



Bath and North East Somerset

Open Space Assessment

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

September 2026

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Executive Summary

1. This Open Space Assessment provides the evidence base to support Bath & North East Somerset Council's emerging Local Plan to 2043 and establishes a framework for future open space provision, accessibility, and management across the district. The assessment has been undertaken in the context of significant planned growth, including approximately 22,000 new homes, and seeks to ensure that open spaces continue to support community wellbeing, biodiversity, climate resilience, recreation, and landscape character.

2. The main objectives for this assessment are listed below:

- Identify and map publicly accessible open space in Bath and North East Somerset;
- Identify provision of publicly accessible open space, local food growing space and provision for children and teenagers (both equipped designated play areas and informal play provision);
- Identify the percentage of households with access to open space;
- Map accessibility of open spaces using network analysis; and
- Set open space quantity and accessibility standards and provide recommendations for future open space needs in the proposed housing growth context.

3. The assessment reviews open space provision across four analysis areas: Bath, the Bristol to Bath Corridor, Rural Areas, and the Somer Valley. It identifies and maps all publicly accessible open spaces, assessing their quantity and accessibility, analyses local need, and develops updated standards for future provision.

4. The assessment shows that Bath and North East Somerset contains 643 open space sites covering approximately 1,939 hectares, of which 385 sites (1,301 hectares) are publicly accessible. Natural and semi-natural green spaces form the largest component of the network, accounting for more than 60% of accessible open space. Overall, the district currently provides 4.7 hectares of accessible open space per 1,000 residents, exceeding national benchmarks such as the Natural England and Fields in Trust standards.

5. This assessment recommends a new suite of quantity, accessibility and quality standards to inform the emerging Local Plan, development management decisions, and developer contributions. The standards shown below in **Table**

ES1.1 are intended to ensure there is no net loss of provision as the district grows to 2043, and to ensure open space forms a positive component of placemaking and creating healthy places to live.

Table ES1.1: Proposed open space standards

Typology	Minimum Size Threshold	Proposed Quantity Standards	Proposed Access Standards
Accessible open space	0.5 ha	4.7 ha per 1,000 population consisting of: ■ 0.3 ha amenity green space; ■ 1.3 ha parks, gardens and recreation grounds; and ■ 3.1 ha natural and semi-natural green space.	-
Accessible open space – doorstep	0.5 ha	-	200m
Accessible open space – local	2 ha	-	300m
Accessible open space – neighbourhood	10 ha	-	1,000m
Accessible open space – wider neighbourhood	20 ha	-	2,000m
Accessible open space – district	100 ha	-	5,000m
Provision for children and teenagers – equipped designated play	0.1 ha	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	1,000m
Provision for children and teenagers – informal play (including Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and pump tracks)	N/A	0.3 ha per 1,000 population	Distributed throughout a development, larger facilities such as MUGA or pump tracks within 700m
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.1 ha	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	1,200m

6. Despite the strength of overall open space provision, the assessment identifies areas and typologies with levels of provision lower than the proposed standards. Parks, gardens and recreation grounds, amenity green space, provision for children and teenagers, and allotments and community food growing sites all fall below the proposed standards, with informal play provision particularly limited across the district.

7. The accessibility assessment highlights that while many residents can reach some form of open space within walking distance, access to specific typologies varies considerably. Deficiencies are concentrated in parts of Bath, Keynsham, Midsomer Norton, Peasedown St John, Paulton and Timsbury. Needs analysis identified these locations, together with more deprived communities, areas of higher population density, and neighbourhoods with limited private garden space, as priorities for future investment.

8. Looking ahead, planned development is projected to increase the district population to approximately 250,000 by 2043. Without additional provision, the quantity of accessible open space would fall from 4.7 to 3.76 hectares per 1,000 population, resulting in worsening deficits across most open space typologies. Provision for children and teenagers would drop by 0.02 hectares per 1,000 population and the provision of allotments and community food growing sites will fall by 0.04 hectares per 1,000 population, demonstrating the importance of securing new open spaces alongside growth.

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the assessment of open space provision in Bath and North East Somerset (hereafter referred to as the district), proposed open space standards for Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES), and recommendations for addressing open space needs.

1.2 The report is intended to provide the evidence required to inform open space policy in the new Local Plan, open space standards for the district and major development, and provide the evidence to inform individual site requirements, and strategic projects that can deliver the most benefit. For example:

- The type and size of open space new development will need to provide;
- The need for policies to embed the requirements in the Local Plan;
- Evidence of need, to secure funding for new open spaces; and
- How and where strategic projects can deliver the most benefit.

Background

1.3 B&NES is working on a new Local Plan, which plans for new development to 2043. The new Local Plan will accommodate a significant increase in identified housing need, delivering 22,000 new homes over the Plan period which will need to be supported by appropriate infrastructure provision.

1.4 Up-to-date, robust assessments of open space are required to support planning policies. Information gained from the assessments are used to determine open space provision needs, and, subsequently, plans should seek to accommodate these needs.

1.5 The previous open space assessment was published in 2015 as part of a Green Space Strategy [\[See reference 1\]](#), This report refers to this previous work where relevant.

Bath and North East Somerset landscape context

1.6 The district covers an area of 35,112 hectares and stretches from the picturesque lakes of the Chew Valley in the west to the World Heritage City of Bath and the Wiltshire border to the east.

1.7 Much of the district falls within nationally protected landscapes including the Mendip Hills and Cotswolds National Landscapes and the City of Bath World Heritage Site. Green Belt covers approximately 25,000 hectares, which is just over 70% of the total area [\[See reference 2\]](#).

1.8 The City of Bath World Heritage Site (WHS) is internationally recognised, and although this designation primarily relates to the Georgian city, the interaction of the landscape within and around Bath are also important. The landscape setting of the city is cited as part of the Outstanding Universal Values of the designation, with its open green character and complex landform which contains the city within a 'bowl'. Also included in the attributes of the WHS are the views both within the city and to the hills and ridges of the surrounding landscape.

1.9 The eastern part of the district lies within the nationally designated Cotswolds National Landscape which is popular for recreation. The special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape include the limestone geology, Cotswold escarpment and high wolds, big skies, and long-distance views. Other special qualities relate to the Cotswold stone vernacular, ecologically important habitats, and tranquillity of the area.

1.10 A small area in the west of the district lies within the Mendip Hills National Landscape. The special qualities of the Mendip Hills National Landscape include the distinctive limestone ridges and scarp slopes, the limestone geology including caves and aquifers, ecologically important habitats, and the sparse population, providing a tranquil, natural-feeling landscape.

Assessment objectives

1.11 The main objectives for this assessment are listed below:

- Identify and map publicly accessible open space in Bath and North East Somerset;
- Identify provision of publicly accessible open space, local food growing space and provision for children and teenagers (both equipped designated play areas and informal play provision);
- Identify the percentage of households with access to open space;
- Map accessibility of open spaces using network analysis; and
- Identify future open space needs in the proposed housing growth context.

1.12 This assessment does not consider formal sports provision as these open spaces are captured within the B&NES Playing Pitch Strategy. Nor does the assessment propose local standards for quality and value. This assessment sets out guidance relating to the assessment of the quality and value of open spaces that could be used to create a set of criteria for assessing and defining standards for open spaces in the district.

Key definitions and terminology

1.13 Key definitions and terminology used in the assessment are detailed below. This is not a comprehensive glossary but a guide to some of the more specific language and terms used throughout.

Open space

1.14 This assessment uses the following in combination as reference for defining open space:

- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 [\[See reference 3\]](#) defines open space as “any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground”.
- The 2024 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as amended February 2025 [\[See reference 4\]](#) defines open space as “All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity”.
- The National Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) [\[See reference 5\]](#) defines open space as “all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure”.

Accessible open space

1.15 An accessible open space is an open space that is free of barriers and restrictions to public access. These barriers can include membership requirements and entry fees [\[See reference 6\]](#). Time restrictions and opening hours are not considered a barrier to access.

1.16 One of the main objectives of this assessment is the analysis of the provision of accessible open space.

1.17 As set out below, accessible open space is a distinct term from Accessible Greenspace with the two terms not being interchangeable.

Green infrastructure

1.18 The NPPF [\[See reference 7\]](#) defines green infrastructure (GI) as “A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity. It includes parks and gardens, green spaces, green corridors such as rivers and canals, sustainable drainage systems, features for species, street trees and community orchards”.

Greenspace

1.19 Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Framework 2023 (NEGIF) [\[See reference 8\]](#) states that there are many definitions of greenspace in use. The definition of greenspace for the NEGIF is as follows:

- “Greenspace is an area of vegetation that is set within a landscape or townscape. Greenspace can include blue space (i.e. lakes, rivers and wetlands) and may include built environment features.
- Greenspace is not necessarily accessible to the public e.g. greenspaces include allotments (that are normally locked and only accessible to key holders), and golf courses (which may require club membership and or payment of a fee to access). Such greenspace has a significant role to play in the overall provision of greenspaces for recreation and enjoyment.
- High-quality greenspace is designed and managed to deliver its intended functions and to meet defined needs. Greenspace may be urban or rural.”

Accessible greenspace

1.20 Accessible Greenspace is a specific definition in the NEGIF of a greenspace that is specifically provided for public access; or one to which the public would usually expect to access; or one over which there is a public right to open access and deemed likely to be accessible to the public at any reasonable time, free to entry and available for a range of pastimes. The NEGIF emphasises that by categorising an

area as accessible greenspace, there is an associated obligation that every reasonable effort should be made to ensure the greenspace complies with the requirements of the Equality Act 2020.

Open space typologies

1.21 Open space typologies identified in the district include:

- **Amenity green space:** Often small-scale areas close to home or work, but also larger general purpose open space offering opportunities for informal activities, e.g. kick about, or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. Amenity green spaces are open to free and spontaneous use by the public, but neither laid out nor managed for a specific function such as a park, public playing field or recreation ground; nor managed as a natural or semi-natural habitat. These areas of open space will be of varied size, but are likely to share the following characteristics:
 - Unlikely to be physically demarcated by walls or fences;
 - Predominantly lain down to (mown) grass;
 - Unlikely to have identifiable entrance points (unlike parks);
 - They may have shrub and tree planting, and occasionally formal planted flower beds; and
 - They may occasionally have other recreational facilities and fixtures (such as play equipment or ball courts).

Only amenity green spaces of 0.5 hectares and above have been included in this assessment (including the consideration of access standards) as any space under this size has been deemed to offer little in the way of functionality.

- **Natural and semi-natural green space:** Includes publicly accessible Local Nature Reserves, woodlands, country parks, urban forests, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water and wastelands. These provide opportunities to access nature, wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and environmental education awareness.
- **Parks and gardens:** Accessible, high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. More multi-functional than other open space, offering space for quiet relaxation as well as a range of amenities and activities for visitors. These include Millenium Greens, urban parks and formal gardens.
- **Recreation grounds:** Fully accessible opportunities for formal and informal sport and physical recreation. This typology may be less formal in character and include fewer natural habitats than the parks and gardens typology. The use of

these sites tends to be focussed on physical recreation. This assessment focuses on the open space function of recreation grounds, and this typology does not include sites with formal sports pitches.

- Provision for children and teenagers: Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people. This includes equipped designated play areas and informal play provision.
- Allotments and community food growing sites: Opportunities for the community to grow their own produce.
- Cemeteries and religious grounds: Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.
- Green corridors: Green links between areas, free of motorised traffic, offering opportunities for walking, cycling, and horse riding for leisure or travel purposes. These include towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, and disused railway lines.
- Outdoor sports facilities: Facilities which provide opportunities for participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics and water sports.

Standards

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

- Quantity standard: The quantity standard refers to the amount of open space available compared to the population. It is usually expressed in hectares per 1,000 of the population. This may also be referred to as a capacity standard.
- Accessibility standard: The accessibility standard sets out how far people may be expected to travel to access open spaces. It may be expressed as a straight-line distance (in metres or kilometres) or as a travel time (in minutes) based on the road and path network. This may also be referred to as a proximity, or size-proximity standard.
- Quality standard: The quality standard sets out expectations for the condition and functionality of open spaces. It is often divided into value (the functionality of and facilities within an open space) and quality (the condition and maintenance of these features). As discussed previously, testing of this standard was outside the scope of this assessment but guidance to inform the development of locally derived standards is provided.

1.23 The Accessible Greenspace Standard (AGS) is an update of the original Accessible Natural Green Space Standard (ANGSt) developed by English Nature and is one of the five Headline Green Infrastructure Standards included in the NEGIF. The Accessible Greenspace Standard covers a broader range of greenspace than the original ANGSt, while retaining a focus on accessible natural greenspace.

Super Output Areas

1.24 Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAS) and Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAS) are geographical areas used for the Office for National Statistics for census statistics.

Structure of this assessment

1.25 This chapter has introduced the assessment and the approach taken. The remainder of the assessment is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2: Policy Context** – outlines the planning policy and strategic context within which the open space assessment has been undertaken.
- **Chapter 3: Identifying Local Need** – provides detail on the local context and identifies local needs for open spaces in the district.
- **Chapter 4: Open Space Assessment Methodology** – sets out the approach for the open space assessment.
- **Chapter 5: Quantity Assessment** – outlines current open space provision, proposed quantity standards, and the findings of the quantity assessment based on those standards.
- **Chapter 6: Accessibility Assessment** – outlines accessibility standards, the findings of the accessibility assessment based on those standards.
- **Chapter 7: Quality and Value Criteria** – provides guidance relating to the assessment of the quality and value of open spaces.
- **Chapter 8: Future Recommendations** – identifies future recommendations for open space provision in the district.

Chapter 2

Policy Context

2.1 This assessment of open space quantity and accessibility has been developed in the context of the national, regional, and local policy agendas and takes account of guidance in respect of setting standards for open space.

National policy context

National Planning Policy Framework

2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [\[See reference 9\]](#) sets out the government's planning policies for England. It includes requirements for assessing open space, highlighting the importance of incorporating open space, GI and sports provision in the development of local plans. A revised version of the NPPF and other changes to the planning system has been out for consultation between December 2025 to March 2026 [\[See reference 10\]](#). Relevant policy for this open space assessment from the current 2024 Framework is summarised below with any proposed changes in the draft NPPF also identified.

NPPF (2024)

2.3 Paragraphs 96 and 98 require that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places; referencing safe and accessible GI, sports facilities and high-quality public space as a means to achieving this. Emphasis is placed on positive planning for the provision and resilience of shared spaces and community facilities, such as sports venues and open spaces.

2.4 Paragraph 103 states that “access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change”. The paragraph also specifies that up-to-date, robust assessments of open space will be required to support planning policies. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine open space provision needs, and, subsequently, “plans should seek to accommodate” these needs.

2.5 Paragraph 104 outlines circumstances in which open space can be developed for different uses. It sets out that existing open space 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 benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

2.6 Paragraph 106 provides a mechanism by which local authorities can protect some open spaces under a 'Local Green Space' designation. It is stipulated that areas under this designation should be managed in accordance with policies consistent with those for the Green Belt.

2.7 Paragraph 188 states that a strategic approach to plan making should be undertaken to ensure that, within the plan area, networks of habitats and GI are maintained and enhanced. This approach should also be taken when planning for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

Draft NPPF (2025)

2.8 The draft NPPF, recently out for consultation, has a different structure to previous frameworks and is instead presented in a policy-based structure. The draft Framework proposes planning system reform which focuses on speeding up housing delivery with clearer rules. Relevant updates to open space provision and assessment include:

- An overarching social and environmental objective that highlights the importance of supporting strong and healthy communities by creating accessible, safe, and well-designed open spaces that reflect current and future needs and that protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment.
- Chapter 16 Promoting healthy communities states the following policies:
 - Policy HC1 – Planning for healthy communities: States that local standards for outdoor recreational land should be set and should aim to secure a connected network of high-quality, inclusive and accessible opportunities as part of the wider network of greenspace provision. Standards should draw upon relevant national standards and best practice, tailoring these as necessary to local circumstances and evidence.
 - Policy HC3 – Community facilities and public service infrastructure serving new development: States that new developments giving rise to significant

numbers of additional people, proposals should include improvements to infrastructure through direct provision or off-site improvements.

- Policy HC4 – Proposals for new and improved community facilities and public service infrastructure: Highlights that where appropriate local planning authorities and developers should engage with local communities in the design proposals where new or improved facilities for play are involved.
- Policy HC7 – Development affecting existing recreation facilities: Development should not result in loss of open space, sports or recreation facilities unless the space is demonstrated to be surplus, or equivalent or better replacement provision is provided, or the development provides alternative recreation benefits that outweigh the loss.
- Policy HC8 – Development affecting Local Green Space: Development on Local Green Space should be treated similarly to Green Belt policy (with some exclusions).
- Chapter 19 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment includes policies that aim to drive nature recovery and contribute to wider environmental outcomes. Relevant policies include:
 - Policy N1 – Identifying environmental opportunities and safeguards: States that development plans should safeguard and enhance the natural environment by using relevant evidence e.g. Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of landscapes and set standards for GI provision.
 - Policy N2 – Improving the natural environment: States that development proposals should conserve natural features of visual, historic or nature conservation value and use GI to secure multiple benefits e.g. biodiversity, pollution management.

National Planning Practice Guidance

2.9 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) [\[See reference 11\]](#) provides further detail on the development and implementation of policies within the NPPF. Guidance on the natural environment and open space is provided as described below.

Natural environment

2.10 This section of the PPG highlights GI as a network of natural capital assets (including parks and open space, woodlands, allotments, etc.) that provide multiple environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Guidance is provided

regarding the use of GI in planning, including how GI can be considered in planning decisions and examples of how GI can help in the delivery of specific goals, such as:

- Building a strong economy;
- Achieving well-designed places;
- Promoting healthy and safe communities;
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment; and
- Mitigating climate change.

Open space, sport and recreation facilities, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Local Green Space

2.11 This section of the PPG emphasises that planning authorities and developers should have regard for the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area. The document defines open space as follows “open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure”.

2.12 Guidance covers how open space should be incorporated into planning, including signposting to information surrounding needs assessment, local PRoW networks and Local Green Space Designation. The guidance also advises that authorities and developers refer to Sport England Guidance when assessing the need for sports and recreation facilities, and that they may need to consult Sport England where development has the potential to impact such facilities.

Environment Plan (2018) & Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)

2.13 The 2018 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) **[See reference 12]** outlines the strategic direction behind the Environment Act 2021, including long-term environmental improvement targets. The 25YEP also outlines several actions that relate to delivering social benefits through the provision of greenspace. Chapter three of the 25YEP is dedicated to the importance of connecting people with the environment, recognising that this can improve health and wellbeing. Greenspaces are noted for their role in providing health and wellbeing benefits and economic benefits.

2.14 Additionally, the 25YEP commits to establishing a national Green Infrastructure Framework and creating a network of ‘nature recovery areas’. The plan embeds the principle of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) into development practices. BNG is a mandatory approach that requires development projects to demonstrate an environmental enhancement by at least 10%.

2.15 The 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) [\[See reference 13\]](#) is the government’s first update to the 25YEP. It builds on the original vision, detailing how the government will collaborate with landowners, communities, and businesses to achieve environmental goals. The EIP identifies actions to support nature recovery, reduce pollution, mitigate climate change, and promote sustainable resource use. It also outlines specific government support for habitat creation, sustainable urban drainage systems that serve multiple functions, and accessible natural spaces near where people live and work.

2.16 These initiatives are accompanied by interim targets to track progress. Goal 10: ‘Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment’ includes the specific target to ensure everyone lives within 15 minutes’ walk of a green or blue space.

2.17 The EIP emphasises the importance of sustained, long-term efforts to enhance both the environment and people’s quality of life. A central mechanism for delivering these improvements is the planning system, which incorporates BNG into development processes. The plan also aims to increase public access to high-quality green spaces:

“This Environmental Improvement Plan supports our levelling up goals, including how we will improve the equality of access and quality of green space in over 100 neighbourhoods across the UK, and align our planning system with the priorities in this document.”

Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (2023)

2.18 The Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework 2023 (NEGIF) [\[See reference 14\]](#) supports the government’s commitments outlined in the 25YEP. The Framework includes 15 core principles, headline Green Infrastructure Standards, a Green Infrastructure Design Guide, process journeys, case studies, an online Green Infrastructure mapping tool with a user guide, and a monitoring and evaluation strategy.

2.19 The NEGIF introduces voluntary Green Infrastructure Standards designed to help local authorities align with both national and local planning policies. These standards differentiate between those intended for major new developments and those applicable at a wider, area-based scale. Most relevant to the development of the Open Space Assessment is the Accessible Greenspace Standard, which includes:

- **Size and proximity criteria (accessibility):** The headline accessibility criteria are intended to ensure access to green and blue spaces close to home. This is defined as being within the access buffer of at least one doorstep OR local space, AND a neighbourhood space. Access buffers for different sizes of greenspace are shown in **Table 2.1** below.
- **Capacity criteria (quantity):** Local authorities have at least 3 hectares of publicly accessible greenspace per 1,000 population, and there is no net loss or reduction in accessible greenspace per 1,000 population at an area-wide scale. Local authorities specify capacity targets for all major residential development informed by a local accessible greenspace baseline, and considering local needs, opportunities and constraints. The NEGIF also provides an Urban Nature Recovery Standard, which proposes that local authorities provide 1 hectare of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) per 1,000 population (for nature conservation and quiet enjoyment).
- **Quality criteria:** Accessible greenspace meets the Green Flag Award criteria and best practice in accessibility for all within the Sensory Trust’s By All Reasonable Means: Least restrictive access to the outdoors guide.

Table 2.1: Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Framework size and access criteria

Hierarchy	Minimum Size	Buffer Size
Doorstep	0.5 ha	200m
Local	2.0 ha	300m
Neighbourhood	10.0 ha	1,000m
Wider neighbourhood	20.0 ha	2,000m
District	100.0 ha	5,000m
Sub-regional	500.0 ha	10,000m

Fields in Trust Standards

2.20 Fields in Trust (FiT) is an independent charity which aims to protect and support parks and open spaces for people. This includes working with landowners, communities and policy makers to champion parks and open spaces and the benefits they provide. They also promote the importance of local and national level protection for these spaces. FiT currently safeguards over 2,500 sites covering 11,331 hectares of land, including formal and informal parkland, playgrounds, and playing fields [\[See reference 15\]](#)

2.21 FiT guidance, first published in the 1930s was updated in 2015 and again in 2024 [\[See reference 16\]](#) recommends quantity standards for open space, outdoor sports, and play space expressed as hectares per 1,000 population as shown in **Table 2.2**.

2.22 The total open space requirement is 3.20 hectares of open space per 1,000 of the population, which is equal to 32 square metres per person, with a 10-minute walking time for access to these spaces recommended. The open space standard is divided into:

- Parks and gardens (for example, urban parks and squares, country parks, regional parks, forest parks, and formal gardens): A minimum of 0.80 hectares per 1,000 people (8 metres squared per person).
- Amenity green space (for example, informal recreation spaces, communal green spaces in and around housing, village greens, urban commons, allotments and growing spaces and other incidental spaces which may include areas of hard spaces as well as green spaces): A minimum of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 people (6 metres squared per person).
- Natural and semi-natural (for example, woodland, scrub, grassland, heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water and open access land): A minimum of 1.8 hectares per 1,000 people (18 metres squared per person).

2.23 The total play space requirement is 0.55 hectares of play space per 1,000 of the population, which is equal to 5.5 square metres per person. The play standard is divided into:

- Equipped designated play areas: A minimum of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 of the population (2.5 square metres per person). This provision includes the following play types and distance from home access guidelines:
 - Local Areas of Play (LAPs) within 100 metres;
 - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) within 400 metres; and

- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPS) within 1,000 metres walking distances from homes.
- Informal play provision: A minimum of 0.30 hectares per 1,000 of the population (3 square metres per person) distributed throughout a development, larger facilities such as MUGA or pump tracks within 700 metres walking distance from homes.

2.24 The total outdoor sports requirement is 1.6 hectares per 1,000 of the population, which is equal to 16 square metres per person and should be within 1,200 metres walking distance from homes. The outdoor sport standard is divided into:

- 1.2 hectares per 1,000 of the population of sport pitches (12 square metres per person); and
- 0.40 hectares per 1,000 of the population of courts, greens, tracks, trails or sports equipment (4 square metres per person).

Table 2.2: Total Fields in Trust quantity standards

Type	Standard
Open space	3.2 ha per 1,000 of the population
Play space	0.55 ha per 1,000 of the population
Outdoor sports	1.6 ha per 1,000 of the population

Environment Act (2021)

2.25 The Environment Act [\[See reference 17\]](#) sets out provisions to make targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment. It requires the government to establish clear targets that support transformative change and promote a landscape-scale, nature-led recovery approach.

2.26 The Act identifies four key priority areas: water, air quality, biodiversity, and resource efficiency, including waste reduction. Additionally, it introduces BNG requirements and places a duty on local authorities to review all nature conservation policies at least once every five years.

National Design Guide (2021)

2.27 The National Design Guide [\[See reference 18\]](#) sets out the characteristics of well-designed places and demonstrates what good design means in practice. It forms

part of the government's collection of Planning Practice Guidance. The guide recognises the role of open spaces in well-designed places. Section Nature 1, Paragraphs 92 to 95, sets out guidance in relation to open space. This includes that open spaces should be high-quality and adaptable to remain fit for use over time (including through well-considered maintenance and management regimes).

2.28 The Design Guide notes that open spaces should include public, shared and private outdoor spaces. These should incorporate a range of sizes and locations, with natural and designed features, facilities to suit a range of needs, supporting formal and informal play and exercise. In addition, it states that considerations including drainage, ecology, shading, recreation, food production and contribution to BNG should all be considered within open space design.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

2.29 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) [\[See reference 19\]](#) provides a statutory framework for public access to the countryside and enhances the protection of the natural environment. The act is split into five main parts, most relevant to the Open Space Assessment is:

- Part I: Access to the countryside – establishes the “Right to Roam” and defines where and how it applies. It gives the public a statutory right of access to walk on ‘registered access land’ or ‘open access land’ without having to stay on marked paths. This includes mountains, moors, heaths, downs, and registered common land in England and Wales. Access is limited to on-foot access.
- Part II: Public Rights of Way – the Act introduced measures to modernise and clarify the network of footpaths and bridleways. Section 60 sets a statutory duty for every local highway authority to prepare and publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) to assess how well footpaths, bridleways, byways and cycle tracks meet current and future needs, provide recreational opportunities, and are accessible to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility challenges.

Regional context

2.30 Bath and North East Somerset is part of various regional strategies, with the unitary authority being one of the members of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (WECA), comprising Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, and South Gloucestershire councils.

WECA Spatial Development Strategy

2.31 The Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) will be a comprehensive plan to guide how the West of England will grow until 2060 and will consider how to deliver homes in the right places, what roads, schools and hospitals might be needed, how to support local jobs and businesses, and how to protect nature and prepare for climate change.

2.32 WECA established a Strategic Planning Board (SPB) to bring together the Mayor and leaders of the four councils to take forward work on the SDS and will act as the statutory decision-making group.

WECA Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan 2023

2.33 The WECA Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan 2023 outlines the WECA's response to the climate and ecological emergencies [\[See reference 20\]](#). It focuses on achieving net-zero carbon by 2030 and reversing the decline in nature. Regarding open space provision, the Action Plan is particularly relevant for its ambitions to create new spaces for nature and wildlife, increase tree canopy cover, restore habitats, and improve the resilience of natural spaces to extreme weather. It underscores the need for "nature-based solutions" to manage flood risks and urban cooling.

WECA Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030

2.34 The Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy (JGIS) provides a strategic framework for the West of England authorities to secure a high-quality, multi-functional GI network [\[See reference 21\]](#). It identifies Green Infrastructure Outcomes and Principles and details existing GI assets and the future strategic approach. The JGIS emphasises that GI is critical infrastructure, equal in importance to transport and utilities, and sets the stage for cross-boundary collaboration to mitigate the impacts of development and climate change.

2.35 The JGIS is endorsed by B&NES, together with the WECA, Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire councils, and was a key driver for the Green Infrastructure Framework for Bath and North East Somerset. B&NES has a commitment to work in partnership to deliver the eight key outcomes and the Action Plan.

2.36 During the time of its creation, the approach taken in the JGIS was used as a pilot for the "National Framework of Green Infrastructure Standards", now known as

the Natural England Green Infrastructure Standards, highlighting the region's alignment with the now nationally recognised standards.

WECA Local Nature Recovery Strategy

2.37 There is a single Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) covering the unitary authority areas of Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, and North Somerset [See reference 22]. The LNRS sets local priorities for nature recovery and maps 'focus areas' where action to help nature will have the greatest impact, to better target funding and resources for nature recovery. An online toolkit has also been produced to provide easy access to LNRS priorities and recommended actions.

2.38 The LNRS has six themes under which priorities are organised, including 'build connected nature networks that are resilient to climate change' and 'connecting people to nature'. The priorities in the LNRS highlight the importance of:

- New and existing development and infrastructure making a positive contribution to wildlife;
- Nature being commonly used to help towns and cities adapt to climate change, including heat and flooding;
- More opportunities for local food growing, including allotments, community orchards and local farms; and
- Creating more nature-rich space in towns and cities to connect people with nature.

WENP Nine Priority Programmes

2.39 West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) has agreed landscape-scale priority programmes reflecting the priorities set out in the LNRS, which will be used to enable investment in nature recovery across the West of England [See reference 23]. Each programme is informed by the West of England's LNRS. The priority programmes that are (at least partly) in Bath and North East Somerset are:

- The Bathscape area (the landscape surrounding Bath);
- Bristol-Bath Avon Corridor;
- Chew Valley;
- Avon Corridor;

- Cotswolds Scarp (partly);
- Congresbury Yeo (partly); and
- Mendip Hills (partly).

Forest of Avon Plan 2026-2050 Growing together and shaping our future: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England

2.40 The Forest of Avon Plan [\[See reference 24\]](#) is the long-term Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England and North Somerset. It builds on the original 2021 strategy and sets out a vision and targets to 2050 for expanding, managing and connecting trees, woodlands and wider wooded habitats across the region.

2.41 The Plan aims to:

- Increase and improve tree and woodland cover across the region;
- Support nature recovery, climate resilience, public health and the economy;
- Create conditions where trees, woodlands and associated habitats can thrive; and
- Deliver benefits through strong partnerships between local authorities, landowners, communities, charities and businesses.

2.42 The Plan sets an aspiration to substantially increase tree cover through:

- Increasing canopy cover to 21.7% (approximately 9,200 additional hectares);
- Bringing 2,500 hectares of woodland into effective management;
- Engaging 25,000 people directly in woodland and tree-related activities; and
- Achieving a 50:50 split between public and private funding.

WECA Growth Strategy 2025

2.43 While primarily an economic document, the WECA Growth Strategy 2025 recognises that a high-quality natural environment is a crucial factor for attracting investment and a skilled workforce, as well as providing resilience to the built environment against climate change [\[See reference 25\]](#). Objective 5: Making the West of England the home for green jobs and growth, emphasises the importance of working with natural assets, nature-based solutions, and GI to create climate-resilient places and achieve the region's green growth ambitions. It highlights that well-

maintained open spaces and a robust GI network are vital for productive areas, ensuring that economic development does not come at the expense of the region's environmental assets.

WENP Nature and Health Strategy 2023

2.44 The WENP Nature and Health Strategy 2023 establishes a direct policy link between the quality of the natural environment and the health and wellbeing of the population [\[See reference 26\]](#). It advocates Green Social Prescribing, in which open spaces serve as venues for health interventions. The strategy recommends that open space audits consider not just the physical presence of land, but its health-giving qualities, such as tranquillity, safety, and inclusivity for those with disabilities or long-term health conditions.

Bristol Avon Catchment Plan 2022-2027

2.45 Produced by the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, the Bristol Avon Catchment Plan 2022-2027 sets out the Partnership's aims and actions on the water environment [\[See reference 27\]](#). It aims to enhance enjoyment and connection with the water environment, improve water quality, restore biodiversity, and adapt and build resilience to climate change. Actions include tackling pollution from urban runoff and physical modifications to rivers, and it promotes the importance of GI and woodlands as opportunities to mitigate rising water temperatures, provide sustainable drainage, and restore aquatic habitats.

Joint Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020

2.46 The Joint Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2020 focuses on the network of footpaths, bridleways, and cycle tracks that connect open spaces [\[See reference 28\]](#). A key objective is to ensure the network is fit for a modern, diverse range of users, including horse riders and cyclists, and that missing links are addressed through new development contributions.

2.47 The ROWIP recognises the importance of open space for recreation and aims to ensure that footpaths and bridleways provide links between settlements and nearby open and greenspaces, allowing people to walk, cycle or ride to them without needing a car. The ROWIP also emphasises the multiple benefits open spaces provide for health, wellbeing and access to nature.

Local context

Emerging Local Plan

2.48 At the time of writing, B&NES is in the process of developing a new Local Plan, of which this document will form part of the evidence. The Local Plan will establish the planning framework for the district up to 2043. It will contain a vision, strategy and policies to guide and manage how the district grows and changes over the next 15 to 20 years, and how planning applications for new development are decided.

Neighbourhood Plans

2.49 Adopted Neighbourhood Plans aim to protect and enhance local green spaces, parks, and natural environments [\[See reference 29\]](#). They provide opportunities for local communities to shape policies for parks, recreation, and environmental protection, ensuring that new development maintains or improves access to open spaces. Across both adopted and proposed plans, the overarching goal is to balance development with the protection and enhancement of the local natural and recreational environment, reflecting local priorities while adhering to the wider district and national planning frameworks.

Bath & North East Somerset Green Space Strategy 2015-2029

2.50 The Green Space Strategy (GSS, 2015-2029) [\[See reference 30\]](#) provided a robust assessment of needs and deficiencies in open spaces to inform policies within the B&NES Placemaking Plan (2017). It established local provision standards and created an evidence base to aid implementation of the policies and the provision of open spaces during the Placemaking Plan period. The GSS defined play space within two categories:

- Play space for children
- Play space for youth

2.51 Play space for children is considered to be equipped areas of play catering for children up to 12 years old. Play space for youth is considered to be informal recreation opportunities for 13 to 16/ 17 age group, which might include skate parks, basketball courts and MUGAs.

2.52 The standards for open space are summarised in **Table 2.3** below:

Table 2.3: GSS open space standards

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Allotments	0.3 ha per 1,000 population	960m or 20 minutes' walk
Amenity green space	0.3 ha per 1,000 population	600m or 12-13 minutes' walk
Parks and recreation grounds	1.3 ha per 1,000 population	600m or 12-13 minutes' walk
Play space (children)	0.05 ha per 1,000 population	480m or 10 minutes' walk
Play space (youth)	0.03 ha per 1,000 population	600m or 12-13 minutes' walk
Natural green space	1.3 ha per 1,000 population	ANGSt and Woodland Trust for analysing existing provision
Community growing space	-	-
Historic parks and gardens	-	-
Churchyards and cemeteries	-	-
Education	-	-

2.53 The GSS identified deficiencies and surplus in the quantity, access and quality of facilities across the district, finding that:

- There was an insufficient supply of youth play space across all area profiles;
- There was insufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds across all area profiles with the exception of Bathavon, which is the area with sufficient supply of most open space typologies (with the exception of youth and children's play space); and
- All area profiles have a deficiency in at least two open space typologies.

Green Infrastructure Framework for Bath and North East Somerset

2.54 The overriding purpose of the Green Infrastructure Framework for Bath and North East Somerset through its various components, including the Greener Places Plan (GPP, 2025 to 2035) [\[See reference 31\]](#), is to bring about a better understanding of the multifunctional benefits and value of GI.

2.55 The GPP sets preliminary Green Infrastructure Standards for the district derived from the NEGIF Standards, which were tested against the local context during a baseline assessment in 2024. Adaptations were made where appropriate, and baseline assessments were also undertaken to inform the setting of Local Food Growing Space and Play Space Standards (which are not covered by Natural England).

2.56 The GPP standards are subject to change to reflect any changes to evidence base documents, and the council will monitor and evaluate progress against the delivery of the GI standards every five years. The preliminary Green Infrastructure Standards for the district are detailed in **Table 2.4**.

Bath and North East Somerset Climate and Nature Strategy

2.57 B&NES is currently preparing a Climate and Nature Strategy to set out how the corporate Core Policy of Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies will be delivered at the mid-point to 2030. This brings together the current 2019 Climate Strategy & Action Plan and 2020 Ecological Emergency Action Plan into one updated strategy and action plan.

2.58 One of the chapters of the Strategy will cover buildings and the built environment around them, including how GI can deliver climate mitigation and nature recovery. The actions in this section related to GI will be consistent with the Greener Places Plan.

Table 2.4: GPP GI standards for Bath and North East Somerset

Standards	Description	Targets
Green Infrastructure Strategy Standard	Major Development Each major new development has a Green Infrastructure Plan.	No target set
Accessible Greenspace Standards	District At least 3 hectares of publicly accessible greenspace per 1,000 population and no reduction in capacity of accessible greenspace per 1,000 population at a Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA) scale. ■ Within 15 minutes' walk from home EITHER a Doorstep OR Local Accessible Greenspace: ■ A Doorstep Greenspace of at least 0.5 hectares within 200 metres (under 5 minutes' walk), or a Local Natural Greenspace of at least 2 hectares within 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home AND a Neighbourhood Accessible Natural Greenspace. ■ A medium sized Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace of at least 10 hectares within 1 kilometre (15 minutes' walk) from home. ■ Beyond 15 minutes' walk from home: ■ A medium/large wider Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace of at least 20 hectares within 2 kilometres. ■ A large District Natural Greenspace of at least 100 hectares within 5 kilometres. Blue spaces are included where they are within the boundary of accessible greenspaces.	No target set

Standards	Description	Targets
	Major Development Major residential development (including purpose-built student and co-living accommodation) must be designed to provide at least 3 hectares of publicly accessible greenspace per 1,000 population and should be designed to ensure each household has access to a Doorstep Greenspace or a Local Accessible Greenspace and a Neighbourhood Greenspace concurrently. Local Accessible Greenspace is preferred; however, the Doorstep Greenspace criterion has been introduced in recognition that in existing and densely built-up areas there may not be sufficient space to create new greenspaces of at least 2 hectares in size. District Quality of greenspace meets the Green Flag Award criteria and any adopted B&NES greenspace quality criteria.	
Nature Recovery Standards	District The proportion of land managed for nature is increased to meet the nature recovery targets. This includes enhancing and identifying new areas that qualify as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). At least 1 hectare of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) per 1,000 population for nature conservation and quiet enjoyment.	30% of Bath and North East Somerset managed and protected for nature by 2030 30% of B&NES Corporate Estate managed and protected for nature by 2030

Standards	Description	Targets
	Major Development Major residential (including purpose-built student and co-living accommodation) and commercial development must be designed to create, restore, and manage wildlife-rich habitats, which can include establishing LNRs.	
Urban Greening Standard	Major Development Major commercial development must achieve an Urban Greening Factor of at least 0.3. All major residential development (including purpose-built student and co-living accommodation) must achieve at least 0.4 on land that has previously been developed, and in the case of residential greenfield development, must seek to achieve 0.5.	No target set
Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard	District Aspire to a minimum of 20% tree canopy cover in urban areas. Major Development Major residential (including purpose-built student and co-living accommodation) and commercial development is designed to meet the district standard, incorporate new and existing trees and new streets are tree lined (in line with NPPF requirements).	No target set
Local Food Growing Space Standard	District At least 0.3 hectares of local food growing space per 1,000 population and no reduction in capacity of local food growing space per 1,000 population at a Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA) scale. A local food growing space within 1,200 metres (20 minutes' walk from home).	No target set

Standards	Description	Targets
	Major Development Major residential development (including purpose-built student and co-living accommodation) must be designed to provide at least 0.3 hectares of local food growing space per 1,000 population within 1,200 metres (20 minutes' walk from home).	
Play Space Standards	District At least 0.05 hectares of children's play space per 1,000 population and no reduction in capacity of children's play space per 1,000 population at a Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA) scale. At least 0.03 hectares of youth play space per 1,000 population and no reduction in capacity of youth play space per 1,000 population at a Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA) scale. ■ Within 15 minutes' walk from home: ■ A children's play space within 600 metres (10 minutes' walk); and ■ A youth play space within 720 metres (12 minutes' walk). Major Development Major residential development must be designed to provide at least 0.05 hectares of children's play space per 1,000 population within 600 metres (10 minutes' walk from home) and 0.03 hectares of youth play space per 1,000 population within 720 metres (12 minutes' walk from home).	No target set

Chapter 3

Identifying Local Need

Population and social context

3.1 This section of the assessment outlines the relevant population and social context to inform the assessment of open space.

Population and demographics

3.2 According to the 2024-based Office for National Statistics (ONS) national population projections [\[See reference 32\]](#) the district has a population of 200,028 which is distributed across the analysis areas as below:

- Bath – 109,697 people
- Bristol to Bath Corridor – 27,933 people
- Rural Areas – 22,379 people
- Somer Valley – 40,019 people

3.3 According to the 2021 Census data, the population size has increased by 9.9%, from around 176,000 in 2011, this is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) [\[See reference 33\]](#). 2022-based population projection data show a predicted decrease in population of -0.02% over the new Local Plan period to 2043. This data does not account for planned development.

3.4 The district is predominantly rural, with a population density of 578 persons per square kilometre [\[See reference 34\]](#). The area with the highest population density is Bath, followed by Keynsham and then Midsomer Norton, Radstock, and Westfield as shown in **Figure 3.1**.

3.5 The median age is 39 years, with 16.0% of the population under the age of 16, and 19.5% of the population aged 65 and over. Between 2011 and 2024, there have been decreases of -0.8% and -0.5% in residents under the age of 16, and aged 16-64 respectively. Conversely, there was an increase of 1.3% of people aged 65 and over.

Implications for open space provision

The provision of open spaces which are accessible and meet the needs of older users will be particularly important.

Deprivation

3.6 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (2025) provides a ranking of the most to least deprived areas within England. This is based on a weighted ranking of a combination of seven deprivation domains. These domains cover income, education, crime, living environment, employment, health and barriers to housing.

3.7 Nationally, the district ranks 245th out of 296 local authorities in England on overall deprivation meaning that it is less deprived than approximately 82% of local authorities nationally [\[See reference 35\]](#). While deprivation levels remain low overall, the district has become relatively more deprived compared to other areas since 2019, when 85% of local authorities were more deprived relative to the district.

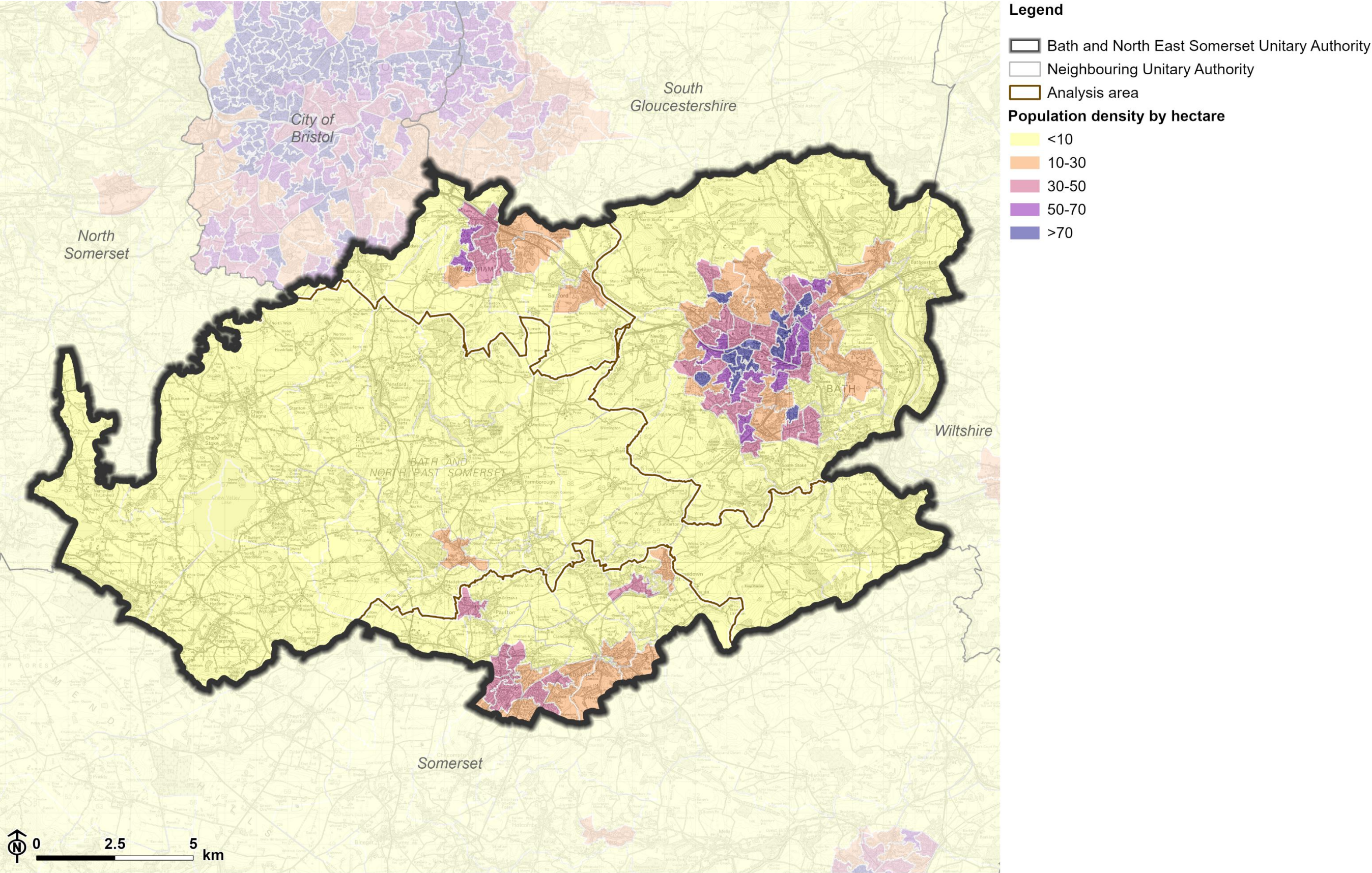
3.8 There are now three small areas within the most deprived 10% nationally [\[See reference 36\]](#) (Twerton West, Whiteway and Fox Hill North). This is an increase from one area in 2015 (Twerton West) and two areas in 2019 (Twerton West and Whiteway). **Figure 3.2** shows the level of deprivation across the district.

3.9 Approximately 4,500 people fall within the most deprived 10% nationally. A decade ago, this figure was around 1,500, with Twerton West being the only Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in that decile in the 2015 IMD.

Implications for open space provision

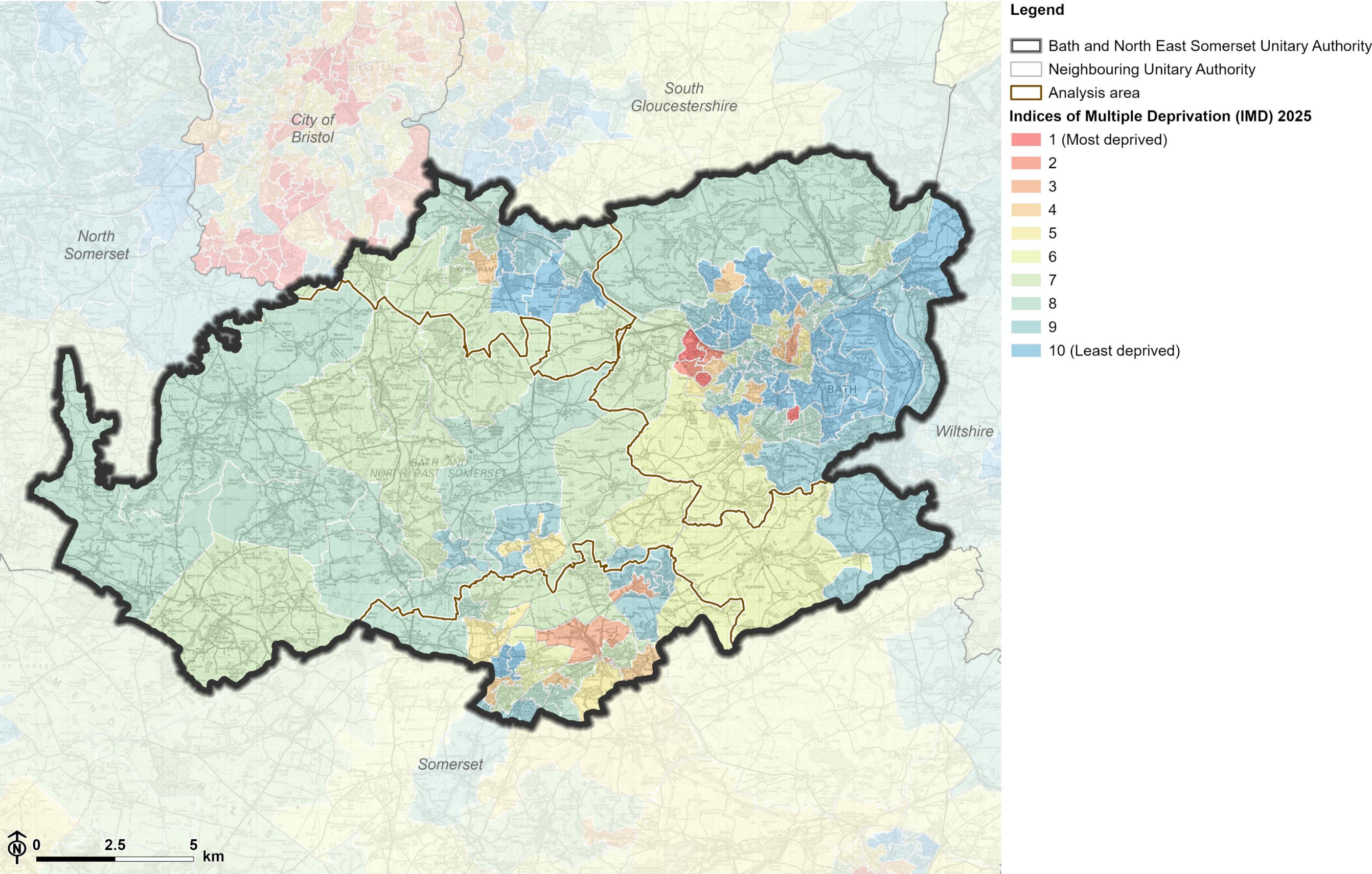
The provision of open spaces which are accessible to communities living in areas of greatest deprivation will be particularly important. Areas which do not have access to private gardens are likely to have greater need to access high-quality accessible open spaces.

Figure 3.1: Bath and North East Somerset population density



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Figure 3.2: Bath and North East Somerset Indices of Multiple Deprivation



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Data produced by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2026, Ordnance Survey AC0000807498.

Health, wellbeing, and physical activity

3.10 A review of the November 2023/24 Sport England's Active Lives Survey indicates that 14.4% of residents are considered to be 'inactive' (undertaking less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week) [\[See reference 37\]](#) (see **Figure 3.3**).

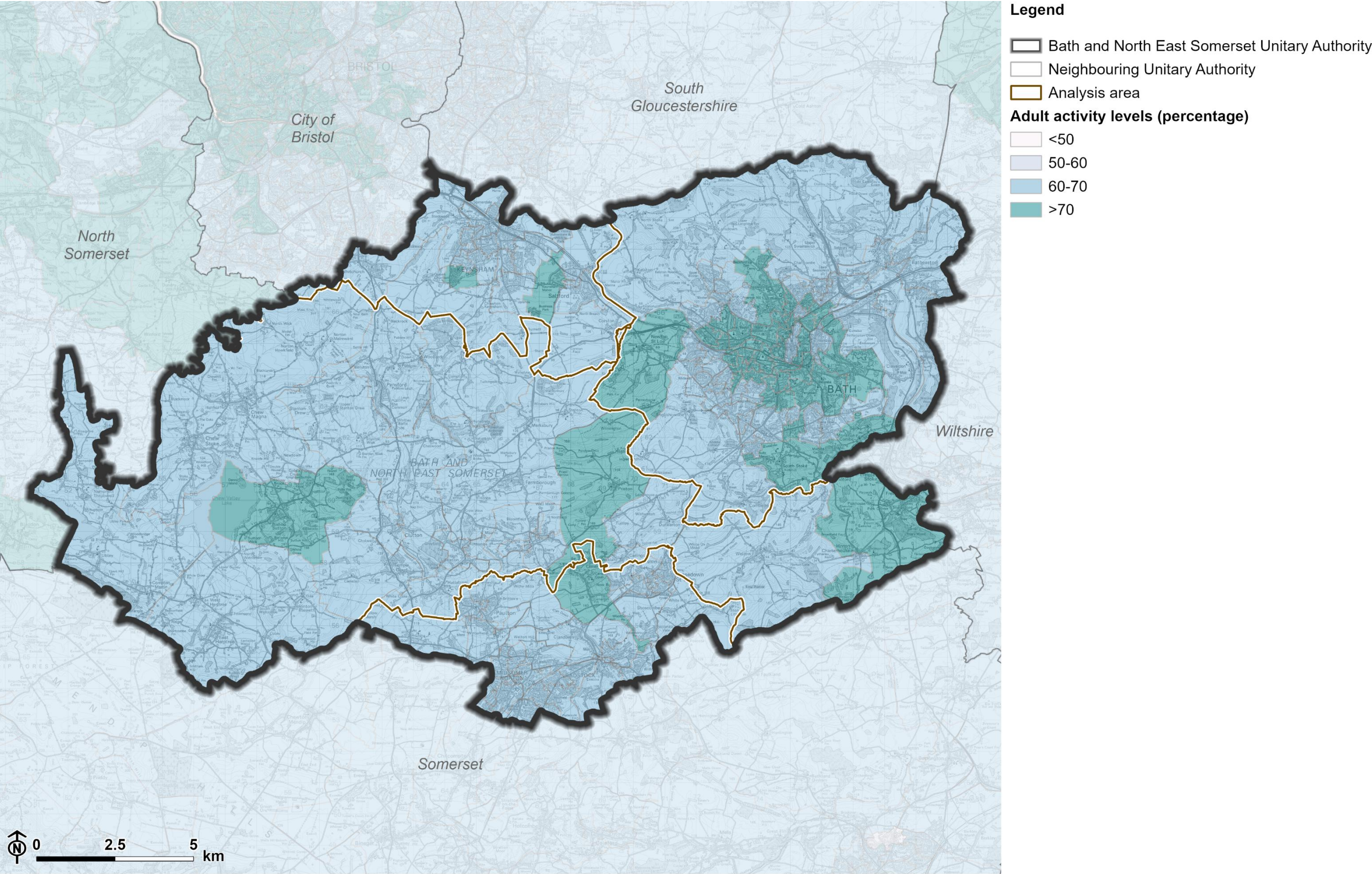
3.11 Prevalence of obesity in adults (18 years+) has dropped. Adult obesity was reported in 2023/24 to be below the national average of 26.8% at 17.2%, and moving in an opposite trajectory of that of the South West as a whole. Prevalence of obesity in children aged 10-11 years was reported to be increasing but below the national average of 21% at 15.5%.

3.12 Average healthy life expectancy for females decreased -2.3% over the period 2011-2024 to 65.6 and decreased by -1.6% for males over the same period to 65.3.

Implications for open space provision

Open spaces provide important areas for both informal and formal recreation. Spaces that promote greater usage particularly for older people and children should be promoted.

Figure 3.3: Adult activity levels



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Sport England, 2026, licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2026, Ordnance Survey AC0000807498.

Environmental context

Biodiversity

3.13 There are two internationally important, designated sites within the district; Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and Chew Valley Lake Special Protection Area (SPA).

3.14 There are also several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) including:

- Stidham Farm;
- Folly Farm;
- Newton St. Loe;
- Cleaves Wood;
- Hampton Rocks Cutting;
- Monkswood Valley;
- Blagdon Lake; and
- Burledge Sidelands and Meadows.

3.15 Sites designated for their unique wildlife, habitats, or geological features are shown on **Figure 3.4**.

Implications for open space provision

Open spaces that overlap with designated nature sites provide important opportunities for users to connect with nature; however, recreational pressure can damage ecologically sensitive sites and needs to be monitored.

Blue network

3.16 A series of rivers and watercourses form a blue network. These include the River Avon, River Chew and Midford Brook and its tributaries, the Cam Brook and Wellow Brook (**Figure 3.5**).

3.17 The Chew Valley to the west of the district is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3. Much of the centre of Bath is also in Flood Zones 2 and 3. Flood Zone 2 suggests

a medium probability of flooding, 0.1%-1% annual chance of river flooding and Flood Zone 3, 1% or greater annual chance.

Implications for open space provision

Open spaces within flood zones can mitigate the risk of flooding and provide natural flood management opportunities.

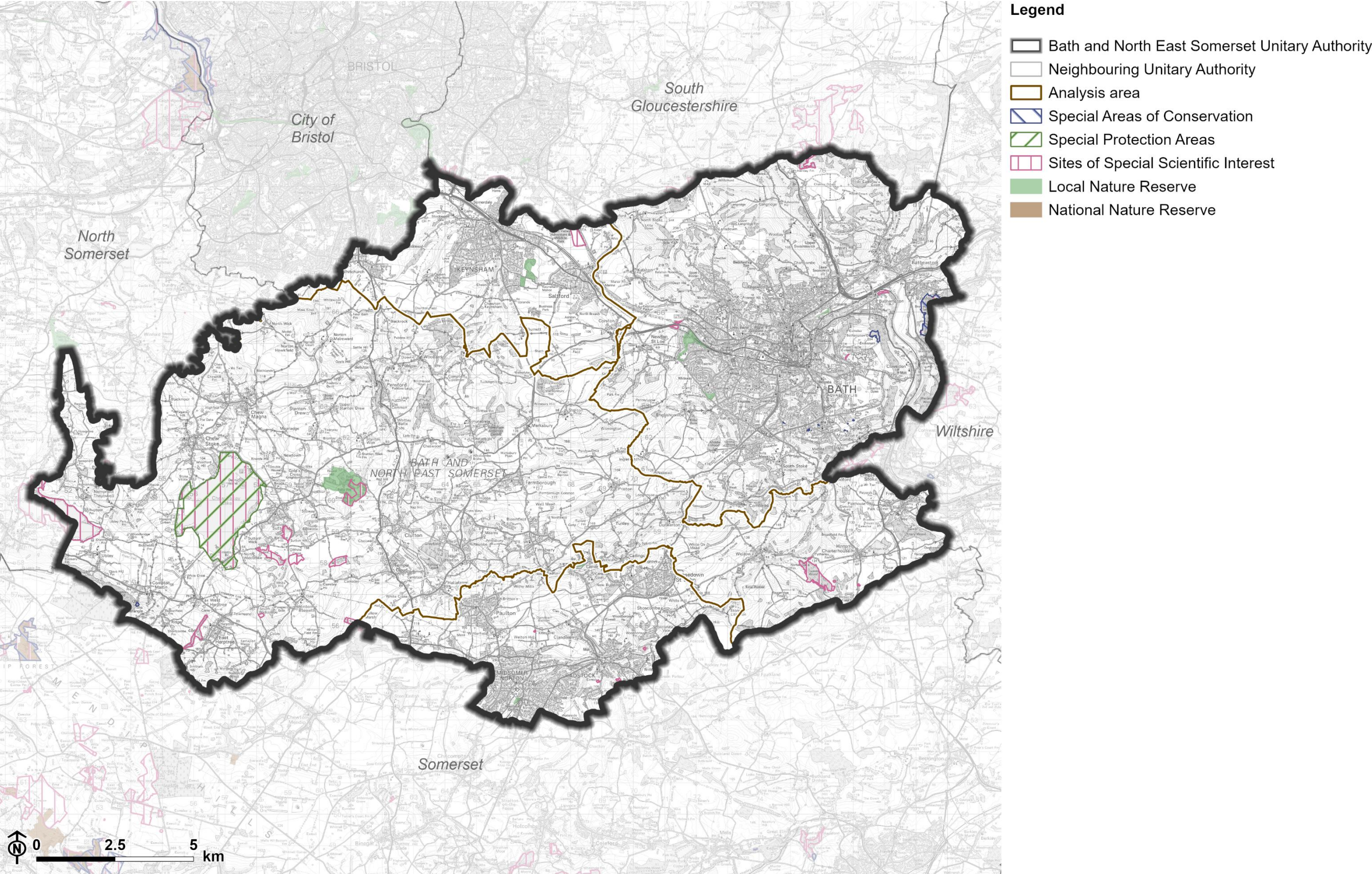
Private gardens

3.18 Figure 3.4 shows the access to private gardens per 1,000 population across the district. Generally, the more urban areas show a lower access to private gardens with this most notable around Keynsham, Paulton, and central Bath.

Implications for open space provision

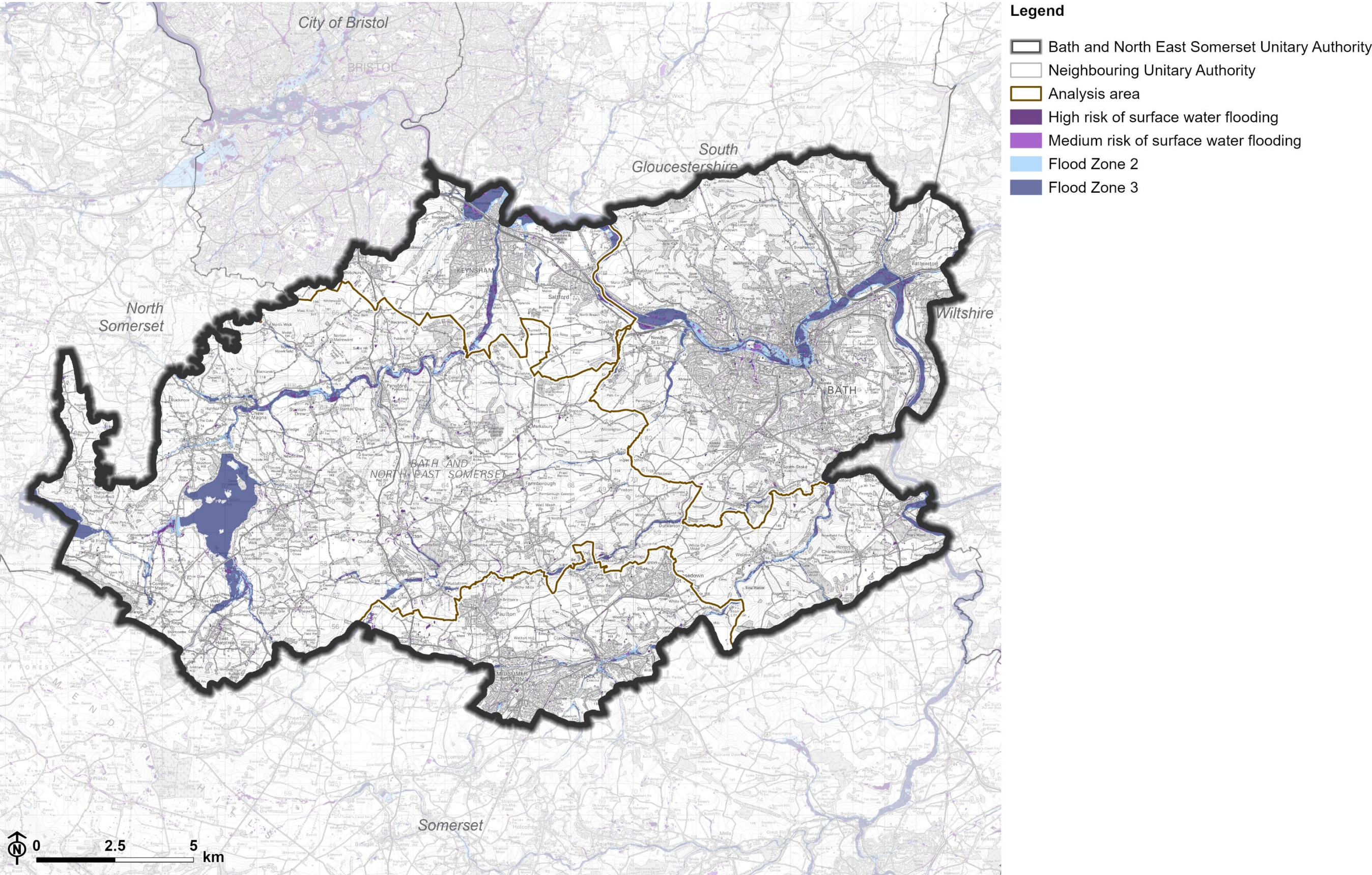
Access to private gardens can provide some of the benefits of public open spaces. For example, private gardens can provide space for biodiversity, connection to nature and space for physical activity, but may not provide the same opportunities for social interaction, community resilience, and space for a range of physical activities.

Figure 3.4: Designated sites



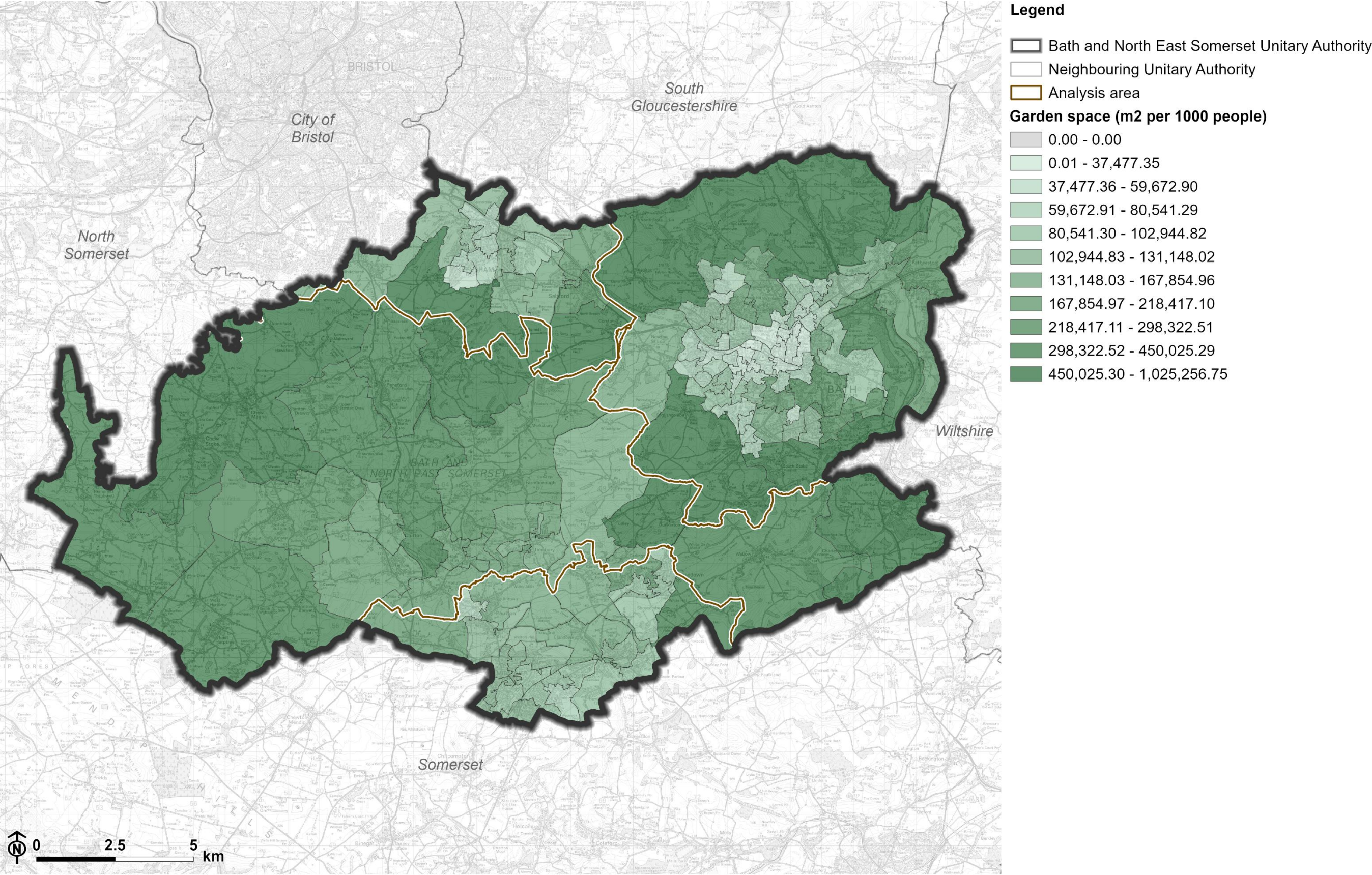
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Figure 3.5: Flood risk



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Figure 3.6: Access to private gardens per 1,000 population



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Developing a 'Needs Index'

3.19 The various indicators which can influence greater or lower open space needs have been combined to provide a 'Needs Index' for the provision of open space. Three indexes have been created, one for accessible open space, one for play space, and one for accessible open space for people 65 years old and over. These can be used to help prioritise site specific enhancements or the creation of new open spaces.

3.20 To create the Needs Index, the score for each indicator in each LSOA is ranked and divided into 10 equal sized groups (deciles). A score of 1 represents the highest contribution to overall need, while a score of 10 represents the lowest. The deciles for all indicators are then summed to produce an overall score. This overall score is then also ranked and divided into 10 equal sized groups (deciles), resulting in the final Needs Index, where 1 indicates the highest level of need and 10 indicates the lowest.

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

3.22 Results by LSOA for each needs index are shown in **Appendix B**.

Accessible open space need

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

- Population density (see **Figure 3.1**);
- Combined IMD (see **Figure 3.2**);
- Active lives survey – percentage of the population inactive (see **Figure 3.3**); and
- Access to private garden by square metre per 1,000 of population (see **Figure 3.6**).

3.24 This Index is shown in **Figure 3.7**. The greatest open space need is noted in central, western Bath with further communities to the south and north of the city also within an area identified as being in greatest need of access to open space. Communities in central and southern Keynsham are also considered to be in areas of greatest need.

Accessible greenspace need for people 65 years old and over

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

- Population data for 65+;
- Combined IMD (see **Figure 3.2**);
- Active lives survey – percentage of the population inactive (see **Figure 3.3**); and
- Access to private garden by square metre per 1,000 of population (see **Figure 3.6**).

This Index is shown in **Figure 3.9**. The greatest accessible open space need for the population aged over 65 are areas in central, west and south of Bath. There are also needs in Keynsham and the settlements to the south of the district in Timsbury, Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Peasedown St John.

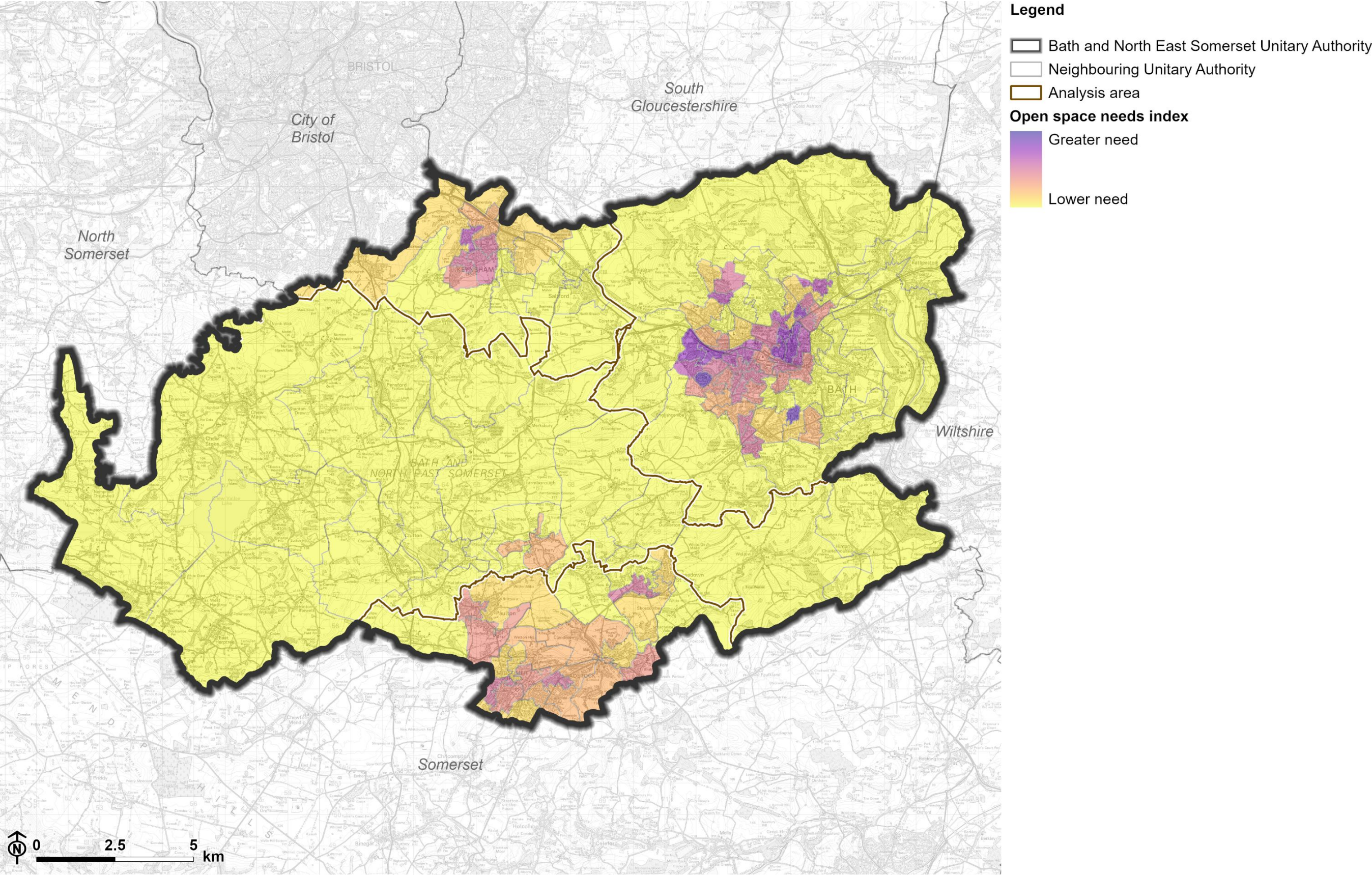
Play space need

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

- Percentage of the population under 15;
- IMD – Income deprivation affecting children index;
- Education, skills and training – child sub-domain IMD
- Access to private garden by square metre per 1,000 of population (see **Figure 3.6**); and
- Active lives survey – percentage of child population inactive.

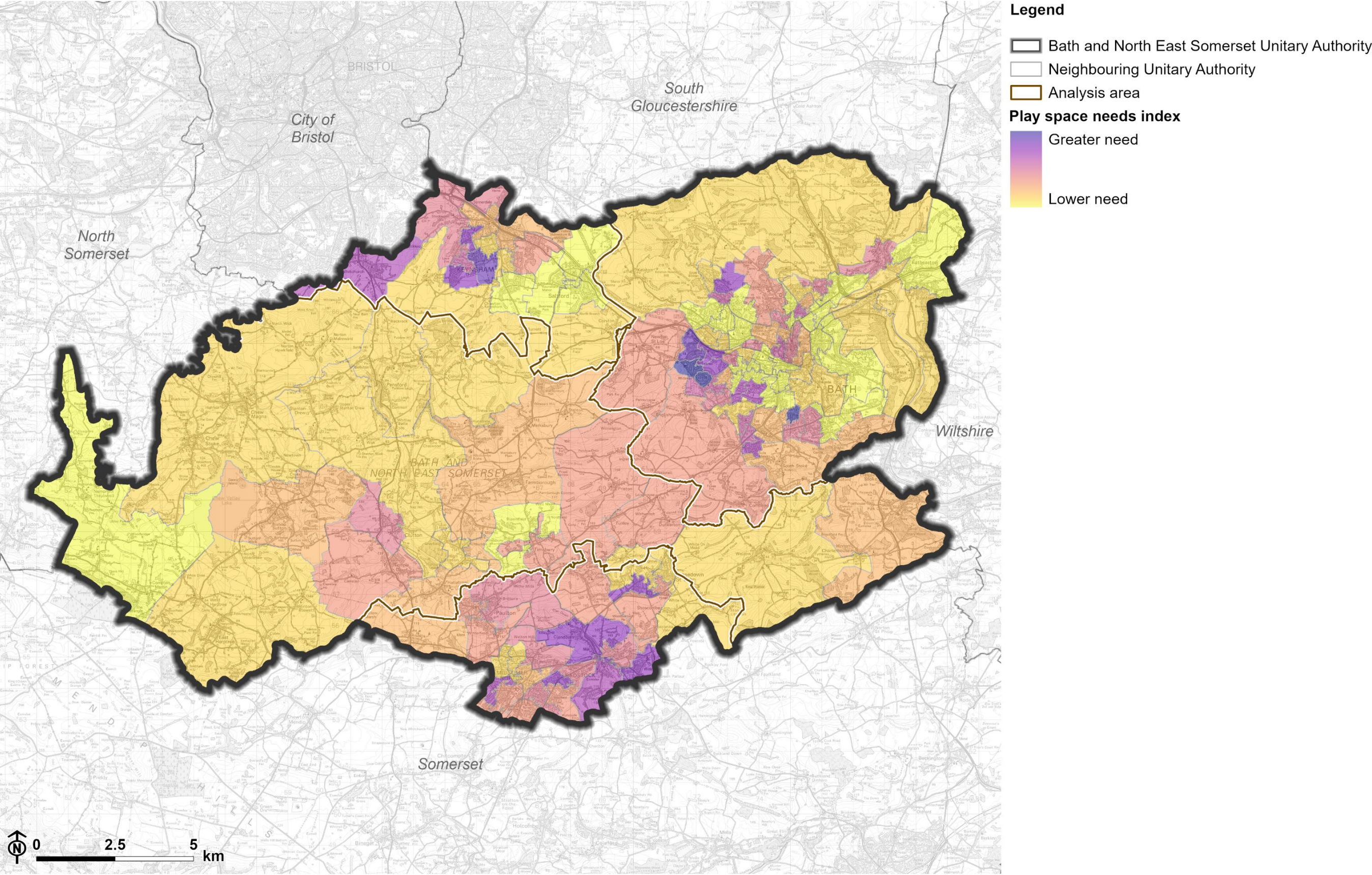
3.27 This Index is shown in **Figure 3.8**. The Index reveals the greatest play need in the western, southern and northern communities of Bath. Greatest need is also identified within Keynsham and along the northern boundary of the district adjacent to the suburbs of Bristol. The suburbs of the main settlements, although not identified as being in the areas of greatest play space need, are still identified as being areas where play provision could contribute to improved health outcomes.

Figure 3.7: Open Space Needs Index



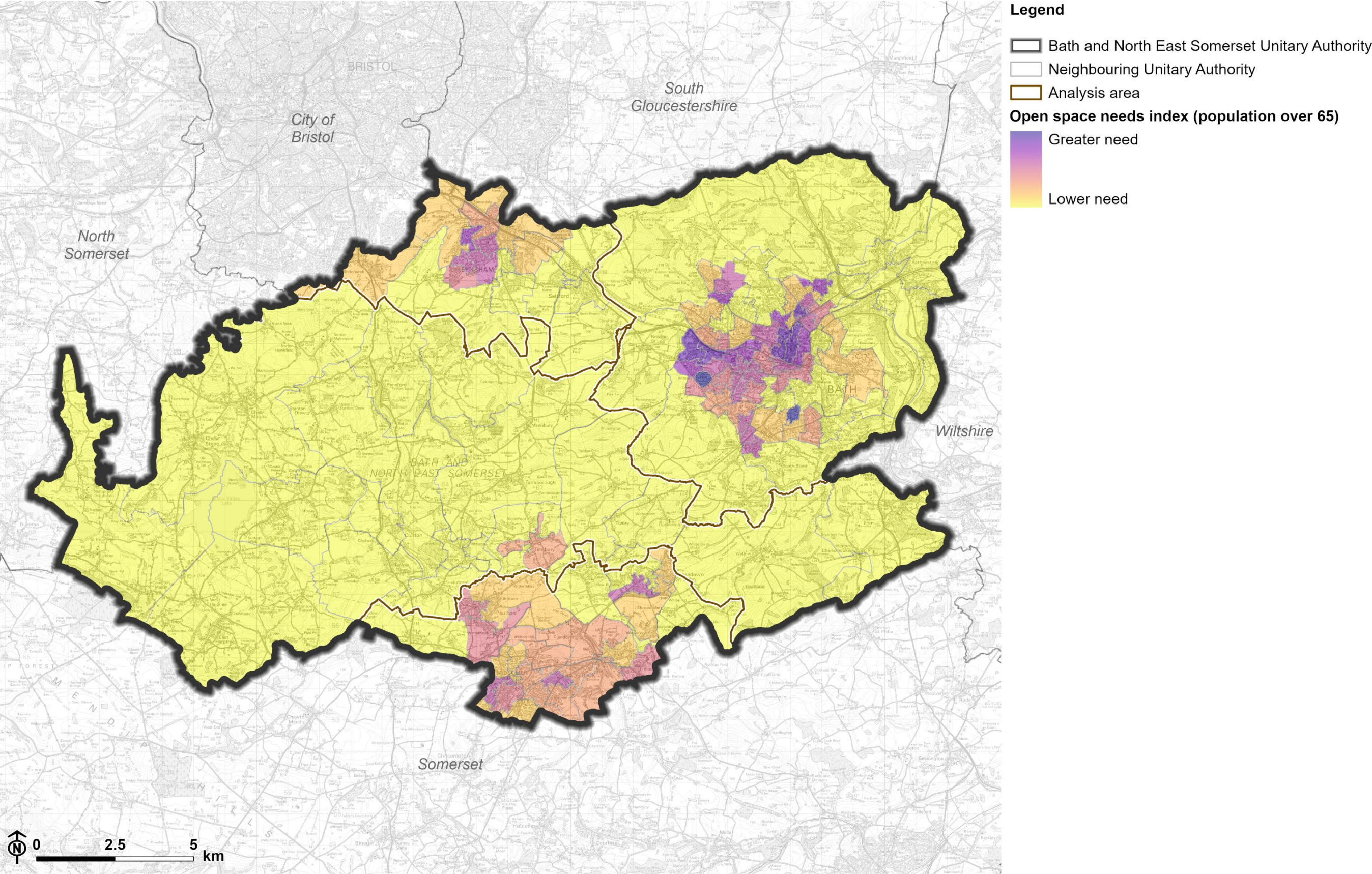
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Figure 3.8: Play Space Needs Index



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Figure 3.9: Accessible open space For People 65 years Old and Over Needs Index



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Chapter 4

Open Space Assessment Methodology

4.1 The methodology for the assessment of open spaces in the district reflects the requirements of the NPPF and has been informed by Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework Accessible Greenspace Standards, and the Fields in Trust standards.

Step one: Understanding the supply

4.2 The overall assessment area was divided into four analysis areas to allow for discussion and recommendations to be better drawn across the district: Bath, Bristol to Bath Corridor, Rural Areas, and Somer Valley as shown in **Figure 4.1**. These areas have been drawn to include whole LSOAs to allow for analysis of population data. LSOAs are geographical areas used by the ONS for census statistics.

Open space data

4.3 Existing mapped data for open space within and around the district was collated and reviewed. The mapped data derived from the GSS, which captured play space in two categories; play space (children) and play space (youth) (as described in Chapter 2). B&NES provided several datasets, which were updated and cross-referenced with other contextual datasets, aerial imagery, Ordnance Survey greenspace layers, planning application data, and internet research.

4.4 The open spaces have been categorised according to typology (the primary 'functions' of the open space) and hierarchy, based on the size of the open space. Sites less than 0.5 hectares have been excluded, unless they have a specific function (e.g. a play space and allotments and community food growing sites).

4.5 The following steps were undertaken to produce a robust and up to date dataset:

- Agreeing a final list of typologies and checking all sites for consistency against the final typology list and descriptions;
- Identifying new open spaces created since the previous open space assessment, or which were previously missed (due to different approaches to defining typologies including the sites previously identified as accessible natural and semi-natural green space); and

- Removing open spaces that have been lost since the previous open space assessment.

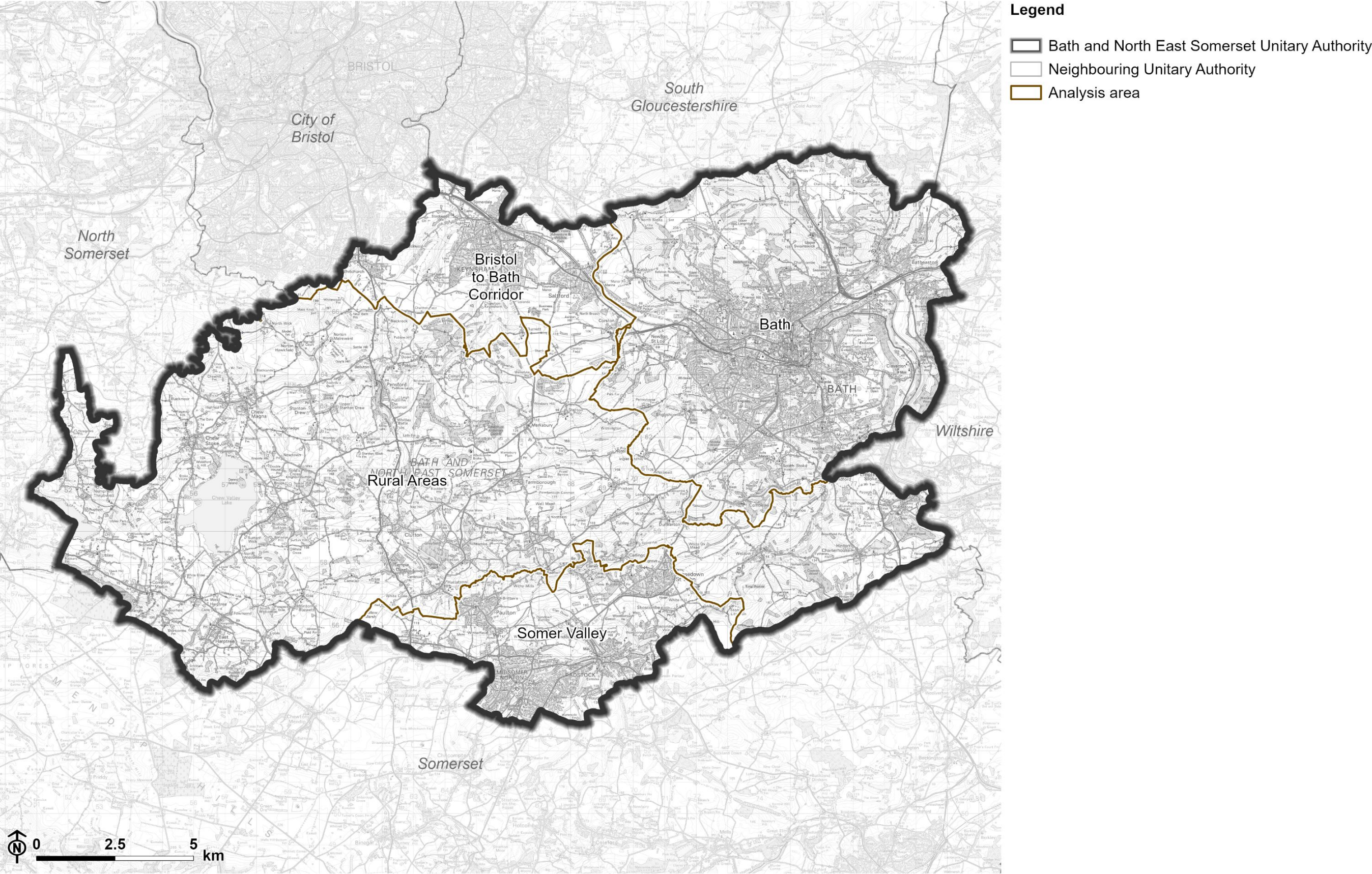
4.6 To capture any potential new open spaces, the dataset was combined with existing national datasets and a review of aerial imagery. National datasets include:

- Open Street Map (OSM) Playgrounds;
- Ordnance Survey Mastermap;
- Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace;
- National Trust;
- National Trails;
- National Cycle Network;
- Natural England Country Parks;
- Natural England Millenium Greens;
- Natural England Local Nature Reserves; and
- Natural England Open Access Land (CRoW and Section 15 land).

4.7 For production of a finalised dataset, for each open space the following information was provided:

- ID number;
- Site name/location;
- Typology;
- Size (in hectares);
- Hierarchy; and
- Access level.

Figure 4.1: Analysis areas



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Open space typology

4.8 Each open space has been assigned a primary typology based on key characteristics and functionality. Five typologies of public open space have been identified in the district:

- Amenity green space;
- Natural and semi-natural green;
- Parks and gardens;
- Recreation grounds; and
- Provision for children and teenagers.

4.9 In addition, four other open space typologies have been identified:

- Allotments and community food growing sites;
- Cemeteries and religious grounds;
- Green corridors; and
- Outdoor sports facilities.

Approach to mapping multi-functional sites

4.10 As set out above, for the purposes of this assessment all contiguous, individual open spaces have been assigned a 'primary typology'. However, open space can perform a range of functions, and it is important this is reflected in the analysis. 'Secondary typologies' that occur within wider sites have been identified and captured through mapping the boundary of these areas within the dataset.

4.11 Secondary typologies have been set for provision for children and teenagers (e.g. equipped play areas and informal play provision such as MUGA and pump tracks) and outdoor sports (e.g. bowling greens, tennis courts). These areas are mainly identified and defined by a boundary fence or an appropriate area that delineates the extent of a feature and have a single function which may be separate to that of the wider site.

4.12 When calculating total quantities of provision for children and teenagers, both 'standalone' equipped play facilities, as well as those occurring within a wider site are included.

4.13 When categorising sites within an appropriate size hierarchy and applying accessibility catchments, the total site area (including any secondary typology areas) is used. This includes capturing sites containing blue spaces such as lakes, ponds, and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

4.14 The open space data therefore comprises two key layers:

- Primary typology layer, which encompasses one parcel of land (polygon) that covers the full area of the site up to the site boundary; and
- Secondary typology layer, where applicable, which comprises individual parcels of land (multiple polygons) that in combination match the total area of the corresponding primary typology layer but detail the component parts by typology.

Open space hierarchy

4.15 An open space hierarchy has been used to further split some of the typologies. Hierarchies are assigned based on size to take account of the fact that different open spaces of the same typology can be expected to provide a different 'offer' based on their size and thus the number of facilities they can be expected to accommodate. Site users can be expected to travel further to reach a larger site that has the capacity to provide a more significant and varied offer (i.e. more or larger features and facilities) which may encourage visitors to stay for longer.

4.16 The NEGIF proposes primarily size-based hierarchies, although in their mapping methodology 'playing fields' are restricted to the doorstep hierarchy regardless of size. The size-based hierarchies used in this assessment are set out below in **Table 4.1**. These are based on the hierarchies set out in the NEGIF.

4.17 Each of the accessible open space typologies (parks and gardens and recreation grounds; natural and semi-natural green space; and amenity green space) has been assigned a hierarchy based on the highest level it fits into according to its size. For example, an open space of 23 hectares would be labelled as a wider neighbourhood open space, even though it could also fit into the neighbourhood, local and doorstep definitions.

4.18 The hierarchy is not applied universally to all typologies. Some typologies have no hierarchy applied, as the use and function of the site is less reliant on the overall size of the site (e.g. green corridors; allotments and community food growing sites; and cemeteries and religious grounds). A separate hierarchy is

set out for provision for children and teenagers based on the type of feature and the age ranges that the space caters to. Spaces are categorised as either equipped designated play areas or informal play provision.

Table 4.1: Size based hierarchies

Name	Size Threshold/ Criteria	Typologies Applicable	Notes
District	Over 100 ha	■ Natural and semi-natural green space ■ Parks and gardens	Large open spaces that offer an escape from urban living. Visits to such places are likely to be lengthy (a few hours or above) and so visitors are likely to travel further to reach these spaces. These capture open spaces including Country Parks, Millennium Greens, Open Access Land (including Section 15) and Local Nature Reserves.
Wider neighbourhood	Over 20 ha	■ Natural and semi-natural green space ■ Parks and gardens	Destination open spaces that offer a range of facilities and interest. These support longer, less frequent visits and so are likely to draw people from a wider area.
Neighbourhood	Over 10 ha	■ Natural and semi-natural green space ■ Parks and gardens	Notable open spaces offering something for a range of visitors. These may support visits for up to a couple of hours and are likely to be the types of spaces people use once every few weeks or months.
Local	Over 2 ha	■ Amenity green space ■ Recreation ground ■ Natural and semi-natural green space ■ Parks and gardens	Open spaces which break up grey infrastructure of urban areas. These are likely to support short visits, with a limited offer but are important for offering some open/natural features close to people's homes which may be used daily or weekly. Amenity green spaces are capped at local greenspace hierarchy due to the limited functionality.
Doorstep	Over 0.5 ha	■ Amenity green space ■ Recreation ground	Open spaces which break up grey infrastructure of urban areas. These are likely to support short visits, with a limited offer but important for offering some open/natural features

Name	Size Threshold/ Criteria	Typologies Applicable	Notes
		■ Natural and semi-natural green space ■ Parks and gardens	close to people's homes which may be used daily or weekly. These open spaces could provide an important role in enabling access to open space in areas where access to other hierarchies is restricted.

Open space access levels

4.19 Open spaces have also been categorised according to their access level. This refers to who can access the open space and how. The following access categories have been applied.

- Publicly accessible: Everyone can enter and use the site freely. This includes open spaces that are always accessible and those that have opening hours.
- Restricted access – members or tenants only: Entry and use of the site is limited to certain groups or members (e.g. school sites, sports clubs, allotments).
- Restricted access – other: Access is available but is restricted to Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and CRoW land. These will not be considered further within the open space assessment.
- No access: Sites which are not publicly accessible. These will not be considered further within the open space assessment.

Step two: Identifying local need and understanding the strategic context

4.20 This stage included two key areas of work which helped build a portrait of the local needs and context within the district.

4.21 The first was a desk-based review of national, regional and local policy, aimed at understanding the wider strategic priorities and policy drivers which influence the approach to management and provision of open space. The findings from these are presented in **Chapter 2: Policy Context**.

4.22 Secondly, a desk-based review of local needs was undertaken. This included reviewing the demographic, social, health and environmental context in the district and assessing the percentage of households with access to open space across different demographics. Much of this data has been mapped to understand the potential spatial priorities and needs. Findings from this are shown in **Chapter 3: Identifying Local Need**.

Step three: Setting standards

4.23 Standards have been set to guide open space provision within the district. The following standards have been considered:

- Quantity: The amount of open space (hectares) per existing population as set out by 1,000 head of population (step two).
- Accessibility: How far residents must travel to reach open spaces (step three).

4.24 Standards have been set following the steps described below:

- Review of policy, legislation and best practice;
- Review local needs;
- Review and updating of mapping to understand quantity of provision by typology;
- Assessment of quantity of provision of open space by typology (hectares) per 1,000 of population at district-wide scale and by analysis area;
- Assessment of quantity of provision by open space by typology (hectares) per projected population at district-wide scale and by analysis area;
- Consideration of open space standards set out in Green Space Strategy (2015); and
- Consultation with officers throughout each step of the process.

4.25 All standards are informed by established guidance and best practice including the NEGIF Accessible Greenspace Standard [\[See reference 38\]](#), FiT Play Space guidance [\[See reference 39\]](#), National Allotment Society [\[See reference 40\]](#) as well as through consideration of supply, local needs and previous standards set out in the B&NES Green Space Strategy (2015).

4.26 Consideration has also given to the percentage of households that are within walking distance of different types of green spaces. This is based on statistics published by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). The methodology for the assessment is set out in Chapter 6, which considers the percentage of households with access to green space, equipped play areas, informal play provision and allotments and community food growing sites. The results of the assessment are shown by Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA).

Step four: Applying standards

4.27 Performance of the open spaces in the district compared to the quantity and accessibility standards have been assessed. Performance has been considered at the district-wide scale, and for each of the analysis areas.

4.28 Population data has been used as an indicator, with the population uplift for 2043 based on expected development and an average occupancy rate of 2.307 as specified by B&NES based on the Local Housing Needs Assessment (2025).

4.29 To assess accessibility, the accessibility standards have been applied in GIS, producing a series of maps showing a network analysis to and from the access points of open spaces to indicate areas which have poor access to different types of open space at various levels of the hierarchy.

4.30 As opposed to straight-line buffers, network analysis uses the road and footpath network to identify the actual walking distances to open spaces. The following datasets were used to identify the road and footpath network and identify the access points to open spaces for calculating access catchments:

- Network analysis was carried out using the Ordnance Survey (OS) Multi Modal Routing Network:
 - A 6km buffer around the district was set to ensure journeys that exit and then re-enter the district are included; and
 - The routing network was filtered to features which were noted as providing access by foot or where access was designated.
- Access points were created through:
 - Use of OS National Geographic Database Site Access;
 - Intersecting points between network and open spaces;
 - Intersecting points between 5m buffer of the network and open spaces for those that do not directly intersect; and
 - Points generated every 100m around sites that do not intersect the network.

Stage five: Recommendations

4.31 The findings from applying the standards and the local needs have been brought together to provide high-level recommendations for the provision and management of open spaces in the district and for major residential development.

Chapter 5

Quantity Assessment

Current open space provision

5.1 Overall, there are 643 open space sites in Bath and North East Somerset, covering 1,939.01 hectares. When accounting only for publicly accessible sites (excluding private or paid-access sites such as allotments and paid-entry outdoor sports facilities), the total area of open space reduces to 1,301.46 hectares, provided by 385 sites.

5.2 **Table 5.1** outlines the quantity (area in hectares) and number of all individual open space sites identified in the district. The location of open spaces is shown in **Figure 5.1** by typology, and **Figure 5.2** by access level.

5.3 Natural and semi-natural green space contributes to a large proportion of accessible open space, making up over 60% of the total area and approximately 26% of the number of sites.

5.4 Green corridors contribute over 26% of the total area of accessible open space and only 2% of the total number of sites.

5.5 Parks and gardens and recreation grounds account for the third and fourth largest number of open spaces, representing 6% and 5% of the total accessible open space land, respectively.

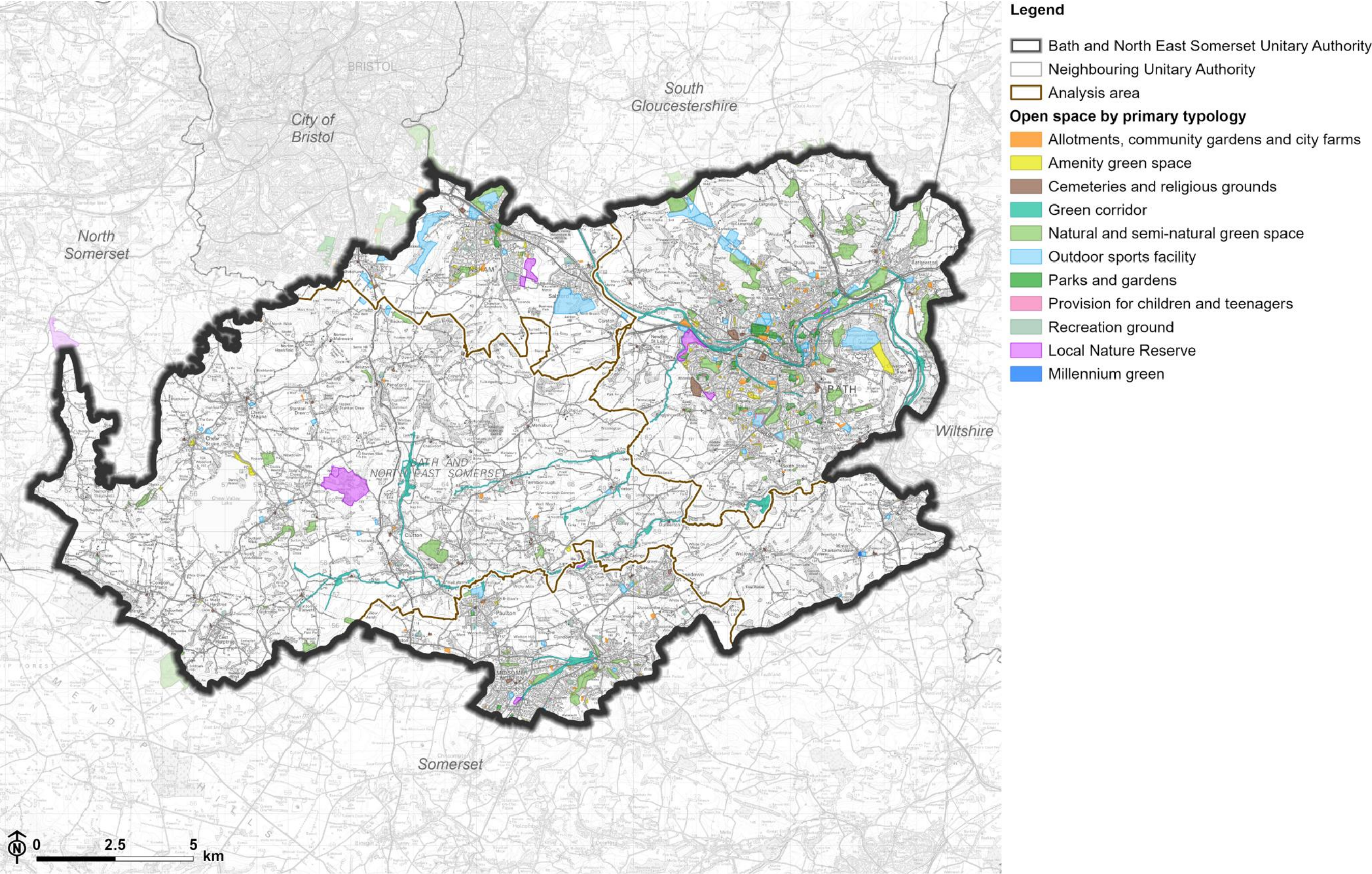
5.6 Provision for children and teenagers make up over 51% of the total number of accessible open spaces whilst contributing 1% of the total accessible area.

5.7 Allotments and religious grounds are considered inaccessible to the general public.

Table 5.1: Quantity of open space in Bath and North East Somerset

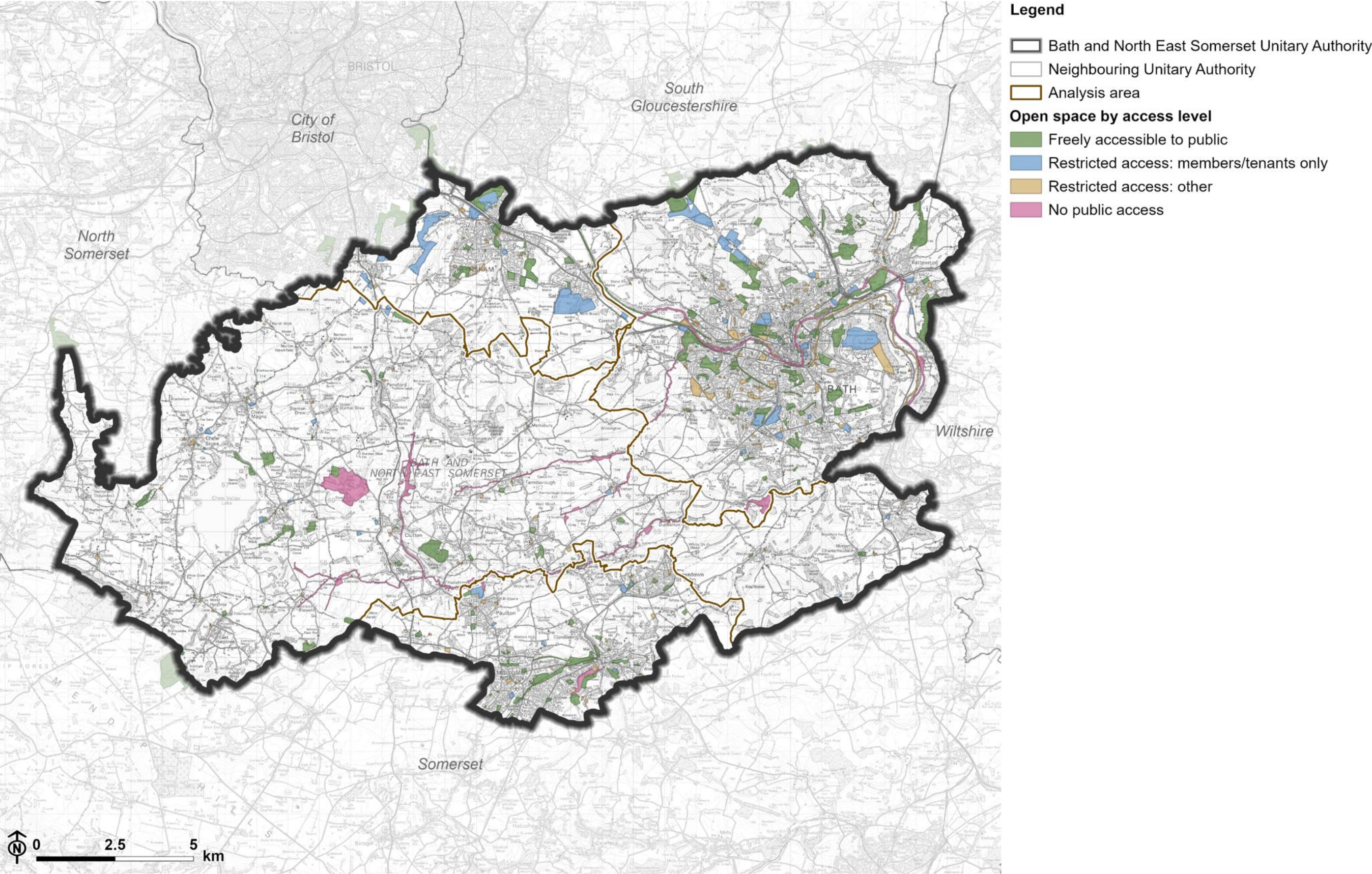
Primary Typology	Area of All Open Space Sites	Number of All Open Space Sites	Area of Publicly Accessible Space Sites	Number of Publicly Accessible Space Sites
Allotments and community food growing sites	40.53 ha	54	0.00 ha	0
Amenity green space	67.05 ha	39	8.12 ha	2
Cemeteries and religious grounds	57.79 ha	71	0.00 ha	0
Green corridors	384.69 ha	12	344.02 ha	9
Natural and semi-natural green space	808.21 ha	103	790.38 ha	101
Outdoor sports facilities	418.30 ha	88	1.70 ha	1
Parks and gardens	81.27 ha	27	81.27 ha	27
Provision for children and teenagers	15.53 ha	203	15.53 ha	203
Recreation ground	65.65 ha	46	60.45 ha	42
Total	1,939.01 ha	643	1,301.46 ha	385

Figure 5.1: All open space in Bath and North East Somerset



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Figure 5.2: Open space in Bath and North East Somerset by access level



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Secondary sites

5.8 Table 5.2 outlines the quantities (area, in hectares) and the number of secondary sites identified in the district as part of the assessment. These sites are located within, and form part of, larger open space sites.

Table 5.2: Quantity of open space by secondary typology

Secondary Typology	Area of All Open Space Sites	Number of All Open Space Sites	Area of Publicly Accessible Space Sites	Number of Publicly Accessible Space Sites
Outdoor sports facilities	3.07 ha	1	-	-
Outdoor sports facilities and provision for children and teenagers	3.16 ha	8	3.16 ha	8
Provision for children and teenagers	11.76 ha	78	8.42 ha	63
Total	17.99 ha	87	11.58 ha	71

5.9 There are 203 accessible sites for children and teenagers, of which 63 are within larger sites meaning that just under 70% of the provision is as a standalone site.

5.10 Table 5.3 shows that the majority of all play space types fall within equipped designated play areas, which generally cater for the needs of children up to and around 12 years. Informal play provision, which cater broadly for 13 to 16/17 age group, accounts for a quarter of the total number of sites.

Table 5.3: Count and area of play types

Play Type	Count	Area
Equipped designated play areas	152	11.64 ha
Informal play provision	51	3.89 ha

5.11 Table 5.4 shows that of the accessible open space sites that qualify for a hierarchy, just under half are between two and 10 hectares, qualifying as doorstep, local and neighbourhood open spaces. There are 12 sites between 20 and 100 hectares, qualifying as wider neighbourhood open spaces and this provides just over 28% of the total accessible open space within the district.

Table 5.4: Provision of accessible open space by hierarchy

Hierarchy	Count	Area
Doorstep	54	65.87 ha
Local	73	315.18 ha
Neighbourhood	10	132.77 ha
Wider neighbourhood	12	372.37 ha

5.12 The number of sites where a hierarchy has not been assigned are set out below by primary typology:

- Natural and semi-natural green space – 20
- Parks and gardens – 2
- Recreation grounds – 11

5.13 The total quantity of open spaces per 1,000 of the population is shown in **Table 5.5**. This has been calculated using the primary typology, except for provision for children and teenagers. For these spaces, the quantity is based on primary typology for standalone sites combined with instances where play spaces are considered as a

secondary typology (spaces where an area of play is part of a wider site with a different primary typology).

Table 5.5: Quantity of accessible open space per 1,000 of population

Typology	Quantity
Amenity green space	0.04 ha per 1,000 population
Natural and semi-natural green space	3.95 ha per 1,000 population
Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds	0.71 ha per 1,000 population
Accessible open space (total)	4.70 ha per 1,000 population
Equipped designated play areas	0.06 ha per 1,000 population
Informal play provision	0.02 ha per 1,000 population
Provision for children and teenagers (total)	0.08 ha per 1,000 population
Green corridors	1.72 ha per 1,000 population
Cemeteries and religious grounds	0.29 ha per 1,000 population
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.20 ha per 1,000 population

Testing existing standards

5.14 Quantity standards were tested by comparing the provision of open spaces per population with the findings of the Green Space Strategy.

5.15 **Table 5.6** sets out the current quantity of open space compared to the provision recorded in the Green Space Strategy. The table suggests that for those typologies that have been assessed using a comparable methodology as the 2015 assessment (i.e. parks, gardens and recreation grounds; provision for children; provision for youths; allotments and community growing sites), and without taking account of the national context, the previous standards are still appropriate.

5.16 The district is characterised by dispersed settlements surrounded by large tracts of countryside. Although much of the countryside falls within private ownership, access to the wider landscape is provided through use of the network of Public Rights of Way. To align with best practice, this assessment focuses on the typologies described in previous chapters and on sites where there are definitive boundaries and/or which support some form of public access.

5.17 Access to these spaces may be provided via statutory rights of access or permissive codes allowing the public to wander freely, or via defined Rights of Way

or permissive routes running through them. In some cases, access may not be fully clear, however, there was evidence of some level of informal use and access.

5.18 As previously set out in this report, standards for provision for children and young people have been set out for equipped designated play areas and informal play provision.

Table 5.6: Quantity comparison with 2015 assessment

Typology	Current Quantity	2015 Quantity	Green Space Strategy Standard
Amenity green space	0.04 ha per 1,000 population	0.29 ha per 1,000 population	0.3 ha per 1,000 population
Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds	0.71 ha per 1,000 population	1.06 ha per 1,000 population	1.3 ha per 1,000 population
Natural and semi-natural green space	3.95 ha per 1,000 population	16.90 ha per 1,000 population	1.3 ha per 1,000 population
Accessible open space (total)	4.70 ha per 1,000 population	18.25 ha per 1,000 population	2.9 ha per 1,000 population
Equipped designated play areas	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	0.05 ha per 1,000 population	0.05 ha per 1,000 population
Informal play provision	0.02 ha per 1,000 population	0.02 ha per 1,000 population	0.03 ha per 1,000 population
Provision for children and teenagers (total)	0.08 ha per 1,000 population	0.07 ha per 1,000 population	0.08 ha per 1,000 population
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.20 ha per 1,000 population	0.19 ha per 1,000 population	0.3 ha per 1,000 population
Green corridors	1.72 ha per 1,000 population	N/A	N/A
Cemeteries and religious grounds	0.29 ha per 1,000 population	0.39 ha per 1,000 population	N/A

Setting new standards

5.19 Based on the quantity analysis, quantity standards have been proposed for:

- Accessible open space;
- Provision for children and teenagers; and
- Allotments and community food growing sites.

5.20 Open space standards have been developed under the presumption of no net loss to protect current provision and ensure that the overall provision of open space does not decrease over the new Local Plan period. This is in line with Natural England's Accessible Greenspace Standards. The district standard states:

"Local authorities have at least 3 hectares of publicly accessible greenspace per 1,000 population and there is no net loss or reduction in capacity of accessible greenspace per 1,000 population at an area-wide scale. Local authorities specify capacity targets for all major residential development informed by a local accessible greenspace baseline, and taking into account local needs, opportunities and constraints."

5.21 New standards are set out below in **Table 5.12** and detailed below:

- **Accessible open space:** This standard covers all accessible open space typologies and is in line with current provision. The standards are set to ensure the delivery of multifunctional open space which provides benefits to the local communities for health and wellbeing, providing opportunities for recreation and access to nature. Standards seek to increase the quantity of parks, gardens and recreation grounds in the district whilst maintaining the district's character through providing open spaces which are natural and semi-natural. Where appropriate, the standards set out in the Green Space Strategy have been retained. The accessible open space standard has been divided into:
 - 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population of amenity green space. This retains the existing standard for the district.
 - 1.3 hectares per 1,000 population of parks, gardens, and recreation grounds. This retains the existing standard for the district.
 - 3.1 hectares per 1,000 population of natural and semi-natural green spaces. This is less than the current overall provision of natural and semi-natural green spaces in the district but will ensure that the overall provision of accessible open space does not decrease over the Local Plan period.

- **Provision for children and teenagers:** This standard is significantly higher than existing provision in the district but in line with FiT recommended standards and provides an aspirational target. An increase in provision will help to address prevalence of obesity in children aged 10-11 which is reported to be increasing. This standard has been divided into:
 - 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population of equipped play; and
 - 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population of informal play provision (including MUGAs and pump tracks).
- **Allotments and community food growing sites:** This standard exceeds existing provision in the district and aligns with the guidance set out by the National Allotment Society of 0.5 hectares per 1,000 households. For this assessment, a figure of 2.307 has been used as the number of people per household which equates to 0.22 hectares per 1,000 population.

Table 5.7: Proposed quantity standards for Bath and North East Somerset

Typology	Proposed Quantity Standard
Amenity green space	0.3 ha per 1,000 population
Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds	1.3 ha per 1,000 population
Natural and semi-natural green space	3.1 ha per 1,000 population
Accessible open space (total)	4.70 ha per 1,000 population
Equipped designated play areas	0.25 ha per 1,000 population
Informal play provision	0.30 ha per 1,000 population
Provision for children and teenagers (total)	0.55 ha per 1,000 population
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.22 ha per 1,000 population

Application of quantity standards

5.22 Table 5.8 shows the application of the proposed quantity standards across the district. Blue cells highlight typologies that meet or exceed the proposed standard and pink cells indicate those that fall below.

Table 5.8: Current open space performance in Bath and North East Somerset against proposed quantity standards

Typology	Current Quantity	Quantity Standard	Performance Against Standard
Amenity green space	0.04 ha per 1,000 population	0.3 ha per 1,000 population	-0.26 ha per 1,000 population deficit
Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds	0.71 ha per 1,000 population	1.3 ha per 1,000 population	-0.59 ha per 1,000 population deficit
Natural and semi-natural green space	3.95 ha per 1,000 population	3.1 ha per 1,000 population	+0.85 ha per 1,000 population surplus
Accessible open space (total)	4.70 ha per 1,000 population	4.70 ha per 1,000 population	New standard
Equipped designated play areas	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	-0.19 ha per 1,000 population deficit
Informal play provision	0.02 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.28 ha per 1,000 population deficit
Provision for children and teenagers (total)	0.08 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.47 ha per 1,000 population deficit
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.20 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.02 ha per 1,000 population deficit

5.23 The results show that there is a strong provision of natural and semi-natural green space (3.95 hectares per 1,000 population compared to the 3.1 hectares per 1,000 population standard).

5.24 Currently, standards are not met across the district for amenity green space, parks, gardens and recreation grounds, equipped designated play areas, informal play provision, and allotments and community food growing sites. The deficiency is shown to be strongest for parks, gardens and recreation grounds, and provision for children and teenagers. Provision for parks, gardens and recreation grounds is shown to be just over half of the standard, whilst overall provision for children and teenagers is just under 15% of the required standard with equipped designated play areas shown to be 24% of the standard and informal play provision shown to be just under 7% of the required standard.

Local nature recovery

5.25 The GPP sets a Nature Recovery Standard to ensure that a proportion of land is managed for nature. This includes enhancing and identifying new areas that qualify as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). The standard states that there should be at least 1 hectare of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) per 1,000 population for nature conservation and quiet enjoyment. This standard is derived from NEGIF.

5.26 Under the quantity analysis, LNRs have been grouped into the natural and semi-natural green space typology. These have been isolated from the data and analysed separately below to assess performance against the Nature Recovery Standard.

5.27 **Table 5.10** shows that only the Rural Areas analysis area is exceeding the standard and is shown to be currently providing 65% of the total area of LNRs for the district. For the other analysis areas:

- Somer Valley has the least total amount of LNRs at currently just over a tenth of the standard;
- Bath is shown to have just over a quarter of the required standard; and
- The Bristol to Bath Corridor is shown as currently being at just under 80% of the standard.

Table 5.9: Provision of Local Nature Reserves per 1,000 population

Analysis Area	Quantity of LNRs	Current Standard	Current Provision
Bath	28.90 ha	1.00 ha per 1,000 population	0.26 ha per 1,000 population
Bristol to Bath Corridor	22.05 ha	1.00 ha per 1,000 population	0.79 ha per 1,000 population
Rural Areas	102.80 ha	1.00 ha per 1,000 population	4.59 ha per 1,000 population
Somer Valley	4.52 ha	1.00 ha per 1,000 population	0.11 ha per 1,000 population
Bath and North East Somerset Total	158.28 ha	1.00 ha per 1,000 population	0.79 ha per 1,000 population

5.28 Testing shows that provision across the district does not meet the required standard. One out of the four analysis areas significantly exceeds the standard, with

two significantly below the standard. Identification of potential LNRs should focus on sites within the Bath and Somer Valley analysis areas.

Future population

5.29 The emerging Local Plan defines site allocations through planning policies to designate specific parcels of land for future development (such as housing, employment, and retail) or protection (like greenspaces or Green Belt).

5.30 Using an assumed household size of 2.307 residents per dwelling, and single occupation for purpose-built student accommodation, data shared by B&NES in June 2026 of the proposed scale of residential development sites shows that there will be a predicted population growth due to development of 50,155 persons as below:

- Bath – 6,486 persons
- Bristol to Bath Corridor – 22,523 persons
- Rural Areas – 5,558 persons
- Somer Valley – 15,588 persons

5.31 ONS population projections for local authorities have been used to derive projections of the annual population through to 2043 (in line with the Local Plan timescales). These estimations have been used to assess the provision of open space within the district at the end of the Local Plan period should there be no additional provision during this timescale.

5.32 Combined with an almost negligible predicted growth in population, as discussed in **Chapter 3**, a figure of 250,183 has been taken as the future population size at the end of the new Local Plan period. **Table 5.10** estimates open space provision in 2043 based on this future population size and if no new open space is created during this period.

Table 5.10: Estimated open space provision in Bath and North East Somerset in 2043

Typology	Current Quantity	Future Quantity	Quantity Standard	Change Since 2026	Performance Against Standard
Amenity green space	0.04 ha per 1,000 population	0.03 ha per 1,000 population	0.3 ha per 1,000 population	-0.01 ha per 1,000 population	-0.27 ha per 1,000 population
Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds	0.71 ha per 1,000 population	0.57 ha per 1,000 population	1.3 ha per 1,000 population	-0.14 ha per 1,000 population	-0.73 ha per 1,000 population
Natural and semi-natural green space	3.95 ha per 1,000 population	3.16 ha per 1,000 population	3.1 ha per 1,000 population	-0.79 ha per 1,000 population	+0.06 ha per 1,000 population
Accessible open space (total)	4.70 ha per 1,000 population	3.76 ha per 1,000 population	4.70 ha per 1,000 population	-0.94 ha per 1,000 population	-0.94 ha per 1,000 population
Equipped designated play areas	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	0.05 ha per 1,000 population	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	-0.01 ha per 1,000 population	-0.20 ha per 1,000 population
Informal play provision	0.02 ha per 1,000 population	0.02 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	0.00 ha per 1,000 population	-0.28 ha per 1,000 population
Provision for children and teenagers (total)	0.08 ha per 1,000 population	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.02 ha per 1,000 population	-0.49 ha per 1,000 population
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.20 ha per 1,000 population	0.16 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.04 ha per 1,000 population	-0.06 ha per 1,000 population

5.33 With no new open spaces, the deficit in amenity green space, parks, gardens and recreation grounds, equipped designated play areas, informal play provision, and allotments and community food growing sites will increase. Whilst provision of natural and semi-natural green space is shown to be still above the standard, there is a notable decrease in the provision of this typology to where the surplus is 0.06 hectares per 1,000 population, compared to the +0.85 hectares per 1,000 population surplus shown in **Table 5.8**.

Summary and implications

Accessible open space provision across Bath and North East Somerset is shown to be high, with a quantity of 4.7 hectares per 1,000 population across the district. As a result, the overall provision of accessible open space is above the current standard of 2.9 hectares per 1,000 population as set by B&NES in 2015, and the Natural England and Fields in Trust recommended provision standards of 3 hectares and 3.2 hectares per 1,000 population. A higher quantity standard of 4.7 hectares per 1,000 population for accessible open space should be applied across the district to avoid leading to a net loss in overall provision due to population growth.

With the new typology split that is proposed, the district should see more parks and gardens compared to natural and semi-natural green spaces.

Provision for children and teenagers is low, and the proposed quantity standard will look to increase this over the Local Plan period.

The provision of allotments and community growing sites is just under the proposed standard and will be protected from any decrease by the proposed new standard.

Chapter 6

Accessibility Assessment

6.1 This chapter provides an assessment of accessibility of publicly accessible open space. It breaks down provision by typology and considers access based on network analysis (as set out in **Chapter 4**).

Proposed accessibility standards

6.2 The proposed accessibility standards are provided in **Table 6.1**. The accessibility standards are based on walkable routes and consider barriers to access (see **Chapter 4**). The development of the standards has considered the following:

- Accessibility standards are based on hierarchy of provision for accessible open space. A size-based approach has been taken to setting access standards for open space. This takes account for the increasing focus on designing multifunctional sites and to allow the standards to better account for the differing landscape contexts across Bath and North East Somerset. There are no accessible open spaces within the district and sub-regional hierarchy. It is unlikely sites within the sub-regional hierarchy will be provided going forward, so standards for this size category have not been set. However, consideration should be given to providing sites of district size.
- Fields in Trust (FiT) guidance for Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) has been used rather than the smaller local catchments for equipped designated play. FiT guidance for other play provision has been used for informal play.

6.3 The National Allotment Society recommends that allotment sites are within an easy 15 to 20-minute walk or a five-minute cycle from home. The Green Space Strategy concluded that the availability of allotments was more important than having them very close to home and a standard of no more than 20 minutes' walk time was introduced. Access catchments for allotments and community food growing sites have been set at 1,200 metres which represents at a walking time of under 20 minutes' based on Natural England's walking time of 60 metres per minute.

6.4 The minimum size threshold for allotments and community food growing sites has been set at 0.1 hectares. A traditional full allotment plot is approximately 250 square metres (10 rods), although many authorities now provide half-plots of around 125 square metres [\[See reference 41\]](#). A growing site of 0.1 hectares can accommodate multiple plots alongside circulation routes, water points, and communal facilities

generally sufficient for communal food production, social gathering space, composting, tool storage and wildlife features. In addition, 0.1 hectares is often considered the minimum size at which a site becomes a meaningful community asset [See reference 42].

Table 6.1: Accessibility standards

Hierarchy	Minimum Size	Buffer Size	Justification/Source
Doorstep	0.5 ha	200m	Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework
Local	2.0 ha	300m	Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework
Neighbourhood	10.0 ha	1,000m	Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework
Wider neighbourhood	20.0 ha	2,000m	Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework
District	100.0 ha	5,000m	Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework
Provision for children and teenagers – equipped designated play	0.1 ha	1,000m	Fields in Trust access standards: 1,000m buffer for NEAPs
Provision for children and teenagers – informal play (including MUGAs and pump tracks)	N/A	700m	Fields in Trust access standard: 700m buffer for larger facilities such as MUGAs or pump tracks distributed throughout a development
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.1 ha	1,200m	National Allotment Society guidance and previous strategy findings

6.5 The focus of accessible open space provision should be on open spaces close to home (within the 200/300 metres and 1,000 metres access buffers). This is roughly equivalent to a five and ten-minute walk based on Natural England's walking time.

Application of accessibility standards

6.6 The following section considers the application of the accessibility standards for the different typologies.

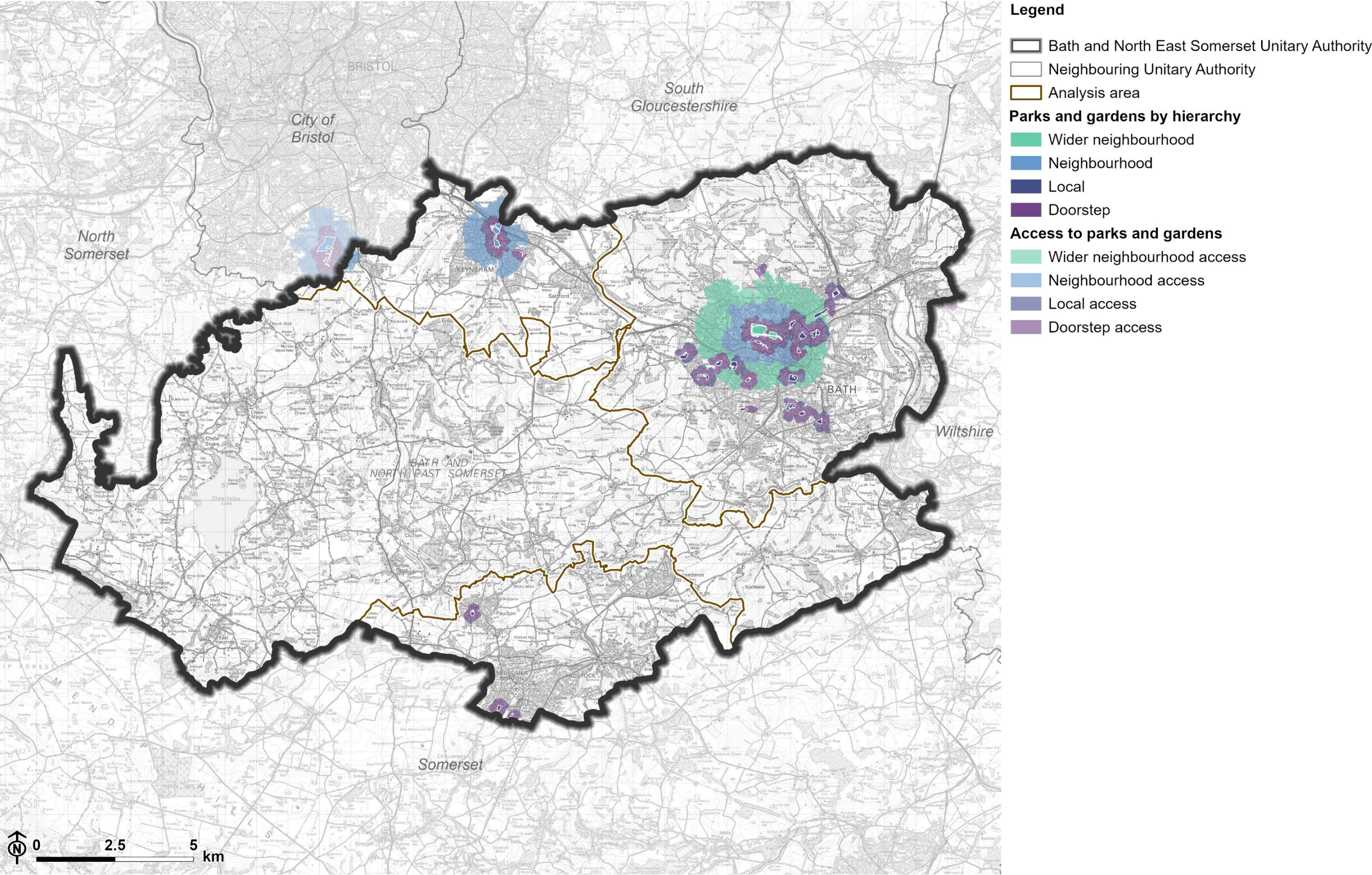
6.7 Figure 6.1 shows accessibility to open spaces within the parks and gardens typology. Many communities are located outside of catchment areas of open spaces within this typology across all hierarchies. There are no parks and gardens located within the rural areas, with provision located within Bath, Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Paulton. However, in these locations, access is limited with much of the population located outside of the catchment area across all hierarchies.

6.8 Access to natural and semi-natural green space and Local Nature Reserves is shown in **Figure 6.2**. There are several open spaces within the wider neighbourhood and neighbourhood hierarchies, with much of Bath and Keynsham within the catchment area of at least one site. Rural communities such as those within Clutton and East Harptree have access to larger open spaces within this typology. However, provision is limited to doorstep and local natural and semi-natural green spaces and Local Nature Reserves within Midsomer Norton and Paulton. Communities located within the southern parts of Bath also fall outside the catchment area of wider neighbourhood and neighbourhood open space with sporadic access to local and doorstep provision.

6.9 Figure 6.3 shows the level of access to amenity green space, recreation grounds and millennium greens across Bath and North East Somerset. Provision is restricted to local and doorstep hierarchies. Within in Bath, these sites are located within the north of the city. Open spaces are located across the district including Keynsham, Saltford, Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Paulton.

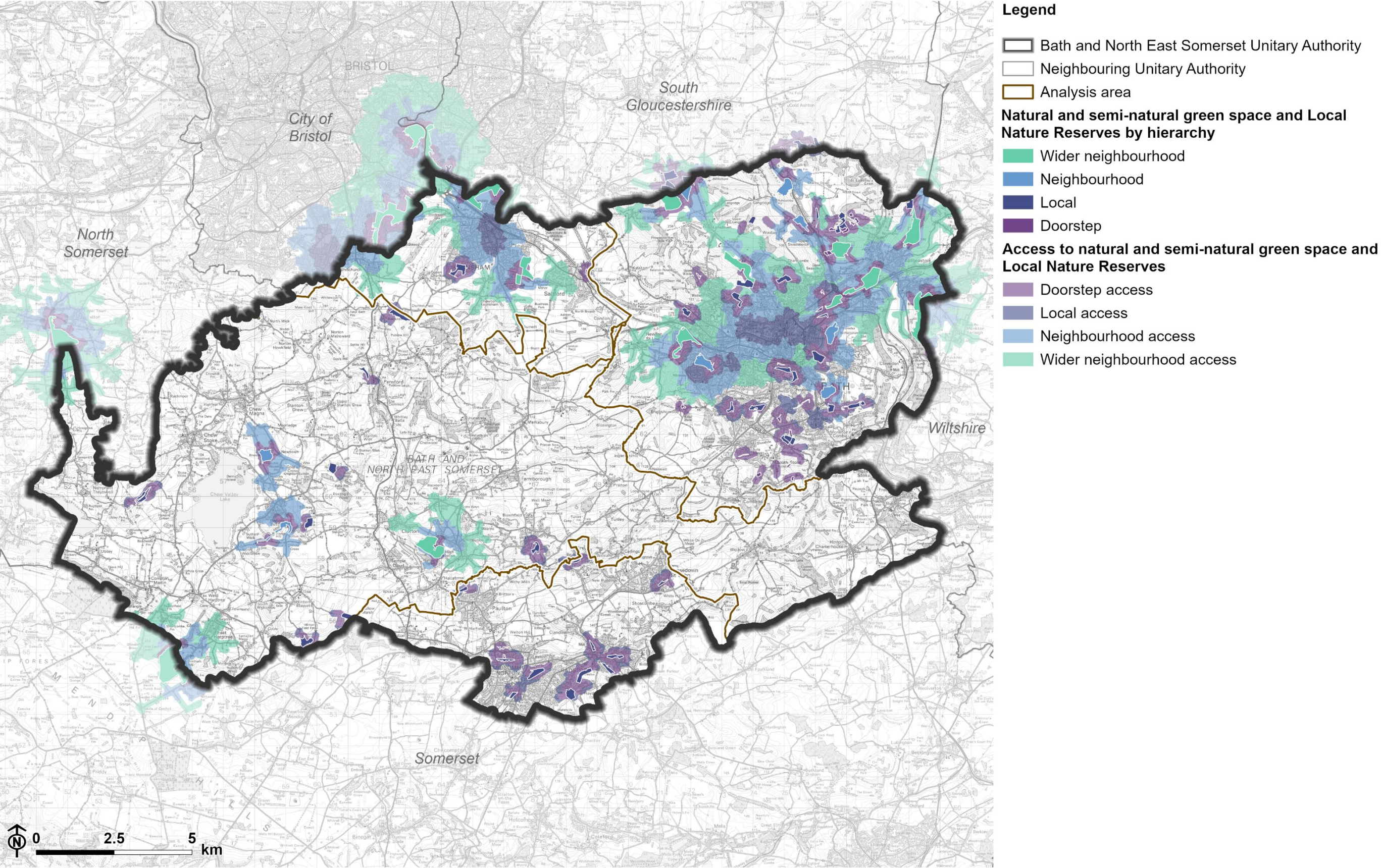
6.10 Figure 6.4 shows how easily communities can access open space close to their homes. The analysis shows that many of the communities within Bath, Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Keynsham are within the access catchment of a neighbourhood, local or doorstep accessible open space. There is a similar picture across many of the rural settlements. Although there are settlements within the rural areas which are not within the catchment area of a publicly accessible open space.

Figure 6.1: Access to parks and gardens



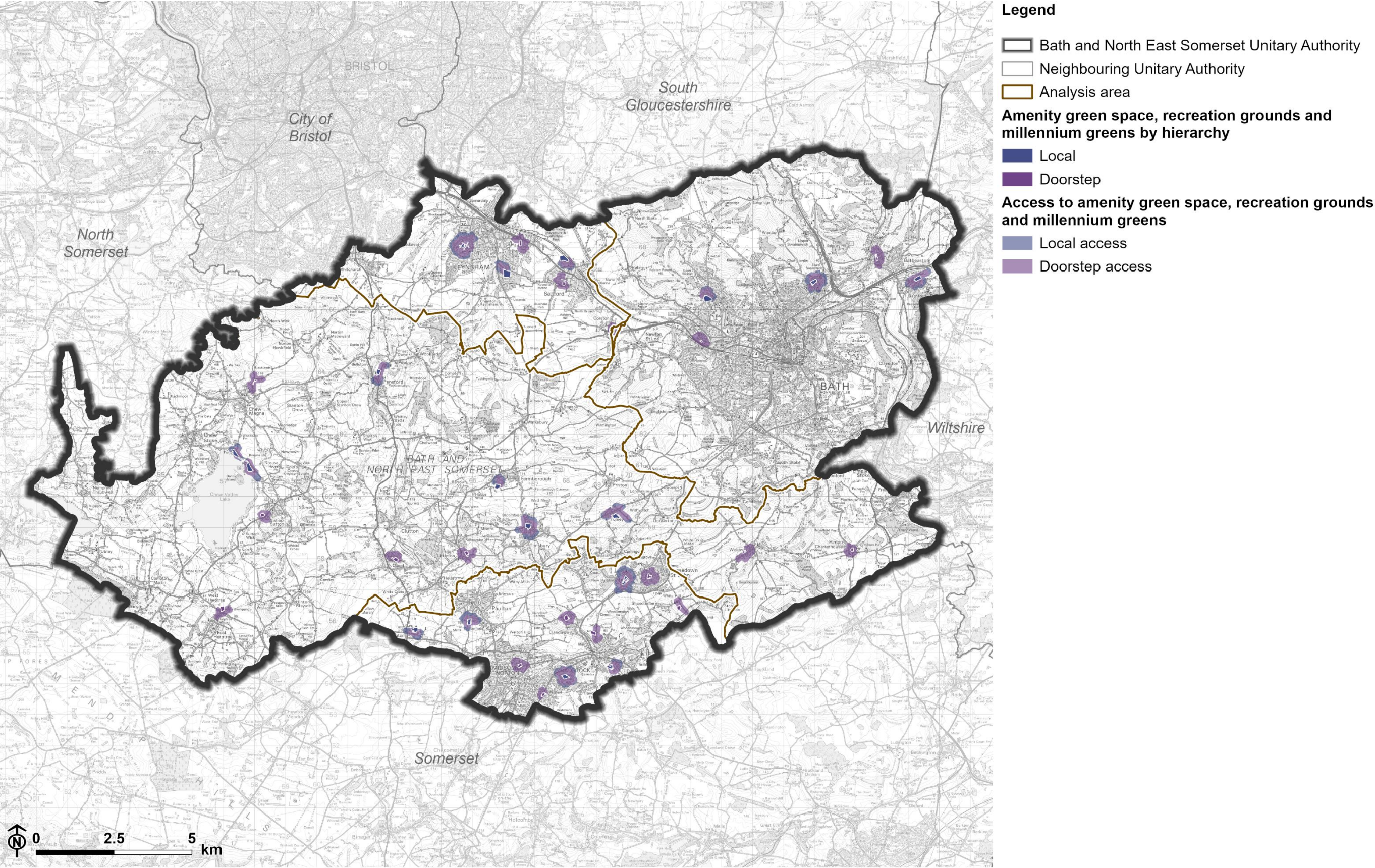
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Figure 6.2: Access to natural and semi-natural green spaces



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Figure 6.3: Access to amenity green space, recreation grounds, and millennium greens



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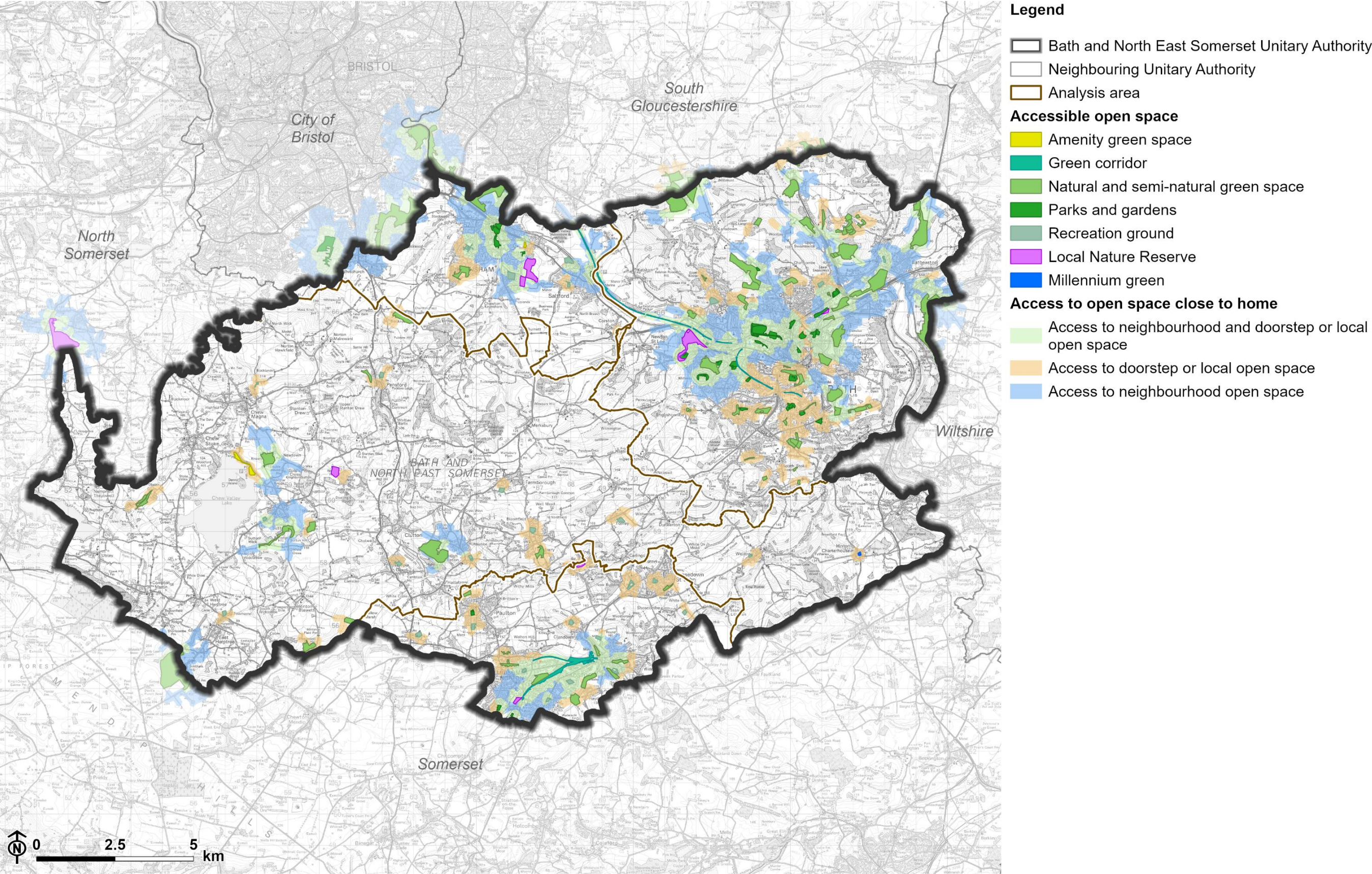
6.11 Figure 6.5 shows the catchment areas of accessible open space within the wider neighbourhood hierarchy. Many of these large accessible open spaces are located on the boundary of the district, with clusters to the north of Bath and within Keynsham. Residents also have access to larger accessible open spaces situated outside of the district. Sites outside the northern boundary of the district are also shown to be accessible to residents in these areas. Communities within Bath, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, and Westfield are located within the catchment area of a green corridor. Within the rural areas, access to these larger open spaces is limited to the communities within High Littleton and Clutton, and East Harptree. It should be noted, East Harptree is within the catchment area of a site located outside of the district.

6.12 Access to provision for children and teenagers is set out in **Figure 6.6** and **Figure 6.7**. Many communities across the district are located within the catchment area of at least one site of equipped designated play space. Provision is greatest in Bath and the larger settlements, with most rural communities having at least one site offering equipped designated play areas and informal play provision. However, some smaller communities within rural areas do not have access to one of these open spaces. Access to informal play provision varies across the district, with many of the district's communities outside the catchment area for larger facilities such as MUGAs and pump tracks.

6.13 Access to allotments and community food growing sites is shown in **Figure 6.8**. Opportunities for food growing are focused in Bath and the larger settlements including settlements within the rural areas. However, residents within some of these areas, are not within the catchment area, including south-eastern and northern areas of Bath, western communities within Midsomer Norton, and residents within Peasedown St John and Keynsham.

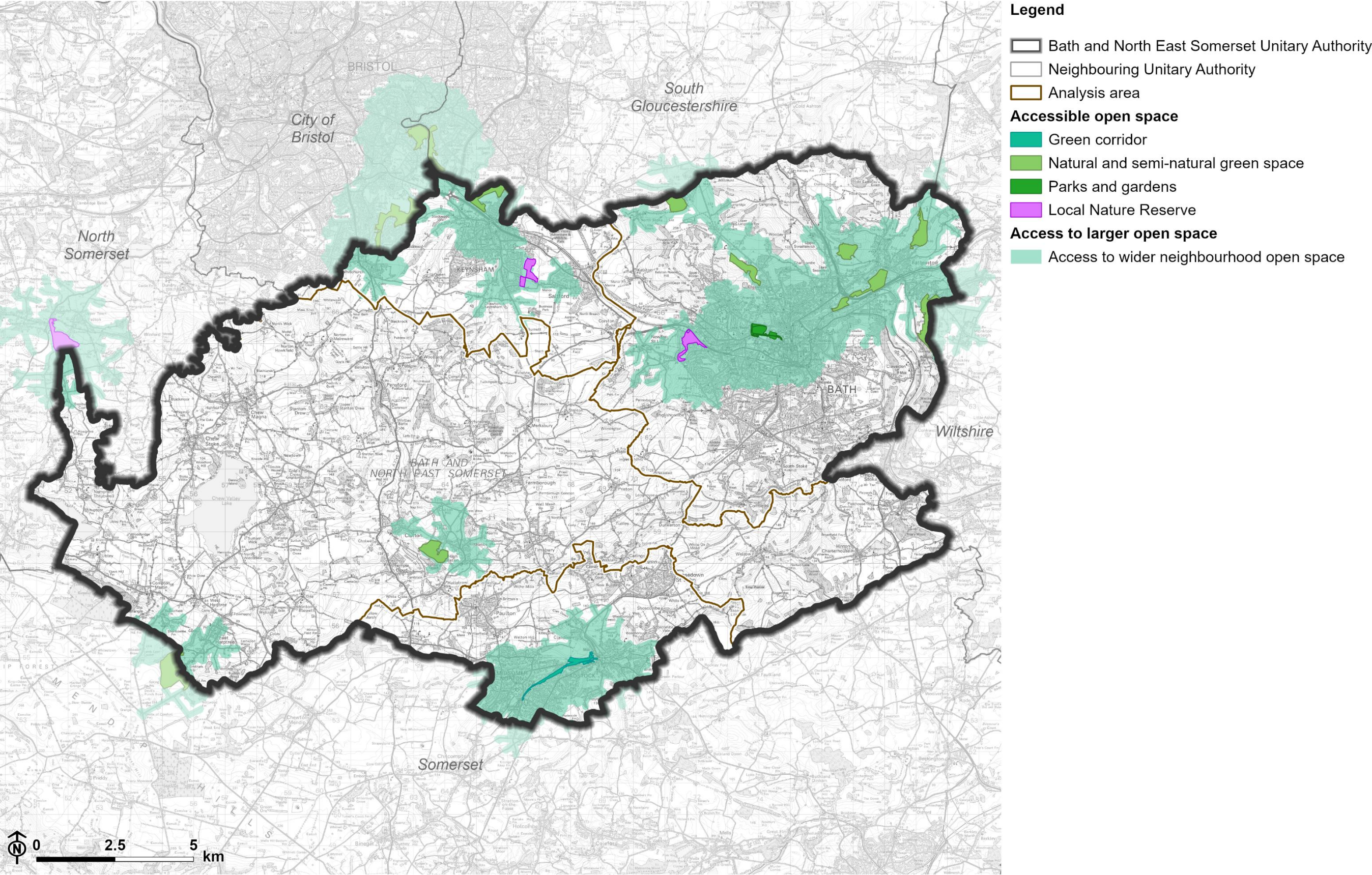
6.14 Figure 6.9 shows the future access to accessible open space (i.e. amenity green space; parks, gardens and recreation grounds; and natural and semi-natural green space) within the district in the context of development on site allocations proposed in the new Local Plan. Very few communities are within the catchment of all accessible open space typologies. Those that are, are located within north-east Bath and parts of Keynsham. A larger proportion of residents are located within the catchment of two kinds of accessible open space, again these are communities within Bath and Keynsham. A greater proportion of communities are within the catchment area of more informal types of open space e.g. natural and semi-natural green space and Local Nature Reserves, amenity green space and Millennium Greens.

Figure 6.4: Access to open space within 15-minutes' walk from home



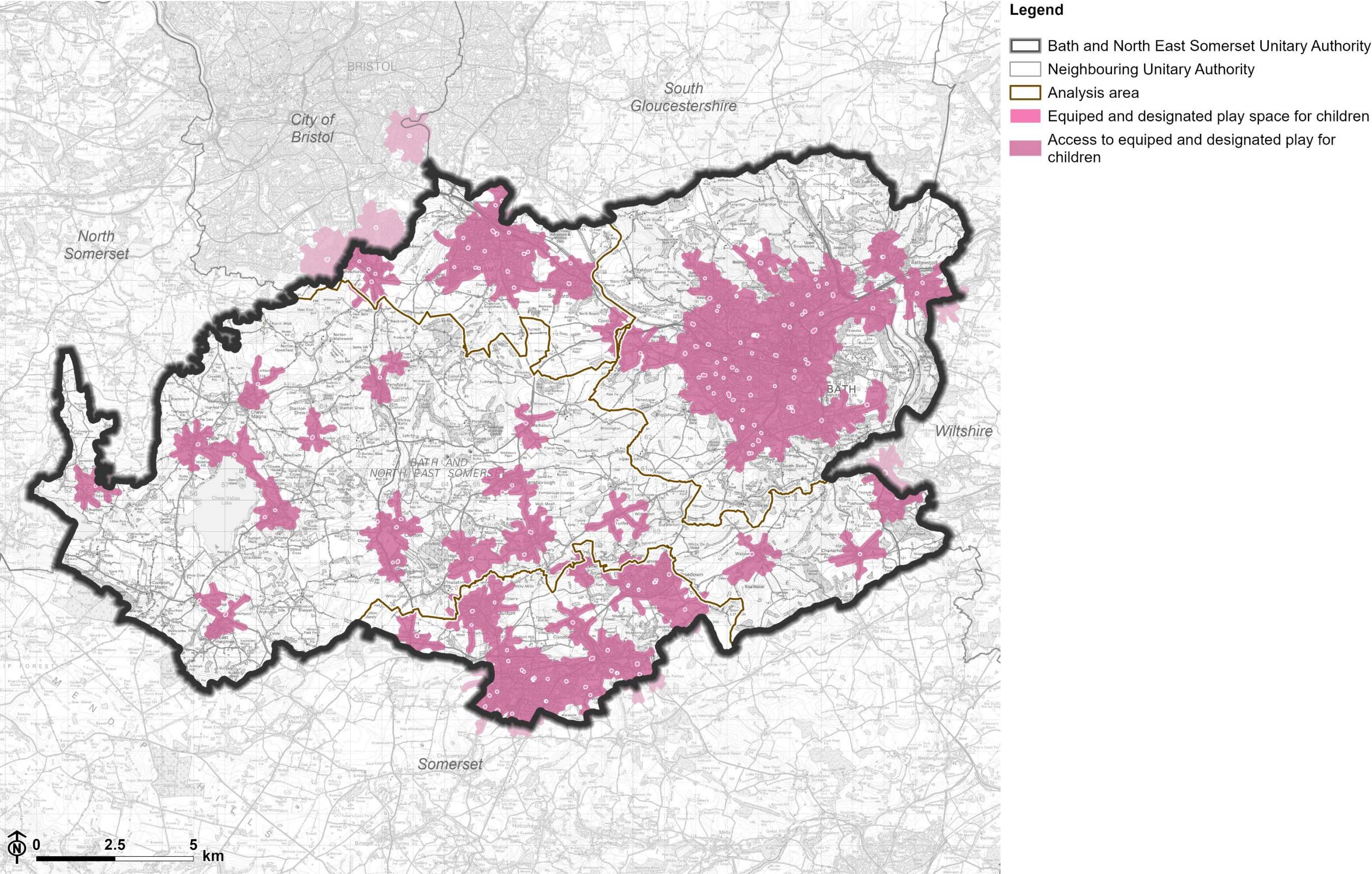
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Figure 6.5: Access to wider neighbourhood accessible open space



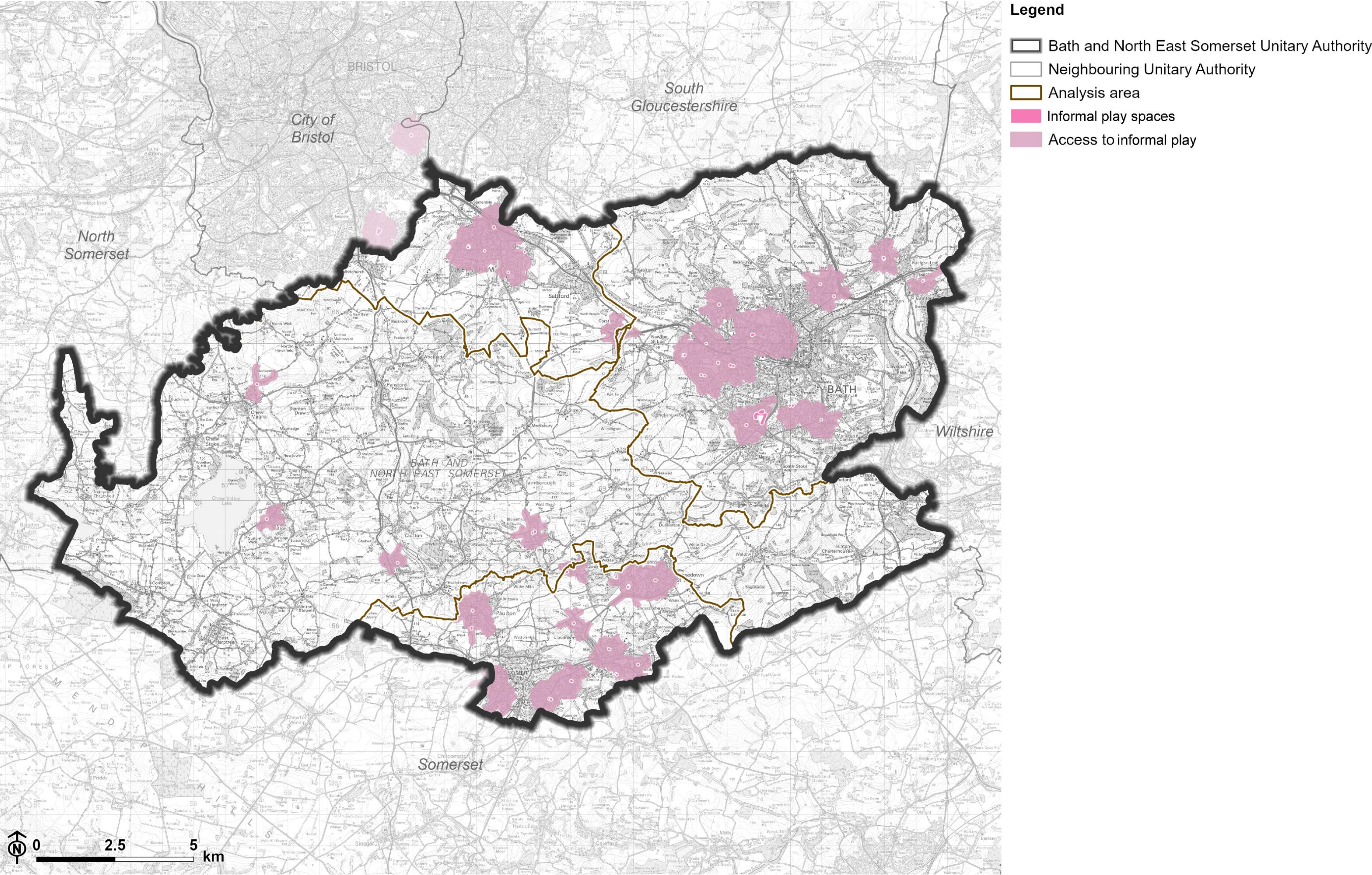
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Figure 6.6: Access to equipped designated play for children



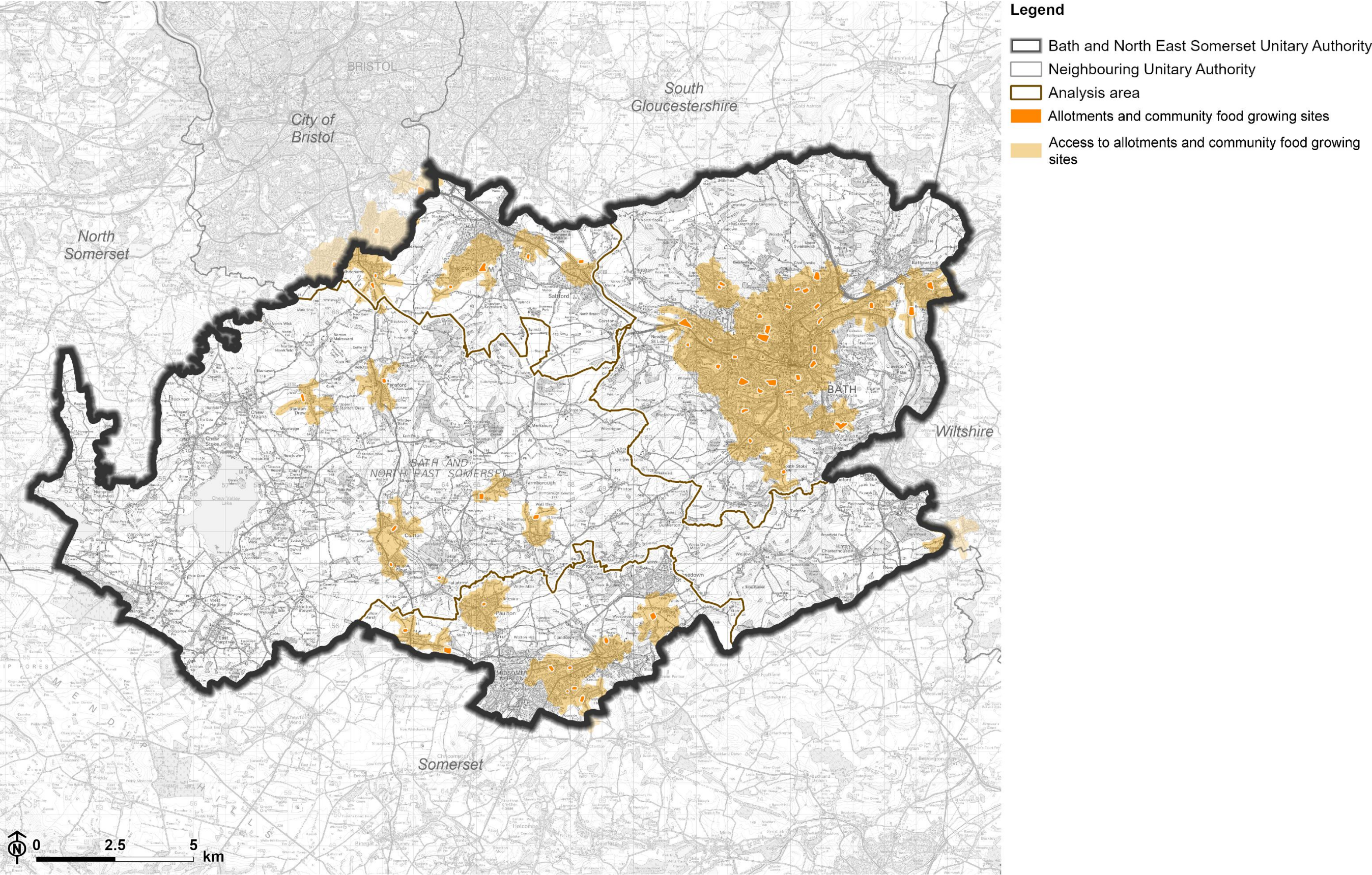
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Figure 6.7: Access to informal play provision for teenagers



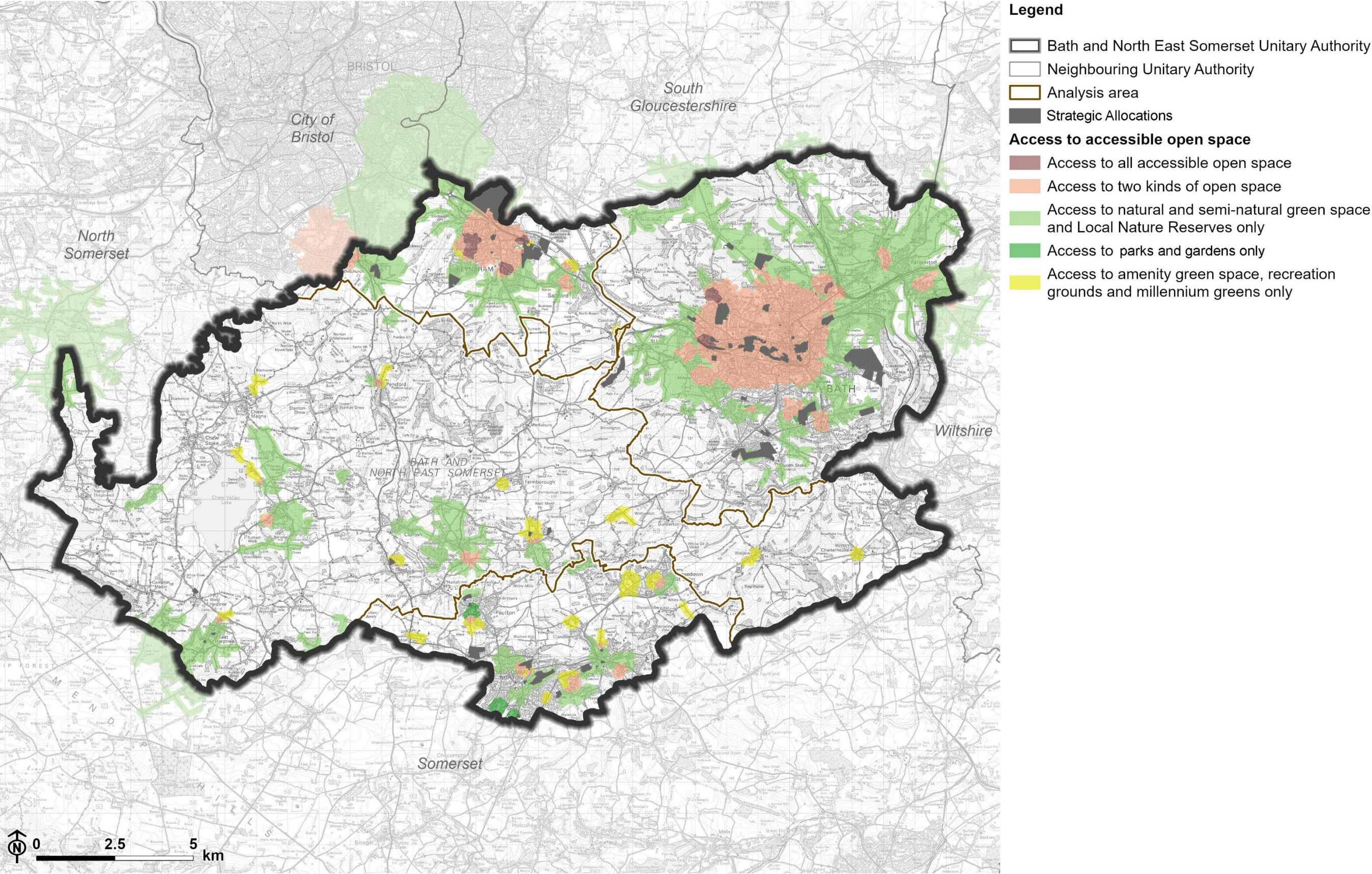
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Figure 6.8: Access to allotments and community food growing sites



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Figure 6.9: Future access to open space



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Household access to green space in England

6.15 The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has published a set of statistics in development that describe the percentage of households that are within different walking distances of different types of green space for small neighbourhoods in England [\[See reference 43\]](#).

6.16 The statistics build on Natural England's Accessible Greenspace Standards which recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural green space. Natural England's work was based on straight line distances between households and green spaces. Defra's updated method calculated the distance to green space for every household in England measured along a network of walkable streets and paths, with results summarised by Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA).

6.17 This is an official statistic in development, meaning that it belongs to a group of published statistics that are undergoing development; they may be new or existing statistics, and will be tested with users, in line with the standards of trustworthiness, quality, and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics.

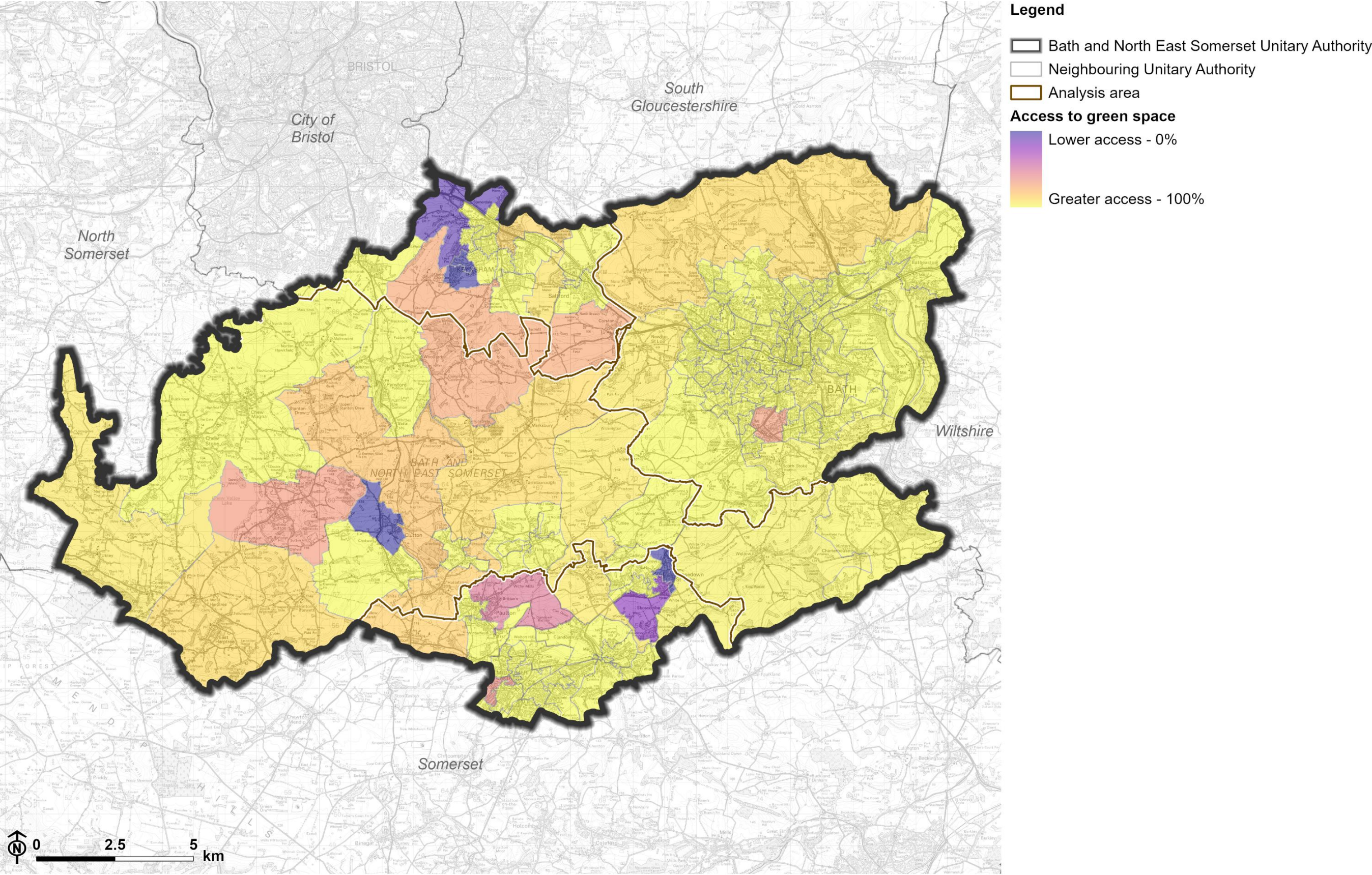
6.18 Key assumptions and points of note with the use and interpretation of this dataset include:

- The definition of 'access' and 'green space' used has a large impact on the results;
- With a broad definition of green space, many urban households have access;
- Only when access to the wider countryside is considered a green space experience do rural areas have similar provision to green space as urban areas;
- Refining the size and type of green space as well as the distance to it, greatly reduces the number of households with access, in both rural and urban areas; and
- Tighter limits on the distance to green space appears to have a greater impact than the size of the green space on the number of households with access.

6.19 Figure 6.10 shows the relative percentage of households with access to green space in Bath and North East Somerset, highlighting that the areas with the least access to green space are in Keynsham, Clutton, and Peasedown St John.

6.20 Table 6.2 displays the percentages of households with access to green space at MSOA level. This data cannot be overlaid on to the analysis areas as the boundaries do not align.

Figure 6.10: Defra access to green space in England official statistic in development – access to green space in Bath and North East Somerset



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Table 6.2: Households with access to green space (Defra Access to Green Space Official Statistics in Development)

MSOA	MSOA Name	Number of Households	Households with Access to Green Space
E02002985	Keynsham North	3,106	2,562 (82.49%)
E02002986	Keynsham South	3,274	1,621 (49.51%)
E02002987	Keynsham East	2,709	2,380 (87.86%)
E02002988	Lambridge & Fairfield Park	2,621	2,457 (93.74%)
E02002989	Weston	2,533	2,285 (90.21%)
E02002990	Walcot	3,100	3,100 (100.00%)
E02002991	Central Bath & Lansdown	6,907	6,907 (100.00%)
E02002992	Newbridge	2,558	2,553 (99.80%)
E02002993	Kingsmead	3,102	3,102 (100.00%)
E02002994	Bathavon North & South	4,740	4,327 (91.29%)
E02002995	Twerton	2,534	2,534 (100.00%)
E02002996	Widcombe, Bathwick Hill & Claverton Down	4,062	4,047 (99.63%)
E02002997	Oldfield Park West	3,375	3,375 (100.00%)
E02002998	Oldfield Park East	2,357	2,357 (100.00%)
E02002999	Southdown	2,445	2,445 (100.00%)
E02003000	Saltford, Farmborough & Timsbury	4,233	3,737 (88.28%)
E02003001	Bloomfield	2,367	2,293 (96.87%)
E02003002	Combe Down	3,011	3,011 (100.00%)
E02003003	Odd Down	2,446	2,421 (98.98%)
E02003004	Pensford, Clutton & Temple Cloud	3,005	2,037 (67.79%)
E02003005	Chew, Bishop Sutton & East Harptree	2,847	2,391 (83.98%)
E02003006	Peasedown & Bathavon West	3,751	2,514 (67.02%)
E02003007	High Littleton & Paulton	4,142	3,861 (93.22%)
E02003008	Radstock	2,667	2,653 (99.48%)
E02003009	Midsomer Norton North	2,751	2,750 (99.96%)

MSOA	MSOA Name	Number of Households	Households with Access to Green Space
E02003010	Westfield	2,691	2,691 (100.00%)
E02003011	Midsomer Norton Redfield	2,539	2,124 (83.65%)
Total	-	85,873	78,535 (91.45%)

Household access to equipped designated play areas, informal play provision and allotments

6.21 A similar set of data has been produced for household access to equipped designated play areas, informal play provision, and allotments and community food growing sites. This has been produced following a similar method to understand household access to green space (as described earlier in this chapter), using Ordnance Survey (2025) OS National Geographic Database data for the households [See reference 44] combined with the access network analysis carried out as part of this assessment.

6.22 The data is shown in **Table 6.3** and mapped in **Figures 6.11-6.14** which show that:

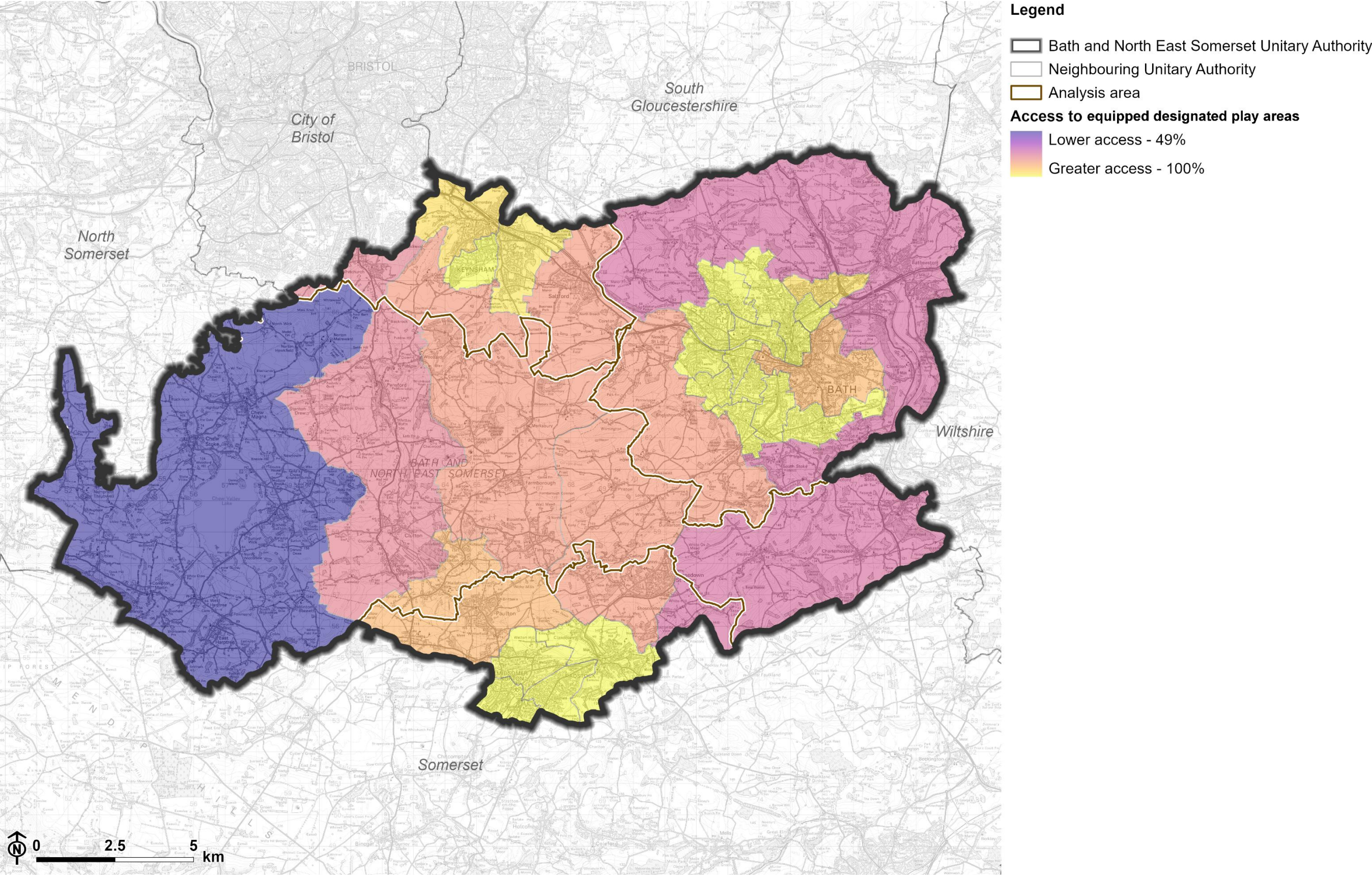
- Access to equipped designated play areas is greatest across Bath, Keynsham, and Radstock. The areas with least access are to the west of the district.
- Access to informal play provision is low across the district, with only Keynsham, Radstock, and areas in southern and western Bath showing greater access.
- Access to allotments and community food growing sites is shown to be greatest across most of Bath and Keynsham. Much of the remainder of the district has lower access with the lowest access in the west of the district, and to the south and west of Bath.

Table 6.3: Household access to allotments and community food growing sites, equipped designated play areas, and informal play provision spaces by MSOA

MSOA	MSOA Name	Number of Households	Households with Access to Allotments	Households with Access to Designated Play Areas	Households with Access to Informal Play
E02002985	Keynsham North	3,590	337 (9.39%)	3,081 (85.82%)	3,416 (95.15%)
E02002986	Keynsham South	3,498	3,252 (92.97%)	2,943 (84.13%)	3,498 (100.00%)
E02002987	Keynsham East	3,066	636 (20.74%)	2,279 (74.33%)	2,971 (96.90%)
E02002988	Lambridge & Fairfield Park	2,843	2,620 (92.16%)	2,041 (71.79%)	2,711 (95.36%)
E02002989	Weston	2,669	2,573 (96.40%)	1,591 (59.61%)	2,667 (99.93%)
E02002990	Walcot	3,562	3,562 (100.00%)	622 (17.46%)	3,562 (100.00%)
E02002991	Central Bath & Lansdown	10,736	10,165 (94.68%)	6,066 (56.50%)	10,669 (99.38%)
E02002992	Newbridge	2,898	1,994 (68.81%)	2,042 (70.46%)	2,887 (99.62%)
E02002993	Kingsmead	4,477	4,472 (99.89%)	4,406 (98.41%)	4,477 (100.00%)
E02002994	Bathavon North & South	5,562	2,031 (36.52%)	1,412 (25.39%)	4,099 (73.70%)
E02002995	Twerton	2,886	2,767 (95.88%)	2,864 (99.24%)	2,886 (100.00%)
E02002996	Widcombe, Bathwick Hill & Claverton Down	5,423	4,807 (88.64%)	380 (7.01%)	4,818 (88.84%)
E02002997	Oldfield Park West	4,075	4,075 (100.00%)	3,935 (96.56%)	4,075 (100.00%)
E02002998	Oldfield Park East	2,617	2,617 (100.00%)	871 (33.28%)	2,617 (100.00%)
E02002999	Southdown	2,506	2,292 (91.46%)	1,789 (71.39%)	2,506 (100.00%)
E02003000	Saltford, Farmborough & Timsbury	4,768	1,892 (39.68%)	1,040 (21.81%)	3,963 (83.12%)

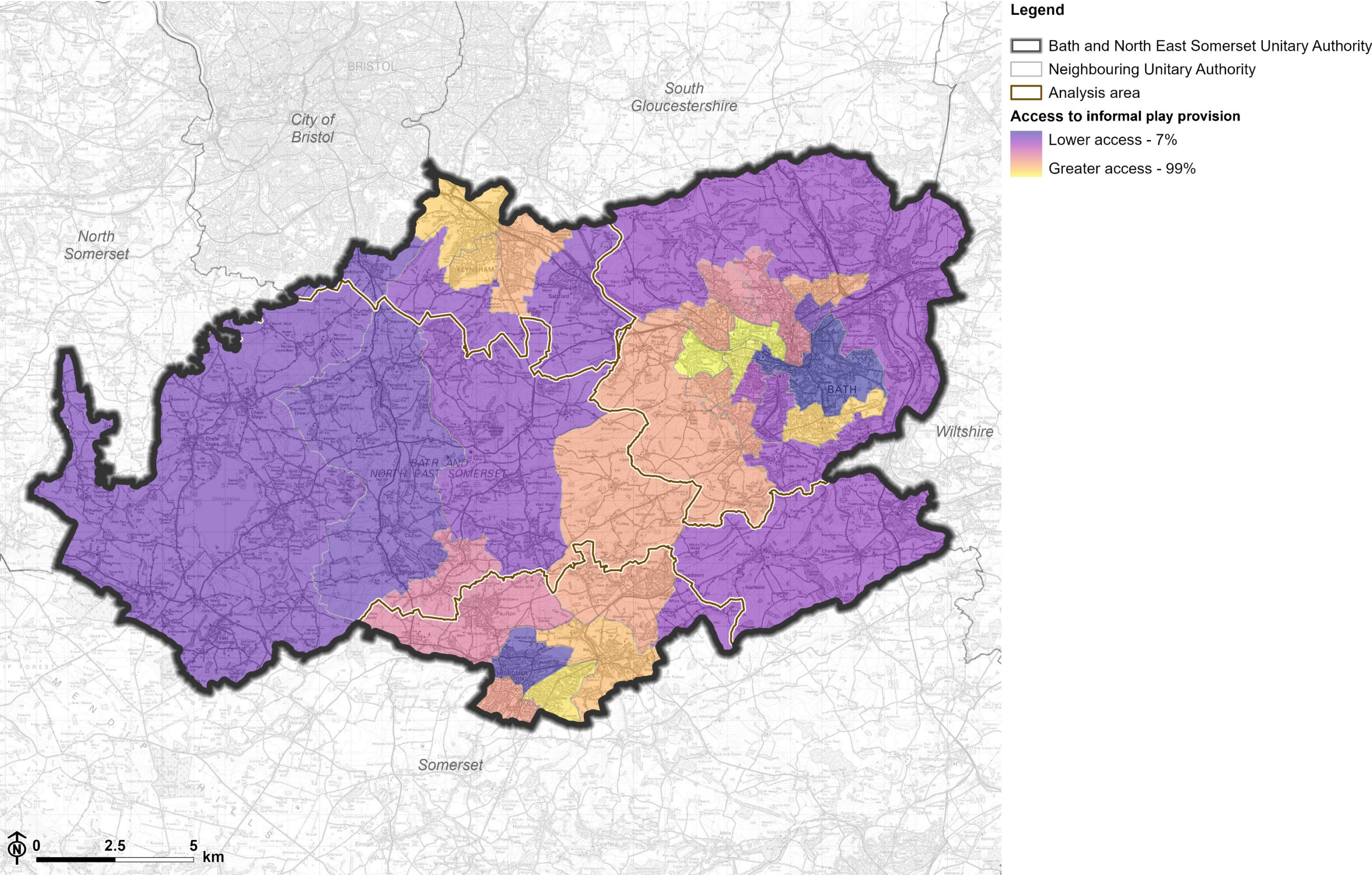
MSOA	MSOA Name	Number of Households	Households with Access to Allotments	Households with Access to Designated Play Areas	Households with Access to Informal Play
E02003001	Bloomfield	2,578	2,578 (100.00%)	666 (25.83%)	2,578 (100.00%)
E02003002	Combe Down	3,288	2,831 (86.10%)	2,832 (86.13%)	3,281 (99.79%)
E02003003	Odd Down	2,588	2,549 (98.49%)	1,781 (68.82%)	2,588 (100.00%)
E02003004	Pensford, Clutton & Temple Cloud	3,458	2,696 (77.96%)	502 (14.52%)	2,689 (77.76%)
E02003005	Chew, Bishop Sutton & East Harptree	3,343	5 (0.15%)	590 (17.65%)	1,646 (49.24%)
E02003006	Peasedown & Bathavon West	4,170	244 (5.85%)	2,909 (69.76%)	3,485 (83.57%)
E02003007	High Littleton & Paulton	4,639	3,068 (66.13%)	2,511 (54.13%)	4,106 (88.51%)
E02003008	Radstock	3,099	1,598 (51.57%)	2,483 (80.12%)	3,094 (99.84%)
E02003009	Midsomer Norton North	3,190	1,088 (34.11%)	305 (9.56%)	3,167 (99.28%)
E02003010	Westfield	3,075	2,148 (69.85%)	2,832 (92.10%)	3,072 (99.90%)
E02003011	Midsomer Norton Redfield	2,644	0 (0.00%)	1,780 (67.32%)	2,644 (100.00%)
Total	-	101,248	68,897 (67.31%)	56,553 (57.75%)	94,172 (93.70%)

Figure 6.11: Household access to equipped designated play areas



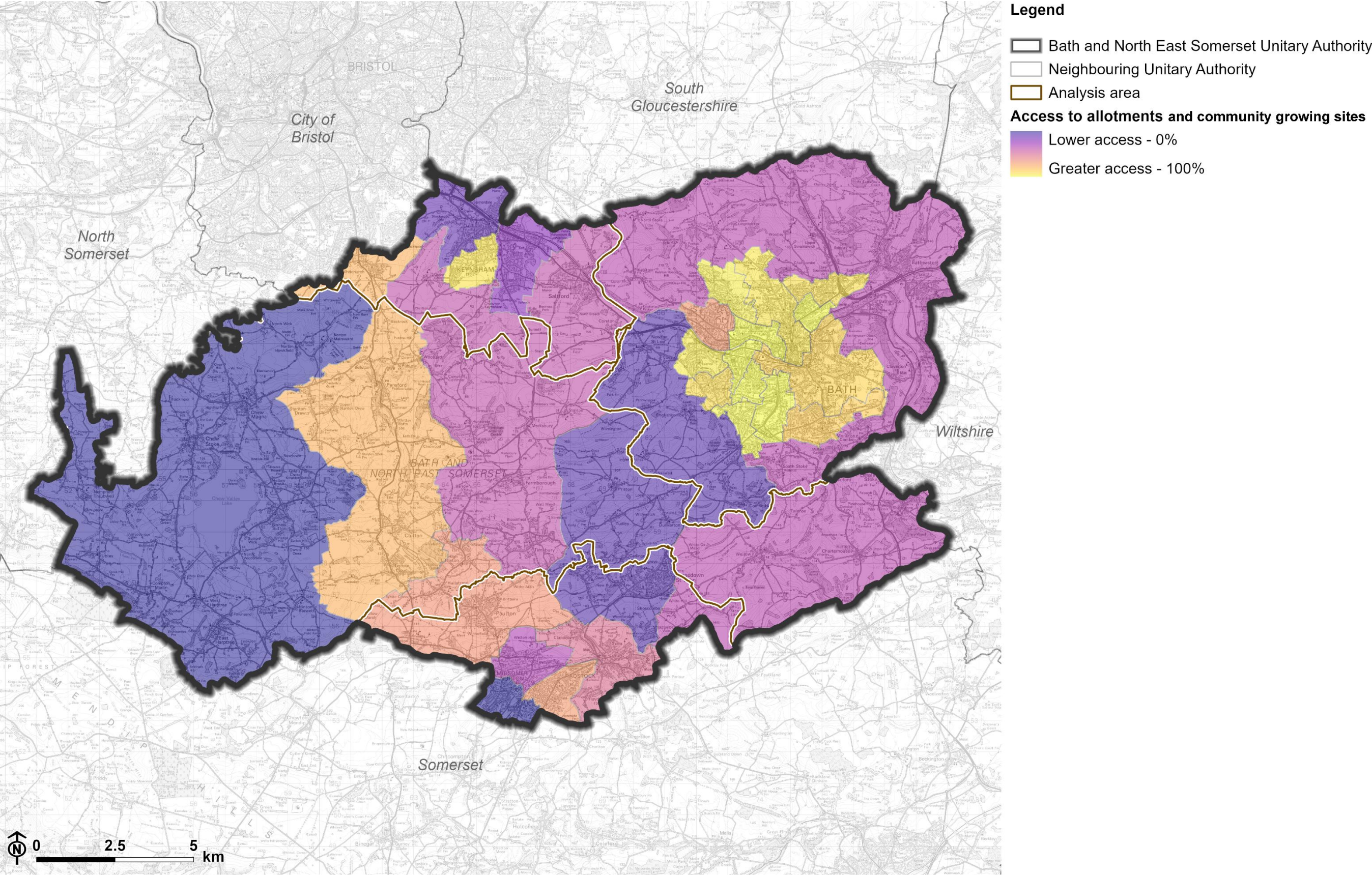
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Figure 6.12: Household access to informal play provision



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Figure 6.13: Household access to allotments and community food growing sites



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Chapter 7

Quality and Value Criteria

7.1 Quality and value criteria measure how open space is performing. 'Value' is defined as the presence of various features and facilities, including the value to the community. 'Quality' refers to aspects relating to management and condition of features and facilities.

7.2 Quality and value criteria are more subjective than quantity and accessibility. It is important to develop a rigorous set of criteria to allow a consistent approach to assessing open spaces. Standards for quality and value should be locally derived and informed by an understanding of performance of open space within an authority boundary. This is achieved through a comprehensive audit of open space and comparison of the results against national guidance.

7.3 This section sets out guidance relating to the quality and value of open spaces. This could be used to create a set of criteria for assessing open spaces along with defining standards.

Guidance

7.4 There are no nationally defined quality and value standards for each open space in the context of national planning policy. However, there is recognised guidance that can be used to establish 'benchmark' standards.

Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)

7.5 ANGSt guidance notes that quality should be assessed in relation to:

- Accessibility;
- Naturalness; and
- Connection to people.

7.6 The primary advice within the guidance refers to the Green Flag Award criteria as well as best practice in accessibility produced by the Sensory Trust [\[See reference 45\]](#).

Natural England's Country Park Accreditation

7.7 Natural England's Country Park Accreditation allows land managers to apply for accreditation of their Country Parks. This acts as evidence for visitors that the site in question contains essential services and facilities commonly found in Country Parks. It also demonstrates to planners and designers the services and facilities these sites should be offering [\[See reference 46\]](#).

7.8 There are a range of essential and desirable criteria to define a Country Park. The type of criteria includes:

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

7.9 The criteria for designating Country Parks relate primarily to value (types of facilities available) rather than the quality of these facilities. In addition, the criteria are less relevant for assessing smaller, local sites.

Green Flag Award

7.10 The Green Flag Award is a benchmark standard for accessible parks and open spaces and recognises the importance of well-managed sites. The award sets a standard for recreational space management in the United Kingdom and internationally.

7.11 The guidance and criteria for judging these sites can be used as a benchmark to assess the quality and value of open spaces [\[See reference 47\]](#). The Green Flag Award criteria are based on eight themes:

- A Welcoming Place;
- Healthy, Safe and Secure;
- Well Maintained and Clean;

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

7.12 The Green Flag Award Criteria are broad, encompassing quality and value in the standard process. The categorisation of criteria by theme enables identification of areas in need of improvement. This would be particularly valuable for assessing how open spaces in Bath and North East Somerset are performing.

7.13 The aim of the Green Flag Award is to identify the best managed and equipped parks and open spaces. As a result, some of the criteria are less relevant to small open spaces, particularly natural and semi-natural green space and amenity green space typologies which may be expected to have only limited management or facilities.

Fields in Trust (FiT)

7.14 FiT also provides benchmark guidelines for the provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space. The benchmarking is primarily concerned with the quantity and accessibility of these spaces. However, some guidelines exist on quality for informal and formal outdoor spaces. This includes guidance for the:

- Value of the space to suit local communities;
- Importance of ongoing management, maintenance and landscaping;
- Inclusion of ancillary facilities, including footpaths; and
- Design of the space, including reducing fear and crime.

Play England

7.15 Play England is a registered charity with a vision for everybody in England to be able to enjoy their right to play throughout their childhood and teenage years. Their vision for an opportunity to play for all children and teenagers is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child Article 31 and their own Charter for Children's Play.

7.16 Play England publish specific guidelines for ‘quality in play’. The most up-to-date publication dates from 2016. This outlines 11 quality areas, within the categories of ‘the play environment’, the ‘the organisational framework’ and ‘the wider context’ [See reference 48]. The first category is most relevant to assessing quality and value. This comprises the following standards:

- Children’s freedom and control (including opportunities for play for disabled, minority and marginalised children and communities);
- The physical play environment (which relates to making the best use of the physical environment within play); and
- The human play environment (which sets a standard for staff and play managers).

7.17 These standards go beyond specifying the quality and amount of equipment provided by looking to incorporate wider environment play. This means many of the guidelines refer to the wider approach to play and cannot be assessed on a site-specific basis.

Recommendations for criteria and scoring

7.18 The Green Flag Award criteria have been identified by Natural England as the most appropriate indication of quality and value for green space within Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Framework. These are also the most widely recognised set of standards for open space in the UK. The guidance could be supplemented by guidance set out within Play England’s ‘play environment’ criteria.

7.19 An example of a site assessment audit form based on Green Flag Award and Play England criteria is contained within **Appendix C**. This form could form the basis for assessing open space provision in Bath and North East Somerset and underpin the development of locally derived quality and value standards.

Chapter 8

Open Space Quantity and Accessibility Analysis by Analysis Areas

8.1 This section provides a breakdown of the open space needs and current provision for each analysis area focussing on accessible open space, provision for children and teenagers, and allotments and community food growing sites. This section also considers provision at the end of the Local Plan period.

8.2 As discussed in more detail in **Chapter 4** and **Chapter 5**, the accessible open space typologies consist of:

- Amenity green spaces;
- Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds; and
- Natural and semi-natural green spaces.

8.3 Provision for children and teenagers is divided into:

- Equipped designated play areas; and
- Informal play.

Bath analysis area

8.4 Table 8.1 shows that the Bath analysis area is currently above the 4.7 hectares per 1,000 population standard of accessible open space provision. This is predominantly delivered by natural and semi-natural green spaces. This provision will drop below the standard during the new Local Plan period without delivery of new accessible open spaces.

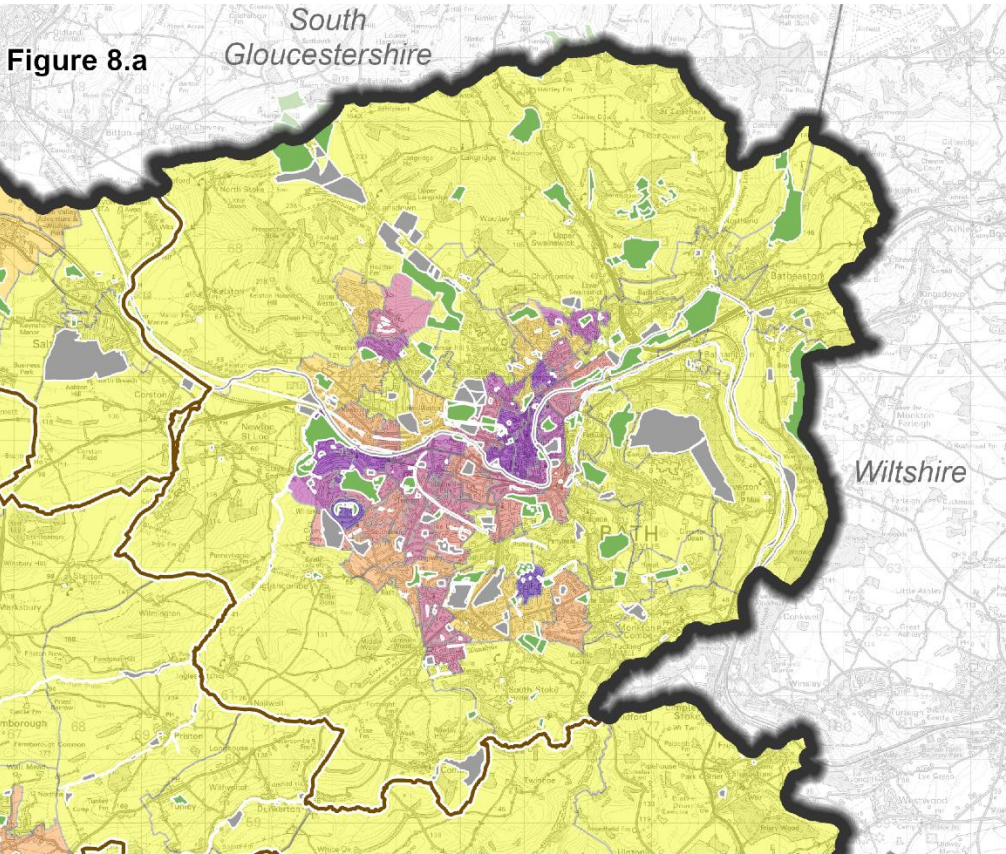
8.5 Provision for equipped designated play areas and informal play is significantly below the total provision for children and teenagers standard and will continue at this deficit during the Local Plan period.

8.6 Allotments and community food growing provision currently exceeds the 0.22 hectares per 1,000 population standard and will drop slightly to the year 2043.

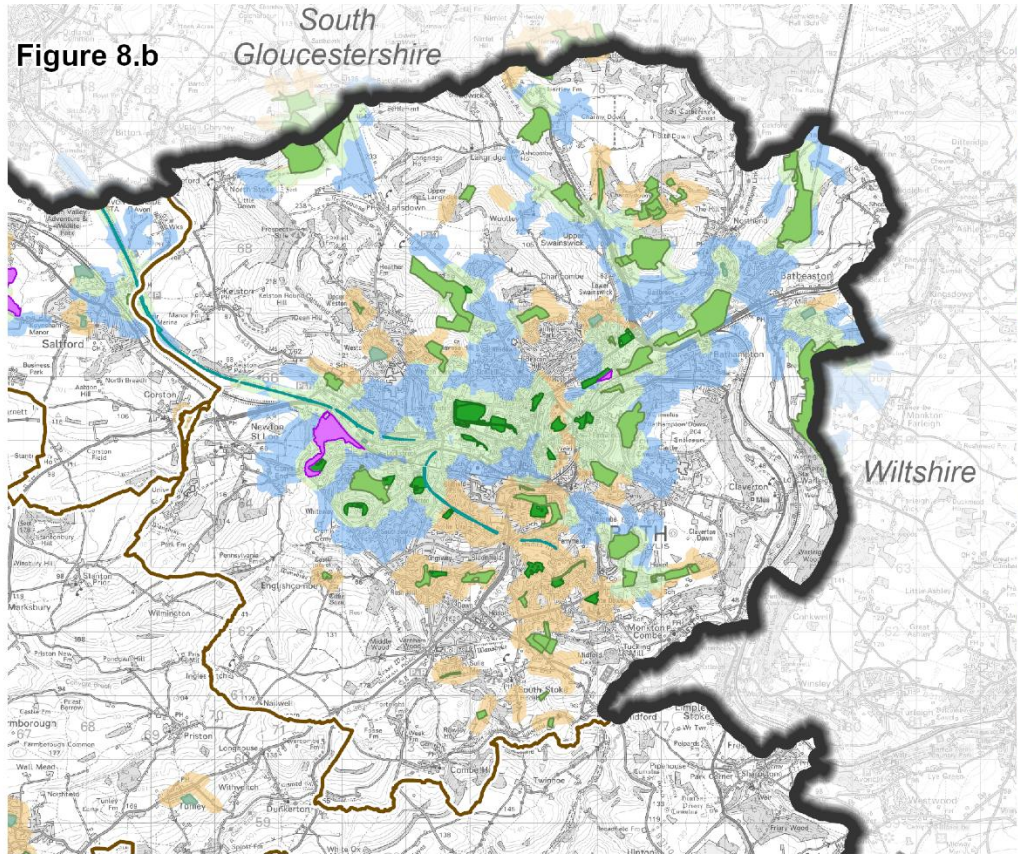
Table 8.1: Quantities of accessible open space per 1,000 population in Bath analysis area

Typology	Current Quantity	Proposed Standard	Performance Against Standard	Future Quantity	Future Performance Against Standard
Amenity green space	0.00 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.30 ha per 1,000 population	0.00 ha per 1,000 population	-0.30 ha per 1,000 population
Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds	0.70 ha per 1,000 population	1.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.60 ha per 1,000 population	0.66 ha per 1,000 population	-0.64 ha per 1,000 population
Natural and semi-natural green space	4.04 ha per 1,000 population	3.10 ha per 1,000 population	+0.94 ha per 1,000 population	3.81 ha per 1,000 population	+0.71 ha per 1,000 population
Accessible open space (total)	4.73 ha per 1,000 population	4.70 ha per 1,000 population	+0.03 ha per 1,000 population	4.47 ha per 1,000 population	-0.23 ha per 1,000 population
Equipped designated play	0.05 ha per 1,000 population	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	-0.20 ha per 1,000 population	0.05 ha per 1,000 population	-0.20 ha per 1,000 population
Informal play provision	0.03 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.27 ha per 1,000 population	0.03 ha per 1,000 population	-0.27 ha per 1,000 population
Provision for children and teenagers (total)	0.08 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.47 ha per 1,000 population	0.08 ha per 1,000 population	-0.47 ha per 1,000 population
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.26 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	+0.04 ha per 1,000 population	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	+0.03 ha per 1,000 population

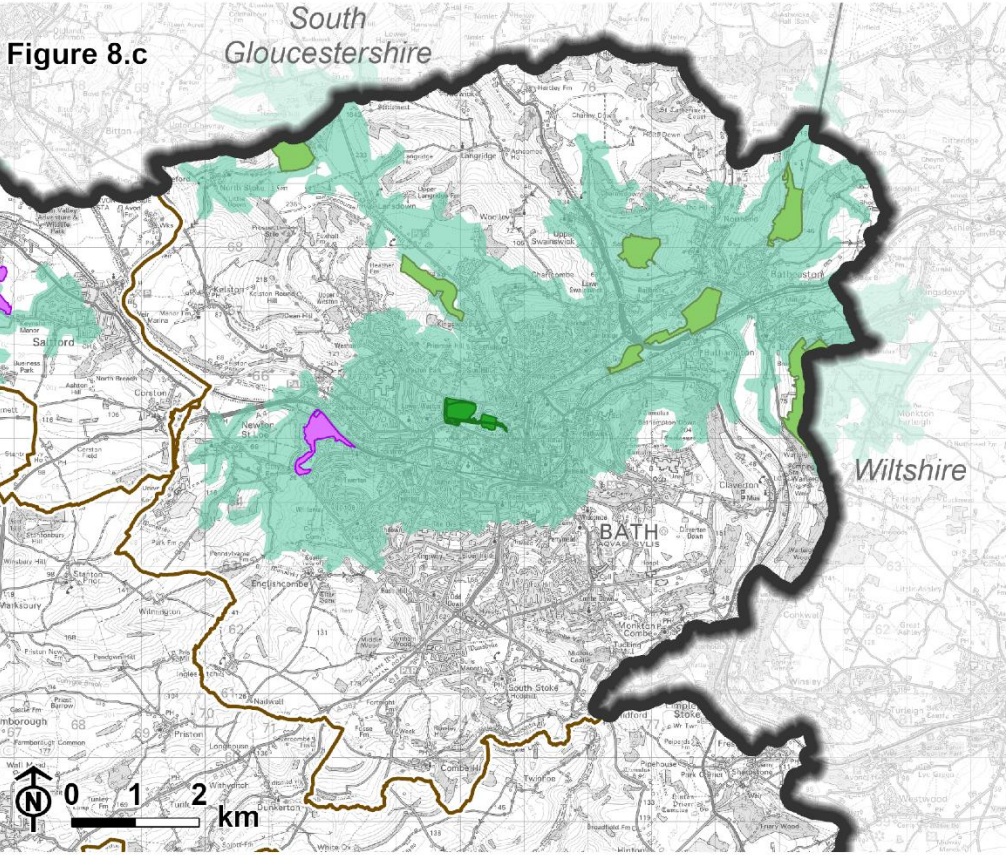
Figure 8.1: Bath analysis area accessible open space provision



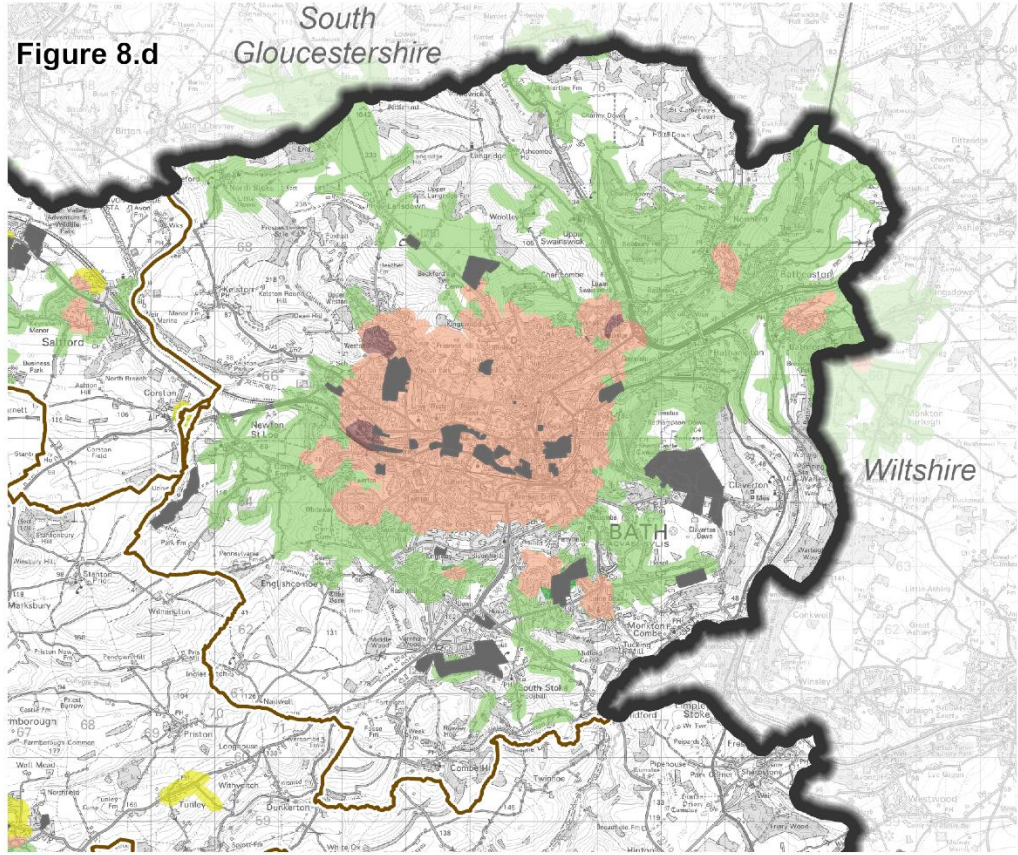
- Bath and North East Somerset Unitary Authority
 - Analysis area
 - Accessible open space
 - Other open space
- Open space needs index**
- Lower need
 - Greater need



- Accessible open space**
- Green corridor
 - Natural and semi-natural green space
 - Parks and gardens
 - Recreation ground
 - Local Nature Reserve
- Access to open space close to home**
- Access to neighbourhood and doorstep or local open space
 - Access to doorstep or local open space
 - Access to neighbourhood open space



- Accessible open space**
- Natural and semi-natural green space
 - Parks and gardens
 - Local Nature Reserve
- Access to larger open space**
- Access to wider neighbourhood open space



- Strategic Allocation**
- Strategic Allocation
- Access to accessible open space**
- Access to all accessible open space
 - Access to two kinds of open space
 - Access to amenity green space, recreation grounds and millennium greens only
 - Access to Parks and gardens only
 - Access to natural and semi-natural green space and Local Nature Reserves only

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Legend

-  Bath and North East Somerset Unitary Authority
-  Neighbouring Unitary Authority
-  Bath analysis area

Open space by primary typology

-  Allotments, community gardens and city farms
-  Amenity green space
-  Cemeteries and religious grounds
-  Green corridor
-  Natural and semi-natural green space
-  Outdoor sports facility
-  Parks and gardens
-  Provision for children and teenagers
-  Recreation ground
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Millennium green

8.7 Figure 8.1a-d and Figure 8.2 show the accessible open space provision within the Bath analysis area highlighting that:

- The majority of residents in Bath are located within the catchment area of at least one site and are within the access catchments of a neighbourhood, local or doorstep accessible open space. However, some areas are shown to not have access to an open space within the park and garden typology.
- Areas of south-west Bath fall within an area of greatest open space need but are also deficient in access to doorstep, local and neighbourhood natural and semi-natural green space and LNRs.
- Amenity green spaces and recreation grounds are predominantly located within the north of the city.
- Wider neighbourhood accessible open spaces are located towards the inside of the district boundary, with clusters to the north of Bath. Communities within Bath are also located within the catchment area of a green corridor.
- Most communities across Bath are within the catchment area of an equipped designated play area – designed for children. However, access to informal play provision designed for teenagers is not as extensive with communities across the city not within the catchment area.
- Deficiencies in access to allotments and community food growing sites are present in eastern parts of Bath. Bath City Farm is located to the west of the city centre.

Bristol to Bath Corridor analysis area

8.8 Table 8.2 shows that within the Bristol to Bath Corridor, accessible open space provision is below the 4.7 hectares per 1,000 population standard but will drop to less than half of the required standard by 2043.

8.9 Natural and semi-natural green spaces contribute most towards open space provision. However, it is still shown to be below the proposed standard and will drop to under half the 3.10 hectares per 1,000 population standard in the new Local Plan period.

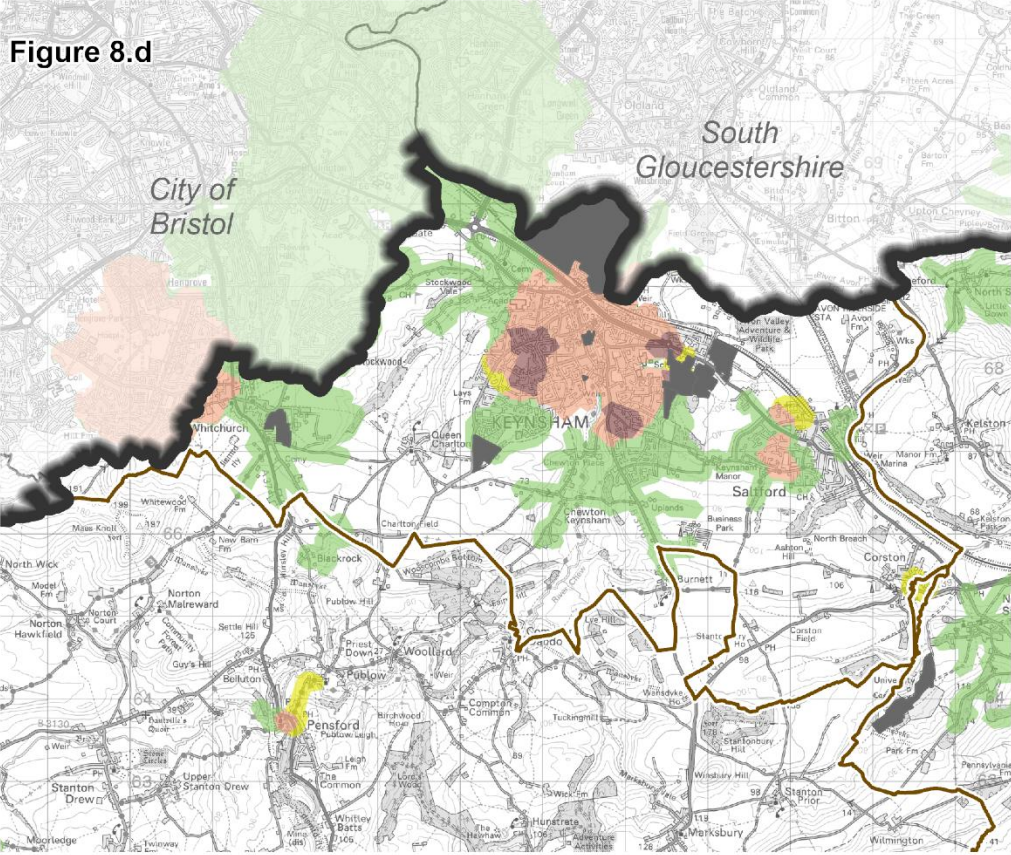
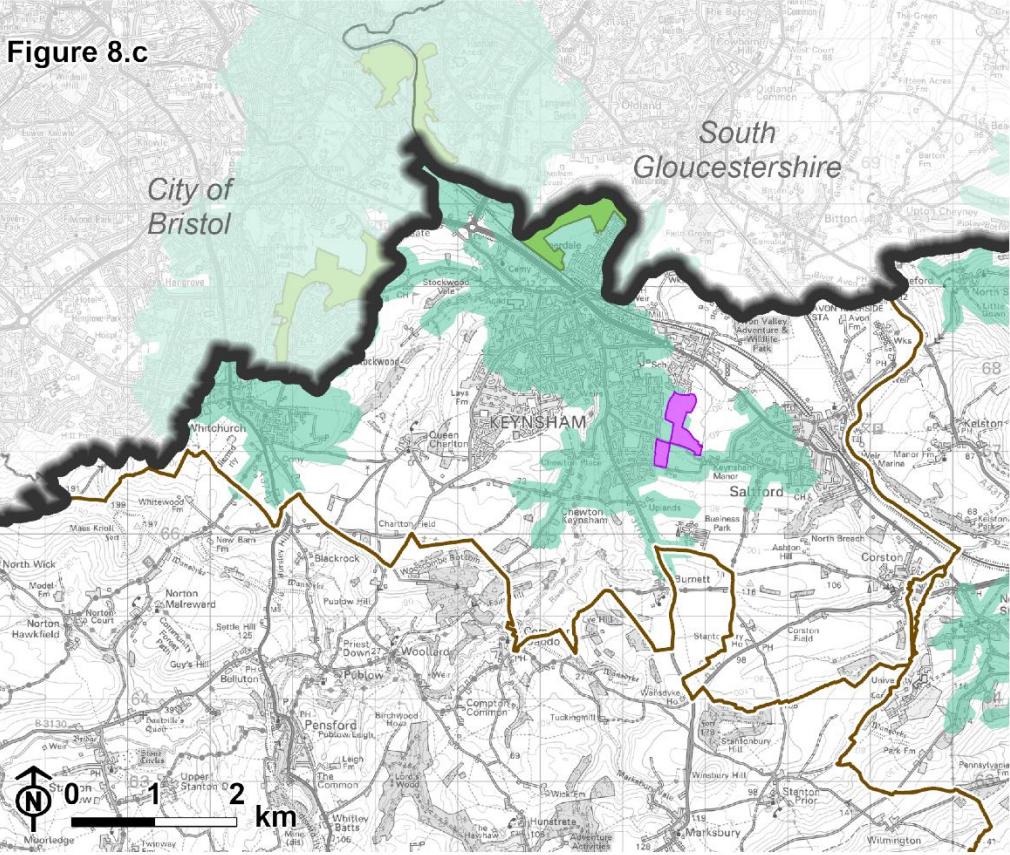
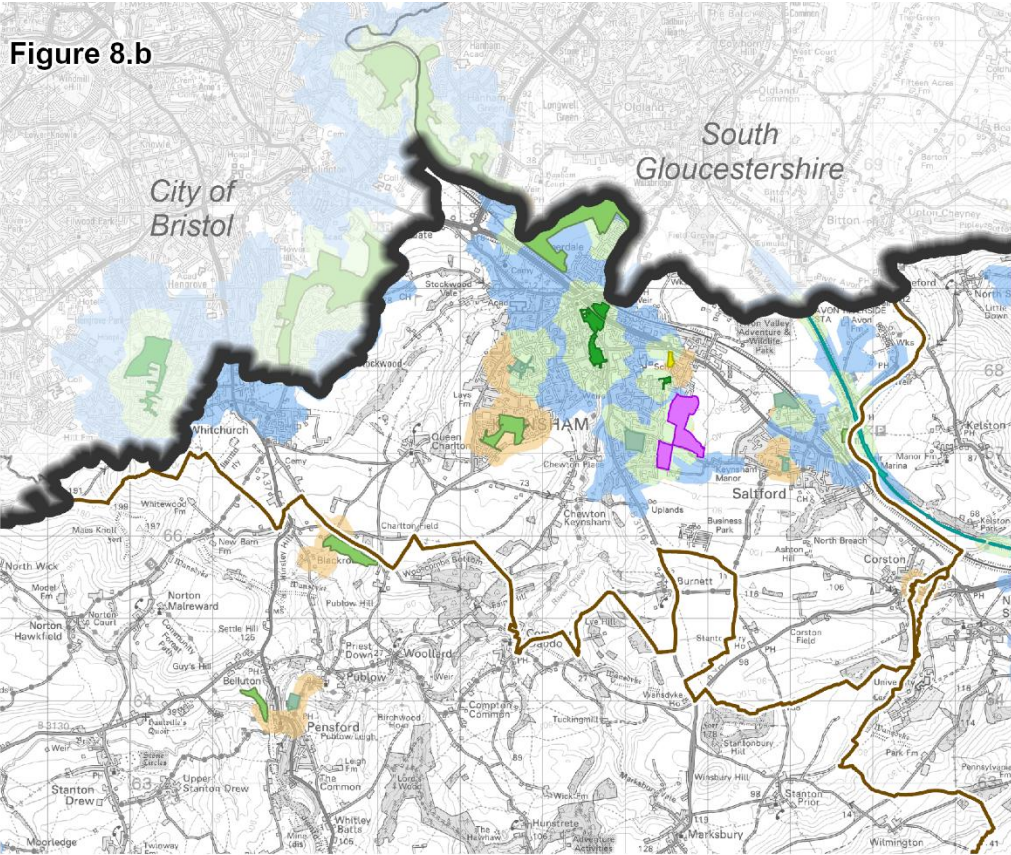
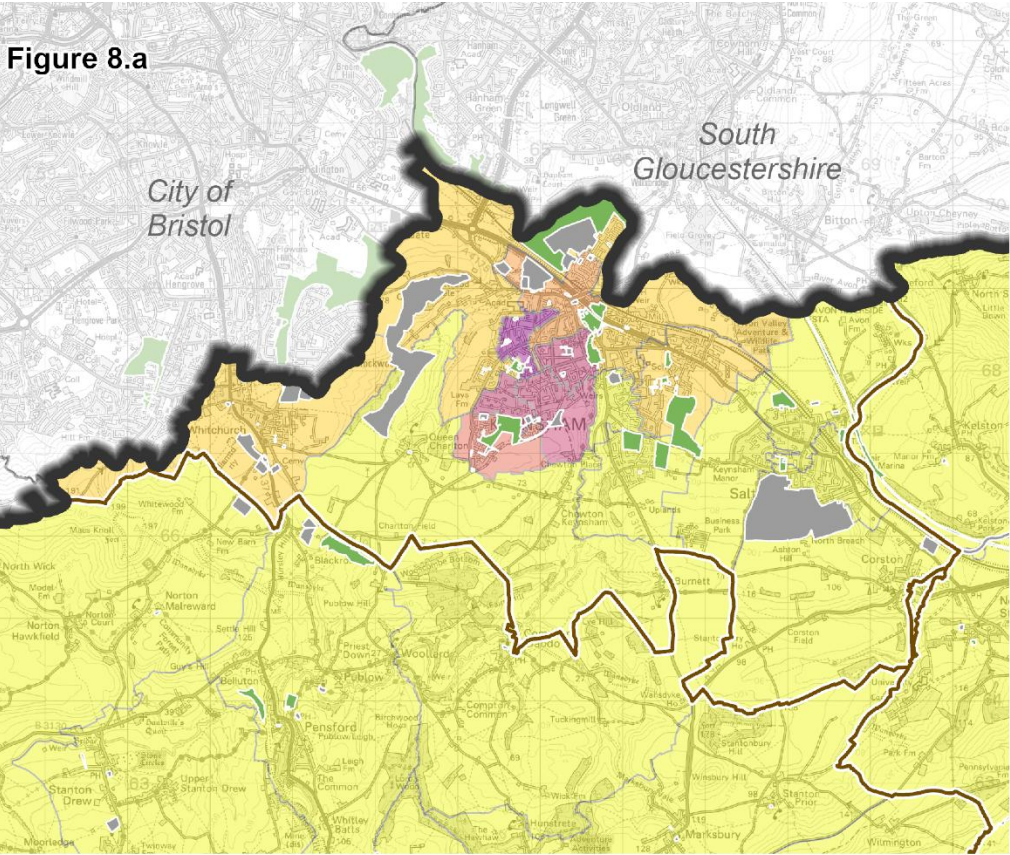
8.10 Provision for children and teenagers is currently very low and will continue to be well below the proposed standard in the new Local Plan period.

8.11 Allotments and community food growing space is below the required standard and will drop to less than a third of the 0.22 hectares per 1,000 population standard by 2043.

Table 8.2: Quantities of open space per 1,000 population in Bristol to Bath Corridor analysis area

Typology	Current Quantity	Proposed Standard	Performance Against Standard	Future Quantity	Future Performance Against Standard
Amenity green space	0.04 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.26 ha per 1,000 population	0.02 ha per 1,000 population	-0.28 ha per 1,000 population
Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds	0.82 ha per 1,000 population	1.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.48 ha per 1,000 population	0.46 ha per 1,000 population	-0.84 ha per 1,000 population
Natural and semi-natural green space	2.61 ha per 1,000 population	3.10 ha per 1,000 population	-0.49 ha per 1,000 population	1.44 ha per 1,000 population	-1.66 ha per 1,000 population
Accessible open space (total)	3.47 ha per 1,000 population	4.70 ha per 1,000 population	-1.23 ha per 1,000 population	1.92 ha per 1,000 population	-2.78 ha per 1,000 population
Equipped designated play	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	-0.19 ha per 1,000 population	0.03 ha per 1,000 population	-0.22 ha per 1,000 population
Informal play provision	0.01 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.29 ha per 1,000 population	0.00 ha per 1,000 population	-0.30 ha per 1,000 population
Provision for children and teenagers (total)	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.49 ha per 1,000 population	0.03 ha per 1,000 population	-0.52 ha per 1,000 population
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.12 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.10 ha per 1,000 population	0.07 ha per 1,000 population	-0.15 ha per 1,000 population

Figure 8.3: Bristol to Bath Corridor analysis area accessible open space provision



Accessible open space

- Amenity green
- Green corridor
- Natural and semi-natural green space
- Parks and gardens
- Recreation ground
- Local Nature Reserve

Access to open space close to home

- Access to neighbourhood and doorstep or local open space
- Access to doorstep or local open space
- Access to neighbourhood open space

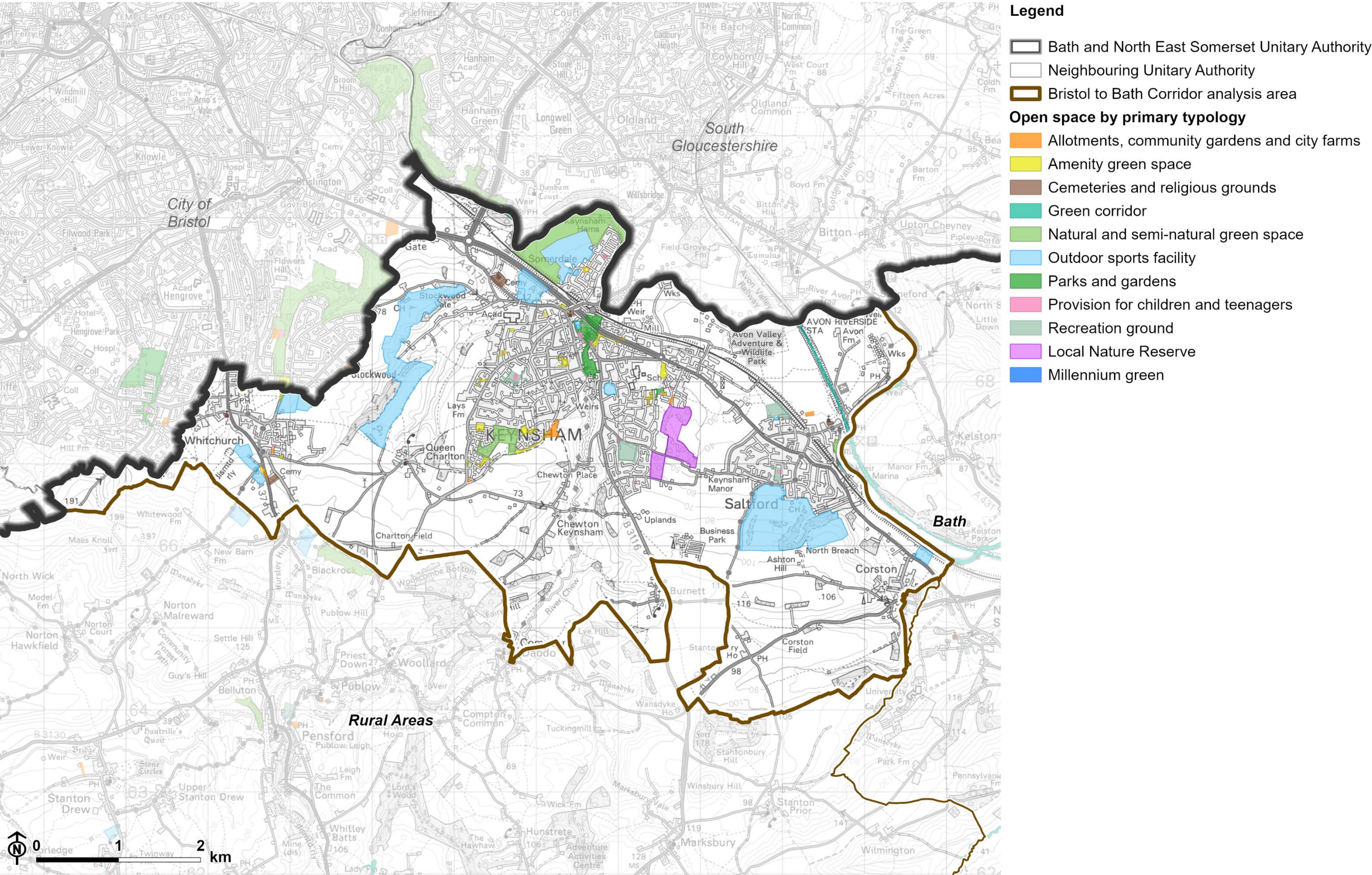
Strategic Allocation

Access to accessible open space

- Access to all accessible open space
- Access to two kinds of open space
- Access to amenity green space, recreation grounds and millennium greens only
- Access to Parks and gardens only
- Access to natural and semi-natural green space and Local Nature Reserves only

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Figure 8.4: All open space in Bristol to Bath Corridor analysis area



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8.12 Figure 8.3a-d and Figure 8.4 show the accessible open space provision within the Bristol to Bath Corridor analysis area highlighting that:

- Many communities in the analysis area fall outside the catchment area of a park and garden. Areas of greatest open space need in Keynsham correspond to areas where there are deficiencies in access to doorstep, local and neighbourhood parks and gardens.
- Many of the communities within Keynsham are located within the catchment area of a natural and semi-natural green space.
- Amenity green spaces and recreation grounds are located across Keynsham and Saltford.
- Wider neighbourhood accessible open spaces are located within Keynsham. Sites outside the boundary contribute to the access provision in areas such as Whitchurch.
- Communities within the larger settlements within the analysis area can access an equipped designated play space. However, access to informal play provision is limited to Keynsham.
- Some residents in Keynsham and Saltford are not within the access catchment area of an allotment or community food growing site.

Rural Areas analysis area

8.13 Table 8.3 shows that there is over twice the required provision of accessible open space within the Rural Areas. This is almost entirely provided by natural and semi-natural green spaces. Overall provision will drop but will remain significantly higher than the 4.7 hectares per 1,000 population standard.

8.14 Amenity green space provision is currently higher than the 0.30 hectares per 1,000 population standard but will drop to 0.05 hectares per 1,000 population below this standard by 2043.

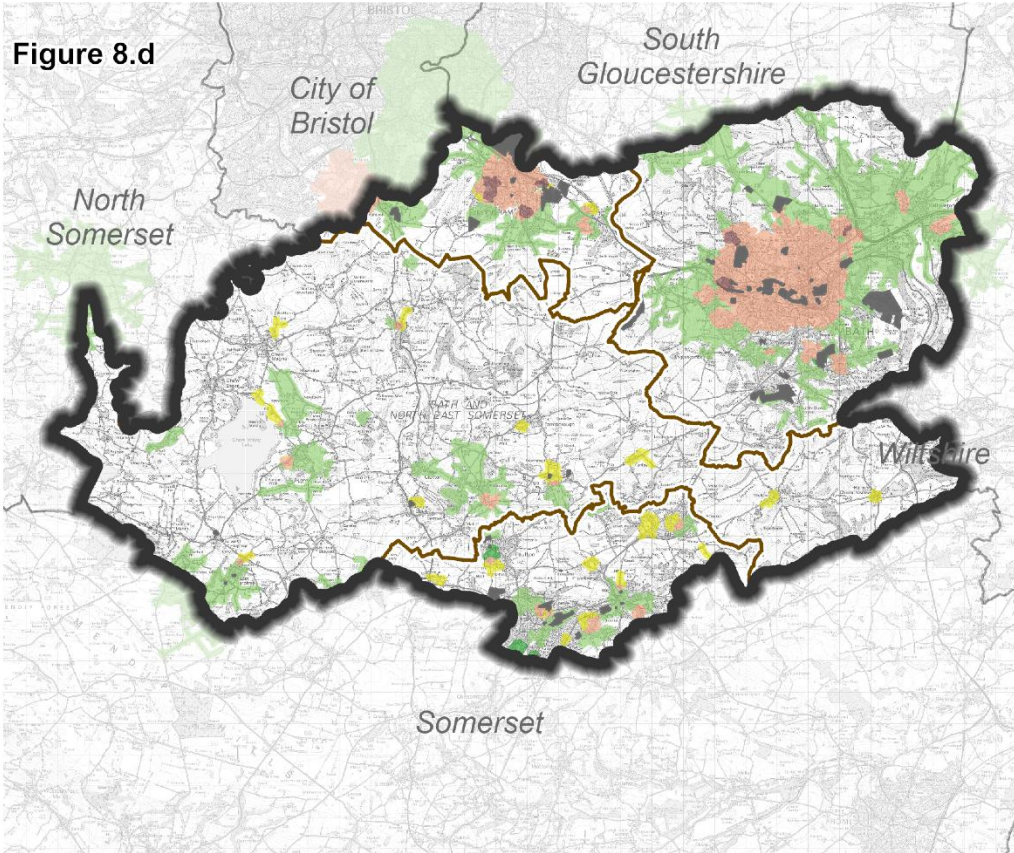
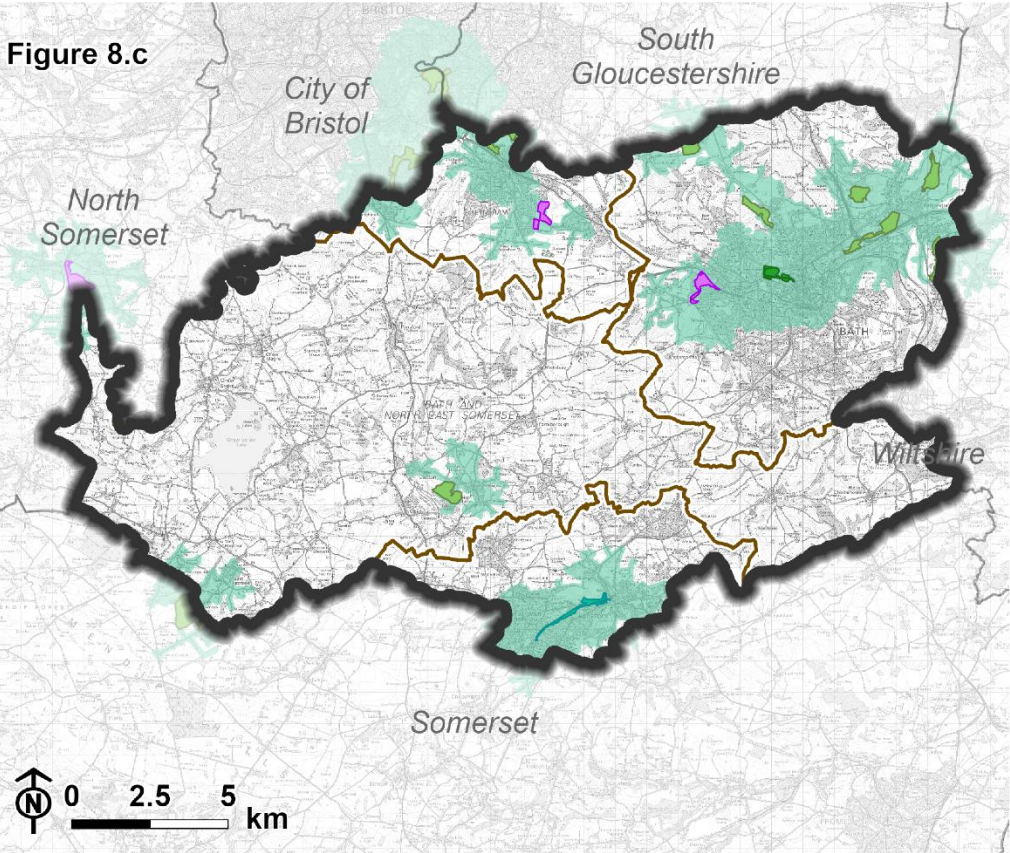
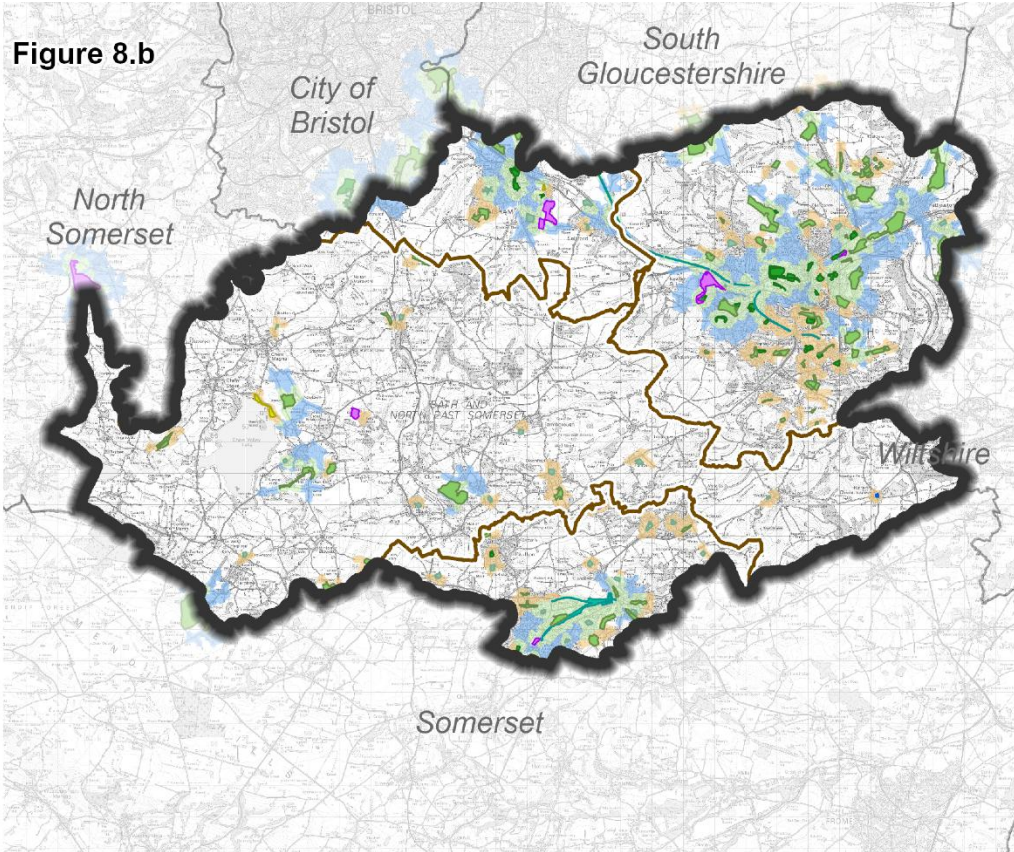
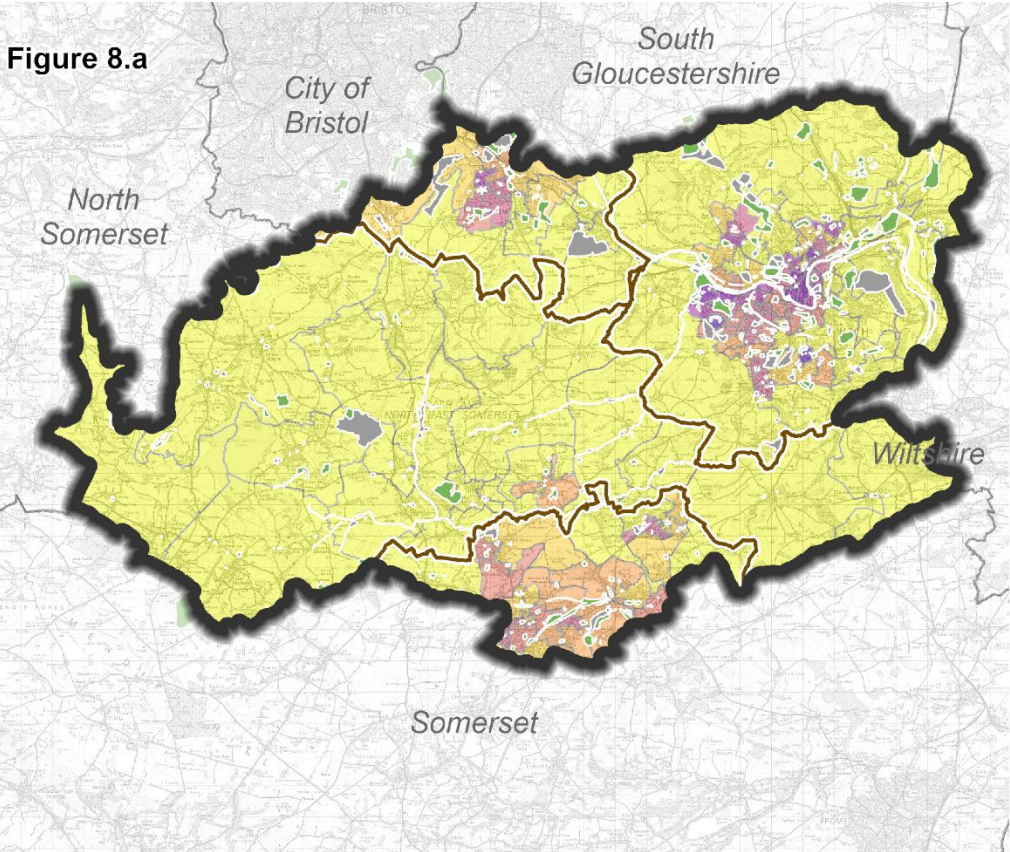
8.15 Overall provision for children and teenagers is significantly lower than the proposed standard and will drop further over the new Local Plan period.

8.16 Allotments and community food growing provision does not meet the standard and will fall to just over half of the standard by 2043.

Table 8.3: Quantities of open space per 1,000 population in Rural Areas analysis area

Typology	Current Quantity	Proposed Standard	Performance Against Standard	Future Quantity	Future Performance Against Standard
Amenity green space	0.32 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	+0.02 ha per 1,000 population	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	-0.05 ha per 1,000 population
Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds	0.82 ha per 1,000 population	1.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.48 ha per 1,000 population	0.66 ha per 1,000 population	-0.64 ha per 1,000 population
Natural and semi-natural green space	9.39 ha per 1,000 population	3.10 ha per 1,000 population	+6.29 ha per 1,000 population	7.52 ha per 1,000 population	+4.42 ha per 1,000 population
Accessible open space (total)	10.53 ha per 1,000 population	4.70 ha per 1,000 population	+5.83 ha per 1,000 population	8.44 ha per 1,000 population	+3.74 ha per 1,000 population
Equipped designated play	0.07 ha per 1,000 population	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	-0.18 ha per 1,000 population	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	-0.19 ha per 1,000 population
Informal play provision	0.01 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.29 ha per 1,000 population	0.01 ha per 1,000 population	-0.29 ha per 1,000 population
Provision for children and teenagers (total)	0.08 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.47 ha per 1,000 population	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	-0.49 ha per 1,000 population
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.15 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.07 ha per 1,000 population	0.12 ha per 1,000 population	-0.10 ha per 1,000 population

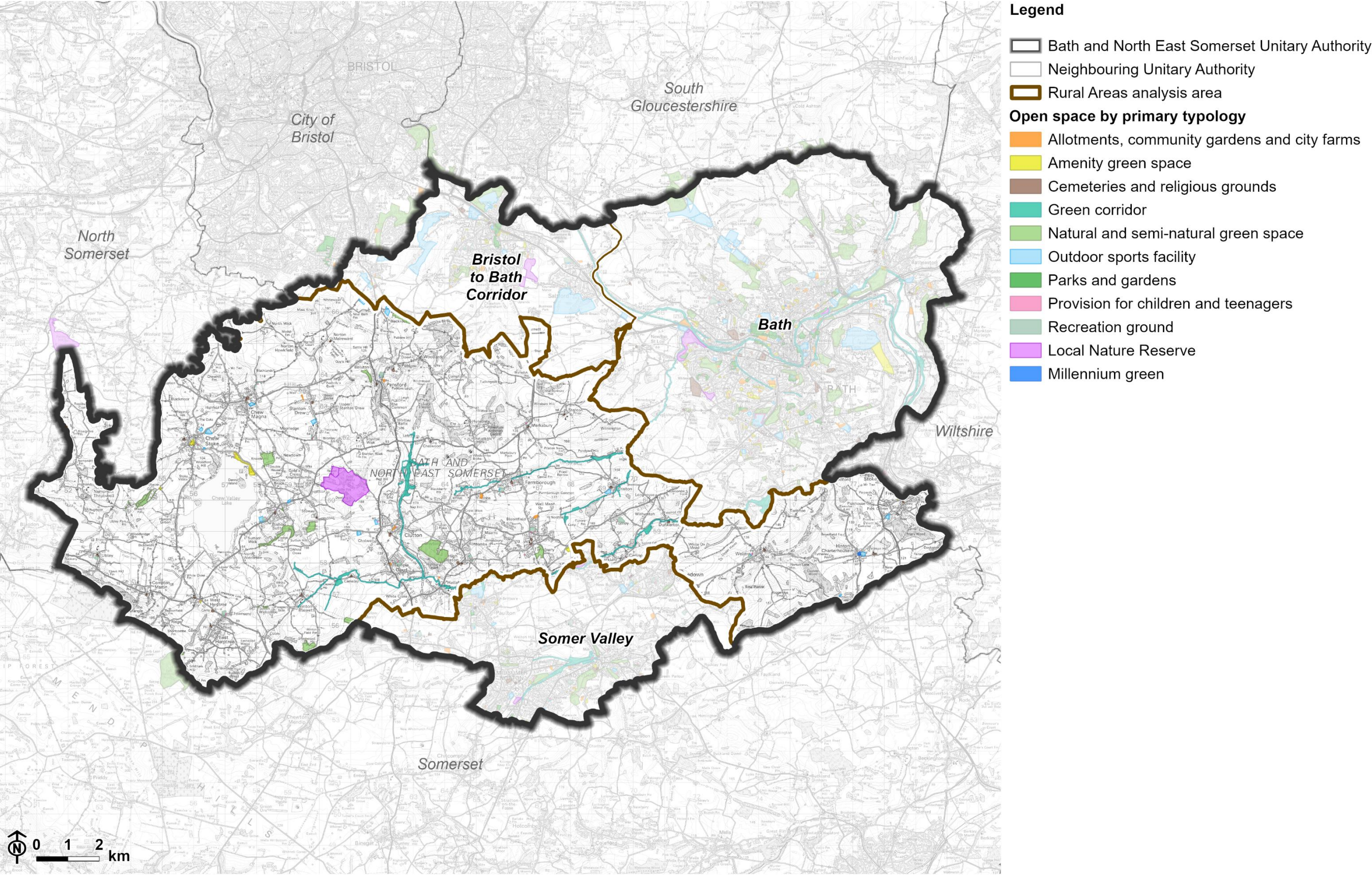
Figure 8.5: Rural Areas analysis area accessible open space provision



- Accessible open space**
- Amenity green
 - Green corridor
 - Natural and semi-natural green space
 - Parks and gardens
 - Recreation ground
 - Local Nature Reserve
 - Millennium green
- Access to open space close to home**
- Access to neighbourhood and doorstep or local open space
 - Access to doorstep or local open space
 - Access to neighbourhood open space
- Strategic Allocation**
- Access to accessible open space**
- Access to all accessible open space
 - Access to two kinds of open space
 - Access to amenity green space, recreation grounds and millennium greens only
 - Access to Parks and gardens only
 - Access to natural and semi-natural green space and Local Nature Reserves only

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Figure 8.6: All open space in Rural Areas analysis area



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8.17 Figure 8.5a-d and Figure 8.6 show the accessible open space provision within the Rural Area analysis area highlighting that:

- Most settlements have access to neighbourhood, local or doorstep accessible open space. Some are shown to not be within the catchment area of a publicly accessible open space including sites within the park and garden typology.
- Timsbury is located in an area of greatest open space need, where there are deficiencies in access to doorstep, local and neighbourhood parks and gardens. Furthermore, Timsbury does not have access to wider neighbourhood open space.
- Rural communities such as those within High Littleton, Clutton and East Harptree have access to natural and semi-natural green spaces. East Harptree is also within the catchment area of a site located outside of the district.
- Most rural communities have at least one site offering provision for children and teenagers. However, some of smaller communities within rural areas do not have access to provision for children and teenagers, particularly provision for teenagers.
- Many settlements within the analysis area are not located within the catchment area of allotments and community food growing sites.

Somer Valley analysis area

8.18 Table 8.4 shows the provision of accessible open space in the Somer Valley is less than half the 4.7 hectares per 1,000 population standard and will drop further to just over a third of the required standard as development comes forward to 2043.

8.19 No typologies are currently showing a surplus of provision, and this provision will fall further over the new Local Plan period.

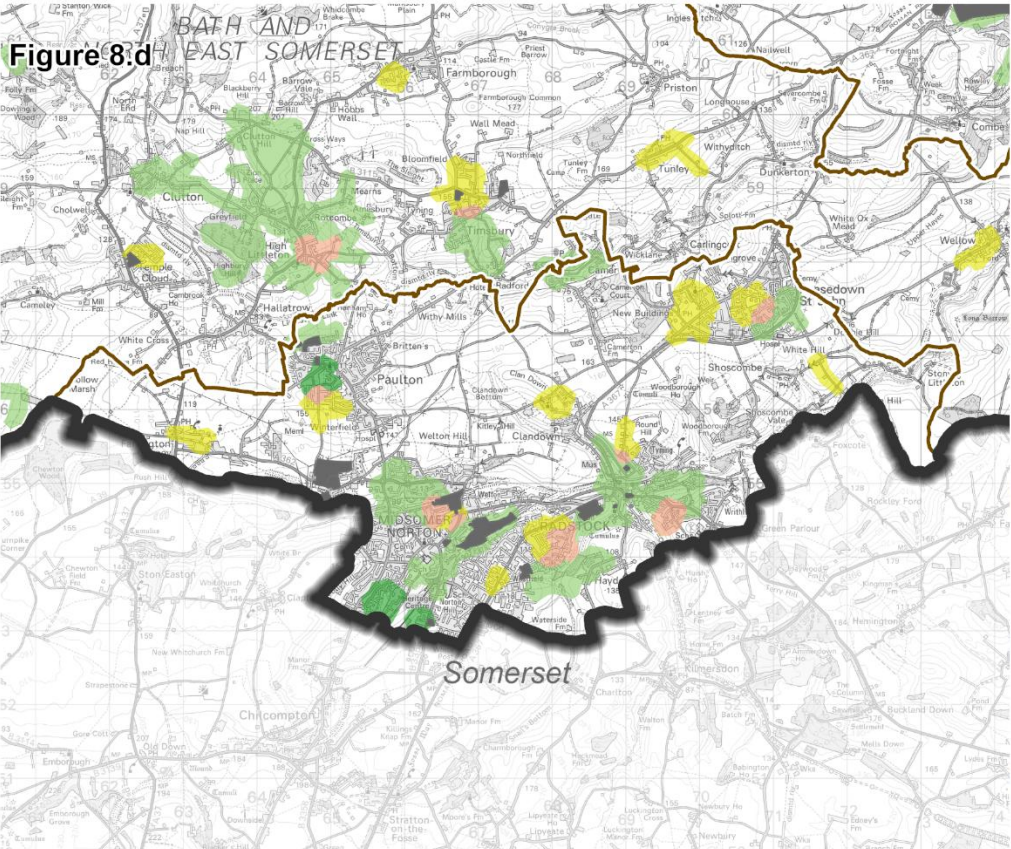
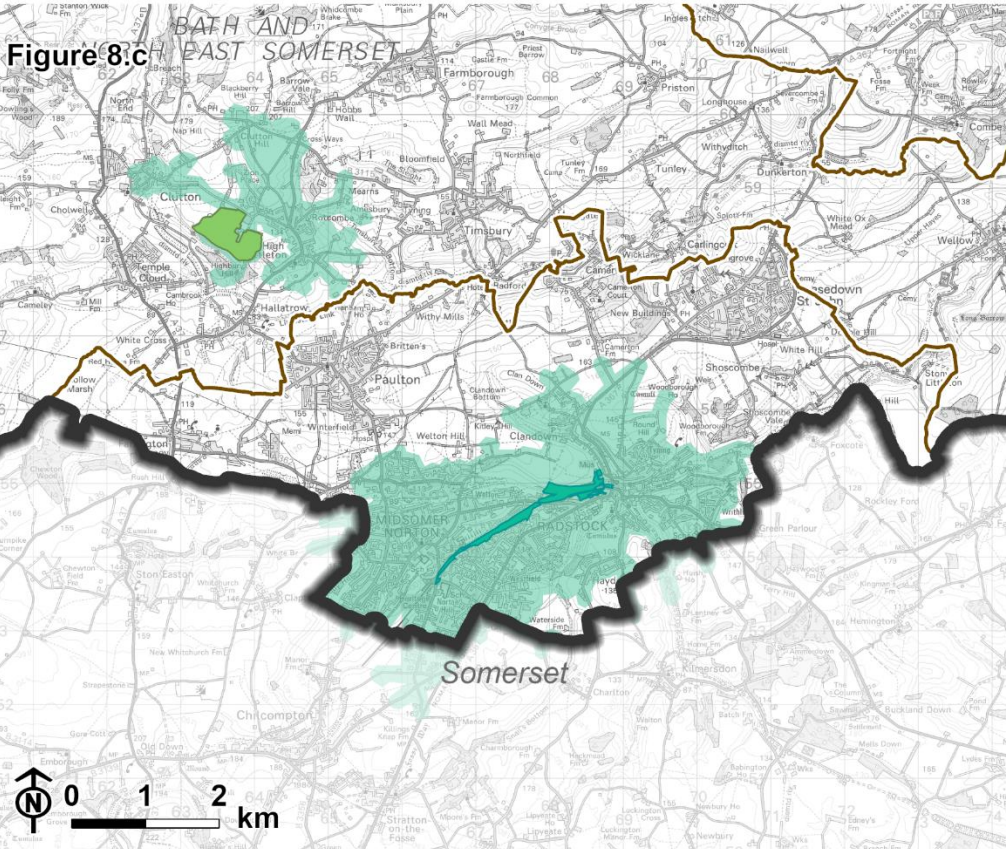
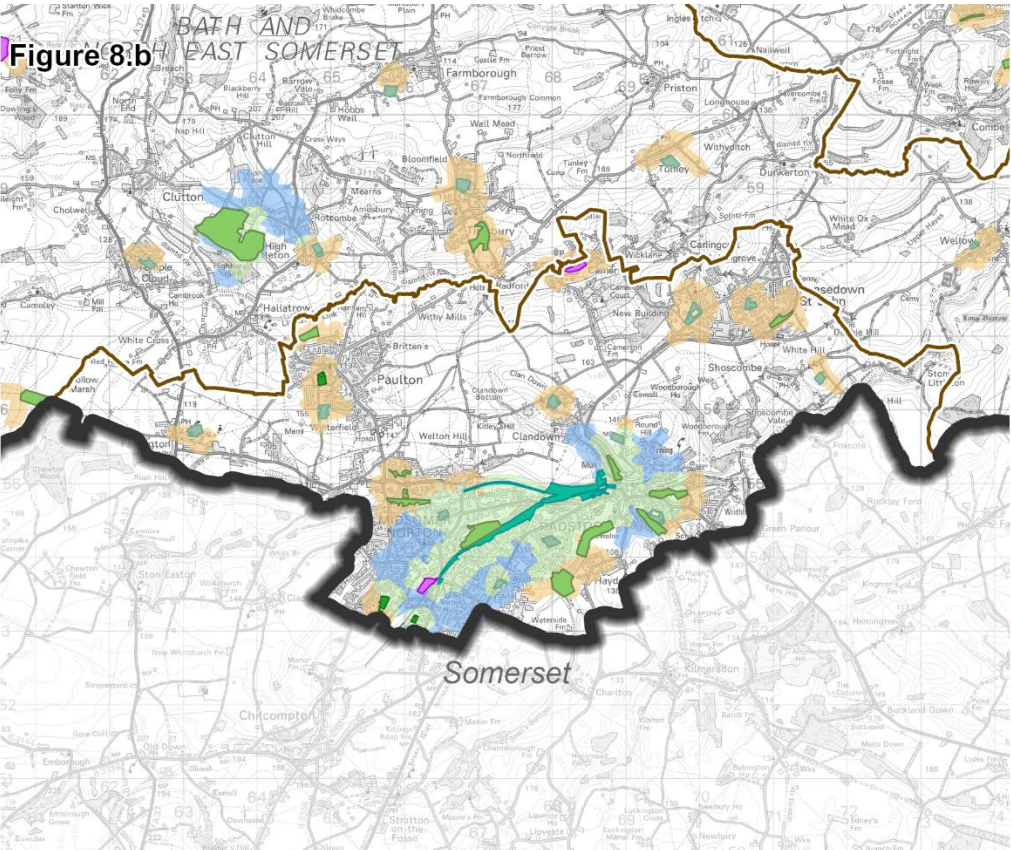
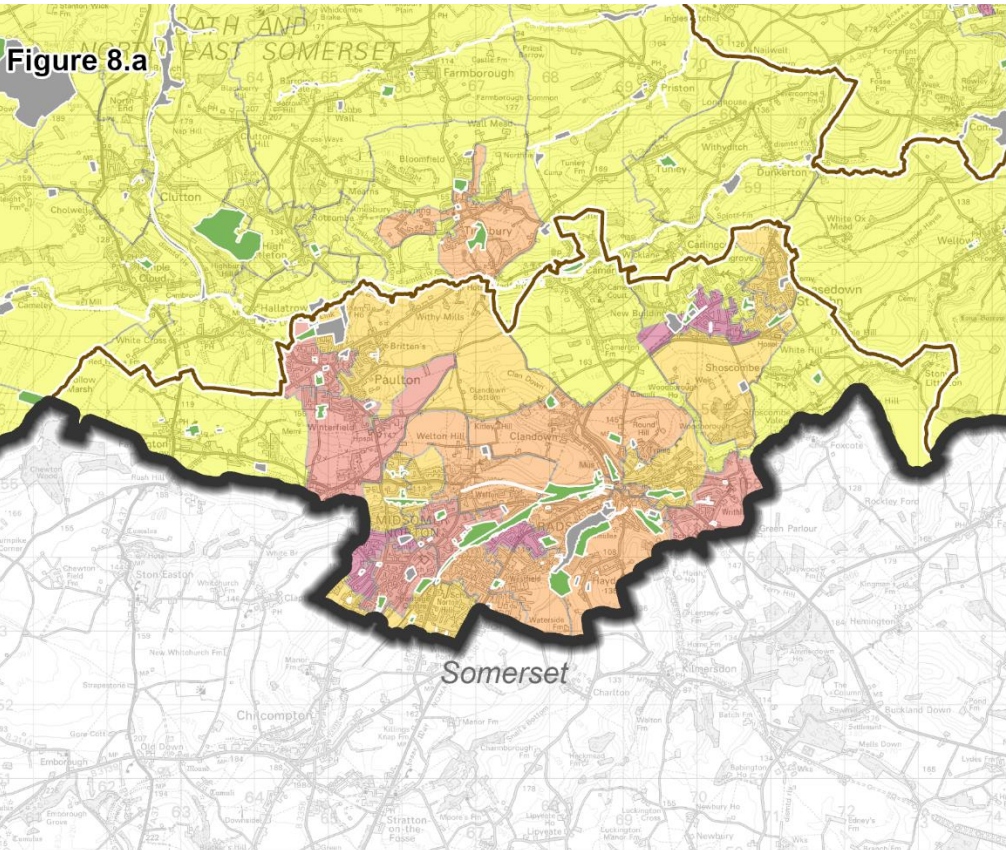
8.20 Provision for children and teenagers is significantly lower than the proposed standard and will drop further over the new Local Plan period.

8.21 Allotments and community food growing provision does not meet the standard and will fall to under half of the standard by 2043.

Table 8.4: Quantities of open space per 1,000 population in Somer Valley analysis area

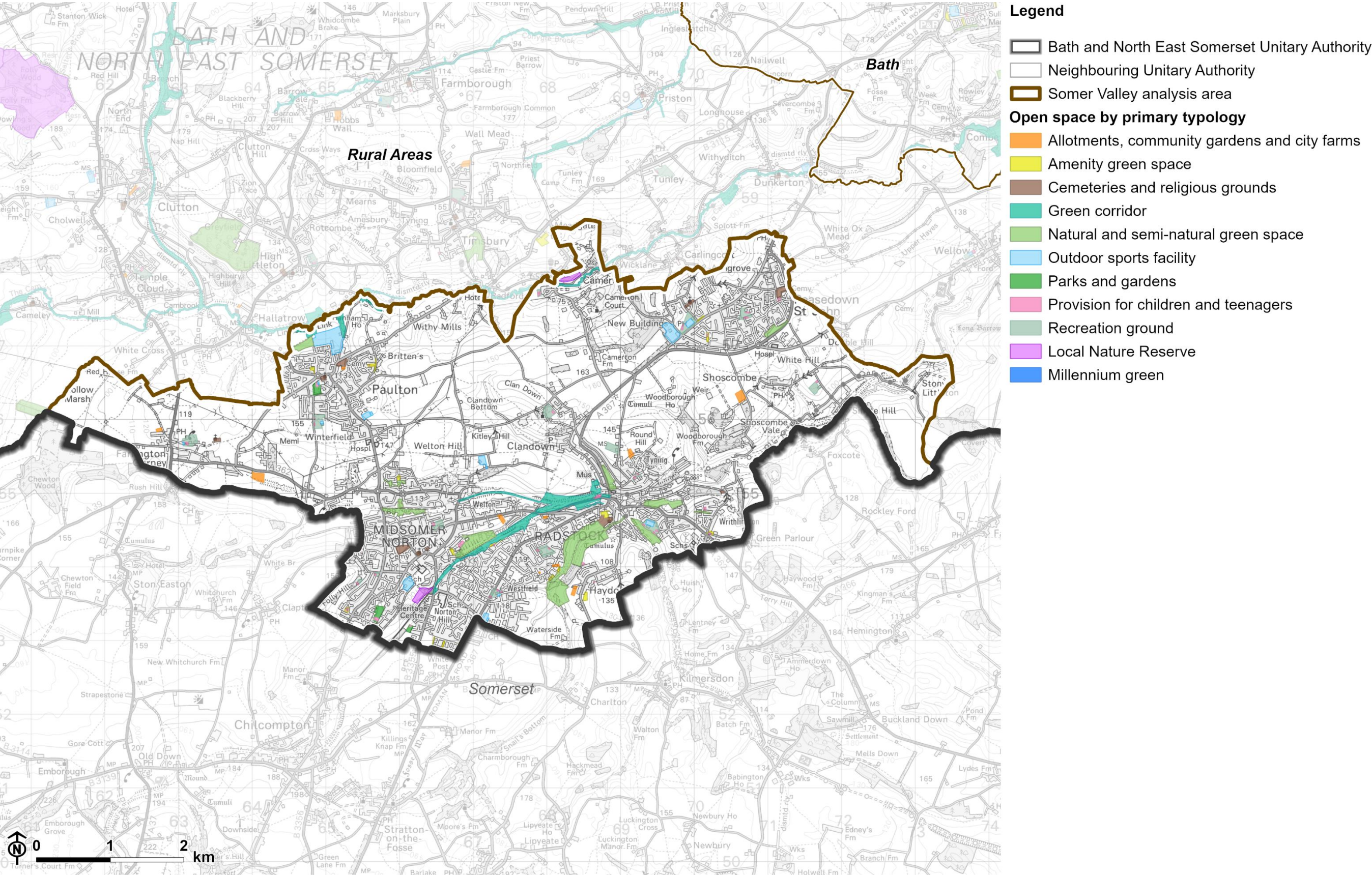
Typology	Current Quantity	Proposed Standard	Performance Against Standard	Future Quantity	Future Performance Against Standard
Amenity green space	0.00 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.30 ha per 1,000 population	0.00 ha per 1,000 population	-0.30 ha per 1,000 population
Parks, gardens, and recreation grounds	0.60 ha per 1,000 population	1.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.70 ha per 1,000 population	0.43 ha per 1,000 population	-0.87 ha per 1,000 population
Natural and semi-natural green space	1.61 ha per 1,000 population	3.10 ha per 1,000 population	-1.49 ha per 1,000 population	1.16 ha per 1,000 population	-1.94 ha per 1,000 population
Accessible open space (total)	2.21 ha per 1,000 population	4.70 ha per 1,000 population	-2.49 ha per 1,000 population	1.59 ha per 1,000 population	-3.11 ha per 1,000 population
Equipped designated play	0.07 ha per 1,000 population	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	-0.18 ha per 1,000 population	0.05 ha per 1,000 population	-0.20 ha per 1,000 population
Informal play provision	0.01 ha per 1,000 population	0.30 ha per 1,000 population	-0.29 ha per 1,000 population	0.01 ha per 1,000 population	-0.29 ha per 1,000 population
Provision for children and teenagers (total)	0.08 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.47 ha per 1,000 population	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	-0.49 ha per 1,000 population
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.15 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.07 ha per 1,000 population	0.10 ha per 1,000 population	-0.12 ha per 1,000 population

Figure 8.7: Somer Valley analysis area accessible open space provision



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Figure 8.8: All open space in Somer Valley analysis area



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8.22 Figure 8.7a-d and Figure 8.8 show the accessible open space provision within the Somer Valley analysis area highlighting that:

- Provision is limited to doorstep and local hierarchies for natural and semi-natural green spaces and Local Nature Reserves within Midsomer Norton and Paulton. Many of the communities within the analysis area fall outside the catchment area of a park and garden.
- Many communities within Midsomer Norton, Radstock, and Westfield are within the access catchments of a neighbourhood, local or doorstep accessible open space.
- Amenity green spaces and recreation grounds are located across Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Paulton.
- Communities within Midsomer Norton and Radstock are located within the catchment area of a green corridor.
- Southern areas of Peasedown St John and Paulton do not have access to wider neighbourhood open space.
- Areas of Midsomer Norton and Peasedown St John, which have the greatest need for open space are also deficient in access to doorstep, local and neighbourhood natural and semi-natural green space and Local Nature Reserves.
- Areas of greatest need for provision for children and teenagers include southern areas of Radstock although the area has access to equipped designated play. Some communities in Midsomer Norton are located outside the catchment area for informal play.
- There are deficiencies in access to allotments and community food growing sites in western areas of Midsomer Norton and in Peasedown St John.

Chapter 9

Conclusions and Recommendations

Key stages of applying the standards

9.1 The joined-up network of publicly accessible open space should be protected within the district, with consideration given to ensure all residents are within access of a high-quality open space, within walking distance of their home.

9.2 This assessment sets out a series of quantity and accessibility standards that build upon previous open space and GI assessments and studies and take National Standards and guidelines into account.

9.3 The findings of this assessment, along with any future work auditing the quality and value of the open spaces, should be applied to identify priorities for future investment and inform the design and capacities of development. The process for assessing open space provision within each locality and prioritising investment is set out below. The open space standards are set out in **Table 9.1**.

Table 9.1: Proposed open space standards

Typology	Minimum Size Threshold	Proposed Quantity Standards	Proposed Access Standards
Accessible open space	0.5 ha	4.7 ha per 1,000 population consisting of: ■ 0.3 ha amenity green space; ■ 1.3 ha parks, gardens and recreation grounds; and ■ 3.1 ha natural and semi-natural green space.	-
Accessible open space – doorstep	0.5 ha	-	200m
Accessible open space – local	2 ha	-	300m
Accessible open space – neighbourhood	10 ha	-	1,000m
Accessible open space – wider neighbourhood	20 ha	-	2,000m
Accessible open space – district	100 ha	-	5,000m
Provision for children and teenagers – equipped designated play	0.1 ha	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	1,000m
Provision for children and teenagers – informal play (including MUGAs and pump tracks)	N/A	0.3 ha per 1,000 population	Distributed throughout a development, larger facilities such as MUGA or pump tracks within 700m
Allotments and community food growing sites	0.1 ha	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	1,200m

Quantity standard

9.4 Quantity standards should be applied with the following considerations:

- Provision for children and teenagers should be increased across the district to meet the Fields in Trust standards. New equipped designated play provision should provide a range of play features for children and teenagers, and informal play provision should be distributed throughout a development.
- Allotments and community food growing sites should be provided in accordance with National Allotment Society guidance. Opportunities for the creation of strategic provision should be considered where delivery at neighbourhood level is restricted.
- Where existing provision of amenity green space; parks, gardens and recreation grounds; or natural and semi-natural green space is below the recommended standards, it is anticipated that, as far as reasonably practicable, new development should create a greater amount of open space (of the relevant typology) to assist in bringing the overall provision for the district or analysis area up to the recommended standard.
- Where existing provision is notably above the recommended standard there may be justification for developments not creating new open space of that typology. In this case it may be acceptable for contributions to be provided to enhance or better manage existing spaces to reduce pressure on these.
- Blue space can be considered as part of accessible open space where its design contributes to the public use and enjoyment of the site.

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

- Ensuring existing open space meets the required quality and value standards based on national guidance (e.g. Green Flag Award and the Sensory Trust's By All Reasonable Means).
- Ensuring existing open space further afield is available to communities, through for example, wayfinding or creation of off-road routes.
- Creating new open spaces to meet deficit. The typology of open space should be informed by the application of the quantity standards.

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

- Projected population change to ensure adequate provision into the future to meet potential need.
- Potential barriers to accessing open space which mean some populations cannot use an open space.
- The wider need for open space, which may mean additional open space or open space enhancements are required. This may include open space to provide flood reduction, urban cooling, space for biodiversity or improving environmental health. In places, diverse populations may require diverse open space which deliver a range of uses for different demographics.

9.7 Additional quantity considerations are set out below:

- Provision of the parks and gardens typology should be prioritised within provision for new accessible open space.
- Opportunities to deliver a district-scale accessible open space should be considered in proximity to Bath due to deficiency in this hierarchy of open space.
- Throughout the district there is a deficiency in quantity of provision for children and teenagers, and particularly informal play provision. Inclusion of informal play within new developments should be a priority. All major residential development (excluding Purpose Built Student Accommodation, housing for the active elderly and older persons housing – there might be further exemptions) is also expected to provide informal play provision in accordance with the provision for children and teenagers informal play standards. Playful features for children and teenagers should be integrated and distributed within a development. This could be provided along active travel routes, within playable streets or open spaces may include play trails, parkour elements, sensory routes, playable public art or changes in levels and textures that encourage interaction with nature.
- There is a deficiency of allotments and community food growing sites across all areas, provision of which should be a key consideration in all new development. All major residential development is expected to incorporate opportunities for informal food growing, wherever possible. This could take the form of edible planting and herbs, fruit bushes and trees, and vertical planting.

Accessibility standard

9.8 The access maps for each typology and hierarchy should be used to consider deficiency in access to different types of open space. In areas which are deficient in

access to open space, consideration should be given to ensuring the open spaces nearer to the gaps meet the required quality and value standards.

9.9 Consideration should be given to ensuring residents have access to the full range of open space typologies. Where possible open space should be multifunctional and provide the features as set out in the definitions for each typology as described in **Chapter 1**, along with the hierarchies set out in **Table 4.1**. Where specific typologies are delivered alongside each other, this could be considered to be a single open space with the total area responding to the hierarchy size thresholds (as set out in **Table 4.1** and **Table 9.1**). For example, if an equipped play area and food growing opportunities are provided alongside a park, garden or recreation ground, this could be considered as a single open space. However, allotment sites should not contribute to overall size of the public open space, as this provision has a very specific function and would not be freely accessible to all.

9.10 Additional access considerations are outlined below:

- Address potential barriers to existing open spaces, for example creating new entrances or pedestrian crossings over waterways and railway lines to enable access to existing open spaces.
- Ensure access is suitable for all sections of community including those with limited mobility or other accessibility needs, ethnic minority communities, disabled people and carers, older adults and women and girls.
- Create new open spaces in areas of open space deficiency. The typology of the new open spaces should be informed by the form of deficiency and the assessment of local need.

9.11 The access analysis highlighted a number of priorities:

- Areas of greatest open space needs include neighbourhoods within Bath, Midsomer Norton, Peasedown St John, Paulton, Timsbury and Keynsham where there are deficiencies in access to doorstep, local and neighbourhood parks and gardens.
- Areas of Bath (south-west), Midsomer Norton, Peasedown St John and Timsbury which fall within greatest open space needs are also deficient in access to doorstep, local and neighbourhood natural and semi-natural green space and Local Nature Reserves.
- Furthermore, southern areas of Bath, Peasedown St John, Paulton, Timsbury, and south-eastern areas of Keynsham do not have access to wider neighbourhood open space. Opportunities to create accessible neighbourhood open spaces should be considered in these locations.

9.12 Areas of greatest need for provision for children and teenagers include southern areas of Radstock and Keynsham.

9.13 Residents in eastern parts of Bath, western areas of Midsomer Norton, Peasedown St John and Keynsham are unable to access allotments and community food growing sites. Many settlements within Rural Areas are not located within the catchment area of provision. A strategic approach should be taken, where opportunities allow, to increase access to sites within this typology.

Quality and value standards

9.14 The management of the open space network should seek to ensure all open spaces are of a high-quality which corresponds with best practice including the assessment criteria set out in the following guidance:

- Green Flag Award guidance and criteria;
- Fields in Trust 'Beyond the Six-Acre Standard';
- Play England guidance; and
- Natural England's Country Park Accreditation.

9.15 A full audit of open spaces should be completed to form an evidence base for defining quality and value standards and to aid the prioritisation of enhancement projects.

9.16 Management of the open space network should prioritise:

- Maintaining open spaces assessed to be high-quality to these standards and ensure they continue to meet the communities they serve.
- Enhancing open space with high-quality but lower value scores through the provision of additional features or facilities in line with their primary typology. Where this is not possible, consideration should be given as to whether the site would have more value with a different primary typology. For example, a park, garden or recreation ground may have more value if managed as a natural and semi-natural green space.
- Open spaces with lower quality but higher value scores provide the greatest opportunity for 'quick wins', in terms of improving open space provision through improved management and maintenance, as well as engagement with local communities.
- Open spaces with lower quality and value scores should be considered a priority for enhancement, particularly in areas which suffer from a deficiency of

access to or quantity of open space. Potential alternative uses should also be explored for these open spaces, where it can be demonstrated that loss of a lower quality and lower value space will not result in a local area falling below the open spaces standards.

Delivery of future needs

9.17 As any new development proposals come forward, B&NES will need to ensure the development addresses potential impact arising from additional pressure on existing open space. All new development will need to provide sufficient quantities of open space to ensure that there is no reduction in capacity per 1,000 population and that people have access close to home. Consideration should also be given to the needs associated with the changing population profile.

9.18 The council should consider the following for inclusion in planning policy:

- Protect overall open space as an important community, nature conservation, and recovery, climate change and heritage resource;
- Use the standards set out in this document to guide improvements to provision including new open space in the future;
- Provide open spaces that positively welcome people in terms of physical and social access;
- Ensure a healthy, safe and secure experience for users;
- Ensure sites which have been identified as falling below the thresholds for quality and/or value are prioritised to ensure open space is well-maintained and meets the needs of the communities they serve;
- Promote the environmental qualities and sustainability of open spaces through carrying out appropriate management practices;
- Celebrate the importance of open spaces to the character and culture of the district;
- Provide opportunities to increase community use and involvement in the management of open spaces (e.g. through events, education, interpretation, volunteering and developing partnerships);
- Promote the open space network in the district and strengthen links with GI and active travel strategies to promote walking routes between open spaces; and
- Ensure the importance of the district's open spaces to the wider GI network is fully understood, considered and, where appropriate, enhanced.

Delivery of open spaces

9.19 The required open space can be provided by on-site provision, or through CIL and S106 (if included in adopted policy). Where facilities are to be provided on-site, the council will expect the developer to provide the land for the facility and either:

- Design and build the provision to the satisfaction of the council; or
- Make a financial contribution to the council so that it may arrange for the construction and development of the required facility.

9.20 The decision on whether provision is to be on-site, off-site or both depends on the following considerations:

- The scale of the proposed development and site area.
- The suitability of a site reflecting, for example, its topography or flood risk. Consideration should be given to the guidance on gradients as set out by the Sensory Trust in By All Reasonable Means [\[See reference 49\]](#).
- The existing provision of facilities within the analysis area/MSOA.
- Other sites in the analysis area/MSOA where additional provision is proposed.
- Existing or proposed access to facilities.

9.21 A guide for open space delivery is set out below.

Major residential development

9.22 All major residential development is expected to incorporate opportunities for informal food growing, wherever possible. This could take the form of edible planting and herbs, fruit bushes and trees, and vertical planting.

9.23 All major residential development (excluding Purpose Built Student Accommodation, housing for the active elderly and older persons housing – there might be further exemptions) is also expected to provide informal play provision in accordance with the provision for children and teenagers informal play standards. Playful features for children and teenagers should be integrated and distributed within a development. This could be provided along active travel routes, within playable streets or open spaces may include play trails, parkour elements, sensory routes, playable public art or changes in levels and textures that encourage interaction with nature.

9.24 The thresholds below are based on functional minimum sizes of open space and 2.307 residents per dwelling. The functional minimum sizes are:

- 0.5 hectares for accessible open space;
- 0.1 hectares equipped play area for children and teenagers; and
- 0.1 hectares allotment/community garden.

Major residential development (10-49 dwellings)

9.25 Onsite requirements for major residential development (10-49 dwellings) include:

- Informal food growing; and
- Informal play (in accordance with the 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population standard).

9.26 The developer will be required to either provide for, or contribute to the provision of accessible open space, equipped designated play areas, and allotments, community food growing or city farms in accordance with the open space standards.

Major residential development (50-199 dwellings)

9.27 Onsite requirements for major residential development (50-199 dwellings) include:

- Informal food growing.
- Informal play (in accordance with the 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population standard).
- Accessible open space (in accordance with the 4.7 hectares per 1,000 population standard). This should take the form of a doorstep accessible open space (0.5 hectares site within 200 metres from home).

9.28 The developer will be required to either provide for or contribute to the provision of equipped designated play areas, and allotments, community food growing or city farms in accordance with the open space standards.

Major residential development (200+ dwellings)

9.29 Onsite requirements for major residential development (200+ dwellings) include:

- Informal food growing.
- Informal play (in accordance with the 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population standard).

- Accessible open space (in accordance with the 4.7 hectares per 1,000 population standard). This should take the form of a local accessible open space (2 hectares site within 300 metres from home).
- Equipped designated play area for children and teenagers (in accordance with the 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population standard).
- Allotments or space for community food growing (in accordance with the 0.22 hectares per 1,000 population standard).

9.30 The developer will be required to either provide for or contribute to the provision of open space in accordance with the open space standards.

District

Accessible open space

9.31 At least 4.7 hectares of accessible open space per 1,000 population and no reduction in capacity at a MSOA scale. Accessible open space should consist of amenity green space, parks, gardens and recreation grounds, and natural and semi-natural green space to meet the needs of the local area.

9.32 Residents should be within a 15-minute walk from home including:

- A multifunctional doorstep accessible open space at least 0.5 hectares within 200 metres or a local accessible open space of at least 2 hectares within 300 metres from home; and
- A neighbourhood accessible open space of at least 10 hectares within 1 kilometre from home.

9.33 In addition, residents should be able to access to wider neighbourhood accessible open space of at least 20 hectares within 2 kilometres and a district accessible open space of at least 100 hectares within 5 kilometres of home based on actual walking routes.

9.34 Blue spaces can be included when assessing quantity of provision where they are within the boundary of accessible open space. This is following Natural England's advice as set out in the Accessible Greenspace Standard User Guide (2024).

9.35 The quality of accessible open space meets the Green Flag Award criteria and any quality and value standards adopted by the council.

Provision for children and teenagers

9.36 At least 0.55 hectares of provision for children and teenagers per 1,000 population and no reduction in capacity at MSOA scale. The 0.55 hectares per 1,000 population should include:

- At least 0.25 hectares of equipped play space providing play opportunities for all ages and abilities; and
- At least 0.3 hectares of informal play provision.

9.37 Residents should be within a 15-minute walk from home including:

- An equipped play space within 1 kilometre; and
- Larger informal play facilities such as MUGAs or pump tracks within 700 metres.

9.38 The quality of provision for children and teenagers meets the Play England, and Fields in Trust criteria and any quality and value standards adopted by the council.

Allotments and community food growing sites

9.39 At least 0.22 hectares of allotments or community food growing sites per 1,000 population and no reduction in capacity at MSOA. Residents should be able to access allotments or a community food growing site within 1.2 kilometres of home based on actual walking routes.

Recommendations for securing funding through development

9.40 There are two main mechanisms by which financial contributions to open space provision can be secured from new development through the planning process: Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Section 106

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

- Must be necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;

- Must be directly related to the development; and
- Must be reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

9.42 There is potential for Section 106 contributions to be pooled to be used for addressing open space and GI priorities.

Community Infrastructure Levy

9.43 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy payable by developers towards the cost of local and sub-regional infrastructure to support development. CIL funds are administered by the charging authority (usually the council) and neighbouring groups and can be applied to strategic projects which may not be directly related to the proposed development.

Appendix A

Quantity of Provision by MSOA

Table A.1: Comparison of open space provision by Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) against the quantity standards based on estimates by single year of age and sex for 2021 MSOA, mid-2024

MSOA	MSOA Name	Typology	Quantity	Population	Quantity per Population	Quantity Standard	Provision Against Standard
E02002985	Keynsham North	Accessible open space	53.67 ha	7262	7.39 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	2.69 ha per 1,000 population
E02002985	Keynsham North	Provision for children and young people	1.39 ha	7262	0.19 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.36 ha per 1,000 population
E02002985	Keynsham North	Allotments and community food growing sites	0 ha	7262	0 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.22 ha per 1,000 population
E02002986	Keynsham South	Accessible open space	13.47 ha	7255	1.86 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-2.84 ha per 1,000 population
E02002986	Keynsham South	Provision for children and young people	0.12 ha	7255	0.02 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.53 ha per 1,000 population
E02002986	Keynsham South	Allotments and community food growing sites	1.84 ha	7255	0.25 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	0.03 ha per 1,000 population
E02002987	Keynsham East	Accessible open space	29.79 ha	6421	4.64 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-0.06 ha per 1,000 population
E02002987	Keynsham East	Provision for children and young people	0.2 ha	6421	0.03 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.52 ha per 1,000 population
E02002987	Keynsham East	Allotments and community food growing sites	0.26 ha	6421	0.04 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.18 ha per 1,000 population
E02002988	Lambridge & Fairfield Park	Accessible open space	13.82 ha	5,598	2.47 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-2.23 ha per 1,000 population
E02002988	Lambridge & Fairfield Park	Provision for children and young people	0.7 ha	5,598	0.13 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.42 ha per 1,000 population
E02002988	Lambridge & Fairfield Park	Allotments and community food growing sites	1.04 ha	5,598	0.19 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.03 ha per 1,000 population
E02002989	Weston	Accessible open space	10.89 ha	5,637	1.93 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-2.77 ha per 1,000 population
E02002989	Weston	Provision for children and young people	0.09 ha	5,637	0.02 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.53 ha per 1,000 population
E02002989	Weston	Allotments and community food growing sites	0.52 ha	5,637	0.09 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.13 ha per 1,000 population
E02002990	Walcot	Accessible open space	5.42 ha	5,773	0.94 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-3.76 ha per 1,000 population
E02002990	Walcot	Provision for children and young people	0.32 ha	5,773	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.49 ha per 1,000 population

MSOA	MSOA Name	Typology	Quantity	Population	Quantity per Population	Quantity Standard	Provision Against Standard
E02002990	Walcot	Allotments and community food growing sites	0.85 ha	5,773	0.15 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.07 ha per 1,000 population
E02002991	Central Bath & Lansdown	Accessible open space	46.04 ha	11,384	4.04 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-0.66 ha per 1,000 population
E02002991	Central Bath & Lansdown	Provision for children and young people	0.62 ha	11,384	0.05 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.5 ha per 1,000 population
E02002991	Central Bath & Lansdown	Allotments and community food growing sites	1.02 ha	11,384	0.09 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.13 ha per 1,000 population
E02002992	Newbridge	Accessible open space	10.51 ha	5,820	1.81 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-2.89 ha per 1,000 population
E02002992	Newbridge	Provision for children and young people	1.29 ha	5,820	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.33 ha per 1,000 population
E02002992	Newbridge	Allotments and community food growing sites	0.18 ha	5,820	0.03 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.19 ha per 1,000 population
E02002993	Kingsmead	Accessible open space	23.74 ha	6,414	3.7 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-1 ha per 1,000 population
E02002993	Kingsmead	Provision for children and young people	1.26 ha	6,414	0.2 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.35 ha per 1,000 population
E02002993	Kingsmead	Allotments and community food growing sites	5.01 ha	6,414	0.78 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	0.56 ha per 1,000 population
E02002994	Bathavon North & South	Accessible open space	305.91 ha	11,074	27.62 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	22.92 ha per 1,000 population
E02002994	Bathavon North & South	Provision for children and young people	1.37 ha	11,074	0.12 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.43 ha per 1,000 population
E02002994	Bathavon North & South	Allotments and community food growing sites	6.17 ha	11,074	0.56 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	0.34 ha per 1,000 population
E02002995	Twerton	Accessible open space	46.26 ha	6,019	7.69 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	2.99 ha per 1,000 population
E02002995	Twerton	Provision for children and young people	0.88 ha	6,019	0.15 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.4 ha per 1,000 population
E02002995	Twerton	Allotments and community food growing sites	0.6 ha	6,019	0.1 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.12 ha per 1,000 population
E02002996	Widcombe, Bathwick Hill & Claverton Down	Accessible open space	62.45 ha	12,820	4.87 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	0.17 ha per 1,000 population
E02002996	Widcombe, Bathwick Hill & Claverton Down	Provision for children and young people	1.25 ha	12,820	0.1 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.45 ha per 1,000 population
E02002996	Widcombe, Bathwick Hill & Claverton Down	Allotments and community food growing sites	2.39 ha	12,820	0.19 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.03 ha per 1,000 population

MSOA	MSOA Name	Typology	Quantity	Population	Quantity per Population	Quantity Standard	Provision Against Standard
E02002997	Oldfield Park West	Accessible open space	6.08 ha	9,042	0.67 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-4.03 ha per 1,000 population
E02002997	Oldfield Park West	Provision for children and young people	0.5 ha	9,042	0.06 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.49 ha per 1,000 population
E02002997	Oldfield Park West	Allotments and community food growing sites	0.25 ha	9,042	0.03 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.19 ha per 1,000 population
E02002998	Oldfield Park East	Accessible open space	7.64 ha	6,314	1.21 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-3.49 ha per 1,000 population
E02002998	Oldfield Park East	Provision for children and young people	0.52 ha	6,314	0.08 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.47 ha per 1,000 population
E02002998	Oldfield Park East	Allotments and community food growing sites	2.82 ha	6,314	0.45 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	0.23 ha per 1,000 population
E02002999	Southdown	Accessible open space	10.28 ha	5,720	1.8 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-2.9 ha per 1,000 population
E02002999	Southdown	Provision for children and young people	1.34 ha	5,720	0.23 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.32 ha per 1,000 population
E02002999	Southdown	Allotments and community food growing sites	0 ha	5,720	0 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.22 ha per 1,000 population
E02003000	Saltford, Farmborough & Timsbury	Accessible open space	11.17 ha	9,761	1.14 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-3.56 ha per 1,000 population
E02003000	Saltford, Farmborough & Timsbury	Provision for children and young people	1.02 ha	9,761	0.1 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.45 ha per 1,000 population
E02003000	Saltford, Farmborough & Timsbury	Allotments and community food growing sites	1.78 ha	9,761	0.18 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.04 ha per 1,000 population
E02003001	Bloomfield	Accessible open space	27.33 ha	5,632	4.85 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	0.15 ha per 1,000 population
E02003001	Bloomfield	Provision for children and young people	5.5 ha	5,632	0.98 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	0.43 ha per 1,000 population
E02003001	Bloomfield	Allotments and community food growing sites	2.18 ha	5,632	0.39 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	0.17 ha per 1,000 population
E02003002	Combe Down	Accessible open space	15.24 ha	6,871	2.22 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-2.48 ha per 1,000 population
E02003002	Combe Down	Provision for children and young people	0.75 ha	6,871	0.11 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.44 ha per 1,000 population
E02003002	Combe Down	Allotments and community food growing sites	1.85 ha	6,871	0.27 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	0.05 ha per 1,000 population
E02003003	Odd Down	Accessible open space	7.73 ha	5,947	1.3 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-3.4 ha per 1,000 population

MSOA	MSOA Name	Typology	Quantity	Population	Quantity per Population	Quantity Standard	Provision Against Standard
E02003003	Odd Down	Provision for children and young people	0.46 ha	5,947	0.08 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.47 ha per 1,000 population
E02003003	Odd Down	Allotments and community food growing sites	0.57 ha	5,947	0.1 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.12 ha per 1,000 population
E02003004	Pensford, Clutton & Temple Cloud	Accessible open space	52.61 ha	7,576	6.94 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	2.24 ha per 1,000 population
E02003004	Pensford, Clutton & Temple Cloud	Provision for children and young people	0.86 ha	7,576	0.11 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.44 ha per 1,000 population
E02003004	Pensford, Clutton & Temple Cloud	Allotments and community food growing sites	1.39 ha	7,576	0.18 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.04 ha per 1,000 population
E02003005	Chew, Bishop Sutton & East Harptree	Accessible open space	169.63 ha	6,853	24.75 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	20.05 ha per 1,000 population
E02003005	Chew, Bishop Sutton & East Harptree	Provision for children and young people	0.77 ha	6,853	0.11 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.44 ha per 1,000 population
E02003005	Chew, Bishop Sutton & East Harptree	Allotments and community food growing sites	0 ha	6,853	0 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.22 ha per 1,000 population
E02003006	Peasedown & Bathavon West	Accessible open space	15.77 ha	9,915	1.59 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-3.11 ha per 1,000 population
E02003006	Peasedown & Bathavon West	Provision for children and young people	1.11 ha	9,915	0.11 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.44 ha per 1,000 population
E02003006	Peasedown & Bathavon West	Allotments and community food growing sites	4.47 ha	9,915	0.45 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	0.23 ha per 1,000 population
E02003007	High Littleton & Paulton	Accessible open space	10.55 ha	9,634	1.1 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-3.6 ha per 1,000 population
E02003007	High Littleton & Paulton	Provision for children and young people	0.83 ha	9,634	0.09 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.46 ha per 1,000 population
E02003007	High Littleton & Paulton	Allotments and community food growing sites	2.27 ha	9,634	0.24 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	0.02 ha per 1,000 population
E02003008	Radstock	Accessible open space	34.5 ha	6,316	5.46 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	0.76 ha per 1,000 population
E02003008	Radstock	Provision for children and young people	1.45 ha	6,316	0.23 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.32 ha per 1,000 population
E02003008	Radstock	Allotments and community food growing sites	1.2 ha	6,316	0.19 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.03 ha per 1,000 population
E02003009	Midsomer Norton North	Accessible open space	15.51 ha	6,179	2.51 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-2.19 ha per 1,000 population
E02003009	Midsomer Norton North	Provision for children and young people	0.69 ha	6,179	0.11 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.44 ha per 1,000 population

MSOA	MSOA Name	Typology	Quantity	Population	Quantity per Population	Quantity Standard	Provision Against Standard
E02003009	Midsomer Norton North	Allotments and community food growing sites	0.59 ha	6,179	0.1 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.12 ha per 1,000 population
E02003010	Westfield	Accessible open space	17.9 ha	6,604	2.71 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-1.99 ha per 1,000 population
E02003010	Westfield	Provision for children and young people	0.62 ha	6,604	0.09 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.46 ha per 1,000 population
E02003010	Westfield	Allotments and community food growing sites	0.48 ha	6,604	0.07 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.15 ha per 1,000 population
E02003011	Midsomer Norton Redfield	Accessible open space	6.99 ha	6,187	1.13 ha per 1,000 population	4.7 ha per 1,000 population	-3.57 ha per 1,000 population
E02003011	Midsomer Norton Redfield	Provision for children and young people	1.22 ha	6,187	0.2 ha per 1,000 population	0.55 ha per 1,000 population	-0.35 ha per 1,000 population
E02003011	Midsomer Norton Redfield	Allotments and community food growing sites	0 ha	6,187	0 ha per 1,000 population	0.22 ha per 1,000 population	-0.22 ha per 1,000 population

Appendix B

Open Space Needs Index Results by LSOA

Total Open Space Needs Index

Table B.1: Open Space Needs Index Decile by LSOA

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Population Density Decile	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Active Lives Decile	Private Garden Decile	Open Space Need Total	Open Space Need Decile
E01014370	Central	4	3	8	1	16	4
E01014371	Central East	4	5	10	2	21	5
E01014372	Central North	1	5	10	1	17	4
E01014373	Batheaston	8	7	10	9	34	10
E01014374	Bathavon East	9	9	9	9	36	10
E01014375	Bathavon North	10	8	10	10	38	10
E01014376	Bathford	9	10	9	10	38	10
E01014377	Bathhampton	9	10	9	10	38	10
E01014380	Claverton Down	8	10	10	6	34	10
E01014381	Bathwick	6	10	10	8	34	10
E01014382	Chew Valley North	10	8	9	10	37	10
E01014383	Chew Valley	10	8	10	10	38	10
E01014384	Stowey Sutton	9	8	10	10	37	10
E01014385	Stanton Drew	10	7	9	10	36	10
E01014386	Clutton	9	8	9	9	35	10
E01014387	Fox Hill South	5	8	10	8	31	9
E01014388	Combe Down East	8	10	10	10	38	10
E01014389	Combe Down West	6	8	9	7	30	8
E01014390	Fox Hill North	2	1	7	3	13	3
E01014391	Farmborough	10	8	9	10	37	10
E01014392	Corston	10	7	8	10	35	10
E01014393	High Littleton	8	9	9	9	35	10
E01014394	Farrington Gurney	9	8	9	9	35	10
E01014395	Keynsham South East	8	10	9	9	36	10
E01014396	Keynsham Central East	8	9	8	7	32	9
E01014397	Lower Keynsham East	6	10	10	8	34	10
E01014398	Keynsham Bath Road	8	9	9	7	33	9
E01014399	Keynsham North	9	8	8	8	33	9
E01014400	Keynsham St. John	6	8	9	5	28	8
E01014401	Keynsham Central West	3	4	8	6	21	5
E01014403	Keynsham Central	4	7	6	5	22	6

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Population Density Decile	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Active Lives Decile	Private Garden Decile	Open Space Need Total	Open Space Need Decile
E01014404	Keynsham Wellsway	6	4	8	5	23	6
E01014405	Lower Weston	5	10	10	6	31	9
E01014407	Kingsmead	2	4	10	1	17	4
E01014409	Larkhall	4	5	8	4	21	5
E01014410	Fairfield Park North	5	10	10	6	31	9
E01014411	Lower Swainswick	7	9	10	8	34	10
E01014412	Beacon Hill	5	10	10	7	32	9
E01014413	Lansdown North	8	10	10	9	37	10
E01014414	Lansdown South	2	6	10	3	21	5
E01014415	Bear Flat	2	10	10	4	26	7
E01014416	St. Martins	7	8	9	8	32	9
E01014417	Bloomfield	7	10	10	9	36	10
E01014418	Hinton Blewett	10	7	10	10	37	10
E01014419	Temple Cloud	9	8	9	9	35	10
E01014420	Welton	8	6	9	7	30	8
E01014421	Midsomer Norton North	6	10	9	8	33	9
E01014422	Thicketmead	6	10	8	8	32	9
E01014423	Midsomer Norton Central	6	6	8	7	27	7
E01014424	Midsomer Norton South	7	9	9	8	33	9
E01014425	Redfield	5	7	8	7	27	7
E01014426	Midsomer Norton West	6	4	6	7	23	6
E01014427	Locksbrook	3	9	10	3	25	7
E01014428	Combe Park	6	10	10	8	34	10
E01014429	Brassmill	5	10	10	5	30	8
E01014430	Newbridge	7	9	8	8	32	9
E01014431	Odd Down North	3	5	9	5	22	6
E01014432	Odd Down	3	6	9	5	23	6
E01014433	Odd Down South	4	5	9	5	23	6
E01014434	Kingsway	6	10	9	5	30	8
E01014435	Oldfield Park North	1	9	10	2	22	6
E01014436	Oldfield Park	2	9	10	2	23	6
E01014437	Moorlands	5	4	9	7	25	7
E01014438	Southdown East	3	6	8	6	23	6
E01014439	South Paulton	8	5	6	8	27	7
E01014440	Paulton	5	8	9	5	27	7

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Population Density Decile	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Active Lives Decile	Private Garden Decile	Open Space Need Total	Open Space Need Decile
E01014441	East Paulton	9	7	9	8	33	9
E01014442	Peasedown St. John East	7	9	9	7	32	9
E01014443	Peasedown St. John North	8	9	9	9	35	10
E01014444	Lower Peasedown St. John	8	9	10	6	33	9
E01014445	Peasedown St. John	6	3	7	7	23	6
E01014446	Publow	10	7	9	10	36	10
E01014447	Whitchurch	9	7	9	8	33	9
E01014448	Clandown	9	3	8	9	29	8
E01014449	Radstock North	7	7	9	8	31	9
E01014450	Writhlington	8	4	8	7	27	7
E01014451	Radstock	8	5	9	6	28	8
E01014452	Saltford North	9	8	8	9	34	10
E01014453	Saltford South	8	10	9	9	36	10
E01014454	Saltford West	8	10	10	9	37	10
E01014455	Southdown North	6	5	9	6	26	7
E01014456	Southdown	6	8	9	6	29	8
E01014457	Lower Twerton West	3	9	9	6	27	7
E01014458	Whiteway	2	1	7	4	14	3
E01014459	Timsbury	8	5	8	9	30	8
E01014460	Timsbury North	9	9	8	9	35	10
E01014461	Twerton South	5	4	9	5	23	6
E01014462	Whiteway West	5	2	8	4	19	5
E01014463	Twerton West	6	1	6	4	17	4
E01014464	Twerton	4	2	9	2	17	4
E01014465	Fairfield Park South	2	9	10	3	24	6
E01014466	Snow Hill	1	4	9	2	16	4
E01014467	Grosvenor	4	8	10	5	27	7
E01014468	Walcot	3	8	10	3	24	6
E01014469	Westfield North	4	4	8	6	22	6
E01014470	Westfield South	7	8	9	4	28	8
E01014471	Radstock West	6	7	9	7	29	8
E01014472	Norton Hill	6	8	8	6	28	8
E01014473	Oldfield Park West	2	9	10	2	23	6
E01014474	Twerton East	2	6	10	2	20	5
E01014476	Lower Twerton East	1	10	10	3	24	6

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Population Density Decile	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Active Lives Decile	Private Garden Decile	Open Space Need Total	Open Space Need Decile
E01014477	Upper Weston West	6	10	9	8	33	9
E01014478	Upper Weston	7	4	8	5	24	6
E01014479	Weston Park	7	10	9	9	35	10
E01014480	Weston Village	2	6	8	4	20	5
E01014481	Widcombe St Marks	3	9	10	2	24	6
E01014482	Lyncombe & Widcombe	9	10	10	9	38	10
E01014483	Widcombe North	6	7	10	4	27	7
E01014484	Westmoreland	4	9	10	3	26	7
E01033078	Freshford	10	9	10	10	39	10
E01033079	Wellow	10	6	10	10	36	10
E01033080	Victoria Park	5	7	10	2	24	6
E01035205	Keynsham Longmeadow	3	7	8	4	22	6
E01035206	Keynsham South West	7	7	10	3	27	7
E01035207	Western Riverside	2	8	10	1	21	5
E01035208	Westmoreland West	2	8	10	1	21	5
E01035209	Englishcombe	10	6	9	10	35	10
E01035210	Newton St. Loe and Camerton	10	7	10	9	3	10

Open Space Needs for People Over the Age of 65 Index

Table B.2: Open Space Needs for People Over the Age of 65 Index Decile by LSOA

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Population Over 65 Decile	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Active Lives Decile	Private Garden Decile	Open Space Need	Open Space Need Decile
E01014370	Central	4	3	8	1	16	4
E01014371	Central East	4	5	10	2	21	5
E01014372	Central North	1	5	10	1	17	4
E01014373	Batheaston	8	7	10	9	34	10
E01014374	Bathavon East	9	9	9	9	36	10
E01014375	Bathavon North	10	8	10	10	38	10
E01014376	Bathford	9	10	9	10	38	10
E01014377	Bathhampton	9	10	9	10	38	10
E01014380	Claverton Down	7	10	10	6	33	9
E01014381	Bathwick	6	10	10	8	34	10
E01014382	Chew Valley North	10	8	9	10	37	10
E01014383	Chew Valley	10	8	10	10	38	10
E01014384	Stowey Sutton	10	8	10	10	38	10
E01014385	Stanton Drew	10	7	9	10	36	10
E01014386	Clutton	9	8	9	9	35	10
E01014387	Fox Hill South	5	8	10	8	31	9
E01014388	Combe Down East	8	10	10	10	38	10
E01014389	Combe Down West	5	8	9	7	29	8
E01014390	Fox Hill North	2	1	7	3	13	3
E01014391	Farmborough	10	8	9	10	37	10
E01014392	Corston	10	7	8	10	35	10
E01014393	High Littleton	8	9	9	9	35	10
E01014394	Farrington Gurney	9	8	9	9	35	10
E01014395	Keynsham South East	8	10	9	9	36	10
E01014396	Keynsham Central East	8	9	8	7	32	9
E01014397	Lower Keynsham East	6	10	10	8	34	10
E01014398	Keynsham Bath Road	8	9	9	7	33	9
E01014399	Keynsham North	9	8	8	8	33	9
E01014400	Keynsham St. John	6	8	9	5	28	8
E01014401	Keynsham Central West	3	4	8	6	21	5
E01014403	Keynsham Central	4	7	6	5	22	6

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Population Over 65 Decile	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Active Lives Decile	Private Garden Decile	Open Space Need	Open Space Need Decile
E01014404	Keynsham Wellsway	6	4	8	5	23	6
E01014405	Lower Weston	5	10	10	6	31	9
E01014407	Kingsmead	2	4	10	1	17	4
E01014409	Larkhall	4	5	8	4	21	5
E01014410	Fairfield Park North	5	10	10	6	31	9
E01014411	Lower Swainswick	7	9	10	8	34	10
E01014412	Beacon Hill	5	10	10	7	32	9
E01014413	Lansdown North	8	10	10	9	37	10
E01014414	Lansdown South	2	6	10	3	21	5
E01014415	Bear Flat	3	10	10	4	27	7
E01014416	St. Martins	7	8	9	8	32	9
E01014417	Bloomfield	7	10	10	9	36	10
E01014418	Hinton Blewett	10	7	10	10	37	10
E01014419	Temple Cloud	9	8	9	9	35	10
E01014420	Welton	8	6	9	7	30	8
E01014421	Midsomer Norton North	6	10	9	8	33	9
E01014422	Thicketmead	6	10	8	8	32	9
E01014423	Midsomer Norton Central	7	6	8	7	28	8
E01014424	Midsomer Norton South	7	9	9	8	33	9
E01014425	Redfield	5	7	8	7	27	7
E01014426	Midsomer Norton West	6	4	6	7	23	6
E01014427	Locksbrook	3	9	10	3	25	7
E01014428	Combe Park	6	10	10	8	34	10
E01014429	Brassmill	5	10	10	5	30	8
E01014430	Newbridge	7	9	8	8	32	9
E01014431	Odd Down North	3	5	9	5	22	6
E01014432	Odd Down	3	6	9	5	23	6
E01014433	Odd Down South	4	5	9	5	23	6
E01014434	Kingsway	6	10	9	5	30	8
E01014435	Oldfield Park North	1	9	10	2	22	6
E01014436	Oldfield Park	3	9	10	2	24	6
E01014437	Moorlands	5	4	9	7	25	7
E01014438	Southdown East	3	6	8	6	23	6
E01014439	South Paulton	8	5	6	8	27	7
E01014440	Paulton	5	8	9	5	27	7

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Population Over 65 Decile	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Active Lives Decile	Private Garden Decile	Open Space Need	Open Space Need Decile
E01014441	East Paulton	9	7	9	8	33	9
E01014442	Peasedown St. John East	7	9	9	7	32	9
E01014443	Peasedown St. John North	8	9	9	9	35	10
E01014444	Lower Peasedown St. John	8	9	10	6	33	9
E01014445	Peasedown St. John	6	3	7	7	23	6
E01014446	Publow	10	7	9	10	36	10
E01014447	Whitchurch	9	7	9	8	33	9
E01014448	Clandown	9	3	8	9	29	8
E01014449	Radstock North	7	7	9	8	31	9
E01014450	Writhlington	8	4	8	7	27	7
E01014451	Radstock	8	5	9	6	28	8
E01014452	Saltford North	9	8	8	9	34	10
E01014453	Saltford South	8	10	9	9	36	10
E01014454	Saltford West	9	10	10	9	38	10
E01014455	Southdown North	6	5	9	6	26	7
E01014456	Southdown	6	8	9	6	29	8
E01014457	Lower Twerton West	3	9	9	6	27	7
E01014458	Whiteway	2	1	7	4	14	3
E01014459	Timsbury	8	5	8	9	30	8
E01014460	Timsbury North	9	9	8	9	35	10
E01014461	Twerton South	5	4	9	5	23	6
E01014462	Whiteway West	5	2	8	4	19	5
E01014463	Twerton West	6	1	6	4	17	4
E01014464	Twerton	3	2	9	2	16	4
E01014465	Fairfield Park South	2	9	10	3	24	6
E01014466	Snow Hill	2	4	9	2	17	4
E01014467	Grosvenor	4	8	10	5	27	7
E01014468	Walcot	3	8	10	3	24	6
E01014469	Westfield North	5	4	8	6	23	6
E01014470	Westfield South	7	8	9	4	28	8
E01014471	Radstock West	6	7	9	7	29	8
E01014472	Norton Hill	6	8	8	6	28	8
E01014473	Oldfield Park West	1	9	10	2	22	6
E01014474	Twerton East	2	6	10	2	20	5
E01014476	Lower Twerton East	1	10	10	3	24	6

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Population Over 65 Decile	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Active Lives Decile	Private Garden Decile	Open Space Need	Open Space Need Decile
E01014477	Upper Weston West	6	10	9	8	33	9
E01014478	Upper Weston	7	4	8	5	24	6
E01014479	Weston Park	7	10	9	9	35	10
E01014480	Weston Village	2	6	8	4	20	5
E01014481	Widcombe St Marks	3	9	10	2	24	6
E01014482	Lyncombe & Widcombe	9	10	10	9	38	10
E01014483	Widcombe North	6	7	10	4	27	7
E01014484	Westmoreland	4	9	10	3	26	7
E01033078	Freshford	10	9	10	10	39	10
E01033079	Wellow	10	6	10	10	36	10
E01033080	Victoria Park	4	7	10	2	23	6
E01035205	Keynsham Longmeadow	3	7	8	4	22	6
E01035206	Keynsham South West	7	7	10	3	27	7
E01035207	Western Riverside	2	8	10	1	21	5
E01035208	Westmoreland West	1	8	10	1	20	5
E01035209	Englishcombe	10	6	9	10	35	10
E01035210	Newton St. Loe and Camerton	10	7	10	9	36	10

Play Space Needs Index

Table B.3: Play Space Needs Index Decile by LSOA

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Percentage of Population Aged 0-15 Decile	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Decile	Active Lives Decile	Education, Skills and Training Decile	Play Space Needs Total	Play Space Needs Decile
E01014370	Central	10	5	5	4	24	6
E01014371	Central East	10	8	5	6	29	8
E01014372	Central North	10	8	3	7	28	8
E01014373	Batheaston	5	6	4	7	22	6
E01014374	Bathavon East	7	9	8	7	31	9
E01014375	Bathavon North	7	10	8	7	32	9
E01014376	Bathford	7	10	9	8	34	10
E01014377	Bathhampton	4	10	10	8	32	9
E01014380	Claverton Down	10	10	10	8	38	10
E01014381	Bathwick	10	10	10	8	38	10
E01014382	Chew Valley North	5	10	9	7	31	9
E01014383	Chew Valley	6	10	9	8	33	10
E01014384	Stowey Sutton	4	8	8	8	28	8
E01014385	Stanton Drew	6	8	9	7	30	9
E01014386	Clutton	3	8	6	7	24	6
E01014387	Fox Hill South	5	7	4	8	24	6
E01014388	Combe Down East	9	10	10	8	37	10
E01014389	Combe Down West	2	6	8	8	24	6
E01014390	Fox Hill North	1	1	1	5	8	1
E01014391	Farmborough	6	9	7	7	29	8
E01014392	Corston	8	9	7	6	30	9
E01014393	High Littleton	6	8	9	8	31	9
E01014394	Farrington Gurney	5	8	8	7	28	8
E01014395	Keynsham South East	9	10	10	8	37	10
E01014396	Keynsham Central East	7	8	7	7	29	8
E01014397	Lower Keynsham East	4	10	10	8	32	9
E01014398	Keynsham Bath Road	3	8	8	7	26	7
E01014399	Keynsham North	4	7	5	6	22	6
E01014400	Keynsham St. John	6	8	8	7	29	8
E01014401	Keynsham Central West	4	5	1	6	16	3

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Percentage of Population Aged 0-15 Decile	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Decile	Active Lives Decile	Education, Skills and Training Decile	Play Space Needs Total	Play Space Needs Decile
E01014403	Keynsham Central	10	7	7	6	30	9
E01014404	Keynsham Wellsway	2	3	3	5	13	2
E01014405	Lower Weston	9	10	10	7	36	10
E01014407	Kingsmead	10	3	3	5	21	5
E01014409	Larkhall	6	6	5	7	24	6
E01014410	Fairfield Park North	5	9	9	8	31	9
E01014411	Lower Swainswick	7	10	9	8	34	10
E01014412	Beacon Hill	9	10	10	7	36	10
E01014413	Lansdown North	3	10	7	6	26	7
E01014414	Lansdown South	10	5	3	6	24	6
E01014415	Bear Flat	7	10	10	8	35	10
E01014416	St. Martins	6	8	7	8	29	8
E01014417	Bloomfield	6	10	10	8	34	10
E01014418	Hinton Blewett	6	8	9	7	30	9
E01014419	Temple Cloud	5	9	5	7	26	7
E01014420	Welton	6	5	4	7	22	6
E01014421	Midsomer Norton North	5	9	8	8	30	9
E01014422	Thicketmead	7	8	7	8	30	9
E01014423	Midsomer Norton Central	8	6	6	7	27	8
E01014424	Midsomer Norton South	4	7	7	8	26	7
E01014425	Redfield	7	7	5	7	26	7
E01014426	Midsomer Norton West	4	4	4	6	18	4
E01014427	Locksbrook	8	9	7	7	31	9
E01014428	Combe Park	9	10	10	8	37	10
E01014429	Brassmill	4	10	10	7	31	9
E01014430	Newbridge	8	9	10	7	34	10
E01014431	Odd Down North	7	4	3	7	21	5
E01014432	Odd Down	6	6	2	6	20	5
E01014433	Odd Down South	4	5	3	6	18	4
E01014434	Kingsway	8	8	8	7	31	9
E01014435	Oldfield Park North	10	8	9	8	35	10
E01014436	Oldfield Park	10	8	8	8	34	10
E01014437	Moorlands	5	5	3	5	18	4
E01014438	Southdown East	5	5	3	6	19	4

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Percentage of Population Aged 0-15 Decile	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Decile	Active Lives Decile	Education, Skills and Training Decile	Play Space Needs Total	Play Space Needs Decile
E01014439	South Paulton	7	6	6	7	26	7
E01014440	Paulton	3	7	7	8	25	7
E01014441	East Paulton	4	5	7	8	24	6
E01014442	Peasedown St. John East	7	7	8	8	30	9
E01014443	Peasedown St. John North	8	8	7	7	30	9
E01014444	Lower Peasedown St. John	5	7	6	7	25	7
E01014445	Peasedown St. John	4	4	1	6	15	3
E01014446	Publow	6	9	8	8	31	9
E01014447	Whitchurch	3	5	5	6	19	4
E01014448	Clandown	4	2	3	6	15	3
E01014449	Radstock North	3	5	7	7	22	6
E01014450	Writhlington	2	3	3	6	14	3
E01014451	Radstock	3	6	4	6	19	4
E01014452	Saltford North	8	9	9	7	33	10
E01014453	Saltford South	8	10	10	8	36	10
E01014454	Saltford West	7	10	10	7	34	10
E01014455	Southdown North	7	5	3	6	21	5
E01014456	Southdown	8	5	5	6	24	6
E01014457	Lower Twerton West	9	8	4	7	28	8
E01014458	Whiteway	4	1	1	4	10	1
E01014459	Timsbury	8	4	6	7	25	7
E01014460	Timsbury North	8	9	10	8	35	10
E01014461	Twerton South	4	5	1	5	15	3
E01014462	Whiteway West	2	2	1	5	10	1
E01014463	Twerton West	6	1	1	4	12	2
E01014464	Twerton	7	2	1	5	15	3
E01014465	Fairfield Park South	5	8	8	8	29	8
E01014466	Snow Hill	6	4	4	6	20	5
E01014467	Grosvenor	10	9	9	8	36	10
E01014468	Walcot	10	9	10	7	36	10
E01014469	Westfield North	4	3	2	5	14	3
E01014470	Westfield South	6	6	6	7	25	7
E01014471	Radstock West	5	6	6	7	24	6
E01014472	Norton Hill	4	7	6	7	24	6

LSOA 2021 Code	LSOA Name	Percentage of Population Aged 0-15 Decile	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Decile	Active Lives Decile	Education, Skills and Training Decile	Play Space Needs Total	Play Space Needs Decile
E01014473	Oldfield Park West	10	8	9	8	35	10
E01014474	Twerton East	9	5	4	6	24	6
E01014476	Lower Twerton East	10	9	7	8	34	10
E01014477	Upper Weston West	4	10	10	8	32	9
E01014478	Upper Weston	3	5	2	6	16	3
E01014479	Weston Park	8	10	10	8	36	10
E01014480	Weston Village	6	5	4	6	21	5
E01014481	Widcombe St Marks	10	10	9	8	37	10
E01014482	Lyncombe & Widcombe	4	10	10	7	31	9
E01014483	Widcombe North	10	8	7	7	32	9
E01014484	Westmoreland	10	10	8	7	35	10
E01033078	Freshford	2	10	10	7	29	8
E01033079	Wellow	7	8	9	7	31	9
E01033080	Victoria Park	10	5	6	6	27	8
E01035205	Keynsham Longmeadow	4	7	3	6	20	5
E01035206	Keynsham South West	1	6	3	6	16	3
E01035207	Western Riverside	10	3	3	6	22	6
E01035208	Westmoreland West	10	10	5	6	31	9
E01035209	Englishcombe	5	10	4	7	26	7
E01035210	Newton St. Loe and Camerton	10	7	2	6	25	7

Appendix C

Example Open Space Audit Form



Open Space Audit

Site based assessment

Site ID:

Site Name:

Category of open space:

Audit date and time:

Time spent surveying:

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

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

1. Welcoming place

1.1 Site access

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

Freely accessible to public

☐ +5

Freely accessible to public: opening hours

☐ +4

Restricted access: members/tenants only

☐ +3

Restricted access: other (please state)

☐ +2

Freely accessible to public: de-facto access

☐ +1

No Public access

☐

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

☐

Comment:

1.2 Access and entrances

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

☐ +1

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

1.2b To what extent are the entrances well presented?

☐ +1-5

1.2c To what extent are the boundaries well defined and maintained?

☐ +1-5

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

☐ +1-5

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

☐ +1-5

1.2f What is the overall provision of welcoming signage?

☐ +1-5

1.3 Inclusivity

Is there evidence of any of the following:

1.3a Signage is accessible and welcoming for all users)

☐ +1

1.3b Step free access

☐ +1

1.3c Signage indicating accessible routes / footpaths

☐ +1

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

☐ +1

2. Health, safety and security

2.1 Community safety/sense of security

Please tick those which apply:

2.1a Is there natural surveillance into the site from surrounding properties or high streets?	☐	+1
2.1b Multiple entrance / exits	☐	+1
2.1c Is there a flow of people through the green space (to achieve self surveillance)?	☐	+1
2.1d Is lighting provided?	☐	+1
2.1e Is there CCTV?	☐	+1
2.1f Is there a marked help point or onsite staff?	☐	+1
2.1g Overall, does the open space feel safe to visit?	☐	+1
 2.2 Basic amenities		
Please tick and score those that are on site - use the guidance note to help where necessary.		
2.2a Litter +/- dog bin	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.2b Seating	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.2c Personal rescue equipment	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.2d Cycle parking	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.2e Toilets	☐	+3
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.2f Cafe	☐	+3
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.2g Other	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
 2.3 Active recreation/ sport provision		
Please tick and score those which apply:		
2.3a Grass pitches	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.3b Artificial pitches (e.g. Astro turf)	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.3c Tennis courts	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.3d Walking/ jogging	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.3e Water activities (other than play areas)	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.3f Bowls	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.3g Other	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
 2.4 Play and young people provision		
Please tick and score those which apply:		
2.4a Equipped play (under 5)	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5
2.4b Equipped play (5-11)	☐	+1
	☐	NA or +1-5

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

3. Clean and well maintained

3.1 Cleanliness

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

3.2 Cleanliness

What is the condition of the following features?

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

3.3 Overall attractiveness

3.1a Does the green space contribute to the setting of the immediate local area?	☐ +1
3.1b Is the open space visually attractive?	☐ +1
What threats / disturbances / issues are detracting from the site?	
3.1c Noise pollution	☐ -2
3.1d Air and water pollution	☐ -2
3.1e Intrusive buildings	☐ -2
3.1f Erosion	☐ -2
3.1g Lack of landscape management / maintenance	☐ -2
3.1h Invasive non-native species	☐ -2
3.1i Motorcycle scrambling and mini-bikes	☐ -2
3.1j Flytipping	☐ -2
3.1k Flooding	☐ -2
3.1l Excessive lighting	☐ -2
3.1m Dog fouling	☐ -2
3.1n Other	☐ -2

Please state:

4. Sustainability

4.1 Planting

Tick which of the following are present

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

4.2 Planting

Tick which of the following are present

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

4.3 Buffer

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

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

5. Nature conservation and heritage**5.1 Vegetation**

Tick which of the following are present

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|
| 5.1a Grassland | ☐ | NA or +1-3 |
| 5.1b Woodland | ☐ | NA or +1-3 |
| 5.1c Wetland | ☐ | NA or +1-3 |
| 5.1d Hedgerows | ☐ | NA or +1-3 |
| 5.1e Horticultural planting | ☐ | NA or +1-3 |
| 5.1f Is there evidence of invasive non-native plant species? | ☐ | 0 or -1-3 |
| 5.1g Does the green space form part of a wider network of green spaces and green infrastructure (e.g. street trees, verges, rivers, wider countryside?) | ☐ | 0 or +1-2 |

5.2 Management

Tick which of the following are present

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 5.2a Animal homes e.g. Bird boxes / bat boxes / bug hotels etc. | ☐ | +1 |
| 5.2b Infrastructure to facilitate wildlife watching e.g. bird hide | ☐ | +1 |
| 5.2c Educational signage detailing species that can be found on the site | ☐ | +1 |

Which of the following management practices are applied

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----|
| 5.2d Areas of grass left unmown | ☐ | +1 |
| 5.2e New tree planting | ☐ | +1 |
| 5.2f Dead wood habitat piles left | ☐ | +1 |
| 5.2g Other evidence of management for nature conservation | ☐ | +1 |

5.3 Heritage

Tick which of the following are present

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 5.2a Heritage Park features | ☐ | +1 |
| 5.2b Designed parkland landscape | ☐ | +1 |
| 5.2c Any other historic features | ☐ | +1 |

6. Community involvement, marketing and culture

6.1 Community involvement

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 6.1a Is there evidence of an active community group?
Are the following notices displayed: | ☐ | +3 |
| 6.1b Is there a permanent public noticeboard on site? | ☐ | +1 |
| 6.1c If so, are up to date notices displayed? | ☐ | +1 |
| 6.1d Is a programme of cultural or other community activities displayed? | ☐ | +1 |
| 6.1e Are there any temporary notices on site informing users about current developments? | ☐ | +1 |
| 6.1f If so, are they up to date? | ☐ | +1 |

6.2 Education

Is the site supporting education:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----|
| 6.2a Is the site providing educational interest through interpretation or evidence of specific educational activities | ☐ | +1 |
| 6.2b Is there a built facility on site which is being used by the local community for education? | ☐ | +1 |
| 6.2c Is there evidence that a natural feature on site is being used by the local community for education? | ☐ | +1 |
| 6.2d Is there a school, immediately adjacent to the green space? | ☐ | +1 |

6.3 Marketing

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

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

Please state:

6.4 Arts and culture

Please tick if yes to each question below

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----|
| 6.4a Is there a dedicated outdoor performance area within the green space? | ☐ | +1 |
| 6.4b Does the green space contain public art? | ☐ | +1 |
| 6.4c Does the green space feature any recognisable landmark features of local importance? | ☐ | +1 |

7. Summary

7.1 Informal recreation

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

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

Please state:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------|
| 7.1k Overall provision for informal recreation? | ☐ | +1-3 |
|--|--------------------------|------|

8. Potential themes for enhancement

8.1 Benefits / services

- 8.1a** Please indicate which benefits/ services should be prioritised for future management or enhancement.

9. Comments

9.1 Further information

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

References

- 1 Bath and North East Somerset Council (2015) Bath & North East Somerset Green Space Strategy. [online] Available at: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/policy-and-documents-library/bath-north-east-somerset-green-space-strategy>
- 2 Bath and North East Somerset Council (2008) Existing Dwellings in the Green Belt SPD. [online] Available at: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/ExistingDwellingsintheGreenBeltSPD.pdf>
- 3 Town and Country Planning Act 1990. [online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/section/336/2001-03-26?view=plain>
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