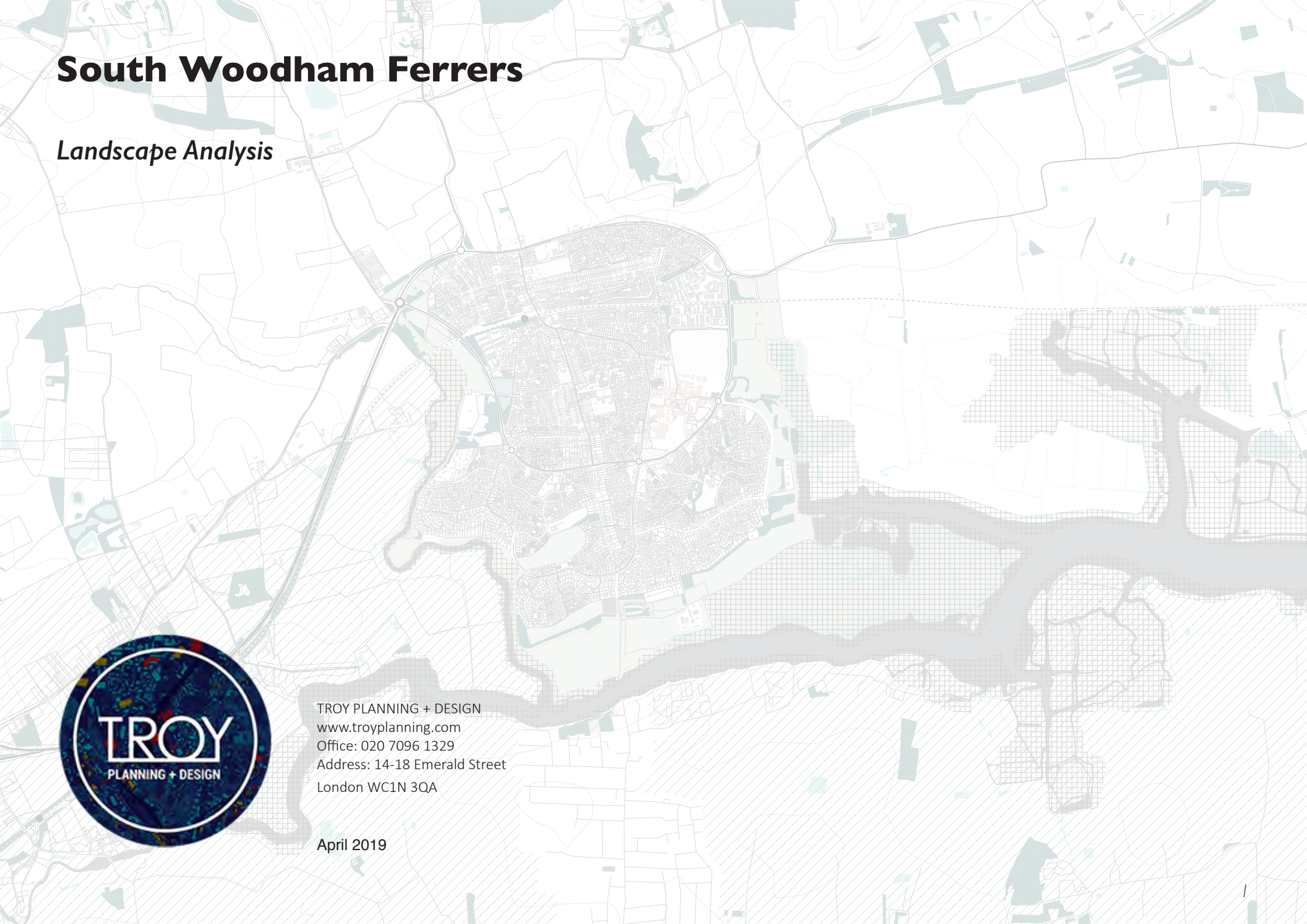
South Woodham Ferrers

Landscape Analysis



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April 2019

Summary of issues and priorities for the South Woodham Ferrers study area

According to the Chelmsford Open Space Study *(Chelmsford Open Space Study: Green Space Area Profiles 2016 - 2036)* South Woodham Ferrers currently has shortfall of Allotments, Amenity Green Space, Parks and Recreation Grounds, Children's Play Space and Youth Play Space.

There is a good provision of natural green space surrounding the town, including Marsh Farm Country Park, but the walkable catchment of these green spcaes is relatively limited and there is a total lack of mental connections to the surrounding natural green spaces within the town. This could be drastically improved, creating an invaluable resource for the town if integrated properly.

A new full size floodlit 3G pitch and two multi-use games areas at William de Ferrers School are also available to the community and are in joint use with South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre. Therefore, even though there is an lack of Parks and Recreation Grounds and Youth Play Space, these facilities are available for community use.

Access to the different types of green space varies across the area as follows:

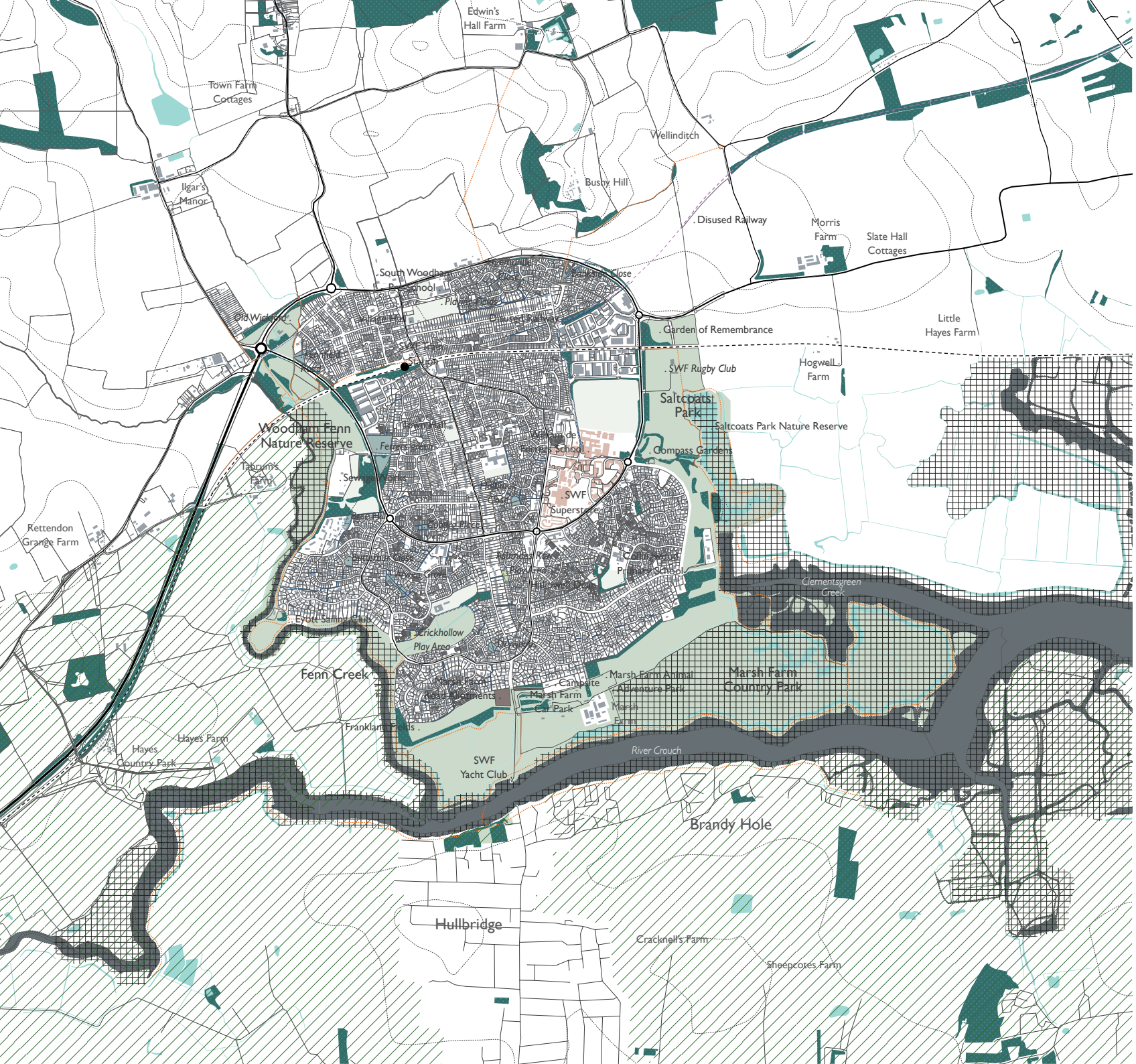
- There is poor access to allotments across the area - although it should be noted that there is only one small allotment site on the southern edge of the town.
- Generally good access to amenity green spaces (AMGS) within the housing areas, however, it is evident that there are fewer AMGS in the North and East of the area.
- Generally good access to parks and recreation grounds, however, there is a relatively large gap in the South West;
- Generally good access to children's play space, however, there are gaps in the centre and to the south;
- Very sporadic access to youth play space, with many areas falling below the standard.
- Good access to natural green space (larger than 20ha in size) across the area, although the area does not meet the 100ha ANGst standard;

Priorities for on-site provision through new development are for Allotments, Amenity Green Space, Parks and Recreation Grounds, Children and Youth Play Space. However, where there is good access to these green space types, the priority may be to provide enhancements to existing provision (depending upon the size of development);

The natural green spaces could provide opportunities for alternative low impact green space uses, such as creating community food growing areas and providing natural play;

It is acknowledged that developments of high density would create many pressures for other infrastructure in addition to green space, and there is a need to maximise opportunities for improving access to existing facilities and improving the quality/changing use of existing facilities to cope with additional pressure from population growth.

(Chelmsford Open Space Study: Green Space Area Profiles 2016 - 2036)



Legend

- Railway
- Disused Railway
- Railway Station
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Minor Roads
- Footpath network
- Protected Rights of Way
- Contour Lines
- Buildings
- Town Centre Buildings
- Tidal Water
- Surface Water
- Woodland
- Traditional Orchards
- Urban Green Spaces
- Country Park
- Green Belt
- Areas of Special Scientific Interest

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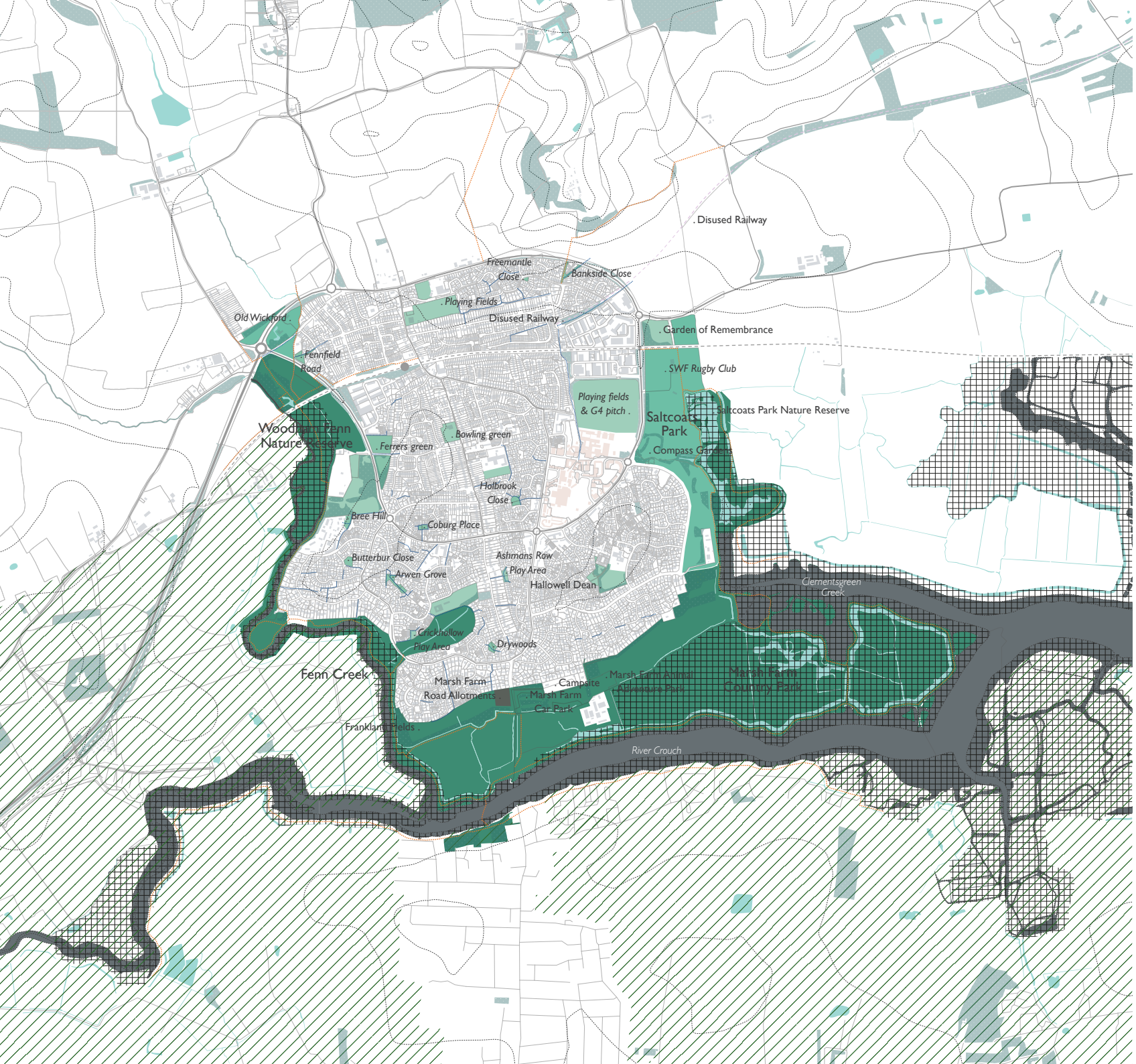
NORTH

Existing Features Map



Legend

- *Footpath network*
- *Protected Rights of Way*
- *Contour Lines*
- *Amenity green space*
- *Parkland*
- *Country Park & Reserves*
- *Tidal Water*
- *Surface Water*
- *Green Belt*
- *Areas of Special Scientific Interest*

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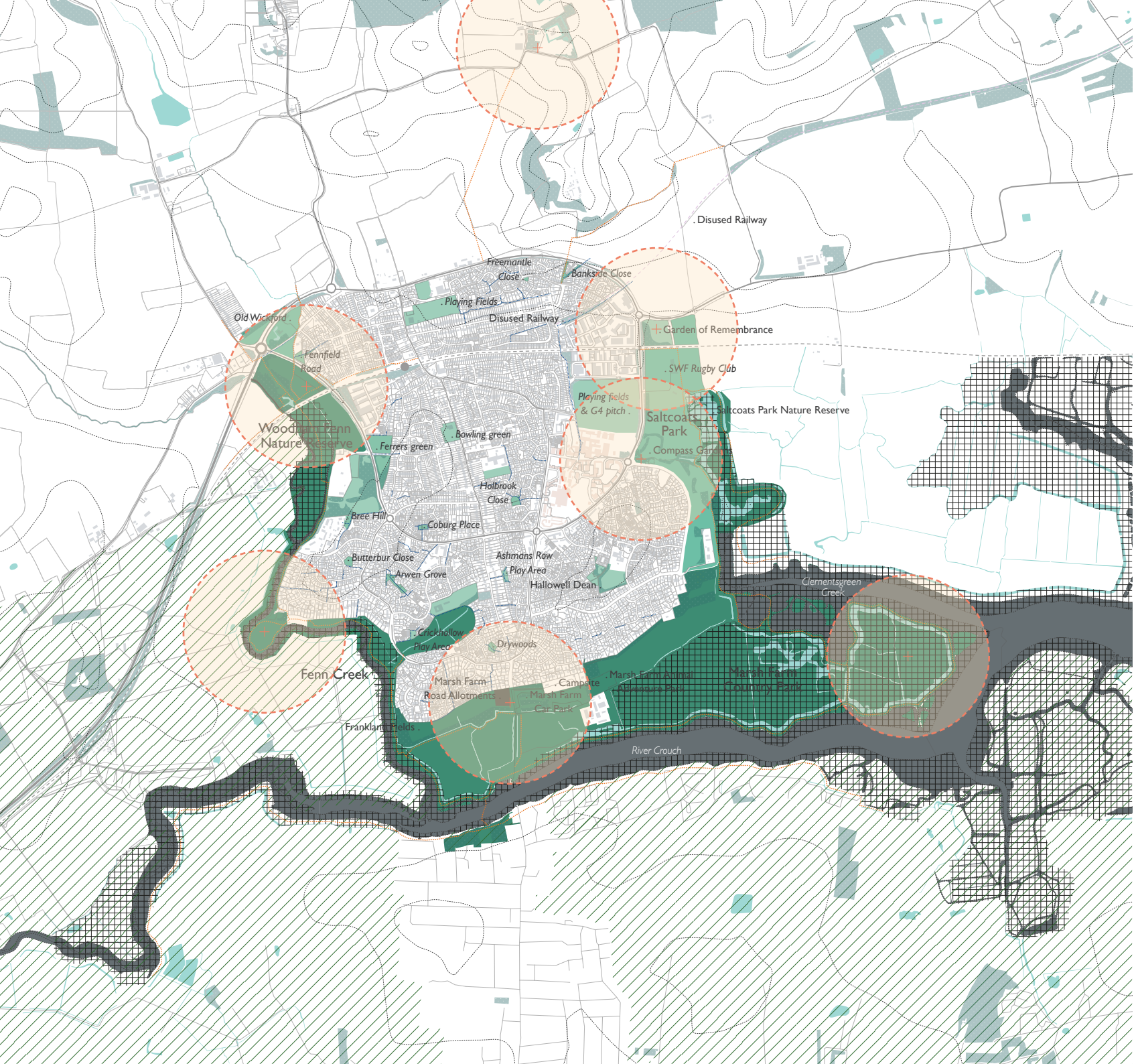
NORTH

Green Spaces & Access



Legend

400m

5 Minute walking distance from natural green spaces

1:25,000

NORTH

Walking distance to natural green spaces

Although the town is surrounded by green space, there is a lack of accessible green space within the urban area, and thus it is important that we make the links between the two, and or create new green space, potentially through some form of street improvements / street greening programme.

Marsh Farm Country Park

Surrounded on three sides by the River Crouch, Clementsgreen and Fenn Creeks, Marsh Farm Country Park is a great place for coastal walks and superb river views. Its 300 acres of grazing marsh offers ideal dog-walking and wildlife-spotting opportunities, as well as a chance to explore many scenic riverside paths.

The Country Park is recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of its importance for overwintering dark bellied brent geese. It also provides a home for many species of waders and ducks in the autumn and winter, and a number of birds breed here in the Spring - including sedge warblers, cuckoos and sky larks - making it the perfect spot for year-round birdwatching.

The Country Park supports a fantastic population of water voles, an endangered species that can sometimes be seen in the borrow dykes and ditches alongside the river.

Parks & Recreation Grounds

South Woodham Ferrers Village Hall

Typology:
Park and Recreation Ground

Description:
An area at the rear of the village hall and is used by the community to walk their dogs and for dog training sessions. Children play here because one of the larger swing parks and the Blue Cage which is an enclosed football pitch adjacent to it. The large recreational field home to Woodham Radars FC.

Potential improvements & opportunities:
Providing better links to the proposed northern growth would help bind the existing and future development of the town together.

Saltcoats Park

Typology:
Park and Recreation Ground

Description:
Large park providing a lot of facilities for the local community. The park is located next to the estuary and is prone to flooding.

Potential improvements & opportunities:
Sports pitches have water damage and depending on the time of year/ day in some areas are flooded. Paths are unusable due to water damage restricting access to certain areas of the park. Both play areas within the site have areas which are completely flooded and could be dangerous for young children.

Dedicated Play Space - (where not within an open space)

Ashmans Row Play Area

Typology:
Play Space (Children)

Description:
Play area set in grass field surrounded by housing. Large trees create an enclosed feeling within the site. Play equiptment is generic and scattered in a few places in the area.

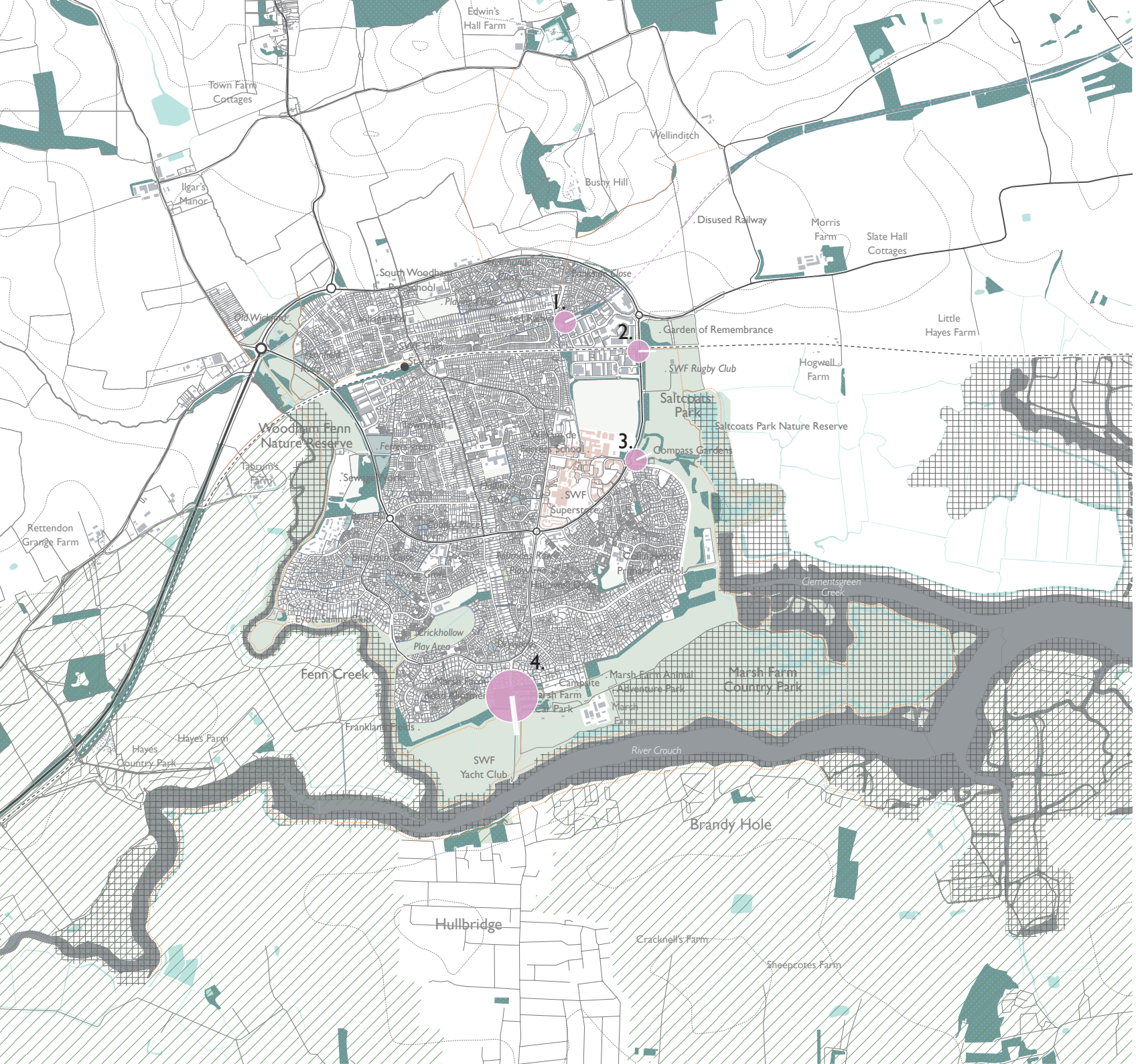
Potential improvements & opportunities:
Scope to enhance play value of site through integrating playful themes and ex-quipment with the surrounding landcape.

Crickhollow Play Area

Typology:
Play Space (Children)

Description:
Play area set in grass field. The site ajoins natural parkland but has very little relation with it including both physical and mental access.

Potential improvements & opportunities:
Basic Play equipment - play value could be greatly improved at this site and there is ample space. Play could relate to the surrounding landscape and processes.



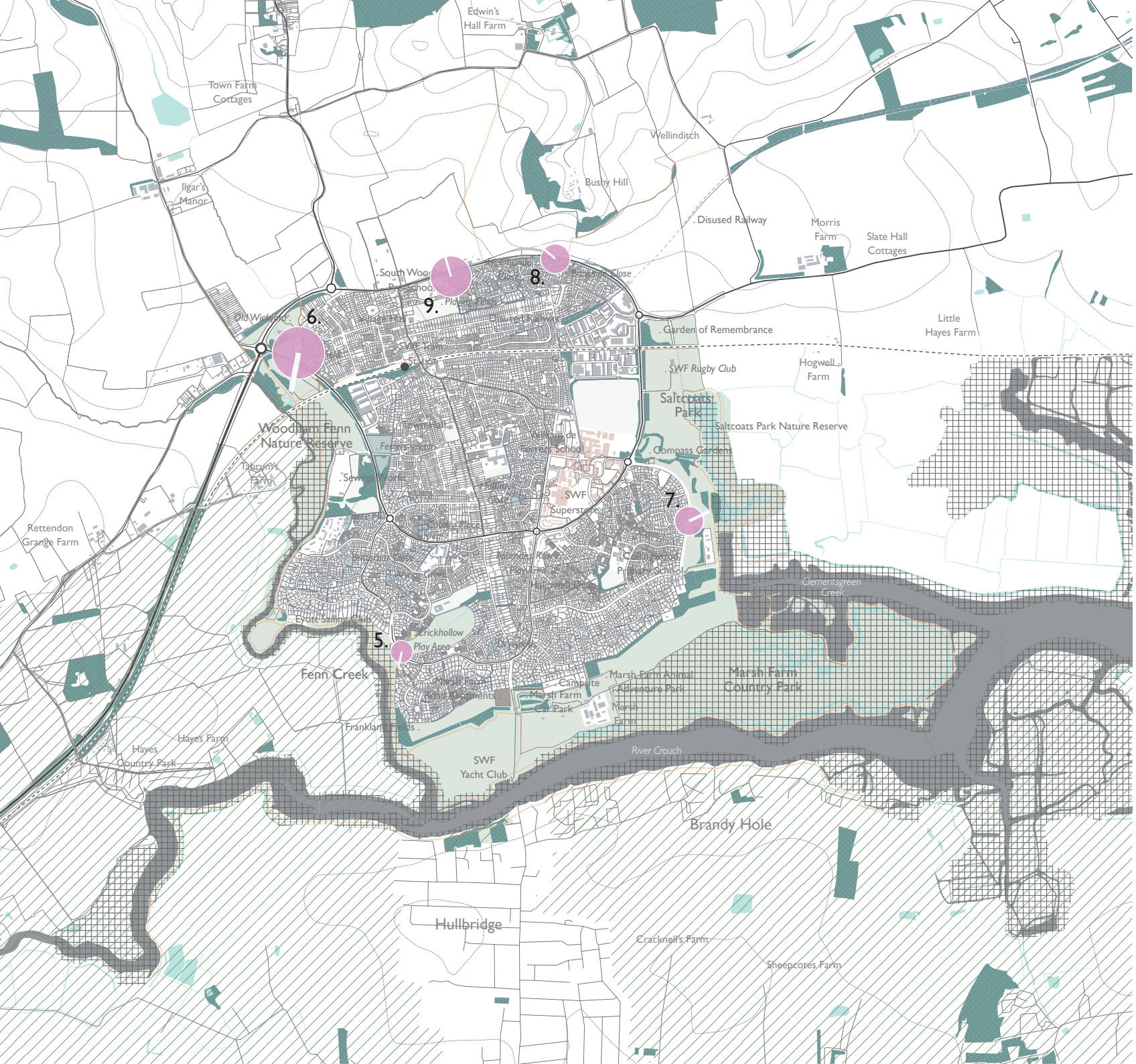
1.

2.

3.

4.

Views & Access to Green Spaces



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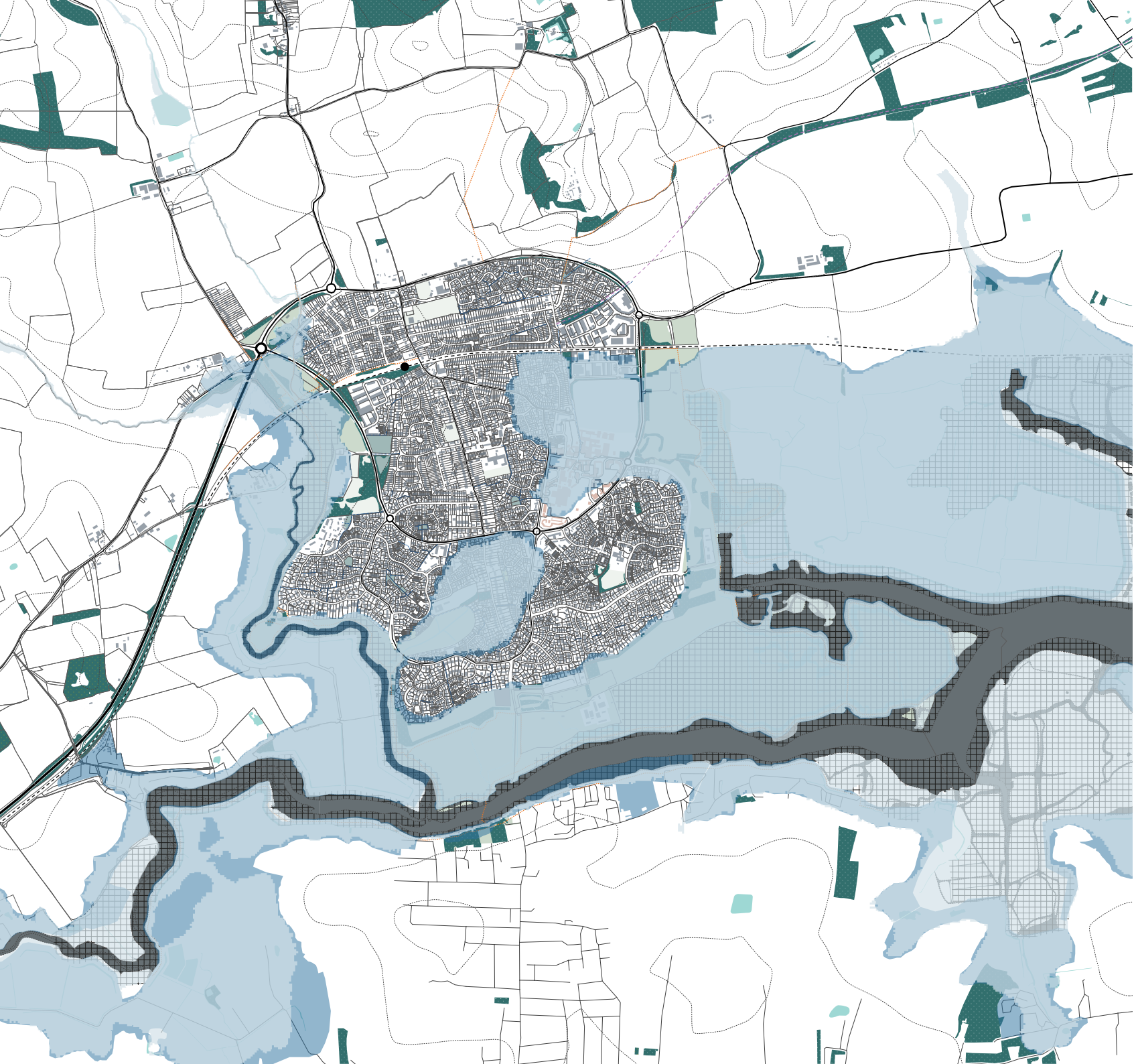
Views & Access to Green Spaces



Legend

National Flood Zone 1

National Flood Zone 2

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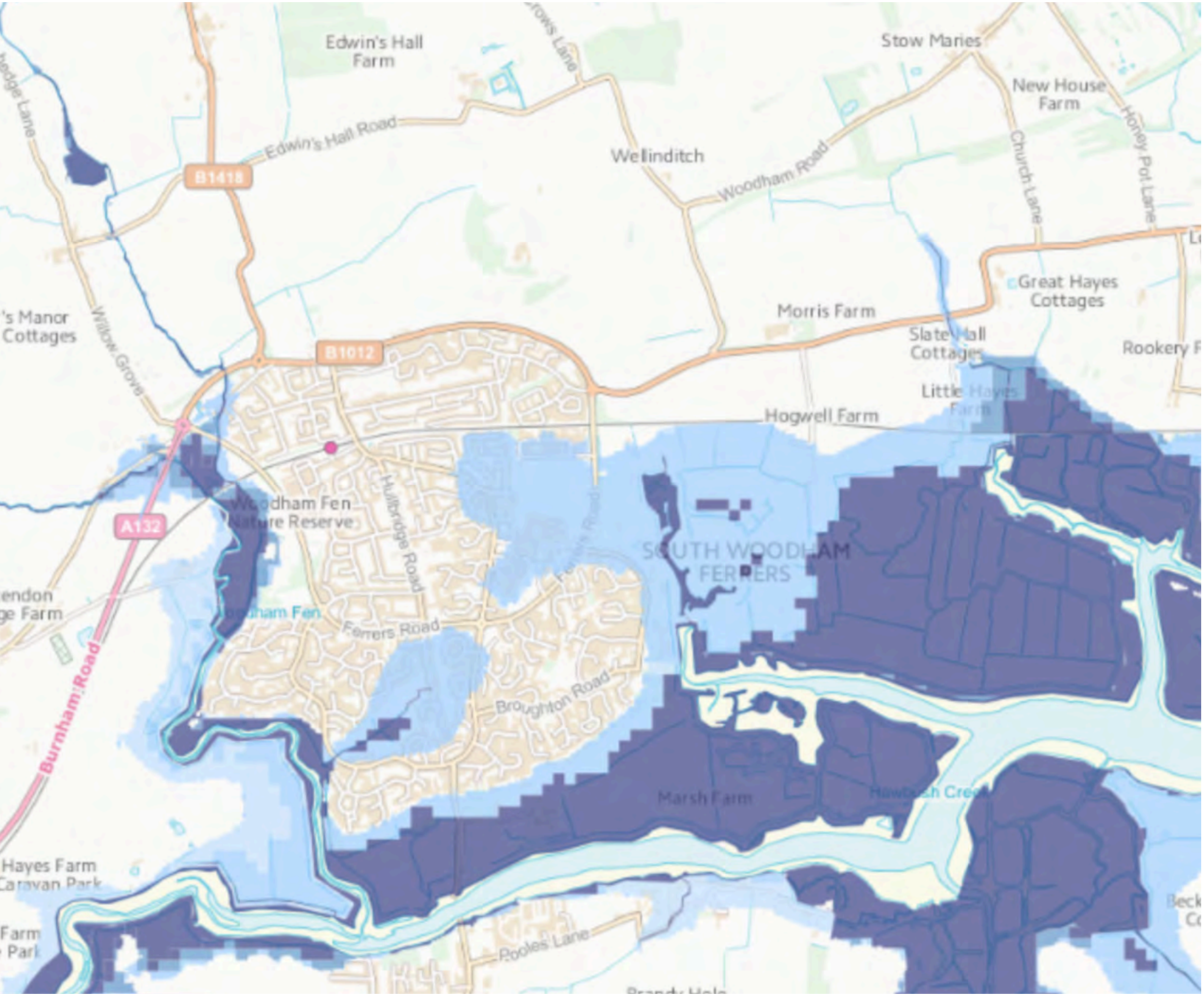
NORTH

National Flood Zone



Flood risk

- *High*
- *Medium*
- *Low*
- *Very Low*

NORTH

Flood Risk from Rivers & Sea

https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map

1 km

Flood risk

- *High*
- *Medium*
- *Low*
- *Very Low*

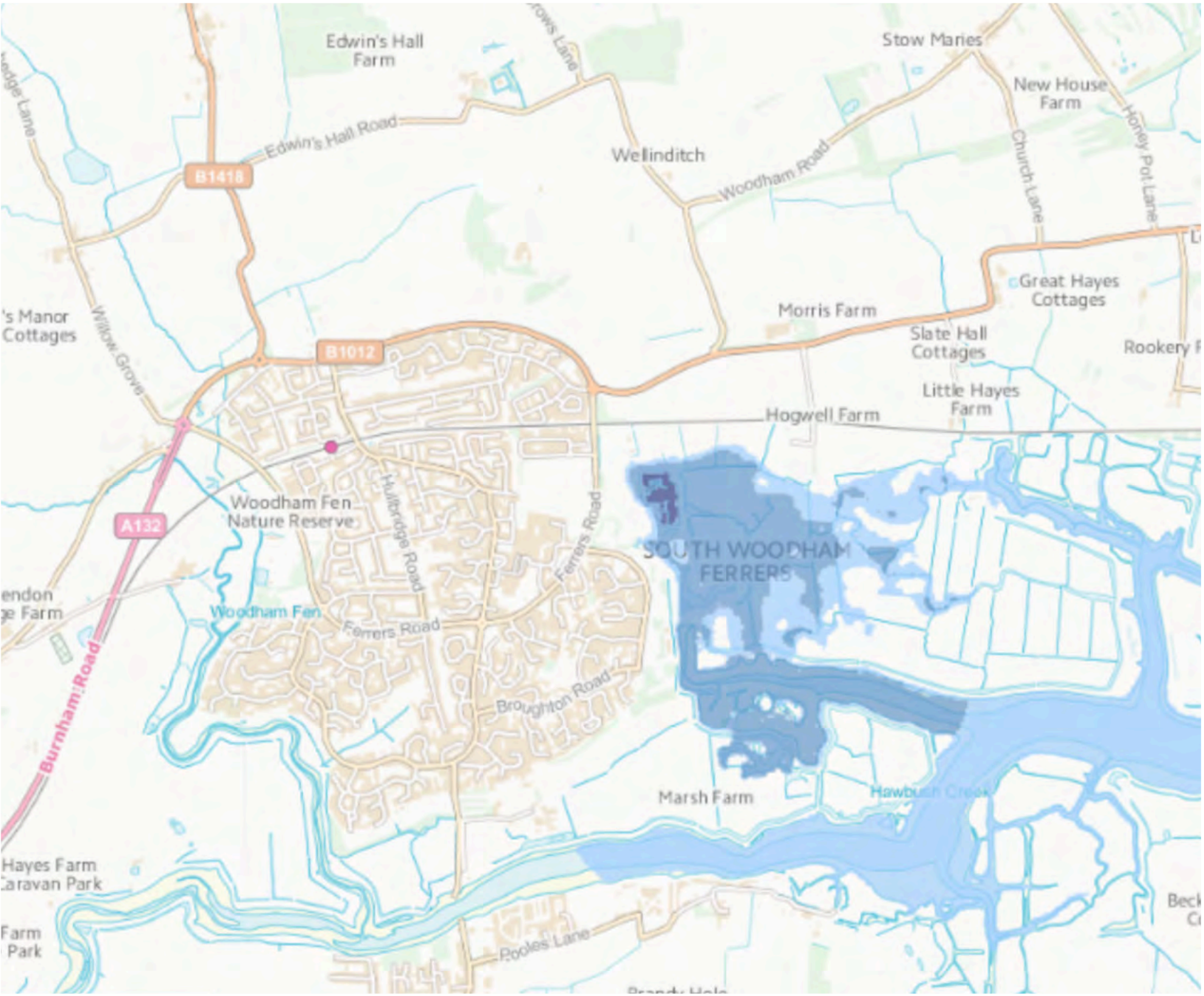
NORTH

Flood Risk from Surface Water

1 km

https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map

1 km



Flood Depth (meters)

- *Over 2m*
- *Between 0.3 and 2m*
- *Below 0.3m*

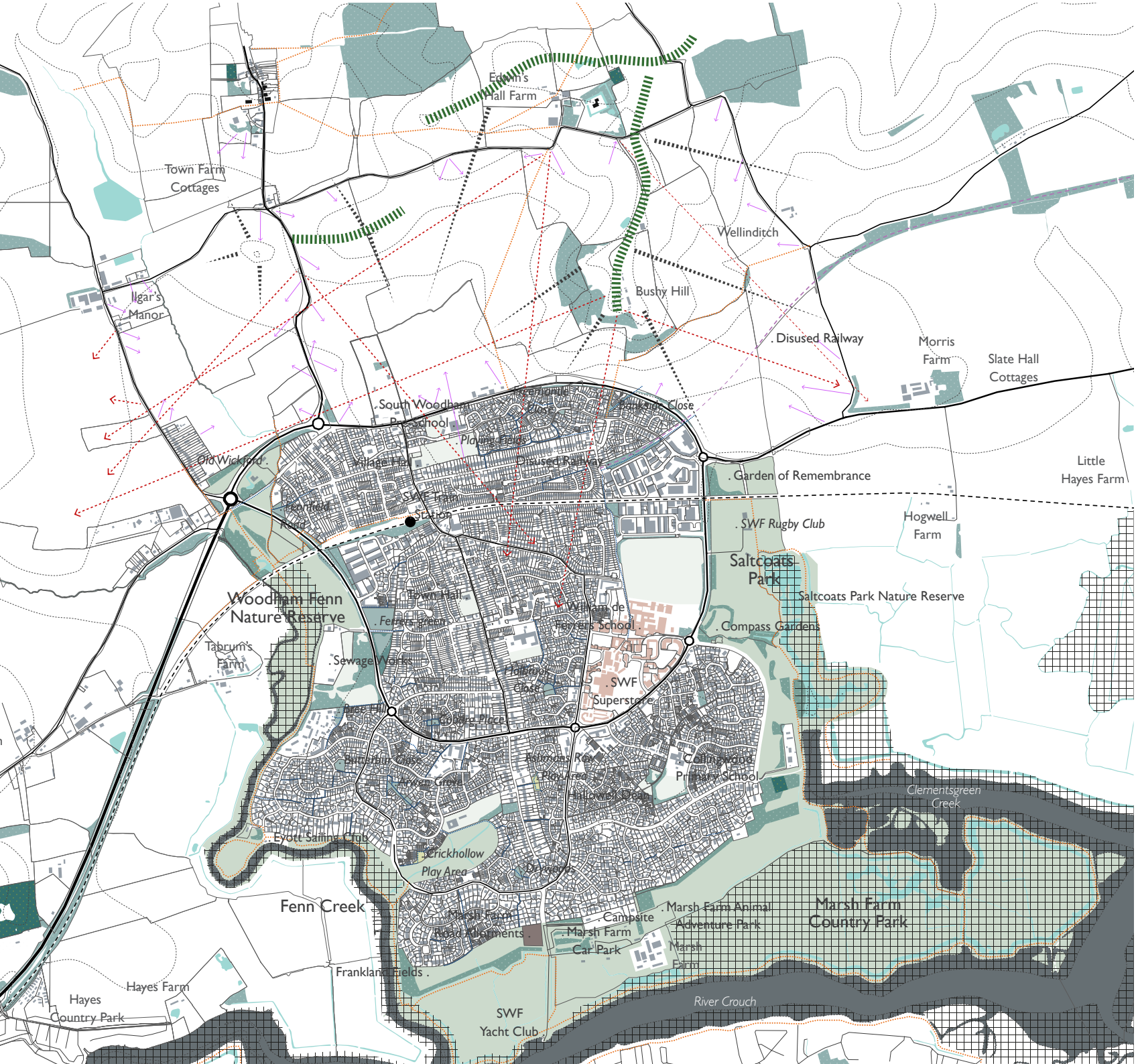
NORTH

Flood Risk from Resevoirs

1 km

https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map

1 km



Legend

- Distinctive Ridge line
- Distinctive Slope
- Views Outwards
- Views Inwards
- Listed Buildings
- Disused Railway
- Footpath network
- Protected Rights of Way
- Contour Lines
- Railway
- Railway Station
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Minor Roads
- Woodland
- Traditional Orchards
- Urban Green Spaces
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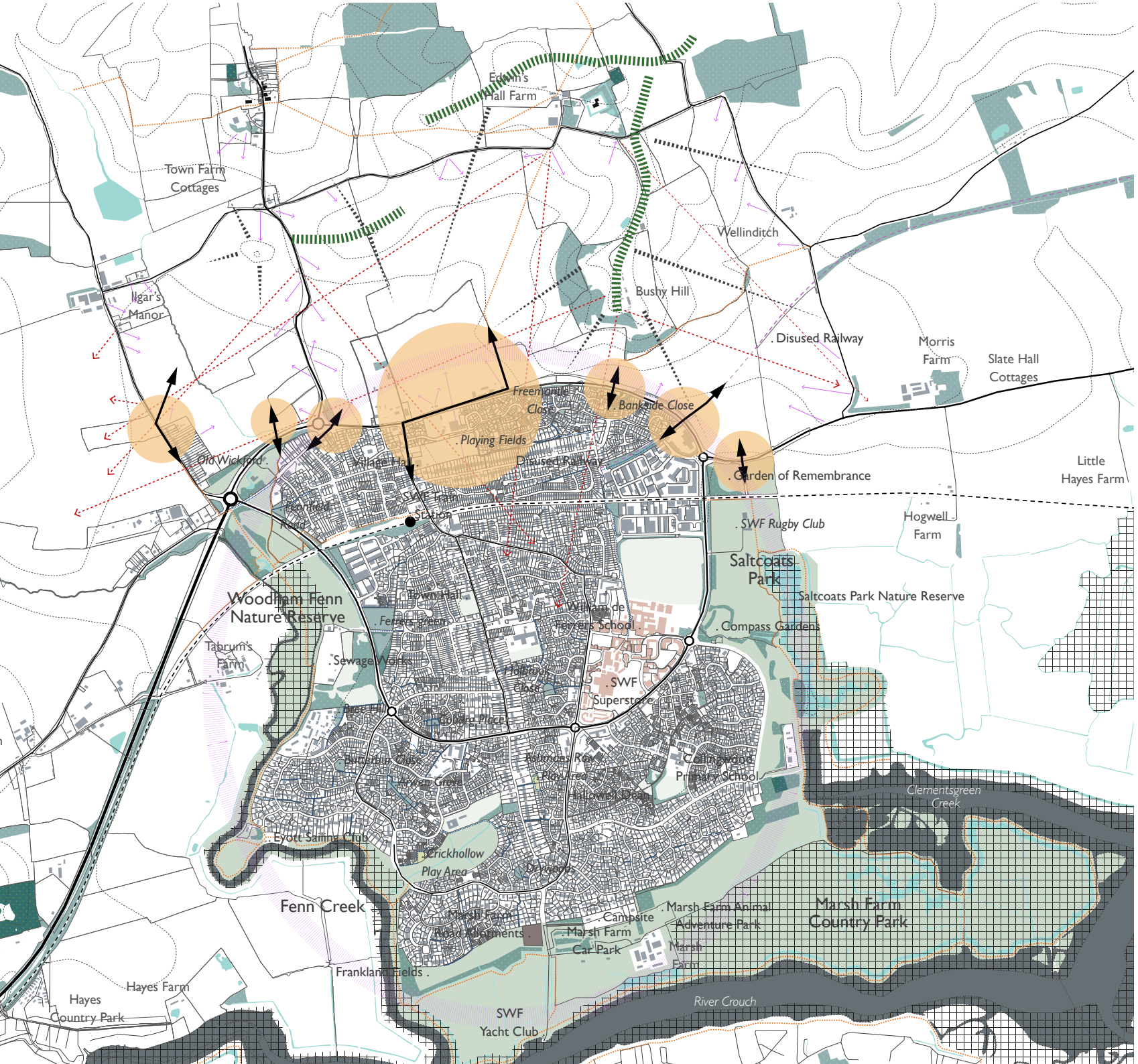
1:20,000

NORTH

Northern Development area analysis



Legend

Potential connections to northern development area via existing green infrastructure / PROWS

Potential green necklace connecting green spaces around the town

Disused Railway

Footpath network

Protected Rights of Way

By creating an extension to the accessible green space around the town we create a green necklace with connections between the northern development area and the existing towns internal and external green spaces. These connections should bridge the gaps between the town and existing rights of way. An important wider connection makes use of the disused railway that connects to Cold Norton to the north east.

1:20,000

NORTH

Potential green connections

Case Studies: Softening the cul-de-sac environment

Many of these streets in South Woodham Ferrers are quite harsh and car dominated. Transforming these residential streets into home zones (woonerfs) or play streets could be a strategy to reduce emphasis on cars and create greener, safer streets for residents while also creating connections with the surrounding natural environment.

Woonerfs

A woonerf (translated from Dutch) is a living street, originally implemented in the Netherlands. Techniques include shared space, greening, traffic calming, and low speed limits.

A central goal of the concept being to remove the traditional segregation of vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians in public spaces and encourage natural human interaction.

The removal of road markings and traffic signs, the elimination of curbs, the expansion of sidewalks, and the addition of street furnishings are all transformational characteristics.

Kensington Street, Sydney

Living street in Leeds, UK

Case Studies: Walthamstow Village Square

Rain gardens are shallow landscaped depressions that reduce rainfall runoff and mitigate the impact of pollution. They can be used to enhance the capacity of the surface water piped drainage network by capturing and storing rainfall, allowing it to soak into the ground or release it slowly back into the piped network. Rain gardens are flexible in design and are excellent examples of how SuDS components can be integrated into a streetscape without negatively impacting on the primary function of our streets and spaces.

Rain gardens should be designed to help reduce flood risk and improve water quality, biodiversity and public amenity within the available budget. They can be planted with a wide variety of species depending on the context and demands of the site. Rain gardens can be implemented wherever space is available. They should not only be considered in areas at risk of flooding as flood risk will be reduced by introducing a rain garden upstream of flood risk areas, as long as they share the same catchment area.

Gardens can be planted and cared for by a group of local volunteers to create a sense of ownership/pride and ongoing engagement with public space.

The planting scheme was designed, and is cared for, by the Walthamstow Village Residents' Association. The plants were chosen for their biodiversity qualities and relatively low maintenance, hence a prairie-like specification was selected.

The Walthamstow Village Square gardens are planted and cared for by a group of local volunteers. Activities include planting and pruning, litter picking, re-painting street furniture, tending the Community Meadow. They compete in the Britain in Bloom and London in Bloom competition, which they won in 2017.

Case Studies: Grey to Green, Sheffield

Sheffield is a surrounded by spectacular green countryside. The wider city is home to 2 million trees, beautiful ancient woodlands, and stunning expanses of parks and gardens. Grey to Green is bringing more of this colour into the city centre, turning once dull streets into vibrant public spaces.

With phase 1 completed, a significant area of wild flowers, trees and shrubs has replaced redundant carriageway from West Bar to Lady's Bridge. The area is dotted with benches, offering space to sit awhile and enjoy the sights and scents of the plant life, as well as the wildlife it attracts. Through the creation of Sustainable Urban Drainage, Grey to Green's new public space doubles up as a rain garden, moderating the flow of water and creating innovative sustainable drainage in a part of Sheffield that has twice been ravaged by floods. Along the new street scene, five works of public art, made from steel and stone, share insight into the former lives of this significant part of the city centre.

Creative signage can become a feature in your rain gardens.

Case Study: Arkadien, Winnenden, Germany

A diversity of high performance components make this the world's most sustainable neighbourhood and provides a fresh new vision for people-friendly and resource productive suburbs. Mixed architectural typologies are kept a cohesive neighbourhood thanks to the appealing Mediterranean colour concept and "garden city" quality of the streetscapes. Water sensitive urban design provides a distinctive urban character. Street corners are mini-plazas and places to chat with your neighbour or for kids to kick a ball. Although the streetscapes are distinctively pedestrian, a shared circulation concept means that the site is fully accessible for vehicles.

Sensitive urban designing with rainwater as a vibrant feature underlies the total success of the development. As a result, the location has become desirable. The neighbourhood feeling is complimented by the practicality of the site being 5 minutes walk to both the train station and the town centre. A variety of architectural types, all of them low energy and built with sustainable materials, are nestled into friendly community streets, where the boundary between public and private is blurred creating neighbourly and safe living environments.

The unit density is softened through the presence of nature in the form of generous planting, the stunning lake at the heart of the development and the restored adjacent creek with a recreational path and play areas integrated into retention meadows.