



South Derbyshire District Council

Green Space Strategy

Phase 1 Report



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1 Introduction

This document is the Phase 1 Report for the South Derbyshire District Council Green Space Strategy. It provides the evidence base and analysis to inform the later development of the Green Space Strategy for the District.

Chapter 2: About South Derbyshire District describes the study area providing demographic information including population size and growth, age range, diversity (ethnicity), economic activity, levels of deprivation, disability, physical activity, and life expectancy.

Chapter 3: Policy Context sets out a detailed review of national and local policies and strategies that are relevant to the development of the South Derbyshire District Green Space Strategy.

Chapter 4: Green Space Classification explains the methodology used to classify green spaces in the study. It outlines the typology used, based on land use and primary purpose, accessibility to the public, and the significance or hierarchy of the site.

Chapter 5: Green Space Supply presents an audit of the green space supply within South Derbyshire District, based on the classification system established in Chapter 4. It also considers the impact of future population projections on the amount of green space per person.

Chapter 6: Green Space Accessibility assesses the accessibility of green spaces based on distance thresholds that approximate walking time. It examines proximity to all unrestricted green space and then breaks this down by the green space hierarchy (local, neighbourhood, district). It also includes analysis of Level 2 mapping, focusing on provision for children and young people, outdoor sports and semi-natural green space. A comparison against national standards is also considered.

Chapter 7: Green Space Quality presents the findings of a green space quality assessment using the field assessment criteria of the Green Flag Award Scheme.

Chapter 8: Understanding the Need summarises the findings of an online residents survey conducted to understand the current use, condition, and satisfaction levels with South Derbyshire’s green spaces.

2 About South Derbyshire District




2.1 Study Area

South Derbyshire District spans 33,813 hectares in Derbyshire, East Midlands. It is a predominantly rural district, made up of the main settlement / market town of Swadlincote, as well as numerous civil parishes or village settlements, including Melbourne, Hilton, Repton and Etwall to name a few. Around one-third of the district is also comprised of the National Forest.

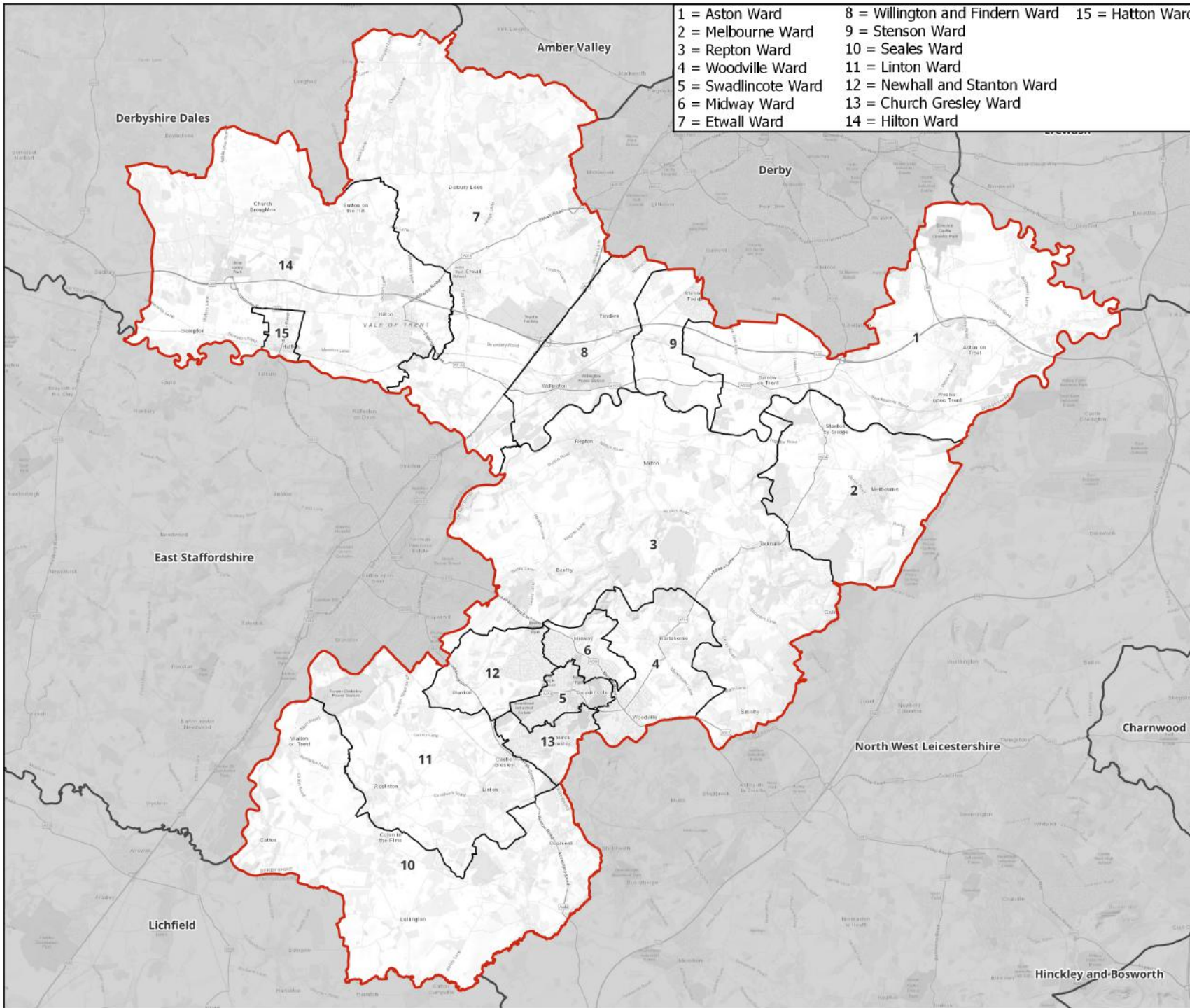
It is bordered by Derby City, East Staffordshire Borough, Lichfield District, Derbyshire Dales, Amber Valley, Erewash and North West Leicestershire.

**Figure 1
Study Area**

Legend

-  District Boundary
-  Ward Boundaries
-  Surrounding local authority boundaries

- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwell Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward



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
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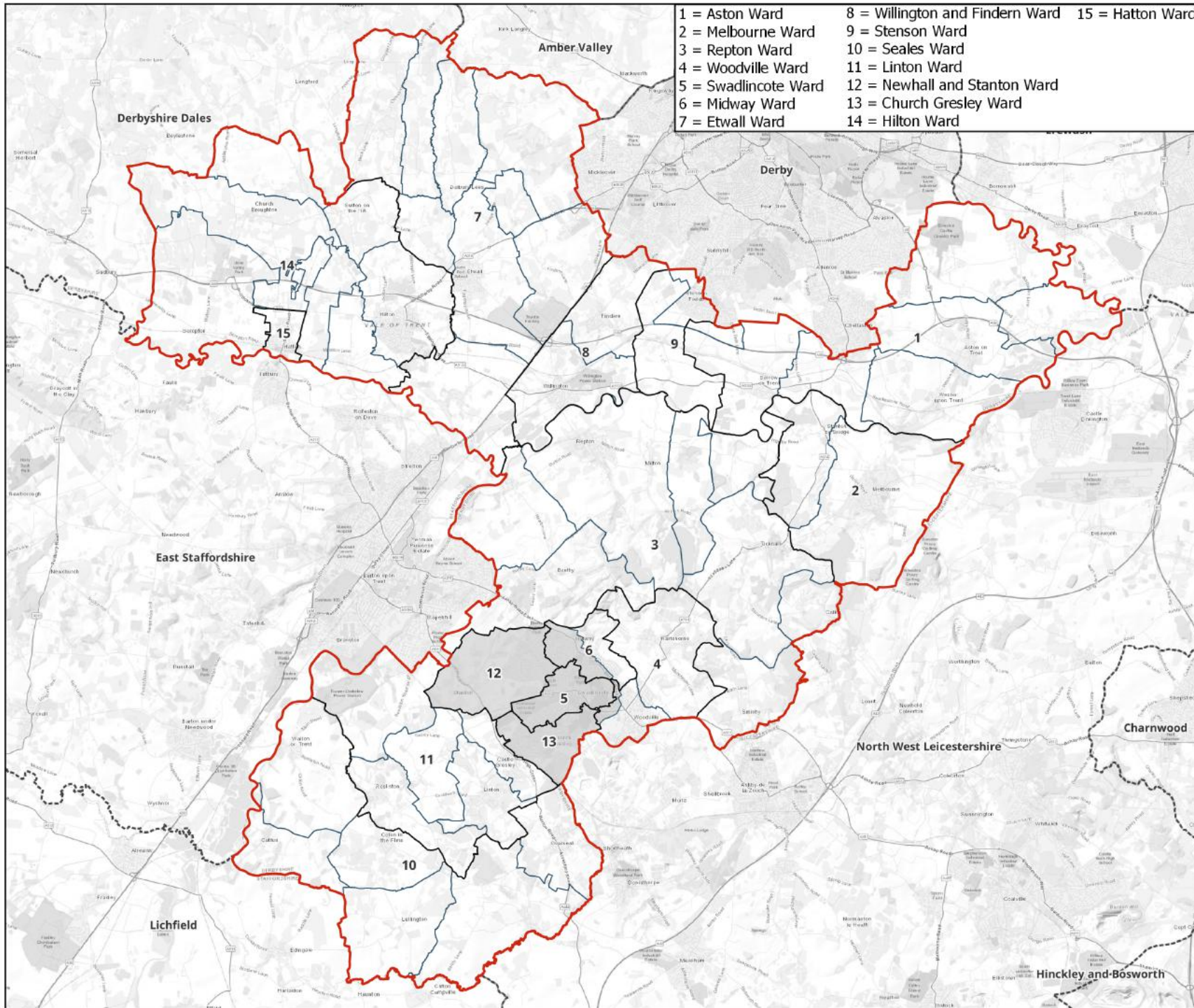


Figure 1a
Study Area

Legend

-  District Boundary
-  Ward Boundaries
-  Surrounding local authority boundaries
- Parish boundaries**
-  Civil Parish boundaries
-  Non-Civil Parish area

- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwell Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
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2.2 Demographic Information

2.2.1 Population

Based on mid-year estimates for 2023, the population of South Derbyshire is 114,050 which has increased 6.4% since 2021 (107,200) and 20.5% since 2011 (94,611). The population is forecast to reach 135,951 by 2043.

Population density in South Derbyshire is lower than the national average, with 317 persons per square kilometre compared to 438 in England.

2.2.2 Age Range

South Derbyshire has an ageing population. Based on mid-year estimates for 2023, 18.7% of the population are aged 65 and over, up from 16.4% (9.2 million) in 2011. Furthermore, 17.5% of the population are aged under 15, which has decreased from 19.8% since 2011. However, this is still slightly above regional and national averages.

Age	South Derbyshire		East Midlands		England	
0-15	19962	17.5%	840296	16.8%	9942344	17.2%
15-64	72813	63.8%	3163890	63.4%	36964892	64.1%
65+	21275	18.7%	987079	19.8%	10783087	18.7%
Total	114050	100.0%	4991265	100.0%	57690323	100.0%

Table 1 Age Range of Residents

2.2.3 Diversity

In South Derbyshire, most residents are White British, making up 90.1% of the population. This is much higher than regional and national averages where 79.6% and 73.5% of the population are White British respectively.

In South Derbyshire, Asian and Asian British residents make up the next largest proportion of the population, although they account for only 3.6% of the population. Of which, 2.5% of the population are Indian.

Since 2011, the population of South Derbyshire has diversified slightly, with the proportion of global majority residents having increased by 3.9%.

Ethnic Group	South Derbyshire		East Midlands		England	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	3841	3.6%	391103	8.0%	5426392	9.6%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	855	0.8%	129986	2.7%	2381724	4.2%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups	1934	1.8%	117247	2.4%	1669378	3.0%
Other Ethnic Groups	740	0.7%	61944	1.3%	1229153	2.2%
White British	96634	90.1%	3882390	79.6%	41540791	73.5%
Total	107206	100.0%	4880054	100.0%	56490048	100.0%

Table 2 Ethnic Group of Residents

2.2.4 Economic Activity

As of June 2024, 83.2% of people aged 16+ in South Derbyshire are economically active and in employment, this is above regional and national averages (79.1% and 78.8% respectively). Furthermore, the proportion of those economically active and in employment has increased in South Derbyshire by 7.0% since 2011 (76.2% economically active and in employment).

Economic Activity Status	South Derbyshire		East Midlands	England
	Count	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Economically active: In employment	56,700	83.2%	79.1%	78.8%
Economically active: Unemployed	1,900	3.4%	4.1%	4.0%
Economically inactive	10,400	15.9%	20.9%	21.2%
Total	69,000	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3 Economic Activity

2.2.5 Deprivation

The English Indices of Deprivation is an official measure of deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The most recent, the Index of Deprivation 2019 was published in September 2019.

There are low levels of overall deprivation across the district with South Derbyshire ranking 218 out of 326 local authority districts in England according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (with 1 being most deprived and 326 being least deprived). Furthermore, there are no lower super output areas (LSOA's) within the district that are in the most deprived 10% nationally. However, South Derbyshire's deprivation ranking has increased by 12 places since 2015 when the district was ranked 230 out of 326 local authorities.

The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain (IMD 2019) measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. South Derbyshire ranks 167 out of 326 local authority districts against this domain, with one LSOA in the top 10% most health deprived nationally. Again when compared to 2015, South Derbyshire's health deprivation ranking has increased by 16 places, when the district was ranked 183 out of 326 local authorities.

2.2.6 Disability

17.5% of people in South Derbyshire are disabled and have their day-to-day activities limited either a little or a lot, similar to national averages (17.7%) and lower than regional averages (18.4%).

When compared to 2011, the proportion of residents with a disability has stayed the same (17.5%).

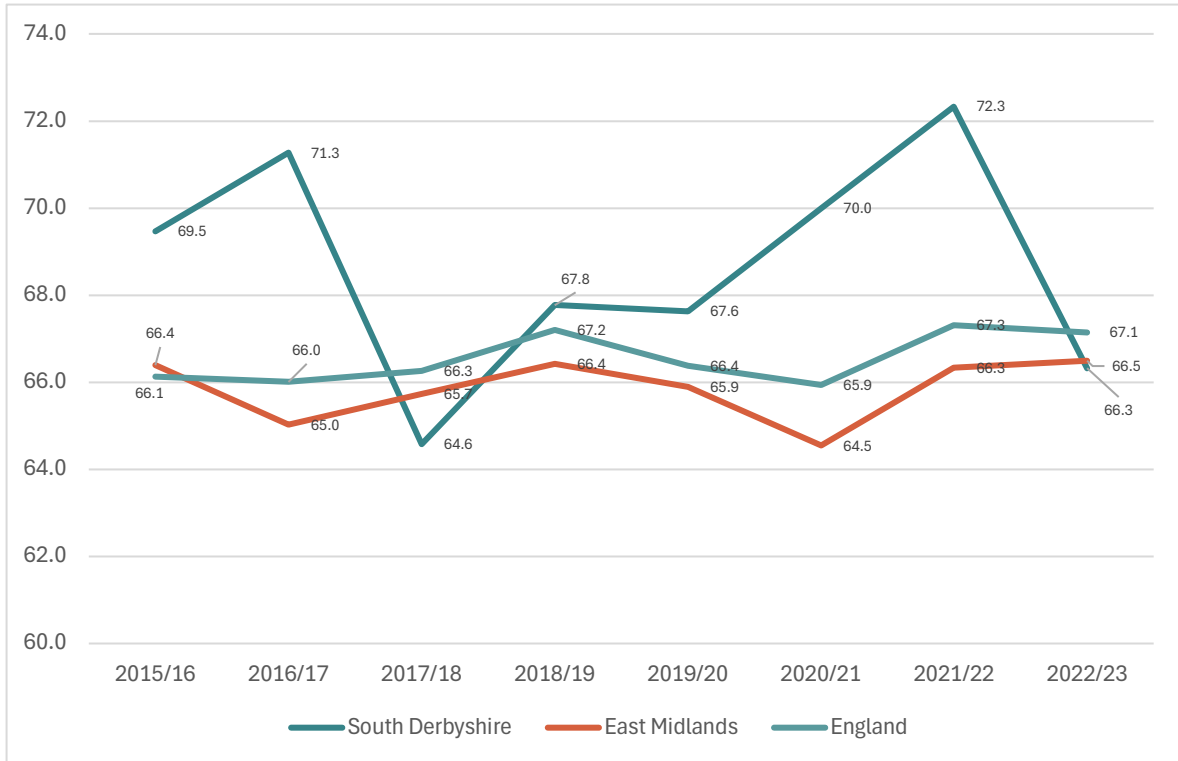
	South Derbyshire	East Midlands	England
Disabled: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	7.0%	7.7%	7.5%
Disabled: Day-to-day activities limited a little	10.5%	10.7%	10.2%
Not disabled	82.4%	81.6%	82.3%

Table 4 Disability

2.2.7 Physical Activity

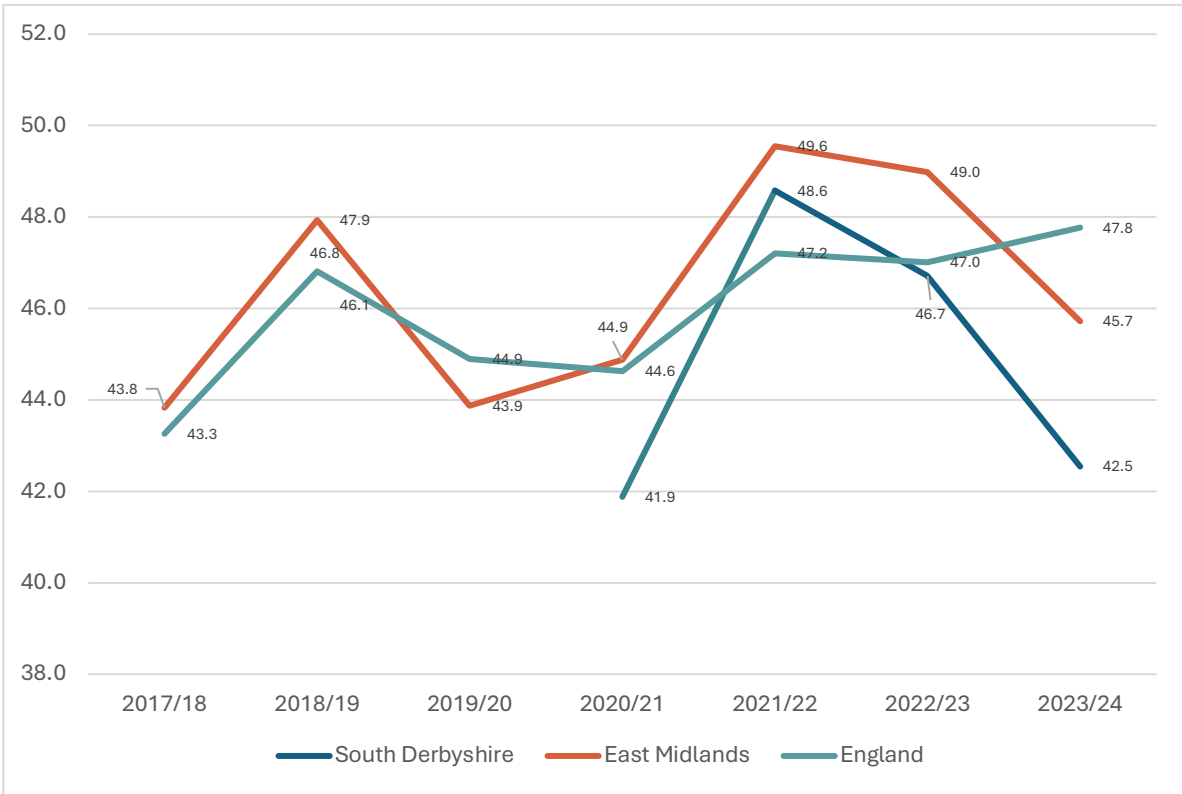
Physical activity is a major determinant of health outcomes. The percentage of physically active adults aged 19+ is lower in South Derbyshire (66.3%) compared to regional and national averages (66.5% and 67.1% respectively). Since 2015/16, levels of

physical activity for adults in South Derbyshire have fluctuated significantly compared to regional and national averages. Between 2019/20 and 2021/22 levels of physical activity for adults were increasing steeply, reaching a peak of 72.3% and dropping to 66.3% in 2022/23. This could be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions in



the UK between 2020-2022 which meant people had more spare time for exercise.

Levels of physically active children and young people in South Derbyshire (46.7%) is in line with national averages (47.0%). Data is not available for South Derbyshire in 2017/18 or 2019/20. Where data is available, it follows a similar trend to regional levels of physical activity for children and young people, although fluctuations are slightly more significant, and fluctuations are a lot more significant in South Derbyshire when compared to national data. Levels of activity increased between 2020/21 and 2021/22 and have since been following a downward trend. Again, is it possible that this is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions.



2.2.8 Life Expectancy

Life expectancy for females in South Derbyshire is 82.6 years and 80.5 years for males, which is in line with national averages (83.2 years for females and 79.3 years for males).

Life expectancy has been increasing steadily for male residents in South Derbyshire since 2001, from 75.7 years to reaching its peak of 80.5 years in 2023 with some small fluctuations between. For female residents in South Derbyshire, life expectancy has followed less of a steady trend since 2001. Life expectancy for women peaked initially in 2010 at 83.9 years before decreasing and reaching a peak again in 2014 of 84.3 and fluctuating before reaching a final peak in 2021 of 84.0 years. Since then, the figures have been declining.

3 Policy Context

The following section undertakes a detailed review of national and local policies and strategies which relate to the South Derbyshire District Greenspace Strategy.

3.1 National Policy Context

3.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), December 2023¹)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF was first published on 27 March 2012 and subsequently updated in July 2018, February 2019, July 2021, September 2023 and December 2023.

MHCLG recently proposed further changes to the NPPF, with these changes focusing on a new standard for assessing housing need and changes to Brownfield, grey belt and the Green Belt policies to support increased national targets for housebuilding. Consultation on the revision to the NPPF closed on 24 September 2024. The proposed changes as set out in the consultation do not include any that affect the statutory biodiversity duty.

The current NPPF (December 2023) states that "It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans can provide for sufficient housing and other development in a sustainable manner. Preparing and maintaining up-to-date plans should be seen as a priority in meeting this objective".

The NPPF requirements in relation to open space are as follows:

¹ NPPF (published March 2012, updated December 2023) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Paragraph 8 states that in order for developments to be sustainable, they must achieve three overarching objectives: economic; social; and environmental. The environmental objective makes explicit reference to “protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.”

Paragraph 20 sets out the need for strategic policies to act as an overall plan which ensures outcomes support beauty and place-making. With regards to the natural, built and historic environment, the plan must make sufficient provision to ensure its conservation and enhancement, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Non-strategic policies (Paragraph 28) should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development. And that this can include conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment.

Chapter 8 addresses promoting healthy and safe communities through policies and decisions with paragraph 102 stating that access to a network of high-quality open spaces, as well as opportunities for sport and physical activity, is important for the health and well-being of communities. This can also deliver benefits for nature and mitigate against climate change. Robust and up to date assessments for open space, sport and recreation facilities should support planning policies, including the need for this provision and existing deficits or surpluses.

Paragraph 103 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless: an assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows the open space, buildings and land is surplus to requirements; the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, which outweigh the loss of current provision.

The Local Green Space designation (LGSD), as set out in paragraph 105, is recognised through local and neighbourhood plans and allows local communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. The LGSD should only be used where the greenspace is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves, is demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance and is local in its character.

Chapter 12 outlines that the planning and development process should achieve high-quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places. Paragraph 131 states that good design is key to sustainable development and makes better places to live and work for communities. In order to achieve this, it is essential to be clear about design expectations, how these will be tested and to engage with applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other stakeholders throughout the process.

Paragraph 136 highlights the important contribution of trees to the quality and character of urban environments, as well as their role in helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies should ensure that new streets are tree lined and that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments, through parks and community orchards. It is also important to put measures in place to ensure their long-term maintenance.

When planning for climate change, policies should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies and developments should support measures which will ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts.

Paragraph 180 sets out that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by:

(a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

(b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

(d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.

Plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in the Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

Paragraph 182 makes reference to National Parks and recognises that great weight should be given to enhancing and conserving their landscape and scenic beauty.

Local authorities should plan to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, as paragraph 185 states, plans should identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife rich habitats and wider ecological networks. This should include designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation.

Plans should also promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and protection and recovery of priority species, as well as opportunities for biodiversity net gains.

3.1.2 Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act sets out targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment, with key areas being air quality, water, biodiversity and resource efficiency and waste reduction.

Part 6 makes reference to nature and biodiversity, specifically building on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to strengthen the legal framework for Biodiversity Net Gain and ensure that public authorities are considering policies and objectives to conserve and enhance biodiversity and taking action in light of these.

Under the Environment Act 2021, all new developments in England will be required to deliver a minimum of 10% BNG and that developers must ensure their projects result in at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value compared to the pre-development baseline using the biodiversity metric.

The Environment Act 2021 highlights the requirement for local nature recovery strategies for areas across England, to be prepared and published by the appropriate authority. Paragraph 106 states that the strategy is to include a statement of biodiversity priorities for the area and a local habitat map, identifying opportunities for habitat creation and restoration, and set priorities for nature recovery.

Paragraph 109 makes reference to species conservation strategies which identify key areas and habitat priorities for the conservation of species across England. It is stated that local planning authorities must cooperate with Natural England to prepare and implement these strategies.

Protected site strategies improve the conservation and management of protected sites by managing the impact of plans, projects or other activities. In preparing such strategies, Natural England is expected to consult with any local planning authority or public authority which exercises functions in respect of an area.

3.1.3 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

The 25-year environment plan sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health, aiming to deliver cleaner air and water to cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. It also aims to manage pressures on the environment by mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The six key areas of the plan are:

- Using and managing land sustainably;
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes;
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing;
- Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste;
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
- Protecting and improving the global environment.

3.1.4 The Natural Environment White Paper (Published June 2011, updated February 2014)

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) recognises the importance of a healthy environment as the foundation for sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It aims to promote the value of nature through four key areas:

- Protecting and improving the natural environment
- Growing the green economy
- Reconnecting people and nature
- Demonstrating international and EU leadership

It sets out a clear institutional framework to achieve nature recovery which includes:

- Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) enabling local leadership, potentially across administrative boundaries, to strengthen local action for the natural

environment. Effective partnerships will engage and win the support of the communities they serve.

- Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) formed by local partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to enhance and reconnect nature.
- Protecting natural value through the planning system, taking a more strategic approach to planning which encourages greener design and enhances natural networks for the benefit of people and the environment as part of sustainable development. To achieve this, more flexible and innovative approaches are required, including NIAs and biodiversity offsetting.

3.1.5 Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006 Sections 40 and 41 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021)

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 originally imposed a duty on local authorities to “conserve biodiversity”. This was expanded under the 2021 act to “conserve and **enhance** biodiversity”.

Section 40 refers to the general biodiversity objective, originally enacted is in section 40(1): -

“A public authority which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.”

The 2021 changes added a definition of the general biodiversity duty which is “the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England...”

Further requirements for public authorities were added, indicating a shift to more active engagement in which authorities must review existing policies and set objectives and actions to further the biodiversity duty.

It is advised that the following information should be included in reviews:

- Any relevant local nature strategy
- Any relevant species conservation strategy or protected site strategy prepared by Natural England
- Guidance issues by the Secretary of State

Additional changes to section 40 include:

- The requirements in section 40(1A) can be met by revising any existing policies/objectives as felt appropriate to further the general biodiversity duty (Section 40 (1B))
- The requirement set out in section 40(1) is referred to in the rest of the Act as the “ first consideration” and must be completed by the authority within a year of section 102 of the Environment Act 2021 coming into force. The relevant date for that was 1st Jan 2023. Accordingly, authorities should have complied with these requirements by January 2024 (Section 40 (1C)).
- Deciding what further action to take should be carried out as soon as practicable after completion of the [first] consideration (Section 40 (1E))

Section 40A sets out further requirements for local authorities to produce biodiversity reports setting out actions that will be taken under the biodiversity duty. Contents for local authorities should include:

- A summary of actions carried out to meet Biodiversity Net Gain obligations (i.e. where achieved as a planning condition)
- Details of net gains in biodiversity resulting or expected to result from BNG Plans approved by the LPA as part of planning applications gains
- A summary of how the LPA plans to meet BNG in the next reporting period.

3.1.6 NE Green Infrastructure Framework

Well designed and good quality GI has multiple benefits for urban and rural environments, including improving health and wellbeing, air quality, nature recovery, and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

The GI Framework comprises of:

GI Principles

A set of 15 principles to be used as a baseline for organisations to develop strong GI policies, covering why, what and how GI should be achieved:



GI Standards

The five Headline Green Infrastructure Standards define what good green infrastructure ‘looks like’ for local planners, developers, parks and greenspace managers and communities, and how to plan it strategically to deliver multiple benefits for people and nature. These are:

- S1: Green Infrastructure Strategy Standard
- S2: Accessible Greenspace Standard
- S3: Urban Nature Recovery Standard

- S4: Urban Greening Factor Standard
- S5: Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard

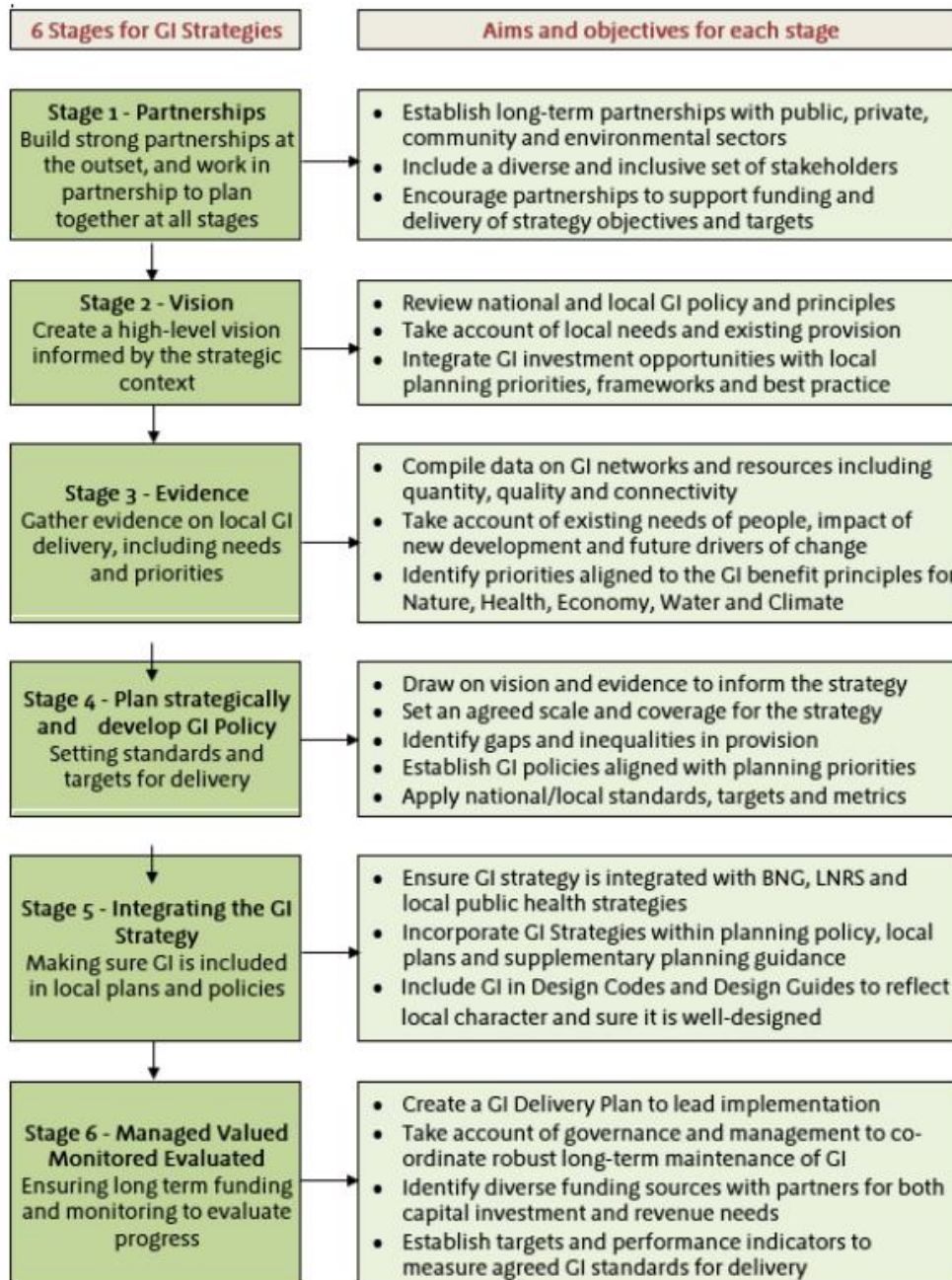
GI Planning and Design Guide

The purpose of the Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide is to provide evidence based practical guidance on how to plan and design good green infrastructure, building on the GI Principles and Standards. It outlines ten characteristics which create character and community, including:

1. Context – enhances the surroundings.
2. Identity – attractive and distinctive.
3. Built form – a coherent pattern of development.
4. Movement – accessible and easy to move around.
5. Nature – enhanced and optimised.
6. Public spaces – safe, social, and inclusive.
7. Uses – mixed and integrated.
8. Homes and buildings – functional, healthy, and sustainable.
9. Resources – efficient and resilient.
10. Lifespan – made to last.

GI Process Guides and Journeys

The process guide sets out a six-stage best practise for local authorities when developing a GI strategy and integrating GI policies into local plans.



3.1.7 Fields In Trust Standards – Creating Spaces for All, 2024

The Fields in Trust (FIT) Standards 2024 provide a useful guide for creating and managing high quality, multi-functional green spaces. These standards have evolved from the first minimum standards established in the 1930s to reflect the changing landscape and the increasing recognition of the value of parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and green spaces. The standards emphasise a holistic approach to developing inspiring, inclusive, and multi-functional spaces, requiring collaboration between local decision-makers and industry. This latest interpretation supersedes the 2015 publication 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard'.

The FIT Standards are structured around six key themes:

- Accessible, safe, and inclusive: Ensuring spaces work for all ages, genders, cultures, and abilities through community engagement and addressing barriers;
- Promote active, healthy lifestyles: Encouraging physical activity through diverse provision for sport, play, and other activities, considering local health challenges and engaging with health organisations;
- Support mental wellbeing: Creating spaces that combat loneliness and isolation, and support mental health through quiet areas, nature access, and community engagement;
- Resilient to climate change: Developing open spaces that can withstand climate impacts by addressing flood risk, reducing pollution and urban heat, supporting nature recovery, and using sustainable materials;
- Provide space for nature to thrive: Maximising biodiversity by creating and connecting habitats, and connecting people with nature;
- Adaptable to community needs: Ensuring spaces are multi-functional and responsive to evolving local needs through community co-design and long-term stewardship plans.

These themes are designed to build upon the FiT Benchmarks, which provide guidance on the quantity and accessibility of open space, outdoor sports, and play spaces per 1,000 people. These benchmarks are intended to serve as a starting point for design and policy, and there is a recognition they should be adapted to local circumstances, consider existing provision and local needs assessments. The benchmarks cover various typologies of open space (parks and gardens, amenity green space, natural and semi-natural), outdoor sports (pitches, courts, tracks), and play space (equipped and informal, including LAPs, LEAPs, and NEAPs).

FiT also publish a Green Space Index which uses published open space and population data (included a modified version of the 2024 OS Open Green Space Layer) to measure the quantity and accessibility of open space in England and Wales. The GSI calculates that across England and Wales there is an average of 30 square metres of green space per person. The figure for the East Midlands is the same at 30m² per person whilst the figure for the East Midlands is the same figure. FiT produce an online interactive map for England and Wales that shows South Derbyshire District has below the (FiT) minimum standard (although access to quantitative data is restricted). Future projections suggest that the amount of green space per head will reduce by 10-15% between 2024 and 2043, driven by predicted increases in population.

The quantity and accessibility analysis in sections 5 and 6 of this report compares provision in South Derbyshire District Council against the FiT standards.

3.1.8 Everybody Active, Every Day: An evidence-based approach to physical activity, 2021.

Everybody Active, Every Day is the national physical activity framework for England, designed to support all sectors to embed physical activity into everyday life, including health, education, sport, transport, environment, and urban planning.

The framework called for action across 4 specific domains:

- Active society – changing the social ‘norm’ to make physical activity the expectation

- Moving professionals – developing expertise and leadership within professionals and volunteers
- Active environments – creating environments to support active lives
- Moving at scale – identifying and up-scaling successful programmes nationwide

Active environments specifically refer to the planning and design of spaces to improve physical activity and address health inequalities and the importance of working with professional bodies, planners and developers to promote active design principles and share good practice of its practical application. In particular, this could include how to make green space more accessible, how to provide adequate lighting and how to develop facilities to support physical activity.

3.1.9 Gear Change: A Bold Vision for Cycling and Walking, 2020

Gear Change sets out the vision to make England a great walking and cycling nation. Increasing cycling and walking can help tackle some of the most challenging issues faced by society, as well as, improving air quality, combatting climate change, improving health and wellbeing, addressing inequalities and tackling congestion on roads.

Its sets out the actions required at all levels to make this a reality, grouped under four themes:

- Theme 1 - better streets for cycling and people;
- Theme 2 - cycling and walking at the heart of decision-making;
- Theme 3 - empowering and encouraging local authorities; and
- Theme 4 - enabling people to cycle and protecting them when they do.

It promotes the role of quality greenspace and green routes away from traffic can play in promoting walking and cycling, as it can both increase attractiveness of cycling and bring mental health benefits. It also commits to improving the National Cycle Network with a legacy of new greenways offering better connectivity between places. It states

that planning policies should already provide for high quality cycling and walking networks, green spaces and green routes, and supporting facilities such as cycle parking.

3.1.10 Uniting the Movement, 2021

Uniting the Movement is Sport England's 10-year plan to invest in sport and physical activity to make it a normal part of life for everyone in England to create a nation of more equal, inclusive and connected communities. In order to do this, they will tackle five big issues:

- Recover and reinvent
- Connecting communities
- Positive experiences for children and young people
- Connecting with health and wellbeing
- Active environments

Active environments makes reference to creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active. It states that Dedicated sport and physical activity facilities should be co-created and well designed to meet the needs of local people and in particular they need to be more inclusive and environmentally friendly.

It also highlights the importance of parks and open spaces as places for people to exercise who may not want to visit a sports club, leisure centre or gym. Furthermore, good design of the wider built environment can increase activity levels by encouraging walking and cycling

3.1.11 Putting Health into Place (NHS 2019)

NHS England established Healthy New Towns, a three-year programme, to look at how health and wellbeing can be planned and designed into new places. It brings together partners to create places that offer people improved choices for health and wellbeing, including housebuilding, local government, healthcare and local communities.

The programme's three priorities were:

- Planning and designing a healthy built environment
- Creating innovative models of healthcare
- Encouraging strong and connected communities.

It states ten principles which should be considered when creating new, healthy places:

1. Plan ahead collectively;
2. Plan integrated health services that meet local needs;
3. Connect, involved and empower people and communities;
4. Create compact neighbourhoods;
5. Maximise active travel;
6. Inspire and enable healthy eating;
7. Foster health in homes and buildings;
8. Enable healthy play and leisure;
9. Provide health services that help people stay well; and
10. Create integrated health centres.

3.2 Local Policy Context

3.2.1 South Derbyshire District Council Plan 2024-2028

The Council Plan highlights the significance of the environment and biodiversity across the district, with a key asset being the National Forest which lies at the heart of the district.

In particular, it envisions that the environment will be protected by working with partners, key stakeholders and local communities to tackle climate change and become climate neutral by 2030. The council's key aims are to improve waste and recycling service performance. This will be achieved by a reduction in residual household waste and maximising council resources, including a separate food waste collection.

With regards to improving biodiversity and meeting ecological commitments, the council will implement numerous policies to enhance and extend woodland and green

spaces in the district. As well as increase biodiversity, support net zero and provide the necessary infrastructure and high-quality walking, cycling routes and public transport.

Finally, the council will optimise the use of their assets and land by ensuring that it is well maintained and well used, as well as ensuring that buildings are fit for purpose and will contribute positively to meeting carbon reduction targets.

The plan also envisions that people and communities will be supported to live safely, healthy and independently, particularly with regards to improving the health and wellbeing of communities by working with partners, increasing physical activity and delivering and supporting a diverse range of events and activities for residents.

3.2.2 South Derbyshire Local Plan

The Local Plan was adopted in June 2016. It sets out a basis for planning and development in South Derbyshire between 2011-2028 which will ensure that new developments enhance quality of life for everyone with a focus on access to jobs, day to day services and sustainable transport and school provision. As well as addressing climate change, flooding and conserving South Derbyshire's heritage and natural environment.

The vision of the Local Plan is:

"One of sustainable growth, renewal and opportunity... Climate change and adaption will lie at the heart of our strategy and residents and businesses will be supported to make efficient use of resources and cope with the effects of climate change which are already anticipated - such as reduced water availability and increased flooding... The countryside, rivers, green spaces and networks which connect them, together with the District's cultural and heritage assets will have been protected and enhanced and the quality and diversity of the District's wildlife habitats will have been improved. New development will reflect and reinforce the District's many distinct landscapes and will protect the integrity of our most sensitive wildlife sites, landscapes and heritage assets. South Derbyshire will have continued to be a major ingredient in the success of the National Forest and the District will have become an increasingly important tourist destination in the region."

Section 4 sets out spatial policies. In particular, Policy S1 Sustainable Growth Strategy which states that it is essential for the districts heritage assets, landscape and rural character to be protected conserved and enhanced through new developments. Furthermore, approaches to development will reflect Policy S2 Presumption In Favour of Sustainable Development in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, which would allow permission to be granted unless any adverse impacts would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.

Section 4 also makes reference to Policy S6 sustainable access in which it is a key priority of the council to improve local accessibility and create and manage an efficient transport network to improve quality of life and promote a healthy natural environment. This will be achieved by seeking patterns of development that enable travelling distances to be minimised and that make best use of existing transport infrastructure and services. As well as the provision of new or enhanced walking, cycling, public transport and rail freight services and infrastructure.

Specific consideration should be given to two areas of Green Belt that fall within the District's boundary; a part of the Nottingham – Derby Green Belt and the majority of the Burton – Swadlincote Green Belt. Policy S8 sets out that measures to improve public access to the Green Belts and improve connectivity to the built-up areas adjacent to the Green Belts will be encouraged. Developments and proposals will be assessed against the NPPF and local policies S1 and S2 to ensure adverse impacts are avoided.

Section 5 sets out housing policies and makes reference to the settlement hierarchy, which is based on the range of services and facilities that are offered by each settlement. The level of development for each settlement will be assessed through the Development Management process and consequently will be of a scale appropriate to the size and role of that settlement. The settlement hierarchy is as follows:

1. Urban Areas
2. Key Service Villages
3. Local Service Villages
4. Rural Villages
5. Rural Areas

Section 8 relates to South Derbyshire's natural and built environment and highlights the need for high quality design to protect the character and landscape of the district through new developments. Specifically, Policy BNE1 Design Excellence states that new developments must adhere to design principles including:

- Community safety,
- Street design, movement and legibility
- Diversity and community cohesion
- Ease of use
- Local character and pride
- National Forest
- Visual attractiveness
- Neighbouring uses and amenity
- Cross boundary collaboration
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Resource Use

Furthermore, Policy BNE2 Heritage Assets sets out that development affecting South Derbyshire's heritage assets will be expected to protect, conserve and enhance the assets and their settings, including registered historic parks and gardens. The council will develop a local list of undesignated assets and regularly update appraisals and management plans, as well as seek opportunities to improve public access to existing heritage features associated with new development schemes.

Policy BNE3 Biodiversity highlights that development will be supported where it contributes to the protection, enhancement, management and restoration of biodiversity or geodiversity and delivers net gains in biodiversity. Planning proposals that could have either a direct or indirect impact on sites of ecological significance will need to be supported by surveys and assessments.

With regards to landscape, Policy BNE4 Landscape Character and Local Distinctiveness highlights that developers will be expected to retain key valued landscape components such as mature trees, established hedgerows and topographical features within

development sites unless it can be demonstrated that the loss of features will not give rise to unacceptable effects on local landscape character.

Policy INF7 Green Infrastructure sets out that the Council will seek to conserve, enhance and wherever possible extend green infrastructure in the district by working with partners to ensure the protection of ecological assets and species of international, national and local significance, securing developments that maximise opportunities for biodiversity, promoting the appropriate management of features and supporting development of the Green Infrastructure Network in the following opportunity areas:

- Trent Strategic River / Trent & Mersey Canal Corridor
- Derwent Strategic River Corridor
- Dove Strategic River Corridor
- Within the National Forest Area; and
- Around the edges of Derby City and Swadlincote
- Positively view proposals that seek to enhance the District's Green Infrastructure resource in support of tourism and leisure related development.

Current provision of open space and sports and recreation facilities in South Derbyshire is not sufficient to meet local need. Consequently, Policy INF9 Open Space, Sport and Recreation highlights that the Council will work with partners to provide sufficient high quality green space and recreation facilities including sports pitches and built facilities, allotments, woodland creation, cemeteries and publicly accessible natural green space to meet the needs of new residential development and, where possible, to meet the needs of the existing population.

Furthermore, opportunities for creating new or enhanced facilities will be sought particularly where there are quantitative or qualitative deficiencies identified and the loss of open space, sport and recreational facilities will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wherever possible the Council will expect new open spaces to connect to existing Green Infrastructure to improve accessibility across and between sites and enhance the biodiversity.

3.2.3 South Derbyshire District Council Draft Supplementary Planning Document, 2022

The Draft Supplementary Planning Document brings together various policies and information to be used by developers and applicants in the planning process, specifically to address planning issues and to mitigate the impacts arising from a development proposal.

The Council will look to work with its partners to ensure that high quality green space and recreation facilities are provided in order to meet the needs arising from the new residential development. Open space covers a range of different typologies including parks and gardens, amenity green space, semi-natural green spaces, allotments and children's play areas and that reference should be made to Fields in Trust guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play for details on design guidance.

Prior to the commencement of development, the developer will need to submit the information below to the Council for approval:

- An Open Space Plan
- Specification for the on-site open space and LEAP (if applicable), showing location, size, layout, proposed landscaping and details of any equipment to be installed.
- Notification as to whether the developer elects for the Council to maintain the open space or for the maintenance responsibility to be transferred to a management company.

With regards to quantity standards, it sets out that a standard of 3.2ha per 1,000 population is applied for informal outdoor space as recommended by FiT, which includes parks and gardens; amenity green space, together with natural and semi-natural outdoor space. This equates to 32.0 m² per person. If the recommended standard for equipped / designated play areas is added at 0.25ha per 1,000 population, this gives a total of 3.45ha per 1,000 population, equivalent to 34.5 m² per person. This will be the standard required to ensure that the District does not fall behind the national standard.

Note: These figures exceed the FIT GSI figures referenced above, which suggests an average of 30 m² per person for England and Wales.

Furthermore, the Council applies a levy of £1.74 per m² per annum for maintenance of all public open space, which over 10 years equates to £17.40 per m². In line with Sport England's national guidance relating to maintenance costs, the proposal is to extend the maintenance period to 25 years equating to £43.50 per m². This contribution will be towards the maintenance costs of all forms of open space.

3.2.4 South Derbyshire District Council Action Plan for Nature, 2022

The Action Plan for Nature (APN) forms part of the wider nature recovery aims for England which require Local Authorities to undertake leading roles. The APN is crucial to supporting the council to understand the condition of biodiversity across South Derbyshire and opportunities to improve it.

The APN forms part of a strategic approach to nature recovery, to be used in conjunction with the local plan, the local nature recovery strategy and to support the council's biodiversity duty. Their core vision is for:

"South Derbyshire to be a district where its green spaces, habitats and biodiversity is fully valued, effectively managed and appropriately protected to ensure optimum contribution to the natural capital, ecosystem services and climate resilience of the district, and the health and well-being of its communities for future generations"

The APN sets out five key objectives to achieve their vision for nature recovery:

1. Actively deliver biodiversity management, enhancement and climate change resilience across Council landholdings
2. Improve skills and knowledge within the council to position biodiversity at the heart of decision making, service delivery and project implementation
3. Work proactively with the Council's stakeholders & communities to deliver nature recovery & biodiversity projects across South Derbyshire

4. Encourage local communities to connect with nature without compromising protection, to support health and well-being
5. Think creatively to boost the delivery of positive biodiversity outcomes within South Derbyshire

The APN also identifies key stakeholders which could become potential partners and assist in delivering the APN work programme, including Parish Councils, neighbouring local authorities, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, TCV, schools and so on.

3.2.5 Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 2024

Derbyshire County Council are currently in the process of developing their Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2024-27. It sets out five key areas of focus, including:

1. Tackling the 4 main risk factors that lead to poor health - smoking, alcohol use, poor diet and physical inactivity.
2. Supporting good mental health.
3. Supporting communities to be resilient and independent.
4. Tackling child poverty and enable children and young people in Derbyshire to start well.
5. Developing the Health and Wellbeing Board to effectively deliver on the areas of focus.

Supporting communities to be resilient and independent makes reference to addressing the wider determinants of health has an important role to play in reducing health inequalities in Derbyshire. One of these being the quality of the natural and built environment which affects health and wellbeing, for example, access to green space, air quality and housing standards.

3.2.6 South Derbyshire Playing Pitch Strategy, 2024

South Derbyshire District Council are currently in the process of developing their playing pitch strategy. This will build on the 2018 strategy which set out a strategic framework

to ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents across South Derbyshire, in line with national planning guidance.

It states that the protection of playing field land both for formal sport and recreational use as well as green spaces such as parks, plays an integral part in ensuring facility resource is available, linking to and facilitating the delivery of other health and physical activity strategies.

The Action Plan identifies sites where quality of provision can be enhanced. Consideration should also be given as to how these sites may be used for informal or recreational rather than formal sport, or other uses which encourage health and activity utilising local green space.

3.2.7 Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Management Policy, 2022

The purpose of Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Management policy is to provide the council with current, medium, and long-term direction, guidance and matters for action when dealing with tree, woodland and hedgerows within council owned land, with the intention of both keeping these spaces safe and enhancing biodiversity. The vision is as follows:

“South Derbyshire will be a District where the natural capital of its trees, woodlands and hedgerows are fully valued, properly managed and well-maintained so that they can make their optimum contribution to ecosystem services and the health and well-being of the community, whilst providing aesthetic and seasonal pleasure to today’s residents, visitors and to future generations.”

This plan sets out policies to underpin how the Council will manage and maintain the Council’s tree stock across the districts open space including highways, housing estates, cemeteries and closed churchyards, parks, open spaces and woodlands to ensure that trees are maintained in a safe and healthy condition. This includes regular surveying, inspections and the development of management plans in line with plans for nature recovery and biodiversity.

Section 3.1.13 states that the council should aim to increase tree canopy cover, improve habitat connectivity, and meet carbon offset/ climate emergency targets, by undertaking the planting of new trees, woodlands, community orchards, nutturies and hedgerows where suitable opportunities arise.

3.2.8 Derbyshire Nature Recovery Strategy, 2024

Derbyshire County Council are currently in the process of developing their Local Nature Recovery Strategy and aim to publish the strategy by summer 2025. The LNRS will provide a blueprint for nature recovery across Derbyshire and help to prioritise where and how to invest and where action should take place.

It will:

- Support planning and development through helping to guide how and where developers will deliver their new Biodiversity Net Gain duties.
- Provide a framework for agri-environment funding, such as the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).
- Strengthen local ambitions and appetite for nature recovery and nature-based solutions for issues such as tackling climate change.
- Identify the priority and most appropriate areas for habitat protection and creation.
- Help to attract and guide future investment for nature recovery in Derbyshire.

To date, the council have completed stage one of the LNRS process which has included collecting data regarding baseline environmental information designated sites and notable habitats to build a map which highlights areas of particular importance for biodiversity.

3.2.9 Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire, 2023

The Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire highlights the current status of the natural assets in the county. It identifies where natural capital is resilient and benefits the communities of Derbyshire, as well as opportunities to adjust land management to increase the benefits. The plan encourages an understanding of how and where to invest in maintaining and enhancing natural capital, whilst maintaining the counties distinct landscape character.

The strategy highlights grassland, woodland and wetland management action is a priority in most Landscape Character Types (LCTs) in Derbyshire, as is hedgerow planting, restoration of ancient woodland sites, riparian/floodplain woodland planting, river restoration and enhancement of the natural continuity of river corridors.

4 Green Space Classification

4.1 Introduction

A new green space dataset has been created using a computer based Geographical Information System. This has collated data from the following sources:

- SDDC Ground Maintenance data;
- Ordnance Survey Open Green Space Layer;
- Natural England Green Infrastructure Mapping;
- Other Natural England datasets including Local Nature Reserves and Country Park layers.

The boundaries of all green spaces within the mapping dataset have been checked against aerial imagery and the latest OS base mapping and amended as required. The green space data set includes green spaces with an area of 0.4 hectares or greater. The exception to this is equipped children's play where spaces below this threshold have been included.

Parish Councils have been consulted about their green space provision. Draft plans and attribute data were sent to each of the 44 Parish Councils. Responses were received from 42 Parish Councils.

The mapping data has been checked by SDDC officers and further amendments to the boundaries and the classifications have been made.

4.2 Typology

Open Space is defined as:

“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”².

Green space is a subset of open space that includes vegetated land or water within an urban area such as parks and (public) gardens, playing fields, children’s play areas, nature reserves, woods and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries and allotments along with green corridors like paths, disused railway lines, rivers and canals. Green space does not include agricultural land, private gardens or civic spaces that are part of the built landscape. Green Belt and green space are not synonymous, since the former is a specific planning designation to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open.

To classify the green space in the study a number of levels are used. Firstly, an initial classification based on land use and primary purpose. Secondly a classification of how accessible the site is to the public and thirdly a classification of the site’s significance. This section explains how these classifications were carried out.

Table 5 sets out the open space typology that has been used for the Green Space Strategy. It follows the classifications set out in national guidance in “Assessing Needs and Opportunities”, the companion guide to the former Planning Policy Guidance Note 17.

² National Planning Policy Framework (2023) – Annex 2 : Glossary

Level 1 Typology	Primary Purpose
Parks and Gardens	Accessible, high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and Natural Green spaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports.
Amenity Green space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters. This category does not include the play areas and youth provision at other Level 1 categorised sites where there is a different primary purpose to that space.
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Also includes closed burial grounds used for informal recreation.

Table 5 Level 1 Green Space Typology based on PPG17 Typology

Institutional Land such as hospital grounds or school grounds have been excluded unless there is specific public access arrangements. Farmland and productive land, even where crossed by Public Rights of Way, do not meet the definition of publicly accessible green space and are therefore excluded from this study. Similarly, land associated with utilities including reservoirs which are only accessible by Public Rights of Way or permissive routes have been excluded from this study.

Level 1 is used to refer to the classification of the primary purpose of a green space and has been applied to the 'whole' site. There may be zones within the green space that

have additional or secondary functions and where appropriate these have been recorded on separate mapping layers, referred to as Level 2 mapping. Level 2 mapping includes:

- Play areas (equipped areas);
- Play sites (green spaces that contain equipped play);
- Outdoor Sports Facilities (Fields in Trust) Data
- Natural and Semi-natural Green Space – that meets the definitions for the Natural England accessible natural green space standards;

A detailed assessment of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches is currently being undertaken by consultants commissioned by South Derbyshire District Council. This is expected to be completed in September 2025. A Built Facilities Strategy has also been commissioned by South Derbyshire District Council.

4.3 Hierarchy

Table 6 shows the classifications used for the green space hierarchy based on the significance of the green space, the range of facilities and function for visitors.

Hierarchy Level	Description
District	Those green space sites whose significance should attract people from across the entire district. Usually, large sites with a range of facilities or designated importance for history or nature conservation, as well as supporting local use.
Neighbourhood	Those green space sites which perform a function that serves a more immediate community, either within a town or a whole village. Unlikely to act as destination spaces or attract people from a considerable distance.
Local	Those green space sites which perform a function to a small local area within towns or villages – typically areas of amenity green space.

Table 6 Green space Hierarchy

4.4 Accessibility

All green spaces have been assigned a level of accessibility using the classifications in Table 7.

Accessibility Level	Description
Unrestricted	Sites have unrestricted public access although some sites may have limitations to access between dusk and dawn.
Limited	Sites may be publicly or privately owned but access is limited either by a barrier such as membership, payment of entry fees. Psychological barriers that would suggest a green space is private or not publicly accessible may also apply.
Not accessible	Sites are inaccessible or out of bounds to the general public with no agreements in place for limited or other access.

Table 7 Green space Accessibility

5 Green Space Supply

All green space within South Derbyshire District greater than 0.4 hectares has been plotted using GIS software which also facilitates the assigning of attribute or metadata about each polygon. All green spaces greater than the minimum size threshold have been plotted regardless of ownership and public access and the spaces have then been systematically classified based on their primary purpose (green space type), accessibility and hierarchy (significance). Provision for Children and Young People (play spaces) smaller than the minimum size threshold have been included in the Level 1 dataset where this is the primary purpose.

A secondary level of classification has also been used to identify all equipped play areas, green spaces with play provision, Outdoor Sports Facilities and areas of Natural and Semi-natural Green Space.

5.1 All Green Space

Figure 2 shows all green space that has been recorded in the Level 1 green space dataset. A full list of green spaces can be found in Appendix A.

Level 1 Typology	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	% of Total (Area)
Allotments	33	19.41	4.0%
Amenity green space	25	20.68	4.3%
Cemeteries and disused churchyards	55	28.88	6.0%
Natural and semi natural green space	43	215.55	45.0%
Outdoor sports facilities	16	55.16	11.5%
Parks and gardens	38	132.59	27.7%
Provision for children and young	45	7.01	1.5%
Total	255	479.27	100.0%

Table 8 Green Space Classification (all Green Space)

A total of 255 green spaces have been recorded covering nearly 480 hectares, equivalent to 1.4% of the total land area of the borough. Natural and Semi-natural Green Space makes up the largest percentage by area at 45.0% of all green space covering 215.55 hectares. Parks and gardens make up 27.7% by area, followed by outdoor sports facilities at 11.5%. Cemeteries and churchyards are the most common green space type with 55 such spaces recorded, but each site is typically relatively small and when combined makes up 6.0% of the supply by area.

5.2 Accessible Green Space

A total of 85.1% of recorded green spaces (by number) have free unrestricted access for South Derbyshire residents and visitors. 13.7% of recorded spaces have limited access, typically requiring membership or being part of the organisation that owns or manages the green space. This typically includes institutional land, educational land and allotments and community gardens.

Just 1.2% of recorded green spaces are not accessible. These may be in private ownership where access is not permitted or have physical barriers which prevent access. Sites with limited and no public access have been plotted since they offer benefits such as biodiversity value, other environmental benefits or aesthetic value despite their being limited recreational value. Some such sites may have biological or wildlife designations.

Where there are deficiencies in the supply and accessibility of green space, sites with limited or no access may offer opportunities to address these deficiencies in the future.

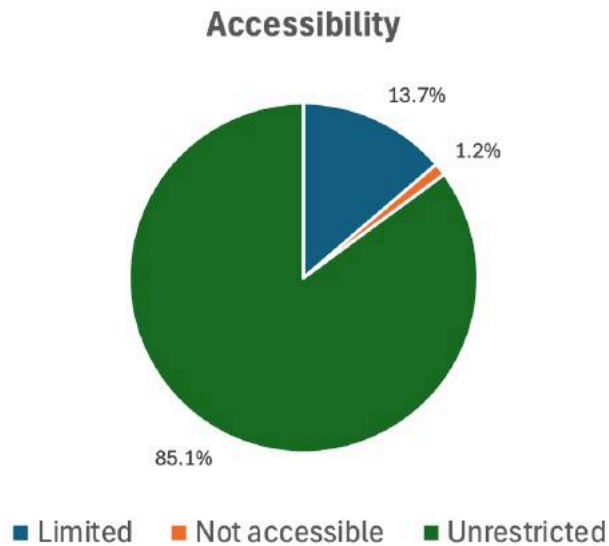


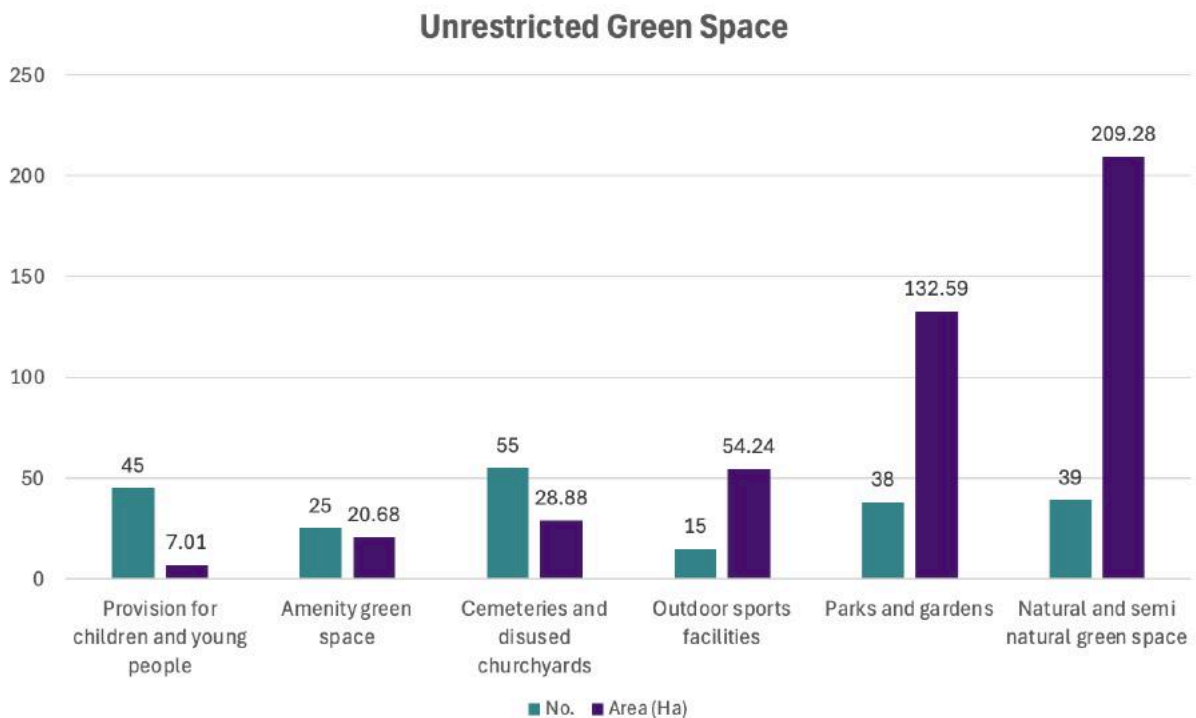
Table 9 shows the number and area of unrestricted green space across the district. A total of 223 green spaces have unrestricted access covering an area of 453 hectares, equivalent to 1.3% of the total land area of South Derbyshire District.

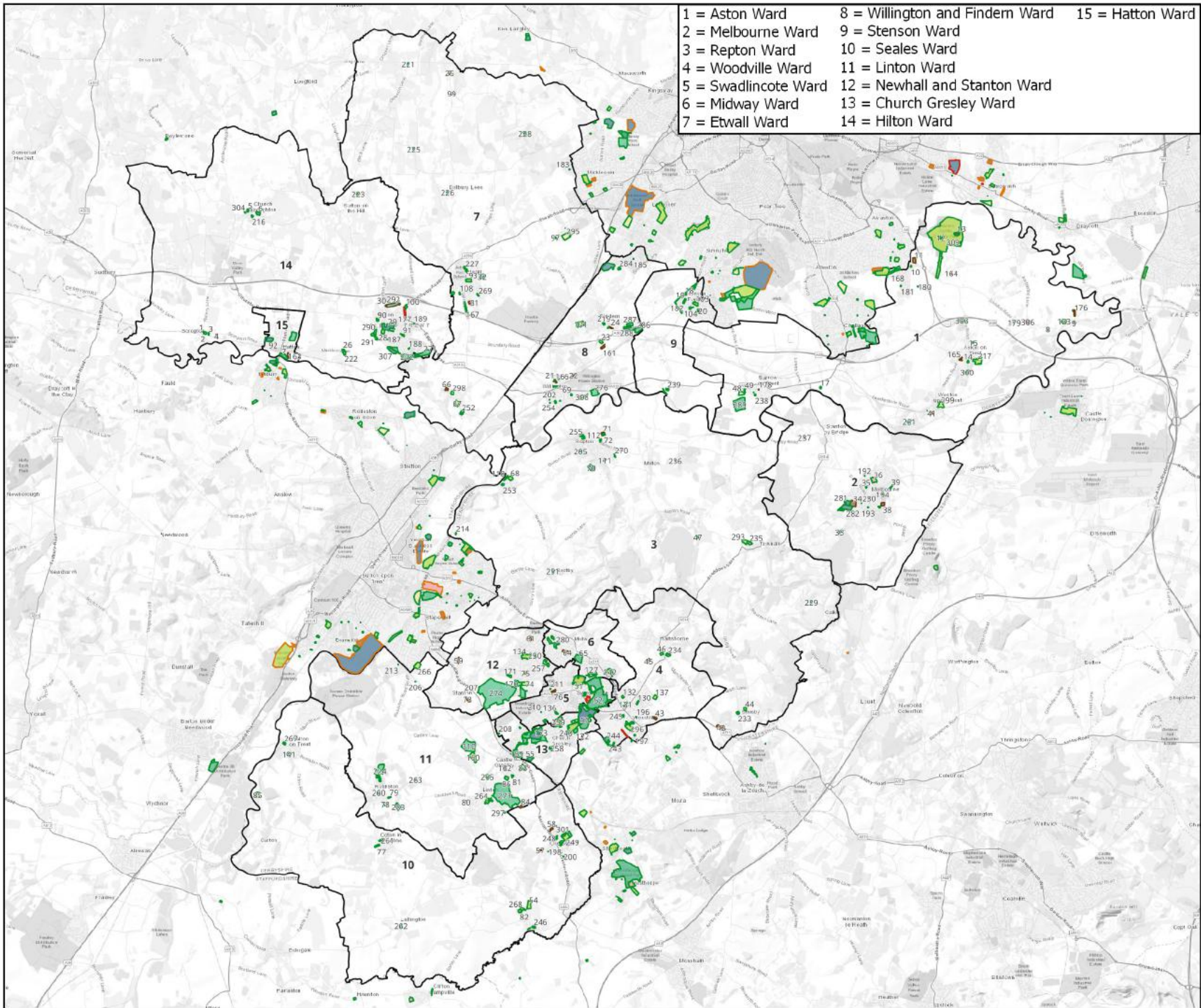
Natural and semi natural green space remains the dominant green space type by area with 39 spaces covering an area of nearly 209 hectares and making up 46.2% of the total supply of green space (by area). Parks and Gardens comprise 38 sites covering nearly 133 hectares and making up 29.3% of the supply of unrestricted green space. There are 15 Outdoor Sports Facilities with unrestricted access covering 54 hectares equivalent to 12.0% by area.

A total of 51 sites designated as Provision for Children & Young People based on their primary purposes have been recorded and these cover just over 7 hectares making up 1.6% of unrestricted green space by area. A full breakdown of equipped play areas and play sites has been recorded in the Level 2 mapping and is discussed in section 5.3.

Level 1 Typology	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	% of Total (Area)
Amenity green space	25	20.68	4.6%
Cemeteries and disused churchyards	55	28.88	6.4%
Natural and semi natural green space	39	209.28	46.2%
Outdoor sports facilities	15	54.24	12.0%
Parks and gardens	38	132.59	29.3%
Provision for children and young people	45	7.01	1.5%
Total	217	452.68	100.0%

Table 9 Unrestricted Green space by Typology





SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 2
Framework Map

Legend

Typology

- Allotments
- Amenity green space
- Cemeteries and disused churchyards
- Natural and semi natural green space
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Provision for children and young people

Accessibility

- Unrestricted
- Limited
- Not Accessible

Boundaries

- District & Ward Boundaries

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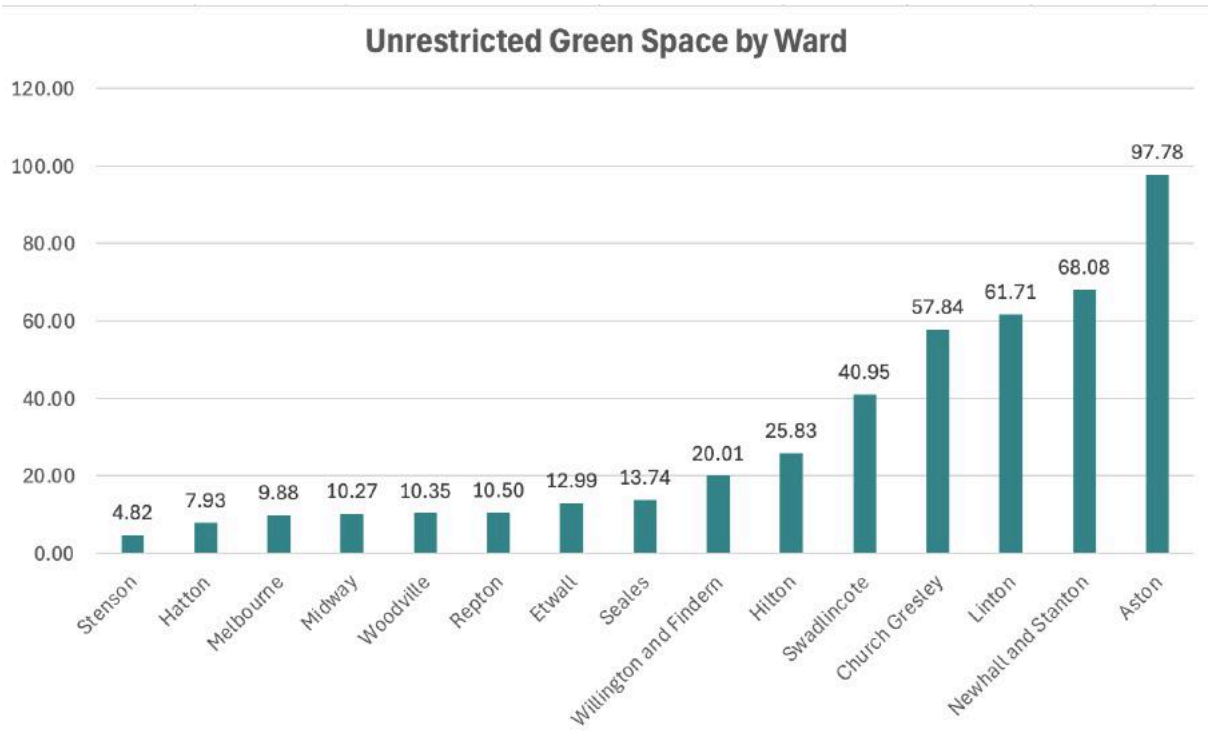


5.2.1 Unrestricted Green Space by Ward

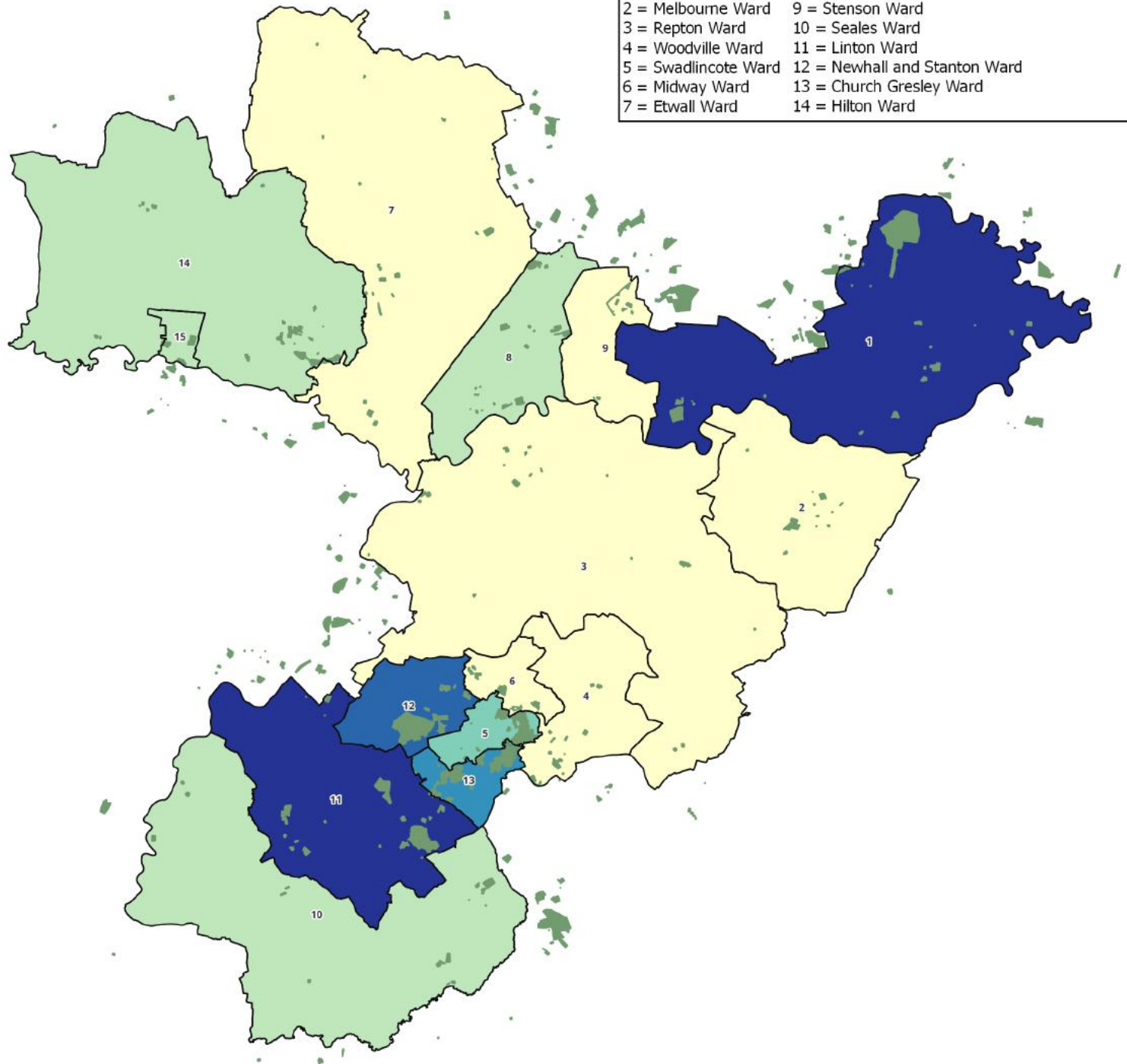
Table 10 shows the amount of green space by ward. Aston ward accounts for 21.6% of all green space, largely due to the presence and scale of Elvaston Castle Country Park. Followed by Newhall and Stanton ward, even though there are only 9 spaces they cover 68 hectares and make up 15.0% of the total supply. Hatton ward has the fewest number of green spaces at 3, covering nearly 8 hectares and making up 1.8% of the total supply. Stenson ward has 8 sites, however, when combined they only cover around 5 hectares which equates to the lowest proportion of the total supply (1.1%).

Ward	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	% of Total (Area)
Aston Ward	23	97.78	21.6%
Newhall and Stanton Ward	9	68.08	15.0%
Linton Ward	19	61.71	13.6%
Church Gresley Ward	15	57.84	12.8%
Swadlincote Ward	8	40.95	9.0%
Hilton Ward	24	25.83	5.7%
Willington and Findern Ward	19	20.01	4.4%
Seales Ward	18	13.74	3.0%
Etwall Ward	18	12.99	2.9%
Repton Ward	20	10.50	2.3%
Woodville Ward	14	10.35	2.3%
Midway Ward	7	10.27	2.3%
Melbourne Ward	12	9.88	2.2%
Hatton Ward	3	7.93	1.8%
Stenson Ward	8	4.82	1.1%
Total	217	452.68	100.0%

Table 10 Unrestricted Green Space by Ward



- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwall Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward



SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 3
Unrestricted Open Space by Ward

Legend

- Unrestricted open space
- District & ward boundaries

Hectares per 1000 population

- 8.7 - 10
- 7.4 - 8.7
- 6.1 - 7.4
- 4.8 - 6.1
- 3.5 - 4.8
- 2.2 - 3.5
- 0.9 - 2.2

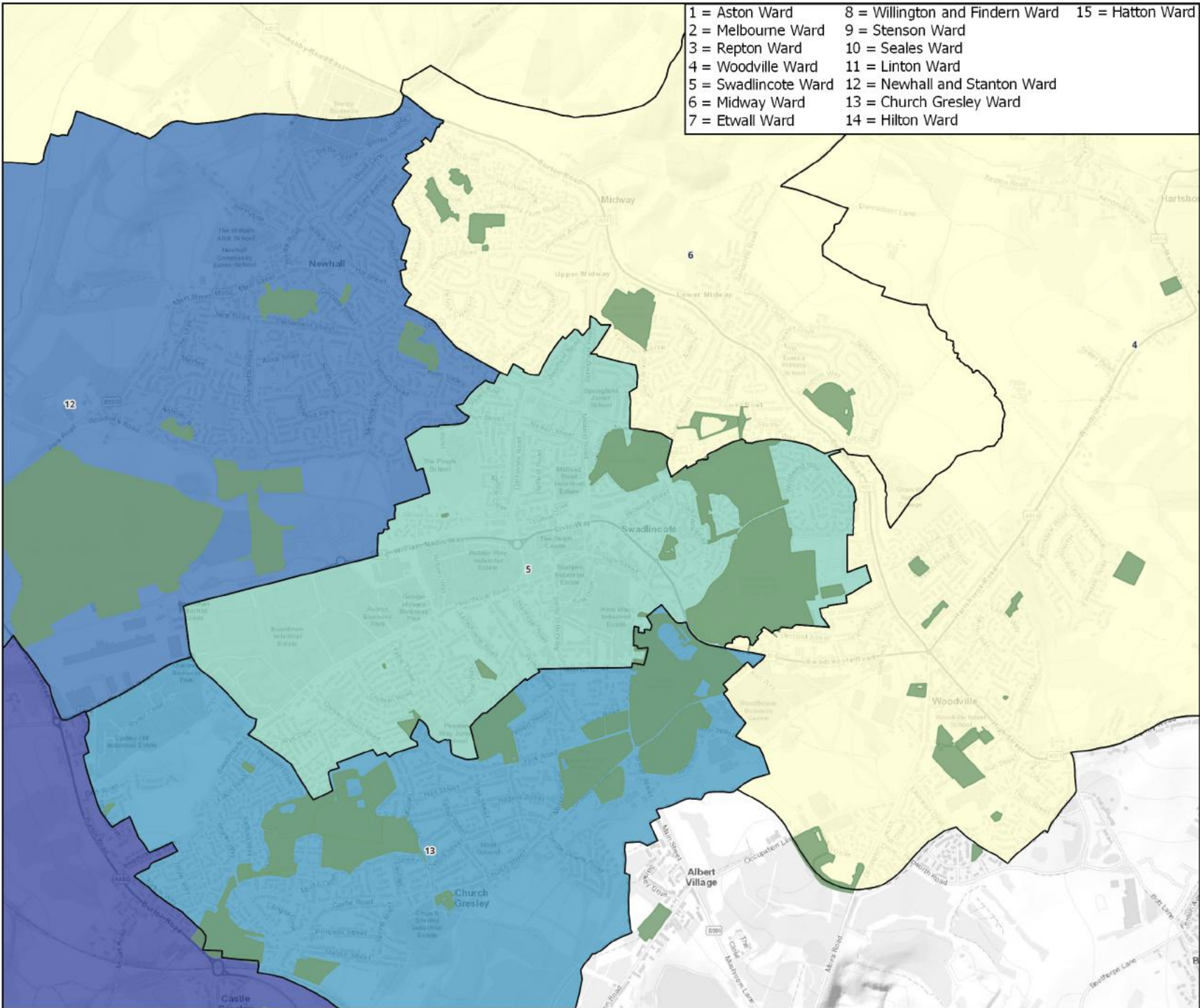
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- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwall Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward



SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 3a
Unrestricted Open Space by
Ward - Swadlincote

Legend

- Unrestricted open space
- District & ward boundaries

Hectares per 1000 population

- 8.7 - 10
- 7.4 - 8.7
- 6.1 - 7.4
- 4.8 - 6.1
- 3.5 - 4.8
- 2.2 - 3.5
- 0.9 - 2.2

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5.2.2 Unrestricted Green Space by Parish

Table 11 shows the amount of green space by parish. Unparished / urban areas account for just under two-fifths of all green space (38.6%). Elvaston Parish accounts for 16.5% of all green space. Although only 7 sites are within this parish, they equate to 75 hectares, again largely due to the presence and scale of Elvaston Castle Country Park. Linton Parish green space equates to 47 hectares which account for 10.4% of all green space. Fourteen Parishes have a green space supply of less than 1 hectare. Of which, Cauldwell Parish has the smallest area of green space with only 1 site which covers 0.18 hectares.

Parish	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	% of Total (Area)
Aston upon Trent CP	4	5.12	1.1%
Barrow upon Trent CP	5	12.10	2.7%
Bretby CP	1	0.35	0.1%
Burnaston CP	2	3.57	0.8%
Calke CP	1	0.20	0.0%
Castle Gresley CP	3	2.79	0.6%
Catton CP	1	1.31	0.3%
Cauldwell CP	1	0.18	0.0%
Church Broughton CP	4	1.51	0.3%
Coton in the Elms CP	2	0.92	0.2%
Dalbury Lees CP	2	0.39	0.1%
Drakelow CP	3	2.43	0.5%
Egginton CP	3	3.06	0.7%
Elvaston CP	7	74.88	16.5%
Etwall CP	7	5.12	1.1%
Findern CP	10	14.34	3.2%
Foremark CP	2	0.34	0.1%
Foston and Scropton CP	3	0.71	0.2%
Hartshorne CP	4	4.83	1.1%
Hatton CP	3	7.93	1.8%

Parish	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	% of Total (Area)
Hilton CP	14	22.15	4.9%
Linton CP	7	47.10	10.4%
Lullington CP	1	0.32	0.1%
Marston on Dove CP	2	1.13	0.2%
Melbourne CP	11	9.66	2.1%
Netherseal CP	5	4.35	1.0%
Newton Solney CP	5	2.07	0.5%
Overseal CP	7	5.65	1.2%
Radbourne CP	2	0.37	0.1%
Repton CP	7	3.98	0.9%
Rosliston CP	5	9.21	2.0%
Shardlow and Great Wilne CP	3	1.88	0.4%
Smisby CP	2	1.11	0.2%
Stanton by Bridge CP	1	0.22	0.0%
Stenson Fields CP	6	4.14	0.9%
Sutton on the Hill CP	1	0.34	0.1%
Swarkestone CP	1	0.25	0.1%
Ticknall CP	2	2.45	0.5%
Trusley CP	2	0.48	0.1%
Twyford and Stenson CP	2	0.68	0.1%
Walton upon Trent CP	2	1.19	0.3%
Weston upon Trent CP	3	3.55	0.8%
Willington CP	9	5.67	1.3%
Woodville CP	11	7.99	1.8%
Unparished / Urban Areas	38	174.67	38.6%
Total	217	452.68	100.0%

Table 11 Unrestricted Green Space by Parish

5.3 Quantity of Unrestricted Green Space per 1000 Population

Table 12 shows the amount of unrestricted green space by typology using the standardised measure, area (hectares) per 1,000 population. The calculations are based on the Mid Year Population Estimates for 2022 showing a District population of 111,133 people.

Typology L1	Area (Ha)	Ha per 1,000 population
Amenity green space	20.68	0.19
Cemeteries and disused churchyards	28.88	0.26
Natural and semi natural green space	209.28	1.88
Outdoor sports facilities	54.24	0.49
Parks and gardens	132.59	1.19
Provision for children and young people	7.01	0.06
Grand Total	452.68	4.07

Table 12 Unrestricted Green Space – Hectares per 1000 Population by Typology

Overall, there is 4.07 hectares of unrestricted green space per 1,000 population. As discussed above Natural and Semi-natural Green Space is the dominant green space type with 1.88 hectares per 1000 population, followed by Parks and Gardens with 1.19 hectares per 1000 population and Outdoor Sports Facilities with 0.49 hectares per 1000 population.

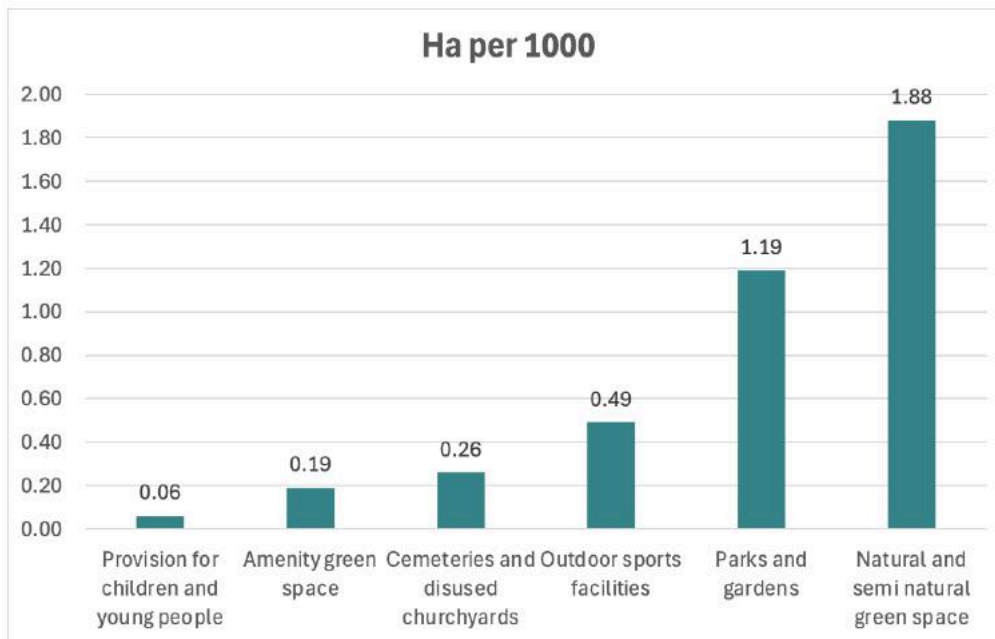


Table 13 shows the distribution of unrestricted green space, as measures in hectares per 1,000 population by ward. Overall, there is considerable variation against this measure which uses both area of green space and population. Linton ward has the greatest area of green space per people, with 9.96 hectares per 1000 population and has approximately 11 times the amount of green space per population than Stenson ward which has the smallest area of green space per people with 0.9 hectares per 1000 population.

Although Hatton ward was coming out in the bottom two for unrestricted green space by ward, the green space supply is sufficient in relation to the population with the smallest population out of all the wards, there are 2.89 hectares per 1000 population which places Hatton ward sixth in the rankings.

Just five of the wards are above the mean value of 4.07 hectares by ward per 1000 population. However, this is likely to be skewed due to the scale of provision in Linton and Aston wards.

Ward	Population	Area (Ha)	Ha / 1000
Linton Ward	6,196	61.71	9.96
Aston Ward	10,032	97.78	9.75
Newhall and Stanton Ward	8,287	68.08	8.22
Church Gresley Ward	8,815	57.84	6.56
Swadlincote Ward	8,904	40.95	4.60
Hatton Ward	2,749	7.93	2.89
Willington and Findern Ward	7,755	20.01	2.58
Seales Ward	5,569	13.74	2.47
Hilton Ward	10,516	25.83	2.46
Etwall Ward	7,413	12.99	1.75
Melbourne Ward	5,632	9.88	1.75
Repton Ward	6,120	10.50	1.72
Midway Ward	8,307	10.27	1.24
Woodville Ward	9,515	10.35	1.09
Stenson Ward	5,323	4.82	0.90
Total	111,133	452.68	4.07

Table 13 Unrestricted Green Space (Hectares per 1000 population) by Ward

5.4 Population Projections

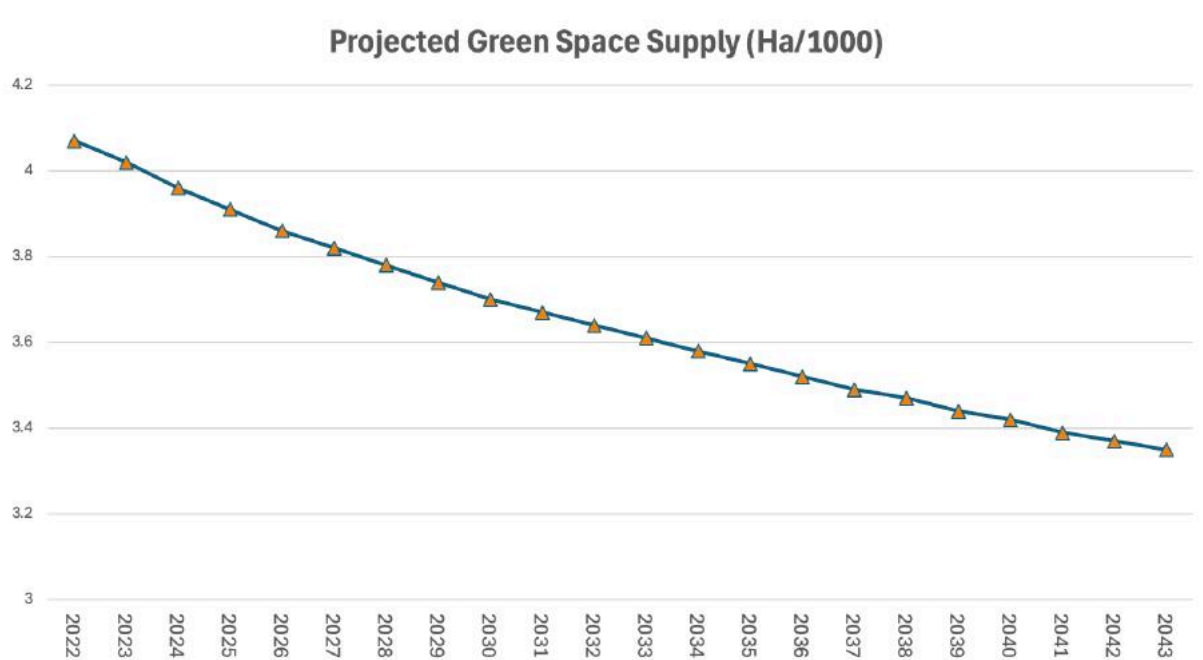
Population projections are available from the Office for National Statistics. The figures are available at a local authority level with the most recent data published in 2018. These shows that the population of South Derbyshire is predicted to grow consistently over the period to 2043. Based on these figures, if the amount of unrestricted green space remains static, a rising population will reduce the amount of green space from its current level of 4.07 hectares per 1,000 population to 3.35 in 2043.

Year	Population Projections (ONS 2018) ³	Hectares per 1,000 population
2022	111,133	4.07
2023	112,751	4.01
2024	114,306	3.96
2025	115,761	3.91
2026	117,171	3.86
2027	118,511	3.82
2028	119,804	3.78
2029	121,034	3.74
2030	122,220	3.70
2031	123,347	3.67
2032	124,450	3.64
2033	125,543	3.61
2034	126,596	3.58
2035	127,619	3.55
2036	128,638	3.52

³ The published figures (ONS 2018-based subnational population projections table2) show an estimated population for South Derbyshire District of 111,632 in 2022 which is slightly higher than the more recent MYE 2022 figure of 111,133. Figures in the table above have been re-based (scaled down) to show a 2022 population figure of 111,133 consistent with the 2022 MYE.

Year	Population Projections (ONS 2018) ³	Hectares per 1,000 population
2037	129,639	3.49
2038	130,639	3.47
2039	131,617	3.44
2040	132,579	3.41
2041	133,522	3.39
2042	134,447	3.37
2043	135,343	3.34

Table 14 Impact of Population Growth on Green Space Quantity



6 Green Space Accessibility

This section of the Green Space Strategy considers the accessibility of green space based on distance threshold mapping that approximates walking time.

6.1 Proximity to all Unrestricted Green space

Figure 4 shows the proximity to all unrestricted green space based on a 400m buffer from the boundary of the site representing a walking time of approximately 5 minutes. Green space provision in the neighbouring authorities of Derby, Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, North West Leicestershire, East Staffordshire and Lichfield has been included (sites within 1200m of the district boundary).

Figure 4 shows that most areas of the district have good access to green space within 400m. Residential properties have been plotted using the South Derbyshire District Council Address Point dataset which allows the number of households without access to green space to be calculated. These figures are shown in Table 15 at ward level. Overall, 84.3% of residential households have access to unrestricted green space within 400m. Proximity to unrestricted green space is varied at ward level, however, there are some areas of deficiency in access to unrestricted green space in all 15 wards, with the greatest deficiencies being in Repton, Etwall and Linton Wards.

Ward	Total No of Residential Properties	No. of Residential Properties with Green space Deficiency	% of Residential Properties with Green space Deficiency
Repton Ward	3560	1308	36.7%
Etwall Ward	4771	1512	31.7%
Linton Ward	4217	1222	29.2%
Hatton Ward	1751	373	21.3%
Willington and Findern Ward	4015	712	17.6%
Woodville Ward	4826	784	16.2%
Aston Ward	5604	910	16.2%
Hilton Ward	5290	847	16.0%
Seales Ward	3122	464	14.9%
Melbourne Ward	3079	323	10.6%
Newhall and Stanton Ward	4563	357	7.8%
Stenson Ward	2219	161	7.2%
Midway Ward	4125	291	7.0%
Church Gresley Ward	4638	47	1.0%
Swadlincote Ward	4380	32	0.7%

Table 15 Ward Level Green Space Deficiency – Access to Green Space Within 400m

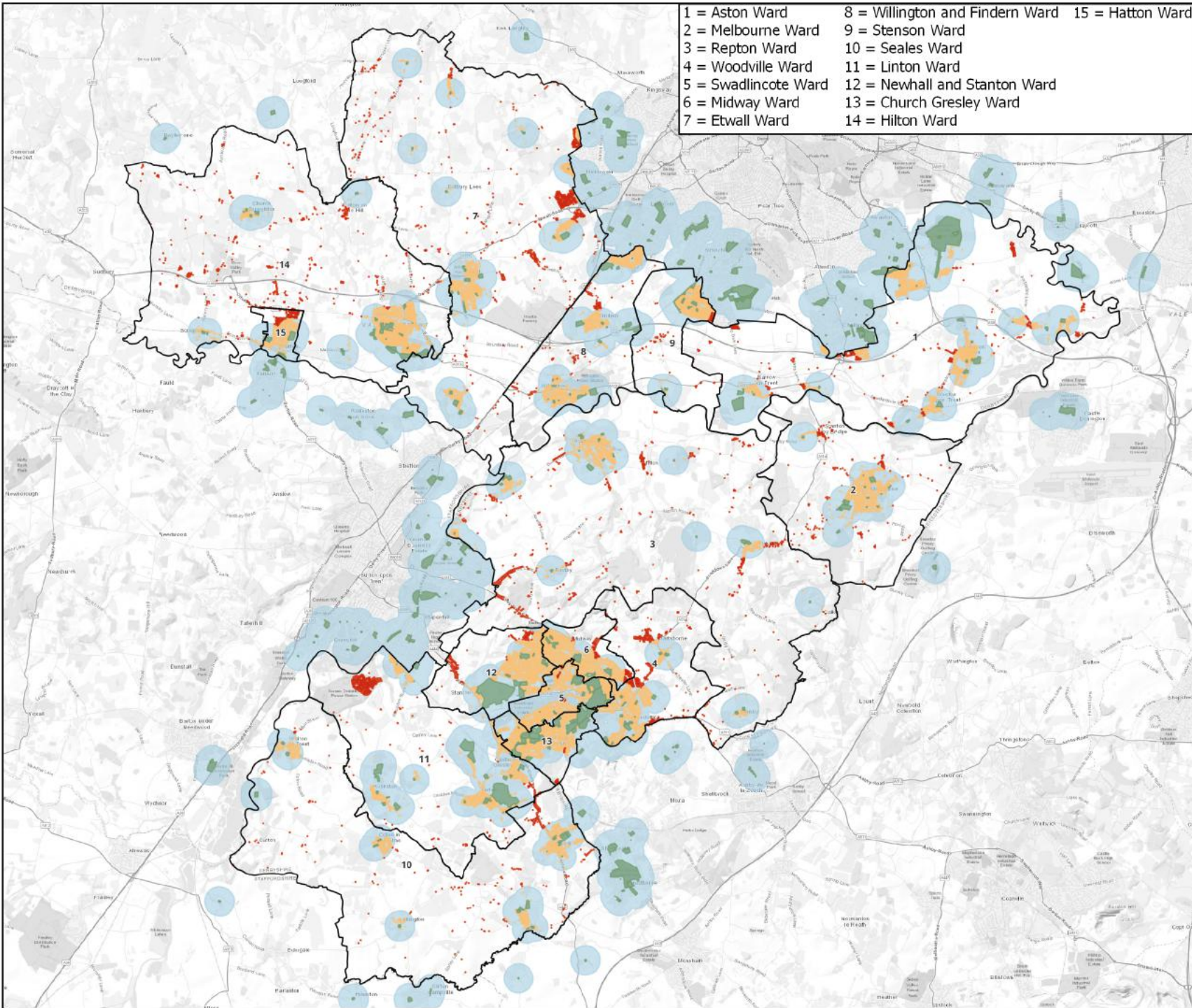
SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 4
Proximity to Unrestricted Open Space

Legend

- Unrestricted open space
- Unrestricted open space @ 400m
- South Derbyshire residential properties
- Residential properties not within access of unrestricted open space @ 400m
- District & ward boundaries

- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwell Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward



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6.2 Proximity to Unrestricted Green Space by Hierarchy

To build a picture of whether people have sufficient green space within a reasonable walking distance of where they live a model was constructed using the hierarchy as set out in the table below.

Travel distances and walking times have been modelled based on national guidance from:

- The Department for Transport⁴;
- The Chartered Institution for Highways and Transportation⁵; and
- Fields in Trust⁶

Hierarchy Level	Description	Travel Distance	Approximate Walking Time
District	Those green space sites whose significance should attract people from across the entire district. Usually, large sites with a range of facilities or designated importance for history or nature conservation, as well as supporting local use.	1200m	15 minutes
Neighbourhood	Those green space sites which perform a function that serves a more immediate community, either within a town or a whole village. Unlikely to act as destination spaces or attract people from a considerable distance.	800m	10 minutes

4 Department for Transport (2019) Journey Time Statistics: Notes and Definitions

5 As referenced in Natural England (2024) Green Infrastructure Standards Mapping Guidance

6 Fields in Trust (2018) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play

Hierarchy Level	Description	Travel Distance	Approximate Walking Time
Local	Those green space sites which perform a function to a small local area within towns or villages – typically areas of amenity green space.	400m	5 mins

Table 16 Green Space Hierarchy and Distance Thresholds

Figure 5 shows Proximity to Unrestricted Green space by Hierarchy with travel distance plotted at 400m for local green space, 800m for neighbourhood green space, 1200m for district green space. Figure 6 highlights the residential properties that are deficient in access to green space based on the hierarchical travel distances.

Table 17 shows the scale of green space deficiency by ward. Using the green space hierarchy with different buffers based on the significance of the space, reduced the number of households without good access. Overall, 89.5% of households have access to unrestricted green space using this model. Again, proximity to unrestricted green space is varied at ward level. All households in Swadlincote ward have access to some sort of unrestricted green space using this model. Whereas, Repton, Linton and Etwall wards experience the greatest deficiencies.

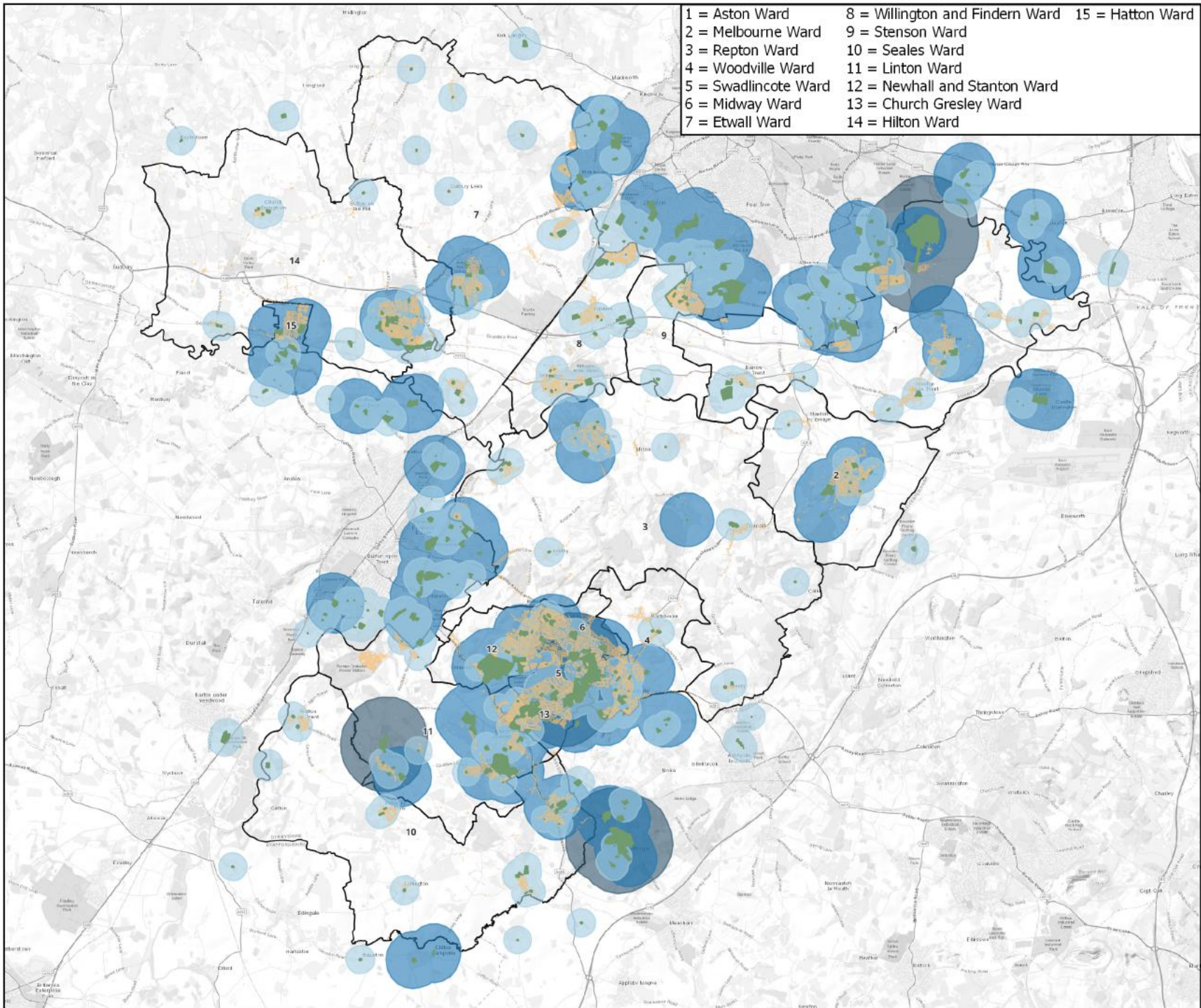
Ward	Total No of Residential Properties	No. of Residential Properties with Green space Deficiency	% of Residential Properties with Green space Deficiency
Repton Ward	3560	1054	29.6%
Linton Ward	4217	1106	26.5%
Etwall Ward	4771	1026	21.5%
Willington and Findern Ward	4015	712	17.6%
Hilton Ward	5290	777	14.7%
Aston Ward	5604	505	9.0%
Seales Ward	3122	255	8.2%
Woodville Ward	4826	362	7.5%
Melbourne Ward	3079	181	5.9%
Stenson Ward	2219	85	3.8%
Newhall and Stanton Ward	4563	173	3.8%
Church Gresley Ward	4638	26	0.6%
Hatton Ward	1751	9	0.5%
Midway Ward	4125	7	0.2%
Swadlincote Ward	4380	0	0.0%

Table 17 Ward Level Green Space Deficiency – Access to Green Space Within 400m / 800m / 1200m

South Derbyshire District experiences lower levels of deprivation as only 5.1% of households are in the 20% most deprived areas nationally. When the level of deprivation is considered alongside green space deficiency, 1.3% of households within the most deprived areas experience green space deficiency across the whole of the district. Of which, all are located within Woodville ward, accounting for 1.7% of total households in Woodville ward which are in the top 20% most deprived areas nationally and experience green space deficiency.

Index of Multiple Deprivation	% of Residential Properties with Green space Deficiency
1 (20% most deprived)	1.3%
2	0.3%
3	28.8%
4	42.3%
5 (20% least deprived)	27.2%
Total	100%

Table 18 Green Space Deficiency and IMD Quintile



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Figure 5
Proximity to Unrestricted Open Space by Hierarchy

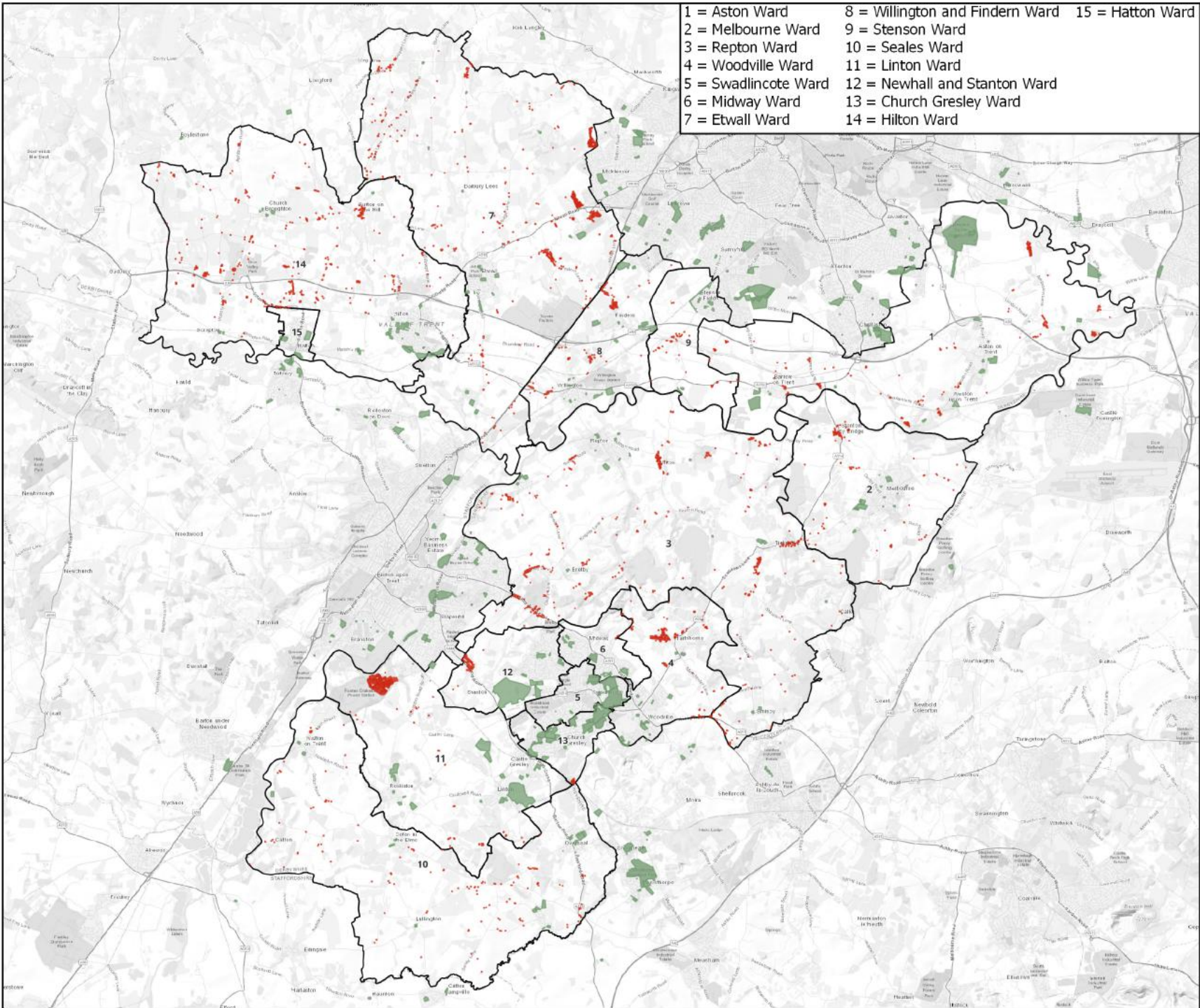
Legend

- Unrestricted open space
- South Derbyshire residential properties
- District & ward boundaries
- Buffers**
- Local level unrestricted open space @ 400m
- Neighbourhood level unrestricted open space @ 800m
- District level unrestricted open space @ 1200m

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- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwell Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward

SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 6
Areas Deficient in Access to Open Space

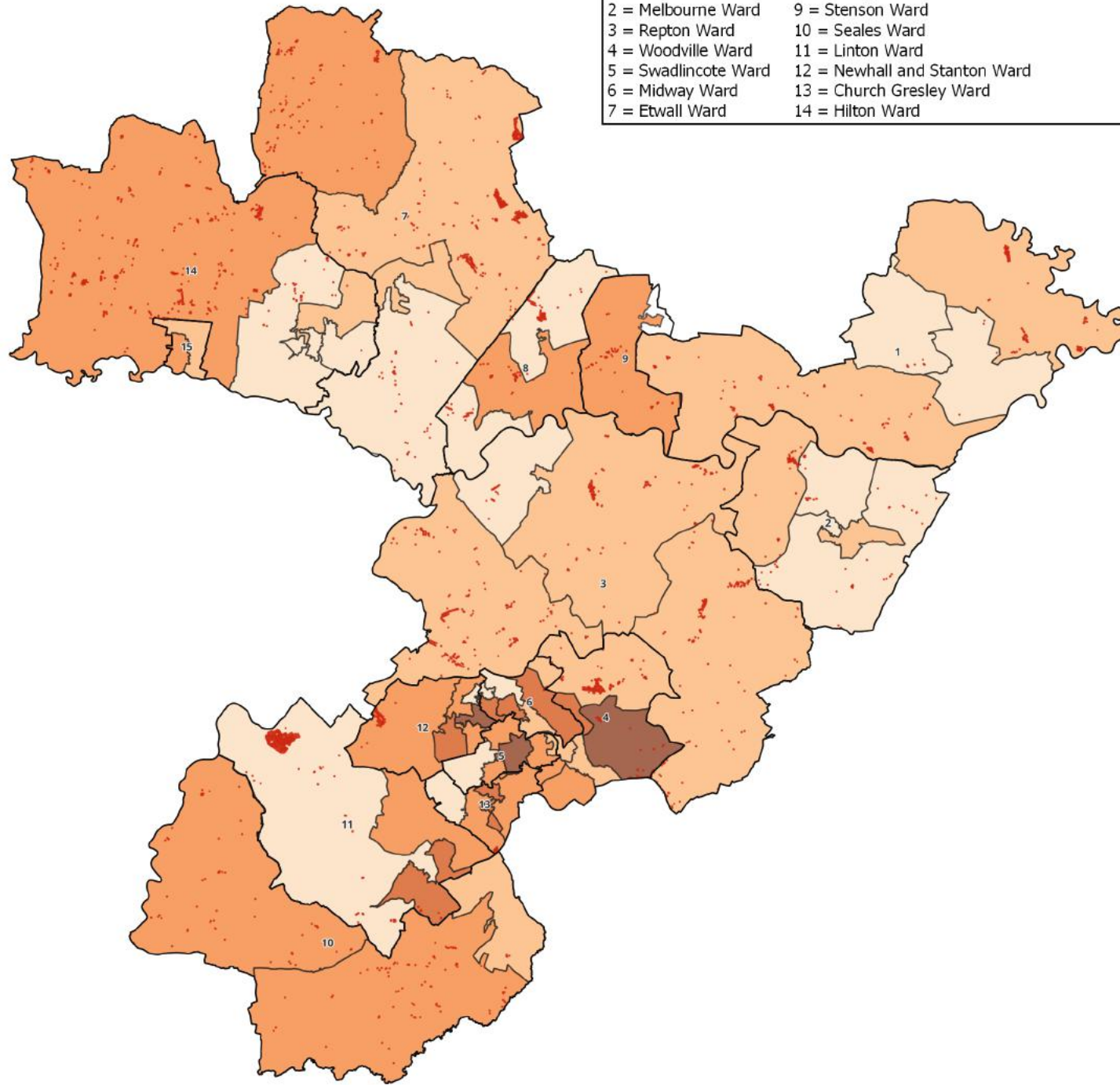
Legend

- Unrestricted open space
- Residential properties not within access of unrestricted open space @ 400m / 800m / 1200m
- District & ward boundaries

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- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwall Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |



SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 7
Deficiency Areas and IMD

Legend

- Residential properties not within access of unrestricted open space @ 400m / 800m / 1200m
- District & ward boundaries

Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Quintiles

- 1 (Highest)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Lowest)

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6.3 Level 2 Mapping

6.3.1 Provision for Children & Young People

Figure 8 shows the distribution of provision for children and young people. This includes all equipped play provision across the District and that of neighbouring authorities within 1200m. This includes Local Areas for Play (LAP) which are included for reference purposes only and are excluded from the earlier quantity analysis and the accessibility mapping. The rationale for this is set out below.

Table 19 sets out a hierarchy of play provision based upon the Fields in Trust design guidance for outdoor sport, play and informal green space and have been used as accessibility standards. This has been modified for South Derbyshire District to exclude the Local Area for Play (LAP) category since these spaces are very small with limited provision and limited play value. This Study does however recognise the value of green space provision in offering informal opportunities for play that complement formal equipped play provision.

Hierarchy Level	Description	Travel Distance
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP)	Larger areas of equipped play space, often with more adventurous provision, aimed at older children. Minimum suggested size of 0.1 ha.	1000m
Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP)	Areas of equipped play space aimed at children who can go out to play independently. Minimum suggested size of 0.04 ha.	400m
Other outdoor provision	Such as Multi Use Games Areas and skateboard parks and other wheeled sports provision.	700m

Table 19 Hierarchy of Provision for Children and Young People

Figure 9 shows the distribution of play provision for LEAPs, NEAPs, and other outdoor provision based on the travel distances in Table 19. Overall, 78.2% of residential households have access to unrestricted provision for children and young people using these standards.

The key areas of deficiency in access to play are Repton, Etwall and Church Gresley Wards.

Ward	Total No of Residential Properties	No. of Residential Properties with Play Space Deficiency	% of Residential Properties with Play Space Deficiency
Repton Ward	3560	1983	55.7%
Etwall Ward	4771	2233	46.8%
Church Gresley Ward	4638	1749	37.4%
Linton Ward	4217	1491	35.7%
Aston Ward	5604	1942	34.7%
Hilton Ward	5290	1236	23.3%
Hatton Ward	1751	367	20.9%
Melbourne Ward	3079	363	11.9%
Stenson Ward	2219	259	11.7%
Seales Ward	3122	363	11.6%
Willington and Findern Ward	4015	421	10.4%
Newhall and Stanton Ward	4563	439	9.6%
Woodville Ward	4826	453	9.4%
Swadlincote Ward	4380	111	2.5%
Midway Ward	4125	93	2.2%

Table 20 Deficiency in Access to Play Provision

Figure 10 shows households that experience deficiencies in access to play provision overlaid on the Indices of Deprivation scores.

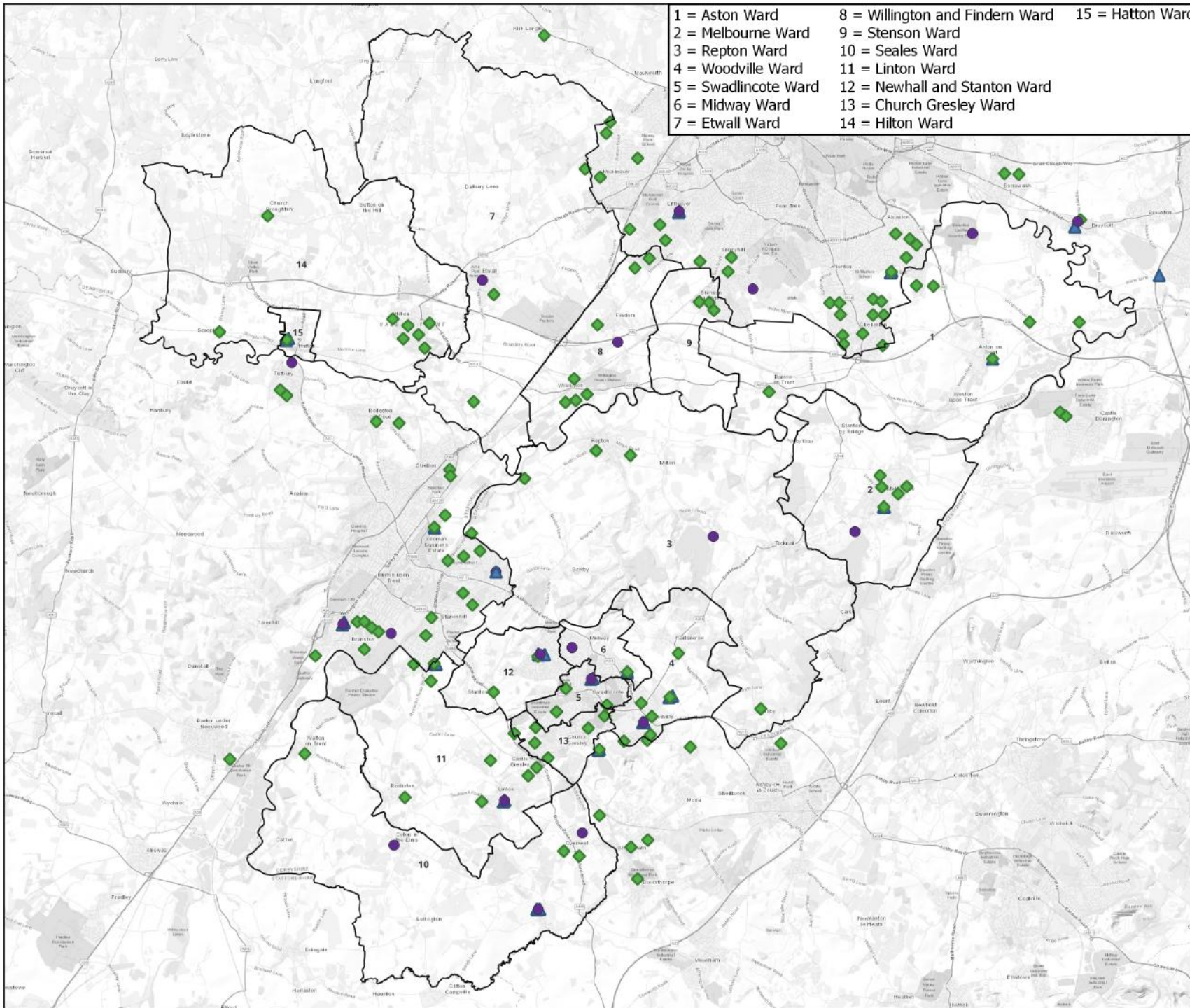
Table 21 shows that 1.1% of households within the most deprived areas experience play space deficiency across the whole of the district. Of which, all are located within Woodville ward, accounting for 3.0% of total households in Woodville ward which are in the top 20% most deprived areas nationally and experience play space deficiency.

A further 7.8% of households within South Derbyshire District are in the top 40% most deprived areas nationally and experience play space deficiency. These are located in Church Gresley, Linton, Midway, Repton and Woodville

Index of Multiple Deprivation	% of Residential Properties with Play Space Deficiency
1 (20% most deprived)	1.1%
2	7.8%
3	23.9%
4	45.4%
5 (20% least deprived)	21.8%
Total	100%

Table 21 Deficiency in Access to Play Provision and IMD Quintile

**Figure 8
Level 2 Play Provision**



- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwall Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |

Legend

District and ward boundaries

Play Hierarchy

- LEAP
- MUGA
- NEAP

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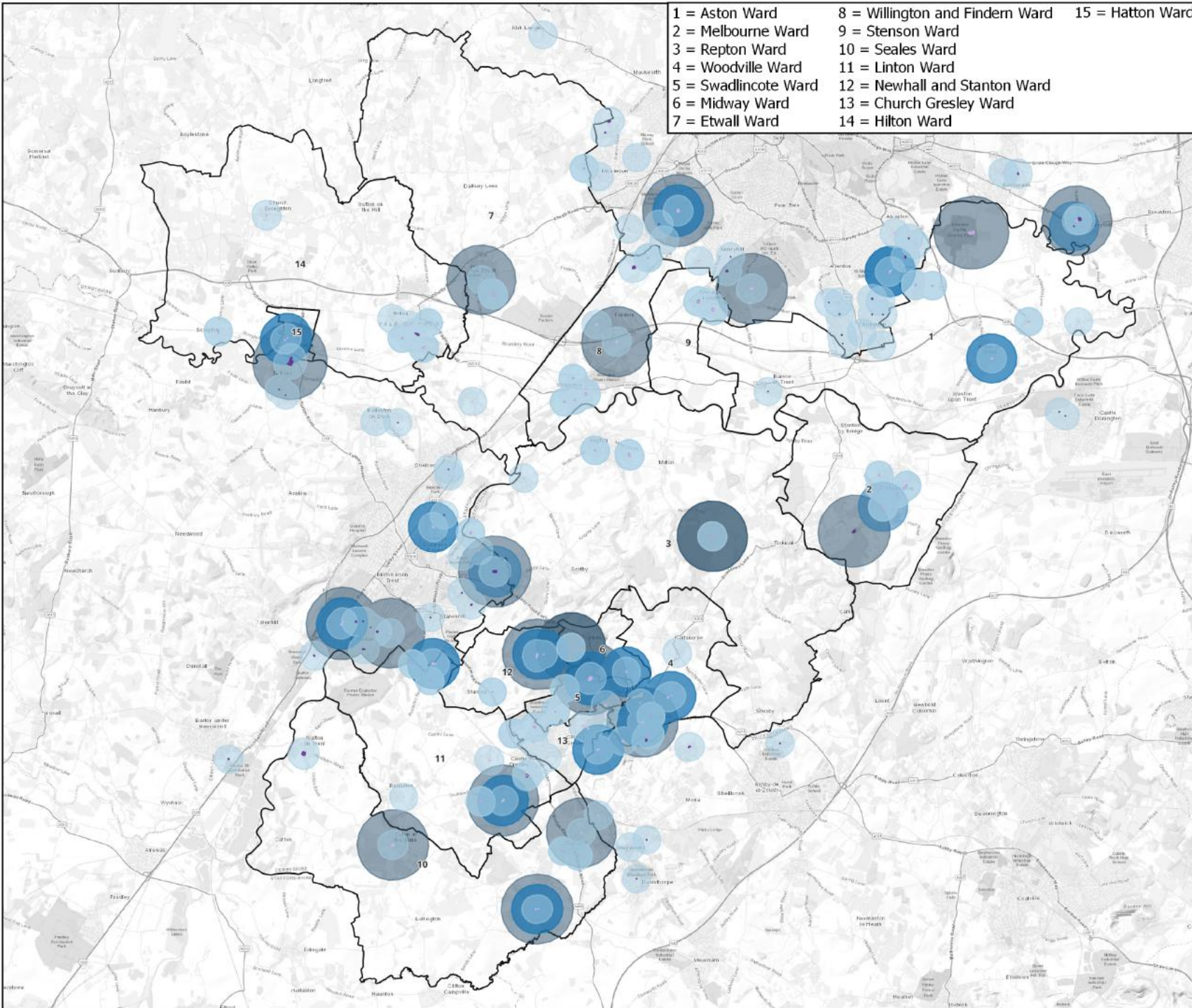
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SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 9
Level 2 Play Provision Proximity Mapping – Equipped Play

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwell Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |



Legend

- Unrestricted play provision
 - Unrestricted play provision - equipped areas
 - District and ward boundaries
- ### Buffers
- LEAP PCYP @ 400m
 - MUGAs @ 700m
 - NEAP PCYP @ 1000m

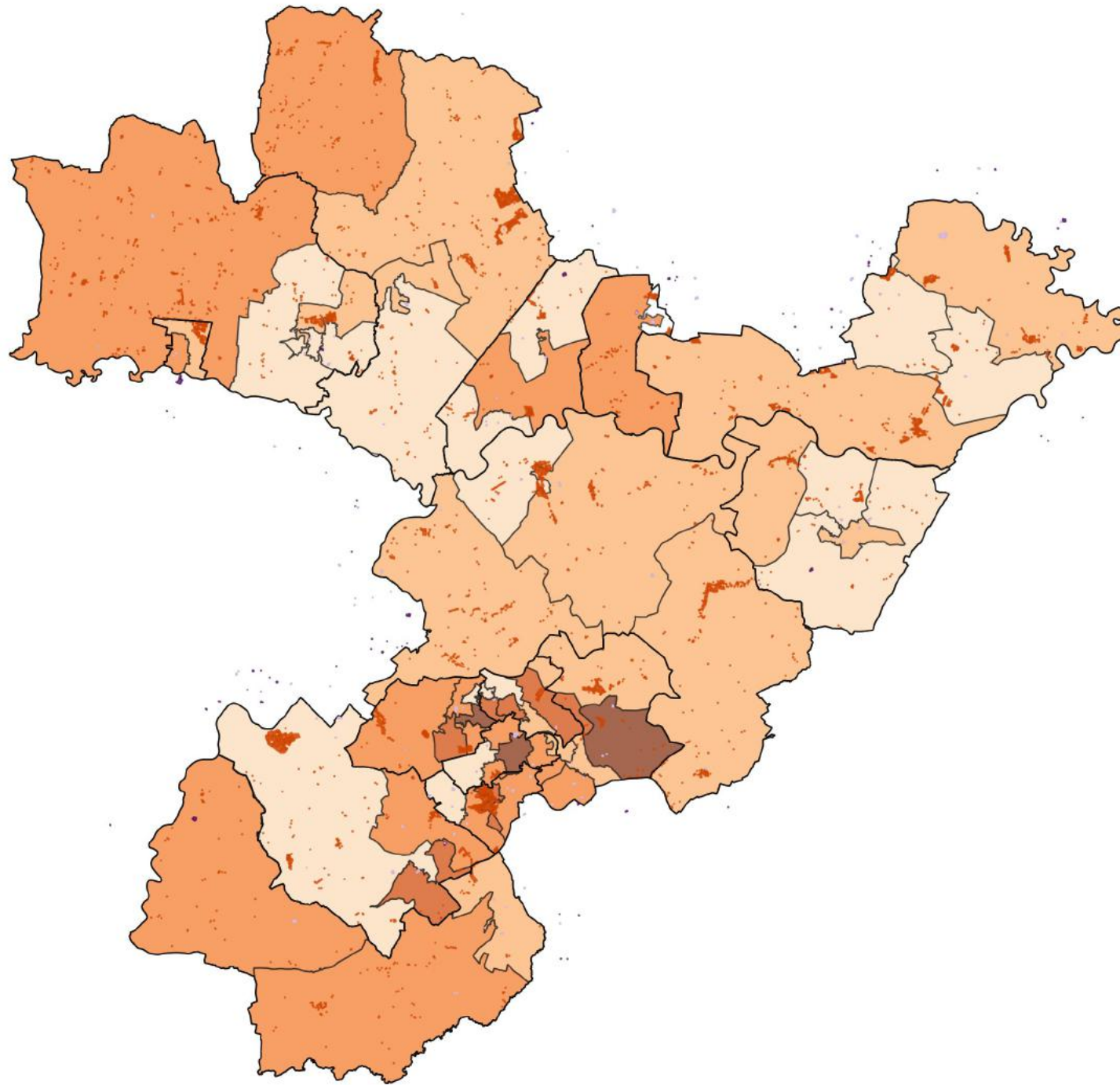
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Figure 10
Level 2 Play Provision -
Proximity Mapping



Legend

-  Unrestricted play provision
-  Unrestricted play provision - equipped areas
-  District and ward boundaries

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2019) Quintiles

-  1 (Highest)
-  2
-  3
-  4
-  5 (Lowest)

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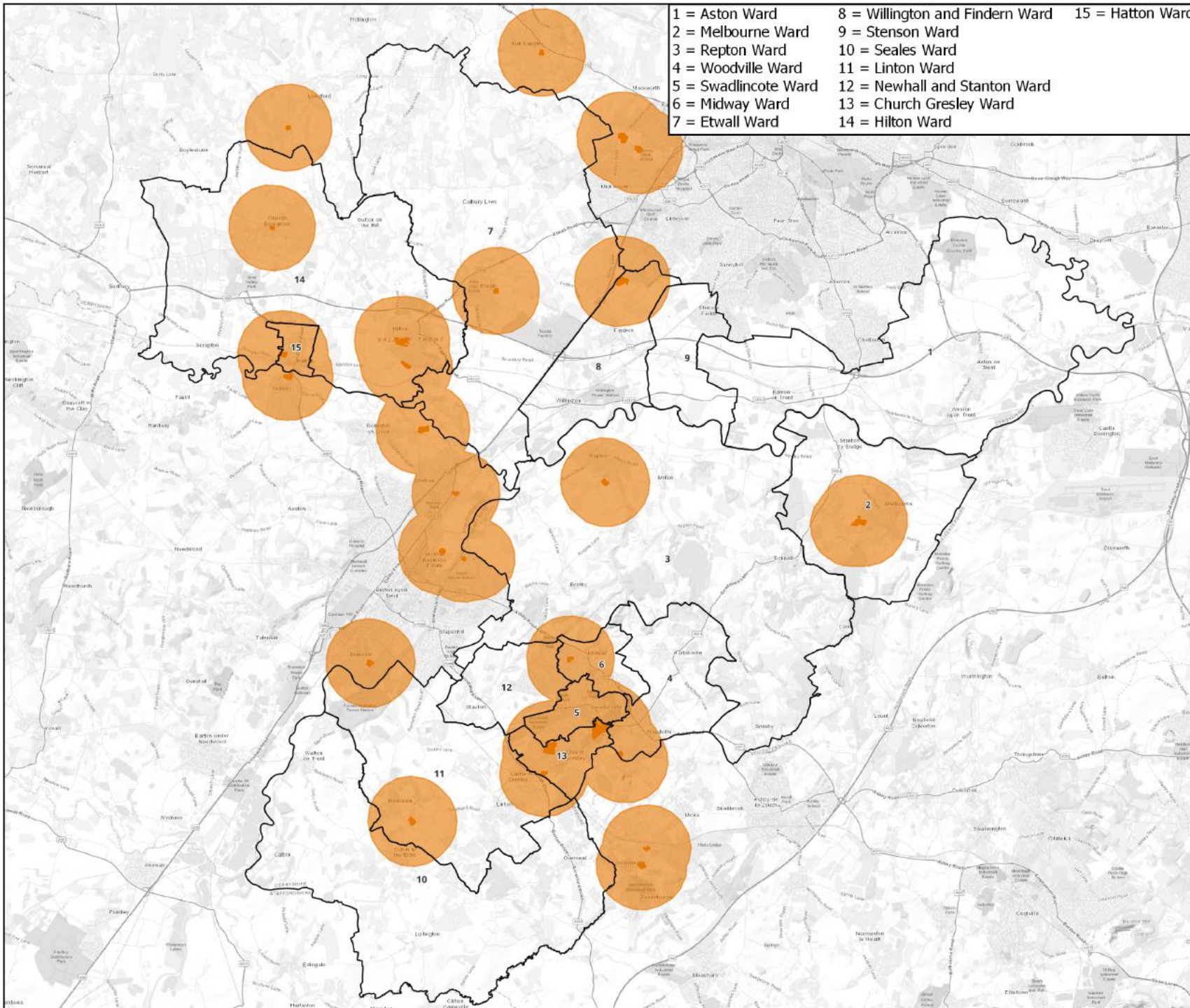
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6.3.2 Outdoor Sports Facilities

Figure 11 shows access to Outdoor Sports Facilities buffered at 1200m from the boundary of the site. Overall, 59.3% of residential households have access to outdoor sports facilities, with the greatest deficiencies in Stenson and Aston wards. Seales and Willington and Findern Wards also have deficiencies to outdoor sports that are above average for the district.

**Figure 11
Outdoor Sports Facilities**



- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwale Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |

Legend

- Unrestricted Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Outdoor Sports Facilities @ 1200m
- District & ward boundaries

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6.4 National Standards

6.4.1 Fields in Trust (FiT) Standards

The Fields in Trust Green Space Standards (2015) set out a minimum recommendation that for every 1,000 people there should be approximately 3.2 hectares of accessible informal outdoor space (defined as Parks and Gardens, Amenity Green Space and Natural and Semi-natural Green Space). Figure 12 shows ward level provision against this standard. The wards that have less than 3.2 ha of accessible green space per 1000 people are:

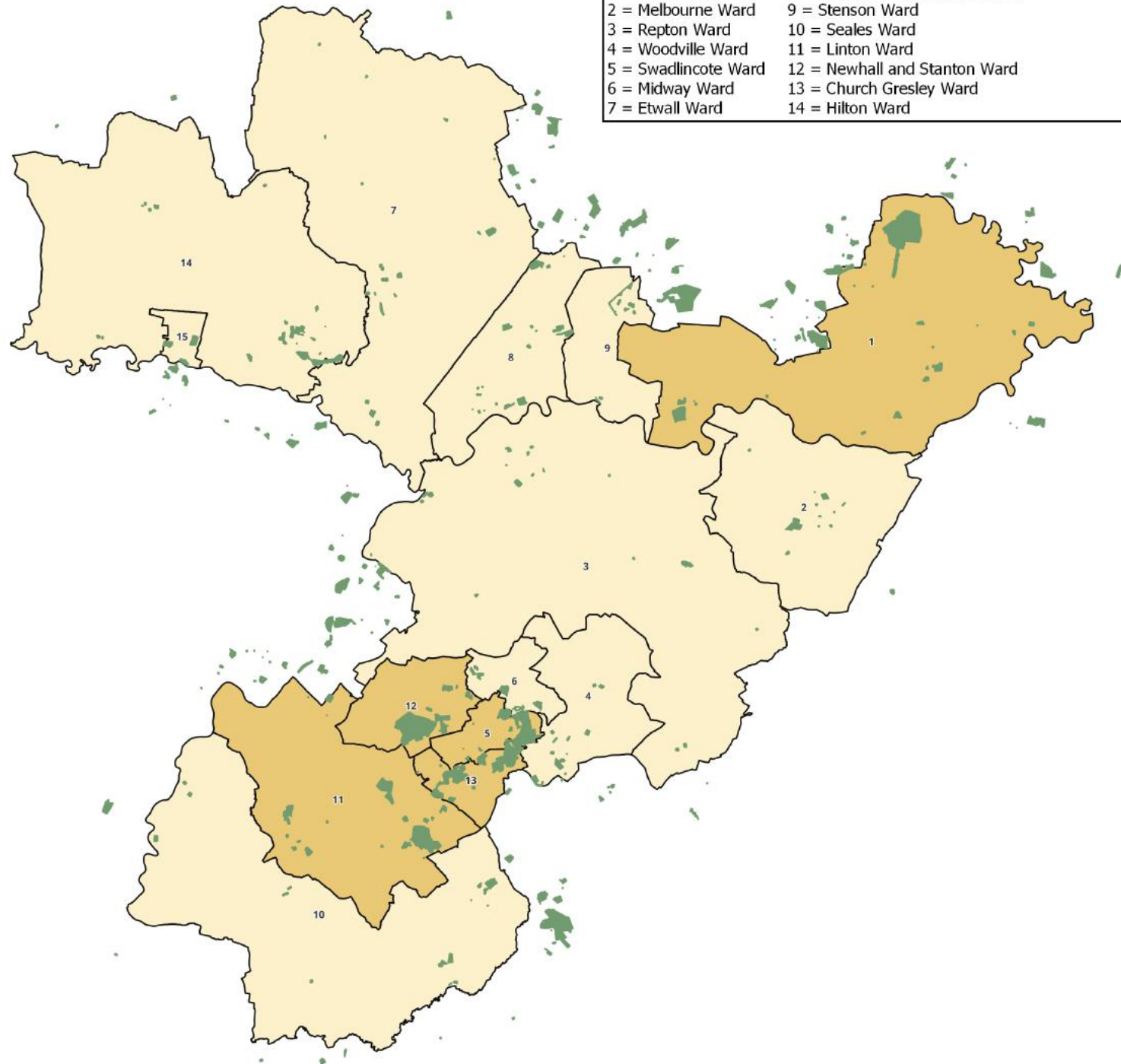
- Etwall Ward
- Hatton Ward
- Hilton Ward
- Melbourne Ward
- Midway Ward
- Repton Ward
- Seales Ward
- Stenson Ward
- Willington and Findern Ward
- Woodville Ward

Research for the FiT Green Space Index (2024) found that the national (England) average provision of green space is 30 square metres per person. The average figure for the East Midlands is also at this level.

This Study has found that there is an average level of provision of 4.07 hectare per 1,000 population, equivalent to 40.7 square metres per person (reduced to 33.8 square metres per person if Elvaston Country Park and Rosliston Forestry Centre are excluded from the calculation).

Table 22 shows a comparison of South Derbyshire District Council provision against the Fields in Trust Standards.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwall Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |




SDDC Green Space Strategy


Figure 12
FIT Green Space Index


Legend

Unrestricted open space

 District and ward boundaries

FIT Green Space Index by Ward

 Greater than 3.2ha per 1000 pop

 Less than 3.2ha per 1000 pop

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Classification	SDDC (Ha/1000)	FiT (Ha/1000)	Variance (Ha/1000)
Parks and gardens	1.19	0.8	0.39
Amenity green space	0.19	0.6	-0.41
Natural and semi natural green space	1.88	1.8	0.08
Total Informal Open Space	3.26	3.2	0.06
Outdoor Sports (unrestricted)	0.49	1.6	-1.11
Equipped Play Space	0.11	0.25	-0.12

Table 22 Comparison against FiT Standards

Current provision of Parks and gardens and Natural and semi natural green space exceeds the minimum standards proposed by the FiT. The overall amount of Informal Open Space in the District also marginally exceeds the recommended standard despite a deficiency in the amount of Amenity green space.

Outdoor Sports Provision shows a deficiency of 1.111 ha/1,000 population. A Playing Pitch Strategy is currently being prepared for the district which will set out more detail about the supply and demand for playing pitch and court sports.

In terms of play provision, the current supply in the district is 0.11 ha/1,000 (Level 2 mapping) which is less than half that recommended by the Fields in Trust. The figure for the District supply is based on the areas of LEAP / NEAP and other provision but excludes LAPs. However, the exclusion of LAPs from this calculation has relatively little impact on the overall area of Provision for Children & Young People.

6.4.2 SDDC Draft Planning Obligations SPD

This document sets out a proposed standard of 3.45ha per 1,000 population, equivalent to 34.5 m² per person. This is based upon the FiT recommended standard of 3.2ha per 1,000 population is applied for informal outdoor space, equivalent to 32.0 m² per person. The recommended standard for equipped / designated play areas is then added at 0.25ha per 1,000 population, giving a total of 3.45 ha per 1,000 population or 34.5 m² per person.

6.4.3 Allotment Provision

Currently there are 33 allotment sites amounting to 19.41 hectares of provision. This equates to 0.17 hectares per 1000 population.

The National Allotment Society (NSALG) recommends that the minimum provision today should be 20 standard (250 m²) plots per 1,000 households, equivalent to 0.5 ha per 1000 population. The level of provision in South Derbyshire District is significantly below this level.

6.4.4 Accessible Natural Green Space

Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards were developed in 2023 as part of their Green Infrastructure Framework. The standards define green space provision based on size proximity, capacity and quality criteria as follows:

- Doorstep greenspace which is at least 0.5ha and accessible within 200 metres.
- Local greenspace which is at least 2ha and accessible within 300 metres walk.
- Neighbourhood greenspace which is at least 10ha and accessible within 1km walk.

These standards were applied to the SDDC green space dataset, which filtered the number of sites to 163. Figure 13 shows the distribution of SDDC green space classified as Accessible Natural Green Space using NE guidance, including Green space provision in the neighbouring authorities of Derby, Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, North West Leicestershire, East Staffordshire and Lichfield (within 1200m of the district boundary).

Figure 14 shows the proximity to green space provision classed as doorstep greenspace. Overall, 21.5% of residential households are within access of green space provision at least 0.5 ha within 200m.

Figure 15 shows the proximity to green space provision classed as local greenspace. Overall, 25.2% of residential households are within access of green space provision at least 2 ha within 300m.

Figure 16 shows the proximity to green space provision classed as neighbourhood greenspace. Overall, 32.4% of residential households are within access of green space provision at least 10 ha within 1000m.

Figure 17 shows Natural England’s Accessible Natural Green Space Standards combined and the proximity to Unrestricted Green space using their Hierarchy with travel distance plotted at 200m for doorstep green space, 300m for local green space, 1000m for neighbourhood green space. Overall, 57.6% of residential households are within access of green space provision using these standards. The greatest areas of deficiency are in Melbourne, Repton and Willington and Findern wards.

Ward	% of Residential Properties with Green space Deficiency using NE Model	% of Residential Properties with Green space Deficiency using SDDC Model	Variance
Melbourne Ward	87.1%	5.9%	-81.2%
Willington and Findern Ward	82.0%	17.6%	-64.4%
Hatton Ward	54.7%	0.5%	-54.2%
Repton Ward	82.0%	29.6%	-52.4%
Hilton Ward	65.5%	14.7%	-50.9%
Seales Ward	53.9%	8.2%	-45.8%
Etwall Ward	63.5%	21.5%	-42.0%
Aston Ward	36.3%	9.0%	-27.3%
Woodville Ward	27.2%	7.5%	-19.7%
Midway Ward	19.8%	0.2%	-19.6%
Linton Ward	39.8%	26.5%	-13.4%
Church Gresley Ward	12.8%	0.6%	-12.3%
Newhall and Stanton Ward	13.7%	3.8%	-9.9%
Swadlincote Ward	7.3%	0.0%	-7.3%
Stenson Ward	5.1%	3.8%	-1.3%

Table 23 A Comparison of Accessible Natural Green Space Models and Deficiency

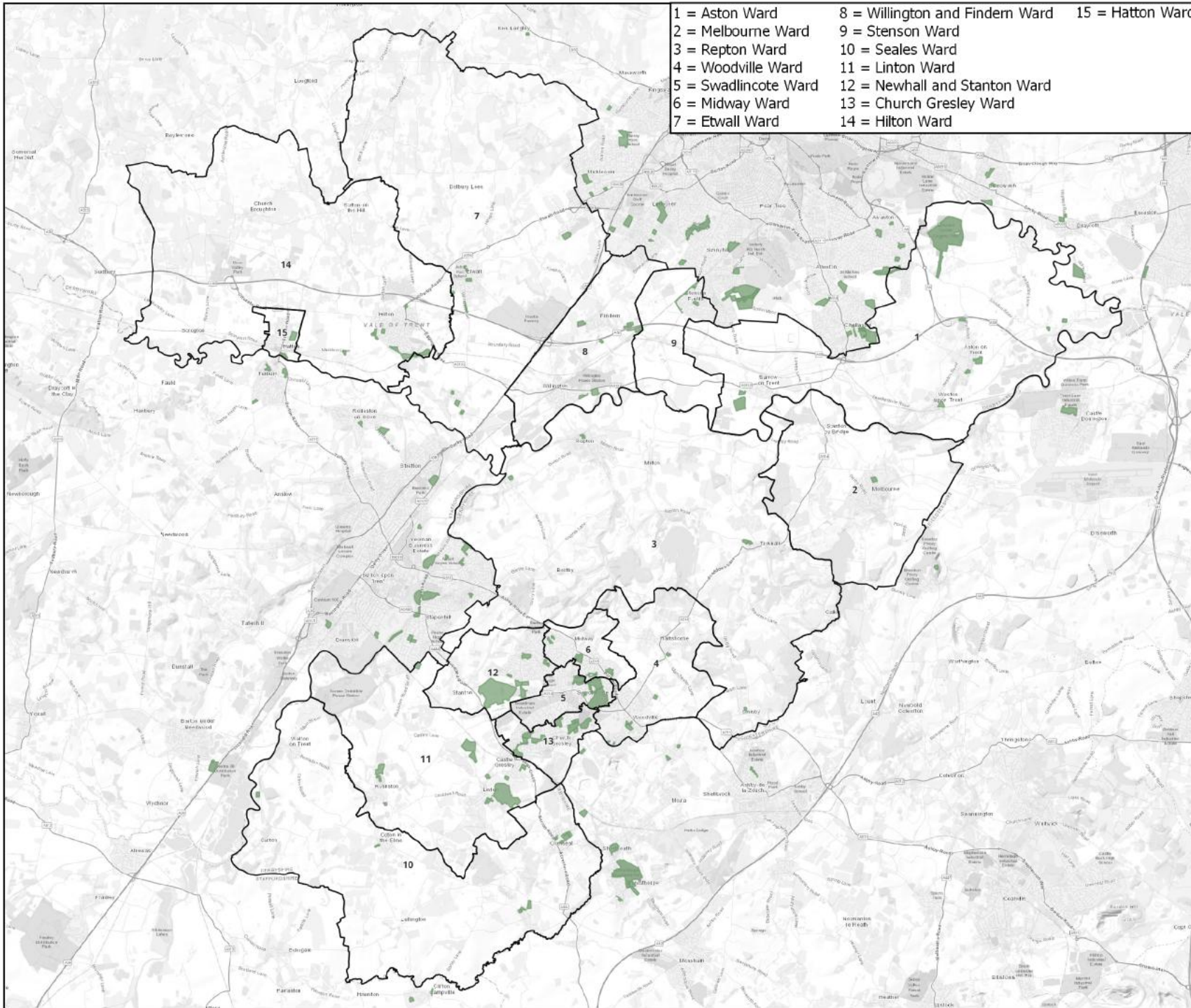
Figure 18 compares areas of deficiency using the SDDC model vs the NE ANGSt model. The biggest variances in deficiencies between the two models are in Melbourne, Willington and Findern and Hatton wards (see table 22). Overall, the NE model based on high level tends to over emphasise deficiencies in provision when compared to analysis using the South Derbyshire District Council dataset developed through this study.

Figure 13
Natural England Accessible
Natural Green Space

Legend

- Unrestricted green space with Natural England ANG standards applied
- District and ward boundaries

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwall Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |



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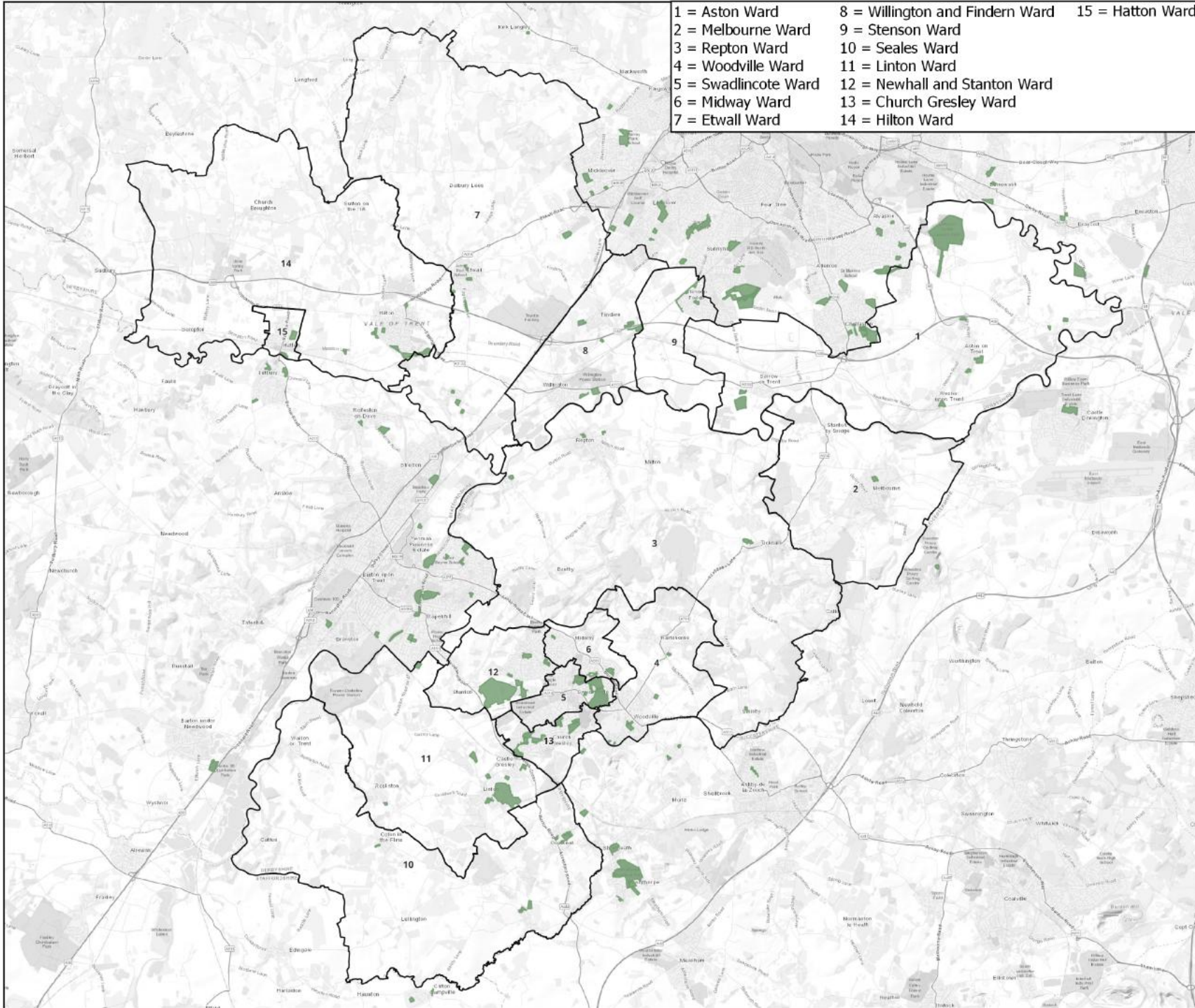


Figure 13
Natural England Accessible
Natural Green Space

Legend

- Unrestricted green space with Natural England ANG standards applied
- District and ward boundaries

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwell Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |



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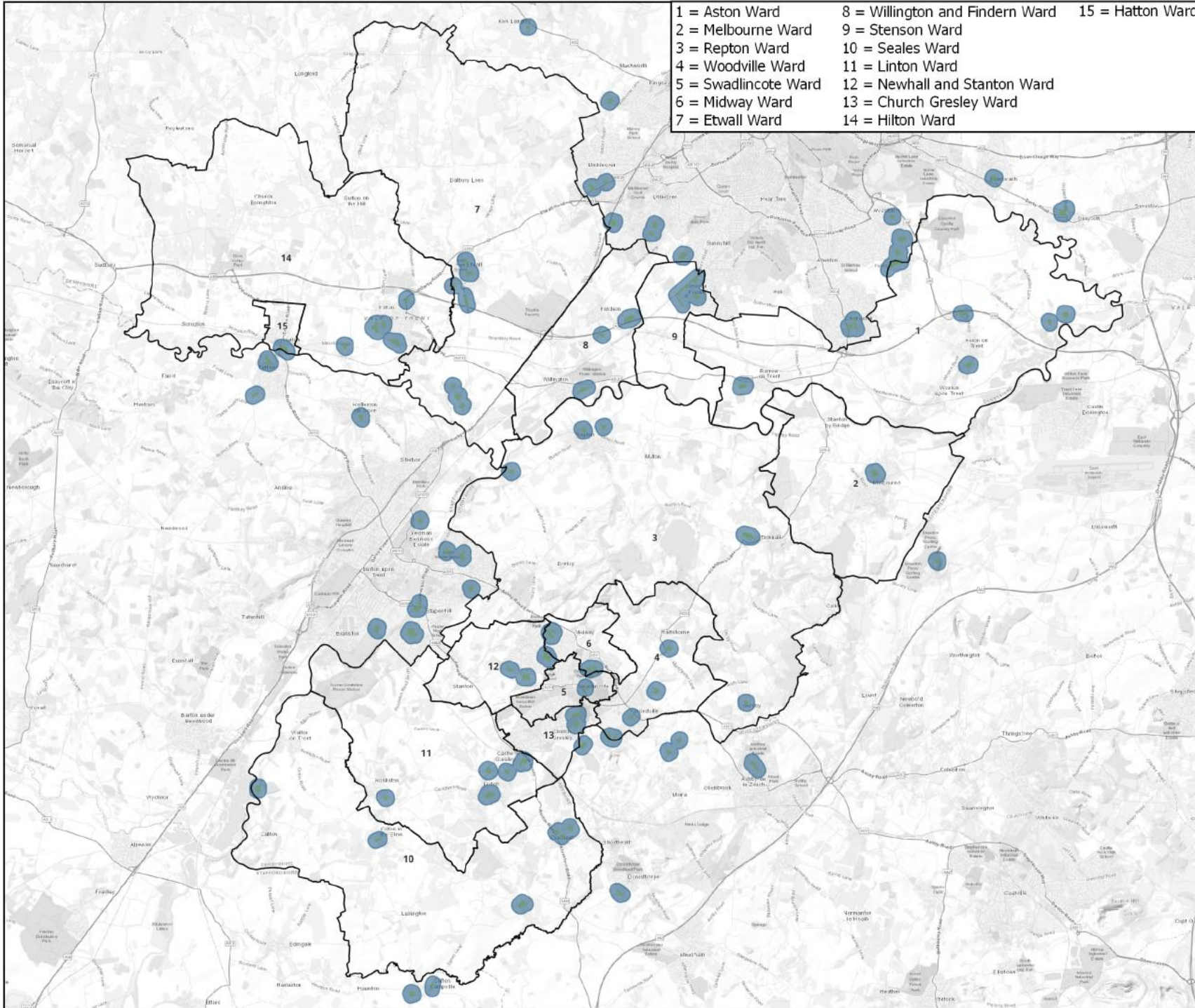
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**Figure 14
ANGSt Doorstep Standard**

Legend

- SDDC ANGSt Doorstep Sites (min threshold of 0.5ha)
- ANGSt doorstep sites @ 200m
- District and ward boundaries

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwell Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |



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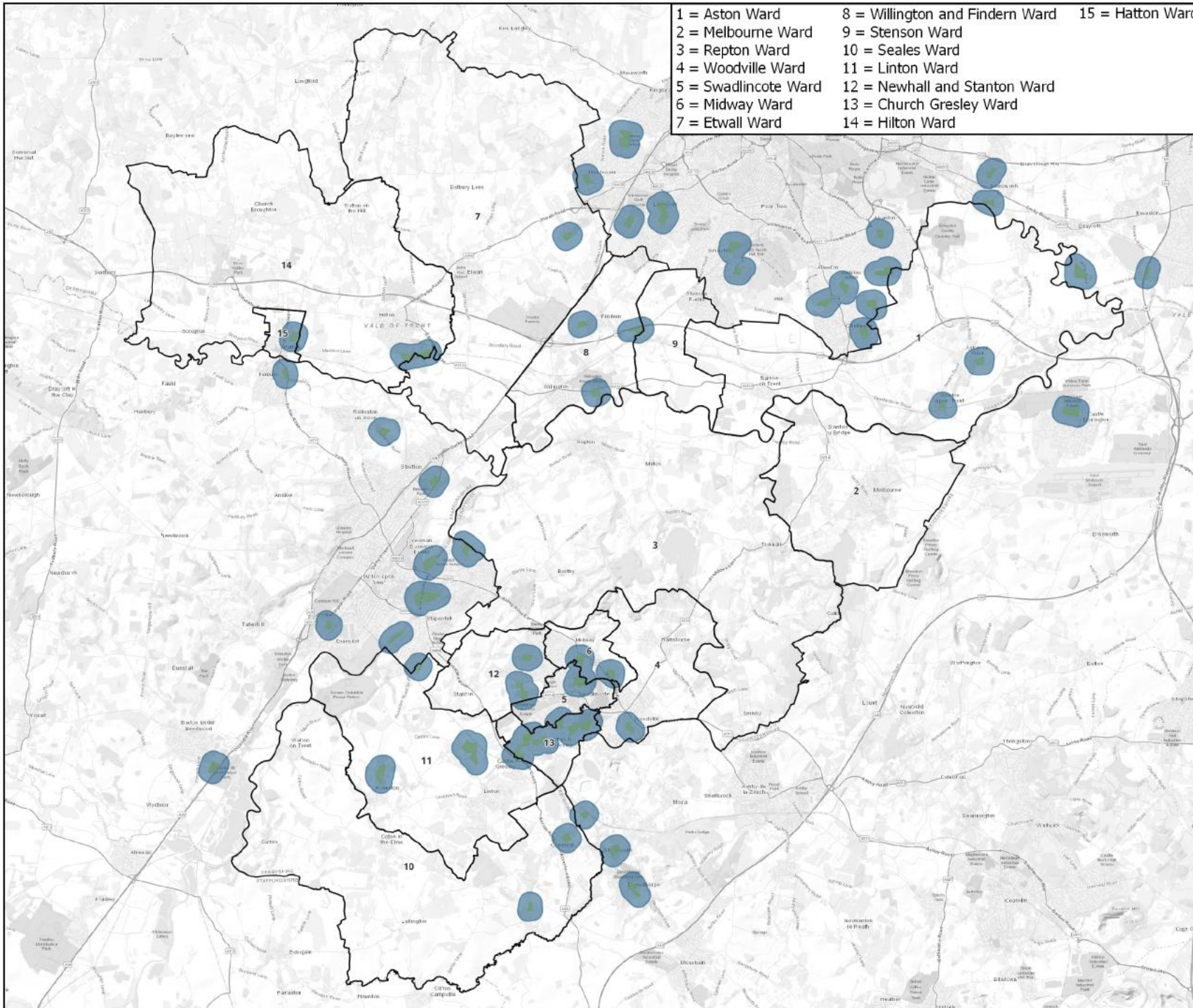
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**Figure 15
ANGSt Local Standard**

Legend

- SDDC ANGSt Local Sites (min threshold of 2ha)
- ANGSt local sites @ 300m
- District and ward boundaries

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwell Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |



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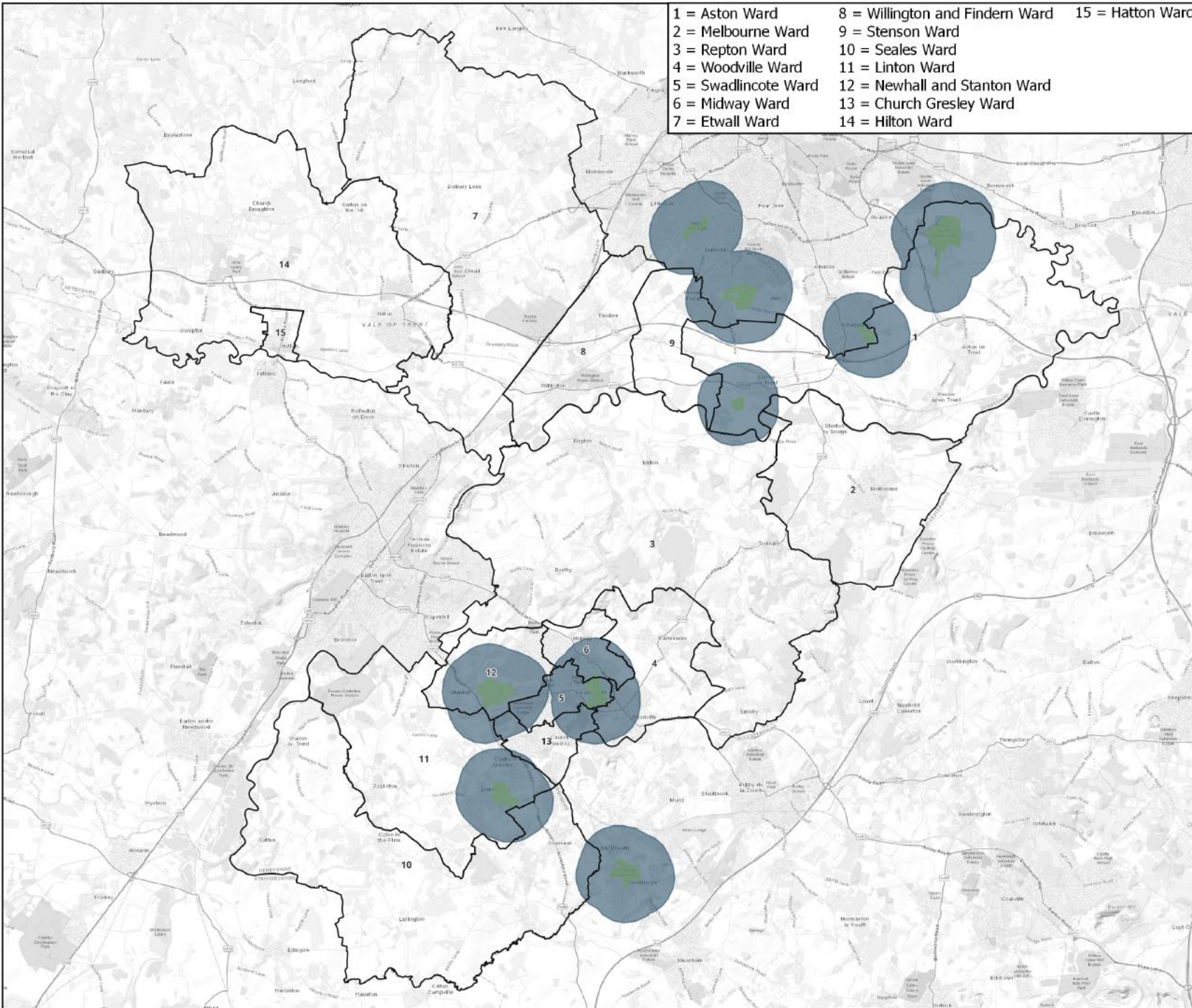
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SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 16
ANGSt Neighbourhood Standard

- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwale Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward



Legend

- SDDC ANGSt Neighbourhood Sites (min threshold of 10ha)
- ANGSt Neighbourhood Sites @ 1000m
- District and ward boundaries

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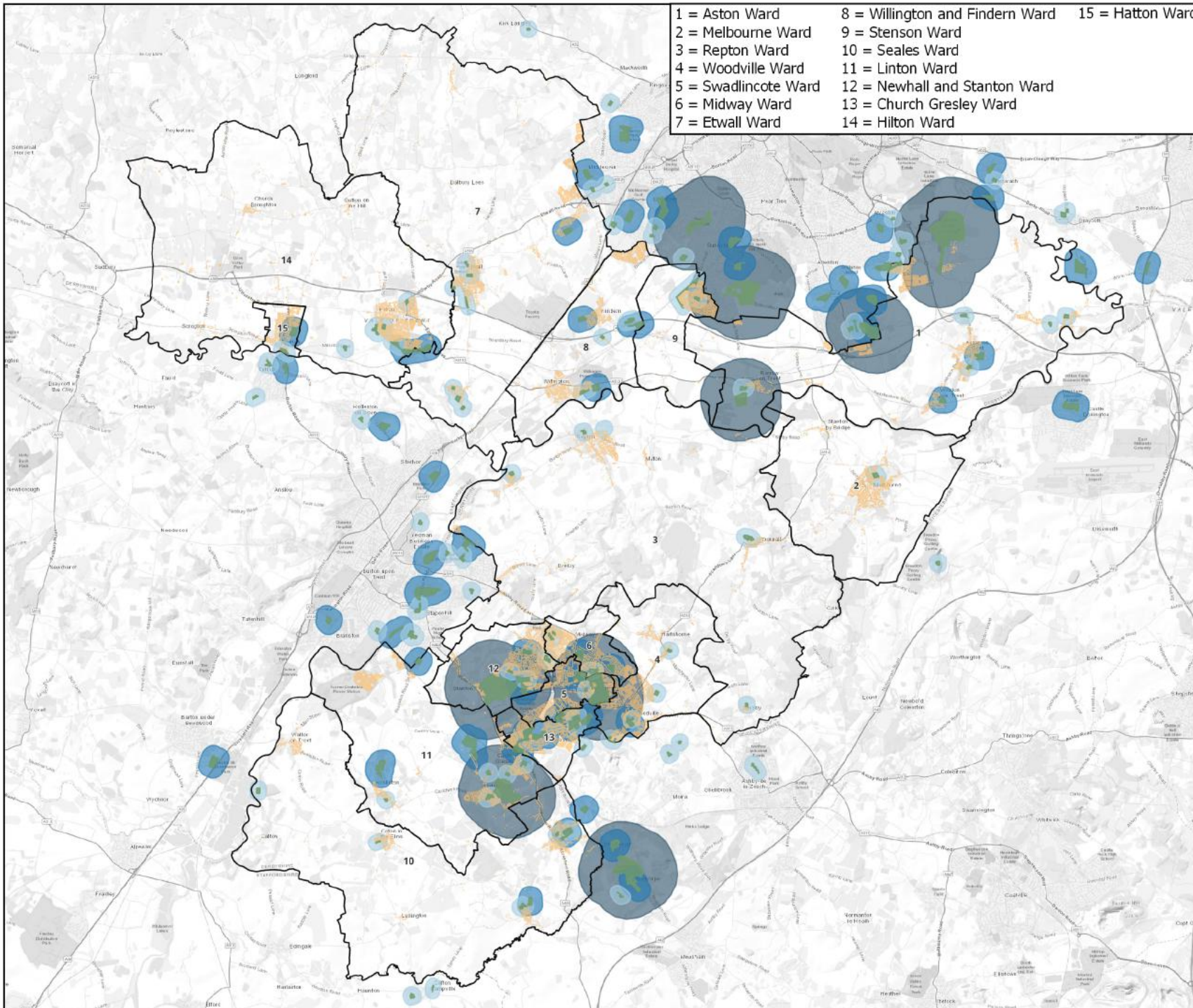
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SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 17
ANGSt Standards Combined



Legend

- SDDC ANGSt Sites
 - Residential properties
 - District and ward boundaries
- ### Buffers
- ANGSt Doorstep Sites @ 200m
 - ANGSt Local Sites @ 300m
 - ANGSt Neighbourhood Sites @ 1000m

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
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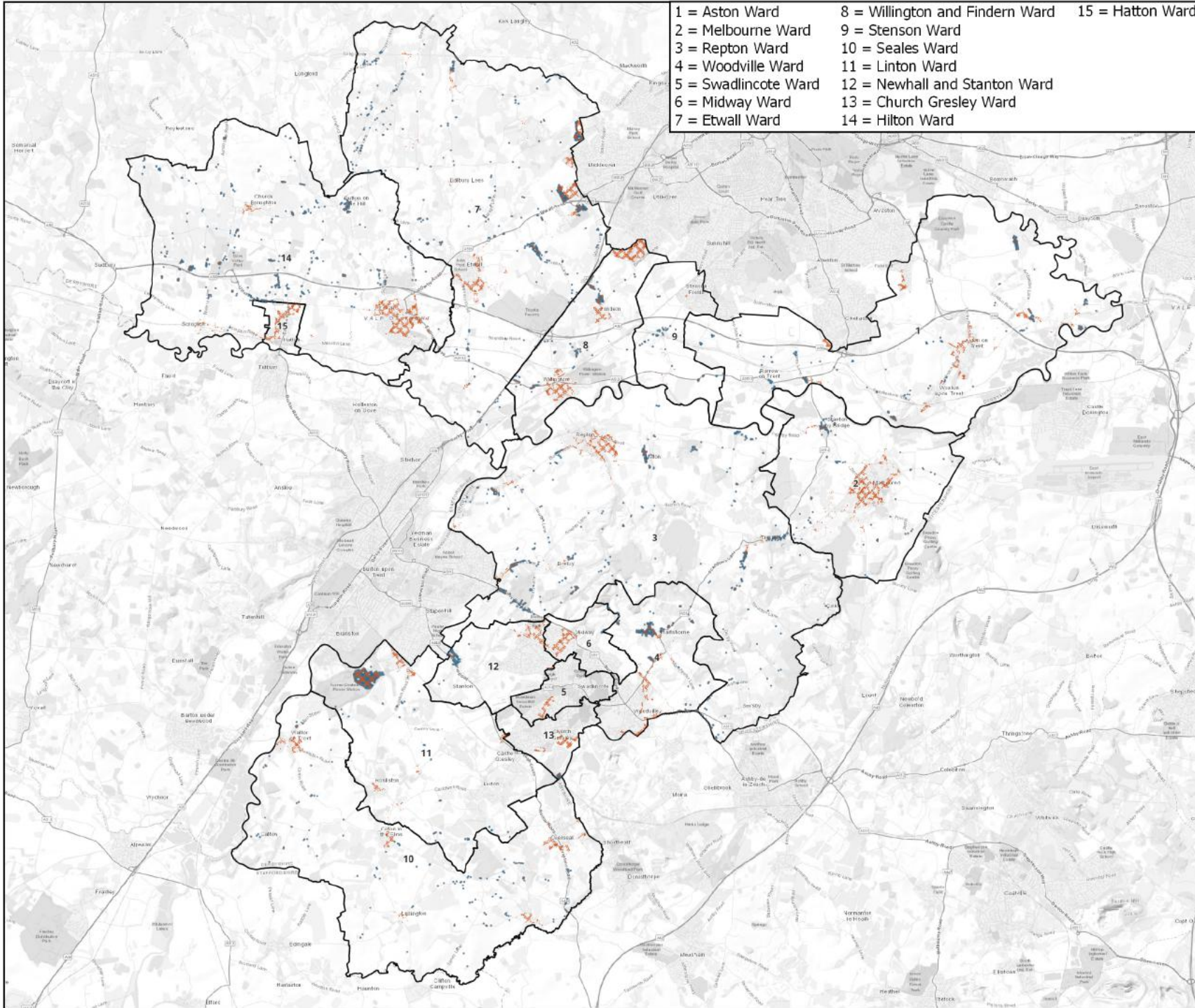
SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 18
 Deficiencies to Unrestricted Open Space - CFP Model vs NE ANGSt Model

Legend

-  Properties not within access of unrestricted open space using SDDC accessibility model
-  Properties not within access of unrestricted open space using NE ANGSt Model
-  District and ward boundaries

- 1 = Aston Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 7 = Etwall Ward



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6.5 Green Space Accessibility and Health Inequalities

This section considers the accessibility of green space and play provision and potential deficiency areas alongside selected health inequalities data available at a local level (Lower Level Super Output Areas).

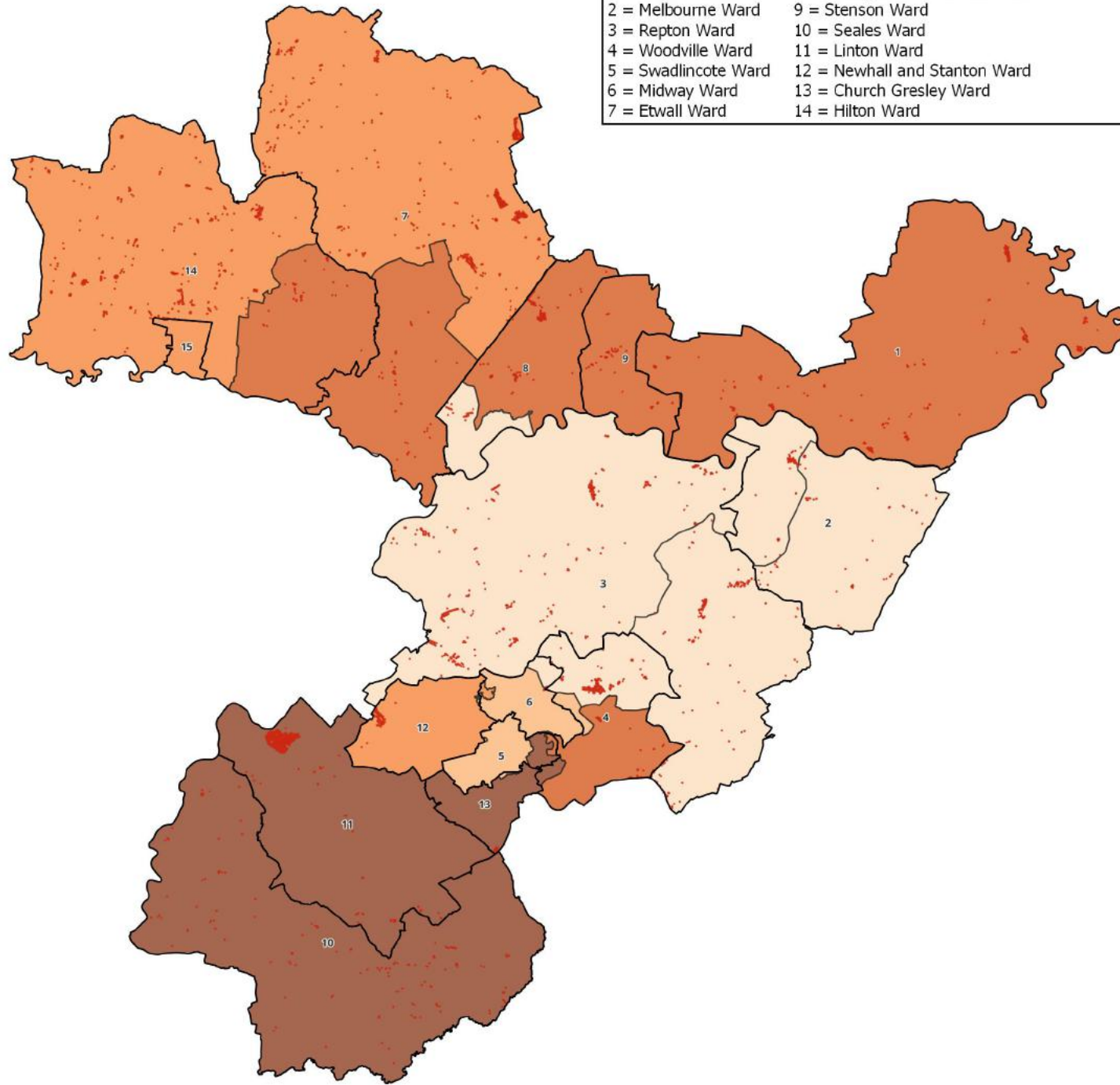
Figure 19 shows households with deficiencies in access to unrestricted green space (district / neighbourhood / local level as shown on Figures 5 and 6) and the prevalence of childhood obesity among children aged 10-11 years of age. A total of 21.9% of households fall within the top quintile (20% most obese nationally) and are without access to unrestricted green space within a reasonable walking time (up to 15 minutes). Against this measure the worst performing wards are Seales, Linton and Church Gresley.

Figure 20 shows households with deficiencies in access to unrestricted green space and the prevalence of childhood obesity among children aged 4-5 years of age. A total of 11.7% of households fall within the top quintile (20% most obese nationally) and are without access to unrestricted green space within a reasonable walking time. Against this measure the worst performing wards are Church Gresley, Stenson and Seales.

Figure 21 shows households with deficiencies in access to equipped play provision and the prevalence of childhood obesity among children aged 4-5 years of age. Play provision by category is also overlaid. A total of 12.6% of households fall within the top quintile (20% most obese nationally) and are without access to unrestricted green space within a reasonable walking time. Against this measure the worst performing wards are Church Gresley, Willington & Findern and Stenson.

Figure 22 shows households with deficiencies in access to equipped play provision and the prevalence of childhood obesity among children aged 10-11 years of age. Play provision by category is also overlaid. A total of 22.5% of households fall within the top quintile (20% most obese nationally) and are without access to unrestricted green space within a reasonable walking time. Against this measure the worst performing wards are Church Gresley and Linton ward and to a lesser degree Seales.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
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| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwall Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |



SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 19
Deficiency Areas and Childhood Obesity (10-11 year olds)

Legend

- Residential properties not within access of unrestricted open space @ 400m / 800m / 1200m
- District & ward boundaries

Prevalence of overweight 10-11 year olds

- 5 (Highest)
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 (Lowest)

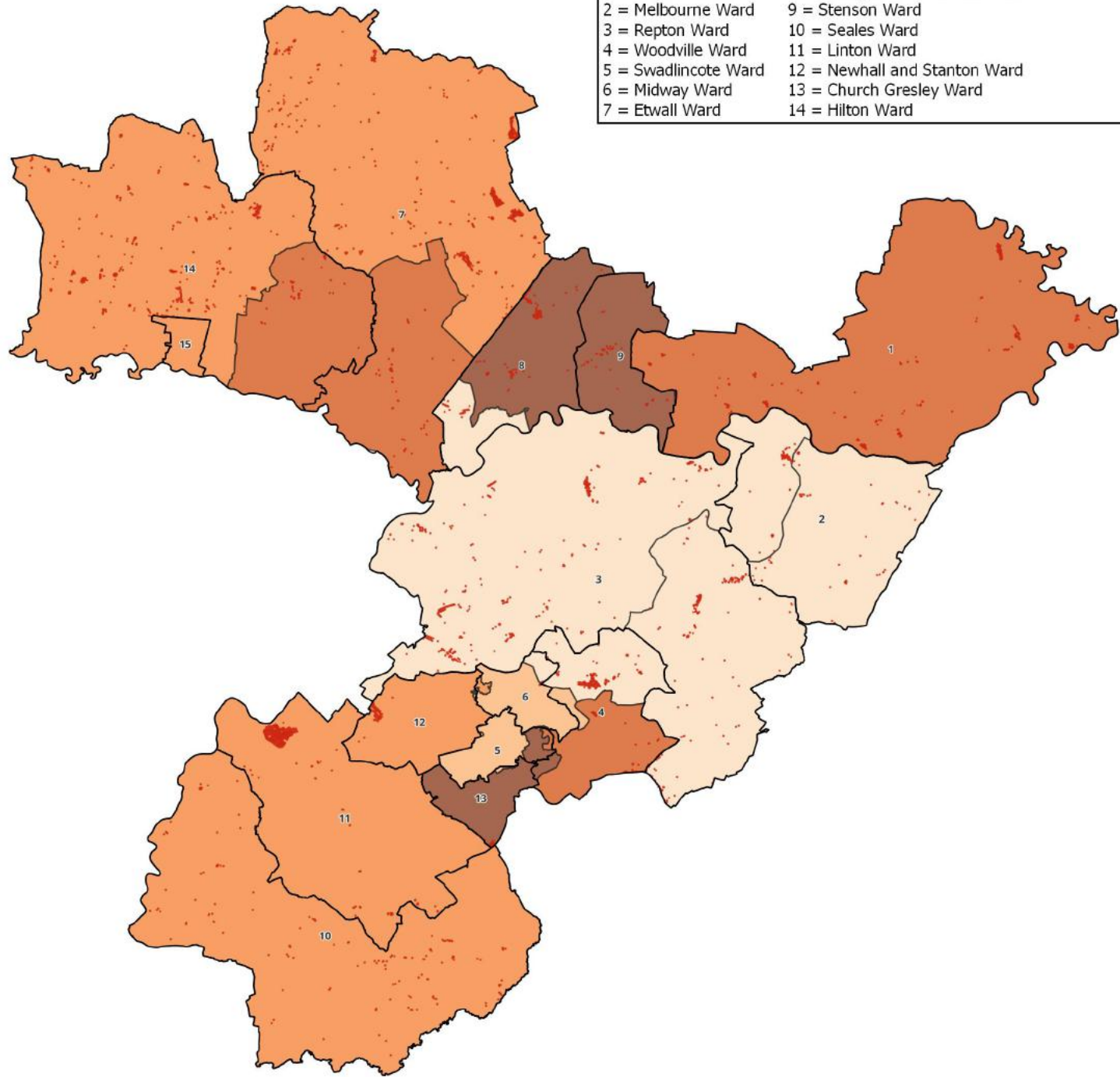
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- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwall Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward



SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 20
Deficiency Areas to Open Space
and Childhood Obesity (4-5
year olds)

Legend

■ Residential properties not within access of unrestricted open space

District & ward boundaries

Prevalence of overweight 4-5 year olds

- 1 (Highest)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Lowest)

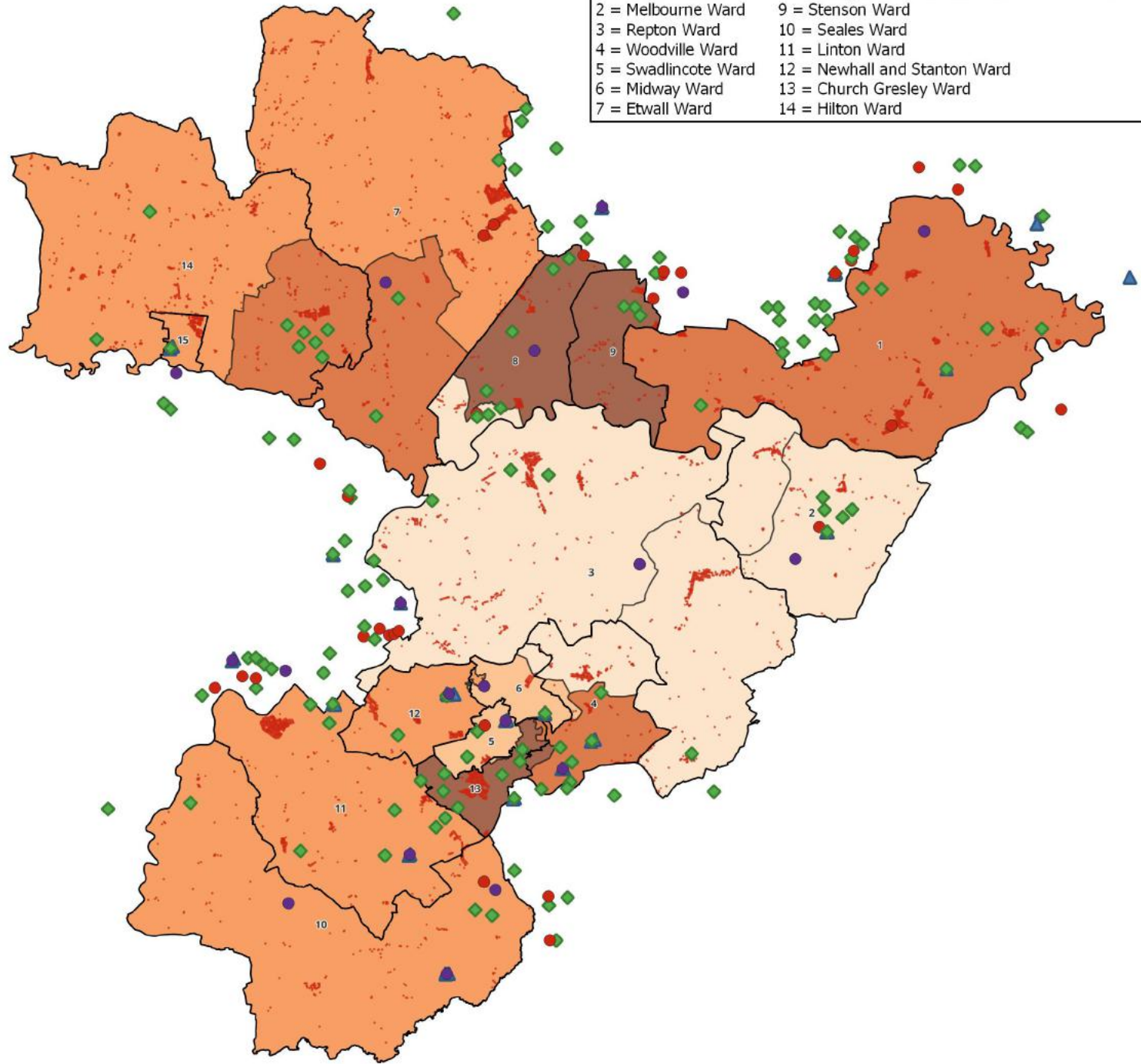
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- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwall Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward



SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 21
Deficiency Areas to PCYP and
Childhood Obesity (4-5 year
olds)

Legend

- Residential properties not within access of unrestricted PCYP
- District & ward boundaries

Prevalence of overweight 4-5 year olds

- 1 (Highest)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Lowest)

PCYP Hierarchy

- LAP
- LEAP
- MUGA
- NEAP

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Figure 23 shows households with deficiencies in access to unrestricted green space and the prevalence of residents with disabilities or limiting long term illness (LLTI). A total of 34.6% of households fall within the top quintile (20% greatest proportion of people with disabilities within the District) and are without access to unrestricted green space within a reasonable distance. The priority wards against this measure are Linton and Hilton wards, along with parts of Seales, Etwall and Woodville wards.

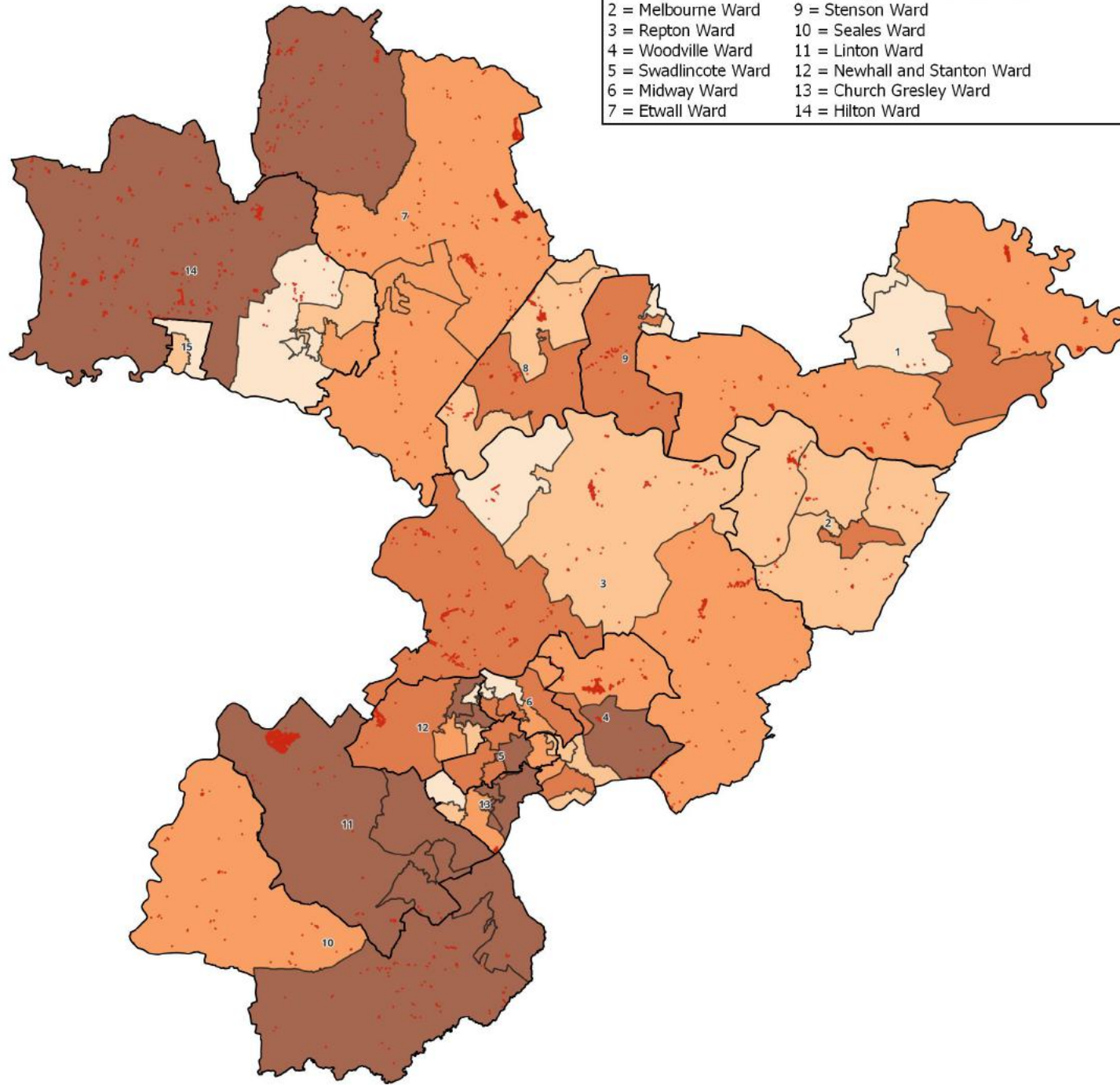
Figure 24 shows households with deficiencies in access to unrestricted green space and poor outcomes against the Indices of Deprivation Health Domain. Just 0.3% of households fall within the top quintile (20% most health deprived) and are without access to unrestricted green space within a reasonable distance all of which are in Linton ward. Parts of Seales, Woodville and Church Gresley wards fall within the top 40% most health deprived.

Figure 25 shows households with deficiencies in access to unrestricted green space and adults with high levels of physical inactivity. A total of 5.3% of households fall within the top quintile (20% most inactive) and are without access to unrestricted green space within a reasonable distance. The priority against this measure is Linton along with part of Seales wards.

Figure 26 shows households with deficiencies in access to unrestricted green space and children with high levels of physical inactivity. A total of 4.4% of households fall within the top quintile (20% most inactive) and are without access to unrestricted green space within a reasonable distance. The greatest deficiencies are found in Stenson ward along with parts of Seales and Woodville wards.

Figure 27 shows households with deficiencies in access to play provision and children with high levels of physical inactivity. A total of 22.5% of households fall within the top quintile (20% most inactive) and are without access to play provision within a reasonable distance. The greatest deficiencies are found in Stenson ward along with parts of Seales and Woodville wards. This pattern is consistent with access to other forms of green space as shown in Figure 26.


- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwall Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |




SDDC Green Space Strategy


Figure 23
Deficiency Areas to Open Space
and Disability

Legend

 Residential properties not within access of unrestricted open space

 District & ward boundaries

Disability Quintiles by LSOA

 1 (Highest)

 2

 3

 4

 5 (Lowest)

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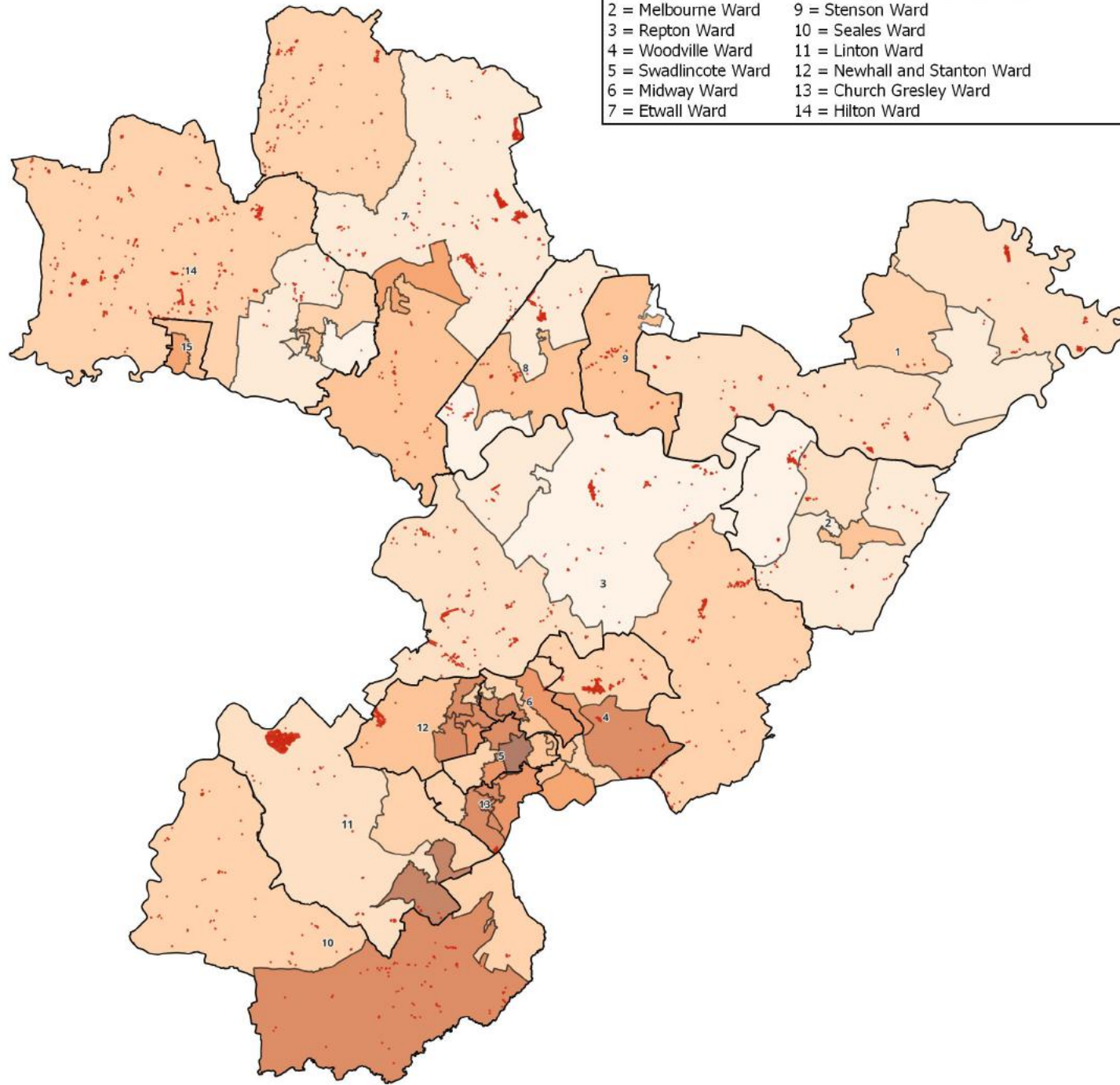
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- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
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| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
| 5 = Swadlincote Ward | 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward | |
| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwell Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |



SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 24
Deficiency Areas and IMD
Health Deprivation

Legend

- Residential properties not within access of unrestricted open space @ 400m / 800m / 1200m
- District & ward boundaries

IMD Health Deprivation 2019 Quintiles

- 1 (Highest)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Lowest)

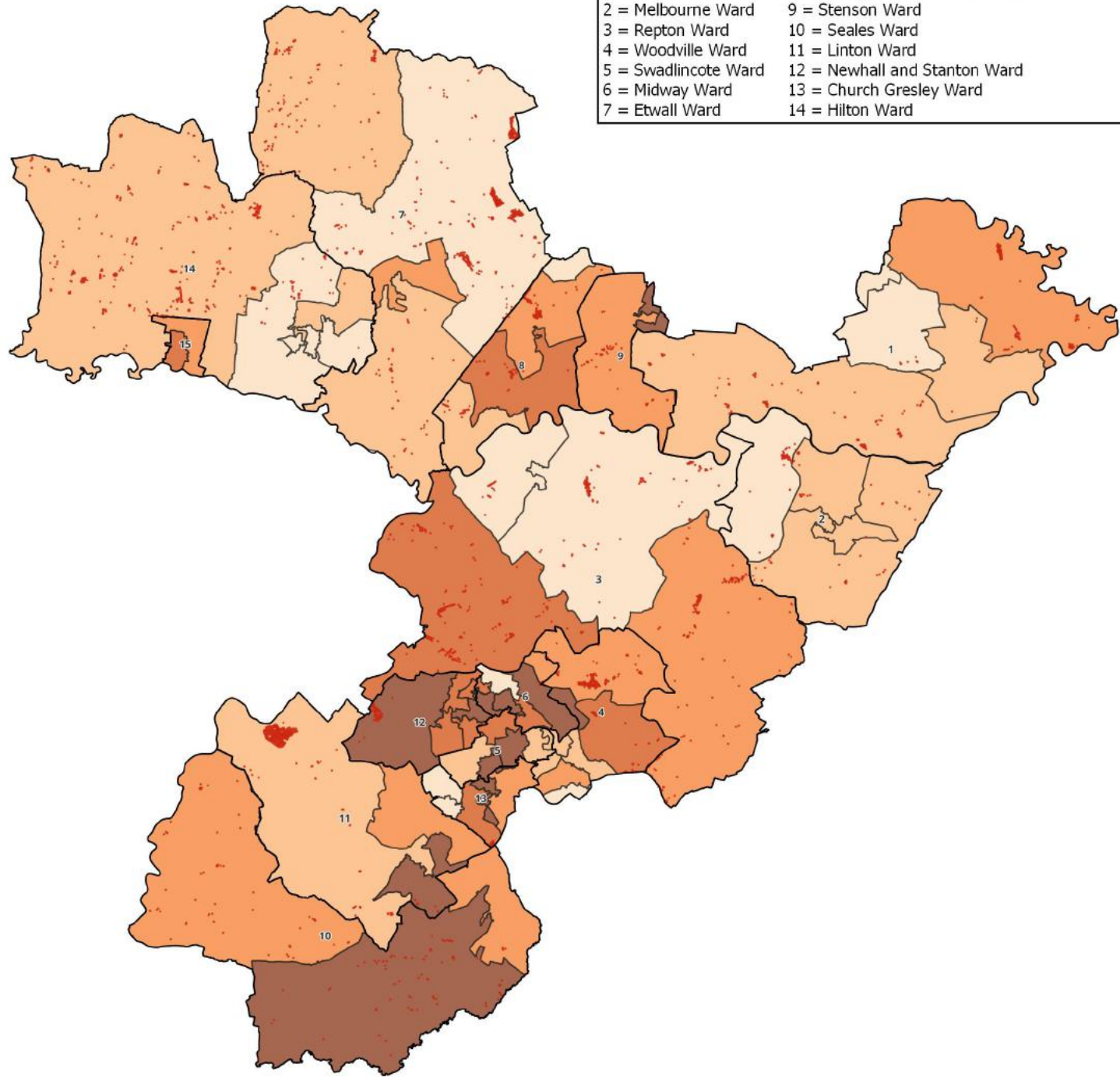
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- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwall Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward



SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 25
Deficiency Areas to Open Space
and Physically Inactive Adults

Legend

Residential properties not within access of unrestricted open space

District & ward boundaries

Physically Inactive Adults by LSOA Quintiles

- 1 (Highest)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Lowest)

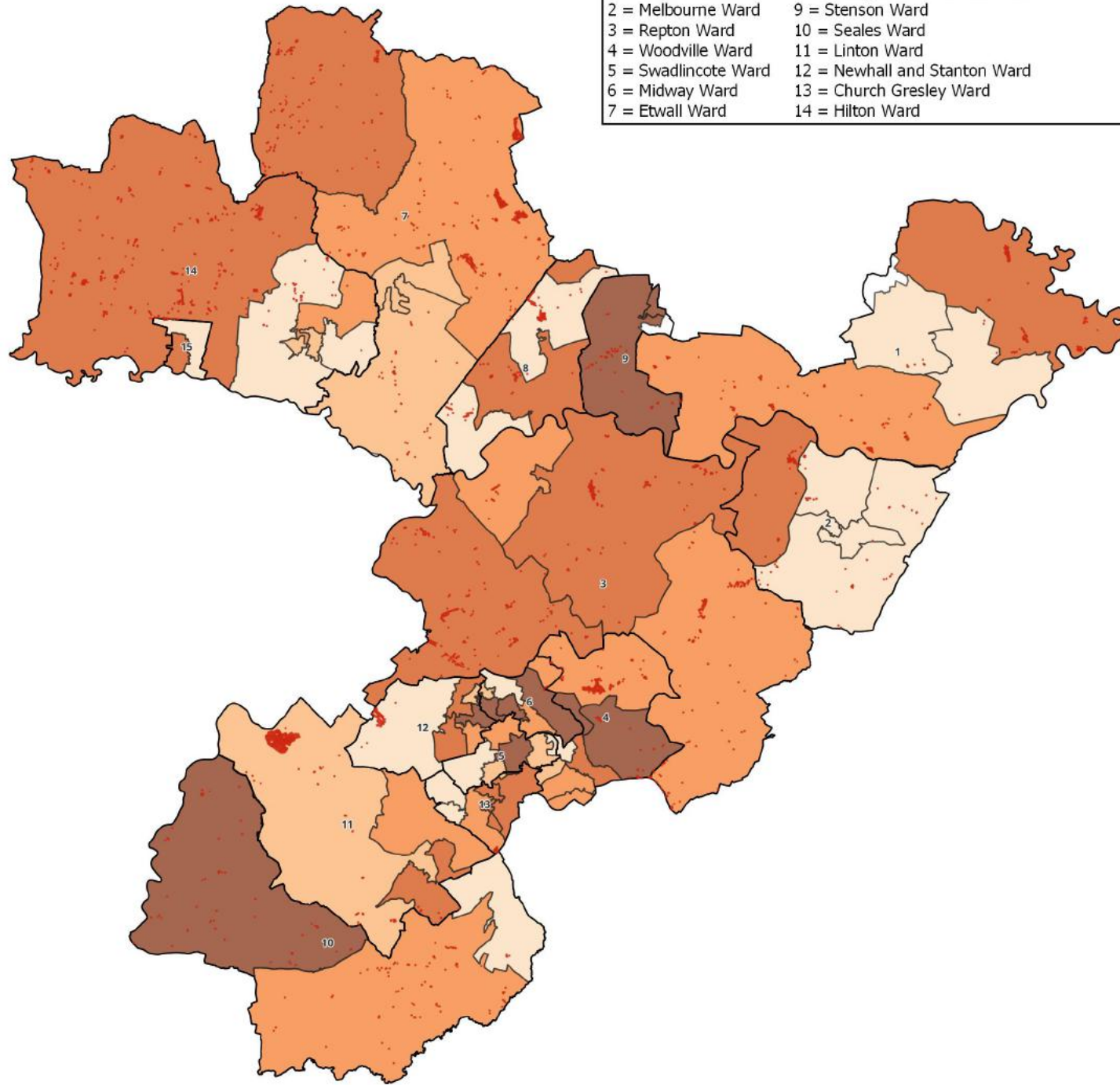
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- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 = Aston Ward | 8 = Willington and Findern Ward | 15 = Hatton Ward |
| 2 = Melbourne Ward | 9 = Stenson Ward | |
| 3 = Repton Ward | 10 = Seales Ward | |
| 4 = Woodville Ward | 11 = Linton Ward | |
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| 6 = Midway Ward | 13 = Church Gresley Ward | |
| 7 = Etwall Ward | 14 = Hilton Ward | |




SDDC Green Space Strategy


Figure 26
Deficiency Areas to Open Space
and Less Active Children

Legend

 Residential properties not within access of unrestricted open space

 District & ward boundaries


Physically Active CYP by LSOA

 1 (Highest)

 2

 3

 4

 5 (Lowest)

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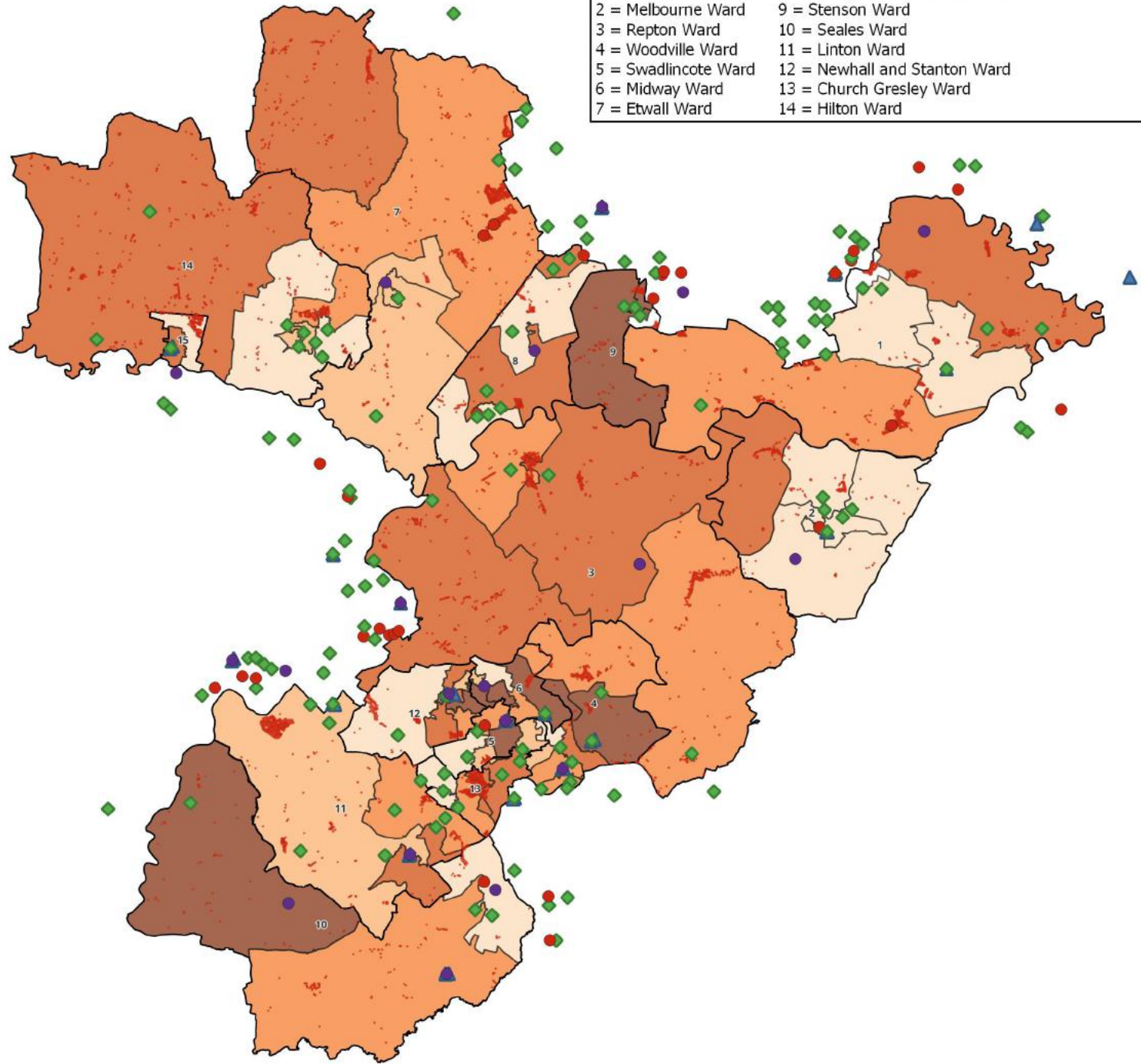
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- 1 = Aston Ward
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- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward



SDDC Green Space Strategy

Figure 27
Deficiency Areas to Open Space
and Less Active Children

Legend

■ Residential properties not within access of unrestricted PCYP

District & ward boundaries

Physically Active CYP by LSOA

- 1 (Highest)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Lowest)

Play hierarchy

- LAP
- ◆ LEAP
- ▲ MUGA
- NEAP

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7 Green Space Quality

7.1 Introduction

South Derbyshire District Council officers carried out an assessment of a sample of green space spaces managed by the organisation. The assessment used the field assessment criteria of the Green Flag Award Scheme: the national quality standard for parks and green spaces.

The assessment was carried out in January and February 2025.

7.2 Green Flag Award Criteria

Table 24 sets out the assessment criteria that have been applied.

Key Criteria	Field Assessment Criteria
A Welcoming Park	Welcoming
	Good and safe access
	Signage
	Equal access for all
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Appropriate levels of quality facilities and activities
	Safe equipment and facilities
	Personal security in park
	Dog fouling
Well Maintained and Clean	Litter and waste management
	Horticultural maintenance
	Arboricultural maintenance
	Buildings and infrastructure maintenance
	Equipment maintenance
Environmental Management	Managing environmental impact
	Waste minimisation
	Chemical use
	Peat Use
	Climate change adaption strategies
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	Management of natural features, wild fauna and flora

Key Criteria	Field Assessment Criteria
	Conservation of landscape features
	Conservation of buildings and structures
Community Involvement	Appropriate provision for the community
	Community involvement in management and development including outreach work
Marketing and Communication	Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information
	Marketing and promotion
	Appropriate information channels
Management	Implementation of the management plan

Table 24 Green Flag Award Field Assessment Criteria

7.2.1 Scoring of Criteria

The Green Flag Award Judges Scoring Line was used as a guide for the assessment process. Each individual criterion was scored out of 10 or not applicable.

Criteria that did not apply to a particular site (e.g. conservation of buildings on a site that had no buildings on), was scored as not applicable and therefore not included in the total score or average calculations.

0/1	2/3/4	5/6	7	8	9	10
Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Exceptional

Table 25 Green Flag Criteria Judges Scoring Line

The overall site score was calculated by taking the total score and dividing it by the number of criteria scored. The Green Flag Award requires a minimum overall score of 66 or above (based on both a desk assessment and field assessment). Whilst only the field assessment criteria have been applied for the quality assessment, scores have been multiplied up to give a score out of 100 (maximum).

7.2.2 Findings

The findings are based on a sample of 19 green spaces that have been assessed.

Green Space	Total Quality Score
Rosliston Forestry Centre	74%
Coronation Park	73%
Swadlincote Woodlands	71%
Church Gresley Cemetery	68%
Maurice Lea Memorial Park	68%
Cadley Park	67%
Coton in Elms Recreation Ground	67%
Eureka Park	66%
Newhall Park	64%
Melbourne Sports Park	63%
Oversetts Road Recreation Ground	61%
Strawberry Lane Recreation Ground	60%
Hillside Playing Fields Findern	58%
Sandholes	56%
Chesnut Avenue Recreation Ground	55%
Gresley Old Hall Recreation Ground	54%
Woodhouse sports ground	53%
Station Street Recreation Ground	51%
Granville Recreation Ground	47%

Table 26 Quality Assessment Scores by Site

The quality assessment scores range from 47 to 74 (out of 100). The average quality score is 62. Eight of the nineteen sites assessed have a quality score of 66 or greater (used as a proxy to indicate reaching the Green Flag Award standard).

Typology	No. of Sites	Average Quality Score
Natural and semi natural green space	5	68%
Cemeteries and disused churchyards	1	68%
Parks and gardens	7	62%
Outdoor sports facilities	6	56%
Total / Average	19	62%

Table 27 Average Quality Score by Typology

Table 27 shows the average quality score by typology. Overall, Natural and Semi-natural Green Spaces have the highest average quality score (alongside one cemetery and churchyard), with parks and gardens ranked third and outdoor sports facilities fourth.

Hierarchy	No. of Sites	Average Quality Score
District	3	69%
Neighbourhood	9	62%
Local	7	58%
Total / Average	19	62%

Table 28 Average Quality Score by Hierarchy

Table 28 shows that those green spaces towards the top of the green space hierarchy typically have an average quality score than those lower in the hierarchy. District level green spaces have an average quality score of 69%, neighbourhood level spaces 62% and local level spaces 58%. Local level spaces are below the sample average of 62%.

Key Criteria	Average
Healthy Safe and Secure (Average)	6.6
Sustainability (Average)	6.6
Clean and Well Maintained (Average)	6.3
A Welcoming Park (Average)	6.2
Community Involvement (Average)	6.0
Marketing (Average)	5.4
Management (Average)	4.6
Conservation and Heritage (Average)	4.2

Table 29 Average Quality Score by Key Criteria

Average quality scores by key criteria range from 4.2 to 6.6 (Peat Use was considered to be not applicable and was not scored). The highest scoring key criteria are: Healthy Safe and Secure; Sustainability; and Clean and Well Maintained. The lowest scoring criteria are Marketing; Management; and Conservation and Heritage.

Table 30 sets out the average quality score for the field assessment criteria. These range from 4.6 to 7.1. The highest scoring field criteria are: Personal security in park; Control of dogs/fouling; and Chemical use. The lowest scoring criteria are: Appropriate information

channels; Appropriate educational and interpretational information; and Implementation of the management plan.

Field Assessment Criteria	Average Quality Score
Personal security in park	7.1
Control of dogs/fouling	7.0
Chemical use	7.0
Litter and waste management	6.8
Waste minimisation	6.8
Managing environmental impact	6.6
Equipment maintenance	6.6
Conservation of buildings and structures	6.5
Management of natural features, wild flora and fauna	6.4
Arboricultural maintenance	6.4
Climate change adaption strategies	6.4
Conservation of landscape features	6.3
Safe equipment and facilities	6.3
Horticultural maintenance	6.3
Building and infrastructure maintenance	6.2
Good and safe access	6.2
Signage	6.2
Equal access for all	6.2
Appropriate provision for the community	6.2
Welcoming	6.2
Appropriate levels of quality facilities and activities	6.2
Community involvement in management and development	5.8
Marketing and promotion	5.7
Appropriate information channels	5.3
Appropriate educational and interpretational information	5.2
Implementation of the management plan	4.6
Peat use	N/A

Table 30 Field Assessment Criteria Average Scores

8 Understanding the Need – Residents Survey

8.1 Introduction

As part of the South Derbyshire Green Space Strategy, a resident's survey was conducted online to better understand the current use, condition and levels of satisfaction with South Derbyshire's green spaces. The survey also provided residents with an opportunity to highlight future interventions that they would like to see prioritised within their local green spaces.

It was intended that the survey would run between October and November 2024. However, a slow uptake resulted in the survey staying live until February 2025 in an attempt to boost responses. The survey was initially promoted on the council's Facebook page and circulated internally to be shared with all relevant contacts. In early 2025, the survey was promoted at some of the councils in person events with flyers and QR codes. Despite these efforts, only 61 respondents completed the survey.

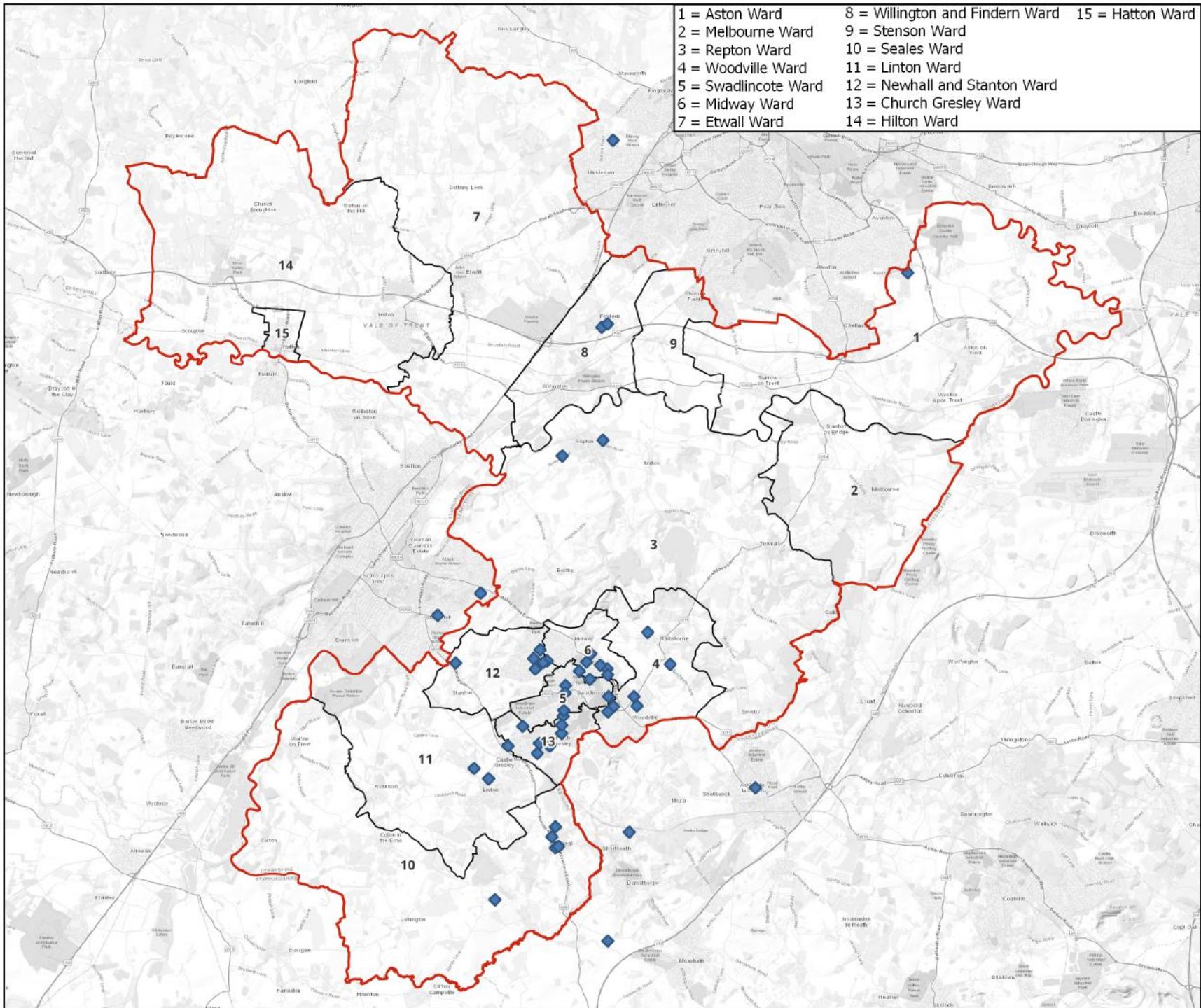
8.2 Respondent Profile

8.2.1 Location

Respondents were asked to provide their postcodes which have been geolocated and analysed. Results show half of the respondents (51.8%) are located within the settlement of Swadlincote. Of which, 14.3% are located within Church Gresley Ward, 12.5% are located within Midway ward and 7.1% are located in Swadlincote ward, as well as Newhall and Stanton ward (8.9%) and Woodville ward (7.1%).

8.9% of all respondents are located in Seales ward, of which 7.1% are located within the settlement of Overseal. A small number of respondents are also located in or near to the settlements of Repton, Findern and Hartshorne (3.6% respectively). One respondent lives in Aston ward.

Over 1 in 10 respondents (12.5%) are also located on the outskirts of the district, of which 7.1% live in North West Leicestershire, 3.6% live in Burton Upon Trent and one respondent lives in Derby.



- 1 = Aston Ward
- 2 = Melbourne Ward
- 3 = Repton Ward
- 4 = Woodville Ward
- 5 = Swadlincote Ward
- 6 = Midway Ward
- 7 = Etwell Ward
- 8 = Willington and Findern Ward
- 9 = Stenson Ward
- 10 = Seales Ward
- 11 = Linton Ward
- 12 = Newhall and Stanton Ward
- 13 = Church Gresley Ward
- 14 = Hilton Ward
- 15 = Hatton Ward

SDDC Green Space Strategy

Resident Survey Postcode Locations

Legend

- ◆ Residents Survey Postcode Locations
- District Boundary
- Ward Boundaries

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8.2.2 Gender

Just over two-thirds of respondents (67.2%) were female and just under one-third (32.8%) were male. This is not reflective of the profile of South Derbyshire where 51.0% of residents are female compared to 48.0%. Therefore, there is an overrepresentation of females in the resident's survey.

8.2.3 Age

Over half of respondents (56.7%) were aged over 55. Of which 30% were aged between 55-64 making up the largest age group of respondents, followed by those aged between 45-54 (25.0%). Younger respondents have been underrepresented through the survey, as only 6.7% of respondents were aged between 25-34 and no responses were received from residents younger than 25 years old.

8.2.4 Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as 'a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'. Under this definition, one-fifth of respondents (20.3%) consider themselves to have a disability. This is a slight overrepresentation when compared to the profile of South Derbyshire where 17.5% have their day-to-day activities limited either a little or a lot.

8.2.5 Ethnicity

All respondents to the survey were White which is an overrepresentation when compared to the profile of the district where 93.1% of residents are White. Therefore, the views of residents from global majority communities have been underrepresented through this survey.

8.3 Analysis

8.3.1 Frequency of Visit

Respondents to the survey visit green spaces in South Derbyshire on a frequently with over four-fifths of residents (85.2%) visiting on a weekly basis, of which 34.4% visit green spaces daily.

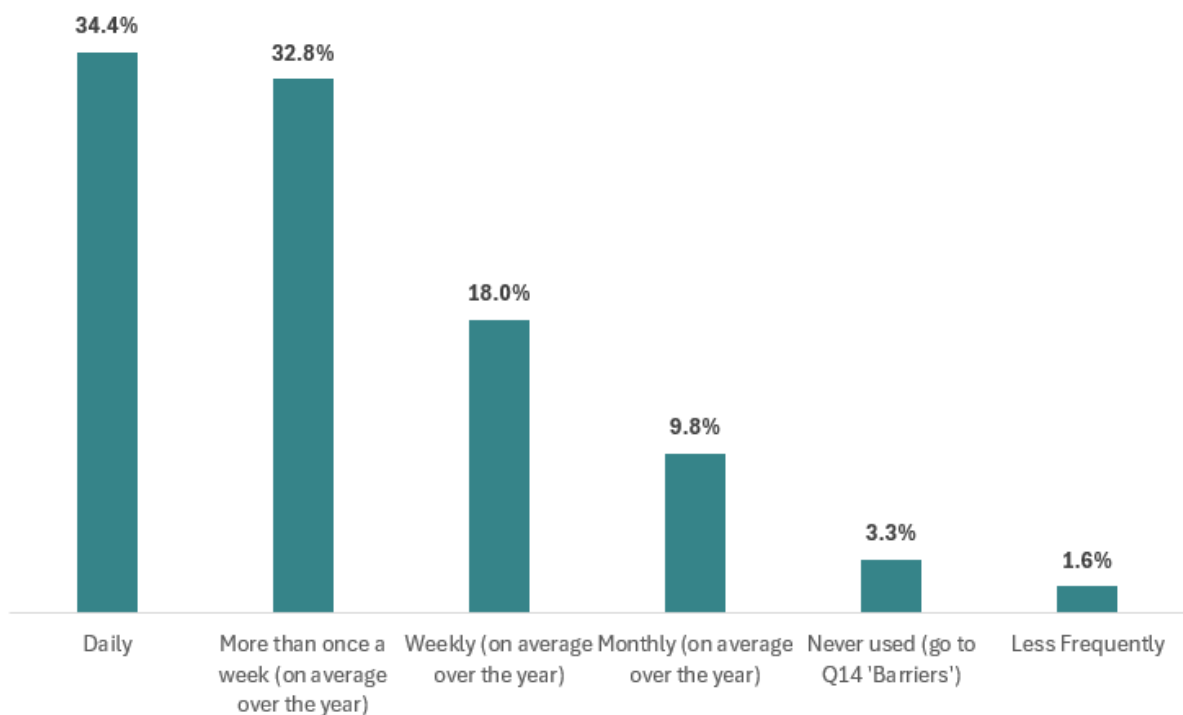


Chart 1 How frequently, if at all, do you use / visit ANY green space in South Derbyshire District?

8.3.2 Reason for Visiting

The survey highlighted the value of the green spaces in South Derbyshire for health and wellbeing purposes as the most popular reason for visiting amongst respondents is walking (70.0%). It also highlighted that green spaces are highly valued for providing access to nature as over half of residents (56%) visit to experience wildlife and nature and they are important community spaces as 49% of residents visit green spaces to attend events and activities.

Six respondents answered that they also visit for other reasons, four of which either work or volunteer in green spaces. As well as playing football and using Community Hubs.

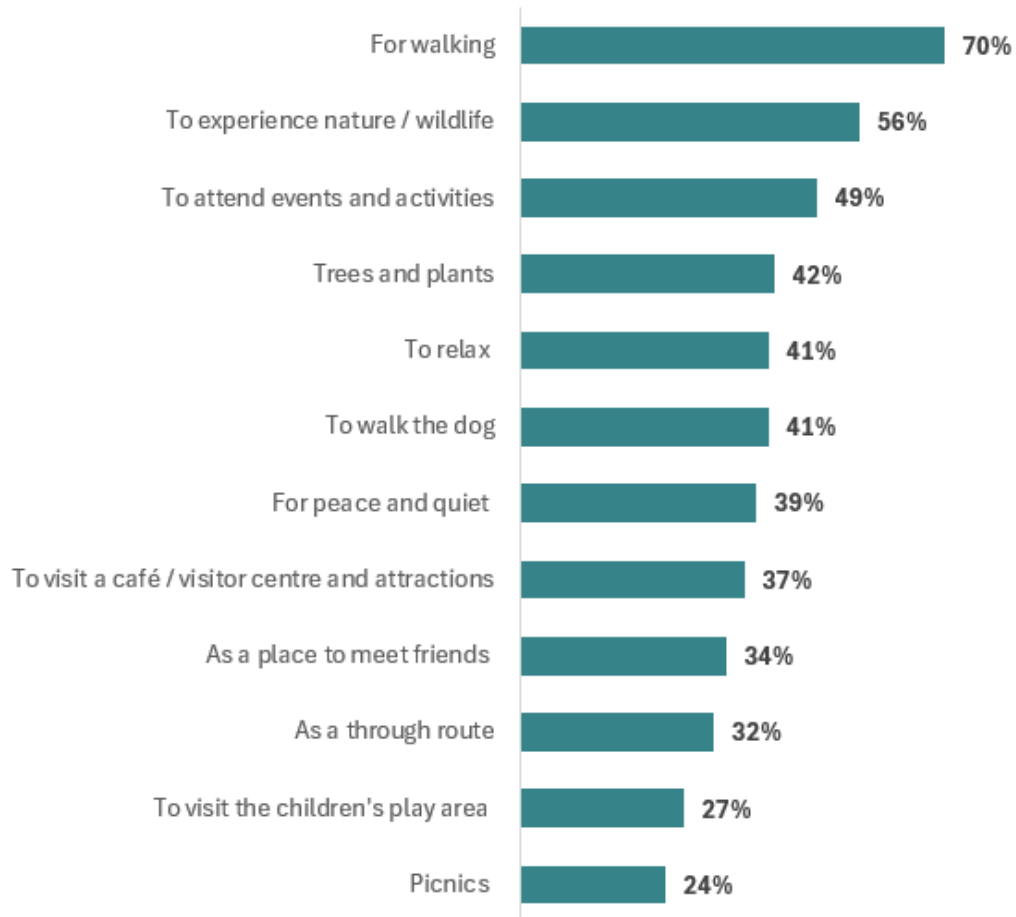


Chart 2 Why do you use / visit green spaces in South Derbyshire District?

8.3.3 Most Frequently Used Green Space

Respondents were asked to name the green space which they use the most, around one third of residents (34.6%) answered Rosliston Forestry Centre making it the most popular green space amongst respondents. Followed by Maurice Lea Memorial Park (19.2%) and Swadlincote Woodlands (7.7%). All green spaces named by respondents are highlighted in the table below.

Green Space Site Name	No	%
Rosliston Forestry Centre	18	34.6%
Maurice Lea Memorial Park	10	19.2%
Swadlincote Woodlands	4	7.7%
Cadley Park	3	5.8%
Woodville allotments	2	3.8%
Coton Park Nature Reserve	2	3.8%
Dunsmore Park	1	1.9%
Oversetts Recreation Ground	1	1.9%
St Peter's Wood Hartshorne	1	1.9%
National Forest Hartshorne	1	1.9%
Elvaston Castle Country Park	1	1.9%
Overseal rec	1	1.9%
Findern Village Green	1	1.9%
Findern nature reserve	1	1.9%
Willington Wetlands	1	1.9%
Coronation Park	1	1.9%
The Glade	1	1.9%
Overseal	1	1.9%
Croft Orchard	1	1.9%
Woodhouses Park	1	1.9%
Foxley Wood	1	1.9%

Table 1 Which green space in South Derbyshire District do you use / visit most frequently?

8.3.4 Journey to Green Spaces

Respondents were asked how they usually travel to their most frequently used green space. The split between residents travelling by car / taxi and those walking is more or less even, with slightly more choosing to drive to green spaces.

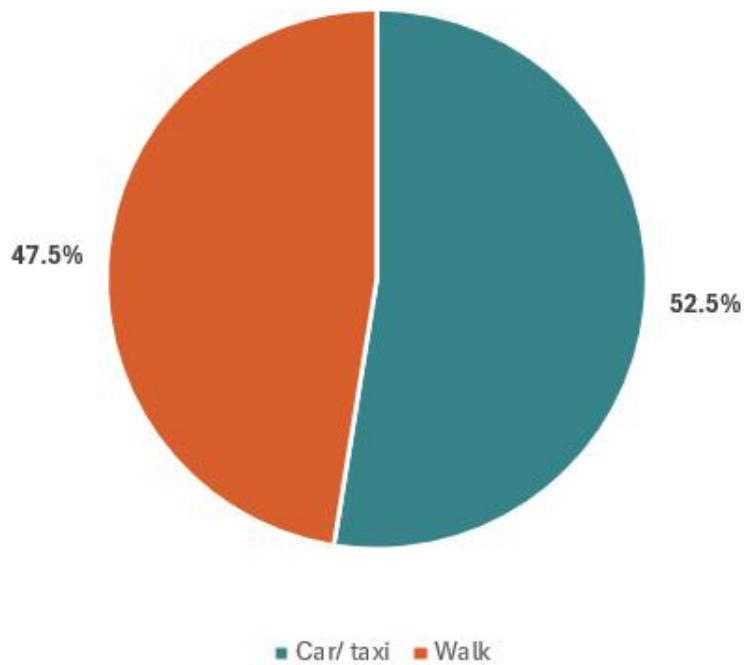


Chart 3 How do you usually travel to your most frequently used green space?

Almost nine out of ten respondents (88.1%) will travel for 20 minutes or less to get to green spaces in South Derbyshire.

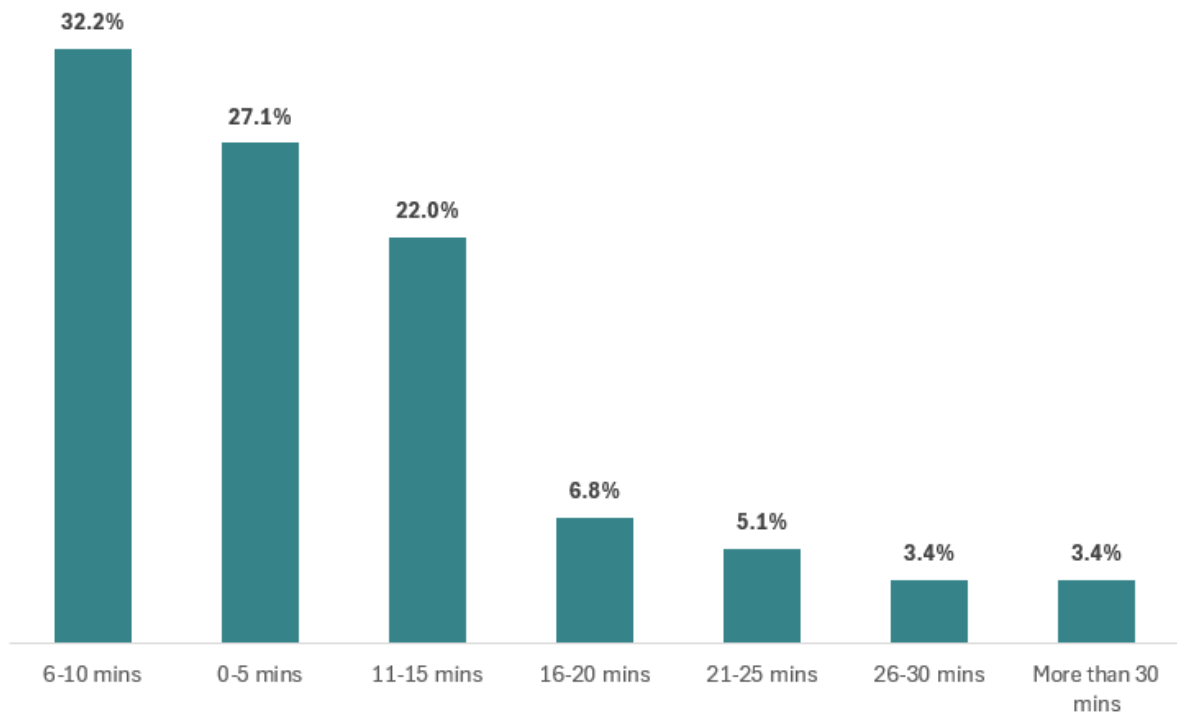


Chart 4 How long does it usually take you to get to your most frequently used green space?

96.4% of respondents who travel to green spaces on foot are within a 15 minutes or less walking time, with a further 3.6% walking for between 21-25 minutes.

80.7% of respondents who travel to the green spaces by car take a journey lasting 20 minutes or less. A further 12.9% drive for between 21-30 minutes and 6.5% drive for over 30 minutes.

Analysis by site shows for those respondents that use Rosliston Forestry Centre most frequently, 100% travel to the site by car and will travel for anywhere from under 5 minutes to over 30 minutes to get to the space. Other green spaces that respondents travel to by car/taxi include Eureka Park (40.0% drive and 60.0% walk), Maurice Lea Memorial Park (40.0% drive and 60.0% walk) and Swadlincote Woodlands (25.0% drive and 7.0% walk). People also drive to Woodville Allotments and Elvaston Country Park.

For those driving to Eureka Park, Maurice Lea Memorial Park and Swadlincote Woodlands, they will drive for ten minutes or less to get to these green spaces and those who walk to these spaces are within a 15-minute walking time.

For those respondents who most frequently use Cadley Park, Coton Park Nature Reserve, Dunsmore Park, Newhall Park and Oversetts Recreation Ground, 100% travel to these green spaces on foot. All of which are within a 15-minute walking time of these green spaces.

Residents with a disability are more likely to drive to green spaces, as 9 in 10 respondents with a disability travel to their most used green space by car/taxi, including Rosliston Forestry Centre, Maurice Lea Memorial Park, Elvaston Castle Country Park and Woodville Allotments.

8.3.5 Dwell Time

Residents are most likely to visit for up to an hour, with four out of ten respondents (42.4%) spending an hour or less at green spaces per visit. Almost a third of respondents spend between one to two hours per visit (32.2%) and 16.9% spend over four hours at green spaces.

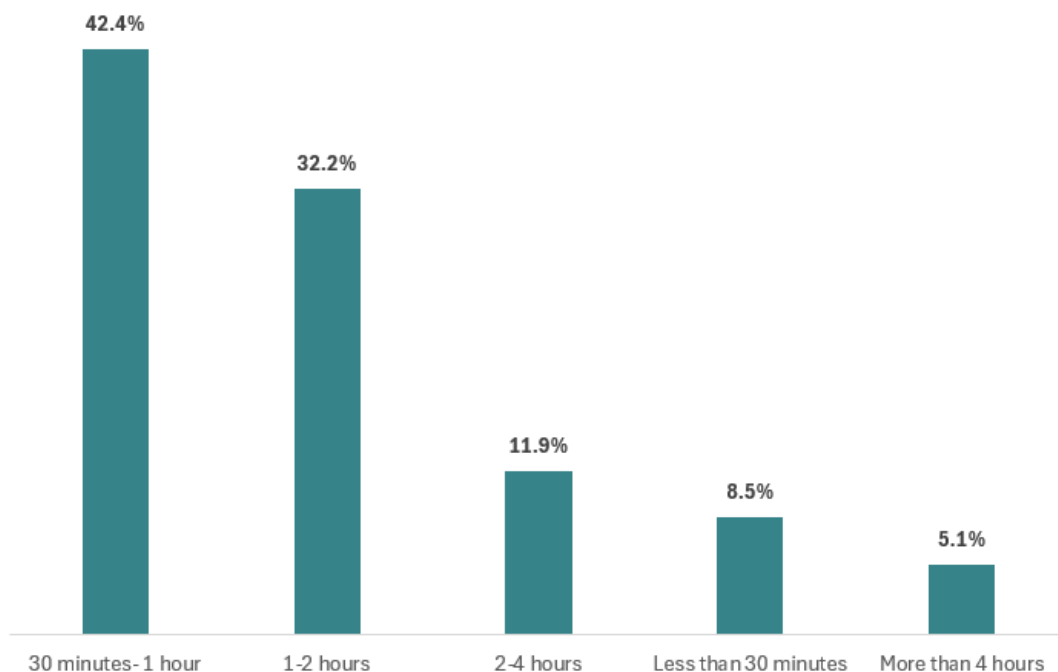


Chart 5 How much time do you usually spend (per visit) at your most frequently used green space?

Analysis by site shows that out of the ten respondents who spend over 2 hours at their most frequently used green space, eight visit Rosliston Forestry Centre most frequently. Respondents also answered that they will spend this amount of time at Woodville Allotments, Overseal Rec and Woodlouse’s Park.

8.3.6 Overall Quality

Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of their most frequently used green space from 1-10 (Where 1 is poor and 10 is excellent). South Derbyshire’s green spaces scored an average of 8.2 for quality.

Analysis by site shows that Cadley Park had the highest average score of 9 for quality, followed by Maurice Lea Memorial Park with an average of 8.7 and Rosliston Forestry Centre with 8.6.

Swadlincote Woodlands and Coton Park Nature Reserve also scored above average for all green spaces.

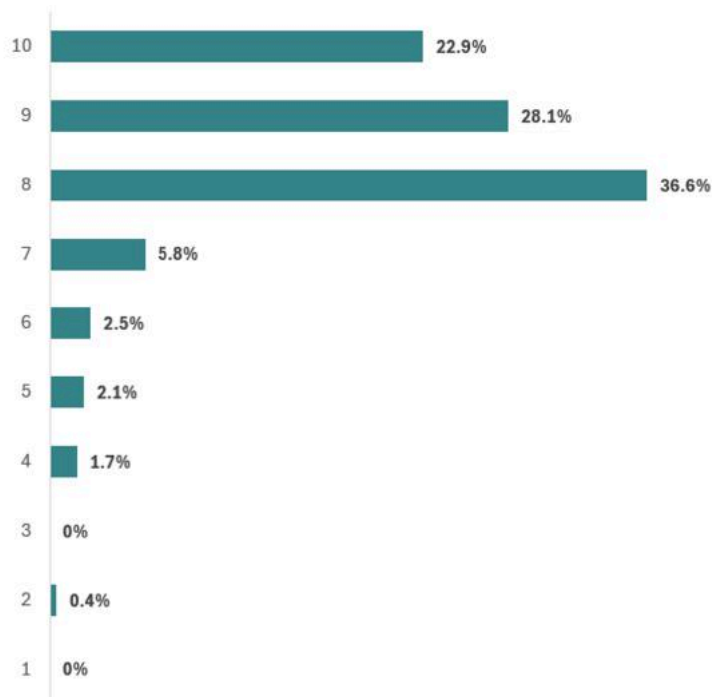


Chart 6 How would you rate the overall quality of your most frequently used green space?

8.3.7 Changes to Quality

The survey has highlighted that the quality of green spaces in Derbyshire has been good over the last three years, with just over half (52.5%) stating that the quality of the most used green space has improved and a further 28.8% stating that it has stayed the same.

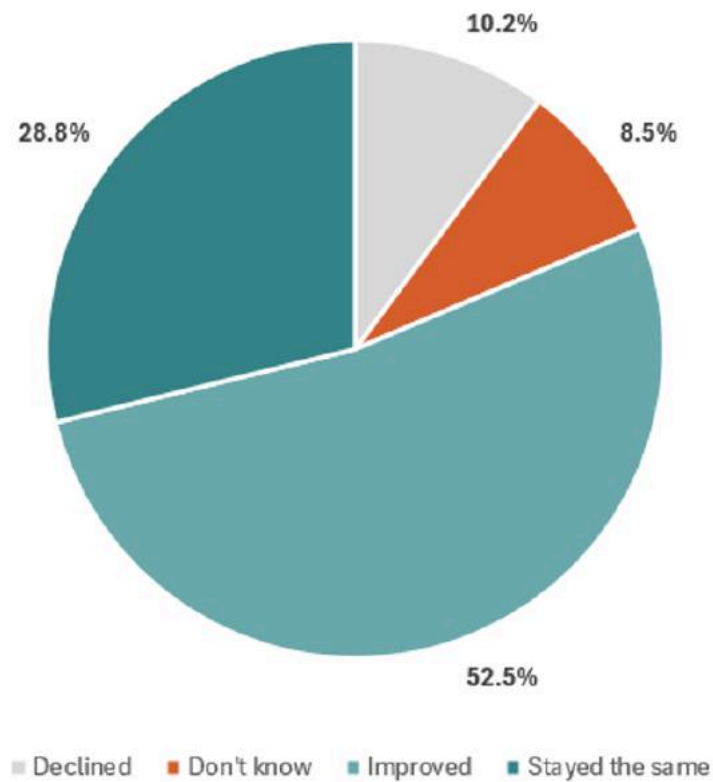


Chart 7 Thinking about your most frequently used green space, what has been the change in quality over the last three years?

8.3.8 Barriers to Visiting

The most frequent answer given by respondents was that nothing prevents them from visiting green spaces in South Derbyshire (37.0%). Just over a quarter of respondents (26.0%) answered that a lack of time prevents them from visiting more often, followed by a lack of facilities (25.0%). This further supports that quality and condition of green spaces in South Derbyshire is good as factors such as ASB, safety and vandalism are not frequent barriers.

Only 7% of respondents answered that green spaces being too far away prevents them for visiting or using green spaces in South Derbyshire more often. 3 out of 4 of these respondents are located outside of South Derbyshire District and the respondent living within the District is located in Findern.

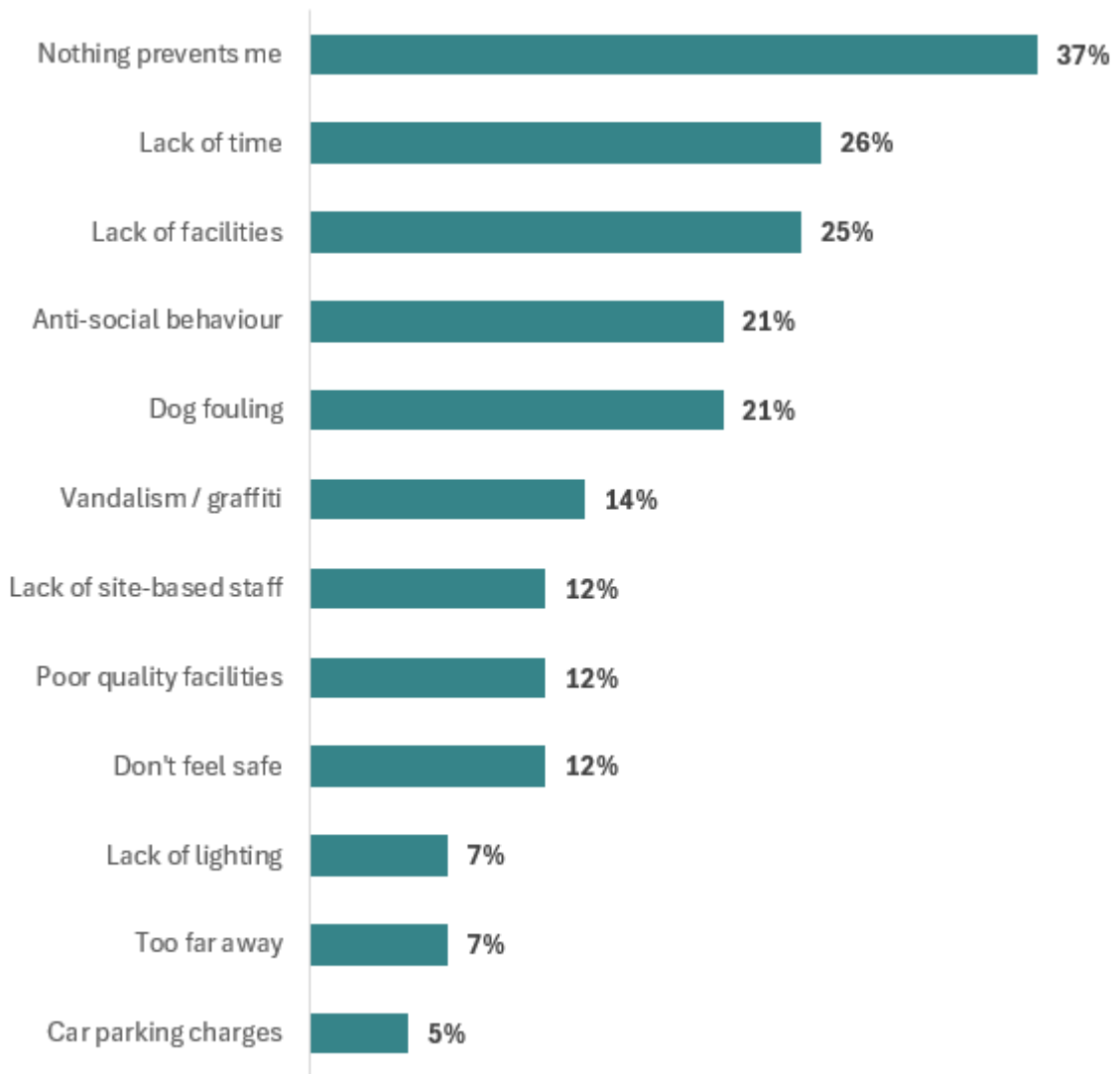


Chart 8 What if anything, prevents you from using / visiting green spaces in South Derbyshire District Council or using / visiting green spaces more often?

8.3.9 Meeting the Needs of Visitors

86.2% of respondents feel that they can easily get to green spaces which provide the facilities they need, of which almost half (48.3%) strongly agree.

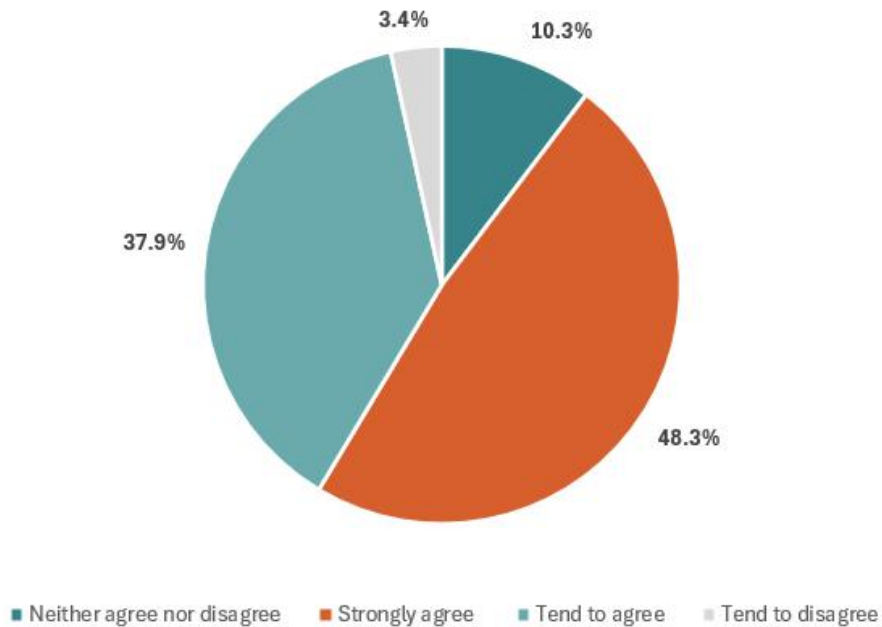


Chart 9 I can easily get to green spaces which provide the facilities I need

Furthermore, analysis shows that around four-fifths of respondents with a disability either agree or strongly agree that they can easily get to green spaces which provide the facilities they need.

8.3.10 Satisfaction by Typology

Respondents were asked how satisfied they are with the overall quality of different types of green space in South Derbyshire. Satisfaction levels are highest for parks and gardens, with 83.3% of residents being either satisfied or very satisfied with this type of green space. Followed by natural and semi natural green spaces (63.8% either satisfied or very satisfied) and amenity green spaces (56.1%).

Satisfaction levels are lowest for allotments and community gardens, as just over two-fifths of residents (40.5%) are either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with this type of

green space. Followed by provision for children and young people (34.0% either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied).

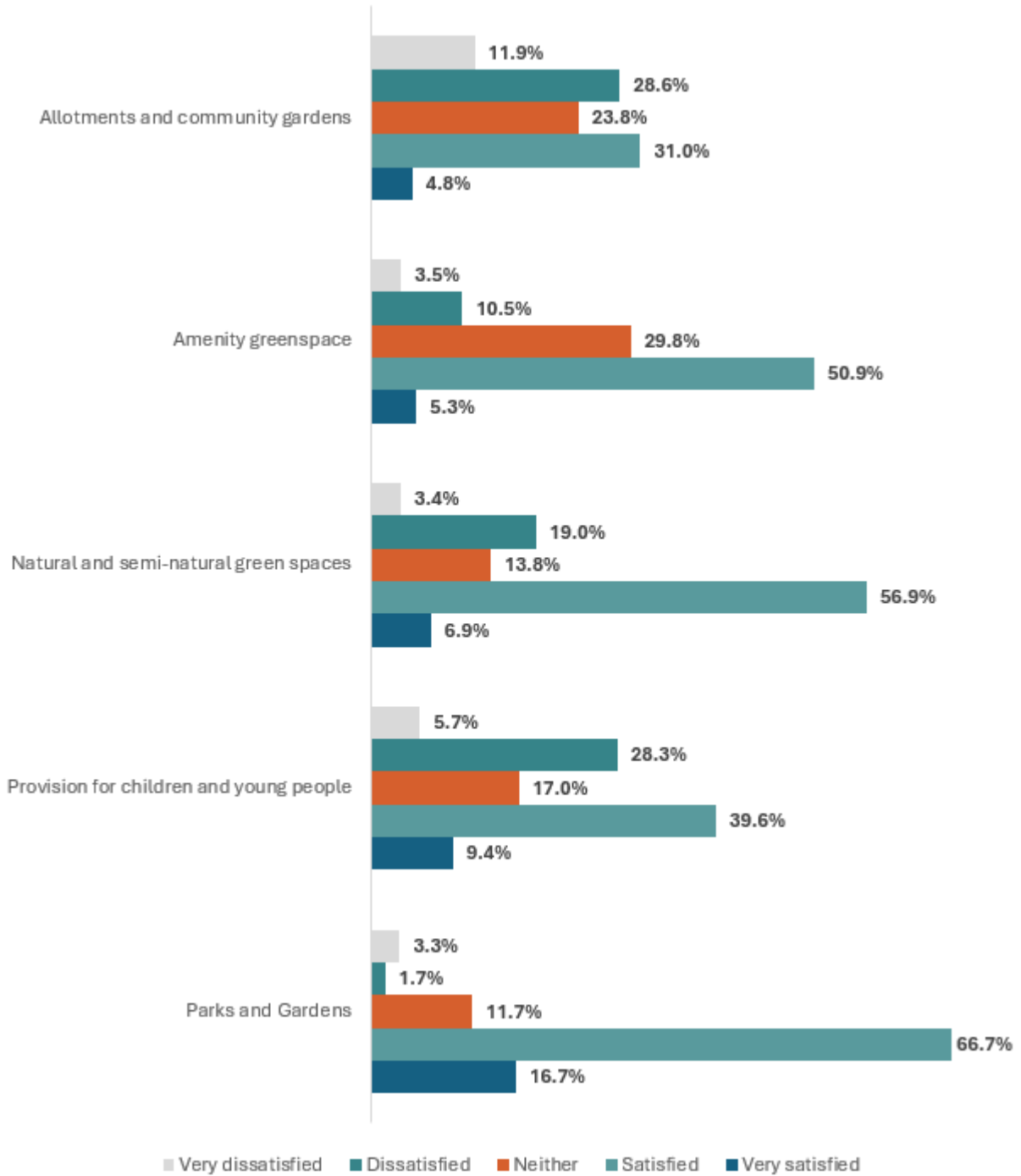


Chart 10 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the overall quality of each of the following types of green space in your local area?

8.3.11 Satisfaction with Management and Maintenance

In order to determine how the Council are performing, respondents were asked to rate a series of elements relating to the management and maintenance of green spaces. Ratings were highest for organised events and activities, with 63.5% of respondents answering that the council's performance is either excellent or good in this area. Followed by provision of flowerbeds / trees / shrubs (60.3% either excellent or good).

Ratings were lowest for control of dogs and dog fouling, with 3 in 10 residents (30.9%) answering that the council's performance is either poor or very poor in this area. Followed by access using public transport (18.2%).

Analysis also shows that residents have divided opinions on the council's performance in creating space for nature as it was in the top three for highest ratings (57.9% either excellent or good), as well as showing in the top three for lowest ratings (17.5% either poor or very poor).

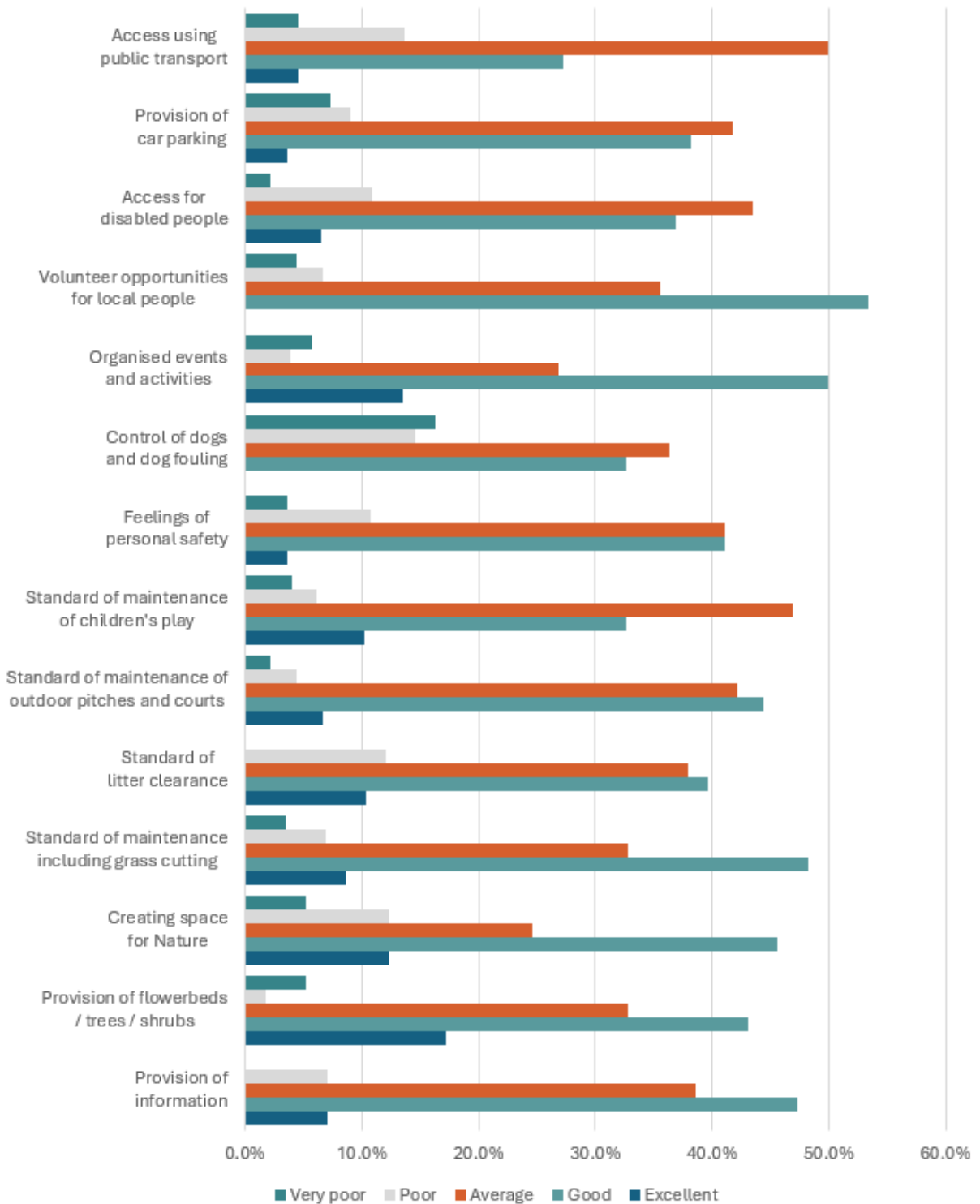


Chart 11 How do you think we're doing? Please tell us how you think we are performing in each of the following areas?

8.3.12 Quantity of Green Spaces

In general, residents feel that the amount of green space in South Derbyshire is about right, with an average score of 48.5% across different green space typologies. Followed by too much with an average score of 28.0% across different green space typologies. On average 15.4% of residents feel that there is too little across different green space typologies.

When looking at responses by green space type, parks and gardens have the highest proportions of residents that feel the amount is about right (72.1%), these respondents are located in the settlement of Swadlincote (including Swadlincote, Newhall and Stanton, Midway, Woodville and Church Gresley wards), Repton ward and Seales ward. 54.1% of residents also answered that the amount of natural and semi-natural greenspaces and amenity green spaces (54.1%) feels about right, again these respondents are located within the settlements of Swadlincote, as well as Seales ward and Willington and Findern Ward.

It appears that resident's opinions on the amount of natural and semi-natural greenspaces and parks and gardens are somewhat divided as 44.3% feel that the amount of natural and semi-natural greenspaces is too little (Located in the settlement of Swadlincote, as well as Linton, Repton, Seales and the one respondent from Aston ward). Followed by 26.2% who feel that there is too little of parks and gardens. A small number of these respondents are located in the settlement of Swadlincote (two in Swadlincote ward, two in Midway ward and one in Church Gresley ward). As well as Linton, Willington and Findern and Aston ward.

Very few respondents answered that there is too much provision for children and young people (3.3% located in Newhall and Stanton Ward and Derby) allotments and community gardens (1.6% in unknown location) and amenity greenspace (1.6% in unknown location).

Over half of respondents feel that there is too little provision for children and young people (52.5% in the settlement of Swadlincote, as well as Linton and Repton wards), followed by allotments and community gardens (50.8% in the settlement of Swadlincote, as well as Linton, Repton, Seales and Aston wards). Just over one-third of

residents (34.4%) feel that there is too much amenity greenspace. These respondents are located in the settlement of Swadlincote, as well as Linton and Repton wards.

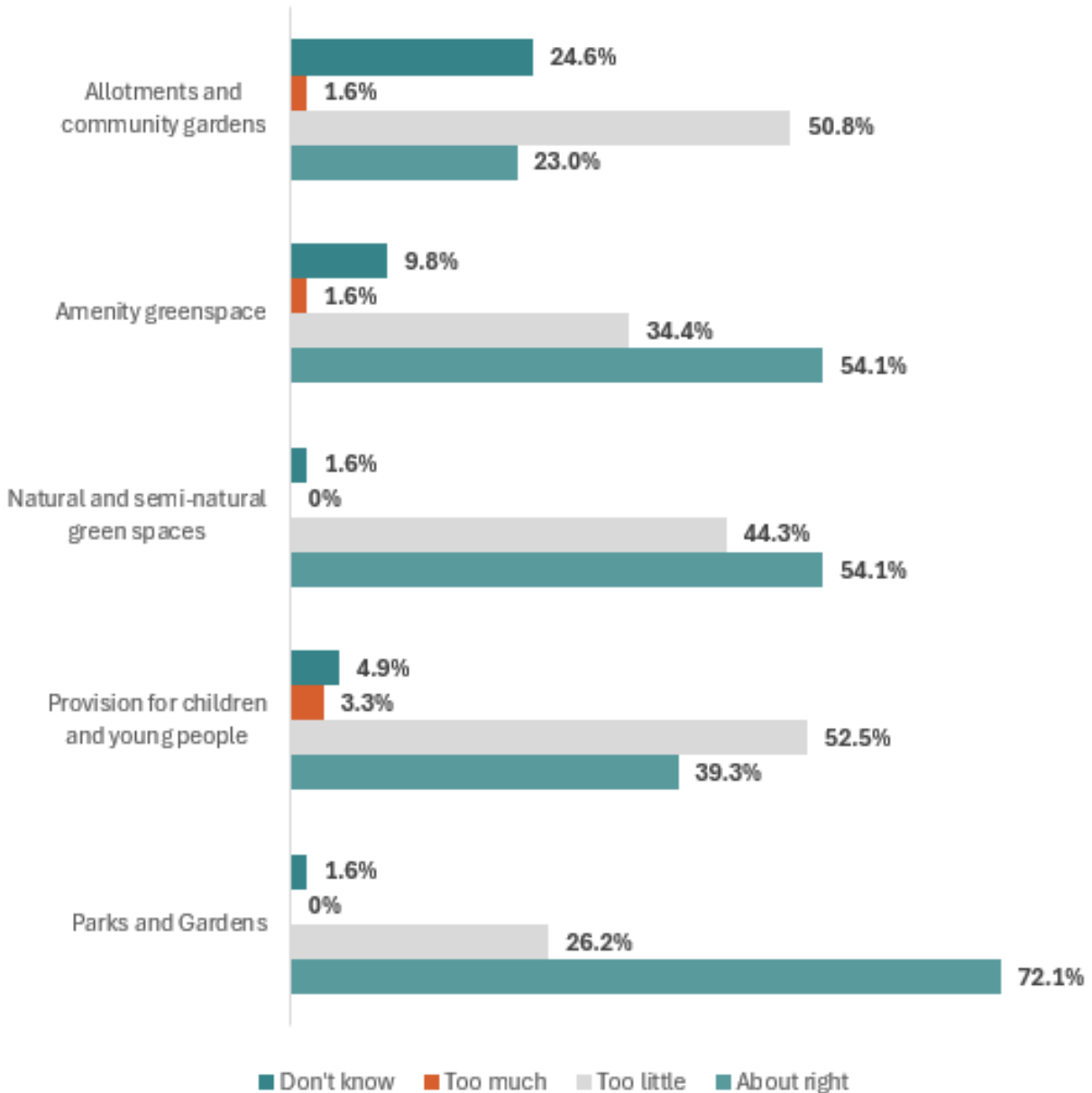


Chart 12 Do you think that there are enough of the following types of green space in your local area?

8.3.13 Value of Green Spaces

Management and Maintenance Importance

The survey demonstrates that residents feel that many aspects of green space management and maintenance are important, with an average of 85.4% residents rating different elements as either very or fairly important.

The value for nature amongst residents in South Derbyshire is highlighted as all respondents (100.0%) rated creating space for nature as either very or fairly important. Followed by standard of litter clearance and feelings of personal safety (98.3% respectively).

The following aspects of green space management and maintenance also scored above average for importance: Control of dogs and dog fouling (96.7%); access for disabled people (91.4%); standard of maintenance of children's play (89.5%); standard of maintenance including grass cutting (88.3%) and provision of information (86.2%).

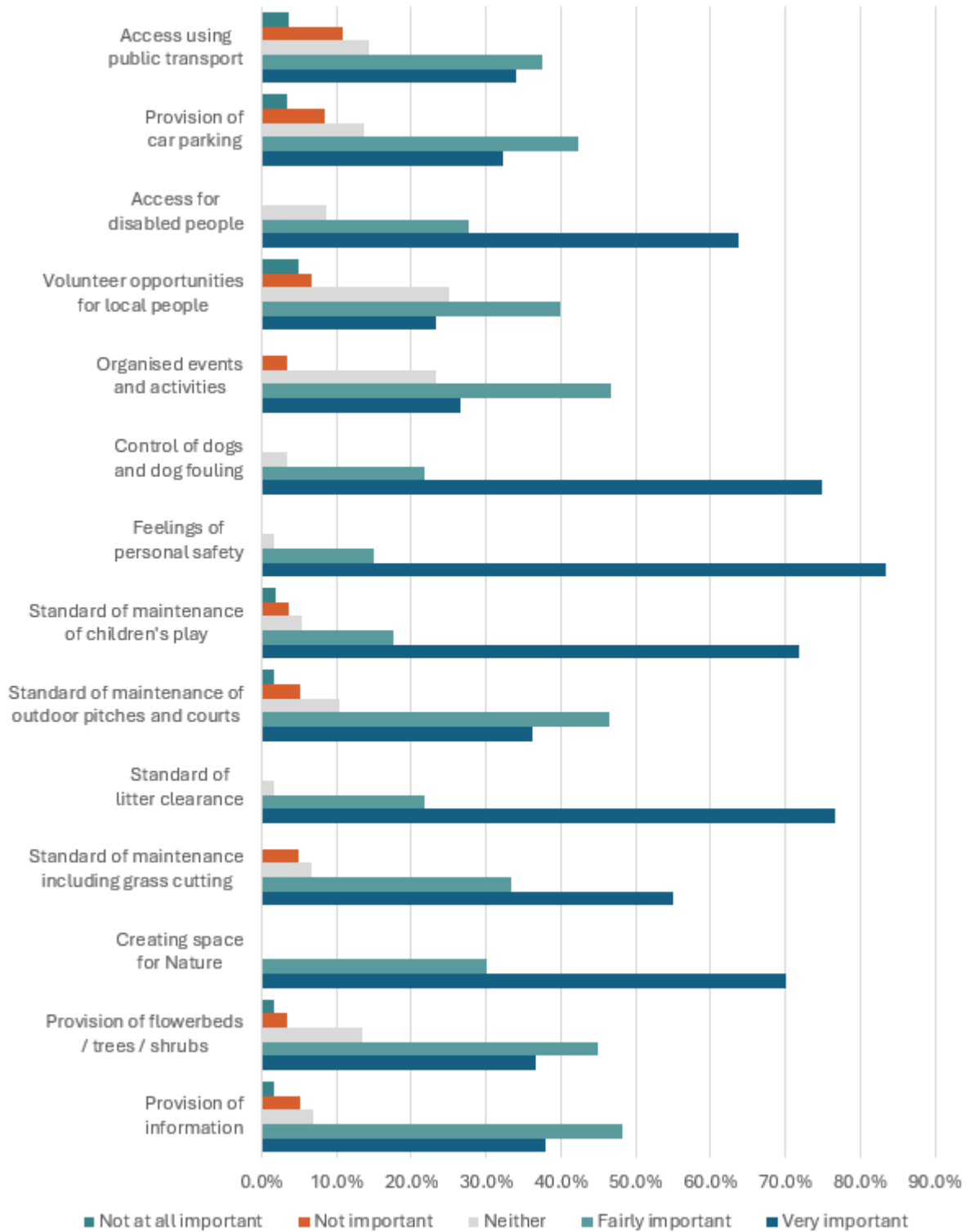


Chart 13 What is important to you? Please tell us how important you feel each of the following to be.

Aspects and Attributes

The survey has highlighted that green spaces are highly valued amongst residents in South Derbyshire, with an average of 96.4% residents rating different aspects and attributes of green spaces as either fairly or very valuable.

All respondents (100.0%) think that green spaces are either fairly or very valuable in providing access to outside space. Residents also value green spaces for their contribution to nature and health, as 98.3% of respondents answered that green spaces are either fairly or very valuable as somewhere to improve mental and physical wellbeing, for providing contact with nature and wildlife /seasonal change and as a safe route for walking and cycling.

The following aspects and attributes of green space also scored above average for value: a place for community events and activities (96.7%); providing environmental benefits (clean air, cooling, flood alleviation etc (96.6%) and a safe place for children and young people to develop independence (96.6%).

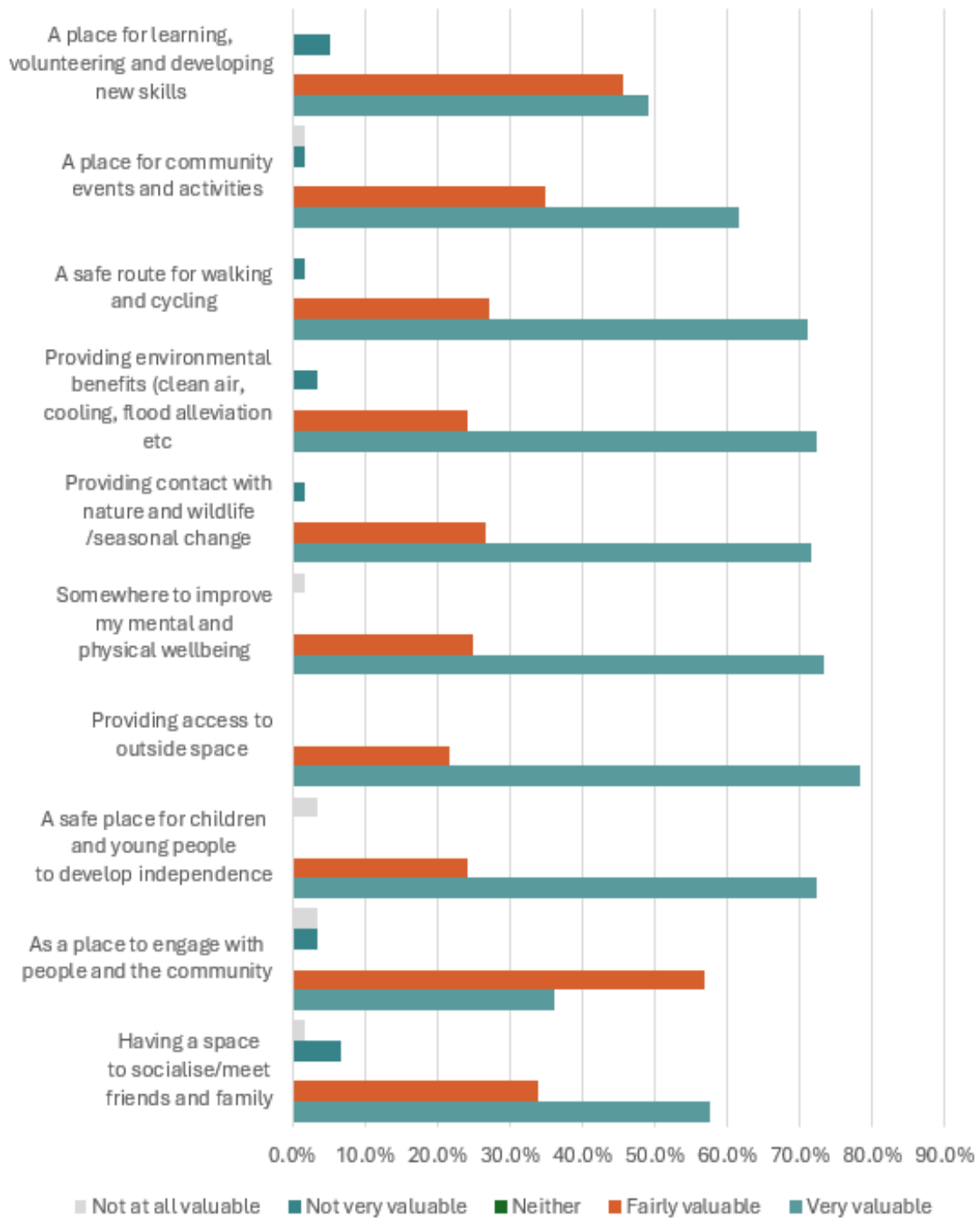


Chart 14 How important are the following aspects and attributes of green spaces to you?

8.3.14 Future Priorities

Respondents were asked to what extent they support the various interventions across green spaces in South Derbyshire, with 1 being not at all and 5 being strongly support. Results show that support for interventions is varied but support is greatest for upgrading pathways and improved access with 84.3% of respondents rating this as a 4 or 5, followed by Improvements for nature (81.7%) and the provision of facilities such as toilets and cafes (80.7%).

The following interventions scored above average for support: Conservation of heritage features (76.3%); Additional play features for teenagers (70.7%); better links between green spaces and the wider area (70.0%) and additional seating and bins (67.2%).

Out of all of the suggested interventions, residents are less likely to strongly support designing spaces for girls, with 25.9% scoring this a 1 or 2. Followed by additional sports facilities (25.0%) and public transport improvements (19.6%).

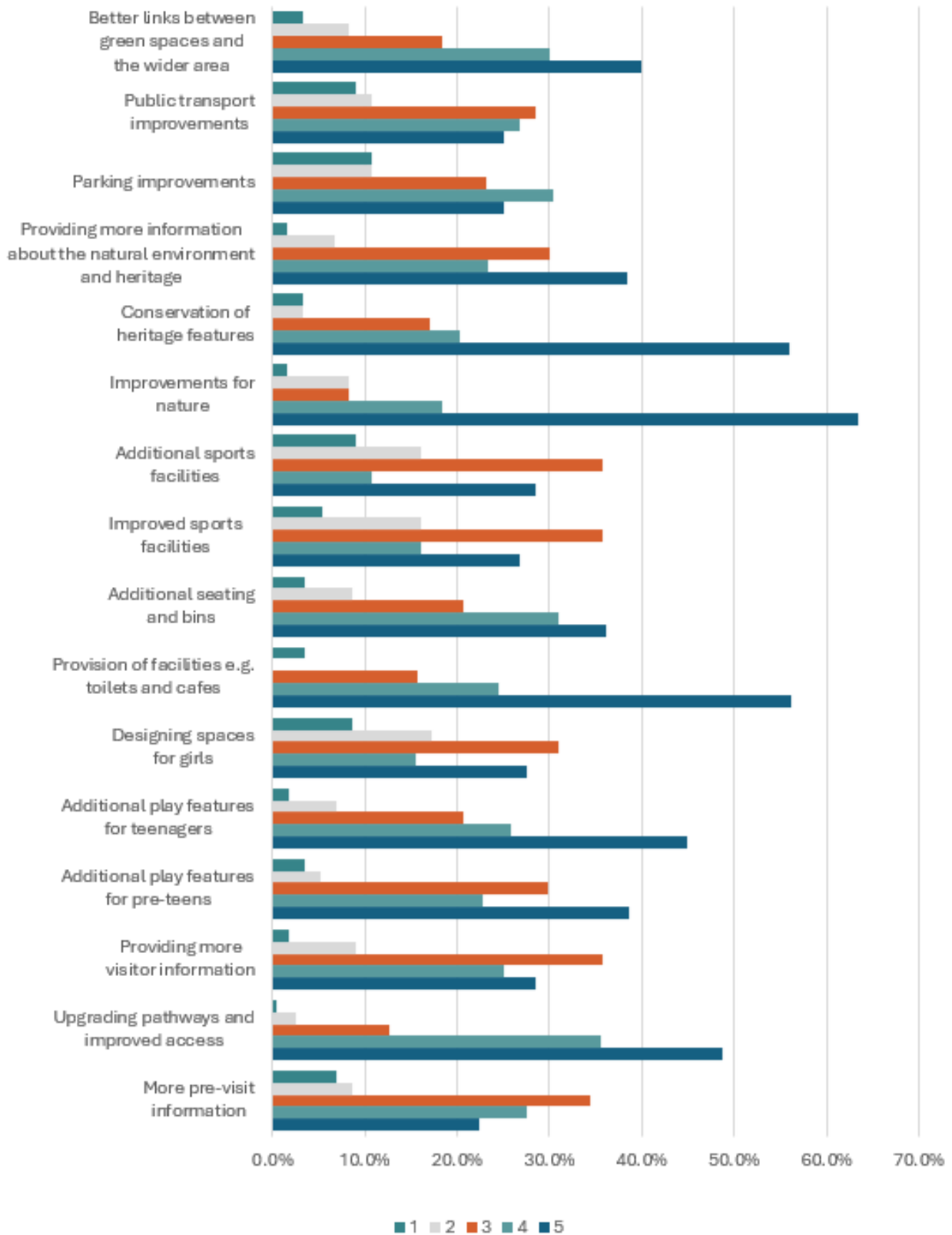


Chart 15 To what extent do you support the following interventions in our green spaces where 1 is not at all and 5 is strongly support?

8.4 Summary

- Around 1 in 10 respondents are located outside of the District but use green space located within South Derbyshire District.
- Over half of the respondents are located in the urban settlement of Swadlincote.
- The views of younger people and the global majority are underrepresented through the survey
- Green spaces in South Derbyshire are mostly used on a frequent basis of weekly or more often.
- Green spaces are highly valued for health and wellbeing, nature and community benefits as the most popular reason for visiting is for walking, followed by observing wildlife and nature and attending events and activities.
- The top three most popular sites amongst residents are Rosliston Forestry Centre, Maurice Lea Memorial Park and Swadlincote Woodlands.
- There is a fairly even split between residents using local green spaces most frequently and those who tend to travel further to their most frequently used green spaces. Nonetheless, the typical journey lasts up to 20 minutes whether travelling by car or on foot.
- Dwell time is generally short with four out of ten respondents spending an hour or less per visit, although one third (32.2%) spend between one and two hours. However, dwell time varies by site with the majority of visits to Rosliston Forestry Centre lasting over 2 hours.
- Overall satisfaction levels are very high.
- The quality of green spaces has mostly stayed the same or improved over the last three years.

- Over two-thirds of residents do not experience any barriers to visiting green spaces. Of those that do experience barriers, these are mostly to do with not having the time to visit or a lack of facilities rather than the spaces being in poor condition / of poor quality.
- The majority of residents in South Derbyshire can easily get to green spaces with the facilities that they need, and this is the same for disabled residents.
- Residents feel that the quality of parks and gardens, natural and semi natural green spaces and amenity green spaces is mostly good.
- Whereas the quality of provision for children and young people and allotments is less good.
- Levels of satisfaction with green space management and maintenance is varied. Residents are satisfied with events and activities, as well as the upkeep horticultural displays within green spaces.
- Levels of satisfaction are lower with control of dogs / dog fouling and access to green space using public transport.
- Overall, residents in South Derbyshire feel that the amount of green space feels about right, with slight variances by type of green space.
- Based on the sample received there doesn't appear to be a trend based on opinions of quantity and resident locations.
- Resident's opinions were somewhat divided on the amount of parks and gardens, as well as natural and semi natural green space. Whereas residents tend to feel that there is too little provision for children and young people, as well as allotments and amenity green space.
- Green spaces are highly valued by residents in South Derbyshire, with most elements being rated of high importance. Specifically, all respondents feel that creating space for nature is important. Residents also highlight the importance of

maintaining clean spaces through litter clearance and enhancing feelings of safety.

- The most valued aspects of green spaces in South Derbyshire are creating access to the outdoors, as well as their benefits for nature and wellbeing.
- Support for interventions is varied, with greatest levels of support for improving access and upgrading infrastructure, followed by improvement to nature and facilities.
- Residents are less likely to support more sports facilities, making space for girls and improvements to public transport.