

Annex D – EA Guidance

Thames Area Climate Change Allowances

Guidance for their use in flood risk assessments

Jan 2017

We recently updated our national guidance on climate change allowances for Flood Risk Assessments. The following information provides additional local guidance which applies to developments within our Thames area boundary.

Climate change allowances - overview

The National Planning Practice Guidance refers planners, developers and advisors to the Environment Agency to our guidance on considering climate change in Flood Risk Assessments. We updated this guidance in February 2016 and it should be read in conjunction with this document to inform planning applications, local plans, neighbourhood plans and other projects. It provides:

- Climate change allowances for peak river flow, peak rainfall, sea level rise, wind speed and wave height
- A range of allowances to assess fluvial flooding, rather than a single national allowance
- Advice on which allowances to use for assessments based on vulnerability classification, flood zone and development lifetime

Updated climate change allowances guidance:

National Planning Practice Guidance:

Assessing climate change impacts on fluvial flooding

Table A below indicates the level of technical assessment of climate change impacts on fluvial flooding appropriate for new developments depending on their scale and location (flood zone). Please note that this should be used as a guide only. Ultimately, the agreed approach should be based on expert local knowledge of flood risk conditions, local sensitivities and other influences.

Applicants and consultants may contact the Environment Agency at the pre-planning application stage to confirm the assessment approach on a case-by-case basis. We provide standard guidance free of charge or bespoke advice for a fee for developments for which we are a statutory consultee. If your development is instead covered by Flood Risk Standing Advice, we recommend you contact the relevant Local Planning Authority for their guidance and confirmation of the assessment approach. Flood Risk Standing Advice can be found here:

Table A defines three possible approaches to account for flood risk impacts due to climate change in new development proposals:

1. **Basic** - Developer can add an allowance to the 'design flood' (i.e. 1% annual probability) peak levels to account for potential climate change impacts. The allowance should be derived and agreed locally by Environment Agency teams.
2. **Intermediate** - Developer can use existing modelled flood and flow data to construct a stage-discharge rating curve, which can be used to interpolate a flood level based on the required peak flow allowance to apply to the 'design flood' flow.
3. **Detailed** - Perform detailed hydraulic modelling, through either re-running Environment Agency hydraulic models (if available) or construction of a new model by the developer.

Table A – Indicative guide to assessment approach

Vulnerability classification	Flood zone	Assessment by development type		
		Minor	Small-Major	Large-Major
Essential infrastructure	Zone 2	Detailed		
	Zone 3a	Detailed		
	Zone 3b	Detailed		
Highly vulnerable	Zone 2	Intermediate/Basic	Intermediate/Basic	Detailed
	Zone 3a	Not appropriate development		
	Zone 3b	Not appropriate development		
More vulnerable	Zone 2	Basic	Basic	Intermediate/Basic
	Zone 3a	Basic	Detailed	Detailed
	Zone 3b	Not appropriate development		
Less vulnerable	Zone 2	Basic	Basic	Intermediate/Basic
	Zone 3a	Basic	Basic	Detailed
	Zone 3b	Not appropriate development		
Water compatible	Zone 2	None		
	Zone 3a	Intermediate/Basic		
	Zone 3b	Detailed		

Definitions of terms in Table A

Minor

1-9 dwellings/less than 0.5 ha; office/light industrial under 1ha; general industrial under 1 ha; retail under 1 ha; travelling community site between 0 and 9 pitches.

Small-Major

10 to 30 dwellings; office/light industrial 1ha to 5ha; general industrial 1ha to 5ha; retail over 1ha to 5ha; travelling community site over 10 to 30 pitches.

Large-Major

30+ dwellings; office; light industrial 5ha+; general industrial 5ha+; retail 5ha+; gypsy/traveller site over 30+ pitches; any other development that creates a non-residential building or development over 1000 sqm.

Further info on vulnerability classifications:



Further info on flood zones:



Specific local considerations

Where the Environment Agency and the applicant or their consultant has agreed that a basic level of assessment is appropriate, the figures in Table B below can be used as an allowance for potential climate change impacts on peak design (i.e. 1% annual probability) fluvial flood level rather than undertaking detailed modelling.

Table B – Local allowances for potential climate change impacts

Watercourse	Central	Higher central	Upper
Thames	500mm	700mm	1000mm

Use of these allowances will only be accepted after discussion with the Environment Agency.

Fluvial food risk mitigation

Please use the [national guidance](#) to find out which allowances to use to assess the impact of climate change on flood risk.

For planning consultations where we are a statutory consultee and our [Flood Risk Standing Advice](#) does not apply, we use the following benchmarks to inform flood risk mitigation for different vulnerability classifications.

These benchmarks are a guide only. We strongly recommend you contact us at the pre-planning application stage to confirm this on a case-by-case basis. Please note you may be charged for pre-planning advice.

For planning consultations where we are not a statutory consultee or where our Flood Risk Standing Advice does apply, we recommend local planning authorities and developers use these benchmarks but we do not expect to be consulted.

Essential Infrastructure

For these developments, our benchmark for flood risk mitigation is for it to be designed to the **upper end** climate change allowance for the epoch that most closely represents the lifetime of the development, including decommissioning.

Highly Vulnerable

For these developments in flood zone 2, the **higher central** climate change allowance is our minimum benchmark for flood risk mitigation. In sensitive locations it may be necessary to use the **upper end** allowance.

More Vulnerable

For these developments in flood zone 2, the **central** climate change allowance is our minimum benchmark for flood risk mitigation. In flood zone 3 the **higher central** climate change allowance is our minimum benchmark for flood risk mitigation. In sensitive locations it may be necessary to use the **higher central** (in flood zone 2) and the **upper end** allowance (in flood zone 3).

Water Compatible or Less Vulnerable

For these developments, the **central** climate change allowance for the epoch that most closely represents the lifetime of the development is our minimum benchmark for flood risk mitigation. In sensitive locations it may be necessary to use the **higher central** to inform built in resilience, particularly in flood zone 3.

Further info on our Flood Risk Standing Advice:

There may be circumstances where local evidence supports the use of other data or allowances. Where you think this is the case we may want to check this data and how you propose to use it.

For more information

Please contact our Thames area Customers and Engagement team:

[Enquiries THM@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Enquiries_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Annex E – Additional Mapping

- Surface Geology
- 3D Models
- Borehole Scans
- Earthquake Timeline

Surface Geology

- Superficial only
- Bedrock only
- Bedrock and Superficial

Visible geology:
1:50 000 scale

[Geology Key](#)

[More on digital geology](#)

Navigation controls:

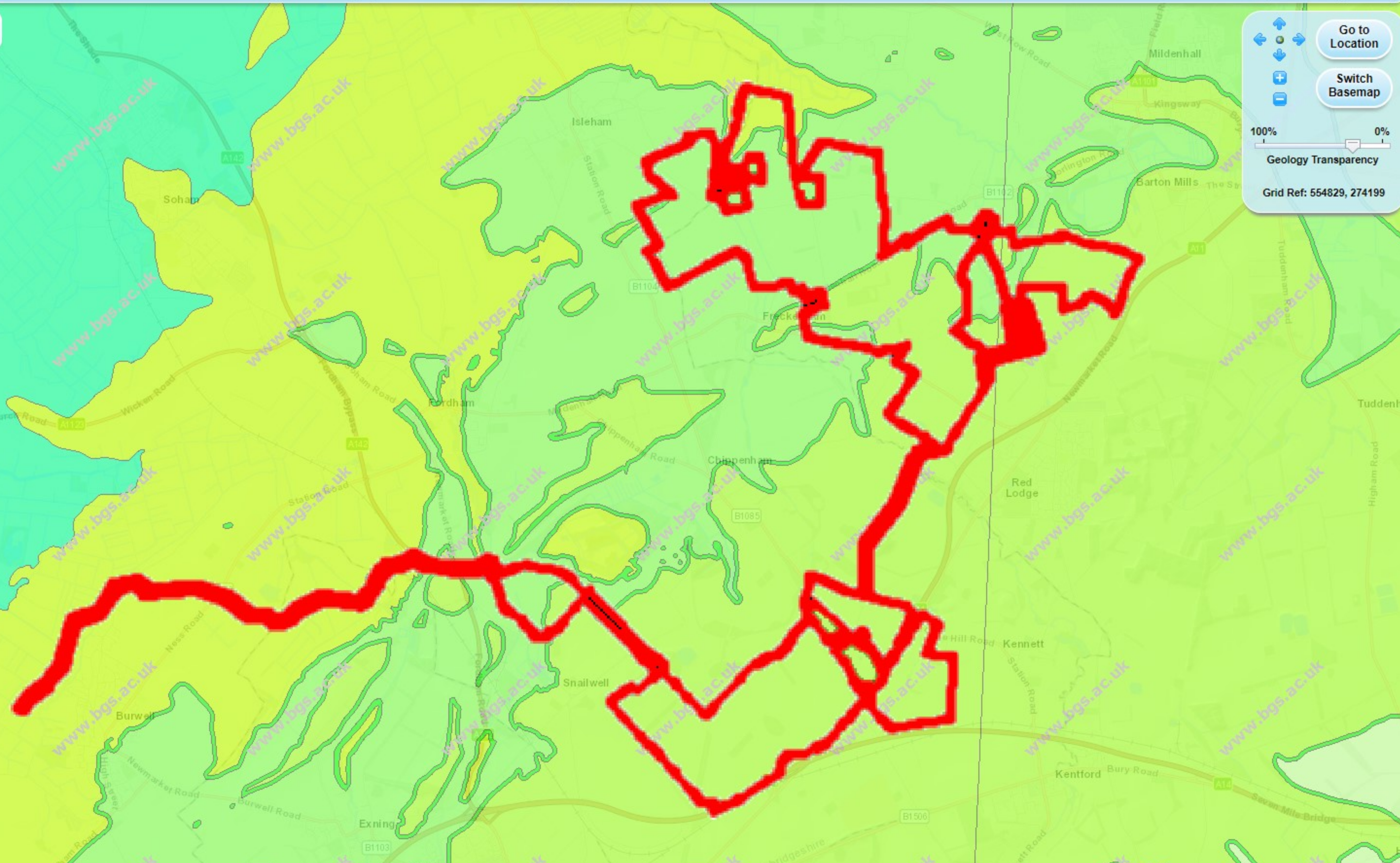
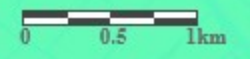
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- Switch Basemap
- 100% 0% Geology Transparency
- Grid Ref: 554829, 274199

Map Key (close this window to activate map)

1:50 000 scale geology

Bedrock geology

- CHALK ROCK MEMBER - CHALK
- LEWES NODULAR CHALK FORMATION, SEAFORD CHALK FORMATION, NEWHAVEN CHALK FORMATION AND CULVER CHALK FORMATION (UNDIFFERENTIATED) - CHALK
- GREY CHALK SUBGROUP - CHALK
- HOLYWELL NODULAR CHALK FORMATION AND NEW PIT CHALK FORMATION (UNDIFFERENTIATED) - CHALK
- MELBOURN ROCK MEMBER - CHALK
- TOTTERNHOE STONE MEMBER - CHALK
- WEST MELBURY MARLY CHALK FORMATION - CHALK
- ZIG ZAG CHALK FORMATION - CHALK
- GAULT FORMATION - MUDSTONE



- Surface Geology
- 3D Models
- Borehole Scans
- Earthquake Timeline

Surface Geology

- Superficial only
- Bedrock only
- Bedrock and Superficial

Visible geology:
1:50 000 scale

Geology Key

[More on digital geology](#)

Go to Location

Switch Basemap

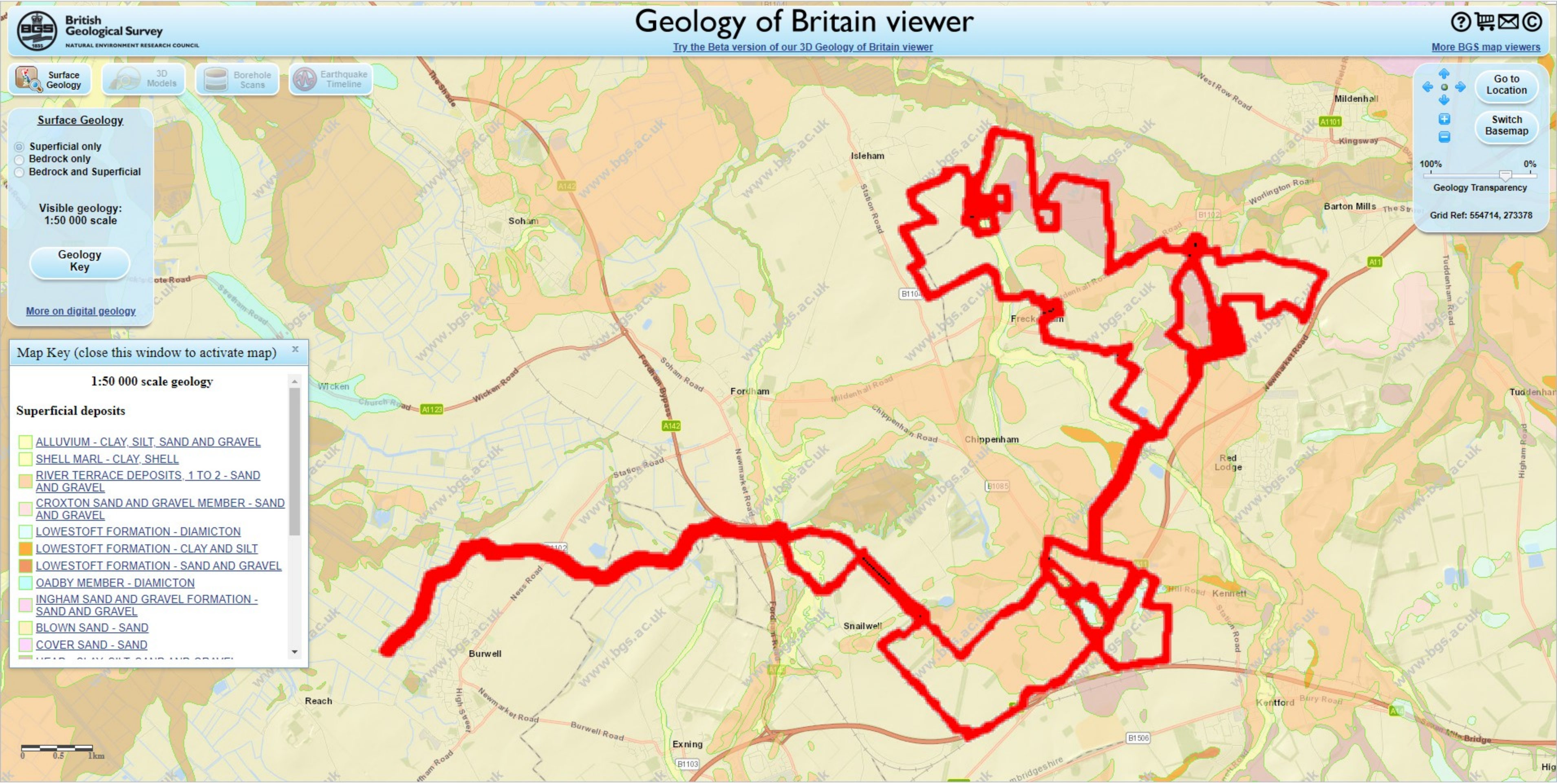
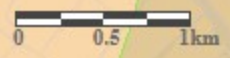
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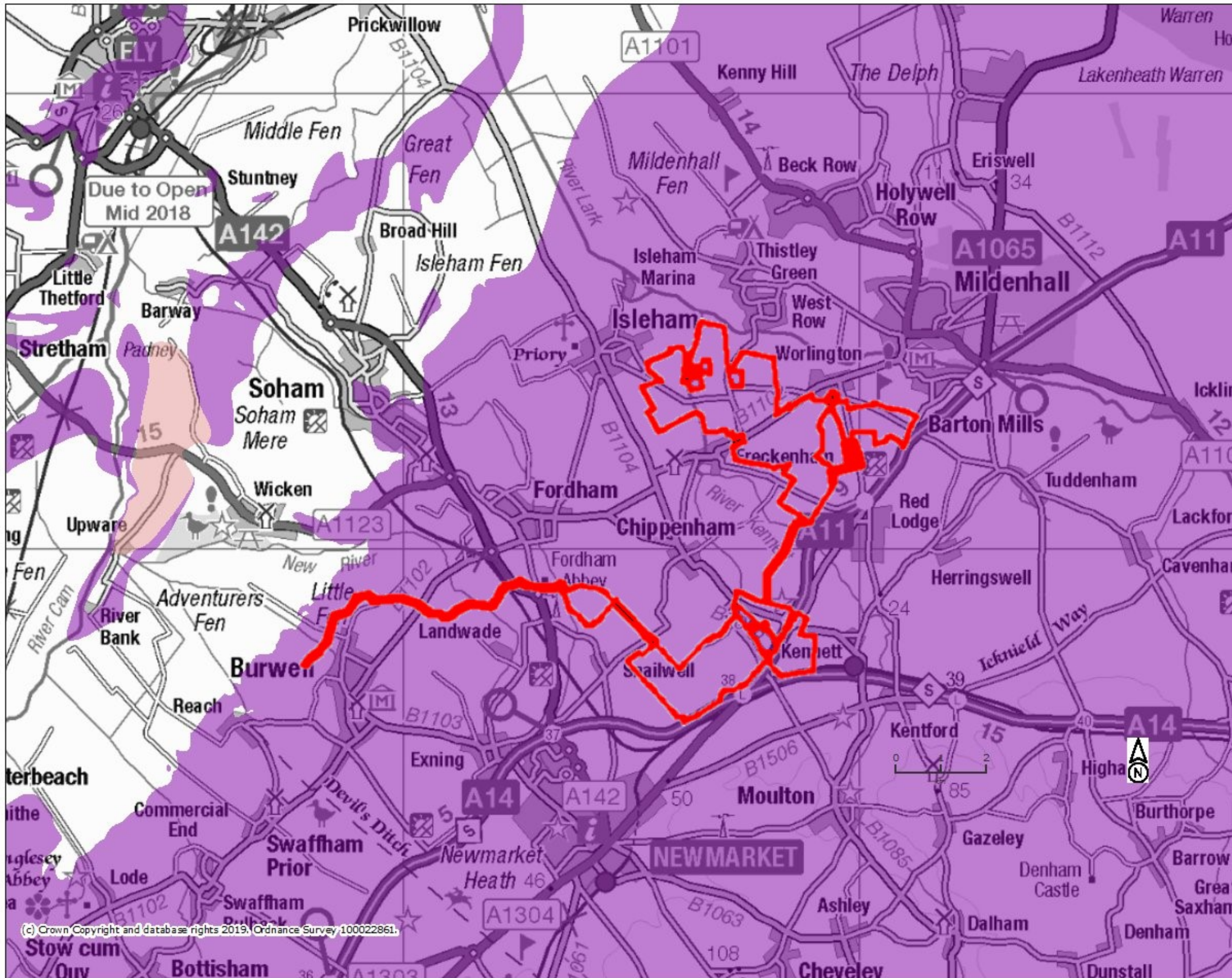
Geology Transparency

Grid Ref: 554714, 273378

Map Key (close this window to activate map)

- 1:50 000 scale geology**
- Superficial deposits**
- ALLUVIUM - CLAY, SILT, SAND AND GRAVEL
 - SHELL MARL - CLAY, SHELL
 - RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS, 1 TO 2 - SAND AND GRAVEL
 - CROXTON SAND AND GRAVEL MEMBER - SAND AND GRAVEL
 - LOWESTOFT FORMATION - DIAMICTON
 - LOWESTOFT FORMATION - CLAY AND SILT
 - LOWESTOFT FORMATION - SAND AND GRAVEL
 - OADBY MEMBER - DIAMICTON
 - INGHAM SAND AND GRAVEL FORMATION - SAND AND GRAVEL
 - BLOWN SAND - SAND
 - COVER SAND - SAND
 - HEAR...



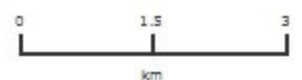


Legend

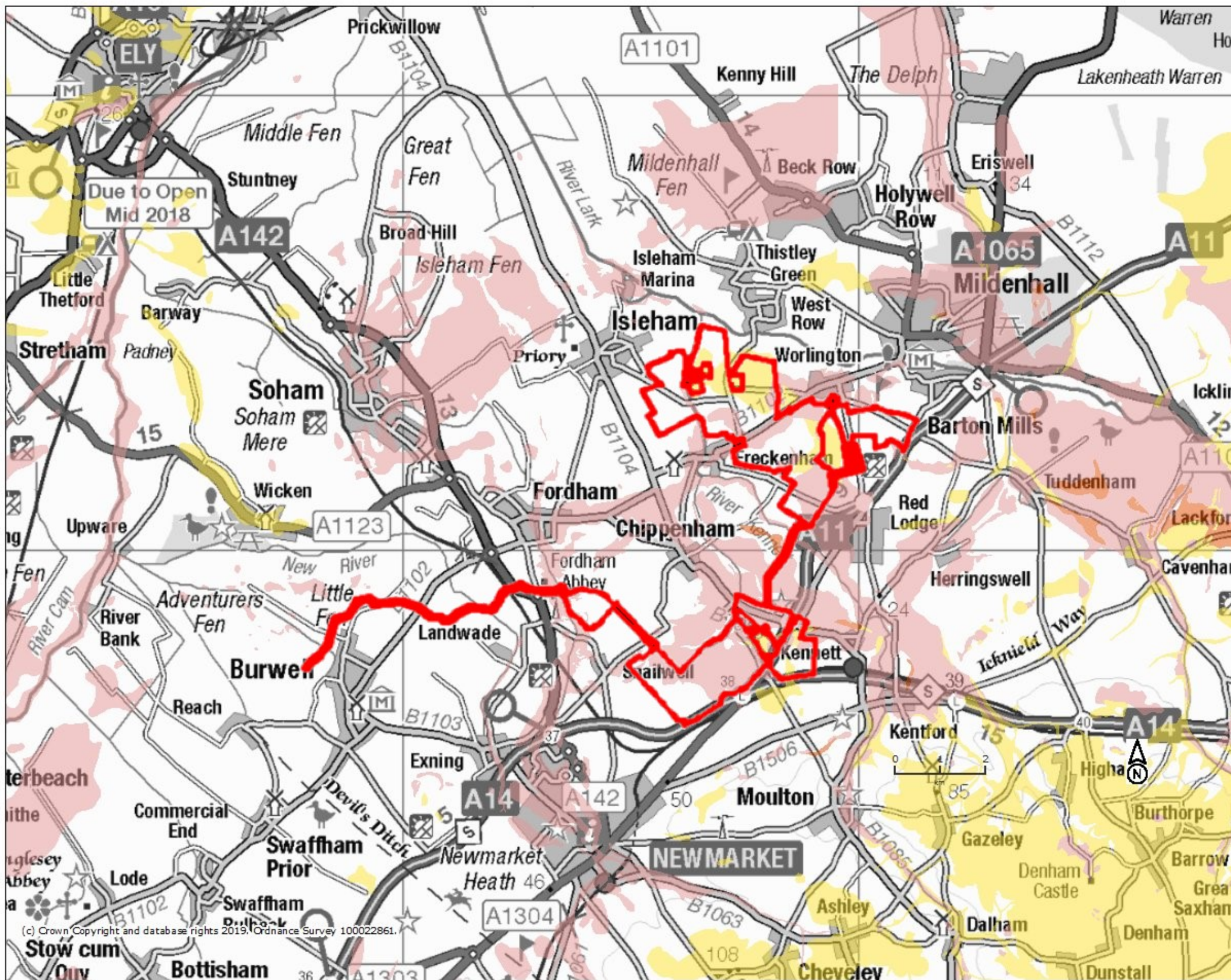
Aquifer Designation Map (Bedrock) (England)

- Principal
- Secondary A
- Secondary B
- Secondary (undifferentiated)
- Unproductive

Projection = OSGB36
 xmin = 543200
 ymin = 260900
 xmax = 586500
 ymax = 281600



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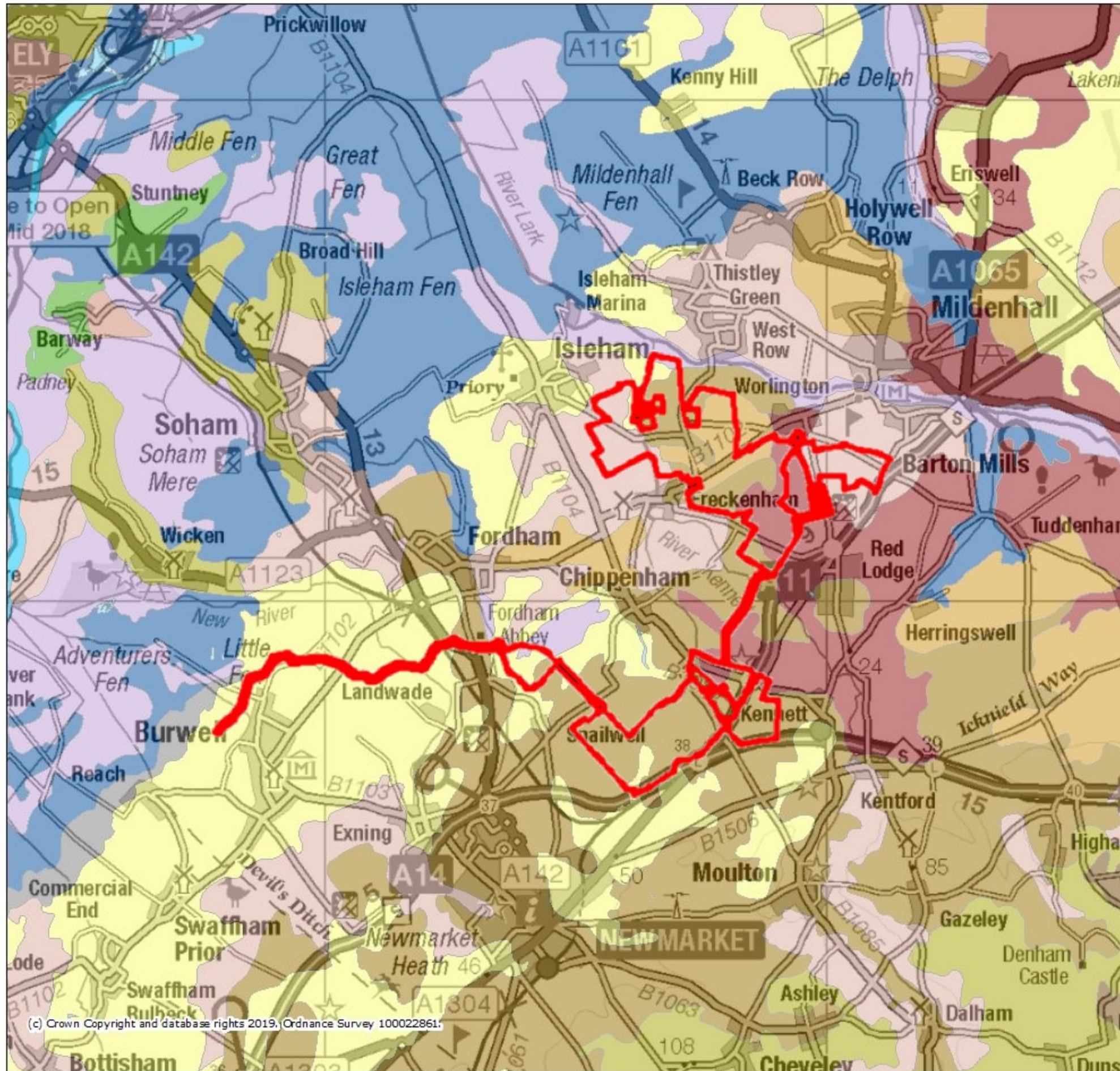
Legend

Aquifer Designation Map (Superficial Drift) (England)

- Principal
- Secondary A
- Secondary B
- Secondary (undifferentiated)
- Unknown (lakes+landslip)
- Unproductive

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 ymin = 260900
 xmax = 586500
 ymax = 281600

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Legend

Soilscape (England)

- 1 - Saltmarsh soils
- 2 - Shallow very acid peaty soils over rock
- 3 - Shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone
- 4 - Sand dune soils
- 5 - Freely draining lime-rich loamy soils
- 6 - Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils
- 7 - Freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils
- 8 - Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage
- 9 - Lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage
- 10 - Freely draining slightly acid sandy soils
- 11 - Freely draining sandy breckland soils
- 12 - Freely draining floodplain soils
- 13 - Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock
- 14 - Freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils
- 15 - Naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils
- 16 - Very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface
- 17 - Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils
- 18 - Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils
- 19 - Slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with a peaty surface
- 20 - Loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater
- 21 - Loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater
- 22 - Loamy soils with naturally high groundwater
- 23 - Loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface
- 24 - Restored soils mostly from quarry and opencast spoil
- 25 - Blanket bog peat soils
- 26 - Raised bog peat soils
- 27 - Fen peat soils
- 28 - Sea
- 30 - UC
- 31 - Water

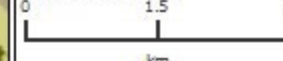
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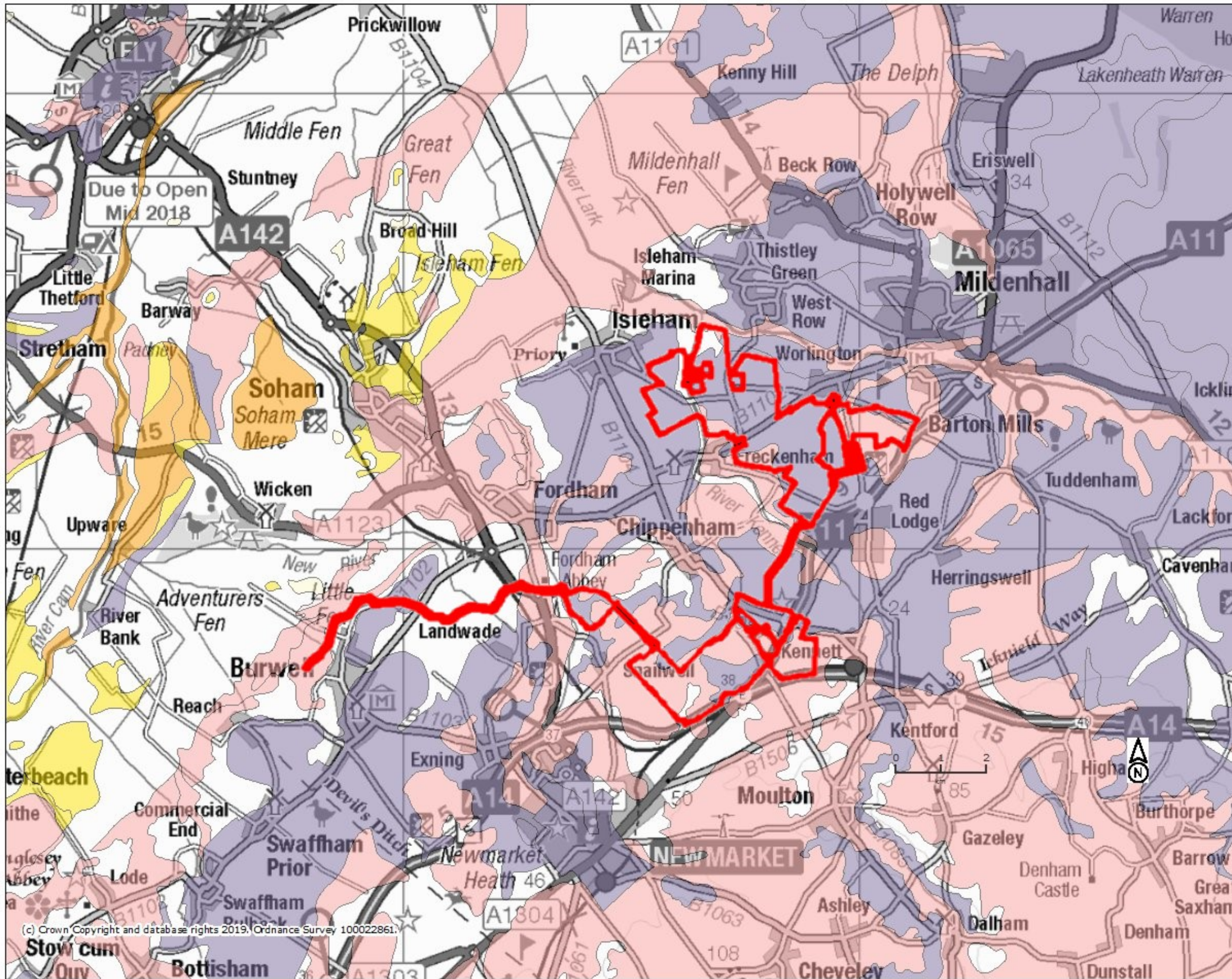
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Legend

Groundwater Vulnerability Map (England)

- Major Aquifer High
- Major Aquifer Intermediate
- Major Aquifer Low
- Minor Aquifer High
- Minor Aquifer Intermediate
- Minor Aquifer Low

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 ymin = 260900
 xmax = 586500
 ymax = 281600

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