

Draft Sunderland Greenspace Audit and Report 2012



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Contacts:

Neil Cole, Lead Planning Policy, Economy and Place.

Neil.cole@sunderland.gov.uk Tel. 0191 561 1574

Clive Greenwood, Senior Policy Officer, Economy and Place

Clive.greenwood@sunderland.gov.uk Tel. 0191 561 1576

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1.0 Executive Summary

Background / need for report

- 1.1 The quantity and quality of greenspace is vitally important to the city and its residents:
- It provides people with the opportunity to interact with nature, engage in healthy activities and even promote people's mental well-being
 - Successful neighbourhoods require high quality public space in order to retain existing residents and attract new ones
 - It can enhance the image of the city and be used as a means to attract future investment in the form of new shops and jobs.
- 1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreational facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits of surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area.
- 1.3 In accordance with best practice, greenspace has been divided into the following typologies:
- a) Parks and gardens
 - b) Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces
 - c) Green corridors
 - d) Outdoor sports facilities
 - e) Amenity greenspace
 - f) Provision for children and teenagers
 - g) Allotments
 - h) Cemeteries and churchyards
 - i) Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas
 - j) Civic spaces.
- 1.4 In addition, further analysis has been undertaken to ascertain the quantity, quality, local value and site accessibility of greenspaces. This has been interpreted as follows:
- Quantity – the amount (by type) of greenspace available
 - Quality – based on detailed survey results, and existing known data
 - Value – capturing how important greenspace is to people
 - Accessibility – how accessible each type of greenspace is available across the city, and also identifying known key physical barriers to access such as rivers, major roads and railways.

Greenspace and green infrastructure planning in Sunderland

- 1.5 Sunderland has prepared an Open Space Register and Map for more than 20 years. These registers concentrated on the quantity of provision of parks, amenity greenspace, play areas and outdoor sports facilities.
- 1.6 The last audit of greenspace was undertaken in 2003, and the 2012 audit brings that exercise up to date and adds further value. This draft audit

follows the requirements laid out in national policy and includes the most thorough survey of greenspace sites ever to be undertaken in Sunderland.

- 1.7 The NPPF also endorses the concept of 'green infrastructure' (GI), which provides further sustainable elements to be considered with regards to the development of city greenspaces, and to support the city's LDF Core Strategy. As a result, the City Council has begun work on a Green Infrastructure Strategy. A GI Steering Group has also been established, drawing upon internal and external expertise.

City-wide greenspace

- 1.8 A total of 1764 greenspace sites have been identified within Sunderland, with a further 9 sites identified adjacent to the city boundary. These sites total 3,856.78 hectares, or 27.6% of the city area. Combined with the open countryside in Sunderland, there are over 8,000 hectares (57%) of 'undeveloped' green land in the city.
- 1.9 Provision varies across the 5 Area Regeneration Framework's (ARF's). Washington and the Coalfield have roughly twice the amount of greenspace that exists in North, West or East ARF's. However, both Washington and the Coalfield ARF's include Green Belt and other open countryside areas, and the quantity is bolstered by major single sites, such as golf courses, country parks, woodland and other natural greenspaces.

Total greenspace provision by ARF

ARF	Sites total	%	Hectares	%
Sunderland North	274	15.53	543.09	14.08
Sunderland West	289	16.38	534.79	13.87
Sunderland East	307	17.40	592.80	15.37
Washington	459	26.02	1020.74	26.47
Coalfield	435	24.66	1165.36	30.22
Total	1764	100.00	3856.78	100.00

- 1.10 Greenspaces often have multiple functions, and it is very difficult to accurately split the land-take by the different types of greenspace identified. As an example, Mowbray Park is primarily classed as formal parkland, but also provides an element of amenity greenspace, natural greenspace, outdoor play, outdoor sport and civic space. As a general guide, the split by greenspace type can be broadly shown by identifying the primary use. This is shown in the table below.

Greenspace provision by primary use

Primary use	Number of sites	Hectares	% of overall greenspace
Allotments and community gardens	101	100.54	2.61
Amenity greenspace	1150	754.65	19.57
Cemeteries and church grounds	43	106.53	2.76
Civic spaces	27	14.12	0.37
Formal parks and country parks	40	586.11	15.20
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	228	1,455.50	37.74
Outdoor sports facilities	57	576.52	14.95
School playing fields and grounds	118	262.81	6.81
Outdoor play facilities	[100*]	--	--
Total	1764	3,856.78	100.00

* - outdoor play facilities are not listed as a primary greenspace use.

- 1.11 More than 65% of all greenspace sites in the city are primarily classed as “amenity greenspace”. These sites tend to be small and they account for fewer than 20% of all greenspace area. In contrast, natural and semi-natural greenspaces account for 13% of all sites, but account for over 37% of the greenspace land-take. Formal parks, country parks and outdoor sports facilities also tend to be large sites.

Key messages about Sunderland's greenspace

- Sunderland is a green city. The amount of greenspace appears to be above the national average, and when combined with the amount of open countryside also in the city, it is accurate to report that 57% of the overall city area is green field (undeveloped)
- The establishment of country parks in recent years has significantly boosted the amount of overall parkland in Sunderland, and this appears to be a positive proportion when compared nationally
- We have made some progress with regards to securing Green Flag awards (5 awarded), but there are a number of local authorities with more than 10 awards, and one authority has 30
- Access to natural greenspaces and woodland in Sunderland is much better than national organisations envisage
- We have 50% more allotments than the England average recommendation
- There is no clear distinction regarding the quantity of greenspace provision in urban and suburban areas, or between poorer and wealthier areas
- It is clear, however, that deprived areas in Sunderland have the lowest greenspace quality.

Bucking the trend

National organisations state that:

- *Suburban areas tend to have more parks and greenspace than urban areas.* In Sunderland there is no obvious pattern at all with parks. Central Sunderland has fewer greenspaces, but there are pockets of low greenspace on the periphery such as Town End Farm and Fencehouses that counter the theory.
- *Urban areas have more sports pitches and recreation grounds.* Again, this is not true in Sunderland. While the older, established areas may have more parks and therefore tend to have more tennis courts and bowling greens, the more rural Coalfield area by contrast has the highest concentration of cricket fields and golf courses. Colliery reclamation sites have provided new facilities in both urban and urban fringe locations, and the bulk of Washington New Town's football pitches are located in two major urban fringe sites.
- *Poor areas have less greenspace, wealthier areas tend to be the leafiest.* There is an element of truth in this in Sunderland, but the city's success in land reclamation over the years mean that former colliery areas such as Ryhope, Silksworth, New Herrington and Hetton also rank very highly for overall greenspace provision.

Key findings

- 1.12 Overall, Sunderland is well provided for in terms of greenspace provision, but not all residents have access to a range of greenspaces that would encourage healthy and active lifestyles to be realised, and in some cases there are greenspaces that are poorly used due to design and/or location.
- 1.13 To address spatial deficiencies and inequalities, the draft Greenspace Audit proposes the following policy recommendations:
- Set greenspace guidelines and standards that seek to minimise inequalities in terms of greenspace provision, that in turn will ensure that all areas have a range of greenspaces accessible to them
 - The quality of existing greenspaces should be improved in general, and especially in the more deprived parts of the city
 - Alter the use of some types of greenspace, to enable more greenspace variety in key areas
 - Where justified and agreed, re-use low value greenspaces for other forms of development, ensuring that funds are provided and re-used to improve other greenspace within the neighbourhood
 - Better promote our Greenspace "product":
 - highlight to inward investors that Sunderland is a green city and has high standards and variety of greenspaces on offer
 - ensure that we maximise publicity regarding the coast, river and natural environment
 - focus on promoting regional tourist activities such as the National Cycle Network, facilities at the marina and in our parks and country parks.

- 1.14 Whilst new sources of funding for greenspaces are in limited supply during the present recession, investment can be generated through the re-use of low value greenspaces- the loss of one poor quality, poorly used greenspace site may provide funds that enable other nearby greenspaces to be improved, and a local neighbourhood could achieve an overall greenspace 'net gain' in qualitative terms.
- 1.15 Furthermore, significant new residential developments should, where viable, contribute towards the provision of new or enhanced greenspaces. Policies contained within the LDF will address the required type, quantity and quality of greenspace provision, and will be calculated in accordance with the standards and recommendations outlined in the Greenspace Audit and Report.

1.16 Specific priorities and action

Amenity greenspace (section 8.0)

- Endorse the quantity and quality guidelines identified in the audit
- Review all City Village areas identified with 'low' or 'very low' quantities of amenity greenspace to consider options for improvement
- Review the 12 City Villages that scored 'low' or 'very low' for amenity greenspace quality, as well as the 112 individual sites that scored over 20% below the city average to identify potential possibilities for improvement.

Provision for children & young people (section 9.0)

- Direct future investment towards the accessibility gaps identified. This can be either through provision of new play facilities, or where appropriate, enhancement of an existing facility that would feasibly serve a wider catchment area
- Create a new wheeled sports park in Sunderland East ARF.

Natural and Semi-Natural greenspace (section 10.0)

- Endorse ANGST standards for Natural and Semi-Natural greenspace
- Endorse Woodland Trust accessibility standards for woodland
- Consider improvements to all areas with limited access to natural greenspace. Focus on 'low' or 'very low' scoring areas to existing low quality natural greenspace sites, or other greenspaces, in order to attain the 4 ANGST accessibility standards
- Consider natural greenspace options in Sunderland West/East for a further site to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve
- Investigate options for increased tree cover in the identified deficiency areas. Consider opening-up access to existing sites with limited accessibility
- Investigate options for increased tree cover in general in City Villages with 'low' or 'very low' tree cover.

Formal Parks and Country Parks (section 11.0)

- Endorse recommended accessibility thresholds and quality guidelines for different standards of parks
- Identified quantity deficiencies will be examined in order to improve overall access
- To ensure that each ARF has at least one park achieving Green Flag status, investigate options to upgrade a park in Washington
- Investigate the below-average scoring 'Local' Parks as well as Diamond Hall Pocket Park, and identify improvements.

Allotments and Community Gardens (section 12.0)

- Endorse the quantity guideline and recommended accessibility thresholds for allotment provision
- Investigate site possibilities to provide additional allotments and/or community gardens in Washington, Middle & East Herrington, Pennywell, Hastings Hill, Grindon and near to the City Centre, subject to local demand
- In Washington, West and East ARF's (where provision quantity is below average), seek to retain existing allotments and enhance poor quality sites wherever feasible
- Investigate the Coalfield ARF allotments and consider whether sites should be retained and enhanced or whether any are not worthy of long-term retention.

Football pitches (section 13.9)

- Maintain at least one performance pitch in each of the 5 ARF's
- Improve the range of sites (by tiered quality) in each of the 5 ARF's, in line with recommendations in the Football Investment Strategy
- Where appropriate, change the designation of some senior pitches to cater for junior and mini football
- Create new football pitches wherever feasible across the city with priority for East and West Sunderland
- Transfer mini soccer usage to Newbottle (Coaley Lane) as well as to 3G provision
- Identify need for development of 9 versus 9 and 5 versus 5 pitches
- Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock
- Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are developed to support new pitches and enhance existing pitches without facilities
- Identify sites to transfer to community club ownership, and support clubs who may wish to provide other sporting uses.

Cricket pitches (section 13.16)

- Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock
- Complete the new 'Kwik Cricket' facility at Fulwell Quarries
- Pursue the creation of new cricket fields in Sunderland East, Washington and/or Coalfield ARF's
- Identify sites to transfer to community club ownership, and support clubs who may wish to provide other sporting uses.

Rugby pitches (section 13.17)

- Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock
- Seek completion of all 3 new rugby pitches at Ryhope Road to address shortfall of provision in West/East Sunderland
- Identify opportunities to increase the number of junior and mini rugby pitches in the Coalfield
- Support other sports clubs who may seek to expand their sporting offer, and consider providing new rugby clubs/facilities.

Hockey pitches (section 13.19)

- Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock
- Ensure any new sand-based or water based STPs to be built are of suitable size for hockey.

Bowling greens (section 13.20)

- Investigate potential for further bowling greens where demand is clearly identified.

Athletics Tracks (section 13.24)

- Explore opportunity to upgrade existing Silksworth running track.

Synthetic turf pitches (STP) (section 13.26)

- Explore options to replace Community North STP
- Prioritise new provision in Sunderland North, followed by Sunderland South.

Tennis courts (section 13.27)

- Improve access to school sites for recreational use
- Seek development contributions to improve quality of existing outdoor provision.

Other sports facilities (section 13.32)

- Support the possibility for the development of beach volleyball at Roker Seafront
- Support the provision of outdoor table tennis tables at locations across the city.

Cemeteries, churchyards and church grounds (section 15.0)

- No recommended quantity, quality or accessibility standard for cemeteries, churchyards or church grounds. However, future consideration to be given to whether, in spatial terms, the city would benefit from an additional cemetery site either in the Washington area, or a central site to serve the city as a whole.

Accessible countryside (section 17.0)

- Quality of countryside to be examined through the Landscape Character Assessment
- Accessibility to the countryside to be examined via the Tyne and Wear Rights of Way Improvement Plan

School playing fields and grounds (section 19.0)

- Ensure, wherever feasible, that community use of school sports facilities is maximised.

Greenspace value (section 20.0)

- To investigate and make recommendations relating to all sites scoring below 75 points, which are either classed as “low value” or “very low value”.

Physical barriers to access (section 21.0)

- Where feasible, the design of new developments should consider ways to improve access across known physical barriers
- Where relevant, investigate the barriers identified in each ARF and consider options to improve access where it is most needed.

Next steps

- 1.17 This report will be made freely available for all to use, to explain greenspace needs across the city and to inform people of key issues to consider in terms of greenspace type and spatial location.
- 1.18 Key next steps include:
- informing policies contained within the emerging Local Development Framework (Core Strategy and Allocations DPD) and Green Infrastructure Strategy
 - providing valuable supporting information and recommendations to other key corporate strategies and Area Plans
 - Informing Area Committees as to the quantity, quality, accessibility and value of greenspaces in their respective localities, who will be in a position to consider key improvements and interventions
 - Ensuring that the Development Management Team have up-to-date evidence in place when determining planning applications.

2.0 Introduction / background

- 2.1 With a population of 281,700 (*Source: ONS Mid-2009 estimate*), Sunderland provides more than a quarter of the population of the Tyne and Wear conurbation. Nevertheless, 57% of its area is classed as open countryside or urban green space. This is in part due to Green Belt that helps to preserve open countryside through the centre and fringes of the city area, and separating both the city from neighbouring towns as well as its three main areas from each other- Sunderland, Washington and Houghton-le-Spring / Hetton-le-Hole. It is also due to major reclamation schemes carried out following industrial change, enabling improved access to the River Wear Estuary and the creation of a number of formal parks and country parks.
- 2.2 In comparison to other UK cities, the location of Sunderland has major advantages that combine to create a rich and varied network of greenspaces that benefits the health, social, economic and environmental well being of the city. The city's greenspaces are supplemented by Sunderland's beaches and natural coastline, the location on a major river estuary and by the unusual and rare habitat provided by the Magnesian Limestone plateau and escarpment that bisects the geology and geography of the city. There have also been numerous greenspace improvements made across the city over the last 15 years, including the creation of Herrington and Elba Country Parks, and major refurbishments to Mowbray, Roker and Barnes historic parks. Complementing and knitting these features together are green corridors and cycleways that owe their existence from successful reclamation of several former railway lines.
- 2.3 These improvements may have been influential to a comparison undertaken of 20 UK cities in 2007, where Sunderland ranked 5th overall for environmental quality. Nevertheless, "environmental improvement" is a consistently prominent theme in consultations carried out with local residents, and has also been highlighted as an important factor quoted by people who had moved away from the city.
- 2.4 Local policy for the provision and management of green spaces is contained in a number of council publications. Principal amongst these is the city's corporate strategy (Sunderland Strategy) that specifies the following key aim and objective:

Aim 5 is:

"To ensure that Sunderland becomes a clean, green city with a strong culture of sustainability, protecting and nurturing both its built heritage and future development and ensuring that both the built and natural environments will be welcoming, accessible, attractive and of high quality".

Key objective:

"Residential and employment areas will be set within a network of green spaces providing areas for recreation, natural habitats and attractive

landscape settings. The network will link the main urban areas, the coast, river and countryside with each other and with neighbouring districts”

and

“By 2025 the council and its partners will have created sustainable and environmentally friendly housing developments that open up and connect neighbourhoods with each other and to town centres and create common spaces shared by all communities”.

Sunderland Greenspace Audit

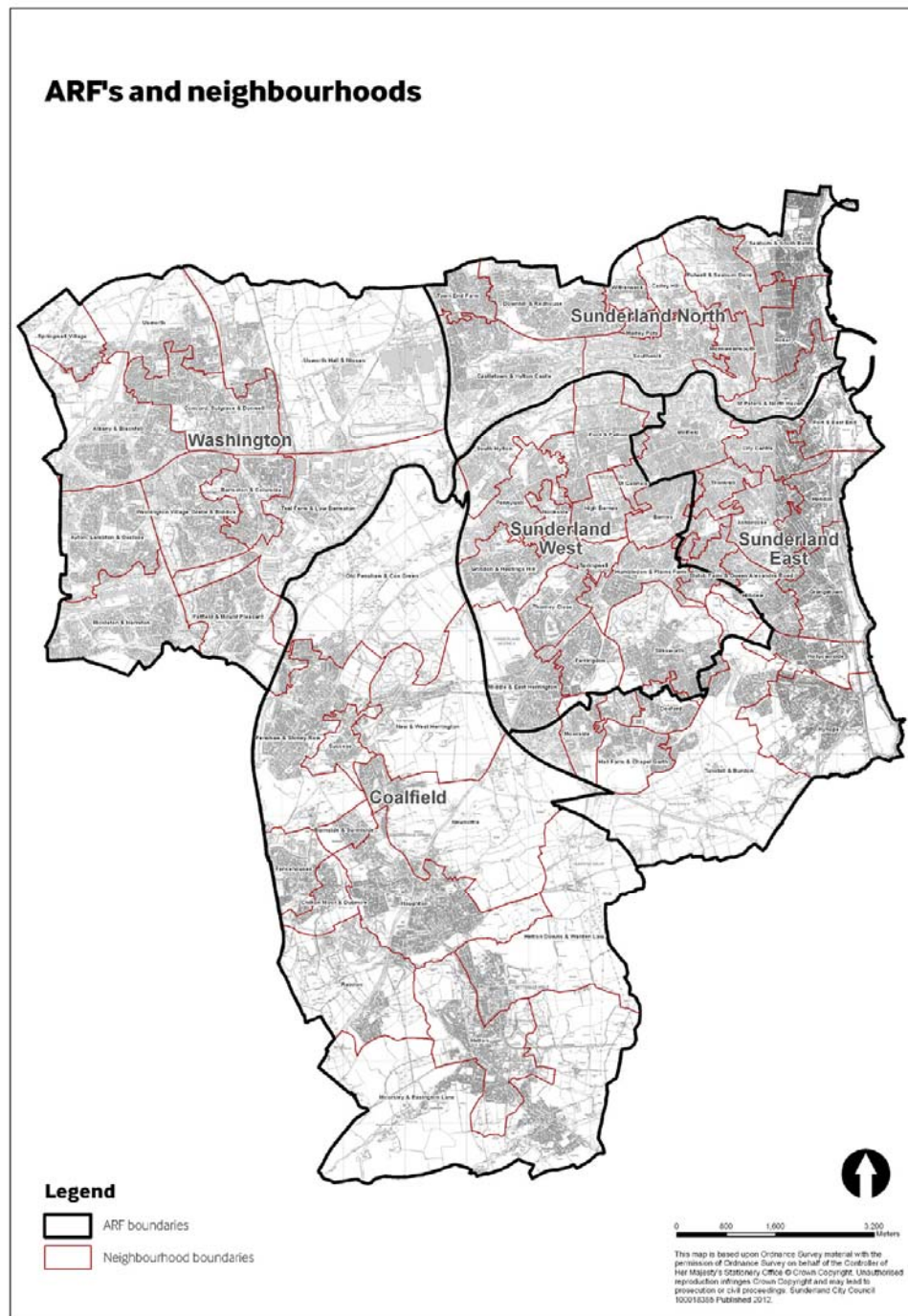
- 2.5 To achieve the council's green space related objectives and guide its future planning and management of green spaces it is important that an up-to-date assessment of the types, amounts, quality and public perceptions of green spaces is undertaken.
- 2.6 Sunderland has prepared an Open Space Register and Map for more than 20 years. These registers concentrated on the quantity of provision of parks, amenity greenspace, play areas and outdoor sports facilities.
- 2.7 The last audit of greenspace was undertaken in 2003 and the 2012 audit brings that exercise up to date and adds further value. This draft audit follows the requirements laid out in national policy and includes the most thorough survey of greenspace sites ever to be undertaken in Sunderland.
- 2.8 This draft Greenspace Audit and Report is designed to set local standards and guidelines based on assessments of local needs, demographics and audits of existing open spaces. It provides the basis for addressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process and recommends policies and actions for inclusion within Council documents. It will also enable the City Council to ensure the most effective and efficient use of greenspaces within the city and plan and respond appropriately to any pressures of immediate and future developments.
- 2.9 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) endorses the above approach to greenspace, as well as promoting the concept of 'green infrastructure' (GI), which provides further sustainable elements to be considered with regards to the development of city greenspaces, and to support the city's LDF Core Strategy. As a result, the City Council has begun work on a Green Infrastructure Strategy. A GI Steering Group has also been established, drawing upon internal and external expertise.

Area Regeneration Frameworks (ARF's) and City Villages

- 2.10 The City Council has broken the city into 5 large areas, known as 'Area Regeneration Frameworks' (ARF's). These areas are larger than wards and are used to build up a profile of particular parts of the city. Each framework area is made up of several adjoining electoral wards, and so represents a fairly large sector of the city. The aim of each framework is to help develop regeneration policies and activities by area and they provide an important

means of co-ordinating resources and directing them to areas of greatest need and opportunity. The 5 ARF's are as follows:

- Sunderland North
- Sunderland West
- Sunderland East
- Washington
- Coalfield.



2.11 The city has also been further subdivided into 65 locally-identified neighbourhoods or 'City Villages', based upon geographical areas that local

people identify with. This concept originated through the Sunderland Economic Masterplan, which has identified the promotion of City Villages as a fundamental part of Sunderland's economic development. It sets out the need for a comprehensive approach to regenerating communities across Sunderland, to help the people in those communities to engage in the wider economy of the city, to make their neighbourhoods attractive places where people want to live and to help promote Sunderland as 'a national hub of the low carbon economy'.

How to use this report

- 2.12 Most users of this report will be investigating a particular greenspace, or group of greenspaces, or investigating greenspace need in relation to a development in a particular part of the city. The key sections of the report are as follows:
- Appendix 1 provides an explanation of greenspace need for each of the 5 ARF's
 - Appendix 2 provides an explanation of greenspace need for each of the 65 City Villages
 - Sections 9 to 22 explain greenspace statistics and need by each of the greenspace typologies, as well as addressing local 'value' of sites and physical barriers to access across the city.

Beyond this report, it may also be necessary to refer to other Council reports and strategies, such as, for example, the Parks Management Strategy or Football Investment Strategy. City-wide information and headline statistics on greenspace can be found in sections 8 and 23.

3.0 Policy background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 3.1 The NPPF states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreational facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area.
- 3.2 The NPPF recognises the wider role of greenspace, stating that successful neighbourhoods require high quality public space, which in turn makes a vital contribution to the health and well-being of communities. It puts forward that the planning system should create a built environment that facilitates social interaction and inclusive communities and ensures access to open spaces and recreational facilities. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken that clearly shows the land to be surplus to requirements. Any loss resulting from a proposed development should be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- 3.3 These statements, along with the City Council's own vision and aims, provide the basis for undertaking the current Green Space Audit, so as to give the council an up-to-date data base and report for its forward planning functions.
- 3.4 The broad basis and guidance for preparing this greenspace assessment has been provided by Planning Policy Guidance Note 17, "Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation" (PPG17, 2002) with its companion guide "Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17" (2002). Although PPG17 has now been superseded by the NPPF, the broad objectives of the guidance are still in line with the new framework (the Companion Guide remains as a 'live' document). PPG17 identified a typology of a broad range of open spaces that may be of public value, these include:
- a) Parks and gardens
 - b) Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces
 - c) Green corridors
 - d) Outdoor sports facilities
 - e) Amenity greenspace
 - f) Provision for children and teenagers
 - g) Allotments
 - h) Cemeteries and churchyards
 - i) Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas
 - j) Civic spaces.
- 3.5 In addition, further analysis has been undertaken to ascertain the quantity, quality, local value and site accessibility of greenspaces. This has been interpreted as follows:

- Quantity – the amount (by type) of greenspace available
- Quality – based on detailed survey results, and existing known data
- Value – capturing how important greenspace is to people
- Accessibility – how accessible each type of greenspace is available across the city, and also identifying known key physical barriers to access such as rivers, major roads and railways.

- 3.6 The policy guidance also states that the delivery of a network of high quality, sustainable open spaces and sport and recreation facilities depends not only on good planning, but also on creative urban and landscape design and effective management. In so far as local authority-owned spaces and facilities are concerned, this can be achieved only by multi-disciplinary working across different departments and, in some cases, with neighbouring councils, regional and national agencies.

National advice

- 3.7 There are a number of organisations that act as Government advisors, and have provided considerable research and justification on the need for better understanding of our greenspaces. Part of this is provided to support local authorities, but it is also recognised that there is only a limited understanding nationally of our greenspaces, and very little provided in terms of best practice standards that should be applied. Natural England and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) have provided the bulk of the UK research. Full details are included in Appendix 3.

Council policy

- 3.8 The main strands of the Sunderland Strategy relating to greenspace are referred to in the Introduction to this paper. There are, however, many further specific references to greenspace across the 5 themes, and these are summarised below.

Attractive and Inclusive City theme:

- the regeneration of central Sunderland will bring about a residential population along the river corridor with improved public access to the riverside, attracting people from the wider city and beyond to its walkways, its squares and green spaces
- A range of exemplar buildings and public spaces will contribute to the creation of a first class city centre
- The coastal zone will be developed whilst recognising the need to protect its important natural assets
- Opportunities will be explored to improve open space and recreation and to provide new and improved pedestrian and cycle access to and from nearby residential areas around the Hendon Leas and Ryhope Coast.

Prosperous City

- Key natural strategic assets such as the coastline and the river Wear which support culture, leisure and tourism opportunities, are essential to the further growth of prosperity in the city.

- It is recognised that in order to improve economic prosperity this needs to be matched by improvements to the environment. The physical regeneration of the city's existing features, including parks and the coastline will occur which will improve the perception of Sunderland's cultural and natural assets.

Healthy City

- The provision of high quality and valued green space and sports/recreation facilities throughout the city will help to deliver the priority of achieving a healthy city.

Safe City

- It is important to provide well designed, managed and clean environments. Green spaces in the city should be of a high quality and provide safe environments.

Learning City

- Green space can be used as an educational resource i.e. it can help to explain the culture, history, geography, and biodiversity of an area.

- 3.9 The emerging LDF Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (April 2012) includes a spatial objective for green space with indicators of how it will be achieved:

"6. Green Infrastructure

Protect the city's biodiversity, geological resource, countryside and landscapes, including the River Wear, the coast and the Magnesian Limestone Escarpment and seek opportunities to enhance that resource where possible, whilst ensuring that all homes have good access to a range of interlinked green infrastructure."

- 3.10 The achievement of this objective will also bring positive benefits to other plan objectives for biodiversity; reducing CO2; access and sustainable transport; health; economic development and employment; improving neighbourhoods; protecting the countryside; design and heritage; and achieving inclusive communities.

- 3.11 As recommended by PPG17, a green space vision was formulated as part of the Core Strategy community engagement work that envisages:

"Safe, clean and valued green spaces with amenities suited to local and other need, that are easily accessible to all within every neighbourhood particularly by foot and cycle and include elements of wildlife habitat especially provision of trees and also opportunities for physical activity (both informal and formal) particularly walking".

- 3.12 The LDF will eventually supersede the present development plan, the Sunderland Unitary Development Plan (UDP). This contains a number of policies covering open space, sports and recreation. Information used to inform the UDP policies relates to the 1994 Open Space Recreation Report

and in this respect circumstances today have changed. National greenspace guidance is not fully reflected in the UDP, particularly in relation to identifying green corridors, accessible countryside in the urban fringe and civic spaces and building on the need for multi-functionality within open space. The UDP also does not address fully the qualitative and accessibility needs and aspirations. Clearer coherent links are required in how open space contributes strategically to delivery of wider council strategic objectives (i.e. Sunderland Strategy).

3.13 UDP policies have been 'saved' under the transitional arrangements of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. These policies remain statutory until superseded by adoption of the Local Development Framework.

3.14 Several other strategies have been adopted to help guide provision and management of specific types of green space, including:

- Sunderland Council Parks Management Strategy 2004
- Sunderland City Council Allotments Management Strategy (2004)
- Sunderland City Council Activecity-Action for a healthy city (2004)
- Sunderland City Council Sport & Physical Activity Strategy (September 2005 - 2010)
- Moving Forward' Play and Urban Games Strategy June 2007
- Sunderland Playing Pitch Strategy (2004-2011)
- Football Investment Strategy 2010

These strategies are detailed further in Appendix 3.

4.0 Audit assumptions

Key audit assumptions

- 4.1 Sunderland's Greenspace Audit follows PPG17 guidelines closely. This approach is backed by CABI, who recommend that all types of greenspace indicated in PPG17 be considered (except private gardens) irrespective of ownership and access. Sunderland's audit includes all 10 typologies, and has also added "Coast and Estuary" as a further typology. Public and private sites have been included, but resource limitations have stopped any attempt being made at this stage to include private gardens.
- 4.2 CABI also recommends that a publicly available greenspace database can support more equitable access to public services, regardless, for instance, of income or ethnicity. It is intended that the full Sunderland site database will be available online to all, data on each site being linked to a mapping base that can be merged and viewed with other data.
- 4.3 Sunderland's audit has been analysed at a variety of different spatial levels and will also investigate greenspace quantity, quality, site value and accessibility, in line with PPG17. Again, CABI (2010) (Urban Green Nation: Building the Evidence Base, CABI 2010, p11) see this as best practice. CABI state that measuring the quantity of urban greenspace is still vitally important in its own right, although it should be recognised that simply knowing the size of a greenspace tells us little about its value. For example, a large area of mown amenity grassland may support very little biodiversity, whereas a pocket nature space could be rich in biodiversity. Viewed together, the quantity and quality of greenspace is an important factor in attracting people to areas and retaining residents. CABI states that:
- "Research demonstrates that people who live in the greenest neighbourhoods experience lower all-cause mortality and lower mortality from circulatory diseases than similar people in less green neighbourhoods... Living in a literally greener and leafier neighbourhood is good for your health regardless of your economic circumstances."
- 4.4 The approach to analysing quantity, quality, value and accessibility of sites to a variety of spatial levels is explained in full in Section 9. Sections 6 and 7 also explain the approach taken to public consultation and to defining greenspace standards/guidelines.

Detailed audit assumptions

- 4.5 Whilst Sunderland chose to follow PPG17's Greenspace typologies as closely as possible, a number of changes and further distinctions have been utilised to better reflect local circumstances. Each type of green space is defined below.

Table 1: Greenspace definitions

Type of greenspace	Definition
Amenity Greenspace	Spaces whose primary function is the provision of amenity (e.g. visual enhancement or informal recreation) to local residents, workers or passers by. Predominantly found in residential areas but may be located in commercial areas to serve staff / visitors. Typically mown grassed areas (big or small), perhaps with trees, or perhaps including highway verges or landscaping.
Provision for Children and Young People	Fixed, formal play equipment, but also including multi-use games areas (MUGA's) and dual use games areas (DUGA's).
Natural and semi natural greenspace	Natural habitats including woodland, grassland, wetland, heathland, geological, coast and estuarine areas.
Formal Parks and Country Parks	District, local, city parks and country parks.
Allotments & Community Gardens	Where people can grow their own fruit and vegetables. Not including private gardens.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Open space specifically geared towards sport and formal recreation. e.g. football, cricket, tennis, rugby, hockey, bowling greens, golf courses, multi-purpose courts and kickabout areas
Green Corridors	Greenspace sites that help to form a much longer connected corridor of sites. Such corridors allow for walking, cycling and wildlife movement.
Cemeteries and church grounds	Cemeteries, churchyards and also the general grounds of a church
Civic Spaces	Hard surfaced spaces for pedestrians e.g. war memorials, pedestrian areas, river and coastal promenades.
Accessible Countryside	All of the city's open countryside, private or public.
Coast & Estuary	Beaches and cliff top areas, coastal links and River Wear Estuary.
School Playing Fields and Grounds	This includes all school grounds, whether or not they provide public access to greenspace/ sports facilities out of school hours.

- 4.6 Sites may be publicly or privately owned, and some may not have public access at all.
- 4.7 Every site has a “primary purpose” identified. This primary purpose is used to analyse the amount of different types of greenspace we have, and also for any analysis that examines all typologies together. However, it is recognised that most sites have multiple uses, and therefore the audit also identifies 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th purposes as and where necessary.
- 4.8 Green corridors, coast & estuary and outdoor play areas are not treated as a ‘primary’ land use. Green corridors are considered to be an amalgam of greenspace sites that collectively form a corridor. Play areas are always considered to be contained within a larger land use (such as a park or sports area). Coast and estuary greenspaces primarily relate to natural

greenspace sites, or they may have other primary functions such as amenity greenspace or provide civic space.

- 4.9 The audit also provides the following basic information in relation to all sites:
- Site size in hectares
 - Land ownership (in general terms)
 - Specific details relating to biodiversity
 - Type of buildings on site (if any)
 - Types of sports pitches (if any)
 - Type of play facility (if any)
 - Details of any historic importance that the site may have.
- 4.10 Greenspace sites below 0.02ha (200 square metres) have not been included (though on occasion small sites in a group have been included as one). 1,764 greenspace sites have been analysed and mapped in total.
- 4.11 Sites that cross the city boundary are included in the site audit. A few sites wholly in neighbouring authorities (but adjacent to the city boundary and accessible) have been also been included in the audit, because they are used by Sunderland residents. These sites are:
- Cornthwaite Park, Whitburn
 - Boldon Golf Course, West Boldon
 - Chartershaugh Allotments, General's Wood, Chester-le-Street
 - Morton Wood LWS, Woodstone
 - South Crescent Football Field, Woodstone
 - New Lambton Recreation Ground, Woodstone
 - Elmwood Street Play Area, Woodstone
 - Sharpley Plantation, Seaton
 - Carr House Plantation, Murton.
- 4.12 A number of further specific assumptions were made for the audit:

Table 2: Assumptions made for the Greenspace Audit

Amenity Greenspaces	- Sites that were considered to be too unkempt have been counted as a natural greenspace site, or not counted altogether
Provision for Children & Young People	- These are identified within the city's Play & Urban Games Strategy - As well as formal static play areas, these include multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and dual use games areas (DUGAs) - No site has "play area" as a primary purpose
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	- Table 3 provides a full definition, based on 4 quality levels. Levels 1 and 2 would be classed as "higher quality" natural greenspace, Level 3 includes "lower quality" greenspace, and any sites classed within Level 4 would not be counted at all
Formal Parks & Country Parks	- These are identified and defined within the Parks Management Strategy. Some sites named as

	<p>“parks” on Ordnance Survey may not be included as they fail to reach the required parks standard as outlined in the Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve broadly conforms to the purpose of a country park and has therefore been included as such
Allotments and Community Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites with too many private garages or formal gardens are considered as private gardens only, and not counted on the greenspace register
Outdoor Sports Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not include indoor sports provision, though any summaries may need to reflect such facilities, e.g. indoor tennis courts - Kickabout areas (grassed sites equipped with football goal posts) are included
Green Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main green corridors have been identified within the emerging LDF Core Strategy - All sites linked to, or within, a green corridor have been identified as having such a purpose - No site has ‘green corridor’ as a primary purpose- corridors typically relate to an amalgamation of existing greenspace sites. Even narrow cycleway corridors will primarily provide amenity or natural greenspace
Cemeteries, Churchyards and Church Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The primary purpose has been separated in order to make the distinction between those sites containing burial ground and others that simply supply the landscaped setting for a church
Civic Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In some cases, streets with wide pavements for pedestrians (and with a high footfall) were included - Sites were restricted to those with hard-standing surfaces only
Accessible Countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All of the city’s urban fringe and open countryside was classed as “accessible”. Rights of Way exist across most of our countryside to provide, at the very least, a view across key landscapes - The assessment was based on 17 spatial areas as identified in the Draft Sunderland Landscape Character Area
School Playing Fields and Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All school playing fields and grounds have been included - Outdoor sports facilities and formal play areas will only be assessed in terms of provision if it is clear that they are available for public use

4.13 Defining Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace in terms of quantity and quality is particularly difficult and has been justified in a separate paper (see Appendix 4). The summary definition reflects a local adaptation of advice provided by Natural England, and is set out below (Table 3).

Table 3: Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace Definition

Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European designated sites – Northumbria Coast SPA, Durham Coast SAC • Nationally and locally recognised nature conservation areas, Durham Heritage Coast, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Local Nature Reserves. • Ancient Semi-Natural or Ancient Replanted woodland
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less intensively managed greenspaces (includes amenity open space, formal parks, country parks, school grounds, sports pitches, golf courses, churchyards, cemeteries and allotments) • Non-dense, non-intensive deciduous and/or coniferous woodland, freely growing shrubbery and element of public access • Open water and wetlands with reeds, tall wildflowers, (could include ponds, ditches, small rivers, streams and lakes) • River estuary (water, mudflats, saltmarsh) • Unimproved, semi-improved and rough grassland, and heathland (with wild herbs and flowers) • Disused / derelict land with protected BAP Priority Species present • Open Access Land / Remnant countryside (within urban and urban fringe areas) • Unimproved farmland
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland shelter belts / intensive woodland with no freely growing shrubbery and very limited or no public access • Disused/derelict land with no protected BAP Priority Species present • Managed/more intensive greenspaces and recreational spaces with limited functions (includes amenity open space, parks, school grounds, sports pitches, golf courses, churchyards, cemeteries and allotments) • Formal boating or ornamental lakes, culverted streams and other examples of open water with little or no biodiversity
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved farmland • Private gardens • Active quarries

Adapted from Natural England's ANGST Plus categories of 'naturalness'.

5.0 Audit methodology

- 5.1 In accordance with PPG17 criteria, surveyors visited and assessed all the various sites referred to in the typologies. The quantity, quality and value of each plot were appraised and a pro-forma completed so far as was possible. A copy of the pro-forma is attached (see Appendix 5). The full list of pro-forma criteria is summarised below and were all applied to each type of green space:

Table 4: Greenspace Audit- criteria used in the proforma

Land Use and Boundary Treatment	
1. Green Flag Status	2. Pedestrian Access
3. Vehicular Access	4. Disabled Access
5. Main Entrance	6. Other Entrances
7. Access Arrangements	8. Boundaries
9. Roads	10. Paths
11. Cycleway	12. Bridleway
13. Tree Cover	14. Tree Mix
15. Planted Areas	16. Amenity Grass Areas
17. Meadow Grass Areas	18. Playing Fields
19. Pasture / Grazed Land	20. Wetlands
21. Cleanliness	22. Safety
23. General Maintenance	
Facilities	
24. Litter Bins	25. Dog Bins
26. Recycling Bins	27. Seats
28. Toilets	29. Car Parking
30. Coach Parking	31. Cycle Parking
32. Bus Stops	33. Metro Train Station
34. Street Lighting	35. Signage
36. Information	37. Events Programme
Recreation Facilities	
38. Access to Buildings	39. Sports Pitches
40. Play Equipment	41. Water-based Sports
42. Other Sports	
Biodiversity	
43. Protected Site	44. Grassland
45. Woodland	46. Hedgerow
47. Wetlands	48. Coastal & Estuarine
49. Other	50. Geodiversity
51. Level of Use (Wildlife)	52. General Overall Maintenance
Landscape Visual and Character	
53. Rarity	54. Visual Amenity
55. Exposure	56. Defines Character
57. Historic Protection	58. Usage (People)
59. Usage Type (People)	60. Warden or Ranger Presence

- 5.2 The answers to each of the above 60 questions were scored out of a total of 5 points. Officers were briefed in terms of how to interpret or approach certain questions. All sites were then analysed in terms of consistency of approach by the Lead Officer.

- 5.3 Sunderland's Greenspace Audit has applied community value weightings to the final audit score wherever it was merited. This is explained in the next Section.

6.0 Audit scoring and community value weighting

- 6.1 The primary function of the greenspace audit has been to collate quantitative and qualitative information on current open space provision. Scores for the various criteria have been collected, along with comments on specific information where appropriate, and entered into a database.
- 6.2 The 60 questions have been tested against all greenspace sites identified, irrespective of their typology. Clearly there are questions that are simply not relevant to certain types of greenspace and this may be seen to put these sites at a disadvantage when comparing their value scores against other greenspace types. The counter argument here is that some greenspaces are much more multi-functional and thereby appeal to a lot more users.
- 6.3 Nevertheless, it is also clear that as each question is scored identically (out of a maximum of 5 points) there is an underlying assumption that each question has the same level of importance. For example, the presence of litter bins or space for coach parking is presently given similar weighting to questions relating to whether a site provides play equipment or is a protected wildlife site.
- 6.4 Furthermore, there are other considerations relevant to greenspace that may have not been fully represented in the 60-question assessment, such as whether the site falls within protected Green Belt. Therefore, in order to better reflect the status and importance that is placed by Government and by users of greenspaces, a series of community value weightings have been introduced. These weightings also attempt to limit the scoring disadvantage that certain types of greenspace may suffer.
- 6.5 The weightings have also been influenced by an online public consultation exercise carried out in 2011. The weightings are listed below in Table 5:

Table 5: Greenspace weightings

Wildlife Sites	Weighting Attached
European SAC / SPA protection, national SSSI / LNR/ LGS protection	100pts
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	50pts
Protected and BAP Priority Species	50pts
Cemeteries and churchyards (with graves)	
With graves	100pts
Church grounds (amenity grassland)	0pts
Woodland Plantations	25pts
Formal Parks and Country Parks	
All parks	50pts
(Option to zero score a park deemed to be surplus to requirements, i.e. already in area with high abundance of	0pts (note: no sites

parks, and with little local value	included to date)
Natural & Semi Natural Greenspace	
High quality	50pts
Low quality	0pts
Allotments (Quality based on 2009 assessment, high scoring at least 18 out of 30) (Abundance based on ARF hectarage above or below the city average)	
High quality / low abundance	50pts
High quality / high abundance & Low quality / low abundance	25pts
Low quality / high abundance	0pts
Outdoor Sport (including kickabout areas)	
Football, Cricket, Rugby, Hockey, Bowling Green, Astroturf multi-use, Tennis and Netball Courts, Golf Courses	50pts
Kickabout areas, MUGA's, Golf Driving Ranges and land retained for sports pitch use (not presently used)	25pts
Historic Protection	
Major historic (significant greenspace within a Conservation Area, or setting of very significant listed building)	50pts
Historic Value (other sites that were scored 4 or 5 out of 5 on the survey).	25pts
Site within Green Belt	50pts
Amenity (Doorstep) Greenspaces – depends on hectarage / 1000 population.	
Areas with very low provision	40pts
Areas with low provision	20pts
Playspaces	
All other provision	25pts
Low quality/extent	0pts
Green Corridors (sites contributing to a corridor)	25pts
Site Rarity	
Sites scored 4 out of 5 (rare to city) or 5 out of 5 (nationally rare)	25pts
Defines Character	
Sites scored 5 out of 5 (very important)	25pts
Civic Space (No further weighting, many sites receive weighting via site rarity, historic value or character)	0pts

Coast & Estuary (No further weighting, just a weighting via natural greenspace protection, corridor or wildlife value).	No further weighting.
Accessible Countryside (Not identified as 'Greenspace', to be investigated further in terms of 'Landscape Character'. Countryside sites receive weightings via Green Belt protection, green corridor, wildlife, park or sports use).	Not applicable

- 6.6 More than one weighting may be identified to a particular site. However, only the highest value weighting is counted towards the overall value score. This is demonstrated below.

Greenspace Site X qualifies for the following weightings:

- Historic value – 25pts
- Within an area with low greenspace provision – 20pts.
- *Green Belt* – 50pts
- Defines character – 25pts

Site X will therefore receive a weighting of 50pts, which will be added to its 60-question score.

- 6.7 The final site scores can be viewed in total of all sites or specifically by each typology. It is intended to reflect site quality and value.

7.0 Consultation and local needs assessment

- 7.1 Public consultation was carried out in late-2010 and in 2011 to help to determine local greenspace needs. Sessions were held for the city's 5 ARF's in October 2010 and January 2011. The sessions sought to check the draft results of the Greenspace Audit, to identify any sites missing off the register and to gain a better understanding on the local value of greenspaces. The 2011 consultation particularly focused on the following key questions:
- What greenspaces do you value the most?
 - What makes a greenspace site valuable to local people?
 - What types of greenspace people would you like to see more of?
 - How far would local people would travel to use different types of greenspace?
 - What the most important greenspaces are to local people?
- 7.2 These five questions then formed an online survey which was carried out from April-July 2011 and was also included in the 2011 Sunderland Community Spirit Summer Survey. A further online survey for children and young people was carried out in autumn 2011 together with a schools workshop. Overall, more than 1,000 persons took part.

Summary

- 7.3 Overall, the city's most valued types of greenspace are:
- Formal parks and country parks
 - Natural and semi-natural greenspaces
 - Sites associated with the coastline.
- 7.4 Younger people value:
- Play areas
 - Outdoor sport
 - Green corridors (associated with cycleways)
 - Places that encourage social interaction, such as civic spaces
- 7.5 Support tended to be high in areas where provision is also high, and vice versa. High scores were locally posted where a key facility had been removed- allotments in Castletown area, for example.
- 7.6 Local people would like to have more parks and natural greenspaces in Sunderland, and most crucially to see the most made of existing greenspaces. Younger people would also like to see more parks, but also outdoor sports provision and green corridors. There were local variations at ward level that can be examined closely in relation to existing provision.
- 7.7 The most valuable features of greenspaces cited are that they are safe, well maintained, attractive and have freedom to walk. These features link well with the overall desire that the most should be made of existing greenspaces.

7.8 It is difficult to gauge local opinion regarding the desired frequency / catchment areas for different types of greenspace. When responding to the question asked, some people considered the question in relation to accessing facilities on foot while others assessed distances through car use. In general, however, catchment distances of between 500m and 1,000m proved most popular.

7.9 Predictably, the most important greenspaces tended to be the most well-known in the city, such as the Green Flag parks and the city's principal natural features. A number of more local sites were also logged which can be used for local analysis.

How the consultation findings have been used

7.10 The value weightings used (see previous chapter) reflects these consultation results. Parks and natural greenspaces, for example, receive very high weightings, though this is also dependent upon the quality, size and status of their overall function or key features. Results from local consultation would always be expected to highlight greenspaces that have the broadest appeal. Those with more focused appeal may also receive higher weightings, however. Allotments provide a key example- poor quality sites are not weighted, whereas quality sites in areas of scarce supply are strongly weighted.

7.11 The Greenspace Audit included assessment of the condition of greenspaces, including how well maintained, attractive and safe each site was. The greenspace value score identifies a number of poor scoring sites, and any subsequent assessment will reflect the most popular features identified in the public consultation.

7.12 It is advised by Government that catchment distances for different types of greenspaces should be locally determined. Both local and national standards have been reviewed in making standard recommendations. The results from the consultation indicate a popularity for 500m-1000m distances, which very broadly corresponds to the standards recommended.

7.13 The most popular greenspaces cited in the consultation have been checked with the Greenspace Audit and there is a very high correlation, every site falls within the top 100 'value' scores. Other high scoring sites in the Greenspace Audit (not cited in the consultation) tend to relate to 'specific interest' sites that have been afforded high weighting to reflect their role. These sites include burial grounds and protected wildlife sites, for example.

7.14 A "Greenstat" survey was undertaken for 11 of the city's parks in 2011. The results concluded that people rated the parks as good or very good, and overall satisfaction was high. The lowest scoring parks tended to be in Washington, which strongly reflects the Greenspace Audit data- the quality of parks in Washington came out below par. Other below-par scoring sites (such as Barnes Park Extensions) were not tested.

7.15 A more detailed summary of the consultation results is in Appendix 6.

Local guidelines & results

8.0 Introduction / city perspective

The need to set guidelines

- 8.1 Setting guidelines enables authorities to benchmark their open space assets. Guidelines support local planning policies and priority setting, as well as providing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. In the past, open space standards have concentrated on quantity only, whereas new guidelines will address quantity, quality, accessibility and value.
- 8.2 To ensure that the city's greenspaces are protected and enhanced, guidelines need to be set that achieve the following:
- They are locally appropriate, as opposed to simply adopting guidelines developed elsewhere that may not be appropriate
 - They provide realistic guidelines in terms of what can be achieved in the local area, and that they reflect the views of communities and strategic priorities
 - They provide challenging guidelines – recognising the need for improvement if more open spaces are to be beneficial for local communities
 - They recognise the differences between different types of open space
 - They are corporately endorsed, and have sufficient weight so as to ensure that planners, managers and other relevant stakeholders are involved in their development to ensure that they are both achievable and enforceable.
- 8.3 There is a limited range of national guidelines and standards identified for local open space provision, and the Government generally recommends that guidelines are set locally. In Sunderland, there are limited local guidelines applied, and of these, they focus on the quantity of provision only. These are explained in more detail by typology below, together with recommended guidelines that should be adopted for the city.
- 8.4 When the guidelines are applied, the results make it clear how each area performs in relation to quantity, quality, accessibility and overall value of greenspaces. The results enable spatial comparisons to be made at a City Village and ARF level, and also nationally, where comparative data exists.

City-wide greenspace

- 8.5 A total of 1764 greenspace sites have been identified within Sunderland, with a further 9 sites identified adjacent to the city boundary. These sites total 3,856.78 hectares, or 27.6% of the city area. Combined with the open countryside in Sunderland there are over 8,000 hectares (57%) of 'undeveloped' green land in the city.

- 8.6 Provision varies across the 5 ARF's. Washington and the Coalfield have roughly twice the amount of greenspace that exists in North, West or East ARF's. However, both Washington and the Coalfield ARF's include Green Belt and other open countryside areas, and the quantity is bolstered by major single sites, such as golf courses, country parks, woodland and other natural greenspaces.

Table 6: Total greenspace provision by ARF

ARF	Sites total	%	Hectares	%
Sunderland North	274	15.53	543.09	14.08
Sunderland West	289	16.38	534.79	13.87
Sunderland East	307	17.40	592.80	15.37
Washington	459	26.02	1020.74	26.47
Coalfield	435	24.66	1165.36	30.22
Total	1764	100.00	3856.78	100.00

- 8.7 Greenspaces often have multiple functions, and it is very difficult to accurately split the land-take by the different types of greenspace identified. As an example, Mowbray Park is primarily classed as formal parkland, but also provides an element of amenity greenspace, natural greenspace, outdoor play, outdoor sport and civic space. As a general guide, the split by greenspace type can be broadly shown by identifying the primary use. This is shown in the table below.

Table 7: Greenspace provision by primary use

Primary use	Number of sites	Hectares	% of overall greenspace
Allotments and community gardens	101	100.54	2.61
Amenity greenspace	1150	754.65	19.57
Cemeteries and church grounds	43	106.53	2.76
Civic spaces	27	14.12	0.37
Formal parks and country parks	40	586.11	15.20
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	228	1,455.50	37.74
Outdoor sports facilities	57	576.52	14.95
School playing fields and grounds	118	262.81	6.81
Outdoor play facilities	[100*]	--	--
Total	1764	3,856.78	100.00

* - outdoor play facilities are not listed as a primary greenspace use.

- 8.8 More than 65% of all greenspace sites in the city are primarily classed as "amenity greenspace". These sites tend to be small and they account for fewer than 20% of all greenspace area. In contrast, natural and semi-natural greenspaces account for 13% of all sites, but account for over 37% of the greenspace land-take. Formal parks, country parks and outdoor sports facilities also tend to be large sites.

9.0 Amenity greenspace

Amenity Greenspace	Spaces whose primary function is the provision of amenity (e.g. visual enhancement or informal recreation) to local residents, workers or passers by. Predominantly found in residential areas but may be located in commercial areas to serve staff / visitors. Typically mown grassed areas (big or small), perhaps with trees, or perhaps including highway verges or landscaping.
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9.1 Amenity greenspace is a generic description for green space and planting which softens the urban fabric, allows for informal leisure and provides a setting for buildings. It is open space whose primary purpose is to improve and enhance the appearance of the local environment.

9.2 There are 1150 sites identified that have amenity greenspace as their primary purpose, totalling 755 hectares, or 19.6% of total greenspace. A further 160 sites have been identified as having a non-primary amenity greenspace function- providing 1,505 hectares in total- and this figure is used to determine the quantitative city average, explained below.

Quantity

9.3 Unlike most other types of greenspace, when investigating quantity guidelines there is less need for emphasis on individual amenity greenspace sites, and more emphasis needed on the range of sites that serve a neighbourhood. As such, the most appropriate quantity guideline that should be applied is based on the amount of greenspace available to the population. Most local authorities analyse their greenspace in terms of hectares per 1000 population.

9.4 PPG17 Companion Guide states that the analysis of existing greenspace provision (by comparing the quantity of provision in an area with its population) needs to work at a neighbourhood level. It states that use of ward boundaries is *“essentially arbitrary and very few local communities identify with them... In addition, a ward can appear to be poorly provided but have very good provision just outside its boundary. It is therefore better to use clearly identifiable neighbourhoods.”* Sunderland has followed this advice and analysed the data for ARF's and the 65 “City Villages” for analysis of amenity greenspace.

9.5 Nationally, the amount of greenspace varies greatly, but much of this has to do with the detail of survey undertaken. For example, Hartlepool BC has concentrated on larger amenity greenspace sites only (50 sites and 96 hectares identified, minimum size 0.10 hectares), and their average greenspace provision identified is 1.07 hectares per 1000 population. In Fife, on the other hand, a more detailed audit was carried out, and the results indicate an average of 6.0 hectares per 1000 population.

9.6 In Sunderland, sites as little as 0.02 hectares were recorded. Furthermore, any site deemed to have an amenity greenspace role has been included,

regardless of its primary purpose. Some 1,505 hectares are identified as having an amenity greenspace function, and the city average is 5.34 hectares per 1000 population.

- 9.7 Results from public consultation reveal that 48% of respondents wished to see more amenity greenspace in their local area. However, 73% also wanted to see a focus on improving our existing greenspaces. In comparison to other local authorities it would appear that Sunderland has a higher than average proportion of amenity greenspace. These 'green lungs' are highly valued by local residents and are seen as a vital element towards ensuring that Sunderland has an attractive environment to entice inward investment. It is therefore recommended that the city average of amenity greenspace is adopted as a guideline to be applied across the city, with a particular focus to increase provision, wherever feasible, in areas below that guideline.

Recommended quantity guideline for amenity greenspace:

5.34 hectares per 1000 population

Results

- 9.8 The quantity of amenity greenspace varies between the 5 ARF's:

Table 8: Amenity greenspace by ARF

Area	Hectares per 1000 population	Amount in % in relation to city	Surplus (+) or deficit (-) in relation to city
City	5.34	--	--
Sunderland North ARF	4.35	81%	-56.41ha
Sunderland West ARF	4.48	84%	-58.05ha
Sunderland East ARF	3.87	72%	-78.63ha
Washington ARF	6.47	121%	+64.35ha
Coalfield ARF	8.08	151%	+128.93ha

- 9.9 From an ARF perspective, the 2 outer ARF's (Washington and Coalfield) have higher than average levels of amenity greenspace, while the 3 inner ARF's have below average levels, especially in those areas closest to the city centre. These deficiencies are better viewed at the City Village level.

Table 9: Amenity greenspace quantity by City Village

City Village	Total area (hectares)	Population	Amenity greenspace / 1000 population	Amount +/- in relation to current city average (ha)
Albany & Blackfell	26.29	7121	3.69	-11.76
Ashbrooke	16.69	4654	3.59	-8.18
Ayton, Lambton & Oxclose	44.39	8927	4.97	-3.31
Barmston & Columbia	17.32	5836	2.97	-13.86
Barnes	23.52	7663	3.07	-17.42
Burnside & Sunnyside	4.59	1080	4.25	-1.18
Carley Hill	8.54	1631	5.24	-0.17
Castletown & Hylton Castle	47.08	8669	5.43	0.76

Chilton Moor & Dubmire	2.30	1929	1.19	-8.01
City Centre	15.12	3185	4.75	-1.90
Concord, Sulgrave & Donwell	65.02	10108	6.43	10.99
Downhill & Redhouse	47.59	9174	5.19	-1.43
Doxford	20.61	1991	10.35	9.97
Elstob Farm & QA Road	3.95	2899	1.36	-11.54
Farringdon	22.17	5579	3.97	-7.64
Fatfield & Mount Pleasant	66.34	4675	14.19	41.36
Fencehouses	7.42	2952	2.51	-8.35
Ford & Pallion	13.33	9064	1.47	-35.10
Fulwell & Seaburn Dene	38.54	7470	5.16	-1.37
Grangetown	16.48	4424	3.73	-7.17
Grindon & Hastings Hill	42.92	6142	6.99	10.10
Hall Farm & Chapelgarth	16.70	3160	5.28	-0.18
Hendon	8.35	4205	1.99	-14.12
Hetton	47.09	4756	9.90	21.68
Hetton Downs & Warden Law	27.20	2940	9.25	11.49
High Barnes	35.94	2962	12.13	20.11
Hillview	3.63	3472	1.05	-14.92
Hollycarrside	12.77	3142	4.06	-4.02
Houghton	66.26	9954	6.66	13.08
Humbledon & Plains Farm	9.10	5799	1.57	-21.88
Marley Potts	0.87	1252	0.69	-5.82
Middle & East Herrington	21.75	4173	5.21	-0.55
Millfield	17.64	7593	2.32	-22.93
Monkwearmouth	6.86	2952	2.32	-8.91
Moorside	9.92	1557	6.37	1.60
Moorsley & Easington Lane	32.91	5076	6.48	5.79
New & West Herrington	114.72	1723	66.58	105.51
Newbottle	15.42	3149	4.90	-1.41
Nookside	5.90	1536	3.84	-2.31
Old Penshaw & Cox Green	5.40	1467	3.68	-2.44
Pennywell	19.96	5831	3.42	-11.19
Penshaw & Shiney Row	40.29	8842	4.56	-6.95
Port & East End	9.43	1248	7.56	2.76
Rainton	12.83	1515	8.47	4.74
Rickleton & Harraton	46.67	5784	8.07	15.77
Roker	17.48	7591	2.30	-23.08
Ryhope	30.12	5459	5.52	0.95
Seaburn & South Bents	39.38	4349	9.05	16.14
Silksworth	51.95	7618	6.82	11.25
South Hylton	16.32	3302	4.94	-1.32
Southwick	12.00	4574	2.62	-12.44
Springwell	16.26	1561	10.42	7.92
Springwell Village	9.33	1465	6.37	1.50
St Gabriel's	0.15	1558	0.10	-8.17
St Peter's & North Haven	8.95	3100	2.89	-7.61
Success	4.20	1745	2.41	-5.12
Teal Farm & Low Barmston	13.70	1850	7.41	3.82
Thorney Close	19.50	4338	4.50	-3.68
Thornhill	3.57	3349	1.07	-14.32
Town End Farm	6.29	4710	1.34	-18.88
Tunstall & Burdon	24.14	3130	7.71	7.42
Usworth	11.13	2911	3.82	-4.42
Usworth Hall & Nissan	17.10	1513	11.30	9.02
Wash Village, Glebe & Bidck	51.61	6788	7.60	15.34
Witherwack	14.43	1482	9.74	6.51
Total (65 City Villages)	1505.63	281654	5.34	0.00

Greenspace Audit 2012

Quantity of Amenity Greenspace by Neighbourhood

Legend

- Very Low
- Low
- Below Average
- Above Average
- High
- Very High
- ARF boundaries

Scale: 0 750 1,500 3,000 Meters

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9.11 In Sunderland North ARF, Town End Farm and Marley Potts scored 'very low'. Southwick, Monkwearmouth, Roker, St Peter's & North Haven scored 'low'.

- Town End Farm is a post-war development. Larger greenspaces exist close-by at Bunny Hill and Downhill Sports Complex. Nevertheless, any regeneration in the area should provide new amenity greenspace, and school grounds should be considered for community use.
- Southwick, Monkwearmouth and Roker are older parts of the city, with a high percentage of terraced properties. Regeneration in these areas should take opportunity to provide additional greenspace, as well as to improve access and greenspace alongside the River Wear.
- North Haven was granted planning permission by the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation which approved a design with only minimal amenity greenspace. Opportunity for any new provision is very limited; efforts should therefore be made to improve walking and cycling access to/from the area, and use of school grounds.
- Provision in Fulwell and Seaburn Dene is masked by the provision of amenity greenspace at Fulwell Quarries, which is not easily accessible to much of the City Village. Opportunities should be considered to increase greenspace in this area, particularly to the east of the A1018
- Spatially, Marley Potts shares amenity greenspace with Witherwack, and when considered together, there is above average amenity greenspace provision.

9.12 In Sunderland West ARF, Ford & Pallion and St Gabriel's scored 'very low'. Pennywell, Barnes, Humbledon & Plains Farm scored 'low'.

- Ford & Pallion is a densely developed area, separated from the River Wear by employment land, and distanced from the Barnes Park corridor. Regeneration at Groves and at Ford should provide for additional greenspace in this area, and any further regeneration in the area should seek to provide further provision.
- Pennywell is a post-war development, and in spatial terms should be considered with Nookside, which includes King George V Park within its boundary. Nevertheless, provision remains low, and housing redevelopment at west Pennywell should provide additional greenspace. Consideration should also be given to communal use of school grounds, and options to the north at Quarry View.
- Humbledon & Plains Farm are also post-war developments. Both areas benefit from Silksworth Recreation Centre located nearby, which is undoubtedly used by residents of the City Village. Further opportunities for additional greenspace and/or to re-use existing greenspace should be considered.
- Spatially, St Gabriel's shares amenity greenspace with High Barnes, and when considered together, there is above average amenity greenspace provision.

9.13 In Sunderland East ARF, Thornhill, Elstob Farm and Hillview scored 'very low'. Millfield and Hendon scored 'low'.

- Thornhill is densely developed, with limited opportunities to increase amenity greenspace. Improved walking and cycling routes would enhance access to nearby open spaces and parks.
- Elstob Farm, Queen Alexandra Road and Hillview are post-war developments, again with limited opportunities to increase amenity greenspace. Elstob Farm partly benefits from proximity of Silksworth Recreation Centre, and Hillview similarly benefits from provision at Tunstall Hills. Improved walking and cycling access would benefit local people to access these sites and other sites nearby.
- Hendon is densely developed. It partly benefits from the proximity of Mowbray Park and Backhouse Park nearby. Employment land restricts access to the coast. Regeneration in these areas should take opportunity to provide additional greenspace, as well as to improve access to the Hendon coast.
- Much of Millfield consists of densely developed terraced housing and employment land, the latter of which restricts access to the River Wear. Regeneration in these areas should take opportunity to provide additional greenspace, improve access to the River Wear, and improve walking and cycling routes to nearby open spaces and parks.

9.14 In Washington ARF, Barmston & Columbia are scored 'low'.

- The regeneration of Barmston should provide additional amenity greenspace to limit the deficiency in this City Village. Walking and cycle routes to/from Barmston and Columbia would improve access to nearby parks as well as the River Wear.

9.15 In Coalfield ARF, Chilton Moor & Dubmire are scored 'very low', and Fencehouses and Success are scored 'low'.

- The Fencehouses, Chilton Moor and Dubmire area partly benefits from the proximity of Elba Park to the north and Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve to the south (though neither site provides conventional amenity greenspace). Opportunities to re-use existing greenspaces should be considered, and derelict land should also be considered for new provision. Any future alternative uses of employment land should also provide amenity greenspace.
- Success has limited amenity greenspace but does benefit from natural greenspaces and open countryside to the south and west. The area would benefit greatly from improved walking and cycling routes to nearby open spaces and parks.

ACTION: Review all City Village areas identified with 'low' or 'very low' quantities of amenity greenspace to consider options for improvement.
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Quality

9.16 Sixty questions were asked of every greenspace site in the city, ranging from questions on facilities, land use and boundary treatment, biodiversity

and landscape character. These results provide an applicable quality assessment of all sites in Sunderland. It should be noted that no 'quality' based guideline exists for planning in the city.

- 9.17 More than 1300 sites have been identified as having an amenity greenspace use (primary or otherwise). The results indicate that the average site score in Sunderland is 81 points, based on Audit scoring described in Section 5. It is therefore recommended that this figure be adopted as a baseline guideline for site quality. The dual purpose of applying this guideline will be to:
- ensure that sites scoring above the average retain their site quality;
 - consider prioritising for improvement individual low quality sites and settlements with overall low average site quality.

Recommended quality guideline for amenity greenspace: 81 points.

Consider prioritising improvements to poor quality sites on an individual basis and also from a settlement perspective:

- **City Village 'very low' scores >10% below city average**
- **City Village 'low' scores 5-10% below city average**
- **Individual sites more than 20% below the city average.**

Results

- 9.18 The quality of the city's greenspace can be seen in the table below, for both City Village and ARF. The results are examined on both an individual site basis and also collectively by City Village. It is recommended that these sites should be investigated at Area Committee level.

Table 10: Amenity greenspace quality by ARF and City Village

ARF's	Average quality score	% +/- city average	Number of sites <20% below city average
Sunderland North ARF	81.09	+0.11	16
Sunderland West ARF	80.35	-0.80	27
Sunderland East ARF	84.51	+4.33	15
Washington ARF	80.03	-1.20	15
Coalfield ARF	78.69	-2.85	39
City Villages			
Albany & Blackfell	77.57	-4.23	2
Ashbrooke	91.64	+13.14	0
Ayton, Lambton & Oxclose	80.44	-0.69	0
Barmston & Columbia	71.79	-11.37	8
Barnes	110.00	+35.80	0
Burnside & Sunnyside	69.17	-14.60	3
Carley Hill	78.25	-3.40	1
Castletown & Hylton Castle	77.92	-3.80	4
Chilton Moor & Dubmire	72.13	-10.95	1
City Centre	115.20	+42.22	0
Concord, Sulgrave & Donwell	79.46	-1.90	2
Downhill & Redhouse	79.10	-2.35	4

Doxford	81.92	+1.14	2
Elstob Farm & QA Road	86.14	+6.35	0
Farringdon	74.42	-8.12	4
Fatfield & Mount Pleasant	88.27	+8.98	0
Fencehouses	74.07	-8.56	4
Ford & Pallion	70.19	-13.35	7
Fulwell & Seaburn Dene	92.70	+14.44	0
Grangetown	78.67	-2.88	2
Grindon & Hastings Hill	77.95	-3.77	1
Hall Farm & Chapelgarth	72.06	-11.04	0
Hendon	95.50	+17.90	1
Hetton	83.76	+3.41	6
Hetton Downs & Warden Law	78.80	-2.72	2
High Barnes	104.25	+28.70	0
Hillview	80.89	-0.14	0
Hollycarrside	79.28	-2.12	3
Houghton	77.58	-4.22	9
Humbledon & Plains Farm	77.38	-4.47	1
Marley Potts	60.50	-25.31	1
Middle & East Herrington	82.61	+1.99	6
Millfield	81.27	+0.33	2
Monkwearmouth	97.25	+20.06	0
Moorside	81.33	+0.41	0
Moorsley & Easington Lane	75.47	-6.83	8
New & West Herrington	93.92	+15.95	0
Newbottle	79.52	-1.83	0
Nookside	84.71	+4.58	0
Old Penshaw & Cox Green	86.33	+6.58	0
Pennywell	75.00	-7.41	5
Penshaw & Shiney Row	75.72	-6.52	5
Port & East End	82.07	+1.32	2
Rainton	84.58	+4.42	1
Rickleton & Harraton	78.46	-3.14	1
Roker	96.67	+19.35	0
Ryhope	87.59	+8.14	1
Seaburn & South Bents	82.06	+1.31	1
Silksworth	85.61	+5.69	2
South Hylton	84.40	+4.20	0
Southwick	80.43	-0.70	4
Springwell	91.56	+13.04	0
Springwell Village	80.29	-0.88	1
St Gabriel's	77.00	-4.94	0
St Peter's & North Haven	83.18	+2.69	0
Success	88.50	+9.26	0
Teal Farm & Low Barmston	81.67	+0.83	0
Thorney Close	78.04	-3.65	1
Thornhill	98.75	+21.91	0
Town End Farm	76.00	-6.17	0
Tunstall & Burdon	81.23	+0.28	2
Usworth	79.21	-2.21	0
Usworth Hall & Nissan	86.88	+7.26	0
Wash'ton Village, Glebe & Biddick	84.62	+4.47	1
Witherwack	80.22	-0.96	1
Total (65 City Villages)	80.95	0	112

Greenspace Audit 2012

Quality of Amenity Greenspace by Neighbourhood

Legend

- Very Low
- Low
- Below Average
- Above Average
- High
- Very High
- ARF Boundaries

Neighbourhoods: Washington, Sunderland North, Sunderland West, Sunderland East, Coalfield.

Scale: 0 750 1 500 3 000 meters

North Arrow: ↑

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- 9.20 In terms of City Villages, the following neighbourhoods score over 10% lower than the city average (classed as 'very low'):
- **North: Marley Potts.**
 - **West: Ford & Pallion**
 - **East: Hall Farm & Chapelgarth**
 - **Washington: Barmston & Columbia**
 - **Coalfield: Burnside & Sunnyside, Chilton Moor & Dubmire**
- 9.21 The following neighbourhoods scored between 5% and 10% lower than the city average (classed as 'low'):
- **North: Town End Farm.**
 - **West: Farrington, Pennywell**
 - **Coalfield: Fencehouses, Moorsley & Easington Lane, Penshaw & Shiney Row**
- 9.22 A total of 112 individual sites scoring more than 20% below the city average have been identified in 38 City Villages (see Appendix 7). Approximately 35% of these sites are in the Coalfield ARF.

ACTION: Review the 12 City Villages that scored 'low' or 'very low' for amenity greenspace quality, as well as the 112 individual sites that scored over 20% below the city average to identify potential possibilities for improvement.

Access

- 9.23 No specific access guideline is proposed for Sunderland, other than the quantity assessment identified above. The assessment of amenity greenspaces is deemed best considered on a neighbourhood basis rather than examining access to individual sites. The stance is backed by the fact that the city has identified more than 1300 sites with an amenity greenspace purpose, and any accessibility thresholds would be fairly meaningless. The quantity assessment will crucially identify those neighbourhoods where access is particularly poor.

10.0 Provision for children and young people

Provision for Children and Young People	Fixed, formal play equipment, but also including multi-use games areas (MUGA's) and dual use games areas (DUGA's).
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- 10.1 This section focuses on fixed play equipment, but also includes multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and dual use games areas (DUGAs).

Quantity, quality and accessibility

- 10.2 Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association, or NPFA) recommends a quantity standard for “children’s playing space” of 0.6-0.8ha per 1000 population. However, whilst this includes fixed play equipment, this also includes “casual play space within housing areas”. This standard is included in the UDP and more recently Sunderland’s Play and Urban Games Strategy 2007-2012 has endorsed it, though it is unclear exactly how “casual play space” could be defined.
- 10.3 National accessibility standards are also identified by Fields in Trust, and again endorsed by Sunderland’s Play & Urban Games Strategy. These guidelines also help to determine the quantity of provision across the city. Since Sunderland is determining provision of fixed play equipment separately from amenity greenspace, outdoor sports provision and natural greenspace, the original NPFA target (combining fixed and non-fixed play equipment) is not relevant to this study.
- 10.4 The national accessibility standards for fixed play equipment are as follows:

Type A standard	Local Area for Play (LAP) – 100 metres distance from home. Facilities for the Under 8’s
Type B standard	Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) – 400m distance from home
Type C standard	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) – 1000m distance from home Ages 8-14 years

- 10.5 Sunderland’s UDP referred to NEAP’s as “Satellite” play areas, but stated in Policy L6 that every child should live within 1 kilometre of such a facility. The Sunderland Play and Urban Games Strategy 2007-2012 reviewed the above local and national standards and has followed Fields in Trust’s Type A, B, and C standards.
- 10.6 The Sunderland Strategy 2008-25 also identified equipped play provision as a key milestone within the Healthy City priority:

“The percentage of children and young people aged between 0-19 yrs with access to high quality equipped play provision, 1km from their door, will increase from 15% to 55%”.

- 10.7 Through significant investment since 2007 this target has been exceeded. By March 2010, 70% of children and young people had access to high quality play.
- 10.8 UDP Policy L6 also suggested that local doorstep provision where practicable would be provided within pocket parks. However, it should be noted that since the policy creation, increasing challenges around community safety of hidden or poorly designed areas means that such small open spaces or pocket areas would not be prioritised or preferred as equipped sites. A number of doorstep fixed play sites have been removed over recent years. The areas generally remain important green play space. It is the City Council's intention to gradually phase-out all Type A standard sites and to focus on larger, higher quality sites that are more easily managed and maintained.
- 10.9 In addition to pursuing Type A, B and C standards, the City Council will also seek to create a minimum of one "wheeled" sports park (often referred to as skateparks) in each of the city's ARF's.

Accessibility standard for fixed play equipment:

Local Area for Play (LAP) – 100 metres catchment. Facilities for Under 8's

Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) – 400m catchment

Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) – 1km catchment. Ages 8-14

City-wide standard – minimum 1 wheeled sports park within each ARF

Results

- 10.10 The Greenspace Audit has identified 100 outdoor fixed play facilities across the city. Two further facilities lie adjacent to the city boundary, at Cornthwaite Park, Whitburn and in Woodstone Village.
- 10.11 The Sunderland Play & Urban Games Strategy was instrumental in acquiring play pathfinder funding for outdoor children's playspace. The Greenspace Audit now indicates that 89% of children and young people (aged 5-16 years) have access to high quality play. The ultimate aim is for 100% accessibility. The following map identifies play areas and agreed catchment distances, which take into account the quality and size of the playspace. The map includes small 'doorstep' play sites (with 100m catchments) that are gradually being removed from the city (their removal would have a negligible effect on the above access figure).

Greenspace audit 2012 Fixed play areas

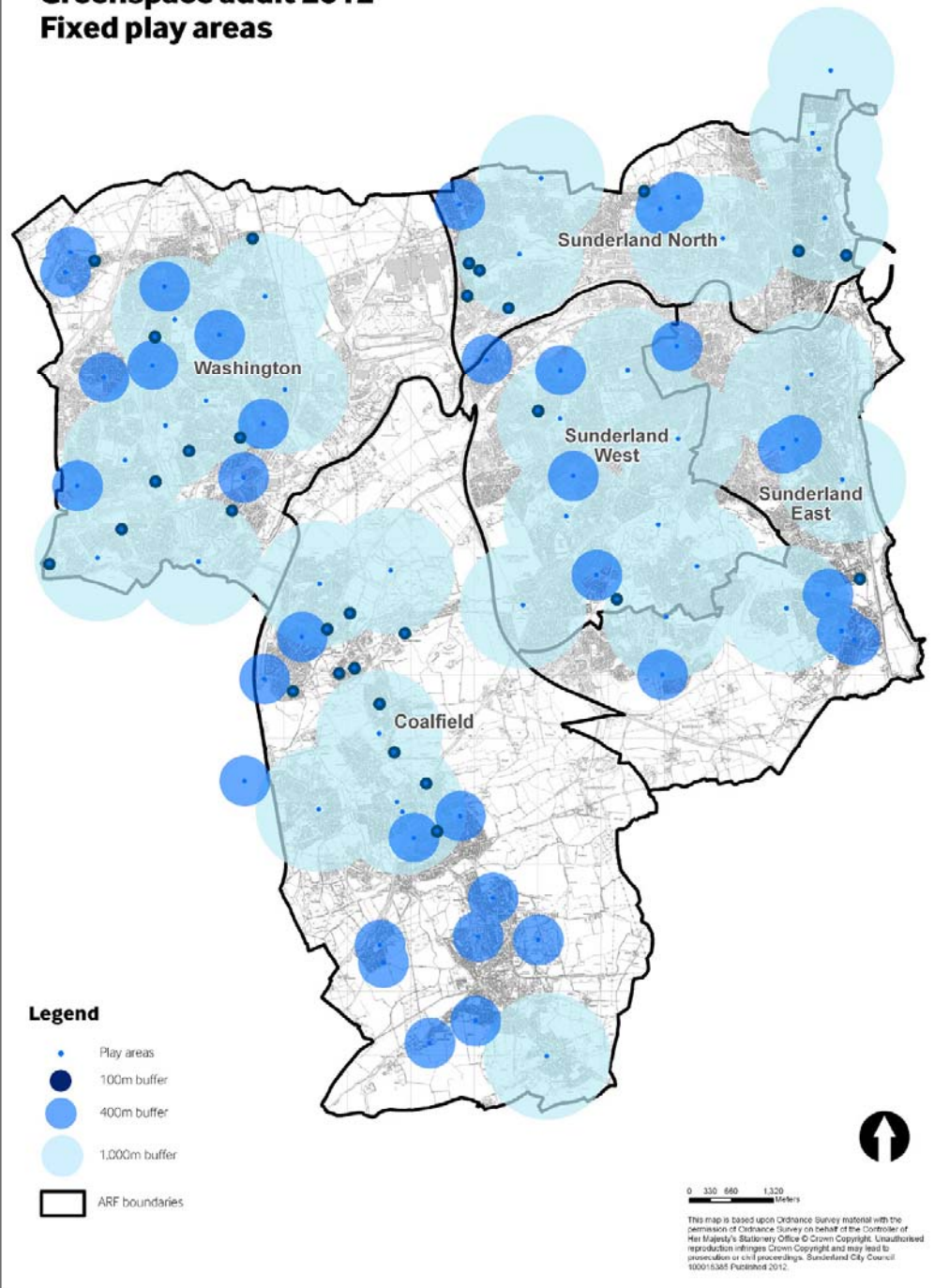


Table 11: Play area provision by ARF and City Village

ARF's	Pop'n	Access %	ARF's	Pop'n	Access %
Total	281,654	89.0			
Sunderland North	56,954	86.7	Sunderland West	67,126	92.7
Sunderland East	53,468	83.6	Washington	56,978	94.1
Coalfield	47,128	86.2			

City Village					
Albany & Blackfell	7121	96.5	Ashbrooke	4654	98.5
Ayton, Lambton & Oxclose	8927	100.0	Barmston & Columbia	5836	97.6
Barnes	7663	99.4	Burnside & Sunnyside	1080	100.0
Carley Hill	1631	100.0	Castletown & Hylton Castle	8669	96.9
Chilton Moor & Dubmire	1929	100.0	City Centre	3185	100.0
Concord, Sulgrave & Donwell	10108	98.5	Downhill & Redhouse	9174	74.8
Doxford	1991	100.0	Elstob Farm & QA Road	2899	63.0
Farringdon	5579	97.2	Fatfield & Mount Pleasant	4675	78.8
Fencehouses	2952	100.0	Ford & Pallion	9064	100.0
Fulwell & Seaburn Dene	7470	68.7	Grangetown	4424	95.4
Grindon & Hastings Hill	6142	69.1	Hall Farm & Chapelgarth	3160	81.1
Hendon	4205	100.0	Hetton	4756	43.3
Hetton Downs & Warden Law	2940	82.3	High Barnes	2962	100.0
Hillview	3472	31.5	Hollycarrside	3142	83.7
Houghton	9954	87.2	Humbledon & Plains Farm	5799	100.0
Marley Potts	1252	100.0	Middle & East Herrington	4173	100.0
Millfield	7593	61.6	Monkwearmouth	2952	96.7
Moorside	1557	16.7	Moorsley & Easington Lane	5076	95.1
New & West Herrington	1723	65.8	Newbottle	3149	99.5
Nookside	1536	100.0	Old Penshaw & Cox Green	1467	97.9
Pennywell	5831	89.8	Penshaw & Shiney Row	8842	87.1
Port & East End	1248	100.0	Rainton	1515	84.3
Rickleton & Harraton	5784	100.0	Roker	7591	89.8
Ryhope	5459	93.0	Seaburn & South Bents	4349	97.8
Silksworth	7618	99.9	South Hylton	3302	57.2
Southwick	4574	100.0	Springwell	1561	88.8
Springwell Village	1465	89.2	St Gabriel's	1558	100.0
St Peter's & North Haven	3100	59.7	Success	1745	74.4
Teal Farm & Low Barmston	1850	98.4	Thorney Close	4338	100.0
Thornhill	3349	97.2	Town End Farm	4710	95.6
Tunstall & Burdon	3130	98.9	Usworth	2911	29.5
Usworth Hall & Nissan	1513	78.0	Wash'ton Village, Glebe & Biddick	6788	100.0
Witherwack	1482	58.6			

10.12 The main gaps in provision are in the following ARF's, City Villages and localities:

- **Sunderland North: Fulwell & Seaburn, Redhouse, St Peters**
- **Sunderland West: South Hylton, west Pennywell and Hastings Hill**

- **Sunderland East: Moorside, Millfield, Queen Alexandra Road, Hillview, and Hollycarrside**
- **Washington: Usworth**
- **Coalfield: Success/Philadelphia, Gillas Lane, Hetton and West Herrington.**

10.13 There are wheeled sports parks in 4 out of 5 ARF's. There is no provision in Sunderland East.

ACTION: Direct future investment towards the accessibility gaps identified. This can be either through provision of new play facilities, or where appropriate, enhancement of an existing facility that would feasibly serve a wider catchment area.

ACTION: Create a new wheeled sports park in Sunderland East ARF.

11.0 Natural and semi-natural greenspace

Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Natural habitats including woodland, grassland, wetland, heathland, geological, coast and estuarine areas.
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- 11.1 Natural England acts as the Government's wildlife and conservation advisor. Its definition of 'accessible natural greenspace' is:

"...not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate"
"Nature Nearby" April 2010

This provides a succinct, if general definition. It does not attempt to list what types of 'places' this would include, however. Table 3 (Chapter 3) provides Sunderland's full definition, which is based on Natural England's 2008 report "Access to Natural Greenspace Standards Plus", or ANGSt Plus, and has been altered to suit local circumstances. This definition also enables a quality template to be applied to all natural greenspace sites.

- 11.2 A total of **301 sites** have been assessed as providing natural greenspace (primary purpose or otherwise), with **2,027 hectares** identified. Some of these sites are also counted towards other greenspace types (so there is some duplication), though it is nevertheless accurate to report that 50% of the city's greenspace is natural or semi-natural. Some 1,454 hectares are classed as primary purpose natural greenspace. The full list includes unmanaged backland sites, industrial estate shelter belts and other semi-wild or neglected land that technically is classed as greenspace.
- 11.3 Many of these sites have little current 'value' to local people, often being without access and having very limited wildlife diversity. Accessibility profiles therefore make a distinction relating to 'high' or 'low' site quality, and also consider site accessibility.

Quantity and quality

- 11.4 All sites have been assessed and categorised in terms of being "high" or "low" quality, using Sunderland's natural greenspace definition template, as well as advice from the City Council's Countryside Team and Durham Wildlife Trust. This allows a joint quantity and quality guideline to be created for the city that can be applied to both City Villages and ARF's.
- 11.5 A total of 135 sites covering 1,410 hectares are classed as high quality natural greenspace. This figure includes an estimate of the amount of natural greenspace that may occur in each site area. The overall total equates to 5.00 hectares per 1000 population. The focus would be to improve access to high quality sites in areas of current deficiency, options being to provide new sites or to improve existing low quality sites up to the required guideline. There would, however, be some overlap with the role of this guideline with the ANGSt accessibility standards outlined below.

- 11.6 A further standard that could be applied to Sunderland's sites is the Civic Trust Green Flag Award- the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. It is a voluntary scheme, aimed at creating a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas. To date, Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve is the only specific natural greenspace site in Sunderland with a Green Flag award. Green Flag awards could be a further quality standard adopted in Sunderland, though the scheme involves a cost in submitting applications, as well as future investment commitments in order to keep facilities at that standard.

Results

- 11.7 The 135 'high quality and accessible' sites provide the following distribution at ARF and City Village, below:

Table 12: High quality and accessible natural greenspace distribution

ARF's	Total area (hectares)	Population	Natural greenspace / 1000 population
Sunderland North ARF	197.29	56,954	3.46
Sunderland West ARF	192.18	67,126	2.86
Sunderland East ARF	207.05	53,468	3.87
Washington ARF	262.31	56,978	4.60
Coalfield ARF	551.39	47,128	11.70
City Village			
Albany & Blackfell	0	7121	0
Ashbrooke	13.55	4654	2.91
Ayton, Lambton & Oxclose	9.26	8927	1.04
Barmston & Columbia	4.00	5836	0.69
Barnes	17.14	7663	2.24
Burnside & Sunnyside	0	1080	0
Carley Hill	0	1631	0
Castletown & Hylton Castle	73.23	8669	8.45
Chilton Moor & Dubmire	0.91	1929	0.47
City Centre	7.28	3185	2.29
Concord, Sulgrave & Donwell	0	10108	0
Downhill & Redhouse	11.00	9174	1.20
Doxford	10.55	1991	5.30
Elstob Farm & QA Road	0	2899	0
Farringdon	20.00	5579	3.58
Fatfield & Mount Pleasant	47.67	4675	10.20
Fencehouses	0	2952	0
Ford & Pallion	0	9064	0
Fulwell & Seaburn Dene	20.00	7470	2.68
Grangetown	14.40	4424	3.25
Grindon & Hastings Hill	28.90	6142	4.71
Hall Farm & Chapelgarth	11.70	3160	3.70
Hendon	14.91	4205	3.55
Hetton	68.20	4756	14.34
Hetton Downs & Warden Law	29.56	2940	10.05
High Barnes	33.82	2962	11.42
Hillview	0	3472	0
Hollycarrside	2.41	3142	0.77
Houghton	32.06	9954	3.22

Humbledon & Plains Farm	0	5799	0
Marley Potts	0	1252	0
Middle & East Herrington	8.86	4173	2.12
Millfield	0	7593	0
Monkwearmouth	9.27	2952	3.14
Moorside	2.57	1557	1.65
Moorsley & Easington Lane	87.84	5076	17.30
New & West Herrington	96.12	1723	55.79
Newbottle	27.57	3149	8.76
Nookside	0	1536	0
Old Penshaw & Cox Green	85.99	1467	58.62
Pennywell	11.75	5831	2.02
Penshaw & Shiney Row	4.08	8842	0.46
Port & East End	4.84	1248	3.88
Rainton	116.49	1515	76.89
Rickleton & Harraton	32.18	5784	5.56
Roker	23.05	7591	3.04
Ryhope	33.35	5459	6.11
Seaburn & South Bents	48.10	4349	11.06
Silksworth	31.38	7618	4.12
South Hylton	26.87	3302	8.14
Southwick	0	4574	0
Springwell	13.46	1561	8.62
Springwell Village	12.07	1465	8.24
St Gabriel's	0	1558	0
St Peter's & North Haven	7.59	3100	2.45
Success	2.57	1745	1.47
Teal Farm & Low Barmston	82.80	1850	44.76
Thorney Close	0	4338	0
Thornhill	0	3349	0
Town End Farm	5.05	4710	1.07
Tunstall & Burdon	91.49	3130	29.23
Usworth	0	2911	0
Usworth Hall & Nissan	24.67	1513	16.31
Wash'ton Village, Glebe & Biddick	49.66	6788	7.32
Witherwack	0	1482	0
Total (65 City Villages)	1,410.22	281,654	5.00

11.8 The above results are clearly skewed by the rural parts of the city, where large country parks, nature reserves and woodland areas provide many hundred's of hectares of natural and semi-natural greenspace. The most rural ARF- Coalfield- provides nearly 40% of all high quality natural greenspace. These results also fail to take into account natural greenspace sites that may lie just outside the City Village boundaries, but would still be highly accessible to some or all of the neighbourhood's residents. For example, Tunstall Hills provides access for neighbouring Hillview.

11.9 It is therefore unrealistic to seek all areas to match the current city average in natural greenspace- 5.00 hectares per 1000 population. Sunderland's adaptation of Natural England's ANGST accessibility criteria allows for more appropriate and comprehensive analysis.

ANGST accessibility standards

11.10 Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where

people live. These standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres 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 Reserve per thousand population.

11.11 The ANGST criteria can be used to identify where shortfalls in quantity and quality of provision can be addressed. This report has already defined a quality standard for natural and semi-natural greenspace, which enables the above access thresholds to be mapped out correctly. Many other local authorities have adopted (or are proposing to adopt) the ANGST approach and it is recommended that Sunderland also adopts ANGST to enable comparisons to be made with other parts of the country.

Recommended adoption of ANGST standards to provide accessibility standards for Natural and Semi-Natural greenspace:

An accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres from homes

At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of homes

One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of homes

One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of homes

One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserve per thousand population.

11.12 It is also recommended that the city should seek to achieve at least one Local Nature Reserve in each of the 5 Area Regeneration Frameworks (ARF's).

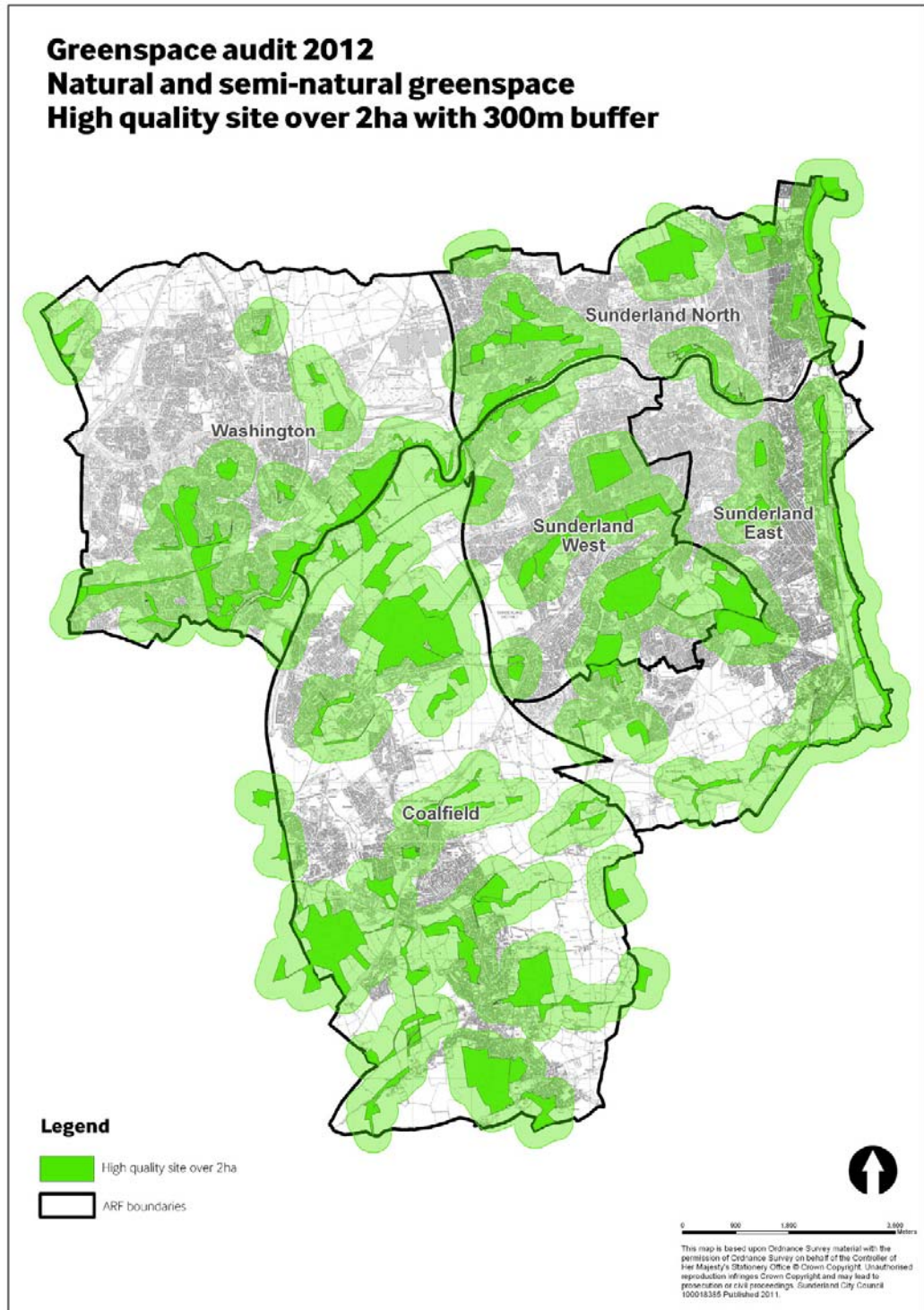
Further recommended accessibility target:

To provide at least 1 Local Nature Reserve in each of the 5 ARF's

Results

11.13 **ANGST standard No.1: an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres from home**

Approximately 135,000 residents live within this threshold, or about 48% of the city population.



11.14 In terms of City Villages and localities, the following neighbourhoods are classed as having 'low' or 'very low' provision:

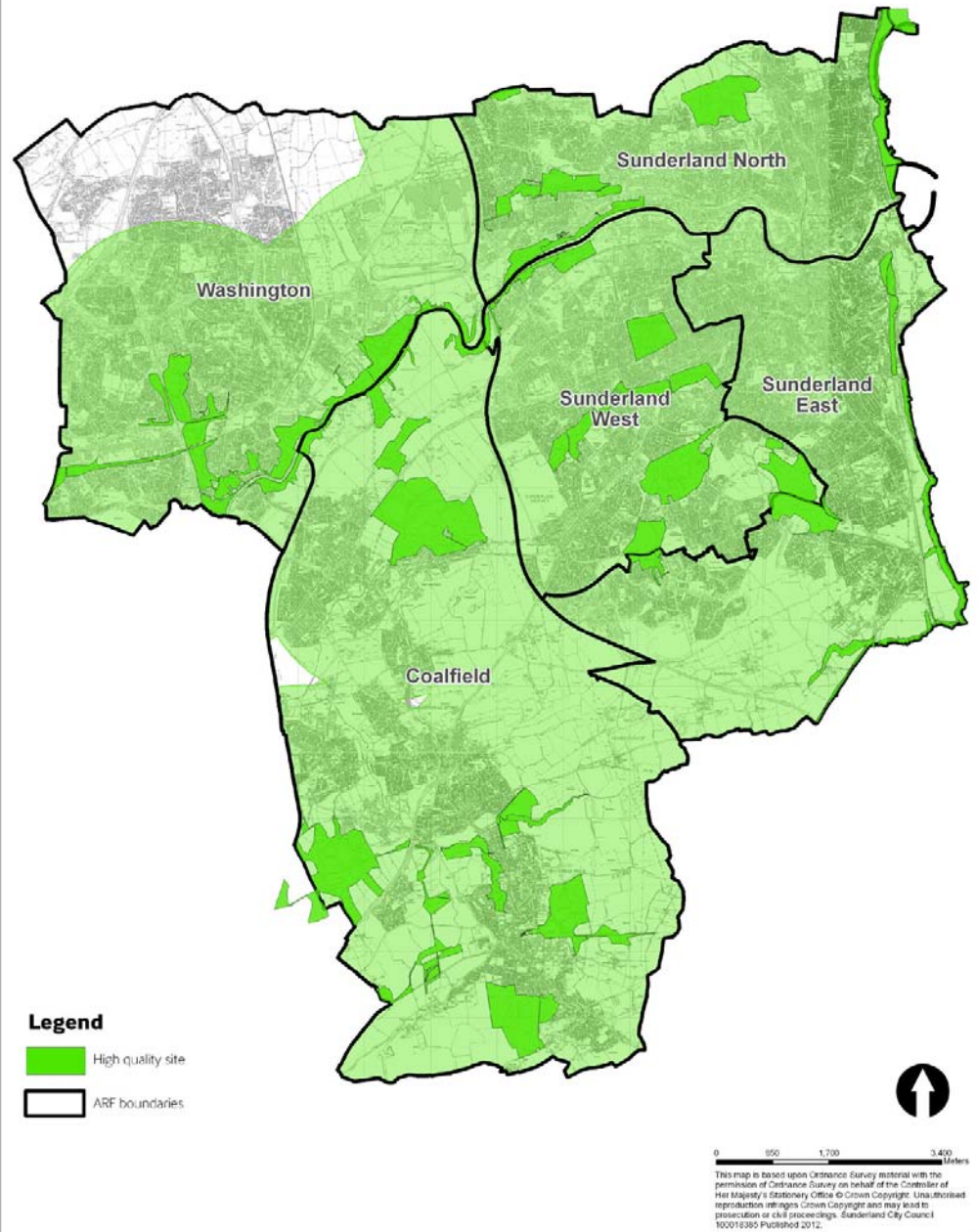
- **North: Marley Potts, Redhouse, Newcastle Road**
- **West: Nookside, Ford & Pallion, Hastings Hill**
- **East: Millfield, Thornhill, Hendon, Grangetown, Hollycarrside and Doxford**
- **Washington: Usworth, Concord, Sulgrave & Donwell, Albany & Blackfell, Barmston, Oxclose and Ayton**
- **Coalfield: Newbottle, Burnside & Sunnyside, Chilton Moor & Dubmire.**

11.15 *ANGST standard No.2: at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home*

There are numerous high quality natural greenspaces of at least 20 hectares within the city, and 95% of the city population live within this threshold. 'Low' or 'very low' provision is restricted to north Washington only:

- **Washington: Springwell Village, Usworth, Usworth Hall, Sulgrave & Donwell.**
- **A minor area north of Fencehouses exists, but will be catered for once Elba Park becomes more established.**

Greenspace audit 2012
Natural and semi-natural greenspace
High quality site (over 20 Ha) with 2km buffer



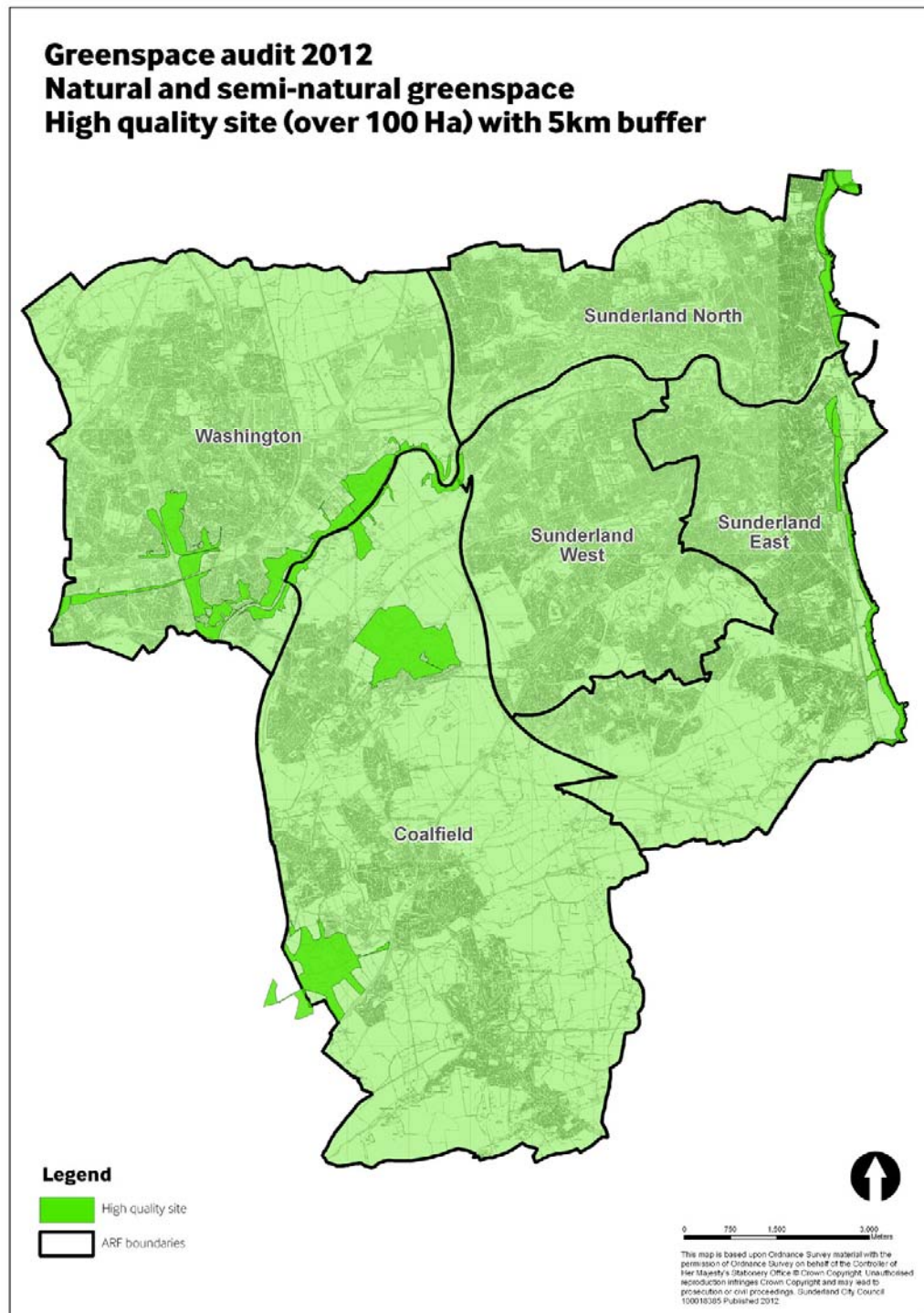
11.16 ANGST standard No.3: one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home

There are four cumulative greenspaces of at least 100 hectares in size. The four are:

- Most of Sunderland's coast forms part of the Durham Heritage Coast as well as part of the European-protected Northumbrian Coast SPA and Durham Coast SAC. This site is considered collectively to be over 500 hectares in size

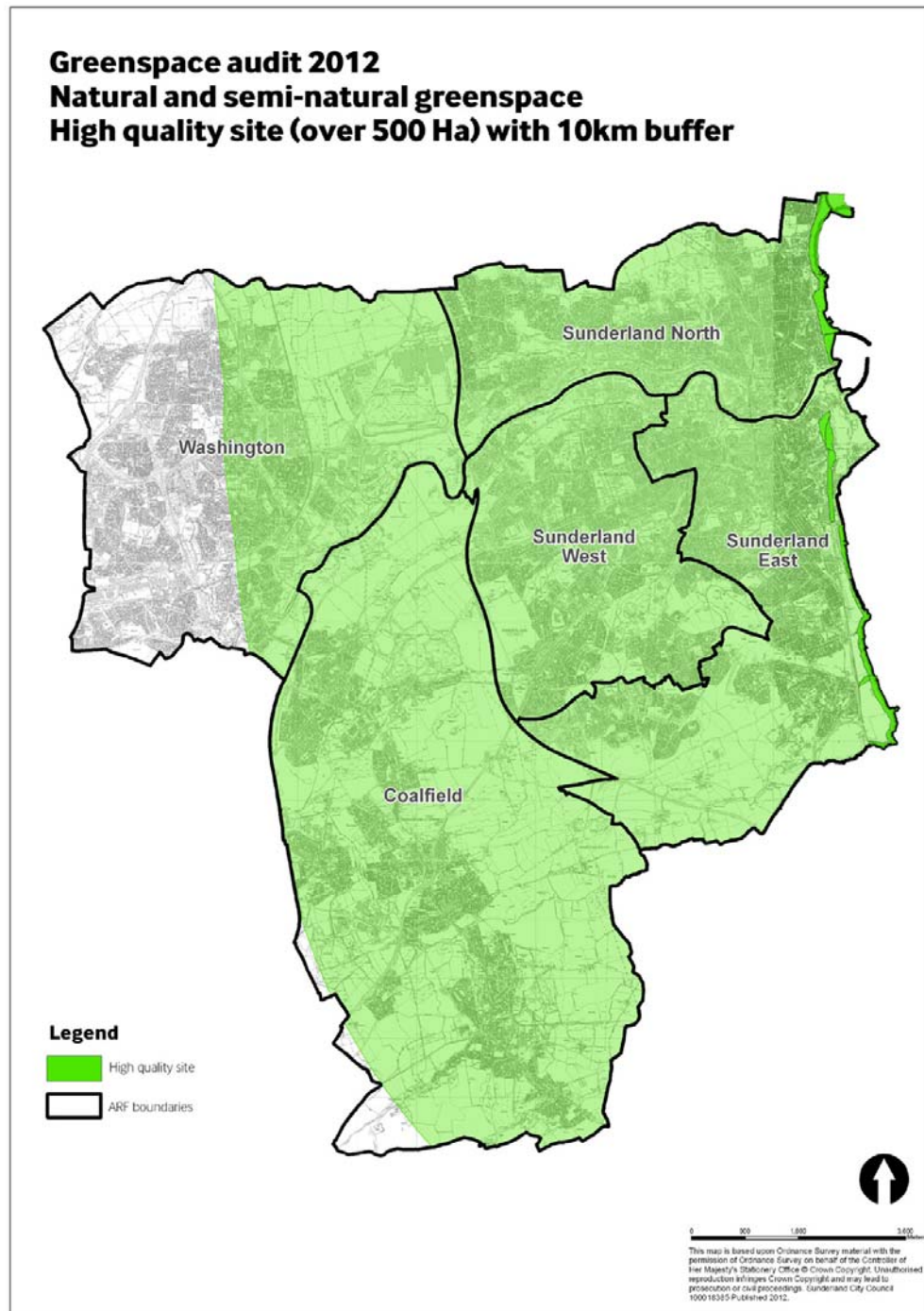
- Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve
- Herrington Country Park
- The River Wear valley, which consists of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, Washington Wildfowl & Wetlands Centre, James Steel Park and Princess Anne Park.

Together, they ensure that 100% of the city satisfies this ANGST standard.



11.17 ANGST standard No.4: one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home

The Durham Heritage Coast collectively provides a 500+ hectare site, which covers most of the city, except for the west of Washington. The nearest site to the west of Sunderland is the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The best option to enable full coverage here may be to develop high quality strategic green infrastructure corridors that, for example, could include the Green Belt land between Sunderland and South Tyneside or Sunderland and Houghton, together with the open countryside westwards towards Chester-le-Street and Durham City.



ACTION: Consider improvements to all areas with limited access to natural greenspace. Focus on ‘low’ or ‘very low’ scoring areas (identified above) to improve existing low quality natural greenspace sites, or other greenspaces, in order to attain the 4 ANGST accessibility standards.

11.18 ANGST standard No.5: one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserve per thousand population

Sunderland has 5 Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) totalling 132.18 hectares, which equates to 0.47ha/1000 population. These are:

- Fulwell Quarry, Sunderland North ARF
- Hylton Dene, Sunderland North ARF
- Barmston Pond, Washington ARF
- Tunstall Hills and Ryhope Cutting, Sunderland East & West ARF's
- Hetton Bogs, Coalfield ARF.

There are 2 further LNR's proposed at Rainton Meadows and Hetton Lyons Country Park. Once achieved, this would achieve the ANGST accessibility target of 1.0 hectare per 1000 population.

- 11.19 In terms of distribution, LNR's would be located in 4 out of 5 ARF's, with only one site (Tunstall Hills) effectively providing for both Sunderland West and East.

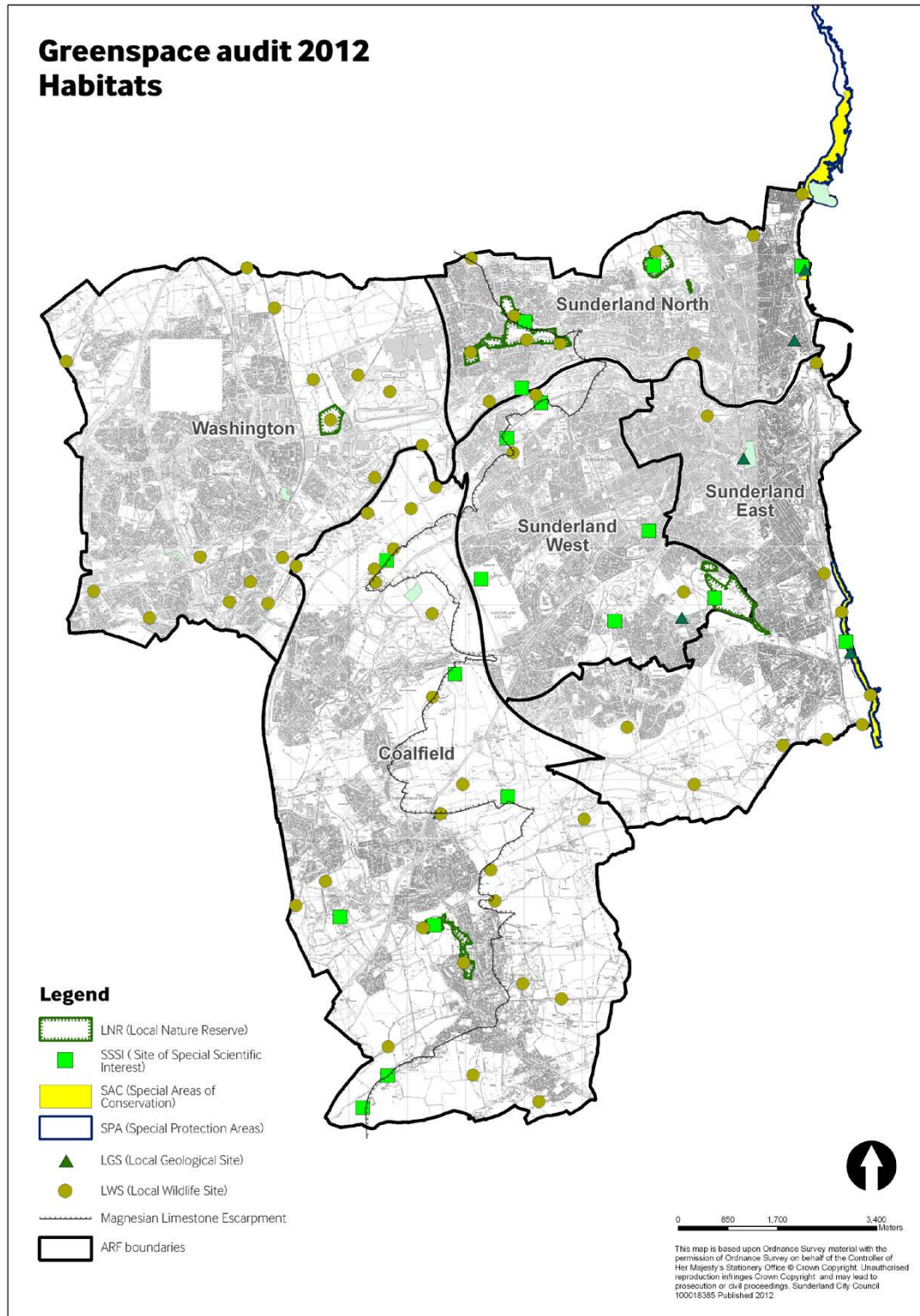
ACTION: Consider natural greenspace options in Sunderland West/East for a further site to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

- 11.20 A further indicator of quality can be gleaned by the amount of sites (and hectares of land) formally protected for biodiversity or geodiversity. The draft 2012 Sunderland Ecological Evidence Base Report confirms that the city has the following:

Table 13: Protected sites

Protection	Number of Sites	Hectares
SPA/RAMSAR	1 site	Total area 1107.98 ha Area in Sunderland 31.69 ha
SAC	1 site	Total area is 393.63 ha Area in Sunderland is 36.17 ha
SSSI	17 sites at present (1 additional site at Eppleton Railway Line proposed for designation)	106.42 ha digitised area 105.26 ha citation size
LNR	5 sites	144.25 ha digitised area 132.18 ha citation area
LWS	61 sites	441.17 ha
Proposed LWS	17 sites	86.36 ha
LGS	6 sites	58.27ha
Total	108 sites	

- 11.21 The report states that the city has a high number of protected sites, largely due to the presence of Magnesian Limestone as well as the coast and River Wear. However, the average size of site is much smaller in Sunderland as opposed to the UK, and this negatively impacts on long term habitat viability as well as limiting opportunities for wildlife to move locations in times of climate fluctuations or human impact.



Woodland accessibility standards

- 11.22 In addition to ANGST standards, there are also national standards relating specifically to woodland. The Woodland Trust proposes two accessibility standards using distance thresholds:
- At least one accessible 2 hectare site within 500 metres of homes
 - At least one accessible 20 hectare site within 4 kilometres of homes
- 11.23 Since it is the intention of the City Council to increase tree cover across the city, it is recommended that these two further accessibility criteria are included alongside the ANGST thresholds above.

<p>Recommended adoption of Woodland Trust accessibility standards for woodland:</p>
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<p>At least one accessible 20 hectare site within 4 kilometres of homes</p>
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<p>At least one accessible 2 hectare site within 500 metres of homes</p>

Results

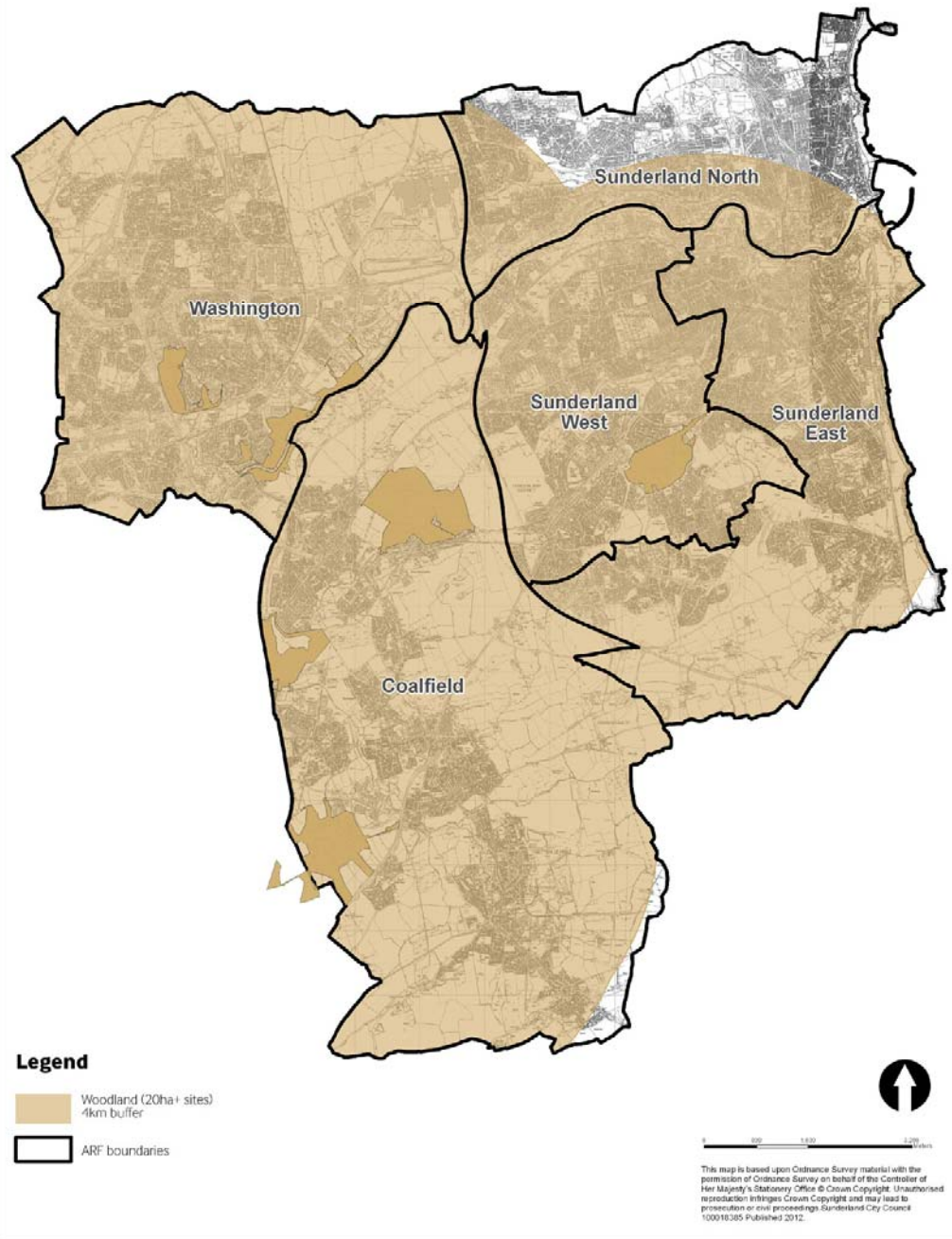
- 11.24 In terms of woodland, the Greenspace Audit has identified a total of 1,381 sites in Sunderland that contain trees, including, on the one hand, open spaces with a few saplings, to ancient semi-natural woodland on the other. The estimated total area for these sites is 1,062 hectares, which equates to approximately 7.60% of the city area.
- 11.25 The Woodland Trust's two benchmark indicators work out as follows:

Woodland indicator 1: At least one accessible 20 hectare site within 4 kilometres of homes

Six sites have been identified within the city that contain more than 20 hectares of woodland. They are as follows:

- Herrington Country Park (approximately 39 hectares of woodland)
- Elba Park (c.38 hectares)
- Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve (c. 32 hectares)
- Silksworth Sports Complex (c. 25 hectares)
- James Steel Park- Pattinson South Pond, Mount Pleasant- (c.24 hectares)
- Princess Anne Park- north end- (c.23 hectares).

Greenspace audit 2012 Woodland (20ha+ sites with buffers)

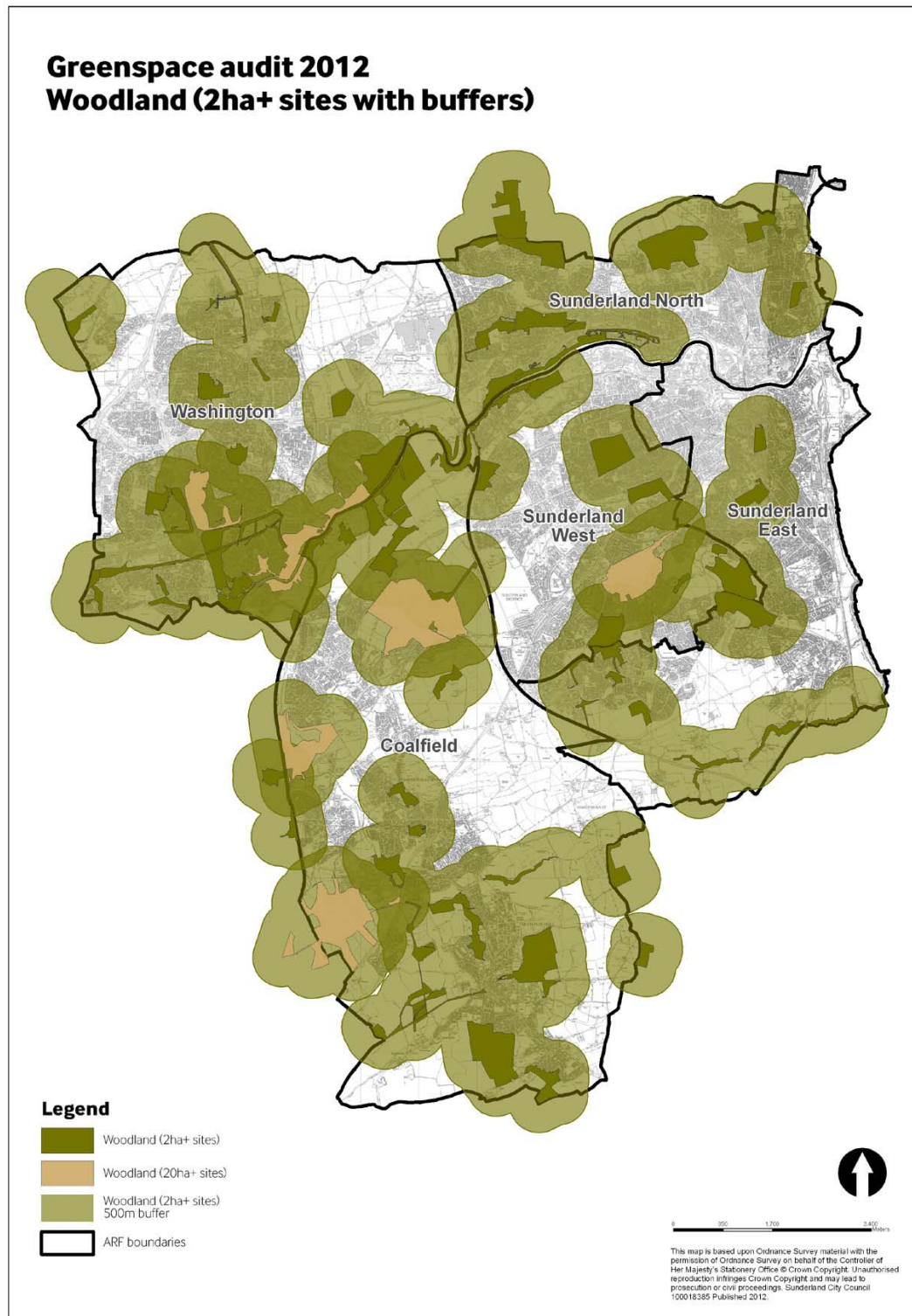


11.26 Using a 4 kilometre threshold, these six sites serve over 90% of the city population.

- **The remaining area outside of the threshold is the north part of Sunderland North ARF.** Fulwell Quarries, Downhill Sports Complex and Hylton Dene are the largest nearby sites that, within increased tree cover, could achieve this threshold in the North ARF.

11.27 Woodland indicator 2: At least one accessible 2 hectare site within 500 metres of homes

There are 80 accessible woodland sites within the city or adjacent to the city boundary covering 513 hectares, and providing access for approximately 66% of the city population. There are a further 35 existing sites (168 hectares) that have limited or no access, but with improvement and agreement of landowners could provide woodland access to residents.

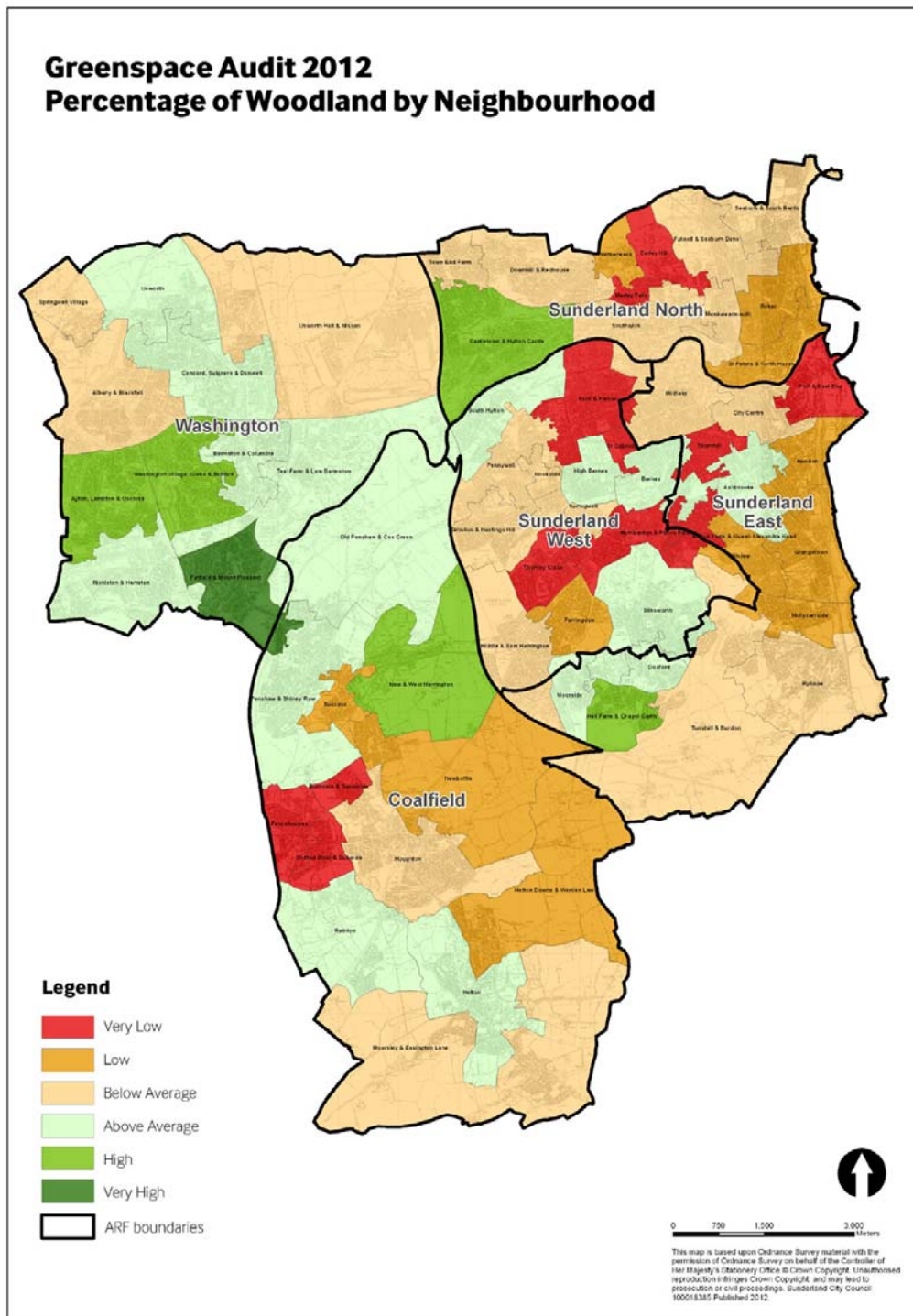


- 11.28 There are notable large gaps in provision in each of the 5 ARF's. At a City Village and neighbourhood level, the areas currently outside of the 2 hectare threshold are as follows:
- **North: Town End Farm (south), Redhouse (east), Newcastle Road, South Bents, St Peter's**
 - **West: Pallion, Pennywell, Grindon, Hastings Hill, Nookside, Springwell, Thorney Close, Middle Herrington**
 - **East: Doxford, Ryhope, Hollycarrside, Grangetown, Hendon, East End, Thornhill, Millfield**
 - **Washington: Springwell Village (east), Donwell, Blackfell, Albany (west), Oxclose, Ayton, Barmston, Columbia**
 - **Coalfield: Shiney Row, Success, Newbottle, Dubmire, Racecourse Estate.**
- 11.29 In terms of general woodland cover, there is considerable variance within the ARF's and City Villages. The woodland figures below do not include trees or woodland in private gardens, within highways or field boundaries and should only be used as a general guide.

Table 14: Percentage of woodland by area

	% area covered by woodland	ARF	% area covered by woodland
England	7.97 (2009, Woodland Trust)		
North East England	12.04 (2009, Woodland Trust)		
City Total	7.60		
ARF			
Sunderland North	6.23	Sunderland West	5.64
Sunderland East	5.51	Washington	10.88
Coalfield	7.60		
City Village		City Village	
Albany & Blackfell	6.39	Ashbrooke	7.82
Ayton, Lambton & Oxclose	17.97	Barmston & Columbia	10.51
Barnes	10.59	Burnside & Sunnyside	0.13
Carley Hill	1.26	Castletown & Hylton Castle	15.06
Chilton Moor & Dubmire	0.53	City Centre	4.61
Concord, Sulgrave & Donw'll	8.95	Downhill & Redhouse	4.77
Doxford	11.71	Elstob Farm & QA Road	0.94
Farrington	2.85	Fatfield & Mount Pleasant	38.16
Fencehouses	1.46	Ford & Pallion	1.23
Fulwell & Seaburn Dene	4.16	Grangetown	1.84
Grindon & Hastings Hill	3.97	Hall Farm & Chapel Garth	18.14
Hendon	2.38	Hetton	12.98
Hetton Dns & Warden Law	2.84	High Barnes	12.65
Hillview	1.82	Hollycarrside	3.39
Houghton	6.56	Humbledon & Plains Farm	0.77
Marley Potts	0.07	Middle & East Herrington	5.60
Millfield	4.22	Monkwearmouth	4.03
Moorside	11.16	Moorsley & Easington Lane	4.88
New & West Herrington	15.21	Newbottle	2.27
Nookside	5.23	Old Penshaw & Cox Green	10.15
Pennywell	5.46	Penshaw & Shiney Row	11.38
Port & East End	0.46	Rainton	14.68

Rickleton & Harraton	13.30	Roker	3.48
Ryhope	3.51	Seaburn & South Bents	4.43
Silksworth	11.91	South Hylton	7.88
Southwick	6.28	Springwell	4.31
Springwell Village	5.60	St Gabriel's	0.14
St Peters & North Haven	2.77	Success	2.16
Teal Farm & Low Barmston	8.91	Thorney Close	1.50
Thornhill	0.98	Town End Farm	4.68
Tunstall & Burdon	6.39	Usworth	10.96
Usworth Hall & Nissan	4.47	Wash. Vill, Glebe & Biddick	15.14
Witherwack	3.31		



11.30 The leafiest ARF is Washington with over 40% more woodland cover than the city average, reflecting the nature of the New Town, laid out with extensive shelter belts around most villages, and also incorporating part of the River Wear valley. Coalfield ARF matches the city average, while the 3 Sunderland ARF's fall below the average. Other strong performing areas tend to be located around the urban fringe or beside major parks, or major colliery reclamation sites such as at Silksworth, Ryhope, Herrington, Lambton and Rainton Meadows (Rye Hill). Within the remainder of the ARF's, there are a number of areas with few trees.

11.31 Areas of 'very low' (1.5% and under) tree cover:

- **Sunderland North: Carley Hill, Marley Potts**
- **Sunderland West: Ford & Pallion, Humbledon & Plains Farm, St Gabriel's, Thorney Close**
- **Sunderland East: Elstob Farm & QA Road, Port & East End, Thornhill**
- **Washington: none**
- **Coalfield: Burnside & Sunnyside, Chilton Moor & Dubmire, Fencehouses.**

11.32 Areas of 'low' (1.51%-3.50%) tree cover:

- **Sunderland North: Roker, St Peters & North Haven, Witherwack**
- **Sunderland West: Farrington,**
- **Sunderland East: Grangetown, Hendon, Hillview, Hollycarrside,**
- **Washington: none**
- **Coalfield: Hetton Downs & Warden Law, Newbottle, Success.**

ACTION: Investigate options for increased tree cover in the identified deficiency areas. Consider opening-up access to existing sites with limited accessibility.

ACTION: Investigate options for increased tree cover in general in City Villages with 'low' or 'very low' tree cover.

12.0 Formal Parks and Country Parks

Formal Parks and Country Parks	District, local, city parks and country parks.
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- 12.1 Formal parkland is defined as being designed, organised and accessible greenspace that provides high quality opportunities for informal recreation and/or community events. Country Parks tend to be larger in size, providing easy access for countryside recreation (such as walking, horse riding and cycling) in a managed environment.
- 12.2 There are 42 Formal Parks and Country Parks in the city, totalling 717 hectares and ranging from 131 hectares to just 0.12 hectares. This equates to 2.55 hectares of parkland per 1000 population.
- 12.3 There are no national standards for Parks provision. The Unitary Development Plan (1998) adopted a hierarchy of provision, endorsing recommendations made in the city's 1994 Open Space Recreation Report, which closely followed guidelines set out by Fields in Trust. The hierarchy took its lead from a model used by the Greater London Development Plan (a model that CABI further endorsed in 2009). The UDP policy is as follows:
- “Policy L5: The Council will seek to ensure that public parks and amenity open spaces are available to the public so that within:
- 2.5km of every dwelling there is a District open Space of approximately 30 hectares or more
 - 1.0km of every dwelling there is a Local Park of approximately 10 hectares or more
 - 0.5km of every dwelling there is a Neighbourhood Park or amenity open space of approximately 2 hectares or more; and
 - Where appropriate (including within new housing estates) “pocket” parks will be developed on other smaller sites”.
- 12.4 The above policy has not had a direct impact on the provision of parks in Sunderland. Any new provision (such as the creation of Herrington Country Park) has occurred out of circumstance- the opportunity to reclaim derelict land and create new parkland, for example- rather than addressing a known facility deficiency in a particular area, or direct attempt to improve upon the hierarchy outlined above. Perhaps more importantly (and rightly, judging by the quantity of parks on offer already) the City Council's emphasis has been on improving the quality of the city's parkland facilities.
- 12.5 To address access deficiency in future years, further quality improvements to existing parks are needed, and consideration given to the upgrading of key greenspaces so that they provide formal parkland for neighbourhoods currently without park access.

Quantity and accessibility

- 12.6 The UDP identified large District or Metropolitan Parks with catchments in excess of 2.5km. These are clearly parks with a wider regional or sub-regional remit. However, whilst these have strategic importance, the use of such a large catchment radius to measure local access can mask local neighbourhood needs. It is unreasonable, for example, to expect children and young people to be able to travel 2 kilometres to reach their nearest park facility. It is therefore recommended that a simplified three-tier approach is adopted. This approach reflects the quality and range of functions and facilities on offer.

All residents in the city should have access to at least one of the following:

Green Flag Parks and 'established' Country Parks of over 50 hectares: 1 kilometre radius

All Local Parks (as identified by the Parks definition) over 1 hectare in size: 700 metre radius

Pocket Parks (as identified by the Parks definition) under 1 hectare in size: 350 metre radius.

Quality

- 12.7 The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme began in 1996 as a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country. It was also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve the same high environmental standards, creating a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas.
- 12.8 Five parks in the city have Green Flag status; these being Roker Park, Herrington Country Park, Rainton Meadows, Barnes Park and Mowbray Park. It is a set target within the Sunderland Parks Management Strategy (2004) to aim for at least one park in each area regeneration framework boundary as having Green Flag status in the coming years.
- 12.9 The Greenspace Audit provides a quality score for all sites.
- In terms of the 32 Local Parks (including Green Flag) the scoring ranged from 85-228 points, and the median score was 130 points.
 - In terms of 5 Pocket Parks the scoring ranged from 100-120 points, and the median score was 114 points.
- It is proposed that these two median scores could be used as benchmarks for all Local and Pocket Parks respectively.

Recommended quality guideline for Formal Parks and Country Parks:

To have at least one park in each Area Regeneration Framework boundary to have Green Flag status

130 points for Local Parks

114 points for Pocket Parks

Consider prioritising improvements to poor quality sites on an individual basis and also from a settlement perspective

12.10 *Results*

The 42 Formal Parks and Country Parks are as follows:

Table 15: Formal Parks and Country Parks in Sunderland

North Sunderland:	4 separate sites	
Thompson Park	Roker Park	Hylton Dene Park
Billy Hardy Sports Complex		
West Sunderland	9 separate sites	
King George V Park	Barnes Park	Barnes Park Extension, Tay Road
Barnes Park Extension Springwell Road	Barnes Park Extension, Ettrick Grove	Barnes Park Extension, Grindon Lane
Herrington Park, Middle Herrington	Thorndale Park	Silksworth Welfare Park
East Sunderland	8 separate sites	
Mowbray Park	Town Park	Diamond Hall Pocket Park
Burn Park	Barley Mow Park	Ryhope Recreation (Welfare) Park
Backhouse Park	Doxford Park	
Washington	12 separate sites	
Usworth Park	Albany Park	Holley Park
Princess Anne Park	Princess Anne Park-Fatfield	Princess Anne Park (Rear of St. Roberts School)
Glebe Park	Glebe Colliery Welfare Park	Ayton Park
James Steel Park - Chartershaugh	James Steel Park- Pattinson Pond & Mount Pleasant	James Steel Park - Biddick Burn and Worm Hill
Coalfield	9 separate sites	
Rectory Park	Penshaw Park	New Herrington Welfare Park
Herrington Country Park	Hetton Park	Hetton Town Centre Pocket Park
Elba Park	Hetton Lyons Country Park	Rainton Meadows
Neighbouring authority:		
Cornthwaite Park (South Tyneside MBC)		

- 12.11 Though Formal Parks and Country Parks total only 2.4% of all greenspace sites in the city, the sites total over 18% of current greenspace area (or just over 15% when considering primary purpose only).

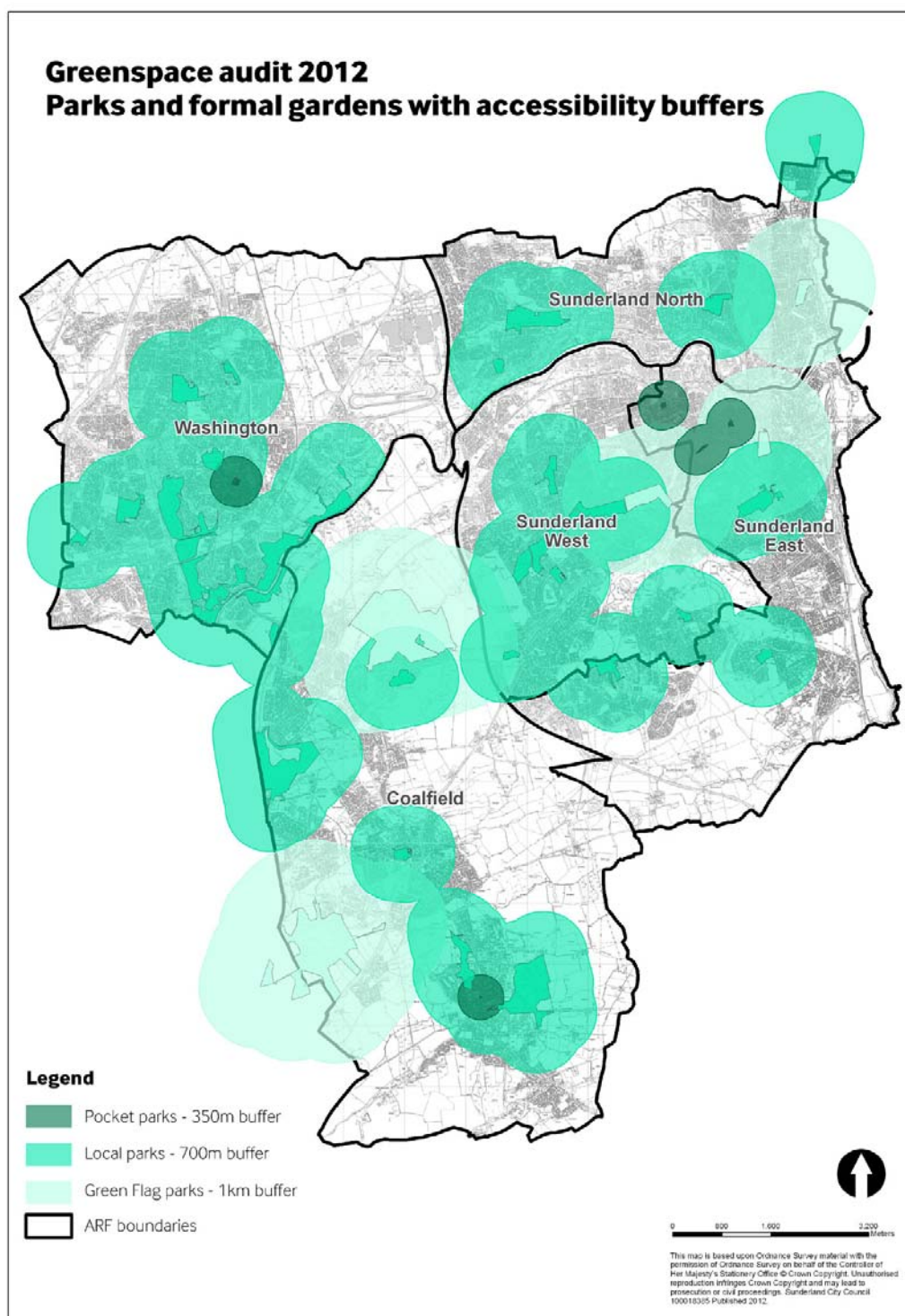


Table 16: Access to Formal Parks and Country Parks by area

	Pop'n	Access %		Pop'n	Access %
City Total	281,654	74.1			

ARF's					
Sunderland North	56,954	70	Sunderland West	67,126	81
Sunderland East	53,468	71	Washington	56,978	73
Coalfield	47,128	73			
City Village					
Albany & Blackfell	7121	45	Ashbrooke	4654	100
Ayton, Lambton & Oxclose	8927	100	Barmston & Columbia	5836	70
Barnes	7663	100	Burnside & Sunnyside	1080	15
Carley Hill	1631	65	Castletown & Hylton Castle	8669	85
Chilton Moor & Dubmire	1929	80	City Centre	3185	100
Concord, Sulgrave & Donwell	10108	90	Downhill & Redhouse	9174	70
Doxford	1991	60	Elstob Farm & QA Road	2899	100
Farrington	5579	90	Fatfield & Mount Pleasant	4675	100
Fencehouses	2952	95	Ford & Pallion	9064	35
Fulwell & Seaburn Dene	7470	70	Grangetown	4424	15
Grindon & Hastings Hill	6142	80	Hall Farm & Chapelgarth	3160	70
Hendon	4205	100	Hetton	4756	90
Hetton Downs & Warden Law	2940	100	High Barnes	2962	100
Hillview	3472	45	Hollycarrside	3142	40
Houghton	9954	70	Humbledon & Plains Farm	5799	100
Marley Potts	1252	0	Middle & East Herrington	4173	100
Millfield	7593	75	Monkwearmouth	2952	90
Moorside	1557	100	Moorsley & Easington Lane	5076	20
New & West Herrington	1723	100	Newbottle	3149	15
Nookside	1536	100	Old Penshaw & Cox Green	1467	100
Pennywell	5831	80	Penshaw & Shiney Row	8842	90
Port & East End	1248	70	Rainton	1515	100
Rickleton & Harraton	5784	30	Roker	7591	100
Ryhope	5459	45	Seaburn & South Bents	4349	75
Silksworth	7618	95	South Hylton	3302	0
Southwick	4574	60	Springwell	1561	100
Springwell Village	1465	0	St Gabriel's	1558	100
St Peter's & North Haven	3100	85	Success	1745	100
Teal Farm & Low Barmston	1850	100	Thorney Close	4338	100
Thornhill	3349	100	Town End Farm	4710	15
Tunstall & Burdon	3130	70	Usworth	2911	20
Usworth Hall & Nissan	1513	55	Wash'ton Village, Glebe & Biddick	6788	100
Witherwack	1482	0			

- 12.12 Using the quantity guideline, 74% of city residents have access to a formal park or country park. The aim is for 100% residents to have such access. In many cases, there are doorstep greens and other quality greenspaces that could be upgraded to provide formal parkland in key deficiency areas. Parks access is limited in the following areas:

Table 17: Locations with limited access to parkland

ARF	Deficiency
Washington	Springwell Village
	North Washington
	West Washington
	Newbottle/Burnside/Sunniside
Coalfield	Fence Houses
	Houghton Racecourse
	Easington Lane
	Town End Farm
North Sunderland	Hylton Red House
	Witherwack/Marley Potts/ west Southwick
	Seaburn
	Ford/Pallion
West Sunderland	South Hylton
	Hastings Hill/ west Pennywell
	Hall Farm
East Sunderland	East Ryhope
	Grangetown/Hillview
	Hollycarrside

ACTION: The above quantity deficiencies will be examined in order to improve overall access.

- 12.13 In terms of park quality, there are now 5 parks and country parks that have achieved Green Flag status; these being Roker Park, Herrington Country Park, Rainton Meadows, Barnes Park and Mowbray Park. The city's aim is to ensure that there is at least one Green Flag park in each of the 5 city ARF's. As it stands, only Washington ARF fails to reach this guideline.

ACTION: Investigate options to upgrade a park in Washington that could achieve Green Flag status.

- 12.14 The median quality score achieved for local parks and country parks (including Green Flag) is 130 points. If the median score is accepted as a benchmark guideline, then a number of parks that fall below the average will be reviewed. It should be recognised, however, that the scope for change or improvement will vary greatly, as some parks will not naturally lend themselves to multi-functions or may have physical or access limitations that are very difficult to resolve. For example, Burn Park has acute access problems to overcome, whereas Elba Park has only just been laid out and requires a number of years to mature before natural site quality can be improved. In spatial terms, all of North Sunderland's parks scored above the median average. The city's newest parks (laid out within the last

50 years) tended to score lowest, particularly in Washington, and also the extensions to Barnes Park. Of the 5 Pocket Parks, Diamond Hall is considered to have the biggest potential for improvement.

12.15 The 'below average' scoring parks are as follows:

Sunderland North:	none
Sunderland West:	King George V Park, Thorndale Park, Barnes Park Extensions (all)
Sunderland East:	Doxford Park and Diamond Hall Pocket Park
Washington:	Usworth Park, Albany Park, Princess Anne Park (all), Holley Park, Ayton Park, Glebe Colliery Welfare Park, James Steel Park (Biddick Burn, Worm Hill and Chartershaugh)
Coalfield:	Penshaw Park, New Herrington Welfare Park, Elba Park.

ACTION: Investigate the below-average scoring 'Local' Parks as well as Diamond Hall Pocket Park, and identify improvements.
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13.0 Allotments and Community Gardens

Allotments & Community Gardens	Where people can grow their own fruit and vegetables. Not including private gardens.
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- 13.1 An allotment is an area of land in, or on the edge of, a developed area which can be owned or rented by local people for the growing of vegetables, flowers or fruit. Community Gardens are usually urban community-managed projects working with people, animals and plants, and are created in response to a lack of access to allotments or greenspace in general. They range from tiny wildlife gardens to fruit and vegetable plots on housing estates, from community polytunnels to large city farms.

Quantity

- 13.2 In terms of national standards, the 1969 Thorpe Report recommended a minimum standard of allotment provision of 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) per 1000 population. In 1996, the National Allotment survey identified an average provision in England of 15 plots per 1000 households. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners considers that the target for provision, based on the findings of a national survey, should be 20 allotment plots per 1000 households (a typical plot size being 250 square metres). This target allows for some growth in demand as forecast in the House of Commons Select Committee report 'The Future of Allotments' (1998), and equates to a recommended spatial standard of 0.25 hectares per 1000 population.
- 13.3 A national provision standard is a useful guide but most crucially does not reflect different historical levels of interest in allotment gardening. Many local authorities have subsequently adopted a quantity standard or guideline based on current provision and overall levels of interest in allotment gardening. Local authorities will often use the area average to seek to retain levels in area where provision is high, and raise levels where provision is low. UDP Policy L8 encourages the provision of high standard allotments distributed in accessible locations, but does not include any guidelines for provision associated with new housing.
- 13.4 The amount of public and private allotments (by area) in Sunderland has dropped from 122 hectares in 1980 to 100 hectares in 2011, a reduction from 0.42 hectares per 1000 population to 0.36ha/1000 population. It should be noted, however, that some of these sites still exist, but are used primarily as garage and/or private garden sites rather than allotments, and are therefore no longer counted in this audit.

Table 18: City-wide allotment provision 1980-2011

Year	Area in Hectares	Population	Provision / 1000 population
1980	122.90	294,895 (1981)	0.42
2011	100.78	281,654 (MYE)	0.36

- 13.5 Allotment gardens are often associated with heavy industry, and were often made available to employees. Areas of heavy industry may therefore have

a strong history of allotment gardening, and Sunderland is no exception, with the amount of allotment land in the city well above the national guide standard. Whilst the amount of allotments has reduced in the last 30 years, the waiting lists for allotments in Sunderland indicate a revived interest that mirrors a growing national desire to locally grow produce. It is therefore recommended that the current level of 0.36 hectares per 1000 population is used as a benchmark guideline to be applied across the city, with a particular focus to increase provision, where public need is shown, in areas below that guideline.

Recommended quantity guideline for Allotments and Community Gardens:

0.36 hectares per 1000 population

Quality

- 13.6 In 2010 a Task & Finish group for the city's Environment & Attractive City Scrutiny Committee investigated the quality of Council-owned allotments, using 5 key criteria. Each site was scored out of a total of 30 points. This information has been used in the Greenspace Audit, and all sites scoring 18 or more points have received a value weighting. Furthermore, the audit of greenspace sites has been used to consider the quality of all privately owned allotments in the city. These results have been examined in line with use of aerial photography to determine whether sites would be deemed high quality and similarly receive a value weighting.
- 13.7 These results are discussed in paragraph 12.14 below and provide some general indicators. However, further work is being undertaken to investigate allotment quality in more detail, and these results will help to determine future quality guidelines in due course.

Recommended quality guideline for Allotment Gardens:

To be determined by forthcoming updated Allotments Strategy

Accessibility

- 13.8 Allotment sites vary greatly in size, some providing just one allotment, whilst the largest at Shields Road, Seaburn provides over 300 plots. In their 2008 "Audit and Assessment on Open Space, Sport and Recreation", Hartlepool Borough Council has concluded that people would be willing to travel further to access larger allotment sites. This is a fair assessment, given that some of the smallest sites in Sunderland almost serve as extended back gardens to adjoining housing, whilst the larger sites tend to have more facilities available. The following accessibility thresholds are therefore recommended for Sunderland:
- Over 100 plots = 1200 metre radius.
 - 50-99 plots = 900 metre radius

- 25-49 plots = 600 metre radius
- 1 – 24 plots = 300 metre radius.

Recommended catchment areas for Allotments and Community Gardens:

Over 100 plots = 1200 metre radius.

50-99 plots = 900 metre radius

25-49 plots = 600 metre radius

1 – 24 plots = 300 metre radius

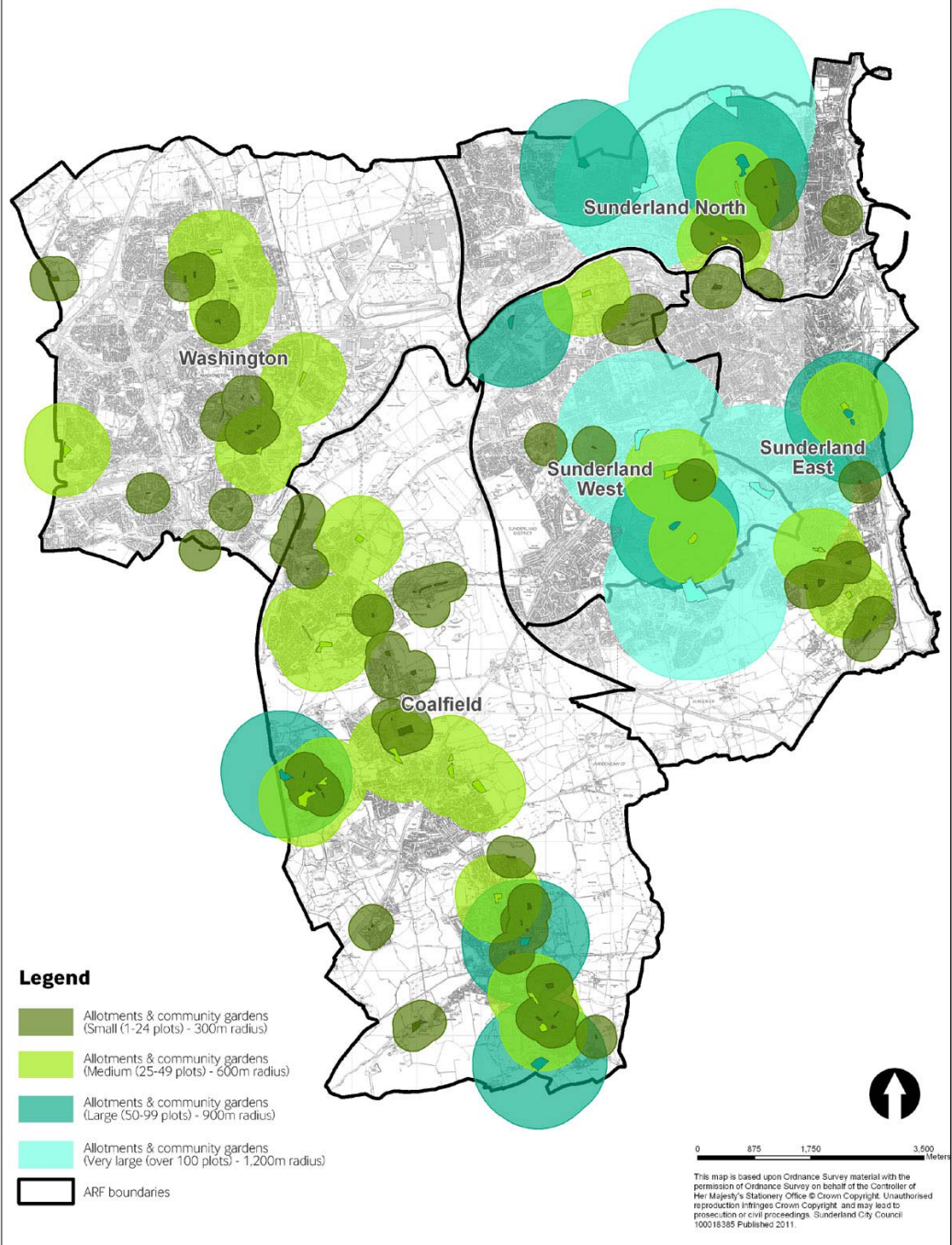
Results

- 13.9 There are 102 allotment and community garden sites identified within the city, with a further site just outside the city boundary at Chartershaugh, Washington. In terms of primary greenspace purpose, allotments provide 2.59% of all greenspace.
- 13.10 As indicated earlier, the amount of allotment land in Sunderland remains well above the national guide standard. The amount of public and private allotments (by area) in Sunderland has dropped from 122.90 hectares in 1980 to 100.78 hectares in 2011, a reduction from 0.42 hectares per 1000 population to 0.36ha/1000 population. Much of this loss, however, has been in the Coalfield ARF, where overall provision is still twice the city average.

Table 19: Allotment provision by sub-area 1980-2011

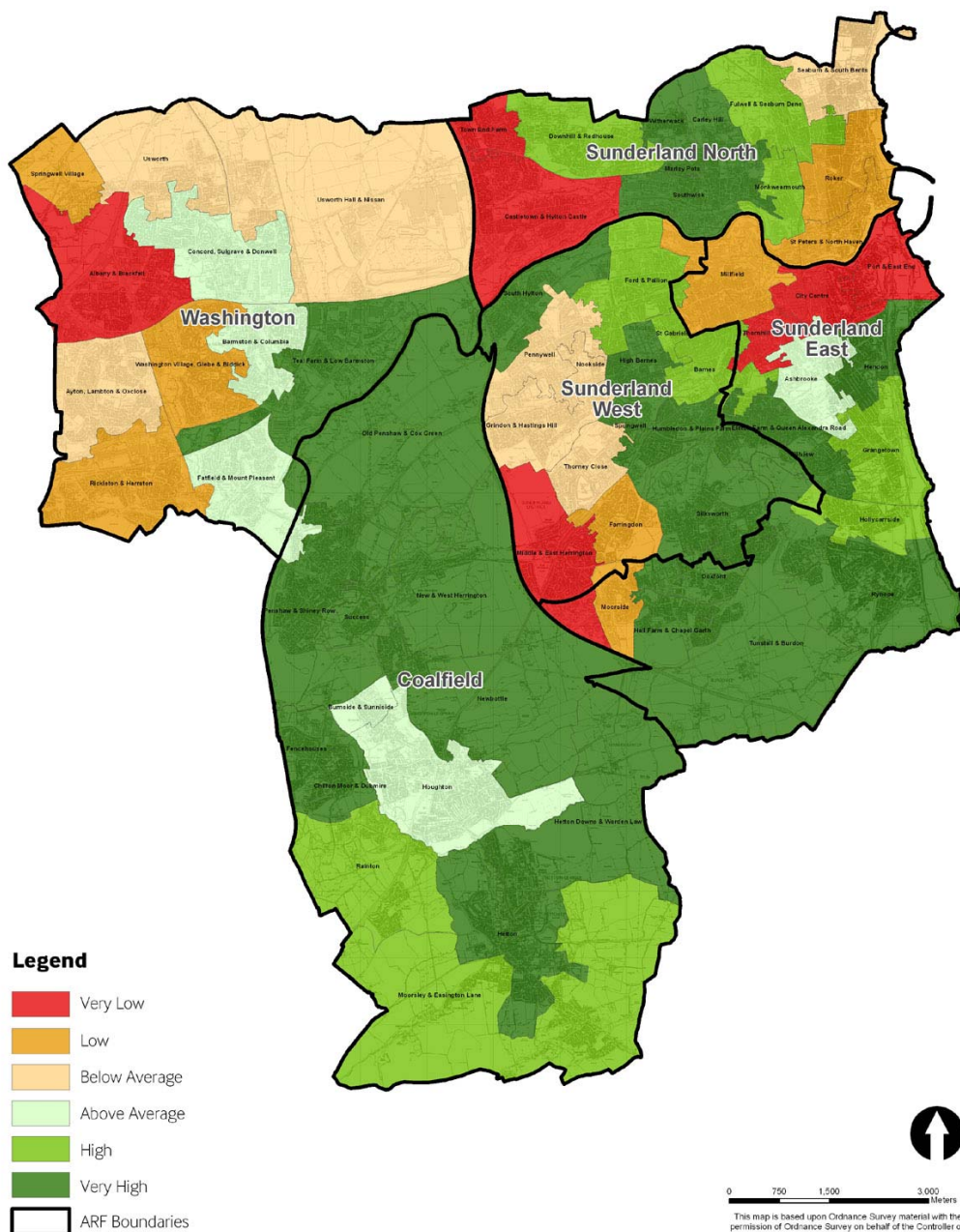
Area	Year	Area (Ha)	Population	Provision/1000 population
North Sunderland	1980	25.10	65,165	0.39
South Sunderland	1980	41.40	130,800	0.32
Washington	1980	8.80	51,795	0.17
Coalfield	1980	47.60	47,135	1.01
North Sunderland	2011	24.13	56,954	0.42
South Sunderland	2011	31.57	120,594	0.26
<i>East Sunderland</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>16.13</i>	<i>53,468</i>	<i>0.30</i>
<i>West Sunderland</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>15.44</i>	<i>67,126</i>	<i>0.23</i>
Washington	2011	8.62	56,978	0.15
Coalfield	2011	36.46	47,128	0.77

Greenspace audit 2012 **Allotments and community gardens with accessibility buffers**



Greenspace Audit 2012

Allotments and community gardens by neighbourhood



13.11 In terms of accessibility, it is apparent that Washington ARF has very limited access to allotments. A further 11.89 hectares of allotment land would be needed to match the current city average. Provision is especially low in the west of the New Town.

13.12 Sunderland East and Sunderland West also fall short of the city average for allotment provision. Sunderland East would require 3 hectares and

Sunderland West would require approximately 8.5 hectares. The catchment map clearly indicates that the shortfalls occur in neighbourhoods nearest to the City Centre, in Pennywell, Grindon, Middle & East Herrington.

- 13.13 If these additions were created, the amount of allotment land would return to 1980 levels at 0.44 hectares per 1000 population. It is recommended to retain and enhance all existing sites in these areas of deficiency, and consideration should be given to whether all sites in areas of allotment surplus (primarily the Coalfield ARF) are all worthy of long-term retention.
- 13.14 There is a clear distinction in terms of site quality at the ARF level. In terms of hectares, North and West ARF's have 98% and 97% of higher quality allotment. East and Washington ARF's have slightly lower levels at 87% and 76% respectively. By contrast, only 37% of allotment land in the Coalfield is considered to be high quality, and there is no difference in quality between public and private ownership.

ACTION: Investigate site possibilities to provide additional allotments and/or community gardens in Washington, Middle & East Herrington, Pennywell, Hastings Hill, Grindon and near to the City Centre, subject to local demand.

In Washington, West and East ARF's (where provision quantity is below average), seek to retain existing allotments and enhance poor quality sites wherever feasible.

Investigate the Coalfield ARF allotments and consider whether sites should be retained and enhanced or whether any are not worthy of long-term retention.

14.0 Outdoor sports facilities

Outdoor Sports Facilities	Open space specifically geared towards sport and formal recreation. e.g. football, cricket, tennis, rugby, hockey, bowling greens, golf courses, multi-purpose courts and kickabout areas
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- 14.1 Outdoor sports facilities are defined as land providing formal recreation opportunity for participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls and golf.
- 14.2 In terms of national outdoor sports standards, Fields in Trust traditionally advised use of the 'Six Acre Standard'. This recommended a minimum standard of 1.6 hectares per 1,000 people for outdoor sports. Within this, there is a specific allocation of at least 1.2 hectares of land for pitch sports. The balance (i.e. 0.4 hectares) is required for non-pitch sports including athletics, tennis and bowls.
- 14.3 However, PPG17 changed tack and required local authorities to undertake detailed local assessments to provide evidence as a basis for developing a local standard, taking into account the quality, capacity and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities as well as quantity. It outlined a five-step approach to deliver the aims:
- Step 1: Identifying local needs.
 - Step 2: Auditing local provision.
 - Step 3: Setting provision standards.
 - Step 4: Applying provision standards.
 - Step 5: Drafting policies.
- 14.4 Following on from PPG17, Sport England provided a Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology entitled 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (February 2003) that strongly recommended each local authority to have an up-to-date playing pitch strategy to ensure a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The strategy does not give definitive instruction on how to calculate local standards for sports pitches but advises that the following needs to be taken into consideration:
- Only pitches available for community use are to be included in the 'supply' equation.
 - Quality of pitches.
 - Provision of changing facilities.
 - Pitch capacity.
 - Future population estimates.
- 14.5 Locally, the 1998 Sunderland Unitary Development Plan endorsed recommendations made in the city's 1994 Open Space Recreation Report and the old NPFA standards:
- UDP Policy L4: To adopt a minimum standard of 1.0 hectare of playing fields / outdoor playspace per 1000 population. The NPFA's standard of 1.6-1.8 hectares per 1000 population is recognised as a long term target for the city.

- 14.6 The UDP included data relating to specific extra requirements for individual sports. Much of this data has since been revised through creation of a Sunderland Playing Pitch Strategy (2004) and Football Investment Strategy (2010). **These two reports (rather than the Greenspace Audit) provide the evidence by which standards and policy recommendations can be set in Sunderland.** The main recommendations of the reports are outlined below on a sport-by-sport basis.

Overall provision

- 14.7 A total of 105 separate outdoor sports locations have been identified in the Greenspace Audit (not including school provision that is restricted to school use only). These sites have a combined total of 892 hectares or 23% of the overall greenspace total. A total of 57 sites have been identified with outdoor sports being their primary purpose, with a combined area of 576 hectares.

- 14.8 The variety of outdoor sports facilities is indicated in the table below:

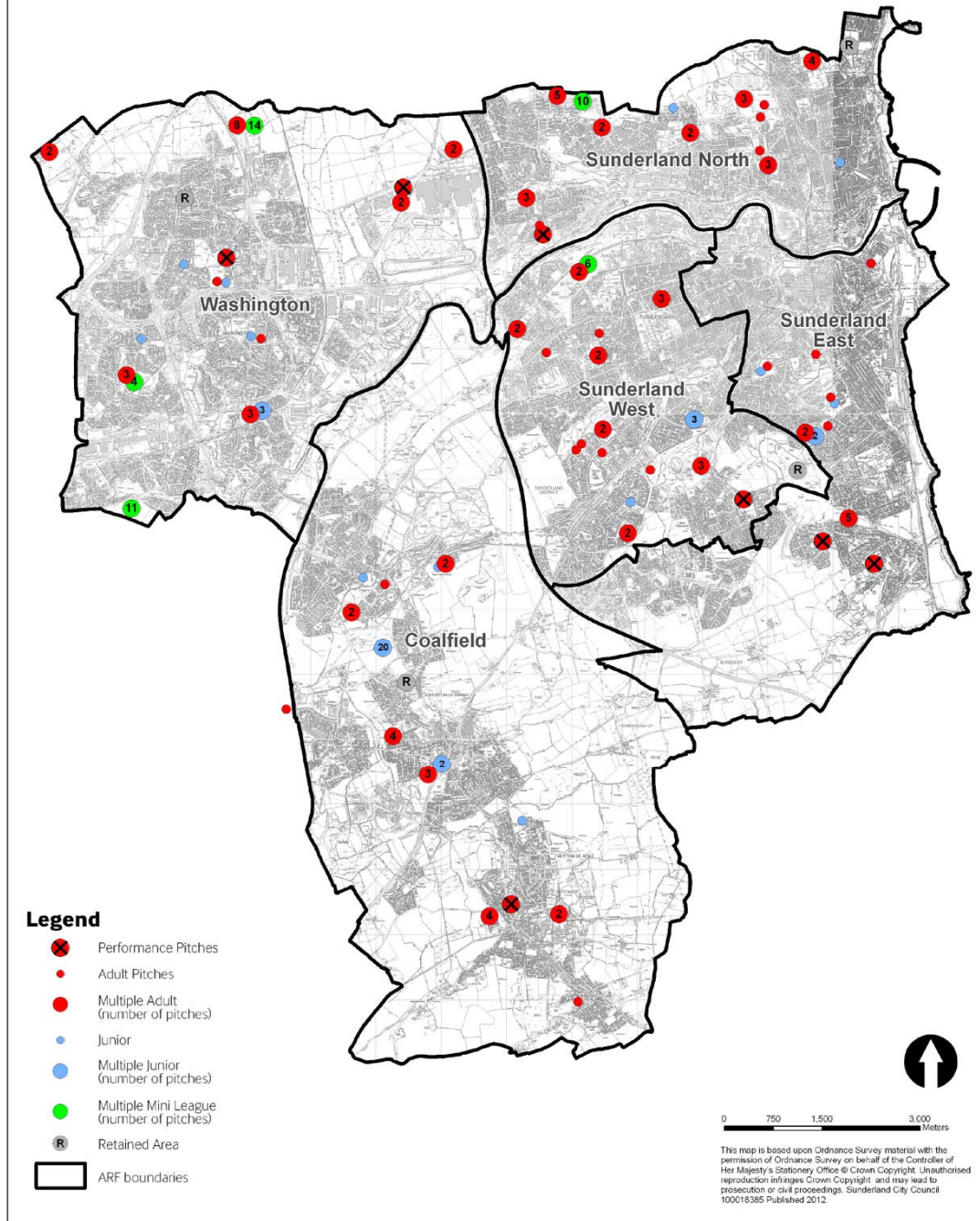
Table 20: Number and type of outdoor sports facilities in Sunderland

Outdoor sport	Total number	Total locations	Other (e.g. private or restricted school sites)
Senior football pitches	106 pitches	54 locations (incl. 4 currently unused)	10 other private pitches at 8 locations
Junior football pitches	42 pitches	17 locations	64 school pitches at 61 schools
Mini-league football	45 pitches	5 locations	
Rugby Union	7 pitches	5 locations	1 American football pitch. 13 school pitches at 11 schools
Cricket	11 cricket fields	11 locations	5 school cricket fields
Flat green bowling	31 bowling greens	22 locations	--
Tennis	34 courts	11 locations	Further indoor courts at Puma Tennis Centre. 70 further courts at 14 schools.
Golf	5 courses	5 locations	Sharpley straddles the city boundary. Also Boldon Golf Club adjacent to city. 1 golf driving range.

Football pitch provision/standards

- 14.9 Sunderland's Football Investment Strategy identified that 67 senior and 15 mini soccer pitches were hired out by the Council during the 2011-12 season with each pitch having an average carrying capacity of 2 games per week, although due to high demand some pitches hosted three to four games each week.

Greenspace audit 2012 Senior, junior and mini-league football pitches



14.10 By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying Football Team Generation Rates (TGRs) to the population for 2014, the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future has been predicted, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. The results indicated that there would be a 5% increase in participation up to 2014.

14.11 Football pitch quality is categorised as follows:

- 'Performance pitches' meet the standard of ground that is acceptable for the Wearside League and/or Northern League. It is proposed to ensure that there is at least one such facility in each of the 5 ARF's.
- The remaining pitches are considered in 'tiers'. Tier A sites are multi-pitch sites of city and sub-regional importance, capable of holding at least 20 games per week. Tiers B, C1, C2, D1, D2 and E follow down from Tier A in order of importance.

Overall, it is proposed to ensure that each ARF has a reasonable range of tiers available to them, although the spatial provision of Tier A and Tier B facilities is viewed on a city-wide basis, rather than requiring provision in each ARF.

14.12 To date there are 7 performance pitches in the city, and at least one in each ARF. In terms of the upper tiered provision by ARF (Tiers A-C), the following observations can be made:

- In North Area, there is one site (Community North – Tier A)
- In East Area, there is one site (Ryhope Recreation Site – Tier C1)
- In West Area, there is one site (Ford Quarry – Tier C1)
- In Coalfield Area, there is one site (Houghton Kepier – Tier B)
- In Washington Area, there are 3 sites (Northumbria Centre/Northern Area – Tier A; Southern Area – Tier C1; Oxclose School – Tier C1).

14.13 The Strategy recognised that there was a current surplus of available time slots for senior pitches, but a significant deficit of junior and mini football pitches. This deficit can be tackled by considering the conversion of senior pitches, utilising 3G provision and working with leagues to change the times of kick offs for competitive matches. Current playing pitch stock should therefore be protected and consideration given to changing the designation of some senior pitches to cater for junior football. Improving the quality of some football pitches would also increase the capacity to support more teams. The recent development of the 20 mini soccer pitch site at Newbottle and new 3G pitches should support the shortfall of mini soccer pitches allowing existing grass pitches to be converted to meet the demands of other formats of football.

14.14 While there is a general over supply of senior pitches on Saturdays, all available pitches are used on Sunday mornings.

14.15 Future consideration will need to be given to the introduction of 5 versus 5 and 9 versus 9 leagues along with future changes to ground grading for teams entering the football pyramid, which may affect changing and ancillary provision.

Recommended standard/policy for football pitches:

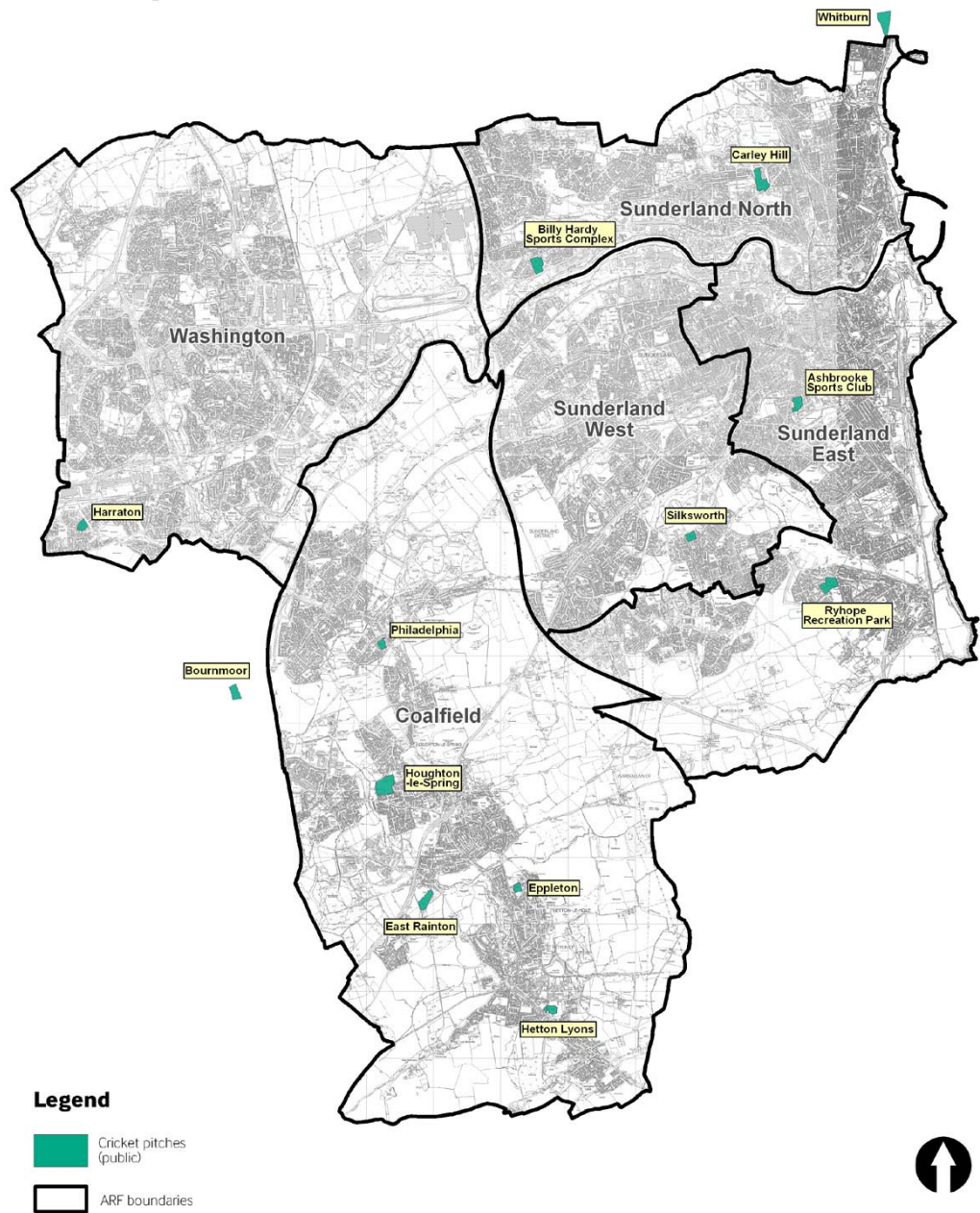
- **Maintain at least one performance pitch in each of the 5 ARF's**
- **Improve the range of sites (by tiered quality) in each of the 5 ARF's, in line with recommendations in the Football Investment Strategy.**
- **Where appropriate, change the designation of some senior pitches to cater for junior and mini football**
- **Create new football pitches wherever feasible across the city with priority for East and West Sunderland**
- **Transfer mini soccer usage to Newbottle (Coaley Lane) as well as to 3G provision**
- **Identify need for development of 9 versus 9 and 5 versus 5 pitches**
- **Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock**
- **Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are developed to support new pitches and enhance existing pitches without facilities**
- **Identify sites to transfer to community club ownership, and support clubs who may wish to provide other sporting uses**
- **Improve access to school facilities for training and competitive opportunities**
- **Seek development contributions to improve the quality of existing outdoor provision**

Cricket pitch provision/standards

- 14.16 There are 11 cricket fields within the city, with further pitches beside the city boundary at Whitburn and Bournmoor. The Sunderland Playing Pitch Strategy has identified a shortfall in the provision of cricket pitches across the city, in general. The shortfall of pitches is most pronounced in the Sunderland East, Washington and Coalfield analysis areas. Advice from Durham Cricket Board recommends that the best way forward would be to seek expansion within existing clubs rather than attempt to create a new club altogether. This could be achieved by providing a second pitch for use by an existing club. A further positive intervention is occurring at Fulwell Quarries, where alternative forms of cricket ('Last Man Standing' and 'Kwik Cricket') are proposed to be set up.

Greenspace audit 2012

Cricket pitches



Recommended standard/policy for cricket pitches:

- **Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock**
- **Complete the new 'Kwik Cricket' facility at Fulwell Quarries**
- **Pursue the creation of new cricket fields in Sunderland East, Washington and/or Coalfield ARF's**
- **Identify sites to transfer to community club ownership, and support clubs who may wish to provide other sporting uses.**
- **Improve access to school facilities for training and competitive opportunities**
- **Seek development contributions to improve the quality of existing outdoor provision**

Rugby pitch provision/standards

14.17 Sunderland Playing Pitch Strategy identifies 13 senior pitches, 6 junior and 1 mini rugby union pitches in use across the city. However, only 9 senior and 2 junior are available for community and club use. Community use is based around the 3 clubs Sunderland RUFC, Houghton RUFC and Washington in the East, Coalfields and Washington ARF's. There are further rugby pitches located in Sunderland North analysis area; Monkwearmouth School and Redhouse Academy- though these are not available for community use. Consultation suggests this is due to a lack of demand. Coalfield and Sunderland East analysis areas have the highest level of rugby activity generating 28 teams.

14.18 There is a significant overplay recorded in the East and Coalfield, which equates to five pitches. This shortfall would be exacerbated if there was a need to also accommodate any Rugby League teams. The level of overplay expressed largely relates to junior and mini teams. However, the establishment of rugby union pitches at Ryhope Road (between Grangetown and Ryhope) will address this shortfall in the East.

Recommended standard/policy for rugby pitches:

- **Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock**
- **Seek completion of all 3 new rugby pitches at Ryhope Road to address shortfall of provision in West/East Sunderland**
- **Identify opportunities to increase the number of junior and mini rugby pitches in the Coalfield**

- **Improve access to school facilities for training and competitive opportunities**
- **Support other sports clubs who may seek to expand their sporting offer, and consider providing new rugby clubs/facilities**
- **Seek development contributions to improve the quality of existing outdoor provision**

Hockey pitch provision/standards

- 14.19 Hockey is predominately played on synthetic turf pitches (STP), specifically sand based and water based. There are currently 4 appropriately sized sand based STPs in Sunderland for hockey, but no water based STPs. England Hockey have identified that due to the league level of the Sunderland club the current provision is more than adequate. The Sunderland Playing Pitch Strategy notes that there is one hockey club in the city, playing at Raich Carter Centre and Sunderland High School. There is spare capacity at these sites and therefore no need for a specific standard/policy at this stage, however a review of aspirations from Sandhill Sports Centre and Community North STP needs to be further examined.

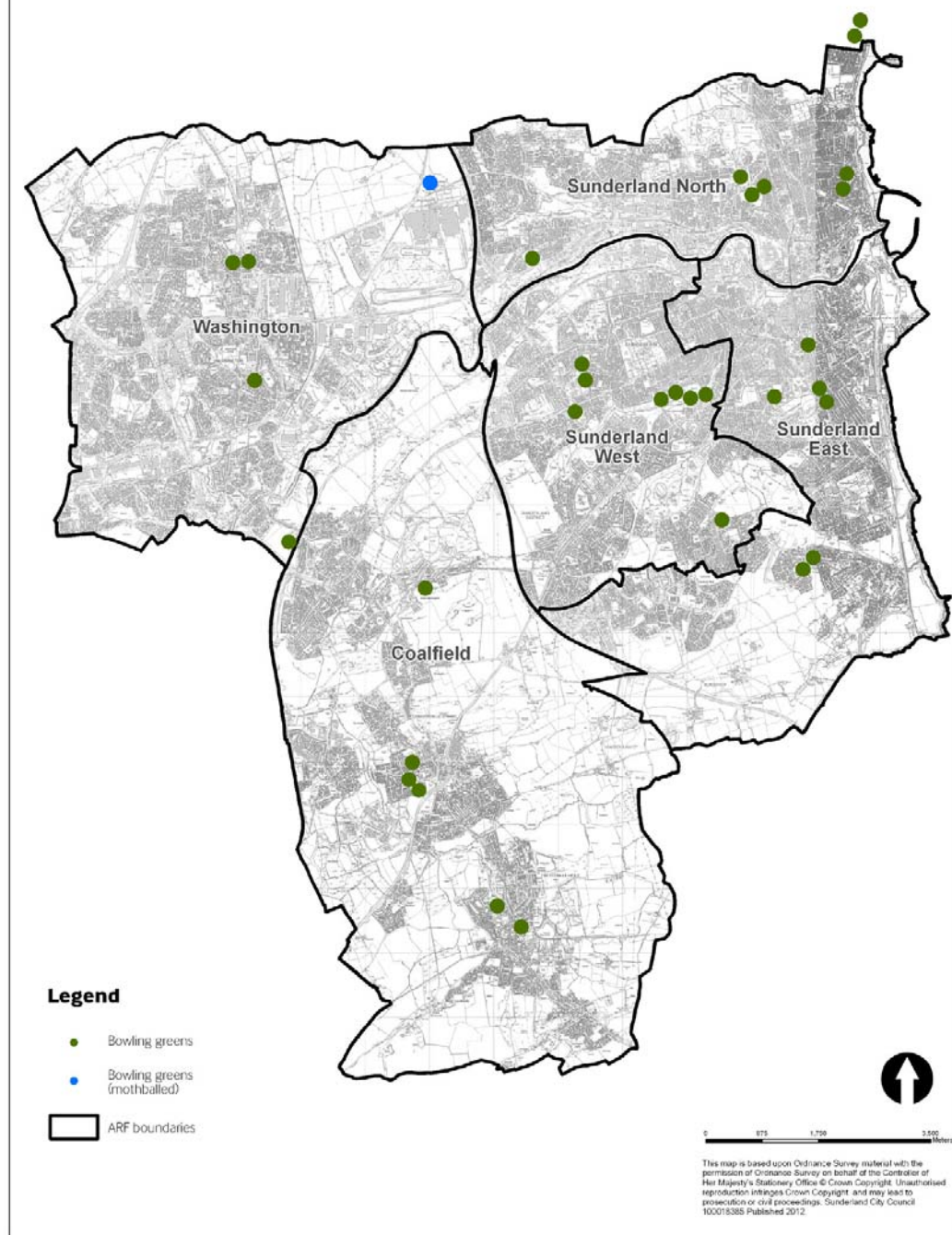
Recommended standard/policy for hockey pitches:

- **Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock**
- **Ensure any new sand-based or water based STPs to be built are of suitable size for hockey.**
- **Seek development contributions to improve the quality of existing outdoor provision**

Bowling green provision/guideline

- 14.20 There are no known national standards existing for bowling greens. In a study of 23 NW England authorities, Burnley Borough Council found that the average borough provision was 1.1 bowling greens per 10,000 population. In Sunderland there are 22 bowling green locations and 31 greens in total (though one at Plesseys, beside Nissan, is currently mothballed). There are also 2 further bowling greens on the city boundary at Cornthwaite Park, Whitburn. Compared to the city population, the ratio matches the average for NW England. It should also be noted that 7 bowling greens have been removed since 1994, representing an 18% loss.
- 14.21 Further flat green provision exists at two sites: the City of Sunderland Indoor Bowling Club, based at the Crowtree Leisure Centre in the City Centre, and Houghton Indoor Bowls Club. Eight rinks exist at the Crowtree, and there are around 450 members. There are 6 rinks at Houghton Sports Centre.

Greenspace audit 2012 Bowling greens



14.22 Flat green bowling is a relatively unique sport in the UK as participation actually increases with age. This provides an important opportunity for physical fitness, particularly as the proportion of older people in society increases. Whilst there is a need to continually monitor the use of Sunderland's bowling greens, all current greens should be protected, and improved where necessary, especially since an ageing population could increase participation rates. There is also a possibility that the game could increase in popularity amongst those in younger age groups.

- 14.23 In areas where provision is well below the city average, further bowling green provision may be considered, subject to need and available resources. In the 1994 Sunderland Open Space Recreation Report it was noted that Washington had limited facilities, and this is still the case.

Recommended guideline/policy for bowling greens:

1.10 bowling greens per 10,000 population

- **Seek development contributions to improve the quality of existing provision**
- **Investigate potential for further bowling greens where demand is clearly identified**

Athletics tracks provision/standards

- 14.24 UK Athletics recommends a standard of one outdoor synthetic track (6 or 8 lanes) per 250,000 people within 20 minutes drive (45 minutes in rural areas). Sunderland currently has one 6-lane 400m lit track; one 200m J-bend track and two cinder 400m tracks. There are also 3 quality athletics tracks near to Sunderland, at Gateshead, Jarrow and Chester-le-Street. Based on this standard and the current demand for athletics the city currently does not need to increase provision, however there may be potential to explore the conversion of the cinder track in Washington if demand requires.
- 14.25 The Tyne and Wear facility strategy found that athletics facilities within Sunderland are considered to be poor and that a potential upgrade should be explored for Silksworth running track.

Recommended standard/policy for athletic tracks:

- **1 x 6/8 lane running track per 250,000 population**
- **Explore opportunity to upgrade existing Silksworth running track**
- **Seek development contributions to improve the quality of existing outdoor provision**

Synthetic turf pitches (STP's) provision/standards

- 14.26 In addition to the recommendations mentioned in the Hockey section, the FA recommends a standard of one full size STP per 25,000 people. Sunderland currently has 13 STP's, however 2 are closed and one is in need of replacement to remain open. If no action is taken Sunderland would just fall short of the standard. There are aspirations by several

stakeholders to increase the number of STP's. Priority areas for any new facilities are Sunderland North, followed by Sunderland South.

Recommended standard for STPs:

- **1 STP per 25,000 population**
- **Explore options to replace Community North STP**
- **Prioritise new provision in Sunderland North, followed by Sunderland South**
- **Seek development contributions to improve the quality of existing outdoor provision**

Tennis courts provision/standards

- 14.27 The quantity standard set by Fields in Trust for tennis is 0.4 hectares per 1000 population, which equates to 112 courts for 280,000 residents. Sunderland (including schools and private club provision) has 98 courts. While this is slightly less than the national standard there is no evidence of further demand.
- 14.28 It is recommended that any further investment in tennis provision should be to improve existing court standards. Where there may be opportunities to develop new public courts in housing developments, consideration should be given to the distance from an existing public court.

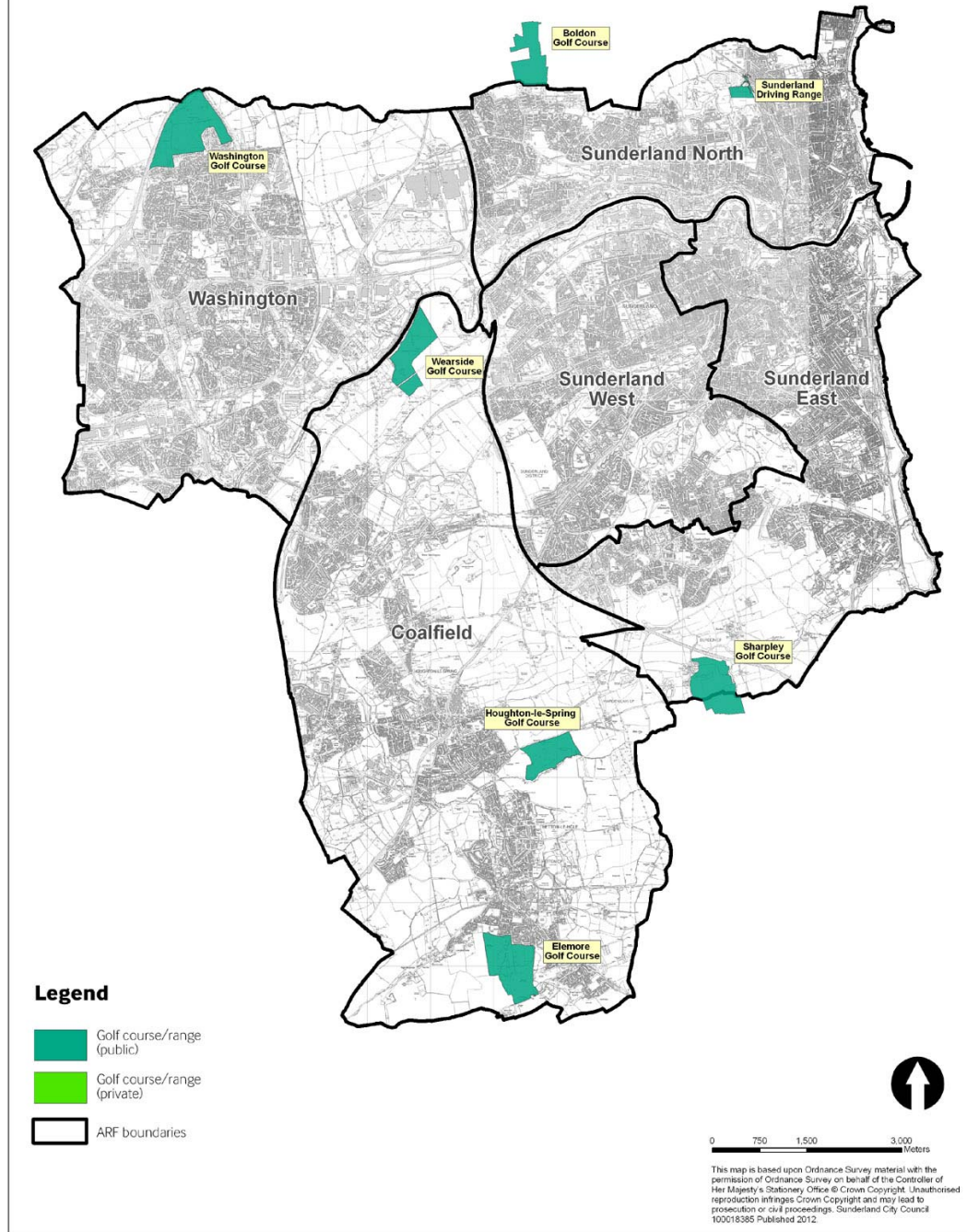
Recommended standard/policy for Tennis Courts:

- **Improve access to school sites for recreational use**
- **Seek development contributions to improve quality of existing outdoor provision**

Golf course provision/standards

- 14.29 There are six golf courses within or adjoining the Sunderland boundary. Five of the Golf Courses are private, and are located within Green Belt. Elemore Golf Course is the exception, being Council-owned and outside of the Green Belt.

Greenspace audit 2012 Golf course/range



14.30 The 1998 UDP refers to advice from the Northern Council for Sport & Recreation, who, at the time, identified a need in Sunderland of between 3 and 8 further 9-hole courses. This recommendation, however, was soon called into question when the City Council had to close Ryhope Municipal Golf Course on cost grounds. Provision has been extended in Wearside with the opening of two new private golf courses on the edge of the city at Seaton (Sharpley) and at Leamside (Cocken Lodge).

14.31 Demand for further Golf Courses will be monitored.

No recommended standard/policy for golf courses

Other sports facilities

14.32 Further outdoor sports facilities (not mentioned in the above sections) will be encouraged. These include beach volleyball and providing resilient outdoor table tennis tables (neither are presently available in the city). Opportunities are being explored for the possibility of providing beach volleyball along the Roker Seafront. Locations are being considered for providing outdoor table tennis tables in suitable locations.

Recommendation:

- **Support the possibility for the development of beach volleyball at Roker Seafront**
- **Support the provision of outdoor table tennis tables at locations across the city.**

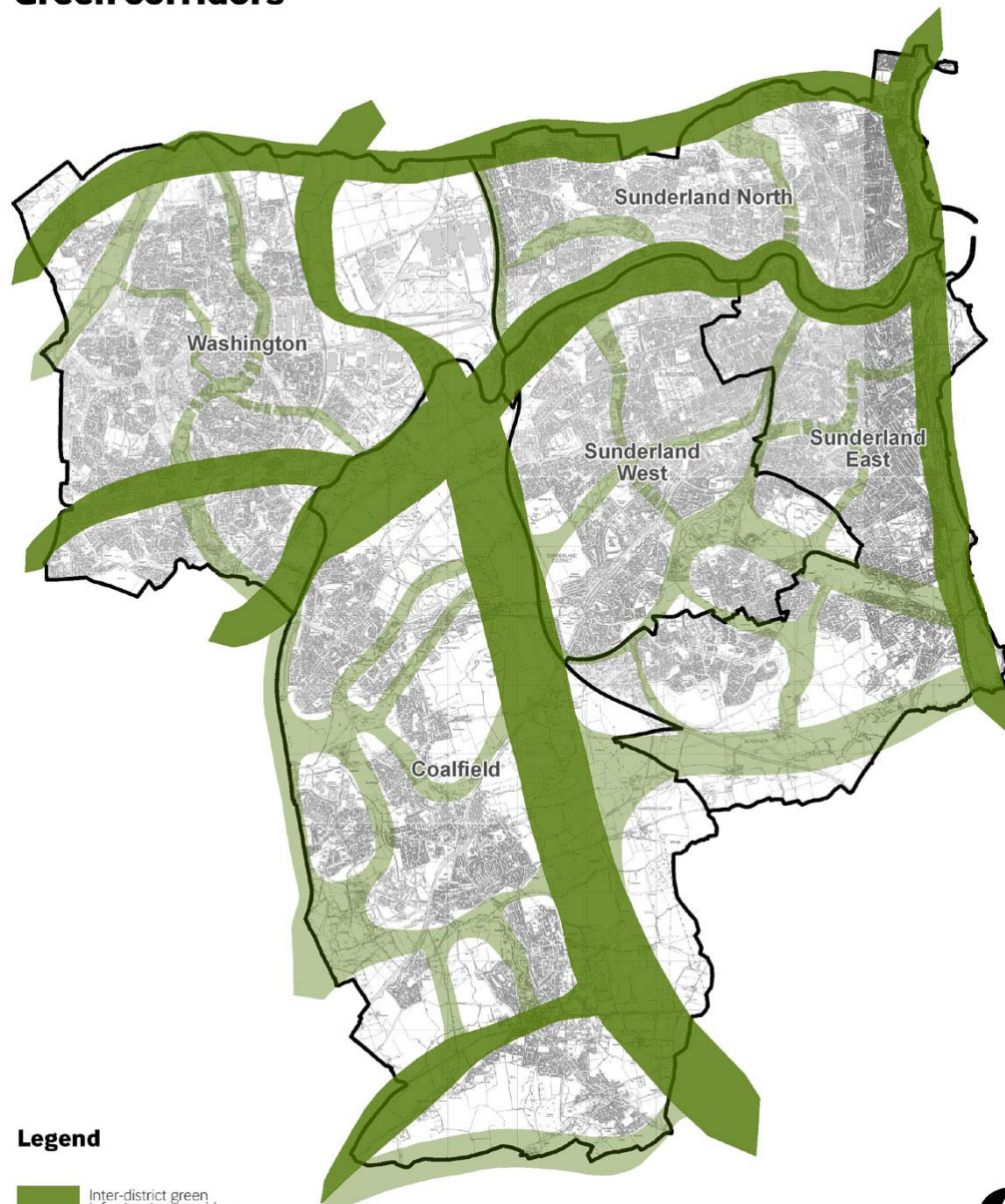
15.0 Green corridors

Green Corridors	Greenspace sites that help to form a much longer connected corridor of sites. Such corridors allow for walking, cycling and wildlife movement.
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- 15.1 The Companion Guide to PPG17 expresses the view that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard for green corridors. Green corridors will be examined in line with green infrastructure principles, provisionally set out in the emerging Sunderland Green Infrastructure Strategy, which will also make recommendations for green corridors. Opportunities need to be taken to improve corridor connectivity wherever feasible, both for people and wildlife. Green corridors potentially encompass all open land, including greenspaces, open countryside, private gardens, avenues of street trees, and in many cases derelict land. The map below diagrammatically identifies green infrastructure corridors (both complete and incomplete) within the city.

No specific standard recommended for green corridors

Greenspace audit 2012 Green corridors



Legend

- Inter-district green infrastructure corridors
- District corridors
- ARF boundaries



0 750 1,500 3,000 Meters

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16.0 Cemeteries, churchyards and church grounds

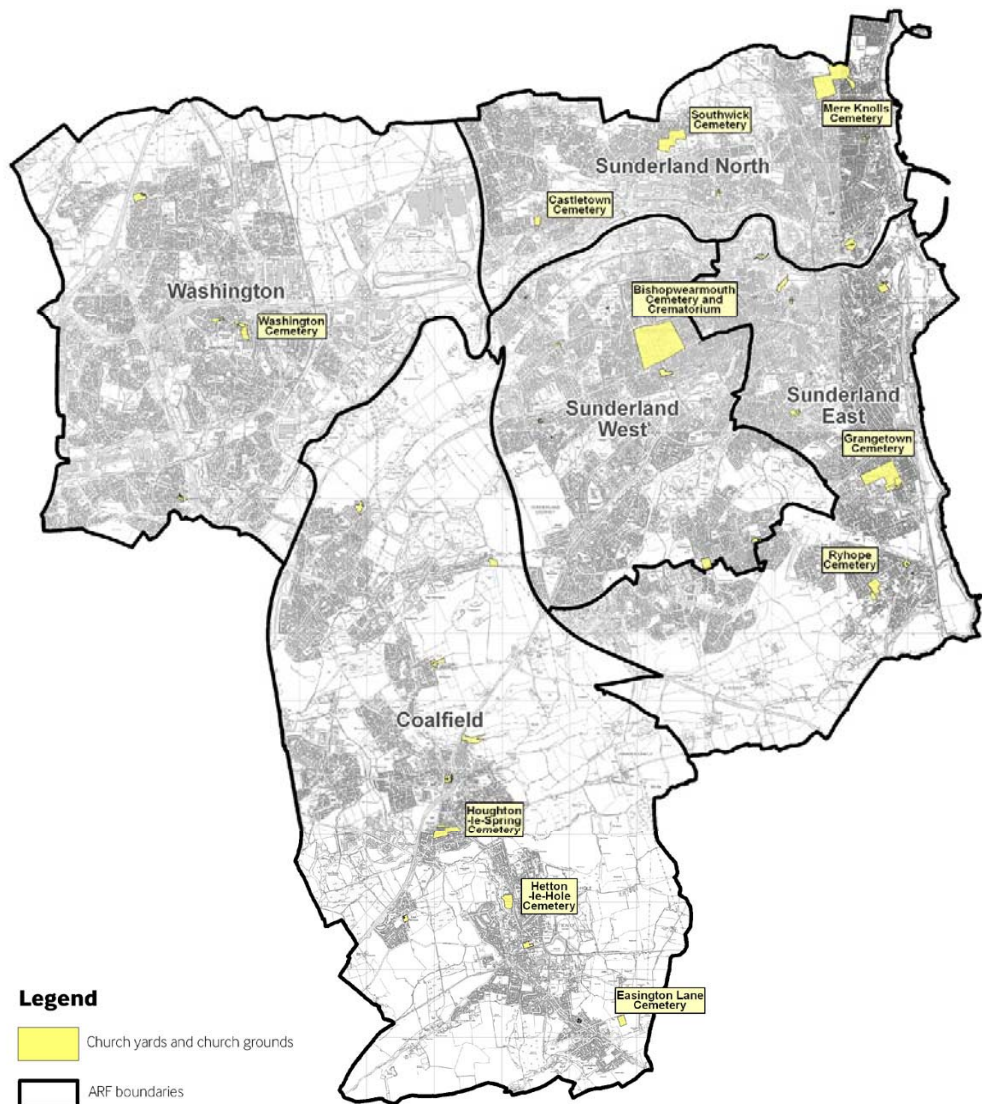
Cemeteries and church grounds	Cemeteries, churchyards and also the general grounds of a church
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- 16.1 There are three types of greenspace identified here. Cemeteries and churchyards provide two greenspace types, and refer to spaces set aside for the burial of the dead. A third category has been identified relating to church grounds (without burial) - relating to landscaped greenspace surrounding any church. In terms of sites and area, a total of 49 sites have been identified with some form of cemetery or church function, totalling 112.10 hectares or 2.91% of the city greenspace area. In terms of primary purpose only, there are 43 cemeteries, churchyards and church grounds identified, totalling 106 hectares, or 2.76% of the city's greenspace.
- 16.2 There are 10 municipal cemeteries in Sunderland, and Sunderland Crematorium lies within the grounds of Bishopwearmouth Cemetery, which itself occupy over 40% of all the city's cemetery land. There are over 30 other private churches, churchyards and church grounds across the city. Policy SA22.2 of the UDP identifies two cemetery expansion sites attached to Grangetown and Ryhope Cemeteries.
- 16.3 There were 380 new municipal graves acquired in the city in the 2005-06 financial year. The take-up rates varied between each of the Council's 10 cemeteries. Assuming that the rates have remained more or less the same, the following table provides an estimate to the remaining plot capacity overall in Sunderland.

Table 21: Existing and projected cemetery space in Sunderland

Cemetery	Hectares (size of site)	New graves available (2007)	Usage (new graves/yr) (av. 05/06)	Projected new graves (2011)	Usage (new graves/ year (2011)	Projected provision (years) (2011)
Washington	1.77	0	60	0	0	0
Sunderland (Grangetown)	11.98	890	54	634	64	9.9
Bishopwear- mouth	33.82	2475	89	2051	106	19.3
Mere Knolls	15.76	4865	43	4661	51	91.4
Southwick	7.26	1330	45	1118	53	21.1
Ryhope	2.60	190	14	122	17	7.2
Castletown	1.12	340	10	292	12	24.3
Houghton	3.92	600	38	420	45	9.3
Hetton	2.63	545	17	465	20	23.3
Easington Lane	1.42	450	10	402	12	33.5
Sub-total	82.28	11685	380	10165	380	26.75
Expansion areas:						
Estimated 1700 plots feasible per hectare (including paths and landscaping)						
Grangetown	1.99			3383		
Ryhope	0.71			1207		
Sub Total	2.70			4590		
Grand Total	84.98			14755	380	38.83

Greenspace audit 2012 Church yards and church grounds



- 16.4 Assuming that burial plot acquisition remains the same, it would appear that there are 26.75 years' capacity remaining, with a further 12 years available from the two protected expansion sites at Grange Town and Ryhope. Therefore, at present the city has municipal burial space that could last until 2050. Of course, plot purchases could vary greatly over time, but even so, there would appear to be a considerable supply available.

- 16.5 In spatial terms, there is no municipal burial space remaining in Washington. There has already been some initial site investigation regarding a new municipal cemetery to serve Washington. Ultimately, however, the City Council must demonstrate an ability to provide for the disposal (by burial) for the dead. This means that there is no specific requirement to provide a site to serve Washington. If a new site was desired, consideration would also need to be given as to whether the new site should focus on the Washington area, or to provide a new central site aimed at serving the city as a whole.
- 16.6 Most cemetery and churchyard sites score highly for quality. Many cemeteries and church grounds provide a haven for wildlife and attractive and peaceful neighbourhood open spaces. Setting a meaningful quality standard would prove difficult to act upon, given that many sites are privately owned.
- 16.7 All of the municipal cemeteries (except for Easington Lane) have good public transport access. Though there are no longer any new plots available in the Washington area, the geographical spread of sites across the city is good, and plot capacity remains high. Therefore, there is no real need to consider accessibility standards.

No recommended quantity, quality or accessibility standard for cemeteries, churchyards or church grounds

Future consideration to be given to whether, in spatial terms, the city would benefit from an additional cemetery site either in the Washington area, or a central site to serve the city as a whole.

17.0 Civic spaces

Civic Spaces	Hard surfaced spaces for pedestrians e.g. war memorials, pedestrian areas, river and coastal promenades.
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- 17.1 Unlike all other types of greenspace, civic spaces refer to hard surfaced spaces for pedestrians, such as war memorials, piazzas, pedestrian areas, river and coastal promenades. The purpose of civic spaces in town and city centres is often to provide a setting for civic buildings, such as town halls, and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events.
- 17.2 A total of 33 sites have been assessed as falling within the above category, with a combined area of 15 hectares, or 0.39% of total greenspace area. In terms of primary purpose only, 27 sites were identified.
- 17.3 The majority of Sunderland's civic spaces are concentrated in Sunderland City Centre, along the mouth of the River Wear and along the Roker and Seaburn coast. Many sites (particularly in the city centre) have been provided on an opportunistic and urban design-led basis, such as redesigned areas at West Sunnyside, Market Square or the widened footways along Fawcett Street. Further design interventions are intended, but it is not currently considered desirable or practical to apply any meaningful quantity, quality or accessibility standards to civic spaces in the city at this stage.

18.0 Accessible countryside

Accessible Countryside	All of the city's open countryside, private or public.
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- 18.1 For the purposes of this Greenspace Audit, “accessible countryside” refers to all of Sunderland’s countryside, whether public or privately owned. For the most part, Sunderland’s countryside is already accessible, there are numerous Rights of Way existing that afford views (at the very least) of the countryside and landscape character. Furthermore, there are multi-user routes (in the form of bridleways or cycleways) that connect the urban areas to the countryside, and in particular to country parks and other non-urban recreational land.
- 18.2 The intention of PPG17 to identify “accessible countryside” as a typology was to encourage the creation of recreational facilities and managed countryside in the form of country parks and community forests, adjacent to towns and cities, to provide a further greenspace resource. A problem with this approach is that these sites are also picked up as outdoor sports facilities, formal parks or natural & semi natural greenspace. Therefore, Sunderland’s approach is to identify the remaining countryside areas (mainly farmland) as accessible countryside, and to examine it further as part of a Landscape Character Assessment. In terms of access, Rights of Way are also reviewed and monitored through the Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan and Rights of Way Improvements Plan.

Rights of Ways / Cycleways

- 18.3 The City Council has a duty to maintain public Rights of Way and off-road cycle tracks to a safe and useable condition. Most of these routes are Council-owned, though some are private and maintenance falls with the landowner. Sustrans has an overview interest in the development of the National Cycle Network.
- 18.4 The city contains 175km of public rights of way. There are 90km of on-road and off-road cycle routes. Routes in parks account for an extra 100km. There are 4 national / regional routes within the city (all are cycling):
- National Cycle Route 1
 - National Cycle Route 7 (C2C)
 - Regional Cycle Network 11
 - Regional Cycle Route 70 (Walney to Wear).
- The English Coastal Pathway is scheduled for completion by 2020. A new section of route will be created from Seaham northwards to the River Wear.
- 18.5 Cycle levels within Tyne and Wear have increased significantly, with a 45% increase between 2006 and 2011. However, a large proportion of Washington, the northern Coalfield and parts of West Sunderland continue to have poor access to the established cycle network.
- 18.6 The Tyne & Wear Rights of Way Improvement Plan and Local Transport Plan identify routes for improvement/ upgrade and new cycle route/

footpaths and bridleways. Strategic pedestrian and cycle route improvements include:

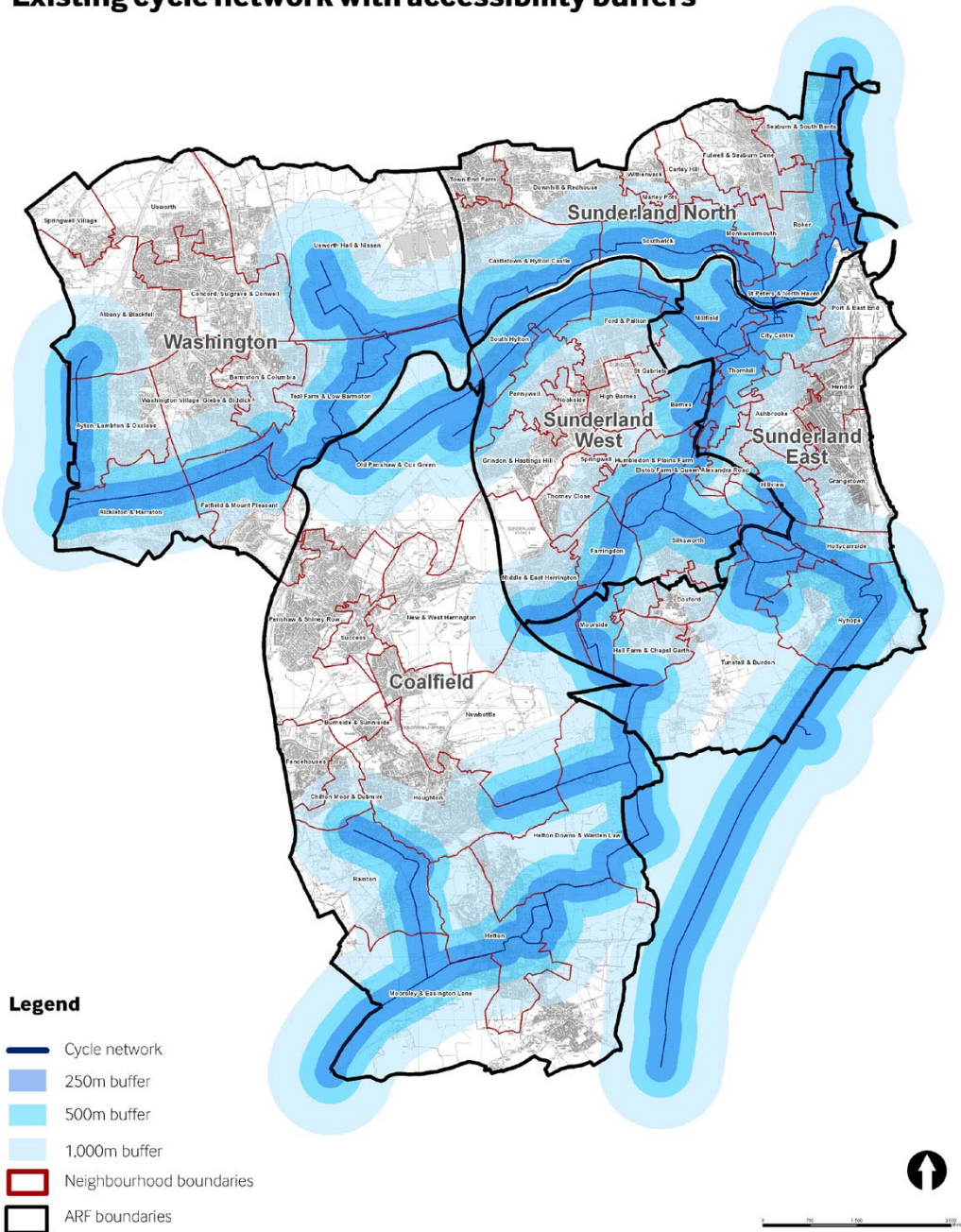
- Improving the cycle network in Washington. There are numerous existing wide footways requiring only minor upgrade, plus signage and lighting. These routes would improve connections between residential and employment sites
- Trans-Sunderland Cycle Route spanning the city from the A1 to the Queen Alexandra Gyratory via the C2C, Pattinson Rd, Cherry Blossom Way, A1290, Washington Road and North Hylton Rd Scheme also proposes links to Boldon (South Tyneside), the new Wear Bridge, and a new bridge over the Leamside Lane
- National Route 1 improvements to a coastal multi-user route from the Port to Ryhope and Seaham
- Improved Coalfield access to principal employment sites, including a new north-south Cycle Route connecting the same communities, retail and employment areas as the A182
- Non-motorised user improvements to Ryhope Road, Newcastle Road and Durham Road
- National Route 1 & 70 cycle route through the city centre requires reinvigoration.

No recommended quantity standards for accessible countryside.

Quality of countryside to be examined through the Landscape Character Assessment

Accessibility to the countryside to be examined via the Tyne and Wear Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Existing cycle network with accessibility buffers



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19.0 Coast & estuary

Coast & Estuary	Beaches and cliff top areas, coastal links and River Wear Estuary.
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- 19.1 A further greenspace typology has been identified in Sunderland, relating to the coastline and River Wear Estuary. Sunderland's coastline has European site protection, forming part of the Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area, and Durham Coast Special Area of Conservation. The River Wear Estuary also contains many sites locally and nationally protected, including saltmarsh, mudflats and semi-natural woodland.
- 19.2 No site has been designated "coast and estuary" as a primary purpose. Beaches, saltmarshes, mudflats, cliffs and riverbank woodland have been identified primarily as natural and semi-natural greenspace. As with Green Corridors, there are no standard recommendations proposed, and coast & estuary sites will be examined in line with Green Infrastructure principles.

No recommended standards for coast & estuary

20.0 School playing fields and grounds

School Playing Fields and Grounds	This includes all school grounds, whether or not they provide public access to greenspace/ sports facilities out of school hours.
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- 20.1 The Greenspace Audit identified 118 primary and secondary schools with attached greenspace totalling 263 hectares, providing a wide variety of sports on grass, synthetic and hardstanding surfaces.
- 20.2 Government policy towards the protection of school playing fields has been gradually strengthened since the mid-1990's, amidst fears that playing fields were being lost to development. The Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) was introduced by the Government in 1998, which was in turn amended by the Education and Inspection Act (2006). Section 77 of the SSFA seeks to protect school playing fields against disposal or change of use by requiring the prior consent of the Secretary of State for Education before disposal or change of use may take place. PPG17 also provided policy strengthening and has enabled loss of sports fields to be minimised, whilst ensuring other sports improvements to take place. It has also advocated increased community use of school sports facilities in general, and especially in relation to school site renewal.
- 20.3 Schools across Sunderland contribute a significant proportion of the total number of sports facilities. Primarily, these facilities must help to ensure that active lifestyles can be undertaken by schoolchildren. However, where feasible, school facilities are increasingly being used for community use and to maximise their neighbourhood role. This is not always straightforward-key issues that arise include:
- Achieving weekend and non-term time access to school facilities
 - Access to school buildings for changing facilities
 - Over-use of school playing fields / maintenance
 - Managing/hiring pitch use
 - School pitches may not be the correct size for wider community use.
- 20.4 Recent school redevelopments have enabled new higher quality facilities to be provided for school and community use, such as new grass pitches at Sandhill View and Venerable Bede Schools, or providing synthetic 3G multi-use games areas such as at Houghton Kepier and Hetton Schools.
- 20.5 Maximising community use of schools sports facilities is promoted through policies and strategies contained within the Sunderland Playing Pitch Strategy (2010) and Football Investment Strategy (2010).

Recommendation:

- **Ensure, wherever feasible, that community use of school sports facilities is maximised.**

21.0 Greenspace value

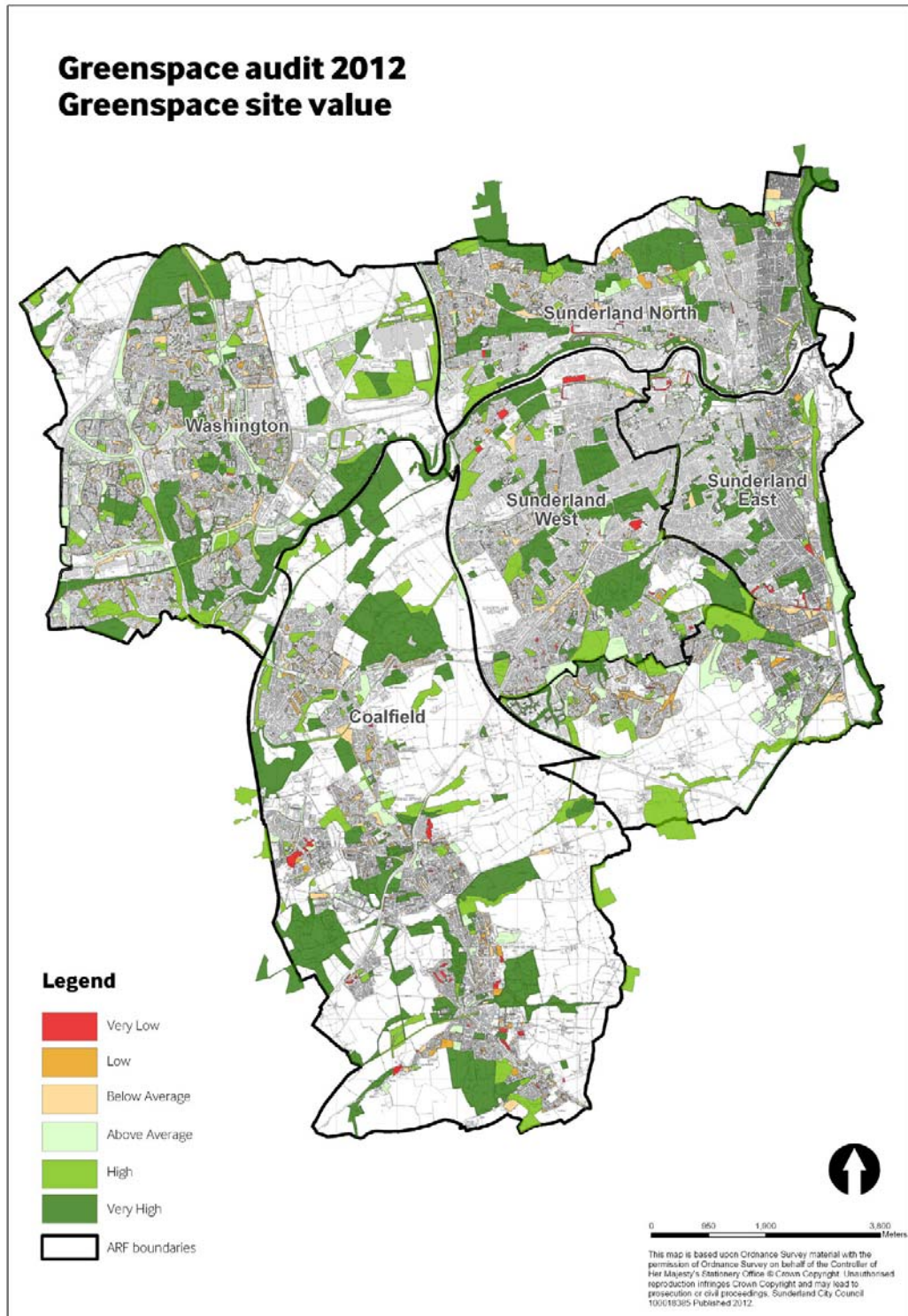
- 21.1 The true value of greenspaces is an amalgam of site quality, accessibility and need. High quality sites may exist that have low local value because they have limited access, or maybe their value is diminished because there is an abundance of similar provision close-by. On the other hand, a site may be of low quality but is highly valued because it is the only such provision around. Sites that demonstrate multiple functions generally have more value to them, being more attractive to a wider population than a single function site. Sites may also have a strategic value, such as nationally recognised wildlife habitat, or a supporting role in a Conservation Area.
- 21.2 Sunderland's Greenspace Audit has scored every site, based upon questions relating to site function, facilities, biodiversity, accessibility and visual character. Added to these scores are weightings that relate to local, regional and national site protections, greenspace deficiency areas, corridor connectivity and local consultation carried out to determine greenspace value. The weightings are explained in Chapter 5. From this total score, all of the sites can be reviewed and mapped together, and the lowest scoring sites can be identified.

Site value is determined by:

- *Value in terms of the strategic significance given to it by authorities*
- *Value in terms of the way local people appreciate the site*
- *Value in terms of quality the site brings to an area*
- *Value in terms of the functions it brings to an area*
- *Value in terms of the scarcity of the site's function to a particular area*

Value guidelines

- 21.3 The appended map shows the site value scores broken down into 6 categories:
- Very high value
 - High value
 - Above average value
 - Below average value
 - Low Value
 - Very low value.



21.4 The median value score for all 1764 greenspace sites is 89 points.

Dealing with low value sites

21.5 Future strategic decision making process should focus on low value sites as a priority. This in itself does not mean because they are of low value that green space is surplus to requirements. Instead the function of each green space needs to be explored in further detail to understand why the site is perceived as having a low value.

21.6 The first step should be to consider whether there are deficiencies in other types of open space in the area, such as allotments or natural greenspaces. In all cases a robust approach should be applied before releasing a site for development, and it is recommended that all the following criteria are considered:

- all functions that open space can perform have been considered and the loss of the open space would not have an adverse impact on the ability of the wider area to achieve these functions
- the open space is not protected by a planning or statutory designation, nor is it of historic, ecological or landscape significance
- the open space does not form part of, nor has it the potential, to create a link between spaces
- the open space does not contribute to or have the potential to contribute to the character or the amenity of the area
- there is no identified open space deficiency in the area and its loss does not create one
- the community has been consulted and the proposal for an alternative use is widely supported
- there is no net loss of biodiversity or increase in an area of deficiency in access to nature
- other statutory authorities, such as the Environment Agency, do not identify the open space as providing a significant ecosystem service.

21.7 It is recommended that the 'low' value scores (61-74 points) and 'very low' value scores (60 points and under) are prioritised for site review, to consider whether the site use needs to be changed, whether the site needs to be enhanced, or whether a non-greenspace use would be more appropriate.

21.8 The 'very low' sites are located as follows: (60 points and under)

Sunderland North:	9 sites
Sunderland West:	17 sites
Sunderland East:	13 sites
Washington:	3 sites
Coalfield:	36 sites.
Total =	78 sites.

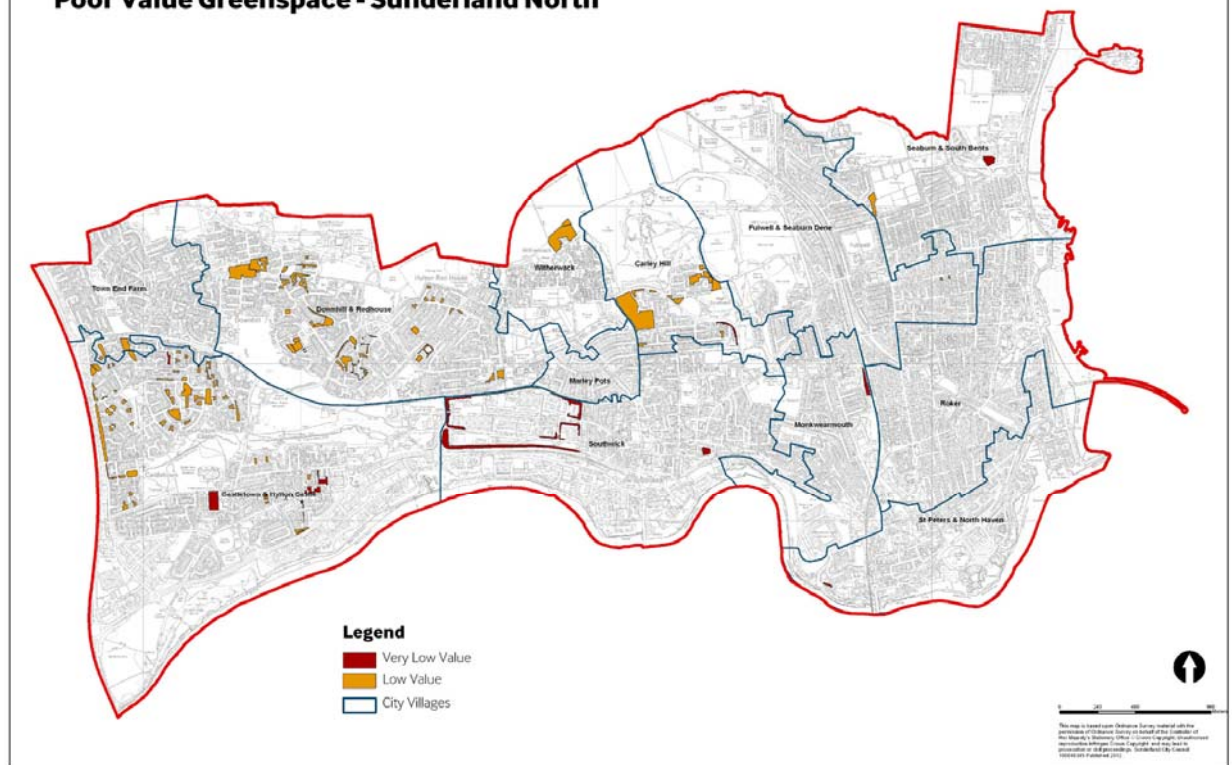
21.9 The 'low' sites are located as follows: (61-74 points)

Sunderland North:	56 sites
Sunderland West:	56 sites
Sunderland East:	49 sites
Washington:	100 sites
Coalfield:	97 sites.
Total =	358 sites.

ACTION: To investigate and make recommendations relating to all sites scoring below 75 points, which are either classed as "low value" or "very low value"

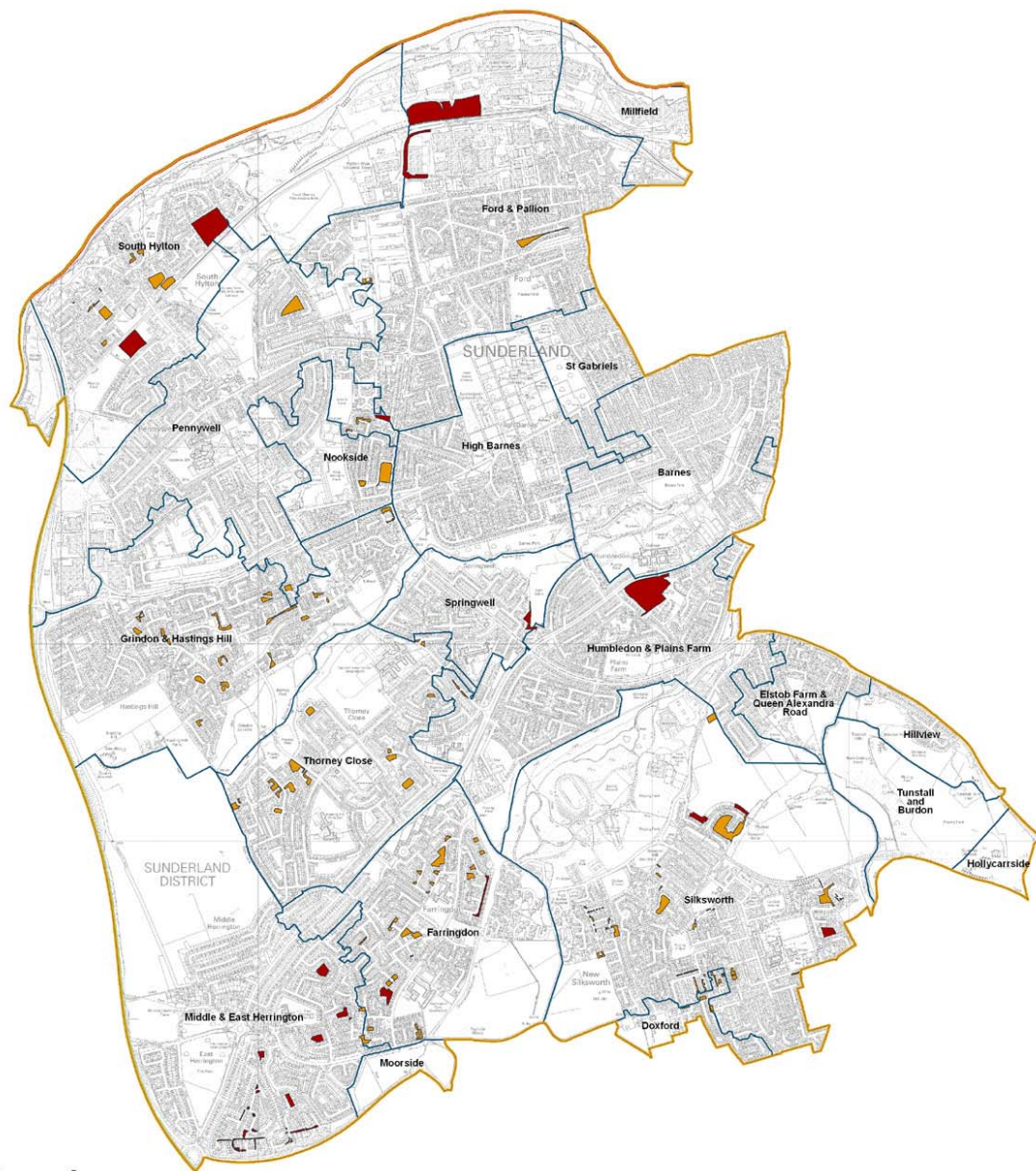
Greenspace audit 2012

Poor Value Greenspace - Sunderland North



Greenspace audit 2012

Poor Value Greenspace - Sunderland West



Legend

- Very Low Value
- Low Value
- City Villages

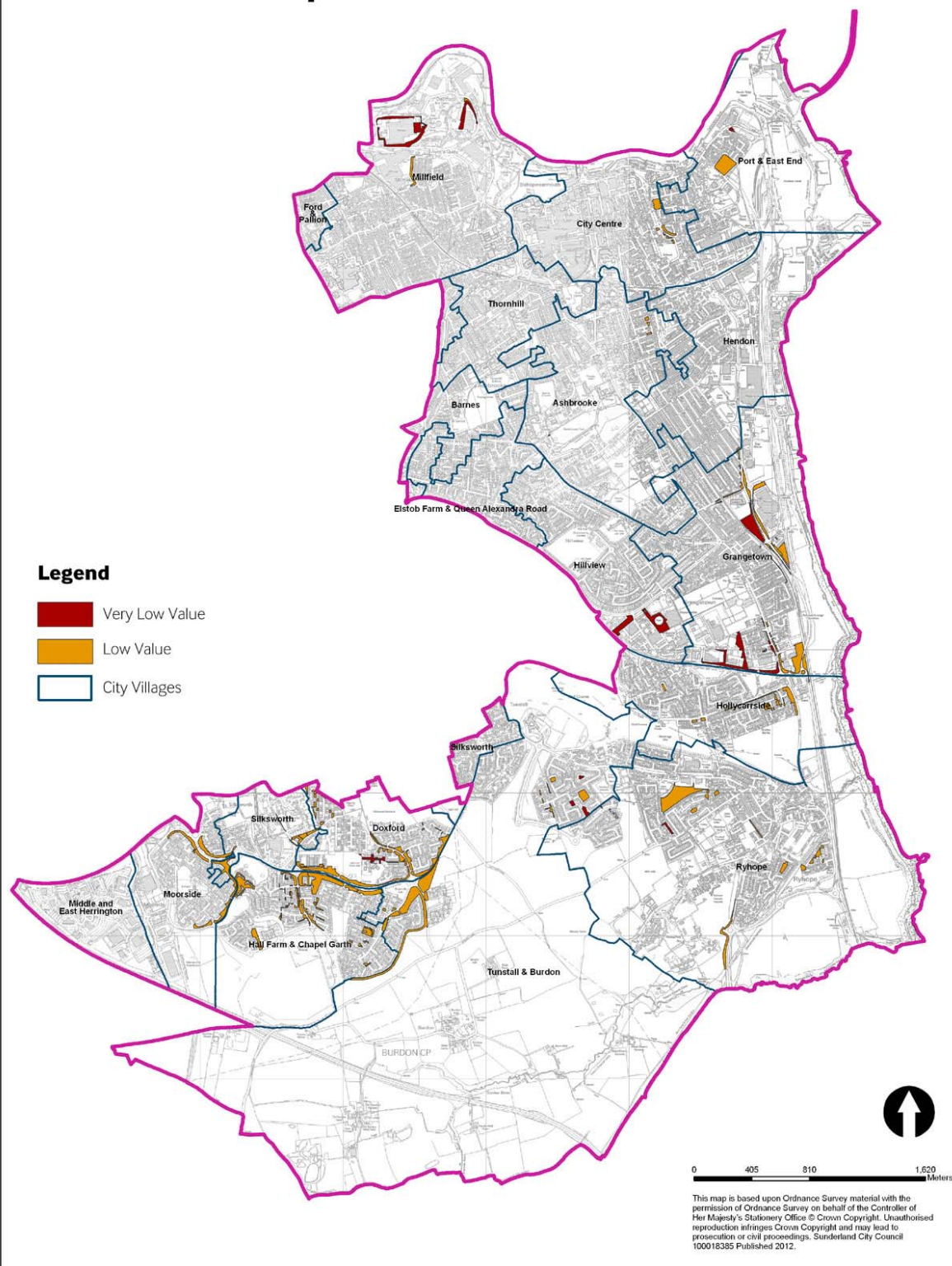


0 355 710 1,420 Meters

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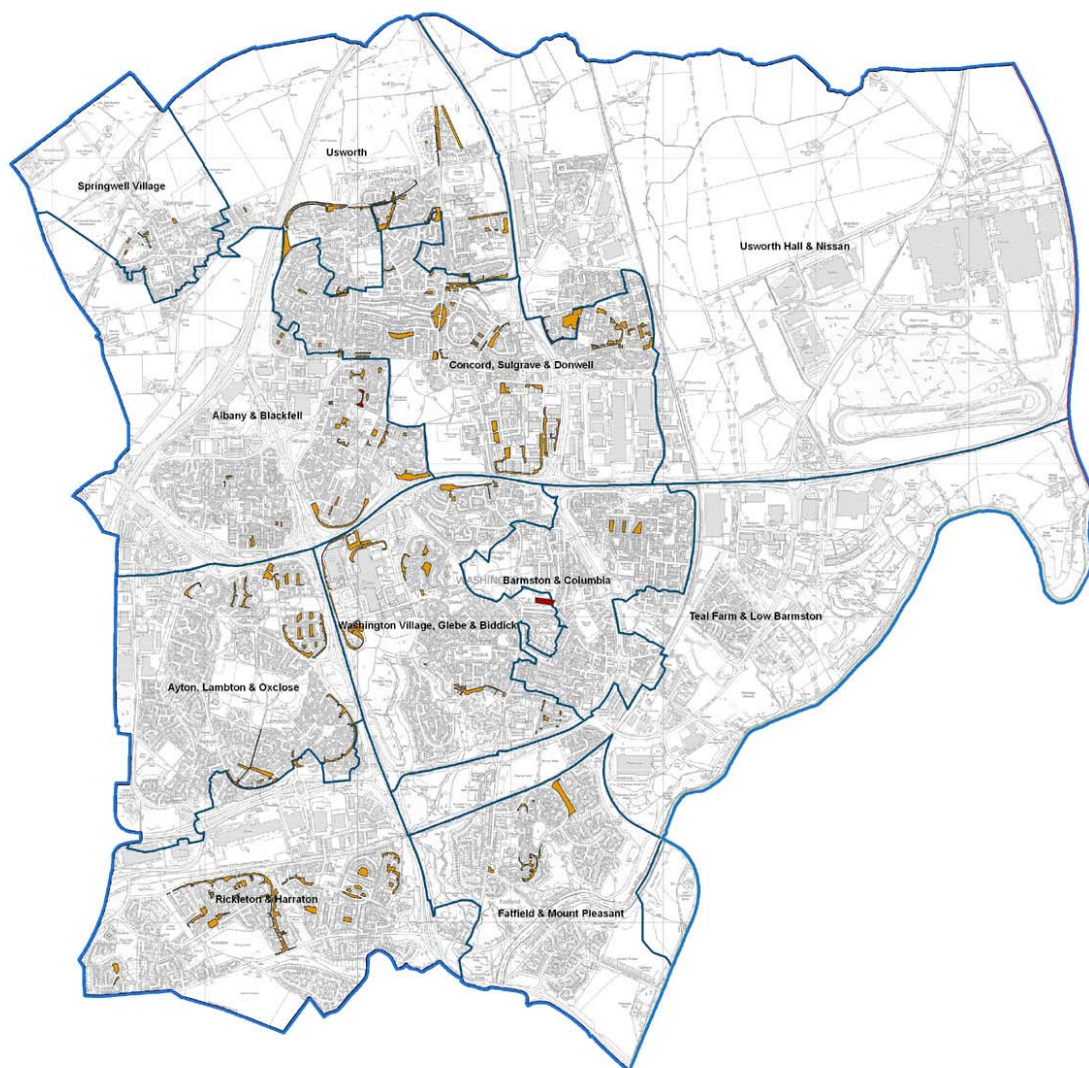
Greenspace audit 2012

Poor Value Greenspace - Sunderland East



Greenspace audit 2012

Poor Value Greenspace - Washington



Legend

- Very Low Value
- Low Value
- City Villages

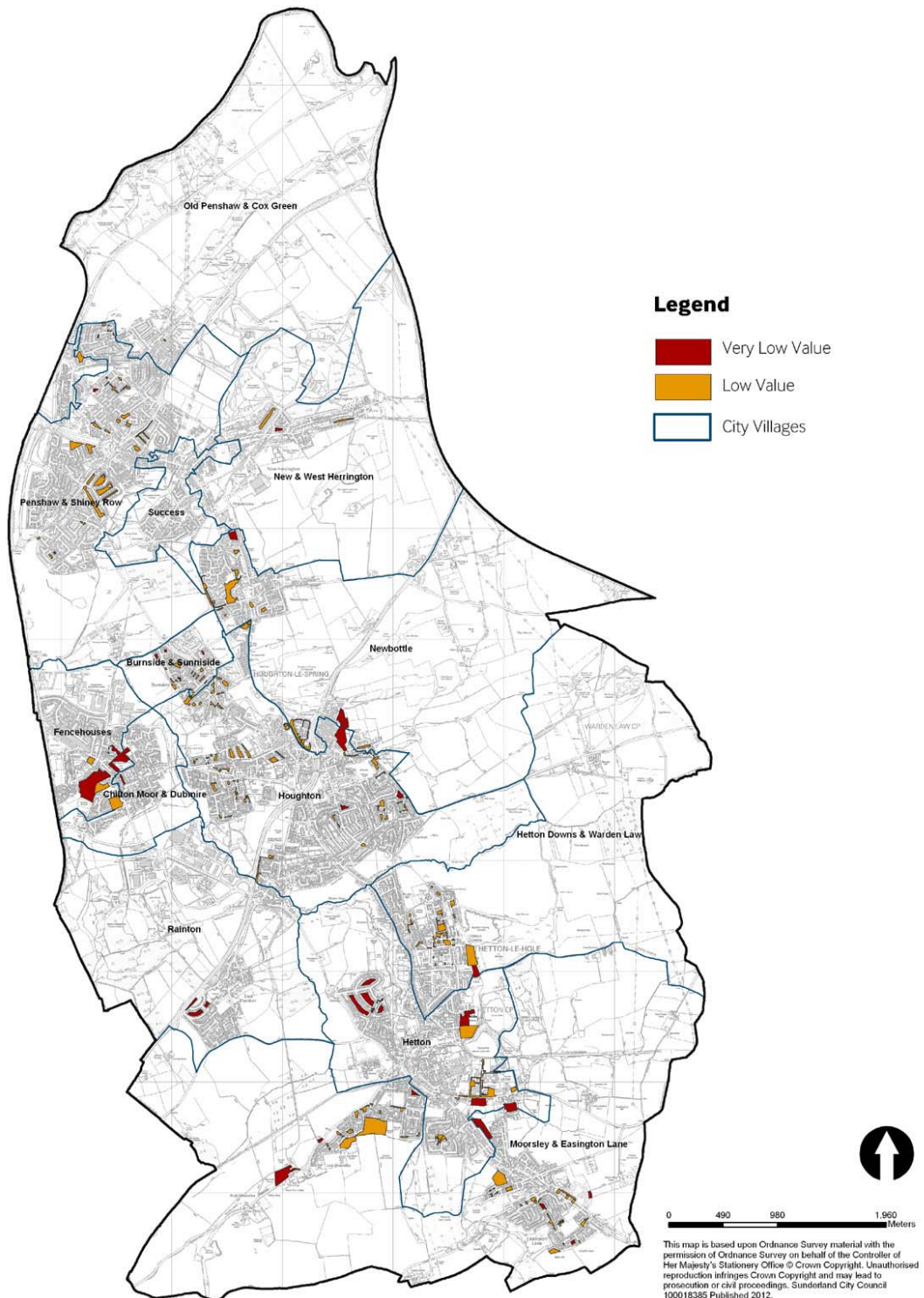


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Greenspace audit 2012

Poor Value Greenspace - Coalfield



22.0 Physical barriers to access

22.1 There are a number of physical barriers within the city that limit access to greenspaces in some areas. Some barriers are natural, others man-made, and some may be restricted by law. Improving access through design may be feasible in some cases, enabling a facility to maximise use from its catchment area. The types of barriers encountered are summarised below:

- The River Wear provides the principle natural barrier, and access across is restricted to bridges
- Main roads and railways can form restrictive barriers to access. The quantity and quality of crossing features vary from place to place
- Access within our countryside varies, but in some places the Rights of Way network is limited in routes and the type of use allowed
- Washington New Town was created with segregation of cars and people/bikes in mind. However, most pathways do not allow for shared use by cycles, and so require a formal process to lawfully allow for this to meet demand.

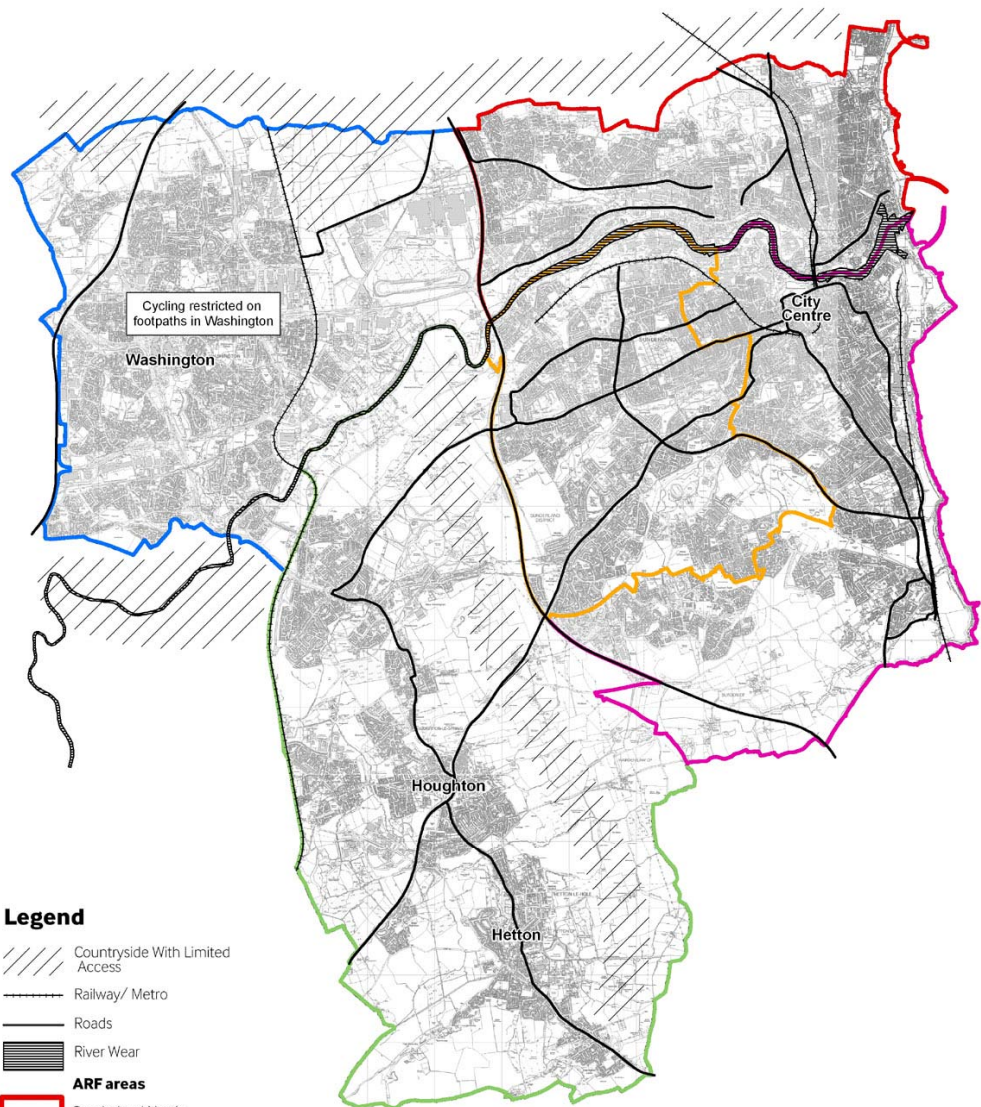
Recommended action regarding physical barriers to access:

Where feasible, the design of new developments should consider ways to improve access across known physical barriers.

Where relevant, investigate the barriers identified in each ARF and consider options to improve access where it is most needed.

Greenspace audit 2012

Barriers to Access



Legend

- Countryside With Limited Access
- Railway/ Metro
- Roads
- River Wear
- ARF areas**
- Sunderland North
- Sunderland West
- Sunderland East
- Coalfield
- Washington



0 850 1,700 3,400 Meters

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23.0 City-wide results, recommendations and next steps

23.1 There have been two attempts to survey urban greenspaces in England, the first by the Public Parks Assessment (PPA) in 2001, and the second by CABE, in 2010. Unfortunately, it is difficult to make comparisons between the datasets and Sunderland's Greenspace Audit, primarily because Sunderland's audit is far more detailed and comprehensive than the two national approaches. It is, however, possible to compare Sunderland's results against certain key national data, national standards and summary conclusions. These are indicated below.

23.2 National data

1. ***The urban England average for greenspace is 1.79 hectares per 1000 population, and 1.77 for the North East of England.*** By contrast, Sunderland has 5.34 hectares / 1000 population for amenity greenspace alone. This does not include other types of greenspace such as allotments or cemeteries that have been included nationally. However, it would appear likely that national data has focused on larger sites only, whereas Sunderland's audit has been more comprehensive. Therefore, comparisons may be misleading.
2. ***The 2008 Register of Parks and Gardens identified 1,770 parks across all urban authorities in England.*** Sunderland has 42 parks and country parks, which would theoretically account for 2.4% of the England total. This would appear to be a healthy total, given that the city accounts for approximately 0.5% of the England population and there are more than 300 local authorities in the country.
3. ***14 English local authorities had 10 or more Green Flag awards in 2009-10.*** Sunderland, by contrast, has 5 Green Flag awards. It should be noted that securing Green Flag awards is a voluntary scheme. There is no mandatory requirement for authorities to submit sites.

23.3 National standards

4. ***Play area access from homes to either a Local Area for Play (100m catchment), Local Equipped Area for Play (400m catchment) and Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (1,000m catchment).*** There is no national statistic to compliment the above standard; however the city's success in attracting Play Pathfinder funding means that access in Sunderland has climbed dramatically to 89% (2012).
5. ***12.9% of homes in England are within 300m of a natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size.*** Natural England has broadly estimated that less than 10% of Sunderland residents succeed this category, but the more detailed Sunderland Greenspace Audit identifies the success rate to be almost 50%.

6. **Homes should be within 500m of a 2 hectare+ woodland site.** The Woodland Trust estimates that 14.5% of homes succeed this category in England, but only 10.7% in Sunderland. The detailed Sunderland Greenspace Audit estimates this figure to be nearer 66%.
 7. **Homes should be within 4km of a 20 hectare+ woodland site.** The Woodland Trust estimates that 63.0% of homes succeed this category in England, but only 44.5% in Sunderland. Again, the Sunderland Greenspace Audit has identified far more eligible sites and estimates this figure to be over 90%.
 8. **House of Commons Select Committee report (1998) recommended spatial standard of 0.25 hectares per 1000 population for allotments.** In contrast, Sunderland has 0.36 hectares per 1000 population.
- 23.4 National assumptions (taken from CAGE 2010 report “Urban Green Nation”)
9. **“Suburban areas tend to have more parks and greenspace than urban areas”.** In Sunderland there is no obvious pattern at all with parks. Central Sunderland has fewer greenspaces, but there are pockets of low greenspace on the periphery such as Town End Farm and Fencehouses that counter the theory.
 10. **Urban areas are better off for recreation grounds and sports pitches.** Again, this is not true in Sunderland. While the older, established areas may have more parks and therefore tend to have more tennis courts and bowling greens, the more rural Coalfield area by contrast has the highest concentration of cricket fields and golf courses. Colliery reclamation sites have provided new facilities in both urban and urban fringe locations, and the bulk of Washington New Town’s football pitches are located in two major urban fringe sites.
 11. **The poorest areas and those with higher unemployment tend to have less parks and greenspace, and the wealthiest areas tend to be the leafiest.** A study of greenspace for Sunderland’s 65 City Villages demonstrates an element of relevance to this statement. Wealthier areas such as Rickleton, Fatfield, Seaburn, High Barnes and Ashbrooke tend to have high standards of greenspace. Poorer areas such as Ford and Pallion score low. Bucking the trend, however, are former colliery areas such as Ryhope, Silksworth, New Herrington and Hetton which also rank very highly for overall greenspace provision.
 12. **Greenspace quality is worse in deprived areas and better in less deprived areas.** There is a very strong correlation with this statement in Sunderland, with few exceptions.
- 23.5 There needs to be caution in making any meaningful comparisons with fairly general national datasets. Nevertheless, it is accurate to summarise the following from the 12 points above:

- Sunderland is a green city. The amount of greenspace appears to be above the national average, and when combined with the amount of open countryside also in the city, it is accurate to report that 57% of the overall city area is green field (undeveloped)
- The establishment of country parks in recent years has significantly boosted the amount of overall parkland in Sunderland, and this appears to be a positive proportion when compared nationally
- We have made some progress with regards to securing Green Flag awards (5 awarded), but there are a number of local authorities with more than 10 awards, and one authority has 30
- Access to natural greenspaces and woodland in Sunderland is much better than national organisations envisage
- We have 50% more allotments than the England average recommendation
- There is no clear distinction regarding the amount of greenspace provision in urban and suburban areas, in contrast to national trends
- Unlike national indicators, in Sunderland the provision of recreation grounds and sports facility provision does not vary greatly between urban and peripheral areas
- Again, unlike the national picture, there is no clear-cut trend in Sunderland indicating that poorer areas have lower greenspace provision. Areas of former heavy industry are probably better indicators of higher greenspace provision
- Closely mirroring national trends, however, the quality of Sunderland's greenspace is worse in deprived areas.

23.6 The Sunderland Economic Masterplan is correct to emphasise that the city has a significant green (and blue) asset that make the city more attractive to inward investment. The strategic benefits associated with the heritage coast, River Wear Estuary, Magnesian Limestone Escarpment, the proliferation of formal parks and country parks and interconnecting off-road cycleways, provide an attractive environment to live in and locate to, and encourage regional leisure and tourism investment in its own right.

23.7 The higher-than-average proportions of greenspace indicate a positive culture towards physical activity and greenspace appreciation. The Football Investment Strategy, for example, recognises that male and female participation rates are some of the highest in England. Satisfaction with Sunderland's greenspaces has risen in recent years, and there is evidence that people would like to see more facilities (demonstrated, for example, by allotment waiting lists). Investment in our greenspaces has paid dividends; cycling levels have increased substantially, as has use of re-invigorated formal parks.

23.8 Whilst new sources of funding are in limited supply during recession, investment can be generated through the re-use of low value greenspaces- the loss of one poor quality, poorly used greenspace site may provide funds that enable other nearby greenspaces to be improved, and a local neighbourhood could achieve an overall greenspace 'net gain'.

- 23.9 Both nationally and in Sunderland, there are major concerns regarding increasingly sedentary lifestyles, and levels of obesity. A variety of Government reports make the point that our living environment has a significant impact on opportunities to undertake physical activity. Increased physical inactivity is one of the factors behind the rapid increases in obesity, type two diabetes and coronary heart disease – the leading single cause of death in the UK. Lack of greenspace access also indirectly impacts upon an individual's exposure to sunlight and Vitamin D. Rickets, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, several cancers, and autoimmune conditions have recently been associated with Vitamin D insufficiency. Mental health issues can also be exacerbated where residents have limited greenspace access and opportunities for walking and cycling. Lack of access may help to increase isolation, and may reduce physical exercise which can help to treat mental health, such as depression.
- 23.10 The above health factors send a clear message to Sunderland that we should continue to improve our overall greenspace product.

23.11 City-wide, the key priorities are to:

- Set greenspace guidelines and standards that seek to minimise inequalities in terms of greenspace provision, that in turn will ensure that all areas have a range of greenspaces accessible to them
- The quality of existing greenspaces should be improved in general, and especially in the more deprived parts of the city
- Alter the use of some types of greenspace, to enable more greenspace variety in key areas
- Where justified and agreed, re-use low value greenspaces for other forms of development, ensuring that funds are provided and re-used to improve other greenspace within the neighbourhood
- Better promote our Greenspace “product”:
 - highlight to inward investors that Sunderland is a green city and has high standards and variety of greenspaces on offer
 - ensure that we maximise publicity regarding the coast, river and natural environment
 - focus on promoting regional tourist activities such as the National Cycle Network, facilities at the marina and in our parks and country parks.

23.12 Specific priorities with regards to different types of greenspace are as follows:

Amenity greenspace (section 8.0)

- Endorse the quantity and quality guidelines identified in the audit
- Review all City Village areas identified with ‘low’ or ‘very low’ quantities of amenity greenspace to consider options for improvement
- Review the 12 City Villages that scored ‘low’ or ‘very low’ for amenity greenspace quality, as well as the 112 individual sites that scored over 20% below the city average to identify potential possibilities for improvement.

Provision for children & young people (section 9.0)

- Direct future investment towards the accessibility gaps identified. This can be either through provision of new play facilities, or where appropriate, enhancement of an existing facility that would feasibly serve a wider catchment area
- Create a new wheeled sports park in Sunderland East ARF.

Natural and Semi-Natural greenspace (section 10.0)

- Endorse ANGST standards for Natural and Semi-Natural greenspace
- Endorse Woodland Trust accessibility standards for woodland
- Consider improvements to all areas with limited access to natural greenspace. Focus on 'low' or 'very low' scoring areas to existing low quality natural greenspace sites, or other greenspaces, in order to attain the 4 ANGST accessibility standards
- Consider natural greenspace options in Sunderland West/East for a further site to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve
- Investigate options for increased tree cover in the identified deficiency areas. Consider opening-up access to existing sites with limited accessibility
- Investigate options for increased tree cover in general in City Villages with 'low' or 'very low' tree cover.

Formal Parks and Country Parks (section 11.0)

- Endorse recommended accessibility thresholds and quality guidelines for different standards of parks
- Identified quantity deficiencies will be examined in order to improve overall access
- To ensure that each ARF has at least one park achieving Green Flag status, investigate options to upgrade a park in Washington
- Investigate the below-average scoring 'Local' Parks as well as Diamond Hall Pocket Park, and identify improvements.

Allotments and Community Gardens (section 12.0)

- Endorse the quantity guideline and recommended accessibility thresholds for allotment provision
- Investigate site possibilities to provide additional allotments and/or community gardens in Washington, Middle & East Herrington, Pennywell, Hastings Hill, Grindon and near to the City Centre, subject to local demand
- In Washington, West and East ARF's (where provision quantity is below average), seek to retain existing allotments and enhance poor quality sites wherever feasible
- Investigate the Coalfield ARF allotments and consider whether sites should be retained and enhanced or whether any are not worthy of long-term retention.

Football pitches (section 13.9)

- Maintain at least one performance pitch in each of the 5 ARF's

- Improve the range of sites (by tiered quality) in each of the 5 ARF's, in line with recommendations in the Football Investment Strategy
- Where appropriate, change the designation of some senior pitches to cater for junior and mini football
- Create new football pitches wherever feasible across the city with priority for East and West Sunderland
- Transfer mini soccer usage to Newbottle (Coaley Lane) as well as to 3G provision
- Identify need for development of 9 versus 9 and 5 versus 5 pitches
- Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock
- Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are developed to support new pitches and enhance existing pitches without facilities
- Identify sites to transfer to community club ownership, and support clubs who may wish to provide other sporting uses.

Cricket pitches (section 13.16)

- Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock
- Complete the new 'Kwik Cricket' facility at Fulwell Quarries
- Pursue the creation of new cricket fields in Sunderland East, Washington and/or Coalfield ARF's
- Identify sites to transfer to community club ownership, and support clubs who may wish to provide other sporting uses.

Rugby pitches (section 13.17)

- Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock
- Seek completion of all 3 new rugby pitches at Ryhope Road to address shortfall of provision in West/East Sunderland
- Identify opportunities to increase the number of junior and mini rugby pitches in the Coalfield
- Support other sports clubs who may seek to expand their sporting offer, and consider providing new rugby clubs/facilities.

Hockey pitches (section 13.19)

- Protect and enhance the existing playing pitch stock
- Ensure any new sand-based or water based STPs to be built are of suitable size for hockey.

Bowling greens (section 13.20)

- Investigate potential for further bowling greens where demand is clearly identified.

Athletics Tracks (section 13.24)

- Explore opportunity to upgrade existing Silksworth running track.

Synthetic turf pitches (STP) (section 13.26)

- Explore options to replace Community North STP
- Prioritise new provision in Sunderland North, followed by Sunderland South.

Tennis courts (section 13.27)

- Improve access to school sites for recreational use
- Seek development contributions to improve quality of existing outdoor provision.

Other sports facilities (section 13.32)

- Support the possibility for the development of beach volleyball at Roker Seafront
- Support the provision of outdoor table tennis tables at locations across the city.

Cemeteries, churchyards and church grounds (section 15.0)

- No recommended quantity, quality or accessibility standard for cemeteries, churchyards or church grounds. However, future consideration to be given to whether, in spatial terms, the city would benefit from an additional cemetery site either in the Washington area, or a central site to serve the city as a whole.

Accessible countryside (section 17.0)

- Quality of countryside to be examined through the Landscape Character Assessment
- Accessibility to the countryside to be examined via the Tyne and Wear Rights of Way Improvement Plan

School playing fields and grounds (section 19.0)

- Ensure, wherever feasible, that community use of school sports facilities is maximised.

Greenspace value (section 20.0)

- To investigate and make recommendations relating to all sites scoring below 75 points, which are either classed as “low value” or “very low value”.

Physical barriers to access (section 21.0)

- Where feasible, the design of new developments should consider ways to improve access across known physical barriers
- Where relevant, investigate the barriers identified in each ARF and consider options to improve access where it is most needed.

Specific area needs are detailed in Appendices 1 and 2.

23.13 Next steps

This report will be made freely available for all to use, to explain greenspace needs across the city and to inform people of key issues to consider in terms of greenspace type and spatial location.

23.14 Key next steps include:

- informing policies contained within the emerging Local Development Framework (Core Strategy and Allocations DPD) and Green Infrastructure Strategy
- providing valuable supporting information and recommendations to other key corporate strategies and Area Plans
- Informing Area Committees as to the quantity, quality, accessibility and value of greenspaces in their respective localities, who will be in a position to consider key improvements and interventions
- Ensuring that the Development Management Team have up-to-date evidence in place when determining planning applications.

Appendix 1

Greenspace provision at Area Regeneration Framework (ARF) level

How this appendix should be used

This appendix should be used as a reference tool (in conjunction with Appendix 2 if needed), explaining how areas work in spatial terms. It seeks to highlight the general status regarding different greenspace issues. It should be noted that Chapters 8-21 may also need to be referenced, in order to explain a specific greenspace issue in more detail, and/or to signpost users to view other key reports.

A. Sunderland North ARF

Sunderland North ARF	Population is 56,954 (20.2% of city population). Area is 1,623 hectares (11.62% of city area).
Total greenspace	The ARF is urban in nature; countryside exists to the north but falls within South Tyneside MBC. Countryside is limited to the west by Nissan. While 20% of the population lives in North ARF, just 14% of the city's greenspace is located here. This statistic is a bit misleading; some of largest greenspaces in Sunderland exist in open countryside (such as woodland, golf courses, country parks).
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.35 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city. Some 56 hectares of additional amenity greenspace would be required to match the city average. Lowest provision is scattered across the ARF: Town End Farm, Marley Potts, Southwick, Monkwearmouth, Roker, St Peter's & North Haven.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	AVERAGE The average quality score matched the city average. Low quality is identified at Town End Farm and Marley Potts.
Outdoor play provision	ABOVE AVERAGE. Low accessibility is identified at Fulwell & Seaburn, Redhouse and St Peters.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE General: 3.46 hectares per 1000 pop, as opposed to 5.00 ha/1000 pop across the city. Again, this statistic is misleading, the absence of countryside areas limits the overall quantity of natural greenspace, compared to, say, the Coalfield ARF. ANGST (2ha)– there is limited access to high quality natural greenspaces (of 2 hectares+ size) in Marley Potts, Redhouse, Newcastle Road. ANGST (20ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (100ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (500ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (LNR access) – achieved.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 6.23% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Areas with limited woodland are: Carley Hill, Marley Potts, Roker, St Peters & North Haven, Witherwack. Woodland Trust (20 hectare accessible woodland site): The only part

	of the city without access is the north-east part of Sunderland North ARF. Woodland Trust (2 hectare accessible woodland site): there is limited access in Town End Farm (south), Redhouse (east), Newcastle Road, South Bents, North Haven.
Formal park access	AVERAGE Limited accessibility in Town End Farm, Redhouse, Witherwack, Marley Potts and Seaburn.
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks score below average.
Allotment and community gardens – access	ABOVE AVERAGE Although allotment provision is limited in Town End Farm and Castletown to the west, and Roker and Seaburn to the east, there are a number of large allotment areas that enable provision to exceed the city average.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility • Complete the new 'Kwik Cricket' facility at Fulwell Quarries • Support the development of beach volleyball at Roker Seafront.
Cemeteries	ABOVE AVERAGE The area is well-served by 3 municipal cemeteries. No accessibility issues.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Only 11% (9 sites) of all 'very low value' sites identified in the city are in north ARF. Only 15% (56 sites) of all 'low value' sites are in North ARF.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Whilst the coast and riverside areas have good access to routes, the north and north-west of the ARF have relatively poor access. North-south access is particularly limited.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A19 is a barrier to countryside access to the west of the ARF. • The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the south • Limited bridleways exist north-south into South Tyneside MBC. • Wessington Way (A1231) limits access to the River Wear. • North Hylton Road limits access. • Newcastle Road. • Metro line. • Dame Dorothy Street • Thompson Road

B. Sunderland West ARF

Sunderland West ARF	Population is 67,126 (23.8% of city population). Area is 1,824 hectares (13.06% of city area).
Total greenspace	The ARF is urban in nature, bounded by the River Wear to the north and with countryside existing to the west (separated by the A19). While 23% of the population lives in West ARF, just under 14% of the

	city's greenspace is located here. This statistic is a bit misleading, some of largest greenspaces in Sunderland exist in open countryside (such as woodland, golf courses, country parks).
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.48 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city. Some 58 hectares of additional amenity greenspace would be required to match the city average.
	Lowest provision is located in Ford & Pallion and St Gabriel's, which scored 'very low'. Pennywell, Barnes, Humbledon & Plains Farm scored 'low'.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE The average quality score is just below the city average. 'Very low quality' is identified at Ford & Pallion, 'low quality' is identified at Farringdon and Pennywell.
Outdoor play provision	ABOVE AVERAGE. Low accessibility is identified at South Hylton, west Pennywell and Hastings Hill.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE General: 2.86 hectares per 1000 pop, as opposed to 5.00 ha/1000 pop across the city. Again, this statistic is misleading, the absence of countryside areas limits the overall quantity of natural greenspace, compared to, say, the Coalfield ARF. ANGST (2ha) – there is limited access to high quality natural greenspaces (of 2 hectares+ size) in Nookside, Ford & Pallion, Hastings Hill. ANGST (20ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (100ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (500ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (LNR access) – an additional Local Nature Reserve is required in either West or East ARF's.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 5.64% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Areas with limited woodland are: Ford & Pallion, Humbledon & Plains Farm, St Gabriel's, Thorney Close and Farringdon. Woodland Trust (20 hectare accessible woodland site): 100% coverage. Woodland Trust (2 hectare accessible woodland site): there is limited access in Pallion, Pennywell, Grindon, Hastings Hill, Nookside, Springwell, Thorney Close, Middle Herrington.
Formal park access	AVERAGE Limited accessibility in Ford & Pallion, South Hylton, west Pennywell and Hastings Hill.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Low scoring parks are King George V Park (Pennywell/Nookside), Thorndale Park (Thorney Close), Barnes Park Extensions (Grindon, Springwell, Thorney Close and High Barnes).
Allotment and community gardens – access	BELOW AVERAGE Allotment access is limited in Middle & East Herrington, Pennywell, Hastings Hill and Grindon.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports	BELOW AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New football pitches are needed, including a new STP.

facilities – key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunity to upgrade Silksworth running track.
Cemeteries	AVERAGE
	The area is well-served by Bishopwearmouth cemetery and crematorium. No accessibility issues.
Greenspace value	AVERAGE
	22% (17 sites) of all 'very low value' sites identified in the city are in West ARF. Only 16% (56 sites) of all 'low value' sites are in West ARF.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE There are routes to the north and to the south of the ARF, but access is limited in central areas and north-south.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A19 is a barrier to countryside access to the west of the ARF. The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the north. Chester Road Durham Road Hylton Road Metro line Inner ring road

C. Sunderland East ARF

Sunderland East ARF	Population is 53,468 (19.0% of city population). Area is 2,450 hectares (17.55% of city area).
Total greenspace	The ARF is mainly urban in nature, open countryside and Green Belt exists to the south and the coast forms the eastern boundary. The River Wear forms the northern boundary. There is a further central band of countryside stretching from the coast inland to Silksworth. While 19% of the population lives in East ARF, just 15% of the city's greenspace is located here. This statistic is a bit misleading, some of largest greenspaces in Sunderland exist in open countryside (such as woodland, golf courses, country parks).
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 3.87 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city. Some 78 hectares of additional amenity greenspace would be required to match the city average. The lowest provision is in areas surrounding the city centre. Thornhill, Elstob Farm and Hillview scored 'very low'. Millfield and Hendon scored 'low'.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE The quality score is the highest for any of the 5 ARF's. 'Very low quality' is identified at Hall Farm & Chapelgarth.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE. Low accessibility is identified at Moorside, Millfield, Queen Alexandra Road, Hillview, and Hollycarrside
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE General: 3.87 hectares per 1000 pop, as opposed to 5.00 ha/1000 pop across the city. ANGST (2ha)– there is limited access to high quality natural greenspaces (of 2 hectares+ size) in Millfield, Thornhill, Hendon,

	<p>Grangetown, Hollycarrside and Doxford. Marley Potts, Redhouse, Newcastle Road. ANGST (20ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (100ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (500ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (LNR access) – an additional Local Nature Reserve is required in either West or East ARF's.</p>
Woodland	<p>BELOW AVERAGE</p> <p>Woodland cover is 5.51% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Areas with limited woodland are: Elstob Farm & QA Road, Port & East End, Thornhill, Grangetown, Hendon, Hillview and Hollycarrside. Woodland Trust (20 hectare accessible woodland site): 100% coverage. Woodland Trust (2 hectare accessible woodland site): there is limited access in Doxford, Ryhope, Hollycarrside, Grangetown, Hendon, East End, Thornhill, Millfield.</p>
Formal park access	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>Limited accessibility in Hall Farm, east Ryhope, Grangetown and Hollycarrside.</p>
Formal park quality	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>Low scoring parks are Doxford Park and Diamond Hall Pocket Park.</p>
Allotment and community gardens – access	<p>BELOW AVERAGE</p> <p>Allotment access is limited in all neighbourhoods surrounding the City Centre.</p>
Allotment quality	<p>GOOD</p> <p>Low quality allotments in Ryhope.</p>
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	<p>AVERAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New football pitches are needed, including a new STP. • A new cricket field is required. • Complete the new rugby facility at Hollycarrside/Ryhope.
Cemeteries	<p>ABOVE AVERAGE</p> <p>The area is well-served by 2 municipal cemeteries. No accessibility issues.</p>
Greenspace value	<p>ABOVE AVERAGE</p> <p>17% (13 sites) of all 'very low value' sites identified in the city are in East ARF. Only 14% (49 sites) of all 'low value' sites are in East ARF.</p>
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>Whilst there are good links into the countryside to the south and along the River Wear, access to the coast is poor, as are direct links into the City Centre.</p>
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial land, the Southern Radial Route and Dock Railway are all barriers to the coast • The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the north • Ryhope Road • Chester Road • Eastern Relief Road • Durham Road • Inner Ring Road.

D. Washington ARF

Washington ARF	Population is 56,978 (19.8% of city population). Area is 3,345 hectares (23.95% of city area).
Total greenspace	The ARF forms a New Town, largely urban, but flanked on the north and south by Green Belt, and east by a mixture of Green Belt and industrial land. While 20% of the population lives in Washington ARF, more than 26% of the city's greenspace is located here. This reflects the green blueprint originally set out for the New Town, and also the extensive natural greenspaces that flank the River Wear.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE 6.47 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city. Compared to the city average, there are an additional 64 hectares of amenity greenspace in existence. Low provision is located in Barmston & Columbia only.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE The average quality score is just below the city average. 'Very low quality' is identified at Barmston & Columbia.
Outdoor play provision	ABOVE AVERAGE. Low accessibility is identified at Usworth.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE General: 4.60 hectares per 1000 pop, as opposed to 5.00 ha/1000 pop across the city. ANGST (2ha)– there is limited access to high quality natural greenspaces (of 2 hectares+ size) in Usworth, Concord, Sulgrave & Donwell, Albany & Blackfell, Barmston, Oxclose and Ayton. ANGST (20ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (100ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (500ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (LNR access) – achieved.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 10.88% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland cover is 40% above the city average and there are no areas identified as 'low'. Woodland Trust (20 hectare accessible woodland site): 100% coverage. Woodland Trust (2 hectare accessible woodland site): there is limited access in Springwell Village (east), Donwell, Blackfell, Albany (west), Oxclose, Ayton, Barmston, Columbia.
Formal park access	BELOW AVERAGE Limited accessibility in Springwell Village, Donwell, Usworth, Blackfell, Rickleton and Harraton.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Washington is the only ARF without a Green Flag award. Low scoring parks are: Usworth Park, Albany Park, Princess Anne Park (all), Holley Park, Ayton Park, Glebe Colliery Welfare Park, James Steel Park (Biddick Burn, Worm Hill and Chartershaugh).
Allotment and community gardens – access	BELOW AVERAGE In terms of accessibility, it is apparent that Washington ARF has very limited access to allotments. A further 11.89 hectares of allotment land would be needed to match the current city average. Provision is especially low in the west of the New Town.

Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City-wide demand identifies need for a new cricket field – Washington currently has just one field. If a need is identified for further bowling greens in the city, Washington could be the best location- there are no bowling greens at all to the west of the New Town.
Cemeteries	BELOW AVERAGE <p>The ARF has one cemetery, which has no new burial space available. However, there is plentiful capacity elsewhere in the city. A new cemetery site for Washington remains an option, however.</p>
Greenspace value	AVERAGE <p>Only 4% (3 sites) of all ‘very low value’ sites identified in the city are in Washington ARF. However, 28% (100 sites) of all ‘low value’ sites are in Washington ARF.</p>
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	BELOW AVERAGE <p>Whilst there is a network of off-road pathways criss-crossing the New Town, use is restricted to walking only. Beyond the New Town, access to the east is restricted by industrial estates and the Leamside Line, and the A1(M) severely limits access westwards.</p>
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1(M) restricts access to the west Lack of Rights of Way in the Green Belt to the north east A1290 Washington Road Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town’s pathways Leamside Line River Wear forms a natural barrier to the south General’s Wood limits access to the south-west.

E. Coalfield ARF

Coalfield ARF	Population is 47,128 (16.7% of city population). Area is 4,722 hectares (33.82% of city area).
Total greenspace	The ARF consists of a number of towns and villages within an otherwise rural setting. Open countryside and Green Belt separates the area from Sunderland, Washington, Durham and Murton. While less than 17% of the population lives in North ARF, just over 30% of the city’s greenspace is located here, (more closely mirroring the equivalent land area). The area includes many of the largest greenspaces, including 3 country parks, a major nature reserve, riverside woodland and 3 golf courses.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE <p>8.08 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city. Compared to the city average, there are an additional 129 hectares of amenity greenspace in existence. Despite this high figure, there are still areas of low provision- Chilton Moor & Dubmire, Fencehouses and Success.</p>
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE <p>The Coalfield has the lowest quality average of the 5 ARF’s. ‘Very low quality’ is identified in Burnside & Sunnyside, Chilton Moor & Dubmire. ‘Low quality’ is identified in Fencehouses, Moorsley & Easington Lane, Penshaw & Shiney Row.</p>

Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE. Low accessibility is identified at Success/Philadelphia, Gillas Lane, Hetton and West Herrington.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE General: 11.70 hectares per 1000 pop, as opposed to 5.00 ha/1000 pop across the city. Coalfield provides 40% of the city's 'high quality and accessible' natural greenspace. ANGST (2ha)– there is limited access to high quality natural greenspaces (of 2 hectares+ size) in Newbottle, Burnside & Sunnyside, Chilton Moor & Dubmire. ANGST (20ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (100ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (500ha) – 100% achievement. ANGST (LNR access) – achieved. Two further LNR's are already proposed in Coalfield.
Woodland	AVERAGE Woodland cover is 7.60% (which matches the city average). Areas with limited woodland are: Burnside & Sunnyside, Chilton Moor & Dubmire, Fencehouses, Hetton Downs & Warden Law, Newbottle and Success. Woodland Trust (20 hectare accessible woodland site): 100% coverage. Woodland Trust (2 hectare accessible woodland site): there is limited access in Shiney Row, Newbottle, Dubmire and Racecourse Estate.
Formal park access	AVERAGE Limited accessibility in Newbottle, Fencehouses, Houghton Racecourse and Easington Lane.
Formal park quality	ABOVE AVERAGE Low scoring parks are: Penshaw Park, New Herrington Welfare Park, Elba Park.
Allotment and community gardens – access	ABOVE AVERAGE Coalfield ARF provides 36% of the city's allotments, twice the city average.
Allotment quality	BELOW AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer mini soccer to Newbottle (Coaley Lane) as well as to 3G provision. • City-wide demand identifies need for a new cricket field
Cemeteries	ABOVE AVERAGE The area is well-served by 3 municipal cemeteries. No accessibility issues.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE 46% (36 sites) of all 'very low value' sites identified in the city are in Coalfield ARF. In addition, 27% (97 sites) of all 'low value' sites are also in Coalfield ARF.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Whilst there are good west-east connections from the Coalfield to Sunderland and Durham City, north-south routes are limited. There is no clear route threading together Easington Lane, Hetton, Houghton, Shiney Row and Washington.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the north of the ARF

issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A19 is a barrier to the north-east • The Green Belt between Houghton and Sunderland has limited bridleways and cycleways, especially north-south • A690 • A183 • A182 • Leamside Line.

Appendix 2

Greenspace provision at City Village level

How this appendix should be used

This appendix should be used as a reference tool (in conjunction with appendix 1 if needed), explaining how areas work in spatial terms. It seeks to highlight the general status regarding different greenspace issues. It should be noted that Chapters 8-21 may also need to be referenced, in order to explain a specific greenspace issue in more detail, and/or to signpost users to view other key reports.

A. Sunderland North

CARLEY HILL	Population is 1,631. Area is 91.7 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 5.24 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 78.25 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 3.40% lower than city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH PROVISION ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in south part of area.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 1.26% (compared to 7.60% across the city)- though benefits from tree cover within adjacent Fulwell Quarries. Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 20ha+ sites.
Formal park access	AVERAGE (Thompson park nearby)
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY HIGH North ARF reasonably well provided for.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility • Complete the new 'Kwik Cricket' facility at Fulwell Quarries.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 92 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 4 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Improved inks to Southwick and Fulwell needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thompson Road

CASTLETOWN & HYLTON CASTLE	Population is 8,669. Area is 316.7 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE 5.43 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 77.92 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 3.80% lower than city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH PROVISION ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in the north part of Hylton Castle.

Woodland	HIGH
	Woodland cover is 15.06% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- north part of Hylton Castle.
Formal park access	HIGH (Billy Hardy Sports Complex and Hylton Dene)
Formal park quality	GOOD
	No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY LOW
	Nearest provision is at Southwick.
	Overall provision in ARF, however, is above average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE
	North ARF reasonably well provided for.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE
	Average value score is 96 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 3 'very low value' sites, and 32 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE
	North-south links need to be improved, plus better linkage to the riverside C2C cycleway.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A19 is a barrier to countryside access to the west of the ARF. The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the south Wessington Way (A1231) limits access to the River Wear. North Hylton Road limits access.

DOWNHILL & REDHOUSE	Population is 9,174. Area is 204.7 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE
	5.19 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE
	Average score is 79.10 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 2.35% lower than city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE
	Low access in Redhouse.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE
	ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in north Downhill and in Redhouse.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE
	Woodland cover is 4.77% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 20ha+ sites. Limited access to 2ha+ sites in eastern part of Redhouse.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Limited access in northern parts of Downhill and Redhouse, (Hylton Dene is nearest park).
Formal park quality	GOOD
	No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE
	North ARF reasonably well provided for.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options to replace Community North STP North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE
	Average value score is 88 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 16 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW
	Improved north-south links are needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited bridleways exist north-south into South Tyneside

	MBC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Hylton Road limits access.
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FULWELL & SEABURN DENE	Population is 7,470. Area is 185.0 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 5.16 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 92.70 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 14.44% above city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Low access in Seaburn Dene.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in Fulwell.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 4.16% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 20ha+ sites. Limited access to 2ha+ sites in Fulwell.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE Limited access in Seaburn Dene (Thompson Park and Roker Park are nearest parks to area).
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE North ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility Complete the new 'Kwik Cricket' facility at Fulwell Quarries.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 118 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 1 'low value' site.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW Improved links to coast and north-south needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited bridleways exist north-south into South Tyneside MBC. Newcastle Road. Metro line. Thompson Road

MARLEY POTTS	Population is 1,252. Area is 23.7 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE (in conjunction with Witherwack) 0.69 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city. Provision is very low in Marley Potts only, but neighbouring (shared) provision in Witherwack realises above average provision overall.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY LOW Average score is 60.50 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 25.31% lower than city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY LOW ANGST deficiency – no 2ha+ sites in area.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 0.07% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 20ha+ sites.
Formal park access	VERY LOW No local park. Thompson Park is nearest.

Formal park quality	GOOD
	No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE North ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 100 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' site, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Better links into Southwick required.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Hylton Road limits access.

MONKWEARMOUTH	Population is 2,952. Area is 80.5 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 2.32 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY HIGH Average score is 97.25 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 20.06% above city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in north Monkwearmouth.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 4.03% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites in area.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Thompson Park is nearest).
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH
Allotment quality	BELOW AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	HIGH North ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 122 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 2 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE Better north-south links required.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the south A1290 limits access to the River Wear. Newcastle Road. Metro line.

ROKER	Population is 7,591. Area is 138.7 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 2.30 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY HIGH Average score is 96.67 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 19.35% above city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in west Roker.
Woodland	LOW

	Woodland cover is 3.48% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 20ha+ sites.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Roker Park)
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW Very limited local provision. Major sites at Seaburn Dene and Fulwell. Overall provision in ARF, however, is above average.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE North ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility • Support the development of beach volleyball at Roker Seafront.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 139 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH Better internal north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle Road. • Metro line.

SEABURN & SOUTH BENTS	Population is 4,349. Area is 153.3 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	HIGH 9.05 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 82.06 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 1.31% above city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY HIGH PROVISION No ANGST deficiency.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 4.43% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 20ha+ sites. Limited access to 2ha+ sites in South Bents.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE Parts of Seaburn with limited access (Cornthwaite Park and Roker Park are nearest parks).
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	AVERAGE Major site available at Seaburn Dene. Overall provision in ARF is above average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE North ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 124 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 1 'low value' site.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE Better east-west links needed to coast.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited bridleways exist north-south into South Tyneside MBC.

SOUTHWICK	Population is 4,574. Area is 180.5 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 2.62 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.

The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 80.43 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 0.70% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in north Southwick.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 6.28% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in east Southwick.
Formal park access	BELOW AVERAGE Limited access in west Southwick. (Thompson Park is nearest park).
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	BELOW AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW North ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility.
Greenspace value	AVERAGE Average value score is 103 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 2 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH Better links northwards needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the south Wessington Way (A1231) limits access to the River Wear. North Hylton Road limits access. Thompson Road

ST PETERS & NORTH HAVEN	Population is 3,100. Area is 119.1 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 2.89 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 83.18 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 2.69% above city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Low provision in St Peters.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in St Peters.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 2.77% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in St Peters.
Formal park access	HIGH Roker Park provides access.
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW Nearest provision is at Thirlwell Bank. Overall provision in ARF, however, is above average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW North ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 130 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.

Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the south • Newcastle Road. • Metro line. • Dame Dorothy Street

TOWN END FARM	Population is 4,710. Area is 72.6 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY LOW 1.34 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	LOW Average score is 76.00 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 6.17% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE PROVISION Playpark in Town End Farm could be upgraded to Pathfinder quality to serve area.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in south Town End Farm.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 4.68% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in south part of Town End Farm.
Formal park access	VERY LOW No local park. Nearest park is Hylton Dene.
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY LOW Nearest provision is at Redhouse. Overall provision in ARF, however, is above average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	LOW North ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 116 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW Better east-west links needed to link to Nissan, better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A19 is a barrier to countryside access to the west of the ARF. • Limited bridleways exist north-south into South Tyneside MBC. • North Hylton Road limits access.

WITHERWACK	Population is 1,482. Area is 56.7 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE/HIGH. 9.74 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city. Good provision, even when provision is considered in conjunction with Marley Potts.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 80.22 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 0.96% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency- shortage of 2ha+ sites in west Witherwack.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 3.31% (compared to 7.60% across the city).

	Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 20ha+ sites.
Formal park access	VERY LOW No local park. Nearest park is Thompson Park or Hylton Dene.
Formal park quality	GOOD No parks in North ARF score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH Provision nearby at Marley Potts.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	HIGH North ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North ARF requires a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) facility.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 116 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 1 'low value' site.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW Better north-south links needed to Southwick.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited bridleways exist north-south into South Tyneside MBC.

B. Sunderland West

BARNES	Population is 7,663. Area is 131.38 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 3.07 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY HIGH Average score is 110.00 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 35.80% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in north/east of Barnes.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 10.59% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Barnes Park provides access)
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH Provision overall in the ARF is below average, and there are a lack of sites near to the City Centre.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 146 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH Better links needed to the west.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham Road

FARRINGDON	Population is 5,579. Area is 110.11 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 3.97 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	LOW Average score is 74.42 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 8.12% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION

Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in west Farringdon.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 2.85% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in west Farringdon.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Thorndale Park and Doxford Park nearby).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW Nearest sites are in Silksworth and Plains Farm. Overall provision in ARF is below average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 86 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 2 'very low value' sites, and 10 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH Better east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham Road

FORD & PALLION	Population is 9,064. Area is 195.25 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY LOW 1.47 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY LOW Average score is 70.19 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 13.35% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in north of area.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 1.23% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in Pallion.
Formal park access	LOW Limited access in pillion and east Ford (Diamond Hall, Barnes Park and King George V parks are nearest).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH Overall provision in ARF is below average.
Allotment quality	AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 105 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 2 'very low value' sites, and 2 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the north. Hylton Road Metro line.

GRINDON & HASTINGS HILL	Population is 6,142. Area is 160.06 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE 6.99 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.

The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 77.95 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 3.77% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Hastings Hill has no provision.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in Hastings Hill.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 3.97% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites across area.
Formal park access	HIGH Limited access in Hastings Hill (Barnes Park Extension is nearest).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW/BELOW AVERAGE Local access to a community garden only. Overall provision in ARF is below average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 91 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 15 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW Cycleway through Barnes Park needs to be completed. Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A19 is a barrier to countryside access to the west of the ARF. Chester Road Inner ring road.

HIGH BARNES	Population is 2,962. Area is 82.47 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY HIGH 12.13 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY HIGH Average score is 104.25 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 28.70% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY HIGH ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 12.65% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Barnes Park Extensions serve area).
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Barnes Park Extensions score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH No sites within City Village, however.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 149 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW Cycleway through Barnes Park needs to be completed. Better north-south links needed.

Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chester Road • Inner Ring Road.

HUMBLEDON & PLAINS FARM	Population is 5,799. Area is 118.83 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 1.57 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 77.38 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 4.47% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in parts of Plains Farm.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 0.77% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Barnes Park serves area).
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Barnes Park Extensions score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 104 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH Better east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Road • Inner ring road.

MIDDLE & EAST HERRINGTON	Population is 4,173. Area is 239.21 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 5.21 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 82.61 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 1.99% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in east of area.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 5.60% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites in Middle Herrington.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Middle Herrington Park).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY LOW Nearest allotments are in Silksworth or Springwell. Overall provision in ARF is below average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 97 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 6 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.

Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE Cycleway through Barnes Park needs to be completed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A19 is a barrier to countryside access to the west of the ARF. Durham Road.

NOOKSIDE	Population is 1,536. Area is 33.44 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 3.84 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 84.71 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 4.58% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	LOW ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 5.23% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites across area.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (King George V Park).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	BELOW AVERAGE No provision in City Village. Overall provision in ARF is below average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 102 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 4 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chester Road Hylton Road.

PENNYWELL	Population is 5,831. Area is 148.44 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 3.42 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	LOW Average score is 75.00 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 7.41% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Limited access in west Pennywell.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in east Pennywell.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 5.46% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in east Pennywell.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE Limited access in west Pennywell (KGV is nearest park).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW/BELOW AVERAGE Nearest allotments are at South Hylton and Ford. Overall provision in ARF is below average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.

Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Average value score is 104 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 1 'low value' site.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE Better north-south links needed, and east-west towards Pallion.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited access to King George V Park from the west A19 is a barrier to countryside access to the west of the ARF. Chester Road Hylton Road.

SILKSWORTH	Population is 7,618. Area is 280.37 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE 6.82 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 85.61 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 5.69% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in south Silksworth.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 11.91% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in New Silksworth.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Silksworth Welfare Park and Doxford Park).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP. Explore opportunity to upgrade Silksworth running track.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Average value score is 110 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 2 'very low value' sites, and 8 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE Better links needed through centre of Silksworth.
Accessibility issues	None.

SOUTH HYLTON	Population is 3,302. Area is 155.06 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.94 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 84.40 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 4.20% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Limited facilities in Claxheugh.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 7.88% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY LOW No park access. Nearest park is King George V.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH

Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Average value score is 108 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 2 'very low value' sites, and 4 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A19 is a barrier to countryside access to the west of the ARF. The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the north. Metro line.

SPRINGWELL	Population is 1,561. Area is 39.70 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY HIGH 10.42 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 91.56 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 13.04% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE Limited access in parts of Springwell.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 4.31% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in Springwell.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Barnes Park Extensions).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Average value score is 104 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Cycleway through Barnes Park needs to be completed. Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham Road Inner ring road.

ST GABRIELS	Population is 1,558. Area is 26.47 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY LOW 0.10 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 77.00 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 4.94% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 0.14% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Barnes Park and Extensions).

Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH Allotment provision is near to the City Village.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 117 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chester Road.

THORNEY CLOSE	Population is 4,338. Area is 103.68 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.50 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 78.04 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 3.65% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in south/east of area.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 1.50% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites across area.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Thorndale Park).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	BELOW AVERAGE Nearest provision is in Springwell. Overall provision in ARF is below average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 86 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 12 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Cycleway through Barnes Park needs to be completed. Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham Road.

C. Sunderland East

ASHBROOKE	Population is 4,654. Area is 135.11 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 3.59 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 91.64 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 13.14% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 7.82% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.

Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Backhouse, Barlow Mow and Mowbray Parks).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	ABOVE AVERAGE Nearest provision at Tunstall Hills and in Hendon. Overall provision in ARF is below average, and there are a lack of sites near the City Centre.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 149 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 1 'low value' site.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryhope Road.

CITY CENTRE	Population is 3,185. Area is 105.00 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.75 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY HIGH Average score is 115.20 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 42.22% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in east/west parts of area.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 4.61% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites along riverside.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Mowbray Park).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY LOW Nearest provision is at Monkwearmouth. Overall provision in ARF is below average, and there are a lack of sites in and around the City Centre area.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 142 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 1 'low value' site.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH Better links needed to south and east.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the north Ryhope Road Eastern Relief Road Durham Road.

DOXFORD	Population is 1,991. Area is 66.94 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY HIGH 10.35 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity	ABOVE AVERAGE

greenspaces:	Average score is 81.92 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 1.14% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	LOW ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 11.71% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites in east Doxford.
Formal park access	AVERAGE Limited access in Mill Hill (east). Nearest park is Doxford Park.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby park scores below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 91 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 7 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Better north-south and east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	None.

ELSTOB FARM & QUEEN ALEXANDRA ROAD	Population is 2,899. Area is 64.48 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY LOW 1.36 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 86.14 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 6.35% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Limited provision throughout area.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in north of area.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 0.94% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Barnes Park and Backhouse Park).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 118 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 1 'low value' site.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE Better east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inner Ring Road.

GRANGETOWN	Population is 4,424. Area is 173.55 hectares.
Amenity greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE

quantity:	3.73 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 78.67 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 2.88% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sits in west of Grangetown.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 1.84% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites across area.
Formal park access	VERY LOW No local park. Barley Mow and Backhouse Parks are nearest.
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	ABOVE AVERAGE Recent loss of allotments at Hillview mean that local sites are more limited. Overall provision in ARF is below average.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 112 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 3 'very low value' sites, and 3 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial land, the Southern Radial Route and Dock Railway are all barriers to the coast Ryhope Road Inner Ring Road.

HALL FARM & CHAPELGARTH	Population is 3,160. Area is 108.81 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 5.28 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY LOW Average score is 72.06 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 11.04% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	HIGH Woodland cover is 18.14% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE Limited access in Hall Farm (east Doxford). Nearest park is Doxford Park.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH Large site exists to the north of the City Village.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 89 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 12 'low value' sites.

Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Better north-south and east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	None.

HENDON	Population is 4,205. Area is 117.98 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 1.99 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY HIGH Average score is 95.50 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 17.90% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in west of Hendon.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 2.38% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in east Hendon.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Mowbray Park and Barley Mow Park).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 120 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW Better north-south and east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial land, the Southern Radial Route and Dock Railway are all barriers to the coast Ryhope Road.

HILLVIEW	Population is 3,472. Area is 101.34 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY LOW 1.05 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 80.89 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 0.14% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Limited access in Hillview.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in east of area.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 1.82% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	LOW Limited access in south Hillview. Nearest park is Backhouse Park.
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH Recent loss of allotment site in Hillview, but Tunstall Hills still provides for area.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Average value score is 116 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 2 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inner Ring Road.

HOLLYCARRSIDE	Population is 3,142. Area is 112.45 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.06 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 79.28 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 2.12% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Limited access in Hollycarrside.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in east of Hollycarrside.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 3.39% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites in east Hollycarrside.
Formal park access	LOW Limited access across area. Nearest park is Ryhope Welfare Park.
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH
Allotment quality	LOW
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugby pitches on Ryhope Road need to be completed. East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 91 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 5 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial land, the Southern Radial Route and Dock Railway are all barriers to the coast Ryhope Road Inner Ring Road.

MILLFIELD	Population is 7,593. Area is 207.85 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 2.32 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 81.27 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 0.33% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Limited access in Millfield and Deptford.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	LOW ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites across Millfield.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 4.22% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites across area.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE (Served by Diamond Hall Pocket Park and Barnes Park.

Formal park quality	AVERAGE
	Diamond Hall Pocket Park scores below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW
	Overall provision in ARF is below average, and there are a lack of sites near the City Centre.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Average value score is 107 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 2 'very low value' sites, and 2 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH
	Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the north Chester Road.

MOORSIDE	Population is 1,557. Area is 79.73 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE
	6.37 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Average score is 81.33 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 0.41% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE
	No provision in Moorside.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH
	ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Woodland cover is 11.16% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Doxford Park).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE
	Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW
	Nearest provision at Silksworth/Mill Hill. Overall provision in ARF is below average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE
	Average value score is 92 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 5 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH
	Better east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Way.

PORT & EAST END	Population is 1,248. Area is 119.77 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	HIGH
	7.56 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Average score is 82.07 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 1.32% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE
	Limited access in the East End.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE
	ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in west of area.

Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 0.46% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites across area.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE Limited access to eastern part of East End. Nearest park is Mowbray Park.
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY LOW Nearest provision is in Hendon.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 110 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 2 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH Better east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial land, the Southern Radial Route and Dock Railway are all barriers to the coast The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the north Eastern Relief Road.

RYHOPE	Population is 5,459. Area is 323.95 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE 5.52 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 87.59 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 8.14% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in west of area.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 3.51% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites across area.
Formal park access	LOW Limited access in east Ryhope. Nearest park is Ryhope Welfare Park.
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugby pitches on Ryhope Road need to be completed. East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 119 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 7 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial land, the Southern Radial Route and Dock Railway are all barriers to the coast Ryhope Road.

THORNHILL	Population is 3,349. Area is 62.36 hectares.
Amenity greenspace	VERY LOW

quantity:	1.07 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY HIGH Average score is 98.75 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 21.91% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	LOW ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 0.98% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites across area.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Burn Park, Town Park and Barnes Park).
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Burn Park scores below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY LOW Nearest provision is at Springwell or Tunstall Hills. Overall provision in ARF is below average and there are a lack of sites near the City Centre.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 160 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chester Road Durham Road.

TUNSTALL & BURDON	Population is 3,130. Area is 671.08 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	HIGH 7.71 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 81.23 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 0.28% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in south of residential area.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 6.39% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE Limited access in east Doxford. Nearest provision is Doxford, Ryhope Welfare or Silksworth Welfare parks.
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Doxford Park scores below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH Allotment provision situated near to City Village.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East ARF requires new football pitches, including a new STP East ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 101 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 3 'very low value' sites, and 3 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights	HIGH

of Way network access	
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner Ring Road.

D. Washington

ALBANY & BLACKFELL	Population is 7,121. Area is 339.00 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 3.69 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 77.57 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 4.23% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION Quality of provision could be improved in Blackfell.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY LOW ANGST deficiency – no access to either 2ha+ or 500ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 6.39% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites in Blackfell and west Albany.
Formal park access	LOW Limited access in Blackfell. Nearest park is Albany Park.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY LOW Nearest provision is at Concord. Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 85 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 13 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Better links east-west and north-south needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1(M) restricts access to the west • A1231 • A182 • Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways.

AYTON, LAMBTON & OXCLOSE	Population is 8,927. Area is 228.53 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.97 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 80.44 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 0.69% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	LOW ANGST deficiency – limited access to 2ha+ sites in Ayton and Oxclose. Zero access to 500ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	HIGH Woodland cover is 17.97% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in parts of Ayton and Oxclose.

Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Ayton Park and Holley Park).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	BELOW AVERAGE One site at Ayton caters for whole area. Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 93 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 14 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE Better east-west links needed, particularly into The Galleries.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1(M) restricts access to the west Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways A1231 A182.

BARMSTON & COLUMBIA	Population is 5,836. Area is 132.09 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 2.97 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY LOW Average score is 71.79 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 11.37% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in Barmston.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 10.51% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites across area.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE Limited access in Barmston. Nearest park is Glebe Park.
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	ABOVE AVERAGE Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 99 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 3 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Better east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1231 A195 Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways Leamside Line.

CONCORD, SULGRAVE & DONWELL	Population is 10,108. Area is 257.37 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE 6.43 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity	BELOW AVERAGE

greenspaces:	Average score is 79.46 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 1.90% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY LOW ANGST deficiency – zero access to 2ha+ sites across area. Limited access to 20ha+ sites in north of area. Limited access to 500ha+ sites in Concord and Donwell.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 8.95% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in Donwell.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Usworth Park and Albany Park). Limited access in north Donwell.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	ABOVE AVERAGE Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 90 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 25 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW Completion of north-south route needed, better east-west links also needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1231 A195 Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways Leamside Line.

FATFIELD & MOUNT PLEASANT	Population is 4,675. Area is 215.23 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY HIGH 14.19 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 88.27 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 8.98% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – limited access to 500ha+ sites in west of area.
Woodland	VERY HIGH Woodland cover is 38.16% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by James Steel Parks, Princess Anne Park and Penshaw Park).
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Princess Anne Park and Penshaw Park score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	ABOVE AVERAGE Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 115 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 5 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights	ABOVE AVERAGE

of Way network access	Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A182 • Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways • Leamside Line • River Wear forms a natural barrier to the south • General's Wood limits access to the south-west.

RICKLETON & HARRATON	Population is 5,784. Area is 286.79 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	HIGH 8.07 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 78.46 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 3.14% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in parts of Rickleton. Zero access to 500ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 13.30% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	LOW Limited access in Rickleton and west Harraton. Nearest parks are Ayton and Princess Anne Parks.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW Two very small sites serve the area. Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 95 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 17 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH Better links northwards needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1(M) restricts access to the west • A182 • A195 • Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways • General's Wood limits access to the south-west.

SPRINGWELL VILLAGE	Population is 1,465. Area is 115.64 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE 6.37 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 80.29 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 0.88% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY LOW ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in east. Zero access to 20ha+ and 500ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE

	Woodland cover is 5.60% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites in east part of village.
Formal park access	VERY LOW No local park. Nearest park is Albany Park.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW One site in the area only. Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	LOW
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 101 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 6 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH Better east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1(M) restricts access to the west Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways.

TEAL FARM & LOW BARMSTON	Population is 1,850. Area is 406.56 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	HIGH 7.41 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 81.67 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 0.83% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE Leamside Line limits access in Teal Farm area.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – limited access in parts of Teal Farm.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 8.91% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by James Steel Park).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	LOW
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 119 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY HIGH Better east-west links towards The Galleries needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1231 A182 Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways Leamside Line River Wear forms a natural barrier to the south.

USWORTH	Population is 2,911. Area is 263.90 hectares.
Amenity greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE

quantity:	3.82 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 79.21 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 2.21% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Limited access in Usworth.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY LOW ANGST deficiency – zero access to 2ha+, 20ha+ and 500ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 10.96% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	LOW Limited access to parks across Usworth area. The nearest park is Usworth Park, but it serves Sulgrave and Concord and is distanced from most of Usworth.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	BELOW AVERAGE Nearest provision is at Concord. Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 106 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 6 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW Better east-west and north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1(M) restricts access to the west • A195 • Lack of Rights of Way in the Green Belt to the north east • Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways.

USWORTH HALL & NISSAN	Population is 1,513. Area is 880.57 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY HIGH 11.30 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 86.88 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 7.26% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – limited access to 20ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 4.47% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	BELOW AVERAGE Limited access at Usworth Hall. Nearest park is Usworth Park.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW/BELOW AVERAGE Nearest site is at Concord. Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	N/A

Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 130 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW Better east-west links needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1231 A195 Lack of Rights of Way in the Green Belt to the north east A1290 Washington Road Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways Leamside Line.

WASHINGTON VILLAGE, GLEBE & BIDDICK	Population is 6,788. Area is 219.04 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	HIGH 7.60 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 84.62 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 4.47% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	ABOVE AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – limited access to 2ha+ sites in north-west of area, and limited access to 500ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	HIGH Woodland cover is 15.14% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Glebe Park and Princess Anne Park).
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Princess Anne Park scores below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	LOW Overall provision in ARF is well below the city average.
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 101 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 11 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW Better north-south links needed, particularly into The Galleries.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1231 A182 A195 Use restrictions (particularly to cycling) on most of the New Town's pathways.

E. Coalfield

BURNSIDE & SUNNYSIDE	Population is 1,080. Area is 46.82 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.25 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY LOW Average score is 69.17 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 14.60%

	below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY LOW ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 0.13% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in northern part of area.
Formal park access	VERY LOW No local park. Nearest parks are Elba Park and Rectory Park
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Elba Park scores below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	ABOVE AVERAGE
Allotment quality	N/A
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 71 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 3 'very low value' sites, and 5 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW Better north-south links needed.
Accessibility issues	None.

CHILTON MOOR & DUBMIRE	Population is 1,929. Area is 79.79 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY LOW 1.19 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	VERY LOW Average score is 72.13 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 10.95% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY LOW ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites across area.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 0.53% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in Dubmire.
Formal park access	HIGH Limited access in parts of Dubmire. (Nearest parks are Elba Park and Rainton Meadows).
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Elba Park scores below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	LOW
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 105 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 1 'low value' site.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE Better links eastwards into Houghton needed, and north-south links.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leamside Line.

FENCEHOUSES	Population is 2,952. Area is 102.79 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 2.51 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.

The quality of amenity greenspaces:	LOW Average score is 74.07 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 8.56% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	BELOW AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in east of area.
Woodland	VERY LOW Woodland cover is 1.46% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in east part of area.
Formal park access	HIGH Served by Elba and Rainton Meadows 'country' parks, but no local park serving Fencehouses/Chilton Moor/Dubmire area.
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Elba Park scores below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	BELOW AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 83 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 5 'very low value' sites, and 2 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW Better links east into Houghton needed, and north-south links also.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leamside Line.

HETTON	Population is 4,756. Area is 294.07 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY HIGH 9.90 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	ABOVE AVERAGE Average score is 83.76 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 3.41% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Limited access in Hetton.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY HIGH ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 12.98% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Hetton Park, Hetton Town Centre Park and Hetton Lyons Country Park).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	BELOW AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 107 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 7 'very low value' sites, and 4 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH North-south link to Houghton needs to be completed.
Accessibility issues	None.

HETTON DOWNS & WARDEN LAW	Population is 2,940. Area is 501.31 hectares.
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Amenity greenspace quantity:	HIGH 9.25 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 78.80 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 2.72% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in east of Hetton Downs.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 2.84% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Hetton Park and Hetton Lyons Country Park).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	ABOVE AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 95 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 9 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	ABOVE AVERAGE
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Belt between Houghton and Sunderland has limited bridleways and cycleways, especially north-south

HOUGHTON	Population is 9,954. Area is 361.05 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE 6.66 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 77.58 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 4.22% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE Limited access in Gillas Lane.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	AVERAGE ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in parts of the area.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 6.56% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in Racecourse Estate.
Formal park access	ABOVE AVERAGE Limited access at Racecourse Estate. Nearest park is Rectory Park.
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	ABOVE AVERAGE
Allotment quality	LOW
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 99 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 4 'very low value' sites, and 28 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE New routes needed into Houghton Town Centre from north/south/east/west.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Belt between Houghton and Sunderland has limited bridleways and cycleways, especially north-south A690.

MOORSLEY & EASINGTON LANE	Population is 5,076. Area is 931.88 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	ABOVE AVERAGE 6.48 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	LOW Average score is 75.47 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 6.83% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in east of Easington Lane.
Woodland	BELOW AVERAGE Woodland cover is 4.88% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	LOW No formal park. Nearest park is Hetton Lyons Country Park.
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH
Allotment quality	AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE Average value score is 94 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 8 'very low value' sites, and 19 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	AVERAGE North-south link to Hetton needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Belt between Houghton and Sunderland has limited bridleways and cycleways, especially north-south.

NEW & WEST HERRINGTON	Population is 1,723. Area is 412.77 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	VERY HIGH 66.58 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 93.92 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 15.95% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	AVERAGE Limited access in West Herrington.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY HIGH ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	HIGH Woodland cover is 15.21% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Herrington Welfare Park and Herrington Country Park).
Formal park quality	AVERAGE Herrington Welfare Park scores below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	LOW
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 118 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 2 'low value' sites.

Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW East-west link needs to be completed (Sunderland to Chester-le-Street).
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A19 is a barrier to the north-east • The Green Belt between Houghton and Sunderland has limited bridleways and cycleways, especially north-south • A690.

NEWBOTTLE	Population is 3,149. Area is 555.00 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.90 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	BELOW AVERAGE Average score is 79.52 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 1.83% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	LOW ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in Newbottle.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 2.27% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- no access to 2ha+ sites in Newbottle.
Formal park access	VERY LOW No local park. Nearest park is Elba Park.
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	BELOW AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	AVERAGE Coalfield ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer mini soccer usage to Newbottle (Coaley Lane) as well as to 3G provision • Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 107 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 9 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW North-south Shiney Row-Houghton link needs to be completed. Link from Houghton to Doxford also needed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A19 is a barrier to the north-east • The Green Belt between Houghton and Sunderland has limited bridleways and cycleways, especially north-south • A690.

OLD PENSHAW & COX GREEN	Population is 1,467. Area is 645.57 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 3.68 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 86.33 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 6.58% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites in parts of Penshaw.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 10.15% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Herrington Country Park).

Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	ABOVE AVERAGE
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	ABOVE AVERAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE
	Average value score is 131 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 1 'low value' site.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	LOW
	Completion of routes from Cox Green and Herrington Country Park need to be completed into Penshaw and Shiney Row.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Wear forms a natural barrier to the north of the ARF A19 is a barrier to the north-east The Green Belt between Houghton and Sunderland has limited bridleways and cycleways, especially north-south A183 Leamside Line.

PENSHAW & SHINEY ROW	Population is 8,842. Area is 385.63 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	BELOW AVERAGE 4.56 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	LOW Average score is 75.72 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 6.52% below the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	LOW ANGST deficiency – shortage of 2ha+ sites across Shiney Row and Boundary Houses.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 11.38% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites across Shiney Row.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Penshaw Park and Elba Park).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	LOW Coalfield ARF reasonably well provided for. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer mini soccer usage to Newbottle (Coaley Lane) as well as to 3G provision Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	BELOW AVERAGE
	Average value score is 90 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 1 'very low value' site, and 17 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW North-south and east-west routes need to be completed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A183 Leamside Line.

RAINTON	Population is 1,515. Area is 333.34 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	HIGH 8.47 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity	ABOVE AVERAGE

greenspaces:	Average score is 84.58 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 4.42% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	GOOD PROVISION
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	HIGH ANGST deficiency – limited access to 2ha+ sites in East Rainton.
Woodland	ABOVE AVERAGE Woodland cover is 14.68% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- none.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve).
Formal park quality	GOOD
Allotment / community gardens – access	HIGH
Allotment quality	LOW
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 114 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 3 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	HIGH Route north to Fencehouses needs to be completed.
Accessibility issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A690 Leamside Line.

SUCCESS	Population is 1,745. Area is 72.37 hectares.
Amenity greenspace quantity:	LOW 2.41 ha / 1000 population, as opposed to 5.34 ha/1000 across the city.
The quality of amenity greenspaces:	HIGH Average score is 88.50 (compared to city-wide score of 81). 9.26% above the city average.
Outdoor play provision	BELOW AVERAGE Limited high quality sites in area.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	VERY HIGH ANGST deficiency – none.
Woodland	LOW Woodland cover is 2.16% (compared to 7.60% across the city). Woodland Trust deficiency- limited access to 2ha+ sites in Success.
Formal park access	VERY HIGH (Served by Elba Park, Herrington Country Park and Herrington Welfare Park).
Formal park quality	BELOW AVERAGE Nearby parks score below average.
Allotment / community gardens – access	VERY HIGH
Allotment quality	GOOD
Outdoor Sports facilities – key issues	VERY HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalfield ARF requires a new cricket field.
Greenspace value	ABOVE AVERAGE Average value score is 120 (compared to city-wide average of 103). Contains 0 'very low value' sites, and 0 'low value' sites.
Cycle route and Rights of Way network access	VERY LOW Shiney Row-Houghton and Sunderland-Chester-le-Street routes need to be completed through this area.
Accessibility issues	None.

Appendix 3: Policy background detail

A) National guidance

There are a number of organisations that act as Government advisors, and have provided considerable research and justification on the need for better understanding of our greenspaces. Part of this is provided to support local authorities, but it is also recognised that there is only a limited understanding nationally of our greenspaces, and very little provided in terms of best practice standards that should be applied. Natural England and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) have provided the bulk of the UK research.

Supporting the local economy

CABE's green infrastructure campaign argues that **investment in the environment pays for itself many times over**. It cites cities in Europe and North America that are "taking the idea of green infrastructure from something that is nice to have to something that is fundamental to the way we prosper".

Supported by DEFRA, Natural England has identified a number of key conclusions that support local economies:

- Quality green space helps to **transform an area's image and make places economically attractive** and therefore meriting investment. The Northwest Regional Development Agency and Natural England examined the multiple benefits of green infrastructure and found that the Northwest's environment generates an estimated £2.6 billion in gross value added and supports 109,000 jobs in environment and related fields. (CABE 2010, p42).
- Quality working environments also have a **positive impact on employees**.
- The existence of trees and green spaces within urban and semi-urban areas **can increase land and property values**. Work undertaken for RICS found that the overall premium for a property next to a park, relative to a similar property 450 metres away, is positive across all house types.
- Protecting and enhancing green spaces can **help an area maintain its existing tourism economy and attract new visitors**.

Having a greenspace strategy in place can lead directly to **new sources of funding** for the local authority. Blackburn & Darwen Council won ERDF funding to improve allotments after writing their open spaces strategy. The existence of the Sunderland Play & Urban Games Strategy 2004-11 was critical to the successful award of Play Pathfinder funding. Not everybody has benefited equally from funding in recent years- having a strategy in place helps to make sure that Sunderland will be fully prepared.

CABE research has identified that **parks and open spaces are the most frequent used service of all the public services** tracked as part of their 2009 Place Survey, with respondents reporting higher use of parks than any other cultural and leisure services such as sport and leisure facilities and libraries. This is particularly crucial in central urban areas where population density is highest – studies have shown that parks and open spaces are used more, often because of the lack of private gardens available.

Supporting better health

There are clear links to access and use of greenspaces with positive health outcomes. Prioritising investment in open spaces is not just about aesthetics, it also helps resolve problems such as obesity, poor health and deprivation.

The Spatial Planning and Health Group (SPAHG- formerly one of the NICE Programme Development Groups) has developed 12 key action points in relation to healthy planning. Action Point 7 (Healthy Promoting Design Principles) states that the following features of the environment have an impact on physical and mental health:

- The location, density and mix of land uses
- Street layout and connectivity
- Access to public services, employment, local fresh food and other services
- Safety and security
- Open and green space
- Affordable and energy efficient housing
- Air quality and noise
- Extreme weather events and a changing climate
- Community interaction
- Transport

The **existence of quality greenspace has direct and indirect impacts on all of these features**. In terms of action, SPAHG says that authorities should consider rejecting plans and projects that do not sufficiently address issues relating to health and wellbeing where there is a policy basis and sound evidence to do so.

Research by Natural England (supported by DEFRA) has concluded that **green spaces improve air quality, can help to reduce stress levels and provides opportunities for active lifestyles**. Studies have shown that as little as 5 minutes exercise in a park or other greenspace will benefit mental health. Stress in 2007 was estimated to cost the NHS £7.65 billion in direct costs and overall in the UK lost earnings of £26.1 billion.

CABE's 2010 report "Community Green: using local spaces to tackle inequality and improve health" quotes a report by Mitchell and Popham for The Lancet in 2008 that says:

"Greenspace has a proven track record in reducing the impact of deprivation, delivering better health and wellbeing and creating a strong community. The simple presence of greenspace is related to a reduced risk of serious problems like depression and lung disease. **Living close to greenspace reduces mortality**, which can reduce the significant gap in life expectancy between rich and poor".

CABE further conclude that:

"Taken as a whole, the strong correlations between the poor quality and quantity of spaces in deprived areas, and low levels of physical activity of

residents, suggest the policymakers who are keen to encourage better health in deprived areas should consider investing in improving the quality of parks and open spaces as one way of helping to achieve this.” P23

Mitigating climate change impacts

Research by Natural England states that creating accurate baseline data of the quantity and quality of greenspace will enable change to be tracked over time and enable planning for a changing climate.

Natural England has also highlighted two major positive interventions that greenspace can have on climate change:

- Increasing **tree cover** in greenspaces **can reduce city temperatures and store carbon**. Parks have been found to reduce temperature around their boundary up to 200 to 500 metres away, with larger parks having a greater impact;
- Greenspace **reduces the volume of surface water run-off** through infiltration, absorption and evapotranspiration, and also **lessens the impact of flash flooding**.

Supporting social interaction and cohesive neighbourhoods

A growing body of robust evidence demonstrates that high quality greenspaces bring considerable benefits to economic and social well-being and to the development of vibrant, healthy neighbourhoods. Use and visual satisfaction of greenspace increases with site quality. Likewise, it would appear that the poorest parts of the UK have less access to quality provision. CABE's 2010 study "Urban Green Nation: Building the Evidence Base" made the following conclusions:

- Almost 9 out of 10 people use parks and green spaces, and they value them;
- If people are satisfied with local parks, they tend to be satisfied with their Council;
- The provision of parks in deprived areas is worse than in affluent areas;
- People from minority ethnic groups tend to have less local greenspace and it is of poorer quality;
- The higher the quality of the greenspace, the more likely it is to be used."

(CABE 2010, p4)

Research from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in 2009 showed that parks that had been restored with money from the HLF had increased their visitor numbers by 68% on average. MORI surveys undertaken in Sunderland have shown increases in satisfaction with greenspaces, and increases in use to recently improved Roker and Mowbray historic parks.

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) has carried out considerable research into the wider benefits for local authorities to produce their own greenspace strategies. The benefit of preparing a strategy is the protection and creation of a network of high-quality open spaces that can:

- reinforce local identity and civic pride
- enhance the physical character of an area, shaping existing and future development
- improve physical and social inclusion, including accessibility

- provide connected routes between places for wildlife, recreation, walking and cycling, and safer routes to schools
- protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological habitats
- provide green infrastructure and ecosystem services
- provide for children and young people's play and recreation
- raise property values and aid urban regeneration
- boost the economic potential of tourism, leisure and cultural activities
- provide cultural, social, recreational, sporting and community facilities
- protect and promote understanding of the historical, cultural and archaeological value of places
- contribute to the creation of healthy places, including quiet areas
- provide popular outdoor educational facilities
- promote the opportunities for local food production
- help mitigate and adapt to climate change
- improve opportunities to enjoy contact with the natural world.

(CABE 2009 "Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guide" p5)

B) Local policy

Sunderland Unitary Development Plan 1998 (UDP)

The UDP contains a number of policies covering open space, sports and recreation. Information used to inform the UDP policies relates to the 1994 Open Space Recreation Report and in this respect circumstances today have changed. National guidance in the form of PPG17 is not necessarily reflected in the UDP particularly in relation to identifying green corridors, accessible countryside in the urban fringe and civic spaces and building on the need for multi-functionality within open space. The UDP also does not address fully the qualitative and accessibility needs and aspirations. Clearer coherent links are required in how open space contributes strategically to delivery of wider council strategic objectives (i.e. Sunderland Strategy).

UDP policies have been 'saved' under the transitional arrangements of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. These policies remain statutory until superseded by adoption of the Local Development Framework and relevant Local Development Documents. Specific policies in the 'Leisure' chapter include:

- Policy (L1) - provision of recreation and leisure facilities;
- Policy L2 - indoor sport and seeks to improve provision.
- Policy L3 - regional recreational and cultural facilities;
- Policies L4-6 - standards for outdoor sport and recreation, amenity open space and children's play space;
- Policy L7 - protection of recreational and amenity land including cemeteries
- Policies L8-9 - allotments
- Policy L10 - strategic policy on countryside recreational activities
- Policy L11 - golf courses
- Policies L12-13 - promotion of the coast and riverside and water based facilities.

There are further relevant policies elsewhere in the UDP. For example:

- Policy H21 - to provide open space on new housing developments.
- Policy B3 - protection of public and private urban green space
- Policy B18 - protection of the character and setting of historic parks and gardens from adverse impact by development
- Chapter 9 contains policies relating to environmental protection, including a specific policy relating to the coast (EN13).
- Chapter 11 relates to the countryside and nature conservation, and is of particular importance especially in relation to green corridors, natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces and open countryside in the urban fringe.
- Chapter 15 relates to the creation of paths, cycleways and multi-user routes
- Chapters 19-22 contain a number of specific proposals covering open space, sports and recreation. These primarily focus on addressing the issue of deficiency in access to open space, sports and recreation (quantity rather than quality). Some proposals focus on improvement and enhancement of open space.

At the time of adoption, the city was identified as being below the National Playing Fields Association recommended standard (1 hectare per 1,000 population) for outdoor sport. However, the city was nearly at achievement of the amenity open space standard laid down in 1983 of 2 hectares per 1,000 population.

Sunderland Council Parks Management Strategy 2004

This Strategy identifies District (10 hectares or more) and Local Parks (2 hectares or more) that include a mix of natural and landscape features with a range of recreational facilities. It sets key aims that reflect a quality standard for public parks based on Green Flags Parks Awards criteria and sets objectives and short, medium and long term key actions to be taken over the next 10 years. It includes a vision statement for Parks encompassing these quality standards it being:-

“Sunderland Council seeks to provide quality parks which are well managed and maintained, safe and readily accessible and meet local community needs and where appropriate, provide a varied and diversified range of quality, horticultural, ecological and recreational support”.

Five parks in the city have Green Flag status; these being Roker Park, Herrington Country Park, Rainton Meadows, Barnes Park and Mowbray Park. It is a set target within the strategy to aim for at least one park in each area regeneration framework boundary as having Green Flag status in the coming years. It does not include an account of the quality of existing parks or issues relating to quality. Also it does not discuss how parks should be effectively managed. However, it states that preparation of mini-management plans based on a 10 year vision for all local parks will be developed in the long term (6-10 years).

Sunderland City Council Allotments Management Strategy (2004)

This strategy adopts a comparable approach to Parks i.e. it sets an aim to achieve Green Flag status. A 10 year management improvement plan is programmed. It identifies 104 allotments in the city (council owned) and the number of plots

attached to these (categorised by large 50+ plots, medium 25 to 50 plots and small less than 25 plots). It does not include an account of the quality of existing allotments. It does however recognise their valuable contribution to local biodiversity. It contains a vision statement this being:-

“Sunderland Council is committed to the provision of allotment sites which are fully tenanted, well appointed and well managed, open to all and valued in many ways by the communities they serve and with a secure future”.

The demand for and take up rates of allotments is increasing year on year. The Council is to undertake a review of its existing sites including supply, demand and rents. Council owned sites are to be digitised. Information on private allotments requires further investigation. Following the application of UDP policy L9, some allotments have been redeveloped for proposals such as housing.

Sunderland City Council Activecity-Action for a healthy city (2004)

This is an overarching document providing information, aspirations and intentions for the development of sport and physical activity and leisure facilities in the city. It contains a vision for sport and physical activity as stated in paragraph 2.3 of this report. The vision will be delivered through two key aims these are:

- improving sports, leisure and play facilities and buildings
- providing opportunities for participation.

Sunderland City Council Sport & Physical Activity Strategy (Sept 2005-10)

This identifies key actions specific to sport and physical activity for the next 5 years, and is linked to the delivery of achievement of strategic objectives of the Sunderland Strategy. Key actions in the delivery of an attractive and accessible city to note include the following:

- implementing a clear hierarchy of provision to enhance access to play
- identify opportunities to improve and develop playing pitch provision across the city
- maintain and provide sufficient high quality sport and physical activity related recreational open space in appropriate locations.

‘Moving Forward’ Play and Urban Games Strategy June 2007

‘Moving Forward’ is Sunderland’s updated Play and Urban Games Strategy 2007-2012 (May 2007). It replaces the 2004 Play and Urban Games Strategy and has been informed by an independent visual inspection of play sites and includes current ‘play value’ using National Playing Field Association standards of the site and condition of assets. The Strategy includes a spatial vision this being:-

“Sunderland will work in partnership to provide, support and sustain a variety of high quality and accessible play environments and opportunities, for all children and young people up to 19 years. The city aspires to a core offer of free provision citywide, which may be supported by affordable supervised provision as appropriate”.

Sunderland Playing Pitch Strategy (2004-2011)

This was published in 2003 and adopted by cabinet for Culture, Arts, Sport and Leisure in April 2004 and covers the period 2004-2011. An update to the strategy

was published in October 2004 and noted by cabinet in November 2004. The plan identifies demand for sports playing pitches (football, rugby union/league, cricket and hockey). It details by area regeneration framework boundary playing pitch land requirements. The Strategy also assesses the quality of provision and calculates current and future demand based on known carrying capacity.

The plan has been the subject of review in 2004, and was updated in relation to football pitches. Key actions are as follows:

- To increase the number of adult football pitches that are available for allocation in the main areas of demand.
- Increase the number of pitches and associated facilities to accommodate the predicted growth in girls and mini soccer.

Conclusions on supply with respect to football include:

- There are 65 senior and 21 mini soccer pitches in Sunderland
- There is overuse of pitches in 4 areas of Sunderland and significant under use in Washington
- There is only one pitch available in Sunderland East
- The poor quality of pitches and poor drainage restricts use
- The lack of appropriate ancillary facilities restricts use in some areas and increases pressure on other areas. There is a particular shortage of ancillary facilities for girls' football and mini soccer.

Updates on Sunderland's Playing Pitch Plan are taken to cabinet on an annual basis. The last is the subject of a report on the Culture and Leisure Review Committee dated 22 January 2008. This states that demand for football provision remains high especially from mini soccer leagues, junior leagues and the over 40's leagues. Demand for cricket, hockey and rugby is unchanged.

In respect to areas of demand, previously there was a geographical preference for football pitches in Sunderland and less demand for pitches in Washington.

Sunderland Football Investment Strategy (2010)

The Sunderland Football Investment Strategy aims to provide clear strategic pathways for improvement and investment in football pitches and associated ancillary provision. A key function of the Strategy will be to inform future investment and to determine the best way of working locally to deliver SCC, Football Foundation and FA objectives.

The assessment and analysis in this report are based on Sport England's (SE) playing pitch strategy methodology, 'Towards A Level Playing Field' (2003). This outlines specific criteria for assessing the quantity, quality, capacity and accessibility of playing pitches and ancillary facilities. These criteria and the principles of the assessment have also been applied to other outdoor sports facilities. It provides clear guidance on assessment of supply and demand for sports pitches and the types and levels of analysis required in order for the local authority to plan effectively to meet local needs. These include:

- The Playing Pitch Model (PPM).
- Team Generation Rates (TGRs).

The key conclusions drawn from the report are:

- In total, there are 163 football pitches in the City available for community use, accommodating 657 teams.
- The vast majority of pitches are rated as average or good quality. However, consultation suggests that the quality of the pitches in the City, and associated ancillary facilities is declining.
- There are 14 sites in the City which are played beyond their capacity. The majority of overplay is attributed to those sites which serve as central venue sites for mini-soccer (i.e., Ford Quarry, Community North Sports Complex and Northern Area).
- Senior club membership has generally remained constant whilst junior and mini football continues to grow.
- Six clubs have expressed latent demand, which equates to an additional requirement of 4 senior and 6 junior pitches.
- There is an anticipated future surplus of senior pitches but a deficit of junior and mini pitches. The anticipated surplus of senior pitches should be considered in the context of its contribution towards addressing the deficit of junior and mini pitches.

The next steps are to:

- To create a city model to identify and prioritise identified areas of investment.
- Create a set of measurable performance indicators for facility use, satisfaction and football development.
- Identify and use additional funds to match fund identified areas of investment.
- Legal and operational framework for leasing of pitches.

Appendix 4: Defining and identifying natural greenspace in Sunderland

Background

There is a requirement for all UK local authorities to have Green Infrastructure Strategies (GIS) in place that will support the delivery of corporate strategies and provide evidence to underpin emerging development plans (Local Development Frameworks, or LDFs). This was clarified by national Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17). LDF's are particularly important as their creation (or 'soundness') unlocks central Government funds through the Planning Delivery Grant. Failure to create GIS could render the LDF 'unsound' and have major financial repercussions for the local authority.

It is important to have detailed evidence in place to enable informed decisions to be made in terms of spatial planning, to direct funding to areas of highest need, to remove overlap between different workstreams, and to enable better maintenance and enhancement of the physical environment to be achieved.

By understanding the quantity, quality, accessibility and value of all the city's greenspaces, development planners can make key decisions, for example:

- Identified areas of low greenspace provision can have new facilities created as a priority
- The current quality of local facilities may be poor and little used, therefore funding could be directed to improve provision
- Some sites may be separated from residential areas by busy roads with no crossing points, and therefore less accessible to use. Speed restrictions and traffic calming features can help to knit these sites back into their catchment areas
- Some sites may be of little local 'value' - there could be better, similar provision close-by, for example - and therefore these sites might be better used for other land use purposes altogether.

Natural greenspace has not been identified in Sunderland to date, though considerable data is on hand to achieve this. In order to identify and carry out a comprehensive assessment of natural greenspace in Sunderland, the following actions are required:

- To clearly define what constitutes natural greenspace in Sunderland
- To assess, log and map all natural greenspaces in the city in order to enable quantity, quality, accessibility and value assessments to take place
- To agree accessibility thresholds for provision. This will help to determine where improvements are needed to natural greenspace across the city.

An audit on the quality of greenspace sites has been undertaken across the city, and this has incorporated natural greenspace (overseen by the city's Countryside Team). This data will need to be checked against an agreed natural greenspace definition, to determine whether they will remain in this greenspace classification and become part of the natural greenspace mapping layer.

Once the natural greenspace sites have been identified, the results of the quality audit can be evaluated. The mapping of the sites will enable accessibility thresholds to be devised. The full results can feed back into the overall GIS and a value audit can take place involving public and stakeholder consultation.

Need for project

The need to understand and assess natural greenspace in Sunderland is part of a wider national planning requirement of UK local authorities to investigate greenspaces and green infrastructure in their locality. National Planning Policy Statement number 1 (PPS1) stated that planning must make

“a positive difference to people’s lives and helps to deliver homes, jobs, and better opportunities for all, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, and conserving the countryside and open spaces that are vital resources for everyone.”

(PPS1, 2008, p2)

More specifically, PPS1 stated that local authorities (in carrying out their Development Plan policies) should address the conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats and the promotion of biodiversity, and the need to improve the built and natural environment in and around urban areas and rural settlements, including the provision of good quality open space.

The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East (RSS) explained in more detail how natural greenspace must play a key role in the wider development of green infrastructure:

“the development of green Infrastructure - open spaces, woodlands, wildlife habitats, parks and other natural areas- will play a key role in the region’s competitiveness and economic strength... It will contribute to the health, wealth and well being of the city-regions and rural communities; underpin more sustainable living and strengthen biodiversity in both town and country.

(Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East, 2008, p49)

RSS Policies 2, 8, 9 and 10 advocated (as part of sustainable development) the promotion of green infrastructure, developing a network of linked, multifunctional green space in and around the region’s towns and cities.

Developing high quality and accessible natural greenspace is a key objective to the delivery of Sunderland Strategy key priority 5: “Attractive and Inclusive City”. The vision here is for the city to have:

“a reputation for world class urban design, including a public realm that is well maintained, accessible, safe, sustainable and functional. Residential and employment areas will be set within a network of green spaces providing areas for recreation, natural habitats and attractive landscape settings.”

(The Sunderland Strategy, 2008, p40)

The Sunderland Local Area Agreement recognises that investment in accessible natural green space can directly contribute to the achievement of National

Indicator (NI) 197 (improved local biodiversity), and can indirectly contribute to a range of National Indicators including NI 5, 8, 50, 55, 56, 110, 119, 138, 175, 188.

Aside from the political need for this project, there are a number of further key benefits to the organisation:

- The city's development plan will have detailed greenspace evidence to back-up policy;
- Corporate policy objectives will be supported, including emerging policies from the city's Economic Masterplan
- There is currently no clear definition on what constitutes natural greenspace in Sunderland, and no understanding on what the city has in terms of access, quality or quantity of provision;
- A completed map and database of natural greenspace will enable improvements to be carried out in key areas of the city, such as in areas of social deprivation, in enhancing the attractiveness of business parks, and in making connections between existing greenspace sites;
- A completed map and database can help to improve physical access to sites and can support recreation and help to combat obesity;
- Improvements in key areas can support flora and fauna, and enable wildlife to move from site to site, particularly during climate change.

It is clear that none of these objectives can be developed without first having created a definition of natural greenspace for Sunderland. It is also clear that natural greenspace is a crucial element to the Government's desire to achieve connected high quality green infrastructure permeating UK cities.

Data analysis: definition of natural greenspace

Natural England acts as the Government's wildlife and conservation advisor. Its definition of 'accessible natural greenspace' is:

"...not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate"

"Nature Nearby" April 2010

This provides a succinct, if general definition. What it does not do is attempt to list what types of 'places' this would include.

Over the last eight years, the Government has modified its view on natural greenspace, moving away from the desire to create Greenspace Strategies to creating Green Infrastructure Strategies. In 2002, PPG17 clearly defined a definition of natural greenspace as:

"woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (e.g. cliffs, quarries and pits)".

PPG17 (2002) (annex:definitions)

This interpretation has not been altered and still stands. However, it needs to be considered and discussed in light of 'green infrastructure', which has placed significantly more emphasis on biodiversity needs over the more traditional and one-functional greenspaces. PPS1 (2008) defined green infrastructure as:

“a network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities.”

PPS12 (2008) p5.

The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East (2008) further clarified ‘green infrastructure’ as:

“... the sub -regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces, and greenway linkages. Such linkages include river corridors and floodplains, migration routes and features of the landscape of importance as wildlife corridors. Green Infrastructure has many uses, not only benefiting wildlife, but also enhancing recreational and cultural experiences and delivering ecological services such as flood protection and microclimate control. It operates on all spatial scales from urban centres to open countryside”

RSS for North East (2008) p3

Unfortunately, combining these definitions still does not make clear what can be classed as ‘natural greenspace’ in Sunderland. For example:

- The former Vaux site in the city centre constitutes derelict open land, with Magnesium Limestone-rich flora now beginning to take root. However, the site is inaccessible to the public and is brownfield land- redevelopment is crucial to the future viability of the city centre
- Not all woodland provides quality natural greenspace. Shelter-belts around industrial estates are intensively planted and devoid of other species and are not accessible to the public.
- Cliffs and quarries may still be active and therefore subject to change. They are usually also inaccessible and of little recreational value
- Most grasslands are cultivated too intensively. However, the above definitions do not clarify fully what standards in grass quality are required in order to be classified as ‘natural’
- Not all ‘open water’ should be classed as natural. Boating lakes may offer little biodiversity, as could (potentially) ornamental lakes in formal parkland.

Natural England (formerly English Nature) has examined the definition of natural greenspace in much more depth. Some important key principles from the data can be highlighted:

- A threshold size of site should be agreed that can relate to genuine use and benefit to people and wildlife. Very small sites will have little value and could skew local accessibility. Natural England recommends a minimum of 0.25 hectares as a guide.
- The experience of nature is not restricted to places traditionally considered as natural, such as woodlands, but can also be found in parks and other designated multi-functional greenspaces
- In order to identify natural greenspace, the major distinction is made based on the intensity of intervention, whether this is management or any other form of disturbance

- deciding at which point a feeling of naturalness predominates may be difficult to determine and it can be argued that there is considerable room for interpretation.

Natural England also states that the application of natural greenspace needs to reflect local circumstances and need. This is illustrated by the conclusions of two contrasting local authorities:

- A primarily rural authority, West Dorset Council, considered that identifying natural greenspace was more relevant for urban areas- it did not consider the role the wider countryside plays in compensating for any perceived deficiency that might be found;
- A highly urban authority, Salford City Council, stated that the lack of scope (in terms of land available) would hinder opportunities to develop natural greenspace sites, particularly the larger sized sites that are proposed to be available to the public.

In their 2002 report, *Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities* English Nature stated that a definition of natural greenspace should include:

- woodlands with freely growing shrubbery or extensively managed grassland underneath (single specimen trees might also be included as well as areas with a high density of single trees such)
- Freely growing scrub and dwarf shrubs (e.g. heathland)
- Rough grassland, semi-improved grassland (with wild herbs and flowers)
- Rocks and bare soil where natural succession is allowed to freely occur (including mudflats, dunes, etc.)
- Open water and wetlands with reeds, tall wildflowers, (could include ponds, ditches, rivers, lakes and reservoirs)
- sites awaiting redevelopment which have been colonised by spontaneous assemblages of plants and animals
- land alongside transport and service corridors which, although perhaps once deliberately landscaped or planted are now mixtures of planted and spontaneous assemblages
- tracts of 'encapsulated countryside' such as woodlands, scrub, heathlands, meadows and marshes which, through appropriate management, continue to support essentially wild plant and animal assemblages. Often these natural areas exist within the framework of formally designated public open space
- the less intensively managed parts of parks, school grounds, sports pitches, golf courses, churchyards and cemeteries
- allotments and gardens.

This data goes a long way towards defining standards for Sunderland, but it needs to be made locally specific, and there are also issues with regards resources and what the local authority can realistically map and analyse.

In 2008, Natural England developed "Access to Natural Greenspace Standards Plus", or ANGSt Plus. ANGSt Plus recommends categorising sites into one of four 'levels' of 'naturalness'. Levels 1 and 2 would qualify as 'natural', levels 3 and 4

would not, but they could be upgraded to 'natural' sites (Levels 1 and 2) if appropriate management is known to be in operation or subsequently put in place. The four levels recommended consist of:

Level 1	Nature conservation areas, including SSSI, Wildlife Sites (SNCI's), LNR's, NNR's Woodland Remnant countryside (within urban and urban fringe areas)
Level 2	Formal and informal open space Unimproved farmland Rivers and canals Unimproved grassland Disused/derelict land, mosaics of formal and informal areas scrub etc. Country Parks Open Access Land
Level 3	Allotments Church yards and Cemeteries Formal recreation space
Level 4	Improved farmland

The proposal to categorise land uses into 4 different levels would work well in Sunderland, but again the recommendations need to be made locally specific.

Emerging alternatives

The above approaches have been examined together, and the following key issues / alternatives have been discussed with local biodiversity experts:

- whether small sites of below 0.25 hectares should be discounted from overall totals and accessibility maps as they would provide limited value and could skew results
- whether to discount high density woodland planting (shelter belts)
- whether all minor streams and burns should be counted
- whether any sites awaiting redevelopment should be counted
- whether to count land alongside transport corridors that has no public access or obvious local value
- due to their limited public access, whether allotments and private gardens should also be discounted.

Conclusions

Following data evaluation, alternative approaches were discussed with local experts from the City Council's Countryside Team, and also from Natural England. Interviews and meetings enabled agreement to be made to define natural greenspace for Sunderland that combined national guidelines and local circumstances. This research provided 10 conclusions, outlined below.

- 1) The 2008 Natural England definition of natural greenspace should be adopted for Sunderland, but accompanied with a detailed list of land uses and site categorisations that make clear what should and should not be classified as natural greenspace.
- 2) Natural greenspace in Sunderland reflects national policy guidelines, but is also adapted to reflect local circumstances and need

- 3) Sites under 0.25ha in size should be discounted, barring exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances might be as a result of outstanding local interest or site quality.
- 4) Level 1 of “naturalness” includes all sites / land uses that have already been defined as providing natural greenspace and biodiversity value (either with local, national or international protection).
- 5) Level 2 and Level 3 of “naturalness” will draw upon the evidence from the Sunderland Greenspace Audit, which will help to determine the level of ‘naturalness’ and management intensity of greenspace sites. Sites with less management and more naturalness will tend to be included in Level 2, although accessibility will also be taken into account
- 6) The Greenspace Audit will be used to determine the level of biodiversity provided with regards to open water and wetlands to separate sites into levels 2 and 3
- 7) The Greenspace Audit will be used to determine the level of density of woodland planting and all-round accessibility, again to separate sites into levels 2 and 3
- 8) Derelict and disused land sites will only be included in Level 2 if shown to be safeguarded as green infrastructure in any future site redevelopment. No sites proposed otherwise for redevelopment will be considered, so as to avoid undue damage to the site’s economic viability
- 9) The distinctions between unimproved and improved farmland, as well as open access land and remnant countryside will be determined by the City Council’s Countryside Team, in association with Natural England
- 10) Private gardens and active quarries will not be counted as natural greenspace, due to their access restrictions.

Levels 1-4 are summarised below:

Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European designated sites – Northumbria Coast SPA, Durham Coast SAC • Nationally and locally recognised nature conservation areas, Durham Heritage Coast, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Local Nature Reserves. • Ancient Semi-Natural or Ancient Replanted woodland
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Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less intensively managed greenspaces (includes amenity open space, formal parks, country parks, school grounds, sports pitches, golf courses, churchyards, cemeteries and allotments) • Non-dense, non-intensive deciduous and/or coniferous woodland, freely growing shrubbery and element of public access • Open water and wetlands with reeds, tall wildflowers, (could include ponds, ditches, small rivers, streams and lakes) • River estuary (water, mudflats, saltmarsh) • Unimproved, semi-improved and rough grassland, and heathland (with wild herbs and flowers) • Disused / derelict land with protected BAP Priority Species present • Open Access Land / Remnant countryside (within urban and urban fringe areas) • Unimproved farmland
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland shelter belts / intensive woodland with no freely growing shrubbery and very limited or no public access • Disused/derelict land with no protected BAP Priority Species present • Managed/more intensive greenspaces and recreational spaces with limited functions (includes amenity open space, parks, school grounds, sports pitches, golf courses, churchyards, cemeteries and allotments) • Formal boating or ornamental lakes, culverted streams and other examples of open water with little or no biodiversity
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved farmland • Private gardens • Active quarries

Appendix 5: Greenspace audit proforma

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY 2008 - OPEN SPACE, OUTDOOR SPORT AND RECREATION AUDIT

SURVEY FORM

Site	<input type="text"/>		Poly ID Code as appears in register e.g. A01	<input type="text"/>
Classification (see assessing typology guide)	Primary Purpose	Secondary Purpose	Primary Use Area	<input type="text"/> ha
Parks and Gardens	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Total Area	<input type="text"/> ha
Natural and semi Natural Greenspace	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Ownership	Sunderland City Council
Green Corridors	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	(desk top)	Other: <input type="text"/>
Outdoor sports facilities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Amenity Greenspace	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Provision for children and young people	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Allotments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Cemeteries disused churchyards	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Accessible countryside in the urban fringe	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Civic space	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Coast and estuary	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Surrounding Uses	North	<input type="text"/>		
	South	<input type="text"/>		
	East	<input type="text"/>		
	West	<input type="text"/>		
Site Description	<input type="text"/>		Usage (hierarchical) scale	Neighbourhood <input type="text"/>
				City <input type="text"/>
				Sub-region <input type="text"/>
				Regional/National/International <input type="text"/>
			Explanation to the usage i.e. elements of scale	<input type="text"/>
Surveyor Name	<input type="text"/>		Date	<input type="text"/>

QUALITATIVE COMMENTS

Land Use and Boundary Treatment

		Actual Score	Max.Pot. Score
1.Green Flag Status	5 - Yes 0 - No	<input type="text"/>	5
2.Pedestrian Access	0 - Access Prohibited or no access 1 - Poor/inappropriate (e.g. sensitive site) 2 - Poor but appropriate (e.g. sensitive site) 3 - Good but inappropriate (e.g. sensitive site) 4 - Adequate and appropriate but room for improvement 5 - Good and appropriate (e.g. park/sensitive site)	<input type="text"/>	5

	site)		
3. Vehicular access inc. maintenance	0 - Very poor access 1 - Poor access for all vehicles to include motorbikes 2 - Vehicular access but unwanted/inappropriate (e.g. joyriding, fly-tipping) 3 - Adequate access but for maintenance only 4 - Reasonable access for all vehicles - or no vehicular access requirements 5 - Good access for all appropriate uses (e.g. clear, well maintained, surfaced)	<input type="text"/>	5
4. Disabled Access	0 - None (e.g. steps, slope, surface, camber, passing/stopping, rails, gates) 1 - Poor (e.g. steep or prolonged gradients, laborious) 2 - 3 - Reasonable (but may be unclear or lack maintenance) 4 - 5 - Good (clearly defined and well maintained) DDA compliant	<input type="text"/>	5
5. Main Entrance	1 - Not clearly defined, poorly maintained 2 - Apparent as an entrance and clean 3 - Obvious, open, inviting and clean - or none required 4 - Appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy and well maintained 5 - Easy to find, with a welcome/advisory sign, appropriate size, clean tidy and well maintained	<input type="text"/>	5
6. Other Entrance Entrances	1 - Not clearly defined, poorly maintained 2 - 3 - Obvious, open, inviting and clean - or none required 4 - 5 - Easy to find, with a welcome/advisory sign, appropriate size, clean tidy and well maintained	<input type="text"/>	5
7. Access Arrangements	1 - Restricted (only accessible to a small group of people e.g. operational site, farmland) 2 - 3 - Limited (public/private owned but access requires special arrangement e.g. sports grounds schools, golf courses) 4 - 5 - Unrestricted (Site avail. to anyone at any time, although may be dusk/dawn restrictions e.g. local parks)	<input type="text"/>	5
8. Boundaries (apply to all boundaries)	1 - Poor (e.g. not clearly defined, maintenance needed) or very limited value/appeal 2 - Clearly defined but poor quality or unappealing i.e. damaged 3 - Reasonable (e.g. clearly or appropriately defined, requires some maintenance) 4 - 5 - Good (e.g. clearly defined, well maintained)	<input type="text"/>	5
Issues with			

any particular boundary quality state here			
9.Roads	1 - No surfacing or in wrong place, or no roads 2 - 3 - In correct place, but in need of maintenance and or obvious repair 4 - 5 - In correct place, level, for safe use, edges well defined, well maintained		5
10. Paths	1 - No surfacing or in wrong place 2 - 3 - In correct place, but in need of maintenance and or obvious repair 4 - 5 - In correct place, level for safe use, edges well defined, well maintained		5
11.Cycleway	1 - No surfacing or in wrong place or cycling not provided or allowed 2 - 3 - In correct place, but in need of maintenance and or obvious repair 4 - 5 - In correct place, level for safe use, edges well defined, well maintained		5
12.Bridleway	1 - No surfacing or in wrong place or horses not allowed 2 - 3 - In correct place, but in need of maintenance and or obvious repair 4 - 5 - In correct place, level for safe use, edges well defined, well maintained 5 - For all user groups		5
13.Tree Cover	0 - None 1 - Specimens 2 - Groups 3 - Woodland Plantation 4 - Mix of above (2 or more) 5 - Mature woodland or sensitive site where trees would not be appropriate		5
Approx % tree cover			
14.Tree Mix	0 - No trees 1 - Coniferous 2 - 3 - Deciduous 4 - 5 - Mixed		5
15.Planted Areas (e.g. shrubs)	0 - No planting 1 - Limited planting 2 - 3 - Adequate planting, with an inappropriate mix of plants 4 - 5 - Adequate planting, with appropriate mix		5

	of plants		
16.Amenity	0 - Very poor grass cover/quality		5
Grass Areas	1 - Full grass cover throughout main area but some 'thin' patches evident, some bald areas discreet, grass cut frequently but length excessive between cuts, cut quality good (no tearing) 2 - 3 - Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut, few weeds, grass cut frequently to keep length short 4 - 5 - Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut		
17.Meadow	1 - Full grass cover throughout main area but some 'thin' patches evident, some bald areas discreet, grass cut frequently but length excessive between cuts, cut quality good (no tearing) 2 - 3 - Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut, few weeds grass cut frequently to keep length short 4 - 5 - Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut		5
18.Playing	1 - Full grass cover throughout main area but some 'thin' patches evident, some bald areas discreet, grass cut frequently but length excessive between cuts, cut quality good (no tearing) or no relevant playing fields 2 - 3 - Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut, few weeds grass cut frequently to keep length short 4 - 5 - Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut		5
19.Pasture/ Grazed Land	0 - Overgrazed, bare ground/poaching, weed infestation 1 - 2 - 3 - Moderate condition some poaching and/or weeds 4 - 5 - No litter or poaching and weeds		5
20.Wetlands (rivers, streams, ditches, lakes, ponds, marsh)	0 - Polluted, litter, algal bloom, poor bank condition, poor submerged, emergent and/or bank vegetation 1 - 2 - 3 - Some litter, bank condition good in part, vegetation present 4 - 5 - Clean, rubbish free, good bank condition and vegetation structure		5
General quality			
21.Cleanliness	1 - Significant evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti 2 - 3 - Limited evidence of litter, dog fouling or		5

22.Safety	graffiti		
	4 -		
	5 - No evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti		
	0 - Very unsafe - refer to supplementary sheet		5
	1 - Unsafe - refer to supplementary sheet		
23.General maintenance	2 - Fairly safe - refer to supplementary sheet		
	3 - Safe - refer to supplementary sheet		
	4 -		
	5 - Very safe - refer to supplementary sheet		
	0 - Site in serious state of disrepair and falling into serious state of dilapidation		5
	1 - Site with marked evidence of disrepair but not to critical level		
	2 -		
	3 - Signs of disrepair and degradation but generally in good order		
	4 -		
	5 - Highly maintained, site very clean and tidy, management programme in place		
Sub Total		0	115

FACILITIES		Actual Score	Max.Pot. Score
24.Litter Bins	0 - None		5
	1 - Insufficient number in poor condition		
	2 - Insufficient number but in good condition		
	3 - Adequate number in good/average condition		
	4 - Numerous and in average condition		
	5 - Numerous and in good condition		
25.Dog Bins	0 - None		5
	1 - Insufficient number in poor condition		
	2 - Insufficient number but in good condition		
	3 - Adequate number in good/average condition		
	4 - Numerous and in average condition		
	5 - Numerous and in good condition		
26.Recycling Bins	0 - None		5
	1 - Insufficient number in poor condition		
	2 - Insufficient number but in good condition		
	3 - Adequate number in good/average condition		
	4 - Numerous and in average condition		
	5 - Numerous and in good condition		

	condition		
27.Seats	0 - None 1 - Insufficient seats in poor condition 2 - Insufficient seats but in good condition 3 - Adequate number in good/average condition 4 - Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition 5 - Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition	<input type="text"/>	5
28.Toilets	0 - None 1 - Temporary toilet provision for events only 2 - Permanent but off site 3 - Permanent but in poor condition and generally avoided by park users 4 - Permanent in reasonable condition 5 - Permanent easy to access, signed and well maintained	<input type="text"/>	5
29.Car Parking	0 - None 1 - Parking provision required, but insufficient or very limited 2 - Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, limited spaces, maintenance poor 3 - Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces but maintenance could be better 4 - Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces, site clean, tidy, in good condition 5 - Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces, site clean, tidy, in good condition and well signed	<input type="text"/>	5
30.Coach Parking	0 - None 1 - Parking provision required, but insufficient or very limited 2 - Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, limited spaces, maintenance poor 3 - Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces but maintenance could be better 4 - Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces, site clean, tidy, in good condition 5 - Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces, site clean, tidy, in good condition and well signed	<input type="text"/>	5
31.Cycle Parking	0 - None 1 - Cycle parking provision required, but insufficient or very limited 2 - Cycle parking provided in or adjacent to the park, but limited spaces,	<input type="text"/>	5

	<p>maintenance poor</p> <p>3 - Cycle parking provided in or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces but maintenance good or reasonable</p> <p>4 - Cycle parking provided in or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces but maintenance could be better</p> <p>5 - Cycle parking provided in or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces, site clean, tidy, in good condition and well signed</p>		
32. Bus Stops	<p>0 - None (distant from bus route and bus stop)</p> <p>1 -</p> <p>2 - Bus stop nearby i.e. within 400m but poor service i.e. 1 every hour or less</p> <p>3 - Bus stop nearby i.e. within 400m with good service (more than 1 every hour)</p> <p>4 - Bus stop in or adjacent to space but poor service</p> <p>5 - Bus stop in or adjacent to space with good service</p>		5
33. Metro Train/ Park and Ride	<p>0 - None (distant from metro/train route, park and ride and station)</p> <p>1 -</p> <p>2 -</p> <p>3 - Station nearby i.e. within 400m</p> <p>4 -</p> <p>5 - Station in or adjacent to space, park and ride to the site</p>		5
34. Street Lighting primarily on site but also adjacent	<p>0 - No lighting</p> <p>1 - Poor lighting scheme</p> <p>2 -</p> <p>3 - Reasonable lighting scheme installed</p> <p>4 -</p> <p>5 - Good sustainable lighting scheme installed and well maintained</p>		5
35. Signage	<p>0 - None</p> <p>1 - Poor coverage (inappropriate place, dated, unclear)</p> <p>2 - Poor coverage (but appropriate place, up to date and clear)</p> <p>3 - Reasonable coverage (appropriate place, up to date and clear)</p> <p>4 -</p> <p>5 - Good coverage</p>		5
36. Information	<p>0 - No information available</p> <p>1 - Limited information available and in poor state/vandalised</p> <p>2 - Limited information made available but in a good state</p> <p>3 - Information of high quality available but on-site only i.e. no leaflets/internet</p> <p>4 - Information of high quality</p> <p>5 - Information available for all (could be on boards and leaflet form or internet)</p>		5
37. Events Programme	<p>0 - No programmed events</p> <p>1 - Limited programmed</p>		5

	<p>2 - Hedges consisting of a single species (e.g. hawthorn)</p> <p>3 - Hedges made up of 3 or 4 woody species, but with a mown/sprayed/ grazed base</p> <p>4 - Hedges with 3 or 4 woody species, with "A" shaped cross-section and with wildflowers in base</p> <p>5 - Ancient hedgerows</p>		
47.Wetlands	<p>0 - None</p> <p>1 - Ornamental ponds (or park pond)</p> <p>2 - Pools, seasonal flushes or ditches without natural wetland vegetation</p> <p>3 - Ponds, streams, ditches with natural wetland vegetation</p> <p>4 - Lakes or marshes with variety of wetland birds</p> <p>5 - Designated site, protected species, DBAP habitat and/or species</p>		5
48.Coastal & Esturine (muds, saltmarsh, sanddunes, cliffs, rocky foreshore)	<p>0 - None</p> <p>1 - Hard edge/vertical defences, dumping/misuse, pollution, severe erosion, no strandline vegetation</p> <p>2 -</p> <p>3 - Semi sympathetic defences, some misuse/pollution, some erosion and unwanted vegetation encroachment</p> <p>4 - Natural edges, well maintained/no maintenance, no unwanted vegetation encroachment</p> <p>5 - Designated site, protected species, DBAP habitat and/or species</p>		5
49.Other (including e.g. buildings, walls, quarry, cliffs, spoil, bare ground)	<p>0 - None</p> <p>1 - Biodiversity interest low/little potential</p> <p>2 -</p> <p>3 - Biodiversity interest moderate/some potential</p> <p>4 - Biodiversity interest high/potential high</p> <p>5 - Designated site, protected species, DBAP habitat and/or species</p>		5
50.Geodiversity (Geology, geomorphology)	<p>0 - None</p> <p>1 - Little or no geological/geomorphological interest</p> <p>2 -</p> <p>3 - Moderate or potential geological/geomorphological interest</p> <p>4 - High geological/geomorphological interest</p> <p>5 - Designated site, protected species, DBAP habitat and/or species</p>		5
51.Level of use (wildlife)	<p>1 - Very low</p> <p>2 - Low</p> <p>3 - Moderate</p> <p>4 - High</p> <p>5 - Very high and diverse</p>		5

Evidence of any protected or biodiversity species, include species names		<div></div>	
Flooding	Zone 1 - Low probability	<div></div>	
	Zone 2 - Medium probability	<div></div>	
	Zone 3 - High probability	<div></div>	
		From Environment Agency Information	
52. General overall maintenance	0 - Nil 1 - Poor 2 - Adequate 3 - Good 4 - Excellent 5 - Excellent	<div></div>	5
		Sub Total	0
			50

LANDSCAPE VISUAL AND CHARACTER		Actual Score	Max.Pot. Score
53.Rarity	1 - Common (Many similar spaces evident throughout study area) 2 - Uncommon (Some similar spaces throughout study area) 3 - Rare to city 4 - Rare to city 5 - Nationally rare	<div></div>	5
54.Visual Amenity	1 - Poor 2 - Moderate 3 - Good (Space looks attractive in general outlook and feel e.g. pleasant views)	<div></div>	5
55. Exposure	1 - Poor (Open) 2 - Moderate (Partially sheltered natural i.e. trees or man made structure) 3 - Good (Sheltered natural i.e. trees or man made structure)	<div></div>	5
56. Defines character	1 - Does not contribute to the character of an area i.e. not in keeping, does not shape an area 2 - Minimal function in defining character of an area, no real positive role 3 - Contributes to character of an area but on a small local level 4 - Contributes to character of an area locally important and valued but not strategic 5 - Very important feature of an area, defines character, enhances character (include spaces that contribute to Washington Masterplan ethos and green corridors that function as part of a settlement break/green wedge separating identify of settlements and spaces that function as part of a distinct landscape character area, or are part of a conservation area)	<div></div>	5
57. Historic Protection	0 - None 1 - Minimal 2 - Some historic value i.e. views of historic feature of interest (not on site) 3 - Historic feature of interest i.e. building or monument, local materials, paving, gates/railings (not listed) on site 4 - Historic park or garden, cemeteries and churchyards, village green or listed building on site 5 - Combination of 3 and 4	<div></div>	5

Type of historic feature (indicate in box) e.g. buildings and monuments listed as being of architectural or historic interest other historic buildings or monuments archaeology, including industrial archaeology Historic Park or garden, other historic gardens, landscape features and designed landscapes Historic structure e.g. Bandstands, fountains, statues Village green			
58. Usage (people)	1 - By adjoining property i.e. private space 2 - By neighbourhood 3 - By City 4 - By sub-region 5 - By region/national/international		5
59. Usage Type (people)	1 - Mainly Passive (e.g. people pass through space but do not use it) 2 - Mainly Casual (e.g. sitting, walking informal play) 3 - Mainly Organised (e.g. football fixtures, training, education, organised walks/tasks) 4 - Combination of 2 of above 5 - Combination of 3 above		5
60. Warden or ranger presence	0 - None 5 - Yes		5
General notes i.e. known community active community involvement groups relating to the site _____			
		Sub Total	40
		Grand Total	0 300

Appendix 6: Results from the public consultation

1) What greenspaces do you value the most?

- Adult's city-wide voted the coast and parks as most valuable. Natural and semi-natural greenspace was the next most popular.
- Over 65's voted similar results, though interest in natural greenspaces was lower, and cemeteries was higher;
- Children and young people voted quite differently, prioritising play, outdoor sport, green corridors and the coast. Much higher than average scores were also recorded for civic spaces.
- Allotments received similar votes across all ages. The loss of allotments in Castletown was reflected in a much higher vote (no allotment now exist within the ward). Where allotments have always been in limited supply, votes tended to be much lower than the average.
- Amenity Greenspace. Washington valued amenity greenspace higher than the rest of the city. Lower scores were received in areas where provision is low.
- Coast – hugely popular, slightly less popular in Washington and Coalfield- areas specifically without coastline. Over 75's valued the coast much lower.
- Natural greenspaces. The Coalfield ARF had higher than average votes. Highest numbers of votes tended to be in areas with good existing provision and vice versa. Over 65's valued natural greenspaces much lower.
- Outdoor Sport- younger people gave higher votes. Pallion Ward voted significantly higher than other areas.
- Parks- very high votes were placed for Silksworth and Barnes where provision is high. Where provision is lower, votes tended to be lower too- Houghton, St Anne's, Washington South.
- Play areas- voted for highly by children and young people, and also for the 25-44 yrs category. North ARF received above average votes- Castle Ward received the highest ward vote, but Redhill and Millfield also received high votes despite provision being well below average in these areas.

2) What makes a greenspace site valuable to local people

- Adult's city-wide voted most for sites to be well maintained, attractive, freedom to walk and safe.
- Children and young people a little differently. Most popular features overall were attractive, freedom to walk, seating and accessible. Primary schoolchildren ranked "safe" top. Secondary schoolchildren ranked freedom to walk and peace and quiet very highly, in stark contrast to primary kids who valued safety, maintenance and access.
- Residents in Sunderland North ARF rated 'safety' very highly.
- Residents in Sunderland East ARF rated 'sports facilities' and 'trees' much higher than average.

- Residents in Washington rated 'sports facilities' lower than the city average.

3) What types of greenspace would you like to see more of?

- Adults city-wide voted for natural greenspaces and parks, and most crucially to see the most made of existing greenspaces
- Children and young people voted quite differently, prioritising outdoor sport, green corridors and parks
- Allotments received similar votes across all ages. Much lower than average scores were posted for Barnes, Doxford and Fulwell. Higher than average scores were posted for Ryhope, Hetton, Castle, Redhill and Southwick.
- Green corridors- St Chads scores significantly higher. Washington North scores very low.
- Natural greenspaces. Young people scored this quite low. Hetton and Ryhope score this very highly. Washington North and South score much lower.
- Outdoor Sport- younger people gave higher votes. Pallion and Ryhope Wards voted significantly higher than other areas. Washington East and North scored significantly lower.
- Parks- older people scored this lower than average. Very high votes for Copt Hill and Washington Central. Very low votes for Washington South.
- Play areas- voted for highly by the 25-44 yrs category. Above average votes for Millfield and Hetton. Low votes in St Michaels, St Chads and Houghton.

4) How far would local people travel to use different types of greenspace?

More often than not, a distance of between 500m and 1000m was most frequently voted for. Predictably, neighbourhood greenspace also scored significantly for distances under 500m, and both outdoor sports and countryside access scored well over 2km.

5) What the most important greenspaces are to local people?

- Barnes Park
- Silksworth Rec Centre
- Thompson park
- Downhill Sports Complex
- Hylton Castle
- Roker Park
- Herrington Country Park
- KGV Park
- Tunstall Hills
- Hetton Lyons Country Park
- Bishopwearmouth Cemetery

- Cycle routes
- Pennywell Park
- Barnes Park Extensions
- Diamond Hall Pocket park

Adults:

Backhouse Park	(72 nd)
Barnes Park	(5 th)
C2C and off-road cycleways	(numerous greenspaces)
Seaburn Beach	(36 th)
Roker Beaches	(25 th)
Seaham beach	(outside of Sunderland)
Coast in general	(numerous greenspaces)
Herrington Country Park	(1 st)
Hetton Lyons Country Park	(12 th)
Hetton Park and Bogs	(16 th and 54 th)
Hylton Dene and Castle	(18 th)
James Steel Park and Riverside	(86 th)
Rainton Meadows and Joe's Pond	(3 rd)
Mowbray Park	(2 nd)
Penshaw Monument	(96 th)
Roker Park	(4 th)
Saltwell Park	(outside of Sunderland)
Silksworth Rec Centre / Ski slope/ Puma/Play area/BMX	(8 th)
Thompson Park	(58 th)
Tunstall Hills	(6 th)

Other sites in top 100 Greenspace Audit typically are natural greenspaces, cemeteries, other more local parks, and other specific outdoor sports facilities.

Appendix 7:
Amenity greenspace quality – sites scoring more than 20% below the city average

Ref. No	Site Address	Quality Score	Ward	City Village
A89	University land beside Seaburn Camp	59	Fulwell	Seaburn & South Bents
B09	Carley Hill Rd	57	Southwick	Carley Hill
B34	Grosvenor St	62	Southwick	Southwick
B39	Church St.	63	Southwick	Southwick
B56	Witherwack House	48	Redhill	Witherwack
B63	Kier Hardie Way	58	Southwick	Southwick
B76	Kipling Street	61	Southwick	Southwick
B96	Maplewood Avenue	54	Southwick	Marley Potts
C008	Adj. 16-24 Aged Miners homes. N Hylton Rd	63	Redhill	Downhill & Redhouse
C035	Ravenswood Square	63	Redhill	Downhill & Redhouse
C039	Rutherford Square	63	Redhill	Downhill & Redhouse
C093	3-9 Robin Grove	53	Castle	Castletown & Hylton Castle
C107	Rear of Clovely Road	59	Castle	Castletown & Hylton Castle
C114	Rear of Lavender Grove	43	Castle	Castletown & Hylton Castle
C117	Cheltenham Rd.	64	Castle	Castletown & Hylton Castle
C140	Kentchester Road	64	Redhill	Downhill & Redhouse
D104	Southwest of Quarry View	60	St Anne's	Pennywell
D35	Opp. 27-28 South View Rd	61	St Anne's	Pennywell
D45	Helmsdale Rd/Hexham Rd	60	Pallion	Ford & Pallion
D51	Presthope Road	60	St Anne's	Pennywell
D58	Rear of Front Road/Felstead Crescent	38	Pallion	Ford & Pallion
D85	St Lukes Road	61	Pallion	Ford & Pallion
D89	Former Sunderland Forge (University Campus- west)	45	Pallion	Ford & Pallion
D92	Priestman Court	42	Pallion	Ford & Pallion
D93	Rear Prestwick Road	41	St Anne's	Pennywell
D94	Hylton Road, Saint Lukes Corner	63	St Anne's	Pennywell
E13	37-75 Pallion Road	63	Millfield	Ford & Pallion
E45	Wilson Street	60	Millfield	Ford & Pallion
E50	Ayres Quay Road. (West)	50	Millfield	Millfield
E58	Rear Thornbury Street	63	Millfield	Millfield
F10	Ivor St	62	Ryhope	Grangetown
F15	Former Burleigh Garth	62	Hendon	Port & East End
F34	Grangetown Fields	47	Hendon	Grangetown
F64	Land Adjacent to the Welcome Tavern (Prospect	55	Hendon	Port & East End

	Row)			
F69	Amberley Street/Harrogate St	59	Hendon	Hendon
H37	9-25 Goodwood Court	63	Sandhill	Grindon & Hastings Hill
H76	Rear 2 -16 Truro Road.	63	Sandhill	Thorney Close
H91	Adj 191-193 Durham Rd	62	Barnes	Humbledon & Plains Farm
I044	Rear 24-32 Alnwick Rd	63	St Chad's	Farringdon
I052	Rear of Carlton Cres	55	St Chad's	Middle & East Herrington
I054	Angus Square	58	St Chad's	Farringdon
I057	Launceston Drive	60	St Chad's	Middle & East Herrington
I058	2 -10 Braemar Gardens	60	St Chad's	Middle & East Herrington
I064	Rear 3-21 Briardene Cl	60	St Chad's	Middle & East Herrington
I068	Rear 15-21 Meadow View	60	St Chad's	Middle & East Herrington
I074	Rear 2-24 Maple Avenue	52	Silksworth	Silksworth
I104	Isleby / Leven Houses	60	Doxford	Doxford
I121	Avonmouth Rd	63	St Chad's	Farringdon
I123	Alnwick Rd	60	St Chad's	Farringdon
I129	Rear of The Crescent	51	Silksworth	Silksworth
I137	Elmfield Close	59	St Chad's	Middle & East Herrington
I174	Mill Hill Phase 6	63	Silksworth	Doxford
J12	58 - 84 Langhurst	61	Ryhope	Hollycarrside
J18	31-33 Ramilies	52	Doxford	Tunstall & Burdon
J42	Ravensworth	51	Doxford	Tunstall & Burdon
J76	Rear Wilkinson Terrace	58	Ryhope	Ryhope
J81	Leechmere Way	61	Ryhope	Hollycarrside
J88	Queen Street/Leechmere Way	64	Ryhope	Hollycarrside
K26	West View	62	Washington West	Springwell Village
L102	Rear 67 - 77 Saddleback	63	Washington West	Albany & Blackfell
L123	Rear 17-31 Saddleback	60	Washington West	Albany & Blackfell
L190	Brindley Road	63	Washington North	Concord, Sulgrave & Donwell
L193	Silverstone Road	58	Washington North	Concord, Sulgrave & Donwell
M034	Rear 88-99 Barmston Way	53	Washington East	Barmston & Columbia
M035	62-73 Barmston Way	53	Washington East	Barmston & Columbia
M036	Rear 27-38 BarmstonWay	50	Washington East	Barmston & Columbia
M037	1-12 Waskerley Rd	55	Washington East	Barmston & Columbia
M038	159-170 Waskerley Rd	55	Washington East	Barmston & Columbia
M039	119-128 Waskerley Rd	55	Washington East	Barmston & Columbia
M077	Rear18-34 Raeburn Avenue	55	Washington Central	Barmston & Columbia
M078	47-56 Raeburn Avenue	57	Washington Central	Barmston & Columbia
M128	Parkway	61	Washington Central	Washington Village, Glebe & Biddick

N64	South of Western Way	63	Washington South	Rickleton & Harraton
O21	Thirkel Place	64	Shiney Row	Penshaw & Shiney Row
O25	Adj 43 Whitefield Cr	63	Shiney Row	Penshaw & Shiney Row
O27	Adj 47 Teesdale Av,Penshaw	62	Shiney Row	Penshaw & Shiney Row
O55	Rear of Briar Lea	63	Shiney Row	Penshaw & Shiney Row
O82	Redlands	62	Shiney Row	Penshaw & Shiney Row
P108	Grasswell Embankment	63	Houghton	Houghton
P124	Beckwith Close	58	Houghton	Burnside & Sunnyside
P128	Burnside Avenue	63	Houghton	Houghton
P151	Rear of Wynyard St	47	Houghton	Fencehouses
P152	Fatherly Terrace Allotments	50	Houghton	Chilton Moor & Dubmire
P184	Former Fencehouses Primary School	48	Houghton	Fencehouses
P28	Newminster Close	53	Houghton	Burnside & Sunnyside
P35	Rear 43-53 Abbey Dr	51	Houghton	Burnside & Sunnyside
P47	Rear Of Raby Close	57	Houghton	Fencehouses
P48	51 - 53 Morley Terr	61	Houghton	Fencehouses
P52	Oak Av	63	Houghton	Houghton
P79	Houghton Road	63	Houghton	Houghton
Q12	Normandy Crescent	52	Copt Hill	Houghton
Q23	Gillas Lane / Meadow Close	64	Copt Hill	Houghton
Q30	Gravel Walks & Stanley St Allotments	59	Copt Hill	Houghton
Q62	East of Balfour Street	59	Copt Hill	Houghton
Q63	Rear of Burdon Avenue	50	Copt Hill	Houghton
R005	Blossom St	64	Copt Hill	Hetton Downs & Warden Law
R008	Summerson St	43	Hetton	Hetton
R011	High Moorsley Allotments	55	Hetton	Moorsley & Easington Lane
R014	S. Of Colliery Lane	57	Hetton	Hetton
R022	Rear Bedford St. / Devon St.	54	Hetton	Hetton
R069	Rear 14-24 ThamesSt	56	Hetton	Moorsley & Easington Lane
R073	Byer St	64	Copt Hill	Hetton Downs & Warden Law
R076	Handley Crescent	46	Hetton	Rainton
R081	Rear Bedale St	50	Hetton	Moorsley & Easington Lane
R105	Coalbank Road	64	Hetton	Moorsley & Easington Lane
R109	Rear Lincoln Crescent	52	Hetton	Hetton
R110	Rear of Norfolk Street	47	Hetton	Hetton
R111	Oxford Crescent	54	Hetton	Hetton
R129	Shelley Avenue	64	Hetton	Moorsley & Easington Lane
R162	Shelley Avenue	61	Hetton	Moorsley & Easington Lane
R163	Shelley Avenue/South View	56	Hetton	Moorsley & Easington Lane
R183	Former Moorsley CA Site	58	Hetton	Moorsley & Easington Lane