

STOCKTON-ON-TEES

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT (PART 1)

MARCH 2017

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Glossary

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area using a synthetic grass or hard surface for playing sports)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SOT	Stockton-on-Tees
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Stockton-on-Tees (SOT) Borough Council. It focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study.

The Assessment Report provides detail with regard to what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It considers the demand for provision based upon population distribution, planned growth and consultation findings. The Strategy (to follow the assessment report) will give direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable provision for open spaces in Stockton-on-Tees.

This study replaces a previous PPG17 assessment and Open Space Audit completed in 2005.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; *Assessing Needs and Opportunities* published in September 2002.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced PPG17. However, assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17 as it still remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.

Under paragraph 73 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 74 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. The table below details the open space typologies and thresholds:

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Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose	Size threshold
Urban Parks	Diverse range of opportunities for informal recreation and community events.	n/a
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.	0.2 hectares
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.	0.2 hectares
Play areas	Playgrounds or other areas designed primarily for outdoor play. Usually designed for children but may be used by young people and families.	n/a
Informal sports facilities	Facilities such as multi-use games areas (MUGAs), kick walls, skate parks or other facilities used for informal games or activities. Usually designed for older children and young people, but may be used by others.	n/a
Allotments & community gardens	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.	n/a
Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.	n/a
Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.	n/a

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space facilities in Stockton-on-Tees. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2 of this report. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces originally defined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'; it is structured as follows:

- Part 3: General open space summary
- Part 4: Urban parks
- Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace
- Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- Part 7: Play areas and informal sports facilities
- Part 8: Allotments & community gardens
- Part 9: Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds

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1.2 National context

The NPPF sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Under paragraph 73 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 74 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

1.3 Local context

This study and its findings are important in their contribution to the Council's emerging Local Plan. They are an integral part of identifying and regulating the open space infrastructure. Through recognising open space provision in plan form, it can be assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, whilst strengthening its presence in planning policy for the future and maximising opportunities for investment.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011 expresses the importance of understanding the wider environmental, social, health and economic issues and how green infrastructure can help to address challenges within the Borough.

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, Stockton-on-Tees is divided into eight analysis areas (reflecting the geographic and demographic characteristics of the area).

These allow more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The area is broken down as follows:

Table 2.1: Population by analysis area

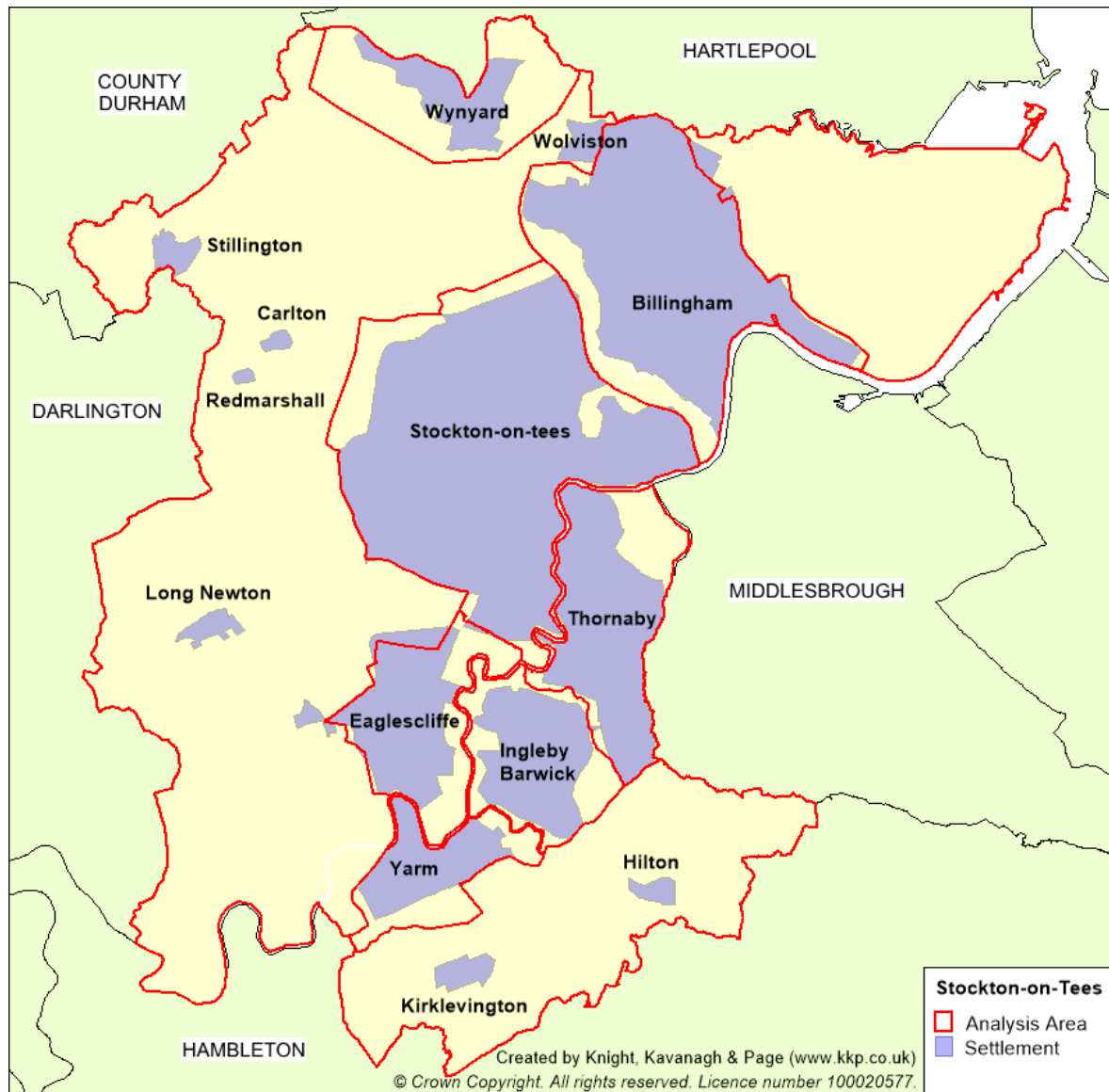
Analysis area	Population (2014)¹
Billingham	28,992
Eaglescliffe	8,037
Ingleby Barwick	20,339
Rural	12,758
Stockton	78,284
Thornaby	25,171
Wynyard	1,491
Yarm	7,571
Stockton-on-Tees	182,643

Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of analysis areas with settlement boundaries. Figure 2.2 shows the population density of the study area. Figure 2.3 shows the major road networks and river paths. In some areas, these may act as barriers to movement; particularly in places where the River Tee cannot be crossed.

¹ ONS Mid-2014 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

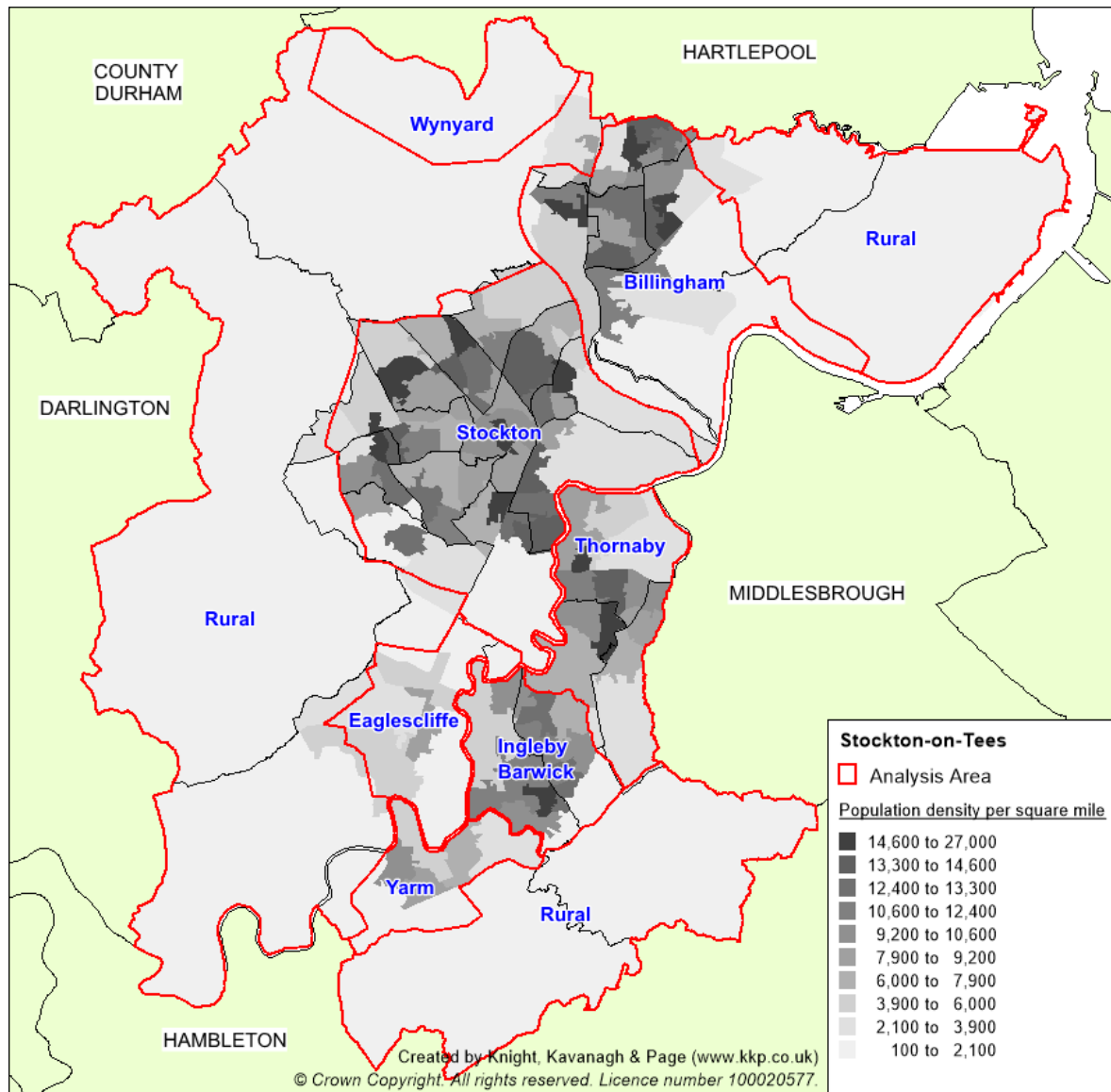
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Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in Stockton-on-Tees with settlement boundaries



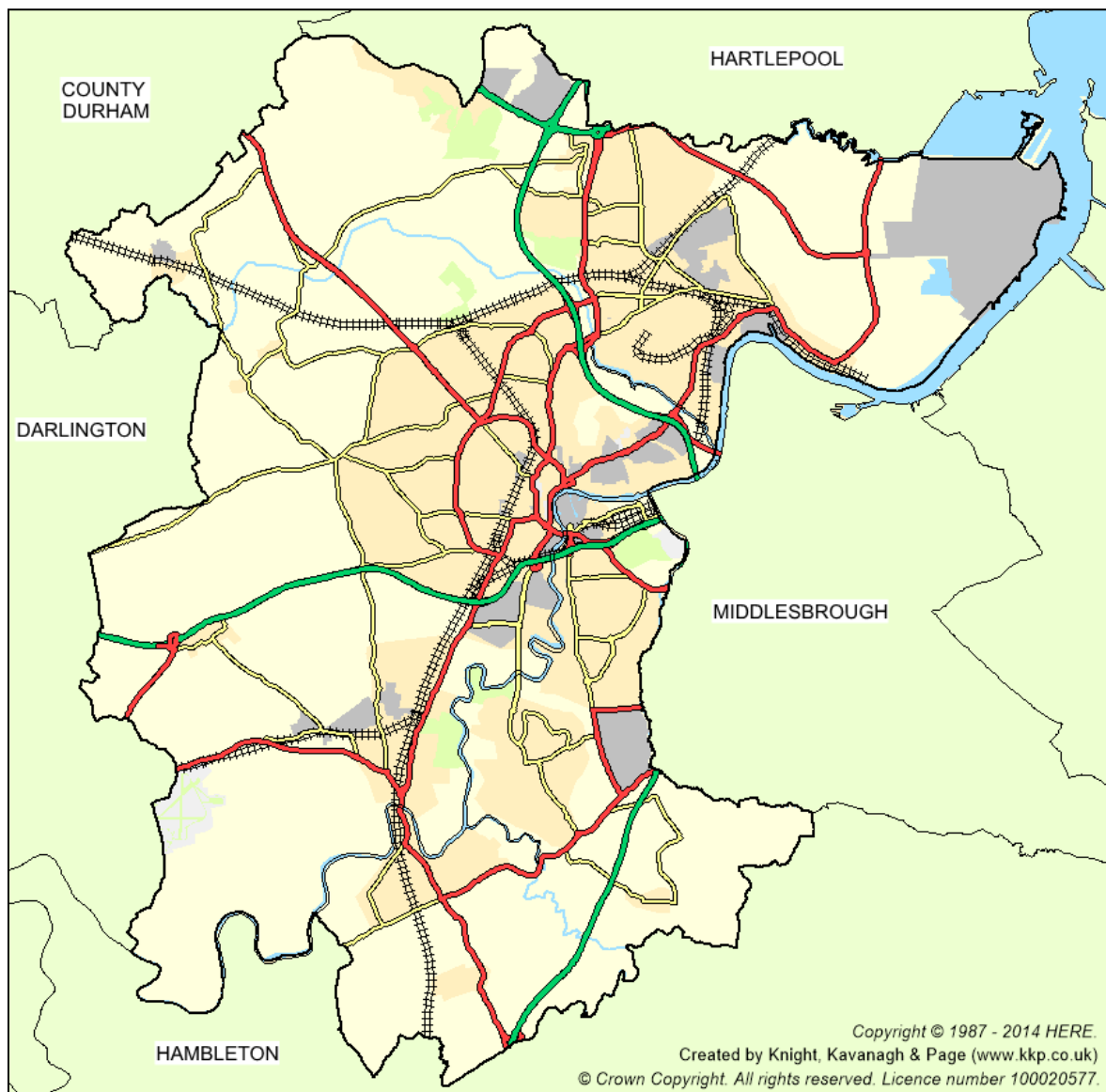
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Figure 2.2: Analysis areas in Stockton-on-Tees with population density



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Figure 2.3: Potential barriers to movement in Stockton-on-Tees



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2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The site audit for this study was undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. In total, 403 open spaces (including play areas and informal sports facilities) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with the Guidance:

1. Urban Parks
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Play areas and informal sports
5. Allotments and community gardens
6. Green corridors
7. Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds

The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated Stockton-on-Tees Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Action Plan (2015 to 2025). The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space (as a different methodology is prescribed). However, where sites hosting playing pitches serve another open space purpose such as a park or amenity greenspace they have been considered within this assessment.

Database development

All information relating to open spaces is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded on it. The database details for each site are as follows:

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◀ Site name
- ◀ Ownership
- ◀ Management
- ◀ Typology
- ◀ Size (hectares)
- ◀ Site visit data

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

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2.3 Quality and value

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon those derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

- ▶ Physical access; e.g. public transport links, directional signposts, boundary features
- ▶ Personal security; e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance, CCTV
- ▶ Access-social; e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths, pathways
- ▶ Parking; e.g. availability, specific, disabled parking, cycle parking
- ▶ Information signage; e.g. presence of up to date site information, notice boards
- ▶ Equipment and facilities; e.g. assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ▶ Location value; e.g. proximity of housing, other greenspace
- ▶ Site problems; e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
- ▶ Healthy, safe and secure; e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
- ▶ Maintenance and cleanliness; e.g. condition of general landscape & features
- ▶ Site meets the needs of groups; e.g. elderly, young people
- ▶ Site potential

For the provision for play areas and informal sports facilities, a criterion is built around the 'Fields in Trust' document '*Planning & Design for Outdoor Sports and Play*'. This suggests the creation of a hierarchy in the form of destination sites, neighborhood sites and doorstep sites. This is determined by overall site quality (rated using above criteria) and units of play as well as access to toilets, refreshments, landscaping and other leisure facilities. It also takes into account site access and personal security.

Play areas and informal sports provision is scored for value as part of the audit assessment. Value, in particular is recognised in terms of size of sites and the range of equipment they host. For instance, a small site with only one or two items is likely to be of a lower value than a site with several different forms of equipment designed to cater for wider age ranges. This will impact on a sites attractiveness and level of use.

To represent that some play provision has a greater level of use and value an additional number of units is applied to certain forms of provision. In general, one play unit is one piece of play equipment i.e. a slide equals one unit. However, for larger and more extensive provision such as skate parks, multi-use games area and climbing towers a weighted scoring system is applied. More detail on this is set out in Part 7: Play Areas and Informal Sports Facilities.

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Analysis of value

Site visit data plus desk based research is calculated to provide value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in the Companion Guide in relation to the following three issues:

- ◀ Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◀ Level and type of use.
- ◀ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

<p>Value criteria for open space site visits (score)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces◀ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity and character of the area◀ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats◀ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes, people and features◀ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being◀ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks◀ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far
<p>Value - non site visit criteria (score)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Designated site such as Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Local Wildlife Site (LWS) or SSSI◀ Educational programme in place◀ Historic site◀ Listed building or historical monument on site◀ Registered 'friends of' group to the site

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

The baseline threshold for assessing quality can often be set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Quality thresholds are, thus, worked out so as to reflect mean scores for each typology. Consequently, the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

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For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from KKP's experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites. Whilst 20% may initially seem low it is relative score - designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). A table setting out the quality and value thresholds for each typology is provided below.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Urban Parks	50%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	40%	20%
Amenity greenspace	45%	20%
Play areas and informal sports	50%	20%
Allotments and community gardens	50%	20%
Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds	45%	20%
Green Corridors	50%	20%

2.5 Identifying local need (demand)

Consultation to identify local need for open space provision has been carried out via a combination of face-to-face meetings, surveys and telephone interviews. It has also been conducted with key local authority officers (in respect of each typology).

An online community survey was created and used to gather the wider views of local people. A total of 288 online returns were received. In addition, 404 street surveys were conducted in key centres across the Stockton-on-Tees Borough. These were undertaken at the main retail centres in Stockton, Ingleby Barwick, Norton, Billingham, Thornaby and Yarm. Therefore, a combined total of 692 returns were received. The findings of the consultation and community and street surveys carried out are used, reviewed and interpreted to further support the results of the quality and value assessment.

2.6 Accessibility catchments

Accessibility catchments for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process this problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that would be travelled by the majority of users (i.e. respondents to the survey).

In order to make accessibility locally specific to Stockton-on-Tees, we have predominantly used data from the survey consultation to set appropriate catchments.

It is important to note that accessibility mapping is for use at a strategic level and more detailed localised assessment will be required when assessing localised provision.

Guidance is also offered by Fields In Trust (FIT) on the appropriate walking distance and times that can be applied for different levels of play sites and types of open space.

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Table 2.3: FIT walking guidelines

Open space type		Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens		710m	9 minute
Amenity Greenspace		480m	6 minute
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		720m	9 minute
Play areas & informal sports facilities	LAP	100m	1 minute
	LEAP	400m	5 minute
	NEAP	1,000m	12 ½ minute
	Other provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	700m	9 minute

The different types of play sites are defined by FIT as:

- ◀ LAP - a Local Area for Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment, where provided, is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.
- ◀ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area for Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.
- ◀ NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large park sites.

Stockton Borough Council adopts a similar hierarchy for play areas, but the categories do not correspond precisely to the above FIT classifications. More details are provided in section 7.2, but an equipped LAP or a LEAP broadly equate to a 'Doorstep site' while a NEAP is categorised as either a 'Neighbourhood' or 'Destination' site.

The following catchments are based on the survey returns in relation to how far individuals are willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

Table 2.4: Accessibility catchments to travel to open space provision

Typology		Applied catchment
Urban parks		20 minute walk time (1600m)
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		20 minute walk time (1600m)
Amenity greenspace		6 minute walk time (480m)
		15 minute walk time (1200m)
Play areas & informal sports facilities	Doorstep sites	5 minute walk time (400m)
	Neighbourhood sites	12 ½ minute walk time (1,000m)
	Destination sites	30 minute walk time (2400m)
	Informal sports facilities	15 minute walk time (1200m)
Allotments & community gardens		15 minute walk time (1200m)
Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds		No catchment set
Green corridors		No catchment set

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A 20-minute walk time is applied to urban parks and natural and semi-natural greenspace. This can be attributed to the area having a number of large publicly accessible natural areas such as Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park & Wynyard Woodland Park in the Rural Analysis Area, which people will be willing to travel a greater distance to access. This is most likely the case for other 'destination' sites such as Preston Park and Ropner Park, which fall into the urban parks typology.

As destination sites across Stockton emerge throughout the report, this will be taken into account with a focus on such sites as part of the subsequent Strategy document.

The walking catchments applied to play area and informal sport sites is intended to reflect that different forms of provision will have different levels of attraction. For instance, some smaller forms of provision are likely to be used on a more local basis. Larger and more expansive forms of play provision are likely to have a greater level of attraction; and consequently, individuals are more likely to be willing to travel further distances.

Similarly, for amenity greenspace two different walk time catchments have been applied. Again, this is to reflect the variation in size and features of different forms of amenity greenspace and their level of appeal/use.

No catchment is set for the typologies of green corridors or cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds. This is because it is difficult to assess against catchment areas due to their nature and usage.

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PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for each typology in Stockton-on-Tees. It also includes a summary of the responses from the community and street surveys. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in this report.

3.1 Usage

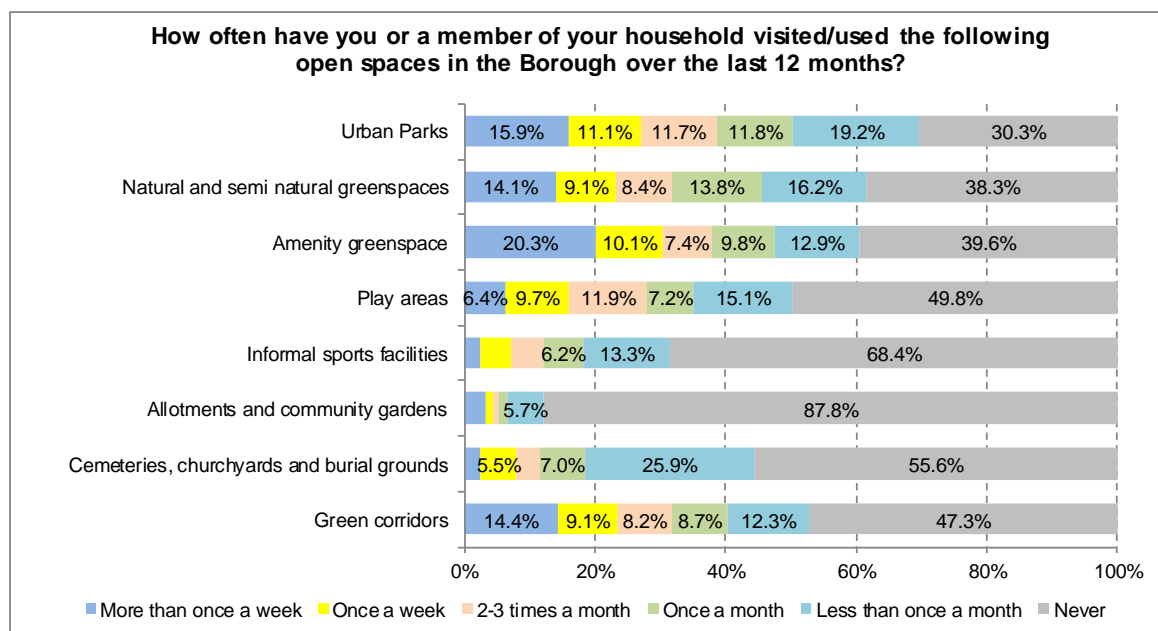
The most popular forms of provision to visit on a more frequent basis (i.e. more than once a week) are amenity greenspaces and urban parks. This is followed by green corridors and natural and semi-natural greenspaces. Respondents identify that they generally visit amenity greenspace (30%), urban parks (27%), natural and semi natural greenspace (24%) and green corridors (23%), either once or more than once a week.

The 2016 State of UK Public Parks public survey found that nationally 85% of people have used their local park at least once in the previous 12 months. In Stockton, 69% of respondents identify visiting an urban park at least once over the last 12 months.

Provision such as cemeteries and churchyards, allotments and community gardens and play areas and informal sports facilities are visited on a less frequent basis, with high percentages of respondents saying they never visit these forms of provision.

Cemeteries and churchyards are visited least frequently with 26% of respondents saying they visit less than once a month. This however is not surprising given the role and purpose of this typology.

Figure 3.1: Regularity of visits to open space typologies in last 12 months²



² Blank sections with no percentage figure displayed have 5% or less response return
March 2017

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Respondents identify the most common reason for using open space is to exercise (48%). This is followed by taking children to play/use play areas (39%) and for a family outing (35%). Another popular reason for using open space is to walk a dog (33%).

The least common reasons given by respondents for using open space are to play sports/games formally (4%), to spend lunch time (4%) and to grow fruit and vegetables (5%). The latter can be attributed to the fact this would be done when using allotment provision, which would apply to a smaller cross section of residents (i.e. people who own an allotment).

Table 3.1: Reasons for visiting open space provision

Reason for visiting	Percentage of respondents
To exercise	48%
To take children to play/use play area	39%
For a family outing	35%
To walk a dog	33%
To relax/contemplate	30%
To enjoy wildlife	28%
To meet with friends	22%
To take a shortcut	21%
To enjoy floral displays	20%
To use park cafe	17%
To enjoy history and heritage	16%
To play sport/games informally	16%
To see events/entertainment	15%
To grow fruit and vegetables	5%
To spend lunchtime	4%
To play sports/games formally	4%
Other	4%

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The most prevalent reasons given for not using open space in the Stockton-on-Tees area is not having time (47%) and not being interested (41%). Other common reasons given for not using open space is that the wrong types of open space are provided (29%) and mobility and access problems (27%).

Table 3.2: Reasons for not visiting open space provision

Reason for not visiting	Percentage of respondents
I don't have time	47%
Not interested	41%
Wrong type of open space provided	29%
Mobility and access problems	27%
Open spaces are too far away	24%
Too expensive to get there	21%
Presence of dogs	19%
Fear of crime/personal safety	17%
Open spaces are too busy to enjoy	16%
Hours of opening are not suitable	15%
Car parking problems	13%
Don't know where open spaces are	10%
Not sufficiently maintained	5%
Lack of public facilities (e.g toilets)	3%
Other	4%

Over half of respondents (61%) report that they have visited open space provision outside of the Stockton-on-Tees Borough in the past twelve months. Some of the most popular sites to visit outside of the study area are:

- ◀ Stewart Park
- ◀ Guisborough Woods
- ◀ North Yorkshire Moors
- ◀ Albert Park
- ◀ Saltburn Gill

It is worth noting that a number of respondents mention sites which are within the Borough boundary. For example, Preston Park, Hardwick Park, Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park and Billingham Beck Valley Country Park are all mentioned.

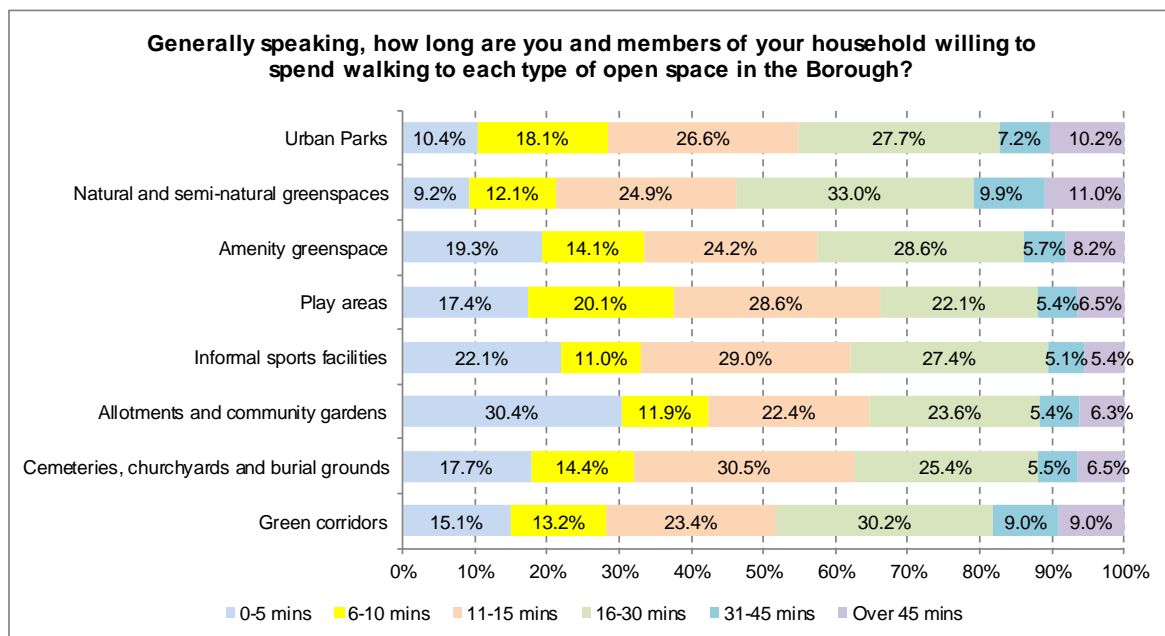
STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.2 Accessibility

Results from the community and street surveys show that most individuals are willing to walk between 16 and 30 minutes to access open space provision. For some typologies such as allotments, people would prefer to travel for a shorter amount of time, with 30% of respondents stating they would be willing to travel 0-5 minutes.

These results have helped inform the catchment mapping for each typology later in the report.

Figure 3.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

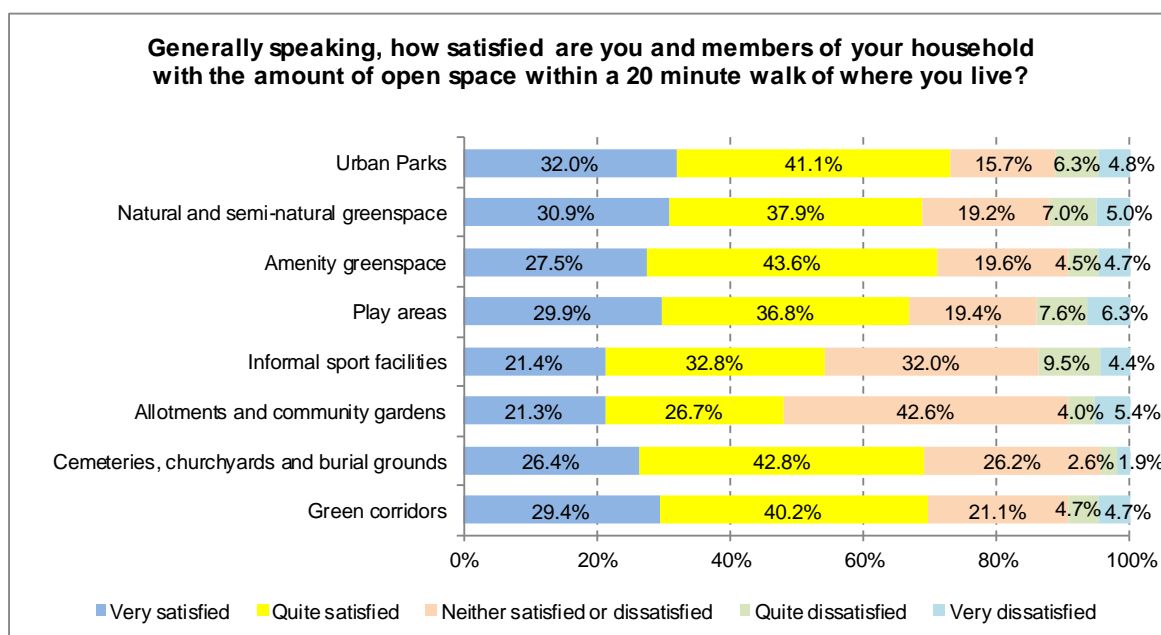
3.3 Availability

In general, respondents consider the amount of provision within a 20 minute walk time to be either very satisfactory or quite satisfactory for all typologies. This ranges from 48% of respondents being satisfied with the amount of allotment provision to 73% of respondents being satisfied with parks provision.

There are a high number of individuals who state they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with allotment provision available (47%). This is likely because of the fact that this type of provision is only used by small percentage of residents.

The typology with the next combined 'quite dissatisfied' and 'very dissatisfied' responses is play areas. However, this only equates to 14% of people who responded.

Figure 3.4: Satisfaction with availability of open spaces within a 20 minute walk time



STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.4 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table overleaf summarises the results of all the quality assessment for open spaces across Stockton-on-Tees.

The majority of open space provision (83%) in Stockton-on-Tees scores high for quality. Proportionally more green corridors and urban parks score high for quality. However, all typologies have over 76% of provision rated high for quality.

Proportionally the typology with the most provision under the quality threshold is play areas and informal sports facilities.

Table 3.3: Quality scores for all open space typologies

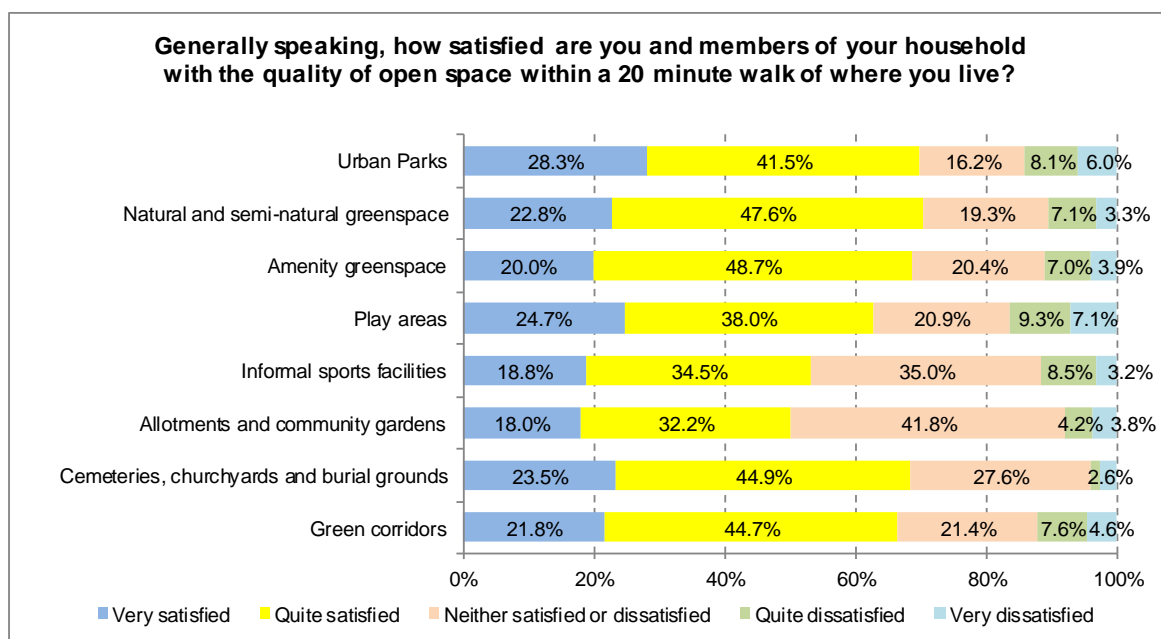
Typology	Scores				No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Spread	Low	High
Urban parks	41%	62%	85%	44%	2	11
Natural/semi natural greenspace	25%	45%	94%	69%	14	41
Amenity greenspace	24%	50%	85%	61%	34	150
Play areas and informal sports	21%	57%	88%	67%	12	42
Allotments & community gardens	27%	55%	69%	42%	4	17
Cemeteries, churchyards & burial grounds	46%	62%	83%	36%	0	21
Green corridors	41%	66%	86%	45%	4	51
TOTAL					70	333

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

The majority of respondent's view all typologies as being either very satisfactory or quite satisfactory in quality. The typologies individuals view as being of highest quality are parks and natural and semi natural greenspace. Both these forms of provision are reported as being satisfactory (either very satisfactory or quite satisfactory) by 70% of respondents.

Again, there are a high number of individuals (42%) who state they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the quality of allotment provision.

Figure 3.5: Satisfaction with quality of open spaces within a 20 minute walk time



Individuals who completed the community and street surveys were asked to highlight any specific quality issues surrounding specific open spaces in Stockton-on-Tees. Some of the quality concerns mentioned were:

- ◀ Dog fouling
- ◀ Broken glass / litter
- ◀ Damage to benches / ancillary facilities
- ◀ Lack of safety including lighting
- ◀ Illegal use by motor bikes
- ◀ Lack of play equipment/good quality play equipment

Another concern amongst local residents is groups of youths gathering at certain sites.

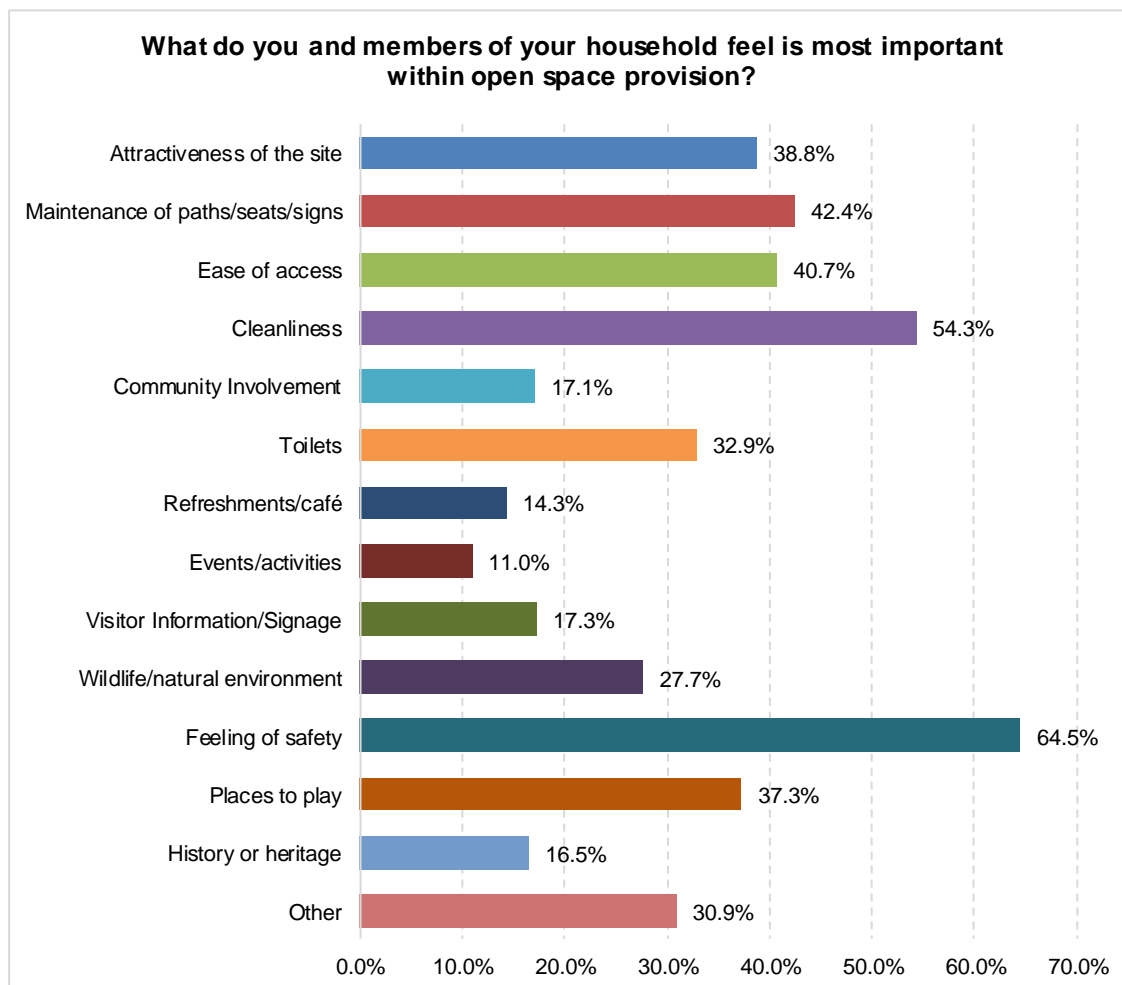
The main named sites where some of these quality issues were identified are:

- ◀ John Whitehead Park
- ◀ Billingham Beck Valley Country Park
- ◀ Ropner Park
- ◀ Preston Park
- ◀ Newham Grange Park (sometimes referred to as Monkey Tree Park)
- ◀ Victoria Recreation Ground
- ◀ Various green corridors

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

It is worth noting that these site names may differ from the names given to sites through the report. This is due to open space sites often having official and 'local' names.

Figure 3.6: What is important to residents within open space provision



Although many respondents reported that they see 'other' things to those listed as most important within open spaces, when asked to expand on their answer the majority of individuals referred to maintenance and cleanliness. Examples include bins being emptied regularly, pathways being cleared and graffiti being removed. A handful of respondents also stated that disabled access and facilities such as disabled toilets are important to them.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.5 Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces across Stockton-on-Tees.

The majority of sites (92%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. All green corridors, allotments and community gardens, cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds and natural and semi natural greenspaces score above the threshold for value. All other typologies have at least 84% of provision scoring high for value, reflecting their role in and importance to local communities and environments.

Table 3.4: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Scores				No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Spread	Low	High
Urban parks	35%	59%	90%	55%	0	13
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	20%	40%	89%	69%	0	55
Amenity greenspace	6%	32%	70%	65%	29	155
Play areas and informal sports	14%	49%	80%	65%	2	52
Allotments and community gardens	23%	40%	56%	33%	0	21
Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds	23%	30%	36%	13%	0	21
Green corridors	20%	30%	64%	44%	0	55
TOTAL					31	372

3.6 Summary

General summary

- ◀ In total 403 sites in Stockton-on-Tees are identified and allocated a quality and value score. as open space provision. Excluding play areas and informal sports facilities, this equates to over 1502 hectares.
- ◀ Most typologies are set as having an accessibility catchment of a 20 minute walk time. For certain typologies, such as play areas and informal sports facilities or allotments, lower walk times catchments have been applied.
- ◀ The majority of provision (83%) scores above the thresholds set for quality. Proportionally, more green corridor, urban park and amenity greenspace sites score above the thresholds for quality than other typologies.
- ◀ Natural and semi natural greenspace has the most sites (25%) scoring below the threshold for quality.
- ◀ The majority of all open spaces (92%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of such provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 4: URBAN PARKS

4.1 Introduction

This typology covers urban parks, which provide diverse range of opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

4.2 Current provision

There are 13 sites classified as urban parks across Stockton-on-Tees, with a total area of just over 122 hectares:

- ◀ Allison Trainer Park
- ◀ Blue Hall Recreation Ground
- ◀ Grangefield Park
- ◀ John Whitehead Park
- ◀ Littleboy Park
- ◀ Newham Grange Park
- ◀ Preston Park
- ◀ Primrose Hill Park
- ◀ Romano Park
- ◀ Ropner Park
- ◀ Trinity Gardens
- ◀ Victoria Recreation Ground
- ◀ Village Park

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Billingham	1	7.09	0.24
Eaglescliffe	1	39.80	4.95
Ingleby Barwick	1	2.78	0.13
Rural	-	-	-
Stockton	6	53.09	0.67
Thornaby	4	19.27	0.76
Wynyard	-	-	-
Yarm	-	-	-
Stockton-on-Tees	13	122.03	0.66

Five out of the eight analysis areas are identified as having provision of parks and gardens. The Rural, Wynyard and Yarm Analysis Areas do not have any provision of this type.

The analysis area with the most urban parks is Stockton Analysis Area, with 53.09 hectares.

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Despite the Eaglescliffe Analysis Area only having Preston Park, in terms of the total area of urban park provision it has the second highest in the Borough (39.80 hectares). This area also has a significantly greater proportion of provision per 1,000 head of population than the Authority's other analysis areas.

Preston Park is the single largest park site in Stockton-on-Tees. Other significant sized sites include Ropner Park (15.89 hectares), Newham Grange Park (13.40 hectares) and Grangefield Park (10.17 hectares). All these sites are situated in the Stockton Analysis Area.

Ownership and management

The majority of provision is owned, managed and maintained by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Other organisations have taken on some management responsibilities in some parks, e.g. Billingham Town Council at John Whitehead Park and the Friends of Ropner Park (both operate park cafes and other events and activities in the parks).

Over recent years a number of sites have received capital funding for improvement works.

4.3 Accessibility

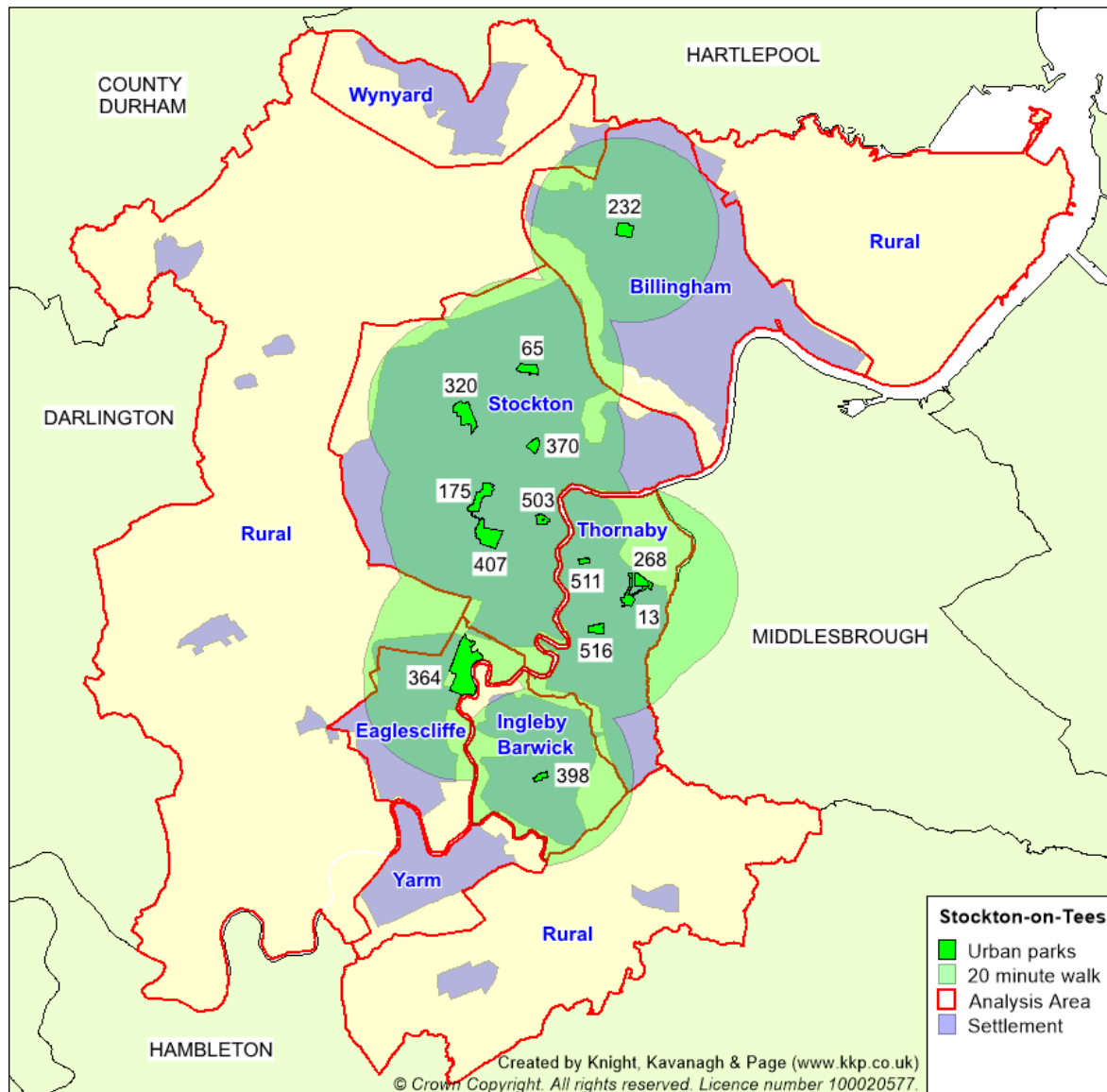
The community and street surveys found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access park provision was 16-30 minutes (28%) followed by 11-15 minutes (27%). As a result, for the purpose of mapping a baseline 20 minute walk time has been applied.

It is however likely that larger and more prominent park sites will have a greater level of attraction and therefore people will be willing to travel further in order to visit them. This hierarchy approach to parks provision will be explored further in the Strategy document.

Figure 4.1 overleaf shows the catchment applied to parks and gardens to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Urban Parks mapped against a 20-minute walk time



Catchment mapping identifies gaps in urban park provision for a 20 minute walk time in all analysis areas. There are some small catchment gaps around Stockton, Billingham and Eaglescliffe analysis areas.

The largest catchment gaps can be seen in Yarm, Wynyard and the Rural analysis areas. Whilst Wynyard and the Rural areas are less densely populated, Yarm Analysis Area does have a greater population density.

Furthermore, no issue with regard to a deficiency in parks and gardens is highlighted either through consultation or via the community and street survey results. The majority of respondents rate the availability of urban parks as either very satisfactory (32%) or quite satisfactory (41%). Very few rate availability negatively i.e. 'quite dissatisfactory' (6%) or 'very dissatisfactory' (5%).

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4.4 Quality and Value Overview

A summary of the quality and value ratings for sites are set out in Table 4.2. Further detail on the scores and ratings is provided under the quality and value sections.

Table 4.2: Quality and value scores summary for Urban Parks

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
232	John Whitehead Park	Billingham		
364	Preston Park	Eaglescliffe		
398	Romano Park	Ingleby Barwick		
175	Grangefield Park	Stockton		
65	Blue Hall Recreation Ground	Stockton		
320	Newham Grange Park	Stockton		
370	Primrose Hill Park	Stockton		
503	Trinity Gardens	Stockton		
407	Ropner Park	Stockton		
13	Allison Trainer Park	Thornaby		
268	Littleboy Park	Thornaby		
511	Victoria Recreation Ground	Thornaby		
516	Village Park	Thornaby		

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4.5 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). Table 4.3 summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for urban parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Billingham	154	81%	81%	81%	0%	0	1
Eaglescliffe	154	85%	85%	85%	0%	0	1
Ingleby Barwick	154	68%	68%	68%	0%	0	1
Stockton	154	41%	57%	83%	43%	2	4
Thornaby	154	52%	57%	61%	9%	0	4
Wynyard	154	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarm	154	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural	154	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stockton-on-Tees	154	41%	62%	85%	44%	2	11

Of the 13 urban parks, 11 score above the threshold, with two scoring below: Blue Hall Recreation Ground (46%) and Primrose Hill Park (43%), both in the Stockton Analysis Area.

It is worth noting that these sites are not dramatically below the quality threshold. No major quality issues are highlighted from the site audit. However, the sites tend to score lower for quantity and quality of certain features such as a lack of picnic tables, seats and benches. At sites, such as Primrose Hill Park anti-social behaviour is also highlighted as an issue.

It is worth noting that despite Newham Grange Park receiving a quality score of 62% consultation has highlighted some quality issues. The Friends of Newham Grange Park report some instances of anti-social behaviour such as motorbikes and vandalism.

The three highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Preston Park (85%)
- ◀ Ropner Park (83%)
- ◀ John Whitehead Park (81%)

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Preston Park is the highest scoring site for quality (85%). This reflects the site's good ancillary facilities, including cycle parking, toilets, signage, seats and benches, picnic tables and bins. It also has disabled access, CCTV, well-maintained paths and good parking facilities. It is noted as having a range of features such as an equipped play area, informal sports provision (skate park), historic buildings (Preston Hall Museum), a walled kitchen garden and orchard, and other attractions such as Butterfly World and small-gauge railway. All features are generally observed as being to an excellent standard.

The high scores for Ropner Park (83%) and John Whitehead Park (81%) reflect the range and quality of ancillary facilities at these sites as well (e.g. café, toilets) and features such as play areas and tennis courts.

Results from the community and street surveys found 70% of respondents rate the quality of parks as either very satisfactory (28%) or quite satisfactory (42%). Less than one quarter of survey respondents (14%) views the quality of parks as either quite dissatisfactory (8%) or very dissatisfactory (6%).

A point to note, respondents did highlight some park sites they deemed to have quality issues. These can be seen in the Part 3: General Open Space Summary. However, no specific details in relation to these sites were given. Quality concerns highlighted were reported as common issues (e.g. maintenance and cleanliness) with general open space provision throughout the Borough.

Green Flag

The Green Flag Award scheme is licensed and managed by Keep Britain Tidy. It provides national standards for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) highlight the importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality. This in turn impacts upon the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

A 2010 survey by improvement charity GreenSpace highlights that parks with a Green Flag Award provide more satisfaction to members of the public compared to those without it. Its survey of 16,000 park users found that more than 90% of Green Flag Award park visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their chosen site, compared to 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks.

As it stands, there are no Green Flag Award sites in Stockton-on-Tees. However, given that the pass score for the Green Flag Award is 66%, there may be potential for the five highest scoring sites to be entered for the award. In particular Preston Park, Ropner Park and John Whitehead Park, which all score well above 60% on the non-technical assessment.

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4.6 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low	High
						<20%	>20%
Billingham	101	67%	67%	67%	0%	0	1
Eaglescliffe	101	90%	90%	90%	0%	0	1
Ingleby Barwick	101	61%	61%	61%	0%	0	1
Stockton	101	35%	58%	85%	50%	0	6
Thornaby	101	44%	50%	64%	21%	0	4
Wynyard	101	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarm	101	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural	101	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stockton-on-Tees	101	35%	59%	90%	55%	0	13

One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is that they can provide a wide range of recreational opportunities, and enable people to socialise. The ability for people to undertake a range of different activities such as exercise, dog walking, running or taking children to the play area are often recognised.

All parks are assessed as being of high value from the site visit assessments. Some of the highest rated sites for value have features survey respondents did suggest were important to them. For example, individuals reported maintenance of paths/seats/signs, ease of access, cleanliness and feeling of safety as important features of open space provision. Therefore, it is not surprising that Preston Park, which meets all of these criteria, scores well for quality and as a result value due to its high levels of use and features which appeal to a wide range of users.

All sites demonstrate high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place. A number of parks, including Preston Park, Ropner Park and Romano Park also offer cultural and heritage value as well as educational value. This is demonstrated through examples of art work, presence of bandstands and opportunities to learn (e.g. Butterfly World at Preston Park). Sites such as Preston Park and Ropner Park are particularly noted for their historic landscape and features.

A number of sites are also recognised as containing elements with ecological benefits such as mature woodland and water features. Two sites (Romano and Preston) are identified as having land designated as Local Nature Reserves.

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Sites such as Preston Park, Ropner Park and John Whitehead Park also provide economic value due to the attractions and cafes found on site.

Parks also provide a location for events. Preston Park in particular is described through consultation as important for community and larger scale events such as the Stockton Summer Show.

Friends of parks groups

The value of urban parks is often reflected by community involvement, for example, the establishment of friends of parks groups. Community involvement is seen by Stockton-on-Tees residents as important, with 17% of survey respondents reporting this as an important aspect for open space provision. There are a number of sites in Stockton-on-Tees which have friends' groups including Ropner Park and Newham Grange Park.

Friends groups can act in an advisory capacity and offer input during improvement projects, as well as helping with maintenance and day to day running of a site. For example, the Friends of Ropner Park was formed in 2002 to support the development of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, to help support the restoration of the park. They now organise a programme of events and operate the café.

Friends of groups can also add quality and value to a site. For example, Friends of Newham Grange Park have received a donation and are using the money to update an old orienteering course within the park. Further to this working in partnership with Butterwick Hospice and the Council there is now an area where families can plant trees in remembrance of friends and relatives.

4.7 Summary

Urban Parks

- ◀ There are 13 parks in Stockton-on-Tees equating to over 122 hectares.
- ◀ Catchment gaps are noted in all analysis areas. The most significant gaps can be seen in the Yarm, Wynyard and Rural analysis areas.
- ◀ The majority of parks score above the threshold for quality. Only two sites score below the threshold: Blue Hall Recreation Ground and Primrose Hill Park. However, no major quality issues were highlighted during non-technical assessment.
- ◀ The highest scoring site for quality is Preston Park. This is due to the wide range of provision and ancillary facilities it contains and the reportedly excellent standards of maintenance.
- ◀ All parks are assessed as being of high value, with the important social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being acknowledged. Some sites also offer cultural and heritage value, educational value and economical value.

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PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology includes woodland (e.g. coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. meadow), wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen) and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits) and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. This typology also encompasses country parks and woodland parks.

5.2 Current provision

In total 55 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 908 hectares of provision. There is also the RSPB Saltholme site, which was discounted due to the £5 entry fee, making it less publicly accessible.

Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Billingham	9	84.95	2.93
Eaglescliffe	3	23.26	2.89
Ingleby Barwick	2	50.75	2.49
Rural	11	451.15	35.36
Stockton	23	244.15	3.11
Thornaby	6	48.31	1.91
Wynyard	-	-	-
Yarm	1	5.97	0.78
Stockton-on-Tees	55	908.54	4.97

Stockton-on-Tees has a variety of natural and semi-natural sites including woodlands, nature reserves and country parks.

Most provision is located in the Rural Analysis Area (451.15 hectares) and the Stockton Analysis Area (244.15 hectares). It should be noted that some of the natural and semi-natural sites in the rural area are located adjacent to settlements and are easily accessible to residents.

Just under half of the total provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace can be attributed to three large sites which are located in the Rural Analysis Area; Coatham Wood (198.51 hectares), Wynyard Woodland Park (109.42 hectares) and Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park (95.08 hectares). Subsequently the Rural Area has the greater proportion of provision per 1,000 population with 35.36 hectares. This is significantly higher than the other seven analysis areas.

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Wynyard Analysis Area is the only analysis area to have no provision of this type. However, Wynyard Woodland Park sits on the border of Wynyard and as such is likely to provide provision to the Wynyard Analysis Area. It is important to recognise that some provision such as amenity greenspace can also provide opportunities and activities associated with natural and semi-natural types of open space. Such sites are not included here as their primary typology is the basis upon which sites are recorded.

Designations

Within the Borough there is one internationally designated site; the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and RAMSAR site which is situated in the north east of the Borough. It is termed a European Marine Site. Stockton Borough also has five nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), these are Seal Sands, Cowpen Marsh, Whitton Bridge Pasture, Briarcroft Pasture, and the Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands. The very best parts of the SSSI within the Borough at Teesmouth have been designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). Locally designated sites include the twelve Local Nature Reserves and the Local Wildlife and Geological Sites.

Of importance to this assessment are the 12 local nature reserves (LNRs) listed below:

- ◀ Hardwick Dene (11.80 hectares)
- ◀ Norton Grange (4.65 hectares)
- ◀ Charltons Pond (7.91 hectares)
- ◀ Cowpen Bewley Woodland County Park (50.50 hectares)
- ◀ Billingham Beck Valley (38.56 hectares)
- ◀ Thorpe Wood (18.46 hectares)
- ◀ Stillington Forest (15.22 hectares)
- ◀ Greenvale (6.32 hectares)
- ◀ Bassleton Wood (12.84 hectares)
- ◀ Quarry Wood (5.00 hectares)
- ◀ Black Bobbies Field (7.74 hectares)
- ◀ Barwick Pond (0.44 hectares)

Ownership and management

There is a mixture of ownership and management of natural and semi-natural sites included within this assessment. The Council owns the majority of sites, however Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, the Forestry Commission and the Woodland Trust also own and manage sites. In addition to this there are a number of groups and association who play an active role in the management of natural and semi-natural sites across the Borough.

Including open land along the River Tees, including Leven Valley and Bassleton Beck is the Tees Heritage Park. Projects to enhance the environment of this area and improve access are being developed through a partnership approach involving organisations such as the Friends of Tees Heritage Park, Groundwork North East, Environment Agency, the Canal & River Trust, Natural England, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. The first phase of the project was completed in 2012; this was largely on Council owned sites which comprise a 'core area' within the wider park. Areas of open space within the Tees Heritage Park which have unrestricted public access have been included within this assessment.

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The sites owned by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust include Bowesfield Farm Nature Reserve, Potrack Marsh and Gravel Hole. The trust also leases Hardwick Dene from the Council. The lease is for 50 years and currently has 45 years remaining.

5.3 Accessibility

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. They recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- ◀ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home.
- ◀ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home.
- ◀ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home.
- ◀ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.
- ◀ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

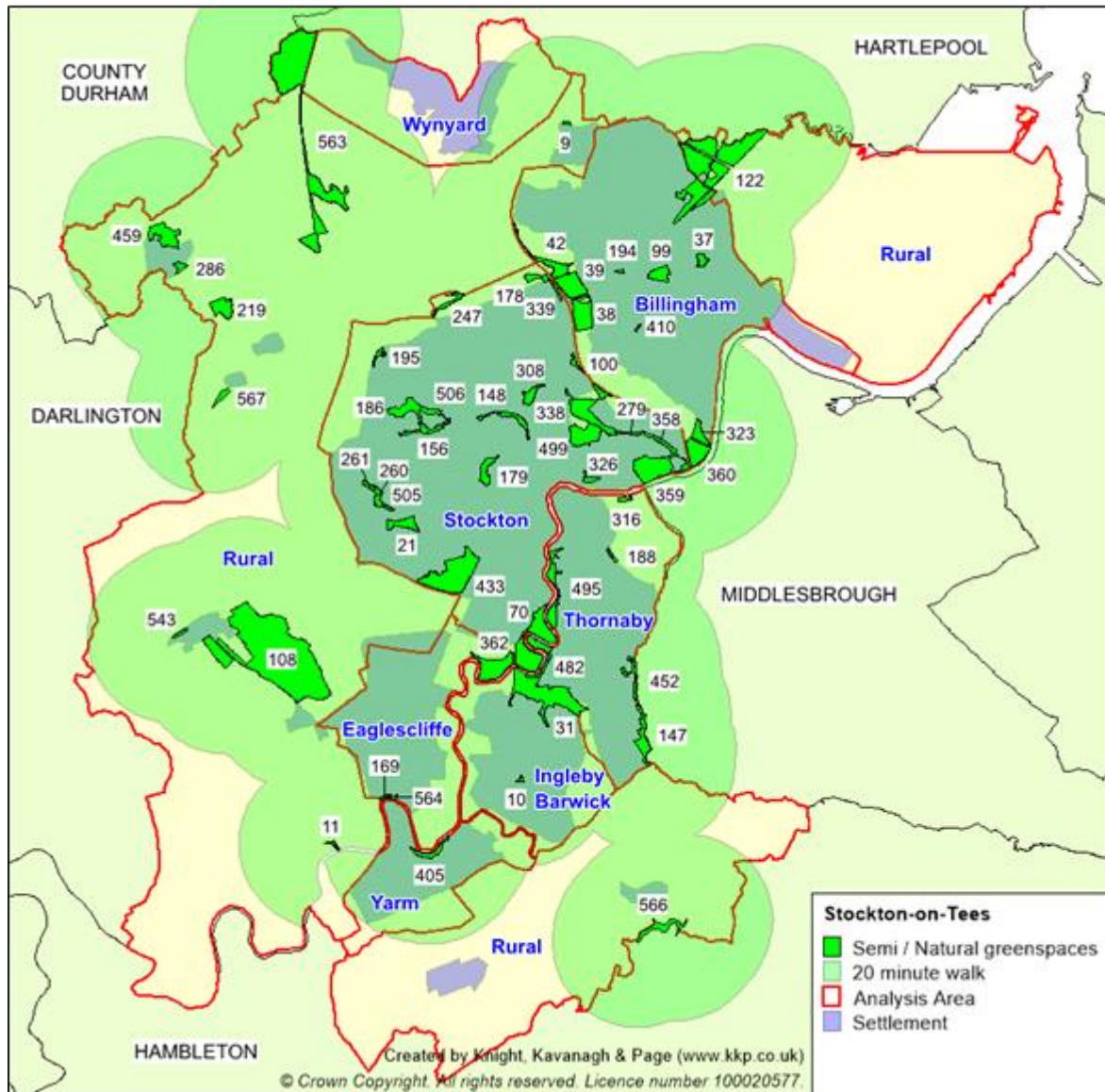
On this basis, a population such as Stockton-on-Tees (182,642) is recommended to have approximately 182 hectares of LNR. Given that Stockton-on-Tees has just over 179 hectares, it only just falls short of meeting the ANGSt.

The highest proportion of community and street survey respondents (33%) are willing to travel between 16 and 30 minutes to access natural and semi natural greenspace. Based on these findings and the fact that some large natural and semi natural greenspace sites are situated in rural areas such as Coatham Wood and Wynyard Woodland Park, a 20 minute walk time catchment has been applied.

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the catchment applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace provision mapped against a 20 minute walk time



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Figure 5.1 shows there are some small catchment gaps against the 20 minute walk time catchment in the Wynyard and Rural (i.e. Kirkevington) analysis areas.

In support of the minor gaps identified, the majority of respondents to the community and street surveys rate the availability of natural and semi natural greenspace positively; i.e. either very satisfactory 31 (%) or quite satisfactory (38%). Furthermore, only a small proportion rate availability as quite dissatisfactory (7%) or very dissatisfactory (5%).

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

5.4 Quality and Value Overview

A summary of the quality and value ratings for sites are set out in Table 5.2. Further detail on the scores and ratings is provided under the quality and value sections.

Table 5.2: Quality and value scores summary for natural and semi-natural greenspaces

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
37	Belasis Hall Technology Park	Billingham		
38	Billingham Beck Country Park South	Billingham		
39	Billingham Beck Country Park North	Billingham		
42	Billingham Country Park	Billingham		
99	Charltons Pond	Billingham		
194	Harringtons Pond, Bedford Terrace	Billingham		
323	Newport Natural Green Space	Billingham		
360	Portrack Meadows	Billingham		
410	Roscoe Road, Green Space	Billingham		
169	Former Tannery Site	Eaglescliffe		
362	Preston Farm Nature Reserve	Eaglescliffe		
564	Yarm Bridge	Eaglescliffe		
10	Barwick Pond	Ingleby Barwick		
31	Bassleton Woods	Ingleby Barwick		
21	Auckland Way	Stockton		
70	Bowesfield Farm Nature Reserve	Stockton		
100	Chesham Grove	Stockton		
148	Eastbourne/A177	Stockton		
156	Elm Tree Corridor	Stockton		
178	Gravel Hole	Stockton		
179	Grays Road	Stockton		
186	Hardwick Dene	Stockton		
195	Harrowgate Lane	Stockton		
247	Land surrounding Peacocks Yard	Stockton		
260	Limbrick Avenue	Stockton		
261	Limbrick Avenue	Stockton		
279	Lustrum Beck	Stockton		
308	Mount Pleasant/Norton	Stockton		
326	North Shore	Stockton		
338	Norton to Portrack	Stockton		
339	Norton/A19 woods	Stockton		
358	Portrack Lane/Lustrum Beck	Stockton		
359	Portrack Marsh	Stockton		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
433	Spring Way	Stockton		
499	Tilery Park	Stockton		
505	Upsall Grove	Stockton		
506	Valley Gardens	Stockton		
147	Earlsway	Thornaby		
188	Harewood Pleasure Gardens	Thornaby		
316	Navigation Way 2	Thornaby		
452	Stainsby Wood	Thornaby		
482	The Holmes	Thornaby		
495	Thornaby/River Tees Green Corridor	Thornaby		
405	Rookery/Goosepastures Woods	Yarm		
9	A689 Natural Green Space	Rural		
11	Aislaby	Rural		
108	Coatham Wood	Rural		
122	Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park	Rural		
219	Honey Pott Woods	Rural		
286	Manor Drive	Rural		
459	Stillington Forest Park	Rural		
543	Willow Chase	Rural		
563	Wynyard Woodland Park	Rural		
566	Brewsdale	Rural		
567	Langton Wood	Rural		

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5.5 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Natural and semi-natural greenspace has a relatively lower quality threshold than other open space typologies. This reflects the characteristic of this kind of provision. For instance, many natural and semi-natural sites are intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to encouraging greater conservation and promotion of flora and fauna activity.

This is supported by consultation with Tees Wildlife Trust with the organisation describing its maintenance regimes as good but basic and with maintaining a balance between habitat and public use in mind. For example, ensuring footpaths are clear and accessible, cutting back meadows to encourage further flowering, planting trees and working to maintain the seclusion of certain areas.

Table 5.3: Quality rating for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Billingham	150	33%	67%	94%	61%	1	8
Eaglescliffe	150	45%	47%	51%	7%	0	3
Ingleby Barwick	150	45%	53%	61%	16%	0	2
Stockton	150	25%	46%	81%	56%	8	15
Thornaby	150	34%	50%	76%	42%	2	4
Wynyard	150	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Yarm	150	36%	36%	36%	0%	1	0
Rural	150	29%	57%	93%	64%	0	11
Stockton-on-Tees	150	25%	45%	94%	69%	12	43

A total of 43 natural and semi-natural sites (78%) in Stockton-on-Tees are rated above the threshold set for quality. However, 12 sites score below the quality threshold applied. These sites are highlighted in table 5.2. Eight out of the 12 sites to rate below the threshold are found in the Stockton Analysis Area. Access and maintenance are the common issues cited as to why these sites score below the threshold. Such issues are often the reason for all 12 sites to rate below the threshold.

The two lowest scoring natural and semi-natural sites in Stockton are:

- ◀ Land surrounding Peacocks Yard (25%)
- ◀ Tilery Park (27%)

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Tilery Park is observed as having a low standard of overall maintenance and cleanliness. The site is also reported as having evidence of anti-social behaviour. In addition, the site has a lack of ancillary features including seating, bins and signage.

This is mirrored at Land Surrounding Peacocks Lane; which is noted as having heavily sloping terrain meaning the site is not really accessible.

Sites with specific quality issues are:

- ◀ Stainsby Wood
- ◀ Harewood Pleasure Gardens
- ◀ Tilery Park
- ◀ Hardwick Dene
- ◀ Grays Road
- ◀ Bassleton Woods

All these sites are highlighted as having issues with litter. Hardwick Dene is also reported to have graffiti and Bassleton Woods had evidence of fly tipping. Furthermore, Tilery Park was reported to have fire damage and an abandoned vehicle on site at the time of the site visit.

Consultation suggests that Tilery Park may see improvements in quality in the near future, through the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust project Wild Green Places which is funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project aims to engage the community in improving and managing greenspaces which need support.

Sites scoring above the threshold are generally observed as being attractive and well maintained; offering plenty of good quality ancillary features such as litter bins, benches and pathways. Play areas are also a feature at some sites. The majority are considered to be well used by people and have good disabled access whilst also offering opportunities for wildlife. There are also good controls to prevent illegal use on the sites including CCTV. Sites scoring particularly high include:

- ◀ Charltons Pond (94%)
- ◀ Wynyard Woodland Park (93%)
- ◀ Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park (87%)

Both Cowpen Bewley and Wynyard Woodland Parks are observed as containing play equipment as well as other features at the latter such as the café and planetarium/observatory. This all adds to the sites quality and value scoring.

Two of these sites: Charltons Pond and Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, are recognised as local nature reserves. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park has a very active friends of group and both sites have a team of Voluntary Rangers. In order to further improve the sites quality, the Friends Group has just agreed a maintenance schedule with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. This includes repair work to fences and paths, work around ponds, woodland maintenance and scarification of the grass.

Further supporting the positive quality of natural and semi-natural greenspace is the proportion of respondents to the community and street survey which rate the quality of provision as either very satisfactory (23%) or quite satisfactory (48%).

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5.6 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.4: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Billingham	98	23%	50%	79%	55%	0	9
Eaglescliffe	98	23%	30%	42%	18%	0	3
Ingleby Barwick	98	36%	41%	46%	10%	0	2
Stockton	98	20%	35%	79%	59%	0	23
Thornaby	98	24%	37%	48%	23%	0	6
Wynyard	98	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Yarm	98	37%	37%	37%	0%	0	1
Rural	98	27%	49%	89%	62%	0	9
Stockton-on-Tees	98	20%	40%	89%	69%	0	55

All natural and semi-natural greenspaces score high for value. The highest scoring sites for value are Wynyard Woodland Park (89%), Charltons Pond (79%) and Portrack Marsh (79%). These sites are extensive and attractive sites offering various opportunities to a range of activities (e.g. nature enthusiasts, anglers, tourists and families). For example, Charltons Pond is leased to Billingham Angling Club by the Council. Portrack Marsh is more natural in its characteristics in comparison to other sites. However, its role in providing opportunities and benefits to conservation and ecology is still recognised.

It is one of a number of sites recognised as providing ecological and biodiversity benefits; an important function of this type of open space. For instance, 12 sites are identified as having LNR designations. Other features and elements across sites which help to contribute to their value and benefits include opportunities to sport and exercise, places and reasons to socialise, interact and play. Value is also taken from a sites landscape features and role as well as any links and/or promotion to historic features. For instance, Wynyard Woodland Park has ties to the railway heritage on site.

Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park also scores high for value with 77%. The value of natural and semi natural sites is also reflected in community involvement. Cowpen Bewley Woodlands Park has a very active friends of group. The group runs occasional activity days for school groups, adding further educational value to the site. The Friends of Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park talk about wanting to increase the regularity of these sessions by incorporating an environmental classroom to a resource centre on site.

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Further to friends of groups, there is also a community involvement scheme on all sites owned or leased by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. This is run on some sites and is accessed by three regular groups including a mental health in conservation activity group. This gives individuals a chance to be active outdoors as well as learning new skills.

Recognition to the value and benefits natural and semi-natural greenspace provides to people across Stockton-on-Tees is offered by the noticeable proportion of respondents (28%) reporting their reasons for visiting open space provision is to observe and enjoy wildlife.

5.7 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ Stockton-on-Tees has 55 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering over 908 hectares.
- ◀ Most natural and semi natural provision is located in the Rural Analysis Area (451.15 hectares) and the Stockton Analysis Area (244.15 hectares). As a result, these analysis areas also have the most provision per 1,000 head of population.
- ◀ The 20-minute walk time accessibility catchment shows there are some small catchment gaps in the Wynyard and Rural analysis areas.
- ◀ There are twelve designated LNRs in the Borough included within the assessment.
- ◀ Natural and semi-natural greenspace sites are of mixed quality: 43 of the 55 sites score above the quality threshold. Sites rating below the threshold often do so due to a lack of ancillary features and a lower standard of general appearance in comparison to other sites of the same typology.
- ◀ All sites are rated as above the threshold for value.
- ◀ Higher scoring sites for value, such as Charltons Pond, Wynyard Woodland Park, Portrack Marsh and Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park provide a range of opportunities and uses for visitors. They also provide opportunity for community involvement.

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PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

This is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

6.2 Current provision

There are 184 amenity greenspace sites in Stockton-on-Tees; over 235 hectares of provision. Amenity greenspaces are often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space along highways that provide a visual amenity.

It is important to note that whilst a large proportion of provision may be considered as being small grassed areas or visual landscaped space, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example certain recreation grounds are included under amenity greenspace, such as Bishopsgarth Playing Fields in the Stockton Analysis Area. These serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational activities due to their size and facilities.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Billingham	47	70.24	2.42
Eaglescliffe	15	9.97	1.24
Ingleby Barwick	13	10.24	0.50
Rural	14	10.09	0.79
Stockton	64	82.16	1.05
Thornaby	20	38.68	1.53
Wynyard	3	1.81	1.21
Yarm	8	12.64	1.66
Stockton-on-Tees	184	235.86	1.29

This type of provision ranges in size from the smallest incidental grassed area amongst housing such as Rudyard Avenue at 0.20 hectares, to a large area for recreation purposes such as Bishopsgarth Playing Fields at 7.53 hectares.

The analysis area with the largest amount of provision is Stockton. However, it is the Billingham analysis area with greatest amount of provision per 1,000 population, with 2.42 hectares. The Wynyard analysis area has the smallest amount of provision with 1.81 hectares. However, it is Ingleby Barwick with the least amount of provision per 1,000 population (0.50).

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6.3 Accessibility

The community and street surveys found the most common travel time expected by respondents is an 11 to 15 minute walk (24%) and a 16 to 30 minute walk (29%) in order to access grassed areas near housing. This includes recreation grounds which individuals are likely to be willing to travel further in order to access.

For the purpose of mapping a 15 minute walk time has been applied to larger forms of amenity greenspace (referred to as Tier 1 sites). Larger forms of amenity provision are a minimum of one hectares in size. Such sites are often recognised as a recreation ground or playing field and consequently tend to have a greater range of ancillary features such as play areas and/or sports facilities as well as associated features (i.e. accessible terrains/pathways, appropriate security measures, used by a wider range of users and well located in order to serve the local population).

The following sites are considered to be Tier 1 forms of amenity greenspace:

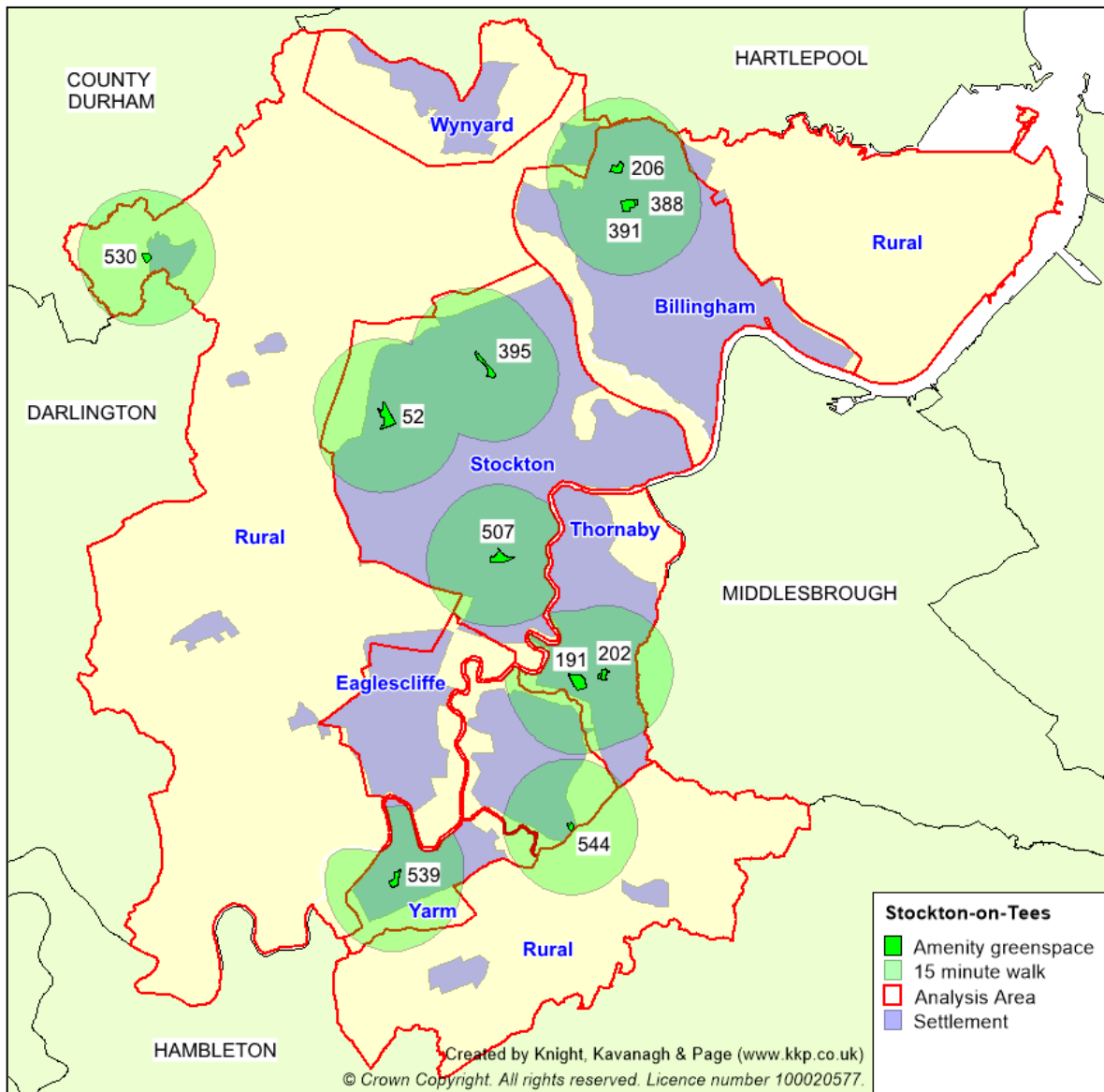
- ◀ Bishopsgarth Playing Fields
- ◀ Harold Wilson Centre
- ◀ Haviland
- ◀ High Grange Avenue
- ◀ Rivaulx Avenue
- ◀ Rochester Road
- ◀ Yarm Road Rec/ Van Midert Way
- ◀ West Street Playing Field
- ◀ Wiley Flats
- ◀ Windmill Park

For other, smaller and/or sites noted as having less ancillary features the suggested FIT catchment of a 6 minute walk time has been used.

Figure 6.1 and 6.2 shows the catchment applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

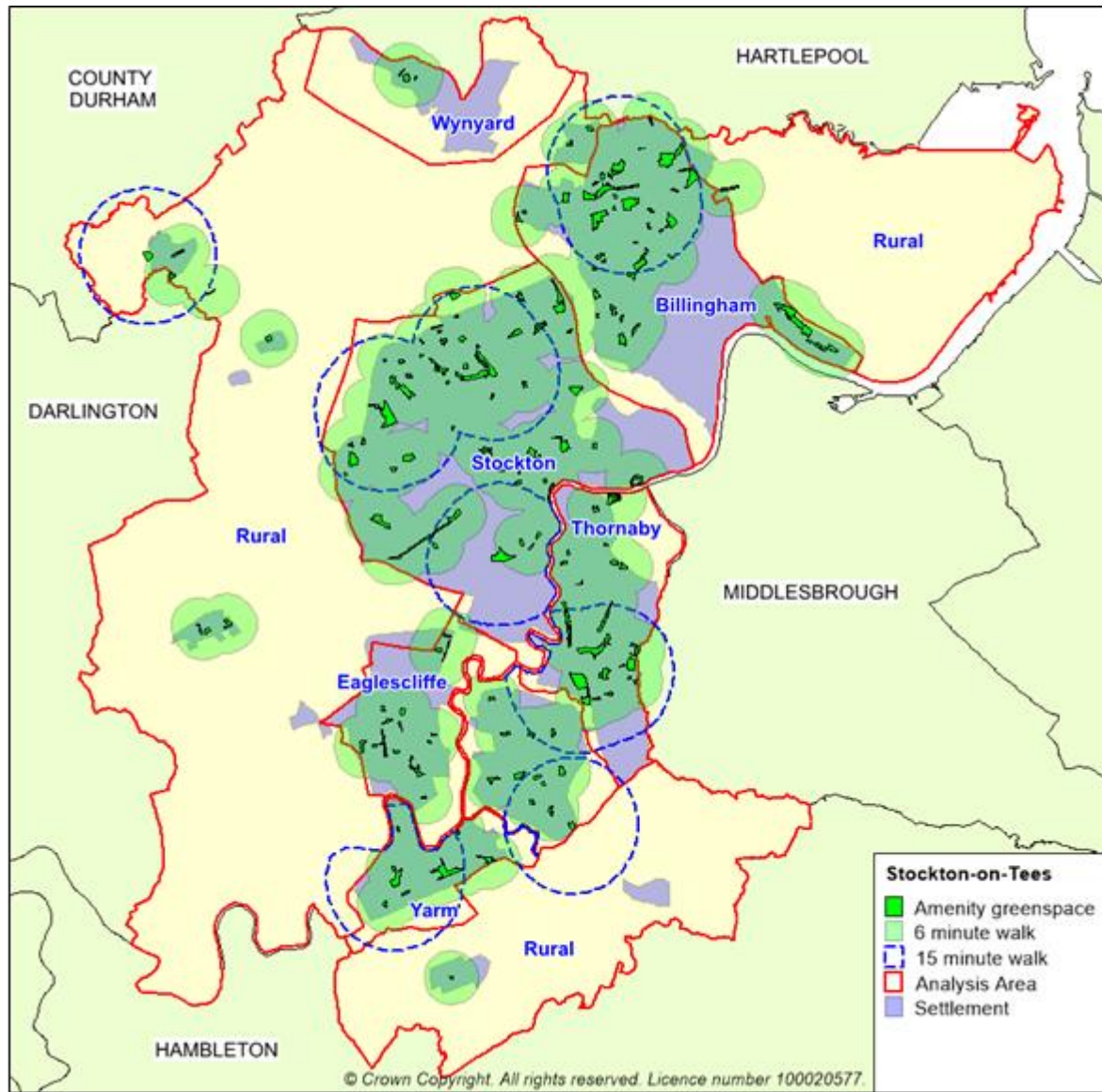
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Figure 6.1: Tier 1 amenity greenspace mapped against a 15-minute walk time



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Figure 6.2: Tier 1 amenity greenspace mapped against 15-minute walk time with all other amenity greenspace mapped against 6-minute walk time



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Catchment mapping with a 15-minute walk time applied shows a good level of coverage across Stockton-on-Tees. Gaps identified are in areas of the Rural Analysis Area which are not densely populated. Eaglescliffe, Thornaby, Billingham, Stockton and Wynyard are also observed as having gaps in catchment mapping.

Against the 6 minute walk time gaps in catchment mapping are noted to the east of Wynyard and southeast of Billingham. Gaps in catchment mapping are explored further in the Strategy document.

Furthermore, no issues with regard to a deficiency in amenity greenspace are highlighted by the results of the community and street surveys conducted. Most respondents rate the availability of grassed areas near housing very satisfactory (28%) or quite satisfactory (44%). Only a small proportion of individuals rate the availability of amenity greenspace to be quite dissatisfactory or very dissatisfactory (10%).

6.4 Quality and Value Overview

A summary of the quality and value ratings for sites are set out in Table 6.2. Further detail on the scores and ratings is provided under the quality and value sections.

Table 6.2: Quality and value scores summary for amenity greenspace

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
20	Auckland Road	Billingham	Green	Green
36	Bedford Terrace	Billingham	Green	Green
40	Billingham Bewley	Billingham	Green	Green
45	Billingham Green	Billingham	Green	Green
69	Bowes Road	Billingham	Green	Red
73	Brendon Crescent	Billingham	Red	Red
79	Bullgarth	Billingham	Green	Green
82	By-Pass Road	Billingham	Red	Green
87	Carlton Avenue	Billingham	Green	Green
91	Casson Way	Billingham	Green	Green
101	Cheviot Crescent	Billingham	Red	Green
102	Cheviot Terrace	Billingham	Green	Red
104	Clarences (Bendy Rec)	Billingham	Green	Green
105	Cleadon Avenue	Billingham	Red	Green
107	Close Greenspace	Billingham	Green	Red
117	Cowbridge Beck	Billingham	Green	Green
118	Cowbridge Beck	Billingham	Green	Green
165	Finchale Avenue	Billingham	Green	Green
168	Flodden Way	Billingham	Green	Green
172	Gilside Road	Billingham	Green	Green
184	Greenwood Road	Billingham	Green	Red
198	Hastings Way	Billingham	Green	Red

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
199	Hatfield Road	Billingham	Red	Green
206	High Grange Avenue	Billingham	Green	Green
275	Low Grange (Daffodil) Park	Billingham	Green	Green
301	Mill Lane	Billingham	Green	Green
349	Pendle Crescent	Billingham	Red	Red
352	Pevenil Road	Billingham	Red	Red
353	Port Clarence	Billingham	Green	Red
354	Port Clarence	Billingham	Green	Green
388	Rievaulx Avenue	Billingham	Green	Green
391	Rievaulx Stadium	Billingham	Green	Green
409	Roscoe Road	Billingham	Green	Red
421	Sandown Road	Billingham	Green	Red
422	Saunton Road	Billingham	Red	Green
425	Skripka Drive	Billingham	Green	Red
434	Springwell Close	Billingham	Green	Green
455	Station Road	Billingham	Green	Red
456	Station Road	Billingham	Green	Green
464	Stokesley Crescent	Billingham	Green	Green
514	Victoria Terrace	Billingham	Green	Green
520	Vincent Way	Billingham	Green	Green
532	Westlowthian Street	Billingham	Green	Green
533	Westlowthian Street	Billingham	Green	Green
547	Wollaton Road	Billingham	Green	Green
557	Wooler Crescent	Billingham	Green	Green
560	Wykeham	Billingham	Green	Green
121	Cowpen Bewley Green	Rural	Red	Green
550	Wolviston Community Centre	Rural	Red	Red
552	Wolviston Green	Rural	Green	Green
56	Black Diamond Way	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green
80	Burnmoor Drive	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green
81	Butterfield Drive	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green
90	Carnoustie Drive	Eaglescliffe	Red	Green
96	Chaldron Way	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green
119	Cowley Close	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green
141	Durham Lane	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green
152	Egglecliffe Village Green	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green
217	Holywell Green	Eaglescliffe	Green	Red
220	Honister Walk	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green
251	Langdon Way	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green
291	Mayfield Crescent	Eaglescliffe	Green	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
341	Oak Road	Eaglescliffe		
350	Pennypot Lane	Eaglescliffe		
417	Royal George Drive	Eaglescliffe		
24	Barrowburn Green	Ingleby Barwick		
25	Barwick Lane	Ingleby Barwick		
35	Beckfields	Ingleby Barwick		
61	Blair Avenue	Ingleby Barwick		
62	Blair Avenue	Ingleby Barwick		
75	Broomwood	Ingleby Barwick		
110	Condercum Green	Ingleby Barwick		
243	Lamb Lane	Ingleby Barwick		
245	Land adj to Romano Park	Ingleby Barwick		
277	Lowfields	Ingleby Barwick		
416	Roundhill Ave/Norton Court	Ingleby Barwick		
428	Sober Hall	Ingleby Barwick		
544	Windmill Park	Ingleby Barwick		
34	Baysdale Road	Thornaby		
58	Blackbush Walk	Thornaby		
92	Cassys Field	Thornaby		
109	Cobden Street	Thornaby		
155	Elm Grove	Thornaby		
160	Eltham Crescent	Thornaby		
191	Harold Wilson Centre	Thornaby		
202	Havilland	Thornaby		
237	Kinloss Walk	Thornaby		
248	Land to rear of Eltham Crescent	Thornaby		
249	Lanehouse Road	Thornaby		
253	Leahope Court	Thornaby		
254	Leith Walk Copse	Thornaby		
269	Lockerbie Walk	Thornaby		
315	Navigation Way	Thornaby		
371	Princes Square	Thornaby		
372	Princeton Drive	Thornaby		
494	Thornaby Green	Thornaby		
522	Walker Street	Thornaby		
525	Watson Road	Thornaby		
111	Conyers Close	Yarm		
128	Davenport Road	Yarm		
132	Denevale	Yarm		
173	Glaisdale Road	Yarm		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
257	Leven Park	Yarm		
296	Metcalfe Close Amenity Green Space	Yarm		
426	Snaiths Field	Yarm		
539	Willey Flats	Yarm		
18	Ashmore House	Stockton		
19	Ashton Road	Stockton		
52	Bishopsgarth Playing Fields	Stockton		
55	Bishopton Court	Stockton		
68	Bothal Walk	Stockton		
77	Brusselton Court	Stockton		
86	Cardinal Grove	Stockton		
106	Clive Crescent	Stockton		
114	Costain Grove	Stockton		
134	Devonport Road	Stockton		
136	Dipton Road	Stockton		
139	Dunmail Road	Stockton		
143	Durham Road	Stockton		
158	Elmwood Community Centre	Stockton		
170	Fulmar Road	Stockton		
182	Greens Beck	Stockton		
187	Hardwick Green	Stockton		
193	Harpers Green	Stockton		
196	Hartburn Green Corridor	Stockton		
204	Hebburn Road	Stockton		
215	Holburn Park	Stockton		
216	Holy Trinity	Stockton		
221	Hume House	Stockton		
230	Ingleton Road	Stockton		
238	Kiora Hall	Stockton		
242	Knitsley Walk	Stockton		
246	Land off A1027	Stockton		
250	Laneside Road Greenbelt 1	Stockton		
255	Leonard Ropner Drive	Stockton		
256	Lerwick Close	Stockton		
295	Merlin Road	Stockton		
302	Mill Lane	Stockton		
318	Newham Grange (Oak Tree Primary)	Stockton		
324	Newstead Avenue	Stockton		
328	Northcote Hill Farm	Stockton		
337	Norton Green	Stockton		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
347	Patterdale Avenue	Stockton		
348	Peacocks Yard, Amenity Space	Stockton		
377	Queens Park	Stockton		
378	Radford Close	Stockton		
381	Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre	Stockton		
382	Raunds Avenue	Stockton		
384	Redbrook Park	Stockton		
392	Ringwood Crescent	Stockton		
393	Riverside	Stockton		
395	Rochester Road	Stockton		
396	Rochester Road	Stockton		
397	Rockferry Close	Stockton		
403	Romsey Road	Stockton		
404	Rook Lane	Stockton		
415	Rothwell Crescent	Stockton		
418	Rudyard Avenue	Stockton		
419	Runfold Close	Stockton		
453	Stamp Street	Stockton		
467	Sussex Walk	Stockton		
484	The Square Amenity Green Space	Stockton		
498	Tilery	Stockton		
504	Tyrone Road	Stockton		
507	Van Mildert Way	Stockton		
535	Wheatley Walk	Stockton		
537	White Water Course	Stockton		
546	Witton Park	Stockton		
554	Wolviston Walk	Stockton		
559	Wrensfield Road	Stockton		
479	The Granary Wynyard	Wynyard		
485	The Stables Wynyard	Wynyard		
486	The Stables Wynyard	Wynyard		
278	Lowson Street	Rural		
293	Meadow Walk	Rural		
305	Mill Lane Whitton	Rural		
307	Mount Pleasant	Rural		
526	Weare Grove	Rural		
530	West Street Playing Field	Rural		
270	Long Newton Playing Field/Amenity	Rural		
271	Long Newton Village Green	Rural		
481	The Green, Kirklevington	Rural		

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
487	The Stray	Rural		
555	Woodland Way	Rural		

6.5 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.7: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Billingham	119	35%	50%	62%	27%	8	39
Eaglescliffe	119	37%	52%	62%	25%	1	14
Ingleby Barwick	119	33%	52%	71%	38%	3	10
Stockton	119	24%	50%	85%	61%	16	48
Thornaby	119	32%	51%	68%	36%	3	17
Wynyard	119	50%	51%	54%	5%	0	3
Yarm	119	44%	55%	63%	19%	1	7
Rural	119	43%	49%	59%	16%	2	12
Stockton-on-Tees	119	24%	50%	85%	61%	34	150

The majority of amenity greenspace (81%) is rated above the threshold for quality.

All analysis areas have at least 75% of its of amenity greenspace rated above the quality threshold. Proportionally Wynyard Analysis Area (100%), Eaglescliffe Analysis Area (93%) and Yarm Analysis Area (89%) have more rated as above the threshold than other analysis areas.

Overall there are 34 sites rated below the threshold. However, it is important to recognise that despite scoring below the threshold for quality, sites may still have the potential to be important to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area it may be of high value. It may also provide a visual amenity value.

Most sites that rate below the quality threshold are observed as being small and fairly basic pockets of green space. These tend to lack ancillary facilities to encourage extensive recreational use. Subsequently, despite no major quality issues these sites score low for quality.

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Some of the lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites are:

- ◀ Patterdale Avenue (24%)
- ◀ Rochester Road (29%)
- ◀ Witton Park (26%)

Patterdale Avenue in the Stockton Analysis Area is the lowest scoring site. This is mainly due to significant quality issues in relation to site maintenance and cleanliness.

Sites such as Lamb Lane in the Ingleby Barwick Analysis Area, Leahope Court in the Thornaby Analysis Area, Newham Grange (Oak Tree Primary) in the Stockton Analysis Area and Brendon Crescent in the Billingham Analysis Area are also reported to have a low level of maintenance or need for greater maintenance.

The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ White Water Course (85%)
- ◀ Windmill Park (71%)
- ◀ Holy Trinity (71%)
- ◀ Beckfields (70%)

High scoring sites, such as the ones above are reported to have a good standard of maintenance and cleanliness resulting in a more attractive appearance. The majority also offer good disabled access and have controls to prevent illegal use and features to increase safety of site users. A good standard of paths is also observed as well as in particular, for some of the highest scoring sites, opportunities for recreation such as ball games, due to the sites size and location.

Similar to results for availability, community and street survey respondents view the quality of amenity greenspace as very satisfactory (20%) or quite satisfactory (49%). Again, a small number of respondents (11%) believe amenity greenspace quality to be quite dissatisfactory or very dissatisfactory.

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6.6 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.8: Value ratings for amenity greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Billingham	88	10%	29%	51%	41%	13	34
Eaglescliffe	88	19%	32%	50%	31%	1	14
Ingleby Barwick	88	16%	33%	60%	44%	3	10
Stockton	88	6%	32%	61%	56%	7	57
Thornaby	88	13%	37%	70%	58%	2	18
Wynyard	88	27%	33%	42%	15%	0	3
Yarm	88	20%	32%	49%	28%	0	8
Rural	88	15%	29%	52%	38%	3	11
Stockton-on-Tees	88	6%	32%	70%	65%	29	155

Similar to quality, most amenity greenspaces (84%) rate above the threshold for value. Furthermore, five of the sites scoring below the threshold for value are only marginally below with a rating of between 17% and 19%.

Sites scoring below the value threshold tend to be grassed areas with no noticeable features. Moreover, a number of these sites are perceived to have poor maintenance and cleanliness scores at the time of the site visit. This is also the reason why in some areas (i.e. Billingham) a higher proportion of sites rate below the threshold. Such instances can influence people's enthusiasm to use the site, which can reflect in low levels of observed usage. All these points combined results in low scores for value. The two lowest scoring sites for value out of the 29 which score below the threshold are:

- ✦ Patterdale Avenue (6%)
- ✦ Lerwick Close (10%)
- ✦ Peveril Road (10%)
- ✦ Cassys Field (13%)

Despite low value scores the majority of sites below the threshold are acknowledged as providing some visual amenity to their locality and it is important to note that the main role of certain sites is to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form.

Some of the highest scoring sites for value in Stockton-on-Tees are:

- ✦ Lockerbie Walk (71%)
- ✦ Thornaby Green (64%)
- ✦ White Water Course (61%)

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These sites are recognised for the accessible recreational opportunity they provide for a wide range of users. Such sites provide health benefits and opportunities for social interaction, as well as acting as a visual amenity. For example, the White Water Course site will be used heavily during training and competitions as the White Water Course. Thornaby Green is recognised as a village green providing an important function to the local community. Lockerbie Walk is observed as containing a memorial and therefore is recognised as having historic and cultural benefits. The value of these sites is helped further by the high quality of maintenance which attracts people to visit and use them.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. This is evidenced by community and street survey respondents reporting they use open space to exercise (42%), to talk a dog (30%) and to take children to play (35%).

Recreation grounds such as Blue Hall Recreation Ground and West Street Playing Field also provide opportunity for organised sport such as football and cricket. This is often of high value to a local community, which in turn increases the value of this type of amenity greenspace.

6.7 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 184 amenity greenspace sites in Stockton-on-Tees; over 235 hectares of amenity space.
- ◀ The analysis area with the largest amount of provision is Stockton. However, Billingham has the most provision per 1,000 population, with 2.42 hectares. Wynyard has the smallest amount of provision with 1.81 hectares. However, Ingleby Barwick has the least provision on a per 1,000 population basis (0.50).
- ◀ A 15-minute and 6-minute walk accessibility catchment has been set and reveals good coverage across Stockton-on-Tees. However, a number of catchment gaps are identified. These are discussed further in the strategy document.
- ◀ Overall amenity greenspaces quality is positive. Most sites (81%) rate above the threshold and only a handful face any specific issue.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence most sites (84%) rate above the threshold for value.
- ◀ Eleven sites are identified as rating low for quality and value.

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PART 7: PLAY AREAS AND INFORMAL SPORTS FACILITIES

7.1 Introduction

Play areas are deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities which are usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Informal sports facilities can include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges incorporating facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, and Multi-use games areas (MUGAs).

7.2 Current provision

The number of play units at a site has been recorded. This is important as a small site with only one or two items is likely to be of a lower value than a site with several different forms of equipment designed to cater for wider age ranges. This will also impact on a sites attractiveness and level of use.

In general, one play unit is one piece of play equipment i.e. a slide equals one unit. However, to represent that some forms of play provision have a greater level of use and value the following approach to scoring units of play, in agreement with SBC, has been applied:

Table 7.1: Allocation of units of play for larger forms of provision

Type of play provision	Units of play allocated
Skate park	10
MUGA	6
BMX feature	3
Games wall	3
Zip line/wire	3
Youth/teen shelter	2
Extensive largescale climbing tower	18
Largescale climbing unit	9
Standard climbing unit	2

A total of 72 play area and informal sports facilities are identified in Stockton-on-Tees. Where a site has a play area as well as informal sports provision, the two have been merged to become one site. As a result, there are 55 sites discussed in this section. One of these sites, Addington Park MUGA, is located on a school site with restricted access. Therefore, it is not included within the quantity and quality assessment.

Table 7.2 shows the distribution of play provision and informal sports facilities as well as the number of play units in each analysis area.

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Table 7.2: Distribution of all play areas and informal sports facilities by analysis area

Analysis area	Play areas and informal sports facilities		
	Number of sites	Number of play units	Current provision (play units per 1,000 population)
Billingham	9	147	5.00
Eaglescliffe	5	146	18.16
Ingleby Barwick	6	174	8.55
Rural	8	174	13.64
Stockton	17	246	3.14
Thornaby	6	166	6.59
Wynyard	-	-	-
Yarm	3	46	6.07
Stockton-on-Tees	54	1,099	6.02

Stockton Analysis Area currently has the highest number of total play units (246). Despite this, Eaglescliffe Analysis Area has the most play units per 1,000 head of population (18.16 play units per 1,000 population); it should be noted that the Eaglescliffe Analysis Area contains Preston Park which is identified as having 76 play units. This accounts for 52% of the 146 play units in this area. The Rural Analysis Area follows this with 13.64 play units per 1,000 head of population. However, again the majority of this provision is located at Wynyard Woodland Park (51 play units).

Table 7.3 shows the distribution of play provision units only in each analysis area.

Table 7.3: Distribution of play area units only by analysis area

Analysis area	Play areas		
	Number of sites with play units	Number of play units (play area units only)	Current provision (units per 1,000 population)
Billingham	7	105	3.62
Eaglescliffe	5	136	16.92
Ingleby Barwick	6	157	7.72
Rural	8	162	12.70
Stockton	13	189	2.41
Thornaby	6	138	5.48
Wynyard	-	-	-
Yarm	3	41	5.42
Stockton-on-Tees	48	928	5.08

The Eaglescliffe (16.92), Rural (12.70), Ingleby Barwick (7.72), Thornaby (5.48) and Yarm (5.42) analysis areas have current provision levels greater than that identified across Stockton-on-Tees (5.08); Eaglescliffe and Rural levels are noticeably greater.

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Only the Billingham (3.62) and Stockton (2.41) analysis areas have current provision of units per 1,000 population lower than that identified across Stockton-on-Tees.

Table 7.4 shows the distribution of informal sports facility units only in each analysis area.

Table 7.4: Distribution of informal sports facility units only by analysis area

Analysis area	Informal sports facilities				
	Number of sites with informal units	Number of units (informal sports only)			Current provision (units per 1,000 population)
		Wheeled	Other	Total	
Billingham	5	10	32	42	1.45
Eaglescliffe	1	10	-	10	1.24
Ingleby Barwick	3	-	17	17	0.84
Rural	2	-	12	12	0.94
Stockton	11	-	57	57	0.73
Thornaby	5	-	28	28	1.11
Wynyard	-	-	-	-	-
Yarm	1	-	5	5	0.66
Stockton-on-Tees	28	20	151	171	0.94

The Billingham (1.45), Eaglescliffe (1.24) and Thornaby (1.11) analysis areas all have current provision levels of informal sports facilities (per 1,000 population) greater than the 0.94 units per 1,000 population identified across Stockton-on-Tees. The Rural Analysis Area is level; whilst Ingleby Barwick (0.84), Yarm (0.66) and Stockton (0.73) analysis areas have current provision levels less than that across Stockton-on-Tees as a whole.

As a local authority Stockton-on-Tees classify its play provision using three categories; destination sites, neighbourhood sites and doorstep sites. These are designated using the following criteria:

- ◀ **Destination site** – a self-contained site with a significant number of play units (for a wider range of users), adequate buffer zones between equipment elements, access to toilets, refreshments available at peak times, landscaping, good access and other leisure facilities such as tennis courts on site. The presence of CCTV is also taken into consideration.
- ◀ **Neighbourhood site** – a self contained site with a reasonable number and range of play units, adequate buffer zones between equipment elements, landscaping and good access. It is also preferable that the site has access to toilets and refreshments as well as having CCTV. However, these are not essential.
- ◀ **Doorstep sites** – a smaller site with some play units (often of less scope and range), adequate buffer zones between equipment elements and good access.

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Most sites in Stockton-on-Tees (44%) are identified as being doorstep sites. The remaining sites are either neighbourhood sites (37%) or destination sites (7%). Table 7.5 sets out the breakdown for these designations. The six sites identified as standalone Informal Sport Facilities are not classified under any of the three categories.

Table 7.5: Distribution of play areas and informal sports by designation

Analysis area	Play areas and informal sports facilities					
	Destination	Neighbourhood		Doorstep		Informal sport (standalone)
		Play area only	Inc informal sport	Play area only	Inc informal sport	
Billingham	1	-	2	4	-	2
Eaglescliffe	1	2	-	2	-	-
Ingleby Barwick	-	2	2	2	-	-
Rural	1	-	1	6	-	-
Stockton	1	-	5	5	2	4
Thornaby	-	1	4	1	-	-
Wynyard	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarm	-	-	1	2	-	-
Stockton-on-Tees	4	5	15	22	2	6

Ownership and management

The majority of play areas in the area are owned by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The Council carry out play area inspections either once or twice a week depending on the sites location, size or levels of use. Further to this there are annual inspections conducted by an external contractor.

Investment

Approximately five years ago the Council invested money from a significant play builder grant on play areas across the Borough.

7.3 Accessibility

Catchment mapping to determine accessibility varies depending on the play provision designation used in Stockton-on-Tees (Doorstep, Neighbourhood, Destination and Informal Sports). This is in order to represent a sites level of appeal and use. This is set out in table 7.6.

Table 7.6: Accessibility catchment based on site classification

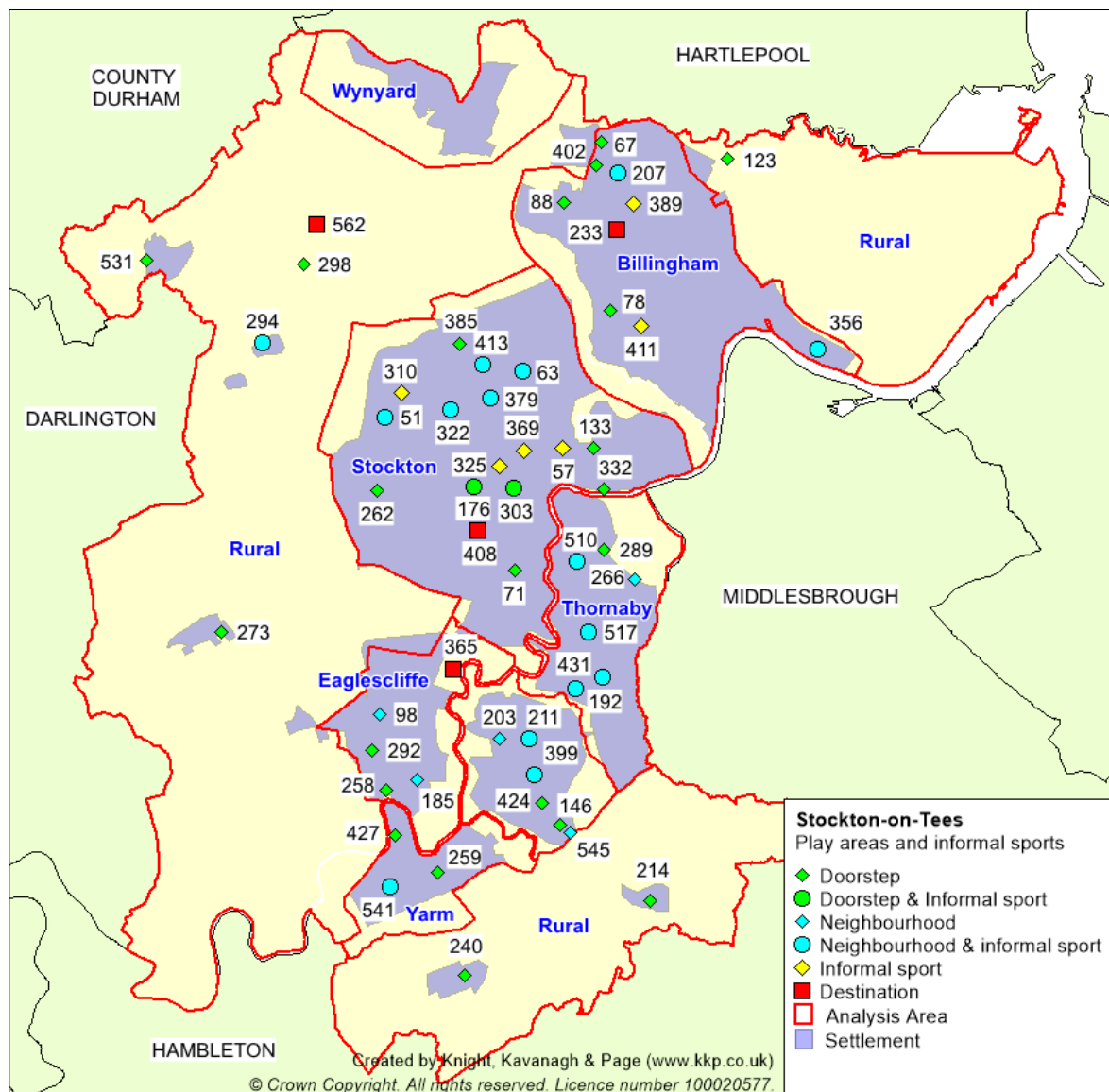
Stockton classification	Walk time	Distance
Doorstep	5 minute	400m
Neighbourhood	12 ½ minute	1000m
Destination	30 minute	2400m
Informal sport	15 minute	1200m

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The 1200m walking guideline has not been applied to significant forms of Informal Sports Facilities such as the two sites identified as having wheeled sports facilities (i.e. John Whitehead Park and Preston Park). Given the type of both forms of provision, it is considered that users to the sites are willing to travel much further distances in order to visit them. A 2400m catchment area has been used for the two sites however they should be viewed as being of significance for the whole of the Borough.

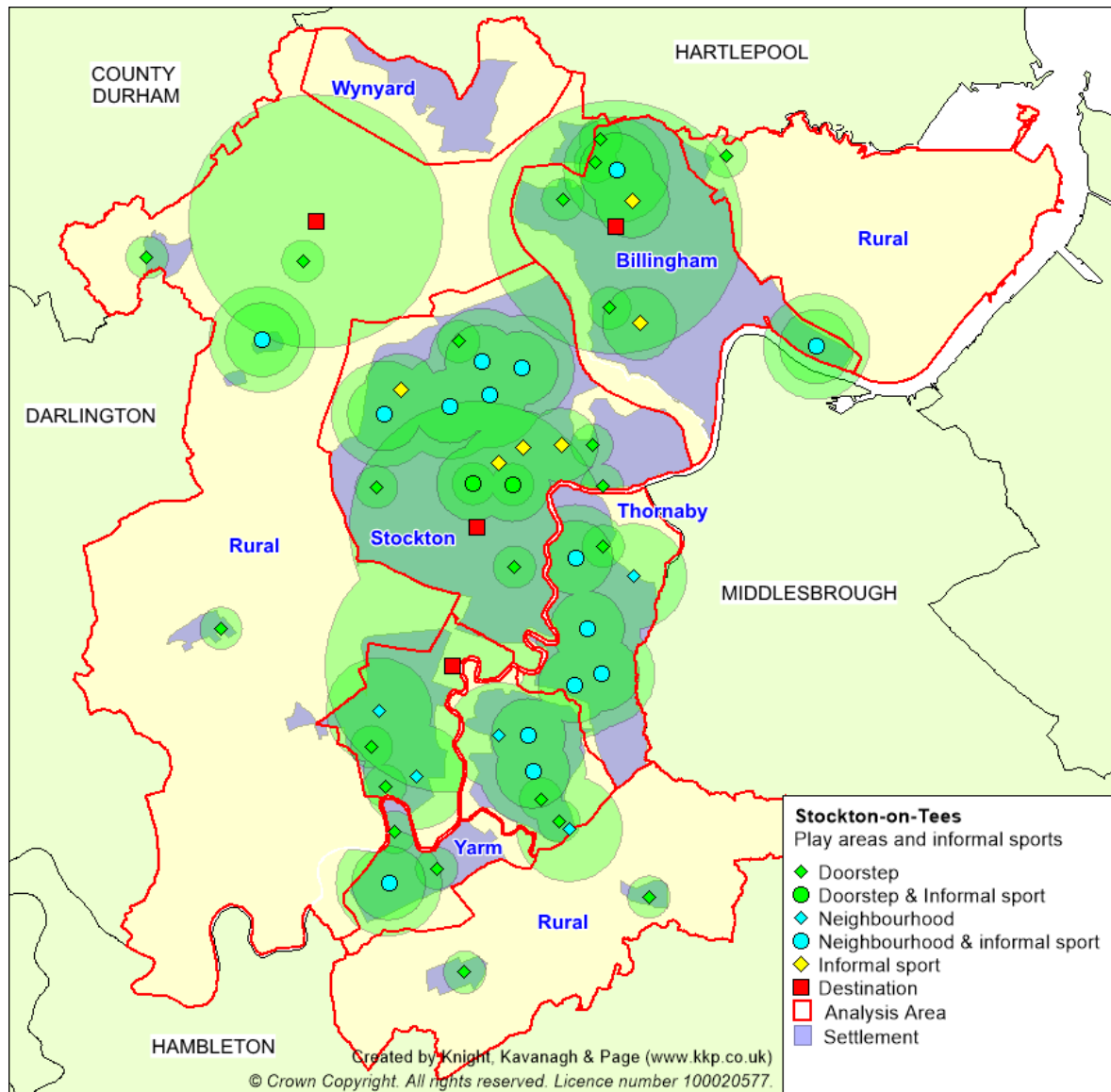
Figures 7.1 to 7.6 show the walking guidelines applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 7.1: All play area and informal sports facility sites mapped against settlements



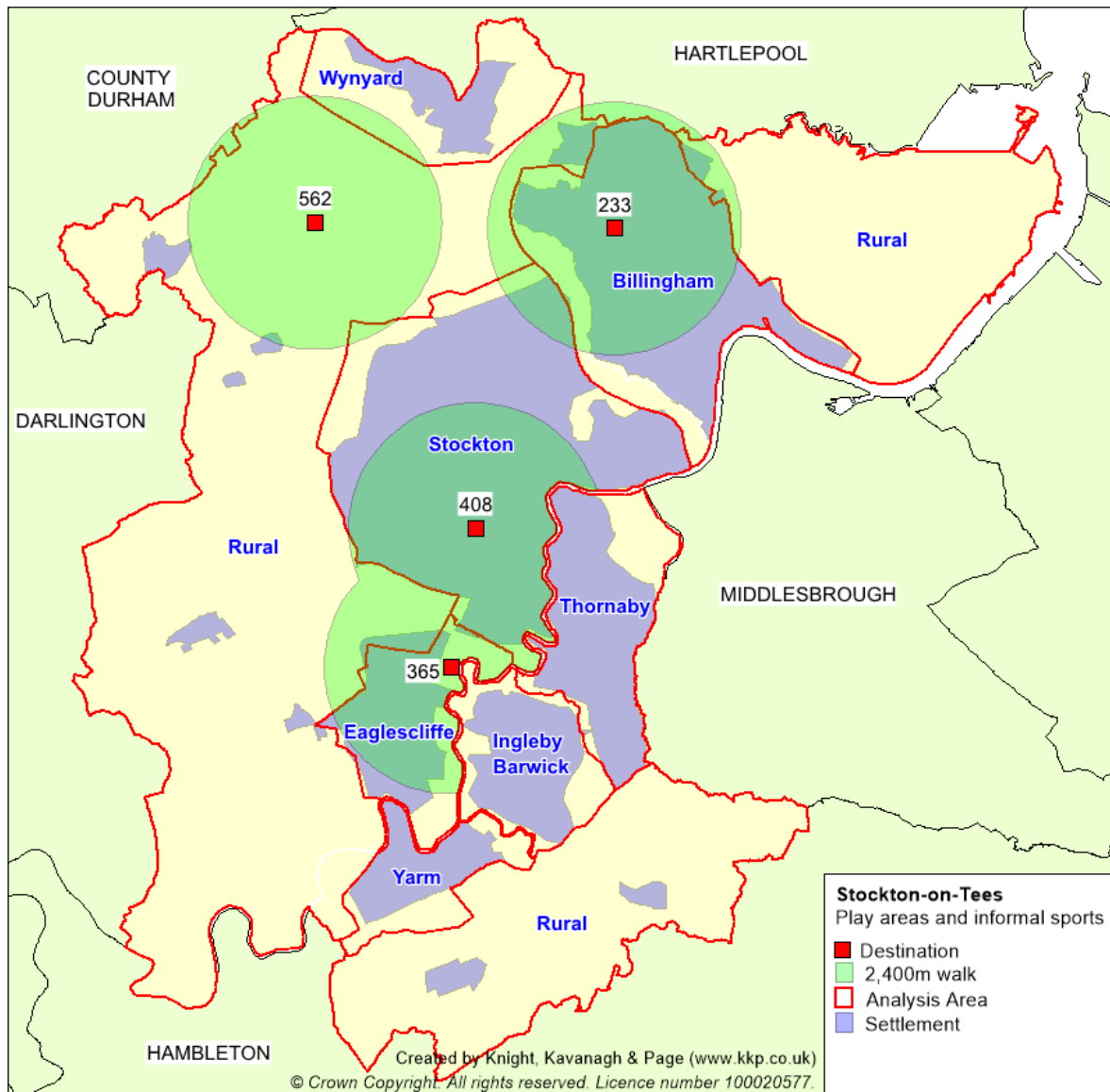
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Figure 7.2: All play area and informal sports facility sites with catchments mapped against settlements



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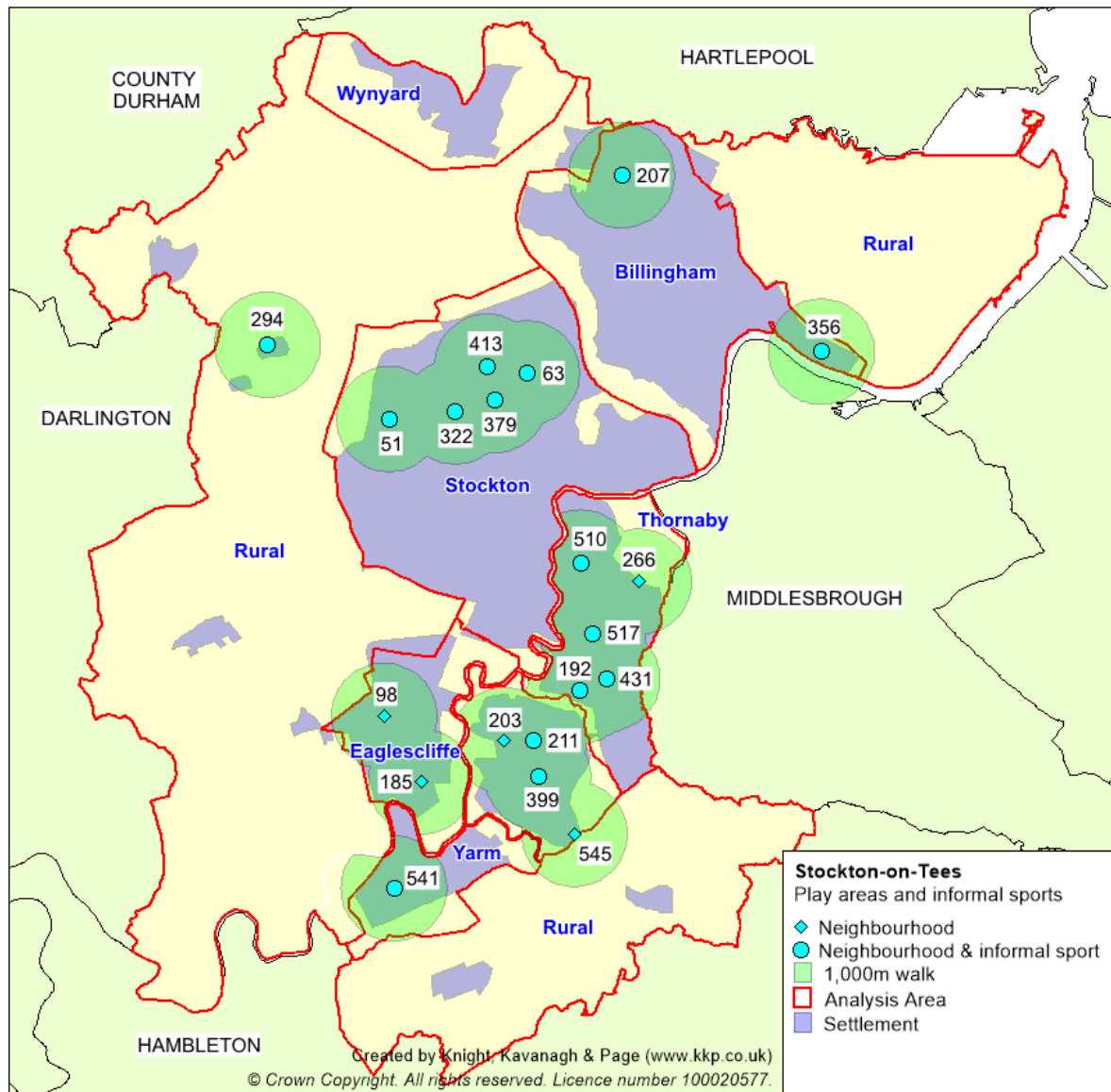
Figure 7.3: Destination sites with 2,400m catchment mapped against settlements³



³ Accessibility mapping is for use at a strategic level and more detailed localised assessment will be required when assessing localised provision,

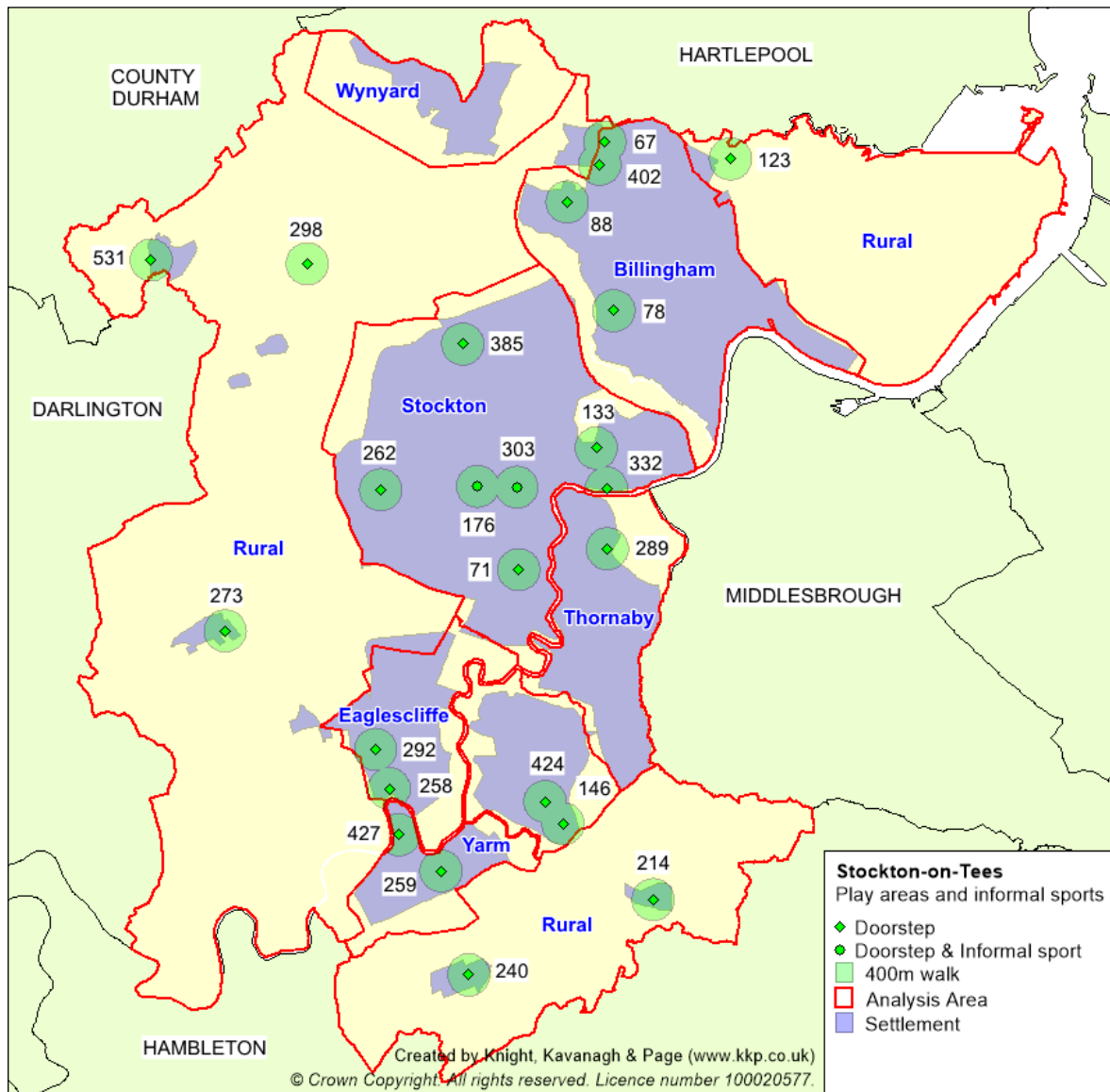
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Figure 7.4: Neighbourhood sites with 1,000m catchment mapped against settlements



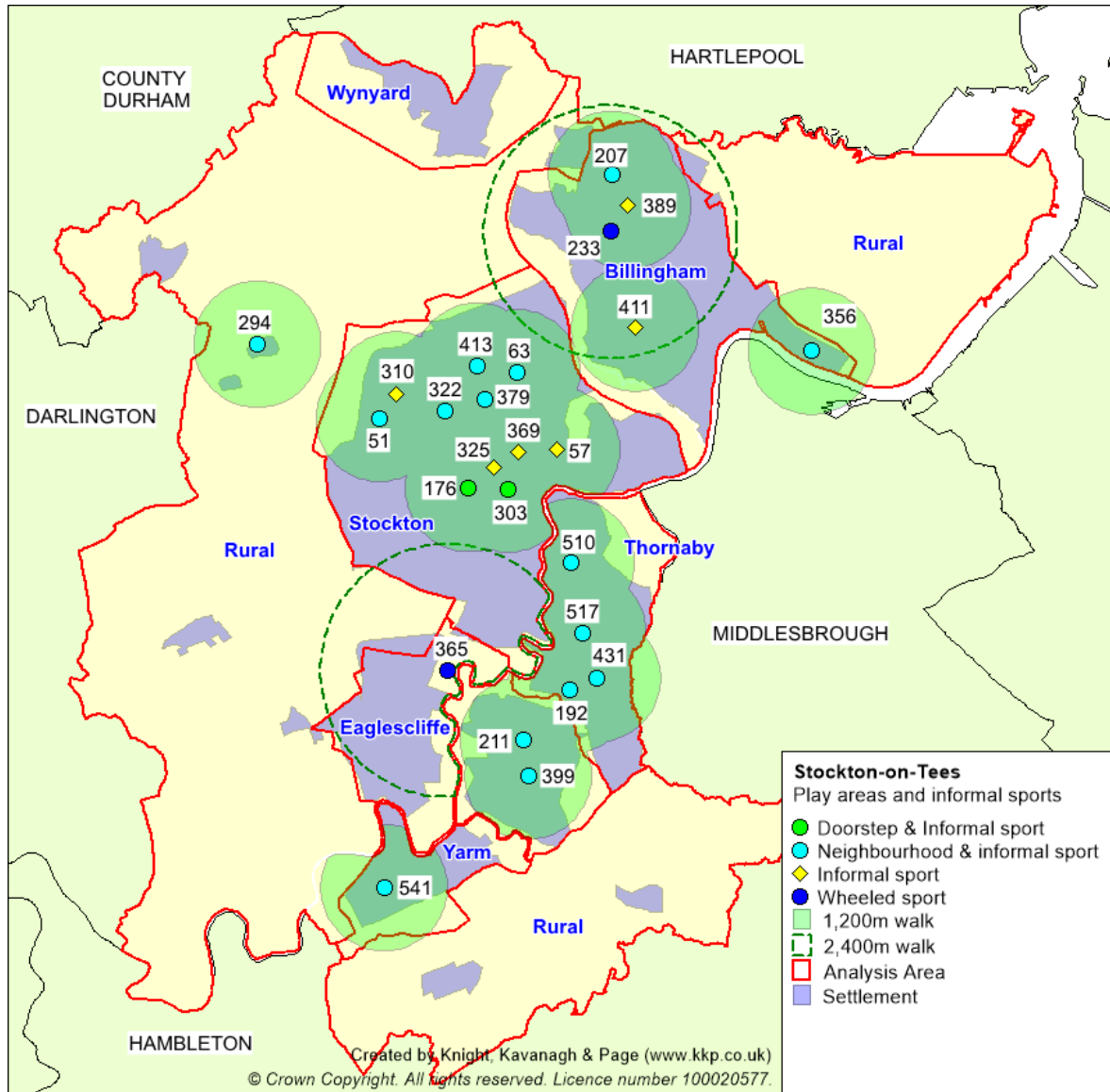
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Figure 7.5: Doorstep with 400m catchment mapped against settlements



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Figure 7.6: Informal sports facility sites with 1200m catchment mapped against settlements



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There is a reasonable distribution of doorstep sites across Stockton. However, due to this form of provision only having a 400m walking catchment there are notable gaps in areas of a higher population density. These noticeable gaps may be met by other forms of play provision (i.e. neighbourhood and destination sites). A summary to the identified gaps is set out below:

Table 7.7: Summary of catchment gaps

Analysis area	Potential catchment gap
Billingham	- Gap to southeast of settlement against Doorstep and Neighbourhood
Eaglescliffe	- Minor gaps in catchment mapping identified (including informal sport facilities)
Ingleby Barwick	- Catchment gap in identified in terms of 'destination' play sites
Rural	- Catchment gap identified for the settlement of Redmarshall - Minor gaps noted to Stillington, Long Newton and Kirkevington
Stockton	- Catchment gaps identified to the northwest of settlement - Gap in 'neighbourhood' sites to south and southwest of settlement (including informal sport facilities)
Thornaby	- Catchment gap in identified in terms of 'destination' play sites
Wynyard	- Catchment gap identified across settlement (including informal sport facilities)
Yarm	- Catchment gap in identified in terms of 'destination' play sites

There are currently four destination sites in Stockton. Such sites help to serve fairly large areas. However, as it stands, there are no destination sites in the Yarm, Ingleby Barwick or Thornaby analysis areas. North Stockton/Norton also has a noticeable gap. These gaps may be served by other forms of provision such as neighbourhood sites.

Given there are identified gaps in catchment mapping across all forms of play provision, looking to improve existing play provision on a coordinated strategic level so provision serves as a wide an area as possible should be explored. This may require enhancement of a sites current designation to the next category level through looking to provide a greater offer of play provision at the site where possible.

It is considered that further exploration to the future designation and setting of catchment standards will be required within the Strategy document to ensure a suitable level of access to provision exists.

Despite these noted gaps, most respondents to the community and street surveys rate availability of play provision as very satisfactory (30%) or quite satisfactory (37%). A small proportion of respondents (14%) deem provision to be quite dissatisfactory or very dissatisfactory.

It is worth noting that comments from consultation occasionally cite the potential for a greater range and scope of play provision.

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7.4 Quality and Value Overview

A summary of the quality and value ratings for sites are set out in Table 7.7. Further detail on the scores and ratings is provided under the quality and value sections.

Table 7.8: Quality and value scores summary for play areas and informal sports facilities

Site ID	Site name	Classification	Analysis area	Play units	Quality score	Value score
67	Bonington Crescent Play Area	Doorstep	Billingham	8		
78	Bull Garth Adventure Trail	Doorstep	Billingham	2		
88	Carlton Avenue Play Area	Doorstep	Billingham	17		
207	High Grange Recreation Area and MUGA	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Billingham	25		
233	John Whitehead Park Play Area, MBC and Wheeled Sports Facility	Destination	Billingham	53		
356	Port Clarence Multi Ball Court and Play Area	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Billingham	24		
389	Rievaulx Multi Ball Court	informal sport	Billingham	6		
402	Romney Green Play Area	Doorstep	Billingham	6		
411	Roscoe Road, MBC	informal sport	Billingham	6		
98	Charlrdon Way (Kingsmead) Play Area	Neighbourhood	Eaglescliffe	18		
185	Grisedale Crescent (St Margarets) Play Area	Neighbourhood	Eaglescliffe	23		
258	Leven Park (Leven Close) Play Area	Doorstep	Eaglescliffe	11		
292	Mayfield Crescent (Amberley Way) Play Area	Doorstep	Eaglescliffe	18		
365	Preston Park, Play Area and Wheeled Facility	Destination	Eaglescliffe	76		
146	Earls Meadow Play Area Lyn Close	Doorstep	Ingleby Barwick	7		
203	Hazeldene, Play Area	Neighbourhood	Ingleby Barwick	35		
211	Hillbrook Crescent Play Space	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Ingleby Barwick	37		
399	Romano Park Landscape for Play and MBC	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Ingleby Barwick	60		
424	Simonside Play Area	Doorstep	Ingleby Barwick	5		
545	Windmill Way (Ingleby Mill) Play Area	Neighbourhood	Ingleby Barwick	30		
123	Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park Play Area	Doorstep	Rural	9		
214	Hilton Village Hall Playing field play area	Doorstep	Rural	12		
240	Kirklevington Pump Lane Play Area	Doorstep	Rural	20		
273	Long Newton Recreation Ground Play Area	Doorstep	Rural	6		

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294	Meadow Walk (Fred Hall Field) Play Area	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Rural	34		
298	Middle Bank Field	Doorstep	Rural	20		
531	West Street Stillington Play Area	Doorstep	Rural	22		
562	Wynyard Woodland Park	Destination	Rural	51		
51	Bishopsgarth Play Area and MBC	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Stockton	22		
57	Black Path Multi Ball Court	informal sport	Stockton	6		
63	Blue Hall Rec Ground Play Area	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Stockton	14		
71	Bowesfield Play Area	Doorstep	Stockton	8		
133	Devonport Play Area	Doorstep	Stockton	11		
176	Grangefield Park Play Area and MBC	Doorstep (with Informal sport)	Stockton	13		
262	Limbrick Avenue (Greenvale) Play Area	Doorstep	Stockton	4		
303	Mill Lane Kick Wall and Play Area	Doorstep (with Informal sport)	Stockton	21		
310	Multi Games Area Hardwick Green Park	informal sport	Stockton	6		
322	Newham Grange Park Play Area and Kick Wall	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Stockton	34		
325	Newtown Kick Wall	informal sport	Stockton	3		
332	Northshore Play Area	Doorstep	Stockton	6		
369	Primrose Hill Multi Ball Court	informal sport	Stockton	6		
379	Ragworth (Community Centre) Play Area and Basketball	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Stockton	21		
385	Redbrook Play Area	Doorstep	Stockton	13		
408	Ropner Park Play Area	Destination	Stockton	42		
413	Rochester Road Play Area and MUGA	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Stockton	16		
192	Harold Wilson Play Area and Basketball Court	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Thornaby	20		
266	Little Boy Park Play Area	Neighbourhood	Thornaby	20		
289	Mary Street Play Area	Doorstep	Thornaby	3		
431	South Thornaby Community Centre Play Area	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Thornaby	33		
510	Victoria Rec Ground (Peel Street) Play Area and Kick Wall	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Thornaby	48		
517	Village Park Play Area, MBC and Kick Wall	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Thornaby	42		
259	Leven Park Play Area	Doorstep	Yarm	10		
427	Snaihs Field (West Street)	Doorstep	Yarm	15		

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Site ID	Site name	Classification	Analysis area	Play units	Quality score	Value score
541	Willey Flats Play Area and Kick Wall	Neighbourhood (with Informal sport)	Yarm	21		

7.5 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 55% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Quality assessments of play sites do not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment.

Table 7.9: Quality ratings of play areas and informal sports facilities by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score		Low <55%	High >55%
Billingham	102	48%	56%	71%	22%	5	4
Eaglescliffe	102	55%	69%	85%	31%	1	4
Ingleby Barwick	102	61%	74%	86%	25%	0	6
Stockton	102	21%	51%	76%	55%	9	8
Thornaby	102	42%	60%	73%	31%	2	4
Wynyard	102	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarm	102	44%	54%	67%	23%	2	1
Rural	102	36%	57%	88%	52%	3	5
Stockton-on-Tees	102	21%	56%	88%	67%	22	32

Over half (59%) of the play provision sites score above the threshold for quality. In all analysis areas with provision there is a significant spread between the highest and lowest scoring sites. For instance, in the Stockton Analysis Area, Bowesfield Play Area and Limbrick Avenue (Greenvale) Play Area both score 21% compared to Ropner Park Play Area scoring 76%. This is unsurprising given that both Bowesfield Play Area and Limbrick Avenue (Greenvale) Play Area are doorstep sites, whereas Ropner Park Play Area is a destination site.

A greater proportion of sites rate below the threshold for quality in the Billingham, Stockton and Yarm analysis areas. In most instances, these lower scoring sites are categorised as Doorstep (56%). A similar trend is seen for all sites across Stockton-on-Tees rating below the quality threshold; with 55% of the 22 sites categorised as Doorstep.

There are 22 sites that rate below the threshold for quality. The majority of sites, which score below the threshold, are observed as having a lack of ancillary facilities including benches and bins. The majority are also observed as having no fencing which could potentially be an issue, especially with small children using the site.

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However, in some instances it is recognised that installation of fencing at some sites is not needed. Further to this, a number of low scoring sites do not have sufficient disabled access.

Not all low scoring sites have issues with standards of maintenance and cleanliness; however, a handful are reported to need improvements in this area:

- ◀ Limbrick Avenue (Greenvale) Play Area
- ◀ Primrose Hill Multi Ball Court
- ◀ Newtown Kick Wall
- ◀ South Thornaby Community Centre Play Area

The two lowest scoring sites are; Bowesfield Play Area and Limbrick Avenue (Greenvale) Play Area. These sites both score 21%. Both sites are described as looking tired with dated equipment. The former was also noted as having an issue with misuse by dogs.

Over half of the respondents to the community and street surveys rate the quality of play areas as very satisfactory (25%) or quite satisfactory (38%). This may be unexpected given that just under half of play provision scores low for quality. This however, could suggest that people are choosing to use higher quality sites (destination and neighbourhood sites) rather than doorstep sites.

Given the differences in play equipment range and style it is not appropriate to compare sites of different designations. Therefore, for comparison of quality, sites are compared to other sites within the same category (destination site, neighbourhood site or doorstep site).

Destination sites

All destination sites score high for quality (above 71%). The highest scoring destination site is Wynyard Woodland Park (88%) in the Rural Analysis Area.

The four destination sites have excellent ancillary facilities including seats, bins, and informative signage (including safety information), as well as high levels of personal security. They also allow for disabled access, have boundary fencing and demonstrate good levels of maintenance and cleanliness.

Further to this, all the sites have a high number of play units, as well as a wide variety of equipment such as spider web climbers, nest swings and wobble boards. Preston Park, Play Area and Wheeled Facility currently has the most play units (76).

Play areas can be broken down into equipment catering for youths, children and toddlers. All four of the destination parks meet the requirements of all three age groups.

The play areas designated as destination sites are all situated within well used larger sites such as parks and country parks. These larger sites have all scored well for quality within their typology sections. For example, Preston Park was the highest scoring parks and gardens site for quality. As a consequence of this, such play areas benefit from access to toilet facilities and refreshments during peak times.

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Neighbourhood sites

All but four neighbourhood sites score high for quality (80%). The highest scoring neighbourhood site is Romano Park Landscape for Play with 86%.

The majority of neighbourhood sites score over 60%, with the exception of three sites, which score significantly higher:

- ◀ Romano Park Landscape for Play and MBC (86%)
- ◀ Hazeldene, Play Area (81%)
- ◀ Hillbrook Crescent Play Space (80%)

All neighbourhood sites have good ancillary facilities such as seats, bins and informative signage (including safety information). They also have sufficient disabled access, good personal security and at least reasonable levels of maintenance and cleanliness. The majority of the sites also have boundary fencing. Moreover, these sites provide a fair number of play units, as well as a variety of equipment.

Fifteen out of the 20 neighbourhood sites have equipment to meet the requirements of all age groups (youth, child and toddler). The remaining five sites have equipment suitable for at least two of these age groups.

Destination sites are predominantly found within the main urban parks. Whereas most neighbourhood sites are found within smaller parks/recreation grounds and larger amenity spaces. As a result, neighbourhood sites do not have toilet facilities or regular availability of refreshments.

Doorstep sites

Doorstep sites are smaller and mixed in term of quality with 50% (12 sites) scoring below the threshold and 50% (12 sites) scoring above the threshold for quality.

The highest scoring doorstep sites are:

- ◀ Leven Park (Leven Close) Play Area (75%)
- ◀ Kirklevington Pump Lane Play Area (68%)
- ◀ Leven Park Play Area (67%)

These sites have a good standard of seating, bins, fencing and signage. Although these sites do not all have as higher number of play units or as much variety as destination and neighbourhood parks they are maintained to a good level.

There are however a number of doorstep sites with a reasonable amount of play units. These include:

- ◀ West Street Stillington Play Area (22 play units)
- ◀ Mill Lane Kick Wall and Play Area (21 play units)
- ◀ Kirklevington Pump Lane Play Area (20 play units)
- ◀ Middle Bank Field (20 play units)
- ◀ Mayfield Crescent (Amberley Way) Play Area (18 play areas)

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

7.6 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the value assessment for play provision in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.10: Value ratings for play areas and informal sports facilities by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Billingham	49	24%	46%	78%	53%	0	9
Eaglescliffe	49	47%	58%	80%	33%	0	5
Ingleby Barwick	49	27%	52%	80%	53%	0	6
Stockton	49	14%	44%	67%	53%	2	15
Thornaby	49	27%	49%	65%	39%	0	6
Wynyard	49	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Yarm	49	47%	52%	55%	8%	0	3
Rural	49	41%	53%	67%	27%	0	8
Stockton-on-Tees	49	14%	47%	80%	65%	2	52

All play provision sites, with the exception of two, are rated high for value. This demonstrates the role such provision provides in allowing children and young people to play, learn and socialise.

The only two sites to score below the threshold for value are Bowesfield Play Area and Limbrick Avenue (Greenvale) Play Area. Both these sites are observed as having very low levels of use. This could be a result of the sites' quality issues, with tired looking equipment.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages sees sites scoring higher for value. The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Preston Park, Play Area and Wheeled Facility (80%)
- ◀ Romano Park Landscape for Play and MBC (80%)
- ◀ John Whitehead Park Play Area, MBC and Wheeled Sports Facility (78%)

Preston Park Play Area has a large skate park which allows use of skateboards, BMX bikes, rollerblades and scooters. Romano Park Landscape for Play has a multiuse games area (MUGA) on site. Sites containing such a range in forms of provision tend to rate higher for value as skate park facilities and MUGAs are considered to have greater levels of appeal to a wider age range of users.

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It is also important to recognise the benefits of play in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value.

7.7 Summary

Play areas and informal sports facilities summary

- ◀ There are 54 play area and informal sport facility sites in Stockton-on-Tees.
- ◀ Stockton Analysis Area currently has the most play units (246). However, Eaglescliffe has the highest number of play units per 1,000 head of population (18.16 play units).
- ◀ The 54 sites are given a designation of a destination site (4), neighbourhood site (20), doorstep site (24) or standalone informal sports facilities (6).
- ◀ Accessibility catchments vary depending on the play provision classification. Based on these there are identified gaps in catchment mapping across all forms of play provision. Therefore, looking to improve existing play provision so it serves a wider area, as well as looking into options to provide more play provision where possible could be explored.
- ◀ 59% of play sites are above the threshold for quality. All destination sites are above the quality threshold. In general, there are no major quality issues. The two lowest scoring sites, Bowesfield Play Area and Limbrick Avenue (Greenvale) Play Area, are described as being tired and dated.
- ◀ All play provision with the exception of two sites; Bowesfield Play Area and Limbrick Avenue (Greenvale) Play Area are rated high for value. Both sites below the value threshold are observed as having low levels of use. This is likely to be a result of the sites quality issues.

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PART 8: ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

8.1 Introduction

Allotments and community gardens is a typology which covers open spaces that provide opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.

8.2 Current provision

There are 21 sites classified as allotments in Stockton-on-Tees, equating to nearly 40 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and community gardens as such all provision is identified and included within the audit. No community gardens are identified within the study.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Allotments and community gardens		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Billingham	7	6.42	0.22
Eaglescliffe	3	7.78	0.96
Ingleby Barwick	-	-	-
Rural	3	3.82	0.29
Stockton	5	7.63	0.09
Thornaby	1	8.13	0.32
Wynyard	-	-	-
Yarm	2	3.63	0.47
Stockton-on-Tees	21	37.38	0.20

Most sites are located in the Billingham Analysis Area (7) this is closely followed by Stockton Analysis Area with five sites. However, it is Thornaby Analysis Area which has the most hectareage (8.13ha) despite only having one site (Andrews Allotments Thornaby Road).

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 200 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

Stockton-on-Tees, as a whole, based on its current population (182,643) does not meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Stockton-on-Tees is 45.66 hectares. Existing provision of 37.38 hectares thus does not meet the standard, and provides only 0.20 hectares of provision per 1,000 population compared the suggested 0.25 hectares.

However, the Eaglescliffe (0.96), Yarm (0.47), Thornaby (0.32) and Rural (0.29) analysis areas all meet the NSALG standard. It should be noted that Ingleby Barwick Analysis Area and Wynyard Analysis Area have no allotment provision.

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The long waiting lists described during consultation with various allotment associations and parish councils is most likely a reflection of this. The biggest shortfall is seen in the Stockton Analysis Area which would require 19.57 hectares of allotment provision, based on the NSALG standard, but currently has 7.63 hectares.

Ownership and management

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council owns the majority of allotment sites. However, it only manages two (Quarry Road Allotments and Andrews Allotments Thornaby Road). Quarry Road Allotments is made up of 100 plots and Andrews Allotments Thornaby Road contains 64 plots.

The other allotment sites are managed by allotment associations or parish councils who either rent or lease the sites from the Council. This is with the exception of Egglecliffe and Egglecliffe Parish Council who own two allotment sites:

- ◀ Eliffs Mill Allotments (49 plots)
- ◀ Egglecliffe Village Allotments (47 plots)

Billingham Allotment and District Allotment Association manage the seven sites below. The association has a 20 year lease on these sites. The waiting list across the sites is between 70 and 80 people.

- ◀ Cowpen Lane Allotments (52 plots)
- ◀ Port Clarence Allotments (65 plots)
- ◀ Lincoln Terrace Allotments (7 plots)
- ◀ By-pass Road Site B (15 plots)
- ◀ By-pass Road site C (15 plots)
- ◀ Cotswold Crescent Allotments (5 plots)
- ◀ Matlock Gardens Allotments (18 plots)

Stockton Allotment Association manages two sites, which are rented from the Council on an annual basis.

- ◀ Oxbridge Lane Allotments (80 plots – 66 single and 14 double)
- ◀ Spennithorne Road Allotments (120 plots)

Each site has its own committee which deals with the day to day running of the site. The groups meet on a monthly basis to discuss and resolve any issues. As it stands there is a waiting list of 20 people for the Oxbridge Lane Allotments site and 12 people for the Spennithorne Road Allotments site. In order to try and tackle issues with long waiting lists, Stockton Allotments Association reports that when a double plot becomes available, they turn it into two single plots.

Wolviston Parish Council works with an allotment management committee to manage one site (Wolviston Allotments). The allotment management committee carry out regular inspections of plots to try and ensure high standards and quality on the site. Tenants are expected to keep allotments clean and at least 75% cultivated or in good condition. This site currently has a five year waiting list.

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Table 8.2 summarises the number of plots and waiting lists for sites where information is known. Consultation was carried out with parish councils and allotment associations to inform plot and waiting list numbers. The number of plots and waiting list figures could not be established at seven sites across Stockton-on-Tees.

Table 8.2: Summary of allotment provision and waiting lists⁴

Allotment	Management	Number of plots	Waiting list
Cowpen Lane Allotments	Billingham Allotment and District Allotment Association	52	70-80 people between 7 sites
Port Clarence Allotments	Billingham Allotment and District Allotment Association	65	70-80 people between 7 sites
Lincoln Terrace Allotments	Billingham Allotment and District Allotment Association	7	70-80 people between 7 sites
By-pass Road Site B	Billingham Allotment and District Allotment Association	15	70-80 people between 7 sites
By-pass Road Site C	Billingham Allotment and District Allotment Association	15	70-80 people between 7 sites
Cotswold Crescent Allotment	Billingham Allotment and District Allotment Association	5	70-80 people between 7 sites
Matlock Gardens Allotments	Billingham Allotment and District Allotment Association	18	70-80 people between 7 sites
Oxbridge Lane Allotments	Stockton Allotment Association	80 (66 single and 14 double)	20 people between 2 sites
Spennithorne Road Allotments	Stockton Allotment Association	120	20 people between 2 sites
Eliffs Mill Allotments	Egglescliffe and Eaglescliffe Parish Council	49	Unknown
Egglescliffe Village Allotments	Egglescliffe and Eaglescliffe Parish Council	47	Unknown
Wolviston Allotments	Wolviston Parish Council	Unknown	5 years
Quarry Road Allotments	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	100	Significant waiting list
Andrews Allotments Thornaby Road	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	64	Significant waiting list

8.3 Accessibility

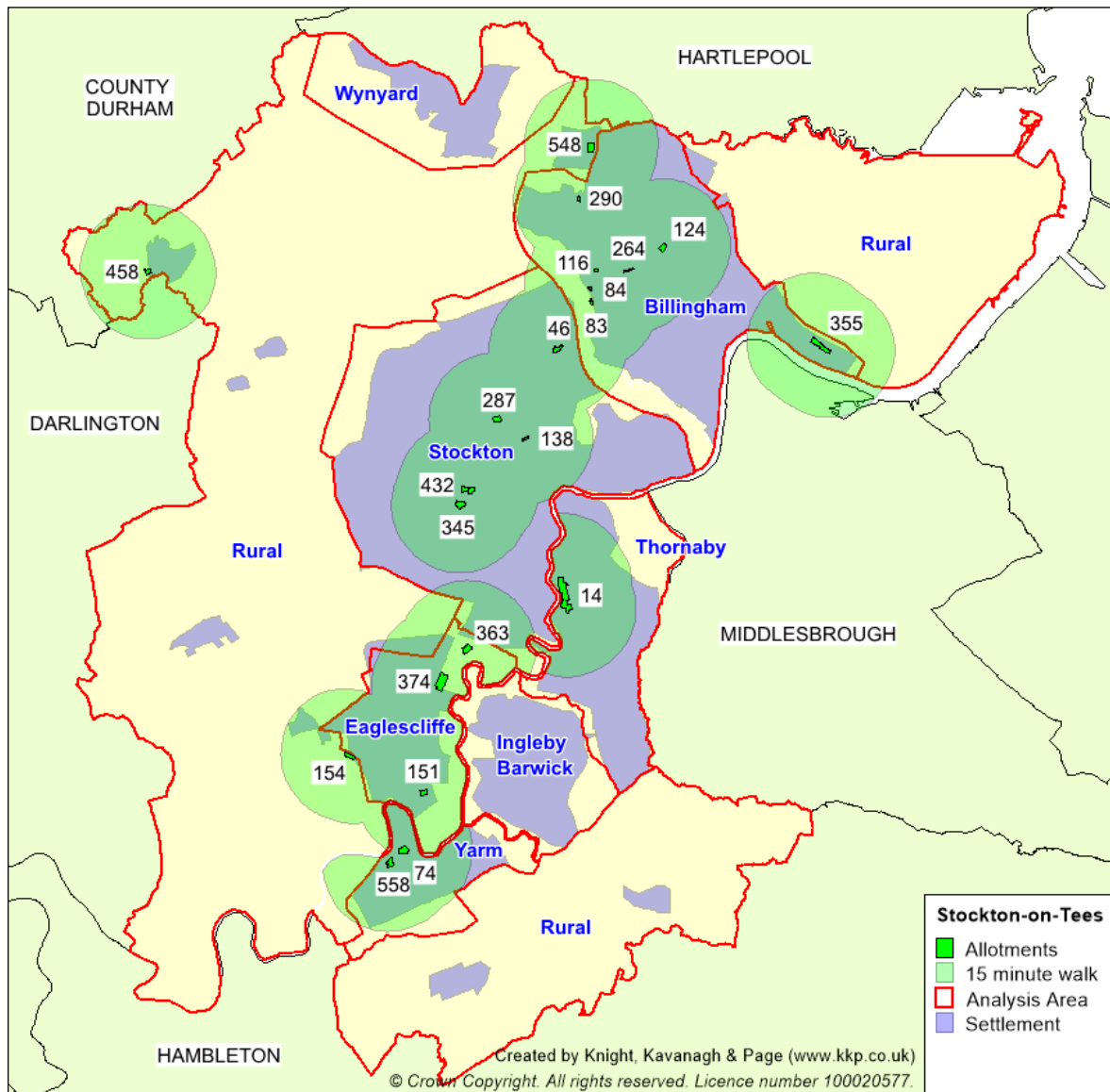
There is a reasonable split in opinion from respondents to the community and street surveys on how far they are willing to travel to access allotment provision. The most common answer being 0 to 5 minutes (30%) followed by 16 to 30 minutes (24%). In order to reflect this for the purpose of mapping a 15 minute walk time has been applied.

Figure 8.1 shows the catchment applied to allotments to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

⁴ Information correct at time of writing (May 2016)

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Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against a 15 minute walk time



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A number of gaps are identified in catchment mapping. Within the most densely populated areas of Stockton-on-Tees, catchment gaps can be seen in the west of the Stockton Analysis Area. Both the Wynyard and Ingleby Barwick analysis areas, have no provision at all. Further to this, the Stockton Analysis Area currently has the biggest shortfall in allotment provision overall. Unsurprisingly it has long waiting lists.

Large proportions of the less densely populated Rural Analysis Area lack any allotment provision.

Given that waiting lists exist in nearly all analysis areas and that the Borough has a shortfall of 8.28 hectares, new provision of allotments would help meet both demand and catchment gaps. The new provision would likely be best placed within locations helping to serve identified gaps to Ingleby Barwick and North West Stockton analysis areas.

Of the community and street survey respondents that had an opinion (43% reported being neither satisfied nor dissatisfied), 48% report being either very satisfied or quite satisfied. It is however worth noting that consultation with allotment association and parish councils did highlight dissatisfaction within communities regarding the availability of allotment provision.

8.4 Quality and Value Overview

A summary of the quality and value ratings for sites are set out in Table 8.3. Further detail on the scores and ratings is provided under the quality and value sections.

Table 8.3: Quality and value scores summary for allotments

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
83	By-pass Road Site B	Billingham		
84	By-Pass Road Site C	Billingham		
116	Cotswold Crescent Allotments	Billingham		
124	Cowpen Lane Allotments	Billingham		
264	Lincoln Terrace Allotments	Billingham		
290	Matlock Gardens Allotments	Billingham		
355	Port Clarence Allotments	Billingham		
151	Egglescliffe Village Allotments	Eaglescliffe		
363	Preston Lane Allotments	Eaglescliffe		
374	Quarry Lane Allotments	Eaglescliffe		
154	Eliffs Mill Allotments	Rural		
458	Stillington Allotment	Rural		
546	Wolviston Allotments	Rural		
46	Billingham Road Allotments	Stockton		
138	Dundas Street	Stockton		
287	Maple Road Allotments 1	Stockton		
345	Oxbridge Lane Allotments	Stockton		
432	Spennithorne Road Allotments	Stockton		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
14	Andrews Allotments Thornaby Road	Thornaby		
74	Brickyard Allotments	Yarm		
558	Worsall Road Allotments	Yarm		

8.5 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) the site assessment scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Billingham	118	27%	49%	64%	36%	4	3
Eaglescliffe	118	53%	53%	53%	1%	0	3
Ingleby Barwick	118	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural	118	50%	55%	59%	9%	0	3
Stockton	118	50%	59%	69%	19%	0	5
Thornaby	118	67%	67%	67%	0%	0	1
Wynyard	118	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarm	118	53%	55%	58%	5%	0	2
Stockton-on-Tees	118	27%	55%	69%	42%	4	17

The highest scoring sites are Maple Road Allotments 1 (70%) in the Stockton Analysis Area and Andrews Allotments Thornaby Road (68%) in the Thornaby Analysis Area. The sites score well due to good general appearance and maintenance (e.g. good paths, clean and tidy). Both sites also have a water supply, good fencing and informative signage. Maple Road Allotments 1 also has toilet facilities.

Site observations suggest that some sites have plots which are not being used or maintained to the same standard as others on the site. These sites are: Spennithorne Road Allotments, Andrews Allotments Thornaby Road, Cotswold Crescent Allotments, Lincoln Terrace Allotments and Brickyard Allotments. However, this only seems to have significantly affected the quality score of Cotswold Crescent Allotments, which scores below the quality threshold at 48%. The other three sites scoring below the threshold are Port Clarence Allotments (28%), Matlock Gardens Allotments (44%) and Cowpen Lane Allotments (48%).

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The lowest scoring site is Port Clarence Allotments in Billingham Analysis Area. Observation highlights that this site has a generally low standard of maintenance and cleanliness as well as no water supply and poor drainage. However, this site does have disabled access and raised beds as well as toilet facilities and use of the nearby school car park. Given these additional ancillary facilities are not available on other sites, improvements to maintenance could see this site scoring above the quality threshold.

It is worth noting that the other sites scoring below the threshold are not dramatically short from reaching the threshold and with some improvements could score 50% or more. Cotswold Crescent Allotments and Cowpen Lane Allotments only score 2% below the threshold. There are no major quality issues highlighted from observations. The main issues highlighted are a lack of parking, inadequate controls to prevent illegal use, no disabled access and poor or no signage. It is noted there is also no water supply at Cowpen Lane Allotments and Cotswold Crescent Allotments.

Consultation with allotments associations has brought to light some issues with vandalism. The sites suffering most from vandalism are believed to be Cowpen Lane Allotments, Oxbridge Lane Allotments and Spennithorne Road Allotments. This includes broken locks and doors and damage to fencing.

From those respondents who have an opinion, quality of provision is generally positive with 50% of respondents to complete surveys rating allotments as very satisfactory or quite satisfactory.

A large proportion of community and street survey respondents (40%) state they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the quality of allotments. This is not uncommon as it reflects the niche use of this type of open space.

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8.6 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Billingham	78	23%	37%	44%	21%	0	7
Eaglescliffe	78	43%	43%	44%	1%	0	3
Ingleby Barwick	78	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural	78	37%	45%	56%	19%	0	3
Stockton	78	36%	41%	45%	9%	0	5
Thornaby	78	40%	40%	40%	0%	0	1
Wynyard	78	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarm	78	36%	37%	37%	4%	0	2
Stockton-on-Tees	78	23%	40%	56%	33%	0	21

All allotments in Stockton-on-Tees are assessed as high value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits as well as amenity value offered by such forms of provision.

The higher scoring sites for value are those identified as being well used (often as a result of being of a high quality). The highest scoring site for value (Eliffs Mill Allotments) in the Rural Analysis Area, scoring 56%, also offers educational value through the Learn2Grow scheme. Port Clarence allotments also have educational value. Billingham Allotment Association explained during that the allotments are used by a local school for educational purposes, which adds to its wider value. Cowpen Lane Allotments also features a trading hut.

The value of allotments within Stockton-on-Tees is further demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists identified at sites, signalling greater demand for provision.

8.7 Summary

Allotments summary

- ◀ There are 21 allotments sites in Stockton-on-Tees: equating to more than 37 hectares.
- ◀ Most allotments are owned by the Council. However, only two are managed by the Council with the rest are managed by either an allotment association or parish council.
- ◀ Stockton-on-Tees as a whole is currently 8.28 hectares short of the NSLAG standard for provision. All analysis areas are below the standard with Stockton Analysis Area having the biggest shortfall.
- ◀ Catchment mapping identifies significant gaps in provision. Two analysis areas; Wynyard and Ingleby Barwick Analysis Areas currently have no allotment provision at all.
- ◀ There are waiting lists for allotments across Stockton-on-Tees suggesting that demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- ◀ Despite a number falling below the quality threshold, for the majority of allotments quality is sufficient. Some quality issues on sites below the threshold include a lack of water supply, poor disabled access, insufficient controls to prevent illegal use, a lack of parking and a lower standard of maintenance and cleanliness e.g. plots and paths not being maintained sufficiently.
- ◀ All allotments are assessed as high value, reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- ◀ Waiting list numbers suggest that continuing measures should be made to provide additional plots in the future.

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PART 9: CEMETERIES, CHURCHYARDS AND BURIAL GROUNDS

9.1 Introduction

Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

9.2 Current provision

A total of 21 sites are classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 49 hectares of provision in Stockton-on-Tees. All notable sites, regardless of size and whether they are open or closed for burials, are included in the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Billingham	2	2.69
Eaglescliffe	1	0.76
Ingleby Barwick	-	-
Rural	9	5.75
Stockton	5	21.36
Thornaby	2	17.32
Wynyard	-	-
Yarm	2	1.19
Stockton-on-Tees	21	49.07

In addition, the Trinity Gardens site included under the typology of Urban Parks is also referred to as Holy Trinity Churchyard, Yarm Lane. To prevent double counting of provision the site is included under Urban Parks due to its current primary role identified.

The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Thornaby Cemetery, in the Thornaby Analysis Area (17.12 hectares). This is followed by Durham Road Cemetery (10.03 hectares) in the Stockton Analysis Area. Both are managed and maintained by the Council.

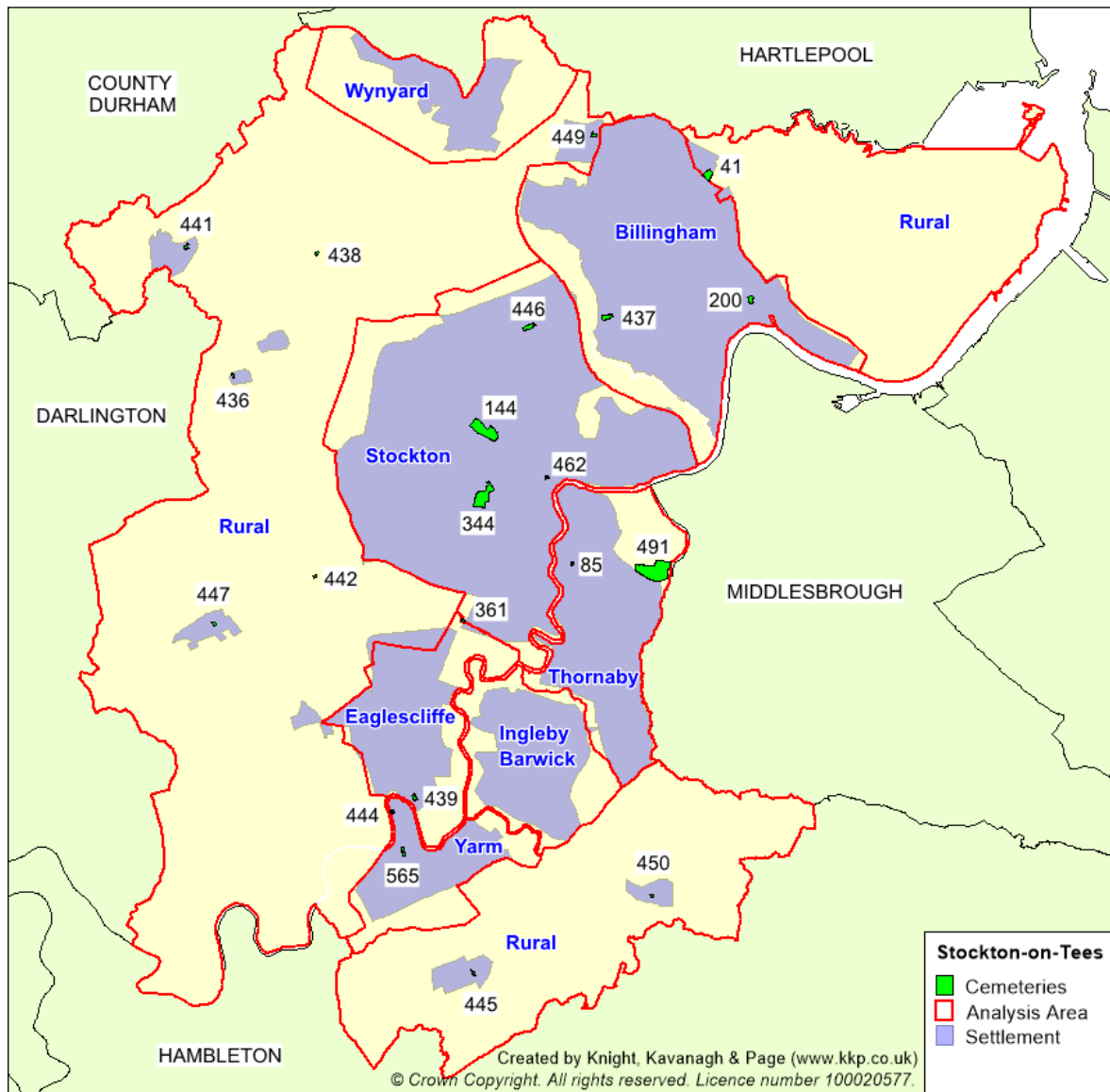
9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility catchment is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such catchments. Provision should be based on burial demand.

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas



STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. As noted, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

Respondents to the community and street surveys tend to rate the availability of cemetery provision as very satisfactory (26%) or quite satisfactory (43%). Only a minority of respondents (5%) suggest they are dissatisfied with the amount of provision.

9.4 Quality and Value Overview

A summary of the quality and value ratings for sites are set out in Table 9.2. Further detail on the scores and ratings is provided under the quality and value sections.

Table 9.2: Quality and value scores summary for cemeteries, churchyards & burial grounds

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
200	Haverton Hill Road Cemetery	Billingham		
437	St Cuthberts Churchyard	Billingham		
439	St John the Baptist Cemetery	Eaglescliffe		
144	Durham Road Cemetery	Stockton		
344	Oxbridge Cemetery	Stockton		
361	Preston Cemetery	Stockton		
446	St Marys Cemetery	Stockton		
462	Stockton Parish Church	Stockton		
85	Cambridge Road Cemetery	Thornaby		
491	Thornaby Cemetery	Thornaby		
444	St Magdalen Cemetery	Yarm		
565	Yarm Cemetery	Yarm		
41	Billingham Cemetery	Rural		
436	St Cuthberts Cemetery	Rural		
438	St James Cemetery	Rural		
441	St Johns Cemetery, Stillington	Rural		
442	St Johns Cemetery, Elton	Rural		
445	St Martins Church	Rural		
447	St Marys Cemetery	Rural		
449	St Peter Cemetery	Rural		
450	St Peters Church	Rural		

Management

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council manages and maintains five cemeteries; Thornaby Cemetery, Durham Road Cemetery, Oxbridge Cemetery, Billingham Cemetery and St John the Baptist Cemetery.

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Maintenance includes grass cutting, burial preparation and structural surveys of fences, headstones and memorials. A number of parish and town councils including Wolviston Parish Council, Stillington Parish Council, Yarm Town Council and Redmarshall Parish Council have a contract with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to maintain parish churchyards.

As part of the management process Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council keeps a record of the amount of remaining burial capacity at sites.

Table 9.3: Remaining burial capacity:

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Operational	Spare capacity? ⁵
200	Haverton Hill Road Cemetery	Billingham	Closed	-
437	St Cuthberts Churchyard	Billingham	Closed	-
439	St John the Baptist Cemetery ⁶	Eaglescliffe	Closed for burials in new graves	-
144	Durham Road Cemetery	Stockton	Open	11 years, 9 months
344	Oxbridge Cemetery	Stockton	Closed for burials in new graves	-
361	Preston Cemetery	Stockton	Managed & maintained by Preston PC	
446	St Marys Cemetery	Stockton	Part closed	-
462	Stockton Parish Church	Stockton	Closed	-
85	Cambridge Road Cemetery	Thornaby	No records	unknown
491	Thornaby Cemetery	Thornaby	Open	51 years, 9 months
444	St Magdalen Cemetery	Yarm	Closed	-
565	Yarm Cemetery	Yarm	Managed & maintained by Yarm TC	
41	Billingham Cemetery	Rural	Open	28 years, 6 months
436	St Cuthberts Cemetery	Rural	Closed	-
438	St James Cemetery	Rural	Open	unknown
441	St Johns Cemetery, Stillington	Rural	Open	unknown
442	St Johns Cemetery, Elton	Rural	Open	unknown
445	St Martins Church	Rural	Open	unknown
447	St Marys Cemetery	Rural	Closed	-
449	St Peter Cemetery	Rural	Part closed	-
450	St Peters Church	Rural	No records	unknown

Whilst there is provision within the Borough for burial over a number of years this is concentrated at the cemeteries of Thornaby and Billingham. Capacity at Thornaby Cemetery is dependent on whether an extension takes place. The site currently has 5-10 years of remaining burial capacity. Other areas to the south of the Borough (i.e. Yarm, Eaglescliffe and Ingleby Barwick) will be limited in provision for burials.

⁵ Based on 10 year average rate of burial

⁶ Audited as one site but consists of two separate sites; a churchyard and a cemetery

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Burial provision within central Stockton has capacity for 11 years and 9 months based on 10 year average rates of burial. On this basis, there is a need to investigate options for identifying locations for future burials within Stockton.

9.5 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.4: Quality ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Billingham	142	50%	58%	65%	15%	0	2
Eaglescliffe	142	55%	55%	55%	0%	0	1
Ingleby Barwick	142	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stockton	142	53%	70%	83%	29%	0	5
Thornaby	142	56%	69%	81%	24%	0	2
Wynyard	142	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarm	142	55%	58%	62%	7%	0	2
Rural	142	46%	60%	79%	33%	0	9
Stockton-on-Tees	142	46%	62%	83%	36%	0	21

All cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds in Stockton-on-Tees rate above the threshold set for quality.

The highest scoring site for quality is Durham Road Cemetery (83%) in the Stockton Analysis Area. This is followed by Thornaby Cemetery (81%) and Billingham Cemetery (79%). The remaining eighteen sites rate similarly to each other; suggesting a generally high provision standard across the Borough.

Observations from the site visits highlights the generally high level of provision overall. A large proportion of the sites are noted as being well cared for and therefore score well for quality of appearance. They also have well maintained paths that allow for good disabled access, benches and informative signage. In addition, no issues with flooding or vandalism are identified at any site in Stockton-on-Tees.

Two sites; St Marys Cemetery and Oxbridge Cemetery are reported to have damage to headstones. Whilst the damage at Oxbridge Cemetery is minor, the damage at St Mary Cemetery is significant.

The quality of provision is generally positive; over half (68%) of respondents to the community and street survey rate provision as very or quite satisfactory.

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9.6 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.5: Value ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Billingham	78	23%	28%	32%	9%	0	2
Eaglescliffe	78	32%	32%	32%	0%	0	1
Ingleby Barwick	78	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stockton	78	23%	30%	36%	13%	0	5
Thornaby	78	27%	29%	32%	5%	0	2
Wynyard	78	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarm	78	29%	31%	33%	4%	0	2
Rural	78	26%	30%	35%	9%	0	9
Stockton-on-Tees	78	23%	30%	36%	13%	0	21

All sites identified as cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds are assessed as being of high value, reflecting the role in community lives. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to and for the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data. Sites also often receive a score for value from their contribution to wildlife/habitats or sense of place to the local environment.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important natural resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. habitat provision, wildlife watching). Moreover, even smaller sites of this typology can have personal meaning to individuals and families with family members buried there.

9.7 Summary

Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds summary

- ◆ Stockton-on-Tees has 21 cemeteries and churchyards: over 49 hectares of provision.
- ◆ There is a fairly even distribution of provision across Stockton-on-Tees.
- ◆ Whilst there is burial provision within the Borough, it is concentrated at two cemeteries (Thornaby and Billingham). There is a need to investigate options for future burials within Stockton and to the south of the Borough area.
- ◆ All cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds rate as high for quality.
- ◆ All cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds are assessed as high value in Stockton-on-Tees, reflecting that generally provision has a cultural/heritage role and provide a sense of place to the local community.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 10: GREEN CORRIDORS

10.1 Introduction

The green corridors typology includes sites that offer opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration. This includes river and canal banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes within towns and cities, pedestrian paths within towns and cities, rights of way and permissive paths.

10.2 Current provision

A total of 55 sites are classified as green corridors, equating to over 155 hectares.

Table 10.1: Distribution of green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	Green Corridors		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Billingham	5	11.86	0.40
Eaglescliffe	5	2.33	0.28
Ingleby Barwick	20	48.17	2.36
Rural	1	10.44	0.81
Stockton	14	49.84	0.63
Thornaby	7	30.06	1.19
Wynyard	-	-	-
Yarm	3	3.11	0.41
Stockton-on-Tees	55	155.84	0.85

Green corridor provision in Stockton-on-Tees ranges in size from 0.15 hectares to 11.62 hectares. The analysis area with the most provision is Stockton Analysis Area (49.84 hectares) followed by Ingleby Barwick Analysis Area (48.17 hectares). Despite being the analysis area with the second largest amount of provision, Ingleby Barwick Analysis Area has the most provision per 1,000 population with 2.36 hectares.

10.3 Accessibility

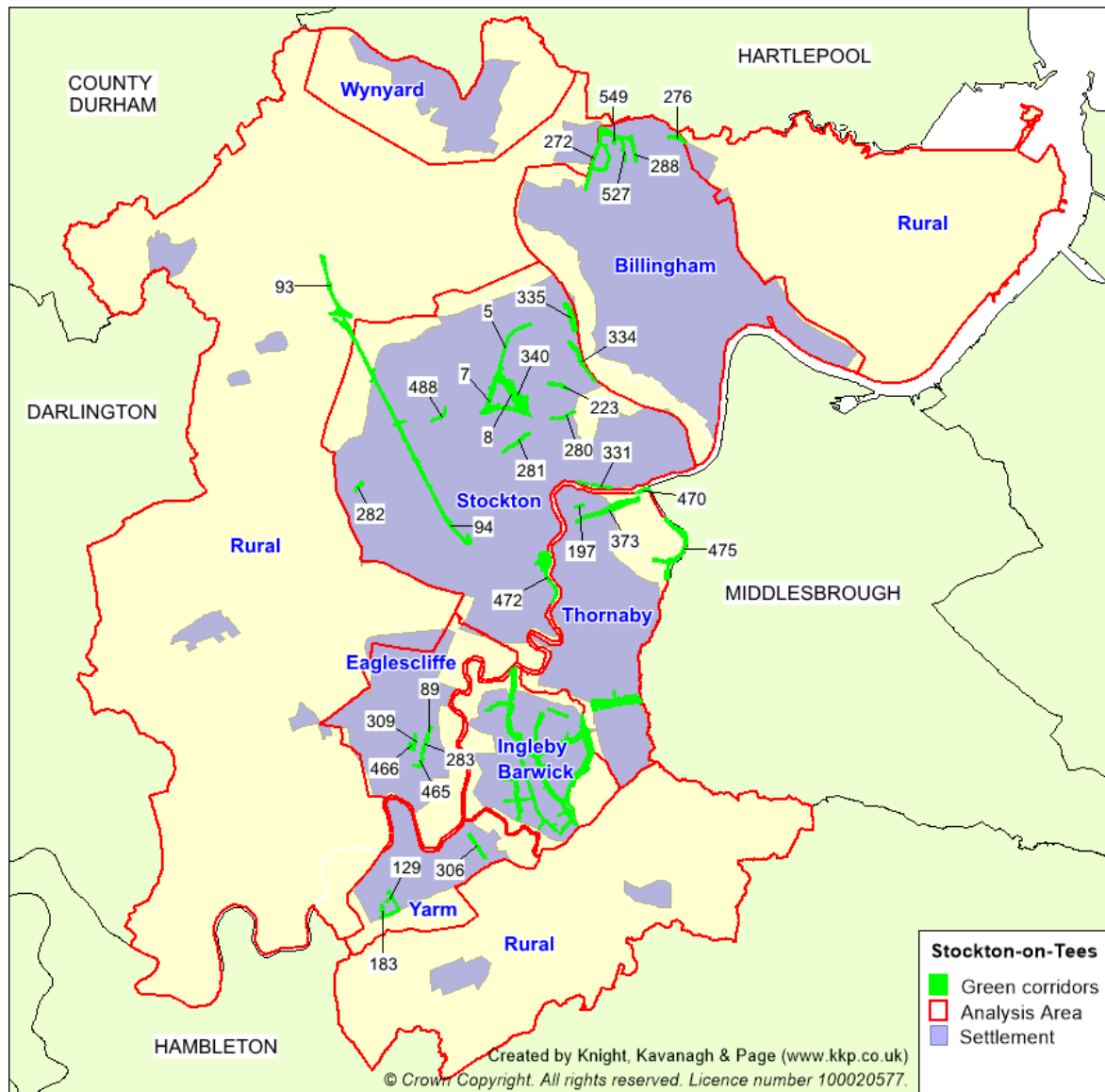
The Council wishes to see improvements to this path network where possible, increasing opportunities for walking, cycling, horse-riding and other recreational uses. Some parts of this path network are routed along green corridors, while other routes cross other types of open space and extend into the green wedge and wider countryside.

It is difficult to assess green corridors against catchment areas due to their linear nature and usage, as they often provide access to other open spaces. Figure 10.1 shows green corridors mapped across Stockton-on-Tees.

However, over half of community and street survey respondents (54%) who access provision will travel on foot for between 11 and 30 minutes to reach a walking trail or cycle path. This could be linked to the 48% of respondents who access open space provision to exercise. People often use green corridors to access the countryside.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

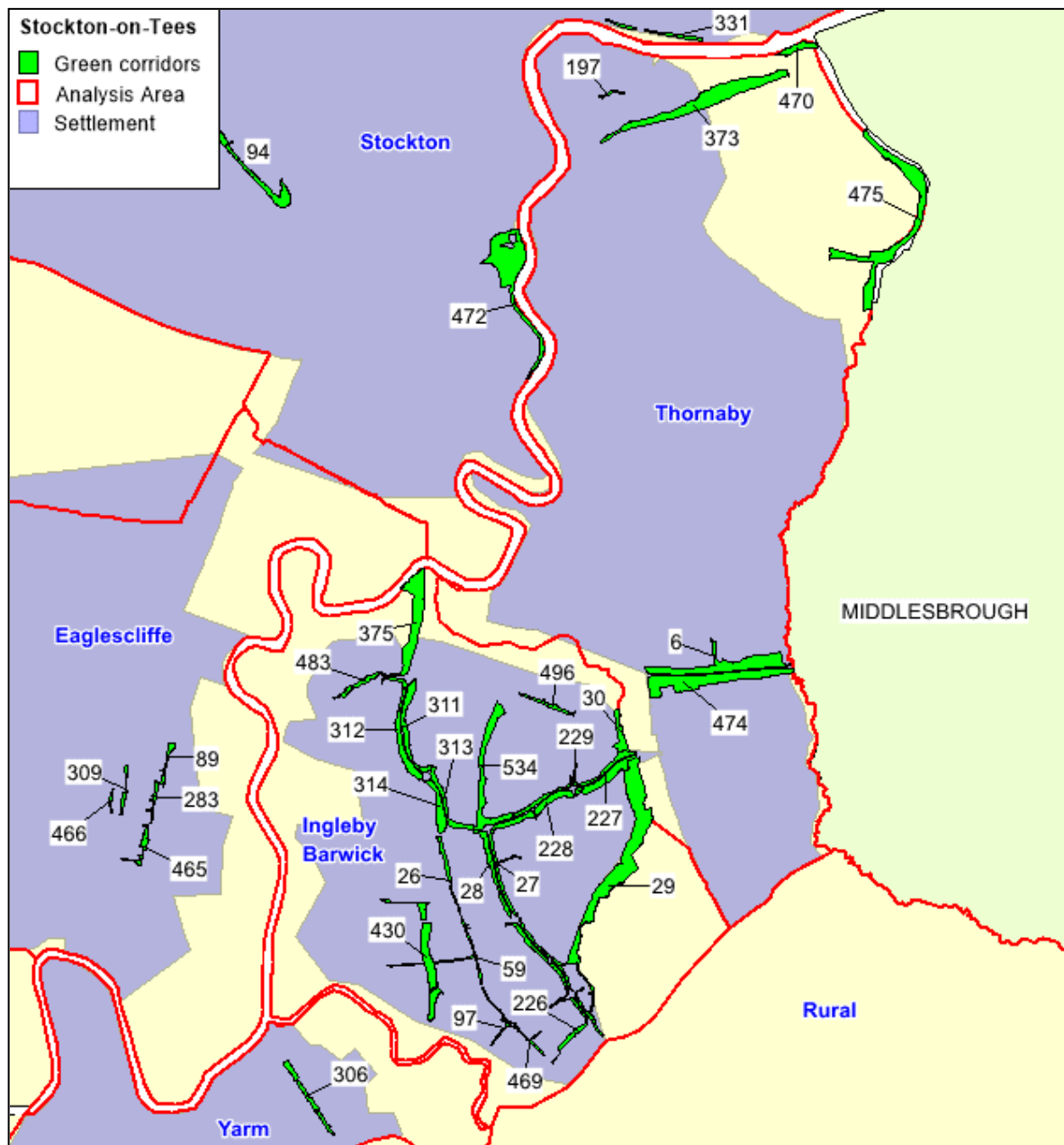
Figure 10.1: Green corridors mapped against analysis area



In the map above it is not possible to show the Site ID on the map due to the close proximity and number of sites in the Ingleby Barwick area. Figure 10.2 provides a closer version of sites for that area.

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Figure 10.2: Green corridors mapped against Ingleby Barwick analysis area



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Management

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council manages and maintains all public rights of way. They state that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has a 'duty to assert and protect the rights of the public who wish to use them'.

10.4 Quality and Value Overview

A summary of the quality and value ratings for sites are set out in Table 10.2. Further detail on the scores and ratings is provided under the quality and value sections.

Table 10.2: Quality and value scores summary for green corridors

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
272	Longfellow Road	Billingham		
276	Low Grange Avenue	Billingham		
288	Marsh House Avenue Green Belt 1	Billingham		
527	Wellington Walk Green Corridor	Billingham		
549	Wolviston Back Lane	Billingham		
89	Carnoustie Drive	Eaglescliffe		
283	Lytham Walk	Eaglescliffe		
309	Muirfield Road Green Corridor	Eaglescliffe		
465	Sunningdale Drive	Eaglescliffe		
466	Sunningdale Drive Amenity Green Space	Eaglescliffe		
26	Barwick Lane Corridor	Ingleby Barwick		
27	Barwick Way	Ingleby Barwick		
28	Barwick Way	Ingleby Barwick		
29	Bassleton Beck	Ingleby Barwick		
59	Blair Ave to Pennine Way	Ingleby Barwick		
97	Challacombe Crescent Green Corridor	Ingleby Barwick		
226	Ingleby Mill Primary School	Ingleby Barwick		
227	Ingleby Way	Ingleby Barwick		
228	Ingleby Way	Ingleby Barwick		
229	Ingleby Way	Ingleby Barwick		
311	Myton Road	Ingleby Barwick		
312	Myton Road	Ingleby Barwick		
313	Myton Road	Ingleby Barwick		
314	Myton Way	Ingleby Barwick		
375	Queen Elizabeth Way	Ingleby Barwick		
430	Sober Hall Avenue	Ingleby Barwick		
469	Tarr Steps	Ingleby Barwick		
483	The Rings	Ingleby Barwick		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
496	Thornwood Avenue	Ingleby Barwick		
534	Wheatear Lane	Ingleby Barwick		
5	A1027 Green Corridor	Stockton		
7	A177/A1027	Stockton		
8	A177/A1027/Railway Corridor	Stockton		
94	Castle Eden Walkway 2	Stockton		
223	Imperial Avenue	Stockton		
280	Lustrum Beck	Stockton		
281	Lustrum Beck	Stockton		
282	Lyndon Way	Stockton		
331	Northshore Banks	Stockton		
334	Norton East Corridor	Stockton		
335	Norton East Corridor	Stockton		
340	Norton/Railway Corridor	Stockton		
472	Teesdale Way Green Corridor	Stockton		
488	The Vale	Stockton		
6	A174 Corridor	Thornaby		
30	Bassleton Beck	Thornaby		
197	Harvard Avenue	Thornaby		
373	Princeton Drive Corridor	Thornaby		
470	Tees Barrage	Thornaby		
474	Teesside Ind Est	Thornaby		
475	Teesside Park	Thornaby		
129	Davenport Road Greenbelt	Yarm		
183	Greens Lane	Yarm		
306	Mount Leven Road	Yarm		
93	Castle Eden Walkway 1	Rural		

STOCKTON-ON-TEES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

10.5 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for green corridors in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.3: Quality ratings for green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Billingham	56	59%	67%	75%	16%	0	5
Eaglescliffe	56	46%	62%	70%	23%	1	4
Ingleby Barwick	56	61%	72%	81%	20%	0	20
Stockton	56	48%	61%	86%	38%	2	12
Thornaby	56	55%	63%	73%	18%	0	7
Wynyard	56	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Yarm	56	64%	67%	70%	5%	0	3
Rural	56	41%	41%	41%	0%	1	0
Stockton-on-Tees	56	41%	66%	86%	45%	4	51

All but four of the green corridors in Stockton-on-Tees score above the threshold for quality (93%).

The four that do score below the threshold; Lyndon Way and Lustrum Beck in the Stockton Analysis Area, Castle Eden Walkway in the Rural Analysis Area and Muirfield Road Green Corridor in the Eaglescliffe Analysis Area are noted to have a lack of distinguished paths. Given the purpose of this typology is to enable people who are walking, jogging, cycling and on horseback to get from location to another, pathways are an important feature. A lack of pathways also makes it difficult for individuals with disabilities to access.

Similar to smaller areas of amenity greenspace, the green corridors scoring below the threshold lack ancillary features such as benches, signage and bins. However, it could be seen that ancillary facilities within this typology are not as important given that green corridors act as a transport network from one place to another. This is particularly the case for smaller green corridors where people are less likely to need to stop or rest.

The green corridors scoring above the threshold are reported to have higher levels of maintenance and pathways, which are suitable for wheelchair users. A high number also have informative signage. Some of the highest scoring green corridors are:

- ◀ Castle Eden Walkway 2 (86%)
- ◀ Ingleby Way (81%)
- ◀ Wheatear Lane (80%)

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Community and street survey results show perceptions of the general quality of green corridors within Stockton-on-Tees to be mainly very satisfactory or quite satisfactory (66%). Only a small proportion (12%) of respondents rate provision as quite dissatisfactory or very dissatisfactory. These results correlate with the findings from non technical assessment with 94% of green corridors scoring above the quality threshold. These results are positive for Stockton-on-Tees, indicating an overall high level of satisfaction, giving a strong foundation for green infrastructure network improvements.

10.6 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for green corridors in Stockton-on-Tees. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.4: Value ratings for green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Billingham	75	20%	29%	41%	21%	0	5
Eaglescliffe	75	23%	24%	25%	3%	0	5
Ingleby Barwick	75	21%	27%	35%	13%	0	20
Rural	75	24%	24%	24%	0%	0	1
Stockton	75	20%	28%	37%	17%	0	14
Thornaby	75	20%	27%	32%	12%	0	7
Wynyard	75	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Yarm	75	24%	27%	32%	8%	0	3
Stockton-on-Tees	75	20%	27%	41%	21%	0	55

All of the green corridors in Stockton-on-Tees score above the threshold for value. Green corridors, as part of the wider green infrastructure network, is a valuable asset to the Borough. The network provides safe links between urban areas and green infrastructure, as well as easy access into the countryside.

Green corridors have high health benefits, encouraging people to walk and cycle rather than using the car, thus leading to healthier lifestyles. Green corridors also offer important habitat corridors and, therefore, the ecological benefits are recognised.

One of the highest scoring sites Castle Eden Walkway (64%), in the Stockton Analysis Area is also described as having high social inclusion value due to the groups of people walking their dogs together. Combining all these points together, it is not surprising that green corridors in the area score well for value.

10.7 Summary

Green corridors summary

- ◀ There is an extensive green corridor network covering the Borough, totalling over 155 hectares.
- ◀ The majority (93%) of green corridors in the Borough score above the threshold for quality. The three sites which score below the threshold lack ancillary features and designated pathways.
- ◀ Green corridors are highly valued open spaces. They provide safe links between urban areas and other forms of green infrastructure, as well as easy access into the countryside.
- ◀ Green corridors also offer important habitat corridors and wildlife benefits.

