



SOUTH TYNESIDE

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2015

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

1-2 Frecheville Court ◀ off Knowsley Street ◀ Bury BL9 0UF
T 0161 764 7040 ◀ **F** 0161 764 7490 ◀ **E** mail@kcp.co.uk ◀ **www.kkp.co.uk**



6543

Quality assurance	Name	Date
Report origination	Chris MacFarlane	13 May 2015
Quality control	John Eady	14 May 2015
Agreed sign off	STC	Sept 2015

PART 1: INTRODUCTION.....	2
1.1 Report structure	3
1.2 National context	4
1.3 Local context.....	4
PART 2: METHODOLOGY	5
2.1 Analysis areas.....	5
2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)	7
2.3 Quality and value	8
2.4 Quality and value thresholds	9
2.5 Identifying local need (demand).....	10
2.6 Accessibility standards	10
PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY	12
3.1 Usage.....	12
3.2 Accessibility.....	18
3.3 Availability	19
3.4 Quality.....	19
3.5 Value.....	21
3.6 Summary.....	23
PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS	24
4.1 Introduction	24
4.2 Current provision.....	24
4.3 Accessibility.....	24
4.4 Quality.....	27
4.5 Value.....	28
4.6 Summary.....	29
PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE	30
5.1 Introduction	30
5.2 Current provision.....	30
5.3 Accessibility.....	31
5.4 Quality.....	35
5.5 Value.....	37
5.6 Summary.....	38
PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE.....	39
6.1 Introduction	39
6.2 Current provision.....	39
6.3 Accessibility.....	39
6.4 Quality.....	43
6.5 Value.....	44
6.6 Summary.....	45

PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	46
7.1 Introduction	46
7.2 Current provision	46
7.3 Accessibility.....	47
7.4 Quality.....	50
7.5 Value.....	53
7.6 Summary.....	54
 PART 8: ALLOTMENTS	 55
8.1 Introduction	55
8.2 Current provision	55
8.3 Accessibility.....	56
8.4 Quality.....	59
8.5 Value.....	60
8.6 Summary.....	61
 PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS.....	 62
9.1 Introduction	62
9.2 Current provision	62
9.3 Accessibility.....	62
9.4 Quality.....	64
9.5 Value.....	65
9.6 Summary.....	66
 PART 10: CIVIC SPACE.....	 67
10.1 Introduction	67
10.2 Current provision	67
10.3 Accessibility.....	67
10.4 Quality.....	69
10.5 Value.....	70
10.6 Summary.....	70
 PART 11: FORMAL OUTDOOR SPORTS.....	 71
11.1 Introduction	71
11.2 Current provision	71
10.3 Accessibility.....	75
10.4 Quality.....	76
11.6 Summary.....	78

Glossary

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

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

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

The Assessment Report provides detail with regard to what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It considers the demand for provision based upon population distribution, planned growth and consultation findings. The Strategy (to follow the assessment reports for both open spaces and playing pitch facilities) will give direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable provision for open spaces, sport and recreation in South Tyneside.

This study replaces a previous set of reports, referred to as the Open Space Strategy from 2009.

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

Although PPG17 has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance 'as it remains the only national advice on the conduct of an open space assessment. It also still reflects the Government policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out in PPG17. The long-term outcomes aim to deliver:

- ◀ Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors that are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ◀ An appropriate balance between new, and the enhancement of existing, provision.
- ◀ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision.

In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.1 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. However, some sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included. The table below details the open space typologies and thresholds:

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

	Typology	Primary purpose	Size threshold
Greenspaces	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.	n/a
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.	0.1 hectares
	Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.	0.1 hectares
	Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.	n/a
	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.	n/a
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.	n/a
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.	n/a
	Formal outdoor sports	Provision such as playing fields, tennis courts and bowling greens that are available for community use.	n/a
Civic spaces	Civic/market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians including the promenade	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.	n/a

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

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

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Part 3: General open space summary | Part 8: Allotments |
| Part 4: Parks and gardens | Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards |
| Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace | Part 10: Civic space |
| Part 6: Amenity greenspace | Part 11: Formal outdoor sports |
| Part 7: Provision for children/young people | |

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Associated strategies

The study sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) which is also being undertaken by KKP (provided in a separate report). The open space typology of formal outdoor sports is covered within the associated Playing Pitch Strategy. A summary of the main findings is provided in this document. The PPS is undertaken in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England's Draft Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities (2013).

1.2 National context

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

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

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

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

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

1.3 Local context

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

Current policies for open space and recreation are set out in the LDF. Core Strategy (2007) policy SC6 'Providing for recreational open space, sport and leisure' promotes the provision of high quality recreational open space, playing fields and other sports and play facilities. SPD3 (2013) expands on policy SC6, providing an overview of green infrastructure and open space in South Tyneside. SPD3 incorporated and updated the findings of the previous South Tyneside PPOs (2009), Open Space Strategy (2009), 'Addendum to the final PPS and Open Space strategy Consultant Studies' (2009).

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, South Tyneside is divided into three analysis areas (reflecting the geographic and demographic nature of the area).

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

Table 2.1: Population by analysis area

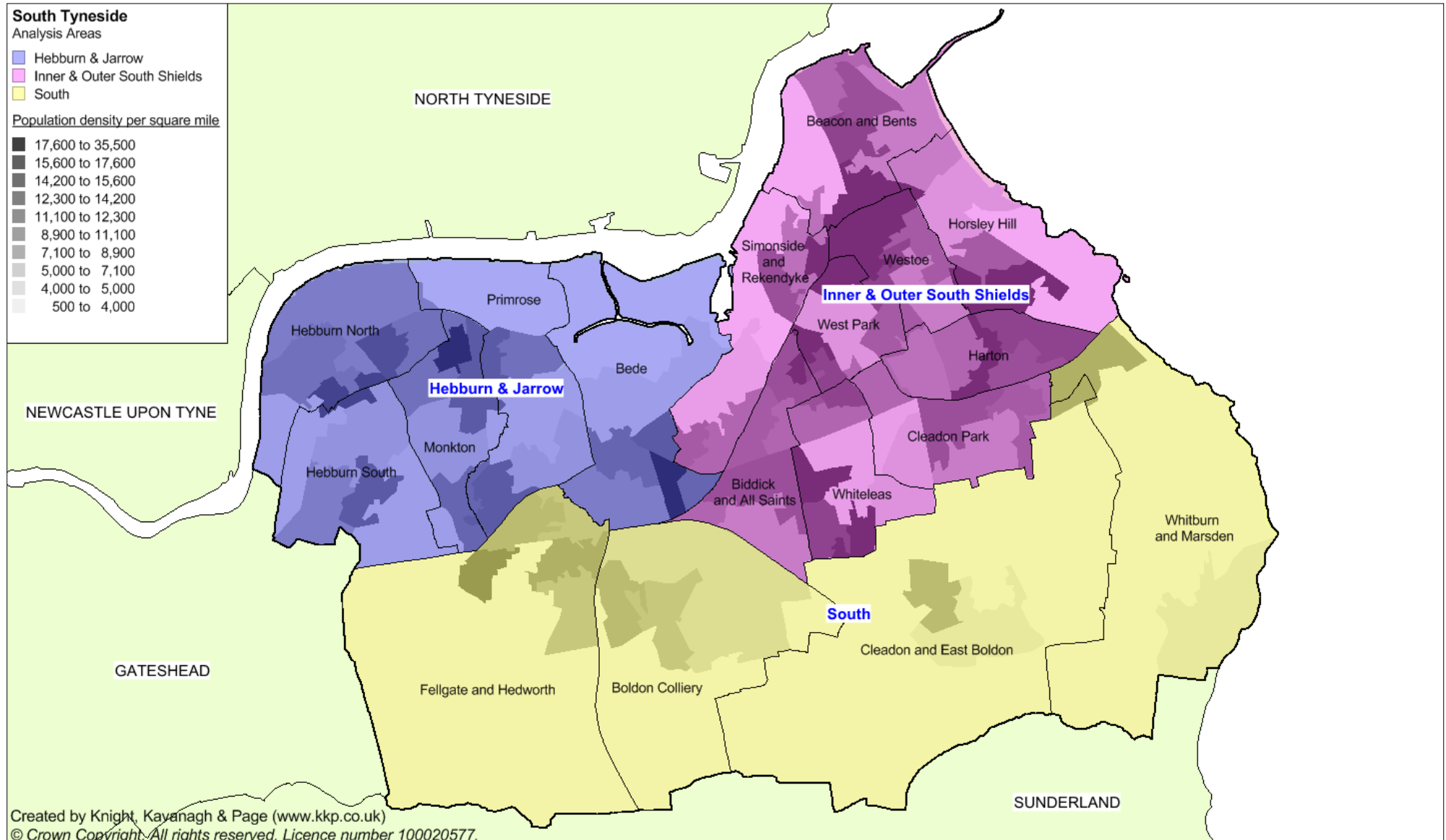
Analysis area	Ward	Population (2014)*
Hebburn & Jarrow	Bede	41,054
	Hebburn North	
	Hebburn South	
	Monkton	
	Primrose	
Inner & Outer South Shields	Beacon and Bents	73,470
	Biddick and All Saints	
	Cleadon Park	
	Harton	
	Horsley Hill	
	Simonside and Rekendyke	
	West Park	
	Westoe	
	Whiteleas	
	South	
Cleadon and East Boldon		
Fellgate and Hedworth		
Whitburn and Marsden		
SOUTH TYNESIDE		148,526

Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of analysis areas with population density.

* Source: ONS Mid-2013 Population Estimates

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in South Tyneside



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The site audit for this study was undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. In total, 230 open spaces (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with the Guidance:

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards
7. Civic space

The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated PPS. The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space (as a different methodology is prescribed). However, a brief summary of the main findings are set out in Part 11.

In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.1 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. However, any sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included. The table below details the threshold for each typology:

Typology	Size threshold
Parks and gardens	no threshold
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	0.1 ha
Amenity greenspace	0.1 ha
Provision for children and young people	no threshold
Allotments	no threshold
Cemeteries/churchyards	no threshold
Civic space	no threshold

Database development

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

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

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

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

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

2.3 Quality and value

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

Analysis of quality

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

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

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

For the provision for children and young people, criteria is also built around Green Flag and is a non technical visual assessment of the whole site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance plus an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision. This differs, for example, from an independent RosPA review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

Children's and young people play provision is scored for value as part of the audit assessment. Value, in particular is recognised in terms of size of sites and the range of equipment they host. For instance, a small site with only one or two items is likely to be of a lower value than a site with several different forms of equipment designed to cater for wider age ranges.

Analysis of value

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

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

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

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

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

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

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

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

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	50%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	30%	20%
Amenity greenspace	40%	20%
Provision for children and young people	55%	20%
Allotments	40%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	50%	20%
Civic space	50%	20%

2.5 Identifying local need (demand)

Consultation to identify local need for open space provision has been carried out via a combination of face-to-face meetings, surveys and telephone interviews. It has also been conducted with key local authority officers (in respect of each typology). An online community survey was created and used to gather the wider views of local people. The findings of the consultation and survey carried out are used, reviewed and interpreted to further support the results of the quality and value assessment.

2.6 Accessibility standards

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

Guidance is offered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (2008): 'Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance' with regard to appropriate catchment areas for authorities to adopt. However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to South Tyneside, we propose to use data from the survey consultation to set appropriate catchments. The following standards are recorded from the survey in relation to how far individuals are willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

Table 2.3: Accessibility standards to travel to open space provision

Typology	Applied standard
Parks and gardens	10 minute walk time (800m)
	30 minute drive time
Natural and semi-natural	15 minute walk time (1200m)
	30 minute drive time
Amenity greenspace	5 minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people	10 minute walk time (800m)
Allotments	15 minute walk time (1200m)
Cemeteries	No standard set
Civic spaces	No standard set

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 10 or 15 minute walk time. However, for certain typologies, such as amenity greenspace, accessibility is deemed to be more locally based. Subsequently shorter accessibility standards have been applied. Given the split between responses, and to represent people's use of such provision, drive time catchments have also been applied to the typologies of parks and natural and semi-natural.

No standard is set for the typologies of cemeteries or civic spaces. It is difficult to assess such typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for each typology in South Tyneside. It also includes a summary of the responses from the local communities' survey. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in this report.

3.1 Usage

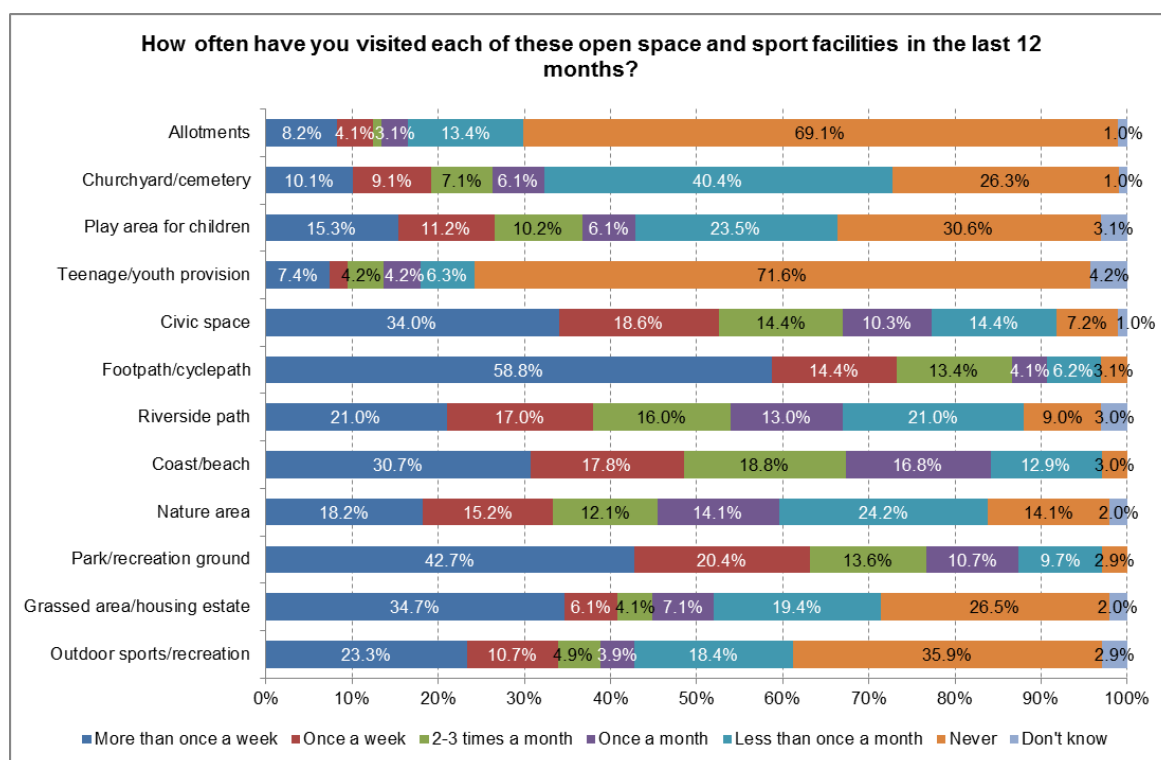
Survey participants were asked how often they visit each type of open space. Most respondents identify that they visit typologies such as foot/cycle paths (59%) and parks more than once a week; an indication of the popularity of provision of this type. Other popular open spaces include civic spaces and coast/beaches.

Provision such as cemeteries and churchyards are visited on a less frequent basis with more respondents (40%) stating they visit this type of site less than once a month. This is relatively typical of this type of provision.

Other typologies have a more mixed rate of usage. For the typologies such as allotments (69%) and teenage provision (72%) the majority of respondents indicate they never access such forms of provision. For the latter this may represent lack of awareness or interest in provision of this type.

It is not uncommon for allotments to receive percentages of this kind as they are a niche form of open space provision; only attracting use from those with a specific interest.

Figure 3.1; Types of open space visited in the previous 12 months



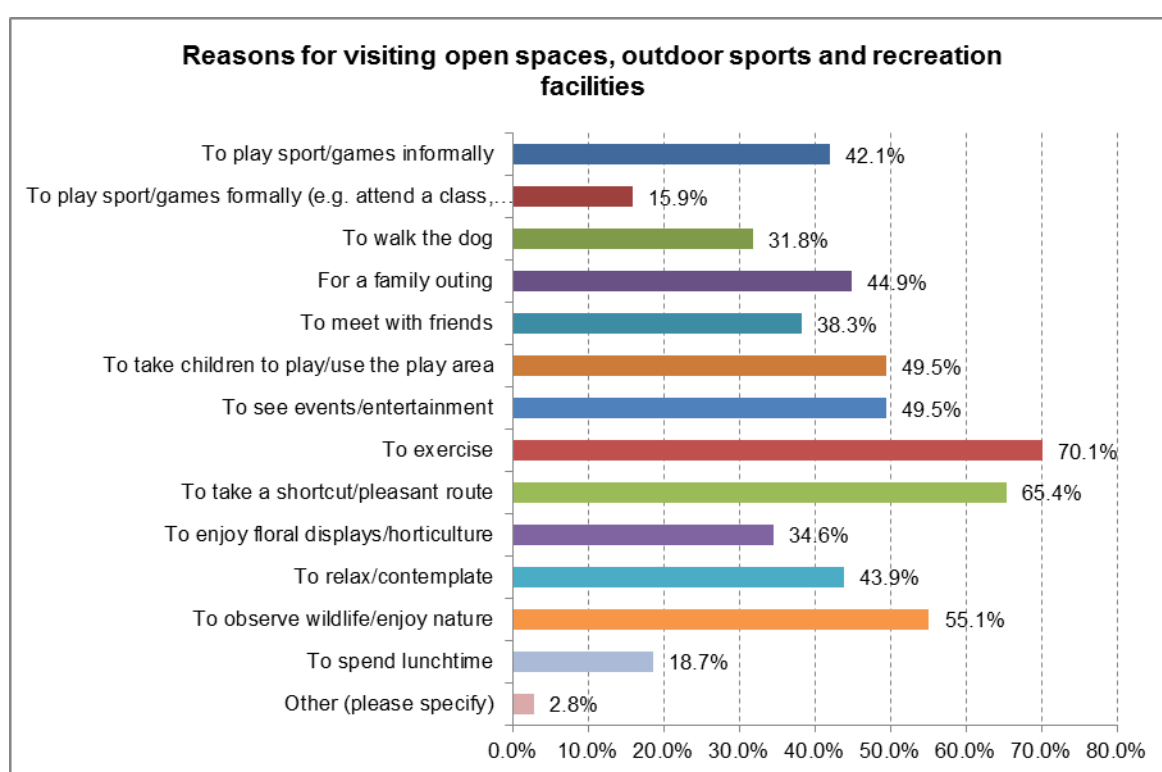
SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

The most popular reasons for visiting open spaces in South Tyneside are to exercise (70%); followed by to take a shortcut/pleasant route (65%). This may also correspond with why provision such as parks, footpaths/cycle paths and coast/beaches are popular and visited more frequently.

Other common reasons for visiting open space are to observe wildlife/enjoy nature (55%), to see events (50%) and to take children to play area (50%).

The results show the role of open spaces in the context of social interaction and health benefit and the value of open spaces as focal points for local communities.

Figure 3.2: Reasons for visiting open space sites in previous 12 months



As part of the survey, respondents were asked what the main reasons might be which prevent them from using open spaces. The most common reason given was that facilities were not maintained sufficiently or are in a state of disrepair (49%). Postcode data from these respondents tells us that greater percentages are from the following postcode areas:

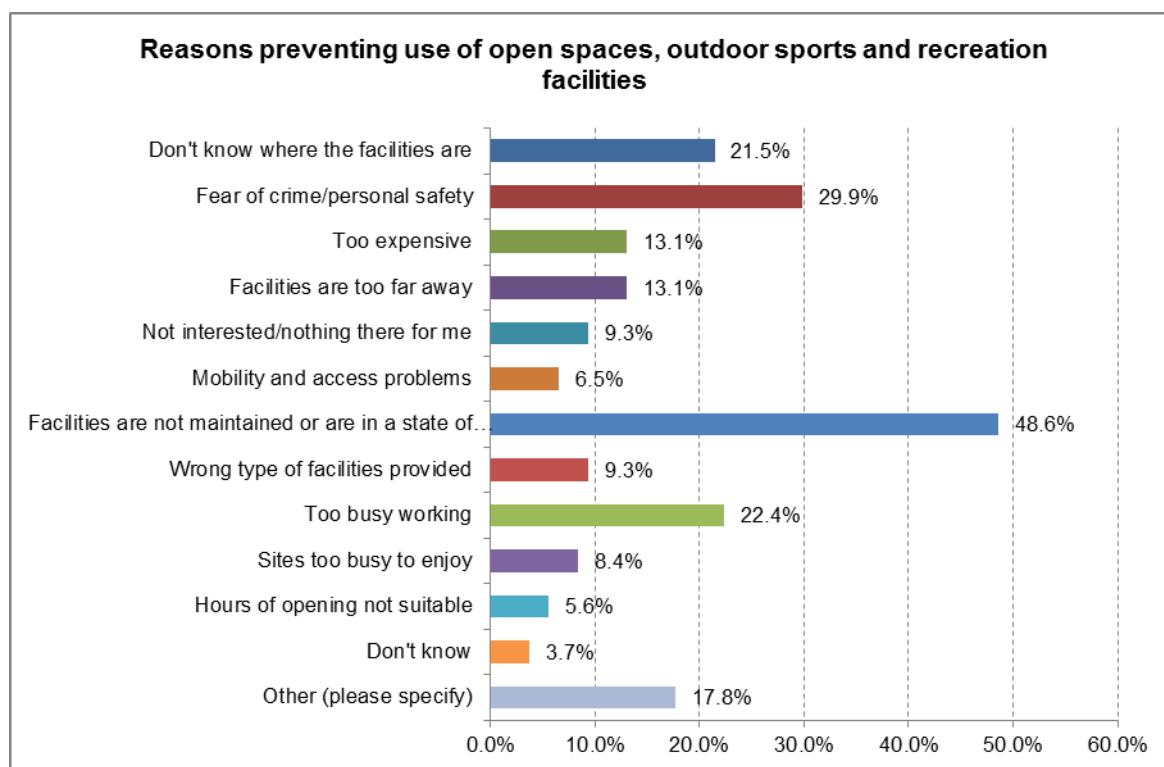
- ◀ NE32 (21%)
- ◀ NE33 (25%)
- ◀ NE34 (19%)

All three postcode areas are to the north of South Tyneside covering the area of Jarrow and South Shields. This would, arguably, suggest that local perceptions are that provision in those areas is less well maintained.

Other common responses include fear of crime/personal safety (30%), individuals stating they are too busy working (22%) and not knowing where facilities are (21%).

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.3: Reasons preventing use of open space sites in previous 12 months



Respondents were also asked to name the park or area of open space closest to where they live. Sites most often referred to are:

- ◀ West Park
- ◀ Readhead Park
- ◀ South Marine Park
- ◀ North Marine Park
- ◀ Monkton Dene Park

Other sites mentioned but not as often include:

- ◀ Jarrow Park
- ◀ Temple Park
- ◀ Cleadon Park
- ◀ Hedworthfield Community Association

There are also a number of other sites mentioned by respondents; these are not listed above as they were only referred to once.

The Hedworthfield Community Association is not technically categorised as an open space although it does have playing pitches. It is a community based activity centre open for set hours throughout the week.

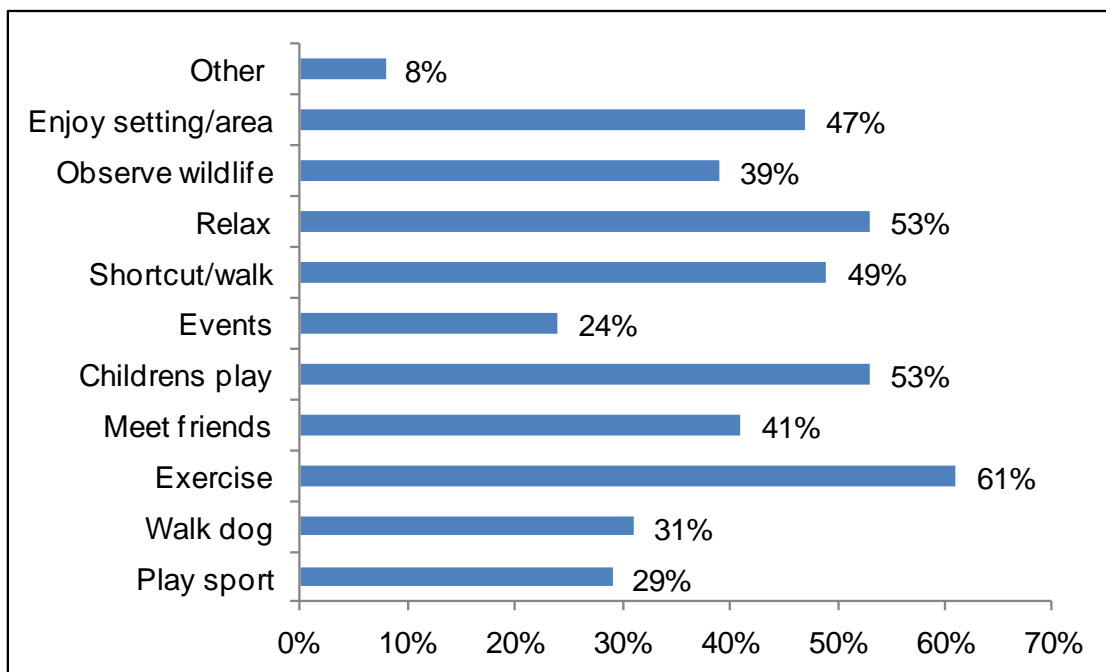
Most of the respondents identifying the sites listed above signal that they tend to visit more than once a week (59%). Nearly all respondents (94%) identify that they travel to the sites by walking.

For 61% of these respondents it takes less than 5 minutes to travel to the site. For a further 27% it takes between 6-10 minutes to travel. This reaffirms the 'closeness' of such sites to respondents.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

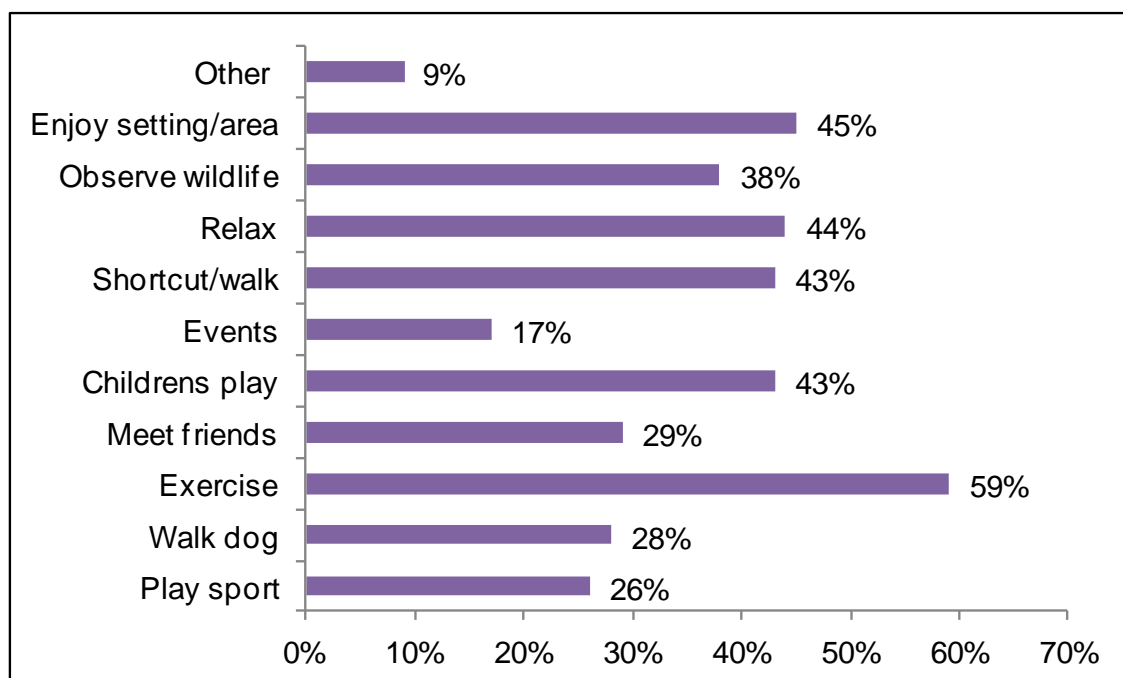
Respondents were asked why they visit the sites closest to where they live. The most common reason cited is to exercise (61%) followed by to relax (53%) and/or to take children to play (53%).

Figure 3.4: Reasons for visiting commonly cited sites closest to where respondents live



Similar results can be seen in the responses from all respondents (not just those citing one of the more referred to sites). Most (57%) tend to visit the site closest to where they live more than once a week. As can be expected, nearly all travel by walking (83%). Over half (52%) travel less than 5 minutes to the site whilst 20% travel between 6-10 minutes.

Figure 3.5: Reasons for visiting sites closest to where respondents live



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

In terms of reasons for visiting sites closest to where respondents live there are similar trends across all sites referenced (figure 3.5) to the results for only the most commonly cited sites (figure 3.4).

Respondents were also asked to name the facility they visit the most often. Popular answers include:

- ◀ Beach and coastal areas (25%)
- ◀ North and South Marine Parks (19%)
- ◀ Hedworthfield Community Association (10%)

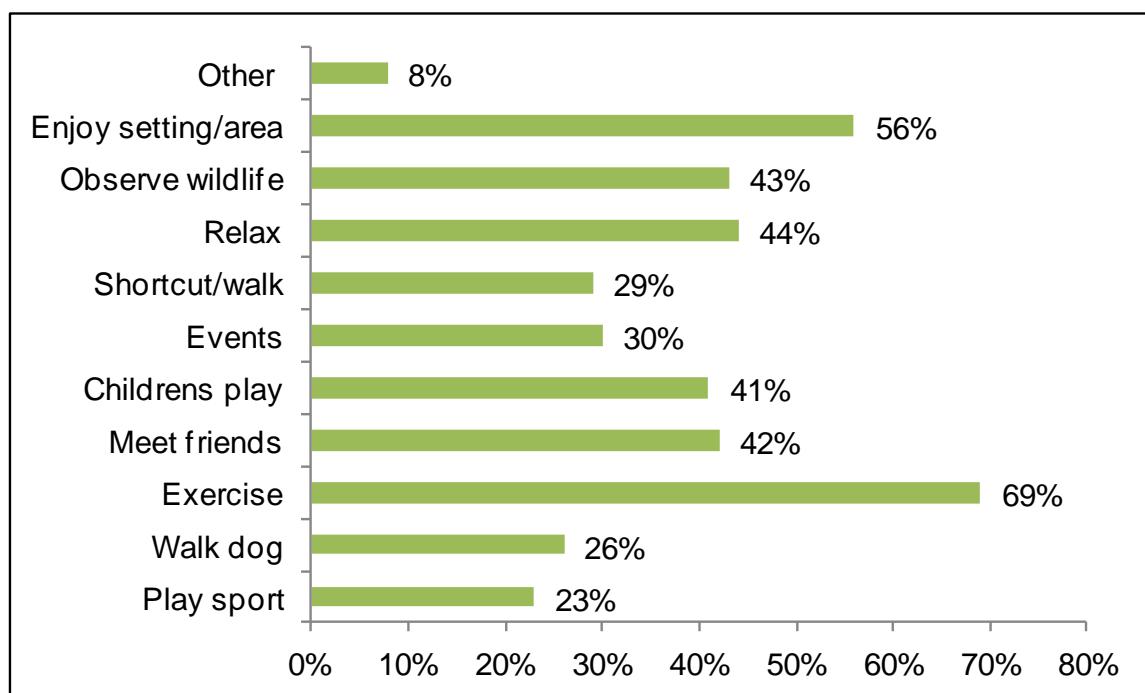
In keeping with trends, most respondents (64%) identify that they tend to visit such sites/areas more than once a week.

The majority identify that they tend to walk to access provision (64%). This is lower in comparison to the results for sites visited closest to respondents (94%). However, this is to be expected as sites closer to where an individual lives are more likely to be accessed by walking.

Subsequently the distance of travel between those sites closest and those visited most often differs. For sites visited most often, 35% of respondents travel less than 5 minutes with a further 30% travelling for 6-10 minutes. In comparison, over half of respondents visiting a site closest to where they live travel less than 5 minutes (52%).

Respondents were asked to cite the reasons for visiting the sites they visit most often. Exercising (69%) and to enjoy the setting/area (56%) are the two most common reasons. Again this shows a trend similar to the responses for why respondents visit sites closest to where they live.

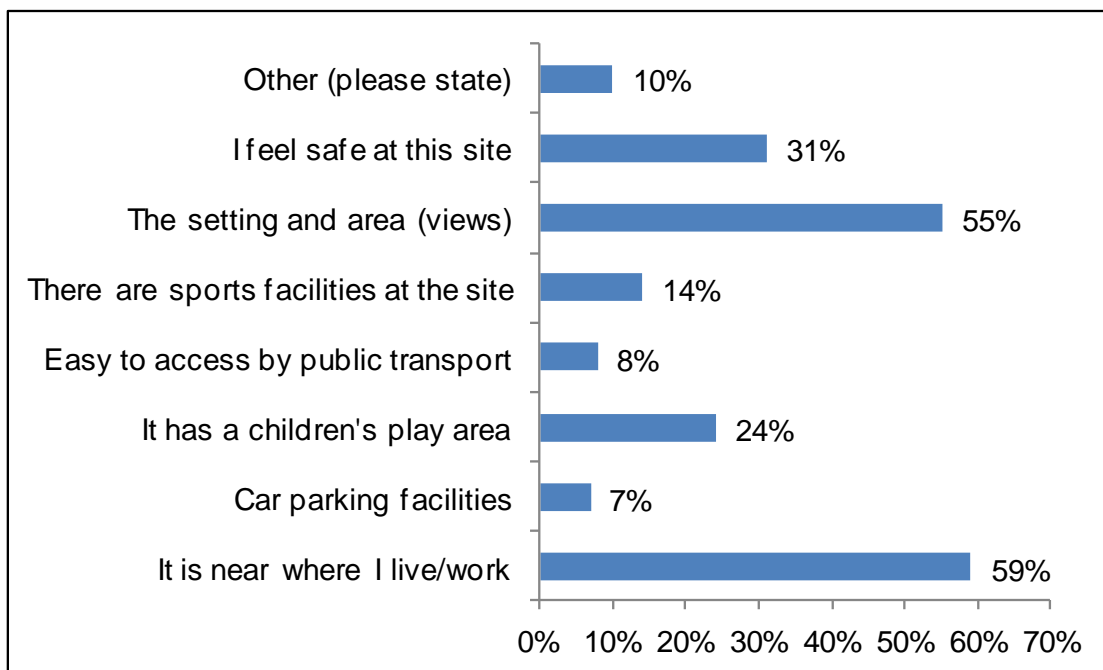
Figure 3.6: Reasons for visiting most visited sites



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

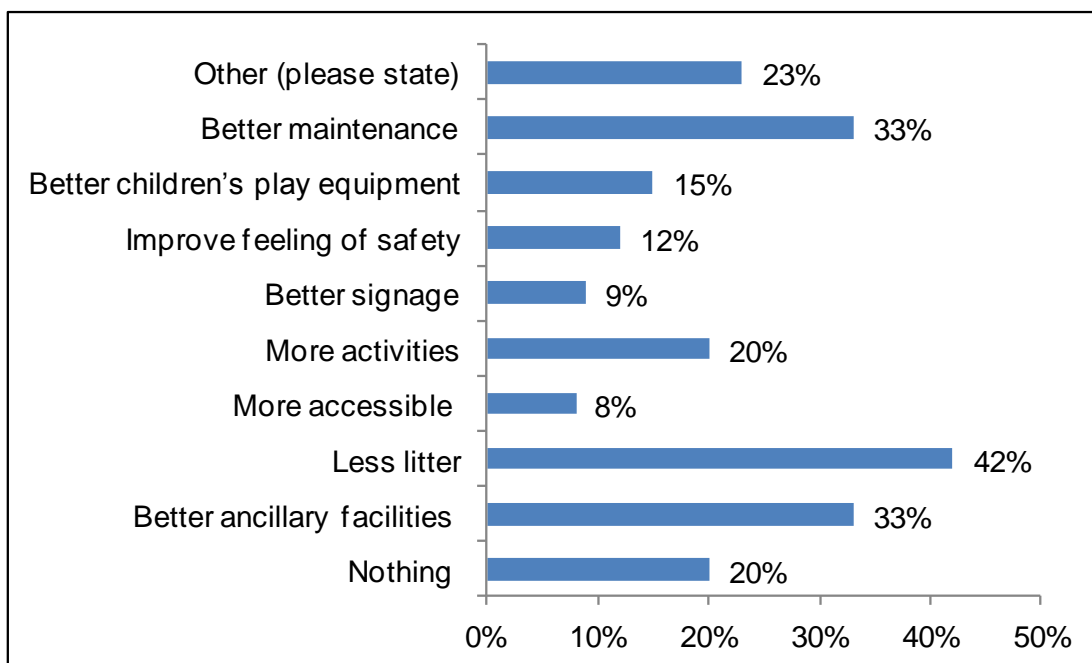
Respondents were also asked what influences them to visit the sites they go to the most often. The strongest influences are sites being near to living/work places (59%) and their setting i.e. offers views/landscapes (55%).

Figure 3.7: Site influence



For the sites respondents visit the most often they were asked which improvements they would like to see. The most common answer was for less litter (44%). This is followed by better maintenance (33%) and better ancillary facilities i.e. benches, bins (33%). Of the other response (23%), restricting dog usage/dog fouling is frequently cited.

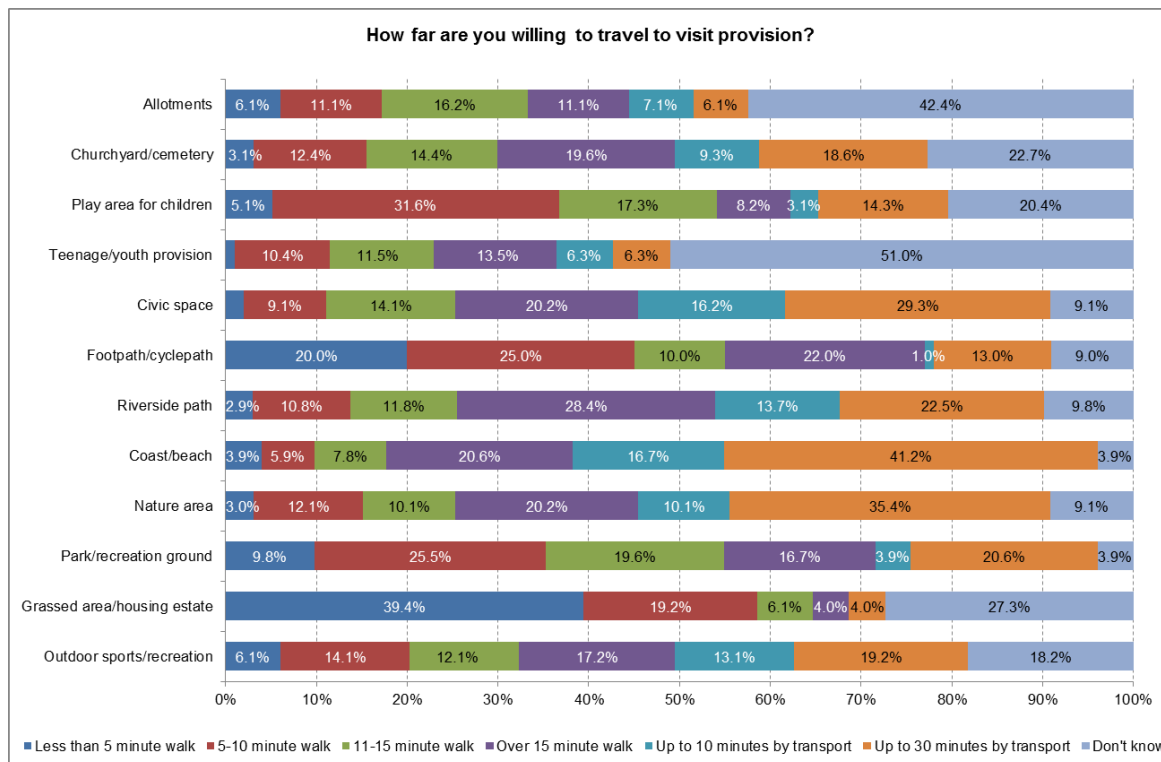
Figure 3.8: Site improvements



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.2 Accessibility

Figure 3.4: Time willing to travel to open space sites



Results from the survey shows that most individuals are willing to walk in order to access different types of provision.

A preference to walk shorter distances (i.e. less than 5 minutes, 5-10 minutes) can be seen for certain typologies such as play areas, footpaths/cyclepaths, grassed areas at housing estates and parks.

A breakdown of distances is set out under each typology section later in the report.

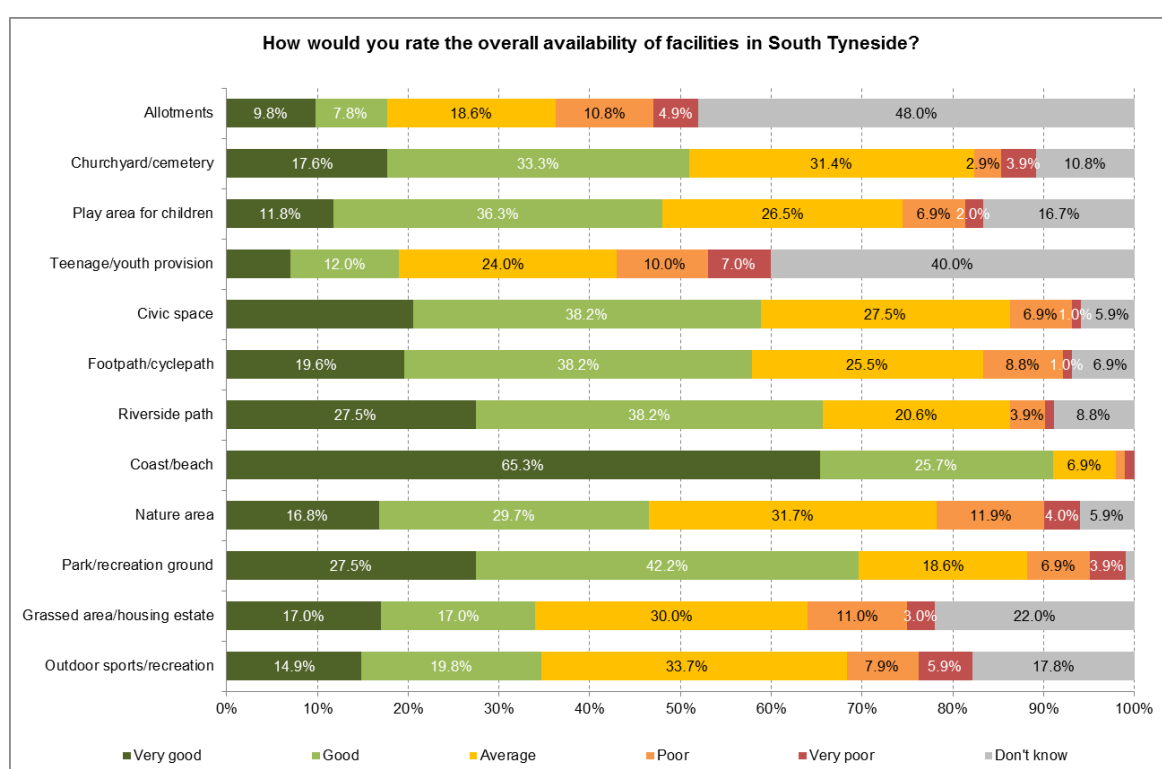
SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.3 Availability

In general, respondents consider the availability of provision to be above average. Most rate it as either very good or good. Typologies such as the coast/beach (91%), parks (70%) and riverside paths (66%) are viewed as good/very good in terms of availability.

The only typologies rated not to be good or very good for availability are teenage provision and allotments. As noted earlier both are a niche form of provision and tend not to stimulate much consideration in the wider public eye other than for the specific users of such sites.

Figure 3.5: Availability of open spaces



3.4 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table overleaf summarises the results of all the quality assessment for open spaces across South Tyneside.

Most assessed open spaces in South Tyneside (58%) rate above the quality thresholds set. Proportionally a higher percentage of children's play provision (58%) and amenity greenspace (63%) sites rate above the threshold for quality. This is often a reflection of their excellent appearance and high standard.

Proportionally more sites rate below the threshold for the natural and semi-natural greenspace typology.

This is thought to reflect the wide range and type of sites classified under this typology; as some sites are without additional features or facilities relative to others.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

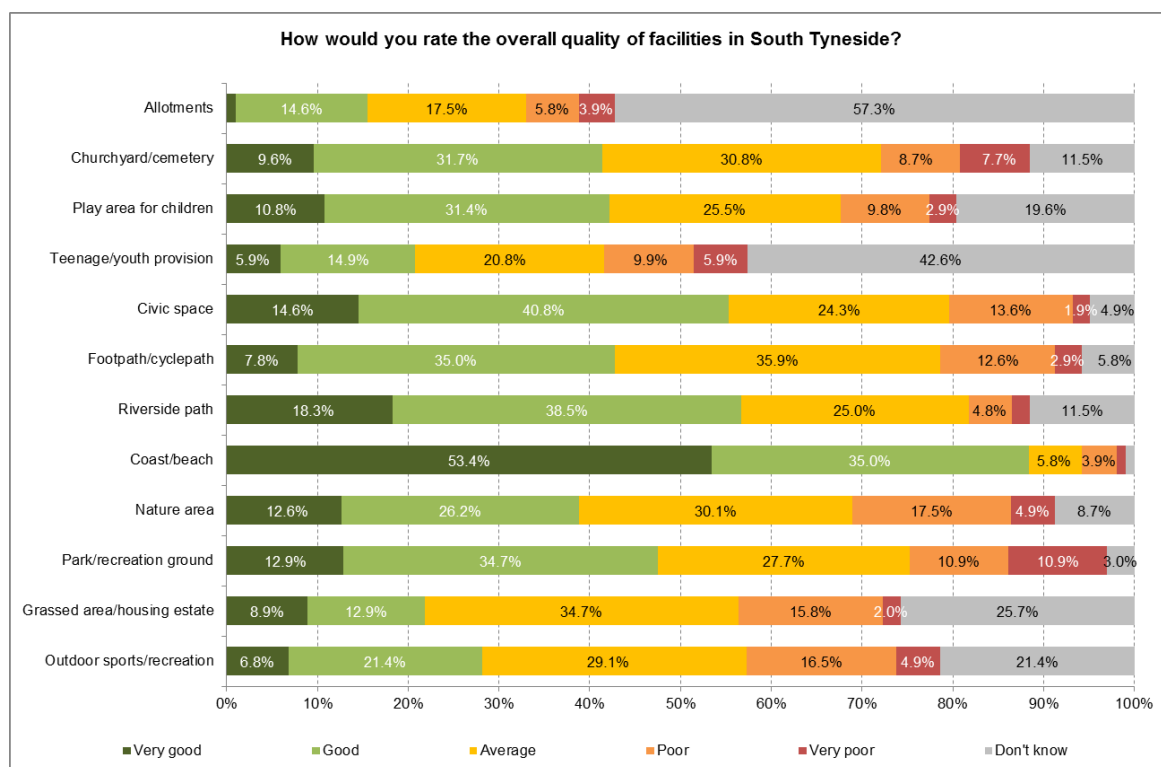
Table 3.1: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	40%	25%	41%	57%	12	13
Amenity greenspace	40%	18%	43%	71%	29	50
Cemeteries/churchyards	50%	34%	53%	66%	2	6
Provision for children & young people	55%	24%	56%	79%	20	28
Civic space	50%	56%	59%	62%	-	2
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	30%	5%	30%	75%	22	21
Park and gardens	50%	40%	50%	68%	9	10
TOTAL	-	5%	44%	79%	94	130

Nearly all typologies are viewed by respondents as being of either good or very good quality; with the exception of allotments and teenage provision. Some categories such as foot paths/cycle paths (36%), nature areas (34%) and cemeteries (31%) receive slightly higher percentages for average. However, results overall are still positive.

Open space types viewed particularly as good or very good quality include coast/beach, riverside paths, civic spaces and parks.

Figure 3.6: Quality of open spaces

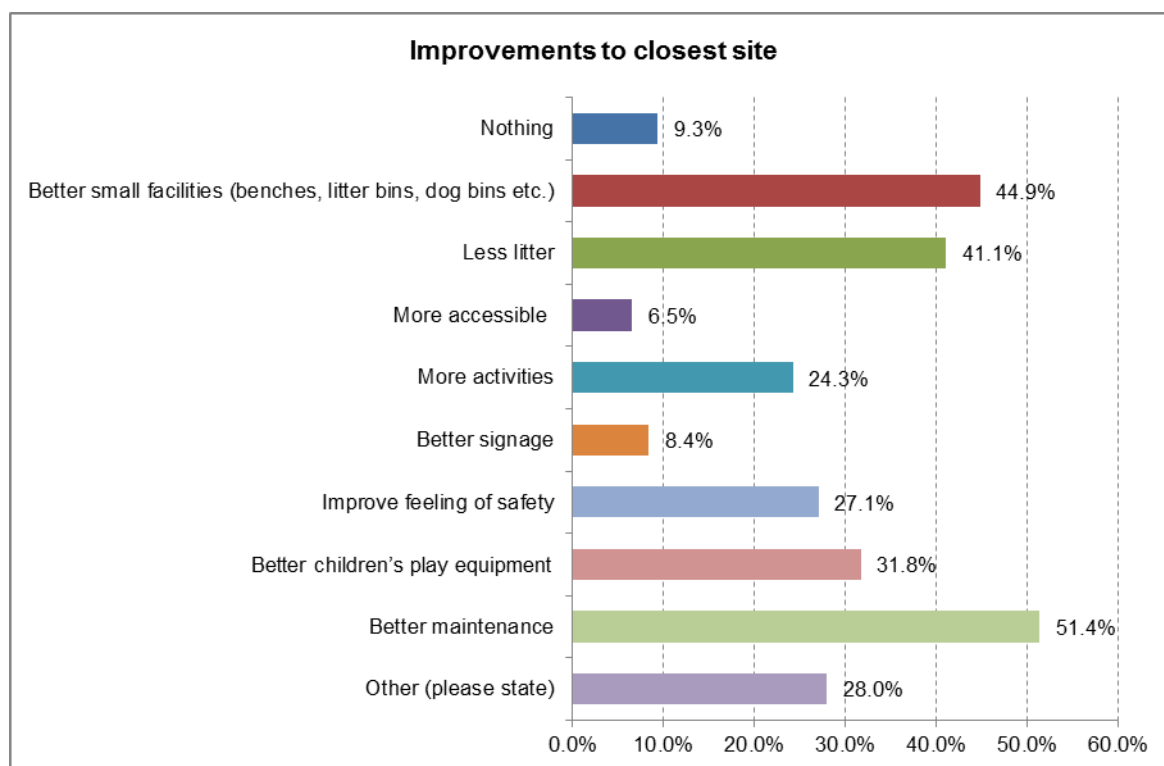


SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Survey respondents state that the best ways to improve open space provision closest to where they live is to provide better maintenance (51%). This is followed by providing better small facilities e.g. benches, bins (45%) and less litter (41%).

The responses coincide with the findings of the audit assessments which highlight sites where low quality and/or value are often a result of these missing elements.

Figure 3.7: Improvements to open spaces



3.5 Value

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

The majority of sites (79%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. Amenity greenspaces have a slightly higher proportion of low value provision. This reflects a lack of ancillary features at some sites. The typology also contains a number of smaller sized sites. However, the value these sites provide in offering a visual and recreational amenity as well as a break in the built form remains important.

Nearly all other typologies rate high for value reflecting their role in and importance to local communities and environments.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and that are thought of as bland and unattractive.

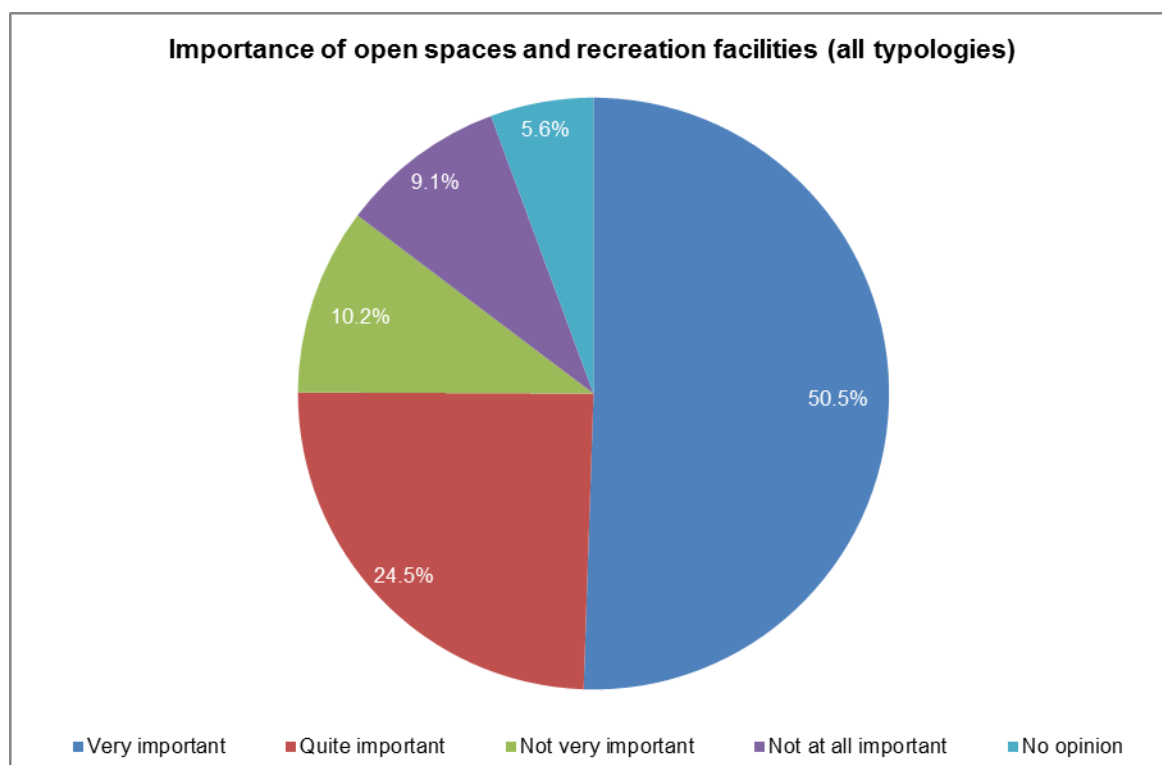
SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 3.2: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	20%	12%	36%	48%	3	22
Amenity greenspace	20%	11%	23%	60%	34	45
Cemeteries/churchyards	20%	28%	36%	45%	-	8
Provision for children & young people	20%	13%	41%	73%	3	45
Civic space	20%	40%	42%	44%	-	2
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	20%	10%	29%	59%	6	37
Park and gardens	20%	24%	40%	68%	-	19
TOTAL	20%	10%	32%	73%	46	178

The majority of survey respondents (75%) view open spaces as either very or quite important reflecting the high value placed on such provision, and the importance of the continuing presence and availability of open spaces. Only a small proportion of respondents views open space as either not very (10%) or not at all (9%) important.

Figure 3.8: importance of open spaces



3.6 Summary

General summary

- ◀ In total 230 sites in South Tyneside are identified as open space provision. This is equivalent to 868 hectares across the area.
- ◀ Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 10 or 15 minute walk time. For certain typologies, such as play or amenity greenspace, lower walk times of 10 and 5 minutes respectively have been applied.
- ◀ Nearly three fifths of all open spaces (58%) score above the thresholds set for quality. Most noticeably, more play provision and amenity greenspace sites score above the thresholds for quality than other typologies.
- ◀ Conversely natural and semi-natural and parks have fewer sites scoring above the threshold. This tends to be due to the wider range and forms of provision of this type.
- ◀ The majority of all open spaces (78%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of such provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. South Tyneside does not contain any identified country parks.

4.2 Current provision

There are 19 sites classified as parks and gardens across South Tyneside, an equivalent to 100 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Hebburn & Jarrow	7	49.20	1.20
Inner & Outer South Shields	7	39.92	0.54
South	5	11.78	0.35
SOUTH TYNESIDE	19	100.90	0.68

All analysis areas are identified as having provision of parks and gardens. The highest volume of council managed provision (49 hectares) is to be found in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area. This is predominantly due to the location of the Campbell Park site in the analysis area. At over 20 hectares it is the single largest park site in South Tyneside. Subsequently the analysis area has a significantly greater proportion of provision per 1,000 head of population than the Authority's other analysis areas.

Other significant sized sites include North Marine Park (11 hectares) and West Park, South Shields (11 hectares) in the Inner and Outer South Shields Analysis Area.

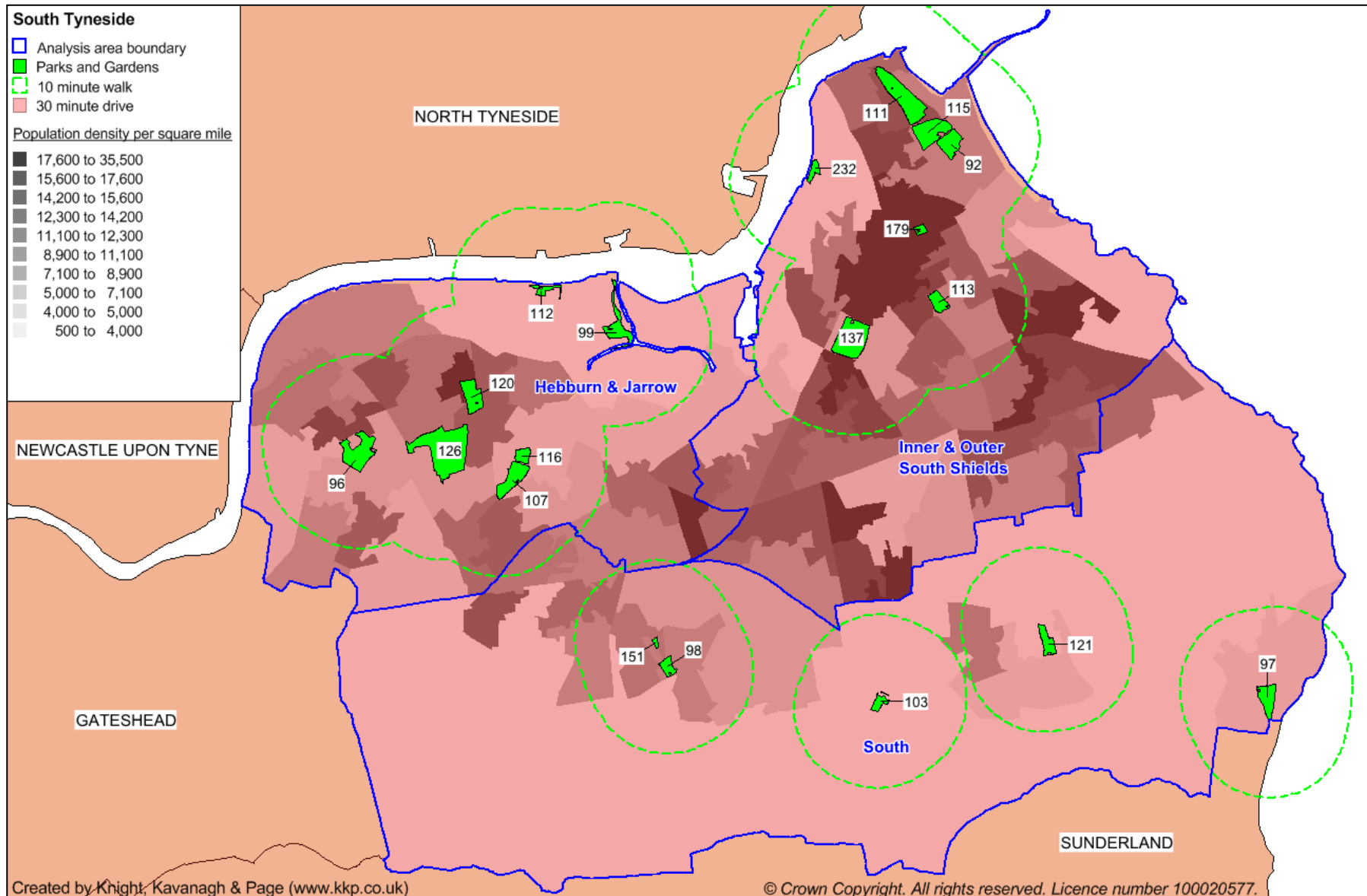
4.3 Accessibility

The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access a park was over a 5-10 minute walk (24.5%), followed by an 11-15 minute walk (18.9%) or up to a 30 minute drive time (19.8%). As a result, for the purpose of mapping a 10 minute walk time has been applied. A 30 minute drive time has also been applied to demonstrate the difference in individuals' views.

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

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped against analysis area



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
92	Bents Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	46.1%	48.2%
96	Carr-Ellison Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	48.4%	31.8%
97	Cornthwaite Park	South	52.6%	39.1%
98	Disco Field	South	40.0%	30.0%
99	Drewetts Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	51.4%	39.1%
103	Grange Park	South	38.2%	25.5%
107	Monkton Dene Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	46.5%	43.6%
111	North Marine Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	56.0%	57.3%
112	Jarrow Riverside Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	59.7%	36.4%
113	Robert Readhead Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	44.7%	34.5%
115	South Marine Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	67.5%	68.2%
116	Springwell Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	47.1%	48.2%
120	West Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	60.0%	50.0%
121	Coulthard Park	South	45.2%	32.7%
126	Campbell Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	48.5%	43.6%
137	West Park, South Shields	Inner & Outer South Shields	50.3%	45.5%
151	Coronation Park	South	44.4%	23.6%
179	Mowbray Road Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	53.0%	39.1%
232	Harton Quay Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	50.3%	30.0%

All analysis areas are covered by the 30 minute drive time catchment. Furthermore, in general there is good coverage of parks based on a 15 minute walk time.

There is a slight catchment gap along the central area of South Tyneside; to the southern boundary of the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. However, this area is well served by other open space provision particularly amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. For example, Temple Memorial Park, Cleadon Recreation Ground and King George V Playing Field are large sites located within the catchment gaps of parks provision. New forms of parks provision are not thought to be required to meet such catchment gaps.

Furthermore, no issue with regard to a deficiency in parks and gardens is highlighted either through consultation or via the Communities Survey results. The majority of respondents rate the availability of parks and gardens as either very good (28%) or good (42%). Very few rate availability negatively i.e. poor (7%) or very poor (4%).

Council managed sites, including parks and gardens, are managed as part of its portfolio of open spaces. No parks currently have onsite staff although South Marine Park previously had onsite staff as part of a recent Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project. Sites reportedly receive regular visits which include regimes such as grass cutting, weeding and general site preservation (e.g. bench refurbishment, path checks).

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

4.4 Quality

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

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Hebburn & Jarrow	159	47%	52%	60%	13%	4	3
Inner & Outer South Shields	159	45%	53%	68%	23%	2	5
South	159	40%	45%	53%	15%	3	2
SOUTH TYNESIDE	159	40%	50%	68%	30%	9	10

Of the 19 park and garden sites in South Tyneside, 10 score above the threshold whilst nine score below it. The Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area is the only area to have a greater number of sites rating above the threshold than below.

Slightly more sites in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area and South Analysis Area rate below the threshold for quality. No specific quality issues are highlighted from the site audit. However, the sites tend to score lower for controls to prevent illegal use and signage/information in comparison to other sites.

Sites assessed as being of high quality and rated well above the 50% threshold include:

- ✦ South Marine Park (68%)
- ✦ West Park (60%)
- ✦ Jarrow Riverside Park (60%)
- ✦ North Marine Park (56%)

South Marine Park is the highest scoring site in South Tyneside for quality with 68%. It is noted as having a range of facilities such as equipped play provision for children, a cafe as well a miniature railway and lake. Consultation highlights these features as key attractions and reasons for visiting the site. The maintenance and general appearance of the park is also very good reflecting its status as a Green Flag Award accredited site.

The second highest scoring site for quality is West Park (60%). Again it is an aesthetically pleasing and well maintained site with plenty of appeal to a variety of users; especially for families given the play and fitness equipment.

Results from the Communities Survey found 48% of respondents rate the quality of parks as either very good (13%) or good (35%); a further 28% rate provision as average. Less than one quarter of survey respondents (22%) views the quality of parks as either poor (11%) or very poor (11%).

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Respondents were asked to cite the open space they visit most often. Parks are at the top of this list as the most commonly visited type of open space. The most popular site to visit is West Park closely followed by Readhead Park and South Marine Park. All are located in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. Other popular sites include the North Marine Park and Hebburn Riverside Park.

Green Flag

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

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

Currently one site in South Tyneside, South Marine Park in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area has Green Flag Award status. To gain the award sites must be maintained to a high standard. The work of both Council maintenance team/contractors and the Friends of Groups at sites are important to their continuing achievement.

4.5 Value

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

Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hebburn & Jarrow	110	32%	42%	50%	18%	-	7
Inner & Outer South Shields	110	30%	46%	68%	38%	-	7
South	110	24%	30%	39%	15%	-	5
SOUTH TYNESIDE	110	24%	40%	68%	44%	-	19

All parks are assessed as being of high value from the site visit assessments. This is fully supported by consultation findings. All sites score above the threshold demonstrates the high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place that South Tynesides' park and garden sites offer.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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

4.6 Summary

Parks and gardens

- ◀ 19 Council managed sites are classified as parks and gardens totalling 100 hectares.
- ◀ Catchment gaps are noted to the southern boundary of the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. This is thought to be sufficiently well serviced by other forms of open space such as amenity greenspace which provide similar recreational functions to parks.
- ◀ Parks score both above and below the threshold for quality. The lowest scoring site is Grange Park. No specific issues are highlighted.
- ◀ High scoring sites for quality, such as South Marine Park and West Park, do so due to the wide range of provision they contain and the reportedly excellent standards of maintenance.
- ◀ There is currently one park site in South Tyneside with Green Flag Award status; South Marine Park in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area.
- ◀ All parks are assessed as being of high value, with the important social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being acknowledged.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits) and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

5.2 Current provision

In total 43 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 487 hectares of provision. These totals may not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold of 0.1 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents.

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

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Hebburn & Jarrow	17	96.98	2.36
Inner & Outer South Shields	9	234.65	3.19
South	17	156.32	4.60
SOUTH TYNESIDE	43	487.95	3.29

South Tyneside has a variety of natural and semi-natural sites including woodlands, nature reserves and coastal areas. Three of the sites classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace are recognised as beaches; Little Haven, Marsden and Sandhaven. The latter is identified as having Blue Flag Award status.

Most provision is located in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area (234 hectares) and the South Analysis Area (156 hectares). Well over half of the total provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace in South Tyneside can be attributed to five large sites which are located in the area. The Frenchman's Lea (94 hectares) and Temple Park (76 hectares) sites are located in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area whilst Whitburn Point (45 hectares) and Colliery Wood (28 hectares) are located in the South Analysis Area. Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area contains the Hebburn Riverside Park (40 hectares).

Subsequently the South Analysis Area has the greater proportion of provision per 1,000 population with 4.6 hectares. This is significantly higher standard than the other two analysis areas of Inner & Outer South Shields (3.19 hectares per 1,000 population) or Hebburn & Jarrow (2.36 hectares per 1,000 population).

It is important to recognise that some provision such as parks and amenity greenspace also provide opportunities and activities associated with natural and semi-natural types of open space. Such sites are not included here as their primary typology is the basis upon which sites are recorded.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Designations

In terms of national designations, there are seven publically accessible local nature reserves (LNRs) identified in South Tyneside:

- ◀ Whitburn Point (4.1 hectares)
- ◀ Harton Down Hill (4.6 hectares)
- ◀ Marsden Old Quarry (19.3 hectares)
- ◀ Cleadon Hills (10.2 hectares)
- ◀ Tiledsheds (1.3 hectares)
- ◀ Station Burn (12.1 hectares)
- ◀ Primrose (3.3 hectares)

The Primrose Local Nature Reserve is included within the audit as part of the King George V Playing Field site. This forms part of the wider site and is classified as a Amenity Greenspace.

Both Whitburn Point LNR and Station Burn LNR form parts of wider sites. The former is within the larger Whitburn Coastal Park (45 hectares in size). The latter has areas of land adjacent to it that form a site of approximately 15.4 hectares.

5.3 Accessibility

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

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

On this basis a population such as South Tyneside (148,526) is recommended to have approximately 148 hectares of LNR. Currently a total of 55 hectares is identified.

The ANGSt Standard also suggests smaller forms of natural greenspace should be accessible within a 5 minute walk from home. Figure 5.2 shows a 5 minute walk time mapped against natural and semi-natural greenspace sites. A noticeable gap in provision is highlighted over the Inner and Outer South Shields Analysis Area.

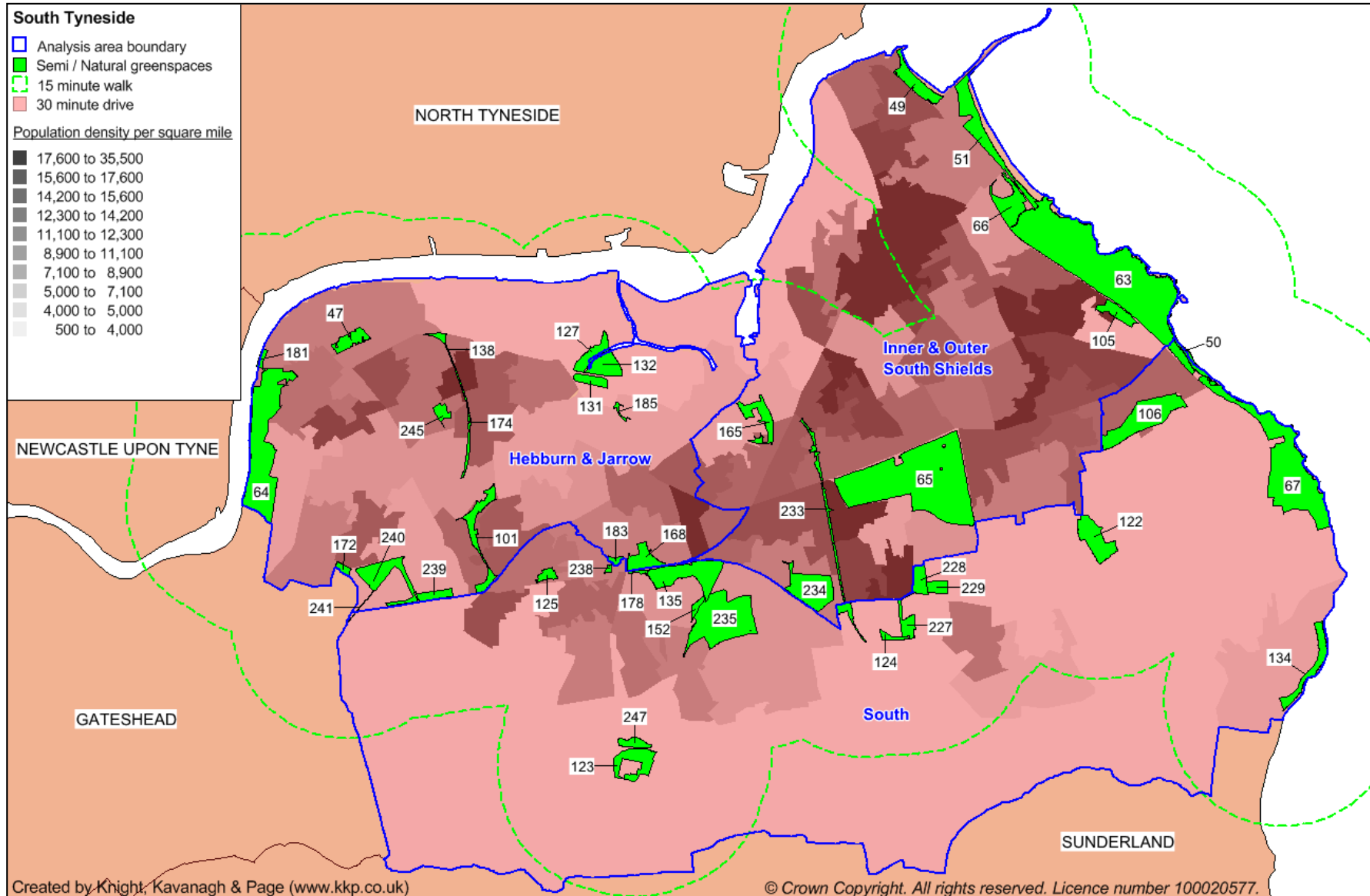
This study, in order to comply with guidance uses locally informed standards. It does not focus on the ANGSt Standard as this uses a different methodology for identifying accessible natural greenspace to that advocated in the Companion Guidance.

The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents is up to 30 minutes by transport (33%). This is followed by an over 15 minute walk (18.9%). Therefore for the purpose of mapping a 15 minute walk time and a 30 minute drive time have been applied.

Figure 5.1 shows the standards applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located. Figure 5.2 shows sites mapped against a five minute walk time as set out in ANGSt

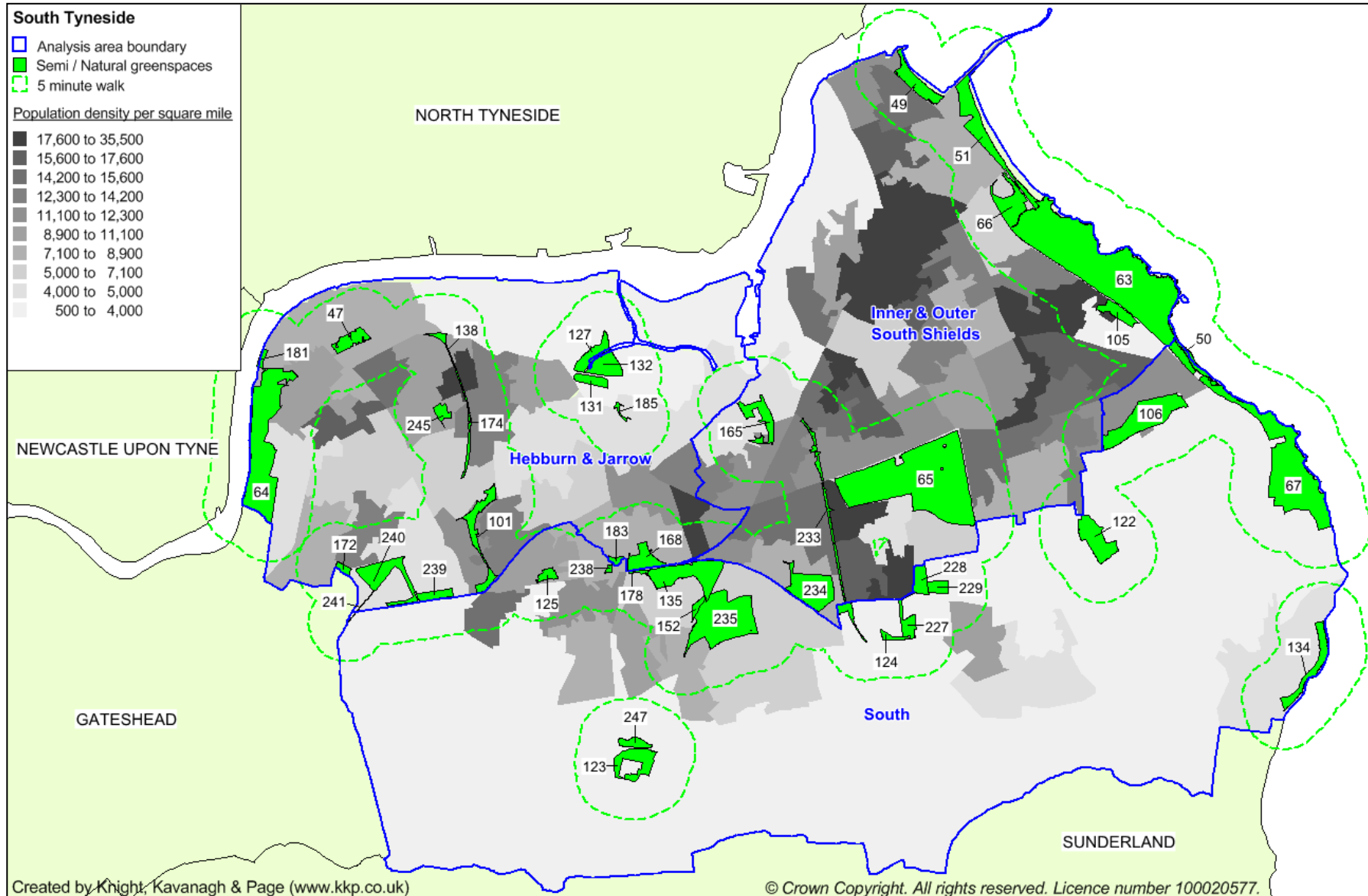
SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against analysis areas



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.2: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against ANGSt



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
47	Argyle Street	Hebburn & Jarrow	12.8%	20.0%
49	Little Haven Beach	Inner & Outer South Shields	65.5%	54.5%
50	Marsden Beach	South	63.0%	30.0%
51	Sandhaven Beach	Inner & Outer South Shields	37.6%	35.5%
63	Frenchman's Lea	Inner & Outer South Shields	43.6%	40.9%
64	Hebburn Riverside Park	Hebburn & Jarrow	44.7%	59.1%
65	Temple Memorial Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	45.3%	53.6%
66	Trow Lea	Inner & Outer South Shields	40.5%	30.9%
67	Whitburn Point	South	74.6%	49.1%
101	Featherstone Grove	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.6%	30.0%
105	Harton Down Hill LNR	Inner & Outer South Shields	32.8%	20.9%
106	Marsden Old Quarry LNR	South	41.6%	43.6%
122	Cleadon Hills LNR	South	45.3%	53.6%
123	West Boldon Environmental Education Centre	South	22.2%	24.5%
124	Tilesheds LNR	South	45.3%	30.0%
125	Calf Close Lane	South	24.5%	20.9%
127	Church Bank	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.0%	34.5%
131	Land adjacent to Aidan Court	Hebburn & Jarrow	8.5%	14.5%
132	Land between A185 & River Don	Hebburn & Jarrow	34.2%	30.0%
134	Rackly Way	South	31.1%	25.5%
135	Station Burn LNR	South	50.4%	34.5%
138	Albert Road Green Corridor	Hebburn & Jarrow	19.7%	20.9%
152	Cotswold Lane	South	19.4%	16.4%
165	Hartford Road	Inner & Outer South Shields	9.4%	15.5%
168	Inverness Road	Hebburn & Jarrow	17.1%	25.5%
172	Mill Lane	Hebburn & Jarrow	17.9%	20.9%
174	Bowes Railway Path	Hebburn & Jarrow	33.3%	40.0%
178	Nailsworth Close	South	23.9%	26.4%
181	Prince Consort Industrial Estate	Hebburn & Jarrow	35.9%	21.8%
183	Rear of Ullswater Avenue	Hebburn & Jarrow	5.1%	10.0%
185	Shaftesbury Avenue	Hebburn & Jarrow	18.8%	20.9%
227	Tilesheds Piggery	South	18.8%	30.0%
228	Cotman Gardens	South	10.3%	11.8%
229	Green Man Plantation	South	15.4%	20.9%
233	West Hawton Mineral Line	Inner & Outer South Shields	31.6%	21.8%
234	Newton Garths	Inner & Outer South Shields	20.5%	11.8%
235	Colliery Wood	South	22.8%	30.9%
238	Hedworth Dene	South	13.7%	16.4%
239	Monkton Fell Woodland	Hebburn & Jarrow	17.1%	25.5%
240	Former Monkton Cokeworks	Hebburn & Jarrow	27.4%	30.9%
241	Bowes Railway Path	Hebburn & Jarrow	21.4%	26.4%
245	Red House Road	Hebburn & Jarrow	6.8%	10.0%
247	Boldon Lake	South	39.0%	20.0%

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1 shows all analysis areas are covered by the 30 minute drive time. The 15 minute walk time catchment also covers the majority of South Tyneside.

There is a gap in the walk time catchment to the north area of the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. This gap is further exacerbated against the five minute ANGSt walk time.

The gap in Figure 5.1 appears to be served to some extent by other forms of open space provision. For example, park sites such as Robert Redhead Park and West Park as well as amenity greenspaces like Wawn Street and Laygate Street. It is therefore unlikely that new forms of natural and semi-natural greenspace provision will be required to meet this gap. However, ensuring that such sites include features and opportunities associated with natural and semi-natural provision is recommended.

Supporting this, the majority of respondents to the Communities Survey rates the availability of nature areas positively; i.e. either very good (17%) or good (30%). Furthermore, only a small proportion rate availability as poor (12%) or very poor (4%). Coastal/beach provision, included as natural and semi-natural greenspace, is very well perceived with 65% rating availability as very good and a further 26% as good.

The management and maintenance at most identified natural and semi-natural sites is the responsibility of the Council. An exception is Whitburn Point which is managed by the National Trust. Other organisations, such as Groundwork and the Coastal Conservation Group, also help in the management and improvement of some natural and semi-natural sites.

5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in South Tyneside. A threshold of 30% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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

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

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <30%	High >30%
Hebburn & Jarrow	117	5%	24%	45%	40%	11	6
Inner & Outer South Shields	117	9%	36%	66%	57%	2	7
South	117	10%	33%	75%	65%	9	8
SOUTH TYNESIDE	117	5%	30%	75%	70%	22	21

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

A total of 21 natural and semi-natural sites (49%) in South Tyneside rate above the threshold set for quality. However, 22 sites score below the quality threshold applied. Some of the lowest scoring sites include:

- ◀ Cotman Gardens (10%)
- ◀ Hartford Road (9%)
- ◀ Land adj to Aidan Court (9%)
- ◀ Red House Road (7%)
- ◀ Rear of Ulswater Avenue (5%)

Such sites are observed by the site assessment to have poor entrances with limited access due to paths being non-existent. In addition, regular maintenance is considered to be lacking. Furthermore, the Red House Road and Rear of Ulswater sites were highlighted as having evidence of broken glass and litter present during the time of visits.

All these are factors which are considered to restrict the use (and attractiveness) of such sites. However, they are recognised as being places that provide opportunities to support wildlife habitats. Site specific issues were also highlighted at the following sites:

- ◀ Argyle Street (fire damage, broken glass)
- ◀ Inverness Road (fire damage)
- ◀ Colliery Wood (litter, fire damage)
- ◀ Rackly Way (dog foul)

Despite the highlighted issue the Rackly Way site still scores above the threshold. However, Argyle Street, Inverness Road and Colliery Wood sites rate below, all three sites were observed as having evidence of fire damage.

Site visit observations at Argyle Street note evidence of fire damage and broken glass. Consultation suggests that the ecological value of the site may be increasing. The site is allocated in the LDF for mixed use development including open space. It is needed to meet housing and/or employment need. An element of improved open space to provide for community needs should look to be retained.

Sites scoring above the threshold are generally observed as being attractive and well maintained; offering plenty of good quality ancillary features such as bins, benches, parking and pathways. They are considered to be well used by people whilst also offering opportunities for wildlife. Sites scoring particularly high include:

- ◀ Whitburn Point (75%)
- ◀ Little Haven Beach (66%)
- ◀ Marsden Beach (63%)
- ◀ Station Burn (50%).

All four sites are observed as having excellent features and facilities. They have the added benefit of containing car parking whilst the features on site are viewed as being to a good standard.

Both Station Burn and Whitburn Point are recognised as local nature reserves. The latter is likely to benefit from the added involvement of groups such as the National Trust which reports working with partners recently to provide two new ponds, bird hides and habitats on site.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Two other ongoing schemes intended to promote greater biodiversity and wildlife habitats across South Tyneside are in process. Both the Buglife and the Wildflower projects are working to create and restore wildflower areas to promote invertebrates along the River Don and coastal areas. Buglife has a project called B-line which is looking to request the land next to Jarrow FC for a wildflower project. The site is currently an all-weather sand/gravel pitch.

Further supporting the positive quality of natural and semi-natural greenspace is the proportion of respondents to the Communities Survey which rate the quality of provision as either good (26%) or very good (13%). Coastal/beach provision is also recognised as being of a high quality with over half of respondents rating it as very good (53%), and 35% good, quality.

5.5 Value

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

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

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hebburn & Jarrow	110	10%	26%	59%	49%	3	14
Inner & Outer South Shields	110	20%	33%	55%	35%	-	9
South	110	12%	29%	54%	42%	3	14
SOUTH TYNESIDE	110	10%	29%	59%	49%	6	37

The majority of natural and semi-natural greenspaces (86%) score high for value with only six sites scoring below the threshold. They are:

- ◀ Cotman Gardens
- ◀ Land adjacent to Aidan Court
- ◀ Red House Road
- ◀ Rear of Ulswater Avenue
- ◀ Cotswold Lane
- ◀ Hedworth Dene.

All six score below the threshold for both value and quality. They do not appear to be particularly well used although the habitat opportunities they provide are recognised. The low quality scores show them to be lacking in aspects such as appropriate entrances and ancillary facilities. For example, the Rear of Ullswater Avenue site is observed as having a lot of litter and no visible paths.

The Red House Road site is highlighted as being allocated for residential development in the LDF.

Highest scoring sites for value are Little Haven Beach (55%) and Cleadon Hills (54%). Both are extensive and attractive sites offering various opportunities to a range of activities (e.g. nature enthusiasts, tourists, families).

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ South Tyneside has 43 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering 372 hectares.
- ◀ The 15 minute walk time accessibility standard covers most densely populated areas apart from the gap in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. New natural sites are not thought to be required but there may be a need to ensure that other open spaces contain such associated features. The 30 minute drive time shows no shortfalls.
- ◀ Three of the sites are identified as beaches; Little Haven, Marsden and Sandhaven. The latter has Blue Flag Award status.
- ◀ There are seven designated LNRs equating to 11% of natural and semi-natural provision.
- ◀ Natural greenspace sites are of mixed quality: 49% score above the threshold.
- ◀ Sites score below the threshold due to factors such as lack of features and paths as well as general appearance. Other issues include, for example, litter and fire damage.
- ◀ Most sites (86%) are rated as above the threshold for value. Although six score below the threshold; these also score low for quality; their primary use appears be habitat provision.
- ◀ Higher scoring sites for value, such as Little Haven Beach and Cleadon Hills, provide a range of opportunities and uses for visitors.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

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

6.2 Current provision

There are 80 amenity greenspace sites in South Tyneside; over 178 hectares of provision. They are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space along highways that provide a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Hebburn & Jarrow	30	86.28	2.10
Inner & Outer South Shields	24	41.44	0.56
South	26	50.62	1.49
SOUTH TYNESIDE	80	178.34	1.20

Of the 80 sites, four are identified as potentially having restricted access:

- ◀ Ernest Street
- ◀ Owen Drive
- ◀ Arbeia Roman Fort
- ◀ Henderson Road.

An uncertainty over three of these sites exists; as it is not known whether they are publicly accessible. Only the Arbeia Roman Fort site is known to be open to the public at certain times of the day (13.00 - 16.00). Site sizes vary from the smallest incidental open space amongst housing, such as Heather Close Court at 0.10 hectares, to the largest, King George V Playing Field, Jarrow, at over 47 hectares.

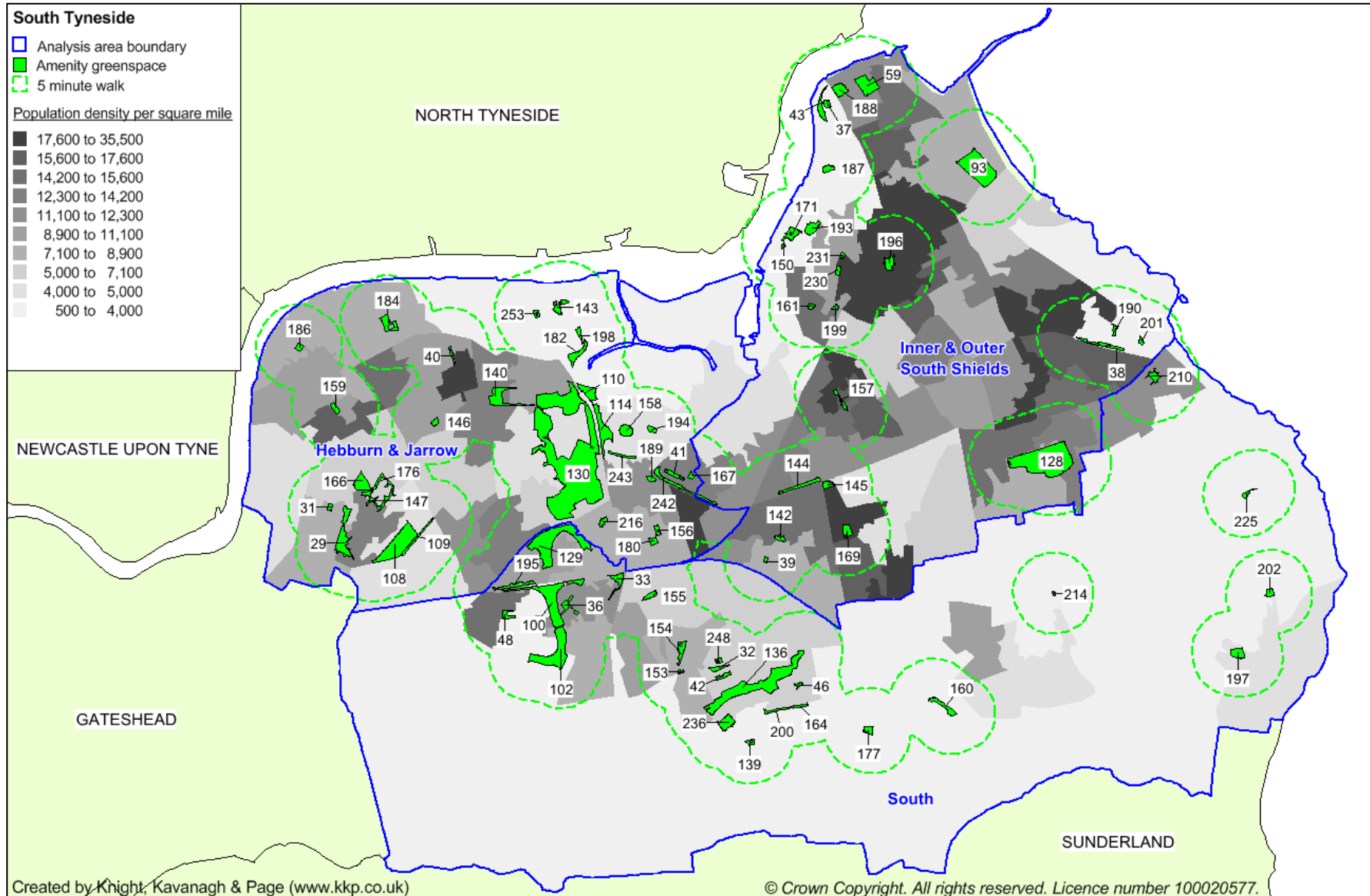
It is important to note that whilst a large proportion of provision may be considered as being small grassed areas or visual landscaped space, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example certain recreation grounds are included under amenity greenspace, such as Cleadon Park Recreation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

6.3 Accessibility

The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents is a five minute walk (37%) in order to access grassed areas near housing. For recreation grounds individuals are likely to be more willing to walk further. However, for the purpose of mapping a five minute walk time has been applied. Figure 6.1 shows the standard applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace mapped against analysis area



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
29	Beresford Avenue	Hebburn & Jarrow	42.2%	23.0%
31	Crawley Avenue	Hebburn & Jarrow	33.9%	22.0%
32	Ernest Street	South		
33	Holland Park Drive	South	33.3%	17.0%
36	Kings Meadow	South	44.1%	23.0%
37	Lady's Walk	Inner & Outer South Shields	17.8%	17.0%
38	Marsden Lane	Inner & Outer South Shields	49.9%	18.0%
39	Masefield Drive	Inner & Outer South Shields	39.1%	18.0%
40	Oak Street	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.1%	33.0%
41	Peel Gardens	Hebburn & Jarrow	44.9%	18.0%
42	Reginald Street	South	31.4%	17.0%
43	River Drive	Inner & Outer South Shields	43.8%	28.0%
46	Owen Drive	South	24.8%	11.0%
48	Winchester Court	South	39.7%	17.0%
59	Arbeia Roman Fort	Inner & Outer South Shields	71.2%	60.0%
93	Bents Rec. Ground (The Dragon)	Inner & Outer South Shields	52.1%	34.0%
100	Durham Drive	South	43.9%	24.0%
102	Fieldway	South	30.6%	29.0%
108	Monkton Lane	Hebburn & Jarrow	46.8%	28.0%
109	Monkton Lane Disused Railway	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.8%	30.0%
110	Newlyn Drive	Hebburn & Jarrow	32.9%	22.0%
114	Salcombe Avenue	Hebburn & Jarrow	39.9%	18.0%
128	Cleadon Park Recreation Ground	Inner & Outer South Shields	64.2%	39.0%
129	Hedworth Lane	South	36.6%	23.0%
130	King George V Playing Field, Jarrow (Lindisfarne)	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.8%	44.0%
136	Watson Terrace	South	43.1%	34.0%
139	Avondale Gardens	South	49.2%	23.0%
140	Bede Burn Road	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.4%	33.0%
142	Belloc Avenue	Inner & Outer South Shields	38.3%	14.0%
143	Bishop Crescent	Hebburn & Jarrow	55.8%	23.0%
144	Brockley Avenue	Inner & Outer South Shields	38.8%	13.0%
145	Bruce Close	Inner & Outer South Shields	38.8%	19.0%
146	Cambridge Ave	Hebburn & Jarrow	35.8%	13.0%
147	Cherry Tree Walk	Hebburn & Jarrow	42.4%	22.0%
150	Commercial Road	Inner & Outer South Shields	41.0%	13.0%
153	Hubert Street	South	53.2%	18.0%
154	North Road	South	42.4%	23.0%
155	Wilton Gardens North	South	27.7%	11.0%
156	Dundee Court	Hebburn & Jarrow	45.5%	39.0%
157	Egerton Road	Inner & Outer South Shields	48.1%	18.0%
158	Falmouth Drive	Hebburn & Jarrow	33.5%	13.0%
159	Fountain Square	Hebburn & Jarrow	62.8%	25.0%
160	Glencourse	South	31.0%	13.0%
161	Gompertz Gardens	Inner & Outer South Shields	49.3%	23.0%
164	Hardie Drive	South	35.5%	17.0%

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
166	Hebburn Hall Ponds	Hebburn & Jarrow	41.6%	34.0%
167	Henderson Road	Hebburn & Jarrow	28.1%	23.0%
169	King George V Playing Field (Galsworthy Road)	Inner & Outer South Shields	42.2%	38.0%
171	Laygate Street	Inner & Outer South Shields	39.7%	28.0%
176	Mountbatten Ave	Hebburn & Jarrow	40.6%	17.0%
177	Mundles lane	South	33.9%	23.0%
180	Perth Green Youth Club	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.0%	17.0%
182	Priory Road	Hebburn & Jarrow	32.2%	33.0%
184	School Street	Hebburn & Jarrow	49.4%	23.0%
186	St Andrew's Street	Hebburn & Jarrow	46.0%	23.0%
187	St Hilda's Churchyard	Inner & Outer South Shields	59.8%	29.0%
188	St Stephen's Gardens	Inner & Outer South Shields	55.6%	34.0%
189	Stirling Avenue	Hebburn & Jarrow	46.7%	18.0%
190	Suffolk Gardens	Inner & Outer South Shields	49.5%	18.0%
193	Trinity Walk	Inner & Outer South Shields	48.5%	38.0%
194	Tyne Point Industrial Estate	Hebburn & Jarrow	39.7%	23.0%
195	Wark Crescent	South	43.8%	22.0%
196	Wawn Street	Inner & Outer South Shields	49.7%	29.0%
197	Barnes Rec Ground	South	51.2%	23.0%
198	Wellington Place	Hebburn & Jarrow	39.8%	22.0%
199	West Park Road	Inner & Outer South Shields	49.2%	18.0%
200	Western Terrace	South	43.3%	17.0%
201	Westmorland Road	Inner & Outer South Shields	43.7%	18.0%
202	Whitburn Mill	South	49.6%	33.0%
210	Farding Square	South	45.3%	18.0%
214	Heather Close	South	37.2%	17.0%
216	Kirkstone Avenue	Hebburn & Jarrow	28.5%	17.0%
225	Kitchener Terrace	South	24.0%	16.0%
230	Reed Street Amenity	Inner & Outer South Shields	53.3%	23.0%
231	Laygate	Inner & Outer South Shields	47.7%	17.0%
236	The Leap	South	43.8%	18.0%
242	John Reid Road	Hebburn & Jarrow	54.5%	23.0%
243	Stanhope Road	Hebburn & Jarrow	39.7%	18.0%
248	New Road Park, Boldon	South	60.1%	38.0%
253	Jarrow Gateway	Hebburn & Jarrow	57.0%	25.0%

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Catchment mapping with a five minute walk time applied shows a good level of coverage across South Tyneside.

There is a noticeable gap in the centre of the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. It is, as per a number of the other typologies, unlikely that new provision is required as the area is served by other forms of open space provision including parks such as Robert Redhead Park and West Park as well as natural and semi-natural sites like Frenchman's Lea. Options to address identified deficiencies, if required, will be discussed in the Strategy.

Furthermore, no issues with regard to a deficiency in amenity greenspace are highlighted by the survey results. More respondents rate the availability of grassed areas near housing as average (30%). A proportion of respondents also rate availability as very good (17%) and good (17%).

6.4 Quality

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

Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low	High
						<40%	>40%
Hebburn & Jarrow	121	28%	43%	63%	37%	11	19
Inner & Outer South Shields	121	18%	47%	71%	53%	6	18
South	121	24%	40%	60%	36%	12	13
SOUTH TYNESIDE	121	18%	43%	71%	53%	29	50

Please note the Ernest Street site in the South Analysis Area could not be assessed for quality or value as it was locked and could not be viewed at the time of the site visits.

Most amenity greenspace in South Tyneside (63%) rates above the threshold for quality. In particular, sites in the Inner & Outer Analysis Area score well: 75% of sites are rated above the threshold.

Proportionally, nearly half of sites in the South Analysis Area rate below the threshold (48%). This is much greater proportion than the other analysis areas. It contains a number of sites that are lacking in ancillary facilities and features. Subsequently sites can be small and unattractive offering limited incentive for people to visit. However, it is important to recognise that despite scoring below the threshold for quality, they may still have the potential to be important to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area it may be of high value given it is the only provision of its type. It may also provide an aesthetically pleasing function.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Some of the lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites in South Tyneside are:

- ◀ Kirkstone Avenue (29%)
- ◀ Henderson Road (28%)
- ◀ Wilton Gardens North (28%)
- ◀ Owen Drive (25%)
- ◀ Kitchener Terrace (24%)
- ◀ Lady's Walk (18%)

Most sites that rate low for quality are observed as being fairly basic pockets of green space. These tend to lack ancillary facilities to encourage extensive recreational use. Evidence of fire damage is also observed at Kitchener Terrace and Lady's Walk. The latter is subject of a planning application for a nursing home.

As highlighted earlier there is also uncertainty over the public access to Owen Drive and Henderson Road. Other sites evidencing fire damage are Holland Park Drive and Watson Terrace; both in the South Analysis Area. Despite this, Watson Terrace still scores above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring sites for quality in South Tyneside are:

- ◀ Arbeia Roman Fort
- ◀ Cleadon Park Recreation Ground
- ◀ Fountain Square
- ◀ New Road Park, Boldon

High scoring sites, such as the ones above, reflect the range of ancillary facilities available as well as the good standard of appearance and maintenance found at such sites. They also have plenty of ancillary facilities such as bins, benches, picnic tables and in some cases parking. Features such as these contribute to their overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access.

Similar to results for availability, survey respondents view the quality of amenity greenspace as average (35%). Other views balance out and suggest a generally average view of quality: 22% of respondents rate it as good (13%) or very good (9%). This is a not dissimilar to the proportion (18%) that rate it as poor (16%) or very poor (2%).

6.5 Value

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

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hebburn & Jarrow	100	13%	24%	44%	31%	9	21
Inner & Outer South Shields	100	13%	25%	60%	47%	12	12
South	100	11%	21%	38%	27%	13	12
SOUTH TYNESIDE	100	11%	23%	60%	49%	34	45

The Ernest Street site in the South Analysis Area could not be assessed for quality or value as it was locked and could not be viewed at the time of the site visits.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Similar to quality, most amenity greenspaces (57%) rate above the threshold for value. Overall a similar proportion of sites are rated as high value and high quality.

Sites scoring below the value threshold tend to be grassed areas with no noticeable features, 18 are highway verge style sites which are small in size and lack any noticeable features thus their low value scores. They are acknowledged to provide some visual amenity to their locality and it is important to note that the main role of certain sites is to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form. There are 19 sites that rate below the threshold for both value and quality. Some of the lowest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Owen Drive
- ◀ Wilton Gardens North
- ◀ Glencourse.

All three appear to be unused. Owen Drive offers questionable access to the public and thus rates low for value. All three rate low for value and quality.

Some of the highest scoring sites for value in South Tyneside are:

- ◀ Arbeia Roman Fort (60%)
- ◀ Cleadon Park Recreation Ground (39%)
- ◀ King George V (44%)
- ◀ Dundee Court (39%)

These are recognised for the accessible recreational opportunity they offer at an excellent level of quality and for a wide range of users. Arbeia Roman Fort provides historical and educational value while Cleadon Park Recreation Ground has a number of features such as a range of sports provision and play areas that meets the needs of a variety of people.

Amenity greenspace should also be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many in South Tyneside offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing. These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping and trees) this means that the better sites are respected and valued by the local community.

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 80 amenity greenspace sites in South Tyneside; 178 hectares of amenity space.
- ◀ There is more provision in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area (86 hectares). It also has the highest amount per 1,000 populations (2.10) compared to 0.56 and 1.49 respectively for the Inner & Outer South Shields and South areas.
- ◀ A 5 minute walk accessibility standard has been set and reveals gaps in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. These are, however, served by other open space typologies.
- ◀ Overall amenity greenspaces quality is positive. Most sites (63%) rate above the threshold and only a handful face any specific issues; some due to size, nature or ancillary features.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence most sites rate above the threshold for value..
- ◀ 19 sites rate low for quality and value. Where they cannot be improved, some may be better suited to be/become different forms of open space or could feasibly be surplus.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

This includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges incorporating facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters and MUGAs.

7.2 Current provision

A total of 48 sites is identified in South Tyneside as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of more than five hectares. The table below shows the distribution. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Hebburn & Jarrow	14	1.20	0.03
Inner & Outer South Shields	22	2.67	0.04
South	12	1.59	0.05
SOUTH TYNESIDE	48	5.46	0.04

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance. FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

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

Play provision in South Tyneside is summarised using the Fields In Trust (FIT) classifications. Most is identified as being of LEAP (38%) classification; sites with a wider amount and range of equipment; designed to predominantly cater for unsupervised play.

Only 47 out of the initial 48 sites identified can be allocated a FIT classification. The Grampian Estate site is identified as currently having no equipment.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 7.2: Distribution of provision for children and young people by FIT category

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people				
	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Youth/ casual	TOTAL
Hebburn & Jarrow	5	4	2	3	14
Inner & Outer South Shields	5	9	2	6	22
South	3	5	2	1	11
SOUTH TYNESIDE	13	18	6	10	47

Provision catering for older age ranges, such as skate parks, is found at sites classified as Youth/ casual. Each analysis area contains provision of this type with skate provision noted at the following sites:

- ◀ Jarrow Riverside Park
- ◀ Hebburn Hall Ponds
- ◀ North Road
- ◀ New Road, Boldon
- ◀ Temple Memorial Park
- ◀ Foreshore Skate park

For youth provision, only standalone forms of provision are specifically identified. Where equipment catering for older age groups is found on a play area as part of a wider range of provision it has been included within that NEAP or LEAP. Several sites also feature other forms of play provision like a MUGA or a basketball area that can cater for a wide range of ages.

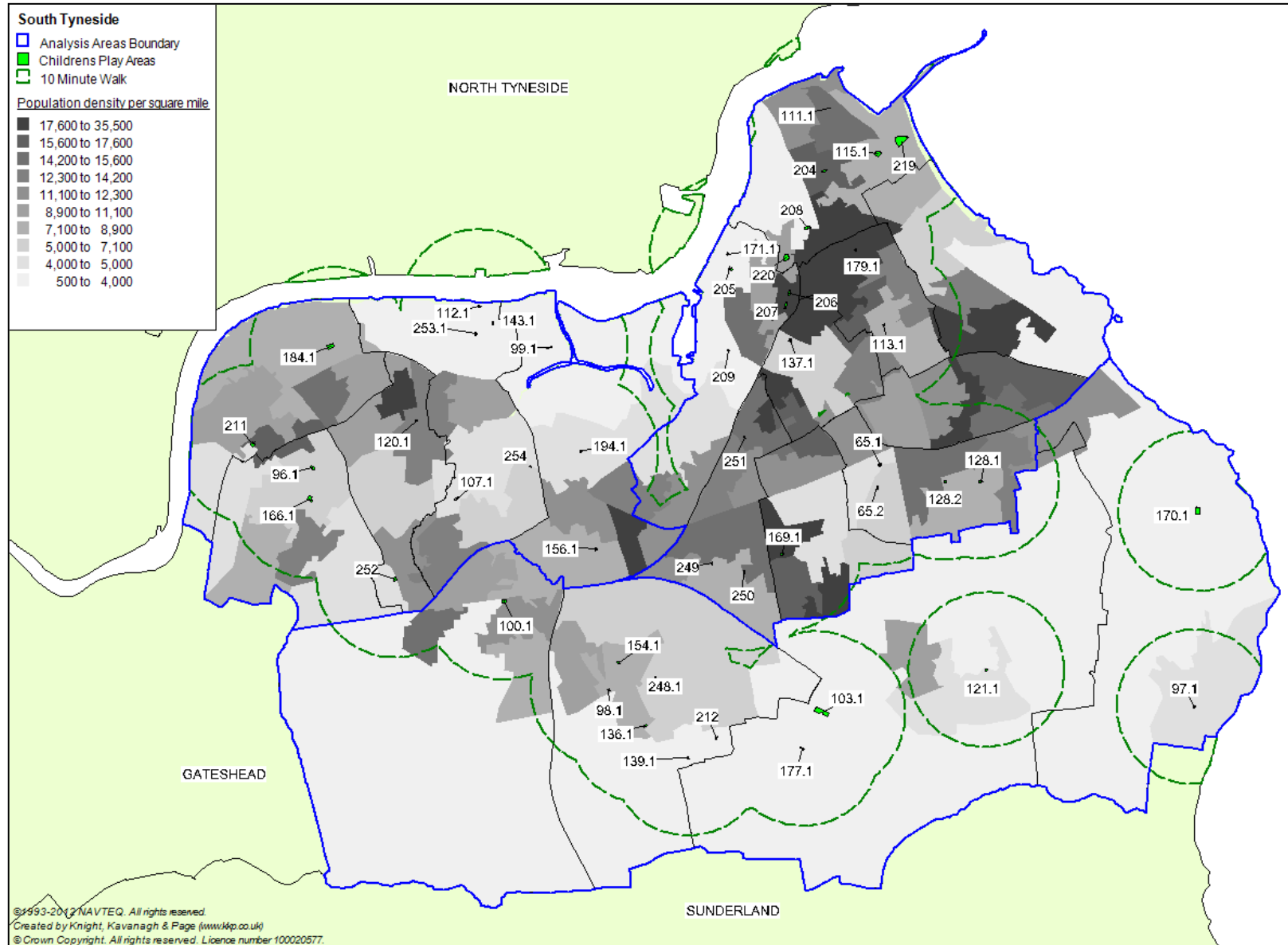
7.3 Accessibility

The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents is a 5-10 minute walk (29%) for play areas and over 15 minutes for teenage provision (12%). This is followed by an 11-15 minute walk for both play areas (16%) and teenage provision (10%). For mapping purposes a 10 minute walk time has been applied.

Figure 7.1 shows the standards applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people mapped against analysis areas



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
184.1	School Street Amenity MUGA	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.3%	38.2%
65.1	Temple Memorial Park Play Area1	Inner & Outer South Shields	77.7%	38.2%
65.2	Temple Memorial Park Play Area2	Inner & Outer South Shields	55.3%	41.8%
96.1	Carr-Ellison Park Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	63.9%	45.5%
97.1	Cornthwaite Park Play Area	South	52.9%	47.3%
98.1	Disco Field Play Area	South	50.2%	38.2%
99.1	Drewetts Park Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.6%	41.8%
100.1	Durham Drive Play Area	South	72.5%	41.8%
103.1	Grange Park Play Area	South	53.6%	41.8%
107.1	Monkton Dene Park Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	59.8%	45.5%
111.1	North Marine Park Play Area	Inner & Outer South Shields	69.4%	41.8%
112.1	Jarrow Riverside Park, Curlew Road Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	58.4%	29.1%
113.1	Robert Readhead Park Play Area	Inner & Outer South Shields	68.7%	47.3%
115.1	South Marine Park Play Area	Inner & Outer South Shields	78.0%	72.7%
120.1	West Park (Jarrow) Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	58.8%	45.5%
121.1	Coulthard Park Play Area	South	67.0%	41.8%
128.1	Cleadon Park Recreation Ground Play Area	Inner & Outer South Shields	70.1%	38.2%
128.2	Cleadon Park Recreation Ground MUGA	Inner & Outer South Shields	49.8%	38.2%
136.1	Watson Terrace Play Area	South	54.3%	38.2%
137.1	West Park, South Shields	Inner & Outer South Shields	62.5%	54.5%
139.1	Avondale Gardens	South	58.4%	38.2%
143.1	Bishop Crescent Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	75.3%	38.2%
154.1	North Road Skate area	South	36.1%	38.2%
156.1	Dundee Court Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	48.5%	50.9%
166.1	Hebburn Hall Ponds Skate Park/MUGA	Hebburn & Jarrow	58.8%	38.2%
169.1	King George V Playing Field (Galsworthy Road)	Inner & Outer South Shields	67.7%	56.4%
170.1	Cornerstone Park Play Area	South	61.2%	38.2%
171.1	Laygate Street Play Area	Inner & Outer South Shields	56.7%	41.8%
177.1	Mundles lane Play Area	South	59.1%	41.8%
179.1	Osborne Avenue Play Area	Inner & Outer South Shields	78.7%	47.3%
194.1	Tyne Point Industrial Estate Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	79.0%	47.3%
204	Blenheim Walk	Inner & Outer South Shields	50.5%	38.2%
205	Cornwallis Square	Inner & Outer South Shields	37.1%	12.7%
206	Dacre Street North	Inner & Outer South Shields	28.9%	29.1%
207	Dacre Street South	Inner & Outer South Shields	32.0%	38.2%
208	Derby Terrace	Inner & Outer South Shields	48.5%	38.2%
209	Devonshire Street	Inner & Outer South Shields	47.4%	47.3%

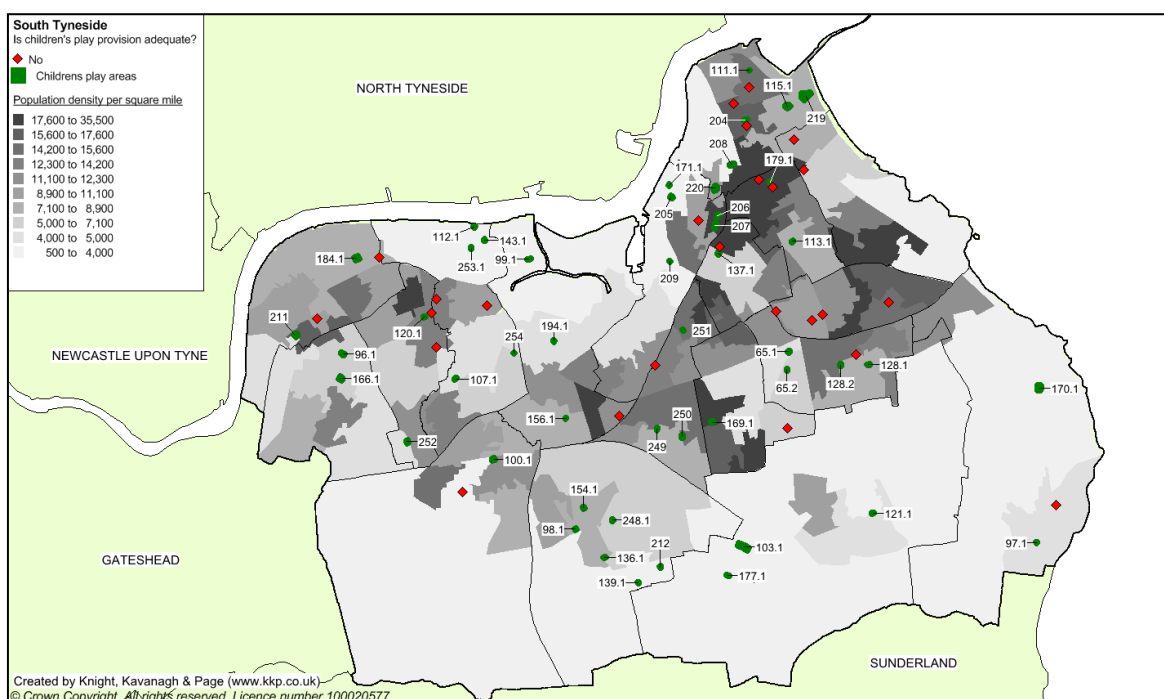
SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
211	Glen Street / Lincoln Court	Hebburn & Jarrow	24.1%	12.7%
212	Grampian Estate	South	27.8%	12.7%
219	Foreshore Skatepark	Inner & Outer South Shields	61.5%	54.5%
220	St Mark's Way	Inner & Outer South Shields	67.4%	60.0%
248.1	New Road Park, Boldon	South	63.9%	50.9%
249	Biddick Hall Play Area	Inner & Outer South Shields	65.3%	38.2%
250	Chuter Ede MUGA	Inner & Outer South Shields	63.2%	29.1%
251	All Saints/ Stanley Street Play Area	Inner & Outer South Shields	51.5%	38.2%
252	Lukes Lane Playing Field Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	41.2%	45.5%
253.1	Jarrow Gateway Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	62.9%	38.2%
254	Lindisfarne Road Play Area	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.6%	47.3%

There is a good spread of provision across South Tyneside. In addition, the greatest areas of population density are generally within walking distance of a form of play provision. However, there is a slight gap in catchment mapping to the eastern boundary of the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. There is a need for some form of play provision to serve this gap.

Availability of play provision is rated as good (36%) or very good (12%) by most respondents to the Communities Survey; a further 27% rates availability as average. Provision for teenagers/youths is viewed more mixed with 24% of respondents rating availability as average; with a broadly balanced view on whether availability is good/very good (17%) or poor/very poor (17%).

Figure 7.2: Inadequate play provision responses



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

As part of the Communities Survey respondents were specifically asked whether they thought children's play provision was adequate in South Tyneside. A slightly higher proportion of respondents (55%) state that they do think play provision is adequate; compared to those that think it is not (45%).

Figure 7.2 shows the distribution of those respondents that feel play provision is inadequate. The map suggests there may be some noticeable trends particular in the Inner & Outer South Shields area where there is some grouping of responses.

Table 7.4: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score		Low <55%	High >55%
Hebburn & Jarrow	97	24%	54%	79%	55%	6	8
Inner & Outer South Shields	97	29%	59%	79%	50%	8	14
South	97	28%	55%	73%	45%	6	6
SOUTH TYNESIDE	97	24%	56%	79%	55%	20	28

More sites are assessed as above the threshold (58%). However, in all three analysis areas there is a significant spread between the highest and lowest scoring sites.

For instance in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area, the Dacre Street North site scores 29% compared to the Osborne Avenue Play Area (79%). The low score for Dacre Street North reflects its limited range of play equipment; the site MUGA only has a single basketball hoop. In contrast, Osborne Avenue Play Area rates the highest score in the analysis area due to its range and condition of play equipment. It also benefits from additional features such as seating, bins and fencing. Other sites to receive particularly high scores for quality include:

- ◀ Tyne Point Industrial Estate Play Area (79%)
- ◀ South Marine Park Play Area (78%)
- ◀ Temple Memorial Park Play Area (78%)
- ◀ Bishop Crescent Play Area (75%)
- ◀ Durham Drive Play Area (72%)

These sites are all noted as having a range and good standard of equipment catering for different ages. In addition, the other features present at sites such as benches and bins are assessed as being in excellent condition. Furthermore, sites such as Tyne Point Industrial Estate Play Area, also benefits from having fitness equipment on site.

Some of the lowest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Dacre Street South (32%)
- ◀ Dacre Street North (29%)
- ◀ Grampian Estate (28%)
- ◀ Glen Street/ Lincoln Court (24%)

The Grampian Estate site has no form of play equipment present. The Glen Street/ Lincoln Court site is observed as having limited play provision as it only has a multi-use apparatus. In addition, the site had evidence of fire damage at the time of the audit visit.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

As mentioned earlier, the low score for Dacre Street North reflects its limited range of play equipment. Whilst Dacre Street South has a greater range of equipment, the site scores low due to its isolated location and lack of ancillary features such as seating and bins. It is also noted as lacking in any controls to prevent misuse.

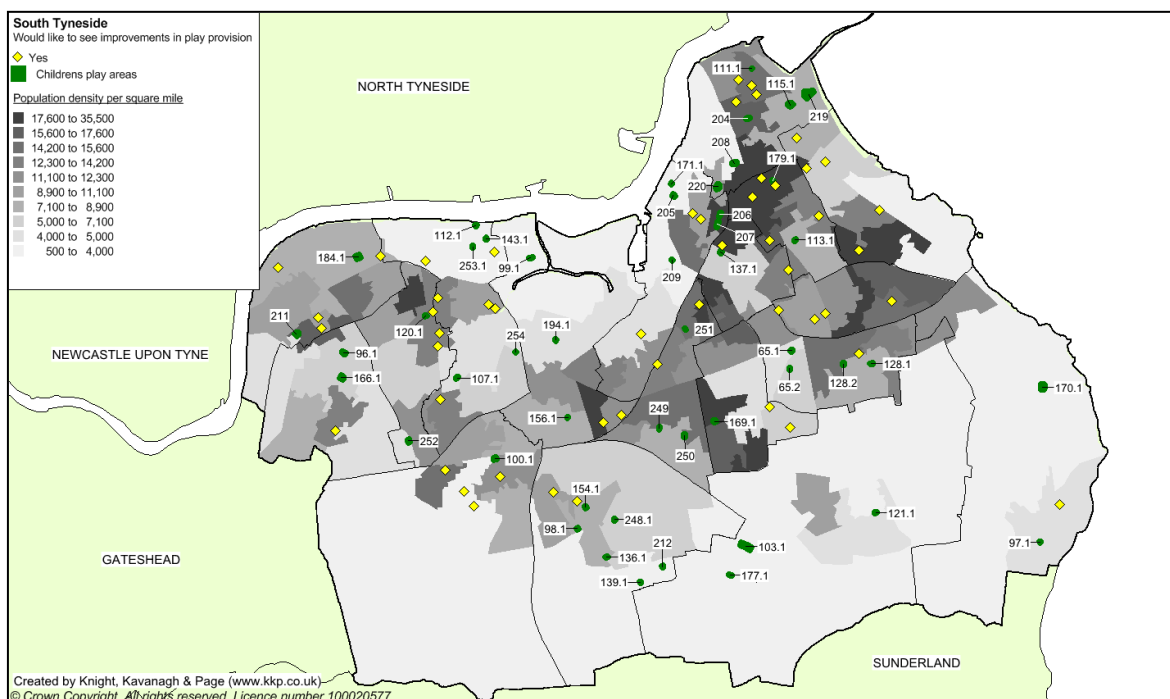
Most respondents to the Communities Survey rate the quality of play areas as good (31%); supporting the generally high quality of provision. A further 11% rates provision as very good quality with 26% scoring it as average. Only a small proportion rates provision as poor (10%) or very poor (3%).

Responses for teenage provision are, similar to site availability, again more mixed; with most rating quality as average (21%). A slightly higher proportion views quality as good/very good (21%) compared to poor/very poor (16%).

Respondents were also asked whether they would like to see improvements to existing play facilities in South Tyneside. A total of 81% would; compared to 19% that did not.

Figure 7.3 shows that the distribution of where responses are from is fairly even across South Tyneside. This is likely to reflect, that when asked, people will generally want to see improvements to current stocks of provision.

Figure 7.3: Improve existing play provision responses



The most common suggestions cited with regard to how current provision could be improved include expanding the range and type of equipment found at sites as well as limiting/enforcing dog presence and fouling.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

7.5 Value

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

Table 7.5: Value ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hebburn & Jarrow	55	13%	40%	51%	38%	1	13
Inner & Outer South Shields	55	13%	43%	73%	60%	1	21
South	55	13%	39%	51%	38%	1	11
SOUTH TYNESIDE	55	13%	41%	73%	60%	3	45

Nearly all play provision is rated as being of high value in South Tyneside. This demonstrates the role such provision provides in allowing children to play but also the contribution sites make in terms of creating aesthetically pleasing local environments, giving children and young people safe places to learn and to socialise with others.

Only three score below the threshold for value; Glen Street/ Lincoln Court, Grampian Estate and Cornwallis Square. The latter scores low as it is a single set of swings with no other forms of play nearby noted. The other two, as discussed under quality, have limited or no play equipment.

Sites scoring high for value tend to reflect the size and amount/range of equipment present on site. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ South Marine Park Play Area (73%)
- ◀ St Mark's Way (60%)
- ◀ King George V (56%)
- ◀ Foreshore Skate Park (55%)
- ◀ West Park, South Shields (55%)

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages is also essential. More specific provision such as skate park facilities and kick-about areas are highly valued forms of play. Sites containing such forms tend to rate higher for value. It is also important to recognise the benefits of play in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value. It is essential that parents, carers and members of the public are made aware of the importance of play and of children's rights to play in their local communities.

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are 48 play provision sites in South Tyneside; a total of over five hectares.
- ◀ More sites are LEAPs (18), the majority of which score high for quality and value.
- ◀ The South Analysis Areas has the highest amount of provision per 1,000 population. However, the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area has more play sites (22).
- ◀ The 10 minute walk time accessibility standard covers the majority of the area. However, there is a slight gap to the eastern edge of the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area.
- ◀ 58% of play sites are above the threshold for quality. Generally quality is good. There are a couple of sites which lack in range and/or quality of equipment.
- ◀ Nearly all play provision is rated above the threshold for value. Three sites score below.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

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

8.2 Current provision

There are 27 sites classified as allotments in South Tyneside, equating to over 42 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Hebburn & Jarrow	9	9.20	0.22
Inner & Outer South Shields	7	15.48	0.21
South	11	17.61	0.52
SOUTH TYNESIDE	27	42.29	0.28

Most sites are located in the South Analysis Area (11). Not surprisingly, most hectareage (17.6 hectares) is to be found in the same areas. Of the 27 sites, 23 are identified as being Council owned. The other four are privately owned and managed.

Overall, there is a combined total of circa 1,371 plots, including half plots, identified at Council sites across South Tyneside. The number offered at each site varies from the largest at Holder House Allotments in the South Analysis Area (230 plots), East View (170) and Northfield (184) sites in the South and Inner & Outer South Shields analysis areas. The smallest is Ash Grove in the South Analysis Area with five plots.

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

South Tyneside, as a whole, based on its current population (148,526) does meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for South Tyneside is 37.13 hectares. Existing provision of 42.29 hectares thus meets the standard. However, the current standard for the individual analysis areas of Hebburn & Jarrow and Inner & Outer South Shields do not meet the NSALG standard.

Table 8.2 details the number of council sites and plots located within each analysis area. In total there are over 1,300 plots identified at council sites in South Tyneside. The greatest number of sites and plots are in the South Analysis Area; with a total of circa 671 plots. This is followed by Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area and the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area with 441 and 255 plots respectively.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 8.2: Council allotment sites and plots

Analysis area	Number of sites	Number of plots	Waiting list
Hebburn & Jarrow	7	255	303
Inner & Outer South Shields	6	441	471
South	10	671	299
SOUTH TYNESIDE	23	1,371	1,073

Over 1,000 people are identified as being on a waiting list for a plot. The site with the highest waiting list is Northfield with 214. This is followed by Brinkburn (130), South Drive (120) and Harrisons Field (107). The average waiting time for a plot is thought to be around four years.

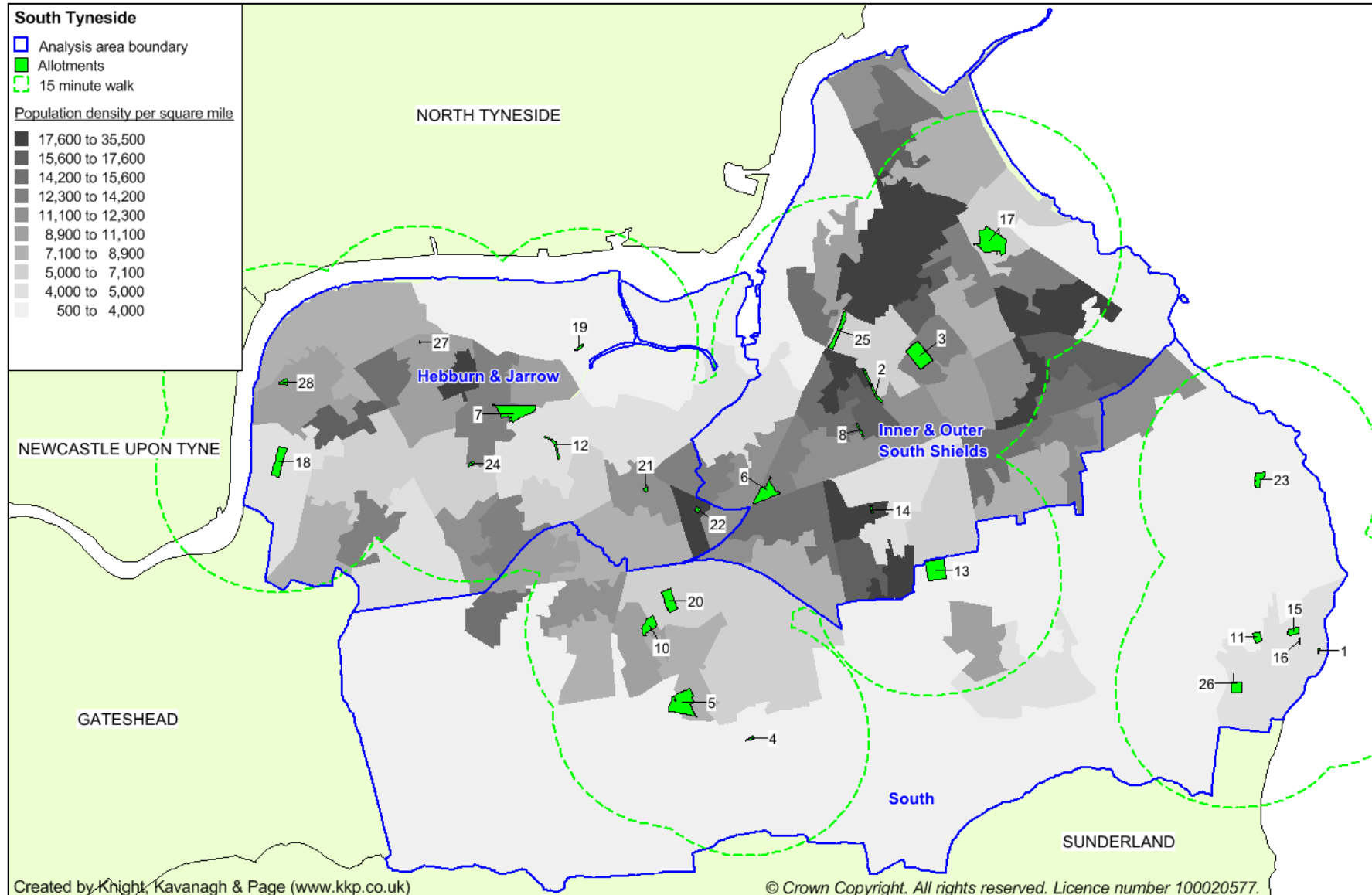
8.3 Accessibility

A significant proportion of respondents (39%) state that they do not know how far they would be willing to travel in order to access an allotment. This is not uncommon as it is likely to reflect the niche attraction of such open space type. The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents would be a 15 minute walk (15%). Therefore for the purpose of mapping a 15 minute walk time has been applied.

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

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against analysis areas



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
1	Ash Grove Allotments	South	32.3%	36.2%
2	Ashley Road Allotments	Inner & Outer South Shields	41.9%	37.1%
3	Brinkburn Allotments	Inner & Outer South Shields	56.5%	46.7%
4	Dipe Lane Allotments	South	38.7%	37.1%
5	East View Allotments	South	48.4%	28.6%
6	Green Lane Allotments	Inner & Outer South Shields	44.4%	42.9%
7	Harrisons Field Allotments (Council site but 21 private plots)	Hebburn & Jarrow	40.3%	32.4%
8	Harton Lane Allotments	Inner & Outer South Shields	41.9%	37.1%
10	Hedworth Lane Allotments	South	44.4%	28.6%
11	Highcroft Allotments	South	53.2%	41.9%
12	Hill Park Allotments	Hebburn & Jarrow	37.9%	12.4%
13	Holder House Allotments	South	39.5%	42.9%
14	Lawrence Avenue Allotments	Inner & Outer South Shields	36.3%	32.4%
15	Marina Terrace Allotments	South	35.5%	46.7%
16	Myrtle & Beech Allotments	South	36.3%	41.0%
17	Northfield Allotments	Inner & Outer South Shields	56.5%	46.7%
18	South Drive Allotments	Hebburn & Jarrow	43.5%	37.1%
19	St Pauls Road Allotments	Hebburn & Jarrow	32.3%	26.7%
20	Station Road Allotments	South		
21	Stirling Avenue Allotments	Hebburn & Jarrow		
22	Tasmania Road Allotments	Hebburn & Jarrow	45.2%	41.9%
23	Arthur Street Allotments	South	34.7%	36.2%
24	Wood Terrace Allotments	Hebburn & Jarrow	41.1%	33.3%
25	Dean Walk Allotments	Inner & Outer South Shields	33.9%	45.7%
26	Orchard Gardens Allotments	South	48.4%	47.6%
27	St. Oswalds Road Allotments	Hebburn & Jarrow	28.2%	12.4%
28	Hebburn Homing Society Allotments	Hebburn & Jarrow	25.0%	17.1%

The majority of areas with a greater population density are covered by the 15 minute walk time catchment. However, there are minor gaps to the northern and eastern extremities of the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area.

Of the respondents that provided an answer to this question in the Communities Survey, most rate the availability of provision as average (19%). This is closely followed by those rating availability as either good/very good (18%) or poor/very poor (16%). The mixed response, coupled with the waiting lists presently at certain sites, suggests the need for more provision where possible.

Ownership/management

The majority are owned by South Tyneside Council. The exceptions are the four private sites of Dean Walk, Orchard Gardens, St. Oswald's Road and Hebburn Homing Society Allotments.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

In addition, 21 out of the 82 plots at the Harrisons Field Allotments are privately owned although the wider site is owned by the Council. During the growing season the Council undertakes regular inspections of sites.

Marina Terrace is the only site that is self-managed. Managing the waiting list and maintenance of the site is the responsibility of the allotment association.

Consultation highlights a steady demand for the continuing provision of allotment sites and plots across the area. Currently demand appears to outweigh supply; demonstrated by the waiting lists at sites. This reflects the trend to have an allotment from a healthy living and self-sufficiency perspective.

Most allotments in South Tyneside are operating at 100% capacity; only a few have vacant plots identified. Currently there is a combined waiting list across the area with the average waiting time thought to be a minimum of approximately 4 years.

To help meet demand and reduce the waiting time for plots the Council operate a policy for its allotments whereby any new plots that become available are split into half plots.

8.4 Quality

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

Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Hebburn & Jarrow	124	25%	37%	45%	20%	4	4
Inner & Outer South Shields	124	34%	45%	57%	23%	2	5
South	124	32%	41%	53%	21%	6	4
SOUTH TYNESIDE	124	25%	41%	57%	32%	12	13

The Station Road and Stirling Avenue sites could not be assessed for quality or value as they were locked and inaccessible at the time of the site visits.

The highest scoring sites are Brinkburn (57%) and Northfield (57%) in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area and Highcroft (53%) in the South Analysis Area. They score well due to good general appearance and maintenance (e.g. good paths, clean and tidy). Both the Brinkburn and Northfield have shops on site to allow produce to be sold.

Consultation highlights that the Brinkburn site can suffer from flooding in certain areas. Despite this, it still scores highly for quality. Station Road is also noted as having an issue with flooding which can limit the number of plots available.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

(At the time of the audit this site could not be accessed or viewed and therefore receives no quality score). Flooding is also reported to be a factor at the Holder House site in the South Analysis Area. It is also identified as suffering from vandalism. Not surprisingly it scores below the threshold.

Site observations at the Hill Park Allotments suggest that some plots may be being used as tipping grounds. This may be having an impact on the number of plots available. Subsequently it scores below the threshold.

The two lowest scoring allotment sites in South Tyneside are both private. St. Oswald's Road and Hebburn Homing Society sites rated scores of 28% and 25% respectively. Neither appears to be in full use. In addition, site visit observations note that the fencing at St. Oswald's Road and the main entrance at Hebburn could be improved.

In general, consultation highlights no significant problems with regard to overall quality of provision; as demonstrated by the fact that most sites are currently in full use. All council sites have access to running water and are fenced. A programme was in place to repair fencing at sites where needed however due to budget restraints this was cancelled.

The quality of provision is generally positive with most respondents to the Communities Survey rating allotments as average (18%); a further 15% rates provision as good. Over half of respondents (57%) state they do not know how they would rate the quality of allotments. This is not uncommon as it reflects the niche use of this type of open space.

8.5 Value

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

Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hebburn & Jarrow	105	12%	27%	42%	30%	3	5
Inner & Outer South Shields	105	32%	41%	47%	15%	-	7
South	105	29%	39%	48%	19%	-	10
SOUTH TYNESIDE	105	12%	36%	48%	36%	3	22

Please note the Station Road and Stirling Avenue sites could not be assessed for quality or value as they were locked and inaccessible at the time of the site visits.

Nearly all allotments in South Tyneside are assessed as high value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Only three score below the threshold for value; Hill Park, St. Oswald's Road and Hebburn Homing Society. All are in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area. All three score lower for value as they are identified as having plots not in use. The value of allotments is further demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists identified at sites signalling greater demand for provision.

The highest scoring sites for value are those identified as being well used (often as a result of being of a high quality). The highest scoring Council managed sites for value are the Brinkburn and Northfield sites; each receiving a score of 47%. Both contain shops enabling produce and supplies to be sold. A facility like this adds to the overall dynamic and contribution to a site.

8.6 Summary

Allotments summary

- ◀ There are 27 allotments sites in South Tyneside: equating to more than 42 hectares.
- ◀ Most are owned/managed by the Council: four are privately owned; one is self managed.
- ◀ Current provision is above the NSALG recommended amount. The Hebburn & Jarrow and Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Areas fall short of this standard.
- ◀ There are waiting lists for allotments across South Tyneside suggesting that demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- ◀ Despite a number falling below the quality threshold, for the majority of allotments quality is sufficient. Some incidences of flooding and vandalism are noted plus a few sites where not all plots seem to be in use.
- ◀ Nearly all allotments are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- ◀ Waiting list numbers suggest that continuing measures should be made to provide additional plots in the future.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

9.1 Introduction

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

9.2 Current provision

Eight sites are classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to just over 50 hectares of provision in South Tyneside. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision identified is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Hebburn & Jarrow	3	20.94	0.51
Inner & Outer South Shields	2	24.25	0.33
South	3	4.96	0.15
SOUTH TYNESIDE	8	50.15	0.34

The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Harton Cemetery, in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area (17.85 hectares). This is followed by Jarrow Cemetery (10.9 hectares) in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area. Both are managed and maintained by the Council. All sites are identified as cemeteries with the exception of Church Lane. This is a parish churchyard site.

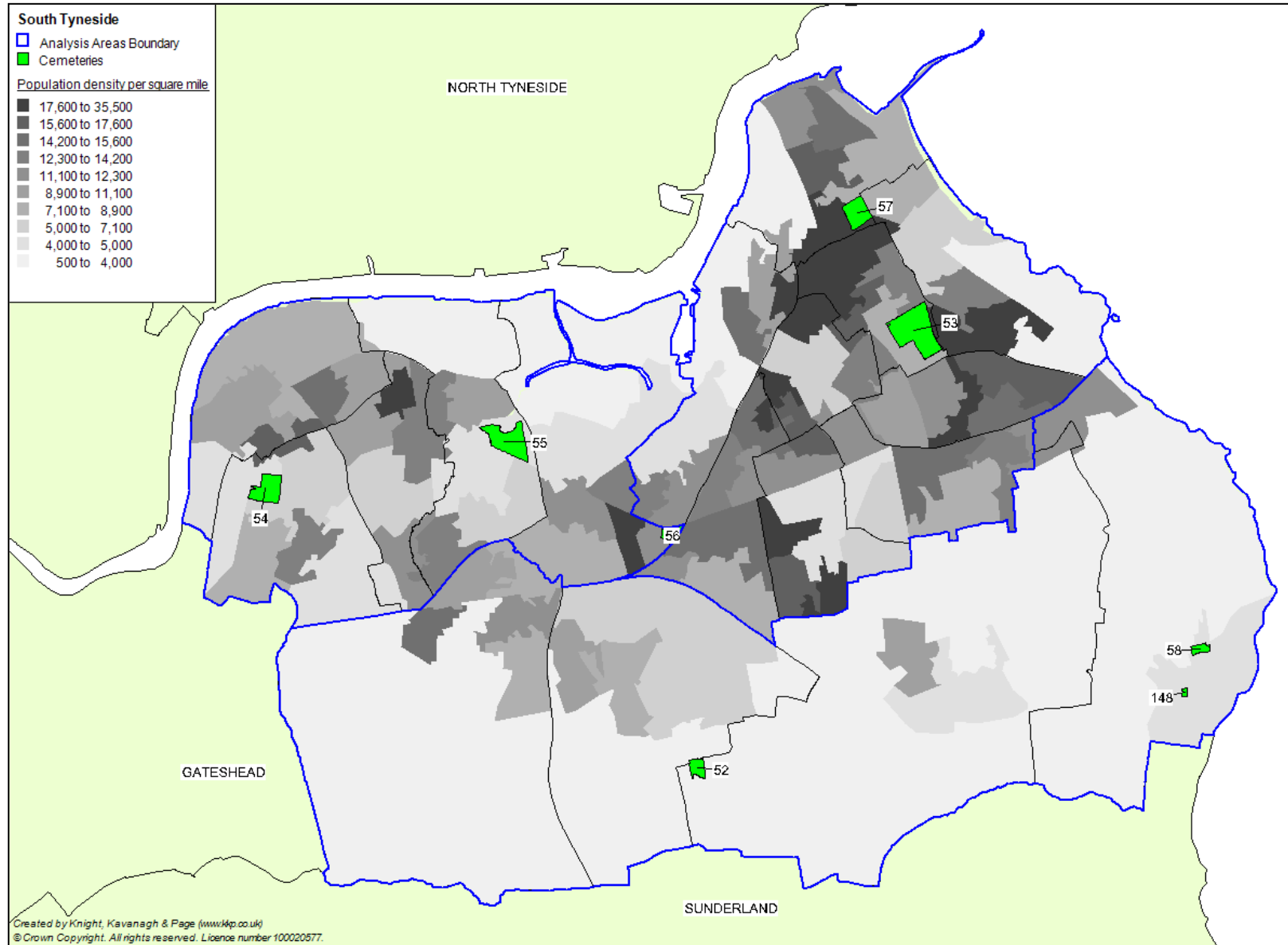
9.3 Accessibility

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

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
52	Boldon Cemetery	South	52.6%	33.0%
53	Harton Cemetery	Inner & Outer South	60.3%	38.0%
54	Hebburn Cemetery	Hebburn & Jarrow	61.1%	35.0%
55	Jarrow Cemetery	Hebburn & Jarrow	59.4%	45.0%
56	South Shields Crematorium	Hebburn & Jarrow	66.3%	35.0%
57	Westoe Cemetery	Inner & Outer South	37.1%	33.0%
58	Whitburn Cemetery	South	56.5%	38.0%
148	Church Lane	South	33.5%	28.0%

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

Respondents to the Communities Survey tend to rate the availability of cemetery provision as good (33%) or very good (18%). There are a further 31% of respondents which rate cemetery provision as average.

Management

The Greenspace team at the Council is responsible for the maintenance of the active burial sites. No cemeteries have staff based on site with the exception of South Shields Crematorium which houses the Bereavement Services Office. Two sites are identified as being closed to any new burials; Westoe Cemetery and Church Lane. However, the former is still able to accommodate family plots.

There is believed to be sufficient remaining burial capacity to meet current requirements for the next 25-30 years. However, beyond this there is a need to explore options for the creation of a new form of burial provision; particularly in order to meet requirements for the Jarrow area of South Tyneside.

9.4 Quality

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

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 9.4: Quality ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Hebburn & Jarrow	161	59%	62%	66%	7%	-	3
Inner & Outer South Shields	161	37%	49%	60%	23%	1	1
South	161	34%	47%	57%	23%	1	2
SOUTH TYNESIDE	161	34%	53%	66%	33%	2	6

The majority of cemeteries and churchyards in South Tyneside (75%) rate above the threshold set for quality.

The highest scoring site for quality is the South Shields Crematorium, in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area, with a score of 66%. Most other sites that rate above the threshold score similarly to each other; suggesting a generally high provision standard. The high scores are predominantly due to them being maintained to an excellent level.

Observations from the site visits and from the consultation highlight the generally high level of provision overall. A large proportion of the sites are noted as being well cared for and therefore score well for quality of appearance. In addition, no issues with flooding or vandalism are identified at any site in South Tyneside.

Two sites score below the quality threshold; Westoe Cemetery (37%) and Church Lane (34%). The former scores lower, in comparison to other sites, due to a lack of seating and car parking. In addition, it is viewed as having a poorer quality of paths meaning access for certain users may be more difficult. The Church Lane site rates below the threshold due to general maintenance and path quality. This is thought to reflect its role as a closed site which has less frequent use and maintenance compared to active sites.

The quality of provision is generally positive; nearly a third of respondents to the Communities Survey rate provision as good (32%). A further 10% rates provision as very good with an additional 31% citing quality as average.

9.5 Value

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

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 9.5: Value ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hebburn & Jarrow	100	35%	38%	45%	10%	-	3
Inner & Outer South Shields	100	33%	36%	38%	5%	-	2
South	100	28%	33%	38%	10%	-	3
SOUTH TYNESIDE	100	28%	36%	45%	17%	-	8

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

Even those sites which score below the threshold for quality rate above the threshold for value. As noted above, despite this, they still obviously provide a role to the communities they serve.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important natural resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. habitat provision, wildlife watching).

9.6 Summary

Cemeteries summary

- ◀ South Tyneside has eight cemeteries and churchyards: just over 50 hectares of provision.
- ◀ There is a fairly even distribution of provision across South Tyneside.
- ◀ The need for additional burial provision is driven by the demand for burials and capacity.
- ◀ The majority of cemeteries and churchyards rate as high for quality. However, two score below the threshold. These are viewed as having fewer features such as seating, car parking and a lower quality of pathways compared to other sites.
- ◀ All cemeteries are assessed as high value in South Tyneside, reflecting that generally provision has a cultural/heritage role and provide a sense of place to the local community.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events. For the purpose of this study the designation also includes war memorials.

10.2 Current provision

There are two civic space sites, equating to more than one hectare of provision, identified in South Tyneside. In addition, there are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares which residents may be viewed as providing similar roles and functions as civic spaces.

Table 10.1: Distribution of civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Civic space		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Hebburn & Jarrow	-	-	-
Inner & Outer South Shields	2	1.16	0.016
South	-	-	-
SOUTH TYNESIDE	2	1.16	0.008

The only identified forms of civic space provision are the South Shields Market Place and the Sandhaven Amphitheatre in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area.

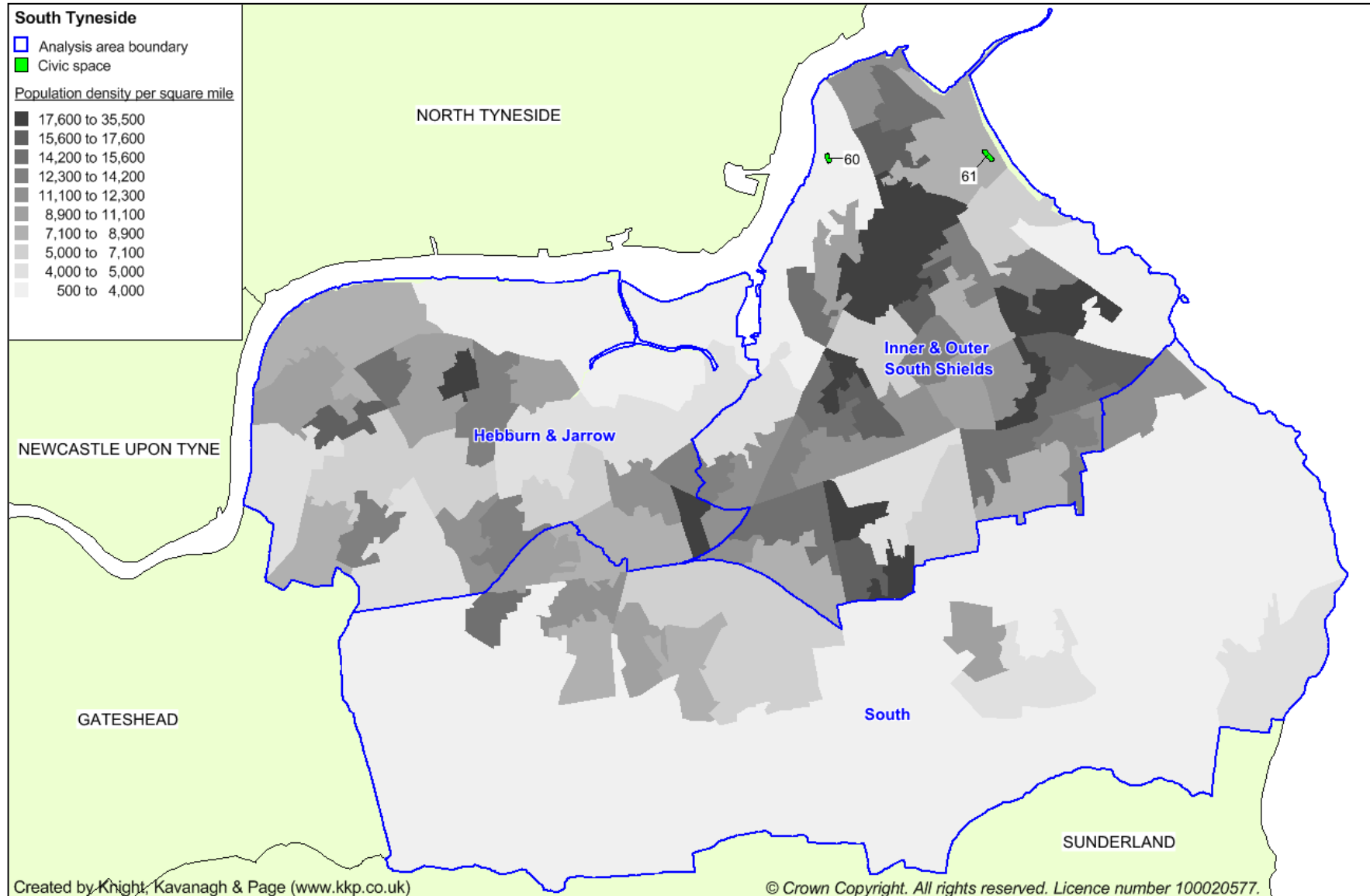
Other sites and areas function in a secondary role as civic space provision. For example, park sites such as South Marine Park and North Marine Park provide uses associated with civic spaces - including local community events. For the purposes of this report sites such as these have not been classified as civic space provision due to their more prominent primary function and use.

10.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for civic spaces. Figure 10.1 shows civic spaces mapped against analysis areas.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Civic spaces mapped against analysis areas



SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
61	Sandhaven Ampitheatre	Inner & Outer South Shields	55.7%	44.0%
83	South Shields Market Place	Inner & Outer South Shields	61.6%	40.0%

The Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area and South Analysis Area are without access to civic space provision. However, it is reasonable to accept that formal civic space may only be at existing sites of provision.

Respondents to the Communities Survey rate the quality of civic space as good (38%). A further 28% rate provision as average followed by 20% who score provision as very good in terms of availability.

10.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic spaces in South Tyneside. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.3: Quality ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Hebburn & Jarrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inner & Outer South Shields	146	56%	59%	62%	6%	-	2
South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH TYNESIDE	146	56%	59%	62%	6%	-	2

The South Shields Market Place rates above the threshold set. It has a number of ancillary features including toilets which add to its overall quality. As its name suggests its main function is as a market; held three times a week on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Sandhaven Amphitheatre also scores above the threshold. The site has several good quality features including cafe, fountain and covered amphitheatre.

Most respondents to the Communities Survey rate the quality of civic space as good (41%). A further 24% rate provision as average followed by 15% who score provision as very good.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

10.5 Value

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

Table 10.4: Value ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hebburn & Jarrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inner & Outer South Shields	100	40%	42%	44%	4%	-	2
South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH TYNESIDE	100	40%	42%	44%	4%	-	2

The South Shields Market Place and the Sandhaven Amphitheatre are assessed as being of high value, reflecting their cultural/heritage role whilst also providing a sense of place to the local community and area.

This is further supported by site visit observations, which confirms the social and cultural value of the site through its use as recreational space and as an area to sit, socialise and relax outside.

10.6 Summary

Civic space summary

- ◀ There are two sites classified as civic spaces in South Tyneside, South Shields Market Place and Sandhaven Amphitheatre, equating to just more than one hectares of provision.
- ◀ Other forms of provision in the area (e.g. parks and gardens) provide localised opportunities associated with the function of civic space.
- ◀ The quality and value of the sites is deemed to be good overall with a generally acceptable maintenance and appearance. They have a unique cultural/heritage value whilst providing a sense of place to the local community.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 11: FORMAL OUTDOOR SPORTS

11.1 Introduction

The typology of formal outdoor sports includes provision of pitches and other outdoor facilities such as courts. In relation to open spaces, a separate methodology exists for undertaking a needs assessment of outdoor sports provision. This is set by Sport England and endorsed by national governing bodies of sport. Therefore provision of formal outdoor sports for South Tyneside is covered in the associated South Tyneside Playing Pitch Strategy. This section provides a brief summary of the main findings from the PPS.

Formal outdoor sports includes grass pitches for football, rugby and cricket as well as artificial grass pitches (AGPs) that may also be used for these sports in addition to hockey. The typology also covers provision of bowling greens, tennis courts and athletic tracks.

11.2 Current provision

There are a number of different forms of pitch provision identified in South Tyneside. The following tables provide a breakdown of the types of pitch provision across the area.

Football

The audit identifies a current total of 106 grass football pitches within South Tyneside across 52 sites. Of these, 87 are available, at some level, for community use

Table 11.1: Grass football pitches available to community

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Hebburn & Jarrow	17	-	5	4	-	26
Inner & Outer South Shields	28	2	7	2	2	41
South	15	-	3	2	-	20
SOUTH TYNESIDE	60	2	15	8	2	87

There are a large number of adult pitches when compared to other pitch sizes. A lack of youth 11v11 pitches results in youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches; in South Tyneside many adult pitches double up as youth 11v11 pitches. In total, 67 youth 11v11 teams currently use adult pitches for home matches, which is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

There is a low number of mini football (5v5 and 7v7) grass pitches. However, this is due to centralised venues such as Monkton Stadium and Temple Park Centre, providing mini football pitches. The majority of these being artificial grass pitches.

Tenure of sites in South Tyneside is generally secure. There are numerous sites operated by community associations, whilst local authority sites such as Bents Park Recreation Ground and Cleadon Recreation Ground are reserved for community use.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Through consultation it is apparent that numerous clubs are interested in acquiring their own land through a lease agreement, however, previous attempts to make this happen have been unsuccessful. Transferring local authority pitches to sports clubs will help relieve financial pressure and time constraints placed on the Council, as well as helping clubs acquire funding for pitch and ancillary provision improvement.

Cricket

In total, there are eight senior grass cricket pitches in South Tyneside all of which are available for community use.

The table shows that all analysis areas have cricket provision. Half of all cricket provision is located in the South Analysis Area.

Table 11.2: Cricket pitches available to community

Analysis area	Available for community use (used)
Hebburn & Jarrow	1
Inner & Outer South Shields	3
South	4
SOUTH TYNESIDE	8

All cricket pitch sites in South Tyneside are currently considered to be secured i.e. pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. In addition security of tenure is generally not an issue for clubs. The only club that has a lease length that may need extending is Boldon CC (up to 25 years in order to secure funding, if needed).

Rugby

Within South Tyneside, there are 10 senior² rugby union pitches located across eight sites. All are available for community use, except for Harton Technology College (one pitch) and South Shields Community School (two pitches).

The grass pitches at Harton Technology College are unavailable due to needing to preserve the quality of the pitches for school use. At South Shields Community School the rugby pitches are also unavailable in order to preserve quality.

Table 11.3: Summary of grass rugby pitches

Analysis area	Available for community use	Unavailable for community use
Hebburn & Jarrow	2	-
Inner & Outer South Shields	3	3
South	2	-
SOUTH TYNESIDE	7	3

In addition to the grass pitches there is one World Rugby compliant AGP at Harton Technology College.

² NB: The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to the RFU guidelines; 'Grass Pitches for Rugby' at www.rfu.com

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

A couple of clubs highlight plans or aspirations to secure tenure at sites and/or move from current playing locations.

AGPs

There are a total of five full size AGPs in South Tyneside; four 3G pitches and one sand based pitch. There are also smaller facilities that, although not big enough for competitive matches, could potentially be used for training purposes.

Table 11.4: Summary of artificial grass pitches

Analysis area	Full size		Not full size	
	3G	Sand	3G	Sand
Hebburn & Jarrow	1	-	1	1
Inner & Outer South Shields	3	-	1	1
South	-	1	-	1
SOUTH TYNESIDE	5		5	

Boldon School provides the only full size AGP within South Tyneside suitable for hockey. An AGP at Whitburn Academy is considered too narrow to host competitive senior matches and is not floodlit. Both AGPs are located within South Analysis Area.

Of provision, Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School), Harton Technology College and Temple Park Centre are all FA certified and can therefore host competitive football matches. As well as this, Harton Technology College is World Rugby compliant.

Tennis

There are a total of 70 tennis courts identified in South Tyneside located across 18 sites including sports clubs, parks and schools. Of the courts, 61 (88%) are categorised as being available for community use across 15 sites (83%).

Table 11.5: Summary of courts

Analysis area	Courts (sites) available for community use	Courts (sites) unavailable for community use
Hebburn & Jarrow	14 (4)	4 (1)
Inner & Outer South Shields	33 (7)	3 (1)
South	14 (4)	2 (1)
SOUTH TYNESIDE	61 (15)	9 (3)

An additional court was previously available at West Park (Jarrow). However, it was taken out of use. Nevertheless, there is demand from Friends of Jarrow West Park to have the courts re-provided.

Of the 61 courts available for community use, most (27) are located within educational sites; however, no demand is reported for their use (i.e. no courts within educational sites are currently used by the community despite being available).

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 11.6: Courts available for community use by ownership/type

Analysis area	No. of club courts	No. of parks courts	No. of educational courts
Hebburn & Jarrow	3	3	8
Inner & Outer South Shields	7	11	15
South	6	4	4
SOUTH TYNESIDE	16	18	27

Bowls

There are 19 flat green bowling greens in South Tyneside provided across 12 sites. All are available for community use. Within the 19 there is one disused green at Coulthard Park (South Analysis Area).

Table 11.7: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens (sites)
Hebburn & Jarrow	8 (4)
Inner & Outer South Shields	8 (6)
South	3 (2)
SOUTH TYNESIDE	19 (12)

In summer the greens are used every night throughout the week Monday to Friday for competitions. There is no demand for additional greens as the current number is able to accommodate demand.

Athletics

There is one track (home to Jarrow & Hebburn AC) located at Monkton Stadium in Jarrow which is an eight lane, floodlit, 400 metre, synthetic surface and is assessed as overall good quality. All disciplines of athletics are provided for including throw and long jump facilities. It is a major athletics venue that hosts both regional and national events.

There is an additional smaller-sized (220m) track at Gypsies Green as well as a disused cycle track, both of which are used by South Shields Harriers. Both tracks are considered poor quality and not fit for purpose as a running track.

There is strong demand for athletics as demonstrated through Jarrow & Hebburn AC and South Shields Harriers. There is likely to be a future need to improve the track surface at Monkton Stadium and as such maintaining the quality of the track should be a priority in order to sustain predicted growth at the Club.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

10.3 Accessibility

To determine accessibility of formal outdoor sports, clubs were asked (as part of a consultation exercise) to identify how far they think club members travel in order to access provision.

Football

The football club survey reveals that most players travel between two and five miles to access pitches in South Tyneside. Clubs travelling over five miles generally participate in leagues which are of a high standard (e.g. Wearside Football League) which suggests that players are willing to travel further to play a good standard of competitive football. Club consultation also suggests that in some areas clubs are willing to travel further in order to access better quality facilities.

Cricket

The majority of cricket clubs (80%) also suggest that most players tend to travel between two and five miles to access cricket provision in South Tyneside. No issues regarding accessibility were highlighted from clubs.

Rugby

No issues highlighted.

AGPs

Of clubs in South Tyneside that responded to consultation, 36% stated that they require additional training facilities, of which, 79% specifically mentioned demand for more 3G pitches.

Although there are already 3G pitches in existence within South Tyneside, many clubs cited a lack of availability at suitable times and increasing costs as an issue. As a result, some clubs currently access sand based pitches or indoor sports halls, whilst other teams travel outside of South Tyneside in order to access more suitable training provision in neighbouring local authorities.

In addition, a couple of instances of limiting availability are also noted. In the main, availability of provision in the peak period is good. However, as four pitches are provided on education sites, community use can be limited on weekdays. For example, Boldon School is unavailable to the community until 6:30pm Monday-Friday.

Both Boldon School and Hebburn Comprehensive School would like to extend the opening hours of their respective AGPs, however, cannot do so due to involvement from community associations.

As things stand at Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School), the School manage the lettings on the pitch, however, site management and maintenance is managed by the Community Association. As such, the Community Association is unwilling to staff the pitch beyond 3pm on weekends, meaning no bookings can be taken beyond this point, despite demand existing.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

The School would prefer to manage and maintain the pitch themselves, without involvement from the Community Association.

Tennis

No issues highlighted.

Bowls

No issues highlighted.

Athletics

No issues highlighted.

10.4 Quality

The quality of pitch provision in South Tyneside has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined for most sports by national governing bodies) and user consultation to reach an agreed rating.

Football

Generally pitches were rated as either good or standard, with only four sites reported as containing poor quality pitches (an equivalent to 15 pitches).

Table 11.8: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
11	43	6	3	12	2	3	0	7

League and club consultation indicates pitch quality has either remained the same or worsened when compared to the previous season. Whilst 8% of users said their pitch quality had increased, most users stated that their pitch has remained the same or had become worse in comparison to the previous season. The 21% who said they had become worse put this down to poor weather impacting on maintenance regimes. The key issues highlighted for pitches not being rated better were poor maintenance, drainage issues and unofficial use.

It was also highlighted that private sites were better quality than local authority and school sites due to dedicated ground staff and provisions in place to prevent unofficial use.

Ancillary facilities were mostly seen as adequate (38% good, 46% standard and 16% poor). The facilities rated as poor were seen as too small. Only eight teams were unable to access changing facilities however, six clubs were having to find alternative home grounds based on advice from the league that changing facilities had become dangerous to use. These pitches alongside a number of other pitches are not useable by teams playing at a higher standard due to league requirements to provide changing facilities.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Cricket

South Tyneside Council commissioned the ECB to carry out Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessments on the pitches in the Borough. These are considered to be much more detailed than the non-technical site assessments prescribed within the playing pitch methodology and are therefore considered an acceptable form of site assessment for cricket. These have been used to assimilate into the PPS methodology ratings:

Table 11.9: Pitch quality of all pitches

Good	Standard	Poor
-	8	-

The table highlights that all pitches are considered standard quality, indicating that on the whole the pitches are fit for purpose but further work could be carried out to improve them.

All cricket clubs have access to changing facilities at their respective grounds. Generally these are described as good or acceptable. Only South Shields CC describes the changing rooms as poor.

Rugby

Overall in South Tyneside there are two good quality senior pitches, five standard and three poor:

Table 11.9: Pitch quality of all pitches

Senior pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor
2	5	3

All clubs in South Tyneside have access to changing room provision for games at their home ground. Provision at a number of sites are viewed as old and dated (Luke's Lane Playing Fields, South Shields & Westoe Club and South Tyneside College RFC).

AGPs

Four of the five pitches in South Tyneside are assessed as good quality, whilst one is deemed standard.

Table 11.10: Quality of full size AGPs

Good	Standard	Poor
4	1	-

Issues have been raised regarding the lack of a sinking fund at Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School). As mentioned above, the School believe involvement from the Community Association is limiting the amount of the time that the AGP can be let out, thus limiting profitability. According to the School, this has resulted in no money being put aside for the AGPs eventual resurfacing.

SOUTH TYNESIDE OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Tennis

Of provision that is available for community use, 27 courts (44%) are assessed as good quality, 16 (26%) are deemed standard and 18 are rated as poor (30%).

Table 11.11: Summary of the quality of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Hebburn & Jarrow	6	5	3
Inner & Outer South Shields	11	11	11
South	10	-	4
South Tyneside	27	16	18

Most courts rating as poor quality are managed by the Council. Issues surrounding the courts include poor grip underfoot, worn line markings, loose gravel and holes or rips in the surface. As well as this, all courts rated as poor are without floodlighting and changing accommodation.

Bowls

The quality of the greens within South Tyneside is considered to be good. The Bowling Association reports that quality has decreased on the Council maintained greens over the last three years, however, it is recognised that less resource is available for maintenance due to budget cuts and with this in mind the greens are considered fit for purpose and good quality.

The main concerns for the Bowling Association are at sites where issues need resolving due to potential health and safety problems, particularly for example where boards are coming away from the greens.

Athletics

The track located at Monkton Stadium in Jarrow (home to Jarrow & Hebburn AC) which is an eight lane, floodlit, 400 metre, synthetic surface and is assessed as overall good quality. All disciplines of athletics are provided for including throw and long jump facilities. It is a major athletics venue that hosts both regional and national events.

The Club suggests that the quality of the track is standard. This relates to water starting to get under the track and lifting it in places. The track lines are also becoming more faded.

11.6 Summary

This section is intended to act as an overview regarding the current amount, accessibility and quality of formal outdoor sports provision. A more detailed breakdown and analysis, including location maps, site specific details and future demand, is set out within the playing pitch assessment report and strategy. These should be sought in order to determine the current and future direction for formal outdoor sports.