

ENVIRONMENT FOCUS GROUP

Darren Leng

Tony Goodson

John Wootton

Steering Group Liaison: Cathy Burrell

Our baseline descriptive data includes:-

- The natural environment – physical and biological
- The mixed rural environment
- Designated areas and local initiatives

We are collaborating with the Landscape Focus Group

We focus on aspects that are:-

- Important for P&BB now ***and over the next 20 years***
- Locally ***distinctive***
- Impact ***local land use and planning***
- ***Enhance the Special Landscape Area “Key Characteristics”***

* HBC draft LP policy NE4:- “Development proposals are required to ... avoid loss of key characteristics that contribute to the quality of the SLA ...”

Strengthening the status of the Special Landscape Area

- Geology, landform
- Hydrology, aquifers
- Endangered species, wildlife
- Habitats



SLA Key Characteristics

HBC draft LP policy NE4:-

“Development proposals are required to ... avoid loss of key characteristics that contribute to the quality of the SLA ...”

Strengthening the SLA evidence base

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Millstone grit solid geology with surface water gley soils consisting of slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Small scale V-shaped valley landform rising between 90m AOD in the valley bottom at Pannal to 220m AOD on the valley side near Briscoe Ridge Lane at the top of the south valley side.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- The River Crimple or Crimple Beck is the main watercourse with several tributaries incising the valley sides.

Updating the brief information in the local HBC 2004 SLA justification documents

Much more emphasis on impressive distinctive features in the P&BB area

Accurate data sources

CHERISHING THE P&BB ENVIRONMENT

Exceptionally strong awareness

P&BB
Environment
Focus Group

Pannal Primary School

Sandy Bank (SINC) Woodland Conservation and
Great Crested Newt habitat projects



Renewable Energy
Efficiency Project

Planning and Land Use Implications

ACCURATE INFORMATION MAKES FOR GOOD PLANNING DECISIONS

Or, it should. But, with environmental data, there's a recurrent problem:-

**NATIONAL STANDARDS
VERSUS
LOCAL REALITY**

OR:-

Conventional Local Authority Planning protocols

versus

Authoritative objective review of the scientific or engineering evidence

CASE IN POINT: AIR QUALITY STANDARDS



Local authorities are only obliged to consider governmental criteria. For this area:-

DEFRA/EA: Pollutant levels “LOW” to “VERY LOW”

EUROPEAN UNION: Air Quality “VERY GOOD” to “EXCELLENT”

The conventional assessments are *averages*.

The pollutant thresholds are stringent as standards for cities.

Are these appropriate for Pannal Main Street and Station Road?

In contrast, the Royal College of Physicians Air Pollution Report (2016):-

- Has been ***approved by the Government Chief Medical Advisor*** and transmitted to the Cabinet and Prime Ministers Offices
- Describes in technical detail the ***overwhelming evidence for adverse health effects of close proximity to traffic fumes*** (worst for children and pregnant mothers).
- ***Highlights the “Pannal Main Street” type of scenario.***
- Presses local authorities *urgently* to use their powers to ***implement road Closures and traffic re-routing*** to ensure that ***queues of stationary and slow moving traffic do not build up in the vicinity of schools.***

More generally ...

Similar authoritative challenges apply to cases of:-

- **Flood risk estimates**
- **Aquifer locations and discharges**
- ***Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) on seasonally saturated land***
- **Standards for agricultural runoff and soil erosion**
- **The extent and continuity of “habitats” for endangered species**

(The environment FG has details of such local cases in P&BB ready for discussion)

Key question raised by the Environment FG “fact finding”:-

Can a Neighbourhood Plan use authoritative public evidence of the highest objective technical quality to challenge conventional Local Authority protocols?

Enhancing the status of the SLA:- These topics can be formatted for the NP as a concise “P&BB Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan” (Useful Pately Bridge model)

Wildlife and habitats (Tony)

Habitat diversity in P&BB:-

becks, mixed woodland, open grassland, farmland, gardens

Notable Biodiversity – we have data from reliable sources on birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, insects, invertebrates, (more work still needed on plants)

Endangered species – a high proportion meet **RED LIST** or **AMBER LIST** criteria) e.g. – for birds, red list requires >50% Decline in breeding population or >50% contraction of habitat

Substantial changes – even in the last 10 years. Some ranges extending northwards rapidly, others declining with habitat loss

RED-LISTED BIRDS

13 out of 41 species in P&BB (32%)

Also 11 species (27%) amber listed

Curlew

Yellowhammer

Marsh Tit

Grey Wagtail

Linnet

Fieldfare

Redwing

Song Thrush

Tree Sparrow

House Sparrow

Starling

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Cuckoo

New designated areas Remarkable Geology and excellent data (BGS):-

RIGS – *Regionally Important Geological Sites*. Criteria:-

- Uniqueness - regional or national
- Importance for education
- Importance for research

Several local candidates:-

- Harrogate Anticline
- Burn Bridge Fault
- Aquifers – 4 distinct systems
- Sandy Bank quarry

(RIGS development can be described
as work-in-progress in the NP)



Burn Bridge Fault

2.8 km long (The Warren to Pannal Ash)

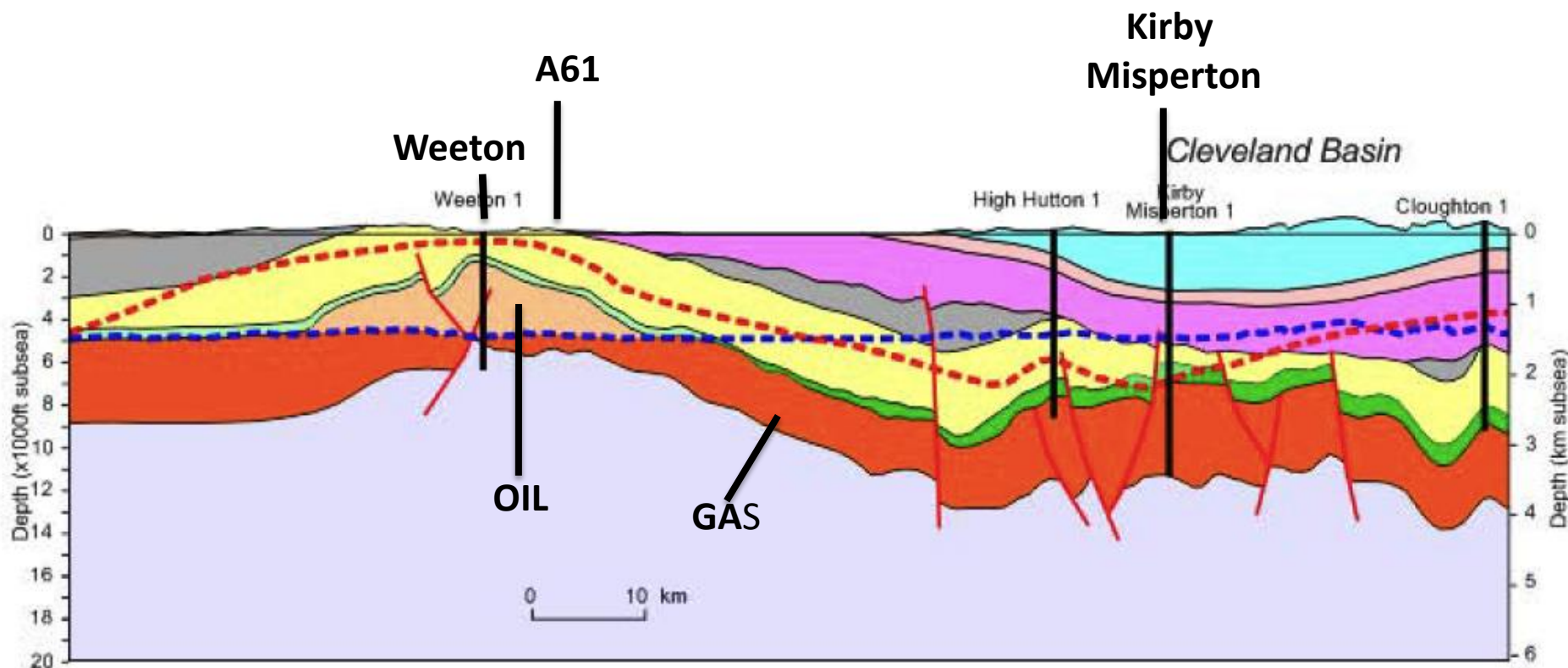
900 meters horizontal shift
(50-fold greater shift than
major San Andreas quakes)

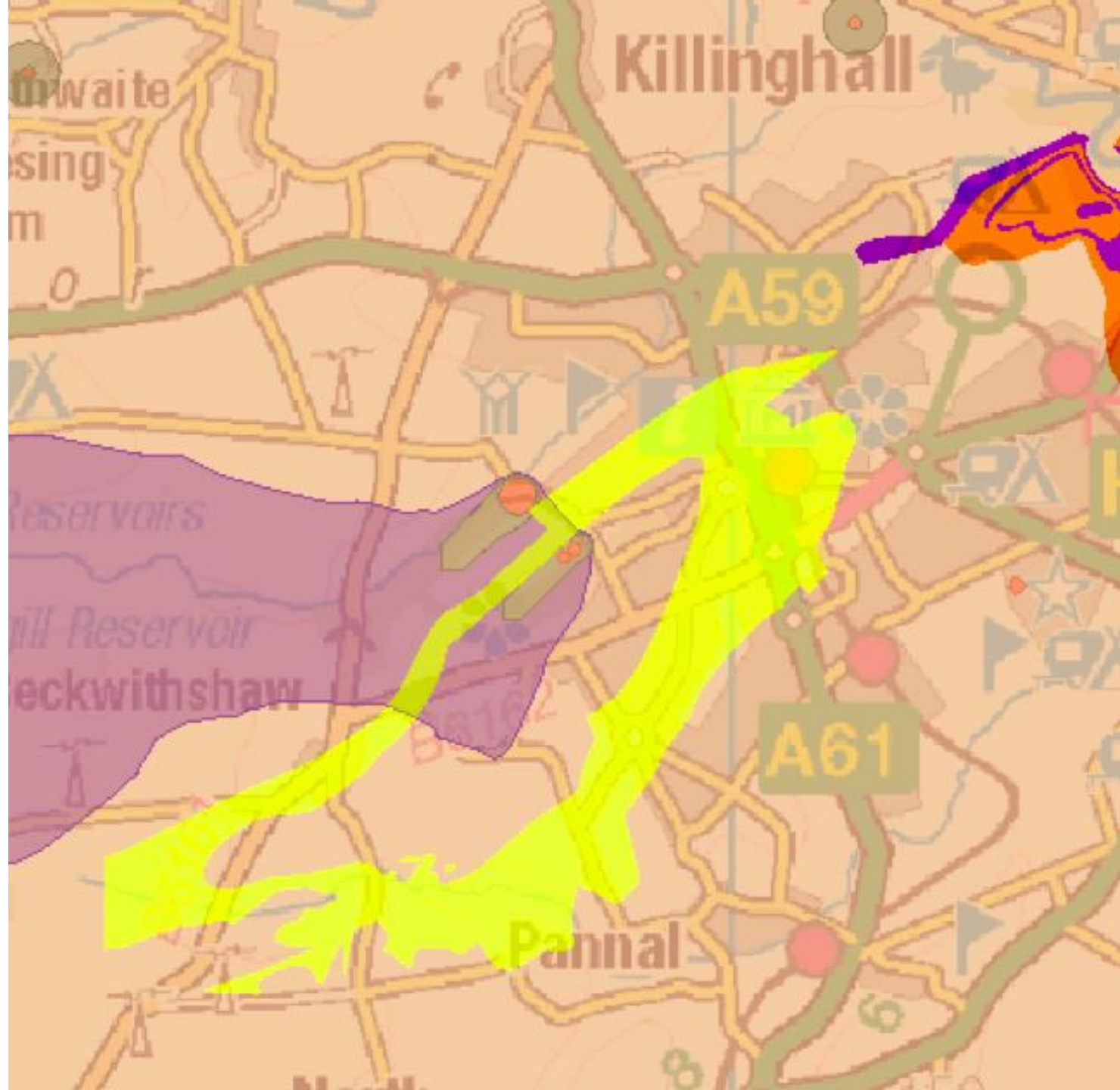


Fault line and adjacent geological discontinuities are a focus for ***aquifer discharges and useful natural springs.***

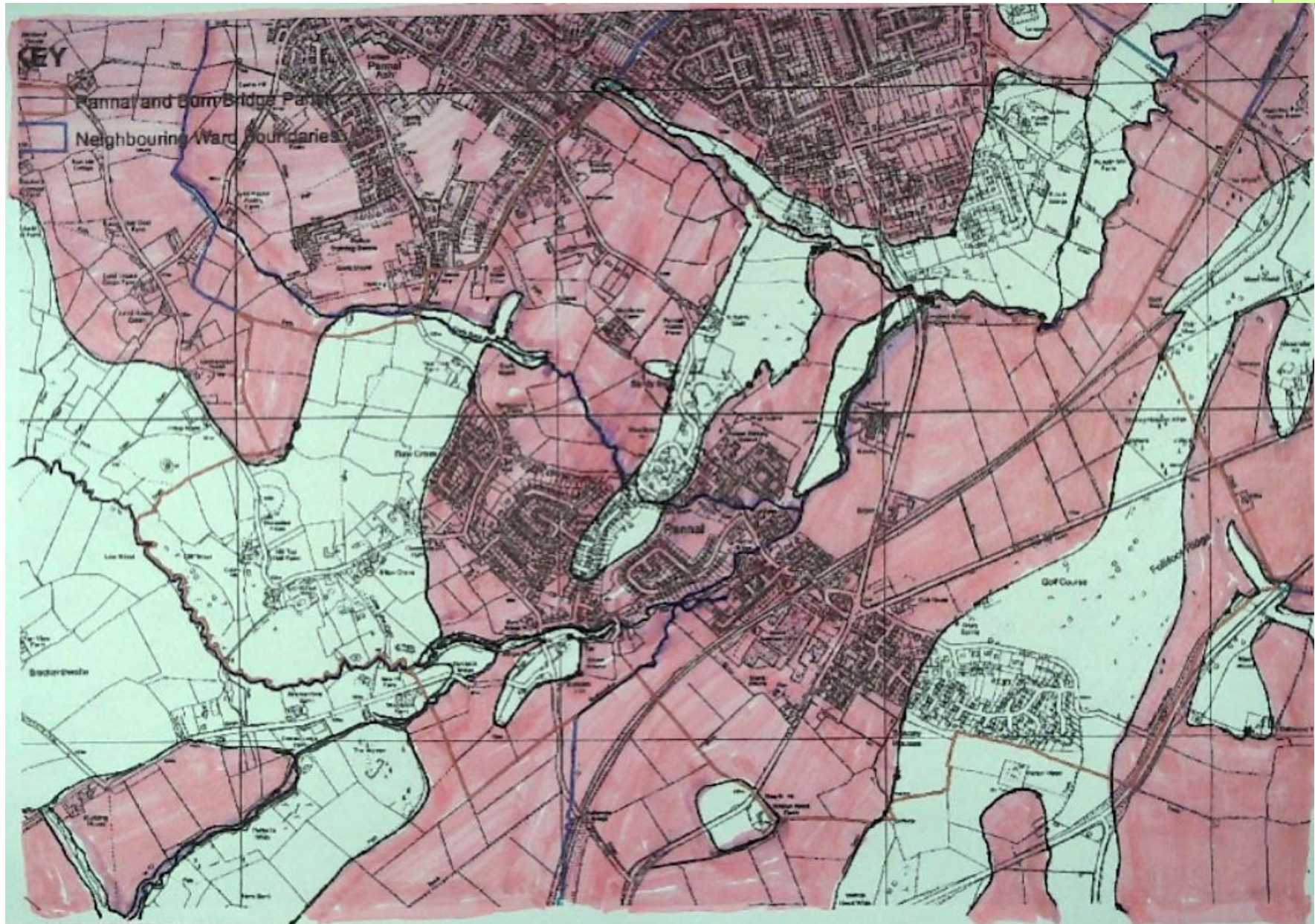
Problems: soil erosion, tree dieback, and ***contribution to persistent water flow in Yew Tree Lane, Hill Foot Lane***

THE GAS- AND OIL-BEARING BOWLAND SHALE



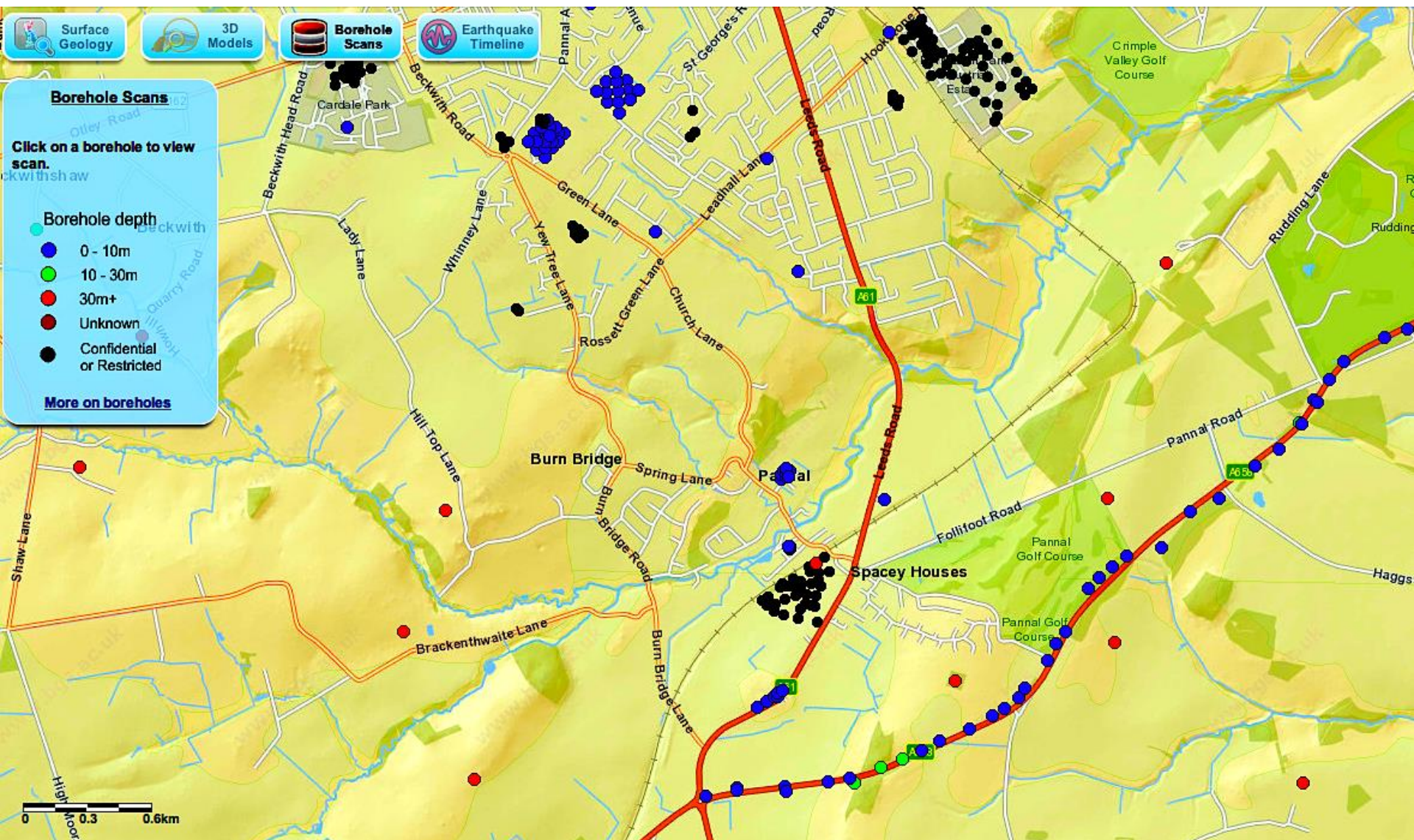


HARROGATE TILL – DRIFT AQUIFER – BELOW SOIL



Cause of seasonal waterlogging. Implications for location of building land and SUDS engineering

Boreholes, wells, springs



Requests for Parish Council support

1. Register a **“Pannal and Burn Bridge Biodiversity Group”** with the **Yorkshire Naturalists Union?** Fee **£30 per annum**.
(The PC’s imprimatur and authority are the important factors here, not the cost.)

Advantages:-

- **Draw in observations and knowledge of local naturalists (already ongoing)**
- **Authoritative validation by YNU of biodiversity records from local naturalists**
- **Submission by YNU of validated records to the National Biodiversity Network**

2. Similarly, register a **P&BB Geodiversity Group**, to develop possible **RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Site)** designations, explained later; affiliation cost not yet available.

3. During “final” NP drafting for publicity and the approval processes (c. July 2018 ?), **professional design and production of a few (A4-size!) composite maps** (joint requirement with the current Landscape Group, cost not yet known).