



# **Kirklees Local Plan Open Space Study**

## **Open Space Assessment Report**

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Planning Policy Group  
Investment and Regeneration Service  
Kirklees Council  
PO Box B93  
Civic Centre III  
Huddersfield  
HD1 2JR

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
1 Introduction.....	5
2 Context .....	7
3 Background.....	8
4 Methodology .....	9
5 Parks and Recreation Grounds .....	18
6 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.....	28
7 Amenity Greenspace .....	36
8 Allotments and Community Food Growing.....	44
9 Cemeteries and Churchyards .....	53
10 Provision for Children and Young People.....	56
11 Area Summary .....	64
<b>APPENDIX 1: OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENT SHEET &amp; GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: ALLOTMENT QUALITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT SHEET .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENT SCORING &amp; WEIGHTINGS .....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5: SETTING DISTRICT WIDE OPEN SPACE STANDARDS .....</b>	<b>77</b>

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Open Space Site Assessment Sheet & Guidelines	69
Appendix 2: Allotment Quality Condition Assessment Sheet	74
Appendix 3: Open Space Assessment Scoring & Weightings	77
Appendix 4: Allotments Condition Assessment Scoring & Weightings	78
Appendix 5: Setting District Wide Open Space Standards	79

## Tables

Table 4.1: Types of Open Space	10
Table 4.2: Kirklees Analysis Areas	11
Table 4.3: Site Score Thresholds	13
Table 4.4: Summary of Catchment Areas	14
Table 4.5: District Wide Open Space Standards	16
Table 5.1: Provision of Parks and Recreation Grounds in Kirklees	18
Table 5.2: Provision of Parks and Recreation Grounds Compared to the District Wide Quantity Standard	20
Table 5.3: Parks and Recreation Grounds Site Assessments Summary	22
Table 5.4: Council Maintenance Standards for Parks and Open Spaces	23
Table 5.5: Summary of Main Deficiencies in Parks and Recreation Grounds	25
Table 6.1: Provision of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace in Kirklees	28
Table 6.2: Provision of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace Compared to the District Wide Quantity Standard	30
Table 6.3: Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace Site Assessments Summary	32
Table 6.4: Gaps in Accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	34
Table 6.5: Summary of Main Deficiencies in Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	35
Table 7.1: Provision of Amenity Greenspace in Kirklees	37
Table 7.2: Provision of Amenity Greenspace Compared to the District Wide Quantity Standard	39
Table 7.3: Amenity Greenspace Site Assessments Summary	40
Table 7.4: Gaps in Accessibility to Amenity Greenspace	42
Table 7.5: Summary of Main Deficiencies in Amenity Greenspace	43
Table 8.1: Provision of Allotments and Community Food Growing in Kirklees	45
Table 8.2: Provision of Allotments Compared to the District Wide Quantity Standard	47
Table 8.3: Numbers of People on Council Allotment Waiting Lists`	48
Table 8.4: Allotments Site Assessments Summary	49
Table 8.5: Allotments Condition Assessments Summary	50
Table 8.6: Gaps in Accessibility to Allotments	51
Table 8.7: Summary of Main Deficiencies in Allotment Provision	52
Table 9.1: Provision of Cemeteries and Churchyards in Kirklees	54
Table 9.2: Council Cemetery Provision in Kirklees	55
Table 10.1: Open Space Provision for Children and Young People in Kirklees	57
Table 10.2: Open Space Provision Standard for Children and Young People	59
Table 10.3: Gaps in accessibility to provision for children and young people	62

Table 11.1: Summary of the Main Open Space Deficiencies in Batley and Spenningshall	65
Table 11.2: Summary of the Main Open Space Deficiencies in Dewsbury and Mirfield	66
Table 11.3: Summary of the Main Open Space Deficiencies in Huddersfield	67
Table 11.4: Summary of the Main Open Space Deficiencies in Kirklees Rural	68

## **Figures**

Figure 1: Parks and Recreation Grounds Accessibility Catchment Mapping	26
Figure 2: Major Parks Accessibility Catchment Mapping	27
Figure 3: Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace Accessibility Catchment Mapping	36
Figure 4: Amenity Greenspace Accessibility Catchment Mapping	44
Figure 5: Allotments Accessibility Catchment Mapping	53
Figure 6: Equipped Play Areas and Teenage Provision Accessibility Catchment Mapping	63
Figure 7: Youth Facilities Accessibility Catchment Mapping	64

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF) requires planning policies to be based on robust up-to-date assessments of open space which identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision are required.
- 1.2 In order to comply with the requirements of NPPF the council has undertaken an up-dated assessment of open space and recreation sites in Kirklees. The purpose of the Kirklees Open Space Study is to audit and analyse the current supply of open space and recreation sites together with local needs and identify deficiencies in open space provision across the district. As part of the study, an Open Space Audit (2015) has been carried out by the council and a separate Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) undertaken by consultants to identify the views and needs of local people in relation open spaces in Kirklees.
- 1.3 Since the previous Kirklees Open Space Studies were completed in 2007 and 2010, there have been a number of changes that are likely to have affected the supply and demand for open space and recreation facilities across the district. Some sites have seen pressure from development for alternative uses, such as housing, and this has resulted in the loss of some open space sites. New areas of public open space and enhancements to existing facilities have been provided as part development schemes, thereby creating additional and improved supply. The council has also provided significant investment in delivering new facilities and improvements to existing sites, including parks and recreation grounds, allotments and play provision.
- 1.4 Due to increasing development pressure and the predicted scale of both future growth and projected increases in population, it is likely that existing open space and recreation facilities in the district will face future pressure from development and for increased use by the public. It is important, therefore, that the extent and nature of changes in the supply and demand for open space and recreation sites is reflected in an up-dated assessment to provide a robust evidence base that will help inform the preparation of the council's Local Plan.
- 1.5 The aim of the Kirklees Open Space Study (2015) is to assess and analyse the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing open space and recreation facilities and the needs of local people. The study report covers the supply and demand issues for parks and recreation grounds, natural and semi-

natural greenspaces, amenity greenspaces, allotments and community food growing, cemeteries and churchyards and provision for children and young people. The results of the study will be used to:-

- Provide a robust evidence base to inform the preparation of the Kirklees Local Plan, including the protection of open space and recreation sites and the development of open space planning policies;
- Inform decisions on existing and future development proposals, including the determination of planning applications;
- Help guide future investment in new and improved open space provision to those areas in need.

1.6 Evidence about the supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities and built leisure and sports facilities has been prepared separately to this study as follows:-

- The Kirklees Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 (PPS) assesses the supply and demand of playing pitch provision for football, cricket, rugby and hockey and also includes crown green bowling and outdoor tennis; and
- The Kirklees Built Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategic Framework 2015-2020 (BLSFS) sets out evidence and recommendations about sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness, gymnastic and dance, squash, indoor bowls, indoor tennis, table tennis, athletics, cycling, golf, combat sports and snow and ice facilities.

## 2 Context

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.1 NPPF (paragraph 70) states that in order to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs planning policies and decisions should:-
- plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; and
  - guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.
- 2.2 Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. NPPF (paragraph 73) requires 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. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision are required.
- 2.3 Paragraph 74 of NPPF states that "Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:-
- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
  - 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; or
  - the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss".

### **3 Background**

#### **Everybody Active – Kirklees Physical Activity & Sports Strategy (2015-2020)**

- 3.1 This strategy aims to encourage everyone to be active whether this is through work, playing sport, travel or leisure. Being more active leads to significant gains in physical and mental health, builds vibrant, stronger communities and can make an economic contribution through improving skills and attracting inward investment.

#### **The Kirklees Joint Health and Well-being Strategy (2014-2020)**

- 3.2 The shared aim of this strategy is to combine great quality of life and a strong and sustainable economy, leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality and where people enjoy better health throughout their lives. Open spaces that encourage physical activity and support positive emotional well-being are a key factor in delivering this aim in Kirklees.

#### **Previous Open Space Studies – The Kirklees Open Space Study (2007) and The Kirklees Open Space Study (2010)**

- 3.3 The Kirklees Open Space Study (2007) was the first comprehensive assessment of the supply and demand for open spaces across Kirklees and was prepared as part of the evidence base for the Kirklees Local Development Framework. The study included an assessment of the quantity, quality, value and accessibility of open spaces, as well as looking at future needs and demand. It identified recommendations to address the deficits and surpluses in open space provision across the district.
- 3.4 In 2010, the study was partially revised to provide a more up-to-date picture about supply focusing on provision for children and young people because of the significant investments being made in equipped children's play areas as part of the Council's Play Pathfinder status. This 2010 revision did not update the supply information for all open spaces or re-assess local demand.

## **4 Methodology**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1 This Open Space Study follows the general approach and methodology used in previous Kirklees open space studies following the approach set out in the former “Assessing Needs and Opportunities: Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 Companion Guide” (2002). This is an established methodology used to carry out open space needs assessments and includes:-

- Stage 1: Establish the purpose, scope and scale of study
- Stage 2: Undertake an Open Space Supply Audit
- Stage 3: Undertake an Open Space Demand Assessment
- Stage 4: Analysis of the supply and demand information
- Stage 5: Set and apply district wide provision standards

### **4.2 Stage 1: Purpose, Scope and Scale of the Study**

4.2.1 The purpose of the study is to update and analyse the Council’s evidence of the supply and demand for open spaces across Kirklees to meet the requirements of the NPPF and provide a basis to inform the preparation of the Council’s Local Plan. It will inform decisions to identify open space, sport and recreation facilities to be protected from development in the plan and help develop related open space planning policies. The study will also be used in determining planning applications involving open space, sport and recreation sites and will help guide investment for new and enhanced open spaces to those areas in need. For this reason, it is important that the evidence of supply and demand for open space is sufficiently robust, up to date and objectively assessed.

4.2.2 The aims of the study are to:-

- Evaluate the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space and recreation sites;
- Identify and analyse the key findings and issues about open space provision across Kirklees by comparing the supply of open spaces with the demand assessment;
- Set and apply district wide open space provision standards to identify shortfalls against the standards;
- Provide a robust and up-to-date evidence base to inform the allocation of sites as Urban Green Space in the Local Plan and help develop and implement related open space planning policies.

4.2.3 The following definitions are used in this study:-

- Quantity – measures the amount of provision, including the number of sites and total area measured in hectares (ha).

- Quality - for the purposes of this study, site assessments have been undertaken to evaluate the physical, social, environmental and visual qualities of individual open spaces to determine their relative value to the local community.
- Accessibility – measures the availability of a site within a defined distance (catchment area).

4.2.4 This Open Space Study considers the supply and demand for each of the following types of open spaces:-

**Table 4.1: Types of open space**

Type of open space	Primary purpose
Parks and recreation grounds	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. Includes urban parks, country parks, formal gardens, country parks and recreation grounds.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes woodlands and local nature reserves.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. Includes grassed areas in housing estates and village greens.
Allotments and community food growing	Opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. Includes allotments, community gardens and community orchards.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, multi-use-games areas, skateboard areas and teen shelters.
Cemeteries and churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial, often linked to wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration. Includes greenways, cycleways and pedestrian routes, towpaths along canals and riverbanks, bridleways and rights of way.

4.2.5 The Open Space Study (2015) is primarily concerned with the provision of open space and recreation sites within the towns and villages (built-up areas not in the green belt) of Kirklees. The following sites have been included in the audit of open space provision, irrespective of ownership and public access:-

- Open space, sport and recreation sites above 0.2 hectares in size;
- Open space, sport and recreation sites below 0.2 hectares in size used or laid out for sport or recreational purposes, such as recreation grounds, outdoor sports facilities, allotments and children’s equipped play areas;
- Sites in the green belt used or laid out for sport or recreational purposes, such as parks, recreation grounds, Local Nature Reserves, outdoor sports facilities, allotments and children’s equipped play areas;

4.2.6 In order to analyse the current level of provision Kirklees has been divided into analysis areas to provide a more detailed analysis of provision at ward and sub-area level as shown in table 4.2 below.

**Table 4.2: Kirklees analysis areas**

Sub Area	Wards
<b>Batley and Spen</b>	Batley East
	Batley West
	Birstall and Birkenshaw
	Cleckheaton
	Heckmondwike
	Liversedge and Gomersal
<b>Dewsbury and Mirfield</b>	Dewsbury East
	Dewsbury South
	Dewsbury West
	Mirfield
<b>Huddersfield</b>	Almondbury
	Ashbrow
	Crosland Moor and Netherton
	Dalton
	Greenhead
	Lindley
	Newsome
<b>Kirklees Rural</b>	Colne Valley
	Denby Dale
	Golcar
	Holme Valley North
	Holme Valley South
	Kirkburton

### 4.3 Stage 2: The Open Space Audit

4.3.1 In order to understand the supply of open spaces in Kirklees, the council has carried out a comprehensive audit of the existing supply of open spaces, sport and recreational facilities.

4.3.2 Over 1200 open spaces have been included in the audit, including sites with outdoor sports facilities such as playing pitches, outdoor tennis, bowling greens and education sites. Whilst these open spaces have been included in the Open Space Audit, they have been assessed separately as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy (2015). Golf provision has also been considered separately as part of the Built Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategic Framework (2015-2020).

4.3.3 The audit has included a review of the following information for each open space:-

- **Site Identification:** Each existing open space has been examined to check its current open space, sport or recreation use and to ensure site boundaries are correct in reflecting these uses. Some new open spaces have also been identified as part of the audit process.
- **Geographical Information System (GIS) Mapping:** All open space, sport and recreation sites in Kirklees have been mapped in the GIS and are identified with an open space reference number, classified with a main open space category and given a site area.
- **Audit database:** Each open space is included in the council's open space database and contains details relating to the site address, ward, open space classification, land ownership, size in hectares, site assessment data and general comments about the site such as site description and changes that have occurred since the previous studies.

#### Quantity

4.3.4 The audit information has been used to quantify the amount of open space within Kirklees and is based on the different open space categories set out in table 4.1. Each open space has been identified and classified based on its primary open space purpose. Many sites are multi-functional and include spaces or facilities intended for specific uses. Where there are a number of different types of open space uses present within a site, each open space use within the overall site has been identified and recorded separately.

## Quality

4.3.5 The audit includes an open space site assessment for sites over 0.2 hectares in size. These have been carried out to evaluate the physical, social, environmental and visual qualities of the open space to determine the value of the site to the local community. The site assessment sheet is shown in Appendix 1 and includes the following criteria:-

- Level of use
- Scarcity value
- Indices of Deprivation ranking
- Meeting local needs for specific groups
- Structural and landscape benefits
- Ecological benefits
- Education benefits
- Social inclusion and health benefits
- Cultural and heritage benefits
- Amenity benefits and a sense of place
- Economic benefits

4.3.6 Sites were assessed against the criteria and have an overall score, percentage score and rating. Sites have been given a high, medium or low rating dependant on the site score and thresholds set for different types of open space. The thresholds for the site ratings are shown in table 4.3.

**Table 4.3: Site score thresholds**

Type of open space	Rating thresholds		
	Low	Medium	High
Parks and recreation grounds	20%	21-29%	30%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	5%	6-7%	8%
Amenity greenspace	10%	11-14%	15%
Allotments	20%	21-29%	30%

4.3.7 The rating thresholds have been set in the context of each type of open space use to reflect their different characteristics and attributes. The thresholds for natural and semi-natural and amenity greenspace are lower than those set for the other types of open spaces as some elements of the assessment criteria will not be relevant to these categories of open space. For example, education and cultural and heritage benefits are less likely to be relevant to amenity greenspace. Natural and semi-natural greenspace has the lowest rating thresholds due to the varied nature of these sites.

4.3.8 Open space site assessments have been carried out for parks and recreation grounds, natural and semi-natural greenspace (except woodlands), amenity greenspaces and allotments. Site assessments for cemeteries and

churchyards, woodlands and green corridors have not been up-dated as part of this study. Provision for children and young people has been assessed as part of the parks and recreation grounds assessments where facilities are provided at these sites. Outdoor sports facilities, including playing pitches and education sites with pitch provision have been assessed as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy (2010).

### Accessibility

- 4.3.9 In order to identify the coverage of current open space provision across Kirklees and gaps in accessibility, catchment areas shown in table 4.4 have been applied to each open space. These represent the accessibility standards developed and proposed as part of this study and are consistent with the benchmark walking distances set out in Fields in Trust guidance (Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play beyond the Six Acre Standard, October 2015). The application of these standards is intended to provide a general indication of accessibility deficiencies district wide where an area is not covered by a catchment for the relevant type of open space.

**Table 4.4: Summary of catchment areas**

Type of Open Space	Walking Distance	Metres
Parks and recreation grounds	15 minute walk	720 metres 30 mins travel time to a major park
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	15 minute walk	720 metres 2 km of 20 ha site
Amenity greenspace	10 minute walk	480 metres
Allotments	15 minute walk	720 metres
Provision for children and young people	15 minute walk	720 metres
Provision of youth facilities	Not applicable	2 km

- 4.3.10 Analysis of access to open spaces has also considered cross boundary issues in that open spaces in adjoining authorities, particularly larger sites, could be accessed and used by Kirklees residents. The council has received open space data from the adjoining authorities of Leeds, Wakefield, Calderdale and Barnsley and this has been included in the accessibility mapping and analysis.

#### **4.4 Stage 3: Open Space Demand Assessment**

- 4.4.1 A separate Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) has been undertaken by consultants on behalf of the council. The assessment presents the findings of a demand based study and analyses the views and perceptions of local people towards the provision of open spaces within Kirklees.
- 4.4.2 The approach used a variety of consultation methods to achieve a representative sample of local people. This included consultation with users and non-users of provision to ascertain the needs of different communities and areas. Consultation methods utilised included an online questionnaire, interviews, telephone interviews and paper questionnaires.
- 4.4.3 The assessment identifies the views and expectations of local residents, communities and key stakeholders on the provision of open spaces across Kirklees. This is intended to achieve an in-depth understanding of local views about existing provision, the quality and accessibility of sites, perceived deficiencies and expectations for additional and/or improved provision.

#### **4.5 Stage 4: Analysis of Supply and Demand Information**

- 4.5.1 This assessment report brings together stages 2 and 3 of the above methodology and analyses the key findings and issues identified in the open space audit and the demand assessment.

#### **4.6 Stage 5: Setting and Applying Standards**

- 4.6.1 Information from the audit of provision and the demand assessment has been used to inform the development of district-wide standards for the quantity, quality and accessibility of different types of open space across Kirklees. These are used as a benchmark against which to assess the current standard of provision compared against the district wide standard. The standards are applied to identify areas where current provision falls short of the standard and are therefore deemed deficient in provision and where provision exceeds the standard.
- 4.6.2 In order to set district wide standards for the quantity, quality and accessibility, a project team was established to discuss and agree local open space standards relevant for Kirklees. This group consisted of council officers from the Planning Policy, Communities and Leisure, Streetscene and Public Health sections of the Council. The group considered the following to help inform and develop the standards as shown in Appendix 3: the current level of provision; the results of consultation undertaken as part of the Kirklees Open Space Demand Assessment (2015); benchmarking with other local authority standards; and national standards where relevant.

4.6.3 The district-wide open space standards agreed by the group and proposed as part of this study are shown in table 4.5 below.

**Table 4.5: District wide open space standards**

Type of Open Space	Standard	Kirklees District-Wide Standard
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Quantity	0.8ha per 1,000 population
	Quality	Green Flag Award or 'High' rating in open space site assessment (score of 30% or more)
	Accessibility	15 minute walk (720m) and/or 30 minutes travel time to a major park
Amenity greenspace	Quantity	0.3ha per 1,000 population
	Quality	'High' rating in open space site assessment (score of 15 % or more)
	Accessibility	10 minute walk (480m)
Natural and semi-natural	Quantity	2.0ha per 1,000 population
	Quality	'High' rating in open space site assessment (score of 8% or more)
	Accessibility	15 minute(720m) and 2km of 20ha site
Allotments	Quantity	0.5ha per 1,000 households
	Quality	Score of 60% on open space assessment (quality condition) 'High' rating in open space site assessment (score of 30% or more)
	Accessibility	15 minute walk (720m)
Children and Young People	Quantity	No standard proposed
	Quality	Minimum through age play opportunities (0-16 yrs) to be available within a 15 minute walk (720m) of home. Ideally the range of opportunities should be available at one site (destination play areas) and each new or newly refurbished play area in Kirklees should provide the minimum play opportunities.
	Accessibility	15 minute walk (720m) for children's provision and 2km for youth facilities
Sport	No standards set as the Kirklees Playing Pitch Strategy identifies deficiencies or surplus provision through a supply and demand analysis following Sport England's playing pitch methodology.	
Cemeteries / churchyards	No standards set as provision is based on burial demand.	
Green corridors	No standards set as the nature of green corridors means it is inappropriate to measure the area compared to local need as provision of green corridors is demand led.	

4.6.4 The quantity standard is used as a benchmark against which to assess the level of provision for different types of open space in each ward and sub-area. The total quantity of provision in each ward is divided by the total population of each ward to give the current standard of provision per 1,000

population. The 2013 population figure for each ward was taken from the ONS 2012-based population projections. Applying the standard to the population within each ward will help identify those areas deficient in open space.

- 4.6.5 The accessibility standards are applied to each open space and represent a catchment area. The catchment mapping is used to demonstrate the current level of provision and identify areas which are deficient in terms of access to open space. All open spaces are mapped with the appropriate catchment area applied based on the category of open space. Deficiencies in provision are identified where areas are not covered by a catchment area.

## 5 Parks and Recreation Grounds

### Quantity

- 5.1 The category of 'Parks and Recreation Grounds' includes all parks, recreation grounds and formally laid out public gardens, including small pocket parks with formal flower beds and seating. These open spaces provide various opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
- 5.2 Recreation grounds with sports pitches have been included in the supply of parks and recreation grounds as many of these sites also provide informal recreation opportunities, particularly in the villages of Kirklees. Inclusion of these sites in the supply of parks and recreation grounds helps inform the development of quantity standards for this category of open space. The contribution and quality of these sites to playing pitch provision has been assessed separately as part of the Kirklees Playing Pitch Strategy (2015).
- 5.3 The Open Space Audit (2015) identifies 219 open spaces classified as parks and recreation grounds across Kirklees, totalling 343.74 hectares. This is significantly higher than the 53 parks and gardens identified in the Open Space Study (2010) and is due to re-classification of sites in the 2015 audit to include recreation grounds with parks.

**Table 5.1: Provision of parks and recreation grounds in Kirklees**

Sub Area	Total Number of Parks and Recreation Grounds	Total Amount of Parks and Recreation Grounds (hectares)
Batley and Spennings	52	116.09
Dewsbury and Mirfield	27	61.23
Huddersfield	65	106.58
Kirklees Rural	75	53.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>337.35</b>

- 5.4 The Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) highlights a high level of satisfaction (81% of respondents are very or quite satisfied) with the current availability of parks and recreation grounds in Kirklees. The level of satisfaction is generally consistent across sub-areas. However, a slightly greater proportion of respondents from the Huddersfield area (85.1%) are very or quite satisfied compared to other areas.
- 5.5 When comparing the total amount of parks and recreation grounds (337.35 ha) with the Kirklees population of 428,100, the current standard of provision is 0.79 hectares per 1,000 population.

- 5.6 There is no recognised national quantity standard for parks and recreation grounds and Kirklees does not have a locally derived standard. Due to the high level of community satisfaction with the availability of parks and recreation grounds as highlighted in the demand assessment, it is recommended to maintain at least the current level of provision and ensure sufficient provision to meet future demand. It is proposed that the Kirklees district wide quantity standard for parks and recreation grounds should be set at 0.8 hectares per 1,000 population. This is in-line with the benchmark quantity standard proposed by the Fields in Trust published in their recent guidance (Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play beyond the Six Acre Standard Oct 2015).
- 5.7 The quantity standard is used as a benchmark against which to assess the current level of provision of parks and recreation grounds in each ward and sub-area. Applying the standard to the population within each ward helps identify those areas deemed to deficient in provision and those areas where provision is above the standard.
- 5.8 Table 5.2 shows the breakdown of the current standard of provision of parks and recreation grounds for each ward and sub-area. The total quantity of provision in each ward has been divided by the total population of each ward to give the current standard of provision expressed as amount of land (hectares) per 1,000 population.
- 5.9 The current standard of provision in each ward is compared to the district wide standard of 0.8 hectares of parks and recreation grounds per 1,000 population. Highlighted in red are wards where current provision falls short of the standard and are deficient in terms of the quantity of parks and recreation grounds. Highlighted in green are wards where current provision exceeds the standard in terms of the quantity of parks and recreation grounds.

**Table 5.2: Provision of parks and recreation grounds compared to the district wide quantity standard (0.8 hectares per 1,000 population)**

Sub Area	Ward	Amount of Parks & Recreation Grounds (ha)	Population Estimates (2013)	Existing Standard of Parks & Recreation Grounds (ha per 1,000 population)
Batley and Spen	Batley East	5.67	19176	0.30
	Batley West	16.15	19834	0.81
	Birstall and Birkenshaw	54.18	16767	3.23
	Cleckheaton	11.03	16990	0.65
	Heckmondwike	9.19	17068	0.54
	Liversedge and Gomersal	19.87	19595	1.01
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>116.09</b>	<b>109429</b>	<b>1.06</b>
Dewsbury and Mirfield	Dewsbury East	18.96	18981	1.00
	Dewsbury South	17.15	19073	0.90
	Dewsbury West	16.3	20542	0.79
	Mirfield	8.82	19776	0.45
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>61.23</b>	<b>78372</b>	<b>0.78</b>
Huddersfield	Almondbury	11.69	18387	0.64
	Ashbrow	8.99	19910	0.45
	Crosland Moor and Netherton	21.86	19012	1.15
	Dalton	17.07	17406	0.98
	Greenhead	17.88	20345	0.88
	Lindley	21.79	19557	1.11
	Newsome	7.3	20630	0.35
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>106.58</b>	<b>135247</b>	<b>0.79</b>
Kirklees Rural	Colne Valley	5.45	17639	0.31
	Denby Dale	8.23	16541	0.50
	Golcar	6.11	18273	0.33
	Holme Valley North	11.61	16813	0.69
	Holme Valley South	13.74	19005	0.72
	Kirkburton	8.31	16780	0.50
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>53.45</b>	<b>105051</b>	<b>0.51</b>

- 5.10 Compared against the benchmark standard of 0.8 hectares per 1,000 population, the main deficiencies in the provision of parks and recreation grounds are in the Kirklees Rural and Huddersfield areas. All wards within the Kirklees Rural area fall short of the standard. Within Huddersfield, there is a shortfall of provision in the Almondbury, Ashbrow and Newsome wards.
- 5.11 The overall provision of parks and recreation grounds in the Batley and Spennings Dale area is above the standard, largely due to Oakwell Hall Country Park. However, provision in the Batley East ward is significantly below the standard and has the greatest deficiency in parks and recreation grounds of all wards in Kirklees with a standard of only 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population.
- 5.12 Provision in the Dewsbury and Mirfield area is almost at the standard, although provision in the Mirfield ward is significantly below the standard at 0.45 hectares per 1,000 population.

### **Quality**

- 5.13 The national standard for the quality of parks across England and Wales is the Green Flag Award and in 2015 the five major parks in Kirklees were awarded Green Flag status. These are Oakwell Hall Country Park, Birstall; Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury; Wilton Park, Batley and Beaumont Park and Greenhead Park in Huddersfield.
- 5.14 An open space site assessment has been undertaken for each park and recreation ground to evaluate the physical, social and visual qualities of each individual site to determine their relative value to the local community. The methodology for assessing open spaces is set out in section 4.3 and the site assessment sheet is shown in Appendix 1.
- 5.15 Table 5.3 summarises the results of the open space site assessments for parks and recreation grounds in Kirklees. A score of 30% or above is deemed to be a high rating, 21-29% is deemed a medium rating and 20% or below is a low rating. These are the same thresholds used to assess value in the Open Space Study (2010).

**Table 5.3: Parks and recreation grounds site assessments summary**

Sub Area	Site Assessment Ratings (number of sites)		
	High	Medium	Low
Batley and Spennings	33	11	8
Dewsbury and Mirfield	20	4	2
Huddersfield	37	22	6
Kirklees Rural	42	20	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>30</b>

5.16 60% of parks and recreation grounds were assessed as having a high open space assessment rating. The parks and recreation grounds in all areas were predominantly assessed as high with Beaumont Park, Huddersfield having the highest assessment rating (89%). The Kirklees Rural area has the most sites assessed as high and low.

5.17 The key issues from the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) relating to the quality of parks and recreation grounds in Kirklees include:-

- a high level of community satisfaction with the quality of park and recreation grounds with 76.9% of respondents stating they were very or quite satisfied with the quality of provision;
- many of the sites referred to through the consultation process are identified as having a Friends of Group. In particular the five Green Flag Award sites are specifically mentioned as being highly regarded and visited by people; and
- the most common reason mentioned for preventing respondents using open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities across Kirklees is the lack of public facilities, e.g. toilets/ cafe, (39.2%)

5.18 The council have recently introduced new standards to deliver the maintenance and management of parks and open spaces managed by the council as a result of recent budget cuts. Four categories of reducing maintenance and planting have been introduced ranging from Gold receiving the highest level of maintenance, Silver and Bronze to the introduction of natural areas that receive the least maintenance. These provide a guide about the quality condition of sites and shown in table 5.4 below. Further information and the standard being delivered at individual sites is available on the council's website

**Table 5.4: Council maintenance standards for parks and open spaces**

Council Maintenance Standard	Description
Gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High profile area within major centres that are seen and used by the whole community</li> <li>• Landscaping and floral displays create an attractive welcoming place</li> <li>• Gold sites may also include silver, bronze and natural areas</li> <li>• Sites in this category include major greenspace within the 4 major town centres; principal parks; memorial parks and crematoria.</li> </ul>
Silver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas that are located within busy centres or well used by the local community</li> <li>• Planting can be present to create a welcoming place and recreation or sports facilities can also be available</li> <li>• Sites in this category include secondary parks, recreation grounds with facilities, rest gardens and green space in smaller town and village centres</li> </ul>
Bronze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower maintenance on sites that have no recreation provision and lower usage</li> <li>• Grass areas provide valuable green open space but do not have a formal use</li> <li>• May also be naturalised to wildlife habitat</li> <li>• Sites in this category include areas in secondary parks (without facilities), open spaces, recreation grounds without sports facilities, highway verges and greenways</li> </ul>
Natural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas or parts of sites that are used for informal activities</li> <li>• No scheduled maintenance is to take place and nature is allowed to develop opportunities for wildlife habitat and biodiversity</li> <li>• Tree planting can also develop new woodland</li> </ul>

## Accessibility

- 5.19 There is no national accessibility standard for parks and recreation grounds and Kirklees does not have a locally derived standard. Kirklees district wide standards have been developed as part of this study and are derived from the findings of the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) and benchmarking against other local authority standards. The accessibility standards for parks and recreation are set in the form of distance thresholds and are expressed as straight line walk time and a travel by transport distance.
- 5.20 The findings of the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) show:-
- the highest percentage of respondents indicated they were willing to travel over 30 minutes by transport (28.4%) to a park and recreation ground;
  - 23% of respondents were willing to travel up to 30 minutes by transport to a park and recreation ground;
  - people identify a willingness to travel by transport in order to access certain forms of provision, particularly some of the more popular open space sites such as Greenhead Park and Oakwell Hall Country Park; and
  - almost a third of respondents indicated they were willing to walk 11-15 minutes or over 15 minutes to access a park or recreation ground (12.4% of willing to walk 11-15 minutes and 16.8% over 15 minutes).
- 5.21 The district wide accessibility standards for parks and recreation grounds reflect the above findings. The standard is for residents in the towns and villages (within the built-up areas) of Kirklees to access a park or recreation ground within a 15 minute walk time (720 metres) and/or to access a major park within 30 minute drive time.
- 5.22 Gaps in the provision of parks and recreation grounds can be identified by applying the accessibility standard to the individual sites. Catchment areas based on the above standards have been applied to each park and recreation ground to identify the coverage of current provision. This identifies areas where current provision meets the standard (i.e. covered by a catchment area) and areas where access to provision is insufficient to meet local needs (i.e. where there is a catchment gap).
- 5.23 The application of the accessibility standards are shown as catchment mapping in Figures 1 and 2. This shows that most towns and villages in Kirklees are well served by parks and recreation grounds with relatively few gaps in provision. All towns and villages have access to a major park within a 30 minute drive time.

**Summary**

5.24 Table 5.5 below provides a summary of the main deficiencies in parks and gardens that have been identified in Kirklees.

**Table 5.5: Summary of main deficiencies in parks and recreation grounds**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>Quantity Deficiencies in Parks and Recreation Grounds</b>	<b>Accessibility Deficiencies in Parks and Recreation Grounds</b>
Batley and Spen	Batley East ward Cleckheaton ward Heckmondwike ward	No major gaps in provision
Dewsbury and Mirfield	Dewsbury East ward Mirfield ward	No major gaps in provision
Huddersfield	Almondbury ward Ashbrow ward Newsome ward	No major gaps in provision
Kirklees Rural	All wards	No major gaps in provision

Figure 1: Parks and Recreation Grounds Accessibility Catchment Mapping

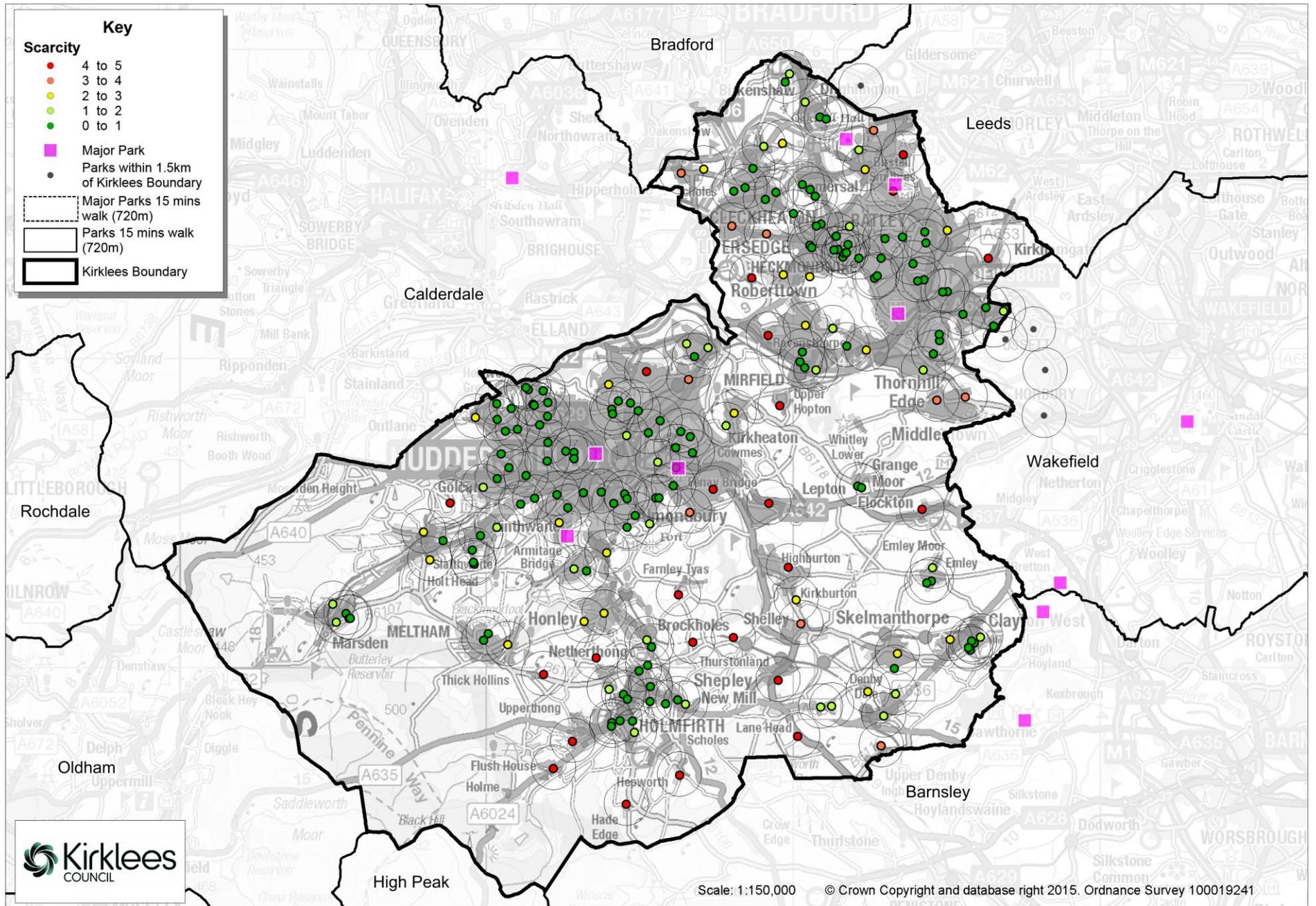
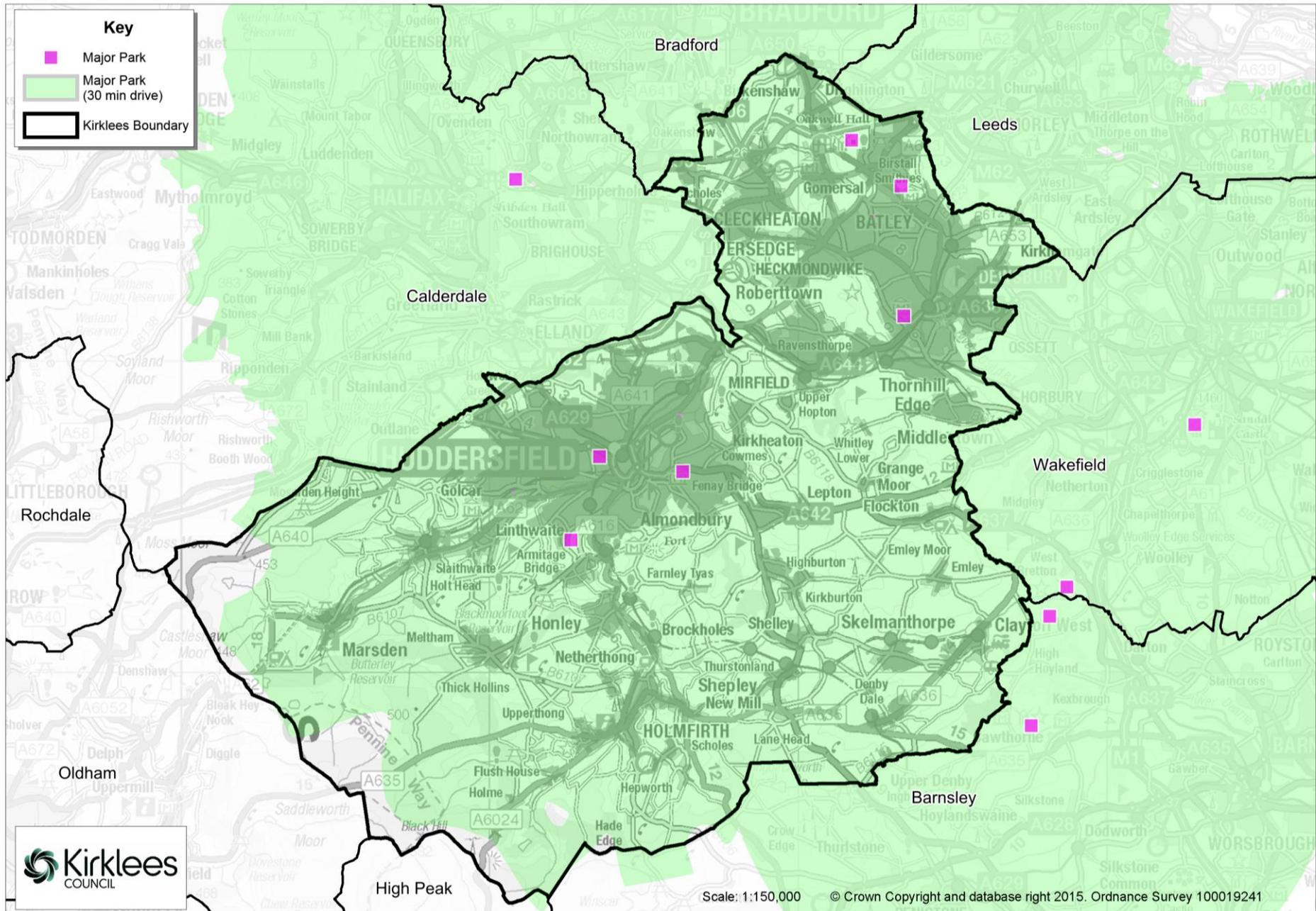


Figure 2: Major Parks Accessibility Catchment Mapping



## 6 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

### Quantity

- 6.1 The category of natural and semi-natural greenspace includes woodland, scrubland, grassland, heath or moor, wetlands, wastelands and bare rock habitats. These provide wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. In Kirklees this includes managed sites, such as urban woodlands and local nature reserves, as well as unmanaged and unused sites.
- 6.2 In accordance with the scope of the study, natural and semi-natural greenspaces have been included in the study where these are predominantly within or on the edge of the built-up areas of Kirklees. Natural and semi-natural greenspaces within the green belt have not been included within the study, except for local nature reserves and a small number of woodlands with formal public access arrangements including Deffer Wood and the Upper Dearne Valley woodlands.
- 6.3 The Open Space Audit (2015) identifies 400 open spaces classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace across Kirklees, totalling 863.8 hectares. Table 6.1 shows the current provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace broken down by sub-area.

**Table 6.1: Provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace in Kirklees**

Sub Area	Total Number of Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces	Total Amount of Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace (hectares)
Batley and Spen	50	115.48
Dewsbury and Mirfield	49	117.86
Huddersfield	179	414.25
Kirklees Rural	122	216.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>863.8</b>

- 6.4 The Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) highlights a high level of satisfaction with the current availability of nature areas with 75.5% of respondents being very or quite satisfied.
- 6.5 Comparing the total amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace (863.8 ha) with the Kirklees population of 428,100, the current standard is 2.02 hectares per 1,000 population.

- 6.6 Kirklees does not have a locally developed quantitative standard for natural and semi-natural greenspace. Natural England recommends a national standard of 2 hectares of natural and semi-natural greenspace per 1,000 population. Due to the high level of community satisfaction with the availability of nature areas as highlighted in the demand assessment and as current provision reflects the Natural England standard, it is recommended that to maintain the high levels of provision, the district-wide standard for natural and semi-natural greenspace should be 2 hectares per 1,000 population.
- 6.7 The quantity standard is used as a benchmark against which to assess the current level of provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace in each ward and sub-area. Applying the standard to the population within each ward helps identify those areas deficient in the quantity of natural and semi-natural greenspace.
- 6.8 Table 6.2 below shows a breakdown of the current provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace for each ward and sub-area. The total quantity of provision in each ward has been divided by the total population of each ward to give the current standard of provision per 1,000 population.
- 6.9 The current standard of provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace has been compared against the district wide standard of 2 hectares per 1,000 population. Highlighted in red are wards where current provision falls short of the standard and are deficient in terms of the quantity of natural and semi-natural greenspace). Highlighted in green are wards where current provision is above the standard.

**Table 6.2: Provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace compared to the district wide quantity standard (2 hectares per 1,000 population)**

Sub Area	Ward	Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace (ha)	Population Estimates (2013)	Existing Standard of Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace (ha per 1,000 population)
Batley and Spen	Batley East	7.55	19176	0.39
	Batley West	33.6	19834	1.69
	Birstall and Birkenshaw	10.1	16767	0.60
	Cleckheaton	48.74	16990	2.87
	Heckmondwike	12.27	17068	0.72
	Liversedge and Gomersal	3.22	19595	0.16
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>115.48</b>	<b>109429</b>	<b>1.06</b>
Dewsbury and Mirfield	Dewsbury East	14	18981	0.74
	Dewsbury South	11.04	19073	0.58
	Dewsbury West	85.48	20542	4.16
	Mirfield	7.34	19776	0.37
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>117.86</b>	<b>78372</b>	<b>1.50</b>
Huddersfield	Almondbury	39.02	18387	2.12
	Ashbrow	121.57	19910	6.11
	Crosland Moor and Netherton	7.1	19012	0.37
	Dalton	93.59	17406	5.38
	Greenhead	24.87	20345	1.22
	Lindley	33.95	19557	1.74
	Newsome	94.15	20630	4.56
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>414.25</b>	<b>135247</b>	<b>3.06</b>
Kirklees Rural	Colne Valley	24.75	17646	1.40
	Denby Dale	119.12	16548	7.20
	Golcar	14.61	18281	0.80
	Holme Valley North	13.14	16820	0.78
	Holme Valley South	28.56	19013	1.50
	Kirkburton	16.03	16787	0.95
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>216.21</b>	<b>105095</b>	<b>2.06</b>

- 6.10 Compared against the benchmark of 2 hectares per 1,000 population, the main deficiencies in the provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace are in the Batley and Spennings Dale and Dewsbury and Mirfield areas. The exceptions to this are in the wards of Cleckheaton and Dewsbury West where provision exceeds the standard as a result of large areas of natural and semi-natural greenspace that are of strategic importance. For example, in Dewsbury the largest new woodland in the north of England has recently been created at Dewsbury Country Park and accounts for the significantly high level of natural and semi-natural greenspace provision in Dewsbury West ward.
- 6.11 Overall the amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace in the Huddersfield area is above the standard with the high levels of provision in the Almondbury, Ashbrow, Dalton and Newsome wards largely accounted for by the amount of woodlands in these areas.
- 6.12 The provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace is below the standard in all wards in the Kirklees Rural area. The exception to this is the Denby Dale ward which has the highest level of natural and semi-natural greenspace of all wards across Kirklees (7.2 hectares per 1,000 population) due to the presence large woodland areas, including Deffer Wood and the Upper Dearne Valley woodlands.

### **Quality**

- 6.13 An open space site assessment has been undertaken for natural and semi-natural greenspace (excluding woodlands) to evaluate the physical, social and visual qualities of each individual site. The methodology for assessing sites is set out in section 4.3 and the site assessment sheet is shown in Appendix 1.
- 6.12 Table 6.3 summaries the results of the site assessments for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Kirklees (excluding woodlands). A score of 8% or above is deemed to be a high rating, 6-7% is deemed a medium rating and 8% or below is a low rating. These are the same thresholds used to assess value in the Open Space Study (2010). Natural and semi-natural greenspace has the lowest rating thresholds due to the varied nature of these sites. The rating thresholds have been set in the context of each type of open space use to reflect their different characteristics and attributes. Some elements of the assessment criteria will not be relevant to this type of open space, e.g. education and cultural and heritage benefits are less likely to be relevant to natural and semi-natural greenspace.

**Table 6.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspace site assessments summary**

Sub Area	Site Assessment Ratings (number of sites)		
	High	Medium	Low
Batley and Spennings	6	13	13
Dewsbury and Mirfield	6	5	11
Huddersfield	33	23	16
Kirklees Rural	14	7	45
<b>Total*</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>85</b>

\* Excludes woodlands and sites below 0.2ha.

- 6.13 Of the natural and semi-natural greenspaces assessed, approximately a third were identified as having a high open space assessment rating. The Huddersfield area has the most high rated sites, including Gledholt Woods Local Nature Reserve which was assessed as having the highest assessment rating (57%) of all sites in Kirklees. Almost half of sites were assessed with a low assessment rating with the Kirklees Rural having the majority of these sites.
- 6.14 The key findings from the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) relating to the quality of natural areas in Kirklees are:-
- a high level of community satisfaction with the quality of nature areas with 75.5% of respondents being very or quite satisfied;
  - 10.9% of respondents were neither satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of nature areas; and
  - only 9.1% quite or very dissatisfied with the quality of nature areas.

### Accessibility

- 6.15 Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGST) provides a national set of benchmarks for ensuring access to greenspace near where people live. These standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:-
- At least 2ha within 300m of home
  - At least 20ha site within 2km of home
  - At least 100ha site within 5km of home
  - At least 500ha site within 10km of home
- 6.16 As it would be difficult to achieve these standards in the built-up areas of Kirklees, locally derived accessibility standards are therefore proposed for Kirklees using information gathered from the local population through consultation and use of the ANGST standards where relevant.

- 6.17 The results of the consultation carried out as part of the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) show:-
- the highest percentage of respondents (45.5%) indicated they were willing to travel over 30 minutes by transport to a nature area;
  - of those willing to walk, the highest proportion of respondents indicated a willingness to walk over 15 minutes to access a nature area.
- 6.18 The district wide accessibility standards for natural and semi-natural greenspace reflect the above findings. The standard is for residents in the towns and villages of Kirklees to access a natural and semi-natural greenspace within a 15 minute walk time (720 metres distance) and/or 2km of a minimum of 20 hectare site.
- 6.19 Gaps in the provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace can be identified by applying the accessibility standard to the individual sites. Catchment areas based on the above standards have been applied to each natural and semi-natural greenspace to identify the coverage of current provision. This identifies areas where current provision meets the standard (i.e. covered by a catchment area) and areas where access to provision is insufficient to meet local needs (i.e. where there is a catchment gap).
- 6.20 The application of the accessibility standards are shown as catchment mapping in Figure 3. This shows there is good coverage overall of natural and semi-natural greenspace within the built-up areas across Kirklees with few catchment gaps. Large parts of the built-up areas of Kirklees are within 2km of an area of natural and semi-greenspace of 20 hectares or above. The areas where this standard is not met are shown in table 6.4 and highlights that within the built-up areas of north and west Huddersfield, Mirfield and some parts of the Kirklees Rural area, including the Colne Valley, Holmfirth and Skelmanthorpe, there are gaps in accessibility to natural and semi-greenspace of 20 hectares or above. In the main these areas are in close proximity to extensive open areas in the green belt or the Peak District National Park with access to a wide variety of countryside activities, such as walking.
- 6.21 In terms of access to smaller natural and semi-natural greenspace, most built-up areas in Kirklees are well served by natural and semi natural green space with minor gaps in provision in Roberttown, Mirfield and Skelmanthorpe.

**Table 6.4: Gaps in accessibility to natural and semi-natural greenspace**

Sub Area	Gaps in Accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace below 20 ha in size	Gaps in Accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace of 20 ha or above in size
Batley and Spennings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roberttown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birkenshaw</li> <li>• Gomersal</li> </ul>
Dewsbury and Mirfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirfield</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirfield</li> </ul>
Huddersfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major gaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North and west Huddersfield</li> <li>• Kirkheaton</li> </ul>
Kirklees Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skelmanthorpe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skelmanthorpe</li> <li>• Grange Moor</li> <li>• Flockton</li> <li>• Colne Valley</li> <li>• Golcar</li> </ul>

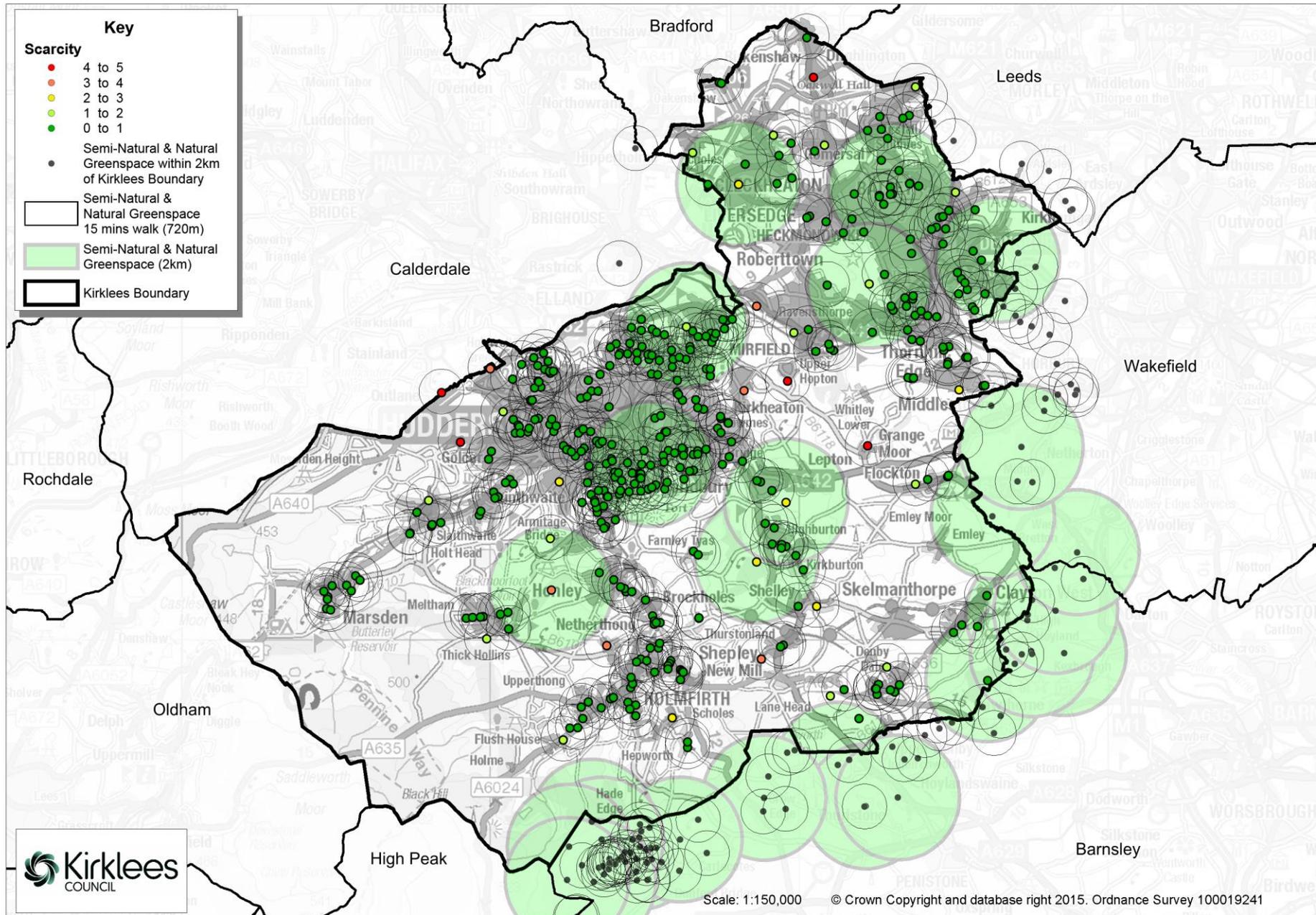
**Summary**

6.22 Table 6.5 below provides a summary of the main deficiencies in natural and semi-natural greenspace identified in Kirklees.

**Table 6.5: Summary of main deficiencies in natural and semi-natural greenspace**

Sub Area	Quantity Deficiencies in Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	Accessibility Deficiencies in Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace
Batley and Spennings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batley East ward</li> <li>• Batley West ward</li> <li>• Birstall &amp; Birkenshaw ward</li> <li>• Heckmondwike ward</li> <li>• Liversedge &amp; Gomersal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birkenshaw (20 ha or above)</li> <li>• Gomersal (20 ha or above)</li> <li>• Roberttown (site below 20 ha)</li> </ul>
Dewsbury and Mirfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewsbury East ward</li> <li>• Dewsbury South ward</li> <li>• Mirfield ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirfield (site below 20 ha and above 20 ha)</li> </ul>
Huddersfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crosland Moor &amp; Netherton ward</li> <li>• Greenhead ward</li> <li>• Lindley ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North and west Huddersfield (20 ha or above)</li> <li>• Kirkheaton (20 ha or above)</li> </ul>
Kirklees Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colne Valley ward</li> <li>• Golcar ward</li> <li>• Holme Valley North ward</li> <li>• Holme Valley South ward</li> <li>• Kirkburton ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skelmanthorpe (site below 20 ha and above 20 ha)</li> <li>• Grange Moor (20 ha or above)</li> <li>• Flockton (20 ha or above)</li> <li>• Colne Valley (20 ha or above)</li> <li>• Golcar (20 ha or above)</li> </ul>

Figure 3: Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace Accessibility Catchment Mapping



## 7 Amenity Greenspace

### Quantity

- 7.1 The category of amenity greenspace includes sites that offer opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or green spaces that enhance the appearance of an area, such as informal recreation space, green spaces within housing areas and village greens.
- 7.2 The Open Space Audit (2015) identifies 290 sites classified as amenity greenspace across Kirklees, totalling 117.03 hectares. This is lower than the 329 amenity greenspace sites identified in the Open Space Study (2010) and is largely due to re-classification of recreation grounds from amenity greenspace sites to recreation grounds in the 2015 audit.

**Table 7.1: Provision of amenity greenspace in Kirklees**

Sub Area	Total Number of Amenity Greenspaces	Total Amount of Amenity Greenspace (hectares)
Batley and Spennings	88	39.86
Dewsbury and Mirfield	50	27.54
Huddersfield	99	32.95
Kirklees Rural	53	16.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>117.03</b>

- 7.3 The Open Space Demand Assessment 2015 highlights a reasonable level of community satisfaction with the current availability of amenity greenspace sites in Kirklees with:-
- 41.7% of respondents stating they are very or quite satisfied with the availability of informal open spaces in housing areas; and
  - 25.4% of respondents being neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
- 7.4 When comparing the total amount of amenity greenspace (117.03 ha) with the Kirklees population of 428,100, the current standard of provision is 0.29 hectares per 1,000 population.
- 7.5 There is no recognised national standard for amenity greenspace provision and Kirklees does not have a locally developed quantitative standard. Due to the reasonable level of community satisfaction with the current availability of amenity greenspace in residential areas, it is recommended to maintain the current level of provision balanced with new provision of amenity space within future housing developments. As such, the district wide quantity

standard for amenity greenspace is proposed at 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population.

- 7.6 The quantity standard is used as a benchmark against which to assess the current level of provision of amenity greenspace in each ward and sub-area. Applying the standard to the population within each ward helps identify those areas deficient in the quantity of amenity greenspace.
- 7.7 Table 7.2 below shows the breakdown of the current standard of amenity greenspace grounds for each ward and area. The total quantity of provision in each ward has been divided by the total population of each ward to give the current standard of provision per 1,000 population.
- 7.8 The current standard of provision in each ward is compared to the district wide standard of 0.3 hectares of amenity greenspace per 1,000 population. Highlighted in red are wards where current provision falls short of the standard and are deficient in terms of the quantity of amenity greenspace. Highlighted in green are wards where current provision exceeds the standard in terms of the quantity of amenity greenspace.
- 7.9 Compared to the benchmark standard of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population, the provision of amenity greenspace in the Batley and Spen and Dewsbury and Mirfield areas is above the standard. The majority of the wards within these areas are relatively well provided for in terms of amenity greenspace, except the Cleckheaton ward where provision is significantly below the standard.
- 7.10 The most notable deficiencies in the provision of amenity greenspace are in the Huddersfield and Kirklees Rural areas. The greatest deficiencies are in the Holme Valley North and Holme Valley South wards with only 0.01 and 0.05 hectares of amenity greenspace per 1,000 population. However, other types of open space, such playing fields, parks, recreation grounds also play an important role both in terms of their physical and aesthetic value and thereby providing important amenity benefits.
- 7.11 With a standard of 0.5 hectares of amenity greenspace per 1,000 population, Denby Dale ward has the highest level of amenity greenspace provision of all the Kirklees wards, mainly as a result of Kaye's Millennium Green in Clayton West and Emley Millennium Green.

**Table 7.2: Provision of amenity greenspace compared to the district wide standard (0.3 hectares per 1,000 population)**

Area	Ward	Amount of Amenity Greenspace (ha)	Population Estimates (2013)	Existing Standard of Amenity Greenspace (ha per 1,000 population)
Batley and Spen	Batley East	6.81	19176	0.36
	Batley West	5.18	19834	0.26
	Birstall and Birkenshaw	13.26	16767	0.79
	Cleckheaton	1.58	16990	0.09
	Heckmondwike	6.65	17068	0.39
	Liversedge and Gomersal	6.38	19595	0.33
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>39.86</b>	<b>109429</b>	<b>0.36</b>
Dewsbury and Mirfield	Dewsbury East	11.06	18981	0.58
	Dewsbury South	4.38	19073	0.23
	Dewsbury West	5.53	20542	0.27
	Mirfield	6.57	19776	0.33
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>27.54</b>	<b>78372</b>	<b>0.35</b>
Huddersfield	Almondbury	3.33	18387	0.18
	Ashbrow	6.64	19910	0.33
	Crosland Moor and Netherton	4.21	19012	0.22
	Dalton	4.92	17406	0.28
	Greenhead	2.54	20345	0.12
	Lindley	3.95	19557	0.20
	Newsome	7.36	20630	0.36
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>32.95</b>	<b>135247</b>	<b>0.24</b>
Kirklees Rural	Colne Valley	4.15	17639	0.24
	Denby Dale	8.21	16541	0.50
	Golcar	2.66	18273	0.15
	Holme Valley North	0.18	16813	0.01
	Holme Valley South	0.95	19005	0.05
	Kirkburton	6.92	16780	0.41
	<b>Area Totals</b>	<b>16.68</b>	<b>105051</b>	<b>0.16</b>

## Quality

- 7.11 An open space site assessment has been undertaken for amenity greenspace sites larger than 0.2 hectares in size to evaluate their physical, social and visual qualities and help determine their value to the local community. The methodology for assessing sites is set out in section 4.3 and the site assessment sheet is shown in Appendix 1.
- 7.12 Table 7.3 below summarises the results of the site assessments for amenity greenspaces in Kirklees. A score of 15% or above is deemed to be a high rating, 11-14% is deemed a medium rating and 10% or below is a low rating. These are the same thresholds used to assess value in the Open Space Study (2010). The rating thresholds have been set in the context of each type of open space use to reflect their different characteristics and attributes. Some elements of the assessment criteria will not be relevant to this type of open space, e.g. education benefits are less likely to be relevant to amenity greenspace.

**Table 7.3 Amenity greenspace site assessments summary**

Sub Area	Site Assessment Ratings (number of sites)		
	High	Medium	Low
Batley and Spennings	47	4	15
Dewsbury and Mirfield	16	1	17
Huddersfield	45	6	23
Kirklees Rural	24	1	12
<b>Total*</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>67</b>

\*Excludes sites below 0.2 hectares in size

- 7.13 62% of amenity greenspaces were assessed as having a high open space assessment rating. The Batley and Spennings area has the most high rated sites with slightly more than site in Huddersfield. Emley Millennium Green (in the Kirklees Rural area) was assessed as having the highest assessment rating (53%).
- 7.14 The key findings from the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) relating to the quality of amenity greenspace in Kirklees show that:-
- 39.3% of respondents were very or quite satisfied with the quality of open space in residential areas;
  - 24.3% of respondents were neither satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of open space in residential areas;
  - 12.9% of respondents were quite or very dissatisfied with the quality of open space in residential areas; and
  - 23.6% of respondents don't know or have no opinion.

## Accessibility

- 7.15 There are no national standards for access to amenity greenspaces and the council does not have a locally derived standard. Kirklees district wide standards have been developed as part of this study and are derived from the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) and benchmarking against other local authority standards. The accessibility standard for amenity greenspace is set in the form of a distance threshold and is expressed as a straight line walk time.
- 7.16 The results of consultation carried out as part of the Open space Demand Assessment (2015) show that:-
- 18.9% of respondents are willing to walk less than a 5 minutes to an amenity greenspace;
  - 20.1% of respondents are willing to walk 5-10 minutes to an amenity greenspace;
  - 12.9% of respondents will walk 11-15 minutes to an amenity greenspace and 10% of respondents will walk over 15 minutes.
  - Over a quarter of respondents (26.6%) expressed no opinion about their willingness to travel to an amenity greenspace.
- 7.17 The district wide accessibility standard for amenity greenspace is proposed as a minimum of a 10 minute walk time (480 metres distance) for residents to access an amenity greenspace within the towns and villages. This is based on the consultation findings above with the highest proportion of respondents willing to walk up to 10 minutes to an amenity greenspace. The standard also reflects that informal amenity greenspaces are generally small in size and in close proximity to where people live.
- 7.18 Gaps in the provision of amenity greenspace can be identified by applying the accessibility standard to the areas of Kirklees. Catchment areas based on the above standard have been applied to each amenity greenspace site to identify the coverage of current provision. This identifies areas where current provision meets the standard (i.e. covered by a catchment area) and those areas that do not meet the standard (i.e. where there is a catchment gap).
- 7.19 The catchment mapping for amenity greenspace sites is shown in Figure 4 and highlights some catchment gaps in provision, particularly in the Kirklees Rural area with gaps in Holmfirth, Honley, Brockholes, Emley and Clayton West. The areas of Huddersfield, Batley and Spen, Dewsbury and Mirfield are well provided for in terms of accessibility to amenity green space with only relatively minor gaps in provision in Cleckheaton, Birstall, Heckmondwike and Thornhill.

7.20 The main gaps in terms of accessibility to amenity greenspace are highlighted in table 7.4. However, deficiencies in amenity greenspace should be balanced against other types of open space available within the area. Many green spaces are multi-functional and other of open spaces, such as parks, recreation grounds and playing fields can also play an important role as amenity greenspace in terms of their physical and visual value to communities.

**Table 7.4: Gaps in accessibility to amenity greenspace**

Sub Area	Gaps in Accessibility to Amenity Greenspace
Batley and Spen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birstall</li> <li>• Heckmondwike</li> <li>• Cleckheaton</li> </ul>
Dewsbury and Mirfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thornhill</li> </ul>
Huddersfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birkby</li> </ul>
Kirklees Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emley</li> <li>• Honley</li> <li>• Holmfirth</li> <li>• Brockholes</li> <li>• Clayton West</li> </ul>

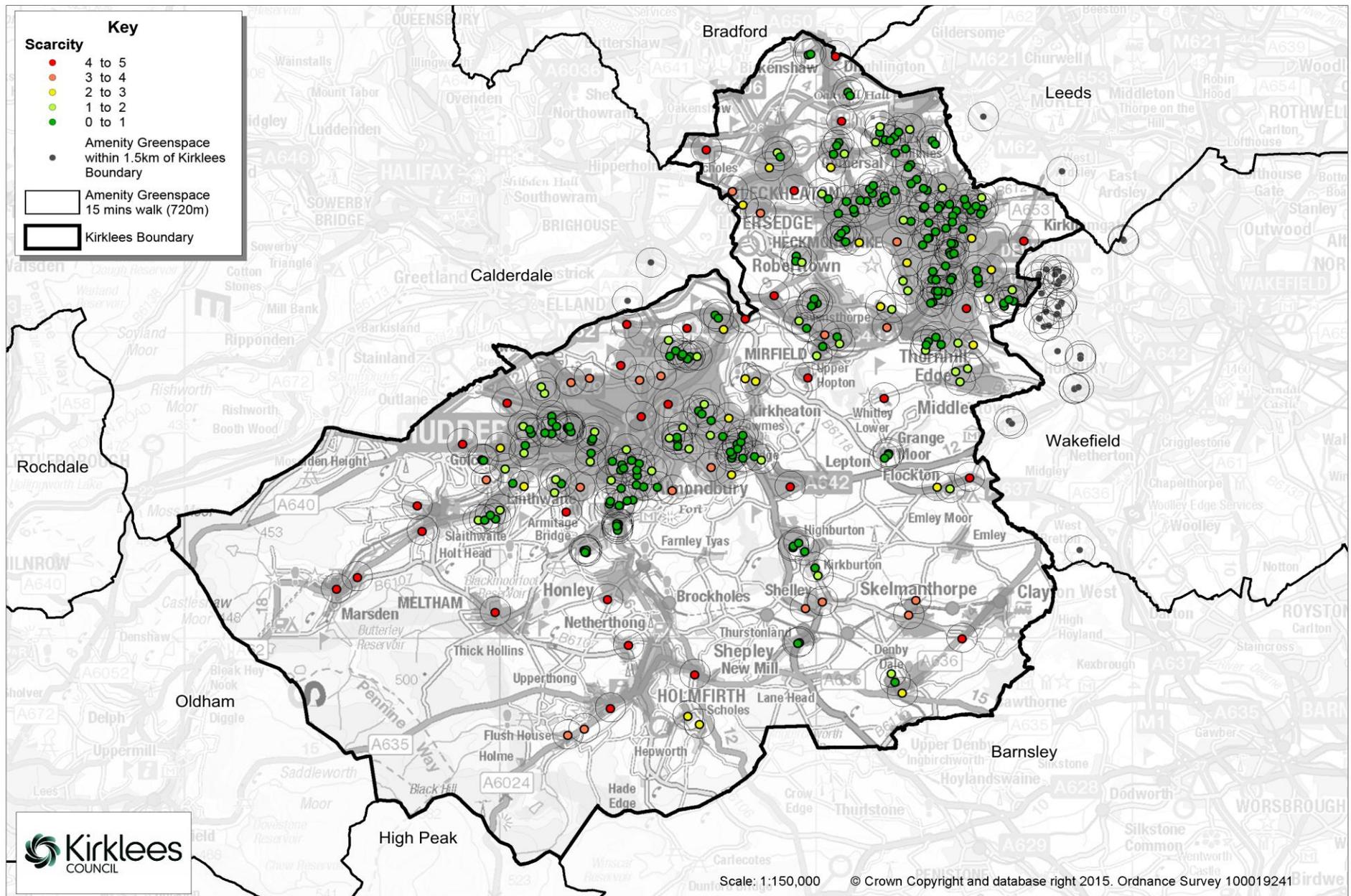
**Summary**

7.19 Table 7.5 below provides a summary of the main deficiencies in amenity greenspace that have been identified in Kirklees.

**Table 7.5: Summary of main deficiencies in amenity greenspace**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>Quantity Deficiencies in Amenity Greenspace</b>	<b>Accessibility Deficiencies in Amenity Greenspace</b>
Batley and Spen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batley West ward</li> <li>• Cleckheaton ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birstall</li> <li>• Heckmondwike</li> <li>• Cleckheaton</li> </ul>
Dewsbury and Mirfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewsbury South ward</li> <li>• Dewsbury West ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thornhill</li> </ul>
Huddersfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almondbury ward</li> <li>• Crosland Moor &amp; Netherton ward</li> <li>• Dalton ward</li> <li>• Greenhead ward</li> <li>• Lindley ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birkby</li> </ul>
Kirklees Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colne Valley ward</li> <li>• Golcar ward</li> <li>• Holme Valley North</li> <li>• Holme Valley South ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brockholes</li> <li>• Clayton West</li> <li>• Emley</li> <li>• Honley</li> <li>• Holmfirth</li> </ul>

Figure 4: Amenity Greenspace Accessibility Catchment Mapping



## 8 Allotments and Community Food Growing

### Quantity

- 8.1 The category of allotments and community food growing includes sites that provide opportunities for people to grow their own food and produce locally. This includes council and private allotments, allotments in the control of parish councils, community gardens and community orchards.
- 8.2 The audit of open space identifies 138 allotments and sites for community growing, covering 76.42 hectares. These are shown by sub-area in Table 8.1. The council manages the majority of allotments sites with the remaining being parish council or privately owned. Since the previous open space study, a number of new allotment sites have been developed including two sites in Kirkburton, community gardens at Dewsbury Moor and community orchards.

**Table 8.1: Provision of allotments and community food growing in Kirklees**

Sub Area	Total Number of Allotment Sites	Total Amount of Allotments (hectares)
Batley and Spennings	16	7.51
Dewsbury and Mirfield	20	16.93
Huddersfield	64	38.73
Kirklees Rural	38	13.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>76.42</b>

- 8.3 The Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) shows that a high percentage of respondents (51.4%) expressed no opinion regarding the availability of allotments. This reflects the niche nature of this type of open space. Of those who expressed an opinion, 40% of respondents were very or quite satisfied with current availability. However, 17% of respondents from the Kirklees Rural area and 12.4% of respondents from the Batley and Spennings area are very or quite dissatisfied with the availability of allotments. This may reflect the lower number of allotment sites available within these areas and the high number of people identified on allotment waiting lists in these areas (see table 8.3).
- 8.4 The National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners recommend a national standard of 20 allotment plots (250 sq. m) per 1,000 households or 0.5 hectares of allotments per 1,000 households. Kirklees does not have a locally developed quantitative standard for allotments.

- 8.5 The recommended district-wide standard is set to reflect the national standard of 0.5 hectares per 1,000 households to meet current and future demand for allotments. This will be used as a benchmark against which to assess the current level of allotment provision in each ward and sub-area.
- 8.6 Comparing the total amount of allotments (343.74 ha) with the number of households, the current standard of allotment provision is 0.43 ha per 1,000 households. The current level of allotment provision in the district is therefore below the recommended national standard.
- 8.7 Table 8.2 below shows the breakdown of the current provision of allotments for each ward and sub-area. The total quantity of provision in each ward has been divided by the total number of households in the ward to give the current standard of provision per 1,000 households. The number of households for each ward is derived from the 2011 Census household shares apportioned to the 2012-based household projections for 2013.
- 8.8 The current standard of provision has been compared against the district wide standard of 0.5 hectares per 1,000 households. Highlighted in red are wards where current provision falls short of the standard and are deficient in terms of the quantity of allotments. Highlighted in green are wards where current provision of allotments exceeds the standard.
- 8.9 The provision of allotments falls short of the standard in all wards in the Batley and Spennings Dale area and most wards in the Kirklees Rural area, except for Colne Valley and Kirkburton wards. Under provision of allotments in these areas is also evident from the waiting lists for council allotments shown in table 8.3. This shows a high level of numbers on the waiting lists in the Batley and Spennings Dale and Kirklees Rural areas, indicating a high level of demand for allotments in these areas.

**Table 8.2: Provision of allotments compared to the district wide quantity standard (0.5 ha hectares per 1,000 households)**

Sub Area	Ward	Total Amount of Allotments (ha)	Number of Households (2013)	Current Standard of Allotments (ha per 1,000 households)
Batley and Spen	Batley East	0.91	7015	0.13
	Batley West	0.74	7418	0.10
	Birstall and Birkenshaw	1.58	7180	0.22
	Cleckheaton	0.89	7568	0.12
	Heckmondwike	2.66	6747	0.39
	Liversedge and Gomersal	0.73	8429	0.09
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7.51</b>	<b>44357</b>	<b>0.17</b>
Dewsbury and Mirfield	Dewsbury East	1.56	8023	0.19
	Dewsbury South	4.35	6525	0.67
	Dewsbury West	7.84	6948	1.13
	Mirfield	3.18	8579	0.37
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16.93</b>	<b>30075</b>	<b>0.56</b>
Huddersfield	Almondbury	5.52	8052	0.69
	Ashbrow	4.75	8351	0.57
	Crosland Moor and Netherton	6.03	7633	0.79
	Dalton	2.74	7769	0.35
	Greenhead	7.18	8212	0.87
	Lindley	5.78	8505	0.68
	Newsome	6.73	8617	0.78
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38.73</b>	<b>57139</b>	<b>0.68</b>
Kirklees Rural	Colne Valley	4.21	7774	0.54
	Denby Dale	2.11	6914	0.31
	Golcar	0.76	8109	0.09
	Holme Valley North	1.49	7225	0.21
	Holme Valley South	1.29	8128	0.16
	Kirkburton	3.39	6431	0.53
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13.25</b>	<b>44581</b>	<b>0.30</b>

- 8.10 Many council allotment sites have waiting lists suggesting the supply of allotments does not meet demand. A breakdown of the numbers of people on waiting lists for council allotments is shown in table 8.3 below. In total almost 900 people are identified as being on waiting lists for council allotments. Whilst some individuals can be on more than one waiting list at the same time and this may not provide an accurate picture of demand for allotments, the high level of numbers in the Batley and Spen and the Kirklees Rural areas suggest a significant demand for allotments in these areas.

**Table 8.3 Numbers of people on council allotment waiting list**

Sub Area	Council Allotments	
	Number of Allotment Sites with Waiting Lists	Numbers of People on Allotment Waiting Lists
Batley and Spen	13	321
Dewsbury and Mirfield	4	44
Huddersfield	45	191
Kirklees Rural	20	332

- 8.11 Overall the Huddersfield area is well provided for in terms of allotments with only the Dalton ward falling short of the benchmark standard. Within the Dewsbury and Mirfield area, the wards of Dewsbury South and Dewsbury West are well served in terms of the provision of allotments, whilst provision in the Dewsbury East and Mirfield wards falls short of the standard.
- 8.12 The Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) suggests there is a high demand for allotment provision in the Lindley and Greenhead areas of Huddersfield, and in the Colne Valley and Holme Valley in the Kirklees Rural area.

### Quality

- 8.13 Consultation undertaken as part of the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) shows a significant proportion of respondents do not know or have no opinion about the quality of allotment provision (56.9%). This is likely to reflect the use and non-users of such sites are therefore unlikely to have an opinion.
- 8.14 An open space site assessment has been undertaken for all allotments to evaluate the physical, social and visual qualities of each individual site to determine their value to the local community. The methodology for assessing sites is set out in section 4.3 and the site assessment sheet is attached in Appendix 1.

- 8.15 Table 8.4 below summarises the results of the site assessments for allotments in Kirklees. A score of 30% or above is deemed to be a high rating, 21-29% is deemed a medium rating and 20% or below is a low rating. These are the same thresholds used to assess value in the Open Space Study (2010). The rating thresholds have been set in the context of each type of open space use to reflect their different characteristics and attributes.

**Table 8.4: Allotments site assessments summary**

Sub Area	Site Assessment Ratings (number of sites)		
	High	Medium	Low
Batley and Spennings	8	6	2
Dewsbury and Mirfield	7	9	4
Huddersfield	22	34	8
Kirklees Rural	10	23	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>19</b>

- 8.16 Over a third of allotments were assessed as having a high open space assessment rating and almost half assessed as medium. This represents an increase in the number of sites assessed as high compared to the Open Space Study (2010), reflecting the significant investments and improvements carried out to allotment sites in the recent years. The Huddersfield area has the most sites rated high and medium.
- 8.17 The key consultation findings from the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) relating to the quality of allotments in Kirklees show that:-
- 56.9% of respondents did not know or had no opinion about the quality of allotments;
  - 18.9% of respondents were very or quite satisfied with the quality of allotments;
  - 16.5% of respondents were neither satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of allotments; and
  - 7.7% quite or very dissatisfied.

### Condition Assessment

- 8.18 An assessment of the condition of allotments has also been undertaken, similar to the quality assessment carried out for allotments in the Open Space Study (2010). The threshold for a high quality assessment for allotments has been set at 60% and 40% for low quality. This is the same as the 2010 study. The assessment is based on Green Flag criteria and is set out in Appendix 2.

**Table 8.5: Allotments condition assessment summary**

Sub Area	Allotment Condition Ratings (number of sites)		
	High	Medium	Low
Batley and Spen	7	7	2
Dewsbury and Mirfield	6	12	2
Huddersfield	17	40	4
Kirklees Rural	6	27	4
<b>Total*</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>12</b>

\*Excludes community orchards and one allotment site where it was not possible to achieve access to undertake an assessment.

- 8.19 The majority of allotments have been assessed as medium or high quality (90% of sites) as shown in table 8.5 and this is similar to the results of the 2010 Open Space Study. Again Huddersfield has the highest number of sites assessed as being of high quality in terms of condition.

### Accessibility

- 8.20 There are no national accessibility standards for allotments and Kirklees does not have a locally derived standard. The district wide accessibility standard for allotments has been set in the form of a distance threshold and is expressed as a straight line walk time.
- 8.21 The standard has been derived from the findings of the consultation undertaken as part of the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015). The results from the consultation show:-
- The majority of respondents (65.2%) had no opinion about the time prepared to travel to an allotment; and
  - Of those respondents who did give an opinion, approximately a third are willing to walk 11-15 minutes or over to an allotment site,
- 8.22 It is therefore proposed that a standard of a minimum 15 minute walk time (720 metres) should be set for residents to access allotment provision in the towns and villages of Kirklees. This is intended as a guide to help identify the main areas deficient in access to allotment provision within Kirklees.
- 8.23 Gaps in the provision of allotments can be identified by applying the accessibility standard to the areas of Kirklees. Catchment areas based on the above standard have been applied to each allotment site to identify the coverage of current provision. This identifies areas where current provision meets the standard (i.e. covered by a catchment area) and those areas that do not meet the standard (i.e. where there is a catchment gap).

8.23 The catchment mapping is shown in Figure 5 and shows there is good distribution of allotments across Kirklees, although there are a number of noticeable gaps in provision. Huddersfield is generally well served with a good level of access to allotment sites. However, the Batley and Spen area is less well served with catchment gaps in some areas where access to allotment sites is below the standard, particularly in Cleckheaton, Liversedge, Heckmondwike and Gomersal. Similarly there are gaps in provision in parts of Dewsbury and Mirfield. In the Kirklees Rural area, Marsden and Meltham are well served by allotments. However, there are significant catchment gaps in Honley, Holmfirth, Emley and Denby Dale where there are no allotment sites. Table 8.6 below shows where there are gaps in the provision of allotments within Kirklees.

**Table 8.6 Gaps in accessibility to allotments**

Sub Area	Gaps in Accessibility to Allotments
Batley and Spen	Cleckheaton Liversedge Heckmondwike Gomersal Roberttown
Dewsbury and Mirfield	Ravensthorpe Dewsbury Mirfield
Huddersfield	No major gaps
Kirklees Rural	Honley Holmfirth Emley Denby Dale

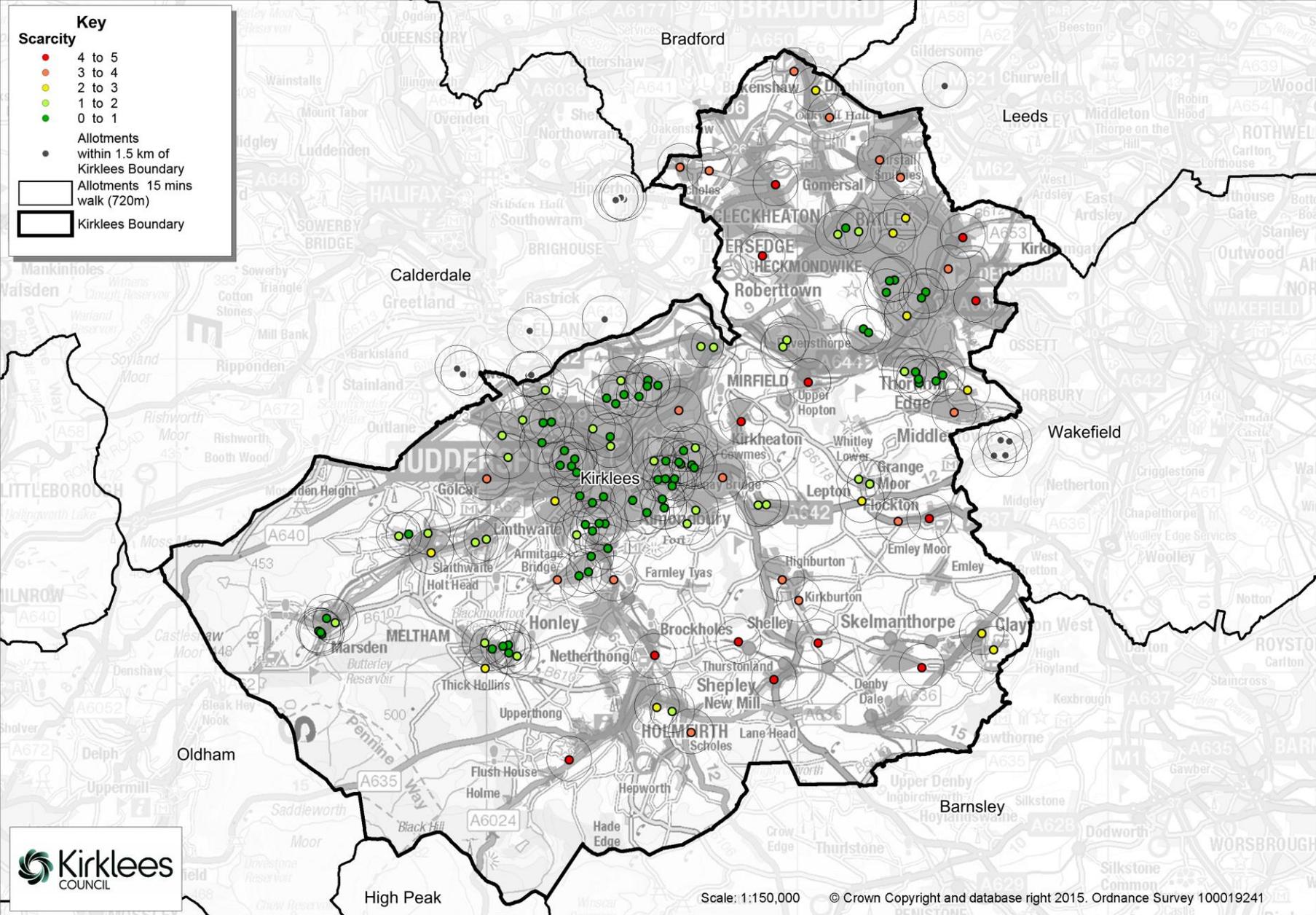
### Summary

8.24 Table 8.7 below provides a summary of the main deficiencies in the provision of allotments that have been identified in Kirklees.

**Table 8.7: Summary of main deficiencies in allotment provision**

Sub Area	Quantity Deficiencies in Allotments	Accessibility Deficiencies in Allotments
Batley and Spen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All wards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleckheaton</li> <li>• Liversedge</li> <li>• Heckmondwike</li> <li>• Gomersal</li> <li>• Roberttown</li> </ul>
Dewsbury and Mirfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewsbury East ward</li> <li>• Mirfield ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ravensthorpe</li> <li>• Dewsbury</li> <li>• Mirfield</li> </ul>
Huddersfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dalton ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major gaps</li> </ul>
Kirklees Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denby Dale ward</li> <li>• Golcar ward</li> <li>• Holme Valley North ward</li> <li>• Holme Valley South ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honley</li> <li>• Holmfirth</li> <li>• Emley</li> <li>• Denby Dale</li> </ul>

Figure 5: Allotments Accessibility Catchment Mapping



## 9 Cemeteries and Churchyards

- 9.1 The category of cemeteries and churchyards includes burial grounds. The Open Space Audit (2015) identifies 113 sites classified as cemeteries and churchyards across Kirklees, totalling 133.56 hectares.

**Table 9.1: Current provision of cemeteries & churchyards in Kirklees (2015)**

Sub Area	Total Number of Cemeteries and Churchyards	Total Amount of Cemeteries and Churchyards (hectares)
Batley and Spen	20	29.74
Dewsbury and Mirfield	14	37.43
Huddersfield	32	40.98
Kirklees Rural	47	25.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>113.56</b>

- 9.2 The Open Space Demand Assessment 2015 highlights a good level of satisfaction with the current availability of cemeteries in Kirklees:-
- 45.3% of respondents are very or quite satisfied;
  - 26% neither satisfied or dissatisfied; and
  - 23.8% don't know or have no opinion.
- 9.3 A quantity benchmark standard has not been set for cemeteries and churchyards as provision is based on burial demand.
- 9.4 There are 14 council owned cemetery sites in Kirklees as shown in table 9.2 below. Six of these sites are closed (i.e. have reached capacity) or are close to capacity. The council also has responsibility for 43 closed churchyards.

**Table 9.2: Council cemetery provision in Kirklees**

Cemetery	Approximate remaining plots	Approximate years remaining
Batley Cemetery	580	10
Cleckheaton (New) Cemetery	500	63
Cleckheaton (Old) Cemetery	Closed to new burials	
Dewsbury Cemetery	2000	48
Earlsheaton Cemetery	Closed to new burials	
Heckmondwike Cemetery	900	113
Liversedge Cemetery	800	45
Almondbury Cemetery	Closed to new burials	
Edgerton Cemetery	Closed to new burials	
Hey Lane Cemetery	1100	17
Kirkheaton Cemetery	Closed to new burials	
Lockwood Cemetery	12	<1
Skelmanthorpe Cemetery	175	27
Slaithwaite Cemetery	23	3

- 9.5 The 2015 Kirklees Council Open Space Demand Assessment notes that there is identified spare capacity at several cemetery sites including Batley, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike, Cleckheaton (New), Skelmanthorpe and Hey Lane Cemetery, Almondbury. Both Hey Lane Cemetery and Batley are the two sites with the most demand (i.e. sites that receive a higher frequency of burials). Hey Lane Cemetery, being a relatively new site, has approximately 15-20 years burial provision remaining; whilst Batley has ten years. However, there is adjacent land which could be used for expansion to provide approximately 18 years capacity. The suitability and viability of the expansion area is dependent upon the land quality which would need to be explored further. In the long term however it is likely that there would be a need for an additional burial site to serve the south of Kirklees.
- 9.6 Table 9.2 highlights where the levels of provision within the district. Cemeteries at Cleckheaton, Earlsheaton, Almondbury, Edgerton and Kirkheaton are all closed to burials, whilst cemeteries at Slaithwaite and Lockwood each have less than 5 years' worth of capacity.
- 9.7 Up-dated site assessment to evaluate the qualities of cemeteries and churchyards has not been undertaken as part of the Open Space Study. Nevertheless, the 2015 Demand Assessment suggests that the perception of quality across the district's cemetery provision is generally positive:-
- 42% very or quite satisfied with quality
  - 25.1% neither satisfied or dissatisfied
  - 9% quite or very dissatisfied
  - 24.1% Don't know or have no opinion

- 9.8 Some respondents regard provision in Heckmondwike and Cleckheaton as being in a poor condition and in need of some improvement. This may reflect the poor condition of cemetery chapels at these locations.

## 10 Provision for Children and Young People

### Quantity

- 10.1 Open space provision for children and young people includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction (toddler, juniors and teenagers), such as equipped play areas, skate parks, basketball pods, teen shelters and multi-use games areas (MUGAs).
- 10.2 The Open Space Audit (2015) identifies 349 sites providing facilities for children and young people and 52 multi-use-games areas across Kirklees, totalling 22.51 hectares as shown in table 10.1. These facilities are predominantly provided within parks and recreation grounds and there is a relatively good coverage of sites across the district as shown in table 10.2 below.

**Table 10.1: Open space provision for children and young people in Kirklees**

Sub Area	Number of Sites with Facilities for Children and Young People	Number of Multi-Use-Games Areas	Total Amount (Hectares)
Batley and Spennings	93	13	4.76
Dewsbury and Mirfield	55	12	3.84
Huddersfield	108	18	8.66
Kirklees Rural	93	9	5.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22.51</b>

- 10.3 The Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) indicates that local residents have a good level of satisfaction about the current availability of provision for children and young people in Kirklees. Findings from the consultation show:-
- Almost half of respondents (49.6%) are very or quite satisfied with the availability children's play areas and 20.1% with teenage provision;
  - A significant proportion of respondents state they do not know or have no opinion about the availability of teenage provision (51.9%) or children's play areas (26%);
  - Only 11.3% of respondents are very or quite dissatisfied with the availability of teenage provision and 8.9% with the availability of children's play areas.
- 10.4 The Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) highlights that the Kirklees Rural area lacks play provision that caters for older children and teenagers in particular, especially in the Holmfirth area.

- 10.5 There is no national quantity standard for the provision of open space for children and young people and a locally derived quantity standard for Kirklees is not proposed as part of this study. It is more meaningful to set a standard concerned with the availability of a variety of play activities for different age ranges. Quantity standards based on the number of sites or facilities or amount of land per 1,000 population do not necessarily reflect the range of play equipment or play opportunities available. For example, the definition of one site or one facility can include a site with only one piece of play equipment but can also include a site with a full age range of play equipment.
- 10.6 A district wide standard is therefore proposed that requires a minimum of through-age (0-16 years) play opportunities and that these should be available within a 15 minute walk or 720 metres from home. The full standard is shown in table 10.2 below and ideally the range of play activities listed should be available at one site (destination play areas). Each new or newly refurbished play area in Kirklees should seek to provide the minimum of these play opportunities. This is in line with Play England's "Design for Play" guidance regarding the creation of successful play areas.

**Table 10.2: Kirklees Standard for through age (0-16 years) play provision**

**The following through age play activities (0-16 years) to be available within a reasonable walking distance (15 minute walk or 720m) from where people live. Ideally the range of play activities should be available at one site (destination play areas) and each new or newly refurbished play area in Kirklees should seek to provide the minimum play opportunities listed below.**

Each new or newly refurbished play area in Kirklees should strive to provide the following minimum play opportunities set out in a bespoke design to make the best use of the natural environment and immediate surroundings of the site.

- Swings providing a minimum of two pod seats (1.8m or 2.4m frame).
- Multiplay Unit (suitable for age range 3-6) to incorporate climbing, sliding, opportunities for role play, social interaction and be as inclusive as is practicable for the site.
- Balance activities.
- Rocking equipment – preferably a two person seesaw rather than a single springy.
- Spinning equipment e.g. Roundabout.
- Seating for parents positioned so as to be associated with the equipment for the youngest age range.
- Swings providing a minimum of two flat seats (minimum 2.4m frame).
- Multiplay Unit (age range 7-11) to incorporate climbing (climbing wall, ladders, ropes or nets), sliding (slide or banister rails) and physical challenge such as overhead bars, Fireman's pole or pull up ropes.
- Group swing (age range 12-16) (Basket, Single Point or Linear Rope type).
- Dynamic Activity Unit (age range 12-16) e.g. a rotator or similar activity which provides a physical challenge.
- Loosely structured Multiplay Unit (age range 12-16) to incorporate opportunities for climbing and sliding (e.g. Biibox/Quest/Galaxy *type* unit).
- Seating for teenagers positioned so as to be associated with the equipment for that age range (these may be seating rails etc).
- Kirklees approved, permanently fixed, fully enclosed and front opening litter bins (minimum of 2).

Equipment should be clustered within the footprint of the site according to age range and allowing as much circulation space as practical, but should still remain as one obvious play area.

Natural features such as mounds, slopes, rocks etc should be incorporated into the design of the play area wherever possible. Fire and water play can be considered in some circumstances where appropriate to the site.

Sites should not be fenced unless a specific hazard exists in close proximity to the equipment e.g. main road, open water, significant drop, etc. Areas within enclosed recreation grounds or similar locations should not be fenced and children should be encouraged to utilise as much of the available surrounding space as possible.

Surfacing should be natural loose fill or sand carpet wherever possible – or a combination of the two. Wet Pour Rubber surfacing should only be used where there is a specific reason to do so e.g. very wet or exposed sites where loose material would quickly blow away.

## Quality

- 10.8 The Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) highlights a good level of community satisfaction regarding the quality of play provision with almost a half of respondents (48.1%) stating they were very or quite satisfied with the quality of play areas and 20.5% with the quality of teenage provision. A large number of respondents did not know or did not express an opinion about the quality of play areas (28.4% of respondents) and teenage provision (53.4% of respondents), and this is likely to be a result of the specific nature of this type of provision for children and young people,
- 10.9 The Open Space Demand Assessment also reinforces the findings of earlier studies which highlight that there are a number of vandalism and anti-social behaviour related issues at several sites within the district.

## Accessibility

- 10.10 There are no national accessibility standards for open space provision for children and young people and Kirklees does not have a locally derived standard. Kirklees district wide standards have been developed as part of this study using information gathered from the local population through consultation carried out as part of the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015), links to the health agenda and the council's intention to move towards the provision of destination play areas
- 10.11 The majority of respondents (37.8%) to the demand survey expressed no opinion about the time prepared to travel to provision for children and young people. Of those who did express an opinion, more respondents indicated their willingness to access children's play areas by walking (about 37%) than by transport (25%). The consultation findings from the Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) show that:-
- 12.8% of respondents indicated a willingness to walk 5-10 minutes;
  - 11% of respondents indicated a willingness to walk 11-15 minutes; and
  - 7% of respondents indicated a willingness to walk over 15 minutes.
- 10.12 A walk time is considered the most appropriate method for travel to children's play areas. This enables younger children to access facilities near their homes with their parents or by themselves. Setting a level of 15 mins walk, as opposed to 10 mins, provides the opportunity to invest in existing facilities in line with the Council's future plans to create through age, good quality destination play areas. The application of this standard will also help identify the main areas deficient in provision across Kirklees.
- 10.13 Almost 75% of respondents did not express an opinion about their willingness to travel to access teenage provision. A standard of 2km for youth

facilities is proposed on the basis that young people are more independent and can access provision by walking, cycling or public transport.

- 10.14 The benchmark standards for access to open space providing facilities for children and young people are therefore proposed at:-
- a maximum 15 minute walk (720m) for play provision for children and young people; and
  - 2km for youth facilities (major skate parks and MUGAs).
- 10.15 Gaps in accessibility to open space provision for children and young people can be identified by applying the accessibility standards to the individual sites. Catchment areas based on the standards have been applied to each equipped play area and youth facility to identify the current coverage of provision. This identifies areas where current provision meets the standard (i.e. covered by a catchment area) and areas that do not meet the standard (i.e. where there is a catchment gap).
- 10.16 The application of the accessibility standards for provision for children and young people is shown in the catchment mapping Figure 6. This shows that Kirklees is generally well provided for in terms of access to children's play areas and teenage provision, particularly in Huddersfield, Batley and Spen and Dewsbury and Mirfield where there are no significant gaps in provision
- 10.17 In terms of access to youth facilities (major skate parks and MUGAs), the Batley and Spen, Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Mirfield areas are well served by the provision of multi-use-games areas. However, there is lack of MUGAs in some settlements within the Kirklees Rural Area, particularly in the Colne Valley and Kirkburton area. The catchment mapping for youth facilities is shown in Figure 7.
- 10.18 There is some scarcity in the provision of major skate parks across the district with generally good provision available in the Huddersfield and Batley and Spen areas but there some catchment gaps across the district, particularly in the Kirklees Rural area as shown in table 10.3. However, there are a number of smaller skate facilities available across the district which supplement this provision and these are included with other teenage facilities as shown in figure 6.

**Table 10.3: Gaps in accessibility to provision for children and young people**

Sub Area	Deficiencies in Accessibility to Provision for Children & Young People	Deficiencies in Accessibility to Youth Facilities	
		Major Skate Parks	Multi-Use Games Areas
Batley and Spen	No major gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batley</li> <li>• Birstall</li> <li>• Birkenshaw</li> </ul>	No major gaps
Dewsbury and Mirfield	No major gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewsbury</li> </ul>	No major gaps
Huddersfield	No major gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Huddersfield</li> <li>• Kirkheaton</li> </ul>	No major gaps
Kirklees Rural	No major gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirkburton</li> <li>• Colne Valley</li> <li>• Golcar</li> <li>• Shepley</li> <li>• Shelley</li> <li>• Grange Moor</li> <li>• Flockton</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirkburton</li> <li>• Slaithwaite</li> <li>• Linthwaite</li> <li>• Golcar</li> <li>• Shepley</li> <li>• Shelley</li> <li>• Grange Moor</li> <li>• Flockton</li> </ul>

Figure 6: Equipped Play Areas and Teenage Provision Accessibility Catchment Mapping

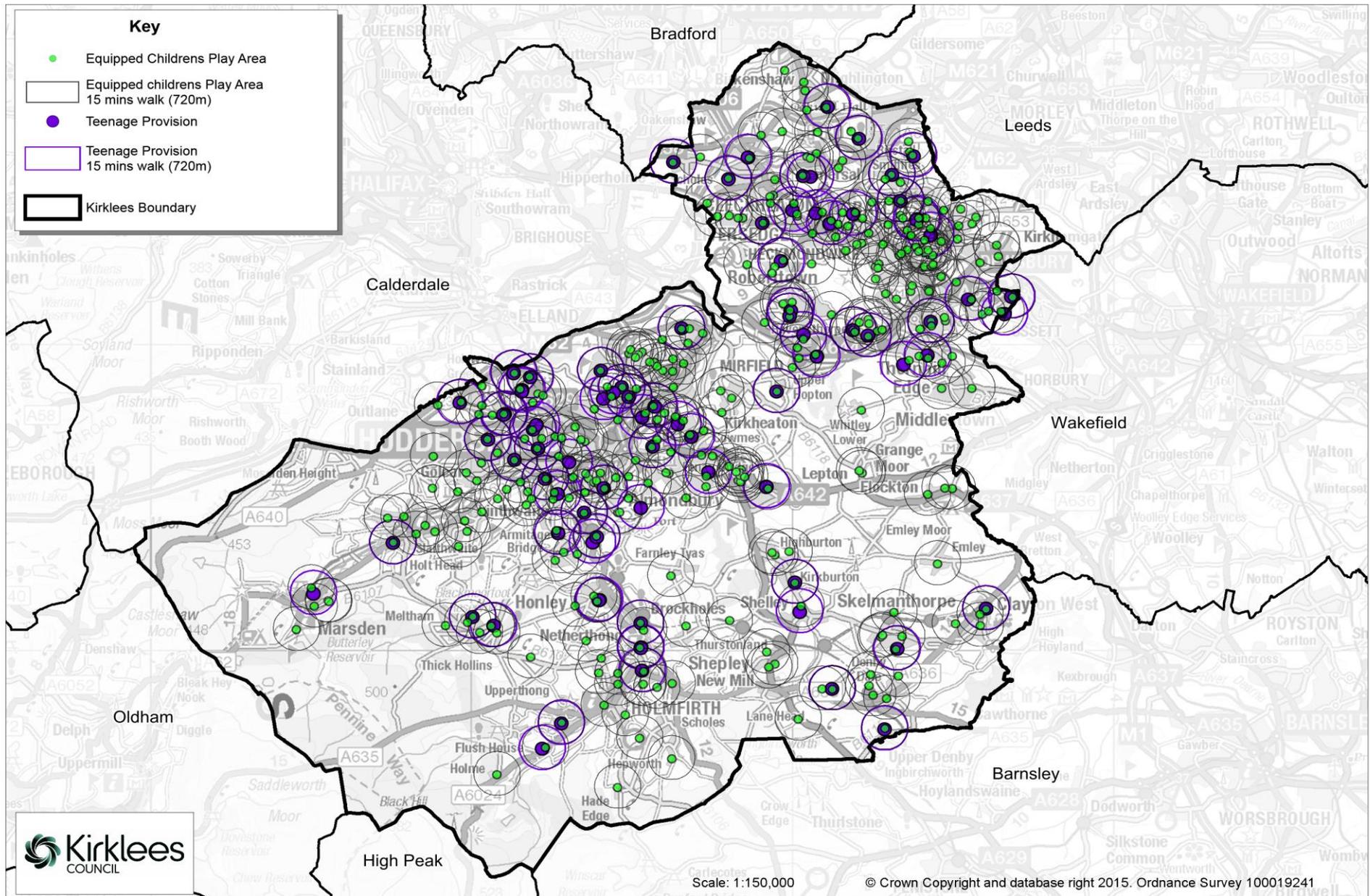
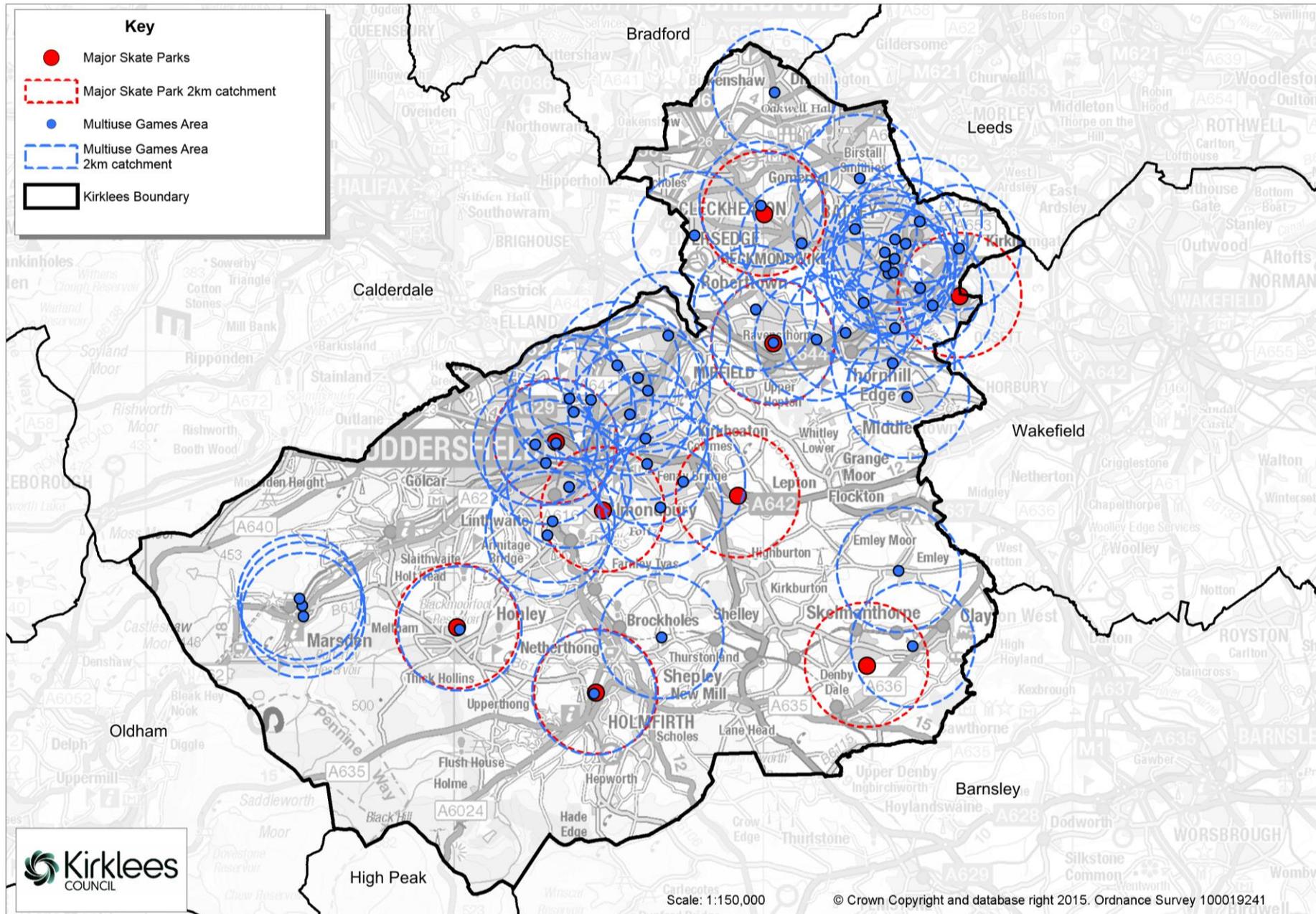


Figure 7: Youth Facilities Accessibility Catchment Mapping



## 11 Area Summary

11.1 The following section provides a summary of the main open space deficiencies that have been identified in each sub area across Kirklees.

### Batley and Spen

11.2 A summary of the main open space deficiencies that have been identified in the Batley and Spen area are shown below in table 11.1.

**Table 11.1: Summary of the main open space deficiencies in Batley & Spen**

Type of Open Space	Quantity Deficiencies	Accessibility Deficiencies
Parks and Recreation Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Batley East ward</li> <li>Cleckheaton ward</li> <li>Heckmondwike ward</li> </ul>	No major gaps
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Batley East ward</li> <li>Batley West ward</li> <li>Birstall &amp; Birkenshaw ward</li> <li>Heckmondwike ward</li> <li>Liversedge &amp; Gomersal ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birkenshaw</li> <li>Gomersal</li> <li>Roberttown</li> </ul>
Amenity Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Batley West ward</li> <li>Cleckheaton ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birstall</li> <li>Heckmondwike</li> <li>Cleckheaton</li> </ul>
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All wards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cleckheaton</li> <li>Liversedge</li> <li>Heckmondwike</li> <li>Gomersal</li> <li>Roberttown</li> </ul>
Provision for Children and Young People	Not applicable	Major skate parks in Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw

## Dewsbury and Mirfield

- 11.3 A summary of the main open space deficiencies that have been identified in the Dewsbury and Mirfield area are shown below in table 11.2.

**Table 11.2: Summary of the main open space deficiencies in Dewsbury & Mirfield**

Type of Open Space	Quantity Deficiencies	Accessibility Deficiencies
Parks and Recreation Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewsbury West ward</li> <li>• Mirfield ward</li> </ul>	No major gaps
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewsbury East ward</li> <li>• Dewsbury South ward</li> <li>• Mirfield ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirfield</li> </ul>
Amenity Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewsbury South ward</li> <li>• Dewsbury West ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thornhill</li> </ul>
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewsbury East ward</li> <li>• Mirfield ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewsbury</li> <li>• Mirfield</li> <li>• Ravensthorpe</li> </ul>
Provision for Children and Young People	Not applicable	Major skate parks in Dewsbury

## Huddersfield

- 11.4 A summary of the main open space deficiencies that have been identified in the Huddersfield area are shown below in table 11.3.

**Table 11.3: Summary of the main open space deficiencies in Huddersfield**

Type of Open Space	Quantity Deficiencies	Accessibility Deficiencies
Parks and Recreation Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almondbury ward</li> <li>Ashbrow ward</li> <li>Newsome ward</li> </ul>	No major gaps
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crosland Moor and Netherton ward</li> <li>Lindley ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Huddersfield (site 20 ha or above)</li> <li>North Huddersfield (site 20 ha or above)</li> <li>Kirkheaton (site 20 ha or above)</li> </ul>
Amenity Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almondbury ward</li> <li>Crosland Moor ward</li> <li>Netherton ward</li> <li>Dalton ward</li> <li>Greenhead ward</li> <li>Lindley ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birkby</li> </ul>
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dalton ward</li> </ul>	No major gaps
Provision for Children and Young People	Not applicable	Major skate parks in North Huddersfield

## Kirklees Rural

11.5 A summary of the main open space deficiencies that have been identified in the Kirklees Rural area are shown below in table 11.4.

**Table 11.4: Summary of Open Space Deficiencies in the Kirklees Rural area**

Type of Open Space	Quantity Deficiencies	Accessibility Deficiencies
Parks and Recreation Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All wards</li> </ul>	No major gaps
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colne Valley ward</li> <li>Golcar ward</li> <li>Holme Valley North ward</li> <li>Holme Valley South ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skelmanthorpe (sites below and above 20 ha)</li> <li>Grange Moor (20 ha or above)</li> <li>Flockton (20 ha or above)</li> <li>Colne Valley (20 ha or above)</li> <li>Golcar (20 ha or above)</li> </ul>
Amenity Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colne Valley ward</li> <li>Denby Dale ward</li> <li>Golcar ward</li> <li>Holme Valley North ward</li> <li>Holme Valley South ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brockholes</li> <li>Clayton West</li> <li>Emley</li> <li>Honley</li> <li>Holmfirth</li> </ul>
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denby Dale ward</li> <li>Golcar ward</li> <li>Holme Valley North ward</li> <li>Holme Valley South ward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denby Dale</li> <li>Emley</li> <li>Honley</li> <li>Holmfirth</li> </ul>
Provision for Children and Young People	Not applicable	Major skate parks and MUGAs in the Kirkburton area, Golcar, Slaithwaite, Linthwaite.

## APPENDIX 1: OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENT SHEET & GUIDELINES

OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENT			OL Ref No.:	
Name of site			OL Class ID:	
Road name				
Primary type of open space		Sub typology		
Date				

Scarcity value	Score 1-5

Level of use	Score 1-5

Indices of Deprivation Ranking	Score 1-5

Space meets the needs of:	Tick	Comments
Elderly		
Juniors (under 12s)		
Teenagers		
Disabled		
Families		
Other .....		

Benefits	Tick if high		
Structural & landscape benefits		If yes, comment	
Ecological benefits		If yes, comment	
Educational benefits		If yes, comment	
Social inclusion & health benefits		If yes, comment	
Cultural & heritage benefits		If yes, comment	
Amenity benefits & a sense of place		If yes, comment	
Economic benefits		If yes, comment	
	<b>Tick</b>		
Environmental Designation		If yes, comment	
Educational programme in place		If yes, comment	
Registered 'friends of group' to the site		If yes, comment	

Comments

## OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines were used to complete the site assessment sheet:

**Scarcity value** - This relates to the context of the site and is determined by its proximity to other sites of the same type. Each site has been assigned a scarcity score as set out below and is based on the mean distance of the site to the nearest 5 sites. A score of 0 indicates the site is in close proximity to others and is not scarce whereas a score of 5 indicates the site is isolated from other sites of the same type and therefore has a high scarcity value.

	Scores					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Scarcity value	Site is not scarce					Site is scarce

Where there is another site of the same type nearby, this indicates no scarcity value and will score 0. Whereas as site that is not near another site of the same type will have a scarcity value and will score 5.

**Level of use** - This is the degree to which an open space, sport or recreation facility is used by people or wildlife (species).

To assess public access to the site, the site is scored from 0-5 to assess how well used the site is by people. The level of use is mainly determined through site observations but also through existing knowledge of the site, general appearance and upkeep and any existing site surveys that have already been carried out. Consideration has been given to whether the site is used for organised activities or events, such as football fixtures, festivals, local events, training or educational purposes. In some cases, there may be passive use of the site, i.e. people pass through the site along an existing footpath but do not use the site, or casual use, such as sitting, walking, dog walking or informal play.

For wildlife, consideration has been given to the extent to which the site is used by existing species from on-site observations. This is also informed by nature site designation, known presence of species and habitats of principal importance and information from the Council's mapping layers including bats, great crested newts, twite buffer zones and ancient woodland.

The level of use is ranked as follows:

	Ranking					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Level of use	No use	Poorly used		Reasonably used		Well used

**Meeting needs** – The assessment has considered if the site helps meet the need of the following groups of people:-

- Elderly – are there benches/seats on site
- Juniors (under 12s) – does the sites include facilities for children under 12, including kick about areas
- Teenagers – are there any facilities for older children , such as teen shelters, basketball pods
- Disabled – e.g. disabled access, raised beds at allotments
- Families – facilities such as picnic tables
- Other public/community needs – such as visitors to churchyards and cemeteries, use by community groups.

## **Benefits**

The wider benefits of open spaces have been evaluated, focusing on the following elements, and for the purposes of this study should be recorded where the benefits are high.

### **Structural and landscape benefits:**

A site with high structural and landscape benefits is a well located, high quality greenspace that helps define the identity and character of an area. It can form a green wedge which helps separate built-up areas and prevents the coalescence of settlements or acts as a landscape buffer area between existing housing and adjacent industrial development.

### **Ecological benefits:**

Sites have been assessed to identify if the site is high value in supporting biodiversity, providing habitats for wildlife or exhibiting geological features important for biodiversity. The international, national and local designated nature status, i.e. SSSI, SSI or Local Site has been considered. Consideration has been given to any protected or biodiversity species or habitats on site and the relevant mapping layers, including bats, great crested newts, twite buffer, ancient woodlands and Tree Preservation Order overlays have been consulted. Consideration has been given to whether the site allows for biodiversity connectivity with adjoining sites, e.g. stepping stones or part of a green corridor.

### **Education benefits:**

A site with high education benefits offers opportunities for people to see nature at work, the integration of historic buildings and features in the landscape and the influence of people on the natural heritage. In this respect, they can be seen as 'outdoor classrooms'. Consideration is given to whether sites contain facilities such as learning through play, ranger service, education centres, visitor centres, and interpretation boards. Also, sites may have an educational programme in place.

### **Social inclusion and health benefits:**

A site with high benefits for social inclusion and health is important in promoting civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging and well-being. It provides opportunities for people of all ages to undertake formal and informal recreation or to walk, cycle and ride within parks or along paths, bridleways and canal banks. Sites may also act as a community resource, used as a place for congregating and for holding community events. Examples include village greens, allotments, parks as areas to congregate and where events take place. Consideration is given to whether the site includes specific facilities to encourage

healthy lifestyles, such as trim trails, outdoor gyms, footpaths, cycle routes and informal football areas with mini-goal posts.

**Cultural and heritage benefits:**

A site with high cultural and heritage benefits provides a valued greenspace which has a long history and represents a link with the past, e.g. some historic parks and designed landscapes provide the setting for listed buildings and green spaces can contribute to the character of conservation areas. Greenspaces, civic spaces and sport and recreation facilities can also be high profile symbols of towns. Sites are assessed with consideration given to whether the site has cultural experiences available at the site, such as artwork, events or bandstand and heritage assets such as listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments.

**Amenity benefits and a 'sense of place':**

A greenspace, sport or recreation facility with high amenity benefits and 'sense of place' helps make the area, town or village an attractive place to live, which local people see as high quality, safe, well maintained and appealing. High value amenity spaces are generally visually attractive in appearance with pleasant views and are well maintained and managed.

Such greenspaces within housing developments help make one area different from another, help to create a specific neighbourhood or provide an important landmark.

**Economic benefits:**

A site with high economic benefits comprises a high quality greenspace or sport and recreation facility which helps promote economic development and regeneration. For example, well designed and maintained greenspaces can help to increase nearby property values and generate economic activity through events, festivals and tourism.

**Environmentally Designation:** Noted if the site is designated for its biodiversity or geodiversity, such as a Local Nature Reserve, a Local Wildlife Site, a Local Geological Site or biodiversity Site. The Council's mapping layers contain this information.

**Registered 'Friends of Group' site:** Noted if the site benefits from a Friends of Group.

**Comments:** Site comments and general observations.

## APPENDIX 2: ALLOTMENT QUALITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT SHEET

ALLOTMENT QUALITY CONIDITION ASSESSMENT				OLS ref:	
Name of site				OL Class ID:	
Road name					
Primary typology of open space		Allotments		Sub typology	
Date					

Physical access	Tick if yes	Access - social	Tick if yes
Public transport links/stops		Minimum entrance widths of 1.5m & suitable surface to allow for wheelchair access	
Safe crossing places		Directional signposts	

WELCOMING	1	2	3	4	5	Score (1-5)
<b>Main entrance</b>	Does not open onto safe/busy areas & no natural surveillance from roads, paths etc.		Opens onto reasonably safe/busy area with some natural surveillance from roads, paths etc.		Entrance opens onto safe/busy areas with natural surveillance from roads, paths etc.	
<b>Gradient &amp; value</b>	Steep slope (whole site)	Steep sloped area/s	Some irregular land	Gentle slopes	Flat (whole site)	
<b>Ramps &amp; guard rails</b>	No ramps/guard rails		Some ramps/guard rails, but some noticeable gaps		Adequate and appropriate number of guards and rails	
<b>Boundaries</b>	Site is next to a road without a boundary		Site is next to road with some boundary eg fence, wall etc or away from road & no boundary		Site located away from road with boundary eg fence, wall etc	
<b>Quality of boundaries (if applicable)</b>	Poor quality		Variable quality		Good condition	
<b>Controls to prevent illegal use</b>	There are no controls		Some controls, but some noticeable gaps		Adequate & appropriate no. of controls	
<b>Personal security</b>	Not overlooked	Overlooked by other land use	Overlooked by housing on one side	Overlooked by housing most sides	Overlooked by housing on every side	

Site problems	Tick if yes	Extent of problem using a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the worst)
Needles		
Motorbike/quads		
Glass		
Abandoned cars		
Fire damage		
Horse tracks		

SITE QUALITY	1	2	3	4	5	Score (1-5)
<b>Maintenance &amp; cleanliness</b>	General appearance is very poor. Litter, graffiti is considered a large problem	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent appearance with no litter/dog foul	
<b>Drainage</b>	The site is poorly drained (evidence of significant water pools)		Some evidence of water pools		The site is well drained (no evidence of water pools)	
<b>Hedgerows (Maintenance)</b>	Hedgerows not well maintained		Some hedgerows well maintained		Hedgerows well maintained	

Hedgerow (Trees)	Tick if applicable)
Trees are present	
Overgrown	
Managed	

	1	2	3	4	5	Score (1-5)
<b>Paths</b>	Poor surface quality with potholes and/or uneven paving. Unsuitable surface material. Unsuitable for all users.		Reasonable quality with some evidence of damage to surface and suitable for some users.		Good surface quality free from pot holes and even. Appropriate surface material. Suitable for a range of users including wheelchairs, pushchairs, elderly	

<b>Buildings &amp; artifacts (not toilets)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>					
Are there any buildings and artifacts on site							
If yes, please describe							
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Score (1-5)</b>	
<b>Maintenance</b>	Very poor condition - vandalism and graffiti	Poor condition - some evidence of vandalism and graffiti	Adequate - not in keeping with site heritage, little evidence of vandalism	Good condition - no evidence of graffiti or vandalism	Excellent - designed with relevance to site design. No graffiti etc.		

<b>SITE ENHANCEMENTS</b>	
<b>Allotments</b>	<b>Tick if present</b>
Sufficient disabled access	
Fresh water supply	
Room for expansion	
Toilet facilities	
Shelter	

### APPENDIX 3: OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENT SCORING & WEIGHTINGS

Assessment Criteria	Parks and recreation grounds	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotments
Scarcity Value	1	1	1	1
Level of use (observations only)	2	1	1	1
IMD Indices of Multiple Deprivation Rank	1	1	1	1
Space meets needs of Elderly	5	5	5	5
Space meets needs of Juniors	5	5	5	5
Space meets needs of Teenagers	5	5	5	5
Space meets needs of Disabled	5	5	5	5
Space meets needs of Families	5	5	5	5
Space meets needs of Others	5	5	5	5
Structural and landscape benefits	5	5	5	5
Ecological benefits	5	5	5	5
Educational benefits	10	5	5	5
Social inclusion and health benefits	5	5	5	10
Cultural and heritage benefits	5	5	5	5
Amenity benefits and sense of place	10	5	10	5
Economic benefits	5	5	5	5
Registered Friends of Group to the site	5	5	5	5
<b>Maximum Score</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>

Key:

	Weightings for scores (i.e. multiply score by this number)
	Actual score

## APPENDIX 4: ALLOTMENTS QUALITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT SCORING & WEIGHTINGS

Criteria	Assessment Criteria	Weighting
Welcoming	Main Entrance	1
	Gradient And Value	1
	Ramps and guard rails	1
	Boundaries	2
	Quality of Boundaries	2
	Controls to prevent illegal use	1
	Personal Security	1
Site Problems	Needles	-5
	Motorbike/quads	-5
	Glass	-5
	Abandoned cars	-5
	Fire Damage	-5
	Horse tracks	-5
Site Quality	Maintenance and Cleanliness	1
	Drainage	1
	Hedgerows - Maintenance	1
	Paths	1
	Buildings and artefacts on Site	1
Site Enhancement	Sufficient disabled access	5
	Freshwater supply	5
	Room for expansion	5
	Toilet Facilities	5
	Shelter	5
	<b>Max Quality Score from Site Visit</b>	<b>95</b>

## APPENDIX 5: SETTING DISTRICT WIDE OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

### Quantity Standards – Benchmarking with Other Local Authorities

Open Space Type	Local Authority Benchmarking		Kirklees District Wide Standard (ha per 1,000 population)
	Local Authority	Standard (ha per 1,000 population)	
Parks, Public Gardens & Recreation Grounds	Bradford	No standard	0.8 ha
	Calderdale	0.24-4.10 (subject to settlement)	
	Leeds	1.0	
	Oldham	0.26	
	Barnsley	No standard	
	York	0.18	
Sport, recreation & play	Wakefield	2.4	
Natural & semi-natural	Bradford	No standard	2.0 ha
	Calderdale	4.54-271.87 (subject to settlement)	
	Leeds	0.7 (urban areas) and 2.0 (other areas)	
	Wakefield	No standard	
	Oldham	1.95	
	Barnsley	No standard	
	York	2.13	
Amenity greenspace	Bradford	No standard	0.3 ha
	Calderdale	No standard	
	Leeds	0.45	
	Wakefield	See sports, recreation & play	
	Oldham	0.46	
	Barnsley	No standard	
	York	1.45	
Allotments	Bradford	No standard	0.5 ha per 1,000 households
	Calderdale	No standard	
	Leeds	0.24	
	Wakefield	0.2-0.25	
	Oldham	No standard	
	Barnsley	15 plots per 1,000 homes	
	York	0.29	
Children & young people	Bradford	No standard	No quantity standard
	Calderdale	0.03-0.08 (subject to settlement)	
	Leeds	2 facilities	
	Wakefield	0.3-0.4	
	Oldham	0.37 (children) 0.10 (young people)	
	Barnsley	No standard	
	York	0.48 (children) 0.21 (young people)	

Note that in some case different authorities use different categories to classify their open space.

## Setting Quantity Standards

<b>Existing Kirklees 2013 population</b> <i>(2012 based sub-national projections)</i>	428,100	<b>Existing no. of households (2013)</b> <i>(based on 2012 sub-national projections)</i>	176,152
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Type of Open Space	National Standard <i>(ha per 1,000 population)</i>	Kirklees UDP 1999 Standard <i>(ha per 1,000 population)</i>	Kirklees Open Space Study 2010 Standard <i>(ha per 1,000 population)</i>	Amount of Existing Provision <i>(ha)</i>	Standard of Existing Provision <i>(ha per 1,000 population)</i>	OS Demand Assessment Findings 2015 – Satisfaction with availability <i>(% of respondents)</i>	Recommended Kirklees Local Standard <i>(ha per 1,000 population)</i>
<b>Parks &amp; recreation grounds</b>	No	No	0.09 - 1.25	337.35	0.79	81% very or quite satisfied 11.1% neither satisfied or dissatisfied	0.8
<b>Amenity greenspace</b>	No	0.2-0.3	0.33 - 0.74	123.42	0.29	41.7% very or quite satisfied 21% no opinion	0.3
<b>Natural &amp; semi-natural greenspace</b>	2.0	No	0.78 – 8.10	863.8	2.02	75.5% very or quite satisfied	2.0
<b>Allotments</b>	0.5 ha per 1,000 households or 20 plots per 1,000 population	No	0.09 - 0.34	76.42	0.43 per 1,000 households	51.4% don't know/no opinion	0.5 ha per 1,000 households

## Accessibility Standards

<b>Neighbouring Authority Benchmarking</b>		
<b>Open Space Type</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Standard (ha per 1,000 population)</b>
<b>Parks and public gardens</b>	Bradford	400m of local park 1,200m of district or borough park
	Calderdale	400m of small local open space (0.04-1.0 ha) 600m of local park (1.0-3.0 ha) 1,200m of district park (>3.0 ha) 30 mins drive time of borough park
	Kirklees	400m of local park 1,200m of district park 2,400m of major park
	Leeds	720m
	Wakefield	250m of accessible greenspace (minimum of 0.2 ha) 450m of accessible greenspace (minimum of over 1.2 ha)
	Oldham	15 mins walk time 720m
<b>Parks and open spaces</b>	Barnsley (urban areas)	400m small local neighbourhood green space 800m of district green space 3,000m of borough green space 5,000m of regional/sub-regional green space
<b>Natural and semi-natural</b>	Bradford	120m of site up to 0.66 ha 1200m of site 0.66-1.0 ha 900m of site 1.0-10 ha
	Calderdale	400m of small local open space 0.04-1.0 ha 600m of site 1.0-3.0 ha 1,200m of site greater than 3.0 ha
	Kirklees	120m of site up to 0.66 ha 1200m of site 0.66-1.0 ha 900m of site 1.0-10 ha
	Leeds	720m 2km from 20 ha
	Wakefield	450m of natural areas over 2.0 ha 2km of natural areas over 20 ha 5km of natural areas over 100 ha
	Oldham	15 mins walk time 720m
	Barnsley (urban areas)	800m of minimum 2.0 ha site 2km of minimum 20 ha site 5km of minimum 100 ha site 10km of minimum 500 ha site
<b>Amenity greenspace</b>	Bradford	120m of site up to 0.66 ha 1200m of site 0.66-1.0 ha 900m of site 1.0-10 ha
	Calderdale	400m of site 0.04-1.0 ha 600m of site 1.0-3.0 ha 1,200m of site greater than 3.0 ha
	Kirklees	120m of site up to 0.66 ha 1200m of site 0.66-1.0 ha 900m of site 1.0-10 ha and/or greater than 10 ha
	Leeds	480m

	Wakefield	250m of accessible greenspace ( <i>minimum of 0.2 ha</i> ) 450m of accessible greenspace ( <i>minimum of over 1.2 ha</i> )
	Oldham	15 mins walk time 720m
	Barnsley	No standard
<b>Allotments</b>	Bradford	120m of site up to 0.66 ha 1200m of site 0.66-1.0 ha 900m of site 1.0-10 and/or greater than 10 ha
	Calderdale	400m of site 0.04-1.0 ha 600m of site 1.0-3.0 ha 1,200m of site greater than 3.0 ha
	Kirklees	Keep waiting lists to a minimum. Catchments used:- 240m of site of local significance (up to 0.66 ha) 1200m of site of neighbourhood significance 0.66-1.0 ha) 1800m of site of settlement significance (1.0-10 ha) 3200m of site of borough-wide significance (>10 ha)
	Leeds	960m
	Wakefield	No standard
	Oldham	No standard
	Barnsley (urban areas)	1,000m
<b>Children and young people</b>	Bradford	400m of a LEAP 1,000m of a NEAP 1,000m of a SEAP
	Calderdale	240m of a LEAP 600m of a NEAP
	Kirklees	400m of a LEAP 1,000m of a NEAP 1,000m of a SEAP
	Leeds	720m
	Wakefield	250m of informal play area 450m of equipped play area 2km of skateboard park
	Oldham	10 mins walk 480m
	Barnsley (urban areas)	400m of equipped play area 400m of a LEAP 1,000m of a NEAP 1,200m of youth facilities

## Setting Accessibility Standards

Type of Open Space	National Standard	Kirklees UDP 1999 Standard	Kirklees Open Space Study 2010 Standard	Demand Assessment Findings (2015) - % of respondents willing to travel to access type of space	Kirklees Standard
<b>Parks and recreation grounds</b>	No standard	No	400m of local park (< 2ha) 1,200m of district park (2.0-20 ha) 2,400m of major park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7.2% willing to walk 5-10 minutes</li> <li>• 12.4% willing to walk 11-15 min walk</li> <li>• 16.8% willing to walk over 15 minutes</li> <li>• 5.9 % willing to travel up to 10 minutes by transport</li> <li>• 23% willing to travel up to 30 minutes by transport</li> <li>• 28.4% willing to travel over 30 minutes journey time</li> </ul>	15 minute walk (720m)  and/or  30 minute travel time to a major park
<b>Amenity greenspace</b>	No standard	No	120m of up to 0.66 ha 1200m of 0.66-1.0 ha 900m of 1.0-10 ha and /or > 10 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18.9% willing to walk less than 5 minutes</li> <li>• 20.1% willing to walk 5-10 minutes</li> <li>• 12.9% willing to walk 11-15 minutes</li> <li>• 10% willing to walk over 15 minutes</li> <li>• 26.6% had no opinion</li> </ul>	10 minutes walk (480m)
<b>Natural and semi-natural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 800m of minimum 2.0 ha site</li> <li>• 2km of minimum 20 ha site</li> <li>• 5km of minimum 100 ha site</li> <li>• 10km of minimum 500 ha site</li> </ul>	No	120m of up to 0.66 ha 1200m 0.66-1.0 ha 900m of 1.0-10 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7% willing to walk 11-15 minutes</li> <li>• 13.9% willing to walk over 15 minutes</li> <li>• 3% willing to travel up to 30 mins by transport</li> <li>• 45.5% willing to travel over 30 minutes journey time</li> </ul>	15 minutes walk (720 m)  2km of minimum 20 ha site

<p><b>Allotments</b></p>	<p>No standard</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Keep waiting lists to a minimum.</p> <p>Catchments used:- 240m of up to 0.66 ha 1200m of 0.66-1.0 ha 1800m of 1.0-10 ha 3200m of site &gt; than 10 ha</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7.4% willing to walk 5-10 minutes</li> <li>• 6.1% willing to walk 11-15 minutes</li> <li>• 6.8% willing to walk over 15 minutes</li> <li>• 5.4% willing to travel up to 10 minutes by transport</li> <li>• 65.2% had no opinion</li> </ul>	<p>15 minutes walk (720 m)</p>
<p><b>Children and Young People (includes MUGAs)</b></p>	<p>No standard</p>	<p>5 mins or 400m of home</p>	<p>400m of a LEAP 1,000m of a NEAP 1,000m of a SEAP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.1% &lt;5 mins walk</li> <li>• 12.8% willing to walk 5-10 minutes</li> <li>• 11% willing to walk 11-15 minutes</li> <li>• 7% willing to walk over 15 minutes</li> <li>• 5.8% willing to travel up to 10 minutes by transport</li> <li>• 10.5% willing to travel up to 30 minutes by transport</li> <li>• 8.9% willing to travel up to 30 minutes by transport</li> <li>• 37.8% had no opinion</li> </ul>	<p>For Children’s Provision 15 minutes walk (720 m)</p> <p>Youth facilities 2km</p>