

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Tree and Ecosystem Strategy: Volume 1 - Core Document



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Salisbury City Council

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1 INTRODUCTION

A tree and ecosystem strategy for urban settlements is important for a wide range of important reasons including:

1. Biodiversity conservation: Trees and ecosystems are essential for maintaining biodiversity. They provide habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species and support the ecological processes that enable ecosystems to function.
2. Climate change mitigation: Trees and ecosystems play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis, storing carbon in the soil, and regulating the earth's temperature through the water cycle.
3. Human well-being: Trees and ecosystems provide important ecosystem services such as clean air and water, food, and medicine, and contribute to human well-being and quality of life.
4. Disaster risk reduction: Trees and ecosystems can help reduce the impacts of natural disasters such as floods and landslides by providing natural barriers and reducing soil erosion.
5. Economic benefits: Trees and ecosystems can provide economic benefits such as timber, non-timber forest products, and ecotourism, which can contribute to local livelihoods and sustainable development.

Developing a tree and ecosystem strategy can help ensure that these important benefits are maintained and enhanced over the long term. It involves a holistic approach to conservation and management, taking into account the social, economic, and environmental aspects of tree and ecosystem management.

Salisbury City Council (SCC) has set a target of increasing tree canopy cover on land it owns or controls so that it exceeds the current national average of 16% by 5%, i.e.. SCC Land will support a tree canopy coverage of at least 21% within each of the Wards in Salisbury parish.

This Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy is designed to support the achievement of this target by:

- defining the current tree stock including locations, numbers, canopy coverage, species, and function on SCC owned and managed land;
- identifying suitable SCC land for planting and advise on suitable native trees for the identified areas, or alternatives;
- providing an aerial canopy survey which produces a map and percentages of coverage; and
- taking into account the findings of consultation with residents and partners.

The tree strategy also provides the opportunity to identify and therefore maximise a wide range of stacked nature-based benefits ("Ecosystem Services" that are and can be delivered from SCC owned land, including biodiversity, carbon, natural flood management, air quality, pollination, amenity, landscape, heritage, shade and cooling, health and wellbeing benefits), all set within the context of adapting and increasing Salisbury's resilience to climate change.

Salisbury City Council's trees and associated "natural capital" (together with other trees and habitats in the parish) is of critical importance to the community, the local environment and also has a large economic value. They are therefore clearly worthy of protection and enhancement, whether situated within legally or policy protected locations or elsewhere. This strategy seeks to promote, protect, enhance, and increase Salisbury's trees, and the habitats associated with them, and the role they play in this historic and beloved city.

This Tree and Ecosystem Services Strategy (TrESS) is split into two Volumes (Volume 1 – Core Document and Appendix A and B) and Volume 2 (remaining Appendices). It comprises the following elements:

- Tree and Ecosystem System Strategy – Core Document (this document)
- Tree and Ecosystem Service Guide. Summary descriptions of the areas where trees are found across the Parish on Salisbury City Council's land and relationship with other areas supporting trees (contained within the body of this report);
- Spatial mapping and assessment of where these trees/land is located and associations with non-statutory and statutory designations and environmental/heritage and community features of importance (Appendix A);
- Discussion around the information gathered, policy, legislation, pressures, opportunities and recommendations. (Contained in the Volume 1 Core Document)
- Outputs from extensive walkover surveys of Salisbury City Council trees/land collated as a tree database and a series of plans that can be cross referred to the digital tree atlas, including overview summary information about individual/groups of trees and associated land, images, and recommendations for enhancement/management from a carbon sequestration and storage/biodiversity/ecological emergency and wider ecosystem service standpoint (summarised in the Volume 1 Core Document and Appendix A and B, and in a separate Excel spreadsheet);
- Photo Gazetteer of the some of the trees associated with the smaller (typically) areas of land, (contained in Volume 2, Appendix C);
- A review of the Council's existing Environment and Tree Policy and production of a series of recommendations for revising this from a tree planting/management/carbon reduction/ biodiversity/ ecological emergency standpoint (contained in the Volume 1 Core Document and Volume 2, Appendix D);
- Identification of opportunities for tree planting, as text and plans (summarised in the Volume 1 Core Document and in more detail in Volume 2 Appendix E)
- Outputs from consultations made throughout the project and how these feed into the TrESS (summarised in the Volume 1 Core Document and in more detail in Volume 2, Appendix F)
- A series of advice notes supporting further enhancements to the following categories of areas where trees are found: footpaths; highway verges; cemeteries, small amenity sites; allotments; hedges; woodlands, larger public parks/country parks (contained in Volume 2, Appendix G).

The outputs are:

- Full TrESS (Volumes 1 and 2), containing all of the prepared information;
- Summary TrESS for public consumption;
- Digital Tree Atlas on GIS;
- Tree database;
- Associated plans;
- Suggested wording for future revised Tree Policy.

2 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

2.1 SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL – ROLE AND JURISDICTION

Salisbury City Council (SCC) is a parish Council with responsibility for various open spaces in the parish including allotments, amenity sites, cemeteries and play areas. It has recently taken on responsibility for other areas passing over from Wiltshire Council (WCC), via asset transfer, in particular a number of road verges and grassland / trees associated with some housing.

2.2 OTHER KEY PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

This strategy has been developed with the grateful inputs received from a number of key partners and stakeholders including: The Woodland Trust, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Salisbury Greenspace Partnership, Wiltshire Council, the Environment Agency and Natural England, as well as taking into account information provided by the community.

- The Woodland Trust is the largest woodland conservation charity in the United Kingdom and is concerned with the creation, protection, and restoration. The Woodland Trust has three aims: to protect ancient woodland which is rare, unique and irreplaceable, to promote the restoration of damaged ancient woodland, and to plant native trees and woods to benefit people and wildlife.
- The Woodland Trust maintains ownership of over 1,000 sites covering over 24,700 hectares (247 km²). Of this, 8,070ha (33%) is ancient woodland. It ensures public access to its woods.
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity based in Devizes, England which owns and manages 40 nature reserves in Wiltshire and Swindon. It also works to encourage Wiltshire's communities to live sustainable lifestyles that protect the environment. It is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts across the United Kingdom, which together form the largest voluntary organisation dedicated to protecting wildlife and wild places everywhere – at land and at sea.
- Salisbury Greenspace Partnership is a community-led initiative. It represents a wide range of interests in greenspace in the local area. It undertakes a wide range of activities including: mapping local greenspace assets with a view to developing a local green infrastructure strategy and action plan, planning and influencing work, initiating practical projects and responding to planning applications and appeals.
- Wiltshire Council is a council for the unitary authority of Wiltshire (excluding the separate unitary authority of Swindon) in South West England, created in 2009. Wiltshire Council provides local government services to 435,000 Wiltshire residents and is also the biggest employer in Wiltshire, being responsible for schools, social services, rubbish collection and disposal, county roads, planning, natural environment and heritage, and leisure services.
- Natural England is a non-departmental public body in the United Kingdom sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It is responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment, including its land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils, are protected and improved. It also has a responsibility to help people enjoy, understand and access the natural environment.
- The Environment Agency is a non-departmental public body established in 1996 and sponsored by the United Kingdom government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with responsibilities relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment in England (and until 2013 also Wales). Based in Bristol, the Environment Agency is responsible for flood management, regulating land and water pollution, and conservation.

2.3 CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCIES

The Council fully acknowledges the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. The Council is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its community in support of Government and Wiltshire Council targets to reduce carbon emissions, alongside wide-ranging measures to conserve and protect, as well as restore and enhance biodiversity within the Parish.

2.3.1 Climate Change Action Plan

Salisbury City Council declared a Climate Change Emergency at Full Council on 17 June 2019.

Our Declaration

- Working to make Salisbury as carbon neutral as possible by 2030
- Working with partners to achieve “clean air” in Salisbury, in particular by taking action to reduce vehicle emissions, supporting public transport, cycling and walking
- Replacing or converting all council-owned or operated vehicles to electric powered vehicles as soon as is practically possible
- Encouraging the rapid phasing out of diesel-powered buses in the City by bus operators and their replacement by cleaner or non-polluting alternatives
- Increasing wherever possible the extent of pedestrianised areas within the City center
- Undertaking a comprehensive programme of improvement of the insulation of all council-owned property
- Ensuring that such property shall be fitted with solar panels wherever possible
- Doing everything within its power to ensure that such standards should also apply to any new buildings which are permitted within the City

Our Policy – 6 Themes

- General Environmental Management
- Waste Management
- Energy and Water Management
- Sustainable Procurement
- Transport/Travel
- Natural Environment Management

The Environment and Climate Committee consider:

- Environmental Services which includes – Facilities, Street Scene, Parks & Open Spaces, CCTV, Crematorium and Cemeteries
- Environmental Action Plan and associated matters– which includes the monitoring and delivery of the plan
- Any other matter which may be delegated to it by the Full Council from time to time

The operational delivery of services relevant to this TrESS is led by the Environmental Services Manager supported by the Parks Manager and Parks and Grounds Maintenance Team.

2.3.2 Salisbury City Council Environmental Policy

The Council's Environment Policy includes the following elements which have synergies with this TrESS. Please refer to Appendix C for the full policy.

Table 2: Synergies between Council's Environment Policy and this TrESS

Environment Policy	Synergy with TrESS
<p>General Environmental Management Policy</p> <p>The City Council aims to improve the environmental quality of the city by:</p> <p>Minimising any adverse environmental impacts resulting from its own activities;</p> <p>Encouraging others in the community to do likewise through their activities.</p> <p>Salisbury City Council will adopt the following:</p> <p>Keep its own activities under review, setting objectives, targets and responsibilities to ensure the aims of this policy are met</p> <p>Operate an environmental management system (BS 8555) which enables the council to set objectives and targets, monitor performance and make this information publicly available;</p> <p>Raise awareness amongst staff of the council's environmental policy and objectives;</p> <p>Provide information and encourage an open dialogue with the local community on environmental issues.</p>	<p>Native tree and shrub management and planting</p> <p>Protection of trees</p> <p>Managing for wildlife</p> <p>Minimise pesticide use</p> <p>Engagement and communication with the community, partners/wider stakeholders and Council employees and sub-contractors in relation to looking after the natural environment</p> <p>Use of appropriate signage/information boards in open spaces to communicate the value of trees and green spaces managed by the Council</p>
<p>Natural Environment Policy</p> <p>The overarching objectives of this policy are to balance the needs of the animals, plants, birds and insects that call Salisbury City Council's sites home. It is committed to continually improving its biodiversity performance at its sites, whilst aiming to deliver its services in the most sustainable way.</p> <p>It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an overall improvement in the management of the wildlife within its landholding, particularly with regard to an increase in priority habitats and species and managing the spread of invasive species. Continued creation of wildflower/bee friendly planting across our estate. • Work with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to conduct Habitat surveys of SCC main sites. • Ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations. 	

Environment Policy	Synergy with TrESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance biodiversity during its activities with no net loss of 'priority' habitat. Provide a platform that will deliver opportunities for more people to enjoy the wildlife on our sites by increasing access/awareness. SCC has ceased use of pesticide in light of emerging evidence Where possible mitigate against flooding and be as prepared as possible for when flooding does occur. 	

2.3.3 Salisbury City Council Tree Policy

The Council's Tree Policy includes the following elements which have synergies with this TrESS. Please refer to Appendix C for the full policy. This is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Synergies between Council's Tree Policy and the TrESS

Tree Policy	Synergy with TrESS
<p>This Policy is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors, officers and professionally interested people to enable informed discussion and to establish a clear, consistent and more structured approach to the issues affecting trees.</p> <p>The Policy has been designed for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish the responsibility of Salisbury City Council in relation to its tree stock To identify and subsequently adopt a tree risk management system To provide officers and members of the public with advice and guidance in relation to requested remedial tree works To adopt best practice with regards to the appointment and subsequent management of council arboricultural contracts/contractors Tree planting objectives and maintenance 	<p>Native tree and shrub management and planting</p> <p>Protection of trees</p> <p>Managing for wildlife</p> <p>Minimise pesticide use</p> <p>Engagement and communication with the community, partners/wider stakeholders and Council employees and sub-contractors in relation to looking after the natural environment</p>

2.3.4 Salisbury Neighbourhood Plan

Salisbury City Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will help shape and guide future development in the city. Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. The policies in the neighbourhood plan can have a long-term positive impact upon the future of

Salisbury. The plan will add local detail to Wiltshire planning policies based on the priorities identified by the Salisbury community.

The neighbourhood plan will be prepared alongside other Wiltshire Council projects such as the Central Area Framework and the emerging Local Plan. These mechanisms aim to create a robust and attractive context within which Salisbury will grow and thrive. The Neighbourhood Plan is managed by a steering group composed of members of the Salisbury community and elected Salisbury City councillors. The steering group is supported by town planning consultants.

Neighbourhood Planning is based on consultation with the community. To develop the plan, the steering group has been meeting with the wider community to understand what Salisbury needs. The whole consultation process started in May and June 2019 with a series of 6 consultation events. With the aims of the plan having been agreed individual working groups have been established and are being led by members of the steering group. The key topic areas are: climate change, transport and movement, green and blue infrastructure, design, housing and employment.

The draft working vision for the Neighbourhood Plan (accessed on the SCC website in February 2023) highlighted two key aspects that align with the objectives of this TrESS:

- Comprehensive green infrastructure networks will link people to jobs, leisure, services and the countryside. The city will be greener with more street trees, improved landscapes and biodiversity. The private sector will play an important role in establishing, maintaining and improving the city's green infrastructure.
- National climate change standards and objectives will at least be met, but largely exceeded.

2.3.5 Trees, Conservation Areas and TPOs

The local planning authority have a statutory duty to designate and manage conservation areas under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Conservation areas are defined as an area of special architectural or historic interest where the original appearance is preserved or enhanced. Most of Wiltshire's conservation areas are made up of historic parts of towns and villages with some others including special landscapes. Most conservation areas have a high concentration of historic buildings, many of which are listed.

The character of a conservation area is not defined by these buildings alone. The setting, location, features and open spaces also have a large part to play. Additional regulations apply to most trees growing within conservation areas. Anyone wanting to fell or prune a tree or carry out other work which could damage a tree must inform the local planning authority at least six weeks in advance. During this time the Wiltshire Council tree team will consult the local town or parish council and if necessary, serve a Tree Preservation Order. Good partnership working between relevant authorities is required to protect the local character and positively reinforce change.

A Tree Preservation Order is an order made by a local planning authority in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity. An Order prohibits the:

- cutting down
- topping
- lopping
- uprooting
- willful damage
- willful destruction

of trees without the local planning authority's written consent. If consent is given, it can be subject to conditions which have to be followed. In the Secretary of State's view, cutting roots is also a prohibited activity and requires the authority's consent.

Owners of protected trees must not carry out, or cause or permit the carrying out of, any of the prohibited activities without the written consent of the local authority. As with owners of unprotected trees, they are responsible for maintaining their trees, with no statutory rules setting out how often or to what standard. The local planning authority cannot require maintenance work to be done to a tree just because it is protected. However, the authority can encourage good tree management, particularly when determining applications for consent under a Tree Preservation Order. This will help to maintain and enhance the amenity provided by protected trees.

Arboricultural advice from competent contractors and consultants, or the authority, will help to inform tree owners of their responsibilities and options. It is important that trees are inspected regularly and necessary maintenance carried out to make sure they remain safe and healthy.

2.3.6 Trees and Protection for Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

Trees can be afforded protection if associated with a statutory or non-statutory site of nature conservation importance.

Statutory sites receive protection by means of certain legislation in recognition of its biodiversity and/or geological value. Examples of such sites where trees can be found are Special Areas of Conservation (e.g. the River Avon SAC and some of its river corridor), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (e.g. East Harnham Meadows SSSI). SACs are designated where they support internationally important habitats and/or species listed in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended). SSSIs are designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended where they support habitats and/or species of national importance.

Other forms of statutory sites include Local Nature Reserves e.g. Avon Valley Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Town and parish councils can create LNRs if the local planning authority council has given them the power to do this. To qualify for LNR status, a site must be of importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. LNRs must be controlled by the local authority through ownership, lease or agreement with the owner.

The protection, management, damage and removal of trees associated with statutorily protected sites is governed by criminal law, with offences being addressed by the Police and Natural England, which can result in a fine, confiscation of equipment, a custodial sentence or a combination. These sites are afforded strong planning policy protection.

Non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance are not afforded the same legal protection as a site, but may enjoy legal protection if it forms part of a statutory SSSI, SAC etc, or supports legally protected species and associated habitats. These sites are afforded strong planning policy protection. The Wildlife Trusts provide a helpful description of these sites. "Local Wildlife Sites are sites with 'substantive nature conservation value'. They are defined areas, identified and selected for their nature conservation value, based on important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species with a national, region.

Found on both public and private land, LWSs vary in size and shape from small ponds and copses and linear features such as hedgerows, road verges and water courses to much larger areas of habitat such as ancient woodlands, heaths, wetlands and grassland. They support both locally and nationally threatened wildlife, and many sites will contain habitats and species that are priorities under the county or UK Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP). Collectively they play a critical role in the conservation of the UK's natural heritage by providing essential wildlife refuges in their own right and by acting as stepping stones, corridors and buffer zones to link and protect other site networks and the open spaces of our towns and countryside.

There are currently a number of different terms in use to describe Local Wildlife Sites, including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNICIs) and County Wildlife Sites. They are usually selected by the relevant Wildlife Trust, along with representatives of the local authority and other local wildlife conservation groups.”

Further protection can be afforded to trees if they provide habitat to legally protected species, for example bats, dormouse, birds (during nesting activity and before young fledge) and if associated with habitats typically used for resting/shelter for other species such as otter, great crested newt, common reptiles. Relevant legislation include the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, Conservation Regulations 2017 as amended.

Trees within certain hedgerows may also be protected under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as a result of the hedgerows length, location and importance as defined by the Regulations.

2.3.7 Felling Licence

Felling trees without a Forestry Commission Felling Licence, where one would have been required, is an offence. Only someone with an interest in land (for example a freeholder, leaseholder or tenant – or any agent acting on their behalf) can apply for a felling licence. Not every tree felling project requires a felling licence. Exemptions can be based on:

- location
- the type of tree work
- the volume and diameter of the tree
- other permissions already in place
- legal and statutory undertakings

2.3.8 Ecological Appraisals, Enhancement and Management with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Salisbury City Council are working in partnership with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust at a number of its larger sites. It has commissioned Preliminary Ecological Appraisal surveys at three woodland areas: The Folly, Harnham Slopes and Chiselbury Grove. Three more planned are planned in March 2023 for grazing paddocks: wildlife meadows at Fisherton (whips donated by the Woodland Trust and planted as natural hedging), Harnham Rec and Green Croft Park.

2.3.9 Salisbury River Park

Wiltshire Council has produced the Salisbury Central Area Framework (CAF) which is an overarching strategy to help shape the future of the city centre and enable it to respond positively to these challenges. The Salisbury River Park is the centrepiece of the Salisbury Central Area Framework and is a collaborative project between Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency to reduce flood risk to various areas in the city, to provide environmental improvements and opportunities for biodiversity, to improve leisure and recreation and to support the regeneration of the Maltings and Central Car Park area. It will be transformational and provide a lasting legacy for future generations.

The Salisbury River Park will deliver a green infrastructure link through the centre of the city, incorporating the rivers that run through The Maltings and Central Car Park at its core, extending to the Ashley Road/Fisherton Recreation Ground to the north, and towards Elizabeth Gardens to the south.

The outcomes being sought through the delivery of the Salisbury River Park are:

- To reduce flood risk on the Maltings and Central Car Park site and enable strategically important redevelopment of the central car park.
- To reduce flood risk to existing residents and businesses in central Salisbury and the Ashley Road area.
- To improve and enhance the internationally designated habitat and ecology of the River Avon watercourse and its margins.
- To create new and improved spaces for public enjoyment of the river and dwell time in the city centre, in line with the endorsed Masterplan for the Maltings and Central Car Park.
- To build climate change resilience, in response to the climate emergency.

The council, with support from the Environment Agency, Salisbury City Council and the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Partnership have prepared the Salisbury River Park Masterplan which sets out guiding principles for development of the Salisbury River Park to be delivered in phases over the coming years.

The scheme will:

- Reduce flood risk to existing homes and businesses
- Create wildlife corridors and improve biodiversity by connecting fragmented green spaces
- Improve the recreational and amenity value of the area
- Enable regeneration of key development sites.

As part of the first phase of the Salisbury River Park project it was necessary to remove approximately 100 trees. These were in locations where either excavation was required to provide the necessary extra area for flood flows, or in locations where flood defences had to be constructed. The project looked to avoid tree loss wherever possible and also ensured no impact on the highest value trees. Most of the tree removal was along the River Avon channel in the Central Car Park area where, due to a lack of maintenance, the trees were overshadowing the river and banks and having a negative impact on the local wildlife. Through the project almost 1,000 new trees are being planted of a variety of species. This includes a large number of semi-mature trees. The planting schedule for this has been agreed with the Local Planning Authority and land owners. A maintenance plan is in place for the future care of the trees. This is funded through the project using a Section 106 agreement.

2.3.10 Salisbury City Council Replacement Tree Planting

In 2023 sixty replacement trees were planted to replace trees which were removed over the past 12 months, this procedure takes place each year in-line with our tree policy. SCC aims to get as close as it possibly can to the same species/family of tree, but it does depend on what its contractor can supply. It also endeavors to plant as close as possible to the location of the original tree.

SCC offer a memorial tree service. In most cases people are content to purchase a memorial tree from our replacement tree list.

A record of recently planted trees are shown below in Table 4.

Table 4. Trees Recently Planted by SCC and Local Groups

Location	Year planted	Group	Tree Species	Tree size	Quantity	Initiative
Harnham Slope	2023	FOHS & SCC	Beech	Whips	50	Replacement
Chiselbury Grove Woodland	2023	SCC	Beech	Whips	10	Replacement
Across Parish	2023	SCC	Mixture	6 – 12ft Root ball	60	Replacement
Parsonage Green Salisbury	2023	Harnham Community Network Group	Limes trees (<i>T. cordata</i> <i>Greenspire</i>)	6 – 12ft Root ball	9	Funded, improve wildlife corridor and mark Queens Jubilee
Fisherton Meadow re-wilding project (Kensington meadow)	2023	Volunteer group and SCC	Mix native hedge row	Whips	80 metres double planted.	SCC re-wilding project
Fisherton Meadow re-wilding project (Sarum Meadow)	2023 (planting commences on 21st March)	Volunteer group and SCC	Mix native hedge row	Whips	400 metres double planted	Re – wilding project. Volunteer acquired whips through the woodland trust
Fisherton Meadow	2023	SCC	Rowan, Hazel, Hawthorn, Dog wood and Yew	3 – 7ft	12	Re-wilding project
Middle Street Meadow	2023	Friends of Middle Street Meadow	Oak tree	Sapling	1	Grown and donated by local resident
Hudson Field	2022	SCC	Beech	6 – 12ft Root ball	20	Queens Jubilee
Victoria Park	2022	SCC	Beech	6 – 12ft Root ball	20	Queens Jubilee
Victoria Park	2022	Salisbury Rotary Club	Cherry (<i>Prunus Kanzan</i>)	6 – 12ft Root ball	10	Donated by the Rotary Club to mark 100 years supporting international, national and local communities and to provide a permanent gift to the people of Salisbury
St Marks Open Space	2021 - 2022	Janet Davies (local volunteer)	Hornbeam and Damson	Saplings	2	Grown and planted by Janet Davies. Janet also watered these trees over the summer months

2.3.11 Other Community Initiatives

Friends of Harnham Slope 2023: 50 Beech whips Harnham Slope, 10 Beech whips Chiselbury Grove woodland. Whip planting on Harnham slope was a joint effort between SCC Grounds team and the Friends of Harnham Slope volunteer group.

Harnham Community Network's Jubilee Tree Planting at Parsonage Green 2023: Harnham Community Network Group acquired funding for planting trees. Their aim was to improve the green corridor between the river and water meadows and the woodland on Harnham Slope/Hill and to mark the Queens Jubilee with something that will have a lasting benefit for residents and the environment. A consultation with local residents was held and from this, design/plan was devised. The group along with local volunteers planted nine Limes trees (*T. cordata Greenspire*) at Parsonage Green in Harnham.

Fisherton Meadow re-wilding project 2023

Kensington Meadow: 80 metres of double planted hedging whips (mixed native hedge row)

Sarum Meadow: The volunteer group have successfully acquired 400 metres of mix native hedging plants which will be planted by the group on 21st March 2023.

Fisherton Meadow: 12 other trees and shrubs have also been planted on Fisherton Meadow these include, Rowan, Hazel, Hawthorn, Dog wood and Yew.

Friends of Middle Street Meadow 2023: In February this year the group of volunteers planted an Oak tree which was grown and donated by a local resident.

Rotary Club tree planting at Victoria Park 2022: Salisbury City Council's Parks Team have planted 10 Cherry Trees following a kind donation from Salisbury Rotary Club. The Cherry Trees, together with a plaque, were donated to celebrate The Rotary Club's 100 years supporting international, national and local communities and to provide a permanent gift to the people of Salisbury. The Club contacted Salisbury City Council with their donation and the Parks Team decided that Victoria Park would be the ideal location for the trees. The variety *Prunus Kanzan* have been planted in the centre of the park close to the Kiosk and play area which will offer shade in the summer months for people to relax and enjoy their picnics.

2.3.12 Salisbury City Council Tree Planting for the Queens Jubilee 2022

Trees were planted at Hudson's Field and Victoria Park to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service by the Queen after she took to the throne on 6 February 1952.

Salisbury City Council worked with contractors PW Maintenance Solutions to plant a distinctive row of Beech Trees across Hudson's Field and Victoria Park. Each location consists of over 20 trees and is roughly 167 metres long. The row of trees at Hudson's Field is located to one side of the pedestrian path which runs from below the Pavilion through the field and down to Stratford Road. The trees significantly change the landscape and create a delightful addition to the path. At Victoria Park, the planting is located adjacent to Park Lane close to the park entrance near the Co-op. As the trees grow, they will provide shade for park users during the summer months.

HM Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton visited Victoria Park (Tuesday 1 March) at 3pm, alongside the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Salisbury, and enjoyed taking part in planting a tree.

The Mayor of Salisbury, Cllr Caroline Corbin said, "I was delighted to welcome the Lord Lieutenant to the city to help us plant the jubilee trees. These trees will be a lasting reminder of the Jubilee in Salisbury and a great addition to our parks."

Salisbury City Council's tree planting project is part of the Queen's Green Canopy where people from across the United Kingdom are being encouraged to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

2.3.13 Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Environment Act 2021

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (or LNRS) are featured in the 2021 Environment Act, Part 6 and are intended to cover the whole of England through adjoining Local Authority area parcels. WCC and Swindon Borough Council, although separate authorities, are working together on a joint LNRS.

The LNRS will highlight areas of priority where nature focus can add most value to the Nature Recovery Network and support resilient populations of wildlife as well as people. It is likely that the Wiltshire and Swindon LNRS will be used in part to guide:

- What actions by farmers would be most locally beneficial and attract payment under new post Brexit environmental land management schemes
- Where biodiversity lost to development should be replaced
- Which areas should be prioritised to be kept clear of development altogether
- How the targets for habitat creation and the Nature Recovery Network can be met most sustainably

Land management of Salisbury's open spaces and wildlife habitats could contribute positively to achieve the 'bigger, better, more joined up' environmental outcomes intended by LNRS.

2.3.14 Integrated benefits – nature and mental health, exercise, enjoyment of nature

Salisbury's parks and open spaces are a vital resource for its residents and are used for a variety of informal and formal recreational purposes e.g. walking, dog walking, running, creative play, sports, exercise, enjoyment of wildlife and relaxation. They are therefore of prime importance for the population's mental and physical health and contribute positively to reducing negative health impacts.

The objectives for trees associated with these green spaces and their associated management needs to balance these uses and ensure all residents are able to gain maximum enjoyment from their local areas. This TrESS aims to promote integrated approaches to open space management which will deliver these multiple benefits – many are not mutually exclusive.

Cost savings – reducing the intensity of management can increase biodiversity, reduce carbon and also save money.

As a public body, Salisbury City Council needs to make best use of public funds and seek efficiencies wherever possible. Adopting a more nature friendly approach to open space management can result in significant cost savings, e.g. creation of wildflower meadows in parks can reduce the mowing of grassland from 1-3 cuts every month March-October, down to two cuts a year. Extending or creating new copses of trees will reduce this further. Rewilding of areas can improve wildlife and require non-intervention. Equally, closing the loop on green recycling can turn cut arisings from parks into locally available cheap compost.

2.4 TREES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Salisbury City Council's land, as well as the remaining parts of Salisbury provide a wide range of services, which we often take for granted. Referred to as Ecosystem Services or 'nature-based services', they considerably increase the value of what might otherwise appear as an everyday area of grassland, scrub, allotments, woodland or trees in streets.

Supporting: Ecosystems are underpinned by supporting services without which they could not function. These include the nutrient cycle, soil formation and habitat provision, forming the basis of the other three services.

Provisioning: These are physical elements that can be extracted from the environment including food, water, fuel, wood and fibre.

Regulating: These are services that occur to benefit the ecosystem by keeping a balance of factors such as pollution, water filtration and flood management.

Cultural: This service includes ways that a person's health and wellbeing is affected by their environment. The natural environment can improve mental as well as physical health, provide recreation and support education and learning.

Biodiversity underpins all these services. An ecosystem approach to the way we manage land, freshwater and sea, requires reference to the ecosystem services and an understanding of the connections between them.

The following figure explains more about ecosystem services and where these might be found in Salisbury's landscape.



The ecosystem services provided by trees are expanded on in greater detail below. Not all of these are directly relevant to land owned and managed by Salisbury City Council, but they are all relevant to Salisbury as a City and as a Parish.

Tree ecosystem services

Regulating services

Absorbing air pollution – particulate matter (PM), NO_x, SO₂, ozone, carbon monoxide, ammonia

Removing dust and odour

Producing oxygen

Sequestering and storing carbon – directly and in soil

Providing shade

Reducing summer air temperatures and the urban heat island effect

Providing shelter from wind

Reducing energy use

Reducing glare

Reducing rate and volume of storm water runoff

Reducing flood risk

Recharging ground water

Enhancing water quality

Reducing soil erosion

Attenuating noise

Screening unattractive or noisy places

Benefits to agriculture

Providing shelter for crops and livestock

Providing shade for livestock

Supporting pollinators and enhancing crop yields

Enhancing pest control

Providing stock enclosure

Reducing spread of disease – especially bovine TB

Providing habitat and cover for game birds

Enhancing output for free-range poultry farms

Cultural services

Providing and enhancing landscape character

Contributing to sense of place and identity

Part of cultural heritage

Enhancing aesthetics

Benefiting physical health – reducing blood pressure, stress, asthma

Speeding recovery from surgery and illness

Enhancing attention and cognitive function

Improving mental health and wellbeing

Improving pregnancy and birth outcomes

Reducing mortality rates – especially related to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases

Encouraging physical activity

Enhancing community cohesion

Reducing aggression, violence and crime rates

Increasing security

Enhancing driver and pedestrian safety

Reducing road traffic speeds

Enhancing privacy

Bringing people closer to nature

Providing setting for outdoor learning

Improving educational outcomes through improvements in concentration and performance and reduced time off for illness

Enhancing quality of life

Providing spiritual value and meaning

Provisioning services

Source of timber, fuel, fodder, fruit, nuts and berries

Source of biofuels

Economic benefits

Increasing land and property prices

Reducing 'time on market' for selling property

Attracting business and customers

Reducing health care costs

Reducing expenditure on air pollution removal

Reducing expenditure on storm water infrastructure

Reducing expenditure on flood defences

Saving investment in new power supplies

Reducing heating and cooling costs

Increasing property taxes

Enhancing rental income

Increasing tourism revenues

Reducing screening costs especially next to main roads

Reducing agricultural costs and enhancing farmer income

Providing potential for future carbon offsetting trade

3 METHODOLOGY

The following methods were adopted to develop the Salisbury City Council TrESS.

3.1 CONFIRM LAND OWNERSHIP/CONTROL BOUNDARIES

Liaison with SCC staff to obtain hard copy of digital or hard copy land ownership boundaries (including large open spaces such as parks or other public open spaces, and smaller spaces such as verges). This was extended to include land that was leased, managed or used by SCC but owned by identified third parties. This data, and the Parish boundary was used to provide a spatial boundary for the primary scope of the project. Land parcels were labelled with the ownership status being highlighted to allow for future analysis.

3.2 INITIAL DIGITAL TREE ATLAS

Purchase the National Tree Map data set as ESRI shape files and integrate this with the land ownership boundary data. This information includes: Trees over 3m in height, Measurements of location, height and canopy spread, Idealised crowns, Detailed crowns, Height points, Created from stereo aerial photography, OSGB Projection, Vector format – ESRI .shp as standard. The latest aerial imagery will also be purchased (2021). The data can be modified to show all trees and only those trees within SCC ownership. The data was then combined with OS base mapping to form an initial digital tree atlas.

A corresponding database was produced including the details of each tree, individual/group tree reference number and the items listed above. This information can be transferred to a handheld device to allow subsequent on the ground tree location, and verification of additional information.

This information will be shared in multiple formats to help with collaboration and sense-checking, including interactive PDF so different features can be switched on and off.

3.3 INTEGRATION OF SCC TREE DATA

The project team, led by the SCC Environmental Service Manager and Parks Manager worked together to identify and agree what additional tree data could be integrated into the Digital Tree Atlas. Tree surveys to inform ongoing tree management have been completed and as such, tagged trees and numbers, tree specific data and tree health/information was included where it exists. This stage also confirmed other relevant information such as the identity and location of Tree Preservation Orders, known veterans, trees that have a particular heritage, ecology, landscape or amenity value and other critical tree specific parameters. This information would be integrated into the tree database.

3.4 INTEGRATION OF WIDER OPENSOURCE DATA

Relevant opensource data will be integrated the GIS to enable evaluation of wider constraints/opportunities associated with the study area and its trees, including in relation to opportunities for wider tree planting. This will include: ancient woodland, national woodland inventory, priority habitats, designated sites, heritage assets and designation, conservation areas, landscape designations, public rights of way, general soil type, lidar (if available), river network, flood zones and the Natural England Green Infrastructure dataset. Confirmed character areas associated with the Neighbourhood Plan/Design Guide have been agreed, and location of city 'gateways' along main transport routes. This information would be integrated into the database.

3.5 FIELD SURVEY - GROUND TRUTHING

The agreed SCC land that forms the project area will be visited to ground truth and add to the data already assembled. This will incorporate the use of mobile mapping, data capture and digital photography. The trees

listed on the digital atlas will be visited and the following additional information captured: species, trunk diameter at chest height if over 1m diameter, candidate veteran, potential suitability for roosting bats, nearby conflicts of interest/hazards. Trees will be mapped as groups/individual and species/species mix recorded. The walkover surveys will include a rapid habitat survey that will characterise the associated habitat type and condition, to inform any future planting strategy and baseline biodiversity net gain calculation using the Defra metric.

3.6 PRODUCTION OF FIELD SURVEY MAPS AND INITIAL ANALYSIS

Additional data was added to the GIS/database following the field surveys. This included the additional tree data, updates to correct data where needed, alongside the habitat and constraint/hazard data. This information was analysed and reported on to confirm: constraints on where trees could be planted, areas where trees can be planted without/minimal constraints, coincidence with other existing projects such as the EA River Park Project and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust PEA work in Harnham Slopes, Chisleham Slopes and Folley/Bemerton Heath, alongside influences such as floodplain, proximity to built environment, designations/protectations, character areas and soil character.

3.7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

The initial findings were shared and presented online with this information also being provided in hard copy at the City Library. This provided an exhibition of key information about the project, and A0/A1 maps that could be marked up by people attending (using wipeable pens and post it notes), alongside questionnaires to complete and leave at the event. This helped to promote and share the work to date by seeking the engagement and involvement of the local community and Ward Members in defining future tree (and wider ecosystem service) strategy across the city, linking to local values, needs and opportunities. This was also an excellent opportunity to seek the involvement and local participation in the future custodianship of the open spaces and trees in the City. This included involvement with relevant organisations already undertaking such work in the city (such as Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership) and considered the Nature Recovery Network requirements of the Environment Act (such as Wiltshire Council). The outputs of the workshops were then collated and analysed. This information has been fed in the TrESS and a summary from the consultation can be found in Appendix E.

3.8 FINAL REPORT/OUTPUTS

All of the information gathered from the desk study, field survey and engagement will be integrated and used to update the GIS, database and to provide final written outputs. This includes: comprehensive illustrated project report and stand-alone technical appendices; 4 page A4, colour illustrated and plain speaking summary for electronic distribution or printing; text and images for the SCC website and social media; suggested wording for an updated Tree Policy, an excel copy of the database, shape files for all the maps (to be used in ESRI ArcGIS or QGIS) and interactive PDFs.

Wider specific aspects that were addressed through the project and its outputs includes: which Wards have a good coverage of trees and which have less; opportunities for mass tree planting as well as individual tree planting; a mapping layer showing potential future tree planting areas based on the project outputs, alongside a list of suitable species per location type; highlighting the potential effect of tree planting (the right trees in the right place) through the use of the habitat information; estimate of current carbon stock in trees and the potential future increase in carbon stock, what are the current ecosystem services provided and what opportunities exist to increase/expand these across the 8 Council Wards; integrate with the EA River Park Project (include within the SCC Strategy), acknowledging and signposting the work of others included where this is within SCC land and beyond to promote shared values and partnership working; highlight other areas of land/landowners (if known) with trees/potential for additional trees beyond SCC boundary; provide guidance/specification for enhancing the gateways to the City through specimen/character tree planting.

4 TREE AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICE GUIDE

4.1 OVERVIEW OF TREE AND TREE CANOPY DISTRIBUTION

4.1.1 Salisbury Parish

The total number of trees within Salisbury Parish (based on tree points within the National Tree Atlas in 2022 and SCC land boundaries provided by Wiltshire Council) is 53,172. Please refer to Volume 1 Appendix A and Appendix B for further details.

4.1.2 Salisbury City Council Land

The total number of trees on land that Salisbury City Council owns or manages (based on tree points within the National Tree Atlas in 2022) is 12,050.

Figure 4.1 highlights the location and distribution of Salisbury City Council Land.

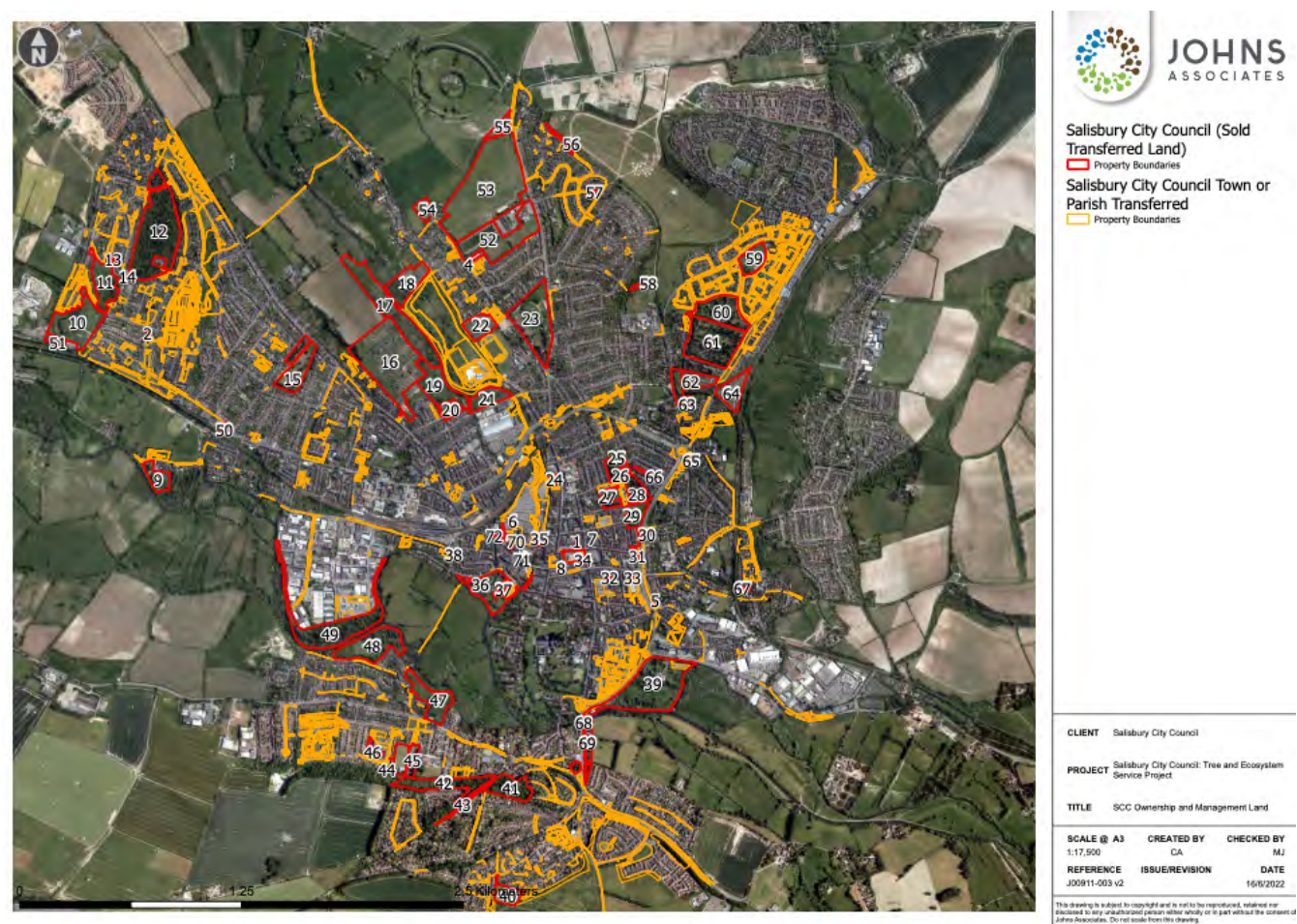


Figure 4.1 SCC Ownership and Management Land

Table 5 lists the larger sites/locations owned or managed by Salisbury City Council and the percentage canopy cover and number of trees within each of them. It can be seen that some locations (e.g. Blue Boar Row), do not have any trees present, as a reflection of their setting and land use, whilst others have a much larger extent (e.g. parks, nature reserves). Salisbury City Council has also acquired responsibility for a significant number of other (typically smaller) land parcels from Wiltshire Council, many of which also have trees (not shown here). Please refer to Volume 1 Appendix A and B for full details.

Table 5: Larger SCC Owned Sites and Trees

Name of SCC Land	Area Ref	Total Area Ha	Canopy Cover Ha	Remaining Area Ha	No. Trees
47 Blue Boar Row, Salisbury	1	0.062	0	0.062	0
Bemerton Heath Post Office, Salisubry	2	0.03	0	0.03	0
Salisbury Brown Street Alzheimers Centre	3	0.024	0	0.024	0
Scout Hut	4	0.291	0.004	0.287	4
Rampart Road Store, Salisbury	5	0.028	0	0.028	0
84 Fisherton Street, Salisbury	6	0.126	0	0.126	0
Salisbury Market Place Car Park	7	0.704	0.137	0.567	36
Salisbury Poultry Cross	8	0.025	0	0.025	0
Lower Bemerton Recreation Ground	9	1.44	0.255	1.185	49
Westwood Open Space	10	5.215	0.72	4.495	102
Barnard's Folly	11	2.829	1.108	1.721	188
Bemerton Folly	12	10.417	9.794	0.623	1777
58-64 Pinewood Way right of way	13	0.051	0.001	0.051	0
58-64 Pinewood Way	14	0.15	0.001	0.149	0
Devizes Road Cemetery	15	3.424	1.066	2.358	160
Fisherton Farm Allotments	16	11.429	0.794	10.635	220
Primrose Farm	17	6.658	1.559	5.099	249
Stratford Shelley Drive Allotments	18	2.894	1.099	1.795	222
Fisherton Recreation Ground	19	3.655	0.605	3.05	127
Coldharbour Lane Allotments	20	0.943	0.059	0.885	18
Ashley Road Open Space	21	1.771	0.12	1.651	21
Butts Warwick Close Allotments	22	1.759	0.084	1.675	17
Victoria Park	23	6.388	1.561	4.827	229
123-125 Castle Street	24	0.24	0.004	0.236	2
Wyndham Park POS	25	1.148	0.276	0.871	39
Bourne Hill Swimming Pool Site	26	0.338	0.047	0.291	8
St Edmund's Churchyard	27	0.908	0.428	0.48	50
Bourne Hill Gardens	28	1.446	1.052	0.395	102
The Greencroft	29	1.42	0.599	0.822	92
Greencroft St Garages	30	0.05	0.009	0.041	3
Winchester St Garages	31	0.027	0.004	0.023	1
Brown Street Gym	32	0.02	0	0.02	0
68 Milford St	33	0.02	0.002	0.018	0
Guildhall	34	0.131	0.001	0.13	0
Maltings POS	35	0.325	0.115	0.21	15
Queen Elizabeth Gardens plus links to city centre	36	3.161	0.93	2.231	183
Lush House Car Park	37	0.259	0.029	0.23	8
Mill Road	38	0.018	0.005	0.013	1

Name of SCC Land	Area Ref	Total Area Ha	Canopy Cover Ha	Remaining Area Ha	No. Trees
Churchill Gardens and Car Park	39	9.354	3.295	6.06	583
Meyrick Close POS	40	1.326	0.101	1.225	23
Chiselbury Grove woodland	41	2.461	2.358	0.103	280
Harnham Slope	42	3.341	2.888	0.452	431
Harnham Slope 2	42	2.927	2.927	0	357
Old Blandford Road Open Space	43	0.412	0.38	0.032	54
Parsonage Green POS	44	1.358	0.111	1.247	19
Warres Trust Allotments	45	0.906	0.1	0.806	14
Wiltshire Road Allotments	46	0.323	0.009	0.314	2
Harnham Recreation Ground	47	3.115	0.629	2.486	103
Middle St Open Space	48	4.546	1.178	3.368	192
Churchfields Open Space	49	6.623	4.619	2.003	833
Skew Bridge Open Space	50	0.28	0.07	0.21	16
Westwood Allotments	51	0.473	0.088	0.386	29
Hudson's Field Rugby Club Campsite	52	6.636	0.464	6.172	93
Hudson's Field Trust Land	53	16.316	0.587	15.73	121
Portway Sports Field	54	0.917	0.04	0.877	8
Hudson's Field Trust Land	55	0.833	0.146	0.687	26
Hilltop Way Open Space	56	0.394	0.1	0.295	28
Hiltop Open Space	56	4.042	1.543	2.499	305
St Francis Road/Crescent	57	0.114	0.017	0.097	5
Bishopdown POS Wyndham Park Option Land	58	0.267	0.037	0.23	10
Bishopdown Playing Field	59	1.79	0.111	1.679	15
Salisbury Crematorium	60	3.876	2.065	1.811	308
London Road Cemetery	61	6.485	3.01	3.475	462
Tunnel Allotments	62	1.419	0.188	1.231	34
St Mark's Open Space	63	1.339	0.783	0.556	145
London Road Allotments	64	1.987	0.181	1.806	33
Wain a Long Road Open Space	65	0.028	0.017	0.011	6
18 College St	66	0.104	0.01	0.095	3
Milford Hollow	67	0.125	0.124	0.001	13
Milford Hollow 2	67	0.212	0.212	0	22
New Bridge Road Open Space Options	68	0.319	0.067	0.252	13
New Bridge Road Open Space	69	1.539	0.765	0.773	97
Maltings Island	70	0.037	0.029	0.009	8
54 Fisherton St	71	0.008	0	0.008	0
96 Fisherton St	72	0.007	0	0.007	0
Ayleswade Road	72	0.285	0.273	0.012	22
Linkway	73	1.184	0.383	0.801	84

Name of SCC Land	Area Ref	Total Area Ha	Canopy Cover Ha	Remaining Area Ha	No. Trees
Bishopdown Meadow	74	4.448	0.558	3.89	73
The Valley	75	1.304	1.304	0	205
St Michael's Hill 1	76	0.5	0.5	0	143
St Michael's Hill 2	76	1.133	0.675	0.458	93
Wagstaff Way	77	0.712	0.712	0	127
Jubilee Close	78	0.08	0.047	0.033	12
Lyme Kiln Down	79	9.117	0.965	8.152	199
Harlequins Football Club	80	1.261	0.261	1	34
Senior Drive Shelter Belt	81	0.291	0.291	0	22
Grosvenor House	82	0.314	0.216	0.098	27
Total		176.692	57.902	118.796	9655

Table 6 overleaf shows the number of trees (measured as tree points on the National Tree Atlas) on Salisbury City Council owned/managed land associated with each Ward. It also shows the percentage that the Salisbury City Council trees make up of all the trees recorded for each Ward. This can be compared to the total number of trees within each Ward as shown in Table 7. This analysis shows that Salisbury City Council is responsible for between 7% and 18% of all trees within the Salisbury Parish Wards. This shows a descending rank of Wards by total tree numbers: St Francis and Stratford tied with Milford, Harnham West, Fisherton and Bemerton Village, Bemerton Heath, Harnham East, St Paul's and St Edmund's. Total tree numbers expressed as a percentage within different Wards in Salisbury Parish range from 17% to 6%, slightly worse than when compared to the SCC land tree counts.

Table 6 SCC Trees by Ward

Ward	Count	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	1,825	13%
CB1	1,411	
CB2	414	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	1,154	8%
CD1	74	
CD2	318	
CD3	762	
Bemerton Heath Ward	2,577	19%
CA1	30	
CA2	2,284	
CA3	263	
St Paul's Ward	1,785	13%
CE1	921	
CE2	294	
CE3	570	
St Edmund's Ward	976	7%
CF1	635	
CF2	341	
Harnham West Ward	1,695	12%
CG1	376	
CG2	981	
CG3	338	
Harnham East Ward	1,272	9%
CH1	1,004	
CH2	268	
Milford Ward	2,439	18%
CC1	1,283	
CC2	178	
CC3	198	
CC4	780	
Total Trees owned by Salisbury CC	13,723	

Table 7 All Trees by Ward

Ward	Count	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	9,062	17%
CB1	5,044	
CB2	4,018	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	6,946	13%
CD1	1,717	
CD2	2,449	
CD3	2,780	
Bemerton Heath Ward	6,460	12%
CA1	1,224	
CA2	4,766	
CA3	470	
St Paul's Ward	4,502	8%
CE1	2,226	
CE2	1,023	
CE3	1,253	
St Edmund's Ward	2,952	6%
CF1	1,882	
CF2	1,070	
Harnham West Ward	8,625	16%
CG1	2,459	
CG2	4,068	
CG3	2,098	
Harnham East Ward	5,604	11%
CH1	2,320	
CH2	3,284	
Milford Ward	9,001	17%
CC1	2,805	
CC2	1,263	
CC3	1,167	
CC4	3,766	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	53,152	

4.1.3 Canopy Coverage by Ward

There are eight Wards within Salisbury parish, which are represented on Figure 4.2 below. These cover the city centre, semi-urban edges of the city, with some Wards including agricultural land and other green space. This influences the distribution of trees within the Parish (e.g. typically trees are absent within large open agricultural fields).

The National Tree Atlas data have been used, alongside the Parish and Ward boundaries to confirm the percentage and area of canopy coverage in Salisbury and per Ward. This can be seen below in Table 8. Overall, Salisbury Parish has a canopy coverage of 257.56ha. The Ward with the largest canopy coverage % is Harnham West, with a spread of coverage of between 5% and 18%. The percentage canopy coverage for Salisbury Parish (measured as an average of the individual ward % cover) is 12.375 % which is several percentage points below the national average (see Section 4.1.4).

Table 8 Total Tree Canopy Coverage by Ward (all land)

Ward	Canopy Area (ha)	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	39.71	15%
CB1	25.74	
CB2	13.96	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	32.48	13%
CD1	8.56	
CD2	10.15	
CD3	13.76	
Bemerton Heath Ward	30.47	12%
CA1	5.83	
CA2	22.36	
CA3	2.29	
St Paul's Ward	21.68	8%
CE1	10.98	
CE2	4.53	
CE3	6.16	
St Edmund's Ward	13.77	5%
CF1	8.90	
CF2	4.87	
Harnham West Ward	46.98	18%
CG1	13.78	
CG2	22.62	
CG3	10.58	
Harnham East Ward	28.87	11%
CH1	10.41	
CH2	18.46	
Milford Ward	43.62	17%
CC1	14.59	
CC2	5.70	
CC3	5.24	
CC4	18.09	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	257.56	

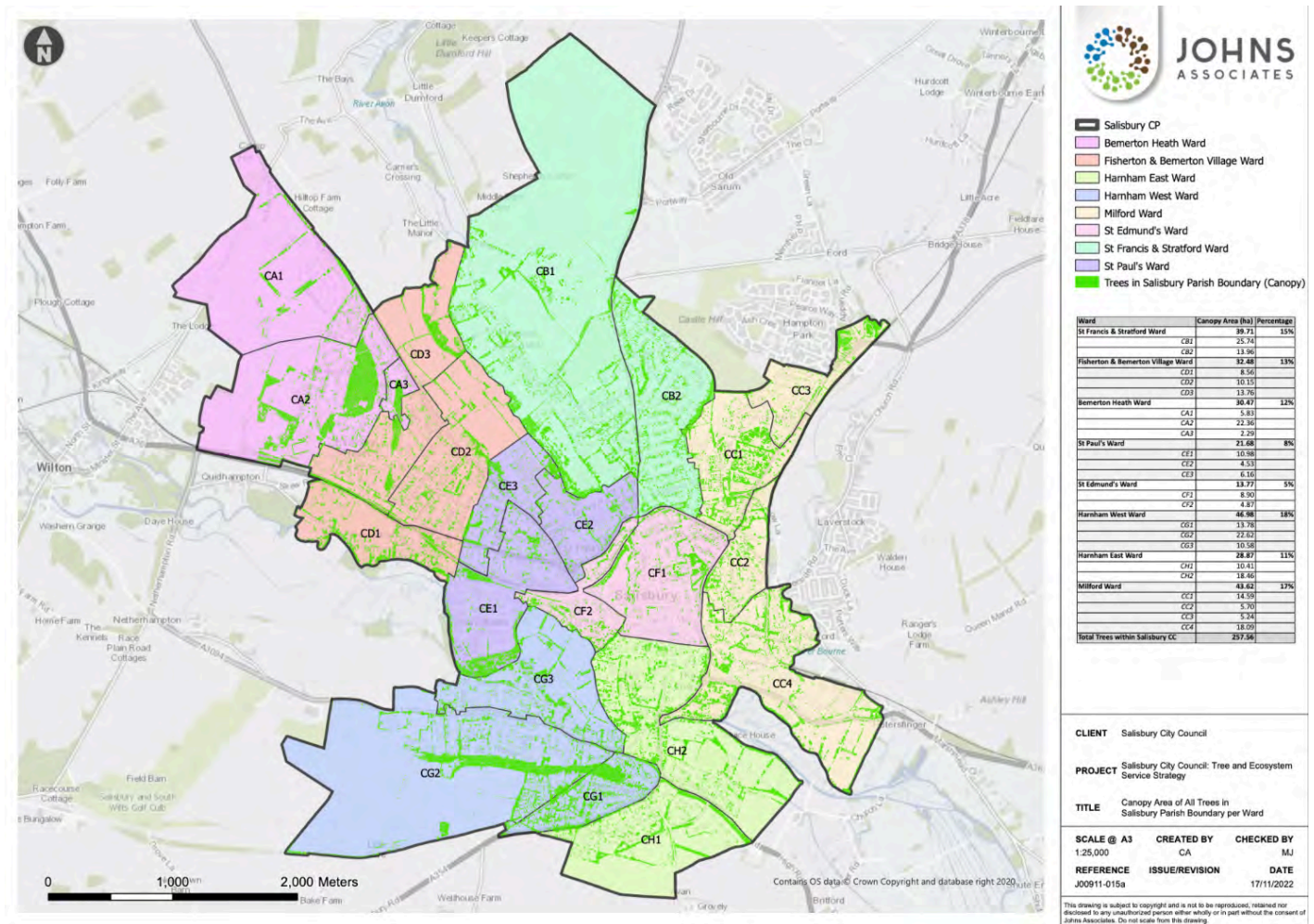


Figure 4.2 Canopy Coverage of All Trees in Salisbury Parish by Ward

This can be compared to an analysis of canopy coverage percentage of the trees owned or managed by Salisbury City Council within each Ward, which is shown in Table 9 and on Figure 4.3

Table 9. Tree Canopy Coverage by Ward (all SCC land)

Ward	Canopy Area (ha)	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	10.44	13%
CB1	8.71	
CB2	1.73	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	5.74	7%
CD1	0.39	
CD2	1.80	
CD3	3.55	
Bemerton Heath Ward	14.35	18%
CA1	0.19	
CA2	12.68	
CA3	1.48	
St Paul's Ward	9.86	13%
CE1	5.01	
CE2	1.71	
CE3	3.14	
St Edmund's Ward	5.85	7%
CF1	4.11	
CF2	1.74	
Harnham West Ward	11.78	15%
CG1	2.97	
CG2	6.80	
CG3	2.01	
Harnham East Ward	6.79	9%
CH1	5.01	
CH2	1.78	
Milford Ward	13.96	18%
CC1	7.74	
CC2	0.87	
CC3	1.00	
CC4	4.35	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	78.78	

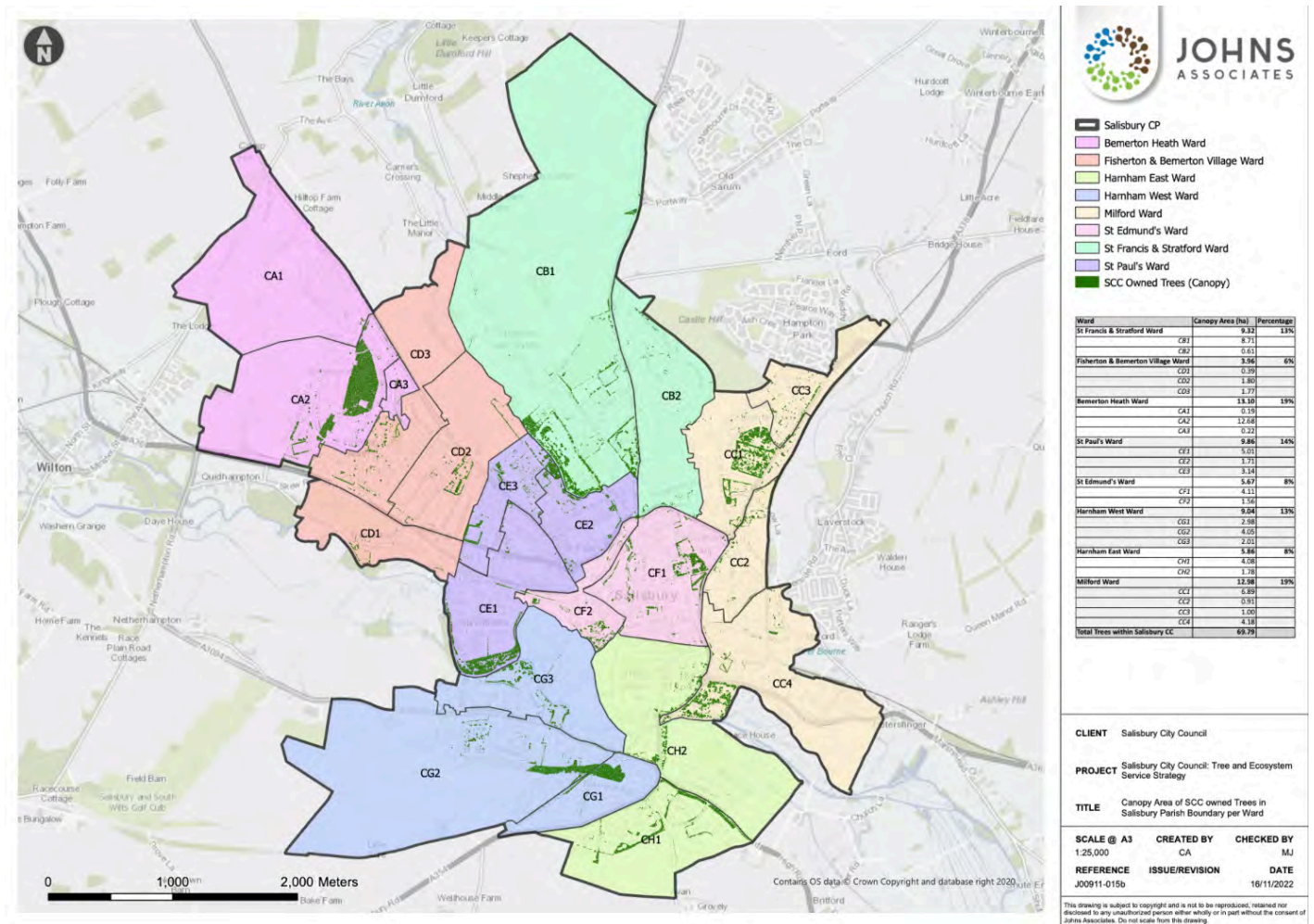


Figure 4.3 Canopy Coverage of All SCC Trees and by Ward

4.1.4 Comparison Against National Trends

The average percentage canopy coverage for all land associated with Salisbury City Council land within Salisbury Parish is 12.5%, although this will be influenced by the extent of agricultural land in parts of the parish, typically with limited tree cover. This (and the Parish average of 12.4%) can be compared against a national average of 15.8%. Using the i-Tree Canopy tool, the canopy cover for 283 towns and cities in England was assessed by Forest Research in 2016 as part of a baseline study. Canopy cover was assessed at the town or city level, and an average canopy cover of 15.8% was estimated.

The ward canopy coverage for Salisbury City Council land ranges from Fisherton and Bemerton Village Ward and St Edmund's Ward with 7%, Harnham East Ward having 9%, St Francis and Stratford Ward and St Paul's Ward with 13% each, Harnham West Ward with 15% and Milford Ward at 18% (the only one currently exceeding the national average).

4.2 OVERVIEW OF HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICE PROVISION

Urban areas provide a variety of ecosystem services that are essential for human well-being and the functioning of the city itself. These are driven by the land use and habitat type and function and how they are managed (low intensity and semi-natural to high intensity and highly managed). The land owned/managed by Salisbury City Council supports a range of different habitats all of which are associated with trees growing within or adjacent to them. By protecting the trees, we protect the associated habitats and vice versa.

These are:

- Grasslands
 - Improved grassland -
 - Calcareous grassland
 - Semi-improved grassland
 - Marsh/marshy grassland
 - Cultivated/disturbed land – amenity grassland
- Woodland and Scrub
 - Broadleaved woodland - seminatural
 - Mixed woodland - seminatural
 - Mixed plantation - plantation
 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - Continuous scrub
 - Scattered scrub
 - Introduced shrubs
- Water
 - Running water
 - Standing water
 - Swamp
 - Marginal Inundation
- Other
 - Other tall herb and fern – tall ruderal
 - Cultivated/disturbed land – ephemeral perennial
 - Bare ground
 - Walls

Here are some examples of how the green spaces owned by SCC and associated with its trees can provide essential ecosystem services:

1. Climate regulation: Urban greenspace and trees can help regulate temperature and reduce the urban heat island effect through the presence of vegetation and green infrastructure. Trees can provide shade, cool the air, and reduce energy demand for cooling.
2. Air purification: Urban vegetation can help remove pollutants from the air, such as particulate matter, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide. This can help improve air quality and reduce respiratory health problems.
3. Water management: Urban areas can help manage water through the use of green infrastructure, such as meadows and other grassland, woodland, parks, and allotments, which can absorb and filter stormwater runoff, reducing flooding and improving water quality.
4. Habitat provision: Urban greenspaces and trees provide habitat for wildlife, including birds, insects, and small mammals, which can help maintain biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.
5. Cultural services: Urban greenspaces and trees can provide cultural ecosystem services, such as recreational opportunities, aesthetic value, and spiritual and educational benefits. Parks, gardens, and other green spaces can provide opportunities for relaxation, exercise, and social interaction.

Overall, the urban greenspaces and trees associated with SCCs land provide a range of ecosystem services that are critical for the communities well-being, environmental sustainability, and the health and resilience of Salisbury's urban ecosystems.

4.3 GUIDE TO LARGER AND ORIGINAL SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL SITES

Please refer to the plans in Appendix B for details of these and other locations (shown as red named polygons).

Churchfield's Riverside



Adjacent to the River Nadder and bordering Churchfields Industrial Estate, this linear site becomes wider to the south. Here the land rises up from the river to an area of higher ground with better drained soil.

From the north west entry point at Salisbury Canoe Club to the south west access path, many of the most mature trees are semi mature to mature London Plane, with substantial stands of well established alder along the waters edge. There are also ash along the Site boundary. Further south black poplar, occasional horse chestnut and young cherry.

At the southern access point there is scrub with occasional hawthorn and goat willow. Further south are young black poplar and mature Normandy poplar and ash.

At the north east path the dominant trees along the river bank are in form of stands of mature and semi mature white poplar, other species including black poplar and weeping willow. Occasional specimens include false acacia, Scots pine, hazel. and Lombardy poplar.





As the site widens to the south the species mix broadens, with numerous mature ash and semi mature to mature chestnuts interspersed with mature coniferous trees.

Occasional trees include: mature London plane, sequoia, false acacia, ash, cherry and oak. At these higher levels is ground cover of bramble, dogwood, occasional Buddleja and areas of ivy and grass cover.

At the waters edge to the south, trees include younger white poplar and black poplar, alder and occasional mature lime.

The southern and eastern areas are more open than the rest of the Riverside, the eastern side with views extending across the river to the water meadows.



Harnham Slope Open Space



Harnham Slope Open Space sits to the south of Salisbury at the edge of Harnham and agricultural land beyond. This 2.96 hectare site forms part of the Avon Valley Path and contains evidence of an Anglo Saxon burial ground. Artefacts from the Iron Age have also been found here. At the Old Blandford Road entrance to the site is an old military bunker now used as a youth music centre.

This north facing escarpment is a designated County Wildlife Site as the woodland is of geological significance. Further to the west are the chalk pits, a designated Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The habitat is broadleaf woodland with some scrub and species rich semi improved grassland in the glade areas. The woodland tree species consist mostly of sycamore beech and ash.

The land was gifted to the people of Salisbury by Bishop John Wordsworth. This monument now sits at the top of Harnham Slope on 'Bishops Walk'. Along this top path, mature beech trees along the boundary allow light through to a glade maintained by Friends of Harnham Slope.



Harnham Slope Open Space



A larger glade links upper and lower paths and provides habitat for wildlife. Glade edge and understorey species include hawthorn, holly, privet and yew.

Other habitats include steeply sloping shady areas with ferns and mossy logs adjacent to the upper path, and scrubby areas adjacent to the southern boundary with residential properties. Much of the site is woodland and nearly all is north facing slope.

Regular maintenance is evident throughout the site and the Friends of Harnham Slope (FOHS) actively maintain glades and work to improve the habitats.

Uphill from the Slope is a further open space adjacent to the Old Blandford Road. Here trees include beech, hornbeam, sycamore and oak framed by the mature trees behind, at the top of the Slope. This wider verge area is ablaze with colour when the spring bulbs flower.



The Greencroft



The Greencroft is an open space close to Salisbury Arts Centre which has been spared development as it was a burial site from the 1620s for many who succumbed to the plague. Saxon burials were also found here and a Paleolithic axe.

The Greencroft was also the site of the Michelmas fair from 1570, for the sale of sheep, depicted in the mosaic above.

Today the area is a recreational space containing a playground and basketball facilities, and forms an open space venue for various community and arts events.

Most trees here are formal avenues of mature lime which cross the site. Adjacent to the ringroad other species include Norway maple, silver birch, sycamore and wild cherry.



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Salisbury Arts Centre grounds



Salisbury Arts Centre, formerly St. Edmunds Church, was founded in 1975 and is surrounded by peaceful grounds to the north of the town centre.

The churchyard contains the World War I memorial amongst a number of specimen trees and also seating and outdoor café space in the summer. The grounds have hosted various Arts events and sculptures, some of which remain on the Site.

Specimen trees on site include a cedar of Lebanon, silver fir and walnut. The majority of trees are limes and yew. More recently planted trees include wild cherry and silver birch.

A swathe of daffodils brighten up the westernmost area of the grounds, adjacent to the path just outside the site.



Wyndham Park Open Space



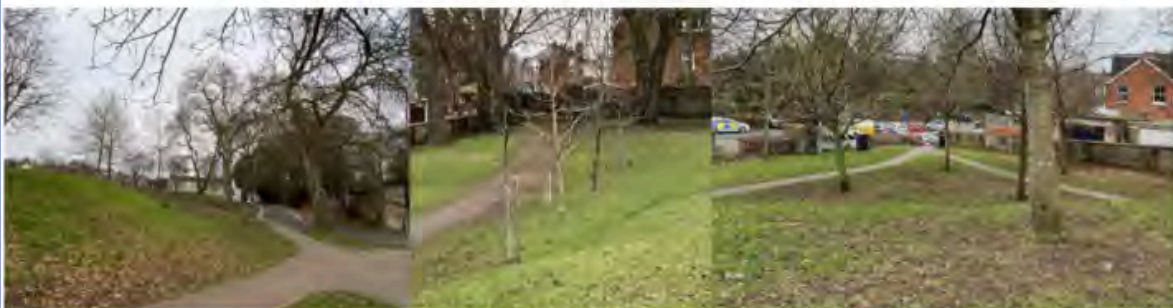
Wyndham Open space is a square park near the Council offices, within a residential area just to the north of the town centre. Previously the site of the old swimming pool, the park contains a sports wall and is a popular site for informal sports and dog walking.

On three sides, the Open Space is bounded by residential streets, and Bourne Hill Gardens and the Secret Garden the South.

The mature boundary trees are mostly lime to the western boundary, and largely hornbeam to the north. To the east, mature trees include sycamore, beech and hornbeam with others including ash. Many trees to the south west are walnut, with further tree planting continuing into the adjacent car park.

Lines of younger trees have been planted over recent years parallel to the mature boundary trees. These include species such as hornbeam oak and walnut.

Much of the most recent planting is towards the southeast of the Site and includes birch maple and hornbeam.



Wyndham Park Open Space



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Much of the most recent planting is towards the southeast of the Site and includes birch maple and hornbeam.



Portway Football Field



This small site of improved grassland contains a football pitch and clubhouse. Views extend from the site to Old Sarum and over nearby fields.

A group of garden trees sits behind the boundary hedge (to left of image below), the only group of trees on site being a small group of mixed hedgerow species with ivy growing through, seen to the right of the larger garden trees below.

Open views extend from the field to a residential area beyond.

The wire boundary fence is skirted by sporadic blackthorn and hawthorn shrubs and elder but is visually open to the landscape beyond.



Salisbury Crematorium



Built in the 1960s the 2.6 hectare landscape design was completed by Landscape Architect Brenda Colvin, a nationally important designer. Salisbury Crematorium is included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest at Grade 11.

The Crematorium grounds fall gently away from the main building, with glades formed between groups of mature trees. These groups are mostly beech amongst others including yew and Swedish whitebeam.

A Garden of Remembrance provides a contemplative space with seating in a more ornamental setting.

Mature lime trees within the adjacent Cemetery form a visual boundary to the site, whilst in other directions the glades continue to the distance, with groups of boundary trees softening the site edges yet still allowing some views to permeate through to the residential area beyond.



Devizes Road Cemetery

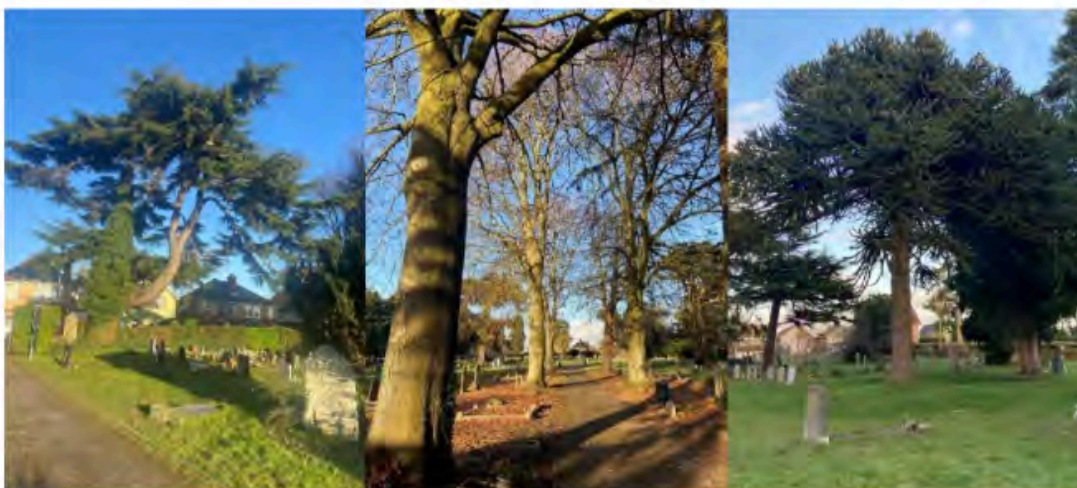


Opened in 1856, Devizes Road Cemetery is a largely open green space within an otherwise residential area, containing many fine mature trees and a small chapel.

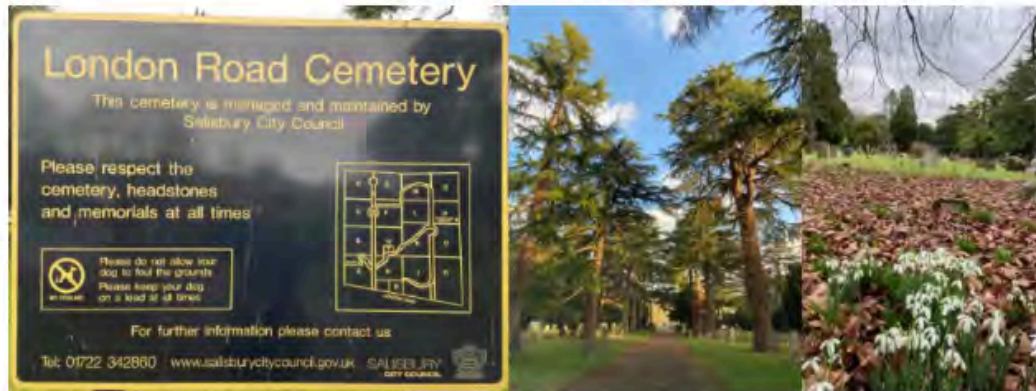
Specimens such as the cedar of Lebanon at the entrance and the monkey puzzle tree create dramatic silhouettes. A mature avenue of beech trees provides formality and scale to the west of the Cemetery.

Boundary trees include mature western red cedars in the northern part of the Cemetery, largely beech and lime to the east and south west.

Further specimens include Western red cedar, Scots pine, Lawson cypress and common juniper.



London Road Cemetery



Opened in 1857, the Cemetery contains war graves from First and Second World Wars and a memorial, the 'Cross of Sacrifice' situated on the main avenue. There is also a dedicated area for Muslim burials.

The Cemetery contains many mature specimens; the formal main avenue is lined by mature Deodar cedar, as is the northern avenue. The site is bounded on three sides by mature boundary trees, the majority of which are mature lime on the northern and western boundaries.

To the south west boundary there is a more scrubby area which is not easily accessed, but is of value as natural habitat to deer and other wildlife.

Specimen trees around the site include red pine, copper beech, Wellingtonia, Chinese juniper and Scots pine among others.



Victoria Park



The oldest park in Salisbury, Victoria Park was opened in 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

Today the park contains tennis courts, a childrens play area, basketball facilities and houses The Pantry Partnership local enterprise in the former bowls club.

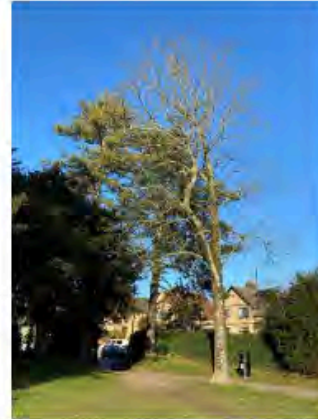
Within Victoria Park is an impressive collection of trees, many of which by their maturity bring a truly grand scale to the public space. At the main entrance, a single cedar of Lebanon greets visitors before a pair of mature beech which form the start of the central walk. The central cedar of Lebanon create an imposing avenue, continuing with the limes which rise up the central path adjacent to the play area and nearby café.

Victoria Park has its own dedicated team of volunteer gardeners who tend to a garden area adjacent to the tennis courts. Bug boxes and tree houses have been installed, along with compost heaps and a planter containing edible herbs. Evidence of the local community's growing interest in wildlife is present all around the park.

A Bug Hotel has been constructed, and the award winning Salisbury Bee Trail offers visitors the opportunity to learn more about pollinators.



Victoria Park



From the café area, an oval path surrounds the football pitch and structure is provided by mature horse chestnuts, some of which have been lost in recent years.

The northwest boundary planting of mature Austrian pine, Weymouth pine and yew forms a mature and impressive backdrop to the park.

Further tree planting including pines, cherry, sycamore, chestnut and new pissards plum trees in the car park area.

Numerous younger trees have not been included in the report, such as the 20 beech trees planted in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and 10 cherry trees planted thanks to a donation by Salisbury Rotary Club.



4.4 GUIDE TO SMALLER SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL SITES (RECENTLY TRANSFERRED FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL)

Please refer to the plans in Appendix B for details of these locations (shown as orange/yellow polygons).

4.4.5 Highway Authority Owned Verges

A number of road verges within Salisbury are owned by the Highway Authority, but are managed by Salisbury City Council. Some of these already have trees and shrubs associated with them, while others are grassland only. Management of these areas is generally functional, with highway safety being the priority, with no current opportunity for additional tree planting.

4.4.6 Narrow Verge

Elsewhere, there are narrow road verges under the ownership of Salisbury City Council and these are similar, with a mixture of street trees, shrubs and grassland. Where highway safety will not be compromised, SCC has the opportunity to vary the management. The typically small width of these verges typically preclude new tree planting. Instead a change in grassland management and potential overseeding could transform these into areas of wildflowers rich verges also helping to manage surface water runoff to the road. Examples are shown below in plates 1 and 2.



4.4.7 Wide Verge

Wider verges also exist and a number of these are currently dominated by mown / managed grassland. Others support mature trees and shrubs that have clearly been present for several decades. These provide a good opportunity for management options, including new tree / shrub planting, reduced grass management and wildflower introduction. Examples are shown below in plates 3 and 4.



4.4.8 Small Public Open Space

There are numerous small public spaces within the land parcels transferred from Wiltshire Council. Often these will include existing mature or younger trees, but are often dominated with mown open grassland. These provide many different roles including providing a green setting for the housing, space for communities to spend time outdoors, informal sports and games alongside habitats for some species of fauna. Opportunities exist for some of these to support an increase in trees, shrubs, reduced grass management and wildflower introduction. This must be carefully balanced by the needs of the local community and users and all decisions should be based on the outcome of formal consultation with the local residents. Examples are shown below in plates 5 and 6.



4.4.9 Larger Public Open Space

Some larger public open spaces have been transferred to Salisbury City Council and these typically provide an existing combined recreation and landscape/biodiversity function. A wider range of opportunities are present for habitat diversification and enhancement, combined with improved amenity function, although this would typically need to be aligned with low impact activities that are compatible with the biodiversity objectives. Examples are shown below in plates 7 and 8.



4.4.10 Buildings/Gardens

Salisbury City Council is now responsible for a number of open space locations associated with Wiltshire Council's housing provision. Typically these are driveway entrance areas and gardens/landscape areas. These often have trees already associated with them, alongside managed grassland. Some locations have opportunities for additional planting or changes in the grassland management to enhance it for biodiversity. Examples are shown below in plates 9 and 10.



5 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLANTING AND ENHANCEMENTS

Please refer to Appendix E for plans showing the locations where tree planting or other beneficial management options are potentially available within SCC owned land, together with planting prescriptions for the different types of land/function/management present.

5.1 PROMOTING AND LIMITING FACTORS

5.1.1 Promoting Factors

Planting trees in urban areas can be challenging, but there are several factors that can help enable successful tree planting efforts. Some of these factors include:

1. **Planning:** Careful planning is essential to successful tree planting in urban areas. This includes selecting appropriate tree species that are well-suited to the local climate and soil conditions, and choosing planting locations that provide adequate space and access to water and nutrients.
2. **Community involvement:** Engaging with the local community is important for promoting tree planting efforts and ensuring that trees are well-cared for. This can involve educating residents about the benefits of trees, enlisting volunteers to help with planting and maintenance, and encouraging local businesses and organizations to sponsor tree planting initiatives.
3. **Partnerships:** Partnerships with local government agencies, non-profit organisations, and other stakeholders can help provide resources and expertise to support tree planting efforts. For example, partnerships between the SCC parks department and 'Friends of' groups or urban forestry programs led by others such as the Woodland Trust / Wiltshire Wildlife Trust can provide access to resources like planting materials, equipment, and trained personnel.
4. **Innovative planting techniques:** Innovative planting techniques, such as using engineered soils or planting trees in structural cells, can help overcome challenges like soil compaction and limited space in urban areas. These techniques can also help extend the lifespan of trees in urban environments.
5. **Policy support:** Policy support from local and national government can help incentivise and prioritise tree planting efforts in urban areas. This can include measures like tree planting requirements for new development projects, tax incentives for businesses that support tree planting, or zoning regulations that require green space in urban areas.

Overall, a combination of planning, community involvement, partnerships, innovative planting techniques, and policy support can help enable successful tree planting efforts in urban areas.

5.1.2 Limiting Factors

Planting trees in urban areas can provide a wide range of benefits, including reducing air pollution, mitigating the urban heat island effect, providing shade and shelter, improving water quality, and enhancing the aesthetic value of the area. However, there are several limiting factors that can make it challenging to plant trees in urban areas. Some of these factors include:

- **Space:** Urban areas are typically characterised by limited space, and finding adequate space to plant trees can be difficult. This is especially true in densely populated areas where buildings, roads, and other infrastructure take up most of the available space.

- Soil quality: Urban soils are often compacted, contaminated, or otherwise unsuitable for tree growth. Soil compaction can limit the movement of air and water through the soil, making it difficult for tree roots to grow and access nutrients.
- Climate: Urban areas tend to have higher temperatures and lower humidity levels than rural areas, which can make it more difficult for trees to survive. The urban heat island effect can also make it challenging to plant trees, as they may be exposed to extreme temperatures and other environmental stresses.
- Maintenance: Trees in urban areas require regular maintenance, including watering, pruning, and pest control. This can be a challenge where budgets and human resources are limited.
- Human factors: Human factors, such as vandalism, vehicle damage, and improper planting or maintenance practices, can also limit the success of tree planting efforts in urban areas.

Overall, while there are many benefits to planting trees in urban areas, it is important to carefully consider these limiting factors to ensure that tree planting efforts are successful and sustainable.

5.2 SPACE TO PLANT

Salisbury City Council owns and manages a large amount of open green space within the City, much of which already supports mature or maturing trees, recently planted trees, existing and recently planted shrubs, flowers and grassland areas. The role and function of these spaces varies widely and Appendix E includes a series of plans that help to illustrate the distribution of these spaces, their key function and the existing tree presence. Equally they highlight where there is also space for additional tree planting, subject to a detailed assessment of promoting and limiting factors and the outcome of local community consultation and feedback. It is critical to have the right trees in the right places and with the support of the local community.

The amount of space a tree needs to grow depends on several factors, such as the species of the tree, the climate and soil conditions, and the purpose of the tree planting.

Generally, larger tree species like oaks or beech require more space to grow than smaller trees like silver birch or field maple. In urban or suburban areas, trees planted along streets or in smaller open spaces may require careful pruning and maintenance to prevent them from outgrowing the space available.

When planting a tree, it's important to consider its mature size and to provide enough space for its roots to grow and spread. For most trees, the roots extend at least as far as the branches, so a good rule of thumb is to provide a planting area that is at least twice the width of the mature tree's canopy.

Appendix E provides an initial estimate of the numbers of average sized trees that could be planted in the different SCC owned open spaces where there is the potential for additional tree planting.

5.3 INEQUALITY IN WARD CANOPY COVERAGE

The analysis of the tree canopy coverage within the different Wards within Salisbury Parish has shown a wide range of inequality of tree canopy coverage between Wards. This analysis shows that Salisbury City Council is responsible for between 7% and 18% of all trees within the Salisbury Parish Wards. Overall, Salisbury Parish has a canopy coverage of 257.56ha.

The Ward with the largest canopy percentage coverage in the Parish is Harnham West (18%), with the lowest being St Edmund's Ward at 5%. The percentage canopy coverage for all of Salisbury Parish (measured as an average of the individual ward % cover) is 12.4 %.

This can be compared against a national average of 15.8%.

Using the i-Tree Canopy tool, the canopy cover for 283 towns and cities in England was assessed by Forest Research in 2016 as part of a baseline study. Canopy cover was assessed at the town or city level, and an average canopy cover of 15.8% was estimated.

Whilst the average ward canopy coverage for Salisbury as a percentage is 12.4% , St Paul's and St Edmond's Wards have the lowest level of canopy coverage with 8% and 5% respectively, which is well below the national and Salisbury canopy cover average.

The proposed commitment set out in this SCC Tree and Ecosystem Strategy is to '*Increase Minimum Canopy Cover in All Wards to National Average plus 5%*'. As the national average is 16%, the SCC target Ward canopy coverage would be a minimum of 21% for each individual Ward – noting that this may not be possible through planting additional trees on SCC land alone. Other uses and local resident's requirements and priorities must be respected. As such, SCC will need to work with other partners/stakeholders and the local community itself as it is possible there will be a need to plant more trees on land outside of the ownership of SCC to meet this target.

Aiming for this target of 21% canopy coverage echoes thinking elsewhere in England, and exceeds the IUCN recommendation that the UK achieves 19% canopy cover.

6 ADVICE NOTES

A series of advice notes have been produced for the following land use types known to be associated with trees on SCC land: footpaths; highway verges; small amenity sites; hedges; trees. These are set out in Volume 2, Appendix G.

- Footpaths
- Highway verges
- Small amenity sites
- Cemeteries/crematorium
- Allotments
- Hedgerows. Hedgerow strengthening
- Trees. Woodland edge/glade management
- Woodland management – thinning, creation of log piles, ash die back approach, hazel coppicing.
- Larger Public Parks
- Country Parks

7 SYNTHESIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 SYNTHESIS

Salisbury City Council (SCC) is a parish Council in Wiltshire, England, with responsibility for various open spaces in the parish including allotments, amenity sites, cemeteries and play areas. It has recently taken on responsibility for other areas passing over from Wiltshire Council (WCC), via asset transfer, in particular a number of road verges and grassland / trees associated with some housing.

A tree and ecosystem strategy for Salisbury is important for a wide range of reasons including biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, human. Well-being, disaster risk reduction, and economic benefits. Developing a tree and ecosystem strategy will help ensure that these important benefits are maintained and enhanced over the long term. It involves a holistic approach to conservation and management, taking into account the social, economic, and environmental aspects of tree and ecosystem management.

Analysis of tree mapping data and land boundaries provided by Wiltshire Council has provided a reasonable estimate of the number of trees over 3m associated with SCC land. The total number of trees on SCC land is estimated to be 13723 trees! The total number of trees within Salisbury Parish (based on tree points within the National Tree Atlas in 2022) is estimated to be 53,152.

The Council fully acknowledges the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. The Council is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its community in support of Government and Wiltshire Council targets to reduce carbon emissions, alongside wide-ranging measures to conserve and protect, as well as restore and enhance biodiversity within the Parish. As such it operates a Climate Change Action Plan and Policy (which includes natural environment management), an Environmental Policy and a Tree Policy. From a very simplistic and conservative approach, by adopting figures presented by Natural England¹ of tree carbon stocks as being 114 tonnes carbon per hectare (t C ha⁻¹) for a generalised 30-year old mixed woodland and applying this across the total hectareage of trees within SCC and Salisbury Parish land, the following crude estimate of tree carbon stocks would be:

SCC Land: 79ha x 114 = 9006 t C stored within the associated trees; and

Salisbury Parish: 258ha x 114 = 29,412 t C stored within associated trees.

This would exclude carbon associated with soils under the trees and surrounding habitats and the carbon sequestering function of trees, particularly younger trees. As such the likely carbon stock associated with trees and associated soil/other habitats in Salisbury is likely to be much higher.

There is also a wide range of local and national policy with respect to trees and promoting the extent of urban trees, together with associated ecosystem services including the Wiltshire Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. A significant body of national legislation also exists to help protect trees and associated habitats and species.

Salisbury City Council is already heavily involved in the planting of trees in a number of the location is owns including formal parks and other semi-natural open spaces. It partners with a number of local organisations and also provides replacement trees where required. Recently, SCC approved a policy to use part of the fee at Salisbury Crematorium to fund tree planting as a legacy to those who have passed away.

Salisbury City Council's land, as well as the remaining parts of Salisbury therefore provide a wide range of services, which we often take for granted. Referred to as Ecosystem Services or 'nature-based services', they considerable

¹ Natural England Research Report NERR 094 Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat: A Review of the Evidence. 2021

increase the value of what might otherwise appear as an everyday area of grassland, scrub, allotments, woodland or trees in streets. Overall, the urban greenspaces and trees associated with SCCs land provide a range of ecosystem services that are critical for the community's well-being, environmental sustainability, and the health and resilience of Salisbury's urban ecosystems.

There are eight Wards within Salisbury parish, which are represented on Figure 4.2 below. These cover the city center, semi-urban edges of the city, with some Wards including agricultural land and other green space. This influences the distribution of trees within the Parish (e.g., typically trees are absent within large open agricultural fields).

The National Tree Atlas data have been used, alongside the Parish and Ward boundaries to confirm the percentage and area of canopy coverage in Salisbury and per Ward. The analysis of the tree canopy coverage within the different Wards within Salisbury Parish has shown a wide range of inequality of tree canopy coverage between Wards. This analysis shows that Salisbury City Council is responsible for between 7% and 18% of all trees within the Salisbury Parish Wards. Overall, Salisbury Parish has a canopy coverage of 257.56ha.

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This can be compared against a national average of 15.8%.

Salisbury City Council (SCC) has therefore set a target of increasing tree canopy cover on land it owns or controls so that it exceeds the current national average of 16% by 5%, i.e.. If feasible SCC Land will support a tree canopy coverage of at least 21% within each of the Wards in Salisbury parish. If this is not feasible, SCC will strive to achieve this Ward canopy cover average through its influence with other stakeholders/partners and local residents.

7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Further to the adoption of this strategy a number of actions and further works naturally emerge and require implementation. These include the following.

- Review of the potential tree planting areas and those areas where an alternative management approach could be considered to maximise the ecosystem service opportunities.
- Undertake feasibility appraisal of planting/alternative management to maximise the benefits to residents and the environment, including local consultation.
- Develop prioritised planting and management plans for those agreed areas where additional planting/alternative management has been agreed with local communities and review current management plans elsewhere in response to the consultation carried out as part of this tree strategy.
- Implement program of planting/management funded through replacement planting, personal in memorium funding and legacy funding through the Salisbury Crematorium.
- If deemed helpful, undertake further detailed tree surveys of the larger sites where this strategy has been informed by data currently being collected by Bawden Tree Care on behalf of SCC.
- Review and update this tree and ecosystem service strategy every five years.

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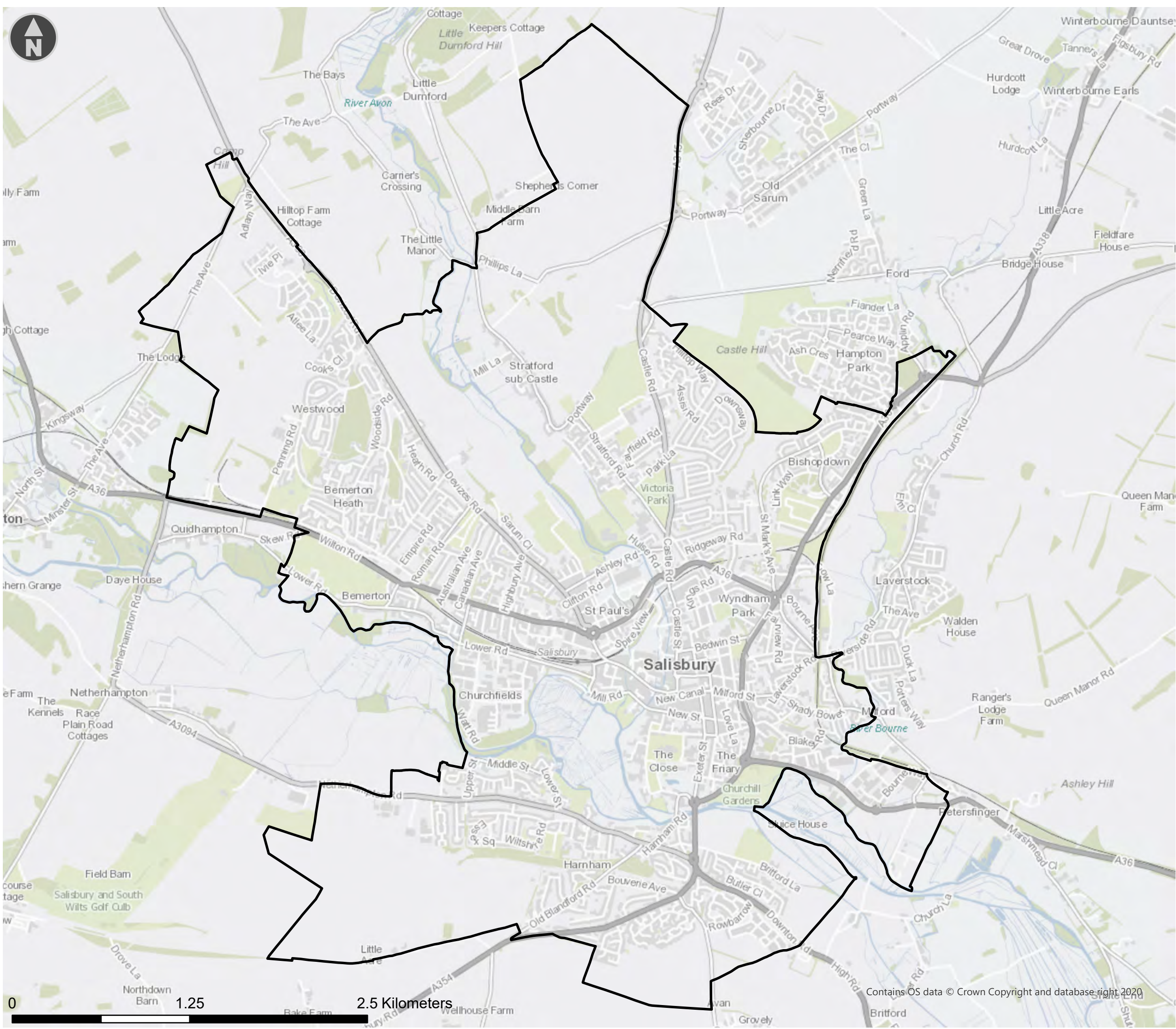
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APPENDIX A SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL TREES AND
IMPORTANT/SENSITIVE LAND

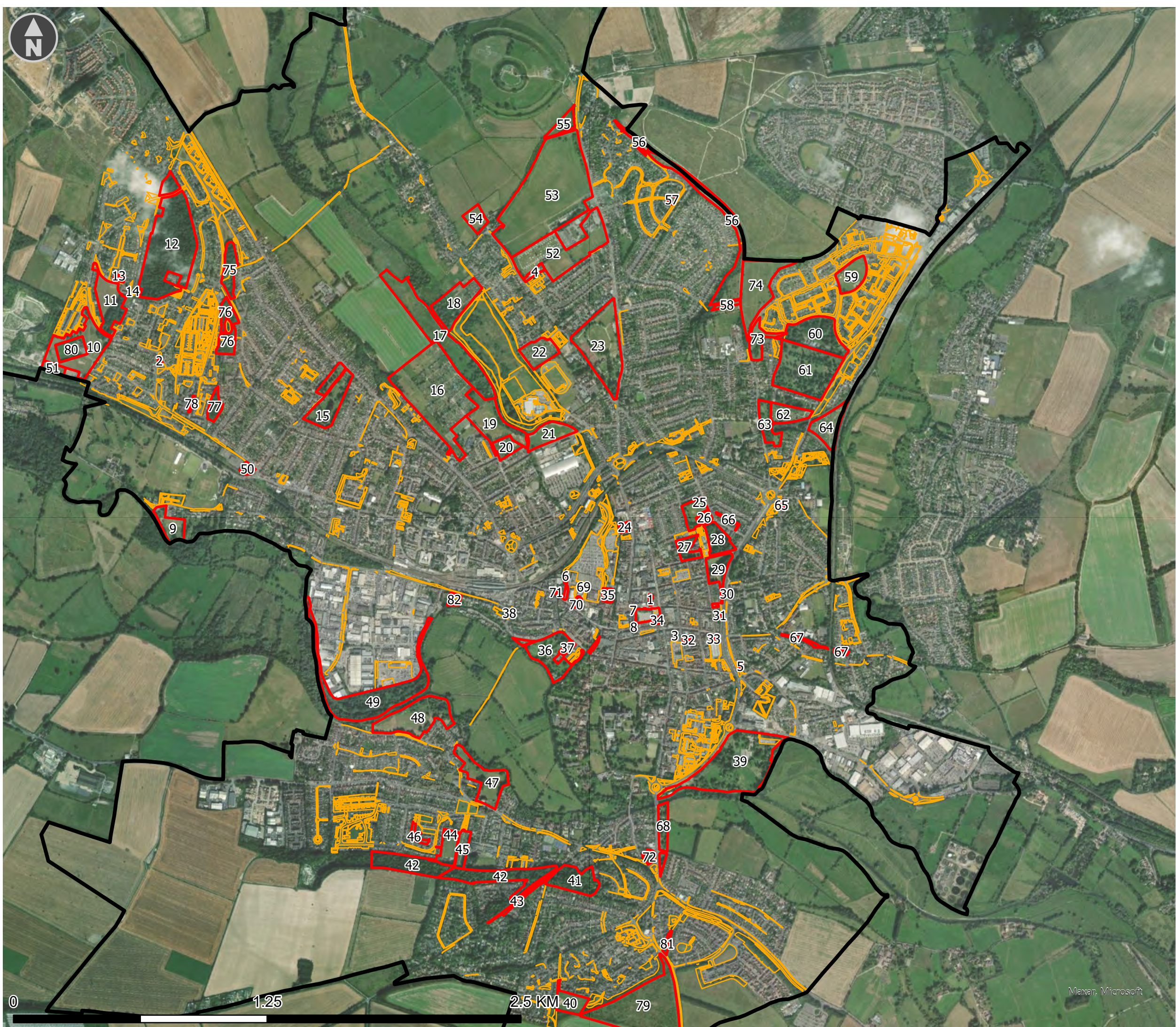





 Salisbury Parish Boundary

CLIENT Salisbury City Council		
PROJECT Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy		
TITLE Salisbury Parish Boundary		
SCALE @ A3 1:25,000	CREATED BY CA	CHECKED BY MJ
REFERENCE J00911-001 v2	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE 16/6/2022

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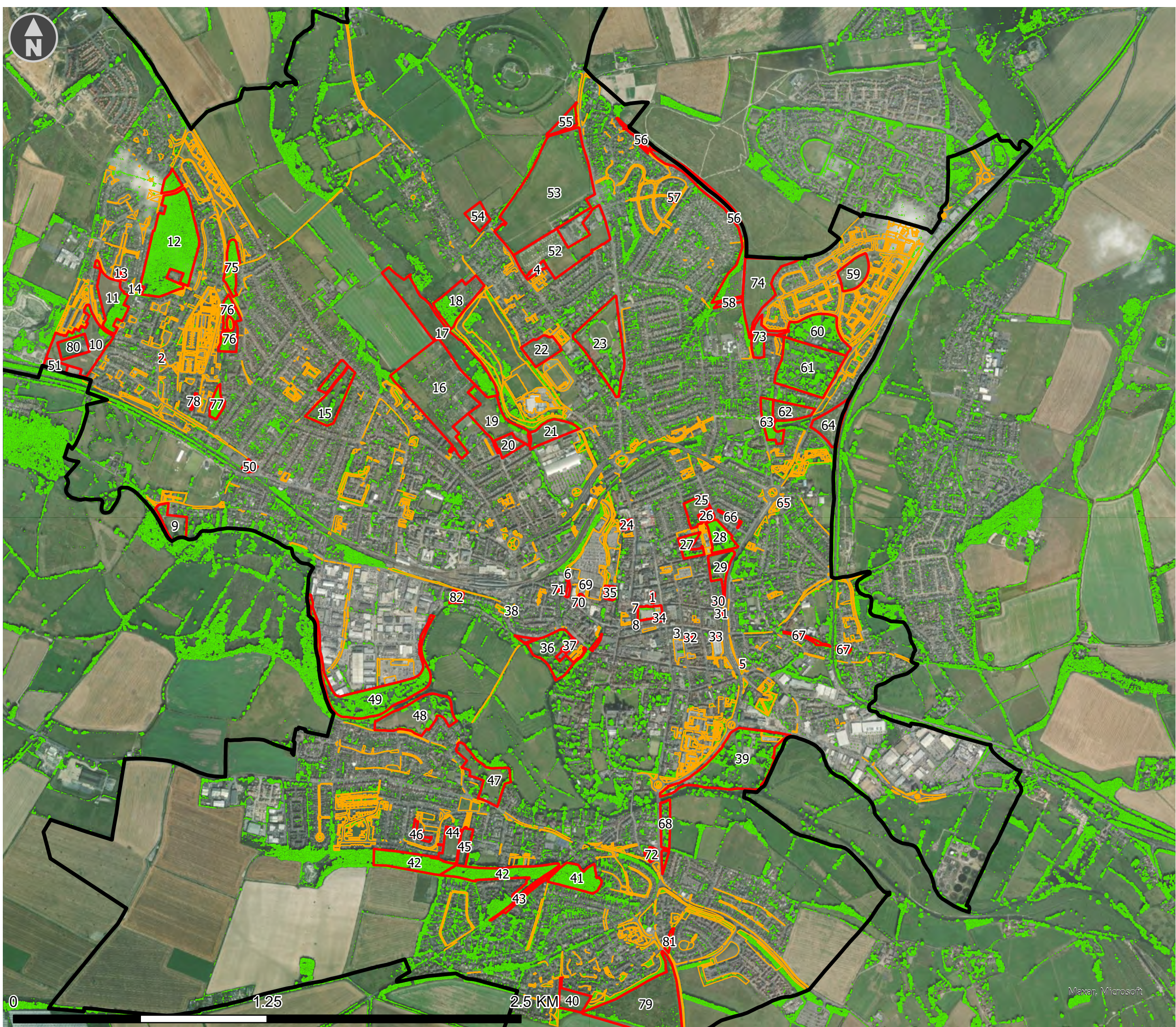
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-  Salisbury Parish Boundary
-  Salisbury City Council Sold Transferred Land (May 2023)
-  Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Land (May 2023)

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT Salisbury City Council		
PROJECT Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy		
TITLE SCC Ownership and Management Land		
SCALE @ A3 1:17,500	CREATED BY CA	CHECKED BY MJ
REFERENCE J00911-003	ISSUE/REVISION A	DATE 24/5/2023

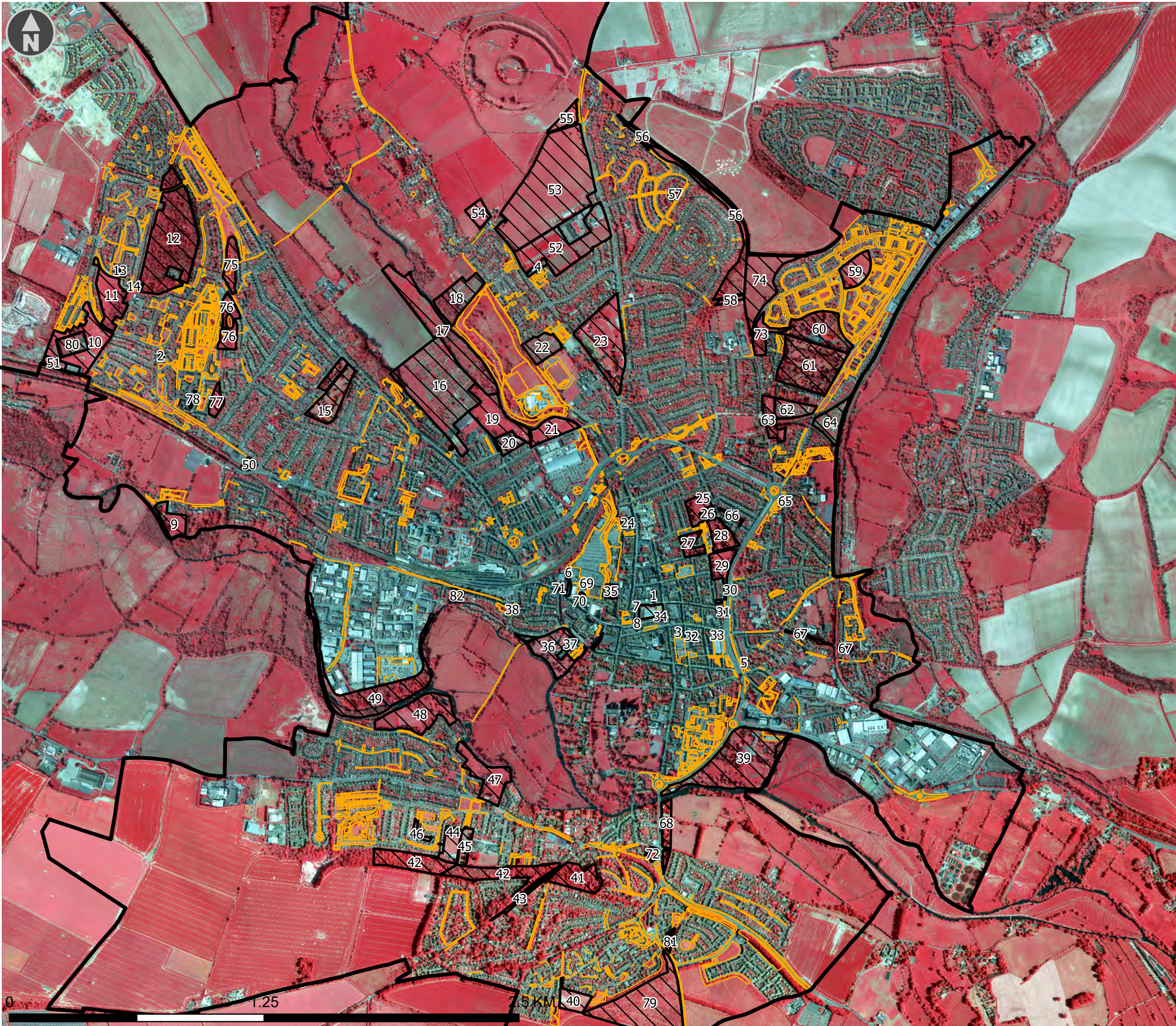
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-  Salisbury Parish Boundary
-  Salisbury City Council Sold Transferred Land (May 2023)
-  Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Land (May 2023)
-  Tree Canopy Areas (National Tree Mapping – © Bluesky)

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT Salisbury City Council		
PROJECT Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy		
TITLE SCC Ownership and Management Land with National Tree Map Canopies		
SCALE @ A3 1:17,500	CREATED BY CA	CHECKED BY MJ
REFERENCE J00911-004	ISSUE/REVISION A	DATE 24/5/2023

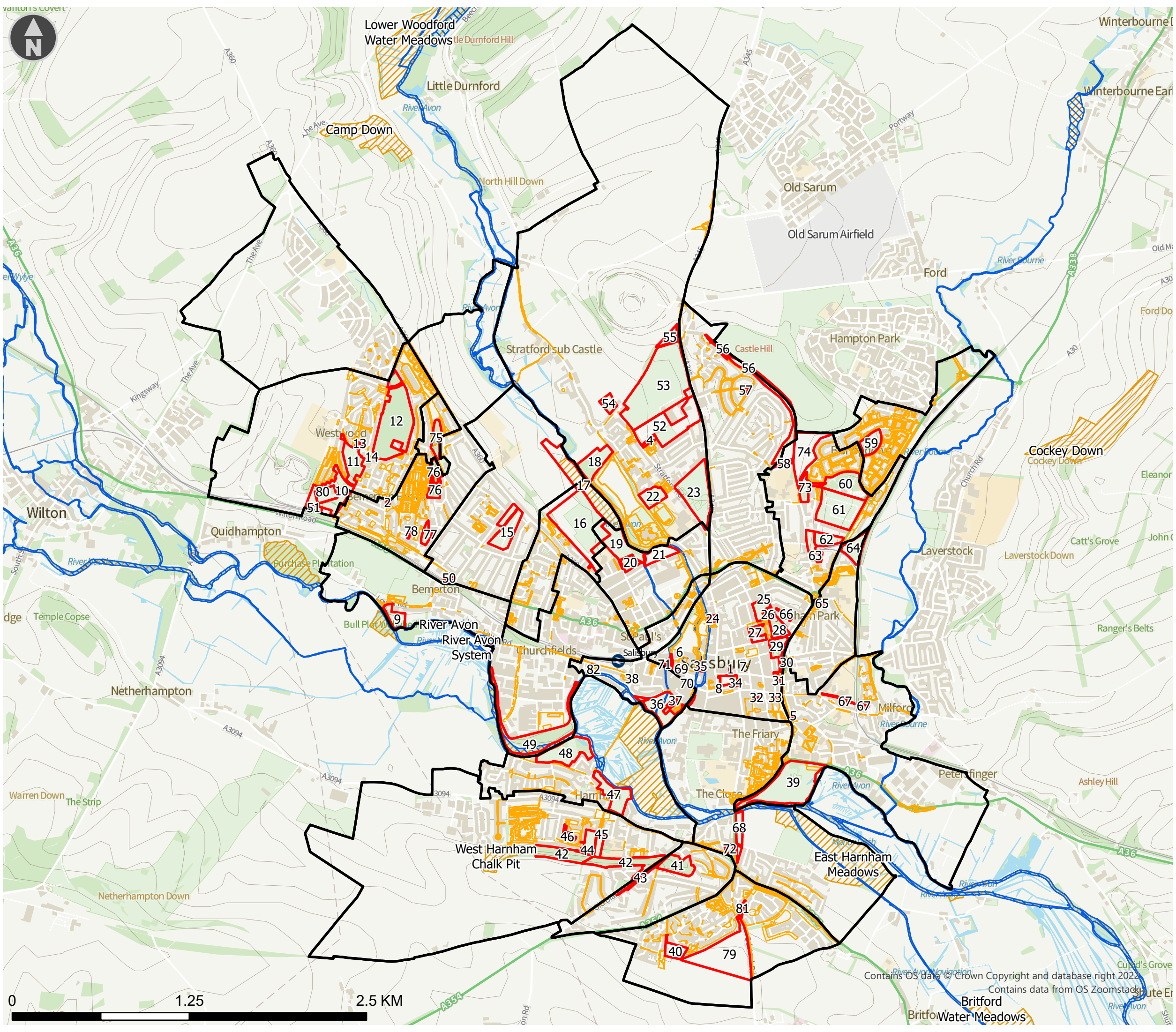
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-  Salisbury Parish Boundary
-  Salisbury City Council Sold Transferred Land (May 2023)
-  Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Land (May 2023)

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT Salisbury City Council		
PROJECT Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy		
TITLE SCC Ownership and Management Land with Bluesky CIR Aerial Photography		
SCALE @ A3 1:17,500	CREATED BY CA	CHECKED BY MJ
REFERENCE J00911-005	ISSUE/REVISION A	DATE 24/5/2023

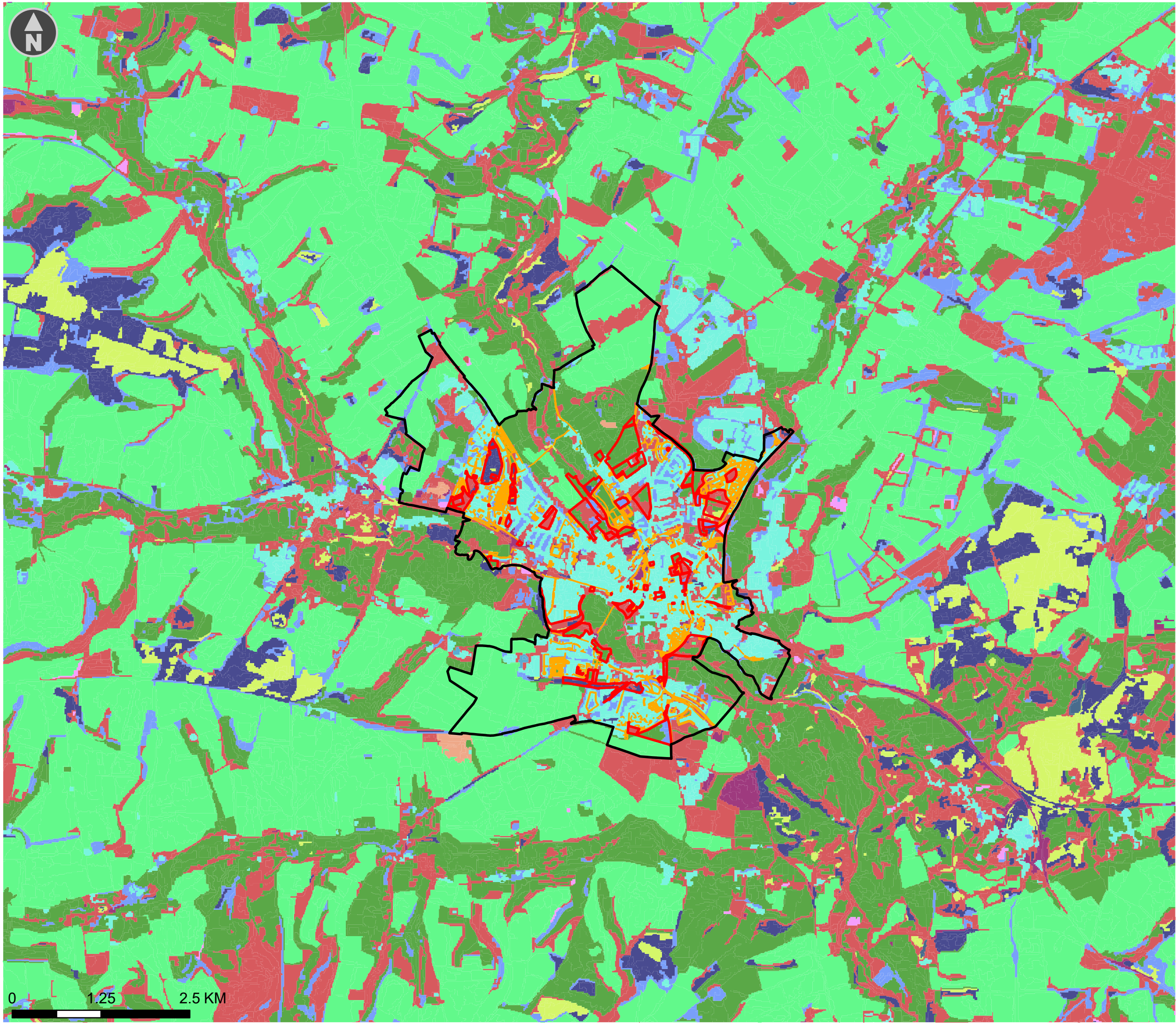
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- Salisbury Parish Boundary
- Salisbury City Council Sold Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Special Areas of Conservation (Natural England)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Natural England)

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT	Salisbury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy	
TITLE	Designated Sites	
SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:25,000	CA	MJ
REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J00911-006	A	24/5/2023

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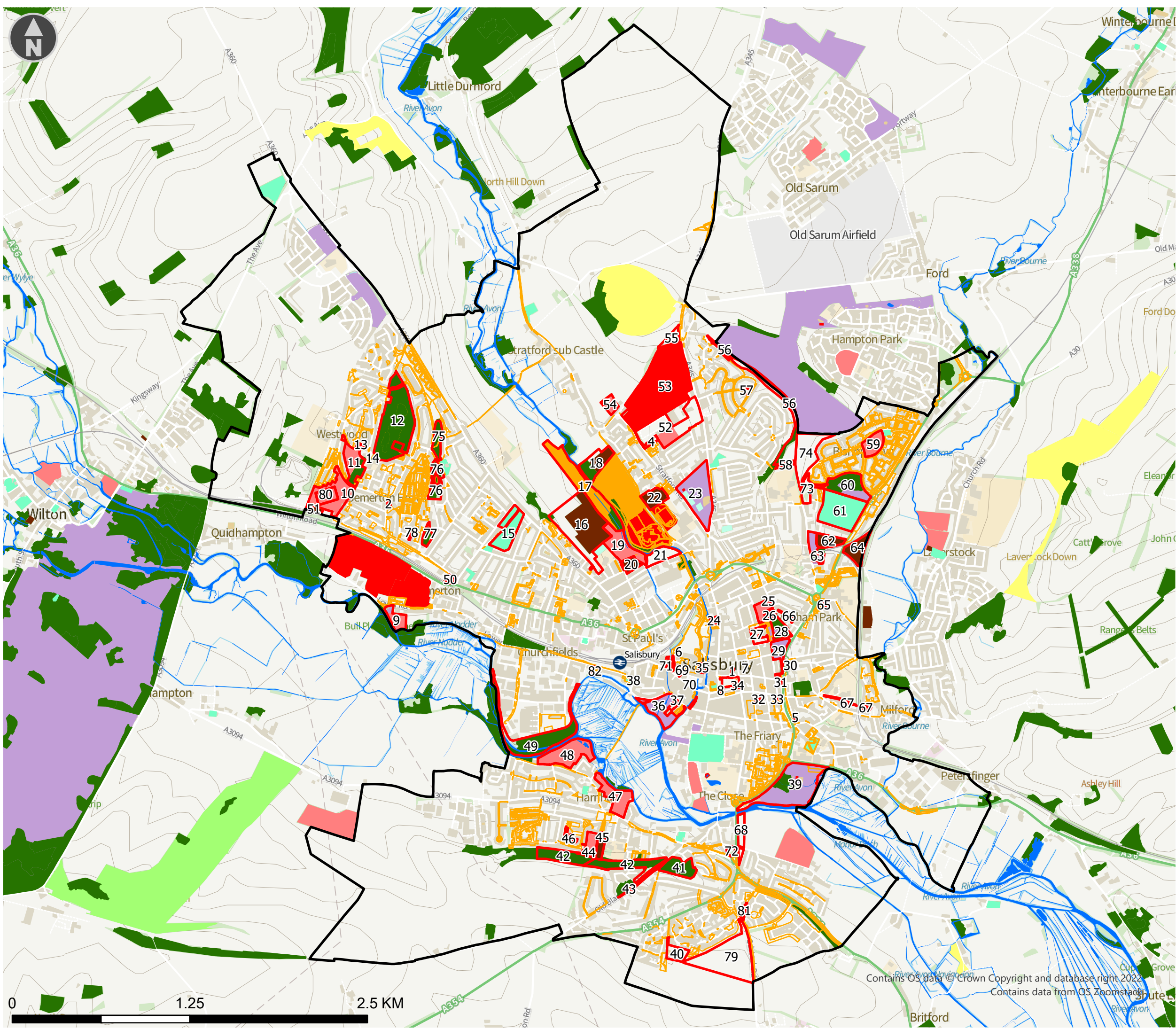


JOHNS
ASSOCIATES

- Salisbury Parish Boundary
 - Salisbury City Council Sold Transferred Land (May 2023)
 - Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Living England Habitat Map Phase 4 (Natural England)
- Acid, Calcareous, Neutral Grassland
 - Arable and Horticultural
 - Bare Ground
 - Bare Sand
 - Bracken
 - Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland
 - Built-up Areas and Gardens
 - Coniferous Woodland
 - Dwarf Shrub Heath
 - Fen, Marsh and Swamp
 - Improved Grassland
 - Scrub
 - Unclassified
 - Water

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT Salisbury City Council		
PROJECT Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy		
TITLE Natural England Living England Map		
SCALE @ A3 1:50,000	CREATED BY CA	CHECKED BY MJ
REFERENCE J00911-008	ISSUE/REVISION A	DATE 24/5/2023

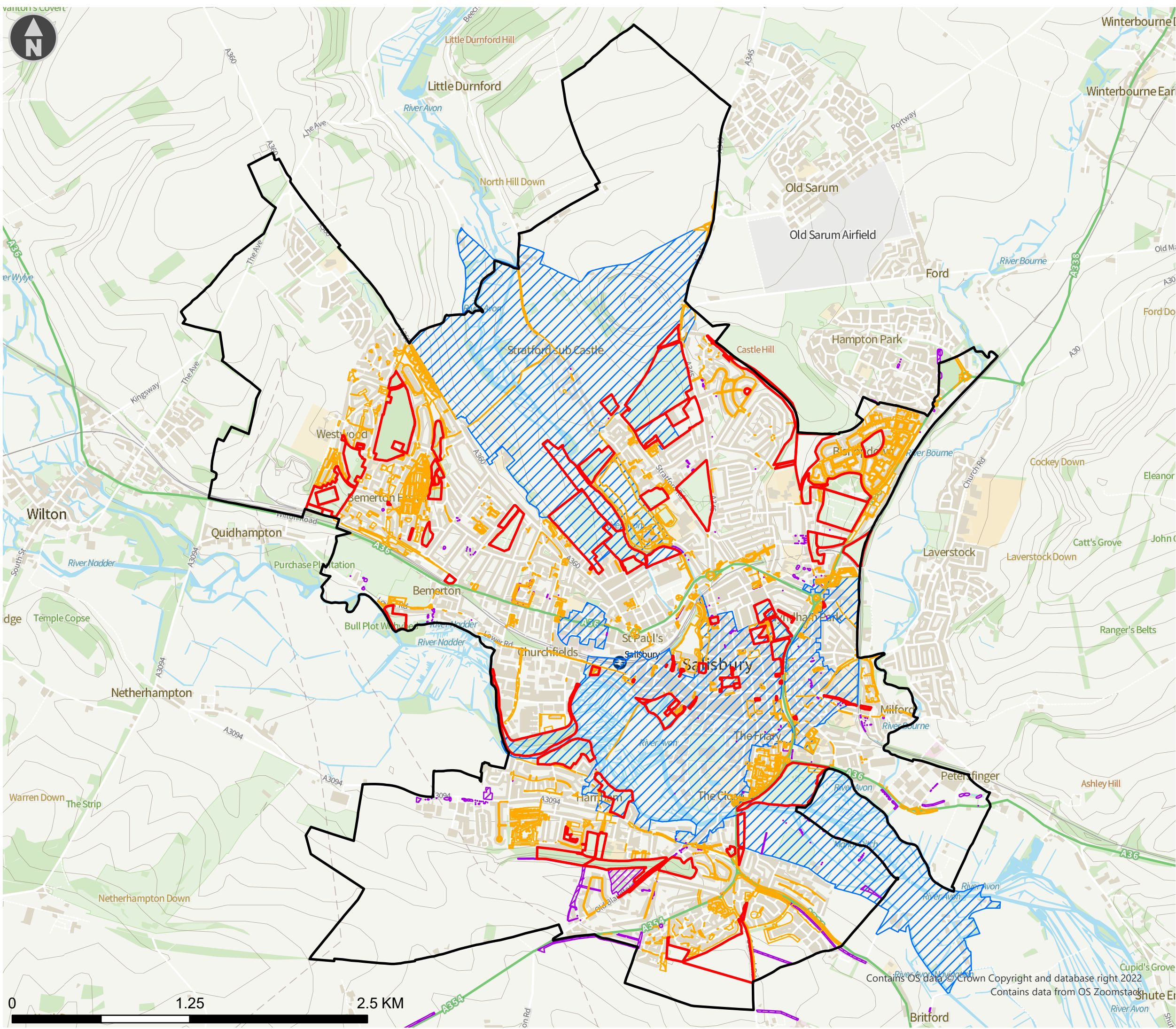
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- Salisbury Parish Boundary
- Salisbury City Council Sold Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Natural England GreenBlue Infrastructure Type
 - Local Nature Reserve
 - Access Land (CRoW)
 - Activity Spaces Provision (Inc Bowling Greens, Tennis Courts)
 - Allotments or Community Growing Spaces
 - Cemeteries and Religious Grounds
 - Golf Course
 - Other Sports Facilities
 - Play Space Provision
 - Playing Fields
 - Public Park - General
 - Water Courses and Surface Water Features
 - Woodland

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT	Salisbury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy	
TITLE	GBI Data	
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REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J00911-010	A	24/5/2023

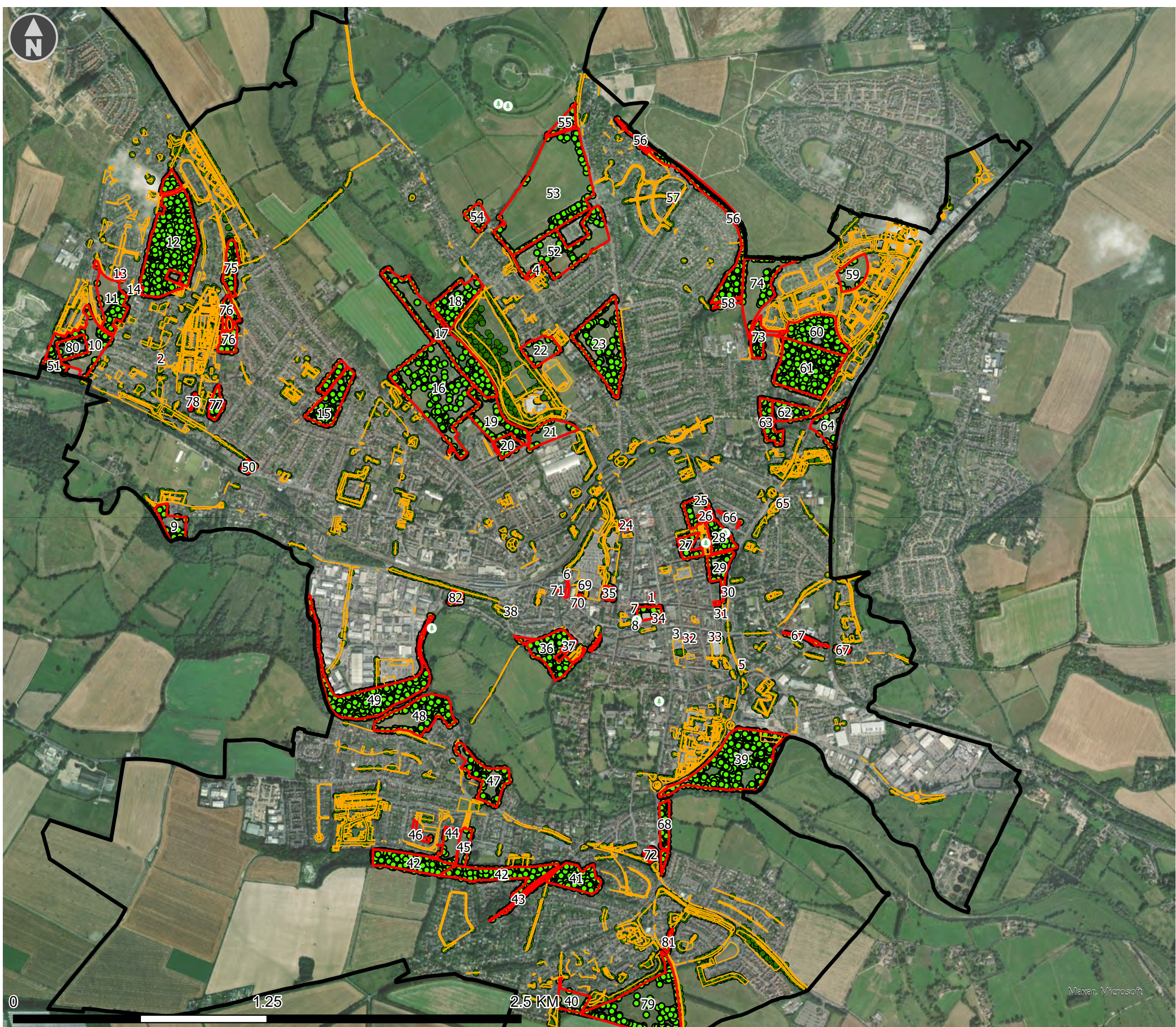
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- Salisbury Parish Boundary
- Salisbury City Council Sold Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Conservation Areas

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT	Salisbury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy	
TITLE	TPOs and Conservation Areas	
SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:25,000	CA	MJ
REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J00911-011	A	24/5/2023

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- Salisbury Parish Boundary
- Salisbury City Council Sold Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Central Tree Points (red boundary)
- Central Tree Points (orange boundary)
- Trees of Significance (ATI Data)

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT	Salisbury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy	
TITLE	SCC Ownership and Management Land with Central Tree Points	
SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
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REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
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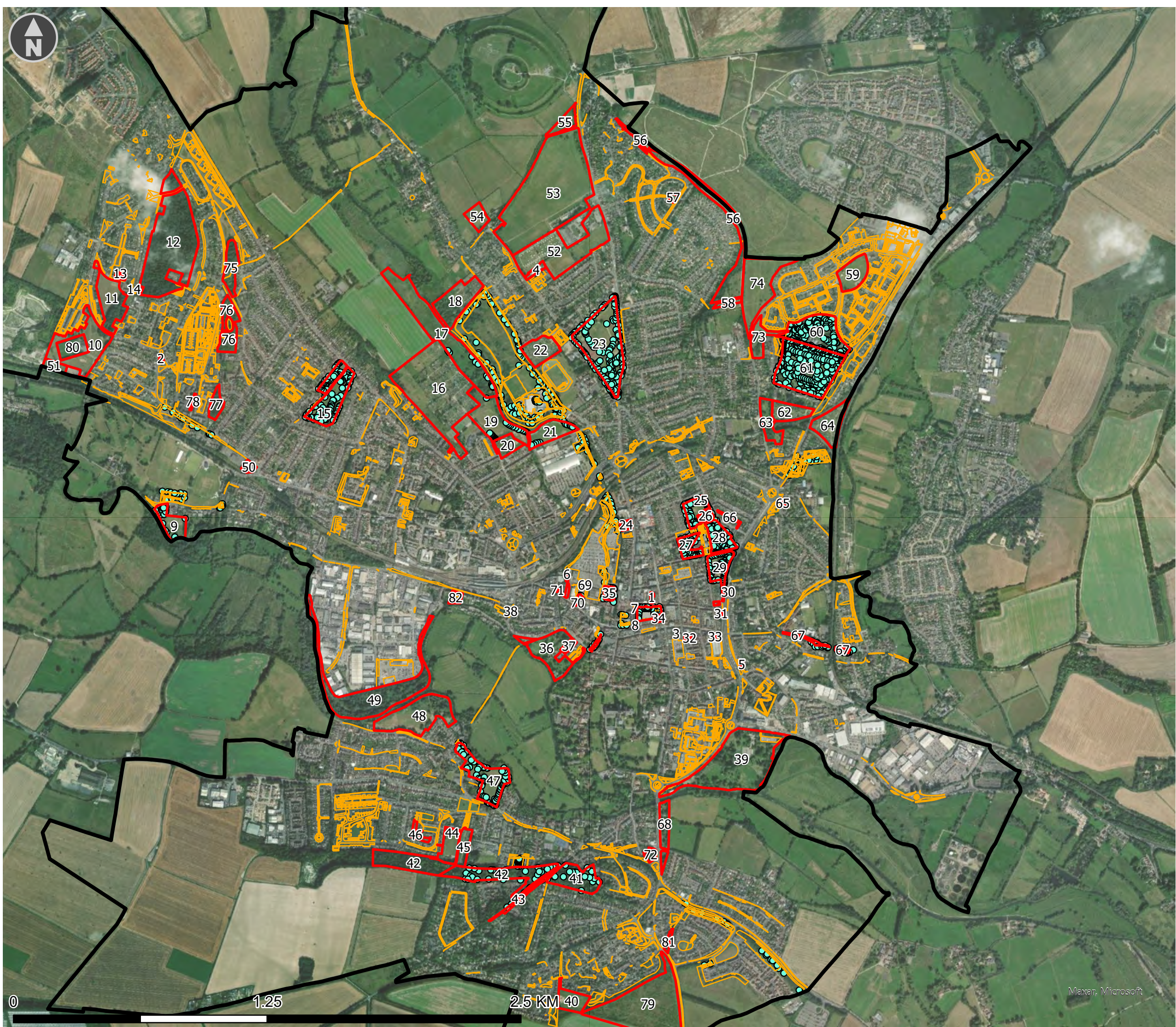
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- SCC Town or Parish Trees
- ♥ SCC Trees of Interest (ATI Data)
- SCC Town Or Parish Transferred Land (with Trees)
- Salisbury Parish Boundary

CLIENT	Salisbury City Council		
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Survey		
TITLE	SCC Ownership and Management (Town or Parish Land) with Central Tree Points		
SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY	
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REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE	
J00911-012b		15/6/2022	

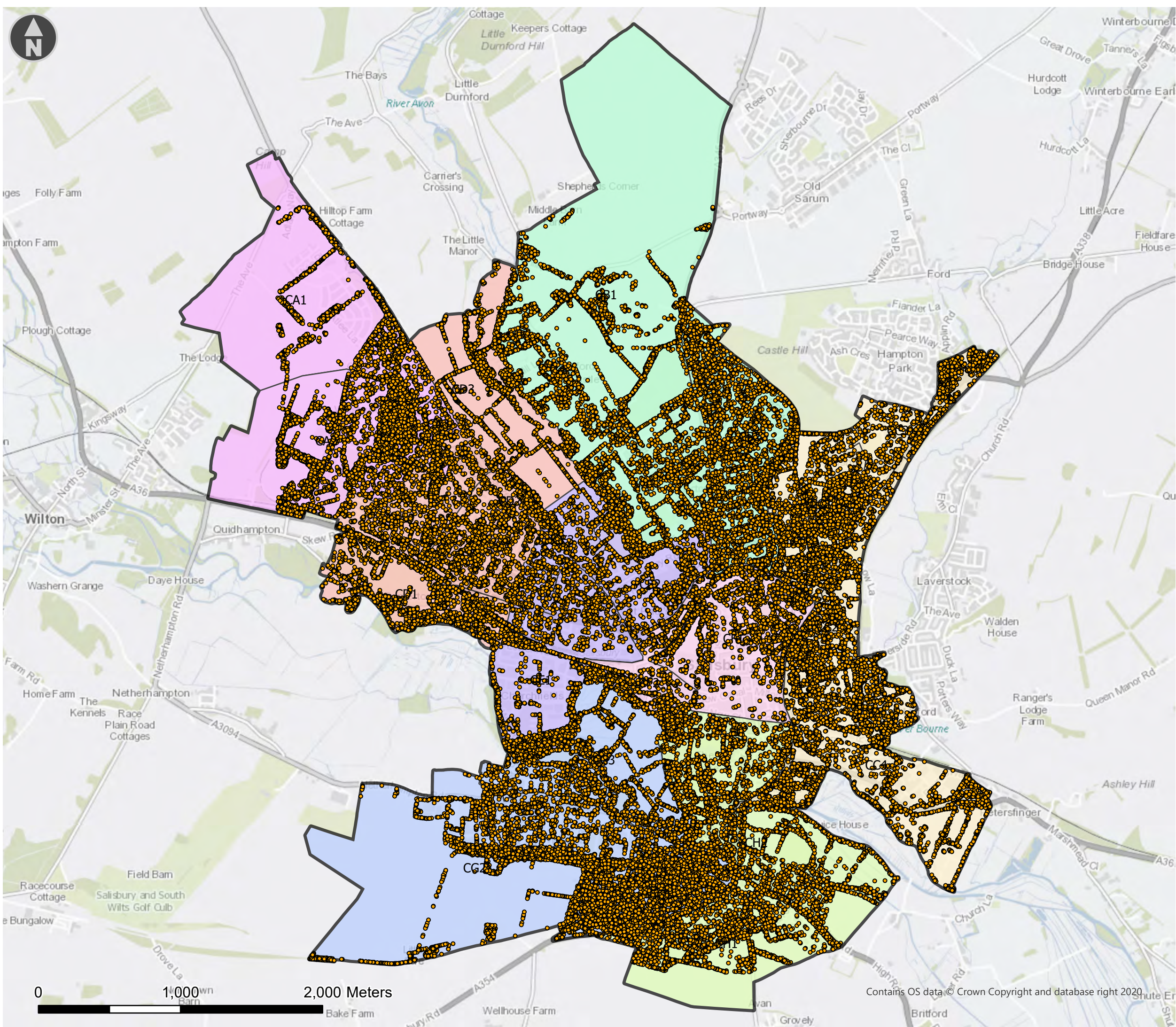
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- Salisbury Parish Boundary
- Salisbury City Council Sold Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Land (May 2023)
- Previously Surveyed Trees (Bawden Tree Care)

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT	Salisbury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy	
TITLE	SCC Ownership and Management Land with Previously Surveyed Trees	
SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
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REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J00911-013	A	24/5/2023

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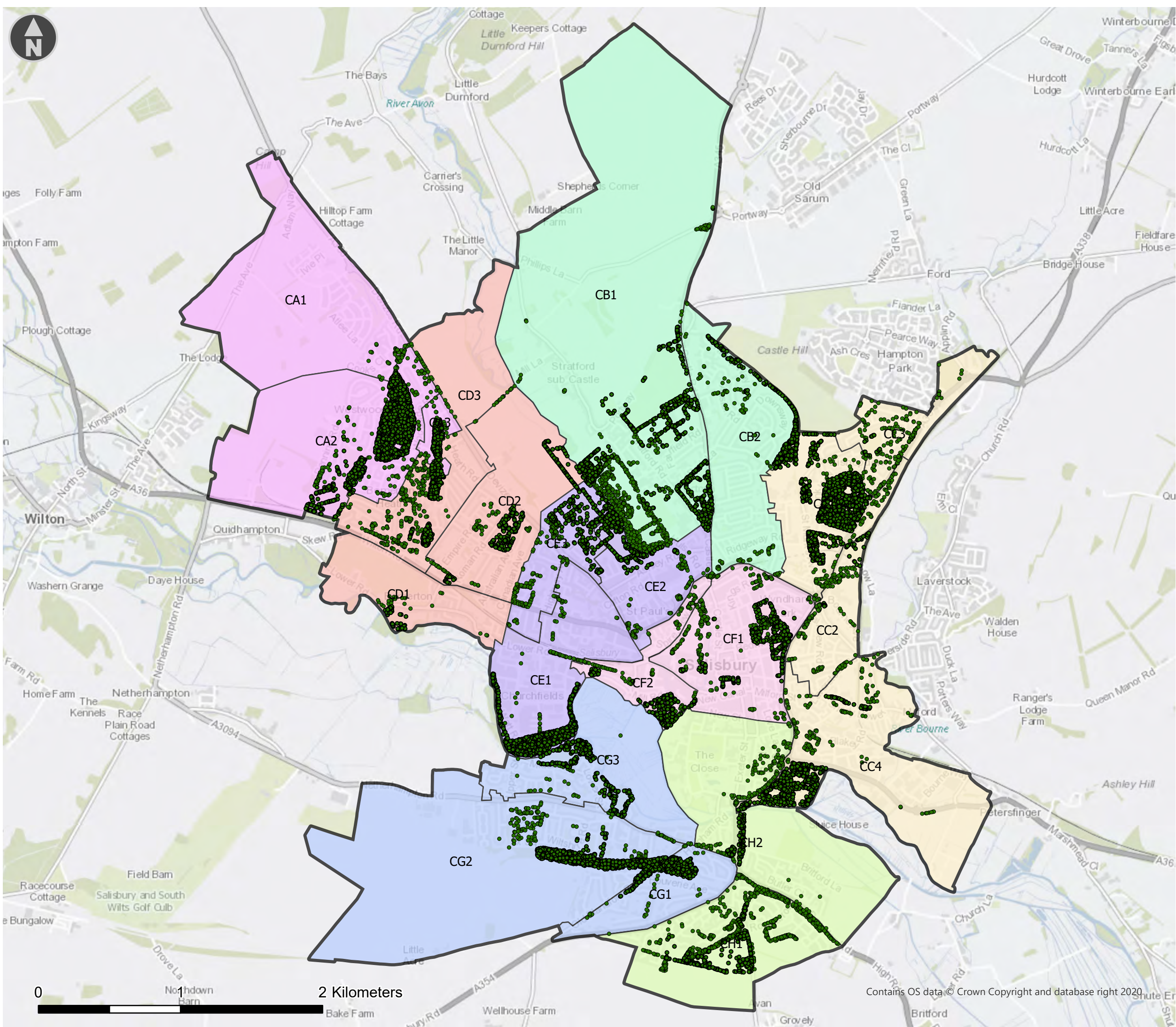


- Salisbury CP
- Bemerton Heath Ward
- Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward
- Harnham East Ward
- Harnham West Ward
- Milford Ward
- St Edmund's Ward
- St Francis & Stratford Ward
- St Paul's Ward
- All Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary
©Blueskies

Ward	Count	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	9,062	17%
CB1	5,044	
CB2	4,018	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	6,946	13%
CD1	1,717	
CD2	2,449	
CD3	2,780	
Bemerton Heath Ward	6,460	12%
CA1	1,224	
CA2	4,766	
CA3	470	
St Paul's Ward	4,502	8%
CE1	2,226	
CE2	1,023	
CE3	1,253	
St Edmund's Ward	2,952	6%
CF1	1,882	
CF2	1,070	
Harnham West Ward	8,625	16%
CG1	2,459	
CG2	4,068	
CG3	2,098	
Harnham East Ward	5,604	11%
CH1	2,320	
CH2	3,284	
Milford Ward	9,001	17%
CC1	2,805	
CC2	1,263	
CC3	1,167	
CC4	3,766	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	53,152	

CLIENT	Salisbury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy	
TITLE	Number of All Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary per Ward	
SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:25,000	CA	MJ
REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J00911-014a		16/11/2022

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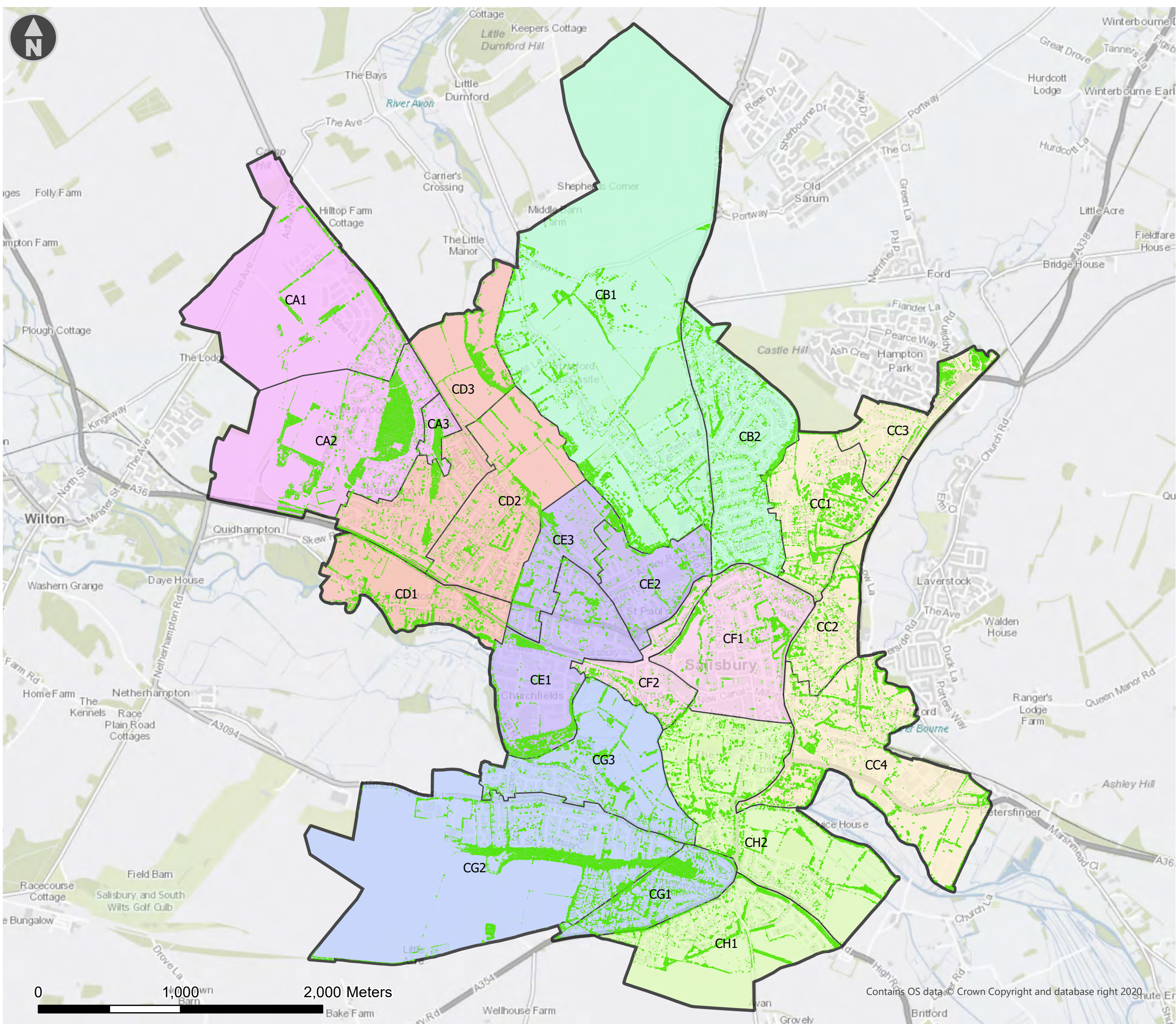


- Salisbury CP
- Bemerton Heath Ward
- Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward
- Harnham East Ward
- Harnham West Ward
- Milford Ward
- St Edmund's Ward
- St Francis & Stratford Ward
- St Paul's Ward
- Trees owned by SCC (May 2023)

Ward	Count	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	1,825	13%
CB1	1,411	
CB2	414	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	1,154	8%
CD1	74	
CD2	318	
CD3	762	
Bemerton Heath Ward	2,577	19%
CA1	30	
CA2	2,284	
CA3	263	
St Paul's Ward	1,785	13%
CE1	921	
CE2	294	
CE3	570	
St Edmund's Ward	976	7%
CF1	635	
CF2	341	
Harnham West Ward	1,695	12%
CG1	376	
CG2	981	
CG3	338	
Harnham East Ward	1,272	9%
CH1	1,004	
CH2	268	
Milford Ward	2,439	18%
CC1	1,283	
CC2	178	
CC3	198	
CC4	780	
Total Trees owned by Salisbury CC	13,723	

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT	Salisbury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy	
TITLE	Number of SCC owned Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary per Ward	
SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:25,000	CA	MJ
REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J00911-014b	A	24/5/2023

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- Salisbury CP
- Bemerton Heath Ward
- Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward
- Harnham East Ward
- Harnham West Ward
- Milford Ward
- St Edmund's Ward
- St Francis & Stratford Ward
- St Paul's Ward
- Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary (Canopy)

Ward	Canopy Area (ha)	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	39.71	15%
CB1	25.74	
CB2	13.96	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	32.48	13%
CD1	8.56	
CD2	10.15	
CD3	13.76	
Bemerton Heath Ward	30.47	12%
CA1	5.83	
CA2	22.36	
CA3	2.29	
St Paul's Ward	21.68	8%
CE1	10.98	
CE2	4.53	
CE3	6.16	
St Edmund's Ward	13.77	5%
CF1	8.90	
CF2	4.87	
Harnham West Ward	46.98	18%
CG1	13.78	
CG2	22.62	
CG3	10.58	
Harnham East Ward	28.87	11%
CH1	10.41	
CH2	18.46	
Milford Ward	43.62	17%
CC1	14.59	
CC2	5.70	
CC3	5.24	
CC4	18.09	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	257.56	

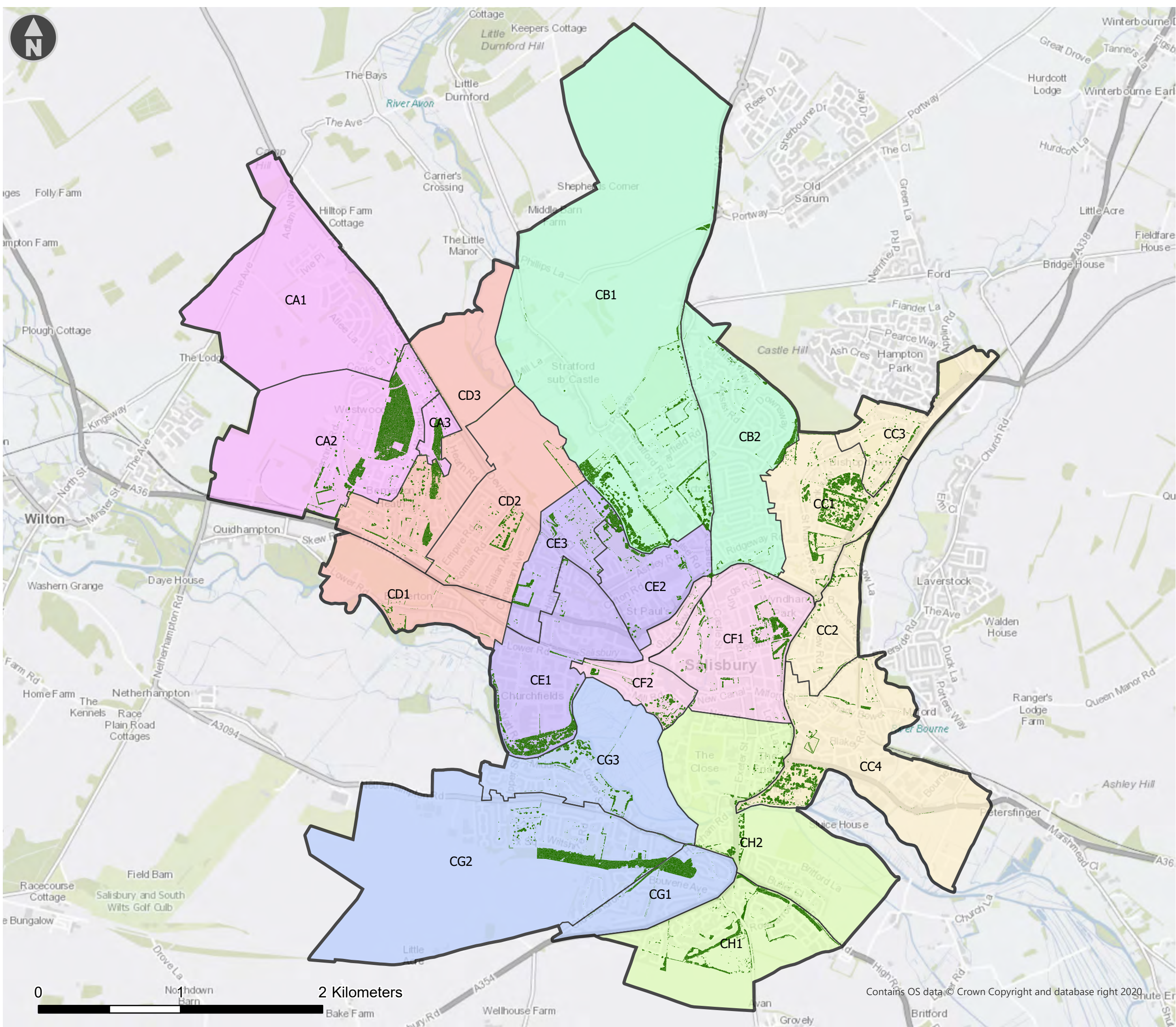
CLIENT Salisbury City Council

PROJECT Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy

TITLE Canopy Area of All Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary per Ward

SCALE @ A3 1:25,000	CREATED BY CA	CHECKED BY MJ
REFERENCE J00911-015a	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE 17/11/2022

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- Salisbury CP
- Bemerton Heath Ward
- Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward
- Harnham East Ward
- Harnham West Ward
- Milford Ward
- St Edmund's Ward
- St Francis & Stratford Ward
- St Paul's Ward
- SCC Owned Trees (Canopy)


Ward	Canopy Area (ha)	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	10.44	13%
CB1	8.71	
CB2	1.73	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	5.74	7%
CD1	0.39	
CD2	1.80	
CD3	3.55	
Bemerton Heath Ward	14.35	18%
CA1	0.19	
CA2	12.68	
CA3	1.48	
St Paul's Ward	9.86	13%
CE1	5.01	
CE2	1.71	
CE3	3.14	
St Edmund's Ward	5.85	7%
CF1	4.11	
CF2	1.74	
Harnham West Ward	11.78	15%
CG1	2.97	
CG2	6.80	
CG3	2.01	
Harnham East Ward	6.79	9%
CH1	5.01	
CH2	1.78	
Milford Ward	13.96	18%
CC1	7.74	
CC2	0.87	
CC3	1.00	
CC4	4.35	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	78.78	

A	Added new ownership boundaries	24/5/2023
REV	NOTES	DATE
CLIENT	Salisbury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy	
TITLE	Canopy Area of SCC owned Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary per Ward	
SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:25,000	CA	MJ
REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J00911-015b	A	24/5/2023

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APPENDIX B REFERENCED / LOCATED SCC TREES / TREE GROUPS





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Salisbury City Council Original Land

Salisbury City Council Transferred Land

JA Survey Boundaries

SCCTP Trees

Surveyed Group

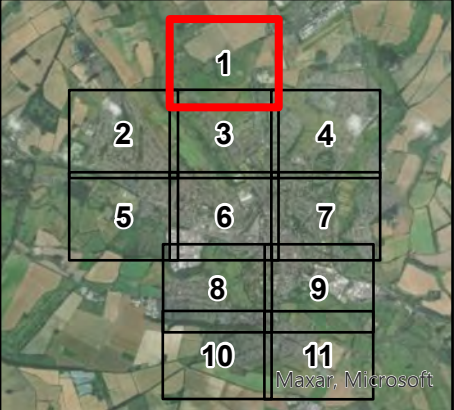
Surveyed Individual

Other SCC Owned Trees

Bawden Surveyed Trees

Other Bawden Trees

Trees now Removed



0 50 100 150 200
Metres

N

CLIENT

Salisbury City Council

PROJECT

J00911 Salisbury Tree Strategy

TITLE

Tree Survey Overview

SCALE @ A3

1:5,000

CREATED BY

RK

CHECKED BY

MJ

REFERENCE

J00911-002

REVISION

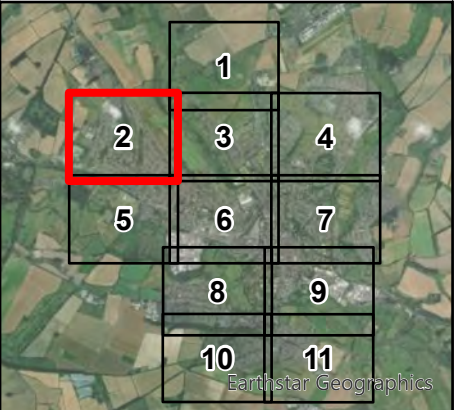
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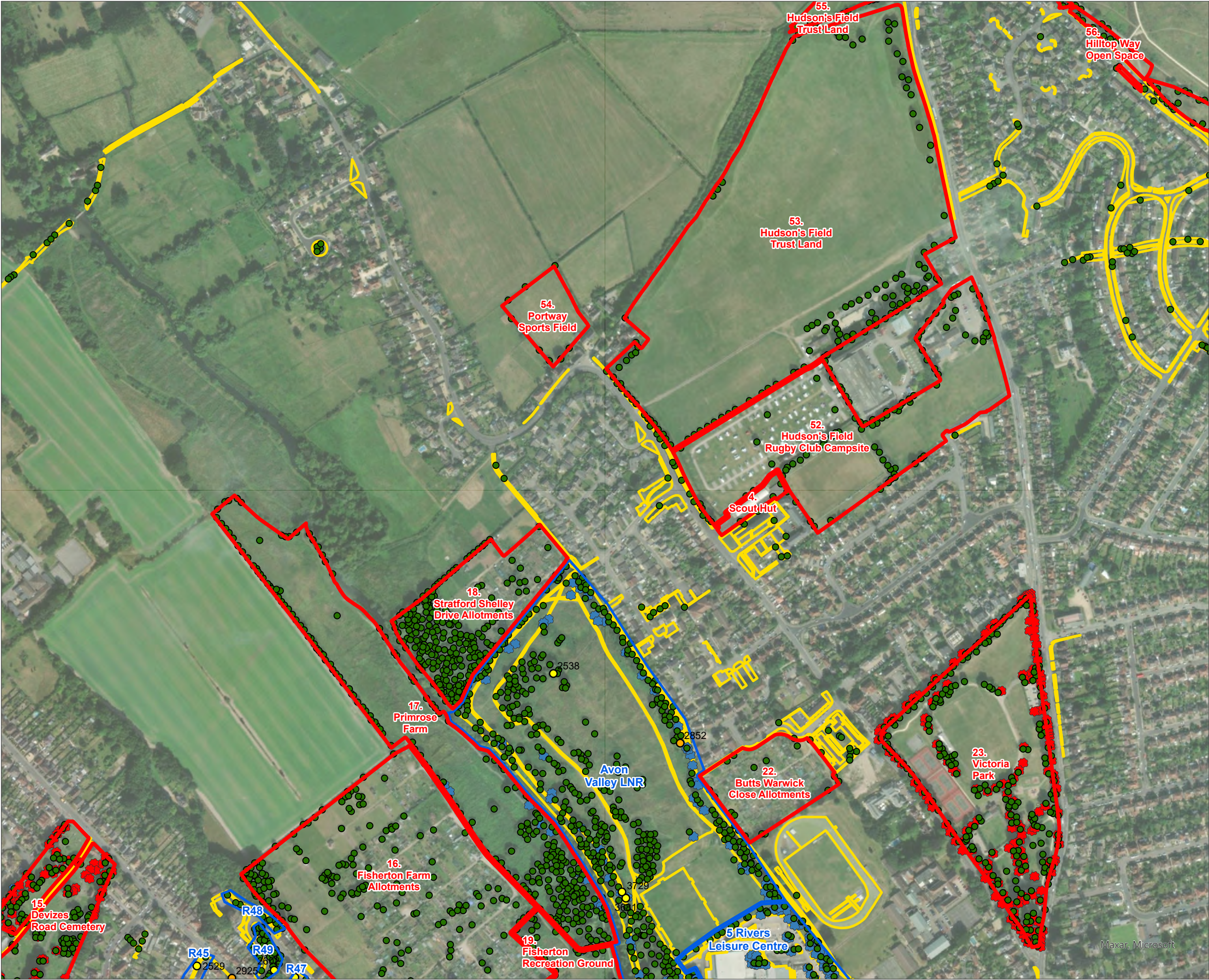
- Salisbury City Council Original Land
- Salisbury City Council Transferred Land
- JA Survey Boundaries
- SCCTP Trees
 - Surveyed Group
 - Surveyed Individual
 - Other SCC Owned Trees
 - Bawden Surveyed Trees
 - Other Bawden Trees
 - Trees now Removed




CLIENT	Salisbury City Council		
PROJECT	J00911 Salisbury Tree Strategy		
TITLE	Tree Survey Overview		
SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY	
1:5,000	RK	MJ	

REFERENCE	REVISION	DATE ISSUED
J00911-002		24/05/2023

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Salisbury City Council Original Land

Salisbury City Council Transferred Land

JA Survey Boundaries

SCCTP Trees

Surveyed Group

Surveyed Individual

Other SCC Owned Trees

Bawden Surveyed Trees

Other Bawden Trees

Trees now Removed



Maxar, Microsoft

0

50

100

150

200

Metres

N



CLIENT

Salisbury City Council

PROJECT

J00911 Salisbury Tree Strategy

TITLE

Tree Survey Overview

SCALE @ A3

1:5,000

CREATED BY

RK

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MJ

REFERENCE

J00911-002


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24/05/2023

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JOHNS
ASSOCIATES

Salisbury City Council Original Land

Salisbury City Council Transferred Land

JA Survey Boundaries

SCCTP Trees

Surveyed Group

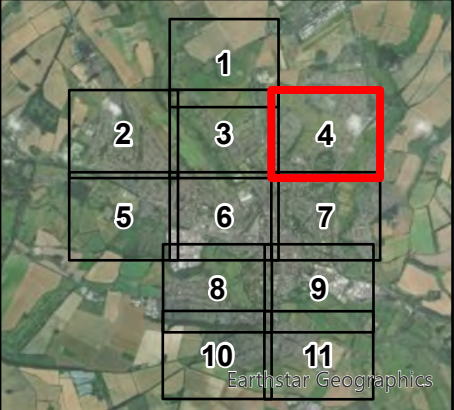
Surveyed Individual

Other SCC Owned Trees

Bawden Surveyed Trees

Other Bawden Trees

Trees now Removed



Earthstar Geographics

0

50

100

150

200

Metres

N

CLIENT

Salisbury City Council

PROJECT

J00911 Salisbury Tree Strategy

TITLE

Tree Survey Overview

SCALE @ A3

CREATED BY

CHECKED BY

1:5,000

RK

MJ

REFERENCE

REVISION


DATE ISSUED

J00911-002

24/05/2023

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JOHNS
ASSOCIATES

Salisbury City Council Original Land

Salisbury City Council Transferred Land

JA Survey Boundaries

SCCTP Trees

Surveyed Group

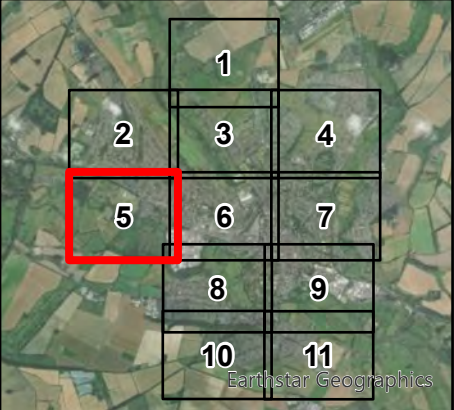
Surveyed Individual

Other SCC Owned Trees

Bawden Surveyed Trees

Other Bawden Trees

Trees now Removed



Earthstar Geographics

0

50

100

150

200

Metres

N

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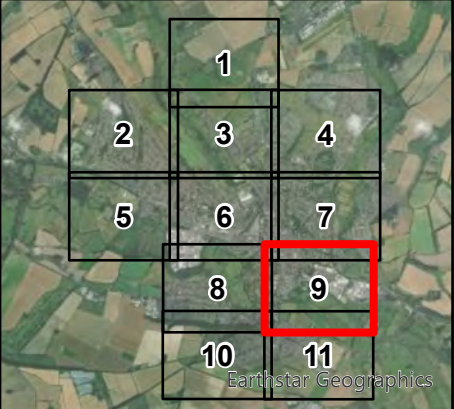
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SCCTP Trees


 Surveyed Group

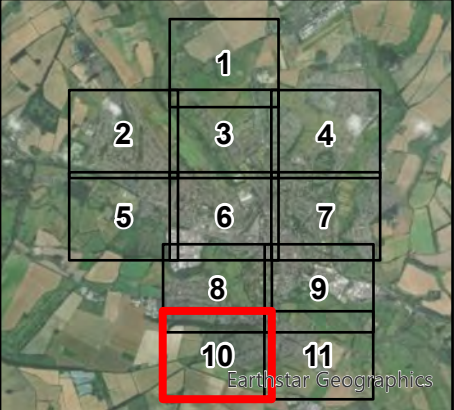
 Surveyed Individual

 Other SCC Owned Trees

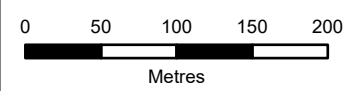
 Bawden Surveyed Trees

 Other Bawden Trees


 Trees now Removed



Earthstar Geographics



0 50 100 150 200
Metres



N

CLIENT Salisbury City Council

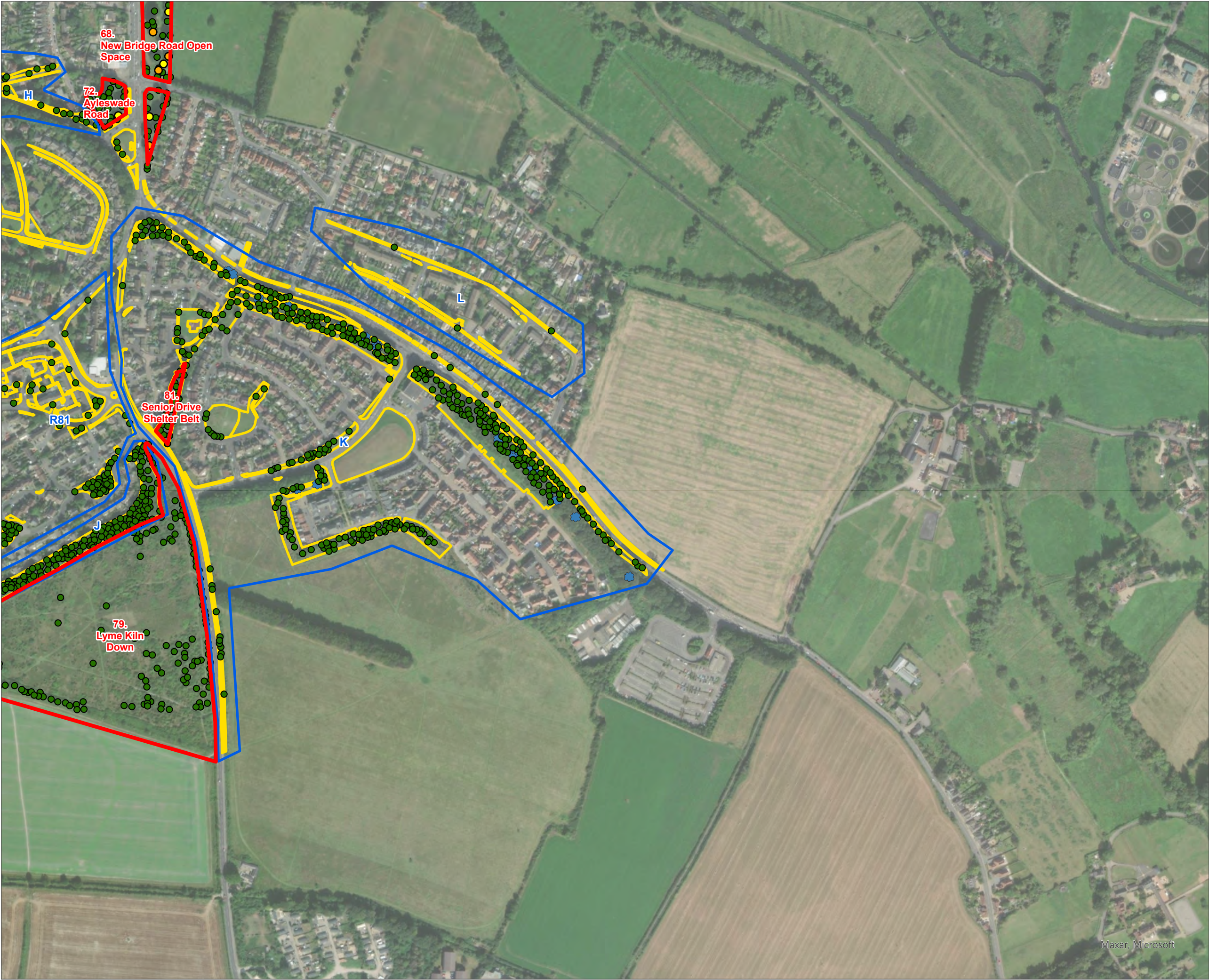
PROJECT J00911 Salisbury Tree Strategy

TITLE Tree Survey Overview

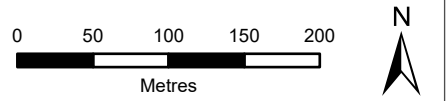
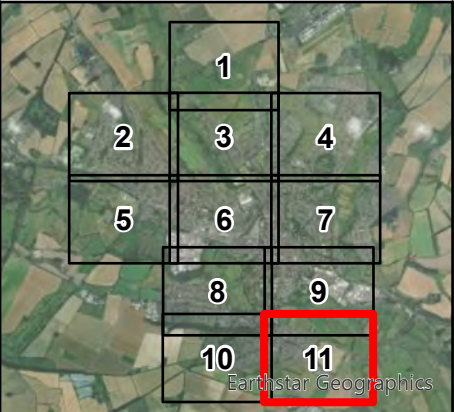
SCALE @ A3 1:5,000	CREATED BY RK	CHECKED BY MJ
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