**Chapter 7** Wider needs and priorities for open space in Wolverhampton

# Chapter 7

# Wider needs and priorities for open space in Wolverhampton

**7.1** The following section examines the need for open space across Wolverhampton based on the socio-economic, demographic and wider environmental context. The section ends with a Combined Needs Index, which pulls together some of the key data sets which determine open space need to create an overall map of need across the city.

## Deprivation

**7.2** The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is an official measure of relative deprivation in England, and ranks small areas, or neighbourhoods, according to seven domains. These are:

- Income Deprivation;

- Employment Deprivation;

- Crime;

- Health Deprivation and Disability;

- Education, Skills, and Training Deprivation;

- Living Environment Deprivation; and
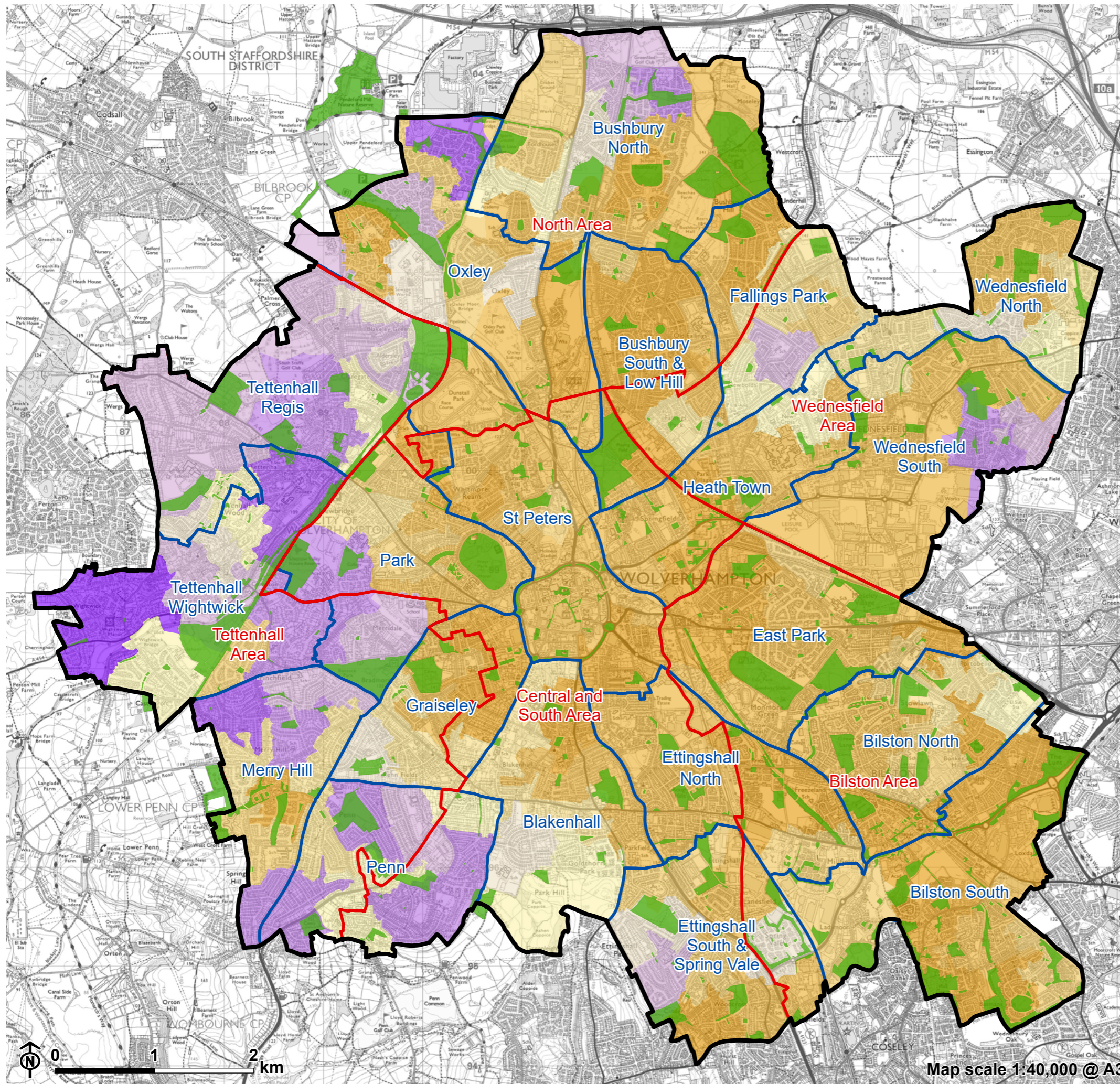
- Barriers to Housing and Services;

**7.3** England's 32,8    Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are ranked into 10 equal groups, ranging from the most deprived 10% to the least deprived 10%, providing a rank of the most deprived area (1) to the least deprived area (32,844). According to the average rank per LSOA in the city, Wolverhampton is

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the 19<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority in England (out of 317) **[See reference 35]**.

**7.4** 21% of Wolverhampton's LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived decile in England. This is higher than other local authorities in the Black Country such as Dudley (11%), and Sandwell (20%). It is also marginally higher than the Black Country average (19%). **[See reference 36]**.

**7.5** As shown in **Figure 7.1**, the pattern of deprivation is not equal across the city. Overall, deprivation is higher in the centre, east and south, including around Graiseley, Whitmore Reans, Bushbury, Heath Town and Bilston. In the west, there are areas of lower deprivation, including around Wightwick which is in the 10% least deprived areas in England.

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Fig 7.1 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

**Legend:**
- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Ward boundary (As of May 2023)
- Freely accessible open space

**Index of Multiple Deprivation**
- 0 - 10% (most deprived in England)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived in England)

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

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# Health and wellbeing

## Health deprivation

**7.6** There is a variation in deprivation across Wolverhampton depending on which of the different IMD domains outlined above is considered. Wolverhampton is the 40th most deprived local authority in England according to the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain, which is particularly relevant to open space provision  **[See reference** 37**]**. The IMD score by this domain, mapped against the city's open spaces, is shown Figure **7.2**. LSOAs within the 10% most deprived for health in England include those around Bushbury, north Wednesfield and immediately west of the city centre, in Graiseley and Whitmore Reans **[**38**]**.

**7.7** According to the Census 2021, on average, 45% of residents in Wolverhampton consider themselves to have 'very good health', and 34% consider themselves to have 'good' health. The lowest scoring wards for self-reported health are Wednesfield North, where 75% of the population identify as having 'good' or 'very good' health, and East Park, where 76% of the population identify as such **[See reference** 39**]**.

## Disabilities

**7.8** Wednesfield North and East Park wards also have the highest percentage of population reporting to have a disability, at 23% and 21 % respectively. Overall, 18% of Wolverhampton's population identify as disabled, and 8% describe this disability as limiting their life a lot. These are slightly above the figures of 17% and 7% respectively across England as a whole.  **[See reference** 40**]**.

**7.9** Focussed group discussions as part of the community consultation on this Strategy highlighted additional needs for those with disabilities within parks (see **paragraphs 6.38** to **6.40**), particularly noting the importance of not creating segregated spaces for those with mobility needs or other disabilities, and the need for accessible toilets.

## Physical activity

**7.10** Sport England's Active Lives Survey showed shows that, between 2015 and 2022, Wolverhampton has seen higher levels of inactivity (People active for less than 30 minutes a week) than for both England and the West Midlands. Between 2021 and 2022, 35.4% of over 16s were considered inactive, compared to 25.8% nationally **[See reference** 41**]**. Similarly, Wolverhampton has an above average proportion of adults classified as obese (28.5% compared to 24.4%) **[See reference** 42**]**

## Wellbeing

**7.11** The Office of National Statistics (ONS) assess personal well-being through four measures: life satisfaction, feeling the things done in life are worthwhile, happiness, and anxiety. Wolverhampton scores higher than the national average for happiness, but lower for the feeling the things done in life are worthwhile and life satisfaction criteria. Wolverhampton has a lower anxiety score than for England, indicating in general people feel less anxious. However, this has seen an increase from a score from 2.54 to 3.07 between 2016 to 2022 **[See reference** 43**]**.

**7.12** The Active Lives Survey captures wellbeing indicators, including loneliness, resilience, social trust and community integration. Overall, the population of Wolverhampton reported to be more lonely than the average for England (8.4% reported to often/always feel lonely and 21.4% reported to never feeling lonely, compared to 6.8% and 24.7% nationally). For the other

indicators, Wolverhampton shows a similar trend to the national average **[See reference** 44**]**.

**7.13** There is growing awareness of the benefits for both physical and mental wellbeing of contact with nature, including gardening. Growing their own food can benefit people's diet and address the cost of living crisis. City of Wolverhampton Council owns over 1,100 allotment plots on 31 sites across the city, managed either directly by Environmental Services or by allotment holders themselves, while other allotments are managed by Wolverhampton Homes and there are privately run plots at Jeffcock Road in Penn Fields.

**7.14** People taking part in community initiatives can develop skills, confidence and social networks, benefiting both their physical and mental wellbeing. There is a network of ' rien ds' groups in parks, open spaces and nature reserves across the city for which people can volunteer.

**7.15** The Open Space Strategy consultation did not identify demand for more allotments as a major issue, although there was significant interest in volunteering. Evidence from elsewhere in the city shows that there is interest in using outdoor space and gardening for social prescribing clients, although there is a lack of initiatives and of funding to manage sites and support clients.

## Key health and wellbeing needs

- Open space design and management can be tailored to ensure their accessibility for disabled users. This can include accessible play equipment, accessible seating areas and suitable surfaces within open spaces. The Sensory Trust's guidance for access in the outdoors provides guidance on designing for this. Sensory gardens, wider paths and braille within signage can also help inclusivity for a range of users **[See reference** 45**].**

- Levels of physical activity are low in Wolverhampton relative to the average for England. Open spaces should offer space and facilities to encourage activity, including through formal sports provision, green gym

equipment and well-signed walking routes. Other interventions could include supporting a programme of sports events, walking groups and running groups to help people to be active.

- Loneliness has been identified as a factor affecting the population in Wolverhampton. Open spaces can include high-quality, social seating, offer opportunities for volunteering, and be used to host community events.

- Levels of anxiety have been increasing in Wolverhampton. Open spaces can reduce anxiety and encourage mindfulness, particularly where they promote access to nature and quiet areas, free from traffic noise.

- Areas where there is a greater health deprivation are included within the Combined Needs Index and open space enhancements prioritised in these areas in the Action Plan.

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**Figure 7.2: Health deprivation**
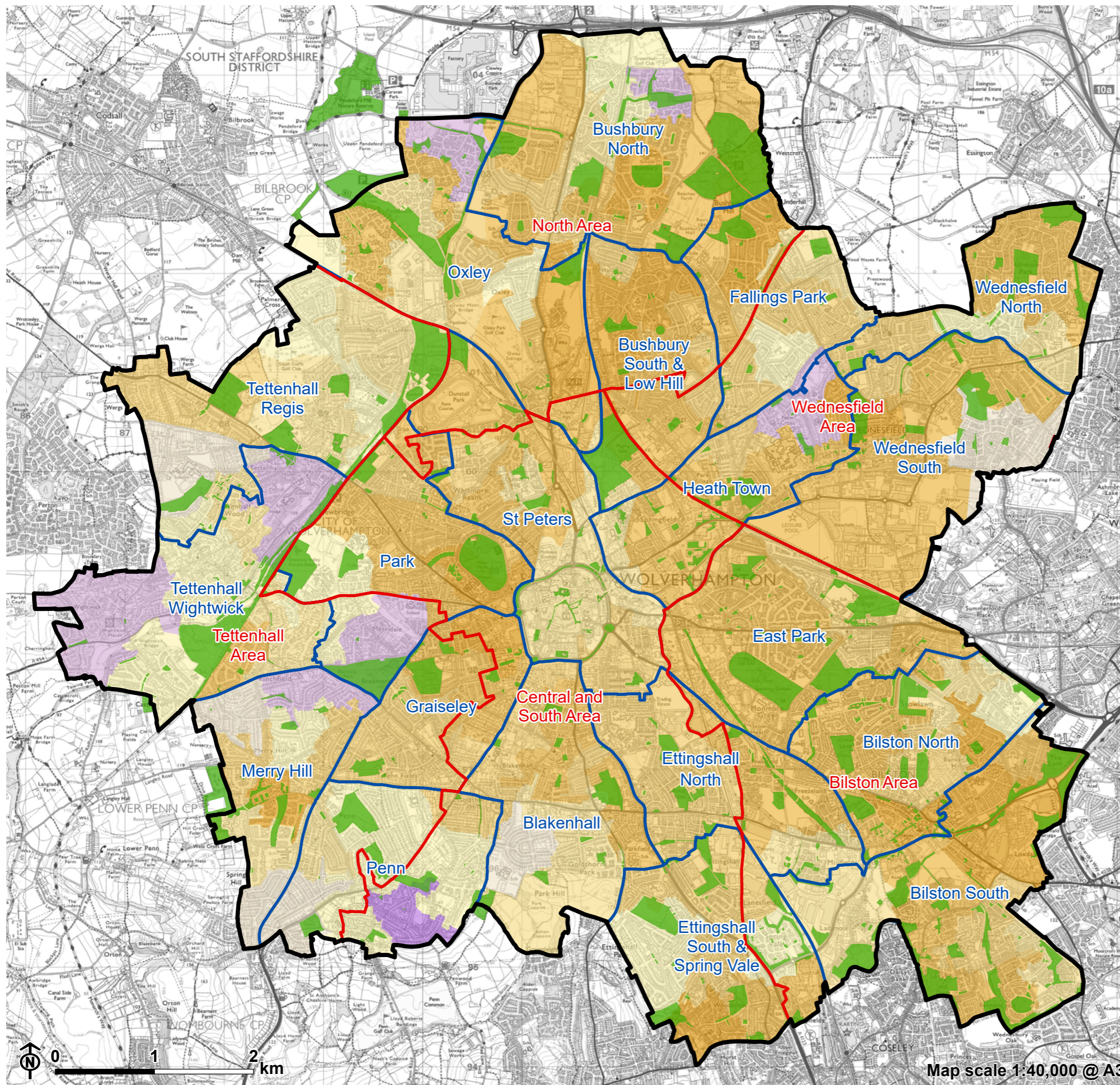
Legend:
- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Ward boundary (As of May 2023)
- Freely accessible open space

**Health deprivation**
- 0 - 10% (most deprived in England)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived in England)

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

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# The living environment

## Living environment deprivation

**7.16**  The Living Environment domain of the IMD is based on the quality of housing, air quality and road traffic accidents. Provision of open space can improve the living environment through mitigating air pollution, enhancing the setting and character of housing and providing aesthetic benefits.

**7.17** Overall, Wolverhampton ranks as the 60th most deprived local authority within this domain **[See reference** 46**]**. The variation across the city, compared to open space provision, is shown in **Figure 7.3**. The city centre and its immediate surroundings score as the most deprived LSOAs for this criterion. In peripheral areas, such as the wealthier west of the city around Tettenhall, and on modern estates such as Pendeford in the north, there is less Living Environment Deprivation **[See reference** 47**]**.

**7.18** The provision of private gardens is variable across Wolverhampton. Access to private garden can reduce the pressure on open space use, as well as indicating a greener living environment. Overall, access to private gardens is lowest around the city centre and the area to the north, including Whitmore Reans and Heath Town. Access is highest in the outer areas of Wolverhampton, particularly more affluent areas of Tettenhall and Penn. **Figure 7.4.**

## Air quality

**7.19** Air quality, particularly related to nitrogen dioxide from traffic, is, in common with all urban areas, a particular issue in Wolverhampton. In 2005 the city was identified as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), as air quality

objectives were not being met at a number of locations across the city   **[See reference** 48**]**. Since the AQMA was declared the council has implemented several interventions aimed at reducing nitrogen dioxide concentrations at these 'hot spot' locations. Consequently, levels of NO2 have fallen consistently over the last 19 years and in 2023 there were no exceedances of the objectives. **Figure 7.5** indicates that levels of air pollution (such as tonnes per km2 of NOx emissions) varies across Wolverhampton.

# Flood risk

**7.20** Open space can provide water storage and slow the flow of water which can help alleviate flood risk. Wolverhampton's location in the upper part of river catchments reduces the likelihood of fluvial (river) flooding across the city. Groundwater flooding has historically posed a greater threat, particularly in the north east. Localised pluvial (surface water) flooding has also caused recent flooding across Wolverhampton **[See reference** 49**]**. The combined flood risk is shown in **Figure 7.6**.

## Key living environment needs

- Air quality, particularly along large roads, is a key issue within the city. Hedgerows to separate open spaces from busy roads can be important barriers, reducing the air pollution within open spaces. Trees within open spaces can also help disperse air pollutants and locally reduce air pollution. Vegetation selection for open spaces should consider guidance on which species are most effective at mitigating poor air quality **[See reference** 50**]**.

- Surface water flooding is an issue in some parts of Wolverhampton. Enhancements within these locations can include the construction of swales, rain gardens, and other forms of Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs).
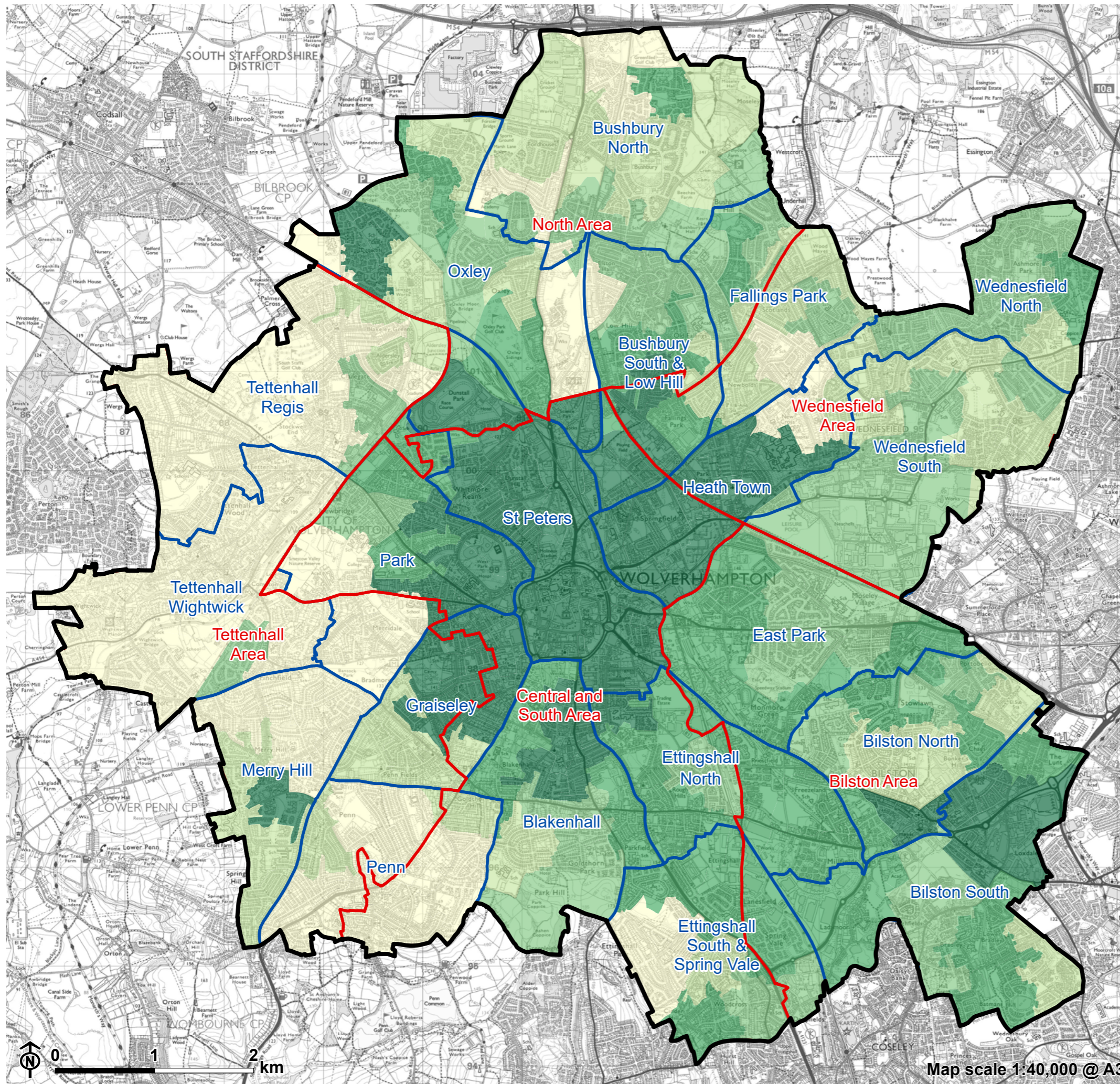
- Areas where there is greater Living Environment Deprivation and lower provision of private gardens are included within the Combined Needs Index.

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Figure 7.3: Living environment deprivation
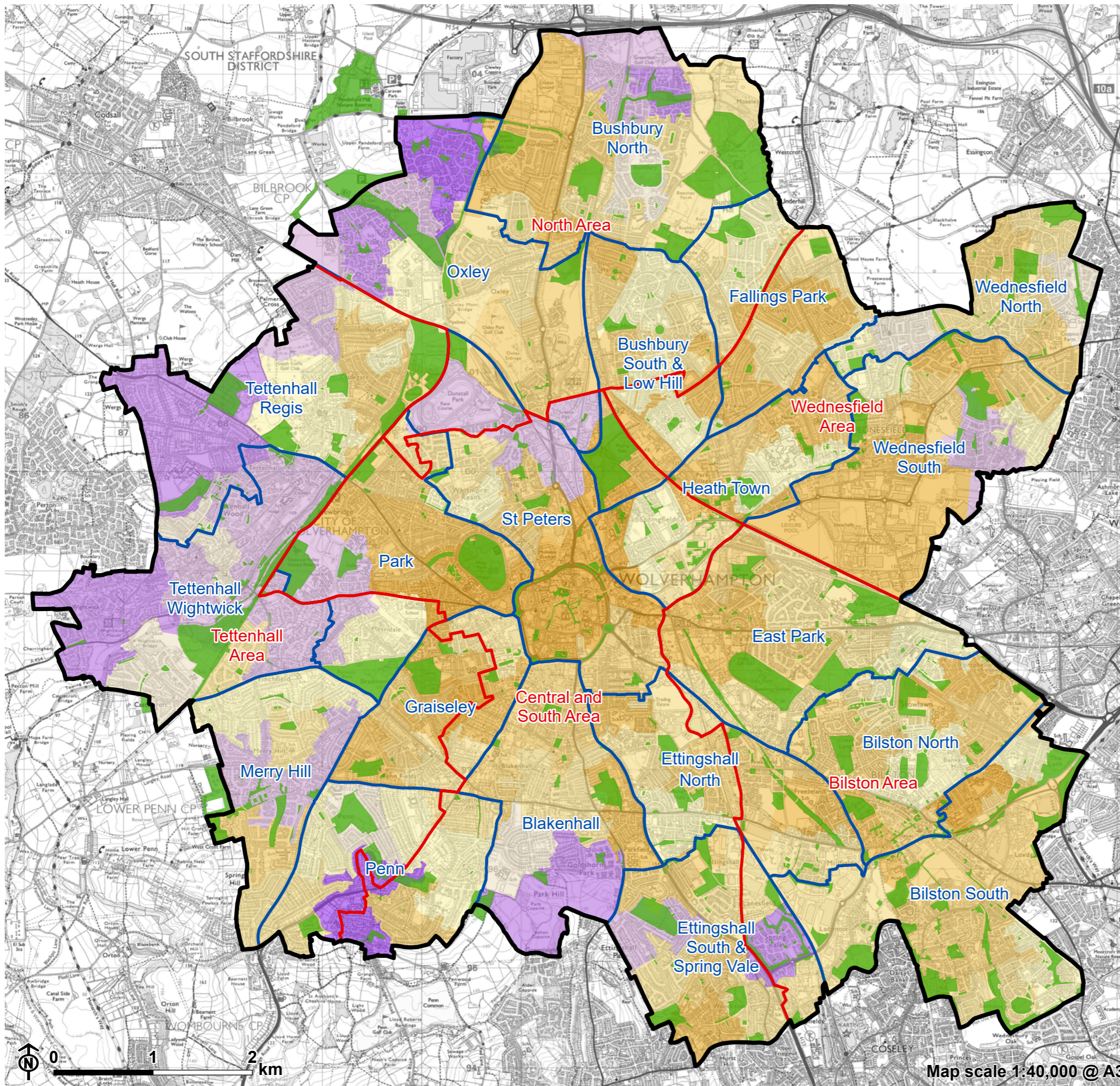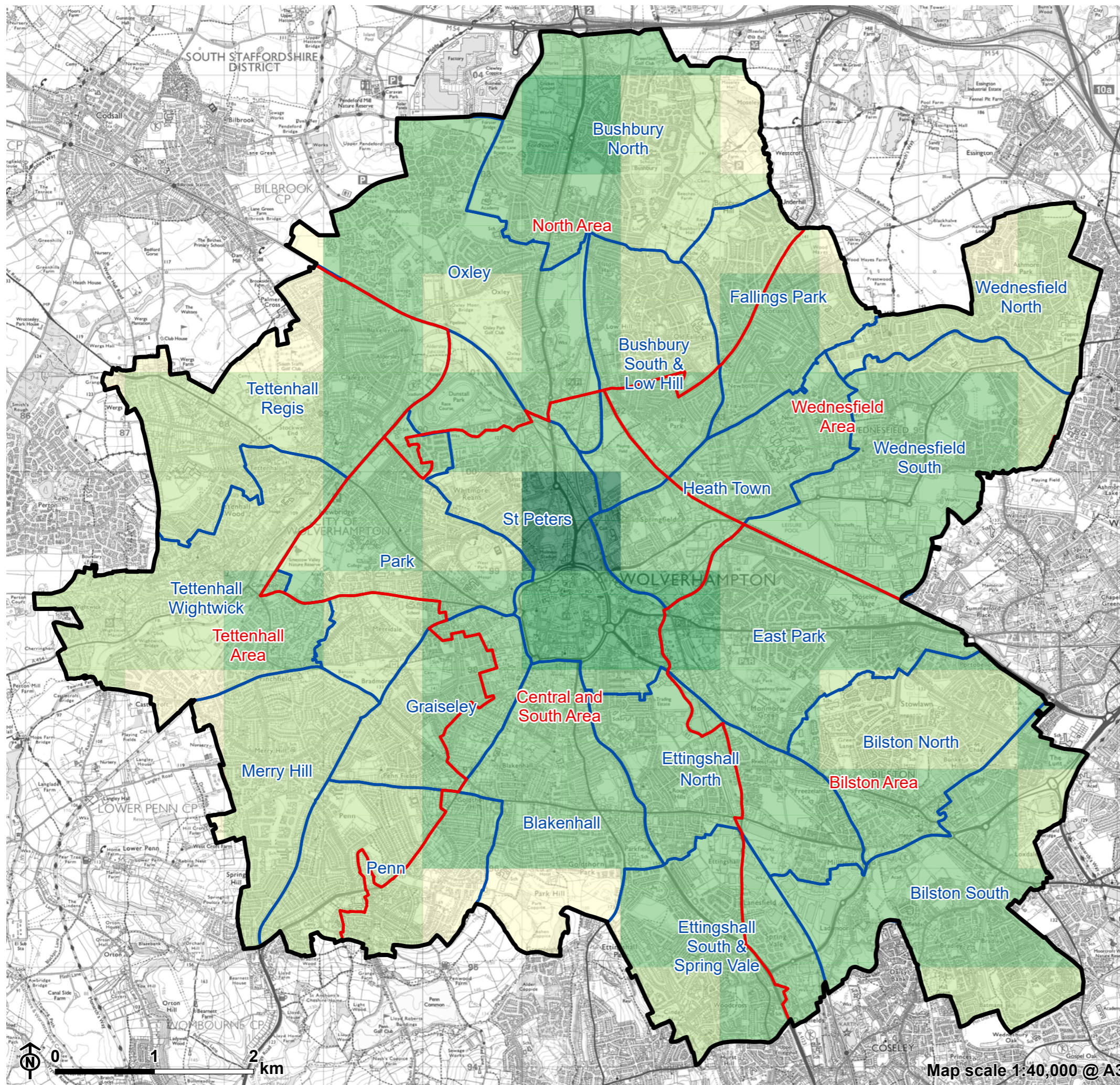
**Legend:**

- ☐ Wolverhampton boundary
- ☐ Analysis Area
- ☐ Ward boundary (As of May 2023)
- ☐ Freely accessible open space

**Living environment deprivation**

- 0 - 10% (most deprived in England)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived in England)

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

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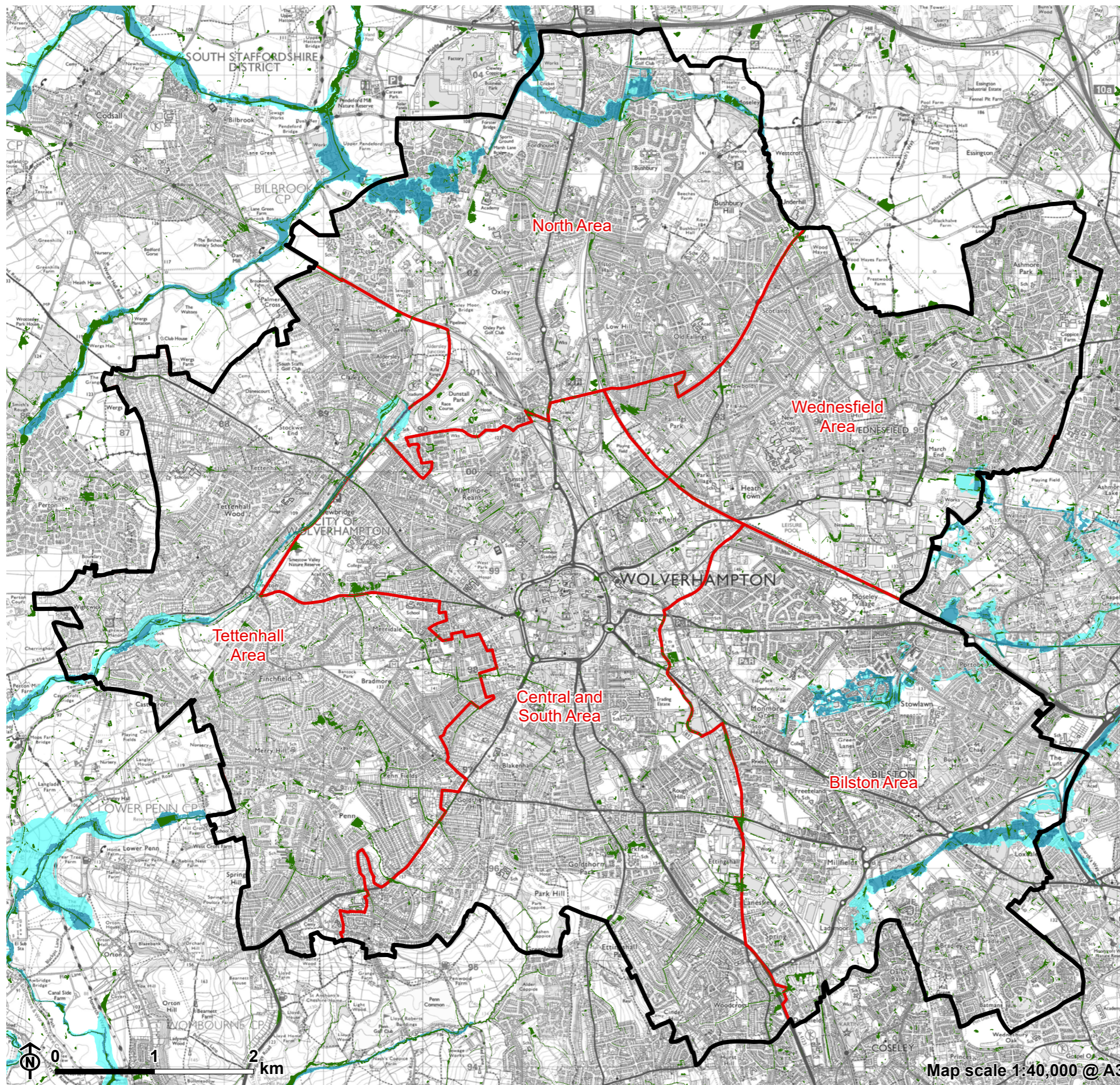City of Wolverhampton Council

**Figure 7.4: Quantity of private gardens**

Wolverhampton boundary
Analysis Area
Ward boundary (As of May 2023)

**Private garden space per population (Quantile categories)**

Low

High

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

Bushbury North
North Area
Oxley
Fallings Park
Wednesfield North
Bushbury South & Low Hill
Wednesfield Area
Tettenhall Regis
Wednesfield South
Heath Town
St Peters
Park
Tettenhall Wightwick
Tettenhall Area
Graiseley
Central and South Area
East Park
Merry Hill
Bilston North
Bilston Area
Ettingshall North
Blakenhall
Penn
Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
Bilston South

0   1   2
km

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**Figure 7.5: Air quality**

Wolverhampton boundary
Analysis Area
Ward boundary (As of May 2023)

**NOx 2021 tonnes / km2**
- 0 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 50
- 50 - 100
- 100 - 140

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

12296 WV OS/Fig_7_5_12296_r1_AirQuality_A3L 18/07/2024EB:wingfield_h

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Figure 7.6: Flood risk

Legend:
- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Risk of flooding from surface water (1 in 30 years)
- Risk of river flooding (1 in 100 years)
- Risk of river flooding (1 in 1000 years)

North Area
Wednesfield Area
Tettenhall Area
Central and South Area
Bilston Area
WOLVERHAMPTON

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

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12296 WV OS/Fig_7_6_12296_r1_FloodRisk_A3L 18/07/2024EB:wingfield_h

# Requirements for different demographic groups

**7.21** In addition to the IMD domains identified above, there are two further domains:

■ Deprivation Affecting Children; and

■ Deprivation Affecting Older People.

## Children and young people

**7.22 Figure 7.7** shows the proportion of the population under 15 years of age across Wolverhampton. There are higher proportions of children in Low Hill, Heath Town, Whitmore Reans, Graiseley and parts of Ettingshall and Bilston.

**7.23** Wolverhampton ranks as the 9th most deprived local authority in England for Deprivation Affecting Children **[See reference** 51**]**. This is an important consideration in the planning of open space provision, in particular play equipment. As shown in **Figure 7.8**, there are generally lower levels of child deprivation in the west of the city. The highest levels of deprivation form a north-south belt east of the city centre, between Low Hill, Heath Town and Bilston **[See reference** 52**]**.

**7.24** Levels of childhood obesity are generally higher in Wolverhampton compared to England as whole. Data shows the percentage of reception aged children classed as obese is 27.4% in Wolverhampton compared to 22.3% nationally. By year six, this rises to 48% in Wolverhampton and 37.8% nationally **[See reference** 53**]**.

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# Older people

**7.25** Although the median age in Wolverhampton is younger than the national average, the proportion of residents aged 65 and over has still been increasing. In addition, many LSOAs within Wolverhampton are included within the 10% most deprived for the Deprivation Affecting Older People Domain. This is shown in **Figure 7.9**.

**7.26** Older people may have additional needs accessing and using open spaces, including increased mobility and visual needs and reduced confidence accessing the outdoors. The Sensory Trust have produced guidance for designing age-friendly outdoor spaces **[See reference** 54**]**.

# Women and girls

**7.27** Women make up just over half of the population of Wolverhampton. Women and girls may experience more barriers using open space, particularly in relation to safety concerns.

**7.28** Evidence shows that women are less likely to participate in sports and physical activity, particularly team sports, racket sports and athletics. However, women were more likely to participate in fitness classes **[See reference** 55**]**. These are the types of activities which are often provided within open spaces.

**7.29** The campaign Make Space for Girls **[See reference** 56**]** highlights the need for play opportunities to cater for girls and young women. They note that facilities for teenage girls include playful spaces to site and climb, social exercise spaces, social seating, performance areas, and hammocks and weather-proof shelters.

**7.30** The Safer Parks guidance **[See reference** 57**]** highlights the importance of creating safe and inclusive parks to encourage use by women and girls.

Creating open spaces that attract a higher number of users, to create inclusive self-surveillance, is an important component of this.

# Global majority communities

**7.31** Wolverhampton has a strong presence of populations from the global majority, (see **paragraph 2.50**). **Figure 7.10** indicates the percentage of the population identifying as from global majority backgrounds. This is based on Office for National Statistics data using the terminology Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population. This includes all Mixed, Asian, Black and Other (non-white) ethnicities. In many instances, more deprived areas within Wolverhampton (see **Figure 7.1**) and areas of high greenspace need (see **Figure 7.11**) coincide with areas with a high percentage of residents of global majority descent.

**7.32** This figure shows that inner urban and south Wolverhampton, largely within the Central and South Analysis Area, has a generally higher proportion of these populations when compared to other analysis areas. Accessibility analysis indicates the Central and South Analysis Area has reasonably good access to open space and contains several key high quality and high value parks (such as West Park). However, this analysis area has 2.2 hectares of open space per 1,000 population, which is lower than the average across Wolverhampton and access to natural greenspace in the south of this analysis area is poor. Those living within the Central and South Analysis Area are also significantly less likely to have access to a private garden (see **Figure 7.4**) and therefore open spaces within this area will be under significant and increasing pressure and may provide important functions for socialising and other activities.

**7.33** There are likely limited opportunities for creating significant new open space in the Central and South Analysis Area, therefore the creation of pocket parks and improving green and blue links (e.g. along the canal network) should be prioritised. Future consultation on enhancement schemes should ensure any specific open space needs of potentially underrepresented groups are

identified, particularly in this analysis area. Whilst a range of equalities considerations have been identified as part of the development of this strategy (see **Chapter 6**), further work will need to be undertaken to inform enhancement at a site specific and local level.

**7.34** Open space consultation events to engage community groups primarily of global majority descent were undertaken to inform the Strategy. These events provided some information on open space design, management, features and facilities that may be a priority to make open space in Wolverhampton more inclusive, such as:

- More opportunities for community growing space. A desire for allotment space around Bilston was specifically noted.

- More picnic areas for eating outside, good quality seating for people to sit together and areas under cover (e.g. an outdoor canopy / shelter).

- Community events (previous community gardening events were noted).

- Better access to parks and open space via public transport, especially for older visitors.

- Ornamental planting and flowers.

- General maintenance, more bins and more frequent bin emptying and litter picking.

- Clearance of access routes / overhanging vegetation.

- Enforcement to control excessive drinking and other anti-social behaviour.

- Providing or re-opening public toilets.

- Many of the responses to community consultation suggest there is a desire to see more of a staff presence, or opportunities to report and feedback to park management.
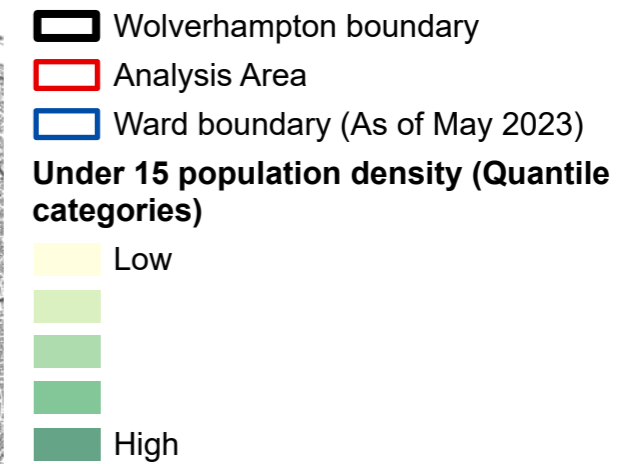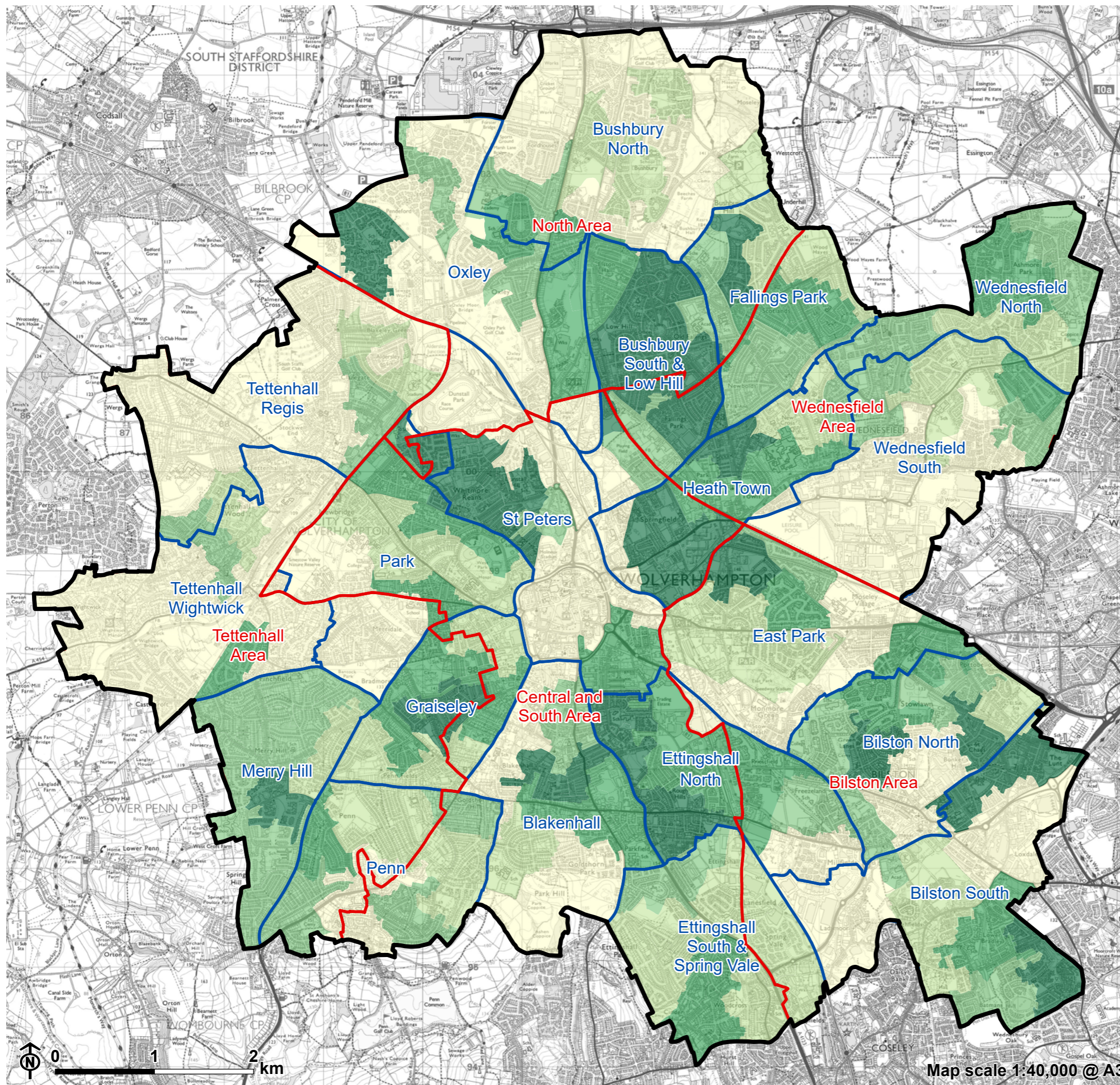
## Key needs for specific groups

- Deprivation affecting children is a key issue in Wolverhampton, and the percentage of the population under 18 is also relatively high. Open
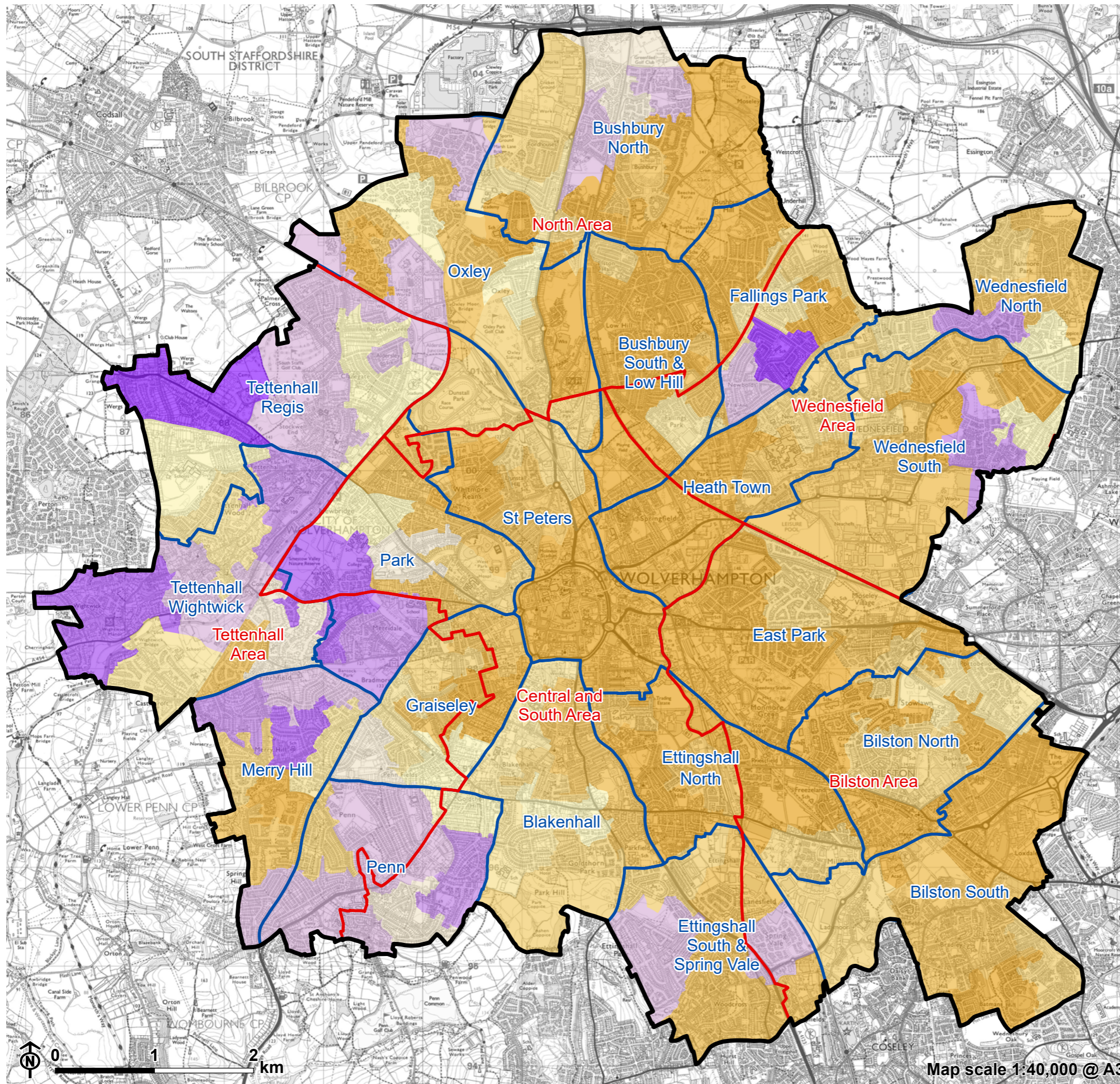
space provision which includes both areas of equipped and informal play spaces will be particularly important to this group. Childhood obesity levels are relatively high for both reception and Year 6. Open spaces can encourage activity for children, including through play and sports.

- Open spaces should also be designed to meet the needs of older children and young people, including the needs of teenage girls. Provision should go beyond MUGAs, BMX tracks or skate parks, which are generally dominated by teenage boys. Wider provision, which also appeals to teenage girls, should be open with good sightlines. Social seating should also be included.

- Management and enhancement of open spaces should also create safe spaces, a key concern for specific groups including teenage girls, women, older people and people from the global majority. Multiple entrances, circular footpaths and lighting can help create safe spaces. This may also include providing help points or contact details on signage.

- Support for the needs of older people including providing social seating, sheltered areas, level and clear pathways and clear signage.

- Spatial demographic data shown on the following maps should also inform the focus of consultation undertaken as part of future site specific enhancement schemes.

- Further findings from engagement with groups who were able to provide insight into specific needs and issues related to several protected equality characteristics are set out in **Chapter 6**.

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**Figure 7.7: Child population density**

LUC

Legend:
- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Ward boundary (As of May 2023)

**Under 15 population density (Quantile categories)**
- Low
- High

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3



Map labels:
Bushbury North, North Area, Oxley, Fallings Park, Wednesfield North, Bushbury South & Low Hill, Tettenhall Regis, Wednesfield Area, Wednesfield South, Heath Town, St Peters, Park, Tettenhall Wightwick, East Park, Tettenhall Area, Graiseley, Central and South Area, Merry Hill, Bilston North, Ettingshall North, Bilston Area, Blakenhall, Penn, Bilston South, Ettingshall South & Spring Vale, WOLVERHAMPTON

0  1  2 km

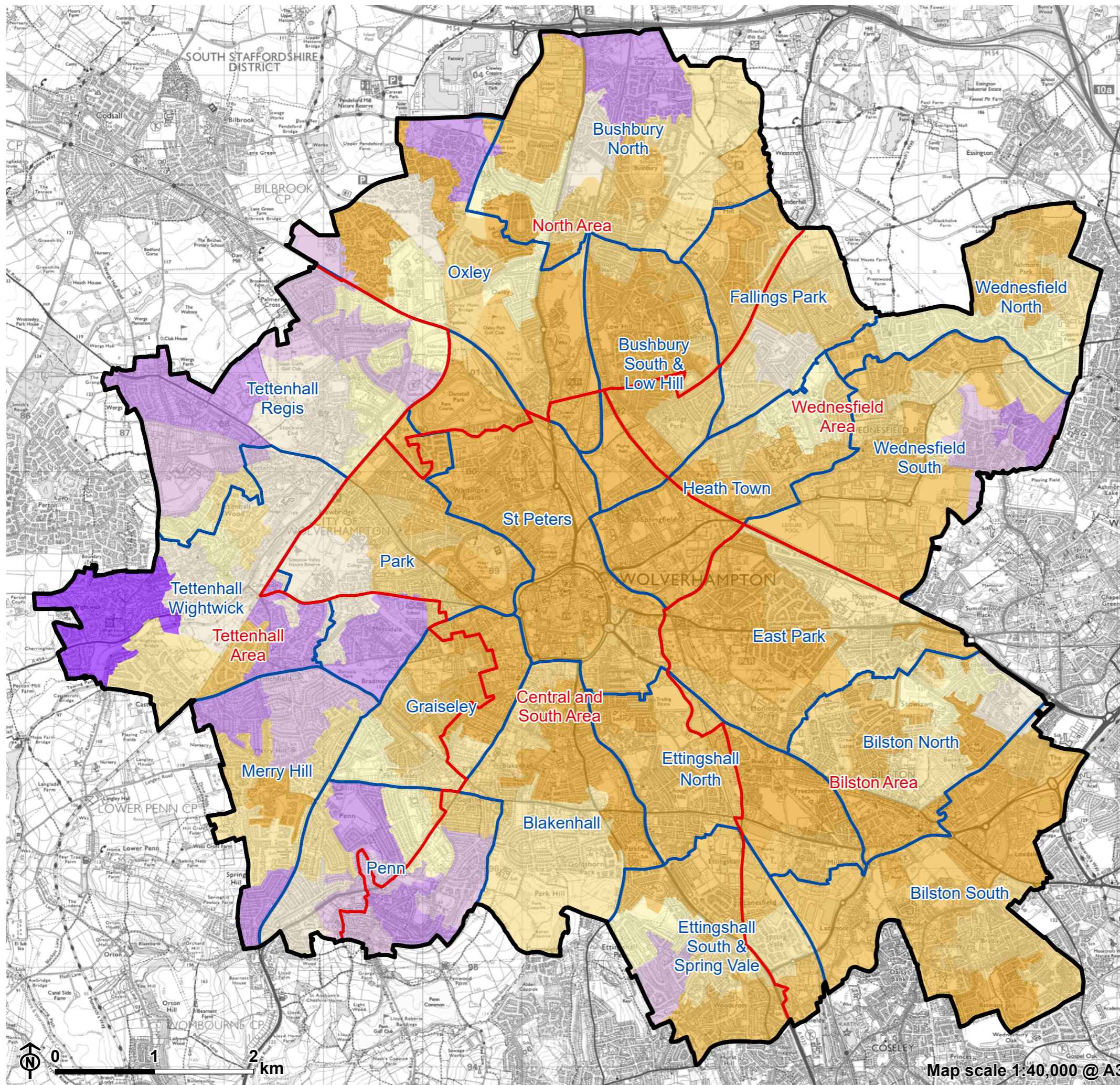12296 WV OS/Fig_7_7_12296_r1_ChildPopDensity_A3L 18/07/2024EB:wingfield_h

**Figure 7.8: Income deprivation affecting children**

**Wolverhampton boundary**
**Analysis Area**
**Ward boundary (As of May 2023)**

**Income deprivation affecting children**

- 0 - 10% (most deprived in England)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
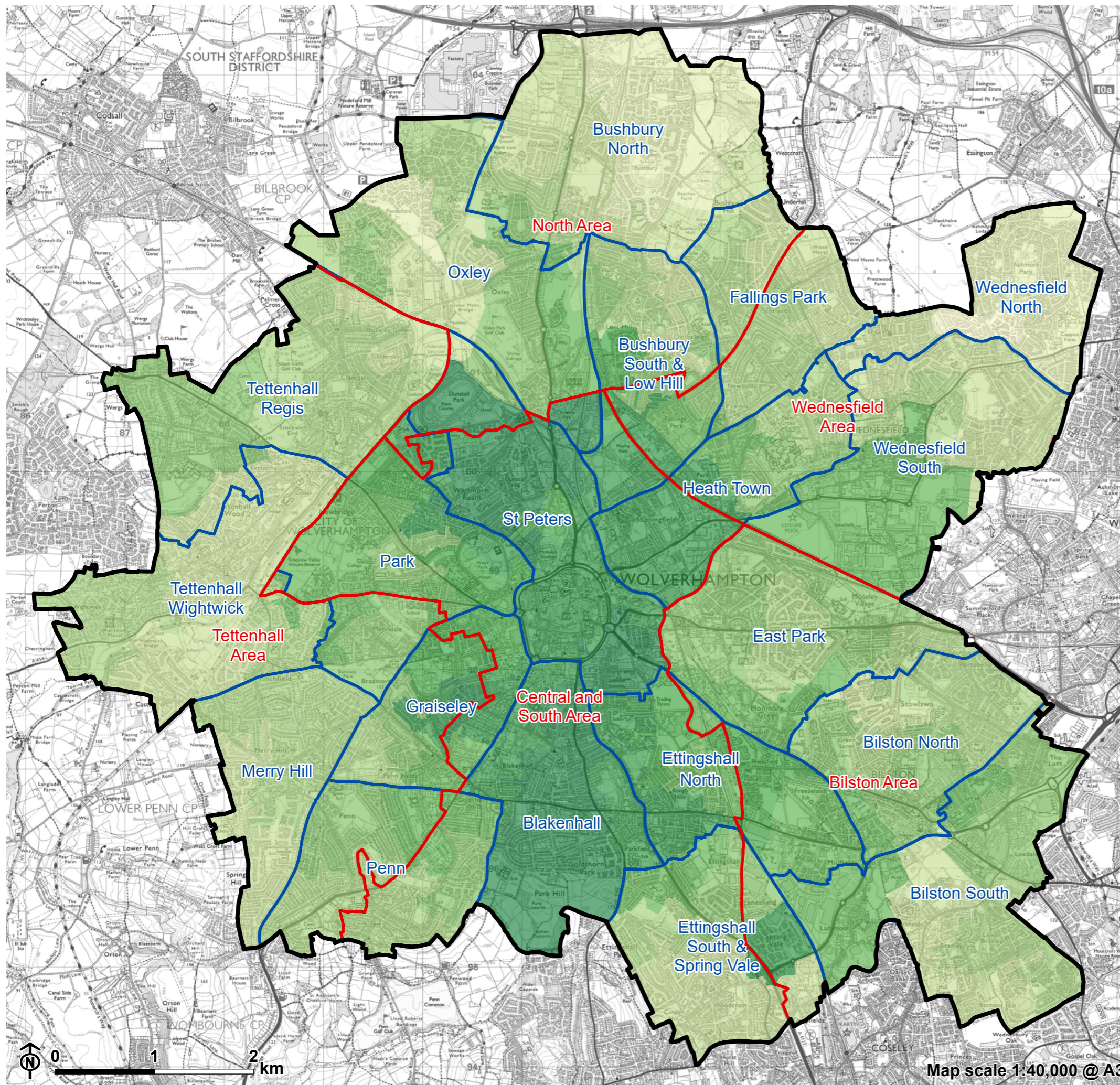- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived in England)

Bushbury North
North Area
Oxley
Fallings Park
Wednesfield North
Bushbury South & Low Hill
Wednesfield Area
Wednesfield South
Tettenhall Regis
Heath Town
St Peters
Park
Tettenhall Wightwick
Tettenhall Area
East Park
Graiseley
Central and South Area
Merry Hill
Ettingshall North
Bilston North
Bilston Area
Blakenhall
Bilston South
Penn
Ettingshall South & Spring Vale
WOLVERHAMPTON

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

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**LUC**

**Figure 7.9: Income deprivation affecting older people**

Wolverhampton boundary
Analysis Area
Ward boundary (As of May 2023)

**Income deprivation affecting older people**
0 - 10% (most deprived)
10 - 20%
20 - 30%
30 - 40%
40 - 50%
50 - 60%
60 - 70%
70 - 80%
80 - 90%
90 - 100% (least deprived)

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

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**Figure 7.10: Percentage of population Black,
Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)**

Wolverhampton boundary
Analysis Area
Ward boundary (As of May 2023)

**Percentage of population BAME**

0 - 10%
10 - 20%
20 - 30%
30 - 40%
40 - 50%
50 - 60%
60 - 70%
70 - 80%
80 - 90%
90 - 100%

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

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# Developing a Combined Needs Index

## Open Space needs

**7.35** The results from the open space audit have been combined with spatial datasets relating to the key health and living environment needs within Wolverhampton. A score for each LSOA has been calculated based on:

- Health Deprivation and Disability Domain IMD;

- Living Environment Deprivation Domain IMD; and

- Hectares (ha) of private garden per 1,000 population.

**7.36** This Index is shown in **Figure 7.11.** This shows where there is the greatest open space need and can be used to help prioritise site specific enhancements. These are detailed below.

- A large area in and around the city centre, in the central and north of the North Analysis Area.

- In the south and western section of Wednesfield Analysis Area.

- Around Bilston town centre and the central and north section of Bilston Analysis Area.

- South and central sections of the North Analysis Area.

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**Legend:**

- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Ward boundary (As of May 2023)

**Combined open space needs (Quantile categories)**

- Low
- High

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

12296 WV OS/Fig_7_11_12296_r1_CombinedGreenspaceNeeds_A3L 18/07/2024EB:wingfield_h

# Play needs

**7.37** A Play Needs Index has been created, based on the specific needs of children and young people. A score for each LSOA has been calculated based on:
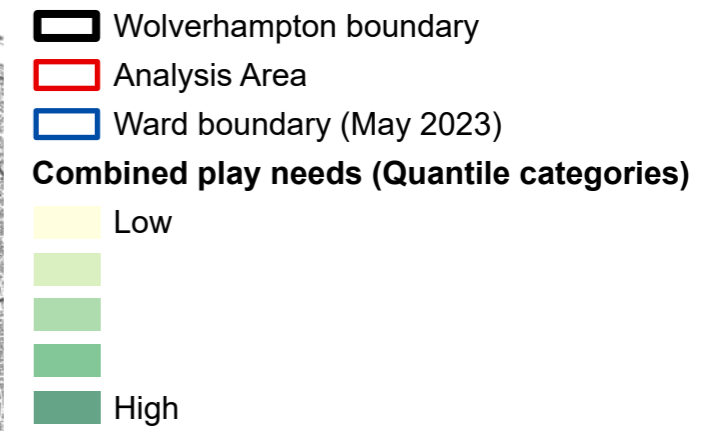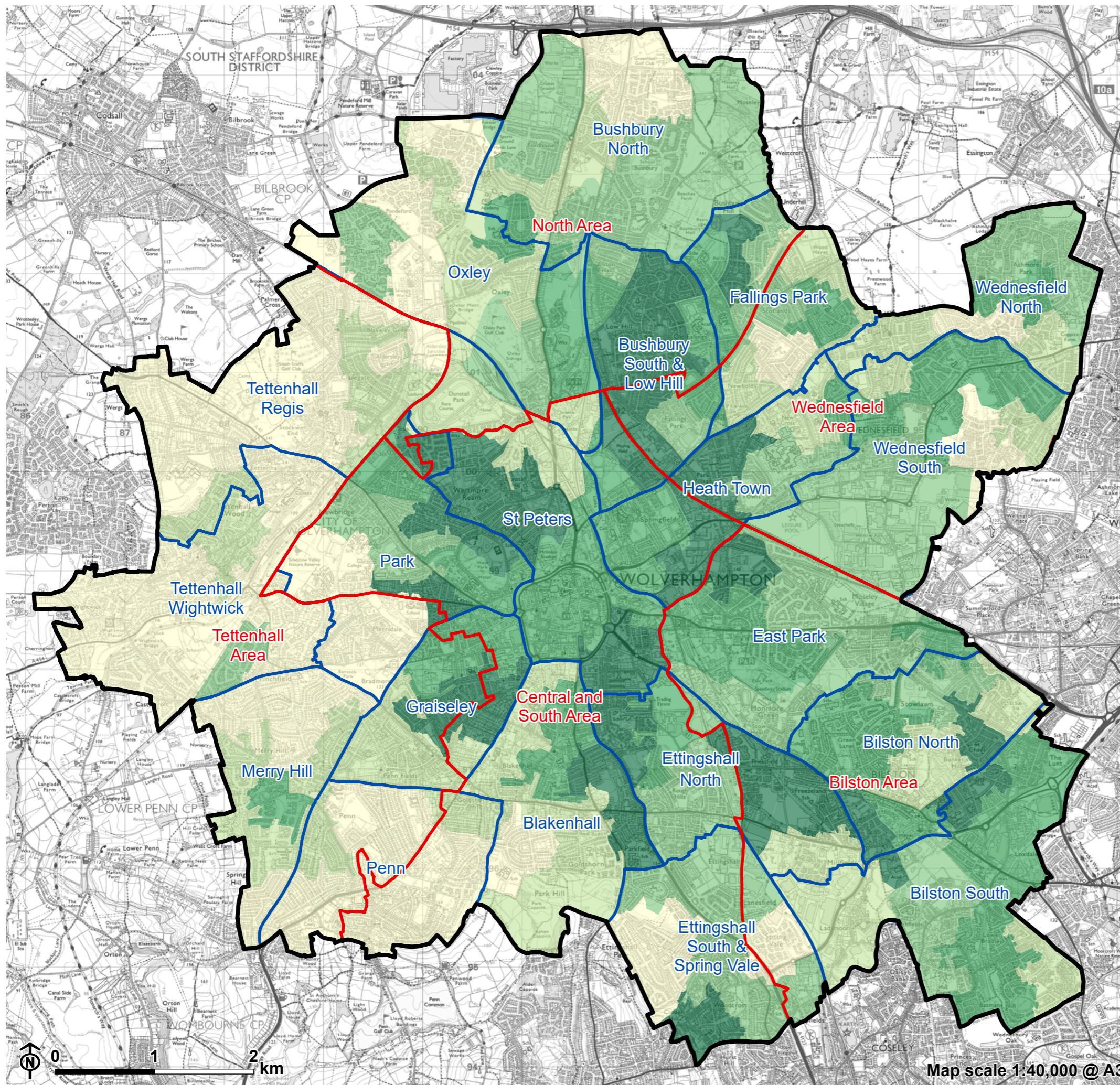
- Open space needs (see above);

- Children IMD; and

- Children population density.

**7.38** This Index is shown in **Figure 7.12.** This shows where there is the greatest play need. These areas are detailed below.

- Southern section of the North Analysis Area around Fallings Park and Low Hill.

- West section of Wednesfield Analysis Area around Park Village.

- Several pockets surrounding the city centre and the very south of the Central and South Analysis Area including Heath Town, Whitmore Reans, Graiseley and Blakenhall.

- Large areas of Bilston Analysis Area including Ettingshall and The Lunt.

**7.39** Overall, the index shows that there may be a lower need for play provision in the west, particularly within the Tettenhall Analysis Area.

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**Figure 7.12: Combined play needs**

Wolverhampton boundary
Analysis Area
Ward boundary (May 2023)

**Combined play needs (Quantile categories)**
Low
High

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

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12296 WV OS/Fig_7_12_12296_r1_CombinedPlayNeeds_A3L 18/07/2024EB:wingfield_h

# Future growth – Identified housing sites

**7.2** A key consideration for the strategy will be ensuring the long-term resilience of the open space network with future population growth. The locations, and approximate sizes of identified housing sites are shown in **Figure 7.13**.

**7.3** Many of the allocations with the highest housing numbers are within the Central and South Analysis Area, which currently does not meet the standard for total accessible open space and has high open space needs when compared to other analysis areas (see **Figure 7.11**). This analysis area covers inner Wolverhampton, including the city centre and Canalside Quarter. Within this area, there is limited land available to provide additional open space to meet the unmet needs of existing residents and of visitors to the city centre. Although the minimum size for a doorstep open space to provide full amenity value is 0.5ha, smaller pocket parks may be accepted within new developments in the city centre and surrounding area in order to meet existing demand and that generated by new residential development. Public open spaces of below 0.25ha will not, however, be generally considered as functional open space. In addition, civic spaces, street trees and green roofs can provide local greening to create high quality neighbourhoods and provide some connectivity with nature. Alternative opportunities throughout the Central and South Analysis Area include promoting Greenways, including active travel routes or canal towpaths, which connect to existing larger open spaces.

**7.4** Provision of high quality, inclusive accessible open space as part of these developments will be crucial for maintaining open space standards within Wolverhampton and supporting the city's regeneration.

**7.5** In the rest of the city, projections indicate that there will be a general increase in population over the Plan period, some of which is likely to be accommodated within the existing housing stock. This will place extra pressure on existing open spaces and facilities.

**Legend:**
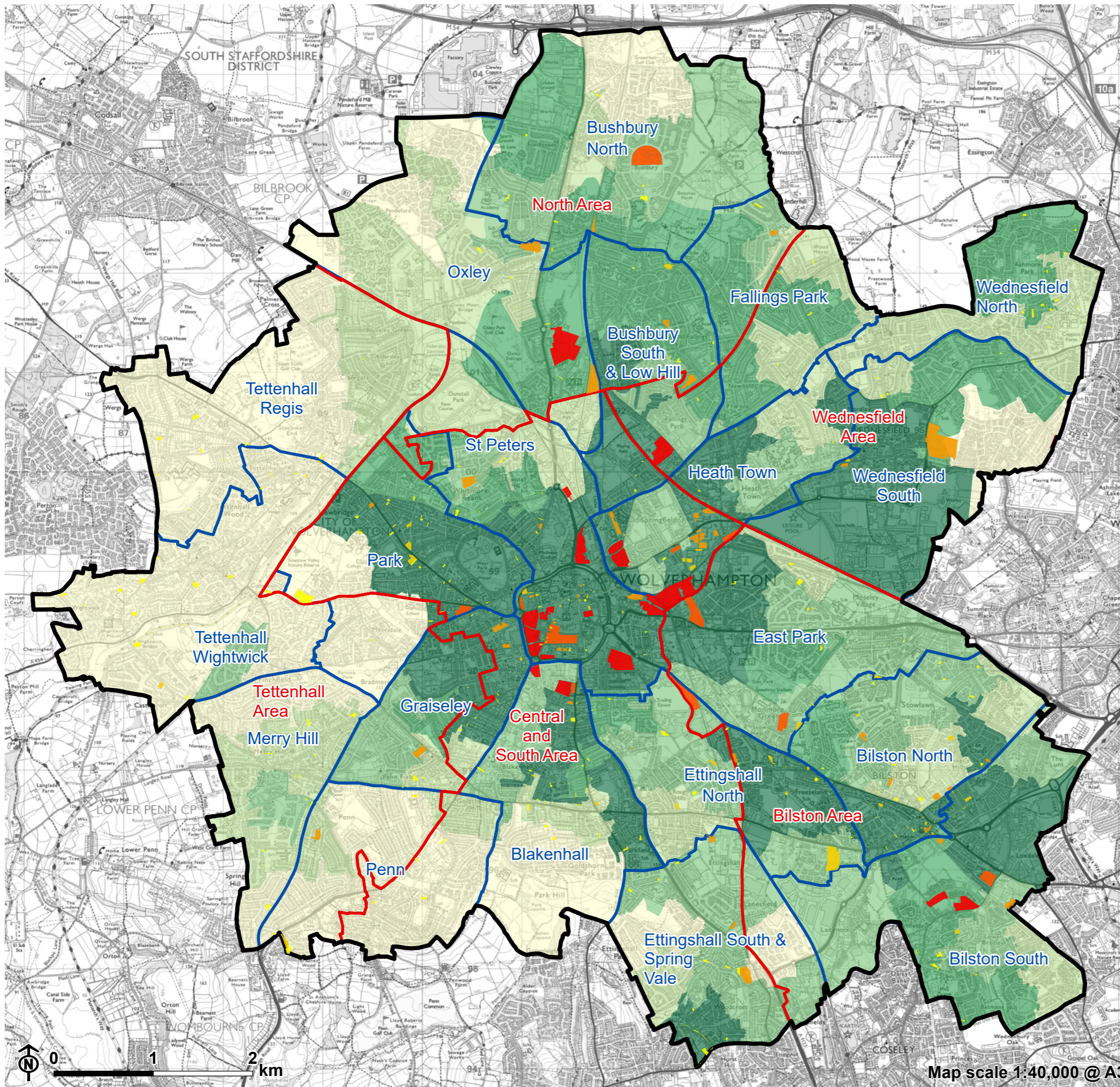
— Wolverhampton boundary
— Analysis Area
— Ward boundary (As of May 2023)

**Local Plan site allocation**
- 1 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 600

**Combined greenspace needs (Quantile categories)**
- Low
- High

See figure 7.11 for more information.

Map scale 1:40,000 @ A3

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12296 WV OS/Fig_7_13_12296_r1_FutureGrowthPlan_A3L 18/07/2024EB:wingfield_h

# Chapter 8
# Analysis Area profiles

**8.1** The following section provides profiles of open space provision per analysis area. The profiles are intended to provide an overview of key needs within each analysis area relating to quantity, quality, value and accessibility. The summary data below should be used to inform future open space and play enhancement programmes. The profiles also provide reference information for use during new development to ensure any new open space and play takes account of specific deficiencies which may need to be addressed.

**8.2** Each profile is comprised of the following:

- Area context and summary of potential spatial needs / priority areas (e.g. relating to deprivation or demographics.

- Quantity of open space provision per 1,000 residents and performance (+-) against the quantity standards (per typology and overall open space provision).

- A summary of the performance of open spaces against quality and value standards. Quality relating to management and the condition of features and facilities and value relating to the presence of various features, facilities and value to the local community.

- Summary of access to green space, focussing on areas not meeting the Access to Greenspace Close to Home target (see **Chapter 5**). This target identifies areas that do not have easy access (within a 5 to 15 minute walk) to a variety of different sites (i.e. Doorstep and/or Neighbourhood AND a Town open space). Areas that do not meet this target should be considered priority areas for providing new open space or enhancing existing provision where opportunities for new open space is limited.

- Analysis area map showing quality, value and accessibility.

- Schedules of all open spaces and play spaces, including site information and performance against the quality and value standards (for audited

sites) is included in **Appendix D**. This also indicates the relative open space and play need of the area each site is located within.

# Bilston Analysis Area Profile

## Context

**8.3** Bilston Analysis Area is located in the southeast of Wolverhampton. It incorporates: suburbs east of the city centre around Willenhall Road and East Park; the Stow Heath and Stowlawn areas; parts of Ettingshall and Spring Vale; Bilston itself; and Bradley. . There is a high level of deprivation within this analysis area, with many residential areas within the 10% most deprived wards in England according to the IMD. The high deprivation levels are particularly within: the health deprivation and disability domain; and the income deprivation affecting children domain. There are areas of high child population density, including in Bradley, The Lunt and north of Willenhall Road.

**8.4** Wolverhampton's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022) concludes that there are sufficient football pitches across the Bilston Analysis Area to meet current needs and projected future demand for all pitch sizes, provision which could be protected by securing community use of some pitches and improving pitch quality at Prouds Lane (completed).  There is a need to replace the current surface of the 3G pitch at Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus) and to provide another 3G pitch in the area. There is an identified need to improve provision and access to facilities for hockey at Ormiston SWB Academy, to improve tennis courts at East Park and access to netball pitches in the area., **[See reference** 58**]**.

**8.5 Table 8.1** provides an overview of total hectares (ha) of publicly accessible open space and the population for Bilston Analysis Area compared to Wolverhampton. **Table 8.2** provides a comparison of ha per 1,000 residents against the quantity standards by typology for 2023 and 2042.

**Table 8.1: Bilston Analysis Area: Total publicly accessible open space (ha) and population**

| Item | Bilston Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|---|---|---|
| **2021 population** | **49,008** | **263,729** |
| **Future estimated population (2042)** | **54,779** | **294,826** |
| **Typology** | | |
| Parks (ha total) | 54.1 | 293.2 |
| Natural green space (ha total) | 105.3 | 246.6 |
| Amenity green space (ha total) | 28.5 | 130.1 |
| Provision for children (ha total) | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation (ha total) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Civic spaces (ha total) | 1.1 | 3.8 |
| Cemeteries (ha total) | 10.3 | 65.7 |
| Outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds (ha total) | 2.5 | 33.3 |
| **Total publicly accessible** | **201.8** | **773** |

| Item | Bilston Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|------|----------------------|---------------|
| Allotments (ha total) | 0.8 | 35.4 |

**Table 8.2: Bilston Analysis Area: Comparison with standards for each typology (ha per 1,000 above / below standard)**

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | Bilston Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | Bilston Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Parks | | 1.10 | 0.99 |
| + - against standard | 1.11 | -0.01 | -0.12 |
| Natural green space | | 2.15 | 1.92 |
| + - against standard | 1.25 | +0.90 | +0.67 |
| Amenity green space | | 0.58 | 0.52 |
| + - against standard | 0.49 | +0.09 | +0.03 |
| Civic spaces | | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| + - against standard | 0.014 | +0.01 | +0.01 |
| Provision for children | | 0.014 | 0.013 |

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | Bilston Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | Bilston Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| + - against standard | 0.014 | 0.00 | -0.001 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation | | 0.013 | 0.011 |
| + - against standard | 0.012 | +0.001 | -0.001 |
| **Total accessible open space** | | **3.89** | **3.48** |
| **+ - against standard** | **3.0** | **+0.885** | **+0.476** |
| Allotments | | 0.02 | 0.01 |
| + - against standard | 0.13 | -0.11 | -0.12 |

# Headline findings and recommendations

**8.6** There are 166 open spaces which provide just over 200 hectares (ha) of accessible open space within the Bilston Analysis Area. Over half of this is natural green space, including larger (over 10ha) natural green spaces at Neachells Lane and Stowheath Lane. The provision of natural greenspace is much greater in this analysis area compared to other parts of Wolverhampton.

**8.7** The overall provision equates to 3.89ha of freely accessible open space per 1,000 residents (not including cemeteries, outdoor sports provision and allotments). This is greater than the 3ha standard. Standards are met for all the accessible open space typologies, except for parks where there is a very slight under provision of parks. This highlights the importance of existing parks, such as East Park and Hickman Park and the new parks which have been created at Ward Street and Prouds Lane Playing Field in recent years. At 20ha East Park is the largest open space in the analysis area and is its district park, while Hickman Park is its town park.

**8.8** There is currently 2.15ha of natural green space per 1,000 population within Bilston Analysis Area. In recent years there have been major improvements to the former Priestfield Railway Cutting at Ward Street East and several areas of natural green space have been provided at Bilston Urban Village, The emerging Wolverhampton Local Plan proposes allocating 6.7 hectares of Neachells Lane (Tip) Open Space for employment use for which a planning application was submitted in December 2023. If this development goes ahead then the amount of natural greenspace in the Bilston Analysis Area would be 2.01ha of natural greenspace per 1,000 population. The analysis area would still meet the quantity standard for natural greenspace and open space overall.

**8.9** There is an additional 40ha of open space which is not freely accessible. This includes outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds and allotments. There are only 0.02ha of allotments per 1,000 of the population, which is an

under provision when compared to the standard. In addition, this is about five times lower than in other analysis areas.

**8.10** 76 sites were audited within the Bilston Analysis Area. The majority of audited parks and amenity green space, and half of civic spaces are above standards for both quality and value. The breakdown of the performance of sites against the benchmark is shown in **Table 8.3** (see **paragraph 4.4** for an explanation of quality and value). Overall, in Bilston Analysis Area 55% of audited sites met both the quality and value standards, lower than any of the other analysis areas.

**8.11** There were 34 audited sites (excluding play) which scored below the benchmark for quality, value or both. These are predominantly located along the western edge and south-eastern corners of the analysis area.

**8.12** Nearly 40% of natural green spaces are below the standard for both quality and value. As natural green spaces form a significant component of the overall quantity, it is important that these are well maintained, feel safe and provide a good offer to attract visitors.

**8.13** Half of play sites did not meet the standards for both quality and value. In the majority of these cases, quality was the factor that contributed to this.

**8.14** There is generally a good spread of open space, and 99% of the area within the Bilston Analysis Area is within walking distance of at least one publicly accessible open space (based on the 5 and 15 minute walking distance buffers used in Natural England's Access to Greenspace Close to Home standard) (see **paragraph 5.4**).

**8.15** Areas deficient in good access to greenspace are found in the south-west and east of the analysis area, corresponding with areas where open spaces have lower quality and value scores. This includes parts of Spring Vale and areas around The Lunt.

**8.16** In the south-east section of the analysis area, around Batmans Hill, and in the south-west at Spring Vale, access is predominantly provided to open spaces which do not meet the quality and value standards.
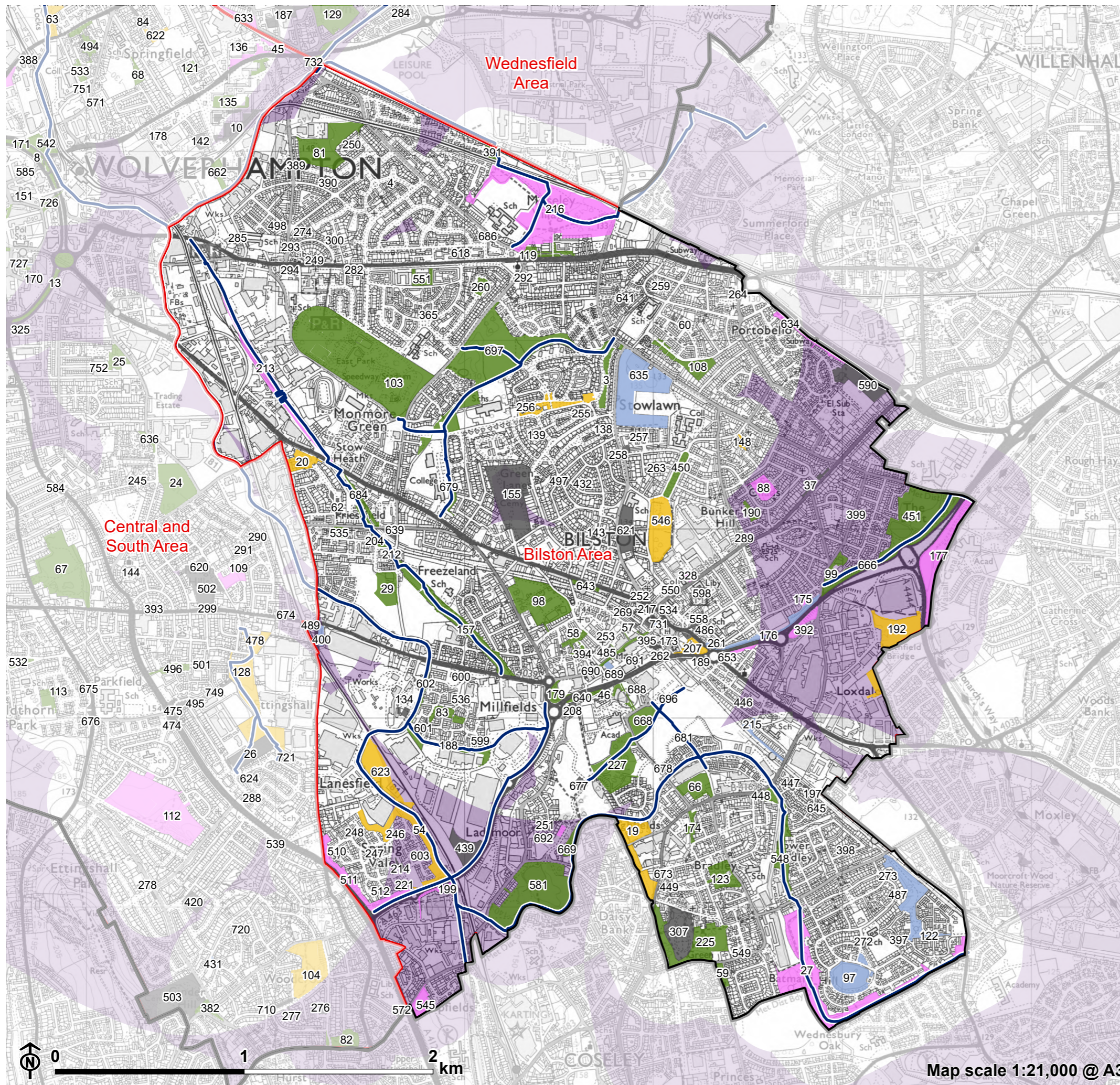
**Table 8.3: Quality and Value of open space in the Bilston Analysis Area**

| Typology | Higher Quality/ Higher Value | Higher Quality/ Lower Value | Lower Quality/ Higher Value | Lower Quality/ Lower Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | 62% | 23% | 8% | 8% |
| Natural green space | 44% | 6% | 11% | 39% |
| Amenity green space | 73% | 5% | 23% | |
| Civic spaces | 40% | 60% | | |
| Provision for children | 50% | | 33% | 17% |

**8.17** Several open spaces in Bilston Analysis Area are within or adjacent to areas of high open space or play need and do not meet either quality or value standards (or both). Those considered as priority sites for enhancement are included in the Action Plan which contains further details of access across the analysis area.

**8.18 Figure 8.1** provides an overview of the Bilston Analysis Area, including the performance of sites against the quality and value standards. Areas outside of the Access to Greenspace Close to Home target (areas of deficiency) are also shown. Site ID numbers for each site are indicated on the map. A full site list with site IDs and audit scores (where applicable) is provided in **Appendix D**.

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**Figure 8.1: Bilston Analysis Area Open Space Overview**

Legend:
- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Area of Deficiency (access to green space close to home target)

**Open space quality and value**
- Higher quality, higher value
- Higher quality, lower value
- Lower quality, higher value
- Lower quality, lower value
- Not audited
- Existing and proposed greenways

Map scale 1:21,000 @ A3

# Central and South Analysis Area Profile

## Context

**8.19** This analysis area includes the city centre and much of inner city Wolverhampton. A large proportion of the Local Plan site allocations are in this analysis area. It covers major regeneration sites and areas of proposed new housing in and around the city centre, including the Canalside Quarter. It includes neighbourhoods immediately around the city centre such as Heath Town Estate and Whitmore Reans. The analysis area extends south of the city centre to the city boundary incorporating parts of Graiseley and Penn, Blakenhall, , Goldthorn Park, part of Ettingshall and Woodcross.

**8.20** There is a high level of deprivation within this analysis area, with large parts covering the city centre, Whitmore Reans, Heath Town, Blakenhall, Graiseley and Woodcross within the 10% most deprived wards in England according to the IMD. This high levels of deprivation is particularly within the: health deprivation and disability domain; living environment deprivation domain: and the income deprivation affecting children domain. Areas of high child population density are in Whitmore Reans, Heath Town and Blakenhall, south. The analysis area has the lowest quantity of private gardens per population in the city in the city centre and surrounding areas of high deprivation.

**8.21** Wolverhampton's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022) concludes that there is a current shortfall of adult football pitches in the Central and South Analysis Area and likely future shortage of youth 11v11 provision, with other youth and mini pitches being close to or at capacity. It recommends pitch improvements and increased community use of existing pitches. For other sports protection and improvement are required, with no need identified for new provision..

**Chapter 8**    Analysis Area profiles

**8.22 Table 8.4** provides an overview of total hectares (ha) of publicly accessible open space and the population for Central and South Analysis Area compared to Wolverhampton. **Table 8.5** provides a comparison of ha per 1,000 residents against the quantity standards by typology for 2023 and 2042.

**Table 8.4: Central and South Analysis Area: Total publicly accessible open space (ha) and population**

| Item | Central and South Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|---|---|---|
| **2021 population** | **75,152** | **263,729** |
| **Future estimated population (2042)** | **84,025** | **294,826** |
| **Typology** | | |
| Parks (ha total) | 80.1 | 293.2 |
| Natural green space (ha total) | 35.0 | 246.6 |
| Amenity green space (ha total) | 30.7 | 130.1 |
| Provision for children (ha total) | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation (ha total) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Civic spaces (ha total) | 2.4 | 3.8 |
| Cemeteries (ha total) | 7.1 | 65.7 |

| Item | Central and South Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|---|---|---|
| Outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds (ha total) | 10.2 | 33.3 |
| **Total publicly accessible** | **165.7** | **773** |
| Allotments (total) | 11.3 | **35.4** |

**Table 8.5: Central and South Analysis Area: Comparison with standards for each typology (ha per 1,000 above / below standard)**

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | Central and South Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | Central and South Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Parks 2023 | | 1.07 | 0.95 |
| + - against standard | 1.11 | -0.04 | -0.16 |
| Natural green space | | 0.47 | 0.42 |
| + - against standard | 1.25 | -0.78 | -0.83 |
| Amenity green space | | 0.41 | 0.37 |

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | Central and South Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | Central and South Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| + - against standard | 0.49 | -0.08 | -0.12 |
| Civic spaces | | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| + - against standard | 0.014 | +0.02 | +0.02 |
| Provision for children | | 0.019 | 0.017 |
| + - against standard | 0.014 | +0.005 | +0.003 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation | | 0.016 | 0.014 |
| + - against standard | 0.012 | +0.004 | +0.002 |
| **Total accessible open space** | | **2.01** | **1.80** |
| **+ - against standard** | **3.0** | **-0.99** | **-1.20** |
| Allotments | | 0.15 | 0.13 |
| + - against standard | 0.13 | +0.02 | 0.00 |

# Headline findings and recommendations

**8.23** There are 132 open spaces which provide 165.7 hectares (ha) of accessible open space within the Central and South Analysis Area. Parks are the most common typology, making up nearly half of the provision. There are three parks over 10ha in the analysis area: West Park, the city's premier park, Fowlers Park and Springvale Park, which together account for nearly two thirds of park area. There is a relatively even split in the quantity of amenity greenspace and natural greenspace.

**8.24** There are 2.01ha of freely accessible open space per 1,000 residents (not including cemeteries, outdoor sports provision and allotments). The standard for the parks, natural green space and amenity green space typologies is not met within the Central and South Analysis Area. In particular there is an under provision of natural green space by around -0.78ha per 1,000 population. There are no natural green spaces at the district or town level within the analysis area. Ensuring that there are natural features and habitat areas within larger parks may help to address some of this shortfall.

**8.25** There is a further 75ha of open space which is not freely accessible. This includes over 60ha of outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds, as well as 11.3ha of allotments. The Central and South Analysis Area currently meets the quantity standard for allotments, although demand for allotment space should be monitored on an ongoing basis.

**8.26** 75 open spaces were audited within the Central and South Analysis Area. The breakdown of the quality and value scores are shown in **Table 8.6** (see **paragraph 4.4** for an explanation of quality and value). 67% of these meet both the quality and value standard for their typology and hierarchy, which is broadly in line with the average for Wolverhampton.

**8.27** The natural greenspace and provision for children typologies overall perform less well than the others, with less than half achieving the quality and

value standard. Natural green space is, more commonly, underachieving due to the quality of the site. Over half of natural green spaces surveyed do not meet the quality benchmark.

**8.28** Overall 38% of the provision for children typology meets the quality and value benchmarks. Provision for children within the Central and South Analysis Area are more likely to be underachieving in terms of value.

**8.29** Of the three largest parks, only one meets the standard for both quality and value (West Park). Fowlers Park meets the value standard but not the quality standard, whilst Springvale Park does not meet either standard. As these open spaces form a significant part of the overall quantity provision, they should be priority sites to consider enhancing.

**8.30** Wolverhampton City Centre has a significant amount of civic space due to increased pedestrian provision, all of which was assessed as of higher quality, although not all of higher value. More public realm work is planned to enhance the attractiveness of the city centre.

**8.31** There is a good spread of open space throughout the analysis area. 96% of the analysis area is within walking distance of at least one publicly accessible open space (based on the 5 and 15 minute walking distance buffers used in Natural England's Access to Greenspace Close to Home standard) (see **paragraph 5.4**).

**8.32** Compared to other parts of Wolverhampton, less of the analysis area meets the Greenspace Close to Home standard, with only 62% of the analysis area meeting this standard. There is poor access to greenspace in: Penn and parts of Blakenhall and Goldthorn Park; part of Woodcross; All Saints; the Compton Park area as; and small pockets in Heath Town and  Whitmore Reans.

**8.33** In the south-east of the area, access is mainly provided by open spaces which do not meet the quality and value standards, including Springvale Park,

Woodcross Park and Taylor Road Open Space. Along the south-western edge of the area, many of the open spaces do not meet the quality standards.

## Table 8.6: Quality and Value of open space in the Central and South Analysis Area

| Typology | Higher Quality/ Higher Value | Higher Quality/ Lower Value | Lower Quality/ Higher Value | Lower Quality/ Lower Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | 58% | 11% | 16% | 16% |
| Natural green space | 36% | 8% | 50% | 7% |
| Amenity green space | 83% | 3% | 6% | 8% |
| Civic spaces | 67% | 33% | | |
| Provision for children | 38% | 24% | 19% | 19% |

**8.34** Significant new development will place notable pressure on existing open spaces especially within and around the city centre. Sites within this area will likely need works to ensure they are resilient for future use, in some instances even if currently meeting the quality and value standards. Whilst there will be a need for new open space, this may be a challenge to deliver as the area is densely developed.  Consideration should be given to the provision of pocket parks, addressing barriers to accessing open spaces (improving road crossings, active travel routes etc.) and improving access to, and along, existing features such as the canal.
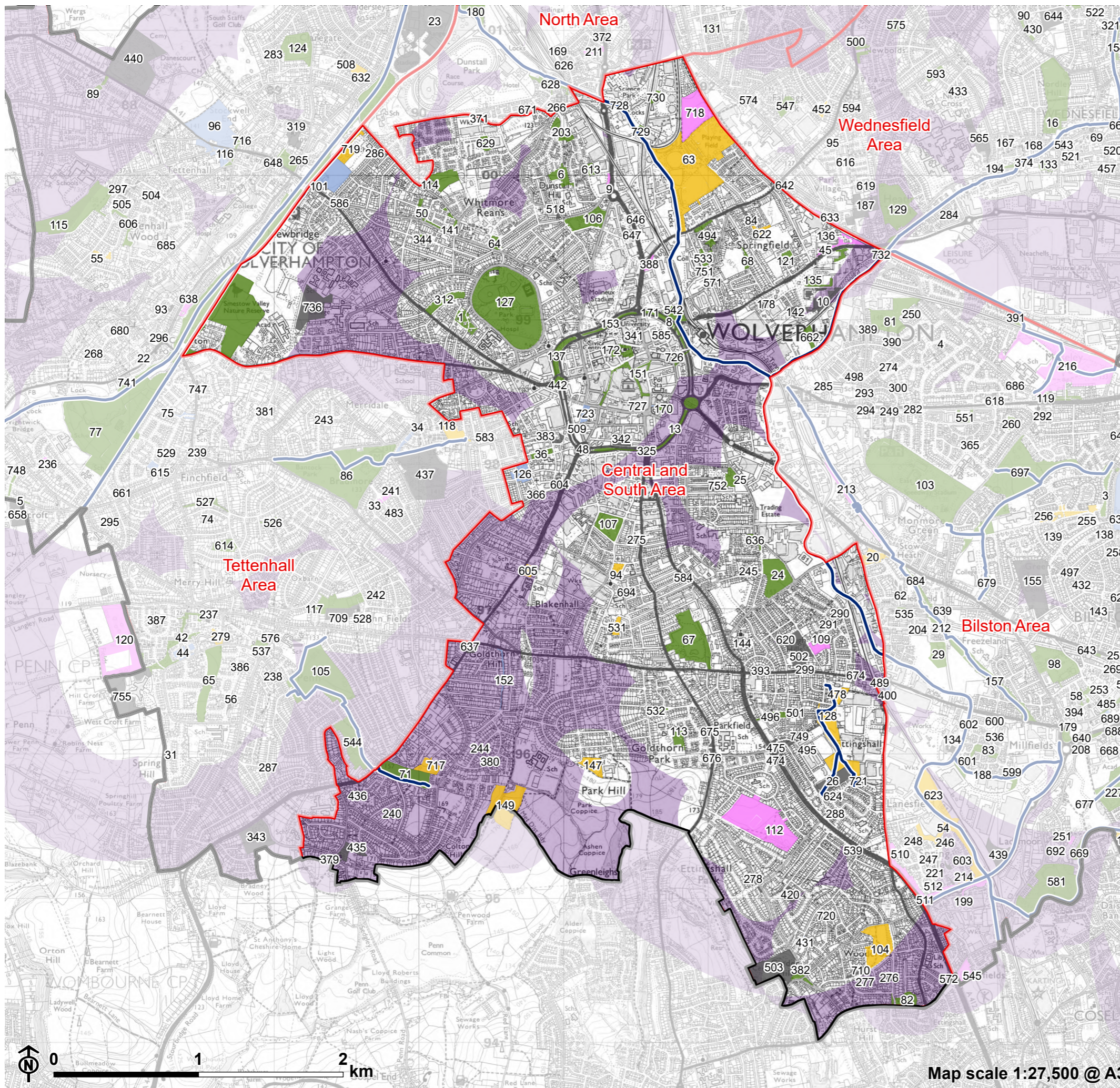
**8.35** Several open spaces in Central and South Analysis Area are within or adjacent to areas of high open space or play need and do not meet either quality or value standards (or both). Those considered as priority sites for enhancement are included in the Action Plan which contains further details of access across the analysis area.

**Chapter 8**     Analysis Area profiles

**8.36**  **Figure 8.2** provides an overview of the Central and South Analysis Area, including the performance of sites against the quality and value standards. Areas outside of the Access to Greenspace Close to Home target (areas of deficiency) are also shown. Site ID numbers for each site are indicated on the map. A full site list with site IDs and audit scores (where applicable) is provided in **Appendix D**.

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**Figure 8.2: Central and South Analysis Area Open Space Overview**

Legend:
- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Area of Deficiency (access to green space close to home target)

**Open space quality and value**
- Higher quality, higher value
- Higher quality, lower value
- Lower quality, higher value
- Lower quality, lower value
- Not audited
- Existing and proposed greenways

North Area
Wednesfield Area
Central and South Area
Tettenhall Area
Bilston Area

WOLVERHAMPTON

Map scale 1:27,500 @ A3

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12296 WV OS/Fig_8_X_12296_r1_AnalysisAreaProfiles_A3L 19/08/2024EB:wingfield_h

# North Analysis Area Profile

## Context

**8.37** The North Analysis Area is located in the north of Wolverhampton. It is a relatively small analysis area, incorporating neighbourhoods north of the city centre including Pendeford, Oxley, Low Hill, and Bushbury. It includes some areas of undeveloped, private open space as well as Oxley Park Golf Club and Dunstall Park racecourse.

**8.38** There is high deprivation within this area according to the IMD. This is particularly within: the health deprivation and disability domain, and the income deprivation affecting children, particularly in Bushbury, Low Hill and Dovecotes Estate, Pendeford. Less deprived areas are located in the north of Bushbury and Pendeford. Dovecotes, the south of Bushbury and Low Hill are areas of high child population density. Dovecotes Estate and part of Low Hill have among the lowest quantity of private gardens per population in the city.

There is a large amount of outdoor sports space in the area, which in recent years benefitted from installation of a new artificial grass pitch at Our Lady and St Chad's Catholic School and Sports College and completion of the new multi-pitch site at Barnhurst Lane.  Wolverhampton's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022) concludes, in football, that there is current and future adequate capacity in all pitches except youth 11v11.  As elsewhere in the city, there is a current and future shortfall in 3G pitches. There is also a shortfall of cricket pitches. The recommendations include protecting and improving provision, pitch quality and changing facilities for football, 3G, cricket, bowls, tennis and netball.

**Chapter 8      Analysis Area profiles**

**8.39 Table 8.7** provides an overview of total hectares (ha) of publicly accessible open space and the population for North Analysis Area compared to Wolverhampton. **Table 8.8** provides a comparison of ha per 1,000 residents against the quantity standards by typology for 2023 and 2042.

**Table 8.7: North Analysis Area: Total publicly accessible open space (ha) and population**

| Item | North Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|---|:---:|:---:|
| **2021 population** | **43,620** | **263,729** |
| **Future estimated population (2042)** | **48,764** | **294,826** |
| **Typology** | | |
| Parks (ha total) | 74.8 | 293.2 |
| Natural green space (ha total) | 40.6 | 246.6 |
| Amenity green space (ha total) | 21.5 | 130.1 |
| Provision for children (ha total) | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation (ha total) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Civic spaces (ha total) | 0.2 | 3.8 |
| Cemeteries (ha total) | 18.1 | 65.7 |
| Outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds (ha total) | 0.0 | 33.3 |

| Item | North Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|---|---|---|
| **Total publicly accessible** | **155.2** | **773** |
| Allotments (ha total) | 5.1 | 35.4 |

**Table 8.8: North Analysis Area: Comparison with standards for each typology (ha per 1,000 above / below standard)**

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | North Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | North Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | | 1.71 | 1.53 |
| + - against standard | 1.11 | +0.60 | +0.42 |
| Natural green space | | 0.93 | 0.83 |
| + - against standard | 1.25 | -0.32 | -0.42 |
| Amenity green space | | 0.49 | 0.44 |
| + - against standard | 0.49 | +0.00 | -0.05 |

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | North Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | North Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Civic spaces | | 0.01 | 0.005 |
| + - against standard | 0.014 | -0.01 | -0.01 |
| Provision for children | | 0.010 | 0.009 |
| + - against standard | 0.014 | -0.004 | -0.005 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation | | 0.011 | 0.010 |
| + - against standard | 0.012 | -0.001 | -0.002 |
| **Total accessible open space** | | **3.16** | **2.83** |
| **+ - against standard** | **3.0** | **0.165** | **-0.169** |
| Allotments | | 0.12 | 0.10 |
| + - against standard | 0.13 | -0.01 | -0.03 |

# Headline findings and recommendations

**8.40** There are 81 open spaces in the North Analysis Area, providing just over 155 hectares (ha) of accessible open space. The most common typology is parks including the new Goodyear Neighbourhood Park. The largest open spaces are Northycote Farm Country Park and Pendeford Park. Northycote Farm is particularly important as it provides over three quarters of the natural green space typology within the analysis area. Both sites have been identified as potential Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) receptor sites.

**8.41** The provision in the North Analysis Area equates to 3.16ha of freely accessible open space per 1,000 residents (not including cemeteries, outdoor sports provision and allotments). The overall standard of 3ha of accessible greenspace per 1,000 population is met. Several typologies do not meet the quantity standards, most notably natural greenspace, which has a shortfall by nearly a third of a hectare per 1,000 of the population, although this does not take account of the proximity of Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve and Pendeford Woodland Canalside Area, which lie just outside the city boundary.

**8.42** There is a further 105ha of open space which is not freely accessible. This is dominated by outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds, but also includes 5.1ha of allotments. The quantity of allotments is just below the 0.13ha per 1,000 standard.

**8.43** 36 sites were audited in the North Analysis Area. Overall 67% of audited sites met the quality and value standards, which is broadly in line with the average for Wolverhampton. The breakdown of scores is shown in **Table 8.9** (see **paragraph 4.4** for an explanation of quality and value).

**8.44** Of particular interest is the quality and value of parks. Within the North Analysis Area only 45% of open spaces meet the quality benchmark which is lower than in any of the other analysis areas or within Wolverhampton as a whole. Northwood Park fails to meet the quality and value benchmarks,

although it should be noted there is a planned programme of improvements. Pendeford Park also does not meet the quality standard.

**8.45** Overall 38% of the provision for children typology meets the quality and value benchmarks. Nearly a quarter of these spaces within the North Analysis Area do not meet either the quality or value benchmark, higher than in any other analysis area.

**8.46** There is a good provision of open space throughout the North Analysis Area. 96% of the analysis area is within walking distance of at least one publicly accessible open space (based on the 5 and 15 minute walking distance buffers used in Natural England's Access to Greenspace Close to Home standard) (see **paragraph 5.4**).

**8.47** There are gaps in access to the Greenspace Close to Home standard mainly in the south of the analysis area. Poor provision on the northern edge is mostly within industrial and commercial areas, with less impact on residents.

**8.48** Pendeford Park is an important open space for providing access in the west, although the site falls short against the quality standard. Although access is reasonably good in the east of the analysis area, many of the sites fall short of both the quality and value standards.

## Table 8.9: Quality and Value of open space in the North Analysis Area

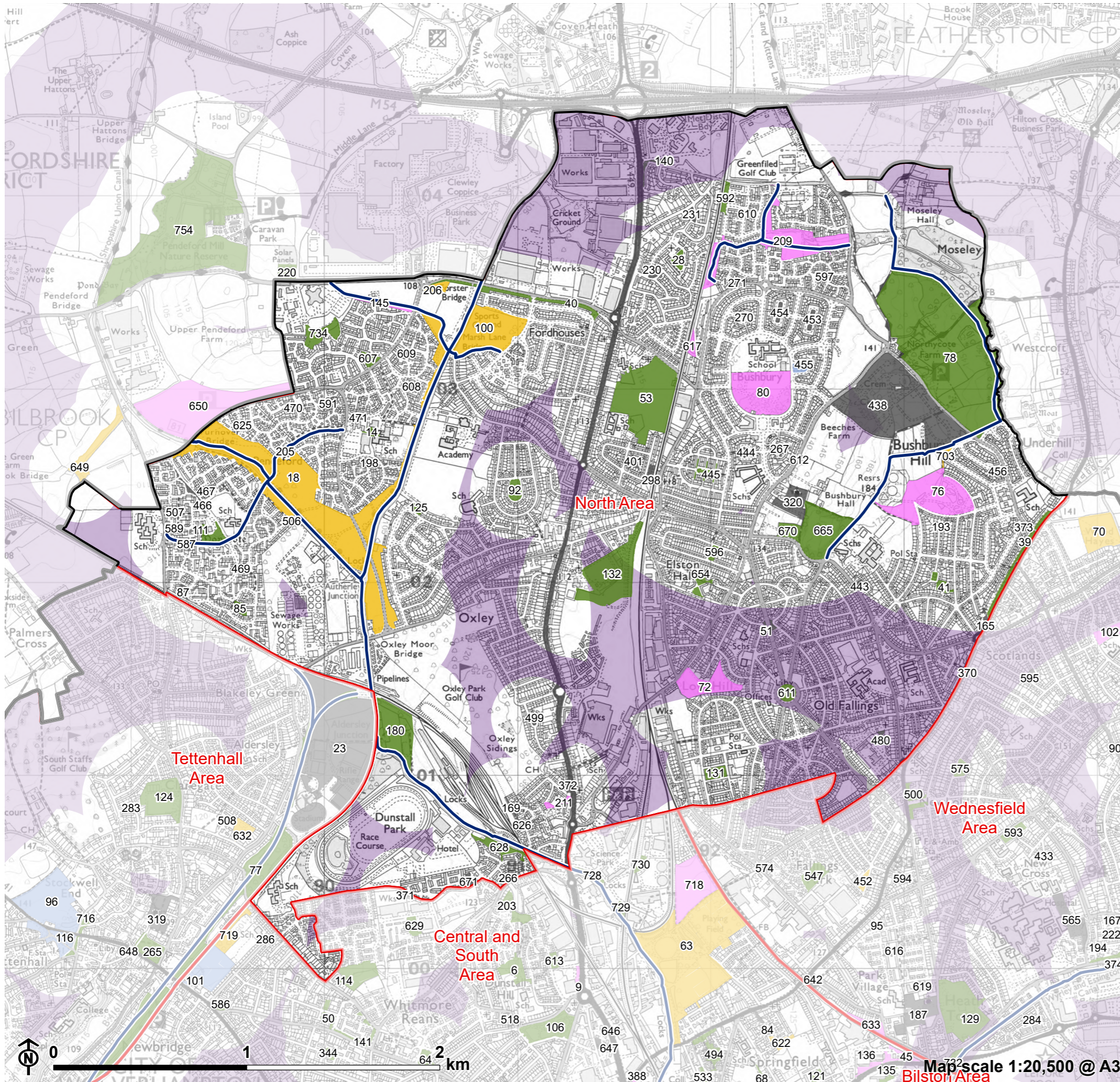| Typology | Higher Quality/ Higher Value | Higher Quality/ Lower Value | Lower Quality/ Higher Value | Lower Quality/ Lower Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | 46% | 9% | 9% | 33% |
| Natural green space | 50% | | 17% | 33% |

| Typology | Higher Quality/ Higher Value | Higher Quality/ Lower Value | Lower Quality/ Higher Value | Lower Quality/ Lower Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amenity green space | 83% | 6% | 6% | 6% |
| Civic spaces | 100% | | | |
| Provision for children | 38% | 23% | 15% | 23% |

**8.49** Several open spaces in the North Analysis Area are within or adjacent to areas of high open space or play need and do not meet either quality or value standards (or both). Those considered as priority sites for enhancement are included in the Action Plan which contains further details of access across the analysis area.

**8.50 Figure 8.3** provides an overview of the North Analysis Area, including the performance of sites against the quality and value standards. Areas outside of the Access to Greenspace Close to Home target (areas of deficiency) are also shown. Site ID numbers for each site are indicated on the map. A full site list with site IDs and audit scores (where applicable) is provided in **Appendix D**.

Wolverhampton Open Space Strategy and Action Plan
City of Wolverhampton Council

**Figure 8.3: North Analysis Area Open Space Overview**

Legend:
- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Area of Deficiency (access to green space close to home target)

**Open space quality and value**
- Higher quality, higher value
- Higher quality, lower value
- Lower quality, higher value
- Lower quality, lower value
- Not audited
- Existing and proposed greenways

Map scale 1:20,500 @ A3

12296 WV OS/Fig_8_X_12296_r1_AnalysisAreaProfiles_A3L 19/08/2024EB:wingfield_h

# Tettenhall Analysis Area Profile

## Context

**8.51** Tettenhall Analysis Area forms the western edge of Wolverhampton. It incorporates Claregate, Tettenhall, Wightwick, Bradmore, Finchfield, and parts of Penn and Graiseley.

**8.52** There are several areas that are included within the 10% most deprived LSOAs according to the IMD. More deprived areas include Graiseley plus pockets in areas of social housing in Warstones/ Merry Hill and Finchfield. These areas experience highest levels of deprivation within: the health deprivation and disability domain; and the income deprivation affecting children. They also have a high child population density. Much of Graiseley is in the lowest 10% in terms of living environment deprivation. The quantity of private garden space is notably low in Warstones/ Merry Hill and much of Graiseley. Parts of Tettenhall, Wighwick and Finchfield are, however, amongst the least deprived areas in Wolverhampton and are grouped within the 80-100% least deprived areas in the country according to the IMD. Large parts of the analysis area have the lowest levels of living environment deprivation and the highest levels of private garden space.

**8.53** The analysis area includes WV Active Aldersley, with a range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities including football, Artificial Grass Pitches (used for hockey), tennis, netball, athletics and cycling. Nonetheless, Wolverhampton's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022) concludes that there is a current and future shortfall of adult football pitches and that youth and mini pitches are at or approaching capacity. There is spare capacity in cricket pitches while rugby union is at capacity. There is a need to provide a full size 3G Artificial Grass Pitch.

# Chapter 8    Analysis Area profiles

**8.54 Table 8.10** provides an overview of total hectares (ha) of publicly accessible open space and the population for Tettenhall Analysis Area compared to Wolverhampton. **Table 8.11** provides a comparison of ha per 1,000 residents against the quantity standards by typology for 2023 and 2042.

**Table 8.10: Tettenhall Analysis Area: Total publicly accessible open space (ha) and population**

| Item | Tettenhall Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|---|---|---|
| **2021 population** | **53,378** | **263,729** |
| **Future estimated population (2042)** | **59,673** | **294,826** |
| **Typology** | | |
| Parks (ha total) | 50.5 | 293.2 |
| Natural green space (ha total) | 53.9 | 246.6 |
| Amenity green space (ha total) | 22.8 | 130.1 |
| Provision for children (ha total) | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation (ha total) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Civic spaces (ha total) | 0.0 | 3.8 |
| Cemeteries (ha total) | 26.0 | 65.7 |

| Item | Tettenhall Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|---|---|---|
| Outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds (ha total) | 18.7 | 33.3 |
| **Total publicly accessible (excluding allotments)** | **172.0** | **773** |
| Allotments (ha total) | 14.4 | 35.4 |

**Table 8.11: Tettenhall Analysis Area: Comparison with standards for each typology (ha per 1,000 above / below standard)**

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | Tettenhall Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | Tettenhall Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | | 0.95 | 0.85 |
| + - against standard | 1.11 | -0.16 | -0.26 |
| Natural green space | | 1.01 | 0.90 |
| + - against standard | 1.25 | -0.24 | -0.35 |

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | Tettenhall Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | Tettenhall Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amenity green space | | 0.43 | 0.38 |
| + - against standard | 0.49 | -0.06 | -0.11 |
| Civic spaces | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| + - against standard | 0.014 | -0.01 | -0.01 |
| Provision for children | | 0.009 | 0.008 |
| + - against standard | 0.014 | -0.005 | -0.006 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation | | 0.003 | 0.003 |
| + - against standard | 0.012 | -0.009 | -0.009 |
| **Total accessible open space** | | **2.40** | **2.14** |
| + - against standard | **3.0** | **-0.605** | **-0.857** |
| Allotments | | 0.27 | 0.24 |
| + - against standard | 0.13 | +0.14 | +0.11 |

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# Headline findings and recommendations

**8.55** There are 76 open space in the Tettenhall Analysis Area, providing 172 hectares (ha) of publicly accessible open space. The majority of this is natural greenspace (31%) and parks (30%). More than any other analysis area, there are a number of large open spaces which form a key part of the open space network. Smestow Valley Park, at over 50ha in size, is the largest open space in Wolverhampton and provides most natural greenspace within this analysis area. This site, a Local Nature Reserve, has received considerable investment in recent years and is subject to proposals for further works to include visitor access, nature habitats and community involvement,. as well as having been identified as a potential Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) receptor site. The analysis area also contains Bantock Park, one of the city's main parks.

**8.56** Open space provision equates to 2.4 ha of freely accessible open space per 1,000 residents (not including cemeteries, outdoor sports provision and allotments). The standard for each of the typologies which make up accessible open space is not met, although by a small margin for parks and natural green space. This is offset by the high level of access to gardens in the analysis area. It also has a notable quantity of cemetery provision (which does not have a set quantity standard), providing additional accessible open space for some informal recreation such as walking.

**8.57** In addition, there are about 100ha of open space which is not freely accessible. The majority of this is outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds, although some are crossed by public footpaths giving additional access for recreational walking. This figure also includes 14ha of allotments, providing 0.27ha of allotments per 1,000 of the population within the Tettenhall Analysis Area. This exceeds the set quantity standard for allotments.

**8.58** 40 sites were audited in the Tettenhall Analysis Area. Overall 59% of audited sites met the quality and value standards, which is lower than the

average for Wolverhampton. The breakdown of scores is shown in **Table 8.12** (see **paragraph 4.4** for an explanation of quality and value).

**8.59** Much of this low performance can be attributed to the amenity green space typology. Only 42% of those audited met the quality and value benchmarks. This is nearly half the average for Wolverhampton as a whole.

**8.60** In contrast, 91% of natural green spaces audited within the Tettenhall Analysis Area met both the quality and value standards. This is higher than in any of the other analysis areas.

**8.61** The provision for children scores show that 60% of these sites scored above the quality and value benchmarks. This is notably higher than the average of 44% for Wolverhampton as a whole.

**8.62** Whilst there is a fairly good spread of open space throughout the analysis area, only 87% of the analysis area is within walking distance of at least one publicly accessible open space (based on the 5 and 15 minute walking distance buffers used in Natural England's Access to Greenspace Close to Home standard, see **paragraph 5.4**). This is offset, however, by the significantly higher level of access to private gardens than for any other analysis area in the city.

**8.63** Over a third of the analysis area does not meet the full Greenspace Close to Home standard. The areas which do not meet this standard are primarily located on the edges of the analysis area in Aldersley, Wergs, Wightwick and Penn which are areas of high access to private gardens. The Penn area is also served by Windsor Avenue Playing Fields which have the potential to be enhanced as a town rather than a neighbourhood park. They also include South Staffs Golf Club, with no resident population but crossed by public footpaths. In Penn and Penn Fields poor access to open space is part of a wider area of deficiency which also incorporates adjoining parts of the Central and South Analysis Area.

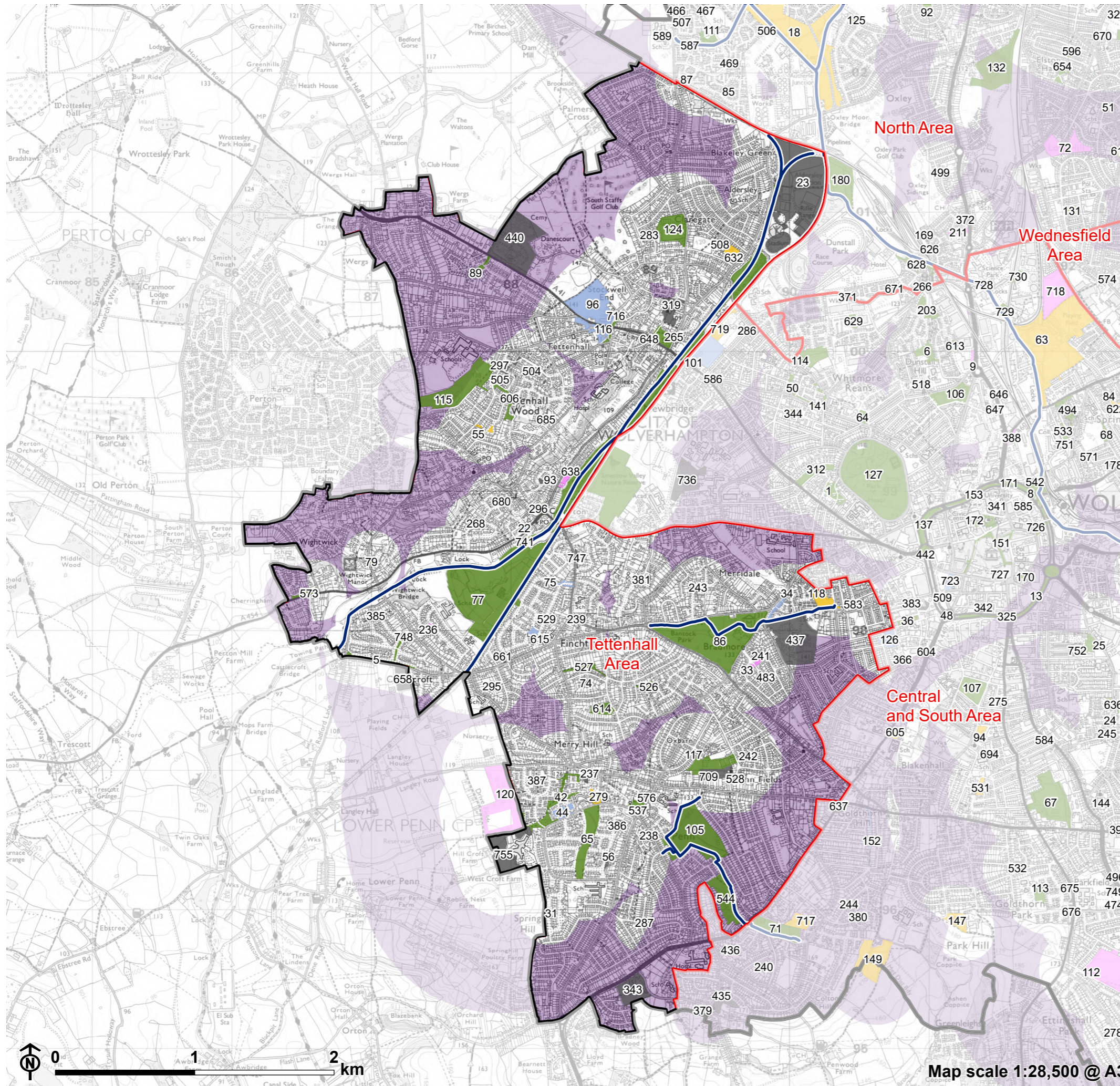## Table 8.12: Quality and Value of open space in the Tettenhall Analysis Area

| Typology | Higher Quality/ Higher Value | Higher Quality/ Lower Value | Lower Quality/ Higher Value | Lower Quality/ Lower Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | 56% | 33% | 11% | |
| Natural green space | 91% | | | 9% |
| Amenity green space | 42% | 26% | 16% | 16% |
| Civic spaces | | | | |
| Provision for children | 60% | 20% | 10% | 10% |

**8.64** Several open spaces in Tettenhall Analysis Area are within or adjacent to areas of high open space or play need and do not meet either quality or value standards (or both). Those considered as priority sites for enhancement are included in the Action Plan which contains further details of access across the analysis area.

**8.65 Figure 8.4** provides an overview of the Tettenhall Analysis Area, including the performance of sites against the quality and value standards. Areas outside of the Access to Greenspace Close to Home target (areas of deficiency) are also shown. Site ID numbers for each site are indicated on the map. A full site list with site IDs and audit scores (where applicable) is provided in **Appendix D**.

**Wolverhampton Open Space Strategy and Action Plan**
City of Wolverhampton Council

**Figure 8.4: Tettenhall Analysis Area Open Space Overview**

Legend:
- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Area of Deficiency (access to green space close to home target)

**Open space quality and value**
- Higher quality, higher value
- Higher quality, lower value
- Lower quality, higher value
- Lower quality, lower value
- Not audited
- Existing and proposed greenways

Map scale 1:28,500 @ A3

North Area
Wednesfield Area
Tettenhall Area
Central and South Area

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024

12296 WV OS/Fig_8_X_12296_r1_AnalysisAreaProfiles_A3L 19/08/2024EB:wingfield_h

# Wednesfield Analysis Area Profile

## Context

**8.66** Wednesfield Analysis Area is located in the east of Wolverhampton. It includes a large industrial estate to the south, the Fallings Park area and parts of Park Village and Heath Town to the west, Wood End to the north and Ashmore Park to the east.

**8.67** There is a high level of deprivation in the analysis are, with some areas including Heath Town and parts of Ashmore Park and Wednesfield Village within the 20% most deprived LSOAs in England according to the IMD. This deprivation is particularly high within the: health deprivation and disability domain; income deprivation affecting children; and living environment deprivation domain. There are areas of high child population density around Heath Town, Fallings Park and Ashmore Park and the lowest access to private gardens around Heath Town and Park Village.

**8.68** Wolverhampton's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022) identifies that the analysis area has an existing and future shortfall of adult football pitches and a predicted future shortfall of youth 11v11 and mini football pitches. There is also an existing and future shortfall of 3G pitches. Cricket and rugby union pitches are at capacity. Recommendations include improving the quality and management of grass football pitches, as well as changing facilities, and provision of additional 3G pitch provision. **Table 8.13** provides an overview of total hectares (ha) of publicly accessible open space and the population for Wednesfield Analysis Area compared to Wolverhampton. **Table 8.14** provides a comparison of ha per 1,000 residents against the quantity standards by typology for 2023 and 2042.

**Table 8.13: Wednesfield Analysis Area: Total publicly accessible open space (ha) and population**

| Item | Wednesfield Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|---|---|---|
| **2021 population** | **42,372** | **263,729** |
| **Future estimated population (2042)** | **47,379** | **294,826** |
| **Typology** | | |
| Parks (ha total) | 33.7 | 293.2 |
| Natural green space (ha total) | 11.8 | 246.6 |
| Amenity green space (ha total) | 26.6 | 130.1 |
| Provision for children (ha total) | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation (ha total) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Civic spaces (ha total) | 0.0 | 3.8 |
| Cemeteries (ha total) | 4.3 | 65.7 |

| Item | Wednesfield Analysis Area | Wolverhampton |
|---|---|---|
| Outdoor sports facilities and recreation grounds (ha total) | 1.8 | 33.3 |
| **Total publicly accessible** | **78.2** | **773** |
| Allotments (ha total) | 3.9 | **35.4** |

**Table 8.14: Wednesfield Analysis Area: Comparison with standards for each typology (ha per 1,000 above / below standard)**

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | Wednesfield Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | Wednesfield Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | | 0.79 | 0.71 |
| + - against standard | 1.11 | -0.32 | -0.40 |
| Natural green space | | 0.28 | 0.25 |

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | Wednesfield Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | Wednesfield Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| + - against standard | 1.25 | -0.97 | -1.00 |
| Amenity green space | | 0.63 | 0.56 |
| + - against standard | 0.49 | +0.14 | +0.07 |
| Civic spaces | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| + - against standard | 0.014 | -0.014 | -0.014 |
| Provision for children | | 0.014 | 0.012 |
| + - against standard | 0.014 | 0.00 | -0.002 |
| Provision for young people and other recreation | | 0.019 | 0.017 |
| + - against standard | 0.012 | +0.007 | +0.005 |
| **Total accessible open space** | | **1.73** | **1.55** |
| **+ - against standard** | **3.0** | **-1.266** | **-1.449** |
| Allotments | | 0.09 | 0.08 |

| Primary typology | Quantity standard (ha / 1,000) | Wednesfield Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2023 | Wednesfield Analysis Area provision (ha / 1,000) 2042 |
|---|---|---|---|
| + - against standard | 0.13 | -0.04 | -0.05 |

# Headline findings and recommendations

**8.69** There are 75 open spaces in the Wednesfield Analysis Area, providing 78 hectares (ha) of open space which is freely accessible. This is less than any of the other analysis areas. The most common typology is parks (which makes up 43% of the total area). Amenity greenspace has a greater contribution to the overall open space provision compared to other analysis areas. This contributes to 34% of open spaces within the Wednesfield Analysis Area.

**8.70** There are 1.73ha of freely accessible open space per 1,000 residents (not including cemeteries, outdoor sports provision and allotments). This is the lowest provision compared to the population across Wolverhampton and is more than 1ha below the 3ha standard for all accessible open space. Within this, the standard for amenity green space, provision for children and provision for young people is being met. The greatest deficiency is in the provision of natural green space (0.97ha below the quantity standard) although there is access along the Wyrley and Essington Canal, which is identified as a Greenway and to Fibbersley Local Nature Reserve across the city boundary in Willenhall.

**8.71** There are an additional 34ha of open space which is not freely accessible. This includes 4ha of allotments, or 0.09ha of allotments per 1,000 of the population. This meets the set standard for allotment provision.

**8.72** 36 sites were audited in the Wednesfield Analysis Area. Overall 78% of audited sites met the quality and value standards, which is slightly higher than the average for Wolverhampton. The breakdown of scores is shown in **Table 8.15** (see **paragraph 4.4** for an explanation of quality and value).

**8.73** Overall, parks tended to perform slightly better than the other audited typologies – with 60% of audited parks meeting the quality or value standard.

**8.74** 80% of amenity green spaces scored above the quality and value benchmarks, which is higher than the average for Wolverhampton. However, given the dominance of amenity green space in the Wednesfield Analysis Area and the trend for this typology to have limited functionality compared to other typologies, it is important that these spaces are still considered to ensure they are managed to provide maximum value where there is limited access to other types of open space.

**8.75** The provision for children scores show that 38% of these sites scored above the quality and value benchmarks, a little lower than the average for Wolverhampton. Notably, over half the sites audited did not meet the value benchmark. The focus will therefore likely need to be on improving the value of provision (range and type of play features), even where the quality / condition of play sites overall is adequate.

**8.76** There is a good spread of open space throughout the analysis area. 95% of the analysis area is within walking distance of at least one publicly accessible open space (based on the 5 and 15 minute walking distance buffers used in Natural England's Access to Greenspace Close to Home standard) (see **paragraph 5.4**).

**8.77** Just under a third of the Wednesfield Analysis Area meets the Greenspace Close to Home standard. Deficiencies in the south largely cover the industrial area at Neachells Lane, where there are very few residents. There are deficiencies in the east of Wednesfield, although this area is served by Colman Avenue Park which has the potential to be enhanced as a town rather than a neighbourhood park. This area is also served, across the boundary, by Willenhall Memorial Park. In the north and west of the analysis area there is a band of deficiency running from Wood End and The Scotlands down to Heath Town, and which joins with a wider area of deficiency in Low Hill in the North Analysis Area. These areas do have provision of open space by Grassy Lane Open Space and Long Knowle Open Space, which do not meet the quality and value standards, and by Heath Town Park which does.
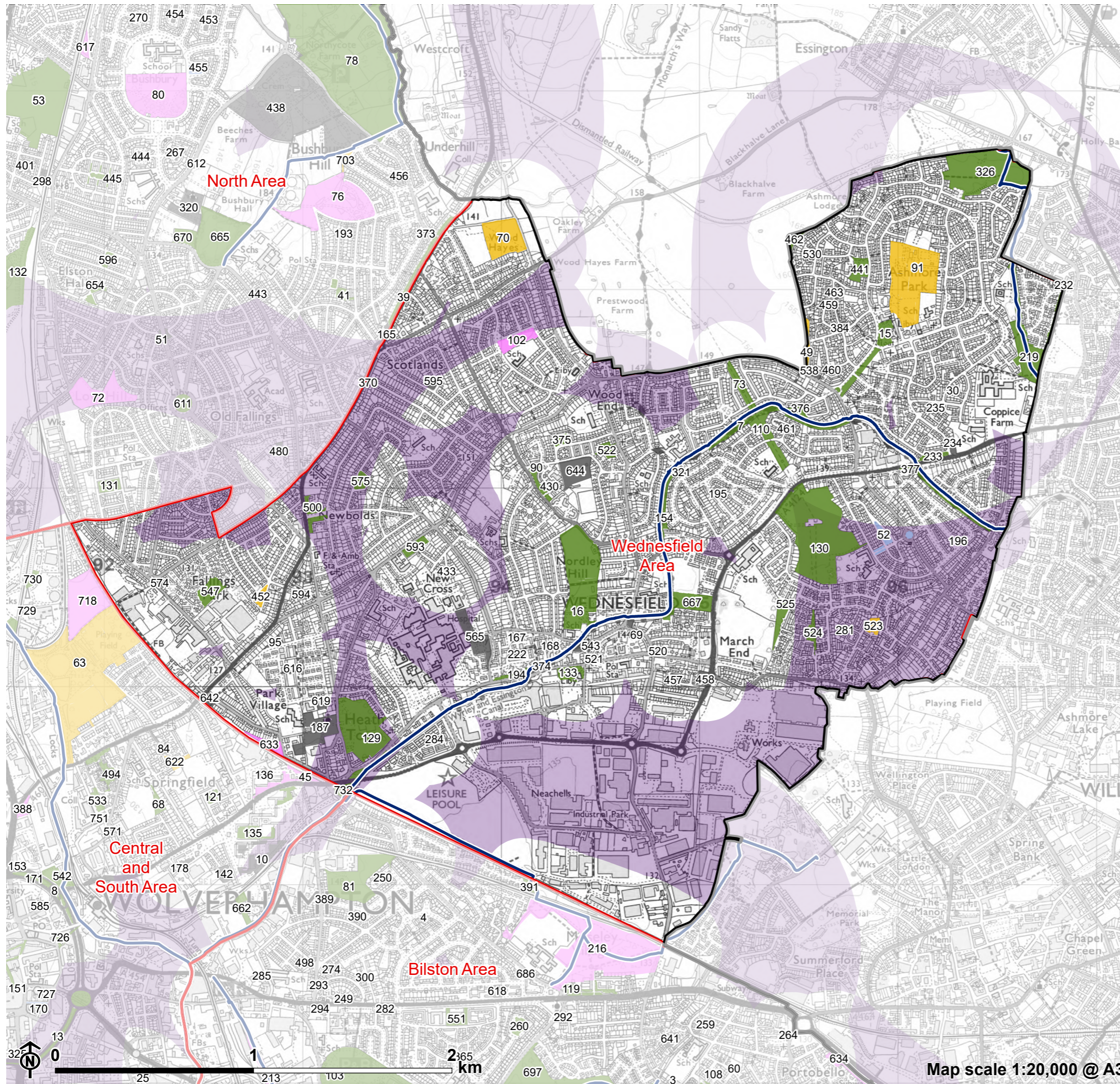
## Table 8.15: Quality and Value of open space in the Wednesfield Area

| Typology | Higher Quality/ Higher Value | Higher Quality/ Lower Value | Lower Quality/ Higher Value | Lower Quality/ Lower Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | 60% | | 20% | 20% |
| Natural green space | 83% | | | 17% |
| Amenity green space | 80% | 4% | 16% | |
| Civic spaces | | | | |
| Provision for children | 38% | 38% | 13% | 13% |

**8.78** Several open spaces in the Wednesfield Analysis Area are within or adjacent to areas of high open space or play need and do not meet either quality or value standards (or both).. Those considered as priority sites for enhancement are included in the Action Plan which contains further details of access across the analysis area.

**8.79 Figure 8.5** provides an overview of the Wednesfield Analysis Area, including the performance of sites against the quality and value standards. Areas outside of the Access to Greenspace Close to Home target (areas of deficiency) are also shown. Site ID numbers for each site are indicated on the map. A full site list with site IDs and audit scores (where applicable) is provided in **Appendix D**.

**Figure 8.5: Wednesfield Analysis Area Open Space Overview**

Legend:
- Wolverhampton boundary
- Analysis Area
- Area of Deficiency (access to green space close to home target)

**Open space quality and value**
- Higher quality, higher value
- Higher quality, lower value
- Lower quality, higher value
- Lower quality, lower value
- Not audited
- Existing and proposed greenways

North Area

Wednesfield Area

Central and South Area

Bilston Area

Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

12296 WV OS/Fig_8_X_12296_r1_AnalysisAreaProfiles_A3L 19/08/2024EB:wingfield_h

# Chapter 9
# Vision, Aims and Action Plan

**9.1** The following section sets out the future strategy for parks, open space and play space in Wolverhampton. The Strategy is comprised of the following elements and has been informed by the evidence base that has been gathered (as set out in the previous section of the report):

- A Vision - setting out what open spaces will look like in the future, 'Where we want to be'.

- A set of Aims – key aspects that will need to be prioritised to achieve the Vision.

- A set of Objectives – specific design and delivery principles and approaches that will ideally be adhered to when developing and delivering specific actions and projects; these are set out under the relevant Aim and will support its delivery.

- An Action Plan – site specific and area wide actions and projects which will put the Objectives into practice, support the Aims and work towards achieving the Vision over time.

## Vision

**9.2** The 2018 Open Space Strategy and Action Plan update (OSSAP) identifies a vision for open space across the city in 2026:

**9.3** '*By 2026 Wolverhampton will have a vibrant and diverse range of quality parks and open spaces, well distributed across the city. Sites will reflect local needs and historical and natural characteristics as well as the overall needs of the city. The spaces will form a network which maximises the opportunities for everyone to interact with their local community and area whilst also attracting people into the city*'.

**9.4** Many of the elements of this vision are still relevant, in particular the focus on creating prosperous communities. However, there is a need to update the vision to reflect a shifting focus onto climate, biodiversity and health needs. In particular, this has included:

- A new Council Plan – Our City: Our Plan, which sets out a new strategic Vision and priorities for the city.

- A Climate Emergency, declared by the City of Wolverhampton Council in 2019, and an increased awareness of the ecological emergency and the importance of Green Infrastructure.

- An increasing recognition of the importance of open space for supporting physical and mental wellbeing, including lessons learned as a result of covid lockdowns.

- Further consideration of equalities and protected characteristics.

**9.5** A new Vision for open space takes a more integrated approach to the provision of open space alongside natural spaces and elements of Green Infrastructure.

**9.6** The Aims, Objectives and subsequent Action Plan is guided by a new Vision for parks and open spaces in Wolverhampton and provides the overarching guidance of 'where we want to be' as a result of implementing a new Open Space Strategy.

All communities in Wolverhampton will have easy access to a network of high quality, diverse and inclusive open spaces, offering space for residents and visitors to enjoy a range of recreational activities, including physical activity, contact with nature and social interaction. The network of open spaces will improve connectivity for people and wildlife, providing habitat networks and encouraging active travel. Open spaces in Wolverhampton will be increasingly resilient and help to adapt to the effects of climate change through environmentally sensitive design and management.

# Aims and Objectives

**9.7** To achieve this Vision, five key Aims have been identified:

1. Provide a well-planned and maintained diverse open space network, underpinned by a strong evidence base, that informs allocation of open space contributions, investment decisions and funding applications.

2. Provide inclusive open spaces, with equal access to facilities for the whole community.

3. Provide healthy, safe and active open spaces.

4. Ensure open spaces are well recognised through local heritage and culture.

5. Develop a biodiverse, resilient, and well-connected open space network.

**9.8** Several Objectives are identified under each Aim. Any future actions and projects that are developed should help to deliver multiple objectives.

> Aim 1. Provide a well-planned and maintained diverse open space network, underpinned by a strong evidence base, that informs allocation of open space contributions, investment decisions and funding applications.

Objective 1a. Adopt new open space standards in local planning policy and guidance. Apply these new open space standards in new development, ensuring that developers undertake appropriate assessments and take account of the standards and associated requirements when developing and implementing proposals.

Objective 1b. Ensure robust mechanisms are in place to secure contributions for off-site enhancements where there is most need, if it has been demonstrated on-site provision cannot be made.

Objective 1c. Support the case for adequate revenue budgets and investment programmes to ensure the sustainable maintenance of open spaces.

Objective 1d. Support funding bids to bodies such as Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England.

Objective 1e. Ensure that ongoing stewardship and governance arrangements are in place for new open space that is not adopted by the council.

Objective 1f. Ensure data on open space is kept up to date as far as possible, taking account of any new sites, sites lost or changes to the level of public access. Quality and value audits may be repeated using the methodology set

out in this Strategy; such repeat audits may be appropriate in areas where development or enhancement schemes are due to take place.

Objective 1g. Take a whole systems approach to open space management to maximise impact when planning enhancement schemes or engagement activities. This will require ongoing collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders and officers including Environmental Services, Public Health, Planning and Highways.

Objective 1h. Continue to use, and consider expanding, the use of the Green Flag or Green Heritage Award schemes to measure and celebrate the quality and value of open spaces.

Aim 2. Provide inclusive open spaces, with equal access to facilities for the whole community.

Objective 2a. Prioritise the implementation of actions and enhancement schemes in areas of most need, using the findings from the Strategy. Open space needs mapping (set out in this document) takes account of higher need in relation to deprivation, health outcomes and other social, economic and environmental factors.

Objective 2b. Prioritise actions which address key shortfalls in provision against the adopted standards, such as sites that are performing poorly against quality and value standards.

Objective 2c. Address specific deficiencies and meet demand arising from new development through the provision of new open space where possible. This may include the development, where opportunities for significant new open

space is limited in built up areas, of pocket parks or improvements to the public realm. This will be a particular consideration in constrained areas likely to experience significant growth, in particular Wolverhampton City Centre and the Canalside Quarter in the Central and South Analysis Area.

Objective 2d. Ensure appropriate consultation and community engagement is undertaken when developing enhancement schemes, developing new open space or reviewing management approaches. This should be informed by an understanding of local communities, demographics and equalities considerations. Consider site specific user surveys on priority sites to help identify and address specific barriers and issues.

Objective 2e. Undertake equalities assessments on proposed changes in policy, management or the design of open spaces, taking account of groups with protected characteristics.

Objective 2f. Review and enhance physical access within and through open spaces and play spaces where required, considering the needs of those with additional physical, sensory, social and mental health needs.

Objective 2g. Provide more inclusive play facilities that take account of the wide range of needs including additional physical, sensory, social and mental health needs. Focus enhancements in areas where access to other facilities, such as fully accessible toilets, can be provided.

Objective 2h. Ongoing review of opportunities for volunteering to build further links with the local community. Collect and monitor data on volunteer and community participation over time to measure impacts. Support community and 'riends' groups to secure funding and deliver enhancement schemes where there is interest to do so.

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Aim 3. Provide healthy, safe and active open spaces.

Objective 3a. Apply appropriate design principles to provide the facilities that local communities need. Design principles should be informed by research and guidance to address barriers to use (e.g. Make Space for Girls).

Objective 3b. Protect and enhance ancillary facilities and features, related to the safe and inclusive use of sites that have been identified as a priority by local communities during consultation.

Objective 3c. Work with local communities and relevant enforcement bodies to reduce antisocial behaviour, such as litter and fly tipping, focussing on hot spot areas. Ensure reporting and data collection processes are robust to monitor progress.

Objective 3d. Explore opportunities for community food growing or allotments. The nature, extent and type of growing space should be informed by local demand and cross referenced with capacity and waiting lists at existing allotment sites.

Objective 3e. Reduce deficiencies in access to play provision. Identify sites for enhancement through asset condition data, the results of the quality and value audit and identified areas of high need, as identified in the Strategy's evidence base.

Objective 3f. Support the city's Physical Activity Strategy through promoting the use of open spaces for a range of formal and informal physical activity to suit a range of abilities.

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Objective 3g. Align the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan and the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy actions to identify opportunities for strategically significant, high value enhancement programmes, maximising funding opportunities and making best use of resources.

Objective 3h. Provide social spaces and social seating to meet the needs of specific communities and demographics. This should be informed by local consultation. Provide shelters, groups of seats and benches in locations with good informal oversight.

Objective 3i. Identify opportunities to work across service areas, such as Environmental Services, Planning, Public Health, Highways Housing and City Development to address any identified road safety issues and increase safe access routes to and within open spaces.

Aim 4. Ensure open spaces are well recognised through local heritage and culture.

Objective 4a. Review the parks and open space brand and identity to ensure sites are recognisably 'Wolverhampton', to communicate what is special about them and the communities that use them. Any designing, branding and signage projects should consider all applications including digital (web) based, permanent and temporary signage plus events. They should also support strategic projects such as the Smestow Valley Heritage Lottery Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund initiatives and the Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark.

Objective 4b. Adopt clear signage standards for open space and specific facilities such as playgrounds and nature reserves. Standards should consider

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accessibility requirements and seek to address issues associated with safety (e.g. by providing mechanisms to report fly-tipping, damage, or antisocial behaviour).

Objective 4c. Identify opportunities to use open spaces for community events and activities, whilst ensuring large scale events do not have a detrimental effect on the fabric of sites, the environment, and the local community.

Aim 5. Develop a biodiverse, resilient, and well-connected open space network.

Objective 5a. Work strategically for nature recovery with a wide range of partners. Support the development and implementation of a Nature Recovery Strategy for the West Midlands. Prioritise nature recovery, habitat enhancement and creation according to priority areas that are identified as part of this work.

Objective 5b. Identify opportunities to maximise environmental benefits provided by open space, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. Nature based solutions should be considered in relation to flood alleviation and storage, mitigation of poor air quality, and the effects of urban heat.

Objective 5c. Carry out an ongoing review of opportunities to use suitable open spaces to deliver offsite Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) during development. Current sites identified as potential BNG receptor sites include Abbeyfield Park, Pendeford Park, Ladymoor Pool, Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve, Northycote Farm Country Park and Smestow Valley LNR.

Objective 5d. Undertake a periodic review of maintenance regimes to identify opportunities to reduce energy intensive operations and chemical use and to

provide biodiversity benefits (such as a reduction in mowing regimes where appropriate).

Objective 5e. Ensure tree planting opportunities are considered regularly by Environmental Services. Where opportunities in open spaces are limited, seek to strengthen urban canopy cover in adjacent public realm areas. Ensure the priorities set out in Wolverhampton's Tree and Woodland Strategy and Open Space Strategy and Action Plan are aligned as part of future reviews and updates.

Objective 5f. Connect up open spaces with strategic active travel routes and Green Infrastructure for people and wildlife, prioritising areas with deficiencies in local access to open space. Maintain and enhance strategic routes by creating an integrated network of Greenways utilising existing linear routes including the canal network, redundant railway lines and Public Rights of Way. Enhance cross-boundary routes through initiatives such as the proposed West Midlands Walking Trail. Review and provide directional signage to promoted routes where appropriate.