



North Tyneside
Council

Green Space Study

August 2025



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Green spaces are a major contributor to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities. They are the most widely used facility that the Council provide and are the settings for work, recreation, education, social interaction and biodiversity. It is therefore imperative that green spaces are accessible, attractive, safe and well-managed.

As set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹, green or open spaces (these terms are interchangeable throughout this document) are defined as:

All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.²

This Study sets out the current provision of different types of green space across the borough, and by setting local provision standards, identifies where there are deficiencies in existing quantity, distribution, or quality of green space. It also includes the results of a boroughwide assessment of the quality and value of green spaces. This information can help to determine where new or improved provision may be needed, inform the planning process, guide any developer contributions and support bids to external funders.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024.

² Ibid. page 76

1.2 What the Study Covers

The Study looks at all green spaces within the borough of at least 0.1ha, regardless of owner or manager, although it does not include private gardens, countryside and farmland. The green spaces fall into the following categories:

- Parks and public gardens
- Natural and semi-natural green spaces
- Green corridors
- Outdoor recreational facilities
- Amenity green space
- Provision for children and young people
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Beaches and foreshore

The Study covers a variety of green spaces with different types of accessibility. The quality and value of all green spaces will be looked at, even those that may not have full public access; this is because quality and value exist beyond accessibility (for example, visual impact, high quality habitats, setting to a heritage asset, buffer between built-up development, etc.). For those spaces that do have public access, distribution and public provision will be considered.

1.3 Contact Details

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2.0 Setting the Scene

2.1 A Unique Landscape

North Tyneside is in the North East of England and is one of five metropolitan districts within the Tyne and Wear conurbation. The borough embraces a unique combination of urban, urban fringe, coastal and riverside environments. It has the North Sea to the east, the River Tyne to the south, Newcastle City to the west and Northumberland to the north.

The northern fringe is largely open space of which 1,670 hectares(ha), or 20% of the borough's area, is designated as Green Belt in the Local Plan³. Within the existing built-up area are many Local Plan-designated areas of green space, including allotments, cemeteries and general open space.

As stated in the 2021 Census data, the current population of North Tyneside is 209,000 which is an approximate 4% increase on the 2011 Census. This was a lower increase than the UK average but higher than the North East average growth.

As illustrated on Map 1, North Tyneside is made up of 20 wards. The ward boundaries were amended in 2024 as the borough was subject to a review and boundary redraw by the Local Government Boundary Commission. The previous ward boundaries are shown on Map 12, Appendix 1, along with the data from the 2015 Green Space Strategy for each of those wards.

³ North Tyneside Local Plan 2017–2032, North Tyneside Council, 2017.

Map 1: Wards in North Tyneside

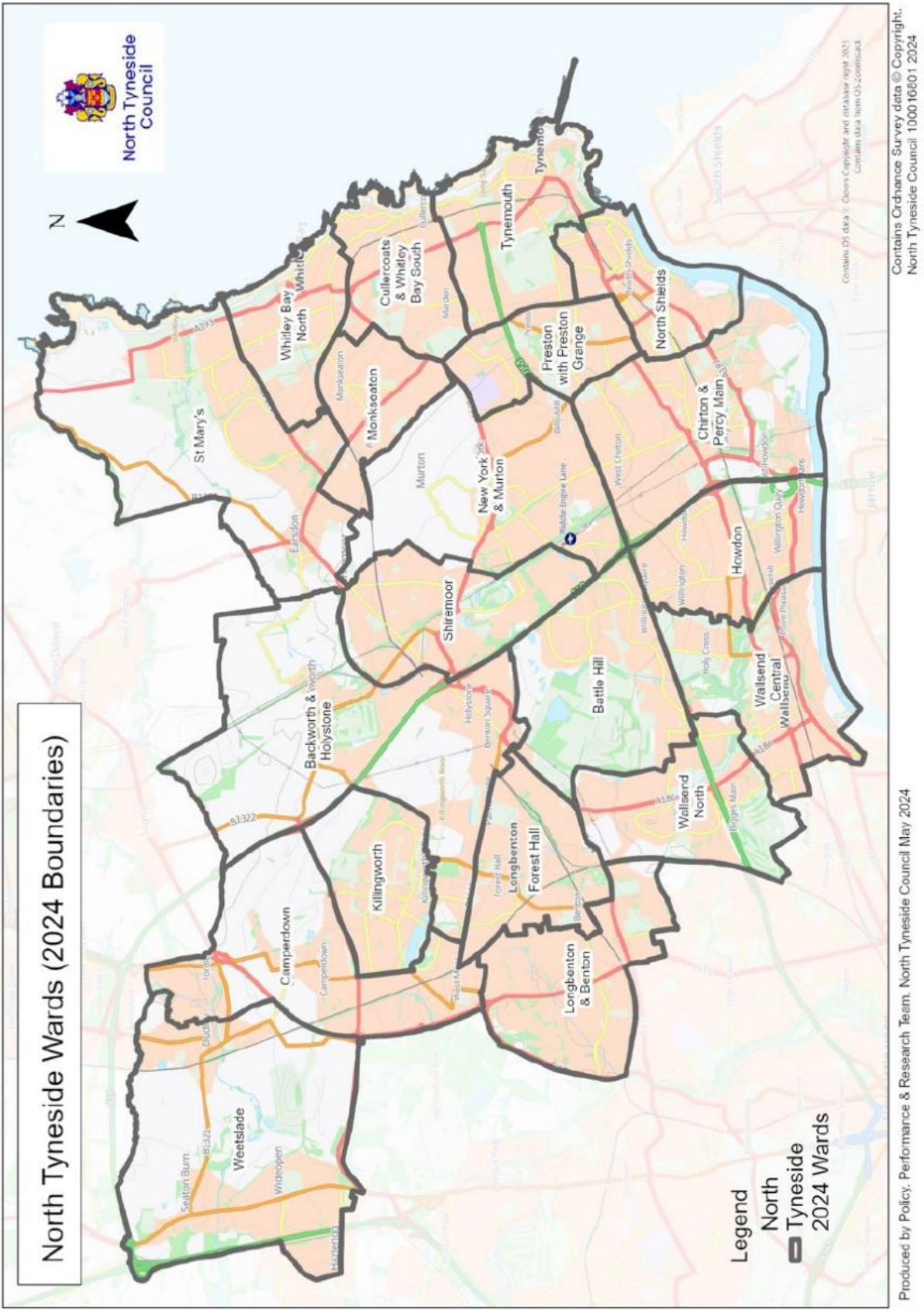


Table 1 sets out the numbers and land area of green spaces in North Tyneside per ward.

Table 1: Existing Number and Area of Green Spaces per Ward:

Ward	Total Spaces Within Ward	Number of Spaces Wholly Within Ward	Spaces Split Within the Ward⁴	Area by Hectare
Backworth & Holystone	62	58	4	146.13
Battle Hill	43	41	2	253.75
Camperdown	52	45	7	75.09
Chirton & Percy Main	54	51	3	88.52
Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South	40	34	6	73.45
Forest Hall	26	25	1	32.01
Howdon	49	45	4	62.43
Killingworth	41	39	2	69.26
Longbenton & Benton	54	52	2	99.53
Monkseaton	28	26	2	33.37
North Shields	32	27	5	33.19
New York & Murton	52	43	9	54.42
Preston with Preston Grange	28	25	3	44.79
Shiremoor	52	47	5	82.28
St. Mary's	47	40	7	189.42

⁴ Some green spaces have been split due to overlapping across Ward boundaries. In this Study's analysis, green spaces that have been split will be included within the total number of green spaces per Ward.

Tynemouth	49	43	6	160.83
Wallsend Central	46	39	7	126.90
Wallsend North	44	39	5	106.56
Weetslade	63	58	5	131.81
Whitley Bay North	21	15	6	66.13
Boroughwide	883	792	91	1,929.88

2.2 Biodiversity

North Tyneside is biodiversity rich. The coastline contains parts of the Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, which due to its rare geology, supports internationally important numbers of wintering birds, Purple Sandpiper, Turnstone and Little Tern. The borough is also home to two Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 22 Local Wildlife Sites, 30 Sites of Local Conservation Interest and seven Local Nature Reserves.

Wildlife corridors intersect North Tyneside but also reach beyond into Newcastle and Northumberland, forming strategic, regionally important wildlife corridors. The significance of this is illustrated in the production of a cross-boundary Biodiversity Action Plan jointly prepared by Newcastle City and North Tyneside Councils in 2011, which outlines how the authorities plan to protect and enhance native species and managed urban green spaces.

2.3 Historically and Culturally Important Sites

Many of North Tyneside's historic and cultural sites feature green space that makes a positive contribution to the special character of the heritage sites themselves, along with its contribution to the overall green space of the borough.

North Tyneside has 17 designated conservation areas, which are *"...areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance"*⁵. The special character and appearance of a conservation area derives not only from its buildings, but the spaces between them.

Many of the borough's listed buildings, locally registered buildings and scheduled ancient monuments are surrounded by green space, enhancing their settings. Notable examples include Tynemouth Priory and Castle, Backworth Hall and Burradon Tower.

North Tyneside features part of Hadrian's Wall that extends coast to coast from Wallsend to Cumbria. Hadrian's Wall is part of a transnational World Heritage Site called Frontiers of the Roman Empire, inscribed by UNESCO for its outstanding universal value⁶. Within the borough, Segedunum Roman Fort, Baths and Museum feature the most excavated Fort along the Wall.

North Tyneside has no nationally registered parks or gardens but included on the local register⁷ are 19 parks, gardens, greens, cemeteries/churchyards and other open areas, reflecting the local strength of feeling towards such spaces.

2.4 The Coast

The coast is one of the borough's most important areas of open space, combining beaches and the surrounding areas. The wealth of biodiversity

⁵ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 69.

⁶ Frontiers of the Roman Empire, UNESCO, Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/430/>, 2024.

⁷ Register of Buildings and Parks of Local Architectural and Historic Interest Supplementary Planning Document, North Tyneside Council, 2018.

found along North Tyneside's coastline is vast and it also includes areas important for geological conservation. It has many areas of national and international significance, as noted above; it is essential that these sites are protected and enhanced for wildlife to flourish.

The coastline, with its beauty, wildlife, visitor attractions and cultural offer has large tourist appeal. A significant draw for locals and tourists is St. Mary's Lighthouse and Island, which houses a popular visitor centre. The Island is surrounded by a Nature Reserve containing rock pools, cliff top grassland, a beach and a wetland habitat. The Island itself, with its extensive area of rock pools, possesses a diverse range of marine life.

It is also an important vantage point from which to observe seabird movements, while the inter-tidal area is a favourite feeding and resting place for many waders, terns and gulls. Waders also favour the wetland on the cliff top at Curry's Point and the site is an important landfall for passing migrants in spring and autumn. The cliff top is also one of the few remaining semi-natural grasslands in North Tyneside and has some good examples of maritime and sub-maritime flora.

2.5 Country Parks

The Rising Sun Country Park is a 160ha natural green oasis set in the heart of North Tyneside. It boasts an Organic Farm, Nature Reserve, Countryside Centre, numerous ponds, woodlands and extensive areas of grassland. The Country Park provides a resource for outdoor activities, promotes healthy food and encourages sustainable practices. The Country Park is a Green Flag Award winner, highlighting the high environmental standards achieved within an excellent recreational green area.

The Weetslade Country Park lies partially on the former pit heap of Weetslade Colliery in the north west of the borough. The 24ha site opened in June 2006 after extensive reclamation work. The Country Park features woodland, grassland and wetland habitats, along with a network of paths and cycleways.

Silverlink Country Park occupies approximately 18ha in the centre of Cobalt Business Park, just off the A19. The Country Park was created in 1996 on the site of a former rubbish tip and has significant biodiversity value with woodland, scrub and hedgerow, grassland and tall herb, wetland and exposed rock habitats.

2.6 Green Flag Award

The Green Flag Award is given to “well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces”⁸. North Tyneside is proudly home to eight green spaces that have achieved and maintained the Green Flag Award status:

- Benton Quarry Park
- Brierdene Wildlife Site
- Killingworth Lakeside Park
- Marden Quarry Park
- Northumberland Park
- Preston Cemetery
- The Rising Sun Country Park
- Wallsend Parks

⁸ Green Flag Award, available at <https://www.greenflagaward.org> 2024

3.0 Aims and Planning Policy Context

3.1 Aims

The aim of this Study is to provide the information that can assist in making green spaces accessible, attractive, safe and well managed. It will achieve this aim by:

- Assessing all green spaces (not private gardens, countryside or farmland) in the borough to ascertain their quality and value, thus understanding which may need to be improved, retained, adapted or possibly redeveloped.
- Setting provision standards for some types of green space (generally those with full or some degree of public accessibility) to achieve and maintain a high level of accessibility in the borough.
- Setting out objectives for good design, management and maintenance, and provision in new housing sites.

3.2 National Planning Policy and Guidance

National planning policy is contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁹. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development with the planning system performing an economic, social and environmental role simultaneously.

This Study has been developed as advised in the NPPF. The NPPF sets out that Local Authorities should have robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision¹⁰.

⁹ National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024.

¹⁰ Ibid. paragraph 103.

In 2014, Central government published Planning Practice Guidance. The guidance on "Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space"¹¹ is specific to the management of green space, with "Health and wellbeing"¹² and "Natural Environment"¹³ also having relevance.

The guidance states "It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area". Working co-operatively with our neighbouring authorities is discussed further in section 6, "Provision Standards".

The Planning Practice Guidance does not give specific recommendations on how to carry out assessments. Prior to the first publication of the NPPF in 2012, Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17)¹⁴ and its companion guide¹⁵ were used to help develop local planning policy and evidence relating to green space. Although these documents are no longer in use as national planning policy, the advice and recommendations represent good practice and were used to guide this Study.

¹¹ Planning Practice Guidance: Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space, DLUHC, 2014.

¹² Planning Practice Guidance: Health and wellbeing, DLUHC, 2014.

¹³ Planning Practice Guidance: Natural environment, DLUHC, 2014.

¹⁴ Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2002.

¹⁵ Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2002.

In the 2023, Natural England produced the Green Infrastructure Framework¹⁶ which outlines principals and standards of what good green infrastructure should consist of. The Framework highlights that green infrastructure should “offer everyone access to good quality parks, greenspaces, and recreational walking and cycling routes that are inclusive, safe, welcoming, well-managed and accessible for all”¹⁷. As all accessible green spaces in North Tyneside are assessed within this study, the Framework by Natural England offers good guidance and recommendations regarding what attributes accessible green space should consist of.

3.3 Local Planning Policy and Guidance

The development plan for North Tyneside is the Local Plan 2017¹⁸. The policies within the Local Plan that are most relevant to this Study are:

- S5.1 Strategic Green Infrastructure
- DM5.2 Protection of Green Infrastructure
- DM5.3 Green Space Provision Standards

There is also a range of local adopted guidance that assists in the application of the above policies that are relevant to this Study. The most relevant are:

- Design Quality Supplementary Planning Document¹⁹
- Register of Buildings and Parks of Local Architectural and Historic Interest Supplementary Planning Document²⁰

¹⁶ Green Infrastructure Framework, Natural England, 2023.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ North Tyneside Local Plan, North Tyneside Council, 2017.

¹⁹ North Tyneside Council, 2018.

²⁰ North Tyneside Council, 2018.

3.4 Our North Tyneside Plan

The Our North Tyneside Plan 2021²¹ identifies the priorities for the borough up to 2025. It will be delivered through a partnership between the Council, residents, businesses, community and voluntary sector and other key organisations.

This Study is particularly connected to the “A family-friendly North Tyneside” theme, by working to achieve the facilities needed to make North Tyneside a great place for family life.

North Tyneside Council has begun the process of preparing a new Council Plan for the period 2025–2029. The new Council Plan will be based on the following five policy priorities: –

1. Working with local people and organisations for a healthier, fairer and better quality of life;
2. Giving our children and young people the best start in life;
3. Building neighbourhoods and town centres that are clean, green and safe, and places to be proud of;
4. Increasing jobs, skills and work experience opportunities; and
5. Delivering more affordable and social housing.

²¹ Our North Tyneside Plan 2021–2025, North Tyneside Council, 2021.

4.0 Quality and Value of Green Spaces

4.1 Quality Assessment

Each open space assessed was classed as a certain typology according to their characteristics, which are set out in Table 2 below. These typologies were defined in PPG17's companion guide and are being used in this Study in consistency with North Tyneside's previous Green Space Strategies.

Table 2: Green Space Typologies

Typology	Primary purpose/use
Parks and Gardens	Accessible, high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events
Natural and semi-natural green spaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities to migrate.
Outdoor sports facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as sport pitches, tennis, bowls athletics or countryside and water sports.
Amenity Green Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential and other areas.
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of a long-term promotion of sustainability, health, and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, Churchyards and Burial Grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Beaches and Foreshore	Areas of coastline used for informal recreation and sport, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Each green space was assessed on site using a criteria unique to its typology. Factors that were assessed included cleanliness, access and facilities (see Appendix 2 for assessment criteria). Whilst sites do tend to fit within a typology, there were occasions where some criteria were not relevant; in these situations, an officer decision was made to make a criterion not applicable. This process resulted in each site gaining a percentage score rating its quality. A high, medium or low rating was assigned to each site depending on the percentage score (0-49% = low quality, 50-69% = medium quality, 70-100% = high quality).

4.2 Value Assessment

The value of each site has also been assessed. The value of a site relates to three factors:

1. **Context:** a space or facility which is inaccessible is almost irrelevant to potential recreational users that may lower its value, irrespective of its quality. Similarly, if there is significantly more high quality

provision in an area than needed, some of it may well be of relatively little value and conversely if there is very little provision in an area, even a space or facility of mediocre quality may well be valuable. Green spaces that form an integral part of, or setting to historic environments, however, will almost always be of value, irrespective of their accessibility or condition.

2. **Level and type of use:** (in terms of primary purpose): poorly used spaces or facilities may be of little value while well used spaces and facilities are always of high value. Species richness can be taken as a specific form of high level 'use'.
3. **Wider Benefits:** generally include: structural and landscape benefits, ecological benefits, education benefits, social inclusion and health benefits, cultural and heritage benefits, amenity benefits and a 'sense of place', and economic benefits.

Taking all the above into account, a decision was made on whether the site was of high, medium or low value.

4.3 Combining the Assessments

The scorings for both quality and value are combined in a simple grid to ascertain an overall rating for each space, as set out in Figure 1 overleaf:

Figure 1: Quality and Value Rating Grid

B High Value Low Quality	A High Value Medium Quality	A High Value High Quality
B Medium Value Low Quality	A Medium Value Medium Quality	A Medium Value High Quality
D Low Value Low Quality	C Low Value Medium Quality	C Low Value Medium Quality

Sites that fall into the orange “B” sections are well valued but are, at present, of a low quality and would therefore require the most investment. Sites categorised into the blue “C” sections are unlikely to require more investment in their quality, but steps may be required to alter their purpose or improve accessibility to increase their value.

Any sites falling in the green “A” sections would not necessarily require any large-scale investment unless it would be to provide a high-quality space for an area which at present it is lacking provision. In general, these sites would not require further attention expect to monitor and maintain them to prevent the high quality and value to decrease.

Sites falling in the red “D” section are of lower value and quality. These are the sites whose future role needs to be carefully considered, whether through investment to provide a type of open space that would be valued in that area, or by making it available for other uses.

Objective 1: Quality and Value of Green Spaces

All green spaces should be at least of medium quality and medium value.

4.4 Quality and Value Outcomes

Low Quality and Low Value Green Spaces

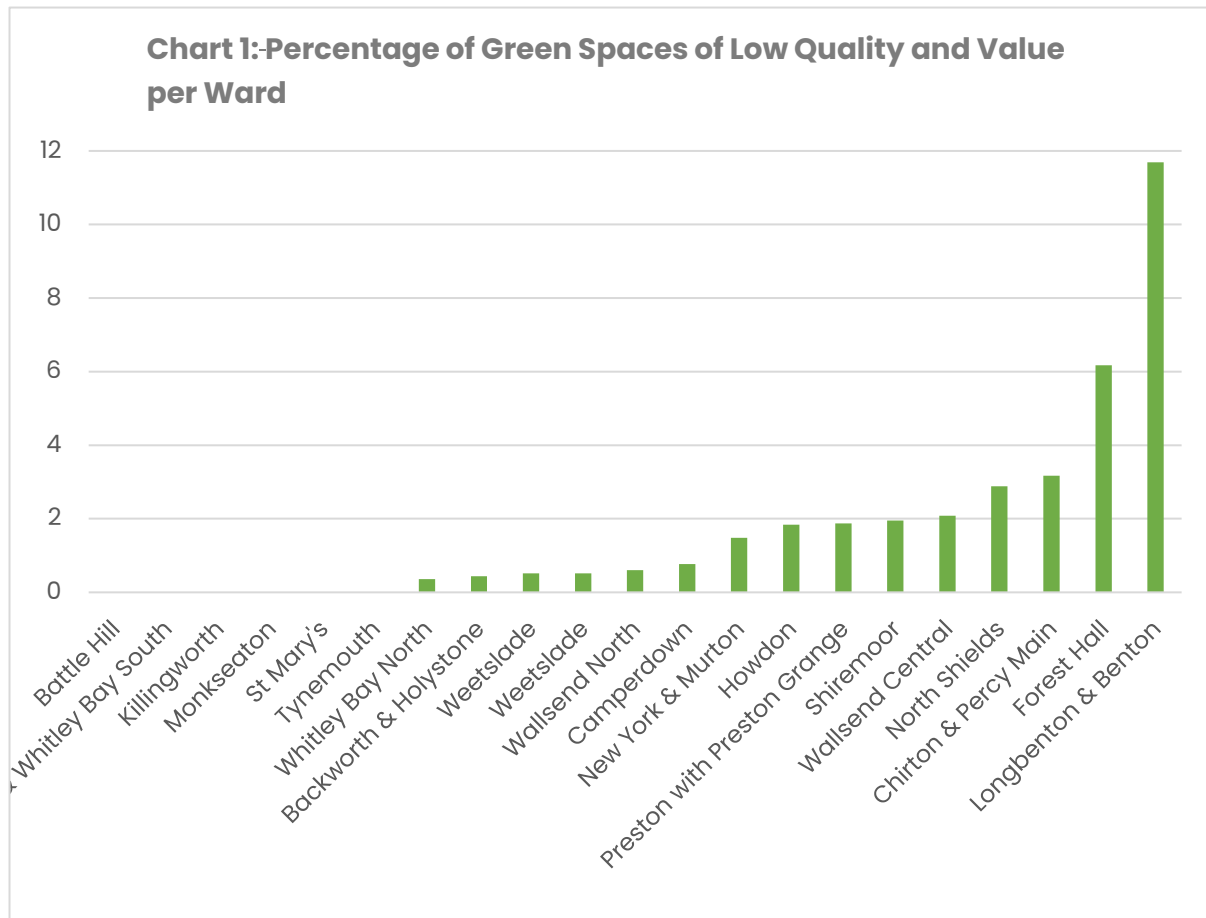
Table 3 below sets out how many/much of spaces are considered as being of low quality and low value. That is, a space that falls within the red "D" section shown in Figure 1. The results are displayed on Chart 1 and shown on Maps 2, 3, 4 and 5. The boroughwide average for spaces of low quality and value is 1.79%, in which 13 wards score below this, with six wards having 0% low quality and low value spaces. These wards are Battle Hill, Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South, Killingworth, Monkseaton, St. Mary's and Tynemouth. Whereas seven wards scored higher than the boroughwide average, with Longbenton and Benton having the highest percentage of spaces with low quality and low value at 11.69%.

Table 3: Provision of Low Quality and Low Value Spaces per Ward:

Ward	Number of Spaces	Area in Hectares	Percentage of All Green Spaces within Ward
Backworth & Holystone	2	0.64	0.44
Battle Hill	0	0.00	0.00
Camperdown	1	0.58	0.77



Chirton & Percy Main	2	2.80	3.17
Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South	0	0.00	0.00
Forest Hall	2	1.97	6.17
Howdon	3	1.15	1.84
Killingworth	0	0.00	0.00
Longbenton & Benton	4	11.63	11.69
Monkseaton	0	0.00	0.00
New York & Murton	3	0.80	1.48
North Shields	4	0.96	2.88
Preston with Preston Grange	1	0.84	1.87
Shiremoor	5	1.60	1.95
St Mary's	0	0.00	0.00
Tynemouth	0	0.00	0.00
Wallsend Central	5	2.64	2.08
Wallsend North	1	0.64	0.60
Weetslade	1	0.69	0.52
Weetslade	1	0.69	0.52
Whitley Bay North	1	0.24	0.36



High/Medium Quality and High/Medium Value Green Spaces

Table 4 and Chart 2 overleaf show the results for green spaces of medium/high quality and medium/high value – those sites that fall within the green “A” sections in Figure 1. The results are illustrated on Maps 2, 3, 4 and 5. The boroughwide average for spaces of medium/high quality and medium/high value is 92%, in which 13 wards score above this, with Monkseaton and St Mary's scoring 100%. However, seven wards scored lower than the boroughwide average, with Howdon having the lowest percentage of spaces of medium/high quality and medium/high value at 56.45%.

Table 4: Provision of High/Medium Quality and High/Medium Value Spaces per Ward:

Ward	Number of Spaces	Area in Hectares	Percentage of All Green Spaces within Ward
Backworth & Holystone	57	131.45	89.95
Battle Hill	41	252.08	99.34
Camperdown	49	72.50	96.55
Chirton & Percy Main	48	73.47	83.00
Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South	38	73.27	99.76
Forest Hall	22	29.42	91.89
Howdon	38	35.24	56.45
Killingworth	40	68.22	98.51
Longbenton & Benton	46	86.36	86.76
Monkseaton	28	33.37	100.00
New York & Murton	44	43.85	80.58
North Shields	27	31.19	93.95
Preston with Preston Grange	27	43.95	98.13
Shiremoor	45	78.94	95.94
St Mary's	47	189.42	100.00
Tynemouth	48	157.40	97.87
Wallsend Central	32	95.72	75.43
Wallsend North	43	105.92	99.40
Weetslade	60	128.01	97.12



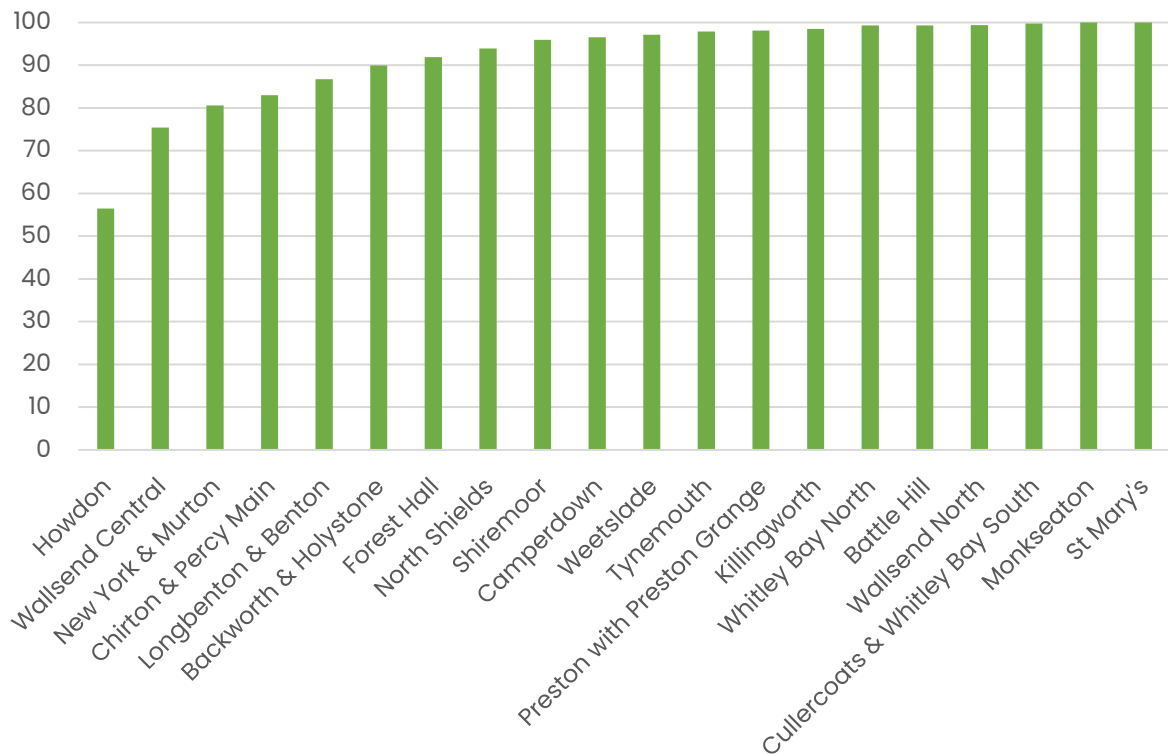
Whitley Bay North

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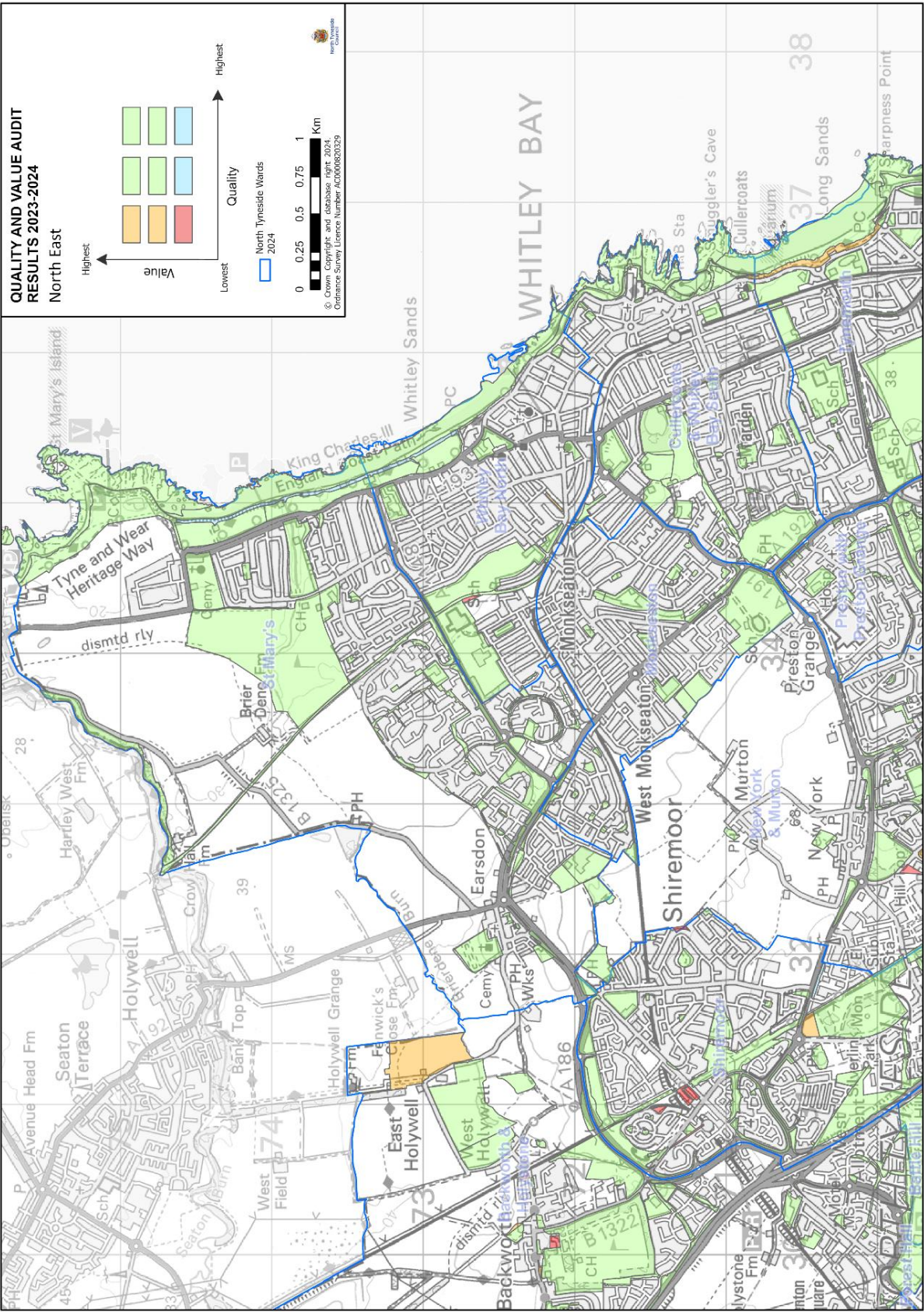
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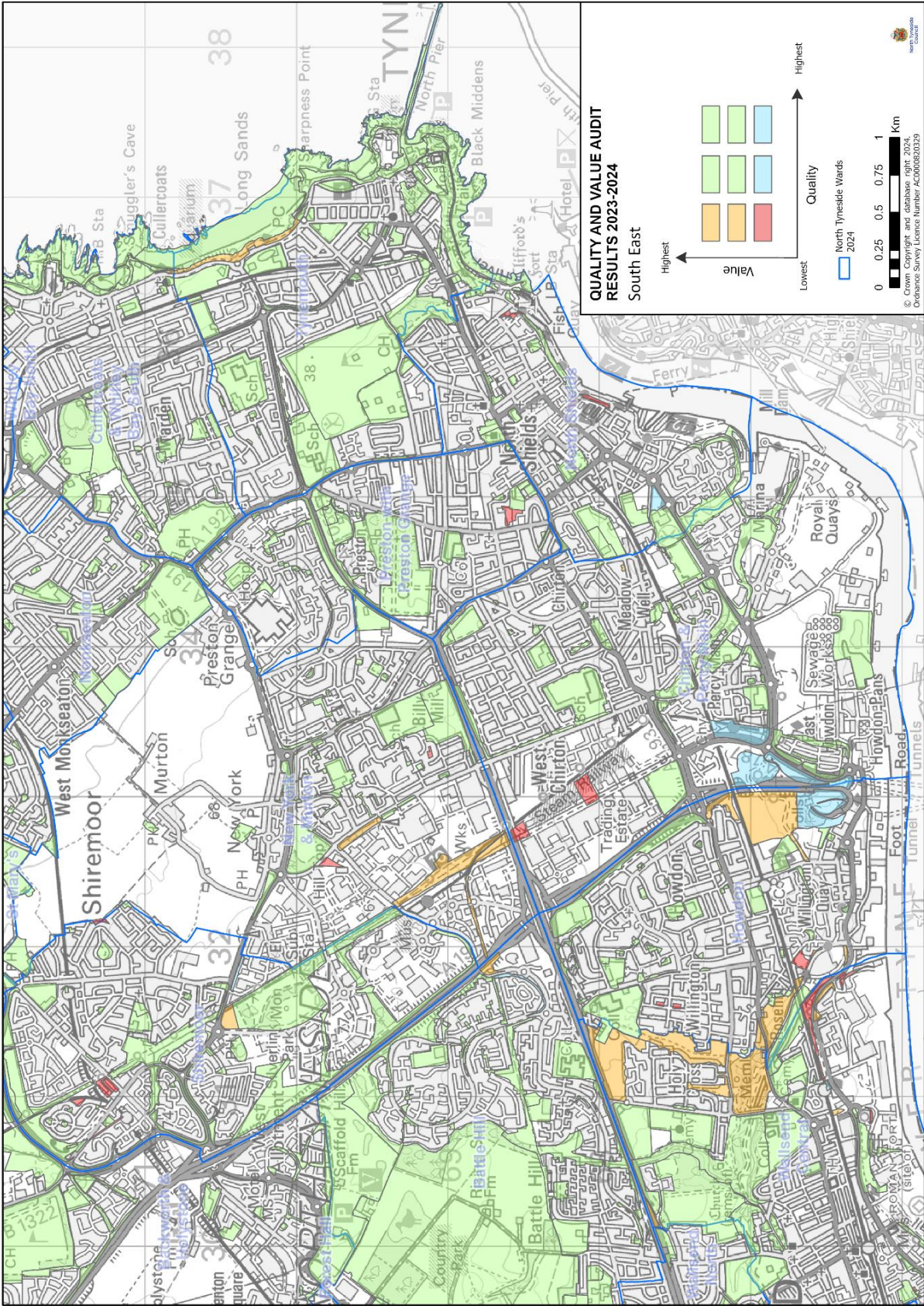
Chart 2: Percent of Green Spaces of Medium/High Quality and Value per Ward



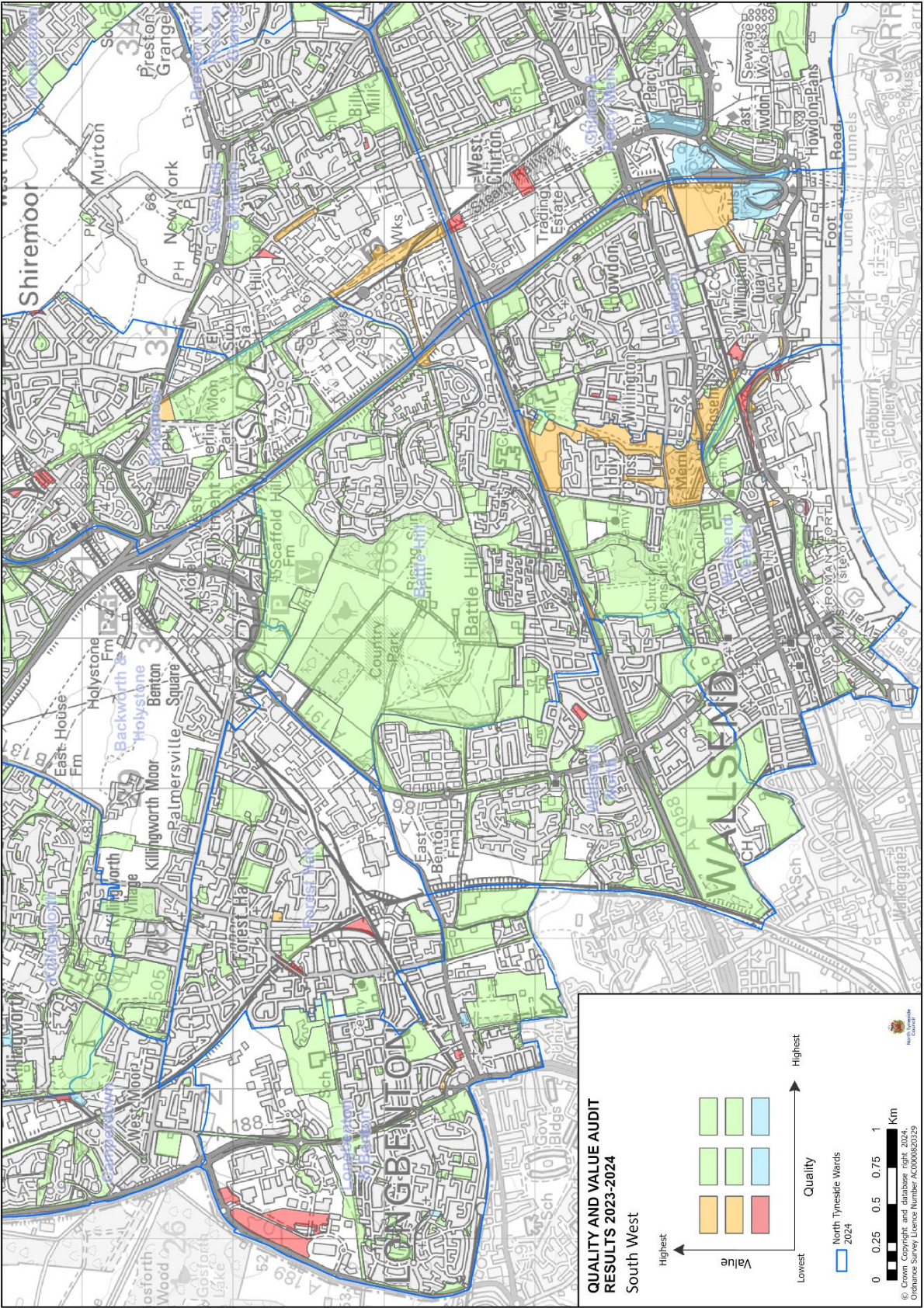
Map 2: Quality and Value of Green Spaces in the North East of North Tyneside



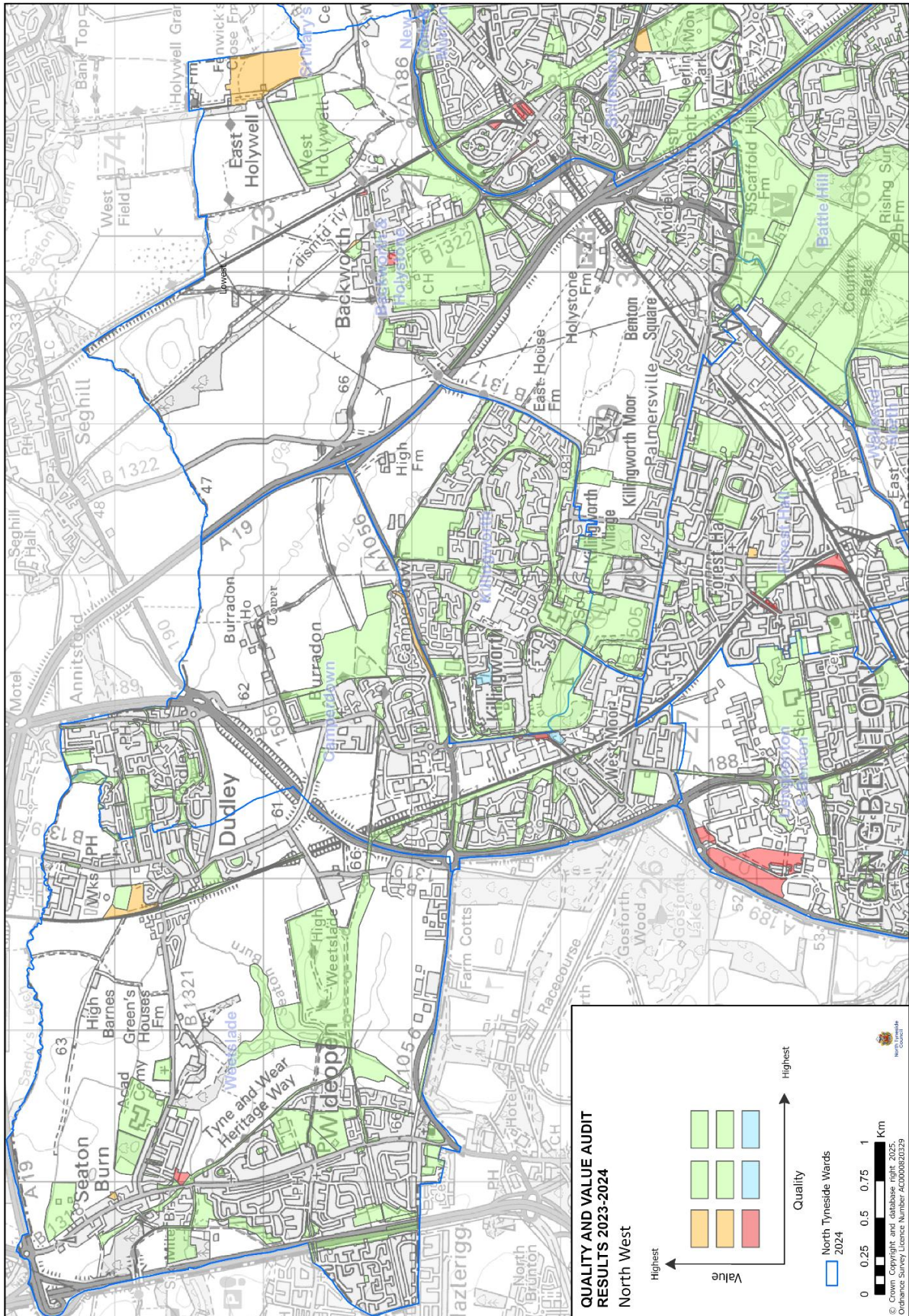
Map 3: Quality and Value of Green Spaces in the South East of North Tyneside



Map 4: Quality and Value of Green Spaces in the South West of North Tyneside



Map 5: Quality and Value of Green Spaces in the North West of North Tyneside



6.0 Provision Standards

6.1 Setting Provision Standards

The use of provision standards promotes social inclusion by seeking to ensure that the population all have similar levels of access to a range of green spaces and helps to ensure the distance that people need to travel is acceptable. Thus, encouraging use of such facilities and reducing the use of private car (with consequent positive impacts on health by encouraging more walking and cycling, and reducing air pollution and levels of congestion). This Study sets provision standards for all open spaces in the borough that are publicly accessible.

Central government establishes that open space standards should be based on a local assessment of the supply and demand for such facilities²². Therefore, local standards for the borough have been developed using other North Tyneside Council strategies, previous Green Space Strategies, and national standards such as those produced by the Green Flag Award²³ and Fields in Trust²⁴ providing useful guidance.

There are some types of green space that are unsuitable to have provision standards set specifically for them. However, they will be included in a general provision standard. They are as follows:

²² National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024.

²³ Green Flag Award, Available at: <https://www.greenflagaward.org>, 2024.

²⁴ Fields in Trust, Available at: <https://www.fieldsintrust.org/>, 2024.

- **Green corridors:** The need for green corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. They can also serve as green buffers between built up or busy areas. They are therefore dependent on the amount and layout of developed land in an area.
- **Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds:** These are dependent on the location of churches and population.
- **Beach:** These cannot be created or have their location controlled.

6.2 Cross Boundary Considerations

Government guidance in the NPPF²⁵ encourages local planning authorities to consider issues that exist across local boundaries. As discussed above, national Planning Practice Guidance also advocates this approach.

North Tyneside shares a boundary to the west with Newcastle City, to the north with Northumberland County and to the south (across the River Tyne) with South Tyneside. These boundaries, particularly across to Newcastle and Northumberland, do not inhibit residents' usage of open spaces. Some key sites in neighbouring authority areas attract visitors from afar due to their size and interest; many of these sites physically link to North Tyneside: Jesmond Dene, Gosforth Park, Town Moor, Big Waters Nature Reserve, River Tyne and associated banksides, Holywell Dene, the coast and Seaton Delaval Hall.

Areas within North Tyneside identified in this document that appear to have particularly low provision may be within the catchment of good provision just outside the boundary. Similarly, areas identified as having

²⁵ National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024.

acceptable provision may have an over-provision when looking beyond the boundary. This will be explored further when looking at each type of green space provision in subsequent chapters of this document. This will be aided by the information within the equivalent strategies of Northumberland County Council²⁶ and Newcastle City Council²⁷. Cross boundary usage and provision should be considered on specific planning applications, strategic planning or other projects.

²⁶ PPG openspace, sport and recreation assessment, 2011 and Review of Open Space in Northumberland Technical Paper, 2018, Northumberland County Council.

²⁷ Open Space Assessment 2016–2030, 2018 August Update, Newcastle City Council, 2018.

7.0 Equipped Areas for Play

This chapter looks at equipped areas for play; that is, areas for children with equipment for them to play on such as slides, swings and climbing frames. The equipped areas for play that this Study looks at are: Local area for play (LAP), Local equipped areas for play (LEAP), Neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAP) and strategic areas for play (SEAP). The borough also features several multi use games areas (MUGAs), skateparks and water play facilities. Whilst these are usually contained within a wider equipped play area, some do exist on their own. Where this is the case, they will not count towards equipped play coverage in the borough due to their specific nature.

Objective 2 is set out overleaf.



Objective 2: Equipped Areas for Play

All households should be within an acceptable distance to some kind of equipped play area. This will be calculated using the following distance thresholds:

Play Area Type	Minimum size equipped play area	Min. No. of Play Units	Catchment area- radial straight-line distance for play area
LAP	100m ²	Less than 5 types of play	100m
LEAP (1)	400m ²	5 types of play	240m
LEAP (2)	600m ²	6 types of play	360m
LEAP (3)	800m ²	7 types of play	480m
NEAP (1)	1,000m ²	8 types of play	600m
NEAP (2)	1,200m ²	9 types of play	750m
NEAP (3)	1,400m ²	10 types of play	900m
SEAP	1,600m ²	11 types of play	+1,000m

Equipped children's play space should be created within a safe and easy walking distance, minimising the need to cross over roads and other significant barriers. Wherever practicable, there should be a distance between the play space and the curtilage of the nearest residential property. The distance varies depending on the type of space. LAPs should have a minimum distance of 5m, LEAPs should have a minimum of 20m and NEAPs and MUGAs should have a minimum of 30m (cont. overleaf).

Equipped children's play space should provide a sufficient variety of play facilities to offer enjoyment for all within the target age range. Encompassing, as appropriate: fixed equipment; innovative facilities that encourage experimental play and social exchange; and features and passive recreation.

Existing equipped areas for play should be protected and improved where necessary.

New on-site provision should be delivered as part of new housing developments where necessary.

In areas that are in deficient of equipped play space for younger children, and where sites are unlikely to become available for new LEAPs, consideration will be given to the introduction of smaller play areas.

7.1 Justification

Play is fundamental to the development and wellbeing of children and young people. It is a means by which they explore their environment, their roles and relationships. It encourages healthy emotional and physical development and has both educational and social benefits. Play may encourage social inclusion and offer opportunities for children and young people of different backgrounds and abilities to meet and interact and be instrumental in lowering the occurrence of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. It is also important to people living near to play facilities to have their amenity protected from noise and disturbance. Objective 2 above aims to seek the correct balance between these factors.

The standards above are based on the Fields in Trust²⁸ play area categories and their characteristics, but they have been adapted to meet local circumstances, as established in the Council's Play Site Strategy 2020–2030²⁹. The LEAP and NEAP categories have been subdivided into three categories, resulting in a positive progression in the minimum size of equipped play area, the minimum number of play units and distance. This allows for consideration that sites will be of differing sizes and the assumption that people will travel greater distances to sites that have a greater number and variety of facilities. Finally, to take account of larger play areas, the SEAP category has been identified.

The LAP type of play space does not necessarily provide as valuable opportunities for play relative to a larger site and can be a maintenance and budgetary problem. A LAP should only be considered for development if there is a genuine need based on local demand. The category has been included in this Study as there are several LAPs in the borough that are currently providing a local resource for play.

The excellent opportunities for play offered by MUGAs, skateparks and water play facilities are recognised in this Study. However, to count these towards the overall equipped play coverage across the borough would not represent an accurate picture, due to the specific nature of the kind of play they offer that may not be suitable for everyone.

It is recognised that opportunities for children's play are not just found within equipped sites but in more informal places such as the open spaces near their homes. Their importance is recognised and their presence with

²⁸ Fields in Trust, Available at: <https://www.fieldsintrust.org/>, 2024.

²⁹ Play Site Strategy 2020–2030, North Tyneside Council, 2020.

the borough is encouraged, but as informal. Play can occur in a countless number of spaces it is not possible to designate them. See chapter 12 of this Study that considers the wider informal uses of green spaces and the expected provision standards.

7.2 Provision in North Tyneside

There are currently 53 sites within the borough that meet the LAP, LEAP, NEAP and SEAP criteria.

In addition, there are three standalone MUGAs (located in Monkseaton, Wallsend Central and Chirton and Percy Main), five skateparks (located in Weetslade, Camperdown, North Shields, Wallsend Central and Whitley Bay North) and water play facilities at the Rising Sun Country Park in the Central area of the Borough, at Whitley Park in the east and at Richardson Dees Park in the south.

Existing provision is set out in Table 5. Additionally, equipped areas for play have been proposed in the borough's strategic housing allocations of Killingworth Moor and Murton Gap. In Killingworth Moor, a LEAP and a NEAP are proposed, whilst in Murton Gap, a NEAP(3) and a LEAP(2) are proposed.

Table 5: Existing Provision of Equipped Areas for Play:

Location	Ward	Playsite Type
Corver Way, Benton, NE12 9TZ	Longbenton and Benton	LAP
Murrayfields, West Allotment, NE27 ORD	Shiremoor	LAP

Hotspur North, Backworth, NE27 OGN	Backworth and Holystone	LEAP (1)
Holystone Grange, Holystone, NE27 OUX	Backworth and Holystone	LEAP (1)
Bamburgh Road, Palmersville, NE12 9EX	Killingworth	NEAP (3)
Killingworth Park, East Bailey Road, NE12 6HJ	Killingworth	NEAP (1)
Rising Sun Country Park, NE12 9SS	Battle Hill	NEAP (3)
Benton Quarry Park, NE12 9PN	Forest Hall	NEAP (3)
Springfield Park, NE12 9AH	Forest Hall	NEAP (3)
Castle Square, Backworth, NE27 0AD	Backworth and Holystone	NEAP (3)
Station Road, Wallsend, NE12 0AS	Wallsend North	SEAP with MUGA
Adventure Playground, Brenkley Avenue, Shiremoor, NE27 0P	Shiremoor	SEAP with MUGA
Preston Terrace, West Allotment, NE27 0DT	Shiremoor	SEAP with MUGA
Moorside, Station Road, Backworth, NE27 0RY	Shiremoor	LEAP (1) with MUGA
Hilltop Millennium Green, Near Dereham Way, North Shields, NE29 8EJ	Camperdown	SEAP with MUGA
Holmlands, Haswell Gardens, North Shields, NE30 2DR	North Shields	LEAP (1)
Rockcliffe Park, Windsor Terrace, Whitley Bay, NE26 8DD	Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South	LEAP (3)



Marmion Terrace, Whitley Bay, NE25 8AS	Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South	NEAP (1)
Wilton Drive, Whitley Bay, NE25 9QJ	Monkseaton	NEAP (3)
West View, Earsdon, NE25 9LJ	St. Marys	NEAP (3)
Pearson Place, North Shields, NE30 1ES	North Shields	LEAP (2)
Sand Park, Bolam Grove, NE30 3PZ	Tynemouth	LEAP (2)
Beverley Terrace, Cullercoats, NE30 4NT	Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South	NEAP (1)
Pool Park, Beach Road, North Shields, NE29 9LS	Preston with Preston Grange	LEAP (2)
Tynemouth Park	Tynemouth	NEAP (3)
Churchill Play Fields, Hartley Avenue, Monkseaton, NE26 3NS	Whitley Bay North	SEAP
Northumberland Park, Tynemouth Road, North Shields, NE30 2HA	Tynemouth	SEAP
Links Road, North Shields, NE30 3TG	Tynemouth	SEAP
Whitley Park, Park Road, Whitley Bay, NE26 1EJ	Whitley Bay North	SEAP with MUGA
Langley Playing Fields, Drumoyne Gardens, NE25 9DL	Monkseaton	MUGA
Panama Skatepark, Links, Whitley Bay, NE26 1RS	Whitley Bay North	Skatepark
Tall Trees, Broomfield Avenue, Battle Hill, NE28 9AF	Battle Hill	NEAP (2)
Hadrian Park Primary School, Addington Drive, NE28 9RT	Battle Hill	SEAP with MUGA
Richmond Gardens, Howdon, NE28 7AW	Wallsend Central	NEAP (3)

Howdon Community Centre, Denbigh Avenue, NE28 0DR	Howdon	LAP
Richardson Dees Park, Park View, Wallsend, NE28 8DD	Wallsend Central	SEAP with MUGA
The Covers Park, Kings Road South, Wallsend NE28 7RB	Wallsend North	LAP
Wilberforce Street, Wallsend, NE28 6BS	Wallsend Central	LAP
North Terrace, Wallsend, NE28 6QD	Wallsend Central	MUGA
Oak Grove, Wallsend, NE28 6PW	Wallsend Central	LAP
Crawley Road, Wallsend, NE28 6AR	Wallsend Central	LAP
Nelson Terrace, North Shields, NE29 6JB	Chirton and Percy Main	NEAP (3)
Winifred Gardens, Wallsend, NE28 6EP	Wallsend	LAP
Alexander Scott Park, William Street West, North Shields, NE29 6RL	North Shields	NEAP (3)
Norham Community Technology College, Alnwick Avenue, North Shields, NE29 7BU	Chirton and Percy Main	SEAP with MUGA
Howdon Park, Howdon Lane, NE28 0BE	Howdon	SEAP with MUGA
East Howdon, Lesbury Street, NE28 0JX	Chirton and Percy Main	SEAP
East Howdon Community Centre, Chatton Street, NE28 0JX	Chirton and Percy Main	MUGA
Richardson Dees Park, Park View, Wallsend, NE28 8DD	Wallsend Central	Skatepark
The Parks Leisure Centre, North Shields	North Shields	Skatepark
Merlin Place, Longbenton, NE12 8YQ	Longbenton and Benton	LEAP (2)

Meadow Drive, Seaton Burn, NE13 6HN	Weetslade	NEAP (3)
Burradon Community Primary School and Recreation Centre, NE23 7NG	Camperdown	SEAP with MUGA
Annitsford Play Park, Barras Gardens, Annitsford, NE23 7RB	Camperdown	NEAP (3)
Killingworth Lakeside Park, Killingworth, NE12 6EH	Killingworth	NEAP (3)
John Willie Sams Centre, Weetslade Road, Dudley, NE23 7HT	Weetslade	SEAP with MUGA
Lockey Park, Great North Road, Wide Open, NE12 6LH	Weetslade	SEAP with MUGA
West Moor Community Centre, Benton Lane, West Moor, NE12 8GT	Camperdown	SEAP with MUGA
Oxford Centre, West Farm Avenue, Longbenton, NE12 8LT	Longbenton and Benton	SEAP with MUGA
Burradon Community Primary School and Recreation Centre,	Camperdown	Skatepark
John Willie Sams Centre, Weetslade Road, Dudley, NE23 7HT	Weetslade	Skatepark

Using the standards set out in Objective 2, the coverage of equipped areas for play across the borough were examined. The results are set out in Table 6 overleaf and are shown on Map 6.

Table 6: Existing Coverage of Equipped Areas for Play by Ward:

Wards	Total Households	Number of Households Within Catchment of a Play Site	Percentage of Households Within Catchment of a Play Site
Backworth & Howdon	3768	3701	98.2%
Battle Hill	4967	4967	100%
Camperdown	4743	4495	95%
Chirton & Percy Main	6691	6486	97%
Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South	5347	4630	87%
Forest Hall	4901	4901	100%
Howdon	6357	5947	94%
Killingworth	4050	3338	82.4%
Longbenton & Benton	5062	5062	100%
Monkseaton	5114	4774	93.4%
North Shields	6529	6528	99%
New York & Murton	4041	3078	76.2%
Preston with Preston Grange	4498	2115	47%
Shiremoor	4806	4806	100%
St. Mary's	4611	3364	73%
Tynemouth	5052	4806	95.1%
Wallsend Central	6056	5998	99%
Wallsend North	5484	5360	98%

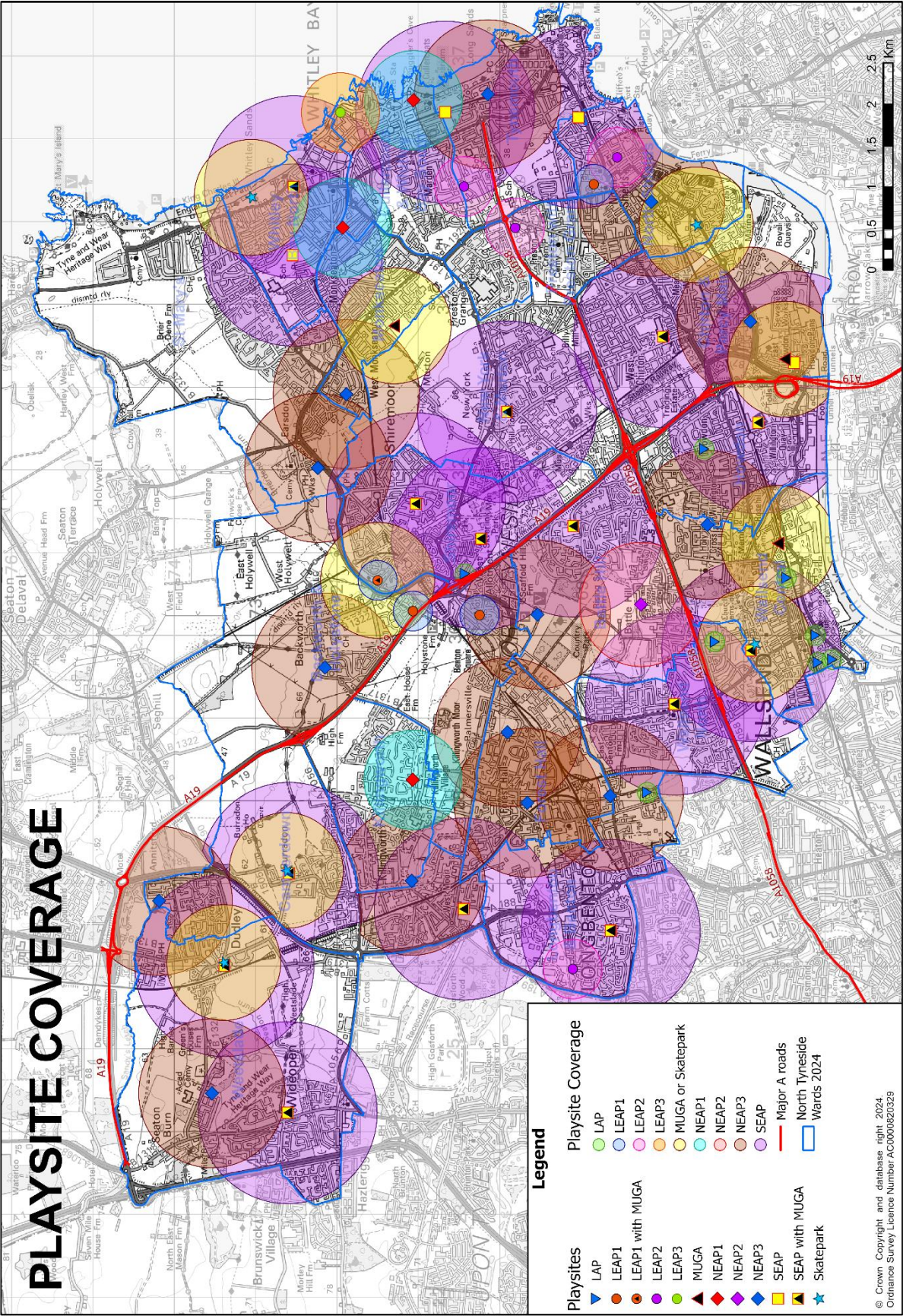
Weetslade	5002	4884	98%
Whitley Bay North	4938	4938	100%
Boroughwide	102,017	94,178	92.3%

The boroughwide average for percentage of households within catchment of a play site is 91.62%. 15 out of 20 wards performed higher than this, with five wards scoring 100%: Battle Hill, Forest Hall, Longbenton and Benton, Shiremoor and Whitley Bay North.

There are some wards that do not perform as well, these being Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South, Killingworth, New York and Murton, St. Mary's and Preston with Preston Grange. Preston with Preston Grange performs particularly poorly with only 47% of households within catchment areas of equipped playsites. This Study cannot identify or designate space for playsites, but there are deficiencies in these areas that could be addressed through targeted provision. New sites could be provided but catchment totals could somewhat increase through the improvement of the existing facilities that currently surround those areas that suffer deficiencies.

As shown in Map 6, the Preston with Preston Grange and New York and Murton wards could have their total coverage improved through the provision of a new NEAP(3) and LEAP(2) at Murton. The provision in Killingworth may be improved by the provision of a new SEAP and NEAP proposed as part of the Killingworth Moor development.

Map 6: Provision of Equipped Areas for Play in North Tyneside



8.0 Parks

PPG17's companion guide defined the purpose of a park as providing "accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events"³⁰. It goes on to suggest that parks could include landscaping (including water) with a mixture of colours, scents and sounds, and could contain seats, paths, shelters and toilets, with some areas designated for specific activities such as sport or children's play. It can include urban parks, country parks and formal gardens.

Objective 3: Parks

All households should be within 900 metres straight line walking distance of a park.

8.1 Justification

Parks are an essential element of the borough's cultural offer and contribute greatly to improving the quality of life for communities. Parks in North Tyneside provide space for free play, sports, activities and events, quiet relaxation and the preservation, celebration and enjoyment of our cultural heritage and nature.

Having close-to-home access to parks is an important factor influencing whether people will become active and stay that way. It is important that

³⁰ 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17', Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 2002.

no-one misses out on the opportunity to use and enjoy parks simply because of where they live or what resources they have.

The provision standard for all parks has been set at a catchment of 900 metres. This mirrors the 2015 Green Space Strategy's standard and is consistent with those set out for park provision for Newcastle (720 metres) and Northumberland (1,000 metres).

8.2 Provision in North Tyneside

Existing provision is set out in Table 7. There are 27 parks in the borough at present, with no further proposed parks.

Table 7: Existing Parks Provision:

Park	Ward
Rising Sun Country Park	Battle Hill
Millenium Green	Camperdown
Redburn Dene	Chirton and Percy Main
Linear Park	Chirton and Percy Main / North Shields
Marden Quarry Reserve	Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South
Rockcliffe Park	Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South
Springfield Park	Forest Hall
Benton Quarry Park	Forest Hall
Howdon Park	Howdon
Killingworth Lakeside Park	Killingworth / Camperdown
Killingworth Park	Killingworth
Crawford Park	Monkseaton
Northumberland Square	North Shields

Alexander Scott Park	North Shields
Dockwray Square	North Shields
Hector Street Park	New York and Murton
Silverlink Biodiversity Park	Shiremoor
Tynemouth Park	Tynemouth
Northumberland Park	Tynemouth / North Shields
The Hall Grounds	Wallsend Central / Wallsend North
Richardson Dees Park	Wallsend Central / Wallsend North
Weetslade Country Park	Weetslade
Lockey Park	Weetslade
Churchill Playing Fields	Whitley Bay North
Souter Park	Whitley Bay North
Panama Gardens	Whitley Bay North
Whitley Park	Whitley Bay North

Using the standards set out in Objective 3, the coverage of parks across the borough were examined. The results are set out in Table 8 below and are illustrated on Map 7.

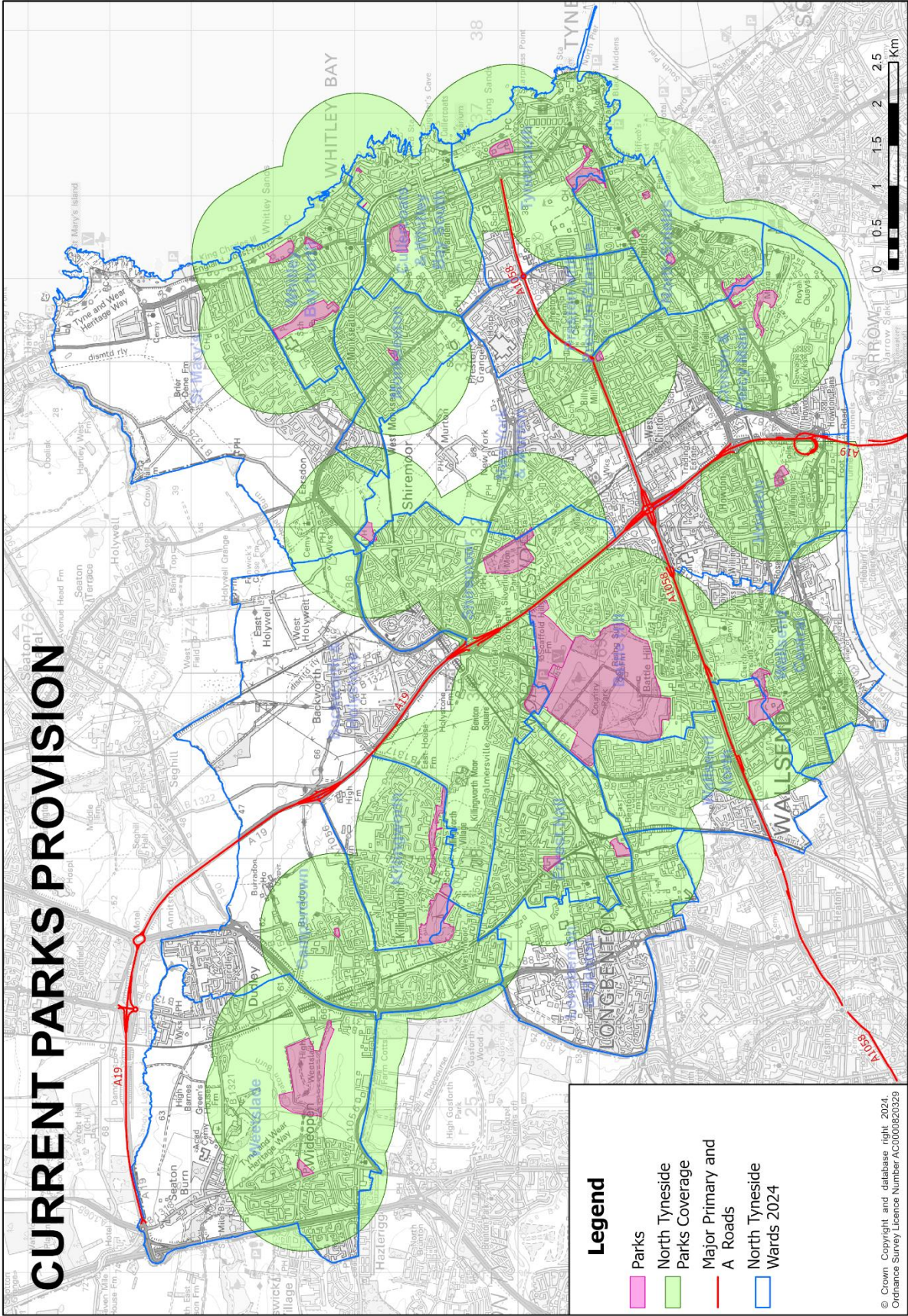
Table 8: Existing Coverage of Parks by Ward:

Wards	Total Households	Number of Households Within Catchment Area of a Park	Percentage of Households Within Catchment Area of a Park
Backworth & Holystone	3768	2289	60.1%
Battle Hill	4967	4873	98.1%
Camperdown	4743	3290	69.4%



Chirton & Percy Main	6691	5502	82.2%
Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South	5347	5252	98.2%
Forest Hall	4901	4901	100%
Howdon	6357	3932	61.9%
Killingworth	4050	4026	99.4%
Longbenton & Benton	5062	1251	24.8%
Monkseaton	5114	4793	93.7%
North Shields	6529	6529	100%
New York & Murton	4041	2249	55.7%
Preston with Preston Grange	4498	3078	64.4%
Shiremoor	4806	4296	89.4%
St. Mary's	4611	3485	75.6%
Tynemouth	5052	4393	87%
Wallsend Central	6056	5362	88.5%
Wallsend North	5484	4907	97.7%
Weetslade	5002	4621	89.4%
Whitley Bay North	4938	4938	100%
Boroughwide	102017	82967	81.3%

Map 7: Provision of Parks in North Tyneside



Overall, the outcomes are varied. Across the borough, 81.3% of households are within the recommended catchment of a park, in which 13 of the 20 wards have totals higher than this, eight of which are over 90%. The wards of Whitley Bay North, Forest Hall and North Shields all have 100% of their households within the acceptable catchment.

Some wards do not perform as well, notably Backworth and Holystone, Howdon, New York and Murton and Preston with Preston Grange. Longbenton and Benton performs very poorly with only 24.8% of households within the catchment. Parts of the Longbenton and Benton ward will likely fall into the catchment of Jesmond Dene in Newcastle; however, whilst making a small difference this still leaves much of the ward lacking in park provision.

9.0 Natural and Semi-Natural Spaces

PPG17's companion guide defined natural and semi natural green spaces as those that offered wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness³¹. These kinds of areas can include urban woodlands. Natural England define natural spaces as *"Places where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate"*³². When using this definition, deciding at which point human control and activities are not intensive so the feeling of naturalness predominates is difficult to determine, but areas allocated as local nature reserves, woodland or National Parks could fall into the definition.

Objective 4: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces

All households should be within:

- 300m of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 2ha in size
- 2km of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 20ha in size
- 5km of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 100ha in size

³¹ Assessing Needs and Opportunities, DCLG, 2001

³² Green Infrastructure Glossary, Natural England, available at <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Glossary.aspx>

9.1 Justification

The presence of natural and semi-natural green spaces protects and enhances biodiversity and therefore they contribute to achieving the objectives set out in the BAP³³. The aim of the BAP is to ensure the natural environment is managed more effectively to protect natural resources and to leave a legacy that will benefit present and future generations. As well as the biodiversity benefits these areas have to offer, those that are accessible are valuable to tourism and the local economy.

Chapter 15 of the NPPF³⁴ sets out the requirement for planning policies and decisions to minimise impact on and provide net gains in biodiversity.

The provision standards set out in Objective 4 mirror Natural England's Accessible Greenspace Standard (previously 'ANGSt')³⁵.

9.2 Provision in North Tyneside

Households Within 300m of Natural or Semi-natural Green Space of at Least 2ha in Size

Using the standards set out in Objective 4, the coverage of natural and semi-natural green space of at least 2ha was examined. The results are set out in Table 9 and are identified in Map 8.

³³ Biodiversity Action Plan, Newcastle City Council & North Tyneside Council, 2011.

³⁴ National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024.

³⁵ Natural England, Green Infrastructure Standards for England – Summary, 2023.

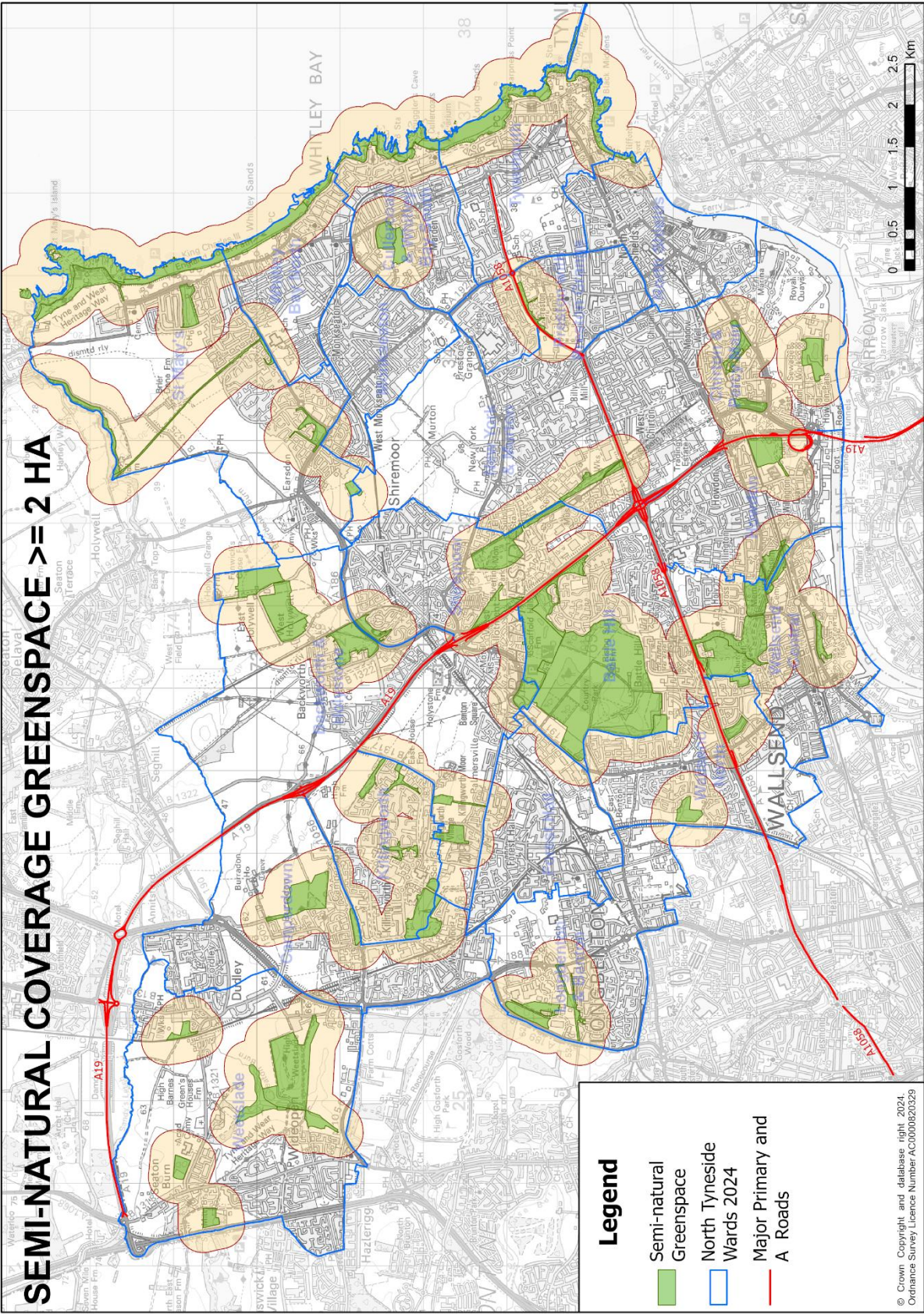
Table 9: Current coverage of natural and semi-natural green spaces of at least 2ha by Ward:

Ward	Total Households	Number of households within 300m catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 2ha in size	Percentage of households within 300m catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 2ha in size
Backworth & Holystone	3768	1980	52.5%
Battle Hill	4967	3495	70.4%
Camperdown	4743	1667	35.1%
Chirton & Percy Main	6691	1640	24.5%
Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South	5347	2872	53.7%
Forest Hall	4901	489	10.0%
Howdon	6357	2286	36.0%
Killingworth	4050	3623	89.5%
Longbenton & Benton	5062	1208	23.9%
Monkseaton	5114	458	9.0%
North Shields	6529	174	2.7%
New York & Murton	4041	88	2.2%



Ward	Total Households	Number of households within 300m catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 2ha in size	Percentage of households within 300m catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 2ha in size
Preston with Preston Grange	4498	589	13.1%
Shiremoor	4806	1545	32.1%
St. Mary's	4611	3371	73.1%
Tynemouth	5052	1770	35.0%
Wallsend Central	6056	2924	48.3%
Wallsend North	5484	3344	61.0%
Weetslade	5002	1698	33.9%
Whitley Bay North	4938	1497	30.3%
Boroughwide	102,017	36,718	36.0%

Map 8: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space Coverage of at least 2 Hectares in North Tyneside



Across the borough, 36% of total households are within the acceptable catchment of 300m.

As illustrated in Map 8, there are major gaps in many of the wards with New York and Murton having the lowest total of 2.2%. Other wards with deficiencies include North Shields, Monkseaton, Forest Hall and Preston with Preston Grange. However, other wards in the borough perform better such as Wallsend North, Battle Hill and Killingworth with the highest total of 89.5%.

Areas that perform better within this catchment are notably along the coast and those close to Rising Sun and Weetslade Country Parks, as well as Wallsend Dene and surrounding sites.

Households Within 2km of Natural or Semi-natural Green Space of at Least 20ha in Size

Using the standards set out in Objective 4, the coverage of natural and semi-natural green space of at least 20ha was examined. The results are set out in Table 10 and are identified in Map 9.

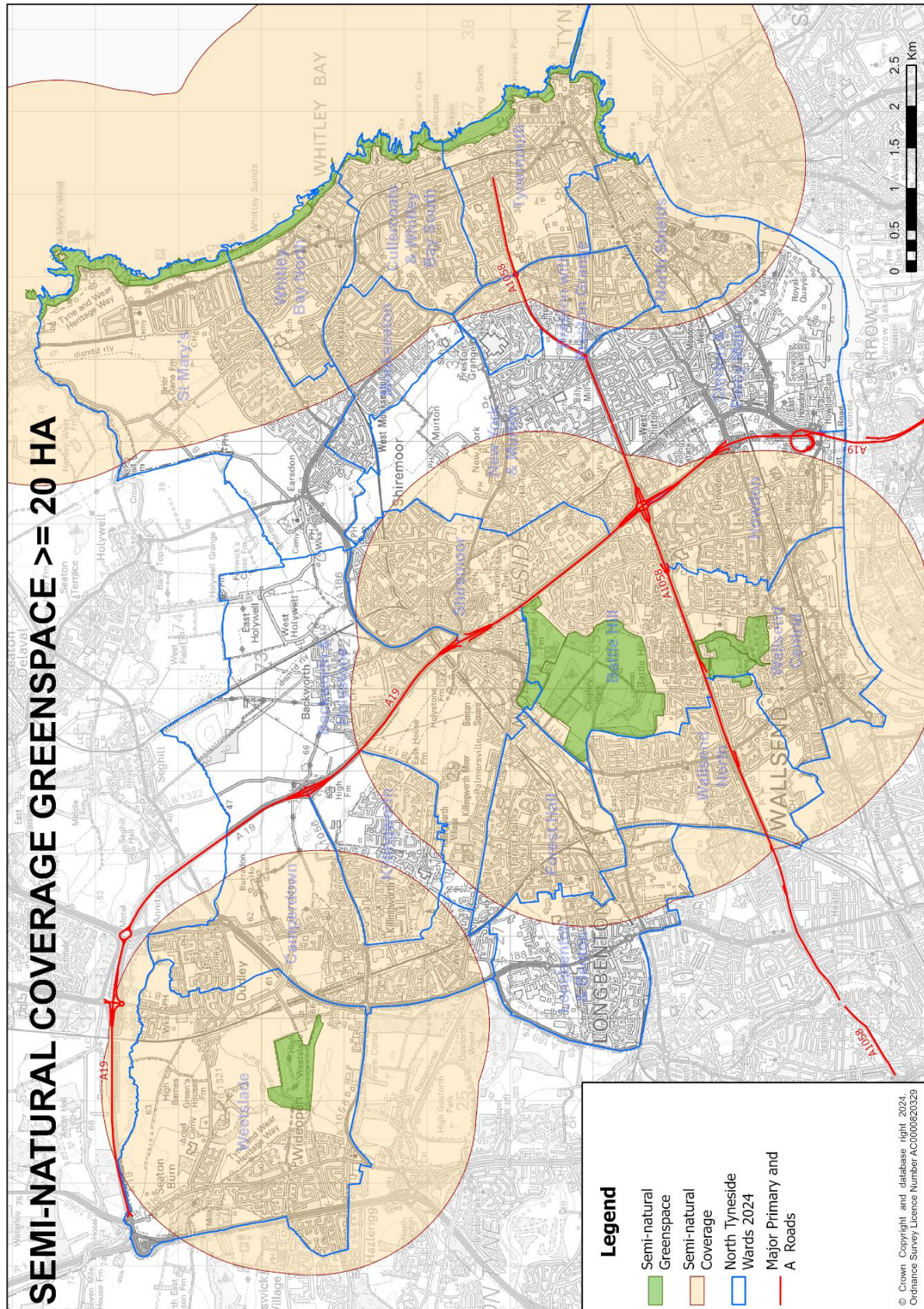
Table 10: Current coverage of natural and semi-natural green spaces of at least 20ha by Ward:

Ward	Total Households	Number of households within 2km catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 20ha in size	Percentage of households within 2km catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 20ha in size
Backworth & Holystone	3768	3041	80.7%
Battle Hill	4967	4967	100%
Camperdown	4743	4368	92.1%
Chirton & Percy Main	6691	709	10.6%
Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South	5347	5347	100%
Forest Hall	4901	4586	93.6%
Howdon	6357	6327	99.5%
Killingworth	4050	2715	67%
Longbenton & Benton	5062	1143	22.6%
Monkseaton	5114	3086	60.3%
North Shields	6529	6529	100%
New York & Murton	4041	1170	29%



Ward	Total Households	Number of households within 2km catchment of a natural or semi- natural green space of at least 20ha in size	Percentage of households within 2km catchment of a natural or semi- natural green space of at least 20ha in size
Preston with Preston Grange	4498	3360	74.7%
Shiremoor	4806	4558	94.8%
St. Mary's	4611	3330	72.2%
Tynemouth	5052	5052	100%
Wallsend Central	6056	6056	100%
Wallsend North	5484	5483	100%
Weetslade	5002	5002	100%
Whitley Bay North	4938	4938	100%
Boroughwide	102,017	75,239	73.8%

Map 9: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space Coverage of at least 20 Hectares in North Tyneside



Across the borough, 73.8% of households were in the recommended catchment of 2km. As presented in Map 9, the majority of wards perform well with Battle Hill, Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South, North Shields, Tynemouth, Wallsend Central, Wallsend North, Weetslade and Whitley Bay North all with 100% of households within the recommended 2km catchment area. However, the wards of Chirton and Percy Main, Longbenton and Benton and New York and Murton score poorly, with Chirton and Percy Main having the lowest total of 10.6%.

Households Within 5km of Natural or Semi-natural Green Space of at Least 100ha in Size

Using the standards set out in Objective 4, the coverage of natural and semi-natural green space of at least 100ha was examined. The results are set out in Table 11 and are identified in Map 10.

Table 11: Current coverage of natural and semi-natural green spaces of at least 100ha by Ward:

Ward	Total Households	Number of households within 5km catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 100ha in size	Percentage of households within 5km catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 100ha in size
Backworth & Holystone	3768	3768	100%
Battle Hill	4967	4967	100%

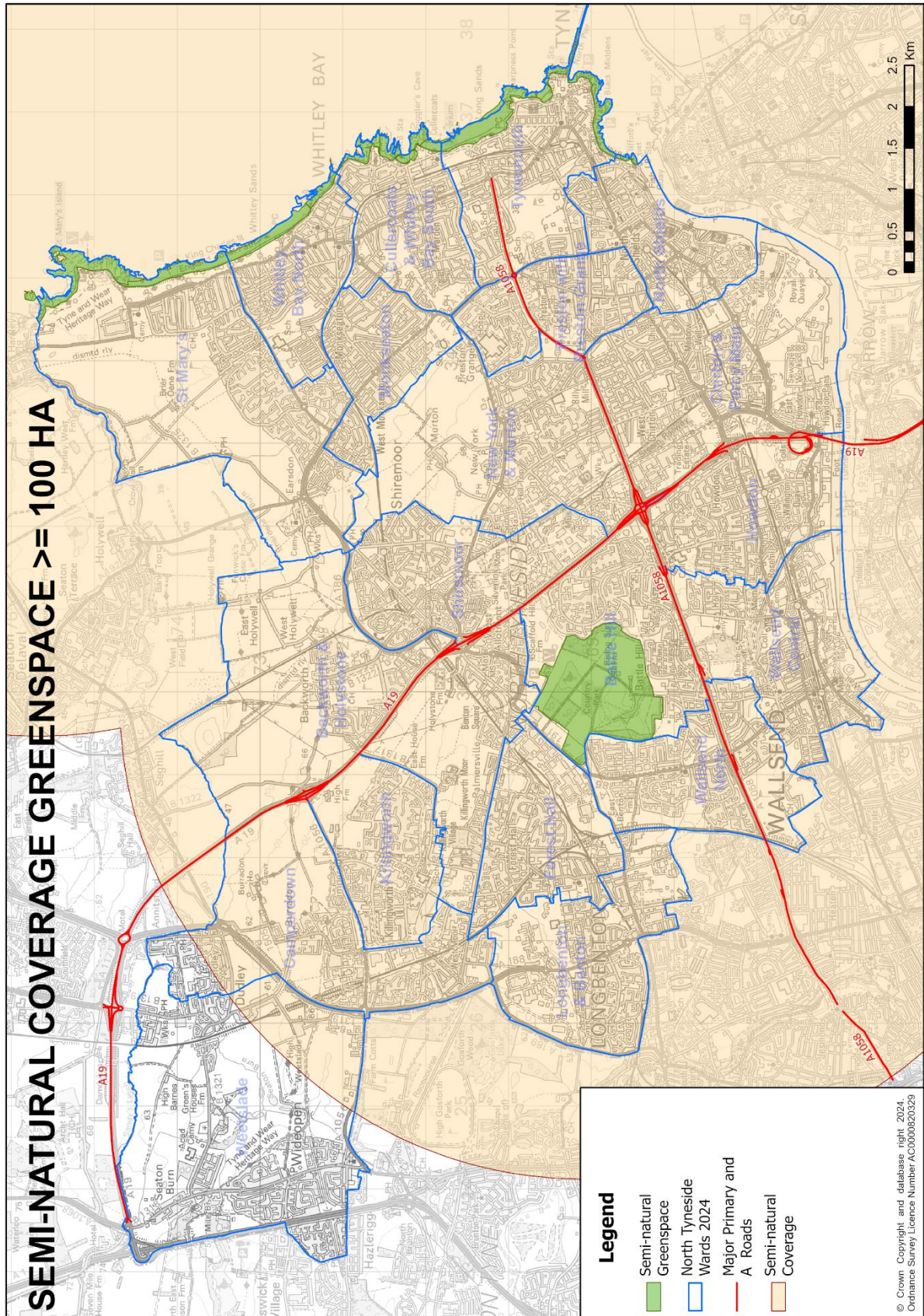


Ward	Total Households	Number of households within 5km catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 100ha in size	Percentage of households within 5km catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 100ha in size
Camperdown	4743	3684	77.6%
Chirton & Percy Main	6691	6691	100%
Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South	5347	5347	100%
Forest Hall	4901	4901	100%
Howdon	6357	6357	100%
Killingworth	4050	4050	100%
Longbenton & Benton	5062	5062	100%
Monkseaton	5114	5114	100%
North Shields	6529	6529	100%
New York & Murton	4041	4041	100%
Preston with Preston Grange	4498	4498	100%
Shiremoor	4806	4806	100%
St. Mary's	4611	4611	100%
Tynemouth	5052	5052	100%
Wallsend Central	6056	6056	100%



Ward	Total Households	Number of households within 5km catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 100ha in size	Percentage of households within 5km catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 100ha in size
Wallsend North	5484	5484	100%
Weetslade	5002	144	2.87%
Whitley Bay North	4938	4938	100%
Boroughwide	102,017	96,100	94.19%

Map 10: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space Coverage of at least 100 Hectares in North Tyneside.



The only space in North Tyneside within this size bracket is the Rising Sun Country Park located within the Battle Hill ward. However, all coastal spaces collectively represent over 100ha in size and have been included in this assessment given the recreational and biodiversity offer they represent.

Across the borough, 94.19% of total households fall within the recommended catchment of 5km. As presented in Table 11, 18 of the 20 wards have 100% coverage. The only two wards with totals less than 100% are located to the North West with Camperdown having a total of 77.6% and Weetslade with the lowest of total of 2.87%. Whilst not within the recommended catchment of a space of at least 100ha, this area of the Borough is well-served by smaller (but still of significant size) natural and semi-natural sites at Weetslade Country Park and Big Waters Nature Reserve just to the west of the borough boundary in Newcastle.

It is recognised that the targets of Objective 4 are difficult and sometimes impossible to achieve. It seems unlikely that those areas currently lacking in provision of spaces of at least 100ha will see that provision filled. Natural England also recommend that households be within a catchment distance of 10km of a space at least 500ha in size. The Town Moor in Newcastle sits roughly 10km to the western parts of North Tyneside but is less than 500ha in size. It would be very unlikely that a new 500ha public semi-natural or natural open space could be created nearer to North Tyneside.

Adjoining authorities

Due to provision in neighbouring authorities, some areas of this borough may not be as deficient in coverage as appears (although it must be remembered however that Newcastle and Northumberland have used different provision standards to those set out in Objective 4). As illustrated

in Figure 13 of the Newcastle Open Space Assessment 2016–2030³⁶, the catchment areas of natural and semi-natural spaces take in many properties within western North Tyneside. A small part of the particularly deficient Longbenton ward falls within the outer catchment of Jesmond Dene. Northumberland County Council's PPG17 open space, sport and recreation assessment (46) sets out that some of their semi-natural and natural space's catchments would fall within the north eastern boundary of this borough, but as a mostly non-developed area, few households would be affected.

³⁶ [Newcastle City Open Space Assessment 2016](#)

10.0 Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Playing Pitches

The playing pitches that are covered within this section are football, rugby union, cricket, hockey artificial grass pitches (AGPs), third generation turf (3G), rugby league and other pitches for sports such as Gaelic football and baseball.

Objective 5: Playing Pitches

The standards for quality, quantity and management set out in the North Tyneside Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 should be followed.

10.1 Justification

Regular participation in sports can increase people's physical fitness, health, well-being and self-esteem. North Tyneside Council also believe in the wider benefits sports can play such as aiding community development, relieving social deprivation and poverty, and contributing to regeneration and economic development.

The provision of outdoor sports facilities is demand-and participation-led; it is therefore not simple to calculate a provision standard. The North Tyneside Playing Pitch Strategy involved extensive research into the quality, adequacy, supply and demand of pitches in the borough and it is therefore deemed appropriate to look towards it for appropriate standards.

10.2 Provision in North Tyneside

The Playing Pitch Strategy has found that for all sports there is currently predominantly shortfalls and some localised instances of sufficient capacity. The future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some sports and in some areas where demand is currently being met.

There is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost. Where shortfalls are present, for the most part, they can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, and enabling access to existing unused provision.

Readers are directed to the Playing Pitch Strategy³⁷ for a complete overview.

³⁷ North Tyneside Playing Pitch Strategy 2025, Knight Kavanagh & Page, North Tyneside Council, 2025

11.0 Other Outdoor Facilities

Other outdoor facilities can cover a wide range facilities, including:

- Bowling greens
- Golf courses
- Tennis courts
- Athletic tracks
- Basketball courts
- Youth shelters
- All-weather pitches
- Skateboarding/wheeled activity facility
- Multi use games areas (MUGAs)
- Water parks

This range of facilities illustrates the varied needs of communities but is by no means an exhaustive list. It is likely that some of these facilities will be located within existing green spaces such as parks.

Objective 6: Other Outdoor Facilities

A range of outdoor facilities should be available within an appropriate travelling distance for all.

11.1 Justification

The importance of sport and physical activity is recognised, and it is imperative that a range of facilities are available to meet the needs of all groups in the community so everyone can participate in such activity.

Provision standards have not been set as part of this objective for the following reasons:

- There are no national standards that can be used as a template for developing local standards.
- The range of facilities available will almost certainly never be a complete or static list.
- This Study would be unwieldy and over-complex if provision standards were set for many types of facility.

12.0 General Standard

This objective takes into account the requirement of accessible green spaces for informal recreation and relaxation activities such as walking, exercising, dog walking, and children's play. These activities can take place in areas that already serve a "main" purpose, such as those already discussed in this Study. They could take place spaces that perhaps do not have a main defined role. All these can provide accessible green space for informal use and for the purposes of this Study, such spaces will be referred to as "informal green space".

Objective 7: General Standard

All properties should be within 300 metres of at least 0.1ha of accessible, free and usable green space.

It is likely that informal green spaces will also fall into another typology discussed in this Study. All spaces should first and foremost be assessed under the provisions of their individual typology.

12.1 Justification

There are no national accessibility standards for informal green space. 300 metres straight line walk equates to around five minute's journey time and this is felt to be appropriate for access to informal green space. This standard was acknowledged as acceptable as part of the 2015 Green Space Strategy; therefore, it will be continued to be applied in this update.

The need for informal green space is not confined to residential areas; the borough's town centres and employment areas require provision, so visitors and workers have spaces for relaxation and recreation. For this reason, the standard is based on all properties in the borough, not just households.

Cemeteries are not included within this standard. Whilst their green space benefits are recognised, the extent of their recreational use is limited.

12.2 Provision in North Tyneside

Using the standards set out in Objective 7, the present provision of informal green space is identified in Table 12 and set out in Map 11.

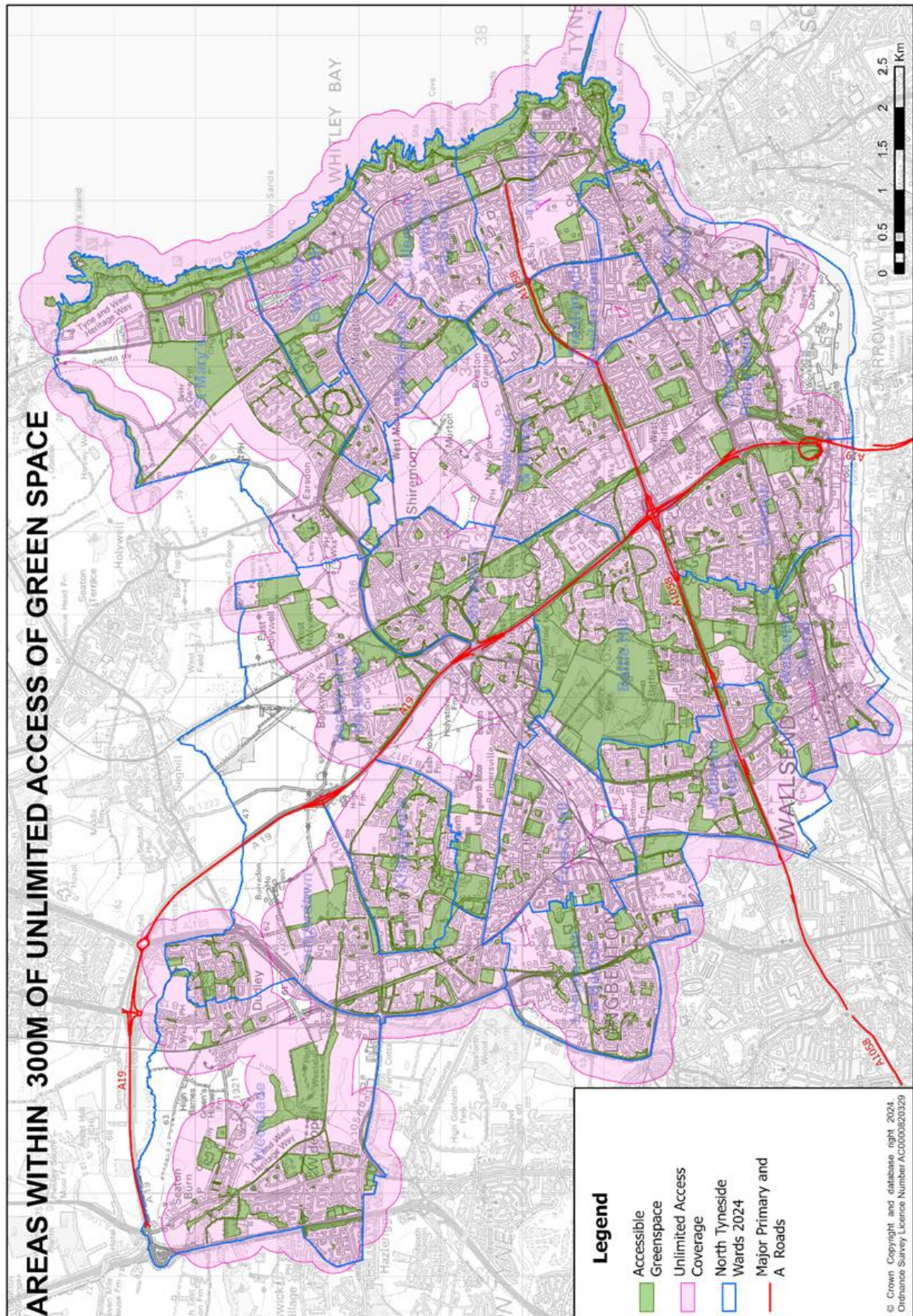
Table 12: Existing Coverage of Informal Green Space by Ward:

Ward	Number of Properties within 300m of accessible green space	Number of Properties in Ward	Percentage of Properties within 300m of accessible green space
Backworth & Holystone	3757	3768	99.7%
Battle Hill	4967	4967	100%
Camperdown	4737	4743	99.9%
Chirton & Percy Main	6691	6691	100%
Cullercoats & Whitley Bay South	5333	5347	99.7%
Forest Hall	4856	4901	99%



Howdon	6357	6357	100%
Killingworth	4048	4050	100%
Longbenton & Benton	5060	5062	100%
Monkseaton	5083	5114	99.4%
North Shields	6529	6529	100%
New York & Murton	4024	4041	99.6%
Preston with Preston Grange	4469	4498	99.4%
Shiremoor	4772	4806	99.3%
St Mary's	4572	4611	99.2%
Tynemouth	5052	5052	100%
Wallsend Central	5987	6056	98.9%
Wallsend North	5469	5484	99.7%
Weetslade	4881	5002	97.6%
Whitley Bay North	4687	4938	95%
Boroughwide	101331	102017	99.3%

Map 11: Coverage of Informal Green Space



As presented in Table 12, North Tyneside performs very well overall with 99.3% of all properties across the borough being located within 300m of accessible, informal green space. At ward level, seven wards achieve totals of 100%; these are Battle Hill, Chirton and Percy Main, Howdon, Killingworth, Longbenton and Benton, North Shields and Tynemouth. The totals from all other wards range from 95% to 99.9% with Whitley Bay North having the lowest total. As illustrated by Map 11, the densely built nature of the Whitley Bay area allows for small gaps in accessible green space provision. However, this ward benefits from good quality spaces such as Churchill Playing Fields, Whitley Park and the coast. It is important that for areas where green space can't be provided, those spaces lying outside of the catchment should be of good quality to justify that longer journey.

13.0 Allotments

An allotment is generally defined as a plot of land rented to individuals so that they can grow fruit and vegetables for themselves and their families to eat.

Objective 8: Allotments

North Tyneside's allotments will be provided, maintained and managed in line with the North Tyneside Allotment Strategy.

13.1 Justification

Allotments are of great value to communities and areas. They advocate exercise, good mental health, healthy eating, learning, community cohesion and biodiversity.

The North Tyneside Allotment Strategy 2020–2030³⁸ sets out the Council's commitment and vision for allotments. The Strategy identifies:

- What the council wants to achieve through the allotment service for current and future plot holders and other North Tyneside residents.
- How the council will work with plot holders, sit associations, members of the local community and other voluntary and statutory organisations to make its vision a reality.
- The resource implications of the strategy and how the council plans to attract those resources.

³⁸ North Tyneside Allotment Strategy 2020 – 2030, North Tyneside Council, 2020

The number of allotments required in any area is a function of demand and therefore it will be appropriate to use a demand-led methodology, based on local authority records, to ascertain provision standards. The Allotment Strategy acknowledges this and sets out the supply and demand with the borough.

Quality and value assessments of the borough's allotments have not been carried out as part of this Study. The Allotment Team has developed their own Good Allotment Site and Plot Standards that they use to undertake their own assessments. The Standards consider if allotments have good access, good security, well-maintained paths, adequate water provision and are free from neglected plots, and if the plots themselves are being used and maintained in accordance with the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

14.0 Design of Green Spaces

Objective 9: Design of Green Spaces

Green spaces should, where appropriate, be designed to:

- Be accessible to all;
- Ensure their facilities are accessible to all;
- Maximise safety and minimise the potential for anti-social behaviour through maximising casual surveillance, preventing any sense of isolation or insecurity and using appropriate lighting;
- Minimise any detrimental impact on the amenity of nearby residents;
- Deliver biodiversity benefit through integrated habitat areas within the space and its borders to support and allow movement of wildlife;
- Promote, where appropriate, the use of sustainable transport corridors such as wagonways, cycleways and bridle paths;
- Protect and, where appropriate, enhance any green space that is of heritage value in its own right, or that is important to the setting of any heritage asset;
- Implement, where appropriate, flood storage or sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) to negate flood risk issues.

14.1 Justification

Good design is advocated in Chapter 12 of NPPF ³⁹ and in the North Tyneside Design Quality SPD⁴⁰. It can create safe, accessible and enjoyable

³⁹ National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024.

⁴⁰ Design Quality Supplementary Planning Document, North Tyneside Council, 2018.

spaces and offer a range of positive social, environmental and economic impacts.

The above objective has been prepared so that North Tyneside's green spaces, whether newly created or improved, can be as functional and attractive as possible.

15.0 Green Space Provision Associated with New Housing

Objective 10: Green Space Provision Associated with New Housing Provision

Within new residential developments, green space will be provided to meet the standards of this Study and secured by planning obligations (delivered through Section 106 Agreements) as set out in the Planning Obligations SPD.

15.1 Justification

New residential development can place increased pressure on green space and recreation provision within the borough. It is the Council's responsibility to enable and co-ordinate the provision of these facilities to ensure they are in the correct location and of appropriate quality. Planning obligations⁴¹ play an essential role in ensuring that facilities are available and of a standard to manage any additional demand placed upon them by new development.

⁴¹ Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, North Tyneside Council, 2018.

16.0 Management and Maintenance

Objective 11: Management and Maintenance

No scheme that creates new green space or improves existing should proceed until the funding to secure its maintenance and management has been identified.

Where funding will be secured by planning obligations, the guidelines set out in the Planning Obligations SPD⁴² will be followed.

16.1 Justification

It is aimed that all green spaces be of the highest quality and value to ensure they offer the best to their users over a longer term. This can only be achieved through correct management and maintenance.

A management and maintenance plan can provide the clarity and reassurance for the local community about how the green space will remain safe and usable.

⁴² Ibid.

17.0 Loss of Green Space

Objective 12: Loss of Green Space

Any proposal that would result in the loss of green space will be determined in accordance with the NPPF and the North Tyneside Local Plan.

17.1 Justification

The objective recognises that some green spaces can be surplus to requirements, but their loss can offer an opportunity to remedy deficiencies in provision or improve poor quality or value in another green space, including through securing contributions through Section 106 Agreements.

18.0 Implementation

Planning Decisions

It is primarily through the planning process that this Study will be implemented. The Study will be an important material consideration when determining planning applications and will inform decisions regarding the protection of existing spaces, their improvement, and the provision of new and replacement facilities (including securing any necessary funding).

Regeneration Activity

Regeneration initiatives will provide opportunities for wide-ranging enhancement and development of green spaces within the borough. There is the potential for existing green spaces to be enhanced and to create new green spaces in an area to meet deficiencies. Therefore, it is essential that this Study and its associated objectives and standards be taken into consideration when developing regeneration schemes.

Grant Funding

Grant funding is an essential mechanism to enhance the green spaces within the borough. The deficiencies in provision and quality and value some areas that are identified in this Study can form a sound justification in bidding to acquire grant funding. The Study also provides a framework for spending grant funding to ensure that it is invested in a manner that aids those areas that most need improvements.

Partnership Working

This Study aims to promote and support partnership working. It is hoped that these partners will have regard to this Study and will align their own plans and strategies with it, where feasible. This should ensure greater clarity, confidence and better outcomes in the provision and management of green spaces.

Timescale

This Study sets out a long-term approach to managing the green space of North Tyneside. It has a reliance on new development to assist in the funding and delivery of new and improved provision. The feasibility and deliverability of new development is dependent on many factors and therefore it is likely it will take many years for the recommended standards to be reached.

19.0 Monitoring and Review

This Study in itself monitors current performance in meeting quality, value and provision standards and therefore frequent revisions are crucial in ensuring its objectives are monitored and reviewed.

The Study should be reviewed every two years, including a full assessment of all green spaces. Such a frequent review will take into account new Council strategies, planning policy and guidance. It will also take into account any new developments in the borough that may affect the amount, quality and value of green spaces.

The information within the GSS will be reported annually in the Authority Monitoring Report⁴³.

⁴³ North Tyneside Authority Monitoring Reports, North Tyneside Council, 2023.

Number of Green Spaces per Ward:		
Ward	Number	Area by Hectare
Battle Hill	38	46.50
Benton	34	65.91
Camperdown	55	90.37
Chirton	25	49.68
Collingwood	60	77.17
Cullercoats	28	43.75
Howdon	37	70.06
Killingworth	67	317.22
Longbenton	49	69.41
Monkseaton North	15	42.48
Monkseaton South	28	37.06
Northumberland	38	110.71
Preston	23	48.34
Riverside	59	101.09
St Mary's	40	207.73
Tynemouth	49	154.63
Valley	71	176.95
Wallsend	40	100.39
Weetslade	61	134.30
Whitley Bay	20	46.11
Borough Total	837	1989.86



Amount Green Spaces of Low Quality and Low Value per Ward:			
Ward	Number of Spaces	Area in Hectares	Percentage of Ward
Battle Hill	0	0	0
Benton	3	2.25	3.41
Camperdown	1	0.58	0.64
Chirton	2	5.39	10.84
Collingwood	3	0.87	1.12
Cullercoats	0	0	0
Howdon	2	0.31	0.44
Killingworth	0	0	0
Longbenton	3	11.34	16.33
Monkseaton North	1	0.24	0.56
Monkseaton South	0	0	0
Northumberland	1	0.60	0.54
Preston	1	0.83	1.71
Riverside	3	1.47	1.45
St. Mary's	0	0	0
Tynemouth	2	0.44	0.28
Valley	6	2.54	1.43
Wallsend	5	2.65	2.63
Weetslade	1	0.68	0.50
Whitley Bay	0	0	0
Boroughwide	34	30.19	1.51



**Amount Green Spaces of Medium/High Quality and Medium/High
Value per Ward:**

Ward	Number of Spaces	Area in Hectares	Percentage of green spaces
Battle Hill	38	46.50	100
Benton	29	62.01	94.08
Camperdown	51	86.81	96.06
Chirton	22	44.19	88.94
Collingwood	51	65.39	84.73
Cullercoats	28	43.75	100
Howdon	30	41.92	59.83
Killingworth	67	317.22	100
Longbenton	43	56.71	81.70
Monkseaton North	14	42.24	99.43
Monkseaton South	28	37.06	100
Northumberland	37	110.11	99.45
Preston	22	47.50	98.26
Riverside	46	61.20	60.54
St. Mary's	40	207.73	100
Tynemouth	46	150.65	97.42
Valley	61	157.46	88.98
Wallsend	30	95.23	94.86
Weetslade	58	130.50	97.17
Whitley Bay	18	45.82	99.37
Boroughwide	759	1850	92.97



Existing Coverage of Playsites per Ward:

Ward	Total Households	Number of households within catchment of a play site	Percentage of households within catchment of a play site
Battle Hill	4964	4964	100%
Benton	4846	4846	100%
Camperdown	4964	4849	98%
Chirton	5909	5858	99.1%
Collingwood	5262	3193	60.7%
Cullercoats	4470	3721	83.2%
Howdon	5221	4811	92.1%
Killingworth	5372	4744	88.3%
Longbenton	5660	5616	99.2%
Monkseaton North	3736	3736	100%
Monkseaton South	4451	3947	88.7%
Northumberland	4891	4767	97.5%
Preston	4179	2852	68.2%
Riverside	6751	6597	97.7%
St. Mary's	3862	2615	67.7%
Tynemouth	5655	5655	100%
Valley	6286	6250	99.4%
Wallsend	5787	5729	99%
Weetslade	5206	4884	94%
Whitley Bay	4545	4545	100%
Boroughwide	102,017	94,179	92.3%



Existing Coverage of Parks per Ward:			
Ward	Total Households	Number of households with catchment of a park	Percentage of households within catchment of a park
Battle Hill	4964	4870	98.1%
Benton	4846	4652	96%
Camperdown	4964	3489	70.3%
Chirton	5909	5032	85.2%
Collingwood	5262	2474	47%
Cullercoats	4470	3719	83.2%
Howdon	5221	2505	48%
Killingworth	5372	5370	99.9%
Longbenton	5660	2043	36%
Monkseaton North	3736	3592	96.1%
Monkseaton South	4451	4130	92.8%
Northumberland	4891	4314	88.2%
Preston	4179	3752	89.8%
Riverside	6751	6438	95.4%
St. Mary's	3862	2880	74.6%
Tynemouth	5655	5655	100%
Valley	6286	4297	68.4%
Wallsend	5787	5385	93.1%
Weetslade	5206	3825	73.5%
Whitley Bay	4545	4545	100%
Boroughwide	102,017	82967	81.3%



Existing Coverage of Natural / Semi Natural Spaces per Ward:			
Ward	Total Households	Number of households within catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 2ha in size	Percentage of households within catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 2ha in size
Battle Hill	4964	3492	70.3%
Benton	4846	492	10.2%
Camperdown	4964	2888	58.2%
Chirton	5909	356	6.0%
Collingwood	5262	480	9.1%
Cullercoats	4470	1571	35.1%
Howdon	5221	1261	24.2%
Killingworth	5372	3714	69.1%
Longbenton	5660	1323	23.4%
Monkseaton North	3736	825	22.1%
Monkseaton South	4451	497	11.2%
Northumberland	4891	2766	56.6%
Preston	4179	467	11.2%
Riverside	6751	2729	40.4%
St. Mary's	3862	2933	75.9%
Tynemouth	5655	1913	33.8%
Valley	6286	2088	33.2%
Wallsend	5787	3083	53.3%
Weetslade	5206	1707	32.8%
Whitley Bay	4545	2403	52.9%
Boroughwide	102017	36,988	36.3%



Existing Coverage of Natural / Semi Natural Spaces per Ward:			
Ward	Total Households	Number of households within catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 20ha in size	Percentage of households within catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 20ha in size
Battle Hill	4964	4964	100%
Benton	4846	4284	88.4%
Camperdown	4964	4783	96.4%
Chirton	5909	1604	27.1%
Collingwood	5262	1666	31.7%
Cullercoats	4470	4470	100%
Howdon	5221	5221	100%
Killingworth	5372	4091	76.2%
Longbenton	5660	1722	30.4%
Monkseaton North	3736	3395	90.9%
Monkseaton South	4451	2523	56.7%
Northumberland	4891	4890	100%
Preston	4179	3766	90.1%
Riverside	6751	5044	74.7%
St. Mary's	3862	2822	73.1%
Tynemouth	5655	5655	100%
Valley	6286	5329	84.8%
Wallsend	5787	5787	100%
Weetslade	5206	5206	100%
Whitley Bay	4545	4545	100%
Boroughwide	102,017	81,767	80.2%



Existing Coverage of Natural / Semi Natural Spaces per Ward:			
Ward	Total Households	Number of households within catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 100ha in size	Percentage of households within catchment of a natural or semi-natural green space of at least 100ha in size
Battle Hill	4964	4964	100%
Benton	4846	4846	100%
Camperdown	4964	3905	78.6%
Chirton	5909	5909	100%
Collingwood	5262	5262	100%
Cullercoats	4470	4470	100%
Howdon	5221	5221	100%
Killingworth	5372	5372	100%
Longbenton	5660	5660	100%
Monkseaton North	3736	3736	100%
Monkseaton South	4451	4451	100%
Northumberland	4891	4891	100%
Preston	4179	4179	100%
Riverside	6751	6751	100%
St. Mary's	3862	3862	100%
Tynemouth	5655	5655	100%
Valley	6286	6286	100%
Wallsend	5787	5787	100%
Weetslade	5206	348	6.6%
Whitley Bay	4545	4545	100%
Boroughwide	102,017	96,100	94.2%



Existing Coverage of Accessible Green Space per Ward:			
Ward	Number of Properties in Ward	Number of Properties within 300m of accessible green space	Percentage of Properties within 300m of accessible green space
Wallsend	5787	5718	98.8%
Preston	4179	4150	99.3%
Whitley Bay	4545	4528	99.6%
Monkseaton South	4451	4420	93.7%
<u>Weetslade</u>	5206	5085	97.7%
Monkseaton North	3736	3499	93.7%
Benton	4846	4801	100%
<u>Chirton</u>	5909	5909	100%
Tynemouth	5655	5655	100%
Valley	6286	6249	99.4%
Northumberland	4891	4876	99.7%
Killingworth	5372	5362	99.8%
Cullercoats	4470	4459	99.8%
Camperdown	4964	4958	99.9%
Longbenton	5660	5658	100%
Collingwood	5262	5245	99.7%
St Mary's	3862	3823	99%
Riverside	6751	6751	100%
Battle Hill	4964	4964	100%
<u>Howdon</u>	5221	5221	100%
Boroughwide	101,972	101,331	99.4%

Appendix 2: Quality Scoring System

Criteria	Description	Score
Entrance	Good access, well maintained and inviting, appropriate security	5
	Obvious, Open, Inviting and tidy	3
	Apparent as entrance	1
Main Entrance	Easy to find, with a welcome/advisory sign, appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting	5
	Appropriate, size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting	4
	Obvious, open inviting and clean	2
	Apparent as entrance	1
Enclosure and Boundaries	Boundary obvious overlooked by many houses, all hedges or gates well maintained	5
	Clear boundaries, overlooked by a number of houses, maintenance 'patchy'	4
	Not overlooked but boundaries well maintained and clear	2
	Not overlooked and boundaries in poor condition	1
Boundaries	All clearly defined and well maintained	5
	All clearly defined, maintenance 'patchy'	4
	All clearly defined, maintenance needed	2
	Unclear boundaries	1



Footpaths, roads, cycle-ways and access	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, disabled access throughout. Surfaces clean, debris and weed free.	5
	Suitable materials, level for safe uses, edges well defined, disabled access in most areas	4
	Suitable materials, disabled access in most areas	3
	Suitable materials, but with some faults, limited disabled access	2
	Footpaths in correct place but in need of obvious repair, disabled access poor and very restricted	1
Biodiversity	The number of habitats found on a site from the 12 habitats found in the 'Broad Habitat Type' list below will be scored as follows:	
	Seven + habitats	5
	Six habitats	4
	Four-five habitats	3
	Two-three habitats	2
	One habitats	1

Appendix 3: Audit Sheets

Amenity Green Space	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Enclosure and Boundaries						
Footpaths, roads, cycleways, and access						
Grassed Areas						
Planted Areas						
Facilities: Bins						
Seats						
Equipment						
Cleanliness						
Score out of						
Score as %						

Beach and Surrounding Area	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Entrance						
Enclosure and Boundaries						
Footpaths, roads, cycleways, and access						
Biodiversity						
Facilities: Bins						
Seats						
Information						
Toilets						
Parking						
Cleanliness						
Sensory Perception						
Score out of						
Score as %						



Cemeteries, Disused Churchyards and Other Burial Grounds	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Main Entrance						
Boundaries						
Footpaths, roads, cycleways, and access						
Grassed Areas						
Planted Areas						
Facilities: Bins						
Seats						
Parking						
Lighting						
Biodiversity						
Cleanliness						
Headstones						
Score out of						
Score as %						

Green Corridors	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Entrance						
Enclosure and Boundaries						
Footpaths, roads, cycleways, and access						
Biodiversity						
Facilities: Bins						
Seats						
Lighting						
Information						
Cleanliness						
Sensory Perception						
Score out of						
Score as %						



Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Entrance						
Enclosure and Boundaries						
Footpaths, roads, cycleways, and access						
Biodiversity						
Facilities: Bins						
Seats						
Information						
Cleanliness						
Sensory Perception						
Score out of						
Score as %						

Parks and Gardens	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Main Entrance						
Enclosure and Boundaries						
Footpaths, roads, cycleways, and access						
Grassed Areas						
Planted Areas						
Facilities: Bins						
Seats						
Toilets						
Parking						
Lighting						
Equipment						
Information						
Cleanliness						
Score out of						
Score as %						



Provision for Children and Young People	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Entrance						
Enclosure and Boundaries						
Footpaths, roads, cycleways, and access						
Grassed Areas						
Planted Areas						
Facilities: Bins						
Seats						
Lighting						
Equipment						
Cleanliness						
Score out of						
Score as %						

Outdoor Sports Facilities	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Main Entrance						
Boundaries						
Footpaths, roads, cycleways, and access						
Grassed Areas						
Planted Areas						
Facilities: Bins						
Seats						
Toilets						
Parking						
Lighting						
Equipment						
Cleanliness						
Score out of						
Score as %						