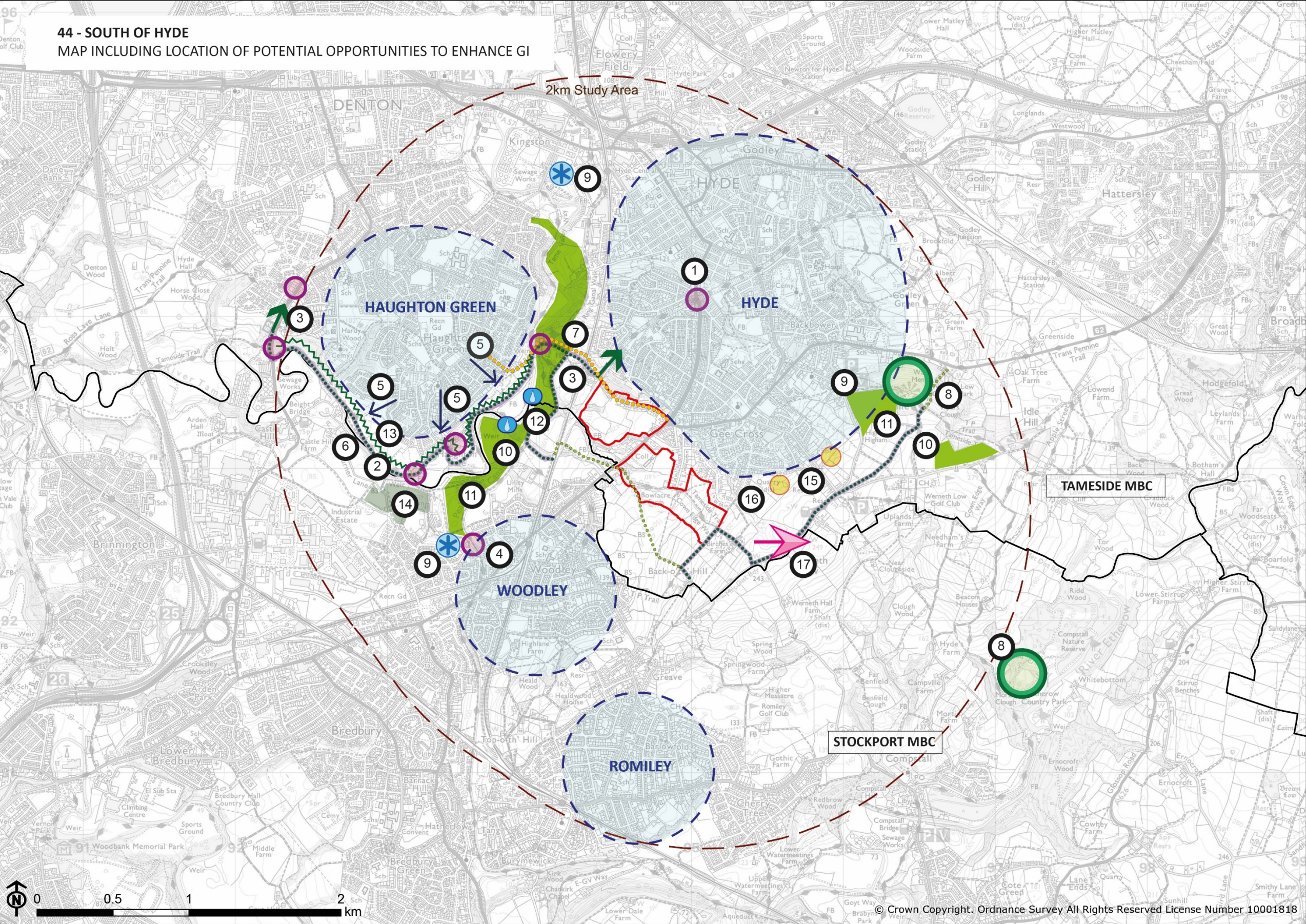
8. Support the partnership between Tameside MBC and Stockport MBC to guide the future management of Werneth Low Country Park and Etherow Country Park, including improvement to the visitor facilities at Werneth Low Country Park.
9. Improve the network of local playing fields could also be explored, including enhanced access control, way-marking and interpretation to encourage healthy lifestyles and increase usage of the green space assets.

Biodiversity and wildlife corridors

- 10. Enhance existing green infrastructure networks through the creation of new native woodland tracts to connect with existing SBIs and provide a contiguous habitat network.
- 11. Promote landscape management practices to achieve favourable condition / BAP targets for SBIs.
- 12. Working in conjunction with the LLFA and neighbouring districts, enhance the ecological and hydrological beneficial features within the area of retained Green Belt by combining flood risk reduction with green infrastructure improvements.

Landscape and visual

- 13. Working in conjunction with landowners, address the proliferation of overgrown vegetation along where the Trans Pennine Trail runs parallel the River Tame through amendments to the landscape management approach.
- 14. Liaise with landowners to reinstate species rich hedgerows to aid habitat enhancement and visual containment. In addition, consider the reinstatement / restoration of characteristic stone walling.
- 15. Working with landowners, provide a community orchard network which connects to the urban fringe and education or community facilities.
- 16. Consider incorporating green roof schemes, such as green roof bus stops, within the retained Green Belt.
- 17. Enhance key easterly views towards the South/West Pennines and Dark Peak foothills from the topographical ridgeline at Werneth Low.



- LOCAL SETTLEMENT
- LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARY
- REVISED GMSF ALLOCATIONS (2019)
- POTENTIAL CONTIGUOUS HABITAT NETWORK
- POTENTIAL FOOTPATH UPGRADE / ADDITION
- POTENTIAL LONG DISTANCE FOOTPATH REALIGNMENT (PART OF CIRCULAR ROUTE)
- POTENTIAL CYCLEWAY UPGRADE / ADDITION
- POTENTIAL LONG DISTANCE FOOTPATH UPGRADE / ADDITION
- PROMOTION OF STRATEGIC LINK
- ENHANCEMENT OF SETTLEMENT LINKAGES
- ACCESS / CROSSING POINT IMPROVEMENTS
- POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT OF OVERGROWN VEGETATION
- IMPROVEMENT OF REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
- POTENTIAL FLOOD STORAGE OPPORTUNITIES
- POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ORCHARD NETWORK
- MAINTAIN LONG DISTANCE VIEWS
- REFER TO *POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS*

Potential Enhancement Opportunities
for the Green Belt