



Milton Keynes
City Council

Open Space Assessment report.

January 2023

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Background	3
3. Definition of Open Space	3
<i>National planning policy</i>	4
<i>Local Planning Policy</i>	4
4. The Scope	5
5. Method	6
6. Audit	16
<i>Current quantity of open spaces</i>	16
<i>Current Quality of Open Spaces</i>	19
<i>Current accessibility of open spaces</i>	22
<i>Current Value of Open Spaces</i>	29
<i>Health and access to open spaces</i>	30
7. Country parks	35
8. District and Linear Parks	38
9. Food growing areas	46
10. Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	50
11. Amenity Greenspace, Local Parks, Pocket Parks, Civic Spaces and Formal Gardens	66
12. Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	69
13. Formal outdoor playing fields	70
14. Green access links	73
15. Common land and village greens	75
16. Paddocks	76
17. Open Space Standards for Open Space Typologies	78
<i>Open Space high level design principles</i>	90
18. Standards for play areas	93
19. Conclusions and policy recommendations	104
List of Figures, Tables and Maps	116
List of Annexes	119

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Open Space Assessment (OSA) report provides the Council with up-to-date information on open space location, coverage and provision. It provides a comprehensive assessment of the current level of provision of the different types of open space within the borough of Milton Keynes. It provides detail on its condition, distribution, overall quality and accessibility. It is one of the evidence base documents that will feed into the wider Nature, Green and Blue Infrastructure Study that will ultimately set the strategic context for the City's Green and Blue Infrastructure.
- 1.2 The study will supersede the outcomes of Milton Keynes Open Space Assessment 2018. The OSA will provide a credible evidence base for the New Local Plan and will be used to inform the future Plan's policies and Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. It will be a material consideration in the review of future planning applications and help implement Development Plan policies.
- 1.3 This document sets out the findings of the research, site assessments, consultations, data analysis and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping undertaken as part of the study.
- 1.4 The report provides a direction for the future provision of open space in MK Borough that should be accessible, high quality and sustainable.

2. Background

- 2.1 Public Open Spaces form an important part of the Green and Blue Infrastructure network. They are recognised as being important to the quality of people's lives and are a significant factor in achieving sustainable communities by providing numerous benefits. Open Spaces often encourage enjoyment of the natural and semi-natural environment whilst contributing to biodiversity net gain and conservation of nature and landscape, protection of water resources and air quality.

3. Definition of Open Space

- 3.1 Planning policy on national and local level seeks to protect the provision of good quality, well accessible open spaces to meet the needs of current and future generations and support the enhancement of the existing provision based on the demand and need in accordance with local circumstances by creating local provision standards that will help to shape open spaces.
- 3.2 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (section 336) defines open space as 'any land laid out as a public garden or used for the purposes of public recreation or land which is a disused burial ground'.

- 3.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) definition of open space¹ extends this further by stating that ‘all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity’.
- 3.4 For the purpose of the OSA ‘open space’ is to be understood as a combination of the above definitions and therefore cover the provision of parks and gardens, natural and semi natural spaces including reservoirs and common land, spaces that provide for outdoor sports, amenity greenspaces, children’s play areas and provision for teenagers. In addition, the term open space for the needs of the assessment will include food growing areas, cemeteries, burial grounds and churchyards. This classification considers previous guidance under Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 which has now been withdrawn and archived.

National planning policy

- 3.5 Under paragraph 98 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.
- 3.6 As a prerequisite paragraph 99 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports, and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
(...) a) an assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the open space, buildings, or land to be surplus to requirements; or
b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.
- 3.7 The NPPF allows for the special protection of green areas of particular importance to local communities by designating them Local Green Spaces (Para 101 of the NPPF) through local plan or neighbourhood plan process.

Local Planning Policy

- 3.8 As part of the review of Plan:MK and, preparation of a new Local Plan for the Borough, we are currently undertaking work to prepare and, keep up to date, a range of key evidence base documents/studies to inform the new plan. One such technical, evidence-based document is the Open Space Assessment.
- 3.9 The current Local Plan - Plan:MK was adopted in March 2019. Policies specific to open spaces in Plan:MK are policies:
- L1 Facilities acceptable in parks
 - L2 Protection of open space and existing facilities,

¹ Annex 2: Glossary to the NPPF

- L3 Change of Use of Amenity Open Space
- L4 Public Open Space Provision in New estates
- L5 Horse related development
- L6 Criteria for the location of water sports
- L7 Criteria for the location of noisy sports and recreational facilities
- L8 Milton Keynes Bowl

- 3.10 Strategic site allocations policies in the Plan:MK make some references to the provision of open spaces.
- 3.11 There are also a numerous Neighbourhood Plans adopted within Milton Keynes borough with bespoke open space polices.
- 3.12 The Council's open space provision standards are set out in Policy L4 and Appendix C of the Plan:MK. These standards are used to determine the type and size of open space that new developments are meant to provide or contribute to.

4. The Scope

- 4.1 This report provides a robust assessment of current and future need for the open spaces within the administrative area of Milton Keynes and provides policy recommendation for future local plan around the protection of existing open spaces, possible change of use of open spaces areas and provision of open space in new developments.
- 4.2 Open spaces can be managed under public or local acts of parliament (such as parks and open spaces held by local authorities under the Open Spaces Act 1906), or under schemes of management (made by local authorities for common land and town/village greens). There may be rights of access recognised in law and recorded, for example where land is registered as common land or town/village greens, and some public open spaces.
- 4.3 Open spaces are often accessed via public paths. Open spaces land privately owned can be also leased to local councils for recreation and the public then has permission to use it.
- 4.4 The mapping includes areas which are considered as open spaces in planning terms. Subject to the local policies in Plan:MK, if land is held as open space, it cannot be disposed of unless the process under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) is used.
- 4.5 The study excludes school playing fields and private open spaces (with the exception of those where public access is allowed) from the review. The study excludes assessment of the transport corridors². Any site recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e., where it is also available for wider community use) was included in this study as a type of open space. Provision purely for sporting use are included and

² Transport corridors define the urban form of Milton Keynes, flanking the main grid roads they buffer local communities from the noise and visual impact of passing vehicles and provide attractive landscape feature for motorists.

described within the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The study reviewed all publicly open spaces over 0.2ha in size.

- 4.6 The study identifies specific needs, quantitative and qualitative deficiencies, and surpluses in the study area. The report provides recommendations for quality and accessibility provision standards for open space typologies that are proposed to be utilised in the New City Plan and link to or form part of policies on future provision of open spaces in the Borough.

5. Method

- 5.1 A five - stage method was used to ensure that a robust evidence base was compiled, and it is presented in Fig 1 below.

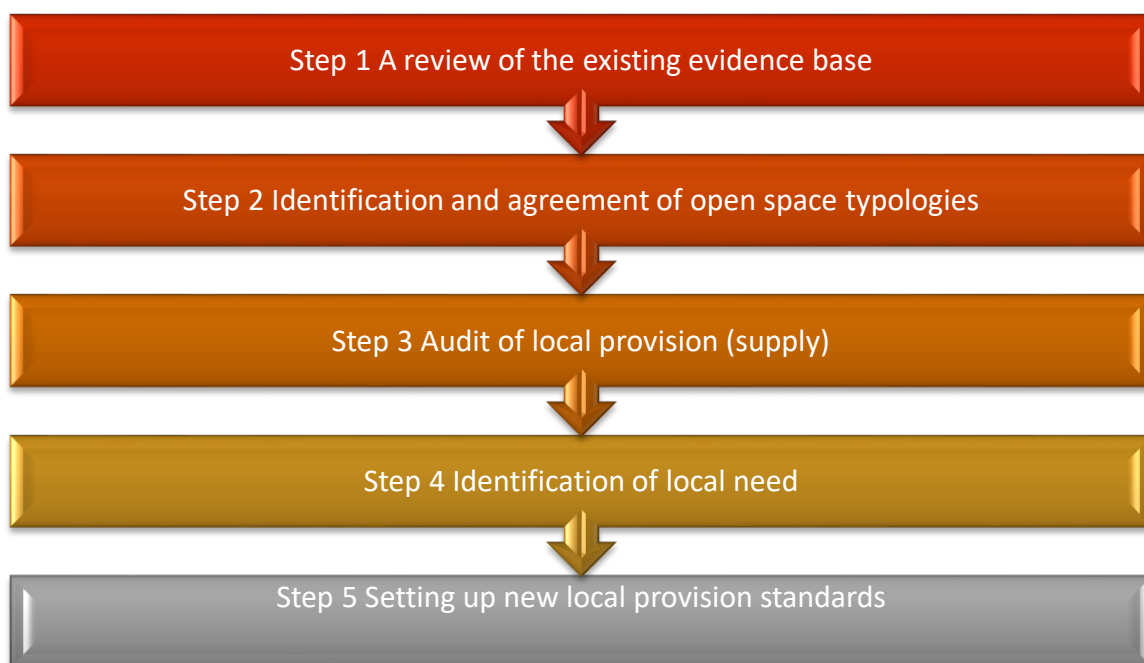


Fig 1. Method used in the study.

- 5.2 Key to a robust assessment is the emphasis placed on reflecting and considering the local needs. Review of the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces took place. In order to build up an accurate picture we carried out desktop review, site visits and stakeholder engagement.
- 5.3 A review of existing evidence base, policies and best practice regarding preparing Open Space Assessment took place during desktop assessment stage. The typologies of open space were drawn down from best practice, guidance provided within PPG17, discussions with key stakeholders and with the consideration of unique character of Milton Keynes Borough. The agreed list of typologies is locally derived and appropriate for the type and

range of open spaces that exist within the Borough. The typology list can be found in Table 1 below.

- 5.4 The report contains borough wide mapping for the issues discussed and sample mapping where more detail maps at parish level were produced. Full datasets for each of the parishes can be found in Annexes.

Table 1. Open Space typologies used in the study.

ID number	Typology and subtypes	Description	Primary purpose	Secondary purpose
1	Country parks	Open space areas in a countryside environment, accessible to wider population. Predominantly natural or semi-natural landscape and defined by a clear boundary. Country Parks can be accredited by Natural England if they fulfil essential criteria. Green Flag Award status is used to review their status.	Provide formal recreation opportunities. Provide social interaction. Provides play facilities, catering, and permanent staffing. Usually contain visitor centres, bike, and horse trails. Should provide facilities that are accessible to all.	Planned for the management of biodiversity geodiversity and preservation of historical environment. Provide opportunities for community involvement. Promote health
2	District Parks	Open Spaces that actively attract visitors from a wider catchment. Often connected with existing open spaces features such as liner parks. Attractive landscape with various facilities and associated parking. Often includes public art. Benches, litter and dog bins are provided on site.	Multifunctional open spaces offering sporting, passive leisure, and cultural facilities. Supports social interaction	To provide environmental enhancement.
3	Linear Parks	Network of city-wide multifunctional rural and urban green spaces that usually follow the water bodies and flood plains across the city. Ecological corridors for wildlife. Linear parks historically are key components and are more formal in urban areas and more rural on the periphery.	Mitigation of flood events, preservation of archaeology, provision of ecological corridors, provision of pedestrian and cycle corridors.	Deliver wide range of environmental and/or quality of life benefits for wildlife and local communities. Provision of visual amenities and provide space for informal outdoor recreations.
4	'Other' Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces	Woodlands, scrubland, grasslands (e.g., meadows and non-amenity grassland), wetlands and watercourses, nature reserves, sites of wildlife interest that do not form part of any Country Park, District Park, or Linear Park	To support wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.	Recreational areas i.e., nature watching, walking, horse riding, cycling.
5	Amenity greenspace	Publicly accessible open greenspaces close to residential properties or places of work.	Enhancement of the appearance and visual amenity of residential or other areas.	To provide opportunities for informal activities close to home or work sometimes used for informal play. Support wildlife conservation and biodiversity enhancement.
6	Local parks	Larger parks (over 0.4ha) which are open to the public. Often include areas primarily for play and social interaction for children and young people. Can also include single sports field. Vegetation, pathways, fencing, and equipment is managed. Provision of benches, litter, and dog bins. Actively managed.	Highly accessible, high quality open spaces (with good transport links with opportunities for formal and in formal recreation and community events with play equipment. Place for meetings. Allow for social interaction and cohesion.	Support wildlife conservation and biodiversity enhancement.

7	Pocket parks	Small, designed parks (most under 0.4 ha) accessible to the public for formal or informal use sometimes run by community groups and volunteers.	To provide opportunities for environmental enhancements and/or conservation activities alongside informal recreational use such as walking. Often provide picnic areas.	Biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
8	Civic spaces and formal gardens	Formal urban open spaces including civic and market squares	To provide settings for civic buildings, public demonstrations, and community events.	Provide environmental and visual enhancement, health, and social inclusion.
9	Food growing areas: <u>Allotments, orchards, and community growing areas.</u>	Allotments, orchards, and community growing areas.	To allow public to grow their own produce.	Long-term promotion of sustainable living, health, social inclusion, and biodiversity enhancement.
10	Cemeteries, churchyards, and other burial grounds	Private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and churchyards.	To provide burial spaces.	To provide a place of quiet contemplation. Often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity enhancement. Often preserve archaeology.
11	Formal outdoor playing fields	Large multi-use natural and artificial playing fields, outdoor sports facilities	To provide surfaces for sport and recreation that are publicly available. To provide facilities supporting the use of outdoor sport facilities such as changing and toilets. Provide social interaction.	May be used for wider community use. Long-term promotion of sustainable living, health, and social inclusion may include spaces for wildlife at margins.
12	Green access links	Leisure routes and redways often following historical linear landscape features which are providing an active travel corridor connection with vegetation managed, provision of litter bins and dog bins and sitting areas.	To provide leisure routes for e.g., walking, cycling, running.	Provide environmental enhancement and support biodiversity
13	Common land and village greens	Common land areas and town and village greens. Legal/national designations. Areas of open spaces privately owned or maintained by local parish where some activities such as walking, grazing may be permitted.	Details of activities permitted are within the Register of Common Land and Village Greens. Most areas allow activities such as grazing, walking, horse riding.	May be used for local public events. Provide social interaction.
14	Paddocks	Privately owned grazing areas available to rent by the public (not for the purposes of livestock farming). Often linked with bridle paths.	To provide grazing areas for predominantly horses and ponies.	Provide environmental enhancement and may support biodiversity.

- 5.5 Although sites have been categorised into different typologies, the multifunctionality of different types of open spaces is important and needs to be recognised.
- 5.6 It is recognised that each open space is different and in accordance with PPG17 all open spaces were grouped into typologies which reflect their primary use, status or visual importance. Many open spaces have more than one function. In the study we distinguish the primary and secondary functions of typologies that we identified in Milton Keynes Borough.
- 5.7 Audit of local provision (supply) desk-based assessment included site visits, surveys with the public and parishes of MK and with external partners. In order to present most up to date picture of the current open space provision in Milton Keynes Borough, an initial desktop audit of the open spaces assets was carried out and that included:
- Analysis of the existing GIS data held by the Council
 - Desktop mapping of open spaces in all parishes within MK Borough to assign each open space area new typology where each site was classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of open space was only counted once (the maps were further reviewed following site visits)
- 5.8 The old typologies maps from previous Open Space Assessment were used as a starting point to allow assigning the revised typologies to each open space type. Site visits and additional desktop assessment techniques were used to review the boundaries of the sites and new set of maps was created to show new typologies. The updated maps were created as a set of polygon data for each open space typology. This allowed us to undertake accessibility assessment and calculation of site areas.
- 5.9 An interactive online survey form was prepared to allow detailed assessment of specific open space types in the field and collection of site photos.

Site visits

- 5.10 Site visits were undertaken to all open spaces as per scope. We had visited over 900 open spaces during Summer 2021- Winter 2022 and assessed their quality, value and accessibility.
- 5.11 Following the desktop and site visits assessments GIS mapping of all assessed sites was undertaken that allowed further analysis of the accessibility aspect of different open space types and groups that fed into the local needs assessment and proposing the local standards.
- 5.12 Each open space in the borough was classified by open spaces 'primary purpose' as recommended in Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 17 to ensure that they are counted only once in the audit. The audits were undertaken using surveys specific for each of the open space types. Their main purpose is to provide consistent assessment of a sites' existing status and potential.

- 5.13 Sites were visited and photographic record made of key aspects along with usage of the site during the assessment. Where possible, a score was given for quality and accessibility criteria, scores added together for each site and weighted score calculated based on how many criteria were scored. Weighted scores were uploaded to the GIS mapping system as attributes to created polygons from desk-based assessment.
- 5.14 For each of the criteria a score was given as per Table 2,3 and 4. Detailed site assessment questions can be found in Appendix 1. The score for each site was added together and mean calculated based on how many criteria were scored. Weightings for accessibility and quantity scores were applied. The final scores were used to identify the overall performance of the site where each open space was given a grade from Poor to Excellent according to the score received in Quality, Value and Accessibility assessment.

Stakeholder engagement and Survey with Parish and Town councils

- 5.15 As part of the stakeholder engagement (18th October 2021 till 13th December 2021) forming part of the Open Space Assessment study, we invited Parish and Town Councils (18th October 2021 till 13th December 2021) to share their views on the current level of provision of the open spaces and demand for specific types of open spaces within their parishes and wider Milton Keynes Borough. By completing the survey, they provided us with their views on the quality and accessibility of open spaces and commented on the areas that they feel need improvement.



Photo 1. Ouse Valley Park.

Responses were received from representatives from: Campbell Park Parish Council, West Bletchley Council, Woughton Community Council, Woburn Sands Town Council, Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe Parish Council, Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council, Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe Parish Council (two responses), Hanslope Parish Council.

Public survey

- 5.16 In addition to Parish survey, we invited members of the public to respond to a public survey on Open Spaces (18th October 2021 till 29th October 2021) within the administrative area of Milton Keynes. We received 217 responses to the survey.
- 5.17 The survey consisted of two parts:
- Part 1- sought views on how the public uses the open spaces and their views on quality, quantity, and accessibility of open spaces within Milton Keynes. Members of the public were invited to provide commentary on specific open spaces that they

visit in the borough of Milton Keynes in addition to their general views on the quality, quantity and accessibility of open spaces in the Borough.

- Part 2- respondents could provide comments regarding the specific sites that they visit.

General views from Key Stakeholders on Open Space in Milton Keynes

5.18 As part of the key stakeholder's engagement, we were seeking general comments on open spaces within the administrative area of Milton Keynes with a particular consideration of their quality, quantity and accessibility. We have contacted the following organisations and internal teams:

- Natural England
- Parks Trust
- Forestry Commission
- Officers from Leisure, Community and Sports Development

Open Space standards and draft policy wording

5.19 A direction of future provision in relation to each type of open space by proposing open space standards was provided and recommendation on future policies for the future New City Plan underlined.

Table 2. Quality assessment scoring.

Quality	Score 4	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1	Score 0
Footpath quality	Footpaths in very good condition	Footpaths in good condition some signs of surface wear and tear	Footpaths in poor condition, surfaces in need of repair	Footpaths in very poor condition, trip hazards	Criteria N/A
Security	No areas of poor visibility or entrapment points	Some areas of poor visibility but no entrapment points	Many areas of poor visibility and entrapment points	Lots of remote areas of poor visibility and remote entrapment points with no escape options	Criteria N/A
Equipment and facilities	Furniture, facilities in very good condition and repair	Furniture, facilities in good condition and repair	Furniture and facilities in poor condition, no health and safety issues	Furniture, facilities in poor condition potential health and safety risk	Criteria N/A
Litter and site problems	No signs of litter or vandalism	Occasional signs of litter no vandalism	Occasional signs of litter and vandalism within the site	Litter and signs of vandalism across the site area.	Criteria N/A
State of any formal equipment present at the site	Equipment in excellent condition	Equipment in good condition	Equipment in reasonable condition some signs of wear and tear.	Equipment in need of repair	Criteria N/A

Planted areas	Very good condition all well kept	Good condition could be improved	Poor condition many plants require replacing, signs of litter, unattractive areas	Very poor condition plants need replacing and site littered in many places, very unattractive	Criteria N/A
Quality of boundaries	Boundaries in very good condition	Boundaries in good condition	Boundaries in poor condition	Boundaries in very poor condition,	Criteria N/A
Level of cultivation	Nearly 100%	Nearly 80%	Nearly 60%	less than 60%	Criteria N/A
Please rate personal security considering location within surrounding development and or passing traffic	Very Good	Good	Poor	Very Poor	Criteria N/A
Grass/open areas	Grass cover throughout, dense, sward, well-maintained with rough edges	Grass cover throughout, dense, sward, well-maintained with rough edges	Grass cover throughout, dense, sward, well-maintained with rough edges and some patches	Average grass cover, frequent bold patches, rough edges	Criteria N/A

Table 3. Accessibility assessment scoring.

Accessibility	Score 4	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1	Score 0
Linkages via public transport	Good public transport, bus stops, or train station located within less than 5 min walk	Public transport access, bus stop within walking distance (under 10 min)	The nearest bus stop or train station more than 10 min walk	No bus stops or train stations within more than 10 min walking distance	Criteria N/A
Linkages via redways/cycleways	Separated routes to and within the site	Some routes/quiet local roads safe for cyclists	Limited cyclists' access, no designed routes	No access for cyclists, busy roads	Criteria N/A
Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes	Defined paths to the site, crossing points across roads to reach the sites	Paths provided to the site; some crossing of roads required but no safety issues	Paths provided to the site, some safety issues regarding pedestrian access	No clear paths to the site, issues for pedestrian access	Criteria N/A
Disabled access	All access points accessible to disabled	Some access points accessible to disabled	No access points accessible to disabled	No sites to be scored 1	Criteria N/A
Parking provision	Off-road and or on-road parking available near access points	Off-road and or on-road parking available nearby	Limited on-road options available, no off-road parking	No parking on road options available nearby, no off-road parking	Criteria N/A

6. Audit

Current quantity of open spaces

- 6.1 Newly created GIS database and internal mapping was used to assess the quantity of open space across the study area. Appendix 1 of the report contains information regarding the quantity of open spaces in Milton Keynes by parish and typology area.
- 6.2 Through the parish and public surveys, we were seeking views on the quantity of open space in the study area. The results are presented in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.
- 6.3 Those can be compared with the results of the GIS mapping and the distribution of the open spaces in the study area. Detailed parish level maps are provided in Annexes³ to the main report.

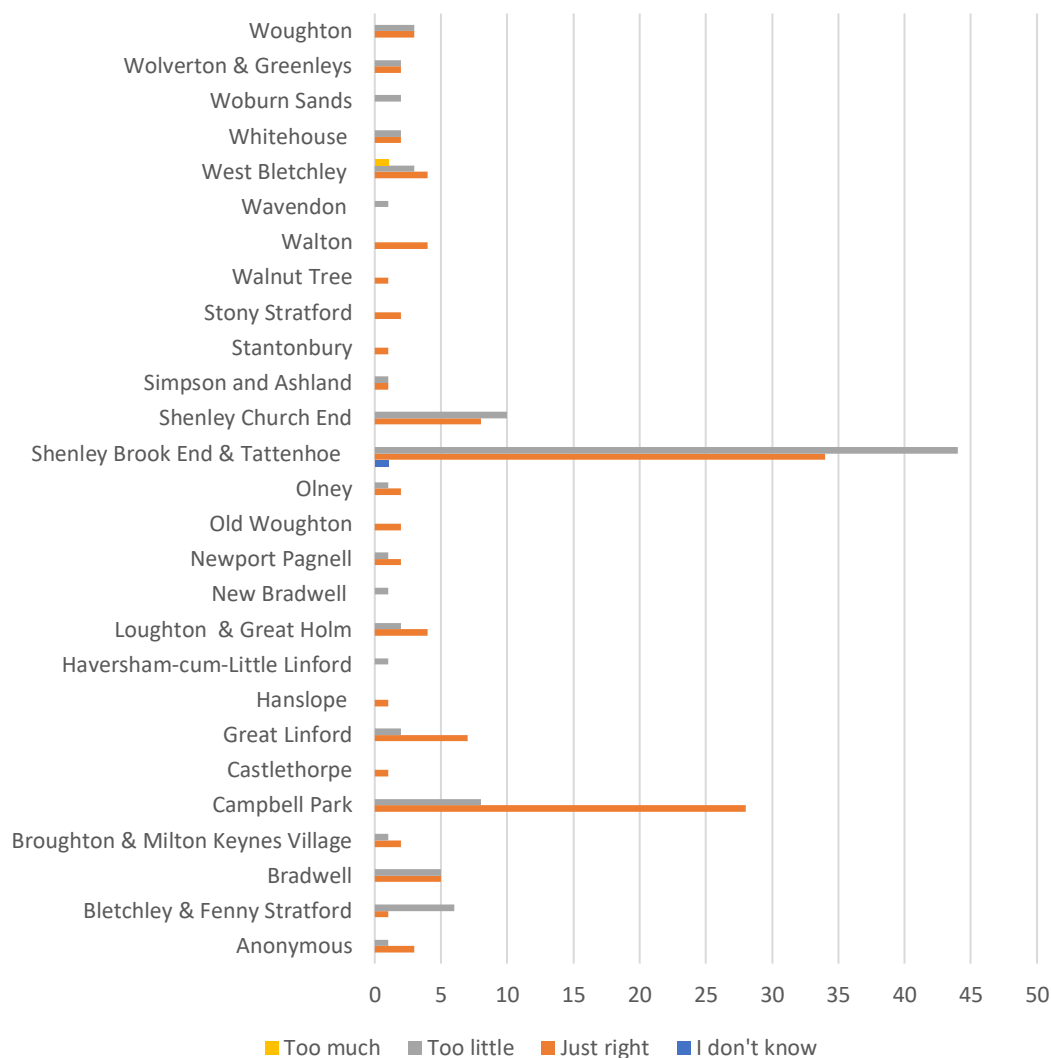


Fig 2. Public Survey results- Respondents view on the amount of open space in Milton Keynes administrative area.

³ Please see List of Annexes for details

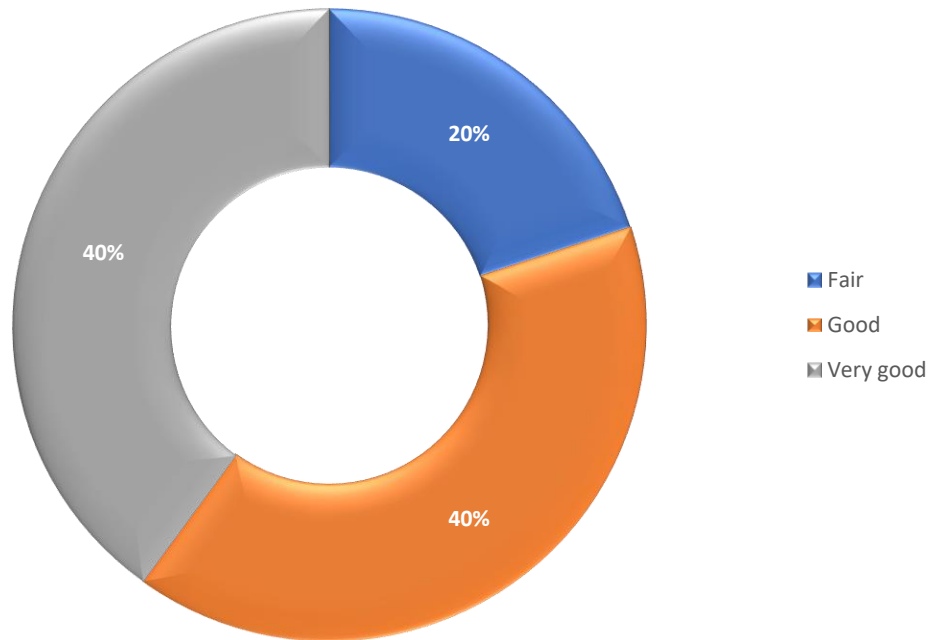
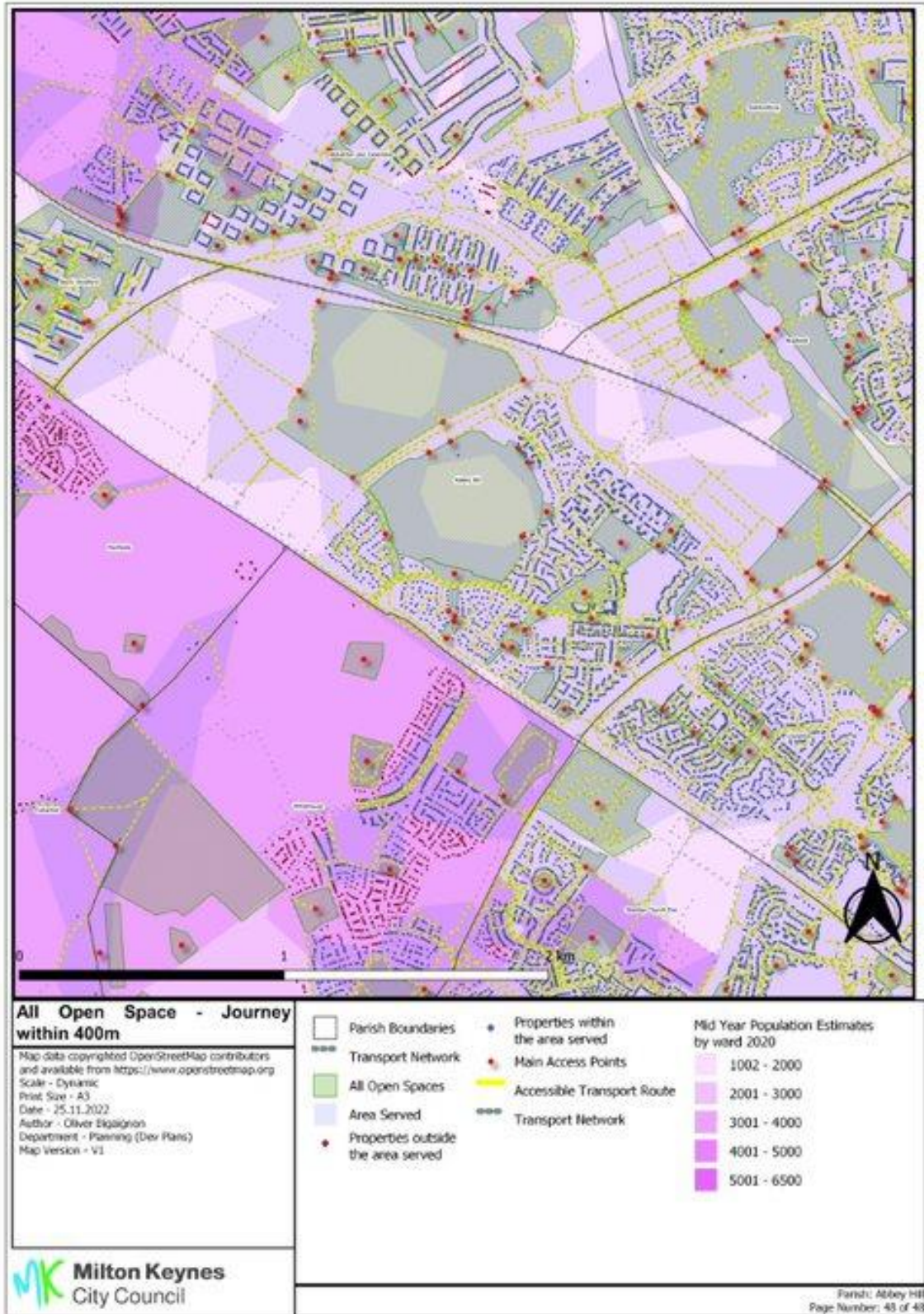


Fig 3. Parish survey- Respondents view on the overall quantity of open spaces within Milton Keynes administrative area.

- 6.4 Based on the Office for National Statistic (ONS)⁴ In Milton Keynes Borough, the population size has increased by 15.3%, from around 248,800 in 2011 to 287,000 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%). Detailed data for the population of each parish in Milton Keynes from 2020 Census are not yet available for a review. Appendix 1 presents Quantity of open spaces in Milton Keynes by parish and open space types and Appendix 2 the Quantity of open space types in Milton Keynes in each parish per 1000 population as per ONS population projections for 2020.
- 6.5 We also produced a series of maps that shows which residential properties and areas are accessible to open spaces that are within 400m via accessible pedestrian routes (PROW and road network). Example of such mapping is presented below.

⁴ Office of National Statistic Census 2021 data

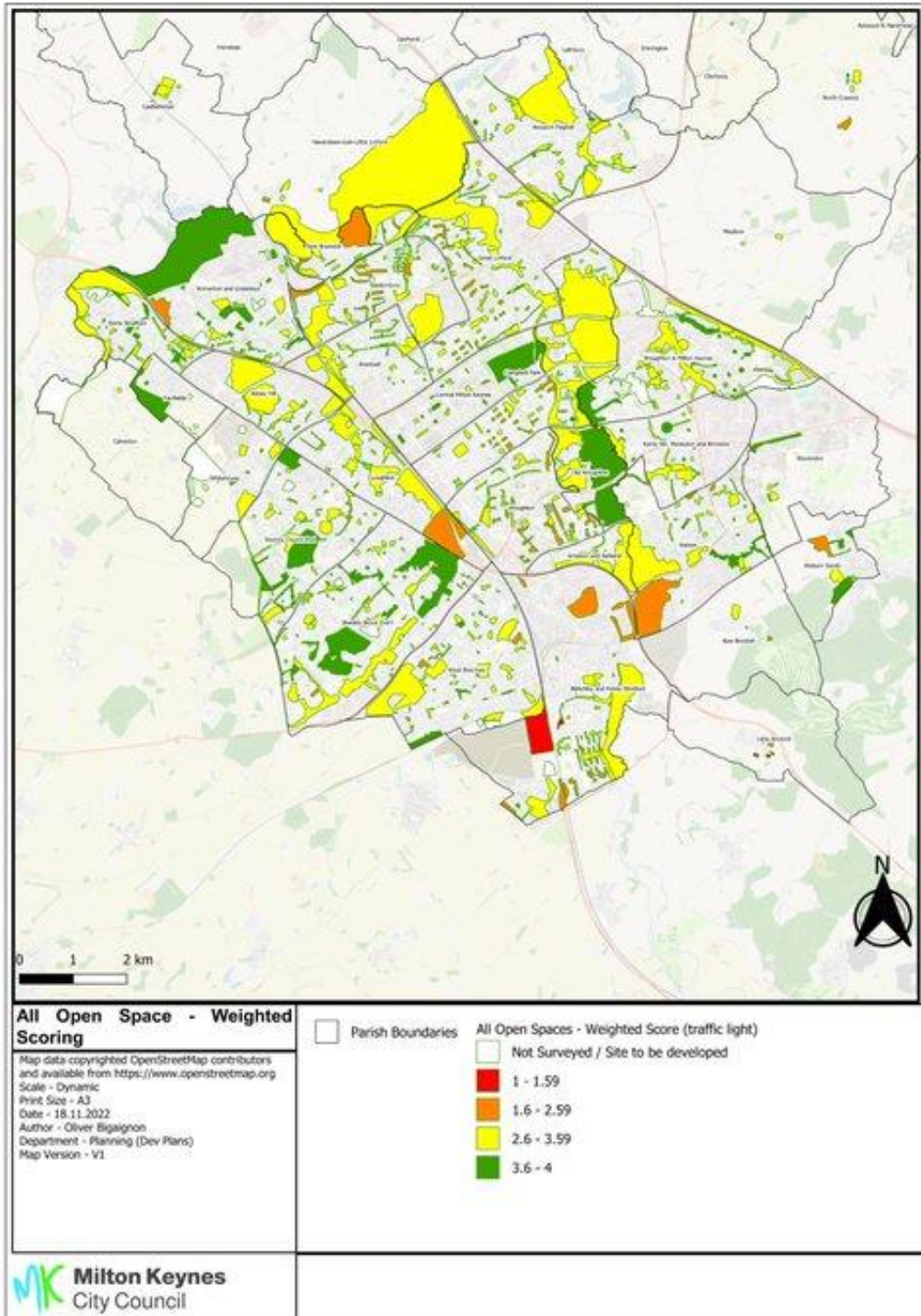


Map 1. Sample map for All open spaces- accessibility within 400m.

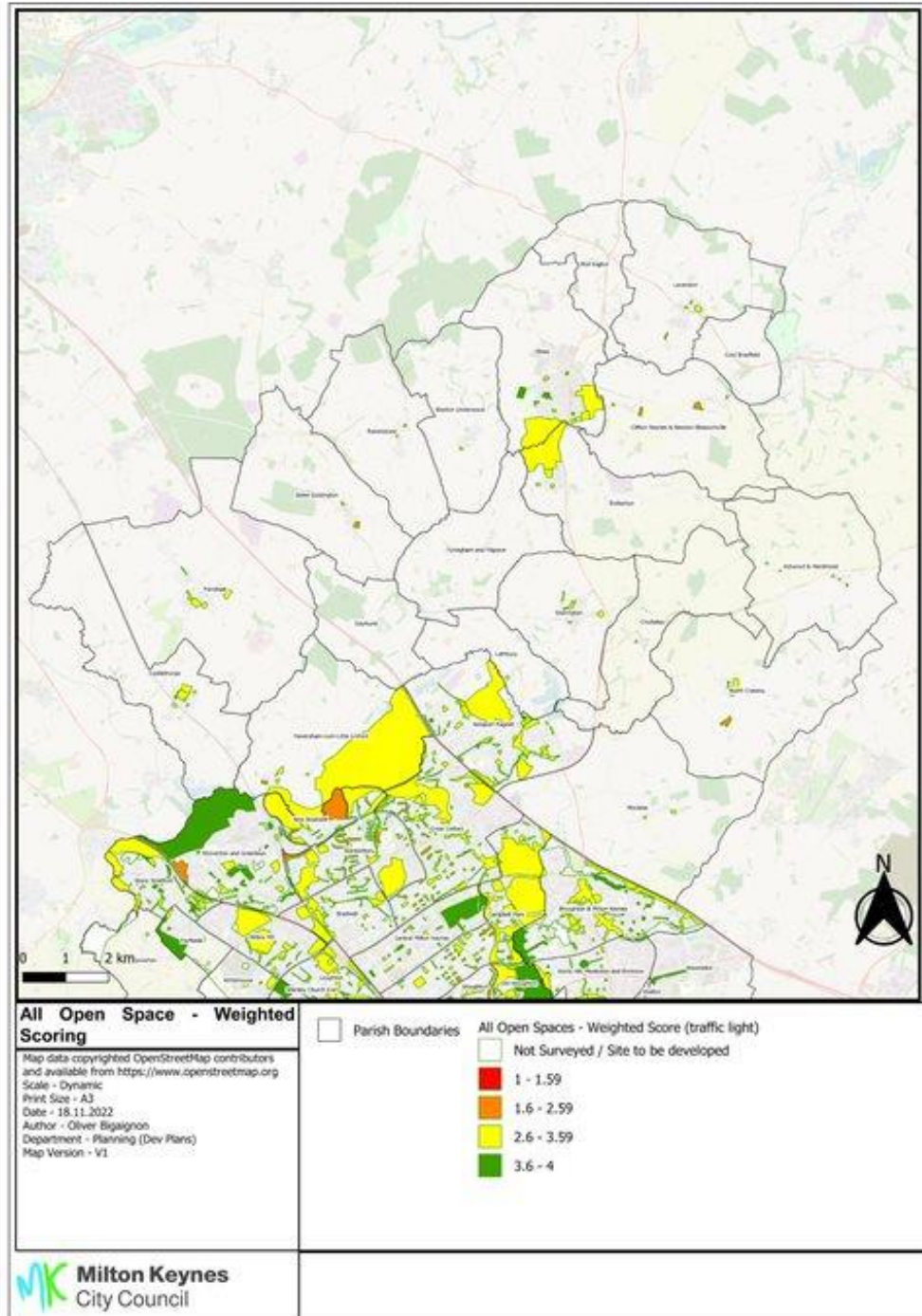
Current Quality of Open Spaces

6.6 Site survey results allowed us to map the quality of the open spaces in the study area and present them in an interactive way. The measurable results from the surveys were converted into scores and a final 'weighted scored' for all open spaces in Milton Keynes study area can be found below. Detailed parish level mapping can be found in Annexes to the study. Overall score rates sites status as:

- Very good - 3.6 -4.0
- Good - 2.6- 3.59
- Poor- 1.6- 2.59
- Very Poor- 1.59- 1.0



Map 2. Open Spaces - weighted score site visits 2021/22 - south Milton Keynes



Map 3. Open Spaces - weighted score stie visits 2021/22- north Milton Keynes

6.7 The map shows clearly that there are a lot of good and very good open spaces in the borough. This can be compared with the results from the public and parish surveys which highlight that almost 80% of the public were either very or somewhat satisfied with the quality of the open spaces (Fig 4) in the borough and 80% of the respondents to parish survey through they were of good or very good quality (Fig 5).

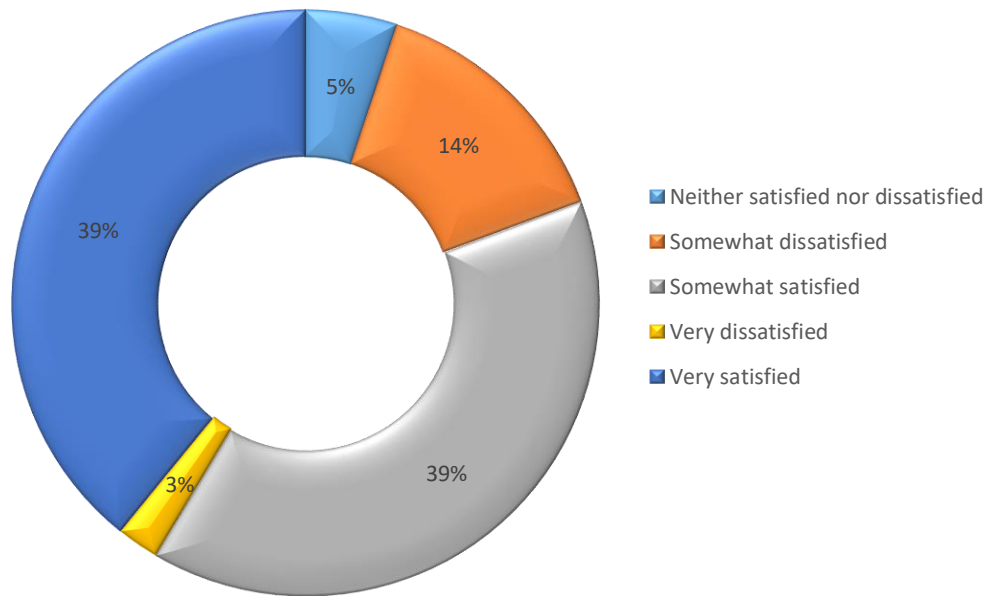


Fig 4. Public Survey results- Respondents view on the quality of Open Spaces within the administrative area of Milton Keynes.

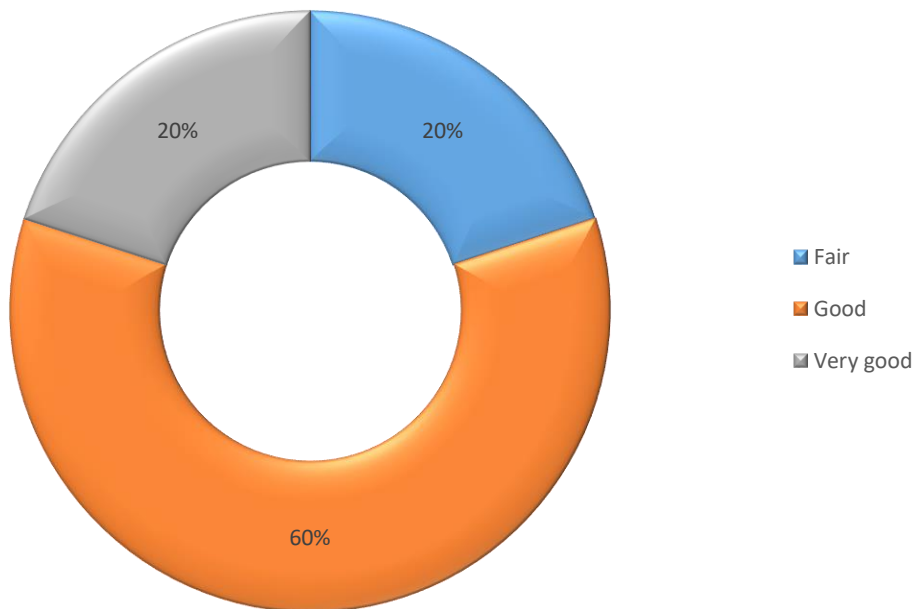
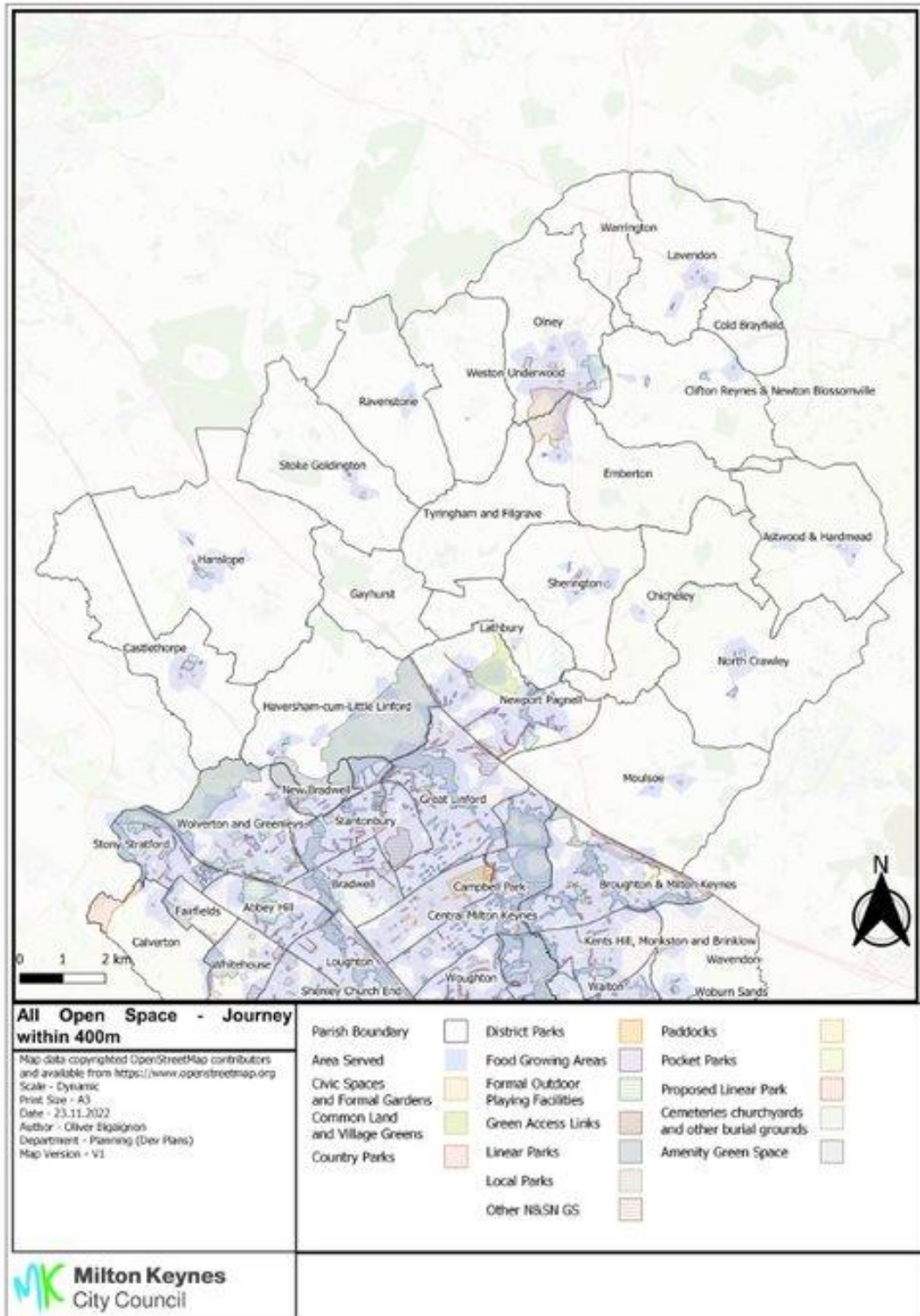


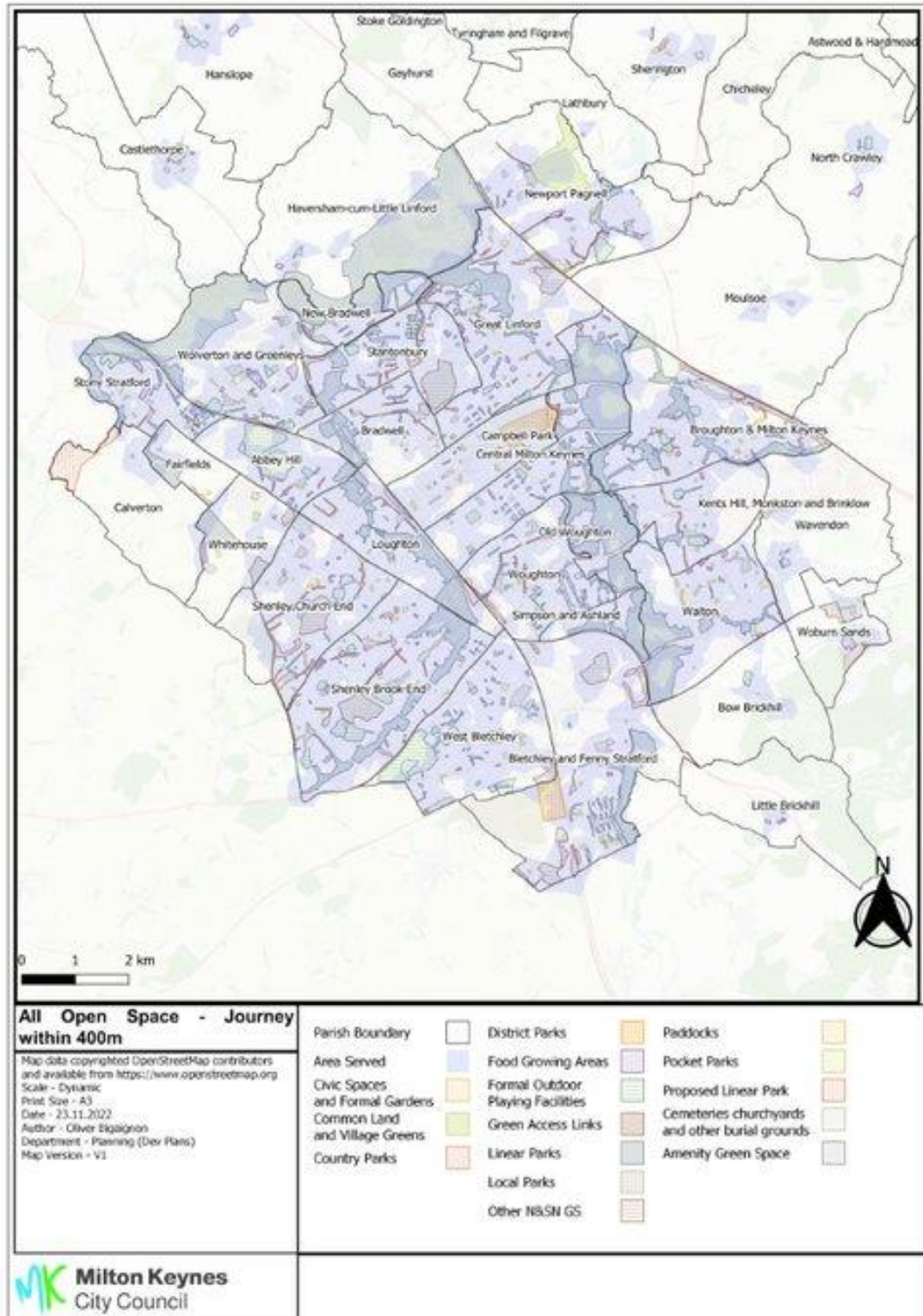
Fig 5. Parish Survey- Respondents view on the quality of Open Spaces within the administrative area of Milton Keynes.

Current accessibility of open spaces

- 6.8 The study reviews the accessibility to open spaces with the consideration of
- We used QGIS program and an Isochrone mapping tool to help us find areas that the sites served based on the distance thresholds applied and route options that we consider people should be using to get to such places depending on the likely mode of transportation (e.g., walking, cycling or motorised trips by cars or Public Transport)
 - We asked the public what their views on the overall accessibility to open spaces in the study area and asked them to consider the following:
 - o General access to sites,
 - o Pedestrian and cycle links,
 - o Parking Provision and
 - o Disabled access
 - We assessed the accessibility through site assessment (see the Accessibility site assessment questions in Appendix 3 where answers were turned into scores that were a part of the overall score for the 'weighted score' for the sites.
- 6.9 Maps 4 and 5 show the open space types and areas served by accessible routes within 400m of any of the open spaces in the borough. Maps for each parish were produced to show the data in detail.



Map 4. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- north.



Map 5. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- south.

6.10 In terms of overall accessibility, the public stated that overall, the sites in the study area are easy to access with only 8% of respondents stating that they were difficult to access (Fig 6)

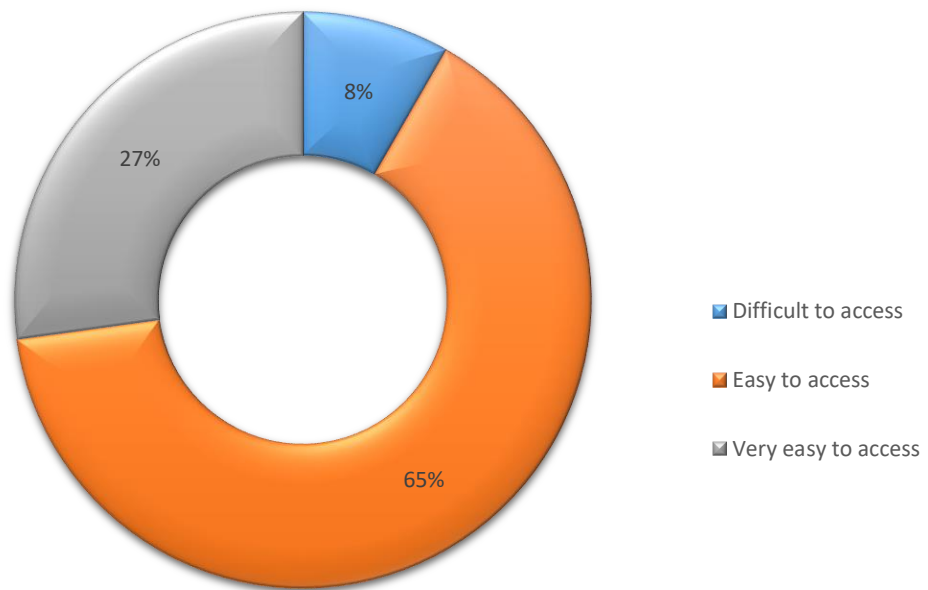


Fig 6. Public survey results- Review of overall accessibility to open spaces in the administrative area of Milton Keynes.

6.5 The Parish and Town survey results show that the overall accessibility on the study area is good with 20% believing it is fair (Fig 7).

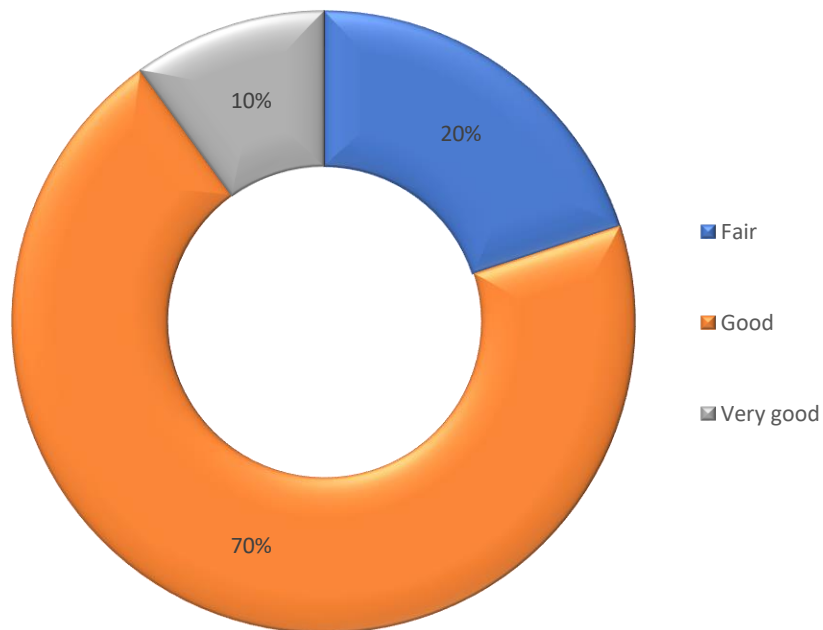


Fig 7. Parish survey- Review of overall accessibility to open spaces in administrative area of Milton Keynes.

6.11 We asked questions that allowed us to review how access to the site (in terms of distance to the site) impacts on the frequency of the visits. Fig 8 shows that the sites closer to respondents are visited most days. Interestingly however many respondents would still visit most days sites that take them 20 minutes or more to get to.

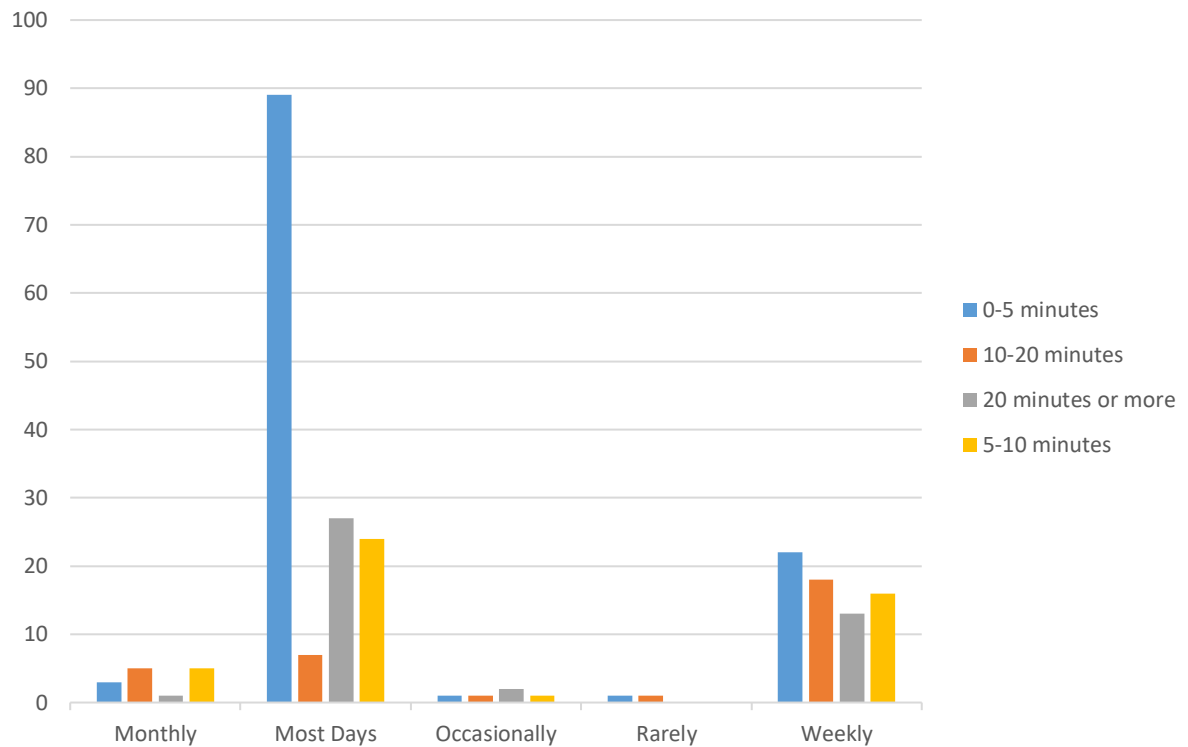


Fig 8. Public Survey results- Frequency of visits to Open Space and journey time.

6.12 The shorter, site visits are mainly made on foot by the public. The longer journeys are made by foot or a bike by the public. Time taken to reach open space and travel mode can be seen on Fig 9.

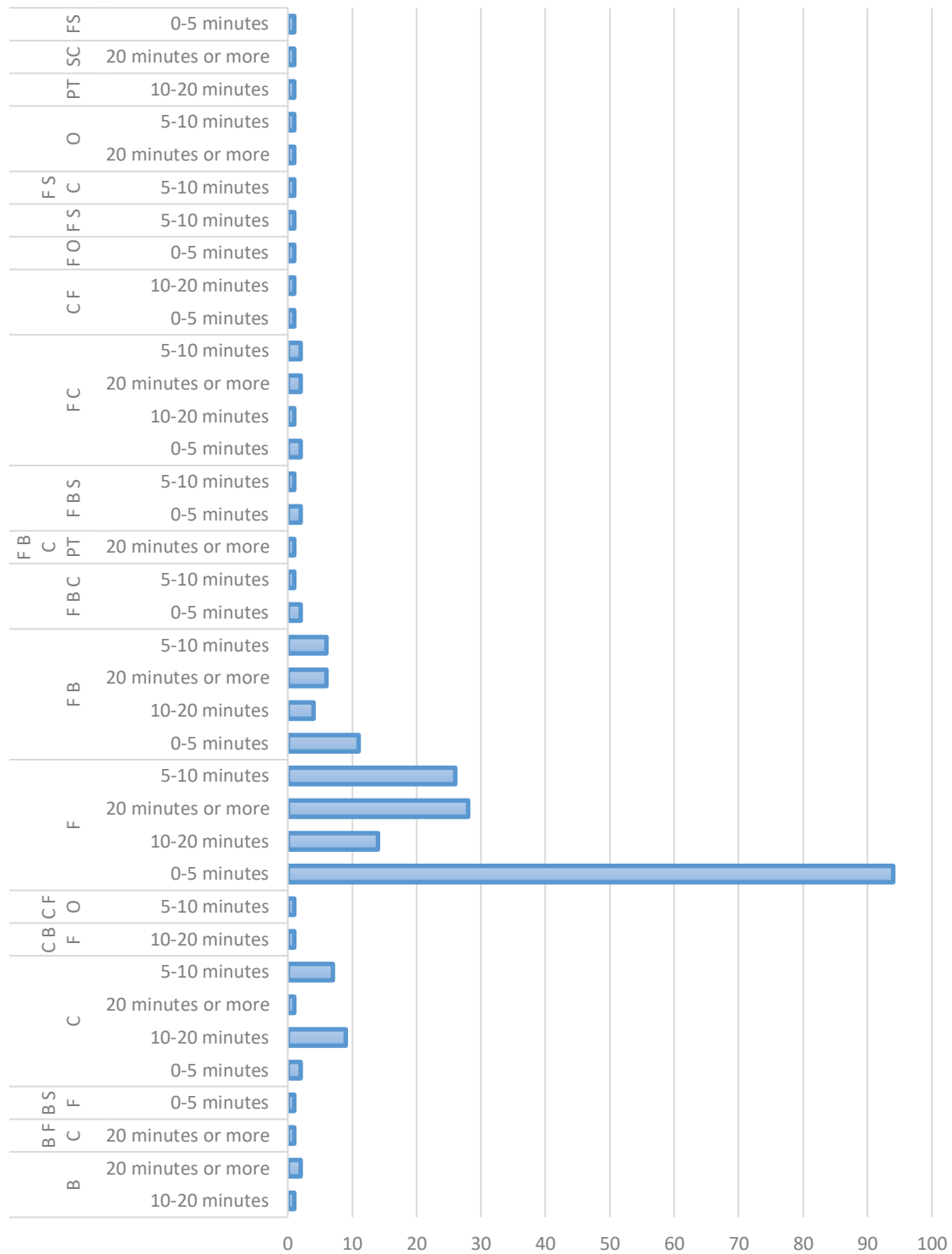


Fig 9. Public Survey results- Travel time to Open Space and mode of transportation
 B- Bike, C- Car, F-Foot, O- Other, PT- Public Transport, S-Scooter⁵.

⁵ Where more than one method was chosen this is reflected e.g., CBF means by either car, bike or foot.

Current Value of Open Spaces

- 6.13 Site visit data, surveys and desk-based research allow us to review value of open spaces. Through the assessment we considered sites historical and cultural value and made observations regarding sites visitors. Captured data allowed us to note key values for each open space types.
- 6.14 The public surveys highlighted open spaces the public visits (Fig 10) and what do they value them for (Fig 11).
- 6.15 The NPPF refers to value attributes such as historic and cultural value, recreational value, attractiveness of the area. Those were captured under the quality part of the site assessment.

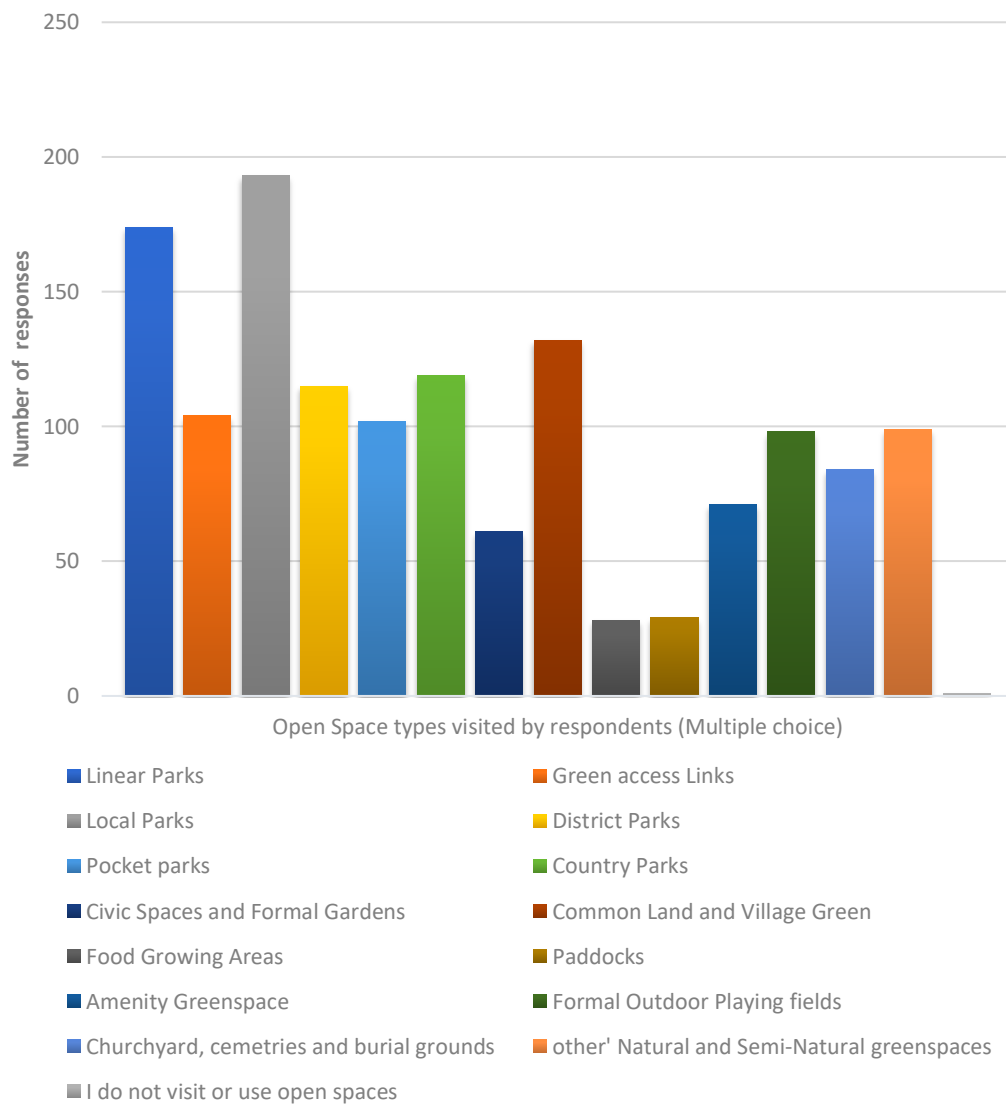


Fig 10. Public Survey results- Types of Open Spaces visited by respondents.

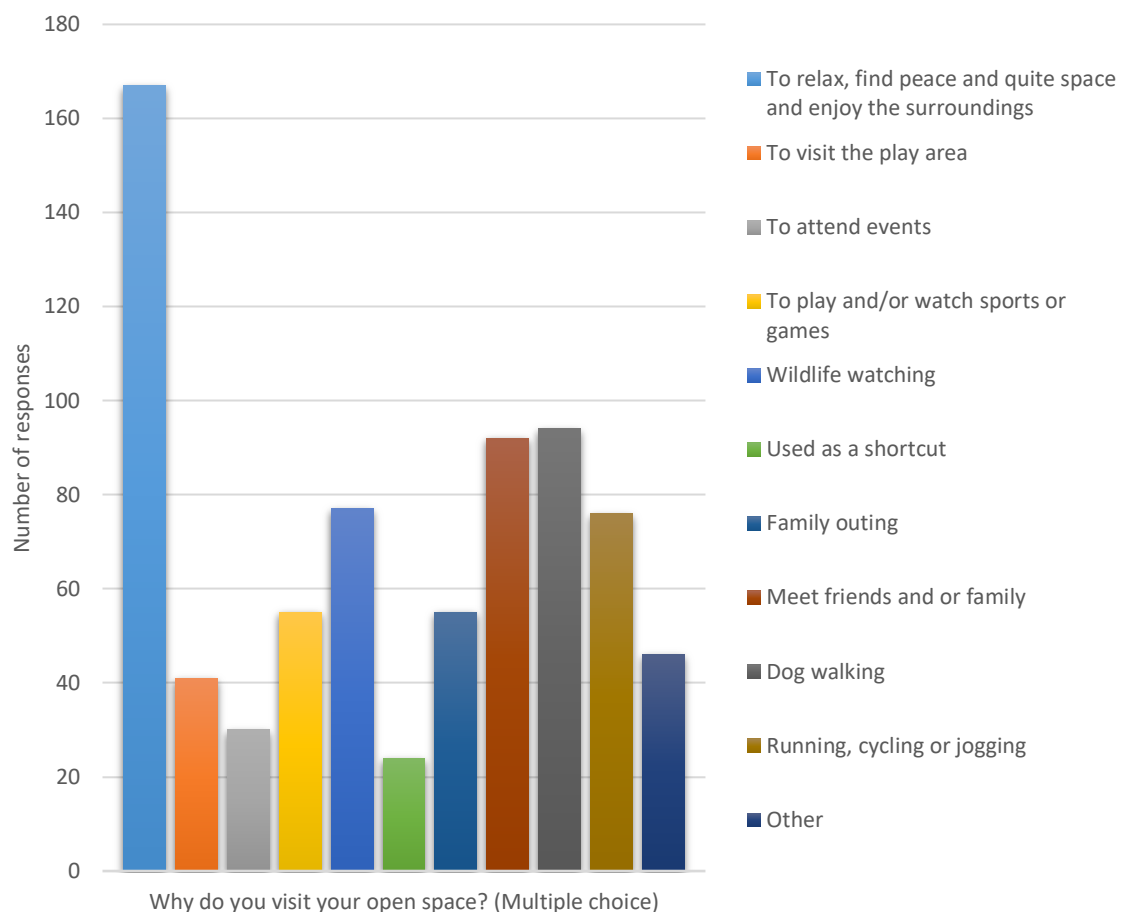


Fig 11. Public Survey results- Purpose of visiting Open Spaces.

6.16 The survey responses also reviewed the context of site in relation to other open spaces, any ecosystem benefits that the site may be delivering e.g., support/promote biodiversity and wildlife, provides learning opportunities or provide places for social interaction. This report captures key values for each of the open space types recognised during the assessment.

Health and access to open spaces

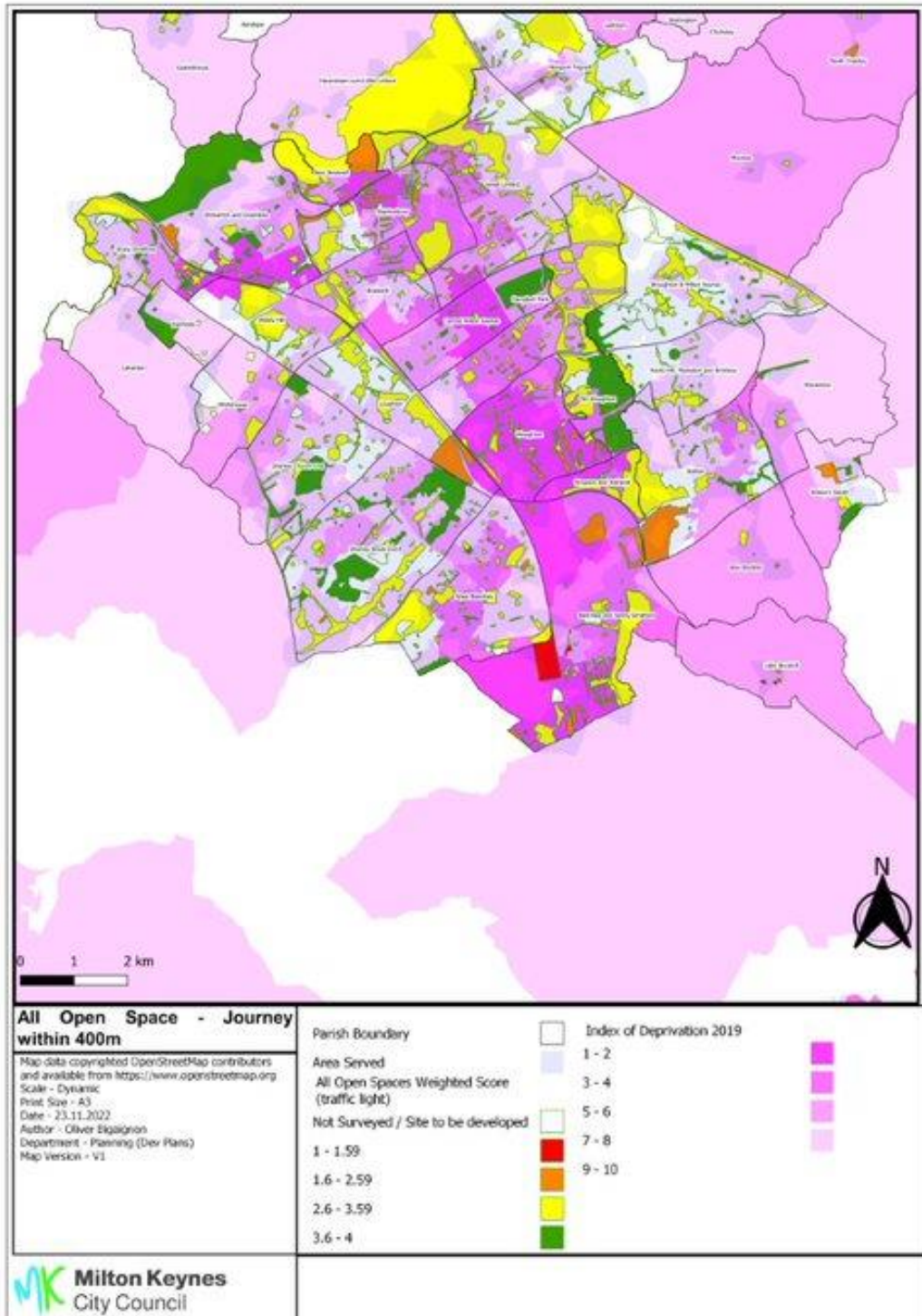
6.17 Access to good quality open spaces can help to reduce health inequalities. A Faculty of Public Health report⁶ notes that the proximity and accessibility of green spaces to residential areas is positively associated with increased overall levels of physical activity, impact on communities’ resilience and wellbeing. The study shows a number of case studies that show the importance of maintaining good quality and accessible green spaces and they should be maximised for health-promoting activities.

6.18 Another national report by Public Health England⁷ highlights that the most economically deprived areas have less available good quality public greenspaces. To review how this is

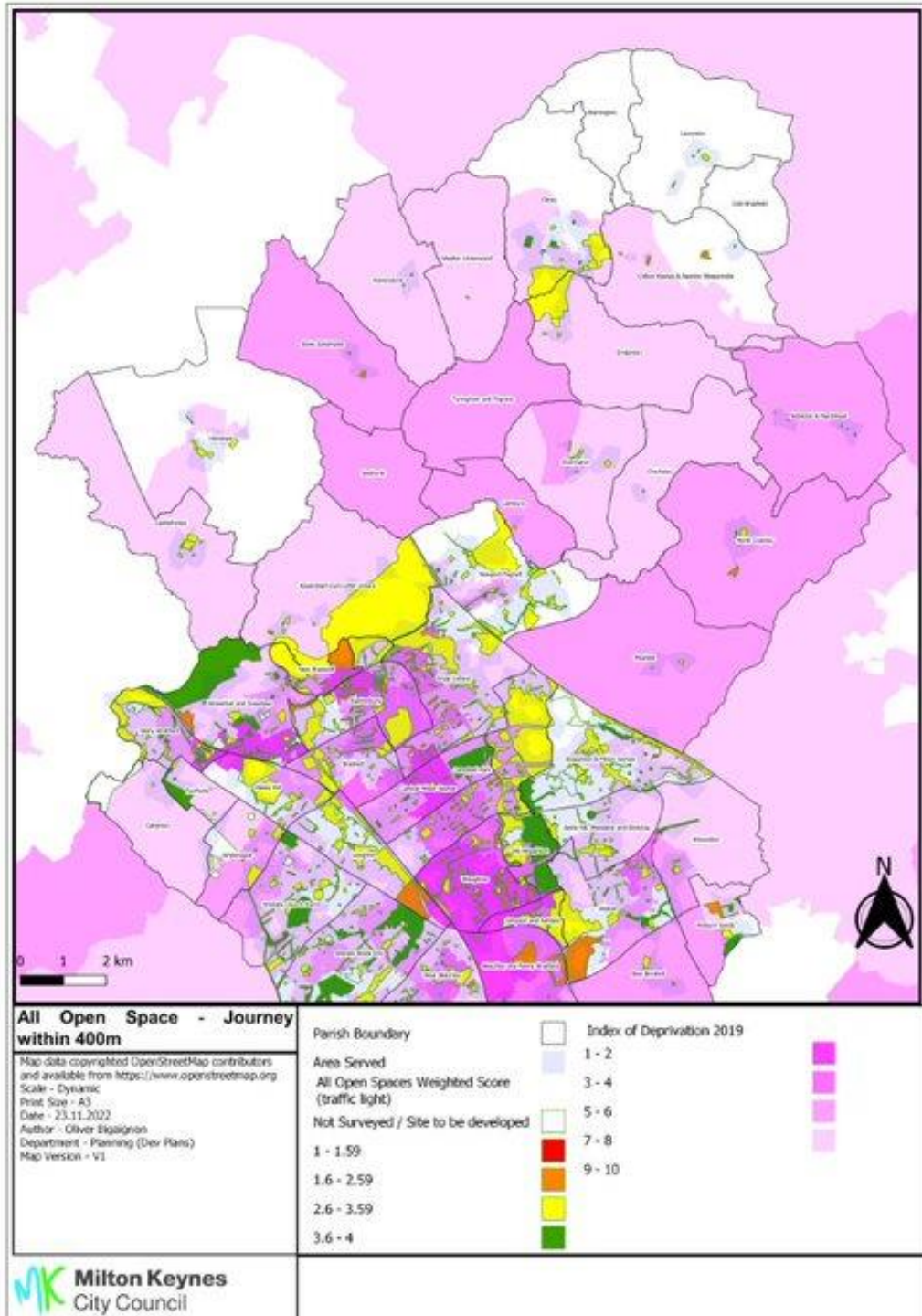
⁶ Great Outdoors: How Our Natural Health Service Uses Green Space to Improve Wellbeing, An action report. Faculty of Public Health in association with Natural England, 2010.

⁷ ‘Improving access to greenspace: 2020 review’, Public Health England

presented in the borough we produced a series of maps to show how the quality of good space, accessibility correlates with the deprivation by using some of the ONS (Office for National Statistics) data. The results can be found on Map 6 below. We also produced such maps for each of the parishes.



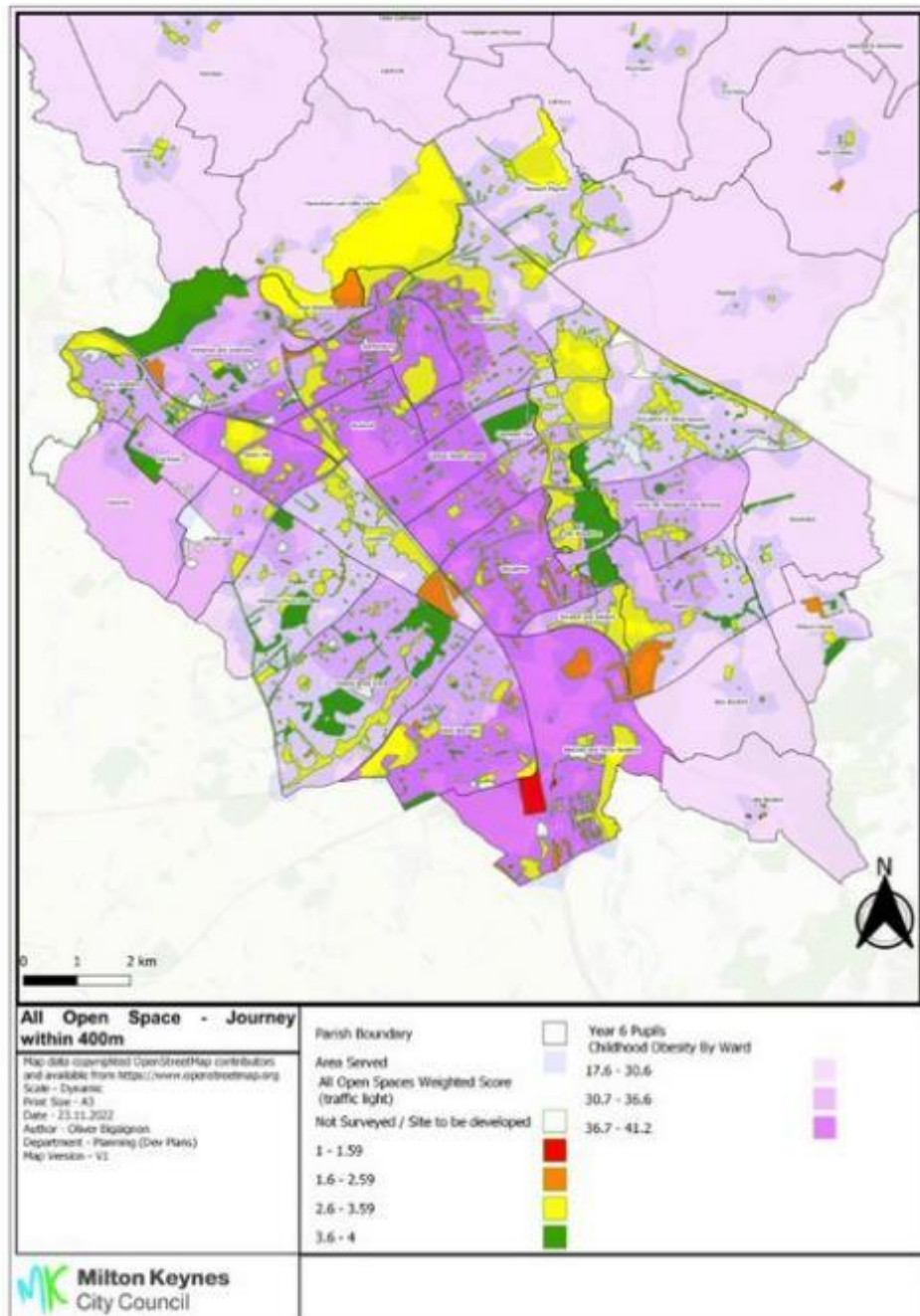
Map 6. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- south and deprivation data 2019 (ONS).



Map 7. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- north and deprivation data 2019 (ONS).

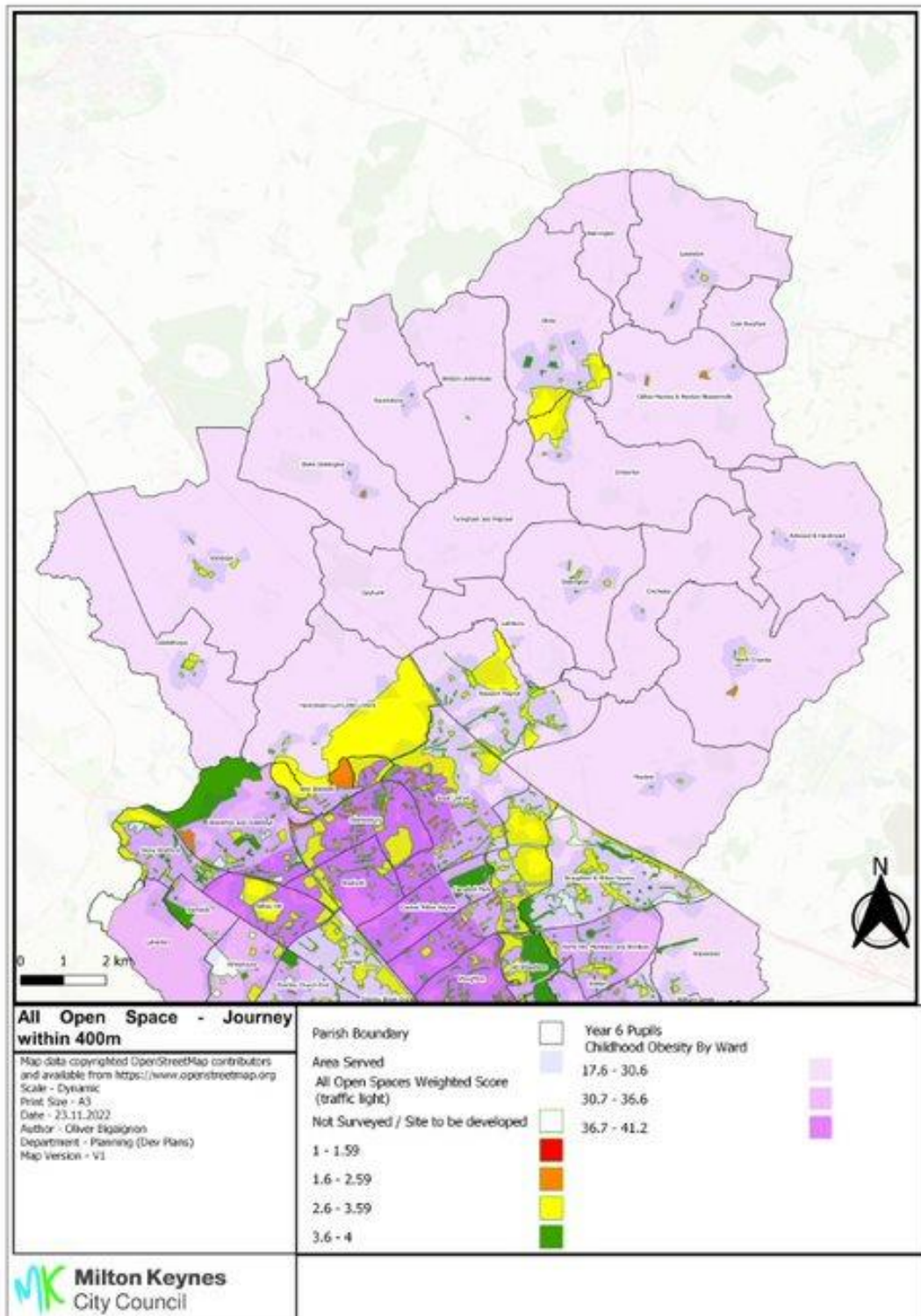
- 6.19 It is evident that some more deprived areas in the borough have open spaces scoring lower than the areas less deprived. Bletchley and Fenny Stratford in particular show the correlation.
- 6.20 We also reviewed how the quality and accessibility of open spaces relates to the results of the Year 6 obesity data provided to us by Public Health. The data is for Year 6 pupils (age

10/11) and for children either classed as overweight or obese. The data set is the most up-to-date set covering 2017-19⁸. The information gathered through the site visits combined with the information received by colleagues in Public Health can support long-term ambitions and plans to improve public health by improving accessibility/quality of open spaces in areas of concern- see Map 8 and Map 9 below.



Map 8. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- south and Year 6 Pupils Obesity data (2017-19) PHE.

⁸ Data collection was paused during the Pandemic and 2022 data is not ready yet.



Map 9. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- north and Year 6 Pupils Obesity data (2017-19) PHE.

7. Country parks

Introduction to Country Parks

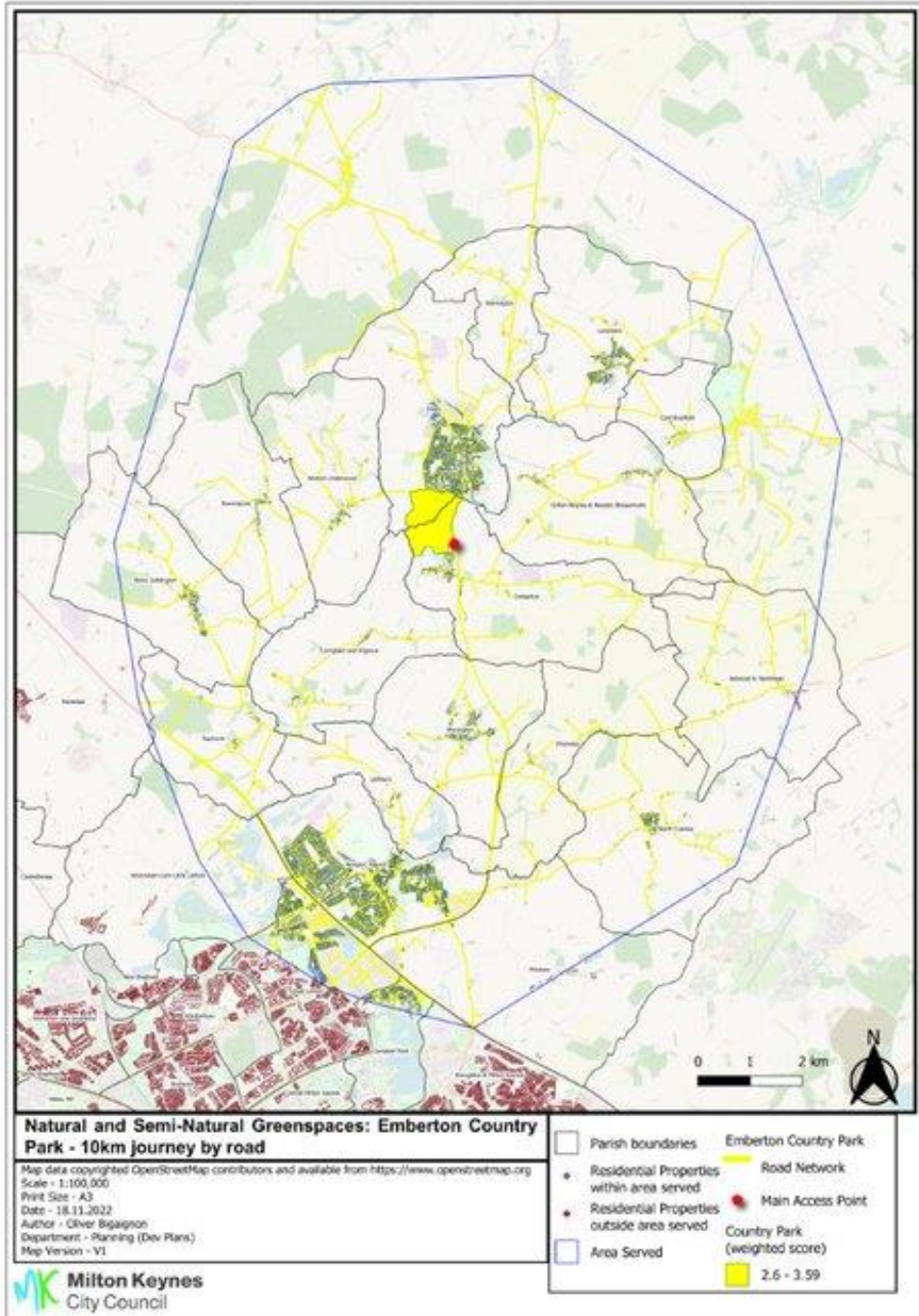
- 7.1 Country parks are open space areas in a countryside environment which are accessible to wider population and located less than 10 miles from residential area. They are predominantly of natural or semi-natural landscape and defined by a clear boundary.
- 7.2 Country Parks can be accredited by Natural England if they fulfil essential criteria. Green Flag Award status is used to review their status.
- 7.3 There is currently one country park in the area of Milton Keynes (Emberton Country Park) which is just over 155ha in size. It is open 365 days a year for the public. It is located in the northern part of Milton Keynes.



Photo 2. Emberton Country Park

Accessibility

- 7.4 Map 10 shows the accessibility to the site via road network within 10 km. Country parks are considered strategic open spaces and it is likely that visitors will be coming from further afield.



Map 10. Emberton Country Park accessibility via accessible route network and within 10km.

- 7.5 There is a potential to deliver a park West of the City and upgrade larger existing district parks into Country Park Status as per Natural England’s accreditation to increase accessibility to such areas.
- 7.6 Nature, Green and Blue Infrastructure Study will further explore possible locations for such strategic land allocation. Funding options and location of future Country Parks will be explored through that study.

Quality

- 7.7 Based on the overall weighted score the site rated good. It is well located on the main road network with some sustainable travel options. The park does not yet hold Natural England's accreditation.
- 7.8 The park covers 200 acres of parkland in the village of Emberton in close proximity to historic village of Olney. The site was transformed into England's first country park.
- 7.9 The site contains three children's play areas, bird watching platforms and duck feeding and picnic areas. Fishing is permitted on all four lakes on site as well as sailing. There are pitches for camping and caravanning.
- 7.10 There are facilities and refreshments available on site to allow longer stay.



Photo 3. Play area at Emberton Park

Value

- 7.11 The park is valued for its rich biodiversity of the lakes and surrounding areas. It allows for social interaction and physical activity while enjoying the environment. Outside those cultural ecosystem services, it provides many others such as provisioning services by providing clean air and habitats that attract wildlife.

8. District and Linear Parks

Introduction to District and Linear Parks

- 8.1 Linear Parks are networks of city-wide multifunctional rural and urban green spaces that usually follow the water bodies and flood plains across the city. They are ecological corridors



Photo 4. Ashland Lakes.

for wildlife. Linear parks follow the river valleys across the city and in the areas of balancing lakes. The system of linear parks is almost continuous network around the city and includes play areas, rural green spaces, ancient woodlands and nature reserves.

8.2 Some sites are important archaeological heritage sites and form part valued landscape.

8.3 The network has some strategic gaps, and this can be seen on the brought wide open space mapping.

8.4 District Parks are areas of attractive landscape with various facilities that can

include public art. They are spaces that actively attract visitors from a wider catchment. They offer unique experience.

Current provision

- 8.5 There are two parks that are classified as District Parks in Milton Keynes: Campbell Park and Blue Lagoon. There is currently over 33 ha of district park and over 1542 ha of linear parks in the administrative area of Milton Keynes.

Accessibility

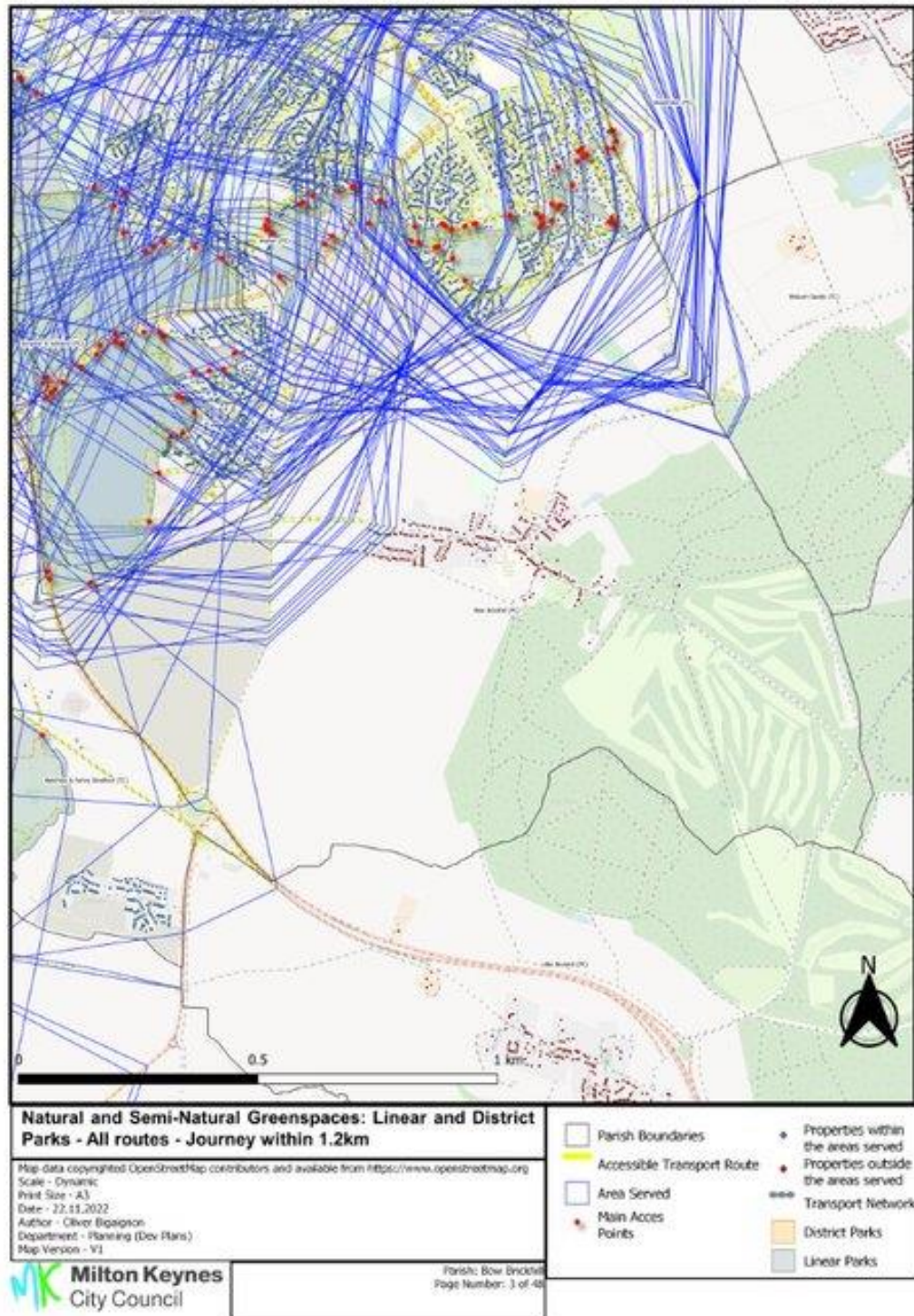
- 8.6 Map 11 is a sample map showing type of map that was produced in the study to show areas that are within 1,2km of either of the open space types by PROW or road network.

8.7 There are parts of the linear park network that are inaccessible such as parts of the Ouse Valley Linear Park network where some parcels of land are privately owned or lacking public access.



Photo 5. Caldecotte lake South.

8.8 One of the objectives of the New Council Delivery Plan (2022-23) is to investigate options for transforming the Blue Lagoon. One option considered is transforming the Blue Lagoon into a country park where an additional 100ha of accessible open space would be created in the south of Bletchley by the mid-2030's.



Map 11. Linear Parks and District Parks accessibility via accessible route network and within 1.2km.

Quality

- 8.9 Campbell Park received a weighted score of very good. The site is managed by the Parks Trust to a very high standard. The site has cultural and historical elements, and the area was

awarded Grade II status by Historic England in August 2020. There are various public art sculptures within the and the site is also a home to the Parks Trust headquarters. One of the key features is MK Rose. The park is a place where events can be arranged, and celebrations take place. There is also a cricket pitch on site that can host county level games.

8.10 The Blue Lagoon site is owned and maintained by the Council and requires further investment to improve the sites quality overall. The site is a nature reserve which is rich in



Photo 6. Blue Lagoon

wildlife with main feature being water filled pit from former brickworks. The site received its designation in 1994. The site is considered highly valuable in terms of biodiversity present but will require investment to improve and expand the range of facilities present on site and equipment.

8.11 The linear parks weighted scoring maps were produced for each parish. An example of such map can be found below. Majority of the sites scored good or very good in

weighted scoring assessment. It should be noted that the sites run by Parks Trust have received over the years Green Flag award status. Character of the sites changes across the City, and they are less formal and more agricultural in the countryside outside urban area where they include play areas.

8.12 Majority of the sites were classified as very good or good through the sites visits. Most linear parks areas are managed by the Parks Trust to a very high standard. Some linear parks are adjacent to or incorporate other types of open spaces such as playing fields or paddocks.

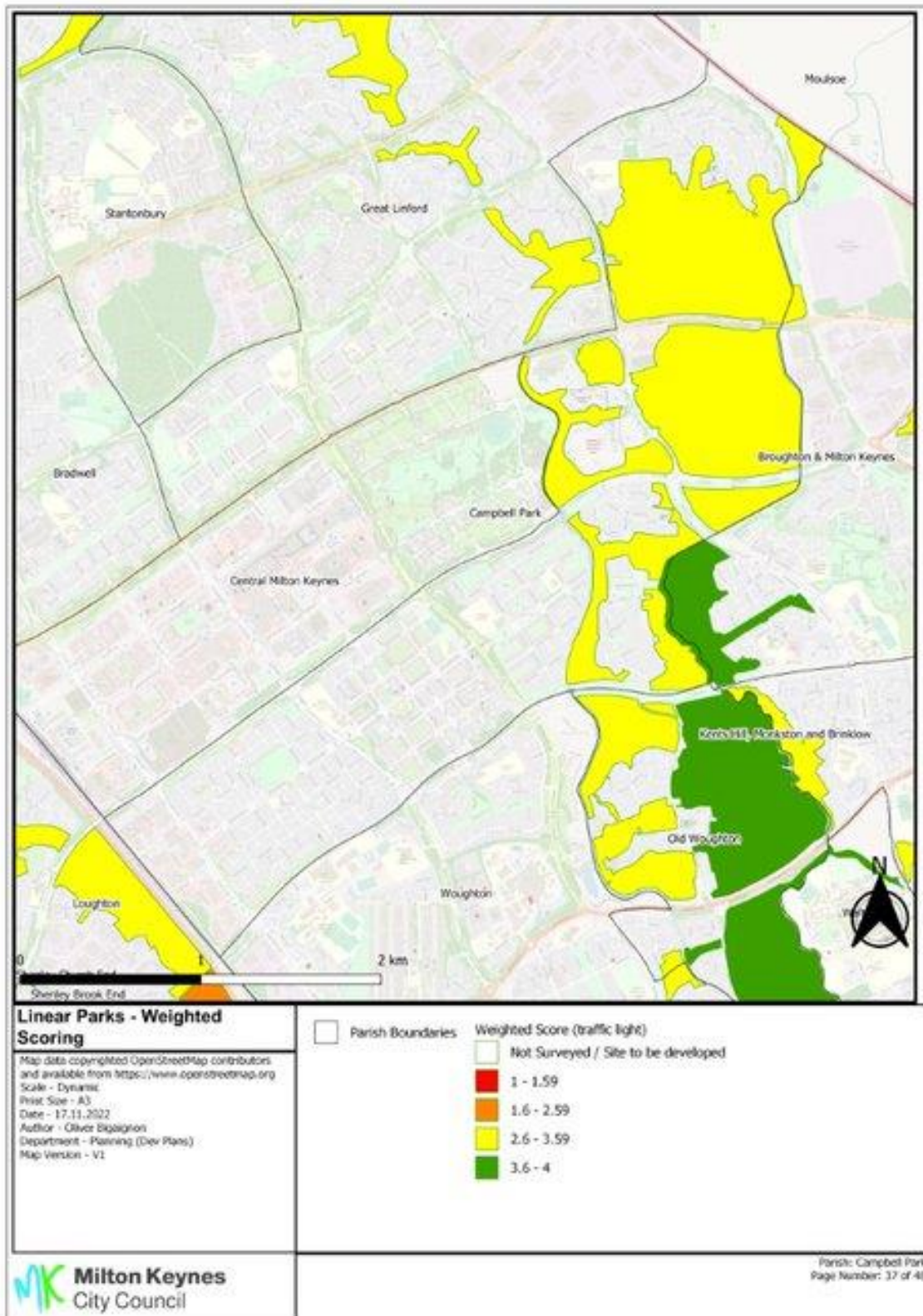


Photo 7. Peace Pagoda

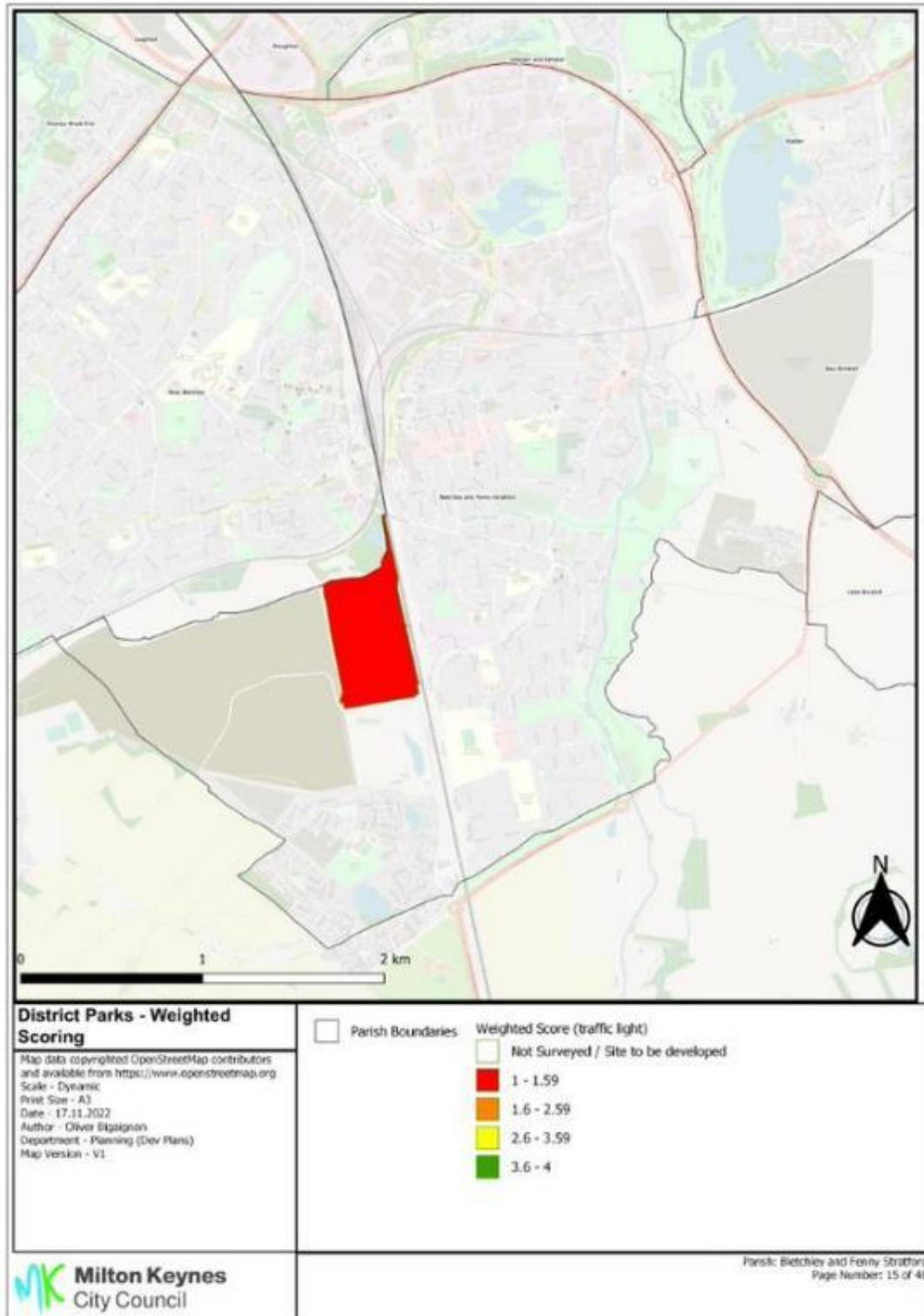
8.13 Some of the linear parks provide an open space buffer between the open countryside and urban Milton Keynes along the Ouse Valley with many environmental benefits.

8.14 Many sites are highly valued for informal exercise and include various play areas for different age groups. Some larger sites such as Willen Lake are areas that attract the residents from outside the administrative borders and are key strategic sites. Various events can be hosted within the grounds of larger sites. The Willen Lake site offers water sports amongst adventures play equipment for various ages and private climbing facility and splash

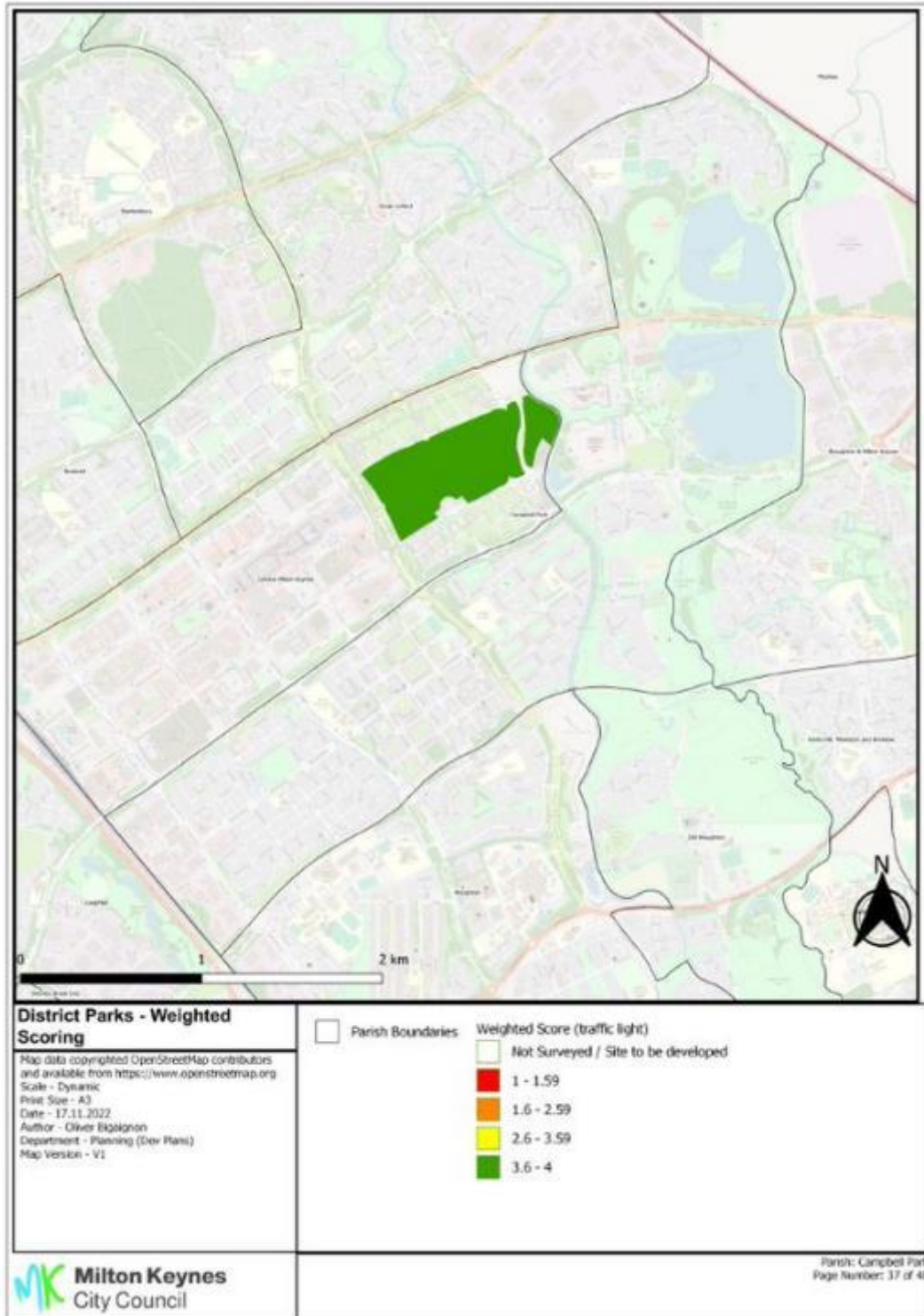
park. Fishing is common in the area. There are restaurants and facilities that allow for longer stay.



Map 12. Sample map for weighted score from site surveys- linear parks.



Map 13. Blue lagoon district park weighted score from site survey.



Map 14. Campbell Park district park weighted score from site survey.

Value

8.15 District Parks are areas of attractive landscape with various facilities that can include public art. They are considered to be spaces that actively attract visitors from a wider catchment and are often connected with existing open spaces features such as linear parks.

- 8.16 Blue lagoon is used predominantly by walkers. The site has ponds and lakes within which allow for fishing and scuba diving. The site is connected to the wider green infrastructure network and open countryside to North and West. There are opportunities for better integration of this site with other open spaces. Blue Lagoon holds a nature reserve status.
- 8.17 The linear parks system covers urban and rural greenspaces, river valleys and natural and semi natural greenspaces such as woodlands. The Parks Trust charity organises events in those parks, provides environmental education programmes. The sites provide various provisioning and supporting ecosystem services and many cultural ones by providing areas for sport, social interaction and play. They significantly contribute to flood management and provide leisure and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.



Photo 8. MK Rose at Campbell Park.

9. Food growing areas

Introduction to food growing areas

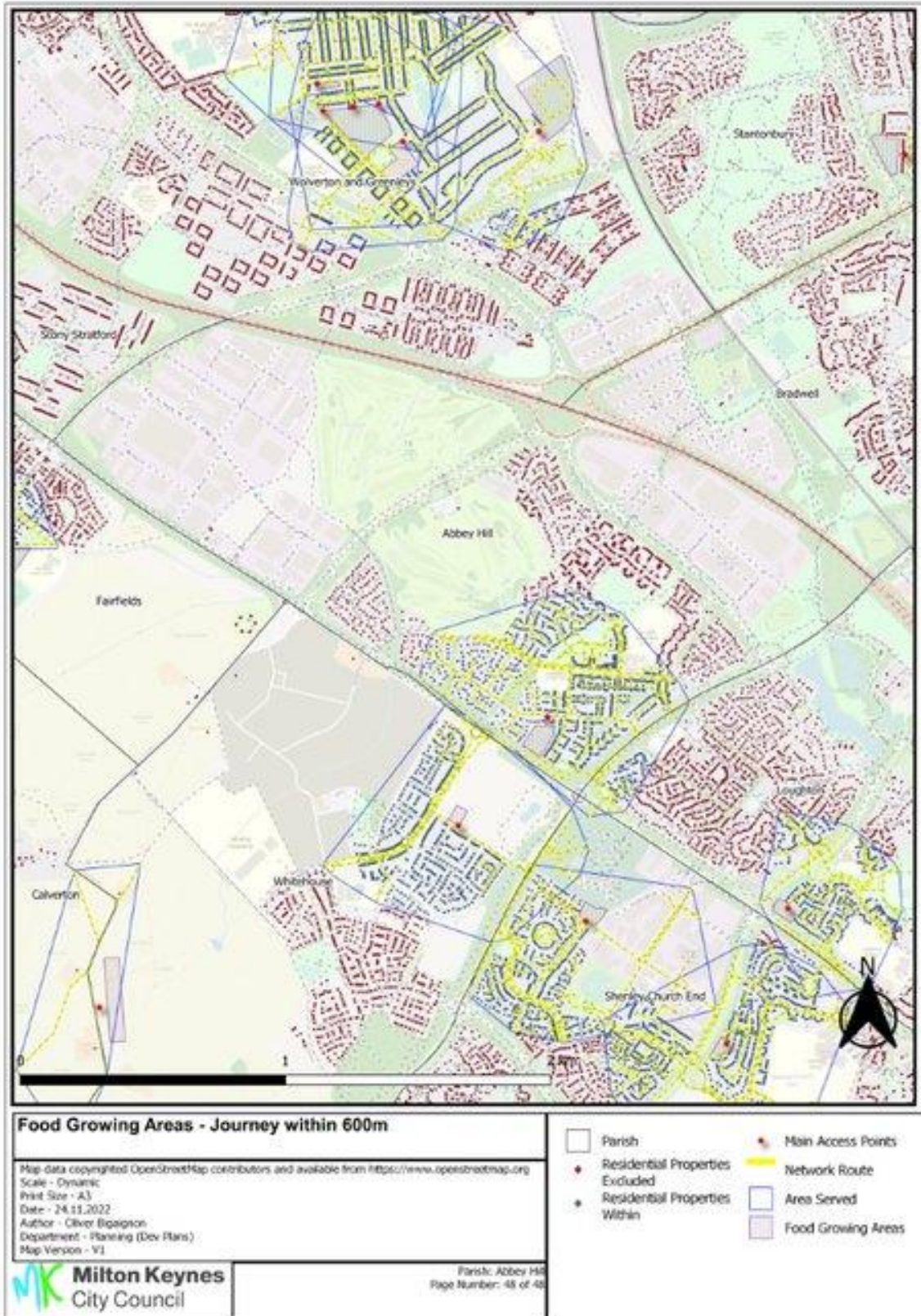
- 9.1 There has been an increased interest in urban food growing areas over the years due to growing land-use constraints, interest in organic farming and self-sufficiency. Food growing areas have a potential to supplement the production of fruit and vegetables in Milton Keynes.
- 9.2 Future demand for food growing areas should be reviewed on case-by-case basis to ensure the right solution is sought for local needs. Future demand might be met through new allotment sites, provision of community gardens or orchards.

Current provision

- 9.3 There are over 57.77ha of food growing areas in Milton Keynes Plan area. The demand for sites varies across the stud area. Many parish councils hold waiting lists. Most of them are allotments sites. Largest community orchard is in Wolverton. Most allotments are well established and historically provided and mainly managed by parish councils.

Accessibility

- 9.4 Series of maps was produced to show area served by the existing sites. 600m PROW or Road network thresholds were used to map the areas served.
- 9.5 There are no national standards for food growing areas. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardener (NSALG) suggests a standard of 20 allotments per 1000 households which equates to 0.25ha per 1000 population. It is considered that the demand for allotments and other food growing areas varies and therefore the 0.25ha per 1000 population is to be applied as a starting point in a review of future demands. We mapped the 600m accessibility to show how the sites are currently accessible within 15-minute walk. This mapping can inform any decision making where future provision is considered.



Map 15. Sample map- food growing areas accessibility via accessible route network within 600m.

Quality

- 9.6 Serious of maps was produced to show the weighted score for the sites. Example of such mapping can be found below.
- 9.7 Out of 68 sites scored, 75% scored good and very good while 22% scored poor and 3% very good access and security at sites including boundary fencing
- 9.8 Sites that scored high had well maintained pathways and parking areas with water provision on sites. Notice boards where visible and highlighted opportunities and encouragement to individuals and communities wishing to be involved in the cultivation of allotments. Composting bins or composting bays were present on sites.
- 9.9 Some poorer quality sites had a number of neglected plots, unclear and unmanaged site boundaries and required maintenance. The storage structures were unkept or in disrepair.
- 9.10 Well manged sites had clearly defined plot areas and paths. Sheds and greenhouses were in good state of repair.

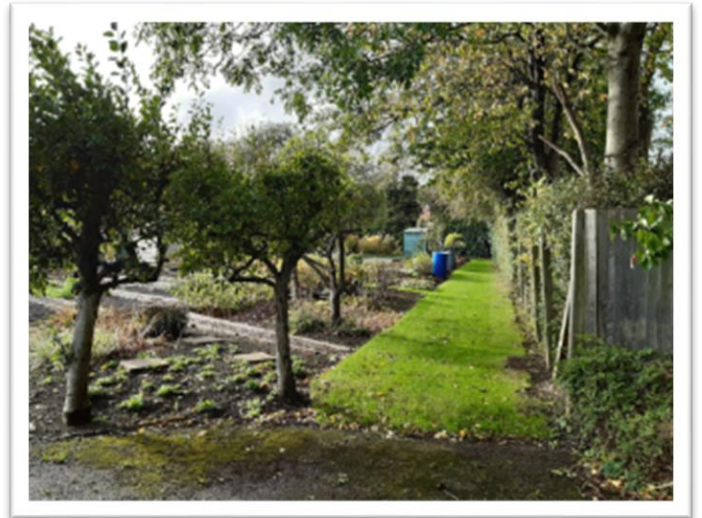
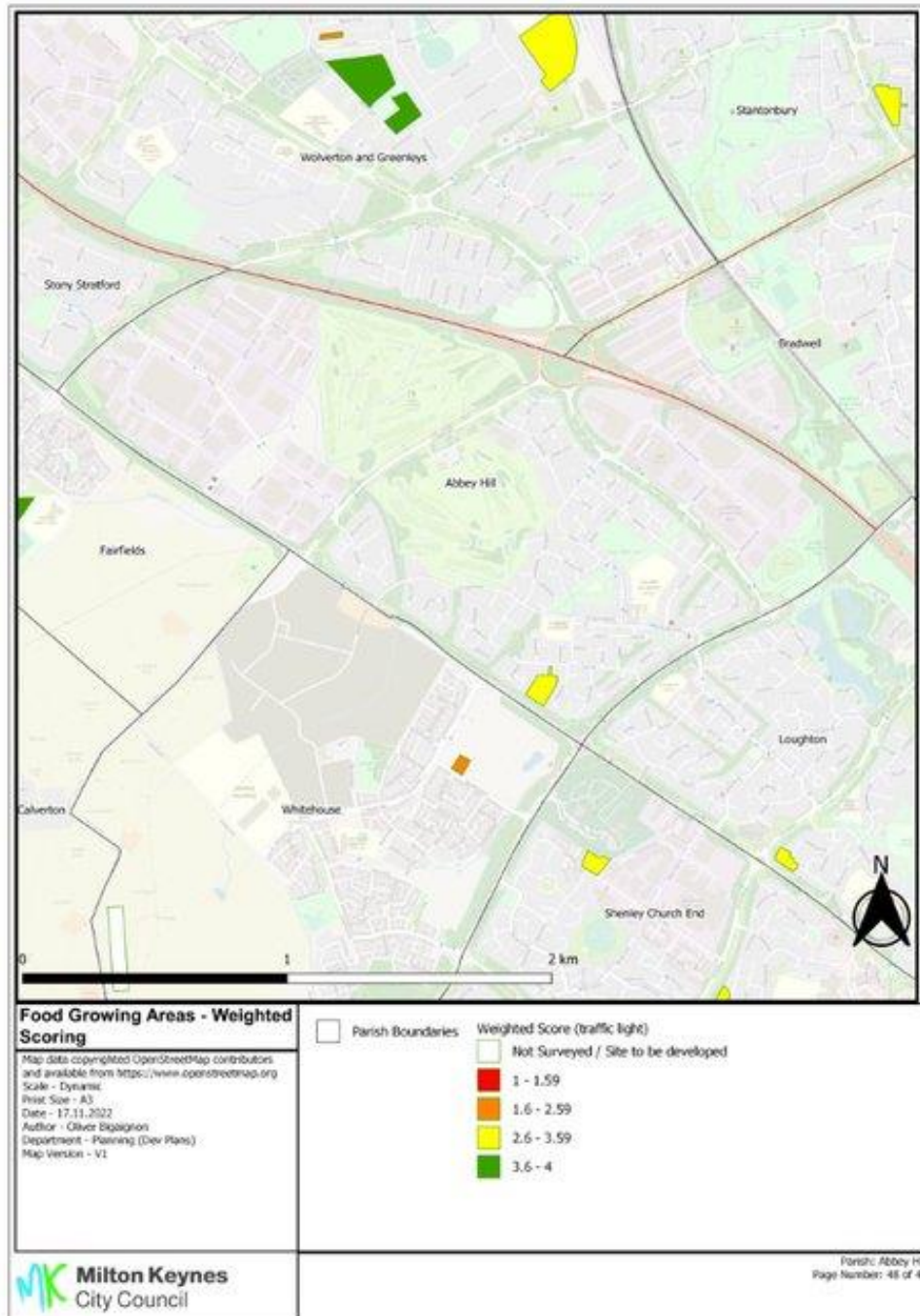


Photo 9. Allotment site – Two Mile Ash allotment gardens.



Photo 10. Allotment site- Two Mile Ash Allotment Gardens. Sample of a well-managed site.

9.11 Food growing areas success depends on the management of the sites and ensuring users commitment to regular visits.



Map 15a. Sample map- weighted score from site survey - food growing areas.

Value

- 9.12 The value of food growing areas is demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists which signals that the demand outweighs the supply in some areas. Having an allotment or access to other food growing area allows to grow seasonal produce but also is a place for socialising. Many noted that the sites are used as quiet spaces where people can connect better with nature.
- 9.13 Some sites included areas that were left unmanaged to attract wildlife and improve biodiversity on sites.

10. Natural and semi-natural greenspaces

Introduction to Natural and semi-natural greenspaces

- 10.1 Natural greenspaces as per Natural England's glossary⁹ are spaces where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate. They mainly include woodlands, scrubland, grasslands (e.g., meadows and non-amenity grassland), wetlands and watercourses, nature reserves, sites of wildlife interest.
- 10.2 Those open space areas that exist as a distinct natural and semi-natural areas are classified and assessed under 'other' Natural and semi-natural greenspaces typology in this study.
- 10.3 There are open space areas within the administrative area of Milton Keynes that have a significant amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace within, are unmanaged or managed to promote a wild place and those include Country parks, District Parks, and Linear Parks open space types.

Current provision

- 10.4 Total amount of 'other' natural and semi-natural greenspace throughout the administrative area is 316.09 ha giving a provision of 1.1 ha per 1,000 head of population. In addition, there are open spaces that contain significant amount of natural and semi-natural greenspaces and those include: linear parks, district parks and country parks.
- 10.5 There is a wide spread of sites identified as 'other' natural and semi-natural greenspaces and those that contain a significant element of the natural and semi-natural element within their open space type, and this can be seen on the accessibility mapping below.



Photo 11. Example of 'other' Natural and Semi-natural greenspace- Colossus Wood.

Accessibility

- 10.6 Key standards developed that relates to the provision of natural and semi natural greenspaces have been developed by Natural England. It is anticipated that the Original

⁹ Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, Natural England 2010.

Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) standards¹⁰ will be updated shortly and the draft revised ANGSt presented by Natural England in 2022 series of workshops were used:

Name of criterion	Size distance criteria	Walking & Cycling times
Doorstep Green Space	At least 0.5ha within 200m	Under 5 min walk
Local Natural Greenspace	At least 2 ha within 300m	5 mins walk 2mins cycle
Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace	10ha within 1km	15 mins walk 4 mins cycle
Wider neighbourhood	At least 20 ha within 2km	35 mins walk
District	100 ha within 5km	20 min cycle
Sub-regional	500 ha within 10km	40 min cycle
Local nature Reserves	At least 1ha per 1000 people	

Table 4. Draft Accessible Natural Green Space Standards, Natural England 2022.

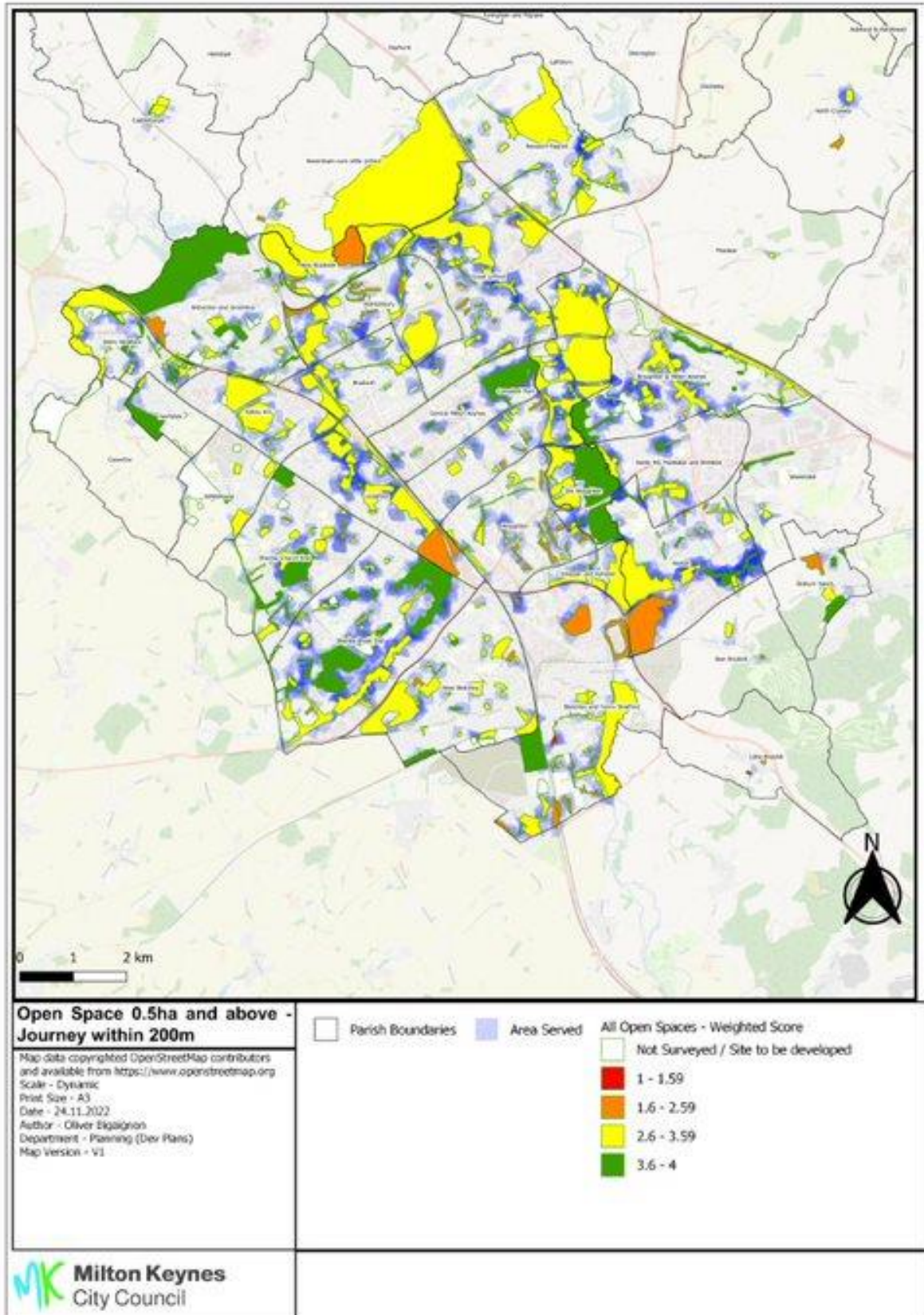
10.7 Natural England’s definition of an Accessible greenspaces are areas that are (...) understood to be (...) available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions (although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle). The places are available to all, meaning that every reasonable effort is made to comply with the requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995). An accessible place will also be known to the target users, including potential users who live within the site catchment area.



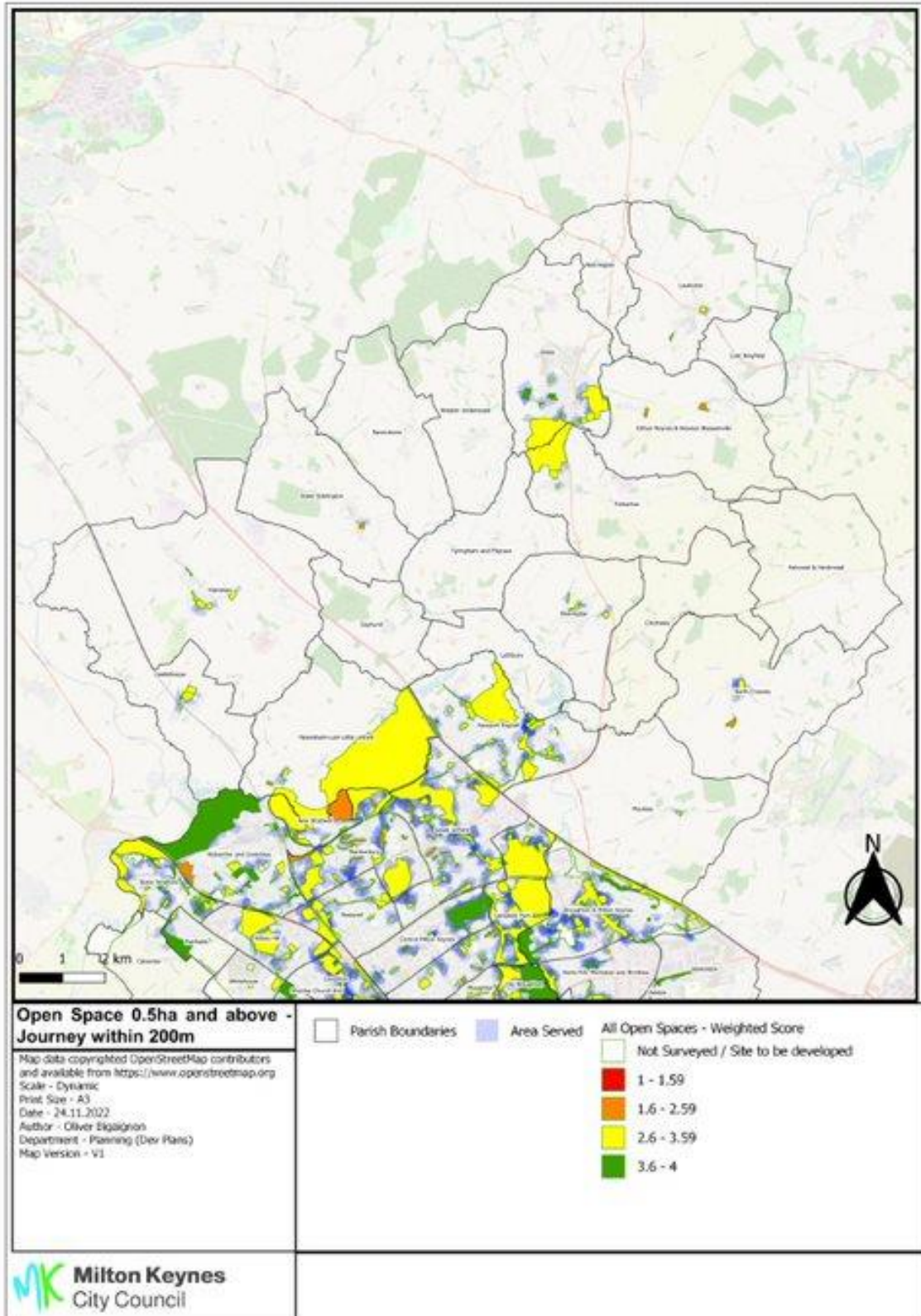
Photo 12. Brooklands Bund- newly established ‘other’ natural and semi-natural greenspace.

10.8 Maps 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 shows which properties within the administrative area of Milton Keynes have access to accessible greenspaces as per draft ANGSt standards. Each of the open spaces may act as a doorstep greenspace therefore we used all open space types when mapping doorstep greenspace in Map 16 and 17. Maps 18-23 present results for the open space types in Milton Keynes that we consider have a significant amount of natural and semi- natural greenspaces (see Table 1.) There are no Sub-regional sites within the study area that are 500ha and within 1km.

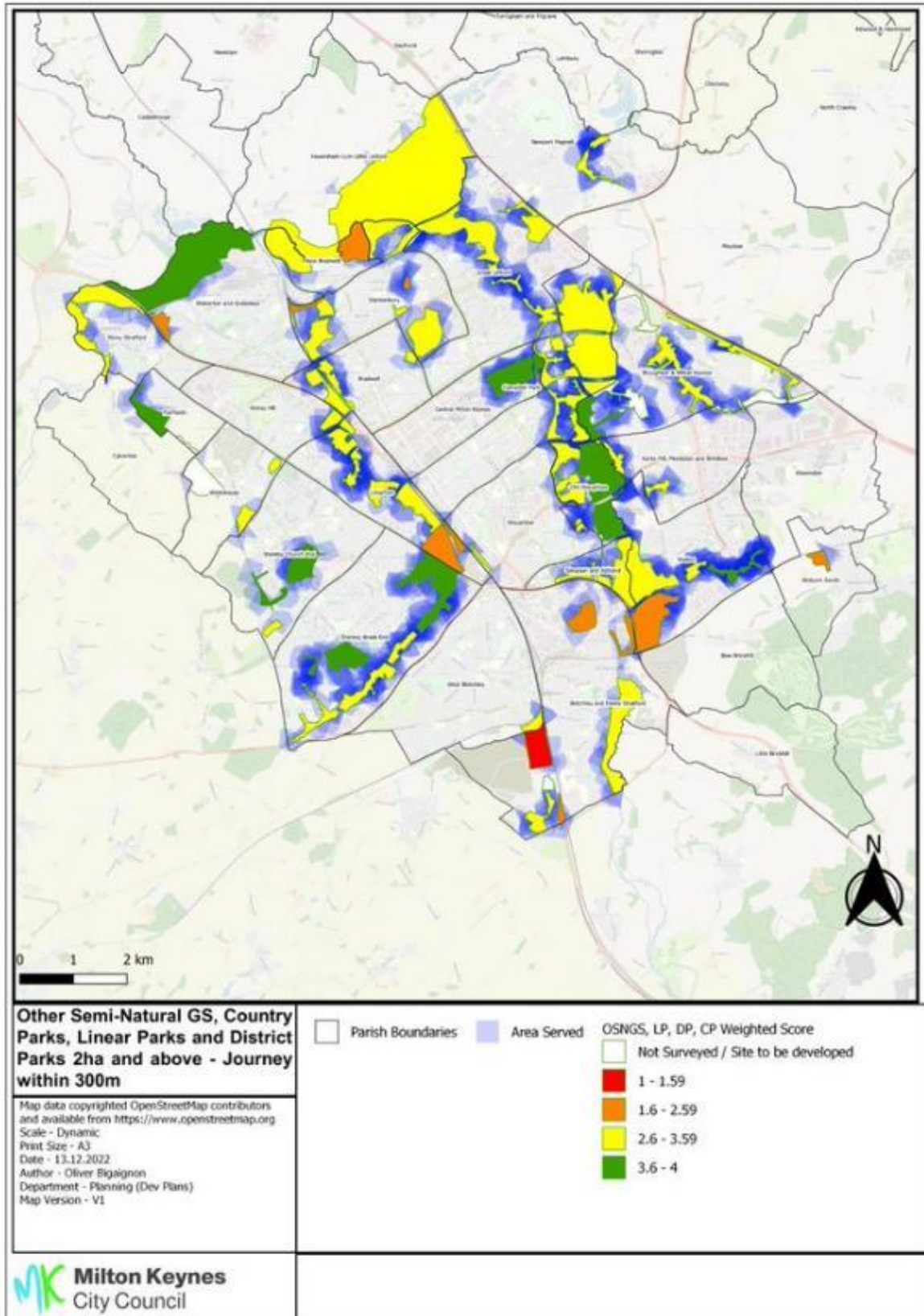
¹⁰ Originally presented in Nature Nearby’ Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, Natural England 2010.



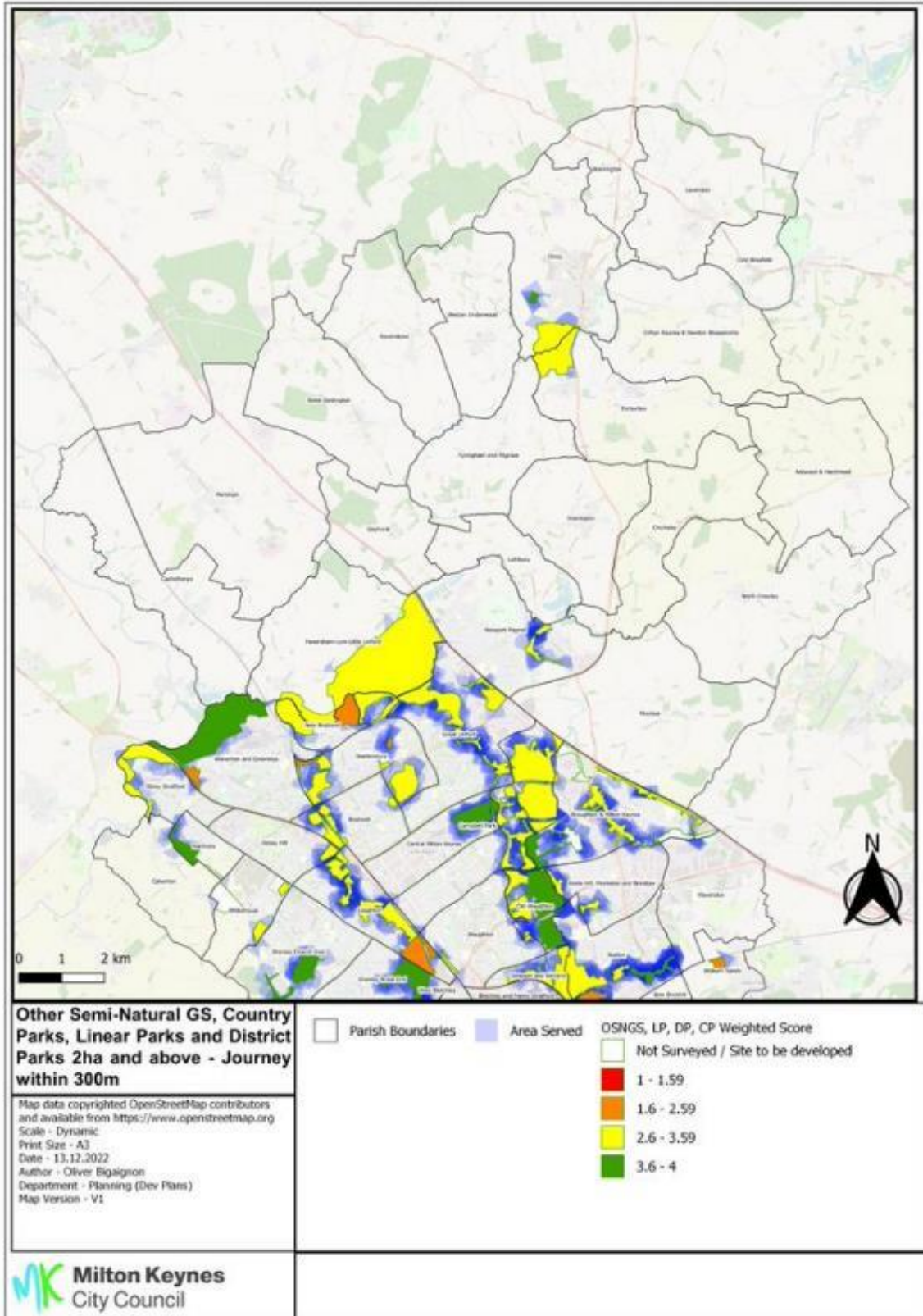
Map 16. Doorstep accessible greenspace- 200m of open spaces at least 0,5ha (MK borough)- considered to be under 5min walk- south



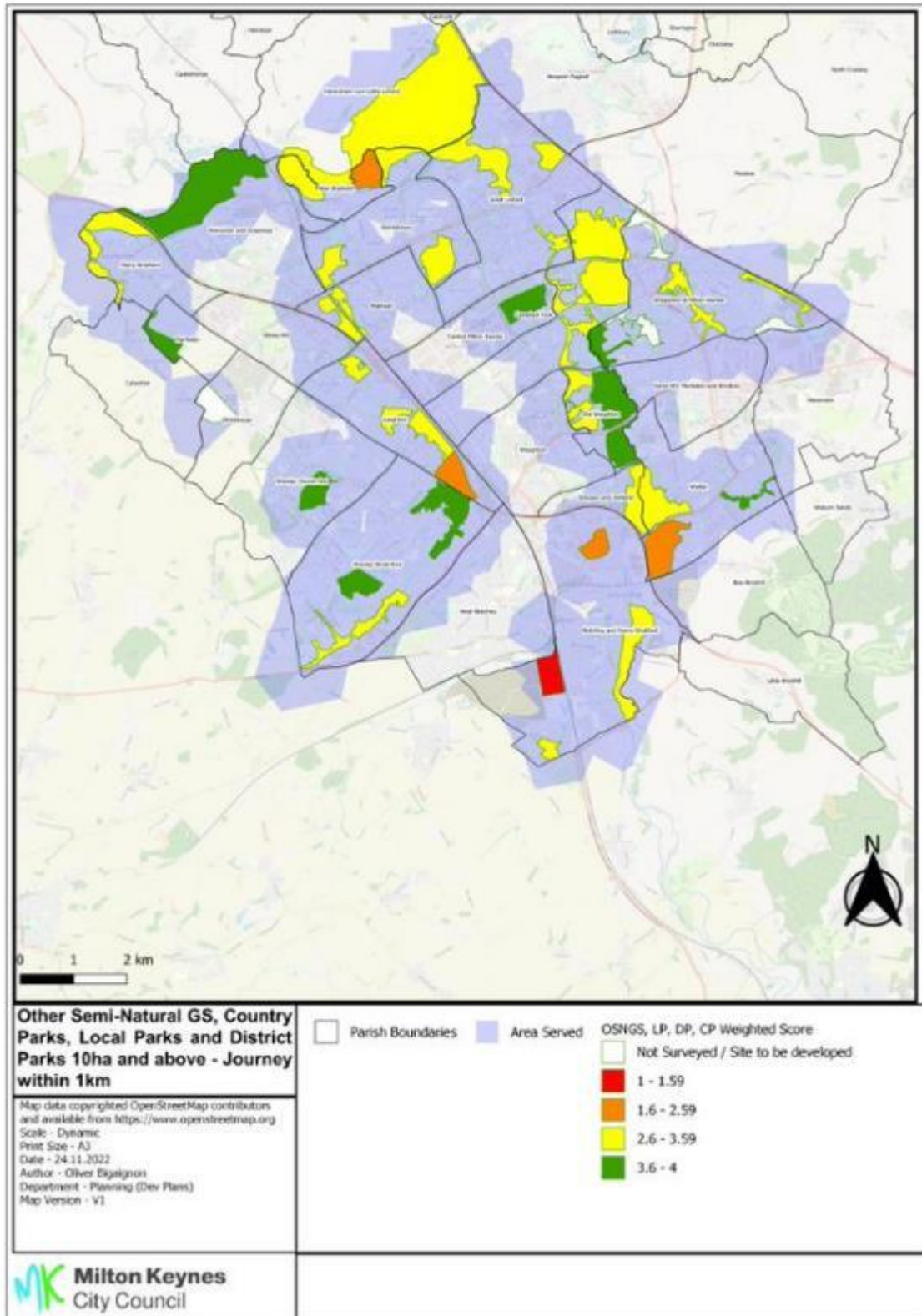
Map 17. Doorstep accessible greenspace- 200m of all open spaces at least 0,5ha (MK borough)- considered to be under 5min walk- north.



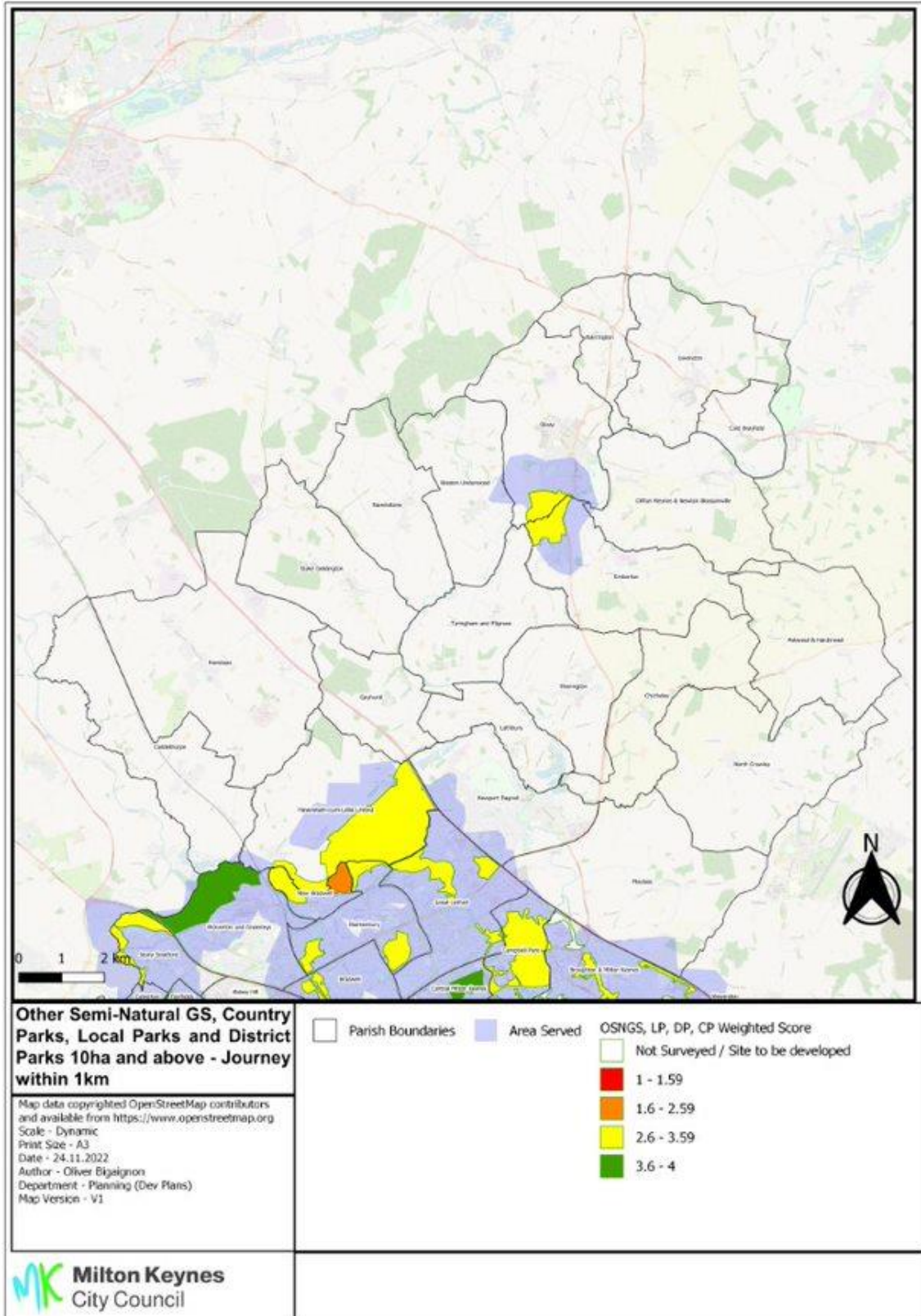
Map 18. Local Natural Greenspace – within 300m of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 2ha (MK borough)- south.



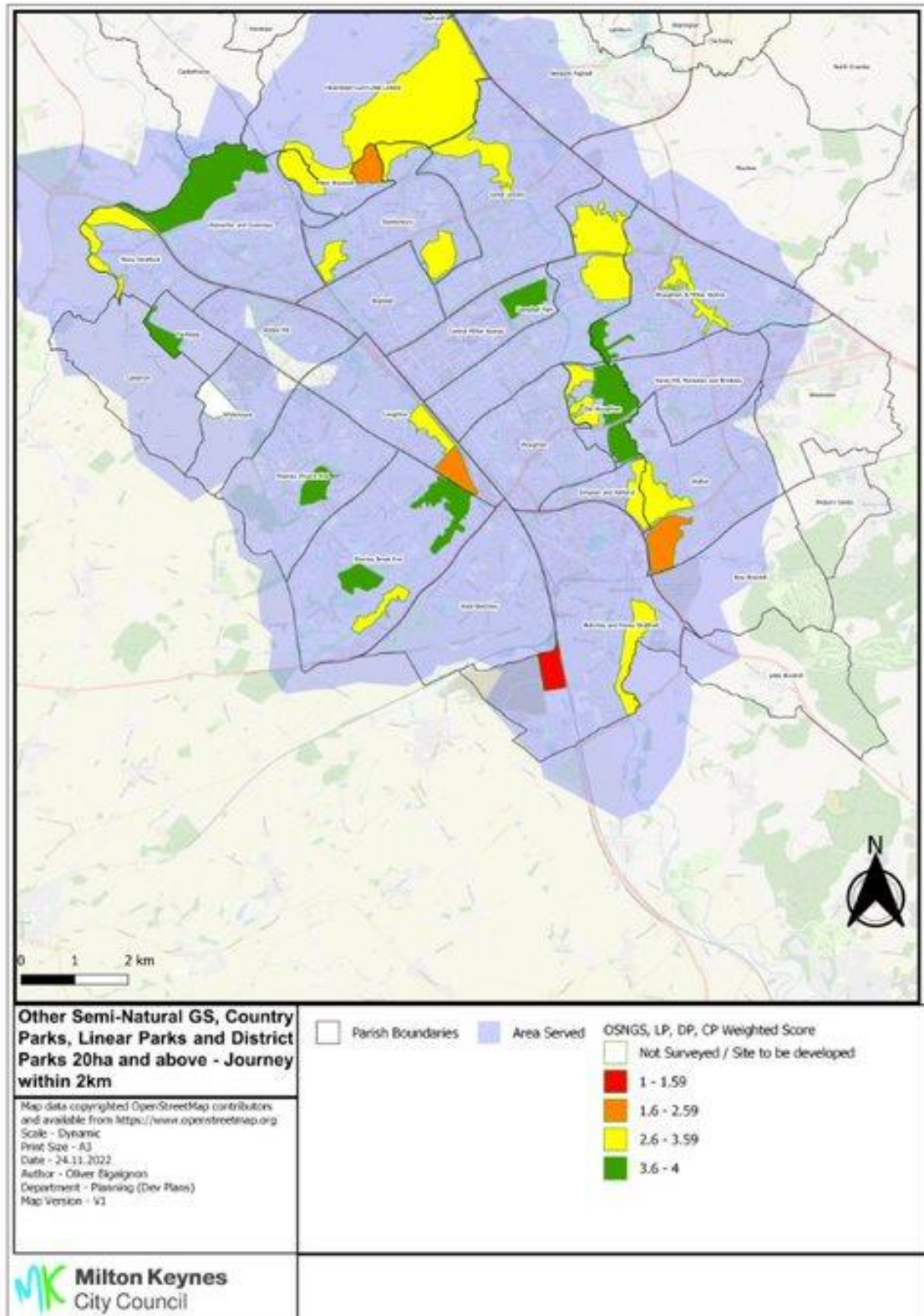
Map 19. Local Natural Greenspace – within 300m of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 2ha (MK borough)- north.



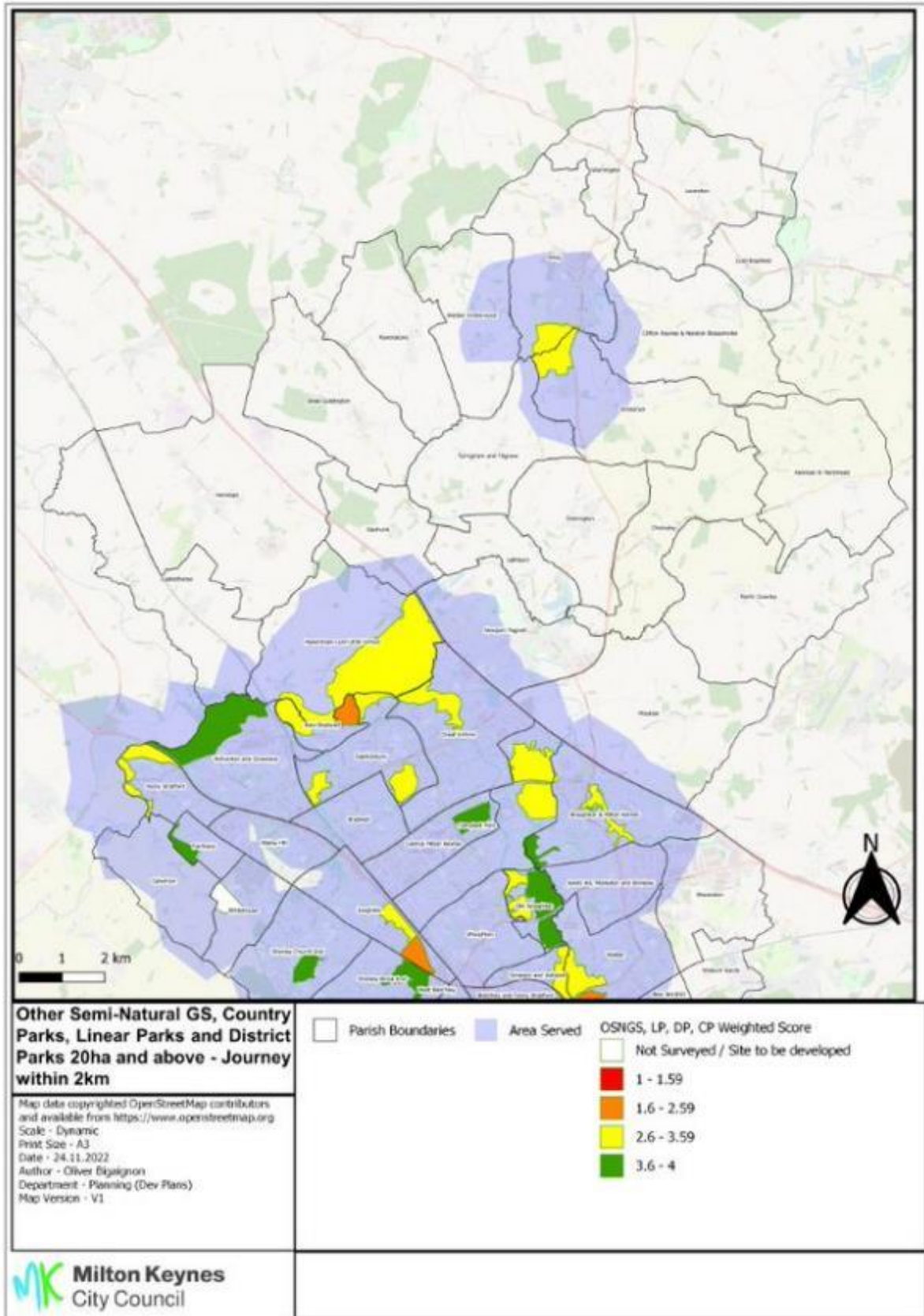
Map 20. Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace – within 1km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 10ha - south



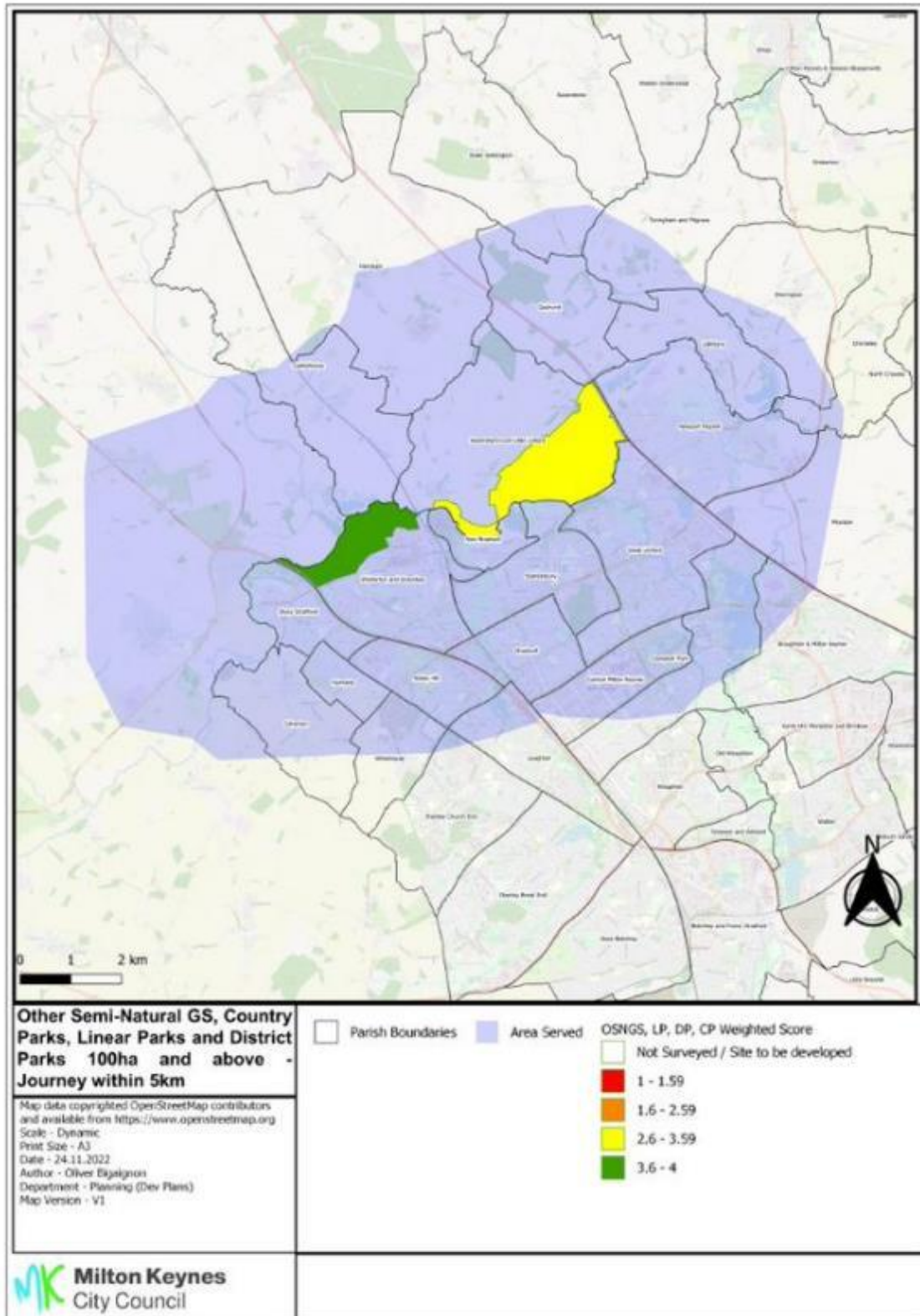
Map 21. Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace – within 1km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 10ha - north.



Map 22. Wider neighbourhood- within 2km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 20ha - south.



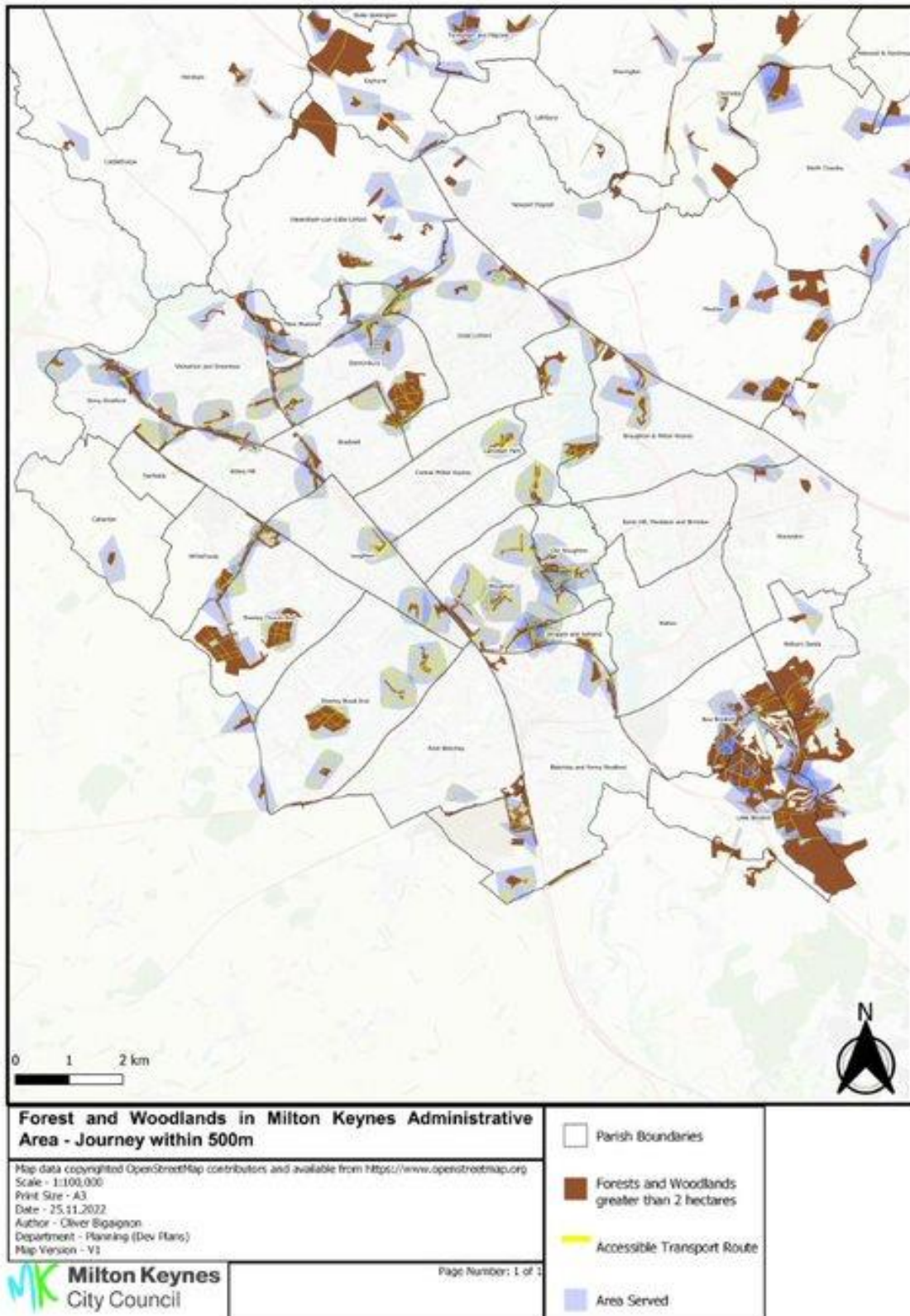
Map 23. Wider neighbourhood- within 2km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 20ha - north.



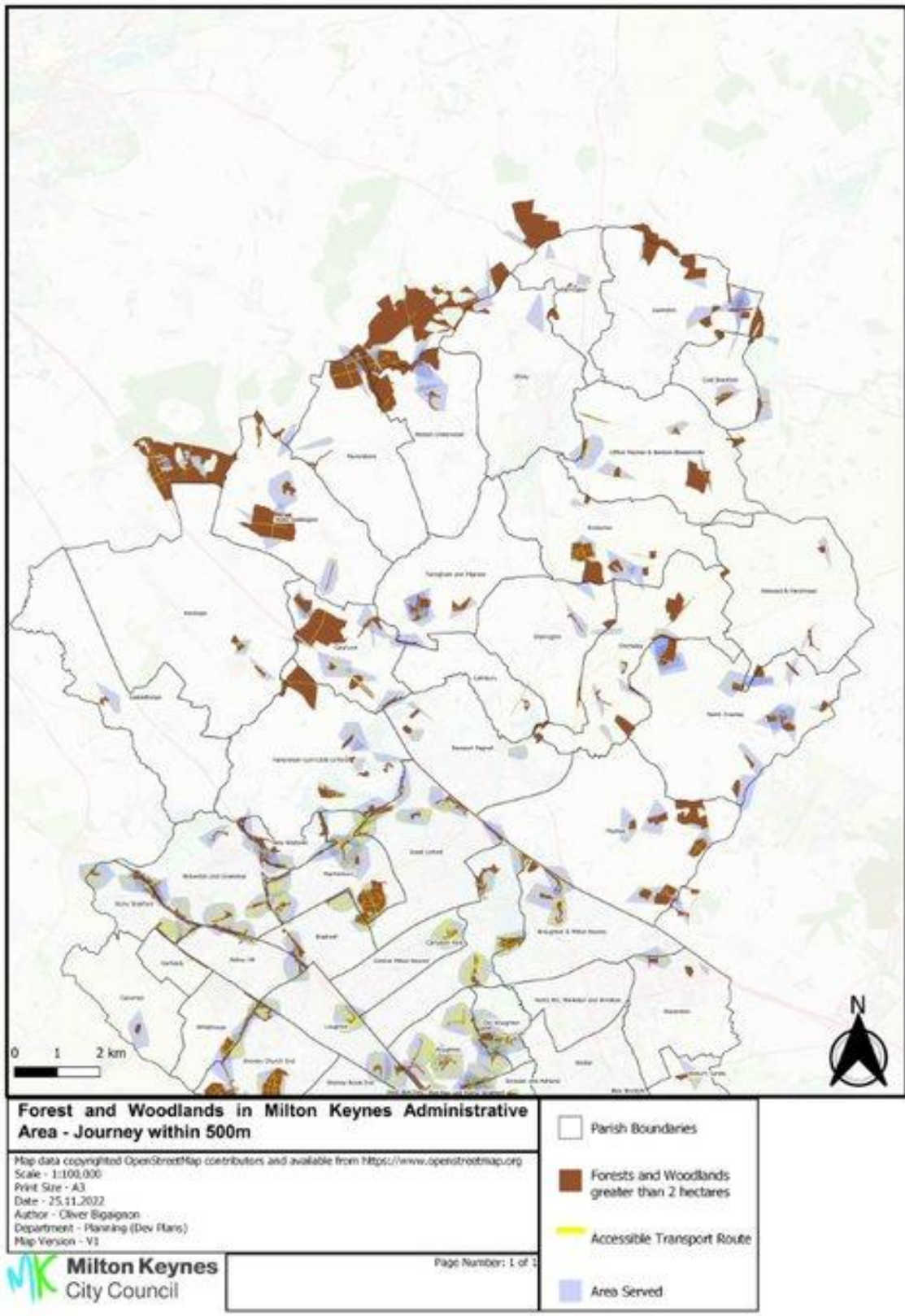
Map 24. District - within 2km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 20ha.

- 10.9 It will be expected that the Local Plan will require compliance with the ANGSt standards set by Natural England in addition to specific standards set for specific typologies developed for Milton Keynes borough.
- 10.10 Natural England's standards are complemented by the Woodland's Trust standards¹¹ for woodland were:
- No person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of less than 2ha in size.
 - There should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km of a home.
- 10.11 The New City Plan should have consideration to those standards when drafting future policy wordings. Maps 25-28 below shows accessibility to forest and woodlands as per Forestry Commission Standards:

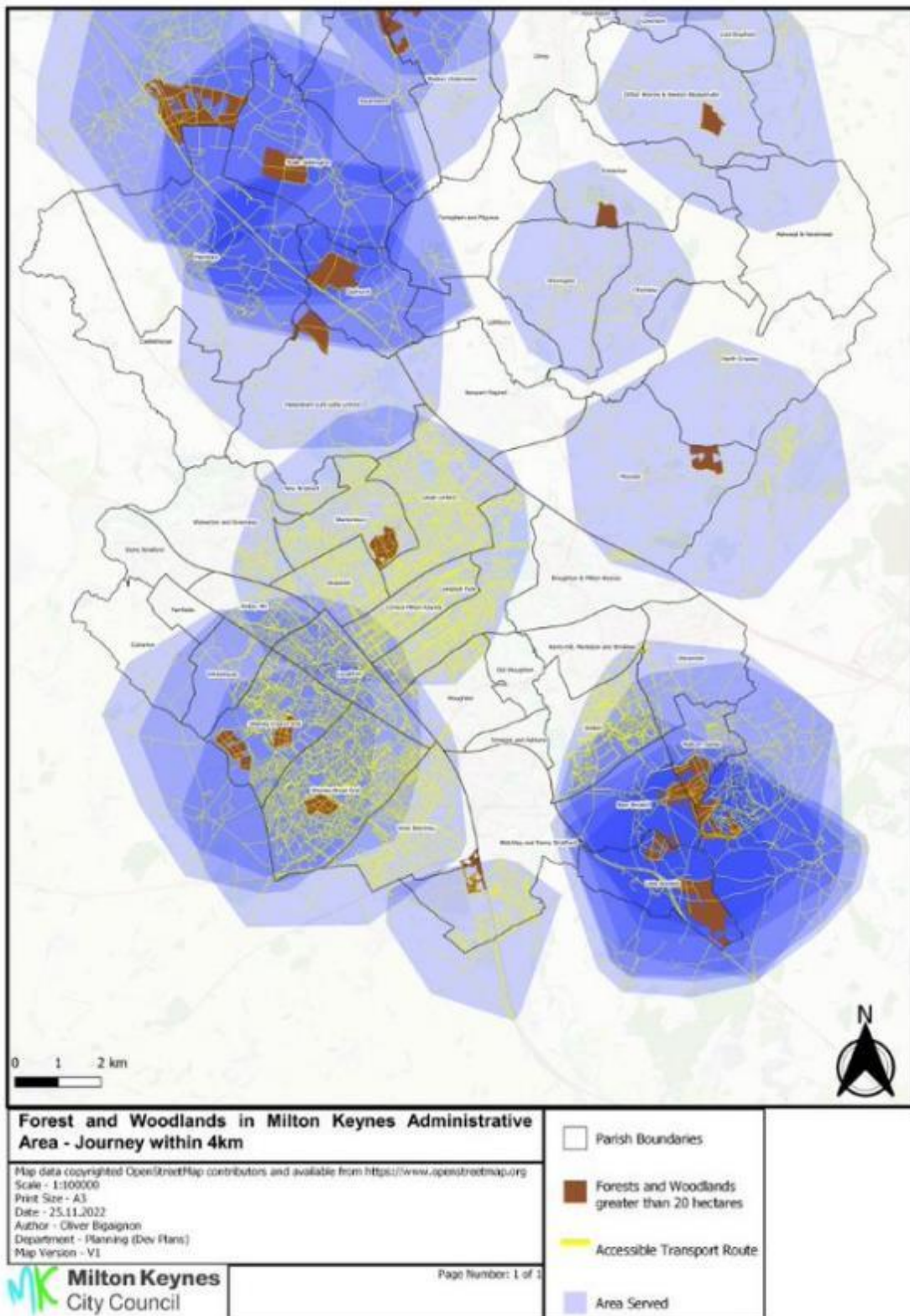
¹¹ Space for People. Targeting action for woodland access. Woodland Trust 2010.



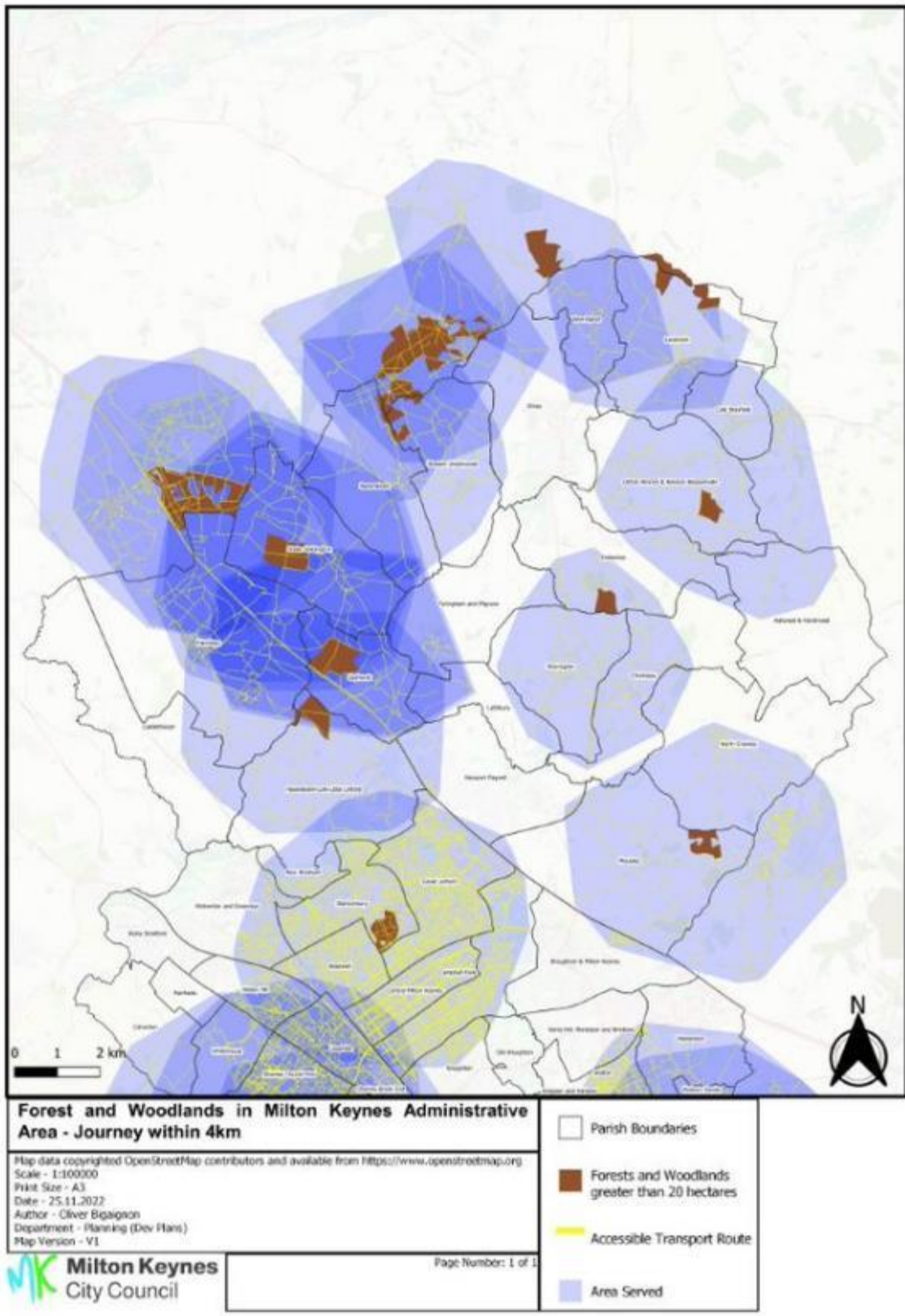
Map 25. Accessibility of forest and woodland of 2ha or less in size within 500m information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2022 Ordnance Survey [100021242]- south.



Map 26. Accessibility of forest and woodland of 2ha or less in size within 500m information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2022 Ordnance Survey [100021242]- north.



Map 27. Accessibility of forest and woodland of 20ha or less in size within 4km information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2022 Ordnance Survey [100021242]- south.



Map 28. Accessibility of forest and woodland of 20ha or less in size within 4km information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2022 Ordnance Survey [100021242]- north.

11. Amenity Greenspace, Local Parks, Pocket Parks, Civic Spaces and Formal Gardens

Introduction

- 11.1 Amenity Greenspaces, Local and Pocket parks, Civic Spaces and Formal Gardens all provide opportunities for a range of recreational activities. They may contain some hard-surfaced areas which are designed primarily for pedestrians. They provide visual amenity within built up areas.
- 11.2 Amenity Greenspaces often provide a supplement to larger spaces such as Local Parks. Their main purpose is to provide enhancement of the appearance and visual amenity to the area. They may provide opportunities for informal play close to home or work and support wildlife conservation.
- 11.3 Local Parks are open spaces that are over 0.4ha and open to the public. They often include areas primary for play and social interaction for children and young people. They may include single sports field. The sites are actively managed and tend to have benches, litter bins and dog bins. They have good transport links and may hold community events. As a secondary purpose they may support biodiversity enhancement and wildlife conservation similarly to amenity greenspaces.
- 11.4 Pocket parks are smaller sites (most under 0.4ha) that are accessible to the public for formal and informal use and can be run by the community groups or volunteers. Their main purpose is environmental enhancement and/or conservation alongside the informal outdoor activities. They may offer picnic areas. They may be used for biodiversity and environmental awareness and education.
- 11.5 Civic spaces and Formal gardens form formal urban open spaces that include civic and market squares. They are often incorporated into new developments to provide settings for civic buildings, public demonstrations, and community events. They may provide environmental and visual enhancement, support health and social inclusion.



Phot 13. Amenity greenspace in Stantonbury.

Current provision

11.6 At the time of the assessment there were 326 amenity greenspaces, 74 local parks and 15 civic spaces and formal gardens open space types.

11.7 The audit revealed that there was:

- 204.4 ha of amenity greenspace
- 142.42ha of local parks
- 47.52ha of pocket parks
- 5.74ha of civic spaces and formal gardens

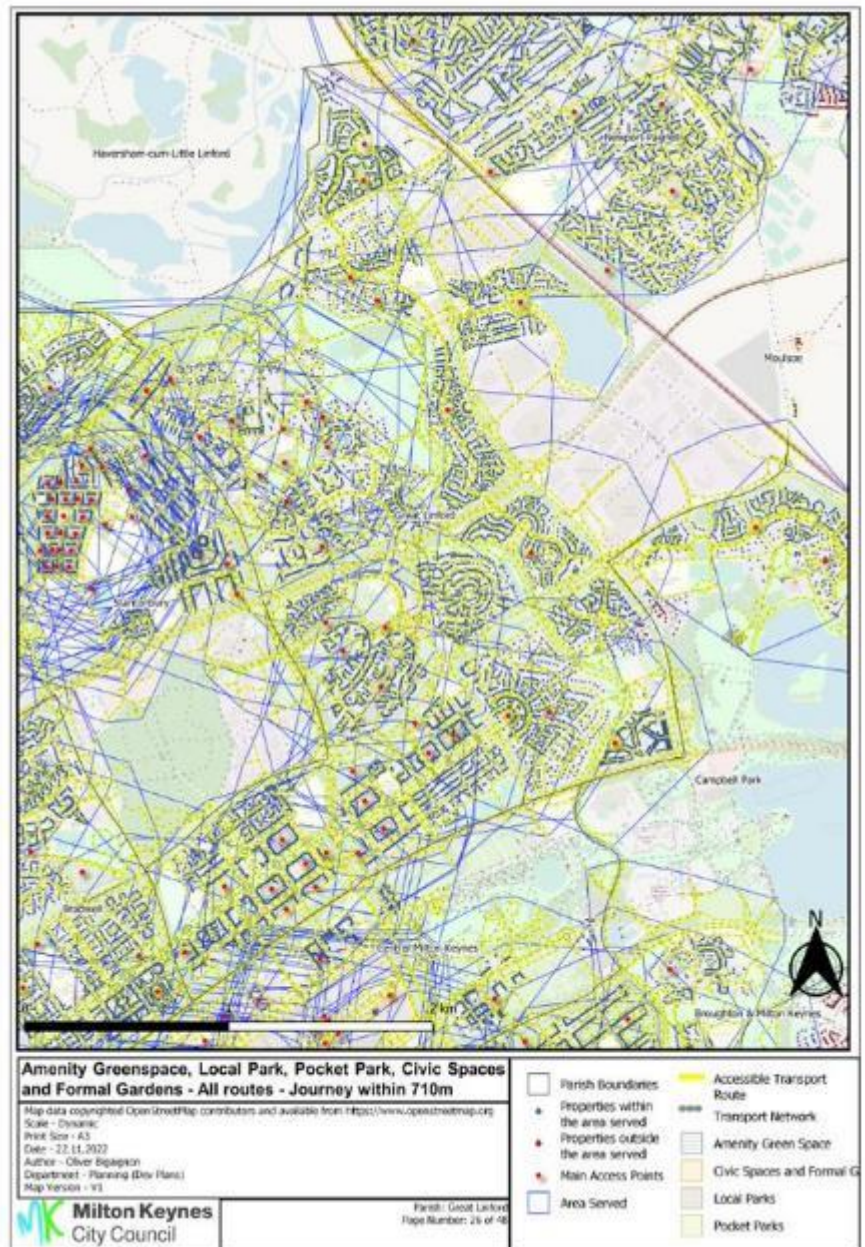
11.8 Appendix 3 contains detail information regarding provision per 1000 population per each parish. Overall, per 1000 population in the borough there was:

- 0.71 ha of amenity greenspace,
- 0.5ha of local parks,
- 0.17ha of pocket parks,
- 0.02ha of civic spaces and formal gardens

Accessibility

11.9 Series of maps were produced in the study to show accessibility to the four open spaces: amenity greenspaces, local parks, pocket parks and civic spaces and formal gardens.

11.10 The maps show all the properties within the areas served by PROW and road network within 710m of either of the mentioned open space types (Map 29).



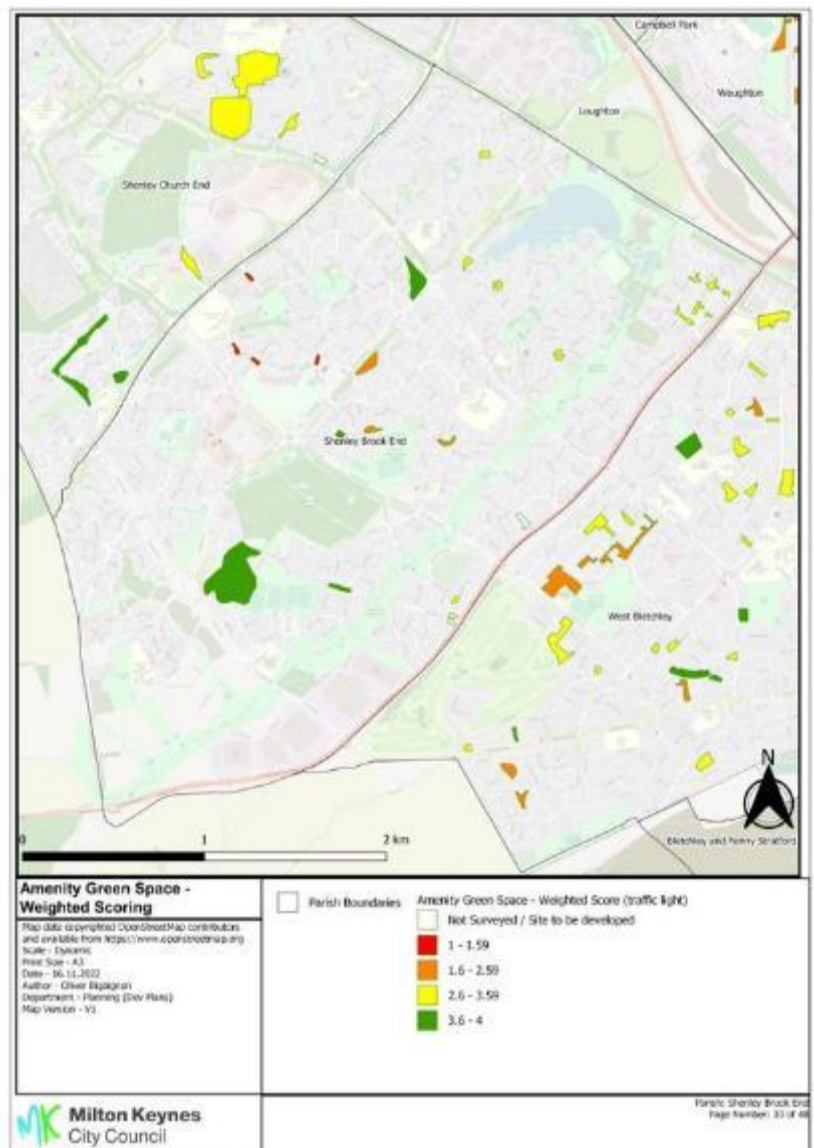
Map 29. Sample map - Accessibility to amenity greenspace, Local Parks, Pocket Parks, Civic spaces and formal gardens within 710m via accessible route network.

Quality

- 11.11 Series of maps was produced for each open space type, per parish to show the weighted score for the sites. Example of such mapping can be found below.
- 11.12 Out of 326 amenity greenspaces around 70% was very good or good, just over 28% received a weighted score of poor and only 1.54% was very poor.
- 11.13 Majority of Local parks scored very good or good with 2.7% of sites scoring poor.
- 11.14 There were 123 pocket parks of which majority was very good and good with 13.8% scoring poor.

Value

- 11.15 The above-mentioned sites provide social and health benefits to a range of users. They are recognised for their multi-function in some areas where a variety of leisure and recreational activities can be undertaken. They often accommodate casual play and dog walking. The sites not only provide a source of amenity for residents but are also visually pleasing. Sitting, if provided, adds value allowing users to rest and admire the pleasing views.
- 11.16 Parks provide opportunities for users to socialise. Children benefit from play equipment. There are sites of high ecological value with rich habitats.



Map 30. Sample map for weighted scores from

12. Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds

Introduction

- 12.1 Cemeteries, burial grounds and churchyards are areas of quiet contemplation. They provide burial spaces. They can be linked with promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity enhancement or preservation of the local archaeology.

Current provision

- 12.2 There were 43 sites with over 23.35ha of cemeteries, burial grounds and churchyards in the study area and 0.08ha per 1000 population.

Accessibility

- 12.3 No accessibility standard was used to assess the distance. There are no local or national thresholds that could be applied. Future provision should be based on burial demand.

Quality

- 12.4 Majority of the sites scored good or very good with only 4 sites scoring poor. Sites were mainly well maintained, some seating areas and good quality footpaths. Many benefited from on site or off-site parking.

Value

- 12.5 The sites provide cultural, spiritual and heritage value to the public. They are places for reflection and contemplation. People value them as places for peaceful nature where they will experience peace and calmness and be able to admire wildlife.



Photo 14. Saint James Churchyard and burial grounds, Hanslope parish.

13. Formal outdoor playing fields

Introduction

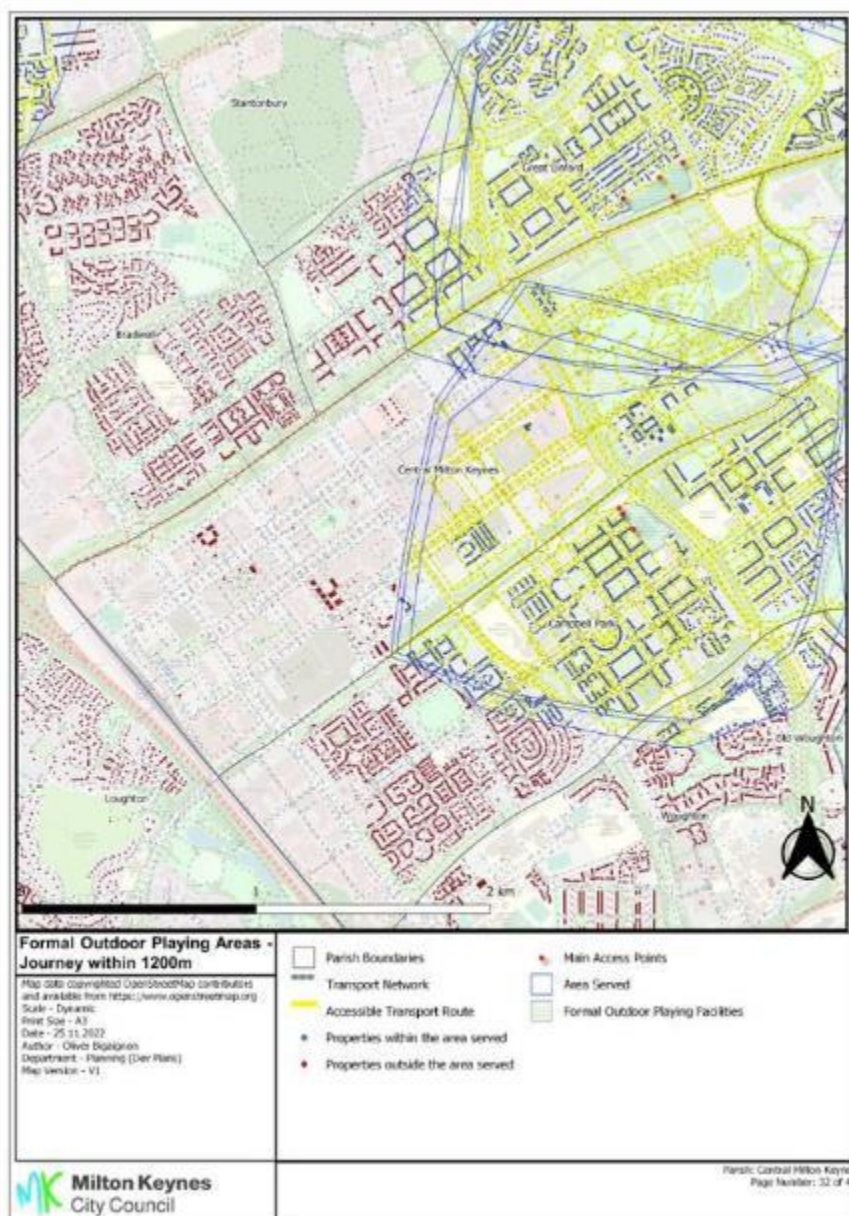
- 13.1 Formal outdoor playing fields were mapped in the study. They can come in the shape of single or multi-functional grassed or artificial playing fields and outdoor sports facilities. They provide surfaces for sport and recreation that are publicly available. They often provide facilities of supporting use such as changing rooms and toilets.
- 13.2 In audit only publicly available sites were visited where access was not restricted. The school playing fields with restricted access were not part of the assessment.

Current provision

- 13.3 The audit revealed 35 sites through mapping. We visited 28 sites.
- 13.4 There was 0.8ha of formal outdoor playing field per 1000 population and overall, 227.99ha of formal outdoor playing field area.

Accessibility

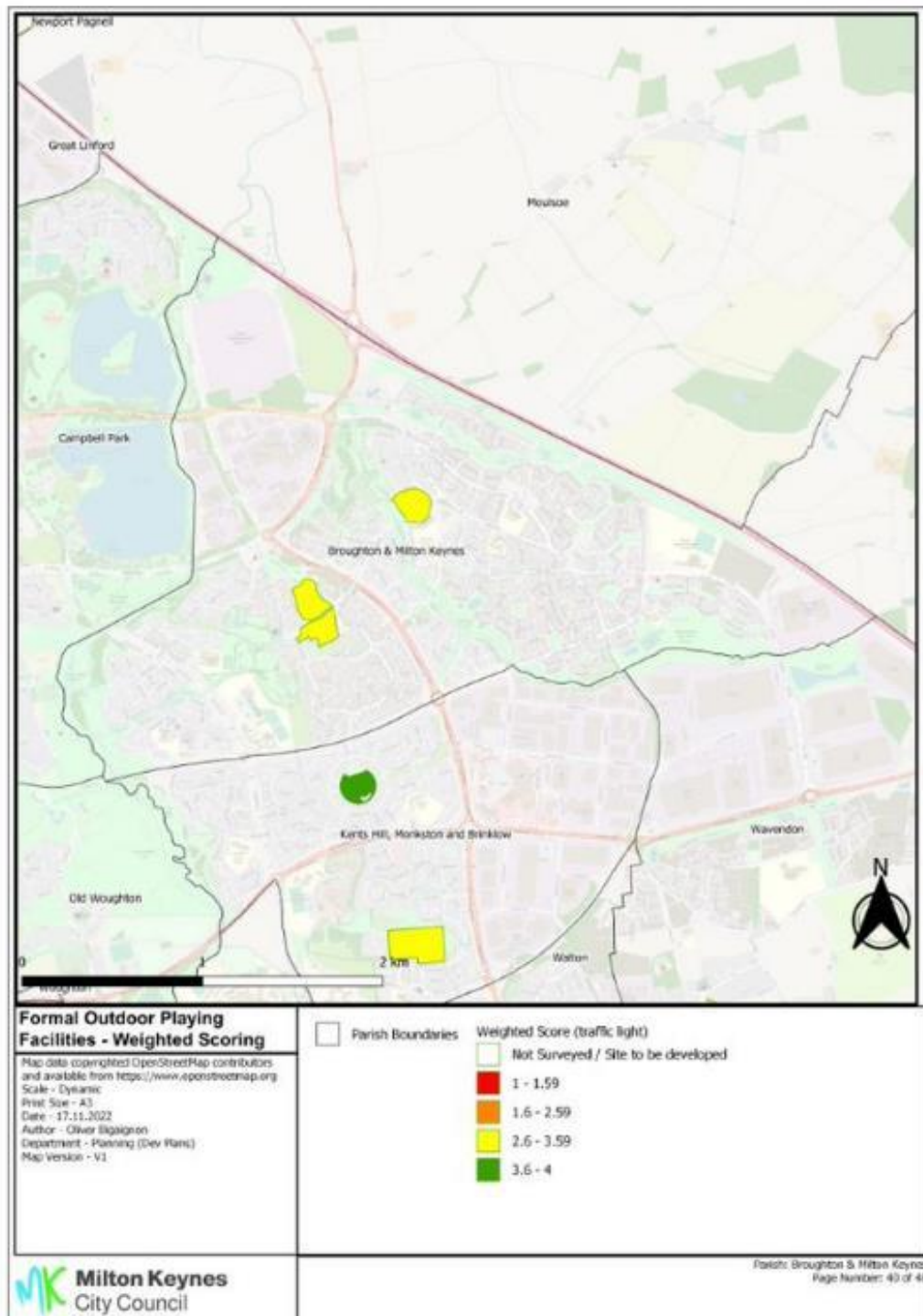
- 13.5 Maps were produced for each parish highlighting accessibility within 1200m via PROW and road network.



Map 31. Sample map accessibility of formal outdoor playing fields via accessible route network and within

Quality

- 13.6 Out of 28 sites visited most scored good or very good through the assessment with one site in Little Brickhill scoring poor. Series of maps per parish area were produced to show weighted score for the sites. Example of such mapping can be found below.



Map 32. Sample map for weighted scores from site surveys for formal outdoor playing fields.

Value

- 13.7 The sites are place of social interaction where games can be hosted. They can be used for wider community use. They promote sustainable living, health and social inclusion. Outdoor sports facilities are fully examined through the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The latest PPS was developed in 2019 and published in 2020, and Sport England recommend it lasts the lifespan of local policy – therefore as Plan:MK has a lifespan until 2031 the action plan of the PPS is 2019-2031.

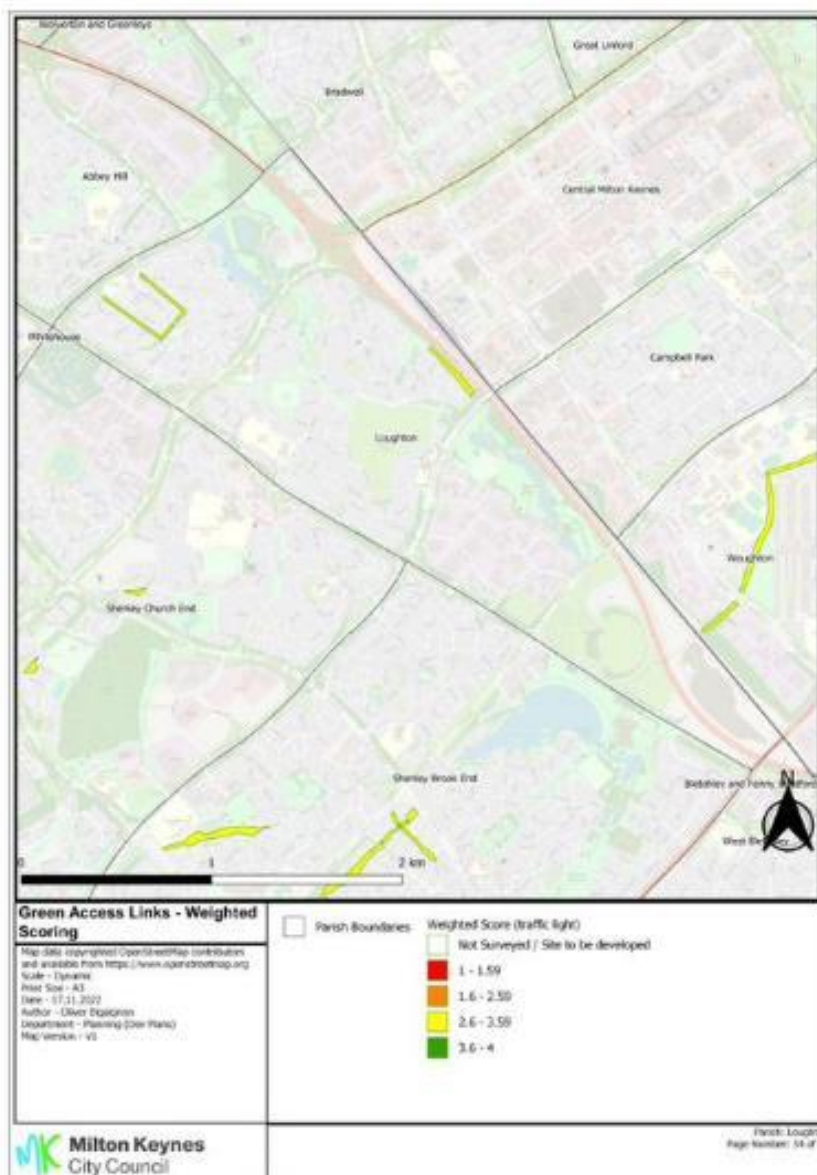
14. Green access links

Introduction

- 14.1 Green access links are leisure routes and redways that often follow historical linear landscape features and provide active corridor connection. The vegetation is managed through the routes and provision of bins, dog bins and sitting area is common. They allow commuting by e.g., walking, cycling. As a secondary purpose they might provide environmental enhancement and biodiversity.

Current provision

- 14.2 The audit revealed 52 sites with 49.45 ha of green access links in the study area with 0.17ha per 1000 population.



Accessibility

- 14.3 No accessibility standard was used to assess the distance since the green access links are the open space areas that are the links providing the accessibility to other areas. There are no local or national thresholds that could be applied. Future provision should consider historic rights of way and/or hedgerows. They should be planned with the consideration of existing site features and help to link various open space types in the area.

Quality

- 14.4 Majority of the sites scored good with 3 scoring good and 4 poor in the assessment. Detailed maps for parishes with scoring for sites were produced by parish area.

Map 33. Sample map for weighted scores from site surveys for green access links.

Value

- 14.5 The sites provide leisure routes to their users, visual amenity and can enhance biodiversity and support local habitats by creating ecological routes.

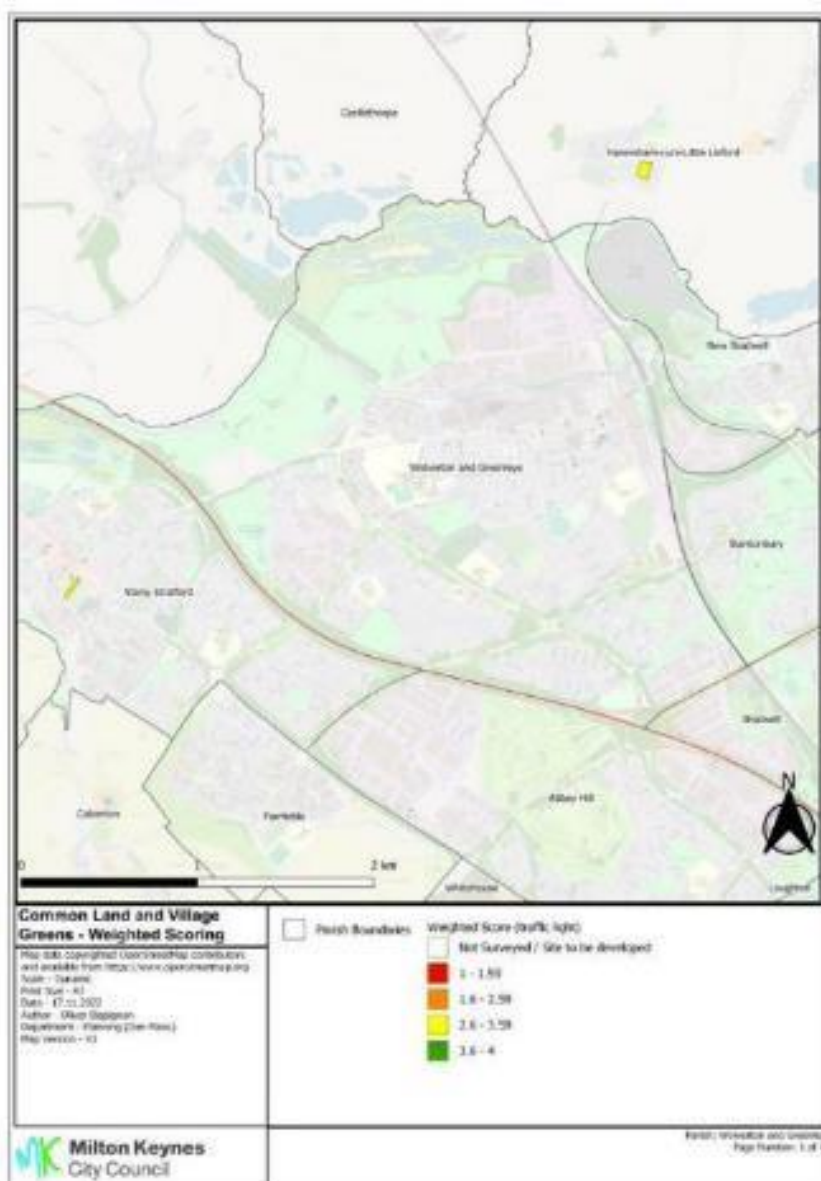
15. Common land and village greens

Introduction

- 15.1 Common land and village greens are legal, national designations. They are areas of open spaces that are privately owned or maintained by local parishes where some activities such as walking, grazing may be permitted.

Current provision

- 15.2 The audit revealed 6 sites of total area of 75.21 ha. There was 0.26 ha of common land and village greens per 1000 population.



Map. 34 Sample map for weighted scores from site surveys for common land and village green.

Accessibility

- 15.3 There are no local or national standards for such areas and no accessibility mapping was undertaken.

Quality

- 15.4 All of the sites received rating of good. Maps were produced for each parish to show current provision and rating.

Value

- 15.5 Details of the activities permitted are within the Register of common land and village greens. They may be used for local public events with a permission. They provide areas of social interaction and informal exercise such as dog walking.

16. Paddocks

Introduction

- 16.1 Paddocks are privately owned areas used mainly for grazing and predominantly for horses and ponies (which public can rent). Historically, paddocks are linked with the bridle way network. Paddocks are known to be used for other activities such as dog training. In recent years, a sub-set of paddocks operated by the Parks Trust has increasingly become used for organised dog training classes. Parks Trusts noted that this has proven to be a valuable use of smaller paddocks within the site which are below the British Horse Society minimum recommended size threshold to make them viable for use for keeping horse or ponies.

Current provision

- 16.2 The audit revealed 17 sites of over 21ha.

Accessibility

- 16.3 Paddocks are not accessible to all public, but they were included in the assessment since they provide a valuable visual amenity. Some have PROW running in close proximity of the sites allowing the admiration of grazing areas and animals.



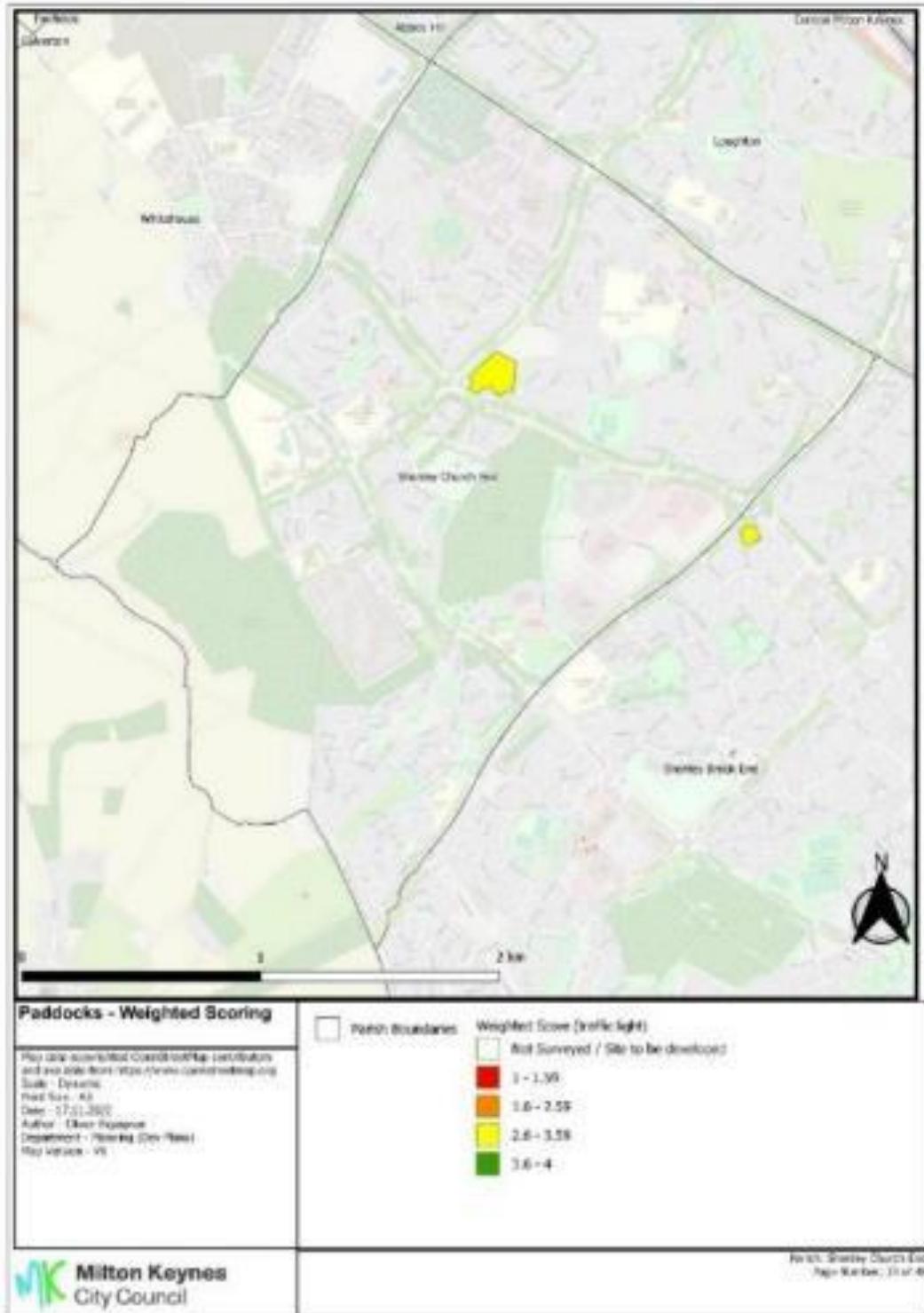
Phot 15. Paddock in Campbell Park parish, adjacent to linear park.

Quality

- 16.4 Sites scored good or very good through the assessment. Detailed maps were produced by parish to show weighted score.

Value

- 16.5 The sites are valued mainly as grazing areas for horses and ponies. They can provide environmental enhancement of the biodiversity. They can be of high visual amenity value when appropriately managed and not overgrazed.



Map. 35 Sample map for weighted scores from site surveys for paddocks.

17. Open Space Standards for Open Space Typologies

- 17.1 The GIS (Geographic Information Systems) database and mapping has been used to assess the existing provision of open space across the study area. The existing level of provision is considered alongside findings of previous studies, surveys and with consideration of national standards and benchmarks. Key for the standards is that they are locally derived, based on the evidence and most importantly achievable.
- 17.2 A number of key factors had been taken into consideration in setting the appropriate standards for the borough:
- View of the public and parish councils, key internal and external stakeholders including the importance attached to different types of open space and locally derived needs.
 - The achievability of the standards (review undertaken by development management colleagues and s.106 officer).
 - Existing national, regional and local policies and guidance review alongside other open space studies; and
 - The fact that standards will not be the only planning protection for open space.
- 17.3 Future provision of open spaces and enhancement of existing spaces in the City will require detail design and co-ordinated planning. This is to ensure that new sites provide range of benefits that support the wellbeing of current and future communities and preserve the nature leading to biodiversity net gain. There are a number of key considerations when planning for open spaces and include:
- General design and layout
 - Access
 - Equipment
 - Planting
 - Provision of play areas
 - Management and Stewardship

Quantity standards

- 17.4 The Quantity standards are proposed based on the review of local and national standards, review of existing quantity standards, consideration of existing best practice, benchmarks, results of surveys undertaken in the study and feedback received during Open Space Standards workshops.

- 17.5 Due to the nature, size, location and historic aspects of parishes in Milton Keynes, including community and or parish involvement the quantitative need has varied resulting in some areas benefiting from higher quantities of some open space types than others.
- 17.6 The standards set need to be flexible to allow them being applied to local circumstances and will require further review seeking additional feedback from parish councils regarding their local needs.
- 17.7 The proposed standards were reviewed with internal officers including s106 officer to ensure they are deliverable through new development and future mechanics of contributions. Where possible, the standards include required provision of specific type of open space that will be required per 1000 population based on the density of the proposed development and include location criteria. Where appropriate, potential substitute options of other typologies was considered.

Accessibility standards

- 17.8 A consideration of Natural England's and Fields in Trust (FiT) standards took place alongside a review of the existing standards. The developed standards are aimed to provide distance thresholds that help improving accessibility factors and support identifying potential areas with gaps in the provision. Consideration was given to frequency of visits to specific open space types. A series of maps was created to show gaps in current provision. It will be expected that they will be used alongside Natural England's ANGSt revised standards that should be published later this year¹².
- 17.9 Accessible route networks are defined through the studies to show how easily accessible open spaces are to residents based on the draft standards proposed.
- 17.10 It is to be noted that based on the character of the open space, the amount of possible entry points, size of the sites the following assumptions and criteria were applied:
- Access points to open spaces were created based on the accessible route network in GIS for the following open space types: Country Parks, District Parks, Linear Parks, 'other' Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces, Civic Spaces and Formal Gardens, Food Growing Areas, Formal Outdoor Playing Fields
 - We generated centre points for the following open space types: Amenity Greenspace: Local Parks, Pocket Parks, Cemeteries, Churchyards and Other Burial Grounds Common Land and Village Greens and Paddocks.
 - We have used 7m tolerance when mapping the accessibility to allow for the system to use road networks that are separated by a highway.
 - We used PROW and road network for mapping accessibility of open spaces that would be expected to be accessed by cycling and walking

¹² The study considers draft revised ANGSt standards to show gaps in provision.

- We used road network for mapping accessibility of open spaces that would be expected to be accessed by cycling and driving

Quality standards

- 17.11 The standards for each form of provision are derived from the audit and existing good practice and with the consideration of the need to ensure future provision standards consider the need to provide high quality and sustainable provision of open space.
- 17.12 Quality standards have been developed drawing on previous studies, national benchmarks and good practice alongside findings from audits and surveys. The quality standards also include recommended policies to guide the provision of new open spaces through development of multifunctional open spaces in the future.
- 17.13 The table below gives the assumed occupancy of new dwellings in Milton Keynes which should be used when reviewing the required ha for specific open space types.

Dwelling size	Household size (persons)
1 bed	1.5
2 beds	2.5
3 beds	3.5
4+ beds	4.5
Active elderly persons (1 bed)	1.0
Active elderly persons (2 bed)	1.2

Table 5 Assumed household occupancy.

- 17.14 In terms of open space contributions for each of the open space types a separate study should be undertaken to provide the following:
- Provision cost per square metre
- 17.15 Based upon the proposed standards and audit of open spaces in the Borough recommendations are made around:
- Existing provision to be protected,
 - Existing provision to be enhanced,
 - Opportunities for re-location/ re-designation of open space,
 - Identification of areas for new provision and areas where provision is in excess to requirement.

Table 6. Proposed open space standards for Milton Keynes borough.

<i>Open Space Typology</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality Standard</i>	<i>Accessibility Standard</i>	<i>Catchment area</i>
<i>Country parks</i>	<p>Minimum 20ha in size</p> <p>To meet the provision shortage there is a potential to deliver a park West of the City and upgrade larger existing district parks into Country Park Status as per Natural England’s accreditation.</p> <p>Nature, Green and Blue Infrastructure Study will further explore possible locations for such strategic land allocation. Funding options to be explored.</p>	<p>Sites to be established in line with requirements set for accredited Country Parks by Natural England (work towards achieving accreditation status and Green Flag award).</p> <p>Parking including disabled parking, available on site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Transport links within 5 min walking distance from site entrance - Linkages via redways/cycleways to be provided to and within the sites - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to and within the site. - All key access points to be fully accessible. 	<p>Strategic facilities that serve wider public across the boundaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites containing at least 20 ha of natural greenspace to be within 2km of residential properties via accessible road network - Sites containing at least 100ha of natural greenspace that are within 5km of residential properties of residential properties via accessible road network
<i>District Parks</i>	<p>At least 12ha for pursuits other than playing fields</p>	<p>Attractive landscape with various facilities, off-road parking including disabled parking provided on site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Transport links within 5 min walking distance. - Linkages via redways/cycleways to be provided to and within the sites. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian 	<p>Residents to be within 1200m of District, Linear Park or ‘other’ natural and semi natural greenspaces via accessible route network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites of least 10 ha to be within 1km of residential

		<p>Can include public art.</p> <p>Benches, litter bins and dog bins provided on site.</p>	<p>routes to and within the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points to be fully accessible. 	<p>properties via accessible road network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites of least 20 ha to be within 2km of residential properties via accessible road network - Sites of at least 100ha to be within 5km of residential properties via accessible road network - Sites of at least 500ha to be within 10km of residential properties via accessible road network
Linear Parks	<p>At least 80 % of the site area for primary purpose as per typology description.</p> <p>Opportunities to be explored along the water bodies or other linear features of wildlife value.</p>	<p>Mitigation of flood events, preservation of archaeology, provision of ecological corridors.</p> <p>Provision of pedestrian and cycle corridors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Transport links to key access points within 5 min walking distance. - Linkages via redways/cycleways to be provided to and within the sites. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to and within the site. - All key access points to be fully accessible. - Off-road and on road parking 	<p>Residents to be within 1200m of District, Linear Park or 'other' natural and semi natural greenspaces via accessible route network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites of least 10 ha to be within 1km of residential properties via accessible road network - Sites of least 20 ha to be within 2km of residential properties via accessible road network - Sites of at least 100ha to be within 5km of

			available near key access points including disabled parking.	residential properties via accessible road network - Sites of at least 500ha to be within 10km of residential properties via accessible road network
<i>'Other' Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces</i>	No loss in overall amount	Land should be managed to conserve and enhance the landscape, biodiversity and heritage. Sites to be managed in accordance with their designation and/or management plan	Review opportunities to increase provision through creating new public access to areas not currently accessible by sustainable methods that do not harm the setting.	Residents to be within 1200m of District, Linear Park or 'other' natural and semi natural greenspaces via accessible route network - Sites of least 10 ha to be within 1km of residential properties via accessible road network - Sites of least 20 ha to be within 2km of residential properties via accessible road network - Sites of at least 100ha to be within 5km of residential properties via accessible road network - Sites of at least 500ha to be within 10km of residential properties via accessible road network

<p>Amenity greenspace</p>	<p>0.7ha/1000 population of either (order of preference):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Park - Pocket Park - Amenity Greenspace <p>of either of the open space types to be provided</p> <p>Size linked to density of the surrounding area. Standard to be developed for key densities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low density up to 25dph - General residential 25dph-35dph - Frontage and community hubs 35dph-50dph - Hub area 50-100dph 	<p>Designed into developments so that homes face onto it. Design and layout are to ensure that they enhance the appearance.</p> <p>The site must have long term maintenance and management plans.</p> <p>Formal sports activities to be permitted subject to appropriate parking arrangements.</p> <p>Often contain play equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points to be fully accessible. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - If formal sports are permitted- Off-road and on road parking available near key access points including disabled parking. 	<p>Residents to be within 710m of either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amenity greenspace, - Local Park - Pocket Park - Civic spaces and formal gardens <p>via accessible route network</p> <p>Separate standards for the play areas apply.</p>
<p>Local Park</p>	<p>0.7ha/1000 population of either (order of preference):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Park - Pocket Park - Amenity Greenspace <p>Over 0.4ha</p> <p>Size linked to density of the surrounding area. Standard to be developed for key densities:</p>	<p>Often include areas primarily for play and social interaction for children and young people.</p> <p>Can include single sports field.</p> <p>Vegetation, pathways, fencing,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points to be fully accessible. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - Linkages via redways/cycleways to be provided to and within the sites. - Public Transport links to key access 	<p>Residents to be within 710m of either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amenity greenspace, - Local Park - Pocket Park - Civic spaces and Formal Gardens <p>via accessible route network</p> <p>Separate standards for the play areas apply.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low density up to 25dph - General residential 25dph-35dph - Frontage and community hubs 35dph-50dph - Hub area 50-100dph 	<p>and equipment is managed.</p> <p>Provision of benches, litter, and dog bins.</p> <p>Actively managed</p>	<p>points within 5 min walking distance.</p>	
Pocket Park	<p>0.7ha/1000 population of either (order of preference):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Park - Pocket Park - Amenity Greenspace <p>Site under 0.4ha</p>	<p>May include informal play features.</p> <p>Provision of benches, litter bins, and dog bins.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points to be fully accessible. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - Linkages via redways/cycleways to be provided to and within the sites. 	<p>Residents to be within 710m of either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amenity greenspace, - Local Park - Pocket Park - Civic spaces and Formal Gardens <p>via accessible route network</p> <p>Separate standards for the play areas apply.</p>
Civic Spaces and Formal Gardens	<p>To be required and assessed on case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Formal urban open spaces including civic and market squares.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points to be fully accessible. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - Linkages via redways/cycleways to be provided to and within the sites. 	<p>Residents to be within 710m of either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amenity greenspace, - Local Park - Pocket Park - Civic spaces and Formal Gardens <p>via accessible route network</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Transport links to key access points within 5 min walking distance. 	Separate standards for the play areas apply.
<p>Food growing areas: Allotments. Orchards and Community Growing</p>	<p>To be provided in areas of demand and in discussion with the parish councils.</p> <p>Proposed 0.25ha/1000 population</p>	<p>Opportunities for people to grow their own produce, including allotments, community gardens, community orchards and growing areas such as fruit trees and vegetable patches.</p> <p>National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners allotment standards: plot size 250m², paths 1.4m wide for disabled access, haulage ways 3m wide. Water supply to be provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points to be fully accessible. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - Disabled Parking to be provided 	N/A

<i>Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds</i>	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points to be fully accessible. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - Off road or on road parking provided. 	N/A
<i>Formal outdoor playing fields</i>	1.2ha/1000	Please refer to latest Playing Pitch Strategy or any other relevant up to date guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points to be fully accessible. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - Linkages via redways/cycleways to be provided to and within the sites. - Public Transport links to key access points within 5 min walking distance. 	1,200m from residential development via accessible routes
<i>Green access links</i>	N/A	<p>Seating, resting places to be provided.</p> <p>Can form part of the Redway or equestrian leisure routes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points to be fully accessible. 	N/A

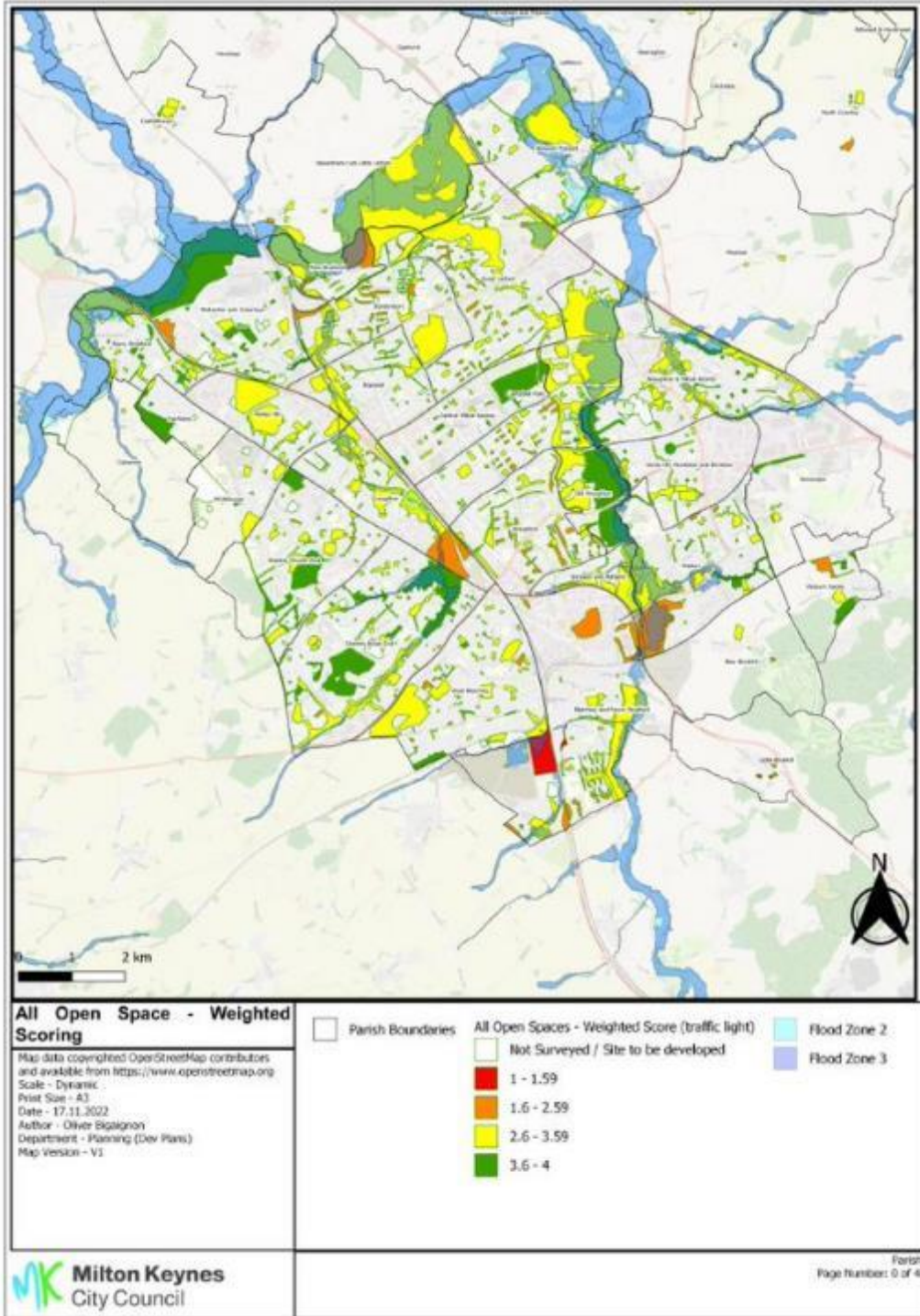
<i>Common land and Village Greens</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Paddocks</i>	N/A	Size to be in line with British Horse Society recommended minimum standard or other up to date best practice guidance. Consideration should be given whether horse shelters will be needed. Sites to have water supply.	- Provision of any new paddocks should be within access of bridleway where possible.	N/A

Open Space high level design principles

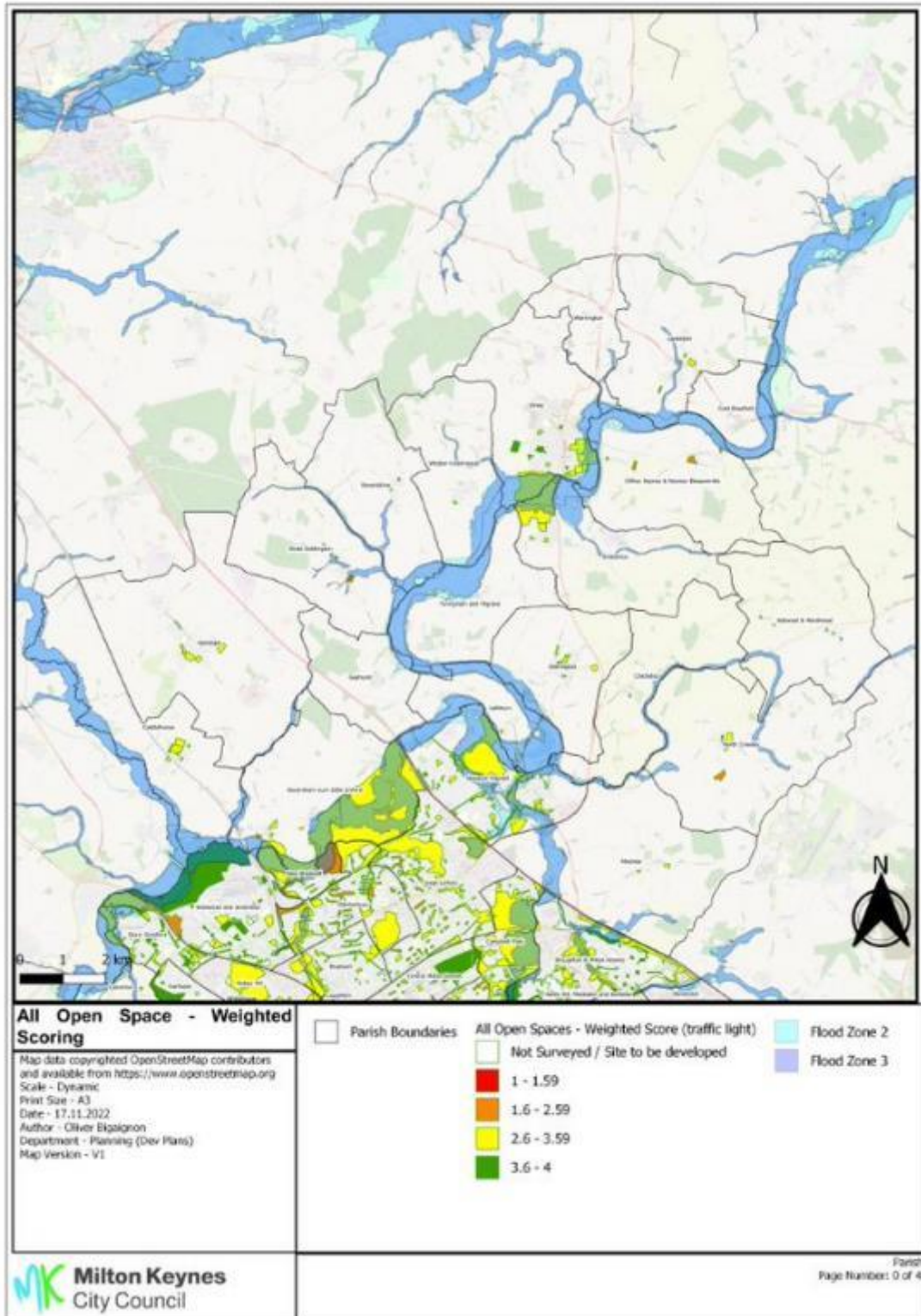
- 17.16 It is important that the provision of the new open spaces and enhancement of existing spaces is undertaken in a coordinated way with consideration of planning principles, designed in a way that would benefit the environment and support the lives of existing and future communities.
- 17.17 The sites should be planned and should be located to ensure it addresses local needs and priorities based on contextual analysis of the area. It is important to consider the engagement with relevant stakeholders. The delivery of high-quality sites should be delivered ahead of occupation of sites.
- 17.18 In developing of the sites, it is crucial that there are no conflicting uses and the sites are planned in a way that they provide multifunctionality where that is appropriate. Uses that are incompatible with flooding (e.g., sites with play areas) must be avoided.
- 17.19 The spaces should be designed in a way that they complement the character of the area, and they are well integrated into the surrounding environment.
- 17.20 Parish and Town Council's survey results highlighted the need to ensure that open spaces are better maintained and more attractive for visitors. It was noted Greater community involvement is needed. 40% of respondents noted the need for improved access to and within the existing sites and 50 % noted that there should be greater provision for wildlife and habitats generally as well as better and wider range of facilities.

Nature - based solutions within open spaces to reduce flooding

- 17.21 In planning for open spaces in areas liable to flooding, it is crucial that a consideration is given to nature-based solutions that will help slowing the flow of water through the landscape. Those solutions give communities affected by flooding more time to prepare and reduces the peak water levels of rivers and streams.
- 17.22 The open spaces mapping is a useful tool that can highlight the areas within the Flood Zones and can help in identifying new areas where nature- based solutions could be considered or help identifying the existing open spaces that could be improved to help with reduction of flooding by improving their quality (e.g. soil improvements, diversion of high water flows,) redesigning (e.g. inclusion of more trees and hedges that increase water absorption, catch rainfall and slow down the run-off) or restoration (e.g. restoration of existing habitats such as mudflats)
- 17.23 The Map 36 and Map 37 below show the current Flood Zones and should be used in the early assessment of suitability of sites to ensure conflicting uses are not proposed. It can be also used to identify the areas where sites could be improved by proposing nature-based solutions to reduce the risk of flooding in other areas.



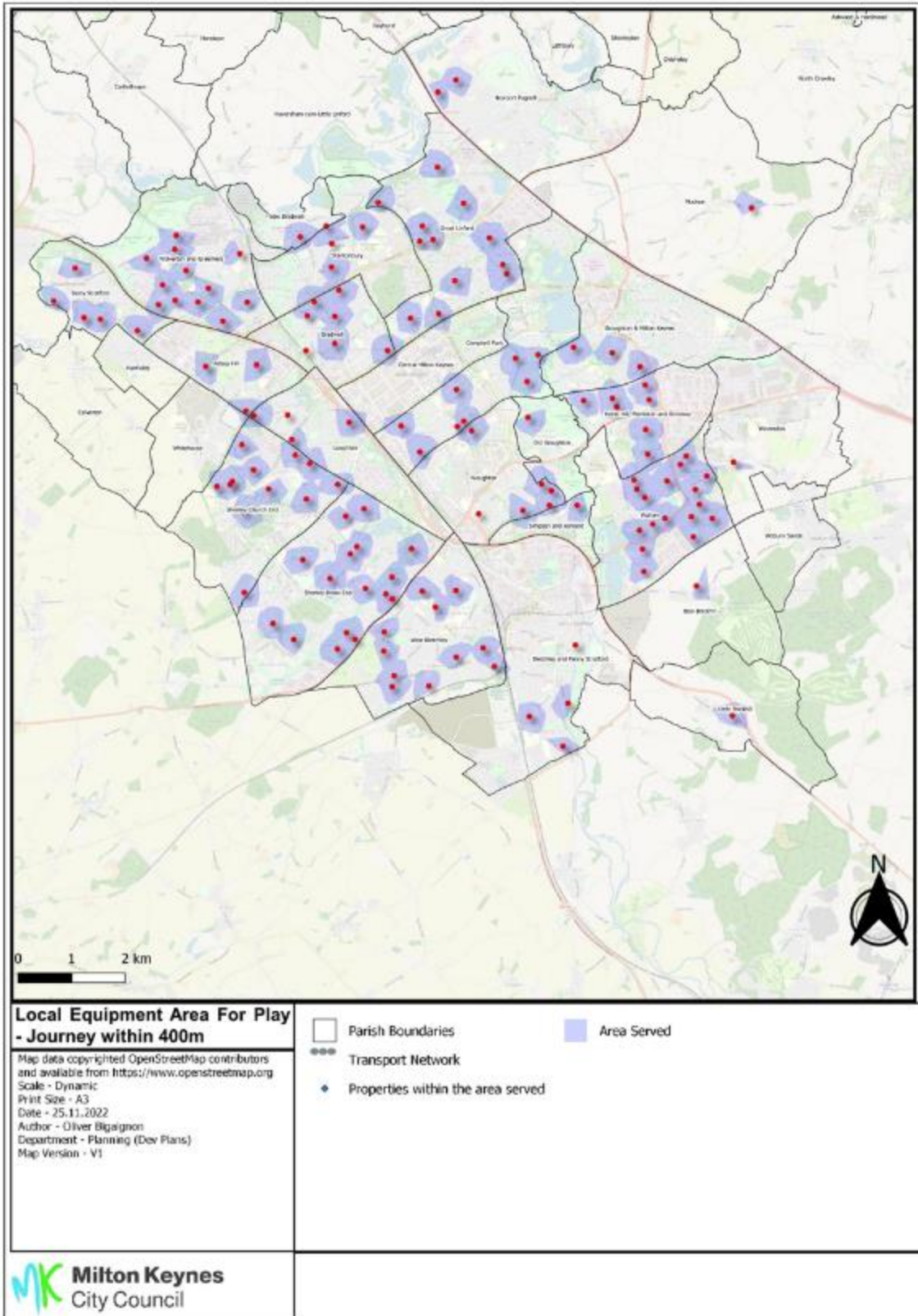
Map 36. All open spaces weighted scoring and flood zones mapping (EA)- south.



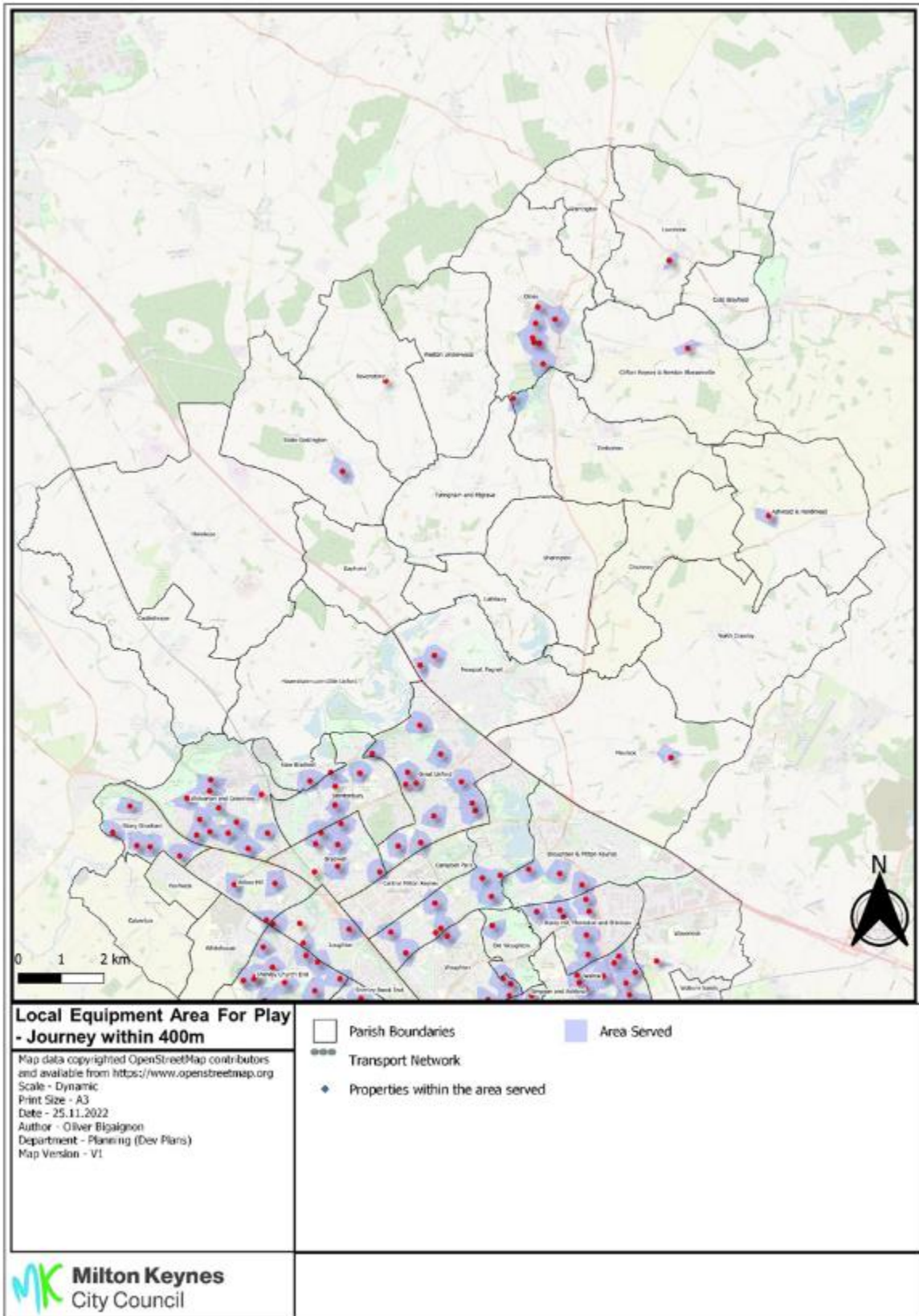
Map 37. All open spaces weighted scoring and flood zones mapping (EA)- north.

18. Standards for play areas

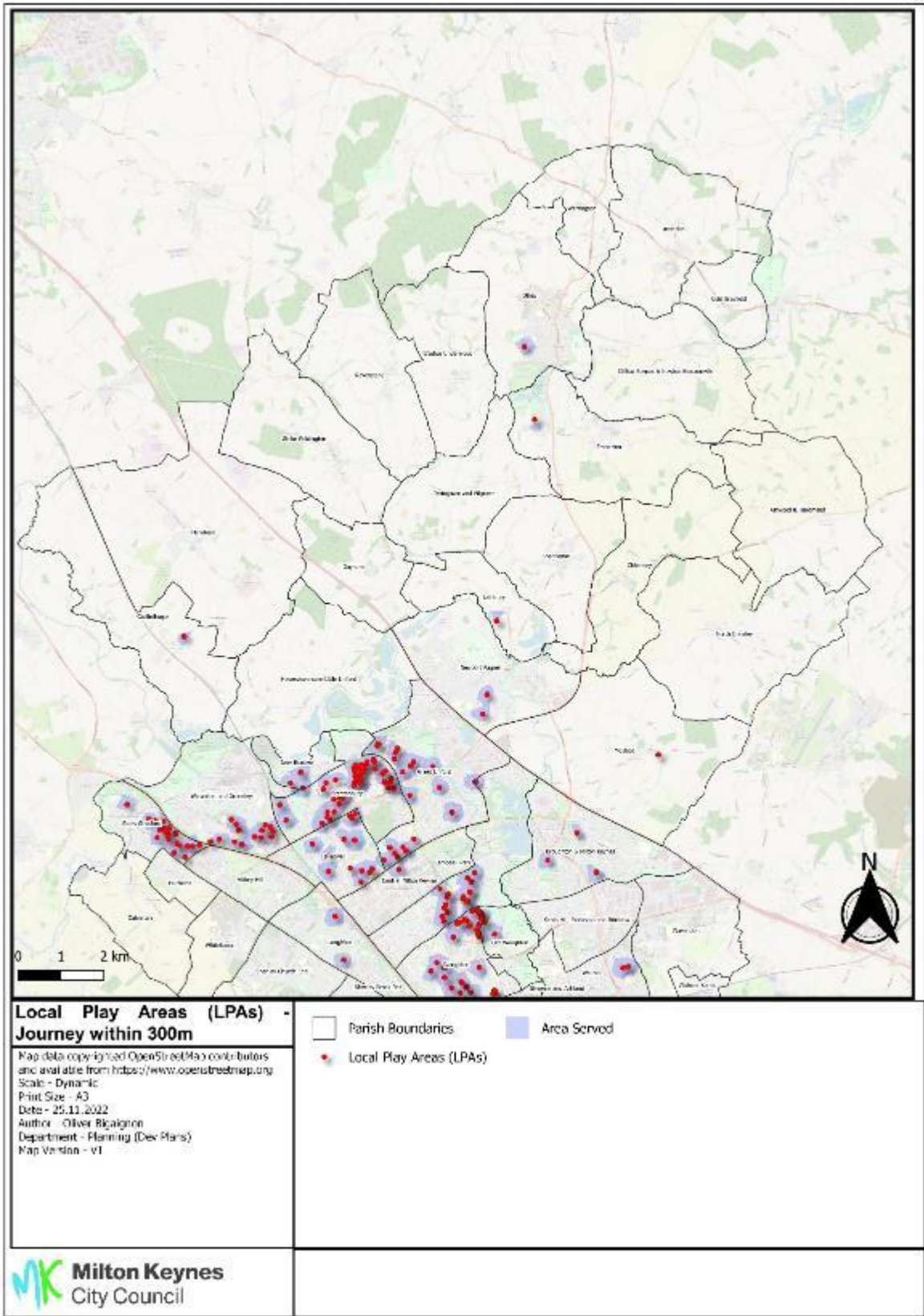
- 18.1 Plan:MK contains standards for the following play areas:
- Local Play Areas (LPAs)
 - Neighbourhood Play Areas (NPAs)
- 18.2 The data on location and type of play areas at MKCC currently consists of information on:
- a) Local play areas:
 - Local play areas- which are areas where no formal equipment is provided,
 - Local equipment area of play- play areas with equipment,
 - b) Neighbourhood play areas:
 - Multi use games areas,
 - Neighbourhood equipped areas of play.
- 18.3 Future play areas should be planned according to a site-specific design to suit and enhance the location. They should consider the local landscape and urban design character; the surrounding land uses and buildings and the projected play needs of the intended catchment population. Layouts and choice of equipment should be 'bespoke' to the location and consider the potential noise and other local environmental impacts of the play features. Consideration should also be given to the future long-term maintenance and stewardship requirements of the play areas. It is advisable to use natural elements and provide a wide range of play experience which is accessible to disabled and non-disabled children. They should allow for change and evolution by flexible design.
- 18.4 The play areas should be design with the consideration of the needs of local communities and ideally with the involvement from parish councils to ensure they meet local needs, are sustainable and appropriately managed.
- 18.5 Milton Keynes Council Play Area Action Plan: 2013 – 2023 (soon to be reviewed) guides how the existing play areas should be improved and identifies opportunities across the Milton Keynes for future facilities and sets standards for the provision of play. It was based on the provision standards that formed part of the old Local Plan - Milton Keynes Local Plan (2005).
- 18.6 Upon discussion with officers in Milton Keynes City Council and external stakeholders via a series of workshops a review of the standards took place. We took into consideration FiT guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard that is known to be the best practice guide.
- 18.7 New standards are proposed and those can be found in Table 7 below. Quantity guidelines should not be interpreted as maximum levels of provision, and it is recommended that these are adjusted to take account of local circumstances where evidence on the need is available.
- 18.8 Maps 38- 45 show how standards can be applied and mapping undertaken to show accessibility gaps. If the proposed standards are taken forward in the New City Plans new datasets will be created to show current provision based on revised standards and will show gaps in provision.
- 18.9 The future online hub will allow review of provision gaps based on distances.



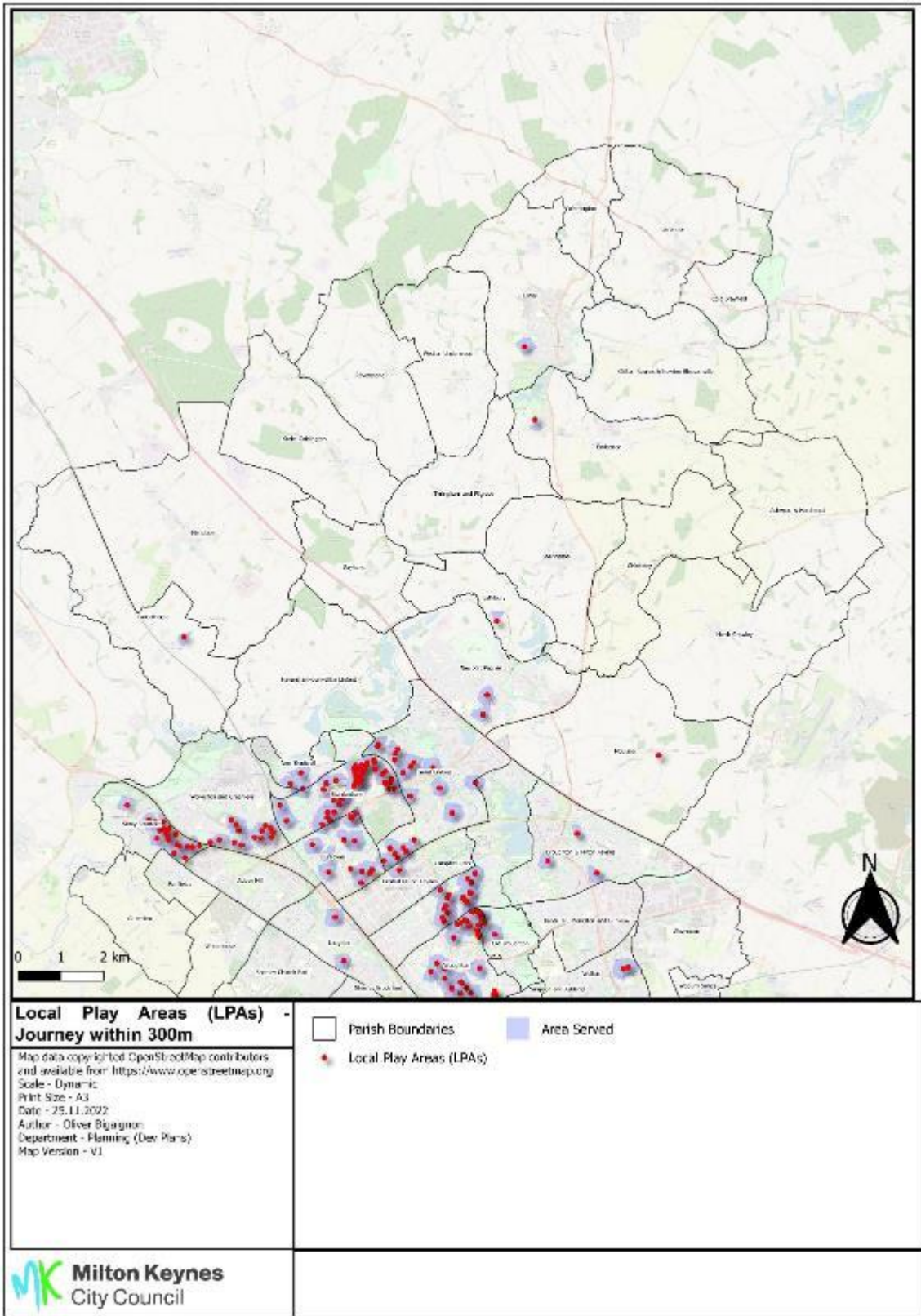
Map 38. Accessibility review of Local Equipped Area for play within 400m of residential properties via accessible routes- south of MK.



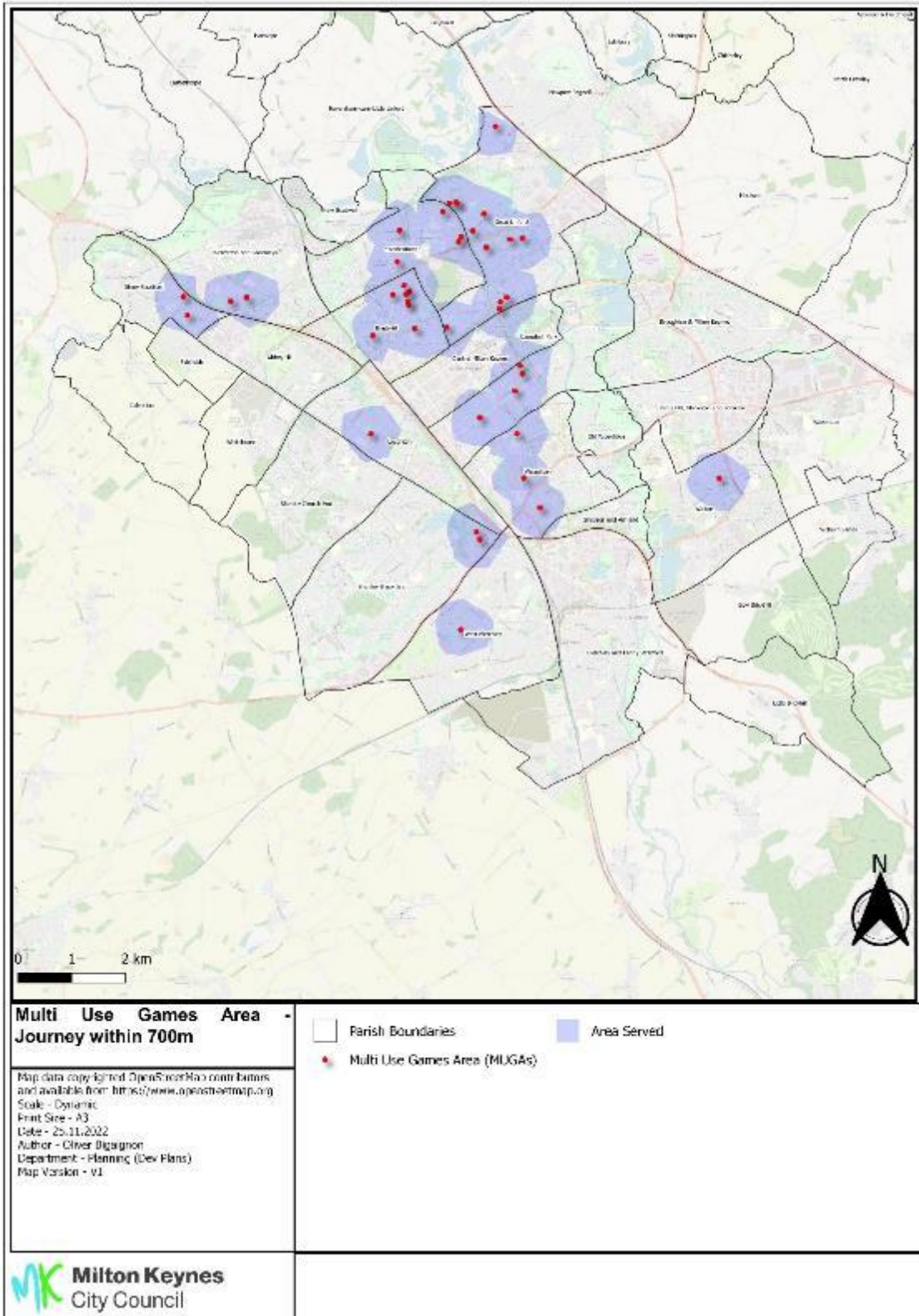
Map 39. Accessibility review of Local Equipped Area for play within 400m of residential properties via accessible routes- north of MK.



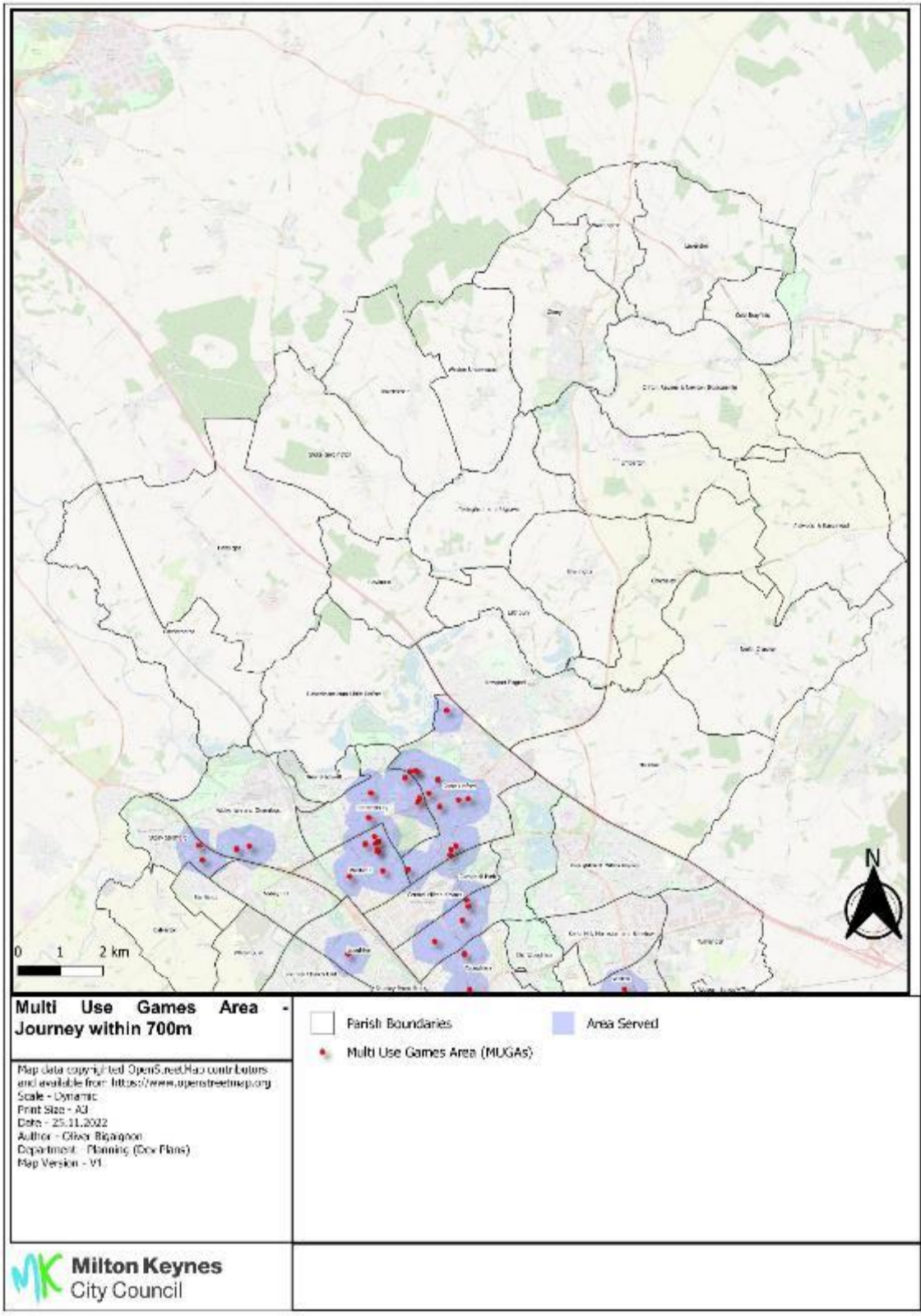
Map 40. Accessibility review of Local Play Area for play within 300m of residential properties via accessible routes- north of MK.



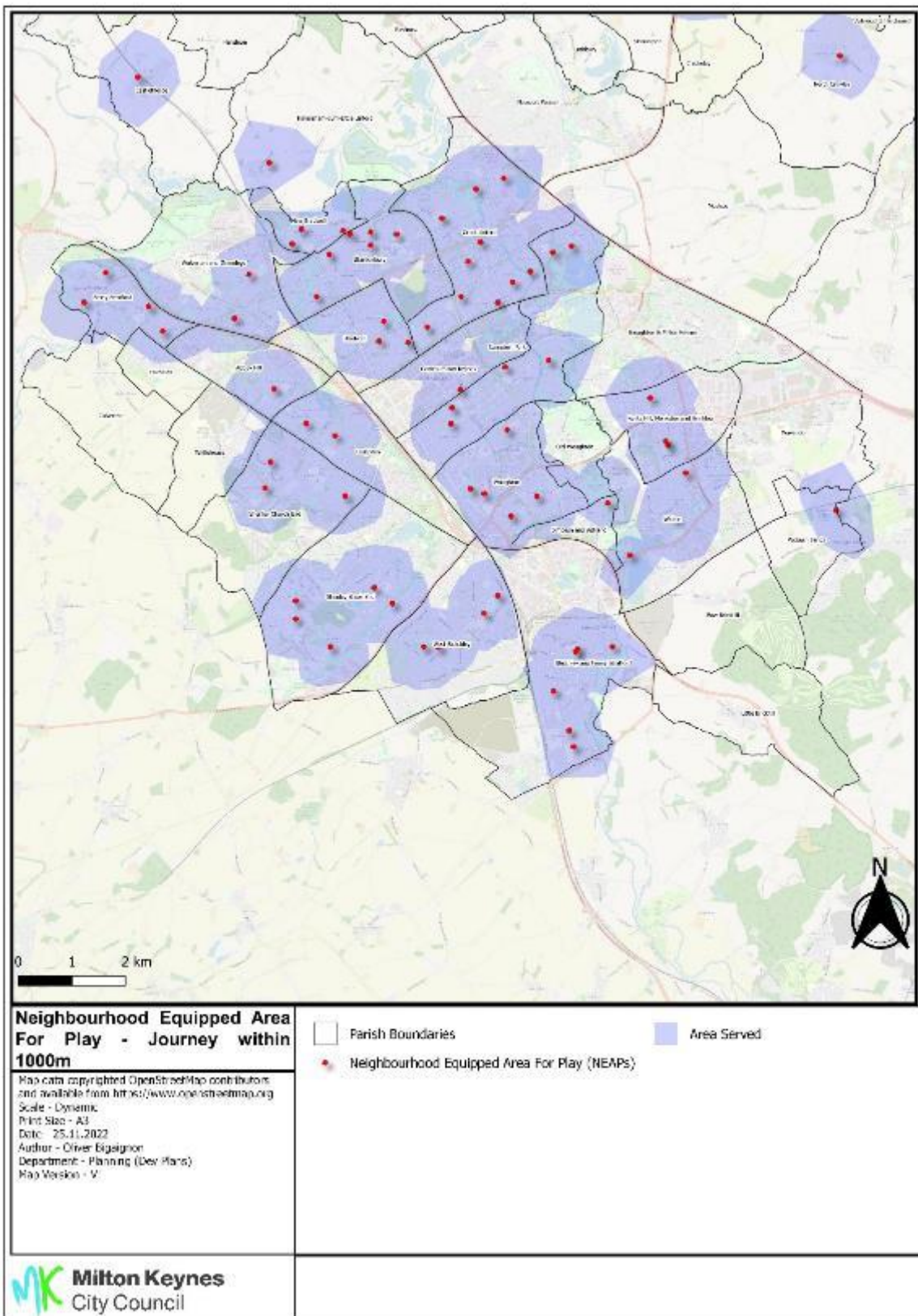
Map 41. Accessibility review of Local Play Areas for play within 300m of residential properties via accessible routes- north of MK.



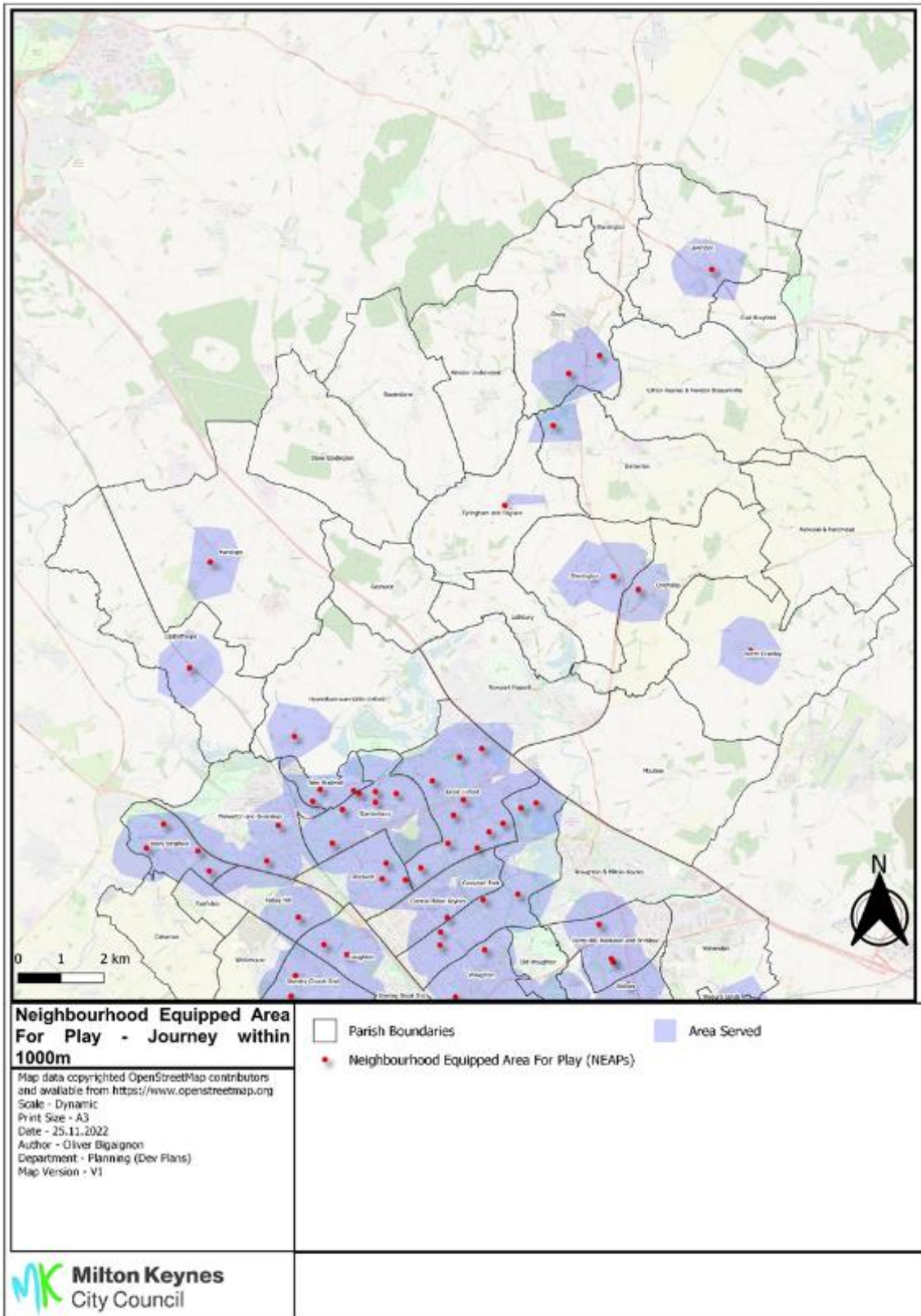
Map 42. Accessibility review of MUGAs within 700m of residential properties via accessible routes-south of MK.



Map 43. Accessibility review of MUGAs within 700m of residential properties via accessible routes-north of MK.



Map 44. Accessibility review of neighbourhood Equipped Area for play within 1000m of residential properties via accessible routes- south of MK.



Map 45. Accessibility review of neighbourhood Equipped Area for play within 1000m of residential properties via accessible routes- north of MK.

Table 7. Proposed standards for play areas.

Type of play area	Quantity	Quality Standard	Accessibility Standard	Catchment area
Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)	<p>0.25ha/1000 population to be provided on site</p> <p>To include separation buffer to ensure that play area activities are not located near roads or parking.</p> <p>Size depending on the density of the housing.</p>	<p>To include equipped play area for those under the age of 8.</p> <p>Designed to provide ‘bespoke’ experience and be located within residential development and allow evolution of the site by flexible design</p>	<p>Co- located ideally with either of the following: Local Park, District Park Linear Park Pocket Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points accessible to disabled. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - Linkages via redways/cycleways to be provided to and within the sites 	<p>Residents to be within 300m of LEAP via accessible route network</p>
Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)	<p>0.6ha/1000 population to be provided on or offsite via contributions</p>	<p>Equipment appropriate for 8+ group, so less imagination and more dynamic and social - consideration of setting.</p> <p>Equipment is provided to facilitate activity.</p> <p>Designed for unsupervised play. May include youth shelters, multi-games walls. To include min of 8 items of play equipment</p>	<p>Co- located ideally with either of the following: Local Park, District Park Linear Park Pocket Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points accessible to disabled. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - Linkages via redways/cycleways to 	<p>Residents to be within 1,000m of NEAP via accessible route network</p>

			be provided to and within the sites	
Other outdoor play provision (e.g., MUGA and Skateboard Parks)	0.30ha/1000		<p>Co- located ideally with either of the following: Local Park, District Park Linear Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All key access points accessible to disabled. - Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes to the site. - Linkages via redways/cycleways to be provided to and within the sites 	Residents to be within 700m of other outdoor play provision via accessible route network

19. Conclusions and policy recommendations

- 19.1 The study identified open space types with the consideration of local circumstances and used projected population statistics to calculate the existing provision. The assessment includes information on open space that bigger than 0.2 ha¹³ and are accessible to the public. We also audited the sites that are accessible to the public via rent such as paddocks and food growing areas since their visual amenity and social provisions are important for the public.
- 19.2 The audit highlights surpluses and deficiencies based on the new proposed standards and national benchmarks and should be used in the land availability assessment highlighting the areas that are surplus to requirements, could benefit from improvement of quality or accessibility. Maps with flood zones 2 and 3 highlight open space areas where sites could be re-developed to improve flood prevention and reliance to flooding.
- 19.3 Mapping undertaken highlights areas where sites are of poor quality and accessibility and that is compared with selected health data and deprivation statistics. The mapping can be used to select areas for future investment around physical activity of children.
- 19.4 The audit reviewed over 900 sites and created a spatial database that can be built upon once the new platform solution for the local plan is selected. The spatial results from the study should be incorporated into the interactive online hub that hold spatial data form various evidence base studies and inform review of the Plan:MK.
- 19.5 The audit highlights the deficiencies in the provisions and opportunities for multi-functional use and improvement of sites. Open space standards should be applied accordingly.
- 19.6 There should be presumption in favour of retention of any undesignated by local planning policy open spaces that are bigger than 0.2ha. Any future developments should not result in the loss or prevent from using the undesignated open spaces. Future developments should be permitted if another site that provides functions and serviced similar to original is provided in an accessible location as per standards or improvements are made to other existing sites if there is surplus to requirements regarding quantity and accessibility.
- 19.7 It is recommended that the New City Plan contains policy on access to open space to ensure that in the areas with poor access or no access new developments make provision for or contribute towards improvements to PROW or road networks or creation of green links to improve accessibility.
- 19.8 Future provision of open spaces should be appropriate to the needs of the development and surrounding area as per draft standards (provision, type, size). Subject to requirements this could be achieved though off-site provision, contributions towards improvements of existing sites. Long term management and maintenance should be taken in consideration.
- 19.9 The Council should use the recommended standards to inform the new polices in the New City Plan in addition to the Natural England's ANGSt and help in preparing relevant policies. Detailed site-specific policies should consider the need for open spaces.

¹³ Smaller sites that are considered significant and valuable to local area were assessed.

19.10 The OSA will inform the future Nature, Green and Blue Infrastructure study. There will be a need for a separate study that will consider how the need can be calculated in monetary value to ensure seeking the needed contributions for establish and management of future sites.

Appendix 1. Site visits assessment questions for each of the open space typologies

Value- site assessment questions	Linear Parks, District Parks, Country Parks, 'other' Natural and Semi-Natural green spaces	Green access links	Food growing areas	Paddocks	Formal outdoor playing fields	Amenity Greenspace	Civic Spaces and Formal gardens	Common land and Village Green	Local Park	Pocket Park	Churchyards, cemeteries, burial grounds
Are there any historical buildings or features within the site? If yes, please provide detail. (Descriptive Assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Are there any spiritual/religious elements that you can identify at the site? If yes, please provide detail. (Descriptive Assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Are there any play areas within the site or any activities provided? (Descriptive Assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Please comment on the context of the site in relation to other facilities (e.g., shops, schools). (Descriptive Assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Please comment on the usage of the site. (Descriptive Assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v

Please comment on the context of the site in relation to other open spaces. (Descriptive Assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Additional comments on the site's value. (Descriptive Assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Please upload photographs of the site (Accessibility, Quality, Value)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v

Open Space Typology											
Quality - site assessment questions	Linear Parks. District Parks, Country Parks, 'other' Natural and Semi-Natural green spaces	Green access links	Food growing areas	Paddocks	Formal outdoor playing fields	Amenity Greenspace	Civic Spaces and Formal gardens	Common land and Village Green	Local Park	Pocket Park	Churchyards, cemeteries, burial grounds
Footpath quality within the site (Scoring)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Security (Scoring)	v	x	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Please rate personal security considering location within surrounding development and or passing traffic	x	x	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Equipment and facilities (Scoring)	v	v	x	x	x	x	v	v	v	v	v

Did you notice any litter bins at the site? Yes or No	v	v	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Litter and Site problems (Scoring)	v	v	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Planted areas (overview of maintenance of the planted areas, weeds managment and attractiveness)	x	v	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
State of any formal equipment present at the site (scoring)	v	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Quality of boundaries (review attractiveness of the vegetation, fencing and verges)	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Please add any other comments regarding the site boundaries	x	x	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Level of cultivation	x	x	v	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Does the site have working water supply? Yes, No or N/A	x	x	v	v	x	x	x	x	x	x	v
Are there any composting bays on site? Yes, No or N/A	x	x	v	v	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Grass/Open areas	x	x	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
State of any formal sports equipment present at the site (scoring)	x	x	x	x	v	v	x	x	x	x	x
Additional comments on the site's quality (Descriptive Assessment)	v	v	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v

Open Space Typology

General key access points information (Descriptive assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Is access to the site: - controlled via management - uncontrolled (free access to all)? (Descriptive assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Linkages via public transport (Scoring)	v	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Linkages via redways/cycleways (Scoring)	v	x	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	x
Linkages via footpath/pedestrian routes (Scoring)	v	v	x	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Disabled access (Scoring)	v	x	x	x	v	x	v	v	v	x	v
Parking provision (Scoring)	v	x	v	v	v	x	x	x	x	x	v

Is disabled parking provided near the site? Yes/No or N/A	v	x	v	v	v	x	x	x	x	x	x
Please comment on signage at and leading to the site (Descriptive assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Please provide any further comments on site accessibility (Descriptive Assessment)	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v

Appendix 2 Quantity of open spaces in Milton Keynes by parish and type of open space in ha.

Parish area	other' Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	Amenity Greenspace	Local Parks	Pocket Parks	District Parks	Country Parks	Linear Parks	Civic Spaces and Formal Gardens	Food Growing Areas	Cemeteries, Churchyards and Other Burial Grounds	Formal Outdoor Playing Fields	Green Access Links	Common Land and Village Greens	Paddocks	Population Projections 2020
Abbey Hill	1.91	3.66	0.92	0.17	0.00	0.00	7.82	0.00	0.92	0.00	44.50	0.89	0.00	0.00	4200.00
Astwood and Hardmead	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
Bletchley & Fenny Stratford	49.60	51.64	10.30	1.42	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	3.68	2.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20100.00
Bow Brickhill	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	3.20	0.00	0.06	0.00	600.00
Bradwell	5.01	4.39	4.11	1.77	0.00	0.00	29.22	0.00	0.37	0.58	0.00	1.15	0.00	0.00	9550.00
Broughton & Milton Keynes	31.13	2.00	7.87	4.58	0.00	0.00	100.27	0.61	1.31	0.00	8.66	0.00	0.00	0.70	18000.00
Calverton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Campbell Park	3.62	14.88	7.42	1.33	0.00	0.00	200.74	0.00	0.57	0.25	2.16	0.00	0.00	0.68	16000.00
Castlethorpe	0.00	4.75	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.44	3.26	0.00	0.00	0.25	1150.00
Central Milton Keynes	0.15	0.91	1.90	1.09	33.54	0.00	0.00	5.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.25	0.00	0.00	4050.00
Chicheley	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville	0.00	2.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00
Cold Brayfield	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Emberton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.91	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.60	3.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
Fairfields	2.12	0.00	2.20	0.66	0.00	0.00	22.38	0.00	1.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2950.00

Gayhurst	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Great Linford	32.35	16.71	2.57	3.49	0.00	0.00	73.02	0.00	3.52	0.00	5.37	4.88	0.87	2.10	20450.00
Hanslope	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.15	1.31	3.07	1.06	0.00	0.00	2450.00
Haversham & Little Linford	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	379.84	0.00	1.02	0.29	1.54	0.00	0.59	0.00	900.00
Kents Hill, Monkston and Brinklow	1.07	1.03	3.62	3.17	0.00	0.00	14.37	0.00	0.87	0.00	7.98	2.66	0.00	0.00	8500.00
Lathbury	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Lavendon	0.00	0.23	1.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1300.00
Little Brickhill	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.32	1.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Loughton and Great Holm	7.11	4.05	1.75	1.47	0.00	0.00	98.28	0.00	0.40	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6350.00
Moulsoe	0.00	0.00	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Newport Pagnell	0.27	3.94	13.45	2.07	0.00	0.00	14.59	0.00	6.02	1.55	10.76	6.11	73.69	0.00	15750.00
New Bradwell	0.74	2.37	5.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.97	0.00	0.83	0.44	0.00	0.77	0.00	0.00	3250.00
North Crawley	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.68	2.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Old Woughton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	124.87	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Olney	3.64	0.55	3.39	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.35	1.99	25.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	6850.00
Ravenstone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe	36.82	11.49	14.40	4.61	0.00	0.00	100.36	0.00	3.46	0.00	26.39	8.51	0.00	0.00	27700.00
Shenley Church End	45.60	13.28	7.81	2.80	0.00	0.00	10.04	0.00	0.76	0.38	6.04	7.67	0.00	2.37	15100.00
Sherington	1.25	1.01	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	1.65	0.00	0.00	1.08	1050.00
Simpson & Ashland	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.85	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1850.00
Stantonbury	51.44	15.09	0.90	0.59	0.00	0.00	59.43	0.00	1.00	0.00	3.72	4.93	0.00	0.00	10850.00
Stoke Goldington	0.00	0.00	1.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00

Stony Stratford	2.40	13.15	4.57	0.69	0.00	0.00	54.30	0.00	4.69	1.53	6.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	7950.00
Tyringha and Filgrave	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
Walton	1.80	2.02	5.99	2.13	0.00	0.00	110.12	0.00	2.63	0.44	0.00	1.23	0.00	5.30	12550.00
Warrington	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Wavendon	0.00	0.00	5.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.78	1.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	3800.00
West Bletchley	0.00	1.51	6.66	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	48.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	22750.00
Weston Underwood	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
Whitehouse	13.41	0.00	4.25	3.04	0.00	0.00	31.08	0.00	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3650.00
Woburn Sands	8.23	0.00	0.00	3.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.60	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	8.90	3950.00
Wolverton & Greenleys	5.57	12.30	9.17	5.40	0.00	25.75	0.00	0.12	7.69	4.14	10.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	14200.00
Woughton	9.78	19.28	13.64	1.58	0.00	0.00	1.88	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	3.90	0.00	0.00	13250.00
Total	316.09	204.40	142.42	47.52	33.54	155.66	1542.43	5.74	57.77	23.35	227.99	49.45	75.21	21.38	286450.00

Appendix 3 the Quantity of open space types (ha) in Milton Keynes in each parish per 1000 population as per ONS population projections for 2020.

Parish area	Provision per 1000 population													
	other' Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	Amenity Greenspace	Local Parks	Pocket Parks	District Parks	Country Parks	Linear Parks	Civic Spaces and Formal Gardens	Food Growing Areas	Cemeteries, Churchyards and Other Burial Grounds	Formal Outdoor Playing Fields	Green Access Links	Common Land and Village Greens	Paddocks
Abbey Hill	0.45	0.87	0.22	0.04	0.00	0.00	1.86	0.00	0.22	0.00	10.60	0.21	0.00	0.00
Astwood and Hardmead	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bletchley & Fenny Stratford	2.47	2.57	0.51	0.07	0.00	1.49	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bow Brickhill	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.88	5.33	0.00	0.10	0.00
Bradwell	0.52	0.46	0.43	0.19	0.00	0.00	3.06	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00
Broughton & Milton Keynes	1.73	0.11	0.44	0.25	0.00	0.00	5.57	0.03	0.07	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.04
Calverton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Campbell Park	0.23	0.93	0.46	0.08	0.00	0.00	12.55	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.04
Castlethorpe	0.00	4.13	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.38	2.83	0.00	0.00	0.22
Central Milton Keynes	0.04	0.22	0.47	0.27	8.28	0.00	0.00	1.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.30	0.00	0.00
Chicheley	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville	0.00	5.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.22	1.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cold Brayfield	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Emberton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	166.52	0.00	0.00	0.72	1.00	5.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fairfields	0.72	0.00	0.75	0.22	0.00	0.00	7.59	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gayhurst	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Great Linford	1.58	0.82	0.13	0.17	0.00	0.00	3.57	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.26	0.24	0.04	0.10
Hanslope	0.00	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.88	0.53	1.25	0.43	0.00	0.00
Haversham & Little Linford	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	422.04	0.00	1.13	0.32	1.71	0.00	0.66	0.00
Kents Hill, Monkston and Brinklow	0.13	0.12	0.43	0.37	0.00	0.00	1.69	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.94	0.31	0.00	0.00
Lathbury	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lavendon	0.00	0.18	1.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Little Brickhill	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.68	0.80	3.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loughton and Great Holm	1.12	0.64	0.28	0.23	0.00	0.00	15.48	0.00	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Moulsoe	0.00	0.00	2.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Newport Pagnell	0.02	0.25	0.85	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.38	0.10	0.68	0.39	4.68	0.00
New Bradwell	0.23	0.73	1.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.99	0.00	0.26	0.14	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00
North Crawley	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.91	3.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
Old Woughton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	178.39	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Olney	0.53	0.08	0.49	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.29	3.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ravenstone	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe	1.33	0.41	0.52	0.17	0.00	0.00	3.62	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.95	0.31	0.00	0.00
Shenley Church End	3.02	0.88	0.52	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.05	0.03	0.40	0.51	0.00	0.16
Sherington	1.19	0.96	0.00	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	1.57	0.00	0.00	1.03
Simpson & Ashland	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.24	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stantonbury	4.74	1.39	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.00	5.48	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.34	0.45	0.00	0.00

Stoke Goldington	0.00	0.00	2.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stony Stratford	0.30	1.65	0.57	0.09	0.00	0.00	6.83	0.00	0.59	0.19	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tyringha and Filgrave	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Walton	0.14	0.16	0.48	0.17	0.00	0.00	8.77	0.00	0.21	0.04	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.42
Warrington	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wavendon	0.00	0.00	1.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.21	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bletchley	0.00	0.07	0.29	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	2.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
Weston Underwood	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whitehouse	3.67	0.00	1.16	0.83	0.00	0.00	8.52	0.00	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Woburn Sands	2.08	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.16	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	2.25
Wolverton & Greenleys	0.39	0.87	0.65	0.38	0.00	1.81	0.00	0.01	0.54	0.29	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
Woughton	0.74	1.46	1.03	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.00
Total	1.10	0.71	0.50	0.17	0.12	0.54	5.38	0.02	0.20	0.08	0.80	0.17	0.26	0.07

List of Figures, Tables and Maps

Fig 1. Method used in the study.

Fig 2. Public Survey results- Respondents view on the amount of open space in Milton Keynes administrative area.

Fig 3. Parish survey- Respondents view on the overall quantity of open spaces within Milton Keynes administrative area.

Fig 4. Public Survey results- Respondents view on the quality of Open Spaces within the administrative area of Milton Keynes.

Fig 5. Parish Survey- Respondents view on the quality of Open Spaces within the administrative area of Milton Keynes

Fig 6. Public survey results- Review of overall accessibility to open spaces in the administrative area of Milton Keynes.

Fig 7. Parish survey- Review of overall accessibility to open spaces in administrative area of Milton Keynes.

Fig 8. Public Survey results- Frequency of visits to Open Space and journey time.

Fig 9. Public Survey results- Travel time to Open Space and mode of transportation

B- Bike, C- Car, F-Foot, O- Other, PT- Public Transport, S-Scooter.

Fig 10. Public Survey results- Types of Open Spaces visited by respondents.

Fig 11. Public Survey results- Purpose of visiting Open Spaces.

Table 1. Open Space typologies used in the study.

Table 2. Quality assessment scoring.

Table 3. Accessibility assessment scoring.

Table 4. Draft Accessible Natural Green Space Standards, Natural England 2022.

Table 5. Assumed household occupancy.

Table 6. Proposed open space standards.

Table 7. Proposed standards for play areas.

Map 1. Sample map for All open spaces- accessibility within 400m.

- Map 2. Open Spaces - weighted score site visits 2021/22 - south Milton Keynes
- Map 3. Open Spaces - weighted score site visits 2021/22- north Milton Keynes
- Map 4. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- North.
- Map 5. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- south.
- Map 6. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- south and deprivation data 2019 (ONS).
- Map 7. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- north and deprivation data 2019 (ONS).
- Map 8. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- south and Year 6 Pupils Obesity data (2017-19) PHE.
- Map 9. Overall accessibility to open spaces in Milton Keynes Borough by accessible route network and within 400m- north and Year 6 Pupils Obesity data (2017-19) PHE.
- Map 10. Emberton Country Park accessibility via accessible route network and within 10km.
- Map 11. Linear Parks and District Parks accessibility via accessible route network and within 1.2km.
- Map 12. Sample map for weighted score from site surveys- linear parks.
- Map 13. Blue lagoon district park weighted score from site survey.
- Map 14. Campbell Park district park weighted score from site survey.
- Map 15. Sample map- food growing areas accessibility via accessible route network within 600m.
- Map 15a. Sample map- weighted score from site survey - food growing areas
- Map 16. Doorstep accessible greenspace- 200m of open spaces at least 0,5ha (MK borough)- considered to be under 5min walk- south.
- Map 17. Doorstep accessible greenspace- 200m of all open spaces at least 0,5ha (MK borough)- considered to be under 5min walk- north.
- Map 18. Local Natural Greenspace – within 300m of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 2ha (MK borough)- south.
- Map 19. Local Natural Greenspace – within 300m of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 2ha (MK borough)- north.

Map 20. Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace – within 1km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 10ha - south.

Map 21. Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace – within 1km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 10ha - north.

Map 22. Wider neighbourhood- within 2km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 20ha - south.

Map 23. Wider neighbourhood- within 2km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 20ha - north.

Map 24. District - within 2km of OSNGS CP LP DP sites of at least 20ha.

Map 25. Accessibility of forest and woodland of 2ha or less in size within 500m information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2022 Ordnance Survey [100021242]- south.

Map 26. Accessibility of forest and woodland of 2ha or less in size within 500m information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2022 Ordnance Survey [100021242]- north.

Map 27. Accessibility of forest and woodland of 20ha or less in size within 4km information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2022 Ordnance Survey [100021242]- south.

Map 28. Accessibility of forest and woodland of 20ha or less in size within 4km information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right 2022 Ordnance Survey [100021242]- north.

Map 29. Sample map - Accessibility to amenity greenspace, Local Parks, Pocket Parks, Civic spaces and formal gardens within 710m via accessible route network.

Map 30. Sample map for weighted scores from site surveys- Amenity Greenspace.

Map 31. Sample map accessibility of formal outdoor playing fields via accessible route network and within 1,2km.

Map 32. Sample map for weighted scores from site surveys for formal outdoor playing fields.

Map 33. Sample map for weighted scores from site surveys for green access links.

Map 34. Sample map for weighted scores from site surveys for common land and village green.

Map 35. Sample map for weighted scores from site surveys for paddocks.

Map 36. All open spaces weighted scoring and flood zones mapping (EA)- south.

Map 37. All open spaces weighted scoring and flood zones mapping (EA)- north.

Map 38. Accessibility review of Local Equipped Area for play within 400m of residential properties via accessible routes- south of MK.

Map 39. Accessibility review of Local Equipped Area for play within 400m of residential properties via accessible routes- north of MK.

Map 40. Accessibility review of Local Play Area for play within 300m of residential properties via accessible routes- north of MK.

Map 41. Accessibility review of Local Play Areas for play within 300m of residential properties via accessible routes- north of MK.

Map 42. Accessibility review of MUGAs within 700m of residential properties via accessible routes- south of MK.

Map 43. Accessibility review of MUGAs within 700m of residential properties via accessible routes- north of MK.

Map 44. Accessibility review of neighbourhood Equipped Area for play within 1000m of residential properties via accessible routes- south of MK.

Map 45. Accessibility review of neighbourhood Equipped Area for play within 1000m of residential properties via accessible routes- north of MK.

List of Annexes

Annex 1 All Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22

Annex 2 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Amenity Greenspace

Annex 3 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Cemeteries, Churchyards and Other Burial Grounds

Annex 4 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Civic Spaces and Formal Gardens

Annex 5 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Common Land and Village Green

Annex 6 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Country Parks

Annex 7 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – District Parks

Annex 8 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Formal Outdoor Playing Fields

Annex 9 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Green Access Links

Annex 10 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Linear Parks

Annex 11 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Other Natural and Semi-natural green spaces

Annex 12 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Local Parks

Annex 13 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Paddocks

Annex 14 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Pocket Parks

Annex 15 Open Spaces weighted score site visits 21-22 – Food growing Areas

Annex 16 Overall accessibility All Open Spaces by accessible routes within 400m

Annex 17 Overall accessibility all open spaces by accessible routes within 400m and Index of Multiple Deprivation

Annex 18 Overall accessibility all open spaces weighted score by accessible routes within 400m

Annex 19 Overall accessibility all open spaces by accessible routes within 400m and Yr6 obesity

Annex 20 Overall accessibility all open spaces by accessible routes within 400m and Mid-Year Population Estimates by ward 2020

Annex 21 All Open spaces by typology and historic environment

Annex 22 Accessibility to Amenity Greenspaces, Local Parks, Pocket Parks and Civic Spaces and Formal Gardens by accessible routes within 710m

Annex 23 Accessibility to Food Growing Areas by accessible routes 600m

Annex 24 All open spaces by typology and historic environment



Open Space Assessment Report

January 2023

Development Plans

Planning and Placemaking