

Publication Greater Manchester Spatial Framework: GM Allocation 28 - Land east of Boothstown

Water Courses and Water Quality Background Report – prepared by Salford City Council

October 2020

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This background report has been prepared by Salford City Council's Environment and Climate Change team. It provides a short summary of the issues relating to water quality on the proposed housing allocation on land east of Boothstown.

2. Background

- 2.1 The North West River Basin Management Plan¹ (RBMP) seeks to tackle the pressures facing the water environment. The legal framework for protecting and promoting sustainable water management of surface waters and groundwater is currently based on the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). This promotes an integrated approach to the water environment, including water quality, flood risk, biodiversity and the sustainable use of water as a resource, and requires all inland waters to achieve 'good' status.
- 2.2 The overall status of each water body is assessed as a combination of ecological and chemical status, having regard to:
- Biological quality (a measure of biodiversity);
 - Hydromorphological structure (such as the structure of a river bank and bed, and the continuity of the watercourse);
 - Specific pollutants (such as metals and organic compounds that have a detrimental impact on wildlife);
 - Physico-chemical quality (such as levels of dissolved oxygen, temperature and nutrients, which affect wildlife function); and
 - Chemical quality (relating to priority substances such as mercury and benzene that present a significant risk to the water environment).
- 2.3 The majority of watercourses in Salford and the North West, as well as some canals and reservoirs, are currently failing to meet RBMP objectives. Achieving those objectives will take a combination of measures. Major environmental improvements are needed to most of Salford's river corridors to

¹ Defra and Environment Agency (2015) Water for life and livelihoods: Part 1: North West river basin district River Basin Management Plan
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718335/North_West_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf

improve their overall quality, functioning, connectivity and ecological quality, addressing issues such as canalisation and culverting, a lack of greenspace buffers and invasive non-native species.

- 2.4 Development can have a major impact on the water environment, and so needs to be controlled accordingly, delivering enhancements wherever possible. Development that would be likely to lead to deterioration in the overall status of a water body, or would prevent future attainment of good status, can only be permitted in exceptional circumstances as set out in regulations.

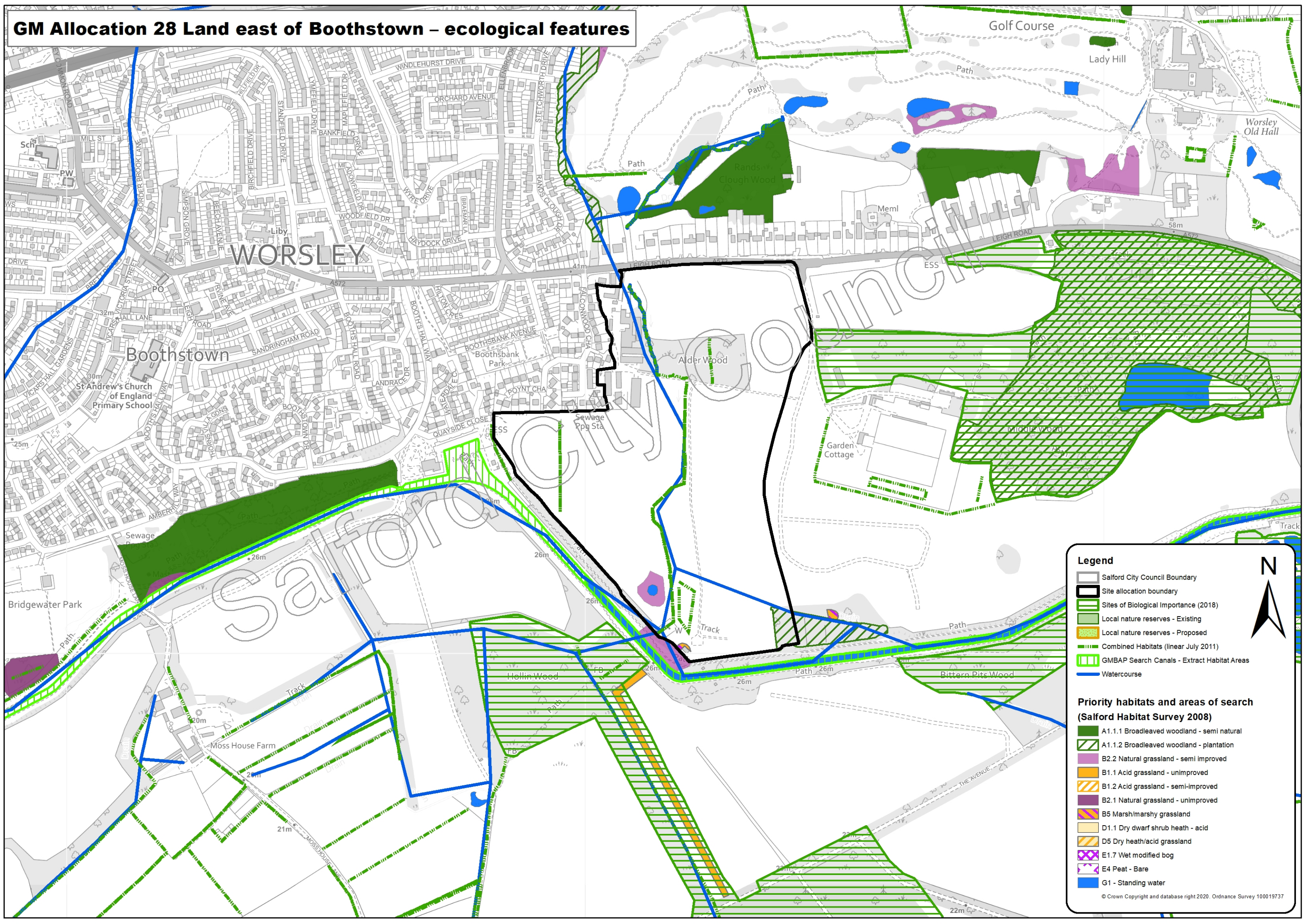
3. Watercourses on GM Allocation 28

- 3.1 Shaw Brook flows south through the site, initially forming the site's western boundary but then flowing through the centre of the site to the south of Booths Bank Farm before leaving the site through a culvert under the Bridgewater Canal on the southern boundary. A smaller ordinary watercourse joins Shaw Brook near Booths Bank Farm. Neither watercourse has been assessed under the Water Framework Directive in this location but to the south of the Bridgewater Canal Shaw Brook has been assessed as poor². Shaw Brook is a tributary of Glaze Brook, which has been assessed as bad – the lowest classification³.
- 3.2 Given the impact that the development can have on the water environment, and the current challenges in meeting water quality objectives within the Glaze catchment, it is essential that any development on this site protects the quality of the watercourses running through the site and as a bare minimum does not lead to any further deterioration, as required by criterion 8 of the policy which requires that development should "Protect the quality of watercourses through and around the site".
- 3.3 The Bridgewater Canal forms the site's southern boundary. This has been assessed as moderate under the Water Framework Directive. As the canal is raised above ground level in this location, the site does not drain into the canal.

² 2019 classification, accessed on Catchment Data Explorer - <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB112069061090>

³ 2019 classification, accessed on Catchment Data Explorer - <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB112069061420>

GM Allocation 28 Land east of Boothstown – ecological features



Legend

- Salford City Council Boundary
- Site allocation boundary
- Sites of Biological Importance (2018)
- Local nature reserves - Existing
- Local nature reserves - Proposed
- Combined Habitats (linear July 2011)
- GMBAP Search Canals - Extract Habitat Areas
- Watercourse

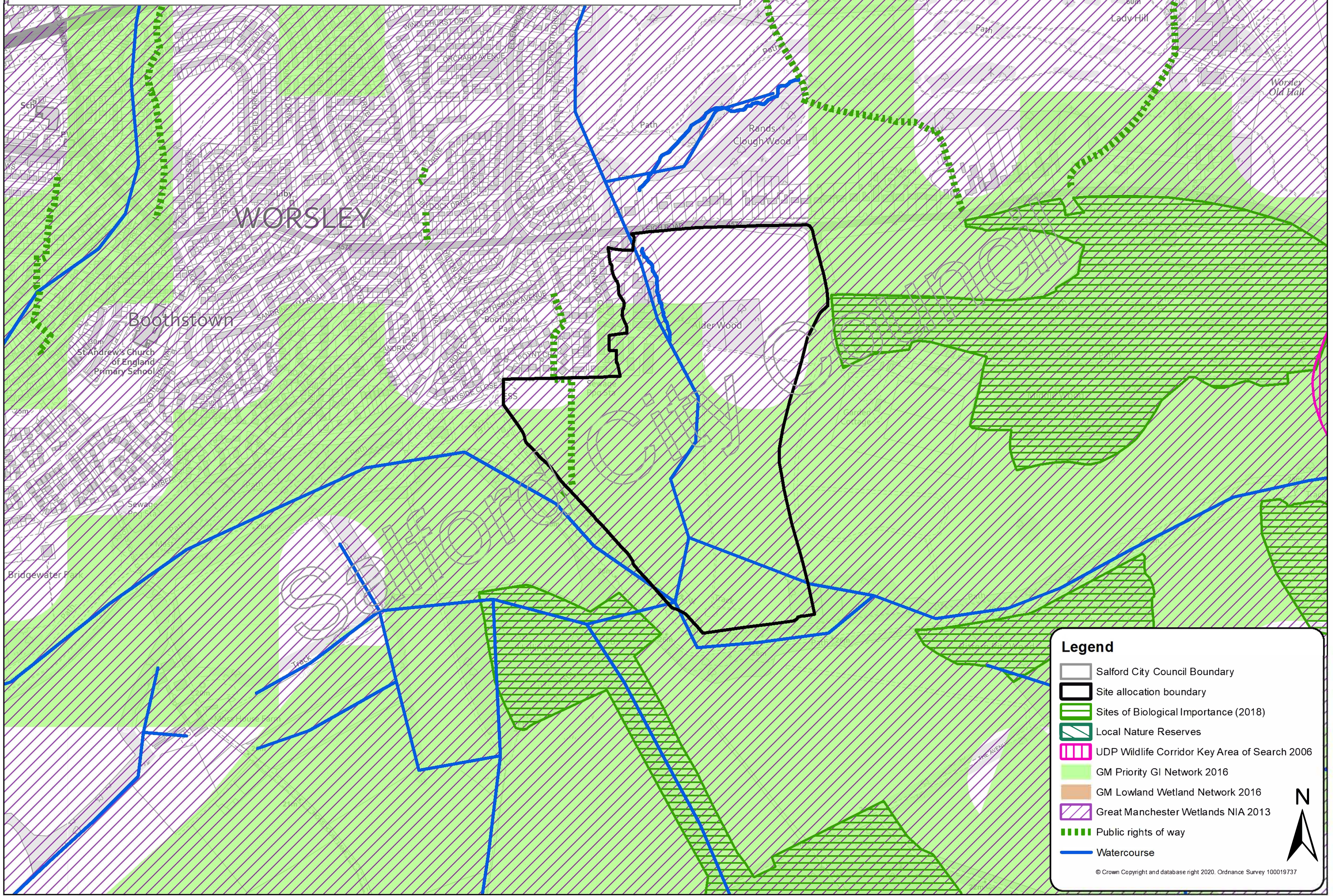
Priority habitats and areas of search (Salford Habitat Survey 2008)

- A1.1.1 Broadleaved woodland - semi natural
- A1.1.2 Broadleaved woodland - plantation
- B2.2 Natural grassland - semi improved
- B1.1 Acid grassland - unimproved
- B1.2 Acid grassland - semi-improved
- B2.1 Natural grassland - unimproved
- B5 Marsh/marshy grassland
- D1.1 Dry dwarf shrub heath - acid
- D5 Dry heath/acid grassland
- E1.7 Wet modified bog
- E4 Peat - Bare
- G1 - Standing water

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GM Allocation 28 Land east of Boothstown – green infrastructure context



Legend

- Salford City Council Boundary
- Site allocation boundary
- Sites of Biological Importance (2018)
- Local Nature Reserves
- UDP Wildlife Corridor Key Area of Search 2006
- GM Priority GI Network 2016
- GM Lowland Wetland Network 2016
- Great Manchester Wetlands NIA 2013
- Public rights of way
- Watercourse

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