

**Durham County Council
Open Space Needs Assessment
2018**



Part 1 of 2: Main Report

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL

info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



Durham County Council Open Space Needs Assessment

Contents

1.0	Introduction	3 - 6
2.0	Methodology	7 - 10
3.0	Strategic Context	11 - 15
4.0	Local Needs Assessment	16 - 18
5.0	Audit of existing open space assets	19 - 37
6.0	Setting local standards	38 - 48
7.0	Applying local standards	49 - 65
8.0	Strategic options, policy and management recommendations	66 – 79
	Appendix 1 Consultation report	

Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
ANG	Alternative Natural Green Space
ANGSt	Accessible Natural Green Space Standard
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields In Trust (originally known as the 'National Playing Fields Association')
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIST	Green Infrastructure Strategy
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
LPMA	Local Plan Monitoring Area
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area
NEWP	Natural Environment White Paper
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
PPS	Planning Policy Statement

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

This report is the main report (part 1 of 2) of the County Durham Open Space Needs Assessment (OSNA)¹. There are also nine area profiles which provide further analysis at a localised level (part 2 of 2).

The assessment has been undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning to inform the Council's plan making process and decision taking up to 2035. It will replace the OSNA developed in 2010.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. It requires local planning authorities to set out policies to help enable communities to access high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation. These policies must be based on a thorough understanding of the local needs for such facilities and opportunities available for new provision.

The assessment has been carried out in-line with the NPPF. Since the adoption of the NPPF, there have been major changes to national planning policy. Open space assessment has primarily been affected by the omission of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) from the new national policy framework. Whilst the government has not published anything specifically to replace this document (it does signpost the Sport England guidance for sports facilities assessments²), there is however, still a clear reference made in the new guidance to the principles and ideology established within PPG17. As such the underlying principles of this assessment have been informed by the former guidance provided in '*Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation*', and its Companion Guide '*Assessing Needs and Opportunities*', which is a tried and tested methodology and takes a consistent approach with many other local authorities.

1.2 Scope of Assessment and Objectives

1.2.1 Overall Aim of the Assessment

The aims of the assessment are to provide a robust assessment of needs and deficiencies of open space in order to establish local provision standards and create an up to date evidence base which can be used to inform the new Local Plan. It will also aid the implementation of the policies and the provision of open space during the Local Plan period.

¹ Consultation was also undertaken with Town/Parish Councils and Area Action Partnerships/Durham City Neighbourhood Forum (Consultation Report, August 2017), which feeds into the local needs assessment (section 4 of this report).

² <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities>

1.2.2 Scope of Assessment and Objectives

The previous County Durham OSNA was commenced in 2009 and completed in January 2010. The document formed a key element of the evidence base for the levels and distribution of open space across the County.

It is now necessary to review and update the OSNA given:

-) Age of the document – Much of the work of the analysis was carried out in 2009;
-) Change in National Policy – Since the completion of the original OSNA, the NPPF and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) have replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation and clarify the requirement for planning policies to be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision; and
-) The status of some sites may have changed in the intervening period since 2009/10 through development or change of use.

This updated assessment will help develop effective planning policies in the Local Plan and inform decisions on planning applications.

The objectives of the assessment are to:

1. Review and update the OSNA with regard to relevant national and local planning policy related to open space;
2. Provide an overview of provision in terms of quantity, access and quality of provision by Local Plan monitoring area;
3. Undertake an assessment of the current and future need for open space;
4. Identify any potential open space sites which are of poor quality with little likelihood of improvement and could have potential for other uses; and,
5. Develop a list of priorities for open space for each area.

1.3 Structure of the Assessment

The assessment follows the five key stages as summarised below:

-) Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
 -) Step 2 – Audit of Existing Open Space Assets
 -) Step 3 – Setting Local Standards
 -) Step 4 – Applying Local Standards
 -) Step 5 – Drafting Policy Recommendations
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1.4 The Assessment Area

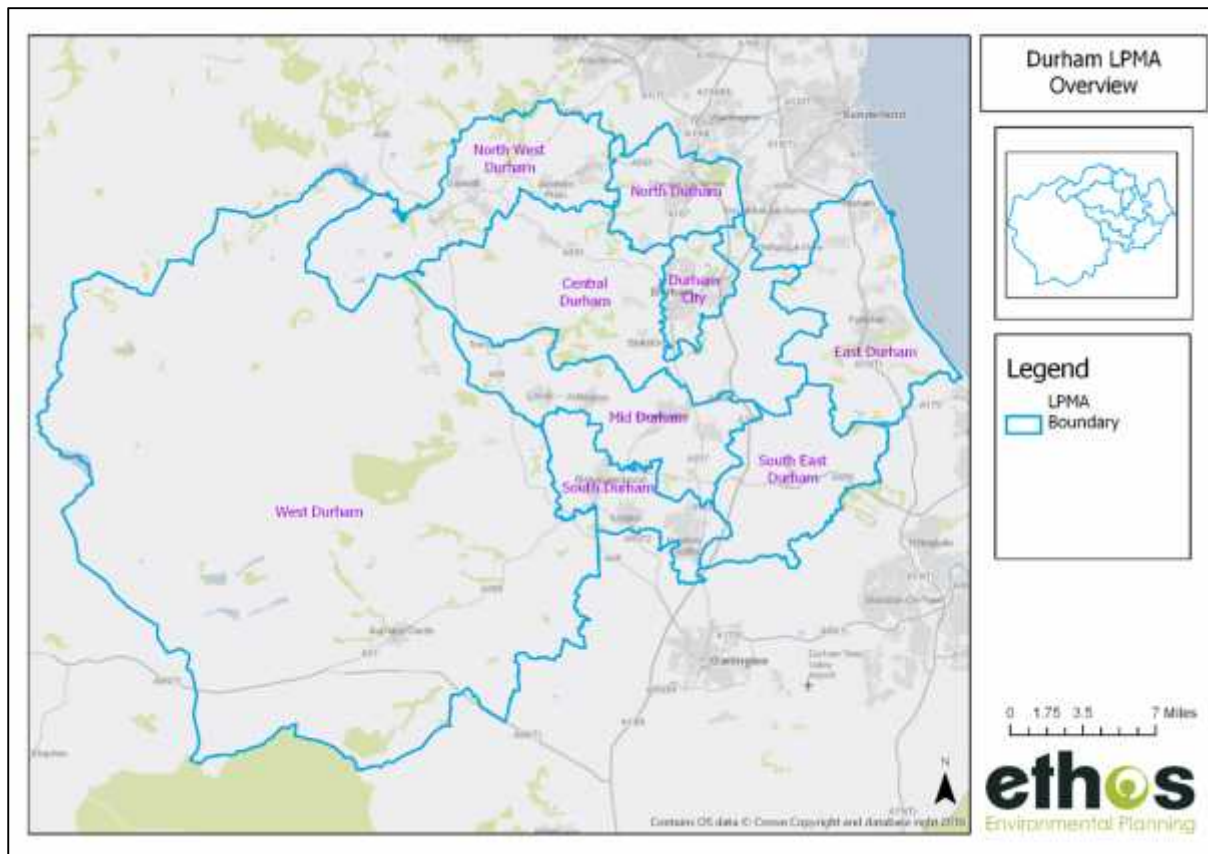
1.4.1 Overview of Durham County Council administrative area

The council is made up of an elected assembly of 126 councillors accountable to over 516,000 people in County Durham. The council is responsible for providing a wide range of public services to the people of the county. The county's towns and villages are spread out as a result of the rise and fall of the mining, steel and other heavy industries and has left a built environment which reflects this industrial past.

1.4.2 Monitoring Areas

For the purpose of this assessment, in order to analyse the current provision and future requirements for open space across County Durham, Local Plan monitoring areas³ have been used as the geographical areas (as shown in figure 1). Of particular relevance to this assessment are population statistics (Census, 2011) for each of these monitoring areas, which have been used as the basis for the current and future assessment of need for open space.

Figure 1 Local Plan monitoring areas



³ In order to aid monitoring and discuss issues across an area the size of County Durham, with its many different communities, it is useful to break the county down into geographical areas which have similar characteristics in terms of their housing, economy and history. The Council have therefore identified nine monitoring areas which will assist in measuring the success of the emerging County Plan's policies. In reality, the boundaries between these areas are not distinct and in some cases issues overlap as they are not physically discrete.

1.4.3 Population Statistics

Table 1 Local Plan monitoring areas population statistics (Census 2011)

Name	Population 2011
Central Durham	59708
Durham City	47026
East Durham	95131
Mid Durham	62080
North Durham	54117
North West Durham	79393
South Durham	68435
South East Durham	14249
West Durham	33103

Note: these figures exclude existing commitments where open space requirements have already been assessed through existing policy.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

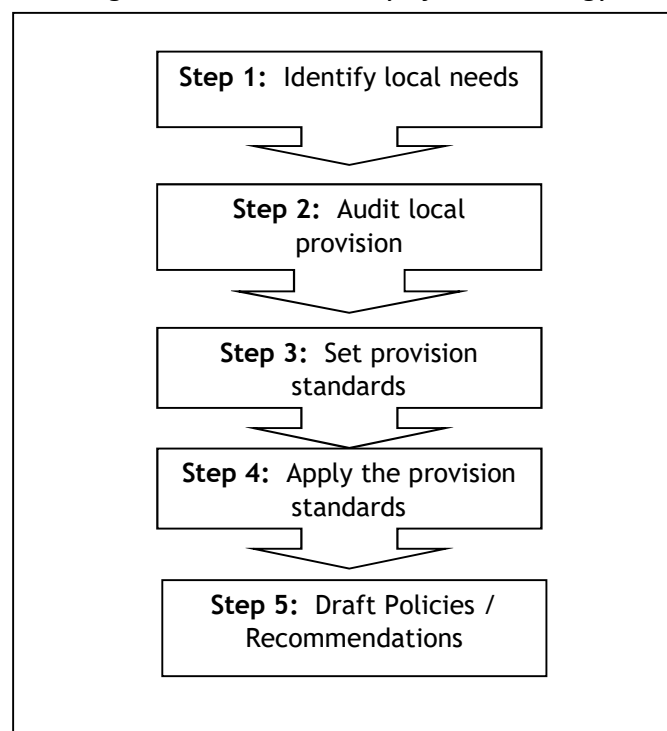
2.1 General

The starting point for this assessment has been the guidance in Section 8 of the NPPF, which supersedes PPG17. The new policy gives clear recommendations for the protection of and appropriate provision for open space, however it does not provide any detailed guidance on how to conduct an open space assessment. It is therefore both logical and acceptable to reference the guidance for assessment provided in the former PPG17 and its Companion Guide. PPG17 placed a requirement on local authorities to undertake assessments and audits of open space, sports and recreational facilities in order to:

-) identify the needs of the population;
-) identify the potential for increased use; and
-) establish an effective strategy for open space/sports/recreational facilities at the local level.

The Companion Guide to PPG17 recommended an overall approach to this kind of assessment as summarised below:

Figure 3 Summary of methodology



Within this overall approach the Companion Guide suggests a range of methods and techniques that might be adopted in helping the assessment process. Where appropriate, these methods and techniques have been employed within this assessment and are explained at the relevant point in the report. In addition, they are summarised in the paragraphs below.

2.2 Identifying Local Need (Step 1)

The report examines identified local need for various types of open space, sports and recreational opportunities. This draws on the consultation undertaken with Town/Parish councils and Area Action Partnerships/Durham City Neighbourhood Forum (Consultation Report, August 2017). It also draws on the previous OSNA (2010), which is considered to be still relevant as there has been little change in open space provision in the county since this assessment. Therefore, the focus of this current assessment has been on reviewing and applying local standards in line with more recent policy in the NPPF, based on the consultation carried out in 2017 and also the previous OSNA needs assessment.

2.3 Audit of Existing Open Space Assets (Step 2)

2.3.1 Defining the scope of the audit

In order to build up an accurate picture of the current open space and play provision in County Durham, an initial desktop audit of the open space asset was carried out, this included:

-) analysis of existing GIS data held by Durham County Council;
-) desktop mapping of open space from aerial photography;
-) liaison with council officers.

Following this, site visits were undertaken by Ethos at 1146 sites to assess the existing and potential quality issues with sites. The quality audit drew on criteria set out in the 'Green Flag Award⁴', and sites were given an 'existing', 'potential' and 'gap' quality score. The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a sites existing and potential quality rather than a full asset audit. Clearly, local communities may have aspirations which are not identified in the quality audit, but it is hoped that these can be explored further through site management plans and neighbourhood/parish plans as appropriate.

2.3.2 Approach to mapping

As part of the audit process, sites were mapped into their different functions using a multi-functional approach to mapping. The advantage of the multi-functional approach is that it gives a much more accurate picture of the provision of open space. This is more advantageous than the primary typology approach which tends to result in an over assessment of provision, and which can significantly impact decisions on quantity standards. The differences in approach are demonstrated in figures 4 and 5.

⁴ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/judges/judging-criteria>

Figure 4 Primary approach to open space mapping



Figure 5 Multi-functional mapping of open space



2.4 Set and Apply Provision Standards (Steps 3 and 4)

Local provision standards have been set, with three components, embracing:

-) quantity;
-) accessibility;
-) quality.

Quantity

The GIS database and mapping has been used to assess the existing provision of open space across the assessment area. The existing levels of provision are considered alongside findings of previous studies, the local needs assessment and consideration of existing and national standards or benchmarks. The key to developing robust local quantity standards is that they are locally derived, based on evidence and most importantly achievable. Typically, standards are expressed as hectares per 1000 people. The recommended standards are then used to assess the supply of each type of open space across the assessment area.

Access

Evidence from previous studies, the needs assessment and consideration of national benchmarks are used to develop access standards for open space. Typically, standards are expressed as straight line walk times. A series of maps assessing access for different typologies are presented in the report.

Quality

Quality standards have been developed drawing on previous studies, national benchmarks and good practice, evidence from the needs assessment and the findings of the quality audits. The quality standards also include recommended policies to guide the provision of new open space through development in the future.

2.5 Drafting Policy Recommendations (Step 5)

This section outlines higher level strategic options which may be applicable across the County and by LPMA. The strategic options address five key areas:

1. Existing provision to be protected;
 2. Existing provision to be enhanced;
 3. Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
 4. Identification of areas for new provision; and
 5. Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.
-

3.0 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This section sets out a brief review of the most relevant national and local policies related to the assessment, which have been considered in developing the methodology and findings of the assessment. Policies and strategies are subject to regular change, therefore the summary provided in this section was correct at the time of writing (Durham County Council reserve the right to change and update this section as policies change).

3.1 Introduction

The policy overview will include analysis of the councils' existing strategies and policies. It also includes a review of other strategies of relevance at national and local levels and assesses their implications for the provision of open space, sport and recreation opportunities.

The PPG17 companion guide identified the importance of understanding the implications of existing strategies on the assessment. Specifically, before initiating local consultation, there should be a review of existing national, regional and local plans and strategies, and an assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of existing planning policies and provision standards.

It is not the intention of this review to repeat the assessment that was undertaken in the 2010 OSNA, but to focus on more recent policy that is of relevance to the current assessment.

3.2 National Strategic Context

3.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The most fundamental change in policy since the previous OSNA assessment has been the NPPF, which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. The NPPF must be adhered to in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF contains the following references that relate to green infrastructure and open spaces:

-) **Para 17 - Achieving Sustainable Development - Core Planning Principles:** Within the overarching roles that the planning system ought to play, a set of core land-use planning principles should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking.
 -) **Para 58** - Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area.
Para 73 - Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.
 -) **Para 74** – Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
-

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
-) **Para 75** - Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
-) **Para 99** - Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape.
-) **Para 109** - The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment.

3.2.2 Green Infrastructure

The concept of green infrastructure (GI) is now firmly embedded in national policy with the NPPF requiring local planning authorities to set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. It defines green infrastructure as *'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities'*.

The county has a wide range of existing green infrastructure assets such as open spaces, parks and gardens, allotments, woodlands, street trees, fields, hedges, lakes, ponds, meadows and grassland playing fields, as well as footpaths, cycleways and waterways. However, the concept of GI looks beyond existing designations, seeking opportunities to increase function and connectivity of assets to maximise the benefits for the community.

3.2.3 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011)

The white paper⁵ recognised that a healthy natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It sets out how the value of nature can be mainstreamed across our society by facilitating local action; strengthening the connections between people and nature; creating a green economy and showing leadership in the EU and internationally.

⁵ <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

3.2.4 Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services

This biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and sets out the strategic direction for national biodiversity policy to implement international and EU commitments.

The ambition of this strategy is to 'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'.

The Strategy contains four outcomes to be achieved by the end of 2020. These are: Priority Habitats including Sights of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Marine, Species and People.

3.3 Local Context

3.3.1 Local Plan

The Council are in the process of producing a new Local Plan, of which this assessment forms part of the evidence base. Consultation was carried out on an Issues and Options document during summer 2016, which sets out the issues which the council believe will affect the future development of County Durham including jobs, housing, shopping and infrastructure and identified options for how they can be addressed. Further evidence and comments received will be considered to help the council determine its 'preferred option' for each issue.

Whilst the economy is seen as a high strategic priority of the council and its partners it also needs to be balanced with ensuring that social and environmental issues are fully considered and prioritised equally.

The existing development plan is made up of a number of documents (Local Plans) that were put in place for the former districts of County Durham before the local authority was unitised in 2009. Together, these existing Local Plans, set out information on how planning and development is currently managed. Saved policies in these Local Plans will continue to influence planning and development decisions until the County Durham Plan (the new Local Plan) replaces them.

3.3.2 Altogether Better – The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for County Durham, 2014-2030

The SCS sets out Durham’s communities' long-term vision for the future of County Durham. It also identifies the priorities that partners and communities believe are important.

It sets out five priority themes and associated high level objectives for working towards the vision of an Altogether Better Durham:

Altogether wealthier

) Thriving Durham City

-) Vibrant and successful towns
-) Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities
-) Competitive and successful people
-) A top location for business

Altogether better for children and young people

-) Children and young people realise and maximise their potential
-) Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
-) A think family approach is embedded in our support for families

Altogether healthier

-) Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
-) Reduce health inequalities and early deaths
-) Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions
-) Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population
-) Protect vulnerable people from harm
-) Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support they need

Altogether safer

-) Reduce anti-social behaviour
-) Protect vulnerable people from harm
-) Reduce re-offending
-) Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction
-) Embed the Think Family approach
-) Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism
-) Reduce road casualties

Altogether greener

-) Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment
-) Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment
-) Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change
-) Promote sustainable design and protect Durham's heritage

All of these five priority themes have some relevance to the Open Space Study, in particular altogether greener and altogether healthier.

3.3.3 County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 2016-2019

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is a legal requirement to ensure health and social care agencies work together and agree the services and initiatives that should be prioritised. County Durham's Health and Wellbeing Board has the responsibility to deliver the Joint Health

and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19. The refresh is informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham.

The vision for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to: ‘Improve the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham and reduce health inequalities’

A number of the strategic objectives are particularly relevant to this study:

Strategic Objective 1: Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life

Children in County Durham have worse than average levels of unhealthy weight for children aged 4-5 and 10-11 years:

-) In 2014/15, 23% of children aged 4-5 years are classified as overweight and obese compared to the England average of 21.9%
-) In 2014/15, 36.6% of children aged 10-11 years are classed as overweight and obese compared to the England average of 33.2%.

Strategic Objective 2: Reduce health inequalities and early deaths

The levels of excess weight are higher across County Durham (69% of adults) than the North East (68.6%) and significantly higher than England (64.6%).

Strategic Objective 4: Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population

Strategic Actions – How we will work together:

Increased physical activity and participation in sport and leisure

-) Provide a wide range of physical activity opportunities across County Durham to support more active lifestyles through the development of the ‘Altogether Active’ physical activity framework for County Durham.

4.0 LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Consultation Report (August 2017) examines local need for a wide range of different types of recreational open space. The work was undertaken from June to August 2017.

Questionnaire surveys were undertaken looking at the adequacy of current provision in terms of the quantity, quality and access, in relation to the various typologies of open space. The surveys were:

-) A survey of Town/Parish councils; and
-) Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) and the Durham City Neighbourhood Forum.

The results of this consultation, the local needs assessment from the 2010 OSNA⁶ and policy review has helped amongst other things to inform the local standards (section 6 of this Open Space Study). It has also helped the study to understand local people's appreciation of open space, sport and recreation facilities, and the wider green infrastructure and the values attached by the community to the various forms of open spaces and facilities. This appreciation will have clear implications for the way in which open space, sport and recreation facilities are considered as part of plan-making, as well as in dealing with planning applications.

The key findings from the Consultation Report (August 2017) are set out below. The full report is provided at appendix 1.

4.2 Key Findings

4.2.1 Parish Councils

Section 2 of the consultation report provided findings from the local town/parish councils' survey undertaken for the study. 42 of the 138 town and parish councils responded.

⁶ The 2010 OSNA included a detailed and robust local needs assessment based on three main approaches:

-) Primary research through questionnaire surveys;
-) A review of existing needs assessments based upon the former County's' completed PPG 17 studies, Open Space Strategies, Play Strategies and other relevant documents; and
-) A programme of stakeholder meetings with key agencies and organisations.

Since this previous assessment, very little has changed in respect of the provision of open space across the County, therefore, this evidence base is still considered pertinent and relevant to the current assessment. The local needs assessment can be referred to in the previous iteration of the OSNA, however, the relevant findings have been used in this assessment where appropriate.

General Overview

-) 35 of the 42 town/parish councils who responded were directly responsible for the management of various local spaces and outdoor recreational facilities.
-) 22 of the local councils who responded noted that there was a need for additional or improved open space, play, sport and recreation facilities within their town or parish. 9 said that none were needed and the remainder reported that they didn't know.
-) The sectors of the community most commonly identified as being poorly served in relation to their needs were children, young people/teenagers, older people and sports teams.

Common areas of concern

The needs and aspirations that individual towns/parishes identified were very varied. The more frequently highlighted typologies are:

-) Children's play areas – mainly improvements to existing sites but some call for new sites
-) Teenage facilities (e.g. skateparks) – mainly new provision needed but quality issues also.
-) Parks, rec. grounds, village greens etc – mainly for improvements to existing sites.
-) Footpath/bridleway/cycleways – includes needs for both new facilities (particularly cyclepaths) and also needs for better maintenance of existing paths.

Quality factors - open space provision

The quality factors most commonly deemed to be of a high priority as regards recreational public open spaces are that:

-) They should be safe and secure for those using them.
-) They should be easy to get to for all members of the community (and easy for all to get around).
-) They should be multi-functional providing for all sectors of the community.
-) Equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained - they should be clean and free from litter and graffiti.
-) There should be adequate opportunities for dog walking and free from dog fouling.
-) There should be control of noise and unsocial behaviour

Other factors specifically highlighted included:

-) Need to provide wildlife friendly locations for bees, insects, etc.
-) They should promote physical activity for all ages.
-) Provision of seats in general, a litter bin along-side to encourage good environmental management of the area.
-) Improved dog waste collection areas.
-) Small picnic benches / area(s) – these can also be provided in park areas too.
-) Areas for informal ball games.

-) Protection from development.

Parish specific issues - Detailed responses on open space typologies

The town/parish councils also provided detailed responses relating to aspects of quantity, quality and access of the various typologies of open spaces surveyed.

4.2.2 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) and Durham City Neighbourhood Forum

Section 3 of the consultation report provided findings from a survey of local AAPs and the Durham City Neighbourhood Forum undertaken for the study. Six of the fourteen AAPs responded as did the Durham City Neighbourhood Forum.

The AAPs are very varied in character and this is reflected in their individual responses. The responses are useful in that they provide an overview of issues on a wider level than individual parishes. Some common issues include:

-) An interest in provision for children and young people which is felt to be lacking by many. The importance of the recent county-wide play strategy is highlighted.
-) Recognition of the important role played by town and parish councils; as well as local community organisations – the need to work in partnership with such organisations.
-) The extent and value of natural green space provision and a widespread interest in and appreciation of the value of footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths etc.
-) An interest in improvements to allotment provision.
-) Concern with budgets to adequately maintain open space facilities.
-) The value of open space provision to the health and wellbeing agenda.

AAP/Forum specific issues - Detailed responses on open space typologies

The AAPs and the Durham City Forum also provided detailed responses relating to aspects of quantity, quality and access of the various typologies of open spaces surveyed.

5.0 AUDIT OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE ASSETS

5.1 General approach

This section sets out the proposed typologies which will have standards developed or have been included within the quantitative or access analysis. The typologies of open space have drawn on guidance provided within PPG17, and through discussions with the project Steering Group. The agreed list of typologies are seen to be locally derived and appropriate for the type and range of open spaces that exist within County Durham. The following typologies are proposed:

Table 3 County Durham typologies

Typologies with standards	Typologies mapped but no standards ⁷
) Allotments) Education sites
) Amenity Green Space (>0.20ha)) Churchyard and Cemetery
) Park and Recreation Grounds:) Outdoor Sport (Private)
- Outdoor sports space (Pitches)) Golf courses
- Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed)	
) Play Space (Children)	
) Play Space (Youth)	
) Natural Green Space	

5.1.1 Allotments



Allotments provide areas for people to grow their own produce and plants. It is important to be clear about what is meant by the term 'Allotment'. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 obliged local authorities to provide sufficient allotments and to let them to persons living in their areas where they considered there was a demand.

The Allotment Act of 1922 defines the term 'allotment garden' as:

⁷ An explanation for not developing standards for these typologies is outlined in the following sections

“an allotment not exceeding 40 poles in extent which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family”

(n.b. 40 Poles equals 1,210 square yards or 1,012 square metres. A Pole can also be known as a Rod or Perch.)

The Allotments Act of 1925 gives protection to land acquired specifically for use as allotments, so called Statutory Allotment Sites, by the requirement for the need for the approval of Secretary of State in event of sale or disposal. Some allotment sites may not specifically have been acquired for this purpose. Such allotment sites are known as “temporary” (even if they have been in use for decades) and are not protected by the 1925 legislation.

5.1.2 Amenity Green Space



The category is considered to include those spaces (minimum 0.20 ha in size) open to free and spontaneous use by the public, but neither laid out nor managed for a specific function such as a park, public playing field or recreation ground; nor managed as a natural or semi-natural habitat. These areas of open space will be of varied size, but are likely to share the following characteristics:

-)] Unlikely to be physically demarcated by walls or fences.
-)] Predominantly lain down to (mown) grass.
-)] Unlikely to have identifiable entrance points (unlike parks).
-)] They may have shrub and tree planting, and occasionally formal planted flower beds.
-)] They may occasionally have other recreational facilities and fixtures (such as play equipment or ball courts).

Examples might include both small and larger informal grassed areas in housing estates and general recreation spaces. They can serve a variety of functions dependent on their size, shape, location and topography. Some may be used for informal recreation activities, whilst others by themselves, or else collectively, contribute to the overall visual amenity of an area.

It should be noted that amenity green spaces smaller than 0.20 ha and amenity roadside verges were not included within the analysis for this typology, as it is considered that these

sites will have limited recreation function and therefore should not count towards open space provision (see section 5.1.9 below).

5.1.3 Park and Recreation Grounds



This typology brings together the function of Parks and Recreation Grounds and Outdoor Sports Space as identified in the former PPG17 typology. The distinction between the two typologies in the assessment area is blurred, with very few formal gardens and many parks and/or outdoor sports space having multi-functions used for both informal and formal recreation. Previous consultation undertaken indicated that people refer to their local park or rec, and communities do not make a distinction between outdoor sports space and parks and recreation grounds. Therefore, for the assessment an overarching typology for Park and Recreation Grounds has been used comprising three elements:

-)] **Park and Recreation Ground.** This comprises the general open space surrounding play areas, sports facilities etc. used for general recreation.
-)] **Outdoor Sports Space (Pitches).** This comprises publicly accessible sports pitches (including football and rugby).
-)] **Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed).** This comprises all other non-pitch based provision including publicly accessible tennis courts and bowling greens.

Parks and Recreation Grounds take on many forms, and may embrace a wide range of functions including:

-)] Play space of many kinds
-)] Provision for a range of formal pitch and fixed sports
-)] Provision of outdoor gyms and fitness trails
-)] Informal recreation and sport
-)] Providing attractive walks and cycle routes to work
-)] Offering landscape and amenity features
-)] Areas of formal planting
-)] Providing areas for 'events'
-)] Providing habitats for wildlife
-)] Dog walking

The multi-functional approach to mapping has provided detail to the range of functions that exist within parks and recreation grounds, with all outdoor sport and play facilities being mapped (see section 2.3.2). This has meant that more accurate assessment of these facilities can be undertaken.

The recommended standards for this typology (set out in Section 6 below) are intended to provide sufficient space. The Playing Pitch Strategy deals with some of the detail i.e. supply of pitches and how they will be laid out.

5.1.4 Play Space (Children and Youth)



It is important to establish the scope of the assessment in terms of this kind of space. Children and young people will play/'hang out' in almost all publicly accessible "space" ranging from the street, town centres and squares, parks, playing fields, "amenity" grassed areas etc. as well as the more recognisable play and youth facility areas such as equipped playgrounds, youth shelters, BMX and skateboard parks, Multi-use Games Areas etc. Clearly many of the other types of open space covered by this assessment will therefore provide informal play opportunities.

To a child, the whole world is a potential playground: where an adult sees a low wall, a railing, kerb or street bench, a child might see a mini adventure playground or a challenging skateboard obstacle. Play should not be restricted to designated 'reservations' and planning and urban design principles should reflect these considerations.

The assessment has recorded the following:

-) **Children's Play Space** – Areas of play that cater for the needs of children up to and around 12 years. Play Areas are an essential way of creating safe but adventurous places for children of varying ages to play and learn. The emphasis in play area management is shifting away from straightforward and formal equipment such as slides and swings towards creating areas where imagination and natural learning can flourish through the use of landscaping and natural building materials and the creation of areas that need exploring.

-) **Youth Play Space** - informal recreation opportunities for, broadly, the 13 to 16/17 age group, and which might include facilities like skateboard parks, basketball courts and 'free access' Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). In practice, there will always be some blurring around the edges in terms of younger children using equipment aimed for youths and vice versa.

Teenagers should not be ignored, it is important to create areas for 'hanging out' such as shelters and providing them with things to do such as bike ramps. Currently recognisable provision for teenagers is few and far between.

5.1.5 Natural Green Space



For the purpose of this assessment, natural and semi-natural green space covers a variety of partly or wholly accessible spaces including meadows, woodland and copses all of which share a trait of having natural characteristics and wildlife value, but which are also open to public use and enjoyment.

Research elsewhere (Natural England) has identified the value attached to such space for recreation and emotional well-being. A sense of 'closeness to nature' with its attendant benefits for people is something that is all too easily lost in urban areas. Natural Green spaces can make important contributions towards local Biodiversity Action Plan targets and can also raise awareness of biodiversity values and issues.

Some sites will have statutory rights or permissive codes allowing the public to wander in these sites. Others may have defined Rights of Way or permissive routes running through them. For the remainder of sites there may be some access on a managed basis.

Natural Green Spaces can form important 'green corridors' for both wildlife and people, especially when linked with the public rights of way network, cycle paths and rivers etc. These spaces form an important part of the Green Infrastructure of an area, and can be important in delivering ecosystem services and attracting visitors across administrative boundaries.

In County Durham there is a huge natural green space resource and understanding access to each and every site is a vast challenge beyond the scope of this assessment. The assessment has found that access to a site varies greatly, in some cases public access is secure and obvious, other sites are accessible via the rights of way network, whilst some sites appear

private but have obvious informal unarranged access, and in some cases access is completely unclear. To make sense of this, and considering there are over 600 sites that fall into these categories, the following system has been applied to classify a site as ‘accessible natural green space’, drawing on the base data provided by the council:

-) Local nature reserves are included;
-) Countryside Estates are included;
-) Woodland Trust Sites are included;
-) National Nature Reserves are included;
-) Local Wildlife Sites which have rights of way in them are included (those with no rights of way are mapped as having limited/no access);
-) Sites which were included in the original OSNA as natural green space have been assessed on an individual basis.

It is also recognised that some of these sites, although considered to have some form of access, may be sensitive in terms of their ecological value at a local, regional or international level. Whilst these sites may be included in the assessment, there may be sites which require special management or intervention, which may restrict access arrangements in the future, and this will be reflected in relevant policy recommendations (section 8 of this report).

5.1.6 Outdoor Sport (Private)

Outdoor sports space with limited public access (e.g. private sports grounds and golf courses), have also been recorded and mapped where known. Private sport space makes up an important part of outdoor sports provision across the County, and forms an important part of the community facilities. Golf courses have been identified separately, so that provision can be compared with other types of private sports.

The private sports spaces have been mapped separately to publicly accessible sites, to determine exact provision of the different types of provision. No quantity or access standard for provision have been set, as it is outside the scope of this assessment to make recommendations related to requirements for new provision.

5.1.7 Churchyards

The County has many churches and cemeteries and these provide significant aesthetic value and space for informal recreation such as walking and relaxing. Many are also important in terms of biodiversity, particularly closed churchyards. Their importance for informal recreation, aesthetic value and contribution towards biodiversity must be acknowledged, and as such, investment in their upkeep, maintenance and quality is an important factor. Churchyards and Cemeteries have been identified and mapped where known, however, no quantity or access standard for provision have been set, as it is outside the scope of this assessment to make recommendations related to requirements for new provision.

However, the quality of churchyards can be influenced by this assessment, particularly closed churchyards which have become the responsibility of the Local Authority. This reflects the priorities established through consultation, which identifies the need to provide and improve

open spaces. Churchyards can provide important open space, particularly closed churchyards, where the ownership is often transferred to the local authority to manage and maintain.

5.1.8 Education

Many schools and colleges have open space and sports facilities within their grounds. This may range from a small playground to large playing fields with several sports pitches. More often than not, public access to these spaces is restricted and in many cases forbidden. Nevertheless, many of the sports facilities are used by local people on both an informal and formal basis.

Sports clubs may have local informal arrangements with a school to use their pitches, and in some cases more formal ‘dual-use’ agreements may be in place. School grounds can also contribute towards the green infrastructure and biodiversity of an area.

Quantity and access standards have not been proposed for education sites. This is because they are not openly accessible to the public and whilst important to the local community, there is less opportunity for the Council to influence their provision and management. However, their existence is still an important factor of local provision, and as such they will be subject to the same policy considerations as publicly accessible space.

5.2 Existing provision of open space

5.2.1 Provision across the County

The following table shows the average existing provision of open space in hectares and ha/1000 population across the County. The figures for ‘Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)’ include a combination of the following typologies:

-) Park and Recreation Ground;
-) Outdoor Sport (Pitches);
-) Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

Table 4 Summary of existing provision of open space across the county

Typology	Existing Provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Allotments	441.25	0.86
Amenity Green Space	777.57	1.52
Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)	697.14	1.36
<i>Park and Recreation Ground</i>	<i>562.31</i>	<i>1.10</i>
<i>Outdoor Sport (Pitches)</i>	<i>120.38</i>	<i>0.23</i>
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	<i>14.45</i>	<i>0.03</i>
Outdoor Sport (Private)	127.47	0.25
Play Space (Children)	23.49	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	9.37	0.02
Accessible Natural Green Space	11706.04	22.81
Education	751.36	1.46
Churchyards and Cemeteries	263.31	0.51

5.2.2 Provision by Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs)

5.2.2.1 Quantity Statistics

The following tables shows the average existing provision of open space in hectares (table 5) and ha/1000 population (table 6) for each of the LPMAs in the County.

Table 5: Existing provision of open space (hectares) in LPMAs

LPMA	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Education	Churchyards and Cemeteries
Central Durham	44.86	77.64	80.4	64.72	13.7	1.98	8.29	3.98	2.01	750.1	97.09	29.22
Durham City	6.16	29.96	27.44	24.11	2.81	0.52	11.12	2.09	0.81	356.11	242.79	17.53
East Durham	108.14	277.74	123.69	89.43	30.1	4.16	12.62	4.86	1.46	1111.39	53.54	43.97
Mid Durham	93.23	66.79	75.39	62.86	10.85	1.68	13.32	2.6	1.26	522.93	67.74	38.03
North Durham	28.49	71.59	65.18	53.02	10.99	1.17	9.75	1.67	0.58	678.62	51.41	18.81
North West Durham	79.09	97.79	81.44	60.02	19.7	1.72	47.7	1.14	1.05	1203.88	85.45	39.28
South Durham	53.85	113.65	107.67	86.61	19.99	1.07	10.86	3.32	1.33	180.29	79.65	35.01
South East Durham	9.28	21.1	112.22	107.25	3.19	1.78	0	0.96	0.17	151.71	17.61	9.75
West Durham	18.15	21.31	23.71	14.29	9.05	0.37	13.81	2.87	0.7	6751.01	56.08	31.71

Table 6: Existing provision of open space (ha/1000 population) in LPMAs

LPMA	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Education	Churchyards and Cemeteries
Central Durham	0.75	1.3	1.35	1.09	0.23	0.03	0.14	0.07	0.03	12.56	1.63	0.49
Durham City	0.13	0.64	0.58	0.51	0.06	0.01	0.24	0.04	0.02	7.57	5.16	0.37
East Durham	1.14	2.92	1.3	0.94	0.32	0.04	0.13	0.05	0.02	11.68	0.56	0.46
Mid Durham	1.5	1.08	1.21	1.01	0.17	0.03	0.21	0.04	0.02	8.42	1.09	0.61
North Durham	0.53	1.32	1.2	0.98	0.2	0.02	0.18	0.03	0.01	12.54	0.95	0.35
North West Durham	1	1.23	1.03	0.76	0.25	0.02	0.6	0.01	0.01	15.16	1.08	0.49
South Durham	0.79	1.66	1.57	1.26	0.29	0.02	0.16	0.05	0.02	2.63	1.16	0.51
South East Durham	0.65	1.48	7.88	7.54	0.22	0.12	0	0.07	0.01	10.65	1.24	0.68
West Durham	0.55	0.64	0.72	0.44	0.27	0.01	0.42	0.09	0.02	203.94	1.69	0.96

5.2.2.2 *Maps showing provision by LPMA*

Maps for each of the LPMAs are shown below. Each map shows the provision of open space included within the assessment. The maps included within this report are intended to be indicative and a GIS geodatabase has been provided to the Council to be analysed/viewed in more detail.

Figure 6

Open space in Central Durham

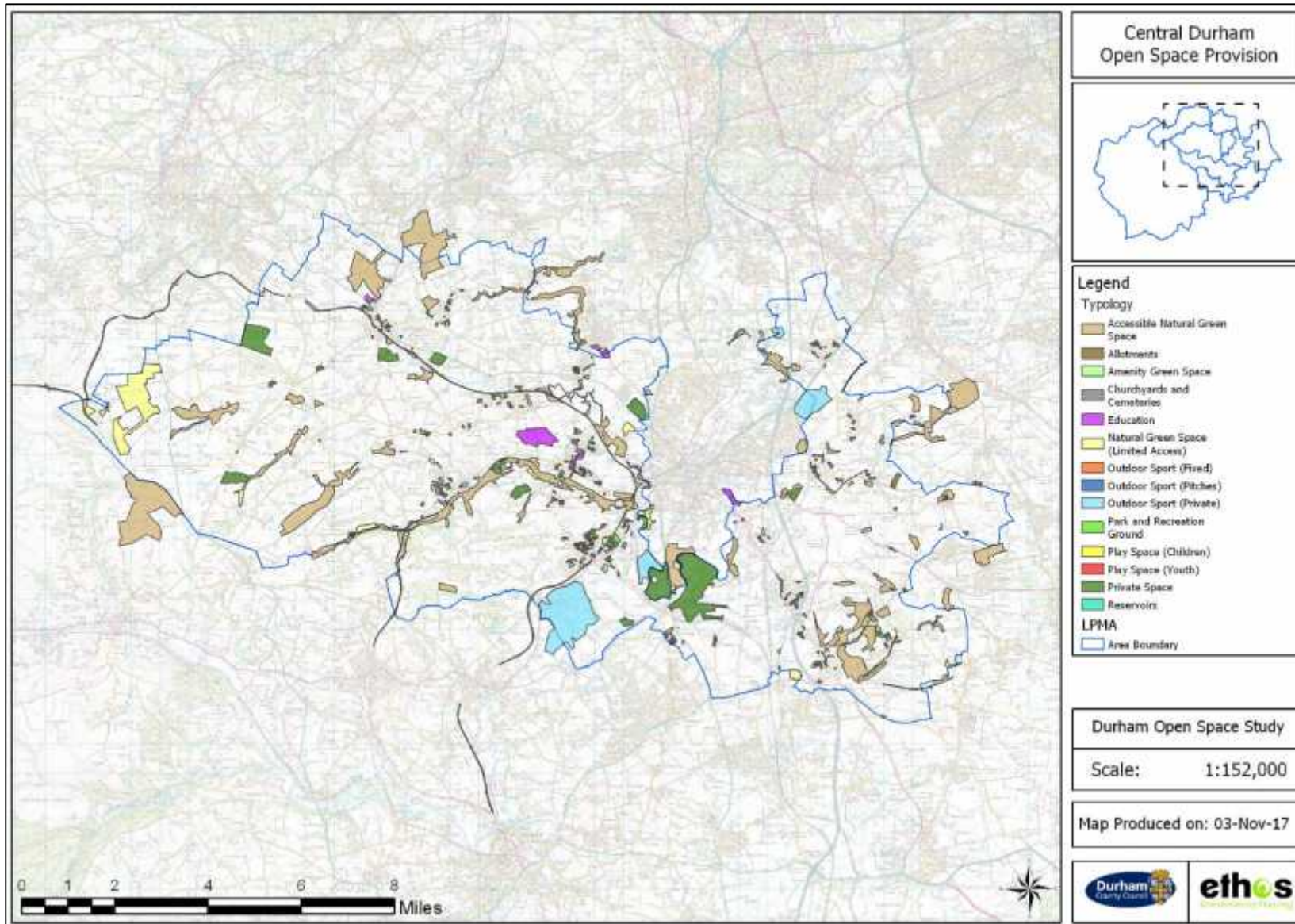


Figure 7 Open space in Durham City

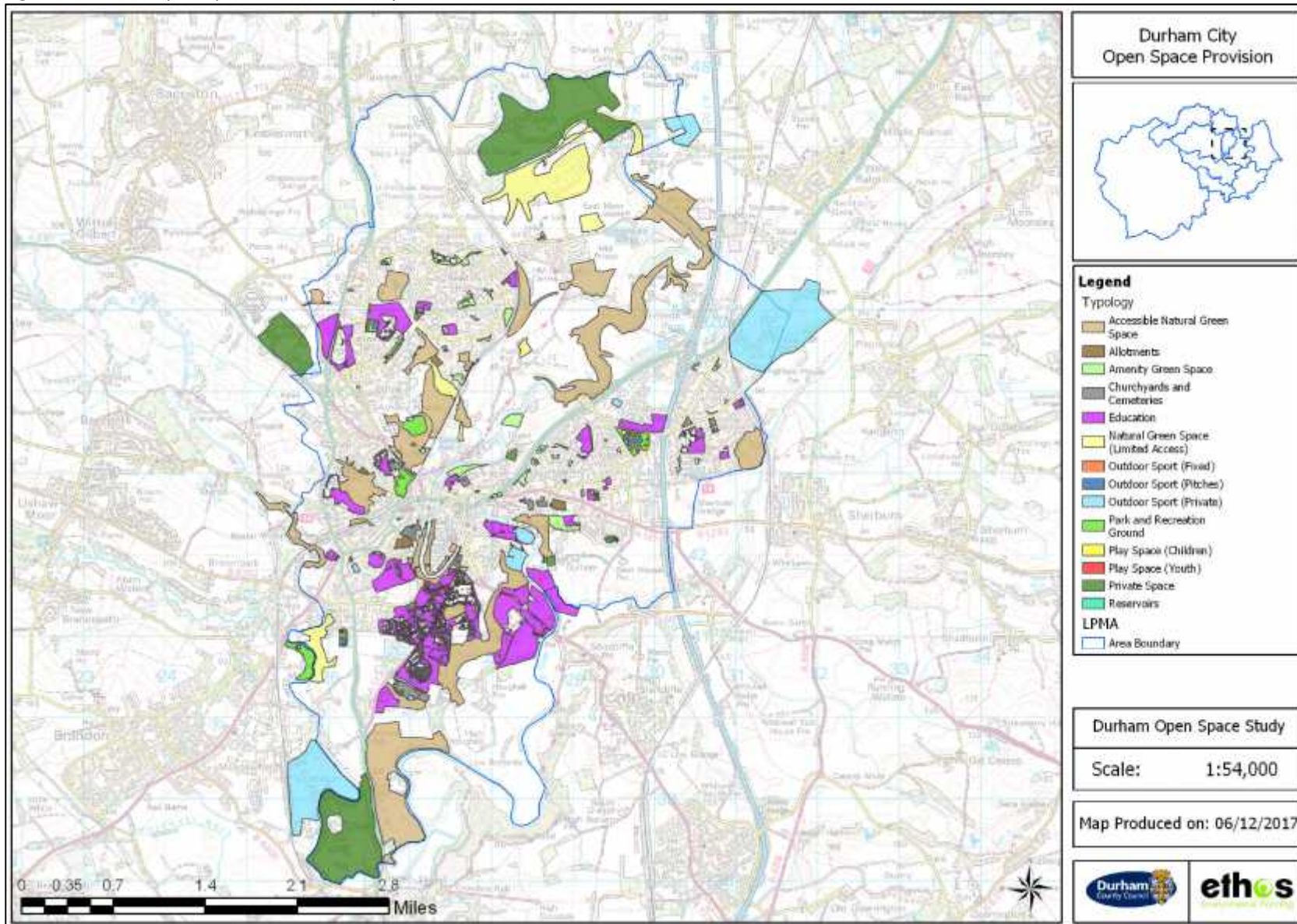


Figure 8 Open space in East Durham

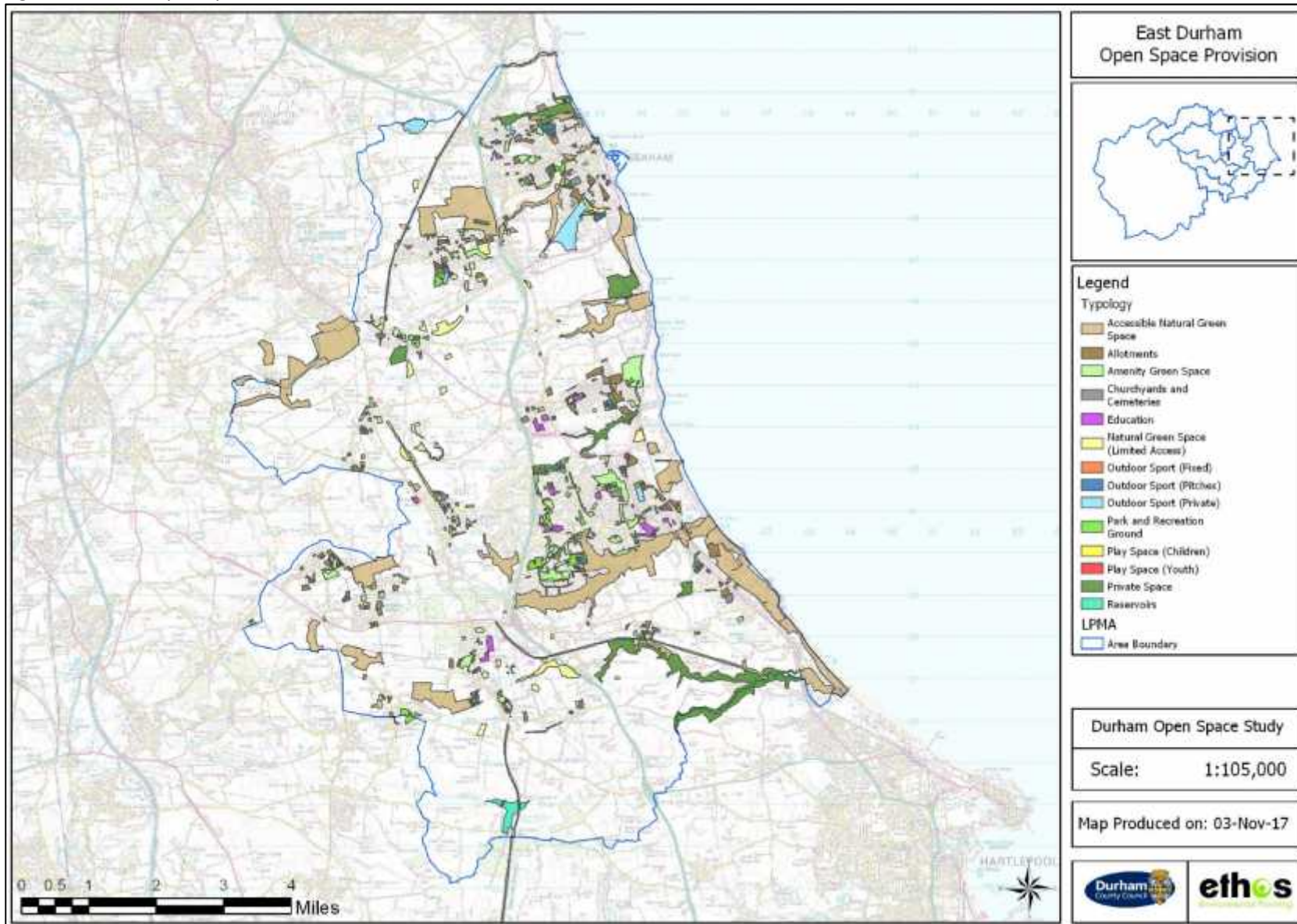


Figure 9 Open space in Mid Durham

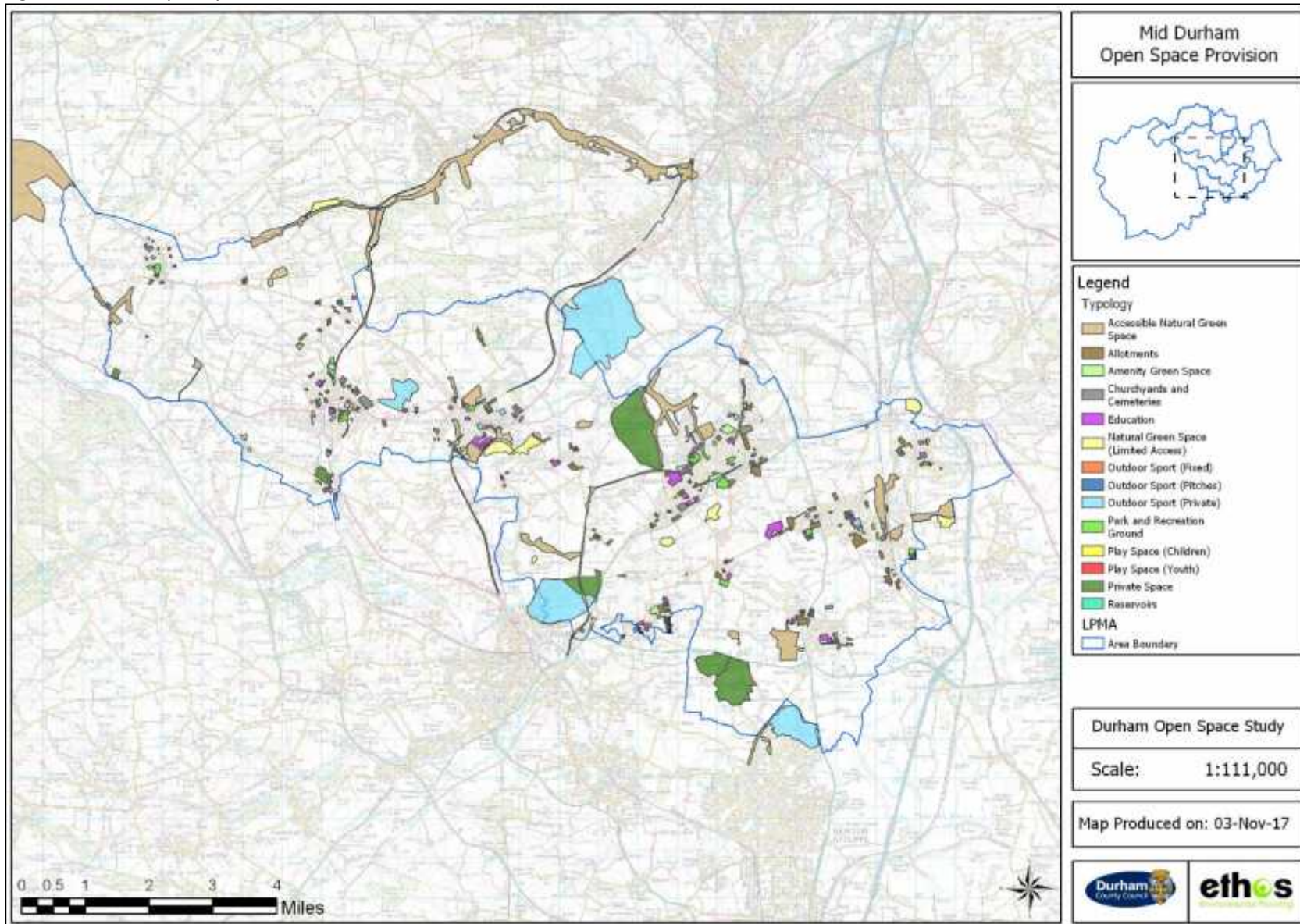


Figure 10 Open space in North Durham

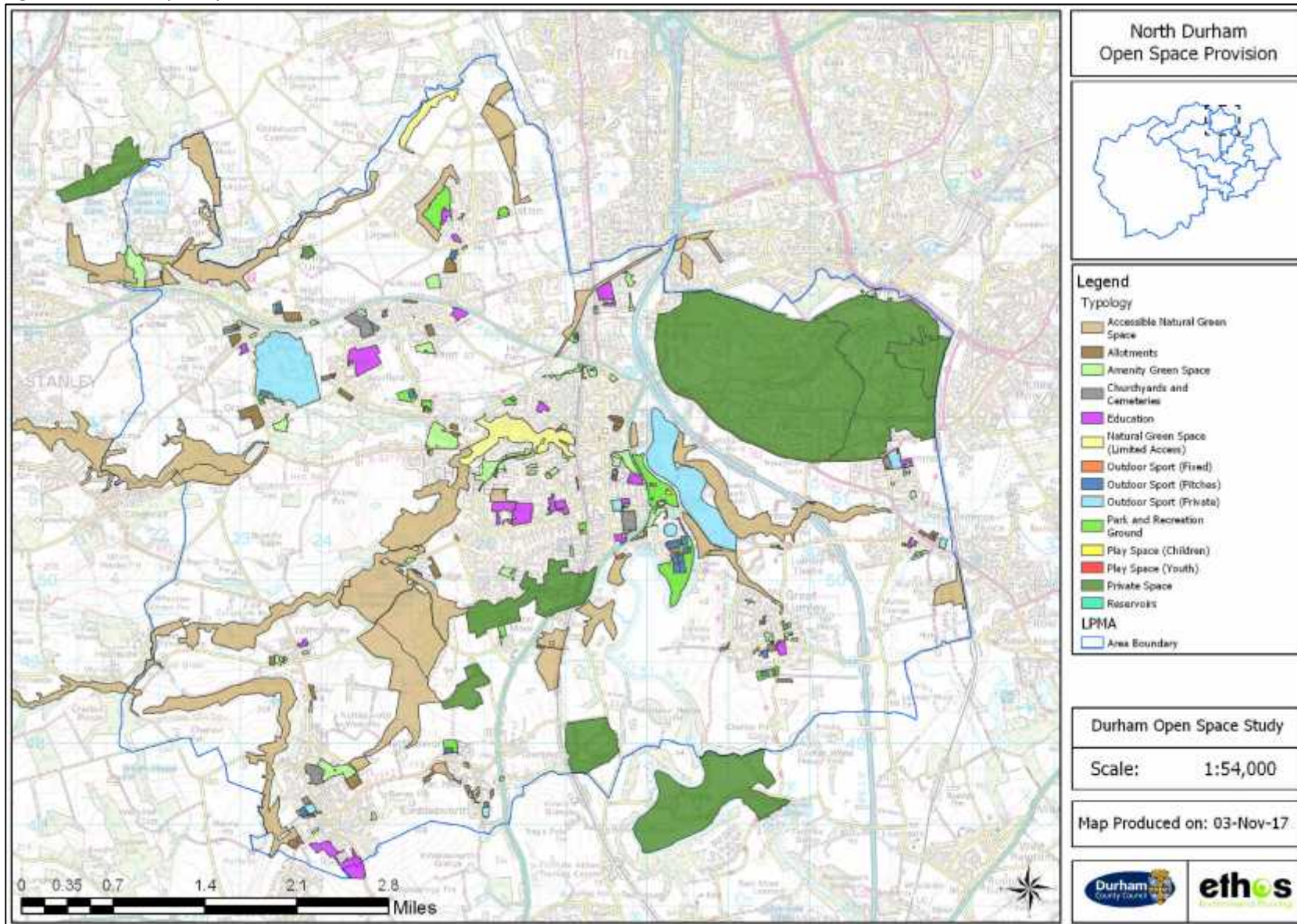


Figure 11 Open space in North West Durham

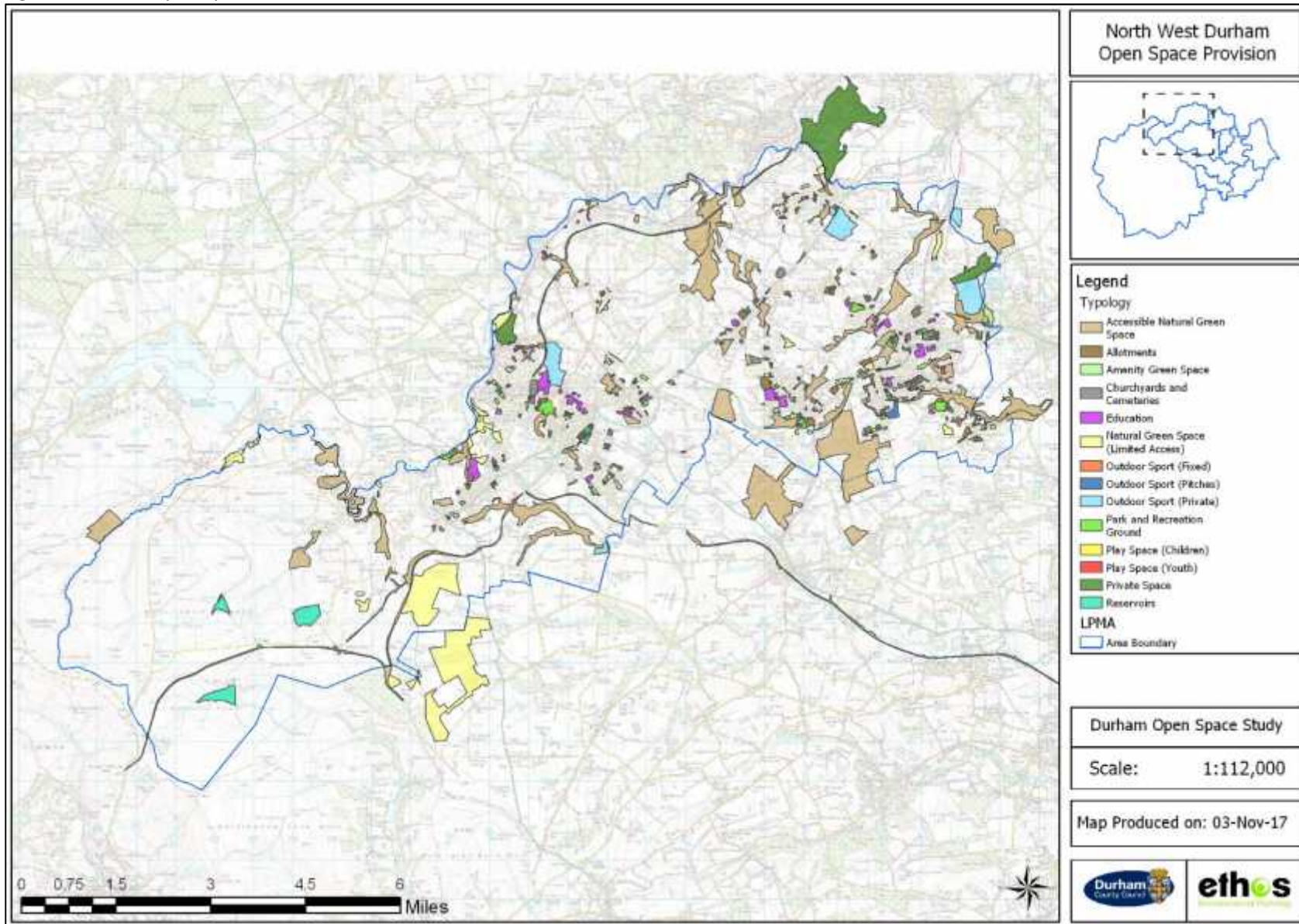


Figure 12 Open space in South Durham

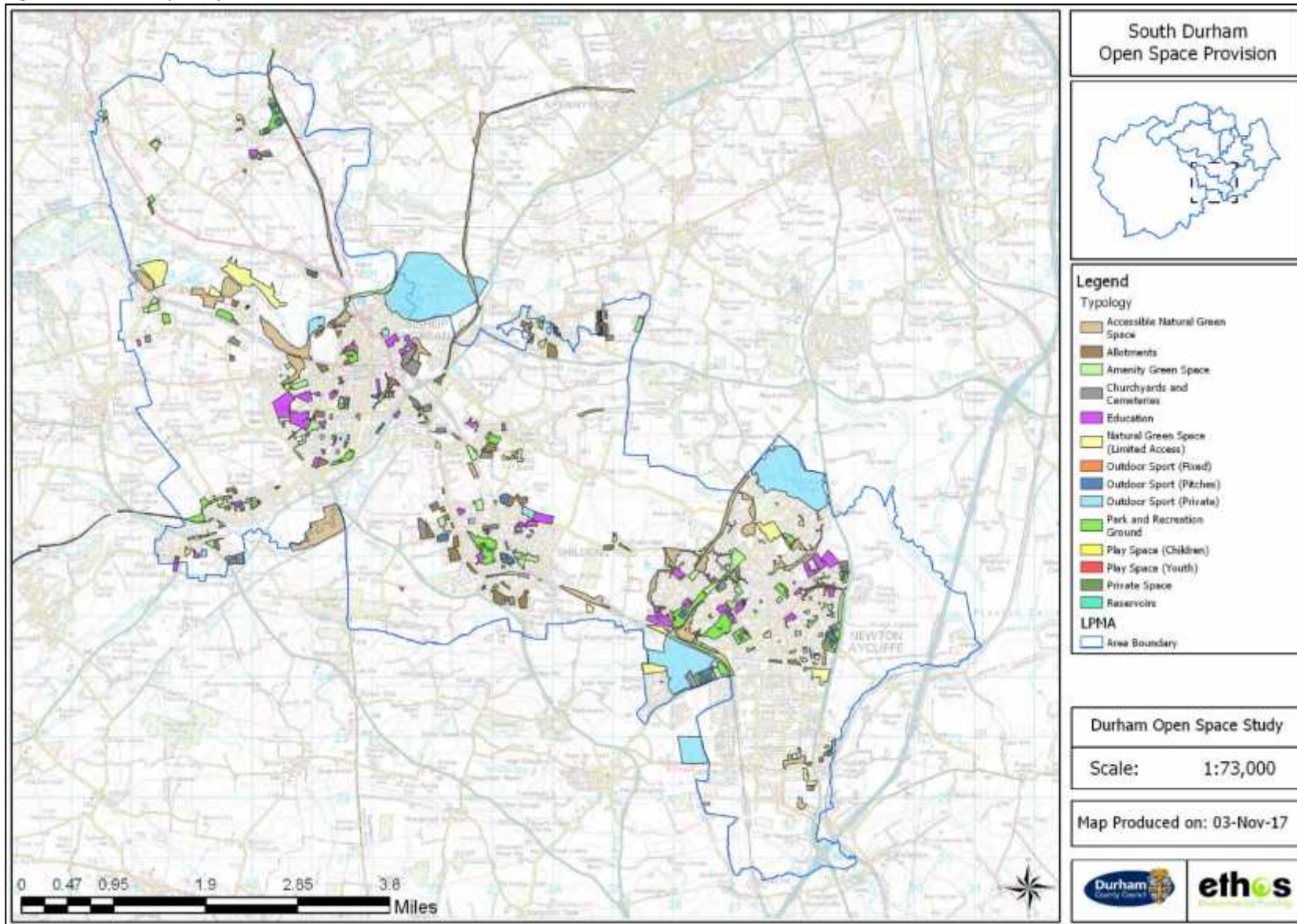


Figure 13 Open space in South East Durham

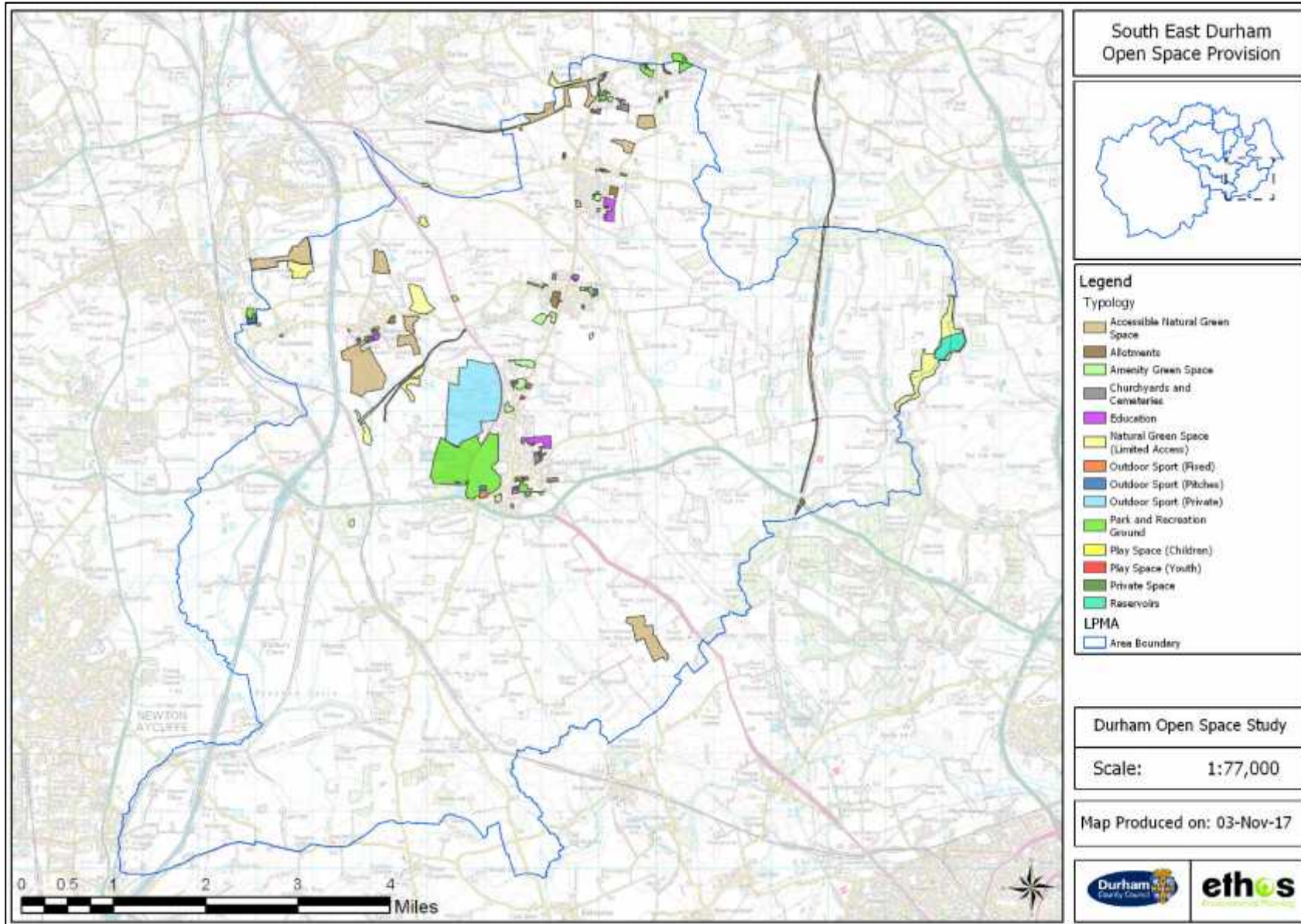
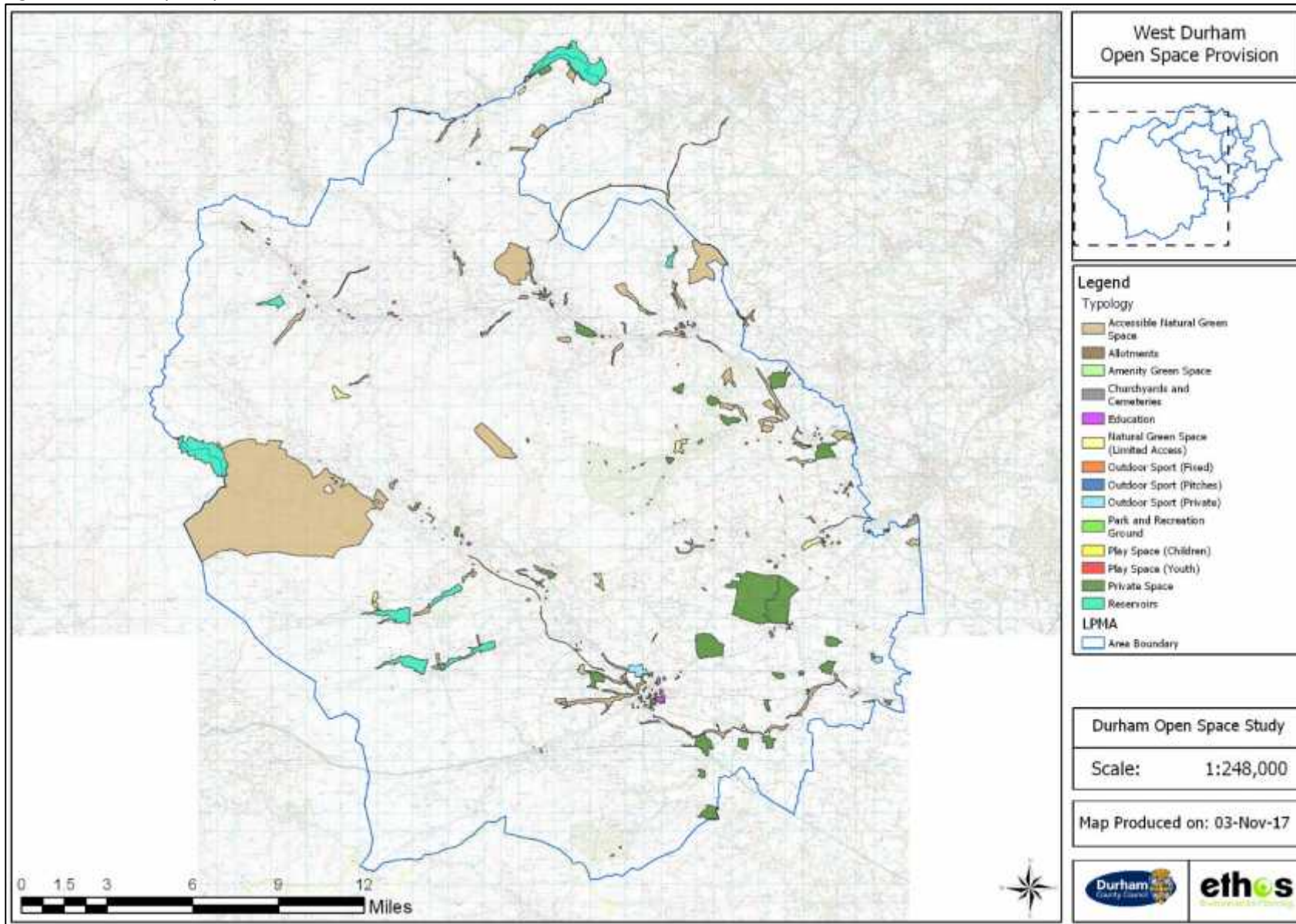


Figure 14 Open space in West Durham



6.0 THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

6.1 Introduction

Following the completion of the assessment of local needs and the audit of provision (the first two steps of this assessment), new standards of provision for open space are proposed below. This section explains how the standards for County Durham have been developed, and provides specific information and justification for each of the typologies where standards have been proposed.

The standards for open space have been developed in-line with the NPPF. Standards comprise the following components:

-) **Quantity standards:** These are determined by the analysis of existing quantity, consideration of existing local and national standards and benchmarks and evidence gathered from the local needs assessment. It is important that quantity standards are locally derived and are realistic and achievable. The recommended standards need to be robust, evidence based and deliverable through new development and future mechanisms of contributions through on site provision and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
-) **Accessibility standards:** These reflect the needs of all potential users including those with physical or sensory disabilities, young and older people alike. Spaces likely to be used on a frequent and regular basis need to be within easy walking distance and to have safe access. Other facilities where visits are longer but perhaps less frequent, for example country parks, can be further away. Consideration is also given to existing local or national standards and benchmarks.
-) **Quality standards:** The standards for each form of provision are derived from the quality audit, existing good practice and from the views of the community and those that use the spaces. Again, quality standards should be achievable and reflect the priorities that emerge through consultation.

The standards that have been proposed are for **minimum guidance levels of provision**. So, just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used.

6.2 Allotments

Table 7 Summary of quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.9 ha/1000 population	480m (10 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing national or local standards

National standards for allotments and other such open spaces are difficult to find. The closest thing to such standards appears to be those set out by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). These are as follows:

-) Standard Plot Size = 330 sq yards (250sqm)
-) Paths = 1.4m wide for disabled access
-) Haulage ways = 3m wide
-) Plotters shed = 12sqm
-) Greenhouse = 15sqm
-) Polytunnel = 30sqm

The previous PPG17 assessment recommended a quantity standard of 1.0 ha/1000 and 480 metres (10 minutes' straight line walk time) for allotments.

Quantity standard for allotments

Quantity:

The existing average level of provision of allotments across the County is 0.86 ha/1000 people. Much of this provision is managed by Town and Parish Councils and other associations. In County Durham, the provision of allotments and small holdings is an important part of local culture and the demand for allotments in more urbanised areas (e.g. Durham City) is reflected in waiting lists in these areas.

Consultation with town/parish councils (Consultation Report, August 2017) did not identify a strong need for increasing the provision of allotments, with only 5 out of the 35 parishes that responded identifying a need for improvement/lack of provision.

Therefore, it is considered that a quantitative standard that is in line with the existing County average is appropriate to assess current provision and to deliver new provision through development.

A minimum level of provision of **0.9 ha per 1000 people** is proposed, both as a basis for a contribution from new housing, but also a minimum target for provision across the County.

Access standard for allotments

The previous OSNA proposed a distance of **480 metres** (straight line) or around **10 minutes' walk time** for allotments. This reflected local need to have this facility relatively close to home. The current assessment provides no justification for changing this standard, as such this will be adopted as the standard. However, given the need to transport equipment to and from sites it is accepted that users may often need to drive.

Quality standards for allotments

The information gathered in relation to allotments is more difficult to assess in comparison to other types of open space. The reason for this is twofold, firstly, the number of people who actually use allotments is very low compared to the numbers who use other types of open space, and therefore, specific comments related to the quality of allotments are less frequent. Secondly, the majority of allotments sites are locked, and the quality audit only allows for assessment against key criteria such as the level of cultivation and general maintenance, which is less comprehensive than the assessments of other open space.

The audits found a huge variation in the size, type and quality of allotments across the County, from almost abandoned sites to high quality, well used allotments and gardens. The facilities also have various ownership and management arrangements, and as such the ability to influence the quality of allotments is more difficult than other publicly managed open spaces. Therefore, it is reasonable to aspire to deliver an ‘average’ standard of quality across this typology. Where new provision is proposed – the aim should be to deliver good quality.

Proposed quality standard for Allotments: Average for existing sites, good for new sites.

For allotments, a number of general recommendations are made in relation to quality, which should include the following:

-) Well-drained soil which is capable of cultivation to a reasonable standard.
-) A sunny, open aspect preferably on a southern facing slope.
-) Limited overhang from trees and buildings either bounding or within the site.
-) Adequate lockable storage facilities, and a good water supply within easy walking distance of individual plots.
-) Provision for composting facilities.
-) Secure boundary fencing.
-) Good access within the site both for pedestrians and vehicles.
-) Good vehicular access into the site and adequate parking and manoeuvring space.
-) Disabled access.
-) Toilets.
-) Notice boards.

6.3 Amenity Green Space

Table 8 Summary of quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.5 ha/1000 population for sites > 0.20ha	480 metres or 10 minutes’ walk time

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (Previously known as the National Play Fields Association) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report ‘Beyond the Six Acre Standard’ proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.6ha/1000 population of amenity green space, and a walking distance guideline of 480m. FIT recommend that the quantity guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.

The previous PPG17 assessment recommended a quantity standard of 1.0 ha/1000 and 480 metres (10 minutes’ straight line walk time) for allotments.

Quantity standard for Amenity green space

-) Existing average level of provision across the County is 1.52 ha/1000 population (for sites greater than 0.20 ha in size);

- J Provision varies greatly with some areas having no provision or falling well below the average, and others far exceeding it;
- J Consultation with town/parish councils and AAPs (Consultation Report, August 2017) did not identify a need to increase levels of provision;
- J The audit identified a proliferation of amenity green spaces, typical of “space left over after planning” which lacked recreational value and in some cases poor visual value;
- J Considering the above factors, a minimum standard of 1.5 ha/1000 is recommended for analysing existing provision and for new provision;
- J The minimum size of a space that will be considered acceptable and count towards open space provision is recommended to be 0.20 ha in size (about the size of a mini football pitch). This will avoid a proliferation of small amenity spaces which have no real recreation function. Any spaces below this size will be acceptable in terms of their visual amenity, but would not count towards the required level of provision.
- J It is recommended that this provision is considered in tandem with provision of natural green space in new development, and the natural green space standard reflects this (section 6.6).

Access standard for amenity green space

- J The previous OSNA proposed a standard of 480 metres (10 minutes’ walk time), in response to local people’s desire to have this type of open space within easy reach of home;
- J Furthermore, open space in very close proximity to home may become increasingly important to residents of new high density urban development who may themselves lack access to their own gardens, and would welcome space both for visual relief and to provide opportunities for children to meet and play close to home. This space might also be combined with provision for other types of space and offers scope to be used very flexibly;
- J A distance of **480 metres (straight line)**, or about **10 minutes walking time** is therefore proposed for informal open space, supporting the evidence that such spaces should be within easy reach of home for informal play and recreation opportunities

Quality standards for amenity green space

The quality audits of informal/amenity open space identified that in general the quality was poor to average. The majority of sites consist of amenity grass. There are some good examples of sites where additional planting and landscape features have added to the quality, however, these are in the minority. With such a large amount of amenity open space across the county, it is not reasonable to be able to deliver good quality across the board, therefore a minimum standard of average quality is proposed. This does not mean new amenity space should be average quality – a good level of quality would be required.

It is therefore recommended that in addition to the minimum size threshold identified above (0.20ha), that all amenity green space should be subject to landscape design, ensuring the following quality principles:

-)] Capable of supporting informal recreation such as a kickabout, space for dog walking or space to sit and relax;
-)] Include high quality planting of trees and/or shrubs to create landscape structure and biodiversity value;
-)] Include paths along main desire lines (lit where appropriate);
-)] Be designed to ensure easy maintenance.

Proposed quality standard for Amenity Open Space: Average for existing space, good for new sites.

6.4 Park and Recreation Grounds

Table 9 Summary of quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.4 ha/1000 population for public provision	600 metres (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing national and local policies

The Fields in Trust (FIT) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.80ha/1000 population for parks and gardens, with a walking distance guideline of 710m. In addition to this they also recommend the following standards:

-)] Playing pitches: 1.20ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
-)] All outdoor sports: 1.6ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
-)] Equipped/designated play areas: 0.25ha/1000 population, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
-)] Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks): 0.30ha/1000 population and a walking distance of 700m.

The previous PPG17 assessment proposed separate standards for 'parks and gardens' and 'outdoor sports space', however, these typologies are now combined as 'park and recreation grounds'. The previous standard for outdoor sports space and parks and gardens was 1.0 ha/1000 and 480 metres (10 minutes' straight line walk time) for each typology.

Quantity of park and recreation grounds

-)] Existing average level of provision in the assessment area is 1.36 ha/1000 population.
-)] Consultation with town/parish councils and AAPs (Consultation Report, August 2017) identified that the priority is for improvements to existing sites rather than new provision;
-)] As there is no justification for greatly increasing or reducing existing levels of provision, it is proposed that a standard of 1.4 ha is proposed for publicly accessible facilities;
-)] It should be reiterated that this standard is intended to provide sufficient space for general recreation. The Playing Pitch Strategy deals with the detail i.e. supply of pitches, spatial requirements and quality improvements.

Access standard for park and recreation grounds

-) The previous OSNA identified that people were willing to travel marginally further to their local rec (compared to other types of open space), and may often travel by cars, particularly when playing formal sports;
-) To reflect this, a standard of **600 metres (12-13 minutes' walk time)** is proposed;
-) It would also be reasonable to adopt a wider drivetime catchment for larger facilities, particularly where formal sport is concerned of 15 minutes.

Quality standards for park and recreation grounds

-) The information from the quality assessments identified that considerable investment has taken place in many of these open spaces. There was evidence of significant capital investment through partnership projects with various agencies including Local Councils, The Groundwork Trust and Sporting Bodies.
-) However, the quality audits identified that there is considerable variation in the standards of provision across the County with some sites having good, well maintained facilities whilst others are in need of significant improvement. The County has a wide range of types of parks and recreation grounds ranging from a small formal garden, a site with a single football pitch with no facilities, to large sites with several pitches, changing rooms etc.
-) Consultation with town/parish councils and AAPs (Consultation Report, August 2017) also identified that improvements are needed (or investment is taking place) to existing parks and recreation grounds.
-) It is recommended that the priority for investment should be at larger 'multi-use' sites, and at those sites there should be an aspiration to achieve a 'good' standard of quality. It needs to be accepted that this will not be deliverable at all sites (particularly smaller ones), however, the aim should still be to deliver good quality.

6.5 Play Space (children and youth)

Table 10 Summary of quantity and access standards

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Children's Play Space	0.05 ha/1000 population	600m (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)
Youth Play Space	0.04 ha/1000 population	720m (15 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing National and Local Policies

The FIT guidance 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' recommends provision of 0.25ha/1000 population of equipped/designated play areas, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). The guidance does not specifically cover the needs of most teenagers.

The previous FIT guidance (The Six Acre Standard) recommended provision of 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children's play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision. These standards had been criticised because they are often seen as undeliverable,

and can result in a proliferation of play areas that can be difficult to maintain, as well as setting unrealistic aspirations in urban areas where insufficient land is available to provide facilities, especially higher density development on brownfield sites. The level recommended within the new guidance (0.25 ha/1000 population), although lower than previously, is still considered to be high.

The previous PPG17 assessment recommended a quantity standard of 0.2 ha/1000 to cover both children and youth provision, but separated out the access standard to 450m (just under 10 minutes straightline walk time) for junior provision and 800 m (15 minutes straightline walk time) for youth provision.

Quantity standards for play

-) Current average levels of provision of children’s play space is 0.05 ha/1000 population, for youth space this is 0.02 ha/1000 population;
-) Consultation with town/parish councils and AAPs (Consultation Report, August 2017) identified a strong need for new youth provision. For children’s play space, it was identified that the need is mainly for improvements to existing spaces.
-) It is important that for this typology, that realistic standards are set which are deliverable locally. Considering the current average levels of provision, there is no real justification for significantly increasing levels of provision for children, however, the need for additional or better quality youth facilities is recognised;
-) It is therefore recommended that existing levels of children’s play facilities are maintained with a standard of 0.05 ha/1000 population (as anything above this may not be deliverable) and facilities for young people are increased with a standard of 0.04 ha/1000 population.
-) It should be reiterated that these are minimum standards for equipped provision and do not include the need for surrounding playable space as recommended by Play England⁸ i.e. this surrounding playable space will need to be provided in addition to the quantity standard.

Access standards for play

Research from Play England and information from the previous OSNA indicate that people want play areas for younger children relatively close to home, whilst teenagers are prepared to travel further, particularly for high quality facilities (e.g. major skate parks). Therefore, the following access standards are proposed for play:

-) Children’s provision – 600m (12-13 minutes’ straight line walk time),
-) Youth Provision – 720m (15 minutes’ straight line walk time).

Quality standards for play

The quality audits identified many play areas which were of poor quality, and in some areas a proliferation of small, poor quality and low play value facilities. Some of this is a result of previous policy (largely drawing on old NPFA standards) requiring the provision of LAP’s, LEAPs and NEAPs within new development. The thinking behind play provision has changed

⁸ Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces

in recent years, and Play England are keen to see a range of play spaces in all urban environments comprising:

- A** Door-step spaces close to home
- B** Local play spaces – larger areas within easy walking distance
- C** Neighbourhood spaces for play – larger spaces within walking distance
- D** Destination/family sites – accessible by bicycle, public transport and with car parking.

Moving forward, Play England would like their new Design Guide; '*Design for Play*' to be referenced and added as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in standard configuration. Play England have also developed a '*Quality Assessment Tool*' which can be used to judge the quality of individual play spaces. It has been recommended that the Council consider adopting this as a means of assessing the quality of play spaces in the County. Play England also highlight a potential need for standards for smaller settlements and rural areas where the doorstep, local, neighbourhood, and destination hierarchy is unlikely to be appropriate.

Disability access is also an important issue for Play England and they would like local authorities to adopt the KIDS⁹ publication; '*Inclusion by Design*' as an SPD. Their most recent guidance document, '*Better Places to Play through Planning*' gives detailed guidance on setting local standards for access, quantity and quality of playable space and is considered as a background context for the standards suggested in this assessment.

In July 2015, the council committed to a Play space refurbishment scheme¹⁰, a two year, £1.75 million investment programme to provide youngsters with high quality, safe and accessible play equipment/areas and/or skateparks. Work for the 45 schemes, has been developed in line with the Fixed Play Strategy and will be carried out in four phases.

6.6 Natural Green Space

6.6.1 Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt)

For Natural Green Space, there are a number of national standards recommended by Natural England, known as ANGSt which are summarised below.

-) at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home;
-) one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
-) one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
-) a minimum of 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home.

⁹ KIDS, is a charity which in its 40 years, has pioneered a number of approaches and programmes for disabled children and young people. KIDS was established in 1970 and in 2003, KIDS merged with KIDSACTIVE, previously known as the Handicapped Adventure Play Association.

¹⁰ <http://www.durham.gov.uk/playspacerefurb>

6.6.2 Local standards

The previous PPG17 assessment recommended a quantity standard of 1.0 ha/1000 and 960 metres (20 minutes' straight line walk time) for semi natural and natural greenspace. However, the recent review of provision suggests that a different approach would be more appropriate considering the vast resource of natural green space present within the County. Therefore, it is proposed that the ANGSt (as detailed above) are used to analyse existing provision, whilst provision from new development is considered alongside the provision of amenity green space.

The ANGSt are a useful tool to establish where accessible natural green space is located within the county, and which areas may be falling below these standards. This paves the way for improving access to natural green space or providing new natural green space and GI through new development. This approach moves away from a quantitative assessment of current provision, which can often be meaningless when there are many large sites and great variations in provision across an area. Therefore, it is proposed that the ANGSt are used for analysing exiting provision.

However, it is important that quantitative standards are provided for new development, particularly in light of national and local policies in relation to green infrastructure. It is also considered that new provision should be considered in tandem with the requirements for amenity space. The aim is to move away from providing numerous small amenity grass areas, and separate natural spaces, to providing fewer, larger amenity/natural spaces in new developments. These spaces should have a recreational function, and be designed with biodiversity in mind. This will provide opportunities for creating more botanically diverse grasslands, native tree and hedgerow planting, creating swales and ponds and providing features such as bird and bat boxes.

Table 11 Summary of natural provision standards

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)		Access standard
	For assessing current provision	Requirement from new development	
Natural Green Space	ANGSt	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space	ANGSt

6.6.4 Quality of natural and semi-natural green space

Satisfaction levels with the quality of natural green space (country parks, countryside and woodlands) are generally good, with 13% of people stating quality is very good, and 50% stating good. Consultation results also highlight the value attached to certain attributes of open space, in particular:

-) Good maintenance and cleanliness
-) Ease of access
-) Lack of antisocial behaviour, noise etc.

This suggests that the provision of new or improved open space cannot be considered in isolation from the means of maintaining such space, perceptions of antisocial behaviour, and ease of access from within the surrounding environment.

The shape and size of space provided should allow for meaningful and safe recreation. Provision might be expected to include (as appropriate) elements of woodland, wetland, heathland and meadow, and could also be made for informal public access through recreation corridors. For larger areas, where car borne visits might be anticipated, some parking provision will be required. The larger the area the more valuable sites will tend to be in terms of their potential for enhancing local conservation interest and biodiversity. Wherever possible these sites should be linked to help improve wildlife value as part of a network.

In areas where it may be impossible or inappropriate to provide additional natural green space consistent with the standard, other approaches should be pursued which could include (for example):

-) Changing the management of marginal space on playing fields and parks to enhance biodiversity.
-) Encouraging living green roofs as part of new development/ redevelopment.
-) Encouraging the creation of mixed species hedgerows.
-) Additional use of long grass management regimes.
-) Improvements to watercourses and water bodies.
-) Innovative use of new drainage schemes / Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
-) Use of native trees and plants with biodiversity value in high quality soft landscaping of new developments.

6.6.5 Alternative Natural Greenspace (ANG)

The above assessment does not consider any proposals for alternative natural green space (ANG) which may be required to mitigate for recreational pressure on the counties Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs) located on the coast of East Durham. For further detail please refer to the Habitat Regulations Assessment: Developer Guidance and Requirements in County Durham, October 2018 (or any successor document). If ANG is required from new development this requirement will be over and above the requirements set out in the open space standards below.

6.7 Summary of open space standards

Table 12 Summary of open space standards

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.90	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)*	(1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for new provision)	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space*	(1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for new provision)	ANGSt for analysing existing provision
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	0.05	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.04	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Total for new provision	3.89 ha/1000	

* The combined standard for new provision of amenity green space and natural green space is 1.5 ha/1000

7.0 APPLYING LOCAL STANDARDS

7.1 Introduction

This part of the report uses the recommended standards to analyse provision across the assessment area. This section provides an overview of provision across the County and individual LPMAs, with more detailed maps provided in the open space area profiles (part 2 of the report). This section includes:

Quantity analysis

The quantity of provision is assessed using the recommended quantity standards for each of the typologies where a quantity standard has been developed. Recommended standards are expressed as hectares of open space per 1000 people.

The quantity assessment looks at the existing levels of provision, then uses the recommended standard to assess the required level of provision. From this a calculation is made of the supply, which will either be sufficient or insufficient. Within this section, levels of provision are provided by LPMA.

Access analysis

This section of the report provides analysis of the recommended access standards for each typology across the assessment area. The maps and analysis in this section are intended to be indicative, providing an overall picture of provision and highlighting any key issues across the assessment area. However, the key to access analysis, is understanding the picture at a more localised level, therefore, maps showing local access provision by LPMA are included in the area profiles.

Quality analysis

This section of the report makes analysis of each typology across the assessment area – it highlights any common themes or issues that have arisen from the quality audit.

7.2 Application of quantity standards

7.2.1 Current supply against the County Durham standards

Table 13 shows the existing supply of open space in hectares for each typology for each of the LPMAs. Further details are provided in each of the area profiles.

The figures of 'Park and Recreation Grounds (Public Combined)' includes a combination of the following typologies:

-) Park and Recreation Ground;
 -) Outdoor Sport (Pitches);
 -) Outdoor Sport (Fixed).
-

Table 13: Supply by LPMA (hectares) against the County Durham quantity standards

LPMA	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)
Central Durham	-8.88	-11.92	-3.19	+0.99	-0.38
Durham City	-36.16	-40.58	-38.40	-0.26	-1.07
East Durham	+22.52	+135.04	-9.49	+0.10	-2.35
Mid Durham	+37.36	-26.33	-11.52	-0.50	-1.22
North Durham	-20.22	-9.59	-10.58	-1.04	-1.58
North West Durham	+7.64	-21.30	-29.71	-2.83	-2.13
South Durham	-7.74	+11.00	+11.86	-0.10	-1.41
South East Durham	-3.54	-0.27	+92.27	+0.25	-0.40
West Durham	-11.64	-28.34	-22.63	+1.21	-0.62

Table 13 shows that provision varies across LPMAs and typologies, with some meeting the standards and some falling below. For example, there is an under supply of youth provision across all LPMAs. Durham City and North Durham have shortfalls across all the different types of open space. This will be an important consideration when determining the need for on-site open space in allocated housing sites.

Provision and access to accessible natural green space (against the Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards) is considered under section 7.3.2. The quantity (in hectares) of accessible natural green space by LPMA is shown in section 5.2.2.1.

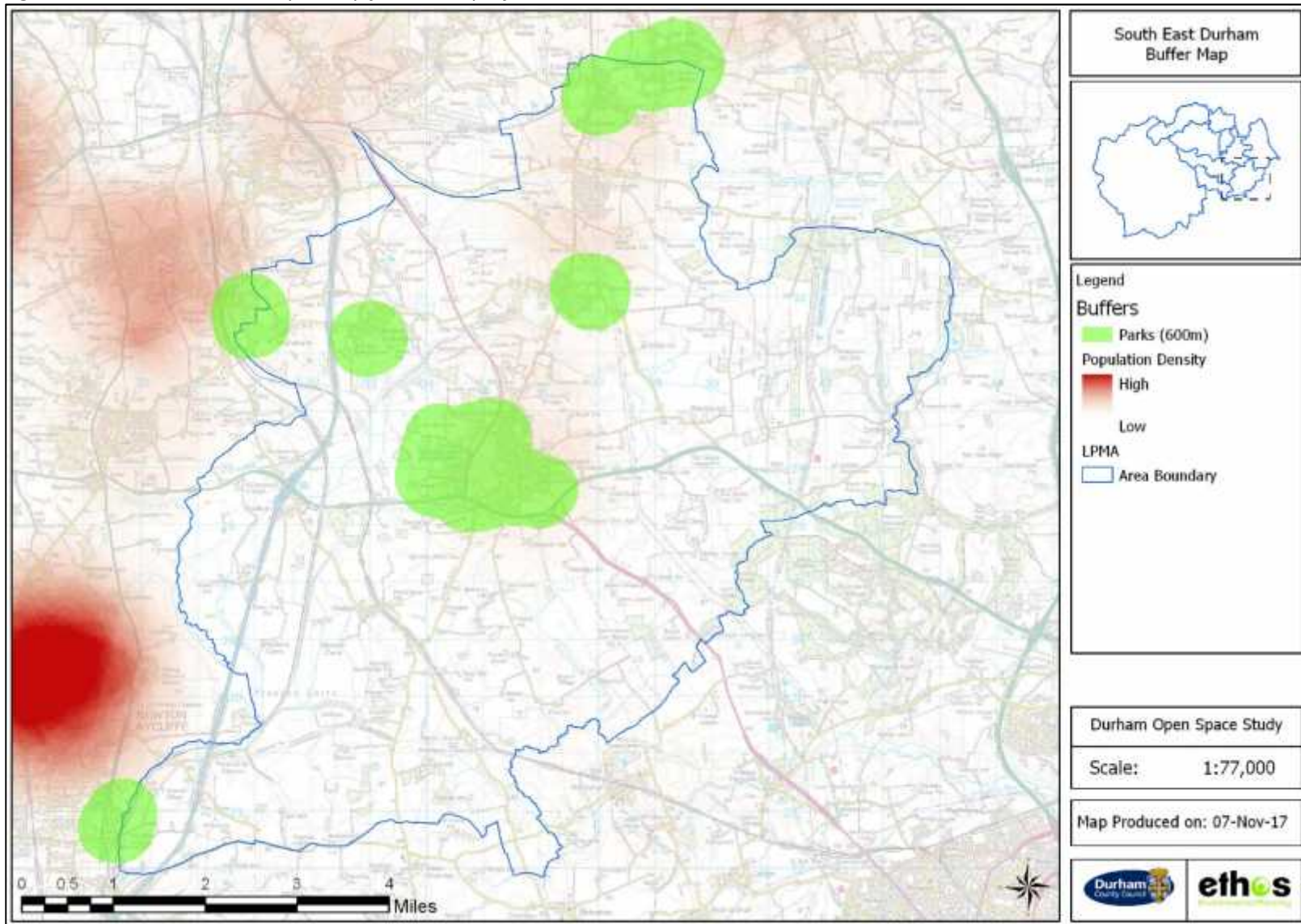
7.3 Application of access standards

This section provides an overview of access to different types of open space typologies across the whole assessment area. The maps are intended to provide an overview and are for illustrative purposes only. More detailed maps by LPMA are provided for each typology within the area profiles (see example at figure 15).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Figure 15

Example map from area profiles



7.3.1 Access to open space across the County

Figure 16 Access to allotments (480 metres)

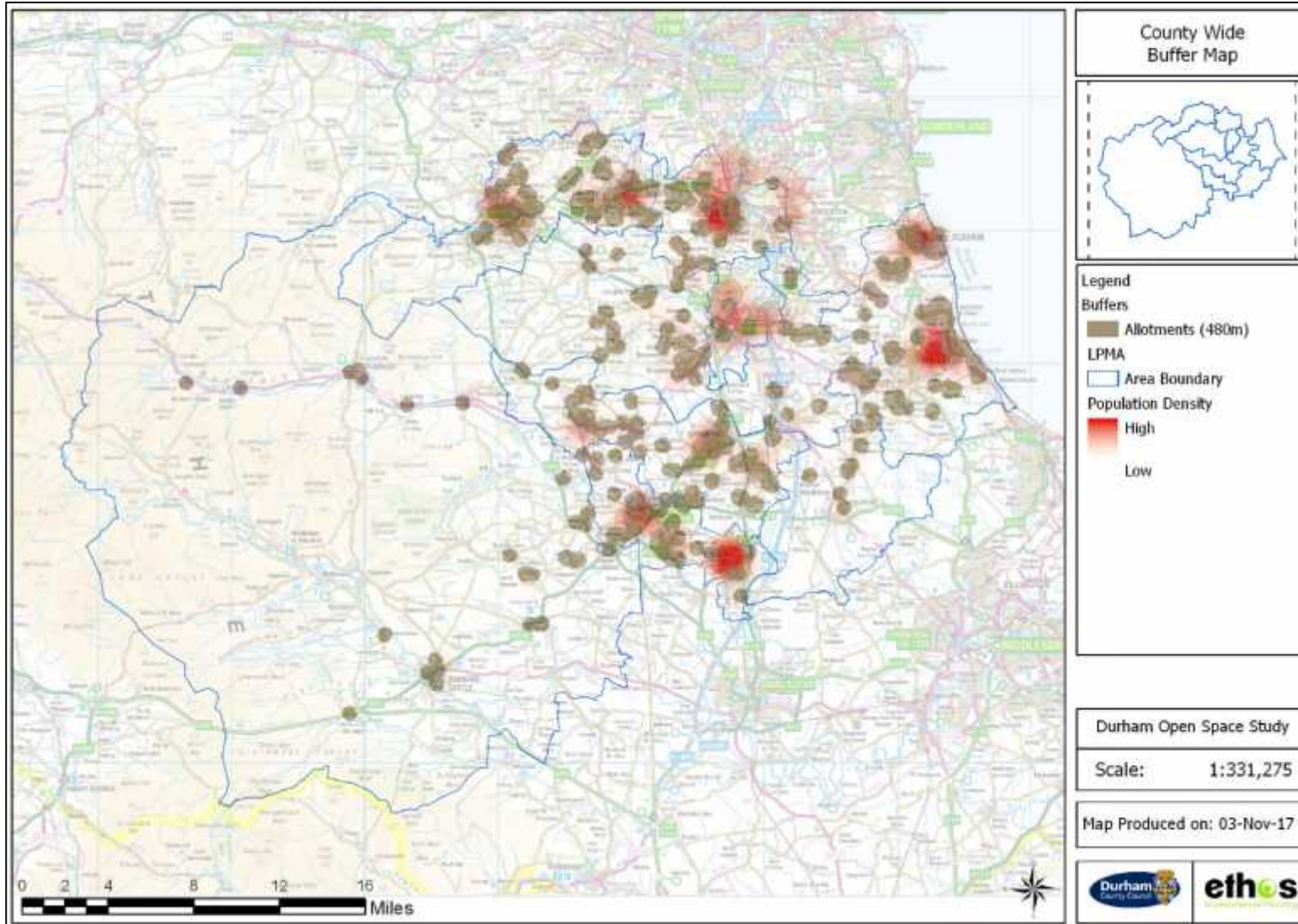


Figure 17 Access to amenity green space (480 metres)

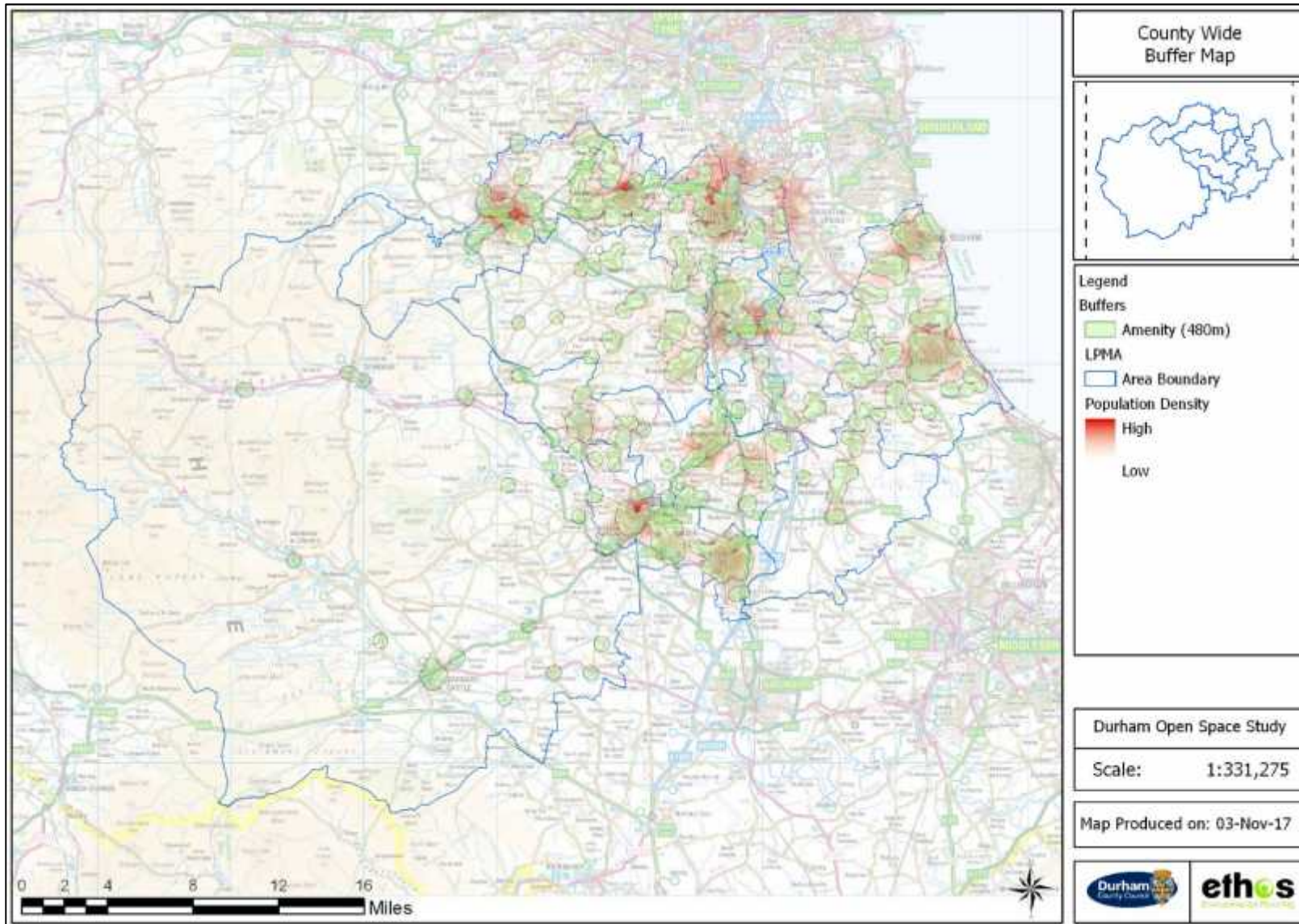


Figure 18 Access to parks and recreation grounds (600 metres)

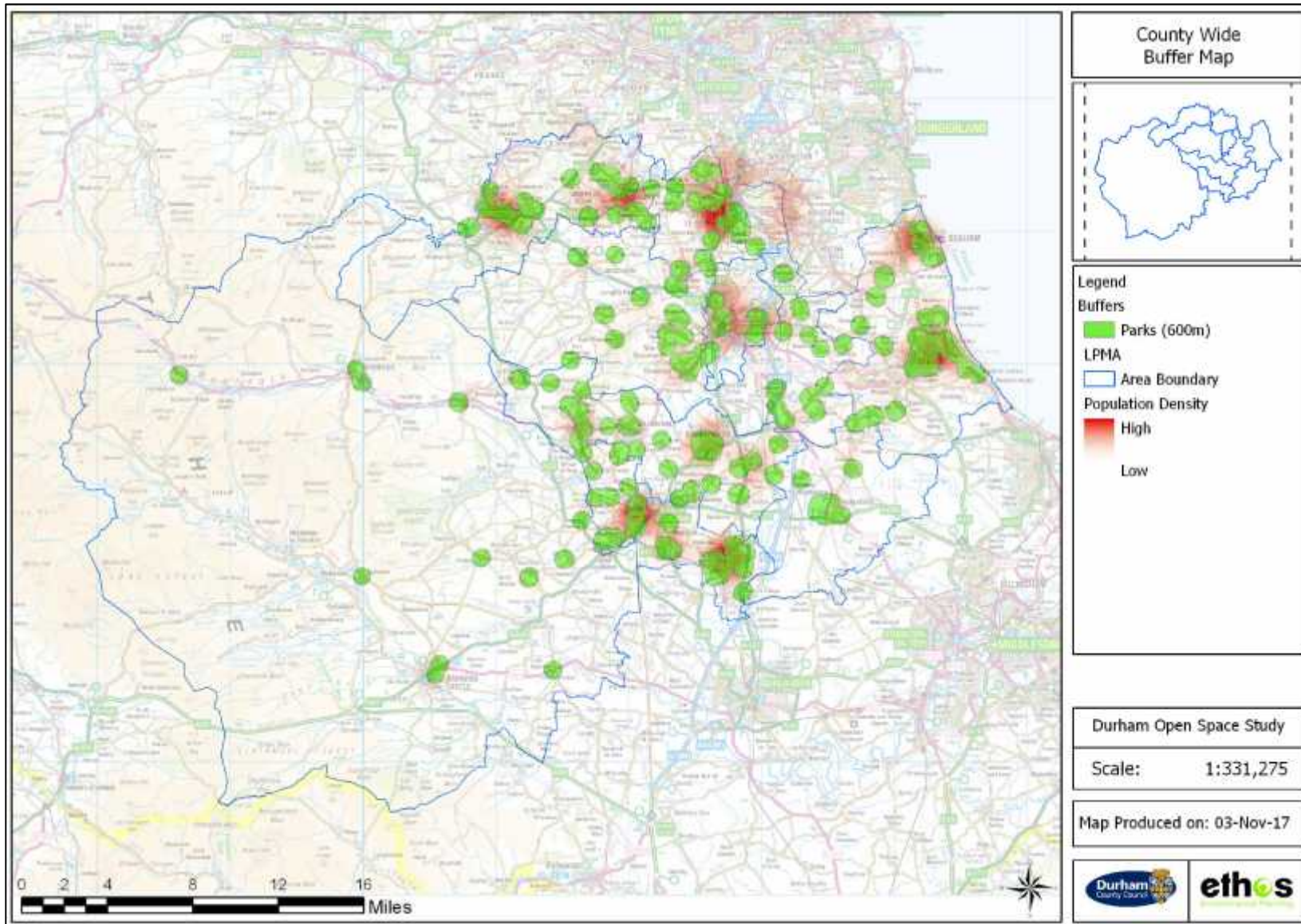


Figure 19 Access to children’s play space (600 metres)

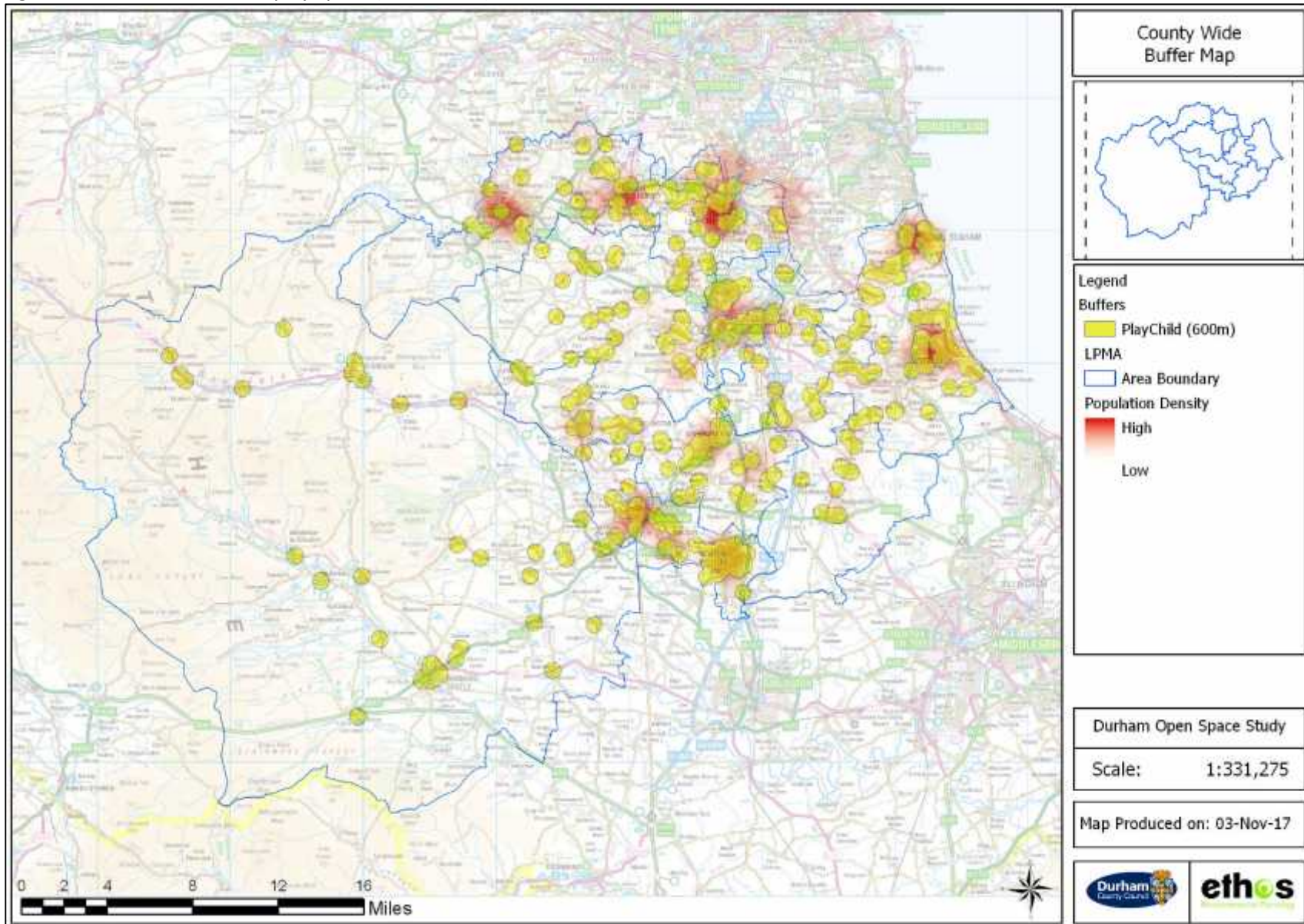
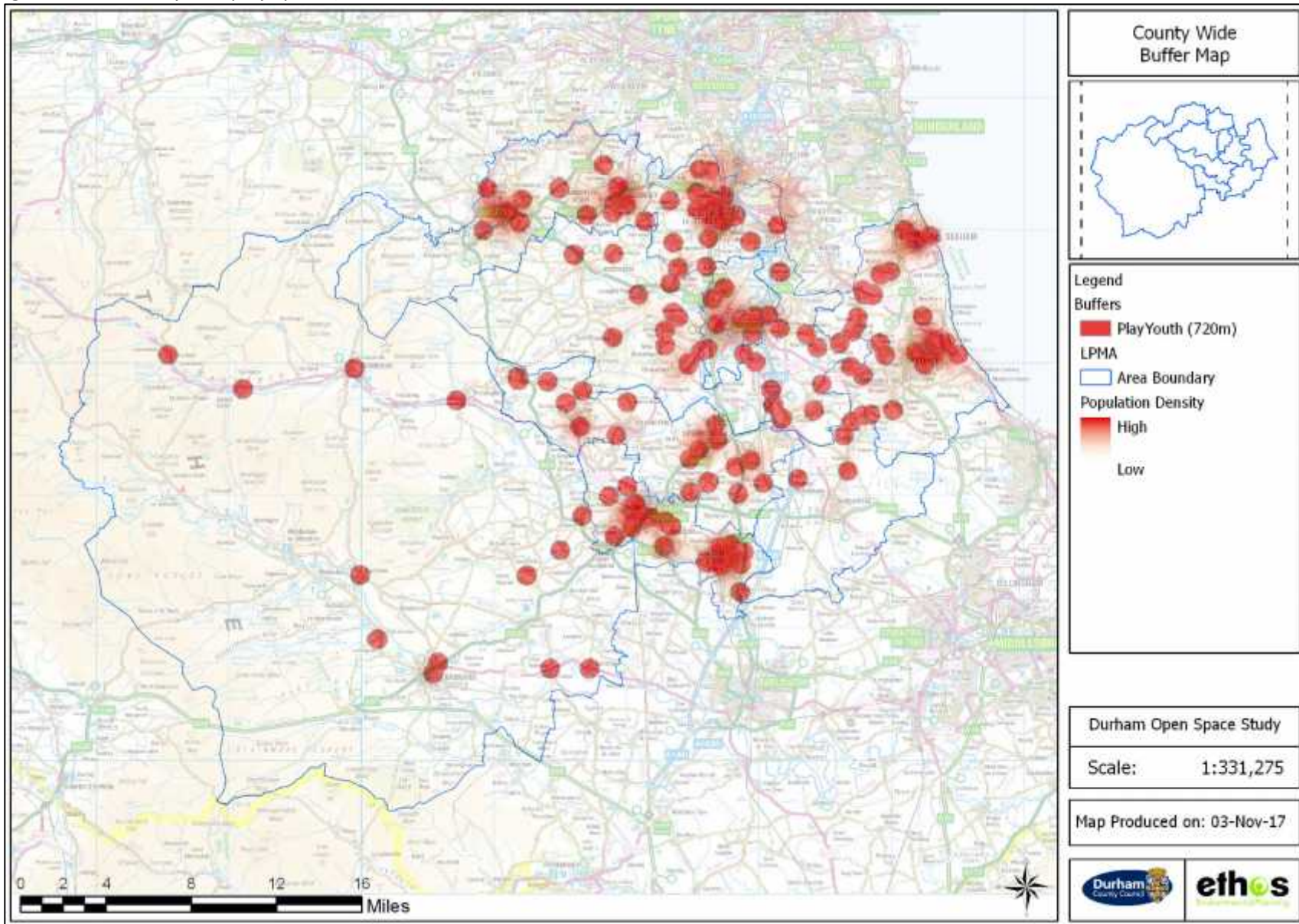


Figure 20 Access to youth play space (720 metres)



7.3.2 Application of standards (natural green space)

This section looks at the application of standards for natural green space.

Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGST)

The ANGST are:

-) at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home;
-) one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
-) one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.

Figure 21 Access to 20 ha site within 2km

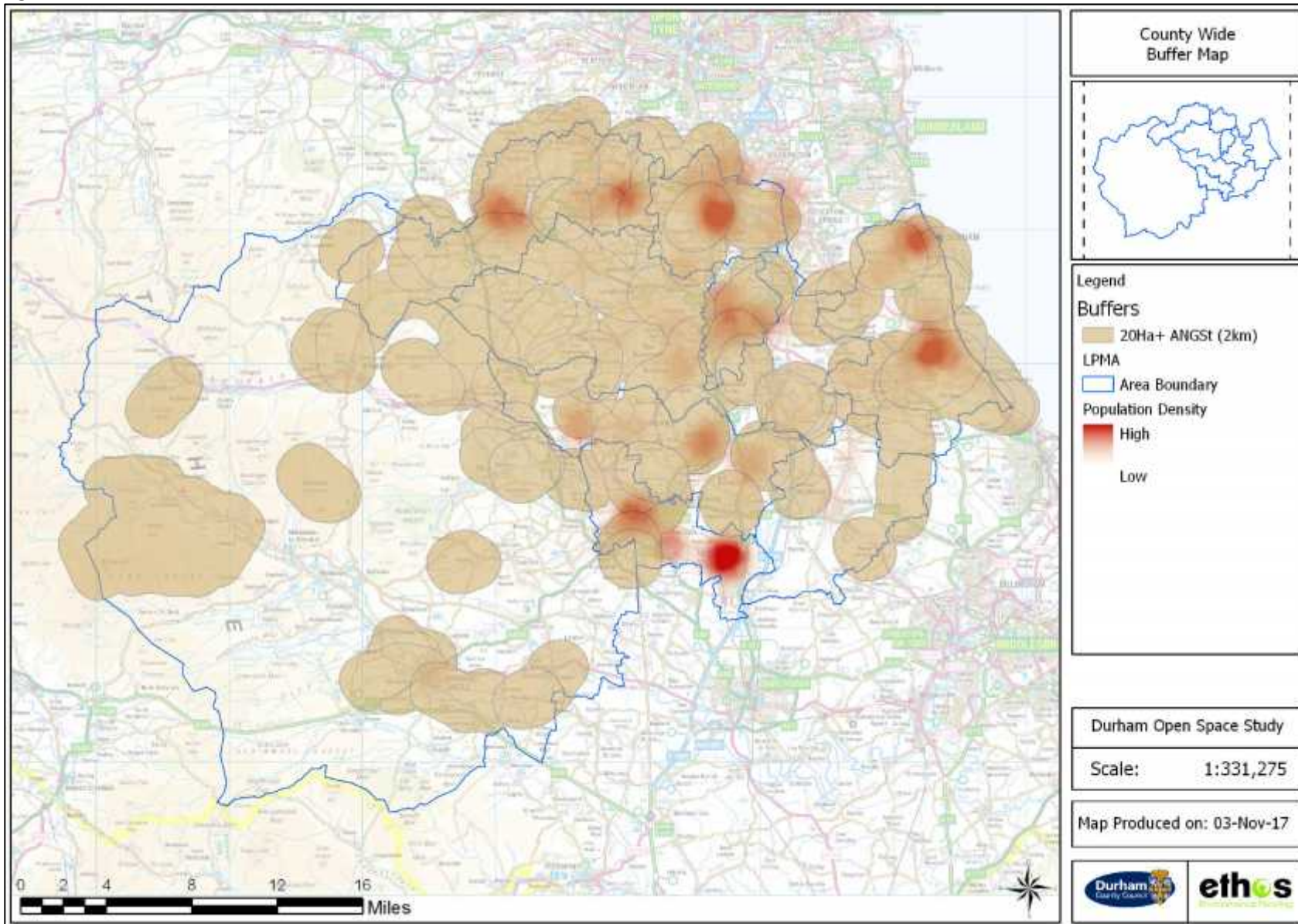


Figure 22 Access to 100 ha site within 5 km

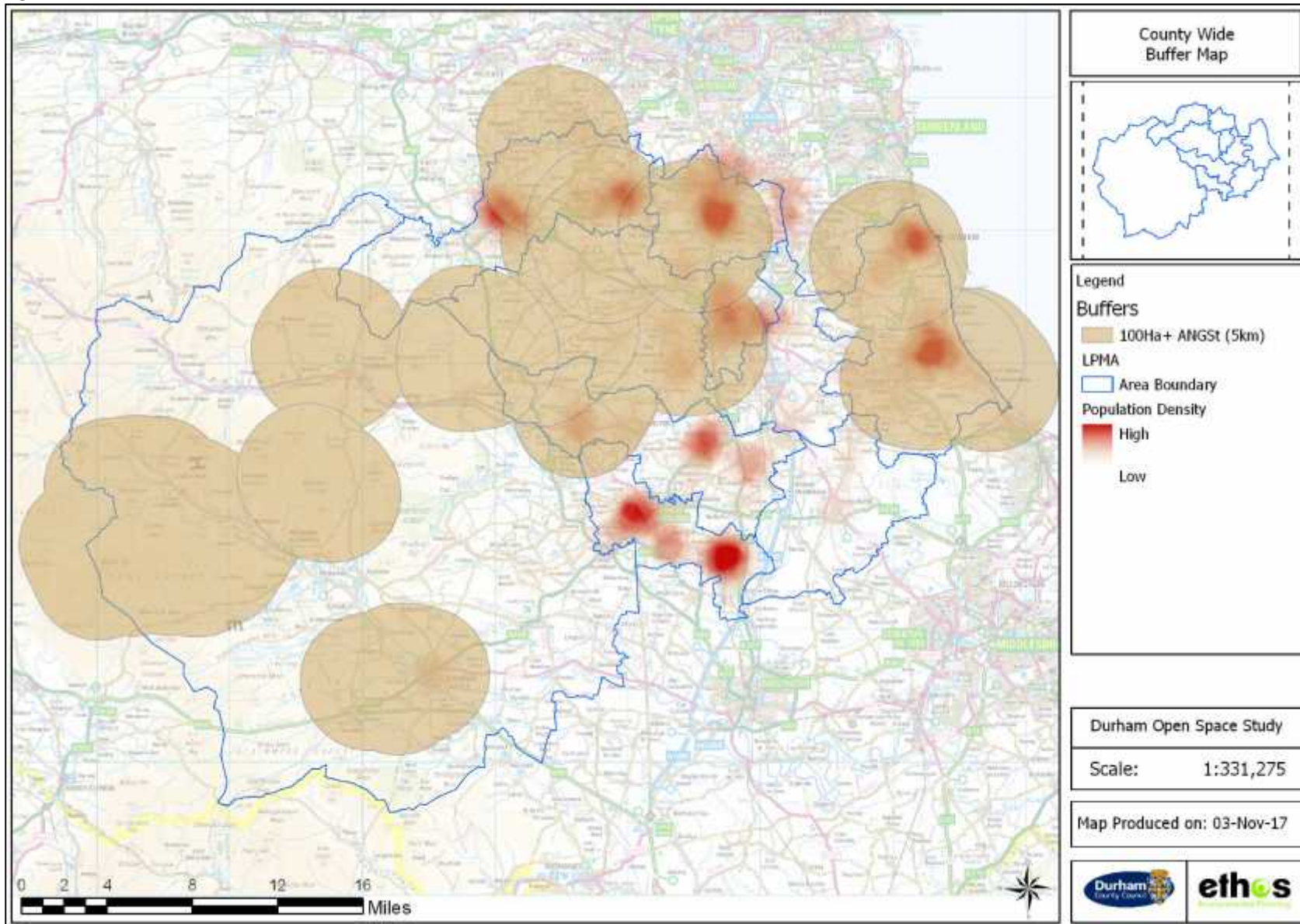


Figure 23 Access to 500 ha site within 10 km

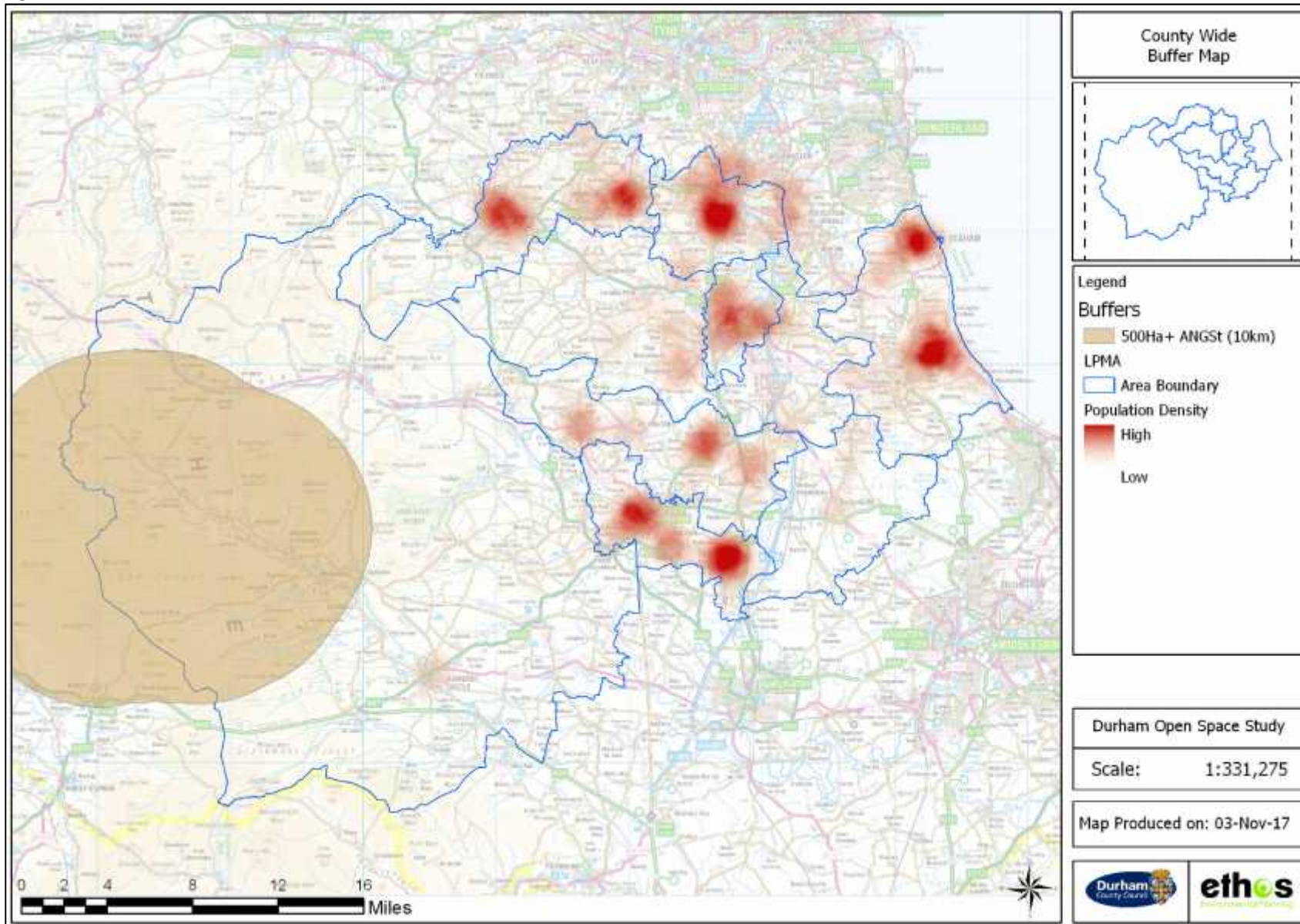


Table 14 Summary of access issues for natural green space

ANGST Standard	Key access Issues
at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home	Access generally good with most notable gap in South East Durham. Apparent gaps in West Durham, although many of these areas are served by an extensive rights of way network providing access to wider countryside and open moorland.
one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home	Gaps in access in South East Durham, parts of Mid Durham and Central Durham.
one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home	Provision limited to West Durham, although it is noted that large parts of the County are served by an extensive rights of way network providing access to coastline, moorland and other open land.

7.4 Application of quality standards

7.4.1 Quality of open space – audit methodology

The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a sites' existing and potential quality rather than a full asset audit.

A desktop assessment of all open spaces was undertaken to confirm typologies and facilities, site visits were then undertaken at key facilities such as parks and recreation grounds, play areas and larger natural/amenity sites.

Those sites included within the quality audit were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with a description of the site and recommendations for improvements. An assessment of the quality of the open space was undertaken using the following criteria:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and maintenance of hard landscaping;
-) Management and maintenance of soft landscaping;
-) Litter;
-) Dog fouling;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community involvement;
-) Biodiversity.

Children's play space and youth play space was also audited separately using the following criteria:

-) Play Value;
-) Management and maintenance;
-) Accessibility;
-) Safety;
-) Quality of equipment.

For each of the criteria a score of 1 -5 is given, where 1 is very poor and 5 is very good. These scores are added together to provide an overall existing score for the site. Using these scores, each site is then ranked for its existing quality and it's potential to improve, as follows:

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;

-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – **i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.**

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – **i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.**

7.4.2 Quality of open space – audit findings

The quality audit was undertaken at 693 open spaces and 453 children and youth play spaces across the County. The details on the sites audited are provided in a GIS geodatabase provided as part of this assessment.

The area profiles (part 2 of this report) provide maps showing the existing quality rank scores for sites assessed and maps showing priority sites for improvement, i.e. those which had ‘potential for improvement’ ranked A, B or C for potential. Example maps from the area profiles are shown in figures 27 and 28 below.

Figure 27 Example map: Overview of existing open space quality rank scores (sites with rank 'A' have the best existing quality, and sites with rank 'D' have the poorest quality).

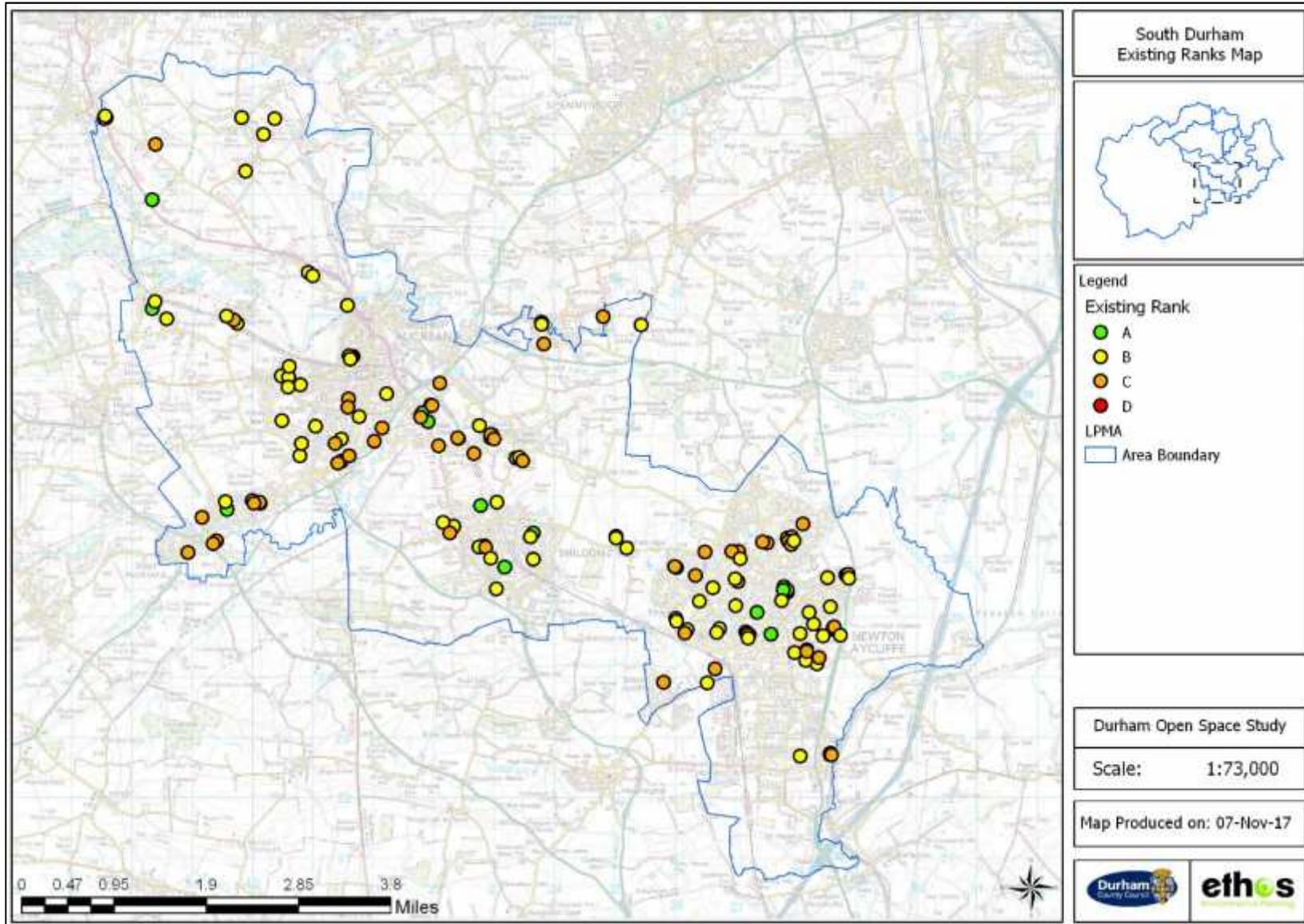
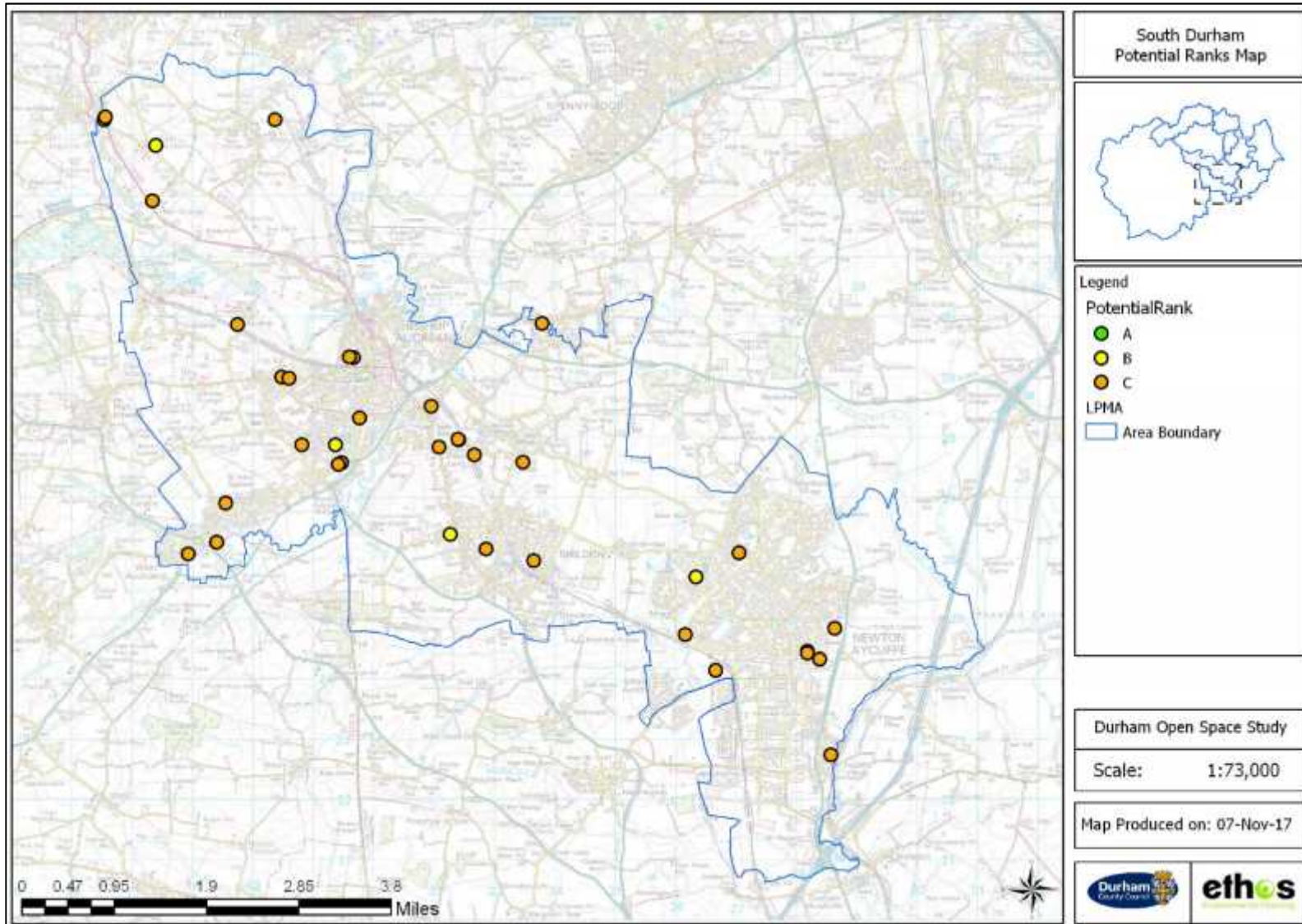


Figure 28 Example map: Overview of open space potential quality rank scores (sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve).



8.0 STRATEGIC OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Introduction

This section sets out strategic options and recommendations for open space within County Durham. It draws on all the previous steps of the assessment to bring together informed recommendations, and addresses a number of specific requirements of the assessment brief. In particular, it draws together the assessment in context of the requirement for a local plan policy related to green infrastructure. It is intended that the recommendations within this section provide the required detail to develop this policy.

8.2 Strategic Options

The strategic options address four key areas:

1. Existing provision to be protected;
2. Existing provision to be enhanced;
3. Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
4. Identification of areas for new provision;
5. Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

Since the adoption of the National Planning Policy Framework in 2012 and the abolition of regional spatial strategies, and the move towards localism, puts more focus on local authorities to work with local communities to make decisions and deliver services, rather than relying on national or regional guidance. This will clearly impact how some of the recommendations in this assessment will be delivered.

Whilst the Local Authority will have an important role in delivering open space, sport and recreation facilities, their role may move from that of 'deliverer' to 'facilitator'. The aim will be to work with community organisations to make local decisions about how facilities and services will be provided. Organisations such as residents' groups, voluntary organisations, sports clubs and societies will all have a key role in this.

One of the emerging priorities from localism is for there to be much more local decision making with regards to planning, and for local communities to develop neighbourhood plans. Although it is up to local communities to define their own priorities within neighbourhood plans, the information provided within this assessment will form a good basis to inform any decisions related to the provision of open space.

The following sections, consider the key issues for open space in the assessment area. The recommendations that emerge need to be taken in context with the Localism Act and consider how they can fit into local decision making. With this agenda still relatively new, the following sections serve to highlight issues, but do not necessarily resolve how they may be delivered.

8.3 Existing provision to be protected

Existing open space or sport and recreation facilities which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system are those which are either:

-) Critically important in avoiding deficiencies in accessibility, quality or quantity and scored highly in the value assessment; **or**
-) Of particular nature conservation, historical or cultural value.

The quantity analysis, summarised in table 13 (section 7.2.1) shows that in every LPMA, there is a deficiency in at least one typology of open space. Therefore, the following recommendations are made:

Open Space Recommendations (protecting open space):

- OS1** The distribution of open space varies across the assessment area, however, there are identified shortages of at least 1 typology of open space in all LPMAs. It is therefore recommended that priority is placed on protecting those open spaces where there is an existing shortfall of supply.
- OS2** Sites which are critical to avoiding deficiencies, or making existing deficiencies worse, in quality, quantity or access will be protected unless suitable alternative provision can be provided which would compensate for any deficiencies caused.
- OS3** Sites which have significant nature conservation, historical or cultural value should be afforded protection, even if there is an identified surplus in quality, quantity or access in that local area.
- OS4** The importance of privately managed spaces (e.g. sports grounds) as a community facility has been highlighted in this assessment. Therefore, it is recommended the above policies apply to both public and private open space protection.

8.4 Existing provision to be enhanced

In areas where there is a quantitative deficiency of provision but no accessibility issues then increasing the capacity of existing provision may be considered. Alternatively, in areas where facilities or spaces do not meet the relevant quality standards, qualitative enhancements will be required.

This includes those spaces or facilities which:

-) Are critically important in avoiding deficiencies in diversity, accessibility or quantity, **but**
-) Scored poorly in the quality or value assessment.

Those sites which require enhancement are identified within the quality audit that was undertaken. Some of the key observations related to site enhancement include:

1. The importance of providing high quality provision and maintenance of formal facilities such as Parks and Recreation Grounds and Play Space.
2. The need for additional and improved facilities for young people.
3. The role of private sports spaces to some local communities and the need to provide opportunity for investment.
4. The need to ensure high quality open spaces are designed and provided through new development where feasible.
5. The importance of rights of way and natural green space within the assessment area, and the need to maintain and enhance provision for biodiversity.
6. The role of open space in contributing to wider initiatives and strategies.
7. Extending and enhancing the network of green infrastructure including the connectivity between sites and improved accessibility to existing sites.

The area profiles provide maps by LPMA showing the sites which have been identified as having ‘potential for improvement’ (i.e. with a potential rank score of A, B or C – see section 7.5.2), as identified within the quality audit (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). An overview of the open space quality audit rank scores is provided in section 7.5.3. The following recommendations are made in relation the quality of open space:

Open Space Recommendations (enhancing open space):

- | | |
|------------|---|
| OS5 | Where new housing development is allocated, consideration should be given to improving existing open spaces within the ward the development is located. Priority should be given to those sites identified as having ‘potential to improve’ (i.e. with a potential rank score of A, B or C) as detailed in the quality audit (provided as a GIS geodatabase). |
| OS6 | Neighbourhood Plans should consider the opportunities for creating and enhancing a network of both utility and recreation routes for use by foot and bike. Creative application of the amenity green space/natural green space components of the proposed overall standard in respect of new development should be explored. |

- OS7** The assessment makes recommendations for improving the quality of open space across the assessment area. However, a long term strategy for achieving improvements is required which could be delivered through a Green Space Strategy, neighbourhood plans or additional design guidance.
- OS8** Priorities for improvement include the enhancement of parks and recreation grounds, rights of way, country parks and accessible countryside/nature reserves/wildlife areas, children’s play areas and informal open spaces.
- OS9** Management plans should be developed for the main parks and recreation grounds. These priorities could be considered in neighbourhood plans and by the local community.

8.5 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

In some areas it may be possible to make better use of land by relocating an open space or sport and recreation facility, especially if this will enhance its quality or accessibility for existing users, or use land which is not suitable for another purpose. This needs to be determined at a local level, considering the quality, quantity and access to facilities at neighbourhood level and in some cases across the assessment area.

Although it is up to local communities to define their own priorities within neighbourhood plans, the information provided within this assessment will form a good basis to inform any decisions related to the provision or replacement of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Some settlements may seek a consolidation of facilities on a single site, such as a new sports hub.

These decisions could include the spatial and investment plans for open space, and set the foundations for open space provision (e.g. for the next 20 years). They should outline where different types of facilities and space - such as children's playgrounds, sports pitches, young people's facilities etc. are to be located. It will also identify if any open space is no longer needed and its disposal or re use can be used to fund improvements to other spaces.

Each plan should apply the standards and policies set out in this assessment and ensure that the significant investment anticipated for open spaces is prioritised with the help of stakeholders and communities. The standards agreed in this assessment can determine a minimum level of quality and quantity of open space provision and the maximum distance people should have to travel to access different types of open space.

This assessment provides information on the existing supply of different types of open space, an analysis of access and identifies local issues related to quality. It will act as a good starting point for feeding into neighbourhood plans in consultation with the local community.

In determining opportunities for re-location or re-designation of open space, the quantity and access provision have been considered by LPMA, this is summarised in table 15 below, with further details provided in the area profiles.

Table 15 Opportunities for 're-designating open space'

Name	Current Provision	Opportunities
Central Durham	Sufficient supply of children's play space. Undersupply of all other typologies.	Little opportunity, as supply of children's play space does not significantly exceed recommended levels of provision. Potential for natural green space to accommodate low impact uses such as community food growing areas or allotments if appropriate.
Durham City	Shortfalls across all typologies of open space	Little opportunity. Consideration should be given to allowing public access to facilities within school grounds. Potential for natural green space to accommodate low impact uses such as community food growing areas, allotments or natural children's play items if appropriate.
East Durham	Sufficient supply of allotments, amenity green space and children's play space. Under supply of all other typologies. Good access to natural green space.	Scope for large amenity green spaces (e.g. in the Wheatley Hill area where there are gaps in access to parks and recs) to be upgraded to park and recreation ground and/or accommodate children's play space (where there are gaps in access) and youth play space. May also be potential to re-designate large allotment sites as parks and recreation grounds in areas where there are overlaps in access to allotments.
Mid Durham	Sufficient supply of allotments. Shortfalls across all other typologies.	The supply of allotments exceeds the recommended levels of provision by a large amount. Some of these large allotment sites could be converted to amenity green space and/or park and recreation grounds in areas where there are overlaps in access to allotments, accommodating youth provision and children's provision.
North Durham	Undersupply of all typologies.	Existing children's and youth play spaces within parks and recreation grounds could be expanded, and parks without any existing play spaces may have potential to accommodate new provision, especially where this fills gaps in access. The good quantity and access to natural green space could also provide potential for meeting shortfalls in allotments and children's play space e.g. the provision of natural play facilities and community food growing areas, if appropriate.
North West Durham	Undersupply of all typologies with the exception of allotments.	There is some opportunity to re-designate allotments where access is overlapping as these are in good supply. Potential for natural green space to accommodate natural play items for children, if appropriate.
South Durham	Sufficient supply of amenity green space and park and recreation grounds. Undersupply across all other typologies.	Existing children's and youth play spaces within parks and recreation grounds or amenity green space could be expanded, and parks and/or amenity green space without any existing play spaces could accommodate new provision, especially where this fills gaps in access. Parks (and/or amenity and natural green space) may also

		<p>have potential to accommodate community food growing areas or allotments.</p> <p>Whilst there is a minor shortfall in the quantity of children’s play space, there are also areas where access to facilities overlaps. The assessment shows there is a proliferation of small, poor quality play spaces and that a number could be de-commissioned as long as others are improved. In effect, the priority for play in this area is for fewer, larger, high quality play spaces.</p>
South East Durham	Sufficient supply of park and recreation grounds and children’s play space. Undersupply of allotments, amenity green space and youth play space.	Parks and recreation grounds may have potential to accommodate community food growing areas/allotments and Youth provision.
West Durham	Undersupply across all typologies with the exception of children’s play space.	Little opportunity. Potential for natural green space to accommodate low impact uses such as community food growing areas/allotments or natural children’s play items to fill gaps in access if appropriate.

8.6 Identification of areas for new provision

New provision will be required where there is a new development and a planned increase in population, and/or an existing deficiency in supply or access to facilities exists. Section 7 outlines the existing situation with regards to supply and access to open space. As discussed, neighbourhood plans would form a good mechanism to determine exactly where new provision is required, however, this assessment can be used as the basis for decision making, as follows:

Quantity

For each typology, there is an identified ‘sufficient supply’ or ‘under supply’ for each of the LPMAs. If an area has an existing under supply of any typology, there may be need for additional provision. This could be delivered through developing a new site (for example as part of a housing development), acquiring land to extend the site or changing the typology of an existing space (which may be in over supply).

The supply statistics should be used as part of the decision making process in development management to determine if a new development should provide facilities on-site or enhance existing provision through developer contributions.

The use of the quantity statistics should not be in isolation, and considered alongside the access standards.

Access

This assessment considers how access to different types of open space varies across LPMAs against the proposed standards. The maps in section 7 and the area profiles show where there are deficiencies and potential over supply of facilities. This information can be used alongside the quantity statistics to determine if new provision or improved accessibility is required in an area. For example, if a new development is proposed, the maps should be consulted to determine if there is an existing gap in provision of a particular typology which could be met by the development.

Therefore, even though the quantity statistics may identify a sufficient supply of a particular typology, there may be gaps in access, and thus a new facility may still be required.

Delivering new provision

There are a number of opportunities for delivering new facilities through new development – developer contributions and to a lesser extent through capital and grant funding.

New development, CIL and developer contributions

This open space assessment clearly identifies that there are needs for new and /or enhanced open space provision, particularly where new development is planned. New development will also be required to provide on-site open space in line with the standards outlined in this assessment. Whilst not all developments will be of a size that will generate the requirement for on-site open space (see table 15), there will be many that will. This assessment should therefore be used to make local decisions about where and when new on-site provision will be required.

Capital and grant funding

Although the availability of capital and grant funding has diminished in recent years, nevertheless funding does become available for providing facilities for open space, sport and recreation. National and governing bodies for individual sports should be consulted where new infrastructure is required, such as changing rooms and sports pitches. Environmental grants and stewardship schemes are available for managing natural green space. As neighbourhood plans are developed and open space priorities are established within these, funding requirements will be identified and delivery through grant funding can be considered.

Requirements for open space from new housing

Section 7.2.1 outlines the variation in supply of different typologies of open space across LPMAs. As identified, every area has a shortfall in at least one typology of open space, therefore, the starting point for new housing is to assume that some form of on-site open space provision would be required.

Open Space Recommendations (new provision of open space):

- OS10** New provision of open space will be required as part of new development where housing is allocated in the local plan and windfall sites where there are existing deficiencies in quantity or access to open space and/or where the new development will result in deficiencies.
- Where on-site provision is required, it should be provided in line with the proposed open space standards.
- Where on-site provision is deemed impractical, or not required e.g. for small sites, consideration will be given to opportunities for off-site provision and/or improvements, including through pooling of S106 contributions.
- Improvements to existing open space will be considered first in the ward within which the development is located, then in open spaces in neighbouring LPMAs. Priority sites requiring improvements will be identified using the ranking scores from the quality audit and also from site management plans and the councils own knowledge of their sites.
- OS11** The requirement for alternative natural green space (ANG) which may be required to mitigate for recreational pressure on the counties Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs) located on the coast in East Durham, will be over and above the requirements set out in the open space standards.

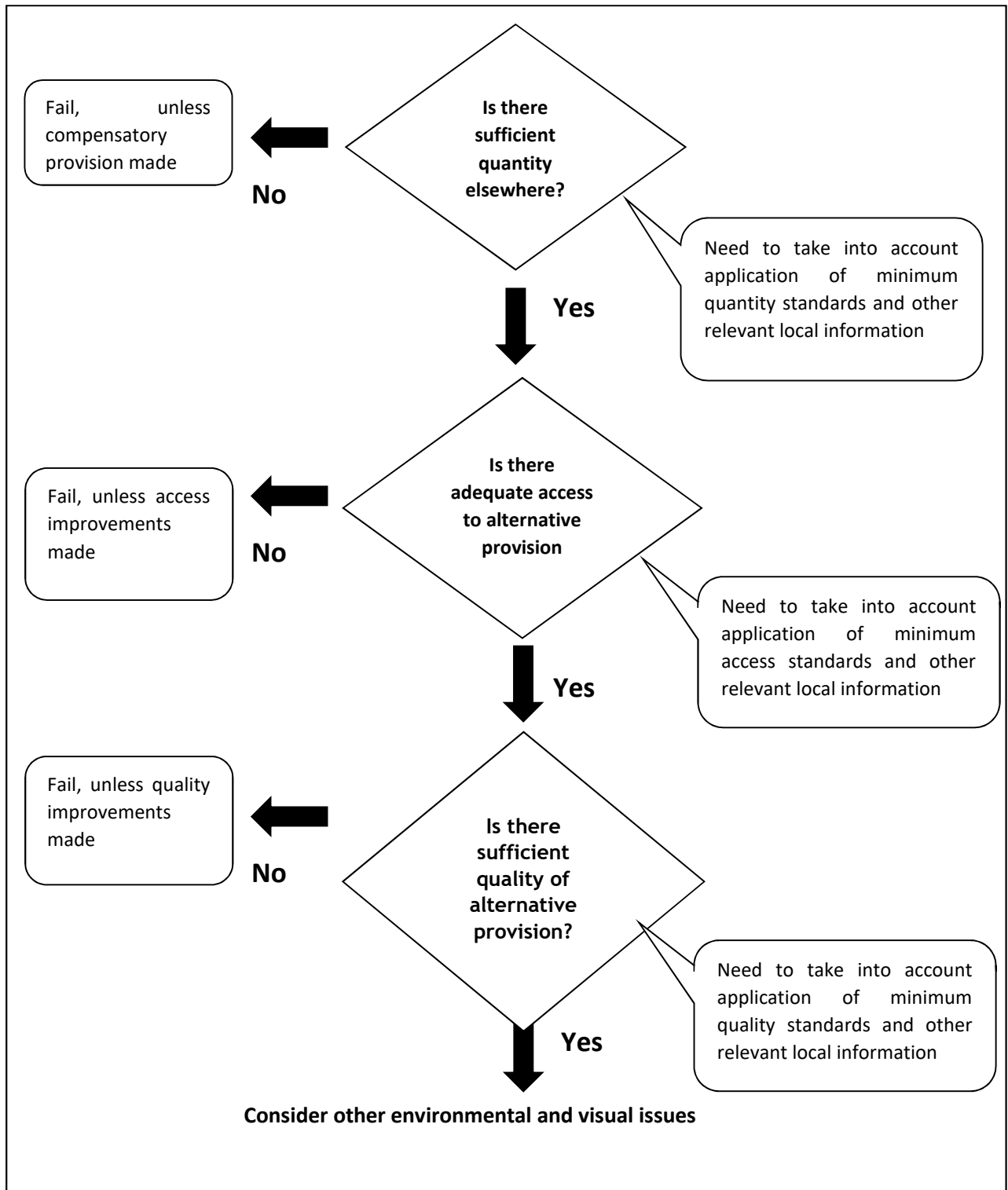
8.7 Facilities that are surplus to requirement

There are important issues to resolve in terms of getting the correct balance of open space across the assessment area before any disposal can be contemplated. Whilst there is under provision relative to the minimum standards in several areas, there are other areas where provision compares favourably with the standards. However, it is once again emphasised that the proposed standards are for *minimum* levels of provision. Factors to be taken into account before any decision to release open space for alternative uses can be taken include:

-) The local value and use of a given open space - as it may be a locally popular resource.
-) Whether future local development/population growth might generate additional demands for open space.
-) Whether there is a demonstrable need for some other type of open space within the locality that a given space (subject to a change of management regime) would be well placed to meet.
-) Other non-recreational reasons that suggest a space should be retained (which might include ecological and visual reasons).

Figure 29 suggests an outline of the decision process that should be followed before the development of an open space can be seriously contemplated.

Figure 29: Outline decision making process in relation to sanctioning (re)development of open space



Q. Is there sufficient quantity?

A. If the minimum quantitative standard for amenity green space is exceeded in a defined geographical area, the relative provision of other forms of open space must then be considered. (Amenity green space can in principle be converted into other forms of open space where the need arises). If a) provision meets the minimum quantitative standard; b) there is no significant local information suggesting a need to retain the site; and, c) there is not a perceived lack of other forms of open space. The next question can be addressed.

Q. Is there adequate access to alternative provision?

A. Within the defined geographical area there may be good overall provision of amenity green space relative to the quantity standard, but is it in the right place and can it be easily reached? Applying the accessibility component of the minimum standards will help to answer this question. If other similar open space cannot be easily reached, the site's disposal for other uses may be unacceptable.

Q. Are other accessible and similar opportunities elsewhere of sufficient quality?

A. If it can be demonstrated that alternative opportunities are sufficient both in quantity and accessibility, there may still exist issues with the quality of these alternative provisions. The quality component of the proposed standards may indicate that certain improvements to alternative opportunities must be made which should be funded and secured before development is sanctioned.

Even if these three tests are passed there may be other reasons for the site to remain as open space. For example, it may have value as a natural habitat or be visually important. Such considerations are important, but beyond the scope of this report.

8.8 Developer Contributions

This section draws on the policy recommendations in the previous section and outlines a process for calculating developer contributions for on-site provision and recommendations for management and maintenance procedures and costs.

8.8.1 Developer contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy

This section sets out higher level strategic recommendations and recommends an approach to developer contributions which can be used to inform policy for on-site contributions and to inform the feasibility for any off site investment proposed (through CIL or other external funding mechanisms).

1) Capital cost of providing open space

In order to calculate developer contributions for facilities, a methodology has been adopted which calculates how much it would cost the Local Authority to provide them. These costs have been calculated using spon's, and have also been benchmarked against other Local

Authorities costs for providing facilities. A summary of the costs are outlined in table 16 below.

Contributions towards the provision or improvement of open space are calculated using the capital cost of provision. The same charges apply to both provision of new facilities and the upgrading/improvement of existing facilities, which more often than not includes new provision. Contribution per person is therefore taken to be a reasonable measure of that impact, irrespective of whether new provision or improvement of existing facilities is required. The calculated costs have drawn on the standards of provision summarised in table 16.

Table 16 Costs for providing open space

Typology	Standard (m ²) per person	Cost of provision		
		Cost / m ²	Contribution per person	50% reduction
Allotments	9	£30.00	£270.00	£135.00
Parks and Recreation grounds	14	£72.00	£1008.00	£504.00
Play Space (Children)	0.5	£170.00	£85.00	£42.50
Play Space (Youth)	0.4	£170.00	£68.00	£34.00
Amenity/Natural green space	15	£15.00	£150.00	£75.00
Total	38.9		£1,581.00	£790.50

This shows that it costs £1581 per person to provide new open space to meet the County Durham standard for open space. These calculations are to be used to calculate developer contributions for on-site provision and where feasible any off site projects. Where it is not possible to provide facilities off site, and the council are willing to accept a contribution to improve existing facilities off site, a 50% reduction in the above calculation will be applied.

It should however be noted that the council accept that providing open space fully in line with the standards may have an impact on project viability in exceptional cases, for example, where there are other demands on the project such as regeneration initiatives, social housing etc. The council may be willing to consider a reduced contribution for open space if the project can demonstrate that providing open space in line with the standards would impact project viability.

2) Maintenance Contributions for on-site provision

If a development is required to provide open space on-site, the developer would be expected to maintain the open space for a minimum period of 1 year. Developers will then have the option of maintaining the new provision through a management company. It is expected that a management plan for the open space would be submitted and approved by the council as a planning condition.

In certain circumstances, open space may be adopted by the council in line with the *Interim Policy / Procedure for the Adoption of Public Open Space Associated with New Housing Developments, 5 June 2013*, providing a commuted sum is provided for a period of 15 years. The amount payable for the commuted sum will be calculated using the figures in table 17.

Table 17 *Maintenance sums payable for open space*

Typology	Cost/m² per annum
Play Space (Children’s and Youth Provision)	£4.59
Park and Recreation Grounds	£4.59
Amenity and Natural Green Space	£0.62
Allotments	£0.13

The figures in table 17 show how much it costs to maintain open space per metre squared. The figures have been calculated from average unit rates for maintenance of different types of open space, drawn from standard rates (Spons).

3) Eligible types of development for on-site provision

Table 18 outlines the type of housing that will be considered eligible for making contributions towards open space to meet the needs of future occupants.

Table 18 *Eligible types of residential development*

Category	Open Market Housing / Flats	Affordable Housing *	Housing for the active elderly	Permanent mobile homes
Play Space (Children and Youth)	✓	✓	×	✓
Park and Recreation grounds	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amenity/Natural Green Space	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allotments	✓	✓	✓	✓

4) Thresholds for provision

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

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

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

-) The scale of the proposed development and site area;
-) The suitability of a site reflecting, for example, its topography or flood risk;

-) The existing provision of facilities within the neighbourhood and/or the sub area;
-) Other sites in the neighbourhood where additional provision is proposed;
-) Existing access to facilities within the neighbourhood and/or sub area.

Table 19 provides a guide to assess which scales of housing generate a need for facilities in the categories listed to be provided on-site. For developments 20 – 49 dwellings the minimum size of amenity/natural green space is 0.20Ha.

Table 19 Requirement for open space, sport and recreation facilities

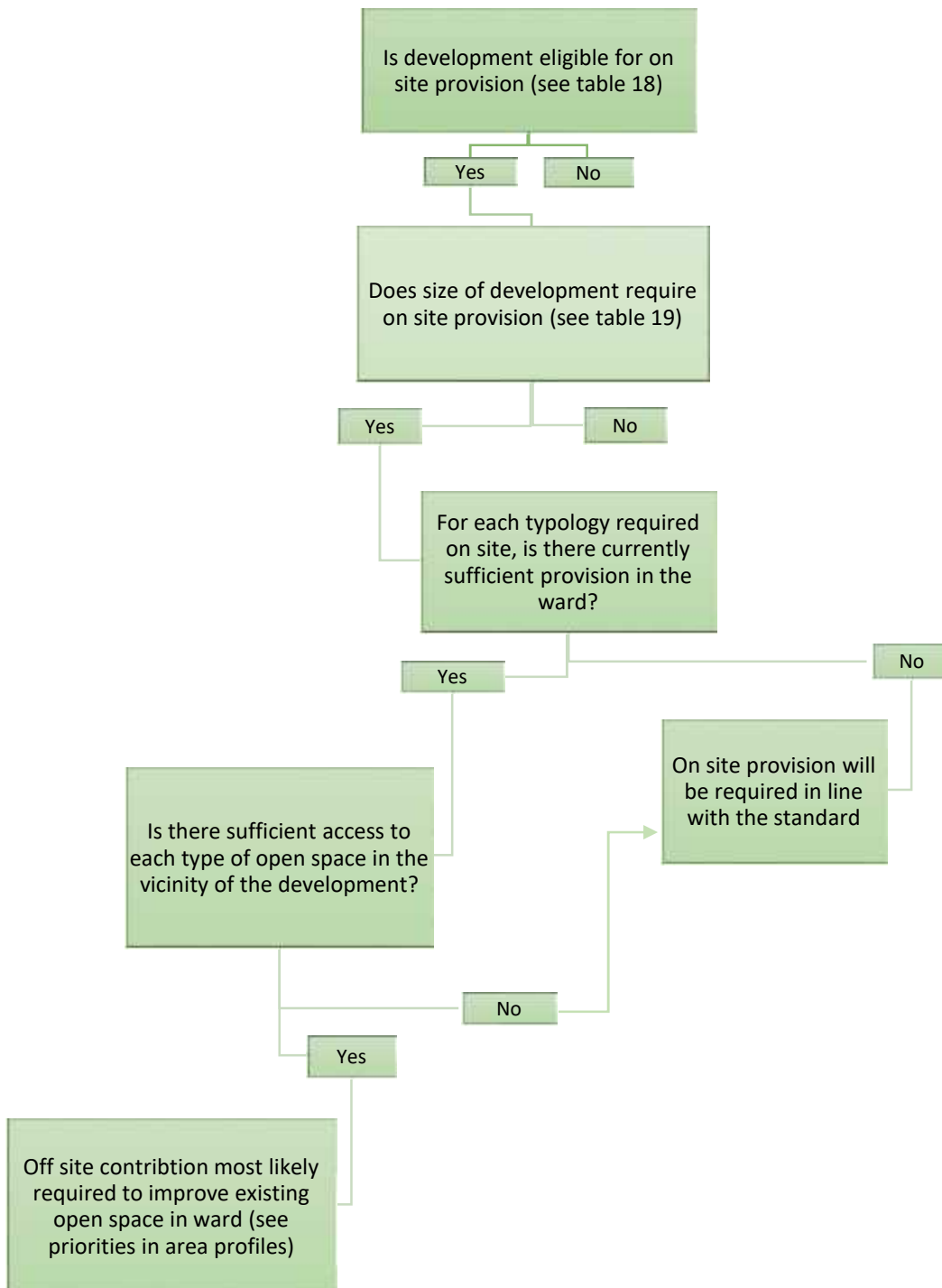
Type of Provision	1-19 dwellings	20-49 dwellings	50-99 dwellings	100+ dwellings	250+ dwellings
Allotments	X	X	X	X	✓
Amenity/Natural Green Space	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parks Sports and Recreation Grounds	X	X	X	X	✓
Play Space (children)	X	X	✓*	✓*	✓
Play Space (Youth)	X	X	X	X	✓

KEY: ✓ on-site provision normally sought
 X off-site provision normally required
 * Non equipped play areas

8.8.2 Decision making process for on/off site provision

Figure 30 shows an example flow chart/decision making process to help developers/council officers determine the need for on/off-site provision of open space. This is only a guide and requirements will be determined on a case by case basis using the standards and assessment within this assessment. This should be determined through pre-application discussions with the council.

Figure 30 Decision making process for on/off site provision of open space



**Durham County Council
Open Space Needs Assessment
2018**



**Area Profile:
Central Durham**

Part 2 of 2

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL

info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	1 - 3
2.0 Existing provision of open space	4
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	5 - 6
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	7 - 11
5.0 Quality assessment	12 - 14
6.0 Summary of priorities for the area	15 - 16

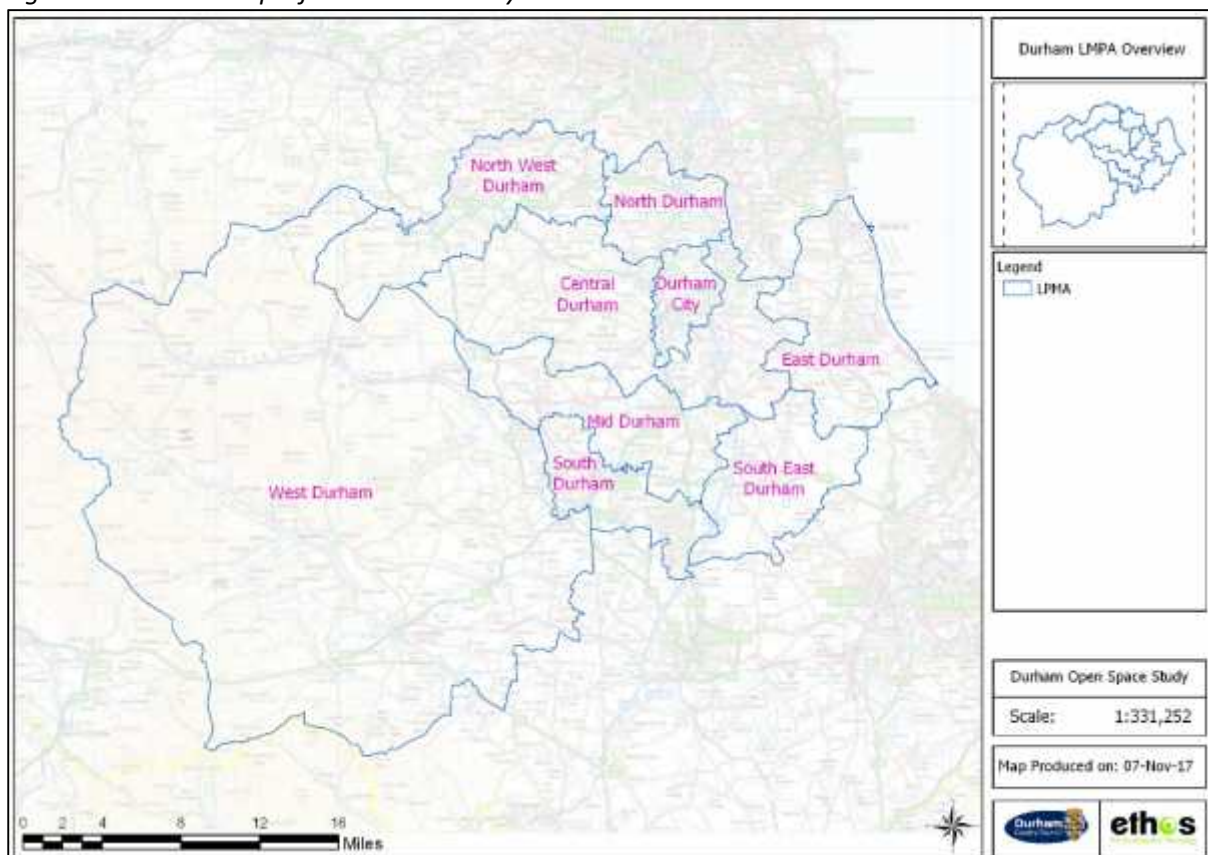
Open Space Area Profile: Central Durham

1.0 Introduction

The County Durham Open Space Assessment is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of the whole assessment and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the county. This report is **part 2 of 2**, and comprises open space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for nine areas as shown in figure 1. These are based on the areas Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs).

Figure 1 Area profiles within County Durham



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

-) A description of the area;
-) Maps showing the provision of open space;
-) Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
-) Analysis of access to open space;
-) Summary of quality issues and opportunities;

-) Analysis of future need for open space;
-) Priorities for the area.

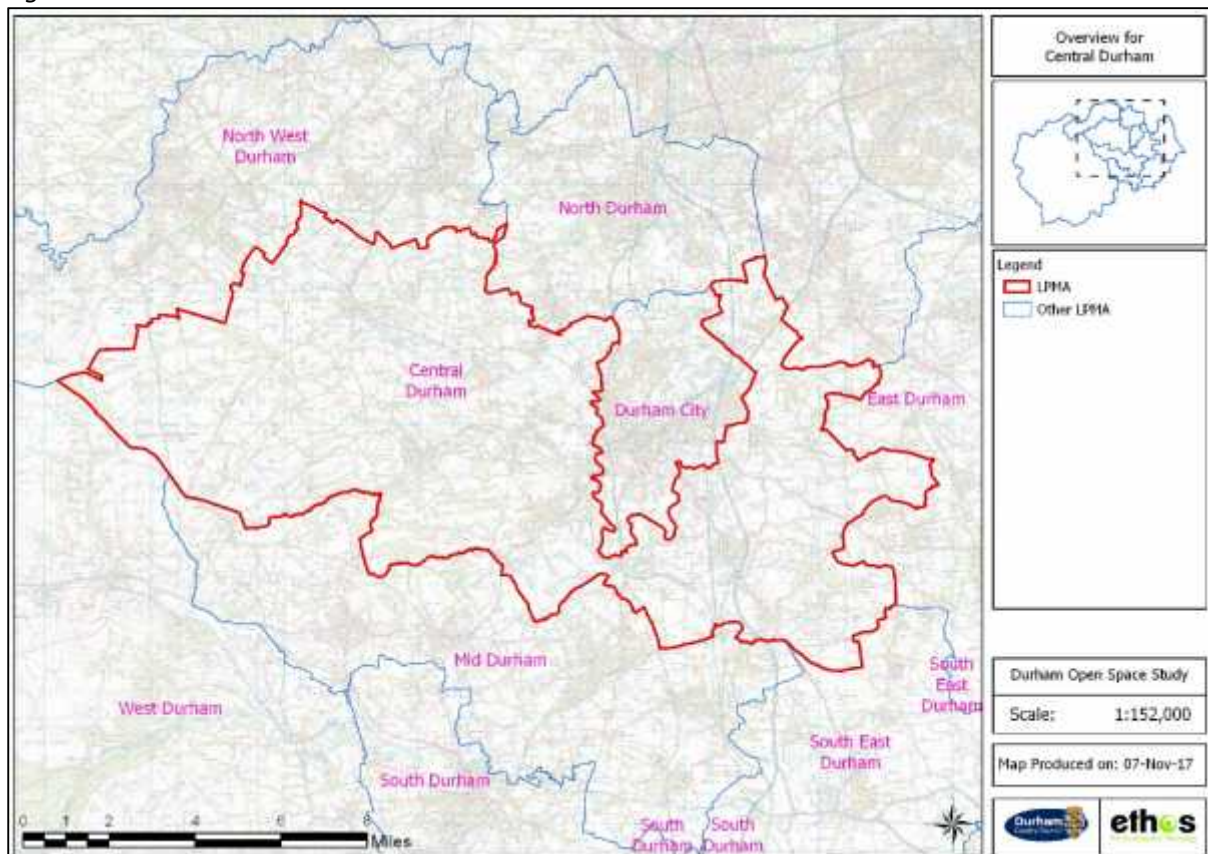
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical area

Figure 2 shows the geographical area included within the Central Durham Local Plan Monitoring Area. The population of this area is 59, 708 (Census 2011).

Figure 2 Central Durham Assessment Area

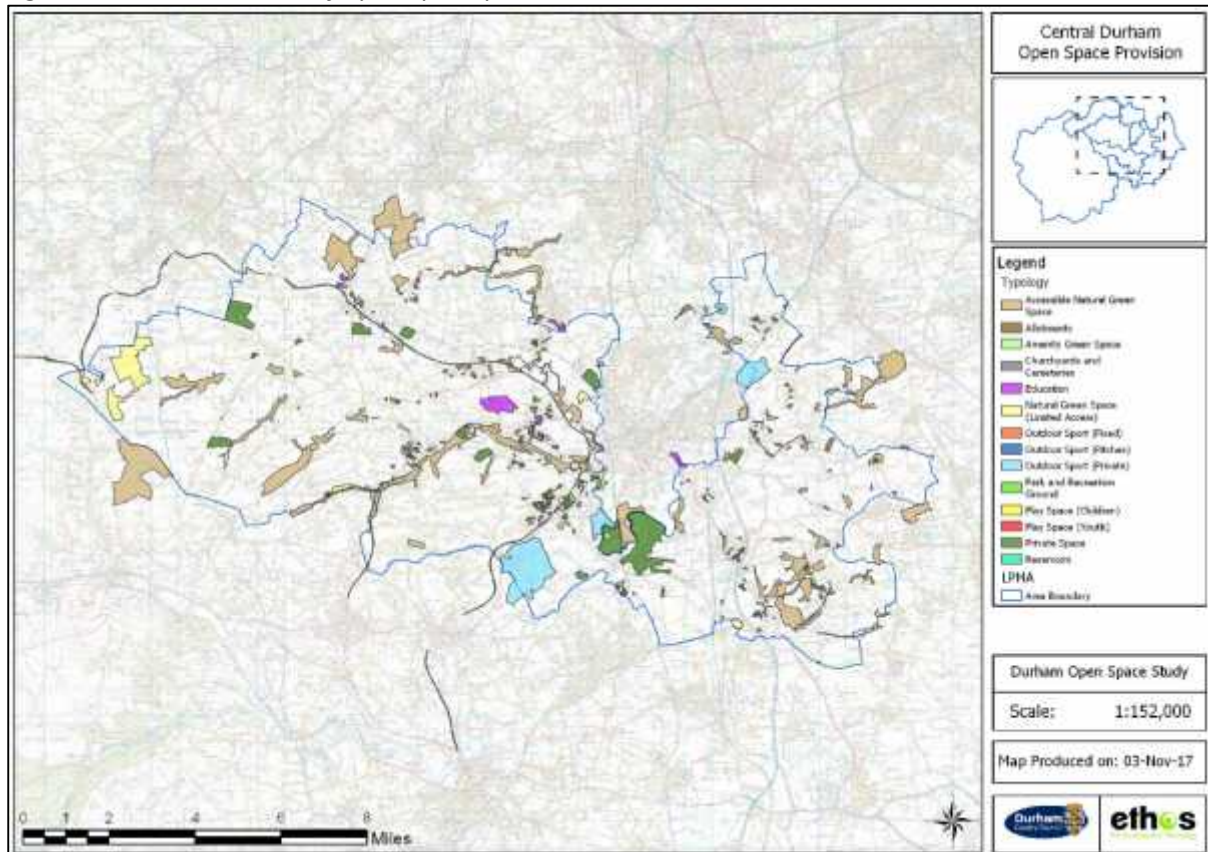


2.0 Existing provision of open space

This section provides maps showing existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the assessment. A map is shown for the overall area, and are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council.

2.1 Overview of open space provision in the assessment area

Figure 3 Overview of open space provision in the Central Durham Assessment Area



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the Central Durham Assessment Area. It uses the quantity standards for open space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Allotments	0.90
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)	1.5 (see standard for Natural Green Space)
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for <u>new</u> provision. The ANGSt standards are used for analysing <u>current</u> provision.
Outdoor Sport (Private)	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the assessment area.

3.2 Quantity provision of open space

Table 2 shows the supply of open space within the Central Durham assessment area using the County Durham standards to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares/1000 population.

The figures for 'Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)' shown in table 2 below, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sport (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided in table 3 for a number of typologies where there are no standards, these typologies are:

-) Outdoor Sport Private;
-) Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
-) Education;
-) Churchyard and Cemetery.

Table 2 Existing supply of open space across Central Durham assessment area

Typology	Existing Provision	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall supply
Allotments	44.86	0.75	53.74	0.9	-8.88	-0.15	Under Supply
Amenity Green Space	77.64	1.30	89.56	1.5	-11.92	-0.20	Under Supply
Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	80.4	1.35	83.59	1.4	-3.19	-0.05	Under Supply
Play Space (Children)	3.98	0.07	2.99	0.05	+0.99	+0.02	Sufficient Supply
Play Space (Youth)	2.01	0.03	2.39	0.04	-0.38	-0.01	Under Supply

As can be seen from the table above, within the assessment area, there is an overall under supply of all typologies with the exception of children’s play space. The total shortfall for each typology is:

-) Allotments 8.88 Ha
 -) Amenity Green Space 11.92 Ha
 -) Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined) 3.19 Ha
 -) Play Space (Youth) 0.38
- Total shortfall 24.37 Ha**

Table 3 Provision of open space for typologies with no standards

Typology	Existing provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Outdoor Sport (Private)	8.29	0.14
Accessible Natural Green Space	750.10	12.56
Education	97.09	1.63
Churchyards and Cemeteries	29.22	0.49

4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of open space across the assessment area using the County Durham access standards (as summarised in table 4).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Table 4 County Durham access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt

Figure 4 Access to Allotments across the Central Durham Assessment Area (480m)

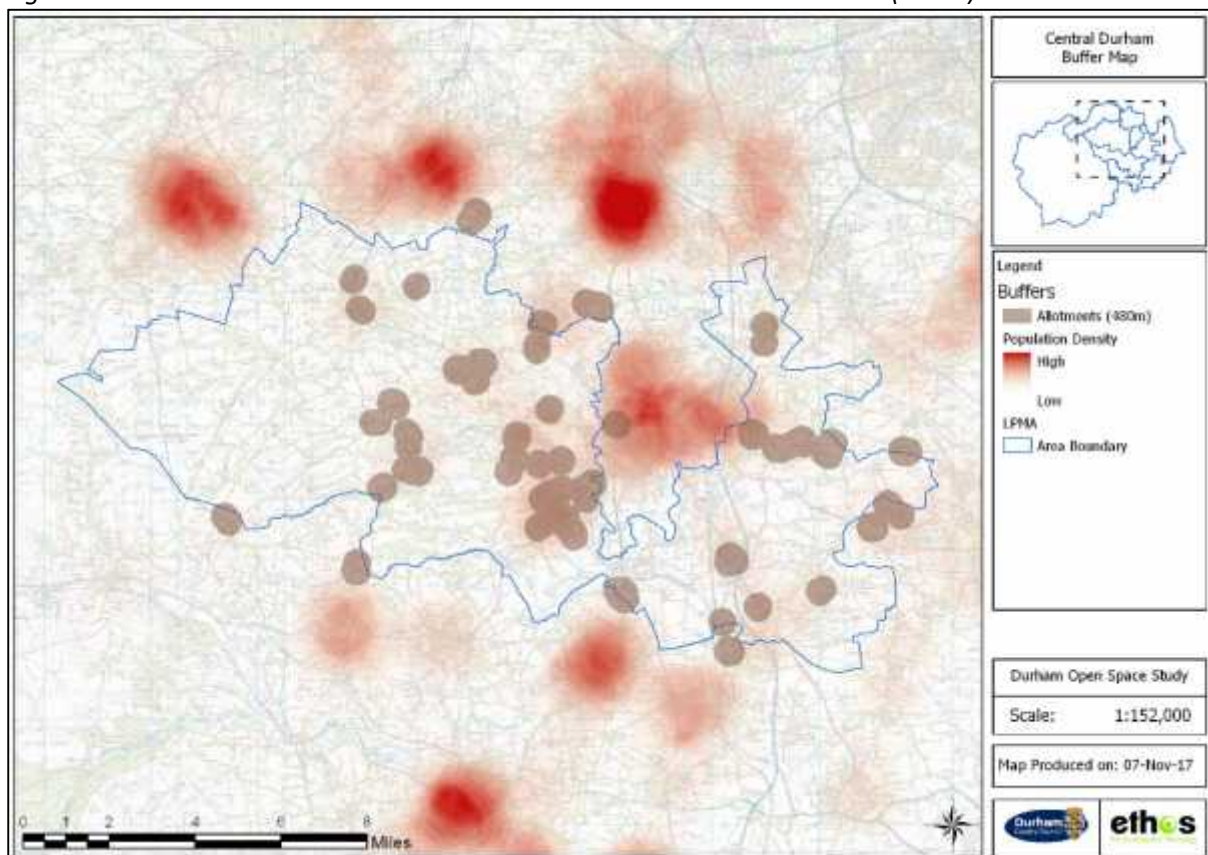


Figure 5 Access to Amenity Green Space across the Central Durham Assessment Area (480m)

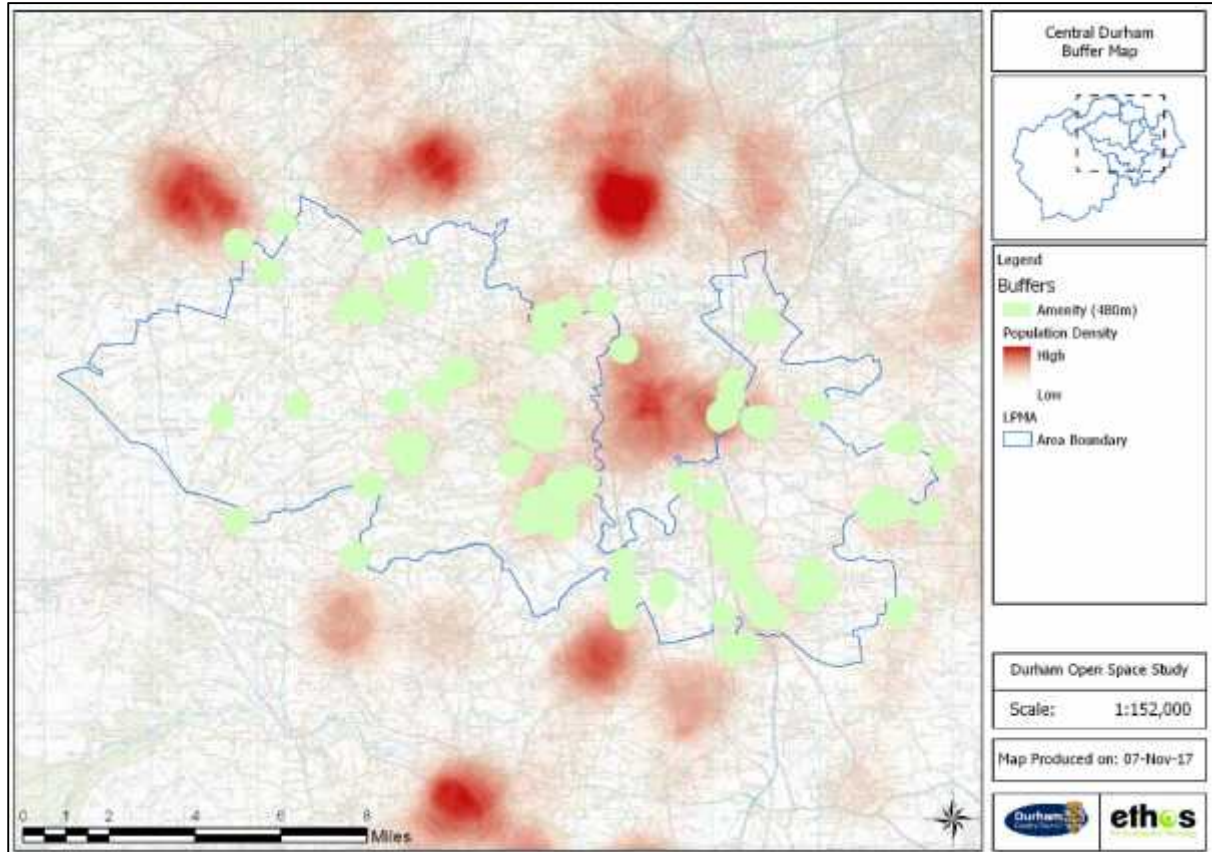


Figure 6 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the Central Durham Assessment Area (600m)

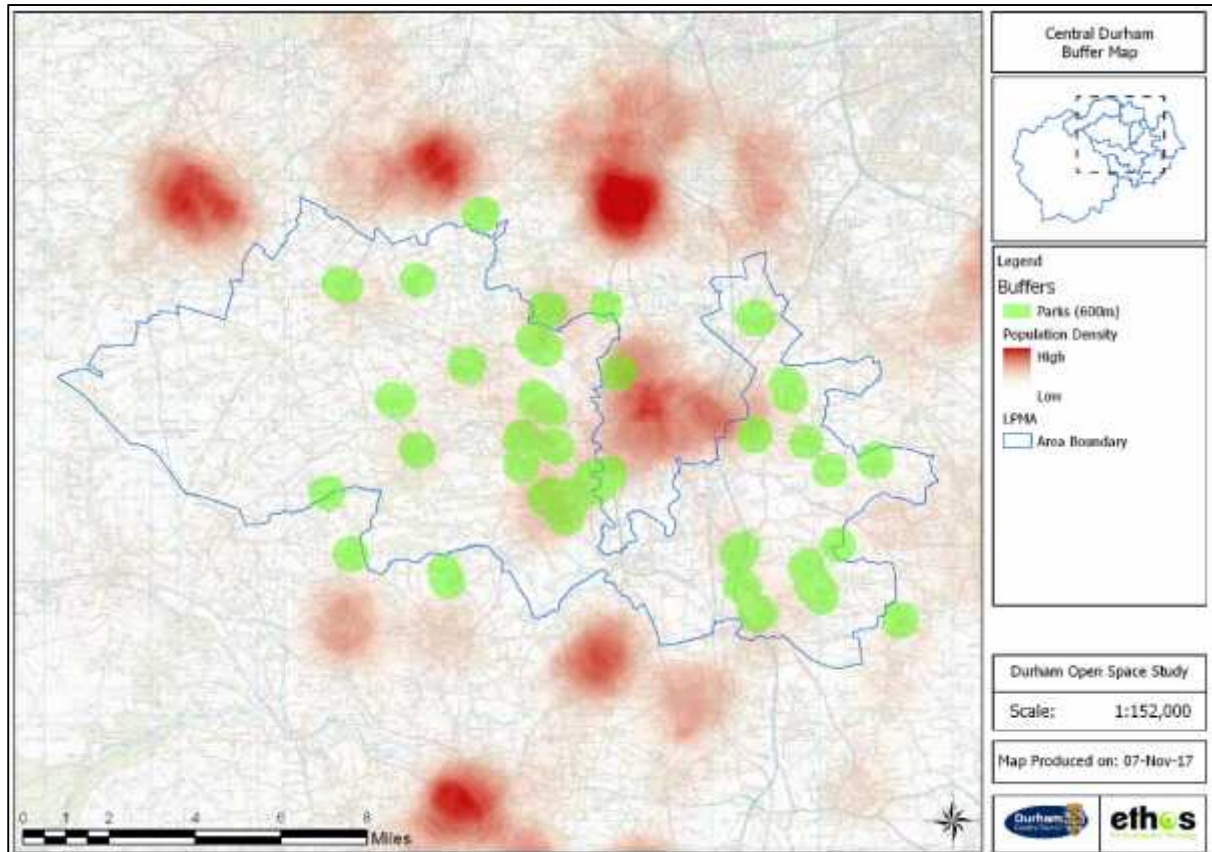


Figure 7 Access to Children’s Play Space across the Central Durham Assessment Area (600m)

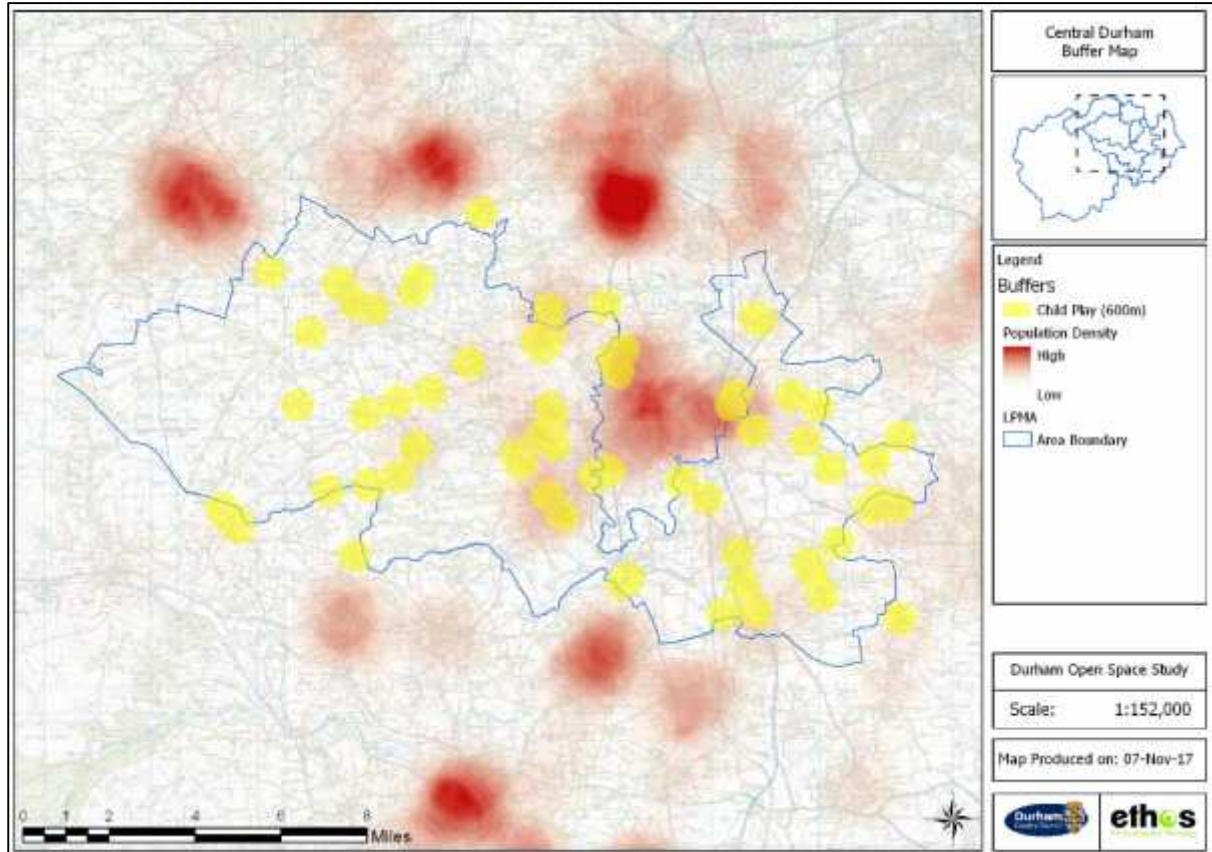


Figure 8 Access to Youth Play Space across the Central Durham Assessment Area (720m)

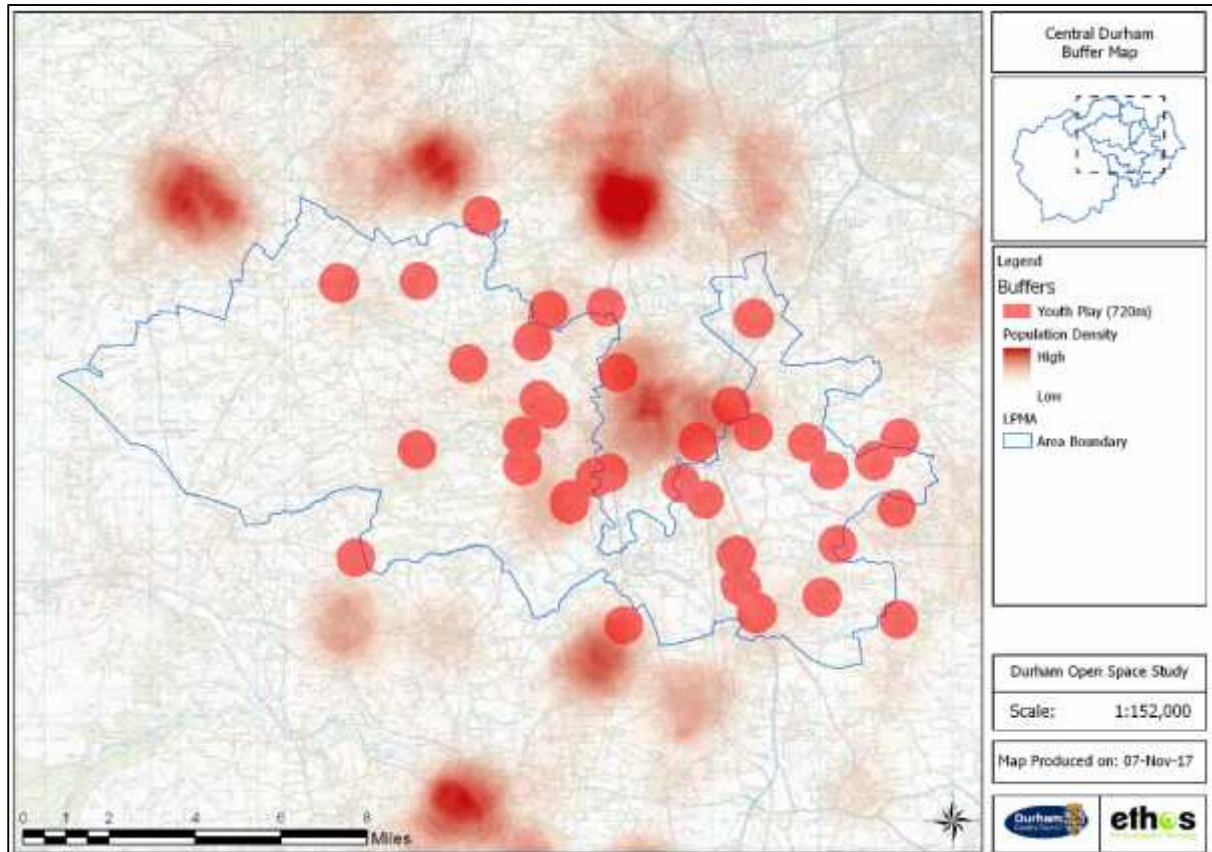


Figure 9 Access to Natural Green Space (20 ha site within 2km ANGSt)

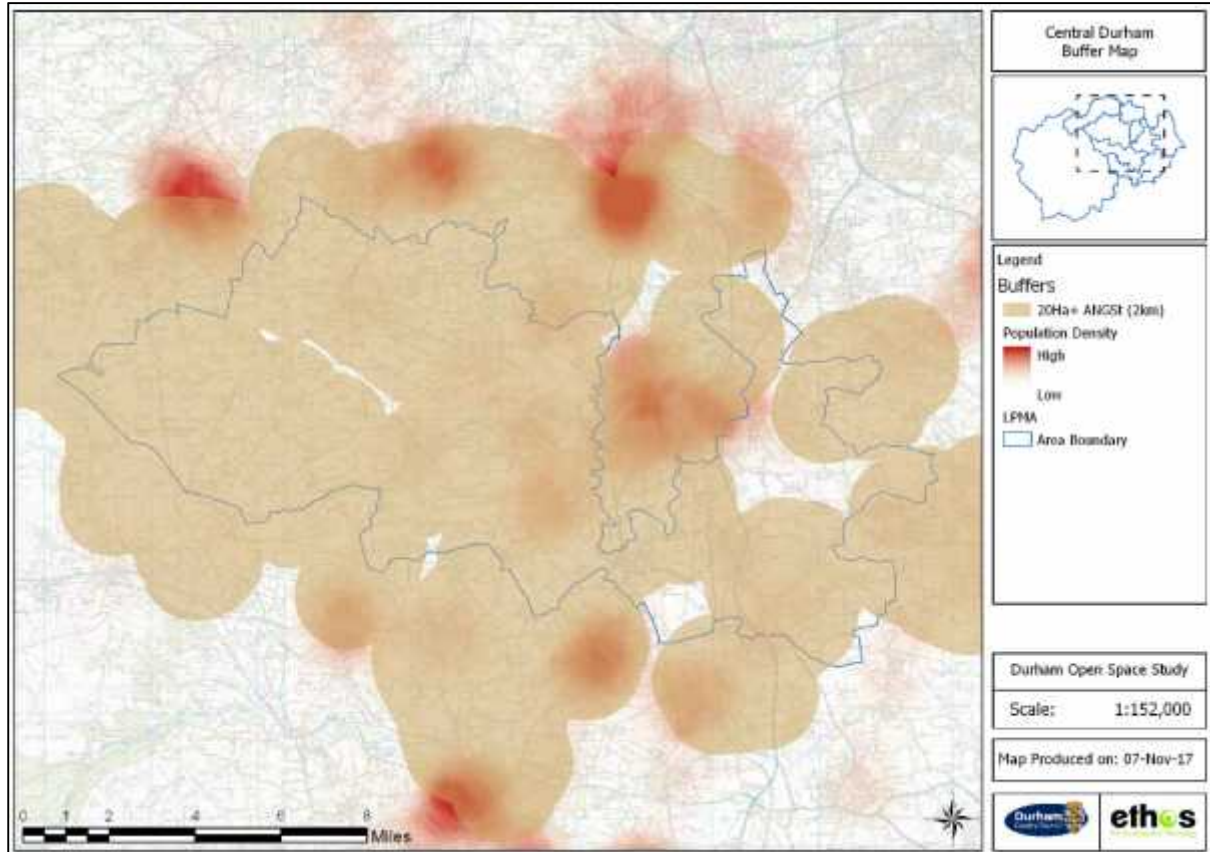
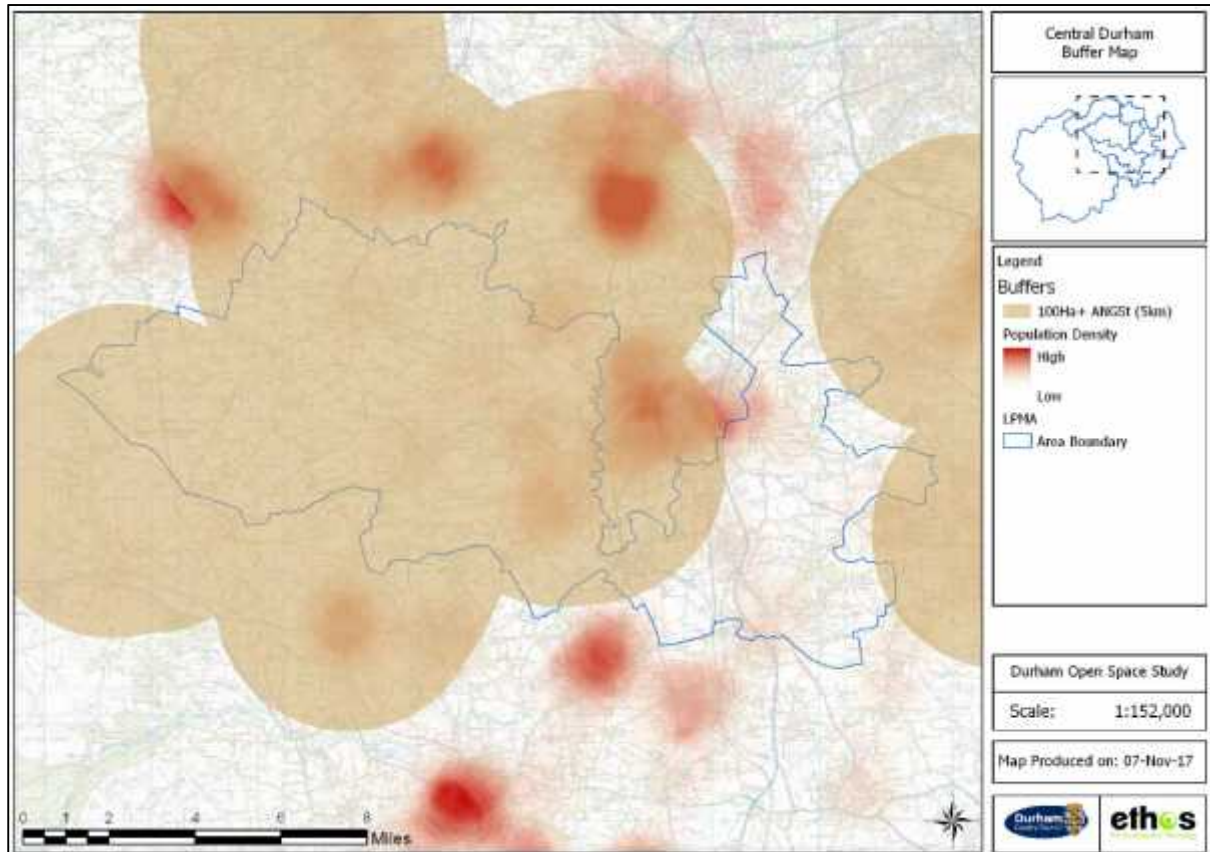


Figure 10 Access to Natural Green Space (100 ha site within 5km ANGSt)



4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 5 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 4-10, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Table 5 Summary of existing access issues for Central Durham Assessment Area

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Relatively good access within the areas of highest population density, although there are gaps in access, especially in the central part of the assessment area.
Amenity Green Space	Again, relatively good access within the areas of highest population density, although there are gaps in access, especially in the central part of the assessment area.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	See above (as for amenity green space and allotments).
Play Space (Children)	Provision is more sporadic, with larger gaps in access across the assessment area.
Play Space (Youth)	As above, but provision is even more sporadic than for children's play space.
Natural Green Space	Nearly the whole assessment area meets the 20ha site within 2km of home ANGst standard, although there is a very small gap in access in the east of the assessment area. The western part of the assessment area also meets the 100ha site within 5km, although the majority of the eastern part of the assessment area does not meet the standard. There is no access to a 500ha site within the assessment area.

5.0 Quality Assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall assessment. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.20 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and Maintenance;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community Involvement.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). Within these area profiles, summary maps showing the sites existing and potential quality scores is provided.

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

- J) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (figure 11) and those sites with the highest potential for improvement i.e. those sites scoring a potential rank of A, B or C (figure 12). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided to the Council.

These maps are intended for indicative purposes only, a GIS database has been provided to the Council for detailed analysis/viewing.

Figure 11 Existing quality rank of open space

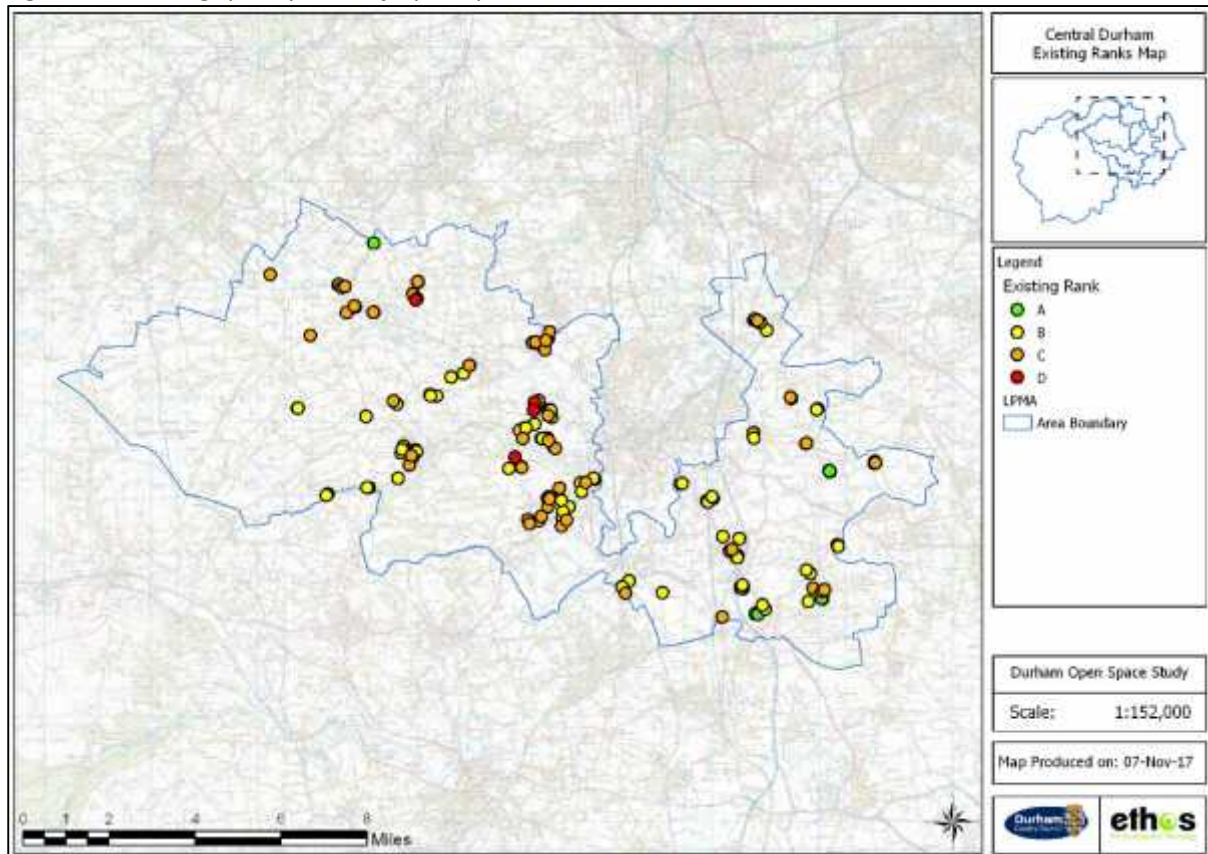
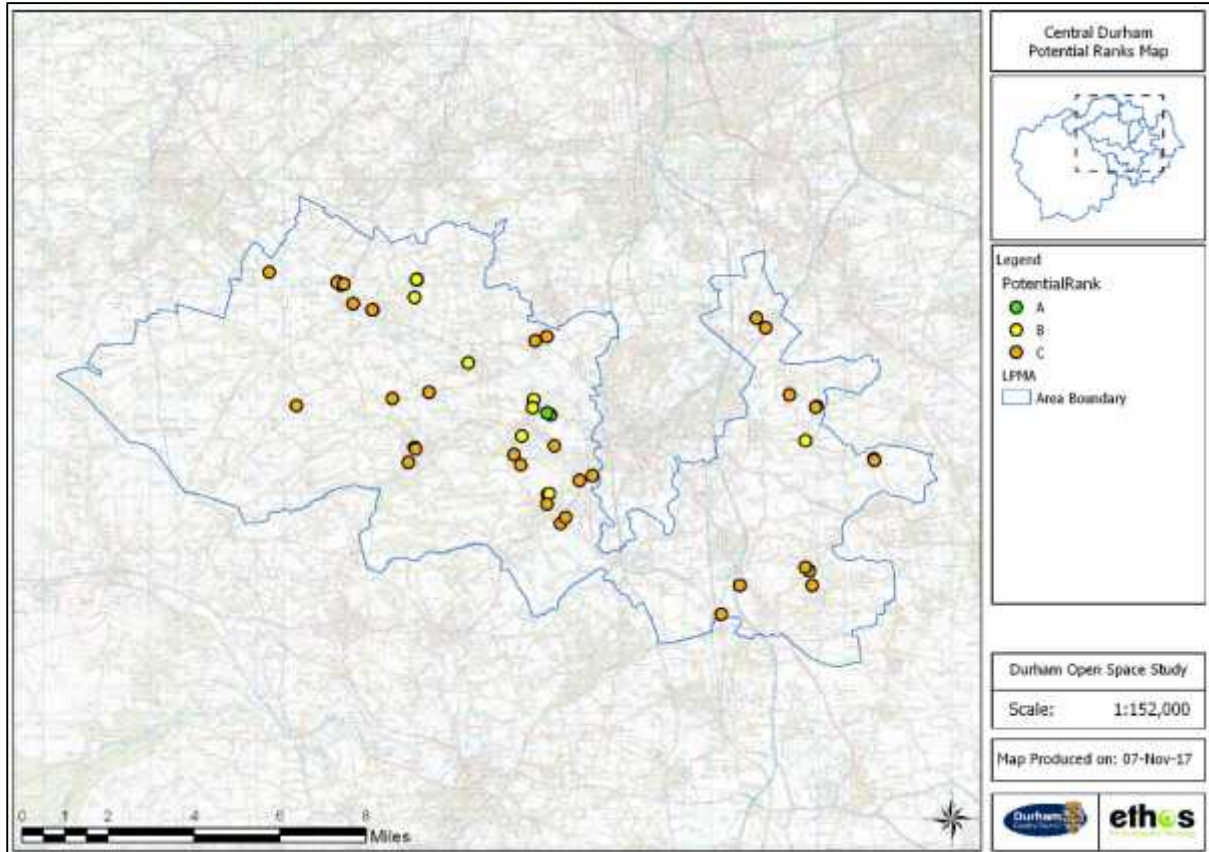


Figure 12 Sites with potential for improvement



6.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

-) Existing provision to be enhanced;
-) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
-) Identification of areas for new provision;
-) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

6.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.3 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (figure 11). Figure 12 then highlights those sites which have ‘potential for improvement’ i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 28 open spaces and 18 play spaces which are ranked A-C, with sites ranked A the highest potential/priority for improvement. It is expected that when allocated sites are brought forward, consideration would be given to the potential to improve the priority sites.

6.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of Central Durham, there is little opportunity in terms of quantity, as there is an existing shortfall across all typologies with the exception of children’s play space. There is generally good access to natural green space. Natural green space could provide potential for meeting shortfalls in low impact uses such as allotments/community food growing area and reducing gaps in access to children’s play e.g. the provision of natural play space for children if appropriate.

6.3 Identification of areas for new provision

The assessment has identified that there is already an existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of allotments and amenity green space in the Central Durham assessment area. Therefore, the need to protect existing facilities and maximise opportunities for securing new open space is key. Consideration should be given to pooling section 106 contributions (or securing through CIL) to improve the quality and access to existing open spaces, in order to improve their capacity.

6.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

Due to the existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of open space, it is recommended that there are no open space facilities that are surplus to requirement. Consideration could be given to the potential for natural green spaces to be surplus, however, the assessment has identified the value of these spaces in terms of green infrastructure, biodiversity and access.

These factors are considered to provide over riding benefit to any other potential uses or demands.

Durham County Council Open Space Needs Assessment 2018



Area Profile: Durham City

Part 2 of 2

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL

info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

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CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	2 - 3
2.0 Existing provision of open space	4
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	5 - 7
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	8 - 12
5.0 Quality assessment	13 - 15
6.0 Summary of priorities for the area	16 - 17

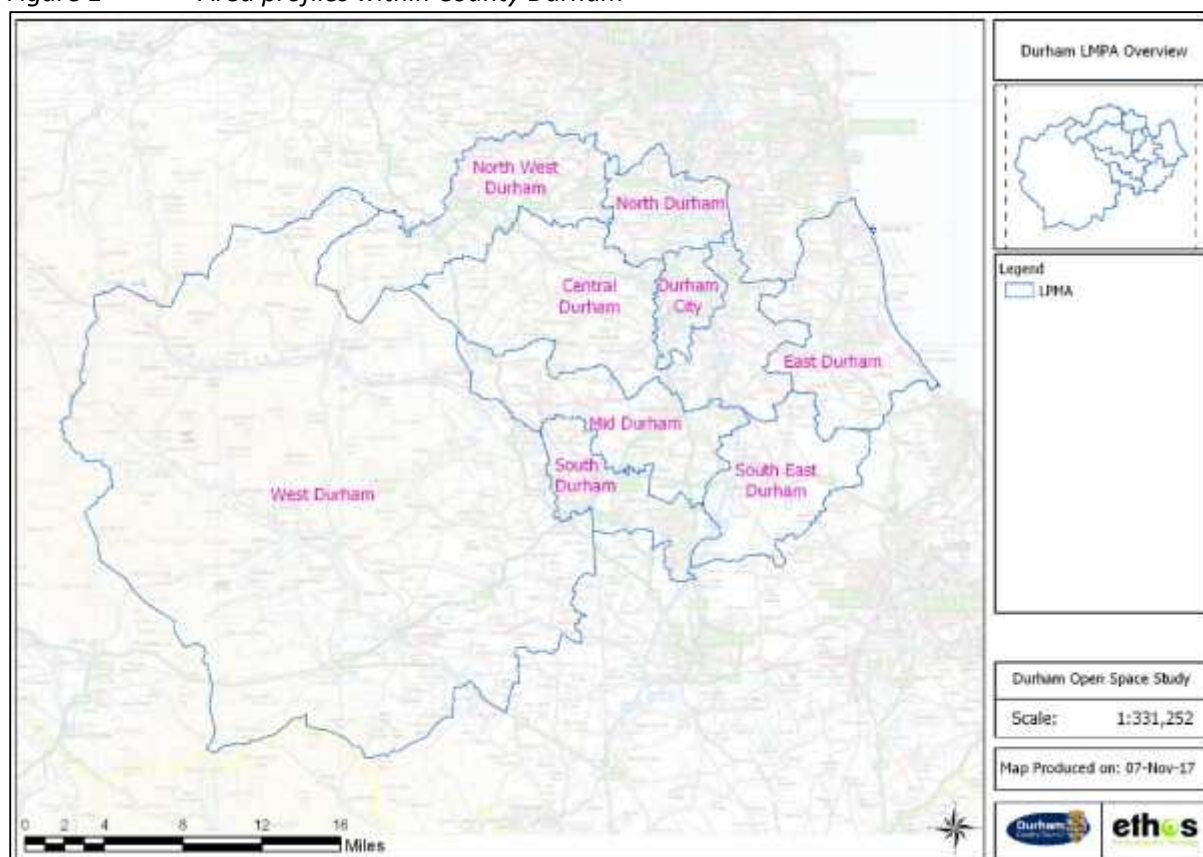
Open Space Area Profile: Durham City

1.0 Introduction

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The area profiles have been developed for nine areas as shown in figure 1. These are based on the areas Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs).

Figure 1 Area profiles within County Durham



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

-) A description of the area;
-) Maps showing the provision of open space;
-) Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
-) Analysis of access to open space;
-) Summary of quality issues and opportunities;

-) Analysis of future need for open space;
-) Priorities for the area.

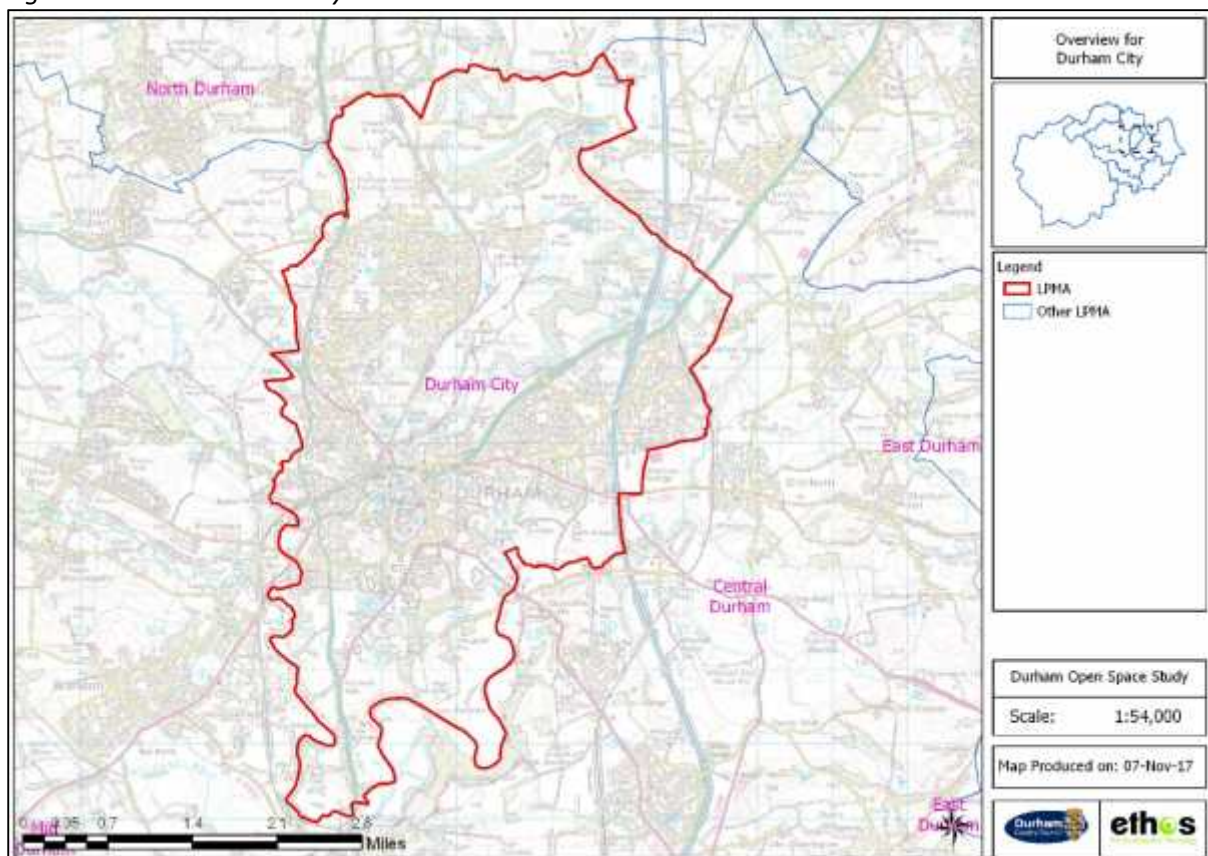
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical Area

Figure 2 shows the geographical area included within the Durham City Local Plan Monitoring Area. The population of this area is 47,026 (Census 2011).

Figure 2 Durham City Assessment Area

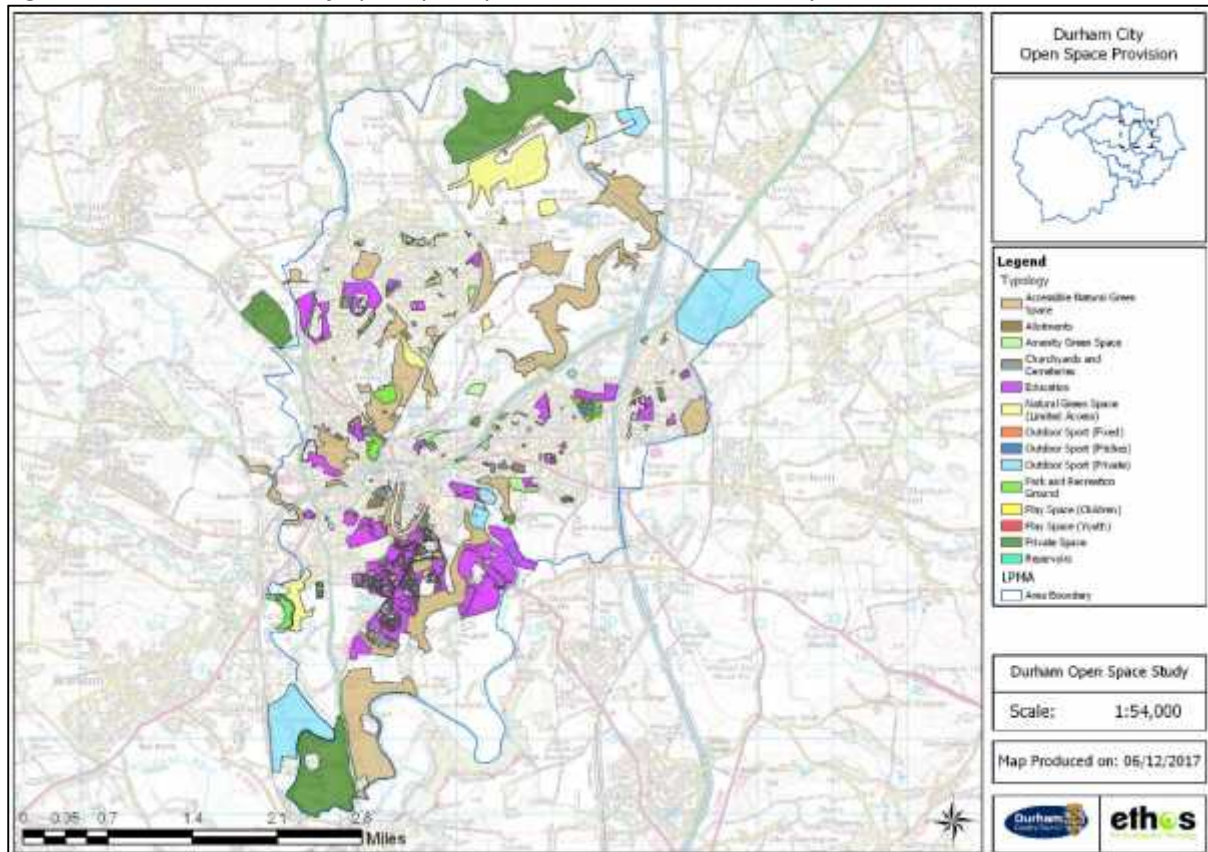


2.0 Existing provision of open space

This section provides maps showing existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the assessment. A map is shown for the overall area, and are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council.

2.1 Overview of open space provision in the assessment area

Figure 3 Overview of open space provision in the Durham City Assessment Area



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the Durham City assessment area. It uses the quantity standards for green space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Allotments	0.90
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)	1.5 (see standard for Natural Green Space)
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for <u>new</u> provision. The ANGSt standards are used for analysing <u>current</u> provision.
Outdoor Sport (Private)	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the assessment area.

3.2 Quantity provision of open space

Table 2 shows the existing provision of open space within the Durham City assessment area using the County Durham standards to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares/1000 population.

The figures for ‘Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)’ shown in table 2 below, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sports Space (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided in table 3 for a number of typologies where there are no standards, these typologies are:

-) Outdoor Sport Private;
-) Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
-) Education;
-) Churchyard and Cemetery.

Table 2 Existing supply of green space across Durham City assessment area

Typology	Existing Provision	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Provision
Allotments	6.16	0.13	42.32	0.9	-36.16	-0.77	Under Supply
Amenity Green Space	29.96	0.64	70.54	1.5	-40.58	-0.86	Under Supply
Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	27.44	0.58	65.84	1.4	-38.40	-0.82	Under Supply
Play Space (Children)	2.09	0.04	2.35	0.05	-0.26	-0.01	Under Supply
Play Space (Youth)	0.81	0.02	1.88	0.04	-1.07	-0.02	Under Supply

As can be seen from the table above, within the assessment area, there is an overall under supply of all typologies of open space. The total shortfall for each typology is:

-) Allotments 36.16 Ha
 -) Amenity Green Space 40.58 Ha
 -) Parks and Recreation grounds (Combined) 38.40 Ha
 -) Play Space (Children) 0.26 Ha
 -) Play Space (Youth) 1.07Ha
- Total shortfall 116.47 Ha**

Although meeting this shortfall is unlikely to be achievable, it highlights that there are significant shortfalls in open space provision, and demonstrates the need for on-site provision of open space with new development. It also highlights the importance of improving the access to and quality of existing open spaces to improve capacity.

Table 3 Provision of open space for typologies with no standards

Typology	Existing provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Outdoor Sport (Private)	11.12	0.24
Accessible Natural Green Space	356.11	7.57
Education	242.79	5.16
Churchyards and Cemeteries	17.53	0.37

4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of open space across the assessment area using the County Durham access standards (as summarised in table 4).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Table 4 Durham City access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt

Figure 4 Access to Allotments across the Durham City Assessment Area (480m)

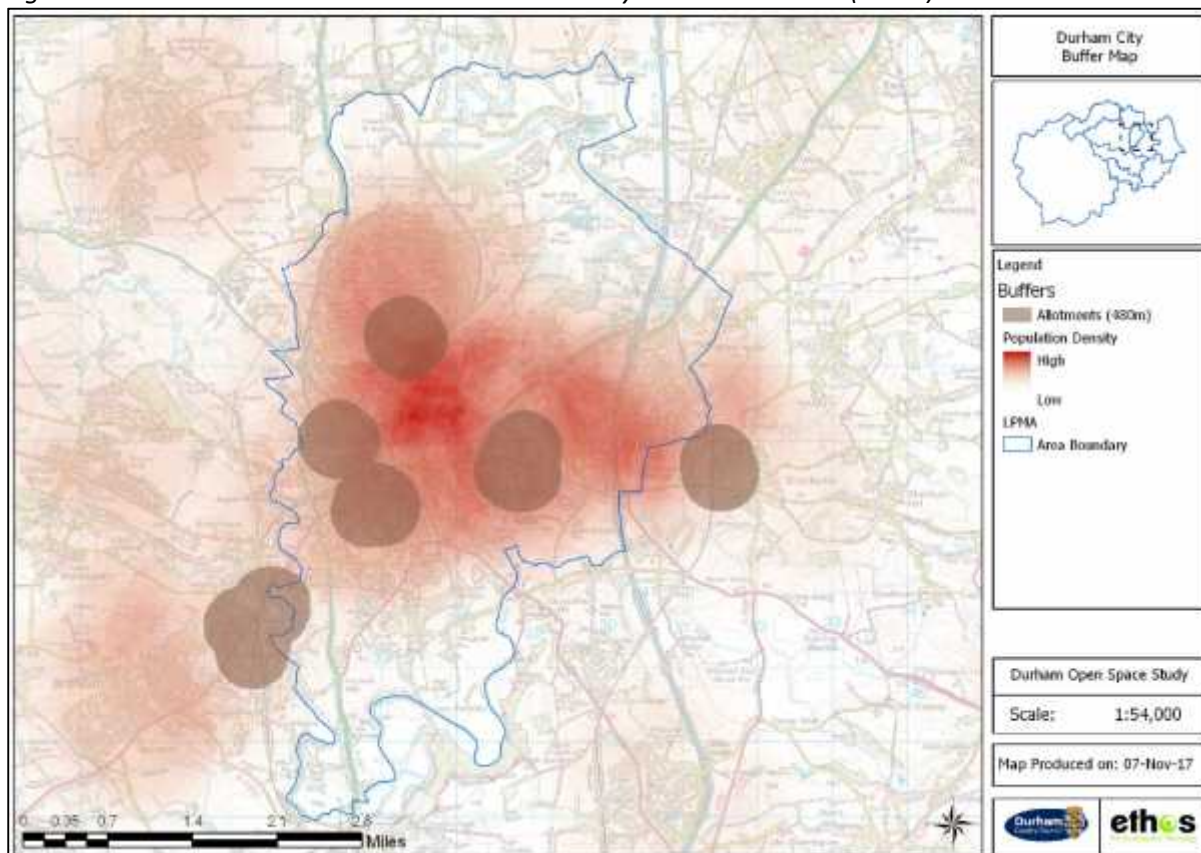


Figure 5 Access to Amenity Green Space across the Durham City Assessment Area (480m)

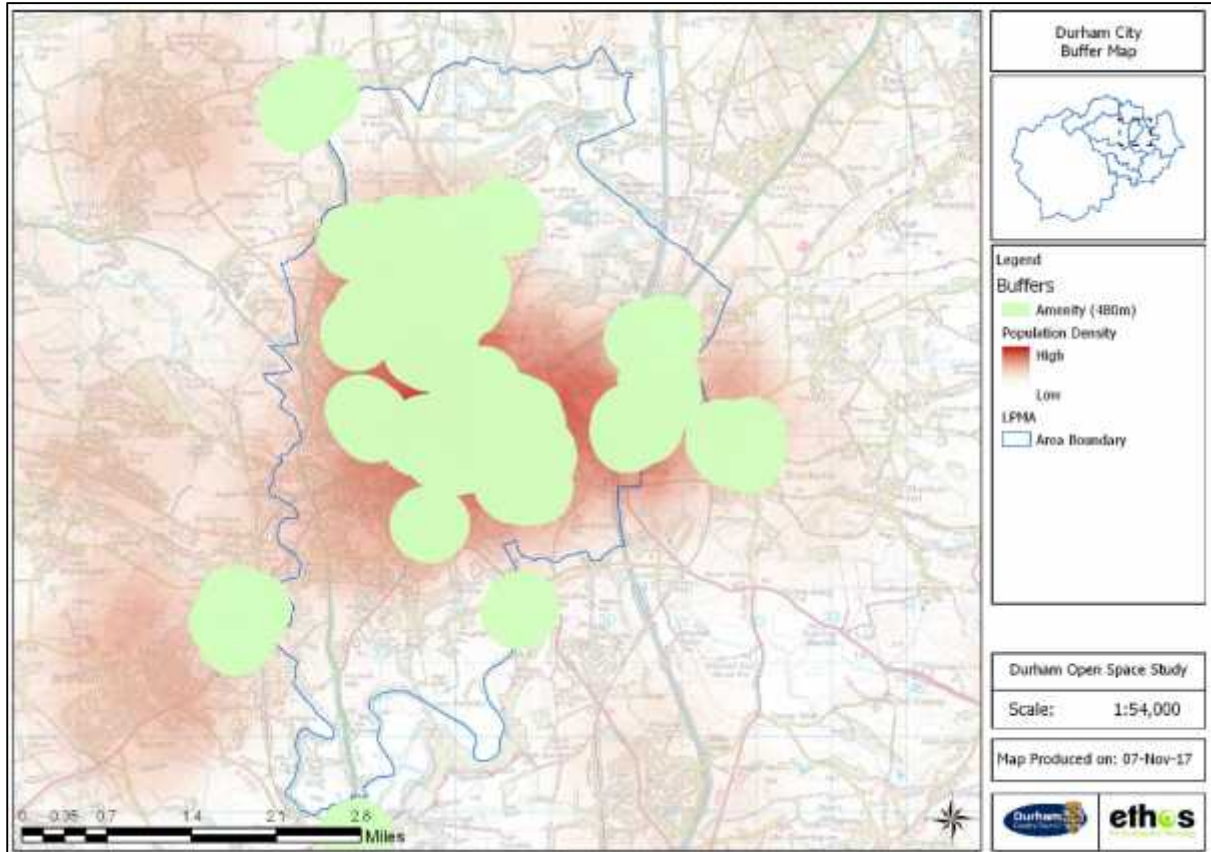


Figure 6 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the Durham City Assessment Area (600m)

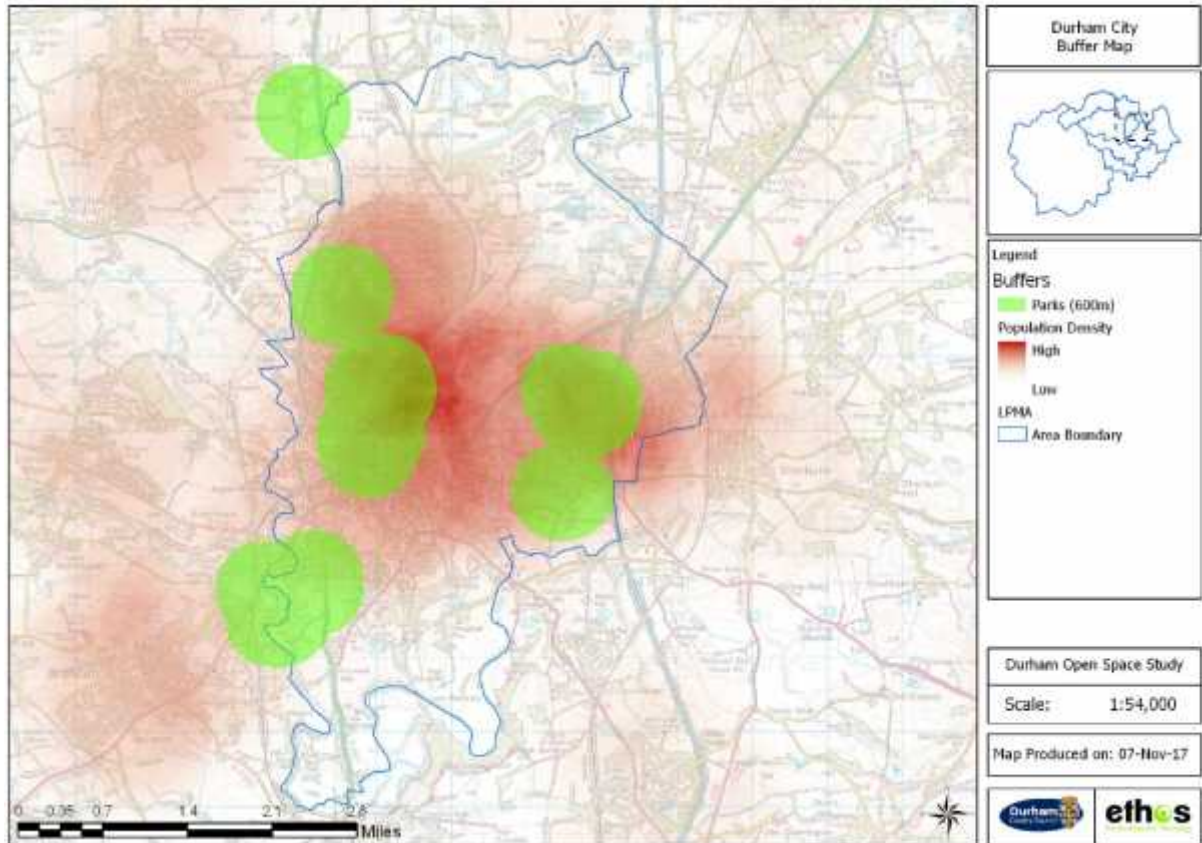


Figure 7 Access to Children’s Play Space across the Durham City Assessment Area (600m)

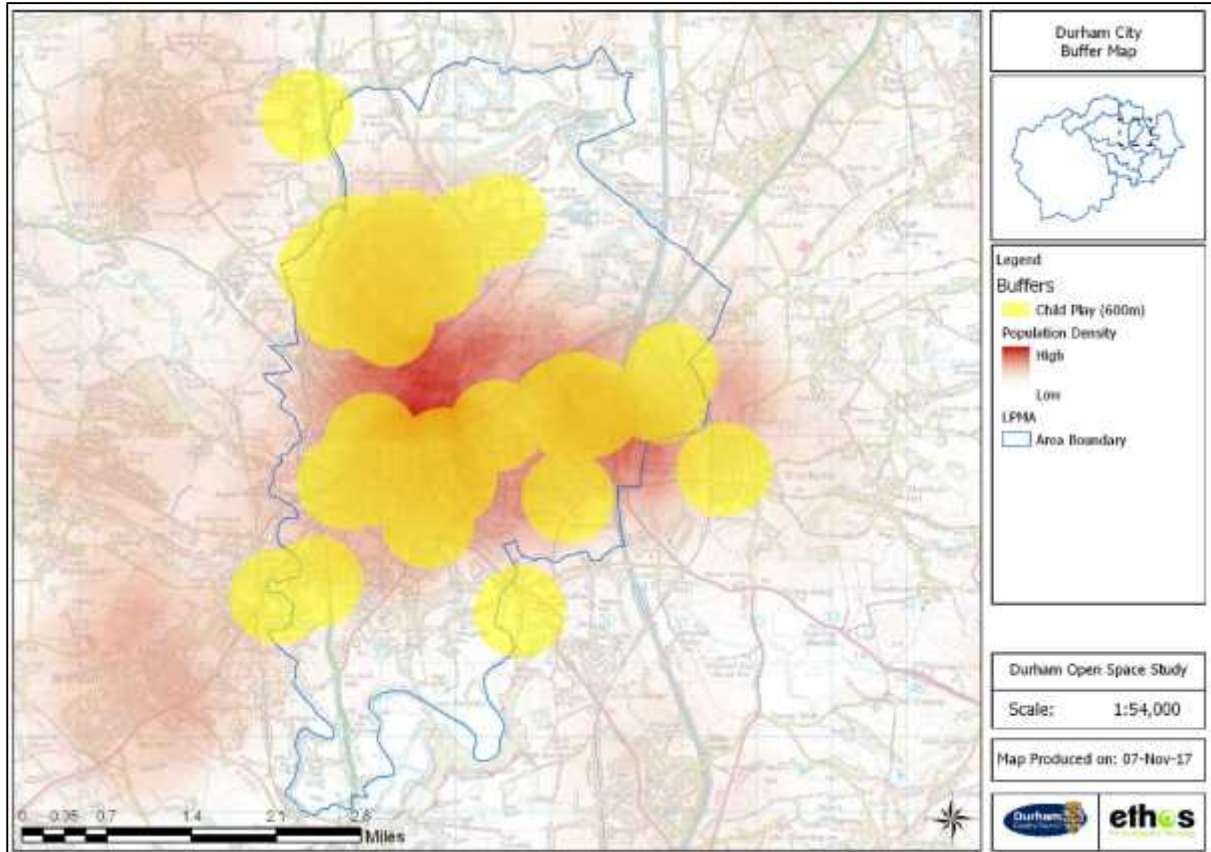


Figure 8 Access to Youth Play Space across the Durham City Assessment Area (720m)

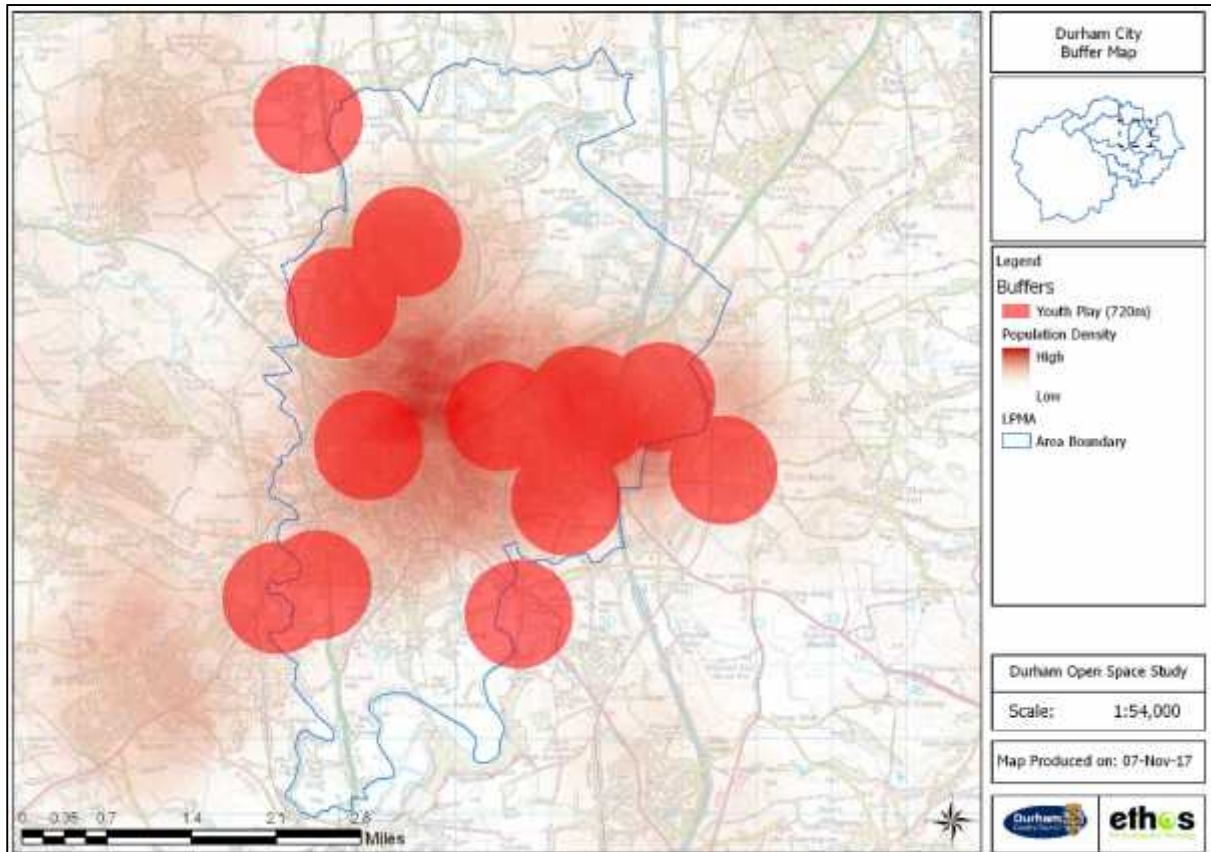


Figure 9 Access to Natural Green Space (20 ha site within 2km ANGSt)

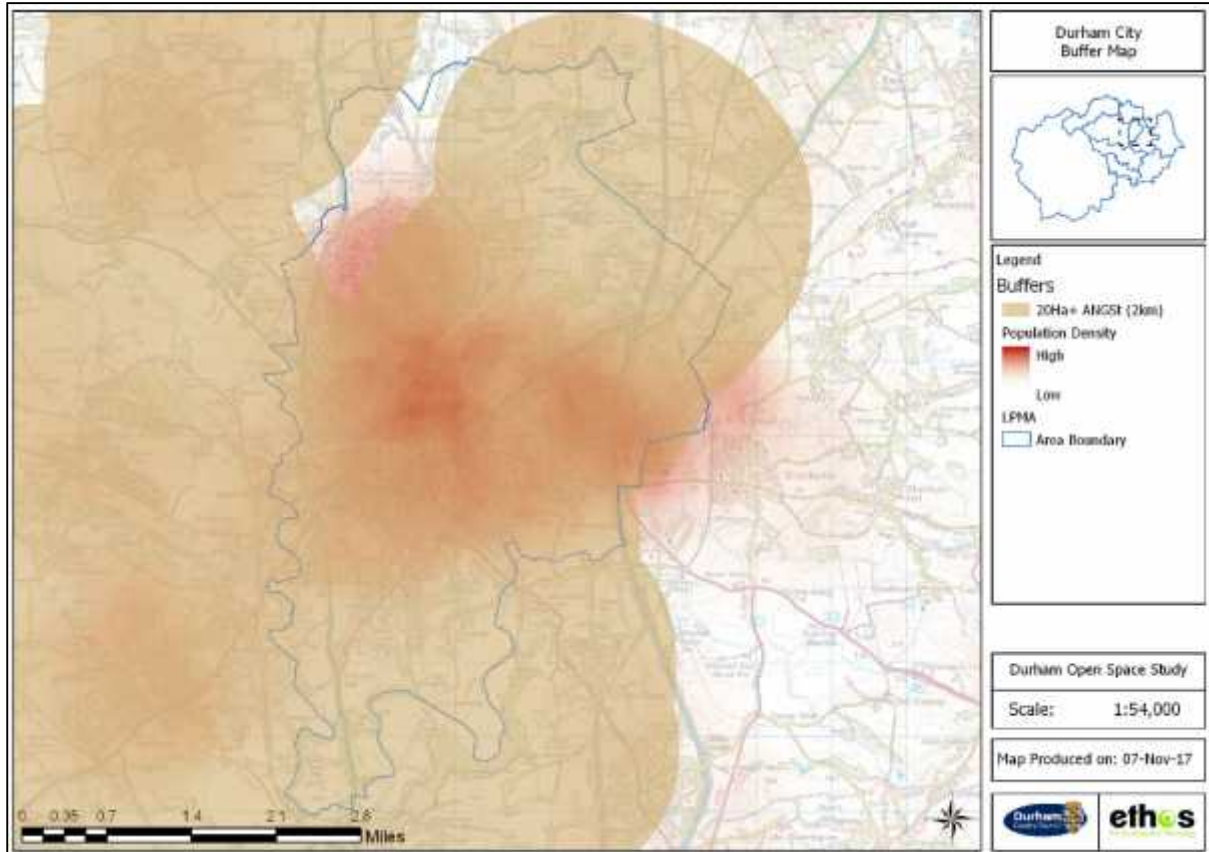
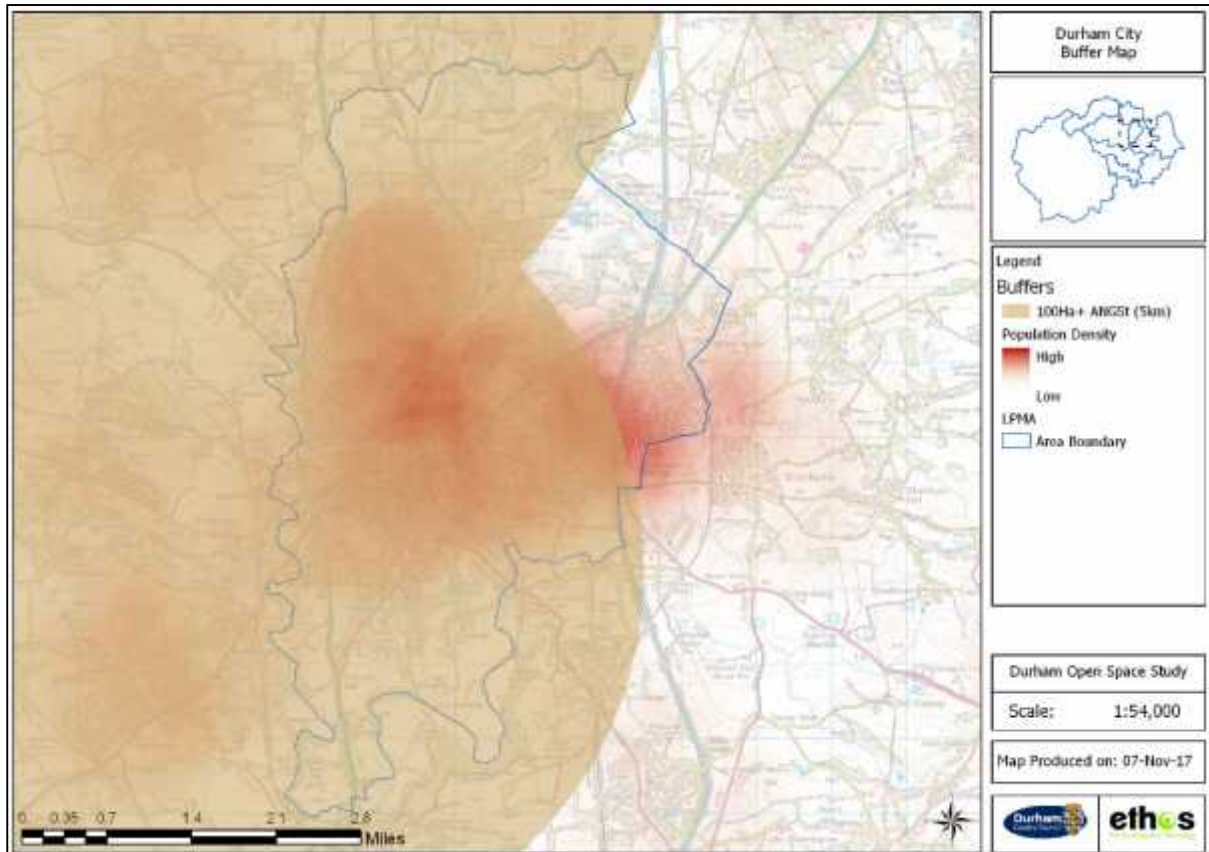


Figure 10 Access to Natural Green Space (100 ha site within 5km ANGSt)



4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 5 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 4-10, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Table 5 Summary of existing access issues for Durham City Assessment Area

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Very sporadic access with large gaps in access
Amenity Green Space	Relatively good access within the centre of the assessment area, although some gaps in access.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Sporadic access with large gaps in access.
Play Space (Children)	Relatively good access, although gaps in access in the central part of the assessment area where there is high population density.
Play Space (Youth)	Sporadic provision with large gaps in access.
Natural Green Space	Good access to 20ha sites with a small gap in access in the north west of the assessment area. Also relatively good access to 100ha sites, with a gap in access in the east of the assessment area. There are no 500 Ha sites within 10km.

5.0 Quality Assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall assessment. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.20 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and Maintenance;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community Involvement.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). Within these area profiles, summary maps showing the sites existing and potential quality scores is provided.

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

- J) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (figure 11) and a list of sites with potential for improvement i.e. those sites scoring a potential rank of A, B or C (figure 12). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided to the Council.

These maps are intended for indicative purposes only, a GIS database has been provided to the council for detailed analysis/viewing.

Figure 11 Existing quality rank of open space

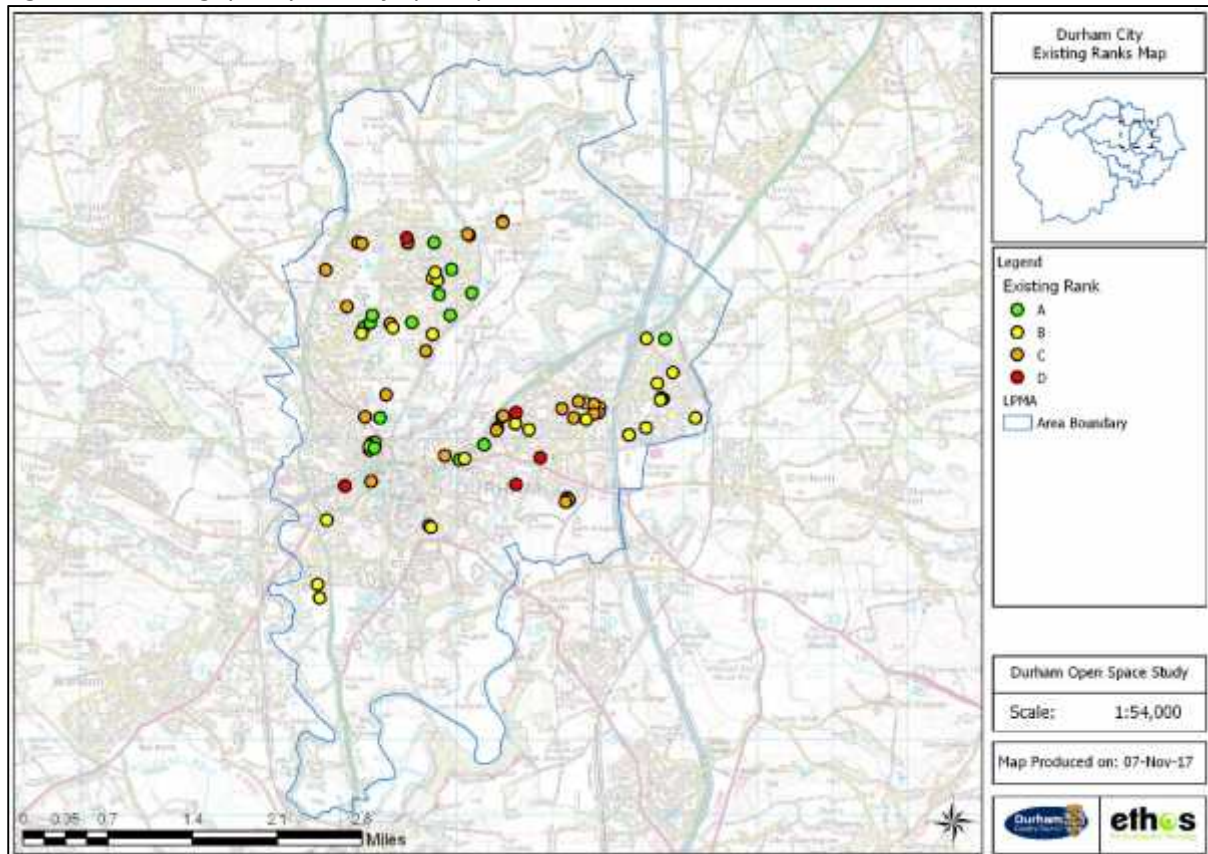
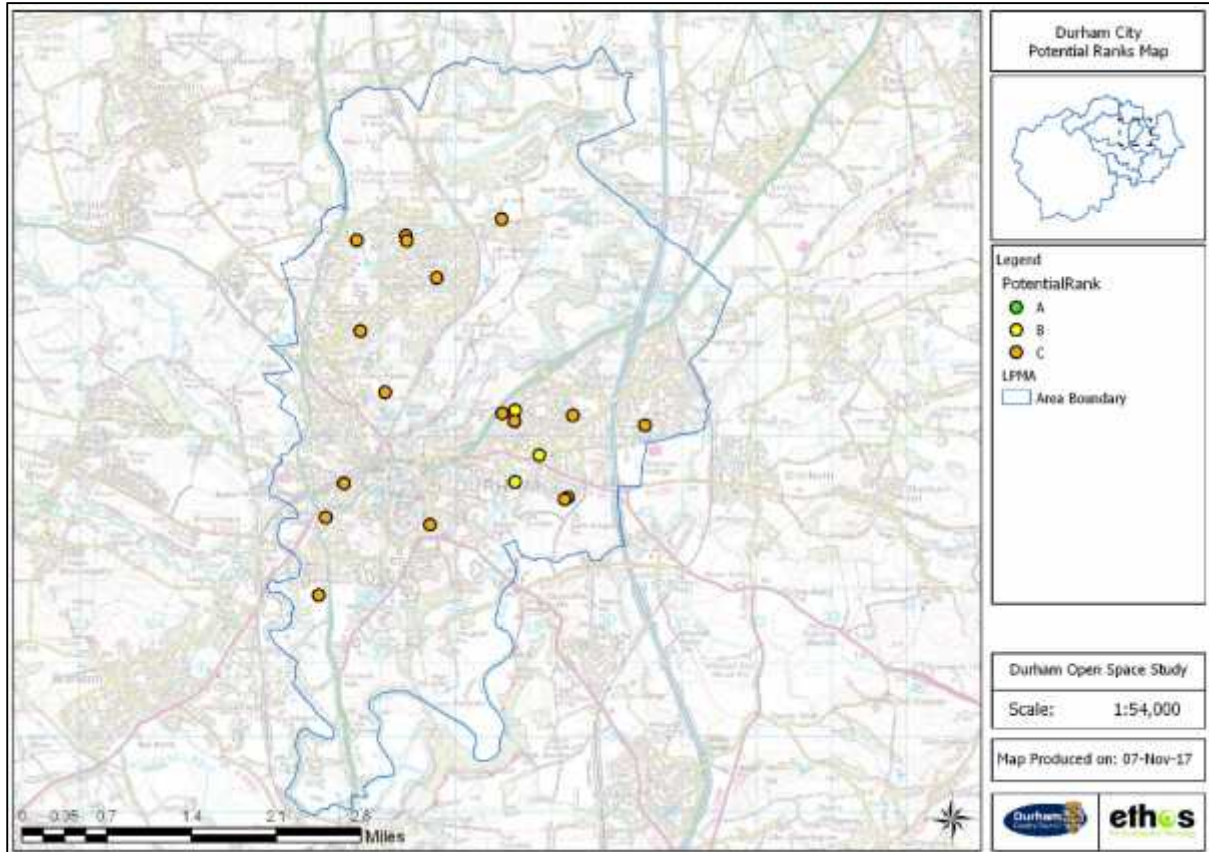


Figure 12 Sites with potential for improvement



6.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

-) Existing provision to be enhanced;
-) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
-) Identification of areas for new provision;
-) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

6.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.3 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (figure 11). Figure 12 then highlights those sites which have ‘potential for improvement’ i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 7 open spaces and 7 play spaces which are ranked B-C (none were ranked A), with sites ranked B the highest potential/priority for improvement. It is expected that when allocated sites are brought forward, consideration would be given to the potential to improve the priority sites.

6.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of Durham City, there is little opportunity in terms of quantity, as there is an existing shortfall across all typologies. In terms of access, there is limited opportunity due to the quantitative issues, however, there is generally good access to natural green space which could provide potential for meeting shortfalls in allotments and children’s play space e.g. through the provision of community food growing areas or natural children’s play items if appropriate.

Although meeting the large shortfalls identified (table 2) is unlikely to be achievable, it demonstrates the need for on-site provision of open space with new development. It also highlights the importance of improving the access to and quality of existing open spaces to improve capacity.

The level of required open space resulting from the relatively high levels of proposed development (table 6) is considered to be deliverable and achievable through development.

6.3 Identification of areas for new provision

The assessment has identified that there is already an existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of all types of open space in the Durham City assessment area. The impact of any future housing growth is also likely to exacerbate this situation. Therefore, the need to protect

existing open space and provide open space on site in new development is a key priority for the area.

Consideration could also be given to allowing public access to facilities within school grounds, in order to reduce gaps in access.

6.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

Due to the existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of open space across all types of open space, it is recommended that there are no open space facilities that are surplus to requirement. Consideration could be given to the potential for natural green spaces to be surplus, however, the assessment has identified the value of these spaces in terms of green infrastructure, biodiversity and access. These factors are considered to provide over riding benefit to any other potential uses or demands.

Durham County Council Open Space Needs Assessment 2018



Area Profile: East Durham

Part 2 of 2

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL
info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	2 - 3
2.0 Existing provision of open space	4
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	5 - 6
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	7 - 11
5.0 Quality assessment	12 - 14
6.0 Summary of priorities for the area	15 - 16

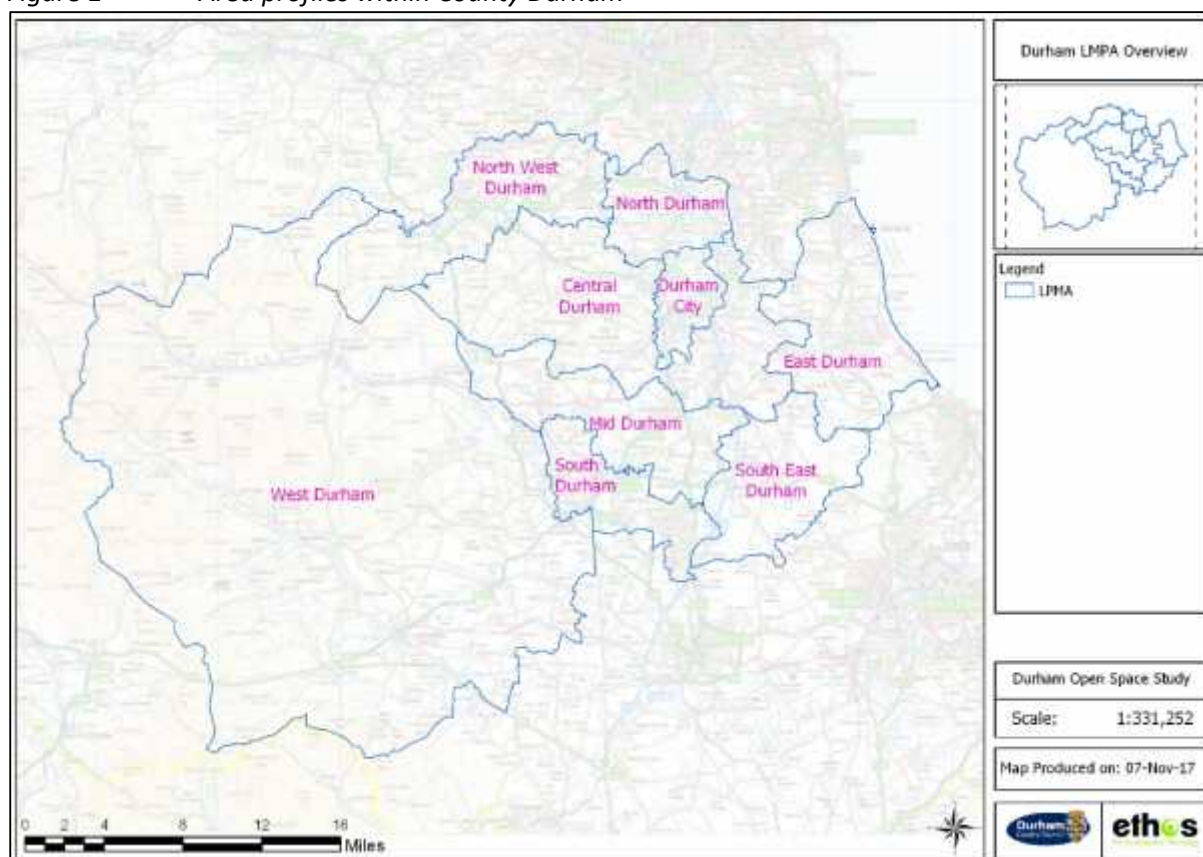
Open Space Area Profile: East Durham

1.0 Introduction

The County Durham Open Space Assessment is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of the whole assessment and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the district. This report is **part 2 of 2**, and comprises open space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for nine areas as shown in figure 1. These are based on the areas Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs).

Figure 1 Area profiles within County Durham



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

-) A description of the area;
-) Maps showing the provision of open space;
-) Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
-) Analysis of access to open space;
-) Summary of quality issues and opportunities;

-) Analysis of future need for open space;
-) Priorities for the area.

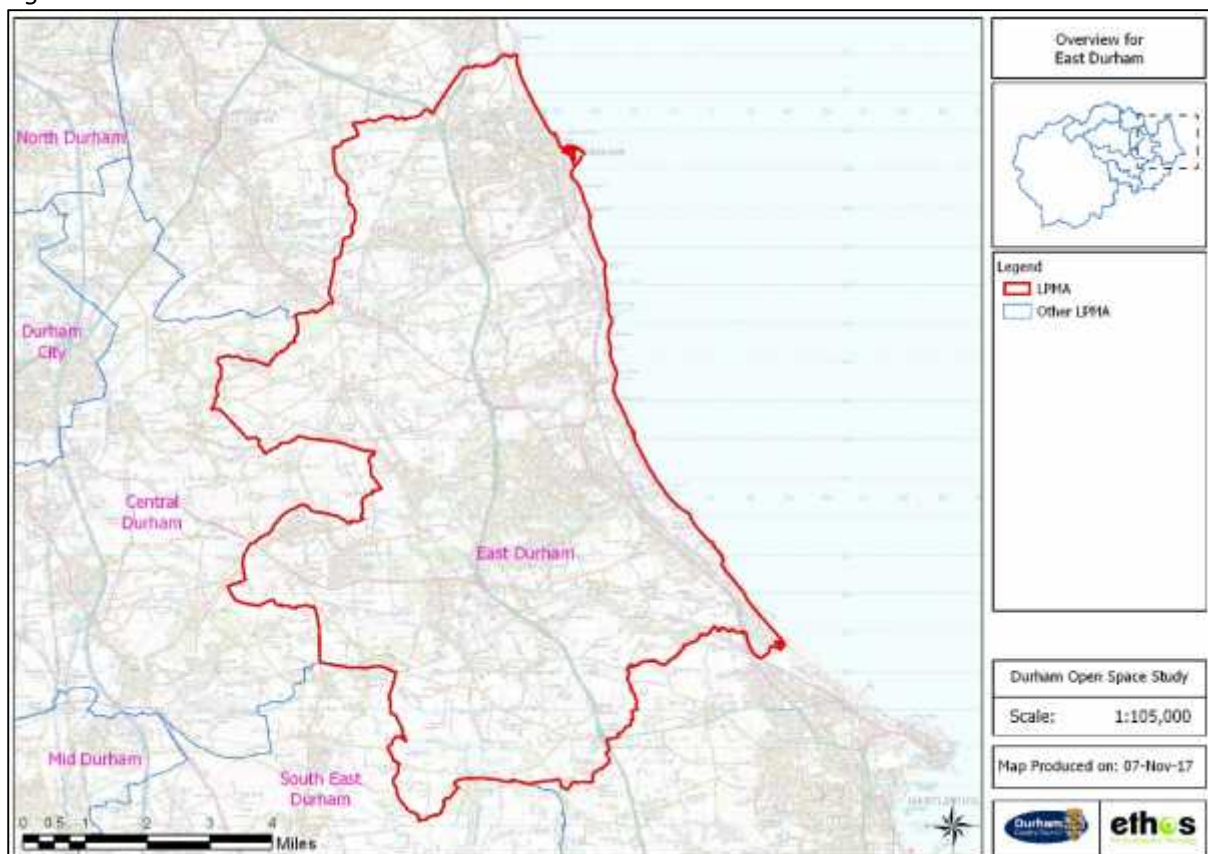
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical Area

Figure 2 shows the geographical area included within the East Durham Local Plan Monitoring Area. The population of this area is 95,131 (Census 2011).

Figure 2 East Durham Assessment Area

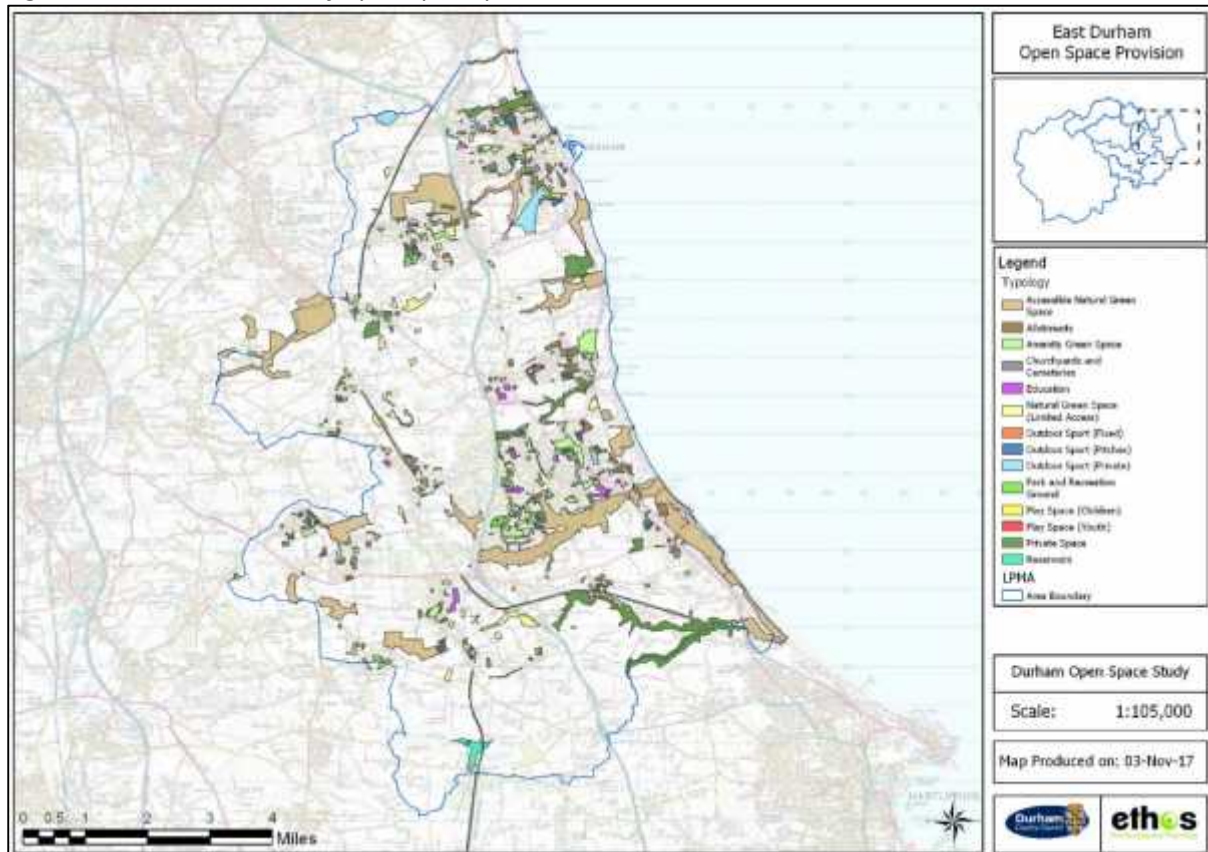


2.0 Existing provision of open space

This section provides maps showing existing green spaces that have been mapped and included within the assessment. A map is shown for the overall area, and are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council.

2.1 Overview of open space provision in the assessment area

Figure 3 Overview of open space provision in the East Durham Assessment Area



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the East Durham assessment area. It uses the quantity standards for open space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Allotments	0.90
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)	1.5 (see standard for Natural Green Space)
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for <u>new</u> provision. The ANGSt standards are used for analysing <u>current</u> provision.
Outdoor Sport (Private)	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the assessment area.

3.2 Quantity provision of open space

Table 2 shows the existing provision of open space within the East Durham assessment area using the County Durham standards to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares/1000 population.

The figures for 'Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)' shown in table 2 below, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sports Space (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided in table 3 for a number of typologies where there are no standards, these typologies are:

-) Outdoor Sport Private;
-) Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
-) Education;
-) Churchyard and Cemetery.

Table 2 Existing supply of green space across East Durham assessment area

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall Supply
Allotments	108.14	1.14	85.62	0.9	+22.52	+0.24	Sufficient Supply
Amenity Green Space	277.74	2.92	142.70	1.5	+135.04	+1.42	Sufficient Supply
Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	123.69	1.30	133.18	1.4	-9.49	-0.10	Under Supply
Play Space (Children)	4.86	0.05	4.76	0.05	+0.10	+0.00	Sufficient Supply
Play Space (Youth)	1.46	0.02	3.81	0.04	-2.35	-0.02	Under Supply

As can be seen from table 2 above, within the assessment area, there is an under supply of Park and Recreation Grounds and Youth Play Space. The total shortfall for each typology is:

-) Parks and Recreation grounds (Combined) 9.49 Ha
 -) Play Space (Youth) 2.35 Ha
- Total shortfall 11.84 Ha**

Table 3 Provision of open space for typologies with no standards

Typology	Existing provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Outdoor Sport (Private)	12.62	0.13
Accessible Natural Green Space	1111.39	11.68
Education	53.54	0.56
Churchyards and Cemeteries	43.97	0.46

4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of open space across the assessment area using the County Durham access standards (as summarised in table 4).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Table 4 County Durham access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt

Figure 4 Access to Allotments across the East Durham Assessment Area (480m)

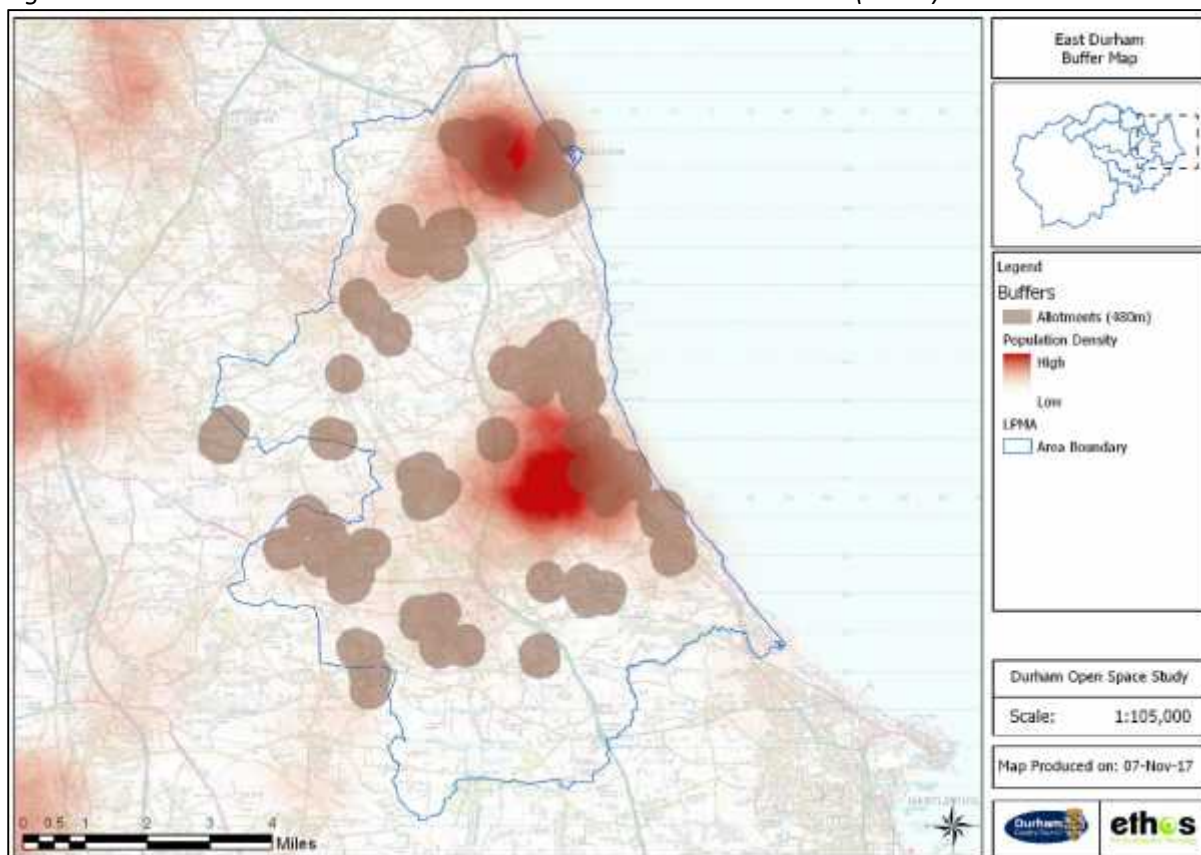


Figure 5 Access to Amenity Green Space across the East Durham Assessment Area (480m)

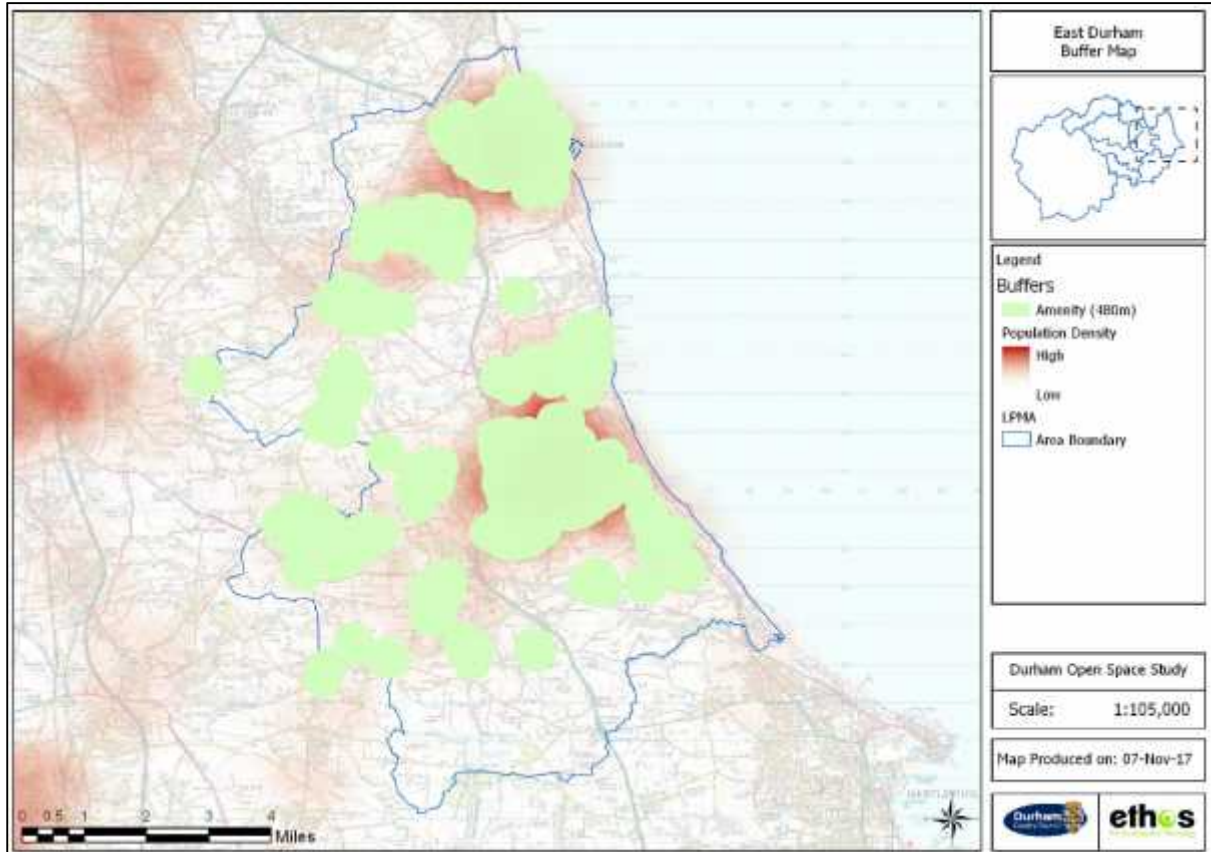


Figure 6 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the East Durham Assessment Area (600m)

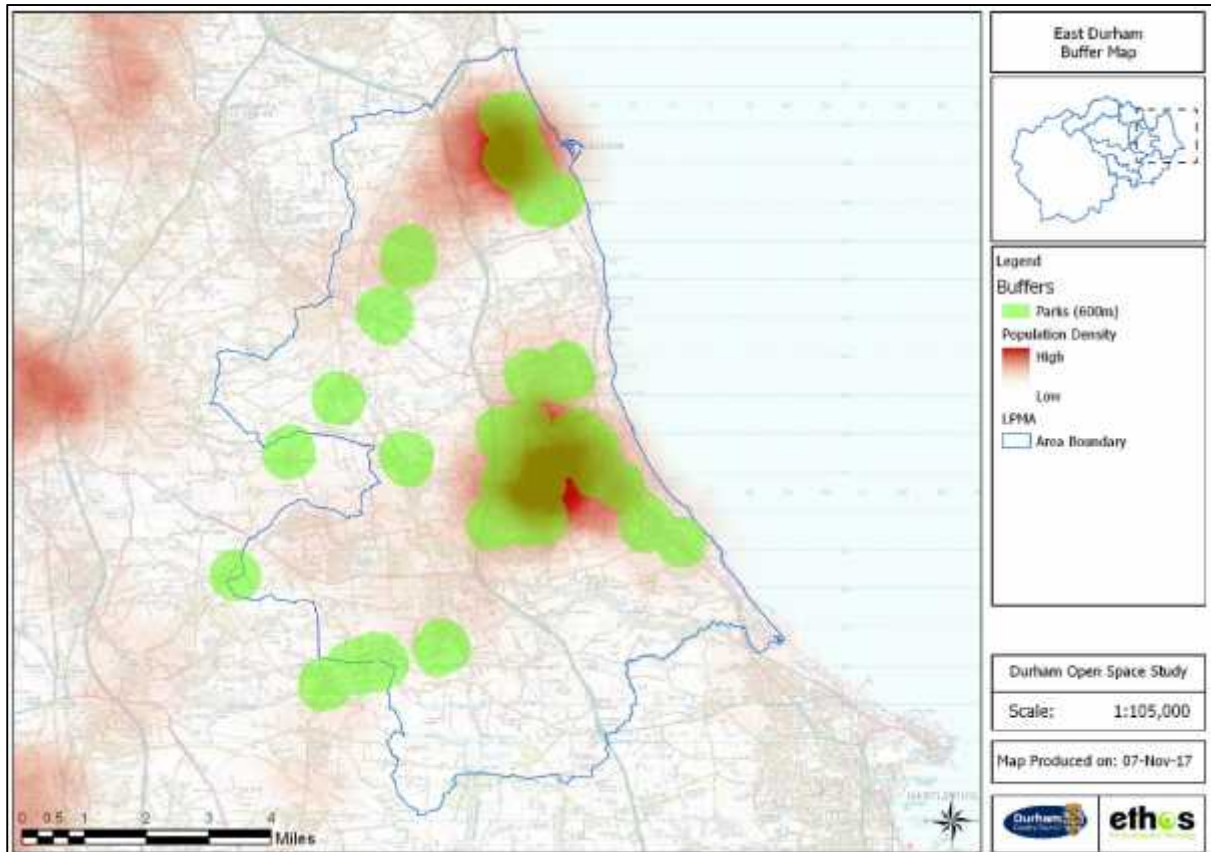


Figure 7 Access to Children’s Play Space across the East Durham Assessment Area (600m)

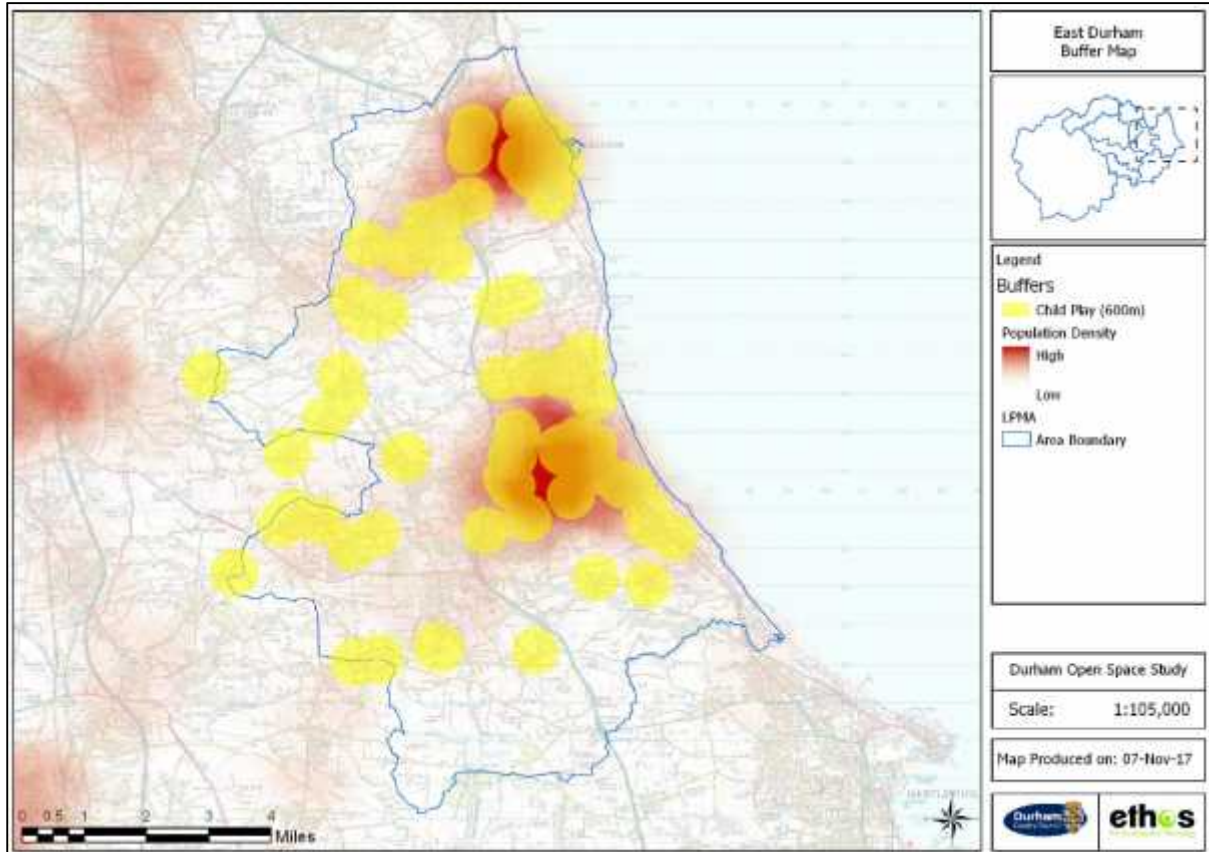


Figure 8 Access to Youth Play Space across the East Durham Assessment Area (720m)

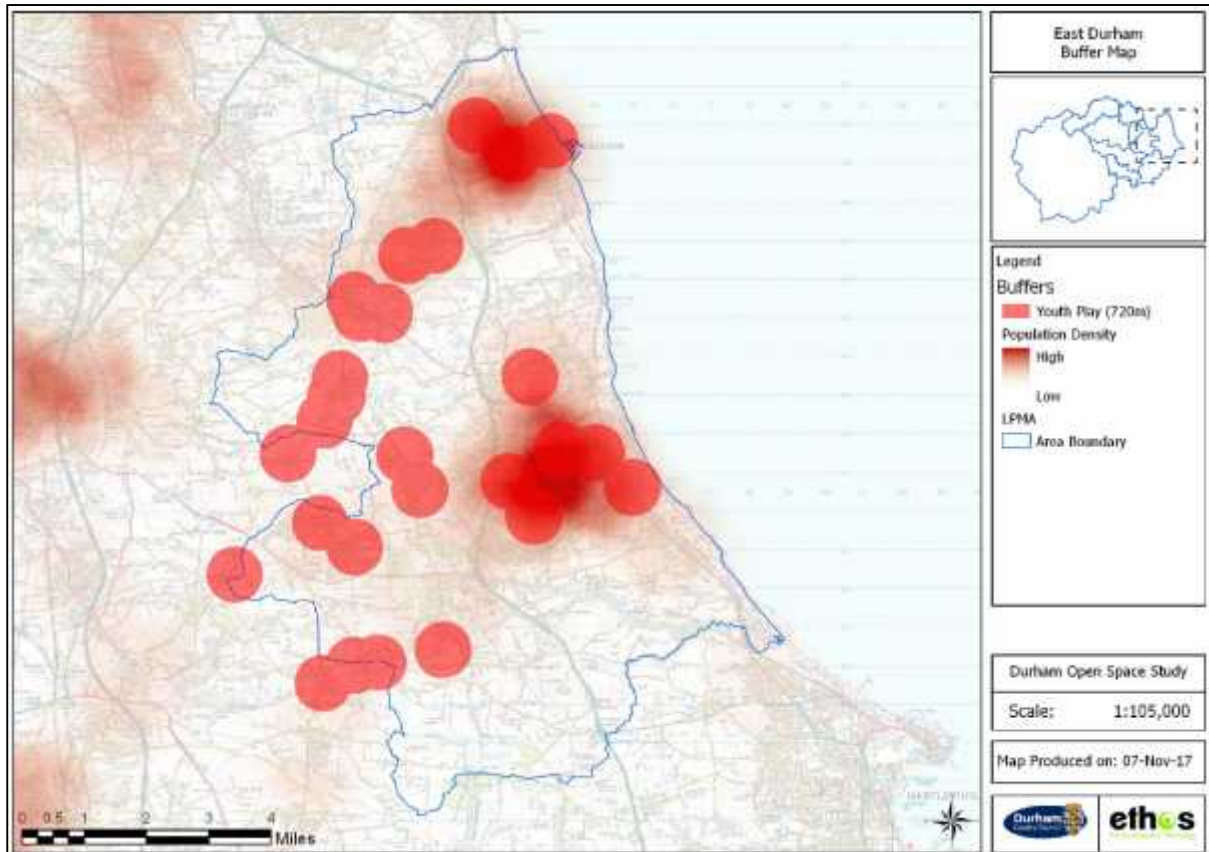


Figure 9 Access to Natural Green Space (20 ha site within 2km ANGSt)

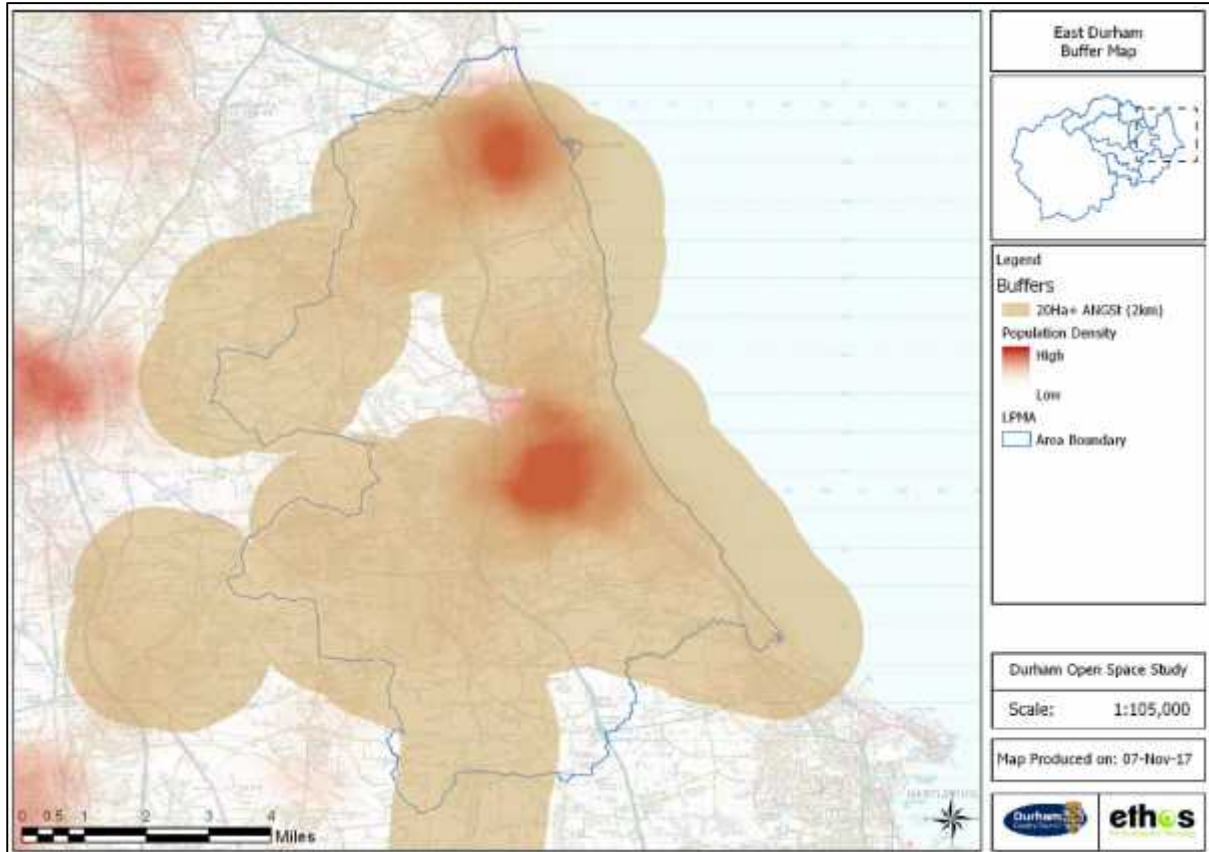
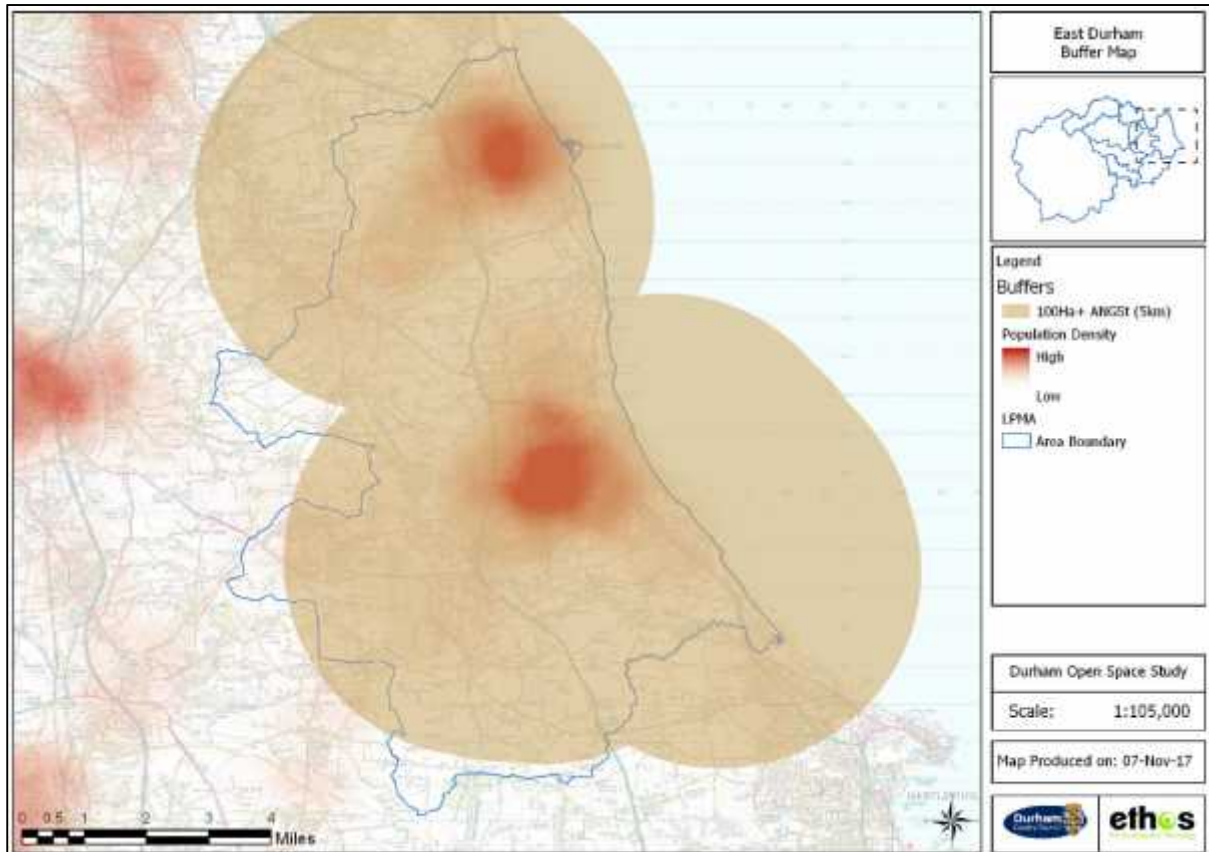


Figure 10 Access to Natural Green Space (100 ha site within 5km ANGSt)



4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 5 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 4-10, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Table 5 Summary of existing access issues for East Durham Assessment Area

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Large gaps in access in some of the most populated areas.
Amenity Green Space	Good access in general, although some gaps in access present.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Generally good access in the most populated areas, although there are a number of gaps in access.
Play Space (Children)	Some large gaps in access in the most populated areas, especially in the north of the assessment area.
Play Space (Youth)	Very sporadic provision with large gaps in access across the assessment area.
Natural Green Space	Good access to 20ha sites across the majority of the assessment area, although there is gap in access in the north which is densely populated. The Northern half of the assessment area also does not meet the 100ha site access standard, whereas the majority of the southern half meets the standard. There are no 500 Ha sites within 10km.

5.0 Quality Assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall assessment. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.20 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and Maintenance;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community Involvement.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). Within these area profiles, summary maps showing the sites existing and potential quality scores is provided.

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

- J) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (figure 11) and a list of sites with potential for improvement i.e. those sites scoring a potential rank of A, B or C (figure 12). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided to the Council.

These maps are intended for indicative purposes only, a GIS database has been provided to the Council for detailed analysis/viewing.

Figure 11 Existing quality rank of open space

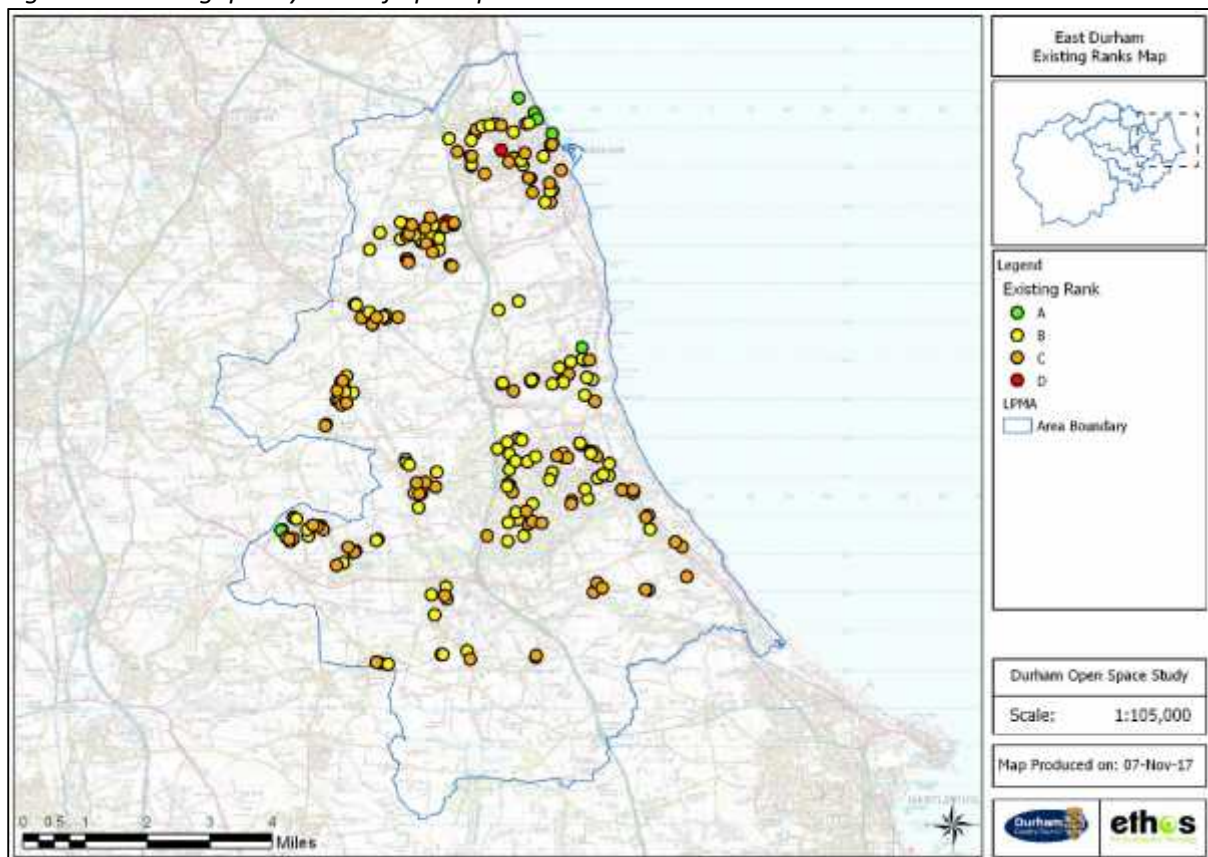
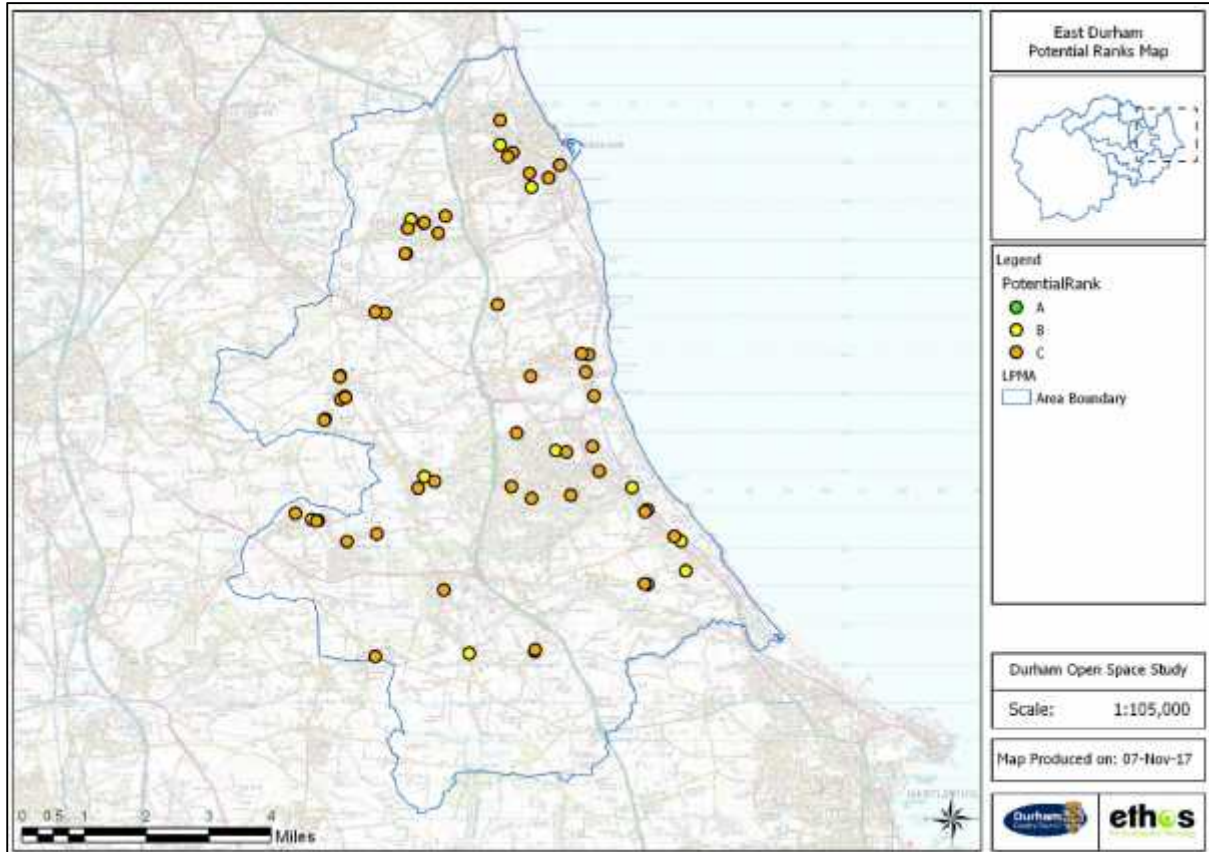


Figure 12 Sites with potential for improvement



6.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

-) Existing provision to be enhanced;
-) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
-) Identification of areas for new provision;
-) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

6.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.3 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (figure 11). Figure 12 then highlights those sites which have ‘potential for improvement’ i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 14 open spaces and 23 play spaces which are ranked B-C (none were ranked A), with sites ranked B the highest potential/priority for improvement. It is expected that when allocated sites are brought forward, consideration would be given to the potential to improve the priority sites.

6.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of East Durham, there are opportunities to reduce the shortfalls in quantity (and access to) parks and recreation grounds and youth play space. Considering the good supply of amenity green space and allotments, it is considered that these spaces provide the best opportunity for meeting the shortfall in parks and recreation grounds and youth provision. In simple terms, amenity green space could accommodate both children’s play space (where there are gaps in access) and youth facilities, and large amenity spaces could be upgraded to parks and recreation grounds. The priority for delivering this would be in areas where there are also existing shortfalls in access e.g. Seaham in the north of the assessment area or the Wheatley Hill area. There may also be potential to re-designate large allotment sites as parks and recreation grounds in areas where there are overlaps in access to allotments.

6.3 Identification of areas for new provision

The assessment has identified that there is already an existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of parks and recreation grounds and youth play space in the East Durham assessment area. The need to provide these types of open space on site in new development is a priority for the area. Even where there is sufficient supply of open space, if there are gaps in access that could be reduced/removed, then new on-site provision may still be required.

6.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

There may be opportunities for considering alternative use for certain types of open spaces, in particular amenity green space and allotments. The priority would be to first secure these spaces to meet existing shortfalls in other typologies, but certain low quality, low potential sites could be considered for meeting local housing needs where their removal would not result in gaps in access.

6.5 Alternative Natural Greenspace (ANG)

The above assessment does not consider any proposals for alternative natural greenspace (ANG) which may be required to mitigate for recreational pressure on the counties Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs) located on the coast in East Durham. For further detail please refer to the Habitat Regulations Assessment: Developer Guidance and Requirements in County Durham, October 2017 (or any successor document). If ANG is required from new development this requirement will be over and above the requirements set out in the open space standards as within this report (part 1 and 2).

Durham County Council Open Space Needs Assessment 2018



Area Profile: Mid Durham

Part 2 of 2
(DRAFT V4)

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL

info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	2 - 3
2.0 Existing provision of open space	4
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	5 - 6
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	7 - 11
5.0 Quality assessment	12 - 14
6.0 Summary of priorities for the area	15 - 16

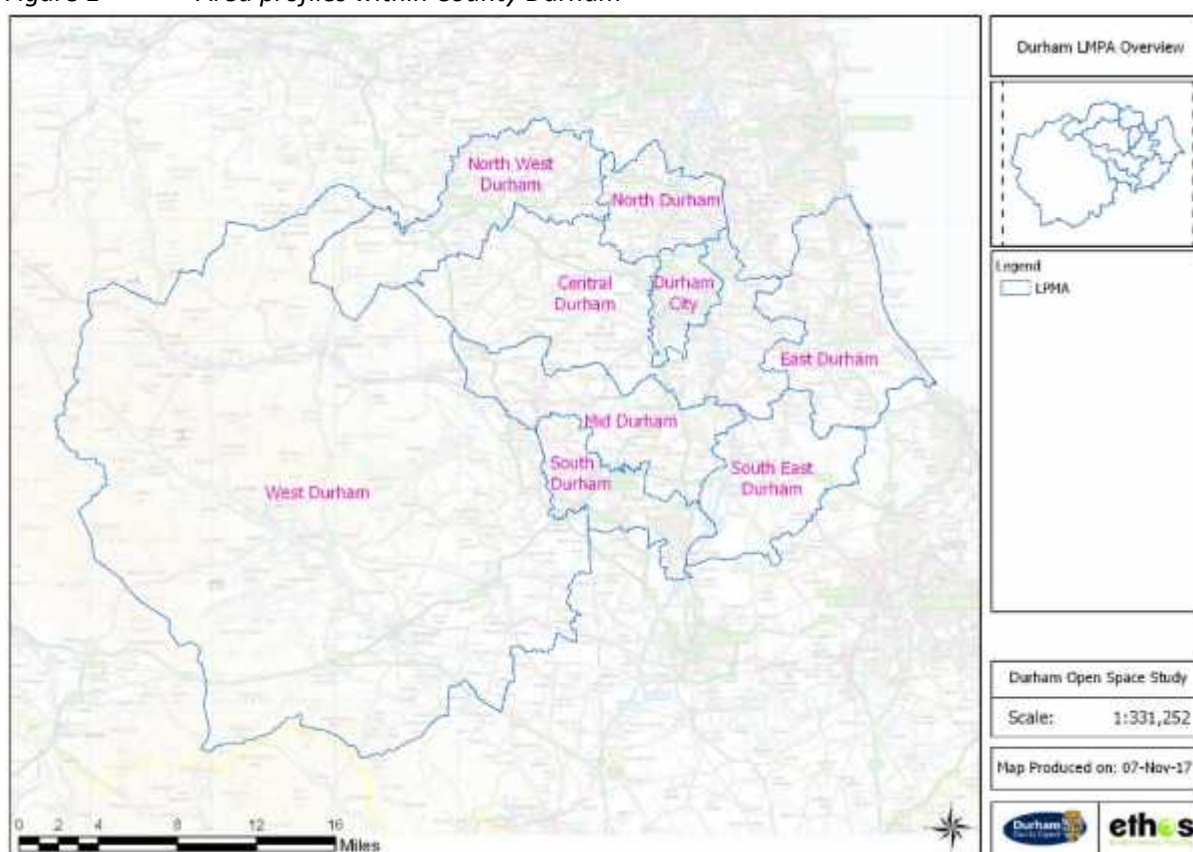
Open Space Area Profile: Mid Durham

1.0 Introduction

The County Durham Open Space Assessment is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of the whole assessment and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the district. This report is **part 2 of 2**, and comprises open space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for nine areas as shown in figure 1. These are based on the areas Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs).

Figure 1 Area profiles within County Durham



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

-) A description of the area;
-) Maps showing the provision of open space;
-) Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
-) Analysis of access to open space;
-) Summary of quality issues and opportunities;

-) Analysis of future need for open space;
-) Priorities for the area.

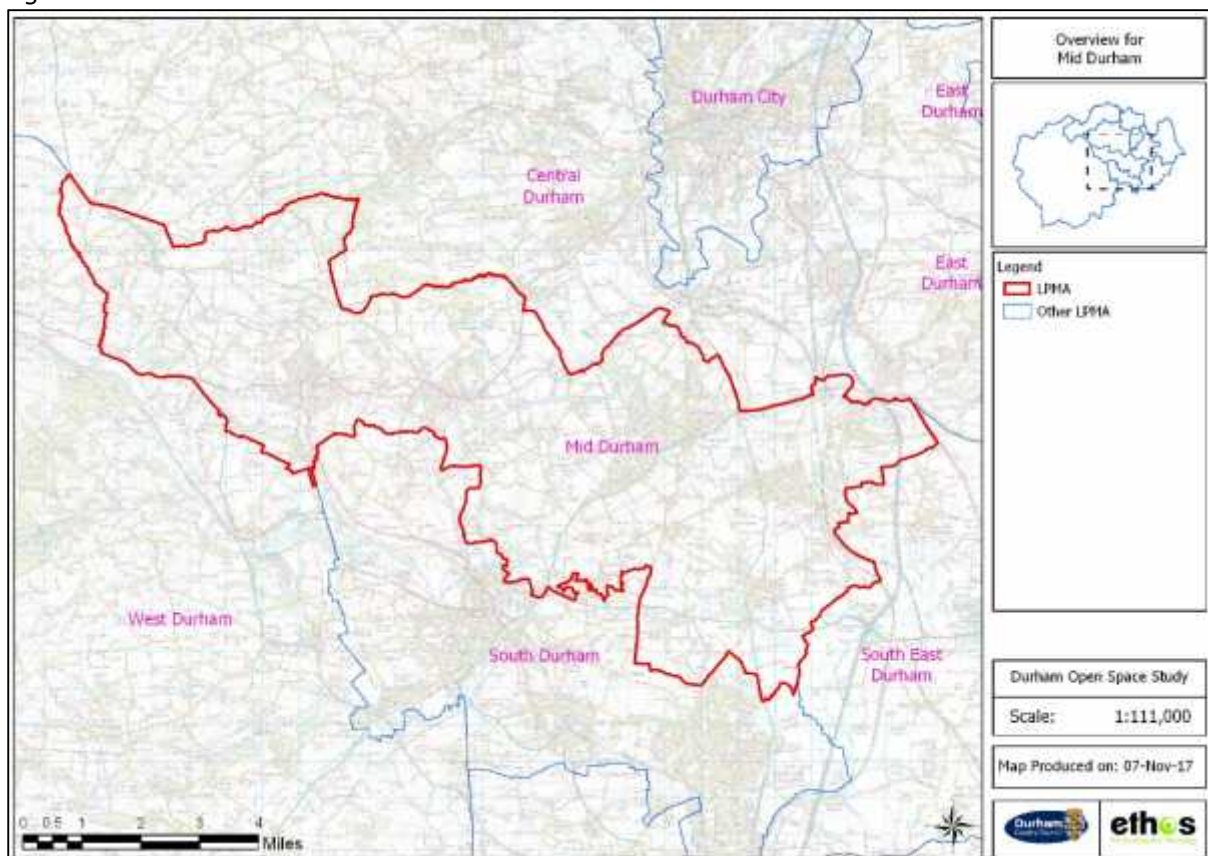
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical Area

Figure 2 shows the geographical area included within the Mid Durham Local Plan Monitoring Area. The population of this area is 62,080 (Census 2011).

Figure 2 Mid Durham Assessment Area

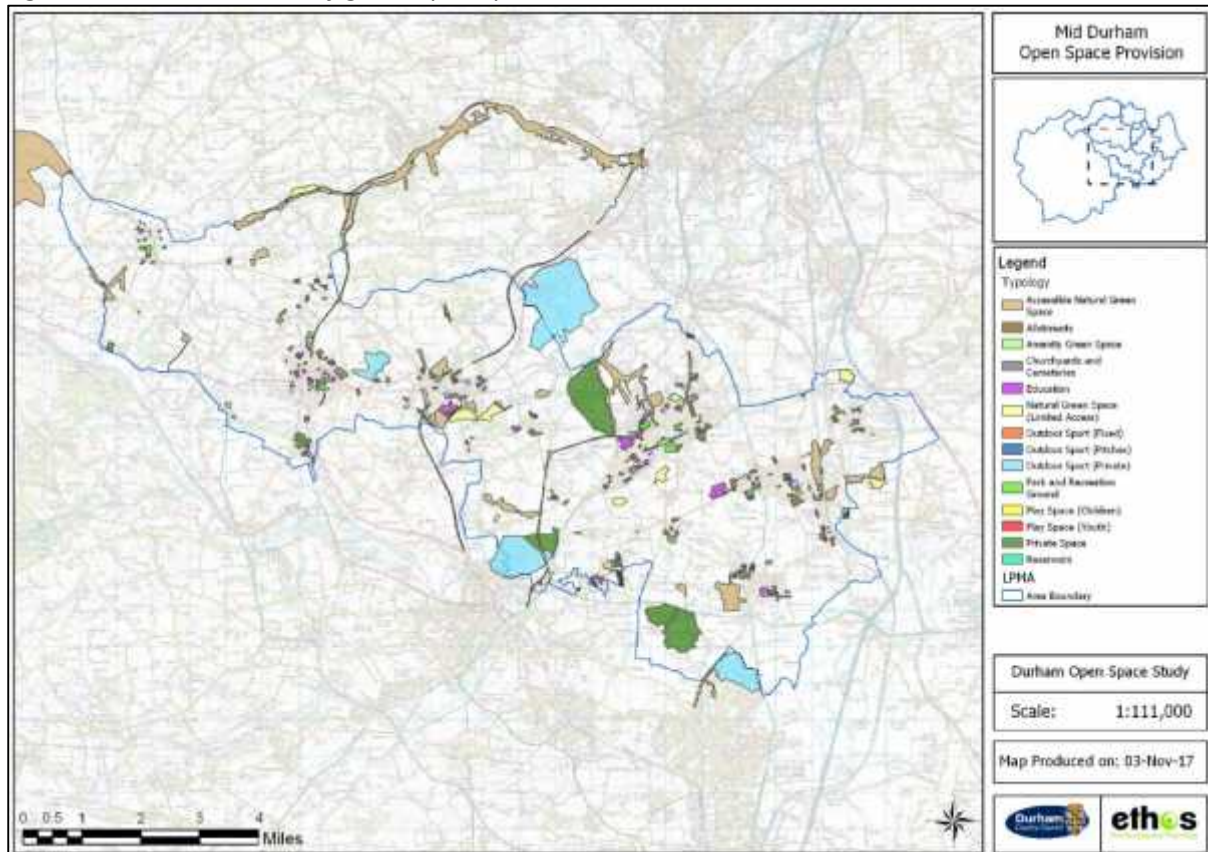


2.0 Existing provision of open space

This section provides maps showing existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the assessment. A map is shown for the overall area, and are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council.

2.1 Overview of green space provision in the assessment area

Figure 3 Overview of green space provision in the Mid Durham Assessment Area



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the Mid Durham assessment area. It uses the quantity standards for open space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Allotments	0.90
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)	1.5 (see standard for Natural Green Space)
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for <u>new</u> provision. The ANGSt standards are used for analysing <u>current</u> provision.
Outdoor Sport (Private)	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the assessment area.

3.2 Quantity provision of open space

Table 2 shows the existing provision of green space within the Mid Durham assessment area using the County Durham standards to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares/1000 population.

The figures for 'Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)' shown in table 2 below, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sports Space (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided in table 3 for a number of typologies where there are no standards, these typologies are:

-) Outdoor Sport Private;
-) Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
-) Education;
-) Churchyard and Cemetery.

Table 2 Existing supply of green space across Mid Durham assessment area

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall Supply
Allotments	93.23	1.50	55.87	0.9	+37.36	+0.60	Sufficient Supply
Amenity Green Space	66.79	1.08	93.12	1.5	-26.33	-0.42	Under Supply
Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	75.39	1.21	86.91	1.4	-11.52	-0.19	Under Supply
Play Space (Children)	2.6	0.04	3.10	0.05	-0.50	-0.01	Under Supply
Play Space (Youth)	1.26	0.02	2.48	0.04	-1.22	-0.02	Under Supply

As can be seen from the table above, within the assessment area, there is an under supply across all typologies with the exception allotments. The total shortfall for each typology is:

-) Amenity Green Space 26.33 Ha
 -) Parks and Recreation grounds (Combined) 11.52 Ha
 -) Play Space (Children) 0.50 Ha
 -) Play Space (Youth) 1.22 Ha
- Total shortfall 39.57 Ha**

Table 3 Provision of open space for typologies with no standards

Typology	Existing provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Outdoor Sport (Private)	13.32	0.21
Accessible Natural Green Space	522.93	8.42
Education	67.74	1.09
Churchyards and Cemeteries	38.03	0.61

4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of open space across the assessment area using the County Durham access standards (as summarised in table 4).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Table 4 County Durham access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt

Figure 4 Access to Allotments across the Mid Durham Assessment Area (480m)

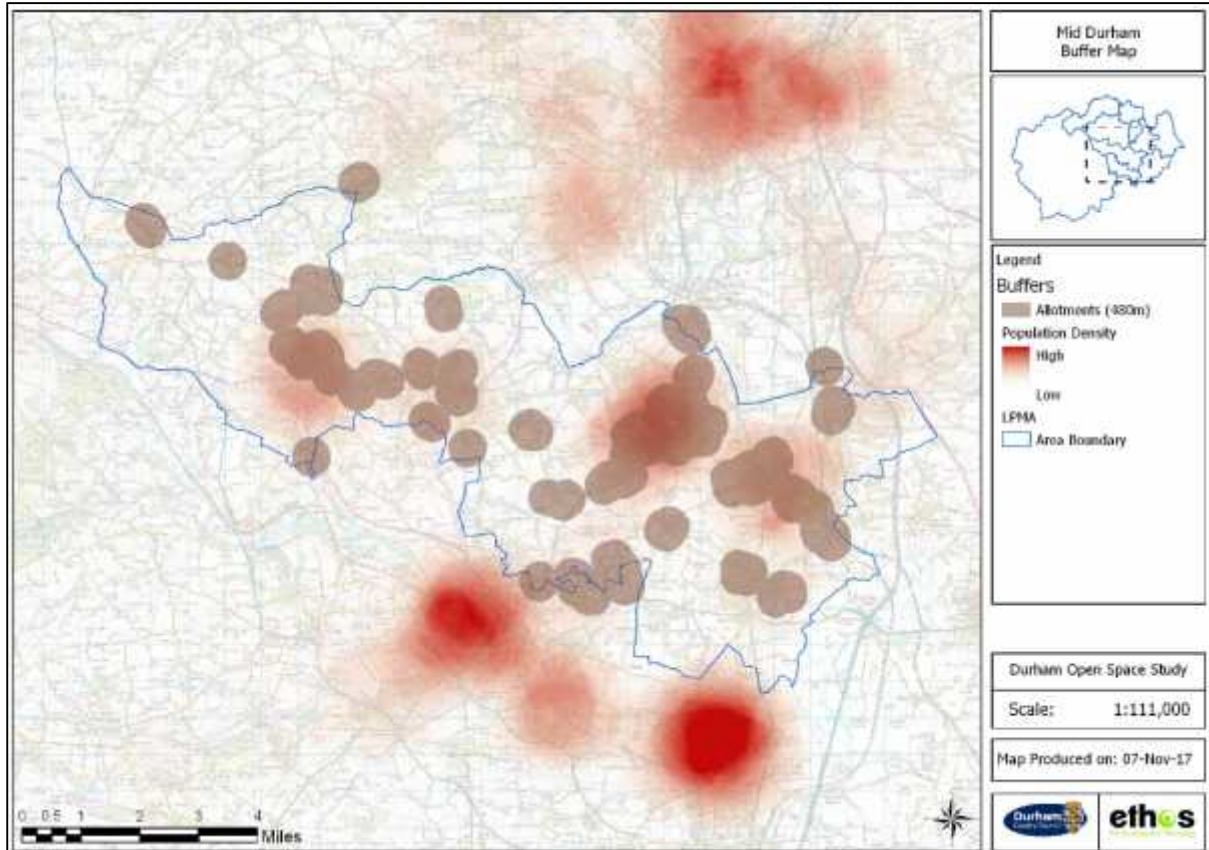


Figure 5 Access to Amenity Green Space across the Mid Durham Assessment Area (480m)

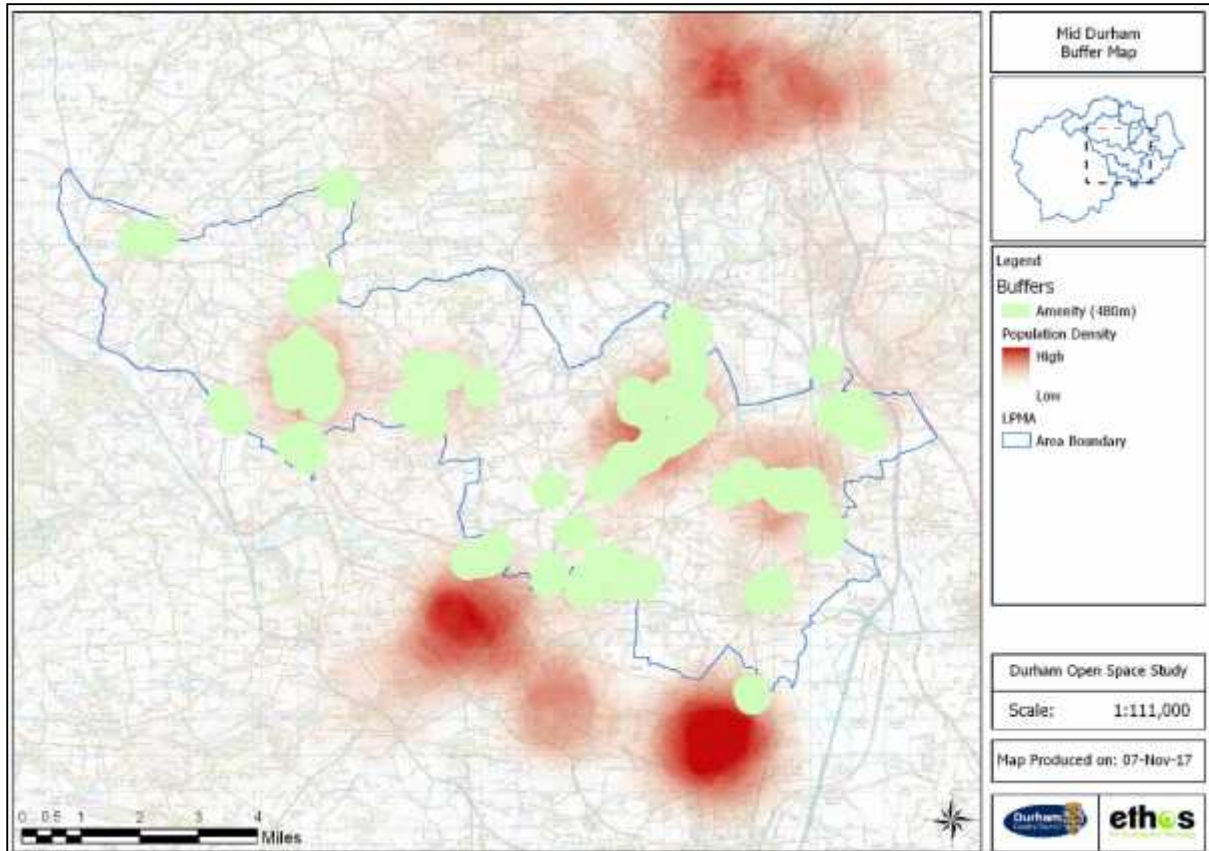


Figure 6 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the Mid Durham Assessment Area (600m)

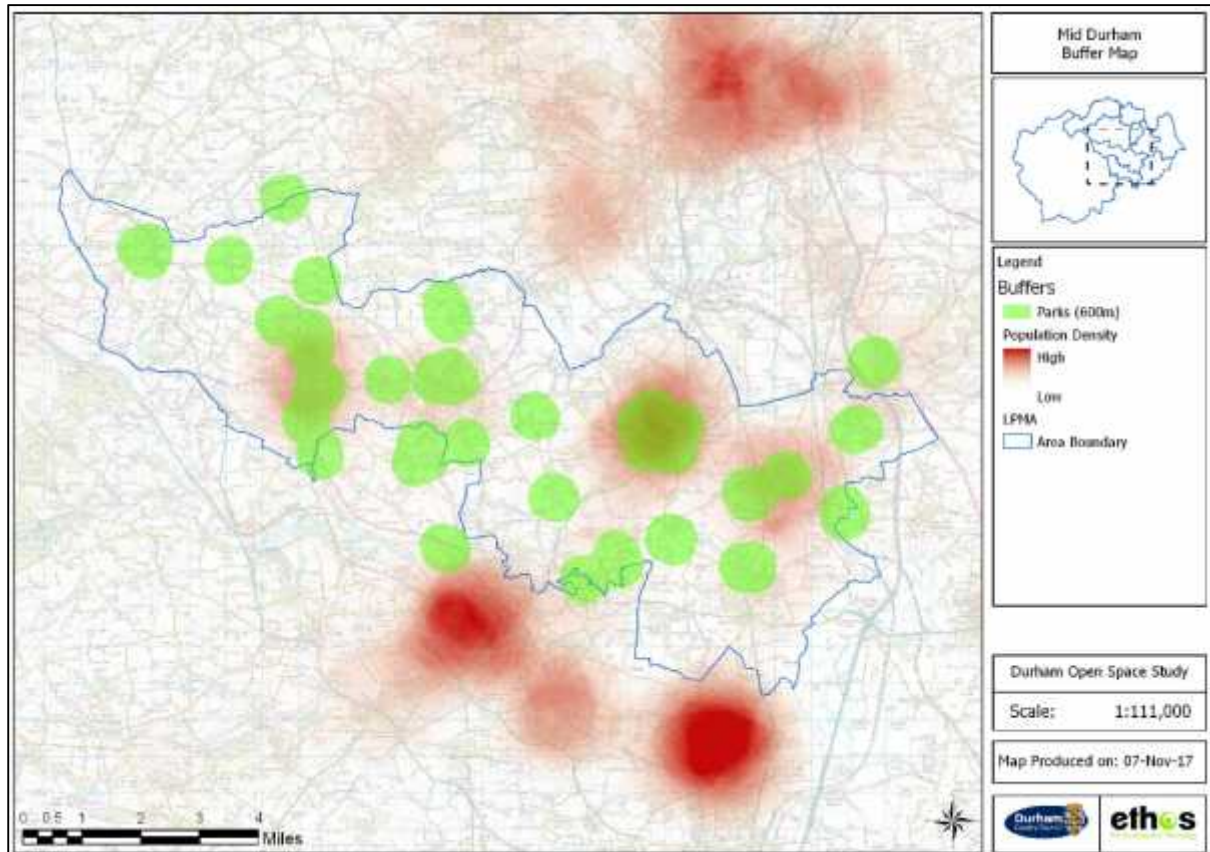


Figure 7 Access to Children's Play Space across the Mid Durham Assessment Area (600m)

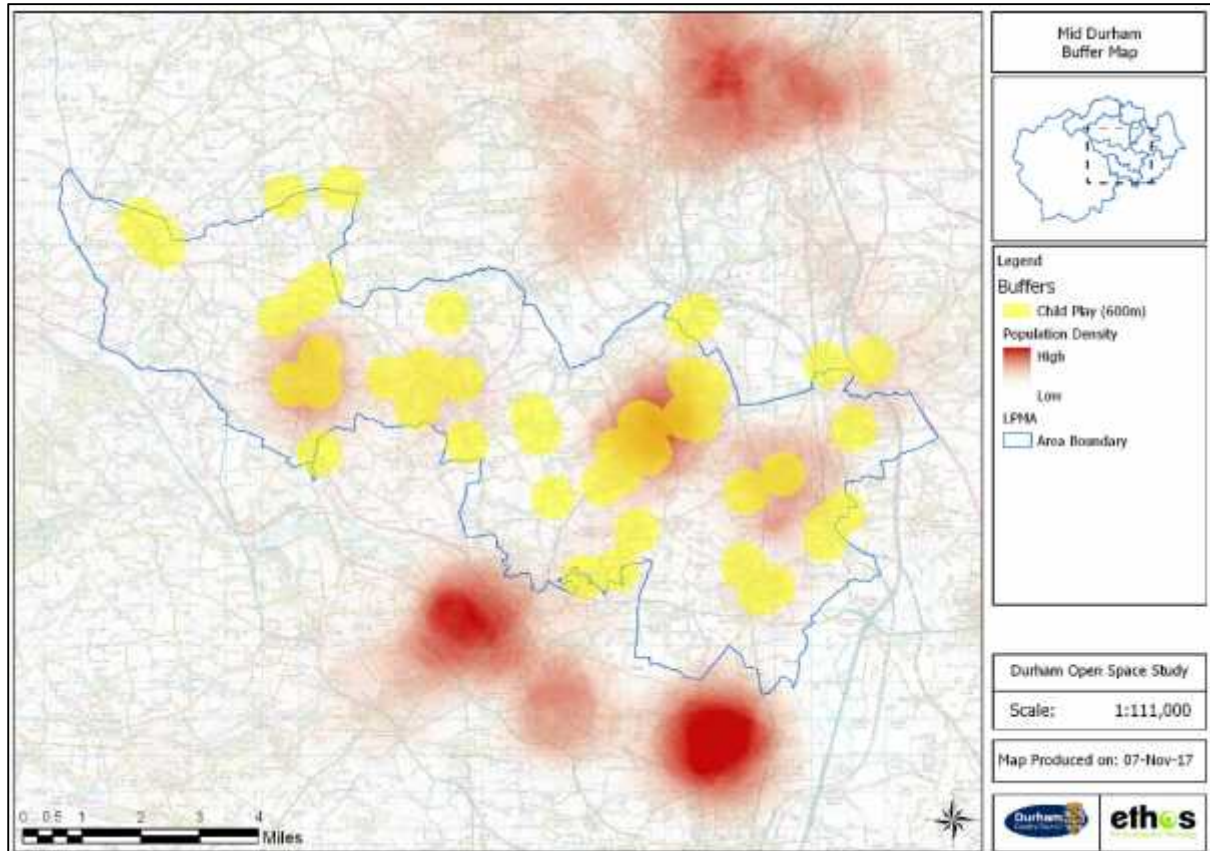


Figure 8 Access to Youth Play Space across the Mid Durham Assessment Area (720m)

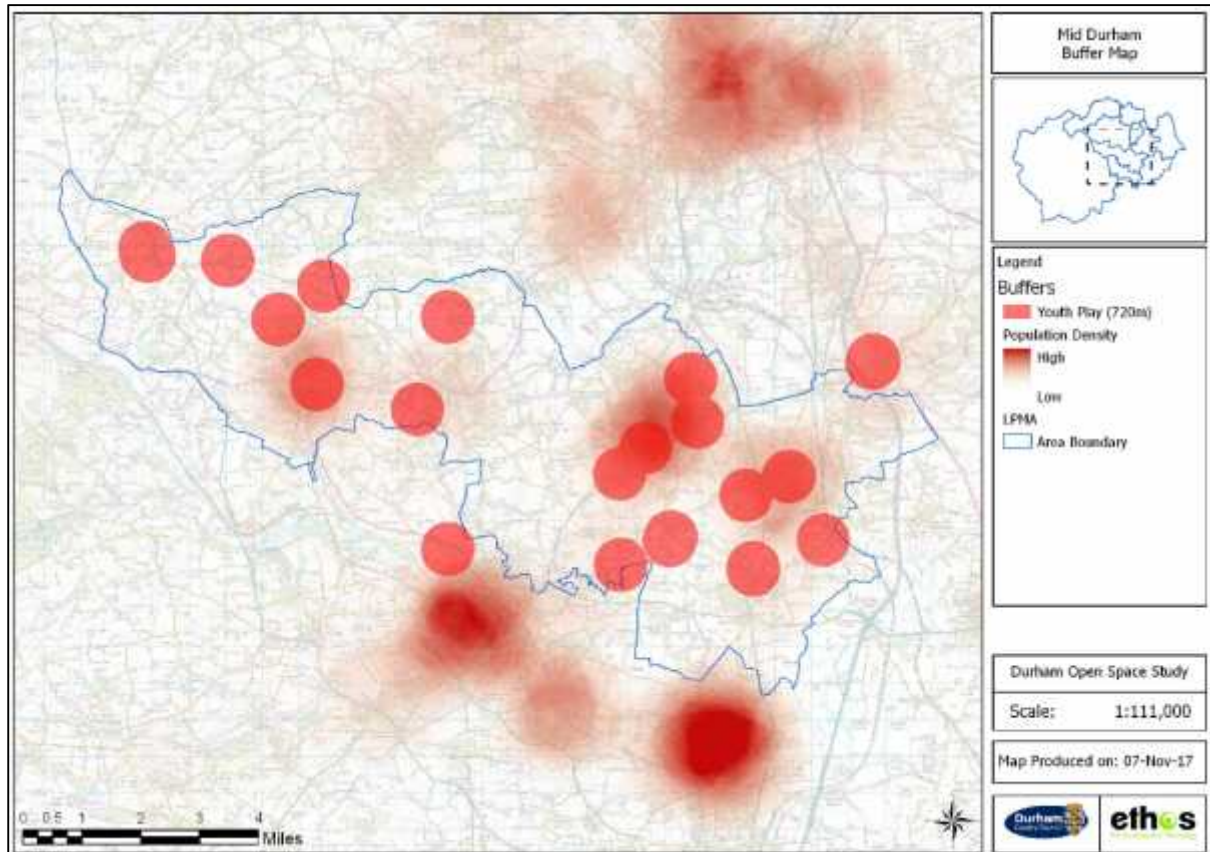


Figure 9 Access to Natural Green Space (20 ha site within 2km ANGSt)

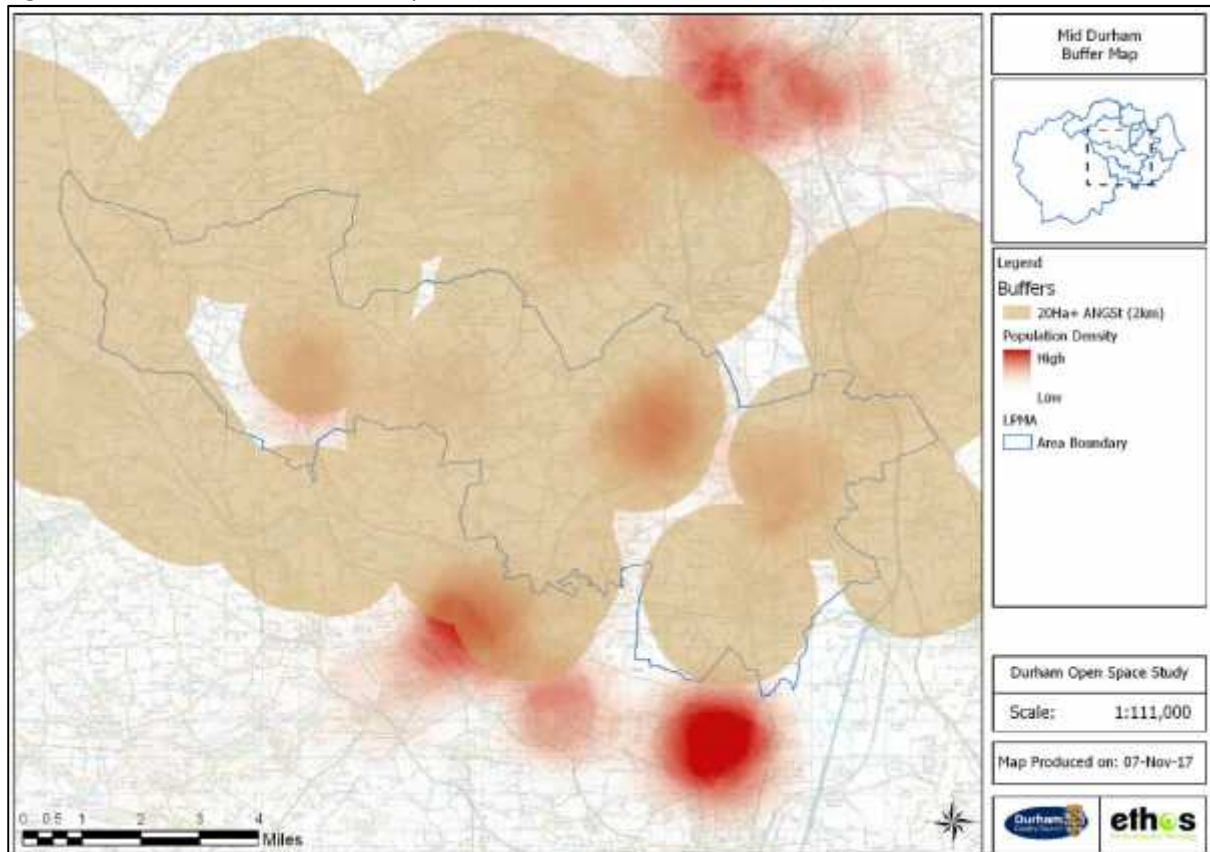
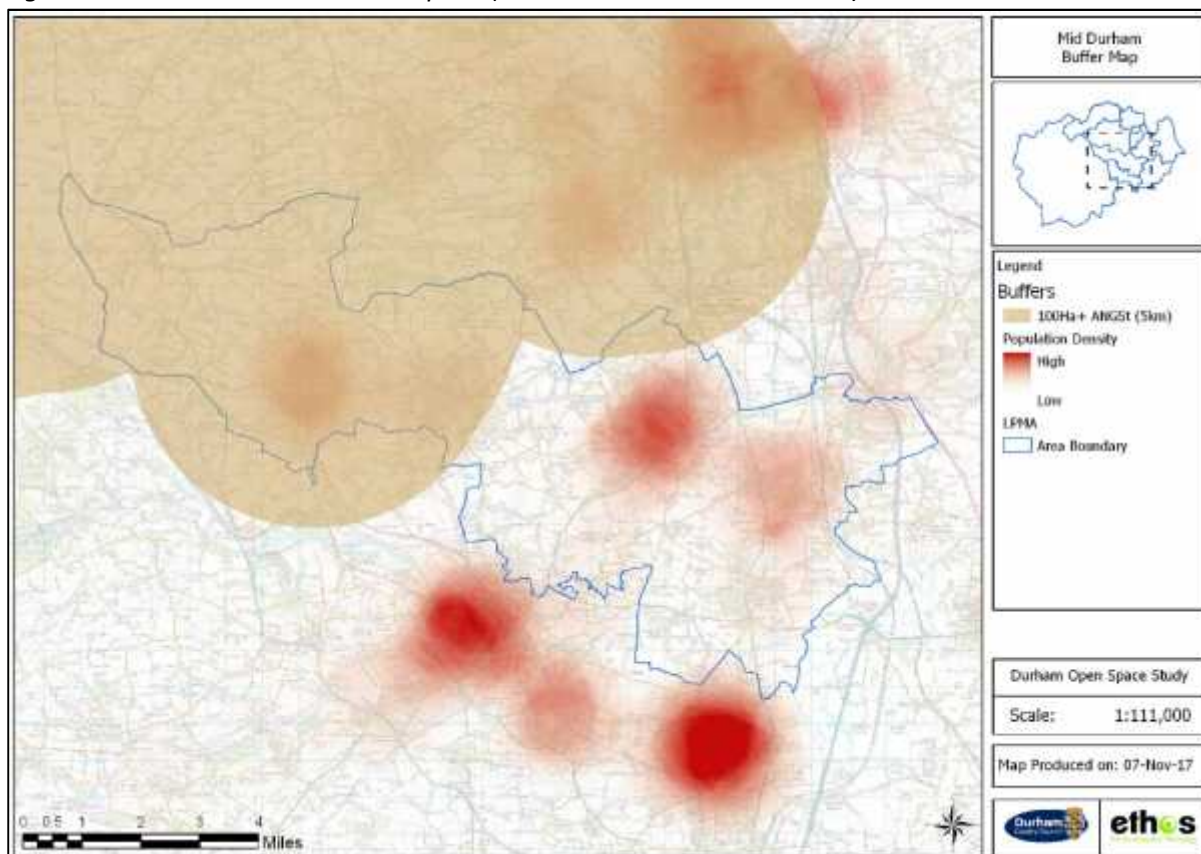


Figure 10 Access to Natural Green Space (100 ha site within 5km ANGSt)



4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 5 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 4-10, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Table 5 Summary of existing access issues for Mid Durham Assessment Area

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Relatively good access across they key populated areas, although gaps in access are present.
Amenity Green Space	Again, relatively good access, although there are gaps (including in some of the more densely populated areas).
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Generally good access across the key populated areas, although there are a number of gaps in access.
Play Space (Children)	Overlapping provision in some areas, with large gaps in access in other areas.
Play Space (Youth)	Sporadic provision with large gaps in access.
Natural Green Space	Good access to 20ha sites across the majority of the assessment area. Large access gap across the eastern half of the assessment area to 100ha sites. There are no 500 Ha sites within 10km.

5.0 Quality Assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall assessment. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.20 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and Maintenance;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community Involvement.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). Within these area profiles, summary maps showing the sites existing and potential quality scores is provided.

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

- J) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (figure 11) and a list of sites with potential for improvement i.e. those sites scoring a potential rank of A, B or C (figure 12). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided to the Council.

These maps are intended for indicative purposes only, a GIS database has been provided to the Council for detailed analysis/viewing.

Figure 11 Existing quality rank of open space

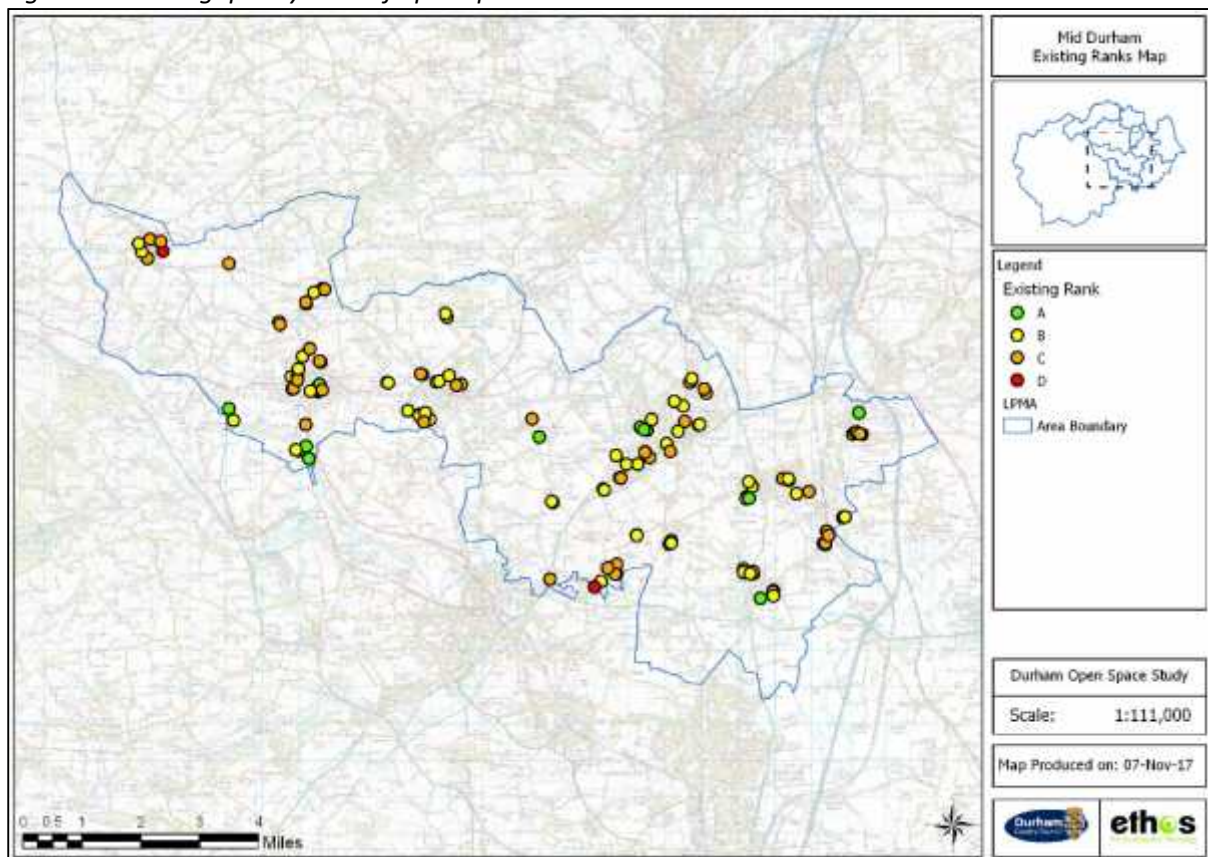
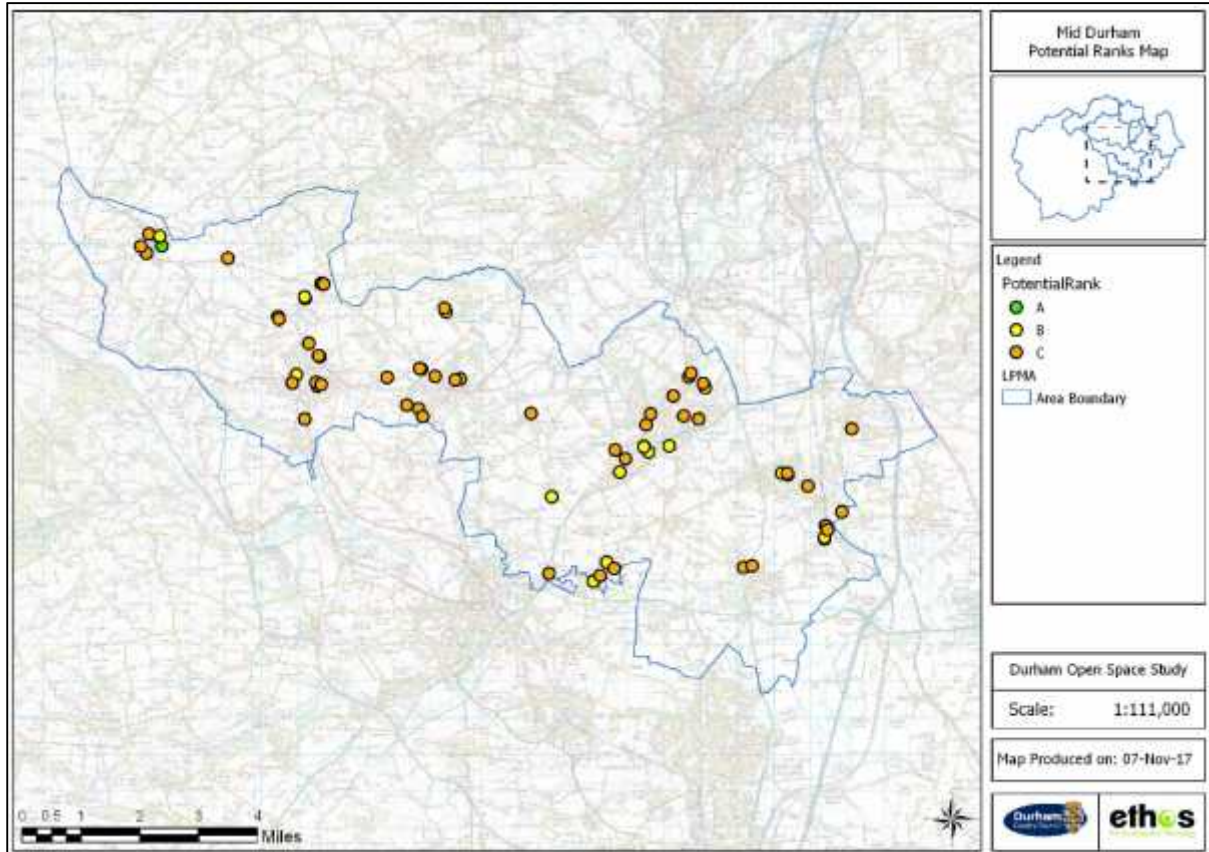


Figure 12 Sites with potential for improvement



6.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

-) Existing provision to be enhanced;
-) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
-) Identification of areas for new provision;
-) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

6.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.3 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (figure 11). Figure 12 then highlights those sites which have ‘potential for improvement’ i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 17 open spaces and 34 play spaces which are ranked A-C, with sites ranked A the highest potential/priority for improvement. It is expected that when allocated sites are brought forward, consideration would be given to the potential to improve the priority sites.

6.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of Mid Durham, there are opportunities to reduce the shortfalls in quantity (and access to) amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds, children’s play space and youth play space through the re-designation of allotments (of which there is a good supply), in areas where access to allotments is overlapping. The priority for delivering this would be in areas where there are also existing shortfalls in access to amenity green space, parks, children’s play space and youth play space.

6.3 Identification of areas for new provision

The assessment has identified that there is already an existing quantitative shortfall across all typologies with the exception of allotments in the Mid Durham assessment area. The need to provide these types of open space on site in new development is a priority for the area. Even where there is sufficient supply of open space (i.e. allotments), if there are gaps in access that could be removed, then new on-site provision may still be required. If new developments are of a size that provide little opportunity for providing significant open space, then consideration should also be given to pooling section 106 contributions (or securing through CIL) to re-landscape/re-designate suitable allotment sites as identified above.

6.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

There may be opportunities for considering alternative use of allotments. The priority would be to first secure these spaces to meet existing shortfall in other typologies, (i.e. amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds, children’s play space and youth play space space), but certain low quality, low potential sites could be considered for meeting local housing needs where their removal would not result in gaps in access.

**Durham County Council
Open Space Needs Assessment
2018**



**Area Profile:
North Durham**

Part 2 of 2

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL

info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	2 - 3
2.0 Existing provision of open space	4
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	5 - 6
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	7 - 11
5.0 Quality assessment	12 - 14
6.0 Summary of priorities for the area	15 - 16

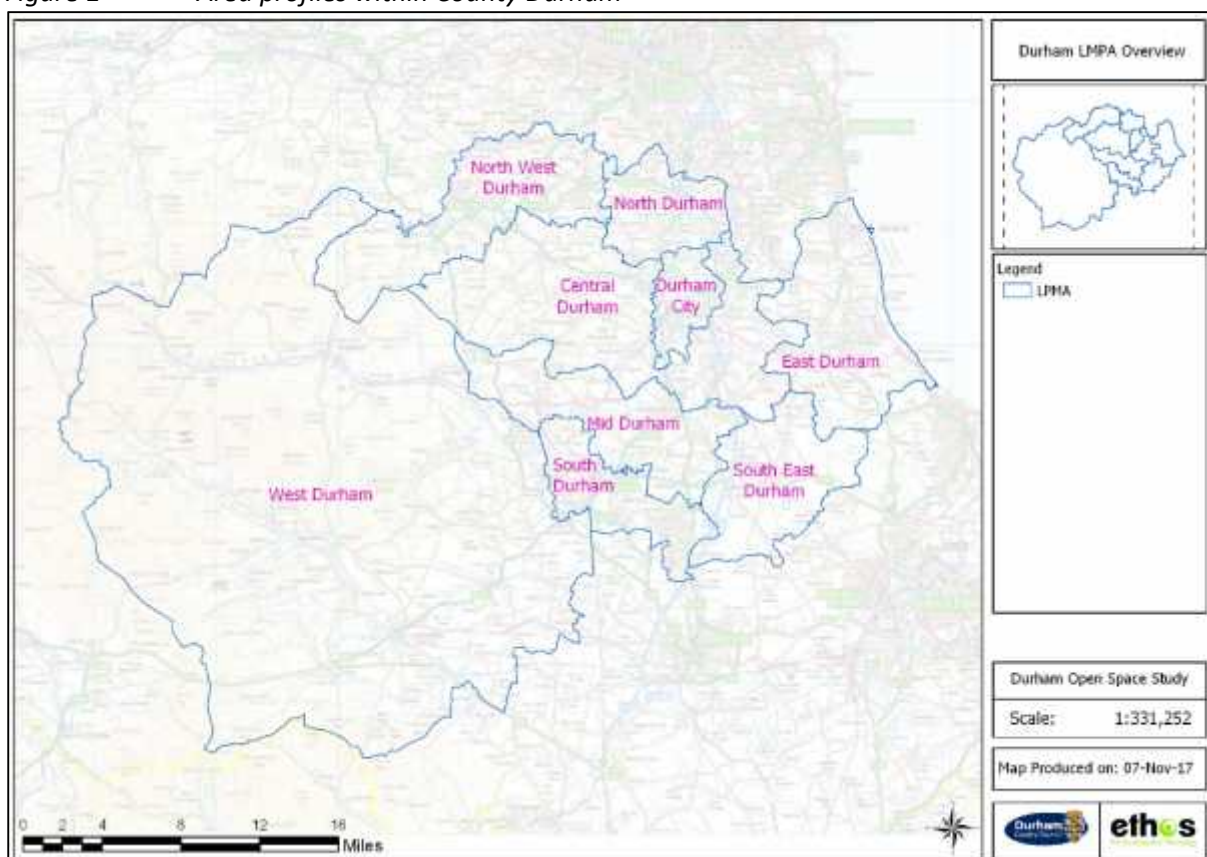
Open Space Area Profile: North Durham

1.0 Introduction

The County Durham Open Space Assessment is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of the whole assessment and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the district. This report is **part 2 of 2**, and comprises open space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for nine areas as shown in figure 1. These are based on the areas Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs).

Figure 1 Area profiles within County Durham



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

-) A description of the area;
-) Maps showing the provision of open space;
-) Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
-) Analysis of access to open space;
-) Summary of quality issues and opportunities;

-) Analysis of future need for open space;
-) Priorities for the area.

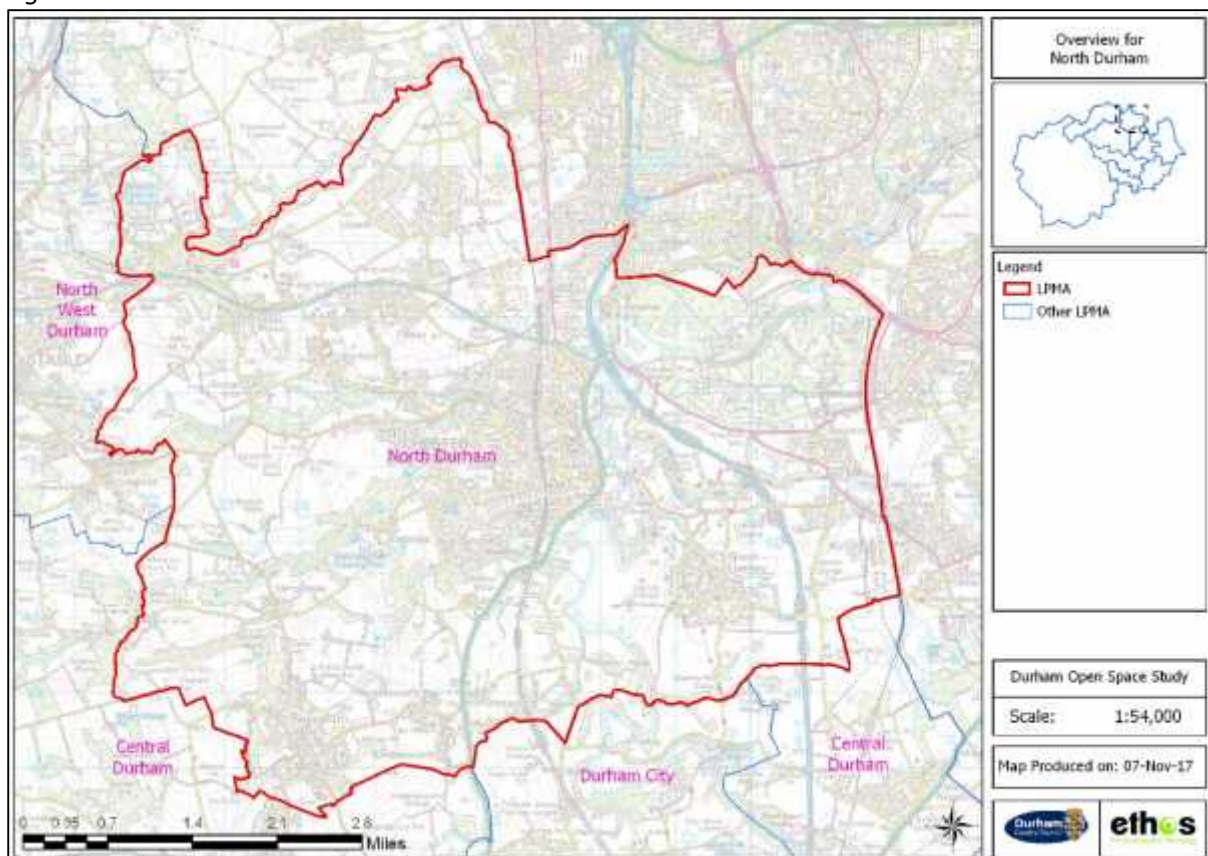
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical Area

Figure 2 shows the geographical area included within the North Durham Local Plan Monitoring Area. The population of this area is 54,117 (Census 2011).

Figure 2 Central Durham Assessment Area

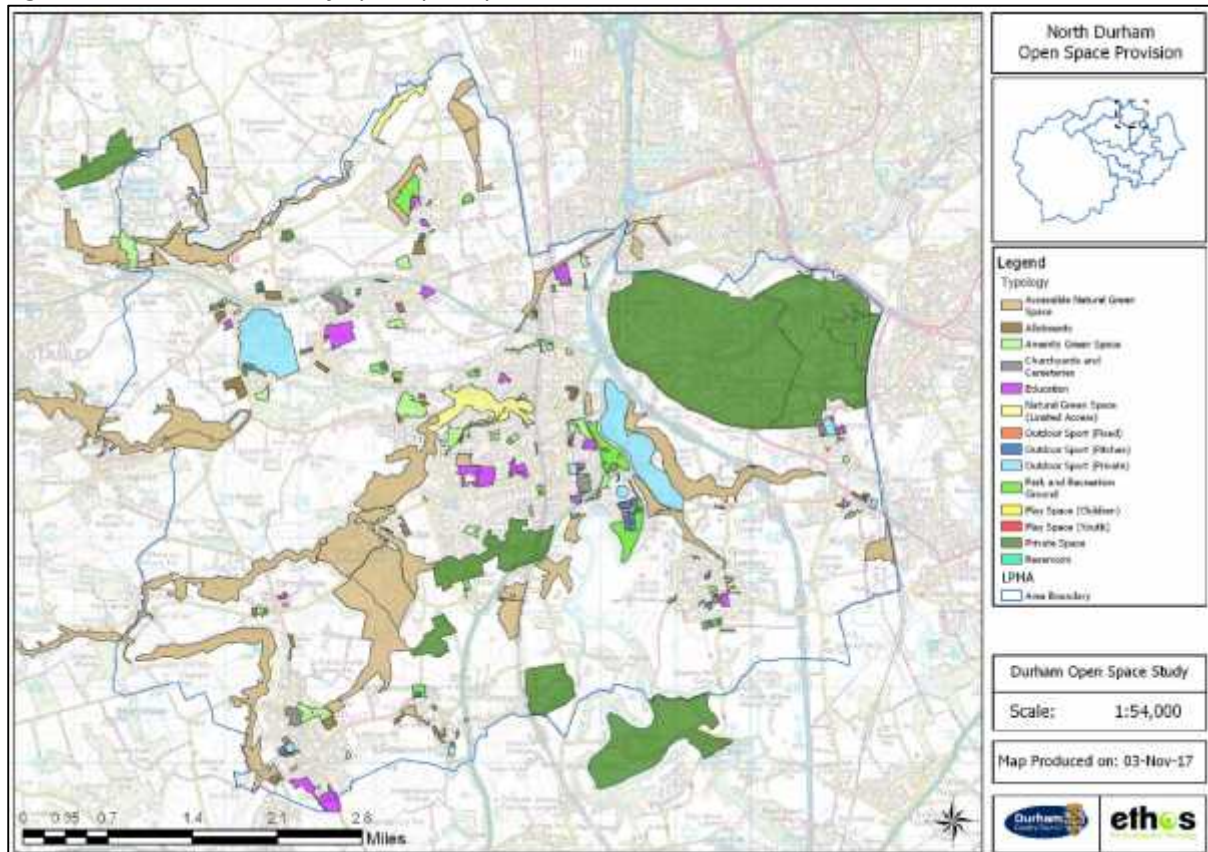


2.0 Existing provision of open space

This section provides maps showing existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the assessment. A map is shown for the overall area, and are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council.

2.1 Overview of open space provision in the assessment area

Figure 3 Overview of open space provision in the North Durham Assessment Area



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the North Durham assessment area. It uses the quantity standards for open space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Allotments	0.90
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)	1.5 (see standard for Natural Green Space)
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for <u>new</u> provision. The ANGSt standards are used for analysing <u>current</u> provision.
Outdoor Sport (Private)	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the assessment area.

3.2 Quantity provision of open space

Table 2 shows the existing provision of green space within the Central Durham assessment area using the County Durham standards to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares/1000 population.

The figures for 'Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)' shown in table 2 below, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sports Space (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided in table 3 for a number of typologies where there are no standards, these typologies are:

-) Outdoor Sport Private;
-) Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
-) Education;
-) Churchyard and Cemetery.

Table 2 Existing supply of green space across Central Durham assessment area

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Provision
Allotments	28.49	0.53	48.71	0.9	-20.22	-0.37	Under Supply
Amenity Green Space	71.59	1.32	81.18	1.5	-9.59	-0.18	Under Supply
Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	65.18	1.20	75.76	1.4	-10.58	-0.20	Under Supply
Play Space (Children)	1.67	0.03	2.71	0.05	-1.04	-0.02	Under Supply
Play Space (Youth)	0.58	0.01	2.16	0.04	-1.58	-0.03	Under Supply

As can be seen from the table above, within the assessment area, there is an under supply of all typologies of open space. The total shortfall for each typology is:

-) Allotments 20.22 Ha
 -) Amenity Green Space 9.59 Ha
 -) Park and Recreation Grounds (Combined) 10.58 Ha
 -) Play Space (Children) 1.04 Ha
 -) Play Space (Youth) 1.58 Ha
- Total shortfall 43.01 Ha**

Table 3 Provision of open space for typologies with no standards

Typology	Existing provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Outdoor Sport (Private)	9.75	0.18
Accessible Natural Green Space	678.62	12.54
Education	51.41	0.95
Churchyards and Cemeteries	18.81	0.35

4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of open space across the assessment area using the County Durham access standards (as summarised in table 4).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Table 4 County Durham access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt

Figure 4 Access to Allotments across the North Durham Assessment Area (480m)

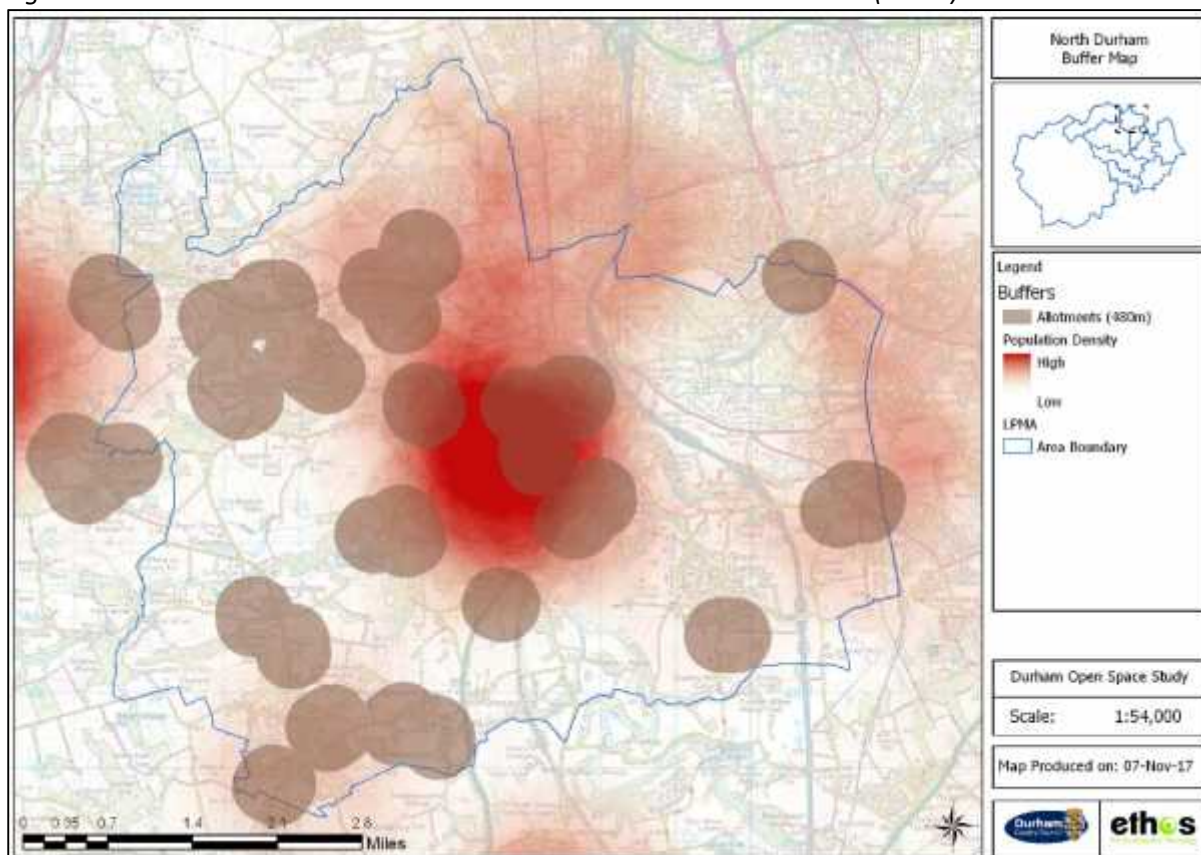


Figure 5 Access to Amenity Green Space across the North Durham Assessment Area (480m)

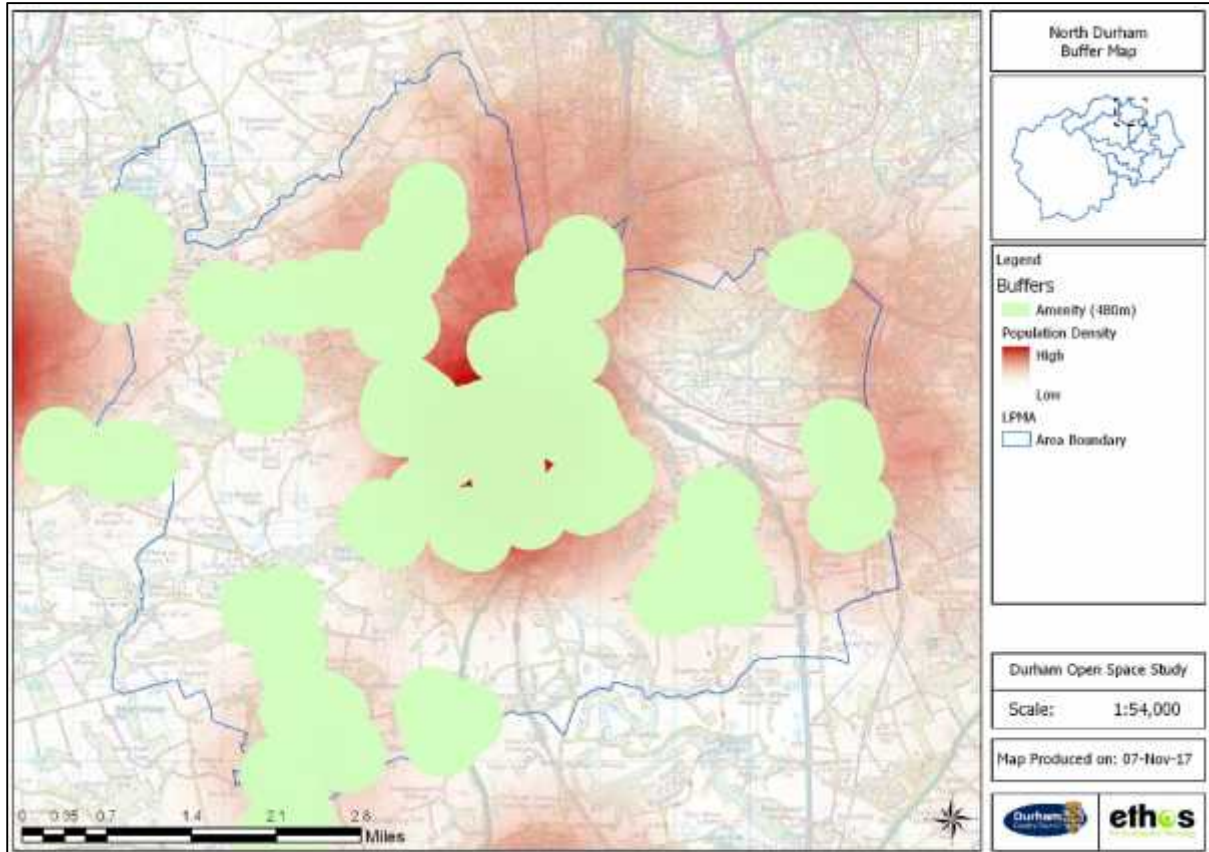


Figure 6 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the North Durham Assessment Area (600m)

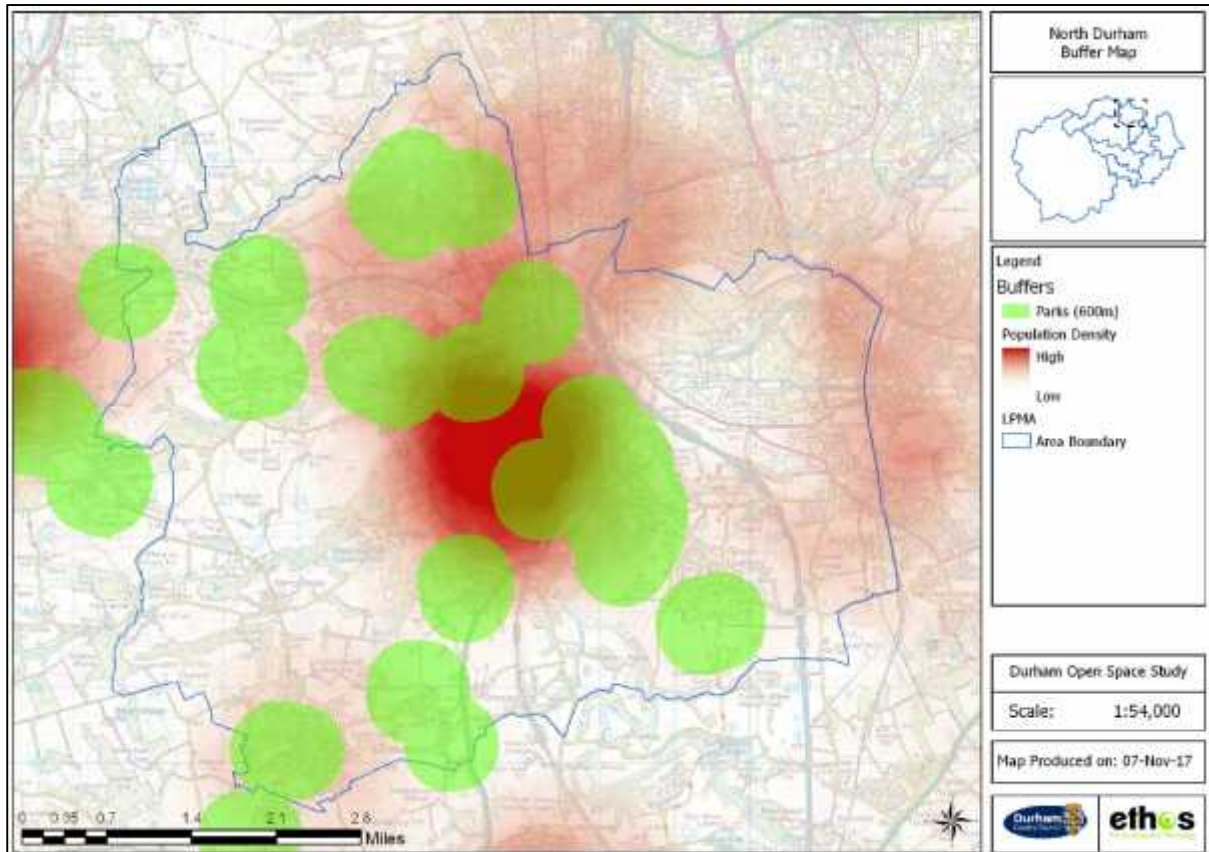


Figure 7 Access to Children’s Play Space across the North Durham Assessment Area (600m)

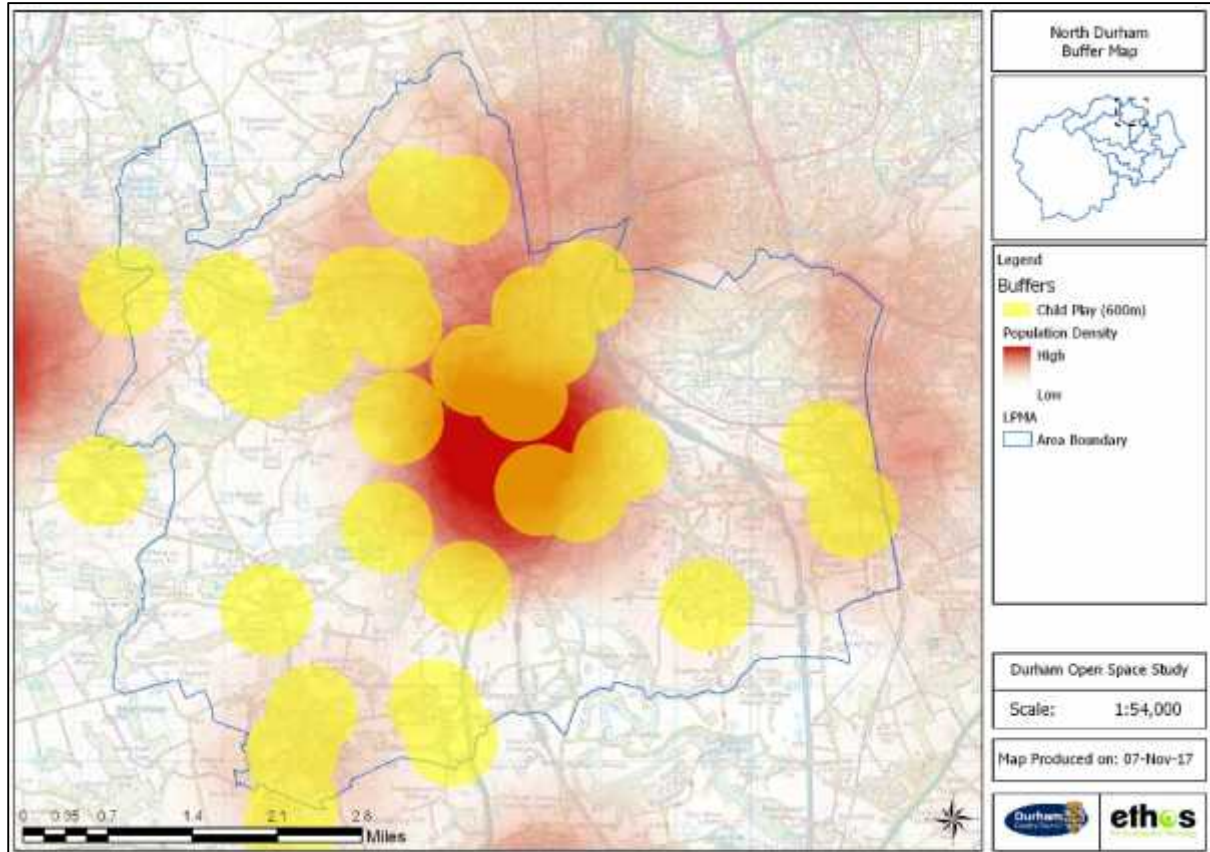


Figure 8 Access to Youth Play Space across the North Durham Assessment Area (720m)

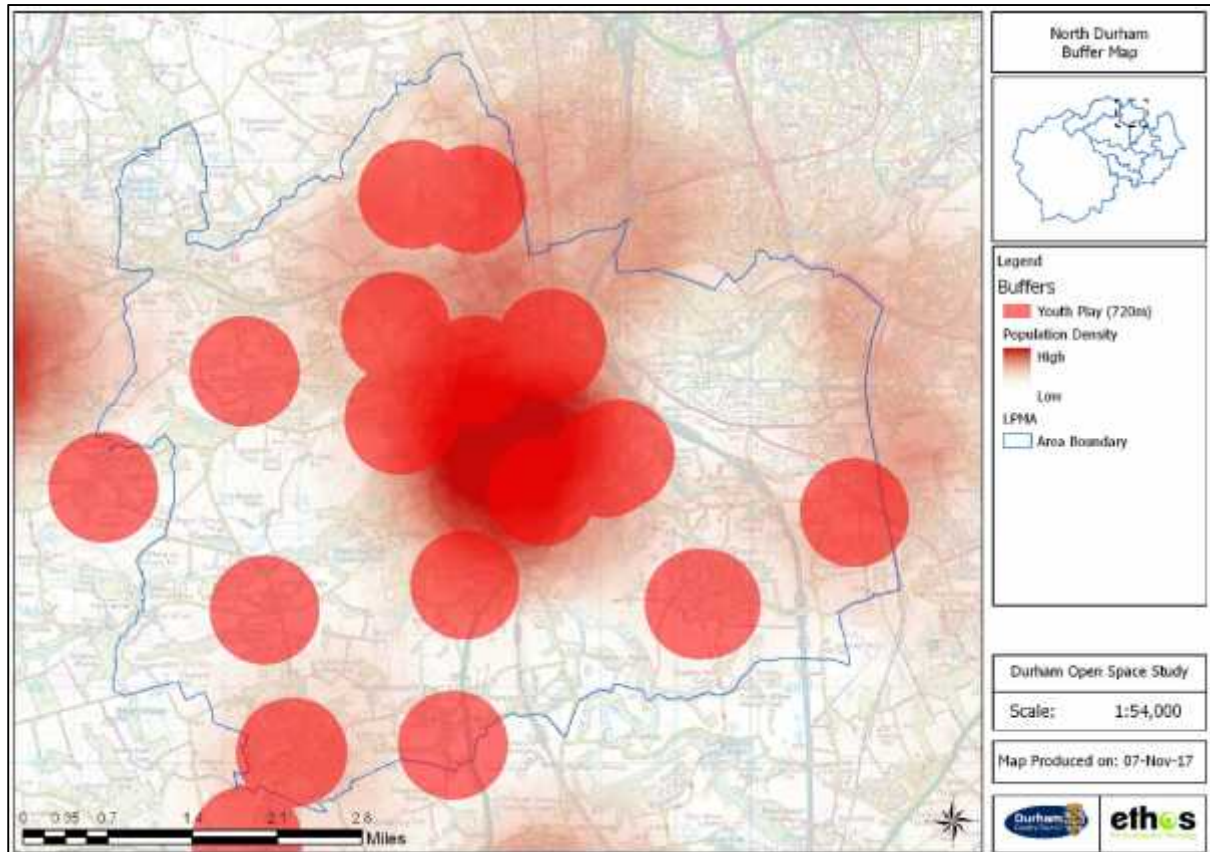


Figure 9 Access to Natural Green Space (20 ha site within 2km ANGSt)

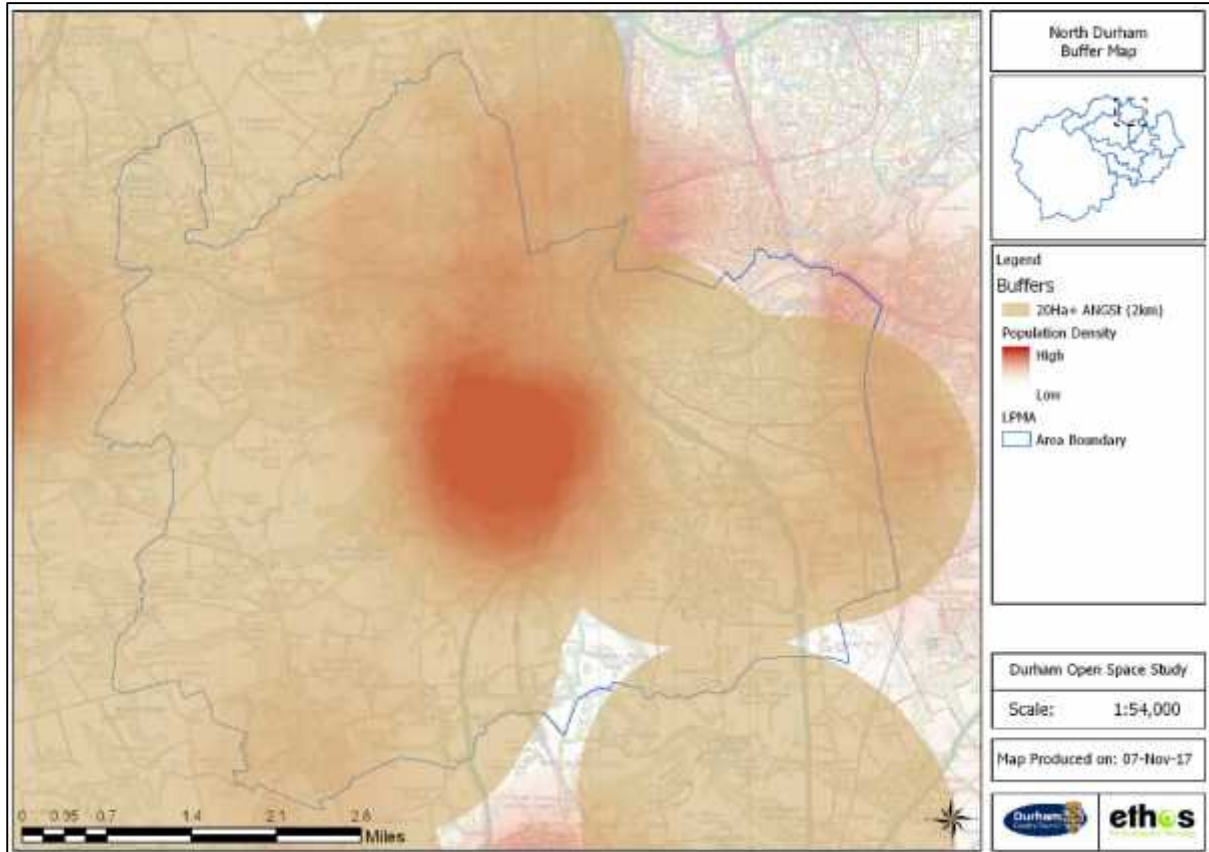
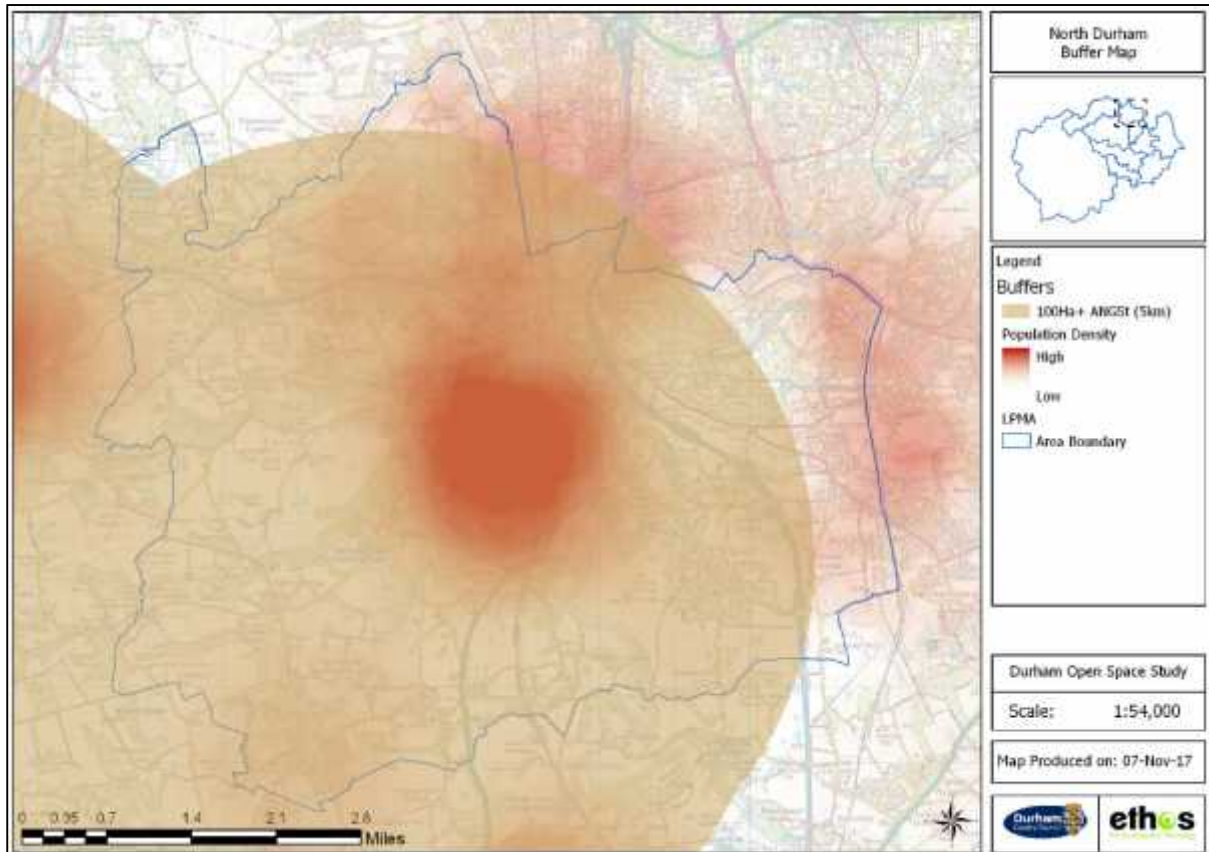


Figure 10 Access to Natural Green Space (100 ha site within 5km ANGSt)



4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 5 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 4-10, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Table 5 Summary of existing access issues for Central Durham Assessment Area

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Large gaps in access, especially in the key populated areas
Amenity Green Space	Generally good access, although there are gaps
Parks and Recreation Grounds	A number of gaps in access, including in areas of high relative population density.
Play Space (Children)	A number of gaps in access, including in areas of high relative population density.
Play Space (Youth)	A number of gaps in access, including in areas of high relative population density.
Natural Green Space	Good access to 20ha sites across the majority of the assessment area. Generally good access to 100ha sites, although gaps in the north and east of the assessment area. There are no 500 Ha sites within 10km.

5.0 Quality Assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall assessment. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.20 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and Maintenance;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community Involvement.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). Within these area profiles, summary maps showing the sites existing and potential quality scores is provided.

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

- J) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (figure 11) and a list of sites with potential for improvement i.e. those sites scoring a potential rank of A, B or C (figure 12). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided to the Council.

These maps are intended for indicative purposes only, a GIS database has been provided to the Council for detailed analysis/viewing.

Figure 11 Existing quality rank of open space

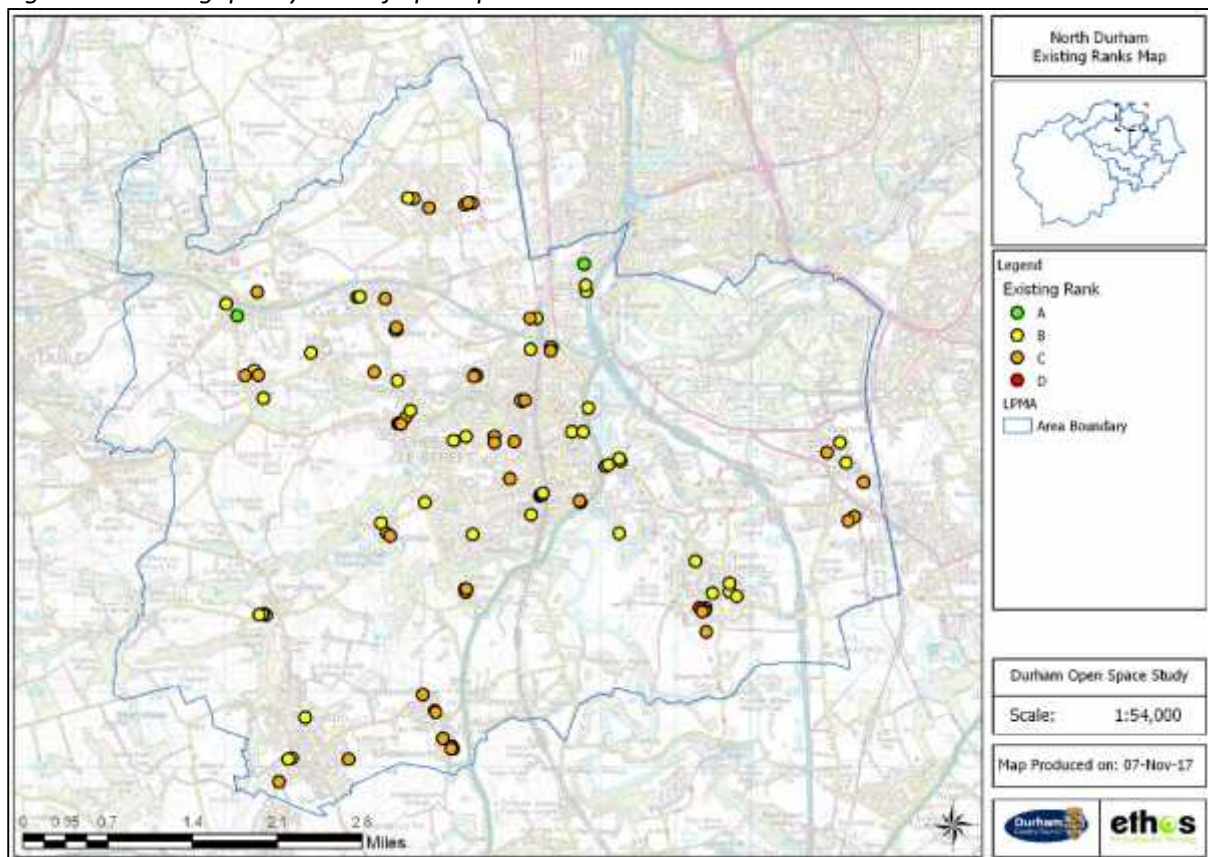
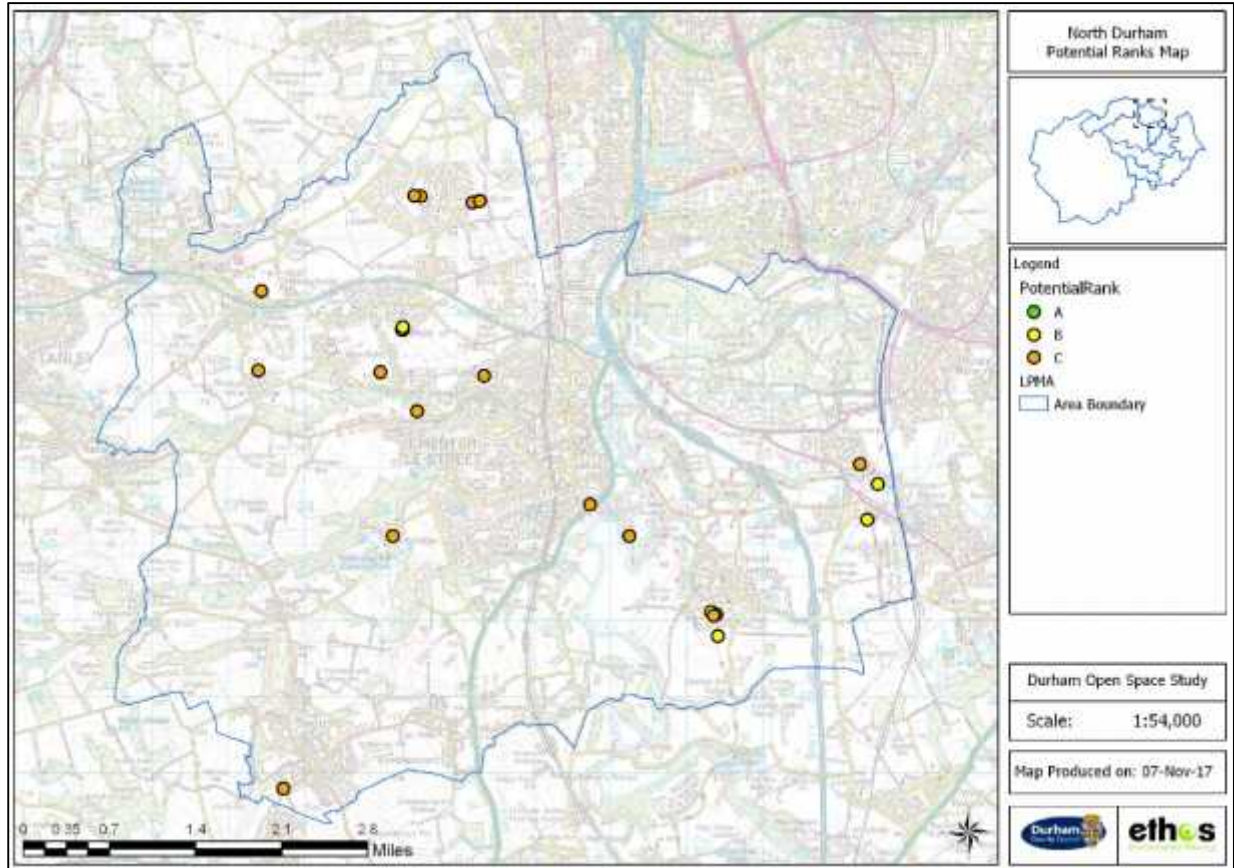


Figure 12 Sites with potential for improvement



6.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

-) Existing provision to be enhanced;
-) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
-) Identification of areas for new provision;
-) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

6.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.3 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (figure 11). Figure 12 then highlights those sites which have ‘potential for improvement’ i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 10 open spaces and 12 play spaces which are ranked A-C, with sites ranked A the highest potential/priority for improvement. It is expected that when allocated sites are brought forward, consideration would be given to the potential to improve the priority sites.

6.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of North Durham, there is little opportunity due to the quantitative shortfalls across all typologies. However, existing children’s and youth play spaces within parks and recreation grounds could be expanded, and parks without any existing play spaces may have potential accommodate new provision, especially where this fills gaps in access.

The good quantity and access to natural green space could also provide potential for meeting shortfalls in allotments and children’s play space e.g. the provision of natural play facilities and community food growing areas, if appropriate.

6.3 Identification of areas for new provision

The assessment has identified that there is already an existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of all types of open space in the North Durham assessment area. The need to provide all types of open space on site in new development is a priority for the area. If new developments are of a size that provide little opportunity for providing significant open space, then consideration should also be given to pooling section 106 contributions (or securing through CIL) to improve the quality of (and access to) existing sites.

6.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

Due to the existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of open space across all types of open space, it is recommended that there are no open space facilities that are surplus to

requirement. Consideration could be given to the potential for natural green spaces to be surplus, however, the assessment has identified the value of these spaces in terms of green infrastructure, biodiversity and access. These factors are considered to provide over riding benefit to any other potential uses or demands.

**Durham County Council
Open Space Needs Assessment
2018**



**Area Profile:
North West Durham**

Part 2 of 2

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL
info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	2 - 3
2.0 Existing provision of open space	4
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	5 - 6
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	7 - 11
5.0 Quality assessment	12 - 14
6.0 Summary of priorities for the area	15 - 16

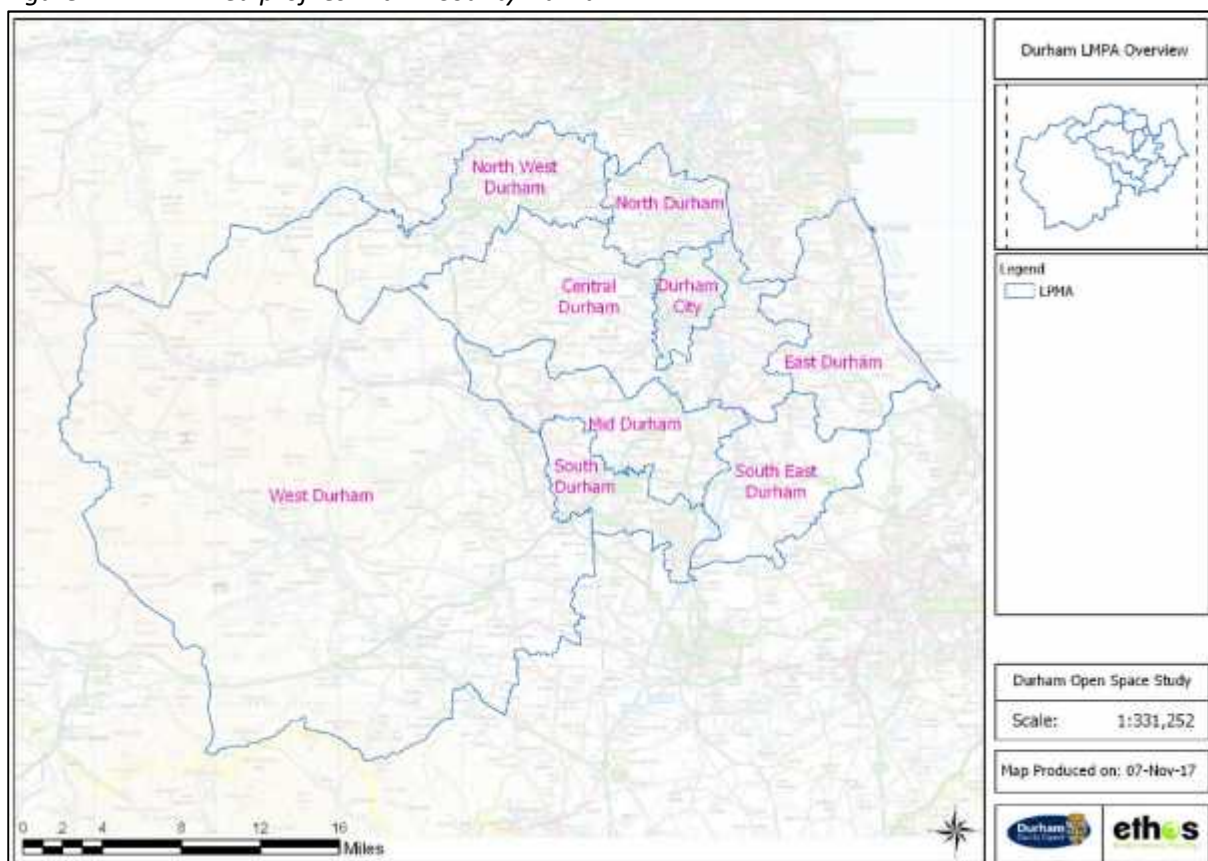
Open Space Area Profile: North West Durham

1.0 Introduction

The County Durham Open Space Study is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of the whole study and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the district. This report is **part 2 of 2**, and comprises open space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for nine areas as shown in figure 1. These are based on the areas Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs).

Figure 1 Area profiles within County Durham



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

-) A description of the area;
-) Maps showing the provision of open space;
-) Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
-) Analysis of access to open space;

-) Summary of quality issues and opportunities;
-) Analysis of future need for open space;
-) Priorities for the area.

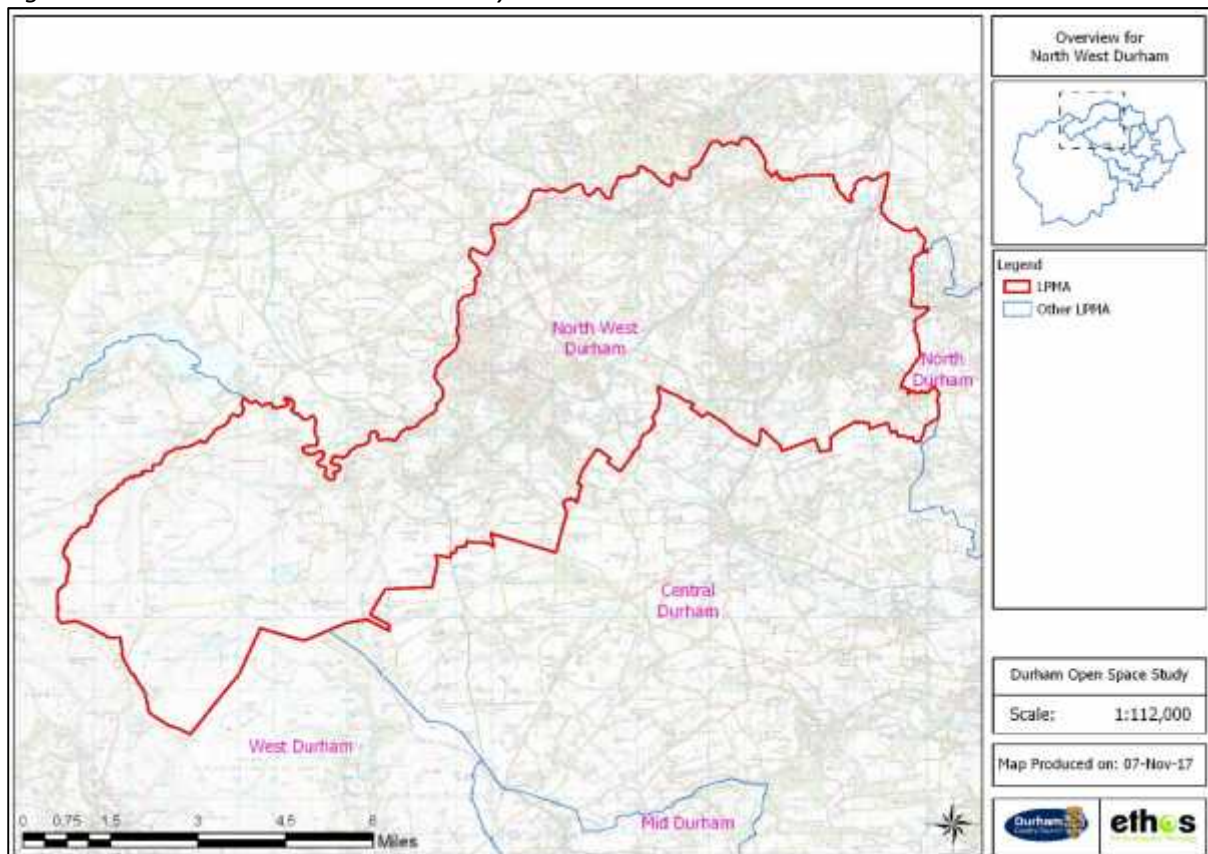
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical Area

Figure 2 shows the geographical area included within the North West Durham Local Plan Monitoring Area. The population of this area is 79,393 (Census 2011).

Figure 2 North West Durham Study Area

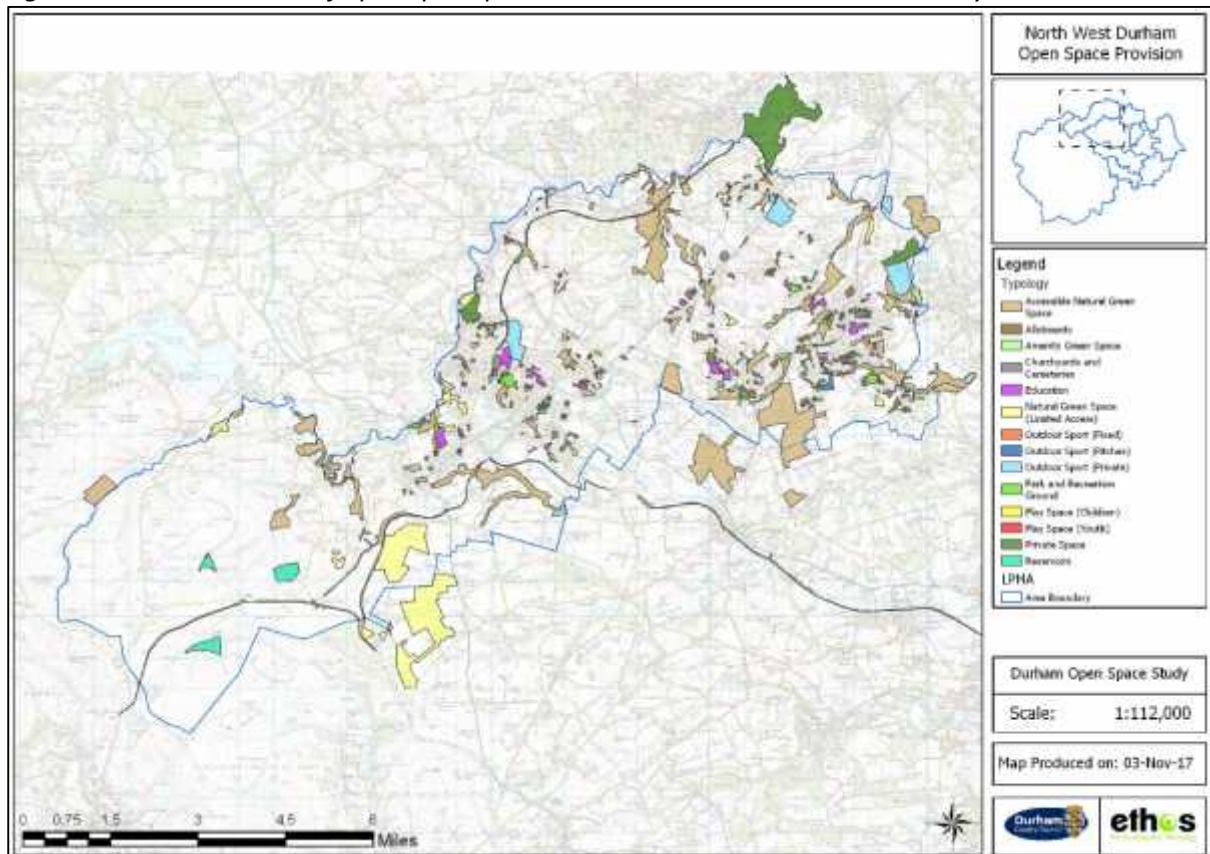


2.0 Existing provision of open space

This section provides maps showing existing green spaces that have been mapped and included within the study. A map is shown for the overall area, and are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council.

2.1 Overview of open space provision in the study area

Figure 3 Overview of open space provision in the North West Durham Study Area



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the Central Durham study area. It uses the quantity standards for open space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Allotments	0.90
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)	1.5 (see standard for Natural Green Space)
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for <u>new</u> provision. The ANGSt standards are used for analysing <u>current</u> provision.
Outdoor Sport (Private)	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the study area.

3.2 Quantity provision of open space

Table 2 shows the existing provision of green space within the Central Durham study area using the County Durham standards to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares/1000 population.

The figures for 'Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)' shown in table 2 below, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sports Space (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided in table 3 for a number of typologies where there are no standards, these typologies are:

-) Outdoor Sport Private;
-) Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
-) Education;
-) Churchyard and Cemetery.

Table 3 Existing supply of open space across North West Durham study area

Typologies	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Provision
Allotments	79.09	1.00	71.45	0.9	+7.64	+0.10	Sufficient Supply
Amenity Green Space	97.79	1.23	119.09	1.5	-21.30	-0.27	Under Supply
Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	81.44	1.03	111.15	1.4	-29.71	-0.37	Under Supply
Play Space (Children)	1.14	0.01	3.97	0.05	-2.83	-0.04	Under Supply
Play Space (Youth)	1.05	0.01	3.18	0.04	-2.13	-0.03	Under Supply

As can be seen from the table above, within the study area, there is an under supply of all typologies of open space, with the exception of allotments. The total shortfall for each typology is:

-) Amenity Green Space 21.30 Ha
 -) Parks and Recreation grounds (Combined) 29.71 Ha
 -) Play Space (Children) 2.83 Ha
 -) Play Space (Youth) 2.13 Ha
- Total shortfall 55.97 Ha**

Table 3 Provision of open space for typologies with no standards

Typology	Existing provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Outdoor Sport (Private)	47.70	0.60
Accessible Natural Green Space	1203.88	15.16
Education	85.45	1.08
Churchyards and Cemeteries	39.28	0.49

4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of green space across the study area using the County Durham access standards (as summarised in table 4).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Table 4 County Durham access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt

Figure 4 Access to Allotments across the North West Durham Study Area (480m)

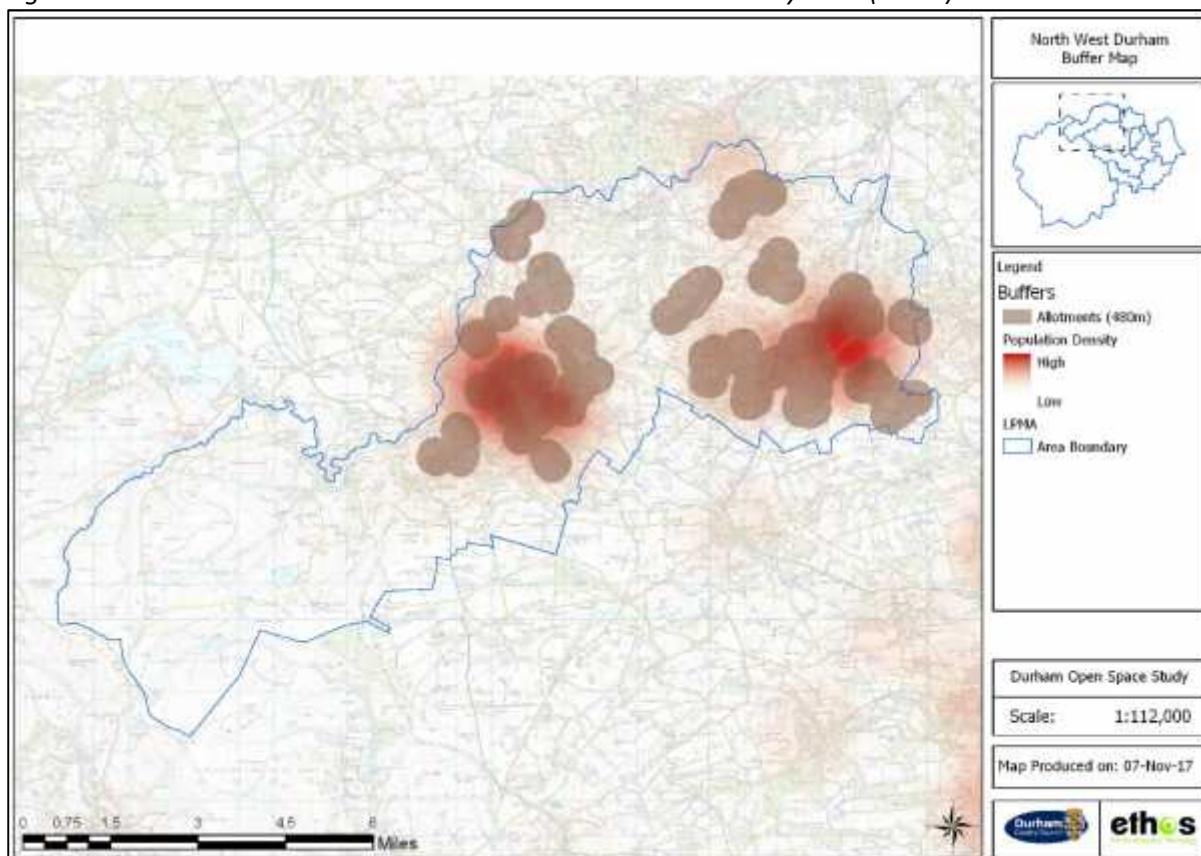


Figure 5 Access to Amenity Green Space across the North West Durham Study Area (480m)

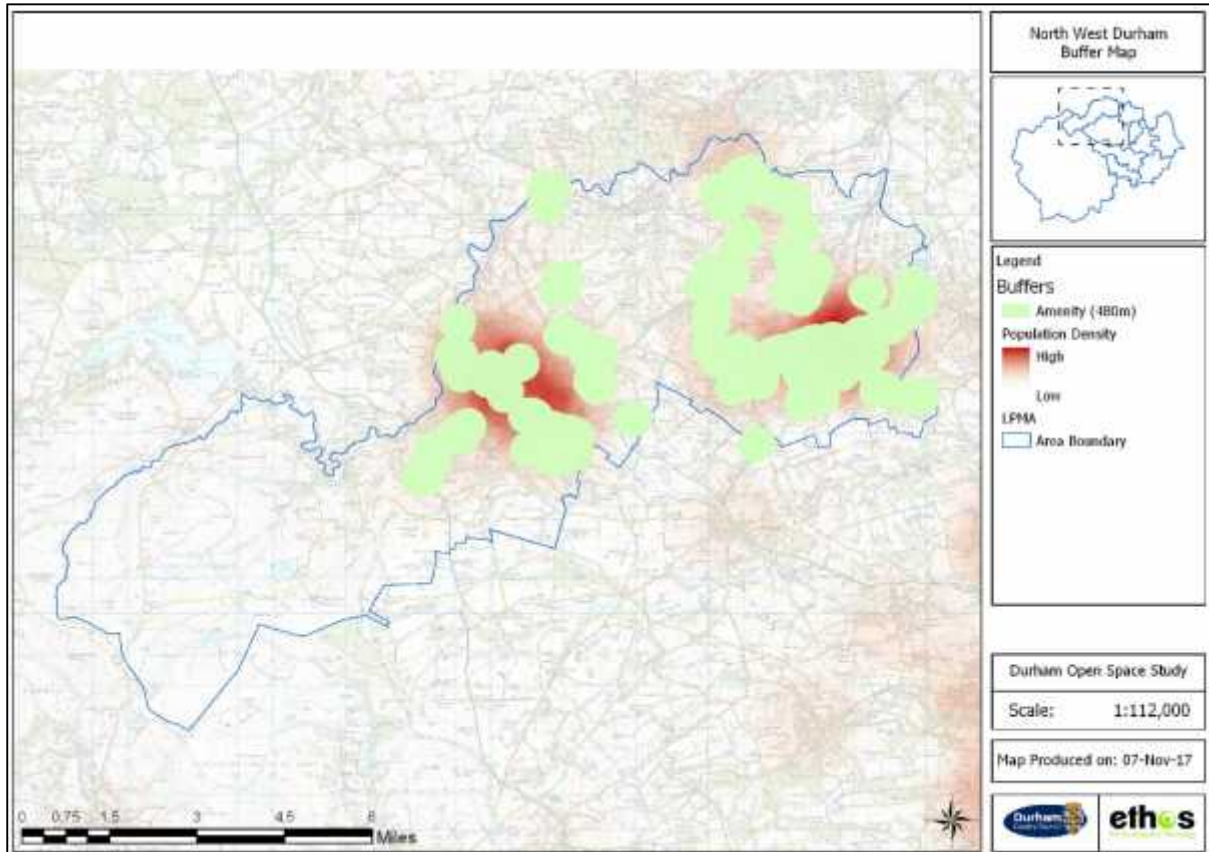


Figure 6 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the North West Durham Study Area (600m)

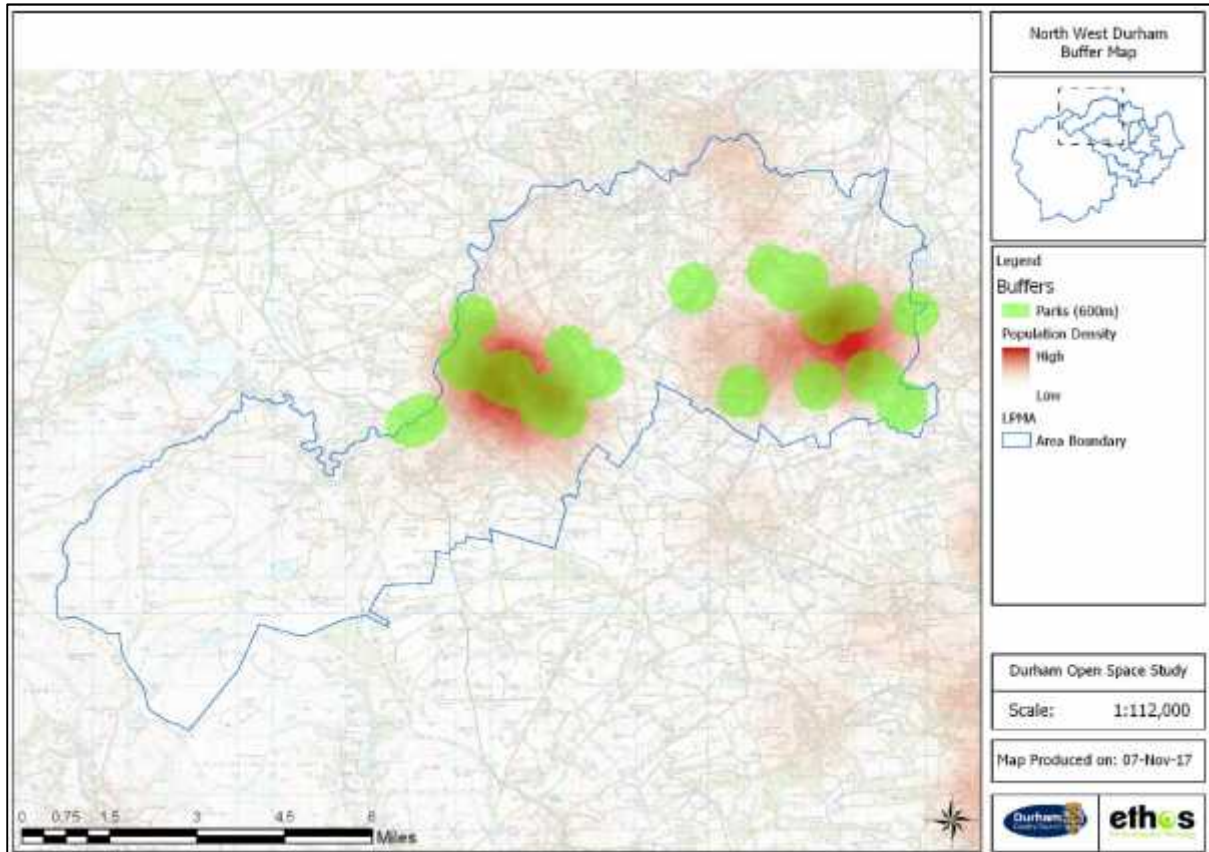


Figure 7 Access to Children’s Play Space across the North West Durham Study Area (600m)

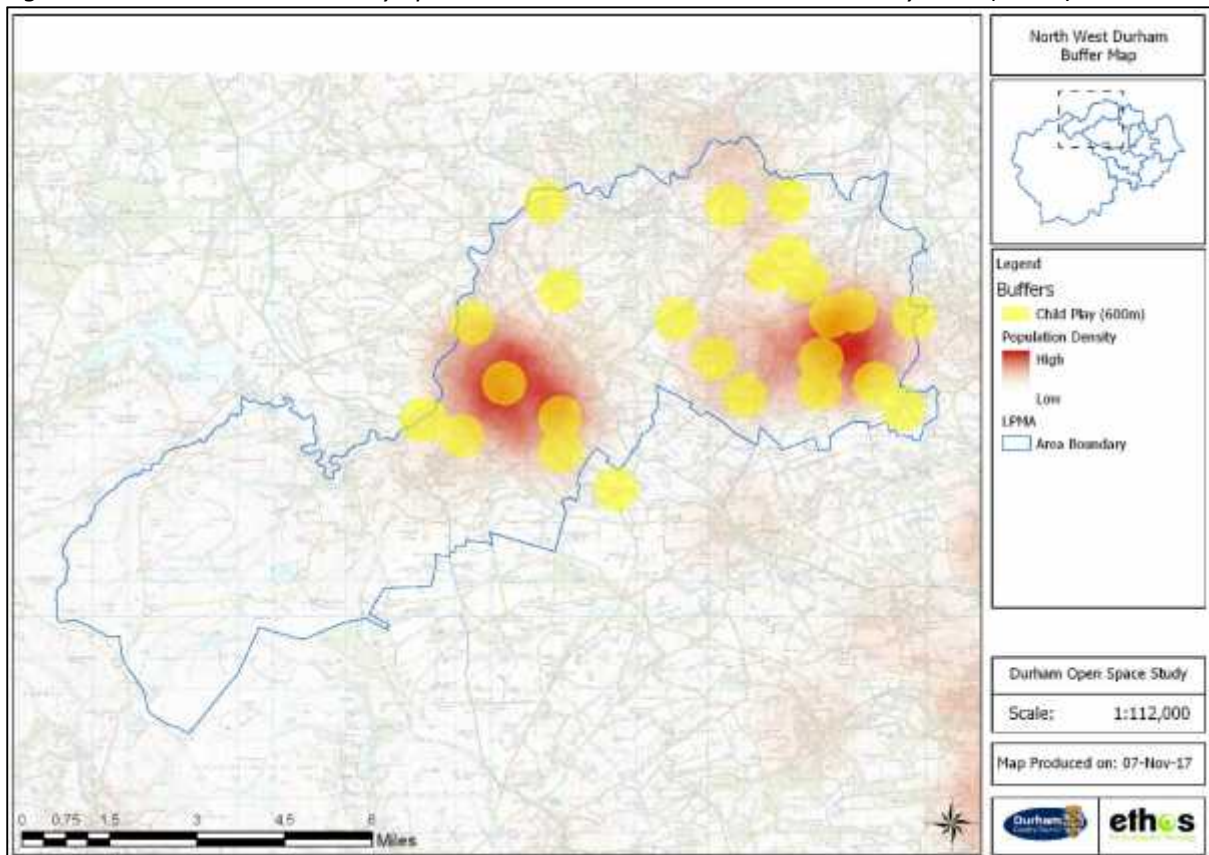


Figure 8 Access to Youth Play Space across the North West Durham Study Area (720m)

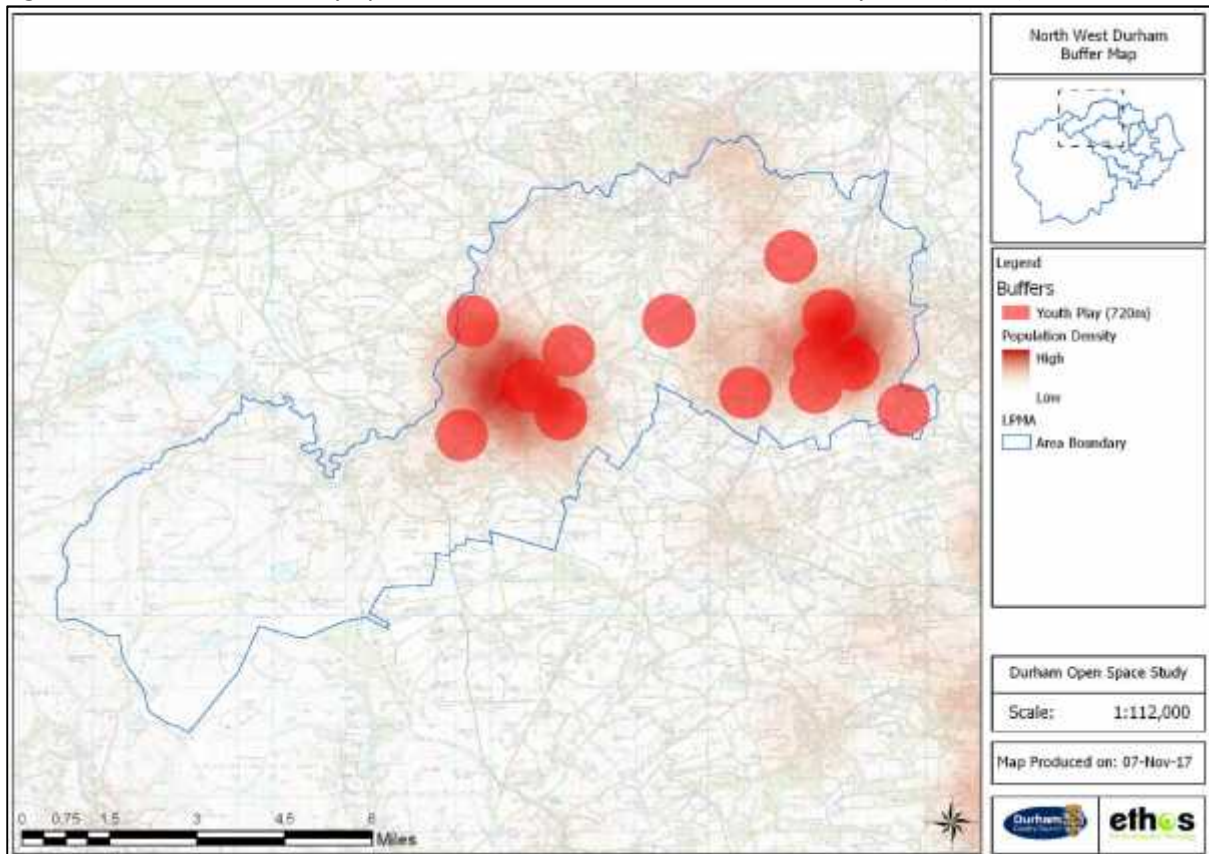


Figure 9 Access to Natural Green Space (20 ha site within 2km ANGSt)

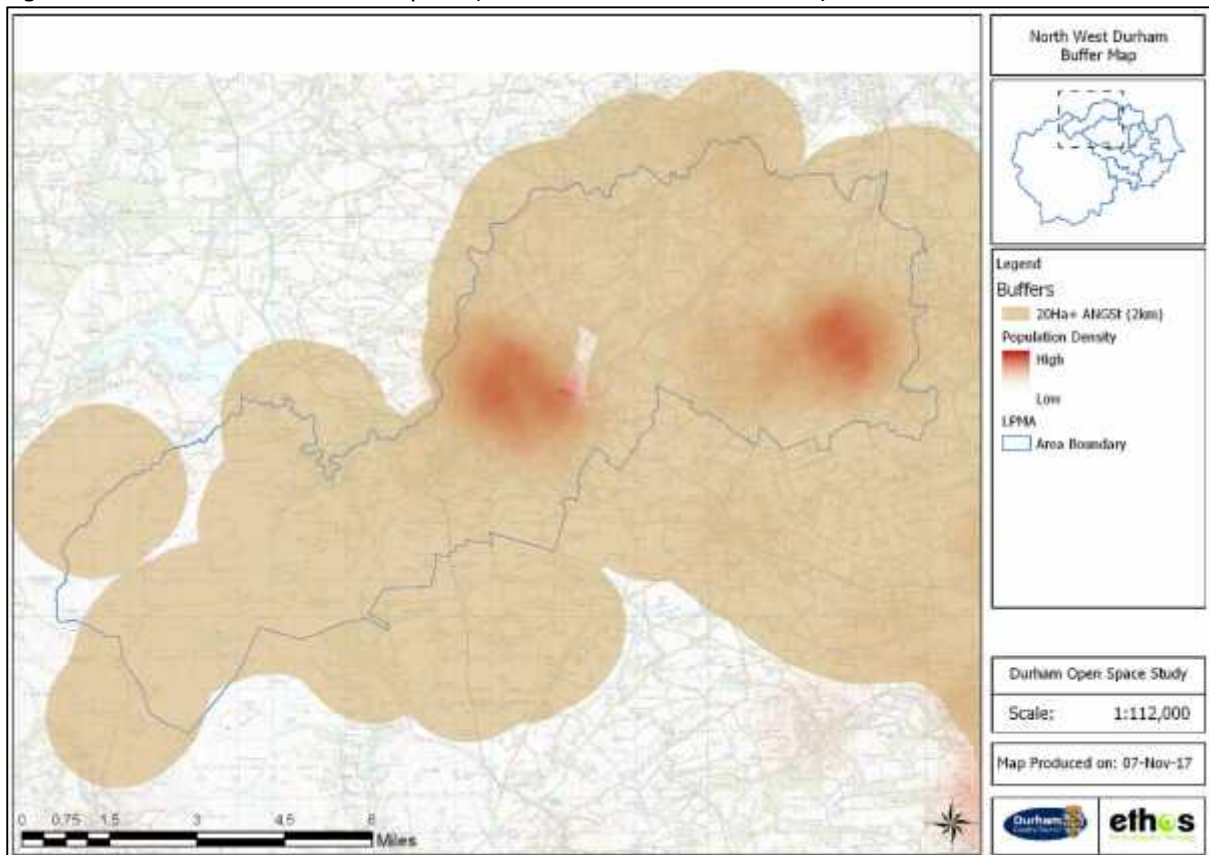
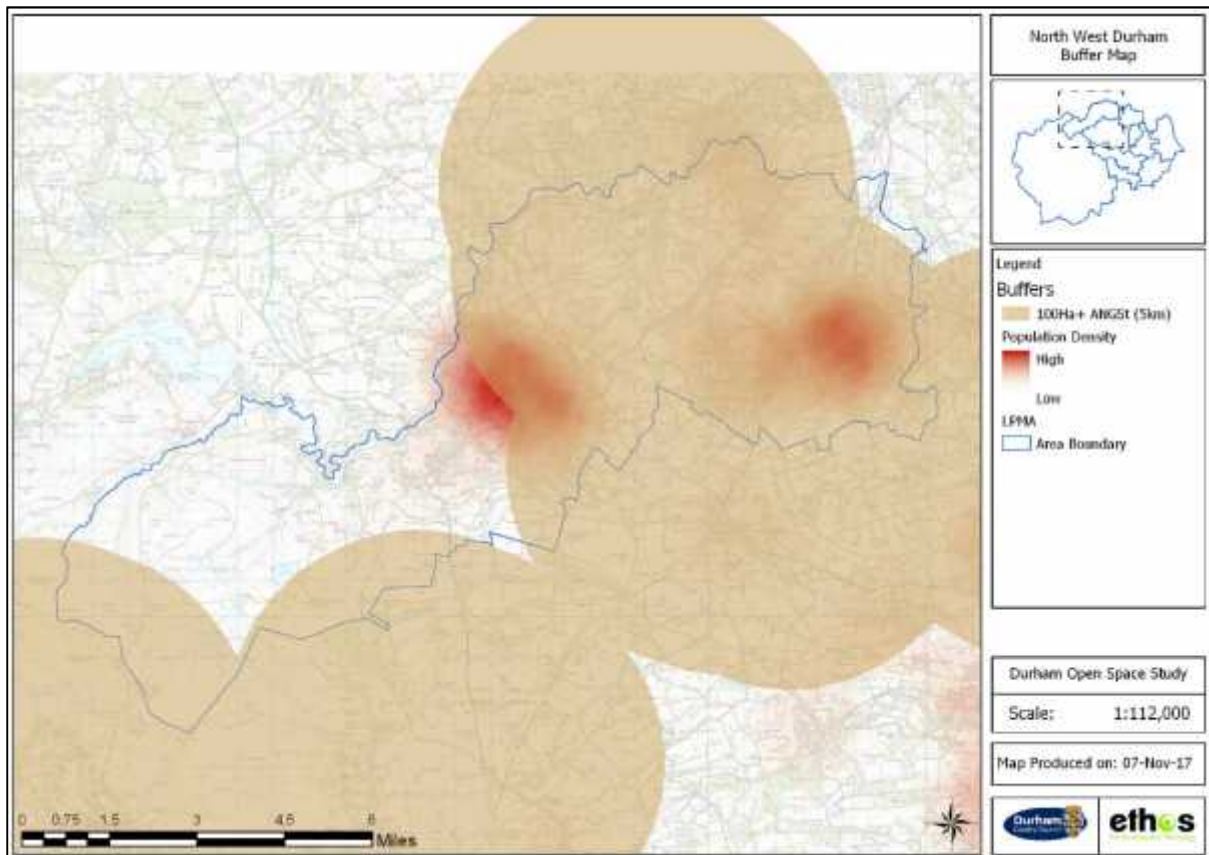


Figure 10 Access to Natural Green Space (100 ha site within 5km ANGSt)



4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 5 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 4-10, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Table 5 Summary of existing access issues for Central Durham Study Area

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Generally good access, although some gaps in access in areas with high relative population density.
Amenity Green Space	Relatively good access, although there are a number of gaps, including in areas with high relative population density.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Large gaps in access.
Play Space (Children)	Large gaps in access.
Play Space (Youth)	Sporadic provision with large gaps in access.
Natural Green Space	Good access to 20ha sites across the majority of the study area. Generally good access to 100ha sites, although gap in centre of study area. There are no 500 Ha sites within 10km.

5.0 Quality assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall study. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.20 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and Maintenance;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community Involvement.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). Within these area profiles, summary maps showing the sites existing and potential quality scores is provided.

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (figure 11) and a list of sites with potential for improvement i.e. those sites scoring a potential rank of A, B or C (figure 12). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided to the Council.

These maps are intended for indicative purposes only, a GIS database has been provided to the Council for detailed analysis/viewing.

Figure 11 Existing quality rank of open space

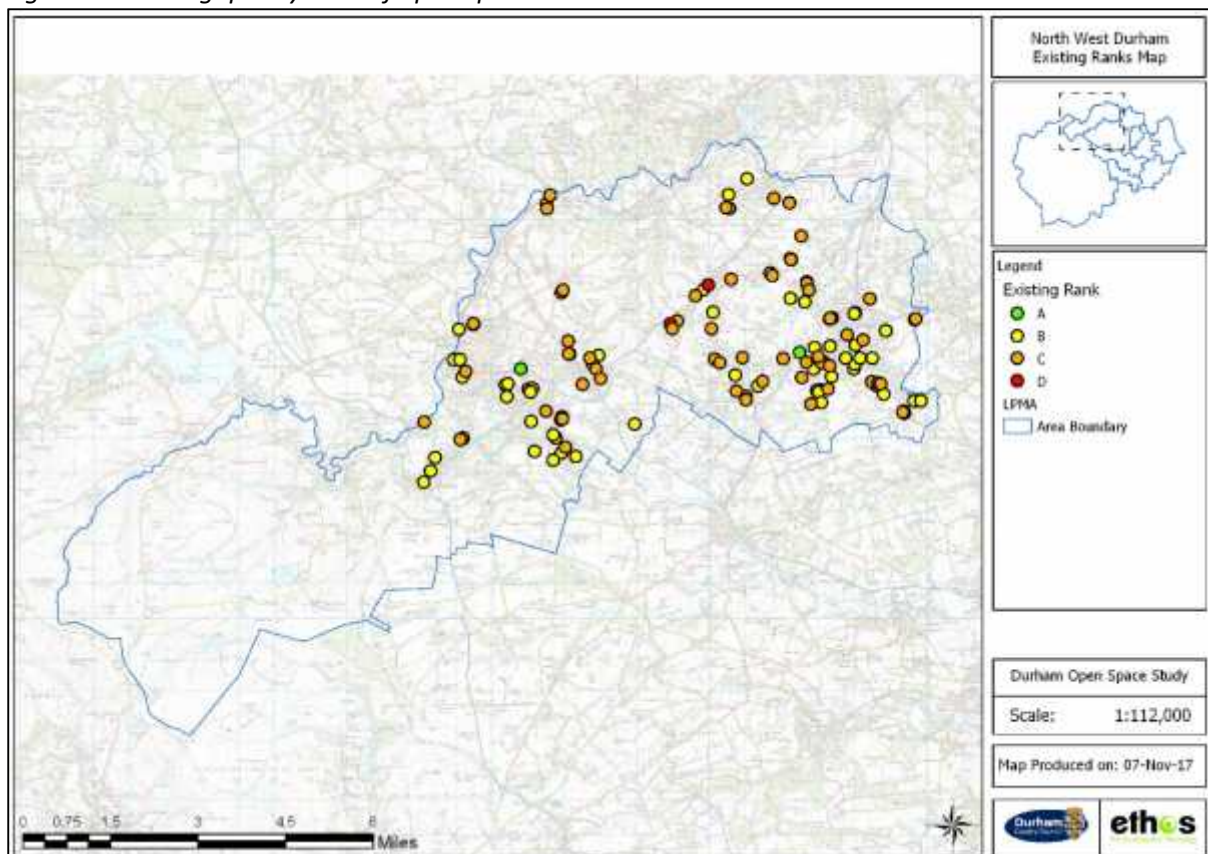
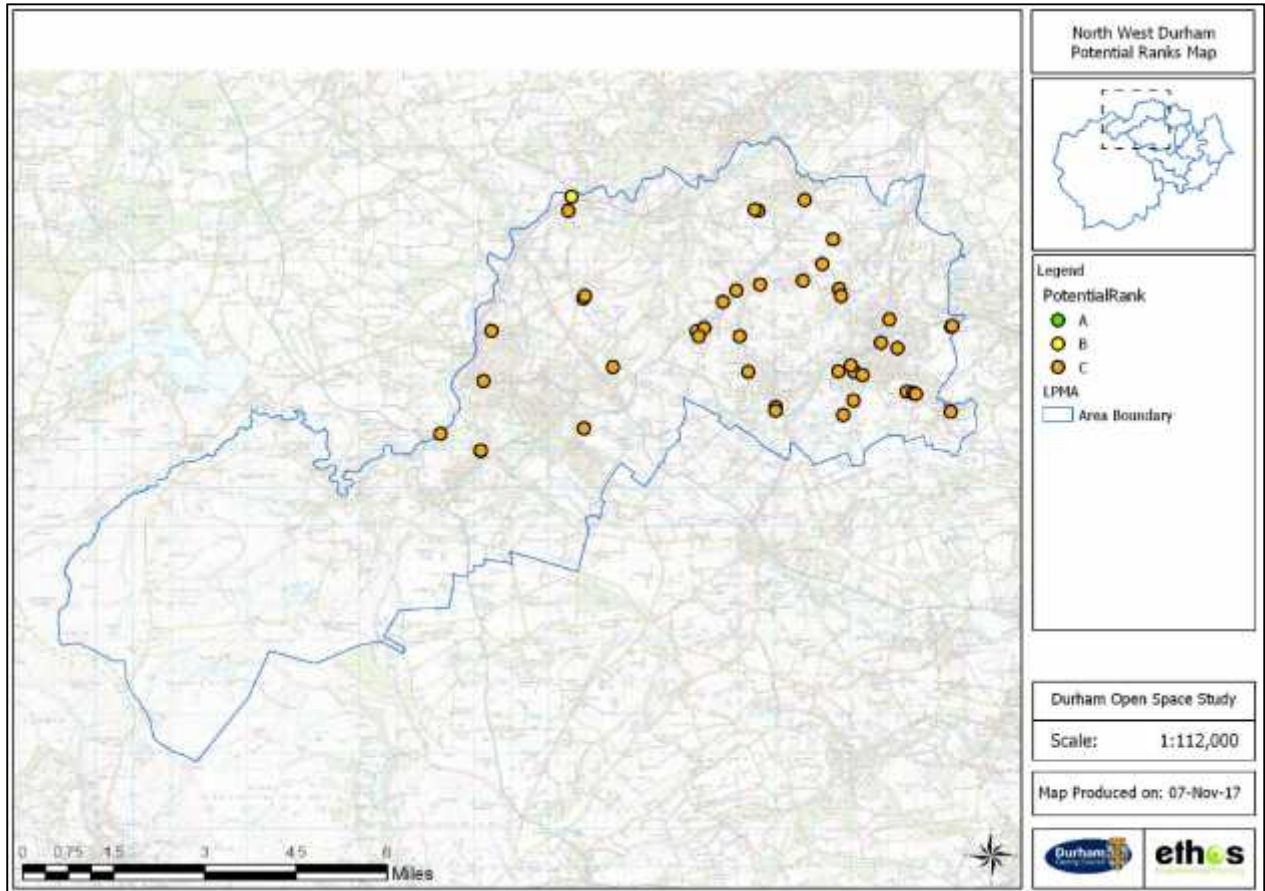


Figure 12 Sites with potential for improvement



6.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

-) Existing provision to be enhanced;
-) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
-) Identification of areas for new provision;
-) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

6.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.3 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (figure 11). Figure 12 then highlights those sites which have ‘potential for improvement’ i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 24 open spaces and 12 play spaces which are ranked B-C, with sites ranked A the highest potential/priority for improvement. It is expected that when allocated sites are brought forward, consideration would be given to the potential to improve the priority sites.

6.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of North West Durham, there is some opportunity to reduce the shortfalls in quantity (and access to) open space through the re-designation of allotments (of which there is a good supply), in areas where access to allotments is overlapping. The priority for delivering this would be in areas where there are also existing shortfalls in access.

The good quantity and access to natural green space could also provide potential for meeting shortfalls in children’s play space e.g. through the provision of natural play facilities if appropriate.

6.3 Identification of areas for new provision

The assessment has identified that there is already an existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of all types of open space (except allotments) in the North West Durham study area. The need to provide these types of open space on site in new development is a priority for the area. Even where there is sufficient supply of open space (i.e. allotments), if there are gaps in access that could be reduced/removed, then new on-site provision may still be required.

6.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

There may be opportunities for considering alternative use for allotments. The priority would be to first secure these spaces to meet existing shortfall in other typologies, (e.g. amenity green space), but certain low quality, low potential sites could be considered for meeting local housing needs, where their removal would not result in gaps in access. Consideration could be given to the potential for natural green spaces to be surplus, however, the assessment has identified the value of these spaces in terms of green infrastructure, biodiversity and access. These factors are considered to provide over riding benefit to any other potential uses or demands.

Durham County Council Open Space Needs Assessment 2018



Area Profile: South Durham

Part 2 of 2

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Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL
info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

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CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	2 - 3
2.0 Existing provision of open space	4
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	5 - 6
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	7 - 10
5.0 Quality assessment	11 - 13
6.0 Summary of priorities for the area	14- 15

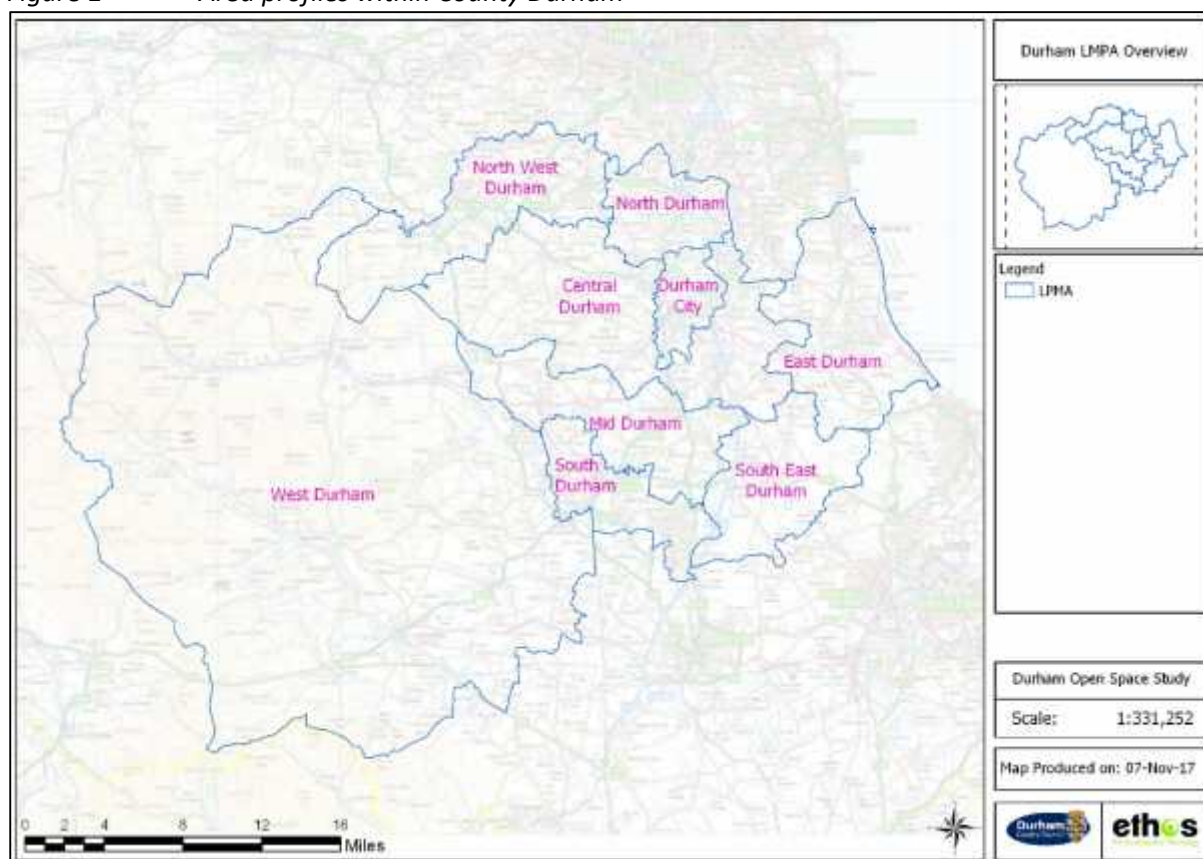
Open Space Area Profile: South Durham

1.0 Introduction

The County Durham Open Space Study is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of the whole study and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the district. This report is **part 2 of 2**, and comprises five green space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for nine areas as shown in figure 1. These are based on the areas Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs).

Figure 1 Area profiles within County Durham



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

-) A description of the area;
-) Maps showing the provision of open space;
-) Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
-) Analysis of access to open space;
-) Summary of quality issues and opportunities;

-) Analysis of future need for open space;
-) Priorities for the area.

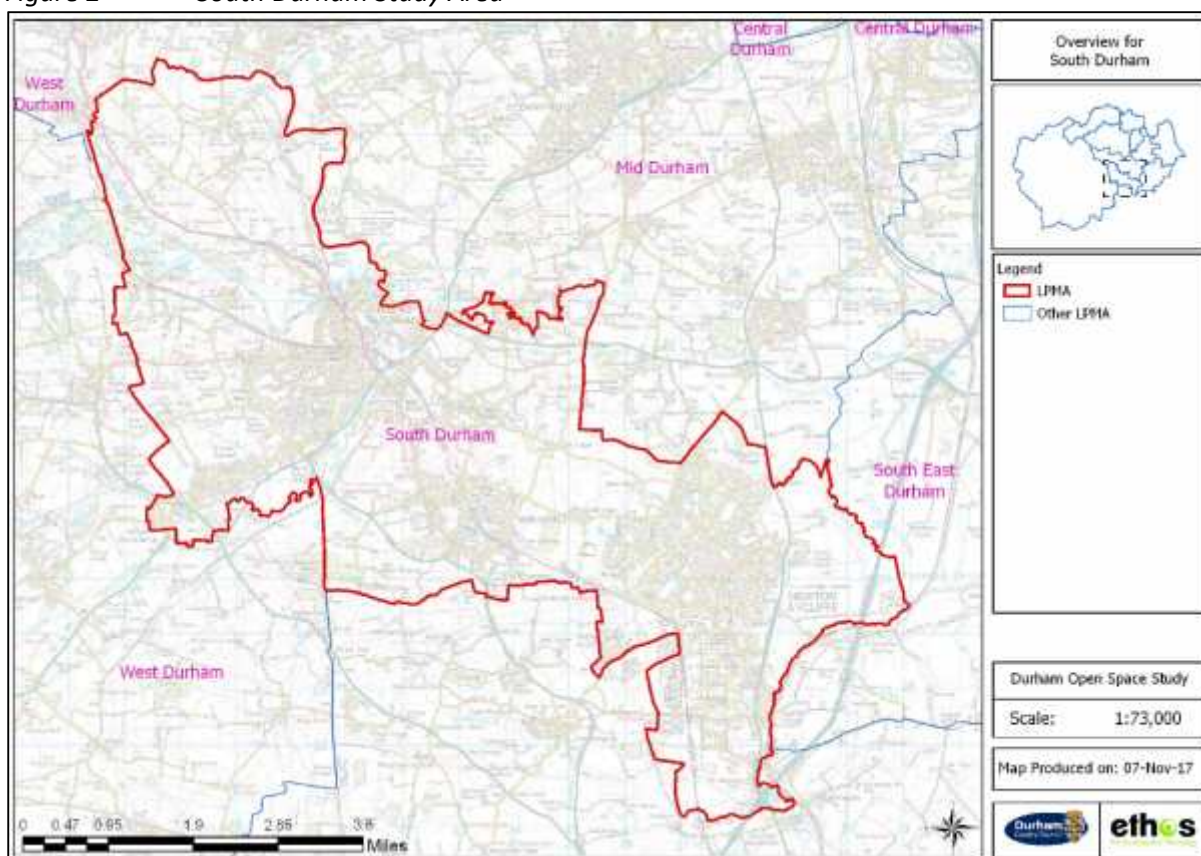
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical Area

Figure 2 shows the geographical area included within the West Durham Local Plan Monitoring Area. The population of this area is 68,435.

Figure 2 South Durham Study Area

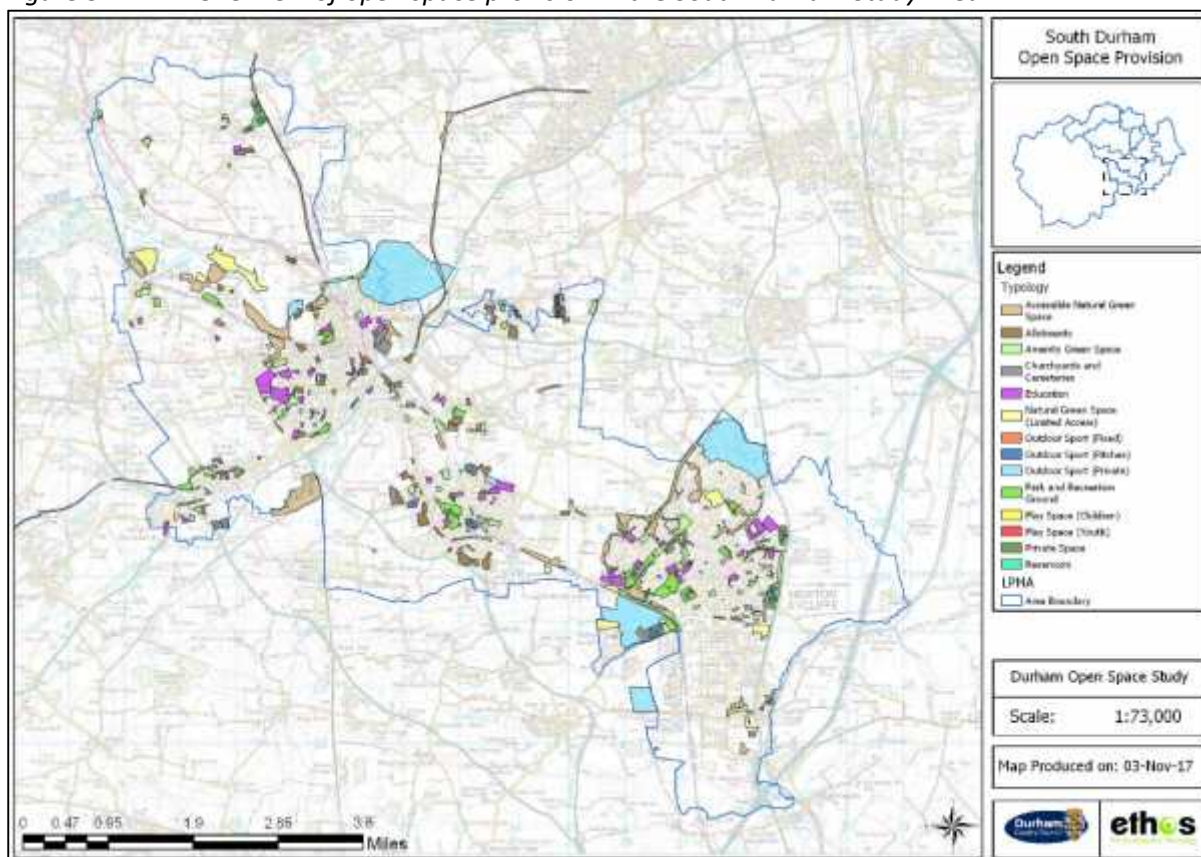


2.0 Existing provision of open space

This section provides maps showing existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the study. A map is shown for the overall area, and are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council.

2.1 Overview of open space provision in the study area

Figure 3 Overview of open space provision in the South Durham Study Area



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the South Durham Study Area. It uses the quantity standards for green space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Allotments	0.90
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)	1.5 (see standard for Natural Green Space)
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for <u>new</u> provision. The ANGSt standards are used for analysing <u>current</u> provision.
Outdoor Sport (Private)	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the study area.

3.2 Quantity provision of open space

Table 2 shows the supply of open space within the West Durham study area using the County Durham standards to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares/1000 population.

The figures for 'Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)' shown in table 2 below, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sport (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided in table 3 for a number of typologies where there are no standards, these typologies are:

-) Outdoor Sport Private;
-) Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
-) Education;
-) Churchyard and Cemetery.

Table 2 Existing supply of open space across South Durham study area

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall Supply
Allotments	53.85	0.79	61.59	0.9	-7.74	-0.11	Under Supply
Amenity Green Space	113.65	1.66	102.65	1.5	+11.00	+0.16	Sufficient Supply
Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	107.67	1.57	95.81	1.4	+11.86	+0.17	Sufficient Supply
Play Space (Children)	3.32	0.05	3.42	0.05	-0.10	-0.00	Under Supply
Play Space (Youth)	1.33	0.02	2.74	0.04	-1.41	-0.02	Under Supply

As can be seen from the table above, within the study area, there is an under supply of allotments, children’s play space and youth play space. The total shortfall for each typology is:

-) Allotments 7.74 Ha
 -) Play Space (Children) 0.10 Ha
 -) Play Space (Youth) 1.41 Ha
- Total shortfall 9.25 Ha**

Table 3 Provision of open space for typologies with no standards

Typology	Existing provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Outdoor Sport (Private)	10.86	0.16
Accessible Natural Green Space	180.29	2.63
Education	79.65	1.16
Churchyards and Cemeteries	35.01	0.51

4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of open space across the study area using the County Durham access standards (as summarised in table 4).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Table 4 County Durham access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt

Figure 4 Access to Allotments across the South Durham Study Area (480m)

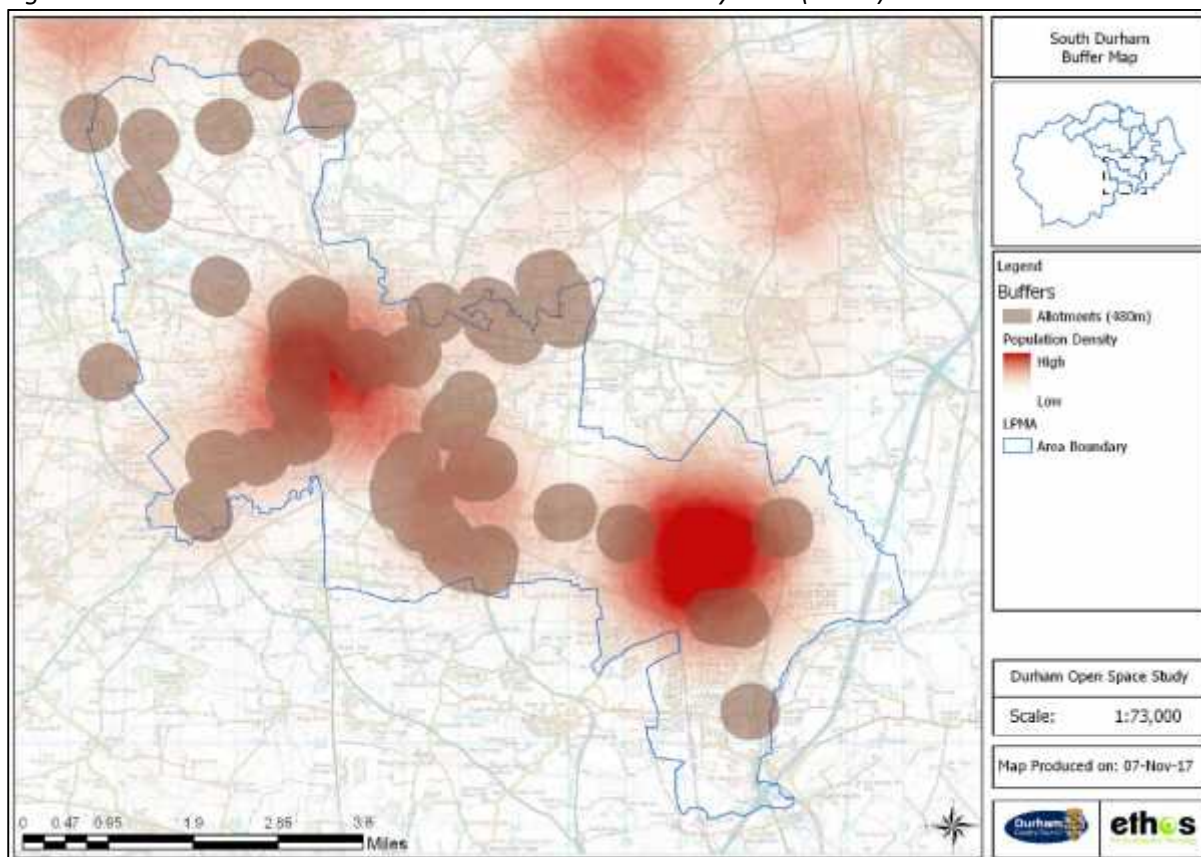


Figure 5 Access to Amenity Green Space across the South Durham Study Area (480m)

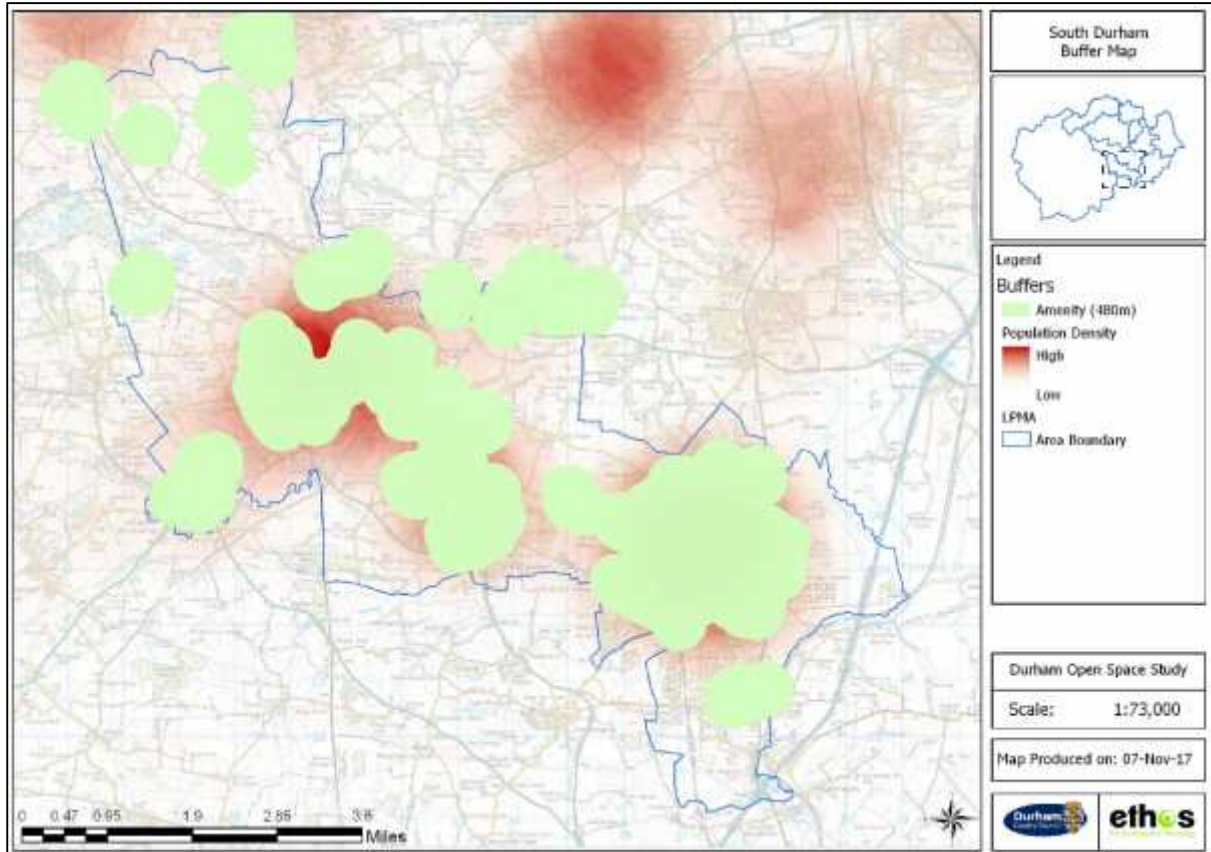


Figure 6 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the South Durham Study Area (600m)

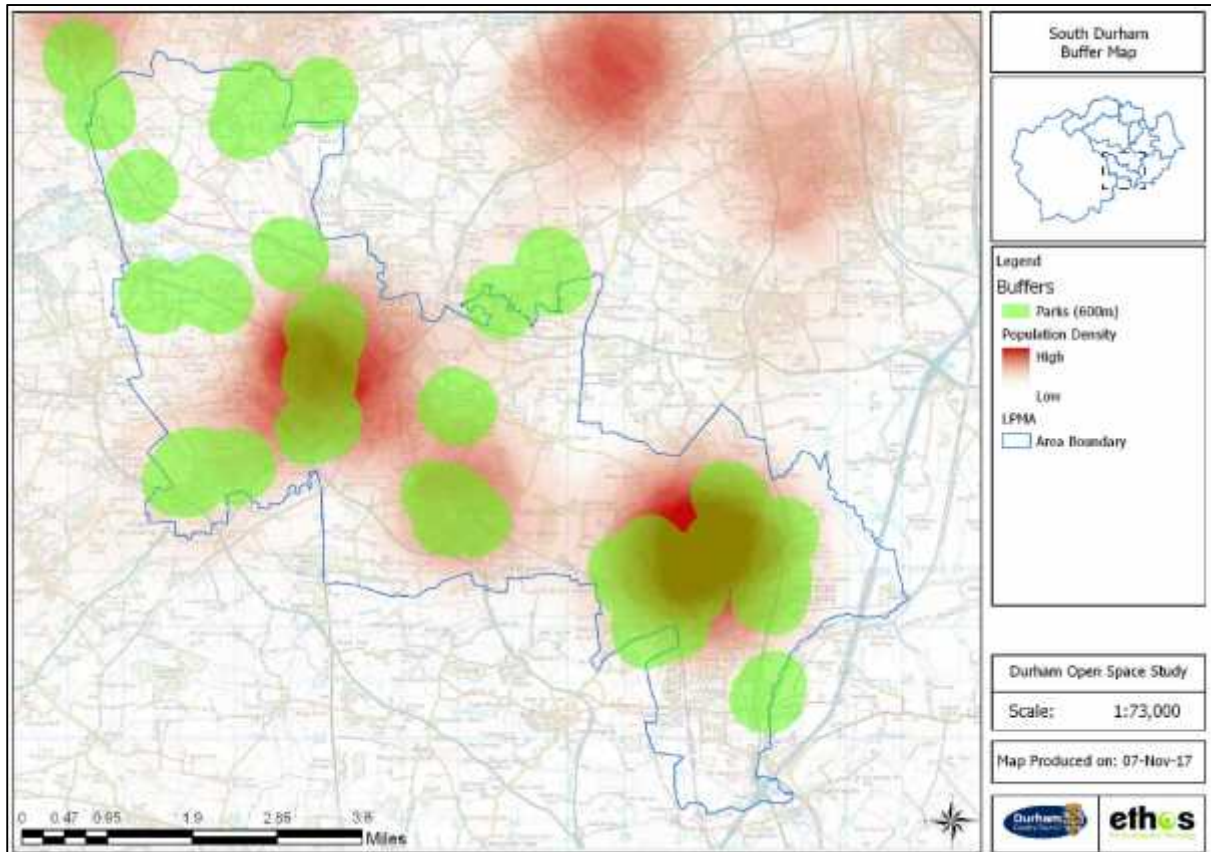


Figure 7 Access to Children’s Play Space across the South Durham Study Area (600m)

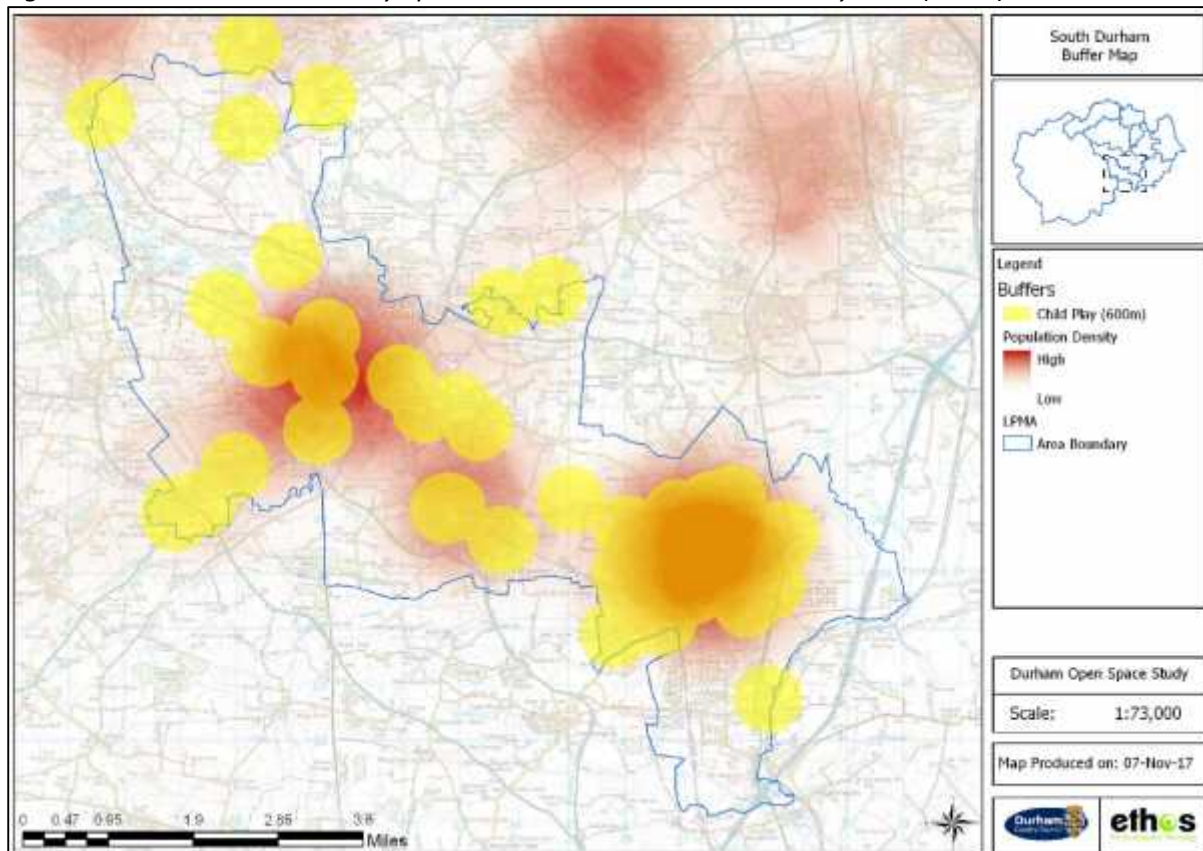


Figure 8 Access to Youth Play Space across the South Durham Study Area (720m)

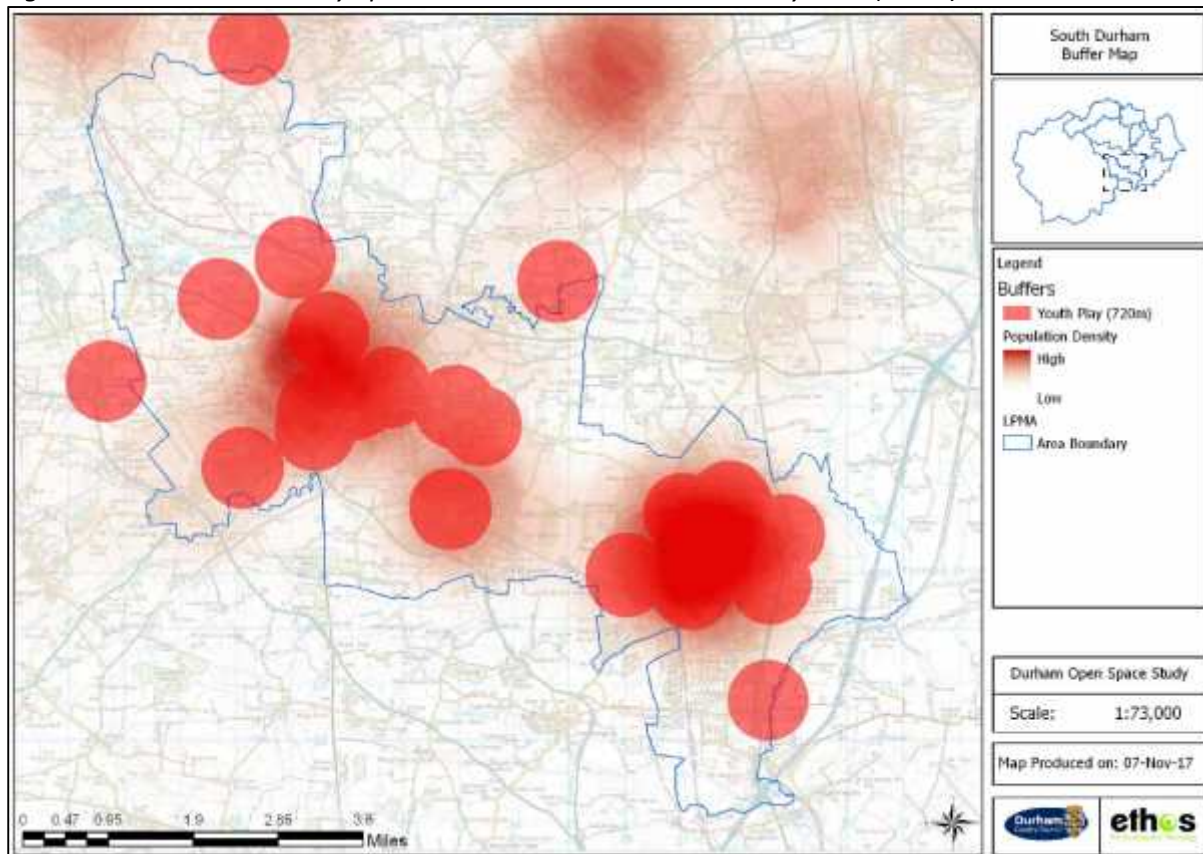
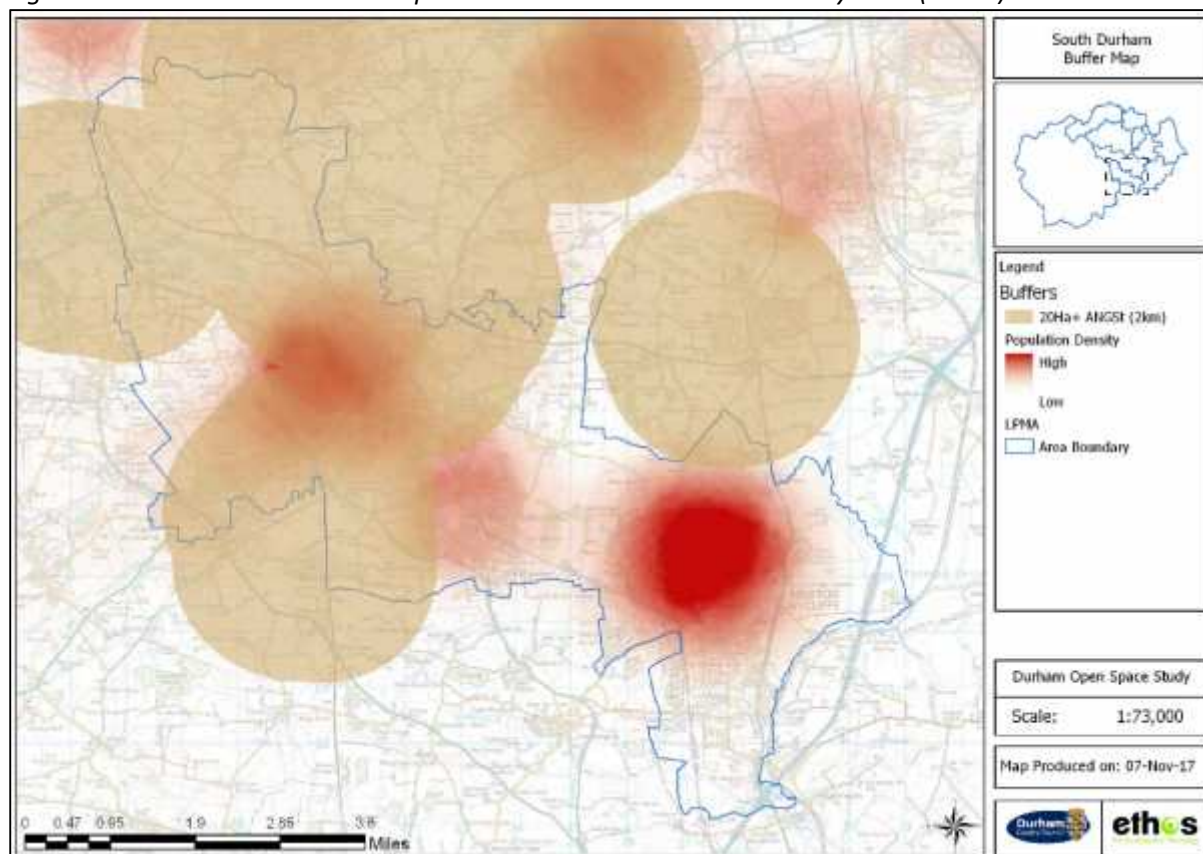


Figure 9 Access to Natural Green Space across the South Durham Study Area (20 Ha)



There is no provision of accessible natural green space larger than 100 ha or 500 ha across the study area.

4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 5 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 4-9, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Table 5 Summary of existing access issues for South Durham Study Area

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Access generally good with the exception of Newton Aycliffe which has gaps across much of the area
Amenity Green Space	Good access across all areas, significant overlaps in provision in Newton Aycliffe and Bishop Auckland
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good access across all areas
Play Space (Children)	Good access in all areas with only a minor gap in the north of Bishop Auckland. Some areas with overlap in provision, in particular Newton Aycliffe
Play Space (Youth)	Gaps in Newton Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland and Shildon
Natural Green Space	Gaps in provision to sites greater than 20 ha in Newton Aycliffe, and Shildon. No access to sites greater than 100/500 ha across all areas.

5.0 Quality Assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall study. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.20 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and Maintenance;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community Involvement.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). Within these area profiles, summary maps showing sites existing and potential quality scores is provided.

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

- J) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (figure 10) and a list of sites with potential for improvement i.e. those sites scoring a potential rank of A, B or C (figure 11). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided to the Council.

These maps are intended for indicative purposes only, a GIS database has been provided to the Council for detailed analysis/viewing.

Figure 10 Existing quality rank of open space

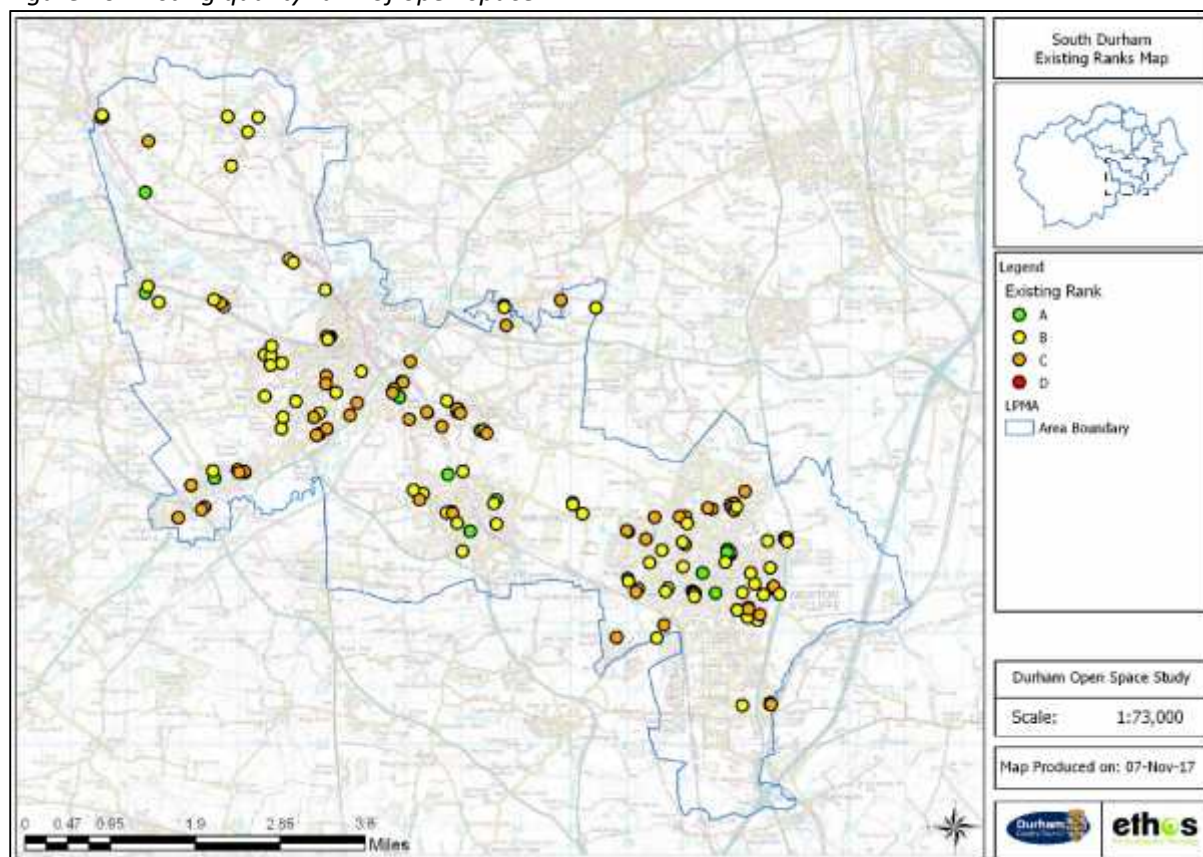
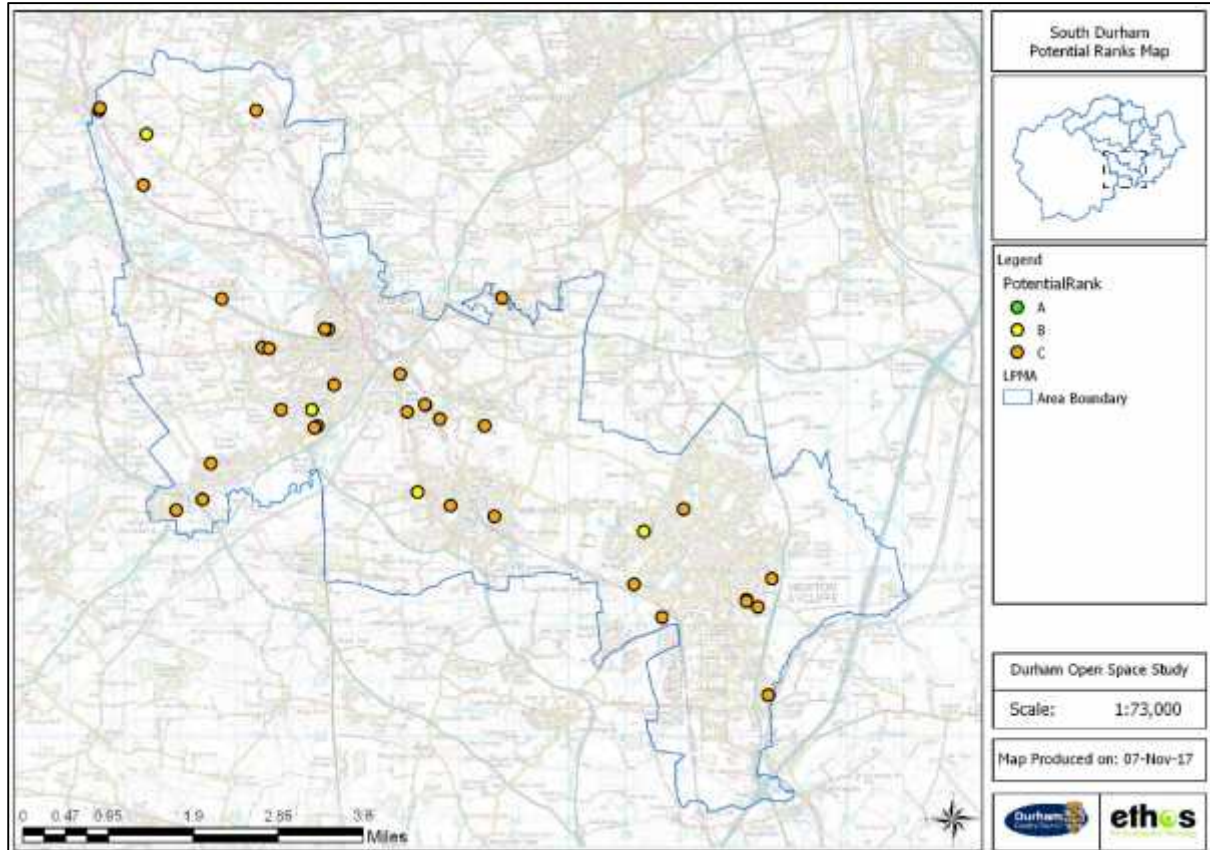


Figure 11 Sites with potential for improvement



6.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

-) Existing provision to be enhanced;
-) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
-) Identification of areas for new provision;
-) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

6.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.3 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (figure 11). Figure 12 then highlights those sites which have ‘potential for improvement’ i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 18 play spaces and 8 open space sites which are ranked A-C, with sites ranked A, the highest potential/priority for improvement. It is expected that when allocated sites are brought forward, consideration would be given to the potential to improve the priority sites.

6.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open space draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of South Durham, the provision of open space varies and there is also varying levels of access to different types of open space. Therefore, there are potential opportunities for re-location/re-designation as follows:

-) There is sufficient provision of amenity green space across the area, and several areas where there are overlaps in access to provision. This typology provides the best opportunity for meeting alternative needs, for example by changing spaces to allotments, or providing new facilities such as youth play space (or children’s play space where there are gaps in access);
-) Whilst there is a minor shortfall in the quantity of children’s play space, there are also areas where access to facilities overlaps. The assessment shows there is a proliferation of small, poor quality play spaces and that a number could be de-commissioned as long as others are improved. In effect, the priority for play in this area is for fewer, larger, high quality play spaces.
-) There is also the need for additional youth facilities, again these could be provided on existing spaces (amenity) or by updating/improving existing play spaces within parks and recreation grounds for example.
-) Natural green space may also have potential to accommodate low impact uses such as community food growing areas and natural play areas (where there are gaps in access to play facilities).

6.3 Identification of areas for new provision

The priorities will be to ensure that open spaces where there is an existing shortfall, are not made worse by new development i.e. allotments, children’s play space and youth play space.

For allotments, there will be a need for on-site provision, however, if this is not feasible then contributions could be sought to provide facilities off-site e.g. on suitable nearby amenity green spaces.

For children’s play, on site provision may not be required, particularly as there are several areas with overlaps in access provision. Consideration should be given to improving the quality and size of facilities nearby to proposed development.

For youth space, new provision may be required on site where the size of development warrants. However, section 106 contributions from smaller developments should be pooled to provide new facilities off site.

The supply of parks and recreation grounds and amenity green space would still be in sufficient supply following the population increase, and therefore improvements to existing facilities off site is likely to be required over new provision for these typologies. However, on site provision may still be required where gaps in access could be removed.

6.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

The area is well provided for in terms of amenity green space, which exceeds the standard from a quantity and access perspective. This typology provides opportunity for alternative uses, in particular meeting shortfalls in other types of provision, but may also provide opportunity to meet local housing need. Although the provision of parks and recreation grounds exceeds the quantity standard, gaps in access would be created from the loss of any sites, and the priority for this typology is to meet the shortfalls in allotments, children’s play space and youth play space.

**Durham County Council
Open Space Needs Assessment
2018**



**Area Profile:
South East Durham**

**Part 2 of 2
(DRAFT V4)**

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL

info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	2 - 3
2.0 Existing provision of open space	4
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	5 - 6
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	7 - 11
5.0 Quality assessment	12 - 14
6.0 Summary of priorities for the area	15

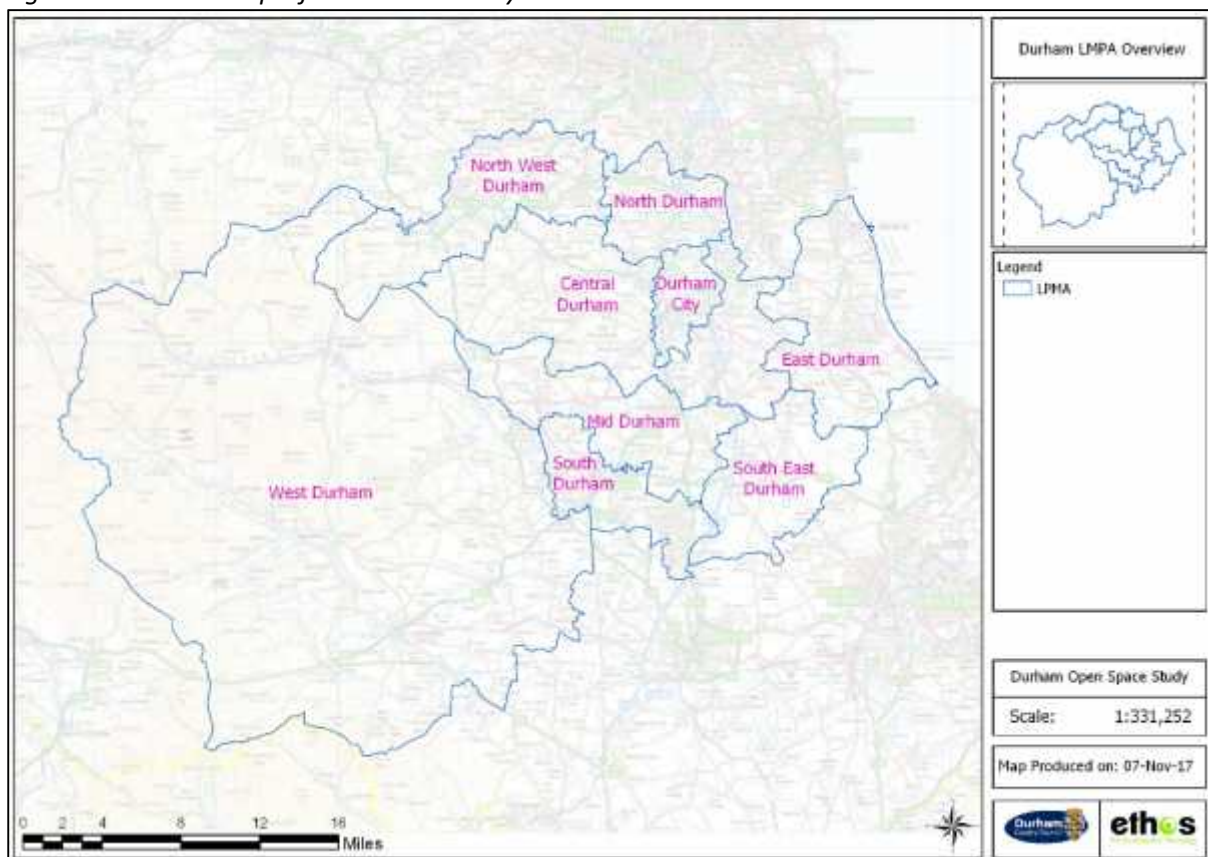
Open Space Area Profile: South East Durham

1.0 Introduction

The County Durham Open Space Study is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of the whole study and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the district. This report is **part 2 of 2**, and comprises open space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for nine areas as shown in figure 1. These are based on the areas Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs).

Figure 1 Area profiles within County Durham



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

-) A description of the area;
-) Maps showing the provision of open space;
-) Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
-) Analysis of access to open space;
-) Summary of quality issues and opportunities;

-) Analysis of future need for open space;
-) Priorities for the area.

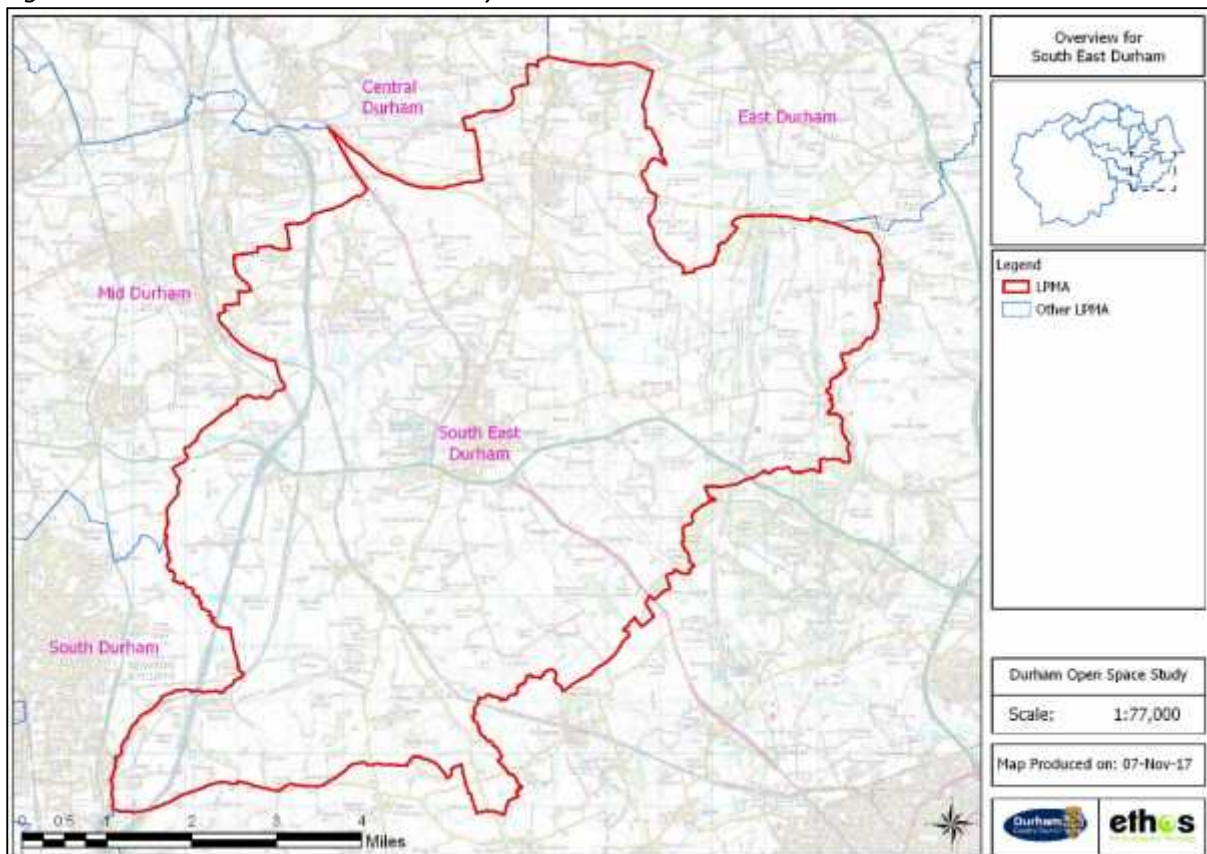
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical Area

Figure 2 shows the geographical area included within the South East Durham Local Plan Monitoring Area. The population of this area is 14,249.

Figure 2 South East Durham Study Area

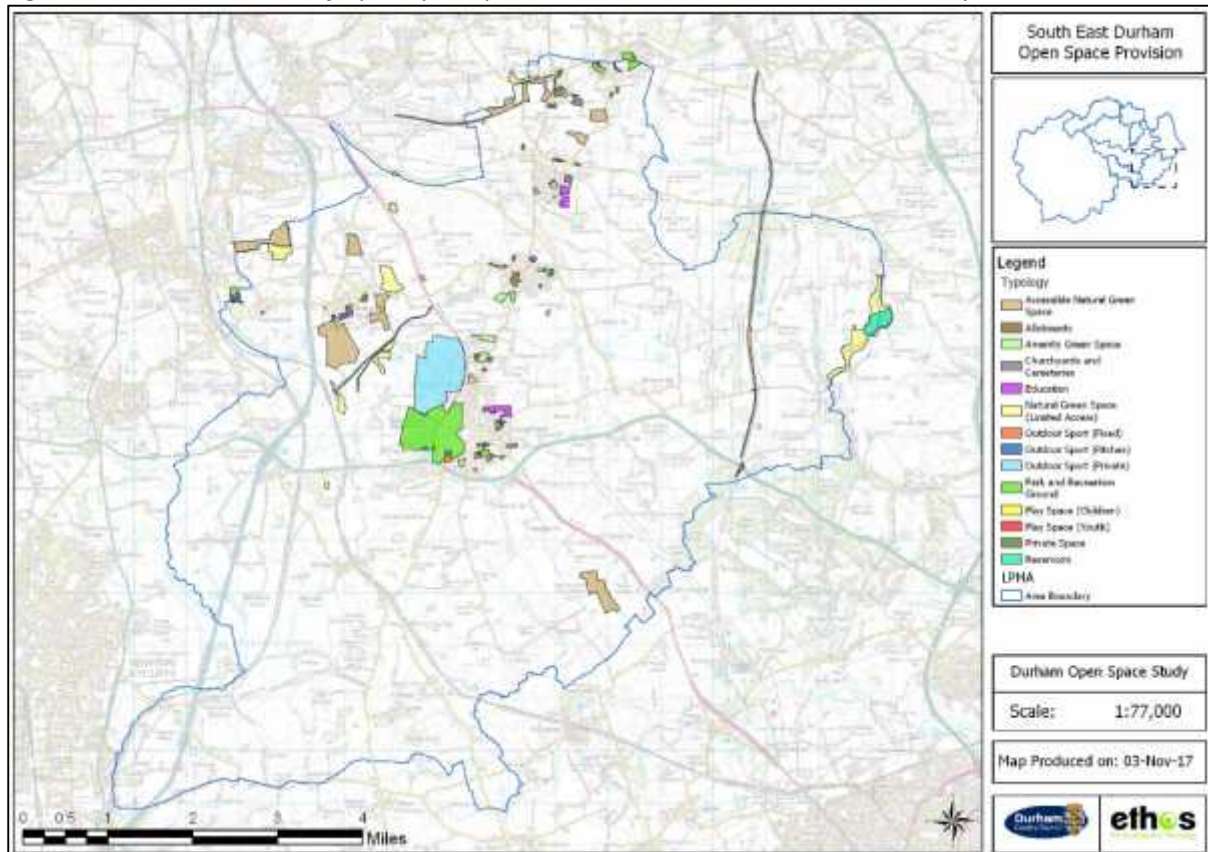


2.0 Existing provision of open space

This section provides maps showing existing green spaces that have been mapped and included within the study. A map is shown for the overall area, and are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council.

2.1 Overview of open space provision in the study area

Figure 3 Overview of open space provision in the South East Durham Study Area



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the South East Durham Study Area. It uses the quantity standards for green space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Allotments	0.90
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)	1.5 (see standard for Natural Green Space)
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for <u>new</u> provision. The ANGSt standards are used for analysing <u>current</u> provision.
Outdoor Sport (Private)	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the study area.

3.2 Quantity provision of open space

Table 2 shows the supply of open space within the South East Durham study area using the County Durham standards to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares/1000 population.

The figures for 'Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)' shown in table 2 below, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sport (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided in table 3 for a number of typologies where there are no standards, these typologies are:

-) Outdoor Sport Private;
-) Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
-) Education;
-) Churchyard and Cemetery.

Table 2 Existing supply of green space across South East Durham study area

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall Supply
Allotments	9.28	0.65	12.82	0.9	-3.54	-0.25	Under Supply
Amenity Green Space	21.1	1.48	21.37	1.5	-0.27	-0.02	Under Supply
Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	112.22	7.88	19.95	1.4	+92.27	+6.48	Sufficient Supply
Play Space (Children)	0.96	0.07	0.71	0.05	+0.25	+0.02	Sufficient Supply
Play Space (Youth)	0.17	0.01	0.57	0.04	-0.40	-0.03	Under Supply

As can be seen from the table above, within the study area, there is an under supply of allotments, amenity green space and youth play space. The total shortfall for each typology is:

-) Allotments 3.54 Ha
 -) Amenity Green Space 0.27 Ha
 -) Play Space (Youth) 0.40 Ha
- Total shortfall 4.21 Ha**

Table 3 Provision of open space for typologies with no standards

Typology	Existing provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Outdoor Sport (Private)	0	0
Accessible Natural Green Space	151.71	10.65
Education	17.61	1.24
Churchyards and Cemeteries	9.75	0.68

4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of open space across the study area using the County Durham access standards (as summarised in table 4).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Table 4 County Durham access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt

Figure 4 Access to Allotments across the South East Durham Study Area (480m)

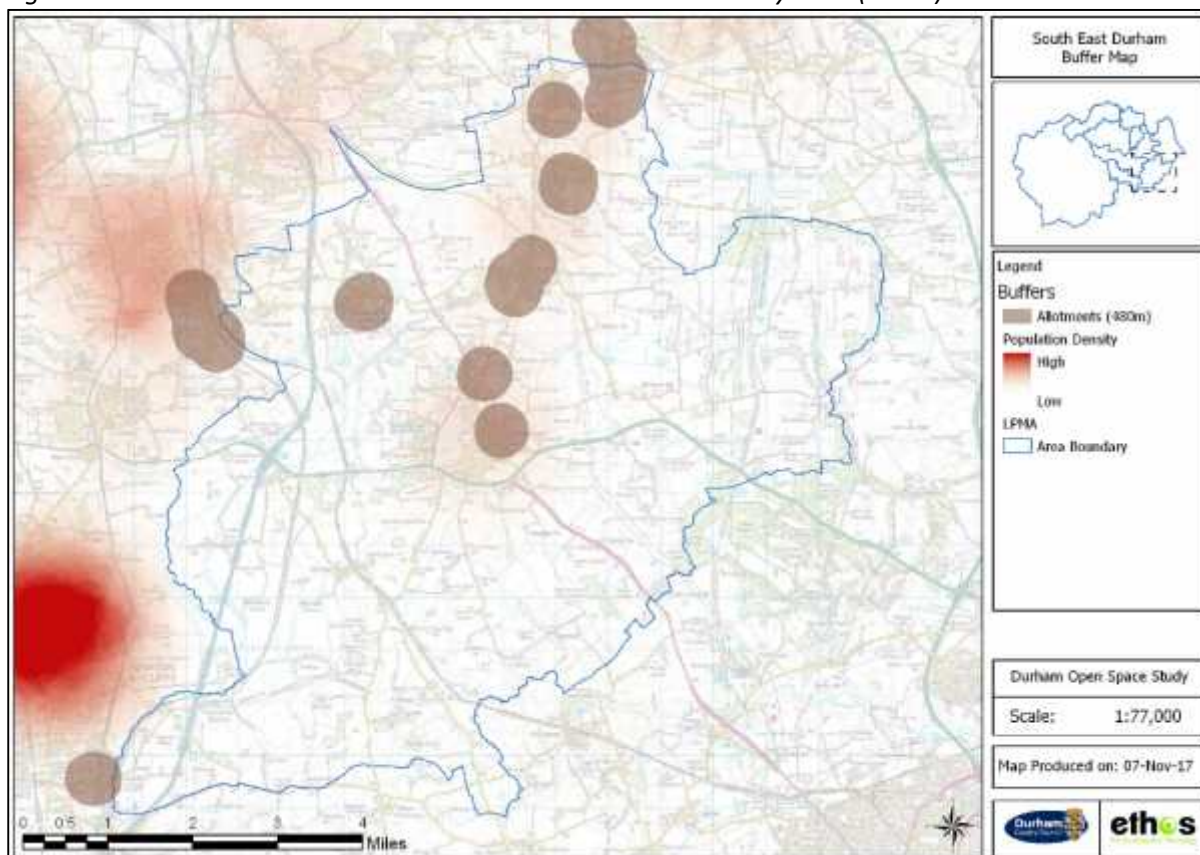


Figure 5 Access to Amenity Green Space across the South East Durham Study Area (480m)

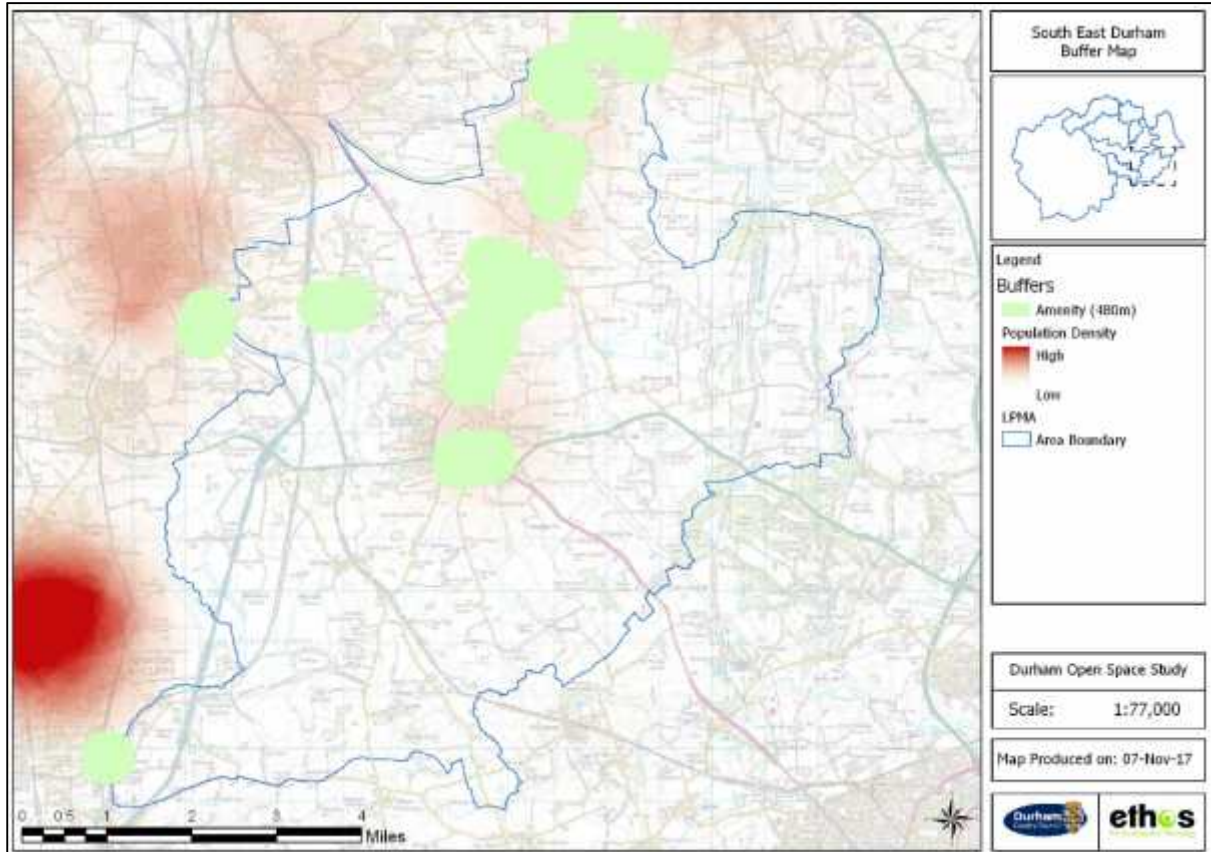


Figure 6 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the South East Durham Study Area (600m)

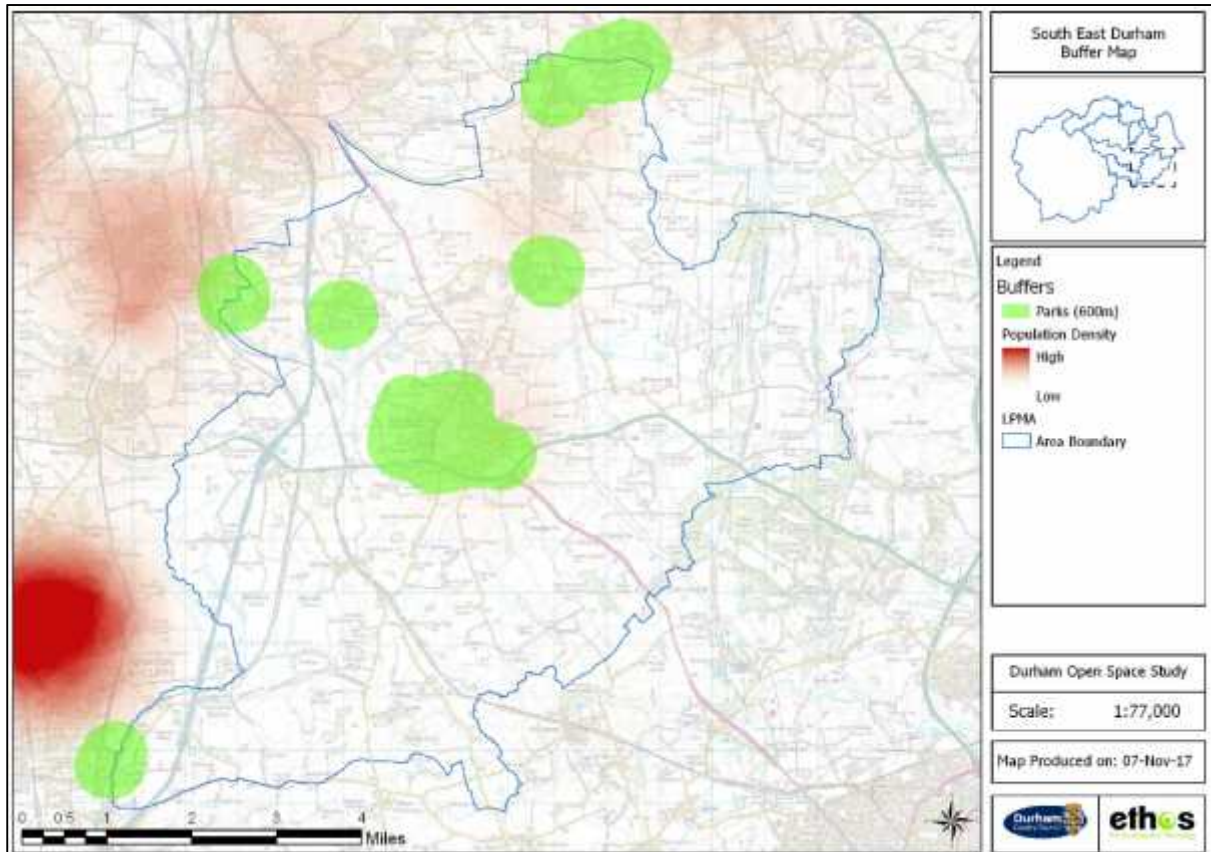


Figure 7 Access to Children’s Play Space across the South East Durham Study Area (600m)

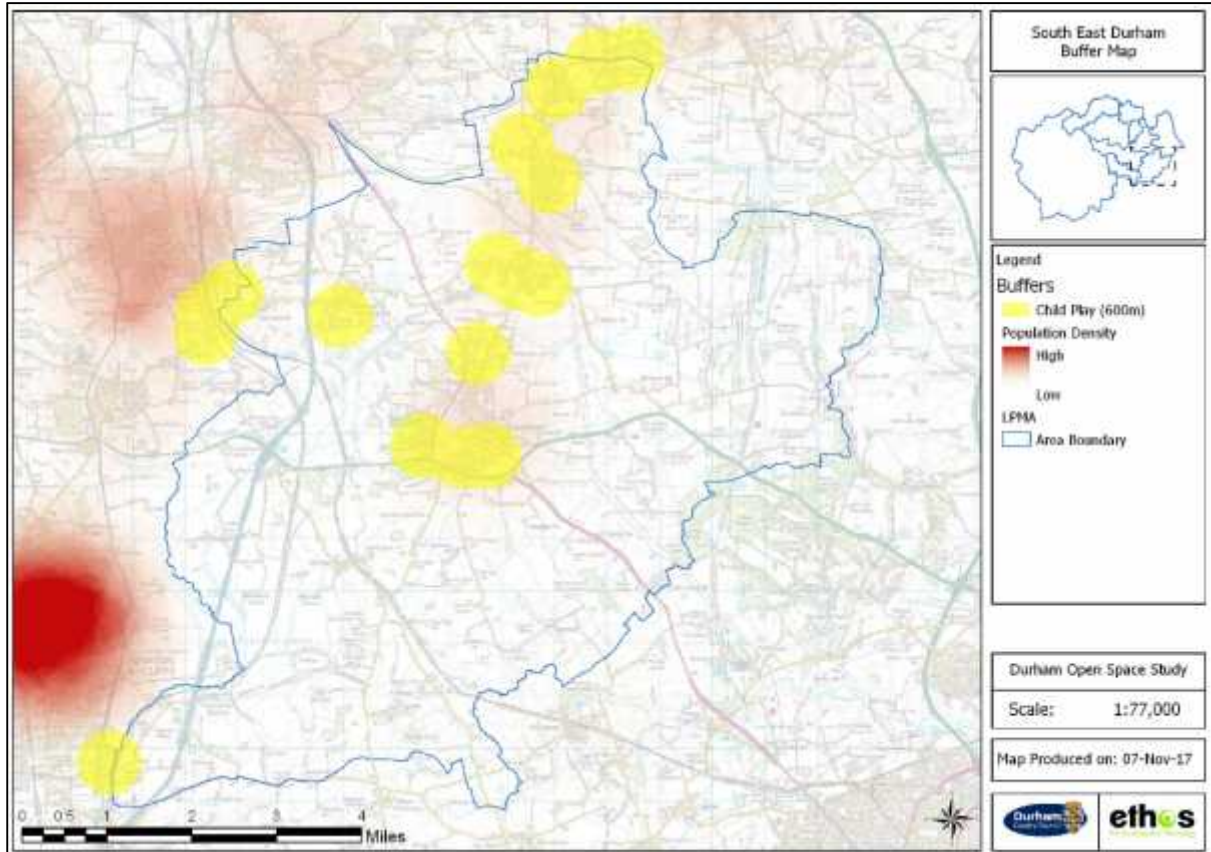


Figure 8 Access to Youth Play Space across the South East Durham Study Area (720m)

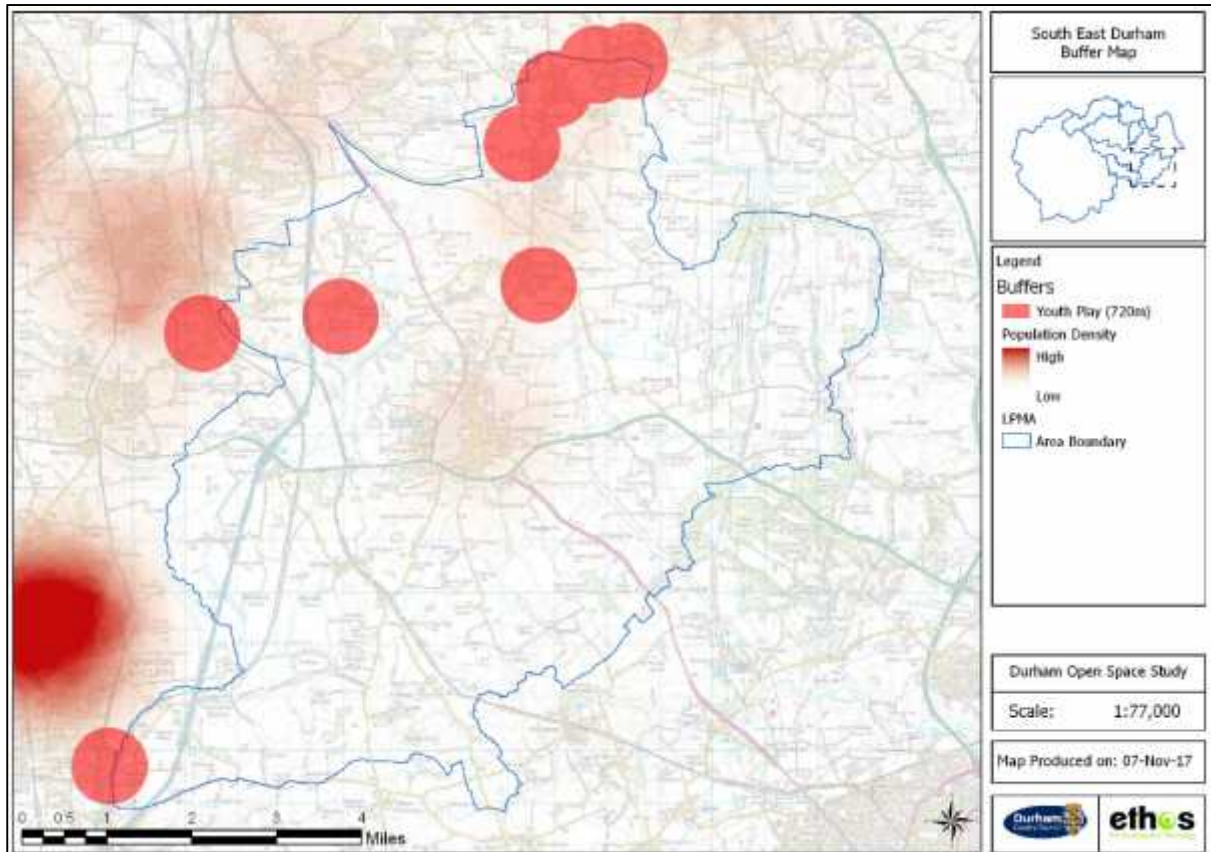


Figure 9 Access to Natural Green Space across the South East Durham Study Area (20ha)

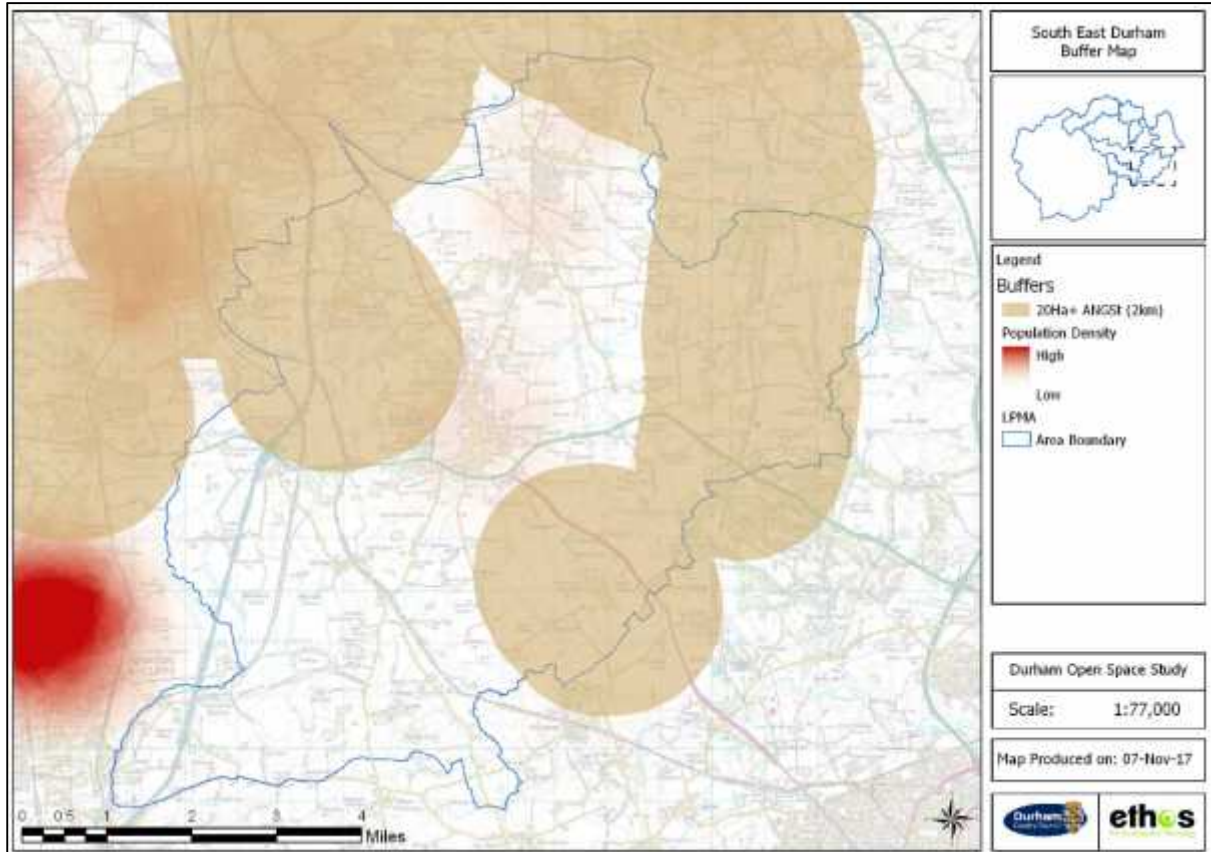
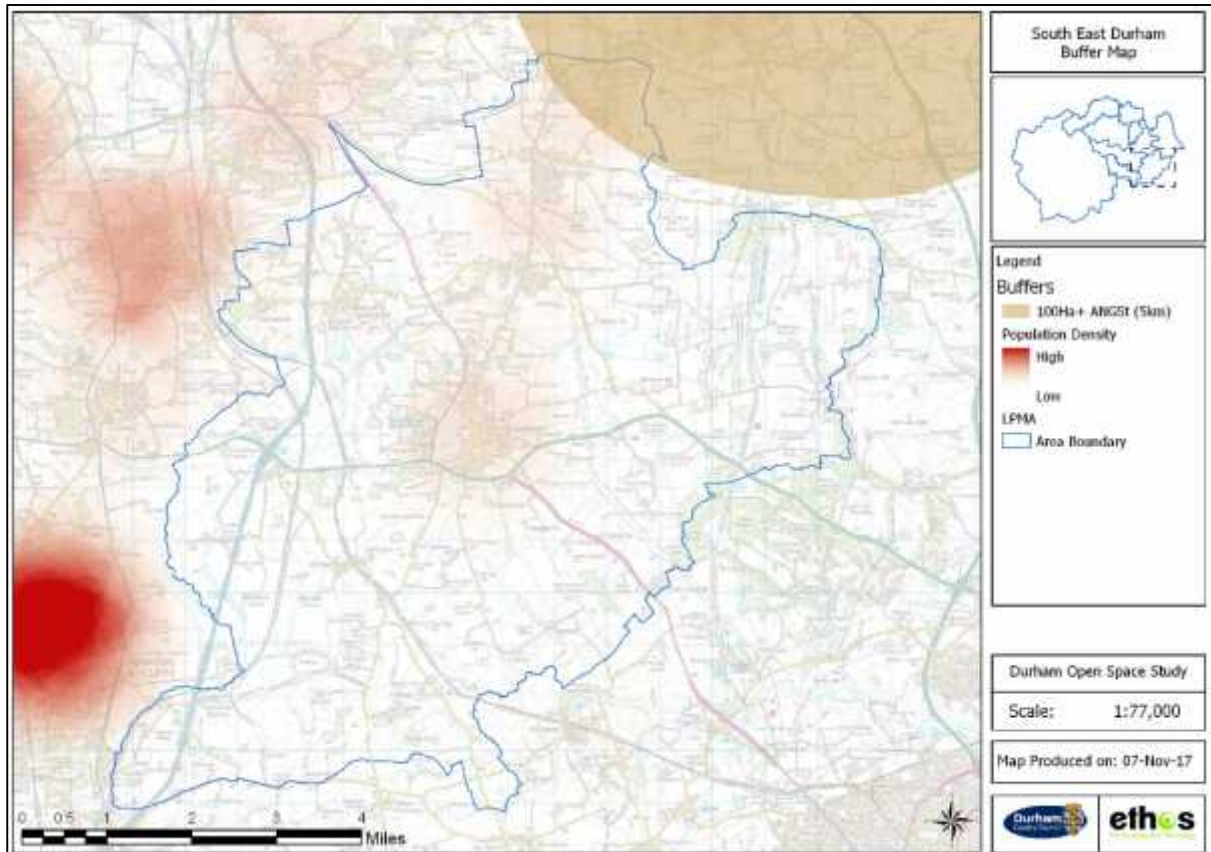


Figure 10 Access to Natural Green Space across the South East Durham Study Area (100ha)



4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 5 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 4-10, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Table 5 Summary of existing access issues for South East Durham Study Area

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Minor gaps around Trimdon and Trimdon Grange, and western parts of Sedgfield
Amenity Green Space	Minor gaps in Sedgfield and Trimdon, but overlaps in parts of Sedgfield and Trimdon Grange.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good provision across all key populated areas
Play Space (Children)	Minor gaps in parts of Sedgfield and Trimdon, but also overlaps in these areas. Indicates uneven distribution of facilities.
Play Space (Youth)	No public provision in Sedgfield (although facility is present at Community College), good provision elsewhere
Natural Green Space	Gaps in access against ANGSt in all areas

5.0 Quality assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall study. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.20 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and Maintenance;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community Involvement.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). Within these area profiles, summary maps showing sites existing and potential quality scores is provided.

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (figure 11) and those sites with the highest potential for improvement i.e. those sites scoring a potential rank of A, B or C (figure 12). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided to the Council.

These maps are intended for indicative purposes only, a GIS database has been provided to the Council for detailed analysis/viewing.

Figure 11 Existing quality rank of open space

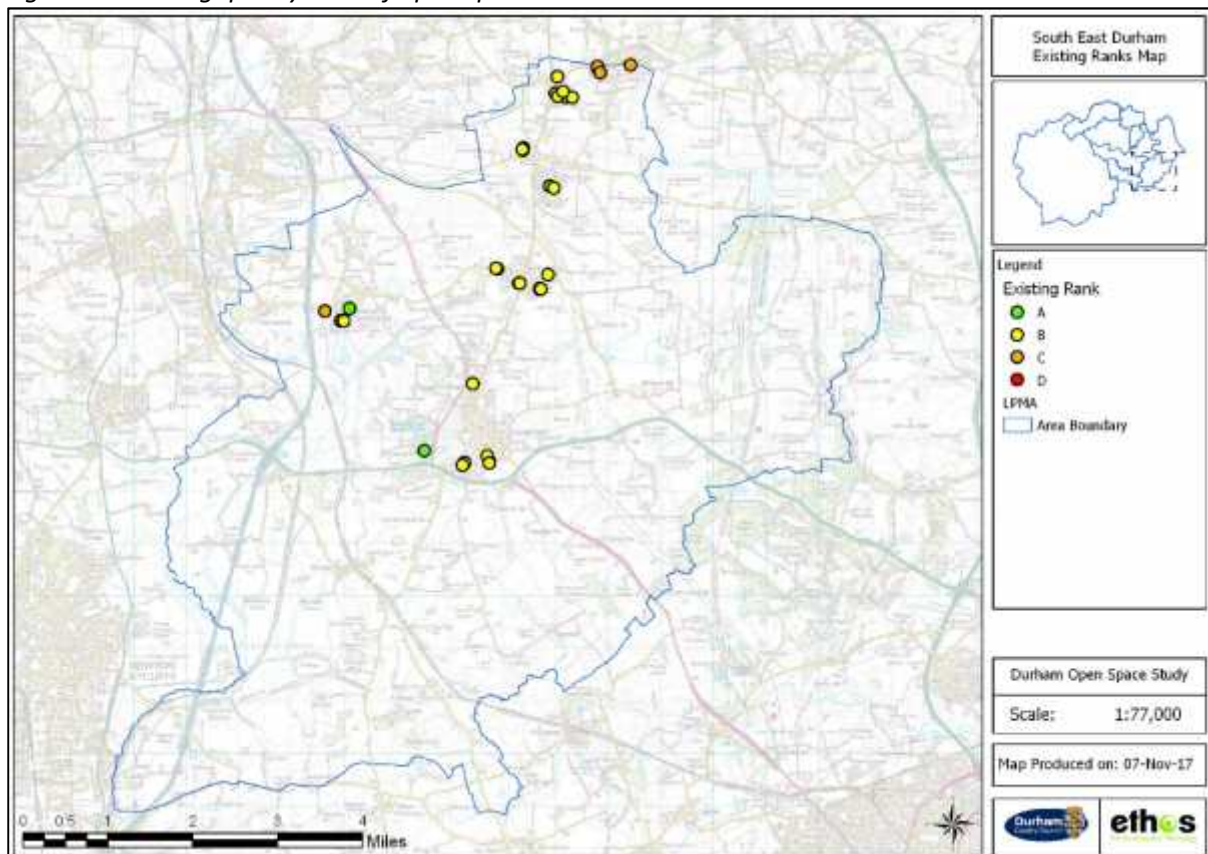
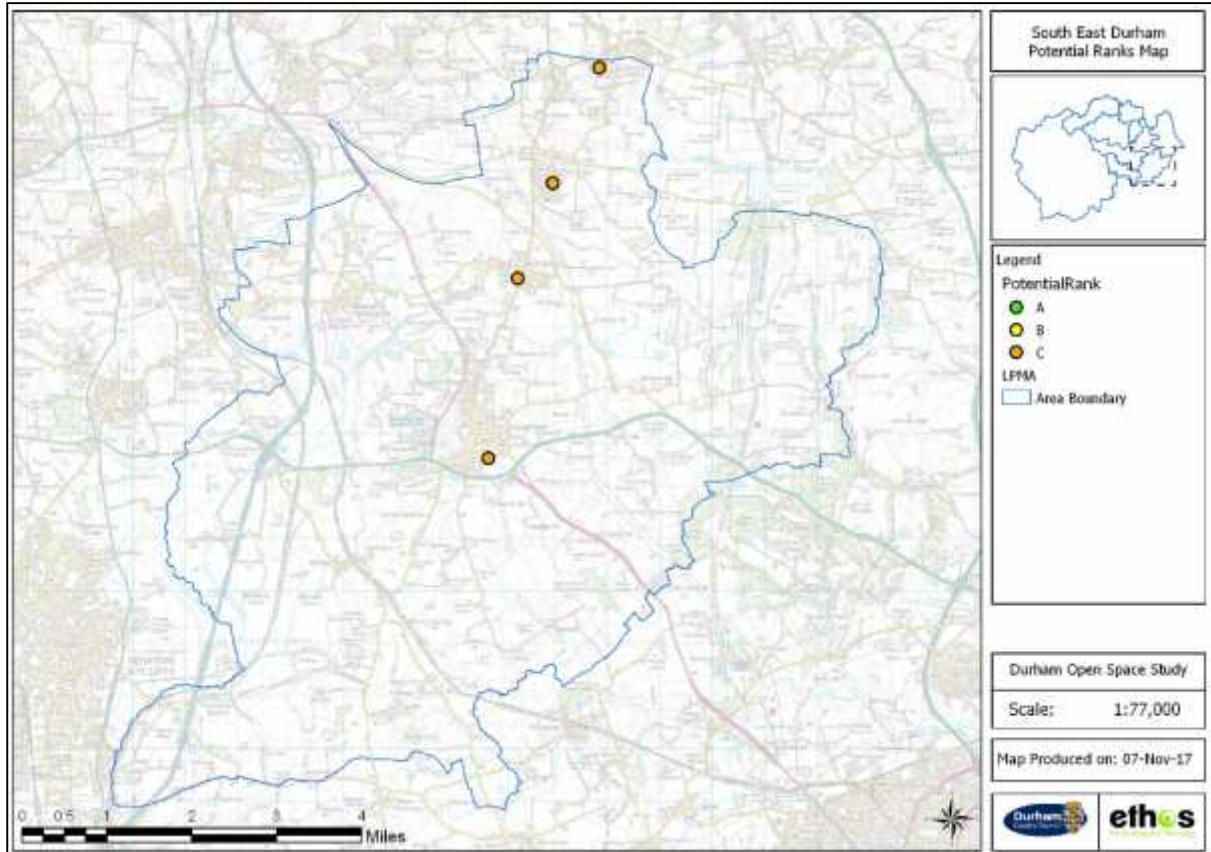


Figure 12 Sites with potential for improvement



6.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

-) Existing provision to be enhanced;
-) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
-) Identification of areas for new provision;
-) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

6.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.3 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (figure 11). Figure 12 then highlights those sites which have ‘potential for improvement’ i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 11 sites which are ranked A-C, with sites ranked A the highest potential/priority for improvement. It is expected that when allocated sites are brought forward, consideration would be given to the potential to improve the priority sites.

6.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. For this study area, there are shortfalls in allotments, amenity green space and youth play space. Considering the good supply of parks and recreation grounds, these spaces provide the best opportunity for meeting the shortfall in youth provision and allotments by accommodating these facilities. The priority for delivering this would be in areas where there are also existing shortfall in access, for example new youth provision in Sedgefield.

6.3 Identification of areas for new provision

Consideration should be given to pooling section 106 contributions (or securing through CIL) to fund new facilities in existing open spaces as identified above.

6.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

There may be the opportunity to rationalise the provision of children’s play space, for example within Fishburn where there is an overlap in access. In these cases, there may be opportunity for reducing the number of play areas and providing fewer, better quality spaces which can be managed and maintained sustainably.

Although there is good supply of parks and recreation grounds, there are no sites that are considered as surplus to requirement and their removal would result in gaps in access. This typology should be used to meet the shortfall in other typologies i.e. allotments and youth space, by accommodating new facilities.

Durham County Council Open Space Needs Assessment 2018



Area Profile: West Durham

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Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL
info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

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CONTENTS



	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	2-4
2.0 Existing provision of open space	4
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	5 - 6
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	7 - 11
5.0 Quality assessment	12 - 14
6.0 Summary of priorities for the area	15 - 16

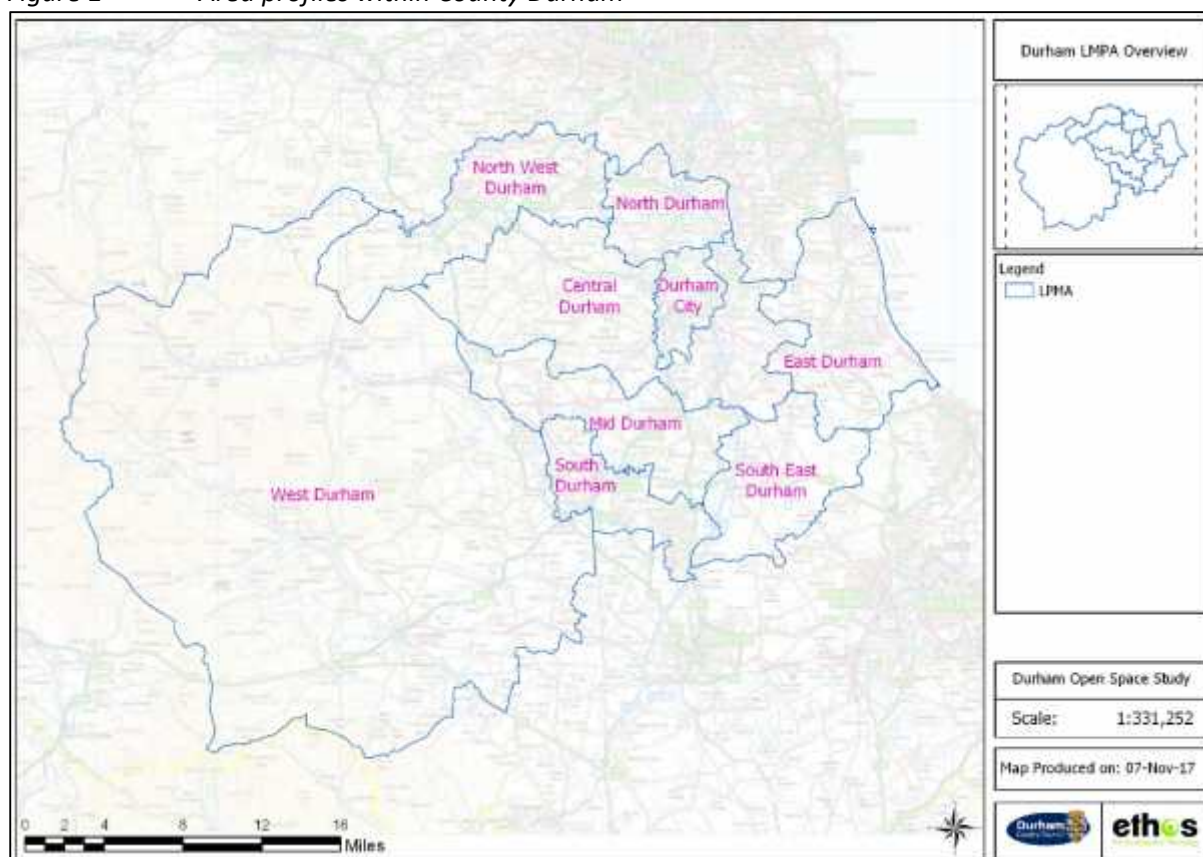
Open Space Area Profile: West Durham

1.0 Introduction

The County Durham Open Space Study is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of the whole study and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the district. This report is **part 2 of 2**, and comprises open space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for nine areas as shown in figure 1. These are based on the areas Local Plan Monitoring Areas (LPMAs).

Figure 1 Area profiles within County Durham



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

-) A description of the area;
-) Maps showing the provision of open space;
-) Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
-) Analysis of access to open space;
-) Summary of quality issues and opportunities;

-) Analysis of future need for open space;
-) Priorities for the area.

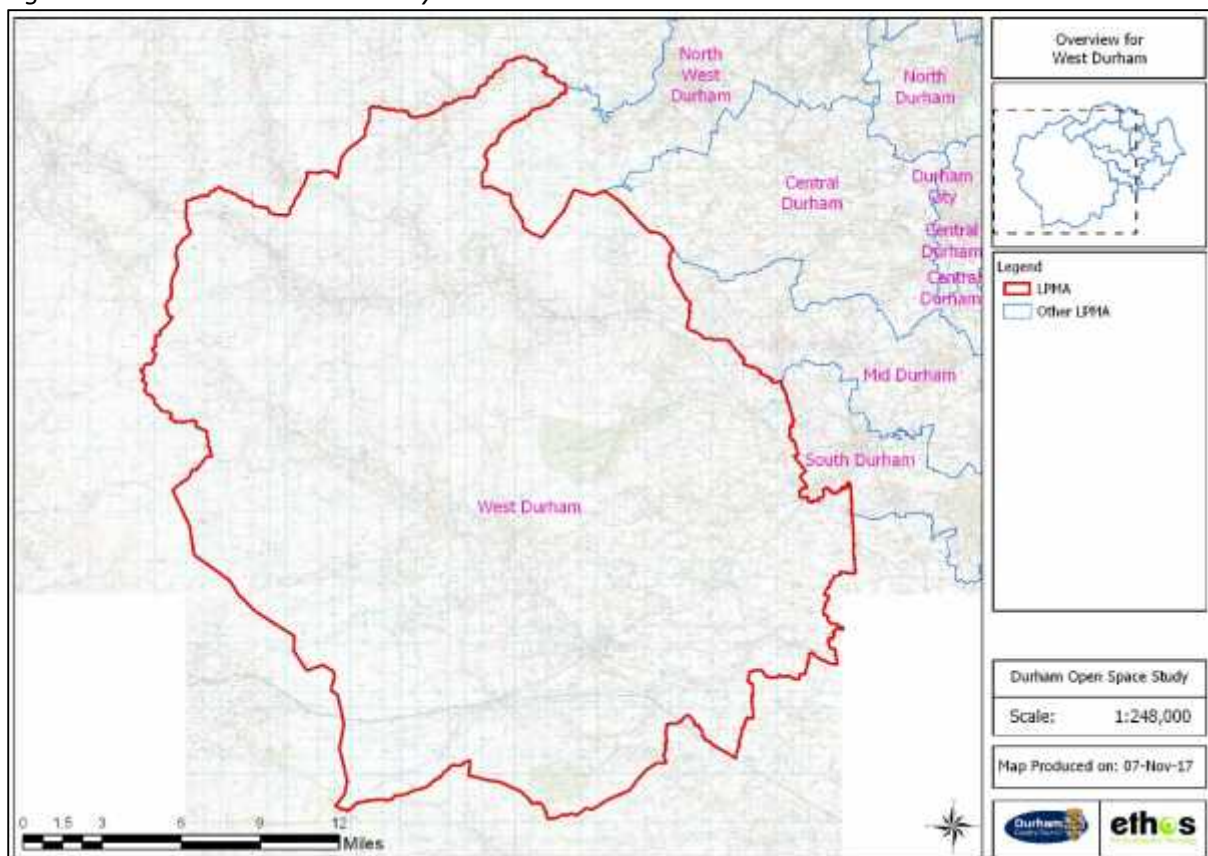
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical Area

Figure 2 shows the geographical area included within the West Durham Local Plan Monitoring Area. The population of this area is 33,103.

Figure 2 West Durham Study Area

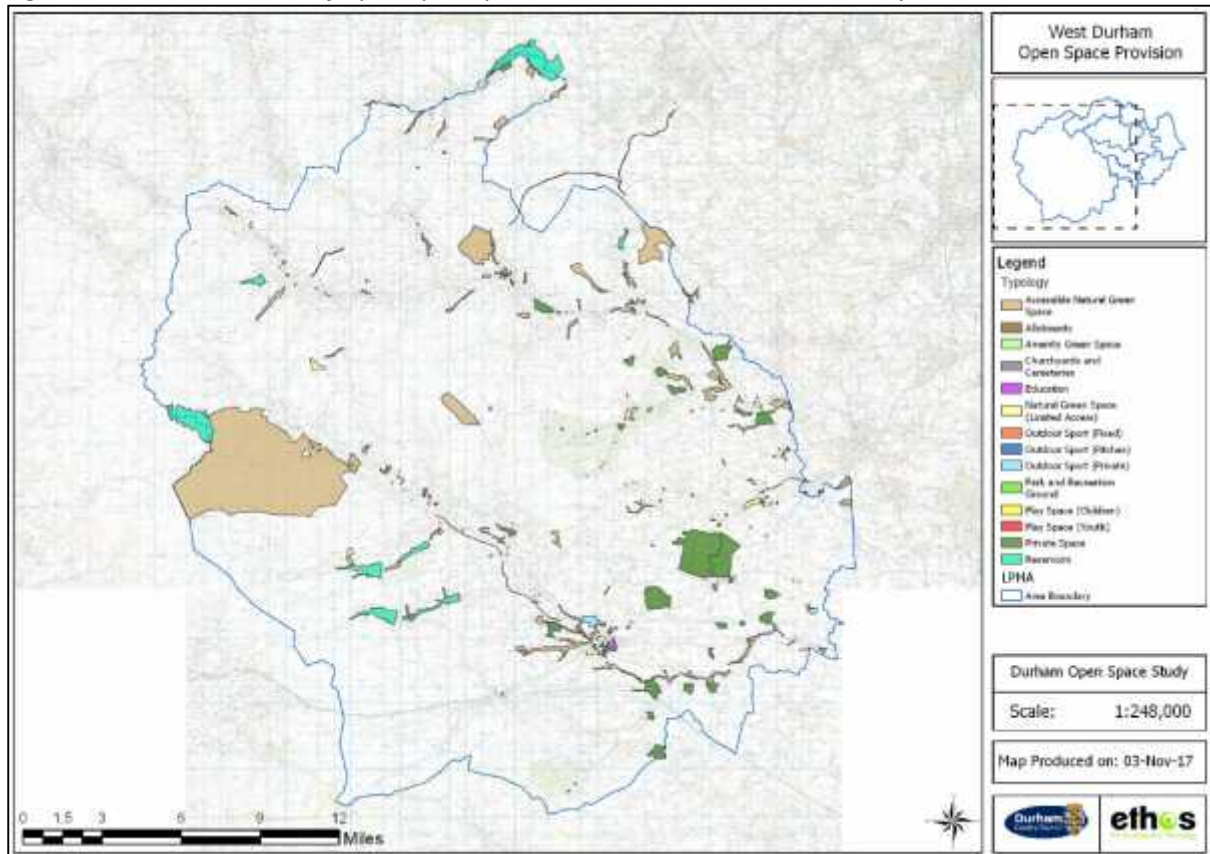


2.0 Existing provision of open space

This section provides maps showing existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the study. A map is shown for the overall area, and are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council.

2.1 Overview of open space provision in the study area

Figure 3 Overview of open space provision in the West Durham Study Area



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the West Durham Study Area. It uses the quantity standards for green space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Allotments	0.90
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.20 ha)	1.5 (see standard for Natural Green Space)
Park and Recreation Grounds (public provision only)	1.4
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.04
Natural Green Space	1.5 to include natural and amenity green space for <u>new</u> provision. The ANGSt standards are used for analysing <u>current</u> provision.
Outdoor Sport (Private)	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the study area.

3.2 Quantity provision of open space

Table 2 shows the supply of open space within the West Durham study area using the County Durham standards to assess supply. Figures are provided in hectares and hectares/1000 population.

The figures for 'Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)' shown in table 2 below, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sport (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

Existing quantity figures are also provided in table 3 for a number of typologies where there are no standards, these typologies are:

-) Outdoor Sport Private;
-) Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
-) Education;
-) Churchyard and Cemetery.

Table 2 Existing supply of open space across West Durham study area

Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)	Overall Supply
Allotments	18.15	0.55	29.79	0.9	-11.64	-0.35	Under Supply
Amenity Green Space	21.31	0.64	49.65	1.5	-28.34	-0.86	Under Supply
Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	23.71	0.72	46.34	1.4	-22.63	-0.68	Under Supply
Play Space (Children)	2.87	0.09	1.66	0.05	+1.21	+0.04	Sufficient Supply
Play Space (Youth)	0.7	0.02	1.32	0.04	-0.62	-0.02	Under Supply

As can be seen from the table above, within the study area, there is an under supply of all typologies of open space, with the exception of children’s play space. The total shortfall for each typology is:

-) Allotments 11.64 Ha
 -) Amenity Green Space 28.34 Ha
 -) Park and Recreation Ground (Combined) 22.63 Ha
 -) Play Space (Youth) 0.62 Ha
- Total shortfall 63.23 Ha**

Table 3 Provision of open space for typologies with no standards

Typology	Existing provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)
Outdoor Sport (Private)	13.81	0.42
Accessible Natural Green Space	6751.01	203.94
Education	56.08	1.69
Churchyards and Cemeteries	31.71	0.96

4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of green space across the study area using the County Durham access standards (as summarised in table 4).

The access buffers are provided along with relative population density calculated from Output Areas using the 2011 census data. This allows gaps in access to be clearly identified e.g. The darker the red, the higher the relative population density.

Table 4 County Durham access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt

Figure 4 Access to Allotments across the West Durham Study Area (480m)

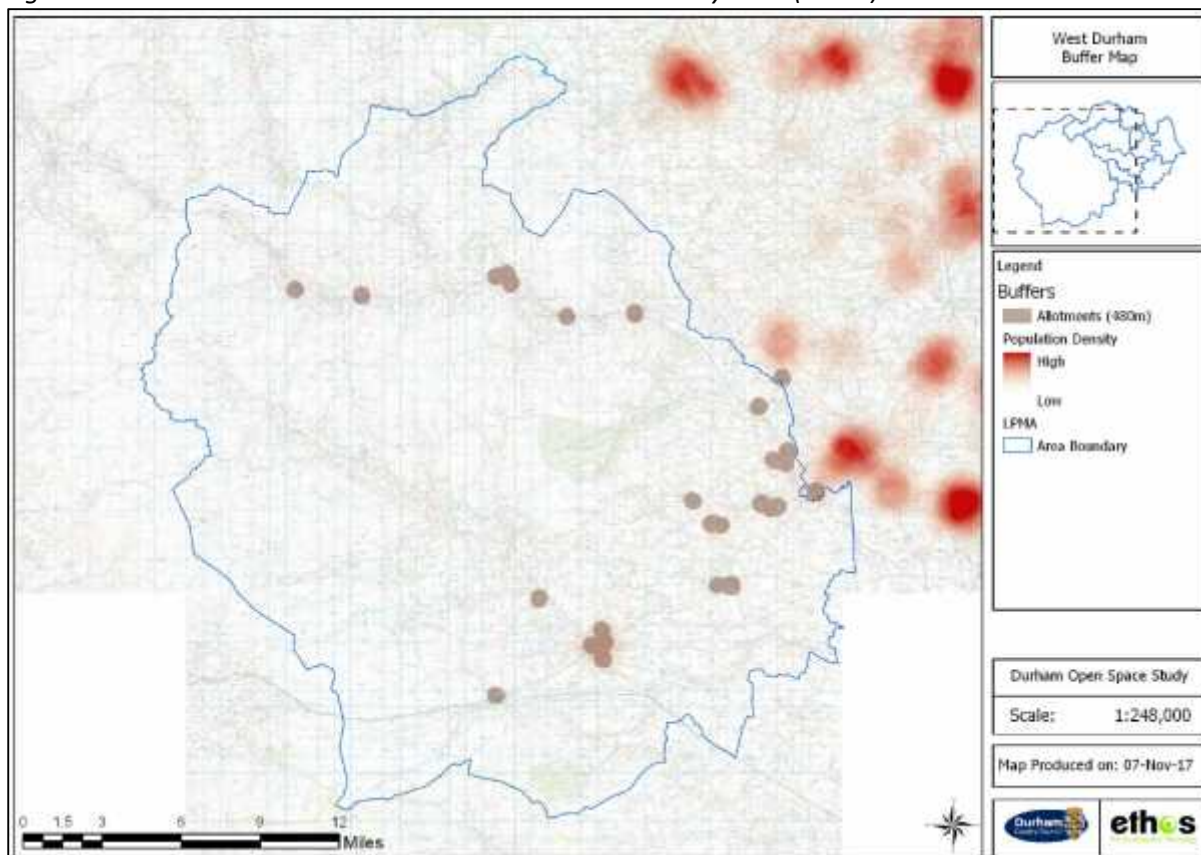


Figure 5 Access to Amenity Green Space across the West Durham Study Area (480m)

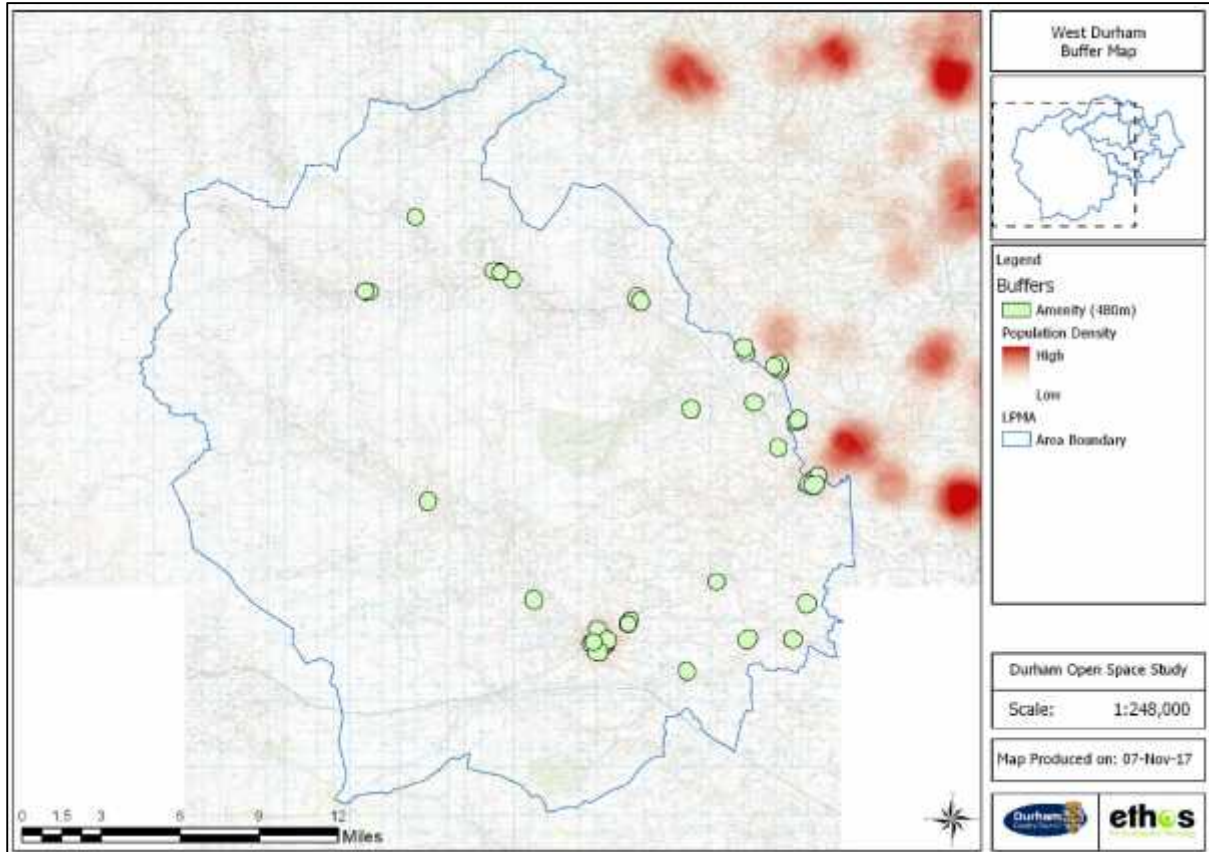


Figure 6 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the West Durham Study Area (600m)

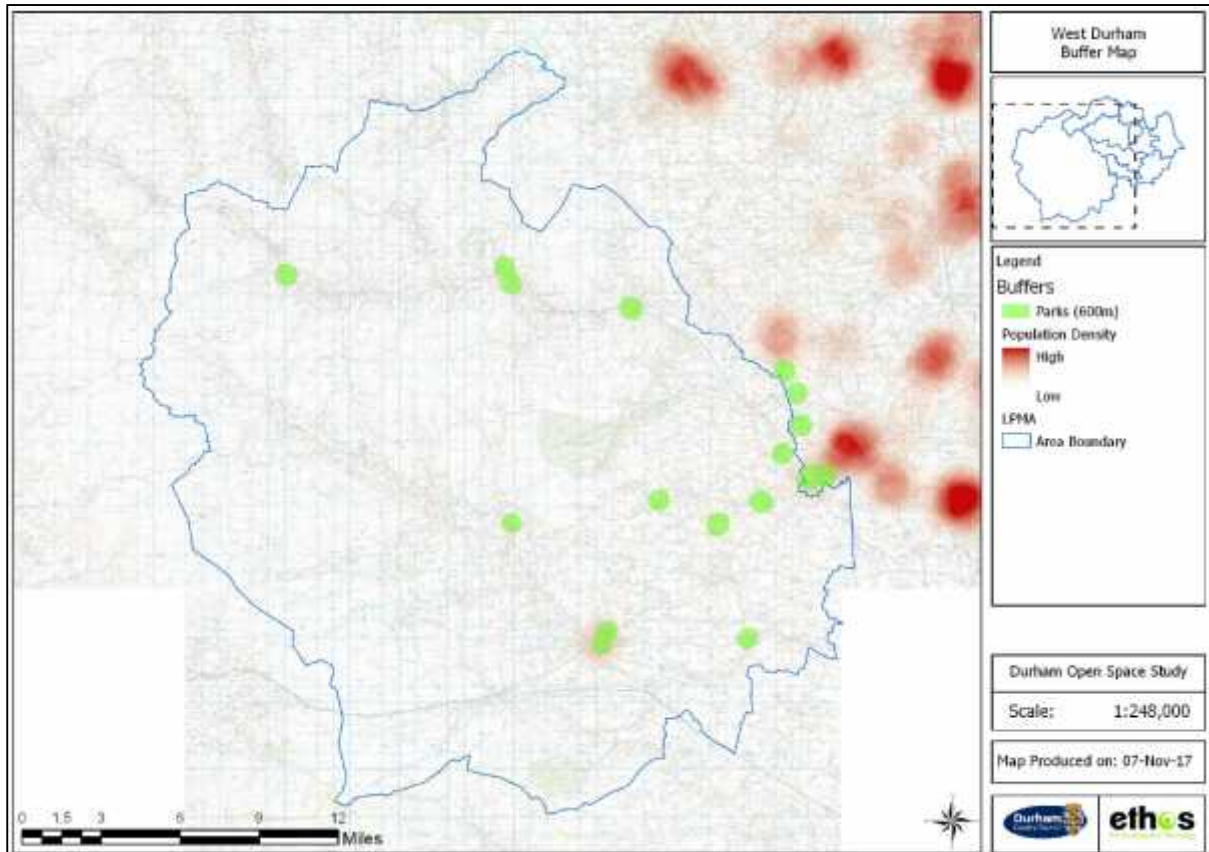


Figure 7 Access to Children’s Play Space across the West Durham Study Area (600m)

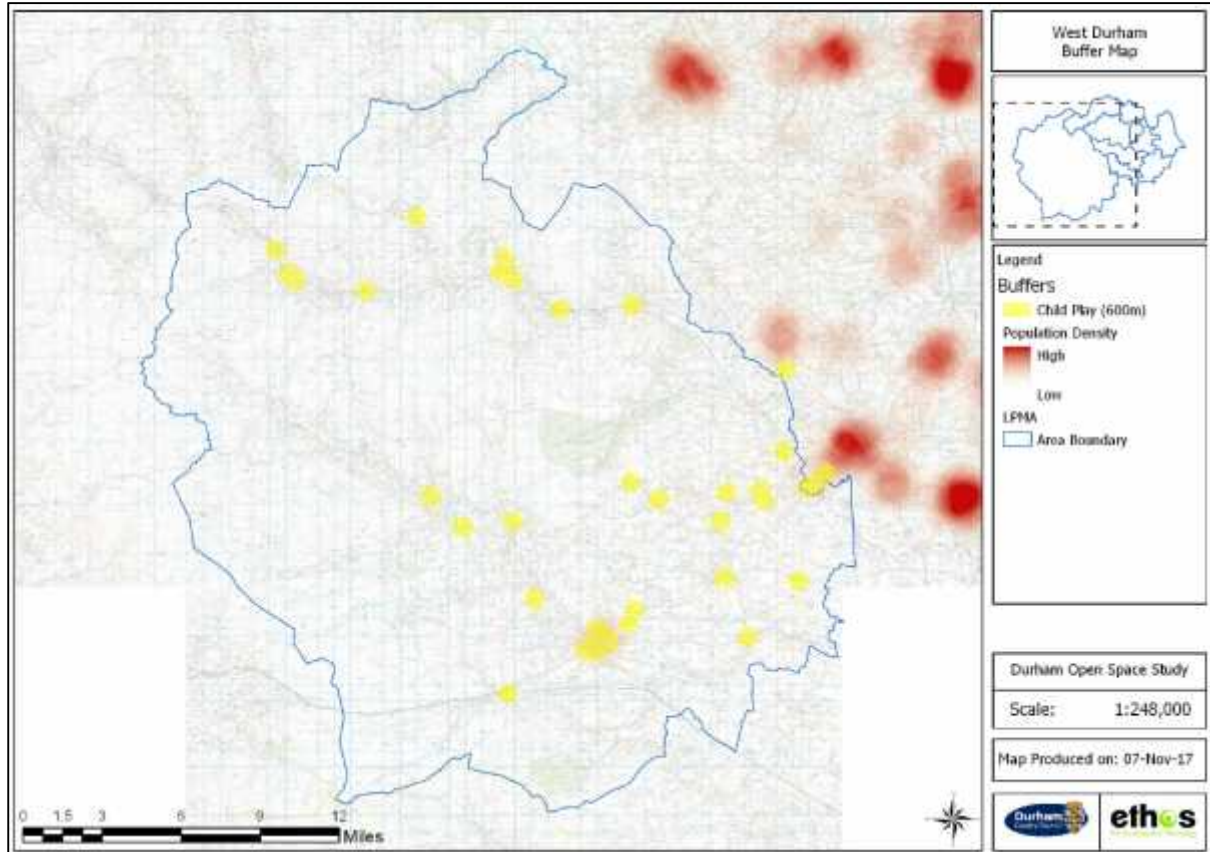


Figure 8 Access to Youth Play Space across the West Durham Study Area (720m)

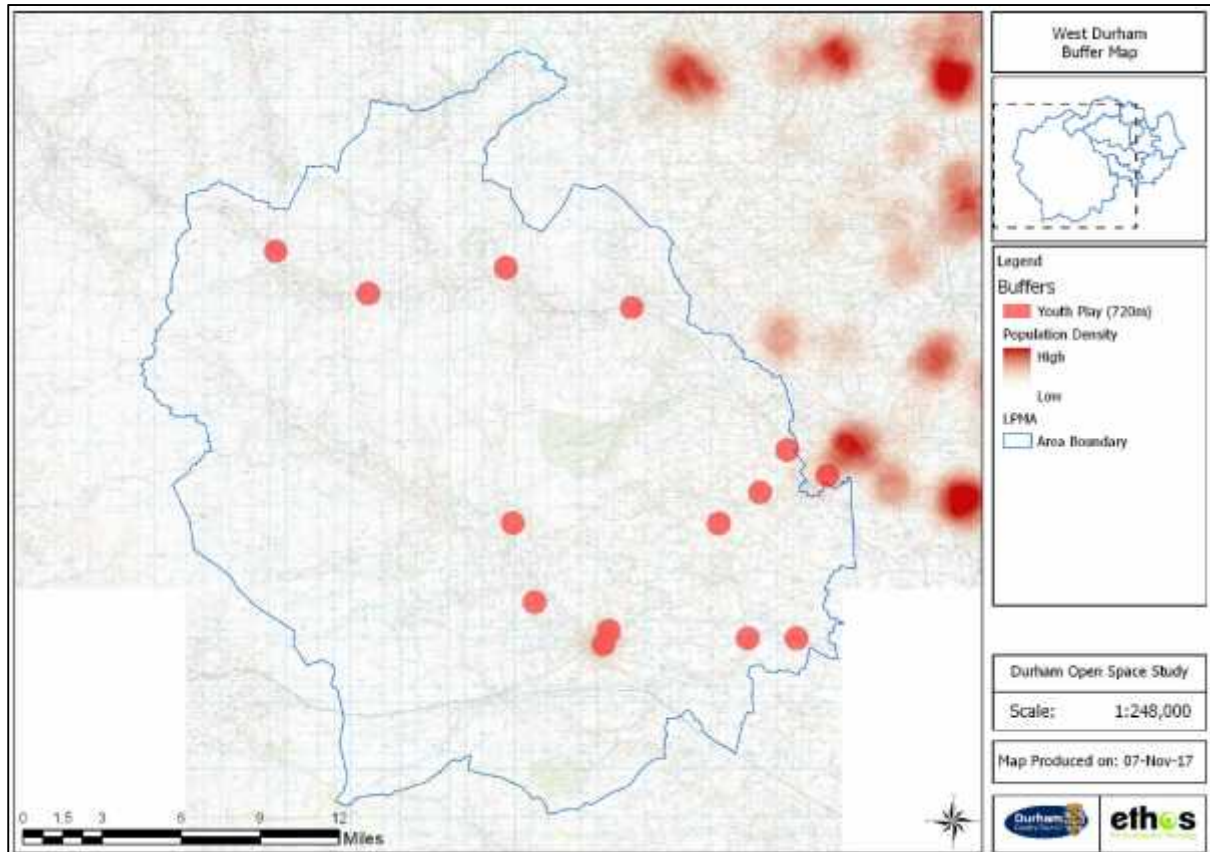


Figure 9 Access to Natural Green Space across the West Durham Study Area (20 Ha)

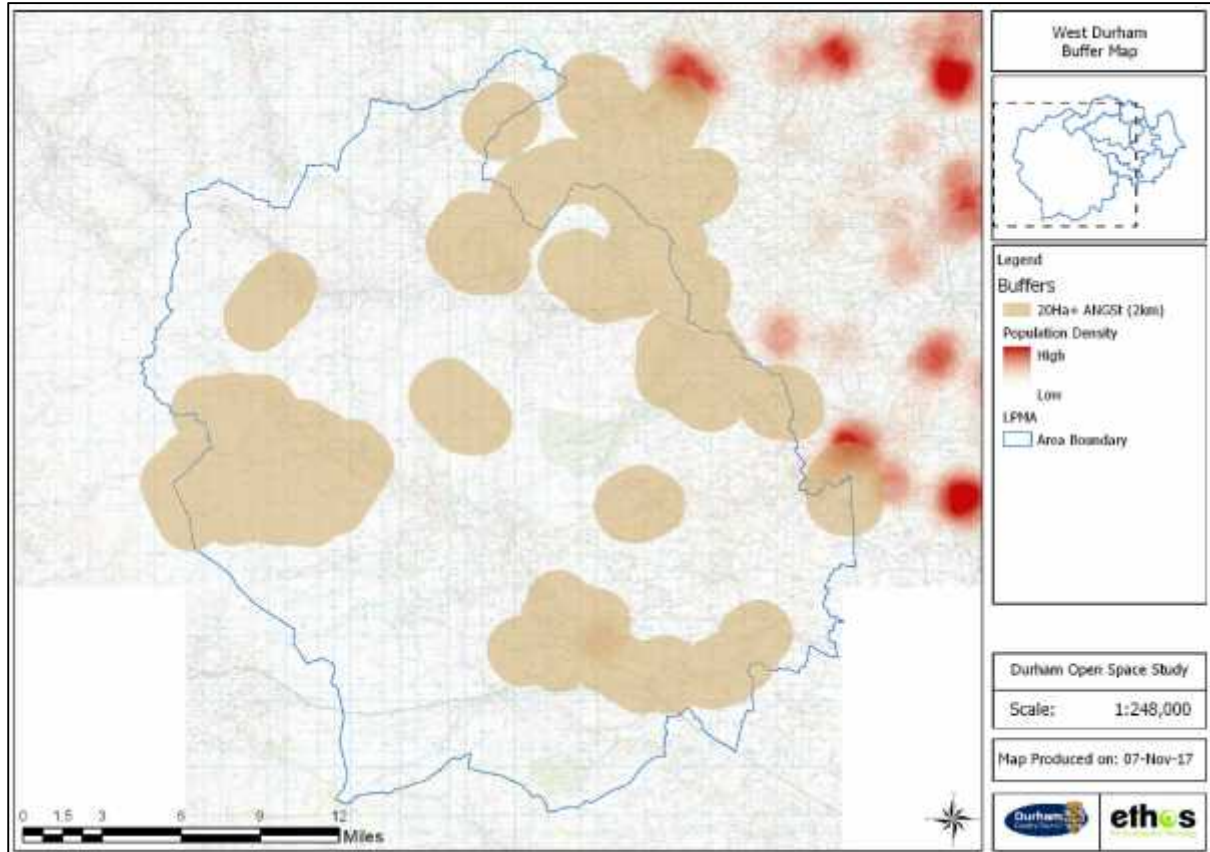


Figure 10 Access to Natural Green Space across the West Durham Study Area (100 Ha)

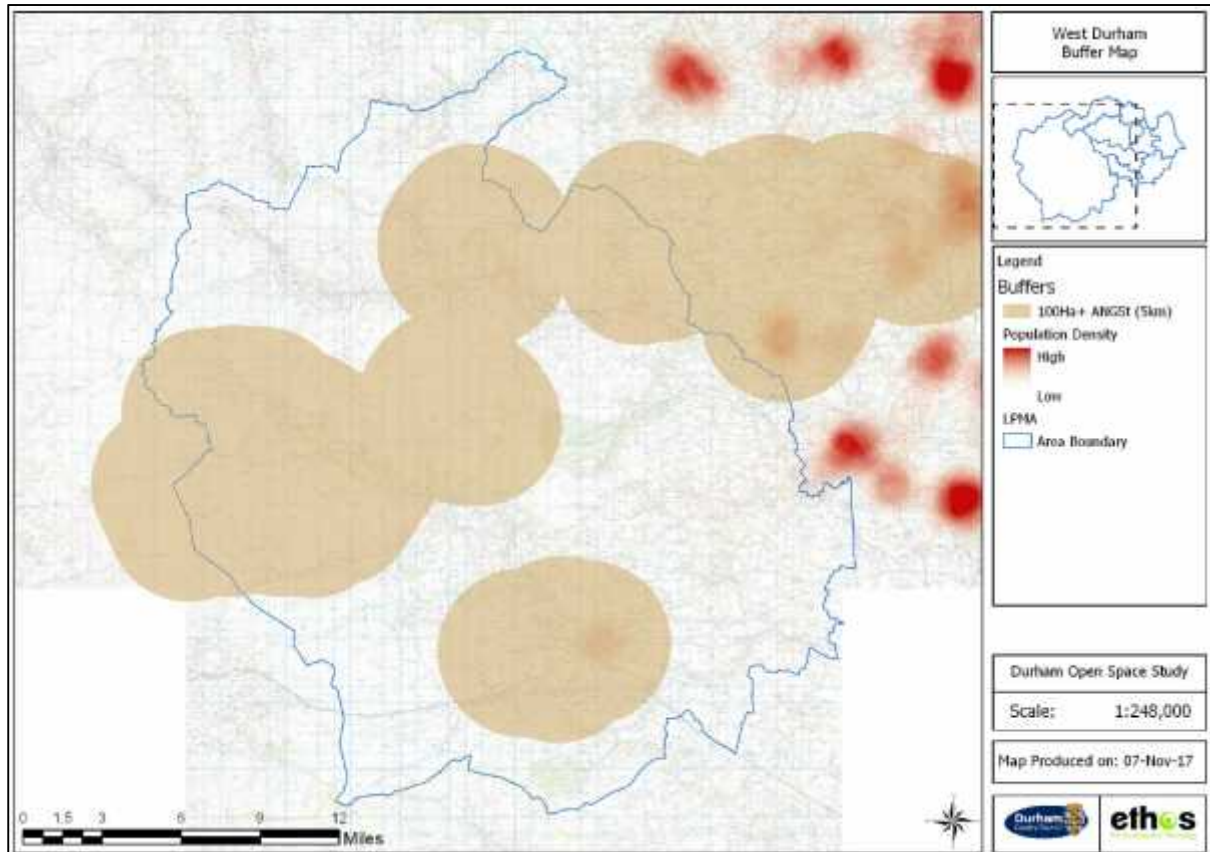
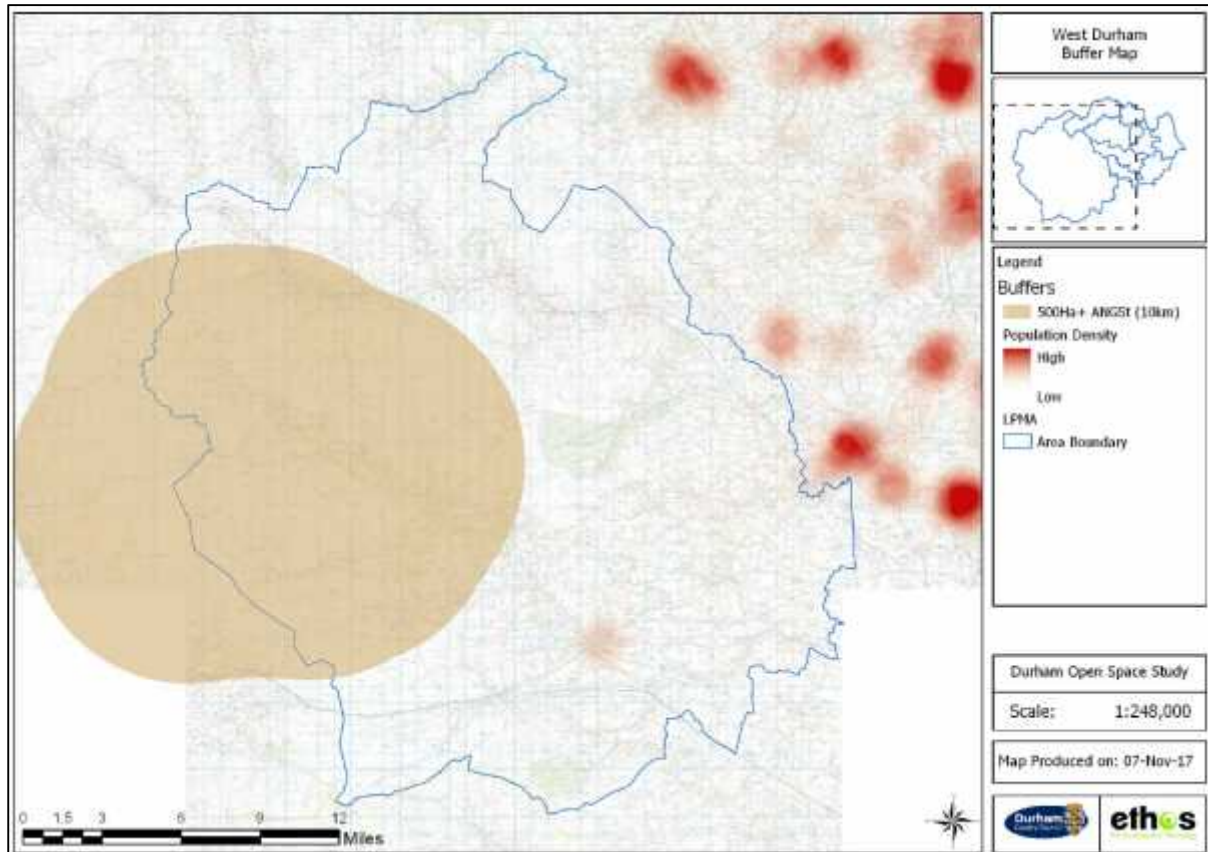


Figure 11 Access to Natural Green Space across the West Durham Study Area (500 Ha)



4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 5 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 14-20, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Table 5 Summary of existing access issues for West Durham Study Area

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Generally good provision in key populated areas
Amenity Green Space	Some gaps around Raby, Cockfield, Ingelton and Evenwood
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Good provision in the majority of key settlements with the exception of Middleton in Teesdale and Staindrop.
Play Space (Children)	Good provision in all the key settlements
Play Space (Youth)	Gap in Middleton, Stanhope, Wolsingham and Staindrop
Natural Green Space	Whilst there are some gaps against the ANGSt, this part of the County has an extensive rights of way network providing access to open moorland, river valleys etc.

5.0 Quality assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall study. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.20 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

-) Access;
-) Welcoming;
-) Management and Maintenance;
-) Healthy, safe and secure;
-) Community Involvement.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (provided to the Council as a GIS geodatabase). Within these area profiles, summary maps showing sites existing and potential quality scores is provided.

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

-) The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
-) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of quality – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the best existing quality, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest quality.

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

-) The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
-) This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

- J) The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank ‘A’ are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank ‘D’ are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – i.e. sites with rank ‘A’ have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank ‘D’ have the poorest potential to improve.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (figure 11) and those sites with the highest potential for improvement i.e. those sites scoring a potential rank of A, B or C (figure 12). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided to the Council.

These maps are intended for indicative purposes only, a GIS database has been provided to the Council for detailed analysis/viewing.

Figure 11 Existing quality rank of open space

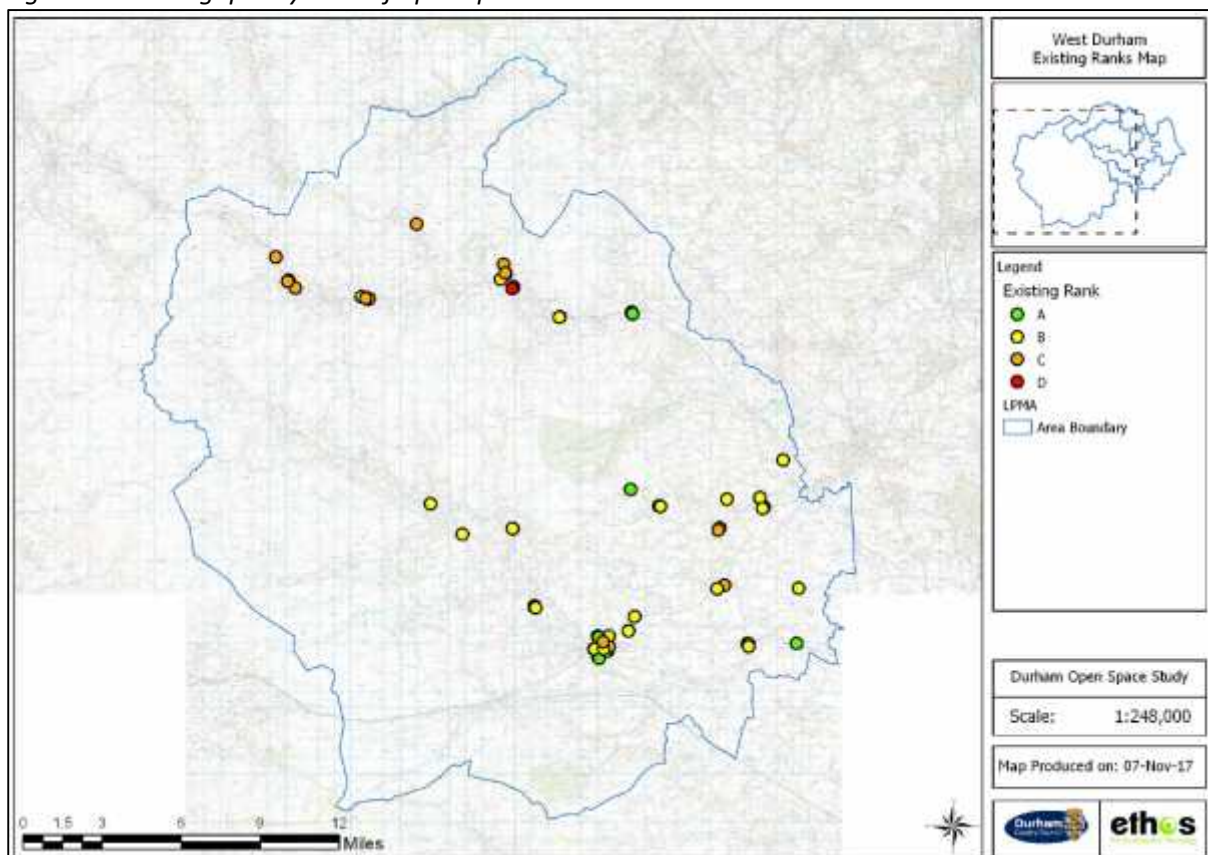
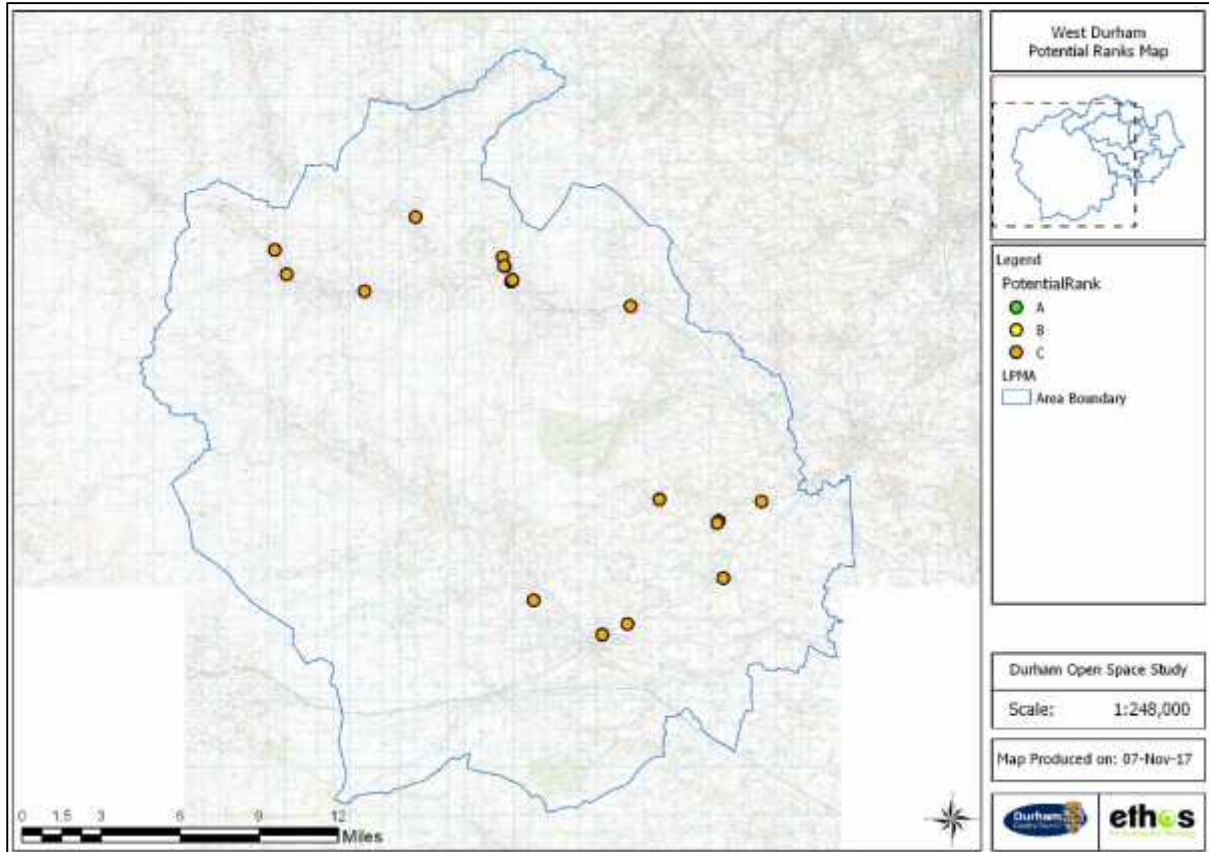


Figure 12 Sites with potential for improvement



6.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

-) Existing provision to be enhanced;
-) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
-) Identification of areas for new provision;
-) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

6.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Section 5.3 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (figure 11). Figure 12 then highlights those sites which have ‘potential for improvement’ i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 8 play spaces and 11 open spaces sites which are ranked A-C, with sites ranked A, the highest potential/priority for improvement. It is expected that when allocated sites are brought forward, consideration would be given to the potential to improve the priority sites.

6.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. In the case of West Durham, there is little opportunity in terms of quantity, as there is an existing shortfall across all typologies, except children’s play space. In terms of access, there is limited opportunity due to the quantitative issues, and the rural nature of this area.

However, there may be potential for natural green space to accommodate low impact uses such as community food growing areas/allotments or natural children’s play items to fill gaps in access if appropriate.

6.3 Identification of areas for new provision

The assessment has shown there is a significant shortfall of all typologies against the County standard, with the exception of children’s play space. The level of shortfalls against the standards is such that it would not be practical or achievable to meet those shortfalls in a large rural area of this nature. However, what the assessment does highlight is that West Durham does have below average levels of provision compared to other more populated parts of the County. Whilst this is not surprising in a very rural area, it provides evidence that there is a need to protect existing facilities and maximise opportunities for securing new open space.

On-site provision of all typologies of open space (with the exception of children’s play space, unless it would remove gaps in access) is therefore a priority for this area where development

is of a sufficient size – for smaller developments consideration should be given to pooling section 106 contributions (or securing through CIL) to provide open space off-site.

6.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

Due to the existing quantitative shortfall in the provision of open space across all types of open space (except children’s play space), it is recommended that there are no open space facilities that are surplus to requirement. Consideration could be given to the potential for natural green spaces to be surplus, however, the assessment has identified the value of these spaces in terms of green infrastructure, biodiversity and access. These factors are considered to provide over riding benefit to any other potential uses or demands.

In terms of children’s play, considering the lack of formal open space in general and the sporadic geographical distribution of facilities, it is again recommended that there is little opportunity to dispose of such facilities.