

Broxtowe Parks and Play Strategy 2026 - 2035

Broxtowe Borough Council

Draft report

Prepared by LUC

May 2026

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1	Interim draft (Chapters 1 – 3)	M Andrews P Main H Ward	H Ward	S Crewe (Chapters 1-3 only)	10/04/2026
2	Full draft	P Main H Ward	H Ward	M Parkhill	29/05/2026



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Registered in England. Registered number 2549296. Registered office: 250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD. Printed on 100% recycled paper

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Background

1.1 LUC was commissioned by Broxtowe Borough Council to prepare a Parks and Play Strategy (herein referred to as the 'Strategy'). The aim of the Strategy is to map and audit Council-managed play provision within the Borough. These findings will be used to provide an evidence base to inform the enhancement, management and development of play and parks provision across the Borough.

1.2 This Strategy will build on the current Broxtowe Borough Play Strategy (2017 - 2025) [\[See reference 1\]](#), providing a holistic approach to play which builds on the Council's commitment to environmental sustainability, community well-being and inclusivity. Key aims of the Strategy include:

- Integrate play with wider blue green infrastructure (BGI), aligning with the principles contained in the Broxtowe BGI Strategy [\[See reference 2\]](#). This includes consideration of provision for informal play opportunities to support creative, flexible and nature-based play experiences.
- Address current gaps in understanding wider accessibility and inclusion of play spaces, including through mapping of access catchments, and understanding how accessibility and inclusion contribute to overall quality and value of play spaces.
- Provide guidance on decision making for planners and offer a framework for Section 106 allocations.

Summary of approach

1.3 The project methodology has been divided into three distinct stages, as outlined below:

- **Phase 1: Understanding existing context**
 - A desk-based review was undertaken to understand the key policies and strategic context for the planning and management of parks and play in Broxtowe.

- In parallel to this, mapping of the Borough's parks and play provision was collated.

■ Phase 2: Assessing current provision

- The mapped data was analysed to understand the quantity and pattern of parks and play provision across the Borough.
- Access catchments were mapped to understand where residents in the Borough have access to parks and play. These catchments were based on the best practice principles outlined within the Fields in Trust standards.
- Site audits were completed to assess the quality and value of parks and play provision across the Borough, structured around four themes. A copy of the site audit form can be found in **Appendix A**.

■ Phase 3: Recommendations and delivery

- Based on the assessment of current provision, a series of recommendations to enhance play and parks provision across the Borough were developed.
- Delivery and funding mechanisms required to achieve these recommendations were defined.

Defining play

1.4 Play is critical to the physical and emotional development of children. It is fundamental in supporting individuals to connect with their environment and develop inter- and intrapersonal skills.

1.5 To define play can be difficult, as it can vary significantly between individuals. Play England – Charter for Play uses the definition '*what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons*' [See reference 3]. In 2004, the Play Work Principles Scrutiny Group developed a professional and ethical framework for playworkers and play work [See reference 4]. Principles one and two of the Play Work Principles help further define play:

- All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological, and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and well-being of individuals and communities.
- Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.

1.6 As play is a creative act, characteristics and behaviours of play are both broad and diverse. Play behaviours may include running, jumping, chasing, rules-based games / invented games, play fighting, shouting, role-playing, imagination and fantasy, creating and destroying, use of objects and loose parts, and risk-taking. The definition of play in this Strategy should be considered separately from organised activities, groups, clubs, and classes. These often have external rules and conditions, which are generally defined by adults.

1.7 Play can be loosely grouped into three main activities and behaviours that encourage development. Good design of parks and play provision should help facilitate and promote all these activities. These activities include:

- Imaginative play;
- Physical play; and
- Social play.

Scope of play within this Strategy

1.8 This Strategy considers outdoor play provision across the Borough, including provision within parks, as well as 'standalone' play provision in other locations. The focus of the Strategy is on Council and Parish Council-owned / managed play spaces and parks. The following play types are considered:

- Local Areas for Play (LAP): Small areas of open space, dedicated to play for very young children.
- Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP): Equipped areas of play for children up to 8 years.
- Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP): Equipped areas of play for older children and teenagers.
- Youth space: Informal play spaces such as Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA), pump track / BMX tracks, skate parks bouldering walls, green gyms or social areas.
- Informal play: Open spaces that support informal play through playful design, e.g. bouldering areas, natural play or sensory routes.

1.9 There is a wide variety of form and setting of play provision which should be considered. Examples of other types of play provision that are excluded from this Strategy include:

- Supervised play sessions;

- Play in schools, play groups, etc.;
- Formal sports provision for organised use (e.g. club use); and
- Soft play centres.

Benefits of play

1.10 This Strategy emphasises the importance of play for children and young people's well-being, health and development.

1.11 Key benefits of play coincide with a child's physical, mental and emotional health, well-being and development. Play England [\[See reference 5\]](#) research has evidenced these benefits. The key findings of this research can be summarised as follows:

- **Physical activity:**

- Play encourages movement and healthy development. Active play is the most common form of physical activity for children outside of school, and those that walk and play together tend to have greater levels of activity in other areas of their lives.

- **Physical development:**

- Play can help to develop strong bones, muscle strength, lung capacity and sophisticated physical skills and co-ordinated movements from an early age.

- **Cognitive development:**

- Play can help to support progression of language and problem-solving skills, gaining perspective, memory and creativity from an early age.

- **Mental health and emotional well-being:**

- Play can improve mental health and support psychological development which helps children to express themselves. It encourages the exploration of confusing or painful feelings and builds resilience from understanding of relationships and experiencing positive feelings and reactions. Imaginative play can particularly develop emotional well-being, self-control, control of fear and anxiety and empathy.

- **Social development:**

- Play can help facilitate connections with others, as it often is a social experience, shared with others. Children can create and establish and strengthen friendships through play.

■ **Connection to the natural environment:**

- Outdoor play and contact with nature can improve a child's ability to concentrate and be self-disciplined, gather information and understand their local environment.

Introduction to the themed approach

1.12 A 'themed' approach was adopted to explore how parks and play facilities in the Borough deliver these benefits. Whilst there are some overlaps between the themes, this structure will be used to provide a broad overview of the performance of the Borough's parks and play spaces. The four themes are listed below:



■ **Inclusive and community orientated:**

- This theme considers the availability and accessibility of play for everyone – including all ages, abilities, cultures and genders.
- The wider needs of the wider community, including opportunities for bring people together and promoting social cohesion, are studied. Factors such as youth engagement and co-design within play are also outlined.



■ **Active and healthy:**

- This theme is centred on how play encourages physical activity and helps children lead active and healthy lives, including increased movement and physical activity.
- Key principles of play equipment safety are also included.



■ **Supporting well-being and development:**

- This theme reflects the opportunities that play spaces provide to foster learning and understand risk. Consideration is also given to imaginative and social play elements, as well as learning opportunities integrated within play.
- Factors which ensure spaces are safe and attractive spaces for children to be in and have fun are also outlined.



■ **Nature and climate positive:**

- This theme focuses on ensuring children have opportunities to connect with nature, providing young people with positive attitudes towards the environment. This includes provision of natural play and elements of the natural environment close to where children play.
- Approaches that ensure play is resilient to a changing climate, whilst supporting nature and biodiversity approaches are also incorporated within this theme. This includes the use of nature-based solutions, as well as the use of sustainable materials.

Structure of the document

1.13 The remainder of this Strategy is structured as follows.

■ **Chapter 2: Planning policy and strategic context**

- Provides an overview of the policy context influencing play provision in the Borough.

■ **Chapter 3: Understanding the need for play provision in Broxtowe**

- Structured by the four themes, the section analyses the need for play in the Borough.

■ Chapter 3: Overview of play provision in Broxtowe

- Sets out the play provision considered as part of this Strategy.

■ Chapter 5: Quality and value assessment

- Provides an overview of the quality and value of parks and play spaces informed by a site audit of these spaces. The performance of spaces is considered per theme and a benchmark score to set a standard for quality and value is set.

■ Chapter 6: Quantity and accessibility assessment

- Provides an overview of the quantity of different types of park and play (compared to the population). The second half of this chapter sets accessibility buffers around parks and play spaces to understand proximity of residents to play spaces.

■ Chapter 7: Priorities and recommendations

- Brings together findings from the quantity, accessibility, quality and value analysis to set out priority recommendations per theme and for different locations. This also brings together the findings from the needs analysis to provide an overall combined play needs index and combined play provision index.

■ Chapter 8 Play infrastructure policies

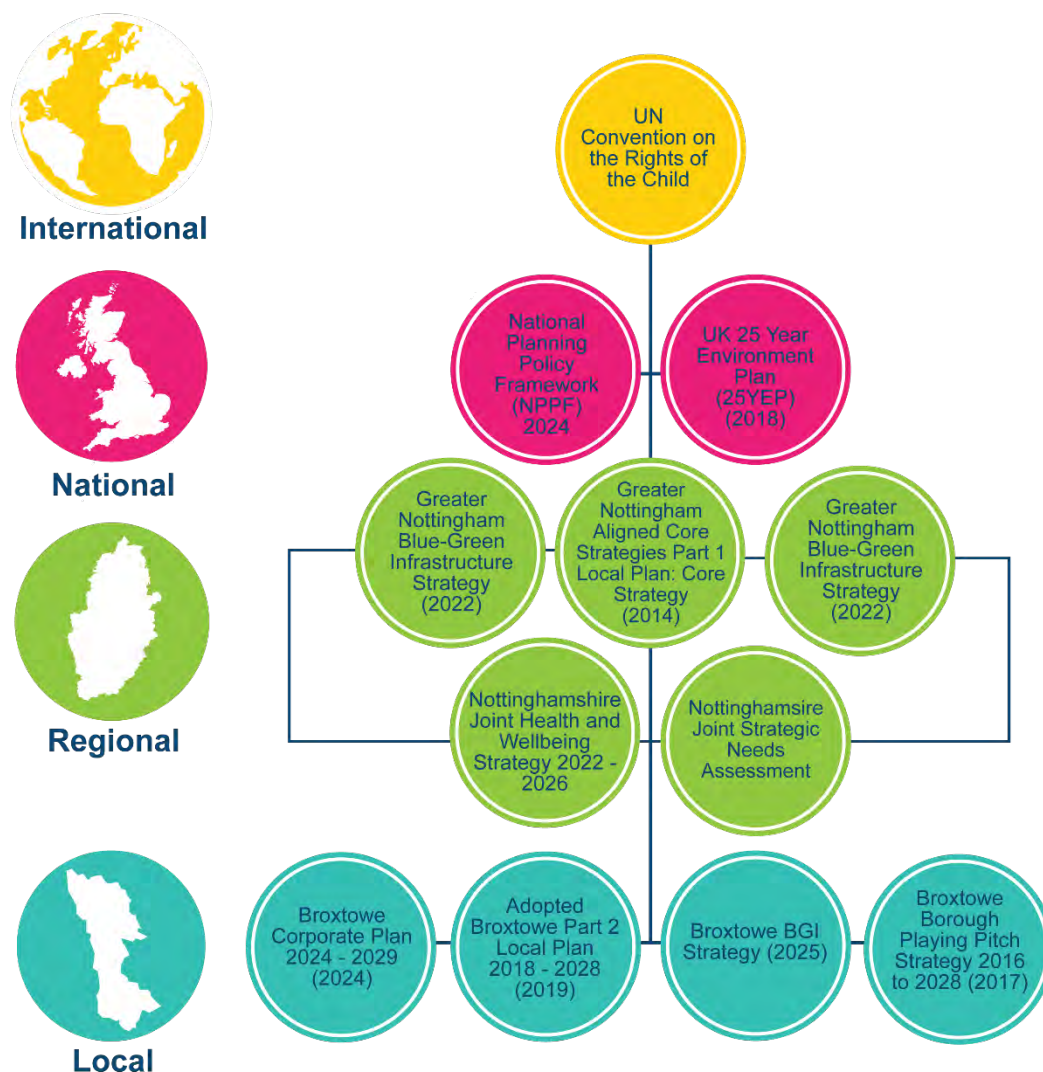
- Sets out policies for play in Broxtowe to ensure that play is delivered to a high standard going forward. This includes recommendations for securing investment through development.

Chapter 2

Planning policy and strategic context

2.1 This chapter sets out the international, national, regional and local planning and policy context which influences play within the Borough. The policies considered are shown in **Figure 2.1**.

Figure 2.1 Policy context



International policy

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

2.2 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) establishes the international policy foundation for children's recreation [\[See reference 6\]](#).

Adopted by the UK in 1992, the UNCRC places a duty on authorities to protect and promote play opportunities for all young people up to 18 years of age. The UNCRC states that delivering accessible play spaces is a fundamental human right.

Specifically, Article 31:

1. States parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

National policy

National Planning Policy Framework

2.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied [\[See reference 7\]](#).

The NPPF sets out requirements for open space assessment, including the importance of considering open space, green infrastructure (GI) and sports provision in the development of local plans. Relevant chapters and policies relevant to this Strategy include:

- Chapter 2: Achieving sustainable development. The NPPF establishes three overarching objectives for sustainable development. This includes a social objective, which seeks to
 - *“to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.”*

- Chapter 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities. This chapter is relevant to the provision and protection of play spaces and states. Specifically, the following paragraphs:
 - Paragraph 96. c): *“Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which [...] enable and support healthy lives, through both promoting good health and preventing ill-health, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs and reduce health inequalities between the most and least deprived communities – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.”*
 - Paragraph 98 a): *“To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should [...] plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.”*
 - Paragraph 103: *“Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.”*
 - Paragraph 104: *“Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:
 - a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.”*

- Chapter 12: Achieving well-designed places: This chapter states that planning decisions must ensure developments establish a strong sense of place. Of particular relevance is paragraph 135 e), which states that “*Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments [...] optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks.*”

25 Year Environment Plan

2.4 The UK Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan establishes a natural capital framework to improve the environment within a generation [See reference 8]. The document sets out ten goals and six key areas to achieve this overarching vision. The following goals and chapter relevant to this Strategy include:

- Goal 6: Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.
- Chapter 3: Connecting people with the environment to improve health and well-being. This chapter focuses on improving public access to nature and outlines specific policies including:
 - “Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school”: This policy recognises that playing and learning outside is a fundamental part of childhood that helps children grow up healthy.
 - “Helping people improve their health and well-being by using green spaces”: This promotes the natural environment as a resource for preventative and therapeutic health purposes.
 - “Greening towns and cities”: This focuses on creating better quality green infrastructure to make urban areas attractive places to live and work, while encouraging social interaction.

2.5 The approach to helping people improve their health and well-being by using green spaces is centred on the need to improve connections between people and the environment. A key consideration is encouraging children to be close to the natural environment. Focus is also given to the role of green spaces as a mechanism to combat mental health illness, as an educational tool or as inter-generational social space. Play spaces can be particularly important to help children connect to nature.

Regional

Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan – Publication Draft (2025)

Currently submitted for examination. To be updated if adopted.

2.6 The Greater Nottinghamshire Planning Partnership (comprising Broxtowe Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils) are preparing the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan, which will set out policies to secure sustainable growth up to 2041. The Regulation 19 Publication Draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan **[See reference 9]** was submitted for examination in March 2025. It includes the following Spatial Objectives of key relevance to parks and play delivery:

- 7) Achieving well-designed places in Greater Nottingham
- 8) Strong, safe, healthy and cohesive communities
- 9) Opportunities for all; and
- 11) Protecting and improving natural assets - including BGI and open spaces.

2.7 Policy 16: Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space outlines the strategic approach to BGI generally in Greater Nottingham, including parks and open space. Individual strategic site allocation policies identify requirements for parks and play provision in new development, to be delivered at an appropriate scale to meet the needs of new development.

Greater Nottingham Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy (2022)

2.8 The Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership produced a regional-level BGI Strategy **[See reference 10]** to inform the preparation of the Greater Nottingham Strategic plan and the development of policies and plans within it. The plan sets out ten key priorities for BGI, key national and local planning priorities, and regional and local BGI initiatives. Across the Greater Nottingham region, the Strategy identifies:

- ‘Primary Strategic Networks’ which have regional or sub-regional significance (such as the Trent Valley or the Erewash Canal / river Erewash);
- ‘Secondary Strategic Networks’ which may have significance due to their connectivity with the primary network, provision of cross-boundary links between neighbouring authorities, importance for outlying settlements/wider rural areas, or other strategic importance due to their land use, connectivity or function.

- 'Urban Fringe GI Enhancement Zones' surrounding the main urban area of Nottingham. These zones are identified to represent a significant resource for urban communities and already experience urban edge pressures.
- 'Local / Neighbourhood Networks' generally connect local communication within settlements or urban areas or provide links to other areas of the BGI network.
- 'Biodiversity Opportunity Areas' are based on the existing ecological network, including biodiversity focal areas and existing areas of connectivity.

2.9 Appendix E of the BGI Strategy outlines Greater Nottingham's existing Recreational Green Infrastructure resource, including 'Children's and Young People's Play Spaces' (E1), 'Outdoor Sports Pitches' (E2) and 'Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds' (E3).

Adopted Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies Part 1 Local Plan: Core Strategy (2014)

Superseded if Greater Nottingham strategic plan adopted

2.10 The Aligned Core Strategy [[See reference 11](#)] forms part of the adopted Broxtowe Local Plan and sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and strategic policies for the Borough up to 2028. Neighbouring councils have worked together to ensure that core planning policies are consistent across Greater Nottingham. The Core Strategy covers:

- **Section A: Sustainable Growth** reinforces the presumption in favour of sustainable development, contained within NPPF, ensuring that development proposals are considered against the core policies related to climate change, strategic spatial growth, the Green Belt, employment provision and economic development, town and local centres, and regeneration priorities.
- **Section B: Places for People** sets out the principles of good development relating to housing provision, design principles, the historic environment, local services and healthy lifestyles, culture, tourism and sport, travel demands and transport infrastructure priorities.
- **Section C: Our Environment** sets out priorities for the environment and biodiversity in a strategic and comprehensive way, including Policy 16: 'Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space' which supports the delivery, protection and enhancement of GI through a network of regional and sub-regional GI corridors and assets.

Nottinghamshire Joint Health and Well-being Strategy 2022 – 2026

2.11 The Nottinghamshire County's Joint Health and Well-being Strategy [\[See reference 12\]](#) aims to support people to live happy and healthier lives, prosper in their communities and remain independent in later life. It is underpinned by four overarching ambitions, including:

- Give every child the best chance of maximising their potential; and
- Create healthy and sustainable places.

Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2020)

2.12 The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) assesses the current and future health and social care needs of the local community [\[See reference 13\]](#). This evidence base underpins the Joint Health and Well-being Strategy. It provides an overview of the needs and assets of the County, informing recommendations for action to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities. The Nottinghamshire JSNA is structured around two dashboards: 'Health and Well-being' and 'Children and Young People'. Many of the themes raised within these themes can be addressed through play.

Borough

Broxtowe Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 (2024)

2.13 The Corporate Plan [\[See reference 14\]](#) sets the vision for the Borough to be a '*greener, healthier Broxtowe where everyone prospers*'. It outlines aims and priorities for the Borough in relation to housing, the environment, business growth, community safety, leisure and health, and communications and engagement.

2.14 The plan includes five priorities, along with five values to help achieve these. 'Our priorities' set out within the Plan include:

- Housing – a good quality home for everyone;
- Business Growth – Invest in our towns and our people;
- Environment – Protect the environment for the future;
- Health – Healthy and supported communities; and

- Community Safety – A safe place for everyone.

2.15 Supporting play and parks can be designed and managed to help protect the environment, to support healthy communities and to create safe spaces for everyone.

2.16 Of key relevance, the document includes the following aims and objectives:

- Investing in parks and open spaces, including enhancing BGI corridors and ensuring biodiversity net gain positively enhances the environment.
- Promoting active and healthy lifestyles in every area of Broxtowe.
- Improving public safety including the public realm and cycle security infrastructure.

Adopted Broxtowe Part 2 Local Plan 2018 - 2028 (2019)

2.17 The Council adopted the Part 2 Local Plan in 2019 [\[See reference 15\]](#). It sets out specific site allocations required to meet the housing need, as set out in the Core Strategy, as well as Borough level planning policies. Principles of key relevance to the delivery of play spaces in the Borough are outlined below:

- Site allocation policies include site-specific considerations and requirements for proposals, including key site sensitivities and infrastructure requirements, including contributions to open space and play facilities.
- Policy 17: Place-making, Design and Amenity
 - This policy sets out design principles for new development, including ensuring development is close to community facilities, creating a place with locally-inspired or otherwise distinctive character, and ensuring a satisfactory degree of amenity for occupiers of the new development and neighbouring properties.
 - Play can be designed to help developments meet these criteria, and form part of the amenity and community facilities that residents can enjoy.
- Policy 25: Culture, Tourism and Sport
 - This policy sets out that development should include provision for sports, including children's sport.
- Informal play spaces such as MUGAs can provide informal sport offers for children. Policy 28: Green Infrastructure Assets.

- This policy sets out requirements for proposals likely to lead to increased use of any GI asset in the Borough. Proposals are required to take reasonable opportunities to enhance these assets.

Broxtowe BGI Strategy (2025)

2.18 The Council has launched its new BGI Strategy [\[See reference 16\]](#) to shape a more connected, climate-resilient and nature-rich Borough. The Strategy brings together Broxtowe's natural and built environments into a single, integrated network, recognising that parks, rivers, trees, canals and open spaces all play a vital role in creating places where communities and wildlife can thrive. Replacing the Council's 2015 Green Infrastructure evidence base, this refreshed strategy reflects the latest priorities for climate action, biodiversity recovery and community well-being.

2.19 The document identifies six BGI zones in the Borough, with identified opportunities and an action plan for each zone. The overarching principles for BGI, such as providing multifunctionality within spaces, should provide a foundation for this Parks and Play strategy. Additionally, there are links between provision of parks and play with the 'active and healthy' theme within the BGI Strategy.

Broxtowe Borough Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 to 2028 (2017)

2.20 The Council's Playing Pitch Strategy [\[See reference 17\]](#) provides the evidence base for playing pitch community infrastructure priorities to inform the Council's Local Plan policies and site allocations. It helps guide strategic planning and investment decisions relating to playing pitch facilities in the Borough to 2028. The document includes an action plan of priorities and potential investment sites; including identification of sport-specific actions, area-specific actions and site-specific actions for playing pitches across the Borough.

Other guidance

Fields in Trust Standards

2.21 The Fields in Trust (FIT) Standards provide national guidelines for the provision and protection of parks, playgrounds, and green spaces [\[See reference 18\]](#). The Standards are structured around six core themes:

- Accessible, safe and inclusive;

- Promote active, healthy lifestyles;
- Support mental well-being;
- Resilient to climate change;
- Provide space for nature to thrive; and
- Adaptable to community needs.

2.22 The guidance provides quantitative and accessibility benchmarks to inform local planning and assess existing provision. It recommends a minimum of 0.55 hectares of dedicated play space per 1,000 people. This is made up of 0.25 hectares of formal play space, and 0.30 hectares of informal play for all. These areas may include multi-use games areas (MUGAs), wheels parks, BMX tracks, play trails playable public art, and sensory routes.

2.23 More detailed play hierarchies are set out for setting accessibility catchments.

- **Local Areas for Play (LAPs)** are small areas of open space, dedicated to play for very young children. Features of a LAP include:
 - A minimum size of 100 square meters; and
 - Include features which encourage play (but does not necessarily need specific play equipment).
- **Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs)** are equipped areas of open space aimed at young and independent children. Features of a LEAP include:
 - A minimum size of 400 square meters;
 - Provide equipment for children who are beginning to play independently, as well as for younger children with adult supervision; and
 - Be located within 400 metres walking distance from every home.
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs)** are equipped areas of open space for older, more independent children, offering a wide range of play experiences. Features of a NEAP include:
 - A minimum size of 1,000 square meters;
 - Provide equipment for older children, including more challenging items of equipment;
 - Include space for informal recreation for playing group games and / or seating for older children and young people; and
 - Be located within 1,000 metres walking distance of every home.

- **Larger games areas** are a sub-set of informal play spaces offering dedicated spaces for a range of games (e.g. a MUGA). Features of these spaces include:
 - A minimum size of 1,000 square metres; and
 - Be located within 700 metres walking distance of every home.
- Other informal play spaces should be reached “*safely by children and young people*”, but no guidance is provided on specific distances for these spaces, and no minimum sizes are set out.

2.24 By using these benchmarks alongside local needs assessments, local authorities can ensure that development delivers equitable access to high quality and varied play infrastructure for all age groups.

Play England’s Charter for Children’s Play

2.25 Play England are a national charity campaigning for children and young people to have the freedom to enjoy their right to play.

2.26 Their Charter for Children’s Play provides a framework for local authorities developing play strategies [See reference 19]. It uses the Dobson Report’s definition of play, which is defined as “*what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way and for their own reasons*” [See reference 20]. The Charter establishes that playing is essential to a child’s quality of life and is fundamental to their healthy physical, emotional, and social development.

2.27 To guide local provision, the Charter outlines several core tenets. These include:

- **“Children have the right to play.** *All children and young people have the right to play and need to play free to choose what they do – lively or relaxed, noisy or quiet – with the chance to stretch and challenge themselves, take risks and enjoy freedom. The right to play is enshrined in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.*”
- **“Every child needs time and space to play.** *All children and young people – disabled and non-disabled – whatever their age, culture, ethnicity or social and economic background, need time and space to play freely and confidently with their peers, free of charge, indoors and outdoors, somewhere they feel safe. Play provision should actively include the widest range of children and seek to engage with those from minority groups.*”
- **“Children should be able to play freely in their local areas.** *Children have the same right to use and enjoy public space as others. Local streets, estates,*

green spaces, parks and town centres should be accessible for children and young people to move around in safety and offer places where they can play freely, experience nature, explore their environment and be with their friends.”

Chapter 3

Understanding the need for play provision in Broxtowe

3.1 This chapter sets out the social and environmental context to play provision in the Borough. This review helps to understand the spatial variations in need for play across Broxtowe.

3.2 A number of national and local datasets have been examined including:

- Office for national Statistics – Census 2021
 - The census is undertaken by the Office for National Statistics every 10 years and collects data from all households across England and Wales. The last census took place in 2021.
- The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)
 - This is the standard measure of relative deprivation for small geographic neighbourhood areas (known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)) across England [\[See reference 21\]](#). It combines information from seven domains including health, education, crime, and the living environment. IMD also includes the supplementary index: Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI).
- Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework
 - This tool provides mapping for GI features and needs across England, including access to nature for children and vulnerability to climate change.

3.3 The needs analysis has also been informed by stakeholder engagement with officers and councillors for Broxtowe Borough Council. A summary of emerging issues raised through this engagement are included for each theme.

Inclusive and community orientated

Why inclusive and community-orientated play spaces are important

3.4 The 2010 Equalities Act requires reasonable measures to be put in place to ensure certain groups are not disadvantaged, including people with disabilities. In play spaces, this should allow children with various disabilities to have opportunities

to play. However, a 2015 Public Inquiry found that over 90% of parents to young children (0-5 years) with multiple needs did not feel their children had the same access to play [\[See reference 22\]](#). Key barriers that have been highlighted by families with disabled members include a lack of choices (particularly for those who need to remain seated in a buggy or wheelchair); a lack of appropriate toilet facilities, as well as negative societal attitudes [\[See reference 23\]](#). A key consideration when providing for accessible play space is to consider the inclusivity of play provision. This incorporates features or facilities that can provide for a range of needs, allowing children to play together [\[See reference 24\]](#).

3.5 National data shows that children and young people from Asian, black, and other minority ethnic backgrounds remain the least likely to be physically active, highlighting a critical need for targeted play provision [\[See reference 25\]](#). These disparities can be exacerbated by the built environment. Public park design often reflects the tastes of majority demographics and can inadvertently exclude minority ethnic or religious groups by failing to provide culturally sensitive spaces, such as places separate from dogs [\[See reference 26\]](#). Furthermore, different cultural groups may hold differing preferences for landscape aesthetics. For example, more ecological or “wild” designs do not uniformly appeal to everyone [\[See reference 27\]](#).

3.6 Future play provision must address the specific needs of different genders as children grow into teenagers. National research into teenage play reveals that standard adolescent provisions like MUGAs and skate parks are overwhelmingly dominated by boys, leaving teenage girls feeling they have “nowhere to go and nothing to do” [\[See reference 28\]](#). Broxtowe’s play provision can attract a more diverse gender demographic through play design that addresses the “gender play gap” [\[See reference 29\]](#), such as including facilities like social seating and walking loops [\[See reference 30\]](#).

The need for inclusive and community-orientated play spaces in Broxtowe

3.7 Broxtowe is a Borough that is more densely populated than most in England, recording a population density of 1,385 residents per square kilometre according to the 2021 Census [\[See reference 31\]](#). Broxtowe ranks as the eighth most densely populated local authority area out of the 35 within the East Midlands [\[See reference 32\]](#).

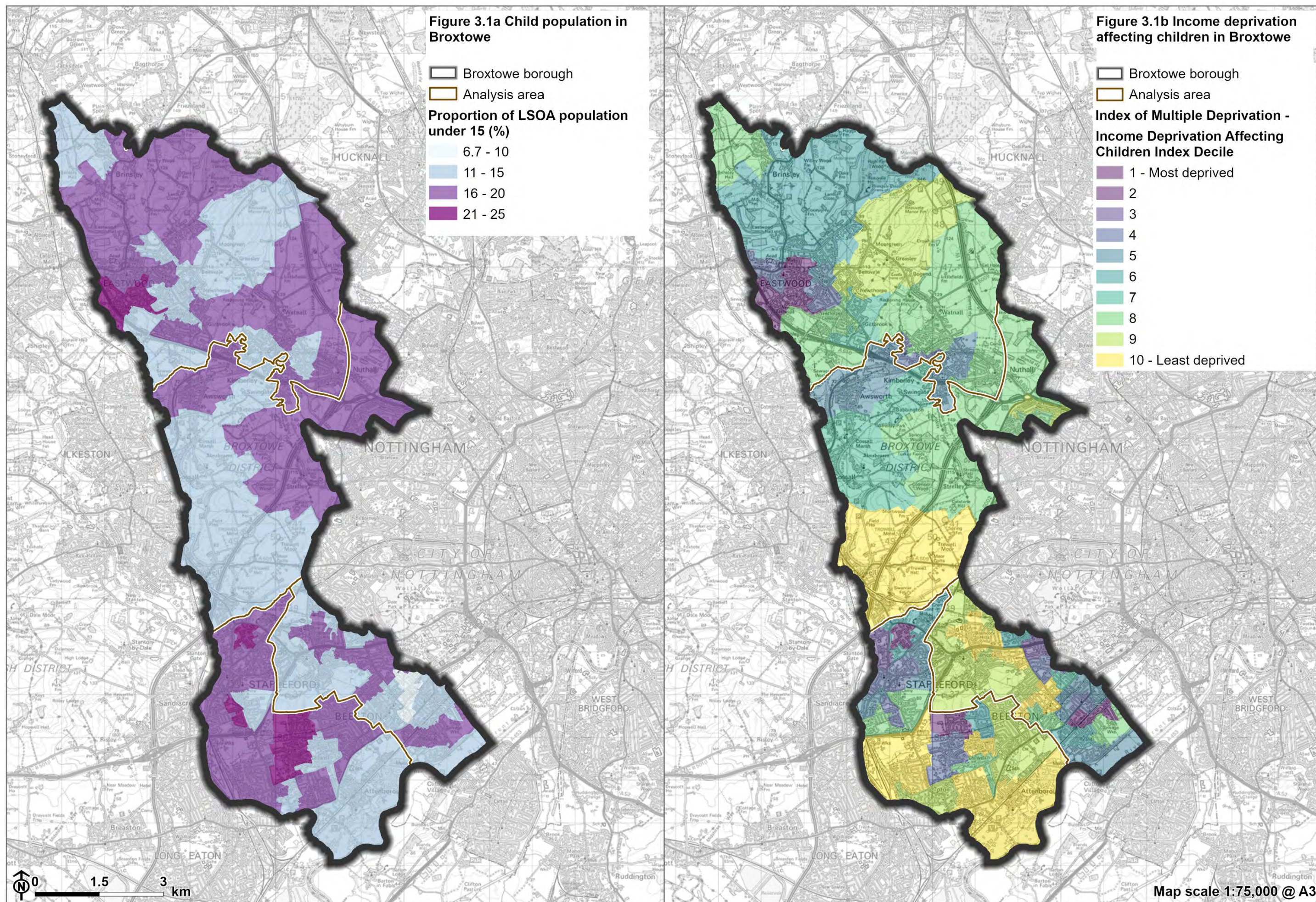
3.8 The Borough has an aging population. Between 2011 and 2021, the population of children aged under 15 grew by just 0.5%, compared to a 5% average growth rate for this age group across England [\[See reference 33\]](#). The population increase for

people aged 65 and over was much higher in Broxtowe, at 20% [\[See reference 34\]](#). Across the Borough, children and young people aged 19 and under make up just over 20% of the total population [\[See reference 35\]](#). **Figure 3.1a** shows the variation in child population density across the Borough. Areas with a greater proportion of children will have a greater need for play provision to ensure there is sufficient space for all children to play.

3.9 Findings from the 2021 Census indicate that 7.3% of the Borough's residents identified as being disabled or limited a lot in mobility, and a further 11% identified as being disabled and limited a little in mobility. This is roughly in line with the average for England [\[See reference 36\]](#). Additionally, according to the Health and Disability domain in the IMD, the Borough as a whole is within the 40% least health-deprived parts of England, indicating that the Borough is slightly better than the national average [\[See reference 37\]](#). Whilst the statistical representation of disabled residents is relatively low, it is important that everyone is included within spatial planning needs.

3.10 The Borough's ethnic profile is predominantly white, with 88.9% of residents identifying with this ethnic group [\[See reference 38\]](#). This is higher than the England average of 81.0% [\[See reference 39\]](#). Other ethnic communities represent a smaller proportion of the local population when compared to national averages. The Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh demographic comprises 5.5% of Broxtowe's population [\[See reference 40\]](#). Residents identifying as black, black British, black Welsh, Caribbean, or African make up 1.7% of the local population, compared to the England average of 4.2% [\[See reference 41\]](#). Despite the smaller statistical representation, providing equitable play spaces for minority ethnic children is an important spatial planning requirement.

3.11 As a whole, the Borough is among the less deprived half nationally for child income deprivation [\[See reference 42\]](#). However, there are distinct inequalities within the Borough. Areas of Eastwood St Mary's, Beeston Central, Chilwell West, Eastwood Hilltop, Eastwood St Mary's, and Stapleford North are among the 20% most deprived nationally in terms of Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). In areas of greater deprivation, children may have less access to other (including paid-for) play opportunities. Therefore there may be a greater need for play provision within these locations. This is shown in **Figure 3.1b**.



During stakeholder engagement, the need for disabled play equipment was a key issue being raised. Additionally, it was noted that there needed to be more play equipment for older children and teenagers. Further barriers to play for some groups including a lack of toilet facilities on site and access barriers into the site, including poor pathways and steep gradients. There was a desire to make play provision equitable across the borough. Another consideration raised was the need to ensure activities offered safe spaces for everyone, for example concerns were raised over motorbikes and off-road bikes coming into parks. However, others noted that this was a playful activity for some and there needed to be safe spaces for this to take place.

Active and healthy

Why active and healthy play spaces are important

3.12 A major long-term health priority in England is tackling obesity, with an estimated two-thirds of adults estimated to be over a healthy weight. This can lead to challenges such as an increased risk of cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes and liver and respiratory disease [See reference 43]. Evidence shows that children who are physically active, including through play, are more likely to continue these habits into adulthood and less likely to be at risk from weight-related health challenges [See reference 44].

3.13 Currently, fewer than half of the children and young people in England meet the Chief Medical Officers' guideline of averaging at least sixty minutes of physical activity per day [See reference 45]. As discussed in paragraph 3.6, this problem is acute for girls as their physical activity levels tend to drop off from the age of 10. This is in large part due to fewer facilities that are appealing to them and also due to open spaces that are less welcoming or practical. When asked directly, children and young people consistently identify the provision of playgrounds and age-appropriate equipment as the most important factor that would encourage them to spend more time outdoors [See reference 46]. Providing active, inclusive, and engaging play spaces allows for higher levels of participation in sport and physical activity, which are strongly associated with increased happiness, resilience, and overall mental well-being in children and teenagers [See reference 47]. Perceptions of safety impact outdoor recreation, as fear of crime and anti-social behaviour can be barrier to the use of play spaces, affecting some parts of the population more than others. There are also important links between safety and the inclusion and community-orientated

theme. Safety concerns in Broxtowe are gendered, with only 53.6% of females in the Borough report feeling safe after dark, compared to 73.0% of males [See reference 48]. This mirrors national trends as 41% of girls aged 11 to 16 and 49% of young women aged 17 to 21 report feeling unsafe when they go outside [See reference 49]. Additionally, girls of colour are disproportionately targeted by racial discrimination and harassment, severely limiting their freedom to access outdoor play spaces safely [See reference 50].

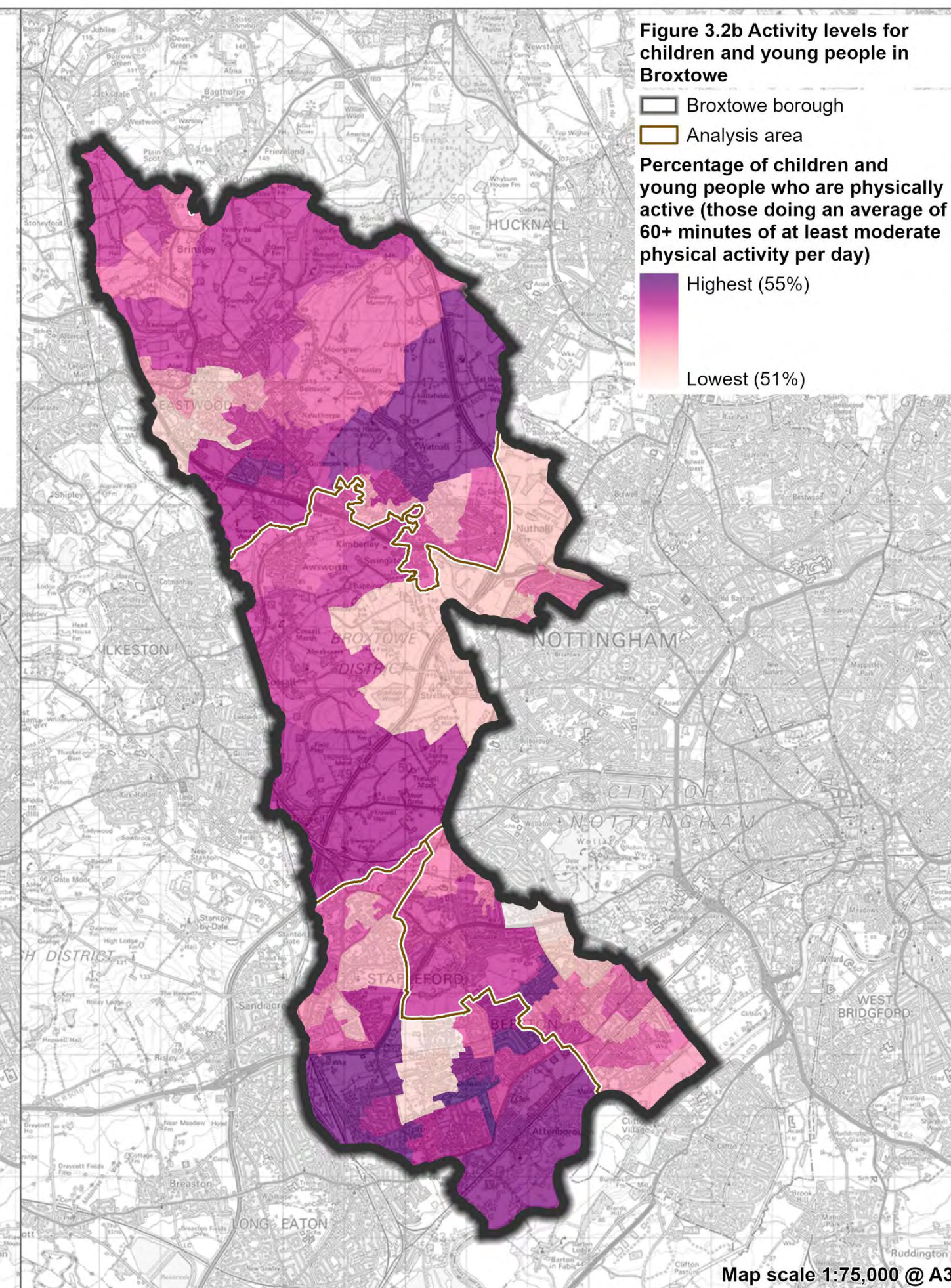
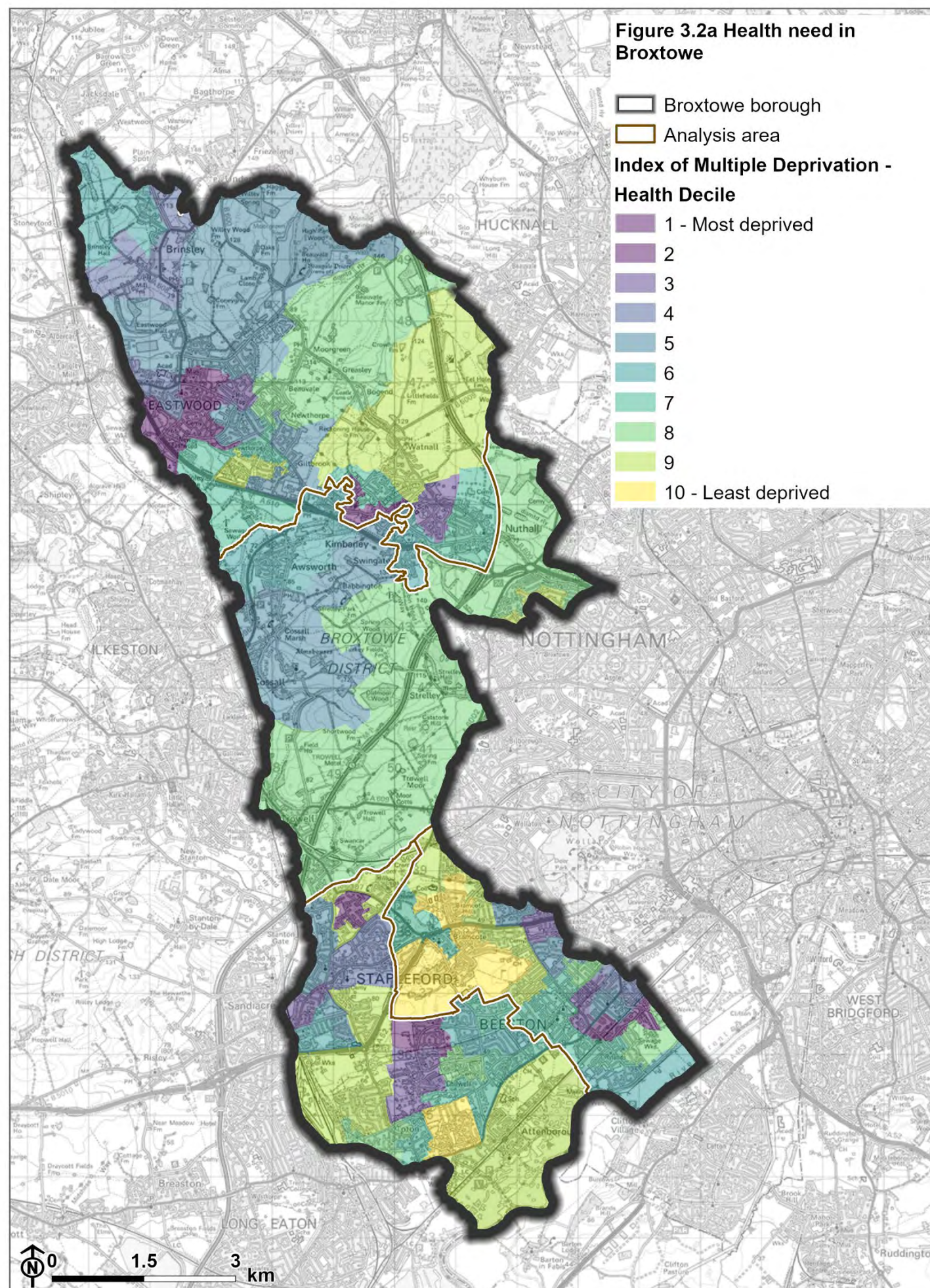
3.14 Other elements of the living environment can also influence the safety of play spaces. Globally, air pollution is now the leading contributor to health disease and in the UK is the second leading risk factor for death in children under 5 [See reference 51]. Additionally, long-term exposure to noise levels exceeding 50dB have significant impacts on health and well-being [See reference 52].

The need for active and healthy play spaces in Broxtowe

3.15 As noted in paragraph 3.9, the Health and Disability domain in the IMD indicates Broxtowe as a whole is slightly better than the national average. However, there are health inequalities within the Borough, including parts of Eastwood Hilltop, Eastwood St Mary's, Kimberley, and Chilwell West [See reference 53] (see **Figure 3.2a**). The prevalence of children with obesity in Nottinghamshire is 10% of Reception and 23% of Year 6 classes. This is similar to the average for England [See reference 54].

3.16 In Broxtowe, 53.9% of children and young people are physically active [See reference 55]. This is fairly consistent across the Borough with lowest levels of activity recorded in Eastwood (52.3%), compared to the highest levels in Toton (54.3%) [See reference 56]. This is slightly higher than regional and national average. Sport England's Active Lives survey shows that boys are slightly more active than girls (54.7% vs 51.8%) [See reference 57]. **Figure 3.2b** shows the activity levels of children and young people across Broxtowe.

3.17 The crime domain of the IMD shows the Borough is among the less deprived half of England [See reference 58] and Broxtowe's community safety partnership ranks as the best performing for overall crime and violent offences, compared to similar local authorities within South Nottinghamshire [See reference 59]. However, anti-social behaviour remains persistently high, with a baseline rate of 19.6 incidents per 1,000 population and violent crimes constitute the highest proportion of all crime categories within the Borough [See reference 60]. Areas within Broxtowe which score as having a greater deprivation for crime include Eastwood St Mary's, Stapleford North, Beeston Central, Chilwell West [See reference 61].



3.18 In 2021, air pollution levels in Broxtowe for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), were below the national objective of 40µg/m³ at all monitoring sites [See reference 62]. Pollution related to PM_{2.5} particulate matter, showed the highest levels are recorded in the south of the Borough, at the eastern extents of Beeston and at land associated with Toton Sidings. Other areas of relatively higher concentrations of PM_{2.5} are found around settlements (including Stapleford, Eastwood, Kimberley and Beeston) as well as areas along the M1 corridor. Much of the central areas of the Borough experience noise pollution greater than 55dB from roads, particularly from the M1 and minor road networks. There are also areas in the west and south of the Borough which experience high noise levels from the Nottingham to Leeds and Nottingham to Matlock rail lines.

Stakeholder engagement highlighted links between active travel and play were also made. Parking pressures are an issue in some play spaces, and an emphasis on ensuring play spaces can be reached by walking, cycling and public transport was important. Additionally, the requirement for bike racks near playing fields and MUGAs was discussed. In particular the need for a cycle track at Inham Nook was also identified

Supporting well-being and development

Why play spaces which support well-being and development are important

3.19 Play is an important aspect of early childhood education and development, with all aspects of learning and development linked to play for very young children. Play can support cognitive development including developing language skills, problem solving, memory and creativity. It has also been shown to influence the way a child's brain develops. Play can also allow young people to develop social skills, including learning how to cooperate, help and share [See reference 63].

3.20 Parks and play spaces can be particularly important in allowing children to learn and develop. Spending time in greener environments is directly linked to improved motor skills, better learning processes, and positive behavioural outcomes in young people [See reference 64]. Exposure to green spaces can also positively impact the neuropsychological development of attention and working memory [See reference 65]. Furthermore, research indicates a link between greater exposure to green spaces and reduced rates of both hyperactivity and inattention in youth [See

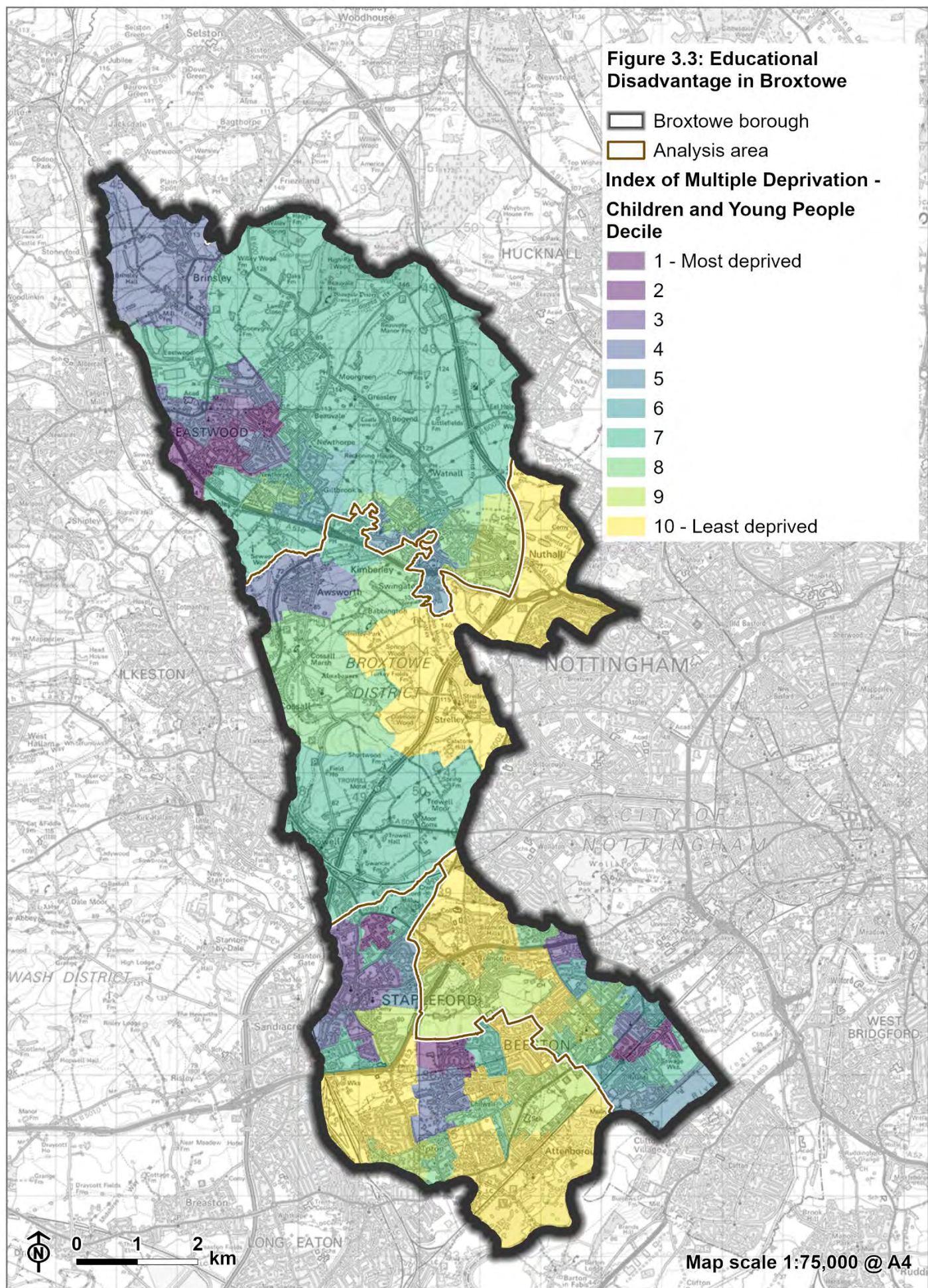
reference 66] and higher levels of school green space, particularly tree cover, are associated with enhanced academic performance, including higher grades **[See reference 67]**.

3.21 In addition to supporting development, play has been shown to build children's mental health. Evidence showing that children who regularly play with their parents are less likely to develop anxiety, depression, aggression and sleep problems **[See reference 68]**. Free play, including informal imaginative and social play can allow children to express their worries and concerns through play **[See reference 69]**.

3.22 Studies and reports have also found a gap between girls' and boys' mental health, particularly among teenagers and young adults. Young women between the ages of 16 and 24 are almost three times as likely to experience a common mental health issue as men of the same age **[See reference 70]**. Five times as many girls self-harm than boys, and nine times as many are hospitalised for eating disorders **[See reference 71]**. Creating safe spaces for girls of all ages to play is important to support health and well-being.

The need for play spaces which support well-being and development in Broxtowe

3.23 Early years development in the Borough is slightly lower than national levels. 79.6% of Broxtowe's 5-year-olds are at the expected level for communication and language, 68.7% meet the expected level for literacy, and 77.8% meet the expected level for maths **[See reference 72]**. At Key Stage 2 and GCSE level the average across Broxtowe is more similar to the average across England. However, there is variation within the Borough. Areas in Beeston North, Eastwood St Mary's, Stapleford North, Stapleford South East and Stapleford South West fall within the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally on the Children and Young People Sub-domain of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, which measures educational disadvantage experienced during childhood and adolescence **[See reference 73]**. This is shown in **Figure 3.3**.



3.24 Levels of well-being in the Borough is lower than the national average for some categories. Across all ages, there is a lower than average self-reporting of life satisfaction and feeling life is worthwhile [See reference 74]. Additionally, in Broxtowe children in Years 7-11 report slightly lower levels of happiness, life satisfaction, and life worthwhileness compared to children in the rest of the East Midlands and across England [See reference 75]. Broxtowe has one of the highest rates of hospital admissions for mental health conditions for under 18 year-olds in the East Midlands [See reference 76]. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Spatial Needs Assessment estimated that approximately 74,000 children sought help for mental health concern in 2021, and around 17,000 have a mental health disorder. For ages 7 – 10 [See reference 77].

Stakeholder engagement highlighted that there is plenty of greenspace across Broxtowe that does not offer any kind of challenging or enticing play. For example green space between residences around Ribblesdale Court in Chilwell. Inclusion of natural informal play elements and signage encourage children to play could help make use of these spaces. Additionally, stakeholders noted that equipped play often did not include risk aversion which can be an important part of developing through play.

Nature and climate positive

Why nature and climate positive play spaces are important

3.25 In addition to contributing to the educational and developmental benefits of play, integrating nature into play spaces can also support biodiversity. This includes providing connections with nature and the promotion of resilient play spaces that can support play through the impacts of a changing climate. Children and young people are very aware of the climate and biodiversity crises, with a majority identifying the protection of wildlife and the prevention of climate change as primary reasons to look after nature [See reference 78]. Providing children and young people with nature and climate positive play spaces fosters a deeper connectedness to the natural world. This is strongly associated with the development of long-term ecological and pro-environmental behaviours [See reference 79]. A deep connectedness to nature has been found to be a significantly more powerful predictor of pro-environmental actions than environmental knowledge alone [See reference 80].

3.26 Weaving nature-based solutions into play spaces helps to mitigate climate change impacts, such as urban heat islands and increased surface-water flooding [See reference 81]. Trees and vegetation remove airborne pollutants while providing essential cooling effects that protect vulnerable urban populations from extreme heat [See reference 82]. Designing play spaces with ecological features, such as wildflower meadows and fruit trees, has also been shown to make such spaces significantly more appealing and welcoming for teenage girls [See reference 83]. Furthermore, higher levels of biodiversity within a park are a key determinant of the psychological and restorative benefits experienced by its users [See reference 84].

The need for nature and climate positive play spaces in Broxtowe

3.27 On average, 20-30% of under 16-year olds in the Broxtowe have access to nature close to home (within 300 metres) [See reference 85]. This is shown in **Figure 3.4a**. However, there are variations across the Borough. In Attenborough & Chilwell East, Beeston Rylands, Chilwell West, and Stapleford South West, only 0-10% of under 16s have access to nature close to home. In Beeston Central, 10-20% have access. While in Toton & Chilwell Meadows, 60-70% have access. In these places, ensuring there are opportunities to connect within play will have an important role in allowing children and young people to connect with nature.

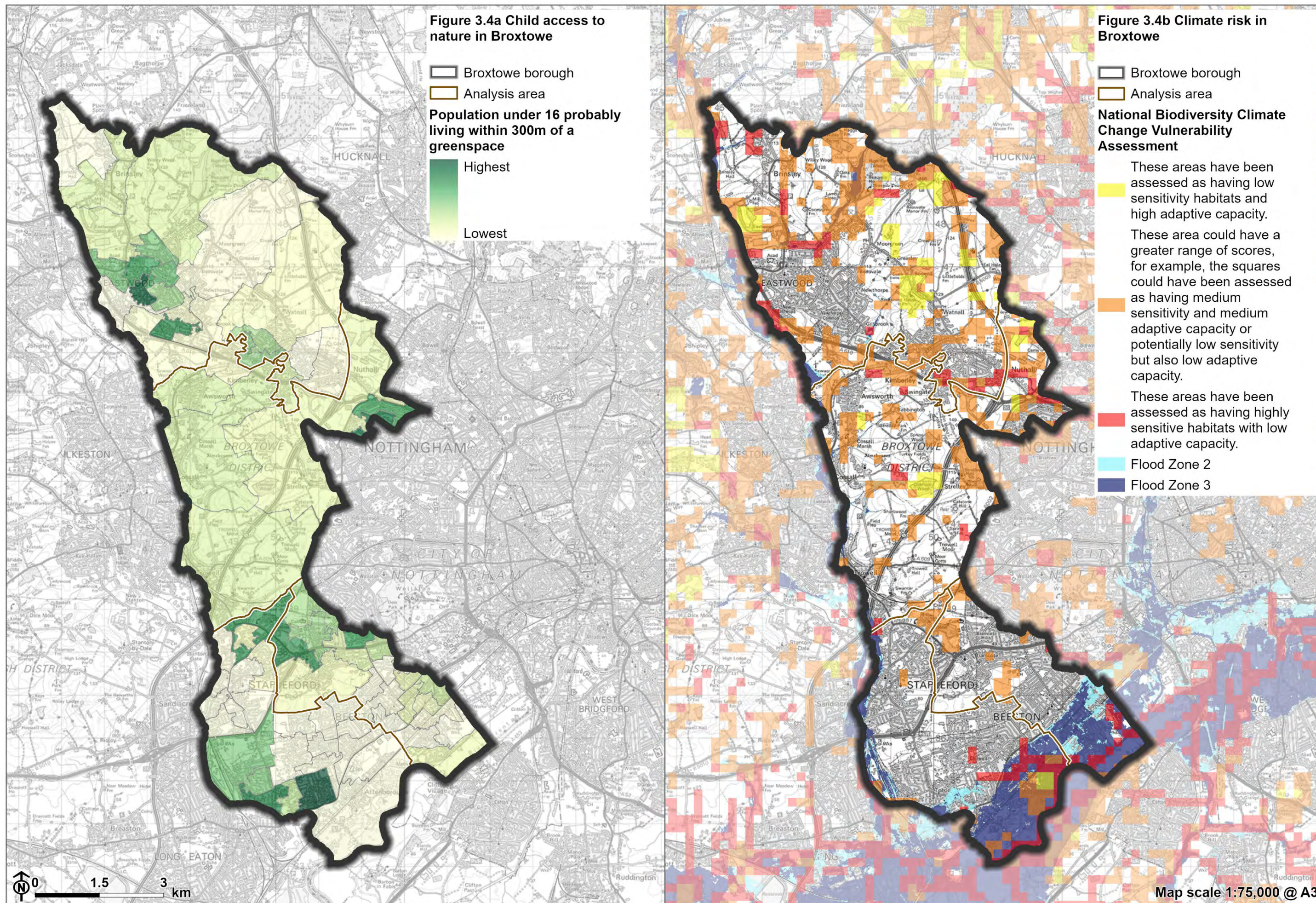
3.28 Climate change is likely to increase periods of extreme heat, which is likely to disproportionately impact Broxtowe's urban areas such as Beeston, Stapleford, Eastwood, and Kimberley [See reference 86]. Met Office projections indicate that summer rainfall in the East Midlands could decrease by as much as 20% between 2040 and 2059 when compared to the period between 1981 and 2000, increasing the risk of droughts and wildfires [See reference 87].

3.29 Conversely, the Borough also faces increased risk of flooding. Flood Zone 3 areas make up 12% of the Borough's total land. Areas of high fluvial flood risk are located along the Rivers Trent and Erewash. Also, there are fluvial flood risks along Gilt Brook and Beauvale Brook, some of which is classified as Flood Zone 2. The Borough also faces increased surface-water flooding, the risk of which is mainly focused on small watercourses and some urban areas. Neighbourhoods vulnerable to a 1 in 30-year surface flooding event include parts of Eastwood, Kimberley, Beeston, Stapleford, Toton, Trowell, and Nottingham's western edge near Cinderhill. Overall, 4% of the Borough's total land area is exposed to a 1 in 100-year flood risk. Eastwood St Mary's and Eastwood Hilltop have a relatively high social vulnerability to flooding [See reference 88].

3.30 Additionally, climate change poses a severe threat to local biodiversity. Modelling by Natural England suggests that 502 hectares of habitat within Broxtowe are at the highest risk of damage due to climate change [\[See reference 89\]](#). These areas of high-risk are located across the Borough; although, many are within flood zones close to settlements (including Brinsley, Eastwood, Kimberley, and Beeston and Attenborough).

3.31 The vulnerability of biodiversity to climate change and location of Flood Zones 2 and 3 are shown in **Figure 3.4b**.

The nature and climate positive theme was not a subject of much discussion during stakeholder engagement. However, the need for more areas of free play within forests, such as den building, mud kitchens and forest schools was identified.



Chapter 4

Overview of play provision in Broxtowe

4.1 This chapter provides a summary of the parks and play spaces in Broxtowe being considered as part of this study. In total 56 play spaces have been considered in this study. This includes stand-alone play areas, formal and informal play provision within wider open spaces and parks with no designated formal play.

4.2 There are over 600 pieces of play equipment installed and maintained in the Council's play areas. Equipped play meets the BS EN 1176 British and European Standard for playground equipment. Equipment also meets BS EN 1177, which covers playground surfacing and provides guidance on critical fall height and impact safety. These equipped play spaces have been considered in this study, alongside wider parks and informal play areas which provide a range of play affordances for children and young people across Broxtowe.

4.3 Play parks in Broxtowe have been categorised according to the type of play on offer. These categorisations are based on those outlined by Fields in Trust [\[See reference 90\]](#). This has primarily been based on the age range catered for (within equipped play areas) and the types of play on offer for informal play. The following definitions have been considered. A single park can include more than one play space within it.

- **Equipped play:** These are formal play areas dedicated for children's play and with equipped play facilities to support this. They may be fenced or unfenced and typically would include signage outlining the area as space for children. They can be split into three groups.
 - **Local Areas for Play (LAPs):** Designated play space for very young children (under 5). Generally they include fewer than five pieces of equipment / play affordances. They would normally have a minimum size of 100 square metres.
 - **Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs):** Equipped play area, generally aimed at 5 to 8 year olds. It would typically include around five types of play equipment. They would normally have a minimum size of 400 square metres, including run around and supplementary areas around the equipped play. Integrated spaces which offer play for 5 to 8 year olds and younger children can still be classified as LEAPs.
 - **Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs):** Larger play areas with a variety of equipment suitable for older children playing independently, typically for children 9 years and over. Typically, they may have about eight

types of play activities included and would have a minimum size of 1000 square metres. They may also include play provision for younger children.

- **Designated informal play and youth spaces space:** These are often aimed at older children (11 years or over) and include infrastructure to support more informal play, although usually through a specific activity. This may include:
 - **Larger games areas:** This includes Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) or other ball courts or single basketball hoops, usually with a minimum size of 1,000 square metres.
 - **Other designated informal play space:** This can include wheels park (e.g. skate park or skate ramps), BMX or pump track, green gym or any other open space area designated for children or young people's play.
- **Other informal play elements:** This includes spaces with more playful features (e.g. social seating, teen shelter, logs, boulders, playful topography) which are integrated within a wider open space. An element would usually fall into this category where playful features are spread across the wider greenspace, if features were grouped together to form a 'play zone' then they would be considered as a designated informal play space.
- **Sports provision:** This includes formal sports offer available within the open space (although this may be restricted to members only). This includes tennis, bowls, grass pitches and artificial pitches, as well as promoted walking / jogging routes.
- **Informal open space:** This includes all elements of a greenspace which may offer opportunities for informal kickabout or space to 'hang out' but without any infrastructure or specific design features to encourage this.

4.4 Table 4.1 provides an overview of the play spaces managed by Broxtowe Borough Council and the Parish Councils. This is a count of the number of play or parks sites which include the different types of play provision.

Table 4.1: Types of play within sites owned and managed by Broxtowe Borough Council

Feature present	Space managed by Broxtowe Borough Council	Space managed by parish council
Local Area for Play (LAP)	2	0
Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	11	0

Feature present	Space managed by Broxtowe Borough Council	Space managed by parish council
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	23	8
Informal / youth space	20	7
Sport facilities	26	6
Informal play and kickabout space within wider greenspace	45	10
All parks and play spaces	46	10

4.5 Within this strategy the following additional terminology is used:

- Informal / youth space: This refers to discrete areas of informal play for youth or informal play elements.
- NEAP + youth: This is used for understanding quality and value of sites. It refers to parks or play spaces which include NEAP equipped play and informal / youth spaces.
- Informal wider area: This is used for understanding quality and value of sites. It refers to parks or play spaces only include sports provision, informal kickabout areas or informal play elements which do not qualify as informal / youth spaces.

4.6 In order to analyse the provision, the Borough has been split into four analysis areas:

- North: This includes rural areas in the north of the Borough (Brinsley and Greasley), as well as the urban settlements around Eastwood, Kimberley, Nuthall and Watnall.
- Central: This comprises the primarily rural area in the centre of Broxtowe. It includes the settlements of Awsworth, Cossall, Strelley and Trowell. The eastern edge part of the urban edge of Nottingham has extended into this area.
- South-East: This is primarily urban, incorporating Attenborough, Chilwell and Stapleford.
- South-West: This is primarily urban, incorporating Beeston and Bramcote.

4.7 The exact boundaries for these analysis areas have been drawn using Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) boundaries to allow comparison with population and

deprivation data which use these units. The location of the analysis areas is shown in **Figure 4.1**.

4.8 The names and locations of the play spaces are shown for each analysis area in **Figures 4.2 to 4.5**.

Figure 4.1: Analysis Areas

-  Broxtowe borough
-  Analysis area

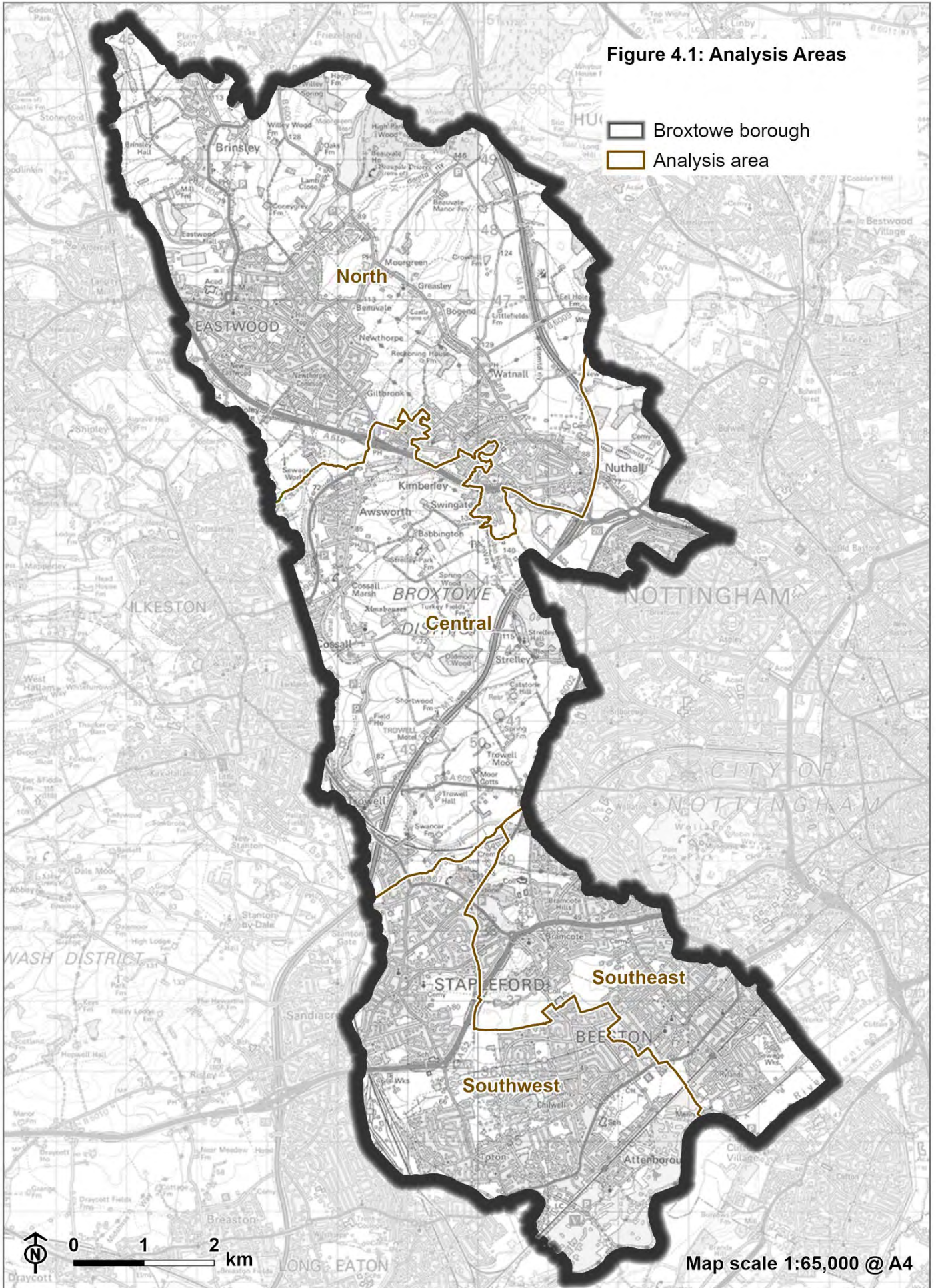


Figure 4.1: Parks and play provision in the central analysis area

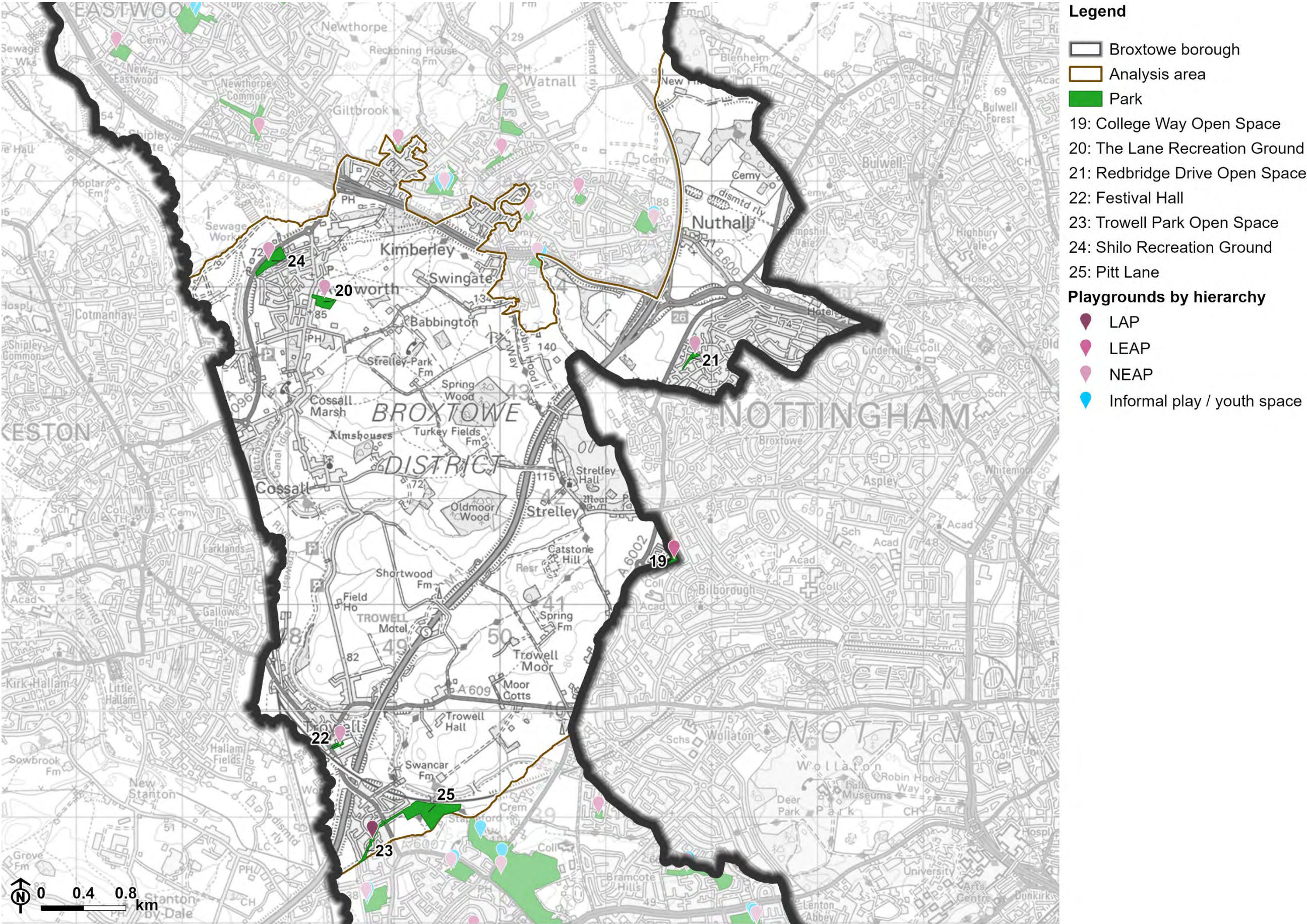


Figure 4.2: Parks and play provision in the north analysis area

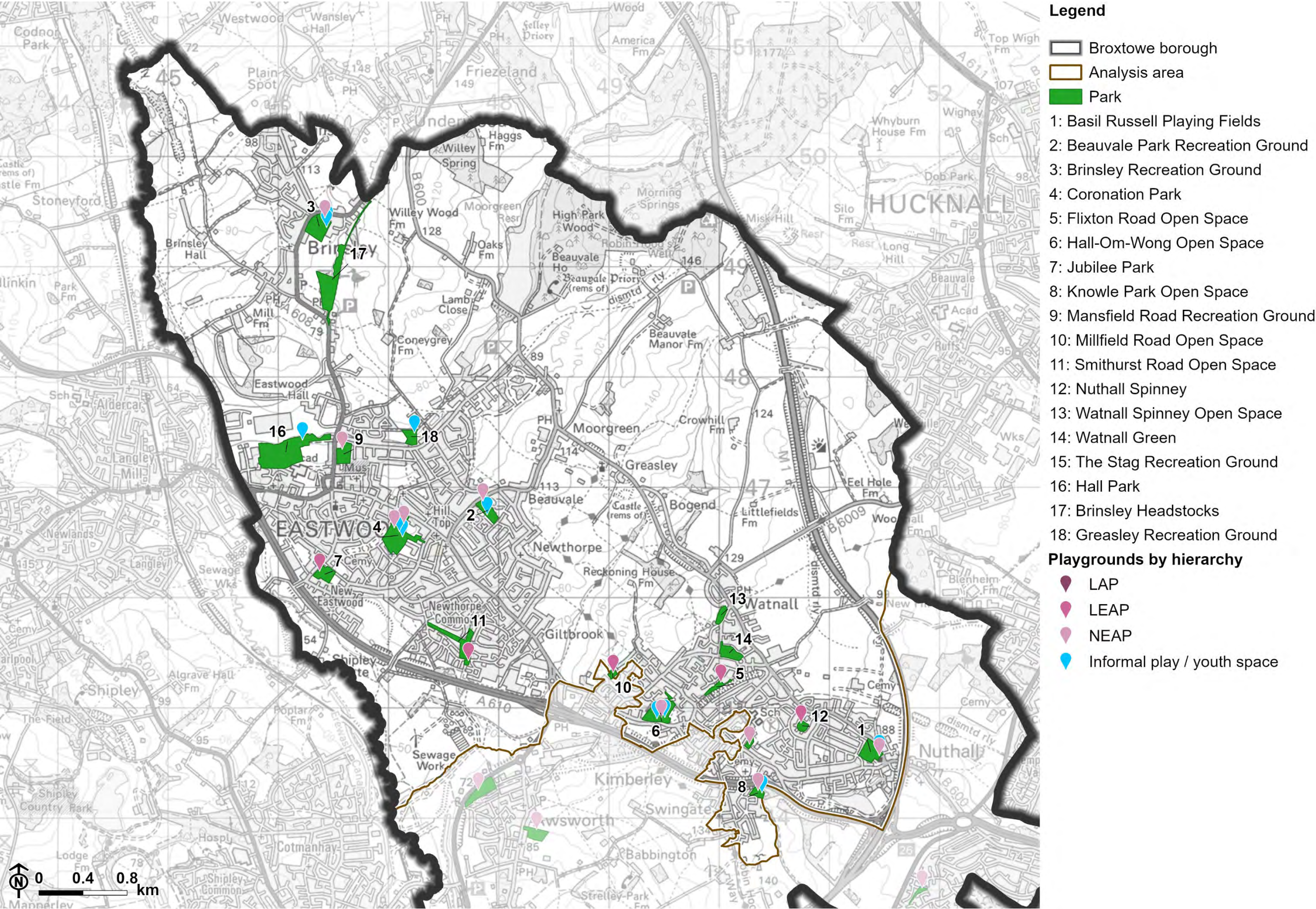


Figure 4.3: Parks and play provision in the southeast analysis area

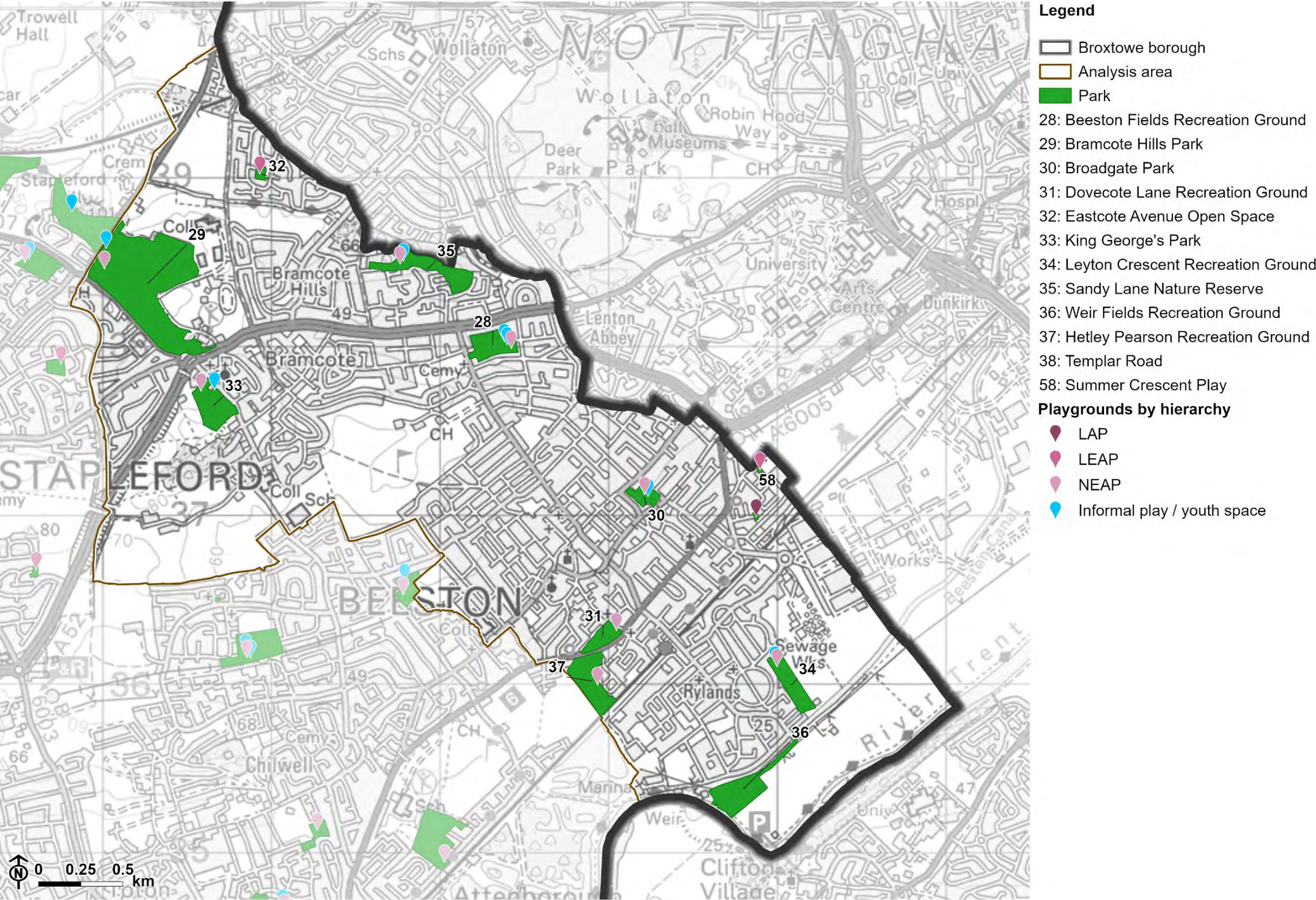
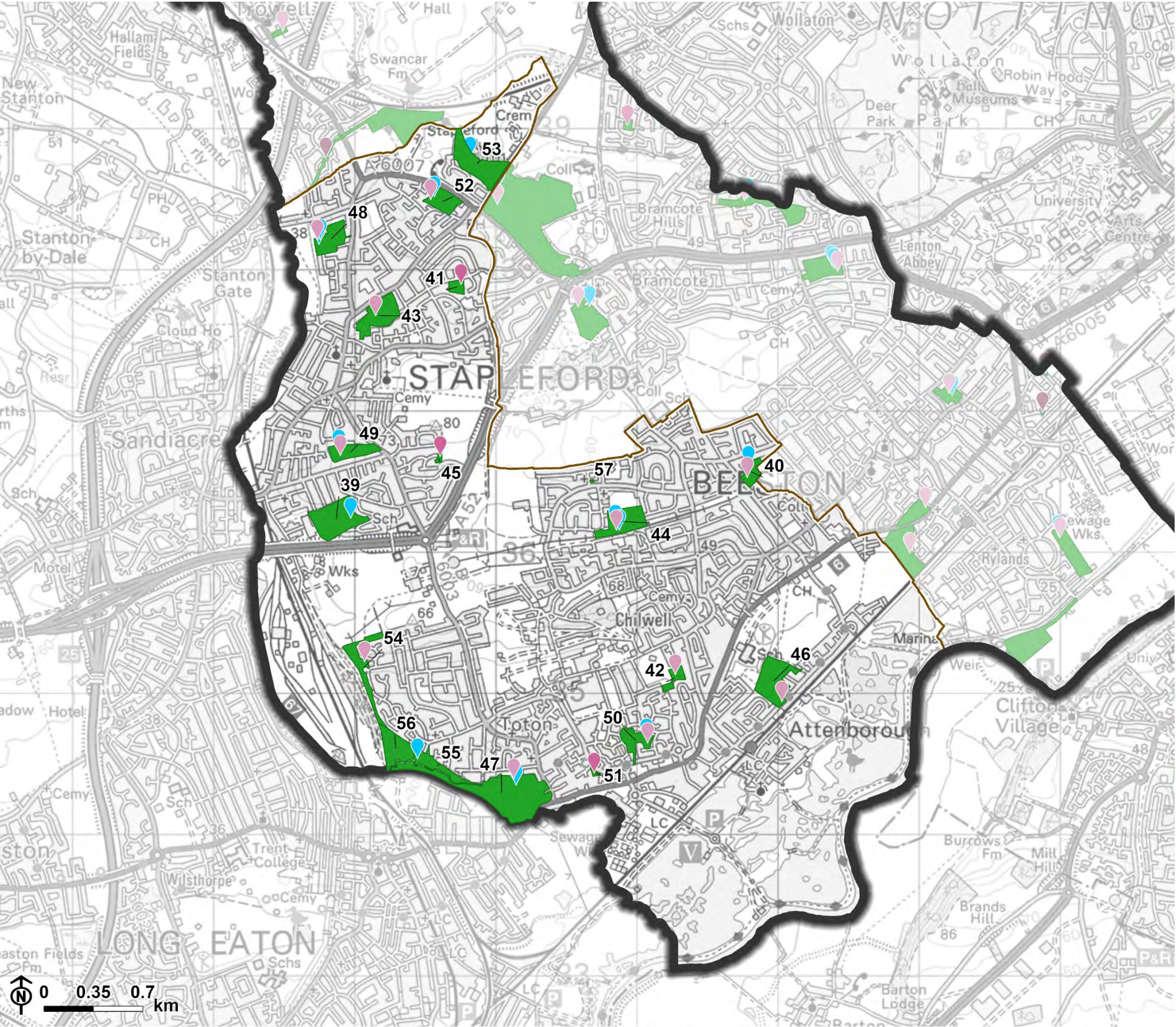


Figure 4.4: Parks and play provision in the southwest analysis area



- Legend**
- Broxtowe borough
 - Analysis area
 - Park
- 39: Archers Field MUGA
40: Cator Lane Park and Play Area
41: Central Avenue
42: Chetwynd Road Recreation Ground
43: Hickings Lane Recreation Ground
44: Inham Nook Recreation Ground
45: Judson Avenue Open Space
46: Long Lane Recreation Ground
47: Manor Farm Recreation Ground
48: Pasture Road
49: Queen Elizabeth II Park
50: Sherman Drive Open Space
51: Swiney Way Open Space
52: Ilkeston Road Recreation Ground
53: Hemlockstone (Bike track only)
54: Banks Road Open Space
55: Chester Green Open Space (MUGA)
56: Toton Fields Open Space
57: Barncroft
- Playgrounds by hierarchy**
- LAP
 - LEAP
 - NEAP
 - Informal play / youth space

Chapter 5

Quality and value assessment

Quality and value audits

5.1 This Strategy provides an assessment of quality and value of play provision across Broxtowe. The quality and value audit approach considers a range of criteria, providing the opportunity to assess the range of play facilities on offer and their condition.

5.2 Where play provision is located within a wider site, the characteristics of the surrounding site are considered. This approach provides the opportunity to undertake a strategic assessment of play provision across the Borough. It also enables the identification of priority sites for future investment, thereby maximising the benefit that the network can provide for the community.

5.3 Criteria have been defined as relating to quality or value, whereby:

- 'Value' relates to the presence of various features and facilities, value to the community, location and standard of design; and
- 'Quality' covers aspects relating to management and the condition of features and facilities.

5.4 Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated. For example, a play space may be high quality (by virtue of it being well maintained and in good condition), but if it does not have an appropriate level of facilities for the type of site, it may be of low value. Conversely, a play space could have an appropriate level of facilities (high value), but the condition of the site could still fall short (low quality).

5.5 Scoring for most of the criteria in the quality and value assessment is based on a scale of 1 to 5. Quality scores broadly translate as:

- 1 = Very poor
- 2 = Poor
- 3 = Fair
- 4 = Good
- 5 = Very good

5.6 Value scores can be broadly described as 1 = poor / lower value to 5 = higher value. For some criteria a value score of 1 or 2 is added to account for the presence of the feature. In these cases, the corresponding quality score is considered optional, with an 'NA' score being applied if the feature is not present.

5.7 The final quality scores were calculated by summing all the compulsory quality criteria, along with the average from the optional quality scores. The value scores were calculated as a sum of all value scores.

5.8 The survey used in the assessments is provided in **Appendix A**.

Quality and value analysis by theme

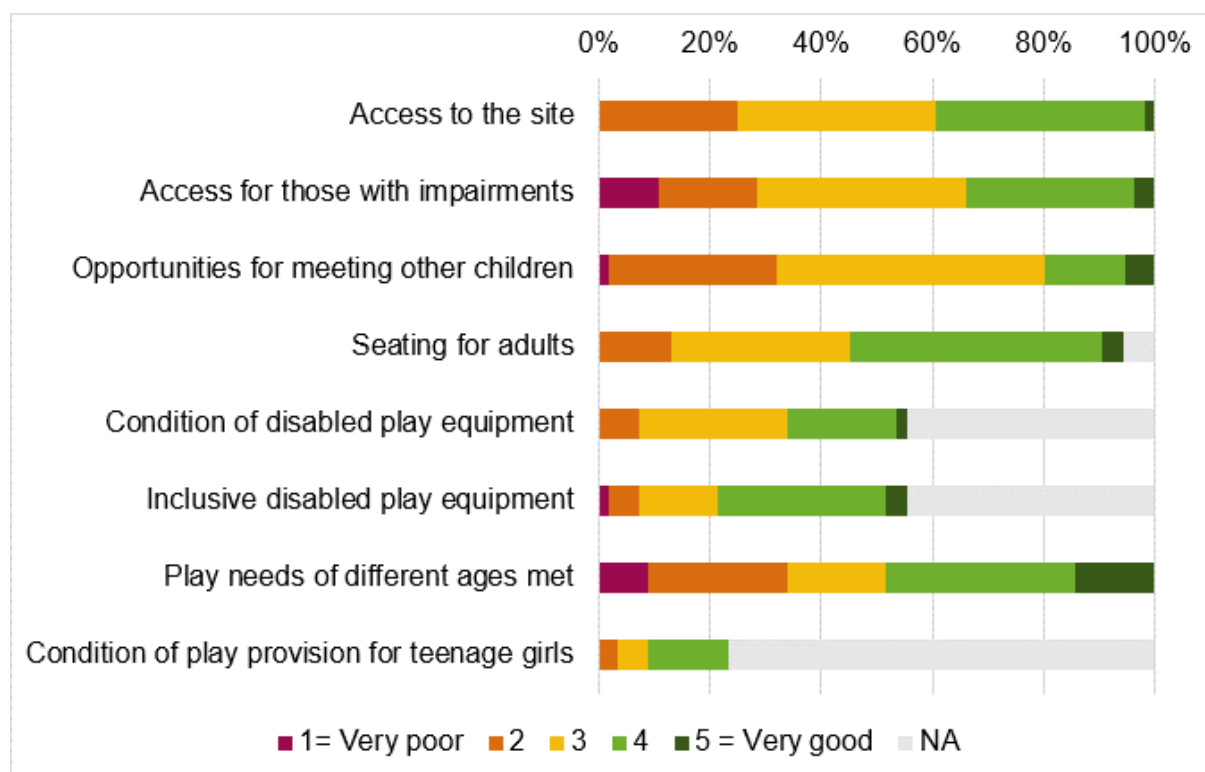
Theme 1: Inclusive and community orientated

5.9 Indicators for the inclusive and community orientated theme formed sections 2 and 6 of the audit form. Examples of the criteria included comprise:

- Location criteria (e.g. access to the sites and opportunities for meeting other children);
- Provision of facilities for supervisory adults e.g. seating;
- Inclusion of equipment for disabled children, including neurodiversity; and
- Provision for children of all ages, including teenagers (and non-sport-based equipment for teenage girls).

5.10 The spread of results for some of the key criteria are shown in **Figure 5.1**. Not applicable (NA) indicate that the features being scored on its condition is not present within the site.

5.11 Around 40% of audited sites score 4 (Good) or 5 (Very good) in relation to access to the site. The higher scoring sites generally comprised those sites with NEAP and youth provision, which were more centrally located spaces which were well linked to transport routes. Conversely, sites with no formal play provision generally had poor access and were twice as likely to score 2 (Very poor) for this.

Figure 5.1: Overview of the inclusive and community-orientated scores

5.12 Scores for access for those with impairments (including wheelchair users and people with visual impairments) were more varied than overall access. Just under 5% of sites scored 5 (Very Good), which was double the number of sites which scored 5 for overall access. However, there were also more sites that scored poorly, with just over 10% of sites scoring 1 (Very Poor).

5.13 Whilst arrival at the play space was generally scoring 3 (Fair) or higher, access through the space generally scored lower. This criterion was scored 0 – 2 rather than 1-5. Just over 25% of sites audited scored 0, indicating that access throughout the whole site was not suitable for wheelchair and pushchair users.

5.14 The vast majority of sites visited included seating for adults, and this was generally in a good or very good condition (scores of 4 and 5). In some spaces there was provision for picnic tables which incorporated a space for wheelchair users. However, there were fewer examples of sites which included seating specifically for children or teenagers and young people. Around 15% of sites included seating designed for children and 15% included seating for teenagers, such as a teen shelter. In some examples.

5.15 Equipment provision for children with disabilities was present in just over half of the sites visited, but around 45% of sites visited did not have any equipment suitable for disabled users. The most common types of equipment recorded were buddy /

basket swings and infinity bowl roundabouts. In some cases, these were located within areas of bark, which may reduce the usability of the equipment for disabled users.

5.16 The availability of play equipment for disabled children includes inclusive equipment, that can be used by children of all abilities, and exclusive equipment, which is tailored for use only by wheelchair users. There is a priority in Broxtowe to focus on inclusive equipment which allows all children to play together. Over 60% of the play spaces with disabled play equipment scored 4 (Good) or 5 (Very good) for ensuring inclusivity within disabled play equipment.

5.17 Overall, the majority of spaces did not include features which may support teenage girls. Less than 25% of sites included features which promote use for teenagers girls. Of these, only one site scored 2 for valuing, indicating that there was more notable provision for teenage girls. In all other cases the sites scored 1, representing a limited provision. This may include social seating, but which is not specifically aimed at teenage girls.

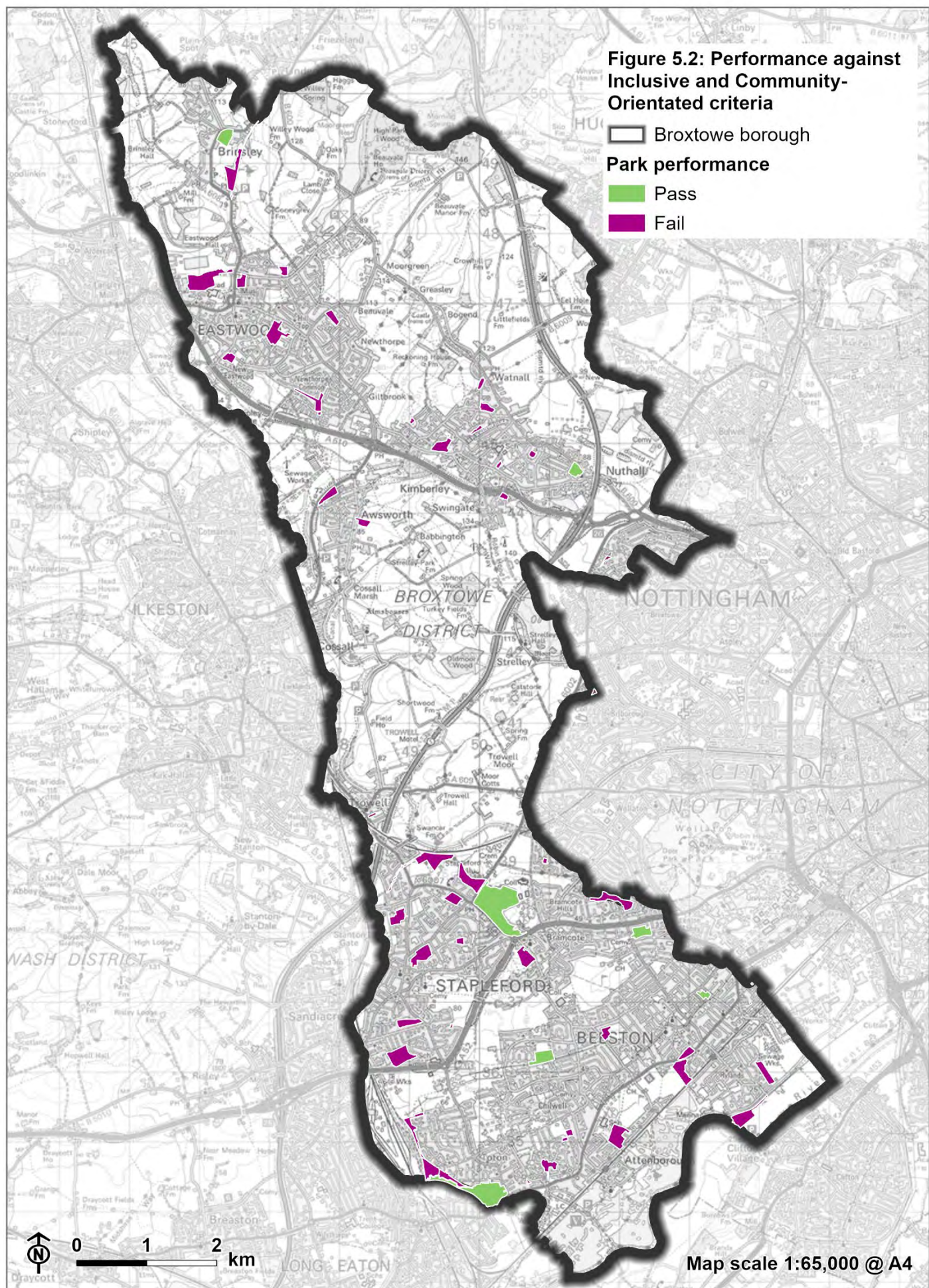
5.18 Based on the analysis of the scores, a benchmark score of 50 was applied to indicate excellent performance for the inclusive and community-orientated theme. Broadly this was applicable to having equipment and access for disabled users, as well as catering to a range of ages.

5.19 **Figure 5.2** below shows which sites meet these criteria. Seven of the 56 sites met this benchmark. All of the sites which meet this benchmark include NEAP and youth provision.

Theme 2: Active and healthy

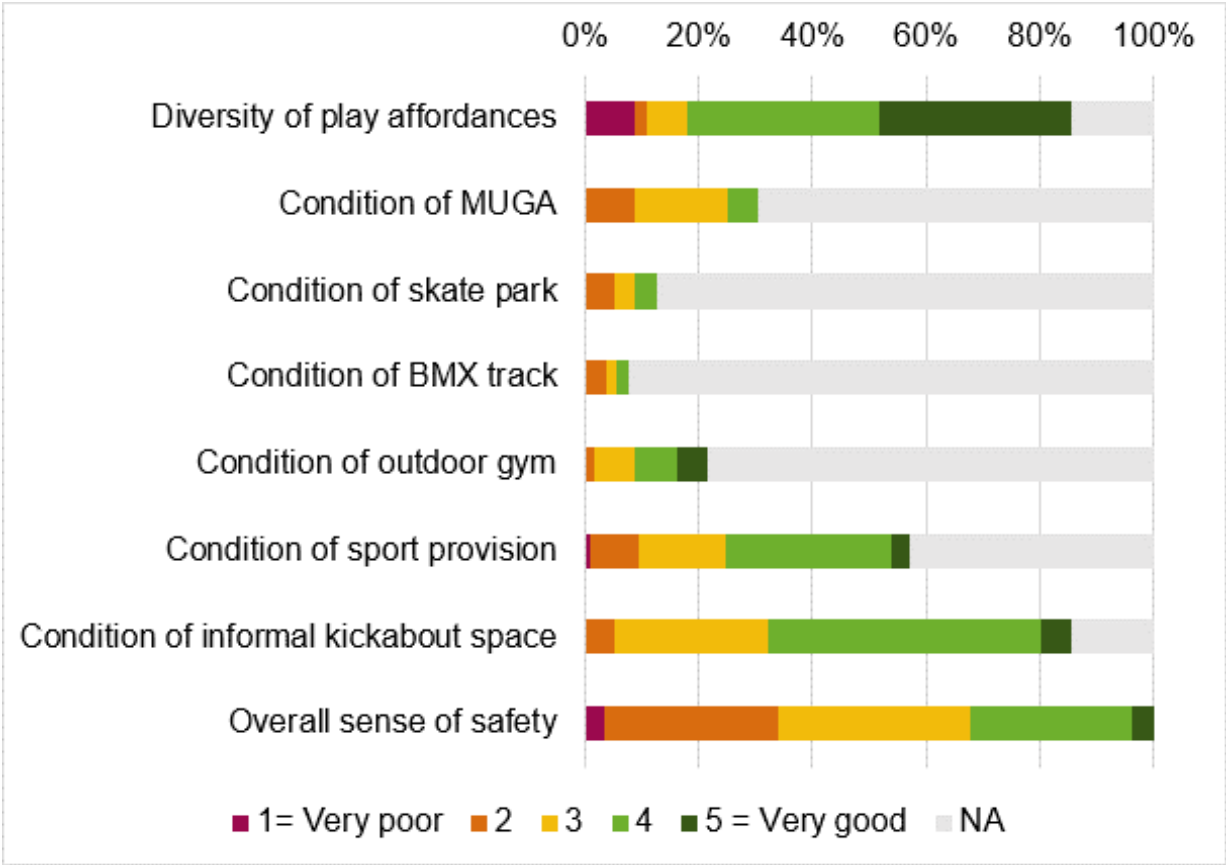
5.20 Indicators for the inclusive and community orientated theme formed sections 3, 4 and 5 of the audit form. Examples of the criteria included comprise:

- Types of play affordances available (e.g. climbing, swinging, balancing, rotating, jumping etc.);
- Provision and condition of different types of physical activity-based youth spaces such as skate parks, basketball hoops and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs);
- Provision and condition of different sport, offerings including grass pitches, artificial pitches and tennis courts; and
- Health and safety elements.



5.21 The spread of results for some of the key criteria are shown in **Figure 5.3**. Not applicable (NA) indicates the features being scored on its condition is not present within the site.

Figure 5.3: Overview of active and healthy scores



5.22 Equipped play areas generally offered a variety of play affordances, with around a third offering 8 or 9 of the 12 play affordances (Score 4 – Good) and around a third offering 10 or more play affordances (Score 5 – Very good). All sites with a NEAP equipped play had at least 8 play affordances on offer.

5.23 The majority of spaces did not include youth spaces which offered physical activity for older children. The most common provision for this was Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs). This was recorded in just over 30% of sites. Many of these were smaller than the standard MUGA, offering a single basketball post on one in the centre of the MUGA and a single goal post on the reverse. Outdoor gym equipment, offering physical activity for older children and adults were recorded in just over 20% of sites. Generally this type of provision was of higher quality than other youth provision.

5.24 Around 55% of sites included some form of sports provision. The most common sports provision was grass football pitches, which were present in around 42% sites. Erosion under goal posts was noted and, in many cases, contributed to lower condition scores.

5.25 The majority of spaces included space for informal kickabout, offering space for informal physical activity. Where this was present, the majority of informal kickabout areas scored 4 (Good) or 5 (Very good). This indicates these spaces are generally flat, of an appropriate size and the grass coverage is well maintained.

5.26 A third of sites scored 4 (Good) or 5 (Very good) for the overall sense of safety. However, there was a notable number of sites (30%) that scores 2 (Poor). This included many of the more natural spaces, including woodland which restricts sightlines in and out of the space.

5.27 Overall, the majority of sites included safety signage including with an emergency contact and reinforcing that dogs should not be within play spaces. No smoking signs were generally not included for signs in Broxtowe.

5.28 Based on the analysis of the scores, a benchmark score of 36 was applied to indicate excellent performance for the active and healthy theme. Broadly this was applicable to having a good variety of active play and sport provision for differing ages, as well as being a safe space to play.

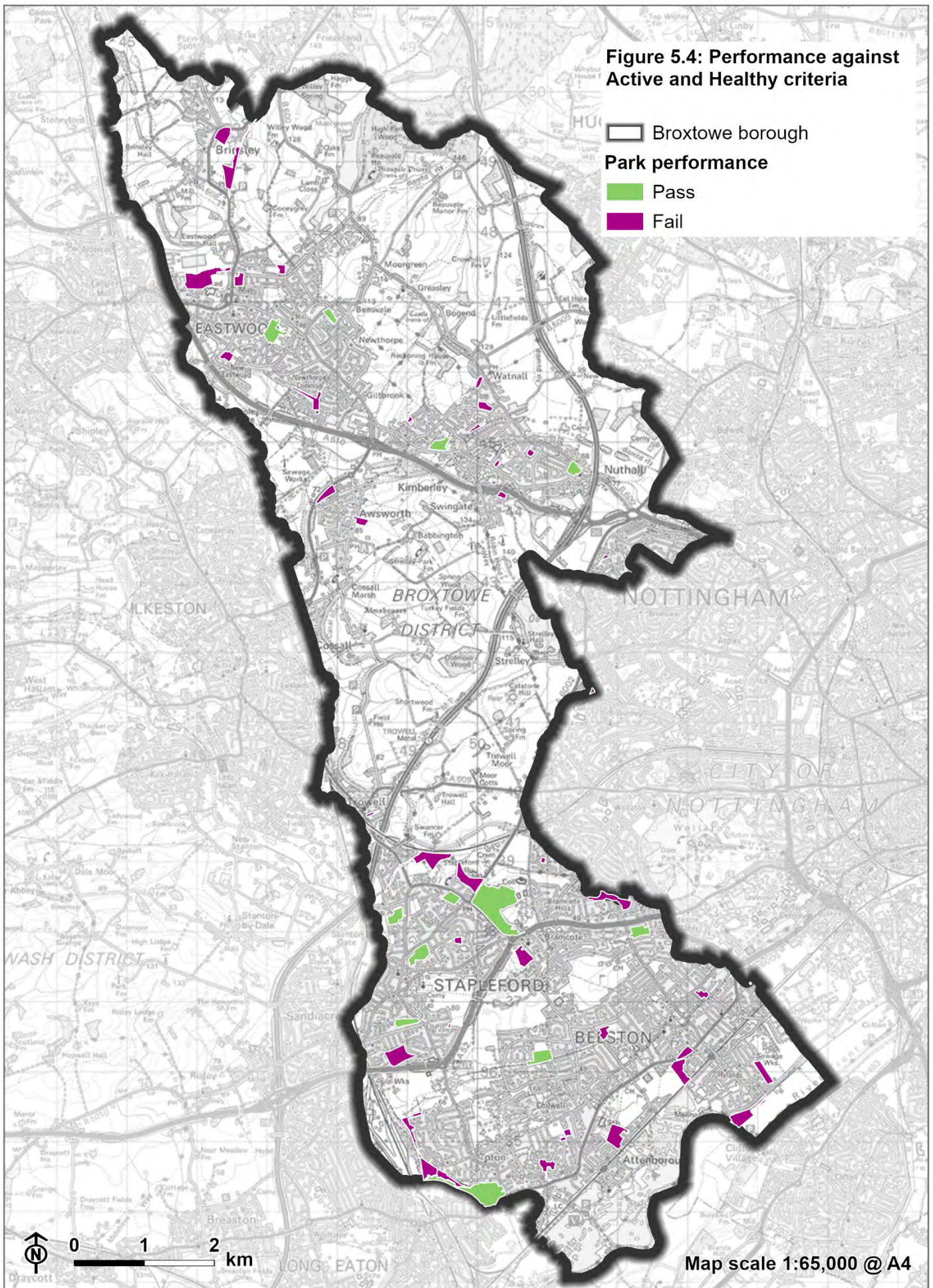
5.29 **Figure 5.4** shows the spread of scores for the inclusive and community-oriented theme. Twelve of the 56 sites met this benchmark. All twelve of these were spaces with NEAP and youth provision.

Theme 3: Supporting well-being and development

5.30 Indicators for the inclusive and community orientated theme formed section 7 of the audit form. Examples of the criteria included comprise:

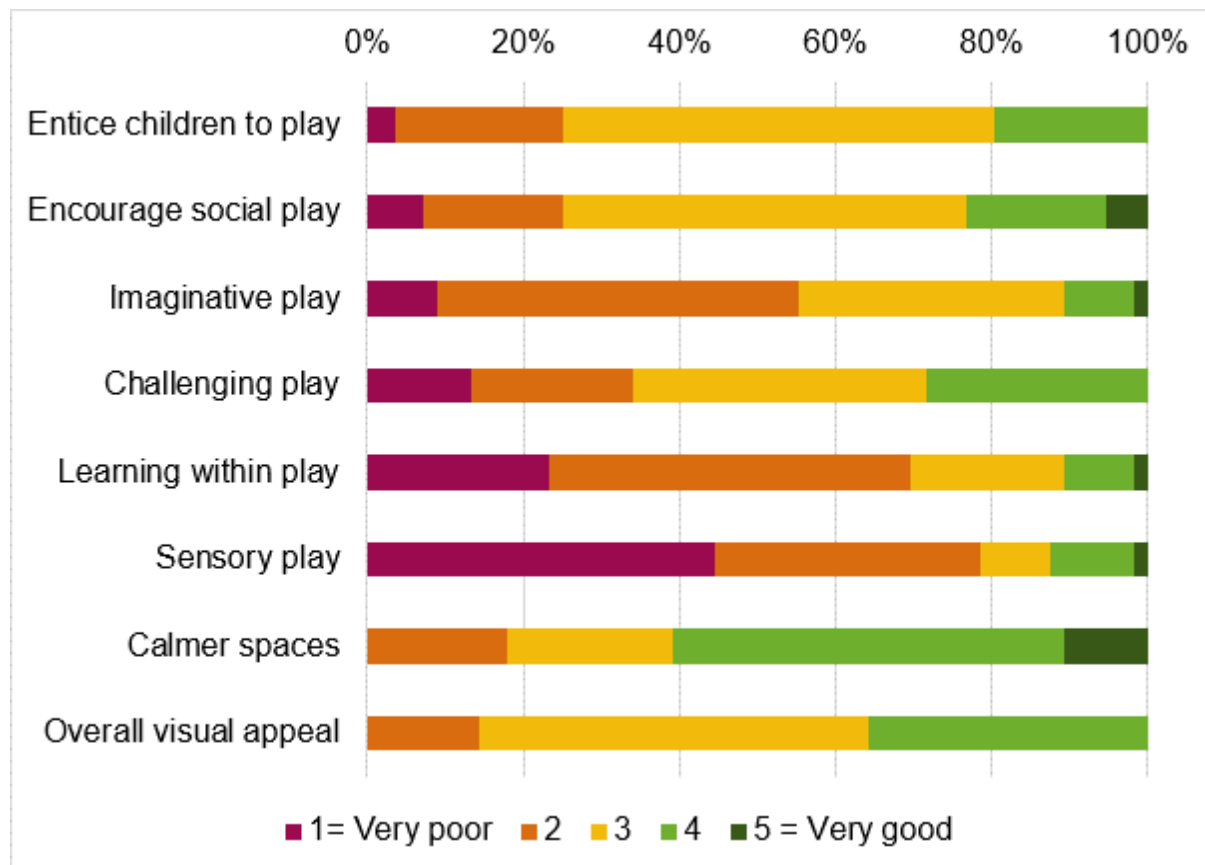
- Spaces which entice children to play, including through welcoming and encouraging signage, visual interest and incorporating calmer as well as busier spaces.
- Additional play value, encouraging social and imaginative play for all children.
- Play spaces which are designed to maximise and support learning within play.
- Inclusion of sensory play such as sand, water and musical play.

Figure 5.4: Performance against Active and Healthy criteria



5.31 The spread of results for some of the key criteria are shown in **Figure 5.5**.

Figure 5.5: Overview of supporting well-being and development scores



5.32 Scores for the supporting well-being and development theme were lower than scores for other themes. More sites received a score of 1 (Very poor) for criteria within this theme.

5.33 Most signage for play spaces in Broxtowe is informative and rules based. However, few play spaces included more imaginative signage encouraging play for all and enticing children to play. No play spaces in Broxtowe scored 5 (Very good) for this criterion and only 20% scored 4 (Good).

5.34 Overall, most of the equipped play spaces in Broxtowe included standard equipment. Whilst this equipment was in generally good condition, there were fewer examples of added play value, supporting social, imaginative, challenging or educational play. The majority of spaces scored either 3 (Fair) or 2 (Poor) for these criteria.

5.35 Sensory was scored as a separate category, but can also support social, imaginative and educational play and be accessible for a range of users. Overall,

there was limited sensory play within Broxtowe, with 45% of sites scoring 1 (Very poor) for this. Sensory play included sounding items, such as musical equipment, and sand play stations.

5.36 Sites generally scored better for having calm spaces and offering visual appeal combined to other criteria within the supporting well-being and development theme. However, for overall visual appeal, the most common score was 3 (Fair) and no spaces scored 5 (Very good).

5.37 Based on the analysis of the scores, a benchmark score of 28 was applied to indicate good performance for the supporting well-being and development. Broadly this was applicable to having elements which support a number of additional play needs, such as supporting imaginative, social, challenging or educational play. As overall performance against this theme was lower in Broxtowe, even sites which scored above this benchmark could include enhancements against this theme.

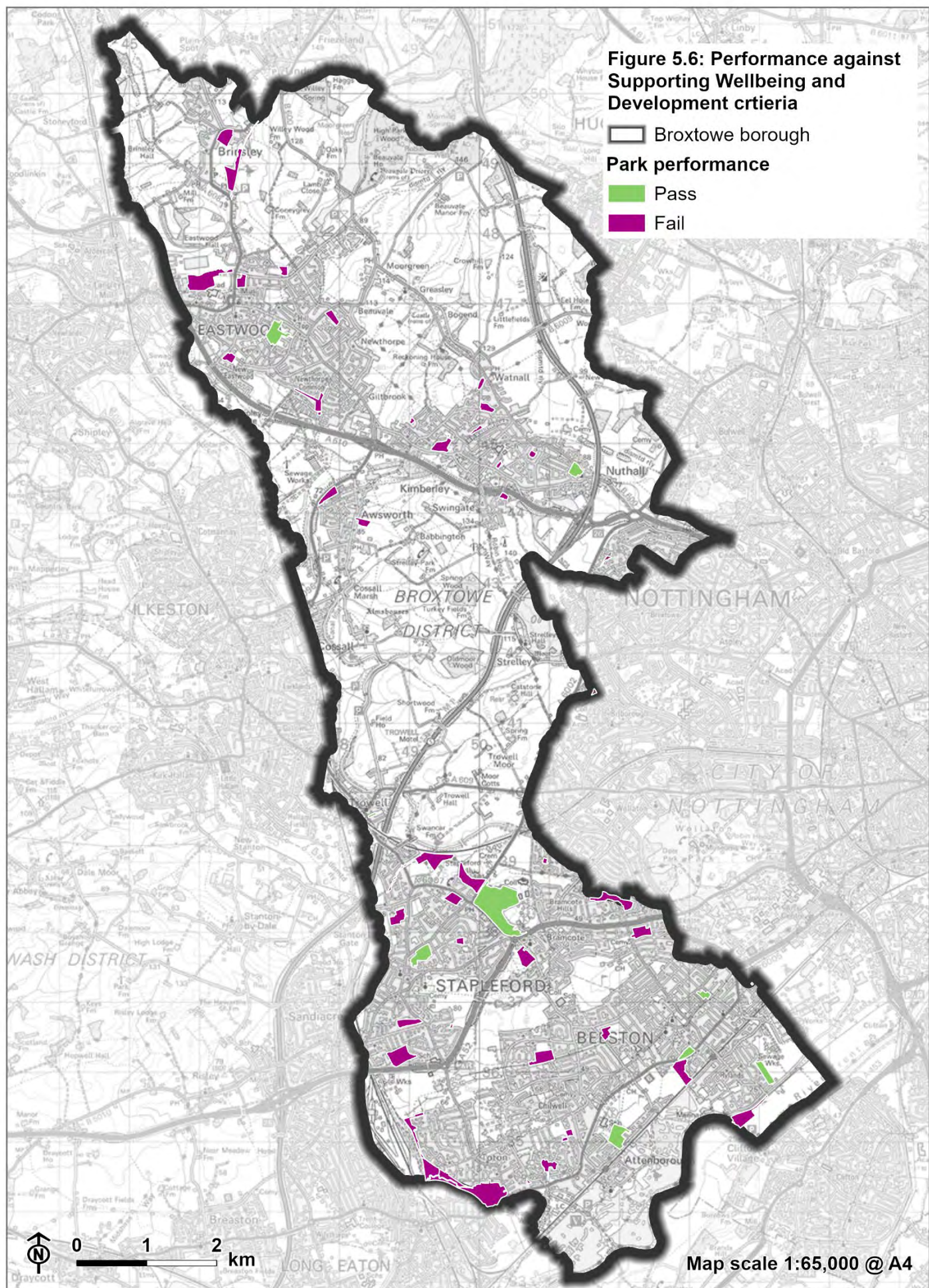
5.38 Figure 5.6 below shows which sites meet this benchmark.

5.39 Nine of the 56 sites met the supporting learning and development benchmark. All of these were spaces with NEAP provision and seven of these also had youth provision.

Theme 4: Nature and climate positive

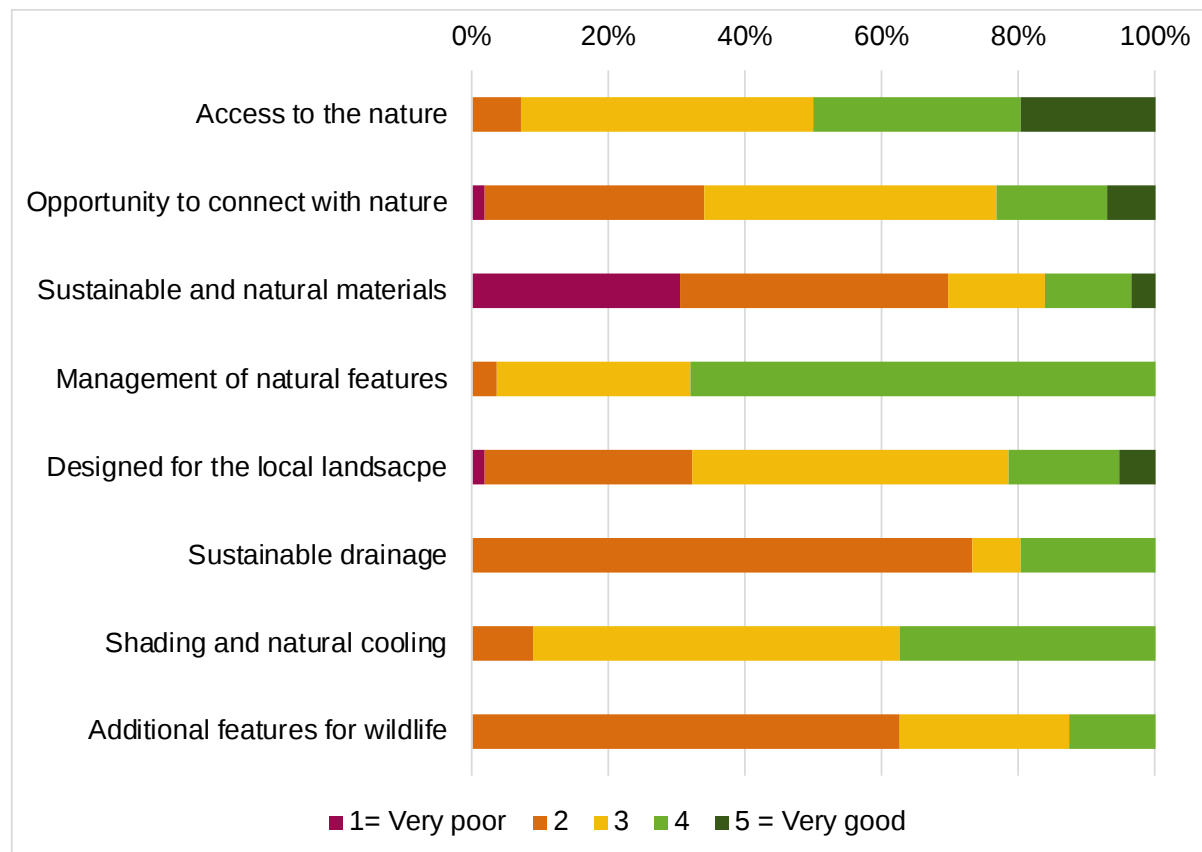
5.40 Indicators for the inclusive and community orientated theme formed section 8 of the audit form. Examples of the criteria included comprise:

- Access and connection to the natural environment;
- Use of sustainable and natural materials within play equipment and safety surfaces;
- Spaces which are designed for the local landscape;
- Inclusion of Nature-based Solutions, such as water storage and cooling; and
- Provision of habitats and support for wildlife.



5.41 The spread of results for some of the key criteria are shown in **Figure 5.7**.

Figure 5.7: Overview of nature and climate-positive scores



5.42 Generally sites provided access to the natural environment. 50% of sites scored 4 (Good) or 5 (Very good) for this criterion and only 7% (4 sites) scored below 3 (Fair). However, scores for offering opportunities to connect with nature were generally lower. For this criterion only 23% of sites scored 4 or 5 and 34% scored less than 3. Generally, sites without formal play equipment had better access and connection to nature.

5.43 The sustainable and natural equipment and surfaces question focussed mostly on timber equipment and bark chippings. Some sites in Broxtowe have safety surfacing composed of recycled material although this was not readily identifiable during the site visit. Most sites include some examples of natural materials within equipment or surfacing (score of 2 (Poor) or higher). However, only 14% had both natural equipment and natural surfacing.

5.44 Natural features were generally well managed, with 72% of spaces scoring 4 (Good) for this. In some cases, poorer management included areas of worn grass around play area fencing or around MUGAs. Some spaces included locked areas of

natural vegetation which were not being well managed, and in cases impacting the overall appeal of the site.

5.45 Scores were generally poorer in terms of sites being designed for the local site. Only 21%% scored 4 (Good) or scored 5 (Very good). In most cases, equipped play areas were bordered by a metal fenced and not integrated into the natural topography of open spaces. This was particularly incongruous in more natural and woodland spaces such as Sandy Lane Nature Reserve.

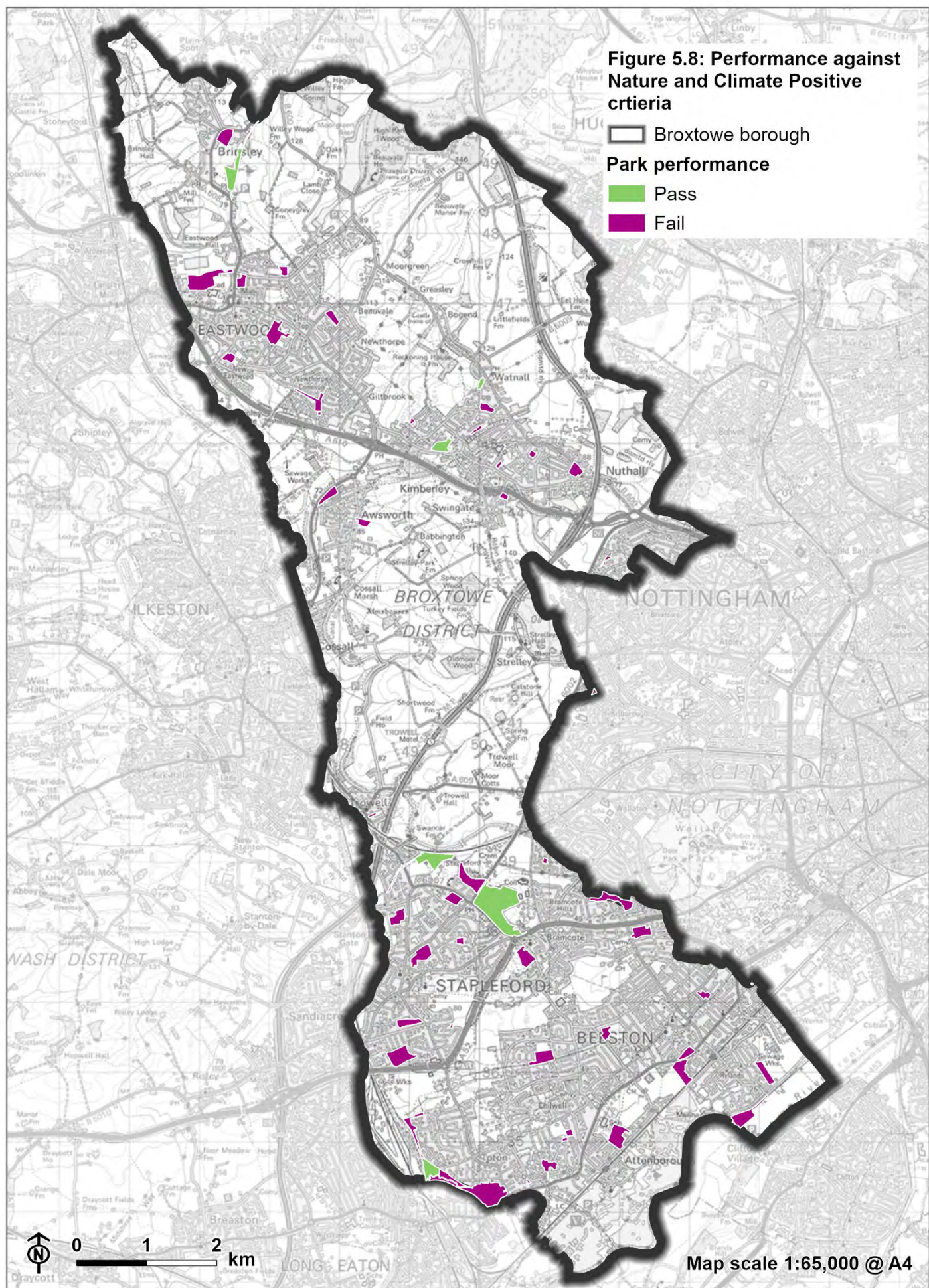
5.46 The final criteria in **Figure 5.7** relate to provision of nature-based solutions creating resilience to climate change and supporting wildlife. These were scored on a scale of 0-2 which have been transformed to scores of 2 – 4 to allow comparison with scores on the scale of 1-5. Overall shading was the most common resilience feature provided on sites, with trees present in most of the spaces. Sustainable drainage features on site mostly included areas of wetland or where parks acted as natural floodplains when located alongside the river (e.g. Weir Fields), rather than the presence of designed SuDS features integrated within spaces.

5.47 Based on the analysis of the scores, a benchmark score of 30 was applied to indicate excellent performance for the nature and climate positive theme. Broadly this was applicable to having some natural features integrated within play, appropriate features which offer some kind of natural play and good management of nature.

5.48 **Figure 5.8** shows the performance of sites against this benchmark. Six of the 56 sites met the supporting learning and development benchmark. Four of these were wider informal play areas only and two of these were spaces with NEAP + youth provision.

Developing Quality and Value ‘Benchmark’ Standards

5.49 The purpose of undertaking the site audits is to provide a strategic assessment of the quality and value of sites and gain an understanding of deficiencies in access to high quality / value sites. The scores can then be used as part of a quality and value benchmarking process. The performance of play spaces can be tested against the benchmark scores; highlighting where they sit in relation to an agreed standard that represents what should be considered a good quality / high value site. This process can help to identify current needs for improvement and prioritise investment and enhancement in a strategic way.



5.50 Separate benchmark scores are proposed for each play typology. This reflects the differing performances of different types of play sites – with large and better equipped neighbourhood sites expected to perform better than smaller doorstep sites. A separate benchmark value is proposed for the ‘informal’ typology, which includes standalone facilities such as Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), BMX tracks, teen shelters, and skate parks. Again, this reflects differences in the overall scores of such sites which are relatively unequipped compared to other typologies.

5.51 Development of the proposed quality and value standards are based on the calculation of the mean averages of the results of the play space audits. The proposed standards are shown in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1: Play space quality and value standards

Play typology	Quality standard	Value standard
Informal wider area	20.5	45
LAP	21	55
LEAP	22	64
NEAP	22	77
NEAP + youth	23	85
Youth	21	58

5.52 The scores take account of what can reasonably be expected from a play space within the area, and the levels of maintenance that should be expected for the type of facilities and features present.

Application of quality and value standards

5.53 Once the sites are tested against the benchmarks, they are assessed against an agreed standard for quality and value. Sites are then identified as falling into one of the four categories, shown below:

- Higher quality, higher value (++)
- Higher quality, lower value (+-)
- Lower quality, higher value (-+)
- Lower quality, lower value (--).

5.54 The categories can provide a broad indication of the type of management approach that may be needed across any given area or site (summarised below).

Higher quality / Higher value (++)

5.55 These sites represent the best play spaces within the borough, offering the greatest value to local communities. Future management should seek to maintain the standards to ensure sites continue to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

5.56 These sites would likely not be considered a priority in terms of future enhancement, however, improvements and enhancement to these sites may still be appropriate in a changing context. Ongoing management of the spaces to maintain the quality and value standards is important.

High Quality / Lower Value (+-)

5.57 The audit found these sites to be achieving a sufficient standard for quality, most likely with sufficient levels of maintenance. Features and facilities are likely to be in good condition, or a good state of repair. Value for these sites fall short of what should be expected. For instance, through a lack of suitable features, facilities, and opportunities for informal recreation.

5.58 These sites should be prioritised for future works to enhance the sites value, for instance through the provision of appropriate features and facilities and implementing appropriate design interventions.

Lower Quality / Higher Value (-+)

5.59 These spaces meet or exceed the proposed standard for value but fall short on the proposed quality standard. These sites will most likely contain the features and attributes that is expected of a play space, but their condition may be poor, and the site may be failing to achieve the expected standards of management and maintenance. Play features may be tired, broken, or beyond their useful life.

5.60 These sites provide most opportunity for 'quick wins' of improving play provision through enhanced management and maintenance and repair of equipment. A lack of good management and maintenance can also impact perceptions of safety; therefore, work should also be undertaken to ensure play spaces are welcoming and feel safe for use by the local community.

Lower Quality / Lower Value (--)

5.61 Enhancing both the quality and value of these sites should be considered a priority, particularly in areas which suffer from a deficiency in access to, or quantity of, publicly accessible play space.

Summary of results

5.62 An overview of the number of Broxtowe play spaces, per typology, that fall under each quality / value performance standard is provided in **Table 5.2** below.

Table 5.2: Overview of quality / value performance across typologies

Typology	Higher quality and value (++)	Higher quality, lower value (+-)	Lower quality, higher value (-+)	Lower quality, lower value (--)
Informal wider area	3	2	2	0
LAP	1	1	0	0
LEAP	3	3	3	2
NEAP	4	1	1	3
NEAP + youth	5	6	7	4
Youth	1	2	2	0
Total	17	15	15	9

5.63 In Broxtowe, 30% of play areas are higher quality and higher value (++), meaning they offer the greatest value to local communities and are maintained to a high standard. These play spaces represent the play spaces that are performing well for their size and type. Overall, informal NEAPs and LAPs were more likely to score in ++ category (although the very small low number of LAPs audited reduces the applicability of this conclusion overall).

5.64 Approximately 27% of Broxtowe play spaces fall within the higher quality and lower value (+-) category. This means they are managed and maintained to a high standard, but may be limited in what they offer or how they are designed for community needs. Another 27% of Broxtowe play spaces are lower quality and higher value (-+). This means that they meet or exceed the value standard in terms of their features and facilities, value to the community, location and standard of design. However, these sites fall short on quality, namely aspects relating to management

and the condition of features and facilities. The split between +- and -+ sites is relatively consistent across all play typologies. The exception is for LAPs where no sites scored -+. The caveat relating to the limited number of LAP sites still applies.

5.65 In Broxtowe, approximately 16% of play spaces are lower quality / lower value, meaning that they lack the presence of various features and facilities, value to the community, location and standard of design and also do not meet the standards relating to management and the condition of features and facilities. All sites which fall in this category are LEAP, NEAP or NEAP + youth spaces. In particular there is a higher proportion of NEAPs which fall into this category compared to other play typologies.

Spatial distribution of quality and value scores

5.66 A colour coding system has been applied as part of strategic mapping exercises to understand any spatial patterns of the performance of sites and to identify priority areas for enhancement.

Table 5.3: Symbolology for quality and value performance

Symbol and colour coding	Description
++	Higher quality / higher value
+-	Higher quality / lower value
-/+	Lower quality / higher value
--	Lower quality / lower value

5.67 The pattern of differing sites scores across the Analysis Areas is shown in **Table 5.4**. The spatial pattern of these scores is also shown in **Figures 5.5**. This figure provides a detailed overview of the performance of play provision against the benchmark standard.

Table 5.4: Quality and value of parks and play spaces in Broxtowe by analysis area

Analysis Area	Higher quality and value (++)	Higher quality, lower value (+-)	Lower quality, higher value (-+)	Lower quality, lower value (--)
Central	2	3	0	2
North	3	6	7	2
Southeast	7	2	1	2
Southwest	5	4	7	3
Broxtowe (total)	17	15	15	9

Central analysis area

5.68 There is a strong spatial pattern associated with the distribution of scores within the central analysis area.

5.69 Two of the seven play spaces in the central area are within the ++ category. These are both located in the south of the analysis area around Trowell. Additionally, this includes an informal play space and LAP. Of the play typologies with more dedicated play provision for a range of ages, no spaces score ++ within this analysis area.

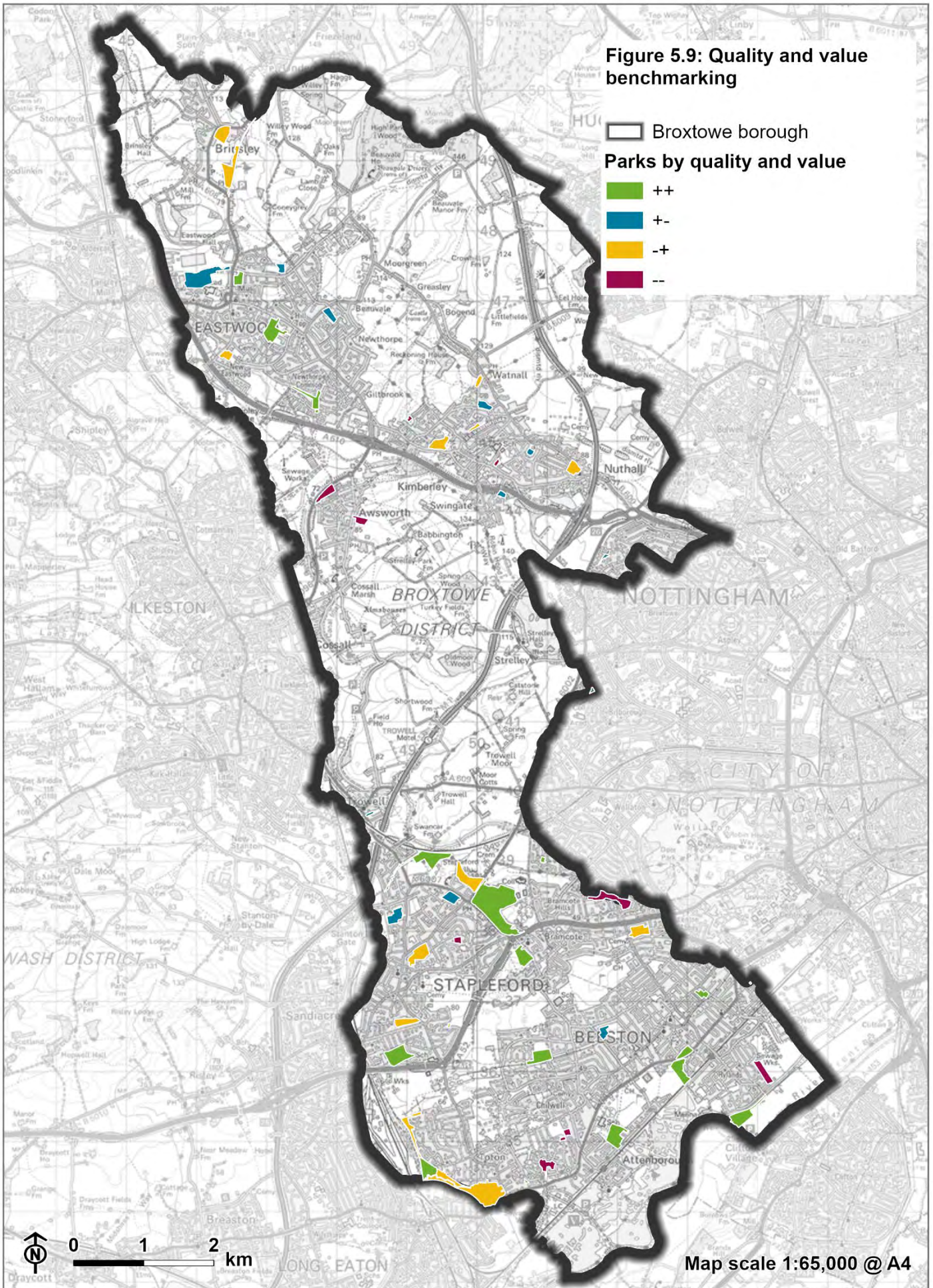
5.70 In the northeast, around Awsworth, the two play spaces both scored --. This included a NEAP and NEAP + youth space. Additionally, three sites scored +-. One of these is also located in the south, around Trowell. The remaining two are located in the east of the analysis area, within the urban edge of Nottingham.

North analysis area

5.71 The north analysis area had the smallest proportion of sites which scored ++. Only 3 of the 18 sites received this score. Those that did score well are located around the urban area of Eastwood and Giltbrook.

5.72 Other settlements within this analysis area do not include high quality and value sites. Both sites in Brinsley scored-+. Around the urban areas of Kimberley, Watnall and Nuthall four sites scored -+, three +- and two --.

Figure 5.9: Quality and value benchmarking



Southeast analysis area

5.73 The southeast analysis area has the highest proportion of ++ parks and play spaces. Seven of the 12 parks and play spaces in the southeast are within this category. This analysis area includes Bramcote Hills Park, which scores the highest for both quality and value totals, and is the only site to reach the 'pass' benchmark for all four of the themes.

5.74 The remaining spaces include two +- sites, one -+ site and 2 – sites. These are located along the eastern edge of the analysis area. The three sites that do not meet the value standard are all spaces with NEAP + youth provision, which should provide dedicated play space for the children of all ages.

Southwest analysis area

5.75 Along with the north, the southwest analysis area had the highest share of -+ sites, which made up seven of the 19 sites in this area. Sites which received this score included several larger sites, including Manor Farm Recreation Ground, Banks Road Open Space and Hickings Lane Recreation Ground.

5.76 Five sites scored ++, this included a range of play typologies. Although these were mostly located in the south of the analysis area, highly scoring sites such as Bramcote Hills park and Pitt Lane Recreation are adjacent to the southwest analysis area in the north.

5.77 Additionally, four sites scored +- and three scored --. More than half of the sites which scored within this lower value were NEAP + youth sites, which are the sites which included dedicated play provision for the widest range of ages.

Chapter 6

Quantity and accessibility assessment

Quantity overview

Approach

6.1 Quantity analysis compares the amount (in hectares) of play provision compared to the population. Calculations have been made using the 2024 mid-year estimate of population for Broxtowe produced by the Office for National Statistics. Three different scenarios have been considered:

- Calculations using the whole area of the parks and play spaces compared to the whole population;
- Calculations using just the areas with equipped play compared to the whole population and the population under 18; and
- Calculation using just areas identified as designated informal play and youth space compared to the whole population and the population under 18.

6.2 These calculations give an idea of the quantity of play provision within Broxtowe. This study has not included a review of other play spaces which may be available in Broxtowe but owned and managed privately.

6.3 Quantities have been provided per analysis area. Six parks were located crossing the boundary of analysis areas these have been counted within the analysis area where the majority of the site falls. In all cases, no more than 0.1 hectares was located within another analysis area.

6.4 The number of sites for equipped play and informal or youth space is different here to the provision listed in Chapter 4. This is because where there are two or more distinct equipped play or youth spaces in different parts of the site these have been calculated separately.

Existing quantity of parks and play

All play and informal parks

6.5 Fields in Trust recommends a provision of 0.8 hectares of parks and gardens per 1,000 people. Across Broxtowe, the Council and parish councils manage 1.67 hectares of parks for every 1,000 people. Whilst this is more than double the Fields in Trust Standard, the parks and play spaces contributing to this include some spaces that within the Fields in Trust model may be categorised under the natural and semi-natural greenspace or amenity greenspace category. Therefore, exceeding this standard does not mean there are excess parks which could be removed.

6.6 These results are shown in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1: Quantity of parks in Broxtowe by analysis area

Area	Number of sites	Total area (hectares - ha)	Area (in ha) per 1,000 population
Central	7	13.68	1.12
North	18	49.20	1.57
Southeast	11	57.86	1.84
Southwest	20	70.36	1.78
Broxtowe (total)	56	191.10	1.67

6.7 Overall, the provision of parks is higher in the south, with the Southeast and Southwest analysis areas providing a higher per population quantity of parks. The smallest provision is in the central area, which is mostly rural. Even accounting for the lower population however, there is still a lower quantity per 1,000 people. The central analysis area has just 1.12 hectares of park and play space for every 1,000 people, compared to 1.84 hectares for every 1,000 people in the southeast analysis area.

Equipped play provision

6.8 Fields in Trust recommend a provision of 0.25 hectares of equipped play space for every 1,000 people. In Broxtowe, there is a provision of 0.03 hectares per 1,000 people. This is around 10 times less than the recommended provision. Given this low provision, and in order to prioritise increasing play spaces where there is a higher proportion of children and young people within the population. The quantity of

equipped play has also been calculated based on the population under 18. These results are shown in **Table 6.2**.

Table 6.2: Quantity of parks and play spaces in Broxtowe by analysis area

Area	Number of sites	Total area (hectares - ha)	Area (in ha) per 1,000 population	Area (in ha) per 1,000 child population
Central	6	0.44	0.04	0.18
North	14	1.20	0.04	0.19
Southeast	11	0.76	0.02	0.13
Southwest	14	0.71	0.02	0.08
Broxtowe (total)	45	3.11	0.03	0.14

6.9 The provision of equipped play areas per 1,000 population shows a different pattern to the provision of wider parks and play spaces. When comparing the quantity to the entire population, the southeast and southwest analysis areas have half the provision of the central and north analysis areas (0.02 hectares per 1,000, compared to 0.04 hectares per 1,000).

6.10 Comparing the provision of equipped play to the population under 18, the average provision across the borough is 0.14 hectares per 1,000 children. This is still lower than the Fields in Trust standard of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 children. Even in the north analysis area where there is highest provision of equipped play, this is still below the Fields in Trust recommended standard, (0.19 hectares per 1,000 children). The southwest analysis area has notably lower provision of 0.08 hectares per 1,000 children. This is compared to an average of 0.14 hectares per 1,000 children across the whole borough.

Designated informal play and youth space

6.11 Fields in Trust recommends a quantity standard of 0.3 hectares of informal play space, including Multi Use Games Areas, pump / BMX tracks and other informal play elements. **Table 6.3** shows the quantity of designated informal play and youth spaces, compared to total and child population. There is a significantly lower provision of informal play spaces compared to the Fields in Trust standard.

Table 6.3: Quantity of parks in Broxtowe by analysis area

Area	Number of sites	Total area (hectares - ha)	Area (in ha) per 1,000 population	Area (in ha) per 1,000 child population
Central	1	0.05	<0.00	0.02
North	11	0.69	0.02	0.11
Southeast	7	0.16	0.01	0.03
Southwest	12	3.55	0.09	0.42
Broxtowe (total)	31	4.34	0.04	0.20

6.12 There is a wide variety in the provision of designated informal play and youth spaces across the borough. Over three quarters of the provision is located in the southwest analysis area. Much of this is contributed by the BMX track area at Hemlockstone. Compared to the population, this equates to a quantity of informal play and youth spaces of 0.09 hectares per 1,000 people and 0.42 hectares per 1,000 children in the southeast analysis area. Whilst this is four times higher than any of the other analysis areas, it is still lower than the Fields in Trust Standard compared to the full population.

6.13 However, there may be other informal play and youth spaces which have not been included within this quantity analysis. This includes those spaces that

Accessibility analysis

Approach

6.14 Accessibility catchments have been set for each type of play provision identified in Broxtowe. These are expressed as straight line 'walk-time' distances, recognising the likely distance people are willing to travel to reach different types of play facility. These are informed by Fields in Trust standards as well as Broxtowe Council's ambition for everyone to be within a 10-minute walk of a park or play space. These access catchments are shown in **Table 6.4**.

Table 6.4: Play space hierarchy and corresponding access buffer distances

Typology	Access buffer distance
Local Areas of Play (LAPs)	100 metres
Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs)	400 metres and 100 metres
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs)	1000 metres, 400 metres and 100 metres
Youth spaces	700 metres
Sport provision	1200 metres
All parks and play spaces	800 metres (equivalent to a 10-minute walk)

6.15 The estimated population within each buffer has been calculated by multiplying the percentage area of each Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) covered the buffer by the total child population in that LSOA. This estimates the child population with access for each LSOA (in a scenario where child population was spread evenly across the LSOA). The estimated child population with access for all the LSOAs within each analysis area is divided by the total child population for all the LSOAs in that analysis area.

Existing access to parks and play

6.16 The estimated population covered by buffers if shown in **Table 6.5**. This sets out the estimated percentage of children with access to a LAP, LEAP or NEAP in 100 metres, a LEAP or NEAP within 400 metres, or a NEAP within 1,000 metres.

Table 6.5: Estimated percentage of child population within access to equipped play

Area	Access within 100 metres	Access within 400 metres	Access within 1000 metres
Central	5%	31%	71%
North	13%	60%	80%
Southeast	17%	70%	100%
Southwest	18%	70%	100%
Broxtowe	15%	63%	91%

6.17 Only an estimated 15% of children have access to any play spaces (LAP, LEAP or NEAP) within 100 metres. The majority of residents throughout all analysis areas do not have access to equipped play at this distance.

6.18 Access to NEAP and LEAP within 400 metres varies throughout Broxtowe. Overall, an estimated 63% of residents have access to this. There is lower provision in the central analysis area where only an estimated 31% of residents have access. Gaps in access include around Trowell Park, the northern edge of Trowell, Cossall and parts of Awsworth. Additionally, smaller villages such as Strelley and Trowell Moor. In the north analysis area, gaps in access are generally along the edges of settlements and within villages. This includes the west of Brinsley, northern and southern edges of Eastwood, east of Giltbrook and north of Watnall. Additionally there is gaps in access within the villages of Moorgreen, Greasley, and Bogend. In the southeast there are gaps in access to equipped play at 400 metres are more scattered throughout the analysis area, including larger gaps northwest of Beeston centre, in the centre of Bramcote Hills and in the west of Beeston Rylands. A similar pattern emerges in the southwest analysis area, with gaps in parts of Chilwell and northeast Toton.

6.19 The best access to equipped play in Broxtowe is to NEAPs. It is estimated that 91% of children within Broxtowe have access to this type of play space within 1,000 metres. This includes all children in the southeast and southwest analysis areas. There are some residential areas without gaps to this provision. In the central analysis area this includes Cossall, Strelley and parts of the urban edge of Nottingham. In the north analysis area this includes a gap in access around Giltbrook as well as the northern edge of Watnall.

6.20 For all equipped play hierarchies, there is better access within the southeast and southwest analysis areas. These are more urban with higher population densities. In rural areas, residents may have lower access to the range of play spaces. Where residences are highly dispersed and greater than 100 metres or 400 metres from other properties it is not feasible to provide the range of equipped play facilities for all residences.

6.21 Maps showing these access catchments for each analysis area are provided in **Figure 6.1 to 6.4**.

Figure 6.1: Access to equipped play in the central analysis area

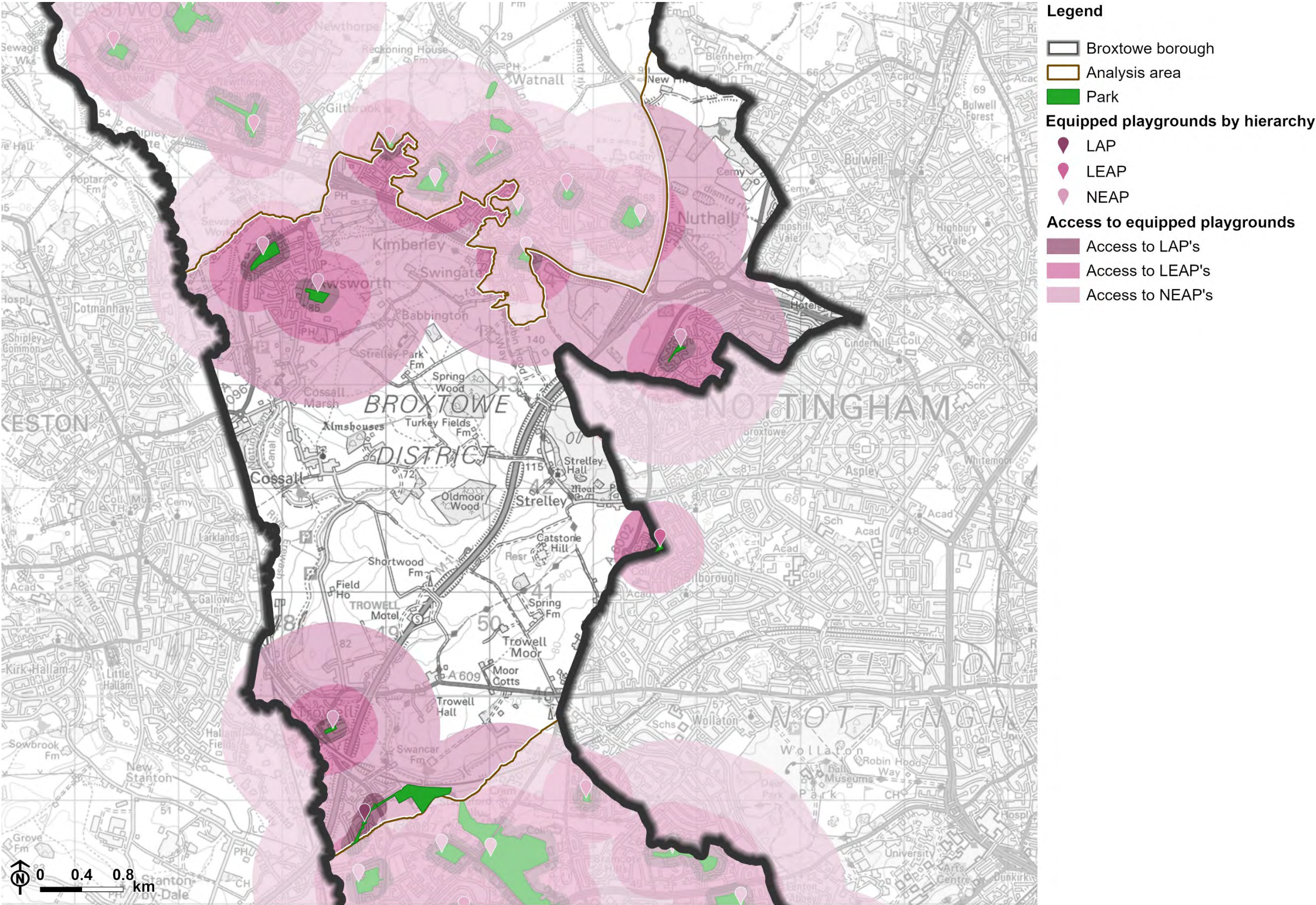


Figure 6.2: Access to equipped play in the north analysis area

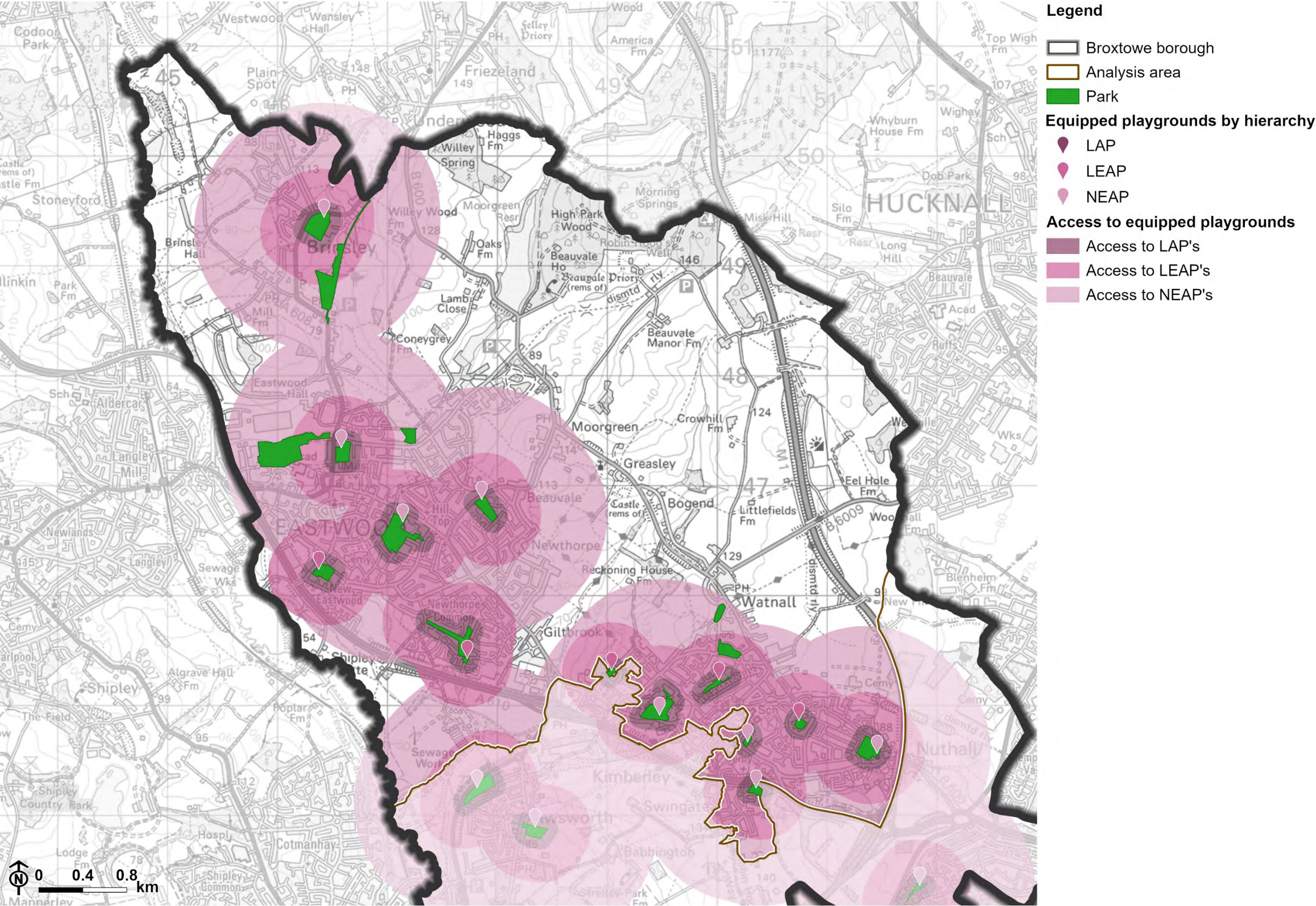
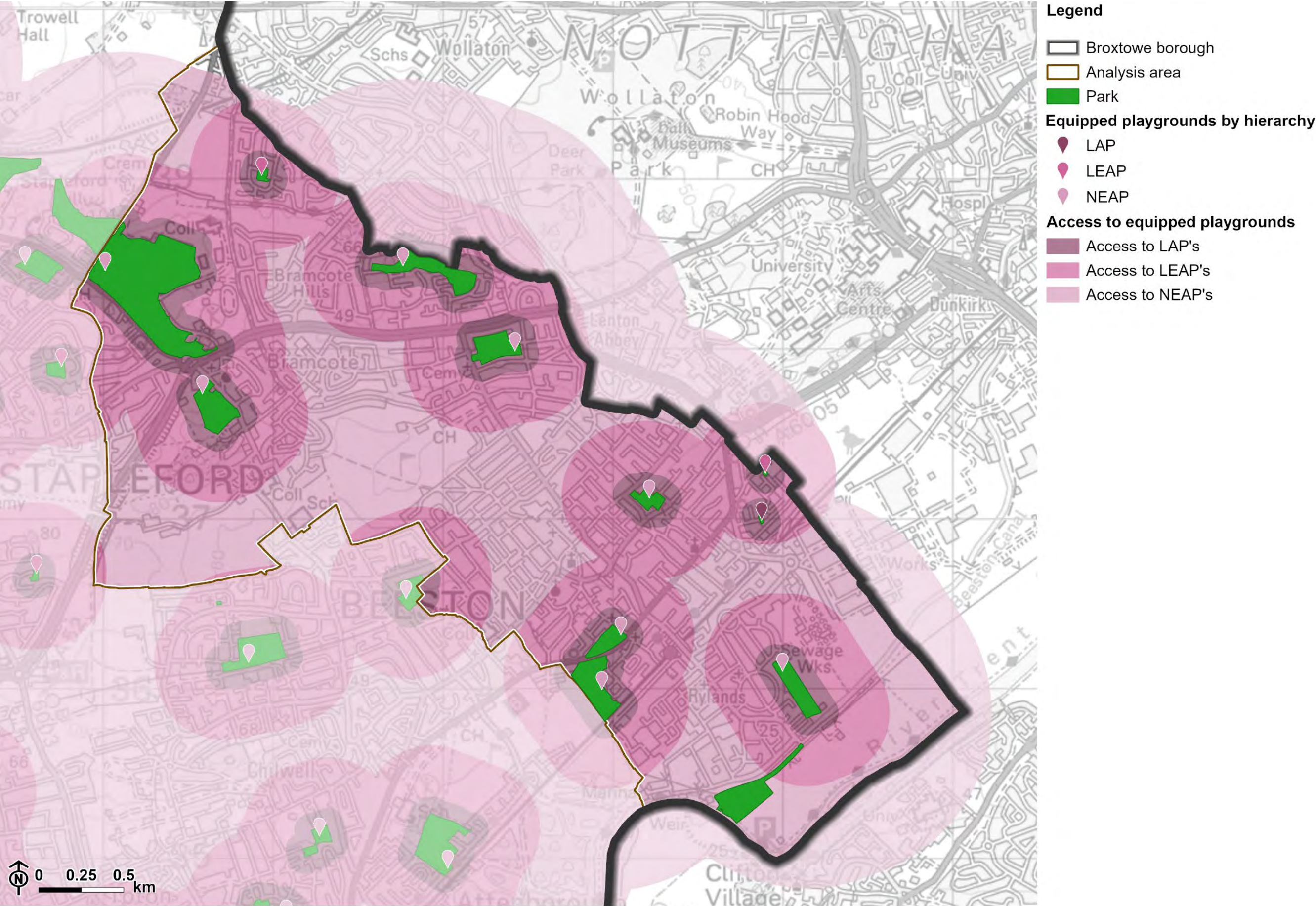
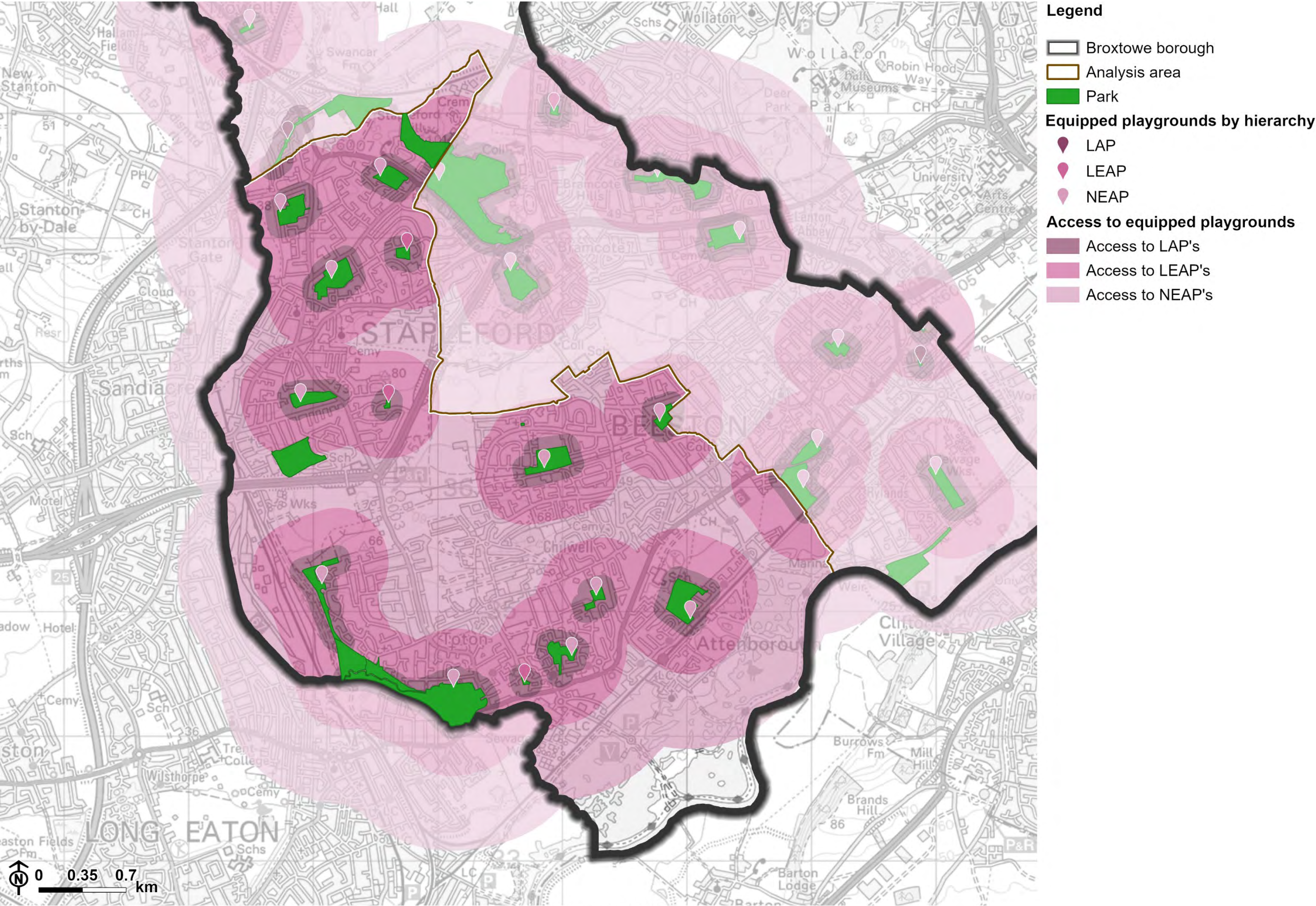


Figure 6.3: Access to equipped play in the southeast analysis area



Created by LUC - 16744_001_ReportFigures_r0/16744_r0_Chapter_6_play_by_Area_A3L 27/05/2026
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Figure 6.4: Access to equipped play in the southwest analysis area



6.22 The estimated percentage of child population with access to designated informal play / youth spaces, sports and all parks and play spaces is shown in **Table 6.6**.

Table 6.6: Estimated percentage of child population with access to other play spaces

Area	Access to informal / youth spaces	Access to sport provision	Access to park or play space
Central	33%	74%	64%
North	62%	90%	87%
Southeast	90%	100%	100%
Southwest	90%	100%	99%
Broxtowe	76%	94%	92%

6.23 Overall, 76% of children in Broxtowe have access to informal play / youth. Compared to other play typologies, there is a strong divide between the analysis areas (from 90% access in the southeast and southwest to 33% access in the central analysis area). Key residential areas without access to informal / youth spaces include Giltbrook, Watnall and villages of Bogend, Greasley and Moorgreen. In the central area key gaps in access include Cossall and the eastern edge of the analysis area which incorporates the urban edge of Nottingham. Additionally, rural properties around Trowell Moor do not have access to these types of play.

6.24 Access to sport is high across the analysis areas. 94% of children are estimated to have access to sport provision within 1200 metres. The main gaps in provision to this access include rural villages within the central analysis area, including Strelley and Cossall, as well as the northern part of Trowell. In the north there are some gaps in access to sport, including in the very north of Watnall and properties around Bogend and Colliers Wood.

6.25 Maps of the informal / youth space and sport access catchments are shown in **Figures 6.5 to 6.8**.

6.26 Overall, the majority (92%) of residents in Broxtowe have access to parks and play spaces within a 10-minute walk (800 metres). Access is lowest in the central analysis area, including within Cossall, as well as rural properties around Trowell Moor. In the north, the villages of Bogend, Greasley and parts of Moorgreen do not have access within a 10-minute walk. These access catchments have been explored more in **Chapter 7**, combining access catchments with quality and value scores.

Figure 6.5: Access to informal / youth and sports provision in the central analysis area

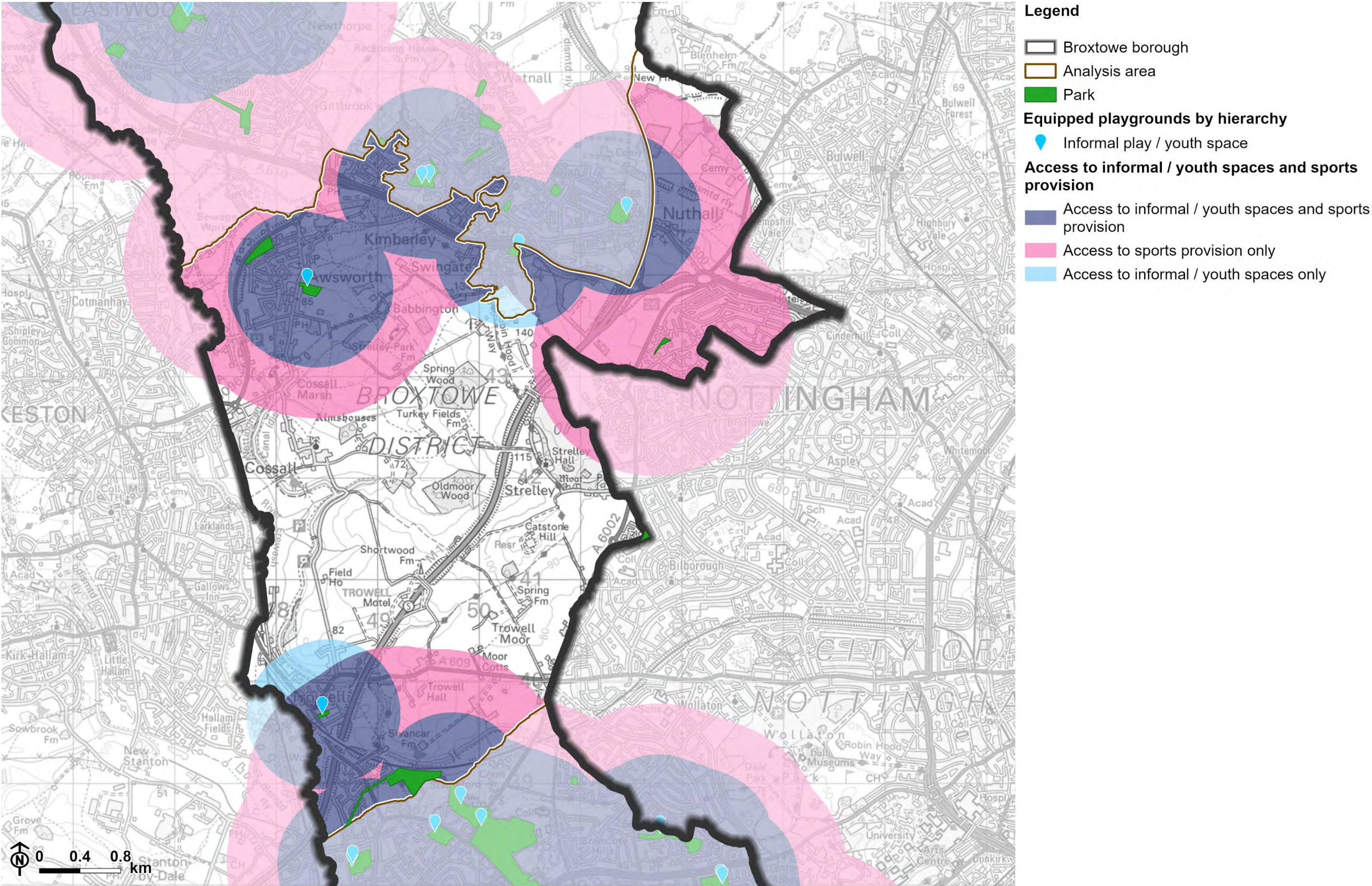


Figure 6.6: Access to informal / youth and sport provision in the north analysis area

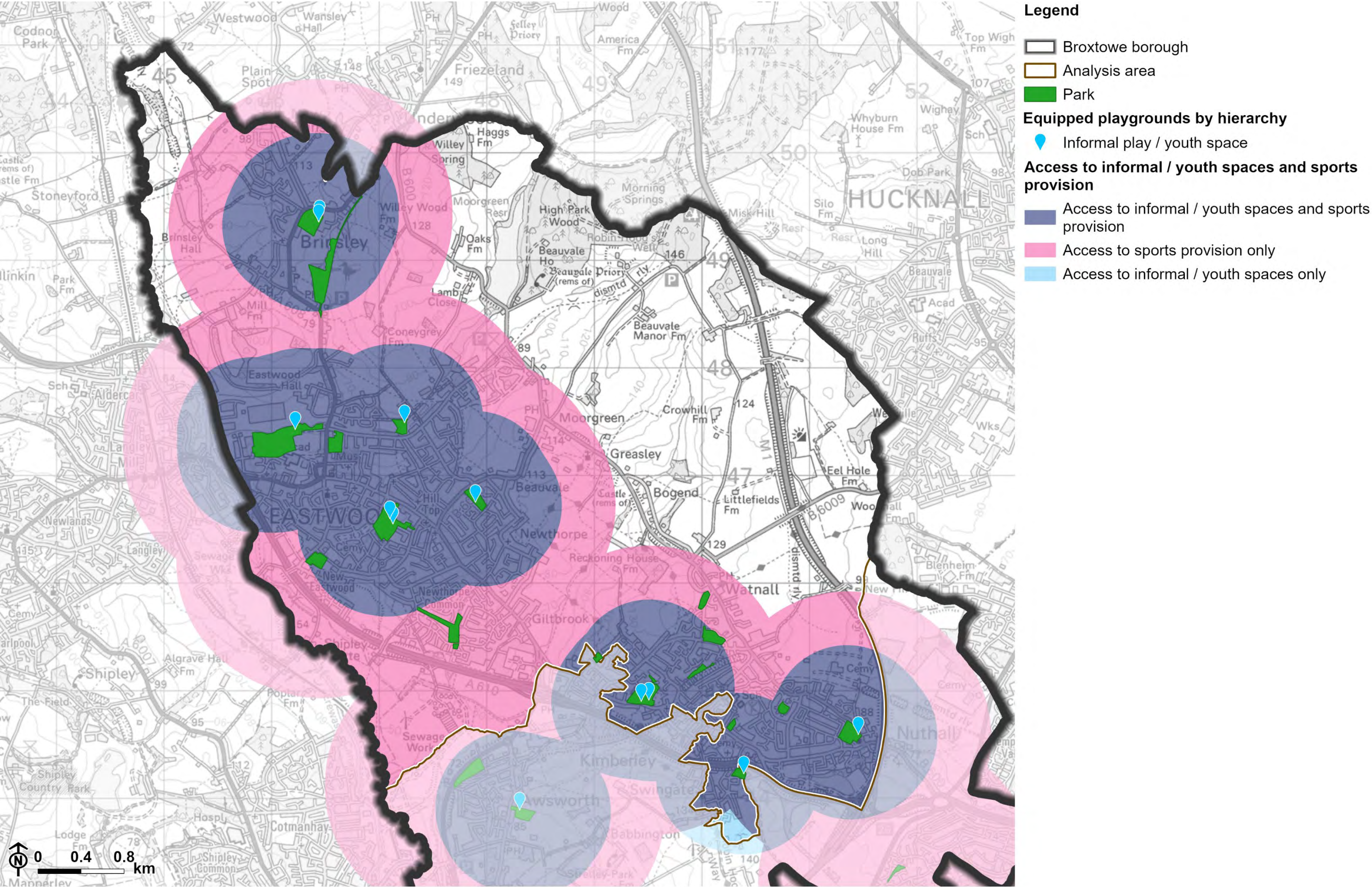


Figure 6.7: Access to informal / youth space and sport provision in the southeast analysis area

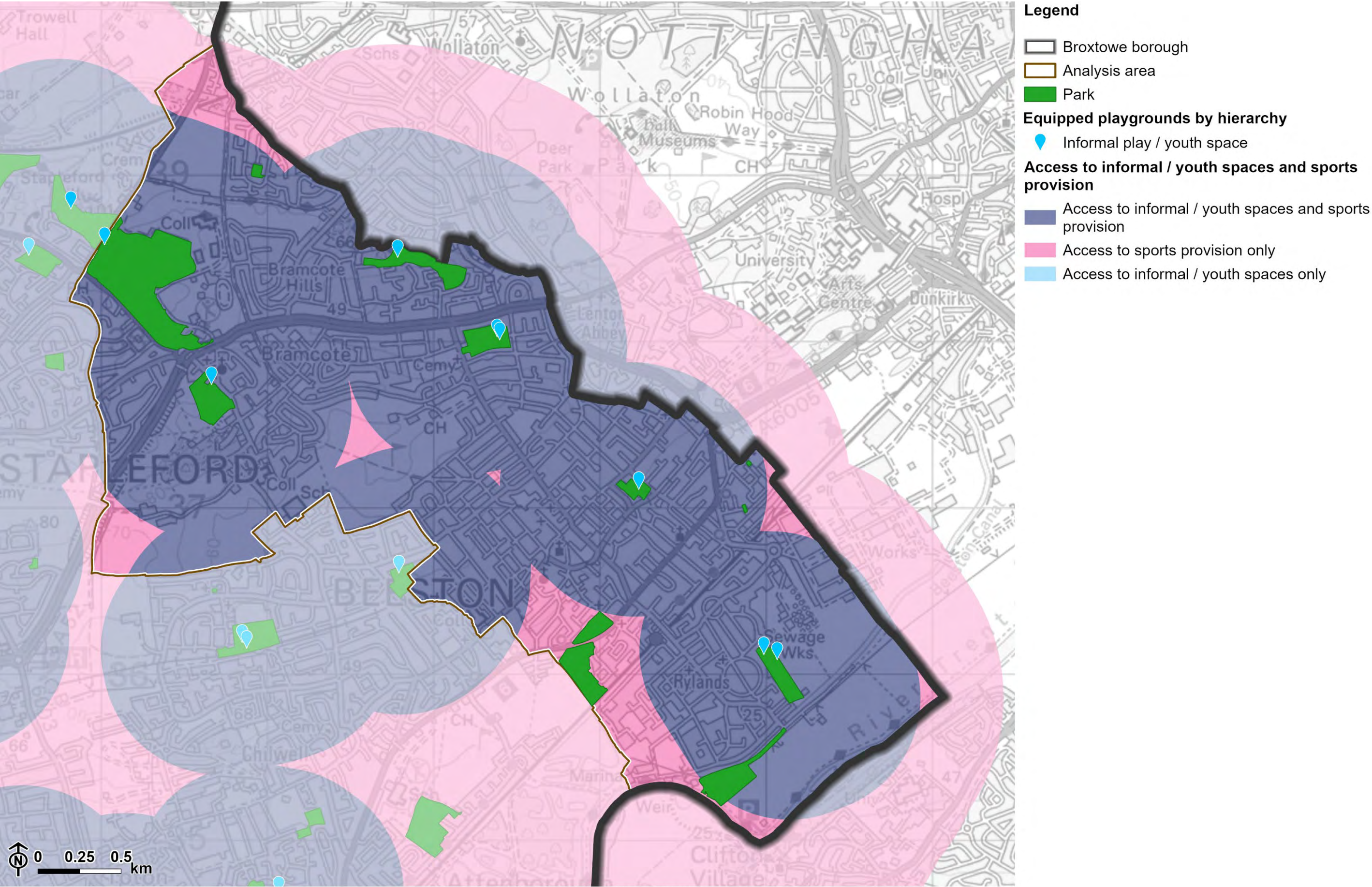
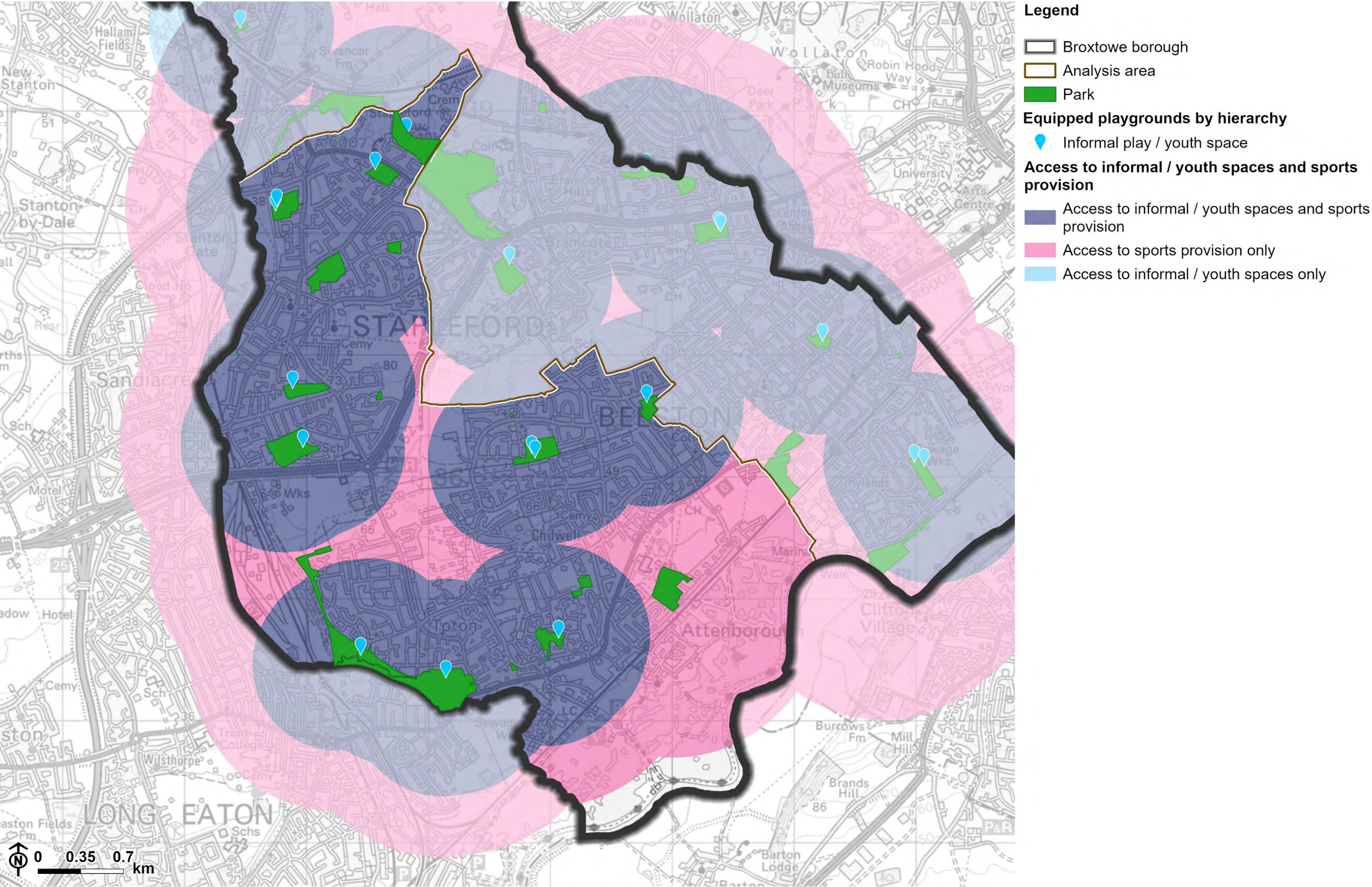


Figure 6.8: Access to informal /youth and sports provisionin the southwest analysis area



Chapter 7

Priorities and recommendations

7.1 Based on the analysis in Chapters 5 and 6, this section identifies the priority recommendations to enhance play provision within Broxtowe. Broad recommendations have been set per theme and then the overall access catchments, provision and need have been assessed to identify priority areas and parks for investment.

Priority themes for improvement

Theme 1: Inclusive and community orientated

7.2 **Figure 7.1** shows the 10-minute access catchments for all parks and play spaces which meet the inclusive and community orientated theme benchmark (as set out in **paragraph 5.18**). There are gaps in access to these spaces through all of Eastwood and Kimberley, Awsworth, Trowell, most of Stapleford, Attenborough, Beeston Rylands and parts of Beeston.

7.3 In order to reduce these gaps, enhancements to improve features promoting inclusion and community orientation should be prioritised in Coronation Park, Hall-Om-Wong Open Space, Shilo Recreation Ground, Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground and Hickings Lane Recreation Ground.

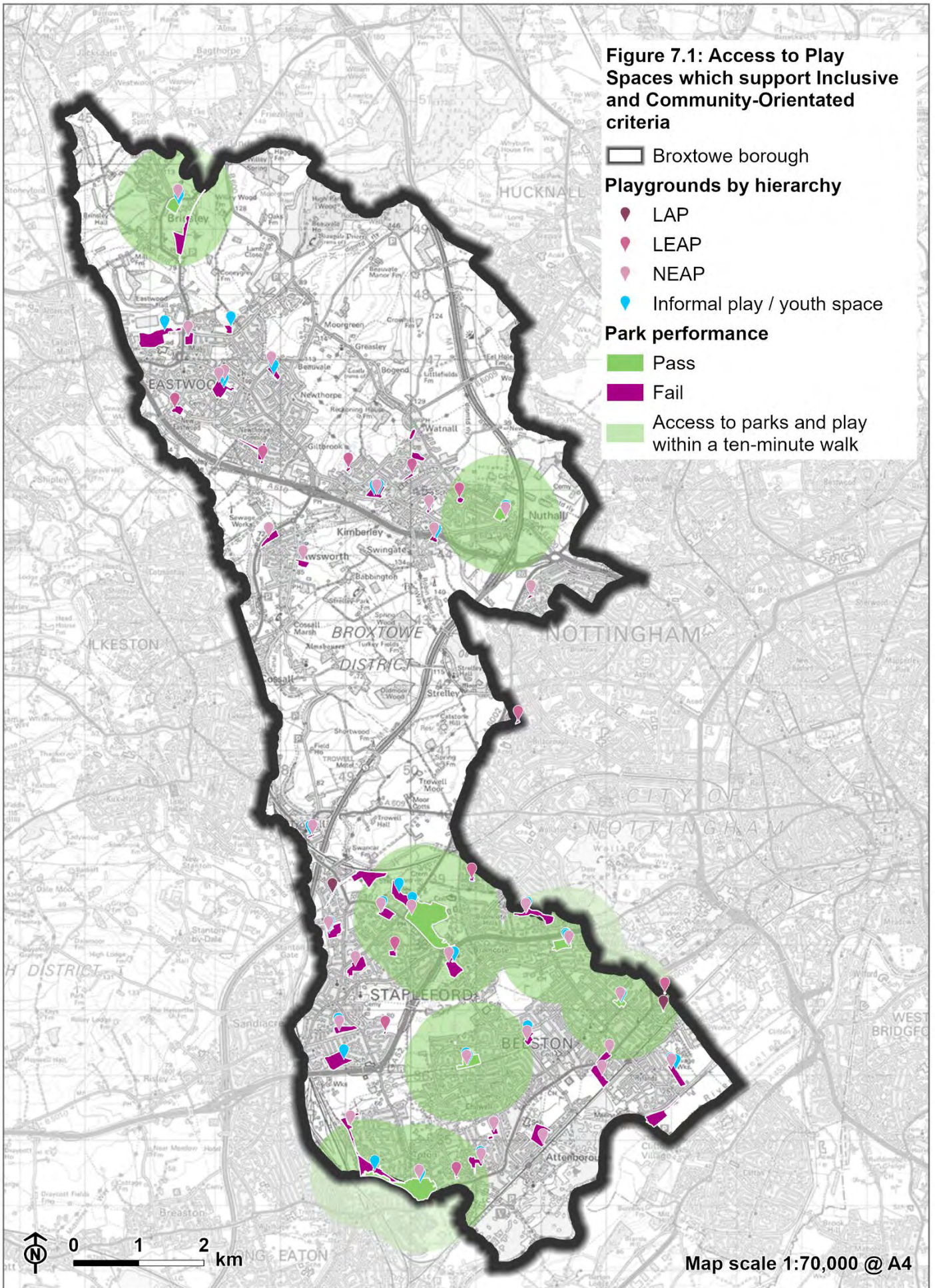
7.4 Suggested actions to enhance the inclusive and community-orientated value of parks and play spaces have focussed particularly on inclusive play equipment for disabled users. Whilst this theme is about access for all users, this was a key issue for many during consultation.

7.5 Improvements to support this theme include the following 'quick wins':

- Ensure spaces with accessible play equipment are signed and marketed as such, allowing disabled users to easily find and access these spaces. This information should also include distance to nearest parking and information on parking (e.g. open hours, inclusion of disabled parking bays).
- Where accessible play equipment is not accessed directly from a surfaced path, explore the need for this.
- Avoid locating accessible play equipment within large areas of bark chipping which are harder to navigate for wheelchair users.

Figure 7.1: Access to Play Spaces which support Inclusive and Community-Orientated criteria

-  Broxtowe borough
- Playgrounds by hierarchy**
 -  LAP
 -  LEAP
 -  NEAP
 -  Informal play / youth space
- Park performance**
 -  Pass
 -  Fail
 -  Access to parks and play within a ten-minute walk



Map scale 1:70,000 @ A4

- As benches need replacing, prioritise installing inclusive benches, such as picnic benches for spaces with wheelchair users and ensure these are on a level surface with access paths.

7.6 As part of larger investment projects, there is the opportunity to expand the range of inclusive equipment available for disabled children in addition to existing provision of roundabouts and swings. For example, ramped climbing areas which allow children of all abilities to get into the centre of the play action.



7.7 Where play spaces are located close to community facilities, schools or sports clubs there may be the opportunity to explore more supervised play sessions or events which may support children who are less confident playing in outdoor settings to get involved.

7.8 Other opportunities to engage with local communities for strategic enhancements should also be explored.

- There is the opportunity to work with local communities to design new welcoming signage for spaces which encourage all children to play together and have fun, as well as providing important safety information.

- There is the opportunity to invest in an online 'reporting tool' through QR codes in play spaces, allowing users to report any management or maintenance issues on site.

7.9 Work with local communities to enhance provision for older children, particularly teenage girls. Projects to improve provision for these ages can include lower investment projects, such as social seating which is signed as being part of a youth zone or stepping stone platforms with seating facing each other. Larger may include large areas of netting or hammocks, performance areas, large swings with a specific teenage zone or large ground trampolines. Use of these spaces for disabled young people should also be accommodated.



7.10 A lack of toilets presents a barrier for some users, however provision of toilets at all play spaces is not feasible to manage and maintain. A number of larger, centrally located play sites in communities across Broxtowe should be identified as 'destination play spaces'. These should ensure the best provision for all users. Investment in toilet facilities within these spaces should be prioritised. Communications to inform users about these investments will ensure all users are aware of their nearest space with this offer.

Theme 2: Active and healthy

7.11 Figure 7.2 shows the 10-minute access catchments for all parks and play spaces which meet the active and healthy theme benchmark (as set out in paragraph 5.28). There are gaps in access to these spaces in Brinsley, Giltbrook, Awsworth, Trowell, Attenborough, Beeston and Beeston Rylands.

7.12 Smithurst Road Open Space, Shilo Recreation Ground, Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground are priority spaces for improvements to active and healthy features to reduce these gaps.

7.13 Contributions to scores for the active and healthy theme include provision for sports, which often takes up space and may not be appropriate to add into all spaces. Additionally, research has found that sport-based play provision for teenagers is mostly used by teenage boys.

7.14 However, there are other enhancements which can further promote active and healthy lifestyles for children and take up less space. For example, active routes to sites can be promoted, including signage along existing off-road long-distance trails. Cycling parking, including space for accessible cycle parking within larger parks can also encourage this.

7.15 Additionally, BMX and mountain biking are pursuits undertaken in Broxtowe. In places these are threatening habitats within Local Wildlife Sites, including at Watnall Spinney, Watnall Green and Hemlockstone. Provision of new dedicated spaces for this can create safer opportunities for BMX and help protect nature.

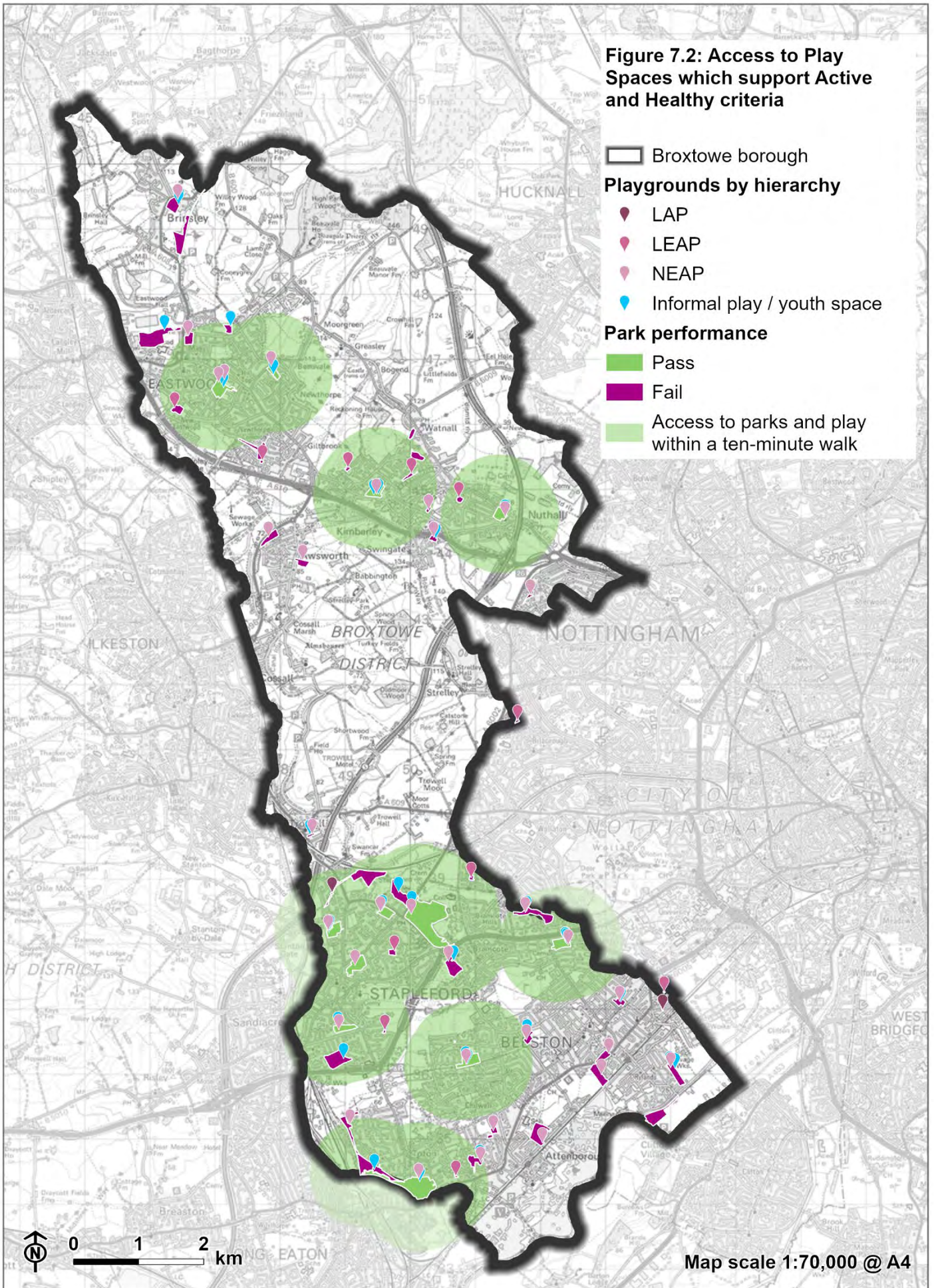
7.16 Where space is limited, ground graphics or signage can still encourage physical activity, for example as present within Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground. This can also set challenges, e.g. encouraging activities to be completed in the quickest time.

7.17 Compared with other play affordances, crawling and hiding, and jumping were recorded less frequently in Broxtowe. Equipment to support these affordances could be incorporated into spaces. This could include ground trampolines which are also accessible for wheelchair users.

7.18 Additionally, all play spaces should be managed and maintained to ensure they are safe for all users. This includes ensuring safety surfacing is present and in good condition. All play spaces should include signage which informs users of the age ranges of children that the space is aimed for, states that the play area should be dog free (where appropriate) and provides an emergency contact.

Figure 7.2: Access to Play Spaces which support Active and Healthy criteria

-  Broxtowe borough
- Playgrounds by hierarchy**
 -  LAP
 -  LEAP
 -  NEAP
 -  Informal play / youth space
- Park performance**
 -  Pass
 -  Fail
-  Access to parks and play within a ten-minute walk



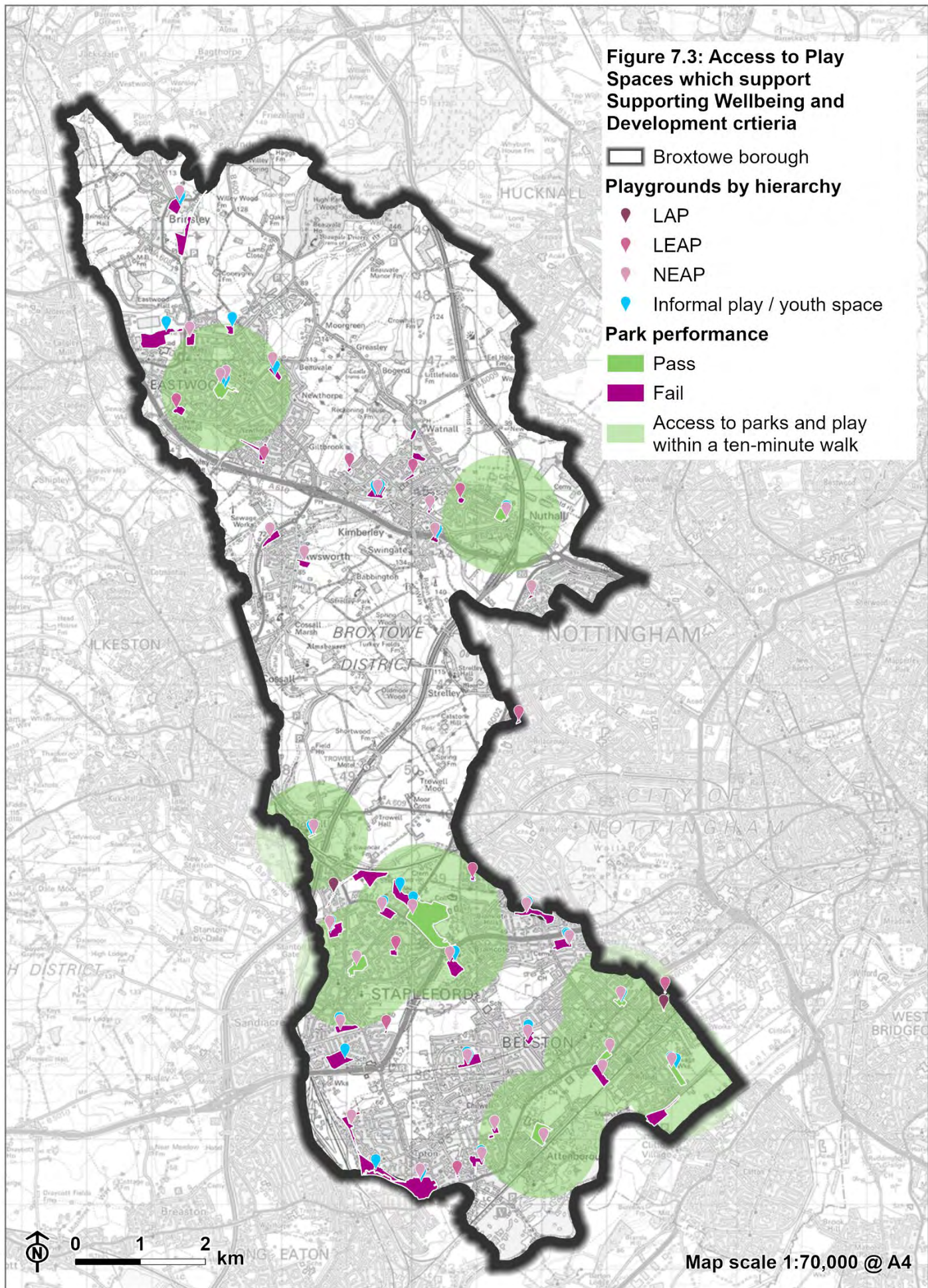
Theme 3: Supporting well-being and development

7.19 Figure 7.3 shows the 10-minute access catchments for all parks and play spaces which meet the supporting well-being and development theme benchmark (as set out in **paragraph 5.37**). There are gaps in access to these spaces in Brinsley, Giltbrook, Kimberley and Watnall, Awsworth, Toton, Chilwell and north Beeston. Compared to other themes, this theme generally included lower scores within the audit and should be a priority for enhancement across Broxtowe.

7.20 In order to reduce these gaps, priority enhancements to improve features supporting well-being and development should be considered at Brinsley Headstocks, Beeston Fields Recreation Ground, Inham Nook Recreation Ground, Manor Farm Recreation Ground and Hickings Lane Recreation Ground.

7.21 Enhancements to this theme can include relatively low-investment and low space interventions, which can also be included within nature-sensitive sites with damaging wildlife. For example, child-friendly, playful signage which encourages imaginative, social or nature-based play and provide education on local heritage or nature. Sculptures and other artwork could also be considered to fulfil this purpose. The use of QR codes to keep these updated may also be suitable for older children.





7.22 On unused tarmac or other hard surfacing, inclusion of ground graphics can create play opportunities, particularly for younger children. For example, hopscotch or snakes and ladders. In addition to integrating these into parks, this could also increase the play value of other infrastructure within Broxtowe, including pedestrianised areas within town or village centres.

7.23 Similarly, on bare walls, murals can create a more visually appealing, playful space which could encourage imaginative informal play for children. Creation of murals could be done with local artists and communities, offering children and young people a creative outlet and an element of ownership over the space.

7.24 Small sensory play elements, such as musical equipment can be included within spaces which are spatially constricted. These can be designed for the site, for example timber equipment within more natural spaces including woodland. In larger sites, areas of sand and water play can be incorporated. Raised sandpits with ledges for disabled children to sit at and access sensory play areas can offer a more inclusive option for sensory play.

7.25 Where more substantial investments are taking place, opportunities for challenging and large-scale imaginative play structures can be considered. This should be prioritised in larger, destination spaces which can attract users from several communities within Broxtowe. This may include large structures allowing children to climb higher than standard play equipment offers.



7.26 Additionally whole playgrounds could be themed around features of local interest such as the windmill ruins at Millfield Road Open Space. Inclusion of large scale projects such as these would need to ensure there is resource for the ongoing management and maintenance of such structures.

Theme 4: Nature and climate positive

7.27 **Figure 7.4** shows the 10-minute access catchments for all parks and play spaces which meet the nature and climate positive theme benchmark (as set out in **paragraph 5.47**). There are gaps in access to these spaces in Eastwood and Giltbrook, Nuthall, Awsworth, Trowell, Stapleford, Attenborough, Chilwell, Beeston and Beeston Rylands.

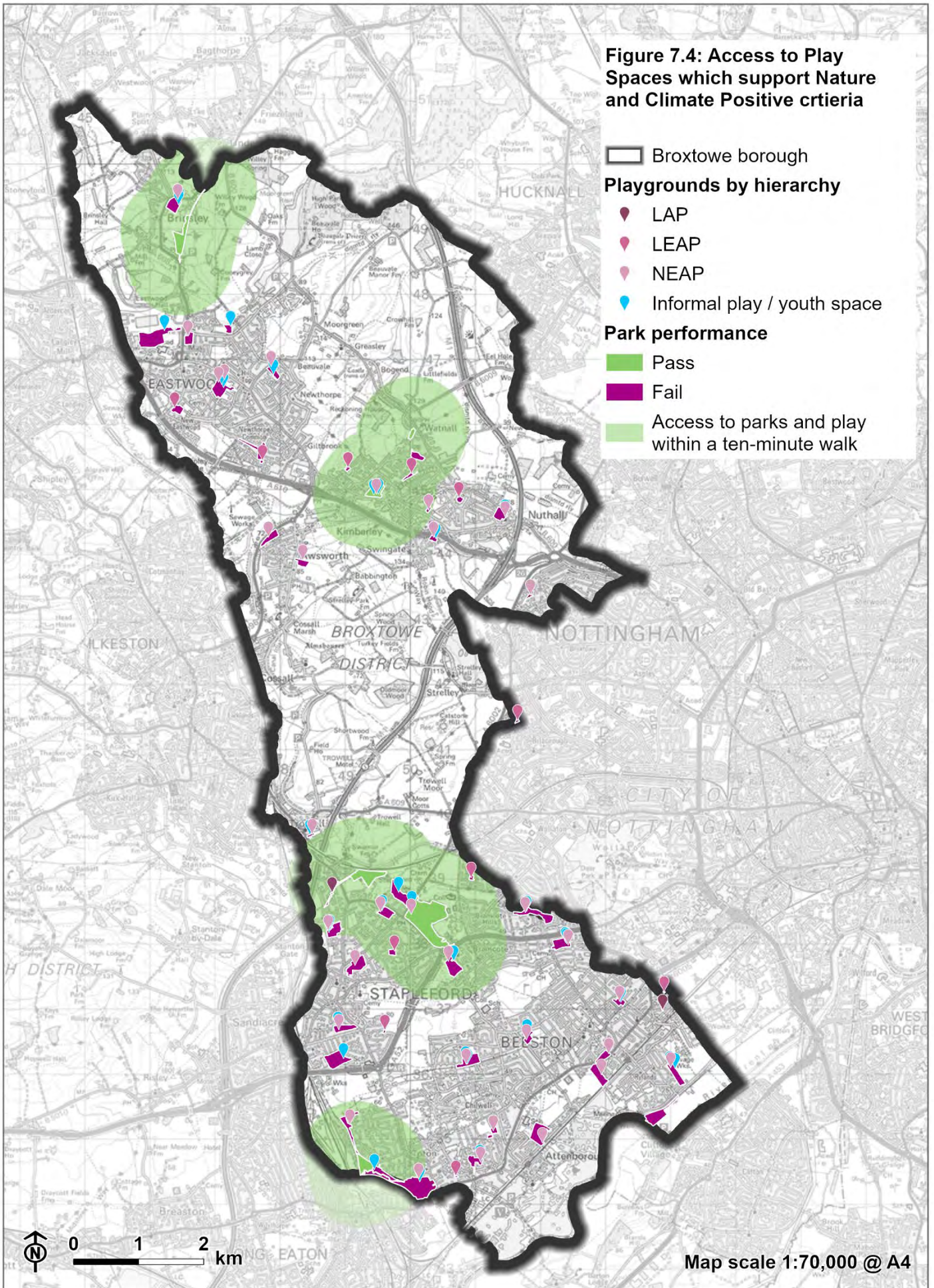
7.28 In order to reduce these gaps, enhancements to improve features promoting nature and climate positive spaces should be prioritised in Coronation Park, Hall-Om-Wong Open Space, Shilo Recreation Ground, Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground and Hickings Lane Recreation Ground.

7.29 Enhancements for this theme could include introducing herbaceous and shrub planting along fenced boundaries to equipped play. This could offer a more visually attractive boundary and help integrate the play area into the wider natural environment. Additionally, this reduces the need for frequent grass cutting / control adjacent the equipped area.



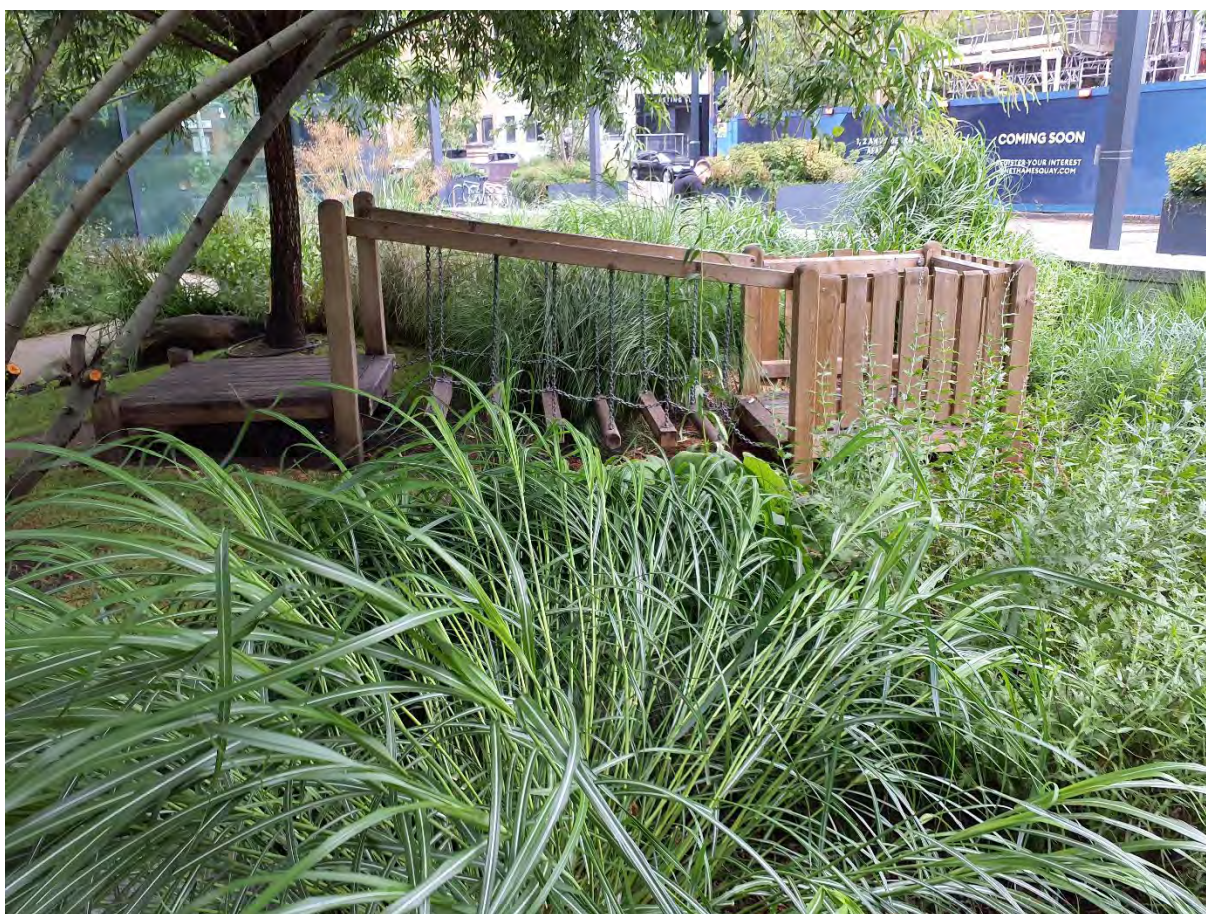
Figure 7.4: Access to Play Spaces which support Nature and Climate Positive criteria

-  Broxtowe borough
- Playgrounds by hierarchy**
 -  LAP
 -  LEAP
 -  NEAP
 -  Informal play / youth space
- Park performance**
 -  Pass
 -  Fail
 -  Access to parks and play within a ten-minute walk



7.30 In woodland areas, including nature reserves, there are opportunities for natural play, including informal play opportunities. This could include interventions which also promote the supporting well-being and development theme, such as educational signage, nature trails and timber sculptures. Additionally, areas for den building should be considered in woodland areas.

7.31 Setting equipped play within areas of vegetation can create more adventurous play opportunities and encourage children who may be more nervous interacting with nature into more natural spaces. Within natural spaces, timber equipment may be more appropriate to further integrate into the settings.



7.32 Investments in new play areas should consider how these can be designed to be more resilient to a changing climate. For example, what the drainage on site is like and whether inclusion of sustainable drainage features is required. Additionally, shading within or close to play areas will allow play areas to remain useable in a warming climate. This could be through natural shading from trees. Where management resource or safety concerns for trees are an issue, built sheltered areas within play areas may also be considered.

Priority locations for improvement

7.33 In addition to applying the 10-minute access catchment based on performance per theme, these have also been applied based on the quality and value scores.

Central analysis area

7.34 In the central analysis area, the only residents with access to high quality parks and play spaces are those in the southern part of Trowell. Elsewhere, access is restricted to spaces which do not meet both the quality and value benchmarks. This is shown in **Figure 7.5**.

7.35 In the eastern edge of the analysis area and in the north of Trowell, parks and play spaces do not meet the value benchmark. This suggests that improvements would more likely include capital investments to increase play provision within the site. However, these spaces are relatively small and scope to improve these spaces may be limited.

7.36 In Awsworth all the access is to spaces which do not meet either quality or value benchmark. Improvements to play spaces in Awsworth is a priority. Shilo Recreation Ground currently includes provision of a NEAP and youth areas and is the priority for enhancement to accommodate all ages.

7.37 Additionally, there is a priority for introducing provision within Cossall, where there is currently no access to parks and play.

North analysis area

7.38 In the north analysis area, access to high quality parks and play areas is available within Eastwood, as shown in **Figure 7.6**. This access is provided by Mansfield Park Recreation Ground, Coronation Park and Smithurst Road Open Space.

7.39 In Brinsley, access is to spaces which do not meet the quality benchmark. Replacing worn infrastructure and ensuring management of natural features creates some safe spaces to play may help improve the quality of these spaces. The priority space should be Brinsley Recreation Ground which currently offers equipped and informal play. Brinsley Headstocks is also a local nature reserve and play investments should ensure that these do not compromise management for nature within this space.

Figure 7.1: Access to high quality high value parks and play spaces in the central analysis area

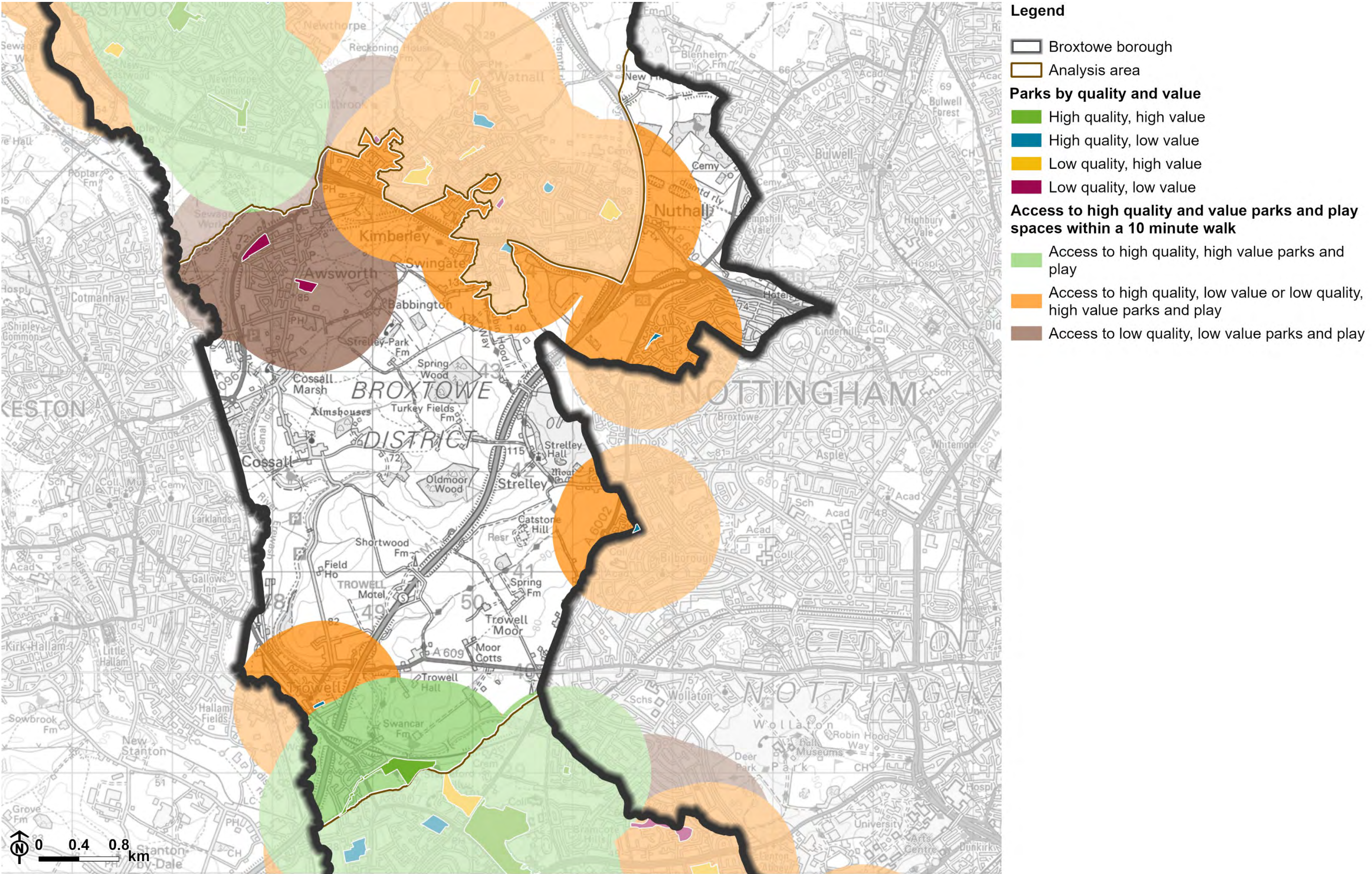
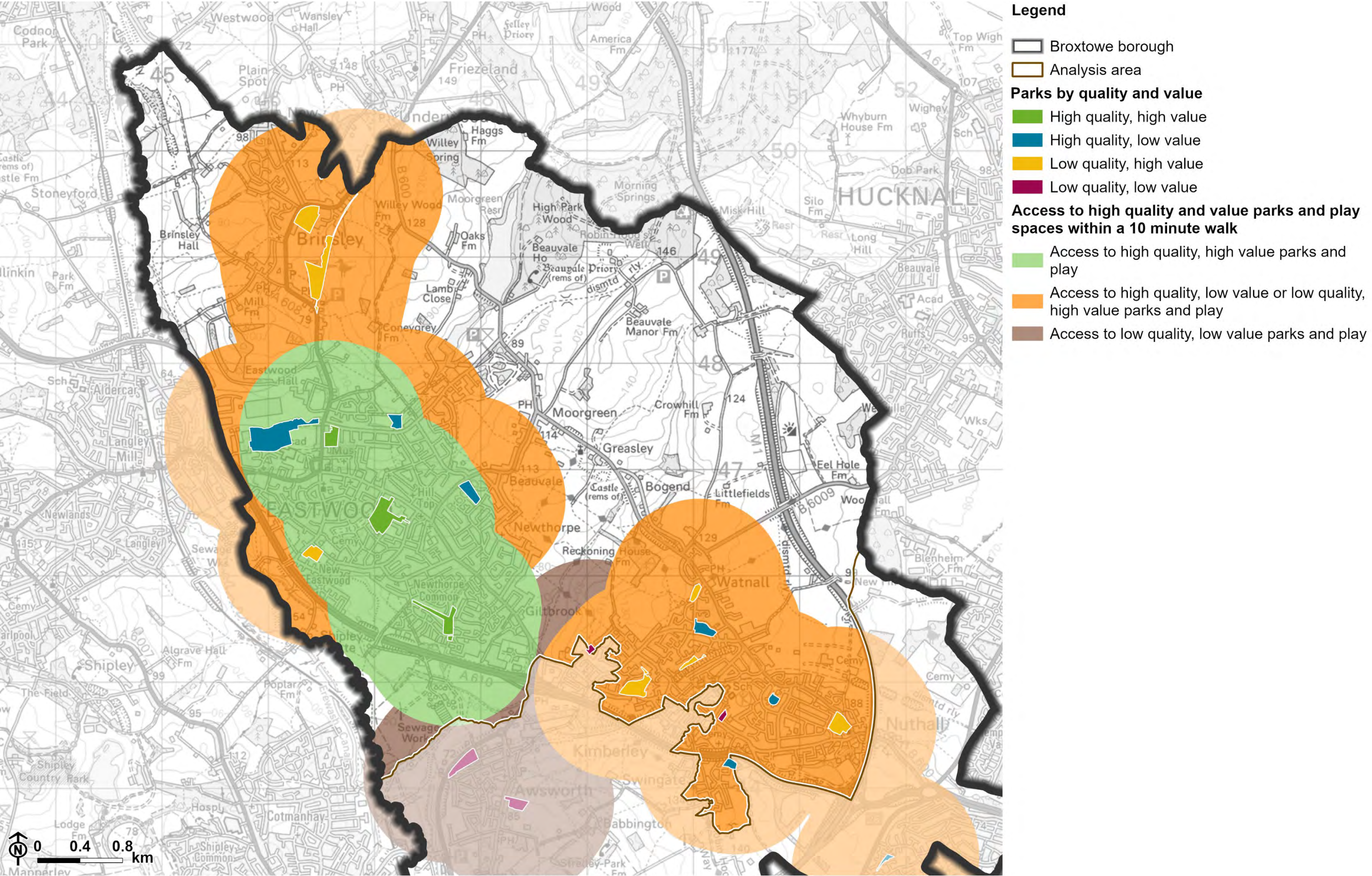


Figure 7.2: Access to high quality high value parks and play spaces in the north analysis area



7.40 In Kimberley, Watnall and Nuthall there is good access to parks and play spaces, but none of these meet both the quality and value benchmarks. Improvements to centrally located spaces with provision for a range of ages, such as Hall-om-Wong, should be prioritised to ensure there is access to high quality and high value spaces in these areas.

7.41 Additionally, in Watnall both spaces are located within Local Nature Reserves. There was evidence in both Watnall Spinney and Watnall Green of bike use impacting the sites. Opportunities to create a dedicated BMX track in a space less sensitive for nature should be a priority to reduce this damage.

7.42 Access to parks and play is limited for villages within the north analysis area. Opportunities for creating a wider country-park space around Greasley, as set out in Blue and Green Infrastructure Study [\[See reference 91\]](#) could include natural play elements to improve provision to these more rural parts of the analysis area.

Southeast analysis area

7.43 There is good access to parks and play spaces within a 10-minute walk in the southeast analysis area. This is shown in **Figure 7.7**. There is access to high quality and high value spaces in the south and north of the analysis area.

7.44 There is a notable gap in provision to high quality and low value spaces within the central part of the southeast analysis area. Most of this area is served by Beeston Recreation Ground and Sandy Lane Nature Reserve.

Southwest analysis area

7.45 **Figure 7.8** shows that the majority of places within the southwest analysis have access to high quality and high value parks and play spaces. This includes Chilwell and Attenborough.

7.46 In Toton, access to high quality and high value parks and play is provided by Toton Fields Local Nature Reserve. This offers wider informal play opportunities, but does not include any equipped play or designated informal or youth spaces. Additionally, due to the importance of the site for wildlife, there is limited scope to enhance the play offer at this site. Therefore, improvements to additional sites within Toton to ensure these meet the quality and value standards for the relevant equipped play spaces should be a priority. Manor Farm Recreation Ground includes both equipped play and youth provision, as well as sports, offering play provision for a wider group of age ranges.

Figure 7.3: Access to high quality high value parks and play spaces in the southeast analysis area

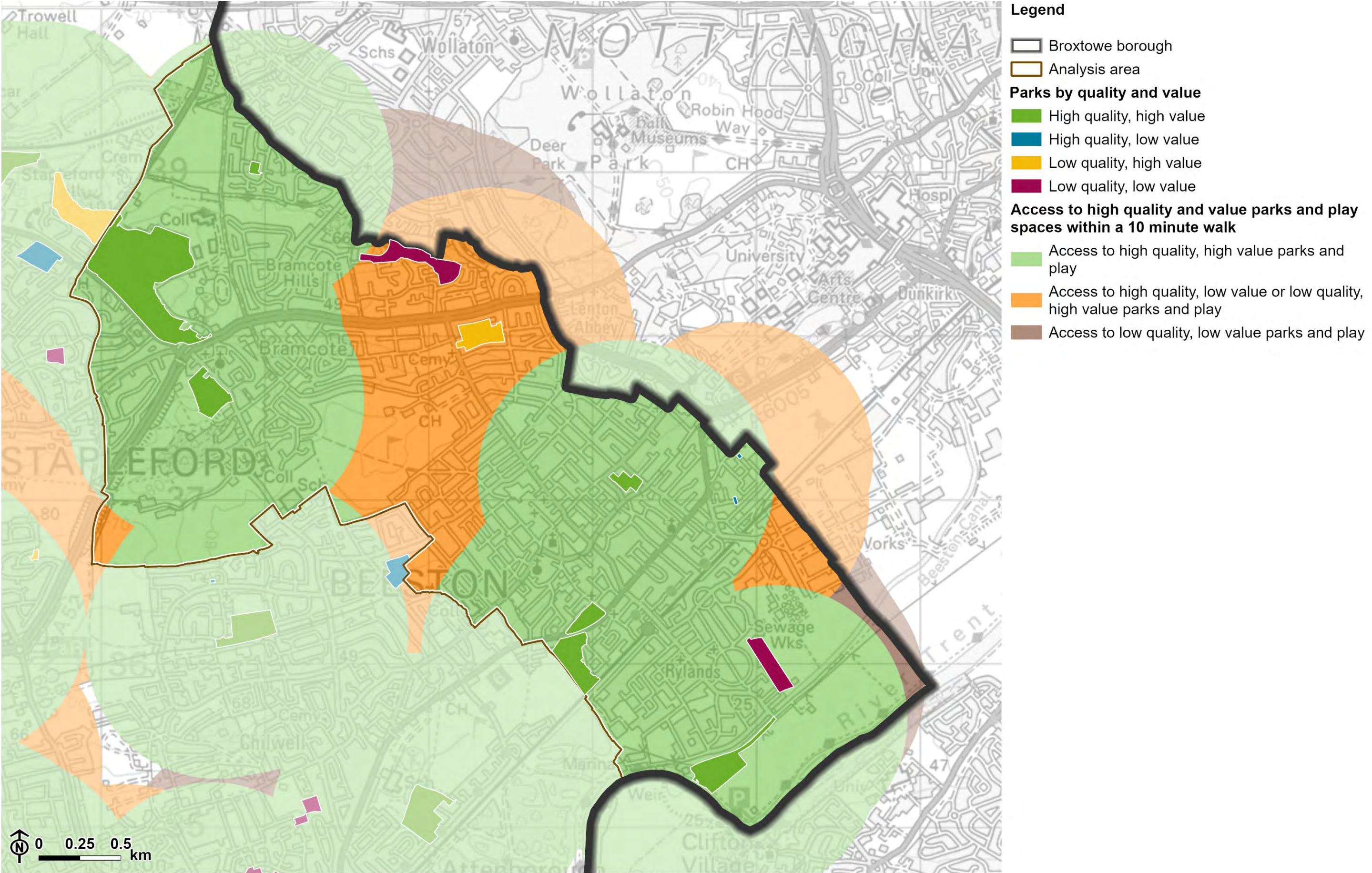
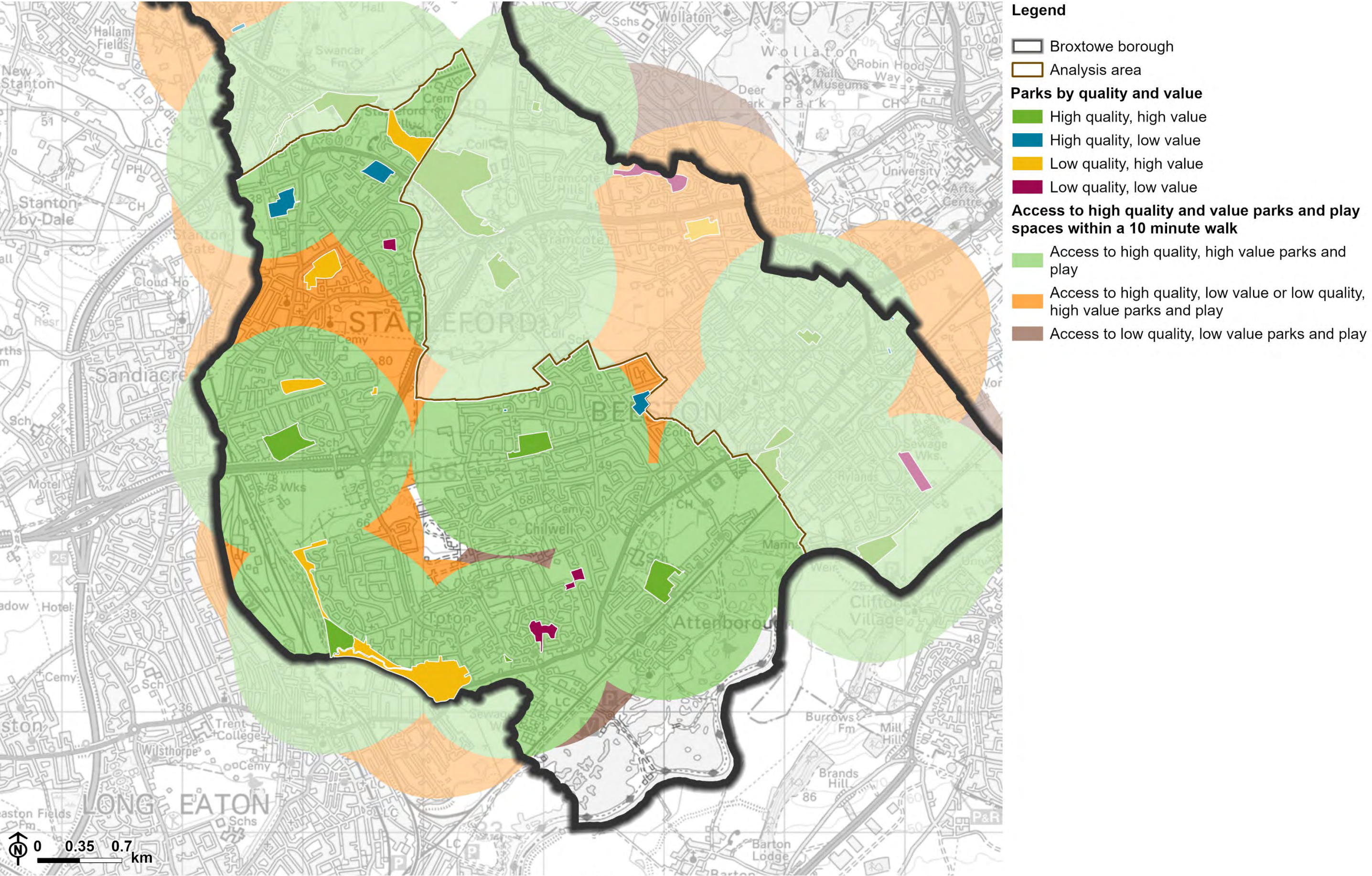


Figure 7.4: Access to high quality high value parks and play spaces in the southwest analysis area



7.47 In the central part of Stapleford, access is to play and parks which do not meet the quality and value benchmarks. The access catchment around Hickings Lane Recreation Ground covers most of the residential areas within this gap. This space currently has a low quality and high value score. Improvements to the quality of this site can help address this gap in access.

Combined provision and combined needs

7.48 The final consideration to inform priorities for recommendations is understanding the overall need for play and current provision of play across Broxtowe. Two combined maps have been created to understand this.

7.49 The Play Needs Index has been prepared to highlight the overall need for play across Broxtowe. This tool combines:

- IMD Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI);
- IMD Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain (Children and Young people sub-domain);
- Sport England Actives lives data for children and young people; and
- Child population (the % of population age 0 to 15).

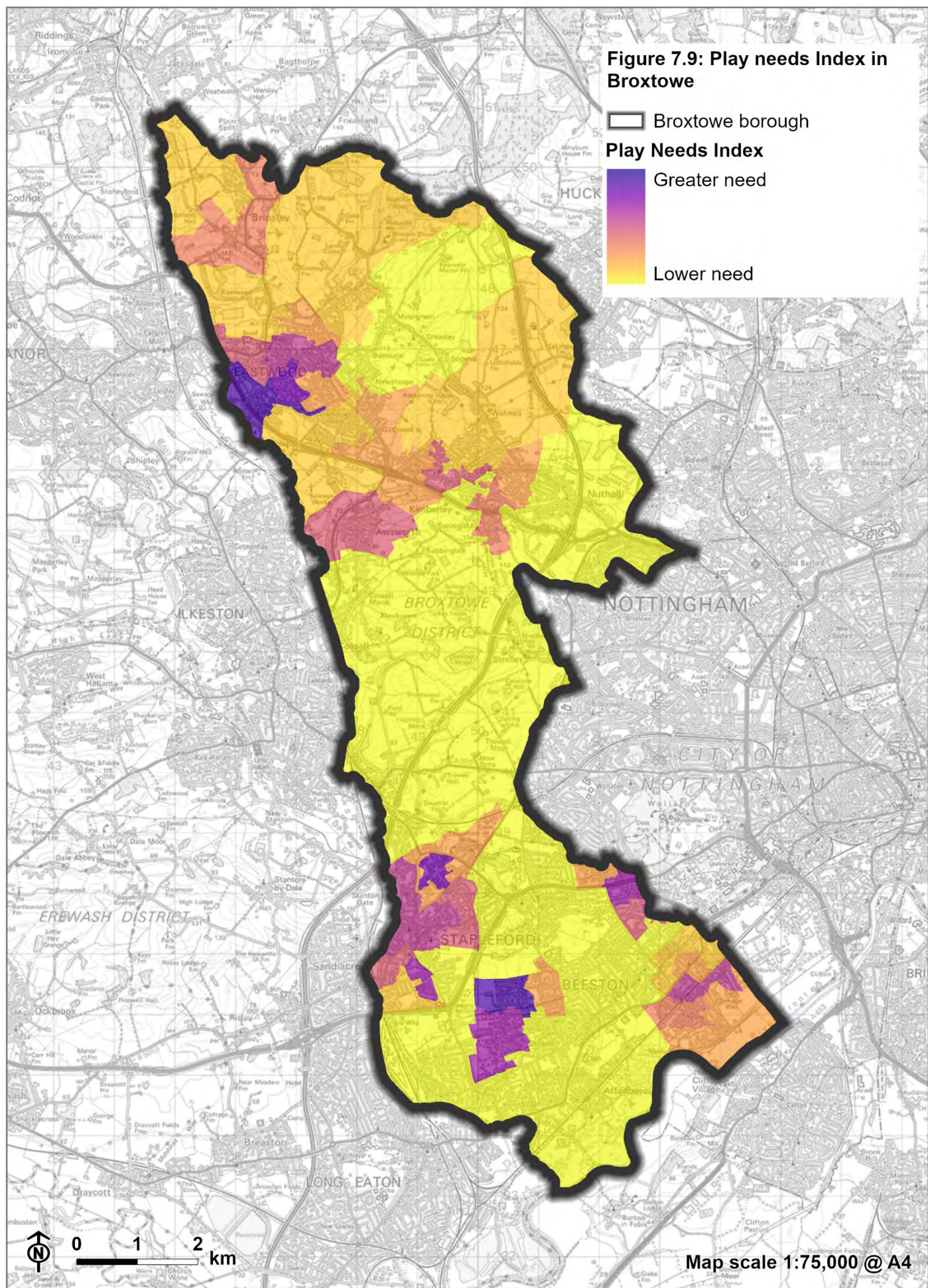
7.50 The findings of the Play Needs Index are shown in **Figure 7.9**. LSOAs demonstrating the highest need for play are located in Eastwood and Beeston Rylands. Other locations exhibiting relatively high play need include Stapleford and the northern part of Chilwell.

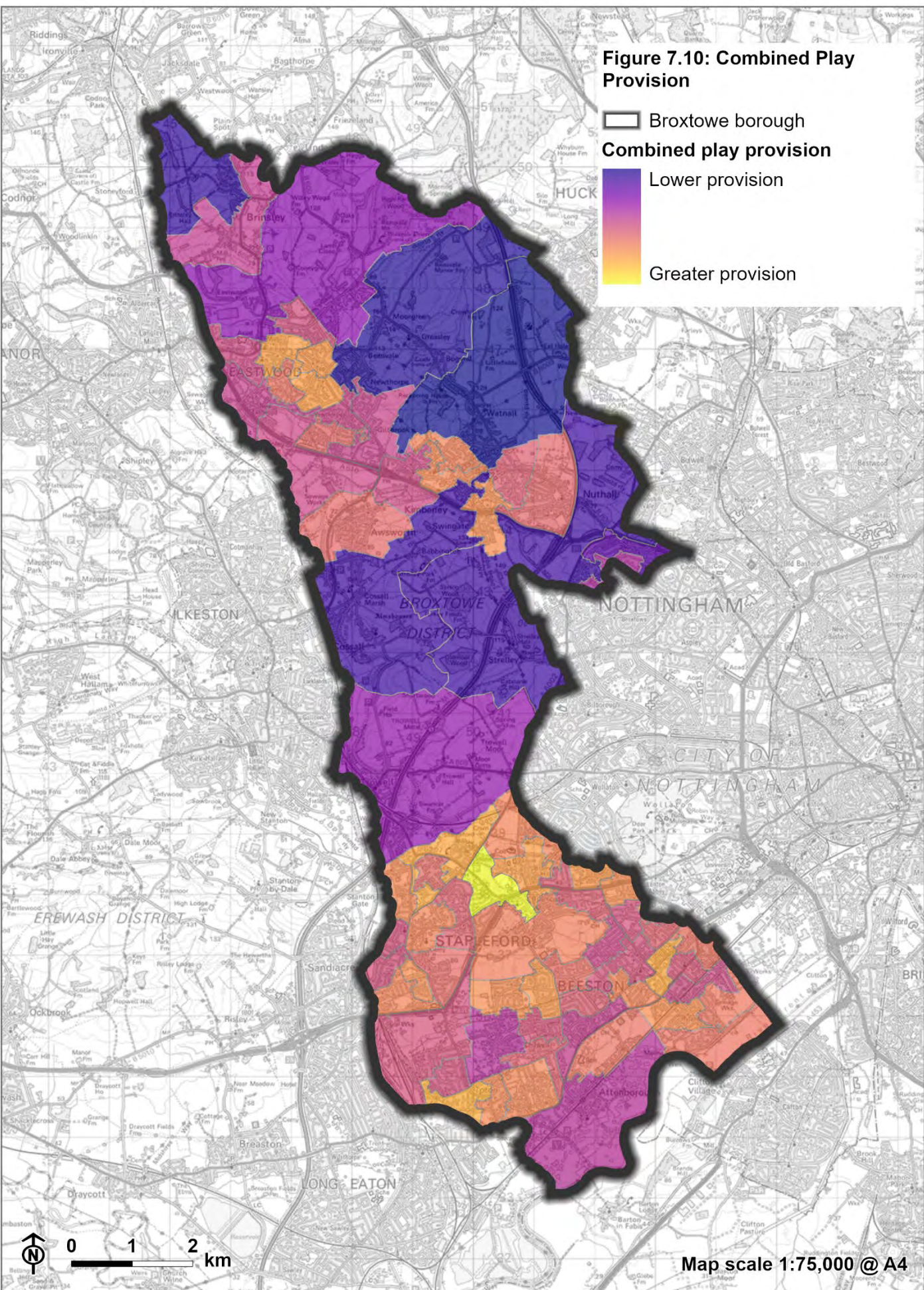
7.51 The Play Provision Index has been prepared to understand the overall provision of existing play across Broxtowe. This combines:

- The percentage area covered by each of the access buffers;
- The percentage of parks and play spaces within the local area (group of LSOAs which best fit current ward boundaries) which meet the quality and value scores; and
- Total quantity of parks and play spaces per 1,000 population within the local area.

7.52 The findings for the Play Provision Index are shown in **Figure 7.10**. LSOAs demonstrating the lowest current provision are mostly found in the more rural areas in the north of Broxtowe. This includes the north of Watnall and Awsworth. There is

also medium-high need in parts of Toton and Attenborough, Giltbrook and eastern Kimberly. The highest provision is around Bramcote.





Priority parks to enhance

7.53 This section summarises the findings from this chapter and highlights priority sites to enhance. Where several spaces would help meet gaps to combined provision, access or combined needs, those which have greater play provision for all ages (i.e. spaces with NEAP and youth provision) have been prioritised. Additionally, spaces where there is the existing physical space to incorporate enhancements have been prioritised. These sites, along with Site 29 Bramcote Hills Park can also form candidate 'destination spaces' to introduce more challenging play, as well as additional features such as toilets. In the longer term, once investments are undertaken, these 'destination spaces' could expect to have a larger access catchment as people would likely be willing to travel further to reach these spaces.

7.54 A full list of potential recommendations for all play spaces is provided in **Appendix B**.

Site 1 Basil Russell Playing Fields

This site is located in Nuthall and has the opportunity to improve access to high quality and high value place space, where there is currently no access to this. In addition to overall quality improvements, enhancements should focus on the inclusive and community value of this space.

Site 3 Brinsley Recreation Ground

This is located in an area of low current provision and where there is currently no access to high quality and value play spaces. Priorities for enhancement include those that enhance the promote activity, as well as well-being and development.

Site 4 Coronation Park

Coronation Park is centrally located in Eastwood, an area of high play need and medium-high provision. This site has the potential to form a destination play space. Particular themes for enhancement include inclusive and community orientated and nature and climate positive.

Site 11 Smithurst Road Open Space

This space is located in an area that currently has no access to NEAPs or youth spaces. Increasing the play value of the wider Giltbrook Green area north of

Smithurst Road by introducing youth features and more equipped play could provide access within this gap.

Site 24 Shilo Recreation Ground

This space is located where there is currently only access to low quality and low value play spaces. Additionally, this is an area of medium-high play need. Enhancements for space should improve the quality and value, as well as improving value across all four themes.

Site 28 Beeston Fields Recreation Ground

This space is located in an area of relatively high play need and medium play provision. Currently, access around Beeston Fields Recreation Ground does not include access to high quality and high value spaces. Enhancements should focus on improving the overall quality, as well as helping to support well-being and development and improve provision for nature and climate resilience.

Site 37 Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground

The access catchment for this site covers areas of higher play need in Beeston Rylands. Additionally, this space is centrally located in areas where there is currently no access to parks and play spaces which meet the inclusive and community orientated, active and healthy and nature and climate positive themes. Enhancements should focus on these themes, as well as improving overall quality.

43 Hickings Lane Recreation Ground

This space is located in an area of medium-high play need and where there is currently no access to high quality and high value spaces. Enhancements should focus on improving inclusion and community orientation, creating active and healthy space, supporting nature and climate resilience, as well as improving overall quality.

44 Inham Nook Recreation Ground

This space provides equipped play and informal youth access to areas of high play need in the northwest of Chilwell. Enhancements should focus on promoting provision which supports well-being and development, as well as enhancing nature and climate-resilient features.

47 Manor Farm Recreation Ground

This space is located where the only access to high value and high quality space is to wider parks, with no dedicated play provision. This area is also close to areas of medium-low combined play provision. Additionally, it is located in areas which do not have access to parks which meet the benchmark for supporting well-being and development or nature and climate positive. Enhancements should focus on these themes as well as improving overall quality.

Additional play spaces

The need for additional play spaces is greatest within Cossall (for all ages). There is also a need for dedicated BMX areas around Watnall.

Chapter 8

Play infrastructure policies

A vision for play in Broxtowe

8.1 The following section sets out details of a potential play policy that could be adopted by Broxtowe Borough Council. The play policy comprises the following elements:

- A **vision** setting out what play provision in Broxtowe could look like in the future.
- A set of **delivery principles** which set the overarching approach to implementing play enhancements.
- A set of **design principles** which set out the priorities for play park design and what good play could look like.

Vision

8.2 Everyone in Broxtowe will have access to a variety of play experiences within a 10 minute walk (800 m) of their home. Play spaces will be managed and maintained to a high standard to ensure a consistency of provision for residents across Broxtowe.

Delivery Principles

8.3 The delivery principles focus on the key steps that will ensure successful delivery of new play spaces or enhancement projects.

- New play sites or enhancements should be planned at the neighbourhood scale, taking into account existing play provision and play need to ensure the appropriate play interventions are delivered in the right places.
 - Combined access mapping, play needs and play provision indexes should be considered to understand what new spaces or enhancements would be most appropriate.
 - Where play provision cannot be maintained to a high quality, it may be appropriate to consolidate play provision within a local area.
- All new play spaces and significant play enhancements should involve the local community, including children and young people.

- Consultation should focus on the wider play experience, rather than purely the type of fixed play equipment.
- Consultation should include innovative methods of activity to engage people early in the design process.
- Consultation should involve a wide-cross section of the community. This may include working with existing officers and groups with contacts across the community.
- Engagement should be cost effective by co-ordinating consultation with other community events or consultation.
- Cross team communication across Broxtowe Borough Council should be prioritised to allow an opportunistic approach to delivering play enhancements.
 - For example, where highways work is taking place on busy roads near parks, opportunities for introducing traffic calming measures and/or road crossings should be explored.
 - Design of new active travel should consider locations of parks and play spaces to promote active travel links to and between these spaces.
 - Works to parking areas within or adjacent to play and parks should incorporate additional disabled parking bays near play spaces.
 - Essential tree works within or adjacent to play and parks may provide material for natural play features which can be retained on site.

Design Principles

8.4 The design principles are intended to guide and inform the future design and layout of play and enhancements to existing sites. They could be used as part of a brief to a play equipment supplier or landscape designer. The principles could also act as a framework for reviewing design proposals for sites, to determine to what extent they meet the requirements set out in the policy.

Theme 1: Inclusive and community orientated

- Play spaces should cater for a wide range of needs and interests. Where there is capacity, play spaces should include provision for all ages, from 0 to 18.
- Equipment should be inclusive rather exclusive, offering opportunities for children of all abilities to play together.

- All new play spaces or significant play space enhancements should be delivered in consultation with local communities, including children and young people.
- All play spaces for children under 11 should also include provision for accompanying adults, including seating.
- Play spaces should be located to maximise accessibility for residents, including for wheelchairs and pushchairs.
- Play spaces should be free to use and welcoming for all, and not restricted to residents within a single housing development.

Theme 2: Active and healthy

- Where additional space for run-about or informal sport is not available, informal physical activity can be encouraged e.g. through signage or ground graphics e.g. hopscotch.
- Play spaces should be designed to maximise a variety of physical activities and movements, including climbing, balancing, strength building.
- Play spaces should be well sign-posted and connected to cycle and walking routes to promote active travel to the space.
- Where applicable, play spaces should include challenging equipment that allows children to experience age-appropriate risk.
- As far as possible, sports provision within parks should be free to use for informal play when not in formal use, with welcoming signage allowing this use.
- Provision of non-sport related physical activity for older children should be considered, including
- Play spaces should be located in safe environments, free from the impacts of noise or air pollution.

Theme 3: Supporting well-being and development

- Play should incorporate sensory play e.g. sand and waterplay or musical play alongside traditional play equipment.
- Parks should incorporate quiet contemplation spaces, including sensory gardens to support well-being and mental health.

- Local points of interest (including historical and natural features) should be interpreted through child-friendly signage, with suggestions for imaginative or discovery games.
- The use of playful signage and artwork should be incorporated into all spaces to offer self-led free play opportunities.

Theme 4: Nature and climate positive

- Recycled or durable natural materials should be the default material prioritised for play equipment and all safety surfacing.
- Design of all new play areas should ensure that there are shaded areas of play, either through tree planting or other sheltered areas.
- Design of all new play areas should explore whether there is the potential for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to be integrated to prevent flooding or drainage issues on site.
- Within natural areas, signage, artwork and other informal structures should be introduced to encourage natural play.
- Natural play elements including falling logs and boulders should be incorporated in and around play spaces.

Additional considerations: Overall safety and management

- Play spaces should be signposted with welcoming and enticing signage, which include a no-dogs sign, contact number and QR code for reporting issues with the site.
- All play equipment must be compliant with EN1176/EN1177.
- Design for new play spaces should consider how spaces can be managed in the long-term.

Play standards for new development

Quantity standards

8.5 Current quantity of equipped and informal play is below the standard set by Fields in Trust. It is recommended that new development should ensure that the following standards are met. This will increase the overall provision of play spaces

within Broxtowe and ensure that play provision is focused close to where children live.

Residential development should provide the equivalent of 0.25 hectares of equipped play and 0.30 hectares of informal play space for every estimated 1,000 population anticipated to reside within the development. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis where the new development is not expected to increase in child population. For example, student accommodation or dedicated residences for older residents.

Provision can be secured on-site or off-site. Where development is located close to strategic priorities, part of the contribution for play provision can be provided as an alternative to new play space. Where play provision is being delivered through enhancement to existing spaces, this should be sought through S106, at an amount equivalent to the cost of providing that amount of new space (based on up-to-date costing provided in the IDP).

Accessibility standards

8.6 With the exception of the 100 metres access buffer for equipped play (including LAPs), there is good access to play spaces in Broxtowe. This suggests the Fields in Trust play catchment standards, and 800 metres parks and play catchments are appropriate for the Broxtowe context. New development should plan play spaces with consideration of these catchment areas.

Any off-site provision of play spaces delivered through development should be located within the appropriate access catchment of the new development.

All development should be located within the access catchment area for at least one level of equipped play space and be within a 10-minute walking distance of a park of play space.

Development should also include some form of informal play on-site. This could include playful signage, sculptures or ground graphics.

Quality and value standards

8.7 It is important that new play spaces meet the expected quality and value standards expected in Broxtowe, and include provision that meets the Design

Principles for each of the four themes. This should be secured through the design of the play space and ongoing management and maintenance.

New play provision should be designed in consultation with local communities. A design statement for new play spaces should set out how space meets all the Design Principles.

Funding should be secured for the ongoing management and maintenance for the lifetime of the development. This could include contributions for the space to be managed by Broxtowe Borough Council. Where management and maintenance of the play space is being undertaken by another party, a management plan should be provided setting out how the space will be managed to ensure the quality and value of the space are secured long term.

Where provision of play space is through contributions to play enhancements or strategic off-site play spaces delivered by Broxtowe Borough Council, additional contributions should be provided to contribute to additional management requirements for these spaces.

Decision making tool

8.8 The following tool sets out considerations for deciding what play provision should be included within development. It can form a guidance tool for developers and Development Management planners.

Areas of higher need and lower provision

8.9 Developments in areas of high play need and low play provision are priority areas for new play spaces. Developments in these areas should provide new open spaces rather than offer enhancements to existing play spaces.

8.10 The following prioritisation list applies.

1. Where development is within the existing access catchments for some but not all play types, priority should be given to deliver play types that are not currently provided for.
2. Where development is within the existing access catchments for all play types, but only has some high quality and high value play types, priority should be given to deliver play types for which access is currently to lower quality and/or value spaces.

3. Where the development is not within any access catchments, priority should be given to provide multifunctional play spaces which offer a range of play functions for all ages. New spaces should prioritise play located so that it can also serve existing communities with limited access to play.

Areas of higher need and higher provision

8.11 Developments in areas of high need but high existing provision should ensure that existing play spaces are maximising their potential.

8.12 The following prioritisation list applies.

1. Where the development is within access catchments to informal wider spaces or LAP spaces only, provision for new LEAP, NEAP or youth spaces should be prioritised.
2. Where development is within existing access catchments to some play spaces with lower quality and value scores, enhancements to these spaces should be prioritised.
3. Where development is within access catchments which are all high quality and high value spaces, enhancements to off-site provision should focus on enhancements to meet any theme benchmarks which are not currently met.
4. Where the development is not within any access catchments, priority should be given to provide multifunctional play spaces which offer a range of play functions for all ages. New spaces should prioritise play located so that it can also serve existing communities with limited access to play.

Areas of lower need and lower provision

8.13 Developments in areas of low play need and low existing provision should prioritise provision of new play spaces.

8.14 The following prioritisation list applies.

1. Where development is within the existing access catchments for some but not all play types, priority should be given to deliver play types that are not currently provided for.
2. Where development is within the existing access catchments for all play types, but only has some high quality and high value play types, priority should be given

to deliver play types for which access is currently to lower quality and/or value spaces.

3. Where the development is not within any access catchments, priority should be given to provide multifunctional play spaces on site.

Areas of lower need and higher provision

8.15 Areas of low need but high existing provision have a lower priority for play. Developments in these areas should be planned to help increase provision and access to play in other areas.

8.16 The following prioritisation list applies.

1. Where development is within existing access catchments to some play spaces with lower quality and value scores, enhancements to these spaces should be prioritised.
2. Where development is within access catchments which are all high quality and high value spaces, enhancements to off-site provision should focus on enhancements to meet any theme benchmarks which are not currently met.
3. In some cases, off-site provision or enhancement to play could be provided outside of relevant access catchments to the new development, if it can be evidenced that there existing provision has the capacity to serve the development.

Developer checklist

- Has an estimation of population associated with the development been calculated to understand the quantity of play provision required?
- Have the play needs and play provision for the local area been understood and used to prioritise the play needs provided as part of the development?
- Where play contribution is being made through contributions to existing play enhancement or towards strategic off-site provision of play, has this been set out within a S106 agreement?
- Where play contribution is being designed and delivered as part of the development, has adequate consultation with communities been evidenced?

- Has a play design statement been set out which demonstrates how play provision will meet the Design Principles set out in this strategy?
- Have appropriate resourcing and financial contributions for ongoing management and maintenance of the play space been secured, including the need for replacement equipment when it reaches the end of its expected lifespan? .

Appendix A

Audit form

Open Space Audit - Play strategy

Site based assessment



Site ID:

Site Name:

Category of play:

Audit date and time:

Time spent surveying:

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

Is the site still a play space? If not, please describe below:

Value scores
are highlighted
in yellow

Quality scores
are highlighted
in green

1. Basic information

1.1 Which best describes the setting (Pick one)

Stand along playground (formal / equipped play) ☐

Playground within wider park / open space (formal / equipped play) ☐

Informal play within wider setting ☐

1.2 What type of space are included? (multiple choice)

Local Area of Play (LAP) ☐

Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP) ☐

Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP) ☐

Designated youth / informal play space e.g. MUGA ☐

Other informal play space ☐

1.3 Which age groups are provided for? (multiple choice)

0 - 5 ☐ 0 or +1

5 - 8 ☐ 0 or +1

8 - 11 ☐ 0 or +1

11+ ☐ 0 or +1

2. Inclusive and community orientated I: Arrival and location

2.1 Informal oversight ☐ +1-5

2.2 Well used by children ☐ +1-5

2.3 Getting there (access to the site/barriers etc.) ☐ +1-5

2.4 Getting there for those with impairments or with buggies and pushchairs (including appropriate parking / drop-off) ☐ +1-5

2.5 Meeting other children ☐ +1-5

2.6 Is the space fenced? ☐

2.7 Seating for adults ☐ 0 or +1-2

2.7a Condition ☐ NA or +1-5

2.8 Seating for children ☐ 0 or +1-2

2.8a Condition ☐ NA or +1-5

2.9 Seating for teenagers / teen shelter ☐ 0 or +1-2

2.9a Condition ☐ NA or +1-5

2.10 Toilets/changing facilities ☐ 0 or +1-2

2.10a Condition ☐ NA or +1-5

2.11 Any other features for supervisory adults on site ☐ 0 or +1

2.12 Any evidence of provision for staffing or organised play activity on site ☐ 0 or +1

3. Active and healthy I: Specific play affordances

3.1 How many separate items of equipment ☐

3.2 Balancing ☐ 0 or +1

3.3 Rocking ☐ 0 or +1

3.4 Sliding ☐ 0 or +1

3.5 Climbing ☐ 0 or +1

3.6 Rotating ☐ 0 or +1

3.7 Jumping ☐ 0 or +1

3.8 Viewing ☐ 0 or +1

3.9 Loose parts ☐ 0 or +1

3.10 Crawling / hiding ☐ 0 or +1

3.11 Swinging	☐	0 or +1
3.12 Agility	☐	0 or +1
3.13 Strength	☐	0 or +1

4. Active and healthy II: Other opportunities for activity

4.1 Playground	☐	0 or +1-2
4.1a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.2 MUGA	☐	0 or +1-2
4.2b Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.3 Wheels park	☐	0 or +1-2
4.3a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.4 BMX track	☐	0 or +1-2
4.4a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.5 Outdoor gym	☐	0 or +1-2
4.5a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.6 Informal play elements	☐	0 or +1-2
4.6a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.7 Grass pitches	☐	0 or +1-2
4.7a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.8b Informal kickabout	☐	0 or +1-2
4.8a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.9 Artificial pitches	☐	0 or +1-2
4.9a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.10 Tennis courts	☐	0 or +1-2
4.10a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.11 Promoted / measured walking / jogging routes	☐	0 or +1-2
4.11a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.12 Water activities (outside play areas)	☐	0 or +1-2
4.12a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.13 Bowls	☐	0 or +1-2
4.13a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.14 Connected to an active travel routes	☐	0 or +1-2
4.14a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
4.15 Other	☐	0 or +1-2
4.15a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5

5. Active and healthy III: Safety, care and maintenance

5.1 Well maintained (overall condition of play equipment, litter)	☐	+1-5
5.2 Sense of safety and security (lighting etc.)	☐	+1-5
5.3 Impact absorbing surfacing	☐	0 or +1
5.3a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
5.4 Litter bins	☐	0 or +1
5.4a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
5.5 Play area notice stating dog free, children only, emergency contacts	☐	0 or +1-2
5.6 No smoking sign	☐	0 or +1
5.7 Cycle/scooter parking	☐	0 or +1
5.7a Condition	☐	NA +1-5
5.8 Car parking	☐	
5.9 Are any pedestrian gates self closing	☐	0 or +1

6. Inclusion and community-orientated II: Added play value

6.1 Is arrival at the play space easy for wheelchairs and pushchairs?	☐	0 or +1 - 2
6.2 Is moving through the play space accessible for all, including wheelchairs and pushchairs?	☐	0 or +1 - 2
6.3a Is there inclusion of play opportunities for children with disabilities	☐	0 or +1 - 2

6.3b Do these allow for children of all abilities to play together?	☐	+1-5
6.3c Condition of disabled play equipment?	☐	NA or +1-5
6.4 Are there any other features which encourage play for diverse groups, including neurodiversity and special needs	☐	0 or +1 - 2
6.4a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
6.5 To what extent are play needs of different ages met?	☐	+1-5
6.6 To what extent does the park encourage social play?	☐	+1-5
6.7 To what extent does the park encouraging teenage play?	☐	0 or +1-2
6.8 Are there any features / equipment which are aimed at teenage girls?	☐	0 or +1-2
6.8a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5
6.9 Is there a teen shelter?	☐	0 or +1
6.9a Condition	☐	NA or +1-5

7. Wellbeing and development: Added play value

7.1 To what extent does the space entice children to play?	☐	+1-5
7.2 To what extent does the space encourage social play?	☐	+1-5
7.3 To what extent does the space allow for imaginative play?	☐	+1-5
7.4 To what extent does the space offer challenging/exciting play (overall added play value)?	☐	+1-5
7.5 To what extent are there opportunities for learning within play	☐	+1-5
7.6 To what extent are there opportunities for sensory play e.g. sand or water play	☐	+1-5
7.7 Inclusion of sounding items	☐	
7.8 Inclusion of ground graphics	☐	0 or +1-2
7.9 Overall condition of additional play features (e.g.sounding items, ground graphics, sensoryplay features, educational play features?	☐	NA or +1-5
7.10 Overall visual appeal	☐	+1-5
7.11 To what extent does the overall layout provide a clutter free space, including offering calmer / quieter spaces?	☐	+1-5

8. Climate and nature-positive: Added play value

8.1 To what extent does the space provide access to the natural environment?	☐	+1-5
8.2 To what extent does play allow children to connect with nature?	☐	+1-5
8.3a Does play incorporate sustainable or natural materials?	☐	0 or +1-2
8.3b Do safety surfaces include natural materials?	☐	0 or +1
8.4 Overall condition and management of natural play features?	☐	NA or +1-5
8.5 Are there any sustainable drainage features or other materials which provide resilience in times of flooding / high rainfall?	☐	0 or +1-2
8.6 Is there shading and natural surfaces which create resilience to heatwaves?	☐	0 or +1-2
8.7 To what extent does ground contouring create a natural and playful landscape?	☐	+1-5
8.8 Is play equipment designed for the site and suitable for the local landscape?	☐	+1-5
8.9 Are there any additional features which create space for nature e.g. bug hotel, bird box, bat box?	☐	0 or +1-2
8.10 Overall condition and management of natural features?	☐	NA or +1-5

Appendix B

Recommended actions per site

1. Basil Russell Playing Fields

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Nuthall)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for themes 1 – 3
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions:

- Introduce additional entry points into fenced play area and, in line with community consultation, replace high fences with lower barriers.
- Reseeding of grass under play equipment
- Remove old and worn benches and replace where required.
- Widen the path from the car park to the play area, with adequate rest spaces and passing points between the carpark and disabled play provision.

2. Beauvale Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in the north analysis area (Eastwood)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 2

Recommended actions:

- Introduce a surfaced path and possible new entry point from the car park directly to the play space and inclusive-use basket swing.
- Repaint chipped paint on play equipment.
- Install welcoming signage for playground, recommending the space is dog free, proving and emergency contact and encouraging children to play.
- Consider incorporating spaces to encourage teen play, including teenage girls, such as social seating located close to the trim trail to create a youth zone.

3. Brinsley Park Recreation Ground

Quick facts

- Located in the north analysis area (Brinsley)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 1
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions:

- Refresh paint on the MUGA and repaint chipped paint within outdoor gym equipment and benches
- Install inclusive picnic bench within picnic table area, connected to the pathway.
- Widen footpath to ensure width is appropriate for wheelchair users between car park and picnic area (and past play provision).
- Repair broken timber dragonfly and encourage use of this and other timber animals for imaginative play and seating through signage.
- Consider utilising (flat built platform) as a performance area or social area for teenagers (designed with community consultation).
- Over time, as disabled swing reaches the end of its life replace with more inclusive equipment.
- Introduce new welcoming signage for the playground.

- Explore opportunities for allowing toilets on site to be open to the public.

4. Coronation Park

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Eastwood)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for themes 2 and 3
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions:

- Consider upgrading sand play area to a raised sandpit with a ledge, increasing use for wheelchair users and reducing risk of sand spilling over into the rest of the play site.
- Introduce social seating around the skate park to increase social use of this space.
- Consider introducing features for nature such as bug hotel or bird boxes within treed areas, with child-friendly, playful signage educating children about the flora and fauna on site.

5. Flixton Road open space

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Kimberley)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Introduce welcoming signage at entrances to the site, including from Chilton Drive and Flixton Road.
- Clean graffiti from existing signage and introduce child-friendly playful educational signage about the Old Kimberley Train Bridge and wildlife within Kimberley Railway Cutting SSSI to promote imaginative play.
- Repainting fencing around play area and faded timber equipment.
- Consider opportunities for social seating or sculptures which reflect railway heritage and encourage social and imaginative play.
- Explore the opportunity of opening part of nature reserve (now locked) and providing playful educational opportunities to engage children with natural value of the site, ensuring the impact of this on wildlife and status of adjoining SSSI is assessed and managed.

6. Hall-Om-Wong Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Kimberley)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space.
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for themes 2 and 4

Recommended actions:

- Upgrade bins within the site
- Consider opportunity to engage young people in creating a mural within the skate park areas and resurface minor area within skate park where the surface is damaged.
- Introduce playful scavenger hunt or trail signage and mini sculptures within woodland area, educating children on local flora and fauna.

7. Jubilee Park

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Eastwood)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Remove graffiti from children's seating area and remove litter from fenced-off treed area and work with communities and explore opportunities for signage or CCTV to prevent littering and graffiti on-site.
- Introduce surfaced path to inclusive picnic table and basketball swing to promote use for all users.
- Introduce additional seating under shaded areas.

8. Knowle Park Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Kimberley)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space.
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Ensure that where equipment has been removed this has been safely done and remaining infrastructure does not create a trip hazard, including for visually impaired users.
- Clean graffiti present on benches and play equipment.
- Introduce surfaced path to disabled play equipment.

- Introduce more extensive signage and seating around small bmx track and repair missing sign posts.
- Explore opportunities to introduce signage and structures within treed areas to encourage informal nature play within these areas, whilst ensuring adequate safety measures are in place.

9. Mansfield Road Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Eastwood)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play.
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Introduce herbaceous planting and low shrubs adjoining fenced play area to avoid area of bare ground where grass area meets playground.
- Reseed of grass areas around trees and introduce perennial wildflower bulbs.
- Introduce seating around Covid-10 Tree rainbows or flower bed of remembrance to create a calm space for children and adults for quiet contemplation.
- Explore opportunities for larger more challenging equipment, in keeping with setting close to memorial garden to improve offering for older children.

10. Millfield Road Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Kimberley)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Lower quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Repair and maintain windmill themed artwork.
- Safeguard integrity of windmill ruin and explore opportunities to restore this to create a safe space for children to explore and engage in informal imaginative play (without threatening heritage value of this).
- Repaint entry posts from adjoining Millfield Road and upgrade welcoming signage at all entrances.
- Explore opportunities for establishing a signed, accessible entry route from Eastwood Road, with blue badge parking or drop off point. Seating along this route should be provided to provide rest stops.
- Consider moving goal post to reduce conflict with Windmill ruins and reduce visual impact on the heritage feature.
- Ensure management of natural vegetation within fenced area.

11. Smithurst Road Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Giltbrook)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions:

- Introduce wayfinding signage to reinforce connection between play space and wider natural area to the north of Smithurst Road.
- In the long term, explore opportunities for restoration of the brook, including vegetation for filtering. In line with appropriate safe conditions of the brook, explore opportunities for signage and informal play elements to connect children to this natural asset.
- Replace benches with social seating, encouraging use for older children.

- Explore opportunities for introducing a wider range of equipped play and youth provision for older children north of Smithurst Road, designed for the local landscape.

12. Nuthall Spinney

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Nuthall)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme.

Recommended actions:

- Introduced a ramped, surfaced entry path to provide access from the road up into the space.
- There is the potential to introduce play in the nature area on the wooded hill, maximising the natural contouring. Assessment of safety issues associated with the slope and impact on wildlife would need to be assessed.
- Explore the opportunity to introduce a picnic or seating area in the east of the site, to offer a quieter space away from the equipped play area.

13. Watnall Spinney Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Watnall)
- Wider informal play space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 1

Recommended actions:

- Explore opportunity to establish a smaller official bmx track within a less sensitive (for wildlife) part of Watnall and manage access of bikes to this site.

- Repair perimeter fencing around the wider park area.
- Ensure management of vegetation within locked area does not encroach into the site.
- Introduce ramped entry to site to improve accessibility for wheelchairs and pushchairs to the southern part of the site and include benches within this area.
- Introduce a trail or signage challenging children to find the playful timber statues throughout the site and consider introducing playful and educational signage in collaboration with local children to connect them to the natural areas within the site.

14. Watnall Green

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Watnall)
- Wider informal play space
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Explore opportunity to establish a smaller official bmx track within a less sensitive (for wildlife) part of Watnall and manage access of bikes to this site.
- Restore eroded banks damaged by bike access.
- Introduce signage, including playful, child friendly signage, helping to connect children with the wildlife and plant species on site.
- Explore introduction of informal bouldering or deadwood logs for balancing and scrambling, as well as natural seating.
- Assess which gates can be accessible and if any gates need to be locked include wayfinding signage directing users to the nearest useable entrance.

15. The Stag Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Kimberley)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play
- Lower quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Remove graffiti from play equipment and work with communities and explore opportunities for signage or CCTV to prevent littering and graffiti on-site.
- Replace pedestrian gates to play site to ensure these are self closing.
- Introduce welcoming signage along Noel Street and Nottingham Road to welcome users to the site.
- Introduced a surfaced path

16. Hall Park

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Eastwood)
- Space includes informal / youth space.
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme.

Recommended actions:

- Introduce inclusive equipment suitable for disabled children, such as an accessible climbing frame
- Introduce signage within path network through wooded area to inform wheelchair and pushchair users which routes have steps.
- Replace damaged artificial surfacing on car racing track to be a more resilient surface, including opportunities for permeable paving.

- In consultation with the community, explore interest in re-purposing one of the model car racing tracks into a BMX track or similar.

17. Brinsley Headstocks

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Brinsley)
- Wider informal play space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Introduce signage within path network through wooded area to inform wheelchair and pushchair users which routes have steps.
- Explore opportunities for child-friendly signage offering a trail through the space with natural features for children to identify.
- Explore opportunities for additional timber or other natural sculptures to add interest for children within the site.
- Explore opportunities to reinstate fenced off areas e.g. around the well.

18. Greasley Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in north analysis area (Eastwood)
- Space includes informal / youth space.
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Improve condition of grass pitches, including reseeding grass areas by goal posts (and putting in more durable artificial grass surface if required), removing net and repainting goal posts.
- Explore opportunities for additional youth provision alongside the trim trail to create a space for teenage girls. This may include performance space or large social swings.
- Explore need for and possibility of introducing a crossing point along Lower Beauvale Road to increase access from residential roads to the south.
- Explore opportunities to introduce trails along the brook and in woodland areas to prevent erosion.
- Where this can be done safely, explore opportunities for gravel banked areas offering safe access to shallow parts of the brook for paddling.

19. College Way Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in central analysis area (Nottingham edge)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Repair pedestrian gate to ensure self-closing mechanism works.
- Explore opportunities to introduce seating away from the playground to offer a quieter space for children and adults.
- Introduce herbaceous and scrub planting to add visual appeal and improve connectivity to nature.
- For any locked gates, include wayfinding signage directing users to the nearest useable entrance.

20. The Lane Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in central analysis area (Awsworth)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Replace the teen shelter with social hang out space designed with local young people, including teenage girls.
- Explore opportunities for tree planting on the boundary between the equipped play area and the cricket pitch to offer shading.

21. Redbridge Drive Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in central analysis area (Nottingham edge)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme

Recommended actions

- Explore opportunities to replace grass pitch with an artificial surfacing which is more resilient to frequent use.
- Repaint worn benches.
- Introduce welcoming signage from Perivale Close, Redbridge Drive and Coxley Gardens.
- Introduce an additional entry gate into the play area.
- Introduce seating such as picnic tables or benches away from the play area as a quieter alternative space for hanging out or resting.

22. Festival Hall

Quick facts:

- Located in central analysis area (Trowell)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Meets the benchmark scores for theme 3

Recommended actions:

- Explore opportunities for expanding provision of equipment for disabled equipment.
- In the longer term, seek opportunities to redesign the space to reduce clutter and create quieter areas and zones of play equipment.

23. Trowell Park Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in central analysis area (Trowell)
- Space includes LAP equipped play
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Introduce benches to provide rest spaces along the active travel routes which pass through the space.
- Introduce welcoming and enticing signage for the play space, and redirect users to nearest space for football (as this is not allowed in the play space).

24. Shilo Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in central analysis area (Awsworth)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play
- Lower quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions:

- Introduce new safety surfacing around play equipment such as bark chipping where grass is currently worn away.
- Introduce sustainable drainage solutions around play equipment to ensure play space remains usable during wetter periods.
- Explore potential for introducing a surfaced, permeable path and introduce signage so users know which routes include steps and are not accessible for wheelchairs or pushchairs.
- Introduce playful signage and sculptures to create trails within the woodland area and encourage social and imaginative play.
- Remove remains of old house and explore options for safe natural play opportunities within woodland e.g. den building.
- Introduce welcoming signage within the play space, including providing an emergency contact for the site and stating that dogs should not be in the play area.

25. Pitt Lane

Quick facts:

- Located in central analysis area (Trowell)
- Wider informal play space
- Higher quality and higher value score

- Meets the benchmark score for theme 4

Recommend actions:

- Introduce inclusive picnic tables adjacent to surfaced pathways.
- Explore opportunities for designated and/or surfaced safe entry points to paddle in the stream or view the river to minimise erosion along the banks.
- introduce signage so users know which routes include steps and are not accessible for wheelchairs or pushchairs.

28. Beeston Fields Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Beeston)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for themes 1 and 2
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions:

- Repaint equipment with chipped paint and explore opportunities to replace old equipment.
- Repair pedestrian gates to play area to ensure all self-closing mechanisms are working.
- Replace the surfacing on the football goal portion of the MUGA.
- Replace welcoming signage into the play space, including providing safety information and encouraging children to play.
- Explore opportunity for space for a wall mural, allowing children and young people a creative outlet within an appropriate and supervised space.
- Consider introducing a ramp at the northern access gate to the equipped play area to ensure there is accessible entry to the space from close to accessible parking bays.

29. Bramcote Hills Park Woodland

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Bramcote Hills)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for all themes

Recommended actions:

- Move accessible parking bays to the eastern edge of the carpark so they are located close to the equipped play area.
- Replace worn trim trail equipment.

30. Broadgate Park

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Beeston)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for themes 1 and 3

Recommended actions:

- Repaint cricket stumps and markings within MUGA
- Consider upgrading sand play area to a raised sandpit with a ledge, increasing use for wheelchair users and reducing risk of sand spilling over into the rest of the play site.
- Explore opportunity to create playful nature area within disused bowling green.
- In consultation with the local community, explore opportunity for signage to enhance use of pavilion as a performance area or hang-out space for teenage girls.

31. Dovecote Park

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Beeston)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 3

Recommended actions:

- In consultation with the local community, explore the opportunity for including social seating within the bandstand to create a quieter space to socialise.
- Introduce infrastructure to support e-bike hire area and make this a more coherent use within the space.
- Explore opportunities for introducing shading around the play area.
- Explore the need for Blue Badge parking bays on Dovecote Lane to increase access for all to the site.

32. Eastcote Avenue Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Bramcote Hills)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Install welcoming signage stating that the play area is dog free and providing an emergency contact number.
- In consultation with the local community, install local artwork or other features to encourage imaginative play.

33. King George's Park

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Bramcote)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark scores for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Extend surfaced path to link to the inclusive picnic bench.
- Upgrade of benches in the south of the site.
- Explore the opportunity for herbaceous planting and scrub borders around equipped play areas.
- Introduce social seating next to the outdoor gym equipment to create a youth space.
- Introduce playful signage encouraging use of woodland areas for informal and natural play.

34. Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Beeston-Rylands)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and lower value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 3

Recommended actions:

- Refresh paint on MUGA surface and replace basketball posts.
- Explore opportunities for alternative safety surface to sand, or preventative interventions which stop sand being spread across the play site.

- Re-seed grass under goalposts and consider introducing alternative surfaces that can withstand frequent use.
- Introduce seating in the south of the site to create a quiet space.

35. Sandy Lane Nature Reserve

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Bramcote Hills)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions

- Improve surfacing of path to access the play space from Markham Road.
- In the long term, seek to replace play equipment with timber play which is more in keeping with the natural setting of the nature reserve.
- Explore opportunities for trails for all ages to learn about and explore the nature reserve, including with adventure trim trail equipment.
- Introduce additional seating, including inclusive picnic tables.

36. Weirfield Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Beeston Rylands)
- Wider informal play space
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Introduce child-friendly educational signage about the natural and cultural heritage of the adjoining River Trent and Canal.

Explore the opportunity to install informal play or trim trail equipment on the perimeter of grass pitches, including utilising natural ground contouring to enhance this.

37. Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Beeston)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme
- Strategic priority to enhance
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions:

- Replace signage to the play equipment, including introducing welcoming signage.
- Explore opportunities to increase the provision of accessible and inclusive play equipment.
- Seek opportunities to increase runoff into the SuDS area to raise river level.
- Introduce additional benches to create rest stops on the path from the car park area to the equipment play and picnic benches.
- Liaise with local football clubs to explore the options of allowing informal football on some of the grass pitches.

38. Templar Road

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Beeston)
- Space includes LAP equipped play
- Higher quality and lower value score

- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- In consultation with local residents, establish whether this is a suitable play space to offer opportunities for all local children (given close proximity to neighbouring residences).
- Introduce a ramp to improve access over the curb.
- Introduce welcoming signage encouraging children to play.
- Explore opportunity for additional play equipment.

39. Archers Fields Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Stapleford)
- Space includes informal / youth space
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Refresh surface painting for the MUGA and to cover graffiti within the teen shelter.
- Explore opportunities for wider access points which do not limit use for wheelchairs and pushchairs, whilst still restricting access to motorbikes.
- Opportunity to introduce informal play elements which make use of natural contouring within the site.
- Opportunity to include playful signage woodland area.

40. Cator Lane Park

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Chilwell)

- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Replace MUGA, with new grass pitch and teenage provision (in consultation with the local community).
- Introduce herbaceous planting and shrubs around border of equipped play.
- Reseed grass areas and create areas of wildflower.
- Replace or repaint worn benches.

41. Central Avenue

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Stapleford)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Lower quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Explore opportunities for introducing more play equipment for 5 – 8 year olds.
- Reseed grass area under goal post and consider installing an artificial surface resilient to high frequency of use.
- Clear weeds and introduce herbaceous planting and shrub along park borders to improve visual appeal.
- Consider need for lighting to increase sense of safety in the site.

42. Chetwynd Road

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Chilwell)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play
- Lower quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Ensure all lighting within the park is working.
- Refresh peeling and chipped paint on play equipment.
- Introduce picnic area

43. Hickings Lane Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Stapleford)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for themes 2 and 3
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions:

- Replace rusting picnic benches and incorporate additional inclusive picnic bench accessed by a path.
- Reseed grass areas around the equipped play area.
- Introduce additional natural informal play elements such as bouldering rocks or timber sculptures within treed picnic area.
- Explore opportunities for additional youth provision to complement existing outdoor gym equipment.

44. Inham Nook Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Chilwell)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for themes 1 and 2
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions

- Refresh paint on MUGA surface.
- Introduce playful signage to encourage imaginative play based on the 'old ghost house' local folklore and timber sculpture.
- Explore opportunities to increase inclusive play opportunities.
- Introduce cycle track within site to improve safety for pedestrians.
- Explore opportunities for a BMX track within the disused bowling green, creating a dedicated space for riding.

45. Judson Avenue Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Stapleford)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Refresh bark chippings to ensure appropriate safety surfacing is in place.
- Remove old benches and replace as required.

- Consider opening the locked nature area and explore interest for community management of this space.

46. Long Lane Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Attenborough)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 3

Recommended actions:

- In consultation with on site Park Bistro, seek opportunities for formalising use of car park for all visitors to the open space (or offer Blue Badge parking to provide accessible parking spaces).
- Seek opportunities to expand park area and improve provision for older children, including large basket swings.

47. Manor Farm Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Toton)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for themes 1 and 2
- Strategic priority to enhance

Recommended actions:

- Refresh bark chippings to ensure appropriate safety surfacing is in place within fenced equipped play area.
- Introduce safety surfacing under stand-alone climbing net.

- Upgrade MUGA, working in consultation with local young people to understand if alternative youth provision would be preferred.
- Consider introducing a new inclusive sensory play space within part of the disused bowling green to create an accessible play area close to on-site parking.
- Replace old seating adjacent the river banks.

48. Pasture Road Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Stapleford)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 2

Recommended actions:

- Explore opportunities for keeping the car park open when football is not on to allow use of accessible parking bays for accessing the play space at all times.
- Explore the need for passing spaces on raised surfaced path to allow wheelchairs or pushchairs to pass each other.
- Explore opportunities for resilient, permeable surfaces alongside the skate ramp where grass is worn away.
- Introduce social seating adjacent to skate park or outdoor gym area.

49. Queen Elizabeth II Park

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Stapleford)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 3

Recommended actions:

- Clean offensive graffiti within park.
- Replace broken basket swing, or remove pole and surfacing associated with this.
- Ensure adequate cover of bark chipping to form appropriate safety surfacing.
- Refresh paint on MUGA surface.
- Introduce social seating adjacent to outdoor gym area to create a youth zone.
- Re-seed grass under goalposts and consider introducing alternative surfaces that can withstand frequent use.

50. Sherman Drive Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Attenborough)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Lower quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Replace old and worn equipment.
- Repaint peeling and chipped paint on fencing around equipped play area.
- Re-seed grass under goalpost around tree area.
- Introduce areas of planting around treed areas and consider opportunities for bug hotel to engage children in nature.
- In consultation with local communities, consider replacing MUGA in the east of the site and creating a 'youth zone' away from children play equipment.

51. Swinney Way Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Toton)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Introduce features for nature, such as a bug hotel and include playful signage to engage children with the natural environment.
- Introduce seating for children.

52. Ilkeston Road Recreation Ground

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Stapleford)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play and informal / youth space
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 2

Recommended actions:

- Ensure adequate cover of bark chipping to form appropriate safety surfacing.
- Introduce social seating around outdoor gym equipment
- Repaint lines, reseed grass under goalposts and repaint goal posts within grass pitches.
- Explore opportunities for a picnic area on site.

53. Hemlockstone

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Stapleford)
- Space includes informal / youth space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Introduce clearer signage to distinguish between mountain bike tracks and pedestrian footpaths.
- Introduce playful signage around local Hemlockstone landmark.
- Undertake assessment to understand impact of mountain biking within the site on local wildlife within the nature reserve and manage if needed.

54. Banks Road Open Space

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Toton)
- Space includes NEAP equipped play
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Clean graffiti from benches and work with communities and explore opportunities for signage or CCTV to prevent graffiti on-site.
- Replace signage and include welcoming signage encouraging play.
- Introduce wayfinding signage within site to signpost to wider area and links into Toton Fields Local Nature Reserve.

55. Chester Green MUGA

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Toton)
- Space includes informal / youth space
- Lower quality and higher value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Replace signage and include welcoming signage encouraging play.
- Repaint and clean graffiti from MUGA and teen shelter.
- Replace worn benches along river bank.
- Ensure safety alongside river bank by introducing fencing or re-routing the path where it runs close to eroded banks.

56. Toton Fields LNR

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Toton)
- Wider informal space
- Higher quality and higher value score
- Meets the benchmark score for theme 4

Recommended actions:

- Explore opportunities to create and exploration trail through the LNR to connect children to natural features.
- Explore opportunities for safe entry point down to the river banks to prevent erosion.

57. Barncroft

Quick facts:

- Located in southwest analysis area (Chilwell)
- Wider informal play space
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Improve links between the space and area outside Chilwell Community Centre.
- Explore opportunities for some sensory play musical instrument play within small space.

58. Summer Crescent

Quick facts:

- Located in southeast analysis area (Beeston)
- Space includes LEAP equipped play
- Higher quality and lower value score
- Does not meet the benchmark score for any theme

Recommended actions:

- Explore opportunities for tree planting to increase shading within site.
- Explore opportunities for increasing provision of seating, including social seating for children.

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