Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme

Traditional Boundary Action Plan 2017

A report by
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For Forest of Bowland AONB
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Contents

1   Introduction

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership (LP) is a programme, led by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which aims to reconnect people with their landscape and past, safeguard the areas wildlife and heritage and to improve people's access to the countryside of the area.

As part of this project a survey of the condition of traditional field boundaries (walls and hedges, Map 1) within the Pendle Hill LP was commissioned to provide an a baseline record of boundary condition and to provide a data set which would allow the identification of boundaries in need of restoration. This boundary data, together with information on woodlands collected during the parallel Phase 1 Habitat Survey can be used to prioritise in terms of their need for restoration and, for hedges, their ecological significance in the landscape as links between woodlands and other wildlife features. This information will subsequently be used to prioritise activity during the delivery phase of the project which is planned to take place during 2018 – 2022.

2   Rationale

The objective of this action plan is to identify key lengths and clusters of hedgerows and walls in need of restoration. These have been identified from the 2016 survey data which recorded hedge and wall condition and also placed them into one of six percentage gap categories. The way that hedges and walls have been prioritised in terms of their need for restoration is set out below.

2.1   Hedges

Prioritisation of hedges is based on three factors:

1.   Hedges with <10% gaps are considered to be low priority and are excluded.

The remaining hedges are scored on two factors, hedge condition (Map 2) and percentage gaps (Map 3):

2.   Hedges recorded as being "remnant line of straggly trees" (score 3) and others (score 1)

3.   Hedge gap categories are scored as follows:

    a.   10-25%: score 1

    b.   25-50%: score 2

    c.   >50%:   score 3

These scores are then added together to give a condition score (Map 4).

Score	Priority
>5	Very high
4 – 5	High
3	Medium
<3	Low

To account for a hedges ecological connectivity hedges have been scored in three categories as follows:

Hedge connectivity:

1. Where it connects with another hedge: score 1

Woodland connectivity:

2. Where it connects with any other woodland or scrub: score 1

3. Where it connects with woodland or scrub larger than 0.1ha in area: score 2

Connectivity to old or ancient woodland:

4. Where it connects to old woodland as defined by Lancashire County Council: score 1

5. Where it connects to a wood listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory: score 2

The scores for each group are then added together to give a connectivity score (Map 5):

Score	Connectivity
>2	High
2	Moderate
1	Low
0	None

To get an overall prioritisation score the connectivity and condition scores are added together (Map 6):

Score	Priority
>8	Very high
7 – 8	High
5 – 6	Medium
<5	Low

These prioritised hedges have then been grouped into ten Priority Areas (Maps 4 – 6).

The Pendleton & Wiswell and Rimington areas show the most pronounced concentrations of hedges in need of restoration, priority hedges in the other areas being more widely scattered.

Table 1 Hedge Priority Areas

Priority Areas	Low Priority		Medium Priority		High Priority		Very High Priority		Total	
	No.	Length (m)	No.	Length (m)	No.	Length (m)	No.	Length (m)	No.	Length (m)
Downham & Worston	23	5,163	10	2,270	33	7,434	5	1,060	**67**	**14,482**
Fence	8	1,323	16	2,951	24	4,274	0	0	**30**	**5,396**
Higham	20	3,452	29	5,103	49	8,555	3	589	**70**	**13,349**
Lower Sabden Brook	17	2,860	6	978	23	3,838	6	1,142	**40**	**7,132**
Middop	12	2,252	9	1,889	21	4,141	3	742	**45**	**9,142**
Pendleton & Wiswell	75	15,688	38	7,875	113	23,563	0	0	**147**	**30,247**
Rimington	23	3,836	21	3,953	44	7,789	7	1,902	**71**	**13,453**
Roughlee & Barrowford	39	7,563	21	3,845	60	11,408	2	472	**78**	**14,445**
Sabden	3	391	8	1,594	11	1,986	0	0	**18**	**3,531**
Twiston	12	2,073	15	2,997	27	5,069	5	773	**50**	**8,416**
Grand Total	**232**	**44,601**	**173**	**33,455**	**405**	**78,056**	**31**	**6,680**	**616**	**119,593**

Map 1 Traditional Bounday Action Plan Boundaries mapped during 2016 survey

N
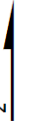
Hedge
Wall
Fence
Boundary removed

0 0.5 1   2
Kilometres
1:75,000

Newby
Rimington
Downham
Blacko
Roughlee
Barley
Pendleton
Newchurch in Pendle
Wheatley Lane
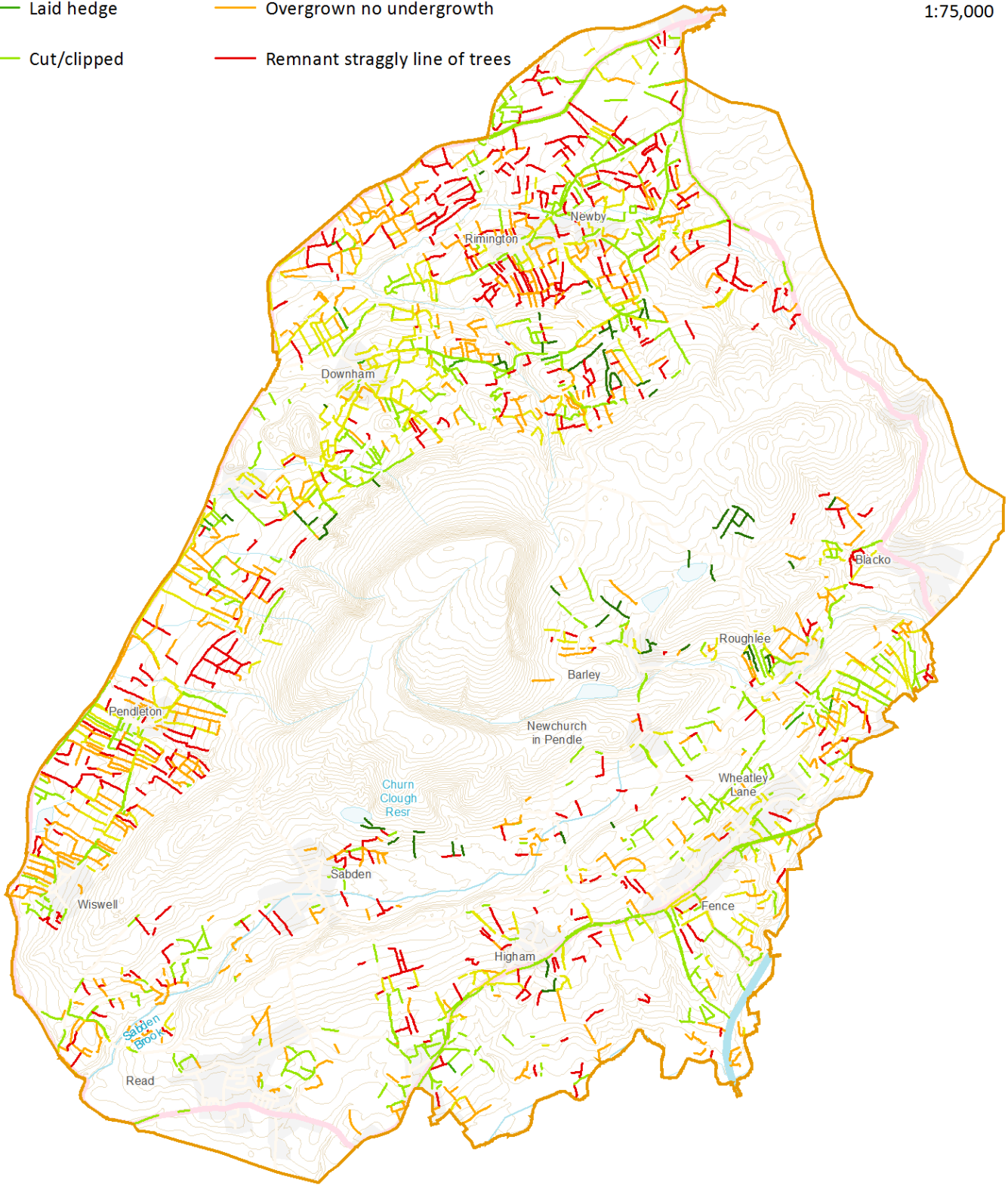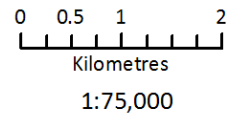Churn Clough Resr
Sabden
Fence
Wiswell
Higham
Sabden Brook
Read
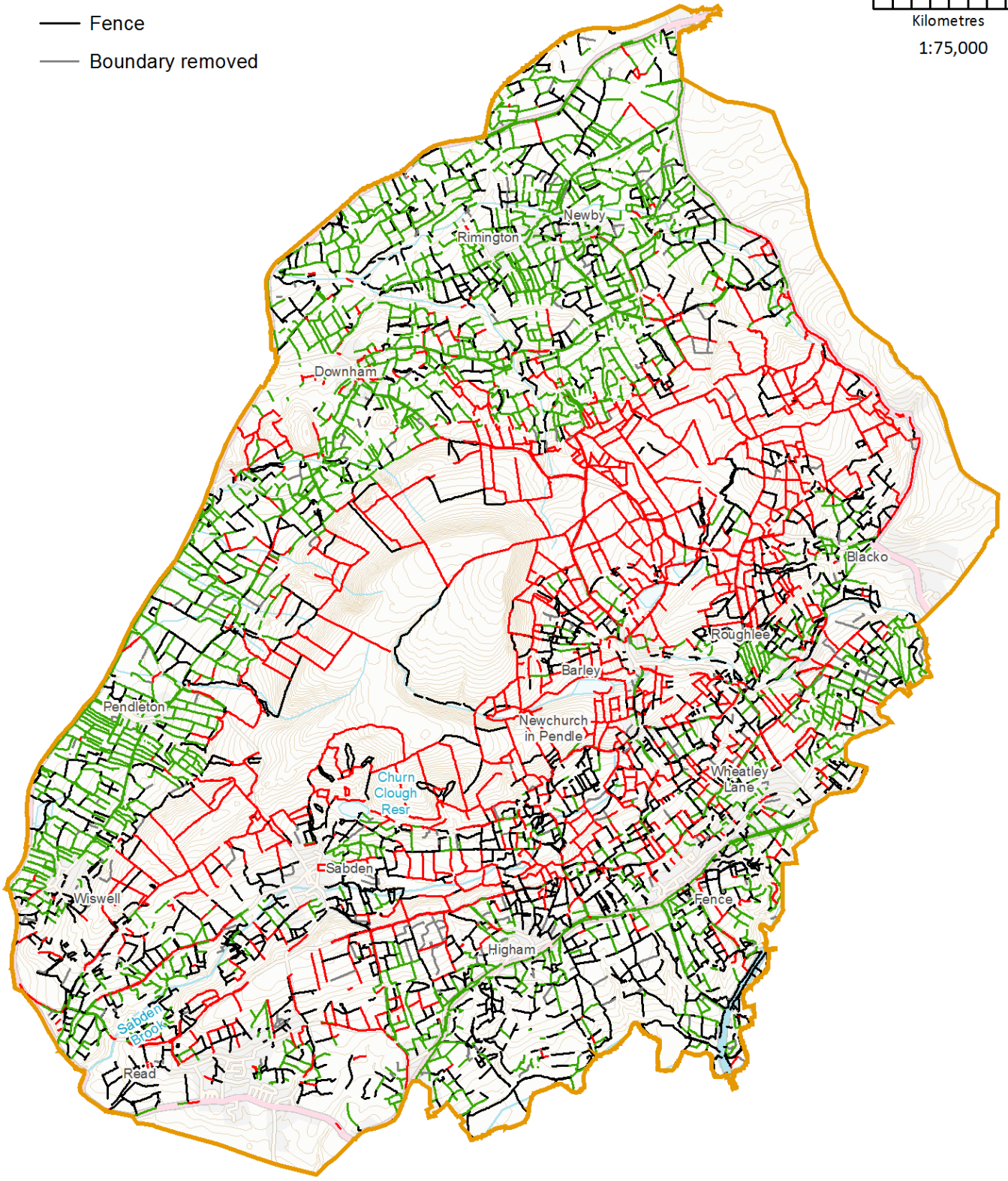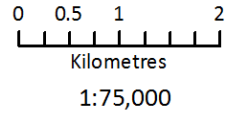
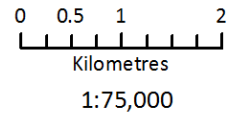# Map 2 Traditional Boundaries Action Plan
Hedges: Condition

Newly planted hedge — Overgrown bushy undergrowth

Laid hedge — Overgrown no undergrowth

Cut/clipped — Remnant straggly line of trees

N

0   0.5   1   2
Kilometres

1:75,000

Newby

Rimington

Downham

Blacko

Roughlee

Barley

Pendleton

Newchurch
in Pendle

Wheatley
Lane

Churn
Clough
Resr

Sabden

Wiswell

Fence

Higham

Sabden
Brook

Read

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Map 3 Traditional Boundaries Action Plan
Hedges: Percentage Gaps

— No hedge gaps		— 25-50% gaps	
— <10% gaps		— 50-75% gaps	
— 10-25% gaps		— >75% gaps	

0   0.5   1   2
Kilometres
1:75,000

Newby
Rimington
Downham
Blacko
Roughlee
Barley
Newchurch
in Pendle
Pendleton
Wheatley
Lane
Churn
Clough
Resr
Sabden
Wiswell
Fence
Higham
Sabden
Brook
Read

Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2017)
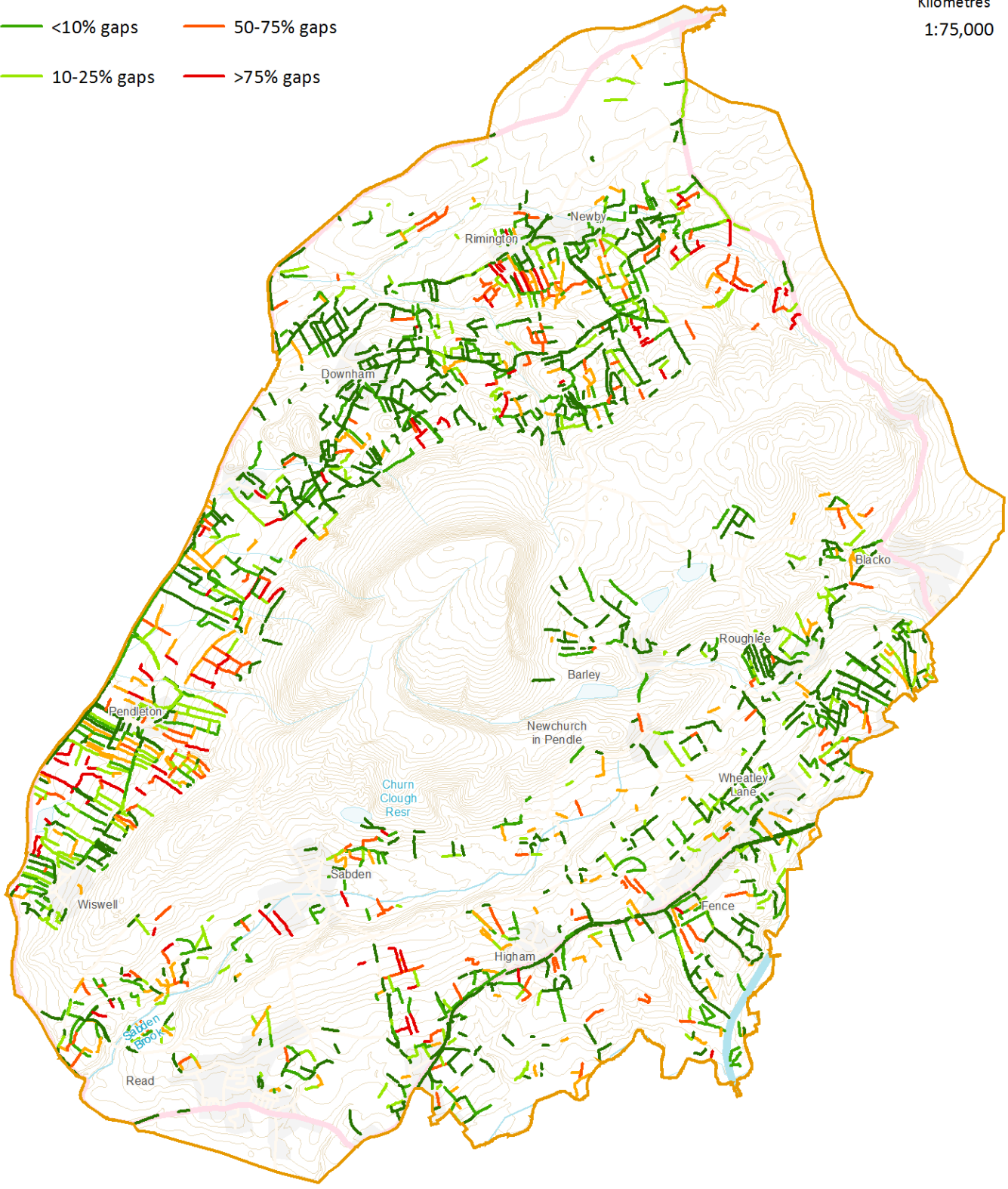
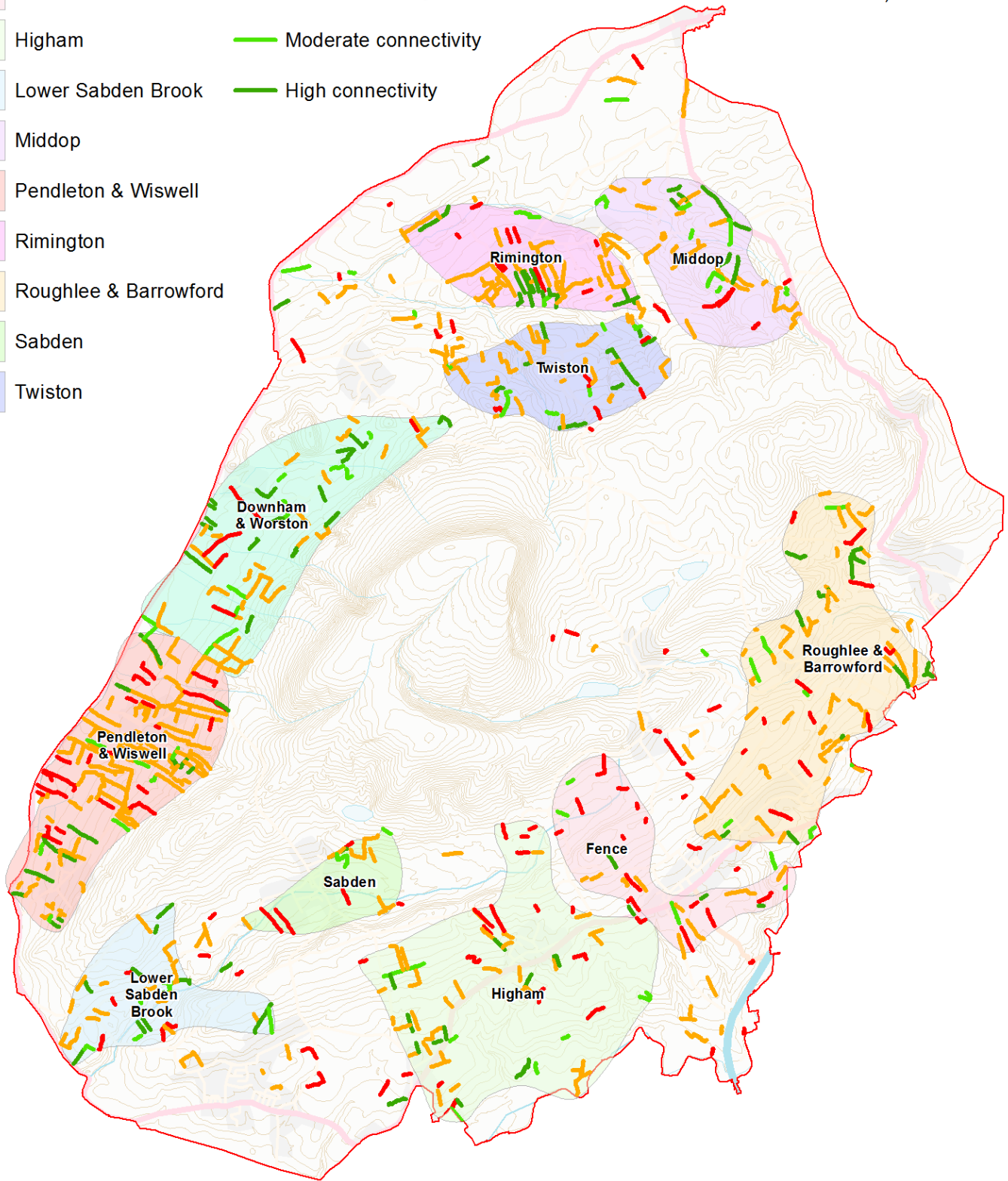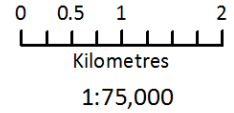# Map 4 Traditional Boundaries Action Plan
Hedge Condition Prioritisation

Legend:

- Downham & Worston
- Fence
- Higham
- Lower Sabden Brook
- Middop
- Pendleton & Wiswell
- Rimington
- Roughlee & Barrowford
- Sabden
- Twiston

- Low priority
- Medium priority
- High priority
- Very high priority

0 0.5 1 2
Kilometres
1:75,000

Map 5 Traditional Boundary Action Plan
Hedge Connectivity

Downham & Worston
Fence
Higham
Lower Sabden Brook
Middop
Pendleton & Wiswell
Rimington
Roughlee & Barrowford
Sabden
Twiston

No connectivity
Low connectivity
Moderate connectivity
High connectivity

0 0.5 1 2
Kilometres
1:75,000

Rimington
Middop
Twiston
Downham & Worston
Roughlee & Barrowford
Pendleton & Wiswell
Sabden
Fence
Lower Sabden Brook
Higham

Map 6 Traditional Boundary Action Plan
Hedge Restoration Prioritisation

Legend:

- Downham & Worston
- Fence
- Higham
- Lower Sabden Brook
- Middop
- Pendleton & Wiswell
- Rimington
- Roughlee & Barrowford
- Sabden
- Twiston

- Low priority
- Medium priority
- High priority
- Very high priority

0 0.5 1 2
Kilometres
1:75,000

N

Area labels on map: Rimington, Middop, Twiston, Downham & Worston, Roughlee & Barrowford, Pendleton & Wiswell, Fence, Sabden, Higham, Lower Sabden Brook

2.2 Walls

Walls have been prioritised in a similar but simpler manner to hedges, based on condition (Map 7) and percentage gap categories (Map 8):

1. Walls in the "good" condition category are excluded.

2. The remaining walls are scored according to their condition:

    a. Partial repair: score 1

    b. Considerable repair: score 3

    c. Abandoned wall: score 4

3. They are then scored by gap categories:

    a. 10-25%: score 1

    b. 25-50%: score 2

    c. >50%:   score 3

These scores are then added together to give a prioritisation score.

Score	Priority
>5	High
3 – 5	Medium
<3	Low

These prioritised walls have then been grouped into five Priority Areas (Map 9).

2.2.1 Wall Priority Areas

Five Priority Areas for wall restoration have been identified based on clusters of walls with high and medium priority for restoration (Map 9), though these do not include all the walls in need of restoration.

Table 2 Wall Priority Areas

Priority Area	Low Priority		Medium Priority		High Priority		Total	
	No.	Length (m)	No.	Length (m)	No.	Length (m)	No.	Length (m)
Gisburn	1	190	6	1,243	2	303	9	1,736
Newchurch	8	1,050	5	809	8	1,324	21	3,183
Pendle Hill	27	6,581	17	5,931	19	5,679	63	18,191
Rimington Moor	19	5,172	10	3,560	9	1,592	38	10,323
Sabden Fold	7	1,262	2	280	9	1,455	18	2,996
Grand Total	**62**	**14,254**	**40**	**11,822**	**47**	**10,352**	**149**	**36,429**

Pendle Hill covers the allotment walls of Pendle Hill and the ridge extending south of the Nick of Pendle towards Wiswell. These walls have high landscape significance due to their prominence on the skyline and in views across much of the Pendle Hill LP area, many however have fallen into disrepair and are no longer functional as livestock barriers and are either abandoned or augmented by fences.

Walls are uncommon in the Gisburn area, so the poor condition of the few which are present is considered to be a high priority for restoration.

At Rimington Moor there are a number of long walls on the unimproved and semi-improved allotments/large fields between Craven Laithe and Rimington Moor which are in a poor state of repair.
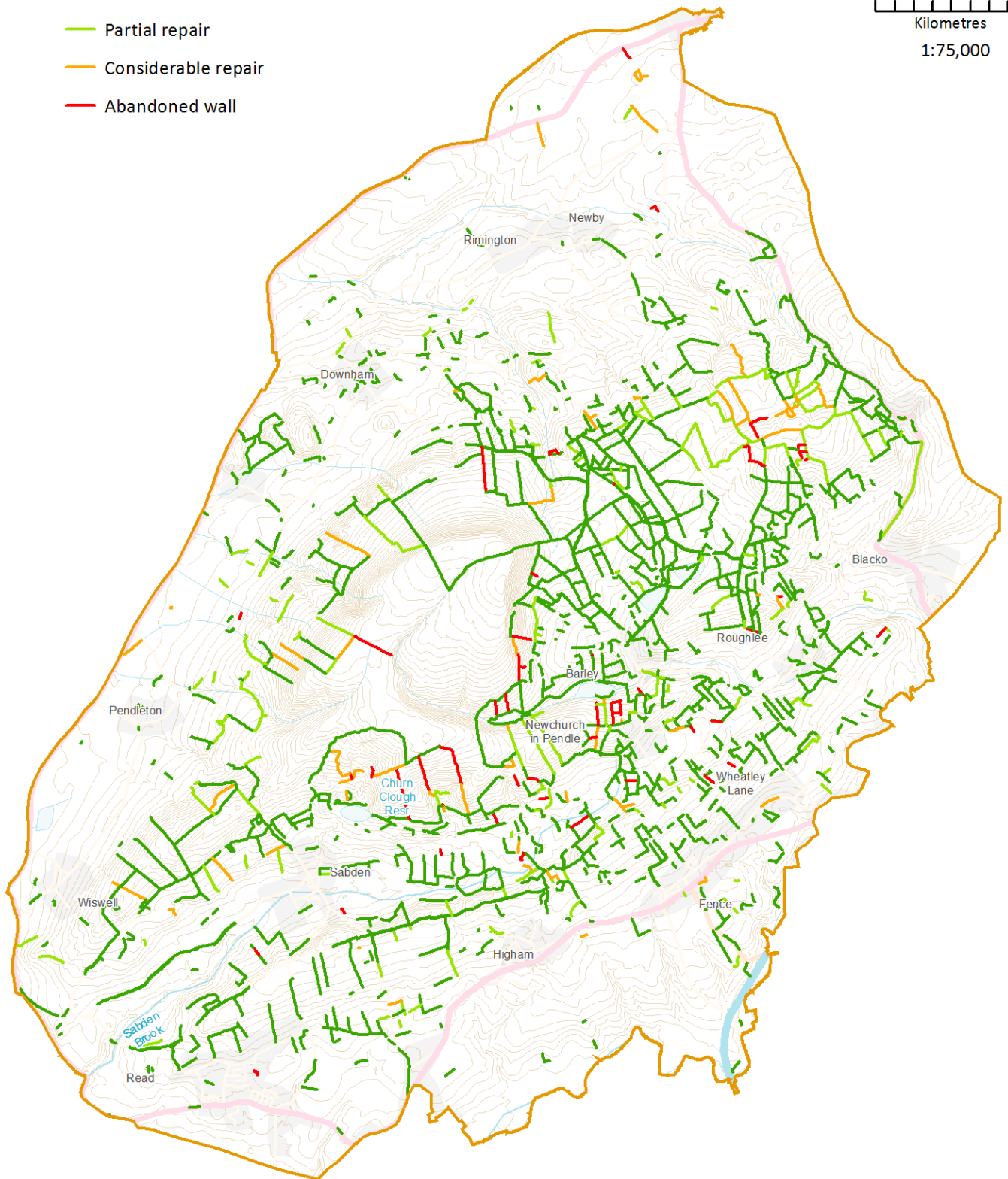
The Sabden Fold and Newchurch areas highlight notable clusters of smaller walls in need of restoration.

Map 7 Traditional Boundaries Action Plan
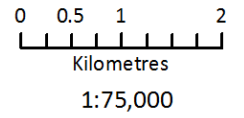# Wall Condition

N

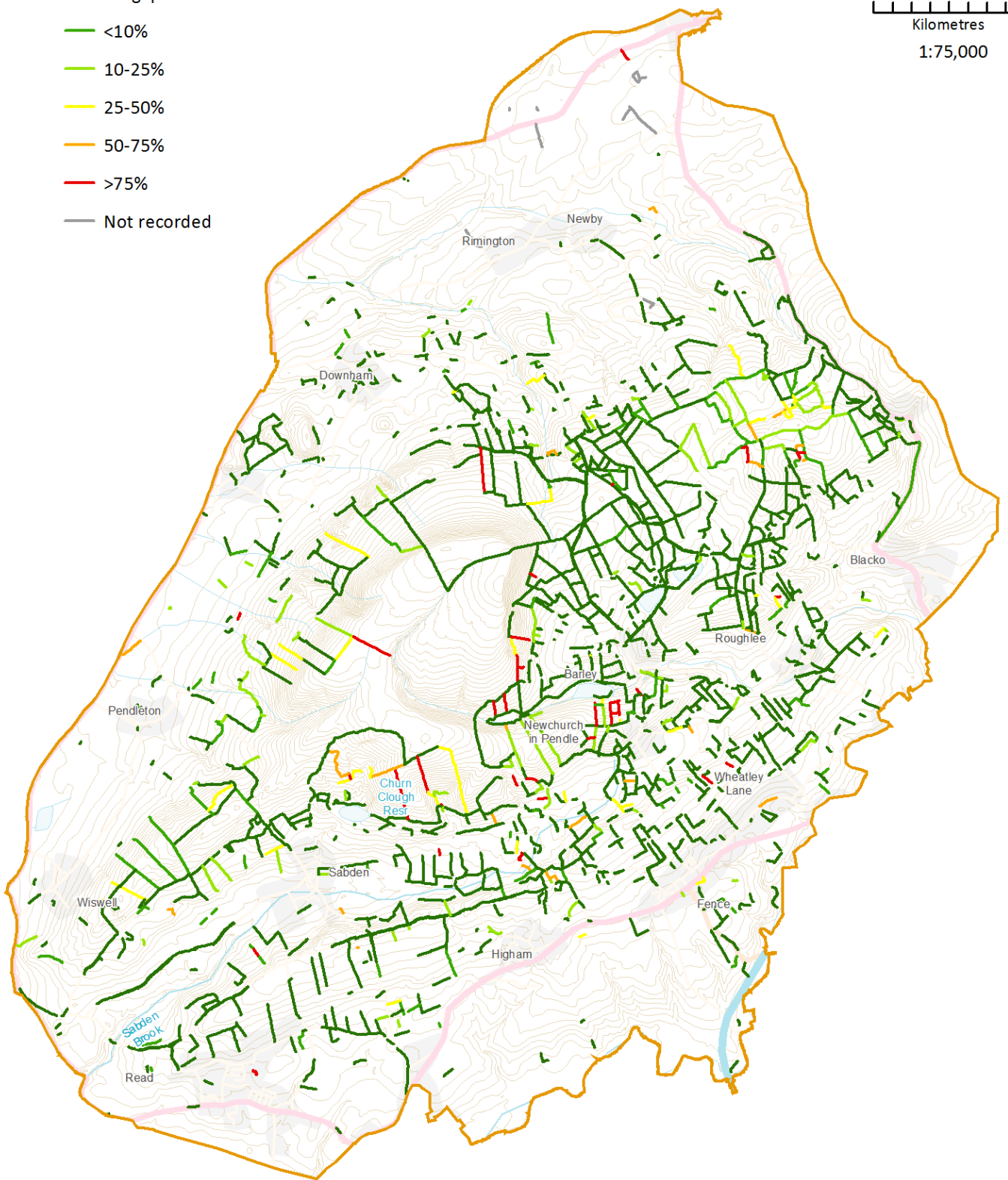Good condition
Partial repair
Considerable repair
Abandoned wall

0   0.5   1   2
Kilometres
1:75,000

Newby

Rimington

Downham

Blacko

Roughlee

Pendleton

Barley

Newchurch
in Pendle

Wheatley
Lane

Churn
Clough
Resr

Sabden

Fence

Wiswell

Higham

Sabden
Brook

Read

Map 8 Traditional Boundaries Action Plan
Wall Gaps

N

Legend

—— No gaps
—— <10%
—— 10-25%
—— 25-50%
—— 50-75%
—— >75%
—— Not recorded

0 0.5 1   2
Kilometres
1:75,000

Newby

Rimington

Downham

Blacko

Roughlee

Pendleton

Barley

Newchurch
in Pendle

Churn
Clough
Resr

Wheatley
Lane

Sabden

Wiswell

Fence

Higham

Sabden
Brook

Read

Map 9 Traditional Boundaries Action Plan
Wall Restoration Prioritisation

Legend:

- Gisburn
- Newchurch
- Pendle Hill
- Rimington Moor
- Sabden Fold

- —— Low priority
- —— Medium priority
- —— High priority

0 0.5 1 2
Kilometres
1:75,000

N

Gisburn

Rimington Moor

Pendle Hill

Newchurch

Sabden Fold

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