



Tameside Borough

Open Space Assessment

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Final report
Prepared by LUC
December 2025

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Tameside Borough

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (hereafter referred to as the Council) commissioned LUC to undertake an open space assessment for the borough to inform the emerging Homes, Spaces, Places Plan. This assessment is required to update Tameside's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2017/18 . The work will align with the framework of the recent Places for Everyone, a strategic joint development plan to deliver employment opportunities, new homes and sustainable growth within nine of Greater Manchester's boroughs (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) [\[See reference 8\]](#).

1.2 Tameside is a metropolitan borough in the eastern part of Greater Manchester. It covers an area of approximately 103 square kilometres. Neighbouring Tameside are the boroughs of Oldham to the north, Stockport to the south, Manchester to the west and High Peak in Derbyshire to the east. The borough has a relatively stable but ageing population, with over 231000 residents as of 2021 [\[See reference 1\]](#). Tameside encompasses a blend of urban centres, suburban neighbourhoods, and extensive areas of open land. The borough comprises the principal towns of Ashton-under-Lyne, Hyde, Audenshaw, Droylsden, Dukinfield, Denton, Stalybridge, Mossley and Longdendale, each with its distinct local identity and varying socio-economic characteristics.

1.3 Over 50% of the borough's total land area is undeveloped and green in nature, much of which is within the Greater Manchester Green Belt. This includes parks, woodlands, nature reserves, river valleys, golf clubs, green wedges, playing fields, and informal recreation areas. The three river valleys that run through Tameside include the River Tame, the River Medlock to the north along the boundary with Oldham and the River Etherow to the south along the boundary with Stockport. Additionally, there are four canals: the Peak Forest Canal, the Ashton Canal, the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, and the Hollinwood Branch Canal. Collectively, these form the borough's network of blue spaces.

1.4 The borough faces a complex mix of challenges and opportunities. While some communities benefit from strong connectivity and high-quality living environments, others experience high levels of deprivation, health inequality, and limited access to well-maintained open space. Thus, the provision of open space within the borough must be informed by local needs. In addition to careful consideration of the potential benefits of open spaces for nature, their positive impact on the climate crisis, and their ability to complement local character. With growing demands for housing, inclusive infrastructure, and high-quality public spaces, alongside a diverse and

growing population, it is essential to ensure that residents have access to a local network of open spaces that support their health, well-being, and overall quality of life.

Study aims and objectives

1.5 The main objectives for this assessment are listed below:

- Update the evidence base for open space within the borough.
- Set new quantity and accessibility standards for open space provision across the borough.
- Establish criteria and a method for assessing the quality and value standards of open spaces.
- Provide evidence within a strategic context to inform future recommendations for the provision of open space in the borough.

Definitions and terminology

1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines open spaces as: “*All open space (i.e. outdoor areas) of public value, including not just land but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity*” [See [reference 2](#)].

1.7 An alternative term ‘greenspace’ is sometimes used instead of open space. This usually refers to those open spaces that are primarily natural or green cover.

1.8 Open space standards are used in local open space assessments to guide the provision, design and management of open spaces. There are three types of standard that are usually recommended:

- **Quantity standards:** The quantity standard refers to the amount of open space available compared to the population. It is usually expressed in hectares per 1000 of the population. This may also be referred to as a capacity standard.
- **Accessibility standards:** The accessibility standard sets out how far people may be expected to travel to access open spaces. It may be expressed as a straight-line distance (in metres or kilometres) or as a travel time (in minutes) based on the road and path network. This may also be referred to as a proximity, or size-proximity, standard.

- **Quality:** The quality standard sets out expectations for the condition and functionality of open spaces. It is often divided into value (the functionality of and facilities within an open space) and quality (the condition and maintenance of these features). A structured set of criteria and scoring is usually used to translate quality and value assessments into numerical scores to which a standard can be applied.

1.9 This Study has set out and applied standards for quantity and accessibility. Appropriate criteria and methods for applying quality and value standards have been set out, but not considered in this Study.

Structure of the report

1.10 The remainder of this report is structured as set out below:

- **Chapter 2: Methodology** – sets out the methodology for the assessment.
- **Chapter 3: Policy Context** – outlines the planning policy context within which this assessment has been undertaken.
- **Chapter 4: Identifying Local Needs** – provides details on the local context and identifies local needs in relation to open spaces within the borough.
- **Chapter 5: Typology and Hierarchy** – details the open space typologies used to classify open space types, as well as the size-based open space hierarchies used to apply accessibility standards.
- **Chapter 6: Quantity Assessment** – outlines current open space provision, proposed quantity standards, the findings of the quantity assessment based on those standards, as well as a neighbourhood analysis provision.
- **Chapter 7: Accessibility Assessment** – outlines proposed accessibility standards, the findings of the accessibility assessment, and provides a neighbourhood analysis of accessibility.
- **Chapter 8: Quantity and Accessibility Analysis per Neighbourhood Area** – summarises the key open space provision and needs within each neighbourhood area.
- **Chapter 9: Quality and Value Standards** – details the proposed standards and approach to assessing the quality and value of open spaces in the borough.
- **Chapter 10: Recommendations** – identifies future recommendations for open space provision in the borough.

Chapter 2

Methodology

2.1 The methodology for the assessment of open space reflects the requirements in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and recognised good practice guidance, including Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework Accessible Greenspace Standards.

2.2 The emerging Homes, Spaces, Places Local Plan will be examined according to the NPPF 2021. This open space study is in line with guidance set out in this version of the NPPF.

Stage 1: Understand the supply

2.3 The previous open space study for Tameside was published in 2018. A review of the open space data set was undertaken to ensure that the data set reflected recent changes across the borough. This included:

- Identifying new open spaces that had been developed since 2017/18;
- Removing open spaces that had been lost since 2017/18;
- Checking for consistency of typology.

2.4 The 2017/18 open space data set was reviewed using a desk-based approach combining existing national datasets, a review of aerial imagery and street view and targeted site visits. National datasets included:

- Country Parks
- Local Nature Reserve
- Open access land (CRoW)
- Surface water (to identify for canals and towpaths); and
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (for understanding access).

2.5 Spatial data showing the locations of completed housing sites was reviewed to identify changes to open spaces resulting from new development.

2.6 During the review of previous open spaces, it was noted the data set contained a number of sites which we were not fully accessible. This included areas around schools which were not publicly accessible and elements of the wider countryside that were only accessible through Public Rights of Way or had no access.

2.7 The review of open spaces also included testing the open space data set during consultation and with a Council Officer Group, including officers from the Greenspace, Public Health, Planning and Community Engagement teams. Council members were also given an opportunity to review the data.

2.8 As part of the review, these sites were re-classified with the creation of new typologies to provide further clarity on the access level of open spaces and, in the case of civic spaces better incorporate public realm within the built environment. The final typologies, hierarchies and access levels included within this study are explained further in **Chapter 5: Typology and Hierarchy**.

Stage 2: Identify local need and strategic context

2.9 This stage included three key areas of work which helped build a portrait of the local needs and context within Tameside.

2.10 The first was a desk-based review of national, regional and local policy, aimed at understanding the wider strategic priorities and policy drivers which influence the approach to management and provision of open space. The findings from these are presented in **Chapter 3: Policy Context**.

2.11 Secondly, we undertook a desk-based review of local needs. This included the demographic, social, health and environmental context in Tameside. Much of this data has been mapped to understand the potential spatial priorities and needs. Findings from this are shown in **Chapter 4: Identifying Local Need**.

2.12 Lastly, consultation and engagement provided a more in-depth understanding of the issues facing local communities. This comprised an online survey and an in-person workshop. The consultation strategy was developed in line with officers within the Council to target community members from across various demographics and geographies. The focus was to reach a diverse group of people with an interest in open space e.g. Friends of Groups and community groups who could represent the views of communities they worked with. Further detail on the consultation strategy and results for this can be found in **Appendix A**. Key findings and how this has shaped the standards set are also included throughout the study.

2.13 In addition, Council Officers involved in the management of greenspaces were engaged on the methodology, involved in the workshop and consulted on the interim findings of the report.

Stage 3: Setting standards

2.14 Standards have been set to guide open space management and provision within Tameside. The following standards have been considered:

- Quantity: the amount and types of open spaces per 1000 of the population;
- Accessibility: how far residents have to travel to reach open spaces;
- Quality: the condition of different types of open space; and
- Value: the functionality and importance of different types of open space to local people.

2.15 Standards have been set based on established guidance and best practice, including Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework, Fields in Trust and the Green Flag Award, as well as through consideration of local needs and neighbouring standards. In addition, consideration was given to local standards applied throughout Greater Manchester (see **Appendix B**)

2.16 This open space assessment will focus on setting standards for the accessible greenspace typologies (parks and gardens, natural greenspace and amenity greenspace), play provision for children and teenagers, and allotments and community growing spaces. These standards were also set out in the previous (2017/18) open space assessment for Tameside.

Stage 4: Applying standards

2.17 Performance of the open spaces in Tameside compared to the quantity and accessibility standards have been assessed. Performance has been considered at the borough wide scale, and for each of the neighbourhood areas. In addition, we have analysed the quantity and accessibility for current and future population levels, up to 2041.

2.18 Population data from Census 2021 has been used as an indicator, with the population uplift for 2041 based on expected development and an average occupancy rate of 2.0. Due to ward boundary changes following the 2021 Census, some estimations were required to determine total population for each of the neighbourhood analysis areas. More information on this can be found in **Appendix C**.

2.19 To assess accessibility, access distances have been applied using network analysis, rather than as a straight-line distance. This uses the road and footpath network to identify the actual walking distances to open spaces. The following

datasets were used to identify the road and footpath network and identify the access points to open spaces for calculating access catchments.

- Network analysis was carried out using Ordnance Survey (OS) Multi Modal Routing Network:
 - A 6km buffer around Tameside was set to ensure journeys that exit and then re-enter the borough are included
 - The routing network was filtered to where Foot = “yes” or “designated”
- Access points were created using the following layers:
 - OS National Geographic Database Site Access
 - Intersecting points between network and open spaces
 - Intersecting points between 5/7m buffer of network and open spaces
 - Points generated every 50m around 6 sites that do not intersect network

2.20 This piece of work did not include the application of quality and value standards, as these will be based on individual site visits.

Stage 5: Recommendations

2.21 The findings from applying the standards and the local needs have been brought together to provide high level recommendations for the provision and management of open spaces in Tameside.

Chapter 3

Policy Context

3.1 This open space assessment has been prepared in line with national, regional and local policy frameworks relevant to Tameside. It draws upon key planning guidance and strategic frameworks which will influence the design, provision, and long-term sustainability of open spaces in the borough.

National Context

National Planning Policy Framework

The current emerging local plan in Tameside has been ongoing and it is agreed that this will be prepared in line with the NPPF 2021, rather than the 2024 update. Whilst there are no material changes to the consideration of open space between the two versions of the NPPF, paragraph numbers referred to are those from the 2021 version.

3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [**See reference 3**] highlights the importance of high-quality open space in achieving well-designed, sustainable and healthy communities. It provides the rationale for the preparation of open space assessments by Local Planning Authorities.

3.3 Paragraphs 96 to 103 outline the planning context for open space and recreation. The importance of high quality open spaces are set out in reference to providing opportunities for sport and physical activity, the health and well-being of communities, and wider benefits to nature and to address climate change.

3.4 In addition, this sets out the need for an up-to-date assessment of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities, including deficits and surpluses in relation to quantity and quality.

3.5 Open space is noted in relation to the social objective of achieving sustainable development (paragraph 8). This highlights the need for open spaces to reflect the needs of current and future populations, and support the health, wellbeing and culture of local communities.

3.6 In addition, open space is referenced in paragraph 84 in relation to supporting a prosperous rural economy and in paragraph 93 in relation to promoting healthy and safe communities.

25-Year Environment Plan

3.7 The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan [\[See reference 4\]](#), published in 2018, continues to shape the national vision for environmental enhancement. Chapter 3 of the Plan sets out the need to connect people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. The plan champions increased access to greenspaces, particularly in areas of higher deprivation. It represented an important shift in thinking towards long-term positive action to improve people's lives and the environment, including the delivery of social benefits through open space provision.

National Design Guide

3.8 The National Design Guide (NDG), published by the UK Government, establishes the key principles for creating high-quality, sustainable, and well-designed places [\[See reference 5\]](#). It is structured around ten characteristics of good design, which collectively work together to create a place's physical character, nurture and sustain a sense of community, and positively address issues affecting the climate. The ten characteristics include:

- **Context** – Enhancing the surroundings.
- **Identity** – Creating attractive and distinctive spaces.
- **Built Form** – Promoting a coherent pattern of development.
- **Movement** – Ensuring easy access and connectivity.
- **Nature** – Integrating, enhancing and optimising nature for biodiversity, wellbeing, and sustainability.
- **Public Spaces** – Providing safe, social, and inclusive spaces.
- **Uses** – Supporting mixed and integrated places that encourage vibrant communities.
- **Homes and Buildings** – Offering functional, healthy and sustainable homes.
- **Resources** – Creating places that are efficient and resilient.
- **Lifespan** – Ensuring flexibility and durability over time.

3.9 The NDG provides practical guidance and examples for developers, designers, and local authorities to create and maintain high-quality, sustainable open spaces that deliver lasting environmental, social, and economic benefits, aligning with the broader strategic planning and sustainability objectives outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Green Infrastructure Framework

3.10 Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework (NEGIF) [See reference 6] introduces national benchmark standards to guide provision of natural features, including within built environments. NEGIF highlights the importance of green infrastructure, including open space, in providing a range of benefits, including in relation to biodiversity, health and wellbeing, community wellbeing, water environments and climate resilience.

3.11 The framework outlines five headline standards. The second of these is the Accessible Greenspace Standard, which establishes size and proximity criteria to ensure everyone has access to greenspace close to home. The standard recommends the provision of 3ha of accessible greenspace per 1000 population. In addition, it recommends everyone has access to a greenspace of at least 0.5ha in size within a 200m walking distance, or at least 2ha within 300m walking distance, in addition to a greenspace of at least 10ha within a 1km walking distance.

Fields in Trust - Fields in Trust Standards: Creating great spaces for all

3.12 Fields in Trust (FiT) is an independent charity which aims to protect and support parks and greenspaces for people. This includes collaborating with landowners, communities, and policymakers to advocate for parks and greenspaces and the benefits they offer. They also promote the importance of local and national level protection for these spaces.

3.13 The FiT Standards (2024) [See reference 7] provide guidance on the provision of open space and outdoor sport facilities, including areas of formal and informal play. The guidance emphasises multifunctional, inclusive and climate-resilient open space provision, structured around six thematic outcomes: accessibility, activity, wellbeing, resilience, biodiversity, and community value.

3.14 FIT recommends a minimum of 5.35 hectares per 1000 population, encompassing open space, outdoor sport and play provision. Specifically:

- Open space: 3.2 ha per 1000 people
- Outdoor sport: 1.6 ha per 1000 people
- Play space: 0.55 ha per 1000 people

3.15 In addition to quantitative benchmarks, FIT Standards incorporate design guidance to ensure accessibility, safety, inclusivity and social relevance. The standards support adaptable provision strategies tailored to demographic and spatial context, and advocate for location-sensitive investment, particularly where direct provision is constrained.

Regional Context

3.16 A range of regional strategies apply to Tameside as part of the wider Greater Manchester area. These set out the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) commitment to enhancing the quality, accessibility, and quantity of open space provision across the region.

Places for Everyone

3.17 The Places for Everyone (PfE) joint development plan [\[See reference 8\]](#) aims to deliver sustainable growth across nine Greater Manchester boroughs. Within PfE, Strategic Objective 8 calls for improved access to green spaces, climate resilience, and the reduction of flood risk. Open spaces are also recognised in Objectives 9 and 10, which address access to infrastructure and promote community wellbeing. Key policies of relevance include:

- JP-G 1: Landscape Character
- JP-G 2: Green Infrastructure Network
- JP-G 3: River Valleys and Waterways
- JP-G 4: Lowland Wetlands and Mosslands
- JP-G 5: Uplands
- JP-G 6: Urban Green Space
- JP-G 7: Trees and Woodland
- JP-G 8: A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- JP-G 9: The Green Belt
- JP-P 1: Sustainable Places

- JP-P 7: Sport and Recreation

Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan

3.18 The Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan (2025–2030) provides a blueprint for achieving a carbon-neutral, nature-rich city region by 2038 [See reference 9]. The plan recognises that open spaces are fundamental to environmental quality, public health, climate resilience and biodiversity.

3.19 The plan identifies eight strategic aims, several of which directly relate to open space planning. These include:

- Aim 4: enhancing the natural environment;
- Aim 6: increasing resilience to climate impacts; and
- Aim 7: improving air quality.

3.20 Key commitments include the expansion and active management of green and blue spaces, establishing a Greater Manchester Nature Network, and supporting community-led green infrastructure projects.

3.21 The plan also emphasises the role of green infrastructure in addressing health inequalities and promoting environmental justice, particularly in areas of deprivation and poor access. It reinforces the value of multifunctional green spaces that support flood resilience, carbon storage, urban cooling and active travel.

3.22 The Plan supports integration of Local Nature Recovery Strategies into statutory planning, aligning with Biodiversity Net Gain requirements and local environmental priorities.

Greater Manchester Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy

3.23 The Greater Manchester Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (GM LNRS) sets out a vision to establish a “resilient network for nature” that supports biodiversity, ecosystem services and community access [See reference 10]. Developed under the Environment Act 2021, the strategy identifies where and how actions should take place over the next decade to achieve measurable improvements for nature. The strategy outlines:

- A mapped Nature Network made up of Core Local Nature Sites and Nature Recovery Opportunity Areas.

- Headline targets include increasing designated nature land from 11% to 15%, restoring 1,800ha of land, and improving access to increase the number of residents living within 15 minutes of a high-quality green space.
- A strong focus on equitable access, climate resilience, and alignment with planning, health and social objectives.

3.24 Tameside’s participation in the GM LNRS Steering Group ensures local data and context are reflected in nature recovery priorities, providing an evidence base for integrating open space enhancement with spatial planning and Biodiversity Net Gain delivery.

Local Context

Tameside Unitary Development Plan (UDP)

3.25 The Tameside Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted in November 2004, remains the borough’s statutory development plan until the emerging Local Plan is adopted [See reference 11]. The UDP provides borough-wide guidance on land use, including policies protecting and enhancing open spaces and green infrastructure. Key policies relevant to open space include:

- Policy 1.8: Retaining and Improving Opportunities for Sport, Recreation and Leisure. This commits Tameside to safeguarding existing parks, play areas, playing fields and informal recreational areas, and improving provision in areas of deficiency.
- Policy 1.10: Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment. This policy aims to safeguard nature conservation sites and protect landscape and biodiversity value.
- Policy OL4: Protected Greenspace. This policy explicitly protects open spaces from development unless proposals provide equivalent community benefit in quality, quantity, and accessibility.

3.26 The UDP identifies the dual role of open space: both as strategic infrastructure that supports biodiversity and recreation, and as a local community asset enhancing quality of life.

Homes, Spaces, Places

3.27 Following the adoption of the jointly prepared Places for Everyone by the GMCA, the main priority for the Council over the period of the local development scheme is to review and replace any remaining UDP policy content through a new plan: Homes, Spaces, Places [See reference 12].

3.28 The draft plan incorporates green infrastructure and open space provision as core elements of placemaking and biodiversity enhancement, emphasising the role of open spaces in supporting community identity, health, and environmental performance. Key draft policies relevant to open space include:

- HSP E3: Biodiversity – this policy commits to protecting existing nature, including within open spaces.
- HSP PE1: Development and Healthier Environments – This policy aims to improve health and wellbeing through good urban design and encouraging active travel concentrated in Health Improvement Zones. Open spaces can provide infrastructure which supports healthy lives including through promoting physical activity.
- HSP PE2: Publicly Accessible Green Spaces. This policy protects publicly accessible green and open spaces.
- HSP PE3: Green Space Standards. This policy stipulates that development positively contributes to the provision of publicly accessible functional greenspace.
- HSP PE4: Strategic Recreation and Countryside Access. This policy provides protection for Tameside’s network of informal routes, canal towpaths, bridleways, country parks and rural spaces.
- HSP PE5: Outdoor Sport and Recreational Facilities. This policy outlines that the development on outdoor sports or recreational facilities should only occur under very specific circumstances.

3.29 Specifically, this assessment will feed into the ongoing development of HSP PE3: Green Space Standards.

Corporate Plan: Our People, Our Place, Our Plan

3.30 The Tameside Corporate Plan 2024–2027 defines four cross-cutting priorities, with direct implications for the delivery and enhancement of green and open spaces

[See reference 13]. The most directly relevant is Priority 3: Safe, Green and Supportive Communities, which includes:

- Investing in community infrastructure and facilities, including parks and open spaces.
- Designing sustainable town centres and other public spaces based on residents' needs.

3.31 The plan recognises that well-maintained, accessible, and attractive open spaces are essential for achieving wider outcomes related to health, equality, economic opportunity, and environmental justice.

Tameside Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Locality Plan

3.32 The strategy sets out the framework for enhancing health and wellbeing across Tameside, emphasising the role of healthy environments and accessible community services [See reference 14]. As one of its six main focus areas, the strategy seeks to 'Deliver healthy places with accessible and inclusive services'. The key indicators relevant to measuring progress in this area include:

- Increased availability of accessible green spaces.
- Increase the utilisation of outdoor space for exercise.
- Reduced variation in key health outcome measures across Tameside (focus on deprived areas).

3.33 The plan is supported by the **Tameside Healthy Places Strategic Framework for Action 2024-2028** [See reference 15]. The framework outlines a collaborative approach to developing healthier communities in Tameside by addressing key health factors, including physical activity. It identifies nine mechanisms across three domains that can be used to deliver healthy places. Of relevance is 'Buildings and spaces', which is featured as one of the mechanisms within the 'Role modelling change' domain.

3.34 Additional health-oriented strategies of relevance include:

- **Tameside Moving Strategic Framework for Action 2024-2028** [See reference 16]. This framework aims to promote physical activity among Tameside's population by adopting a comprehensive, system-wide approach, whereby active lifestyles are encouraged to become the norm. It specifically seeks to address inactivity among disadvantaged communities, older adults, and young people by promoting equitable access to physical activity. The strategy integrates active travel and accessible green spaces, aligning closely

with broader goals around health equity, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

- **Tameside Walking and Wheeling Strategy 2024-2028 [See reference 17].** The strategy emphasises walking and wheeling (the use of wheelchairs and mobility aids) as essential modes of active travel that support public health, reduce environmental impact, and foster community cohesion. It focuses on education, infrastructure improvements, promotion, and community activities as ways to encourage walking and wheeling. By prioritising inclusive design, maintenance, cleanliness, community, and safety, it closely aligns with wider healthy places and active travel initiatives to integrate walking and wheeling into daily life in Tameside.
- **Let's Ride Tameside 2024-2028 Strategic Framework for Cycling Activation [See reference 18].** This strategy outlines a health-focused approach to promoting cycling in Tameside, aiming to enhance physical and mental well-being, promote environmental sustainability, and foster economic inclusivity. Prioritising safety and accessibility, it supports the growth of cycling through improved off-road infrastructure, community engagement, and partnerships to foster a positive cycling culture. It aligns with regional policies, including Vision Zero, seeking to reduce road injuries and fatalities, and aims to position Tameside as a regional hub for cycling.

Chapter 4

Identifying Local Need

4.1 Understanding the social and environmental context in Tameside helps to understand the need for open space in Tameside, including where there may be areas of greater need, and the key functions open space in Tameside should provide.

Wider context and history

4.2 Located in the east of Greater Manchester, Tameside is a diverse borough which stretches from the urban city of Manchester to the upland Pennine moorland. The borough encompasses three National Character Areas (NCAs):

- **NCA 51: Dark Peak:** This NCA encompasses the eastern edge of Tameside. It is characterised by large-scale open moors and enclosed pastures bounded by drystone walls. The elevated topography offers long uninterrupted views, emphasising the contrast between the sense of wilderness on the moorland and views of the industrial towns and cities to the east and west [\[See reference 19\]](#).
- **NCA 54: Manchester Pennine Fringe:** The centre and east of the borough is within NCA, which comprises the transitional landscape between lower-lying densely populated conurbations and upland moor. The landscape is characterised by industrial towns, connected by busy transport networks, interspersed with areas of woodland and agriculture. River valleys and sloping hills form a varied topography across the landscape [\[See reference 20\]](#).
- **NCA 55 Manchester Conurbation:** Located in the west of the borough, this NCA is characterised by dense urban development. Areas of industrial development reflect the rich heritage associated with the textile industry. A network of green infrastructure runs through the urban fabric, including along the river valleys and canals [\[See reference 21\]](#).

4.3 The borough of Tameside brings together nine market towns, each with their own sense of identity and local needs. These are:

- Ashton-under-Lyne
- Audenshaw
- Droylsden
- Dukinfield

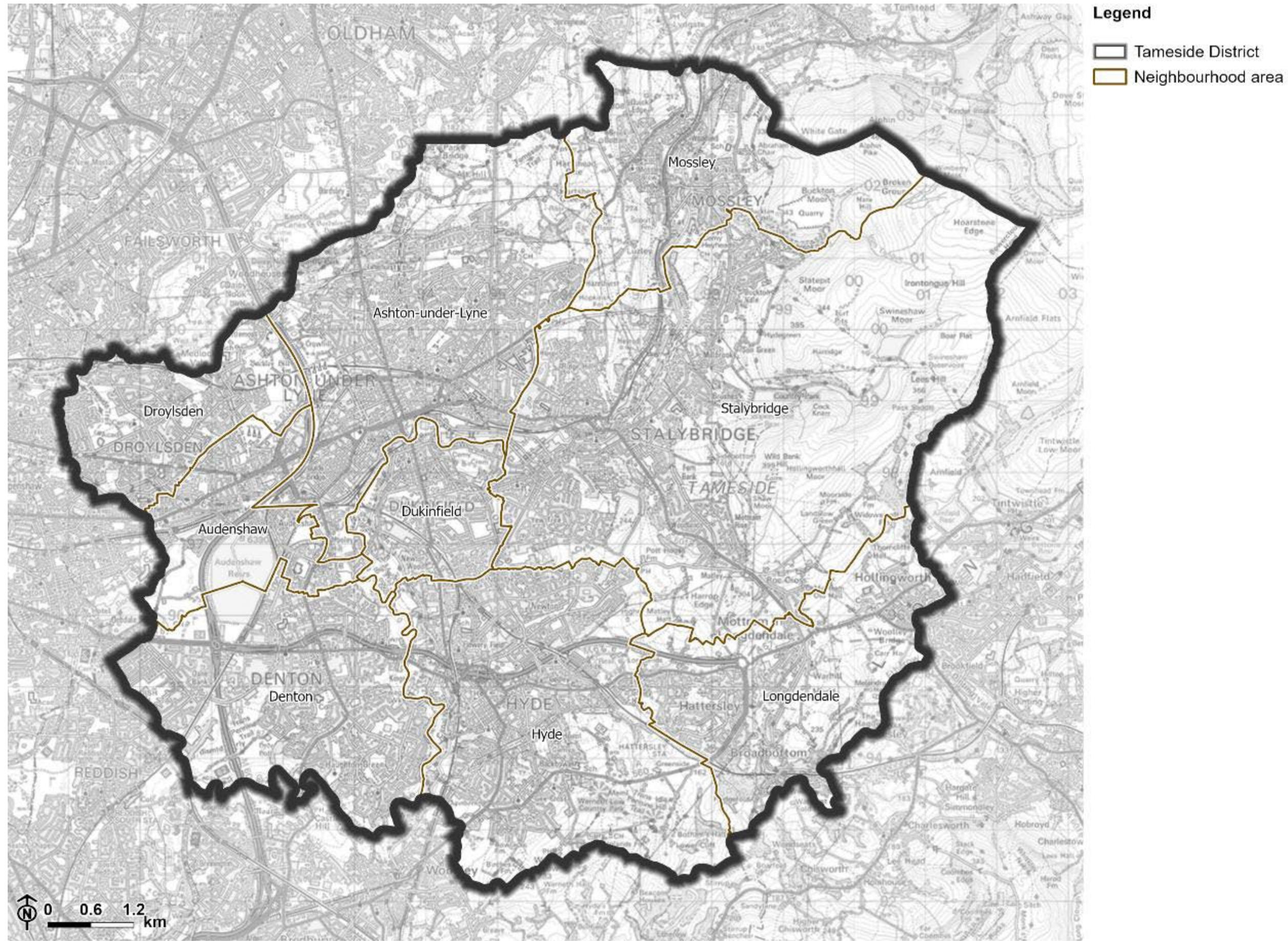
- Denton
- Hyde
- Longdendale
- Mossley
- Stalybridge

4.4 The of these towns is shown in **Figure 4.1**.

Implications for open space provision

The diverse landscapes and settlements within the borough alter the provision and types of open space available throughout the district. Further east, where there is strong intervisibility and access into upland moorlands, the need for formal parks and gardens may be lower than in more densely population suburbs and town centres.

Figure 4.1: Neighbourhood areas and towns in Tameside



Population and social context

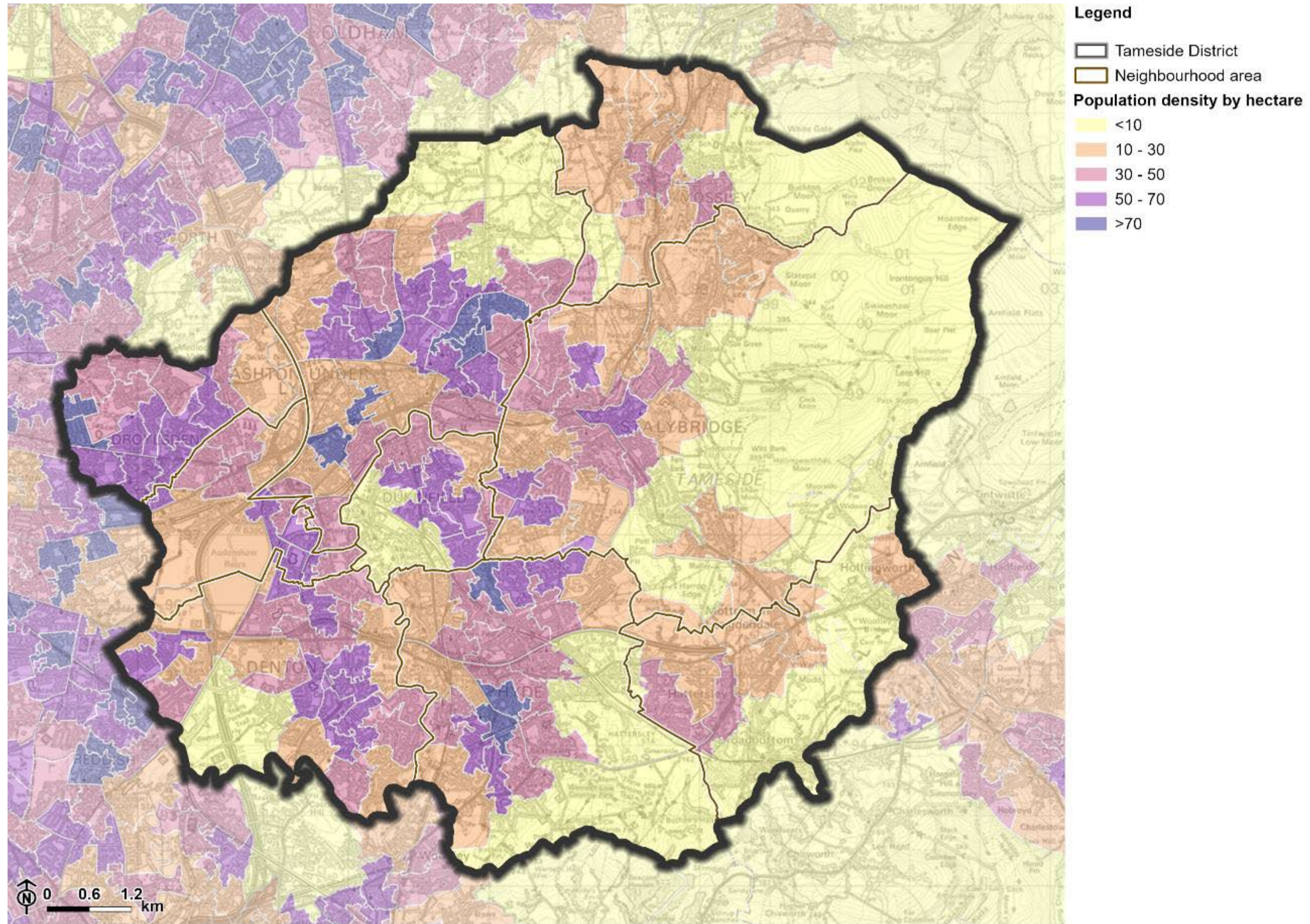
Demographics and population projection

4.5 Tameside has a population of 231000 according to the 2021 Census, increasing by 5.4% from 219,300 in 2011. This was a lower population increase than the national average but slightly higher than the average increase within the North West [\[See reference 22\]](#).

4.6 The population density in Tameside is 2,240 persons per square kilometre [\[See reference 23\]](#). This compares to an average of 434 persons per square kilometre across England and Wales. In addition, Tameside is the sixth most densely populated local authority area within the North West [\[See reference 24\]](#). However, the borough is varied, with large tracts of sparsely populated upland areas in the east, and areas of greater population density within the town centres and suburbs further west. The areas with the highest population density include parts of Ashton-under-Lyne (such as Hurst, Ashton Waterloo and St Peters), Newton and Hyde. Population density across Tameside is shown in **Figure 4.2**.

4.7 The average (median) age in Tameside is 40 years (an increase of one year from 2011). This is in line with the median age for the North West and England [\[See reference 25\]](#). The number of residents aged 65 years and over increased by 18.7% between 2011 and 2021. At the same time the number of 15 to 64 years increased by 1.5% and the number of children under 15 years increased by 8.5%. Compared to the national average, Tameside has a growing number of children under 15 (which only increased by 5% nationally) and shrinking proportion of working age population (which grew by 3.6% nationally). Older and younger people within societies may face additional barriers using and accessing open spaces which should be considered within this study [\[See reference 26\]](#).

Figure 4.2: Population density in Tameside



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4.8 Within Tameside 85.5% of people identified their ethnic group within the 'White' category, which was a decrease from 90.9% in 20-11. The largest increase in ethnic group was those identifying within the 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh' category, which increased from 6.6% in 2011 to 9.2% in 2021. This reflected a similar trend within the North West and across England. 2.3% of people identified within the 'Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African' category (compared with 0.8% in 2011) and 2.1% within the 'Mixed or Multiple' category (compared to 1.4% in 2011). [\[See reference 27\]](#).

Implications for open space provision

The need for open space may be greater in the urban centres of Ashton and Hyde, where the higher population density means a greater amount of open space is required to achieve the same quantity per 1000 of the population compared to less densely populated areas. In addition, open space in these areas will be more readily accessible for a larger number of people.

The growing numbers of older residents, as well as children and young people, highlights the need for open spaces in Tameside to be managed and designed to suit the needs of a range of users. This includes dedicated play spaces, provision for teenagers, and social seating, and areas of quiet contemplation. Well signed facilities including toilets, benches and cafes may be particularly attractive to younger and older visitors after physical activity.

Research shows that certain demographics may experience additional barriers in accessing and enjoying open spaces [\[See reference 28\]](#). Additionally, there is evidence that open spaces can create opportunities for social interaction, helping to support inclusion and cohesion for marginalised groups [\[See reference 29\]](#).

Deprivation

4.9 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) provides a ranking of the most to least deprived areas within England [\[See reference 30\]](#). This is based on a weighted ranking of a combination of seven deprivation domains. These domains cover income, education, crime, living environment, employment, health and barriers to housing. Overall, Tameside is ranked as the 41st most deprived Local Authority district out the 297 in England (lower tier local authorities, according to average rank of deprivation). Across Greater Manchester, Tameside is the 5th most deprived Local Authority, although this varies for each of the domains. Tameside shows a greater

deprivation within the health domain locally, where it is the fourth most deprived borough in Greater Manchester and 29th nationally [See reference 31].

4.10 The level of deprivation is not universal across Tameside. **Figure 4.3** shows the level of deprivation across Tameside for each of the Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). 25 of the 142 (18%) LSOAs in Tameside are within the 10% of most deprived LSOAs nationally. The areas of highest deprivation are found between Ashton-under-Lyne and Dukinfield, around Hurst, Springs in the north of Stalybridge, Newtonmoor, Hyde and Hattersley.

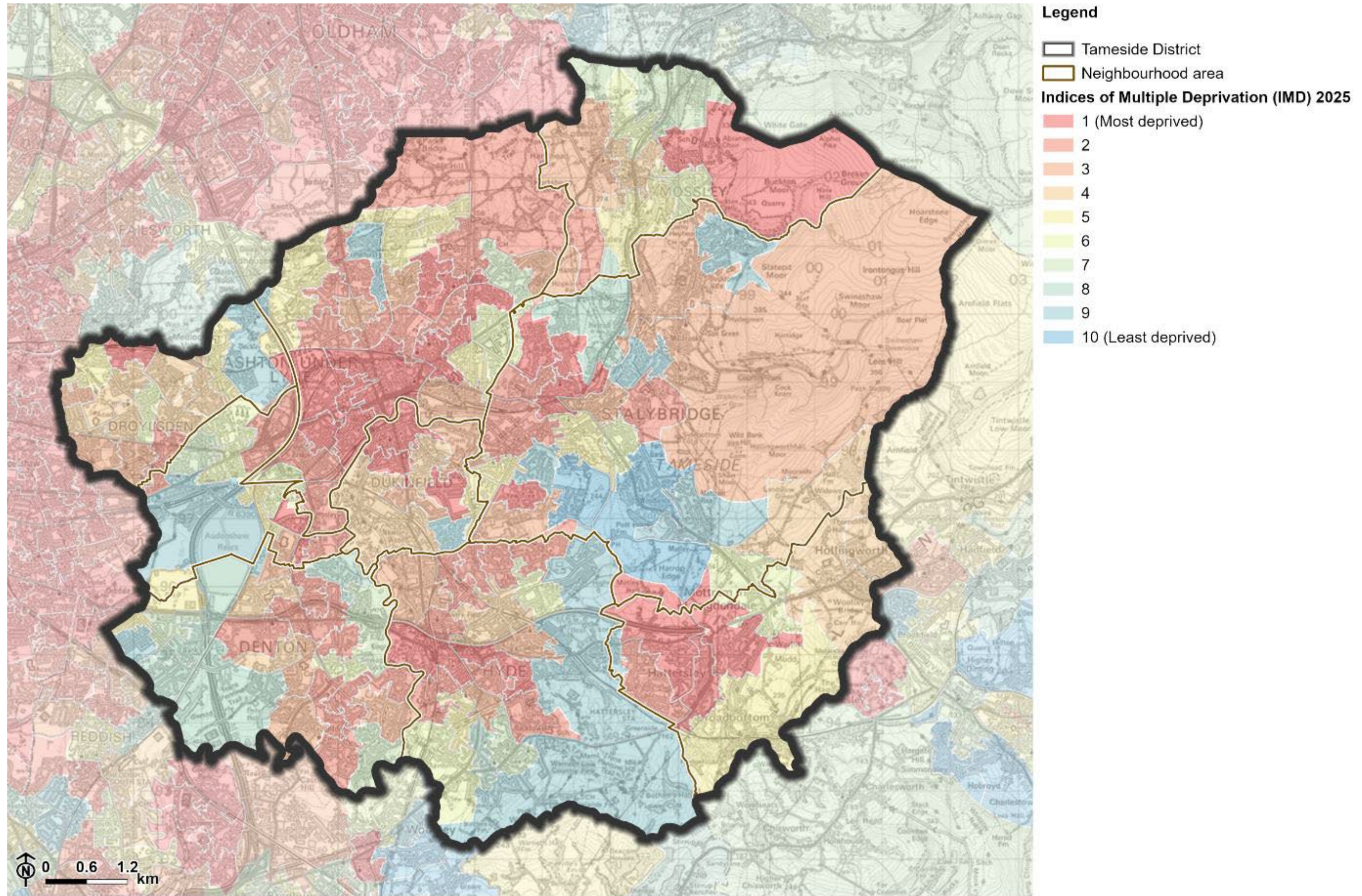
4.11 Within the domains of deprivation, the health deprivation and disability domain is particularly relevant to open space provision. Tameside performs relatively poorly in this domain compared to its overall deprivation score. Nearly half of LSOAs are within the 20% most deprived national and nearly 20% of the LSOAs are within the 10 % most deprived. Less than 10% of the LSOAs are within the top 50% [See reference 32].

4.12 The indices of multiple deprivation domains also include the Crime domain. Overall, this shows crime deprivation in Tameside is relatively high. Over half of LSOAs are in the 20% most deprived nationally [See reference 33]. Stakeholder engagement undertaken as part of this study highlighted anti-social behaviour, fear of anti-social behaviour, and vandalism are major barriers to users accessing open spaces in Tameside. This may be a particular issue in areas with high levels of crime. These areas include Hurst Cross, Stalybridge, Newton Wood, Hyde and Hattersley.

Implications for open space

Areas with higher deprivation, including many areas in Tameside, can often benefit more from the social and health benefits provided by open spaces. Furthermore, research has shown that more deprived areas often correlate with areas with lower open space provision. However, there are also additional barriers deterring use of open spaces in these areas. Careful siting and design of open spaces, including co-design with the local community may be particularly important in areas of higher deprivation, particularly areas of crime deprivation.

Figure 4.3: Deprivation



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Health, wellbeing and physical activity

4.13 The Local Authority Health Profile for Tameside indicates that, overall, Tameside residents have lower health than the average for England. This includes a number of factors related to physical activity or wellbeing which open space use could help reduce.

- 65.5% of adults are classified as overweight or obese, significantly higher than the average for England.
- The emergency hospital admission rate for intentional self-harm is significantly higher in Tameside compared to across England.
- The mortality rate from all cardiovascular disease for under those aged under 75 is significantly higher than the average for England.

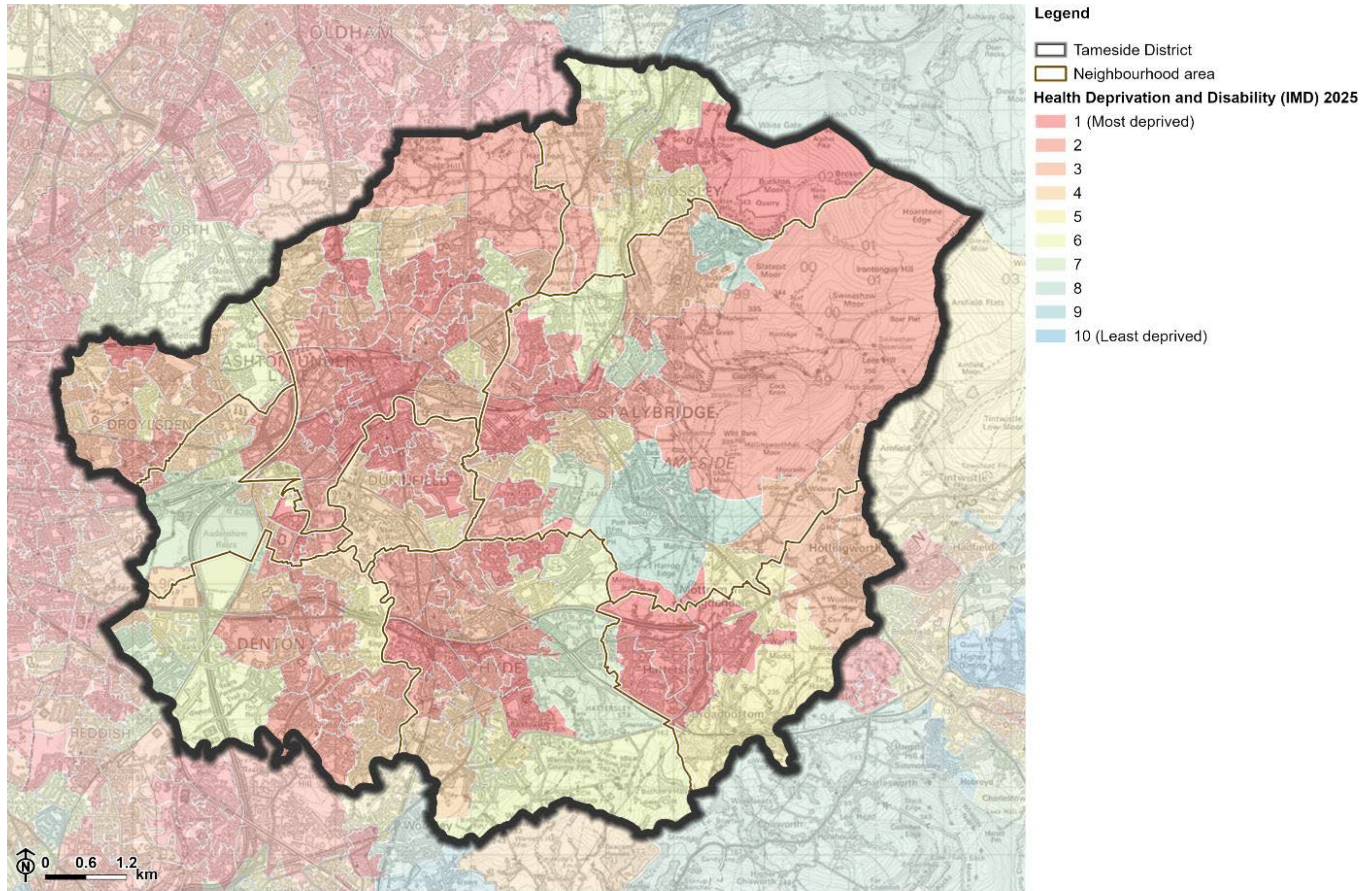
4.14 Sport England’s Active Lives survey estimates the amount of physical activity undertaken by adults and children. The results for 2023/2024 show that Tameside has higher levels of inactivity compared to the national average. 31.5% of Tameside’s population is estimated to be inactive (undertaking less than 30 minutes exercise a week). This compares to 28.3% across Greater Manchester and 25.1% nationally [See reference 34]. Levels of activity are generally lower in the north-west of the borough in and north of Ashton, as well as around Hyde.

4.15 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation according to the health deprivation and disability domain in Tameside are shown in **Figure 4.4**. The majority of Tameside is within the 30% most deprived according to this health deprivation and disability domain. The pockets of greatest deprivation are in Ashton-under-Lyne and Hattersley. Most of these areas are within the 10% most deprived nationally for the health deprivation and disability domain.

Implications for open space provision

The benefits of open space to various aspects of health and wellbeing are well evidenced and wide ranging [See reference 35]. This includes reductions in stress, anxiety and depression, as well as opportunities for increased physical activity and the health benefits associated with this [See reference 36]. Open space provision in areas where health deprivation is high and levels of physical activity is low will be particularly important.

Figure 4.4: Health and wellbeing



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Environmental context

Other green cover

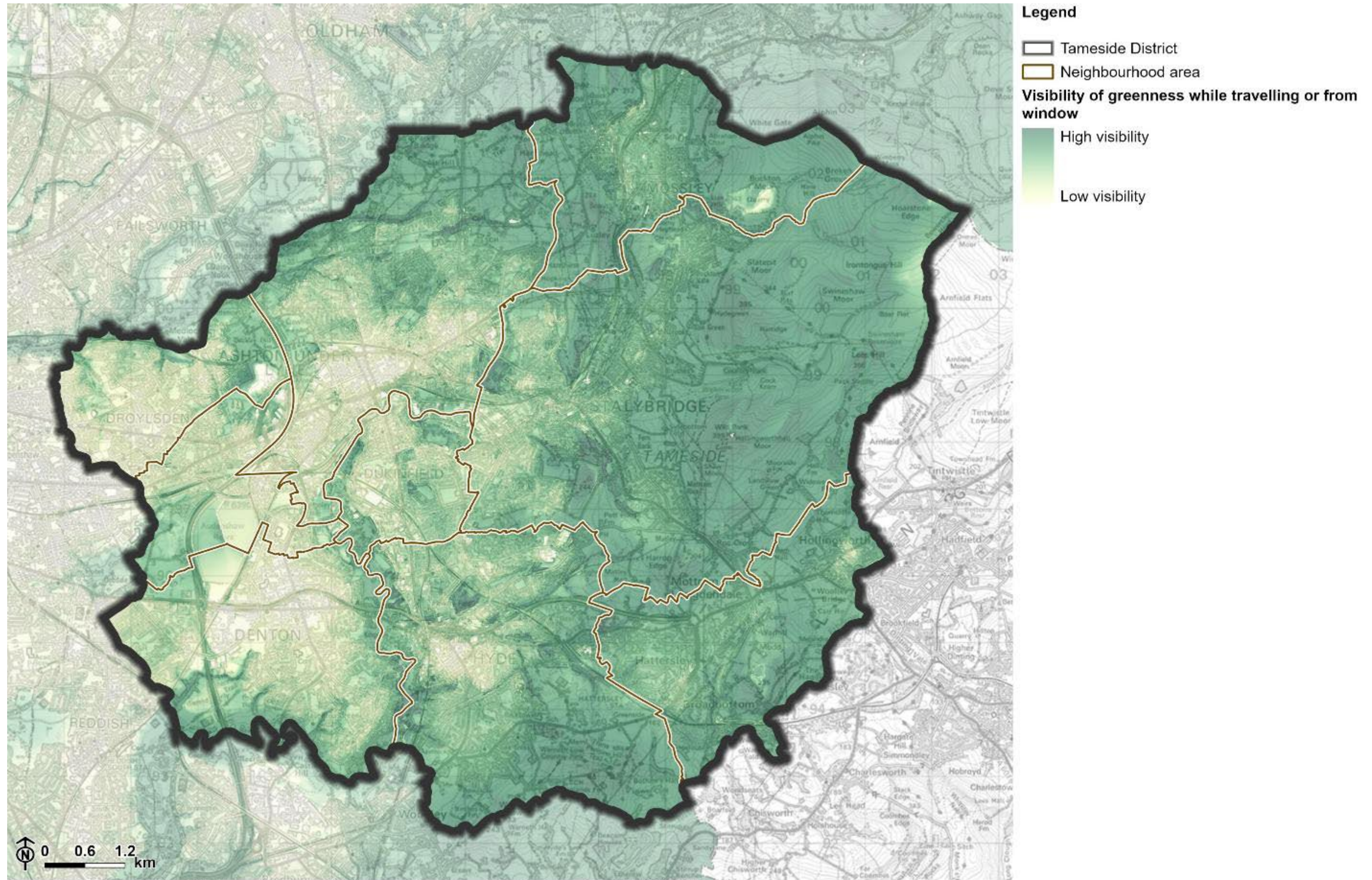
4.16 In addition to public open space, green cover can be provided by private spaces (including gardens and wider countryside) and other vegetation such as street trees or green roofs. **Figure 4.5** provides an estimate of the visibility of greenness across Tameside. Generally, the more urban areas further west have a lower visibility of greenness. This is most notable around Ashton-under-Lyne, Denton, Droylsden and the centre of Hyde.

4.17 Compared to other boroughs in Greater Manchester, many parts of Tameside have a higher provision of private garden per 1000 of the population. However, the amount of private gardens varies. The centre of Ashton-under-Lyne has the lowest provision of private gardens – just 1.14 hectares per 1000 of the population. This compares to 23.57 hectares per 1000 of the population for rural populations in the south of the borough between Gee Cross and Broadbottom. Areas around Ashton-under-Lyne and south of Hyde having some of the lowest provision of private garden across England.

Implications for open space provision

Alternative access to green cover can provide some of the benefits of public open spaces. For example, private gardens can provide space for biodiversity, connection to nature and space for physical activity, but may not provide the same opportunities for social interaction and community resilience. Other green cover such as street trees can provide biodiversity value and mental wellbeing but may not offer the same space for informal recreation, social cohesion and space for a range of physical activity.

Figure 4.5: Visibility of greenness



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Environmental health

4.18 Air, noise and water pollution and contaminated land are present in Tameside. These environmental health considerations provide health challenges in the borough.

Air pollution

4.19 On average, Tameside has an average of 7.67 micrograms per cubic metre of fine particulate matter pollution in the air. This is higher than the national average of 7.35 micrograms per cubic metre [See reference 37]. Air pollution is a particular issue in the west of the borough and around the busy road network, including the M60 ring road and M67. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been designated which covers much of the major road networks within Audenshaw, Denton, Hyde and Ashton (see **Figure 4.5**). The AQMA has been identified as a result of high levels of nitrogen dioxide.

Noise pollution

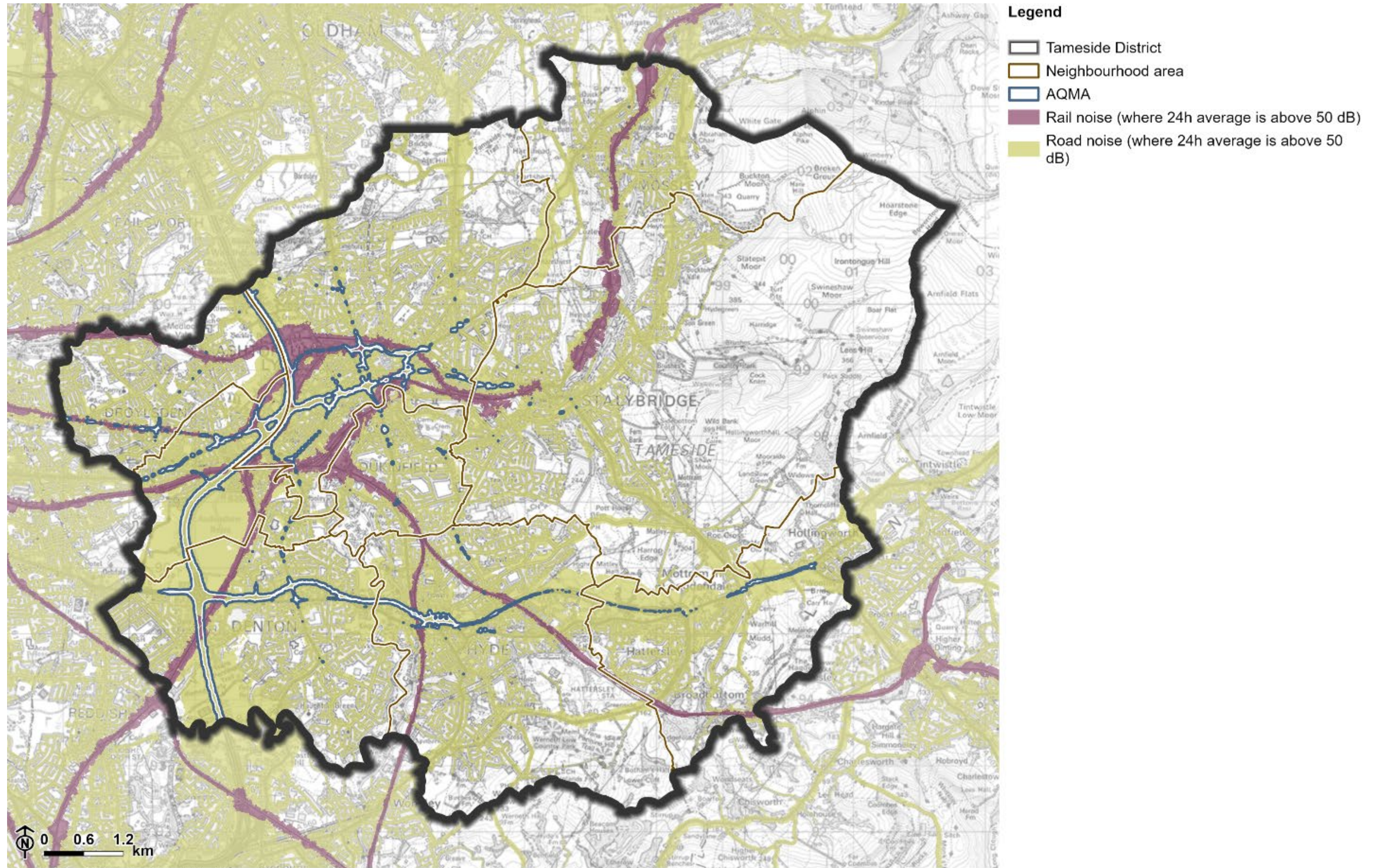
4.20 Road and rail noise in the borough is present, particularly in the west along the M60 and M67 corridors and along the railway lines. These are shown on **Figure 4.5**. Long term exposure to road and rail noise is known to affect physical and mental health and wellbeing, including durne to sleep disturbance, effects on cardiovascular and metabolic systems and cognitive impairment in children [See reference 38]. This is a particular problem around Ashton-under-Lyne town centre, where exposure to noise includes from the M60, major A roads and several railway lines, including the Manchester Victoria and Huddersfield Line. Additionally, in Denton noise exposure from the M60 and M67 affects and rail corridors affects areas around Windmill Lane.

Water pollution

4.21 There are numerous watercourses running through Tameside:

- The River Tame which runs through the centre of the district;
- The River Medlock form the northern boundary of the borough;
- In the east, the River Etherow forms the southern boundary of the borough, small tributaries for this are in Tameside, including Hurstclough Brook; and
- The canal network including Huddersfield Narrow Canal, Ashton Canal, Peak Forest Canal.

Figure 4.6: Environmental health



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4.22 All watercourses in the borough are recorded as having moderate ecological water quality according to the Water Framework Directive. There are a range of sources for the lower water quality. Some of these are summarised below:

- Diffuse pollution due poor livestock management, poor soil management, and riparian activities in more rural areas and urbanisation and transport drainage in urban areas.
- Physical modification, including barriers, flood protection and water regulation.
- Point source pollution from sewage.

4.23 These impact levels of physico-chemical elements such as phosphate, ammonia, and affect biological elements including fish and invertebrates [See reference 39]. In addition, reservoirs with Tameside mostly have moderate water quality according to the ecological status. The exception is Walkerwood Reservoir which achieves good ecological status.

Contaminated land

4.24 Tameside's industrial heritage, including textile and dye works, has left a legacy of contaminated land [See reference 40]. These can be hazardous to human health and other biodiversity. The issue of contaminated land was also raised at consultation, particularly in relation to open space within the Tame Valley.

Implication for open space provision

New open space in areas of higher air pollution can be important for reducing air pollution [See reference 41] Open space provision in areas with higher air pollution should incorporate tree and plant species which are effective at sequestering pollutants. The location and configuration of open space can also be important, for example, using open spaces to open up street canyons will maximise the air quality benefits [See reference 42].

In areas of high noise pollution open space design and management should prioritise areas of more dense planting which can act noise bunds, particularly along busy roads [See reference 43]. New open spaces in these areas should be located to act as a buffer between busy roads and housing.

Open space can provide sustainable urban drainage features which slow the flow of water and can filter out pollutants to improve water quality. In Tameside many open spaces are located alongside water courses. Water courses running

through open spaces can be re-naturalised to reduce physical modifications and improve natural processes to support the health of rivers.

Finally, areas with contaminated land may benefit from open space which can help provide nature-based solution to cleaning the land, particularly where this includes natural habitats such as woodland or constructed wetlands [See reference 44].

Biodiversity

4.25 There are numerous important areas for biodiversity within Tameside, including those spaces designated at local, national and international levels.

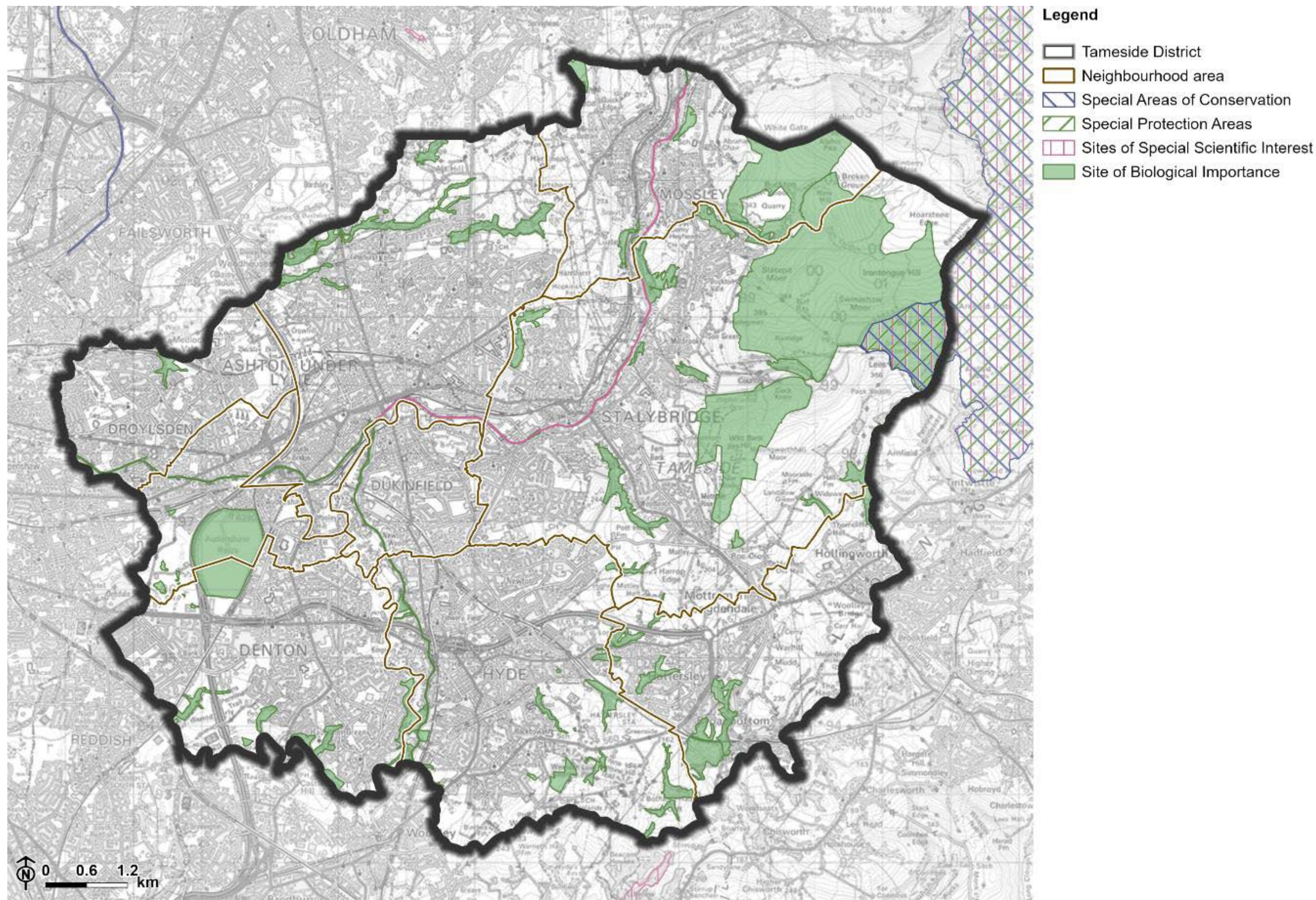
4.26 The edge of internationally important sites include some of the moorland to the west of the borough, west of Higher Swineshaw Reservoir. This area of moorland is within the wider Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area (SPA) and South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The SAC is designated for habitats including wet and dry heaths, blanket bog, transition mires and quaking bogs and old sessile oak woods. In addition, the SPA is designated for the important bird species these moorlands support, including merlin, golden plover and short-eared owl.

4.27 Nationally important habitats are designated as Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI). SSSI designations cover the same area of the Pennine Moors as the SAC and SPA, as well as the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. The canal is designated for its habitats including standing and running water, swamp, tall fen and fragmentary marginal, as well as unimproved and semi-improved neutral and acidic grassland, scattered shrubs and areas of bracken along the banks. This SSSI is recorded as being in an unfavourable condition, due to inappropriate dredging, fish stocking and water pollution from agricultural run-off [See reference 45].

4.28 Locally designated sites include Sites of Biological Importance (SBI). There are numerous SBIs in Tameside, covering larger areas within the South Pennine Moors foothills, additional water bodies (including the River Tame and Audenshaw Reservoir) and many of the woodlands located within the rural parts of the borough. Many of these areas coincide with areas of open space.

4.29 These features are shown in **Figure 4.7**.

Figure 4.7: Biodiversity



Implication for open space provision

Where open spaces occur within recognised areas of importance for biodiversity, these areas should be managed to ensure the safeguarding, recovery or enhancement of the biodiversity. There may need to be careful management considerations to prevent pressure from visitor damaging important areas of biodiversity.

Climate resilience and flood risk

4.30 Aspects of the natural environment in Tameside, including within its open spaces, can contribute to increasing climate resilience and reducing flood risk (as well as tolerance to drought).

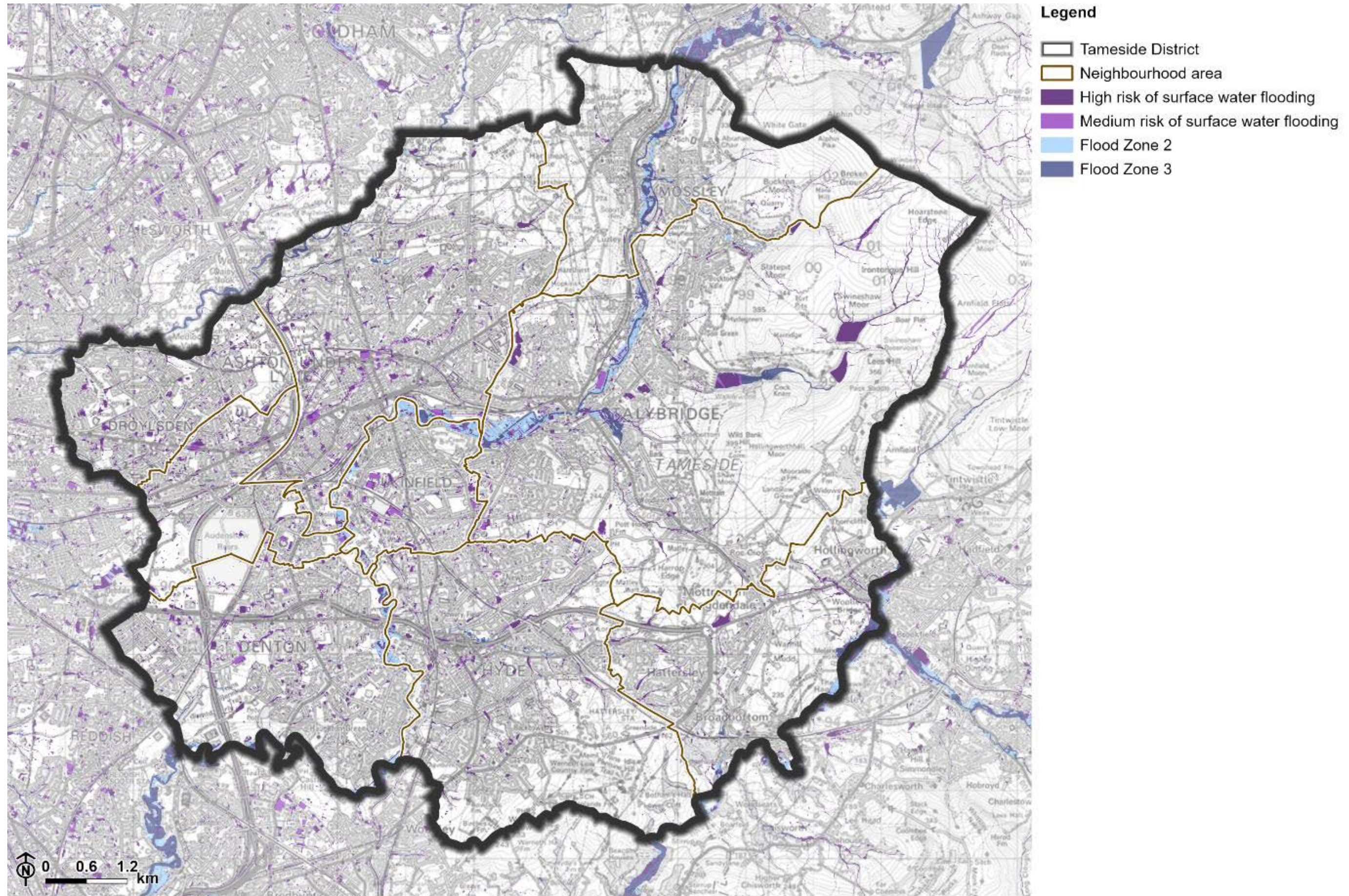
4.31 Climate change is expected to bring increased winter precipitation and more frequent storm events, in addition to reduced summer rainfall and a greater risk of drought. The numerous water courses within Tameside already provide flood risk within the borough. Whilst in many places major rivers are flanked by open space and undeveloped land, there are some built up areas at risk from fluvial flooding. This includes the area between Stalybridge town centre and Ashton-under-Lyne town centre, as well as southeast of Stalybridge around Stocks Lane and in Mossley between Egmont Street and Waggon Road.

4.32 Additionally, there are areas of flood risk associated with surface water flooding throughout the borough. These are present throughout Tameside, but particularly notably within built up areas in Droylsden, the western part of Dukinfield and parts of Ashton-under-Lyne.

4.33 Flood risk in Tameside is shown in **Figure 4.8**.

4.34 Mapping from Climate Just shows the locations expected to experience the greatest exposure to heat. The majority of areas in Tameside are within the average or relatively low exposure to heat category. However, there are parts of Ashton-under-Lyne and Stalybridge which have a higher expected exposure. This includes an acute risk of heat exposure in the town centre of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Figure 4.8: Flood risk



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Implications for open space provision

Open spaces within areas of surface water flood risk can be designed with sustainable drainage features to store surface water and reduce the risk of flooding. In the headwater of rivers, open spaces can incorporate natural flood management features such as leaky dams to reduce fluvial flood risk downstream. In Tameside this includes open spaces within the South Pennine Moorlands.

Additionally, open spaces can help mitigate against extreme heat by providing areas of shading and cooling, particularly those associated with woodland and water bodies.

Developing a 'Needs Index' in Tameside

4.35 The various indicators which can influence greater or lower open space needs have been combined to provide a 'Needs Index' for the provision of open space in Tameside. Two indexes have been created, one for open space, and one for play space. These can be used to help prioritise site specific enhancements or the creation of new open spaces. The scores have been calculated so the LSOA with the highest need in each index receives a score of '10' and the lowest receives a score of '1'. The LSOAs in between have been scaled accordingly and assigned a score between 1 and 10.

4.36 The indexes are not based on existing provision of open space or play space. The indexes can be compared to provision of open space and play space. Where there are higher needs but good existing provision these areas would be of a less priority compared to where there are higher needs but poor existing provision.

Combined open space need

4.37 A score for each LSOA has been calculated based on:

- Population density;
- Combined IMD;
- Active lives survey – percentage of the population inactive; and
- Private garden by 1000.

4.38 This Index is shown in **Figure 4.9**. The highest need is recorded in Aston-under-Lyne in the St Peter's area around Ryecroft Street and Hamilton Street. Open space need is variable and tends to form small pockets of the highest need. Other areas of high open space need include:

- East of Ashton-under-Lyne town centre around Tameside College and Whiteacre Road;
- North of Ashton-under Lyne around Hurst Cross;
- North of Stalybridge around Springs;
- Parts of Hattersley along the A560;
- East of the railway line between Hyde north and Flowery Field;
- South Denton around Haughton Green; and
- North Droylsden around Clough Road.

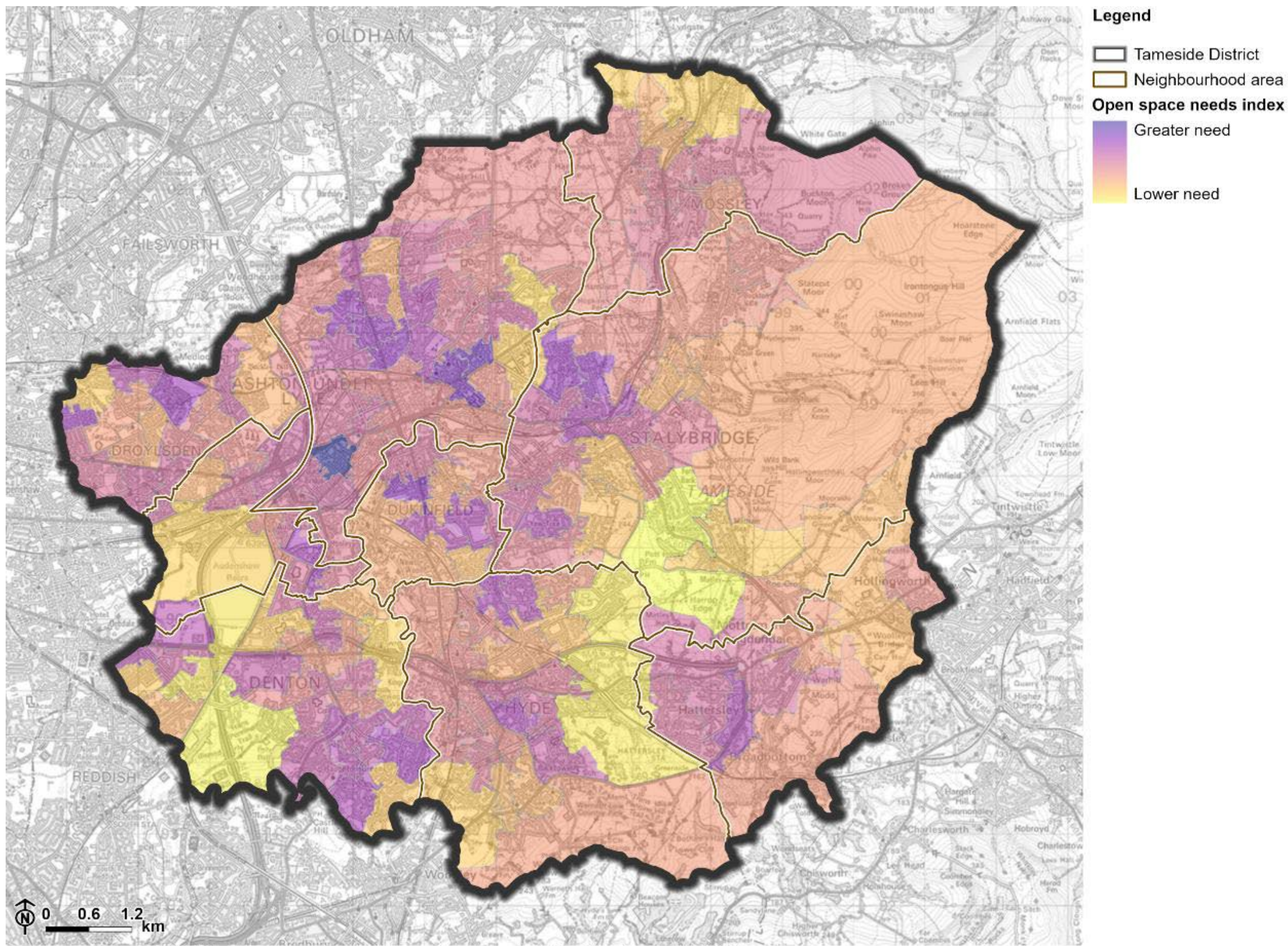
Play provision needs

4.39 A score for each LSOA has been calculated based on:

- Percent of the population under 15;
- IMD – Income Deprivation affecting Children Index; and
- Active lives survey – percentage of child population inactive.

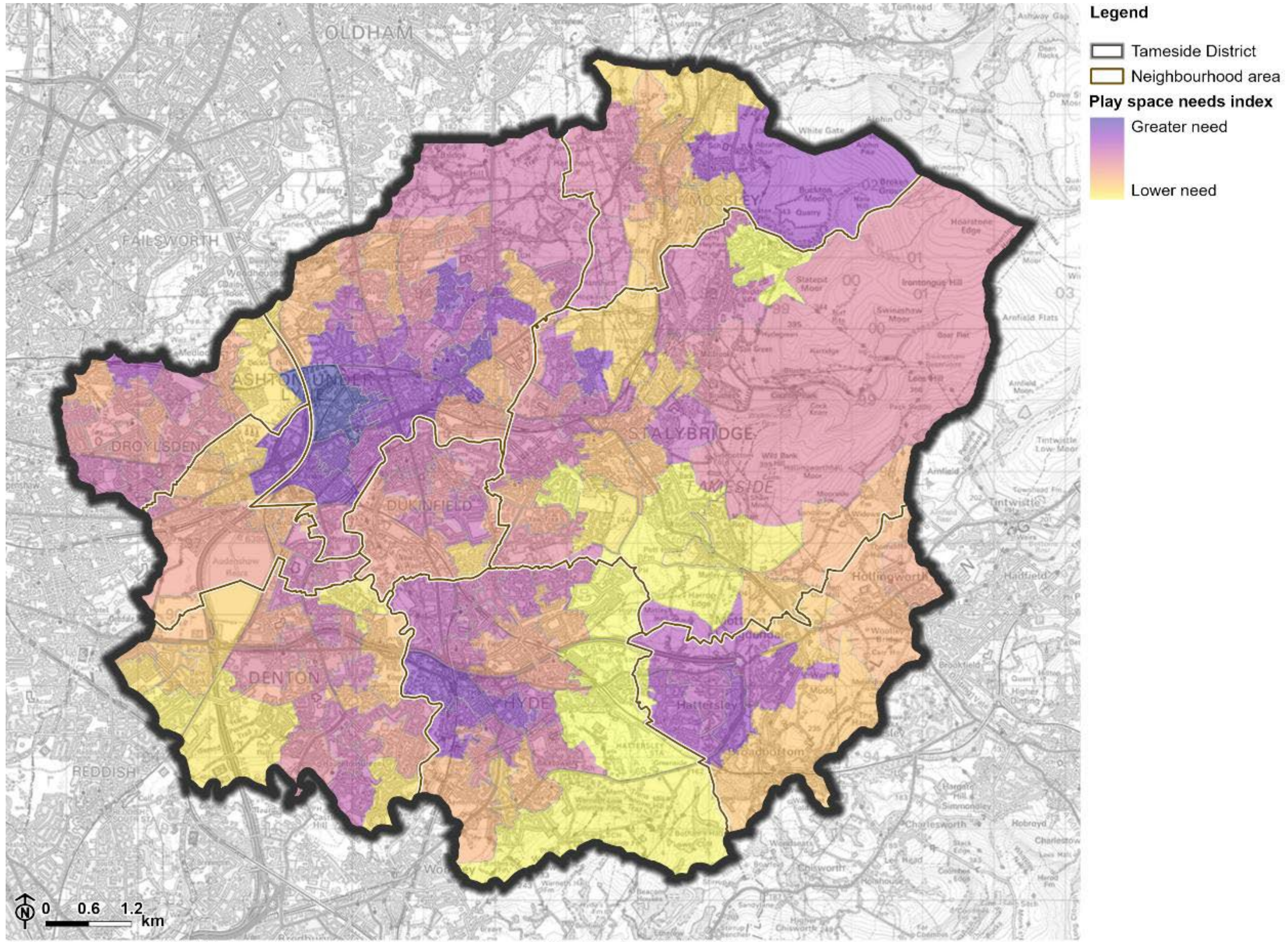
4.40 This Index is shown in **Figure 4.10**. The highest need is recorded northwest of Ashton-under-Lyne around Katherine Street. Compared to open space needs, the areas of higher need for play provision typically occur in fewer, larger areas. Other areas of higher play space need include other parts of Ashton-under-Lyne town centre, and immediate surroundings, the western part of Hyde (including Hyde town centre and Newton Wood), and Hattersley, as well as a smaller area around Springs in north Stalybridge. Attempts to address this higher need in Hattersley are already underway, with three new play spaces created here since the 2017/18 assessment as part of wider regeneration and plans for a new Multi-Use Games Space currently underway.

Figure 4.9: Combined open space need



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Figure 4.10: Combined play provision need



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Chapter 5

Typology and Hierarchy

Typology

Categorisation of sites by typology

5.1 Each site has been assigned a primary typology based on key characteristics and functionality. The types of open space identified in Tameside are set out and described below.

- **Parks and gardens:** Fully accessible opportunities for formal and informal recreation and play, organised sports and other activities. More multi-functional than other open space with a range of habitats and facilities for visitors, offering space for quiet relaxation and a range of amenities. Parks and gardens may also contain equipped children's play, teenage facilities and/or outdoor sports facilities. Often more formally laid out open spaces
- **Natural greenspace:** Open spaces which are mostly natural habitats such as woodland, wetland or wildflower meadows. A primary function of providing access to nature, wildlife conservation, management for biodiversity and environmental education. This includes nature reserves and country parks.
- **Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds:** Opportunities for informal activities close to where people live or work. Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds provide a less formal green space experience, generally with fewer amenities and facilities, and lower biodiversity value than parks or natural green space. This includes recreation grounds which may be used for sports for set short time periods.
- **Wider countryside:** Sites within the wider farmland and upland landscape that offer opportunities for walking but limited other recreational activities.
- **Play provision for children and teenagers:** Equipped facilities providing varied opportunities for play, sport and recreation for children of different ages. This includes recreation for teenagers and young adults. This may include equipped play, Multi-Use Games Areas, wheels parks, BMX tracks, green gyms and basketball areas.
- **Civic spaces:** Areas of open space, generally more closely integrated into to the built environment than other typologies. Civic spaces are generally located around key community hubs and areas of activity, providing landscaped areas

to meet, sit, benefit from shade and experience areas of quiet within the built environment. These spaces generally have less extensive areas of vegetation, such as areas of grass, and focus more on hard landscaping with trees and other planting incorporated within it.

- **Churchyard, cemetery and graveyards:** Burial space and areas for quiet contemplation and reflection. Churchyards, cemeteries and graveyards may also include a range of habitats and offer similar opportunities for access to nature and sitting and relaxing as other types of open space.
- **Outdoor sports:** Outdoor grass, artificial pitches and areas for outdoor organised sport. These types of open spaces will be studied in more detail in the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy.
- **Allotments and community growing spaces:** Opportunities for the community to grow their own produce.
- **Green and blue corridor:** Multi-functional corridors which provide traffic-free routes for active travel and wildlife habitat and corridors. They include the borough's canal and disused rail corridors. They can be part of much large routes (e.g. the TransPennine Trail).
- **School sites:** School grounds, which may include playing pitches, sports pitches, play pitches and growing spaces. These sites have been mapped but will not be included further in the calculations and analysis.

Approach to mapping multi-functional sites

5.2 As set out above, for the purposes of this study all contiguous, individual open spaces have been assigned a 'primary typology'. However, open space can perform a range of functions and it is important that this is reflected in the analysis.

'Secondary typologies' that occur within wider sites have been identified and captured through mapping the boundary of these areas within the data set.

Secondary typologies have been set for play provision for children and teenagers (e.g. equipped play areas, Multi Use Games Areas and wheels parks) and outdoor sports (e.g. bowling greens, tennis courts). These areas are mainly identified and defined by a boundary fence or an appropriate area that delineates the extent of a feature and have a single function which may be separate to that of the wider site. Secondary typologies have not been set for elements within school sites.

5.3 When calculating total quantities of play provision for children and teenagers and outdoor sports, this will include both 'standalone' equipped play facilities, as well as those occurring within a wider site. When categorising sites within an appropriate

size hierarchy and applying accessibility catchments, the total site area (including any secondary typology areas) is used.

5.4 The open space data therefore comprises two key ‘layers’:

- Primary typology layer, which will encompass once parcel of land (polygon) that will cover the full area of the site up to the site boundary.
- Secondary typology layer, where applicable, which will comprise individual parcels of land (multiple polygons) that in combination will match the total area of the corresponding primary typology layer but will detail the component parts by typology.

Accessible Greenspace

5.5 The term ‘Accessible Greenspace’ is also used within the study, particularly in relation to how this Study links to the Accessible Greenspace Standards within Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Strategy. The accessible greenspace category sites above the standard typologies that have been identified. The accessible greenspace term includes the all the publicly accessible sites within the parks and gardens; natural greenspace; amenity greenspace and recreation ground; and wider countryside typologies.

5.6 During consultation, some respondents also highlight the importance of the churchyard, cemetery and graveyard typology, particularly where there are no other accessible greenspaces. This typology has been included in the accessibility analysis for accessible greenspaces, but not the quantity. The limited functionality of these spaces mean they have been restricted to the doorstep level of the hierarchy, regardless of size.

5.7 Similarly, the amenity greenspace and recreation ground typology has been restricted to neighbourhood and smaller hierarchies. This typology usually forms smaller open spaces. If larger open spaces are present within this typology, they generally would have lower variety of facilities and habitats which would restrict the distances people may travel to visit these sites.

5.8 This is summarised in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1: Typologies falling under the accessible greenspace category

Typology	For quantity standard	For accessibility standard
Parks and gardens	Yes	Yes
Natural greenspace	Yes	Yes
Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds	Yes	Yes
Wider countryside	Yes	Yes
Churchyard, cemetery and graveyard	No	Yes

Hierarchy

5.9 In order to provide opportunities for more detailed analysis of the open space data with regard to quality, value and accessibility, a detailed site hierarchy has been applied to some of the typologies. The hierarchy applied draws on Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Framework, which includes standards for accessible greenspace provision. This approach recognises that spaces of different sizes would expect to provide a different ‘offer’ for users and likely to accommodate a varying level and range of facilities. Site users will be more likely to travel further to reach a larger site that has the capacity to provide a more significant and varied ‘offer’ (i.e. more or larger features and facilities). The hierarchy applied includes the following categories, based on a minimum size.

- **District space:** Open space of at least 100 hectares in size.
- **Borough space:** Open space of at least 20 hectares in size.
- **Neighbourhood space:** Open space of at least 10 hectares in size.
- **Local space:** Open space of at least 2 hectares in size.
- **Doorstep space:** Open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size.

5.10 Sites will be categorised according to the highest hierarchy of site that they qualify for. For example, a park and garden of seven hectares would be classified as a ‘Local park and garden, even though it could also qualify as a doorstep space (as it

is larger than 0.2 hectares). However, when accessibility catchments are applied, this is done for all levels of the hierarchy the open space would qualify for.

5.11 The hierarchy is not applied universally to all typologies. Some typologies have no hierarchy applied, as the use and function of the site is less reliant on the overall size of the site (e.g. green and blue corridors; allotments and community gardens; and churchyards, cemeteries and graveyards). A separate hierarchy is set out for play provision for children and teenagers based on the age ranges that the space caters to. Further analysis on the provision of outdoor sports is provided in the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy. Thus no further breakdown of outdoor sports is set out in this Study.

5.12 In some cases, the highest level of the hierarchy is capped. This has been applied when overall functionality of spaces is limited. As a result, after a certain size, increase in size does not necessarily increase the offer of the open space. The adopted hierarchy and the typologies they apply to are shown in **Table 5.2**. This is theoretically, assuming that open spaces of all size thresholds are present within the data set.

Access level

5.13 Finally, the open spaces have also been categories according to their access level. This refers to who can access the open space and how. The following access categories have been applied.

- **Publicly accessible:** Everyone can enter and use the site freely. This includes open spaces that are always accessible and those that have opening hours.
- **Restricted access – Members only:** Entry and use of the site is limited to certain groups or members (e.g. school sites, sports clubs, allotments).
- **Restricted access – Public Rights of Way:** This applies to the large Wider Countryside sites where access is only permitted along Public Rights of Way. This type of access limits the type of recreation available which is restricted to walking and dog-walking.
- **No access:** Sites which are not publicly accessible. These will not be considered further within the open space calculations.

Table 5.2: Application of hierarchies per typology

Typology	Regional	District	Town	Neighbourhood	Local	Doorstep
Parks and Gardens	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Natural Greenspace	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Amenity Greenspace and Recreation Grounds	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wider Countryside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cemetery, churchyard and graveyard	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

Chapter 6

Quantity Assessment

Current provision

6.1 The current provision of open space per typology is shown in **Table 6.1**. Overall, open space in Tameside covers 5,431.47 hectares (ha), comprised of 1,032 sites. Just under half of this is fully publicly accessible, which means access is available to all without having to pay for entry. This may include areas with paid entry. Around a quarter of the open space area has access restricted to the Public Right of Way (PRoW) network that runs through them. Open spaces in the wider countryside commonly form into this access level. Around 10% of the open space area has access restricted to certain members of the population, such as members, tenants or school pupils. This is primarily the case for allotments, outdoor sports and school sites. Finally, around 15% of the open space have no access.

6.2 The location of open spaces is shown in **Figure 6.1** by typology, and **Figure 6.2** by access level.

6.3 The largest area of open space includes the wider countryside sites, which make up over half of the total area of open space. Where this is publicly accessible it mostly includes open access moorland in the east of the Borough. There is a relatively low provision of parks and gardens compared to other accessible greenspace typologies. Civic space and play provision for children and teenagers make up the smallest areas of open space. These typologies encompass 1.32 ha and 1.71 ha of open space respectively.

Table 6.1: Quantity of open space (in hectares) per primary typology and access level

Typology	Publicly accessible	Restricted access – members only	Restricted access – Public Right of Way only	No access	Total
Parks and gardens	121.92	0.75	-	-	122.67
Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds	161.83	1.46	-	7.44	170.73
Natural greenspace	725.58	3.31	113.90	200.60	1,043.40
Wider countryside	1,324.02	28.79	1,336.84	674.13	3,363.78
Play provision for children and teenagers	1.71	-	-	-	1.71
Outdoor sports	4.22	304.23	-	14.73	323.19
Green and blue corridor	67.32	-	-	2.02	69.34
Churchyard, cemetery and graveyard	63.64	2.93	-	0.16	66.73
Allotments and community growing spaces	0.60	27.66	-	1.38	29.64
Civic space	1.32	-	-	-	1.32
School sites	5.64	230.83	1.13	1.38	238.97
Total	2,477.80	599.96	1,451.87	901.85	5,431.47

Figure 6.1: All Open Space in Tameside

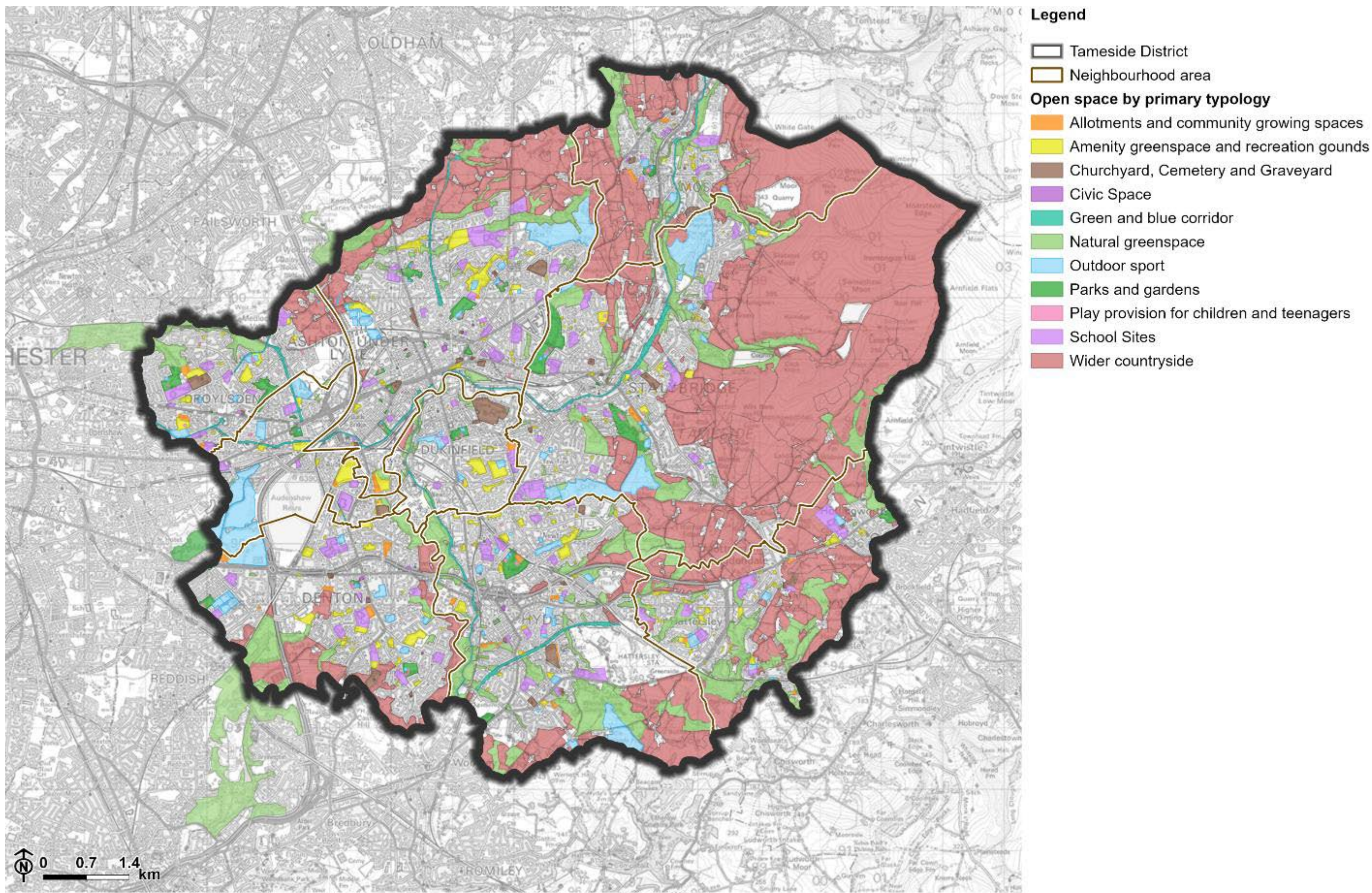
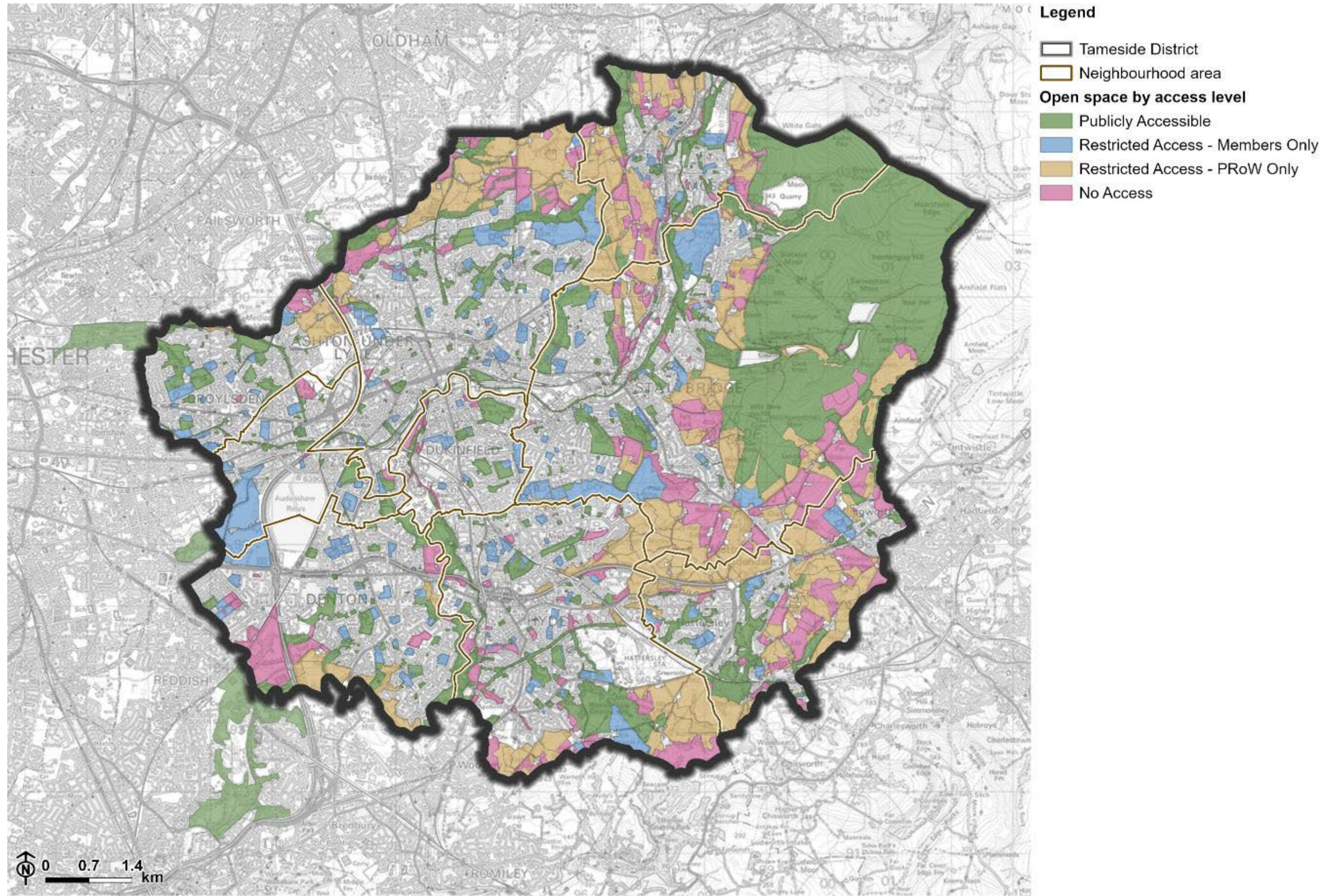


Figure 6.2: Open space in Tameside by access level



6.4 As well as categorising open spaces based on their primary typology, areas of secondary typology have also been identified. This is where a discrete area within a larger open space has a different function. Secondary typologies have been identified for the play provision for children and teenagers and outdoor sports typologies. The total area of open space split by secondary typology is shown in **Table 6.2**. The total area of open space remains the same, but the amount of open space within the play provision for children and teenagers and outdoor sports typologies has increased. The amount of open space within other typologies has decreased.

6.5 The quantity per 1000 of the population is shown in **Table 6.3**. This is calculated using the primary typology provision for all typologies, except outdoor sports and play provision for children and teenagers. For these typologies, the quantity is based on secondary typology. Areas with a separate secondary typology to the main open space are accounted for in both the quantity for its primary typology and secondary typology totals. These areas contribute to the standalone provision of the specific function of the secondary typology, whilst also contributing to the wider facilities available which attract people to the wider open space. Most of the standards have been based only on the publicly accessible open spaces. The exception is for those typologies where the majority of the open spaces have access restricted to members only. This includes outdoor sports, allotments and community growing space and school sites.

Table 6.2: Quantity of open space (in hectares) per secondary typology and access level

Typology	Publicly accessible	Restricted access – members only	Restricted access – Public Right of Way only	No access	Total	Change compared to primary typology
Parks and gardens	112.62	0.12			112.74	- 9.93
Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds	155.11	1.46		7.44	164.00	- 6.72
Natural greenspace	724.55	3.31	11.90	199.42	1,041.18	- 2.22
Wider countryside	1,324.02	28.79	1,336.59	674.13	3,363.52	- 0.25
Play provision for children and teenagers	7.73	1.74			9.47	+ 7.76
Outdoor sports	5.04	315.40		14.73	335.17	+ 11.99

Typology	Publicly accessible	Restricted access – members only	Restricted access – Public Right of Way only	No access	Total	Change compared to primary typology
Green and blue corridor	67.32			2.02	69.34	+/- 0.00
Churchyards, cemetery and graveyard	63.64	2.93		0.16	66.73	+/- 0.00
Allotments and community growing space	0.60	27.66		1.38	29.64	+/- 0.00
Civic space	1.32				1.32	+/- 0.00
School sites	5.64	230.21	1.13	1.38	238.35	- 0.61
Total	2467.57	1,451.61	611.62	900.66	5431.47	+/- 0.00

Table 6.3: Quantity in hectares of accessible open space per 1000 of the population

Typology	Quantity (hectares (ha)) per 1000 of the population
Parks and gardens	0.52 ha / 1000
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	0.70 ha / 1000
Natural greenspace	3.12 ha / 1000
Wider countryside	5.69 ha / 1000
Total accessible greenspace	10.03 ha / 1000
Play provision for children and teenagers (including secondary typology)	0.03 ha / 1000 (or 0.21 ha / 1000 using pop under 15)
Outdoor sport and recreation (including restricted access and secondary typology)	1.38 ha / 1000
Green corridors	0.29 ha / 1000
Churchyards, cemetery and graveyard	0.27 ha / 1000
Allotments (including restricted access)	0.12 ha / 1000
Civic space	0.01 ha / 1000
School sites (including restricted access)	1.02 ha / 1000

Testing the standards

6.6 Quantity standards were tested by comparing the provision of open spaces per population to previously used and national standards. Standards considered are detailed below.

- The Fields in Trust standards (which were used in the 2017/18 assessment) and include:
 - 0.8 ha / 1000 of the population (ha / 100) of parks and gardens;
 - 0.6 ha / 1000 of amenity greenspace and recreation grounds;
 - 1.8 ha / 1000 of natural greenspace and wider countryside; and
 - 0.25 ha / 1000 of equipped designated play areas.
- In addition, Fields in Trust set a standard of 0.30 ha / 1000 for informal play provision, including Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs) and pump tracks.
- Natural England Accessible Greenspace Standards (AGSt) which require at least 3 ha of accessible greenspace per 1000 of the population.

6.7 Table 6.4 sets out the current quantity of open space compared to the recorded provision in the 2017/18 assessment. For most typologies of open spaces, the current provision is similar to the 2017 / 18 provision (within 1 ha). This suggests that the previous standards are still applicable in the Tameside context. The exception is for combined natural greenspace and wider countryside sites. The large decrease for this typology is due to the change in methodology which previously counted some open spaces with more limited access.

Table 6.4: Quantity comparison with 2017/18 assessment

Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change
Parks and gardens	0.52 ha / 1000	0.53 ha / 1000	-0.01 ha / 1000
Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds	0.70 ha / 1000	0.57 ha / 1000	+ 0.13 ha / 1000
Natural greenspace	3.12 ha / 1000	-	-
Wider countryside	5.69 ha / 1000	-	-

Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change
Play provision for children and teenagers	8.82 ha / 1000	13.13 ha / 1000	-4.31 ha / 1000
Allotments and community growing space	0.03 ha / 1000	0.04 ha / 1000	-0.01 ha / 1000

Setting standards

6.8 Quantity standards are provided in **Table 6.5**. These largely follow the standards used in 2017/18. An additional standard has been set for all accessible greenspace. Justifications for the set standards are detailed here.

- The individual typology standards from Fields in Trust and the 2017/18 assessment have been retained.
- An additional standard for all accessible greenspace to include parks and gardens, natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and recreation grounds and wider countryside. This has been set at 4 ha / 1000, above the Natural England recommendation of 3 ha / 1000. Overall Tameside has a quantity of accessible greenspace of 10.03 ha / 1000 of the population. Areas of the wider countryside form a large proportion of this, including areas of upland moorland. This type of open space has strong ties to the local landscape and heritage, and new areas of accessible moorland cannot be created within new development. It is therefore helpful to also consider the provision of ‘accessible greenspace – discounting the wider countryside sites’, to understand the provision of accessible greenspace that could realistically be set as a standard to be provided within new development. When discounting for the wider countryside sites, the provision of accessible greenspace is 4.05 ha per 1000 of the population. A standard of 4 ha / 1000 has been set which is similar to the current provision of accessible greenspace in Tameside, in line with the target to provide no net loss per capita of accessible greenspace. This higher standard reflects the importance of the green character of Tameside
- To more accurately represent the total quantity of play provision for children and teenagers, the quantity of this typology has been compared to the population under 15, rather than the entire population. A higher standard which

incorporates both the Fields in Trust recommended standards for equipped play and informal play has been included.

- The standard for allotments has been retained at 0.21 ha / 1000.

Table 6.5: 2025 quantity standards

Typology	2025 quantity standard
Parks and gardens	0.80 ha / 1000
Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds	0.60 ha / 1000
Natural greenspace	1.80 ha / 1000
Accessible greenspace	5.00 ha / 1000
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15
Allotments and community growing space	0.21 ha / 1000

Application of quantity standards

6.9 Table 6.6 shows the application of the proposed quantity standards. Green cells highlight typologies that meet or exceed the proposed standard and pink cells indicate those that fall below.

Table 6.6: Current open space provision in Tameside

Typology	Current quantity	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	0.52 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.28 ha / 1000 deficit
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	0.70 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.10 ha / 1000 surplus

Typology	Current quantity	Standard	Comparison with standard
Natural greenspace	3.12 ha / 1000	1.80 ha / 1000	1.32 ha / 1000 surplus
Wider countryside	8.50 ha / 1000	NA	NA
All accessible greenspace	10.03 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	6.03 ha / 1000 surplus
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.17 ha / 1000 under 15	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.38 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.15 ha / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	0.06 ha / 1000 deficit

6.10 These results show there is a strong provision of accessible greenspace in Tameside compared to the overall accessible greenspace standard. Overall Tameside has 10.03 ha / 1000 of the population, compared to the standard of 4.00 ha / 1000 of the population. In addition, there is a strong provision of natural greenspace (3.12 ha / 1000 compared to the 1.80 ha / 1000 standard). Amenity greenspace provision is slightly above the provision (0.70 / 1000 compared to 0.60 ha / 1000). However, the provision of parks and gardens is lower than the standard (0.52 ha / 1000 compared to 0.80 ha / 1000).

6.11 Currently standards are not met across Tameside for parks and gardens, play provision for children and teenagers and allotments and community growing spaces. In particular, the deficiency is strongest for play provision for children and typology. Current provision for this typology is less than half the set standard.

Future population

6.12 Open space provision was also compared against the quantity standard based on the estimated future population in Tameside in 2041. This is shown in **Table 6.7** and represents performance against the open space standards in 2041 if no new open space is created.

Table 6.7: Estimated open space provision in Tameside - 2041

Typology	Future quantity	Standard	Comparison with standard	Change since 2025
Parks and gardens	0.49 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.31 ha / 1000 deficit	-0.03 ha / 1000
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	0.65 ha / 100	0.60 ha / 1000	0.05 ha / 1000 surplus	-0.05 ha / 1000
Natural greenspace	2.91 ha / 1000	1.80 ha / 1000	1.11 ha / 1000 surplus	-0.21 ha / 1000
Wider countryside	5.31 ha / 1000	NA	NA	-0.38 ha / 1000
All accessible greenspace	9.37 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	5.37 ha / 1000 surplus	-0.66 ha / 1000
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.16 ha / 1000 under 15	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.39 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit	-0.01 ha / 1000 under 15
Allotments and community growing space	0.11 ha / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	0.10 ha / 1000 deficit	-0.01 ha / 1000

6.13 With no new open spaces, the deficit in parks and gardens, play provision for children and teenagers and allotments and community growing space will increase. Whilst the provision of amenity greenspace and recreation ground, natural greenspace and all accessible greenspace is still above the standard, there is a notable decrease in the provision of open space per population.

Summary and implications

- Open space provision in Tameside is strongest within the natural greenspaces and wider countryside typologies. As a result, the overall provision of accessible greenspace is above the Natural England

recommendation of 3 ha / 1000 population. A higher quantity standard of 4 ha / 1000 for accessible greenspace should be applied to avoid leading to a large net loss in overall provision of accessible greenspace.

- The provision for parks and gardens as a standalone typology is below the recommended standard set out by Fields in Trust and within this assessment. Whilst the overall provision of accessible greenspace is high, it is important to address the deficiency in this typology, particularly given how important parks and gardens are for offering a range of recreational opportunities.
- The play provision for children and teenagers is particularly low compared to the standard. Moreover, there was a small decrease in this provision since 2017/18. This should be a priority for enhancements in open spaces and will be important in providing physical recreation opportunities for children and young people.
- The provision of allotments and community growing spaces has decreased since 2017/18. Opportunities for new allotments and community growing spaces should be considered to prevent a continued reduction as the population continues to grow.

Chapter 7

Accessibility Assessment

Testing the standards

7.1 Accessibility standards were tested by running straight-line distances from the open spaces. This gives an over estimation of the catchment size when applied using network analysis, but is helpful for understanding if a standard may be appropriate in the Tameside context. Testing was run on the following standards:

- Natural England Accessible Greenspace Standards (AGSt) which were applied to all accessible greenspaces at the following size thresholds:
 - 200 m buffer for all accessible greenspace over 0.5 ha or 300 m buffer for all accessible greenspace over 2 ha;
 - 1000 m buffer (1 km) for all accessible greenspace over 10 ha;
 - 2 km buffer for all accessible greenspace over 20 ha;
 - 5 km buffer for all accessible greenspace over 100 ha.
- There are no open spaces over 500 ha so the 10 km buffer applied to sites of this size was not tested.
- The 2017/18 assessment set a distance of 440 m as separate standards for the natural greenspace and amenity and recreation grounds typologies. The 440 m buffer was also applied to parks and formal gardens, with a larger buffer of 600 m for traditional parks. As the traditional parks category is not something used in this assessment this has not been tested.
- The 2017/18 assessment set a distance of 83m for Local Areas of Play (LAP), 330 m for Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) and 825 m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP).
- Fields in Trust have slightly larger standards for play provision for children and teenagers, as well as a separate category for youth spaces. Standards recommended are 100 m for LAPs, 400m for LEAPS, 1000 m for NEAPs and 700 m for informal play provision / youth spaces.

7.2 A final stage of testing was run using network analysis to understand if standards would be best applied to accessible greenspace as a whole, or to split this up based on typologies. The results of these are shown in the following figures. Access to the three main typologies is variable.

- **Figure 7.1** shows that there is only one borough greenspace for parks and gardens (Stamford Park) and one neighbourhood greenspace (Cheetham Park). These provide good access to parks and gardens in the centre-north of Tameside around Stalybridge. Elsewhere, access is at the local and doorstep level and is sparse.
- **Figure 7.2** shows the access to natural greenspace. There is much stronger coverage of this access, particularly in the east. There are several borough and neighbourhood level natural greenspaces which contribute to good access to this typology, as well as frequent small local natural greenspaces.
- **Figure 7.3** shows the access to amenity greenspace and recreation grounds, as well as cemeteries and churchyards. The majority of these spaces have the doorstep catchment applied to them (200 m) which requires a high number of spaces to provide coverage across Tameside. Cemeteries and churchyards have also been included within this category as this can inform an important greenspace provision where other open spaces are absent.

7.3 Access is better for natural greenspaces compared to other typologies. Overall, there are few parts of the borough which have access to all typologies. However, given the increase in focus on multifunctional spaces, this is not a priority to address compared to ensuring that all residents have access to accessible greenspace within walking distances. Therefore, the testing suggests that accessible greenspaces should be considered as a group within the access standards.

Figure 7.1: Access to parks and gardens

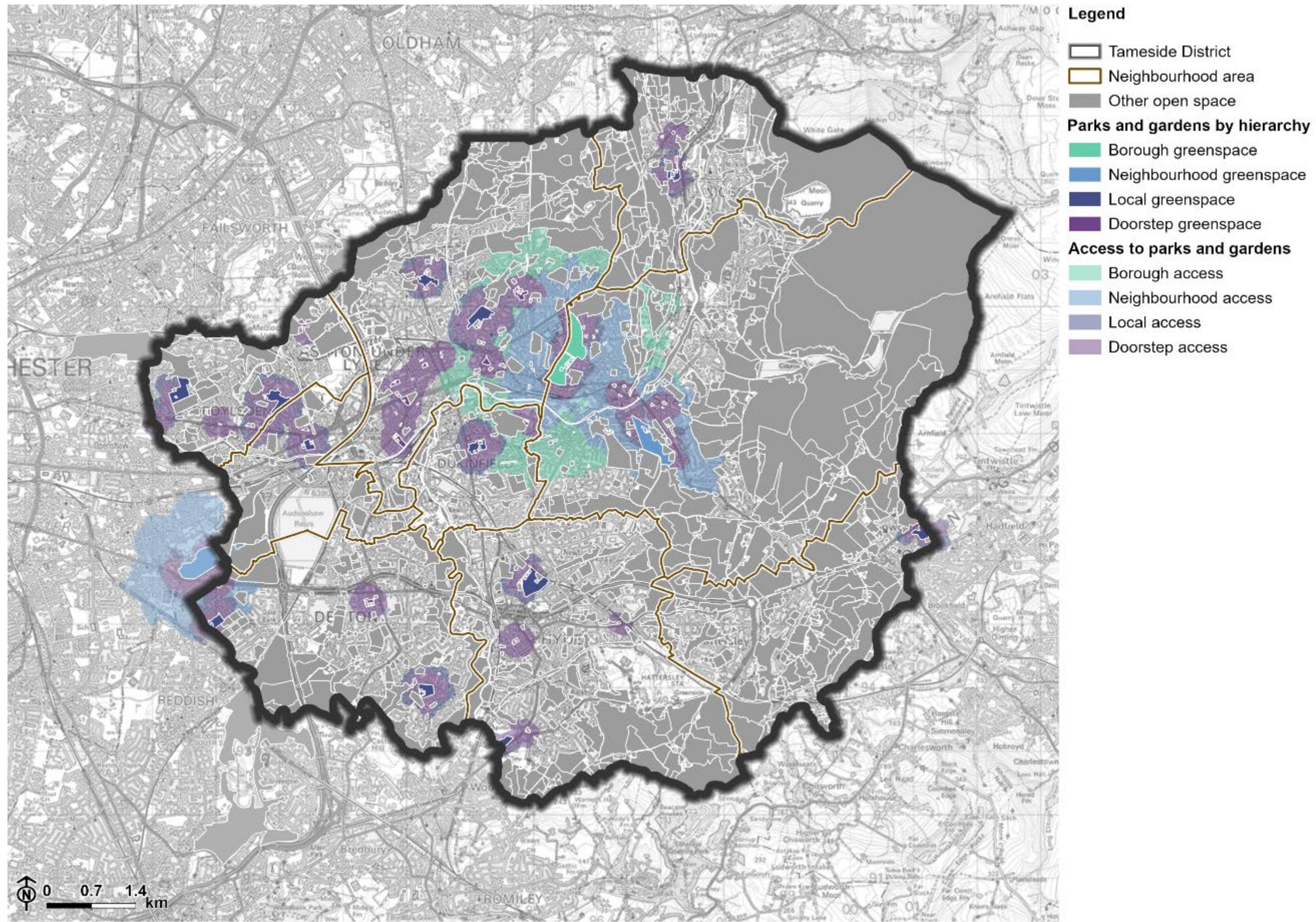


Figure 7.2: Access to natural greenspace

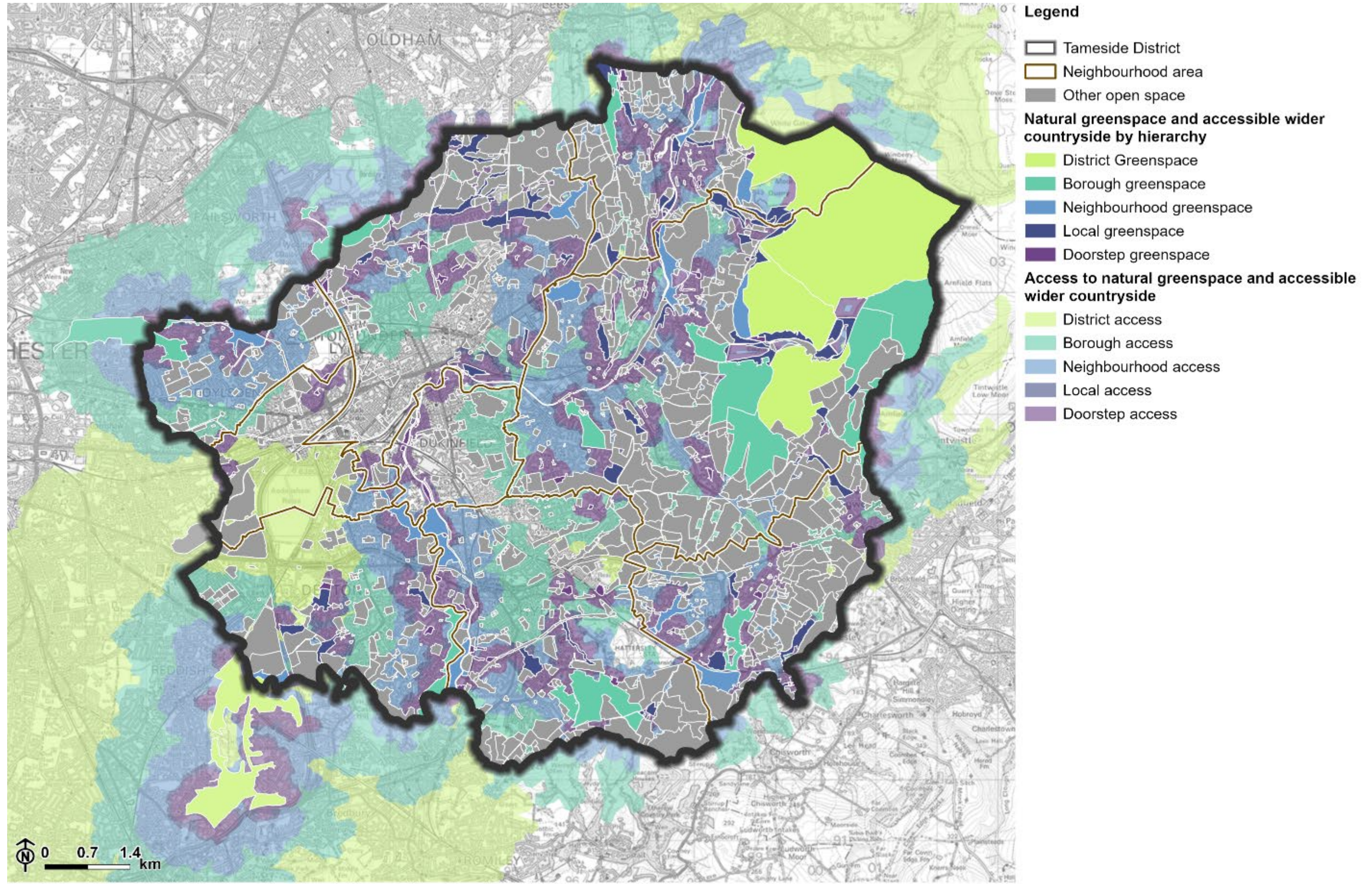
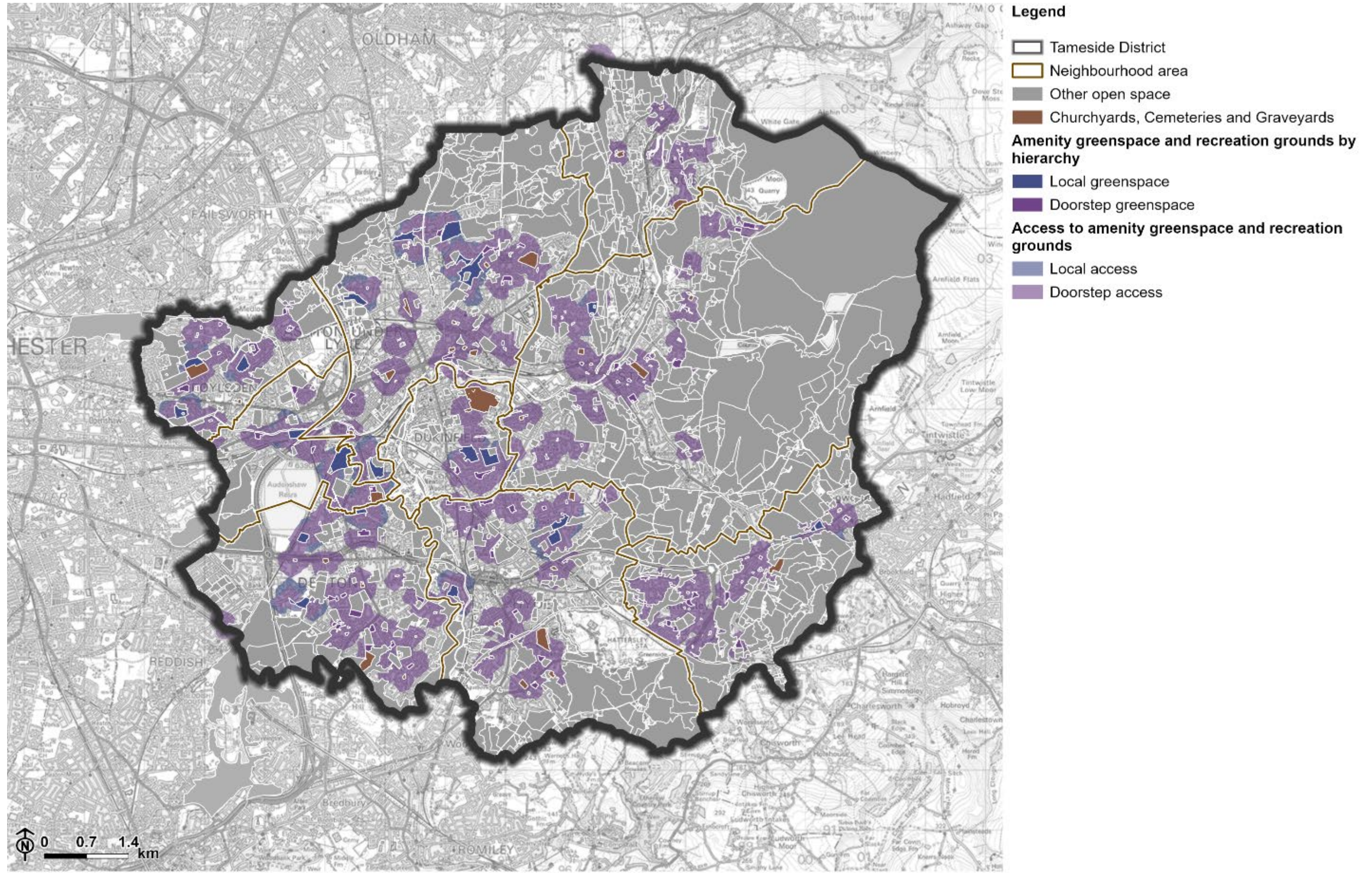


Figure 7.3: Access to amenity greenspace and recreation grounds and churchyards, cemeteries and graveyards



Proposed accessibility standards

7.4 The proposed draft standards and justification for each are provided in **Table 7.1**. The following justifications apply to the wider approach:

- The size-based approach has been taken over by the typology-based approach for accessing greenspaces. This takes account for the increasing focus on designing multifunctional sites and to allow the standards to better account for the differing landscape contexts across Tameside. Additionally, some respondents at the consultation highlighted the importance of larger open spaces, which are currently not accessible across the whole Borough.
- No standard has been set for accessible greenspaces larger than 100 ha as this standard is not met across the western part of the Borough. The creation of new greenspaces of this size is not expected or viable so setting a standard for this would not be achievable.
- Cemeteries and churchyards have also been included in the smallest catchment threshold (200 m). This is to account for the role these sites can play in providing access to greenspace when there are few other spaces available, particularly for quiet contemplation. The importance of these sites was highlighted during consultation.
- Fields in Trust guidance has been used rather than the smaller locally derived catchments for play provision for children and teenagers. The smaller catchments were based on extensive consultation which occurred over 10 years ago and based on the straight-line approach which provides larger catchments than the network analysis. In addition, the larger Fields in Trust catchments are not currently met across the majority of the district. Therefore, applying the larger catchments would still represent an aim to increase access to play provision for children and teenagers above the current level.
- Access catchments for allotments were set at 1 km which corresponds with the distance for a neighbourhood accessible greenspace.

Table 7.1: Accessibility standards 2025

Typology and hierarchy	2025 accessibility standard
Doorstep or local accessible greenspace	200 m or 300 m

Typology and hierarchy	2025 accessibility standard
Neighbourhood accessible greenspace	1000 m (1 km)
Borough accessible greenspace	2000 m (2 km)
District accessible greenspace	5000m (5 km)
Play provision for children and teenagers - LAP	100 m
Play provision for children and teenagers - LEAP	400 m
Play provision for children and teenagers - NEAP	1000 m (1 km)
Allotments	1000 m (1km)

7.5 The focus of open space provision should be on greenspaces close to home (within the 200 / 300 m and 1000 m access buffers). This is roughly equivalent to a 5 and 10 minute walk.

Application of accessibility standards

7.6 The following series of maps show the application of the accessibility standards across Tameside for the different typologies.

7.7 **Figure 7.4** shows access to accessible close to home. The majority of Tameside has access to at least one level of the greenspace close to home hierarchy (neighbourhood or local / doorstep). In the east of the borough, this is mostly provided by local and doorstep greenspaces, whereas further west most built up areas have access to both levels of the hierarchy. Overall, 84% of Tameside is within access of a doorstep or local accessible greenspace, or within an open space and 76% is within access of a neighbourhood accessible greenspace or within an open space.

7.8 Access to larger accessible greenspaces (the borough and district hierarchies) show a similar pattern (see **Figure 7.5**). In the east, most built up areas have access to both district greenspaces (provided by open access land within the South Pennine moorlands), and access to borough greenspaces (provided by the moorland sites),

as well as other natural greenspaces and Stamford Park. In the west, access is less comprehensive. Greenspaces within the Borough which provide access to borough level greenspace include Sunnyside Bank (Greenside Lane) natural greenspace in the northwest and Gibraltar Wood wider countryside site in the south. Additionally, Daisy Nook Country Park, Clayton Vale Country Park and Reddish Vale Country Park, located outside (or partially outside) Tameside in the boroughs of Oldham, Manchester and Stockport provide access to borough and district hierarchies. In addition, Reddish Vale provides access to the district level of greenspace for residents in the southwest of the Borough. However, there are gaps to access for the larger sizes of open space, particularly within Audenshaw and Dukinfield. Overall, 87% of Tameside is within access of borough greenspace, or within an open space and 79% is within access of a borough accessible greenspace or within an open space.

7.9 Access to play provision for children and teenagers is shown in **Figure 7.6**. Generally, access is much better to NEAPs (provision for 11 year olds and above including youth provision). Access to this level of the play hierarchy is particularly strong in the north of Tameside.

7.10 **Figure 7.7** shows access to allotments across Tameside. Access to this typology is less comprehensive than other typologies. Generally, access is better in the south, as well as the northwest around Mossley.

Summary and implications

- Access to accessible greenspace is stronger in the east of Tameside compared to the west. This is the case particularly for accessible greenspace of the neighbourhood hierarchy and above.
- Access is stronger for natural greenspaces compared to other accessible greenspace typologies. In particular, access to the parks and gardens typology is limited.
- Access to accessible greenspace is lowest for the neighbourhood level of the hierarchy.
- Access to play provision for children and teenagers is limited, particularly in terms of access to LAPs and LEAPs. Integrating these play spaces for younger children into environments would help provide more smaller provision which is more accessible for residents across Tameside.
- Access to allotments and community growing spaces is inconsistent across Tameside. Many of the areas without access to allotments coincide with areas without access to play provision for children and teenagers.

Enhancements to open spaces could incorporate integrating opportunities for community growing and to encourage play to fill in gaps in access to these typologies.

Figure 7.4: Access to greenspace close to home

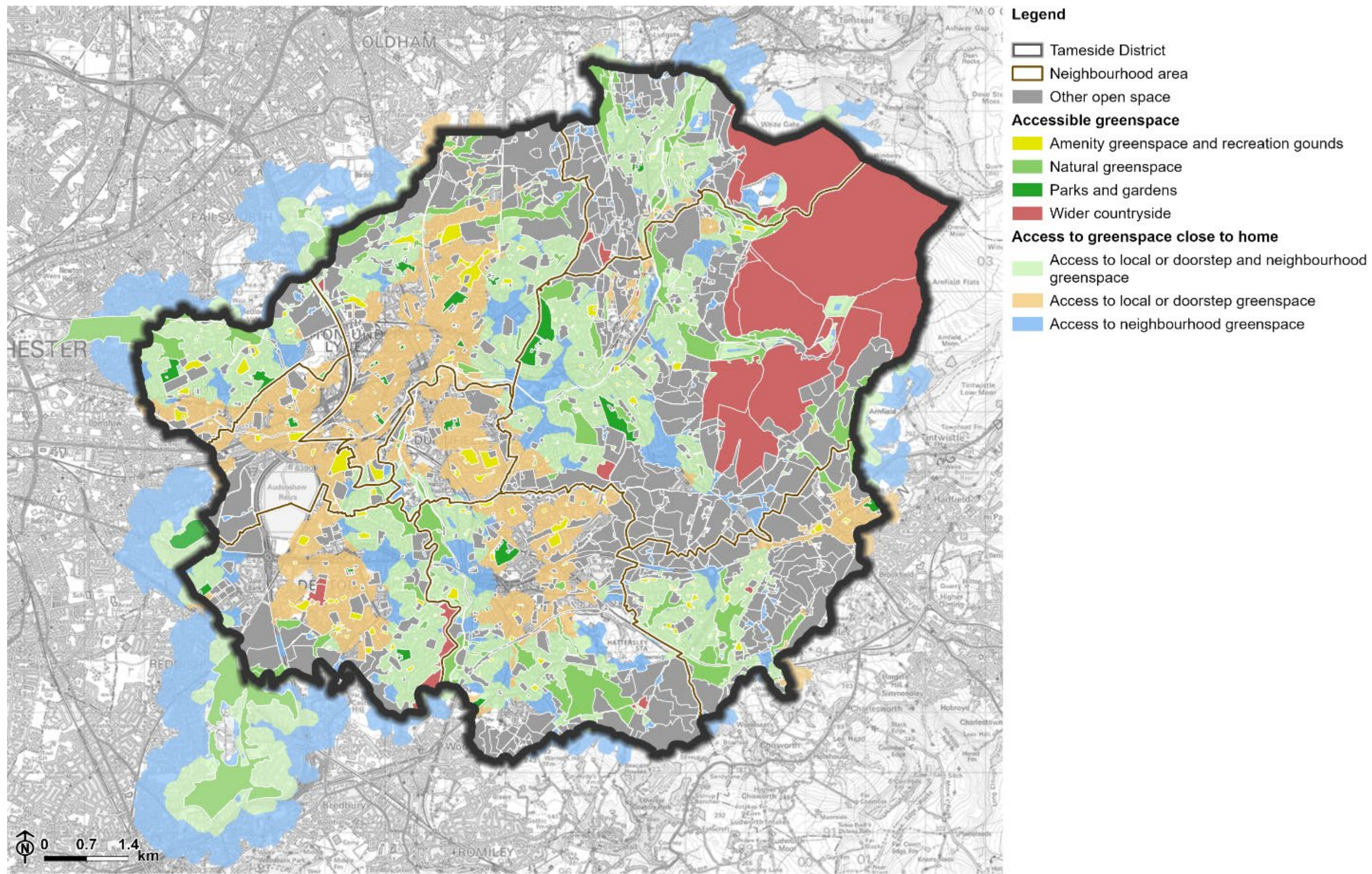


Figure 7.5: Access to borough and district accessible greenspace

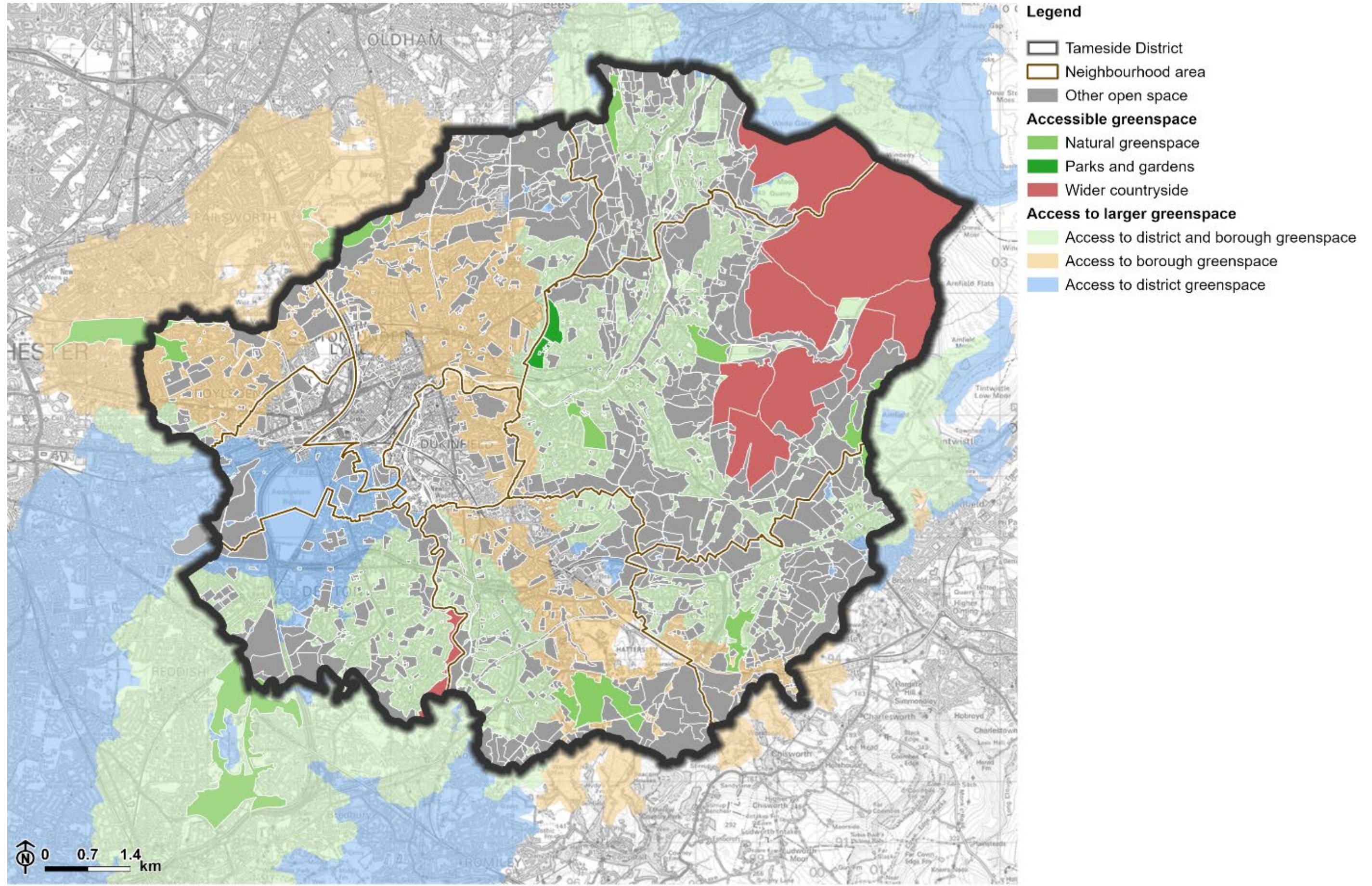


Figure 7.6: Access to play provision for children and teenagers

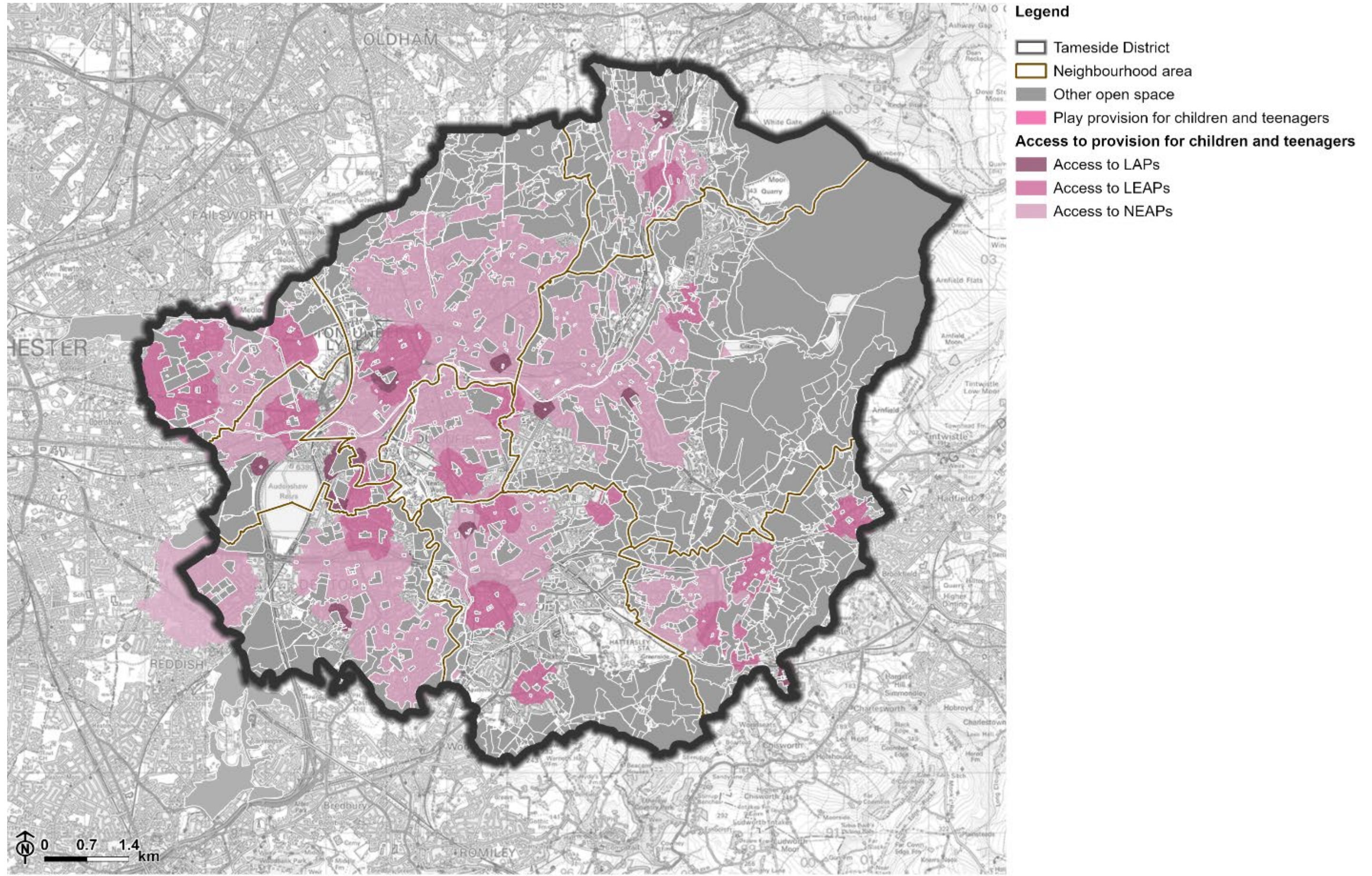


Figure 7.7: Access to allotments

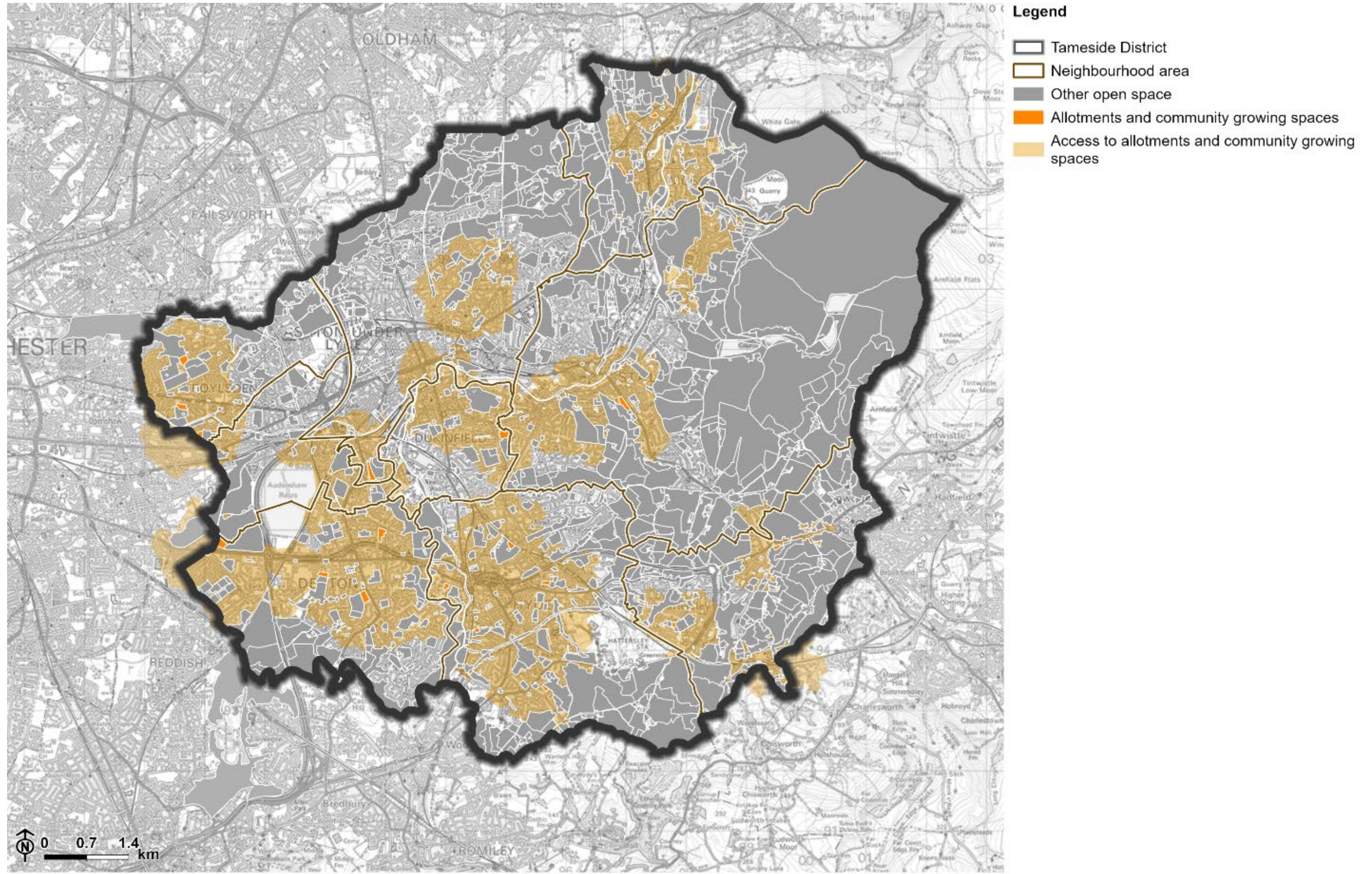
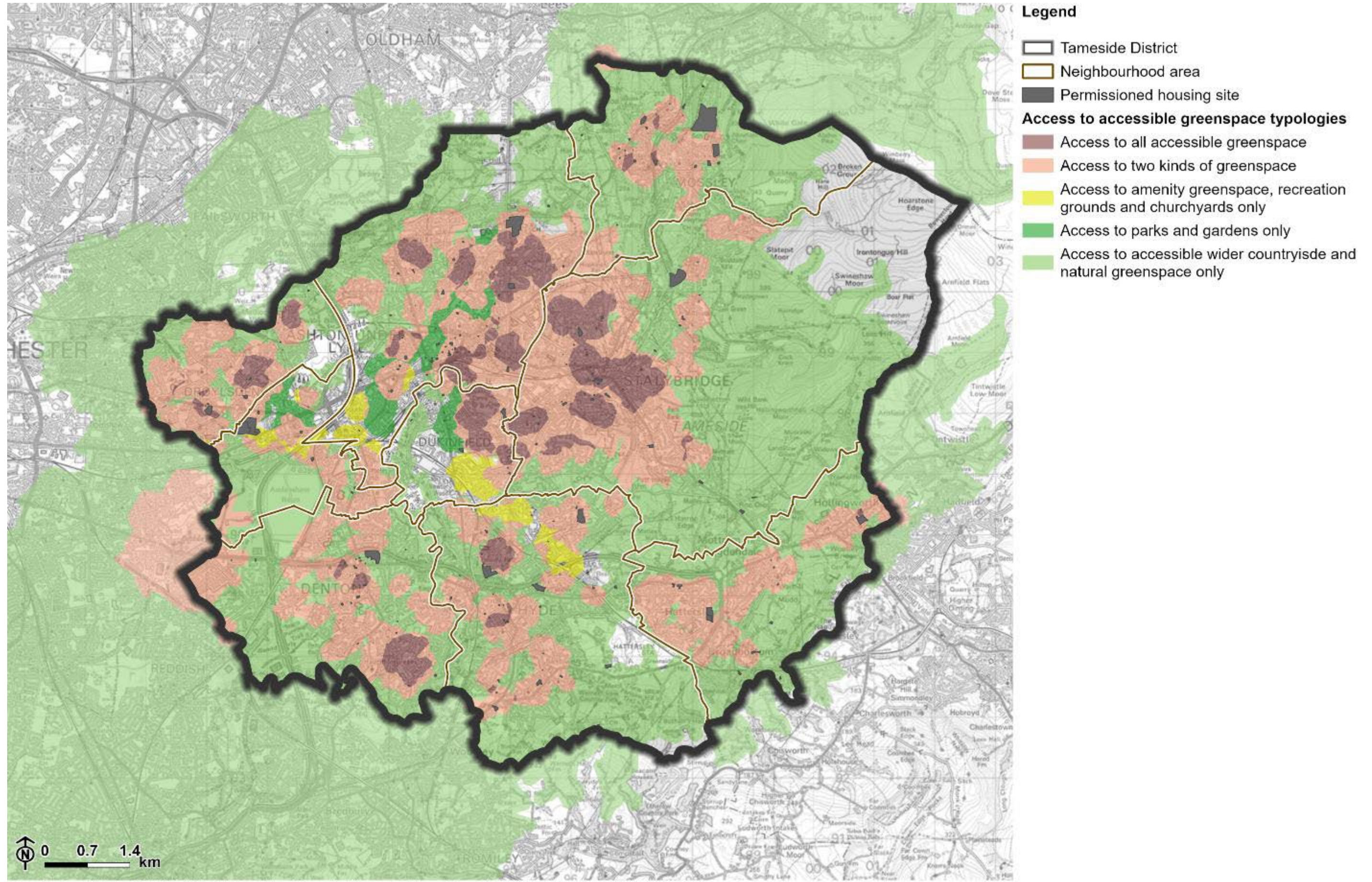


Figure 7.8: Future access to open space



Chapter 8

Quantity and accessibility analysis for analysis areas

8.1 This section provides a breakdown of the open space needs and current provision for each neighbourhood area. The information contained is highlighted below.

- The current provision of open space compared to the population, including how this has changed since the 2017/18 study and how it compares to the standards.
- The open space need. This is based on the population density, indices of multiple deprivation, amount of private garden per 1000 of the population and percentage of the population who are 'active' (undertake more than 30 minutes physical activity a day).
- The play need, based on the percentage of the population under 19, the IMD – deprivation affecting young people, and the percentage of children that are classed as 'active' (undertaking more than 30 minutes physical activity a day).
- Maps showing the access catchments to various typologies and hierarchies of open space.

8.2 The focus of this chapter is on accessible greenspace, play provision for children and teenagers and allotments and community growing spaces.

8.3 The accessible greenspace typologies consist of:

- Parks and gardens;
- Natural greenspace; and
- Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds.

8.4 In addition, access catchments for publicly accessible wider countryside sites have been considered and grouped together with natural greenspaces and churchyards and cemeteries have been considered and grouped together with amenity greenspace and recreation grounds.

8.5 Within this chapter reference is made to the open space and play needs indexes, set out in **paragraphs 4.35 - 4.40**. A score of seven or higher in the open space needs index is roughly equivalent to the LSOAs within the top 10% of LSOAs with the

greatest open space need. Within the play space index, LSOAs with a score of 7.75 or above correspond with around the 10% highest play need.

Ashton-under-Lyne

8.6 Table 8.1 shows the current quantity of open space in Ashton-under-Lyne compared to the standard and the previous assessment. Overall, there has been a decrease in the amount of natural greenspace and wider countryside since the previous study in 2017/18. This is likely because the calculation no longer includes wider countryside sides with no access or with access only via the Public Rights of Way network (PRoW).

8.7 The open space provision exceeds the standard for accessible greenspace, as well as the standards for all component typologies of accessible greenspace, with the exception of the parks and gardens typology, which is around half of the standard. Additionally, there is a deficiency in play provision for children and teenagers and allotments and community growing space. Compared to other neighbourhood areas, Ashton-under-Lyne is particularly deficient in allotments and community growing spaces.

8.8 Figure 8.1a shows the open space need in Ashton-under-Lyne. The majority of the area shows a relatively high open space need. The area around St Peters has the highest open space need in Tameside (with a score of 10 out of 10). The next highest open need area is also in Ashton-under-Lyne, around Ashton St Michael's between Cowhill Lane, Whitacre Road, hope Street and Tameside College. This area has a needs score of around 8.5. Around Hurst and between Newmarket Road and Cranbourne Road open space need is relatively high, with scores of between 7 and 8.

8.9 Figure 8.1b shows the access to greenspace close to home (within 1 km). There is access to doorstep or local greenspace across large parts of Ashton-under-Lyne. Gaps to provision for this hierarchy include in the west between Ambleside Avenue and Vicarage Road and further east between Russell Street and Fountain Street. There is more limited access to neighbourhood accessible greenspaces. In the east of neighbourhood area, residents have access to these hierarchy of accessible greenspace through access to Stamford Park and Knott Hill Reservoir. In the west, access is provided by Daisy Nook Country Park. The gap in access to doorstep and local greenspace in the west between Ambleside Avenue and Vicarage Road is also out of the access catchments to neighbourhood greenspace. Some of this area, including around Atlas Street, Taunton Road and Fernsworth Avenue is also within an area of high open space need.

8.10 Figure 8.1c shows the access to larger open spaces. There is good access to the borough level of greenspace through most of Ashton provided by Stamford Park

adjoining this neighbourhood area in Stalybridge and Daisy Nook Country Park to the west. The exception is in the southwest of the sub-area around St Peters, where residents are not within the 2 km distance catchments of borough greenspaces. This correlates with an area of highest open space need. In the east, residents are also within the access catchments for district greenspace, provided by moorland within the Pennine upland area. In Ashton-under-Lyne, the only accessible greenspaces which the majority of residents are within the access catchments for is the smaller (doorstep or local - less than 10 ha) greenspaces.

8.11 Figure 8.1d shows the overlap of access to different typologies of open space. In the north, access is mostly available only to natural greenspace and the wider countryside. However, in the south-east, around Hurst Cross there are some places which have access to all types of accessible greenspace. In the west, there are some areas with no access to accessible greenspace. This includes residential areas northwest of Ashton-under-Lyne centre, including around Knowle Avenue, Taunton Road and Cranbourne Road.

8.12 Figure 8.2a shows the play needs index and location of the LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in Ashton-Under-Lyne. Overall there is a relatively high play needs index, particularly in the west, where the highest areas of play needs in Tameside are located.

8.13 Access to play provision for children and teenagers is shown in **Figure 8.2b**. Access for older children (over 11, provided by NEAPs) is generally fairly widespread in Ashton-under-Lyne. There are only limited areas which are outside the 1 km access catchments of play provision for NEAPs. This includes in the west around Gorsey Lane and Old Road in the east around Richmond Streety and in the north for properties of Castle Court, Plymouth Close and Rochester Close. The smaller access catchments (100 m and 400 m) for play provision for children under 11 and for youth spaces provide limited coverage across Ashton-under-Lyne. Many residents, particularly in the north are not within the access catchments for these spaces. Access to play provision for children under 11 is better in the town centre and to the southeast of this.

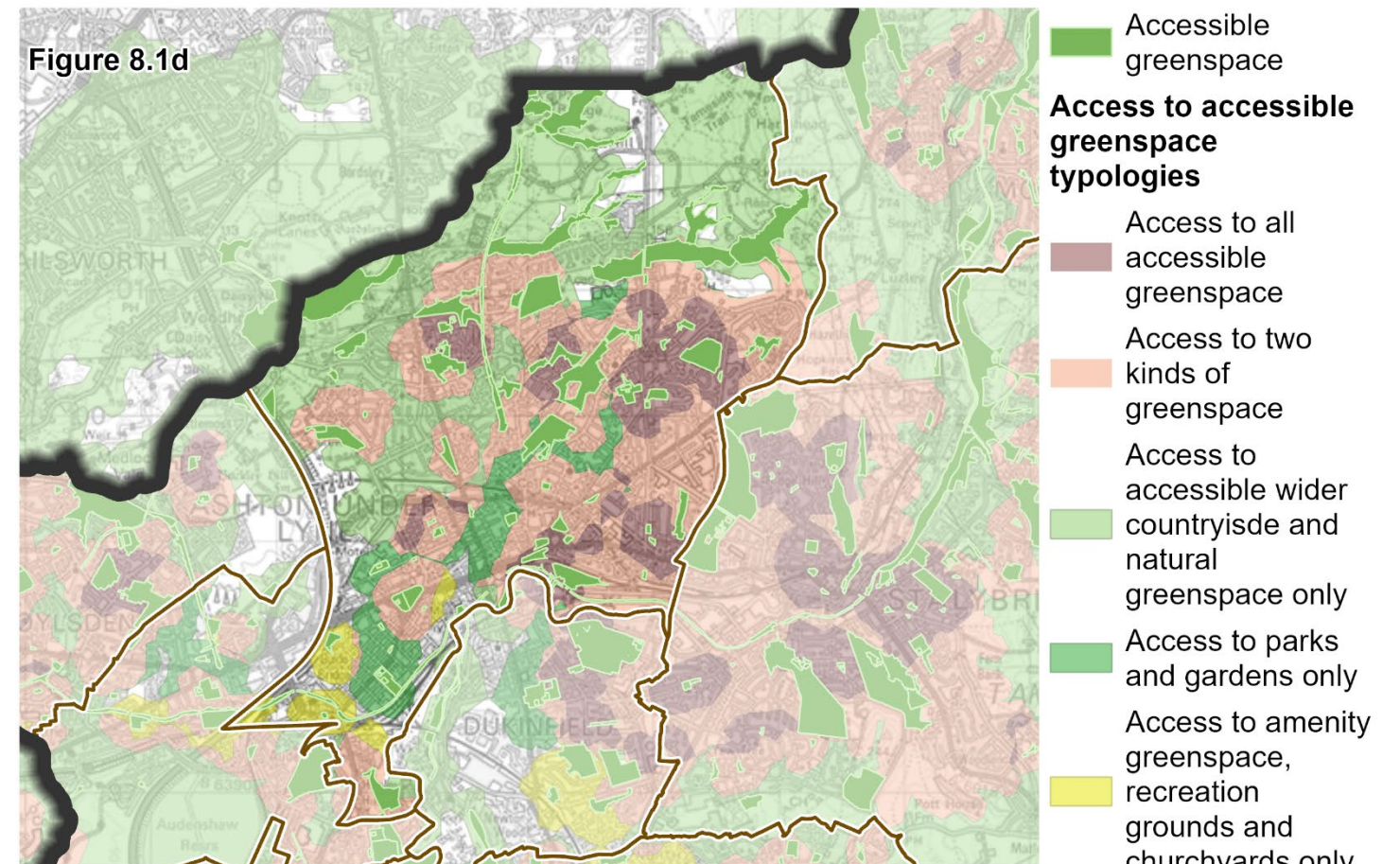
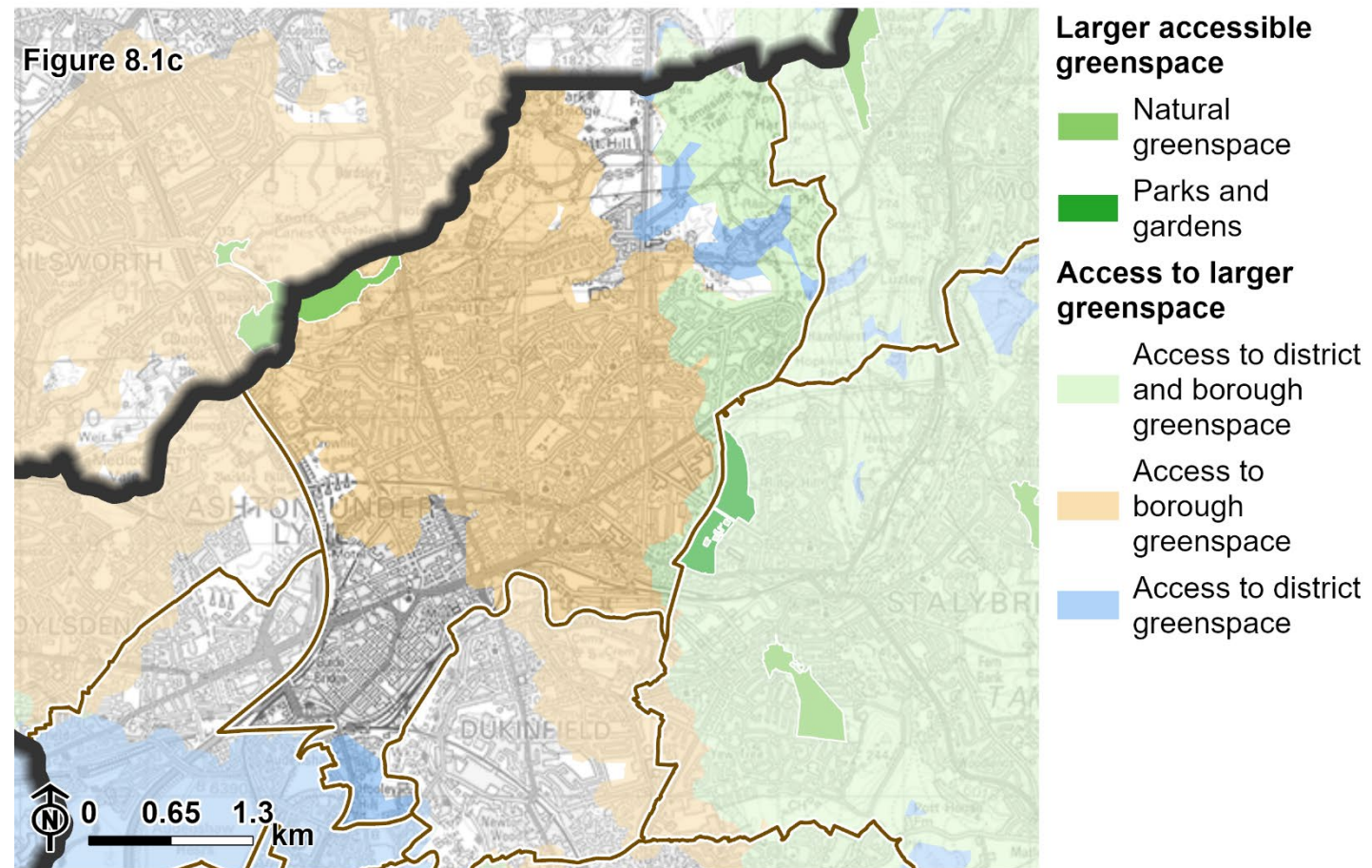
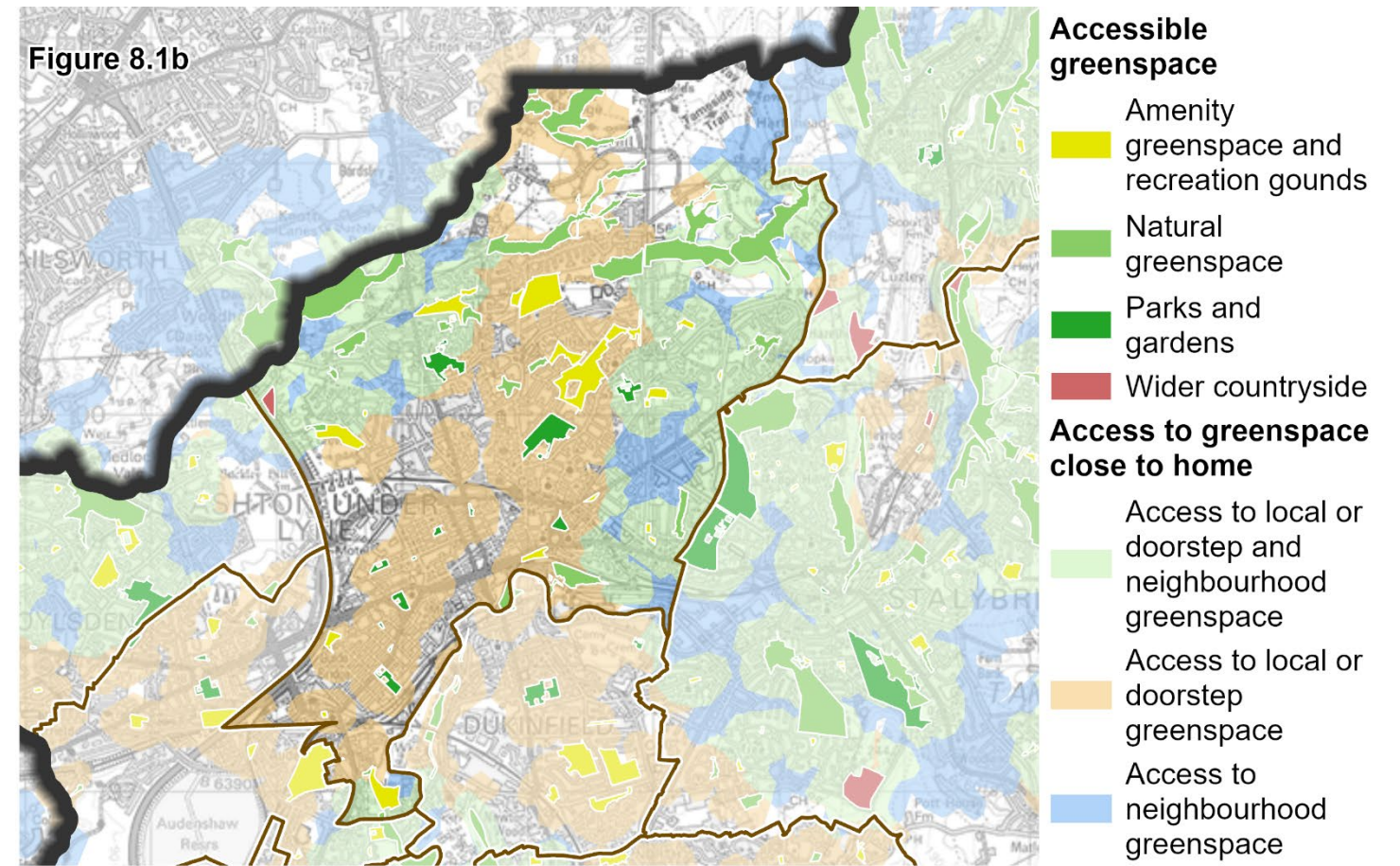
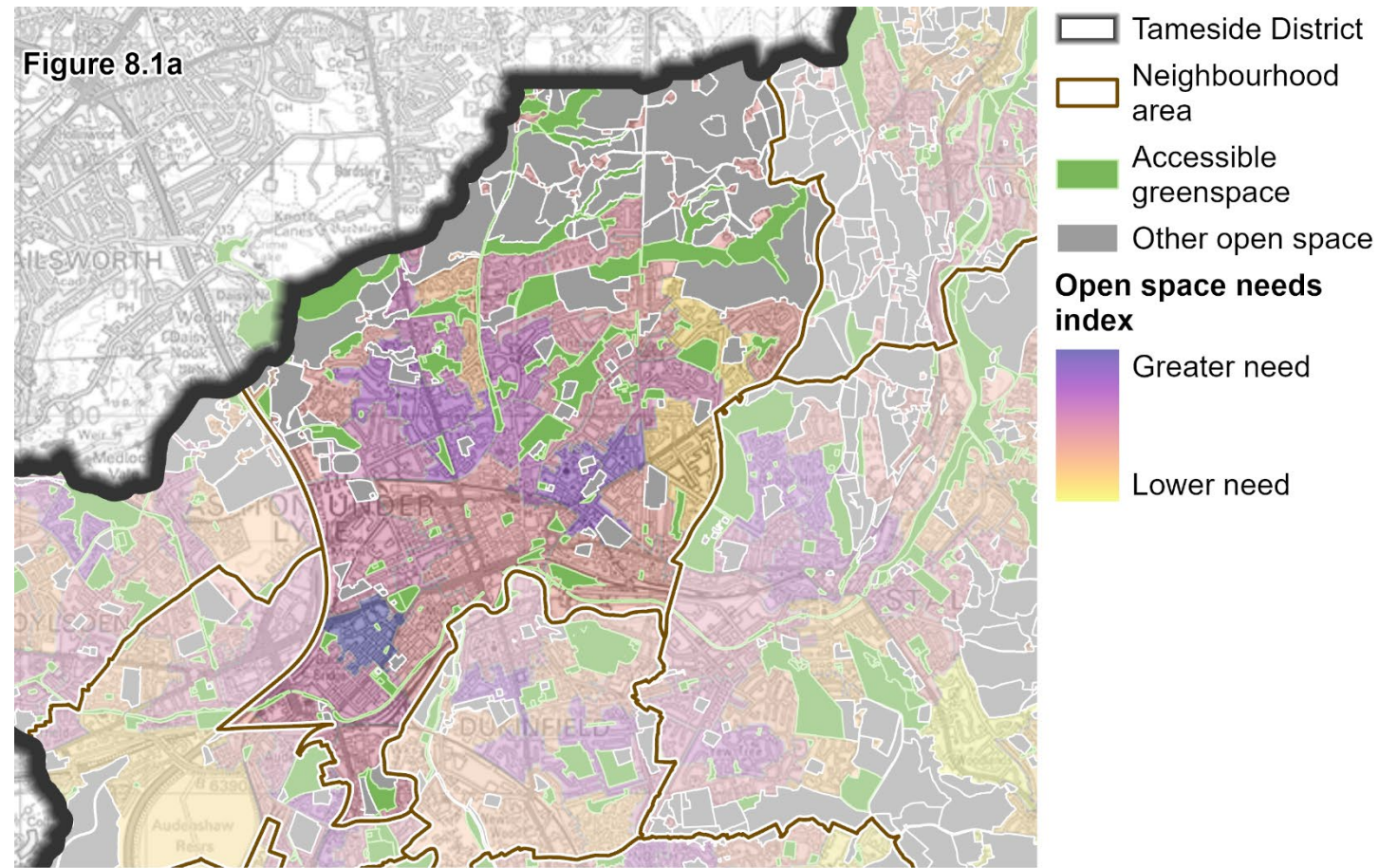
8.14 Access to allotments and community growing spaces is shown in **Figure 8.2c**. The only open space of this typology is the allotments Off Ladbrook Close, in the centre of the neighbourhood area. This provides access for residents northeast of the Ashton-under-Lyne centre, including around Hurst Cross and Hurst. In the south, allotments in the adjoining Dukinfield neighbourhood area provide access to residents around Ashton-under-Lyne town centre. Elsewhere, residents are outside the 1 km access catchments and so have poor access to allotments and community growing spaces.

8.15 Figure 8.2d shows the location of additional open space (other than accessible greenspace). This shows that there are a number of other open space typologies which complement the accessible greenspace provision in Ashton-under-Lyne. This includes some larger areas of outdoor sports, including Ashton Golf Club. The Ashton to Oldham Greenway is a green and blue corridor which provides access from the centre of Ashton into the wider countryside and natural greenspace in the north of the neighbourhood area.

Table 8.1: Open space provision in Ashton-under-Lyne

Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	0.44 ha / 1000	0.44 ha / 1000	+/-0 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.36 ha / 1000 deficit
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	0.87 ha / 1000	0.48 ha / 1000	+ 0.39 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.27 ha / 1000 surplus
Natural greenspace	2.21 ha / 1000	NA	NA	1.80 ha / 1000	0.41 ha / 1000 surplus
Wider countryside	0.03 ha / 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural greenspace and wider countryside combined	2.24 ha / 1000	5.52 ha / 1000	- 3.28 ha / 100	NA	NA
All accessible greenspace	3.55 ha / 1000	6.44 ha / 1000	- 2.89 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	0.45 ha / 1000 deficit
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.20 ha / 1000 under 15	0.04 ha / 1000 (all)	+/- 0 ha / 1000	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.35 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.05 ha / 1000	0.05 ha / 1000	+/- 0 ha / 1000	0.21 ha /1000	0.16 ha / 1000 deficit

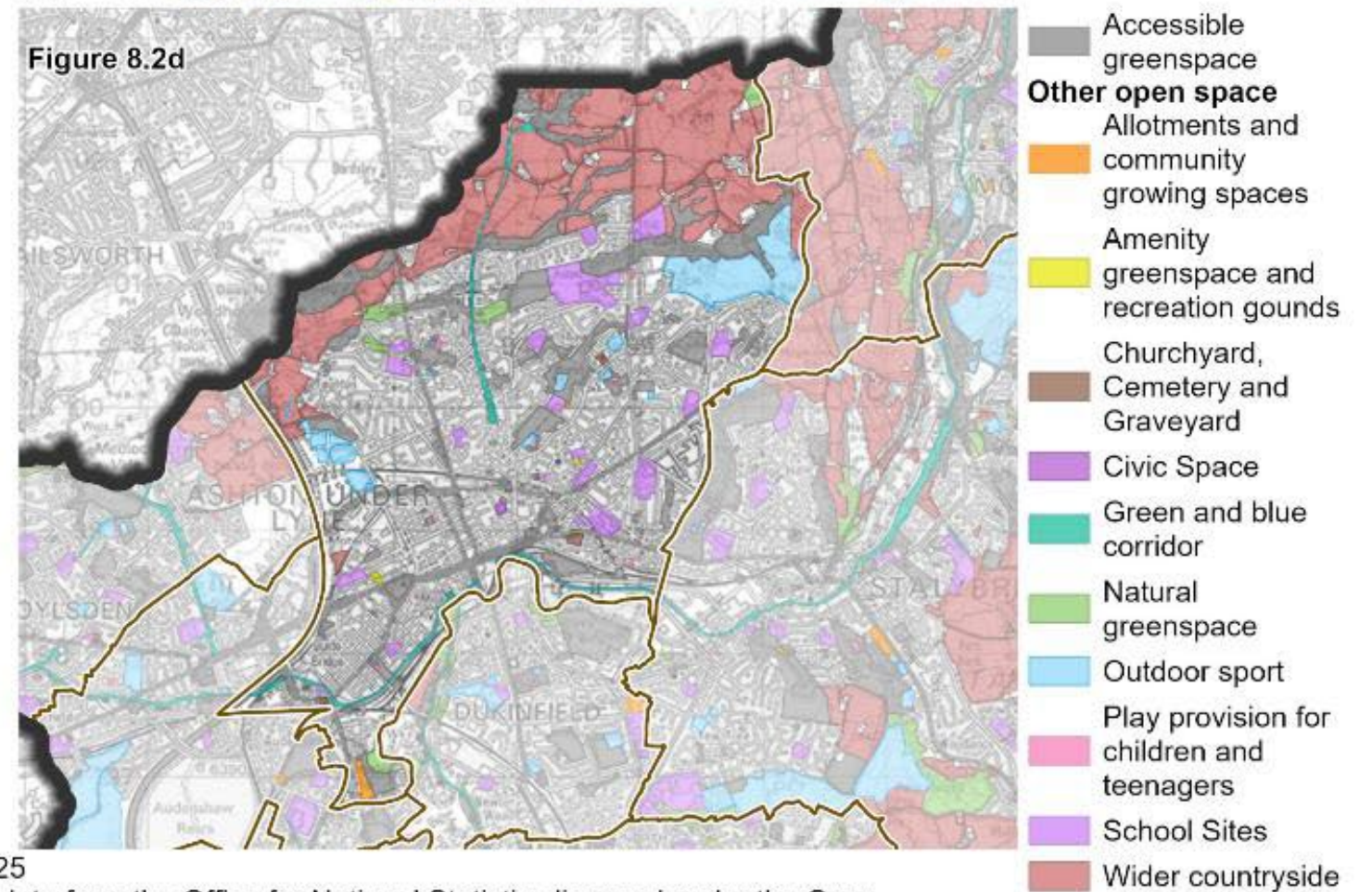
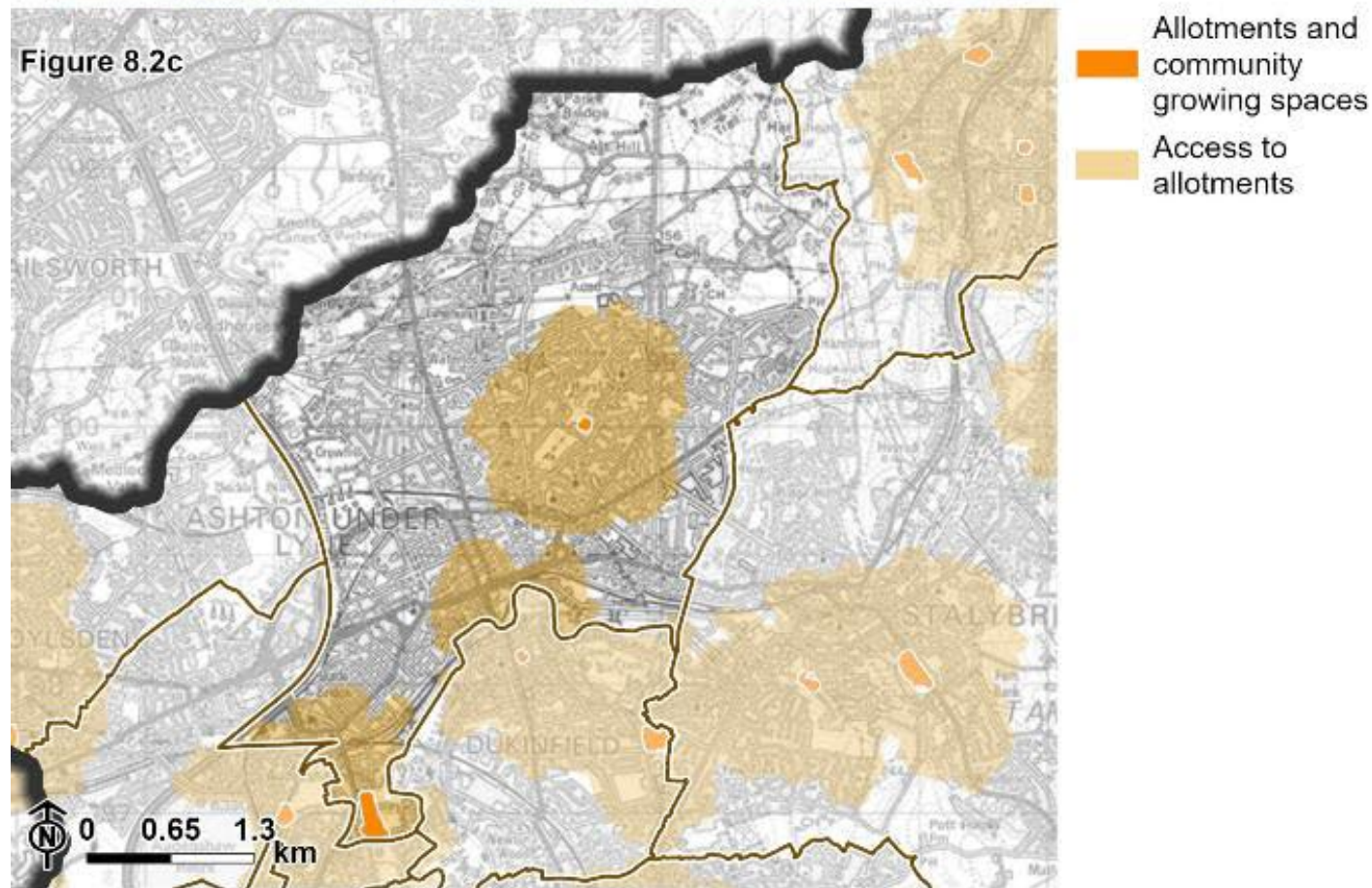
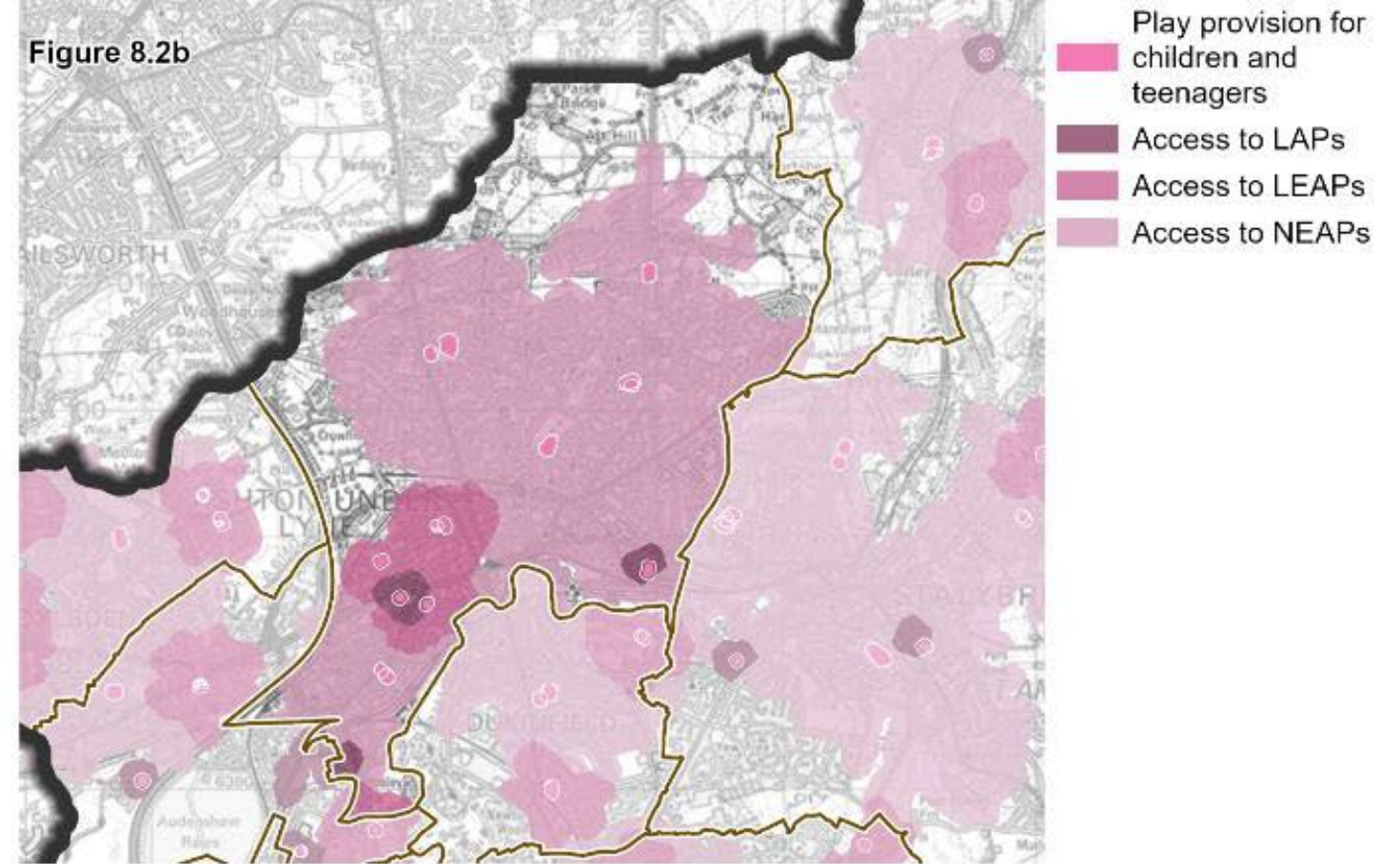
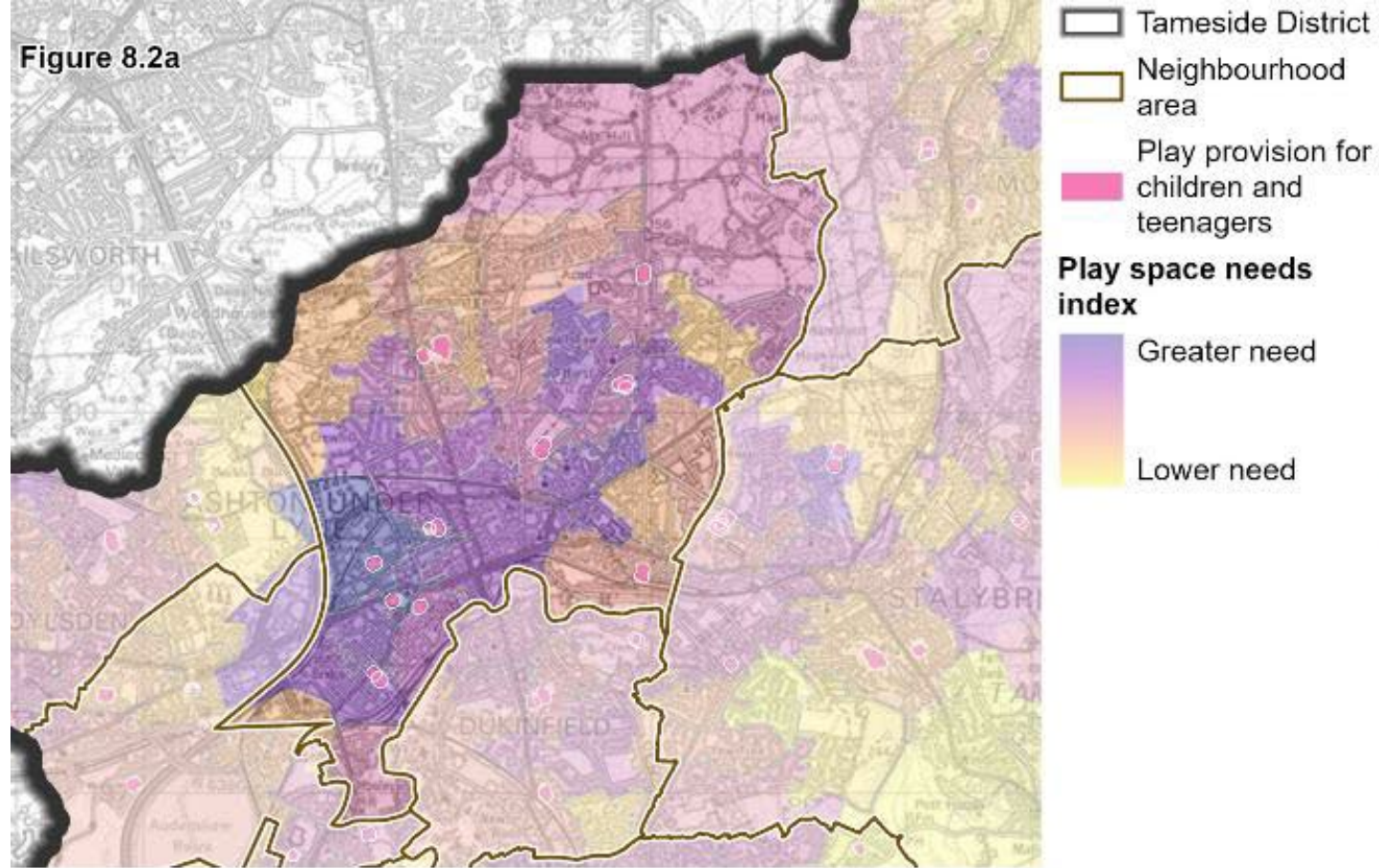
Figure 8.1: Provision and access to accessible greenspace in Ashton-under-Lyne



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Figure 8.2: Provision and access to other open space Ashton-under-Lyne



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Audenshaw

8.16 Table 8.2 shows the current quantity of open space in Audenshaw compared to the standard and the previous assessment. Overall, there has been an increase in the provision of open space since the previous assessment in 2017/18. However, there is still a relatively low provision of open space in Audenshaw compared to other parts of Tameside, in particular in relation to natural greenspace.

8.17 The open space provision exceeds the standard for the amenity greenspace and recreation grounds as well as allotments and community growing spaces typologies. However, there is a deficiency in overall accessible greenspace, as well as natural greenspace and parks and gardens. This neighbourhood area has the lowest provision of overall accessible greenspace compared to other parts of Tameside. In addition, play provision for children and teenagers typologies is below the standard.

8.18 Figure 8.3a shows the open space need in Audenshaw. The overall open space need is fairly average compared to the whole need across Tameside. The highest scores are in the east of the neighbourhood area, with parts of Guide Bridge. In the west, the open space need is much lower, with residents around Kings Grange having an open space needs score of around 2.

8.19 Figure 8.3b shows the access to greenspace close to home. Access to doorstep or local greenspace is present in parts of Audenshaw, but there is very limited access to neighbourhood greenspace. Large parts of the neighbourhood area have no access to greenspace close to home, although most of these areas comprise places with no residential populations, including around the reservoir and golf course. In practice, therefore, it is primarily residences around Kings Grange, Clarendon Road, Aldwyn Park Road and Kershaw Lane in the west and around Leech Brook Avenue in the south, as well as residences in the northwest, for example around Aldwyn Park Road who lack access to greenspace close to home.

8.20 Figure 8.3c shows the access to larger open spaces. There is very little access to borough greenspaces in any of Audenshaw. There is notably poorer access in Audenshaw compared to other parts of Tameside. The exception is a small area in the northwest of the neighbourhood area, for example around Golden Road, Fitzroy Street and Willow Fold. These areas are within the access catchment of the borough greenspace at Greenside Lane / Sunnyside Bank. Access to district greenspaces in Audenshaw are provided by Reddish Vale Country Park, located south of Tameside in Stockport Borough.

8.21 Figure 8.3d shows the access to different typologies of accessible greenspace. Overall, in the south of Audenshaw, most residents have access to amenity greenspace, recreation grounds or churchyards, as well as natural greenspace provided by Reddish Vale country park (at the district level of the hierarchy and generally accessible by car). Further north, there is also access to parks and gardens. There is very little natural greenspace in this neighbourhood area, and access to this typology is mostly provided at the district level (within 5 km), rather than close to home.

8.22 Figure 8.4a shows the play needs index and location of the LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in Audenshaw. The overall play need is low compared to other parts of Tameside. In the northeast the play need is higher (with a score of around 8), however this does not affect any residential areas.

8.23 Access to play provision for children and teenagers is shown in **Figure 8.4b**. In the southeast, there is a deficiency in access to play provision for children and teenagers close to where people live. This includes around residential streets between Spring Bank Avenue and Sidmouth Street.

8.24 Access to allotments and community growing spaces is shown in **Figure 8.4c**. Access is present in the southeast of Audenshaw. This is provided by Stamford East / East of railway line allotments adjacent to Audenshaw Ponderosa, as well as Mount Pleasant Allotments in the neighbouring Ashton-under-Lyne neighbourhood area. In the west, access to allotments and community growing spaces in the Droylsden neighbourhood area provides access to some residents in Audenshaw. The absence of allotments and community growing spaces in the north of the neighbourhood area means there is poor access to this typology in the north of the Audenshaw.

8.25 Figure 8.4d shows the location of additional open space (other than accessible greenspace). This shows that there are a number of other open space typologies in Audenshaw. This is dominated by outdoor sports in the southwest of the Audenshaw. Much of this is golf course which is not publicly accessible.

Table 8.2: Open space provision in Audenshaw

Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	0.30 ha / 1000	0.23 ha / 1000	+ 0.07 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.50 ha / 1000 deficit
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	1.31 ha / 1000	1.12 ha / 1000	+ 0.19 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.71 ha / 1000 surplus
Natural greenspace	0.25 ha / 1000	NA	NA	1.80 ha / 1000	- 1.55 ha / 1000 deficit
Wider countryside	0.00 ha / 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural greenspace and wider countryside combined	0.25 ha / 1000	0.05 ha / 1000	+0.20 ha / 1000	NA	NA
All accessible greenspace	1.85 ha / 1000	1.50 ha / 1000	+ 0.45 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	2.15 ha / 1000 deficit
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.22 ha / 1000 under 15	0.03 ha / 1000 (all)	+ 0.01 ha / 1000	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.33 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.35 ha / 1000	0.04 ha / 1000	+ 0.31 ha / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	0.14 ha / 1000 surplus

Figure 8.3: Provision and access to accessible greenspace Audenshaw

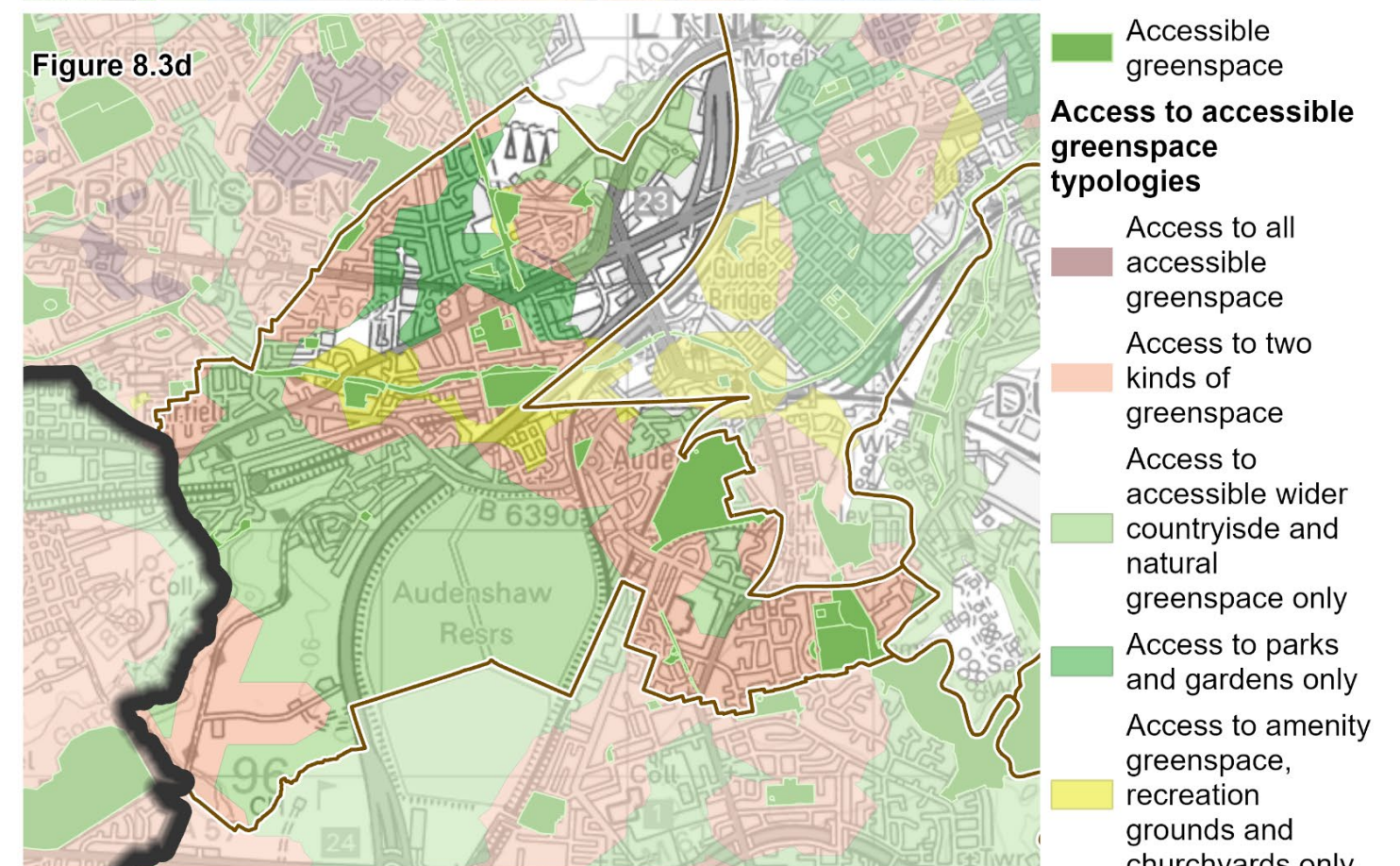
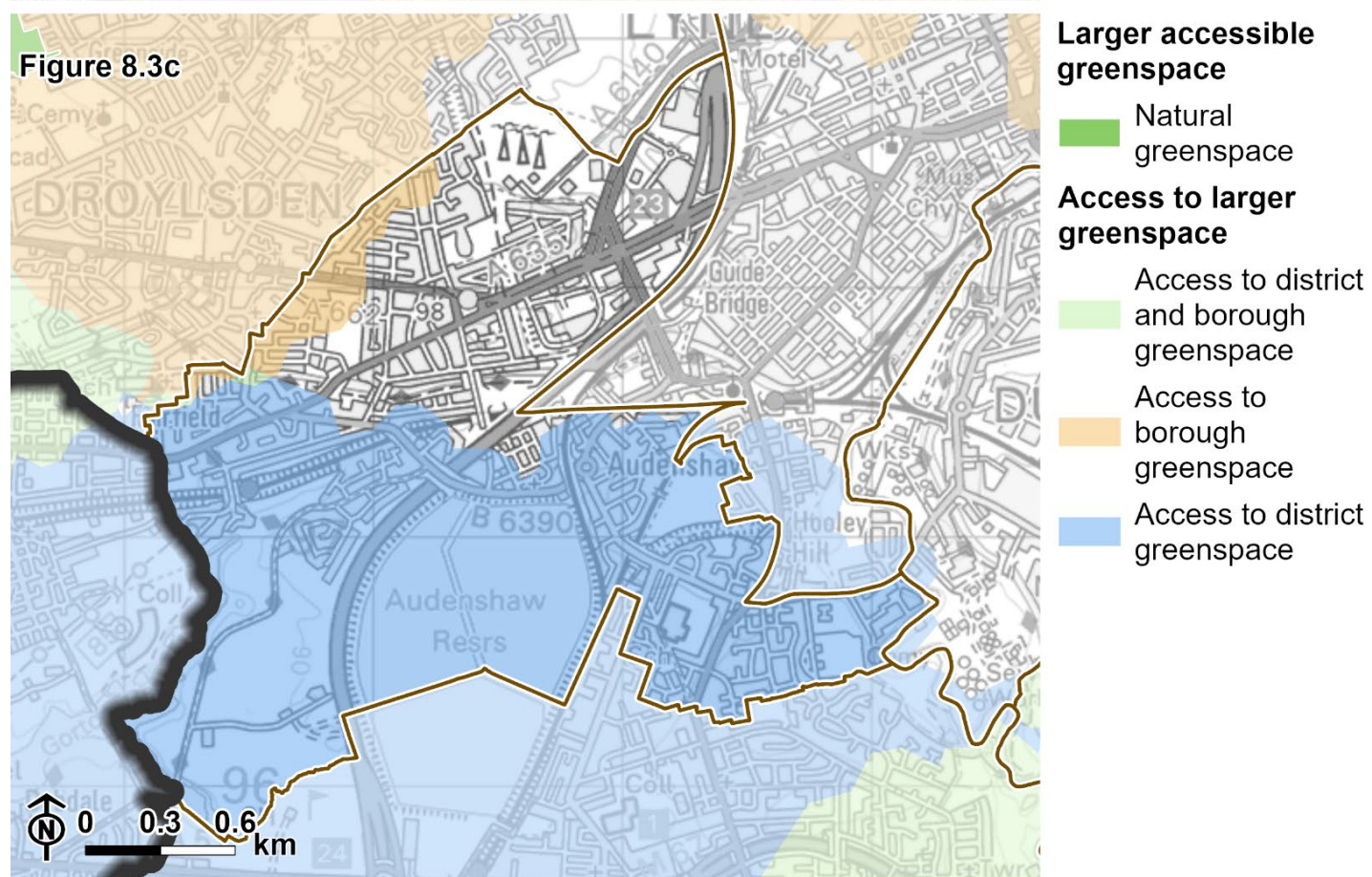
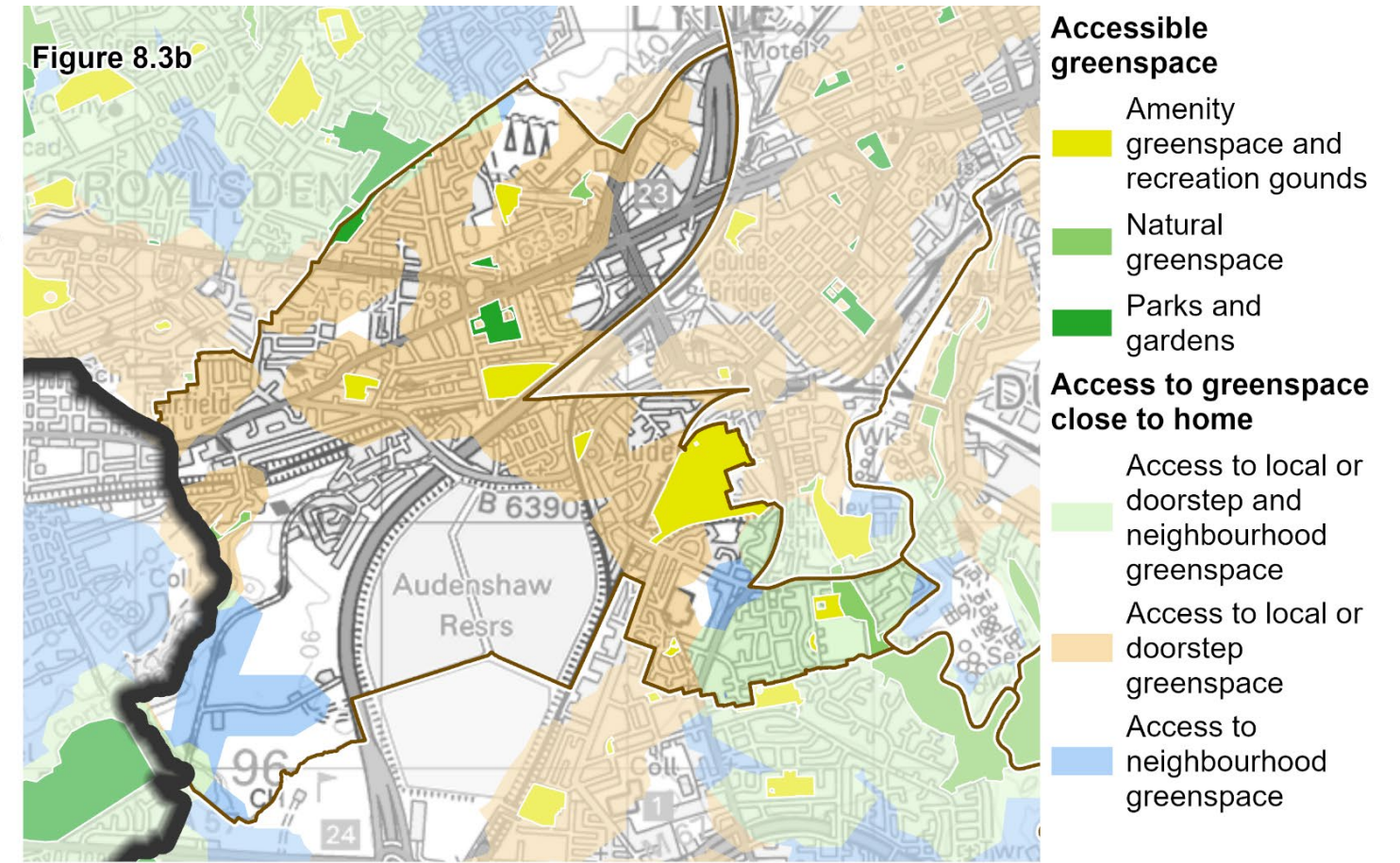
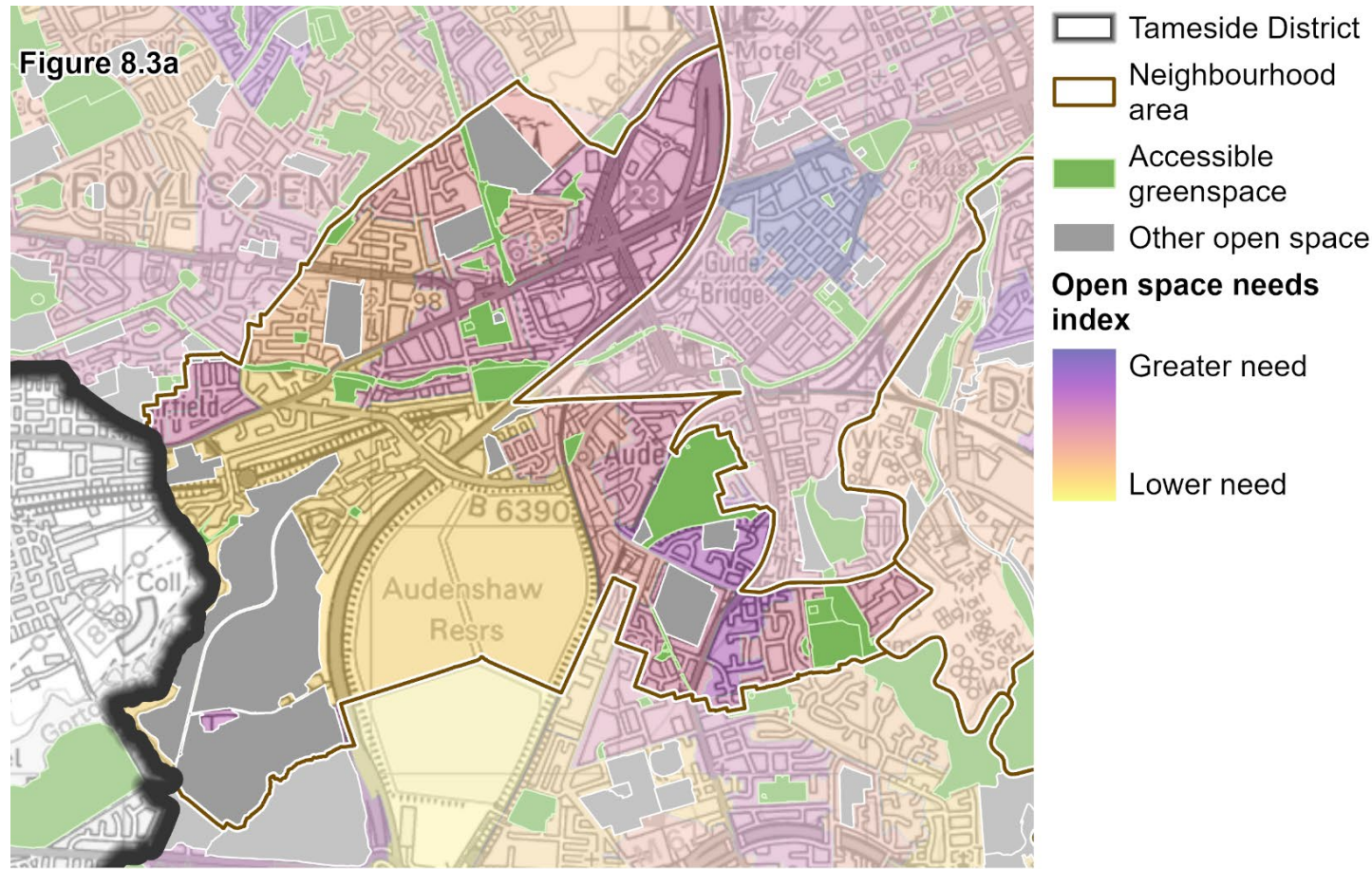
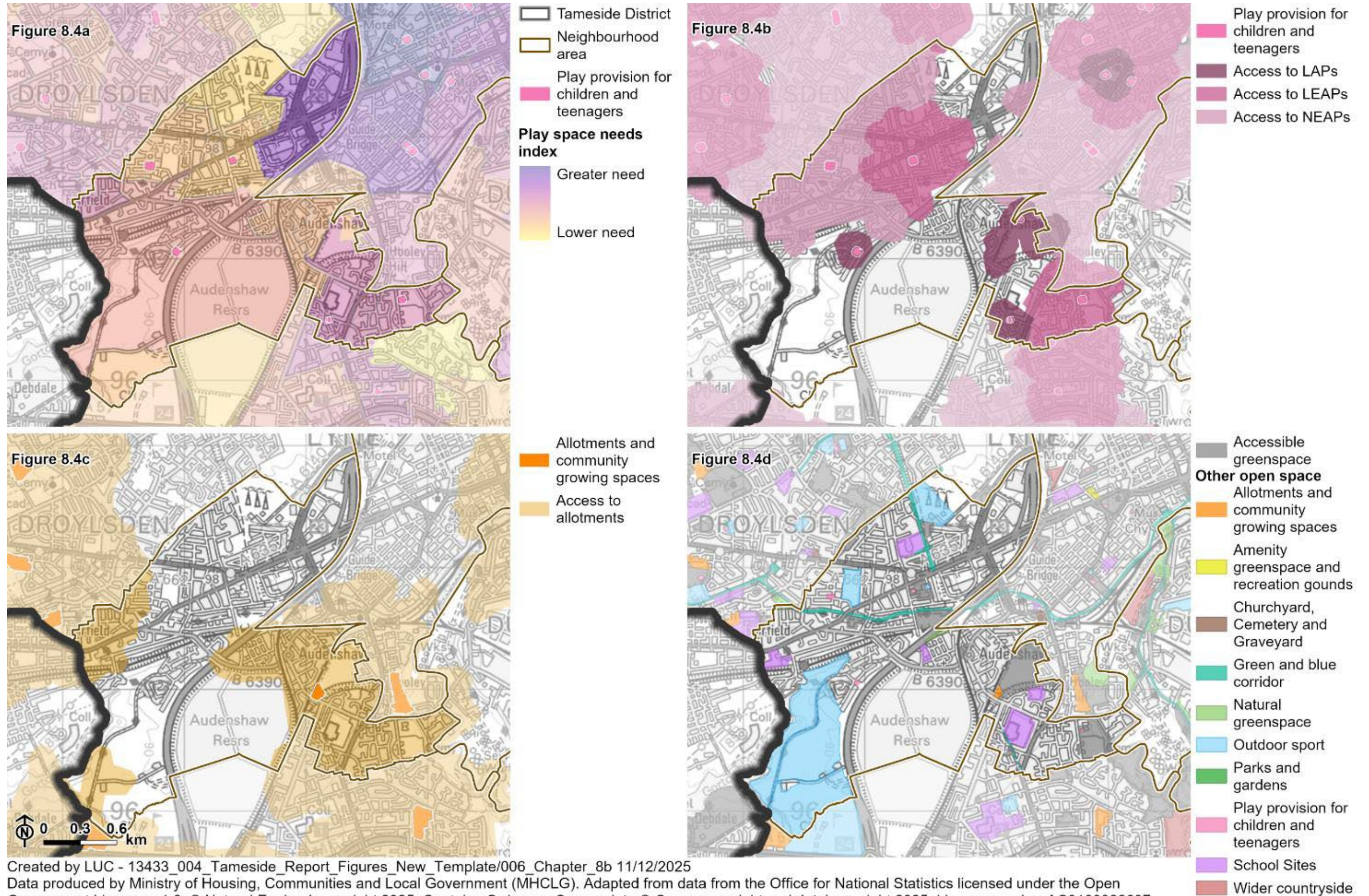


Figure 8.4: Provision and access to other open space Audenshaw



Denton

8.26 Table 8.3 shows the current quantity of open space in Denton compared to the standard and the previous assessment. Overall, there has been a decrease in the provision of open space since the previous assessment in 2017/18. This is particularly notable in relation to natural greenspace. This change in provision of natural greenspace may be a result of the update to methodology, which excluded natural greenspace which is not accessible or accessible only via the ProW network. These areas were previously included within the open space data set. The total provision of accessible greenspace in Denton is lower than in other parts of Tameside.

8.27 The open space provision exceeds the standards for allotments and community growing spaces. However, there is a deficiency in provision for overall accessible greenspace and all component typologies, as well as play provision for children and teenagers. Compared to other parts of Tameside, there is a particular deficit in play provision for children and teenagers.

8.28 Figure 8.5a shows the open space need in Denton. Overall there is a highest need in the southwest, including around Haughton Green where some areas have a needs score of over 7. Elsewhere there are average and lower scores, indicating a lower need for open space.

8.29 Figure 8.5b shows the access to greenspace close to home. Access to doorstep or local greenspace is present in the centre of Denton, as well as along the western and eastern edges. In the east, some areas only have access to neighbourhood open space, but not local or doorstep. The eastern edge has the best access, with doorstep or local and neighbourhood access being provided. In the west, access to neighbourhood greenspace is mostly provided by open spaces outside of Tameside, including Debdale Park in Manchester and Reddish Vale Country Park in Stockport. Access to these open spaces is restricted by the A57 which provides a barrier for pedestrians. There are some residential areas in the west with no access to greenspace close to home (within 1km). This includes around residences to the north of Windmill Lane west of the M60 highway, including around Anson Road, Ashbrooke Avenue and Hulme Road.

8.30 Figure 8.5c shows the access to larger open spaces. In the east, access to the borough greenspace level is provided by Gibraltar Wood. In the west, whilst there is no access to open spaces over 20 ha in Denton, access is provided by Reddish Vale country park which adjoins this analysis area in Stockport Borough. All of Denton has

access to district greenspace which is provided by access to Reddish Vale country park.

8.31 Figure 8.5d shows the access to different typologies of accessible greenspace. Overall, access is best in the west to natural greenspace. In the centre north access is mostly provided to amenity greenspace, recreation grounds or churchyards. There are some areas, including around Haughton Green which have access to multiple types of open space typology.

8.32 Figure 8.6a shows the play needs index and location of the LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in Denton. The overall play need is average to low compared to other parts of Tameside. Generally, the need is lower in the west. The area of highest need is in the south around Haughton Green, with a score of around 6.5.

8.33 Figure 8.6b shows the access to the different hierarchies of play provision for children and teenagers. The play provision of areas for older children and teenagers ensures there is a relatively good access to some type of play across much of Denton. Whilst there is play provision for children under 5 (LAPs), including at Victoria Park and Granada Park, the small catchments associated with LAPs (100 m) means large parts of Denton are not within these catchments. In the western half of the area, around Yew Tree Walk, and Ross Lave Lane, areas of residences are not within access to any play provision for children and teenagers.

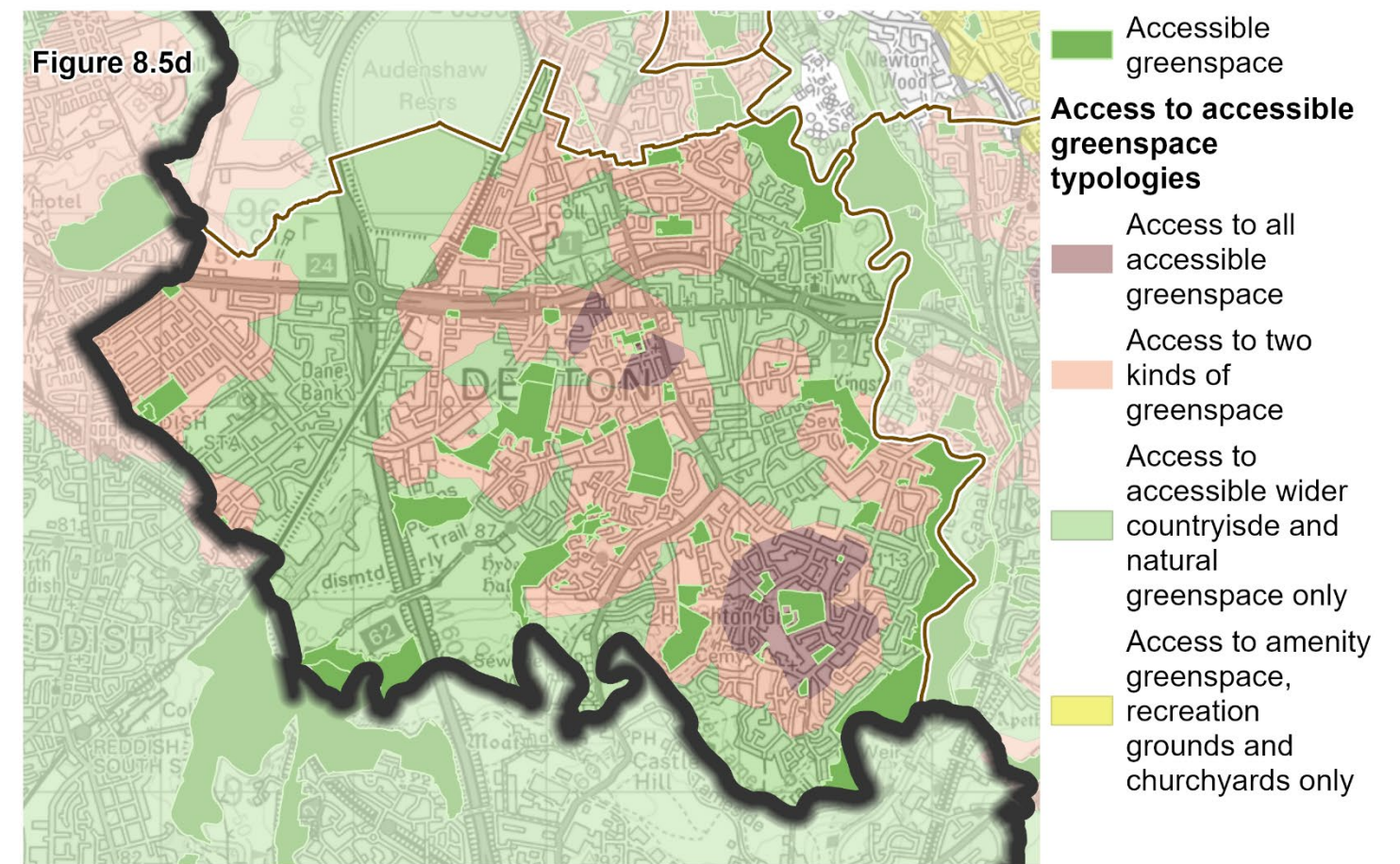
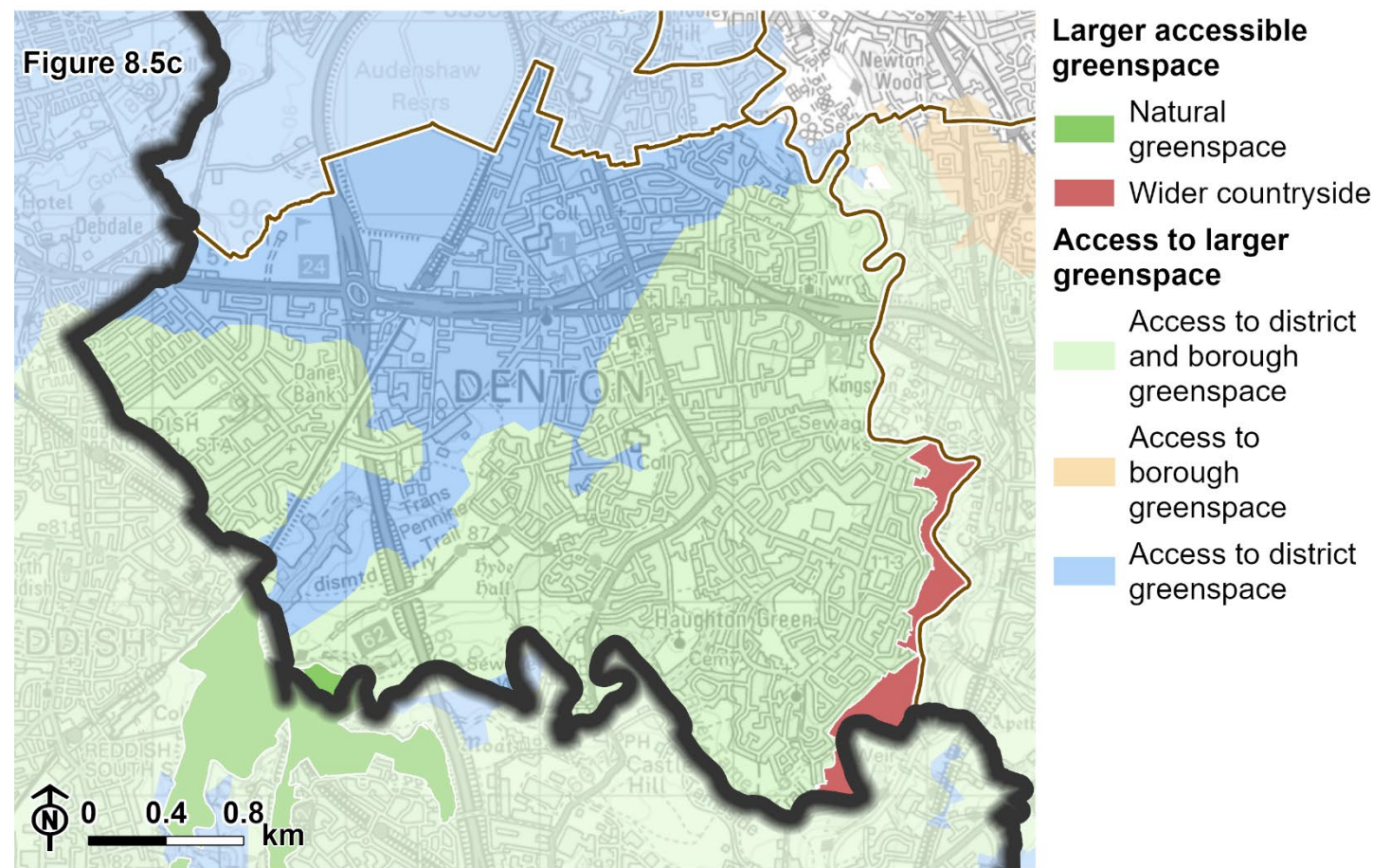
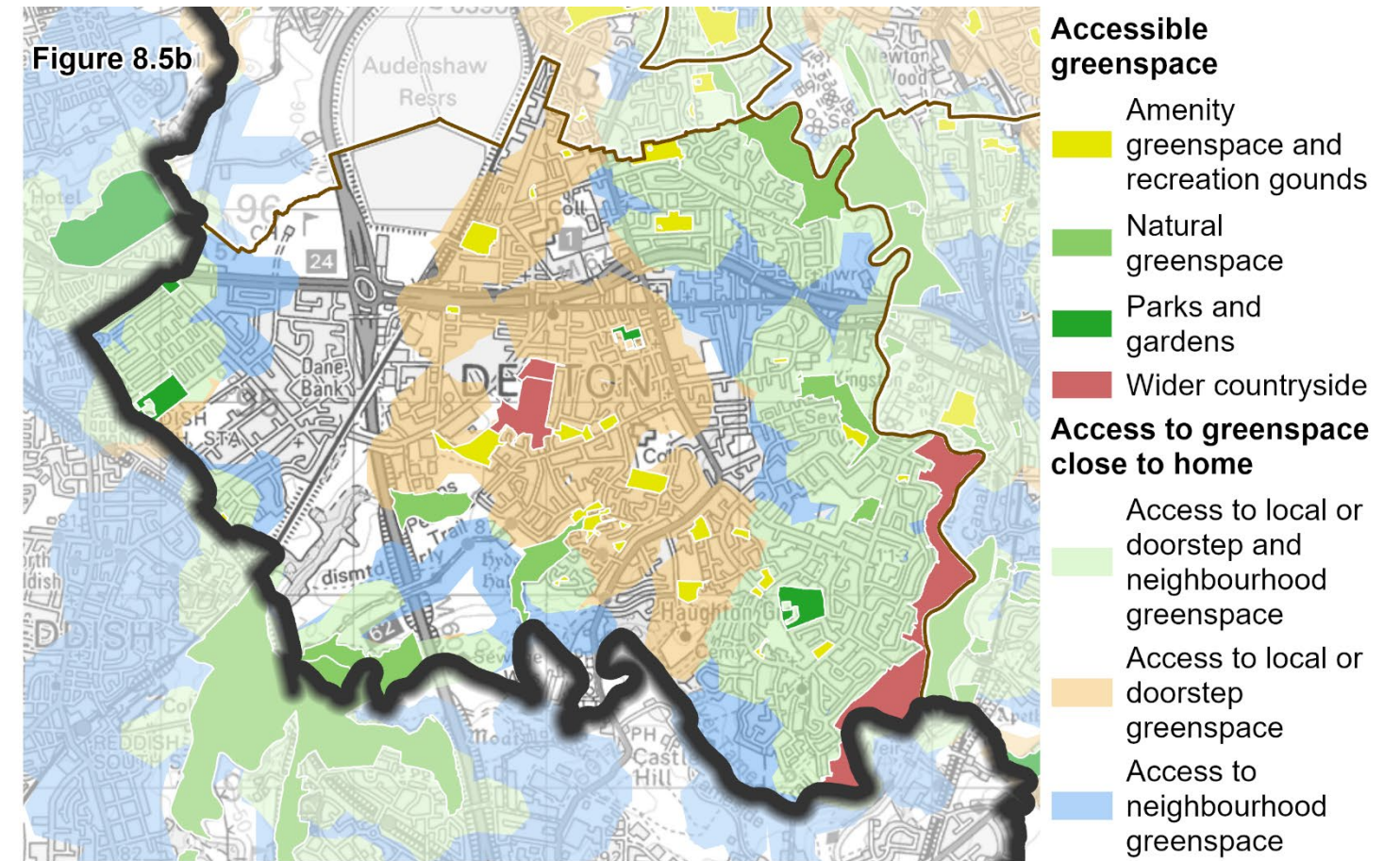
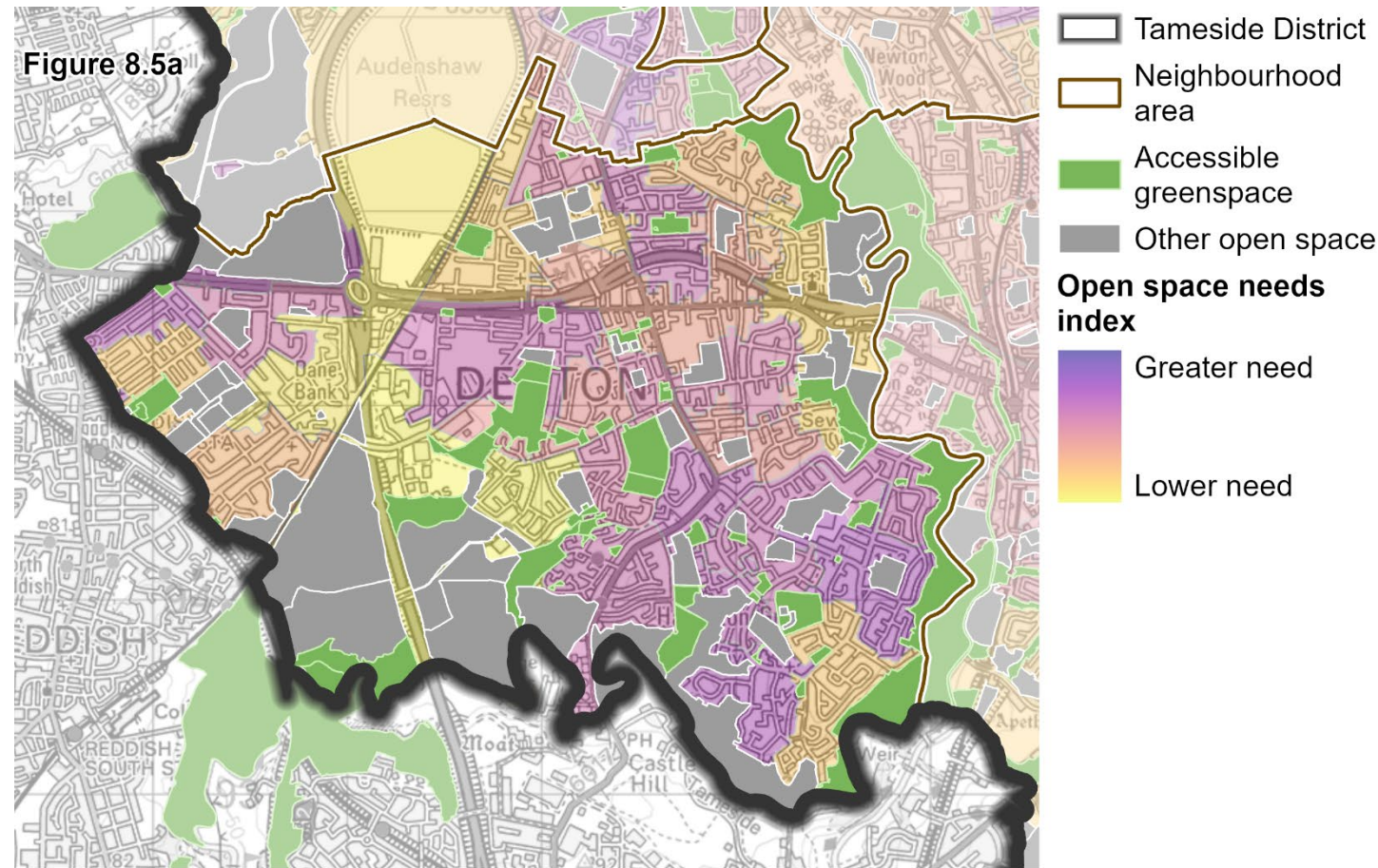
8.34 Access to allotments and community growing spaces is shown in **Figure 8.6c**. Access is present in the north of Denton, where allotments are present in the west (Wilton Allotments), centre (Ruby Street and Town Lane) and east (Wood Street). Allotments are absent in the south, leading to poor provision in parts of the south of Denton, including around Haughton Green.

8.35 Figure 8.6d shows the location of additional open space (other than accessible greenspace). This shows that there are a number of other open space typologies in Denton. This includes areas of wider countryside that are not publicly access in the south of Denton.

Table 8.3: Open space provision in Denton

Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	0.30 ha / 1000	0.31 ha / 1000	- 0.01 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.50 ha / 1000 deficit
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	0.59 ha / 1000	0.62 ha / 1000	- 0.03 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.01 ha / 1000 deficit
Natural greenspace	1.44 ha / 1000	NA	NA	1.80 ha / 1000	0.36 ha / 1000 deficit
Wider countryside	1.06 ha / 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural greenspace and wider countryside combined	2.50 ha / 1000	4.31 ha / 1000	- 1.81 ha / 1000	Na	NA
All accessible greenspace	3.39 ha / 1000	5.24 ha / 1000	- 1.85 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	0.61 ha / 1000 deficit
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.09 ha / 1000 under 15	0.04 ha / 1000	- 0.05 ha / 1000	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.46 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.28 ha / 1000	0.29 ha / 1000	- 0.01 / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	0.07 ha / 1000 surplus

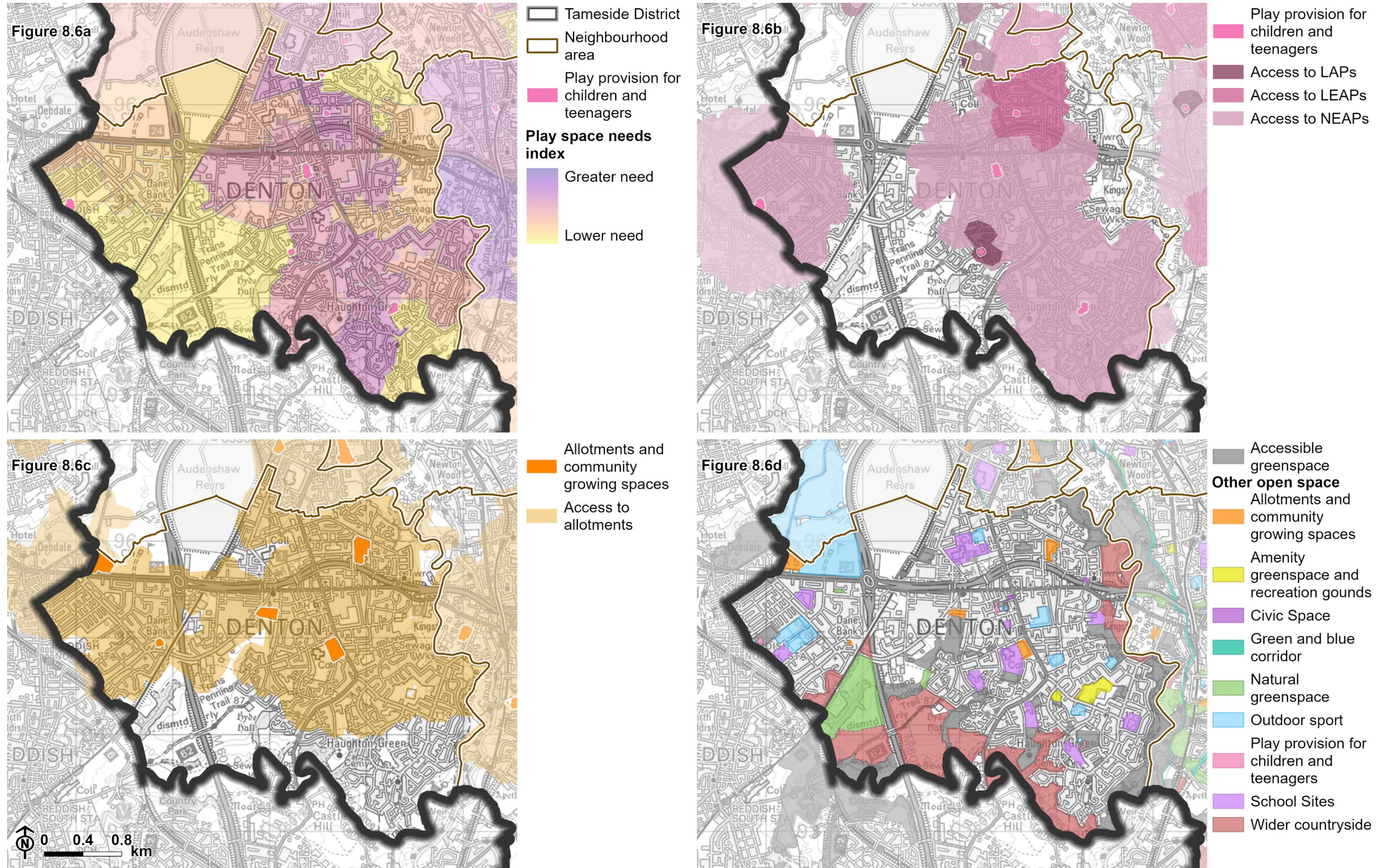
Figure 8.5: Provision and access to accessible greenspace Denton



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Figure 8.6: Provision and access to other open space Denton



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Droylsden

8.36 Table 8.4 shows the current quantity of open space in Droylsden compared to the standard and the previous assessment. Since the last assessment in 2017/18, there has been a decrease in some typologies of open space (parks and gardens and natural greenspace) but increases in others (amenity greenspace and recreation grounds).

8.37 The open space provision exceeds all the standards for amenity greenspace and recreation grounds and natural greenspace. Droylsden has an under provision of parks and gardens compared to the standard, as well as the overall accessible greenspace standard. Additionally, quantity in Droylsden is performing below the standard for provision of allotments and community growing spaces and play provision for children and teenagers.

8.38 Figure 8.7a shows the open space need in Droylsden Overall, The open space need is fairly average compared to other scores across Tameside. There is higher need (a score of over 7) in the east around North Road, Alderdale Drive and Palm Street, and in the north around Clough Road and Waverley Crescent.

8.39 Figure 8.7b shows the access to greenspace close to home. Across much of the neighbourhood area, there is access to both doorstep or local and neighbourhood open space. In the southwest, access is primarily to the doorstep or local level of open space. In the east, there are some parts of Droylsden without access to any greenspace close to home. This generally includes agricultural areas with low residential populations, between the built edge of Droylsden in the west and the M60 highway in the east.

8.40 Figure 8.7c shows the access to larger open spaces. In the west, access to the borough greenspace level is provided by natural greenspace at Greenside Lane / Sunnyside Bank and Clayton Vale Country Park (located across the borough boundary in Manchester Borough). In the east there is some access to Daisy Nook Country Park located in Ashton-under-Lyne and Oldham Borough. To the west of Droylsden additional natural greenspace at Clayton Vale Country Park is accessible for residents. In the south of Droylsden, residents have access to district level open space provided by Reddish Vale Country Park to the south. This access is at the larger distances within the district hierarchy catchment (up to 5 km) and in practice access would mostly be restricted to travel by car. However, the majority of residents in Droylsden do not have access to this hierarchy of greenspace.

8.41 Figure 8.7d shows the access to different typologies of accessible greenspace. Access to natural greenspace is the most comprehensive across the neighbourhood area. In the west and northern edge of Droylsden natural greenspace is the only accessible greenspace residents have access to. Most residential areas in Droylsden have access to at least two of the accessible greenspace typologies. There are pockets of residential areas with access to all three typologies of accessible greenspace. This includes north of Lees Park around Market Street, Medlock Street and Gardenfold Street; and in the east along parts of Lumb Lane.

8.42 Figure 8.8a shows the play needs index and location of the LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in Droylsden. The overall play need is average to low. The area of highest need is in the north, around Parvet Avenue and Gloucester Road.

8.43 Figure 8.8b shows the access to the different hierarchies of play spaces. Access to these spaces is generally good throughout Droylsden, although in the west there is not play provision for older children (11 plus).

8.44 Access to allotments and community growing spaces is shown in **Figure 8.8c**. There are three allotments in Droylsden, which are all located in the west of the district. These spaces provide good access to allotments and community growing spaces in the west of Droylsden. However, there is no access to this typology within 1 km for residents in the east of the neighbourhood area.

8.45 Figure 8.8d shows the location of additional open space (other than accessible greenspace). Other open space in Droylsden includes areas of the wider countryside on the eastern boundary of the neighbourhood area, including agricultural land around Buckley Hill Farm. Access to these spaces is restricted to the PRow network.

Table 8.4: Open space provision in Droylsden

Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	0.66 ha / 1000	0.77 ha / 1000	- 0.11 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.14 ha / 1000 deficit
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	0.68 ha / 1000	0.52 ha / 1000	+ 0.16 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.08 ha / 1000 surplus
Natural greenspace	1.95 ha / 1000	NA	NA	1.80 ha / 1000	0.15 ha / 1000 surplus
Wider countryside	0.00 ha / 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural greenspace and wider countryside combined	1.95 ha	2.52 ha / 1000	- 0.57 ha / 1000	NA	NA
All accessible greenspace	3.28 ha / 1000	3.81 ha / 1000	- 0.53 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	0.72 ha / 1000 deficit
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.19 ha / 1000 under 15	0.04 ha / 1000 (all)	+/- 0.00 ha / 1000	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.36 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.17 ha / 1000	0.17 ha / 1000	+/- 0.00 ha / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	0.04 ha / 1000 deficit

Figure 8.7: Provision and access to accessible greenspace Droylsden

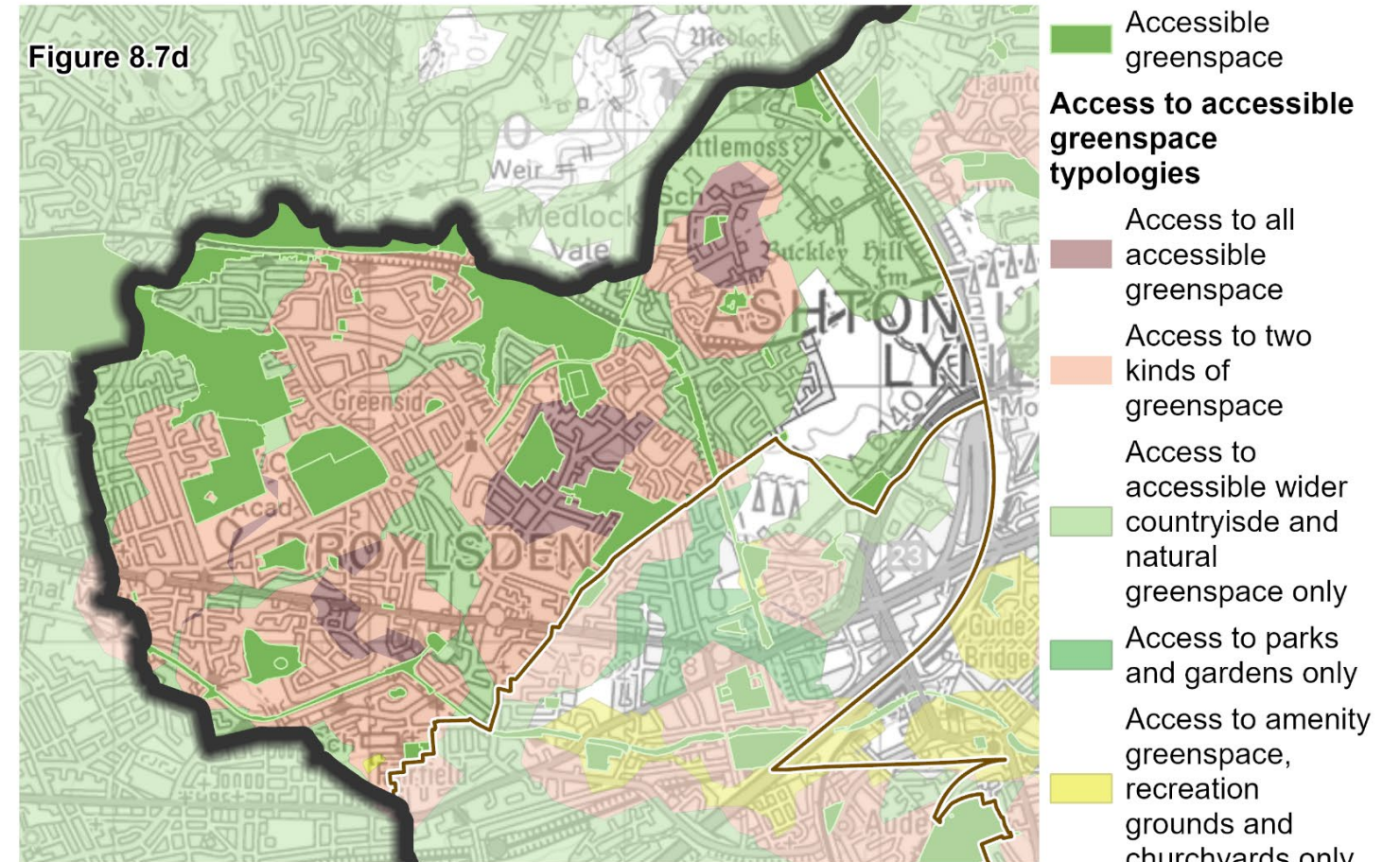
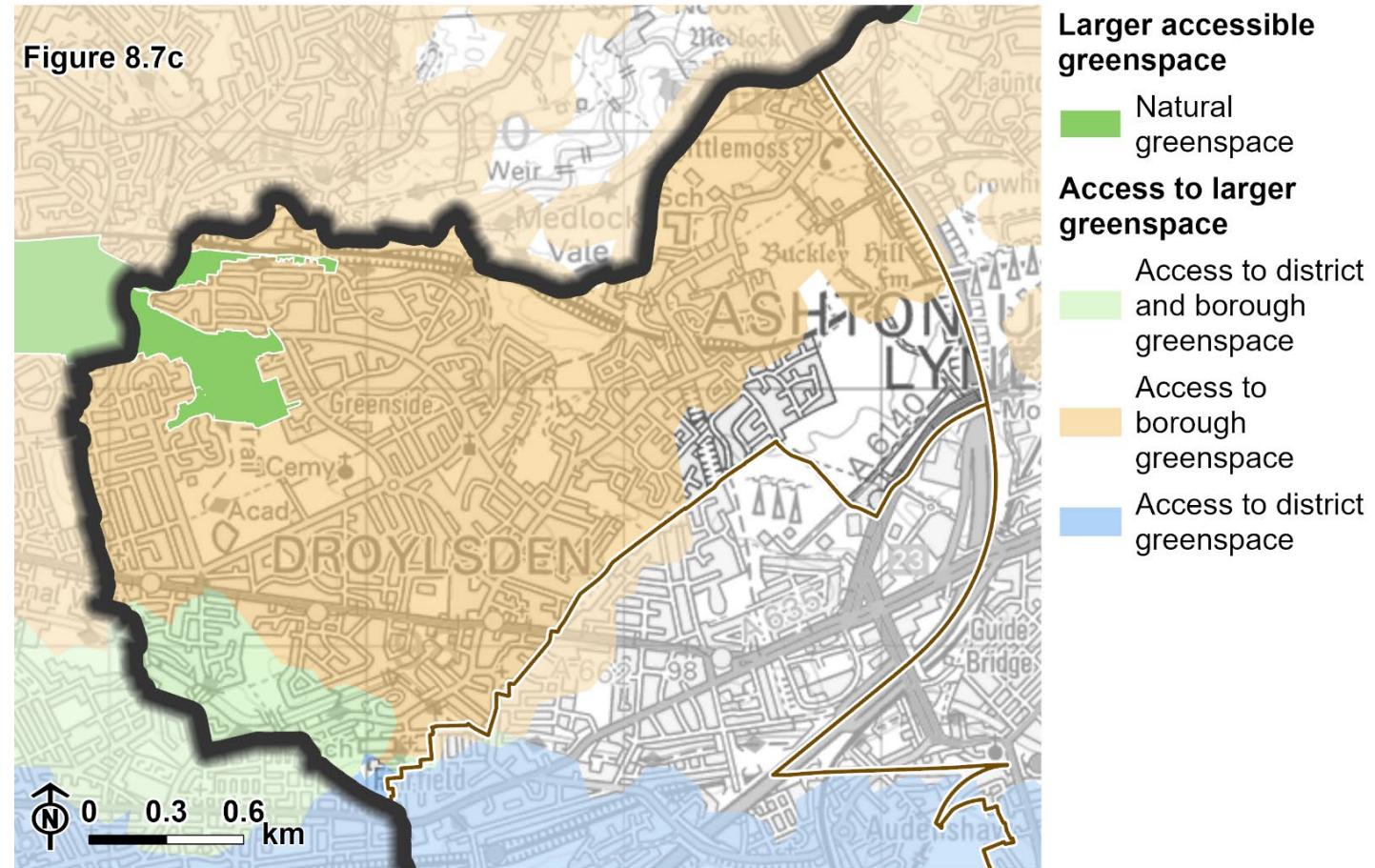
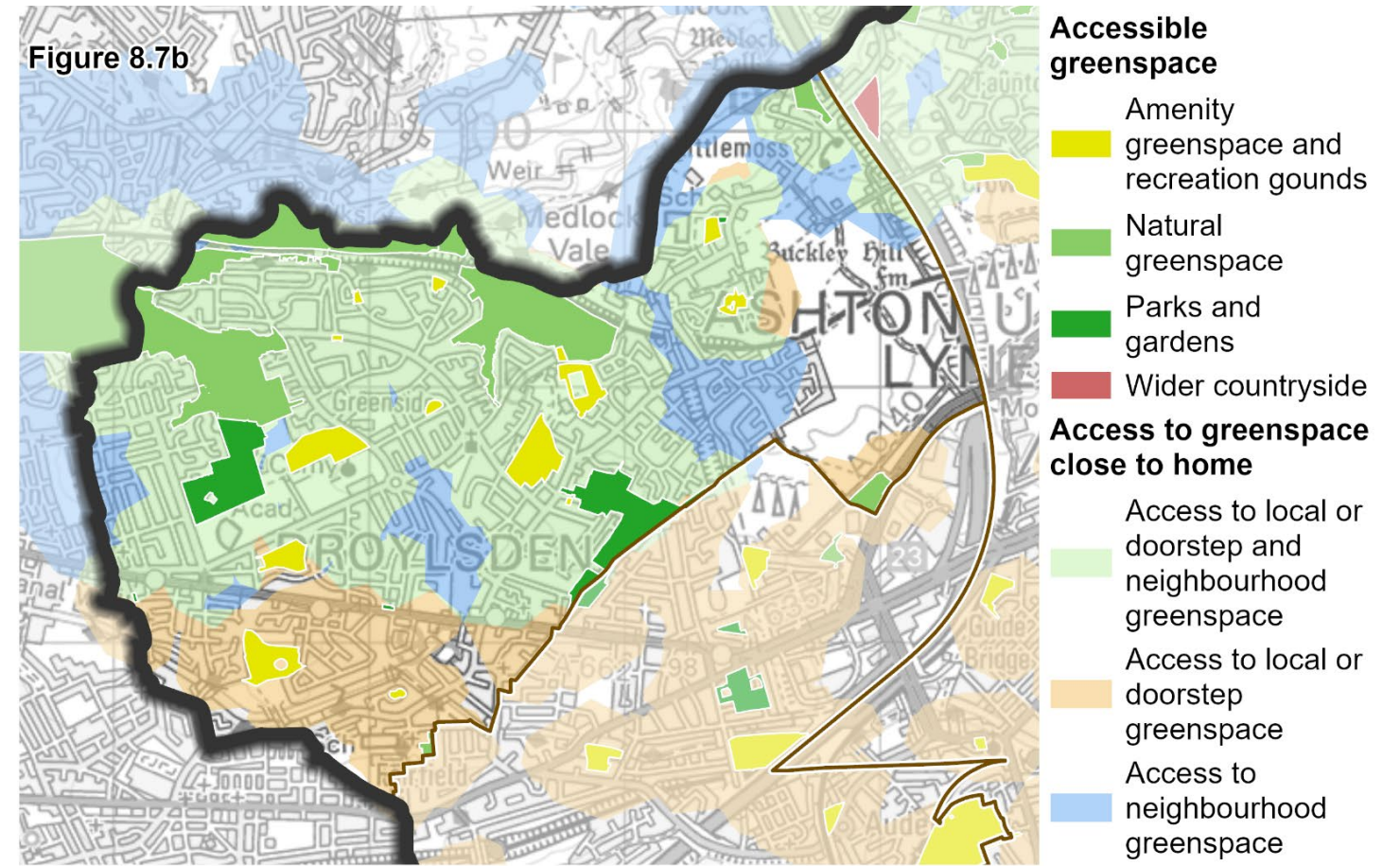
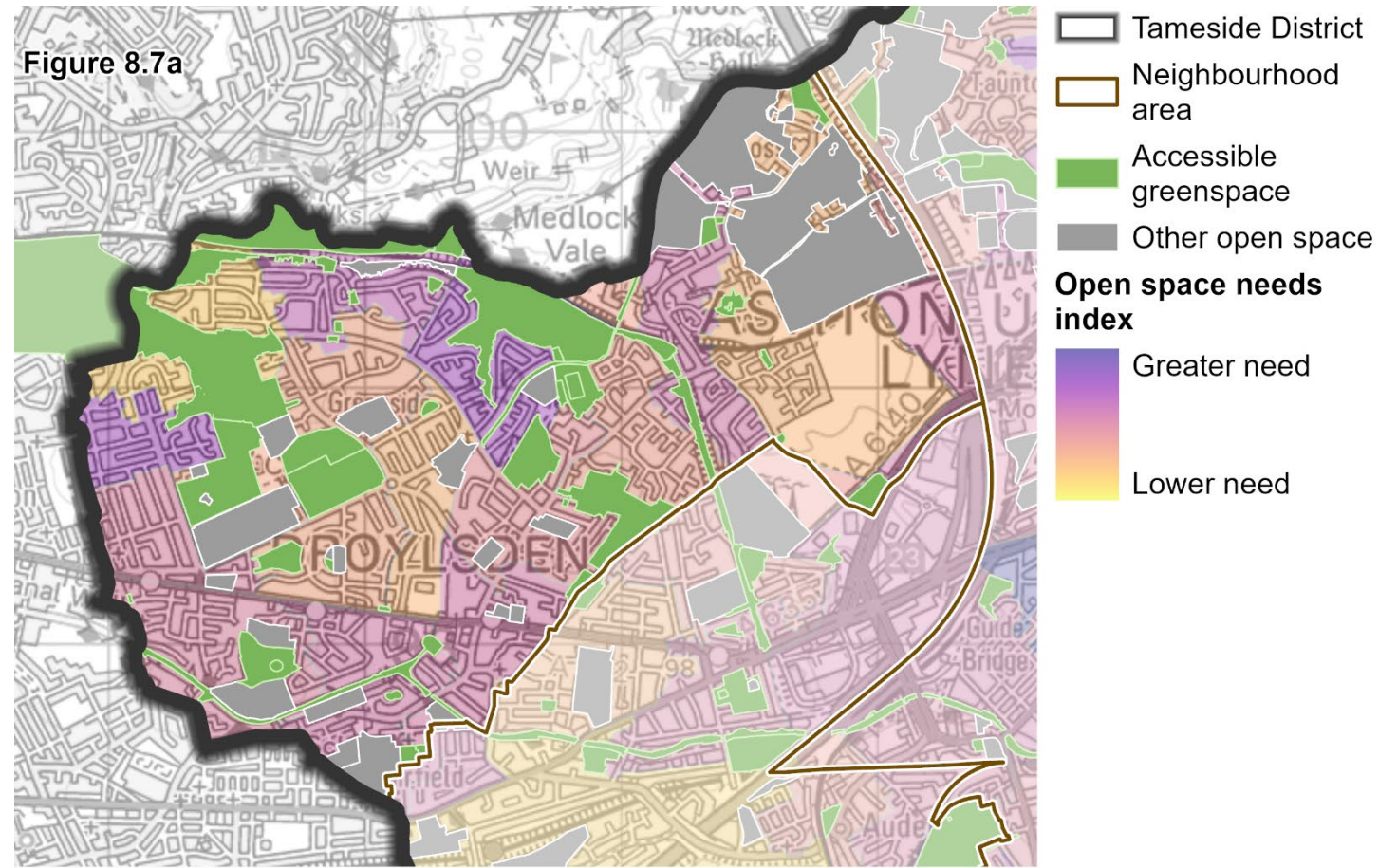
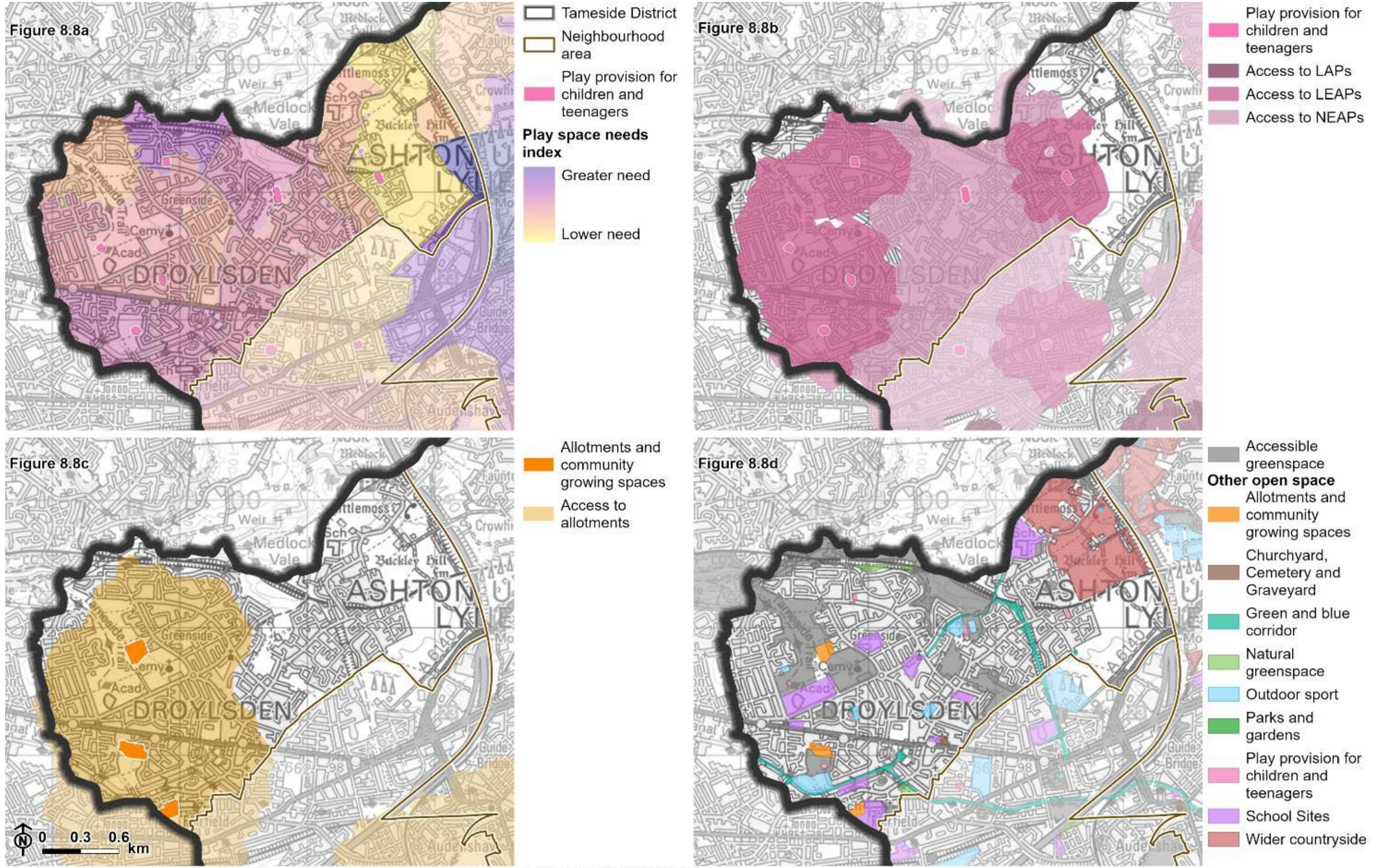


Figure 8.8: Provision and access to other open space Droylsden



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Dukinfield

8.46 Table 8.5 shows the current quantity of open space in Dukinfield compared to the standard and the previous assessment. Since 2017/18, there has been a decrease in the provision of parks and gardens, allotments and community growing space and play provision for children and teenagers. There has been an increase in natural greenspace and amenity greenspace.

8.47 Quantity of open space is generally poor compared to other parts of Tameside, including the lowest provision of accessible greenspace. Dukinfield has an under provision of all typologies compared to the set standards. The exception is for amenity greenspace and recreation grounds, where the provision of 1.21 ha / 1000 is nearly double the standard of 0.6 ha / 1000.

8.48 Figure 8.9a shows the open space need in Dukinfield. The open space need is variable across the neighbourhood area. In the centre and east the need is generally greater. The area with the highest need in Dukinfield is around Chapel Street and Church Street, this has a score of nearly 8 and has one of the greatest open space needs across Tameside.

8.49 Figure 8.9b shows the access to greenspace close to home (within 1 km). Across much of the neighbourhood area, there is access only to doorstep or local accessible greenspace (open space under 10 ha). In the southwest, there is some access to larger greenspace. Additionally, there are notable areas which do not have access to any greenspace close to home (within 1 km) within Dukinfield. This includes some areas within the highest open space needs in the neighbourhood area, for example in the west around Brice Street and Chapel Street, as well as the eastern part of Boyds Walk, Ainley Wood and Birch Lane.

8.50 Figure 8.9c shows the access to larger open spaces. In the east, access to the borough greenspace level is provided by natural greenspace at Acres Lane and parks and garden at Stamford Park. In the west, some areas have access to Gibraltar Wood within the 2km borough catchment area, however this does not encompass many residential areas. The vast majority of residents do not have access to borough level greenspaces and no residents have access to district greenspace.

8.51 Figure 8.9d shows the access to different typologies of accessible greenspace. In the northeast, there is access to at least two typologies of accessible greenspace and in many places access to all three typologies of accessible greenspace. In the

south, access is mostly to amenity greenspace in the east and natural greenspace in the west.

8.52 Figure 8.10a shows the play needs index and location of the LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in Dukinfield. The overall play need is average to low. The highest play space need in Dukinfield is in the centre northwest of Dukinfield, with a score of around 6.25.

8.53 Figure 8.10b shows the access to the different hierarchies of play spaces. Access to these spaces is generally good in the north and east. There are gaps in provision in the west, although this is primarily in industrial areas where the need for play is reduced. Play provision for children under five (LAPs) is provided in Dukinfield included at Dukinfield Park and Tame Valley Park. However, due to the small access catchments associated with these, access for under-fives (LAPs) is absent across much of the neighbourhood area. Access for play provision for children over 11 (provided by a NEAP within Dukinfield Park) is available for the majority of residents within Dukinfield. The exception is the southwest including residences

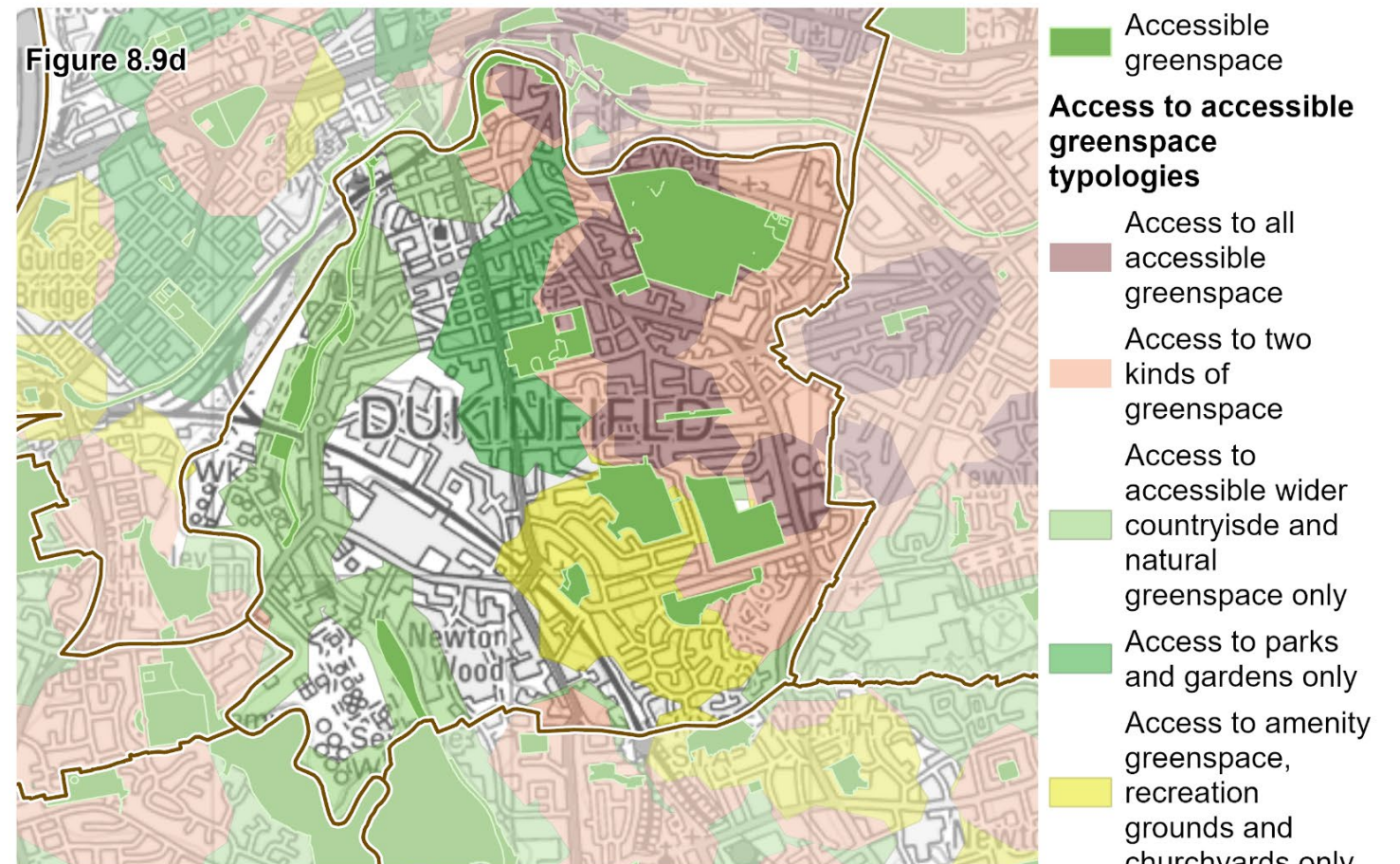
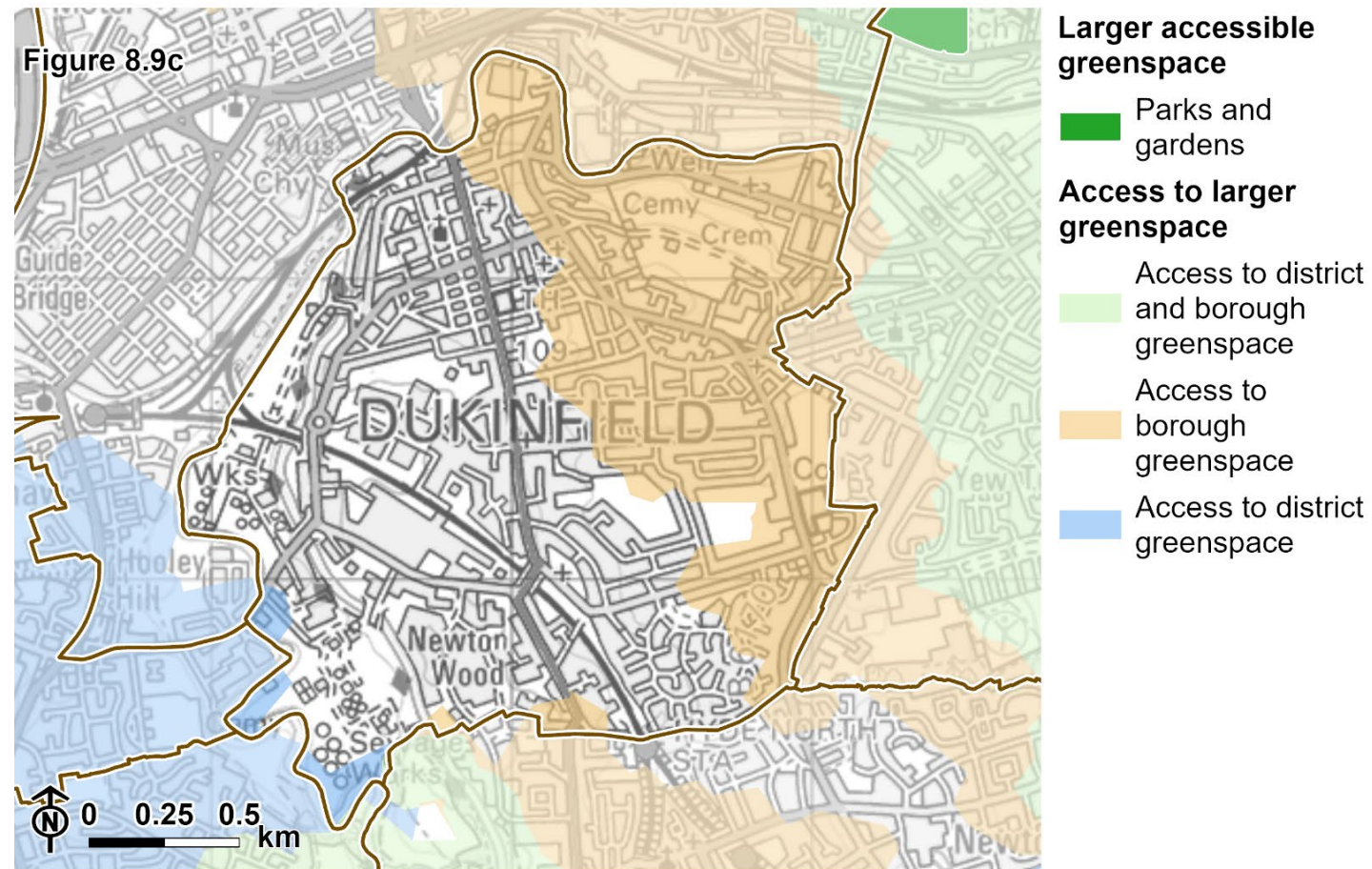
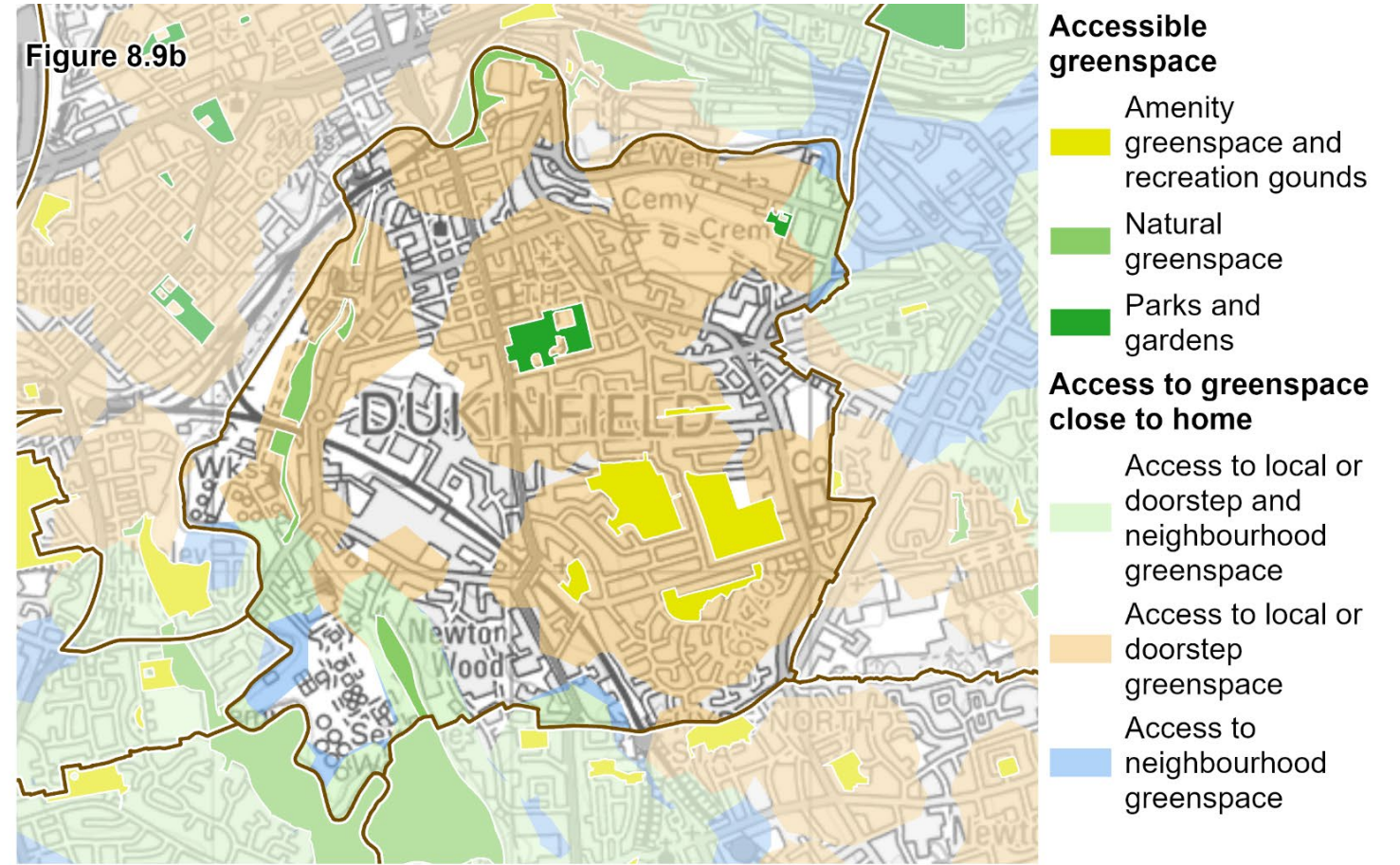
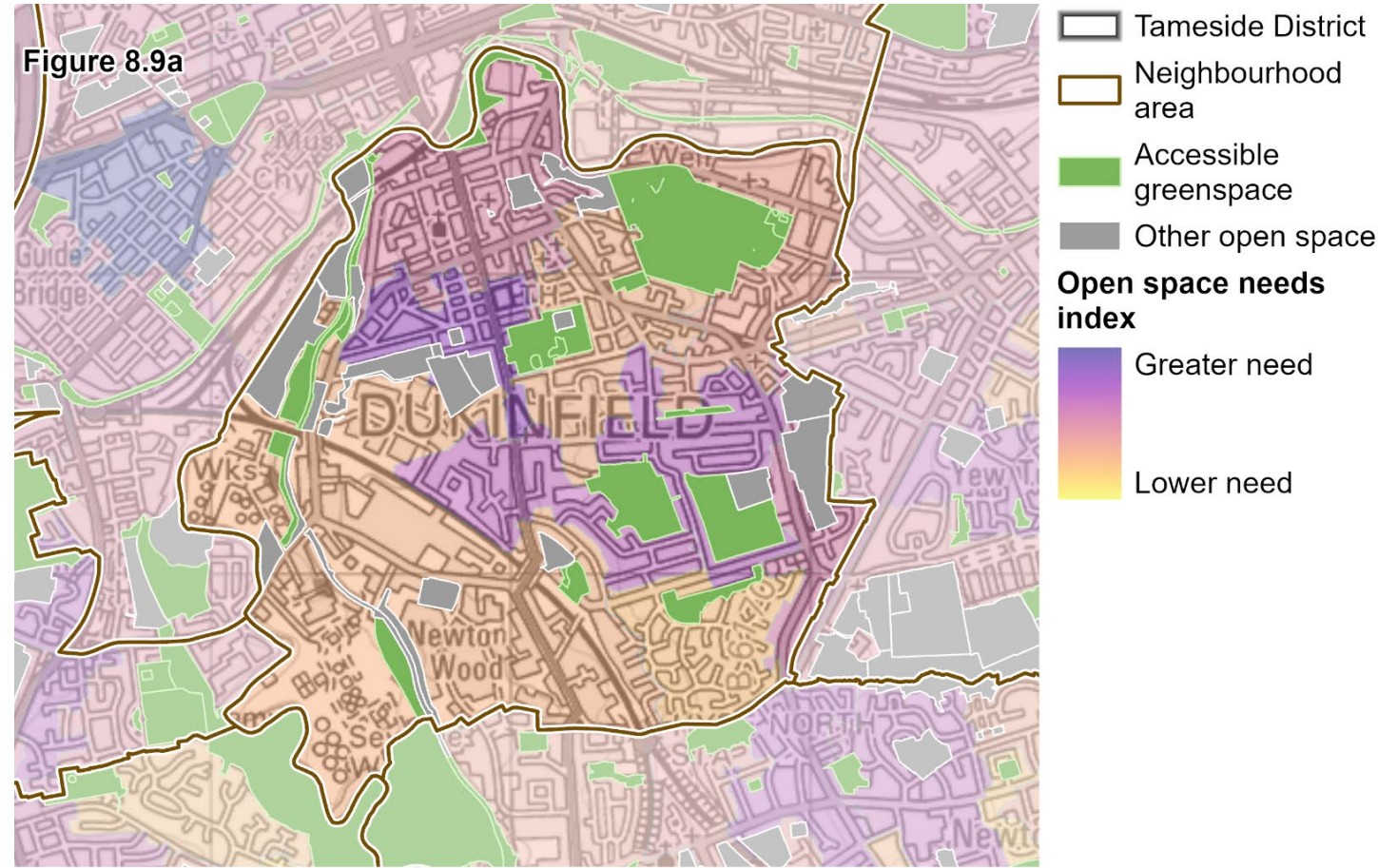
8.54 Access to allotments and community growing space is shown in **Figure 8.10c**. Allotments in Dukinfield include those at Meadow Lane / Lodge Lane and at Wellington Parade. These spaces provide access to allotments and community growing space in the northeast of Dukinfield. South of Dewsnap Lane, there is no access to allotments and community growing space within the 1 km distance.

8.55 Figure 8.10d shows the location of additional open space (other than accessible greenspace). These are primarily found in the west of Dukinfield and include a green and blue corridor along the Peak Forest Canal towpath, as well as natural greenspace and wider countryside with no access.

Table 8.5: Open space provision in Dukinfield

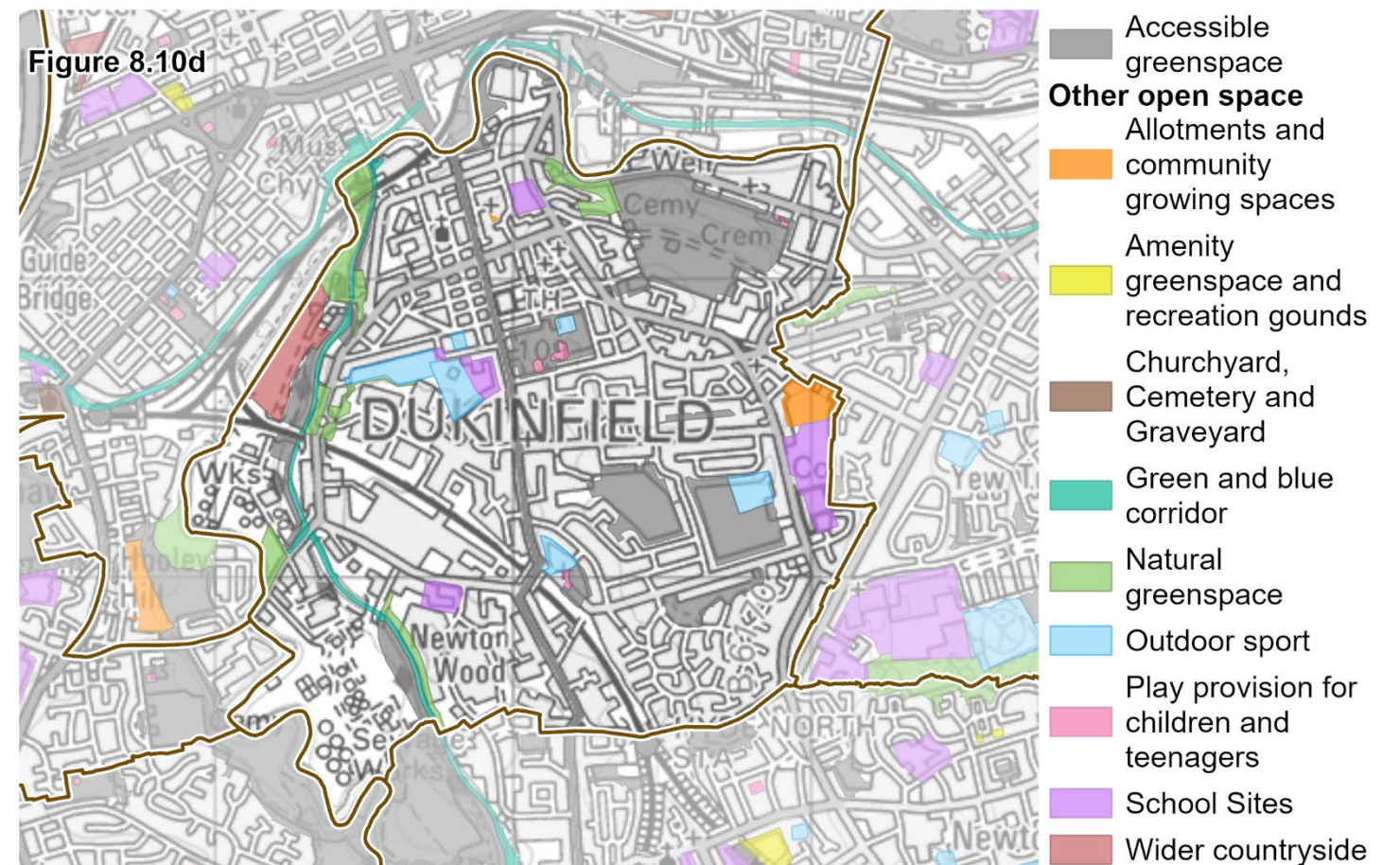
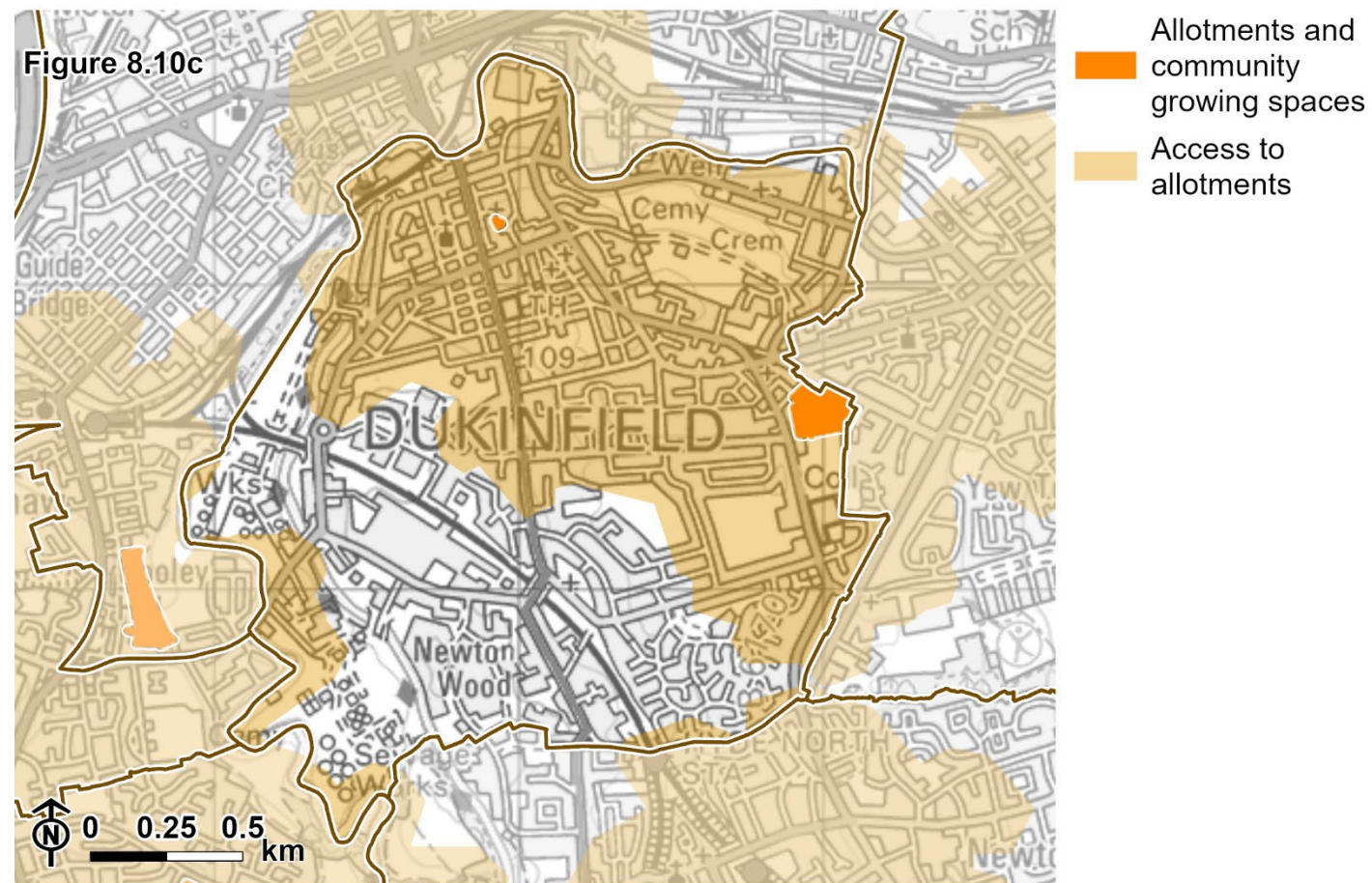
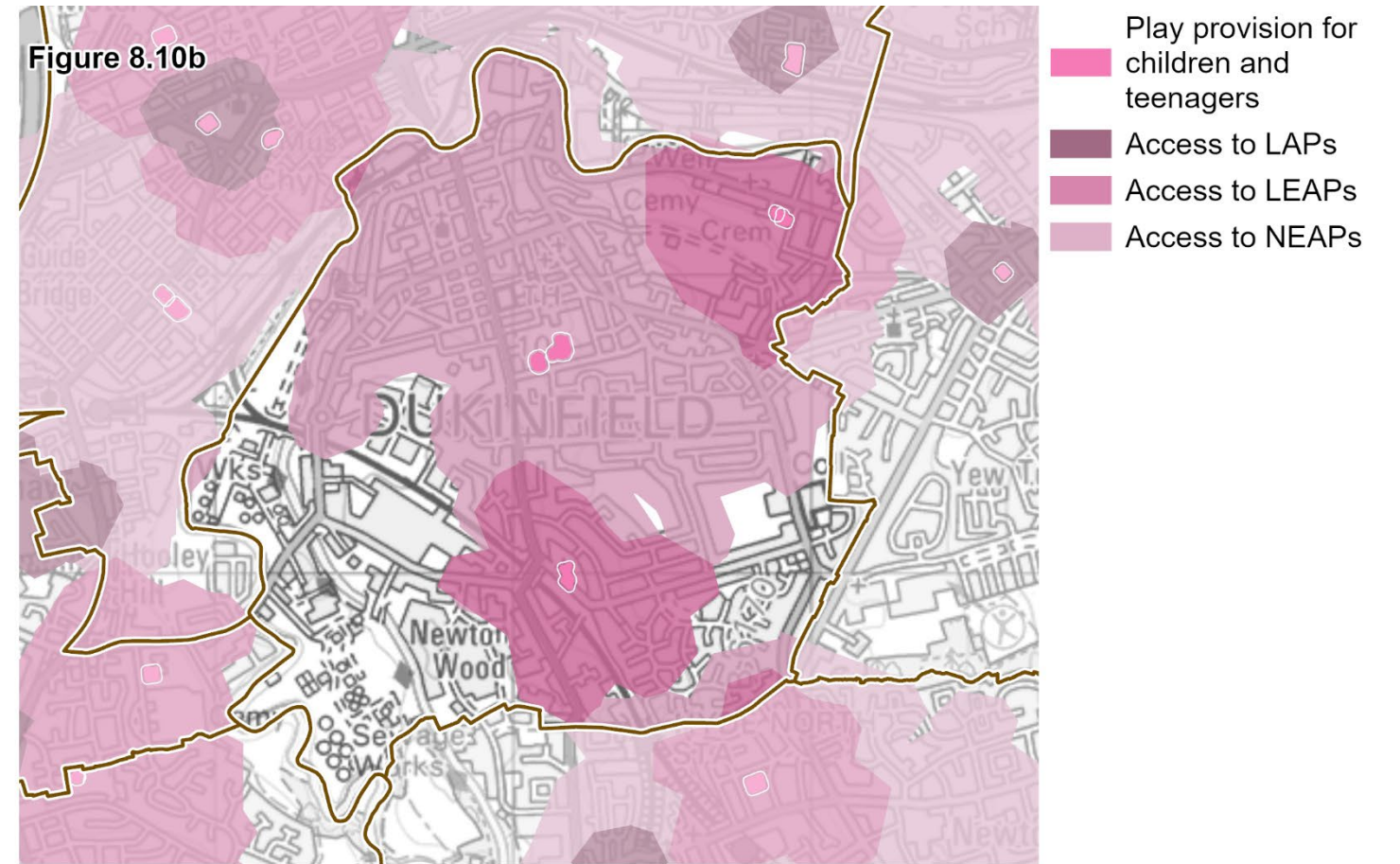
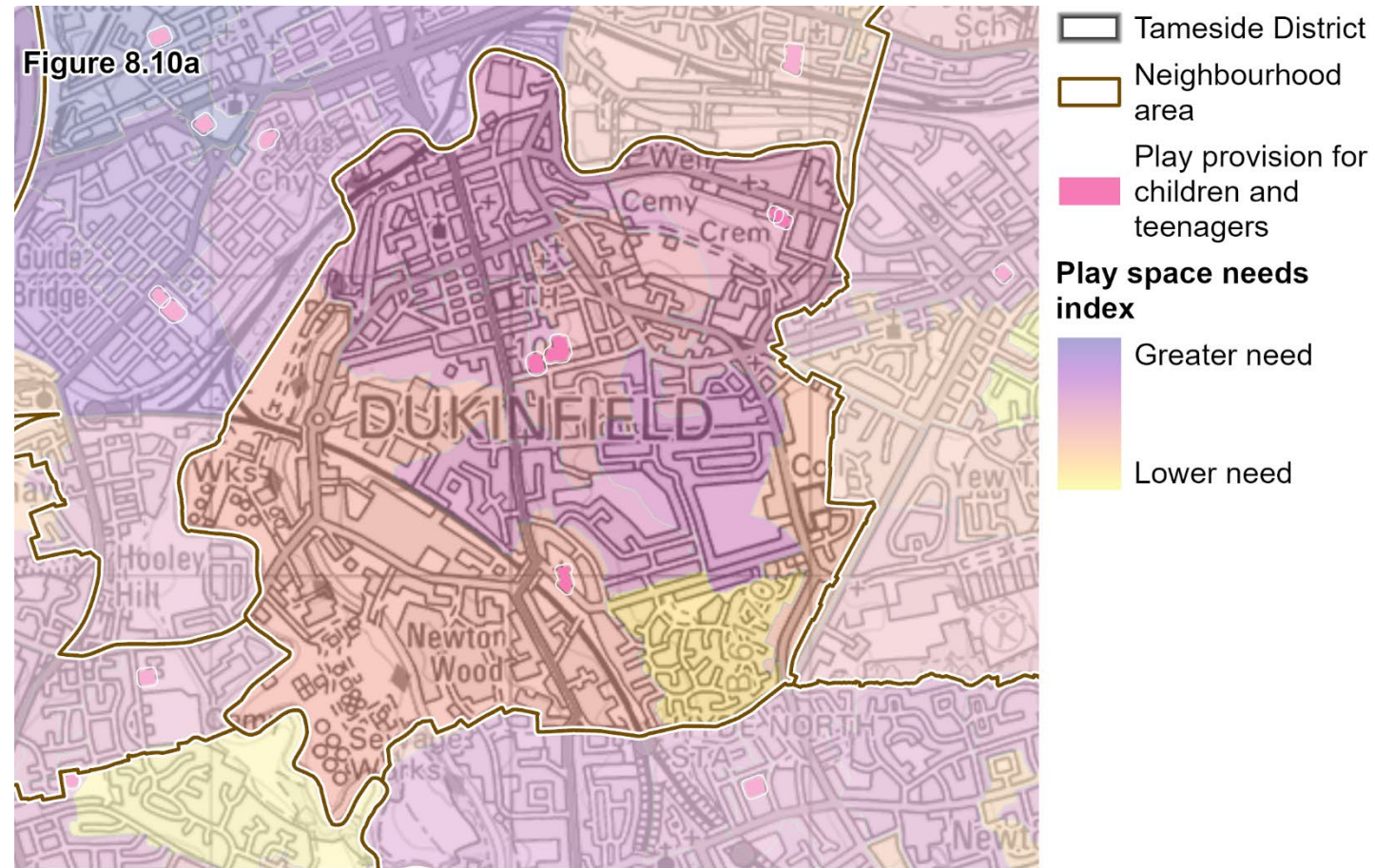
Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	0.37 ha / 1000	0.38 ha / 1000	- 0.01 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.43 ha / 1000 deficit
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	1.18 ha / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	+ 0.97 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.58 ha / 1000 surplus
Natural greenspace	0.55 ha / 1000	NA	NA	1.80 ha / 1000	1.25 ha / 1000 deficit
Wider countryside	0.00 ha / 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural greenspace and wider countryside combined	0.55 ha / 1000	0.85 ha / 1000	+ 0.30 ha / 10000	NA	NA
All accessible greenspace	2.11 ha / 1000	1.44 ha / 1000	+ 0.67 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	1.89 ha / 1000 deficit
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.21 ha / 1000 under 15	0.05 ha / 1000 (all)	- 0.01 ha / 1000 (all)	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.34 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.19 ha / 1000	0.20 ha / 1000	- 0.01 ha / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	0.02 ha / 1000 deficit

Figure 8.9: Provision and access to accessible greenspace Dukinfield



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Figure 8.10: Provision and access to other open space Dukinfield



Hyde

8.56 Table 8.6 shows the current quantity of open space in Hyde compared to the standard and the previous assessment. Overall, there has been a decrease in open space provision since the previous open space assessment in 2017/18. The exception is the parks and gardens typology which has increased. The largest decrease has been in natural greenspace. This may be because natural greenspace and elements of the wider countryside with no access or access only through the PRow network have been discounted.

8.57 The open space provision exceeds standards for natural greenspace and overall accessible greenspace. However, the standard is not met for parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, play provision for children and teenagers or allotments and community growing spaces. Play provision for children and teenagers is lower in Hyde than other parts of Tameside.

8.58 Figure 8.11a shows the open space need in Hyde. The open space need is variable, generally being low in the east and average to high in the west. The areas of highest need in Hyde include just south of the town centre around Nelson Street and Lum Road and in the north between Ashton Road, Bennett Street and Lodge Lane. These areas have a needs score of around 7.

8.59 Figure 8.11b shows the access to greenspace close to home. Across much of the northeast of the neighbourhood area, there is access only to doorstep or local accessible greenspace. In the west and south, there is access to larger neighbourhood greenspace, and many places have access to the full greenspace close to home criteria. There are notable gaps in access to greenspace close to home. In the north, these gaps affect populated areas including around Ashton Road and Victoria Street. In the south, the areas of deficiency include a small residential pocket south of Stockport Road. Wider areas of deficiency in the south cover more rural areas, for example around Godley Green Farm in the east and Bowlacre Brook in the south. These areas are less populated and often cover areas of open space with no or restricted access, so the impact of these gaps is smaller.

8.60 Figure 8.11c shows the access to larger open spaces. Most of Hyde has access to the borough greenspace level. This is provided by Werneth Low Country Park in Hyde, as well as Gibraltar Wood to the west. In the northeast, some parts of Hyde have access to district greenspace. This is provided by upland moor within the Pennines to the east. In the west there is also access to district greenspace, provided by Reddish Vale Country Park southwest of the district in Stockport Borough.

8.61 Figure 8.11d shows the access to different typologies of accessible greenspace. The majority of access within Hyde is to the natural greenspace typology, particularly in the east, including around Werneth Low. In the west, there are notably areas with access to multiple accessible greenspace typologies. This usually includes access to natural greenspace / wider countryside, as well as either an amenity greenspace, recreation ground or churchyard and cemetery, or a park and garden. In some areas, for example around Lodge Land and Old Road in Flowery field, there is access to all three typologies of accessible greenspace.

8.62 Figure 8.12a shows the play needs index and location of the LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in Hyde. The overall play need is lower in the east and south and higher in the north and west. The highest areas of need have a score of around 8.25. Areas of higher need generally have better access to play provision for children and teenagers (see **Figure 8.12b**). There are number of open spaces incorporating this typology (both primary and secondary) in Hyde. These are more common in the east and provide good access to play provision for children and teenagers of different ages in the northwest of Hyde. However, in the east and south of the neighbourhood area, many residents are not within the catchment for any play provision for children and teenagers.

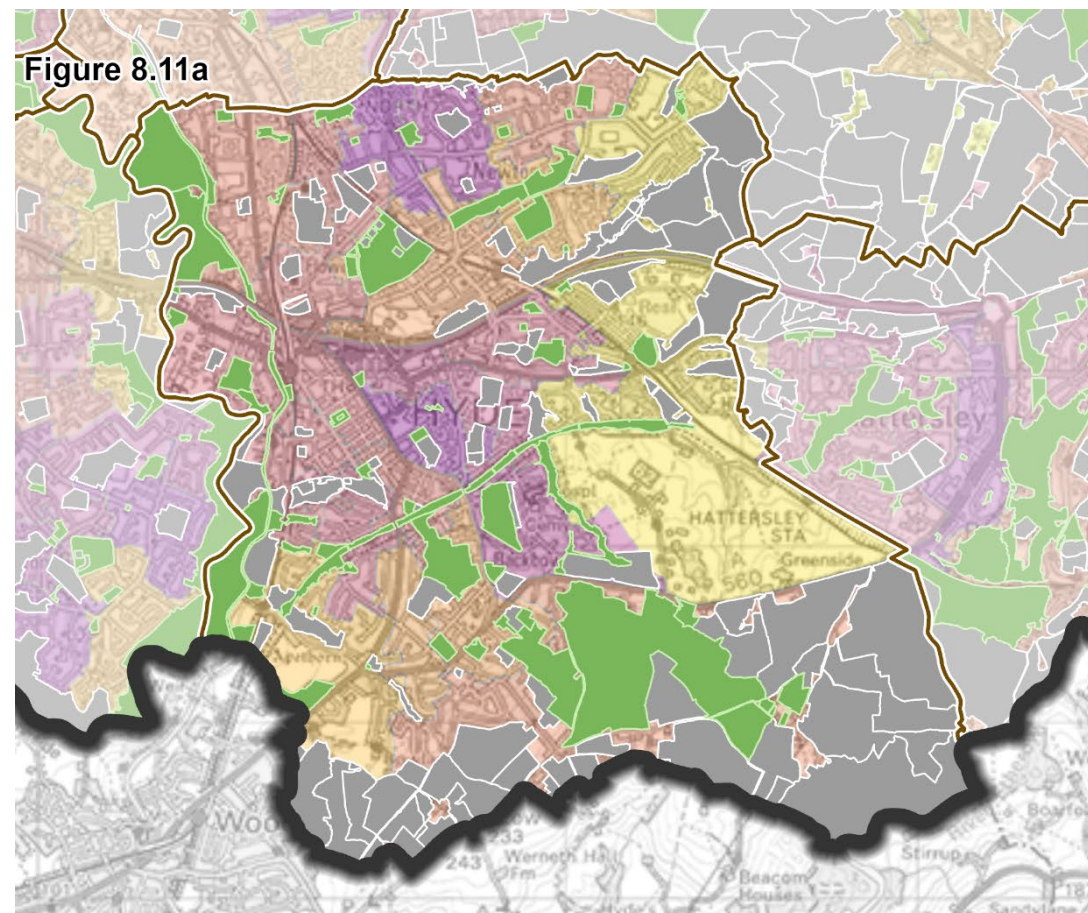
8.63 Access to allotments and community growing space is shown in **Figure 8.12c**. There are a number of allotments present in Hyde, including at Read Street West and Off St John's Drive. These are in the western half of the neighbourhood area and provide good access in the west of Hyde. Overall, access to allotments and community growing space is good throughout most of the built-up area of Hyde. Areas falling outside the access catchments to these allotments in the east are mostly agricultural and rural areas with no population. The exception is in the north, including around Talbot Road and Victoria Street.

8.64 Figure 8.12d shows the location of additional open space (other than accessible greenspace). This includes two green corridors which provide opportunities for active travel and provide connectivity, including out towards wider countryside spaces. These are the Sustrans Route Gee Cross Hyde and Peak Forest Canal Towpath. Additional open spaces are primarily found in the south of Hyde where there are wider countryside sites with limited access. There are also notable areas of outdoor sports and natural greenspace with limited or no public access throughout the neighbourhood area.

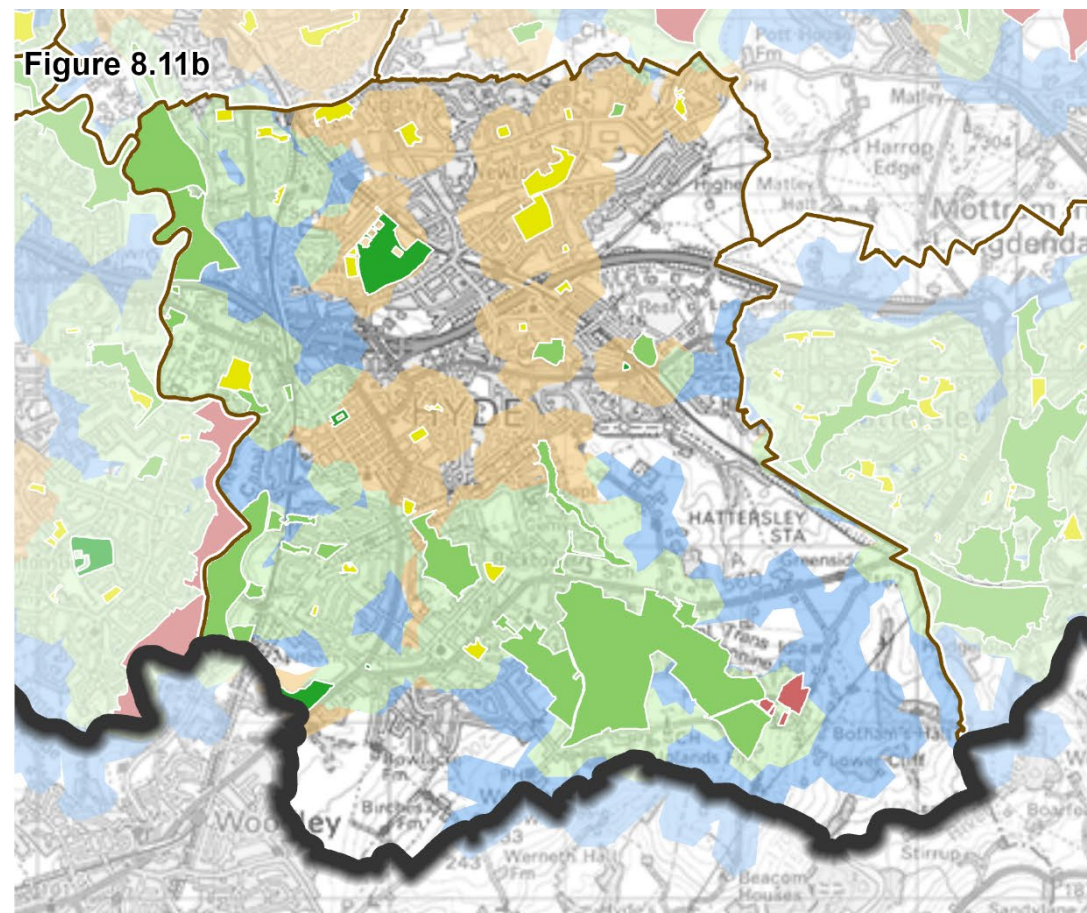
Table 8.6: Open space provision in Hyde

Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	0.43 ha / 1000	0.31 ha / 1000	+ 0.12 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.37 ha / 1000 deficit
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	0.54 ha / 1000	0.62 ha / 1000	- 0.08 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.06 ha / 1000 deficit
Natural greenspace	3.74 ha / 1000	NA	NA	1.80 ha / 1000	1.94 ha / 1000 surplus
Wider countryside	0.09 ha / 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural greenspace and wider countryside combined	3.84 ha / 1000	6.97 ha / 1000	- 3.13 ha / 1000	NA	NA
All accessible greenspace	4.80 ha / 1000	7.90 ha / 1000	- 3.10 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000 surplus
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.05 ha / 1000 under 15	0.02 ha / 1000 (all)	- 0.01 ha / 1000 (all)	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.50 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.10 ha / 1000	0.15 ha / 1000	- 0.05 ha / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	0.06 ha / 1000 deficit

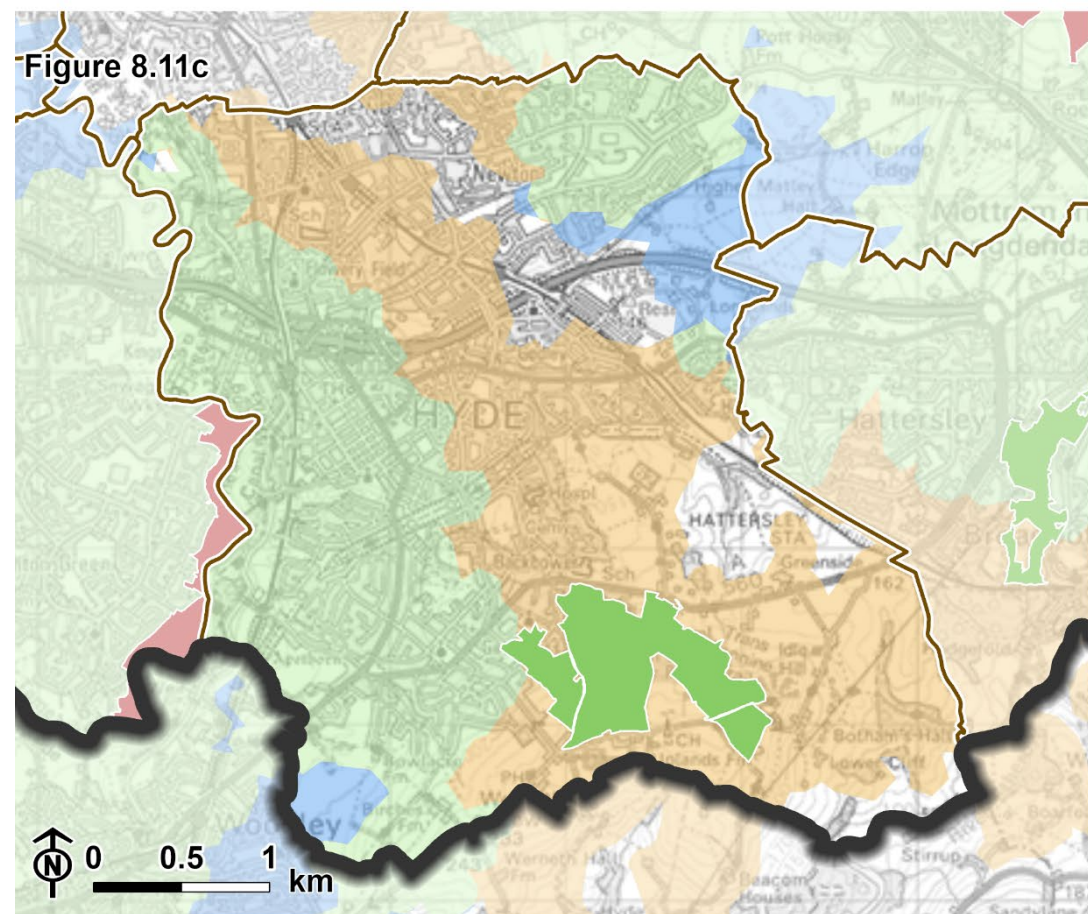
Figure 8.11: Provision and access to accessible greenspace Hyde



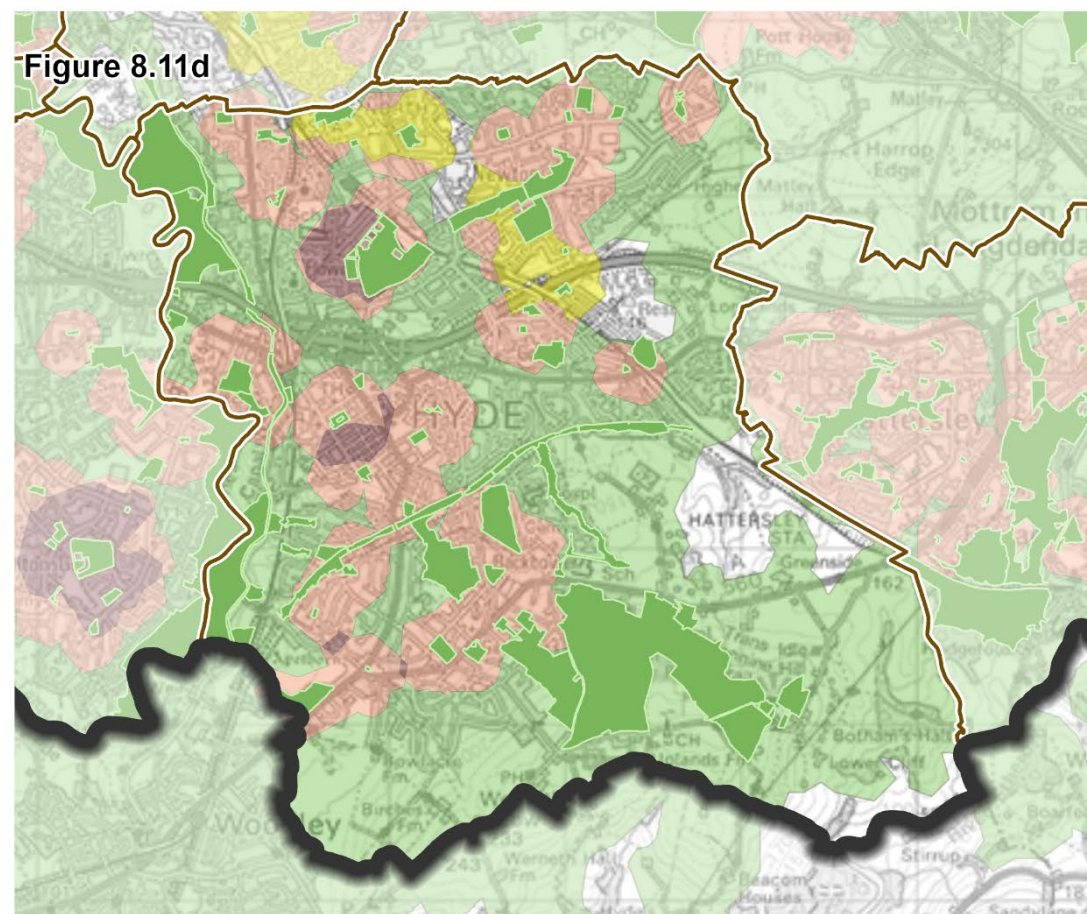
- Tameside District
- Neighbourhood area
- Accessible greenspace
- Other open space
- Open space needs index**
- Greater need
- Lower need



- Accessible greenspace**
- Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds
- Natural greenspace
- Parks and gardens
- Wider countryside
- Access to greenspace close to home**
- Access to local or doorstep and neighbourhood greenspace
- Access to local or doorstep greenspace
- Access to neighbourhood greenspace
- Accessible greenspace



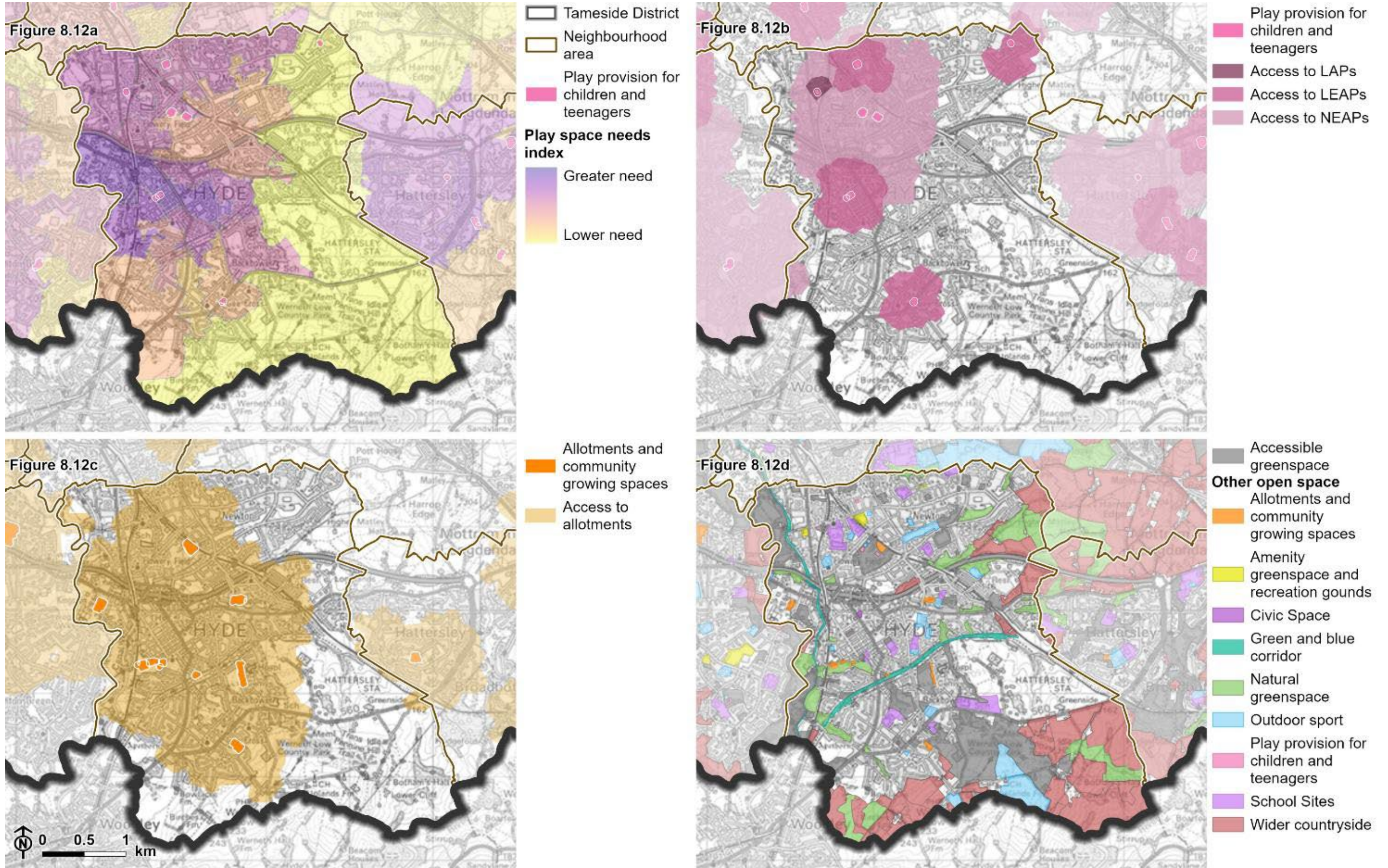
- Larger accessible greenspace**
- Natural greenspace
- Wider countryside
- Access to larger greenspace**
- Access to district and borough greenspace
- Access to borough greenspace
- Access to district greenspace



- Access to accessible greenspace typologies**
- Access to all accessible greenspace
- Access to two kinds of greenspace
- Access to accessible wider countryside and natural greenspace only
- Access to parks and gardens only
- Access to amenity greenspace, recreation grounds and churchyards only

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Figure 8.12: Provision and access to other open space Hyde



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Longdendale

8.65 Table 8.7 shows the current quantity of open space in Longdendale compared to the standard and the previous assessment. Overall, there has been a decrease in open space provision since the 2017/18 assessment. The exception is for allotments and community growing spaces. Accessible greenspace provision in Longdendale is particularly high for natural greenspace. There is more of this typology compared to the population than any other part of Tameside.

8.66 The open space provision exceeds standards for natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and recreation grounds and overall accessible greenspace. However, the standard is not met for parks and gardens, play provision for children and teenagers or allotments and community growing spaces. Although play provision for children and teenagers is less than the proposed standard, the provision of this typology is higher in Longdendale than any other neighbourhood area.

8.67 Figure 8.13a shows the open space need in Longdendale. As most of the neighbourhood area comprises open space (including non-accessible greenspace) the need level only applies to small parts of the neighbourhood area. In general, there is a higher need in the west and lower need in the east. The highest needs is immediately west of the A560 in Hattersely, where the needs score is just under 7.

8.68 Figure 8.13b shows the access to greenspace close to home. Across the west of the Longdendale there is access to both doorstep or local accessible greenspace and neighbourhood accessible greenspace. In the east, access is primarily only to doorstep or local greenspaces. Gaps in access to greenspace close to home generally correlate with rural parts of the neighbourhood area. These places have low population density and so the majority of residents in Longdendale do have access to greenspace close to home (within 1 km).

8.69 Figure 8.13c shows the access to larger open spaces. Most of Longdendale has access to both the borough and district greenspaces. Within Longdendale itself, natural greenspace around Hurstclough Brook and the south of Odgen Brook Valley / Swallows Wood contributes to this. Access to district greenspace is provided by moorland within the Pennine upland area to the east.

8.70 Figure 8.13d shows the access to different typologies of accessible greenspace. The majority of places in Longdendale have access to natural greenspace. In the more rural parts of Longdendale this is the only typology provided for within the access catchments. In the more built-up areas, including Hattersley and Hollingworth, residents benefit from access to two types of accessible greenspace,

typically comprising amenity greenspace, recreation grounds or churchyards and cemeteries, alongside areas of natural greenspace. There is only one open space of the parks and gardens typology within Longdendale. Etherow Lodge Park in the west of the neighbourhood area provides access to the parks and gardens typology in Hollingworth.

8.71 Figure 8.14a shows the play needs index and location of the LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in Longdendale. The overall play need is variable, with lower play need in the south, average need in the east and higher play need in the west. The areas of higher play need generally coincide with the best access to play provision for children and teenagers (see **Figure 8.14b**). This access is enhanced by new play spaces which have been created in Hattersley as part of regeneration since the 2017/18 assessment. The area of highest need has a score of around 7.75. Overall, access to play provision for children and teenagers is present in the more populated parts of Longdendale. Play provision for older children (11 years +, provided by NEAPs) is limited to the western parts of Longdendale. In the western part of Hattersley, access for younger children under 11) is limited.

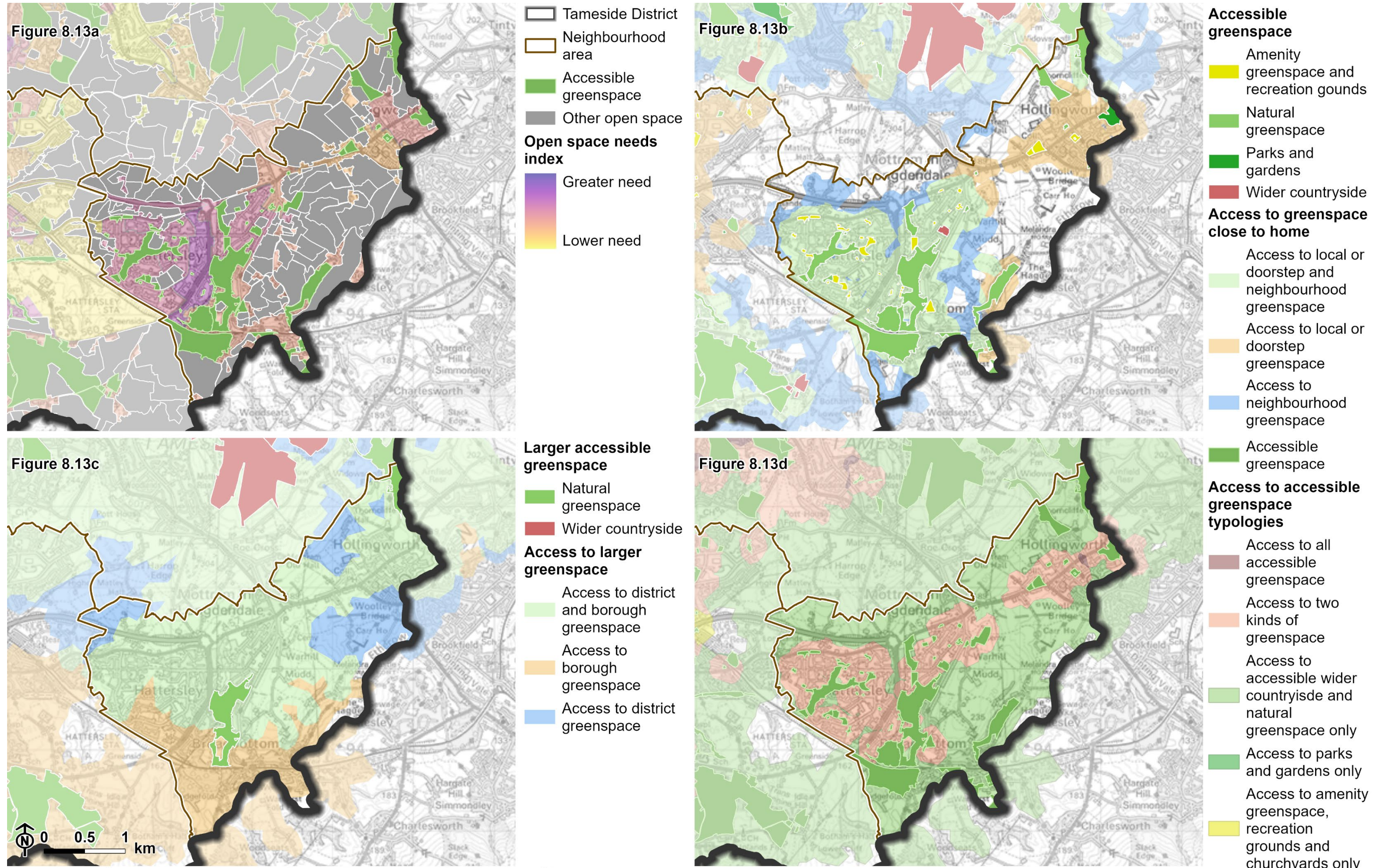
8.72 Access to allotments and community growing spaces is shown in **Figure 8.14c**. Allotment provision in Longdendale is located on the edges of neighbourhood area, including at Lymfield, Broadbottom; Off Hattersely Road and rear of 12 Mottram Moor. Due to the dispersed location of allotments and community growing space, there are notable gaps where there is no access to allotments and community growing space within the 1 km access catchment., These gaps in access affect some of the more populated parts of Longdendale, including all of Hollingworth and the centre and north of Hattersley.

8.73 Figure 8.14d shows the location of additional open space (other than accessible greenspace). Large areas of Longdendale comprise wider countryside and natural greenspace which is not publicly accessible or accessible only via the PRow network.

Table 8.7: Open space provision in Longdendale

Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	0.42 ha / 1000	0.51 ha / 1000	- 0.09 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.38 ha / 1000 deficit
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	1.09 ha / 1000	1.48 ha / 1000	- 0.39 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.49 ha / 1000 surplus
Natural greenspace	8.55 ha / 1000	NA	NA	1.80 ha / 1000	6.75 ha / 1000 surplus
Wider countryside	0.10 ha / 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural greenspace and wider countryside combined	8.65 ha / 1000	26.25 ha / 1000	- 17.60 ha / 1000	NA	NA
All accessible greenspace	10.17 ha / 1000	28.24 ha / 1000	- 18.07 ha / 1000	3.00 ha / 1000	6.17 ha / 1000 surplus
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.33 ha / 1000 under 15	0.09 ha / 1000 (all)	- 0.02 ha / 1000 (all) CHECK	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.22 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.11 ha / 1000	0.09 ha / 1000	+ 0.02 ha / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	0.10 ha / 1000 deficit

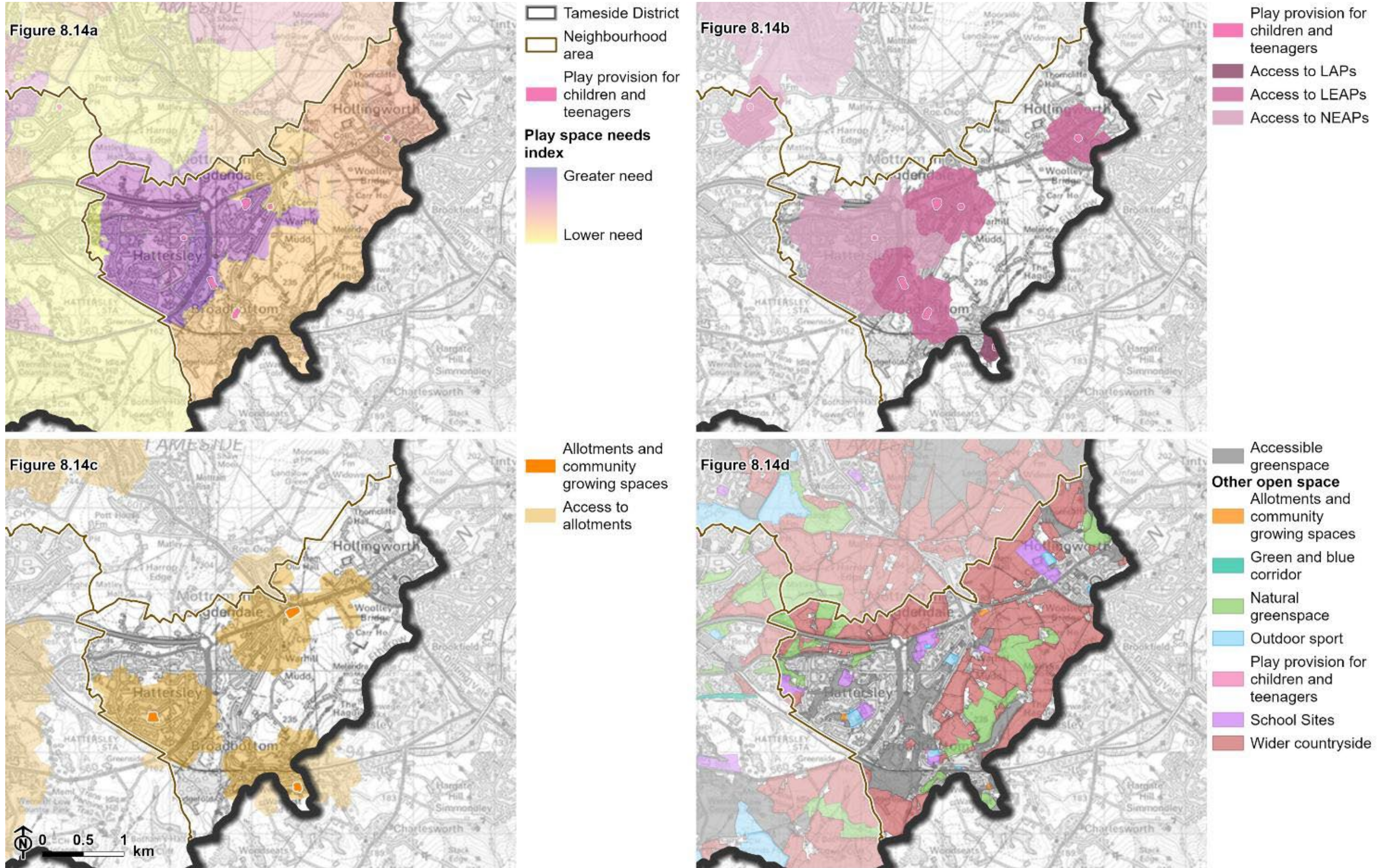
Figure 8.13: Provision and access to accessible greenspace Longdendale



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Figure 8.14: Provision and access to other open space Longdendale



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Mossley

8.74 Table 8.8 shows the current quantity of open space in Mossley compared to the standard and the previous assessment. Overall, there has been a large increase in natural greenspace and overall accessible greenspace, and a small decrease in other typologies since the previous assessment in 2017/18.

8.75 Whilst open space provision far exceeds the standard for overall accessible greenspace and natural greenspace, Mossley is deficient in other provision of open space. Compared to other parts of Tameside, Mossley is very deficient in parks and gardens. This is provided by Mossley Park (which is a local greenspace) and Cosgrove Park (which is a doorstep greenspace). Provision of this typology is less than one third of the standard.

8.76 Figure 8.15a shows the open space need in Mossley. As most of the neighbourhood area comprises open space (including non-accessible greenspace) the need level only applies to small parts of the neighbourhood area. In general, there is a lower level of across the neighbourhood area. The highest score area in Mossley is around the centre, with a score of around 5.

8.77 Figure 8.15b shows the access to greenspace close to home (within 1 km). Across most of the populated parts of the neighbourhood area, there is access to both doorstep or local greenspace and neighbourhood greenspace. On the outskirts of Mossley there are small areas of residential properties which are outside of the local or doorstep catchments (i.e. do not have an accessible greenspace within a five-minute walk). For example, this affects residents around parts of Regents Drive, Richmond Crescent, Greenway Drive, Waterton Lane and Stable Fold.

8.78 Figure 8.15c shows the access to larger open spaces. Almost the entire neighbourhood area has access to both borough and district level greenspace. Within Mossley, this is provided by access to natural greenspace at the open space West of Lees Road, as well as the district size wider countryside site at Buckton Moor. In addition, Buckton Moor provides access to the district level of greenspace.

8.79 Figure 8.15d shows the access to different typologies of accessible greenspace. The majority of access within Mossley is to the natural greenspace or wider countryside typologies. In some of the built-up areas in the centre of the neighbourhood area, there is also access to the amenity greenspace and recreation grounds or churchyards and burial grounds typologies. Only a few parts of Mossley have access to all three typologies of accessible greenspace.

8.80 Figure 8.16a shows the play needs index and location of the LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in Mossley. The overall play need is generally higher in the east and middle to low in the west. However, the area of highest play needs is mostly within relatively rural areas, and the true area of greater need may be limited to smaller residential areas, such as around Winterford Road. This area has a play needs score of 7.75.

8.81 . Figure 8.16b shows access to play provision for children and teenagers. There are three open spaces which incorporate this typology (either as primary or secondary). Overall, there is access to this typology in the more populated parts of Mossley in the west. The eastern part of Mossley does not have access to play provision for children and teenagers of any age. This includes some areas with a higher play need. North of Stockport Road and for residences around and between George Street, Mountain Street and The Crescent, access is only possible for play provision for older children (11 + provided by NEAPs).

8.82 Access to allotments and community growing spaces is shown in **Figure 8.16c**. There are several allotment and community growing spaces across Mossley. The even distribution of these spaces provides good access across the built-up parts of Mossley. In the northern part of the neighbourhood area there are a few residents outside these access catchments, including along streets off Moorlands Drive.

8.83 Figure 8.16d shows the location of additional open space (other than accessible greenspace). Large areas of Mossley comprise wider countryside and natural greenspace which is not publicly accessible or accessible only via the PRoW network. Additionally, the Huddersfield Narrow Canal provides opportunities for walking and cycling and connectivity. This green and blue corridor runs through the centre of the neighbourhood area.

Table 8.8: open space provision in Mossley

Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	0.25 ha / 1000	0.28 ha / 1000	- 0.03 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.55 ha / 1000 deficit
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	0.18 ha / 1000	0.19 ha / 1000	- 0.01 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.42 ha / 1000 deficit
Natural greenspace	6.291 ha / 1000	NA	NA	1.80 ha / 1000	4.49 ha / 1000 surplus
Wider countryside	17.84 ha / 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural greenspace and wider countryside combined	24.12 ha / 1000	44.13 ha / 1000	20.01 ha / 1000	NA	NA
All accessible greenspace	24.56 ha / 1000	44.60 ha / 1000	-20.04 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	20.56 ha / 1000 surplus
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.24 ha / 1000 under 15	0.05 ha / 1000 (all)	+/- 0.00 ha / 1000 (all)	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.31 ha / 1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.19 ha / 1000	0.22 ha / 1000	- 0.03 ha / 1000	0.21 ha / 1000	0.02 ha / 1000 deficit

Figure 8.15: Provision and access to accessible greenspace Mossley

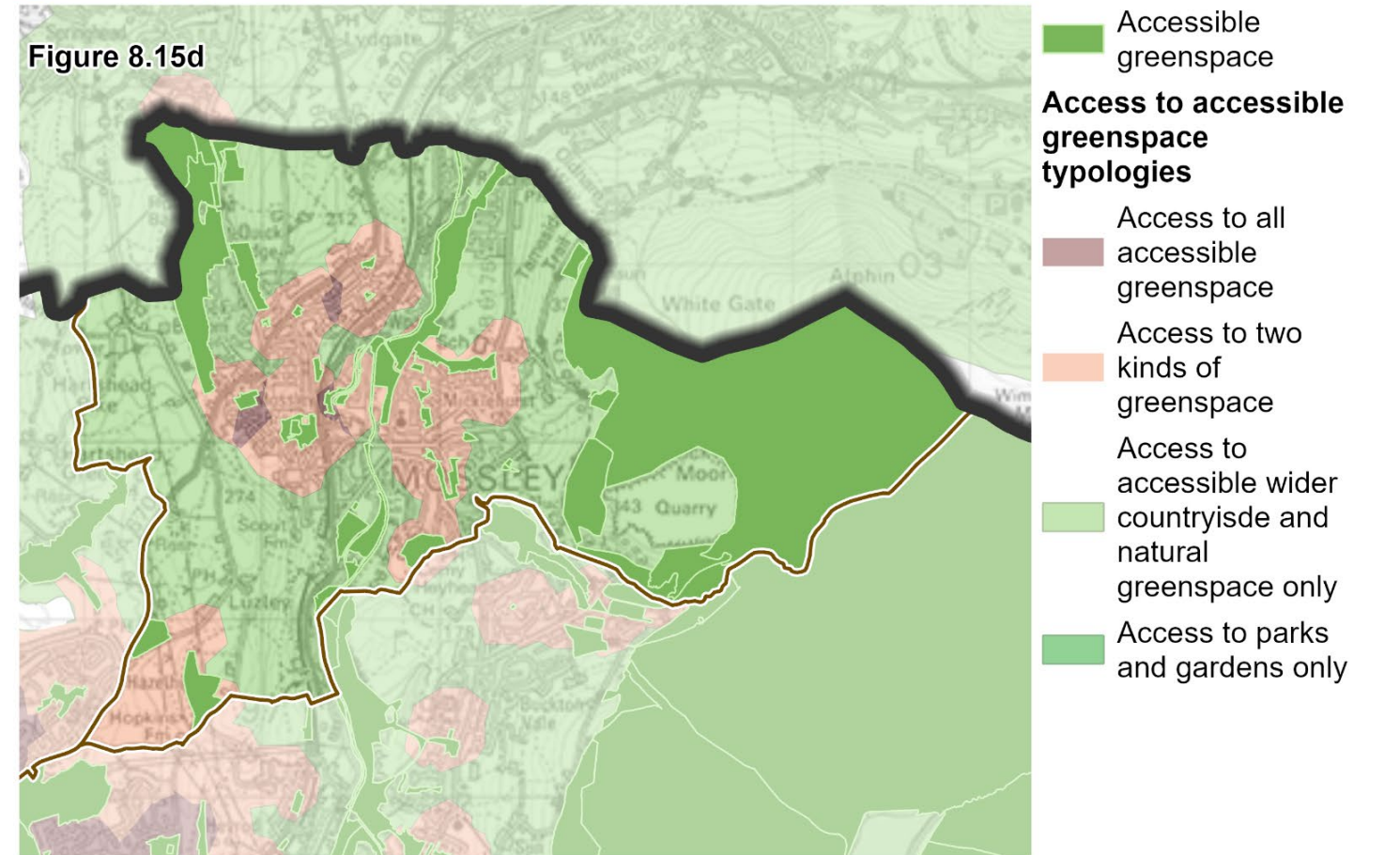
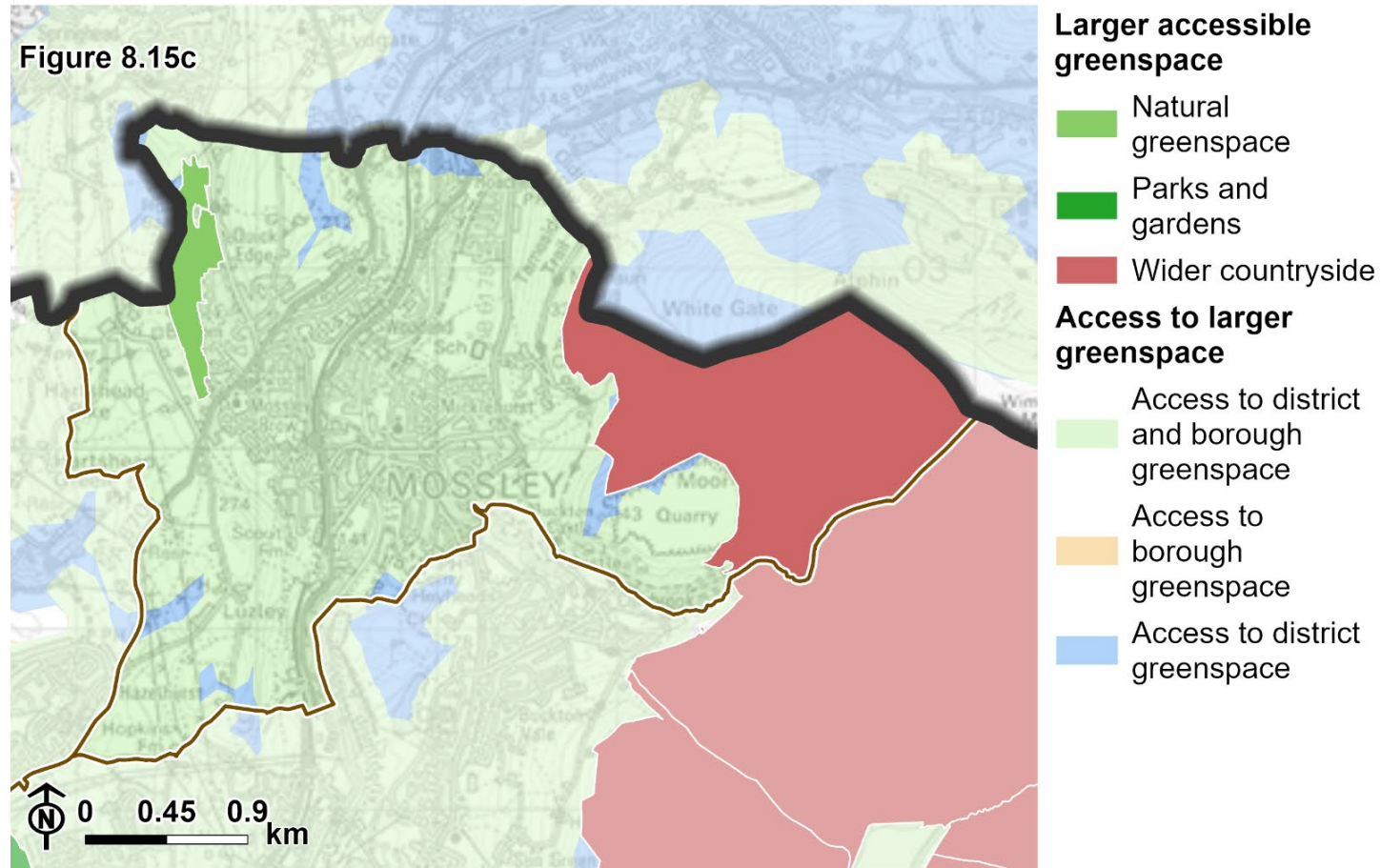
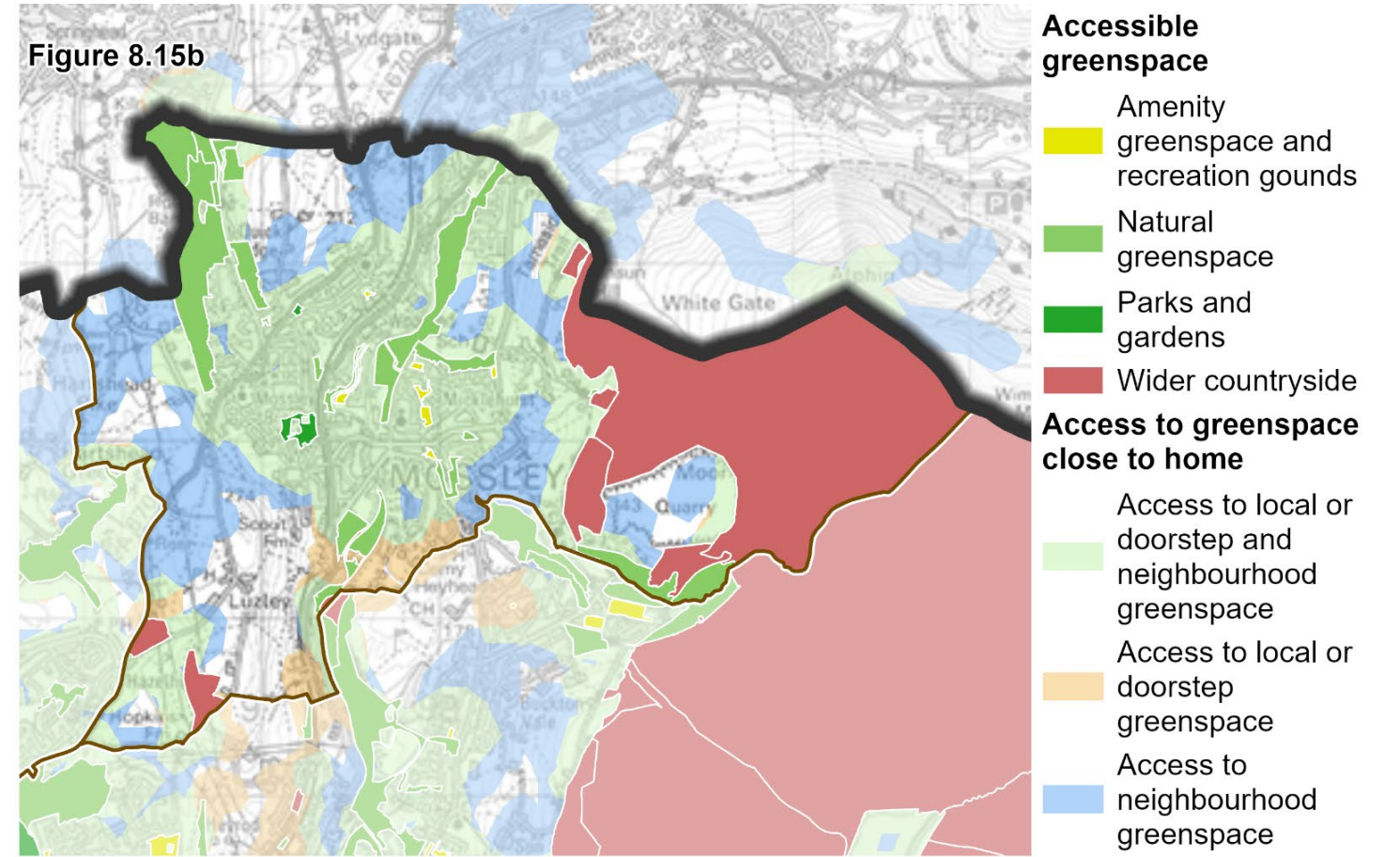
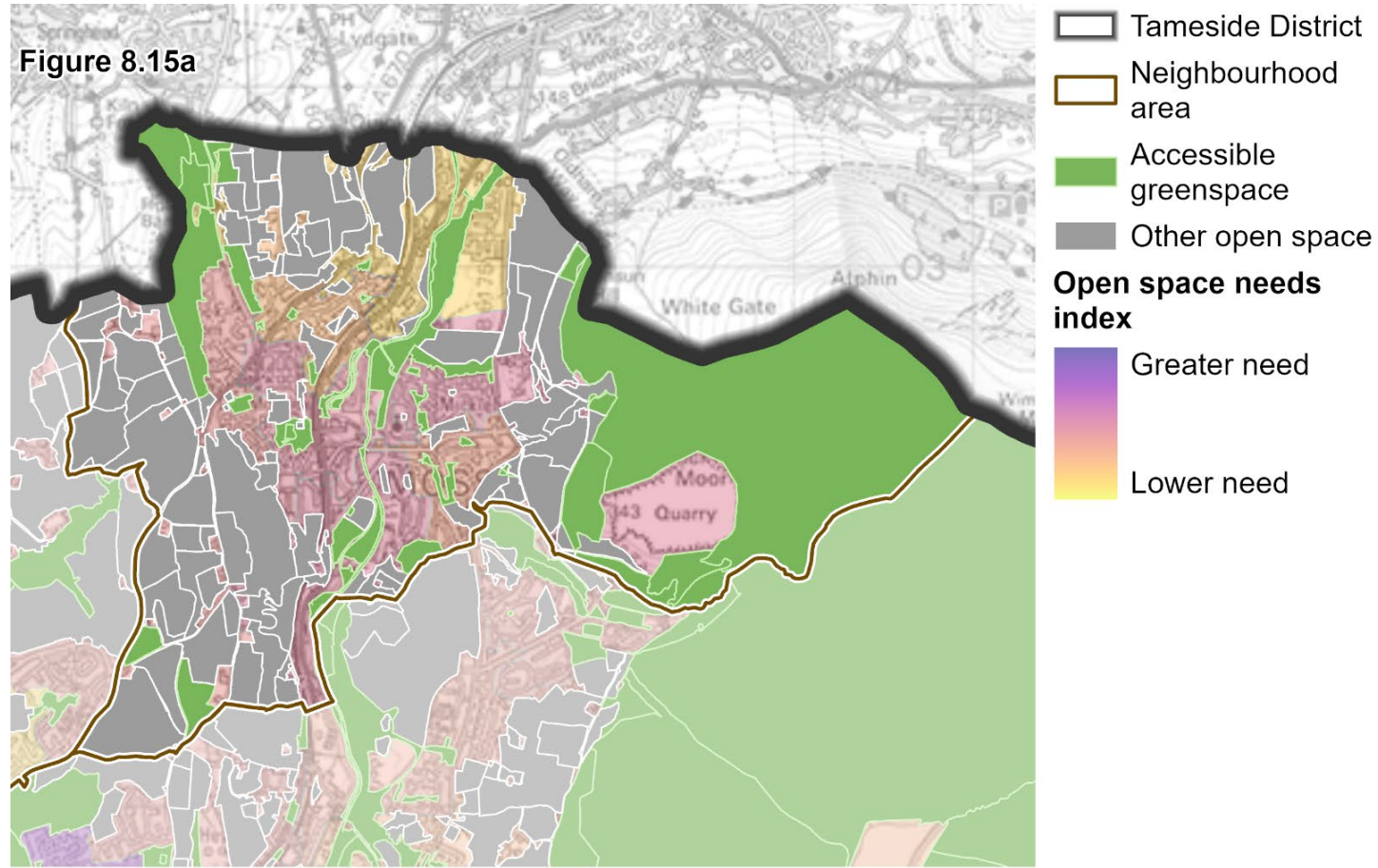
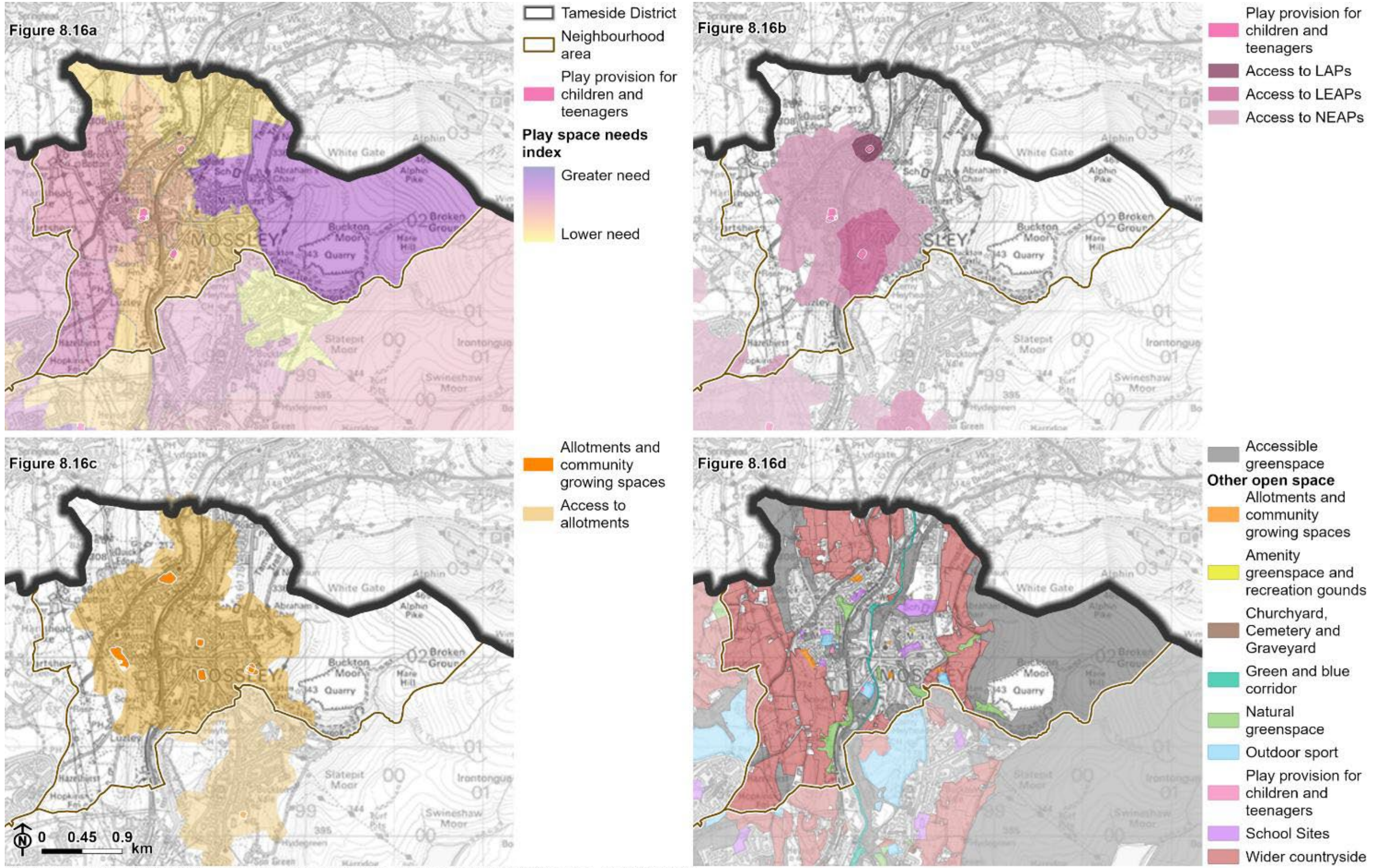


Figure 8.16: Provision and access to other open space Mossley



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Stalybridge

8.85 Table 8.9 shows the current quantity of open space in Stalybridge compared to the standard and the previous assessment. Overall, there has been decrease in the provision of open space since the 2017/18 assessment, with the exception of allotments and community growing spaces. Provision is particularly high for parks and gardens, compared to other parts of Tameside. Although there are only two greenspaces of this typology within the neighbourhood area, these are both relatively large (Stamford Park is a borough greenspace and Cheetham park is a neighbourhood greenspace)

8.86 The open space provision far exceeds the standard for overall accessible greenspace as well as the parks and gardens and natural greenspace component typologies. However, Stalybridge is deficient in provision of amenity greenspace and recreation grounds, as well as play provision for children and teenagers and allotments and community growing spaces.

8.87 Figure 8.17a shows the open space need in Stalybridge. As most of the neighbourhood area comprises open space, the need level only applies to small parts of the neighbourhood area. In general, there is a varying level of need across the neighbourhood area. The need is lower in the southeast of the built-up area, around Stalyhill. The highest area of need is in the north around the Springs. This area has a needs score of around 7.

8.88 Figure 8.17b shows the access to greenspace close to home. Across most of the populated parts of the neighbourhood area, there is access to both doorstep or local greenspace and neighbourhood greenspace. Gaps in any access to accessible greenspace include residential properties around Carrbrook Crescent. In some places, there is only access to neighbourhood greenspaces, representing a 15 minute walk to open spaces, rather than five-minute walk.

8.89 Figure 8.17c shows the access to larger open spaces. The built-up area of Stalybridge has access to both borough and district level greenspace. These are provided by wider countryside publicly accessible sites in the north and east of the neighbourhood area including Swineshaw Moor and Hollingworth Hall Moor. Additional borough level open space also includes natural greenspace (including Stalybridge Country Park) and parks and gardens (Stamford Park).

8.90 Figure 8.17d shows the access to different typologies of accessible greenspace. In the east, the majority of the neighbourhood only has access to the natural greenspace or wider countryside typologies. However in the west, where the

majority of the population in Stalybridge reside, there is predominantly access to at least two typologies of accessible greenspace. All residents are within the access catchments of a natural greenspace or wider countryside space. The majority of residents also have access to either an amenity greenspace and recreation ground or churchyard and cemetery, or a park and garden. In some places, including the centre of Stalybridge and just north of this around The Hague, residents have access to all three typologies of accessible greenspace.

8.91 Figure 8.18a shows the play needs index and location of the LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in Stalybridge. The overall play need is generally lower than across other parts of Tameside. The highest play needs in Stalybridge is in the north around the Springs.

8.92 . Figure 8.18b shows access to play provision for children and teenagers. There are several open spaces of this typology (either primary or secondary) in Stalybridge, including within the large parks and gardens, within amenity greenspace and recreation ground spaces and as standalone sites. Whilst these provide access to play provision for children and teenagers for older children (11 years +, provided by NEAPs), there is limited provision for young children to the smaller catchments associated with LAPs and LEAPs. Overall, access to this typology is poor on the outskirts of built-up parts of Stalybridge, where there is no access to play provision for children and teenagers of any age. This includes around Stalyhill, residential areas east and west of B6175 and Carrbrook. Access is best for older children, but not as consistent for children under 11.

8.93 Access to allotments and community growing spaces is shown in **Figure 8.18c**. There are three allotments and community growing spaces in Stalybridge, and access to this type of open space is also provided by open spaces in neighbouring analysis areas in Longdendale, Dukinfield and Mossley. These provide access within 1 km to residents in many parts of Stalybridge, including in the west close to the town centre, in the south around Old Road and Hall Drive, and north off Huddersfield Road, including along Buckton Vale Road and Crowswood Drive. However, there are notable areas with no access to allotments and community growing spaces, including northwest at Springs and The Hague, east around Brushes and Millbrook, and south around Stalyhill.

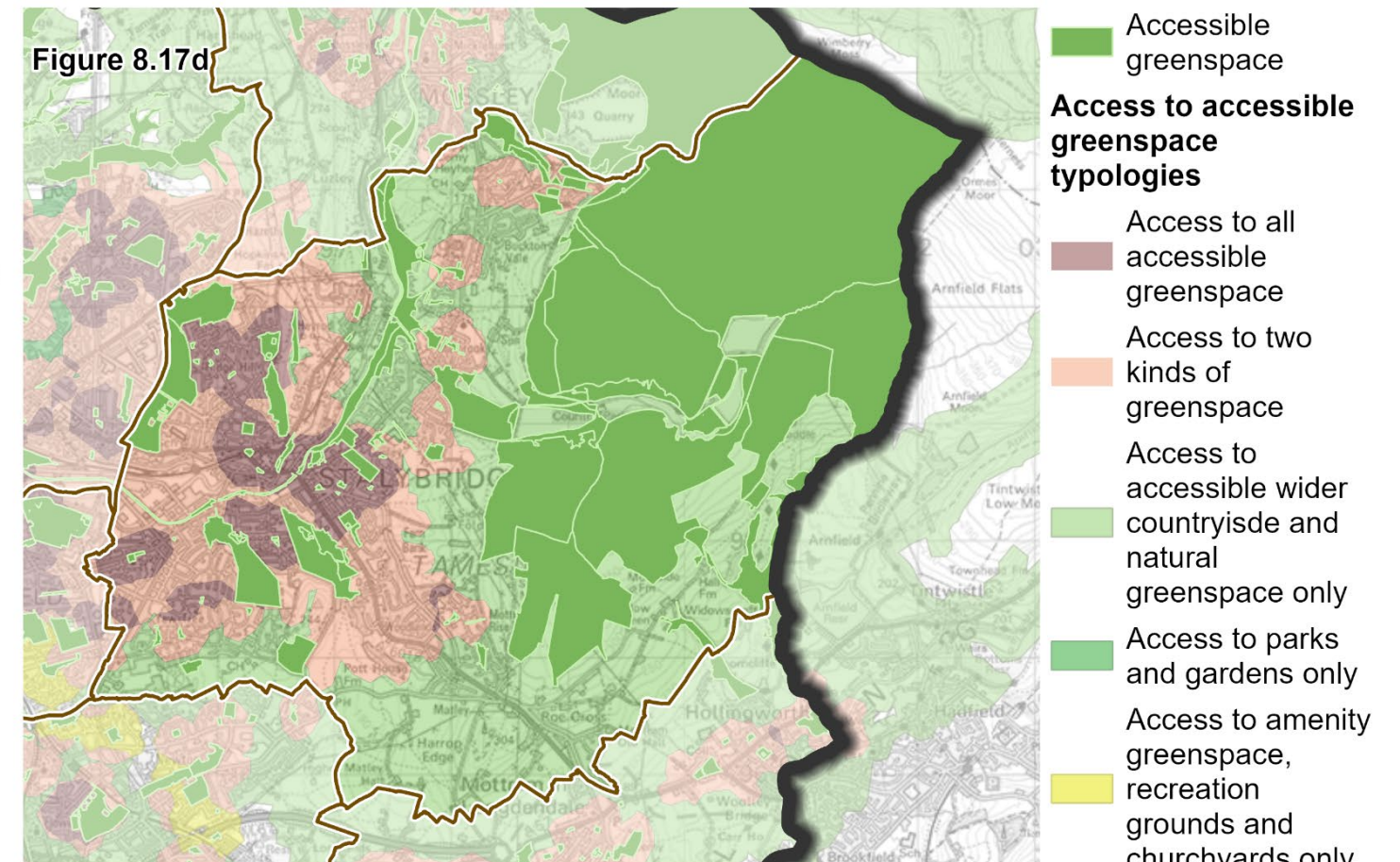
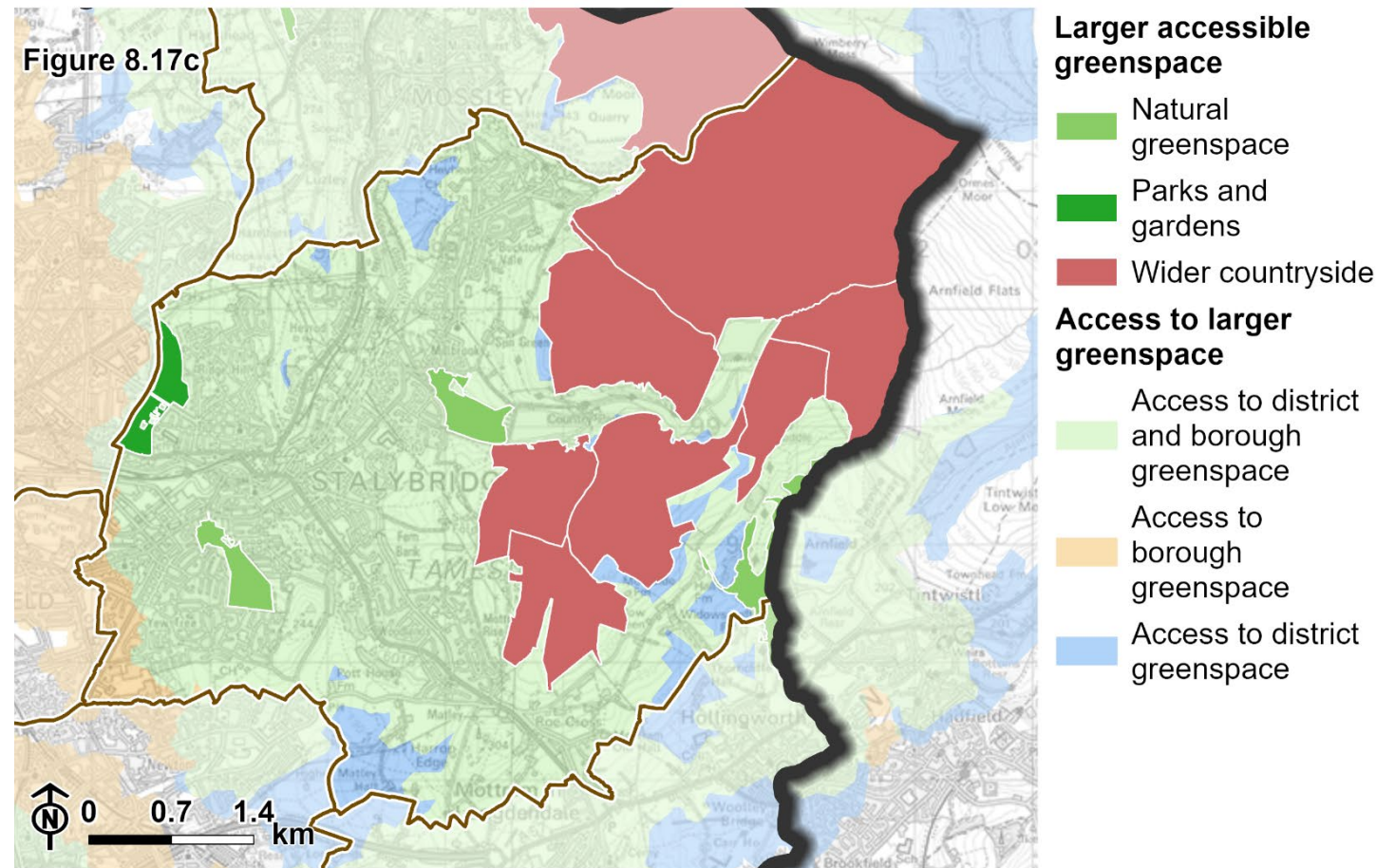
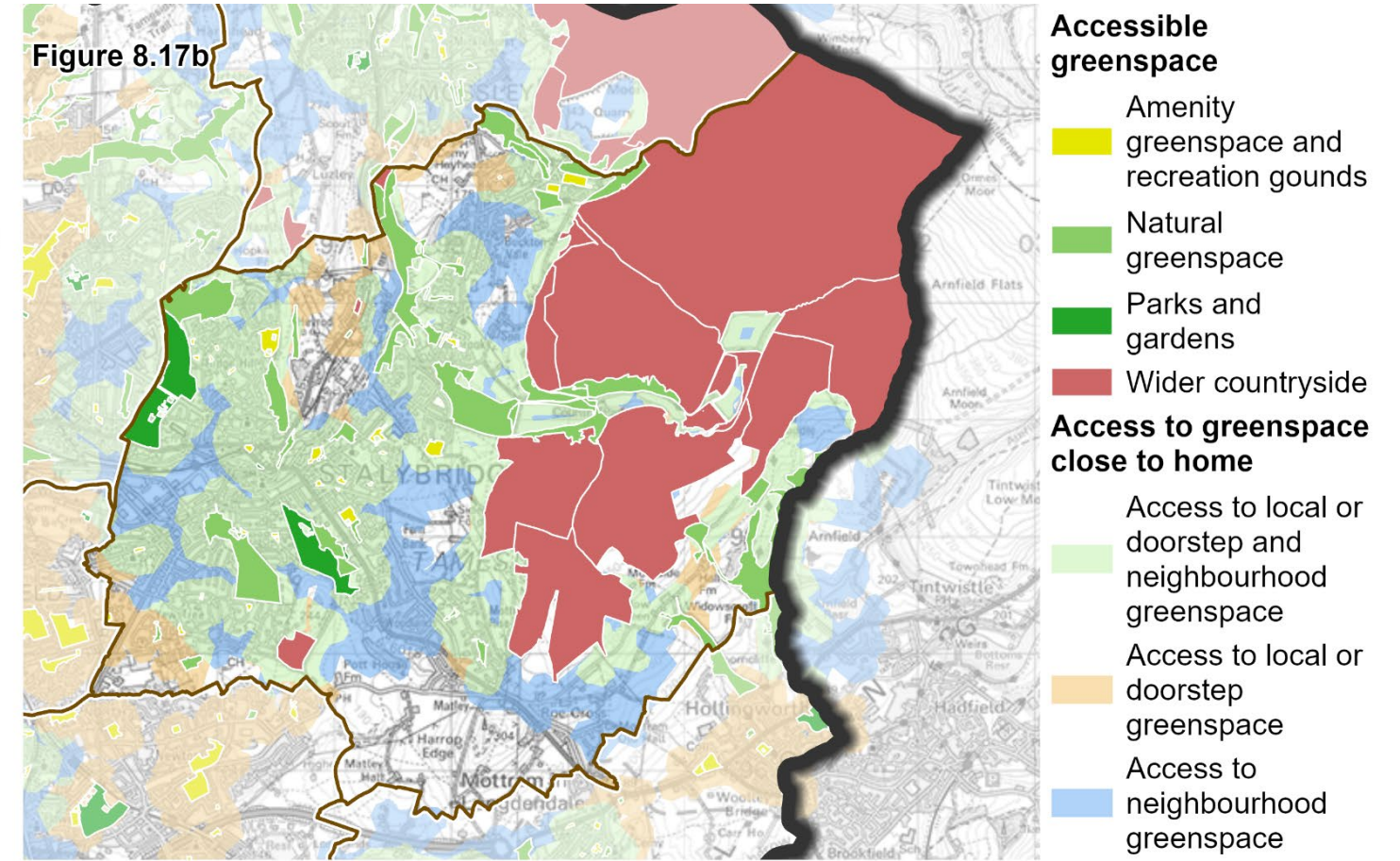
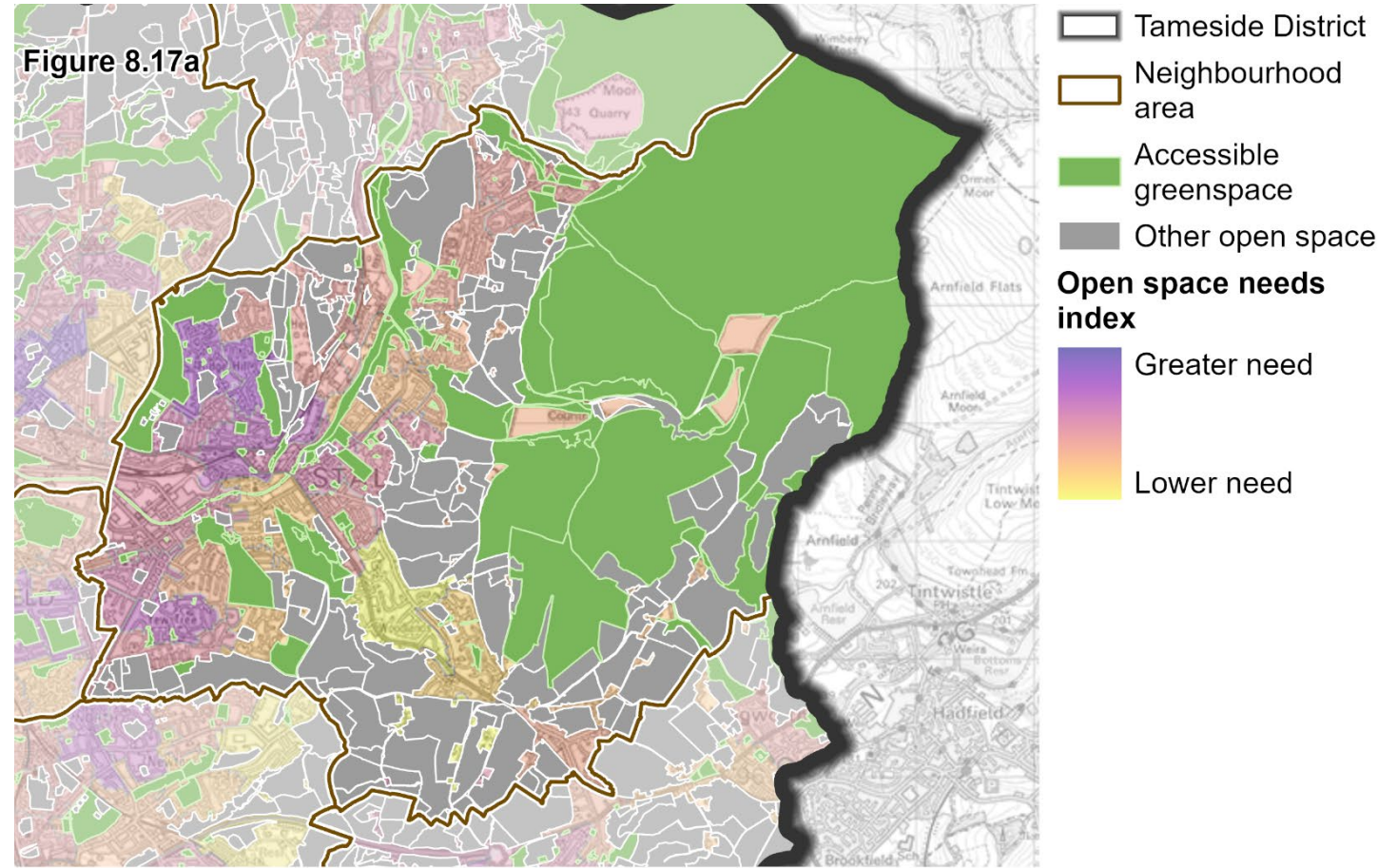
8.94 Figure 8.18d shows the location of additional open space (other than accessible greenspace). This includes areas of wider countryside that have no public access or are only accessible via the PRoW network, as well as some outdoor sports – notably including Stamford Golf club and at Astley Sports College. Additionally, green and blue corridors including along the Huddersfield Narrow Canal towpath and

Staley Way provide connectivity between open spaces and offer opportunities for walking and cycling in the north of Stalybridge.

Table 8.9: Open space provision in Stalybridge

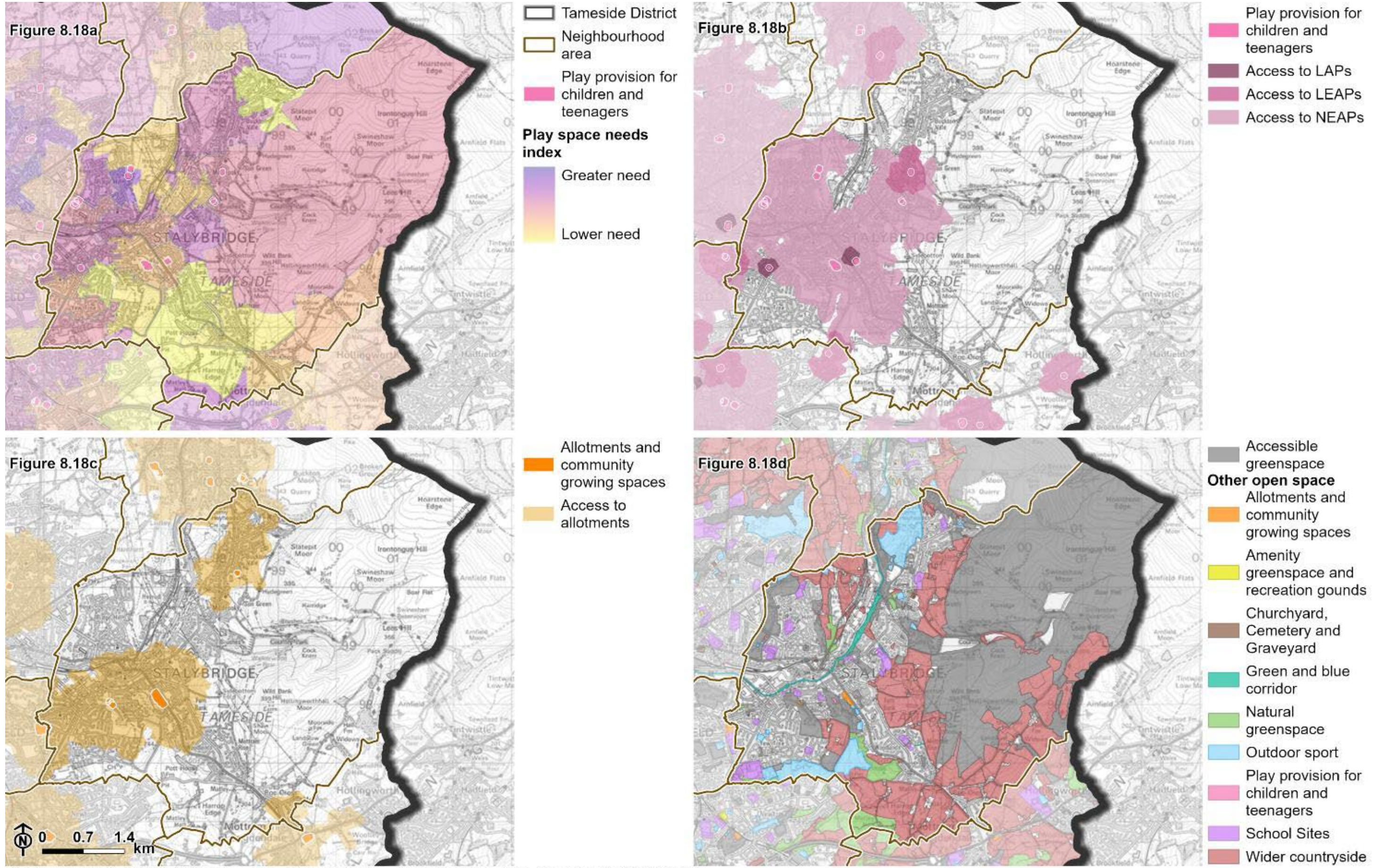
Typology	Current quantity	2017/18 provision	Change	Standard	Comparison with standard
Parks and gardens	1.10 ha / 1000	1.22 ha / 1000	- 0.12 ha / 1000	0.80 ha / 1000	0.30 ha / 1000 surplus
Amenity greenspace and recreation ground	0.38 / 1000	0.41 ha / 1000	- 0.03 ha / 1000	0.60 ha / 1000	0.24 ha / 1000 deficit
Natural greenspace	5.09 ha / 1000	NA	NA	1.80 ha / 1000	3.29 ha / 1000 surplus
Wider countryside	32.72 ha / 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural greenspace and wider countryside combined	27.61 ha / 1000	41.27 ha / 1000	- 8.57 ha / 1000	NA	NA
All accessible greenspace	24.56 ha / 1000	42.90 ha / 1000	-8.73 ha / 1000	4.00 ha / 1000	30.17 ha / 1000 surplus
Play provision for children and teenagers	0.16 ha / 1000 under 15	0.05 ha / 1000 (all)	- 0.02 ha / 1000 (all)	0.55 ha / 1000 under 15	0.39 ha /1000 under 15 deficit
Allotments and community growing space	0.12 ha / 1000	0.07 ha / 1000	+ 0.05 ha / 1000	0.21 ha /1000	0.09 ha / 1000 deficit

Figure 8.17: Provision and access to accessible greenspace Stalybridge



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Figure 8.18: Provision and access to other open space Stalybridge



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Chapter 9

Quality and Value Standards

9.1 The quality standard sets out expectations for the condition and functionality of open spaces. It is usually separated into two separate considerations:

- Quality – which refers to aspects relating to the management and condition of features and facilities; and
- Value – which refers to the presence of various features and facilities, including value to the local community.

9.2 Quality and value criteria are more subjective than quantity and accessibility. It is therefore essential to establish a rigorous set of criteria to ensure a consistent approach to evaluating open spaces is undertaken.

9.3 This section will examine the existing guidance relating to the quality and value of open spaces. This will be used to create a set of criteria for assessing open spaces in the borough. Finally, this section outlines the method for applying these criteria alongside suggested scoring.

Existing guidance

9.4 There is no nationally defined set of quality or value standards for open space in the context of planning policy. However, there is a range of recognised guidance that can be used to establish ‘benchmark’ standards. A brief overview of this is provided below.

Green Flag Award guidance and criteria

9.5 The Green Flag Award is a well-regarded standard for identifying publicly accessible parks and greenspaces, recognising well-managed sites [See reference 46]. The award sets a standard for recreational outdoor space management in the UK and internationally.

9.6 The guidance and criteria for judging these sites can be used to assess the quality and value of open spaces. The Green Flag Award criteria is based on eight assessment themes:

- A Welcoming Place;
- Healthy, Safe and Secure;

- Well Maintained and Clean;
- Environmental Management;
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage;
- Community Involvement;
- Marketing and Communication; and
- Management.

Strengths

- The Green Flag Award is well recognised within the UK and internally. It is highlighted as the best practice guidance within Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework [\[See reference 47\]](#).
- The themes are comprehensive, encompassing both quality and value in the standard judging process [\[See reference 48\]](#).
- Scoring each theme separately allows the assessment process to identify main areas for improvement.

Weaknesses

- The aim of the Green Flag Award is to identify the best-managed and equipped parks and open spaces. As a result, some of the criteria are more relevant to larger open spaces in the parks and gardens typology.
- The Green Flag Award focusses on the management of open spaces. Some of the criteria is difficult to assess through a site visit. Such criteria may also be difficult to

Fields in Trust Standards

9.7 The Fields in Trust (FiT) is a registered charity dedicated to protecting the future of parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and green spaces in the UK. They provide ongoing stewardship for over 3000 spaces protected in perpetuity since their formation, spanning the last 100 years.

9.8 FiT sets standards on the quantity and accessibility of different typologies of open space, focussing on play and sport. The latest 2024 edition of FIT standards also includes six themes which help guide the quality and value of open spaces. [\[See reference 49\]](#). These are:

- Accessible, safe, and inclusive;
- Promote active healthy lifestyles;
- Support mental wellbeing;
- Resilient to climate change;
- Provide space for nature to thrive; and
- Adaptable to community needs.

Strengths

- The guidance is broad, focussing on key characteristics of open spaces. This makes the guidance easy to apply to a range of open space typologies.
- The guidance focusses on open space design and enhancements. It is therefore suitable as a guide for setting requirements for the provision of new open spaces within development.

Weaknesses

- The guidance is high level and descriptive. Further work or guidance would be required to translate these into clear criteria for assessment.
- The FiT quality guidance is relatively new and is not well-established as a standard for assessing quality or value of open spaces.

Play England guidance

9.9 Play England is a registered charity with a vision for everybody in England to enjoy their right to play throughout their childhood and teenage years. Their vision for providing opportunities for all children and teenagers is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31, and their own Charter for Children's Play.

9.10 Play England publishes specific guidelines titled 'Quality in Play' [See reference 50]. The most up-to-date publication dates from 2016. This outlines 11 quality areas, within the categories of 'The play environment', 'The organisational framework' and 'The wider context'. The first category is most relevant to assessing quality and value. This comprises the following standards:

- Children's freedom and control (including opportunities for play for disabled, minority and marginalised children and communities);

- The physical play environment (which is related to making the best use of the physical environment within play); and
- The human play environment (which sets a standard for staff and play managers).

Strengths

- These standards extend beyond the quality and quantity of equipped play, offering a broader assessment the how playable all open spaces are.

Weaknesses

- The standards relate to the strategic context of play sites, which can mean it is difficult to assess areas on a site specific basis.
- The guidance is specific to use of open spaces for children and young people and thus not relevant to all open space typologies or all open space users.

Natural England's Country Park Accreditation

9.11 Natural England's Country Park Accreditation allows managers to apply for accreditation for open spaces to achieve Country Park status. This acts as evidence for potential visitors that the site in question contains essential services and facilities commonly found in Country Parks [\[See reference 51\]](#).

9.12 There is a range of essential and desirable criteria to define a Country Park. The type of criteria included is:

- Presence of natural or semi-natural landscapes;
- Good standards of access across the open space, including for equal access;
- At least 10ha and within 10 miles of a residential area;
- Presence of on-site staff;
- Influenced by local people;
- Inclusion of amenities such as visitor centre, play facilities, catering, art, public toilets, and bike/horse trails; and
- Outreach and education events.

Strengths

- The criteria are clear and objective which can be objectively assessed.

Weaknesses

- The criteria relate primarily to value (the types of facilities available) and do not consider the condition or maintenance of these features.
- The criteria are only relevant to larger open spaces, and particularly to natural greenspace typologies.

Developing quality and value criteria for Tameside

9.13 The approach to quality and value used in the Tameside Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2017/18 open space was consistent with the approach used in the assessment in 2010 to allow comparison over time.. The assessment was based on a fairly short list of criteria including three quality and five value criteria. Total quality scores could range from -2 to 17 and total value scores could range from -2 to 25. Thresholds or benchmarks were to identify lower quality and lower value performing open spaces. Open spaces with a quality score of at least 8 and a value score of at least 13 were needed to be considered of adequate quality and value.

9.14 The quality and value criteria and associated scores are detailed below.

- Quality – management: Level of management maintenance through observational assessment and engagement with public land managers.
- Quality – maintenance: Maintenance and cleanliness such as the condition of the general landscape and features appropriate for the typology.
- Quality – User facilities: User facilities, assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins and toilets.
- Value – Accessibility: Context of the site, accessibility.
- Value – Multi-functionality: Evidence of different user types and number of uses.
- Value – Level of use – Level of use (observational assessments).
- Value – Heritage and/or community value
- Value – Sustainability and/or biodiversity value

9.15 The proposed audit aims to build on the questions set out in the previous audit, whilst also incorporating the Green Flag Award criteria to ensure the audit encompasses all aspects of open spaces and the benefits they provide.

Proposed approach

Criteria and scoring

9.16 The approach for understanding the performance of greenspace is based on the Green Flag Award standards, which are the most widely recognised set of standards for open space in the UK. In addition, the Green Flag criteria have been identified by Natural England as the most appropriate indication of quality for greenspace within Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework.

9.17 For play spaces, supplementary criteria have been included based on Play England's 'play environment' criteria. A site assessment audit form was used to assess the criteria with criteria scored either on quality or value.

9.18 The full site audit form is provided in **Appendix C**.

Additional criteria for play provision for children and teenagers

9.19 Additional criteria for play provision for children and teenagers also draw on criteria from Play England. The audit for these types of spaces has been divided into four sections: Location and Design, Added Play Value, Specific Play Activities, and Care and Maintenance.

9.20 Value criteria are based on the following indicators:

- The presence of different types of play equipment;
- Added play value, such as encouraging social, imaginative and natural play;
- Provision for different age groups; and
- Additional facilities, e.g. for parents and carers, and to promote use for teenagers/young people with additional needs.

9.21 Quality criteria are based on the following indicators:

- The design of the play site, e.g. to allow informal oversight; and
- Maintenance of overall site and individual facilities.

9.22 The additional play criteria used to assess play provision for children and teenagers at the secondary typology level.

Proposed quality and value benchmarks

9.23 Based on the audit form scoring system, an assessment can be made of the quality and value of open spaces. Due to the value score assessing the presence of features and facilities, and the quality score evaluating the management and condition of these features and facilities, the quality score will be higher if the value score is higher. This reflects the greater range of features of which the quality assessment is measuring.

9.24 The suggested standard quality and value scores for the different typologies and hierarchies are shown below:

■ Parks and Formal Gardens

- Doorstep/ Local - These are freely accessible, welcoming sites. Facilities expected to include footpaths, seating, and litter bins, as well as some provision for sports or play. There may be one or two habitats and some level of community interest or involvement.
- Neighbourhood - These are freely accessible, welcoming sites with some signage and a network of footpaths. Seating and litter bins are present, as well as good quality sports or play provision. Some evidence of being managed for biodiversity, including multiple habitats, or having value related to its heritage may be present. A well-performing park would be expected to have some level of community interest or involvement and be regularly visited by maintenance teams.
- Borough - These sites are expected to have well-presented entrances with provision of signage. The quality and value standard assumes the site will include good-quality basic facilities, such as seating and litter bins, as well as opportunities for sports provision, and good-quality play provision. The open space is expected to have an active community group and an up-to-date noticeboard. Multiple habitats or other evidence of being management for its biodiversity would be expected. Other features of interest, such as heritage features, local art work or a schedule of community activities may be present would be expected.

■ Natural Greenspace

- Doorstep and Local - These are freely accessible natural areas. They are expected to contain some habitats and evidence of being managed for their biodiversity value. The provision of footpaths, seating or litter bins is

- expected. Evidence of management to create a space which is perceived as safe and welcoming is expected.
- Neighbourhood - These are freely accessible natural areas which help protect biodiversity. They are expected to contain a range of natural habitats, with additional features to enhance their biodiversity value. The provision of footpaths, seating or litter bins is expected, as well as some welcoming signage. Evidence of management to create a space which is perceived as safe and welcoming is expected.
 - Brough - These are freely accessible, welcoming spaces. They are expected to contain multiple natural habitats, including habitats of high biodiverse value, with evidence of being managed to promote these features. They may form part of a wider natural heritage designation. Good-quality signage, footpaths, litter bins, and seating are expected. Evidence of management to create a space which is perceived as safe and welcoming is expected. These spaces should also include signage or other infrastructure to support their use for education to connect local people with the natural environment.
- Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds
- Doorstep and Local - These are freely accessible, well-maintained grassed areas overlooked by neighbouring residences. The provision of good-quality litter bins and/or seating or some provision for sport and play may be expected. Additionally, evidence of use by local communities, is expected.
 - Neighbourhood (also includes play provision for children and teenagers as the primary typology) - These are freely accessible, well-maintained grassed areas, usually with open entrances and may be overlooked by neighbouring residences or community halls. The provision of good-quality litter bins and/or seating, as well as some provision for sport or play may be expected. These spaces should provide spaces for informal recreation and should be well used by local communities.
- Wider countryside
- All hierarchies – These sites offer connection to the wider countryside but may contain a limited number of facilities for visitors. Wayfinding signage and / or benches may be present. The spaces are expected to be well maintained, with clear entrances and well-maintained boundaries and an absence of litter.
- Play provision for Children and Teenagers
- Local Areas for Play (LAPs) – These sites offer safe, social, playable spaces for young children or a limited range of age groups. Provision of signage, litter bins, seating and clean spaces are expected.

- Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) – These sites offer safe, social, playable spaces for young children and a broader range of age groups. Good site lines, provision of signage, litter bins, seating and clean spaces are expected.
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) – These sites offer safe, social, playable spaces for a wide range of ages, including young people. Good site lines, provision of signage, litter bins, plenty of seating and clean spaces are expected.
- Youth Space – These areas offer safe spaces designed for young people to meet and socialise. Clean spaces, litter bins, and shelter are expected.

9.25 Initial suggested benchmark scores for different typologies and levels of the hierarchies are set out in **Table 9.1**. Once local open spaces have been audited these can be reviewed and adjusted accordingly. The tool should be used to prioritise investment in open spaces to enhance those which are not performing as well as others. Therefore, local benchmarks should ensure that some open spaces fall below both benchmarks, and some fall above them.

Table 9.1: Example scoring benchmarks

Typology / Hierarchy	Suggested quality benchmark	Suggested value benchmark
Parks and gardens – Doorstep or local	35	18
Parks and gardens – Neighbourhood	60	27
Parks and gardens – Borough	75	45
Natural greenspace – Doorstep or local	34	20
Natural greenspace – Neighbourhood	50	28
Natural greenspace – Borough	55	38
Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds – Doorstep or local	32	20

Typology / Hierarchy	Suggested quality benchmark	Suggested value benchmark
Amenity greenspace and recreation grounds – Neighbourhood	42	27
Wider countryside – all hierarchies	32	18
Play provision for children and teenagers – Local Areas of Play	15	20
Play provision for children and teenagers – Local Equipped Areas of Play	17	26
Play provision for children and teenagers – Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play	20	30
Play provision for children and teenagers – youth space	10	20

Evaluating performance according to benchmarks

9.26 Scores for individual open spaces can be tested against the benchmarks to indicate where they ‘sit’ against the established standard for quality and value. Sites are then identified as falling into one of four categories set out in **Table 9.2** These categories can provide a broad indication of the type of management approach that may be needed across any given area or site.

Table 9.2: Categories for evaluating quality and value

Symbol and Colour Coding	Description
+ +	Higher quality/Higher value
+ -	Higher quality/Lower value
- +	Lower quality/Higher value

Symbol and Colour Coding	Description
- -	Lower quality/Lower value

- Higher Quality/Higher Value (+/+)

 - These sites represent the best open spaces within the study area, offering the greatest value to local communities. Future management should seek to maintain the standards to ensure sites continue to meet the needs of the communities they serve.
 - These sites would likely not be considered a priority in terms of future enhancement, however, improvements and enhancement to these sites may still be appropriate.

- Higher Quality/Lower Value (+/-)

 - The audit found these sites to be achieving a sufficient standard for quality, most likely with sufficient levels of maintenance. Features, facilities and habitats are likely to be in good condition, or a good state of repair. Value for these sites falls short of what should be expected of the typology and level of the hierarchy. For instance, through a lack of suitable features, facilities, opportunities for informal recreation and environmental functions.
 - These sites should be prioritised for future works to enhance the sites’ value, for instance through the appropriate provision of features and facilities and implementing design interventions.

- Lower Quality/Higher Value (- +)

 - These spaces meet or exceed the standard for value but fall short on the quality standard. These sites will most likely contain the features, facilities and attributes that is expected of the type and size of open space, but their condition may be poor and the site may be failing to achieve the expected standards of maintenance and management. Hard landscape features may be tired, broken, or beyond their useful life.
 - These sites provide most opportunity for ‘quick wins’ of improving open space provision through enhanced management and maintenance and repair of equipment.

- Lower Quality/Lower Value (- -)

 - These sites do not meet the quality standard or value standard. This may relate to poor condition of features, facilities and maintenance. These sites will likely not have the appropriate range of features and facilities, and could achieve more in terms of environmental functionality.

- Enhancing both the quality and value of these sites should be considered a priority, particularly in areas which suffer from a deficiency in access to, or quantity of, multifunctional publicly accessible open space.

Summary and implications

- Current quality and value assessments in Tameside are based on a limited number of criteria, which could be strengthened by linking more explicitly to the Green Flag Award which forms robust criteria for assessing open spaces.
- However, some consistent questions and scoring should be applied and recognised to allow comparison since 2017/18.
- The different benchmark scores per typology highlight the different role and expectation of different typologies of open space. In particular, the benchmarks emphasise the importance of parks and gardens for providing multifunctional value and high-quality spaces.
- Site based auditing of all open space forms a crucial 'next step' to decision-making for open spaces in Tameside.

Chapter 10

Recommendations

10.1 Future management should aim to protect the joined-up network of publicly accessible open space within Tameside, and enhance the multifunctionality of these spaces. Opportunities should be considered to ensure all residents are within access of a high quality and valued open space, within walking distance of their home.

Key stages for applying the standards

10.2 The findings of this study, along with any future work auditing the quality and value of the open spaces, should be used to inform priorities for future investment. The process for assessing open space provision within each locality and prioritising the enhancement is set out below.

Quantity Standard

10.3 In areas which fall below the required quantity standard, consideration should be given to enhancing other parts of the network to help minimise the impact of the gaps in provision. These are outlined below:

- Ensuring existing open spaces meet the required quality and value standards;
- Ensuring existing open spaces further afield are available to Tameside's communities, for example through wayfinding or creation of off-road routes; and
- Creating new open spaces to meet deficit. The typology of open space should be informed by the application of the quantity standards.

10.4 Additionally, where the quantity standard is met, there may still be a requirement for enhancements if certain circumstances are met. Consideration should be given to:

- Project population change to ensure adequate provision into the future to meet potential need;

- Potential barriers to accessing open space which mean some populations cannot use any open space; and
- The wider need for open space, which may mean additional open spaces or open space enhancements are required. This may include open spaces to provide flood reduction, urban cooling, space for biodiversity or improving environmental health. In places, diverse populations may require diverse open spaces which deliver a range of uses for different demographics.

Recommendations in Tameside

10.5 The quantity analysis highlighted a number of priorities which would enhance the quantity of open space provision:

- Provision of the parks and gardens typology should be prioritised within provision of new accessible greenspace. Overall provision of this typology in Tameside falls short of the expected standard. Alternatively, there may be scope to enhance provision within existing amenity greenspaces and recreation grounds to transform to provide more of the features which may be expected from parks and gardens.
- Additional accessible greenspace should be prioritised in the west of the borough where there is a lower current provision. This may include opportunities for creating small pocket parks within denser urban environments or exploring opportunities for new multifunctional accessible greenspace within the wider countryside.
- Provision of open space is particularly crucial in Ashton-under-Lyne, around the town centre where current provision is low and there is a higher need for open space and play spaces.
- Throughout Tameside, there is deficiency in the quantity of play provision of children and teenagers. Quantity of this typology could be enhanced through the promotion of playable space, including exploring opportunities for new equipped play, in other greenspaces and within the wider public realm. Inclusion of this typology within new developments should be provided.
- There is a deficiency in provision of allotments and community growing spaces throughout Tameside (with the exception of within Audenshaw and Denton). Provision of new open space should consider whether this typology is

appropriate, in line with local understanding of the need for this typology by considering existing waiting lists for allotments.

Accessibility Standard

10.6 The access maps for each typology and hierarchy should be assessed to consider deficiency to different types of open space. In areas which are deficient in access to open space, consideration should be given to ensuring the open spaces nearer to the gaps meet the required quality and value standards.

10.7 Additionally access considerations are outlined below:

- Addressing potential barriers to existing open spaces, for example introducing new entrances or pedestrian crossings over canals and railway lines to enhance accessibility to existing open spaces.
- Ensure access is suitable for visitors with limited mobility or other accessibility needs, including signposting and promotion of step-free access and wide, surfaced paths.
- Creating new open spaces in areas of open space deficiency. The typology of new open spaces should be informed by the form of deficiency.

Recommendations in Tameside

10.8 The accessibility analysis highlighted a number of priorities which would enhance the quantity of open space provision:

- Access to the borough and district level of open space is mostly absent in the west of the borough. However, there are natural greenspaces which do perform this role on the outskirts of the borough. These provide access to residents in the west of Tameside, although for most residents access may only be possible by a car or walking along busy roads. However, there are still gaps in access to this level of accessible greenspace in the centre of the borough, including Dukinfield and Audenshaw. The network of green and blue corridors, including along canals, could be promoted to help provide off-road access to larger spaces. In coordination with active travel teams, awareness and wayfinding could help promote use of green and blue corridors to allow residents in

Tameside to access larger spaces, including areas of moorland in the South Pennines and Country Parks.

- In Ashton-under-Lyne, as well as parts of Dukinfield, Denton and Audenshaw, there are areas with no access to any levels of the hierarchy. These should be prioritised for access to new accessible greenspace. There may be opportunities to transform unused very small verges or ad hoc spaces into small community gardens.
- In particular, delivery of new accessible greenspaces at the neighbourhood level of the hierarchy is required in order to provide an increase in access to large accessible greenspaces within 15 minutes of home. Currently around three quarters of Tameside is served by this level of the hierarchy (which is lower than for any of the other hierarchies).
- Prioritise investment in new play provision for children and teenagers and allotments and community growing spaces within areas of current deficiency, particularly where these overlap areas of greater open space and play space needs. For play provision for children and teenagers this includes around Gee Cross in Hyde. For allotments and community growing spaces this includes around Haughton Green and Springs.

Quality and Value Standards

10.9 Management of the greenspace network should seek to ensure all meet the quality and value standards. The recommended approach is set out below.

Recommendations in Tameside

10.10 An important first step will be carrying out a full quality and value audit of all the open spaces, to form an evidence base for prioritising enhancements within open spaces.

- The use of some consistent questions from the 2017/18 will allow comparison over time. Areas which have shown a decrease in quality and value score should be prioritised.
- For open spaces which score below the quality and value benchmarks, enhancements should be prioritised for open space which provide access for populations with limited provision of open spaces.

- Enhancements should be prioritised

Delivering future needs

10.11 As any new development proposals in Tameside come forward, the Council will need to ensure the development addresses any potential impact arising from additional pressure on existing open space and play provision and provides for the needs of the growing and changing population. New development should aim to provide open space inline with the standards set out in this report, and summarised below.

- Quantity provision should provide 4 ha / 1000 of accessible greenspace compared to the new population associated with the development. New accessible should be multifunctional, and include various areas of informal recreation, formal recreation and natural space. The provision of parks and gardens should also be prioritised to address the deficiency in quantity of this typology.
- New open space should include play provision for children and teenagers, particularly targeting age ranges that are not catered for within the existing provision of existing access catchments. Development should provide 0.55 ha / 1000 of play provision for children and teenagers compared to the expected child population of the development.
- In addition, community growing spaces could be incorporated within new spaces, or designed as standalone allotments spaces. The standard of 0.21 ha / 1000 should be considered as a guideline, unless there is alternative evidence from current waiting lists to allotments.
- New open space provision should consider existing access to other accessible greenspaces. New accessible greenspace should aim to provide typologies which the new development is currently not within the access catchment for.
- Where possible, accessible greenspace should be of an appropriate hierarchy to also provide access to those outside the development who do not fall within other access catchments, particularly to the neighbourhood hierarchy. There may be opportunities for larger greenspaces to be brought forward together between developments, provided all new populations would be within the access catchments to these spaces.
- New developments should be designed to incorporate off-road links between existing and new developments and new open space.

- Design of new open spaces should be considerate of the quality and value criteria set out in the audit form. Plans for ongoing management and maintenance of the accessible greenspaces must be set out.

10.12 Where possible, delivery of open space improvements in Tameside should be delivered as part of a joined-up approach, building on other evidence base works including within the playing pitch strategy, as well as work by the health and active travel teams.

10.13 The open space standards set out in this strategy could be applied to new developments to ensure that future population growth is complemented by additional provision of open space.

10.14 Where new developments cannot provide new open space, the main mechanism by which financial contributions to open space provision can be secured within the planning process is through Section 106 agreements.

10.15 Section 106 (of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) can be used when it can be reasonably demonstrated that a development directly affects a community or open space/play feature, and therefore investment in open space/play is needed as part of the mitigation package. There are three legal tests which must be met, in order for Section 106 agreements to be appropriate:

- Must be necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- Must be directly related to the development; and
- Must be reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

Appendix A

Consultation

A.1 The study has been informed by consultation with key stakeholders, including Friends of groups, other volunteers and council officers. This included an online survey with open text responses, and an in-person stakeholder workshop.

A.2 16 surveys were returned, incorporating individual and group representatives from Friends of Groups. Some responses were anonymised so data on the groups represented by these responses was limited but include

- St Gabriel's Community Group
- FoKGVPF Friends of King George the fifth Playing Fields
- Friends of Sunny Bank Vale, Droylsden

A.3 The stakeholder workshop was held on the third of June. Attendees included:

- Tameside council: 4 attendees, including from
 - Policy
 - Development management/ planning
 - Allotments and volunteering office
- Friends of the Tame Valley: 2 attendees
- Friends of Gorse Hall: 2 attendees
- Children of the Fallen (Ashton memorial gardens): 2 attendees
- Friends of Waterloo Park Ashton: 2 attendees
- Croft Millennium Green Hyde + Greenspace: 1 attendee
- Dukinfield East Residents Association + Tameside Green Internet Group: 1 attendee
- Friends of Sunny Bank Vale- Droylsden: 1 attendee

A.4 Key themes emerging from consultation are listed here.

- Acknowledgement that there is a differing provision across the borough. Dukinfield and Hyde have been identified as having a perceived lower quantity and quality of open spaces compared to Ashton. It was noted that Stalybridge and Mossley have good access to the wider countryside. Respondents

expressed a range of views of whether there were enough open spaces in Tameside which may reflect this.

- Key benefits associated with visiting open spaces were health, wellbeing and socialising. In particular the importance of physical activity, including walking, was mentioned. In addition, some respondents highlighted the peace of being in nature and opportunities for spending time with friends and family. Several respondents also noted that these benefits for people needed to be balanced with the importance of open spaces for protecting nature.
- The tension between open spaces and new development was drawn out by several respondents. It was also noted that increases in population would need to be accompanied by new open spaces to accommodate this.
- In both the in-person consultation and the survey, anti-social behaviour was highlighted as an issue within open spaces, and a potential barrier for people using open spaces more regularly. Discussions around this highlighted that this is a challenging issue to address. The importance of volunteering and a sense of community ownership within open spaces was promoted as a potential solution.
- Another key issue identified was contaminated land within open space, including along the River Tame. Flytipping was also noted as a factor.
- Several respondents listed key features they want to see in parks, including a wish for more cafés, toilets, seating and disabled parking. Some participants noted that they would rather travel further to reach larger sites with a greater offer.
- Many of the respondents were volunteers within greenspaces, including through Friends Of groups. The responses showed that there is a significant amount of work being done by volunteer groups and many of the activities run within parks were highlighted as being key benefits of open spaces.
- Additional consultation with Press Red, consultants working on promoting physical activity in Tameside, highlighted key barriers in using open spaces for exercise for certain demographic groups. The findings from their work will further inform the recommendations coming out of this study.

10.16 In 2019, the government lifted the restriction which prevented pooling of Section 106 contributions. This increases the opportunity for Section 106 contributions to be used for addressing open space and green infrastructure priorities.

Appendix B

Quantity and Accessibility Standards for Greater Manchester

B.1 The recommended standards for quantity and accessibility of open spaces in the other boroughs in Greater Manchester were considered when setting standards for Tameside. These are presented in the tables below for the following councils:

- Bolton: Accessibility standards [\[See reference 52\]](#)
- Bury Council: Quantity and Accessibility Standards [\[See reference 53\]](#)
- City of Manchester: Quantity standards [\[See reference 54\]](#) and accessibility standards [\[See reference 55\]](#) [\[See reference 56\]](#)
- Oldham Council: Quantity and accessibility standards [\[See reference 57\]](#)
- Rochdale Borough Council: Rochdale are currently in the processes of completing and assessment of open space, sport and recreational facilities, aiming to publish by December 2023.
- Salford City Council: Some quantity and accessibility standards [\[See reference 58\]](#)
- Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council: Quantity and accessibility standards [\[See reference 59\]](#)
- Trafford Council: Open Space Assessment [\[See reference 60\]](#)
- Wigan Council: Quantity and accessibility standards [\[See reference 61\]](#)

B.2 Standards for Greater Authority are shown in Table B.1 and Table B.2.

Table B.1: Quantity standards in authority local authorities in Greater Manchester

Typology	Bury	Manchester	Oldham	Salford	Stockport	Trafford	Wigan
Parks and Gardens	0.73 ha	0.49 ha	0.26 ha	N/A	1.01 ha	1 ha	0.75 ha
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	3.9 ha	1.90 ha	1.95 ha	N/A	1.80 ha	1 ha	2 ha
Amenity Greenspace	0.5 ha	0.40 ha	0.46 ha	0.45 ha	0.84 ha	Included within the total Accessible Greenspace standard (3 ha per 1000 population).	0.3 ha
Play provision for Children and Teenagers	0.25 ha	0.027/0.034 ha	0.37/0.10 ha	0.25 ha	0.25 ha	0.25 ha	0.37 ha
Cemeteries and Churchyards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table B.2: Accessibility standards in authority local authorities in Greater Manchester

Typology	Bolton	Bury	Manchester	Oldham	Salford	Stockport	Trafford	Wigan
Parks and Gardens	400-3,200 m	400-1,200 m	480 m	720 m	1,200-3200 m	710 m	Part of accessible greenspace 200-5000 m	600-3200 m
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	120-1,600 m	1,200 m	720 m	720 m	500-4000 m	720 m	Part of accessible greenspace 200-5000 m	300-5000 m
Amenity Greenspace	120-900 m	400 m	480 m	720 m	N/A	480 m	Part of accessible greenspace 200-5000 m	700m
Play provision for Children and Teenagers	60-600 m	400 m	480 / 720 m	480 m	500-1000 m	N/A	100-1000 m	300-1,200 m
Cemeteries and Churchyards	240-3,200 m	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix C

Population estimates

C.1 Population estimates were based on data from the Census 2021 data. Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which Census data is applicable to do not coincide with the neighbourhood areas used for analysis at a more local scale. Population estimates for each neighbourhood areas were calculated by taking the percentage of each LSOA within the neighbourhood area. This assumes that there is an even distribution of population across each LSOA.

C.2 Assessing quantity of play provision for children and teenagers was calculated compared to child population. Data at the LSOA level groups ages into five year bands. Population under 15 was used a proxy for child population.

C.3 To estimate future population, the location of future allocations were used. For each allocation, the number of units was multiplied by the average occupancy in Tameside (2 people per residence) to estimate increased population. Where any allocations fell across neighbourhood areas, the population was split across the neighbourhood areas according to the area of allocation in each. The future population was added to the existing population to provide an estimate of population in 2041.

C.4 To assess future child population, the percentage of the current population under 15 was applied to the expected future population. This was then added to the existing population.

C.5 The population estimates used are shown in Table C.1.

Table C.1: Population estimates

Neighbourhood area	Current population	Current population under 15	Future population (2041)	Future population under 15 (2041)
Ashton-under-Lyne	48,415	10,460	51,955	11,225
Audenshaw	13,867	2,700	14,133	2,751

Neighbourhood area	Current population	Current population under 15	Future population (2041)	Future population under 15 (2041)
Denton	34,279	6,024	35,403	6,221
Droylsden	24,028	4,707	25,190	4,934
Dukinfield	12,965	2,627	13,119	2,659
Hyde	36,306	7,244	42,032	8,386
Longdendale	11,934	2,635	12,622	2,787
Mossley	12,524	2,411	14,142	2,722
Stalybridge	38,334	7,294	40,532	7,713
Whole Borough	232,652	46,101	249,128	49,366

Appendix D

Audit form

Open Space Audit

Desk based assessment

+3 Number indicates the increase or decrease in score.

Completed by:

Site ID:

Site Name:

Grid reference:

Ownership (council, private, other):

Area (ha):

Category of open space:

 ent

 ent

0. Designations

0.1 National

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 0.1a Listed building | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| 0.1b Scheduled Monument | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| 0.1c Site of Special Scientific Interest | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| 0.1d Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| 0.1e Special Area of Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | +2 |
| 0.1f Special Protection Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | +2 |
| 0.1g Ramsar | <input type="checkbox"/> | +2 |
| 0.1h Green Belt | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| 0.1i National Nature Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |

0.2 Regional

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----|
| 0.2a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation/Local Wildlife Site | <input type="checkbox"/> | +2 |
| 0.2b Regionally Important Geological Site | <input type="checkbox"/> | +2 |
| 0.2c Biodiversity Opportunity Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> | +2 |

0.3 Access

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| 0.3a National/Regional Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| 0.3b Sustrans Routes | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |

0.4 Local - Statutory

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 0.4a Conservation Area | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 0.4b Local Nature Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 0.4c Locally Important Geological Site | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |

0.5 Other

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 0.5a Within a Flood Risk Zone | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 0.5b Ancient Woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 0.5c Tree Preservation Order | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 0.5d Has the site achieved a Green Flag Award? | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| 0.5e Has the site achieved a Green Flag Community Award? | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| 0.5f Has the site achieved a Green Heritage Award? | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| 0.5g Contain Priority Habitat? | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |

Open Space Audit

Site based assessment

Site ID:

Site Name:

Category of open space:

Audit date and time:

Time spent surveying:

Survey site access (e.g. access to whole site/ access to part of site/ no access to site):

Is the site still an open space? If not, please describe below:

1. Welcoming place

1.1 Site access

1.1a Please tick which option applies from the following list:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----|
| Freely accessible to public - all the time | <input type="checkbox"/> | +5 |
| Freely accessible to public opening hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| Limited to members | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| No Public access | <input type="checkbox"/> | 0 |

1.1b Are there any areas which are fenced from public access?

Comment:

1.2 Access and entrances

1.2a Is the site connected other nearby open spaces (including through walking and cycling routes) +1

Please score each of the following - use the guidance note to help where necessary:

1.2b To what extent are the entrances well presented? +1-5

1.2c To what extent are the boundaries well defined and maintained? +1-5

1.2d What is the overall quality of access and accesses within and through the open space? +1-5

1.2e What is the overall quality of access and accesses for people travelling to the open space? +1-5

1.2f What is the overall provision of welcoming signage? +1-5

1.3 Inclusivity

Is there evidence of any of the following:

1.3a Signage is accessible and welcoming for all users) +1

1.3b Step free access +1

1.3c Signage indicating accessible routes / footpaths +1

1.3d Specific features designed to increase accessibility e.g. picnic benches with space for a wheelchair, passing points along footpaths) +1

2. Health, safety and security

2.1 Community safety/sense of security

Please tick those which apply:

- 2.1a Is there natural surveillance into the site from surrounding properties or high streets? +1
- 2.1b Multiple entrance / exits +1
- 2.1c Is there a flow of people through the green space (to achieve self surveillance)? +1
- 2.1d Is lighting provided? +1
- 2.1e Is there CCTV? +1
- 2.1f Is there a marked help point or onsite staff? +1
- 2.1g Overall, does the open space feel safe to visit? +1

2.2 Basic amenities

Please tick and score those that are on site - use the guidance note to help where necessary.

- 2.2a Litter +/- dog bin +1
- 2.2b Seating NA or +1-5
- 2.2c Personal rescue equipment +1
- 2.2d Cycle parking +1
- 2.2e Toilets +3
- 2.2f Cafe +3
- 2.2g Other +1

2.3 Active recreation/ sport provision

Please tick and score those which apply:

- 2.3a Grass pitches +1
- 2.3b Artificial pitches (e.g. Astro turf) NA or +1-5
- 2.3c Tennis courts +1
- 2.3d Walking/ jogging NA or +1-5
- 2.3e Water activities (other than play areas) +1
- 2.3f Bowls +1
- 2.3g Other +1

2.4 Play and young people provision

Please tick and score those which apply:

- 2.4a Equipped play (under 5) +1
- 2.4b Equipped play (5-11) NA or +1-5

- 2.4c Equipped play (11+) +1
- 2.4d MUGA NA or +1-5
- 2.4e Single basketball hoop +1
- 2.4f Teen shelter or social seating NA or +1-5
- 2.4g Green gym +1
- 2.4h Skate ramp NA or +1-5
- 2.4i BMX track +1
- 2.4j Other NA or +1-5
- 2.4j Other +1

2.5 User facilities summary

- 2.5a** User facilities - overview of adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins and toilets.
- Usable provision compared to typology +5
- Poor provision for typology +2
- No provision where there could be -2

3. Clean and well maintained

3.1 Cleanliness

- 3.1a Is graffiti evident? 0 or -1-2
- 3.1b Is vandalism evident? 0 or -1-2
- 3.1c Overall cleanliness? +1-5

3.2 Cleanliness

What is the condition of the following features?

- 3.2a Overall condition of planted areas NA or +1-5
- 3.2b Overall condition of grass areas NA or +1-5
- 3.2c Overall condition of footpaths NA or +1-5
- 3.2d Overall condition of water and associated edge treatment NA or +1-5
- 3.2e Overall condition of buildings and built features NA or +1-5

3.3 Overall attractiveness

- 3.3a Does the green space contribute to the setting of the immediate local area? +1
- 3.3b Is the open space visually attractive? +1
- 3.3c Noise pollution -2
- 3.3d Air and water pollution -2
- 3.3e Intrusive buildings -2
- 3.3f Erosion -2
- 3.3g Lack of landscape management / maintenance -2
- 3.3h Invasive non-native species -2
- 3.3i Motorcycle scrambling and mini-bikes -2
- 3.3j Flytipping -2
- 3.3k Flooding -2

- 3.3l Excessive lighting -2
 - 3.3m Dog fouling -2
 - 3.3n Other -2
- Please state:

3.4 Overall maintainance

- 3.4a** Maintenance and cleanliness such as the condition of the general landscape and features appropriate for the typology
- Once a week / excellent +7
 - Once a month +5
 - Every three months +3
 - Every six months +2
 - Yearly +1
 - None / poor 0

4. Sustainability

4.1 Planting

Tick which of the following are present

- 4.1a Drought tolerant planting +1
- 4.1b Significant areas of shade +1
- 4.1c Orchards / edible planting +1
- 4.1d Green or brown roofs +1
- 4.1e Rain gardens, swales, detention basin or other SuDS / NFM features +1

4.2 Planting

Tick which of the following are present

- 4.2a Water conservation measures +1
- 4.2b Recycling of waste and materials +1
- 4.2c Sustainable energy (e.g. solar/wind/electric car charging) +1
- 4.2d Woodland management +1

4.3 Buffer

Does the green space act as a buffer for/ absorb noise or air pollution from

- 4.2a Nearby traffic +1
 - 4.2b Nearby industry +1
 - 4.2c Other +1
- Please state:

5. Nature conservation and heritage

5.1 Vegetation

Tick which of the following are present

- 5.1a Grassland NA or +1-3
- 5.1b Woodland NA or +1-3
- 5.1c Wetland NA or +1-3
- 5.1d Hedgerows NA or +1-3
- 5.1e Horticultural planting NA or +1-3
- 5.1f Is there evidence of invasive non-native plant species? 0 or -1-3

5.1g Does the green space form part of a wider network of green spaces and green infrastructure (e.g. street trees, verges, rivers, wider countryside?) 0 or +1-2

5.2 Management

Tick which of the following are present

5.2a Animal homes e.g. Bird boxes / bat boxes / bug hotels etc. +1

5.2b Infrastructure to facilitate wildlife watching e.g. bird hide +1

5.2c Educational signage detailing species that can be found on the site +1

Which of the following management practices are applied

5.2d Areas of grass left unmown +1

5.2e New tree planting +1

5.2f Dead wood habitat piles left +1

5.2g Other evidence of management for nature conservation +1

5.3 Sustainability and biodiversity value summary

+5
+2
-2

5.4 Heritage

Tick which of the following are present

5.4a Heritage Park features +1

5.4b Designed parkland landscape +1

5.4c Any other historic features +1

6. Community involvement, marketing and culture

6.1 Community involvement

6.1a Is there evidence of an active community group? +3

Are the following notices displayed:

6.1b Is there a permanent public noticeboard on site? +1

6.1c If so, are up to date notices displayed? +1

6.1d Is a programme of cultural or other community activities displayed? +1

6.1e Are there any temporary notices on site informing users about current developments? +1

6.1f If so, are they up to date? +1

6.2 Education

Is the site supporting education:

6.2a Is the site providing educational interest through interpretation or evidence of specific educational activities +1

6.2b Is there a built facility on site which is being used by the local community for education? +1

6.2c Is there evidence that a natural feature on site is being used by the local community for education? +1

6.2d Is there a school, immediately adjacent to the green space? +1

6.3 Marketing

Are any of the following social and cultural facilities located on or adjacent to green space? Tick those which apply.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 6.3a Community centre | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.3b Youth centre | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.3c Arts or cultural venue | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.3d Village hall | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.3e Village shop | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.3f Sports changing rooms | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.3g Indoor sport hall/ leisure centre | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.3h Village shop / convenience store | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.3i Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |

Please state:

6.4 Arts and culture

Please tick if yes to each question below

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----|
| 6.4a Is there a dedicated outdoor performance area within the green space? | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.4b Does the green space contain public art? | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 6.4c Does the green space feature any recognisable landmark features of local importance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |

6.5 Heritage and or community value summary

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 6.3a Heritage and or community value | | |
| High status | <input type="checkbox"/> | +5 |
| Medium status | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| Limited or low status | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| No heritage and/or community value | <input type="checkbox"/> | -2 |

7. Summary

7.1 Informal recreation

Is there evidence the green space is being used for informal recreation? Please tick those which apply.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 7.1a Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 7.1b Dog walking | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 7.1c Informal children's play (not play equipment) | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 7.1d Young people hanging out | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 7.1e Sitting/ relaxing | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 7.1f Desire lines (unplanned worn routes) | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 7.1g Skateboarding (not formal skate park) | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 7.1h Cycling (not formal BMX track) | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 7.1i Food growing | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |
| 7.1j Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |

Please state:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------|
| 7.1k Overall provision for informal recreation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1-3 |
|--|--------------------------|------|

7.2 Level of use summary

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----|
| 7.2a Level of use (observational assessments) | | |
| Well used | <input type="checkbox"/> | +5 |
| Adequately used | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| Poorly used | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |

8. Potential themes for enhancement

8.1 Benefits / services

Please tick box one for those existing, box 2 for potential to enhance

- | | | |
|------|---|--------------------------|
| 8.1a | Water attenuation - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1b | Water attenuation - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1c | Reduces air pollution - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1d | Reduces air pollution -potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1e | Reduces noise pollution - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1f | Reduces noise pollution - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1g | Shading - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1h | Shading - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1i | Biodiversity / wildlife enhancement - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1j | Biodiversity / wildlife enhancement - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1k | Cultural heritage - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1k | Cultural heritage - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1l | Visual enhancement - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1m | Visual enhancement - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1n | Space for people / informal recreation - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1o | Space for people / informal recreation - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1p | Play - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1q | Play - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1r | Food growing - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1s | Food growing - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1t | Separate function - existing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.1u | Separate function - potential to enhance | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8.2 Multifunctionality summary

8.2a Evidene of different user types and number of uses

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| Site has five uses or more | <input type="checkbox"/> | +5 |
| Site has four uses | <input type="checkbox"/> | +4 |
| site has three uses | <input type="checkbox"/> | +3 |
| Site has two uses | <input type="checkbox"/> | +2 |
| site has one use | <input type="checkbox"/> | +1 |

8.3 Potential enhancement details

Free text box

9. Comments

9.1 Further information

- 9.1a Please add any further information on open space e.g. details of primary or secondary uses/ purposes or any significant issues/ opportunities which should be highlighted in addition to those specified in Q8.

9.2 Magement summary

9.2a Level oif management maintenane through observational assessment and engagement with public land managers

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| Site has a management plan | <input type="checkbox"/> | +5 |
| Maintenance team is based o site | <input type="checkbox"/> | +4 |

Maintenance team visits site occasionally
None

+2

0

Open Space Audit - Play spaces

Site based assessment

Site ID:

Site Name:

Category of open space:

Audit date and time:

Time spent surveying:

Survey site access (e.g. access to whole site/ access to part of site/ no access to site):

Is the site still an open space? If not, please describe below:

1. Play provision

1.1 Overall play provision

- 1.1a** Is there play equipment on site (including natural play)?
- 1.1b** How many separate items of equipment?
- 1.1c** Is it for under 5 years? +1
- 1.1d** 5-11 years? +1
- 1.1e** Over 11 years? +1

1.2 Play activities

What play activities are provided for? Tick those which apply.

- 1.2a** Balancing +1
- 1.2b** Rocking +1
- 1.2c** Social play +1
- 1.2d** Rotating +1
- 1.2e** Viewing +1
- 1.2f** Touching +1
- 1.2g** Swinging +1
- 1.2h** Sliding +1
- 1.2i** Climbing / agility +1
- 1.2j** Loose parts +1
- 1.2k** Jumping +1
- 1.2l** Counting +1
- 1.2m** Waterplay +1
- 1.2n** Crawling / hiding +1
- 1.2o** Meeting up / relaxing +1

1.3 Equipment surroundings

- 1.3a** Is there impact absorbing surfacing around the equipment?
Condition +1
- 1.3b** Are there benches within enclosure/adjacent to equipment?
Condition NA or +1-5
- 1.3c** Are there litterbins within enclosure/adjacent to equipment?
Condition +1
- 1.3d** Is there a play area notice at the entrance stating dog free, children only and emergency contacts?
Condition NA or +1-5
- 1.3e** Is there space, separate from the equipped area, for informal play/ general runabout/ natural play? +1
- 1.3f** Overall condition of play equipment +1-5

2. Youth provision

2.1 Youth provision

- 2.1a** MUGA
Condition +1
- 2.1b** Single basketball hoop
Condition NA or +1-5
- 2.1c** Teen shelter or social seating
Condition +1
- 2.1d** Green gym
Condition NA or +1-5
- 2.1e** Skate ramp
Condition +1
- 2.1e** Skate ramp
Condition NA or +1-5

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Report produced by LUC

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Bristol

12th Floor, Beacon Tower, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 4XE
0117 389 0700
bristol@landuse.co.uk

Cardiff

Room 1.12, 1st Floor, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Rd, Cardiff CF24 0EB
0292 254 0920
cardiff@landuse.co.uk

Edinburgh

Atholl Exchange, 6 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EG
0131 326 0900
edinburgh@landuse.co.uk

Glasgow

37 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JJ
0141 403 0900
glasgow@landuse.co.uk

London

250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD
020 7199 5801
london@landuse.co.uk

Manchester

4th Floor, 57 Hilton Street, Manchester M1 2EJ
0161 802 2800
manchester@landuse.co.uk

Sheffield

32 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 4QZ
0114 392 2366
sheffield@landuse.co.uk

landuse.co.uk

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